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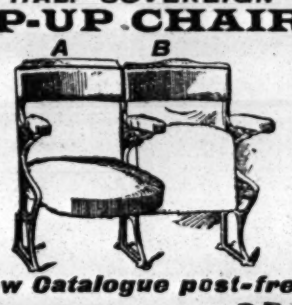

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MISS INA ALSTON, Ballet Mistress. Lessons in Dancing; Classical Dances arranged. 38, Baron's Court-rd., W. 'Phone 3433 Kensington.

MISS MARIE AUCKLAND (Mrs. Charles Herrick). Lead, "Wedded to Crime." Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

MISS BARTLE-FRERE, at Liberty July 4, and for Autumn. This, T. R., Darlington; next, 129, Brixton-road, S.W.

MISS ADAH BARTON, Address, 30, Doughty-street, Mecklenburgh-square, W.C.

MISS MAY BEATRICE, Helena Landless, "Mystery of Edwin Drood." July 6, Court Theatre, Wigan.

MISS LILLIAN BEAUMONT, Lead, M. Montgomery, Esq.'s Stock Season, Grand T., Stockton-on-Tees.

MISS K. M. BEGBIE, Comedy, Character, Juveniles, French Irish Cockney, American. Dis. for autumn. Address A.A.

MRS. WALTER BENTLEY, Disengaged Drama or Comedy. C/o Actors' Union, 49, Bedford-street, W.C.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY, Resting until Aug. 3. Lochniel, Beacon-road, Herne Bay.

MISS EDITH BLANDE, At Liberty now and Autumn. Letters only, 34, College-place, N.W.

MISS ADIE BOYNE, Address, 27, Caversham-road, N.W.

MRS. J. W. BRAITHWAITE, Disengaged, Com., Char., Aristocratic parts. 7, Moyser-road, Streatham Park, S.W.

MISS WINNIE BROWNE, Vacation. Letters, C/o "The Era," or BLACKMORE.

MISS MARY CARNEGY, Wanted, Good Drama to Produce. 10, Upper Cheyne-row, Chelsea.

MISS EDIE CASSON, Palace, Hartlepool. July 6, Pier, Southport. Rehearsing in London, with R. A. Roberts, 20th and 27th.

MISS STELLA CEDRON, Address, Sandringham Court, Maida Vale, W.

MISS LIZZIE CHAMBERS (Mrs. E. Carter Livesey). July 4, Bruges, Belgium.

MISS HETTY CHAPMAN, Disengaged. Agent, A. HART.

MISS NELLIE CLARENCE, Dis. now and autumn. Arist. Old Lady, Char. (Heavy or Comedy). 56, Charlwood-st., S.W.

MISS KATHARINE CLARKE, Disengaged for Lead. Address, 234, The Grove, Hammersmith.

MISS MARIE CLAVERING, Heavies, Comedy, &c. Vacation. Address, 1, Colchester-st., St. George's-square, S.W.

MISS AMY ROSS CLYDE, Liberty Summer for Char. or Com. Old Women. C/o J. D. Clyde, Stock, Q. T., Keighley.

MISS GEORGIE CORLASS, Principal Comedienne, Bandmann Opera Co. C/o T. Cook and Sons, Calcutta, India.

MISS DORCAS CORSBIE, Concluded engagement, Maurice Bandmann's tour in "Far East." Disengaged. Add., c/o "Era."

MISS MILDRED COTTELL thanks Messrs. Bolam and Bacon for offer "Sins of Society." 61 Vauxhall Bridge-rd., S.W.

MISS PHYLLIS DAMIAN, Disengaged, Boys, Chambermaids, Sketches, or Drama. 60, Choumert-road, Peckham.

MISS ZOE DAVIS, Kate, "The Idler"; Mabel, "Capt. Swift." July 6, Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

MISS GEORGIE DE LARA (Mrs. Kennedy Allen). Resting. Address, Pier Pavilion, Penarth.

MISS RENEE DE L'ESTRADE, Dis. Autumn, Ingénues, Light Comedy, French Parts. 10, Aynhoe-rd, Brook Green, W.

MISS LENA DELPHINE Concludes To-night Engagement with Mr. John Hart's Rép., at Liberty. 54, Bishop's-road, Fulham.

MISS JOAN DERRY, C. Collette's Co. July 13, 3rd visit, Britannia Pier, Gt. Yarmouth.

MISS DORIS DIGBY, Juvenile Lead. At Liberty now and for Autumn. 123, St. George's-road, S.W.

MISS ELLA DIXON, Concluded tour, "Diana of Dobson's." Disengaged till Aug. 17. A.A., 409, Strand, W.C.

MISS LYDIA DONOVAN, on Tour with Own Company. Address, en route; or A.A.

MISS DOLORES DRUMMOND, Disengaged. Address, 17, Southfield-gardens, Strawberry Hill, S.W.

MISS ELSPETH DUDGEON, Mrs. Seabrook, "Captain Swift"; Mrs. Cross, "The Idler." Dis. autumn. T. R., Middlesbrough.

MISS CLARA EARLE, Rains, "Arms and the Man." Dolly, "You Never Can Tell." C/o "The Era."

MISS AMY LLOYD EARLE, Disengaged for a few special weeks, in or near town only. 109 Church-st, Lower Edmonton.

MISS CONSTANCE ELGIN (Mrs. Douglas Cecil). At Lib. Lead or Heavy Lead. 5, Hurlingham-mans., Fulham, S.W.

MISS M. E. ELLIS, Reeves, "Dear Old Charlie." July 6, Theatre Royal, Brighton.

MISS DAISY ENGLAND, Address, 26, St. Maur-road, Fulham, S.W.

MISS LOIE ESMOND. Vacation. 27, Esplanade, Whitley Bay.

MISS MARION FAWCETT, Minna, "Little Lord Flauntleroy." July 6, T. R., Ryde. July 9, O. H., Ventnor.

MISS DORA FELLOWES, Disengaged. 90, Vineyard Hill-road, Wimbledon, S.W.

MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN, Title-rôle, "The Flower Girl." Lyceum T., Edinburgh; next, Londesborough, Scarborough.

MISS HELENE FOREST, Leads, Disengaged Autumn. Offers invited. 50, Elsham-road, Kensington, W.

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MISS MINNIE GREY,
Disengaged for Lead, Drama, or Comedy.
Address, c/o A.A., 409, Strand.

MISS BEATRICE GROSVENOR,
Character; at Liberty until July 27.
Letters, 82, Edith-grove, S.W.

MISS LOUISE HAMPTON,
At Liberty till end of July. Lead. Perm. add., 15, Mount Pleasant-lane, U. Clapton, N.E.

MISS LAURA HANSEN,
Disengaged. Lead.
86, Church-road, Hove, Brighton.

MISS ETHEL HARDACRE.
July 6, Palace Theatre, Bordesley.
At liberty July 13.

MISS GERTRUDE HARRISON,
Disen. July 19, for two weeks, in London.
"A Woman's Past" Co., Star Th., Liverpool.

MISS JEANNIE HOLMES,
as Miss Greenhill, "The Suffragette."
The Scotsman says, "A part well taken."

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Autumn, "Florodora," Xmas, Principal Boy, Spring, 1909. America. 9, Berners-st.-mans., W.

MISS MARIE HOUSLEY,
at Liberty for Lead.
9, Victoria-road, Berkhamsted, Herts.

MISS AGNES IMLAY,
Lead, or Heavy Lead. At Liberty.
48, Daneville-road, Denmark Hill, S.E.

MISS ALICE INMAN,
Disengaged.
18, Lindley-road, Bradford.

MISS ISABEL INNES
(Mrs. John Humphries). Mrs. Fretwell, "Sowing the Wind," Gaiety, Douglas.

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Disengaged.
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Apollo Theatre.

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MISS SASH MILLWARD,
Lead.
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MISS LOUISE MOODIE,
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MISS GERTRUDE NETTERVILLE,
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At Lib., Aristocratic or Comedy.
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Mrs. Glyn Stanmore, "The Idler."
July 5, Theatre Royal, Middlesboro'.

MISS MARION TURNER
as Nancy, in Ivan Berlyn's "Fagin" Sketch.
July 6, Palace, Belfast.

MISS ROSSLYN VAYNE,
Lead, "Two Lancashire Lasses in London."
Vacation.

MISS HELENA WALBRAN,
"The London Fireman" Tour.
July 6, King's Theatre, Southsea.

MISS DAISIE WALLACE,
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MISS ETHEL WARD,
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MISS ELIZABETH WATKINS,
Lead, "The Beggar's Hotel." Disengaged for Autumn. 48, Holland-st., Brixton-road.

MISS MARGARET WATSON,
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MISS LILLIAN WILLIAMS,
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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT
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ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
BY
ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Chapter I.
COPYRIGHT AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING RIGHT.

Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.

Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.

Chapter IV.
MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.

Chapter V.
INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—The stock company here opened on Monday with *The Octoroon*. Miss Ellen Armor gives an ideal representation of Zoe; Mr. H. Creagh Hunt plays Jacob McClosky with power; George Peyton is in the capable hands of Mr. Robert Hall; and Miss Renie Douglas as Weeny Paul is capital. Mr. Laurence Stephenson as Wah-no-Tee acts in a capable manner; Mr. Larry Clements is seen to advantage as Pete; and others who take prominent parts are Miss Margaret Noble as Mrs. Peyton, Miss Florence Delmar as Dora Sunnyside, Mr. Leonard Yorke as Salem Scudder, Mr. Joe Oswald as Captain Rats, Mr. Frank Oswald as Sunnyside, and Mr. H. C. Elvington as Colonel Pointdexter.

ABERDEEN. — PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Elliott-Savonas continue to give their delightful entertainments to crowded houses; Mr. Max Ritter and Miss Grace Foster are in the front rank as dancers; Miss Bessie Knight also dances and sings exceptionally well; Mr. Wallace Muirhead possesses a fine cultured tenor voice; the Sisters Hall are likewise successful as vocalists; Mr. Mark Merry is an irresistibly funny comedian; and Wright and Lawson contribute a highly amusing turn as grotesque acrobats.

BEACH PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—Miss Violet Davidson made a welcome reappearance after a severe illness on Monday. Her reception was enthusiastic in the extreme. Along with Miss Nellie Riach she sang a number of duets faultlessly; Mr. Sydney Lochlynne is a mimetic artist of high ability; Miss Daisy Taylor, who is undoubtedly one of the most talented of the younger members of the profession, sings and dances charmingly, and all the other entertainers, Messrs. Chorley, Connor, David Thomson, and Vulcaris, the accompanist, continue deservedly to earn the heartiest plaudits of the audiences.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—The hall continues to draw large audiences in the evenings. Practically the whole of the variety part of the entertainment is borne by Wilber and Warner, who are frequently encored for their singing and playing. The turn is undoubtedly one of the best that has been seen at this house for a considerable time. Though it is of some duration the clever artists never flag in their efforts. Mr. Dove Paterson's films, which judiciously blend grave and gay, are, as usual, followed with the deepest interest.

ABERTILLERY. — THE PAVILION. — Lessees, Messrs E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—A musical treat is provided here by Lilian Rigby, who manipulates several musical instruments in an excellent manner, and dances prettily; an amusing turn is Kitty Woodford's dog circus; Dexter as a juggler is smart and clever; Kattie Corrie's songs are rendered in a pleasing style; Fred Lester as an actor-vocalist is good; Rosali Jacobi gives capital renderings of several songs; *Jack's the Lad* is produced in an interesting manner by Jake Friedman's company, the title-rôle being well sustained by Mr. Fred Lester, and Mr. Fred Hawthorne, a good exponent of Jack's mother.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—For the second week of the stock season Mr. Ormerod presented *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr. Sidney Bedwell in the difficult part of Prince Lucio displays ability; Geoffrey Tempest was in the capable hands of Mr. Robert Falkner; Mr. Sydney Cranston played Lord Lynton creditably, and Mr. Graham Dinsford was well placed as the Earl of Elton. Miss Mabel Mannering achieved success by her powerful portrayal of Lady Sybil; Miss Francesca Strickland as Diana Chesney received appreciation, and Miss Maud Townsend was well suited to the character of the gentle Mavis Clare. On Thursday and Friday *Camille* was the attraction.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—If success is measured by the amount of applause, then the Weimars hold the palm here, for the applause is deafening after Weimar discloses himself in a 9th Lancers uniform, and tells his tale of the ride from Kabul to Kandahar, where he was bugler to Lord Roberts. His little daughter, who sings from the auditorium, shares in the reception. Fred Ginnett's rollicking sketch, *A Hunting Morn*, in which a hunter gallops on to the stage, and jumps over the breakfast table, is thrilling as well as amusing; the Godfreys are clever with their instrumental and highly diverting witticisms; Russell Carr is a clever ventriloquist; Madge Daly sings a couple of songs with powerful voice; Tony Cooper does not satisfy with one song alone; and the Bioscope has some new pictures.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company is here with *I Defy the World*, in which Mr. Lewis Gilbert sustains, with much ability, the character of Leon Darville. The Count de Beaulieu is portrayed, with all the customary devilish instincts and purposes emphasised, by Mr. Oswald Douglas; Miss Gladys H. Walton as Pauline, the General's daughter, is a capable actress; and Miss Mary Ainslie interprets the part of Blanche Darville (Leon's wife) with skill.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Heading the "bill" here for current week is Adkin, the ventriloquist, very smart and very clever; Maddison Bros. furnish fun as burlesque boxers; the Days (lady and gentleman), second sight-seers, give audiences plenty of entertainment; the Swift Duo, the lady cyclist and the grotesque, are expert in their specialities; Seims is an expert illusionist; Harry Russon, actor-comedian, maintains his high reputation; the Eight Olympians (four ladies and four gentlemen) demonstrate the real Japanese methods of self-defence (ju-jitsu); Fanny Wentworth is a clever society entertainer; Victor and Louis are amusing vocalists; and the Bioscope illustrates the vagaries of a mysterious parcel.

ATTERCLIFFE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Lacy Lyne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bert Lester.—The premier position of this week's attractive programme here is held by Mr. G. C. Doughty, assisted by a capable company in a bright and mirthful comedy-scena entitled *Captain Cupid*. The Lauri Brothers are clever and smart acrobats; Miss Vena Valma wins deserved applause in a musical comedy act; Mr. Jock Walker, Scotch comedian, proves a favourite; a good turn is submitted by Clack and Clack, lady barrel-jumpers; the Mavis Trio give a pleasing singing and dancing act; a burlesque interlude, full of fun and go by Fields and Lewis, is a welcome item; and Mr. Clayton's Attergraph pictures are well received.

BARNSLEY.—NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—This house is doing good business this week. The chief attraction is Ce-Dare, in her marvellous and sensational golden globe act; Selbo gives an expert club-juggling performance; the Yorkshire Mill Girls are pleasing duettists; Ryan and Hall are very amusing comedy acrobats; George Collins is a quaint comedian; Eddie Stidder and Gwennie Dunbar are droll musical entertainers; the Bros. Harrison, good patterers; and contributions also come from Ned Graydon, comedy instrumentalist, and Harry Keeble, ventriloquist. The Palacescope, with new pictures, completes.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Sydney Spenser's No. 1 company in *My Sweetheart* is here. He himself is a typical sport as Joe Sholwell; Mr. Edward Rawlinson is an excellent Tony, Mr. Harry T. Butler, jun., a capital Harold Bartlett, Mr. Wilton Hardinge an amusing Dudley Harcourt, and Mr. Fred W. Freeman a dignified Dr. Oliver. Miss Amy Rogerson as Mrs. Hakell, Miss Olive Downs as Peek-a-boo, Miss Lily Smith as Christie, and Miss Violet Etherington as Emmeline give nicely contrasted performances, and Miss Lizzie Hall is an engaging and winsome Tina. *A Wonderful Woman* is also billed.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The Kremka Brothers are the leading turn here this week, and their initial appearance in Barrow was a great success; McDonald and Huntington are really first-class entertainers, their singing and dancing being a great treat; Bernard and Weston are clever patterers and comedians; Harry Briggs is an excellent vocalist and mimic, his singing in different voices being very creditable; the Walcots give a good comedy sketch, entitled *She Loved a Sailor*; Jessie Lee is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Vernon's Bioscope has again some good pictures.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—An excellent series of pictures is presented here this week. The programme is interspersed with capital comedy items by Fred Rex and Corri and Foot.

BARRY DOCK. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—The chief attraction here this week is *A Woman Worth Winning*, presented by Mr. Percy Norman's No. 1 company. As Fergus Lovinsky Mr. A. B. Mackay gave a most realistic portrayal; as also did Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh of Ivan Bardoff. Miss Chrissie Dunbar as Roma Pauloff scored a success; and the comedy parts were well sustained by Mr. Ernest Kendrick and Miss Ida Mackay. As Bertie Scribbles Mr. Frank Wilson did well. The company is strong all round.

BATH.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Peter Gotz, the celebrated light-weight wrestler, is creating a big stir amongst the sporting fraternity here this week, his bouts with many of the competitors arousing much enthusiasm; the Kirbys, on a welcome return visit, go as well as ever; Lily Arthur, a young comedienne of promise, meets with a good reception, and others in the bill are the Roxbys, vocalists and dancers; Mac and Hill, amusing cross talk comedians, and Kitty Willis, comedienne and dancer. Good films are unfolded by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

SYDNEY GARDENS.—Mr. Carl Fredericks' Merry-makers continue to entertain large assemblies at this charming spot.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson. — Kennedy's Komiks are occupying the boards here for a few weeks, during which the theatre will open at nine instead of at eight. Mr. Dan Noble is a really funny man, and is soon on good terms with the audience; Mr. Keane Harker also contributes to the humour of the evening; Mr. Allan Morgan, the dancing messenger boy, gives a clever performance; and Mr. Chas. Bland's tenor voice is heard to good advantage. Mme. Damarus Du Pere sings some excellent contralto songs; and Miss Dot Irving is encored for her coon lilts and dances.

BELFAST.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The inimitable Scotch comedian, Mr. W. F. Frame, heads the bill, and has been most successful. The exceedingly funny sketch, *Man, the Brute*, produced by Henry Grattan and company, keeps the audience in shrieks of merriment; and praise is due to Jan Rudenyi and company for their delightful performance in the musical romance, *The Power of Music*; Leo Tell's imitations of animals is marvellous in its realism; and Larry Lewis is one of the funniest of comedians. Also in the bill are the charming Sisters Edwards, duettists; Mr. Victor Courtney, at the piano; Miss Violet Stockelle, a good comedienne; and the Palace pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmot and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs. The leading attraction at this popular theatre is supplied by Mr. John Tiller's company of comedians, who appear to the greatest possible advantage in *The Queen of Monte Carlo*. The various characters are ably presented, while the comedians vie with each other in creating shrieks of merriment. Alf. Gibson's humorous songs, sung in his own inimitable style, keep his admirers highly amused; and Ted Curtis and Pics have been accorded a good reception for their attractive entertainment. The equilibristic feats of Les Montaldos are exceedingly clever; and Estrella is a most accomplished *danseuse*. Miss Cloe, coon vocalist and dancer, is rewarded with much applause; and the Scottish Meisters gain a noteworthy reception. Also here are Ajax and George in speciality, and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Miss Hilda Jacobsen is the star here, and this accomplished comedienne has made a hit. Mr. J. W. Rickaby arouses roars of laughter with his comic songs; and the wonderful juggling feats of Mr. Frank Hartley have created quite a sensation. The vocal items by the Three Sisters Grosvenor have won immense favour, their voices blending most harmoniously; Mr. Frank Couch's patter is smart and up to date; and much praise must be accorded Miss Adey Spencer, "the girl from the hat shop," for her acceptable performance; Kisbey, the call-boy, is clever; and the bill is completed by the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Packed houses are still the rule here. Under the direction of Mr. Hugh Beckett some capital animated films have been exhibited, including Beatrice Cenci, a wonderful drama, with soul-stirring effects, The Fireman's Daughter, £100 Reward, &c. In addition, the Leonas appear in their clever banjo act; and Mr. Charles Coll proves himself a really funny comedian.

BILSTON.—NEW ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—Mr. Woulfe and his company entered on the second week of their stock season here on Monday with considerable success.

AL FRESCO PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Battersby.—Mr. Alf. Brookes and Mr. Harry Plant are irresistible comedians, and Mr. Plant's comical musical act is well received. Mr. Carl St. Clare, female impersonator; Miss Flo Holyrood, soubrette; and Mr. T. R. Norbury, baritone, are all highly appreciated.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Kimberley's company in *A Sister's Sin* has been cordially received. Mr. T. Arthur Ellis gives a convincing performance of Harold Raymond; Mr. Hugh Carmichael is a commendable George Oakley, and Walter Hastings is well played by Mr. Edward Bikker. Minnie Hastings is finely represented by Miss Mabel Scudamore; Charzel is well embodied by Miss Clara Santley, and Miss Patricia Connaughton gives a careful rendering of Redempter. Miss

Edie Macklin as Floss Perks and Miss Lynn Darlington as Nell Stubs are most efficient, and Mr. Will Percy is a humorous Larry Murphy. The play is liberally staged.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Joe O'Gorman, the popular Irish comedian, is on a welcome return visit, and is scoring heavily; Miss Madoline Rees, the happy possessor of a handsome stage presence, is a vocalist of exceptional ability, and Mr. H. O. Wills is a comedian with a sense of genuine humour. Other prominent turns include those of Mesdames Fraser and Halley, talented vocal duettists; Burley and Burley, entertaining eccentric comedians; the Bros. O'Gorman, amusing patterers, clever dancers, and general favourites; Miss Ena Compton, an accomplished comedienne; Mr. Will Hughes, an expert juggler and bâton swinger; Will Vay's Juveniles in their well-sustained act, *Life in the Slums*, and the ever-popular Brown's Royal Bioscope.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS, ROCK FERRY.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—The popular pierrot entertainments are supported by Mr. C. D. Reekie, raconteur; Miss Edith Heron-Brown an accomplished vocalist; Mr. Harold Browne, basso; Mr. Donal McDougal, Scotch comedian; Mr. Alf Ripon, ventriloquist; Miss Winifred O'Connor, soprano; and Mr. J. A. Tunbridge, pianist.

BIRMINGHAM. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*The Seal of Silence*, with Mr. C. Watson Mill's company, is drawing "success to enterprise" this week, thus the fixed, "determined" policy to play all the year round is well supported by the crowded houses here. The above company is full worthy. Mr. William Vane as Jack Ellerslie looks and plays the part to admiration; Mr. Chas. O'Connor could scarcely be excelled as the "man of evil," Hedley Norman; Mr. Gilbert Elvin portrays the "master fiend," Dr. Renwood, with eerie effect; Mr. Ralph Leo gives a pleasant impression of the young artist Geoffrey Merrington; Miss F. Constance Davey makes a charming character of Madeline Morrison; Miss Violet Langley shows the impulsive nature of Lillian Desbroke very successfully; Miss Myra Eyton wins sympathy as Victor; and Mr. Ern Turner and Miss Elsie Walton essay the humorous rôles with fine effect.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Alfred West's pictures continue to be the attraction here twice nightly. Scenes of Our Navy, Army, and Colonies appear in quick succession, keeping the audiences thoroughly engrossed to the end. Those of Our Colonies give a visit to the West Indies, showing Barbadoes diving boys, a triple wedding of Arawak Indians at Demerara, and a nigger carnival at Trinidad, &c. Our Army is represented by a grand military tournament of the 25th Brigade R.F. Artillery, &c., and Our Navy presents some inspiring spectacles, all of which are "stage-managed" and "musicked" to full effect.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—The Great Vaudeville and the Universal Animated Picture Company again show an attractive programme here. The pictures include The Sleeping Beauty, the Elixir of Life, The Student's Jokes, The Suffragette, The Music Teacher, The Rural Postman, Picturesque Naples, &c. The Sisters Vallie display considerable charm and ability in singing and dancing; George Willard's Marionettes are very entertaining and cleverly manipulated; and Sharon amuses the house with his smart delineations of street musicians.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*The Streets of London* has proved a sound attraction here this week, with Mr. Matthew H. Glenville's company. Mr. Glenville plays Badger and scores a big success, and he is well supported. Mr. Gerald Kennedy skilfully suggests the crafty character of Bloodgood; Miss Florrie Zillwood is successful in showing the hard and pitiless nature of the daughter, Alida; Mr. Tom Beasley is excellent alike as Capt. and Paul Fairweather; Miss Lydia Andre is tender and graceful as Lucy; Mr. Alec Finlayson is in favour as Mark Livingstone; and the Puffys are represented with kindly and homely humour by Mr. Arthur Behan, Miss Cissy Behan and Miss Beatrice Shirley.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*, the new drama by Mr. Fred C. Somerfield, is here with the author's own company. Mr. Somerfield appears as the unscrupulous man of passion, Beverley, and thoroughly rivets the audience with his powerful, dominating acting; Miss Cecilie Dare as the perplexed and sorely tried wife, Mary, gives an affecting study; Mr. Wilson Summers is successful as the husband, Geoffrey Langdon; Mr. Edward E. Louis as the falsely-accused Jack Stirling shows much spirit; Miss Cissy Bellamy accounts satisfactorily for the part of Mr. Sands; Miss Katie Lever is very charming as Sweet Nancy; and Messrs. Percy Dawsone, Percy Brown, and Ivan Maris give prominent support.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—R. A. Roberts, protean actor, is starring here in *Dick Turpin* and *Ringing the Changes*, his quick changes are remarkable; Guyer and Crispi appear in a bright American sketch, *Wait for the Finish*; Will Poluski, jun., the Sisters Morgan, Lota Patey, the Three Cape Girls, the Vasilescu Troupe in their comedy bar act, Norman Leonard Trio in *The Itinerants*, Kioto (Japanese equilibrist), and Daras (a versatile Parisian artist) complete an excellent programme.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The Poluski Bros. are at the head of a strong bill here, their skit, *Pictures*, being applauded; the Bros. Griffiths have a wrestling skit; Jay Laurier is highly amusing; Gertie Gitana is encored for her songs and dances; Terry and Lambert are very droll; and the illusion entertainment provided by Cussac-Talma and Yvonne de Forge is remarkable; Bi-bo-bi, eccentric musician; the Dunedin Troupe of cyclists, and Harry Drew, Welsh basso, are also in the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Alexandra Operatic Trio are making a big impression here with a selection from *Il Trovatore*, which is rendered with much skill; Fyne and Hurley have a smart duologue, *The Dude and the Coster*; Mabel La Blanche, Queenie May, and the Three Sydney Girls all sing and dance well, and deserve the loud applause greeted them; the Four Juggling Geraldos are smart; Wild, Willie, and West have a knockabout sketch, *The Bounding Navvies*; Lieut. Travis, ventriloquist; Charlie Jerome, and a sketch, *Eerdie's Ma-in-Law*, do attractive turns.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Owen.—Carl and Mary Ohm's annual circus is proving an attraction here. The monkeys, bears, dogs, and ponies show remarkable training; the Villions are responsible for a daring cycling act; and Marstro and Oretta are expert equilibrists; Johnny Hofland and Co. have an amusing sketch, *The Boat-builder*; other popular turns are supplied by the Society quartette, Sisters Wingrove, Dolly Moore, Dene and Dawson, and Richard Taylor.

BLACKBURN.—NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Page.—Mr. Dickie Clare's company appears this week in *Lucky Lisa*, and the presentation of the musical absurdity has met with uncommon success. Mr. Clare in the part of Silas Slim scores heavily, and there is scarcely a lull in the laughter during the whole of the time he is before the audience; as Paul Pettitoe, Mr. Norman H. Lee is also naturally humorous; Miss Vesta Brownie wins all hearts with dainty dancing and clever singing; and Miss Madge Brownie also sings and dances charmingly. The piece has many catchy songs and good jokes.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—Jay W. Winton being unable to appear, capital substitutes were obtained in Emmerson and Baldwin, whose juggling feats are of a high order; the Violas, referred to as the White Mahatmas, in an exhibition of "second sight," completely mystify the people by their wonderful demonstrations; Miss Maude Darrell is popular with several songs; Prof. Norton displays his remarkable sleight-of-hand gifts with great success; and others who are favourably received are Miss Flo Burnett, vocalist; the Sisters Petram, with a novel marionette turn; La Belle Duchess, a young Australian with an exceptionally clever troupe of animals; the Lannons, expert dancers; and the San Remo Girls, who gaily sing and dance to the great pleasure of the audience.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company is paying another visit here this week with *The Dandy Fifth*, and, notwithstanding the tropical weather, is attracting good houses. Mr. Jack Crichton as Brown, Mr. Frank Barclay as Dick Darville, and Mr. George Beverley as Sergt Milligan, all play their parts capitally. Kate Lorrimer is again in the hands of that excellent artist Miss Pauline Hague, whilst Miss Isa Bowman is entirely successful as Polly. Other parts are also in efficient hands.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr T. Sergenson.—Mr. Leslie Faber and company are extending their visit here to the second week, and *The Manœuvres of Jane* forms the attraction now. Mr. Faber proves his cleverness and versatility by his excellent portraiture of Lord Bapchild; and Miss Winifred Arthur Jones plays with naturalness and ability the part of Jane Nangle. Clever impersonations of George Langton and Mrs. Nangle are given by Mr. Charles Combe and F. G. Thurstans respectively, and other minor characters are also ably sustained.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Malcolm Scott this week tops a big programme here, which is given twice daily. His appearance in a directoire costume, and as Salome, causes great hilarity. Other capital turns are supplied by Charles Ulrick, barrel marvel; Maudie Francis, comedienne and dancer; Blake and Amber, frivolity artists; Mooney, Holbein, and company, in a sketch; A. D. Robbins, a marvellous cyclist; and Irene Lee, in a novel singing and dancing act.

WINTER GARDENS PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*Wonderland*, the beautiful ballet arranged by Mr. John Tiller, continues to draw big houses here twice daily. The remainder of the programme is supplied by Miss Violet King, a clever entertainer; the Great Wieland, juggler; Les François Family of acrobats; Miss Kalchen Loisset, with her performing pigeons; Dr. Jules Angelos' tableaux vivants; and William and Wagner, musical eccentrics.

TOWER CIRCUS.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop.—The finest circus in the world (and this is no misnomer) is now open for the season. This week's attractions are Captain Woodward's sea lions, Boswell's Circus, the Janslys, acrobats; the Jees, in their musical comedy scena, *The Musical Smithy*; Selma Braatz, the wonderful lady juggler; Elton and Elma, in a triple bar act; the Cabiacs, famous French acrobats; August and September, the favourite clowns; and Professor Dubois, with his educated baboon.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Fioni.—The living pictures shown here this week include Blackpool Day by Day, which is a big draw. The variety company includes Julus Ajax, a strong man; the Boston Twins, mimics and vocalists; the Esmeraldas, singers; and the Gentrys, dancers.

NORTH PIER.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Jas. Walker.—After a lengthy absence, Mr. Leslie Harris, the world famous entertainer, has been welcomed with open arms here this week. Assisting him are Mr. Cuthbert Allan, an excellent baritone; Miss Ida Kahn, soprano; Miss A. Backsheen Wood, violinist; and Essler Kessen, illusionist and ventriloquist.

CENTRAL PIER PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Mark Daly.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton are sending excellent artists here week by week. *The Saucy Arethusa* company has possession this week, with Mr. Tubby Edlin at the top of the bill.

VICTORIA PIER.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. George Roberts.—Herr Arnold Blome's orchestra and Mr. George Royle's Troubadours provide the pleasurable fare here this week.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The sensational drama *When Rogues Fall Out* is being presented this week by the stock company. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon is a manly Jack Lorriemore; Mr. Cyril Grier plays well as Sir Henry Lorriemore; a charming performance of Madge is submitted by Miss Nina Vaughton; Miss Kathleen Magee is well placed as Hettie Stanton; Mr. Tom H. Solly makes an amusing Billy Faggles, and a good performance of Dick the waif is given by Miss Effie Macintosh. Stephen Ralston is played by Mr. Alfred D. Adams with his usual skill, and Mr. Alfred Grenville ably assists as Bill Jenkins.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. Alfred West continues his famous entertainment, "Our Navy and Army," twice daily, and opened for the third consecutive week on Monday, when new pictures were presented. Among the most popular films are those relating to a fine pictorial story of a boy leaving his village home to join the Navy, and a Grand Review of the two Services before the King at Aldershot. During the entertainment some clever sketches at the piano are given by Mr. Julian Fredericks. The presentation is under the popular management of Mr. G. Aubrey Hall.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The present is the third week of Mr. Hart's stock season. On Monday night last Mr. Gilbert Doyle's comedy, *A Princess in Bohemia*, was produced for the first time. A full notice of the play appears in another column.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Councillor, F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. H. Hill-Mitchelson's stirring drama, *The Price of Sin*, again provides the strong attraction here, and much interest is taken in the performance by an able company, amongst whom Mr. Wm. Heilbronn distinguishes himself as Major Crawford. His daughter, Nancy, is played well by Miss Violet Carlyle; as Lieut. Ray, Mr. Graham Woods is distinctly effective; and Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan is forceful as the scoundrel, Frank Foster; Miss Gwynne Warren ably fills the rôle of Kate Creleyn.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—That remarkable protean artist, Chas. T. Aldrich, with his burlesque on modern jugglers and magicians, occupies the place of honour here; Tom Costello combines quaintness with pathos well; his scena, *My Home is Far Away*, is effective; Marie Kendall's songs are rendered in her customary bright and humorous style; the Garganis are smart comedy acrobats, who do some clever and novel tricks; Steve McCarthy, comedian, is expert as a dancer in an original style; the turn submitted by Ouida Macdermott (vocal actress), viz., "Redwing," is intensely dramatic; the Bros. Webb are a couple of vastly entertaining and clever musical eccentrics; the Bros. Dean are good as whistlers and simultaneous dancers; and the Egbert Bros., "the happy dustmen," are again eliciting hearty laughter with their clever sketch. The American Bioscope shows some entertaining pictures.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—America's Famous Empire Comedy Four are contributing some fine harmony here, and they are responsible for much mirth; the Dancing Gilberts are clever in their line; as a "light comedian," Chas. Cork is entertaining; Richard Corbin's performing dogs are wonderfully trained and very intelligent animals; Ernest Rees is a good comedian with capital patter; an acceptable turn by Edie Coolville, comedienne, wins approval; Harry Lamore's eccentric "dude" juggling is clever and very amusing; Robins and Collier, in a novel railway station scena do some clever business, which is funny; and good pictures are seen in Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIDLINGTON.—ROYAL PRINCES' PARADE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Mr. Norfolk Megone, the new musical director of the municipal orchestra, commenced his duties on Saturday, and quickly established himself in favour with the visitors to this fashionable rendezvous. A splendid programme was presented at the Sunday evening concert, including Glazannow's grand suite, "Ruses d'Amour," which Mr. Megone introduced to a Bridlington audience for the first time. Miss Carrie Switer, a pleasing soprano, is the vocalist this week. In the Grand Pavilion, in addition to the Flockton-Foster Entertainers, a special turn is given by Shavo, the amusing comedy juggler. The Loyal Dominion Animated Pictures, introduced by Mr. Will Emmerson, were presented for the first time this season on Monday evening, and drew a large crowd. Mr. Emmerson introduced some new and beautiful pictures to a delighted audience.

NEW SPA AND GARDENS.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—After giving us a capital fortnight with the Gaieties, who drew a packed audience to their final performance on Saturday evening, Mr. Tunbridge is this week again giving delight to his patrons by his engagement of the Gems, a company of clever artists, in a programme of "song, play, and mirth," and they play up to the reputation which they have acquired. Miss Nettie Walker possesses a pleasing voice, and her songs and pretty dances are well given; Miss Olive Mortimer is delightful in her songs, possessing a full, rich contralto voice, which is well trained, and she also possesses a fund of humour in her duets with Mr. Kenna Lawson, who is a polished humorist, and he scores immensely with his quaint rendering of his songs; Mr. Wallace Kennedy is a sweet tenor vocalist; Mr. Ernest Attwell, the baritone of the company, is quaint in his portrayal of a Frenchman and in his duets with Miss Walker; and the burlesque opera given by the entire company is admirably done. Mr. David Norton is a most able solo pianist and accompanist.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—A most elaborate and novel attraction this week is the great Zerbinis Troupe of ten ladies and gentlemen, each of whom is a clever musical artist. They appear in a gorgeous electrical scena, *The Enchanted Glade*, in which are introduced some beautiful transformation effects, and their performances on an extensive collection of musical instruments was rapturously received by a delighted audience. The Daroneys, musical eccentrics, are retained for another week; and the Parisian Animated Pictures are kept well up to date by the enterprising manager.

SUMMER GARDENS. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Charles Beanland.—The programmes at this resort of the seaside visitors are always well received, and each artist works hard to ensure success. This week the company are introducing an amusing burlesque scena, *Madame Samina's Orchestra*, which is most amusingly rendered; Mr. Charles Danton's songs and dances are excellent; George Hyam is very popular with his comic songs; and Mr. Charles Beanland always secures a "double" for his eccentric humour. Mr. J. Bath also gives evidence of his popularity by his portrayal of some good songs; and Coda, with his violin, is as good as ever.

BRIGHTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—Mr. George Waters' company is here this week with *The Gay Deceivers*. Mr. Mark Lester gives a very humorous portrayal of Joseph, the butler; Mr. George Delaforce is capitally suited as Colonel Dewar; Mr. Guy Williams makes an admirable Lieut. Frank Dewar, and displays pleasing vocalisation; Mr. Frank Stanmore is effective as Lord Reggie Muddleton; Miss Pauline Prim is a bright and diverting Rosie; Miss Dorothy Chard sings and acts charmingly as Dora Dartrey; Miss Cicely Stucky is a winsome Winnie Winter; Miss Kate Chard acquits herself admirably as Mrs. Dewar; and the remaining characters are satisfactorily sustained. The Directoire Girls make an excellent chorus.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. Ernest Carpenter's stock company is performing *The Shadows of a Great City* here this week. Mr. Ronald Adair submits an excellent enactment of Tom Cooper; Mr. Ellis J. Preston is well placed as George Benson; Mr. Edward McLean's Abe Nathan and Mr. Charles A. Preece's Jim Farren merit warm praise; Miss Kathleen Russell gives an admirable impersonation of Nellie Standish; Miss Amy Venimore makes a delightful Annie Standish, and Miss Lucy Murray is a charming Biddy Roonan.

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. Maud Rochez presents the Royal Monkeys' music hall with distinct success; Edith Muir and Hubert Bartlett and company are entertaining in the tabloid comedy *The Collar Stud*; the Three Amaranths win warm applause for their admirable dancing; Devon and Earle contribute smart dances; the Gregson Comedy Trio are amusing in their speciality act, *The Dummy*; Mary Ambrose is a good character vocalist; Victoria Glenn is a versatile comedienne; Sergeant Brennan displays novel diabolo feats; Minnie Mace is a fascinating comedienne; and the Alhambrascope pictures are up-to-date and very interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. The Saletos display some marvellous balancing feats; Bains and Reed submit some clever knockabout business; Lena Wylie, South American soprano, sings admirably; Dorothy Gould is a dainty vocal comedienne; Lord, Murray, and Lord are applauded for their comedy gymnastic *mélange*, *The Intruder*; Grahame and Harrington are highly successful in their enactment of *A Daughter of Pleasure*; Lawrence Barclay is an eccentric comedian; Belle Davis and her piccaninnies are entertaining, and the Barrascope pictures are excellent.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Messrs. Frank G. Bayly and Arthur Eldred's company is here this week with *The Lord of Latimer Street*. Mr. Frank G. Bayly is completely successful in his portrayal of Earl Latimer; Miss Katie Johnson merits unstinted praise for her artistic enactment of Tilda Reeves; Mr. Arthur Eldred submits a good character-study as Alf Jenkins; Miss Margaret Yarde and Mr. F. Morland are well suited as Tilda's mother and father respectively; and Miss Phyllis Manners is highly effective as Lady Latimer.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Mr. W. Alexander Dallas and company opened here on Monday with *The World's Great Snare*. Mr. David G. Noble gave a fine impersonation of the hero, Royal Keene; Mr. A. Fellows Bassett submitted a capital representation of the villainous Lascelle La Mort; Mr. John Montgomery was admirably suited as Red Heart; Mr. Harry K. Lloyd was amusing as Moses Levy; and Miss Leiselle Delores as Louise Granville, Miss Fay Garnet Vayne as Star Eye, and Miss Jessie Elvin as Wild Rose contributed praiseworthy enactments.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The animated pictures here still prove very attractive. The Suffragettes' recent great meeting in Hyde Park is capitally depicted; The Gipsy's Daughter conveys an interesting episode in nomadic life; The Nihilist represents a powerful drama; and the amusing films include When Women Rule, The Clown Doctor, Tale of a Shirt, and Who Kneaded the Dough?

BRISTOL. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair's company is here with *Man to Man*, the drama being both well staged and capably performed. Mr. Frank R. Robertson acts in good manly style as George Gordon; Mr. Frank Adair is consistent and effective as Richard Ellerton; Mr. Denholm Muir makes a popular part of the Rev. Philip Ormond; Mr. Edward Lloyd is quaintly amusing as Bill Burkley; Miss Louie Adair acts excellently as Ethel Maythorne; Miss Ada Hatchwell is well placed as Ned Doyle; and Miss Evelyn Warde displays power as Gipsy Madge. The comic parts of Samuel Plumtree and Mary are capitally taken by Mr. Herbert Williams and Miss Phyllis Oakley.

PALACE. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The leading turn here is provided by the Lukushimas, a troupe of Japanese entertainers, including Otora San, described as "Japan's premier lady artist," the act being chiefly acrobatic and equilibristic. Edward Cranston and Mrs. Bennett's company score in the Irish racing sketch, *Terry; or, True to His Trust*; the Kimberley Boys amuse as grotesque comedians; Carlile and Walker, vocal comedy artists, are entertaining; Trick and Trixie please with a musical turn; James Eadie and Cissie Ramsden score with a musical comedy duologue, *Charlie's Visit*; Alice Blandford, described as the "New Zealand Nightingale," is a pleasing and competent vocalist; and "One of the Macs" obtains applause for patter and knockabout business. The performance concludes with Bioscope pictures.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Hooker and Davis and their Six "Cowboy" Girls, including Mabel Davis, eccentric toe dancer, provide a pretty song and dance entertainment as the leading turn; Goodfellow and Gregson score with their comedy and dancing act; Tamamoto does a good turn as a Japanese dancer and tight-rope performer; Raie Walters, comedienne, is successful; the Three Sisters Dugnesne are excellent vocalists and dancers; Daley and Collins amuse as comedians; Clive Watts, comedian and dancer, obtains appreciation; and up-to-date pictures conclude.

COLSTON HALL.—Mme. Clara Butt and Mr. Kennerley Rumford gave a very enjoyable concert here on Tuesday evening, it being their first appearance in Bristol on their return from their phenomenally successful tour through Australia and New Zealand.

BURNLEY.—EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner. — The Faludy Troupe of Hungarian acrobats rouses great enthusiasm, and the turn of Francini Olloms and Page is full of smart jugglery and musical items; Percy Curry's contribution as a comedian is distinctly funny, and Talbot and Pearce in a Japanese duologue, *Yo San*, are very pretty and admirable; Alice Maude, juvenile, is most successful in imitations of celebrities, and the Cecelias, lady instrumentalists, give excellent selections; Fred Land takes well with "Nursery Ballads," and Master May charms the house with his delightful singing. The Theatroscope completes the good programme with The Ragpicker's Daughter and A Chase for a Husband.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The fare here this week is excellent, and the crowded houses are appreciative of every turn. Herr Paul Conchas is a man of fine physique, and his performance with shells and cannon balls demands great strength and daring; Sahib Gustav Fasola, illusionist, has a number of bewildering tricks, for which he is loudly applauded; Zeta Grey and company present a laughable sketch, *The Lancashire Lass*, and the Four Maisanos, clown musicians, are clever and funny; Mark Henton is a comedian with good patter; and Recco, in acrobatic burlesque, displays great skill and causes endless laughter; the Sisters Bartholomew sing well, and Carter's Ten San Tan Girls give an excellent vocal scena, *An Eastern Slave*. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux shows Father's First Baby.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Another week of living and talking pictures (Gaumont's patent) on the Bioscope and Chronomegaphone respectively, is meeting with continued success, and Mr. Fred Barnard, at whose instigation the venture was made, is to be congratulated.

CARDIFF. — EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Eugene Stratton occupies premier position this week, and his popularity is greater than ever; Phil Ray is the smartest patter comedian heard here for some considerable time, the twenty minutes occupied by him being one continuous roar of laughter; the graceful and wonderful trick cycling of the Six Proveanies borders on the marvellous; Rich and Rich, comedians, are a couple of old friends, who cause much mirth by their clever repartee; while Ted E. Box is another quaint comedian and exceptionally good whistler; a "taking" turn proved to be that of Elsie Roby, comedienne-pianist, in her novel act, *The Shiver*, and Will Musgrave, comedian, obtains a good "hand"; a most successful presentation of *Home from the Honeymoon* is given by Arthur Jefferson, assisted by a clever company, the sketch causing unbounded merriment. An amusing picture on the Bioscope concludes.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Good business is maintained at the popular Palace. A wonderful performance is provided by the marvellous Chanti, who presents his clever quick-change act with novel stage effects; Selby and Myers are exceptionally smart comedians and intricate dancers; Abel and Welsh are well-known as two remarkable "eccentrics"; the Sisters Darnton prove to be a charming duo of vocalists; Allsopp and Bekwith are an entertaining couple of comedians; Corman's Juveniles present a taking scena entitled *The Waif*, which wins the entire sympathy of the audience; and Madge Field scores with her effectively-rendered songs. The Raymond Bio-tableaux are a further attraction.

CARLISLE. — H. M. THEATRE. — Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—For the Race Week a special attraction is provided in those popular plays *Captain Swift* and *The Idler*, admirably enacted by Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft's company. The first-named piece was played on the opening night to a full house, and the artists engaged had every reason to feel the utmost satisfaction at the enthusiastic reception accorded them. Mr. Philip Cuningham, who appeared in the title-rôle, gave a clever and effective performance, which met with unqualified appreciation. That sound actor, Mr. Stephen T. Ewart, was no less successful, his rendering of Gardiner being marked throughout by dramatic skill; Mr. Seabrook, in the hands of Mr. Richard Dalton, became quite a popular character, and his son Harry was ably impersonated by Mr. A. E. Walker; Mr. Haldane Dalton's Marshall was a well-played and effective sketch of a by no means easy part. In the exacting rôle of Mrs. Seabrook, Miss Elspeth Dudgeon acquitted herself in a manner worthy of the highest praise, gaining great sympathy in her emotional scenes; Miss Zoe Davis was charming as Mabel Seabrook; and Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft, Miss Rita Trekelle, and Mr. William Attfield added much to the success of an admirable performance.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Alec Hurley, the inimitable coster comedian, is on a return visit here, and scoring heavily with *The Coster's Friendly Lead*; Mayme Cannon, a dainty and refined comedienne, is making an enormous success with her catchy song "When the lights are low"; George Brooks has also established himself a favourite; Farr and Farland are smart cross-talkers, and meet with an ovation for their clever manipulation of the banjo. Other good turns are Lizzie Daniels, comedienne; Marie Gros, comedienne; Anna Kenwick, in American songs and dances; and Cummins and Seaham, acrobatic speciality act. The Pepiscope completes an excellent programme.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. F. W. Bolam and Sydney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—Good business is still being done by the Edison Animated Pictures. A capital variety programme is submitted.

CASTLEFORD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Charles Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The Loyal Dominion company's animated pictures are amusing, instructive, and dramatic. During the evening Miss Lizzie Casey delights all with her sweetly-rendered songs.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Here we have Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company in *The Corsican Brothers*. Mr. Sydney Bland appears quite successfully as Fabien and Louis dei Franchi. Mr. F. G. Vane is powerful as Chateau Renard, and the Misses Cissie St. Elmo and Aimee Grattian Clyndes do well as Madame dei Franchi and Emilie de Lesparre respectively. The drama is followed by a dramatic episode entitled *The Holy War*.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The artistic visions presented by the Parisian beauty, La Freya, are a decided novelty; Vincent is repeating his daring feats of tumbling; Nancy Renshaw's laugh proves contagious; the Hyde and Cody Trio present some smart acrobatics; Theresa and May please all with their protean act; and Arthur Gill, vocalist and mimic; Ruby Emmerson, serio; and Avon and Crest, comedy artists, complete the variety turns. Lacey's Erascope proves as popular as ever.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. E. G. Woodhouse.—That versatile entertainer, Larola, is again delighting gaiety patrons; Ethel Dove is also a big favourite; Bert Williams, accompanied by Tommy, gives some good topical items in his ventriloquial act; Collins and Rice are a lively couple of gagging rhymesters; the Sisters Reno are energetic dancers; the Raymond trio present a well-liked mixture of music and dancing; Rose Cabani is a lively serio; and pictures by the Edisonograph complete.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—For the last week of the present season Mr. Fred J. Little's combination presents a cut-down version of *The New World*; and the bill also includes Alec Thompson, comedian; Willie Hickes, Irish vocalist; the Sterling Cycling Girls; and Bikello, tramp cyclist. In connection with the cycling turn, competitions are being run during the week. A good selection of topical and comic films are shown by the Bioscope.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Harold Montague.—"The Dandies" are a notable attraction here this week, and the attendance is good, considering that the season is still young. Mr. Henry J. Corner meets with a great reception for his songs "A border ballad" and "I beg your pardon," and his monologues. In conjunction with Miss Josephine Gordon, he makes a great hit in the duologue *Love and Dentistry*. This latter lady, the possessor of a charming voice and pleasing manner, delights with her song "Look out, Mr. Man." Miss Rhoda Gordon appears to great advantage in her item "I've got a spooney-ooney feeling," and her song at the piano entitled "Do I like love?" is charmingly rendered. Mr. Stephen Fitzgerald's humorous items are vociferously applauded. The concerted numbers by the company are praiseworthy.

WESTCLIFFE GARDENS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Graham Russell and Bentley.—The concerts at these gardens are well patronised. Miss Ethel Grimes, soprano, proves herself a singer of exceptional ability; Mr. Harry Barratt's rollicking songs are enthusiastically received; and Mr. Fred Buxton makes a decided hit in his musical novelty act. Mr. Will Bentley is really funny in his song "Geography"; Bert Graham causes hearty laughter with his songs; and Mr. Bernard Russell also contributes laughable items. Mr. Cyril Weller ably presides at the piano.

PALACE-BY-THE-SEA. — Managing-Director, Mr. P. W. Willard.—Several excellent turns are here this week, including the Frantz Comedy Five with their eccentric acrobatic tricks; Grossmith and Grant, "the chorus girl and call boy"; Royston and Royce, comedy artists; the Three Sisters Jerome in *Auntie's Maid*; Miss Lil Elfrida, vocalist and mimic; Miss Vera Patey, the Summer Girl; and Mr. Fred Dorman, comedian. The Palacescope shows some excellent films.

OPERETTA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. W. F. Jury; Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—The pictures shown here are of the usual high order, including, among others, the Franco-British Exhibition, The Publication of *Lloyd's*, and also a screamingly funny film, entitled A Rough Journey. Miss Clairette Florence, soprano, renders some particularly good items, and Mr. Jack Horton's illustrated songs are much enjoyed.

COLCHESTER. — HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Fred Karno's name is pre-eminent on this week's bill, filling the top line with *Mumming Birds* and footing it with *London Suburbia*. Both shows go with a rare swing, and reflect the greatest credit on the companies Mr. Karno is presenting. Harry Taft, with characteristic yarns and whistling contributions, is particularly well received; Albert Athas and Lizzie Collins, comedy artists, are much appreciated, the male performer dancing in excellent style; Evelyn Dess, with song and dance to her own banjo accompaniment, is applauded; and the Pathé films gain great admiration.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—*At Duty's Call* is being presented here. The piece is very finely staged, especially the scene "The Fall of Khartoum." Mr. John Gerant gives a fine rendering of Harold Alison; Mr. Matthew Boulton cleverly portrays the part of Captain Geo. Alison; Mr. Ernest St. John makes a capital General Gordon; and Mr. W. P. Carr as Jack Spencer and Mr. Frank Caffrey as Terry O'Hallaron are most amusing. Miss Edith Western is seen to adv

very wonderful feats. Fred Eustace and company give a comedy-drama entitled *The Amber Light*, which wins much applause; Lowenwirth and Cohan are a couple of good comedians; Hurman gives a skilful juggling display; a most enjoyable performance is given by Miss Dot Stephens, a clever comedienne; Jack Crawley appears in a pretty and novel act, *Lights Out*; and Marguerite Ismay and her White Coons in a novel dance.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The John Leopold company fills the star turn at the above house in a sketch entitled *The Houseboat*. The Seven Wulfrunas appear in *Fun in a Café*; Howe and Ardie are a couple of clever comedy gymnasts; some charmng acting is given by Chas. Kitts and Rhoda Windrum in their military comedy *The Cuckoo*; Mlle. Eldee appears in an artistic posing exhibition; Moon and Morris are capable comedians and eccentric dancers; Mr. Hugh Barclay is a baritone of considerable ability; and the Bioscope pictures conclude.

CROYDON.—HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice.—A very excellent programme is provided here this week. Mr. D. Watson gives a good cornet performance; Ethel Scheffer is again welcomed with her illustrated songs; Harry Bentley, comedian, is well received; and an excellent sketch entitled *The Night Watchman*, is given by Fred Southern's company. Some interesting animated pictures are shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Mr. Leonard Pagden and company are here in *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*. Mr. Pagden contributes a striking performance of Aubrey Tanqueray; Miss Lucy Wilson as Paula merits general praise; Miss Gladys Bartle-Frere as Mrs. Cortelyon proves satisfactory; Miss Muriel Alston as Lady Orreyed is well suited; Miss Lorna Lawrence makes a charming Ellean; Mr. J. Edward Pearce as Cayley Drummle is excellent; Mr. Guy Fletcher is a success; Mr. James Hussey is seen to advantage as Sir George Orreyed; and Mr. Ernest A. Duglas is capital as Gordon Jayne.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—A very entertaining bill is here. Bosanquet and company, at the bottom of the bill, in a musical sketch, contribute a fine performance; the Royal Delomes are up-to-date singers and dancers; and Mr. John Warren and company in *The Magic Carpet*, is also an attraction. Adah Payne, comedienne; Fred Keeton, comedian, Marin and Lona, juggling acrobatic act; Reid and Power in comedy duologue; and the Peniscope pictures are also listed.

DARWEN.—HIPPODROME AND THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. A. M. Loader; Manager, Mr. J. A. Whitehouse.—Excellent films are shown by Ralph Pringle's North American Animated Picture Co. In addition, we have the Idento Bros., comedy jugglers, both smart and amusing; York Wilson, eccentric comedian; and Jack Monks, tenor, on a return visit.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—At the head of the bill this week is Arthur Lennard, whose character singing gains him unstinted recognition. Another excellent turn is that of Ross and Lewis, described as the Yankee Doodle Duo, whose clever dancing completely captures their audience. Cull Pitt, in his tricks, talks, and topics, is very amusing; Stelling and his canine comedian are entertaining, the dog showing remarkable intelligence; the Wedburns, comedy instrumentalists and vocalists, cause much merriment; the Maro Duo are clever triple-bar comedians; Lizzie Fletcher is a pleasing comedienne; and Alec Lyner is a successful comedian and dancer. The Bioscope concludes a good all-round programme.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Charles H. Lester's company again occupies the boards here, and is producing an emotional drama entitled *A Life for a Life*. Mr. C. H. Lester as Don Leon Fernandez plays with his customary skill throughout; and the Pedro di Calci of Mr. Charles Yorke is an exciting portrayal. Miss Beatrice Anderson as Eulalie achieves success; Mr. Harry T. Wood as Kit Oswald and Miss Dorothy Riddell as Nancy Dorn work together in capital style; the rôle of John Evelyn is ably sustained by Mr. Henry C. Gilpin; Mr. Horace Buckley and Miss Lydia Hart in their respective characters create hearty amusement; and Little Irene is a clever child actress and neat dancer.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Despite adverse atmospheric conditions, the Metropole draws large houses, the attraction being Messrs. Chabot and Ballard's company in *Only a Woman*. Mr. F. Green is a manly Lieut. R. Summerfield; Mr. W. H. Wilson makes an excellent Lieut. Rodney Summerfield; Mr. Percy Ballard does well as Courtenay Wallace; Miss Violet Cranford scores in the title-rôle; and Miss Flora Leslie and Miss Rosie Fields are responsible for no small share of the success.

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—An excellent company is here this week. Flo Penley and George English in their light and agreeable musical comedy sketches, *In Ould Kildare* and *Four a Shilling, Mackerel*) are distinctly successful; Mr. Tom Johnstone, actor vocalist, is warmly received; Miss Evie Temple, comedienne, gives generously from an ample répertoire; E. W. Selman's forte is humorous songs; Ivy Gallard is a pleasing comedienne and danseuse; and others contributing to the programme are Stilvo, the tramp on stilts; Mario Collette, the singing mill girl; and Mr. George Edwards in selected poems by George R. Sims and Rudyard Kipling.

DOUGLAS.—GAIETY THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—The evergreen *East Lynne*, under the ægis of Mr. Arthur Gibbons, is the attraction here this week. Miss Kitty Cavendish as Lady Isabel and Mme. Vine was emotionally pathetic, and obtained a popular success; Mr. Frank Bradley acted Sir Francis Levison with keen perception; Mr. Frederick Moyes as Archibald Carlyle was impressive; Mr. Julian Revarez made an adequate Justice Hare, sufficiently irascible and self-important; the Barbara Carlyle of Miss Mabel Sealby was pretty and convincing. The other characters were capably played by the members of Mr. Herbert Ralland's company.

DERBY CASTLE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Kelly.—Dancing is here provided to the witching melodies of Mr. Harry Wood's orchestra. An excellent variety programme is also presented in the recently-erected Opera House. The Brothers Miller are quaintly funny as burlesque wrestlers and patterers; Miss Nellie Moore repeats her artistic impersonations; the Firmans appear in their sketch *The Fire Station*; the Velter Bros. exploit an episode which catches the attention of the public; Vernon's Bioscope illustrates the world's happenings; the Douglas Male Choristers are excellent.

THE GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Hemming; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—The attraction at this playhouse is Professor Wood's musical and pictorial organisation, popular combination of up-to-date ballads, the most recent music, and fresh pictures. The principal artists are Miss Nellie Hewett, Mr. Ben Simpson, Meinheer Du Val, Miss Elsie May, and Mr. George Christo.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Lessee, Mr. Charles Dare.—This is the anniversary week of a continuous opening of the Empire Theatre for more than twelve months. The pictures are up-to-date, and the variety programme has merit.

MR. FRED BUXTON'S Pierrots and Tea Village, with its ever-changing programme, is an excellent and refined entertainment which is rewarded by good attendances.

MESSRS. ADELER AND SUTTON'S Minstrels on Onchan Head secure liberal patronage.

DUBLIN.—QUEEN'S ROYAL THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Manager, Mr. Jones.—This establishment is still running, with great success, and the pictures displayed are heartily enjoyed by the large audience. Adding greatly to the entertainment are Major Arnold, conjurer; Miss Fern, vocalist; Bert Vincent, comedian; and Arthur Warren, comedian.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Winifred Hare is an artist of exceptional ability, and her refined songs are a great treat; Fred Curran supplies a most enjoyable turn with his quaint songs. Another good and amusing performance is that of Mitchell and Cain as *The Frenchman and the Other Fellow*; the Sisters St. Julian sing pleasing duets and dance well; Gus Hindell scores in capital style; and Cline and Clark win rounds of applause for their vocal and speciality dancing act; Harry Simmons and Harry Weldon, comedians, both contribute successfully. Films, Ltd., still continues to hold a high place in favour with animated pictures.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The New Macs easily maintain their position as patter comedians; the Rickards Trio create much hilarity in their comedy acrobatic act; and Luna Love, comedienne and dancer, is well received. A dexterous performance on the trapeze and rings is contributed by Petro and Leon, and the Sisters Dorrell are clever vocalists and dancers; Raglus is highly amusing in his comedy juggling act, and Jennie Hartley gives her songs in capital style; Alexander Prince, concertina soloist, Frank Lynne, comedian, and the Bioscope complete a good bill.

PAVILION (KINGSTOWN).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's star company is drawing big houses. Miss Emilie Tait's vocal items are charmingly rendered, and deservedly encored; as a character impersonator Mr. Tom Stuart would be hard to beat; the Terpsichorean act of Miss Mona Vivian is deserving of special mention; Mr. Paddy Duprez, comedian, scores a decided success; Mr. Albert Chapman, baritone vocalist, is much appreciated; and Mr. Jack Macdermott is as humorous as ever.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The company engaged here includes Henshall and Foster, sketch artists; May Leigh, comedienne; Harry Albury, comedian; May Sinclair, comedienne; George Parry, comedian; and the Cinematograph.

EASTBOURNE.—NEW PIER THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Peter Davey's company is appearing here on a return visit with *Miss Elizabeth's Prisoner*. Mr. Langhorne Burton works earnestly and well as Captain Peyton; Mr. George Mallet as Valentine furnishes clever work and is well received; Mr. Frank Harding does excellently as Major Colden; Mr. Wilson Blake contributes usefully as John Edwards; the part of Sergeant Carrington is ably enacted by Mr. Donald Young; and Mr. F. Woodville and Mr. R. Paterson as the servants, Black Sam and Cuff, are skilful helpers. Miss Ruby Miller has a charming manner, and undertakes the rôle of Miss Elizabeth with dainty skill; Miss Phyllis Back is a pretty and engaging Molly Edwards; and Mrs. Peter Davey is a bright, interesting Mistress Sarah.

The Russian giant, Machnow, 9ft. 3in. high, is exhibiting himself here during the week, and is exciting much curiosity and amazement.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE. — Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is appearing here in *Are You a Mason?* Mr. Howard L. Tracy and Mr. H. Langdon are natural, bright, and entertaining as Frank Perry and George Fisher, the latter very cleverly impersonating the French dressmaker; Mr. E. H. Paterson is an amusing Amos Bloodgood; Mr. Charles McLagan is a hearty and earnest John Hatton; Mr. E. E. Clive contributes a very vivid picture of the "stagey" Hiram Travers; and Mr. J. H. Wallis is a satisfactory Morrison. A remarkably well-played part is that of Mrs. Bloodgood by Miss Adelaide Grace; Miss R. Johnson is a pretty and graceful Mrs. Perry; Lulu and Amy have very charming and attractive representatives in Miss S. Nicolls and Miss Babs Stuart; Miss Lillie Lee is very good as Mrs. Halton; Miss Edith Drummond is a richly humorous Irish servant, Lottie; and Miss Ploengains is a smart Mlle. Amitage. *A Bad Penny* precedes, and in this Mr. E. E. Clive is a conspicuous success as Richard Hanbury.

THE PARK PAVILION.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. E. A. Brown.—Mr. Albany Ward's series of animated pictures of pageants, &c., are very interesting and well shown. Mr. G. A. Deighton is a smart and pleasant conjurer, and his ventriloquial efforts are well received.

THE ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Slippere, the blind entertainer, tops the bill here this week, and his imitations and musical contributions arouse storms of applause. Mr. Johnny Danvers pays a welcome return, and sings and dances in his own able manner; Mr. Nevill Graham and company are very successful in the clever sketch *The Man in the Street*; Miss Bessie Butt sings and dances pleasingly; O'Malley and Brown sing, dance, and patter in good style; Miss Nellie Chandos is a clever singer of coon songs and dances well; and new pictures are added.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company began an engagement of six nights here on Monday with the bright musical play *The Flower Girl*, in the presence of a large audience. The title-part was played by charming Miss Dorothy Firmin, who acts with genuine dramatic skill, and sings with feeling and taste; Mr. Robert H. Howard, a painstaking actor, was a pleasant Honourable Billy Greenhill, and sang with much expression, his rendering of "Sing me to sleep" in the second act receiving an enthusiastic encore; Mr. Martin Adeson, as Joe Wheeler, sang and acted with great humour, and he was ably seconded by Mr. Alfred Donohoe as Johnny Wheeler; Mr. Edward Kipling's portrait of the dude, Reginald Rackit, was clever, and he danced with conspicuous neatness; distinct hits were made by Miss Florence Wilton, an actress of agreeable presence and immense vivacity, as Lizette de Racquet, and by Mr. Henry Adnes as Alphonse de Racquet, a very amusing impersonation; Miss Jeanie Holmes was admirable as a Suffragette. The chorus work was well done, and the mounting of the piece left nothing to be desired.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Dutch Daly's amusing method of story-telling, combined with his excellence as a concertina player, continues to mark his turn as one of the most enjoyable items of the bill; Ella Shields secures warm approval as a singer of coon songs; and Russell Wallett's female impersonation, "the lady in black," is favourably received; Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, assisted by Albert Mason, succeed admirably in the very laughable sketch *Would-be Actors Rehearsing a Drama*; Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company of human and equine star performers introduce an important spectacular production, entitled *St. George and the Dragon*; and the King's College Boys prove themselves pleasing vocalists in their scena *The Students' Concert*. Max York and his trained fox-terriers give a highly interesting display; and comedy turns, with or without dancing, from Hans and Lux, Bert Weston, and Leonie Dixon, supplemented by Bioscope pictures, complete a well-diversified programme.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is appearing here this week in *His Majesty's Guests*. Mr. George Hestor as Sergeant Lightning causes a great deal of laughter; and Miss Blanche Lynd is a capital Lady Maud Basem.

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—This is the last week of the present stay of the Gipsies and their Jester. On Monday evening a Japanese fête—it is a novel and pleasing form of entertainment—was held.

VICTORIA PIER.—Manager, Mr. Robert Forsyth.—Carta and Mirtziana top the bill here this week with their Continental equilibristic act, an exceedingly clever turn. Mr. Padey Pennington, thought reader and ventriloquist, evokes great interest; Gravetta and Parr, in a pot-pourri act, are good; Miss Amy Elcock gives a smart little turn; and Sydney Back as the "Welsh woman at the piano," introduces some unique trick playing.

TOWN HALL.—Lessee, Mr. E. J. Chadwick.—The London Animated Picture Company is still giving entertainments at the Town Hall, and attract good audiences. The films are excellent. Special mention must be made of the Passion Play at Ober-Ammergau.

GATESHEAD. — METROPOLE THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. France.—Miss Lydia Donovan's company, in *Her One Great Sin*, occupies the stage here. Mr. Frank Lennard makes a manly Reuben Warhurst; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford ably portrays the villain; Mr. A. G. Raymond is amusing as Jerry Jumble; Miss Donovan submits a telling impersonation of Grace Warhurst; Miss Nelly Lambert adorns the part of Nancy Wimpenny; and Miss Maudie Lambert is a dainty and refined Gracie Warhurst.

KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—John E. Coyle, a comedian with a style peculiarly his own, is "on top" at this house; Cromo and Hamilton present a novel act, named *Artful Aladdin*; Flo Hilton is a clever male impersonator; the Marconis, with some wonderful electrical experiments, are highly appreciated; Matthews and Brown, a pair of coloured men, dance themselves into favour; Bert and Dora, comedy artists; Aba Be's Picture Postcard Album, and the King's Pictures are also billed.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Jack Woolf.—This week's programme is headed by Mr. Leoni Clarke, with his collection of trained cats, birds, and rats, and the novelty and attractiveness of the performance is greatly to the liking of Hippodrome patrons. The major portion of the programme is provided by the Bioscope pictures, which are varied and entertaining. During the week Beauty Competitions have been held for ladies and gentlemen, valuable prizes being offered.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—Mr. Edward Marris's company is here this week with *The Gentleman Jockey*, in which Miss Ethel Ward gives a spirited representation of the heroine, Poppy Grayson; while Mr. Cecil C. Parke fills the title-part with marked success. Mr. Helier Le Maistre acts the part of a racehorse trainer, and his fine voice is heard in several effective songs; the shadiness sometimes connected with the Turf is well expressed by Mr. Walter B. Nugent as Frank Snakeworth and Mr. Victor Rowland as a chauffeur Miss Lillian Drake as Kitty Granmere gives exquisite expression to the song in Act III.; and the Lottie Stone Quartette are equally effective in their dances. Mr. Leonard Dalrymple is well suited as Archie Fitzherbert; and Mr. Stanley Jefferson makes a good appearance as Tommy, the stable boy. The fun of the play is well sustained by Mr. George Brentwood as the Village Policeman and Miss Gertie Reid as Pippin.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson.—Mr. Alex. C. Grant's company, in *A Master of Millions*, is highly successful. Messrs. Alex. C. Grant, John L. Schofield, and Captain A. E. Winnington Barnes all do full justice to the work entrusted to them. Special mention should also be made of the parts filled by Miss Phyllis Elton and Miss Edna Wilkinson.

EMPIRE. — District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Harry Lauder is once again back among his "ain folk," and filling the Empire to its utmost capacity. His new songs go well, and the revival of "Calligan" is much enjoyed. Wille Brothers, in their marvellous head-balancing feats, excite great astonishment; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden contribute one of their clever sketches; Mena Brae takes well in her Dutch song and dance; Little Betty Green is a great favourite, and a really smart young artist; the Kurios give an ingenious turn, full of tricks and surprises, and concluding with a clever display of painting in smoke and colours; Chas. Fisher's opera company contribute several operatic selections; David Stewart, in his illustrated songs, proves himself a tenor vocalist of much ability; Vickey Delmar, acrobatic dancer and musical specialist, completes an excellent all-round company.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Joe Peterman's company, in *The Pawnbroker*, occupies the principal place in this week's programme. Silbon's Novelty Circus, with their trained cats, dogs, and ponies, is heartily enjoyed and deservedly popular; Mallia and Bart give a smart acrobatic turn under the name of "The Baggage Smashers"; Sandy and Carl, old favourites here, take well in their singing, dancing, and boxing turn; Little Ikey Moe, a very young Hebrew comedian, tells a lot of clever stories of Yiddish thrift, &c.; Ray and Delmore, with Miss Marie Stanley, appear in a comedy sketch, *In a Fix*; the Onlaw Trio contribute a marvellous wire-walking act by a lady, the ends of the wire being held by the teeth of the two gentlemen—a wonderful performance; St. Ruth and Conyers, two clever lady vocalists; Lina Leslie, comedienne; and the Glasgow Police Sports on the Bioscope, also prove popular items.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd.—Morris Cronin, with his cleverly-arranged juggling scena, tops the bill here, and the neatness and dexterity of all the tricks cause much comment. The Musical Johnstons demonstrate their dexterity on the xylophone in several high-class items; Frank Elliston's company take well in the playlet, *My Lady Betty*, the three characters being finely acted by Miss Nellie Stevens and Messrs. Richard Olliver and Frank Elliston; the turn of the Barnard Family, "Dolls Alive," is a neat and well-worked show; Fred Cary scores as an eccentric facial comedian; the popular Martin Conway comes in for a big slice of public favour, all his songs going strong; the Almas show wonderful nerve in their equilibrist feats; Dandy George and his clever dog, "Rosie," show the acme of animal training; the Carlyles, in whirlwind dancers, and the ingenious and clever display made by Wylie's dogs, complete an excellent bill.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie. — The bill is headed this week by Edwin Boyde, who receives a hearty welcome. Billy Williams, of the "velvet suit," is also enhancing his popularity; in the gymnastic line a finished performance is given by the La Faille Troupe; while those who love a good song are well catered for by Lily Lonsdale. Brnie Myers makes a hit with his quaint ditties and patter; the slack-wire act of Ada Gatley is clever; the laughable sketch, *Bibbs and Bibbs*, is ably presented by Messrs. Rolando Martin and James Chippendale, and Misses Ethel Davies and Margaret Frame; May Fayre proves herself a pleasing soubrette; and Billy Downes, "the breezy customer," is highly entertaining.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette. — The star turn here is supplied by the giant actor, George Auger, and his lilliputians, in the sketch, *Jack the Giant Killer*, the contrast of the various characters proving very amusing. Fred Edwards and company cause roars of laughter in the lively farce *Kleptomaniacs*; the Warsaw Brothers as musical eccentrics are very smart, and prove strong favourites; May Edouin takes well in her newest songs; another popular artist is Gracie Graham, who gets a good reception; Robb Gilmore, in his eccentric dances, is particularly smart; Russell Brandon, the coloured comedian, is another dancer of exceptional merit; Stelling and Revell, in their acrobatic business; Wyndham and Waters, comedy vocalists; and the latest Bioscope pictures, combine to make a well-diversified entertainment.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—A lengthy and enjoyable programme is submitted here. The Sisters Reynolds are clever duettists and dancers; Arthur Crowe does well as a mimic; and Syd Herman, Hebrew dialect comedian, is successful. The remainder of the programme is taken up with an interesting series of pictures.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Mr. Pickard's friends do not seem to forget his pictures. They are plentiful in number and excellent in quality. This week he has an excellent bill, including Carl Bremner, conjurer; Polly Du Barrie, comedienne and dancer; the Brothers Garvey, exceptional dancers; and Miss Rennie Glendower, who makes a good comedy-vocal turn.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—A nautical vocal comedy, entitled *The Mirthful Mariners*, tops the bill, and is well received. Fritz, the illusionist, is next in importance, and bewilders his audience with his many changes; Cumminger and Colonna are a wonderful dancing couple and Elsie Bernard a very taking comedienne; Miss Henriquette Maude, in picture and story, is a turn out of the ordinary, and Mueller and Coyne in a vaudeville performance are good. Comedians are well represented by Mr. Jack North and Mr. Frank Boyce. The Palacescope is interesting.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM —Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Lewis Waller's principal company, in *Robin Hood*, is here this week. In the title-rôle, Mr. Ethelbert Edwards displays great histrionic ability. Mr. E. Bruce Winston is a humorous Friar Tuck; Mr. Ernest Gray makes a dignified Sheriff of Nottingham; Mr. Richard Fielding is excellent as Hugo-de-Longespee; King Richard has a clever exponent in Mr. J. N. Briant; Mr. H. Elliot Ball is good as Prince John; Mr. Lambert Plummer is excellent as John-Little, his dialect being worthy of special praise; and Mr. Spenser Lloyd sings well as Allan A'Dale. Miss Lilian Stennis is charming as Lady Marian-de-Vaux; Miss Irene Malvesyn makes a stately Eleanor; Miss Gertrude-de-Burgh is a very bright Alison; and the small parts are ably filled. The tour is under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—*The Animated Supper Party*, presented by the Seven Perezoffs, is an exceptionally clever juggling turn; the Dorians give a pleasing gymnastic display; Madame Thelma's clay modelling is interesting; Rochez's ponies and dogs repeat their success of last week; Mr. Leicester Cooke gives a dashing equestrian turn; Doodles is nightly creating roars of laughter; "Chuting the Chute" causes a sensation and much merriment; Mr. John Watson as Lady Godiva provides a lot of amusement; the Zedoras give a novel gymnastic display; and the Webb Troupe of swimmers are still in the programme.

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—The Brownies are presenting a refined and artistic entertainment here this week. Mr. Arthur Longley is creating roars of laughter; Mr. Charles Heslop's singing and dancing is much applauded; Mr. Crompton Bryant's songs are well rendered; Miss Maidie Field is a clever singer and dancer; and Miss Gardener renders some excellent coon songs. The second half of the programme consists of a sparkling miniature musical comedy, entitled *The Post Office Girl*, and Mr. Frank Lawton, of *Belle of New York* fame. Miss Dorothy Webb is at the piano.

CHAPPELL'S PROMENADE CONCERTS. — Proprietress, Mrs. S. Lawton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—An excellent programme is being presented by the same artists as those officiating last week.

MINSTREL ARENA.—The Black Diamond Minstrels have transferred their entertainment from the pier, and are presenting a smart programme.

GREENOCK.—EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; General-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The pictures shown here this week are varied and interesting, and include Dotty Brown, Engaged all the Same, The Tempter, Father and Son, The Postman, Hurry Up, Please, and many others.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The popular domestic and adventurous drama, *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, is capitally played by Mr. Fred Granville's company. Mr. Hugh Montgomery is a prominent figure as Tom Robinson, and gives a spirited representation of the part; Mr. Cecil A. Melton plays George Fielding with distinct success; Mr. C. E. Linney accomplishes sterling acting as Mr. Meadows; Mr. Charles F. Johnson wins favour as the Rev. Francis Eden; Mr. Edwin Davies gives a dignified representation of Isaac Levi; Mr. Harry Cave does well as Peter Crawley; Mr. T. G. Warry is excellent in the quaint character of Jacky; Mr. Leonard Marshall is good as William Fielding; Miss Gertrude Gilman acts pleasingly as Susan Merton; and Miss Millie Wilton is well suited to the pathetic part of Josephs.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—A remarkable aerial gymnastic display is given by the Four Eugenes, and their somersaulting is especially clever; Zarmo creates much laughter as a comedy juggler, and also shows considerable skill; George Newburn is a faithful mimic of popular comedians; Barlee and Smith appear in an entertaining combination of comedy and music; Walker and Lake have a good comedy speciality; the Three Sisters Lee are smart vocalists, dancers, and acrobats; the Elvio Trio appear in a burlesque, *Those Troublesome Slaveys*; and Edie Anderson, comedienne and dancer, also contributes to the programme.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company is here this week, with *The Way of the World*. Mr. Herbert Skardon, in the part of the villain, Captain Slade, gives a clever study; J. D. McBride is a manly Cecil Montague; Mr. Clarence Templeman gives a fine performance as the disgraced clergyman, Matthew Malyon; Mr. Augustus Hammond does well as Horatio Bluff; Kate Montague is well played by Miss Nellie de Lacey; Miss Marie Fontaine is good as Polly Bell; and Miss Sidney Crowe gives a powerful rendering of the unscrupulous Adele.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The Sisters Belmoir are capable dancers; Takio gives clever imitations; Irene and Morton are successful in *The Hobo and the Maid*; the Avolos submit a novel and clever acrobatic display on vertical bars; Kitty Clinton, comedienne, is a success; Browning and Wally are clever gymnasts; Colin Mail sings nicely; Harry Grey's parody on the ballad vocalist is amusing; and the Five Bombays are excellent dancers.

HAMILTON.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Miss Ada Fawn is proving a hit here this week; Rowland Hill is a comedian of unusual ability; Alice Lorette and her dog Ben present a highly-interesting series of living statuary poses; Edie King is bright and vivacious in her song and dance business; the Three Cuibas perform some clever and altogether unusual feats of equilibrism; George B. Reno and company are amusing in a burlesque entitled *American Nonsense*; the Two Mohamed Sahas, Arab jugglers and tumblers, Kerr and Koe, cross-talk comedians, and the Bioscope conclude.

HANLEY. — GRAND. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Maude Vera, a dainty comedienne with a charming style, is here; Nina Gordon is a clever mimic; the grand picture this week is Black-eyed Susan; Les Piccolinos are smart miniature artistes; Bennett and Martell return in a neat act, *The Shipwrecked Mariners*; the Sprees are good in a scena, *Twickenham Ferry*; the Three Romas are experts; Sibb and Sibb are excellent on the double trapeze; and the Garden of Girls, or the Four Little Novelettes, are attractive.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Kennedy and Moore.—Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—The pictures shown here this week are all first-rate. Extra fine are Over the Sticks, His First Frock Coat, Mr. Hayman's Bargain, The Bargee's Daughter, Death-bed Marriage, The Bewitched Boots. Nat Abatt, a really smart gag artist and instrumentalist, is applauded.

HASTINGS.—ROYAL CONCERT HALL.—Signor B. Volpi's Royal Italian Circus continues to meet with well-merited success. Animals introduced by Signor Luigi Volpi, and trained by him, include the equestrian somersault dog Gardia, a trio of skipping dogs, a novel act by pony and dog, and the leaping pony Gigi. Signor Cembrani exhibits a rope-walking monkey and an equestrian baboon, with a novel act by dogs, pony, and goat, and the dog Spitz on horseback. Directeur B. Volpi introduces a dozen monkeys and a bear in one act, named *A Banquet*, a fancy dress ball by a dozen dogs, a quadrille by four ponies ridden by monkeys, a march past by ponies, dogs, monkeys, and goats, and ten musical ponies, with the elephant Jumbo, jun., as conductor. The Circus Band, directed by Mr. R. Niblett, give efficient musical assistance, and the clowns, Nimble Nip and Wee Wullie, contribute grotesque comicalities.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Griffiths and Fisher; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Peggy Fame dances and sings in a manner that wins great favour; Mr. Harry Wright, comedian, quite excels as an extemporising vocalist; the New Hipposcope illustrates some excellent up-to-date subjects; Mr. Fred Ginnett's company and his team of highly-trained horses, perform the popular equestrian spectacle, *Turpin's Ride to York*. The incidents of the long journey, and the death of Black Bess, &c., are graphically depicted. The equestrians later appear in a laughable sketch, *The Remounts*. Remarkable feats of memory are exhibited by Datas, who is a veritable encyclopædia; an attractive descriptive vocalist is seen in Miss Nellie Gannon; and the Delevines are very successful in their interesting act *Flipp and Flopp*.

PIER PAVILION.—Pier-Master, Mr. R. Turner; Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Miss Annie Stalman and a smart company are appearing here in Pinero's interesting comedy, *The Magistrate*, their performance meeting with pronounced success. Mr. Besley Beltran, in the title-rôle, gives the character weight, dignity, and repose; as Colonel Lukyn, Mr. Drew Mackintosh gives an intelligent impersonation of the part. The juvenile rôle of Cis Farringdon, taken by Mr. Robert Bottomley deserves high commendation; Miss Annie Stalman makes a charming Agatha Posket, playing with a light and effective touch which is an immense advantage to the play; Miss Nancy Harding, as her sister, Charlotte, is charmingly natural; Miss Josy Hammersley quite realises the character of Beattie Tomlinson, the reduced music-teacher; and Bullamy, of the Mul-

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berry Police Court, is well taken by Mr. H. P. Owen. The piece is tastefully mounted, and good audiences are attracted.

BEACH CONCERT PAVILION.—The Wallis Arthur Syndicate Entertainments opened the season here on Monday. Mr. George Blackmore is again the manager, and the large audience gave him a warm welcome, and encored his humorous songs; Miss Elsie English opened with a piano solo, and afterwards sang songs to her own accompaniment; Mr. H. V. Crofton, the possessor of a good baritone voice, sang acceptably; Miss Marie Schultz rendered humorous songs with pleasing effect. Some good character selections were contributed by Mr. Dolf Wheeler; Miss Sybil St. Elmo, a cultivated soprano, gained much applause. As in previous seasons, the concert party perform in the Alexandra Park each afternoon, under the auspices of the Borough Entertainments' Association.

PUBLIC HALL.—The London Animated Picture Company's entertainment continues here this week. The pictures are admirably presented, and include dramatic, humorous, and pathetic subjects.

ST. LEONARD'S PIER PAVILION. — Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—A welcome revisit is being paid by Dr. Seaton, with his interesting animated photographic pictures. There is a very varied selection, many of them being of a humorous character; for instance, The Boys' Half-Holiday, &c. The story of "Black Beauty," a favourite horse, the Victoria Falls by Dawn, and Coal Mining in Wales are graphically depicted. Some pleasing songs are introduced by Miss May Davis and Mr. Harry Hougkins.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—This place continues to be in the hands of the Bioscope operators, and good films are shown and thoroughly appreciated. One specially interesting film is that depicting the training of firemen for the fire brigades of Paris.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—A programme full of good things is provided this week by D'Arc's Mannikins, in clever imitations of popular variety stars; Miss Hanid Alexander, a gifted young lady, in a brilliant turn at the piano; the Leonards, duettists; Millicent Freres, in their daring gymnastic performance; the Sisters Pine, in their humorous duologue; Hersleb Bros., a couple of fine acrobats; the Merrions, in a novel musical comedy turn; and some interesting pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. A. Graham; Resident and General-Manager, Mr. Harry Dundord.—*Retribution*, a powerful sketch of Russian life, is cleverly presented by Herbert Terry's company. Mr. Graham's own juveniles make a welcome reappearance. They have wonderfully improved, and are recalled many times. Ray and Calden are a smart duo; the Falcons are clever comedy equilibrists; and other turns include Harry Nelson, Mark Lemon, and Beau and Belle.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Mlle. Sahara, in a series of classical dances, tops the bill; the Fitzroys are smart gymnasts; and other turns include Sam Walsh, Two Sports, Charles Daly's sketch, *My Wife's Husband*, Harry Hutin, and Dolly Boston.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are being shown here.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Madame Lucretia, an exceedingly clever dancer; Josie Townshend, in ballads; the Miltons, in a skating act; Henriette and Selina, musicians; Priestman, clay modeller; Ellis Marion, comedienne; Miss Garibaldi, contralto; and Chas. Waterfield, jester, are the entertainers this week.

IPSWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Stead.—Miss Carrie Laurie's Eight Juveniles give an excellent entertainment, and thoroughly deserve the enthusiastic applause they evoke; Miss Dorothy Clarke, on a return visit, has a charming method of singing Irish songs; Allis and Cassati give some comical duets; and Beatrice Bounie is a singer of merit. The Alberto Troupe of four are accomplished gymnasts; Stylo is a clever juggler with hoops of various kinds; Will Driscoll sings of a Bachelor's Paradise; Harry Cotton is also in the bill; and the Bioscope concludes.

LANCASTER. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The Four Emilions in an acrobatic performance head the bill, and are nightly recalled; Lee and Kingston win favour with a comedy act, *The Resourceful Lover;* Edna Latonne sings some capital songs; Charlie Carr, comedian, has a great reception; the Three Pirmans introduce a novelty pantomime act, *Dans le Jardin;* Bessie Travis is a ventriloquist of no mean order; and the Keiths supply a pleasing instrumental turn. The Hippograph still proves a popular item.

LEEDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*The Eve of Her Wedding* is this week presented here. Miss Sadie Smith plays Mavis Leverton in charming style; and Reine de Telle is cleverly embodied by Miss Nita Langford; Mr. Arthur L. Read shows ability in his handling of the part of George Tremain; Mr. Chas. H. Gallier does well as Dick Leverton, and good work is also done by Mr. Louis Hector and Mr. Chas. Groves, jun.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—E. H. Bostock's troupe of educated baboons are wonderfully intelligent; Thierry and Liell present a dramatic sketch with success; the Betsons, in a comedy cycling item, are amusing; Katie Butler is a pleasing comedienne; Olga Doré is an accomplished vocalist; and Fred Athalan, balancer extraordinary; Melbourne and McCarthy, comedy duo; Amos Howard, vocalist and dancer; and Fred Bamford, whistling expert, are all successful.

EMPIRE.—Hetty King tops the bill here, and great enthusiasm greets her rendering of her songs; W. C. Fields, comic juggler, is having a big week; a remarkable whirlwind dancing performance is supplied by the Molasso Quartet; the Three Prestons score well in a humorous farce; those accomplished musicians Roma and Romani do a talented turn; Sinclair and Whiteford evoke applause by a neat comedy sketch; Leo Stormont, vocalist, has a warm reception; and Chas. J. Johnson and Nelson's Newsboys are excellent turns.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Yukio Tani, the renowned Jap, is having strenuous bouts with local wrestlers here; an Australian episode, *The Sundowner*, presented by Kitchen and Lister's company is much enjoyed; Gus Harris, a clever Hebrew humorist, has a big reception; and an acrobatic sketch by the Cattaneos goes well, as also does a similar entertainment by the Zaid Trio; Dan Thomas is successful with his humorous contributions; and good turns are done by Satsuma, a weird mystifier; the Four Aces, with a Continental speciality; B. Babington, vocalist; and Stacey and Williams, in song and dance.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—Frederick Maxwell and company lead the bill here with the dramatic sketch *The Last Command*, which is much enjoyed; Cosgrove and Burns prove entertaining in a neat comedy episode; Harry Conlin leads the comedians in clever style; Charles Rose is a capable comedy specialist; and Fremel and Fremel, Rosie Coleman, Minnie D'Aubyn, and Godfrey James are doing particularly well.

LEICESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—Mr. Samuel James is presenting the melodramatic play *Wanted by the Police*, which is interpreted by a company of all-round excellence, and is especially well staged. Mr. S. James is a manly and convincing Philip Stanhope; Mr. Ernest Regent plays well as Richard Crawford, and Mr. Willis Collins is capital as Silas Underwood. Mr. Fred W. Graham creates endless amusement as Charley Sparrow, and contributes a song in his usual acceptable manner; Mr. Ronald Grahame, the author, is seen to considerable advantage as Nunkey Snarl; Mr. George Thorpe does well as the detective, Bertie Beresford; Miss Helen Vigors is sympathetic and clever as Mary Stanhope; Miss Eva Bertram is always good as Fannie Fordyce; and Miss Ethel Bateman is vivacious and smart as Molly, her song and dance also meeting with great appreciation.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hattoll Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertie Ralland.—Van Biene, the famous actor-musician, so popular with both theatre and music hall audiences at Leicester, is on a welcome return visit, and is receiving a warm welcome. He is presenting the one-act playlet *The Master Musician*, in which his remarkable gift as a performer on the 'cello is a conspicuous feature. Admirable support is forthcoming from Miss Lena Burnleigh and Miss Eileen Van Biene. Another smart turn is given by Howard and Harris, a mirth-provoking comedy duo, in *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp*. Ed. E. Ford, the Australian sundowner, who can twist his face into all conceivable shapes, is as popular as ever. Alix Lukos, an actor-vocalist and protean artist of great ability, scores a well-deserved success in his scena *The Language of Fate*. Ada Cerito, a beautifully-costumed and clever comedienne, is heartily appreciated; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, trick cyclists, go through some remarkably clever feats, their turn also having the merit of providing plenty of funny business; the Cambrian Trio of lady vocalists sing sweetly; Nancy St. John is an entertaining comedienne and dancer; the Bioscope is a special feature with the fantastical film, in twenty coloured tableaux, The Legend of the Ghost. Ray Wallace being unable to appear, her place is being billed by the versatile Bensons, who are making a hit as dancers, vocalists, and comedy artists.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—At the head of this week's show are Mr. John Henderson and company in the romantic and intensely thrilling playlet *Under the Maple Leaf*, which is admirably acted and staged, and is scoring a thoroughly well-deserved success. Mr. John Henderson as Sandy McFarlane plays with true histrionic ability, and Miss Millie Henderson shines as Lizzie Sinclair. Captain Kettle is particularly good as a magician, his coin and card tricks being done with a smartness that bewilders the audience; Louie Hurman, an attractively-costumed and chic burlesque actress, renders her songs in good style. Other capital items are contributed by Stuart and Evans, comedy conversationalists and dancers; Jack Foley, comedian; the Sisters Rivers, duettists and dancers; Learto, musical eccentric, and his well-trained dog Babs; and the Lovelaces in illustrated songs. A special feature is Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope depicting On the Riviera and The Chauffeur's Nightmare.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—Another grand array of comedy and dramatic pictures is shown here this week, the principal ones being The Combined Cycle Leagues' Cycle Run from Leicester Market-place to Enderby Strawberry Gardens (a special film), A Big Nocturnal Fire, Life of a Comic Song, The Juvenile Scientist and Arctic Hunting. Variety is interspersed by Bella Moody, a popular vocalist, who has been retained another week, in new songs; Tom Carpenter, who shines in a very good exhibition of ball-punching. Syd Harrison, eccentric comedian, the winner of last week's singing competition, is rewarded with a week's salaried engagement. Another competition is taking place this week exclusively for amateurs.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—*Under the Gaslight* was presented here for the first three nights of the week by Mr. Felix Pitt and stock company, Mr. Pitt being seen to advantage as Snorkey; Ray Trafford was capitally played by Mr. Charles Halling; Miss Muriel Dean was charmingly sympathetic as Laura Courtland; Miss May Warden played cleverly as Pearl Courtland, and Mr. Edward Warden gave a very able portrayal of Byke. The comedy was well looked after by Mr. Hyland O'Shea as Bermudas and Miss Edie Martin as Peachblossom; whilst the songs contributed in Act. II. by Miss Edie Martin, Miss May Warden, and Mr. Hyland O'Shea were highly appreciated. *The Betrayer* is billed for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

LEITH.—LORD JOHN SANGER AND SONS' ROYAL HIPPODROME AND MENAGERIE.—A three days' visit from this well-known travelling combination has drawn crowded audiences to each of the two daily performances. Excellent acrobatic displays were given by Zampo and Clown in their somersault throwing, by La Belle Fondants and Comical Pimpo in an up-to-date wire act, by the Airlees on the flying trapeze, and by the ladder performers illustrating the sports of ancient Rome. The equestrian and other animal turns were marked by great skill and novelty, and included a clever horse and elephant tableau presented by Coleman and company, dexterous feats by the Austins, a marvellous exhibition by the Maro troupe of riders, and the school horse Hawcombe, introduced by Miss Lina. Pimpo's canine wonders showed extraordinary intelligence, and the jumping of Snowflake was one of the records of the show; Cyclo's sensational act of being run over by a loaded motor-car might be turned to good account by educational authorities in these automobile days; *Turpin's Ride to York* concluded a most successful and enjoyable performance.

LINCOLN. — PALACE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—The first visit of La Milo is proving a splendid draw, in spite of the heat, and two crowded houses acclaimed her most artistic act on Monday. Her poses, amid an effective stage setting, silenced any adverse criticism promptly, and the artist had to appear at the close to acknowledge the heartiest demonstrations of approval. Bioscope films of the Coventry Pageant and Cruikshanks' entertaining sketches are shown in conjunction. The Four Kellys present an extremely smart acrobatic act, and the Zelovas, Elma Morris, Clara Pledger, Lytton and Bland, the Sisters Thorne, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are also attractive.

LIVERPOOL. — ROTUNDA THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The attraction here during the week has been *Is Life worth Living?* presented by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company. Mr. Douglas Vigors made a manly Lionel Roy; Miss Lillian Earle showed discretion in the rôle of Madge Roxton; Miss Jennie Burgoyne was a powerful Isabel Corsbie; Mr. Herbert Hollister handled the part of Randolph Kerr satisfactorily; Mr. Harry Bristow and Miss Olive Lanty, as Peter and Sally Sloke, portrayed with effect a pair of ruffians; and other well-drawn characters were those of Roland Roxton (Mr. Frank Dennis), Tim (Mr. Albert Woodhall), Betty Dabbs (Miss Pearl Noyle), and Adam Tozey (Mr. James E. Manning).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company paid a return visit here this week with *The Prodigal Parson*. In the title-rôle Mr. Garrod was seen to particular advantage; Miss Bertha Kingston showed feeling as the parson's wife; Mr. Paul Beckett handled the part of Enoch Jaggins in masterly fashion; and excellent support also came from Messrs. Charles Ashwell (Ben Jaggins) and Walter Vincent (Ned Kettlepin) and the Misses Madge Gillard (Myrtle), E. Fredericks (Pomeroy), and Enid Edoni (Gretchen). On Friday evening *The Sleigh Bells*, in two acts, was given.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Happy Fanny Fields topped the bill here during the week, pleasing greatly with her Dutch songs; Miss Marquis exhibited her cleverly-trained cobs; Hallen and Hayes had a diverting comedy act; R. H. Douglass, an accomplished monologue artist, found general acceptance; the always welcome lively Lily Langtry was rapturously applauded for her taking songs and remarkable movements; some sensational work on the trapeze was shown by Lozelle; the Eight Empire Girls found general favour for their songs and dances; and also in the list were Frank Seeley, eccentric comedian; and Jack Neil, Scotch comedian.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here this week *For Better or Worse* has been staged by Mr. Fred Granville's own company. Miss Pattie Hastings made a pathetic Olive Heathcote; Mr. G. M. Newall did well in the character of Captain Frank Hilliard; and the lighter parts were agreeably undertaken by Miss Jennie Hallworth and Mr. Evan Roland.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Dora Lyric headed the programme here this week, and pleased greatly with her latest successful songs; Frank Cass had a cordial reception on visiting this popular resort once more, his songs and patter proving very enjoyable; Hayes and Merritt, the bounding trampolinists, kept their audience in a merry humour; a smart drawing-room entertainment, entitled *Little Charlie, or the Twin Sister*, provided by the Arthur Lloyd Trio, was received with general favour; Merton and Rydon showed themselves to be a most capable couple of vocal and comedy speciality artists; Steve Bartle gave an able turn as a concertina player; Will Doran and company caused endless laughter with their absurdity, *The Inventors;* and Almon, the upside-down marvel, also appeared.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—The humorous Julian Rose, who made a big hit on a previous visit to Liverpool, was here in big type this week, and proved as successful as before; Leonard Gautier's animated toy shop was a most pleasing turn; Tiller's Manchester Mites sang and danced to everybody's satisfaction; a cordial reception was given to Jane Eyre for her popular songs; Hanvarr and Lee went through an acceptable sketch, *The Golfer and the Maid;* Tate and Tate had a most amusing trifle, *The Barmaid and her Eccentric Customer;* Lyster and Cook presented an able all-round musical show; and also in the list were C. Cleland, juggler; Ted Cowan, comedian; and the Smarte Bros., acrobatic eccentrics.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—During the week the stock dramatic company engaged have presented *The Mysteries of London*, from the pen of Lewis Gilbert. Mr. Harry Tresham played Philip Conway with expression; Mr. Sydney Grant was a striking Victor Levigne; Mr. Robb Wilton made a funny Dick Coppin; Miss Florence Palmer proved a pleasing Lena North; and good work was likewise performed by Messrs. E. D. Allen (William Rawson), Leo Montgomery (Robert Best), Cecil Ravenswood (Franz Muller), and the Misses Lilian Radbourne (Sybil Grey), Nancy Mitchell (Liza), and Beatrice Hudson (Charity Rawson). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed some excellent films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—The Bioscope pictures here continue to be popular; and this week in addition to them the following artists have contributed items: George Young, blind musician; Ethel Griffiths, comedienne and dancer; the Lecardo Bros., refined comedy acrobats; and Mollie Seymour, comedienne and dancer.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Foremost here this week were the talented trio Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, who had a most flattering reception for their particularly smart entertainment; Lil Hawthorne brought her latest songs; the Daunton-Shaw troupe of trick cyclists gave a highly appreciated exhibition; Hall and Earle made merry as the Chinaman and the tramp; Thomas E. Finglass had some well-rendered coon songs; Marie Santoi and company submitted a delightful musical comedy, *A Japanese Tea Garden;* and others who appeared were the Brennans (Will and May), with an artistic dancing speciality; and Peter Bermingham, Scotch comedian.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—This latest addition to local places of amusement continues to enjoy great popularity, and last week, notwithstanding the hot weather, packed houses were the rule. This week Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company headed the bill with *The Orange Girl*. Some remarkable feats were performed by the Spanish Juanitos, acrobats, who were loudly applauded; Morander and Darius were a couple of expert lightning simultaneous gymnasts; Halma proved himself a most skilful juggler; Herbert Bates was well received for his pleasing tenor songs; Tom and Neil went through an amusing comedy wrestling and boxing match; Bert Danson was a comedian who proved enjoyable; Eva Chadwick, with a neat style, and possessed of an excellent voice, sang several acceptable numbers; the Belasco trio delighted all with their harmony singing and dancing; and the list also contained the name of George Dacre, character vocalist.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. M. Crewdson.—Percy Boucher and his stock dramatic company are still here, and during the week gave *The Orange Girl*, the principal rôles in which were undertaken by Messrs. Fred H. Constable (John Fryer), A. Wilson-Rae (Pepper Frost), Miss Nina Blake-Adams (Jane Fryer), Miss Ivy Chandos (Mrs. Gregory Dyngell), and Mr. Percy Boucher (a humorous Gregory Dyngell). The programme concluded with the laughable comedietta *A Kiss in the Dark*, the supporters being Messrs. Percy Boucher, W. Stephens, and the Misses Ivy Chandos, Florence Russell, and Nina Blake-Adams.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—The bill this week includes Austin Boyd and Trixie Gilfain in an operetta, *Sunny Spain;* Chas. Diamond and Miss Beatrice (harp and saxophone soloists); Celest, gymnast; Les Marsumas; Paul Pelham; the Sisters Beaumont; and Blanche Leslie.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—This huge building reopened on Monday with a popular programme, which attracted a great audience, who expressed warm approval of the bill of fare provided. The spacious building is now rendered delightfully cool, and is thoroughly cleaned and redecorated with evident taste and skill. The British Biograph Co. enter upon their third season with a fine series of all the latest and best animated subjects of the day. The variety bill includes Harwood's Juveniles in a scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve;* Marlow and Manton, sketch artists, in *Wanted, a Wife;* Ruby Dade, &c.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—The vaudeville season has commenced at this theatre, and Kennedy's Komicks are giving some excellent turns, the programme being changed each week. Included in the current bill are Miss Marie Liston, Mr. Fred Ellis, Miss Olliner, &c.

MAIDENHEAD.—PAVILION PLEASURE GARDENS.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gude.—An attractive programme is well received this week. Local allusions are noticeable in Miss de la Mere's catchy song, "The dandy river boy." The sketch, *The New Baby*, gives good scope for the "funnisities" of Will Harris and Leo Fallowfield.

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester.—Tom E. Conover is at the head of affairs here this week, and his clever company of comedians get all the humour possible out of the well-written sketch, *The Drink Cure*. Chimes, a clever instrumentalist, is deservedly recalled for his novel act; the Pantzer Brothers are smart comedy acrobats; Miss Billy Beauford's two songs are well received; Sam Williams, vocalist, has some catchy chorus songs; Miss Madge Beresford, comedienne, is popular; and Allan and Hart, quick-change dancers, and the Bioscope are also in the programme.

MANCHESTER. — METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—The principal attractions here this week are Beattie and Babs, capital juvenile entertainers, in their bright song and dance scena, *A Pavement Rehearsal;* and the Musical Twelve, in their enjoyable musical mélange, founded on *The Bohemian Girl*. Unthan, the armless wonder, gives a remarkable act; Dorma Morgan, vocal comedienne, is very pleasing; and other good turns are those of Chris Van Bern, eccentric comedian; Arthur Harris, actor-vocalist; Lily Palmer, vocalist and dancer; Tudor's Four Educated Ponies; and Victor, comedy juggler.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The well-known Boisset Troupe are giving here their screaming comic act, *The Bricklayers;* and Hymack, the chameleon comedian, mystifies the house by his wonderful changing of clothes. Mr. St. George Sylvesta's illusion act is smart and entertaining; Barrett and Knowles, patter comedians, are deservedly well received; Mason and Bart, expert comedy gymnasts, give an extraordinary show; Bert Woodward's steeple-chase cycling act is a popular item; Haines, Borthwick, and Co., are highly entertaining in their farcical sketch, *Half-a-Dollar;* and other pleasing turns are those of Rosie Archer, a clever mimic at the piano; and Amy Marsden, the comedy girl.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. P. Morgan.—Walter Passmore, very ably assisted by Mary Fraser and Charles Childerstone, is here this week in that delightful musical incident, *The Constable and the Pictures*, and causes considerable amusement; Paul Cinquevalli, the incomparable juggler, scores all along the line, his assistant being smartly amusing; Peggy Pryde, the popular comedy artist, makes a hit with "Bother the men"; Les Frasettis give a delightful musical turn; Howard and Howard, as the Hebrew messenger boy and the Thespian, are capital; and other good items are those of Lennie and Hast, in *The Sea Nymph;* Frank Bernard and company in sketch, *Hello;* and Lena Willard, comedienne. "Tit for tat" is well rendered by Miss Gertrude Howarth, of the choir. Pictures complete.

KING'S THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—The Geni Family, who top the bill here this week, are Risleyists of ability, and offer a first-rate performance; *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is well presented by Henry Doughty and a very capable company, including Margaret Fareleigh. Other items are contributed by Harry Tomps, comedian; Rose D'Aulby, vocalist; Handel and Lee, musicians; George Don, quaint comedian; Curwen and Belle, burlesque artists; Helms and Cozens, in sketch; and Harry Morris, character comedian. The Chauffeur's Nightmare on the Bioscope is funny.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Ivan Berlyn and a capital company, including Marion Turner, are seen to advantage here this week in an episode from "Oliver Twist," entitled *Fagin*. Sam Elton is quaintly amusing in his unique act with plates and eggs, and is deservedly well received; L. W. Harris is a neat comedian, and takes well; Alec Kendal talks in a natural and humorous style; Wittie Wattie Walton is smart in his burlesque scena; Horace Wheatley sings and dances neatly; and other entertaining items are given by Hayes and Watson, who patter and dance well; F. De Marce's clever performing animals; Walter Wade, comedian; and last, but not least, Ara, Zebra, and Vora, in smart act, *Indian Pastimes*. The wrestling tournament still continues in the afternoons.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Ethel Beech sings delightfully, and is ably assisted by six smart dancers in a pretty Indian scena, entitled *Red Wing;* F. V. St. Clair is popular, as usual, as a topical vocalist; and Mabel Osborne and Gordon Brookes are altogether excellent in a smart act. Les Sousloffs, whirlwind dancers, meet with a big reception; the Three Van Hosts, comedy acrobats and tumblers, have some original movements; Haidee St. George, soprano, sings well; and other enjoyable turns are those of Billie Burford, comedienne, with catchy songs; the Vanderbilts, comedy duo; and George Leavern, comedian. Ruffel's Imperial Bioscope pictures are particularly good.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Harry Ford, the well-known comedian, is to the front here this week, and sings three songs in his usual capital style; Owen McGiveney is deservedly well received for his efforts in presenting a quick-change dramatic episode from "Oliver Twist," all the five parts, including that of Nancy, being exceptionally well done by Mr. McGiveney. The music and scenery is excellent. The Would-bee Wonders cause amusement in their clever herculean performance; Wallace Whitney scores as Tubby, the footballer; Joseph B. Montague and Hilda Blanche are good in a comedy sketch; Ormonde Penstone, assisted by San-Go, mystifies the audience; Beattie Foster is a pleasing comedienne; and the Sicilians are smart instrumentalists. The Woman Who Wasn't a Suffragist is a very amusing film.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Kay.—Nat Clifford, the popular eccentric comedian, causes roars of laughter here this week, and is greatly appreciated; Yamamoto and Koyoshi are excellent equilibrists, and meet with a big reception; Dottridge and Instone's company, in *Rosie's Birthday Party*, including Kitty Trewhitt, Isa Gibson, and Trixie Whyatt, are pleasing; and other smart turns are offered by the Four Breens, comedy jugglers; Fritz Kornau, whistler; Gertrude Martini, comedienne; Bennett and Stirling, comedy artists; and Mike and Lena, in Dutch duologue, *The Dutch Lovers*. Pictures complete.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. Phillips.—An excellent programme is offered here this week by the following capable artists:—Mr. Frank Dunlop, Mr. Norman Greene, Mr. Bert Byron, Mr. Francis Rayne, Miss Connie Clive, Miss Nellie Crawford, Miss Harriet Fawn, Miss Marion Edwardes, and Miss Dora Langham.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. R. Hardy.—*Dear Old Charlie*, the Vaudeville success, was produced here on Monday by Mr. Cyril Vernon, and has had a most successful week's run. In the name-rôle Mr. George Lestocq has given a fine impersonation of Charles Ingleton; whilst Mr. C. Douglas Cox and Mr. R. S. Trelawney have rendered effective service as Gabriel Peploe and Thomas Dempil, his friends. Miss Marjorie Chard has made a delightful Agnes; and Mr. Duncan Young has been an excellent Colonel Fishbourne, with Miss Leonora Braham as a pleasing Mrs. Fishbourne. Miss M. E. Ellis as the maid Ruve and Mr. G. Smythe as the florist's boy have completed an all-round good cast. The comedy has been preceded each evening by the one-act play, entitled *The Cause*, in which Miss Leonora Braham and Mr. Cyril Vernon appeared with marked success.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Fred Karno's company has been appearing this week in the sketches, *Moses and Son* and *The Bailiff*, both of which have proved very amusing. Other contributors to the programme include Dolly White, male impersonator; Wright and Elton, comedy artists, tumblers, and dancers; Janet Hall, a delightful singer, with a rich Lancashire accent; the Three Laurels, in their comedy acrobatic turn; and the pictures are, as usual, up to date and amusing.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—*His Sister's Honour*, presented by Mr. Evelyn A'Dell's company, is here. Mr. R. Ferris renders a good account of Frank Stanley; as Sir Richard Kedvers Mr. Walter Steele is distinctly good; Timothy Timid is capitally played by Mr. George Whillis; and Mr. Frederick Garratt is well suited as Dr. Godfrey. Mrs. Evelyn A'Dell acts with sympathetic feeling as Ivy Merton; Miss Lillian Ross scores as Dora Stanley; and Miss Maudie Vincent is successful as Maria.

MEXBOROUGH.—NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—A capital series of animated pictures are being shown here this week, including a number of dramatic and comic subjects. The films include Romance of the Fur Country, The Mysterious Treasure, The Hostage, The Thieving Hand, and The Pearl Fisher.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Miss Ada Franks and company occupy the boards here this week in the drama, *A Fight for Life*. The play is full of stirring incidents, and keeps the audiences up to a high pitch of excitement. Miss Franks appears in the rôle of Suzanne, of whom she gives a very natural and womanly rendering; Mr. Courtney Robinson wins great distinction as Count Adrian; and Miss Violet Lesborough acts with fine vigour in the rôle of the Tigress. Mr. Clifton Earle gives an excellent interpretation of the part of Jean Cardell; as does also Mr. William Matthews that of Carlos Cardell. Miss Rose Woodhall is very good as Adell; and Mr. Sam Wilford gives a capital impersonation of the Irishman, Dan Murphy. The other rôles are in the hands of capable artists, and the piece is well staged.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Edward Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Drama again occupies the stage here this week, during which Mr. Harry Foxwell's company present *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Thorne Hallam acts with great distinction as Eleanor Deane; and as Captain Herbert Seaton Mr. A. C. Holmes frequently elicits the plaudits of the audience. Miss Ruth Zillwood is charming as Ninon Malvoisin; and Mr. Fraser Brunner gives a powerful impersonation as Phillipe Malvoisin. Mr. Will Glaze is very amusing as Sammy Sharp; and Miss Queenie Fraser Burner is pleasing as Sally Sloper. Mr. Teddy Miles does full justice to the rôle of Paddy Boyle. The piece is well staged.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—Mike Whallen pays a welcome return visit here this week, and his inexhaustible fund of stories is immensely enjoyed. Tennyson and Waller have some really funny patter; and Chas. Wilson, who claims to be the champion jumper of the world, gives an interesting show. Proby and Bates give a pleasing entertainment; and Deans and Wilton are clever comedy acrobats. Francis McNulty, (society entertainer), Herbert Rule (comedian), and Marie Stroud also add to a capital programme.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—The programme here this week includes many old favourites, none of whom have a more gratifying reception than Mme. de Rose. She is accompanied by Miss Hilda Claremont, and the duets by these artists prove decidedly popular. Walton and Jester are as funny as ever; and Lillie Souter, an old pantomime favourite, creates roars of laughter. J. Copeland and Son provide some clever dancing; and there are also a number of other artists.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. M. Julian.—Mr. H. P. Maltby's excellent company have been seen in *The Youngest of Three* and *Fraud*, two plays varying in style and period, but both the work of Mr. Maltby, which fact proves his great versatility. Mr. Maltby is seen in suitable characters in both pieces, and he is supported by an excellent company, which includes Miss Mara Maltby, Misses Kathleen St. George, Florence Wynne, Lizzie Maddocks, Messrs. Arthur Claremont, Wyn Weaver, Norman H. Tracy, Brember Wills, Jas. Willoughby, H. B. Dewhurst, and S. Clegg.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The amusing musical comedy *The Dandy Doctor* is making a welcome reappearance here this week, and is meeting with great success. Miss Florence Smithers as Jane, most humorous of "generals," is prolific in quaint byplay and droll gesture, her personation of a Lancashire mother seeking lodgings in Blackpool being perhaps her happiest effort; Melchisadek Brown, the tinned meat millionaire, provides Mr. Charles Stephenson with ample scope to display his undoubted ability; which Miss Mollie Wynne as Ivy Pendred gives a charming impersonation and dances extremely well. Other capable artists are Mr. Herbert Pearce as Colonel Pendred and Mr. Leslie Martin as Bertie Bolingbroke, who both contribute to the success of the piece.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—A very fine revival of *The Shaugraun* is this week to be seen at this popular house. The company is a capital one, the part of Conn being exceptionally well played by Mr. Frank Thorne, whose company is responsible for the revival. Mr. Paul Harper is excellent as Capt. Molineaux, and Miss Phyllis Vaughan makes a charming Arte O'Neill.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—An interesting entertainment is provided this week by Mr. F. Wybert Clive's company in the Russian play *The Conscript*. Mr. Harry Cullenford, the talented and popular actor, gives an admirable interpretation of the rôle of Karl Truevitch, the conscript, and is well supported by a talented company.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—At the head of an excellent bill this week is Mr. Ernest Shand, and he justifies his position by his amusing comedy. An elaborate entertainment is the production of *Sunny South*, in which tuneful songs and clever dances are introduced by the artists engaged in the production. Another capital turn is that of the Two Anartos in a musical sketch, whilst the Barton and Franklin Trio provide excellent entertainment; and other artists of well-known repute are the Twin And

and Powell, Mike Cray, Maude A. Edwards, the Silvas, and the Tifanos are all responsible for meritorious turns.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager.—Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*The London Fireman* is being played here this week by Messrs. E. L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles's company. Mr. B. J. Collins plays Viscount Fleming so realistically as to secure a demonstration of a sincerely hostile character; Mr. Wm. Burgess in successive parts is decidedly clever; and Miss Helena Walbran as Ida Curtis, Miss Gertrude Price as Grace Curtis, and Miss Nellie Waddington as Countess Fleming all do excellently; while Miss Olive Loyd in the part of Polly Bramble with Mr. G. E. Scully as Nixey Stringer were responsible for much fun. Mr. Wreford Bailey in the dual parts of Dr. Gerrard and Prof. Gurglewash exhibits capabilities of a high order; Abel Fortnum (Mr. J. Whyde) is a part capitally filled; and Mr. Walter Wilby as Joe Blumer, Mr. Dan Ryan as Crowder, and Mr. Chas. Mont as Capt. Langton all do well in their respective characters.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Major Gallagher.—The star turn here is furnished by Canny Neil Kenyon, who provides in his particular line one of the best turns seen here for a long time; Ludwig Amaun, quick-change artist, provides a clever performance; Tom Fay and company in *The Yorkshire Lad in London* are extremely entertaining; and good turns are given by Ray Maskell, comedienne and dancer; the Musical Schafer in a comedy act *The Garden of Melody*; J. W. Hall, a quaint comedian; Andie Burns in song and dance; and Rosa Loader, the happy slavey at the piano. The Bioscope, with a series of new pictures, completes the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett.—The Five Musical Tritons, the star turn here, are presenting a spectacular electrical musical scena, with a combination of various musical instruments, including a beautiful lyre of tubular bells. Miss Lydia renders a vocal solo and Miss Eleace performs a solo on the tritophone, and the whole is loudly applauded. The Paolias are pleasing in their refined drawing-room act of balancing, juggling, and feats of strength; the Elduns (Lettie and Alf) appear in a pretty scena, *The Spider and the Fly*; and Jack Hayton, comedian; Vanbert, American illusionist; Helen McGregor, Scotch contralto; Jack Dawe, character comedian; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope complete the programme.

NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans; Musical-Director, Mr. Walter Ashton.—A dramatic episode, *A Baby Shoe*, is most effectively presented here, and Miss Ada Roscoe may be complimented on the excellent manner in which she impersonates the heroine, Nina. Mr. Horatio Sinclair gives excellent support as the husband and thief, Jim Harrison; Mr. Dave Leonard is satisfactory as Dick Desmond, a good-hearted swell; and the two constables are well represented by Messrs. James Robson and Frank Copeland. The Venetians are also successful in their vocal spectacle; Munroe's Black and White comedy team are loudly applauded; and Emma Don (male impersonator), the Three Neros, and the Palace Pictures complete the programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—A large and fashionable audience assembled here on Monday evening, the occasion being the annual benefit of the popular acting-manager (Mr. Horace Lee), an excellent and lengthy bill of fare being greatly appreciated. Burton's Bohemians, from South Shields, were warmly greeted; Miss Dora Woodhouse, soprano, Miss Dolly Cusden, contralto, and Mr. Courtier Dutton, bass vocalist, from the Spanish City, Whitley Bay, had a hearty reception; Mr. Bert Terrell, Dutch comedian, and Mr. Olly Oakley, banjoist, from Tynemouth Palace, were much appreciated; and Mr. Fred Maitland, the latest Parliamentary candidate, from the Central Palace, met with great favour; Mr. Adam Tomlinson, the local comedian, was as popular as ever; the Strongfort Brothers, athletes, presented a very smart act; Mr. Isaac Merkel, concertina soloist, was well received; and Messrs Clark and Hurrell, vocalists, also contributed successfully to the programme. The theatre is now closed for redecoration, &c.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Mr. Fred Maitland with his Suffragette speeches is proving an interesting item on the programme here; the Gilberts with *Pastimes in the Park* have made a hit; Macmillan, Scotch comedian, causes much hearty laughter; Mr. Will Candlish, negro comedian, goes well; the Emmersons, speciality artists, are much appreciated; the Gasgoines, speciality artists, meet with favour; and the Mouldoscope is still as enjoyable as ever.

NORWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—There is a capital show here this week. Tom Edwards, ventriloquist, with an amusing turn, receives much applause; Mlle. Paula Peters exhibits highly-trained ponies, baboons, and dogs; Thomas and Taylor, in a quick-change scena *Fun on the Midlands*, are very laughable; Fraser and French are clever clog dancers; and Florence Esdaile, vocalist; Alf Hood, mimic; Clarice Sefton, dancer; the Sisters Brooke, vocalists and dancers; with the Hippodrome Bioscope complete a pleasing entertainment.

NOTTINGHAM. — GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company give a capital rendering of *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr. Eric Campbell has an effective part in Jim Murley, and his robust methods gain hearty applause; Mr. Milner Noble gives a convincing embodiment of Pharosaphus; Mr. J. Ansdell Wilson is efficient as Railton; Mr. Arthur Robinson makes an impressive Guise Strange, Mr. Douglas Campbell supplies a light and easy portraiture of Reggie; an excellent Isaaca is seen in Mr. Charles Lovell; Mr. T. Carruthers is thoroughly effective as Eric Melville; and Mr. Harry Melton cleverly assumes the detective. Miss Amy Ellam capably sustains the forcible rôle of Risca Mallison; Miss Gwendoline Talbot well expresses the pathetic part of Doris Melville; and Miss Beatrice Reynolds as Vavasole Slopper is bright and amusing.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The appearance of Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Dorothy Minto in a duologue entitled *The Dog Between* brought an attentive and interested audience on Monday. The Gothams again demonstrated their facile ability in song and humour; the patter of Paul Barnes elicited the heartiest laughter; an entertaining item was provided by J. A. Wilson and his dog Towser; May Mars gained a demonstration for her spirited rendering of songs; a capital exhibition of leaping was given by the Huxter Bros.; and the Five Olracs supplied an amusing interlude. Cissie Carlette, comedienne; Bioscope pictures of the White City; and Irve Hayman and Marie Montague were also on the bill.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Kennedy's Komiks, now on their third week, are still attracting large audiences. The programme this week, which is an entire change, comprises A. E. Allen and Doyle, and Nolan, who are smart comedians; Frank Lyndon provides an enjoyable and artistic turn on various instruments; Sisters Dunville (duettists and dancers) are applauded; Mabel Kington wins favour with some pretty ballads; Lily Ward (soubrette) and Albert Scott (eccentric dancer), and an excellent series of pictures concludes an enjoyable programme.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. Motron Powell's production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is staged here, and has been highly appreciated. Mr. T. Weldon Atherstone in the heavy part of John Jasper does exceedingly well, and he had a capital reception; Mrs. Morton Powell as Rosa Bud makes a charming and dainty heroine; Miss May Beatrice gives a telling interpretation of Helena Landless; and the acting of Miss Addie Adair as Princess Puffer is excellent. Miss Dot Russell is very good as Mary Jane; Mr. Walter H. Domoney acts in a clever manner as Edwin Drood; as Neville Landless Mr. J. H. Twyford is highly successful; Mr. R. Harris as Mr. Septimus Chrisparkle acts well; Miss Jennie Risley as Deputy renders her lines in adequate style; and Mr. Karl H. Edwards invests the character of Durdles with much humour.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company in *£1,000 Reward* opened here on Monday on a return visit, and was well received. Miss Kathryne Eckart appears as Mme. Sanson, and her acting elicits much applause; Mr. Edward de Vere as Fred Ingleford and Mr George Marriott, jun., as his son Fred do full justice to their work; Mr. J. Wilton as the villainous Gilbert Lisle acts cleverly; Mr. F. J. Pitt plays the detective Vincent Rainsworth in a capital manner, and Mr. F. Dallas does well as Inspector Gilbert of the old school. Miss Violet Ingram as Meg is dainty, and Miss Minnie Goepel as Kitty is amusing, and receives good assistance from Mr. Dick Seddon as Dick. Miss Alice Clarke as Mrs. Carthy is clever, and Fighting Jepps is ably portrayed by Mr. Arthur Merton.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kilrow.—Minnie Kaufmann, lady trick cyclist, at the head of the bill, gives a marvellous display; Ryder Slone, comedian, sings some capital songs; Chinks again demonstrates his dexterity as a juggler; Lillian Lowe is an excellent vocalist; the Hartley Wonders in their jumping act are smart; the Five Vernons, xylophone specialists, are well received; the Columbia Comedy Trio are very amusing in a singing act; Archie Glen is very good as a vocalist and story-teller; and the Dottoscope concludes with interesting pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—The Eight Lancashire Lads are here, and they sing and dance with their usual success; Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard in a comedy sketch, *Coming Home*, are very humorous; Aidee Mellor, a singer of chorus songs, has proved herself a popular artist; George Gulliver is a capital ventriloquist; and Chant and Chant, comedy duo, are amusing with songs and patter. The Sisters Florence are dainty song and dance artists; Dunningarto in sleight-of-hand is smart; and the Dottoscope brings the programme to a close with good pictures.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Frank Stuart's company is this week presenting *East Lynne* and *The Curate*, the cast including the popular lessee and the able manager. In the former piece Miss Winifred Stuart as Lady Isabel wins complete favour with her sympathetic rendering of the rôle. Mr. P. C. Wentworth gives a very capable exposition of Archibald Carlyle, and Mr. Edward Oxley is successful as Sir Francis Levison; Mr. Frank Stuart is accorded a hearty welcome as Lord Mountsevern; Mr. Chas. Ninian is very effective as Justice Hare; and Mr. Dan Sydney is most amusing as Samuel Hogg. Miss Hallie Hazlewood proves herself a clever little actress as Little Willie Carlyle; Miss Theodore Henries does well as Barbara Hare, while Miss Bell Russell is quaint as Corney Carlyle. Joyce, Wilson, and Susanne are satisfactorily played by the Misses N. Smith, V. Fielding, and T. Smith respectively.

PAISLEY.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Douglas F. Bostock.—Alber's performing Polar bears, ten in number, exhibit wonderful results of training; the Waldrons, owing to their properties having been destroyed in the fire at the Accrington Hippodrome last week-end, are unable to appear in their usual sketch, but they nevertheless submit a very funny and laughable comedy act; W. G. Webber, bass vocalist, is rapturously applauded for his fine singing; Farrell and Dunn score a great success as patter comedians and dancers; a smart comedian and dancer is May de Rowse; Will Godwin submits a capital scena entitled *Repentance*; the McKays are clever juvenile vocalists and dancers; and Ray Godwin, comedienne and dancer, performs meritoriously.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—At the top of the bill this week are the Lorch Family in a series of sensational acrobatic feats; the Three Lloyds, in their double bounding cable act, are loudly applauded; the Charnleys, vocalists, dancers, and bâtonists, deserve praise; Evelyn Taylor, chorus comedienne, is a decided success; Gibbon and Bell, speciality acrobats and dancers, are amusing; Johnny Walker, in catchy songs, proves a spirited comedian; Irene Meldon is vivacious and charming; Ellis and Watts, in smart songs, quaint stories, and clever dances, are much appreciated, and the Tivoliscope with up-to-date films concludes.

PETERBOROUGH.—NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. C. Peveritt.—Mr. Fred Lindsay exhibits skill and strength in the manipulation of the Australian stockwhip, and is loudly applauded; Fred Lorrison is an eccentric comedian; Nada delights the audience as a dramatic and musical raconteuse; Rose and Challoner are most amusing in a novel duologue entitled *The Lady and the Porter*; La Tostia is an exceptionally clever mandoline soloist; Tom Shale, a refined comedian and vocalist; Amy Bellwood, a dainty comedienne and clever dancer, and the Whittakers create roars of laughter when presenting *Dick Whittington*.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Edmund Tearle's stock company is this week presenting *Jeannie Deans*. To Miss Kate Clinton is entrusted the title-role, and this accomplished actress infused just the correct measure of pathos into the part. Miss Marie Campbell as Effie gives a clever interpretation; Mr. Tearle excels himself as Counsel for the Defence in the memorable Trial scene; Mr. Bernhardt Turner works hard as Geordie Robertson; Mr. Cook Hinton is at home in the part of the stern David Deans; and Miss Wanda Beresford is stately and graceful as Caroline, Queen of England. The week's répertoire also includes *It's Never Too Late to Mend* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor*.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field. The star turn for the week is Miss May Moore-Duprez, who is meeting with a warm reception; the Spanish Goldini Troupe furnish a most novel carpet spinning entertainment; G. W. Hunter maintains his popularity; and Hodgson, Lowther, and company evoke laughter with their sketch *Barmaids*. Other hard-working contributors to an excellent bill of fare are Charles Ashdowne, comedian and dancer, Marion Armitage, and Walter Stanley.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company in *Send Him Victorious*, by Herbert Skardon, was the attraction here on Monday. On Thursday and Friday was produced *The Woman who was Dead*. Captain Frank Ellison was finely portrayed by Mr. Montague Beaudyn; Mr. Frank Holyoake capably assumed the part of the King of Ravonia; Col. Kaufmann was in the able hands of Mr. G. Montanini; Major Strauss was ably presented by Mr. Arthur Tomlin; Mr. James Archer made a praiseworthy Governor; Miss Marie Robson scored a success as Countess Kara; Ethel Hardinge was well enacted by Miss Irene Munroe; and as Gretchen Holtz Miss Cecilia Crawford did well.

PORTH.—THE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping an exceedingly good programme here this week is Miss Harriet Vernon, who scores an unbounded success in "Sunshine and Shadow." Fred Wallace proves himself an admirable entertainer in his military ventriloquial sketch, *The New Orderly*. The Vyponds, the popular society entertainers, are accorded a capital reception; Moteni is a clever exponent of modern magic; Fancourt and Ruby, in their high-class comedy act, afford much genuine amusement; Tony Iveson, the ragman at the piano, meets with an enviable reception; the beautiful Lillian, lady cyclist, gives a clever performance, and the Palascope provides the latest films.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—This week we have *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, presented by Mr. Will Dennis and an able company. Mr. Dennis plays the part of the Earl in finished fashion; Miss Daisy May's Cedric Errol is a most winsome impersonation; Mr. George Roberts enacts the rôle of Mr. Havisham with dignity and ease; Mr. William Lockhart does excellent work as Mr. Hobbs; Dick finds a capital exponent in Mr. Herbert Lawrence; and Messrs. Norman Clifton, Alfred Curtis, and Charles Searle are capable in their respective parts of Higgins, Wilkins, and Thomas; Minna is taken in a vigorous manner by Miss Marion Fawsett; Miss Beryl Grayham makes an efficient Mary; and Mrs. Errol is acted with conspicuous ability and success by Miss Gertrude Netterville.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. B. Agate.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh, Mr. J. E. Whitty and company are here this week playing the emotional drama, *An Unwedded Wife*, in which Miss Van Praagh sustains the part of the heroine, Marion, with great success; Philip Blackstone is depicted by Mr. C. Lodge Percy with excellent results; Frank Hawthorne is taken in an able manner by Mr. George Daiper; Mr. J. Edward Whitty gives a decidedly good character sketch of P.C. Runyin; Mr. R. Wilton Bedford is humorous as Kit Lennox; Mr. W. Casey as Napoleon B. Boomer, the showman, does gratifying work; and Miss Jessie Gillette makes a volatile Carraway Crumpet.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Bertram.—The musical comedy drama, *At the World's Mercy*, is staged here by Mr. Carr Loates and company. Miss Cissie Milford in the dual rôles of Skittles, a stowaway, and Kitty Knott, a music hall star, gives excellent interpretations; Captain Frank Manley is well presented by Mr. Terry Davies; Mr. Carr Loates plays the solicitor, Jabez Barber, with force and decision; Mr. G. D. Knight as Morris Goldstein is capital; and Messrs. Jess Boxer and W. Griffin are well placed as Charley Smart and Sloughing Sam respectively. As Alice Lloyd Miss Molly Bee is praiseworthy; Miss C. Hall does well as Mr. Rourke; and Dot and Rosie find capable exponents in Miss Daisy Iago and Miss A. Hunter.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A popular bill of fare for the week is at this house. Dan Crawley, the eccentric comedian and dancer, is popular with his mirth-raising patter and song; the Bros. Obo cause much diversion with their laughing duets and cross talk; Spry and Monti are favourably received; Harry Zetter is applauded for his eccentric dancing; Walter Ellis and company secure a hearty reception for their hilarious playlet, *The Sleepwalker*; Little Tich Bourne is a painstaking miniature grotesque; Webb and Branston are popular operatic duettists; Rayne's Bio shows clever pictures; and Maurin's fountains form a very picturesque stage spectacle.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—The entertainment provided here for the current week is excellent; Albert and Edmunds' Troupe, in farcical and pantomimical absurdity entitled *Neighbours*, score well in two realistic scenes; Beattie and Blanche are pleasing duettists; the Derrington Family of cyclists are exceptionally smart; the Tally-Ho Trio cause great laughter in their combination of mirth and harmony; the Brothers Horne give a brisk boxing bout; Tom and Marie Motramo are a clever pair; the Brothers Ford, vocalists and dancers, show ability; and some amusing Hippo pictures and Miss Daisy Wood, a dainty and most attractive comedienne, conclude.

PRESTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Augustine Knight's company in the sensational play *Mysteries of the Thames*, succeeds in drawing good houses this week. Mr. Augustine Knight gives a powerful and realistic portrayal of Richard Brandon; Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson is also strong in the part of the villain, Captain James Denbigh; Mr. C. Allen Hineson is a capable Jack Hammond; Mr. E. E. Swinton as Bill Bosco and Mr. Tom J. Taylor as Peter Waggles import considerable humour into their respective characters; Mr. William James gives a good account of himself as Wary Mike; Miss Nellie Jackson proves an excellent male impersonator in the character of Bertie Fitzgerald; as Kate Brandon Miss Nellie Jackson wins sympathy for her womanly portrayal of the part; Miss Effie Bartlett gives a skilful rendition of the dual rôles of Grace Rochdale and Helen Price; Miss Marie E. Robertson is a sprightly Emma Seaton; and Little Doris Brereton is exceptionally clever as Little Doris Brandon. The piece is mounted in a finished manner.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Messrs. William Garland and Fred Douglas's company in *A Trip to Coontown* give a capital turn, their singing, dancing, and comedy being distinctly good; Billy Yeager and Emma Da Costa, Blackville Duo, introduce some real American coonisms; Minnie Vi-Dall contributes a song; Frank Sley and his Marvellous Nipper are refined comedians, and execute some exceptionally clever dancing; F. A. Martell gives a wonderful exhibition of hand and finger balancing; the Ramsey Trio present an absurdity entitled *Birdie's Welcome*; and the Imperials, Jack Madden and Tom Pease, give a clever demonstration of ju-jitsu wrestling, which is very instructive. Mr. and Mrs. Newly Wed on the Bioscope concludes.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—An extremely amusing and well-played show, *Juno, the Living Statue*, has been staged here during the past week by Mr. Julian Graham's company. The character of Timothy Twinkle, solicitor's clerk, is finely presented by Mr. Arthur Lenville; and Miss Graham Beck makes an admirable Juno, coming in for frequent and hearty applause; Miss Ida Lawrence is good as Lottie Stimson; Miss Winifred Symonds effectively portrays Priscilla Strong; and Miss M. Beresford is a characteristic and strong-minded landlady. Mr. Fred Carrington does good work as Samuel Strong; and Mr. Richard Teesdale makes a capital Sherlock Blake, a detective. The other parts are excellently sustained. Admirable dances are contributed by Les Papillons.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—Capital audiences were attracted to the Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate, on the first three days of the week, when Mr. Rollo Balmain's company occupied the boards with a presentation of the late Wilson Barrett's famous play *Hoodman Blind*. Mr. Rollo Balmain played Jack Yeulett in excellent manner; and Miss Sarah Mignon Balmain filled the double rôle of Nance Yeulett (Jack's wife) and Jess (a waif) in a manner that gained for her the sympathies of her auditors. The villainy of the drama was well supplied by Mr. Howard Templeton as Mark Lezzard and Mr. Allan Grear as Kridge, his partner; while the good-hearted Ben Chibbles of Mr. J. W. Braithwaite was a capital piece of work. The remaining characters were well sustained, and the scenery and general mounting of the play quite effective. For the last three nights of the week a strong variety programme is being provided, with the Native Choir from Jamaica as a big feature. Other names in the bill are those of Charles Coborn (comedian), Harland and Rollison (musical eccentrics), and La Belle Nello.

MARINA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. C. Dew and L. Valeriani; General-Manager, Mr. W. J. Attack.—The Picturedrome continues to attract big and extremely appreciative audiences. The fine series of animated pictures exhibited includes a capital set entitled Don Juan. Tiny and Mite maintain their reputation as clever child vocalists and dancers.

READING.—THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Miss Rose Atherton's company appear with success in the comedy episode, *Murphy's Affinity*; the Kymros, Welsh comedy duo, are well received; Jessie Harper is a pleasing comedienne; Charles Bignell, comedian, is in good form; Molly O'Connor causes much hilarity by her amusing views on the Licensing and Suffragette questions; Frances Harrold's company, in the comedietta, *My Son's Wife*, and Bright and Claire, in the comedy act, *Married all of a Sudden*, both give satisfaction; and Mlle. Louise's performing monkeys are highly trained, and go through some very clever gymnastic feats with wonderful precision. The programme concludes, as usual, with a Bioscope sketch.

PASTORAL PLAYS. — Messrs. Philip Sanders and B. A. Pittar's company of Shakespearean pastoral players are giving a series of al fresco performances in the grounds of Elmhurst Farm. The outdoor representations are a welcome change during the present warm summer evenings. The company includes Miss Violet Pittar and other capable artists. During the week *As You Like It*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Twelfth Night* have been presented in excellent style.

RHYL.—MARINE GARDENS.—Mr. De Jong and his orchestra are giving pleasure to large audiences at these delightfully situated gardens three times daily. A successful garden fête took place on Thursday afternoon.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Eric Charlswood.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's musical comedietta *Old Virginia* is full of life and brightness, and the numerous artists concerned in it sing excellently and accomplish smart dancing. As Rastus and Chloe, Kit Keen and Nellie Sheffield work well together. Owing to indisposition, Mildred Bryan was unable to appear; a good deputy was found in Phyllis Beryl. The remaining characters are capably sustained by Messrs. Odeyne Spark, Joey Ellis, H. Buckland, Leonard Russell, Bert Errol, and William Pringle. Eric Charlewood sings a couple of songs each evening, and is heartily received.

The fine weather this week has been most favourable for outdoor amusements, and the performances given by Gilbert Rogers and his troupe of jovial jesters have been largely attended.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jos. Hague.—*Saturday to Monday* closes the season here this week. The play creates roars of laughter from rise to fall of curtain. Mr. Ainsley Burton is a host in himself as John Willie Jaggs; and Miss Julia Bassett enacts the part of Clorinda Dobbs with conspicuous ability.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—May Fairclough gives selections from Shakespearean plays; the Empire Bioscope pictures are greatly enjoyed; and J. H. Greener, singing pit lad; Edwin Lambert, vocalist; Marion and Mabel Countees, duettists; and Gladys Bushell, chorus vocalist, complete a capital programme.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Charles Harrington's No. 1 American combination is paying a welcome return visit in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, which drew a good house on Monday evening. Mr. J. Carr makes a fine Uncle Tom; Legree is well played by Mr. T. Bowrom; Cassie creates a good impression as presented by Miss Hettie Johnson; Kitty Bell makes a charming Eva; and Miss Annie Watson is a funny Topsy. There are several specialities given in the plantation scene, including Amy Height, the well-known comedienne; Walter Langford (Marks), banjo soloist; Ben Rowe, bone soloist; Rich and Moore, coloured duettists; Shorty May, comedian; J. Warrie, clever buck dancer; the Tennesseeans, Jubilee singers; and Rowe and Holden, smart cake-walkers.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—John Tiller's company is giving much amusement this week with the musical comedy extravaganza *A Trip to Paris*, by Charles Fletcher and John Tiller. There is a great deal of pleasing dancing, and the dresses and scenery are very pretty. Mr. Bob Selvidge as Hiram P. Gibson, Mr. Fred Lawrence as a gendarme, Mr. Teddy Gibbs as Eli Heggs, Miss May Sharples as Camile Gibson, Mr. Barney Dixon as John James, Miss Nellie Rodney as Mary Ellen Heggs, and Miss Lizzie Hay as Mimi all work well, and keep the house in roars of laughter.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Leslie's Comedy Cadets head an excellent programme with their scena, *After Lights Out*, including a clever ventriloquial performance by Mr. Harry Leslie; a smart comedy stage aerial act is performed by Spangles and Sawdust (two ladies and two gentlemen); Jenny Maningo is a strong woman who does some novel juggling with military implements. The other turns include Harry Ronsby and Nell Rene, in comedy duologue, *Fine Feathers*; Lena Page, burlesque actress; Dennis J. McCarthy, character comedian and vocalist; Edna Francis, characteristic vocalist and dancer; Scott, Scott, and company, in pantomime, *That Awful James*; and Edythe and Toto, in contortion and speciality act.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The films this week (twice nightly) include A Day of Robbery, Caterpillar Engine, Pierrot's Family, The Smokeless Stove, Lost on the Alps, Wool Industry of Sweden, &c.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—*Secrets* —— is on a return visit here, the company being that of Mr. and Mrs. John E. Tomlinson.—Mr. Reginald Brown is an effective Lieut. Markham; Neuredin Ali is in the capable hands of Mr. John Worth; Mr. J. E. Tomlinson merits warm praise for his portrayal of Ibrahim; Mr. Fred C. Palmer is a popular Cecil; Breezy Bill is played in breezy style by Mr. Fred Bailey; Peter Wilkins supplies Mr. Herbert Wooden with many opportunities for displaying his abilities as a comedian; Ismali is charmingly drawn by Miss Lizzie Palmer; as Zulieka, Miss Maud Steeple is efficient; Winnie Wilkins is smartly played by Miss Madge Palmer; and the Warner Girls introduce pleasing dances.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—*The Honeymoon*, played by Mr. Gilbert Payne's company, opened here on Monday. Mr. Gilbert Payne is a conspicuous success as Nathaniel Noodle; Mr. Fred Fulton as Archie Mashington maintains his reputation; Miss Celestial Brandon is a charming Madge, Miss Rosie Kearns a successful Emeretta Noodle, and Miss Myra Douglass a graceful Stella; Mr. Chris Ainslie is an excellent Colonel Vandyke Brown, Mr. Leslie Erle a capable Jack Armstrong, and Mr. Gus Tomlin a good Victor L'Estrange. The Four Godfrey Girls dance gymnastic dances with characteristic dash.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Local Representative, Mr. Cyril Parks.—This week's pictures are of a diversified character, and include The Opening of the Franco-British Exhibition, Story of Treasure Island, Engaged all the Same, Leap Lear, &c. Owing to the success of Mansell Fane with his illustrated songs he remains here another week.

SHEFFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. C. M. Copping's specially-selected company opened on Monday in *The Black Bishop*. The cast is headed by those capable and graceful artists Miss Ruth Shepherd and Miss Constance Medwin.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Harry Tilbury's company is appearing here in the domestic comedy-drama *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. George Fry makes a manly hero as Frank Lindon, and the emotional character of Florence Lindon is represented with dramatic power by Miss Belle Tilbury; Mr. Horatio Sinclair is effective as Lord Devant; and other parts are cleverly played by Messrs. Fred Owen, Bernard Webb, Edward Brown, A. Goring, Geo. Walkley, and Harry Selby; Little Phyllis, Miss Annie Newall, Annette Fisher, Arline George, E. Spalding, and Mr. Harry Tilbury, who causes much laughter as Mickey Doolan.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Mr. John Lawson, "a good 'un for a Jew," is starring here in a round of his successful sensational sketches, including *The Tiger's Claw* and *Humanity*. Plenty of comedy is provided this week by such diverting "comics" as Mr. George Bastow, in "Varmer Giles in Lunnon"; Mr. George Gilbey as "Spotty, the goal-keeper"; Mr. Fred Poplar, the favourite humorist; and Mr. Charles Morton, in his original mimetic interlude *Comedians at the Races*. Other first-rate turns are Boden and Bell, song and dance artists; Franco Piper, a smart banjo manipulator; the American Bioscope, with humorous films; Miss Kitty Wager, a dashing serio-comic vocalist; and the celebrated Billy McClain's Coon Troupe, in their lively Transatlantic darkey burletta *Massa Johnson's Ball*, a bit of real old Kentucky.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—A splendid array of artists opened to a large audience on Monday. The *pièce de résistance* was *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, rattled through with great spirit by Mr. Harry Roxbury's company; the Four Rio Brothers, in a graceful gymnastic act, were loudly applauded; the Westwoods, in their wonderful cycle feats, won enthusiastic applause; Horace and Olga's pretty and amusing act with cats and dogs proved very successful; Miss Edith St. Clair looked charming, and sang two songs tunefully; the Wilton Heriot company, in their protean comedy sketch *An Anglo-American Alliance*, caused great hilarity; and Mr. Charlie Williams, "the Scotch Nigger," Miss Ruby Bijou, an artistic transformation *danseuse*, the Three Cunards, dancers, and the Barrascope were all cordially received.

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GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—Chester and Lee's company, with their celebrated marionette theatre of art; Hulbert, ventriloquist; Mons de Lill, conjurer; Miss Julia Gilbert, vocalist; the Bros. Tarrant, in a novel act; and the Orchids, in a pleasing musical comedy entertainment. The Raymond Bio-Tableaux of topical and humorous scenes conclude a well-arranged programme.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—During the week's closure the interior of the theatre has been redecorated throughout, and now presents an artistic appearance. This week's attraction is *A Woman's Past*, a melodrama which is most effectively presented by Messrs. A. Hamilton Warder and Chas. V. Sandford's company.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Florrie Forde, dainty and dashing as of yore, tops the bill, and wins loud applause for her catchy chorus songs. The Sutcliffe troupe of acrobats are well received; Nightingale and Stigant evoke roars of laughter with their comical backyard duologue, "Two Sides of a Wall"; and other turns are submitted by the Arleys, Victor Travers, Addie Dorina, and Ruby Parsonage.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Topping the list here is Harry Randall, who scores his usual great success in song and patter; Jack and Evelyn excel in fun and frivolity; and W. H. Clemart is a very fine ventriloquist. Carney and Armstrong are a comical couple; and other well-appreciated turns are given by the Sisters Herbert, Fred Lincoln, Belle Braham, and Little Salvino.

PIER PAVILION. — Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Sait.—This is about the coolest and most delightful place of entertainment in Southampton, and the charming performances given by Mme. Stockham's Ladies' Orchestra, harpists, &c., have been highly appreciated. Mr. J. Wellesley Lynn is another big favourite with his magic and mimicry, and the company is quite one of the best of the season.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. — PIER PAVILION.—Mr. Lionel Brough's successful appearance in a triple bill here is described elsewhere.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—The engagement for this week of Mr. Alfred B. Cross and his selected company, in *The Manxman*, is immensely popular, and on Monday this soul-stirring play was admirably represented and heartily appreciated. A notable feature is the typical setting in the whole of the five acts. Mr. Alfred B. Cross makes a central figure of Pete by an exceptional impersonation, who is equally successful in sincerity of love and devotion as in a suffering and noble character, that gains him recognition of the heartiest; next for coveted honours is Miss Minnie Watersford, by her highly creditable portrayal of Katie Cregeen, who displays the difficult character of the distracted woman most effectively. Mr. Sydney C. Kearns gives a talented impersonation of Philip Christian; Mr. Maurice Yorke is well suited as Ross Christian; and Mr. Fred Mace as Cæsar Cregeen creates enthusiasm by a good rendering of Katie's father. Messrs. Roland A. Bridge, Lionel Balmont, and F. Lynton are also able exponents; while Miss Chrissie Bickerstaff gives every satisfaction as Nancy.

THE KURSAAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—A good variety programme is submitted in the theatre here, and each item is warmly appreciated. The Palace Troupe of Gipsy Girls, under the direction of Miss Beatrice Harold, are popular, and deserve praise for their excellent renderings of the scenas and dances, entitled "Far, far from Gibraltar" and "My Cuban Girl"; Mr. Tom Cliff in light comedy and song is well received; as is also Mr. Fred Pollard, an eccentric patterer and comedian. The Misses Phyllis Dorr, Lilian Constance, and Nellie Giles all please as vocalists; and Miss Kitty Grey contributes songs and dances in capital style. Character dances are done by Miss Carmichael; and Gordon and Wilson entertain loyally with the sketch entitled *Tit for Tat*. Three series of new pictures on the Bioscope are amusing and enjoyable.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, the Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—As the Albert Hall is this week engaged for a competitive musical festival, a variety combination occupies the boards at the Opera House. Wrestling is the principal feature of the programme, capital exhibitions of the art being presented by John Lemm, the champion catch-as-catch-can wrestler, Ono and Hiraux, champion Japanese, together with Miss Roberts, the English lady champion. The turns include Jack Irwin, monologue artist; Phyllis Seymour, soubrette and dancer; Geo. Reeves, eccentric comedian; Harry Moneta, comedian; Eva Ford, vocalist; Walleno, speciality artist; Helen Lambert and Fred C. Glover, in a high-class farcical duologue; and the Palacescope, with the latest films.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Junius Booth's company is here in *Monte Cristo*. Edmond Dantes finds a powerful exponent in Mr. Junius Booth, who acts with realism and earnestness, and is charmingly supported by Miss Conyers Radcliffe, who plays Mercedes in a natural and sympathetic manner.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. George F. Thompson.—*A Night in Egypt* is being performed here by Alice Raymond and company. Miss Raymond is a clever exponent of the cornet, and is ably supported by her company. Mr. George Neilson is a capable conductor, and renders his vocal numbers in good style; Signor and Mme. Borelli, duettists, are well received; J. C. Scatter, Tyneside comedian, is a great favourite, his patter being excellent; some clever dancing is displayed by the Northern troupe of International dancers; Mario is a good juggler, and his manipulation of burning torches is effective. Remaining items are supplied by Lena Verdi, comedienne and dancer, Carl Howard, conjurer, and the Bioscope.

COSY CORNER, SEA FRONT.—Mr. George Burton's comedians are still attracting large audiences by their clever entertainment. Miss Pattie Burton submits a good rendering of Arditti's "Il Bacio"; Ray and Ross contribute a good comedy item; a laughing song by George Russel is well received; and an original sketch, *Merry Maid Marian*, is produced this week, for which see elsewhere.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—The Cromwells have the premier position on the bill, and are clever in their juggling turn; Marie Gold is a dainty comedienne; and James Brady, character comedian, is an evergreen with Stalybridge audiences, and has lost none of his drawing power. The Bros. Lavelle are a couple of acrobatic comedians, whose antics prove to be highly diverting; Tom Moore is announced as the new comedian, and he certainly has an original style, coupled with a good voice.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—*A Warning to Women* is being played by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company. Dr. Marcus Dread is effectively depicted by Mr. Leonard Lawrence; Mr. Wingold Lawrence takes the part of Shaun in an earnest and convincing manner; and Fergus McNaughton has an excellent exponent in Mr. Leslie Beaufort. Miss Lillian Herries has a fine part in Moira Kennion, and plays it with great feeling; Miss Winifred Rutland looks sweet and acts well in the part of Sheila Kennion; Squire Kennion is admirably portrayed by Mr. Hy. Rutland; and much amusement is caused by Mr. Sydney Ernest as Lord Eversleigh, and by Mr. Oscar Power as Mike.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic Carnell.—The great attraction here this week is Lafayette, whose performance is wonderfully smart; Joe Boganny's Troupe are exceedingly clever acrobats; Cyrie Carle is excellent in his scene; Ross and Grayson are as popular and successful as ever; the Bohemians give an excellent musical performance; Belford and Mars are capital in their turn; and the Milfords are also successful laughter-makers.

STOCKPORT. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—There is plenty to interest and amuse in *When Other Lips*, capably presented here this week by Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company. Mr. T. Arthur Jones impersonates the character of Ted Daunton, a sailor, in excellent style; Basil Cunningham is effectively portrayed by Mr. Juan D'Alberti; Mr. Willie Reid as Tommy Neccles and Mr. Clem Horlock as Duddle Topwash provoke abundant mirth; Bombioso Jenkins is pleasingly acted by Mr. Albert Clarke; Miss Marie Daventry acts charmingly as Ruth Lingley; Miss Jane Watson displays merit in her impersonation of a Woman in Black; and Miss Amy Maitland is delightful as Kitty Topwash.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Tom Jones, Welsh character comedian, who is the particular star here this week, has met with a cordial reception. Among others appearing are the Attilla Brothers, extraordinary heavy-weight lifters; Sid Dooley and Edie Wright, amusing duettists; the Moncktons, in a laughable sketch, *Two in a Flat*; the Two St. Johns, versatile musicians, comedians, and expert dancers; Edie Tennis and Gertie Laune, pleasing vocalists; and Will Sullivan, an entertaining patter vocalist.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty. — Mr. M. Montgomery presents here a romantic drama, entitled *In the Midst of Life*. There were large audiences at the two houses. The leading characters were ably represented by Miss Lilian Beaumont, Miss Lina Nazeby, Miss Daisy Norman, Messrs. Ernest Wingfield, F. S. Strickland, and A Byron. A number of the latest pictures were shown by means of Payne's Biophotoscope.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—Leslie Clare and company are seen in an amusing comedy sketch, entitled *Wanted, a Wife*. Miss Alice Cheshire sustains the part of Tilly, the slavey, in a capable manner. Ida Kessanly's highly-trained fox terriers seem to enter into the spirit of the show; Dunn and Reano are smart eccentric gymnasts, Dale and Vale good as pedestal dancers; and Lisle and Ford, Tom Bassett, Edgar Cook, and Blanche Marion are also billed. Black-Eyed Susan is a good film depicting naval life, &c., as in the days of Nelson.

SUNDERLAND.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Grieveson.—A more than usually strong attraction is provided in Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company with the domestic drama *The World and the Woman*. Mr. Carl Rovinelli gives a fine, well-sustained enactment of Lord Hartingdon, the erstwhile Arthur Burleigh; Mr. George H. Doyle's impersonation of the plotting and unscrupulous Ludlow Burleigh is exceptionally strong and even; Mr. J. Rice Cassidy proves versatile as Tut Harding, adding many humorous, as well as strong, touches to his impersonation; Mr. Ralph Leslie succeeds as Terry O'Harris; Mr. Henry Compton is equal to the demands of the rôle of Sir Francis Chalmers; as is Mr. Jerold E. Reed to those of Hike. Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy submits a highly interesting study of Nelly (Lady Hartingdon), the various phases of the part giving scope for her undoubted ability; Miss Roma Tremayne as the erring Lady Marion also has opportunities that are taken advantage of; Miss Alice Inman is amusing as Gibby, a servant of the Louie Freear type; Miss Violet Parker as the juvenile Nina is also worthy of praise; Miss Vara Herne successfully portrays Gwendoline; and Miss Rose Hallas is adequate as Nurse Halton.

EMPIRE OF VARIETIES. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Chief honours go to the Four Holloways, in their marvellously expert wire act, some of the feats being wonderfully smart; Carlotta Levey, well-known to Northerners, proves a great source of attraction; Charles Fraser and company appear in an up-to-date illusion, entitled *The Enchanted Iona;* Barton and Ashley are amusing in the farcical absurdity, *Adam the Second;* R. H. Hollingsworth, a local blind vocalist and pianist, comes in for hearty applause; Burnetti's versatility as a musician finds vent in his many impersonations; Lily Hayes, a comedienne and dancer; Little Zola, comedian; and the Bioscope pictures are also included in the bill.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—*Trilby* has been presented here by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company. Mr. William Grant is entrusted with the part of Svengali, and his impersonation is one of the best things that has been seen here for some time. Miss Bessie Rignold achieved another decided success by her telling acting as Trilby; Messrs. C. Hartopp, W. Clayton, and C. Goldsmid as the brothers of the brush, are well placed.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Miss Francis Delaval and company are playing here *Love's Golden Dream*. Mr. Fred Emery as the Rev. Harold Tre-Wynne is effective; the Captain Darrell of Mr. Cecil Gray is also good; Marjory is convincingly presented by Miss Frances Delaval; and Mr. W. H. Vernon as Cowey and Miss Maud Stuart as Charity provide excellent comedy.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Mr. Bransby Williams made a welcome reappearance here on Monday, and won the heartiest appreciation; Ted and May Hopkins have a funny act, *Wedding Bells;* a juggling turn of more than average cleverness is contributed by Walter Bellonini; Ian Colquhoun's fine voice is heard to advantage; Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas, in their comedy sketch, *Her Birthday*, provide good entertainment; and Gwennie Hasto's dance is a welcome contribution. Johnson and Bert, in their act, *A Queer Customer*, make a hit; Ruth Lytton sings Scotch songs acceptably; and Harry Mart is a comedian and dancer of distinction. Bioscope pictures conclude.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—For the last week of the season the programme includes the well-known comedian, R. G. Knowles, who renders his songs and patter in his own inimitable style; Helen Stuart pleases with her illustrated songs; Jock McKay, Scotch comedian and piper, takes well; and Clarke and Glenney present a laughable sketch, *In the Haunted House*. Kathleen Cogan is a dainty serio comedienne and dancer; Driscol and Felino, comedians, are amusing; and Sisters Lytton, duettists, sing in a pleasing manner. Helena Sleach and Chas. Aldin are seen to advantage in an operatic scena, *Dashing Duval, the Knight of the Heath;* Percy Farrimond, vocalist, possesses a good voice; and Les Marbas, humorists and acrobatic dancers, give a smart act.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—Miss Winifred Maude's company, in *The Stowaway*, forms the current attraction. As Dicky Dials, the stowaway, Mr. Victor Du Cane is a complete success; Tom Inglis is safely entrusted to Mr. Vincent Carlyle; Mr. W. Bradford gives a praiseworthy rendering of Chas. Etherington; and Miss Nellie Rouseby as Chucky, a London newsboy, is happily placed. Miss Winifred Maude wins general approbation for her meritorious interpretation of Althea Dale.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Worthily heading a strong programme are Wyndham and Kitty, in their sensational wire act; Clown Leo introduces four trained dogs; Dolly and Madge McCalla, juvenile entertainers, are very popular; Jenny Russell dances well; and Walter Mascott, comedian, scores off the Suffragettes. Some very good pictures are shown, including A Slave's Hate and The Shipowner's Daughter.

TORQUAY. — PRINCESS PIER CONCERT HALL.—Proprietors, Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T. Tremlett.—Mr. Bert H. Delmar's "The Comets" are occupying the boards here. They include Mr. Bert H. Delmar, an able comedian and entertainer; Mr. Edward Headlam, an amusing entertainer; Mr. Brian Lawrence, accompanist; Miss May Williams, soubrette; Miss May Otto, contralto; and Mr. Robert Tattersall, illusionist. Mention should be made of Mr. Delmar's skit on the Zancigs.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. — OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. Arthur H. Burdett.—The great attraction of the Hippodrome programme this week is Lockhart's Elephants, under the direction of Capt. Taylor, and their clever feats are well received. Henri Bekker performs some smart conjuring feats, assisted by Mlle. Male; and Alice Hollander, the Australian contralto, has a very cordial reception in her artistically rendered songs. Lillian Farrar dances well; William Kingsley is a skilled manipulator of hand bells; and L. B. Athol, comedian, completes an excellent bill.

TYNEMOUTH.—PALACE AND WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—The Gaieties score a huge success with their concerted items; Ruby Wilson is a comedienne of considerable ability; Olly Oakley is a skilled player of the banjo; Wheeler and Wilson, comedy acrobats, perform some original and amusing feats; Bert Terrel, Dutch comedian, has a budget of good songs; the Palace orchestra, under the bâton of W. A. Crosse, B.M., continue to please by their various well-rendered selections. The programme also includes Wilson James, humorist; Alan Stainer, comedian; Gertrude Hart, soprano; and Percy Watson, tenor. The evening entertainment winds up with an admirable and up-to-date show of animated pictures.

WAKEFIELD.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfrees. — The Esthor Trio of hand balancers give a clever performance; the Primrose Quartette of vocalists sing acceptably; Miss Fanny Robina, comedienne, has a good reception; Miss Florrie Cooper, comedienne, is conspicuously successful; the Ives (Sam and Louie) give a fine exhibition of ball punching; and Gould and Gould, comedy couple; and Mr. Billy Bint, vocalist, complete the bill.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, The Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The Leslie Brothers as eccentric musicians are extremely good; the Picchiani troupe of lady acrobats are remarkably clever; Theo. Bowmeester, the protean actor, and company in *Who is Guilty*, in which he performs seven different parts, is a great attraction; Daisy Martell proves a charming comedienne; Will Johnson creates much laughter, his songs being well received; Rex Fox is capital in a ventriloquial and musical wire act; Lizzie Glenroy, Scotch comedienne, proves most successful, and a series of pictures entitled "Wild Birds at Home," shown on the American Bioscope, completes a capital bill.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Ryder Boys' company is here again, and on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights *The Red Lamp* was staged. A fine study of Paul Demetrius, the chief of the secret police, was that of Mr. William Calvert; whilst Mr. Henry Worrall was excellently placed as the scheming Nihilist, Ivan Zazzullo. Mr. Murray Graham puts plenty of dramatic force into the part of Allan Villiers; and success attended Mr. Leonard Mudie's portrayal of Prince Alexis. Mr. Harold Neville was a dignified General Morakoff; Miss Alice Hughes as Princess Claudia Valerian had ample scope to display rich abilities; and a charming Olga was Miss Ethel Norbury. Miss Elsie Vron scored as Mme. Dannenberg. The minor parts were all well sustained and the staging and dresses very effective. *The Robbery of the Lyons Mail* forms the attraction for the remaining nights of the week.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Vesta Fay's male impersonations are exceptionally good; Arthur Andrews is a capital comedian, with excellent songs; and Bugler Carr, equilibrist, scores. The pictures include Too Old to Work, Father Buys a Picture, and Stop those Barrels.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Herman Melot's wonderful feats of conjuring astonish all, and he has a great reception. J. Gar. Kiddie's company score admirably in the absurdity *The House of Tinn*, in which Mr. J. Gar. Kiddie as Jeremiah Jinks, Mr. J. W. Groves as Mrs. Arabella Tinn; Miss Lizzie Payne as Miss Dolly Tinn; and Mr. Douglas B. Watson as Augustus Hobbs all win success. Virto plays tunes on quite a variety of instruments; and Mr. "B" portrays some piquant points in peculiar pictures. The Sisters Varley are charming duettists; and the Evalos score in their humorous juggling act. Chassino is an expert shadowgraphist and whistler; and the Forsyths are seen to advantage in the speciality act *The Tramp and the Nursery*. The pictures are good, and Widdop's orchestra play two delightful selections.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—The Kennedy and Moore combination is continuing to prove an immense attraction here. A good programme, including the Merry Pierrots, is being presented each evening. Messrs. Terry and Snowden, duettists and dancers, evoke loud applause; Miss Ivy Dene, soubrette, proves herself a highly-trained artist; well-merited applause is accorded to the Gelders in their marvellous illusionist entertainment; Madame Constance Bellamy's charming singing wins for her the favour of the entire audience, and a clever turn is that of the Three Belles Sisters, in their speciality dances.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—PALACE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—At the head of a capital bill are the Cumberlands, who astonish all in their wonderful exhibition of cycling; Cullen and Carthy, with Little Cluley, never fail to please; Cedar and Elgar are also established favourites in their comedy act *Ye Days of Olde;* Dolly and Elsie are two charming young vocalists and dancers; Charles Resti's versatility is, indeed, attractive, and his conjuring smartly done; Edie Casson, assisted by Alexander Wills, appears successfully in *The Escapade;* and other attractions in the list are Nora Stockelle, a remarkably clever dancer; Maude Mortimer, comedienne, and Raymond's bio-tableaux.

GRAND.—Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The Five Whiteleys, in acrobatic wire-walking and musical pot-pourri, have a gratifying reception; Will Letters' patter is provocative of hearty laughter, and others in the programme are Coralli, ventriloquist; Maxford and O'Neill, comedians; Emil Solbrig's automatons; H. A. Johnson's Les Belles Rays; Jim E. James, eccentric tambourine and banjo player; and Geo. A. Hope, vocalist.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Messrs. Rayner and Sutton's company is presenting *Harvest* here this week. Mr. Raynor gives an artistic portrayal of Beril Brook; Mr. Cecil Wynne is admirable as Sir Noel Musgrave; Mr. M. C. Curtis gives a thoroughly good interpretation of Capt. Tresider; very praiseworthy, too, is the Roy Marston of Mr. Conrad Heywood; Miss Henrietta Schrier's Brenda Musgrave is an impersonation replete with artistic touches; Miss D. West Squire is excellent as Lettice Vane; and Miss Lisa Coleman delightful as Nora Fitzgerald.

GRAND PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. J. H. Svenson.—The Hollanders are paying a welcome return visit here this week, and on Monday a very attractive programme was provided. Miss Marie Merton received quite an ovation for her waltz song; "Roaming in the Gloaming" was artistically rendered by Miss Elsa Brettingham; Miss Gertrude Skinner was loudly applauded for her excellent violin solo, "Tarantella"; Mr. Alec S. Clunes, the possessor of an admirable voice, was heard to advantage in "Hybrias, the Cretan"; "That is all I got out of him" was humorously rendered by Mr. Dick Henty; Mr. Harry Buss, a clever comedian, made the hit of the evening with his song, "My little Deutscher Girl"; some fine pictures were shown on the Bioscope by Mr. J. Lambert.

Messrs. Adeler and Sutton provide an entire change of programme for their open-air concerts on the pier.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—*The Woman from Scotland Yard* is scoring a success here. Mr. George Edwin Clive, the co-author, plays his original part of Harry Stanhope to perfection; Mr. David Beattie is responsible for the rôle of the villain, Paul Obanoff; Miss Agnes Collier is effective as the heroine, Edith Mayne; Miss Mildred Cottell as Lady Stanhope is excellent; and Miss Daisy Kent is very good as her maid. Mr. Arthur Russell is all that can be desired as Ivan; Mr. Louis Newman provokes mirth as Algernon Fitzmaurice; and Mr. Robert Cromwell gives a dashing impersonation of Jack Brown.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Montrose.—Topping the bill here this week are the Five Musical Palmers, military musical experts, with Miss Palmer in imitations of Sousa. Kendrick and Laura, in their dainty interlude; Daisy Almer, comedienne and dancer; the Three Eltons, acrobats; the Three Royal Temples, operatic vocalists; Mlle. Laro's Marblesque Trio, in their classical living pictures; and Lu Chang Hi, Chinese magician, are other attractions.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—*The Old Home* is being played here this week by Mr. Roland Yorke's talented company. Mr. Charles Franmore gives an excellent portrayal of the old fisherman, Daddy Dean; Miss Gertrude Bonser is especially effective as Hazel Dean; Mr. Henry Lonsdale as the Rev. Eric Armstrong makes a typical parson; Miss Mara Collings is excellent in the part of Bridget Donoghan; and Mr. Fred de Vere is capital as Sam Adams; Lord Avondale finds an able exponent in Mr. Roland Yorke; Miss Gertie Douglas is successful as Polly Popp; Mr. Claude Agnew as Dr. Warburton acts forcibly; and Jack Warren is ably presented by Mr. Walter Osmond. The drama is thoroughly well staged.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co. District Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Marco.—Some excellent films are produced this week, and enthusiastically received by crowded audiences. "From Earth to Moon" is a very fine picture, and others of equal merit are entitled "The Angel of the Village," "The Lion Tamer" (a most amusing series), "For Baby's Sake," and "The Magic of Music," &c. For ingenuity of conception, mechanical effects, and brilliant colour-schemes, these films are unequalled. H. McCann, comedian and acrobatic roller-skate dancer, varies the programme with admirable performances, which are highly appreciated.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—Variety performances twice nightly continue to receive generous support. Miss May Lilian Levey, a comedienne of striking ability, is this week proving a great favourite; the Prince-Milner Trio give a varied performance; and the "cycle whiz" of Blanche and Diacoff provides the requisite sensation. The Brothers St. Clair furnish a novelty in the form of a football match on cycles; and the gymnastic display of the Craig, Roze, and Craig troupe is highly entertaining. There are some excellent vocalists, and the Bioscope pictures are capital.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Henry Swinerd's No. 1 company was here for the first three nights presenting *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Special mention should be made of Mr. Walter Boyce as General Garston, Mr. Walter Ashley as Captain Geo. Fielding, Mr. G. Clifton Boyne as Captain Ed. Dudley, Mr. Francis Trevor as Hawkins, Mr. Harry Ugar as Silas Stump, and Miss Dorothy Desmonde as Dorothy Montrose.

THE WINTER HALL.—Manager, Mr. Shanly.—The pictures here this week are of a highly entertaining nature.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; General-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Miss Grace Warner and a talented company are paying a visit here with *The Scarlet Clue, Lady Audley's Secret*, and *East Lynne*. On Monday *The Scarlet Clue* was presented with thrilling effect. Miss Grace Warner gave a striking performance as Sal Scarlet, and was recalled again and again. The important part of Elsie Dean was undertaken by Miss E. Conway with notable success; Miss A. Corri depicted the rôle of Miss Esmond with ability; the part of Musette was admirably taken by Miss Estha Dean; Miss K. Cranston was a most realistic Mother Scrooge; and the little girl part of Polly was nicely expressed by Miss Nórah Britton. Mr. George Gordon appeared as the villain, Michael Stanton, and his fine elocution and physique added considerably to his success; Mr. Terence O'Brien as the Twin Brothers, seemed specially endowed for the portrayal of these well-drawn characters; the part of Billy was amusingly hit off by Mr. Wallace Black; and Mr. V. Garnet-Vayne was very realistic as Crazy Jim.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Brooks.—Large houses are the rule at each performance to see Miss Helen Roberts in her classical dances, including the famous Salome dance, and she is heartily applauded from all parts of the house; Thorpe and Coe introduce a smart little sketch, which is followed with interest; Cissie Lupino is nightly recalled for her clever dancing; the Arthur Watson and Flo Stanley troupe, in a musical comedy sketch, entitled *Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, is well received; Mlle. Du Roche has a pleasing personality, and sings with good taste; Johnson and Devere do some daring and amusing feats on cycles; the Oakes Trio, in *Money Land*, cause roars of laughter; and Sira, the one-legged acrobat, is wonderfully good.

SCENE PAINTERS OF THE PAST.

BY GEORGE TWEDDELL.

Having spent many years in the painting rooms of various theatres as a scene-painter, I have met with many of what are called the "old school"—managers, actors, as well as scene-painters—and it has often seemed to me a loss to the historian of our stage that so few have taken any trouble to place on record what they could have told us about their contemporaries and the stage of their time. I have had the pleasure of conversing with a few of what I might call "links of the past"—practical workers in the theatre for a living, or, more likely, a "struggle for existence," as Darwin calls it; and very possibly this aphorism holds good in an eminent degree to those who live to please—"they have to please to live."

Anyhow, I have found time when I was kept busy, very often for twelve hours without intermission, to read various so-called learned articles in our papers about the use and abuse of scenery, and often written by people who, I should think, know nothing about this subject, for they speak as lightly of the scene-painter and stage scenery as if the stage painter was of no more value than the gentleman who puts the last coat of distemper on the ceiling, or the printed paper on the wall. I have often thought it would be well if some people that write so lightly about us had three months' training in a large theatre, before the production of a pantomime, or a new opera or play. They would be in a far better position to write. They would then find what an amount of hard work, physical and mental, is attached to our calling. If the scenic artist happens to gain a little praise from the public, some of those gentlemen tell us his work interferes with the play and the actors, and have even suggested a backing of drapery when the works of our greatest poet and dramatist are placed on the stage. Well, what Shakespeare himself would have liked, if he did not get it, he has written above each scene, and most of his plays are adapted for scenic illustration.

When stage scenery was first used in the English theatres I am not able to ascertain. The splendid Court pageants designed by Inigo Jones and others have been all described by abler writers. It is usual to call De Loutherbourg the father of scenic art in this country, but it is evident it was in use before, perhaps in a very simple and primitive form. As is well known, it was practised in Italy long before by really great artists, as the following extract from Pilkington's "Dictionary of Painters," published 1805, shows. He writes thus of Baldassare Peruzzi, 1481-1536:—"His usual subjects were views of streets, palaces, corridors, and the insides of magnificent apartments, and by a judicious distribution of his lights and shadows, he gave them a roundness and projection as natural and as striking as if they were real. It surprised and pleased even Titian, for when that great artist viewed some of his work, he was so deceived that no arguments could persuade him that the objects he saw were produced by the pencil. Peruzzi excelled in painting scenes for theatres, in which he introduced with taste and judgment, and the decorations peculiar to the stage, and he is accounted the first who practised that style of painting."

Salvator Rosa is also said to have practised scene-painting, and with regard to Canalletto, who died in 1768, I give again an extract from Pilkington:—"He was the son of one Bernardo, a scene-painter, followed the profession of his father, and acquired by that exercise a wildness of conception and readiness of hand. . . . He made use of the camera, but corrected its defects in his air tints. He was the first to show to artists its real use and limits."

It is singular this mention of the "camera" by Pilkington, as we are reminded that the discovery of photography was attributed to a French scene-painter, M. Deguerra, employed at the Paris Opera House, for which he received a pension, and it was afterwards called the "Daguerrotype."

As to the beginning of the use of scenery in this country, we have been told of the Court pageants, and also of the introduction of scenery in Milton's "Comus" at the creation of Charles I. as Prince of Wales, also of D'Avenant in 1656, using "scenic effects on a most extensive scale," and many mechanical changes, but when it became common in the regular theatres is not very evident. The late G. A. Sala, himself a scene-painter in early life, tells us the poet Pope sneered at the painted ceilings, "where sprawl the saints of Verrio and Laguerre," and that the poet slew the art of Mural decoration in this country. Those artists, whose sprawling saints were in reality very masterly, were virtually scene-painters, and many of the pupils of Sir James Thornhill and Laguerre devoted themselves to the embellishment of the stage." One of the early English scene-painters was Francis Hayman, who died in 1776, the friend of Hogarth and De Loutherborg. He painted extensively at Vauxhall, and for Fleetwood at Drury Lane. W. Hodges, R.A, a pupil of Wilson, also painted for the theatres. He accompanied Captain Cook to the South Seas as draughtsman. In 1788 the celebrated architectural scene-painter, Signor Gaetano Marinari, was artist at the King's Theatre, Haymarket. Scenery painted by him was in use at Drury Lane as late as 1850, according to James Anderson:—"The scenery for *Coriolanus* was mostly new (with the exception of the magnificent pictures of old Rome, by the deceased grand architectural scene-painter, Marinari)." I remember seeing an Eastern interior by him in 1869 at Drury Lane, when a pupil with Mr. Beverly. It had been in the scene stores a great number of years, and it was a very fine piece of work. In 1790 Luppino, one of the scene-painters of Covent Garden, made a folio of sketches in Hertfordshire, and in 1800 was published one hundred plates in aquatint of theatrical scenery by Basoli.

The Greives were practising scene-painting in London for a century. I had a conversation with the late Mr. Walford Greive, the son of Thomas Greive, some years ago, and he told me he could remember his grandfather, "the elder Greive," and gave me 1846 as the date of his death. Mr. Thomas Greive worked for a time in partnership with that fine artist, the late Mr. William Telbin. No doubt, had those gentlemen cared, they could have told us more than we shall ever know now about this interesting subject; but perhaps they were too much employed with their art to think of this. But Mr. Telbin's son is still with us—an excellent artist—and perhaps he may one day write us more. He is, I feel sure, most capable, judging from a few excellent articles in the *Magazine of Art* he gave us a few years ago on stage scenery. P. de Loutherborg (born 1740) has been well written about, and called the "father of the art in this country," I suppose because he was the first to introduce "effects" in his diorama, coloured mediums, transparency painting, &c. He must have been a very excellent painter, as the great Turner is said to have studied his work. I give the following extract from the *Athenæum*, Sept., 1873:—"It is remarkable that Turner owed much to De Loutherborg's teaching, as Cox did to one De Maria, a painter from the London Opera House, engaged at the Birmingham Theatre. Forty years after Cox's employment at the Birmingham Theatre he used to describe with enthusiasm the scenes painted by De Maria, especially a wooded landscape, and after describing its effect and breadth, added how very much he should like to see it again. It is also noteworthy that several of our best landscape painters have owed much to practice in scene-painting, or, as Turner did, have learnt from artists of that class. Almost all that was good in the work of David Roberts was due to scene-painting. Mulready practised it, as did W. Hunt. Stanfield's obligations are well known, Eastlake was not untaught, and Linnell had some brief practice."

(To be continued.)

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND THEATRICAL ACCOUNTS.

BY

CUTHBERT E. SMEDLEY, Chartered Accountant.

CHAPTER II. (*continued*).

COUNTERS RETURN.

.....day.....19.....

Tickets.	Total. £	s.	d.	Booking. £	s.	d.	Trade. £	s.	d.	Compts. £	s.	d.
Stalls at 10s. 6d.												
Dress Circle at 7s. 6d.												
" " at 5s.												
Upper Circle at 5s.												
" " at 4s.												
Bill Passes												
Total												

PROGRAMMES.

Issued .....

Returned .....

Sold .....

It has already been pointed out that one of the parts of the ticket given to the purchaser is by him handed to the check-taker. These parts are put into a locked box by the check-taker, and counted by a member of the staff who has no duties at, and is independent of, the Box-office, and he in his turn makes a return direct to the Acting-Manager.

Similar returns will also be made to the Acting-Manager from the Pit and the Gallery, where, in place of tickets as above, either roll tickets or a check machine is used. In either case a counter's return is made, as above, and should agree with the cash returns as shown below.

UPPER CIRCLE.

.....day.....19.....

		£	s.	d.
Sold	at 5/-			
Sold	at 4/-			
Transfers from Pit.				
Sold	at 2/6			
Sold	at 1/6			
Transfers from Gallery.				
Sold	at 4/-			
Sold	at 3/-			
	£			

Notes: £ : :

Gold: £ : :

Silver: £ : :

Signed.....

Moneytaker.

PIT.

.....day.....19.....

		£	s.	d.
No. Finish				
No. Begin				
Sold	at 2/6			
Transfers from Gallery.				
No. Finish				
No. Begin				
Sold	at 1/6			
	£			

Notes: £ : :

Gold: £ : :

Silver: £ : :

Signed.....

Moneytaker.

GALLERY.

.....day.....19.....

		£	s.	d.
No. Finish				
No. Begin				
Sold	at 1/			
	£			

Notes: £ : :

Gold: £ : :

Silver: £ : :

Signed.....

Moneytaker

Roll tickets are checked by recording starting and finishing numbers. A check machine automatically records the number of tickets issued.

In the case of the Pit and Gallery, where re-admission is allowed, Pass-out tickets must be provided. It is advisable to have them varied either as to colour or form as frequently as possible.

It frequently happens that people desire to exchange their seats for places in a better part of the house.

In these cases the Pass-out check must be given up to the Box-office clerk or money-taker issuing the new ticket. The check represents the difference between the tickets issued and the actual cash received.

Another system in vogue in dealing with transfers is the use of counterfoil ticket books printed with the amounts usually paid for the various transfers, different books being kept for transfers to each part of the house.

Only the Pass-out check, given up when the transfer was made, will be issued for the original seats, if re-sold.

(*To be continued.*)

THE roll of civic dignitaries connected with the theatrical profession has been increased by the appointment of Councillor Hy. Masterman, the popular manager of the Theatre Royal, Castleford, as a permanent Justice of the Peace for that town. We heartily congratulate Mr. Masterman.

MRS. D. KING, of Calcutta, who recently received the Kaiser-i-Hind medal, has for many years been a prime mover in all the charitable enterprises of the city. She was formerly a member of Sir Henry Irving's Lyceum company, and is a most capable comedy actress.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

On Friday evening, June 26, a performance of Glück's *Iphigenia in Tauris*, by members of the operatic class, was given in the theatre of the institution. It was a happy idea of Dr. Cummings's to revive an opera which is generally considered Glück's masterpiece, as *Iphigénie en Tauride*, originally produced at the Académie Royale de Musique, Paris, in May, 1779, has not been heard in London since 1866, when a performance was given at Her Majesty's Theatre, with the great Titiens, Gardoni, and our own fine artist, Sir Charles Santley, in the cast. The English version of Glück's dramatic opera heard on Friday night relates how Iphigenia, daughter of Agamemnon, is a priestess in Diana's Temple at Tsurica, under the King Thoas, and one of her most painful duties is to sacrifice to the goddess Diana all strangers in the land. Orestes, really Iphigenia's brother, and his friend, Pylades, being strangers from Greece, Iphegenia's native land, are, according to custom, brought to the Temple to be sacrificed. On questioning Orestes, whom Iphigenia does not recognise, she hears that his father has been killed by his wife, Clytemnestra, who is also slain by her son. Thinking her brother dead, Iphigenia decides to set one of the two free, so that he can carry a letter to her sister, Electra. Both friends wish to be the one slain to save the other, but at last Pylades is the one chosen to carry the letter. When on the point of killing Orestes, Iphigenia learns it is her own brother. The King Thoas hears of Pylades being set free, and is on the point of sacrificing Iphigenia and her brother, when the goddess Diana appears, orders the King and his subjects to give up her statue, and Iphigenia and her brother, who are to return to their native land, where Orestes is to be King. The opera, which is in four short acts, has some cleverly painted and admirably arranged scenery by Mr. W. T. Hemsley. Miss Barwell-Holbrook sang the music of Iphigenia with great intelligence and earnest expression; while Mr. Robert Carr quite distinguished himself by a very clever and ably acted performance of Orestes. Hardly less excellent was the Pylades of Mr. Edwin Lewis; while the smaller parts of Diana, Thoas, and Clytemnestra were ably filled by Miss Lilian Allen, Mr James Saker, and Miss Helen Duncan. Favourable mention should also be made of Mr. Ernest Claydon as Minister of the Temple. The chorus, an important feature in this opera, may be heartily commended, both for their singing and acting. The weird dance of furies and demons round the sleeping Orestes was very effective, and capitally arranged by Mr. B. Soutten, the stage-manager; while the excellent statue of Diana in the last act gave picturesque interest to the scene. The handsome costumes, kindly lent by the Royal Opera Syndicate, Covent Garden, and the wigs of Messrs. Clarkson, lent special interest to a performance that reflected credit on all concerned. All the artists were called on at the close, and a special and well-deserved compliment was paid to Mr. Richard H. Walthew, the conductor, when he appeared on the stage among the principal artists; while the small, but efficient, orchestra, which he so skilfully conducted, may be warmly commended.

The pupils of Mme. Fiammetta Waldahoff were heard in a mandoline recital in the concert room of the Guildhall School of Music on Monday evening. There was a very large audience, and Mme. Waldahoff had good reason to be gratified by the skill and intelligence displayed by her talented pupils. At first sight the length of the programme seemed somewhat formidable, but it was so well arranged that the concert proved full of interest, while the full body of tone produced by the young performers came no doubt as a surprise to many who have hitherto considered the mandoline as a somewhat limited instrument. The programme commenced with orchestral selections, conducted by Mme. Waldahoff, Weaver's "Marche Orientale" and "Under the Red Cross" receiving a spirited interpretation. Miss Lilian Branston, an advanced pupil, gave an excellent solo on De Beriot's "Scène de Ballet," accompanied by the mandoline orchestra; and Miss Gwendoline Priestley was heard in a very brilliant performance of Papini's "Salterella" and the "Bandurria," unaccompanied, of Stauffer. Two piano solos, Grieg's charming "Au Printemps" and the "Frühlingsrauschen," by Sinding, were cleverly played by Miss Amy L. Parsons, pupil of Mr. Norman Cummings; while the Misses Branston, Cooper, and Priestley gave a very effective mandoline trio (unaccompanied) on Morris's "Sweetest flower." Miss Ethel Lowe played "Wiegenlied" (Brahms) with good results; and Miss Lillie Selden, an associate of the Guildhall School, and a professional pupil of Mme. Waldahoff's, was heard in a clever arrangement of "Home, sweet home" (Waldahoff), an organ imitation on five strings, by Ciociano, which one would think almost an impossible feat on the mandoline, the same composer's "Le Village" (a descriptive piece), and, lastly, the difficult "Hungarian Dance" of Brahms. Miss Selden, who played with delightful skill and finish, was received with abundant applause. Hucke's quartette, "Pour Toi," played by the Misses Lowe, Strover, Stevenson, and Cremer, was an admirable instance of the fine, rich tone produced by concerted mandolines. Miss Beryl Cremer, a very youthful pupil, showed great command of her instrument in Distin's "Entr'acte." An interesting feature in the concert were the Old French Airs (17th century), played by the Misses Rudge and Parsons, who were accompanied on a harpsichord made in 1605, kindly lent by Mr. J. Geo. Morley. Three clever recitations, "But they didn't," "My ships," and "Nini Ninette Ninon," were given by Miss Jessie Ainge Stirling, A.G.S.M., a pupil of Mr. Cairns James; and the interesting recital closed with "Marcia Reale," "Poet and Peasant," and "Le Régiment qui passe," played by the Rita Quintette. The accompanist was Miss Amy L. Parsons.

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NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

JUNE 1. *Beau Brocade*, romantic play, in four acts, by Baroness Orczy and Montague Barstow (originally produced on May 4, 1908, at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne)—Coronet.
,, 1. *Links*, play, in four acts, translated from the Dutch of Herman Heijermans by Howard Peacey and W. H. Brandt—Scala.
,, 2. *Flo Rigg*, play, in one act, by Estelle Burney—Royal Albert Hall Theatre.
,, 2. *On the Right Road*, play, in one act, by Mrs. De Courcy Laffan—Royalty.
,, 2. *Guinevere*, adaptation of Tennyson's poem, with picture interlude, and incidental music, by Vera Leslie—Royalty.
,, 6. *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, drama, in four acts, by Walter Howard—Lyceum.
,, 8. *The Two Pins*, comedy of the Middle Ages, in four acts, by Frank Stayton (Oscar Asche and Lily Brayton's season)—Aldwych.
,, 8. *A Lucky Spill*, comedy, in one act, by H. A. L. Rudd—New.
,, 10. *The Three of Us*, play, in four acts, by Rachel Crothers (originally produced in America)—Terry's.
,, 13. *The Explorer*, play, in four acts, by William Somerset Maugham—Lyric.
,, 15. *L'Affaire des Poisons*, historical drama, in a prologue and five acts, by Victorien Sardou (produced originally at the Porte Saint-Martin Théâtre on Dec. 7, 1907), M. Coquelin's season—His Majesty's.
,, 15. *He's a Jolly Good Fellow*, drama, in four acts, by Arthur Shirley and E. Vivian Edmonds—Dalston Theatre.
,, 16. *The Flag Lieutenant*, naval comedy, in four acts, by Major W. P. Drury and Leo Trevor—The Playhouse.
,, 16. *The Chinese Lantern*, fairy play, in three acts, by Laurence Housman, music by Joseph Moorat—Haymarket.
,, 18. *Bulmer's Threat*, drama, in one act, by Alex. M. Lee—Bijou, Bayswater.
,, 22. *The Holy War*, dramatic episode, in one act, by G. Carlton Wallace—Theatre Royal, Woolwich.
,, 22. *Convict 99*, drama, in four acts, adapted by Jack Denton from a story of the same name—Crown, Peckham.
,, 23. *The Mill*, play, in three acts, by Nugent Monck (English Drama Society)—The Scala.
,, 23. *The Drums of Doom*, impressionist drama, in one act, by Gerald Villiers-Stuart (English Drama Society)—The Scala.
,, 24. *Pierette's Birthday*, episode, by Colin Neil Rose, music by Clement Locknane—New.
,, 29. *Octave*, piece, by De Mirande and Henri Geroule (M. Severin-Mars and Parisian company)—Royalty.
,, 29. *Un Honnête Homme*, comedy, by Mme. Camille Clermont (M. Severin-Mars and Parisian company)—Royalty.
,, 29. *Fleur d'Oranger*, scenario, by Jean Sery, music by Mérril (M. Severin-Mars and Parisian company).
,, 29. *La Dernière Soirée de Brummel*, by Georges Maurevert (M. Severin-Mars and Parisian company)—Royalty.

REVIVALS.

JUNE 1. *La Fille du Tambour-Major*, opera-comique, libretto by MM. Chivot and Duru, music by Jacques Offenbach (produced in Paris in 1879; English version at the Alhambra, April 19, 1880) revived by French company headed by Mme. Tariol-Baugé—Shaftesbury.
,, 11. *La Grande Duchesse de Gerolstein*, opera-comique, libretto by Meilhac and Halévy, music by Jacques Offenbach (English version produced 1867 at Covent Garden Theatre), revived by French company headed by Mme. Tariol-Baugé—Shaftesbury.
,, 16. *A Pair of Spectacles*, comedy, adapted by Sydney Grundy from Labiche and Delacour's *Les Petits Oiseaux* (originally produced at the Garrick on Feb. 22, 1890) (Sir John Hare's farewell season)—Garrick.
,, 16. *Afterthoughts*, episode, in one act, by A. E. Drinkwater—Garrick.
,, 25. *The Sergeant of Hussars*, by Cicely Hamilton (produced by the Play Actors in June, 1907)—The Scala.
,, 25. *The Parasites*, play, in two acts, by Rose Matthews (produced by the Play Actors in 1907)—The Scala.

PROVINCES.

JUNE 8. *Loyalty House*, an historical play, in four acts—Queen's Theatre, Manchester.
,, 13. *The Head of the Firm*, comedy, in four acts, adapted from the Danish of Hjalmar Bergstrom by Leslie Faber—Opera House, Buxton.
,, 15. *The Real Mr. Jonathan*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by Mr. C. Vernon Proctor—Pier Pavilion, Paignton.
,, 15. *A Miracle*, play, in one act, by George de Lara—Theatre Royal, Brighton.
,, 15. *A Wonderful Woman*, costume comedy, in three acts, founded on the original play as to plot, entirely re-written by Sydney Spenser, with incidental music arranged by Wilfred E. Cotterill — Pavilion Theatre, St. Leonards-on-Sea.
,, 22. *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*, drama, in four acts, by Fred C. Somerfield—Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.
,, 22. *The Gay Deceivers*, musical absurdity, in two acts—Theatre Royal, Margate.
,, 22. *The Better Land*, drama, in four acts, by Dorothy Granville—Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
,, 22. *A Woman's Love*, domestic drama, in five scenes, by Nita Rae—Muncaster Theatre, Bootle.
,, 25. *The Outcast of the Family*, drama, in four acts—Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford.
,, 29. *A Princess in Bohemia*, comedy, in four acts, by Gilbert Dayle—Theatre Royal, Bradford.

AMONGST those who contributed to the entertainment at the dramatic and musical matinée at the French Embassy on Wednesday, in aid of the French Benevolent Society, were Madame Emma Calvé, Madame Yvette Guilbert, M. Coquelin, aîné, M. Johannes Wolff, Mlle. Fély Dereyne, M. Seveilhac, Mlle. Herleroy, M. Gilibert, Signor Sammarco, Madame Donalda, and M. J. Hollman. The accompaniments were played by Signor Baraldi, M. Charlier, M. Ferrari, and Mr. Raphael Roche, and the entertainment was under the direction of M. Paolo Tosti.

THE Savoy Theatre was the scene of a small fire on Saturday evening, when the fireman, upon going his rounds after the last employee had left the theatre, discovered an outbreak in the electrician's room. Having called the brigade, he put the theatre hydrant into use, with the result that the flames were quickly extinguished. The room was severely damaged, and the stage and contents, including some scenery, suffered from the heat, smoke, and water. A temporary switchboard was erected, and there was no interference whatever with the performance of *The Mikado* on Monday evening.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

SYDNEY, MAY 26, 1908.—*Sherlock Holmes*, with again Mr. Kingston in the title-part, is doing good business here. Mrs. Robert Brough has a part worthy of her in that of Madge Larrabee; Mr. Gregan McMahon as Professor Moriarty created a profound impression by his powerful acting; Miss Nellie Calvin was a good Alice Faulkner; and Mr. R. Carey was again Billy, the buttons. Other parts were well acted by Messrs. C. R. Berkeley, Frank Harcourt, Vivian Edwards, Cyril Mackay, T. W. Lloyd, Miss Irby Marshall, and others.

AT Her Majesty's *Humpty Dumpty* pursues his attractive career.

AT the Palace, Messrs. Meynell and Gunn are keeping *The Midnight Wedding* in the bill.

KUBELIK, the great violinist, was welcomed by the Lord Mayor (Alderman Thomas Hughes) at the Town Hall on the 20th, when the principal musicians and representatives of musical societies were invited to join in. The Lord Mayor, in a graceful speech, welcomed the visiting artist, and he was followed by Sir William Manning; the Hon. C. K. Mackellar and Mr. Parry, on behalf of the Philharmonic, Amateur Orchestral, and Indertafel Societies, and by Mr. P. F. Marich for the music-sellers of the city. Jan Kubelik made a modest speech in excellent English.

THE TIVOLI has Will Lochraine, the Two Westons, Olive Robinson, Baby Watson, the new Dean Tribune, Ardo, Alberto, Walter Whyte, Sylvo, Albert Sisters, Les Warton, Marsh Little, and Little Gladys Conway. The bird imitator, Charles Mildare, finished on Saturday, and went to Melbourne.

THE National Amphitheatre has Maggie Fraser and Jessie Lee as chief vocalists; the Weatherleys and Tim Howard are prime attractions; and the newest arrivals are the Australian Dartos (the McLean children), one of them a fine imitator of Little Tich in his boot dance.

WEST'S PICTURES are at the Town Hall. The Theatorescope is at the Lyceum Hall, and picture shows are at the Victoria, Queen's, and Oxford halls, all doing well.

MR. H. R. ROBERTS and his *Prince Chap* company left for New Zealand on the 23rd, returning here in Sept. next.

MR. ALFRED DAMPIER, actor and manager, died on the 24th at the age of 60. He leaves a widow, two daughters, and one son. In Australia the late actor was a great favourite for many years, but sickness supervening on an accident had removed him from active work for some time, and his end was not unexpected. General sorrow greeted the news of his death. He was buried in Waverly Cemetery, where so many theatrical and musical remains lie at rest.

MELBOURNE, MAY 26, 1908.—PRINCESS THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. G. P. Huntley.—The Merrymakers are still staging their medley performance, and a full and varied programme is provided.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. E. J. Tait.—*The Merry Widow* has fairly taken Melbourne by storm. On Saturday evening hundreds were turned away long before eight o'clock. Miss Carrie Moore in the name-part has established herself a greater favourite than ever. *The Merry Widow* will run till further notice.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Meynell and Gunn; Business-Manager, Mr. Stanley W. Cherry.—Numbers of people who wished to renew acquaintance with Mr. and Miss Hook and their famous liqueur had to leave the doors of the Theatre Royal on Saturday night disappointed. Seating and standing room had all gone long before eight o'clock. For next Saturday the "second edition"—that is, additional songs and dances—is announced. In Mr. Stanley W. Cherry Messrs. Meynell and Gunn possess a capable and courteous business-manager.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon.—Mr. Harry Rickards is certainly keeping faith with his patrons as regards giving them new turns in rapid succession. On Saturday evening Mr. J. P. Ling, mimic and monologue entertainer, made his first appearance, and met with instant approval from a large and enthusiastic house. Mr. Ling allows his audience not a single dull moment while he holds the boards. His performance throughout was thoroughly enjoyed. The eccentric comedians, Regan and Ryan, were chiefly remarkable for their clever dancing; Mr. Irving Sayles made his reappearance, and got a warm reception, chiefly from his friends in the gallery; Frank Harwood, raconteur and descriptive vocalist, presented a budget of new stories; Ike and Will Scott appeared in an amusing sketch; Mr. John Higgins (champion jumper) performed a number of new and difficult feats; while Florrie Ranger, Muriel Andrews, Fanny Powers, Gertie Cremer, Gibson Girls, Bob Harper, Clarence Tisdale, George Bentley, and the rest of the company all contributed pleasing numbers.

THE GAIETY THEATRE, under the able management of Mr. Harry Brennan, continues to do excellent business. There was a complete change of programme on Saturday evening, and several new artists made their appearance. Artists appearing with success at present include Zeno and Hall, Will Bracey, Joe Charles, C. Hayes, Gertrude Emery, Lily Grimshaw, Lucy Lavina, Amy Blackie, Rose Sisters, Wally Edwards, Clara Keating, Ernest Pitcher, and Tindall and Royal.

WEST'S PICTURES at Wirth's Olympia are as popular as ever. The management are presenting a number of new films weekly. A feature of the entertainment is the excellent performance nightly by West's full military band.

THE Athenæum Hall affords further evidence of the popularity of picture entertainments. Messrs. Best and Baker's pictures are drawing big houses, and the entertainment deserves its success.

THE Scarlet Troubadours, under the management of Mr. Edward Branscombe, are appearing with great success at the Town Hall. The entertainment is a bright and varied one, and each individual item is loudly applauded. Owing to the success which has attended the performances so far the management have decided to extend the present season.

LOCKHART, in his "Life of Scott," devotes several pages to an account of a visit paid to Sir Walter by the Duchess of St. Albans, who was then Mrs. Coutts. She arrived at Abbotsford with a train of three carriages, each drawn by four horses. Her retinue consisted of her future lord, the Duke of St. Albans, one of his Grace's sisters, a sort of "lady in waiting," two physicians, "and, besides other menials of every grade, two bed-chamber women for Mrs. Coutts's own person, she requiring to have this article also in duplicate, because in her widowed condition she was fearful of ghosts." There were already assembled at Abbotsford several ladies of high rank, who, witnessing this ostentation on the part of an actress who, when a girl, had been chased from her home by a vulgar virago of a mother, took it into their heads to snub her. The good-natured Sir Walter, pained at the conduct of his noble guests, took the youngest and prettiest of them aside, and lectured her on her manners. The beautiful peeress thanked him for treating her as his daughter; and one by one the other ladies, being made to run the gauntlet of Sir Walter's rebukes, Mrs. Coutts was speedily set at ease. The narrative is curious as a typical illustration of the sentiments with which the society to which Harriet Mellon claimed to belong regarded her.

NAPOLEON AND THE NATIONAL THEATRE.

Though the Prince, writes Arsène Houssaye, alluding to Napoleon III., never wore his heart upon his sleeve, not even in his most intimate and familiar moments, he was not at all "stand-offish" with his friends. Etiquette was not very strictly observed at the Elysée; after all, it was not so very long ago that he had led the life of a simple citizen of the United States, without dragging a court after him. He was only too happy to be in France and to breathe his native air not to be pleased with everything, except with the Orleanists who kept up a vigorous war against him in the National Assembly under the Republican mask.

One morning when he had sent for me—I do not remember for what—I happened to come in at the breakfast hour. He just got into the dining-room when my name was taken in. On the impulse of the moment he was about to send me for a stroll in the garden, but he checked himself and told me to sit down to breakfast.

Some of his suite were already in the dining-room. Persigny, Toulongéon, Fleury, Prince Murat, Baciocchi, were standing about waiting for him. At his request they had preceded him, he being engaged for a little while on some ambassadorial business. They left off talking as he took his seat, in case he wished to say something, but he kept silent at first, as if engrossed with other things. Prince Murat spoke to me about Mlle. Rachel, which brought the Prince's thoughts back to his surroundings. Having cleared his deep bass voice to sing the praises of the tragédienne, he took the opportunity of pronouncing a eulogy on tragedy—no doubt because tragedy is the apotheosis of princes. With him everything was the means to the end. It is sufficiently well known that he did not love art for art's sake. Though he had written in verse himself—though he had tried eloquence in solemn prose—he was no more gifted with the poetic than with the artistic sentiment. The "continuator"—as distinct from the successor—of Napoleon I. was a utilitarian. What he loved most in the vault of Heaven was his own star; what he loved most in the forest was the noise of the chase; what he loved most in the valley was the smoke of the railway engine; what he loved most in this marvellous garden of the Elysée was the view of the Palace of the Tuileries.

I admit feeling some emotion in answering the Prince. It was no longer a mere breakfast-party, it was a congress with everyone looking on. They had scarcely had time to judge me at my work, and now they wanted to judge me at oratory. If I happened to utter a few fine truisms couched in redundant phraseology I was lost as a director. There was a profound silence that became very terrible to me. Fortunately I had something to say.

I began by reminding the Prince-President that in Paris there were several kinds of pit. One might open the doors of the Théâtre Français as wide as one could to the people; they would not be likely to come to it, for the simple reason that the people only go where they enjoy themselves. They have a holy horror of Alexandrines (twelve-feet verses), and they kick against the exalted teachings of master-minds. Hence it is not for the people that one should govern the Théâtre Français. When art shall be brought within the appreciation of everybody it will no longer be art; democracy is not fond of summits—when it scales the mountain it is to knock it down. The good and the beautiful are not always synonymous; the people love the one and greet the other, but from a distance. Do what one may, two kinds of spectacles will always be necessary—that which appeals to the intellect, that which appeals to the eyes. You may smash the aristocracy that boasts its coats of arms; you'll never destroy the aristocracy of nature. The descendant of a Montmorency goes to the spectacle that pleases the eye; the son of the rag-picker will go to the spectacle that appeals to the intellect, if God has placed His own divine mark on his front. Hence we must leave to the Théâtre Français all its supremacy. The attempt to descend would be an attempt of high treason against literature. The spectator will have to rise and still to rise. Let us give him the spectacle of *Le Cid* and of *Le Misanthrope;* let us endeavour to remind him of Æschylus and Shakespeare; let us show him his own moral doings as in a mirror; let us maks him laugh after having made him cry—that is all right; but to make a school for politics of the Théâtre Français, instead of a school for the teaching of the beautiful and the true—that would be wrong. The real mission and genius of the stage are to elevate the soul to the appreciation of all the great feelings of heroism, virtue, and patriotism—but of patriotism freed from all party spirit.

I was interrupted by one of the guests, who maintained that there was no patriotism without party spirit, because the genius of France was always represented by a man.

"That is just where the danger lies," I said, "because the Parisian pit is always disposed to tilt against the powers that be. Under Napoleon I. it applauded everything savouring of Republicanism or Royalism; under the *Restauration* it applauded everything that was Republican or imperialist; under the Second Republic Mlle. Rachel has sung the "Marseillaise," but it was Mlle. Rachel, and not the "Marseillaise," that was applauded."

The Prince, who was not at all obstinate, said:—

"Perhaps you are right."

"THE prices of admission to the early theatres," says Dutton Cook, "varied according to the estimation in which they were held, and were raised on special occasions. 'Twopenny rooms,' or galleries, were to be found at the larger and more popular theatres. In Goffe's *Careless Shepherdess*, 1656, acted at the Salisbury Court Theatre, appear the lines:

'I will hasten to the money-box
And take my shilling out again;
I'll go to the Bull or Fortune, and there see
A play for twopence and a jig to boot.'

The money received was placed in a box, and there seems to have been one person specially charged with this duty. Dekker, dedicating one of his plays to his 'friends and fellows,' the queen's servants, wishes them 'a full audience and one honest doorkeeper.' Even thus early the absolute integrity of the attendants of the theatre would appear to have been a subject of suspicion. 'Penny galleries' are referred to by some early writers, and from a passage in the 'Gull's Horn Book,' 1609—'Your groundling and gallery commoner buys his sport for a penny'—it is apparent that the charges for admission to the yard, where the spectators stood, and to the galleries, where they sat on benches, were the same. In Dekker's *Satiromastix*, one of the characters speaks scornfully of 'penny bench theatres,' where a gentleman or an honest citizen 'might sit with his squirrel by his side cracking nuts.' But according to the Induction to Ben Jonson's *Bartholomew Fair*, first acted in 1614, at the Hope, a small dirty theatre on the Bank-side, which had formerly been used for bear-baiting, the prices there ranged from sixpence to half-a-crown."

THE Playgoers' and the O.P. clubs, at a meeting held on the 26th ult., decided to amalgamate, the resolution being moved by Mr. Algernon Collins and seconded by Mr. Carl Hentschel. A sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Carl Hentschel, J. M. Freshwater, A. T. Ellis, and Chris. Taylor, was appointed to effect the amalgamation, with power to act. The name of the amalgamated clubs, we understand, is to be "The Playgoers'—with which is incorporated the O.P." The club rooms will be in Clement's Inn.

THE MUNICIPAL THEATRE.

Of the practicability of a municipal theatre, says Mr. Sidney Lee in "Shakespeare and the Modern Stage," ample evidence is at hand. Foreign experience convincingly justifies the municipal mode of theatrical enterprise. Every great town in France, Germany, Austria, and Switzerland has its municipal theatre. In Paris there are three, in addition to four theatres which are subsidised by the State. It is estimated that there are seventy municipal theatres in the German-speaking countries of Europe, apart from twenty-seven State theatres. At the same time, it should be noted that in the French and German capitals there are, at the side of the State and municipal playhouses, numerous theatres which are run on ordinary commercial lines. The prosperity of these houses is in no way checked by the contiguity of theatrical enterprise of State or municipality.

All municipal theatres on the continent of Europe pursue the same aims. They strive to supply the citizens with true artistic drama continuously, and to reduce the cost of admission to the playhouse to the lowest possible terms. But the working details of the foreign municipal theatres differ widely in individual cases, and a municipality which contemplates a first theatrical experiment is offered a large choice of method. In some places the municipality acts with regal munificence, and directly assumes the largest possible responsibilities. It provides the site, erects the theatre, and allots a substantial subsidy to its maintenance. The manager is a municipal officer, and the municipal theatre fills in the social life of the town as imposing a place as the town hall, cathedral, or university.

Elsewhere the municipality sets narrower limits to its sphere of operations. It merely provides the site and the building, and then lets the playhouse out at a moderate rental to directors of proved efficiency and public spirit, on assured conditions that they honestly serve the true interests of art, uphold a high standard of production, avoid the frivolity and spectacle of the market, and fix the price of seats on a very low scale. Here no public funds are seriously involved. The municipality pays no subsidy. The rent of the theatre supplies the municipality with normal interest on the capital that is invested in site and building. It is public credit of a moral rather than of a material kind which is pledged to the cause of dramatic art.

In a third class of municipal theatre the public body confines its material aid to the gratuitous provision of a site. Upon that site private enterprise is invited to erect a theatre under adequate guarantee that it shall exclusively respect the purposes of art, and spare to the utmost the pockets of the playgoer. To render dramatic art accessible to the rank and file of mankind, with the smallest possible pressure on the individual citizen's private resources, is of the essence of every form of municipal theatrical enterprise.

The net result of the municipal theatre, especially in German-speaking countries, is that the literary drama, both of the past and present, maintains a grip on the playgoing public which is outside English experience. There is in Germany a very flourishing modern German drama of literary merit. Sudermann and Hauptmann hold the ears of men of letters throughout Europe. Dramas by these authors are constantly presented in municipal theatres. At the same time, plays by the classical dramatists of all European countries are performed as constantly, and are no less popular. Almost every play of Shakespeare is in the repertory of the chief acting companies on the German municipal stage. At the side of Shakespeare stand Schiller and Goethe and Lessing, the classical dramatists of Germany; Molière, the classical dramatist of France; and Calderon, the classical dramatist of Spain. Public interest is liberally distributed over the whole range of artistic dramatic effort. Indeed, during recent years Shakespeare's plays have been performed in Germany more often than plays of the modern German school. Schiller, the classical national dramatist of Germany, lives more conspicuously on the modern German stage than any one modern German contemporary writer, eminent and popular as more than one contemporary German dramatist deservedly is. Thus signally has the national or municipal system of theatrical enterprise in Germany served the cause of classical drama. All the beneficial influence and gratification, which are inherent in artistic and literary drama, are, under the national or municipal system, enjoyed in permanence and security by the German people.

Vienna probably offers London the most instructive example of the national or municipal theatre. The three leading Viennese playhouses—the Burg-Theater, the Stadt-Theater, and the Volks-Theater—illustrate the three modes in which public credit may be pledged to theatrical enterprise. The palatial Burg-Theater is wholly an institution of the State. The site of the Stadt-Theater, and to a large extent the building, were provided by the municipality, which thereupon leased them out to a private syndicate, under a manager of the syndicate's choosing. The municipality assumes no more direct responsibility for the due devotion of the Stadt-Theater to dramatic art than is implied in its retention of reversionary rights of ownership. The third theatre, the Volks-Theater, illustrates the minimum share that a municipality may take in promoting theatrical enterprise, while guaranteeing the welfare of artistic drama.

The success of the Volks-Theater is due to the co-operation of a public body with a voluntary society of private citizens who regard the maintenance of the literary drama as a civic duty. The site of the Volks-Theater, which was formerly public property and estimated to be worth £80,000, is in the best part of the city of Vienna. It was a free gift from the Government to a limited liability company, formed of some four hundred shareholders of moderate means, who formally pledged themselves to erect on the land a theatre with the sole object of serving the purposes of dramatic art. The interest payable to shareholders is strictly limited by the conditions of association. An officially sanctioned constitution renders it obligatory on them and on their officers to produce in the playhouse classical and modern drama of a literary character, though not necessarily of the severest type. Merely frivolous or spectacular pieces are prohibited, and at least twice a week purely classical plays must be presented. No piece may be played more than two nights in immediate succession. The actors, whose engagements are permanent, are substantially paid, and an admirably devised system of pensions is enforced without making deductions from salaries. The price of seats is fixed at a low rate, the highest price being 4s., the cheapest and most numerous seats costing 10d. each. Both financially and artistically the result has been all that one could wish. There is no public subsidy, but the Emperor pays £500 a year for a box. The house holds 1,800 persons, yielding gross receipts of £200 for a nightly expenditure of £125. There are no advertising expenses, no posters. The newspapers give notice of the daily programme as an attractive item of news.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

"GROVE'S DICTIONARY."

If the world knows little of its greatest men, it knows still less of its greatest musicians; but with the precious possession of the goodly volumes of "Grove's Dictionary of Music and Musicians" the lover of the divine art can linger affectionately over the story of the trials, the struggles, and the triumphs of the masters and interpreters of melody; can glean knowledge of ancient forms of music and instruments; can acquaint himself with the earliest examples of orchestration; in a word, can avail himself of the research of busy and gifted experts. These are points especially to be noted by the amateur and the performer. The cultured critic will glance more particularly at the accounts given of modern and living composers, of the men now making musical history. Nothing, indeed, seems to have been left out of this admirably complete work, of which Messrs. Macmillan and Co. have just issued the fourth volume. To this there are close upon a hundred contributors, including the editor, Mr. Fuller Maitland, M.A., F.S.A., who contributes an interesting and highly critical analysis of the claims of Richard Strauss as an original composer. According to the editor he began as a "follower of the classical ideals." Then, we take it, Strauss wrote down his inspirations with simple, natural expression, and without that *bizarrerie* which Schubert, in 1816, said prevailed in most of the composers of his time—that "*bizarrerie* which unites the tragic and the comic, the agreeable and the repulsive, the heroic and the petty, the Holiest and a harlequin; infuriates those who hear it instead of dissolving them in love." Those who remember the storm of ridicule roused by Wagner both in Paris and London in the early seventies will not be surprised to learn that the "eccentricities of style" developed by Strauss in his later compositions are considered reprehensible. Says the editor, the composer "seems to have considered it his duty (on discovering that his eccentricities were an attraction to the public) to startle his hearers with some new piece of independence (not to say impertinence) with each successive production." His passion for notoriety is no doubt responsible in great measure for his choice of Oscar Wilde's *Salome*, a subject that is being much discussed just now. "The ill-timed realism of the orchestration at the moment when the Baptist's head is cut off is thoroughly characteristic of the composer, and that he should not see the incongruity of introducing such a touch at such a moment argues the want of the finer perceptions." The editor sums up his estimate of Richard Strauss thus: "It is too soon to guess what his position among the musicians of the world may ultimately be: while he is still young enough to admit that his main object is to shock and startle, he is not too old to change his convictions, as he has already changed them once before."

The reader naturally turns to the article on Sir Arthur Sullivan. We are told that "the penalty of excessive popularity has been paid since Sullivan's death, for although that event came like a national disaster, his more important compositions have been almost entirely neglected. Even the beautiful *Golden Legend*, which enjoyed enormous popularity for many years, has been only heard comparatively seldom of late years." But the masses love Savoy opera, whose perennial popularity will for a long time yet keep Sullivan's memory green. No short review of the volume can do justice to its completeness or afford the slightest conception of the interesting matter to be found on every page. Such a compendium is worthy of the advance in musical knowledge and musical achievement that has taken place in this country during the last quarter of a century.

The volume, which is an admirable example of neatness of binding and clearness of print, is priced at one guinea.

"I HAD suggested to W. G. Wills," says Sir John Hare, in his reminiscences in the *Strand Magazine*, "that he should write me a version of 'The Vicar of Wakefield.' He jumped at the idea, and a few months after informed me that the play was finished. The manuscript—if I can so call it—was the most extraordinary thing of its kind I have seen. It was almost illegible, and many of the scenes were written on backs of envelopes, pieces of blotting-paper, and portions of old letters. I remember reading several pages and then arriving at an obvious hiatus, which I pointed out to Wills, who replied, in a thick Irish accent: 'I've got it, dear boy, in my pocket, or, perhaps, on my shirt cuff,' and he would then produce a suspicious-looking fragment scintillating with literary gems and poetic thought, though the play in its original condition was chaotic in the extreme. It was altogether incoherent and impossible in its first state—a mere embryo of what afterwards appeared when we got it into shape. Wills and I sat up night after night reconstructing the piece, and if I suggested a new scene or alteration to which he was agreeable he would reply, 'I accept that, dear boy.' He then proceeded to make a note on that useful shirt-cuff, underneath which slumbered the sleeves of three jerseys struggling to make their appearance, and perhaps jealous of their owner's partiality for that once white shirt."

As to who controls the theatre, writes Lady Grove in the *Daily Chronicle*, there is much doubt. "Oh, the women!" exclaimed a man vigorously to whom the question was put, and understanding the original query only in that way. He went on to give an instance of a piece in which he was interested having been rehearsed and staged. The interior decorations had been entrusted to a firm whose work was worthy of the artistic upholsterer-poet. Everything was satisfactorily arranged. Up came the "leading lady" one day, and with a wave of her imperious hand and a wink of her flashing eye all was changed, "Because, forsooth," the injured one complained, bitterly, "it did not tone with the lady's complexion."

THE following list gives some idea of the varying fortunes of plays recently produced at London theatres. The numbers given are those of performances:—*A Lucky Spill*, New Theatre, 4; *Susannah and Some Others*, Royalty, 7; *Way Down East*, Aldwych, 8; *The Lord of Latimer Street*, Terry's, 13; *The Two Pins*, Aldwych, 14; *The Orange Blossom*, Terry's, 15; *Pro Tem.*, Playhouse, 21; *The Woman of Kronstadt*, Garrick, 25; *Stingaree*, Queen's, 25; *Is Marriage a Failure?* Terry's, 30; *The College Widow*, Adelphi, 30; *The Marriage of William Ashe*, Terry's, 30; *A Fearful Joy*, Haymarket, 32; *Marjorie Strode*, Playhouse, 33; *Edwin Drood*, His Majesty's, 33; *The O'Grindles*, Playhouse, 36; *The New York Idea*, Queen's and Apollo, 47; *Lady Barbarity*, Comedy, 47; *The Beloved Vagabond*, His Majesty's, 62; *Matt of Merrymount*, New, 72; *Angela*, Comedy, 75; *Simple Simon*, Garrick, 80; *Her Father*, Haymarket, 83; *Dear Old Charlie*, Vaudeville, 92; *Irene Wycherley*, Kingsway, 140; *Diana of Dobson's*, Kingsway, 140; *The Education of Elizabeth*, Apollo and Haymarket, 150; *A White Man*, Lyric, 170; *The Thief*, St. James's, 186; *The Earl of Pawtucket*, Playhouse, 223; *The Gay Gordons*, Aldwych, 229; *The Girls of Gottenburg*, Gaiety, 307; *Brewster's Millions*, Hicks, 323; *Miss Hook of Holland*, Prince of Wales's, 462. *The Merchant of Venice* at His Majesty's ran for fifty-nine performances, and *Romeo and Juliet* at the Lyceum was played for nearly a hundred times.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. "THE ERA" is posted on Saturday in time to reach London subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London post. Address, the PUBLISHER, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

THE Theatrical Sports Committee will meet on Tuesday evening to receive the auditors' report, a summary of which is given below. The financial result is better than was expected in view of the fact that, owing to the rain, the gate receipts were only £2. Had it not been that a much larger number of tickets were sold before the day and that the prize fund is larger than in any previous year the committee would have met with a serious deficit. With a desire to secure a bigger gate more money was spent in printing and advertising, which, in the circumstances, was wasted. There is a proposal that next year the sports be given on a Saturday, as the committee feel the efforts of all who give their service, both before and on the day, should have a better result and the convenience of the general public receive more attention in the future by selecting a day on which a greater attendance may be reasonably expected.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS.

INCOME.	£	s.	d.
Donations to the Prize Fund	84	17	6
Sale of tickets and gate-money..	61	2	6
Entry fees	14	5	0
Sale of programmes, advertisements, discounts, and other receipts	59	5	5
	£219	10	5

The above total includes several items which have yet to be received and a donation of £1 1s. from Mr. Cyril Maude not announced in the list published with the report of the Sports.

PAYMENTS.	£	s.	d.
Prizes purchased	104	11	8
Hire of ground, police, gatemen, groundsmen, referee, and handicapper	19	19	6
Hire of band	6	10	0
Printing and Press advertisements	36	5	3
Hire of vans and bill distributing	12	19	3
Postage, stationery, flags, numbers, catering, doctor's fee, insurance of prizes, and sundry items	20	6	2
	200	11	10
Balance for the Benevolent Fund	18	18	7
	£219	10	5

Several books of tickets have yet to be accounted for, and it is hoped that the balance will be increased by sale of tickets not yet reported.

THE list of ticket-sellers, with amounts sold, is as follows:—J. Atterton (Wyndham's), 5s.; W. Aldous (Theatre Royal, Stratford), 5s.; G. P. Applebee (Gaiety), 6s.; W. Barbour (St. James), £1; W. Bevington (Aldwych), 5s.; P. J. Barry (Collins's), £1 7s.; H. G. Brooks (Hippodrome, Balham), £2 8s.; J. Brunskill (Savoy), 7s.; A. Beasley (Terry's), 2s.; — Brunton (Kingsway), £1 2s.; J. Cullen (St. James), £1 1s.; E. Catlin (Surrey), 7s.; R. J. Carter (Terry's), 1s.; C. F. Campbell, 5s. 6d.; C. Hayden Coffin (Apollo), 1s.; G. H. Dyball (London Pavilion), 1s.; G. T. Dalgarno (Empire), 7s.; F. Devan (Oxford), £1 9s. 6d.; C. V. Davies (London Pavilion), £5 16s.; W. G. Farrell (Shaftesbury), 10s.; A. Ford (Chelsea Palace), 7s.; J. Finnigan (Empire), 2s. 6d.; J. Fletcher (Hippodrome, Rotherhithe), £1 10s. 6d.; G. Fuller (Grand, Croydon), 2s. 6d.; A. George (Lyceum), £2 3s.; J. Grant (East Ham Palace), £3; T. Honour (Wyndham's), £1 1s.; H. Hazlebrook (Cambridge), 7s. 6d.; W. P. Hooke (Putney Hippodrome), £1; E. Hooke (Empire, Islington), 16s.; A. Jones (Covent Garden), 11s. 6d.; H. Kemp (His Majesty's), 7s.; H. Lofthouse (London), 4s.; A. Lawrence (Empire, Hackney), 6s. 6d.; G. Loftin (Vaudeville), 7s.; H. Lane, 1s.; — Meredith (Empress, Brixton), 10s.; A. Palmer (Comedy), 3s. 6d.; H. J. Powell (Hicks), £5 4s.; G. Pickering (Duke of York's), 14s.; J. Phelps (Covent Garden), 10s.; G. Palmer (Paragon), 10s.; W. Pullinger (Garrick), 5s.; W. Rance (Covent Garden), 1s.; J. Rich (Drury Lane), 6d.; R. Rogers (Empire, Holborn), 16s. 6d.; J. Reid, 4s.; E. Stow (Savoy), 7s.; A. Spaull, 2s.; T. Swift (Alhambra), 3s.; A. Sturges (Grand, Clapham), 18s. 6d.; W. J. Simpson (Ealing Hippodrome), £1 0s. 6d.; G. Saunders (Borough, Stratford), 2s. 6d.; D. Sheridan (Scala), 3s.; A. C. Simpson (Coronet), 5s. 6d.; J. Skinner (Terry's), 10s.; C. Thorogood, £1; C. Terry (Lyceum), 10s.; B. J. Taylor (Comedy), 5s.; A. Voce (Hippodrome, Woolwich), 15s.; B. E. Voss (Hippodrome, Willesden), 14s.; G. Wilton (Vaudeville), 5s. 6d.; W. R. Wheeler (Wyndham's), 9s.; W. C. Weaver (Terry's) 2s.; G. E. Willcox (Garrick), 6s. 6d.; G. B. Wayne (Crown, Peckham), £4 18s.; and W. Johnson secretary), £7 8s. Total, £61 2s. 6d.

MEMBERS of the Cinematograph Operators' Association who are in London on Tuesday next are requested to attend a special meeting of the committee, to be held at 2.30 at the offices, 29, Wellington-street, Strand. Business of importance will come before the meeting.

THE Empire, Leicester-square, staff—back and front of the house—will go for their annual outing on Sunday week to Hastings. Dinner will be served in the Drill Hall. The management, as usual, are taking great interest in the arrangements.

THE staff of the Theatre Royal, Colchester, had their annual outing on Saturday last, the G.E.R. supplying a special saloon, by which nearly forty persons made the journey to Great Yarmouth. Dinner was partaken of at the St. Peter's Restaurant, under the genial chairmanship of the popular lessee and manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona, and the greater part of the day was spent in the open, many making the trip to Gorleston and Caister. On the return journey a break was made at Ipswich, allowing the party to visit the performance at Mr. E. H. Bostock's fine hippodrome.

THE staff of the Colosseum Theatre, Oldham, held their annual outing on Sunday last, Lincoln being chosen as the place of resort. Leaving Oldham at 6.5 a.m., on arrival at their destination the party proceeded to enjoy themselves, a drive round Metheringham, and a visit to the Cathedral and Mr. Chaplin's stables were included in the programme. Dinner was partaken of at the Lion Hotel, where full justice was done to the good things. A convivial evening brought the proceedings to a close, and home was reached at 11.30 p.m., after a pleasant day.

"MR. W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM'S plan," says the *Mail*, "with each play he has written has been to think it out very carefully for a few months, to get the complete story very carefully arranged in his mind, and when that is done to start writing. The actual writing of the play, which is ready to be transferred to paper, is usually with him a work of three or four weeks. Roughly calculated, the gross number of people his four plays draw to the theatres is 35,000 per week, and the gross receipts will vary between five and six thousand pounds for the same period. Mr. Charles Frohman is congratulating himself already because he has got three of them to produce on the other side, and takes the English and American rights in the next two that Mr. Maugham writes."

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS ETHEL HARDACRE.

Unlimited experience has been enjoyed by Miss Ethel Hardacre, who has played almost every line of part. Her forte lies, however, in comedy and character, her finest performance being undoubtedly that of the Duchess of Berwick in *Lady Windermere's Fan*. In contradistinction to this aristocratic dame, she was highly successful in an entirely opposite rôle, that of Belinda in *Our Boys*. For some time back she has been mainly associated with the Wilson Barrett version of *East Lynne*, and is at present playing with Messrs. Armitage and Leigh on tour the part of Cornelia Carlyle, a rôle she has sustained some hundreds of times. Her versatility can be proved by the fact that she has essayed at different periods and on emergencies every female part in that celebrated play. Other characters that have fallen to

MISS ETHEL HARDACRE.

the lot of Miss Hardacre are Norah O'Reilly in *The Silver Falls*, Arte O'Neil in *The Shaughraun*, Ethel Arden in *Union Jack*, Delia Challis in *Current Cash*, Jerry Twaddle (boy) in *Rags and Bones*, and with Minnie Palmer in *The School Girl*. She has also toured in India, China, and the Philippine Islands, where she performed Olive Skinner in *The Silver King*, Mavis Clare in *Sorrows of Satan*, Ethel Carlton in *His Excellency the Governor*, Bina in *Turned Up*, and Sophie in *Pink Dominos*. She also played in *The Geisha*, *A Runaway Girl*, and *The French Maid*, and with the late Alfred Maltby enacted Mme. Polenta in *Betsy*. Many other parts she has essayed in comedy and drama, and has also played in two of her brother's (Mr. Pitt Hardacre) pantomimes at the Comedy Theatre, Manchester. Such a record is a fine one for an actress who may be said to have her career before her.

MR. ARTHUR GIBBONS.

Originally intended for a civil engineer, Mr. Arthur Gibbons was articled to his father, Mr. C. Preston Gibbons, himself an engineer of some importance. Mr. Arthur Gibbons started the Gravesend Dramatic Society, of which the late-lamented chief, Sir Henry Irving, was president, and it was as an amateur in that society that Mr. Gibbons originally faced the footlights. His first salaried engagement was with Miss Maggie Morton to play Tim in the late F. A. Scudamore's melodrama *Is Life Worth Living?* Then he adventured with Mr. Graham Falcon, essaying Gibson, the tailor, in *The Private Secretary*. Among the rôles in which Mr. Gibbons has secured success are Brabazon in Sydney Grundy's *Sowing the Wind*, Dr. Primrose in *Olivia*, principal baritone in grand opera, Idle Jack in pantomime *Dick Whittington*, and Dame Marjorie in *Red Riding Hood*. Also he made a vogue in many of the late

[*Photo by F. Ash.*

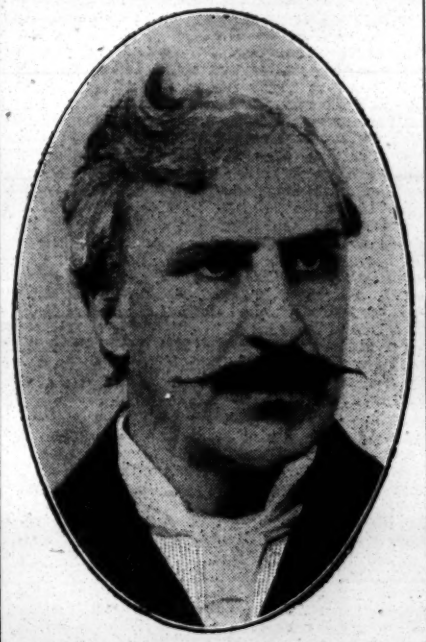
MR. ARTHUR GIBBONS.

Mr. Willie Edouin's creations, including Watty Walker in *Off the Rank*, and Stuart Cross in *The Late Lamented*. He has also played the hero in *When London Sleeps*, and in the melodrama *Serving the Queen*; and undertook Mr. William Terriss's part in *Secret Service* and the heavy rôle De Carteret in *Sporting Life*. The last two years as leading man and producer for Mr. Herbert Ralland's stock season at the Gaiety Theatre, Douglas, Isle of Man, has established him as persona grata with the public. His chief theatre successes have been Digby Grant in *The Two Roses* and Baron Hartfeldt in *Jim the Penman*—two characters diametrically opposed ethically and yet akin in their dramatic forcefulness. In comic opera Mr. Gibbons' chief success was the Baron Chanterelle in Mr. C. P. Levilly's *La Poupée* combination. When Mr. Herbert Ralland relinquished his engagement as general-manager—a position he had held for many years—Mr. Gibbons stepped into his shoes, and the shoes fitted. Mr. Arthur Gibbons makes a feature of original productions. In addition to the stock seasons in Douglas, which mean a complete change of programme—*pièce de résistance* and curtain-raiser—weekly, Mr. Gibbons produced *Is Marriage a Failure?* at Terry's Theatre last Christmas. The result was gratifying to all and sundry. The producer's share was a substantial cheque and a letter of sincere congratulation. Nine touring pantomimes all stand to Mr. Gibbons' credit. At the close of the Douglas summer season Mr. Gibbons will take up the duties of general-manager on tour of *A White Man* under Mr. Herbert Sleath's direction. He will also create in the provinces the rôle of Cash Hawkins. Mr. Gibbons is a sportsman, and was the founder of the Gravesend Sailing Club.

MR. G. H. SNAZELLE.

Interesting results were the outcome of a recent visit to Mr. G. H. Snazelle's studio at the Guildhall School of Music, where the popular entertainer was very busy teaching the young idea how to elocute. We elicited a few incidents of his remarkable career, which can best be related in his own words. "To begin with," said Mr. Snazelle, "I was born in Kent just fifty-nine years ago, and underwent a commercial education there and in France, where, I'm afraid, I didn't study the language so much as I ought to, but made up for it by being able at the end of two years to play nearly every instrument in the College Band—from the trombone to the kettle-drum. I subsequently obtained a situation in a subordinate position in a merchant's office, but got the honourable order of the sack because I took the whole of the important foreign mail to a cricket match instead of to the post-office. I then went to sea for a time, but that did not last long. There's a difference between being before the mast on a sailing vessel and being (as has been my later experience) a first-class saloon passenger on an ocean liner.

"Later I engaged with a French firm as a commercial traveller, and, equipped with a handsome horse and trap, had to push the sale of elastic webs for side-spring boots. This occupation lasted three months. I don't recollect getting any orders, but I do recollect having eleven fights! I then resolved to go into a bank. A friend and myself tossed a coin as to which bank we should select, and I won and had first choice. My salary at the end of ten years was £150 a year; my friend (he is still my friend) is a partner, and draws £20,000 a year. I don't. However, life has its compensations, for I've seen all the world—he hasn't; and he's got the gout—I haven't. That finished my commercial career, and for this reason. I was always passionately fond of music of the highest class, and I used to spend all my spare cash on the Popular Concerts and the opera. Accordingly, having some knowledge of music and a bass voice, while still employed at the Bank I placed myself under the best master I could afford, and knocked together a répertoire of about ten small parts in Italian opera. Through the late Lord Kinnaird's influence I was engaged by the



[*Photo by Sarony.*

MR. G. H. SNAZELLE.

late Col. Mapleson at Her Majesty's Opera, and I used to rehearse under Sir Michael Costa, singing with such eminent vocalists as Titiens, Trebelli, Bettini, Christine Nilsson, Valleria, Del Puente, Campanini, Wachtel, Behrens, &c. The £12 a week I received, though, perhaps, singing only once a fortnight, was a nice addition to my little £3 a week at the bank. At last I cut the painter, and branched out into opera entirely with Mr. Carl Rosa at the Princess's just thirty years ago. My old friend and master, Sir Charles Santley, was at the head of the company, and I shall never forget his great kindness to me as a beginner. We always remember with gratitude those who helped us up the ladder when we are on the bottom rung. I stayed with Carl Rosa on a very happy engagement for nine years, taking leading parts in about thirty operas—Mephistopheles, Sir John Falstaff, Devilshoof, and many others.

"Then I branched out into my entertainment: 'Music, Song, Story, and Travel. Pictorially Illustrated,' which has enabled me to journey all over the world—not only in the civilised communities but amongst the savages—and very often cannibals—of the South Pacific Islands. In Fiji, Tonga, Tahiti (these are not cannibals), New Hebrides, Solomon Islands (doubtful), I gave a lecture on the Chicago Exhibition with dissolving views, scenes, the stately homes of England, and so on, all deeply interesting to such an audience. They had no money, so for admission I took pearls, moonstones, sucking pigs, spears, grog-bowls, sharks' and whales' teeth, all of some value in the curio market. Incidentally, I was sending copy to a Melbourne newspaper.

"For the third time I visited Australia with a lecture—West's 'Our Navy'—and on my return undertook the teaching of elocution at the Guildhall School of Music—a most interesting and pleasant experience. But the fates have willed it that I am not to settle down yet, and I am off to Australia, India, China, and Japan again, under the auspices of Mr. Geo. Musgrove (with whom I have had many pleasant engagements in Australia) in a whole range of legitimate comic operas, not musical comedies—*Les Cloches de Corneville*, *Mme. Angot*, *Das Fliedermaus*, *Bohemian Girl*, and so on. To this visit I look forward with intense pleasure. The country is great and beautiful, the climate irreproachable, and the people whole-hearted and genuine."

Every admirer of Mr. Snazelle—and there are many—will be sorry to part with him, for besides being a most versatile artist, he has always played cricket, not only literally but metaphorically. His popularity was emphasised by the send-off concert which was given to him at St. James's Hall on the 24th ult., when many of the leading lights of the musical and dramatic world assembled to do honour to the occasion. We wish him God-speed on his travels. It may be added that Mr. Snazelle has permission to take up his duties at the Guildhall School of Music on his return.

MR. ESME PERCY.

As yet but on the threshold of his stage career, Mr. Esme Percy has little to record of his experiences and no views to express. Gratitude he has, and that "boundless as the sea." Mr. Percy is fain to admit that he is deeply and eternally grateful to Mrs. Brown Potter, Mr. F. R. Benson, Mr. William Poel, and Mr. Beerbohm Tree for having given him the opportunity of playing in the springtime of his life such superb parts as Romeo, Armand Duval, Shylock, Charles Surface, Macbeth, Orlando, Britannicus, Petruchio, and Hamlet. "Yes, thanks to them all," reiterates Mr. Percy enthusiastically, "and last—but, need I say it, not least?—my infinite gratitude to Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, the very source and spring of this stream of luck which has distinguished my stage years up till now. Of course, I am but human, and as such, am not satisfied yet. If my gratefulness is boundless as the sea, my greediness is as infinite as the firmament. I

MR. ESME PERCY.

wish to play all those wonderful parts again and again, and a host of others." Let us hope such a worthy desire will in course of time be gratified.

MISS EDYTH OLIVE.

America has gained the services of Miss Edyth Olive, who has journeyed across the Atlantic to take up Miss Margaret Auglin's rôle in *The Great Divide*. Miss Olive has had a noble welcome from New York audiences, and, as was confidently anticipated, her success has been great. Although a strongly emotional actress, the first hit of Miss Olive's career was scored in farce—*The New Wing*, in which she played Louisa Dexter at the Strand. Miss Olive subsequently undertook the lead in *The Broken Melody*, and a short season with Mr. F. R. Benson followed. Shakespearean drama gave her opportunities of proving her worth in tragedy, and she played Ophelia to the late Nutcombe Gould's Hamlet, Desdemona to Mr. H. B. Irving's Othello, Juliet, and Hermione; then in comedy, Rosalind, Viola, and Beatrice. Among modern characters her most successful interpretations have been Militza in *For the Crown*, Princess Flavia in *The Prisoner of Zenda*, Ishtar, *Daughters of Babylon*; Lady Marchant, *A Bunch of Violets*; Olive de Carteret, *Sporting Life*; Peg, *Masks and Faces*; Pauline, *Lady of Lyons*; Mrs. Borkman, *John Gabriel Borkman*; and leading heavies in many of the principal dramas. She created the rôle of Ygraine in the production of Maeterlinck's *Death of Tintagiles* at the Globe Theatre, in 1900. Then she waited until she was lucky enough to receive an offer from Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry to play Lady Castlemain in *Sweet Nell of Old Drury*, an impersonation which all who saw it will recall with pleasure. Among the most recent opportunities of witnessing Miss Olive's careful and talented work in London was that given at the Scala Theatre on April 12 last, when she gave a touching and eloquent portrayal of a Sister of Mercy in the Play Actors' production of *Hannele*. Miss Olive is the wife of Mr. Arthur Applin,

[*Photo by Whitlock Bros.*

MISS EDYTH OLIVE.

who, besides acting in the States, has received a commission to write a couple of plays for the American stage.

"FOR two years," writes Signor Alessandro Bonci in the *Mail* "I sang only vocal exercises, but with the utmost care, thinking with my teacher. At the end of three years I was singing little classical songs. I had come to a point of great importance—the comprehension of expression and enunciation; each individual word had its value, import, and colour, combining to make the reason for the existence of the song. Some have the mistaken idea that the songs of the great composers should be taken up early in the student's career, but before one can sing the old Italian songs as they should be sung one must be an artist. A great deal of harm is done by applying words before the tone is properly placed. First establish the proper production of the tone, which can only be done after two or more years' study."

A SHAKESPEARE COMMEMORATION.

For many years, writes Dr. Ralph Winnington Leftwich in the *Westminster Review*, Stratford has held an anniversary festival in honour of Shakespeare. And rightly so; for its illustrious citizen was born and educated, died, and was buried there. But, after all, the poet's working life was not passed there, nor did his genius develop there. It was in London that his genius developed; in London that he acquired his vast vocabulary of fifteen thousand words; in London that his wit sharpened itself against that of his fellow men; and in London that he gained that knowledge of practical stage-craft without which he might have failed as a playwright. The poet, in his journeys to the City, and, especially, to the Mermaid, no doubt frequently took boat; but often, too, must he have walked over the only bridge that then existed; the latter more particularly when accompanied by his friends Beaumont and Fletcher, who lived within a few yards of him. At the foot of London Bridge, the trio would pass a beautiful old church with a square tower. This church contained the tomb of the first English poet, Gower, and many a time must they have entered the building and gazed upon the memorial of their great forerunner. In 1607 Shakespeare's younger brother, Edmund, was buried there "with a forenoon knell of the great bell," and, judging from the amount of the fee paid, with much ceremony. Again, all three were doubtless present—certainly Shakespeare himself. The same year saw the interment of the poet Dyer; perhaps best known as the author of "Grongar Hill," and again it is likely that Shakespeare was amongst the mourners. The church in question was originally the Priory Church of St. Mary Overy, or St. Mary of the Bank (cf. the German *Ufer*, a bank). In 1540 it became the parish church, and was generally known as St. Saviour's. As such, it was Shakespeare's parish church. Indeed, in a straight line, it was less than 300 yards from the Globe Theatre. It is almost certain, therefore, that it was attended regularly by him.

Here, as has already been mentioned, our earliest poet, Gower, was buried, and the tomb showing his recumbent figure, with his three books beside him, has been a prominent feature for five hundred years. In addition, the two Elizabethan dramatists, Fletcher and Massinger, and the poet, Dyer, are all interred here, and windows have been put up to their memory.

Now, since the building with which Shakespeare was connected is ecclesiastical, there is only one form that a commemoration can take, namely, that of a special service in the cathedral. It is only with this that the writer is at present concerned. But he would be only too pleased if a water pageant could be added. Such a procession might go from Westminster to Bankside, where, on a platform formed of a number of barges, a rough reproduction of the Globe Theatre might be erected.

Perhaps that may come later; but let us in any case have the commemoration service next year.

About a month before Shakespeare Day, in this current year, the writer drew up a scheme similar to that which follows, and presented it to the notice of the Bishop of the diocese. It was discussed by his lordship with the Chapter, and received with considerable favour. Unfortunately, it was found that the time was too short for anything to be done this year, and the request was made that the scheme be brought before them again in the very beginning of the year 1909, fortified, if possible, by some expression of a desire for it from the outside.

This support the writer now seeks to obtain; and he solicits expressions of opinion from all lovers of the poet; but, especially, from those in active connection with literature and the drama, and from Shakespeare Societies in all parts of the world.

The following are the chief points of the scheme:—

1. That an anniversary Shakespearean service be held in Southwark Cathedral.
2. That the time for holding it be about four o'clock, so as to suit actors and actresses.
3. That the preacher be, if possible, a Shakespearean scholar, and the service be largely musical.
4. That for purposes of decoration, the flowers of Ophelia, combined with laurel, be employed, and that they take the form of ropes, wreaths and lyres; but not, as being too funereal, of crosses.
5. That the societies linking church and stage be asked to undertake the decorations.
6. That the offertory be given to the Cathedral Building Fund.

The Shakespeare Statue Committee has decided that the surplus, if any, shall be devoted to the promotion of the representation of Shakespeare's plays; but it will be found by no means easy to allocate the various sums without creating jealousy. The writer therefore suggests that it would be better to devote the surplus to the one London building associated with the poet—Shakespeare's old church.

THE late Augustin Daly used to tell the following story:—"Fleury, once the greatest of French comedians, when in his glory under the Empire, consented to play a part of but one scene, and in which he had but five words to speak—'Madame, your petition is granted.' It was that of an old seigneur, to whom an appeal is made by a poor woman whose husband is under arrest upon their wedding day. Fleury seemed to listen to her, at first with the indifference with which a nobleman usually receives the applications of such rude and ignorant peasants. Then all at once, struck with the dignity of her manner and sentiments, he fixed his eyes upon her, and while continuing to listen, as if by an instinctive, almost involuntary movement, his hand was raised by degrees to his hat, which he lowered before her as if mechanically. When the wife was done speaking the seigneur was in the attitude of respectful obeisance. The pantomime was so true, so delicate—it expressed so naturally the feeling of respect and surprise at finding the woman so superior to what she seemed—that the effect was electrical, and Fleury was greeted with the most tumultuous applause. The stock actor, who usually played the part, exclaimed 'See what reputation will do. Fleury gets three rounds of applause for just taking off his hat, while I never get a hand—and I don't believe that an old seigneur would take off his hat to a peasant woman anyhow!'"

AT a country theatre in the old "stock" days, a super who never before had had a speaking part, was cast for Catesby, in *Richard III.* He was exceedingly nervous, and forgot most of his lines, or "hashed" them up. When Catesby enters to Richard to announce Buckingham had been made prisoner, he said: "My liege, the Duke of Buckingham is taken prisoner, and *we've cut off his head!*" "Then," said Richard, in an aside to him, "stick it on again, you silly."

KEEPS THE SKIN COOL AND REFRESHED.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of the sun, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, heat irritation, tan, &c., and MAKES THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION. DELIGHTFUL if applied after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, tennis, playing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing after shaving. Bottles, 1s.; 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, June 29,
"HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW."

Large audiences have assembled at the Kennington Theatre this week to witness Miss Mary Austin and E. Vivian Edmonds's company in *He's a Jolly Good Fellow*. The play brims over with intensely tragic episodes, and the authors, Messrs. Arthur Shirley and E. Vivian Edmonds, have provided plenty of mirth. Mr. J. Milne Taylor as Lord Vernon, of Oakwood Hall, is a typical English nobleman; the part of Harold Vernon is admirably enacted by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds, who recently scored a big success in *Woman and Wine* at this theatre; Mr. Charles Aldred is responsible for the part of Vincent Vernon, which he handles in capital style; as Sampson, an artist's model, Mr. Richard A. Greene is a great favourite and is accorded an ovation; Mr. Riddell Robinson as the Baron Levertz is an ideal villain; Mr. Edwin T. Kisby as Bertie Splashington, Mr. Cyril Price Evans as Pierre Pasha, and Mr. Frank Sutherland as Jean Crac are excellent in their respective parts. The rôle of Hester Danvers is very ably sustained by Miss Mary Austin, whose skilful acting and charming personality won general admiration; the part of Marion Brooklyn finds a worthy exponent in Miss Dorothy Casey; Miss Ella Gillette is seen to advantage as Little Harold; Miss Winifred Williamson and Miss Hilda Gray give an excellent account of themselves as Lizette and Julia Flouflou respectively. All the minor parts are carefully handled. The elaborate scenery by Stanley Hohan and Charles Francotte leaves nothing to be desired, while the incidental music, written by George Melba, is very effective.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, June 29, the Drama, entitled
"THE LITTLE BREADWINNER."

Mr. J. A. Campbell's talented company is responsible for an excellent representation of the above-named drama here this week. Mr. H. B. Peppin plays in a masterly manner as the Quaker, Lord William Dorrington; Mr. Louis Lingard presents a finished performance as Richard Lawrence; and Mr. Alfred Maurice, as the oily, sneaking secretary, Joseph Prior, is to be commended for an admirable piece of acting. Mr. Sidney Lynn gives a bright and humorous impersonation of the bookmaker, Charles Prior. As Margaret Daventry Miss Emmie Barton is responsible for a sweet and sympathetic rendering; and Miss Clara Hunt is excellent as Bridget O'Flannaghan. Miss Gwen Stewart is seen to advantage as Kate Cherry; and Miss Kitty Melville is a taking Ruth. Miss Lizzie Young as Bobby Trott supplies a really clever study; and Miss Marjorie Lawrence as Megg, the little breadwinner, is an extremely capable child actress. She is also quite at home in song and dance, and fully deserves the royal reception accorded her. The minor characters are well cast, and the drama is well staged.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, June 29, the Drama entitled
"THE GOLDEN LADDER."

A large and enthusiastic audience assembled at this popular East-end house on Monday, when Messrs. George R. Sims' and Wilson Barrett's excellent drama *The Golden Ladder* was revived with great success. As the young missionary, the Rev. Frank Thornhill, Mr. Ashley Page was vigorous and incisive, while his love-making scenes with Lilian Grant were enacted with great fervour. Miss Marion Denvil made Lilian Grant a lovable character, playing with charm throughout, and displaying poignant grief in the prison scene. The villainous Michael Severn was impersonated by Mr. Walter Thornton in telling style; while the nervous tendency of the Greek adventurer, M. Peranza, was well suggested by Mr. Raymond Wood. Mr. Wilfred E. Shine made Samuel Peckaby stand out well in the picture by his homely rendering of the kind-hearted confectioner; and a clever character-sketch of the Tearer was presented by Miss Vibray Weaver. Jim Dixon, the defaulting clerk, was made the most of by Mr. Harry Brandon; Mr. Andrew J. Phillips was satisfactory as John Grant; and Noah Learoyd was performed by Mr. Bert Lloyd. Miss Nell Gilmore was a capable Mrs. Peckaby; and Victoria Alexandra was played well by Miss Mabel Lowe. The remaining parts in a long cast were competently filled by Mr. Herbert Conick, Mr. Robert Wilson, Mr. Fred Biron, Mr. Frederick Hill, Mr. Herbert Goddard, Mr. Arthur Fairfort, Mr. Geo. Godfrey, Mr. William Henry, Mr. Arthur Hyde, Miss Alice Dalmaine, Miss Annie Darville, Miss Florence Lauder, and Miss Bertha Hanbury. The scenery and effects were admirable, while the selection of music performed by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. V. Vorzanger, was admirably rendered.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, June 29, the Drama, entitled
"THE EXECUTIONER'S DAUGHTER."

Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy are presenting this week a capital play from the pen of Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson, which is highly appreciated by the patrons of this theatre, who are ever sensitive to dramatic situations, soul-stirring incidents, and the final triumph of right over wrong. Consequently, *The Executioner's Daughter*, being well mounted and fitted with an adequate cast, and containing, as it does, the afore-mentioned requirements, thoroughly fulfils its mission. Monsieur Roche, the Executioner of Paris, is very ably undertaken by Mr. Elmore Frith, who presents a good study of the part. Mr. Albert Guyon as the villainous Felix Marius maintains a strong hold of the audience, Mr. Edward Ouston does justice to the character of Paul Rovel. A clever impersonation is supplied by Mr. Fred Benton as Kretch; Mr. Frank Ayrton as Tom Holmes is amusing, and supplies a large amount of comic relief. Vivian Ormonde is well sustained by Mr. Fredk. Loyd. Miss A. Harrison Tate essays the rôle of Arnette, the Executioner's daughter, with distinction and charm, and receives every sign of approval; Miss Adelaine Raby gives a noteworthy performance as Felice; Christine, a cripple, finds a suitable representative in Miss Prudence Ayrton; while Miss Madge Seymour supports the character of Sally King with ability. Well-rendered assistance in minor parts is supplied by Mr. W. Wills, Mr. William Le Blanc, Mr. George Smith, Mr. Arthur Lloyd, Mr. Louis Scott, Mr. Edward Hill, Mr. James Abbey, Miss Flora White, and Miss Constance Stow.

THE LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, June 29,,
"LOST IN LONDON."

A crowded house on Monday last showed a keen appreciation of Mr. Bell's company in the above well-known drama. Mr. Arnold Bell himself undertook the character of Job Armroyd, and gave one of his well-known excellent studies; Mr. Fred Morgan, one of the best present-day "heavies," was particularly good as Gilbert Featherstone; Mr. E. C. Robson was effective as Sir Richard Loder; Mr. Tom Nye and Mr. G. Graham as Jack Longbones and Dick Raine were quite satisfactory, as also was Mr. F. Stanley as Noah Moorhead. Mr. Billy Ross was really good as Benjamin Blinker; and Mr. Jimmy Danvers was funny as Thomas. Miss Frances Campbell acted with much feeling and power as Nelly Armroyd; Miss Maisie Lawson did well as Teddy Draggletherpe; Miss Elaine Gibson and Miss V. Campbell as Mme. D'Alton and Florence were both good; and Mr. E. Bickham made a clever Jerry, the street Arab.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales witnessed the performance of *The Flag Lieutenant* at The Playhouse on Saturday.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held at 409, Strand, on Monday. Present: Mr. F. J. Arlton (in the chair), Messrs. Cecil Raleigh, J. Poole Kirkwood, Hayden Coffin, Edmund Gurney, Richard A. Greene, Cecil Brooking, Chris Walker, F. Annerley, C. F. Collings, Robson Paige, Misses Agnes Imlay, Lucy Sibley, Rose Mathews, and Mr. Hubert Blount, secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Letters from Miss Irma Fielden and Mr. K. Blackmore were read, and the secretary received instructions to write to Miss Fielden asking her to call and see Mr. Mote with a full statement of the facts. He was also instructed to inform Mr. Blackmore that the Council had the greatest possible pleasure in accepting the proposition, and suggesting that five members from each side should be elected to sit on the committee, that the chairman be elected alternately from the A.A. and A.U., and also that nothing passed at these committee meetings be binding on either side before it has come before the Council of the A.A. and the Committee of the A.U.

The Finance Committee's report was read and accepted.

Mr. Willie Atom and Miss Violet Graham were elected members.

The Council discussed the question of excluding members from the rooms of the Association who have not paid their subscriptions, and it was resolved, "That members should not be allowed to use the rooms until their subscriptions due are paid." It was decided to put up a notice to the effect "That on and after this date (July 1) members cannot be allowed to use the rooms until their subscriptions are paid." The secretary was also required to instruct the staff to ask each member for their tickets. On it being found that a member has not paid his or her subscription the secretary is to be notified and interview such member on the subject, and should the excuse be reasonable, the same is to be put before the Council.

Mr. Brooking gave notice of his intention to move the rescission of the resolution accepting the Socials Committee's report.

The Council instructed the secretary to make it known that 957 members had paid their subscriptions, that the balance at the bank was £161 18s. 3d., and that the rent had been paid for three months in advance, and to ask those members who still owed their subscriptions kindly to send same at once.

Miss Rose Mathews reported the result of the Scala matinée, and a vote of thanks was passed to her for the manner in which she had worked and the great interest she had taken in the matter. A vote of thanks was also passed to Mr. Adnam Sprange and to all the ladies and gentlemen who worked for the matinée.

It was decided to insure the staff against accidents, and the secretary was instructed to carry out the arrangements without delay.

The Council passed a vote of thanks to those ladies and gentlemen who kindly made a donation of the money paid by them for tickets for the Midsummer Ball.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, June 29, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley and Sutton Vane, entitled
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."

Hardie and Von Leer's company have been playing the above drama here during the week. The names of the joint authors are a guarantee of the excellence of the work. The plot is clear and cleverly worked out, and the writing smart and convincing. The production was warmly appreciated and followed to the end with interest flattering alike to authors and artists. Mr. Herbert Pearson gives a powerful and popular rendering of the character of John Edmunds; Mr. Chris. Mason is excellent as Samuel Hallett—his performance is intelligent and consistent throughout; Mr. E. Rayson-Cousins is gentlemanly and unexaggerated as the Reverend Frank Selby; Mr. Bernard Mervyn makes a hit in the part of Jonas Deane, which he plays capitally; Mr. Harry V. Mann is very good indeed as Edward Langley, Jonas Deane's junior partner; Mr. Harry Reynolds plays Jim Price excellently; and Mr. Walter Walmsley is good as Ratty Gabbit. Mr. Ronald Clive gives a good account of Police-sergeant Jellaby; and Dr. Gay is well represented by Mr. Dick Winslow. The two Lancashire lasses have charming representatives in Miss Rosslyn Vane (Constance) and Miss Alice Defoe (Nelly), who both look and act most pleasingly. Miss Margaret Trevosper proves herself an actress of ability and resource, and is well suited to the part of Bessie Edmunds, whose little daughter Lucy is prettily played by Miss Elsie Forester; while Miss Evelyn Shaw is responsible for a capital impersonation of Jane Adelaide Bloomfield. The play is well and appropriately mounted.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

Mr., or ought it not rather to be Master, Edward S. Mitchell came forward as a composer as well as a pianist at the Students' Concert given at the College on Monday evening. The two Preludes, MSS., No. 1 in D minor and No. 2 in A, showed much promise, the second proving by far the most attractive. Saint-Saëns's "O love! from thy power," was well sung by Miss Hilda Felstead, who got the best results out of solo when not attempting to force her voice. Miss Kate E. Daggs's pianoforte solo of Beethoven's Sonata in F sharp, Adagio—Allegro vivace, was much applauded; and Miss Alice Booth gave a very pleasing, even if somewhat timid, rendering of Spohr's song, "Rose softly blooming." Mr. Lorne Wallet was successful in Schumann's songs from the "Dichterliebe," "Aus meinen Thränen spriessen" being ably sung, while "Ich grolle nicht," the most popular of the seven songs, was delivered with considerable power and expression. Two pleasing songs (MSS.), "Forsaken" and "Sleep," written by Miss Mabel Pocock, were expressively sung by Miss Gertrude Wallis; and the programme concluded with a violin solo of Spohr's Scherzo, op. 135, No. 2, played by Mr. Aaron Saens.

"GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—*Re Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*, I note that Mr. Somerfield says in his letter that my original play *of Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* is as far removed from his "as are the poles."

Now I witnessed Mr. Somerfield's production at the Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool, on June 22, and I should like to point out that the following incidents were the same in that as my original play:—

The jewelled dagger for the hair with which Geoffrey Langdon is stabbed by his wife (in my drama it was his mistress); the heavy man sees the action, and henceforth holds the woman in his power; the cousin (in my case brother) comes from abroad, is bending over the dead body, when heavy man enters and accuses him of the murder; the old gentleman shakes the hero by the hand, and before everybody declares that *he* believes him to be innocent.—Yours faithfully,

NITA RAE.

T. R., Middlesbrough, June 30, 1908.

"THE GAY DECEIVERS," the new musical comedy which has been making records, both at Margate and Brighton, has been written by Frank Stanmore, Leslie Hawkins, and Mark Lester. The West End production will take place the third week in October.

ACTORS' UNION.

Mrs. Walter Bentley took the chair at the weekly meeting of the Actors' Union at Hummum's Hotel, on Tuesday. Amongst those present were Mr. J. H. Batson, Mr. Watty Brunton, Mr. Henry Bedford, Mr. George H. Child, Mr. Walter Clarke, Miss Florence Creagh, Miss Marie Clavering, Mr. James English, Mr. Fred Elvin, Miss Adelaide Gracey, Mr. Sydney N. Hallows, Mr. G. Beresford Innes, Mr. Frederick Jacques, Miss Maud Kirwan, Mr. Frederick F. Loyd, Mr. George P. Lester, Mr. Frank Litchfield, Mr. Carl Lyle, Mr. H. C. Momber, Mr. Royce Milton, Mr. William Macready, Mr. Henry W. Monte, Mr. Alfred Richards, Miss Millie Vere, and Mr. Richard J. Webster.

Mrs. Bentley, in an eloquent speech, touched upon most of the aims and objects of the Union, and mentioned the difficulty experienced by ladies receiving low salaries in providing modern dresses for the parts in which they appeared. Mrs. Bentley also laid stress on the need of payment for rehearsals and matinées, and said that the amateur element was killing theatrical business. People in the provinces had good local amateur clubs, and if they were only offered amateur acting at the theatres, they would prefer to see the performances of their own friends. One of the most interesting portions of Mrs. Bentley's speech was that in which she alluded to the advantage of being able to consult a Union specialist when ill. She had been suffering, she said, from neuritis, and, after being in the hands of several doctors, had at last gone to a Union doctor, who had soon put her right again. In this connection she suggested the formation of a convalescent home for members of the Union. She ended by reciting the verses "Unite!" which were sung at Miss Rose Mathews's Actors' Association benefit on the 25th ult.

Mr. Henry Bedford expressed his satisfaction at a non-member of the committee taking the chair, and said that the only difficulty with respect to her suggestion was want of funds. They were full of schemes, but short of cash. There were three kinds of bogus—the bogus actor, the bogus manager, and the bogus theatre. There were certain theatres in the provinces which were worked in collusion with bogus managers to the loss and distress of the actor and actress. These theatres were the cause of the other two sorts of bogus, and were really the worst of the three.

At the weekly committee meeting the following were present:—Messrs. Frank Gerald (chairman), Alfred M. Stapley, Henry Bedford, Orlando Barnett, H. Tripp Edgar, Cecil G. Calvert, Frederic F. Loyd, Paul Lovett, D. Lewin Mannering, Harry C. Momber, George P. Lester, Royce Milton, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

The Secretary was instructed to write and thank Mr. Frank Lindo for his letter containing the names of the bogus actors he complains of, and to inform him that the particulars have been filed for future reference.

The Committee have appointed Mr. Gordon Wilson, "Historic House," 16, Nile-street, Preston, the hon. secretary for that town, and members should communicate with him for particulars concerning meetings there.

The Hon. Solicitor was asked to communicate with a member with reference to a legal matter in which the member was interested.

The Secretary was instructed to communicate with the members of the Executive Committee on tour, and draw their attention to the amendment to Rule 7, which reads: "Members of the Executive Committee must communicate with the General Secretary of the Union at least once a month."

The Committee informed the members of the Union of the death of the Hon. Medical Officer for Barrow-in-Furness, Dr. J. K. Fell, which took place on Friday last at his residence, 6, Harley-street, Barrow-in-Furness. The cause of death was valvular disease of the heart, accelerated by asthma and dropsy.

Mr. H. Tripp Edgar will take the chair at the weekly meeting of the Actors' Union, to be held at Hummum's Hotel, Covent Garden, W.C., on Tuesday, July 7, at 2.30 p.m.

MANCHESTER.

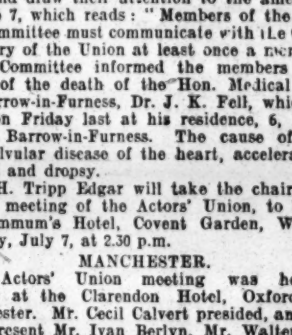
An Actors' Union meeting was held on Sunday at the Clarendon Hotel, Oxford-street, Manchester. Mr. Cecil Calvert presided, and there were present Mr. Ivan Berlyn, Mr. Walter Longford, Mr. Norman A. Overton, Mr. Tom Bowron, Mr. Ernest H. Clarke, Mr. Victor T. Raymond, Mr. Reg. Oldroyd, Mr. Charles Halling, Miss Alice Maund, Mrs. Sidney Halling, Mr. Fred Charles, Miss Marie Barrett, and Miss Marion Turner.

Mr. Cecil Calvert alluded to the success of the Actors' Union Agency, and said its Hon. Solicitor had won every case he had undertaken. He remarked on the want of enthusiasm in "bogus" actors, and said the superior manager did not rely on pictorial advertisements.

Miss Marion Turner and Mr. Fred Charles joined the Union

The Secretary invites any member visiting Manchester who is willing to take the chair at next Sunday's meeting, to communicate with him at 226, Victoria-square, Oldham-road, Manchester.

A NEW idea of an artistic and ingenious character is taking shape in the latest beauty competition that has been set on foot by the proprietors of Odol. It is really a "beauty and art" competition, and offers interesting scope for attitude, pose, and expression as well as for beauty of feature. The prizes are all cash prizes, and range as follows:—1st prize, £50; 2nd prize, £20; 3rd prize, £10; and 30 prizes of £1 each; in addition to which a large number of consolation prizes will be given. It was indeed a happy thought to associate a beauty-conferring preparation like Odol—the world's dentifrice, as it is



everywhere called—with a competition of this description. The flask of Odol, which has to be shown in every competing photograph, will serve as an inspiration for many attractive posings, and give just the kind of incentive that will, in the majority of cases, ensure a good result. The awards of the judges will be based on the general beauty of the competitors, with special reference to the beauty of the mouth and teeth and on the effectiveness of the pose as regards the introduction of the Odol flask. The competition is open to all, without entrance fees, and Sept. 30 is the closing day for the competition.

THE Queen paid a private visit to the White City, Shepherd's Bush, on Tuesday, and made a tour of the exhibition.

THE SOCIETY OF YOUTHFUL PLAYERS.

The newly-formed association, known as the Society of Youthful Players, gave a matinée performance at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, on Friday, the 26th ult. Two new plays were produced, both written by lady members of the Society, and, taking into account that the age of the authors is only seventeen, their efforts in the difficult art of playwriting were decidedly praiseworthy, and showed promise of future distinction.

The programme opened with a one-act play by Marguerite Adamson, entitled

"AN APRIL FOOL."

Alamanda Sniffkins..MISS MARGUERITE ADAMSON
Liza Smith .....MISS MIRABEL HILLIER
Harry Maynard .....MR. VALENTINE GLYNN
Richard Browning .....MR. J. L. DALE

Early one spring morning Harry Maynard pays a visit to Mr. Richard Browning's flat, but that young gentleman is not at home. He, however, awakens from her slumbers Alamanda Sniffkins, a maid servant, who, being quite young, and no doubt a regular reader of the penny novelette, has not yet quitted in her journey through life the realms of romance. Harry picks up the morning newspaper, and is reminded that it is the 1st of April. At once he decides to have his little joke—and at the expense of the romantic Alamanda. He tells her that his friend Richard has fallen in love with her, and is about to ask her to become his wife. Alamanda is naturally overjoyed at the prospect of being the future Mrs. Richard Browning, and the guileless maiden never once doubts the truth of the story. When her friend, Liza Smith, calls, she with great gusto imparts the joyous news to her. On the return of Richard to his abode, the gushing Alamanda is not slow in revealing her hitherto hidden love for the young man she now regards as her "intended." Richard laughs heartily at the idea of a union with the "slavey," and speedily dispels her visions of marital bliss; but it is no fun to poor Alamanda to be made the victim of a 1st of April joke. Her disappointment is so keen that, left alone, the unhappy little "slavey" is heard sobbing aloud as the curtain falls. The authoress, Miss Marguerite Adamson, who also produced the piece, played her part exceedingly well as the romantic Alamanda; Miss Mirabel Hillier was also good in the rôle of Liza Smith; and the young men, Harry Maynard and Richard Browning, had capital representatives in Mr. Valentine Glynn and Mr. J. L. Dale.

The curtain-raiser was followed by what was described on the programme as Miss Mirabel Hillier's "first offence," in three acts, entitled

"PEGGY DOYLE."

Peggy Doyle .....MISS MARGUERITE ADAMSON
Mrs. Osbourne .....MISS GRACE SHEFFIELD
Milly Osbourne .....MISS ALEX VERCESI
Kitty Osbourne.....MISS GLADYS MACKADAM
Miss Johnson .....MISS MARY WILSON
Laura Grennall .....MISS MIRABEL HILLIER
Jack Davies .....MR. VALENTINE GLYNN
Tom Osbourne .....MASTER JACK HOBBS
Hugh Osbourne .....MR. HERBERT DARRAN

Peggy Doyle, the heroine of the play, is a young girl, who, on leaving school, is cordially welcomed as a visitor at the home of her mother's old friend, Mrs. Osbourne. Her son, Hugh, however, is not so pleased when he hears of the new arrival, holding the modern school girl somewhat in contempt. His particular hobby is photography, and when his young brother, Tom, carelessly drops Hugh's new camera, seriously damaging it, that mischievous youth foresees trouble. But Peggy generously takes all the blame upon herself, whereupon Hugh loses his temper, and calls her a "little beast," a remark which Peggy overhears, and very naturally strongly resents. Miss Johnson, the prim and exceedingly plain schoolmistress, who has charge of Mrs. Osbourne's three children, sets her cap at Hugh, and does her best to keep him and Peggy apart. She even goes so far as to spread the story that Hugh is engaged to another lady; but that young gentleman has by this time learnt that his brother broke the camera, and also makes the discovery that he is really in love with Peggy. Finding the girl in tears after hearing the news of his supposed engagement, the lovers speedily come to an understanding, and as they fondly embrace Master Tom snapshots them. At the conclusion the authoress had a special call. The most amusing and natural character in the piece was the school-boy, Tom, played with much vivacity and evident enjoyment by Master Jack Hobbs, his sarcastic remarks concerning his teacher, Miss Johnson, caused frequent merriment. Miss Marguerite Adamson was bright and pleasing as Peggy; Miss Mary Wilson gave a neat and telling sketch of Miss Johnson; the young couple, Jack Davis and Laura Grennall, were ably embodied by Mr. Valentine Glynn and the authoress of the play; Mr. Herbert Darran as Hugh and Miss Grace Sheffield as Mrs. Osbourne both deserve favourable mention; and the children, Milly and Kitty, were charmingly represented by Miss Alex Vercesi and Miss Gladys Mackadam. Miss Hillier was responsible for the production of the play. During the intervals Miss Alice M. Cox sang several songs in good style.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, June 29, the Play, by Frank M. Thorne, entitled,
"THAT WOMAN FROM FRANCE."

Miss Blanche St. Albans, with the members of her most efficient company, is presenting the play, *That Woman from France*, at the Dalston Theatre this week. The many exciting incidents, the deep thread of interest, and the general excellence of the acting serve to provide an entertainment in every way calculated to rivet the attention of those who like to follow an engrossing story. Miss Blanche St. Albans undertakes the trying part of Camille Nicholl, a woman who possesses a special attraction for men, but only to fleece them, and then to glide off in search of other victims. While amazed by the cruel nature of the character, an audience cannot fail to admire the histrionic abilities of the actress delineating it. Cecil Charrington, the specially-selected victim of Camille, has such a genial representative in Mr. Lester Langham that spectators feel really glad to find that the pleasant-mannered young millionaire eventually gets quite clear of the snares so artfully laid for him by the sorceress, and is free to marry the sweet and amiable Beryl Stancliffe, a character most pleasingly presented by Miss Jeanie Weston. The audience cannot fail to sympathise with John Beaumont, the actual husband of Camille, who years before had been tricked into marrying the arch-schemer, and the way in which Mr. T. B. Brabazon plays the part helps to secure the goodwill of the onlookers. Mr. J. Leicester Jackson, as Phillip Charrington, plays the gentlemanly villain admirably. The funny man of the piece is Latimer Louder, whose capacity for consuming liquor is not always equalled by his success in obtaining the necessary funds for the necessary soothing lotion. This decidedly amusing character is admirably played by Mr. Fred Hodson. Mr. W. B. Somerville as Sir Edmund Charrington, Mr. Charles Robson as a lawyer, Miss Madge De Halle as Martha Williams, and Miss Peggie E. Yeoman as Winnie Williams, each do well in parts allotted them in the cast, which also includes Mr. Robert Ellis, Mr. George Parkhurst, and Miss Edith Devant.

A YOUTH named John Benyon was charged at Bow-street Police Court on Thursday with having been found on the roof of the Green Room Club for a supposed unlawful purpose, and was bound over to come up for sentence if called upon. The prisoner, it was stated, had been affected by the reading of "penny dreadfuls."

"THAT LITTLE AFFAIR AT THE BOYDS'."

A Modern Comedy, in Four Acts, by William Gillette, produced at the Columbia Theatre, Washington, on June 15.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

"Gillette is English now," said a New York newspaper in describing this new comedy by the well-known actor and dramatist, whose pen has hitherto been chiefly devoted to plays that were American in scene and subject. The reason of this remark is to be found in the fact that Mr. Gillette's latest effort is a story of life in London, the scenes being laid in Bloomsbury. The plot is interesting and unusual. Kitty Cameron, an actress, wishing to render a service to her sweetheart without his knowledge, enters his lodgings in Bloomsbury disguised as Ticey, a Cockney servant girl. This part was to have been played by Miss Cecilia Loftus, but, unfortunately, she was taken ill on the eve of the production, and Miss Mary Ryan took her place. The action of the play revolves around the efforts of Kitty to preserve her secret and at the same time accomplish her mission. The complications are exceedingly diverting, and, in addition to providing some clever passages of comedy, the author tells a pretty love story. In the third act occurs a dramatic climax, which is totally unexpected.

The first act takes place in a restaurant, where a number of stage people forgather. Among them is Kitty Cameron, a successful star. Hither also comes the young playwright, Stephen Boyd, to see Mr. Halliday, a theatrical manager, only to be assured once more that his plays are too poetic—that people do not talk like that in real life. Boyd is desperately hard up. With his mother and sisters dependent upon him he has grown poorer and poorer until they are in want. In the words of H. Montagu Wedgeley, played most amusingly by Mr. Dallas Welford, "He doesn't get enough to eat, by Jove!"

Kitty Cameron sees Boyd, and recognises him as an old friend, and from their conversation we gather that he has long been in love with her. She sees that he needs help; sees also that he is too proud, or perhaps too sensitive, to accept it, and when he has gone she conceives the idea of going to the house where he lives with his mother and sisters, and serving as a scullery-maid in order to be near him, and in the hope of being able to help him.

The second act is laid in the home of the Boyds, and shows Kitty in her new character and environment, cleverly disguised and grasping her first opportunity to be of service to her friend. Ticey is a typical unkempt, smudge-faced "slavey," who stumbles and breaks things in her awkwardness. Watching her, one's laughter is in danger of being changed to tears. The situation requires clever mimicry and sympathetic acting by the central character, for, in spite of her apparent ignorance and *gaucherie*, Ticey contrives to gain her ends by showing Stephen how to improve those passages in his play which the manager has pronounced impossible. To do this she pretends to believe that the characters in the play are real beings, but underlying this pretence is the earnestness of a woman who is familiar with life and love, and knows how to handle her subject.

The third act shows the practical results of Ticey's advice and assistance. The play in its revised form is accepted, and during this act the interest of the play is intensified by the sensational escape of Kitty Cameron from an actor, a member of her company, who is infatuated with her, and threatens to betray her secret.

The office of Manager Halliday is the scene of the last act. The play has been produced, and has proved a big success. Kitty, who has played the principal part, comes to a happy understanding with the lover for whom she has worked so hard. As yet he does not recognise her as Ticey, his good angel. But he is likely to know ere long, as she tells him "There is something I want to say to you some time."

As Kitty Cameron Miss Mary Ryan fulfilled all the requirements of an exacting rôle, and her performance was highly praised. Mr. Frederick Lewis as Stephen Boyd, Miss Jeffreys Lewis as Mrs. Boyd, Mr. Joseph Brennan as Manager Halliday, Mr. Frank Craven as Thomas Burnett, Mr. Robert V. Ferguson as Philippe, a waiter, and Mr. Frederick Hand as Willie Quayle acquitted themselves well in their respective rôles. The play was produced under the joint-management of Messrs. William A. Page and Winchell Smith. Its success in Washington makes it highly probable that it will meet with a favourable reception when it reaches London in the early autumn.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Verdi's powerful opera *Otello* was revived at Covent Garden on Wednesday night, and attracted a large audience. Since Tamagno, who was so ably supported by M. Maurel as Iago, gave his forcible impersonation of the hero, tenors seem to have avoided so strenuous a part, and no doubt this is the main cause why so fine a work as *Otello* has not for years been performed at Covent Garden. Mr. Zenatello, who for the first time played the Moor, was most unfortunately out of voice, for which an official apology was made later in the evening; in spite of this, the fine artist, however, gave so masterly a reading of the dramatic side of the character, and sang the music with such artistic feeling and expression, that on a more fortunate occasion the title-rôle in *Otello* will be considered one of his most striking performances. Mme. Melba has appeared as Desdemona before, and the part is one that suits her to perfection. Being in superb voice on Wednesday, Mme. Melba sang the "Ave Maria" and "Willow Song" with the utmost charm, and by her refined and finished acting made the Moor's unhappy wife a most interesting personality. If not quite so intensely dramatic an Iago as some who have played the part, Mr. Scotti certainly sang the music admirably, his rendering of the "Credo" being a fine example; while as an actor Mr. Scotti always displays marked intelligence. Mme. Edna Thornton made an excellent Emilia; while Mr. John McCormack as Cassio and Messrs. Marcoux, Zucchi, and Crabbé, in the parts of Lodovico, Roderigo, and Montano, completed a fine cast. The beautiful scenery, excellent chorus and orchestra, also lent the fullest attraction to a most important and interesting revival. Mr. Campanini conducted.

"THE following," says the *Weekly Despatch*, "is a list of the more prominent actresses who have found husbands while acting in Mr. Seymour Hicks's musical comedies, which have come to be regarded as admirable matrimonial agencies:—Miss Camille Clifford, married the Hon. Lyndhurst Bruce, heir to Lord Aberdare; Miss Eva Carrington, married Lord de Clifford; Miss Barbara Deane, married Mr. Basil Loder, of the Coldstream Guards; Miss Madge Hodgkinson, married Mr. Paul Joseph Grisewood; Miss Jeannie Bateman, married Mr. Mervyn Dene. The Aldwych Theatre has now become established as a kind of marriage agency of stageland, although the playhouse is only a few years old. Mr. Seymour Hicks has had the rôle of Cupid thrust upon him, so to speak. When asked recently for an explanation of the demand for brides from the Aldwych he laughingly admitted that he 'could think of no excuse to offer.' 'The young ladies,' he added, 'come here presumably to act. If they get married, how can I help it? They take their choice. Some of them become actresses, some brides, some both. I believe that most of the marriages with which the Aldwych has been concerned have been true love matches. Anyhow, I have heard of no disagreements.'"

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, June 25.—"L'Ecran Brisé," a one act comedy by M. Henry Bordeaux, has been brought out at the Comédie-Française. Mme. de Monrevel has lost her life in a motor-car accident, and her sister, Mme. Marthe Chenevray, promises the distracted husband to take charge of his little daughter. A visitor is announced, Pierre Emagny, who was absent from Paris when the accident occurred. He tells Marthe that he was her sister's lover, and that his letters to his mistress are in a drawer of her writing table. The departed woman's memory must not be assailed, and he asks Marthe to take possession of these letters. Unfortunately M. de Monrevel has the key of that drawer, and Marthe takes a heroic resolve. She informs her brother-in-law that she has carried on a guilty intrigue with Pierre, and begs him to restore to her these letters that were addressed to her. But her pious lie has consequences for which she was not prepared. M. de Monrevel refuses to entrust his little girl to a woman who committed adultery, whereupon Marthe loses her presence of mind and exclaims, "Oh, I did not foresee that!" De Monrevel understands at once what has occurred, and realises Marthe's sacrifice. Marthe will now retain the custody of the child, and the husband kneels down before the portrait of his wife, whom he knows but too well he has also wronged. Mme. Bartet was admirable in the rôle of Marthe. The difficult part of the husband had been entrusted to M. Jacques Fenoux. Very simple in the beginning, that character becomes complex towards the end, and required a lighter touch than that clever actor could impart.

MLLE. DAULNAY, of music hall renown, has won her suit against the managers of the Concert-Européen. She had been engaged to impersonate the Commère in a revue, and, as usual, a clause had been entered into the contract allowing her £200 damages in case her services would not be required. The revue was launched, and Mlle. Daulnay had a rôle wherein she was described on the bill as a "commère," but it was a blind. She only appeared in the prologue, and in the next tableau another lady impersonated the Commère. The irate artist then refused to work under these conditions, and sued the management of the Concert Européen, who have been condemned to pay the lady the stipulated sum.

THE only theatres that will remain open here during the summer are: The Opéra, the Comédie-Française, the Nouveautés, the Porte-Saint-Martin, the Palais-Royal, the Folies-Dramatiques, Déjazet, and, probably, the Sarah-Bernhardt. The Opéra-Comique will close at the end of this month, likewise the Trianon Lyrique. The Athénée and Antoine will remain open till the middle of July.

PARIS, THURSDAY, JULY 1.—The great musical event at the Opéra during the coming season will be the production of *Le Crépuscule des Dieux*, a title I prefer to *Die Goetterdämmerung*, which sounds like hard swearing. In the course of a conversation I had with M. P. Broussan, before that gentleman had officially been appointed director of the Opéra, he grew quite excited, and said that he intended to engage the very best artists, so as to do honour to the work. And his choice, not unnaturally, fell on Mme. Litvinne for the principal rôle. But, alas! it is M. Broussan who proposes, and Mme. Cosima Wagner who disposes. That good lady issued an ukase, stating that the part should be entrusted to Mlle. Grandjean. Far be it from me to underrate the talent of the latter lady, whom we are always happy to applaud. For all that, there can be no doubt that Mme. Litvinne is better suited for that particular rôle. This Mme. Cosima Wagner knows very well; and the question arises why she should have taken up this extraordinary attitude. Does she want to imitate her Imperial master, and meddle with everything? She has the law on her side. She can compel the Paris Opéra management to engage the artists of her choice, and, in case of non-compliance, forbid them to produce the work. But Mme. Cosima should remember that MM. Messager and Broussan have at the present moment a difficult task to perform, and that such interference may prove prejudicial to their interests. Unfortunately the lady has inherited a famous name, wielding a big power as far as her late husband's works are concerned, and, no doubt, the temptation is very great to assert this power. This may be very human, but it savours of bullying.

WHILST we are on the subject of the Opéra, I may mention that the following novelties will be produced in the course of next season:—*Bacchus* (a sequel to *Ariane*), by MM. Catulle Mendès and Massenet; *Rhamses*, by MM. Paul Vidal and Camille de Sainte-Croix; *La Forêt*, by MM. Laurent Taillade and Savard; *Le Miracle*, by MM. Georges Hue and Gheus; to which list may be added *Pénélope*, on which M. Gabriel Fauré is still busy, and two ballets, one by MM. Catulle Mendès and Raynaldo Hahn, the other by MM. Aderer and Salvayre.

"LA FOI" is the title of a new play by M. Brieux, for which M. Saint-Saëns is writing the incidental music. The scene of the work is laid in Egypt, in the prehistoric times, and describes the death struggle of an old creed. As far as I know, the author has not yet found a manager anxious to produce it.

M. ALFRED CAPUS is finishing his new four-act comedy, which M. Guitry has accepted for the Renaissance. The principal rôles will be interpreted by M. Lucien Guitry, Mlle. Eve Lavallière, and Mlle. Andrée Mégard. It bears the title of *L'Oiseau Blessé*, because Mlle. Lavallière will recite therein Lafontaine's well-known fable.

SOME time ago we took the Société des Auteurs to task for having refused to pay Moussorgsky's heirs a royalty on *Boris Godounow*, on the grounds that in Russia no authors' rights are granted to French dramatists. *The Era* was the first to raise its voice against a proceeding savouring of the Middle Ages, and I am happy to see that others share our views. One of our confrères expresses itself very strongly. He writes that if such a system of reprisals were allowed, we would be justified to rob or murder a Russian travelling through France, because a French traveller had been set upon by robbers journeying through Russia. And, with perfect reason, he adds, that if the great Society had the intention of despoiling Moussorgsky's heirs of their dues, it was their duty to give these gentlemen formal notice of this *before* the first performance, instead of collecting something like £1,000 and then coolly sticking to it.

THERE is a firmly-rooted belief here in theatrical circles that the best English plays never see the footlights, because the Examiner of Plays rejects everything he does not understand, which, we are told, happens but too often. It is impossible for us on this side of the Channel to say in how far this statement is true. We know absolutely nothing of the English "Anastasie," except that the production of *Mona Vanna* was sternly forbidden because the heroine put on a cloak to cover her nakedness. The said cloak covered every inch of the lady's body, but she had no underwear, not even a chest-protector, and "Anastasie-on-Thames" took fright at this. A young Russian author, however, professes to known more than we do. According to him, these rejected plays constitute an immense répertoire of masterpieces that would enrich any impresario daring enough to produce them. And as we have slaughtered and buried our censor, he considers Paris an ideal place to bring out these rejections. Moreover, what with the *entente cordiale* and the desire of every Frenchman to learn English, the venture, he thinks, is bound to be profitable, inasmuch as he will have the support of every right-thinking Frenchman, without reckoning the members of the English colony in Paris, which is an important one. I am sorry to have to dispel this ambitious youth's illusions. The *entente*, certainly, has done an immense deal of good, but the number of English-speaking Frenchmen is much smaller than the young Russian imagines. The movement to learn English has only just begun, and it is the little French boys and girls who are the victims of the new craze. If you want to convince yourself of this, you have to but go for a walk in the Bois de Boulogne, near the lake, on the spot where the foreign governesses promenade their charges, and hear them startle the frogs in their attempts to express themselves in a strange idiom. Then there is the English colony. But these, too, are not to be relied upon as regards supporting an English theatre. They are honest, hard-working, highly respectable, but without means. Those holding the best positions are the agents or representatives of big London firms. They live in the suburb of Neuilly, among themselves, and rarely go to the theatre. Their means do not allow it. The others—mechanics, compositors, &c.—form the bulk of what is called the English colony. When *Peter Pan* was given it was quite a different matter. The fact of an entire company coming over from London to give a performance on a Paris stage imparted a prestige to the affair, and many French society men went to the Vaudeville to see the charming English actresses, about whom the papers had already written glorious accounts. An English theatre in Paris, however, cannot be a financial success, even if the American colony here came to the resuce. The latter have plenty of money, but, as an audience, are unreliable. The idea of attempting such a venture may possibly also come to others, for which reason I may be excused for expressing my views freely on this matter.

M. HENRI MARECHAL'S delightful ballet, *Le Lac des Aulnes*, will be revived at the Opéra, where a few months ago it scored such a huge success.

MR. ALBERT WARD.

THE PRODIGAL SON AND STAGE-MANAGER, MR. GEORGE D. DAY'S CO.

Mr. Albert Ward is a finished actor, with a fine presence and elocutionary powers, such as one nowadays rarely meets with on the stage.—The People, Feb. 1, 1903.

The diction of Mr. Albert Ward is admirable. His voice sounds like a bell. His every word is of perfect coinage. Even the long breath speeches of melodrama become poetic on his lips. Mr. Benson might have trained him. He will make his mark in Shakespeare.—J. T. Grein, Esq., the famous critic, Sept. 15, 1903.

EARLY DELIVERY.

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—

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"IT was fairly general in Garrick's time," says Mrs. Clement Parsons, "for a dramatist to publish his play in book form simultaneously with its stage appearance, a practice which soon afterwards fell into disuse, till revived of recent years. £100 to £150 was the sum the bookseller-publisher gave for copyright. The profits of the third, sixth, and ninth, or third, *eighth*, and ninth nights (when the piece was so fortunately long-lived), constituted—after deducting a charge of £73 10s. for the use of the house—the author's payment from the theatre. Compared with the current rates for other literary work, a successful dramatist drew a real prize in the lottery, and we can scarcely be surprised at the desperate manner in which *strugforlifeurs* endeavoured to get their productions popularised by the prince of players. It should, *per contra*, be mentioned that acting rights were practically unknown. Failing a printed (or a purloined) copy, any poor devils in the country theatres could vamp a new play they had seen or played in, and even call it by the name of the original."

A NEW JULIET.

Flowers and compliments innumerable were bestowed upon Miss Leah Bateman-Hunter, the grand-daughter of the veteran actress and teacher, Miss Bateman (Mrs. Crowe), on the occasion of her début on Monday afternoon at the Kingsway in the part of Juliet. The performance was given in aid of the Royal Dental Hospital, Leicester-square, and was under the patronage of the Duchess of Norfolk, the Lord Chief Justice, and other distinguished people. *Romeo and Juliet* was given without scenery on a draped stage, and as there were occasional cuts, and no synopsis of the scenes provided, a pleasing uncertainty prevailed throughout as to what was coming next. The representation was, however, very enjoyable, and an enthusiastic audience was lavish in applause. Miss Bateman-Hunter, who was thus put to one of the most exacting tests in the whole range of drama at the early age of sixteen, quite fulfilled the promise of her earlier appearances, and gave a rendering of Juliet marked by intelligence and keen perception. She has the youth and freshness of such inestimable value in the rôle, eloquently expressive features, and a voice of silvery sweetness, which enabled her to speak the lines with grace and fluency. There were times when the resources of the young actress were overtaxed by the arduous nature of the rôle, and she lapsed into indistinctness, but those periods were rare and were fully atoned for by the excellence of other phases of her rendering. The passion of the potion episode was less intense than might be wished, but in the preceding scene, when she learns of her lover's banishment, the sense of hopelessness and despair was acutely conveyed. It was an altogether admirable performance alike as a feat of memory, a study of character, and an elocutionary effort, reflecting throughout the artistic training of Miss Bateman (Mrs. Crowe), under whose care the young actress has graduated. Romeo was played by Mr. E. Harcourt Williams, and was an interesting performance, pleasing by reason of its romantic colouring and varied though occasionally affected intonation. Romeo's professions of love were marked by much fervour, and particular admiration was aroused by the fire he infused into his encounter with Tybalt; while his subsequent scenes were rendered pathetically impressive. Mr. Doré Lewin Mannering's buoyancy and animation as Mercutio quite overcame a somewhat sinister appearance, and an irritating Mephistophelian chuckle. He delivered the witty sentiments of Mercutio with an evident appreciation of their humour, but in the momentous episode preceding his death he was certainly at his best, acting with a fire and determination that carried the audience with him. The performance enjoyed the advantage of having Miss Bateman in the part of the Nurse, with the result that the rôle was rendered with an ease and finish that was not only good for the character but encouraged the players with whom she was chiefly associated. The humour of the part was less fully elaborated than is sometimes the case, but in the dramatic phases of the rôle Miss Bateman's tragic gifts were exercised with telling effect. Mr. George Fitzgerald made a dignified figure of Capulet, and delivered his lines with imposing sonority; and Montague was well played by Mr. F. Howard Lewis. Mr. Herbert Grimwood's Friar Lawrence suggested power and subtlety rather than beneficence; Mr. E. H. Brooke's Benvolio was in all respects satisfactory; and Mr. Henry Le Grand as Tybalt acquitted himself with every credit. Mr. Cecil Yapp had fewer opportunities than are usually given to the part of Peter, but he managed to make him amusing, and there was some character in his impersonation of the Apothecary. Mr. F. D. Arundel played the Prince of Verona, whose scenes were chiefly enacted "off"; and Mr. Frank Randell was a comely and courteous Paris. Miss Muriel Currey was a duly imperious Lady Capulet, Miss Josephine Middleton was responsible for Lady Montague, and the duties of Chorus were ably undertaken by Miss Isabel Merson. A hearty welcome awaited Mrs. Crowe's first appearance, and the applause, which was frequent and hearty throughout, was warmly renewed at the close.

"WHERE WOMAN LOVES."

A Dramatic Episode, in One Act, by M. Cozens, produced, for the first time on any stage, at the King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester, on Thursday, June 25.

Hon. Edward Saville ..... MR. TOM RONALD
Sam Merilles ..... MR. GEORGE LANGDON
Bertha Dennison ..... MISS ADA ROSCOE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The scene of this effective little drama is Bertha Dennison's flat, and the action begins with Bertha's refusal of an offer of marriage made to her by the Hon. Edward Saville, intimately known as "Teddy." Bertha loves him, but realises that her past life has been too shady to allow her to become his wife. In his disappointment he makes a sudden attempt to shoot himself, but she is quick enough to prevent the act, and turn his impulse aside. At this juncture Sam Merilles, one of her old associates, is heard outside, and Bertha decides to test her lover's sincerity by allowing him to hear the interview desired by Sam. Concealed behind a screen, the Hon. Edward learns that Bertha—now, by the way, a music hall star—has not only been the associate of thieves, but has herself served six months in gaol. The blackmailing Merilles departs, and the Hon. Edward shows himself again. The disclosures have been too much for him; he mumbles lamely about his family, and retires from the situation with as much grace as he can summon to his aid. Bertha, probably realising that nothing else could come of it, unless "Teddy" were a fool, and that her own redemption through love of him is now impossible, hysterically seizes upon the weapon he has left behind, and turns it upon herself. The shot brings "Teddy" back, just in time to obtain her forgiveness for his rather heartless renunciation. The acting was good throughout. Miss Ada Roscoe put life and emotion into her embodiment of Bertha Dennison, and was particularly good in the scene with Merilles; Mr. George Langdon acted in a telling style the dramatic rôle of Merilles; and Mr. Tom Ronald scored quite satisfactorily with the less strenuous material at his disposal in the part of the Hon. Edward. The piece was received with every mark of favour.

ONE evening, when Weston was announced to play Scrub and Garrick Archer, in the course of the day he sent to Mr. Garrick in a letter requesting a loan of money, as he was continually in the habit of doing, under the impression that he was arrested. This Garrick at last discovered, and in consequence refused sending at that time what Weston had requested; upon which the latter neglected going to the theatre at his usual time; and when the hour of performance arrived, Garrick came forward and said as follows:—"Ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Weston being taken suddenly ill, he is not capable of appearing before you this evening; and therefore, if it meets your approbation, I will perform the part of Scrub in his stead." Weston being in the two-shilling gallery with a sham bailiff, hallooed out, "I am here, and can't come; I am arrested." Upon which the audience sided with Weston, by insisting he should play the part, which the manager was obliged to acquiesce in, by paying the supposed debt, to the no small mortification of David.

AN ENGLISH THEATRE IN BERLIN.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mme. Meta Illing's idea of establishing an English theatre in the German capital has been steadily growing for two years. That it is now rapidly approaching its realisation is due to several reasons, chief of which are the interest displayed in the undertaking by the Emperor, the indomitable energy of Mme. Illing, and—last, but not least—the ever-increasing need of a theatre of this description. "If I do not do it, somebody else will," has, no doubt, been one of the principal incentives to Mme. Illing's step. The English and American colonies in Berlin are very large, and hundreds of American and English people visit the city annually. The chief patrons, nevertheless, will probably prove the Germans, who are splendid English scholars, devoted to English literature, and always eager to extend their knowledge of the language.

Mme. Illing argues—and logically enough—that London has its German theatre, and many American cities support German theatres equally successfully. She has personally satisfied herself as to the welfare of the latter during her extensive tours in the United States, where she had her own company for a long time. It is Mme. Illing's firm determination to produce only "healthy and clean" plays, by English and American writers of note—modern ones for preference. She means to show—in contradistinction to the unfortunately prevailing mode in most Berlin theatres—that it is quite possible for a drama to be interesting, even thrilling, and to ennoble at the same time, without leaving a nasty taste in one's mouth.

Mme. Illing is herself an actress of note, having been a prominent member of the famous Lessing Theatre company at Berlin for some years. She has also toured the provinces with immense success. Among her principal rôles are Magda, Hedda Gabler, Nora, Rebecca West, Therese Raquin, and Mme. Sans-Géne. In the United States—where she gave all her rôles in English—she created the utmost enthusiasm everywhere.

Despite her histrionic triumphs, however, Mme. Illing does not anticipate acting in her own theatre, but will concentrate her efforts—for the present, at any rate—upon the art of management. She is busy at the present moment acquiring the rights of plays and engaging her company, which

[*Photo by Lundt.*

MME. META ILLING.

will consist of English and American artists. Plays by MM. Pinero, Sutro, and others.

As regards the building itself, nothing definite had been settled a short time ago, but a keen look-out was being kept for the best opportunity of obtaining a "ready-made" theatre. Whether one will be specially built depends naturally upon the success of the undertaking. The date of opening has yet to be fixed, but will probably be in late autumn, the commencement of the Berlin season. It is not at present in accordance with Mme. Illing's plans to remain permanently in Berlin, but only through the season proper, which extends from about October to April. The rest of the time she intends to go on tour with her company, visiting especially those cities where there are large English colonies, such as Dresden, Hanover, and Munich; or where the English language and customs are in vogue, such as Hamburg. A trip to Vienna is also not unlikely. Not only the Emperor and Empress, but the Crown Prince and Princess are most interested in the scheme, and many influential persons are giving their support to it. Communications will reach Mme. Illing if addressed care of *The Era* office.

BENJAMIN WEBSTER has, in his own graphic way, told of his first engagement. "I had heard that Mr. Beverley, of the Tottenham-street Theatre—now called the Queen's—the father of that great scenic artist who now wields the brush where dear Clarkson Stanfield once held sway, was about to open the Croydon Theatre for a brief season. I applied to him for walking gentleman. 'Full.' For little business and utility. 'Full.' For harlequin and dancing. 'Didn't do pantomime or ballet; besides, didn't like male dancers; *their* legs didn't draw.' For the orchestra. 'Well,' said he, in his peculiar manner, and with a strong expression which need not be repeated, 'why, just how you were a walking gentleman!' 'So I am, sir; but I have had a musical education, and necessity sometimes compels me to turn it to account.' 'Well, what's your instrument?' 'Violin, tenor violoncello, double bass, and double drums.' 'Well, by Nero!'—he played the fiddle, you know—'here, Harry' (calling his son) 'bring the double—so, I mean a violin—out of the orchestra.' Harry came with the instrument, and I was requested to give a taste of my quality. I began Tartini's 'Devil's Solo,' and had not gone far when the old gentleman said that would do, and engaged me as his leader at a guinea a week."

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"GELBSTERN,"

Grotesque, in Three Acts, by MM. Burg and Turszinski, produced at the Kammerspielhaus, June 26, 1908.

Bernius ..... HERR SIECK
Loewenherz ..... HERR MARX
Reingruber ..... HERR VON JACOBI
Moritz ..... HERR GOTTOWT
Bergmann ..... HERR SCHILDKRAUT
Doerwald ..... HERR HARTAU
Fränze ..... FRAULEIN OLLY
Rosalie ..... FRAULEIN RHODEN
Heta ..... FRAULEIN BIEL
Mieze ..... FRAULEIN WIMPLINGER
Knolle ..... HERR SCHUTZ
Frau Warnocke ..... FRAULEIN WIESE
Frau Krause ..... FRAULEIN KOHLER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, July 2.—There is much that is amusing in this new piece; the dialogue is neat, at times even witty, while the "situations" are comical, if impossible. Above all, the acting was so good that it is not to be wondered at that the audience waxed at times enthusiastic. Yet the failings are many and grave; in the first place, it is not easily credible that in order to succeed in any special branch of business it is necessary to be a villain, but this is what the authors would have us believe; secondly, coarseness prevails throughout; and, thirdly, the whole piece is too long. The special trade alluded to is Berlin "confection"—mantle and costume business. "Gelbstern" is Fränze Schott, a "trying-on" young lady in the establishment of Bernius and Co. The head of the firm is in love with her, but it is a fleeting and discreditable passion, and she is in love with Doerwald, the chief shop-walker. Doerwald, however, spurns her to woo Bernius' daughter, who has "gone wrong"; it is all one to him, this *faux pas*, as long as a marriage will promote his prospects. Fränze takes up, in despair, with the bagman Loewenherz, a merry pushing fellow, who is not true to her. She receives, however, 30,000 marks parting gift from the wealthy Bernius, and is independent, but is wooed now humbly by both Doerwald and Loewenherz (who have both been sacked by the chief), who see in her fortune a stepping stone to establishing themselves. At first obdurate, it appears probable she will relent towards one of them in the near future. The best character and the finest acted is a poor old Jewish agent, Bergmann, who has been honest, and consequently unsuccessful, all his life. Herr Schildkraut played the rôle magnificently.

THE Royal Opera summer season, which opens this week under the management of Herr Hermann Gura, is an event in the annals of Berlin. By an unprecedented act of courtesy—due alone to Herr Gura's high standing—the management of the Royal Opera has relinquished (for the two months' season) the rights of *Lohengrin*, *Tannhäuser*, and many other first-class works; and also placed at Herr Gura's disposal the entire *personnel*, scenery, and accessories of the Opera House proper. Several interesting novelties will be given in addition, such as Zumpe's *Sawitri*—which Herr Gura produced with much success at the Court Theatre, Schwerin—Schilling's *Moloch*, and Cherubini's *Water Carrier*, which is little known here. Among the soloists are to be Frau Lilli Lehmann, Mesdames Prevosti, Bellincioni, Langendorff (from the New York Metropolitan), Metzger, Burchardt, MM. D'Audrade, Giesen, Wittekopf, Siewert, and other well-known artists. The chorus of fifty persons is selected from the Royal Operas of Berlin, Schwerin, and Dessau; the orchestra (under high-class conductors) numbers seventy. Herr Gura will not sing, having his hands fully occupied with the reins of government.

AT the Schiller (Charlottenburg) the amusing farce *Das Opferlamm* (the sacrificial lamb) by MM. Walther and Stein, has been revived with complete success. The acting is adequately vivacious, and the piece will doubtless run smoothly for some time.

WHILE the New Schauspielhaus company is giving *Raffles* nightly at the Berliner, the former house is occupied—in the customary turn-and-turn-about fashion—by the Hamburg Operetta Company, which first introduced *The Merry Widow* to our notice. The *pièce de résistance* this time is Leo Fall's new operetta, *Die Dollar-Princess*, which is very bright and pleasing, with a fairly entertaining book. The interpretation is admirable throughout.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

MOSSOP, the actor, was so correct and particular, that in the parts he studied from he marked in the margin the expression of the face, the raising and lowering of an eyebrow, and the projection of an under lip. In his acting he had a certain distinct spot upon the stage for almost every speech. One night, *Venice Preserved* being the play, Knight, who was the Reinhold, being rather imperfect, requested the prompter to take care and watch him. "I will," said the prompter, "when you are at my side; but when you are O.P. I cannot be bawling to you across the stage." "Never mind *that*," replied Knight; "that's my business." All went on well until the scene of the meeting of the conspirators, when Mossop (the Pierre), according to settled business, had to cross over to the prompter's side. Accordingly he would have advanced exactly to the spot; but there stuck Reinhold! Mossop, in an under-tone, desired him to get out of his way. "I cannot, sir," he replied, still keeping his ear as close as possible to the prompter and his book. This rather heightened the fury of the embarrassed Pierre. After a few ineffectual attempts to drive Knight from his post, Mossop went on; and never was the reproof against the conspirators, particularly Reinhold, spoken by Mossop with more spirit and bitterness than upon that night.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR JOHN HARE will be seen positively for the last time in London in *A Pair of Spectacles* on Friday next, when he terminates his season at the Garrick. The piece will be preceded on this occasion only by *A Quiet Rubber*. So successful has the season at the Garrick been that Sir John might well have prolonged it for some time, but the need of a rest made itself felt, and the eminent actor will therefore take a short holiday. In the autumn Sir John will go on a farewell tour of the towns to which he has not yet bade farewell, but in the meantime will play a week's engagement at Blackpool, beginning on Aug. 10.

MR. EDWARD TERRY'S name was omitted from our list of those present at the recent Garden Party at Windsor. The popular actor was present, but Mrs. Terry was, unfortunately, prevented from accompanying him on that occasion.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS while acting at Birmingham a fortnight since ran a splinter into his left hand. The wound seemed of little consequence, but a day or two ago blood poisoning set in, and Mr. Hicks had to return to London and undergo an operation, which was successfully performed by Sir Alfred Fripp, amputation being very narrowly escaped. Mr. Hicks, we are sorry to hear, will be in the doctor's hands for some time.

MR. AND MRS. WILHELM GANZ gave an At Home at Piccadilly Hotel on Tuesday to celebrate Mr. Ganz's diamond jubilee, when nearly 400 people were present. Mr. and Mrs. Wilhelm Ganz were assisted by Miss Georgina Ganz and Miss Adelina Ganz in receiving their guests, amongst whom were Sir Charles Wyndham, Mrs. George Alexander, Mme. Destinn, Miss Mary Moore, Miss Eva Moore, Lady Monckton, Mme. Ada Crossley, Miss Florence Wood, and Mr. and Miss Kuhe. The artists taking part in the concert were Mme. Sobrino, Miss Ruth Vincent, Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Gregory Hast, Mr. Hamilton Earle, M. Nicolay (of the Scala), M. Billetta, Mr. Charles Ganz, Zimbalist, Mlle. Tina Lerner (Russian pianist), and Mr. A. Mann. Carl Heubert's band played.

MR. JOSEPH LYONS has accepted the post of chairman of directors of the New Princess's Theatre, Ltd., which will issue a prospectus next week. The capital is £155,000, in £1 shares, all of which will be offered for public subscription.

MME. META ILLING, a well-known Berlin actress, has come to London with the idea of establishing an Anglo-German theatrical company. Miss Illing's intention is to form the theatrical company of prominent English actors and actresses, and to open a season next year in Berlin. Performances of Mr. Pinero's *Iris*, Mr. Alfred Sutro's *The Fascinating Mr. Vanderveldt*, and Mr. Laurence Housman's *Prunella* will be given in four consecutive weeks; and for another period of four weeks the company will appear at Hamburg, Dresden, Frankfort, Munich, and other German towns. Miss Illing hopes to bring over to London later on a company of German artists, who will appear in a repertory of modern plays. Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Ellen Terry, and Mr. Henry Arthur Jones are in support of the scheme.

THE Theatrical Garden Party was a glorious success nobly won. The statistics which we give in another column show to what an extent the work was carried, and prove how zealously each department laboured towards the result achieved. The record takings, as will be seen, were secured by the photographic stall, where signed pictures were disposed of by leading ladies of the dramatic profession, and a sum of £109 was realised. The travesty at the Theatre Royal, whose operations were spread over a less period, came next in order with £98; and third place was obtained by the Eldorado, where the variety entertainment provided by Mr. Oswald Stoll, under the direction of Mr. Fred Trussell, resulted in the sum of upwards of £87.

MR. FRED WRIGHT, JUN., had the honour of appearing in a little "polo" burlesque at Baron Rothschild's Paris residence on the Grand Prix night, after the Baron's dinner-party, the management of the Moulin Rouge keeping the curtain down twenty minutes later so that Mr. Wright could play at the Baron's and get back in time. Baron Rothschild presented Mr. Wright with a pretty pin in the shape of a polo club, in addition, of course, to his fee, and asked him to appear at a garden party on the Sunday afternoon following, Miss Madge Lessing being brought over by Mr. Wright specially to join with him in the "Kiss Kiss" and "Fishers" duets from *The Prince of Pilsen*.

MISS ITALIA CONTI has been very successful in her arrangement of the programme for the Garden Fête, to be given in aid of the funds of Charing Cross Hospital at the Royal Botanical Gardens on Tuesday. The Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, will open the fête, and a prologue welcoming Her Royal Highness will be spoken by Little Dolly Dot, who, in the character of Cupid, will act as Master of the Ceremonies. The forest scenes from *As You Like It*, arranged as a woodland masque, with special dances, and glees to be sung by the Westminster Singers, will be followed by a café chantant, at which Mr. Joseph McCormack, Mme. Guilbert, Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. Harry Fragson, Mr. George Robey, and many other well-known artists will appear.

MEMBERS of the *Lady Frederick*, *Havana*, *Dairymaids*, and *Butterflies* companies are hard at work completing their plans for the special tea-tables, and other attractions at which they have promised to assist. *Lady Frederick* will hold a Court of Feminine Fripperies and Masculine Mysteries; and Miss Florence Wood, whose clever impersonation of the dressmaker, Mme. Claude, is one of the features in Mr. Maugham's sparkling comedy, is to preside over an exhibition of model gowns and hats, which are being generously supplied by the Maison Vendôme, Ltd. Other attractive features have been arranged, and the fête promises to be one of the most enjoyable of the season.

MR. F. R. BENSON had his hands full at Winchester last week in organising the local pageant. Mr. Benson had an accident during the progress of the rehearsals. He was driving a chariot with two horses when they bolted, ran outside the grounds of Wolvesey Castle, where the pageant is given, and collided with a vehicle in the road. Mr. Benson being thrown out and rather badly shaken. He soon recovered, however, from the effects, and having got the pageant into working order, has devoted himself to receiving the Royalties and others who have visited the show. On Saturday afternoon Princess Henry of Battenberg and Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck attended, with Lord and Lady Northbrook, and were welcomed by Mr. Benson in the grounds. There were also present the Duke of Wellington, Lord and Lady Winchester, Lord and Lady Lansdowne, the Speaker and Mrs Lowther, Lord and Lady Knaresborough, Lord and Lady Powis, Sir George Cooper (High Sheriff of Hants) and Lady Cooper, Lord Althorp, Lord Maitland, Lord Malmesbury, Lord Calthorpe, Lord Normanton, Lord Curzon, Lord Abinger, Lord Basing, Lord Eversley, and Lord Portsmouth. Mr. Benson has had valuable assistance from Mrs. Benson, who arranged the dances; and Mr. Herbert Norris, who designed the principal costumes.

THE matinée which will be given at the Lyceum Theatre on the 14th inst., in aid of the King's College Hospital Removal Fund, is likely to be successful, if we may judge by the list of attractions offered. Mr. Alfred Butt and the Palace directors will permit Miss Maud Allan to appear in Mendelssohn's Spring Dance, Sir W. S. Gilbert will rehearse a revival of *Rosencranz and Guildenstern*, with Miss Marion Terry and Miss Toller in the cast; Mr. Martin Harvey, Miss de Silva, and Miss Mary Rorke will appear in *The Tragedy of Truth*, and a one-act play entitled *A Matter-of-Fact Husband* will be produced by Miss Ella Dixon and Mr. Gelderd. Others who have promised to appear are Miss Phyllis Lett, Miss Ethel Bevans, Mr. Yorke Stephens, and Mr. and Mrs. Matheson Lang. Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Constance Collier, Miss Margaret Cooper, and other popular actresses have consented to sell programmes.

THE wedding of Miss Dora Barton, the popular young actress, and Mr. Antony Caton-Woodville, elder son of the famous war artist of that name, was celebrated very quietly at St. Paul's Church, Hammersmith, on Saturday. The ceremony was performed by the Vicar of the parish, the Rev. G. N. Walsh. The bride was accompanied by her mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Newall, and by her brother and sisters, one of whom is Miss Naomi Barton. Mr. Woodville had the support of his brother, Mr. William Caton Woodville.

MISS DORA BARTON made her first appearance at Liverpool in the September of 1892 as the child Suzanne in *A Man's Shadow*, with Mr. Beerbohm Tree. Her principal engagements have been in *Editha's Burglar* at the Haymarket in 1894; with Forbes-Robertson at the Lyceum in 1896; in *Brother Officers* at the Garrick in 1898; in *Hearts are Trumps* at Drury Lane in the following year; in *The Wilderness* at the St. James's in 1901; as Joan in *Sweet and Twenty* at the Vaudeville in the same year; an American tour with Mrs. Langtry in 1902; in *Glittering Gloria* at Wyndham's in 1903; with Miss Ada Reeve at the Criterion in 1904; in *The Mountain-Climber* at the Comedy in 1905-6; in *Monsieur Beaucaire* and *Clancarty* at the Lyric in 1907; and a subsequent tour with Mr. Lewis Waller in the former piece and *Robin Hood*.

OWING to ill-health, Mr. Norman V. Norman has cancelled all his engagements for Pastoral Plays, with the exception of Bournemouth. The performances there will take place, as usual, in the Winter Gardens, and the music will be played by Dan Godfrey's well-known band. Both Mr. Norman and Miss Beatrice Wilson are great favourites in Bournemouth, and last season the Pastoral performances were crowded nightly.

OUR sympathies are extended to Mr. H. Athol Forde, who has sustained a severe bereavement in the loss of his wife. Mrs. Forde, who passed away on the 26th ult., was not connected with the stage, but took a keen interest in all its best work.

MR. JAMES MACREADY CHUTE, proprietor and manager of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, took his annual benefit on Saturday, the performance being under the patronage of the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, and the High Sheriff of Bristol. The house was packed with an enthusiastic audience. The entertainment consisted of a triple bill, including *Packing Up*, in which Mr. Fred Allandale and Miss Minnie Blanchard successfully appeared; *The Governor's Nephew*, in which Mr. Horace Mills and Mr. W. H. Rawlins distinguished themselves; and *A Pantomime Rehearsal*, the chief parts being taken by Mr. Horace Mills, Mr. Evelyn Vernon, Mr. Fred Allandale, Mr. Stratton Mills, Miss Winnie Volt, Miss Mabel Young, and Miss Minnie Blanchard.

AT a convenient interval Mr. Chute made his customary speech, in the course of which he said: "Ladies and gentlemen, at the close of another season the pleasing duty once more devolves upon me to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the generous support which has been so freely bestowed. There are two points which make the past season a notable one, namely, the unusual number and variety of the plays that have been presented and the pantomime of *Jack and Jill*, which established a record. The important matter of ventilation of this building has for some time engaged my attention, and I propose to instal a new and complete system on the most approved hygienic and scientific principles. The work will be carried out during the vacation, and I have every hope it will prove successful in securing increased comfort to patrons in all parts of the theatre." Mr. Chute, who was loudly applauded, then referred to the various engagements he had made for the coming season, commencing on August Bank Holiday.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON AND MR. PERCY HUTCHISON have acquired from Miss May Palfrey the provincial rights of *Mrs. Dot* for the whole of the towns not reserved for Miss Palfrey's own tour. Miss and Mr. Hutchison are to be congratulated on having secured one of the most brilliant successes of the present London season; a play which sparkles with wit and humour from beginning to end. Ever since its production the Comedy Theatre has been crowded, in spite of the fact that there are now fifteen rows of stalls. On Mr. Hutchison's list of plays starting on tour early in August are *Lady Frederick*, of which there are two companies; *Peter's Mother*, *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* and *Brewster's Millions*; and negotiations are going forward for the provincial rights of still another play not yet produced in the West-end.

MR. OSCAR ASCHE and Miss Lily Brayton closed their short summer season at the Aldwych last Saturday evening. Each and every act of *The Taming of the Shrew* was received with the heartiest of applause; and at the close Mr. Asche, in answer to a most enthusiastic call, stepped in front of the curtain and said, "Ladies and gentlemen,—I am not going to make a speech to-night, but on behalf of my wife and myself I thank you for your kind appreciation here to-night, and bid you farewell until we meet again."

THE legitimate and variety stage have alike lost a sincere friend by the demise of Dr. Thos. Kennedy Fell, of Barrow, who died on Friday, the 24th ult., at his residence, 6, Harley-street, Barrow-in-Furness, at the age of fifty-seven. Dr. Fell was hon. medical officer of the Actors' Association and the M.H.A.R.A. for a number of years, and also acted in that capacity for the Actors' Union. During the many years of his connection with the theatrical and music hall associations the deceased gentleman has attended thousands of the profession, and in all cases his services were given gratuitously.

THE funeral took place, amid many manifestations of sympathy and regret, on Monday at the Barrow Cemetery, and was very numerously attended, there being present all the local medical gentlemen, representatives of the Town Council, North Lonsdale Field Club, Friendly Societies, Actors' Association (Mr. Moxon), M.H.A.R.A., and members of the Press. The deceased leaves a widow, two young sons, and a daughter, to whom our deepest sympathy is extended.

MR. W. V. GARROD will conclude to-night a long association with *The Prodigal Parson*, having played the rôle 741 times. For the next fortnight he will play the comedy part to enable Mr. Owen Remoude to take a short holiday, and then, after a brief rest, will produce and create the lead in *A Country Girl in London*.

MR. FRED WRIGHT, JUN., proved his prowess as a bowler at a cricket match, which was played recently on the Standard A.C. (Paris) ground at Suresnes between teams representing the *Peter Pan* company from the Vaudeville, Paris, and the staff of the Continental *Daily Mail*. Among those who watched the game were Mr. J. M. Barrie and Mr. Entwistle, and many ladies of the *Peter Pan* company, including Miss Pauline Chase. The *Peter Pan* XI. batted first, and were dismissed for 15. Mr. Fred Wright, assisting the Pressmen, secured seven wickets for six runs.

AT the Ladbroke Hall, Notting Hill, on June 26, a performance for stage right purposes was given by the Thalia Dramatic Society of a three-act play, entitled *His Sacrifice*, by Donald F. Buckley.

MISS JESSIE LONNEN, owing to the indisposition of Miss Ada Reeve, undertook with success the character of Rhodanthe at the Apollo, on the Wednesday and Thursday evenings of last week.

MR. HERBERT FLEMMING'S new English comedy company is proving a big success in Australia, where it is generally recognised as being equal to the famous Brough and Boucicault combination of some years ago. The répertoire includes *The Mummy and the Humming Bird*, *Morals of Marcus*, *Olivia*, *The Red Lamp*, *Dr. Wake's Patient*, *Peter's Mother*, and *Simple Simon*, the last-mentioned being now in rehearsal for its initial production in Sydney next month. Miss Beatrice Day, the star of the company, is winning innumerable laurels, and socially is extremely popular. The present tour is booked up to 1910.

COUNCILLOR SIDNEY BACON, who has been for the last twelve years connected with the Grand Theatre, Newcastle, Metropole, and Queen's Theatres, Gateshead, has sold his interests in these properties to Mr. F. W. Bolam.

AT the third annual general meeting of the New Gaiety Theatre, Dundee, Ltd., held on the 25th ult., the report showed an increased surplus for the year. The sum of £100 was authorised to be added to the reserve fund, and a dividend at the rate of 5 per cent., free of Income Tax, was declared.

MR. MAURICE E. BANDMANN, after a flying visit to London of only a few weeks, left for Naples on Thursday evening to conclude arrangements with his Italian Grand Opera Company, which will tour on his circuit during the forthcoming season. This company will number seventy-five people, and will be the largest combination of this kind that has ever visited the East. From Naples Mr. Bandmann will proceed direct to India. During his absence his business will be conducted as heretofore by Mr. Alfred Dove.

MR. ERNEST R. ABBOTT, whose successful visit last December to the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, with *Sapho* will be remembered by playgoers of the district, commences on Monday a four weeks season there with his company. Mr. Abbott is a strong local favourite, having been born in Lewisham High-road. During a lengthy experience as an amateur he organised and initiated the dramatic club in connection with the local Literary Society, which is still renowned for the excellence of its performances, and there are not a few of the original members who can bear testimony that it owes its success in a large measure to Mr. Abbott's untiring energy of years ago. The opening attraction will be *Trilby*, with Miss Ada Abbott (Mrs. Ernest R. Abbott) in the title-rôle, and Mr. Abbott as Svengali.

MISS IRIS HOEY, who first won fame as the daintiest of Ariels in Mr. Tree's production of *The Tempest*, and is at present fluttering gaily as a Butterfly at the Apollo, is, we understand, engaged to be married to Mr. Lauri de Frece, a talented comedian, and brother-in-law of Miss Vesta Tilley. Both artists were to be seen hard at work at the Garden Party on Tuesday, Mr. De Frece doing yeoman service as Mrs. Jarley, and Miss Hoey making one of the prettiest babes in the wood ever found in a collection of waxworks or anywhere else.

SIGNOR GARBIN will appear at Covent Garden next Tuesday in *Fedora*, and his repertory will include *Manon Lescaut*, *Tosca*, *Madama Butterfly*, *Traviata*, and other operas. Signor Garbin has appeared in the principal theatres of Italy and Spain. Preparations are being made for the production next January of Dr. Naylor's new English prize opera, *The Angelus*.

MR. WALTER HERRIES POLLOCK has written a volume of "Impressions" of the late Sir Henry Irving, and the book will shortly be published by Messrs. Longmans.

MISS VERA BERINGER'S special matinée of *The Boys*, which was produced at Croydon a few weeks since, will take place at the Court Theatre on Thursday next. In addition to Miss Beringer, the cast will include Mr. Charles Goodhart, Mr. Fred Lewis, Mr. Wilfred E. Shine, Mr. George Silver, Mr. John Brabourne, Mr. Max Leeds, Miss Florence Lloyd, Miss May Blayney, Miss Carlotta Zerbini, and Miss May Holford.

MR. E. W. SILVERTHORNE, having just terminated a lengthy spring tour with *The New Clown*, which was under his direction, is now prepared to negotiate for business management in London, or for tour. His address will be found in our advertising columns.

MR. EDMUND KENNEDY, who sailed for New York on Wednesday to take up an engagement with Mr. Henry Miller in *The Servant in the House*, was the recipient of a handsome silver cigar-case as a memento of his long association with *Lucky Durham*, in which he has played the leading part for three years, under the management of Messrs. Armitage and Leigh. The presentation, which took place at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, on Saturday last, was made by Mrs. Leigh, on behalf of "the management and artists of the *Lucky Durham* company and other friends," and expressed their "sincere appreciation of his work and their best wishes for his future success."

WE record with regret the death of Mr. Frederick Shakspere Shenton, a name well-known to members of the theatrical profession, who passed away at his residence, Home Villa, Grosvenor-place South, Cheltenham, on the 23rd ult. Mr. Shenton, who was fifty-four years of age, was a member of an old Cheltenham family, and his father, Mr. T. B. Shenton, who preceded him in his business as a printer in Winchcombe-street, was the proprietor of the old Theatre Royal, Cheltenham. Owing to the breaking down of his health, the deceased had left his house but little for a long time past, his son, Mr. Shakspere Shenton, having for long been virtually responsible for the conduct of the printing and large bill-posting business. The deceased gentleman, who leaves a widow, a daughter, and four sons to mourn his loss, was a brother of Mr. Edward Shenton, lessee of the Victoria Rooms. The funeral took place on Saturday at Cheltenham Cemetery, among the mourners being Messrs. Shakspere Shenton, R. R. Shenton, N. B. Shenton (sons), and Edward B. Shenton (brother). Many beautiful wreaths testified to the esteem in which Mr. Shenton was held.

MR. EDWARD TERRY will add *Fiander's Widow*, by arrangement with Mr. Arthur Bourchier, to his already extensive répertoire on his forthcoming autumn tour. This will be the first time that this piece has been performed out of London.

THE work of reconstruction at Drury Lane Theatre is being busily carried on, and men are at work day and night, decorating the auditorium and practically building a new stage. Although it is only four years since the theatre was entirely renovated and the stage floored with teak wood, practically the whole of the front of the house and the dressing-rooms are being decorated afresh, and the stage is being refloored.

THE important part of the work is the removal of the centre wall, enabling the new stage to reach a depth of 80ft. The roof will be increased in height from 70ft. to 80ft., and will be surmounted by a lantern 27ft. square. Two large "flies," connecting by a bridge at the back of the stage, will be constructed, each 80ft. in depth. The oak beams which stood the ravages of the fire so successfully will be replaced by steel girders, and the solid teak floor, which was laid only five years ago, but suffered from the falling mass of burning properties, will be entirely renewed. The fore part of the stage is crossed by no fewer than five bridges—two electric, two hydraulic, and one operated by hand-power. Something like 200 men are at work continuously, for the theatre will be required some weeks before the opening night for the purpose of rehearsals. The cost is estimated at several thousands of pounds. It is hoped that the work will be completed by the end of August.

WE announce with regret the death of Mr. John Campbell Franklin, formerly associated with the Northampton Opera House, and of Franklin's Gardens in that town, who passed away at his residence at Ealing on Tuesday. A few days ago he underwent an operation which is very rarely attended with fatal consequences, but the heart was unable to bear the strain, and he succumbed towards midnight.

MR. FRANKLIN built the Jubilee Hall, at Franklin's Gardens, and, with the assistance of Mr. Isaac Tarry, the Gardens became very attractive. Mr. Franklin went to Leamington from Northampton, and was living at the time of his death at Broughton Lodge, Mount Park-road, Ealing. It is said of him that his modest and unassuming manner, while it made him hosts of friends, somewhat misled them as to his abilities, which were of no common order.

THE programme of the testimonial benefit to Mr. Walter Brandon, which will take place at the Lyric Theatre on the 10th inst., includes the names of Mr. Lewis Waller, who will appear with his company in a scene from *The Explorer*; Mr. James Welch, Miss Audrey Ford, and Mr. J. F. Tully, who will be seen in *The Man in the Street*; Miss Fannie Ward, who will play the heroine in an act from *The Three of Us*; and Mr. Fred Edwards and Miss May Edouin, who will contribute the laughable sketch *The Kleptomaniac*.

MR. J. H. LEIGH has granted a lease of the Court Theatre to Miss Mouillot, the principal of the Dramatic Conservatoire, who will present plays that are unsuited for a run at an ordinary West-end house, and will let the theatre for amateur performances. The Pioneers will undertake to give at the Court three matinées and three evening performances a week for forty weeks in each year; and Miss Mouillot intends giving high-class orchestral concerts on Sunday afternoons, so the boards of the Sloane-square house will be pretty constantly trod.

MISS JULIA NEILSON, we regret to hear, will not be well enough to accompany Mr. Fred Terry on his autumn tour with *The Scarlet Pimpernel* and *Matt of Merrymount*, which opens at Blackpool on Aug. 31; but she hopes to return to work early next year. While on this tour Mr. Terry will produce Mr. William Devereux's drama, *Henry of Navarre*, with which Mr. Terry will commence his season at the New Theatre in January.

MR. JEROME K. JEROME'S new play, which Mr. Forbes-Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott will produce at the St. James's Theatre on Sept. 1, is founded on Mr. Jerome's "The Passing of the Third Floor Back," which describes the coming of a Stranger with a spell like that in "The Palace of Truth" to a boarding-house in Bloomsbury. Mr. Forbes-Robertson will play the Stranger, and Miss Gertrude Elliott will have a part well suited to her sweet and winning personality. The piece is in three acts, the first being described as a prologue, the second as a play, and the third as an epilogue. Miss Alice Crawford, Miss Haidee Wright, Miss Kate Bishop, Miss Kate Carlyon, Miss Agnes Thomas, Mr. Marsh Allen, Mr. Edward Sass, Mr. Ernest Hendrie, Mr. Wilfred Forster, and Mr. Ian Robertson will be included in the cast.

MR. MAURICE E. BANDMANN has arranged with Mr. A. J. West, F.R.G.S., for an extended tour over his circuit of his successful naval and military entertainment *Our Navy and Our Army*. The company will leave London by P. & O. s.s. Persia on Friday, July 17, and the tour will extend over a period of twelve months.

MR. HERBERT SAMUEL, at the meeting of the Standing Committee of the House of Commons on the 25th ult., proposed the insertion of a new clause in the Children's Bill to the effect that when more than a hundred children were present at an entertainment a sufficient number of adult attendants should be provided to superintend the movements of the children. An amendment by Mr. Haslam to the effect that it should be made compulsory on the promoters of the entertainment to give notice to the local police was negatived, and the clause was added to the Bill.

MESSRS. E. TAYLOR PLATT AND TREVOR LOWE (by arrangement with Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker) start a summer and autumn tour of Bernard Shaw's successful comedies *You Never Can Tell* and *Arms and the Man* on Monday next. The company, which has been personally rehearsed by Mr. Shaw, includes Miss Katherine Stuart, Miss Gwladys Morris, Miss Clara Earle, Miss Ivy Fenton, and Messrs. Charles Daly, F. Cremlin, Donald Calthrop, Leslie Hamer, George Howard, and Trevor Lowe, Mr. E. Taylor Platt acting as general-manager. The towns to be visited include Buxton, Ramsgate, Margate, Eastbourne, Brighton, Llandudno, Torquay, Exeter, Bath, Swansea, and other chief centres of amusement.

STRIKING evidence was forthcoming at the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, on Friday, the 26th ult., of the popularity of Mr. Fred J. Reece, the acting-manager, who for the last three years has earned the esteem of all in the Lancashire hive of industry. Despite the tropical state of the weather, the place was packed from floor to ceiling, and the long list of artists who had volunteered their services worked especially hard in making his benefit the success it undoubtedly was. The amateur talent of the district was in full force, and professionals from the local Hippodrome and Royal Theatre of Varieties all assembled to do honour to the occasion. The energetic services of Mr. Lawrence Bolton, who acted as hon. secretary, together with those of Messrs. H. Neville, F. Weisker, and J. Waters as acting-managers, and Messrs. F. Willmot, H. Worrall, Ryder Boys, and Murray Graham as stage-managers, were recognised to the full.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN will reopen the Duke of York's Theatre on Monday, and will present Miss Isadora Duncan in classic dances. Miss Duncan's pupils, who support her in her dances, are called "The Lost Ones"; and their desire is to "live their lives in their own way." On Monday selections from Gluck's *Iphigenie en Aulide* will be given, illustrated by dancing. Miss Duncan is the proprietress of a school for dancing in Berlin.

MISS LALLIE FORSYTH, who has concluded an engagement with *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, has been engaged by Mr. Maurice Bandmann for his Eastern tour.

MRS. ALEC ROMER (Miss Margaret Radcliffe) desires to thank through our columns all her friends for their kind enquiries and expressions of sympathy. She wishes to tell them that her husband is now convalescent, but, acting on the urgent advice of his doctors, will not accept any engagement for twelve months. Yesterday (Friday) Miss Radcliffe started a fourteen weeks' tour, on which Mr. Romer will accompany her.

MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART has been touring the British Isles now for exactly eighteen years, but has never played in Portsmouth until this week. For some time, indeed, it has been a standing joke among his friends that if ever he did fulfil an engagement there something unusual would happen. It was, therefore, quite a relief to Mr. Lockhart that nothing really tragic occurred. All that happened was this, that owing to having his pockets picked during a four hours' wait at Brighton, he arrived at Portsmouth penniless, and at the moment of his arrival there was an eclipse of the sun.

IT is not only sufferers from railway accidents who exaggerate their injuries. Some months ago M. Eugene Ysaye was ordered to pay £320 to a railway guard, who alleged that he had become deaf after the famous violinist had boxed his ears. M. Ysaye was coming home with his brother, M. Theo Ysaye, from Antwerp, and it was stated that the assault followed a demand for tickets from the violinist, who was disturbed by the guard while asleep. An appeal was made, and the damages were to-day reduced to £60, as it was proved that the guard's hearing was defective before the assault.

MR. G. E. WILLIAMS, who was resident-manager at the Aldershot Theatre Royal for some years, has been engaged by Mr. Wentworth Croke as business-manager for *The Bondman* on tour. Mr. Williams has been spending a cricketing holiday among some of his old cricketing friends at Reading, Basingstoke, and Aldershot, and starts his new engagement on August Bank Holiday.

M. COQUELIN AINE has been appearing at His Majesty's Theatre this week in a round of his most celebrated creations, including parts in *Le Voyage de Monsieur Perrichon*, *L'Abbé Constantin*, *Tartufe*, *Les Precieuses Ridicules*, *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, and *Cyrano de Bergerac*. The exquisite art of the great French cômedian has again been intensely enjoyed and liberally recognised.

THE advent of Mr. George Giddens as Christopher Podmore in Miss Ada Reeve's merry musical play *Butterflies* at the Apollo Theatre greatly strengthens an unusually strong cast. Mr. Giddens, who took up the character on Monday, revels in the humour of the puritanical Colonial broker who succumbs to the fascinations of "the Witch" and becomes a veritable butterfly.

MISS CLARA DOW will continue to play in *The Mikado* at the Savoy, but will rest on those occasions when *H.M.S. Pinafore* is given so as to be ready for the arduous work of the autumn répertoire.

THE production of John Strange Winter's comedy, *Trixie*, at the Scala Theatre, which was announced for Friday evening, has been postponed until Friday next.

MISS NORA CARTON has made arrangements with Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore, by which she acquires the entire provincial and suburban rights of H. H. Davies's clever and sparkling comedy *Captain Drew on Leave*, and will send out a company on tour early in August. As the cast has the approval at rehearsal of both Sir Charles Wyndham and the author, it may be relied upon that a first-class representation of this delightful play will be given. Applications for dates are to be made to Mr. C. B. Vaughan at the Criterion Theatre.

MISS GERTRUDE LE SAGE has just returned to England, after a two-years' successful and enjoyable tour in South Africa, under the Woods-Williamson management.

MR. TOM HESLEWOOD was presented with a silver bowl on Wednesday, the last day of the Chelsea Pageant, by the Mayor (the Hon. W. Sidney), who opened the proceedings.

MR. LEONARD RAYNE has secured Mr. Charles Hannan's well-known adaptation of *A Cigarette Maker's Romance* for presentation in South Africa. Mr. Hannan's comedy *The Electric Man*, which proved very popular during Mr. Rayne's recent tour, will also continue to form one of the items of his South African répertoire. Owing to illness, Mr. Rayne has hitherto been unable to personally appear in *The Electric Man*, but he intends to undertake the double rôle of Walter Everest and the Electric Man when he presents Mr. Hannan's piece in Johannesburg shortly.

THE fifth annual report and balance-sheet of the Fulham Football and Athletic Company for the season ended April 30 is a very satisfactory one. Taking everything into consideration, the directors feel they have every reason to be satisfied with the Club's first year in the English League, and they feel sure that but for unfortunate accidents at a critical time the results would have been even more satisfactory. The directors propose a dividend of 5 per cent., as in previous years. The fairer members of the theatrical profession who favour the sport of football may be advised to note that in future ladies will be admitted free to the ground at all reserve matches.

THE firm of A. R. Dean and Sons, to whose enterprise the decorating and furnishing of so many of our leading theatres and variety houses are due, are forging ahead, and their list for the year is a formidable one, including contracts with theatres in every part of the kingdom. The thirty years' practical experience in every department of theatrical furnishing enjoyed by the firm, and the extensive nature of their operations, give them a position unequalled in the trade. Mr. A. F. Windibank, who has superintended the equipment of 1,500 theatres and halls, is still manager of department.

AS an instance of the scope of Mr. Windibank's work, it may be stated that last week he journeyed to London, Brighton, Eastbourne, Southampton, Oldham, Manchester, Burnley, Colne, and Leeds in five days, and this week his travels have embraced Glasgow, Greenock, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Pontefract, Rochdale, Manchester, Birkenhead, &c. During his visit to Burnley, Mr. Windibank had the misfortune to break his arm through falling down a well at the local Empire; but, notwithstanding the painful nature of his injury, the sufferer could not lay up, and went on booking orders almost every day.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Three-parts of a Horse.

"IT was Melbourne Cup week," writes Mr. Harry A. Gribben. "I was playing with a stock company in a local theatre. As my uncle owned a horse (Arsenal, that won) running in the Cup, the manager thought it would be a good idea to put up *The Flying Scud*, and cast me for the old trainer, Nat Gossling. Our manager had a great leaning towards the realistic, and determined to make the race scene as like the real thing as possible. He accordingly had five horses cut from 'profile,' four mounted on one boat truck, the fifth, representing 'The Scud,' on another. The four horses on the large truck up stage were mounted by little boys, each of whom was advertised as a leading jockey. The 'profile' representing 'The Scud' on the down stage truck was ridden by myself. In the race scene 'Jerry Blossom' is hocussed, and when at the last moment there is no one to ride the mare, the old trainer dons the colours and takes her to the post. The Cup day arrived, and the race was won by my uncle's horse; and that evening I had the honour of wearing the colours (cerise and lavender stripes, cerise and lavender quartered cap) carried in the race by 'Arsenal.'

"THAT night the house was full, and the audience was heart and soul with the owner of 'The Scud.' When I, as the old trainer, was thrown on to the mare's back they cheered to the echo. They're off; and the excitement on the stage and in the front is at fever heat. The little horses go past on the back cloth, then appear (a little larger) as they recross on a hedgerow. 'Here they come! "The Scud" wins.' 'No, red and white.' 'No, blue jacket, green cap—green wins,' 'No, red.' 'No, green.' 'No, no, "The Scud" wins. "The Scud!" "The Scud!"' That was the cue for the boat trucks to appear on the stage. On we came, I riding my 'profile' 'Yarraman' for all I was worth. We reach the centre of the stage, with the other horses leading me by about half a length. This is the critical moment, for here the stage hands are to give one mighty pull and my boat truck dashes to the front and wins by a neck. On my 'profile' steed's forequarters there was fixed a trick-line so that he could be prevented from getting his head over the rails during his mad career towards the winning-post. In the excitement of the moment the stage-hand in charge of this trick-line put all his strength into an effort, and pulled 'The Scud's' head and shoulders off. They flew into the wings, whilst I disappeared riding the other three-parts of her body. There was a yell of derision, and peals of laughter from the audience; and when I re-entered on the real horse they would have none of us. 'No race,' they shouted, 'Objection,' 'Run it over again!' 'All bets off!' and in the midst of an uproar we endeavoured to bring the scene to a close. As the curtain descended, a gentleman in the front row of the stalls calmly informed us that horse, owner, trainer, and jockey ought to be 'warned off' for life for daring to try and 'kid' the public that they could win a race with three-parts of a horse."

A Railway Adventure.

"THE *Gombeens Gold* company," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "were engaged to appear at Waterford and Limerick for three nights in each town. We left Buxton on the Saturday, and arrived in Dublin on Sunday morning, stopped there all day, and left on the Monday morning by the Great Southern and Western Railway at Kingsbridge Station. There happened to be a strike on at the time, and we had great difficulty in getting away two hours after the advertised time. When about seventy miles on our journey the train stopped at a small station, and we could see there was a fair in full swing 'down town.' The driver, stoker, and guard quietly strolled away to the fair, leaving us there for upwards of an hour and a half. Then the railway people came in and started the train off, as if it was an every-day occurrence.

HOWEVER, we arrived safely at Waterford, where our agent had everything ready for the evening's performance; and we opened to an excellent house, and did a big three nights. On Thursday we had to leave for Limerick, and had trouble to get away, for the strike was still on, and we had to tip right and left to get on at all. There was a lot of young fellows on the train going to Queenstown, en route for America; and as we neared each station they gave a loud, peculiar cry, and when the train (a very slow one) drew up the station would be crowded by country folk to give them a hearty reception. We duly arrived at Limerick, where we were billed for two nights—Thursday and Friday—and a Saturday matinée. The latter we had to abandon, as the strike was getting more serious, and we wanted to get away as soon as possible on Saturday morning, for we were due at Dublin for twelve nights on the Monday; but to our consternation the carters had all gone on strike out of sympathy with the railway porters, so there was nothing for it but to carry our own stuff to the station.

THE gentlemen of our company volunteered their services; fortunately the theatre and railway were close together. We set at it with a will, and carried all the scenery into the station. Not a single porter would lend a hand; all stood with their hands in their pockets leaning against the wall. The stationmaster, a 'jolly good sort,' threw off his coat and came to our assistance; then the booking-clerk followed his example. Luckily the truck that brought in our luggage was still at the station. I offered to pay the porters liberally to load up, but they refused. So we had to do it ourselves as best we could. There was our heavy man struggling with a flat, our juvenile (a rather dainty dandy) in his shirt-sleeves working hard to get a wing into the trunk, and our low comedian fighting with a ground row. The stationmaster was tackling a house piece, which fell on him, shutting him out from view; then his head burst through a 'window,' the porters yelling with delight at this mishap. We extricated him safe and sound, and eventually got the truck loaded, the porters smiling, with their hands still in their pockets, enjoying what they, I suppose, considered a huge joke.

THE gentlemen put on their coats and waistcoats. Then I turned to the porters, and said: 'Now, boys, after your hard work in standing there and seeing us amuse ourselves, will you all come and have a little refershment?' an offer which was willingly accepted, and the pints those bold warriors put out of sight were a marvel. When we returned to the station the porters ran and got a tarpaulin, spread it over the truck, fastened it well on, and made all secure, and coupled the carriage and truck on to the engine. Then the foreman porters explained that they were forbidden by the union or society to which they belonged to help with any luggage, &c., but as we were strangers they would assist us to get off. We were taken on to a branch line, amid the cheers of the porters, and arrived at a place called Athenry, where, after a short delay, we got on to the main line to Dublin, at which city we arrived safely at night, weary and tired after our railway adventure."

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

THEATRICAL GARDEN PARTY.

Rank and fashion flocked again on Tuesday to the garden party annually given by the profession in aid of the Actors' Orphanage, and a scene more brilliant than before was presented at the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, where the function was this year held. Long before and after the time of opening, the approaches to the Gardens were thronged by a fashionable crowd, amid which were leaders of society and many celebrities. Glorious weather waited upon the occasion, and a record attendance was reached.

The Gardens presented a dazzling sight. In creams and pinks and other delicate hues, leading actresses and comediennes paraded the grounds, tempting all to buy, and reaping a rich harvest, while prominent members of the profession combined in different parts of the ground in the work of providing amusement. A worthy lead was again set by the President, Mr. Cyril Maude, who, leaving *The Flag Lieutenant* on the swelling tide of success, devoted his day to the cause of the children. The help given by the variety profession was invaluable, and the fact of the artists appearing and of Mr. Oswald Stoll giving his time and the services of his managers to the organisation of the stupendous entertainments is highly appreciated in theatrical circles.

Theatre Royal, Botanic Gardens.

At the Theatre Royal was revived last year's success, *The Desperado Duke; or, The Culpable Countess*, written by Robert Marshall and Alfred Sutro, with the following cast:—

Hydrangea, Countess of Margate ..... MISS FANNY BROUGH
Theodosia ..... MISS AURIOL LEE
Duke of Ramsgate ..... MR. CYRIL MAUDE
Mr. Ponder ..... MR. HARRY NICHOLLS
Archdeacon Chancel .... MR. EDMUND MAURICE

Visitors were attracted to the theatre by a number of popular comedians. Mr. Brandon Thomas, thoroughly disguised as a showman, beat the big drum and exhorted the crowd to walk in, promising the ladies votes and the gentlemen emancipation from feminine government. By his side stood Mr. Ben Nathan, who in the wig and motley of a clown held out the inducement that the public would be able to witness the front page of *The Era* in the cast of the play, or that the sight of Cyril Maude murdering Fanny Brough could be enjoyed for half-a-crown. Consequently, there was standing-room only at the first performance of *The Desperado Duke*, which aroused unlimited merriment. Miss Fanny Brough again played the Countess of Margate, whose Socialistic tendencies lead her to offer her hand in marriage to a footman whom she engages in her service. Miss Brough's blood-curdling accents and mock-tragic demeanour as the Countess were again irresistibly humorous, and her clever by-play and facial expression added to the eccentricity of the rendition. Mr. Cyril Maude was in his most whimsical vein as the determined Duke, who goes to the lengths of impersonating the lowly footman so that he may win a bride, shaving off his beautiful black beard, and discarding his orders and his decorations for the purpose. His acting was the source of unlimited mirth, occasioned as much by the unexpressed humour of the character as by drollery of the lines. The duet between his Grace and the Countess, in which the vocalisation is supplied by the phonograph while the two characters go through the actions, was irresistibly droll. Mr. Harry Nicholls undertook the character of Mr. Ponder, played last year by Mr. Lennox Pawle, and gave a rendering of the typical butler rich in humour and resource. Mr. Edmund Maurice repeated his clever study of the pompous Archdeacon Chancel, and Miss Auriol Lee played the youthful Theodosia with charming ingenuousness. The business of the play was amusingly worked up, even to the end, when a number of faded bouquets and flower-pots were presented to the leading actress, who accepted them with undisguised disgust. Added effect was given to the performance by the music written by Mr. John Ansell, and rendered by an orchestra under his direction. All the costumes and wigs were lent by Mr. W. Clarkson. The manager of the booth was Mr. Alfred Turner, and the outside parade was assisted by Miss Maidie Andrews as Columbine, Mr. A. E. George as fruit hawker and accompanist, and Mr. Edward Coutts as a brigand chief. The show was advertised by sandwich-board men, impersonated by Messrs. A. G. Onslow, George Courteney, Eric Maturin, Daniel McCarthy, H. R. Averell, and Walter Hampden; and the programme and ticket sellers were Misses Marjery, Maude, and Madge Titheradge, Rosalie Toller, Kitty Sparrow, Bottomley, Max Hinton, Daisy Morland, Maud Thornton, Mabel Hewitt, Mrs. Alfred Turner, Miss MacLaren, and Miss Maude Courteney.

Eldorado Palace of Amusement.

The variety profession was again worthily represented, and at the Eldorado Palace a continuous vaudeville entertainment, embracing many important items, was presented, under the direction of Mr. Oswald Stoll. Mr. Fred Trussell was the manager of Eldorado, and grew eloquent in praise of the artists whom he paraded on a platform outside loudly proclaiming that the programme would be contributed to by "the principal artists of the principal bills of the principal halls of the metropolis." Such an inducement could not be resisted, and crowded houses witnessed the two shows provided. Among the entertainers was Mrs. Lewis Waller, who recited with her customary power and expression; Chung Ling Soo gave his sensational juggling performance; and the Zancigs went through their thought-reading séance before a bewildered assembly, appearing, it is understood, no less than ten times. The Gotham Quartet, who travelled especially from Nottingham to assist, made merry in jest and music; the Fratellini Brothers furthered the fun with their ludicrous *William Tell* episode; Mendel, the blind pianist, demonstrated his powers as a musician and extemporiser, and won loud applause; little Vera Fleming, the wonderful child dancer, excited much admiration; the veteran comedian, J. W. Rowley, had a cordial welcome; Mr. Herbert Shelley was singled out for distinction in his clever costume song; Mr. George Robey had an overwhelming reception; and warm appreciation was won by Miss Sadie Jerome, Mr. Julian Rose, Mr. Albert H. West, Miss Marie Collins, Miss Violet Lorraine, Miss Nita Ediss, Miss Edith Titheradge, Miss Millie Hylton, the Zenary Brothers, Darewski, Victor Niblo's Talking Parrots, Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. Edwin Barwick, the Martineks, Mr. Nelson Keys, Mr. Mortimer, and Miss Gladys Roberts, all of whom were under the superintendence of Mr. Frank Parker, the Hippodrome stage-director. The gentler sex came to the assistance of the cause in the disposal of tickets, which were sold by Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Mrs. Joe Elvin, Mrs. G. Lockhart, Mrs. Belle Elmore, Miss Lily Burnand (all of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild), Mrs. Fred Trussell, Miss Dora Fraser, and Miss Millie L. Emden.

Actors' Hat-Trimming Competitions.

A powerful source of attraction was provided in the "Phyllis Broughton Hat-trimming Stakes," in which prominent actors competed. The event was well advertised, with the result that the tent where it took place was twice completely filled. The competitors announced to take part were Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Ben Webster, Mr. Farren Soutar, Mr. Sydney Brough, Mr. Frank Lacy, Mr. Charles Lander, Mr. H. Nye Chart, Mr. Charles Angelo, Mr. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Godfrey Turner, Mr. Ambrose Manning, Mr. Horace Lane, Mr. William Spray, Mr. Dan Rolyat, Mr. Henry Lytton, Mr. M. R. Morand, Mr. Horace Mills, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, Mr. Walter Passmore, Mr. Rutland Barrington, Mr. G. P. Huntley, and Mr. Lyn Harding. The competitors took their seats on the platform amid cheers, and, after disposing of numberless pins in their coats, with quite a professional air were soon at work on shapes and trimmings supplied by their fair assistants. The time-limit was twenty minutes, but before that period the hats had assumed fearful and wonderful aspects. Mr. Dan Rolyat exhibited a remarkable taste in colour, and turned out a gorgeous picture hat in which a pink crown was decorated with a huge heliotrope feather and other many-hued adornments, finished off with a green veil; Mr. G. P. Huntley had a quieter taste, and succeeded in manufacturing a neat toque; while Mr. Maurice Farkoa, after working away quietly for some time embroidering the under-brim of a hat, was fain to stop and mop his brow. Mr. Farkoa was eventually declared the winner by Mrs. George Alexander, who acted as judge, prizes falling in order to Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. Horace Mills, Mr. Horace Lane, and Mr. Frank Lacy. None seemed more surprised than the winners. The arrangements were carried out with admirable tact and energy by Miss Phyllis Broughton, who marshalled her men in a manner worthy of a military expert, and got them in order in exemplary fashion. Within the tent she ably controlled the competitors, flitting about ministering to their wants with ribbons, flowers and feathers, and maintaining the best of order. The display was among the most popular of the afternoon, and was greatly creditable to Miss Broughton, who had devoted many days to its organisation. At the end of the competition the hats, which were callously dismissed by a lady onlooker in the phrase, "All hideous!" were offered at auction. The venerable appearance of Mr. Fred Wright, sen., in the enclosure where the prize hats were exhibited inspired confidence, and probably had an effect on the sale. Others who assisted at the exhibition were Mr. H. M. Morand, Mr. Arthur Coke, and Mr. J. W. Lethbridge; while the names of ladies selling tickets were Mrs. Ben Webster, Mrs. G. P. Huntley (Miss Eva Kelly), Mrs. Vedrenne, Misses Clara Jecks, Ada Blanche, Lena Leibrant, Lillian Digges, Clarice Lockstone, Daisy Cordell, Stella St. Audrie, Cicely Villiers, Edythe Burnand, Gladys Ivery, Gertrude Glyn, Blanche Glyn, Hilda Stewart, Alice Liebmann, and Delia Mason.

Jarley's Living Waxworks.

A marvellous shillingsworth was provided by Jarley's Living Waxworks, presented under the direction of Mr. Aubrey Smith and Miss Vane Featherstone, neither of whom spared themselves in their work, being loyally assisted by Mr. Dennis Eadie and Mr. H. Nye Chart. Mr. Laurie De Frece as Mrs. Jarley had the task of describing the collection, and admirably did he acquit himself of it. Mr. P. F. Knot was Mr. Jarley, Mr. J. Farren Soutar 'Orace, and Mr. Frank Collins Peter. The figures indulged in extraordinary antics. Geo. Bernard Shaw, represented by Mr. Louis Goodrich, distinguished himself by taking the wreath of laurels from Shakespeare (Mr. Clarence Blakiston) and placing it on his own brow; Winston Churchill (Mr. W. T. Lovell) and Maud Allan (Mr. Bertram Steer), after being refused admission through the gates of the City of Manchester by a comely lady policeman (Miss Victoria Addison), fell on each other's bosom and wept; the "Entente Cordiale" was maintained by Miss Lilias Waldegrave as Britannia and Miss Amy Ravenscroft as La Belle France; the insured domestic found a realistic exponent in Miss Lilie Garde; and the Working Man was justified by Mr. A. Holmes-Gore. Mr. James Welch and Miss Iris Hoey posed as the Babes in the Wood; Miss Pattie Browne impersonated Harry Lauder, Mr. Hubert Willis was Robinson Crusoe, Miss Molly Pearson Lady Macbeth, Mr. Sidney Paxton a humorous jockey, Miss Decima Moore a tuneful Little Bo-Peep, and Mr. Ernest Mainwaring a diverting Little Jack Horner; while at the end Miss Pollie Emery created a diversion as an intruding suffragette. Good service was done by Miss Migon Clifford as pianist. Tickets for the waxworks were sold by Misses Ethel Matthews, Lena Armfield, Nannie Bennett, Joy Chatwin, Mona Harrison, Lucy Roche, and Gisella Darewski.

Professor Huntlirina Wright.

Visitors to the Lecture Tent were treated to a discourse by Professor Huntlirina Wright upon "The Animal Man, by one who tamed him," "Manophobia; or, Who Bit Her?" "Woman's Position To-day, and Who Put Her There," and "The Superior Sex; or, Who Told Him So?" being an *exposé* of the creature man. The lecture, delivered in Mr. Wright's funniest fashion, created uncontrollable merriment, which was increased when Mr. George Silver, as a mere man, interrupted the speaker, and insisted on taking part in the proceedings on the platform. Never has a piece of spoof been more complete. So realistic was the dispute maintained that on one occasion three or four gentlemen in the audience, fearing a breach of the peace was actually being committed, stepped forward, with the object of ejecting the intruder. Tickets for the lecture were sold by Misses Kitty Bishop, Adelina Bourne, Alice Delmar, Ethel Harper, Eileen Orby, and Mabilia Daniell, and Mr. Leslie Carter and Mr. Spencer Trevor acted as doorsmen.

Old English Songs and Games.

In the conservatory English folk songs, morris dances, and games were given by boys and girls of the Esperance Clubs. The lads in top hats and white shirts, and the girls in print frocks, furnished a picturesque spectacle, and sang old folk songs and danced to the delight of all. The performance was under the direction of Miss Mary Neal and Mr. Herbert Macilwaine, and the acting-manager was Mr. Charles Cruickshanks.

The Gipsy Encampment.

A Gipsy Encampment, under the direction of Mrs. Raleigh, had for its principal figures Miss Edna May and Mr. Harry Fragson, and drew many patrons desirous of indulging in cocoanut shies and other fun of the fair. Among the attractions of the enclosure was "a real live baby born in the encampment." Assistants at the fair were Misses Eily Maylon, Daisy Thimm, Irma Foldi, Ina Cameron, Margaret Yarde, Alice Gordon, M. Polak, Gladys Archbutt, Mrs. Sidney Dark; and Messrs. Sydney Ellison, John Tresahar, Sydney Grahame, C. Parry, Masters Philip Tonge and Cecil F. Hall. Fortunes were told by Mrs. Raleigh, also made up faithfully as a member of the clan, the great tenor Caruso paying a guinea to have his fate predicted. Mr. Fred Grove, who adopted a realistic Romany rig-out, and was most cleverly made up with velveteen corduroys, stained face, and curly wig, presided at the cocoanut shies, which did a roaring trade. He secured the attention of the onlookers by many and varied devices, even going to the lengths of a lecture on phrenology, using for his subject a cocoanut, which he described as an emblem on that occasion of the three virtues, Faith, Hope, and Charity—hope in the prospect of an engagement, faith in the manager paying his salaries, and charity in the benevolent impulses of his audience. Many celebrities tried their hand with more or less success at the roll-bowl-and-pitch, the great tenor Caruso being among the number.. Nor did the sale of cocoanuts cease after the game was over, for one stalwart Romany—we believe it was Mr. C. Parry—adopted the tactics of the street merchant, and coming outside the enclosure with his sack of cocoanuts, cunningly attracted the attention of the crowd. Surreptitiously placing a nut under his hat on the ground, he would invite the attention of his hearers to a marvellous trick of conjuring, and after executing a few passes would remove the hat and reveal the cocoanut, which he would offer at the modest sum of threepence. By this means he disposed of a sackful of cocoanuts, the ladies purchasing them eagerly and handing them to their gentlemen friends, whose efforts to dispose of the awkward purchase in pockets or beneath frock coat were very comical.

Refreshments and Other Commodities.

The refreshment buffets and tents devoted to the sale of various commodities were numerous, and eager customers were lured therein by the presence of distinguished dispensers. A thriving trade in cigars and cigarettes was driven by Miss Marie Löhr, looking very sweet in white, and Miss Constance Hyem, attired in similarly-becoming costume. They were assisted by Misses Valli-Valli, Jessie Rose, Mary Mollison, Dora Fellowes, Vera Coburne, Rose Laing, Katie Vesey, Edna Arnold, Lulu Valli, Marjorie Michie, Patty Wells, and Mrs. Aimes, the duties of acting-manager being ably discharged by Mr. A. E. Mathews. An interesting feature of this tent was a large doll dressed by Miss Ellen Terry, which reposed in its white silken robe at the entrance. It was in the charge of Miss Marion Terry, who graciously retailed tickets at 1s. The doll thus realised some £10, and was ultimately raffled.

Graced by the presence of many beauties of the stage, the signed photograph and picture post-card stall, which was under the direction of Miss Carlotta Addison, Miss Compton, and Mrs. Charles Gay, drew overwhelming crowds. In the list of photo-sellers were Misses Adrienne Augarde, Crissy Bell, Lilian Burns, Madge Crichton, Cecilia Cavendish, Alice Crawford, Gladys Cooper, Lily Elsie, Evie Greene, Mabel Green, F. Glossop-Harris, Isabel Jay, Mabel Love, Ida Lytton, Netta Lynde, Gertie Millar, Helena Millais, Denise Orme, Louie Pounds, Mabel Russell, Nina Sevening, Florence Smithson, Gertrude Tate, Daisie Williams, and Elaine Inescort, with Mr. C. Milne Gay as acting-manager.

Misses Zena and Phyllis Dare had many admirers and many customers at the chocolate tent, and derived valuable assistance from Mrs. Walter Abrahams, Mrs. Arthur Faber, Misses Kathleen Shaw, Gwenda Villiers, Sylvia Morris, Gladys Ben Davies, Doris Keyzor, little Vera Le Fleming, Anita Edis, Margaret Cooper, Dora Levis, and Master Philip Tonge. There was a brave array of acting-managers, the names set down being Messrs. Charles Bishop, Hubert Blount, William Devereux, Jack Harrison, Lennox Pawle, E. H. Bull, M. V. Leveaux, Frank Willard, and Walter Maxwell.

The Stars and Stripes fluttered bravely over the American Bar for the sale of iced drinks, whereon a constant raid was made. Miss Irene Vanbrugh presided, and was assisted by Misses Victoria Addison, Muriel Beaumont, Sybil Carlisle, Pamela Gaythorne, Margaret Halstan, Eva Killick, Jean Stirling Mackinlay, and Gladys Storey.

Strawberries and cream were dispensed with appropriate sweetness under the direction of Miss Winifred Emery and Miss Lillian Braithwaite, who had loyal aid from Misses Rosalie Toller, Nell Toller, Maud Cressell, Dora Barton, Constance Collier, Mabel Adair, Margaret Bussé, Pamela Hope, Beatrice Ferrar, Dorothy Scott, Evelyn Beaumont, Freda Watson, Esmé Hubbard, Iris Hawkins, Viola Compton, May Congdon, Beatrix de Burgh, Dorothy Fane, Dolly Holmes-Gore, Marjorie Maude, Joyce Lawrence, and Maidie Andrews. Officiating as acting-managers were Messrs. Edward Rigby, Owen Nares, Eric Maturin, R. Averell, and Cecil Broughton.

The Ice-cream Tent, under the direction of Mrs. Mangles, received liberal patronage, the grateful and cooling concoction being handed out by Misses Evelyn Millard, Ruth Maitland, Gladys Erskine, Winifred Fraser, Beatrice and Jessie Ferrar, Ethel Erskine, May Chevalier, Madge Titheradge, Elaine Smith, and Amy Brandon Thomas, with Messrs. G. Saville and Myddleton Evans as acting-managers.

For afternoon tea one sought the tent behind the conservatory, where Mrs. C. Hayden Coffin and Miss Amy Coleman officiated, Captain Preston undertaking the duties of acting-manager.

Side-shows and Music.

Side-shows were extensively patronised. Character reading from the face by Professor Annie I. Oppenheim, F.B.P.S., was very popular; and palmistry by Miss Julie Critten was also practised. The Imperial Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Arthur Crudge, played a large and comprehensive selection; and the Hampstead Mandoline Orchestra, under the conductorship of Miss Keevil, also provided music.

The Business Department.

The less agreeable and more arduous work of the ticket and cash department was carried out in the Secretaries' Tent, where Miss May Warley, hon. secretary to the fête, did yeoman service, assisted by Messrs. A. J. Barr, A. A. Felton, J. G. Gowan, W. W. Heard, Harold E. Perrin, A. J. Lindsay Simpson, J. Stewart Mallam, F.C.A., Fred J. Turner, R. Barlow Tyler, A.C.A., and Broughton Young. Badges were distributed by Miss Cicely Richards. Messrs. Andrew W. Barr and Co., it should be added, kindly consented to audit the garden party accounts.

The whole function was a marvel of organisation, and resulted in a record success, upon which the executive of the Fund and its hon. secretary (Mr. A. J. Austin) cannot be too highly congratulated.

The number of visitors, including members of the Botanic Society, was approximately 9,000, and the receipts are roughly estimated to total about £2,340.

The estimated takings at the various booths were as follows:—

Theatre Royal, about	£98	0	0
Eldorado	87	4	6
Jarley's Waxworks	77	15	6
Mr. G. P. Huntley Wright's Lecture	67	0	0
The Gipsy Encampment	63	0	0
The Hat Trimming Competition..	70	0	0
Kiosk of Miss Ellen Terry's Doll	60	0	0
Esperance Entertainment	20	0	0
Photographic Stall (Record)	109	0	0
American Bar, about	60	0	0

At the hour of 9.15, when the beautiful gardens were practically deserted, the devoted co-workers, Miss Mary Warley and Mr. A. J. Austin, could have been seen congratulating each other on a great success. Twenty minutes later Mr. Austin, accompanied by Mr. E. Barlow Tyler and a detective (the last to leave the grounds), drove away in a cab to the London and County Bank, Ltd., where special arrangements had been made for receiving the cash.

The organisation was perfect, owing chiefly to the fact that Mr. Bryant Sowerby, the Secretary of the Royal Botanic Society, gave Mr. Austin an early opportunity of erecting the beautiful tents, and rendered the utmost service in all the arrangements, which were absolutely complete on Monday evening.

"THE WATER WITCH," a new comic opera, the scene of which is laid among the picturesque Fiords of Norway, is the work of Mr. Oswald Brand, who has written the book and lyrics, the music being composed by Mr. Frank Bradsell. The piece is ready, and will be produced this autumn. Mr. Brand, we regret to learn, is still an invalid.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the PUBLISHER, 5, Tavistock street, W.C.

LIONEL BROUGH AT SOUTHEND.

At the Pier Pavilion, Southend, this week Mr. Lionel Brough has been providing a triple bill each evening, and, with Mr. Tom Craven's assistance, has presented a highly entertaining and humorous programme. Mr. Lionel Brough is so deeply respected and universally admired that his appearance in Southend was certain to be an occasion of excitement and interest, especially as he has been ingeniously provided with opportunities of introducing his best points to the admiring audiences at the popular watering-place. The opening of his summer tour to the seaside resorts, accompanied by Mr. Tom Craven and a capital company, was an immense success. *The Lady in Red*, the opening sketch, is excellently portrayed, and evokes hearty laughter. Then follows Tom Craven's comedy duologue entitled

"THE YARN-SPINNER."

Mr. Yapper ..... MR. LIONEL BROUGH
Mrs. Cackle ..... MISS MARY BROUGH

In *The Yarn-Spinner* Mr. Craven has succeeded in weaving a brief but interesting story in which Mr. Brough is enabled to interpolate many of his choicest stories. Mr. Yapper, who poses as an actor-manager, is looking about for lodgings, and finally sees something which will, apparently, suit him in Kennington-road, at a house kept by Mrs. Cackle. His appearance at the door fills that old lady with pleasurable excitement, and she asks him into her snug little parlour, and endeavours to acquaint him with her terms. He interrupts her with many little anecdotes of which something she says or does reminds him. Several attempts to get to business are made by the lady, but the anecdotes follow so rapidly that little progress is made; and, finally, after Mr. Yapper has helped himself to the good things on the old lady's table and has endeavoured to borrow money of her, she orders him out of the house. He is just about to go when he "is reminded" of another story, this time one of some importance. Mr. Yapper hands Mrs. Cackle a dirty old newspaper; and, reading a paragraph headed "A Strange Will," she finds that her would-be lodger is looking for a lady who, years ago, played the part of principal boy under the name of Laura Banana. She fetches a dilapidated poster with her picture, as she then appeared, on it, and exclaims, "I am the one you are looking for." Under the will the whole of the fortune is divided between Laura and the one who finds her. Together they agree to share life's joys and sorrows, and proposals on each side are made and accepted.

Mr. Lionel Brough had found a very sympathetic audience, and his many "yarns" were listened to with evident pleasure, and greeted with enthusiastic applause. Miss Brough made an ideal lodging-house keeper, her hopes of securing a good lodger and her wily tricks to induce him to accept her terms being made very amusing. In the final scene Miss Brough's love-making was excellent. The duologue is unique in many ways, and should have a very successful run.

The concluding item was the celebrated comedy in two acts by H. T. Craven entitled

"MILKY WHITE."

Daniel White ..... MR. TOM CRAVEN
Dick Duggs ..... MR. STEPHEN ADESON
Archibald Good ..... MR. JACKSON WILCOX
Rude Boy ..... MASTER CHERRY
Mrs. Sadrip ..... MISS MARY BROUGH
Annie White ..... MISS ISABEL COLLIER

Milky White made a thoroughly enjoyable item and gave evident pleasure. Mr. Tom Craven as Daniel White made himself very popular by a clever and mirth-provoking impersonation, and was eminently well suited. Mr. Stephen Adeson was a good exponent of the simple cowboy Dick Duggs; Mr. Jackson Wilcox ably sustained the rôle of Archibald Good; Miss Mary Brough gave a talented representation of Mrs. Sadrip; and Miss Isabel Collier as Annie White won applause by a successful delineation.

"I SENT a play to a manager," writes Dr. Dabbs in the *Daily Mail*, "and with it a letter of introduction from so prominent a man of letters that it was actually acknowledged and a pledge was given to read the play. Some months later, no decision having been given, I judged it advisable to jog the manager's memory. A profuse apology was sent. 'It should be read at once.' Within ten days the play was returned to me with all the courtesy of postal registration. An accompanying letter stated 'that it had been carefully considered, but the dénouement was so extravagant that it could not possibly be accepted; that in consequence of the high literary introduction with which I had come the manager's opinion had been confirmed by the further opinion of his usual literary advisers.' I replied: 'I am impressed by this instance of the clarified vision of the clairvoyant. Knowing a little of the readers of plays, I had carefully gummed together the pages in which the dénouement occurs; they are still adhesively connected.'"

"IT is a little the fashion," writes Mr. E. A. Baughan in the *Daily News*, "to make light of M. Coquelin's great gifts, and he alone is to blame for this. Year by year since he has been a star actor he has emphasised his methods until they have become rather obvious. But, although a long list might be made of his mannerisms, he remains a great actor. Moreover, some of his mannerisms are not quite understood by those who criticise him. I refer particularly to his habit of playing to the audience. He takes it into his confidence in a way which has quite gone out of fashion. But in most of the plays in which he acts these asides, expressed by gesture as well as by words, are required. In old comedy, as Charles Lamb pointed out long ago, the actor had often to play one part to the audience and another to the characters on the stage. That is how all the big comic actors made their reputations."

"LIFE, serious life, on the stage is not asked for," writes Mr. B. W. Findon in the *Advertiser*. "No one wants it, and however desirous a manager may be to hold the glass of fashion up to nature, he cannot risk his all in order to please the least remunerative section of the public. When one takes into consideration these elements in the drama of the day, is it fair to demand of the playwright a drama which will merely give him fame and produce little else? The dramatist would like to write a piece that would reflect the spirit of the age. He would give his soul to produce a drama which might go down to posterity as the mirror of his generation. But who will take his work? Where is the public that will support the theatrical manager by filling his house night after night, and providing him with the wherewithal to carry on what has become one of the most expensive commercial undertakings in an age that is not altogether free from the charge of reckless speculation?"

THE BALLET IN BRITAIN.

When the ballet of action, says Dutton Cook, did make its appearance in England, it was promptly designated a pantomime, and so has become confused with the distinct kind of performances still presented under that name at our larger theatres at Christmas-time. "When one company is too hard for another," writes Cibber, "the lower in reputation has always been forced to exhibit some new-fangled foppery to draw the multitude after them"; which is, however, only a way of saying that managers need the stimulus of opposition to induce them to provide new entertainments. In 1721 there was great rivalry between Drury Lane—Cibber being one of its managers—and the theatre then newly erected in Lincoln's Inn Fields. Of the "new-fangled foppery," which it now became necessary for the one theatre to resort to as a weapon of offence against its rival, singing and dancing had been effectual instances. But singing was not to be thought of under the circumstances; as Cibber writes: "At the time I am speaking of, our English music had been so discountenanced since the taste of Italian operas prevailed, that it was to no purpose to pretend to it. Dancing, therefore, was now the only weight in the opposite scale, and as the new theatres sometimes found their account in it, it could not be safe for us wholly to neglect it. To give even dancing, therefore, some improvement, and to make it something more than motion without meaning, the fable of Mars and Venus was formed into a connected presentation of dances in character, wherein the passions were so happily expressed, and the whole story so intelligibly told by a mute narrative of gesture only, that even thinking spectators allowed it both a pleasing and a rational entertainment." This was certainly a ballet of action, and it is remarkable that the production involved but a small outlay. The managers, distrusting its reception, did not venture "to decorate it with any extraordinary expense of scenes or habits." Great success, however, attended the performance, and from it is to be dated the establishment both of ballet and pantomime upon our stage. "From this original hint, then, but every way unequal to it, sprang forth that succession of monstrous medleys that have so long infested the stage, and which arose upon one another alternately at both houses, outvying in expense, like contending bribes on both sides at an election, to secure a majority of the multitude." Cibber, indeed, waxes very wrath over the matter, and appears to desire that lawful authority should "interpose to put down these poetical drams, these gin-shops of the stage, that intoxicate its auditors and dishonour their understanding with a levity for which I want a name." But Cibber's anger is in truth very much that of a manager vying with the liberal outlay of a rival, and so forced to expend large sums in entertainments.

At an earlier date ballet-dancers had been imported from France. Some time about 1704 the great Mr. Betterton and his company, suffering from insufficient patronage at the theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields, had been reduced to resort to "foreign novelties." Three of the most famous dancers of the French opera, L'Abbée, Balon, and Mlle. Subligny, were "at several times brought over at extraordinary rates to revive that sickly appetite which plain sense and nature had satiated. In Paris, indeed, the ballet was very securely instituted. The Académie Royale de Musique et de Danse had been founded in 1669, and from that date the ballet, as an entertainment of dancing only, may be said to have come into being. There had been earlier ballets, but these were of the nature of old English masques, and consisted of songs and spoken dialogues, in addition to dances; the term *ballet*, it need hardly be explained, being derived from the Italian *ballata*, the parent of our own *ballad*. At first the French Opera or Academy suffered from the smallness of its troop; vocalists could be obtained from the church choirs, but for the ballet it was hard to find recruits; and sometimes young boys were pressed into the service, and constrained to personate nymphs, dryads, and shepherdesses—"*Danseurs*," writes a French historian of the Opera, "*qui sous un masque et des vêtements féminins, les formes arrondies par l'art et le coton, n'excitaient qu'un enthousiasme modéré.*" At Court there was no lack of dancers of the gentler sex, however, and at Court the ballet prospered greatly. A ballet performed in 1681 was at any rate strongly cast, since there appeared among the dancers Mme. la Dauphine, the Princesse de Conti, and Mlle. de Nantes, supported by the Dauphin, the Prince de Conti, and the Duc de Vermandois; but these distinguished personages probably sang more than they danced. Louis XIV. frequently figured in ballets, one of his favourite characters being the Sun in *Flora*, said to be the eighteenth ballet in which he had played a part. Lulli, the composer, director of the Opera, paid great attention to the ballet, occasionally appearing as a dancer; as a singer and comic actor he had already acquired fame. To Lulli has been attributed the introduction of rapid dancing, in opposition to the solemn and deliberate steps favoured by the Court during the early part of the reign of Louis XIV. It may be added that the King held out a measure of encouragement to such of his nobility and courtiers as were disposed to follow his example and exhibit upon the scene. "It is our pleasure," he says in the patent granted to the Abbé Perrin, the first director of the French Opera, 1669, "that all gentlemen and ladies may sing in the said pieces and representations of our Royal Academy, without being considered on that account to derogate from their letters of nobility or from their privileges, rights, and immunities." The dramatic ballet, or ballet of action, is said to have been invented by the Duchesse du Maine, whose theatrical entertainments at Sceaux rivalled the festivities of Versailles, and obtained the preference of many nobles of the Court. The lady, however, unfortunately meddled with the Spanish conspiracy—she should have confined herself to the plots of ballets—and forthwith the establishment at Sceaux was broken up. In this way Mouret, her musical director, who also composed several operas and ballets for the Academy, suffered severe loss; eventually he went mad, and died in the lunatic asylum at Charenton.

Mlle. de Subligny came to England armed with letters of introduction from Thiriot and the Abbé Dubois to John Locke, of all people! Locke probably was not very sympathetic in regard to the lady's art, yet respect for his friends led him to bestow upon her due civility and attention; according to Fontenelle, he constituted himself her *homme d'affaires*. Another dancer, Mlle. Sallé, whose charms and graces Voltaire had celebrated in verse, appeared in London with letters of introduction from Fontenelle to Montesquieu, then Ambassador at the Court of St. James's. It is clear that the ballet-dancers were becoming personages of real importance.

Mlle. Sallé, it seems, achieved extraordinary success in the year 1734 at Covent Garden Theatre, which a French journal of theat date describes curiously as the *Théâtre du Commun Jardin*. The lady was an admirable dancer, and brought with her complete dramatic ballets, the characters in which were appropriately dressed according to the time and place of the story they related, for Mlle. Sallé was a reformer in the matter of stage costumes. She discarded paniers and hoops and false hair. As Galatea in a ballet upon the story of Pygmalion, she wore nothing, we are told, "in addition to her bodice and under petticoats, but a simple robe of muslin draped after the manner of a Greek statue." She won great applause, too, by her performance of Ariadne in a ballet called *Bacchus and Ariadne*, the beauty of her dances, attitudes, and gestures, and her skill in depicting by movements without words, grief, anger, love, and despair, obtaining the warmest approval.

AN ABBE'S CRITIQUE.

The Act or 1737 for licensing plays, playhouses, and players, and legalising the power the Lord Chamberlain had long been accustomed to exercise, although readily passed by both Houses of Parliament, gave great offence to the public, says Dutton Cook in "A Book of the Play." The Abbé Le Blanc, who was visiting England at this period, describes the new law as provoking a "universal murmur in the nation."

The Act was passed in June, when the patent theatres, according to custom, were closed for the summer. Some two months after their reopening in the autumn all dramatic representations were suspended for six weeks, in consequence of the death of Queen Caroline. In January was presented at Covent Garden *A Nest of Plays*, as the author, one Hildebrand Jacob, described his production: a combination of three short plays, each consisting of one act only, entitled respectively, *The Prodigal Reformed*, *Happy Constancy*, and *The Trial of Conjugal Love*. The performance met with a very unfavourable reception. The author attributed the ill success of his work to its being the first play licensed by the authority of the Lord Chamberlain under the new Bill, many spectators having predetermined to silence, under any circumstances, "the first fruits of that Act of Parliament." The Abbé Le Blanc, who was present on the occasion, writes:—"The best play in the world would not have succeeded that night. There was a disposition to damn whatever might appear. The farce in question was damned, indeed, without the least compassion. Nor was that all, for the actors were driven off the stage, and happy was it for the author that he did not fall in to the hands of this furious assembly." And the Abbé proceeds to explain that the originators of this disturbance were not "schoolboys, apprentices, clerks, or mechanics," but lawyers, "a body of gentlemen perhaps less honoured, but certainly more feared here than they are in France," who, "from living in colleges (Inns of Court), and from conversing always with one another, mutually preserve a spirit of independency through the body, and with great ease form cabals. . . At Paris the cabals of the pit are only among young fellows, whose years may excuse their folly, or persons of the meanest education and stamp; here they are the fruit of deliberation in a very grave body of people, who are not less formidable to the minister in place than to the theatrical writers." But the Abbé relates that on a subsequent occasion, when another new play having been announced, he had looked for further disturbance, the judicious dramatist of the night succeeded in calming the pit by administering in his prologue a double dose of incense to their vanity. "Half-an-hour before the play was to begin the spectators gave notice of their dispositions by frightful hisses and outcries, equal, perhaps, to what were ever heard at a Roman amphitheatre." The author, however, having in part tamed this wild audience by his flattery, secured ultimately its absolute favour by humouring its prejudices after the grossest fashion. He brought upon the stage a figure "with black eyebrows, a ribbon of an ell long under his chin, a bag-peruke immoderately powdered, and his nose all bedaubed with snuff. What Englishman could not know a Frenchman by this ridiculous figure?" The Frenchman was presently shown to be, for all the lace down every seam of his coat, nothing but a cook, and then followed severe satire and criticism upon the manners and customs of France." "The excellences and virtues of English beef were extolled, and the author maintained that it was owing to the qualities of its juice that the English were so courageous and had such a solidity of understanding, which raised them above all the nations in Europe; he preferred the noble old English pudding beyond all the finest ragouts that ever were invented by the greatest geniuses that France ever produced." These "ingenious strokes" were loudly applauded by the audience, it seems, who, in their delight at the abuse lavished upon the French, forgot that they came to condemn the play and to uphold the ancient liberties of the stage. From that time forward, the Abbé states, "the law was executed without the least trouble; all the plays since have been quietly heard, and either succeeded or not according to their merits."

When Garrick visited Paris he declined to be introduced to the Abbé Le Blanc, "on account of the irreverence with which he had treated Shakespeare." There can, indeed, be no doubt that the Abbé, although he wrote amusing letters, was a very prejudiced person, and his evidence and opinions touching the English stage must be received with caution. So far as can be ascertained, especially by study of the "History of the Stage" (compiled by that industrious clergyman, Mr. Genest, from the playbills in the British Museum), but few new plays were produced in the course of the season immediately following the passing of the Licensing Act; certainly no new play can be found answering the description furnished by the Abbé with due regard to the period he has fixed for its production. Possibly he referred to the *Beaux' Strategem*, in which appear a French officer and an Irish-French priest, and which was certainly represented some few nights after the condemnation of Mr. Jacob's *Nest of Plays*. Farquhar's comedy was then thirty years old, however. Nor has the Abbé done full justice to the public opposition offered to the Licensing Act. At the Haymarket Theatre a serious riot occurred in October, 1738, fifteen months after the passing of the measure. Closed against the English actors the theatre was opened by a French company, armed with a licence from the Lord Chamberlain. A comedy, called *L'Embarras de Richesses*, was announced for representation "by authority." The house was crowded immediately after the opening of the doors. But the audience soon gave evidence of their sentiments by singing in chorus, "The Roast Beef of Old England." Deveil, one of the Justices of the Peace for Westminster, who was present, declared the proceedings to be riotous, and announced his intention to maintain the King's authority. He stated, further, that it was the King's command that the play should be acted, and that all offenders would be immediately secured by the guards in waiting. In opposition to the magistrate it was maintained "that the audience had a legal right to show their dislike to any play or actor; that the judicature of the pit had been acquiesced in, time immemorial; and as the present set of actors were to take their fate from the public, they were free to receive them as they pleased." When the curtain drew up the actors were discovered standing between two files of grenadiers, with their bayonets fixed and resting on their firelocks. This seeming endeavour to secure the success of French acting by the aid of British bayonets still more infuriated the audience. Even Justice Deveil thought it prudent to order the withdrawal of the military. The actors attempted to speak, but their voices were overborne by hisses, groans, and "not only catcalls, but all the various portable instruments that could make a disagreeable noise." A dance was next essayed; but even this had been provided against: showers of peas descended upon the stage, and "made capering very unsafe." The French and Spanish Ambassadors, with their ladies, who had occupied the stage-box, now withdrew, only to be insulted outside the theatre by the mob, who had cut the traces of their carriages. The curtain at last fell, and the attempt to present French plays at the Haymarket was abandoned, "the public being justly indignant that whilst an arbitrary Act suppressed native talent, foreign adventurers should be patronised and encouraged." It must be said, however, that the French actors suffered for sins not their own, and that the wrath of the public did not really reach the Lord Chamberlain, or effect any change in the Licensing Act.

AN OLD PLAYGOER'S SCRAP-BOOK.

"In the history of the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham, 1866," says Mr. T. Edgar Pemberton in his local retrospect of the Birmingham Theatres, "was an eventful and somewhat troubled year. Mr. Swanborough having given up its control, the property was purchased by Mr. James Rodgers, but as he was, owing to other engagements, unable to immediately take in hand the reins of management, he sub-let it for a while to a Mrs. Macready, or, as Mr. Rodgers has himself put it, 'to a woman calling herself Mrs. Macready, and her husband.' This lady was a strange being, who was fond of acting Shylock, and she apparently became so attached to the Birmingham boards that when Mr. Rodgers wished to take possession of his theatre she most strongly resented it. To quote Mr. Rodgers again: 'I went down,' he has said, 'to the theatre one night, on my return from another engagement, and found the stage-door guarded by the husband of this Mrs. Macready and a gang of the very vilest Birmingham roughs, armed with cudgels, and in some cases with axes. I made a rush at them, covering my face with my arms, forced my way through, got at the principal, exclaiming, "You scoundrel," and pummelled him about the face as hard as I could. The rest, seeing that their leader was getting the worst of it, bolted in all directions, and I was left in sole possession, and able at last to enter on my property.' Such was the dramatic part in which Mr. Rodgers first appeared in the theatre which he has for so many years so successfully and creditably managed. His first pantomime was called *Lalla Rookh*. For such a purpose the subject is a bad one, and though it was well acted by Miss Clara Dillon, Mr. Ellerton, Mr. J. B. Dale, and the other members of the new company, it cannot, judged by the light of what Mr. Rodgers gave afterwards in the way of Christmas entertainment, be regarded as a conspicuous success. The companion pantomime at the Royal—(from the familiar pen of Mr. Charles Millward, who for many years supplied the 'books' at that house)—was *Aladdin*. Mr. Harry Beckett played the Widow Chow-Chow, Mr. Joseph Eldred was the Emperor of China, Mr. John Barton was the Vizier, Miss Lizzie Willmore, Aladdin; Miss Lucy Raymond, Princess Badroulbadour; and Mr. George Rignold (destined later on to appear on the same boards as the best Henry V. the modern stage has seen) was content to appear in a character bearing the undignified name of Ka-Foo-Zee-Lum.

"During the 1867 season Sothern appeared at the Royal in two new pieces. Neither of them, however, added to his fame, and both *A Wild Goose* and *A Wife Well Won*, in which he respectively figured as Robert Devlin and Albert Bressange, must be added to the long, long list of theatrical failures. In the last-named piece he played the fancifully-conceived part of a young Frenchman, who, in some odd manner, comes in for a legacy of three pairs of fairy-endowed 'lucky breeches,' coloured respectively white, red, and blue; but the idea was not strong enough for the three acts which it had to support, and it accordingly fell flat. These two pieces, however—*A Wild Goose* and *A Wife Well Won*—did Birmingham playgoers, and as far as that goes, Birmingham folk at large, a good turn, for they introduced them to (then a girl in her teens) Miss Madge Robertson. Yes, whether as Madge Robertson or Mrs. Kendal, this most delightful of actresses has been a good friend to Birmingham. Year by year giving us wholesome and pleasant amusement, and frequently placing her unrivalled talents at the service of our charities, we have good reason to bless the day that first made her known to us. Does anyone, I wonder, remember with me how sweet she was in *A Wife Well Won*? Hers was, practically, the only woman's part in the piece, and she played it with a charm that was absolutely irresistible. From that night forward her complete Birmingham success was a thing assured.

"Mrs. Kendal, who, like all clever women, is endowed with a keen sense of humour, has some amusing things to tell about the performance here of these two pieces. In *A Wild Goose*, Sothern, who has been not inaptly described as 'a bundle of nerves,' had in the last act to shoot someone, and (carrying out the tradition of stage fire-arms) the pistol on one particular night failed to go off. Half mad with dismay and mortification, Sothern rushed at the lady who was to be his victim, and despatched her 'with his pen-knife!' Again, when *A Wife Well Won* was being played, Sothern, who at that time was almost painfully thin, lent, out of sheer good nature, a costly, heavily-padded silk coat that he had had made, to another actor—Mr. Sefton—to play a certain scene in. Mr. Sefton, unfortunately, failed to return it at the right moment, and when his turn came poor Sothern had to go on without any coat at all.

"Other actresses besides Miss Madge Robertson made their mark at the Royal during this season. Miss Rachel Sanger, previously and subsequently best known as a burlesque actress, appeared and made a most favourable impression in such serious parts as Ophelia and Desdemona. Says my scrap-book: 'In every character she has essayed, Miss Sanger has displayed intelligence, and power, and grace. She may never be a great *tragédienne*, but she is already far beyond many of her contemporaries, and has displayed singular versatility and power.' Miss Sanger was engaged to support Mr. Allerton, an earnest but much too ambitious gentleman, who, later on, made a terrible fiasco at the Lyceum. Concerning Mlle. Beatrice, who appeared in a variety of parts, and about whom I shall have more to say by-and-by, the same authority truthfully says: 'In her acting the greatest triumph of all art is reached, for the art conceals itself, and it is nature only that is set before the spectator. No one thinks of the actress, but only of that which is acted. It is not Mlle. Beatrice at all, but only a woman who has loved not wisely but too well; or a queen whose sorrows have washed our crimes; or a mother longing for love, her own by right, and almost within her grasp, but attainable not yet. It is such things as these that the spectator sees as he sits entranced; he only thinks of the actress when the fall of the curtain, or the bungling of some members of the company, calls him back to reality, and dispels the illusion.'

"Another memory of this year is the appearance of that admirable comedian, Mr. John Clarke—'Lame Clarke' as, owing to an unfortunate accident, he was familiarly called—in Mr. George Honey's part of Eccles in *Caste*, and his own original character of Hugh Chalcote in *Ours*. Playgoers, who are only familiar with Mr. Bancroft's impersonation of Chalcote, will find it difficult to believe that the part was originally played—and admirably played too—by a low comedian. The Royal pantomime of 1867-68 was on the subject of *Robinson Crusoe*. Mr. Harry Paulton, who succeeded Mr. Harry Beckett as principal low comedian at the theatre, played the part of Will Atkins in that peculiar vein of humour that is sometimes termed 'dry'; Mr. Lauri (as his name guarantees) impersonated Friday in the legitimate spirit of pantomime, and Miss Rose Massey (who subsequently made a success with poor Harry Montague at the Globe), and, of course, Mr. John Barton, were in the cast.

"An early experience at the Prince of Wales was the performance of a melodrama by Mr. T. W. Robertson—then in the very zenith of his justly earned fame—entitled *Shadow Tree Shaft*. According to the playbills this should have made a local hit, for, to quote from them, 'The scene is laid in South Staffordshire, and will give some wonderful pictures of a miner's life. The above piece will be brought forward under the personal superintendence and direction of the author, with every new scene."

ON THE ROAD, JULY 4.

An Abandoned Woman.—Elephant and Castle T.
An Unwedded Wife.—Grand T., Southampton.
At Cripple Creek.—T. R., Barry Dock.
At the World's Mercy.—O. H., Coventry.
Boys', Mr. Ryder, Co.—Warrington.
Charley's Aunt.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Worthing.
Donovan, Miss Lydia.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Faber, Mr. Leslie.—West Pier, Brighton.
Fight for a Life.—Star T., Swansea.
For Love and the King.—T. R., Chatham.
Gay, Deceivers, The.—Victoria T., Ramsgate.
Go-Won-Go-Mohawk.—Birkenhead.
Greed of Gold.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
His Sister's Honour.—New T., Bargoed.
Honeymoon, The.—Ramsgate and Worthing.
Hughes, Annie.—Pier, Eastbourne.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Dingwall and Bonar Bridge.
Little Breadwinner.—T. R., Woolwich.
London Fireman.—King's T., Southsea.
Love that Women Desire.—Lyric T., H'mersmith.
Manxman.—Queen's T., Manchester.
Master of Millions.—Palace T., Derby.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—Court T., Wigan.
Old Home, The.—T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
Old, Old Story.—T. R., Sheffield.
Prodigal Parson.—Grand T., Halifax.
Ridding, John, Opera.—Palace, New Brighton.
Royal Divorce.—O. H., Blackpool.
Shaughraun, The.—T. R., South Shields.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—P. T., Llandudno
Warner, Miss Grace.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Warning to Women.—Metropole T., Devonport.
When Other Lips.—T. R., Bolton.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Londesboro' T., Scarboro.
Woman Pays.—T. R., South Shields.
World and the Woman.—T. R., Sunderland.
Wrecker of Men.—Prince's T., Bradford.
£1,000 Reward.—T. R., Stockport.

THE ART OF ACTING.

The born actor, says Mr. A. B. Walkley in an article on the above subject in "Drama and Life," is the very opposite of the recluse, the sufferer from agoraphobia. The very idea of him involves the idea of spectators and listeners; like the orator and the dandy, he is of those who, in Buffon's phrase, "parlent au corps par le corps." You cannot imagine Crusoe acting on his island. It was not until Friday appeared, and fell to conveying his feelings in dumb-show, that acting began. Evidently, again, the histrionic temperament must be one peculiarly susceptible to external appearances. An actor must be impressed by the outward and visible signs of things rather than by the things themselves. Here, perhaps, is a reason why acting comes more naturally to women than to men. A man with a turn for reading is by nature a "solitary," which, as we have just seen, the born actor is not. No more, for that matter, is the born playgoer. Your typical playgoer is not a cloistered student. He belongs *ex hypothesi* to the class which is "fond of company"; he would not, even if he could, imitate Macaulay by reading Plato with his feet on the fender; he must have bustle, the sense of human kinship brought home to him by sitting elbow to elbow with his neighbour; he desires to see and be seen. (Parenthetically, I may suggest that this is why dramatic criticism finds its real public of readers among neither players nor playgoers, but the people who, in Pascal's phrase, "sit still in their parlours.")

This question of temperament is interesting enough to warrant closer examination. Every stage character consists of two parts, one determinate (call it a), indicated by the text, the stage directions, and *nothing else*, the other (x), vague and varying, representing the rest of the character, as it is behind the scenes and was before the curtain went up. The reader of the play forms a mental image of x by deductions from a, and so gets his conception of the whole character $a + x$. I may say in passing that the vice of academic criticism of Shakespeare in this country, as in Germany, is to discuss $a + x$ as an actual person, forgetting or ignoring that a is the only part of the character for which we have the poet's warranty, and that x is merely our own surmise. But that is "another story." The point here is that, while we all have to give a value to x, we none of us give the same value, since no two imaginations coincide. That is why the student of Shakespeare is always disconcerted when first he sees a favourite play either illustrated in a picture or performed on the stage. This, he says, is all very well, but it is not *my* Romeo or *my* Cordelia. Now the actor's business with a is comparatively simple. He has to speak the words and do the things set down for him. It is with x that his real difficulties begin; for in place of our vague, floating notion of the character as a whole he has to offer us his own real person and temperament. Here the *acting* side of him is in the long run far less important than what the man naturally *is*. For it is, of course, flagrantly untrue, though often spoken of as true, that an actor can divest himself of his own personality and put on the personality of someone else. Just as an author is always really identical with his work ("for, after all," as Walter Bagehot said, "we know that authors don't keep tame steam-engines to write their books"), so the actor's histrionic is always part and parcel of his real, everyday self. You may so paint wrinkles on your brow, so modulate your voice and order your bearing as to pass, behind the footlights, for a mad old King of Britain, but the fact remains that you are Mr. Brown, a taxpayer of to-day, with an address in the London Postal Directory, and a pretty taste in claret and cigars. This fact will for ever prevent you from absolutely realising x. It may even do so in some obvious physical way ("His weak, white, genteel hands, and the shape of his stomach," said Tolstoy, on his visit to Siegfried, "betrayed the actor"). But, even though your disguise be perfect, the fact that the soul within you is not the soul of Lear—or rather, not the soul of Shakespeare as projected in Lear—but the soul of Mr. Brown must for ever mark off a measurable distance between x and your impersonation. The measure of that distance is, inversely, the measure of your success in the part. On the other hand, your reality (the Mr. Brown in you), while it prevents you from fully and satisfactorily representing x—that is to say, coinciding with the spectator's mental image of your part—will give you the great advantage over that vague, pale image of definiteness and substance. What is lost in harmony and perfect propriety of conception is gained in precision and intensity of effect—provided always that your personality is not absolutely at variance with the spectators' conception. You are able to offer him a real man for an imaginary one.

What is the upshot of all this? That your skill as an actor, necessary as it is to get through the plain business of a and to give the spectator that measure of illusion without which play-acting becomes mere meaningless nonsense, is of small account as compared with your real self, your personality, your temperament, call it what you will. Are you what young ladies call a "nice" man? Are you "sympathetic," winning people by the mere manner of you as you enter the stage? Are you "magnetic," endowed with the peculiar property of impressing your fellow-creatures by mere glance and voice and presence? It is by such tests as these that ultimately as an actor you must stand or fall. Salvini, Duse, Bartet, Irving—take any illustrious stage-names you please, and the secret of their greatness will be found not in consummate skill—one takes that item for granted—but in the mystery of temperament.

"HIS FIRST SUCCESS."

"It seems rather a vain proceeding," says Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P., in *P.T.O.*, "to talk of 'success' at all in a world where the standard of achievement is so high, but all these things are relative, and what is success for one man may only be a far-off hint of it for another. I had done nothing definite to focus public attention on work of mine until the year 1888, and my heart vibrated with hope when the doors of a possible popularity—not disagreeable to the most modest of human beings, and I was not that—were flung wide, for on March 31 of that year George Rignold, who was once the idol of Drury Lane and the provinces and of the United States as Henry V., produced my first play, an adaptation of *Faust*, at Her Majesty's Theatre, Sydney, Australia.

"It was a magnificent theatre, which, however, did not do infinite credit to its architect in every particular. It was opened with *Henry V.*, and Rignold had never played with greater dignity, force, and beauty—and he had capacities for all three—than on the night of the opening; but I remember how some of us were troubled at noises which came from the gallery, disturbing to the actor and the audience. The splendid impressiveness of the performance was jarred by discordant voices, whispering, and disturbance. This went on for one-half of the play. Then occurred a scene which I shall never forget. As Henry V. in the scene depicting the night before the Battle of Agincourt, Rignold knelt and uttered the prayer:

'O God of battles! steel my soldiers' hearts:
Possess them not with fear.'

"The voice rang out plaintive, powerful, appealing, but there was noise in the gallery. Finishing the prayer, Rignold stood up, turned to the audience, and spread out his arms, saying, 'Oh, men, won't you give me a chance?'

"An instant silence fell. There were a few of us who knew how Rignold had worked day and night to get the theatre open; struggling with the then undeveloped elements of electric lighting and all the difficulties of furnishing and getting a new theatre into shape, and had been without sleep or rest or food for days. We understood the agony of mind with which he thought that he was confronting not only all these natural difficulties of the situation but a spirit of hostility from the 'gods.' He was a figure of massive strength and touching appeal. In the silence that followed his words there came a voice down from the gallery, 'S'elp me God, George, we can't see!' Then another voice added, 'Go on, George; we'll keep quiet.' The architect had built the arches in the gallery in such a way that they obstructed the sight of at least one hundred and fifty or two hundred people, and naturally they were aggrieved and troubled at not seeing their idol, which he certainly was. I shall not soon forget the look of relief that came into Rignold's face, or the trembling lip with which he returned to his work.

"And, in a sense, that night had much to do with my first success, because I wrote an article for the *Sydney Morning Herald* describing the performance and this eloquent scene, with its dangerous innovation of appeal from the centre of an historical play to the people over the footlights. The article was not signed by myself, as, at that time, I was one of the associate-editors of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, though I was in my very early twenties. George Rignold, however, wrote a letter to the editor expressing his gratitude for the article, which was not a dramatic critic's report of the play, and discovered that it was I who had written it. We had met before in New Zealand, one Sunday night after I had landed at Auckland, from Honolulu; and when we met again it was to renew a delightful acquaintance.

"Then and there, almost at that first meeting, I began to plan with him my adaptation of *Faust*. They were days full of toil and delight, and one was young enough not to care how much energy was expended and what toll one took of vitality. I was writing leading articles; so-called 'side articles' on interesting topical subjects; essays on travel; an absolute stranger to the country, reading omnivorously and absorbing constantly in order to understand the questions with which one had to deal, and at the same time writing *Faust*. I should think I then worked on an average fifteen hours a day, having, as my only recreation, an hour's sculling on Sydney Harbour.

"I like to think that I had as my Marguerite Kate Bishop—Mrs. Lohr—one of the truest actresses the English stage has produced, and whose daughter now is charming thousands at the Haymarket Theatre in *Her Father*, as her mother has done all her life. I had not seen Kate Bishop from the spring of 1899 until a fortnight ago in a little room at the Haymarket Theatre we met again, and I congratulated her on a daughter who was worthily living again her mother's ability and charm. In those nineteen years Kate Bishop had grown to be a white-haired lady, and I was nineteen years older, too. It was only a step, however, back to the night when she played Marguerite, and by her grace and charm, together with Rignold's splendid performance of Mephistopheles—mordant, subtle, cynically whimsical—they gave me the first taste of popularity. Well, you cannot take the first taste of it out of the mouth. It is better than anything that comes after, and the memory of those Sunday newspapers—for the play was produced on a Saturday night—with their two and three columns of praise sometimes puts iron into one's nerves now when the delights of popularity are chastened by rigorous criticism and challenge. Sometimes Rignold and I, as we talked our *Faust*, took a tram out to Coogee and Bondo, or Botany Bay, and I cannot help but think that something of human warmth got into the play from 'circumstances over which we had no control.'

"The play ran a long time, and made money for Rignold and for myself. It was followed by others; but though they were successes, you never could 'recapture that first fine, careless rapture.' I remember one amusing circumstance which occurred during the production of the play. In Marguerite's last scene—the Prison scene—where she laments her little dead child and the misery she must suffer, and that she has caused, Mephistopheles (Rignold) stood outside her cell, and such was the effect of the green electric light, which, fastened under his hat, threw a grotesque glimmer on his face, that members of the audience laughed nervously. After the performance Kate Bishop came to George Rignold's dressing-room to protest. She said, 'You've queered my scene: you've taken away my best moment.' Now, Rignold, with the co-operation of the author, had done his utmost to give Marguerite as much prominence as could possibly be done, and, conscious of that, he looked at Kate Bishop for the moment dumbfounded. Then, involuntarily pressing the button under his belt, his face glimmered with the green light, and he said, 'Kate, if I haven't worked like the devil for you, I'm damned!' The humour of the situation burst upon us all, and we laughed and had supper."

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The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

GEORGE HARRIS.—*We have learnt on most reliable authority that no benefit at the Canterbury was arranged either for Mr. or Mrs. George Beauchamp. Mrs. George Beauchamp (Miss Nellie Lingard) predeceased her husband.*

BRIGGS (PIMLICO).—*Certainly not.*

BLACK (PECKHAM).—*Write to him at the Paragon to-day. He has been performing there this week.*

A. HOLLAND (Manchester).—*Sam Bagnall, music-hall comedian, died on July 12, 1885, and was buried on July 14 in Burmantofts Cemetery. No age is given in our short obituary notice of him. Probably it is stated on the tombstone; and a letter to the cemetery authorities might procure you the information you desire.*

ALLOTT (Lincoln).—*Put your question to a well-known firm of publishers, such as Chappell, New Bond-street, W., or Boosey and Co., 295, Regent-street, W. The latter firm, we believe, has the publishing and performing rights, and would be able to answer your question as to the libretto.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGES.

BARCLAY—MAVIUS.—June 27, by special licence, George Barclay, jun., eldest son of George Barclay Esq., and Miss Kate Carney, to Gladys Mavius, only daughter of Mrs. Arthur Mavius, granddaughter of Colonel Salusbury Davenport, and great-granddaughter of Sir Allen Napier McNab, late Governor-General of Canada.

WHITELEY—WRIGHT.—On July 5, at Christ Church, Brixton, Ben Whiteley (Five Whiteleys) to Lottie Wright (Peggy Fame), daughter of Harry Wright and Nellie Gannon. Australian, American, and foreign press please copy.

DEATHS.

CLARK.—June 26, at Pernambuco, S. America, Allan Clark, Bandmaster R.M.S.P. "Aragon." Deeply regretted.

FELL.—On the 26th inst., at 6, Harley-street, Barrow-in-Furness, Thomas Kennedy Fell, M.R.C.S., in his 57th year.

FORDE.—June 26, at 30, Argyll-mansions, Chelsea, after a few days' illness, Kathleen, the dearly-loved wife of H. Athol Forde, and daughter of John Armstrong, Esq., K.C., and Mrs. Armstrong, of Sydney, N.S.W.

FRANKLIN.—June 30, John Campbell Franklin, of Broughton Lodge, 65, Mount Park-road, Ealing, formerly of Guildhall-road, Northampton.

SHENTON.—June 23, at Home Villa, Cheltenham, Frederick Shakspere Shenton, printer and bill-poster.

IN MEMORIAM.

WAKEFIELD.—In loving memory of our dear brother, J. H. Wakefield, who died July 3, 1900. Lovingly remembered by mother, brother, and sister.

FOR SYMPATHY.

MR. CUTHBERT RICKETTS, Mr. F. R. Benson's Business-Manager, wishes to thank his many friends in the theatrical profession who have so kindly expressed their sympathy with him in the sad loss of his wife, who passed away, after a few days' illness, on June 19.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Butler Stanhope—Saturday, July 4.
Nettie Ware—Saturday, July 4.
Fred Poplar—Saturday, July 4.
Arthur E. Stigant—Saturday, July 4.
Albert Brasque—Saturday, July 4.
Wilfred Compton—Saturday, July 4.
Barbara Bateman—Saturday, July 4.
Whimsical Walker—Sunday, July 5.
Jan Kubelik—Sunday, July 5.
Naomi Hope—Sunday, July 5.
Billie Bint—Monday, July 6.
Walter Stockwell—Monday, July 6.
Henry Swinerd—Monday, July 6.
Fanny Brough—Tuesday, July 7.
Amy Augarde—Tuesday, July 7.
Nora Morra—Tuesday, July 7.
H. A. Jordison—Wednesday, July 8.
Mrs. Alfred Mellon—Wednesday, July 8.
Laura Dyson—Wednesday, July 8.
Florry Cooper—Wednesday, July 8.
Carlotta Addison—Thursday, July 9.
Julian Cross—Thursday, July 9.
Walter Giffard—Friday, July 10.

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No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Beaton, Mr. R.
Beere, Mr. Bernard
Belasco, Mr D.
Benet, Mr. Harry
Benson, Miss Lily
Biddall Bros.
Bill, Buff
Birch, Mr. Chas.
Boswell, Miss
Braham, Mr. Harry
Calvert, Mr. Louis
Campbell, Mrs. P.
Carey, Mr. Chas.
Carey, Mr. Pat
Carlton, Mr. Edward
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Embley, Mr. Ted
Evans, Mr. Wash
Farland, Mr. B.
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Foster, Mr. Geo.
Fox, Capt. Alex
French, Mr. Henry
Friedman, Mr. Harry
Gilleno, Mr. H.
Glenney, Mr. C.
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Goillt, Miss A.
Graham, Mr. Harry
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Gray, Mr. J
Haggar, Mr. W.
Hallard, Mr.
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Hornsey, Mr. L.
Howard, Mr. Keble
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Hunt, Miss Violet
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Ingleton, Mr. G.
Ishmael, Prince
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Johnstone, Mr. T. E.
Kelsey, Mr. Robert
King, Mr. A.
King, Mr. Claude
Kingston, Mr. Harry
Kirkwood, Mr. J. P.
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Lamb, Miss B.
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Wylie, Mr. Lauri
Zolas, the Four

CRICKET.

THESPIDS v. PLAYGOERS.

Played at New Malden on June 28. The Thespids won by the substantial margin of 218, due to the magnificent innings of B. L. Bisgood (186), who was partnered by H. Carrick (102 not out) in a formidable stand. Scores:—

THESPIDS.—Major Guggisberg, c H. A. Rees, b Dawdrey, 8; H. A. C. Sherriff, b Wells, 21; H. Carrick, not out, 102; B. L. Bisgood, hit wkt. b Coke, 186; V. O'Connor, b Wallers, 27; H. Pullman, not out, 13; extras, 18; *total (4 wkts.) 375. Innings declared closed. C. Aubrey Smith, R. Graham, E. D. Bisgood, C. A. Godward, Ernest Cameron, and V. R. Polley did not bat.

PLAYGOERS.—L. S. Wells, c Pullman b Smith, 20; C. Reiner, c Polley b Carrick, 3; R. Kenward, c Pullman b Smith, 25; A. Wallers, b O'Connor, 6; T. A. Darke, c B. L. Bisgood b Polley, 5; G. Dawdrey, c Guggisberg b O'Connor, 11; J. C. Johnson, c B. L. Bisgood b Graham, 31; H. A. Rees, c E. D. Bisgood b Sherriff, 15; M. T. Engman, b Graham, 0; L. W. Croft, c Godward b Graham, 0; A. Coke, b Godward, 16; R. F. Rees, not out, 16; extras, 8; total, 156.

"WAY OF THE WORLD" CO. v. BROOKESBOTHAMS XI.

Played at Bury on June 25, and ending in a win for the Lancashire club by 11 runs. Scores:—

"The Way of the World."—H. Sherwood Martin, b H. Sharples, 6; R. N. Wood, b White, 11; Smith, c Walsh, b White, 18; J. P. McBride, b H. Sharples, 0; Herbert Skardon, run out, 2; D'Arcy Kelway, c Sharples, b White, 2; Bert Conway, b White, 2; Pat Quinn, b Sharples, 7; Wilcock, c Smith, b White, 4; Stock, b White, 2; Taylor, not out, 1; extras, 7. Total, 62.

Brookesbothams.—F. White, c Skardon, b Sherwood Martin, 1; W. Tatterstall, c Sherwood Martin, b Wood, 20; W. Sharples, run out, 3; F. Sharples, b Smith, 13; E. White, lbw, b Sherwood Martin, 1; C. Smith, c McBride, b Smith, 3; H. Sharples, c Taylor, b Sherwood Martin, 1; G. Warburton, b Martin, 12; Walsh, c Smith, b Sherwood Martin, 7; J. Hallams, lbw, b Smith, 1; G. Sheldon, not out, 7; extras, 5. Total, 73.

HARRY ROXBURY'S "PRINCE OF MONTE CARLO" CO. v. PALACE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.

Played at West Hartlepool on June 27, and resulting in a win for Mr. Roxbury's XI. Batting first, the winners ran up a total of 102, chiefly due to the efforts of Fred Guinness, who played a faultless "Jessopian" innings of 60 before being dismissed by a fine catch by Noble off R. Dobin. D. Clarkson scored a very useful 12 not out. The Palace team could only respond with 56, their dismissal being chiefly due to the destructive bowling of Fred Davenporte, who took six wickets for 22 runs, and Fred Guinness, three for 24. Scores:—

HARRY ROXBURY'S XI.—Fred Davenporte, 4; Fred Guinness, 60; F. Raby, 0; Harry Roxbury, 0; M. Lyth, 3; N. S. Connolly, 0; G. Dobing, 1; J. Mack, 7; D. Wilson, 3; J. Dodds, 4; D. Clarkson, 12; extras, 8; total, 102.

PALACE.—Hamilton, 4; Noble, 11; Dixon, 0; C. Tuttle, 2; L. Bayley, 9; Hardwick, 5; Framingham, 9; Anderson, 2; W. Tuthill, 3; R. Dobin, 0; Flanders, 1; extras, 10; total, 56.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 1908.

BOGUS AND REFORM.

Whatever may be the differences of opinion between the different associations which are working for the same object—i.e., the improvement of the lot of the actor—they are practically unanimous as to their hatred of "bogus." It is not only the actor who suffers from this evil. The recent slump in theatrical business in the provinces was greatly to be attributed to the disrepute into which theatrical entertainments had fallen in certain places through the "watering-down" of companies. Things had been for some time past moving in a vicious circle. Years of fashion and prosperity had created the belief that attractions could be cheapened to any extent without loss, and that every pound saved in expenses was equal to a pound gained of increased receipts. Thus, by degrees, the provincial public in certain towns became disgusted with the theatre and ceased to support it. This state of things was not only injurious to the manager of the weak company and the proprietor of the meanly-conducted theatre; a lower opinion of the stage as an enjoyment gradually gained ground, and this opinion acted against the efforts of the enlightened and liberal *entrepreneurs*. The bogus manager is equally the enemy of the high-class manager and the experienced and talented artist.

The truth is very often unpleasant, and it is frequently more profitable to "prophesy pleasant things" with one's tongue in one's cheek than to offend by straightforwardness. The truth, as regards bogus management, is that the real crux of the situation lies in the attitude of the actors themselves, who are slow to combine or take any trouble to fight a case. A whole company interviewed the Actors' Association not long ago; but when the solicitor had been instructed to take proceedings only one of the company very reluctantly consented to go into Court. Two members of the company, people in big positions engaged for three months certain at large salaries, did not receive a full week's salary, but would not prosecute. The influencing motive is, of course, fear of offending managers generally, by making oneself prominent as a champion of a cause. It is a very natural and weighty reason, when we consider the overstocked nature of the profession and the difficulty of obtaining engagements. But the only chance of keeping "bogus" within bounds, and of eventually suppressing it altogether, is to generate a more audacious and public-spirited feeling in the individual actor and actress. The only person who can sue for a debt is the person to whom the debt is due; and the profession who would be "free" from bogus must itself "strike the blow" at it. It is not a question of expediency; in many cases it will be more expedient for an actor or actress to put up with the loss and pocket the indignity of being cheated. But there is a higher law than expediency—the law of humanity. The victims of the bogus manager should hunt him down, if only to discourage the others, and prevent him swindling more actors and actresses.

It is in this way that the Actors' Union and the Actors' Association are doing great and valuable work; and all honour is due to those who, hoping against hope, are working to generate the necessary sentiment in their brethren and sisters of the profession. It is something to get anything done in this direction, to inspire the smallest feeling of enterprise and self-respect in the poorest class of actor and actress. Anyone who wishes to know how provincial companies were paid—or rather not paid—twenty years ago should read Mr. JEROME K. JEROME'S book "On the Stage and Off," published in 1888. Mr. JEROME, in order to improve himself as a playwright, went upon the stage; and he gives a humorous, but heart-rending, description of life in a small provincial company on tour. The work that the modern theatrical associations are doing is the cultivation of the germ of independence in the minor actor and actress. Fiery spirits like Miss ROSE MATHEWS at the Actors' Association, and Mr. BEDFORD, the "lion" of the Actors' Union, are fighting an uphill battle and leading a forlorn hope; but their efforts will not be in vain. The minimum wage, in the opinion of many, is a dream; but the principles of combination, of self-sacrifice for the good of the community, and of brotherly help and sympathy are everlasting realities.

The difficulty of the situation is greatly complicated by the fascination which acting exercises over persons of all classes and both sexes. It is the same to a certain extent with all the arts, painting and music especially; but the attraction of the stage is to hundreds irresistible. The truth of this is shown by the willingness of thousands of male and female citizens to take part in a local pageant. All classes, from the M.P. and his daughter to the shop-assistant, may be seen at these festivals revelling in the delights of wearing costume and pretending to be somebody else. They take no pay, they provide their own dresses, and they labour at long rehearsals all for the pleasure of playing a part. In our recent "*Era Annual*" one of the short stories dealt with the distress of the understudy who cannot get a chance of showing his talent. It is not sufficient to an enthusiastic actor to be paid his salary; he wants to be acting, to be performing his proper function in the general scheme. This feeling inevitably makes him comparatively indifferent to financial and mundane considerations; and the resultant weakness has to be combated. This can only be done by appealing to another quality of the artistic temperament, its generous sympathy. When actors and actresses as a body realise that they owe a duty to their profession as well as a duty to themselves; that an individual responsibility rests on all of us to help to elevate and not to degrade our calling; that to be a bogus actor, or to tolerate bogus actors, or to hang back from insisting on one's rights, is a crime against the community; we shall see improvement everywhere. These convictions can only be created by the magnetic influence of a few powerful personalities, who stir and stimulate the mass; and what appears to be mere passionate verbiage is only the necessary excitement to action. A certain heat and exaggeration may easily be forgiven in these pioneers, in view of the inertia which they have to overcome. We cannot do without enthusiasm, be the cause or object what it may.

MISS NANCY PRICE, in reply to Mr. Godfrey Turner's query in *Life's Pictorial Comedy*, writes:—"I have no ambition to be a Queen. I regard it as a much overrated profession. My first wish would be that I were not, and my first task would be to find an efficient understudy; and I would take good care that she frequently played my part—at bazaars, foundation-stones, and drawing-rooms—during the hot weather. Then—I hesitate between the model theatre of Ludwig II. of Bavaria and the ocean-going yacht of the Prince of Monaco. I should have model performances of Wagner and Bernard Shaw; and, should the humour seize me, I might descend from my Royal box, and take the leading part myself. What glorious receptions and criticisms I should receive! When I wanted change I might steam for an island in the Pacific, my sole communication with the world a Marconi installation. But wait! To indulge these hobbies if I were Queen I should certainly be a lunatic; so I fear I must leave your question unanswered."

MME. BARTET, the beautiful leading lady of the Theatre de la Comédie Française, says:—"If I were a Queen, I would try so very hard, and fail so very completely, to follow in the footsteps of your lovely Queen of England, and to look and to be as great and majestic."

MR. JAMES WELCH replies:—"If I were King I would do my level best to remain in the situation. From what I have heard, there's more safe money in kinging than in acting. And the post has other privileges too numerous to mention. At the same time, the duties of a King must be very difficult to perform naturally, and I fear it would take me a long time to learn how to smile as if I meant it when my journeys by train were frequently interrupted by borough Mayors with loyal addresses of welcome, all couched in precisely the same terms throughout. I should find myself listening to them with the ears of an actor-manager, and saying, 'No, no; that will never do! Rotten, my worthy friend—quite rotten!' But we never know what we can do until we try, and I daresay I might in time acquire the secret of looking pleasant under these very depressing circumstances. Anyhow, the money's good, and it would take a lot to sack me when once I was in the job."

MISS FANNIE WARD writes:—

"'O 'tis a glorious thing, I ween
To be a regular Royal Queen!
No half-and-half affair, I mean,
But a right-down regular,
Regular, regular,
Regular Royal Queen!'

like Queen Alexandra! Of course, if I could be such a Queen as all that verse up there amounts to, I would be the best Queen in the world, and then there would be two best Queens in the world—the gracious and beautiful wife of King Edward VII. and myself! But if I were simply Queen Fannie Ward, there would be ructions in Palace and Parliament, for I'm partial to my own way in most things, and would as likely as not kick the shins of the Mistress of the Robes and throw my clothes out of window should his Majesty, my husband, want me to go with him to open a new wing of a charity school on a hot July day!"

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"A PRINCESS IN BOHEMIA."

A Comedy, in Four Acts, by Gilbert Dayle, produced for the first time on any stage at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, on Monday, June 29.

Sir Phillip Templeton ..... MR. CHARLES BOULT
Hamilton Quirk ..... MR. FRED A. MARSTON
Jimmy Ludlow ..... MR. EDGAR STEVENSON
Mr. Heathcote ..... MR. FRED CASTLEMAN
Vickery ..... MR. EDWARD PETLEY
Judson ..... MR. GEORGE FISHER
Crayley Carr ..... MR. ERNEST E. NORRIS
Miss Joan Herepath ..... MISS LENA DELPHINE
Mrs. Rainsford ..... MISS BESSIE HARRISON
Miss Alma Maxwell ..... MISS EDITH COLEMAN
Lady Delia Kingsfield .... MISS ROSEMARY REES

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The plot of this interesting piece is as follows:—Alma Maxwell, a wealthy young lady, when tired of society hides herself in a little riverside cottage on the Thames. Sir Phillip Templeton, who is living in the neighbourhood, saves her puppy from drowning. They fall in love, she believing that he does not know her to be the rich Miss Maxwell, and that he loves her for herself alone. But he has been told by Lady Delia Kingsfield, an ambitious widow, who secretly admires him. Templeton has a friend who saved his life, an author, Crayley Carr, who lives in a flat on the embankment among a number of artistic ne'er-do-wells, who are called the "colony," and he has been introduced by Miss Joan Herepath, a member, to Miss Maxwell, whom he worships afar off, and who is known to the colony as the Princess. Miss Maxwell is introduced by Joan to the colony on her return to town, and during the visit Templeton, who is to meet her, calls on Carr, and finding Alma there, introduces her to Carr as his future wife, tells Carr he has secured a Government position abroad, and asks him during his absence, if occasion should arise, to help Alma.

In the second act we are introduced to Alma's house in Park-lane, where she is entertaining the colony. During the evening the news is brought to her that her uncle has failed through over-speculation, that he has absconded, and that her fortune is lost in the crash. Carr, anxious to carry out his promise to Templeton, suggests that he shall take a studio for her, that she shall become a member of the colony, and that, as she is a very clever amateur designer in metal work, &c., she must now turn her talents to account, and that, though she is no longer a princess in Park-lane, she shall be the "Princess in Bohemia."

In the following act we find Alma a registered member of the colony, working hard and supporting herself. Templeton returns, and having inquired for Alma in vain, comes to Carr's flat for information. Carr, after telling him of her poverty, charges him with being a fortune-hunter. The news staggers Templeton, who has looked upon Alma's money as a means of his social success. Carr and Templeton quarrel, and are almost proceeding to blows, when Alma enters, and welcomes Templeton on his return.

In Act 4 Alma, on finding that Templeton has deceived her, releases him and accepts the hand of Carr, now famous as an author, to whom she has always been, and always will be, a princess. Templeton pairs off with the ambitious Lady Delia, and the play concludes.

The characters are well drawn and admirably contrasted, the life of Bohemia is attractively presented in the charming little story, and the dénouement in the third act, where Templeton is compelled to admit that from his first meeting with Alma he knew her to be wealthy, helps in sustaining the interest to the finish. The dialogue is at times sparkling, and one cannot but enjoy the author's forte for happy repartee. For a first representation the play went with remarkable smoothness (thanks to the able management of Mr. T. F. Doyle), and a sympathetic audience demonstrated unmistakably their hearty appreciation of the play and the efforts of Mr. Hart's able company. If Mr. Charles Boult was not, on the whole, quite at his ease as Sir Phillip Templeton, he managed well in illustrating how the man of the world was prepared to sacrifice everything for wealth and ambition. Crayley Carr is a strong contrast in point of character, and Mr. Ernest E. Norris represented the unselfish, devoted friend with fervour, without being in the least demonstrative. Hamilton Quirk, the good-natured but cynical pessimist, was an enjoyable performance by Mr. Fred A. Marston, but his aversion to the canting Mrs. Rainsford was just a little too marked. Mr. Edgar Stevenson was energetic enough as the journalist, Jimmy Ludlow. Miss Lena Delphine distinguished herself in a bright performance of the gushing lady journalist, Joan Herepath. Miss Bessie Harrison played Mrs. Rainsford, of the Vicarage, with delightful quaintness. With sympathetic grace and charm Miss Edith Coleman filled the part of Alma Maxwell; Miss Rosemary Rees gave a composed and thoroughly convincing performance of the part of the selfish, scheming, society lady Delia Kingsfield; Mr. Edward Petley was capital as the loquacious Vickery; and Mr. Fred Castleman (Mr. Heathcote) and Mr. George Fisher (Judson) filled their parts acceptably.

FREEMASONS AT WORK.

Chelsea chapter, No. 3098, held its second installation meeting on Friday last, at the Freemasons' Hall, under the presidency of Mr. J. W. Mathews, assisted by Mr. Albert Le Fre and Mr. Herbert Chenery, the minor offices being filled by Messrs. Geo. Dyball, W. Atlas, W. Vallazzi, Geo. Mozart, Harry Bawn, Wolfe S. Lyon (treasurer), and C. J. Doughty (secretary). A ballot having been taken for Mr. James Simon Lyen, he was exalted according to ancient form, following which Mr. Mathews retired from the chair, and Mr. Albert Le Fre was installed as ruler for the ensuing year, and invested Messrs. H. Chenery, C. J. Doughty, W. S. Lyon, Harry Bawn, Geo. Mozart, G. H. Dyball, and J. Gilbert with the insignia of the different offices to which they had been elected, and then presented Mr. J. W. Mathews, on behalf of the chapter, with a very handsome jewel, and on behalf of the officers who had served under him, with a past Z collar. A visiting companion, Mr. H. E. De Lane, a gentleman well known in Masonic circles, was unanimously elected an honorary member. In addition to the gentlemen already mentioned, Messrs. A. C. Girard, Monte Bayly, Albert Christian, and Frank Hardie were also present. Telegrams of regret were received from Messrs. Harry Coutts, W. H. Hitch, F. H. Pedgrift, &c., &c.

The Earl's Court chapter, No. 2,765, held its installation meeting at the Criterion on Saturday last, when Mr. Wolfe S. Lyon, the retiring M.E.Z., was presented with a handsome jewel, in recognition of his services during the past year.

MR. H. CHANCE NEWTON, with regard to unemployed actors and actresses, says:—"The only thing I can really suggest—until chances of work come up again in September—is that some of those professionals who are in work, and are receiving (often not too deservedly) bloated salaries, should meet together and 'pool' a decent sum apiece for the assistance of their poorer brethern and sisters. In spite of all this distress—in slump times and other times—the profession continues to be vastly overcrowded. At the moment of finishing this article I read that a day or two ago 450 people applied at a certain theatre where six small-part people were needed! Moreover, all sorts and conditions of people in comfortable circumstances, or people who have no need to work for their livelihood, continue to accept theatrical engagements for nothing per week, and many even 'pay' to play!"

SEVERIN-MARS AT THE ROYALTY.

It is certainly very difficult and perhaps somewhat unfair to judge the quality of M. Severin-Mars from the opening performance of his season on Monday night, as many circumstances combined to damp the spirits and depress the judgment of the observer. The audience was small and apathetic, for which, no doubt, the heat was responsible; the waits were long and tedious, the mounting meagre, and the plays so insufficiently rehearsed that the prompter had the "fattest" part of the whole company. When, after a delay of twenty minutes, the curtain rose on *Octave*, the first of the five one-act plays set down on the programme, it was hard to say whether the humours of the supposed dead man would have met with more appreciative response under more favourable circumstances. As it was, they certainl fell flat, and it is much to the credit of M. Gouget that he sustained the part in the key of cheery *bonhomie* to the end. M. Gouget gave an excellent picture of a Parisian "bon viveur," a materialist of the first water, who, though finding his mistress unfaithful, his friend insincere, and his trusted valet a time-server and a thief, is, nevertheless, sufficiently light-hearted to make love to the next woman he comes across—in this case a telephone girl! La petite maîtresse was played with a pretty air of mock modesty by Mlle. Dariel.

M. Severin-Mars played the title-part in the second item, *Un Honnête Homme*. He has at least the virtue of originality; his method is entirely his own. Perhaps it is more the fault of the parts than the player that on Monday night M. Severin-Mars gave an impression of peculiar detachment from his surroundings, which may also account for the "arresting" quality of his work. At times he strikes the observer as being crude and lacking in polish, but that may be the outcome of environment—his reputation, we believe, has been made chiefly in the "banlieux" of Paris. One asks one's self what can be the meaning of the extraordinary gesticulations and facial contortions which are made at the door through which the frightened maid has vanished after surprising her master and mistress in a quarrel. M. Severin-Mars is undoubtedly clever in portraying this initial stage of insanity. In the last, and by far the best, item on the programme, *La dernière Soirée de Brummel*, he has some really fine moments. He touches with a delicate pathos the character of the ancient beau, who, in his lonely, poverty-stricken exile, imagines that he is still living in the days of his triumphs, when his word was law in the land of fashion, and in the mean *salon* of his fifth-rate hotel he receives in imagination the great ones of his former world, some long since dead, and with fine, old-fashioned courtesy welcomes and entertains his guests. Finally, with stately dignity, he goes to his place in the carriage which is to convey him to the madhouse, thinking it to be the carriage sent for him by the Regent. M. Severin-Mars made the famous dandy a living, pathetic, and noble figure, and was well supported by M. Gouget as the faithful old valet, François.

In the last item, *Fleur d'Oranger*, Paul, a college boy of seventeen, is in love with Louison, the pretty servant maid. Louison will not listen to Paul's nonsense; but she gives him a kiss, which turns the white lily on the table a crimson colour (the lily being the emblem of their purity). The sketch is somewhat trivial.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, Mr. R. A. Robinson (chairman) presiding.

LICENSING.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported as follows:—"We have had under consideration the question whether the procedure respecting the notices to be given in connection with applications for licences for music, music and dancing, and stage plays might not be somewhat simplified. Such applications are considered by the Council once a year, in the month of November, and applicants are required to give notice on or before Sept. 1 to the clerk of the Council, the town clerk of the metropolitan borough in which the premises are situated, and the Commissioner of Police, of their intention to apply for a licence. In addition there must be posted up on the premises a copy of the notice, and this copy has to be kept posted up until the application has been dealt with by the Council. The notice has therefore to be maintained upon the premises for a period of nearly three months. This period we consider unnecessarily long, and we propose that applicants should be permitted to submit applications up to and including Oct. 1. We also suggest that applicants should not be required to give notice to the town clerks and the Commissioner of Police, as a complete list of the applications made to the Council is compiled by the clerk of the Council and copies of this list are forwarded to the town clerks and the Commissioner of Police about four weeks before the hearing of the applications. The adoption of these alterations will enable the Council to have a simpler form of declaration and will entail a few other alterations of a consequential character." The committee recommended that orders in the form specified be made by the Council as the licensing authority under the Local Government Act, 1888. The recommendation was approved.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The committee reported with reference to the following:—A drawing submitted by Messrs. E. L. Berry, Harrison, and Co., showing the provision of a ventilating fan in the roof of the auditorium at the Kingsway Theatre, Great Queen-street; a drawing submitted by Mr. J. E. Walker, showing certain alterations proposed to be made in the dressing-room block at the Palace, Cambridge-circus, in order to provide increased office accommodation; and an amended drawing submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing a proposal to divide into two portions the proposed waiting room at the rear of Shepherd's Bush Empire. These proposals, recommended for approval, were agreed to.

THE STRAND STATUES.

In reply to a question put by Mr. Walter Reynolds,

Mr. E. White, chairman of the General Purposes Committee, said that that was not a committee of taste, and could take no action in the matter of the Strand statues.

IN the Glasgow Court of Session on Wednesday came up the action by the Grand Theatre and Opera House, Glasgow, Ltd., against Richard Waldon, theatrical proprietor, and William Campbell, wine and spirit merchant, for £3,000 damages in respect of alleged slander. Pursuers pleaded that the defenders in November last falsely and maliciously, and without reasonable cause, presented a petition to have the pursuers' company wound up under the Companies Act, to the loss and injury of the pursuers. Defenders pleaded that the petition was presented in good faith, and they denied that they had slandered the pursuers.

COUNSEL for the pursuers said that he had been informed that the liquidators of the company were not to rank themselves as pursuers in the case, and he thought that the proper course would be that his Lordship should dismiss the action, and the defenders would be entitled to a finding for expenses, for which they could rank in the liquidation. His Lordship said that he would assoilzie the defenders, and find them entitled to expenses. When they moved for decree for expenses he would consider whether the motion was incompetent.

THE "RING" IN ENGLISH.

"The recent performances of Wagner's *Ring*, or, rather, of portions of the *Ring*, in German at Covent Garden, have, for many people," writes Mr. Lawrence Haward in the *Albany Review*, "served mainly to recall the performances in English which were given there a few months ago. Comparisons are misleading. Besides, the German performances have so long been established that all musicians are perfectly familiar with the conditions. But as a criticism of the English performances and an analysis of the methods employed, may serve a double purpose, it may help to explain the immediate success of these particular performances, and may also help us to arrive at one or two general principles, the importance of which, if not previously acknowledged, does at last appear to be gaining more general recognition. The first complete performance of the *Ring* in English, which took place at Covent Garden in the early part of this year, was greeted with a unanimous chorus of approval. Those who had made up their minds beforehand, and had gone prepared to jeer, came away converted; while those who felt sanguine all along of success can hardly have hoped to have turned out quite such true prophets. Even so stern a critic as Dr. Richter has written to the authorities at Covent Garden to express his gratification at the result.

"To a German it may seem strange that London, with all its wealth and its genuine enthusiasm for good music, should have had to wait so long before being able to hear in English what for years it has been hearing and admiring in a foreign tongue. But operatic conditions in England are very different from what they are in Germany; and no one who realises what it means to be dependent for opera on a private syndicate which is naturally conservative, and therefore disinclined to make experiments on lines that are not obviously profitable, and which also has to do its work without national or municipal subsidies—no one who realises this can be anything but grateful that the English *Ring* has come in this generation and not the next, or anything but gratified that its coming has been attended with such an unexpected degree of success. Paris, we may remember, has still to wait for the complete tetralogy in French; and Paris, though it has always been Chauvinistic in the matter of music, has a proverbially bigger appetite for opera than London, and, of course, is not handicapped, as we are, by having no subsidy.

"Although the total result of the two cycles was, as we have said, unexpectedly successful, there were, at any rate, three features in the performance about which even the most pessimistic could hardly have been in doubt. In the first place, Richter was to conduct; and in this the wisdom of the syndicate's choice could not be questioned. There may be two opinions as to his reading of Mozart; but where Beethoven and Wagner are concerned he is universally acknowledged to be supreme. Indeed, the mere fact of his conducting the performances was by many people considered a sufficient guarantee of their success; and his high opinion of our singers and players, and his consequent ambition to present an English version of the *Ring* to an English audience, have long been widely known.

"In the second place, the orchestra employed at the opera house contains some of the best material that is to be found in London. Many of the members belong to the London Symphony Orchestra, and there is hardly a player in it who is not also a capable musician. One reason why the band is so alert and responsive is, that it has obtained its operatic training in various schools. It has to play German opera under Richter, Italian opera under Campanini, and (until quite recently) French opera under Messager. Being worked up to a high pitch of excellence by three such different types of conductors, any band would become plastic where the players were endowed with any degree of musical intelligence.

"Thirdly, in the matter of stage-management the reputation of Covent Garden has been increasing year by year. Herr Wirk in previous seasons, and Herr Hedmondt in this, have shown that it is possible to transplant Bayreuth traditions and make them flourish in an alien soil. In some respects they have even been improved; which is not unnatural, seeing how much the art of the mechanician and the scene-painter have advanced in recent years. It is true that the Rhine maidens at the beginning of *Rhinegold* swim in a somewhat circumscribed area; they do not come sweeping down head foremost from the top corner of the stage, as they do at Dresden. This is not because we cannot manage these things on the English stage; they do feats just as difficult at Drury Lane, and no children ever flew more realistically than those in *Peter Pan*. It is simply because singing head downwards while you are being whirled about by four mechanicians, to imitate a mermaid, is apt to make you sick. The experiment may be tried any day at Earl's Court. Similarly, some purists have objected that when Wotan sends Brünnhilde to sleep at the end of *The Valkyrie*, he does not really surround her with fire; he only makes the flames come up behind, whereas in some of the theatres abroad the fire is actually surging up by the footlights and on the three sides of the stage in such a way as entirely to surround the sleeping figure. But the penalty one has to pay for so realistically representing what Wotan proudly calls his 'Licht-Meer,' is that one loses the marvellous beauty of the orchestration in the hissing and the spluttering of the accompanying jets of steam. So in the final scene of *The Twilight of the Gods* Covent Garden now prefers to let the house of the Gibichungs fall in comparative silence, like a pack of cards. The earlier and more realistic methods only distracted the attention from the music; and Wagner did not plan his catastrophe on the lines that we find Saint-Saëns adopting in *Samson and Delilah*, where the fall of the temple of the Philistines is accompanied by the clattering of tea-trays and the banging of gongs by as many of the stage-hands as can be spared. The only piece of stage-management of any importance that still leaves room for improvement is the lighting and the grouping in Siegfried's funeral procession. Night should not fall quite so swiftly; and the procession should contrive, as it does in at least one theatre abroad, to wind in and out amongst the trees before the curtain falls; instead of merely walking up a few steps and then standing still. In the very difficult 'business' of the ride of the Valkyries, the efforts are more successful than anyone could suppose who has not seen them; the cinematograph is infinitely better than the old mechanical switchbacks, and infinitely safer than having real horses, as they used to do at Vienna. Horses, even when they come straight from the cab-rank, should be regarded as clumsy actors; and Brünnhilde at Covent Garden is wise not to try and emulate the example of Frau Vogl, who in the final cataclysm actually used to leap on to a horse which she had broken in herself, and plunge into an apparently glowing pyre.

"To come to the last feature of the stage-management that calls for praise, it would be difficult to imagine anything more beautiful than some of the cloud effects. Particularly striking was the management of the rolling masses of mist in the last act of *Siegfried* at the moment of transition from the depths of the forest, with the fire flickering up in the heights behind to the clear, tranquil atmosphere at the summit of the Valkyries' Rock; and very few stage skies that have been seen in London (including even Hawes Craven's famous sunset in the scene of the Kelpie's Flow in *Ravenswood*) have been more poetical than the one which we are shown in the last act of *The Twilight of the Gods*, with its gradually-changing tints of orange, amethyst, and gold softly reflected from the bars and belts of cloud in the silvery-blue waters of the Rhine below."

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MR. FRANK ALLEN, the well-known Moss Empires director, has been in luck's way this week from more than one point of view. He has been taking a well-earned golfing and motoring holiday in Scotland. The weather has been superb, and Mr. Allen has been singularly fortunate against the champions he has met in the land of Golf. For instance, on Wednesday last he played a foursome over the Kilspindel Links, having for his partner Miss Maud Titerton, the present lady open champion, against two celebrated Edinburgh golfers. After a most exciting match, Miss Titerton and Mr. Allen won by two up and one to play, also winning the bye. The victory was a most popular one.

THE great surprise in next week's Coliseum programme is the star line announcing the engagement of Mme. Yvette Guilbert. The two weeks madame will be seen at this theatre constitute positively her last appearance on the variety stage. She will sing four French songs in English—"Ma Tete, "Les Cloches de Nantes," "Les Housards de la Garde," and "La Fille de Parthenay."

MISS MARIE LLOYD, after a five weeks' seaside tour, will return to the Oxford with Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell's latest big "winner," "The Directoire Girl," and several new numbers from the same busy pens. Miss Lloyd herself pronounces the "Directoire" song, which is published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., one of the finest she has sung for years. Miss Lloyd has placed her business in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Day, of Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand.

MISS MURIEL MARSDEN, playing heroine in Joseph Hart's *Futurity Winner* at the London Hippodrome, confesses to being a very self-willed young person. The daughter of a country doctor, she received an excellent musical training. Then one day papa married a lady one year younger than his only daughter. Muriel expostulated, and papa told her to mind her own business. She did—by immediately packing up her belongings and taking train for London. Next she boldly bearded Mr. Geo. Edwardes in his office, and demanded of him a leading part at the Gaiety. The theatre magnate gazed at the little girl in short frocks with great amusement, but took her across to the theatre to a voice trial, which resulted in his giving her a small part.

SINCE then Miss Marsden has done the usual amount of touring with "conventional monotony." This has been shared by a prize bulldog, one of the most ferocious ever seen, but in reality the mildest mannered of his kind. Miss Marsden received last Friday a surprise visit from her doctor brother whom she imagined to be in India. He had only landed that day, and the first thing he noticed was his sister's name on a Hippodrome poster at the docks.

MR. ALFRED BUTT will considerably revise the programme of the Palace Theatre on Monday, when he will introduce Rock and Fulton, two American comedy artists. In the United States these artists have been generally termed "the Seymour Hicks and Ellaline Terriss of America," which is, perhaps, a sufficient index as to the character of their work. Miss Dorothy Kenton, "the American girl with the banjo," is another acquisition; and what should prove a novel turn is to be provided by Humpsti-Bumsti, two eccentric burlesque artists, on a first visit here.

TSCHAIKOWSKY'S famous "Casse-Noisettes," in which are introduced the fanciful dances of the Sugar-plum Fairy and Arabian and reed-pipe dances, are to be interpreted by Miss Maud Allan at the Palace Theatre, on July 13. This suite dates from the last years of the composer's life, and was written about the same time as *Iolanthe*. The scenario is founded on one of Hoffmann's fairy tales ("Nutcracker and the Mouse King"), which relates the story of the imaginative little girl to whom the Dream King makes so many promises.

THE craze for classical music as a means for the exposition of "impressions," both terpsichorean and dramatic, on the part of dancers, has rapidly extended since Miss Maud Allan went to Mendelssohn and Chopin for her inspirations, and to the former composer especially for the dainty creation of a nymph dancing to the tender and joyous strains of the Frühlingslieder.

Now we are given to understand that Miss Isadora Duncan, who claims to have been the first to introduce bare-foot dancing to the London stage, is to repeat on her return there shortly her impression of Tschaikowsky's "Pathétique" symphony, which is said to have created a sensation in Russia, the country of the deceased composer. In London she will also include in her performance Glück's *Iphigénie*, a tragic subject, and waltz music by Chopin, Brahms, and Schubert.

MR. GEORGE LEYTON, who has done such splendid work for the cause of the veterans of the Crimea and the Mutiny is busy rehearsing his new military scena, *The Last Muster*, founded, we take it, on the celebrated picture of that name by Sir Hubert Herkomer, which received the Grande Médaille d'Honneur at Paris in 1878. The libretto is the work of Mr. J. P. Harrington, the author of *Lucknow*, with which Mr. Leyton is scoring this week at the Paragon. The music is by Orlando Powell and J. W. Tate. It is to be produced at the Oxford on July 13.

THE Rats and their guests for the motor-trip to Brighton witnessed about mid-day on Sunday at the Vaudeville Club the unveiling of two large pictures. One of them, the famous painting by Walter H. Lambert, known in the ranks of the profession as Lydia Dreams, ventriloquist, contains something like 300 portraits of variety celebrities of the past and present. It is entitled "Popularity," and has been acquired by Mr. Peter Bijou (of Bijou and Bella), whose excellent taste, judgment, and kindly thought in presenting the work to a representative body of his brother and sister artists was warmly acknowledged by Mr. W. H. Clemart, King Rat, who thanked the donor on behalf of the fraternity.

THE other picture, which is given in these columns, by the kind permission of Mr. W. H. McCarthy, Scribe Rat, is a reproduction by Mr. Hana, of no fewer than 111 portraits of the Rats fraternity. The picture was started about five months ago by a portrait group of thirty-six of the brethren, and has been added to from time to time as opportunity offered. The work has been so skilfully managed by the photographer that the effect is as if the whole number had been taken at one sitting. The walnut frame, columned in the Corinthian style, has been specially designed by Mr. Hana.

MM. DEBASTA AND ROZENBERG, the new directors of the Apollo, Paris, have nothing to do with the former directorate of that house. Their management will commence on Sept. 1 next, and they will make at once numerous alterations and improvements, and intend also presenting only first-class attractions. Thus they hope to place the Apollo at the head of the music halls in Paris. M. Debasta has been director of L'Horloge, Concert Parisien, Européen, a founder of the Parisiana and the Jardin de Paris.

THE Swindon Empire closes from to-night till Aug. 3 (Bank Holiday). The Kirkcaldy Hippodrome has also shut down for the summer.

THE Opera House, Northampton, is closing to-day for the summer vacation, reopening on August Bank Holiday with a star company in varieties.

THE Royalty, Chester, closes to-day for a three weeks' vacation, re-opening on July 27. Variety has been running there successfully for a twelvemonth.

THE Palace, Attercliffe, closes to-night for cleaning and decorating, re-opening on August Bank Holiday. Mr. J. Lacy Lyne, the popular acting-manager, terminates his engagement there after nearly four years of successful management.

THE Hastings-Hippodrome will close to-night for one week, and will reopen on Monday, the 13th inst., with Mr. Walter Norman in his old position as assistant-manager. The syndicate running the place will be slightly reconstructed, and Mr. Fred Higham will still continue to do the booking.

MR. HICKMAN-SMITH'S Royal Entertainers have been creating a record success at the Claremont Pier, Lowestoft, where they are concluding a five weeks' engagement. Large crowds have patronised every performance, despite the numerous other attractions.

MR. HARRY BURDETTE, the popular manager of the Coliseum, Glasgow, has been laid up for the past few days with a very sharp attack of influenza. He is now better, and resumed duty on Monday. During his absence, Mr. S. Gething, the district-manager, took charge of the Coliseum.

MR. GEORGE HARRIS, manager of the Palace Theatre, Belfast, has been appointed manager to the Hippodrome, Portsmouth. Mr. Harris was a great favourite in the linen capital, and his departure is much regretted. In the meantime his duties are being undertaken by Mr. James M. McCann, the courteous manager of the Theatre Royal, Belfast.

A POWERFUL syndicate have acquired the Royal Hall, Gainsborough, which is shortly undergoing several important alterations and improvements, and will be opened in September as the New Empire Hippodrome, Gainsborough, and run twice nightly with advanced vaudeville. The town is large and prosperous, and the success of this enterprise is assured.

THE BOHEMIANS, who were engaged at the Hippodrome, Accrington, last week, had the misfortune to lose the whole of their instruments, patent drums, scene, dresses, and music, but they appeared with great success on Monday night at the Hippodrome, St. Helens, with a completely new set of instruments.

MR. SAMUEL LLOYD, the popular and energetic manager of the Pavilion, Glasgow, started off on Tuesday on a motor tour, which includes many places of interest in Scotland and England, and will extend to Brighton, Bournemouth, and the Isle of Wight. When in town he will be securing many top-liners for the autumn season, to keep the Pavilion in the front rank of provincial variety theatres.

IT is not generally known that Mr. Edwin Leslie, a representative of the De Frece circuit, who is at present stationed at the Hippodrome, Portsmouth, is a journalist of ability. "Teddie," as he is familiarly known in the naval town, has for years written short stories, mostly on theatrical and music-hall subjects, for magazines and weekly papers. For some time he wrote humorous interviews with theatrical celebrities for the *Manchester Sunday Chronicle*.

MR. LESLIE has opened up various Hippodromes for the De Frece circuit, including Belfast, Southampton, Wolverhampton, and Portsmouth. He is recognised as one of the most successful "boomers" in England, and the Portsmouth Hippodrome has been "quickened" by his ingenious methods.

MR. HARRY MERRILEES, a young Scotch comedian, who has been making a hit in several towns in the North recently, has secured an engagement in a West-end London hall, and opens there on the 27th. He goes provided with an excellent dame song, "Wull ye gang awa', Wullie?" the tune and patter being both of special merit. The newcomer is a nephew of the late Jamie Merrilees, and has evidently a good share of the family humour. He ought to make a hit in London, judging by his success elsewhere.

MR. CHARLES HOWARD, during the period that he was resident-manager of the Royal Hippodrome, Eastbourne, won, by his unfailing courtesy, the respect of a large circle of friends; and on Thursday (25th ult.) a presentation was made to him at the Clifton Hotel previous to his departure. Mrs. W. Webb, the proprietress of the Devonshire Hotel, was really the originator of the proposal, and, with the assistance of Mr. W. A. Simmons, opened a testimonial fund, upwards of £53 being collected. Among the numerous subscribers were Mr. E. A. Brown (manager of Devonshire Park), Mr. G. Hayes (manager of the Eastbourne Pier), Messrs. Murray King and Clark (Devonshire Park Theatre), and Mr. and Mrs. Webb.

MR. SIMMONS, who presented Mr. Howard with a purse containing the money, said that although a few knew him at Brighton, Mr. Howard was a stranger to the majority when he came to Eastbourne. The friends had rallied to their support more than he had anticipated. They thought they might raise £20, but that sum was more than doubled. Mr. Simmons then handed the purse to Mr. Howard as a "token of the esteem in which he was held in Eastbourne by his friends and late patrons." Mr. Howard's health having been drunk with musical honours, he briefly replied. A very enjoyable musical programme was contributed during the evening.

MR. A. DOUGLAS F. BOSTOCK, acting-manager of the Paisley Hippodrome, won the five miles motor cycle race at the Glasgow Police Sports held in Celtic F.C. Park, Glasgow, on Saturday. The race was an invitation one to Mr. T. A. Carter, the well-known London path racer, and Mr. Bostock, who has made quite a name for himself in winning this season two of the stiffest hill climbs competitions in the West of Scotland. Mr. Carter, who started from scratch and conceded half a lap, was unable to overtake his opponent, and Mr. Bostock came in a popular winner. The race proved one of the most interesting in a long list of events.

MR. NELSON BARRY, who next Monday takes over the management of Mr. Stoll's Manchester Hippodrome, leaves Portsmouth Hippodrome midst many regrets and the best wishes for further success. Mr. Barry is no stranger to Manchester, for, prior to going to Portsmouth, he was the popular manager of the Palace of Varieties, where he made innumerable friends and identified himself with the Crimean Veterans' Association. In Portsmouth also Mr. Barry founded a branch of the Association. He is a member of the Indian Mutiny Association, and serves on the Executive Committee, of which Lord Roberts is president. Mr. Barry has had a wide theatrical experience, and when "he walked the boards" gained a knowledge of the ins and outs of stage life that has been invaluable to him.

THE Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the London County Council have extended the date of application for licences from Sept. 1 of each year to Oct. 1. This is a wise ordinance, and should have been passed years ago.

THE testimonial dinner to Messrs. Joe O'Gorman, W. H. Clemart, and Wal Pink will be at the Boulogne Restaurant, Gerrard-street, W., on Sunday, July 12. Mr. Joe Elvin will take the chair at 7.30 sharp.

SHAREHOLDERS in London halls may be interested to learn that Moss Empires, Limited, have issued £200,000 six per cent. mortgage debentures, at a price of £98 per cent. They will be redeemable by annual drawings at £105 per debenture.

THE majority of our readers will hear with much regret that Mr. Fred Miller severs his connection with the Canterbury at the end of this month. Mr. Miller took service under the late Mr. George Adney Payne in 1883, as secretary to the late Mr. Arthur Tressidder, and afterwards to Mr. Will Lennon. On the death of the latter he was appointed manager of the Paragon, and went to the Canterbury as general-manager of the two houses named on the resignation of Mr. Fred Holden.

THE Canterbury will again be tried as a twice-nightly house in September. The experiment was tried three years ago, but was quickly abandoned.

MISS FANNIE LESLIE, we understand, is busily engaged in making arrangements for opening, somewhere near the centre of theatre-land, an academy where she will devote her energies to teaching acting, singing, and dancing. The popular lady's long and varied experience in all these departments seems to point her out as an ideal instructress for stage aspirants.

MISS PEGGY FAME, daughter of the popular Harry Wright and Nellie Gannon, will be married to-morrow (Sunday) to Mr. Ben Whiteley (of the Five Whiteleys) at Christ Church, Brixton-road. The ceremony will be at 1.15, and the wedding breakfast will be given at 69, Vassall-road, Brixton. On Sunday evening the happy couple will start for the Continent on their honeymoon. Congratulations.

MISS TOPSY SINDEN commenced her variety engagements last week at the Holborn Empire, where she was a great success in her new song, "The Banker's Daughter." She has introduced a whirlwind dance, which is becoming especially popular. This week she is at the Croydon Palace.

MR. W. B. FAIR has met with an accident. A workman dropped a plank on his left foot, and it has become so painful that he will have to give it an entire rest and possibly undergo an operation.

THE many friends of Mr. Stanley Rogers will be sorry to learn that he is at present suffering from a severe illness, and all, we feel sure, will wish him a speedy recovery.

PAPA BROWN is remaining at Brighton by his doctor's advice, and is getting along exceedingly well considering the serious nature of his taxicab accident a few weeks ago. His permanent address now is Holland House, Durand Gardens, Stockwell, S.W.

MR. TOM E. MURRAY, the well-known pantomime comedian, having recovered from his recent illness, is about to make a short tour of the Continent. Mr. Murray is grateful to his many friends who have made inquiries, and also to the managers who have consented to the unavoidable postponement of dates for his tour.

ON Thursday at about 1 p.m. Mr. Hayden Coffin, riding in a hansom, was quickly turning a sharp corner in Wellington-street, Strand, when the vehicle ran into a Talbot motor-car, in which were Mr. Reginald Cuerton and Mr. Kyburn-Dellar (associated with *The Pixies' Revel* production). By the promptitude of their chauffeur a very serious accident was averted. The hansom swayed and nearly overturned. The splash-board of the car was considerably damaged.

THE Royal West London Theatre, which, under Mr. William Bailey's management, has kept the flag of melodrama flying so many years, has become for the nonce a picture playhouse, the dramatic subjects for the week including The Fireman's Daughter, with a rescue 'midst the flames, and The Chauffeur's Dream, a bit of screaming comedy. Miss Florrie Robina, "the English rose," is most successful in her illustrated songs.

ADVICES from America speak in unequivocal terms of the hit which Miss Lucy Weston has made both in Atlantic City and on the roof-garden of the New York Theatre with John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell's specially-written number, "I'm out Fishing," in the new revue *The Follies of 1908*, in which she is "starring." Coming on top of Mr. Harrington's other two successes, "Be Good" and "As you walk down the Strand," for the same lady, this speaks eloquently in favour of English compositions for Yankee consumption.

MISS ROSE EDOUIN, a member of the well-known family of that name, who has lately returned from a lengthy sojourn in the Antipodes, where she has earned for herself the title of "the Ellen Terry of Australia," will produce at the Palace, Camberwell, on Monday an original comedy sketch, written by herself, entitled *A Shakespearean Lunatic*. Judging by the press notices from down under of this little piece it should prove a welcome addition to the variety boards of the mother country.

MISS GLADYS MAVIUS and Mr. George Barclay, jun., were married by special licence at the Registry Office, Clapham Common, on Saturday last. The bride is the granddaughter of the late Col. Salusbury Davenport, of Bramall Hall, Cheshire, and great-granddaughter of the late Sir Allan Napier McNab, Governor-General of Canada. George Barclay is the son of the popular music-hall artist Miss Kate Carney and the well-known variety agent George Barclay. Congratulations, good wishes, and presents galore have been showered on the happy couple.

MISS DOLLY HARMER, who has been having an enforced holiday this week, owing to the Hippodrome, Accrington, being burned down, has had another bit of ill-luck. During Tuesday night someone got into the sitting-room where she is staying and removed three new summer gowns that had just come from the costumier, also her husband's overcoat, and a few small articles. Fortunately Miss Harmer is well booked up, and returns to Africa next year, Australia to follow, so she is just as bright as ever.

THAT inimitable comedienne, Marie Lloyd, has been affording Brixtonians a rare treat this week, and has been accorded a reception such as is reserved only for established favourites. "Don't grumble at home" and the rollicking "Rumtiddley-um-tum-tay" are a couple of amusing numbers which enable the merry Marie to display her versatility, and her "Directoire Dress" number, in which she so piquantly warbles of the lady who "showed the boys much more than they ever saw before," also created merriment. So cordial was the greeting extended the popular artist that she graciously obliged with a fourth contribution, "Hello! Hello! Hello!"

THE Shoreditch Hippodrome has closed for alterations, and will re-open on August Bank Holiday.

VASCO, "The Mad Musician," had the honour of appearing before their Most Gracious Majesties the King and Queen at the Earl of Lonsdale's house last night, and was highly complimented. His engagement has been prolonged at the Empire until the end of July.

MR. FRED D. HARRIS, formerly manager of the Star, Liverpool, the Olympic, and the Queen's, Poplar, is now running the Baring Hall Hotel, Grove Park, S.E., near the railway station, where he is always pleased to see old professional friends.

BRIEN MCCULLOUGH presents his up-to-date version of "After Balaclava" at the Surrey, Monday next. Pictures of Mac as the old soldier will be sold in the auditorium, and the proceeds handed over to the Veteran Relief Fund.

MISS CRISSIE CROSS, who has many admirers, both in America and in England, has recently added to their number by a solid success in Africa. She is just now journeying home, and is due to arrive to-day, commencing on Monday at Queen's, Poplar.

MR. CHAS. DALY AND MISS KITTIE O'BRIEN, the "tanglefoot" dancers, arrived on s.s. Cedric on June 26, and open at the Tivoli Theatre, Dublin, on Monday. This will be their first European appearance. They will make their début in London in a few weeks.

MR. STAFFORD SMITH, the well-known actor, who was for so many years associated with the late Wilson Barrett, will produce on Monday at the Standard, Pimlico, a dramatic episode, entitled *The Shadow on the Blind*, written by himself, and will be supported by a first-class company.

A NEW sketch, entitled *A Friend in Need*, by Richard Purdon, will be played on Monday, and throughout the week, at Sadler's Wells by Messrs. Harry Lock-Purdon and Miss Lily Merton.

HARRY LEYBOURNE, on the Stoll tour, is producing an entirely new impersonation act by Fred E. D'Albert.

MR. CHARLES HANNAN has written a new humorous monologue called *The Man Who Walked a Thousand Miles*, which has been secured for representation by Mr. Malcolm Scott, who will shortly produce it in the halls.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY COUTTS, together with Mr. and Mrs. A. Cohen, are touring the principal cities of Holland previously to the former opening on Monday next at the Hackney Empire.

MISS ROSE FORTESQUE, better known on the halls as Frankie Manners, has recently joined Mr. Henry Coutts' clever protean sketch, entitled *Outflanked*. She doubles the characters of a barmaid and a nurse of the Red Cross, and is a decided acquisition.

A REVISED version of the exciting sketch, *Black against White*, by Mr. Worland S. Wheeler, which in its original form was produced at the Paragon a month or two since, is to be given at the South London on Monday.

MR. HENRY HERNE and Ida Millais will present for the first time in London at the Palace, Hammersmith, on Monday, a new comedy sketch entitled *A Merry Widower*.

OUR Birmingham correspondent writes:—"The appearance in Birmingham this week of both the Griffiths Brothers and the Poluski Brothers opens up a whole vista of memories. But few would remember *The Fairy Well of Windermere* at Day's about 1879, in which the vivacious Maud Beverley played the speaking part. It was the custom then at Day's to have a Christmas ballet, which used always to run at least eight weeks, and vied with the pantomimes.

"THE last of these ballets was *King Koko*, in which Macdermott appeared, and which was attacked by the Chief of Police, Major Bond, who had taken a violent antipathy to Mac, and used his position ever after to gratify that feeling. Anyway, though the prosecution (for presenting a stage play without a licence) failed, it cost Day's a pile of money, and they never produced another.

"MACDERMOTT for some years after went to the 'Museum,' which the writer found the other week was being used as a market gardener's store-room. It was in *The Fairy Well of Windermere* that the Bros. Griffiths became famous to Birmingham, and they were snapped up instanter for several seasons at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in the capital of the Midlands, appearing with Jenny Hill in *Aladdin*, and in *Blue Beard* (1881-2) with Nelly Power, Nelly Moon, J. L. Shine, Victor Stevens, and the Harlow Bros.

"DURING the run of *The Fairy Well of Windermere* at Day's Miss Vesta Tilley was even then appearing in male attire in the first part of the programme, singing 'Squeeze her gently at the door,' &c., and her father, Harry Ball, was appearing as a comic singer, with a canine assistant. The Bros. Poluski—not exactly the same pair as at present—were at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, in the identical pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, in which Macdermott sang 'Here stands a post' and 'We don't want to fight'; and Mrs. Will Poluski (Miss Nettie Waite), now happily alive and well, was then the highly charming Cinderella at the Prince of Wales's, her sister Emma playing the Prince.

"THEY (Mr. and Mrs. Will Poluski) were married during the run of the pantomime. In *Cinderella* were Canfield and Booker, Jolly Little Lewis and Julia Bullen (Mrs. Lewis). Mr. E. M. Robson played Hassarac to Macdermott's Abdallah—and what an excellent contrast the two! *Jack Robinson and His Monkey* was the extra attraction for the Poluskis' benefit, Will playing the Monkey; and Macdermott, for his 'bespeak,' put on *The Colleen Bawn*, with himself as Myles. They were stirring times then!"

THE London Pavilion staff had their 21st annual outing on Sunday last. The trip up river to Marlow last year proved so enjoyable that it was decided to repeat the experience, and the result fully justified the selection. A merry party of some 120 assembled at Paddington and entrained to Taplow; a pleasant walk from there brought them to Boulter's Lock, where they embarked on the steam launch Empress of India for Marlow. Here an excellent luncheon was provided at the Crown Hotel, presided over by Mr. Frank Glenister, who had supporting him Messrs. William Cobbett, "Patsy" Sayers, and F. L. Rose. Guests included Mrs. Glenister, Mr. and Mrs. Montague, and Mr. and Mrs. Lapsley. A very pleasant feature was the presentation of a clock and signet ring to Mr. T. Prior, who has acted as hon. secretary to these excursions for twelve years.

MR. FRANK GLENISTER, in making the presentation, uttered some happy allusions to the services rendered by Mr. T. Prior, and remarked that if the clock were as regular in its habits as Mr. Prior was in the performance of his duties, then it would indeed be a timepiece to be prized! Another lovely river trip; after which the party returned to town, tired but happy.

THE ranks of variety agents are to be swelled by the acquisition of Mr. Leon Zeitlin, who is launching out into partnership with Mr. George Brooks, whose offices are at 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.C. To-day Leon finishes his long association with Mr. Henri Gros. It was as "Mr. Leon" that he first entered the ranks of the variety profession, and, at the age of sixteen, he became shorthand writer to Mr. Henri Gros, during the rebuilding of the Metropolitan. This was in 1897. After he had occupied this position for a few months he became Mr. Gros' private secretary at the age of seventeen.

IN 1904, having attained his majority, he was appointed acting-manager at the Chelsea Palace. Here he had as a guide and counsellor the well-experienced Edward Swanborough. For a year he remained as acting-manager. Following this, he was appointed by Mr. Gros to the more responsible post of acting-manager at the Metropolitan in October, 1905, and held the position until June 30 of this year. During this period he worked under perhaps the most astute business man in the variety world, namely Mr. Henri Gros, and gained his first experience of booking by assisting Manager Jack Edgar.

ON the minutes of the Watch Committee coming up for consideration at the meeting of the Manchester City Council on Wednesday, Mr. Ross-Clyne moved an amendment referring the minutes back until satisfactory explanations had been given of a deputation of police officers to the committee, complaining of public criticism of the police force, and of the action of the committee in reference to a proposed performance by Miss Maud Allan in Manchester.

THE deputation of police officers, Mr. Clyne said, was not representative. At least twenty officers had told him they know nothing of it. It was rather a sad state of affairs when a Watch Committee required a testimonial as to its honour and so forth from thirty officers. Would it not be thought preposterous if thirty privates and non-commissioned officers of a battalion were to go and attempt to whitewash their colonel and the Secretary of State for War?

MR. CLYNE proceeded to make allegations against members of the deputation, one being received with cries of "Shame!" and a request that the speaker should confine his remarks to his amendment. Amidst interruptions, Mr. Clyne said if he could not prove his case he would resign his seat on the City Council, an observation which was greeted with a loud "Hear, hear."

"OH, yes," Mr. Clyne said, "I know some of you would like it." He was proceeding to the Miss Maud Allan incident when the Deputy-Lord Mayor, who was in the chair, pointed out that he had exceeded the time limit for speeches. The Council negatived Mr. Clyne's amendment.

THE cricket team of the Empire, Camberwell, played a match with the Camberwell Amateurs on Tuesday. The scores were: Amateurs, all out, 150; Empire, 62 for 6, the game being drawn. Next Tuesday Mr. Sam Mayo's eleven will visit the Empire's ground, Freeman's (Champion Hill). Play will commence at 12 o'clock sharp.

"COPPELIA" is still the great feature of the Empire programme, and Mlle. Adeline Genée's sensational success has crowded the theatre every night since her return from America. *Oh, Indeed!* which has now reached its last few performances, is the only production in which current plays are burlesqued and the topics of the hour passed in review. Misses Sybil Arundale, Valli Valli, Messrs. Arthur Playfair and Farren Soutar are still filling their original parts.

MR. ARTHUR HERVEY, who has resigned the position he has filled with much distinction as chief musical critic of the *Morning Post* for close on seventeen years, is a composer of considerable gifts, and his song, "Once," has been sung for years on the music-hall and theatrical stages.

"BABS," the baby elephant at the Crystal Palace, was christened by Miss Maud Allan on Thursday afternoon, but she was not responsible for the blackleading. That was done in the morning by an artist, and the more or less fortunate "Babs" positively glistened for the ceremony. The Persian title of King Zarar was bestowed upon him the while Miss Allan showered champagne between his eyes.

COLETTE ORIGNY, reputed to be the most beautiful woman in France, makes her début at the Tivoli on Monday, at 9.30, in a sensational wordless playlet entitled *La Double Epouvante*, written by Paul Franck, with music by Edouard Mathé. The action takes place at midnight in an actress's bedroom, wherein events of a sensational character occur, and the lady partially disrobes. Paul Franck, who will support Colette, is the famous pantomimist who has appeared with La Belle Otero, Cleo de Mérode, Liane de Pougy, and Loie Fuller at different times.

MR. J. H. CURRY, managing-director of the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby, has been appointed provincial grand organist for the Province of Lincolnshire Freemasons, an honour upon which he is greatly to be felicitated.

MISS ADA ROSCOE and company will present at the Bedford on Monday, for the first time in London, the successful dramatic episode, *A Baby's Shoe*, produced under the direction of Mr. James Rice Cassidy. Miss Roscoe has won a considerable reputation in the provinces as an impersonator of the rôles of fascinating adventuresses.

A DISTINGUISHED company, including the Mayor and Mayoress of Hackney, assembled at Hackney Empire on Wednesday afternoon, on Mr Stoll's invitation, to inspect the new decorations. The theatre, always noted for its beauty of design and brightness, has been thoroughly redecorated and refurnished throughout. The colour scheme of rouge and cream, with a delicate green background, topped with gold, forms a dainty picture. Over 50,000 leaves of gold have been used in the embellishment of the house.

THE Mayor of Hackney, after the reception by Mr. Christie, the London district manager, and Mr. Percival, the manager, thanked Mr. Stoll, who was unavoidably absent, for providing such a high-class house of entertainment. Everyone, he said, must appreciate the elevating influence of Mr. Stoll's theatres. There was a marvellous difference in entertainment at variety houses within the last twenty years, and he assured his hearers that no one need be afraid—not even the most sensitive—to bring their wives and daughters to Mr. Stoll's entertainments, notably to Hackney Empire. He was proud to think that the present generation had developed such a high-class and elevating entertainment. Mr. Christie and Mr. Percival had ever been forward in the cause of humanity, not only giving their services but their money. He had come with pleasure to express appreciation for their efforts.

MR. CHRISTIE conveyed Mr. Stoll's regret at his enforced absence, and thanked all who had patronised and were patronising the Empire. Mr. Percival in thanking the Mayor for his kind words, emphasised the fact that Mr. Stoll had always, and would always, provide an entertainment at once elevating and amusing, and fit for all. Selections were given under the able conductorship of Mr. Creco, and Mr. George Ridgwell sang a song and played a difficult piece on the cornet.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

"IN THE TWILIGHT," a valse specially arranged by Hermann E. Darewski, jun., is the latest number added to Messrs. Francis, Day and Hunter's orchestral list, and will be issued early next week.

THAT charming singer Miss Margaret Radcliffe will make her reappearance on the stage on Monday next, when at the Tivoli, Manchester, she will sing "Won't you be my honey?" a number issued by Mr. David Day's firm.

MISS WINIFRED HARE, who has been appearing at the Empire Theatre, Dublin, has been singing with charm and expression her now celebrated number "It's better than being a Carnegie," issued by Messrs. Francis and Day as a "Six-penny Pop." It is by Hermann E. Darewski, the words being by Edgar Bateman.

MISS MADGE TEMPLE made her first appearance at the Oxford on Monday, when she was accorded a hearty reception. Miss Temple looked very charming in a beautiful white lace gown (a most costly frock) and a large blue picture-hat. Her rendering of "Esau" is piquant and fetching.

THE new intermezzo, "Paquita," is taking a firm hold on London and the provinces. It was played by no less than 250 bands, including those of Mr. Dan Godfrey, Mr. J. M. Glover, Mr. Norfolk Megone, Mons. Petcheck, Mr. W. Bings, and Mr. Cuthbert Clarke, during the past week.

NOTWITHSTANDING the heat wave, the London Coliseum has been thronged during the week, one of the premier attractions being Mr. George Lashwood, who has been delighting patrons with no fewer than four numbers, all of which emanate from Messrs. Francis and Day's publishing house. They are "Hang out the front-door key," by Benjamin H. Burt; "March, march, march (You're proud to be a soldier)," by Nairn and Mathews; "Dear Mr. Admiral," by Fred W. Leigh; and "In the twi-twi-twilight," by Chas. Wilmott and H. E. Darewski.

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are issuing a few free permissions for music halls of Messrs. John P. Harrington and Joseph Tabrar's new comedy song, "Make haste! and send me on a girl!" and professional copies are now ready. As it is highly probable that the Berners-street firm will only issue these permits for a very limited period, intending singers may be advised to make early application for same to the publishers.

ONE of the biggest seaside hits featured by every al-fresco troupe of note, from Paul Mill's and Adeler and Sutton's downwards, is Mellor, Lawrence, and Gifford's "Parasol for two," published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. Other songs issued by the same firm which have achieved great success at our principal watering-places are "Lovelight," "Goo-goo," "I want to be among the boys," and "Float me."

MISS YVONNE LAMOR, who purposes producing Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell's latest skit, "The New Salome," on the 6th inst., will also "feature" Messrs. Barnes and Weston's strong comedy coon song "The coon's conscience," published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.

IT is a big feather in the cap of Archie Mills, of the Colwick Hall Pierrots, Nottingham, to have written a song which Mr. Walter de Frece, one of the keenest living judges of a ditty, immediately acquired for Miss Vesta Tilley. That brand-new Benedict Maurice Scott, who was the means of introducing the number to Mr. de Frece, has set it to a charming melody, and the title of the song is "That's the time a fellow wants his ma." Mr. and Mrs. de Frece are just now entertaining a houseful of friends at their delightful up-river seat.

MISS HETTY KING'S newest song has just been acquired by Messrs. Francis, Day and Hunter for immediate publication. It is from the facile pens of George Arthurs and Hermann E. Darewski, jun., and is called "Are you the little girl I met the other evening?"

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

THE sum of £169 19s. 9d. is the total reached by *The Era* Shilling Fund, 1908. The amount grows bigger each year, and it is hoped that we shall attain £200 in 1909.

As announced last week, the Fête, Gala, and Sports in aid of the newly-formed Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund are to be held at the Herne Hill grounds on Aug. 12. Mr. Albert Le Fre, the Sports chairman, will be pleased to receive suggestions for funny interludes.

MR. JOE ELVIN, the president of the Fund, has promised a handsome prize, and is taking a special interest in the affair. To him the Committee are indebted for several excellent suggestions. Fun is to be furnished by means of side shows, comic contests, and humorous interludes. A meeting of the Sports Committee will take place to-day.

MISS MELINDA MAY succeeds Miss Anna de Grey as Secretary to the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, which is now installed in offices at Room 63, Albion House, 61, New Oxford-street, where an At Home is held every Wednesday from 3.30 till 5. Members and friends are cordially invited.

THE annual general meeting of the members of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the York Hotel, York-road, on Wednesday next at 2 p.m., when the annual election of the committee and officers will take place. All members who are in London are invited to attend.

THE 567th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held at the offices of the Association on Wednesday. Mr. Albert Voyce, in the chair, was supported by Messrs. W. H. Atlas, G. H. Smythson, Harry Bancroft, Harry Blake, Fred Herbert, and C. Douglas Stuart, secretary. The agency of Swansea was transferred to Mrs. Rosser at the Grand Hotel, and a resolution of sympathy was passed with the relatives of the late Dr. Fell, the Association's medical officer, in Barrow.

A REQUEST from the Music Hall Sick Fund for the use of the committee room for the Fund's Committee was refused, as the Committee, having regard to the extra work entailed by the inclusion of the V.A.B.F., were afraid such a course would tend to dislocate the working arrangements.

MUSIC HALL HOME.
"THE ERA" SHILLING FUND, £170.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I am directed by the chairman and committee of the Music Hall Home to acknowledge receipt of cheque, value £110 15s. 6d., the balance of the total amount, £169 19s. 9d., collected through *The Era* Shilling Fund, 1908, in aid of the above Home. My committee desire to thank the subscribers and the energetic collectors who have so materially contributed to the funds of this institution. I am also asked to express the hope that the committee of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund will arrange not to make their collection for their fund at the same time that the Shilling Collection is being made for the Music Hall Home. For the past five years that period has been between the months of January and March in each year. The collection for both funds going on at the same time seriously affects the total result of each. The committee desire to thank most heartily *The Era* and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, for the assistance which has resulted so successfully.—Yours faithfully.

BEN WOODGER,
Secretary Music Hall Home.
31, Wilson-street, Camberwell, S.E.

MISS JOSIE COLLINS has been scoring heavily at the Oxford during the present week with two of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s publications, viz., "My Pyramid Girl" and My Cuban Girl," both of which are songs quite out of the ordinary, both in style and vocal range. Miss Collins will sing the same two songs when she opens at the Tivoli shortly

THE RATS MOTORING.

On Sunday the members of the "Grand Order of Water Rats," the most widely-known and most influential fraternity and charitable organisation of the variety profession, held a highly successful motor-car run to Brighton, some 250 members and friends taking part. Apart from the celebrated Rats themselves, it seemed that every well-known person in the variety profession was present, with the exception of those whose bookings kept them the other side of the kingdom. The motor-cars for the run had been promised by various friends of the Rats, and these began to assemble about 10 a.m. outside the Vaudeville Club, Shaftesbury-avenue, on Sunday morning. All the cars had previously been notified as to their numbers, and the chauffeurs on arrival had merely to apply for their number—in the form of a huge rat with the number in the centre—and affix it to their car. Each member knew the number of his car, hence it was an easy matter to place it. The crowd was so much larger than had been expected that the officials found the number of cars at their disposal—about fifty—would have to be supplemented. They, therefore, chartered about a dozen taxi-cabs, taken from the ranks near Trafalgar-square, the Ritz Hotel, and other places, and here it were well to place on record the ready help of Mr. Edgar Cohen, chairman of the General Motor Cab Company, who promptly assisted Mr. Tate out of his difficulty. Eventually sixty-three cars were actually dispatched to Brighton, and so the whole party were able to make the trip without any discomfort. Crowds of people lined the whole of the route, and more especially was this noticeable on the return journey.

Mr. Harry Tate, who organised the run, also acted as chief marshal, and there was much stir and a large crowd in Charing Cross-road when the big procession of cars left the doors of the Vaudeville Club, the headquarters of the Rats, between twelve and one o'clock, the majority arriving at Brighton about three. No scorching was permitted on the road, the main purpose of the event being to demonstrate the possibilities of a pleasant day's motoring without in any way ignoring the regulations as to speed limit, and members were impressed with the importance of making no attempt to evade the law. With his usual practical commonsense, in order the better to attain this desirable consummation, Mr. Tate had engaged a pilot car with a tested speedometer to head the procession the whole distance. The pastoral scenery of Surrey and Sussex is noted for its beauty, and the pretty wooded uplands of both counties looked their best in their full summer dress, beneath the sunshine of a brilliant June day.

The weather, indeed, was perfect, and the invigorating run down to "London-by-the-Sea" greatly enjoyed. The whole affair passed off splendidly. There was nothing in the shape of a mishap, and the only delay was caused by a puncture to the car in which Miss Marie Lloyd travelled. Will Oliver, one of the first of the Rats fraternity, met with a slight mishap to his car; but he and his party were accommodated on other cars. Much credit is due to Mr. Harry Tate for conceiving the notion and for his superhuman efforts to assure the comfort of everybody. Harry, who is nothing if not thoroughly good-natured, however, made one mistake in trying to do all the work himself, and next time he will probably put on a staff of stewards so that he can experience less anxiety and enjoy himself more. But he seemed perfectly happy, and with several trusty helpers at the dinner, it appeared that there were "no complaints."

Among the party were Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss Marie Loftus, Messrs. Harry Tate, W. H. Clemart, Wal Pink, Fred Ginnett, Will Poluski, George Mozart, Sam Poluski, Walter Kelly, and a host of other celebrities of the variety world. At the Royal York Hotel, the headquarters at Brighton, where the genial "rodents" and their friends sat down to luncheon provided by the host, Mr. H. Preston, a large concourse of people waited the arrival of the cars, and gave each well-known artist a hearty welcome.

The following is the lunch menu:—

SOUP.
Reliability. Give it a trial.

SALMON.
A fish from Loch Lomond. Hoot, mon! (Don't ask who caught it.)
Sauce. Missed gear filings.

FOWL.
Killed, stone dead. Who's guilty? Aha!

LAMB.
Southdown. Much better than up North. (Ask Fred Russell.)
Sauce (fresh from the Mint) Fills. A1 vacuum. (Nothing allowed for tins returned.)

PETITS POIS.
Pommes Nouvelles. This is fine Scotch.

DUCK.
High climbing variety. No relation to V.A.F. Top gear all the way on Magneto.

ASPARAGUS.
Cold. By the Breeder.
Oh, have you seen this, Mr. Papa Brown?

PECHE.
Means Peaches *à la* Marie Lloyd. *She's* all right.

DESSERT.
As you like it (if any).
Coffee, Liqueurs, Cigars, Cigarettes, and Toothpicks *ad lib.* at Consumers' Risk and Expense, and
No COMPLAINTS.

Mr. W. H. Clemart, who holds the office of King Rat, presided, supported by Mr. Fred Ginnett (Prince Rat) and by a large number of the fraternity, the company including many shining lights in the profession. A number of witty speeches were made, Miss Marie Lloyd's reply for "The Ladies" keeping her audience rippling with laughter. Mr. James Nelson spoke to the toast of the day, "The Grand Order of Water Rats," to which King Rat Clemart replied. Mr. Wal Pink, in his customary witty style, proposed "Our Visitors and Supporters, the Motorists," a toast that brought Mr. F. C. Baisley (who lent three Gladiators) and Mr. A. C. Hills (of the Hills-Martini Co.) to their feet. Mr. Walter Kelly, the "Judge from Virginia," said some nice things about Harry Tate, who thanked his motoring friends, the Hon. Chas. Rolls, Mr. Sidney Girling (the famous Gordon-Bennett race driver), Mr. Theodore Cook (of the Darracq Co.), Mr. Chas. Jarrott, Mr. D'Arcy Baker, Mr. F. C. Baisley, Mr. Walter Dewis, Mr. Len Stewart, and others. The cars, some of which were driven by ladies, moved off between six and seven o'clock, their departure being witnessed by a large crowd. The only unfavourable feature of the run was the huge amount of dust on the roads, especially on the homeward journey.

Among those who enjoyed the run and the Rats present were as follows:—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tate, Mr. W. H. Clemart, Mr. Fred Ginnett and Mrs. Ginnett, Papa Brown and Mrs. Brown, Mr. W. H. and Mrs. McCarthy, Mr. and Mrs. George D'Albert, Mr. Fred Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Wal Pink, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Martinetti, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Reece, Mr. Will Oliver, Mr. and Mrs. W. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Reed Pinaud (Florrie Robina), Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Ryland, Mr. Jack Collinson, Mr. and Mrs. Will Poluski, Mr. Jack Lotto, Mr. Burt Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. Will Collins, Mr. and Mrs. George Mozart, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nolan, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Woottwell, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Bartram, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Le Fre, Mr. and Mrs. Alf. Chester, Mr. and Mrs. Monte Bayly, Apollo (Mr. Wm. Bankier), Mr. and Mrs. J. Alexander, Mr. Peter Bijou, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Blake, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Carlton, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Garrick, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Godfrey, Mr. V. L. Granville, Mr. Wilson Hallett, Mr. J. Kellino, Mr. Will Kellino, Mr. Alf Leonard, Mr. E. W. Manning, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Maple, Mr. Dave O'Toole, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Radford, Mr. Pat Rafferty, Mr. Chas. Rich, Mr. George Sanford, Mr. Walter Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Verno, Mr. and Mrs. Alec Hurley (Miss Marie Lloyd), Miss Ella Lane, Miss Maude Wood, Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Aylin, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Hooper (Miss Victoria Monks), Miss Adrienne Augarde, Miss Amy Augarde, Miss Rosie Elliott, Miss Daisy Dormer, Miss Marie Loftus, Miss Nellie Randall, Dr. and Mrs. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. Ganty, Mr. T. H. Case, Mr. Fred Miller, Mr. Leon Zeitlin, Mr. Walter C. Kelly, Mr. L. Carson, Mr. Henry Joyner, Mr. W. F. Crowe, Mr. M. P. Bentley, Miss Elsie Bentley, Miss Millie Hyams, Mr. and Mrs. Barney Hyams, Mr. Syd Wood, Mr. and Mrs. Levy, Mr. M. Hyman, Mr. George Hyman, Mr. and Mrs. W. Henry, Mr. Carl Hertz, Mr. Karl Hooper, Mr. and Mrs. Sanders, Mr. Teddie Marks, Mr. Jack and Miss Evelyn O'Connor, Miss May Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Julian Rose, Mr. W. Saxby, Mr. Ben Brown, Mr. Will Poluski, jun., Miss Bella Fothergill, Mr. Pat Doherty, Mr. H. J. Austin, Mr. Bert Burnell, Mr. and Mrs. Barry, Mr. Dave Carter, Miss Leonard, Miss Aggie Nolan, Miss Elsie Roby, Miss Ethel Donna, Mr. Ernest Clifford, Mrs. A. Laurel, Miss Amy Sullivan, Mr. W. E. Gillin, Mr. Chas. Leighton, Mr. Harry Leighton, Larola and Miss Rose Cabani, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hickory Wood, Miss Ella Retford, the Brothers O'Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. Reeves and son, Miss E. Gordon, Miss Cressie Leonard, Mr. Jack Wilson (Wilson and Waring), Mr. Arthur Voyce, Mr. Jeapes, Mr. F. C. Baisley (manager of the Gladiator Co., who lent three cars), and Mr. A. C. Hills (of the Hills-Martini Co.).

PHOTOGRAPH OF THE GRAND ORDER OF WATER RATS. Unveiled at the Vaudeville Club on Sunday, June 28, 1908, by King Rat, W. H. Clemart.

King Rat, W. H. CLEMART; Prince Rat, FRED GINNETT; Scribe Rat, W. H. McCARTHY; Test Rat, GEORGE D'ALBERT; Bank Rat, EDWIN BROWN; Musical Rat, C. McCONNELL;
Past King Rats: HARRY FREEMAN, WAL PINK, JOE ELVIN, J. W. CRAGG, EUGENE STRATTON, JOE O'GORMAN, PAUL MARTINETTI, FRED RUSSELL, TOM McNAUGHTON, ARTHUR REECE, HARRY TICH, JAMES ALLISON.
Past Prince Rats: JACK LOTTO, H. M. EDMUNDS, FELICE NAPOLI, JAMES FINNEY, CHARLES WARREN, FRED McNAUGHTON., Past Scribe Rats: JEFF VENDOME, WILLIAM LEE. Past Test Rats: FRED GRIFFITHS, CLIFF RYLAND, WILL POLUSKI, BOB LEONARD, CHARLES MILDARE, JACK COLLINSON, REED PINAUD. Past Bank Rat, WILLIAM OLIVER. Past Musical Rat, BURT SHEPARD.
Rats: J. ALEXANDRE, APOLLO, HARRY ARA, BARNEY ARMSTRONG, WILKIE BARD, PETER BIJOU, HARRY BLAKE, ARTHUR CARLTON, MORNY CASH, ALF CHESTER, ALBERT CHRISTIAN, W. J. CHURCHILL, PAUL CINQUEVALLI, FRED COLLINS, TOM COSTELLO, WHIT CUNLIFFE, LEON DONALDSON, PERCY DELEVINE, HARRY DELEVINE, ALBERT EGBERT, SETH EGBERT, CHARLES FRAZER, GUS GARRICK GEORGE GILBEY, JOHNNY GILMORE, ARTHUR E. GODFREY, HORACE GOLDIN, V. L. GRANVILLE, MAURICE GERALDO, NEIL KENYON, FRANK HALTER, WILSON HALLETT, ARTHUR HAYTOR, FRANK HAYTOR, WILLIAM HEATH JAMES HOWARD, GEORGE HUGHES, HARRY JEE, WILL JOHNSON, FRED KARNO, J. KELLINO, W. KELLINO, FRED KITCHIN, SID LAUREL, GEO. LE CLERQ, ALF LEONARD, GEO. LEYTON, TOM McKAY, E. W. MANNING, FRED MAPLE, ALFRED MARTINETTI, GEORGE MOZART, MICHAEL NOLAN, DAVE O'TOOLE, CHARLES PASTOR, SAM POLUSKI, HARRY RADFORD, PAT RAFFERTY, DUSTY RHODES, J. W. RICKABY, CHARLES RICH, GEORGE SANDFORD, WILL SEELEY, JACK SELBINI, FRED SINCLAIR, WALTER STANTON, HARRY STELLING, HARRY TATE, JOE TENNYSON, JACK THORNBURY, FRANK TRAVIS, DEAN TRIBUNE, ARTHUR VERNO, WHIMSICAL WALKER, TOM WOOTTWELL.

THE LATE JOHN KEMBLE.

Mr. John Kemble, who passed away on June 11, had a most interesting career. Though generally regarded as an American, he was an Englishman, and was born in the year 1842, so that he was sixty-six at the time of his death. He was originally trained as an artist, and had considerable talent in that direction. An enthusiastic American interviewer—a lady—wrote thus of the deceased gentleman: "Above me as I write hangs a vigorous bit of colour in pastel, drowsy with the spirit of Eastern poetry and gorgeous in colours of the Orient. It is 'The Harem,' pencilled by John Kemble, and has just arrived from London, England. John Kemble, artist, England, does not mean much to benighted Columbians, but John Kemble, middleman, of Arlington, Cotton, and Kemble's Minstrels, awakens recollections of the greatest interlocutor minstrelsy ever knew. The ex-middleman and the amateur artist are one and the same. Kemble lives in cosy quarters in Shepherd's Bush, London. He is interlocutor, stage-manager, and playwright at St. James's Hall, where Moore and Burgess Minstrels have their home. Kemble is an unusual man, gifted with a keen insight into humanity, sparkling humour, broad intelligence, and a wealth of talent branching off in many directions. He is a comedian of marked ability, a painter of merit, an engraver, a writer, something of a poet, and the master of an envied secret which enables him to mix the greatest Manhattan cocktail made in Victoria's domain. Nobody else could throw so much dignity into the time-honoured business of a middleman of minstrelsy. He was the only man in the centre who ever spurred on the end men to arduous endeavours by perfectly scientific play into their hands. He always had so much unspoken wit in his own composition that he fed the fun-makers by adroit hints leading to clever impromptus and unexpected hits." All that belongs, however, to the gala days of burnt cork, when no visitor from the country to London thought the jaunt in the metropolis complete without a visit to the Christy Minstrels at St. James's Hall. Both are gone, and the deceased interlocutor, always a modest and retiring man, had been forgotten by a public to whose enjoyment he contributed by work that was instinct with fun and refinement.

MR. WALTER HOWARD'S Jollity Boys are meeting with great success at Bognor this season.

THE annual outing of Mr. George's Black's Northern circuit of picture theatres' staff, comprising over forty, took place on Sunday last. The party proceeded in a special boat up the river Tyne to Newcastle, then entrained for Whitley Bay. Various recreations were indulged in, such as boating, bathing, &c. Excellent dinner and tea were provided at the Panama House. Special musical items were rendered, and a hearty vote of thanks accorded Mr. Black. The party then broke up, after a most enjoyable day.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

LONDON PAVILION.

Into the London Pavilion scheme of amusement this week comes Miss Mabel Sinclair, a lady ventriloquist, who made her first West End appearance at the same house, to which she has returned to renew her triumphs of a year or two since. In the interim she has been developing her art and adding to her fame and experience in America, where the art of polyphony is highly prized by audiences, who welcomed Miss Sinclair's clever entertainment as something exceedingly fresh and unconventional. Miss Sinclair during her stay on the other side learnt something of the cosmopolitan claims of her act, something also of the exacting nature of those who wondered at her vocal agility and sense of character. Both of these requisites to a successful presentation of polyphony she possesses in a full degree, as one learns who listens to her turn at the fine house in Piccadilly Circus. Her voice-endowed figure, "Jack," through her clever instrumentality, is enabled to carry on a conversation in which repartee is pre-eminent; and there is a Tyrolénne, which adds most appreciably to the versatility and variety of a turn which is as agreeable as it is clever. Miss Sinclair's success is unmistakable.

Miss Nora Brocklebank has beauty and charm, and her introduction to London Pavilion audiences by Mr. Frank Glenister is completely justified by her success. In her first song she is the *bonne vivеuse* who cries "A fig for to-morrow; let us enjoy to-day," Bohemian philosophy that receives hearty endorsement at the hands of the audience. Her second song, which concerns the irrepressible and elusive Cupid, is very cleverly written, the music reflecting admirably the piquancy of the verses. In her rendering of this song Miss Brocklebank is costumed as a boy, and a very pretty boy too! Mr. Arthur Aldridge sings agreeably of "Sweethearts," a subject for the poets since the days of Ferdusi, the Persian. Mr. Charles Matthews causes genuine astonishment by jumping over chairs and in and out of barrels. Incidentally he clears a piano on the "higher" system. He is introduced by a sprightly and pretty girl, who issues all sorts of challenges on behalf of Charles.

The Harmony Four, who have just returned from Africa, were announced on the week's bill, but their place on the night of our visit was taken by Harry Tate and company in the famous sketch, *Motoring*, which, in spite of the fact that it has suffered by imitation, still holds its place as one of the most hilarious sketches ever produced at a variety theatre. *Motoring* has made thousands laugh, and its mirthful mission is far from finished yet. It goes as well as ever at the Pavilion.

Mr. Albert Le Fre is one of those versatile entertainers who could take up a whole afternoon in the exploitation of his varied accomplishments. The ease and certainty of his effects are due to the fact that he has gone through the mill, and commenced to learn at a very early age. A delightful dancer and a born comedian, Mr. Le Fre maintains his high position as an entertainer who can go anywhere and do anything.

Miss Lily Harold returns in the scena "Cherry," which has already been noticed in these columns; Miss Emilie Hayes sings very prettily; Dome manages to put plenty of humour into his clay-modelling; and a hilarious fifteen minutes can be spent in company with Hayman and Franklin, the American Hebrew impersonators, in the farcical legal skit, *A Suit for Divorce*. Mr. A. Bond Sayers directs an orchestra that plays most artistically.

THE CANTERBURY.

Among the announcements at the Canterbury, where Mr. Fred Miller is spiritedly carrying on the campaign against the torrid weather, we find that of Mr. Francis O'Flynn, "the man who makes the banjo talk." Mr. O'Flynn, like his celebrated namesake, is possessed with a soul for music, and the eloquence of his thrumming makes a most powerful appeal to audiences at the "over-the-bridge" hall. And such thrumming, too! The American march comes with a whirl, in its precise and stirring strains; and then plaintively the artist melts into tenderness at his finger-tips, and enthrals us with a solo that is absolutely inspiring in its tunefulness. The Hungarian Rhapsody used to be played on the piano by the famous Liszt, and O'Flynn has made a clever study of it on his instrument, and the Czech melodies in their wild grandeur are characteristic of a remarkable race of people. Humour is presented when the player imitates the tones of a parson's voice addressing a newly-married couple, and the whole entertainment concludes with "The Old Folks at Home." O'Flynn meets with an enthusiastic reception.

In the Westbrooks are to be recognised the two daughters of a well-known agent and manager, and hereditary ability once more asserts itself. They present, with a male companion, a dancing scena, *Two Little Maids from School*, and dance several measures with both grace and spirit. There is plenty of go about the whole thing, and the song by the veteran gets home.

Roars of laughter almost raise the sliding roof when Mr. Lew Lake and company play what is called on the bill a petite comedy-drama. It is a sequel to *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, and is known as *My Pal Jerry*. Jerry and Nobbler, the principal characters, evoke manifestations of mirth when they, as convicts at Pentonville, make the complaints—the one that he has no piano in his drawing-room, and the other that there are no tomatoes with his breakfast bacon. A more pathetic note is dwelt on at the end, and the production is entirely to the tastes of the house. Mr. Herbert Clifton announces an imitation of Miss Phyllis Dare in her Sandow girl song in *The Dairymaids*. In its presentation Mr. Clifton seems to have forgotten the fact that entertainments at the variety theatres are on a higher plane of refinement than formerly. Miss Katie Marsh has a rag-time melody, to which she does full justice, also proving herself to be an excellent dancer. Mr. Edward Clark and his Winning Widows have a pretty and interesting show, in which Mr. Clark himself scores most unmistakably by his impersonation of a turf tipster. Mr. G. H. Elliott is immensely popular here as elsewhere in his tuneful melodies and admirable dancing. Canty's grotto is a vision of cascades glittering beneath coloured lights, and the Doreen Girls, Constance Mori, the Brewsters, and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope are other attractions.

THE PARAGON.

Sketches and monologues make up the major portion of the programme at this palace for the people in the Mile End-road, and the liberal nature of the current entertainment presented under the direction of Mr. Charles Beecham is striking, even to the visitor accustomed to the amplitude of the schemes of amusement in the variety theatres of the West-end. The chief novelty of the present week's bill is a dramatic monologue, *The Strike*, founded on *La Grève des Forgerons*, of the late François Coppée. It is M. Edouard José—an actor, we believe, of Dutch origin—who impersonates the old blacksmith. He has swung "his heavy sledge" for the last fifty years for the same firm. There has been a dispute with the master, and the men have come out on strike. The sight of his wife and children starving drives the old man to make a frantic appeal to his mates to allow him to work. Their taciturnity is not penetrated apparently by his distressful plaint, and they are all silent, except one. He hisses between his teeth the word, "Skunk!" Rage succeeds despair in the old man's breast, and a hasty challenge is uttered to fight with hammers. The elder kills his younger opponent, and is arraigned on a charge of murder. This is being tried by judge and jury in a court scene. The twelve good men and true listen to the blacksmith's self-accusation, and without any comment by judge or counsel, immediately return a verdict of "Not guilty!" On this declaration the curtain falls. M. Edouard José is impressive and dramatic, and succeeded on Monday in completely holding the attention and eliciting the sympathy of a Paragon audience.

Mr. George Leyton's *Lucknow* puts into dramatic form one of the most stirring events of the upheaval in India in 1857-8. Ten survivors of the Indian Mutiny appear, and the patriotic verse of Mr. John P. Harrington, which has been set to stirring rhythms by Mr. James W. Tate, rouses much enthusiasm. It is declaimed with eloquent warmth by Mr. Leyton, whose heart is in his work, and whose personality fits his part exactly. The sketch is in two scenes, the first being the banqueting hall, and the second the precincts of Lucknow outside the Residency. Then we have a realistic tableau of Sir Colin Campbell and the Sutherland Highlanders relieving the Residency, the scenery being from the brush of the accomplished Mr. W. T. Hemsley.

Earlier in the evening Mr. Fred Karno presents his company in *Moses and Sons*, a pantomimic absurdity that is played entirely by Jews and Jewesses, with the exception of Mr. Fred Kitchen, to whose fun we have already given ample praise in these columns. Mr. Kitchen's dealings with "showers of gold" are provocative of the heartiest laughter, and his general behaviour is as ridiculous as any lover of farce can possibly wish.

Mr. G H. Elliott's coon songs are chorused throughout the vast building; Mr. Tom Woottwell's lively and droll song, "Blowed if I didn't wake up," is immensely popular; no daintier dancer could be desired than Daisy Dormer, who is acclaimed enthusiastically by gallery, pit, and stalls; there is much merit in the versatile doings of the Brewsters, a banjo, song, and dance quintet of considerable attainments; and the Herald Comedy Four find plenty of appreciation for their singing, dancing, and farcical business. Other attractions are Luis Hardt, in athletic scena, *Flights of Imagination*; Miss Katie Marsh, comedienne; King and Benson, comedy duo; Miss José Collins, comedienne; Miss May Marton, comedienne; the Sisters Caselli, speciality dancers; the sketch, *Memories*, presented by Miss Eugenie Magnus and Mr. Lionel D'Aragon's company; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

Despite the tropical heat of the past week Messrs. Jesse Sparrow and Harry Bawn have drawn splendid houses twice nightly at their cosy and cool variety theatre. This excellent result is undoubtedly due to their knowing just what their patrons require in variety fare; they also know full well the value of detail. The entrance to the Empire smacks of a West End theatre. At the door one receives the salute of Ben Woodger, in officer's uniform, with moustache to match. In the vestibule the guest meets the courteous Mr. Percy Ford, the acting-manager, in immaculate evening attire, whose watchful eye is ever for the comfort of Empire patrons The current programme, so rich in fun and enjoyment, is fully deserving of the liberal support of Camberwell pleasure-seekers. The principal item is the appearance of Mr. Fred G. Brooke and his carefully-selected company in an exciting dramaette entitled *A Lost Woman*. A vile French hypnotist, Felix Lascelles, has used his mesmeric powers to bring into his den of infamy in Paris the young and pretty wife of the Rev. Harry Tracy, whose father he has already murdered. The distracted husband finds his wife in Lascelles' house surrounded by a group of demi-mondaines, and Lascelles makes Phyllis, while under his influence, act as though one of them. The husband casts her off, and tells her he never wishes to look on her again. But she finds a friend in Louis Cordelle, an artist living in Lascelles' house, and Pierre Cousset, a French detective, who, after many vicissitudes, manages to get the young wife out of the villian's power and prove her innocence to her husband; while Lascelles goes to pay the forfeit for murder and many other crimes. This little playlet is admirably staged and acted, and is of absorbing interest. As the man-hunter Pierre Cousset, Mr. Fred Brooke is to be congratulated on a really excellent performance; most of the hard work falls on the shoulders of Mr. Wellesley Draper, who as the villainous hypnotist has plenty to do, and does it thoroughly and well; as his female accomplice Emilie Lousaine Miss Dora Deane handles a difficult character with delicacy and skill; Mr. Harry Hiller as the Rev. Harry Tracy presents a careful character study, and as his pretty wife, Phyllis, Miss Nancy Roberts invests her part with a sweetness and charm that win all hearts. As her friend the artist Mr. Hamilton Vaun is decidedly good, and all the minor parts are portrayed with care and attention to detail.

A fine turn is that presented by W. D. MacKenzie and his choir of youthful choristers in a charming musical scena entitled *Moments with the Masters*. Programme:—

Introduction and Entry.....*Theo Ward*
Chorus....."Soldiers' Chorus" (*Faust*)..*Gounod*
Intermezzo.."Cavalleria Rusticana"....
This is sung by the Human Ocarina in his natural voice.
Part Song and Chorus
"Torpedo and the Whale"..*Audran*
Trio and Chorus.."Excelsior".....*Balfe*
Solo and Chorus
"Land of Hope and Glory"...*Elgar*
Chorus....."Light as Air" (*Faust*)...*Gounod*

A distinctive and novel feature is the marvellous singing of the youngster who as the human ocarina gives such unique expression to the intermezzo from *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Mlle. Haydee stages a pretty miniature show with her marionettes, and introduces a distinctive feature in the wonderfully clever performance of her lilliputian magician Ling-Soo. Rose Pink is a smart and youthful dancer; the Brothers Hamilton are smart cross-talkers and clever dancers and gain much applause; Chas. Cautley, a fine baritone, splendid appearance, and with cultured enunciation, gives point and effect to his two fine descriptive songs, "My drummer-boy" and "Good-bye, Australia," the latter having a tuneful marching chorus that is eagerly caught up by the audience. There are very few actor-vocalists about of the calibre of Mr. Chas. Cautley. The Brothers Danube indulge in some smart and skilful acrobatism cloaked by some merry patter; Delaforce uses plenty of "force" in his memory solos on the xylophone, very commendable for their physical energy and endurance; George Prince, with his eccentric appearance, yodels about the many strange scenes to be seen among "The ruins of Pompeii"; Kelvin and Groves, Scotch cross-talkers and dancers, are a very amusing duo; and Jeapes' Empire picture, Frightened by Burglars, forms a fitting ending to an entertainment rich in fun and enjoyment.

The stage-management of the above important productions is in the hands of the capable Mr. W. Nutt.

Miss Aidee Mellor, a new aspirant for honours on the variety stage, has been appearing at the Hippodrome, Oldham. She had a most flattering reception. With a sweet voice and pretty songs she should rapidly make her way. Mr. Ernest Dottridge has taken charge of her bookings.

The many friends of Miss Clara Reid (Reid and Power) will be pleased to hear that she has recovered from her serious illness, and resumed work at Darlington Hippodrome on Monday with her novelty duologue, *The Chambermaid*.

ACCRINGTON HIPPODROME BURNED.

The Accrington Hippodrome, a corrugated iron structure situated on Ellison's Tenement, and owned by Messrs. Willmot, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker, was totally destroyed by fire on Friday night (26th ult). The two performances had been successfully given in the evening as usual, the second performance terminating about 10.50, and shortly afterwards the building was discovered to be on fire at the stage and dressing-room end of the premises. Information was conveyed with all despatch to the fire-station, and the brigade, under Supt. Barnes, were quickly on the spot. The conflagration had, however, spread with amazing rapidity, and the whole of the building, which contained a good deal of woodwork, was blazing to such an extent that it was at once realised that it was doomed.

Before half-past eleven the whole of the roof was well ablaze, whilst the interior was in such a state that the fire was raging at white heat. As the destruction of the roof proceeded tongues of flame shot high in the air and illuminated the sky with a lurid glare, which could be seen for miles around. The firemen directed the whole of their energies to the stage-end of the hall, and by twelve o'clock, the flames having somewhat subsided, it looked as if a considerable length of the exterior would be saved. As to the interior, it was completely gutted from end to end. But just before midnight a large mass of the lower side fell in. Up to then the top side near the entrance end was practically intact, but it was obvious it would not remain so very long, and shortly after almost one-half of the corrugated side from the roof to the ground tumbled outwards with a loud crash; then another large piece came away, followed by a number of supports, and the building, of which the only part of any size remaining was the entrance end, presented a wrecked and ruined appearance. It is estimated that the damage amounts to about £3,000, and this is only partly covered by insurance.

The artists who have been performing at the Hippodrome during the week mourn the destruction of their property, as in consequence of the rapidity with which the outbreak spread it was impossible for them to save their belongings. The principal sufferers in this respect are the Waldrons, who have been appearing in the sketch *The Silly Burglar*, and who have lost a considerable quantity of pantomime dresses and valuable properties. Bugler Carr also has suffered greatly, and the Bohemians, Tiny Arnold, Vesta Fay, Joe Dale, and Keith and Kent are amongst the unfortunate performers who have lost the whole of their effects. A strange coincidence is that Mr. Fortune, the leader of the orchestra, who was in the habit of taking his violin home, should on this particular night leave it in the building, and therefore paid the penalty by losing his favourite instrument.

RUINS OF ACCRINGTON HIPPODROME.

Mr. J. B. Ormerod, the proprietor and manager of the Prince's Theatre, on hearing of the disaster, very generously offered to give a matinée on behalf of the artists that have suffered. The performance will be arranged as early as possible, and the Prince's stock company will give their services, with many well-known music hall turns, from neighbouring towns.

As to the probable origin of the fire, nothing is known, as Mr. Walter Mould, the resident-manager, went through the building just before eleven, immediately after the audience had dispersed, and everything appeared to be safe. The building was then locked up for the night. Scarcely ten minutes had elapsed when the fire was discovered.

"THE MAJOR'S MANŒUVRE."

A Comedy Sketch, written by Frank Webber, Produced at the Bedford on Monday, June 29.

Major Mumps .....Mr. Charles Leverton
Billy Binns .....Mr. Frank Gordon
Rev. Mr. Snookley .....Mr. Frank Webber
Mrs. Molly Dashem .....Miss Emma Stockley

This very lively sketch, which was produced on Monday last, should have a very prosperous future. It is a pleasant change from the customary drawing-room set which is usually the background for most sketches. The scene represents a coach on a corridor express running at full speed, and it is a clever piece of staging. There are three compartments, and three passengers and the guard. The slight story is of Major Mumps, who is returning from his military duties, and takes advantage of being alone in his compartment to change into civilian costume. While the transformation is in progress Mrs. Molly Dashem enters, and the Major has to take refuge behind a rug. A very funny scene follows, and a fainting fit on the part of the widow leads to a climax. The Major proposes and is accepted. The amount of fun which is extracted from the situation is wonderful, and the whole play goes with a rare swing, and the audience are kept in a high state of hilarity. Mr. Charles Leverton was excellent as the Major; and Mrs. Molly Dashem was played in a capital manner by Miss Emma Stockley. Mr. Frank Webber as the Rev. Snookley was very diverting; while Mr. Frank Gordon lends valuable aid as Binns, the guard. The sketch has been produced under the direction of Mr. Herbert Reeves and Mr. Frank Webber, and scored an immediate and pronounced success.

Iris Miyako, 18, a Japanese subject, was charged at Stratford with stealing from a dressing-room at the Walthamstow Palace a half-hoop diamond ring, valued at £30, the property of Miss Daisy Dormer. On the night of June 26 Detective-sergeant Phipps saw prisoner at the Walthamstow Palace, and said to her, "I am a police-officer, and am inquiring about a diamond ring which was missed by Miss Daisy Dormer on the 24th from a dressing-room. I understand you were in the dressing-room with her." Prisoner hesitated for a moment, and then she said, "Well, I will tell you the truth. I had it, and I pledged it for £15." She then gave to Phipps a contract note showing that she had pledged a ring with Attenboroughs, of Oxford-street. Prisoner was remanded on her brother's bail of £20.

M.H.A.R.A.

It is most regrettable that the Scottish railway representatives do not see eye to eye with their English confrères in the matter of the twelve-mile radius rule, which has ceased to operate north of the Tweed. The privilege was an exceptionally valuable one, as it enabled medium artists—not stars—entertaining at smaller townships within twelve miles of Glasgow—for instance—to put their names down on vouchers, and—thus combined—to obtain the three-quarter rate.

That this is so no longer shows a little short-sightedness on the part of the managers of the companies, for many smaller artists, relying on the concession, have been able to accept smaller remuneration. This they will be unable now to do, and considerable loss to the companies will result. Recently a deputation waited upon the Scottish railway representatives, who, we hope, will see their way to fall into agreement again with the Southern lines and restore the concession. Liberality almost invariably pays in railway management, and we feel sure that when the rapid growth of the variety profession is considered by the Scottish railway directors they, as business men, will recognise the commercial importance of acceding to the request of the Association as embodied in the annexed courteous and temperately-worded letter to the Caledonian, North British, and Glasgow and South-Western Railways of Scotland:—

(Copy.)

Dear Sir,—We are in receipt of your favour dated the 12th of June, and beg to express our extreme regret that you cannot see your way clear to grant those of our members who may be within the twelve-mile radius of Glasgow the privilege of placing their names on the Glasgow vouchers.

"The twelve-mile radius" arrangement has, as you are probably aware, already been vouchsafed to our members for several years by the English railway companies, and it has been of inestimable service, not only to our poorer members, but also to the railway companies concerned; inasmuch as it has enabled many smaller artists to accept engagements in certain minor towns (where the music-hall managers find it impossible to pay ordinary salaries), and has thereby materially added to the business of the railway companies.

Many performers would have been compelled to decline these lesser engagements had it not been for the prospective chance of obtaining the three-quarter rate within a radius of the principal towns on the return journey, and particularly Glasgow.

We would sincerely beg the courtesy of your further discussion of this matter, and we would respectfully point out to you that the salaries of variety artists are on the decrease, and if, added to that, they have to lose the concession, a great number of artists will be reluctantly compelled to refuse to accept contracts in Scotland.

We shall be happy to send you a representative deputation of variety artists to thoroughly explain the serious position which is likely to arise in our profession in consequence of your decision in the matter, and we feel sure that when once you have heard our case you will not hesitate to give the matter once more your kindest and fullest consideration.

Thanking you for past favours, and awaiting the courtesy of an early reply,

We remain, yours respectfully,
For the Music-hall Artists' Railway Association—
W. H. Clemart, President.
Albert Voyce, Chairman of Committee.
Fred Herbert, Vice-Chairman of Committee
Arthur Rigby, Hon. Treasurer.
C. Douglas Stuart, Secretary.

"ALMIGHTY GOLD."

A decided novelty in the Empress, Brixton, programme, this week is Kopski's song-scena, *Almighty Gold*. The story tells how men and women stop at nothing in their efforts to acquire wealth. After an introductory verse a couple of impressive episodes are acted at the back of the stage. The first "living picture" shows a man and woman at the altar rails, about to be united in matrimony, but the unexpected appearance of a lady in black—his lawful wife—on the scene prevents the scoundrel from committing bigamy. The other episode represents an enterprising burglar in the pale moonlight breaking into a house, and apparently searching for "yellow boys," or valuables on which he can raise them. He is interrupted in his pilfering by the aged master of the house, and a struggle ensues, in which the burglar finally gains the upper hand, and stabs his would-be captor, covering the dead body with a cloth ere he departs. This thrilling incident was most realistically presented, and the curtain fell to abundant applause. Mr. Herbert Summers admirably rendered the song, and all the characters were ably enacted, the scenery, by Mr. F. E. Boden, also fulfilling all requirements. The song-scena has a tuneful waltz refrain, and the music throughout, including the march prelude, was excellently rendered by the orchestra under the bâton of the accomplished Kopski. *Almighty Gold*, produced under the direction of Mr. Royston Keith, should prove a popular item wherever presented.

Carter, American magician, writes under date May 21:—"We have just opened in the Philippines, at Manila. Our first night's house was 2,400 pesos ($1,200 gold), which is the biggest house that has ever been known in Manila. This is a wonderfully thrifty town, all due to American energy. It reminds one, in appearance, of some of the Mexican towns, though with this difference, that everywhere one sees evidences of activity and improvement. We shall probably be here eight or nine days, after which we move on to Hong Kong for one week, thence to Shanghai for three weeks. We may play at Cavite, where Admiral Dewey sank the Spanish Fleet. It is a short distance from Manila, across the bay. There are other Army posts which have invited us to exhibit before them, and if time permits we shall accept such invitations. The Elks own the city, as every white man of any prominence is a member thereof. Our reception and treatment have been royally cordial. Kind regards to all."

FRANCIS AND DAY OUTING.

The founders of the firm of Francis, Day, and Hunter are now reduced to one, and Mr. David Day alone represented the original trio of world-wide fame at the Seventh Annual Staff Outing, which was celebrated by a visit to Godalming on Saturday last. Happily, Mr. Day is in the prime of life and in the enjoyment of robust health, while to maintain the prestige of the house there is also his son Mr. Fred Day, who heads the firm in America, and Messrs. Arthur and William Francis, both of whom are associated with the mother house in London. Mr. C. J. Smith and Mr. W. Eyke were retained for the positions respectively of chairman and vice-chairman which they have filled so ably in former years, and accompanying the party were Mr. Charles Wilmott, Mr. Hermann Darewski, jun., Mr. Edgar Bateman, Mr. Fred Leigh, and Mr. H. E. Pether. Great satisfaction was expressed at the presence among the excursionists of Mr. "Bob" Berridge, the oldest employee of the firm, who, though not quite recovered from a recent illness, was able to be there. It was Mr. Berridge to whom the quaint "6d. Pop" emblem of last year was due, and this year he had not failed to furnish a distinctive favour, for around the neck of each 6d. Popist was a tie upon which was engraved the music of the "Veleta" waltz. Another old employee in the company was Mr. "Charlie" Rooker, buoyant as ever, and quite ready to respond to the demand for a song during a halt at a wayside inn, even venturing upon an excerpt from *Trial by Jury*, while Mr. Pether persuasively pounded the piano.

In high spirits the excursionists set out from Waterloo by reserved corridor coach, reaching Godalming shortly after ten. Arrived at their destination, many of the party indulged in boating on the picturesque River Wey, which takes its devious course through the town. Others sought the cricket field, where a match was contested between teams headed respectively by Mr. Fred Day and Mr. Wm. Francis. The former side scored a decided victory, its captain so punishing the bowling that after making many boundary hits he compassionately decided to retire. Bicycle records were attacked on the half-mile track, and though in their enthusiasm one rider took a header into the hedge and another ingloriously bit the dust no new records were established.

Dinner was discussed at the King's Arms Royal Hotel, and after the meal had been eaten, Mr. David Day rose to propose that they should drink in respectful silence to their late friend Mr. William Francis, who passed away in January last. Those who had known his old friend knew that he possessed sterling qualities of geniality and kindliness, but those who had known him longest could discern another quality, and that was an indomitable British pluck that enabled him to face and surmount insuperable obstacles. The toast was drunk in reverent silence, and was acknowledged by the sons, Messrs. Arthur and William Francis, both of whom were deeply touched by the expression of affection for their late esteemed father.

The Chairman proposed the toast of "The Firm," alluding to their kindness in granting a day's holiday and in subscribing substantially to the outing fund. The toast was acknowledged by Mr. David Day, who complimented the staff on the unanimity with which they worked for the good of the house.

The Vice-Chairman gave "The American Branch," and in doing so welcomed the presence among them of Mr. Fred Day, who so well represented the firm in the United States, and whom they were always delighted to see. Mr. Eyke also referred sympathetically to Mr. John Abbott, who was away doing his duty in America, but was, he was assured, with them in spirit.

Mr. Fred Day acknowledged the toast, and said that though his work lay in lands beyond the seas, he always knew where to come for a holiday. He was proud to represent the grand old firm in America, and hoped it might extend its activities still further. He proposed the health of the staff, adding that he was sure there were no more loyal employees anywhere to be found.

Mr. Charles Wilmott responded on behalf of the staff, and said he had not been with them so long as some of his hearers, but he had been long enough to realise what it was that made Francis, Day, and Hunter the premier music firm not only in this country but throughout the two hemispheres. He was confident that the house would maintain that tradition for many years to come.

The Chairman, in eulogising the work of the committee, said that they had acquitted themselves ably, but added guardedly "up to the present." Mr. H. Harris, speaking for the committee, which also included Mr. G. Morley and Mr. Fred Leigh, said they hoped they would continue to acquit themselves satisfactorily, and the party generally echoed the sentiment.

A congratulatory telegram from Buxton, where he is taking the waters, was read from Mr. Warwick Williams, and a wire was despatched in return.

A ride through leafy lanes and wooded slopes followed, in brakes provided by Mr. W. B. Richards, of Guildford, and a most enjoyable journey was taken by way of Milford, Elstead, Cutmill Ponds, and Puttenham. Many and varied were the devices for promoting enjoyment during the trip. One gentleman who lingered too long during a stoppage got left behind, and though search parties were despatched to his aid, he could not be found. With plucky determination, however, he started to walk, and, though no light weight, was able to rejoin the party at the railway station, after having tramped a distance of some ten miles. Upon such men, it was maintained, are the foundations of England's greatness laid. Then there was "Judges up." "Judges up," be it known, is a guileless game, at which any number may play, but none might win. After the mystic words alluded to have been pronounced, anyone uttering the words "Yes" or "No" had to pay a penalty of one halfpenny. The most ingenious attempts to extract the forbidden monosyllable from reluctant lips were resorted to, with results so successful that a sum of 5s. was added to the Hospital Fund Collection which on Saturday dominated the town. Tea was followed by a pleasant hour or so on the river or a ramble through the country, and the return journey was begun at 8.45, town being reached about 10.

Miss Letty Lingard, a charming burlesque artist, terminates a successful run of ten weeks at Dover, and will return to Folkestone shortly. She will run her own company again in September.

Mr. W. Doland's *Under the Red Cross* company deputised on Thursday last week for Mr. Arthur Roberts at the Empress, Brixton. This dramatic episode, written and invented by Mr. Harry Barron, only plays ten minutes and has several very effective situations. It was capitally performed by an efficient company, Mr. Doland acting powerfully as the German officer, and the Australian actor, "Lux," being impressive as the priest. Miss Queenie Grey made an ideal sister of mercy. The playlet was enthusiastically received.

London's furore over the wonderful telepathic performances of the Zancigs is likely to be excelled by the latest addition to the various free entertainments given at the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, to visitors. Mr. Fant Abbot, the celebrated memory magician, thought-reader, and lecturer on the "intangible," is demonstrating in the open air of the Imperial Court and in "The Hungarian Street" his wonderful gifts from the bandstand and rostrum at 2.45 to 3 p.m. and 9 to 9.30 p.m. No charge whatever is made to witness Mr. Fant Abbot's displays, which will be repeated daily at the times mentioned.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

THE fairs ahead for next week are Bognor, on the London, Brighton and South Coast; Bradford (Yorks), on the Midland, Great Northern, and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Haxey, on the Great Northern and Great Eastern; Chipping Norton, on the Great Western; Sampford Courtenay, on the London and South-Western; Taunton, on the Great Western and Midland; Burnley, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Headless Cross, on the Great Central, Great Western, and Midland; Leeds, on the London and North-Western, North-Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Midland, and Great Northern; Menston, on the Midland; Ringwood, on the London and South-Western; Stroud, on the Great Western and Midland; York, on the London and North-Western, Great Central, Midland, North Eastern, Great Northern, and Great Eastern; Chapel-en-le-Frith, on the London and North-Western and Midland; Holmesfield, on the Midland; Hawick, on the North British; Motherwell, on the Caledonian; and Llanllyfni, on the London and North-Western Railways.

The Guild Chaplain on Tour.

THE REV. T. HORNE will visit Scotland this week-end. Arrangements are being made by Vice-President John Wilmot for the Organising Chaplain to address a mass meeting of showmen on Sunday next (to-morrow) at Greenock Fair. The place of meeting will be McIndoe's show, and the time 3.30 p.m.

THE veteran showman of the Northern fairs—General John Wilmot, V.-P.—is, we are glad to learn, recovering from a somewhat severe attack of illness which has compelled his absence from business for some little time past. As Greenock Fair is one of his greatest enterprises, it is to be sincerely hoped that he is well enough to take his place in the control of so important a fixture, and that he will be able to preside over the gathering on Sunday next.

Largs Fair.

WHILST dealing with the Scotch round, we have to report the very interesting and successful fair at Largs in Ayrshire. The principal shows and machines and other amusements included Carter's cinematograph theatre, Chapman's educated birds and hares, John Wilmot's switchback motor-cars, and J. Wilmot, jun.'s similar set, P. Swallow's galloping horses, and Hobday's steam circus. The shooting concerns were those of Messrs. Dawson, Cook, Newton, Moore, and Irvine. Throwing games and variety stalls were provided by Messrs. Knight, Cook, Grey, Smith, Stevenson, Valenski, and others. Side shows by Messrs. Bodwell, Nelson, and Harkpool.

News from the West.

CAMBORNE FAIR, principally provided by W. C. and S. Hancock, whose well-known superb cinematograph theatre was the centre of attraction, and their fine set of motor-cars occupied the centre of the fairground and afforded immense amusement to the crowds of eager patrons. White's giant lady was an interesting side show, and there were sets of park swings, high-fliers Winchester ranges, rifle saloons, and other varieties provided by Mrs. Lock, and Messrs. Smith, Whitelegg, Charles, and Lock.

Notes from Wales.

THE Gelli Fair has profited by the continued fine weather, and large crowds were attracted. H Studt and Son's magnificent motor-cars were an immense draw; Dooner's superb bioscope was the big show, and H. Gess with school of boxers and athletes did excellent business. Amongst the minor attractions were Matthews' merry-go-round, North's throwing games, penalty frames and variety stalls with a crowd of minor attractions provided by other Welsh showmen, constituting an excellent fair.

WADBROOKE' electrograph is reported as still being at Tylorstown. The excellent variety company with this concern includes Mlle. Melita, speciality dancer; Miss Maude, cornet soloist; and the display of up-to-date pictures under Mr. Jeffries' able direction give tremendous satisfaction. Mr. J. North, jun., with his shooting gallery, throwing games, and striking machines, is, with H. Scard, on the same ground.

JACOB STUDT has been having a season of private business at Chepstow, where his mammoth cinematograph theatre had drawn both town and country. Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Studt's beautiful Pullman car living van is a source of great admiration in the towns they have visited this season. Mr. and Mrs. Studt are justly proud of their palace on wheels.

Halifax Fair.

WITH this fair the great Yorkshire cycle of pleasure fairs begins. There were, as usual, as many big concerns, both shows and machines, as the Corporation fairground could possibly admit. Amongst these were Procter's London circus, Farrer and Tyler's No. 1 cinematograph theatre, and Enoch Farrer's two concerns—the new living picture show and the fine art gallery; Relph and Pedley exhibited their unique freak show and their machine set—the racing porkers. John Collins exhibited galloping horses and the twin ships in the air. The switchback gondola and motor-car sets were those of Aspland (B. Howden and Son), and Waddington; a fine set of racing ostriches by P. Collins, galloping horses by Kershaw, and steam and manual swings by Morley and Shaw.

THE avenue of shooting concerns included those of G. H. Cornwall, Ratcliffe, Jameson, and Seed, and amongst the providers of throwing games, &c., were Brook, Turner, Joy, Stewart, Doubtfire, and Mrs. Illingworth.

Mexborough Feast.

THIS excellent mid-Yorkshire fixture was under the management of the Doncaster firm—Messrs. Tuby and Sons, who exhibited their colossal cinematograph enterprise and two big machine sets—the Gordon-Bennett motor-cars and the galloping horses. The other entertainers included Professor Watson with school of boxers, Corrigan and Son with steam yachts and throwing games, J. Amos with steam swings, and Messrs. Pullen, Fisher, and Tuby with park swings, Bentley with big boats, and Messrs. Brannan, Pullen, Fisher, Shaw, Easthope, Lockwood, and Tuby, sen., with shooting concerns. Throwing games, variety stalls, dart boards, penalty frames, and all the fun of the fair were provided by Messrs. Calver, Doubtfire, Pullen, Doran, Lloyd, Hepworth, Norman, Moore, Fletcher, Middlebrook, and Waugh.

GUILD SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1908.—Per Mr. C. Shaw, E. Lockwood, 5s.; A. Silverwood, 5s.; J. J. Shaw, 5s.; A. Fisher, 5s.; J. Moore, 5s.; W. Pullen, 5s.; Mr. Walker, 5s.; per Mr. Shuttleworth, Lorenzo Crick, 5s.; R. Layland, 5s.; H. Redfern, 5/-; J. J. Butterworth, jun., 5s.; per Mr. Mitchell, C. Wright, 5s.

Shifnal Wakes.

MRS. S. SHEPHERD'S motor cars, overboat, cokernut shies and juvenile horses, W. Davies' electric jumping horses and motor cars, Sagar's Premier Picture Exhibition, Turner's Winchester ranges and shooting galleries, stalls by Culliss, Lewis, Turner, Winsper, and Murphy, and a host of minor attractions were at this capital fair.

EXCESSIVE TOLLS AT PENZANCE.

An extremely important principle was fought for and most tenaciously upheld by the organised showmen at Penzance a fortnight ago—the right to combine for a common object, and to carry out the principle by collective bargaining.

It is too late in the day now for Corporations to take the high and mighty line of dictating to showmen, "You must take our terms or keep away." Showmen, like other traders and craftsmen, have learnt the art of combination. It is not so easy for Corporations, as in the bad old times, to set individual showmen in trade competition against one another. Showmen have learnt by sad experience that they must hold together or go under. Hence the growing power of the Showmen's Guild.

Penzance a Case in Point.

Corporations are beginning to recognise that when the accredited agents of the showmen's trade organisations approach them officially, and ask to be heard on trade matters, that it is not good business to try either to ignore them or to play the ancient game of "bluff."

Showmen have fought, and have upheld, against powerful Corporations the important principle of "free trade in pleasure fairs"; that is to say, that if the Corporation will not provide at reasonable terms a fair ground for the showmen, the showmen are well within their rights in providing one for themselves. Parliament for years past has refused to give public authorities a monopoly in fair rights.

It has cost the organised showmen of the Empire years of hard work and thousands of pounds to secure this principle of free trade in fairs. Corporation after Corporation have endeavoured to secure monopoly fair rights in private Acts of Parliament, but by the watchfulness and care of the Showmen's Guild this has been prevented. Halifax and Rotherham were notable examples. Scores of public bodies have sought excessive powers of control over the fair ground industry, but in every case the watchfulness of the Guild executive has prevented these restrictive proposals becoming law.

The Extraordinary Claim of the Corporation of Penzance.

Under their ancient charter the Mayor and Corporation claim a complete monopoly in fairs in and around Penzance. It is this extraordinary claim that obviously made the Corporation insistent in maintaining the excessive scale of tolls at their Corpus Christi Fair. They ignored the possibility of reaching a breaking-point, and dictated terms in the best approved methods of absolute masters of the situation—the usual curt "take it or leave it" answer. The organised showmen in the end, having failed to arrange matters amicably, took an independent attitude, with the result that the Corporation lost its pleasure fair revenues, and the showmen lost their fair, holding a carnival instead outside the borough boundaries.

[Photo by Vaughan T. Paul, Penzance.

THE REV. T. HORNE AT PENZANCE.

The People of Penzance and their Fair.

All that we have set out in the present article up to now is sad reading, and only illustrates the need of more effective methods of negotiation and combination on the part of Corporations when dealing with the organised industry of the fair ground.

There are, however, extremely important considerations and popular interests that both showmen and Corporations are too often inclined to ignore. We refer to the fair rights and the ancient holiday rights of the people—the toilers and the workers to whom the annual pleasure fair is a real time of recreation, and of necessary cessation from arduous and exhausting toil. What answer will the Corporation give to the people of Penzance for the loss of its fair in 1908?

Public Opinion on the Question.

The local Press publishes columns of letters from indignant writers on the question, and the leading Penzance daily paper has taken a most impartial, yet popular, line on the matter.

In a most humorous special article, the *Cornishman* treats the dispute as a battle between the invading forces of the allied showmen and the home forces of the Corporation.

"The Battle of Corpus Christi."

"The invasion by the combined forces of circular cavalry, armoured switchback railway, aerial swing boats, scouts, brass bands, and other mounted and infantry forces, assumed a serious aspect on Monday night.

"The combined forces were utterly routed on their first attempt on the Recreation Ground, and it was decided not to assail that position again.

"General Hancock, Captain Rowland, Brigadier Brewer, and Miss Hancock as the modern Joan of Arc held a council of war. After sending scouts throughout the neighbourhood, they endeavoured to find a weak point in the fortifications. They almost effected an entrance both to the east and west of the town, but the Council Brigade, acting in concert with the Land Owners' League, concentrated their fire, and the attacking forces were again repulsed. After a halt for refreshments it was resolved to execute a flank movement, and take the borough in the rear. The advance guard scored a temporary victory at Heamoor, where they effected a breach in the walls of Fort Poltair, and on Monday night the falling masonry seemed to indicate that the besiegers would be enabled to march in and occupy the position.

"The Council forces, however, slept with both eyes open. Again rallying the Land Owners' League, they blocked the gaps, Colonel —— lending the full weight of his support, and effectually barricading the breach made by the invaders.

"General Hancock discovered that he could expect no help from his cavalry, as they were decidedly off their corn, and could only be ready to take the field under much more favourable conditions. However, the rolling stock of the Great Western Railway was requisitioned, and by Tuesday morning the terminus was blocked with all kinds of military paraphernalia, including three dwarf ponies, evidently intended for dispatch riders, and apparently last ridden by the Boers during the South African War.

"Declaration of Martial Law."

"Excitement in the borough ran high, and the utmost consternation prevailed. The juveniles hoped that the invaders would either camp on the Promenade or storm the Recreation Ground, and gain entrance on their own terms. The tradespeople wondered if their goods would be commandeered, and if so whether the Corporation would pay the bill. The Council Brigade wondered what would happen when the war budget had to be faced, and the burghers would find themselves saddled with an extra rate of a halfpenny in the £. All was suspense, and when a charge was fired at Penlee Quarry some inexperienced visitors wondered if the artillery had opened fire. In the meantime General Hancock and staff officers were seen in an armoured locomotive speeding about the district. Whether their object was to capture the Mayor and hold him as hostage, or whether they were bent on abducting the Market Committee, was not apparent.

"The situation was so serious that we have engaged war correspondents to go to the sea front or any other point from which operations can be watched. Whatever tidings we receive from them will be promptly published, but we shall scrupulously aim at disclosing no secrets, which will bring us under the censorship of the military authorities.

"Heamoor, Monday Night.

"Our Heamoor correspondent writes:—Messrs. Hancock, Brewer, Anderton, and Rowland yesterday arranged with Mr. J. K. White, Boscathnoe, to take the field known as 'Poltair Lawn,' and which is situated at the foot of Madron Hill. The above showmen have taken the whole of this spacious field, and will sub-let to the smaller show people. The event has caused quite a sensation in the place. In all probability the fair will be in full swing on Wednesday night.

"Penzance Railway Station, 12.15.

"At the present moment operations are, to a certain extent, confined to the station yard, where nineteen trucks are waiting to detrain. Our special correspondent this morning visited the station, and found the place in a state of 'armed neutrality.' A truce had been called, following on the intimation that an encampment could not be formed at Poltair, and the commanders-in-chief of the invading party (Messrs. Hancock, Rowland, and Anderton) made a reconnaissance in their motor car. Those left in charge employed themselves until the next move was called by chasing one another around the yard, varying this unmilitary exercise by joking outrageously with their sympathisers, who assembled in large numbers, and cast longing eyes upon the covered wagons.

"At any hour the main body of the invaders is expected by road, and then the opposing force will have to reveal their hand. A couple of Town Councillors—members of the Army Council would perhaps be a better title—are convinced that the attacking party is engaged in the historic game of 'spoof,' hence an indifference on their part to the mustering of forces at the station. With the return of Messrs. Hancock and Co. there may be something interesting to report, but, just now, affairs are deadly dull.

"Causewayhead, 1.45 p.m.

"Irate Townsman: I suppose this is what those —— Methodys have done. They've built a chapel up there, and are now keeping the show brigade out.

"Parade-street, 2 p.m.

"Ratepayer: I'm with the Corporation. Let the Council save their dignity, even if we lose the money. Why should we take it lying down? If we lose the £140, we can still live on bread splits and gingerbread nuts. I shall go to Poltair, but not often, and in the dark, when they won't know I'm a Penzance man.

"Market Jew-street, 2.5 p.m.

"Captain Rowland's staff: Yes, we hear that one of our big machine guns, with a platoon of cavalry, has gained entrance to Poltair. The Colonel has withdrawn his opposition, and has ratified the treaty with Field Marshal White.

"Then the armoured train with baggage moved on in the direction of Heamoor.

"Morrab-gardens, 2.15 p.m.

"Burgess: I say it is a thundering shame. Why should we lose £140 and tramp a mile? It will cost £10 to put the ground in order again, but the Council could have made a clear gain of £100."

Local Champions of the Showmen.

Mr. Barnes Richards, in a most informing letter to the *Cornishman*, puts the case for the showmen thus:—Competition has run high, prices for pitches have gone up, breaking-point has been reached, and, like other incidences in this commercial life of ours, when things come to the worst they must mend. The showmen agreed to sink differences, bury the hatchet of disagreement, and now they live in harmony in a glass house of good resolves, for the Corpus Christi week at least agreeing to stand or fall together under penalties of £50 to each other, if violated.

"This agreement for business purposes our Corporation apparently never gave a thought of the possibility or probability of happening, but probably relying more on the old-standing jealousies and bitterness still existing, with rivalries naturally following animosities and feuds, that these showmen would be found in the 'Recree,' as per usual, wrangling for place and position.

"The Corporation are hoisted with their own petard. At the last moment the authorities are non-plussed. The leading showmen, having seen the error of their ways, have fallen on each others necks and loved one another. In their embrace they amalgamate their interests—a labour organisation if you like, as a leading authority calls it—with the Corporation as the Masters' Federation on the other side.

"So far so good. There is this difference, however:—The Labour organisation are winners, by their action of taking a new field, with thousands of sightseers following them; whilst, on the other hand, the Masters' Federation are bosses over an empty (or comparatively empty) Recreation Ground. During the ancient pleasure period—saint week of Corpus Christi—that has hitherto enjoyed an unbroken record of nearly three hundred years in this ancient borough. (To be exact, in 1914 the ter-centenary of the ancient charter granted of Penzance, could, and is to be hoped, will be fittingly held; but this is by the way).

"The empty Recreation Ground this week means empty coffers to the borough of anything between £100 and £200, to say nothing of losses, or at least, much inconvenience, to many tradesmen who have prepared in certain directions, anticipating, as usual, the course of events this week, following the ways of time immemorial.

"Kindly permit me to explain one item of the trouble. Let us place five coppers in a row in the order 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. These represent three roundabouts and two switchbacks. The main entrance to the Recreation Ground is from the left or lower part, whilst the shows are placed on the higher ground to the right. Rows of toys and other standings run parallel to this side of these numbers.

"Crowds of people pass from the left entrance into the avenue thus made. Experience teaches that the tendency of the public is to steer for the middle attraction, roundabout or switchback 3, thence to 4 and 5, on towards the shows, ignoring 1 and 2, which are, as it were, in the cold. The payment for these two pitches, the show people contend, should be much lower than the Corporation are willing to concede to. In brief, positions 3, 4, 5, and the prices paid, are not so much the bone of contention as the ruinous prices for 1 and 2, considering their bad positions.

"An erroneous notion also prevails that the fair could advantageously be discouraged on more than one ground. I am a stickler for upholding of certain good old institutions—the good old Corpus Christi Pleasure Fair is one. Some institutions can well be allowed to be lost in the limbo of the past.

"To assert that vast sums of money are taken out of the borough by the show people I cannot allow to go unchallenged. I do not think this can be so. I will admit it is a case of "shifting" and changing hands with a great deal of money. This is highly beneficial to any community. Many hundreds of little children every year, in anticipation of the coming fair, have always had their little boxes wherein to place and save up, against the fair, their loose coppers, interspersed sometimes with small silver.

"For instance, take last Empire Day, when over 2,000 dear little children walked in grand procession. It will be no exaggeration to say that at least 1,500 of these have their little Corpus Christi Fair cash-boxes ready to break open this week. Even if only 1s. each as an average be accumulated, it will mean £75 ready to be spent in the fair field. No one is robbed, no one is the loser; but a mighty lot of jollity and joyousness to be got out of it, by spending it on toys, sweets, shows, &c.

"Then there are shop-keepers who in many ways are gainers by purchases made from show people. Hundreds of show people and attendants thereto have to be fed and maintained, and all this must benefit some people.

"Again, very many households augment their incomes during this week by show people paying for lodgings, &c. All do not live in vans, though most travel on the road.

"Some contend that the fair damages tradesmen—before and after—perhaps so. So does Christmas bring its annoyances as much as its benefits. There is this difference. Inconveniences, financially considered, are easier borne in summer with fine weather prevailing, than in the depth of a dreary winter, with its cold winds and its icy rain. Whatever inconveniences are associated with the fair, it might well be contended that the gain, privileges, benefits, joyousness and pleasure generally, are much greater, and far outweigh the groans and moans of our miserable Pecksniffs."

"Penzance Points."

In a chatty article on the dispute, the writer of "Points" in the *Cornishman* summarises the position as follows:—"In the game of 'bluff' between the show proprietors and the Corporation, the latter appear to have come out second best. The result is that the town loses probably about £140 in ground rent, people have to walk or ride a mile farther than usual to the 'Open-air Carnival,' and the show people will spend less money than usual in Penzance shops. The Council argument is that inasmuch as they held the whip-hand last year, and induced the showmen to bid against each other and pay more than usual, they could repeat their success this year. But the showmen, learning by painful experience, combined under a £50 penalty payable to each other, and sent a group tender instead of individual tenders. The Market Committee knew this, but apparently reckoned on the certainty of no other ground being obtainable in or near the borough boundary, and failed to see that the showmen held the trump cards. The latter had offered to pay the average of the last five years, and their present offer stands good for next year. There is no fixed standard of value for the ground at fair times, except that if a roundabout pays £20 for a stand, it has to give more than 4,000 rides to make up this money before it begins to earn wages for the staff or profits on the capital invested. Taking it for granted that the Corporation are entitled to get what they can, this does not alter the fact that this year they were not in as good a position to bargain as last year, and they would have been well advised to modify their conditions.

"What have they gained? They have saved their dignity and lost £140, while thousands of townsfolk and countryfolk have the indignity of going outside the borough boundary or seeing Corpus Christi Fair collapse. If you met a lion and you hadn't got a gun, the most dignified plan would be to compliment the lion on its excellent set of teeth and fine whiskers. Possibly the lion would purr, and you might go cheerfully on your way. If on the return journey you had your gun, and again met the lion, it would be 'up to him,' as the Americans would say, to admire your weapon and to ask if it was loaded. We repeat it was not a question of price or principle, but of power. Last year the Corporation had the power; this year the showmen have demonstrated that 'unity is strength.' Lord Randolph Churchill 'forgot Goschen' when he made a 'bluffing' resignation of the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Corporation forgot Heamoor when they named cast-iron terms for the fair folk. It requires no pluck to be merely stubborn, and committees make poor diplomatists. One shrewd business man, if given a free hand, would have realised that the showmen held the winning cards, and would not have allowed the Corporation to 'cut off its nose to spite its face.' The loss to the ratepayers this year will be equal to more than a halfpenny rate. Some may save this by staying home from the fair, but most people will take the country walk or drive to Poltair, at the back of Heamoor, where the Open-air Carnival will be in full swing."

The Rev. T. Horne as Mediator.

The showmen have fully empowered the Guild Chaplain to act as official conciliator in the matter as regards their interests. He has already on the spot opened up negotiations, with a view to the reconsideration of the question of tolls, and he is in possession of the mind of the showmen of all grades as regards a reasonable scale of rent for Corpus Christi Fair, and better conditions locally for carrying on the trade and business at the fair.

We understand that the Corporation has submitted their claim under their ancient charter to a monopoly of fair rights to eminent counsel for opinion, and we do not anticipate that any further steps will be taken until that opinion comes properly before the Borough Council.

The Charter, the Spaniards, and the Fair.

On May 9, 1614, His Majesty King James I. decided that Penzance should be one of the boroughs of England. The preamble of the charter sets forth in Latin, in the name of Jacobus Angliæ Scoticæ et Franciæ Rex:—

"That our vill of Penzance is an ancient vill and port both populous and of great force and strength to resist the enemies that shall there invade, and to defend the country there adjoining. . . . and is also a vill that exercised merchandise from time wherein the memory of men existeth not, and also having much commerce in and upon the high sea by means of the port of the same vill, and whereas the inhabitants of the same vill in times past have been manifoldly burthened and are daily heavily burthened with expense in fortification and defence of the vill aforesaid and of the fort of the same, and in the maintenance, reparation, and support of divers sea fosses, banks, ways, and of a certain pier or key formerly built, erected, and constructed; and all other necessary charges in the same vill and the precincts of the same, and especially in the taking and apprehending of pirates and marine felons and robbers upon the high sea, and very lately in the erection and re-edifying of the vill aforesaid, which was by the invasion of the Spaniards invidiously and in a hostile manner demolished and burnt to the injury of the inhabitants."

Seven fairs were allowed to the town, the chief of which, and the sole survivor, being the Corpus Christi Fair. The charter vested the government of the new borough in a mayor, recorder, eight aldermen, and twelve common councillors. The first mayor was Mr. Maddern, whose tomb is to be seen in Madron Church.

We are indebted to the *Cornishman* for the above extract from the charter. The point of most interest is not covered by the extract. The showmen want to see the clause on the charter that sets out that "no fair must be held within seven miles of Penzance."

This important point would of necessity have to be cleared up in any action taken by the Corporation to assert its charter fair rights. We sincerely hope that no recourse to law will be necessary, but that a mutual agreement will be arrived at, and the grand old Corpus Christi Fair and the Penzance holiday for the workers will be secured to both people and showmen.

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

BY THE REV. T. HORNE.

"THE PIPES AND THE DRUM."

[Copyright.]

Shall I tell you why we all love it,
That well-thumped, weather-worn drum?
Like the pandean pipes above it,
With a voice that is never dumb.
It speaks of a time in our history
Which none of us wish to forget,
Or to cloak it around with mystery,
As some do who move in our set.

Yes, the yarn of the pipes and the drum
Is a tale well worth repeating,
To the honour of dad's old chum
(That's his son you heard at the meeting).
As partners together for many a year,
Better men never worked at their *graft*,
When they *cackl'd their wheezes* 'twas good to hear
How the yokels all tittered and laughed,

'Twas the day of the one-waggon walk-up,
When one *prad* dragged the whole lot,
When you had to *Parade* and "talk up,"
When a *solda* was all that you got.
Their round was in one-ey'd Wales, sir,
They were stuck at a place call'd Cumbran,
The folks were as hard as nails, sir,
The takings not paying for scran.

Then the horse sickened and died, sir,
And father caught cold and was bad;
But Jim, like a true pal, tried, sir,
To cheer up and strengthen the dad.
Misfortunes fell fast and furious,
For the *Toberman* seized for the rent;
And the people, suspicious and curious,
Thought the devil his angels had sent.

For three weary weeks dad was ill,
And Jim, like a great-hearted friend,
The fever fiend fought with a will,
And was ready to fight to the end.
Tho' the *slang* was in pawn for the rent,
Says Jim to the dad, "Never mind;
As long as you're well, I'm content,
And a way out of this hole we'll find."

With a Punch frame, the pipes, and the drum,
They started for Glo'ster one day,
Busking the road, dad and his chum,
Till the old man broke down on the way.
How they got into Monmouth, God knows,
There a pitying soul took them in;
She'd a kind heart for showmen and shows,
For pity makes all the world kin.

Dad had a relapse, was worse than before,
He couldn't bear Jim from his sight;
In his ravings would "patter" and "door,"
As though on the steps and all right.
Jim would answer, "Hi, hi, Mr. Master,"
To father's "Walk up; be in time,"
Playing the pipes and drum all the faster,
All pathos was that pantomime.

One night as he humoured the dad,
Softly playing the pipes and the drum,
Poor Jim, himself almost mad
(For the turn of the fever had come),
Was startled by knocks at the door,
And a well-known voice said, "May I come."
'Twas George Wombwell who stood on the floor,
Drawn there by the pipes and the drum.

His show at the toll-bar delayed,
George heard the queer music close by,
And his way to the cottage soon made,
He didn't leave dad there to die.
Tenderly taken to George's own van,
Fed on the fat of the land.
To be with friends is life to a man,
'Tis a tonic that wealth can't command.

So now, sir, you hear the true story,
"The Romance of Dad and his Chum,"
And that is the *Halo of Glory*
Surrounding the "Pipes and the Drum."

Welsh Notes.

AT Haverfordwest Mr. W. Haggar's fine new Bioscope is drawing crowded houses nightly, in spite of the hot weather. Some beautiful up-to-date pictures are depicted nightly, which are of a highly entertaining character. The genial proprietor is well known in Pembrokeshire for his many charitable actions.

Staithes Fair (Yorks).

THIS pretty fishing village kept its annual feast last week. To help the fisher folk keep their fair were Harker with his galaxy of open-air amusements, Caris's roundabouts, Robinson's swings, Rich's juvenile horses, Harman's shooters, and other novelties.

FOSSETT'S CIRCUS visited Bangor on Monday, and, favoured by delightful weather, drew large crowds to the afternoon and evening performances. An entertaining programme of equestrian turns was provided, and the variety attractions included Mons. Henri's wire act, Joseph Holloway's bar act, the Sisters Rolands, Alfred Seigel (strong man), and Capt. Zola's troupe of performing dogs.

SOME SHOWMEN WORTHIES.

THE LATE CHARLES TYLER.

Under date June 26, 1908, the *Coalville Times* pays a worthy tribute to the memory of a most notable character. Mr. Charles Tyler, of Coalville, whose serious illness during this last winter was a matter of common knowledge, met with his death under somewhat sudden and tragic circumstances. It appears that on Monday, the 22nd, the deceased gentleman was riding in his carriage down High-street, Coalville, when he had an apoplectic seizure. The coachman drove at once to the Engineer's Arms, where he was seen by Dr. Jamie, who ordered his removal to his residence in London-road. He died there about four o'clock on the following morning.

Although Mr. Tyler has not been following the active pursuit of the business which made him famous on the fair grounds of the United Kingdom, he was without doubt one of the most highly respected and successful men of business in the showman world. At the time when the art of photography was in its infancy, Mr. Tyler saw its vast possibilities, and started out with a portable photographic saloon, which in its day was one of the best-equipped concerns of its kind travelling the fairs of the United Kingdom.

About fifteen years ago, however, he became the licensee of the Engineer's Arms Inn, Belvoir-road, and remained so up to the time of his death, though latterly the house had been managed by his son, Mr. E. Tyler. During all the years he has followed the somewhat difficult calling of a licensed victualler his house has been well conducted, and he enjoyed the esteem of his fellow-townsmen. Being of a very genial disposition, he was popular among all his acquaintances. Mr. Tyler never held any public office, though on one occasion he offered himself as a candidate in the Central Ward for a seat on the Urban Council. This was on the occasion of the by-election caused by the resignation of the late Mr. W. D. Stableford, but he was defeated by Mr. Joseph Lager. Deceased was the owner of the Public Hall and a good amount of house property in the neighbourhood. He was seventy years of age last December, and leaves a widow, eight sons, and three daughters, for whom much sympathy is felt. One of the sons is Mr. A. W. Tyler, the proprietor of the Red House Hotel, Coalville.

Twenty years ago, when the showmen began to organise themselves for the purpose of trade defence and the vindication of their character as law-abiding citizens, both Mr. and Mrs. Tyler took a very active part in the defence movement, and were amongst the earnest group of active workers whose zeal and energy brought about the formation of the Showmen's Guild. We are quite certain that the sympathy of showland will go out to the members of the Tyler family, and in that tribute of sincere condolence and respect for the memory of a veteran of the road we wish to take our part.

THE FUNERAL.

The interment of the deceased took place at Coalville Cemetery, in the presence of a large concourse of people. The service in the Parish Church and at the graveside was conducted by the Rev. A. S. Dowling, Rector of Ravenstone, the Coalville vicar being in London. The mourners were Mrs. Tyler, the widow, Albert and Arthur, sons, and Alice, eldest daughter, in the first coach; three sons, Henry, Frank, and Edwin, and the second daughter, Florence, in the second coach; Ernest and Fred, sons, Mrs. A. W. Tyler, daughter-in-law, and Miss Suett, sister-in-law, third coach; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Massey, nephew and niece, and Mr. and Mrs. James, cousins, of Wymeswold, fourth coach; Dr. R. W. Jamie, medical adviser, Mr. J. J. Sharp, solicitor, and Mr. Mee, representing Messrs. Trueman, Hanbury, and Buxton, fifth coach; and Father O'Reilly and Councillor M. McCarthy in the sixth coach. Walking at the head of the procession were several members of the Coalville and District Licensed Victuallers' Association—Messrs. W. Sheffield, W. Colver, T. W. Coulson, J. W. Goacher, J. Billings, Coalville; W. Blythe, J. Hough, Swannington; G. Bramwell, Forest Rock; J. Shepherd, Osgathorpe; S. Rudkin, Bardon; and P. W. Griffin, Whitwick; also Councillors O. Lindley and F. Griffin, Messrs. Sansome, F. J. Bayliss, F. Goddard, H. W. Joyce, the Altons, and W. Liggins, Ashby. Immediately preceding the hearse was deceased's pony and carriage, laden with a magnificent floral composition in the shape of wreaths, harps, crosses, and anchors. The body was enclosed in an oak shell in a panelled oak coffin, with brass mountings, the breast-plate bearing the inscription, "Charles Tyler, died June 23, 1908, aged 70 years." It was lowered into a white glazed brick grave, which Mr. W. Haggar had nicely lined with laurels, beech leaves, marguerites, and carnations. The bearers were Messrs. Geo. Toon, F. J. Baker, C. Allen, J. Lenton, W. F. Moore, and T. Mackay.

A touching cablegram was received by the family from deceased's seventh son, Mr. Chas. Tyler, who is a veterinary surgeon in South Africa.

There were twenty-six beautiful floral tributes from the following:—His devoted and sorrowing wife; Harry and Mary, son and daughter; Ernest and Charlie, sons; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Tyler, son and daughter, of Burton; Flo and Maud, daughters, and Tom; Albert, son, and family; Arthur and Annie, son and daughter; Fred and Alice, son and daughter; Frank and Edie, son and daughter, of King's Lynn; Miss R. Suett; Alf. and Lizzie Massey; a few old friends; Mr. and Mrs. M. McCarthy; Arthur Reeve and Geo. W. Webb; Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Moore; members of the Royal Hearts of Oak Coalville Lodge; Mr. and Mrs. O. Lindley; Mr. and Mrs. Parramore; Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sharp; Southam and Co.; and A. Dakin, White Lees, Coalville; Mrs. Davenport, Ashby; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Land; Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Brown; Coalville and District Licensed Victuallers' Association; Messrs. Coleman and Sons; and Mr. and Mrs. C. McKenna, Bardon Hill.

Mr. A. B. Moss ably carried out the funeral arrangements.

THE LATE BROWNLOW TRIBE BURNETT.

On Wednesday, June 23 last, there passed away after a long and painful illness a showman who, in his day, made his mark and was famous in the world of shows. B. T. Burnett was one of those men who, from time to time, enter the ranks of travelling showmen, and bring into the business original ideas and singular enterprise. After a distinguished career in the Army, with an unbroken record of good conduct during twelve years, he purchased his discharge in 1879.

He took the novelty-loving public of Great Britain by storm with an entirely original show, "The Military Tournament." His first wife, who died six or seven years ago, was a member of the celebrated Whaite family, who were famous as painters of show fronts and panoramic scenery.

B. T. Burnett, like the late Charles Tyler, was an earnest champion for the rights and liberties and the good character of travelling showmen. He gave most devoted service, and was on the executive committee of the Showmen's Guild in the early years of its work. He received the honour of being called to the presidential chair in 1893, and again in 1896. The latter years of his life had been somewhat chequered by adverse fortune. After having amassed considerable profits with his military tournament concern, he enterprised with other show and roundabout ventures. He suffered a most staggering blow through a big fire on a show ground in Dublin, where he had great interests, both in machine and show novelties. From this reverse, in spite of all his struggles, he never recovered.

His second wife has been most devoted to him all through the days of his misfortune, and has herself nursed him up to the last moment. He leaves behind him a family of three small children and the young widow utterly unprovided for.

His last enterprise, in which he was materially assisted by Mr. P. Collins, was to open his show at the Fun City, Olympia, for its last winter season. Although Mr. and Mrs. Burnett worked unceasingly to make it a success, it unfortunately turned out a failure. It was during this disastrous season at Olympia that the first symptoms of the fatal malady from which he died began to manifest themselves. Two months ago he entered St. Thomas's Hospital, and was treated for cancer in the lower jaw. Unfortunately the terrible disease had spread too rapidly to be effectively dealt with. He was thence removed to his home in Kennington-road, and was under the immediate care of his wife until he passed away on the date already mentioned.

The funeral, strictly confined to members of the family, took place on Monday, the 29th, at Tooting Cemetery. In this instance, too, we doubt not that the full sympathy of the showman world will be given the widow and children left without the breadwinner.

DEATH OF A WELL-KNOWN LANCASHIRE TRAVELLER.

We are sorry to have to record the death of James Hibbert, of 19, Bloom-street, Stockport, aged sixty-four years, which took place at his residence, as above, on Sunday, June 28, at 6.30 p.m. The deceased was one of the oldest roundabout proprietors on the road.

The funeral took place on Thursday, July 2, in the family vault at the Borough Cemetery, Stockport, and was attended by the family and a host of personal friends, amongst whom we noticed the following:—Mr. Linny, Market Inspector, Stockport; Mr. Holt, Market Inspector, Stalybridge; Mr. John Collins, Liverpool; Mr. McDermot Ashton; Mr. Priestley Ashton; Mr. T. Hurst Clifton, who attended to represent the Vandwellers, and also the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union; also R. and J. Ingham, and others representing the Lancashire and Cheshire Stallholders' Union.

The funeral cortège consisted of open glass hearse and twelve coaches. There was upwards of sixty wreaths, amongst which we noticed a magnificent one sent by the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union, of which the deceased was a member. As showing the respect in which the deceased was held, the blinds were drawn all along the route to the Cemetery, which was crowded during the interment.

LORD JOHN SANGER'S hippodrome and menagerie paid a visit to Edinburgh last week, and gave a series of performances before crowded and enthusiastic audiences. The resources of the company were well displayed in the variety of the programmes which were submitted—daring feats of horsemanship in the arena by the Austins; remarkably good acrobatic performances by the Marco Troupe; admirable examples of horse training shown by Miss Lina in her introduction of a beautiful animal; dashing turns by the Airless Troupe on the flying trapeze; and extraordinary feats of strength by Cyclo—comprising a few of the numerous exciting items of an entertainment brimful of interest from first to last. The clown, Pimpo, is one of the most genuinely funny wearers of the motley we have seen, and his clever fooling was received with shouts of laughter. The programme concluded with a stirring representation of *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*; and at the close the audience had an opportunity of inspecting the well-stocked menagerie, which contains many striking specimens of wild animals.

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OPPOSITION TO THE MOVABLE DWELLINGS BILL.

In order that our readers may understand the present position of the organised opposition to Lord Clifford's Movable Dwellings Bill we give the latest particulars. From every important centre of show life petitions have been sent to the Guild Executive for presentation at the right time to the House of Lords. The petition is worded as follows:—

"To the Lords Spiritual and Temporal in Parliament assembled.

"We, the undersigned, being showpeople attending the fairs of the United Kingdom, do protest against the Movable Dwellings Bill now before your Honourable House. The terms of the Bill include within its provisions and penalties all van-dwellers and users of tents and booths. We deny that such drastic legislation is necessary for our trade and mode of life. Further, we regard its all-inclusive provisions as insulting to us as a body of lawful traders, and we pray your Honourable House so to amend the Bill that Showmen and Fairground Traders shall be exempt from its provisions."

The petition is being extensively signed all over the country, and it is confidently hoped that when it is presented it will show the House of Lords the importance of the trade and industry of the fairground threatened by Lord Clifford's proposed legislation.

Protest Meetings on Fairgrounds.

Indignation meetings of showpeople have been held at a great number of the fairs since the beginning of the show season, notably at Blackburn, Wrexham, Huddersfield, Birmingham, Leicester, Lincoln, Boston, Darlington, Redruth, and Perth.

Before the Bill comes on for its Committee stage, meetings will have been held at a number of other great centres of show life, and Parliament will be in possession of the facts as far as they affect the trade and business of the fairground, and also will be made fully aware of the serious objections held by showmen against any such restrictive legislation.

Opposition to the Bill from Other Sources.

The Guild Chaplain has received the following important letter from the Executive Council of the Gypsy Lore Society:—

"Dear Sir,—In case your Association is taking active steps to oppose the Movable Dwellings Bill, I write to suggest that you should communicate your views to Earl Russell, who has expressed strong dislike for the measure, and in answer to a letter written on behalf of the gypsies, stated that he was not disinclined to continue his opposition. What he needs, of course are facts, and these you will no doubt be able to supply.

"Our interest in the gypsies is largely scientific, and we have not collected any statistics which are of much use; but you may be able to speak with authority of the whole body of 'travellers.'—Yours sincerely, "R. A. SCOTT MACFIE.

"June 29, 1908."

The scathing criticisms of the Bill by Earl Russell on its second reading in the House of Lords will be well remembered by our showmen readers. The ground of the noble Earl's opposition was not particularly to defend the gypsies as a class, but to conserve the general understood liberty of every British citizen to use a tent or van for either pleasure or trade, so long as he kept well within the safeguards of ordinary law. We were present at the debate, and were glad to see that the noble Earl carried the sound sense of the House with him, and that both friends and foes to the measure admitted that to pass the Bill at all it would have to be amended along the lines indicated by Earl Russell and the other critics of the Bill.

The Case for the Gypsy and other Users of Tents and Vans.

We have no doubt that even the poor despised gypsy will find friends to speak up for him in the British Parliament. The honourable traditions of the Mother of Parliaments as the champion of individual liberty within the security of the Common Law will find many a champion in both Houses of Parliament.

Although we have repeatedly stated that the case for the showman is separate and utterly distinct from the case for the gypsy and other casual users of tents and vans, it is a matter of satisfaction to us that even the much misunderstood and harassed gypsy will find someone to speak up for him in this crisis of faddistic legislation.

We have already indicated that the Showmen's Guild is at the present moment negotiating with the promoters of the Bill with a view to the better definition of its terms and the drastic amendment of its liberty-destroying proposals, in order that if the measure passes Parliament it may injure as little as possible the trade and business of the travelling showman.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

12,380.—John William Shaw, of Pentonville, London. Apparatus representing a steamship or yacht and panoramic bioscopic accessories to simulate marine tours.

12,503.—Lewis Siegenberg, of London. Improved scene-displaying apparatus.

12,546.—Alec Avis, of Waltham Abbey, Essex. Improved spring-handled Indian clubs.

12,618.—Arthur Bernard Miall, of Exmouth, South Devon. Improvements in panoramic observation devices in periscopes.

12,623.—Stephen Adam Grubbs and Frank Lawrence Brizinsky, of Birmingham. Improvements in revolving musical instruments especially adapted for theatrical performances.

12,629.—William John Rickets and Edward John Middleton, of Charlton, Kent. Improvements in amusement devices.

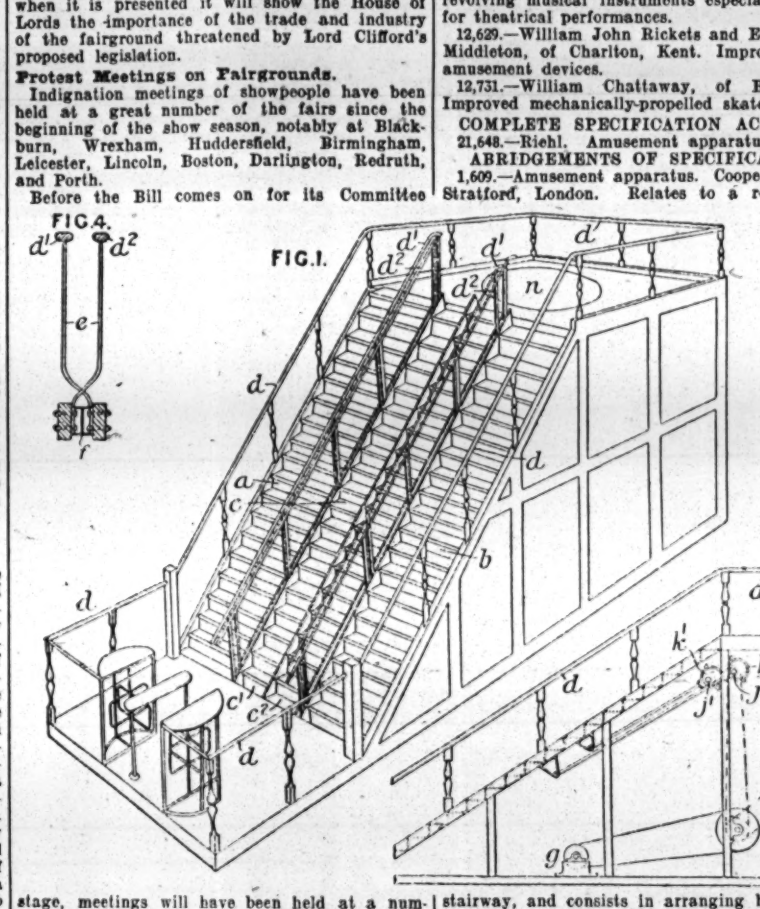
12,731.—William Chattaway, of Birmingham. Improved mechanically-propelled skate appliance.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION ACCEPTED.

21,648.—Riehl. Amusement apparatus.

ABRIDGEMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

1,609.—Amusement apparatus. Cooper, J. E., of Stratford, London. Relates to a reciprocating stairway, and consists in arranging between two stairways (*a*, *b*) which reciprocate in opposite directions, a second way (*c*) formed in two parts (*c*1, *c*2), which are also reciprocated in opposite directions, and in directions opposite to the respective adjoining ways (*a*, *b*). The ways are provided with fixed hand-rails as *d*, but preferably the inner rails (*d*1, *d*2, Fig. 4) are connected to and move with the stairways, the supports (*e*) for the rails being crossed so that the support for each section is attached to the adjacent section, and reciprocates in a direction opposite to its own stairway. The girders between the sections are recessed to allow the rails to reciprocate. As shown, the two outer ways are reciprocated by eccentrics (*k*) on a shaft (*j*) driven from a motor (*g*), and the sections (*c*1, *c*2) are reciprocated by eccentrics (*k*1) on a counter-shaft (*j*1) driven at a reduced speed from the shaft (*j*). The driving mechanism may also actuate a circular rack on a turntable (*n*1) provided with a hand-rail (*o*) at the top of the stairways, to prevent crowding at the top. According to the provisional specification, flexible outside hand-rails formed of wooden blocks on a driven sprocket chain may be used.



1,265.—Recreation apparatus. Hurst, T. C., of Manhattan, New York, U.S.A. A body (1), which may represent a motor-car, street or railway car, cab, carriage, boat, &c., is suspended by rods (3) and eyebolts (4) from a frame (2), and is fitted with seats. The car is given motion similar to that of a running vehicle. It may be swung laterally by means of a steering-wheel (5), which operates a drum (6), around which is passed a cord (7) fixed to the frame (2), so that the effect of running around a curve is produced. To give the effect of moving up or down hills, the car is swayed forwards or backwards by means of a lever (16), which moves the car bodily and at the same time, through links (17, 18, 19), raises or lowers a dashboard (15) to enhance the effect. Pictures from a kinematograph, &c., may be produced on the front or sides of the car. The car body is vibrated by means of a wheel (8) mounted in bearings (9) provided with an eccentric weight (10), the wheels being driven by a motor (11) controlled by a rheostat (12). Elastic fans (14) cause a rush of air through holes in the dashboard.

JOHN SCOTT'S Royal British Circus visited Wilton on Saturday last and presented a first-class programme to a packed house, including the following artists:—Mr. Joe Hastings, champion jumper; Mlle. Ameda, hand and foot equilibrist; Mr. George Freeman, high leaper and somersaulting over horses; Mr. G. H. Scott, jockey act rider; Mlle. Flora, wire act; Miss Nellie Gillis, bareback equestrienne. The troupe of clowns deserve special mention; they were headed by Poor Billy, and their jokes and antics were much above the average. The performance was brought to a close with the Imperial Bioscope, when a splendid selection of pictures were given, which were very steady. The band, under the leadership of Mr. J. Benedum, played some pleasing selections.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"THE TOP OF THE BILL."

Musical Extravaganza, produced at the Standard, Pimlico, on Monday, June 29.

Jack Danby .....MR. WILLIAM GREEN
Ida Downe .....MISS DORA LANE
Lesser Columbus .....MR. TESTO LEWIS
Colonel Downe .....MR. H. BUCKSTONE CLAIR
Crichton .....MR. E. E. GILES, JUN
Nancy .....MISS M. SADIE

Mr. Charles Carey's extravaganza, *The Top of the Bill*, is a bright and entertaining musical comedy interlude that met with a cordial reception on its production at the Standard on Monday evening. The action takes place in the ballroom at the Splendid Hotel, where Jack Danby, a gay young spark, proposes to pretty Ida Downe, the daughter of Colonel Downe. Jack, it must be explained, is a widower, and he receives the unwelcome news that his stepdaughter, a "golden-haired, blue-eyed girl" whom he has never set eyes on, is coming to visit him. Instead of the "blue-eyed babe" expected, it is a quaint-looking female of uncertain age that makes her appearance in the ballroom. Nancy is her name, and she has occupied the proud position of "top of the bill" on the halls, but her mother having left her a heiress, she has given up the stage and is anxious to get into society. On the condition that she does not disclose her relationship to Jack, he promises to find her a husband, and almost persuades his impecunious friend Crichton to propose to Nancy. At the last minute, however, Crichton begs to be excused, notwithstanding the lady's wealth, and Col. Downe decides that he might do worse than wed his future son-in-law's step-daughter. Miss M. Sadie created much hilarity by her droll impersonation of Nancy, very amusing also being her singing of a coster ditty and another number, "The Fancy Ball." She was admirably aided in the fun-making by Mr. E. E. Giles, jun., who cut a very grotesque figure when disguised in an ill-fitting military uniform, the love scene between the couple being most laughable. Mr. William Green was an admirable Jack Danby, his song in praise of coaching being an excellent number well rendered; Miss Dora Lane made a dainty Ida; and Mr. H. Buckstone Clair contributed an effective portrait of Colonel Downe. The comely ladies of the chorus and their smart male partners largely contributed to the attractiveness of the production, which was under the able direction of Mr. Buckstone Clair.

An old favourite in Mr. T. S. Dickie's entertaining programme is Mr. Tom Bass, who gives a funny impersonation of a sailor who enjoys the confidence of the commander of the Channel Fleet, and is also evidently quite the ladies' man when ashore. Mr. Bass is also reviving a song that must be new to many present-day music hall habitués, "The last, last man," brought up to date with references to the Suffragettes and the Limerick craze. Miss Daisy James, a popular comedienne, sings with much point a ditty concerning a knowing young miss named "Melinda," also describing a Cockney girl's adventures in the Gay City, both songs being loudly acclaimed. The Markies have a well-worked and amusing comedy and musical interlude in *From Pavement to Stage*; and the Brothers Diamond are exceptionally smart one-legged equilibrists, and aroused some of the heartiest applause heard during the evening.

Laughter was almost continuous during the occupancy of the stage by Dale and O'Malley, a couple of really amusing cross talk comedians, who have some new jokes and a particularly droll way of relating them. Mr. Shirley Liggins and his coloured companions submit a pleasing entertainment of song and dance in *An Alabama Plantation*. The Edisonograph has a couple of funny subjects in The Student's Revenge and Jones Has an Evening Out, and a pathetic one in For He's a Jolly Good Fellow; and other enjoyable items in the programme are given by Mr. A. E. Clifford, comedian; Miss Ada Parker, comedienne and dancer; Gicardo, a skilful young juggler; Miss Bessie Benson, comedienne; and Mr. Fred Dunstone, comedian.

THE EMPRESS ANNIVERSARY.

The ninth anniversary of this popular hall was celebrated on Friday, the 26th ult., and the programme arranged by Mr. Nelson Francis, the popular manager, assured for the public a most pleasant evening. The interior of the house was most tastefully decorated for the occasion, and unbounded enthusiasm prevailed throughout the evening. Turn followed turn with great rapidity, and the smartness with which the programme was presented speaks volumes for those in charge behind the scenes, everything working splendidly, and it being close upon midnight before the closure was put in force.

After a crisp and well-rendered overture by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Robert Allington, we passed on to the more serious business of the evening, and it is difficult to say who carried off the greatest honours, so excellent were the various turns. A prominent place must be accorded to Tom Wootwell, who gave a capital number entitled "Wait a minute." This is well suited to this comedian's peculiarities, and he was the recipient of most hearty applause on concluding. Arthur Roberts, a great Brixton favourite, presented *Till Sunday*, another of his side-splitting screamers. Much has already been written about this, so it will suffice to say that whilst he was in possession of the stage nothing but roars of laughter were heard. He was ably supported by a most capable company, including Miss Ruby Celeste, of whom all too little is seen. Another great favourite, Tom Leamore, sang his "swell" song with great success. Miss Alice Hollander's fine voice was heard to the greatest advantage, and she had many times to bow her acknowledgments on concluding. Sam Mayo scored in his usual fashion, and the name of Miss Daisy Wood should soon be as popular as that of her more famous sisters.

The appearance of the daughters of Mr. Nelson Francis was the signal for a perfect hurricane of applause. These two clever little kiddies sing and dance in a manner that would do many of their seniors credit, and each on concluding was the recipient of a handsome bouquet. Will Evans in his song about a breach of promise case was very amusing; Harry Pleon, in a sort of mimetic monologue, had a great reception; and the Three Orleans sang and danced in a manner that called for nothing but praise. *Carnival Time*, an amusing musical sketch, presented by Henry Gregory and company, scored an instantaneous success, and Miss Tots Davis, a charming comedienne, should certainly feel flattered at the tremendous applause she received. The Sisters Caselli are dancers of the very first water; and the fine singing of Angus Strong was much appreciated. Other contributors towards a most enjoyable evening were Dora Healy, Hamilton Hill, Maidie Scott, Zena Day, Nellie Dulwood, Rose Cambry, Harry Clark, George Nano, the Milton Trio, and Sam Williams. The front of the house was well looked after by a most excellent committee, of whom the acting-manager, Mr. Francis Winchcombe, was always a conspicuous figure. The stage was under the capable direction of Mr. Leon Bridgman, whose henchmen included Messrs. Will Oliver and R. L. Gaston.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

VARIED and comprehensive are the subjects treated by the all-embracing kinematograph this week, and events of comic, dramatic, patriotic, and topical interest are included in the newest issue. Eight novelties are to be placed to the credit of

Pathé Frères.

A SCENE of comic and fantastic effect is presented in A DUEL WITH DYNAMITE. Two rivals, having quarrelled, each swears to wipe out the insult with blood. The adversaries attack one another with equal ardour and enthusiasm, so that neither is the victor. A renewed attempt proves no more satisfactory, and the seconds eventually decide that the opponents shall settle their difficulty with dynamite. The machine is fixed up, each one is given a torch, and they hunt each other in desperation. Fate, however, wills it that both machines shall be ignited exactly at the same time, with the result that both combatants are blown up into the land of moon and stars. A few seconds after a little surgeon, all dressed in black, gathers up their several members and carefully puts them together. The process proving quite satisfactory, the two men stand up, shake hands, and are reconciled.

UNUSUAL COOKING is a film of the trick order. The world is evidently going awry, for the spoons and forks and knives, with a head and two arms each, carve the cook and cook him, and the brooms, after putting the house in order, go back to their allotted corner. Cooks, kitchenmaids, and scullions are therefore able to have a good time on account of their work being done without their having even to superintend it. THE MESMERISER is a portrayal of dramatic and realistic scenes that happened in Spain. A money-collector having been killed under mysterious circumstances, we are enabled to assist at thrilling experiments which will help to trace the culprit. The sister of the victim submits herself to the influence of a medium, and under the magnetic spell sees the crime as it actually took place, and discovers the murderer in his own house. A GAME OF HIDE-AND-SEEK provides a series of comic scenes. A bevy of children are let loose in a flat, and go through numberless playful tricks, filling the house with their laughter and exhilarating the beholder with the display of youthful spirits.

COMIC also is the presentation of MR. AND MRS. THOMAS AND BABY. Father is left alone, smoking and reading his paper. In an incautious moment he rings for nurse, and asks for baby. When discovered the little girl is in the act of eating some rich sweets, and her delight on learning that papa will take her for a walk is unbounded. Outside a toy-shop baby wants a wooden horse, so papa buys it and drags it along after him. Papa waxes hot, but no matter. The little girl sees a bicycle and wants a ride. Anyone who is in the habit of taking out a small child will grasp our meaning! Father does as desired. A man passes with balloons; papa buys one for his pet. She soon gives it to him to take charge of, when the wind rises and poor daddy is taken right up in the air. Fortunately the cord snaps, and papa descends and is taken to the arms of his small daughter.

Subjects of a varied kind are also provided in THE STORY OF A GENTLEMAN'S JACKET, a droll depiction of the misadventures of a coat; PILGRIMAGES AND FAIRS IN BRITTANY, with its scenes of many-sided interest; and THE CUSTOMS OFFICER'S REVENGE, a dramatic representation of an encounter with smugglers.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

"TOPICAL" is the watchword of the Urban Company this week, and some very fine specimens of current events are furnished. A film upon which much store will be set is that of the REEDHAM BOYS' FESTIVAL DRILL, on June 24, a function which is reproduced annually by the Urban Company, and is always eagerly anticipated in every clime. A fascinating display of beautiful and intricate movements is furnished by the evolutions of the admirably drilled lads, who combine in column movements forming the word "Reedham," and afterwards changing to wheels, stars, flowers, and other picturesque patterns. The designs seem to be still more elaborate than in former years.

THE International Horse Show at Olympia on June 22, to which we made a brief allusion last week, is presented in a complete form. The arrival of the King and Queen, amid the cheers of a distinguished assembly, and of the Maharajah of Nepal are faithfully depicted, and the subsequent events form a thrilling display. Competitions among tandems, four-in-hands, pair- and single-horsed turnouts are all shown, and supply a remarkable exhibition of driving. The high-jumping display at Hurlingham in which the English and foreign officers, representative of seven nations, who competed at the International Horse Show took part on June 27 constitutes a separate film, and affords quite a sensational jumping display, with many hairbreadth escapes. The march-past of the competitors, numbering more than a hundred, in brilliant array is most inspiriting.

PICTURES of current interest are also those of the international swim through London on June 27. The competitors diving to positions and the start are vividly shown, and an animated scene is presented when between thirty and forty competitors, male and female, cross the line. Scenes en route to Blackfriars are presented, and the kinematographic comparisons of the methods adopted by the competitors will prove of value to all who practise the natatory art. Close portrait views of the various winners are also given.

TROOPING the colour on the King's Birthday forms, without doubt, the most stately and impressive military demonstration the world can show, and is presented in vivid detail. The King is seen taking the salute surrounded by a brilliant staff and by ambassadors, field-marshals, generals, &c., and the evolutions of the troops are reproduced with all the photographic quality for which the firm is famous.

Gaumont Company.

THE Theatrical Garden Party at the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, on Tuesday, is a very interesting topical picture issued by the Gaumont Company. It was shown at the London Hippodrome and the Coliseum the same evening. The events of the day are realistically portrayed, various stage favourites being easily recognisable.

ON Monday Gaumont's are issuing another masterpiece, entitled NAPOLEON AND THE BRITISH SAILOR, which no doubt will be finely portrayed. The well-known author and actor-manager, Mr. Herbert Darnley, whose likeness to Bonaparte is remarkable, has been secured to take the part of Napoleon. The company are issuing a special pamphlet giving a full description of this subject. The matinée-hat nuisance is a subject about which much has been said, and Gaumont's have dealt with the question in a very clever novelty, showing how the gentlemen scored against the ladies who would persist in wearing their all-obscuring confections.

A NOVEL trick-subject, finely coloured and interesting, is THE KING AND THE DWARF. A page being banished from the king's Court for making love to the princess, a fairy comes to his aid and changes him into an ugly dwarf. Thus transmogrified, he goes to the king and curses him, telling him that at every hour his head shall be transformed to the head of a wild beast. As the hours strike the fulfilment of the curse is seen. The king heads an expedition to kill the dwarf, but is himself taken captive. The queen and princess are sent for, and the dwarf promises to break the spell if the king will consent to his marriage with the princess. The king consents, and the spell is broken. The scene of the betrothal is next witnessed. The fairy comes forth again, and the dwarf is changed into a handsome prince.

AMONGST other films issued this week by Gaumont's special notice is due to that entitled MR. JONES HAS AN EVENING OUT, a laughable story, and to A TRAMP IN CLOVER, a subject of up-to-date quality.

Nordisk Films, Ltd.

THE German Derby at Hamburg Horn has been turned to kinematographic account by the Nordisk Films Company. The Kaiser was present at the race, which is regarded as an important event in the Fatherland, and close views of His Imperial Majesty and his sons are afforded. The pictures of the English Derby have a quick sale abroad, and exhibitors in this country could not do better than take this means of returning the compliment, as the progress of the race is clearly shown from start to finish, and furnishes an engrossing spectacle.

The New Bioscope Co.

MR. F. R. GRIFFITHS, of the New Bioscope Co., has acquired the Balham Empire, which for some time past has been devoted to the purposes of the living picture, and has gained a wide popularity among residents of the suburb. Coupled with the hall at Holloway, Mr. Griffiths may now be said to be in posession of two of the prettiest and most successful picture halls in England. No material change in the character of the entertainment, we understand, will take place, and pictures supplied by all the principal makers will be presented.

DURING the whole of next week pictures showing the actual experiences of a patient at the London Hospital will be included in the programme at the Holloway and Peckham Public Halls, the Grand Theatre, Forest Gate, and Crown Theatre, Peckham. Mr. G. Griffiths, the proprietor, has kindly consented to devote the greater part of the receipts taken at these special performances to the London Hospital.

Boom of Bostock.

"JULY 4" CELEBRATIONS IN THE GREAT JUNGLE AND ARENA, EARL'S COURT.—Americans all, who throughout the world will be fittingly upholding the glories of Independence Day to-morrow (the 4th inst.), should greet with delight the news that special national displays are also to be given by the furred and feathered denizens of Mr. Frank C. Bostock's great jungle and arena at the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court. This will be the first occasion on which these wild beasts, snatched from the bush, jungle, and forest, and trained and tutored in the United States, have celebrated that country's anniversary under the Union Jack instead of the Stars and Stripes. Flags of the latter will wave amid the palms and float over the caves to the strains of popular American melodies, while Tusko, the huge elephant, about whose weight much conjecture is arising; Wee-Wee, the smallest horse living, aged 5 years and standing but 23in.; Consul I., the human chimpanzee; Wallace, the untameable lion; and even the Uneeka and the sacred beasts will do their respective parts in making the great day a red-letter one. The baby elephant, which has developed an early liking for tobacco, and coolly puffs a cigar like a precocious youth, is to have an extra box placed at his disposal, and it is hoped that Nero, the lion, may be flashing his new glass eye on the visitors.

Amusements in Aberdeen.

HUMBER'S WAXWORKS.—Miss Clair Laroche, the "half lady," who is now in the third week of her highly successful engagement, continues to draw large crowds of deeply interested spectators. The many other attractions in the saloon are all much appreciated.

THIS week is the first of four weeks that will be divided up by Lancashire towns into their annual holiday week. "Wakes" are more numerous in Lancashire at this season than they are in Ireland during an epidemic. The Lancashire lads and lasses have a strong predilection for the seaside, and in their division of favours New Brighton always receives a large share of attention, and under the new management, with greatly improved attractions and numerous additions to the shows and amusement devices, New Brighton Tower is especially a place of resort this season.

ON Saturday last, the first of the holidays, nearly 10,000 people from the milling districts visited the Tower and enjoyed the many amusements provided for them, and especially delighted in the realistic performances of Colonel Cummins, the cowboys, Indians, bucking horses, &c., that constitute the Cummins-Brown Wild West, which is the big feature attraction at the Tower this season. This show seems to have struck the popular fancy just right, for it is drawing large crowds, and constant repetition does not seem to wear away the novelty in the least, but rather, in fact, to increase the attractiveness and popularity of this particularly realistic and daring exhibition of Western life.

DIRECTING MANAGER Mr. Calvin Brown, of the New Brighton Tower, is determined that the Sunday concerts given this season shall have as much of merit as the talent available will permit. For Sunday night the principal vocalist was Mlle. Zélie de Lussan, who has just returned from an extensive tour in America, and who on this occasion made her first appearance for the season in England, and was greeted by an overwhelming house; and although Mlle. de Lussan was on the programme for only three numbers, yet the demands for encores necessitated her singing eight songs, and had she complied with all the requests, eighteen would have been nearer the mark. The lady was in her best form, and was ably seconded by the Tower orchestra under the masterful bâton of Mr. Thomas Rimmer, who has improved this organisation wonderfully during the short time he has been at its head. For next Sunday the management will introduce to the Liverpool public Miss Tina Lerner, the phenomenal Russian pianist, who last October made her début in London with Kubelik, and who since that time has charmed the music lovers of the capital with several recitals at Bechstein and Steinway Halls. Miss Lerner will be assisted by the beautiful coloratura soprano, Miss Bertha Schofield, and the eminent 'cellist Mr. Jean Schwiller, and the Tower orchestra will form an important part in the programme.

THE LONDON *v.* WILL EVANS.

At the Shoreditch County Court on Tuesday the proprietors of the London, Shoreditch, sued Mr. Will Evans, the well-known comedian, of Laurel-road, Barnes, to recover £45 as damages for the breach of an agreement made on Oct. 14, 1904, to appear at the London Music Hall for two weeks, commencing March 11, 1907, at a salary of £22 10s. a week. Mr. A. Engelbert (instructed by Messrs. Strong, Mercer, and Co.) appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Walter Payne (instructed by Messrs. Amery, Parkes, Macklin, and Co.) for the defendant.

Mr. Richards, plaintiffs' manager, deposed to the signing of the agreement, which, he said, was not carried out, owing to the fact that Mr. Evans was away in America. He waited until defendant's return to see what arrangement he would make. He saw defendant on June 29 and discussed the matter, defendant suggesting that he should play two houses a night for £30 a week by way of settling it.

His Honour suggested a settlement, but counsel said it was impossible to come to terms.

Mr. Munroe, assistant-manager at the London, said that on June 29 Mr. Evans came to his office to make some arrangements with reference to the missed engagement in March. He said he had broken that contract, and after he had been with Mr. Stoll he would give them two weeks in lieu. He agreed to take £30 for each hall, and to play twice nightly at each for one week.

Do you suggest that the first thing Mr. Evans said was: "I have broken my engagement for March"?—I do not suggest that. It came out in the course of conversation.

Was a considerable time taken up in discussing the American business?—Not a great part. It was a matter of a few minutes.

Did not Mr. Evans say he was quite prepared to carry out the contract as originally made for July, to play one house a night for £22 10s.?—He may have said so.

Which would have suited you very well?—It would not.

Was it suggested that he should play twice nightly at an increased salary?—I suppose it was.

How do you arrive at the figure of £30?—We told Mr. Evans it was customary to increase the salary 25 per cent.

Did not Mr. Evans say he did not care about custom—he wanted twice the salary?—He certainly did not.

Why did you offer £45 in December?—Mr. Evans did not want to come to town, and made his price high.

At the same interview was there a discussion as to future dates after July?—It was agreed that Mr. Evans should see Mr. Stoll and make some arrangement with him, submitting to us his suggestions as to the dates.

Did you know that Mr. Evans was booked up to 1910?—I do know that. That was why we let him go away without any definite arrangements.

His Honour: For every night up to 1910?

Counsel: I think it is possible, your Honour. (To the witness): Do you remember anything being said to Mr. Evans about him not having anything in writing concerning the consent to his going to America?—I think the matter was discussed.

Did Mr. Evans say that Mr. Richards had agreed to cancel the dates?—He certainly did not say so.

Did you take the view that the permission was given?—I am not in a position to think.

Mr. Will Evans, the defendant, said that on Oct. 14, 1904, he entered into an agreement to appear at the London, which at that time was conducted on the one-house-a-night principle. Some time in 1906, or early in 1907, he was negotiating to go to America, and took steps to make arrangements with reference to contracts which would have stood in his way. He telephoned to Mr. Richards, and that gentleman let him off, on condition that he made it up at some future time. That was a common arrangement to be made. Messrs. Gibbons and Payne had let him off before that. He went to America, and on his return he had a letter asking him to see plaintiffs. He saw Messrs. Richards and Munroe on June 29, and was asked what he intended to do, and he said he would fulfil the contract at one house as arranged. Then it was suggested that as plaintiffs had obliged him by letting him off he ought to oblige them, especially as he had nothing in writing to show, and could be sued for breaking the March contract. It was just a saying on Mr. Richards's part, that was all. It was suggested that he should play at two houses a night, and he replied that he should want double salary. Mr. Richards said: "You ought to let us down lightly, as we let you go to America," and ultimately it was agreed that he was to accept £30 to play two houses a night, instead of £45, and that was to settle the dispute between them. That was the "amicable arrangement" he referred to in one of his letters. He performed for one week, twice nightly, at each hall for £60. He played again in December and got £45. He was not in the habit of breaking contracts, and had never done so in his life.

Cross-examined: It was very important for him that he should get permission to go to America. It would have spoiled him if he had not got it.

Mr. Engelbert: Is it not a customary thing to confirm telephone messages by a letter?—Not so far as I am concerned.

Did you not think the matter sufficiently important to write about?—I asked them would they let me go, and they said yes, if I made it up later. It was a favour, but I have done many favours for them.

And the arrangement to play two houses a night for £30 was by way of wiping out the favour we had done you?—Yes.

Do you think that was an adequate reward?—Well, they lost nothing.

They could have held you to your contract?—Yes.

People do not give something for nothing?—Quite right.

Did you think the £15 reduction made up for their loss?—I do. We do not like two houses a night. The early turns affect our throats, and are too soon after meals.

Did you understand that it was salary and a quarter for the two houses a night?—I said I wanted double salary if I played two houses.

Mr. Payne: Did you get written consents from the other managers?—I had it from Mr. Gibbons by word of mouth. There was no trouble with the others.

His Honour again suggested a settlement, but without result.

In giving judgment, his Honour said he had to determine two things. One was whether the interview on the telephone before defendant went to America took place; and in the next place, what transpired at the interview on June 29. He must, to some extent, be guided by the correspondence, unless he came to the conclusion that it was not reliable. It was possible that Mr. Richards might have forgotten the conversation, but it was curious that when defendant was written to about the broken contract he did not write and say: "What on earth are you talking about? You know you gave me permission." Instead, he said that he had cut down his price from £45 to £30 in settlement of their claim in respect of the March dates. He came to the conclusion that this was not so, but an independent arrangement altogether. On the whole, he came to a conclusion in favour of the plaintiffs, although he did not suppose they had lost a penny. Judgment was given for the plaintiffs, with costs.

[To all whom it may concern. The salary paid to me at the London, Shoreditch, was £45 per week, except on one occasion, as stated in court; not £22 10s.—WILL EVANS.]

LOOK!

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MERRY MAID, MARIAN.

A Tabloid Musical Comedietta, written by Mr. George Burton, produced at The Cosy Corner, South Shields, on June 29.

Merry Maid Marian ..... MISS MAY TUDOR
Hiram Tubb ..... MR. BERT ALBERT
Wilfred Beverley ..... MR. GEORGE RUSSELL
Flip ..... MR. CHARLES ROSS
Flop ..... MR. LAURIE RAY
P.C. Wiggins ..... MR. ALF. POTTS
Mary ..... MISS PATTIE BURTON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The scene is the exterior of a village inn. Hiram Tubb discloses the secret of Marian's parentage. Her father and mother stayed at the inn eighteen years ago, with her, a child of three years. Her father went to America. The boat went down, the father was drowned, the mother died of a broken heart, and left with the innkeeper a casket, to be given to Marian on her twenty-first birthday. The casket discloses that Marian's father was young Lord Eustace, and Marian is heir to the Eustace estates and a rent roll of £10,000 a year. Wilfred has secretly opened the casket, and is desirous of making Marian his wife. Marian, however, is betrothed to Sir Henry Fitzgerald, who is in possession of the Eustace estates. Marion gets the innkeeper to promise not to disclose the secret of her birth till she marries Sir Henry, so that she will not take the estates from him. She has decided to give them to him as a wedding present. Wilfred hires two ruffians to kidnap her, so that he can keep her in captivity till she consents to be his bride. Their plans are frustrated by the timely aid of P.C. Wiggins. Wilfred is nonplussed. Hiram is disappointed, and everybody is made happy.

The dialogue is crisp and clever, and with plenty of laughter and good music the sketch does credit to Mr. Burton, the author, and to all who take part in it.

AT the Empire Music Hall, Wrexham, the Three Rochesters, society entertainers, are a big attraction; Vela, the original tramp on the clothes line, is smart; the Cedrics are clever equilibrists and comedy artists; and Miss Gladwys Marion is a dainty singer and dancer.

AT the New Brighton Winter Gardens Shawlene, the whistler, is retained for another week owing to his success; Fredo, continental hatter and juggler, gives a remarkably clever and neat performance; Miss Ethel Thomas sings delightfully; Mr. Koyli is very good in patriotic scena, *The Veteran*; the Musical Morellis score in their vocal and instrumental interlude, and Cling and Clency are excellent dancers. Herr A. Spiegler plays his violin solos with rare skill and finish, whilst the animated pictures are admirable.

DR. LYNN'S WIDOW.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I am the widow of the late Dr. Lynn, who was for many years at the Egyptian Hall, and whose sudden death at our residence, Brooklyn Villa, 30a, Birkbeck-road, Acton, left myself and four young children (girls) practically unprovided for. A short time after his death three of them were taken ill with fever (one of them dangerously), and at this time my second son wrote, telling me that if I refrained from asking for assistance, he would allow me so much a week. This he did for a time, and then was unable to continue this help. However, I have managed to bring the children up, but it has been a terrible strain, and I feel that I cannot endure it longer, unless I have rest and some help. Through my illness this winter rent has got behind, and I have lost hope.

The patrons of my husband were so many that the late Duke of Edinburgh, on my husband asking him whether his Highness had seen his entertainment, said he was ashamed to say he hadn't. He performed before our King and Queen, Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh (Saxe-Coburg Gotha), Duke of Albany, Duke of Connaught, Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Prince Napoleon, to whom he presented De Capile Parlenta and snake charmers, and all the nobility. I accompanied and assisted him in India, Australia, New Zealand, North and South America, and Africa, Egypt, and Ceylon. Any assistance will be thankfully received by—

Yours faithfully,
K. E. LYNN.

39, St. Stephen's-avenue,
Shepherd's Bush, July 1, 1908.

THIS week the chief turn at the Pier Pavilion, New Brighton, is Mr. Gilbert Girard, who gives very clever imitations of animals and birds. The company includes Mr. Frank Hook, Mr. Clifford Grey, Mr. Tommie Isherwood, Mr. Stanley Holt, Miss Harriett Greene, who are all excellent and are well received.

AT the sacred concert on Sunday last in the huge Tower Theatre, New Brighton, Mlle. Zelie de Dussan scored a distinct success, singing no less than eight items. The band played several selections in fine style. During the week the Wild West and the old plantation show still continue in the grounds.

BEACH ZOO.—With the advent of real summer weather, business has greatly improved at the Zoo. Mary, the fine Bactrian camel, is now employed in carrying children up and down the sands. She adds a decided note of picturesqueness to the Beach. A large number of new specimens have been added recently. The place is admirably managed by the proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

VARIETY ARTISTS' DISPUTE.

A case of considerable interest to members of the music hall profession was heard by Mr. Curtis Bennett at Bow-street Police Court on Friday, 25th ult. Mr. Joseph O'Gorman, chairman of the Variety Artists' Federation, appeared to answer a summons for an assault against Mr. Frederick Mortimer, alleged to have been committed in the Wellington Hotel, Strand, on the afternoon of June 18. Mr. Charles Doughty (instructed by Messrs. Judge and Priestley) appeared for the defendant, and the prosecution was conducted by Mr. Kenneth Poyser (instructed by Messrs. Morris and Rickards).

Mr. Kenneth Poyser, in his opening, stated that the case was a very serious one, and he asked the magistrate to take it seriously owing to the position of the parties and the circumstances under which the assault took place. Mr. Mortimer recently had occasion to bring an action against Mr. O'Gorman—an action for indemnity in connection with the music hall strike—and the case was before Judge Woodfall at Westminster on June 18. At the end of the day's proceedings—the case had only been part-heard—defendant became very abusive toward Mortimer outside the court. Complainant returned to the court to complain to the Judge, but as nothing had been done within the precincts of the court the Judge had no jurisdiction. Mr. Mortimer then left, and went with some friends to the Wellington Hotel. They had been there only a few minutes when O'Gorman and his friends entered. O'Gorman's friends tried to persuade him to go out again, apparently knowing he was a violent man, but their persuasion was unsuccessful. Defendant again commenced to abuse Mortimer, and eventually struck him a violent blow in the eye. There was no doubt about the assault, and he had evidence to show there was no provocation whatever. No mud was thrown; no attack upon the character of Mr. O'Gorman. The County Court case turned upon a purely technical point, and gave no occasion whatever for an assault of this kind.

Complainant gave evidence bearing out counsel's statement, and was afterwards cross-examined at length by Mr. Doughty.

"You failed in the first action," observed counsel, "and brought a second one in another name, which was also unsuccessful?"—"The case stands adjourned."

At the trial O'Gorman had no reason to feel undue animosity against you?—Possibly not.

Did not you tell him, when the Court adjourned, he was fighting the case in a dirty way?—Nothing of the kind.

Had he stated you accused him at the first hearing of having received money from the Federation funds during the strike and arbitration?—No. My counsel may have put that to me in examination.

Don't you know that in your instructions on that case Mr. O'Gorman was mentioned as having received money?—I have no knowledge of his receiving money. Of other defendants I have full knowledge.

If any such suggestion was made, do you desire to withdraw it?—No, I do not.

Did not you remark, in the hearing of everybody in the bar of the Wellington Hotel: "I would like to be getting as much out of the Federation every week as you are getting" (referring to O'Gorman).—No. It is a mis-statement. I might have said I should have been pleased to have made as much money during the strike as he had done, meaning, of course, through his work.

Then it was that Mr. O'Gorman attempted to strike you over the shoulders of two men?—No. It happened some minutes afterwards.

You had been endeavouring to irritate Mr. O'Gorman so that he would strike you?—That is absolutely untrue.

Did you not say, immediately you were struck, "That's it. That's what we have been waiting for"?—There is not a particle of truth in it.

What did you do when you were struck?—I went for a policeman. (Laughter.)

Mr. James Wharton, an insurance broker, said defendant's manner was offensive, and he struck complainant a very cruel blow on the cheek. Witness told him it was a cowardly blow.

Mr. Frederick Brooks, complainant's brother, said that outside the Court O'Gorman wanted to fight without the slightest provocation. He called complainant coward, cur, and other names, all for nothing.

This concluded the case for the prosecution.

Defendant then entered the witness-box, and stated he was chairman of the V.A.F., and had been so since its foundation. He had been twice King Rat in the Grand Order of Water Rats—as many times as its rules would permit. In June Mortimer ceased to be a member of the V.A.F.; he thought it was when he found he could not run the organisation himself. Witness did not appreciate his conduct in regard to the actions; but was satisfied, having carried his own points all along the line. Outside the Court on the day in question Mortimer said to him, "Aren't you ashamed of the cowardly manner in which you are fighting this case? Look what it has cost me to-day?" Witness replied, "You should not bring an action like this against the Federation. We artists should be fighting as one man in the interests of each other." Mortimer "got a little offensive," and witness added, "By the way, did you tell the Judge yesterday I had taken money out of the funds of the V.A.F.?" He replied, "What if I did?" "Because, if you did, you lie," witness rejoined. After that witness went away, though greatly provoked, and went to the Wellington, having no idea Mortimer would be there. There some remarks were passed, ending in Mortimer's repeating his statement about money made out of the Federation. Witness reached over the shoulders of two men, and tried to give him a back-handed slap in the face, but was not sure whether he reached him or not. "That's what we have been waiting for" some of them shouted. "Go for the police!"

In answer to Mr. Poyser, witness said he was not aware Mortimer had gone back to the County Court, or he would have returned with him. He did not think there was anything peculiar in complainant going back to the Court if nothing occurred.

Mr. Poyser: Have you ever been in this Court (Bow-street) before?

Mr. Doughty did not think the question a fair one.

Witness: Fourteen years ago there was a certain case. They have been waiting for this opportunity to throw this at me.

The Magistrate: We will let the dead bury their dead. (Applause).

Mr. Monte Bayly, secretary of the V.A.F., said O'Gorman only attempted to strike complainant after he had imputed dishonesty with regard to the Federation funds.

Mr. Claude Bartram, a journalist, expressed the opinion that the defendant did not reach the complainant. O'Gorman gave no provocation whatever. In the bar of the Wellington Hotel, O'Gorman took exception to something Mortimer said, and reached over the witness's shoulder to strike. Witness did not hear any sound of a blow, but immediately someone shouted, "That's it," and four of them—Mortimer's friends—dashed off for a policeman.

Mr. W. H. McCarthy, secretary of the Water Rats, gave corroborative evidence, supporting the contention that defendant did not actually strike Mortimer.

Mr. Doughty observed that he had other evidence to put forward, but Mr. Curtis Bennett intimated that he had "heard enough." This was the second case arising out of disputes between variety artists that had been before the Court within a few weeks. He hoped this kind of thing would soon cease. In this case there appeared to have been provocation on both sides. Defendant had straightforwardly admitted he did strike at complainant, but he did not think he succeeded in reaching him. He (the magistrate) was inclined to think he did not succeed in his purpose.

At this point Mr. Doughty mentioned to Mr. Curtis Bennett that the parties concerned in the two cases just alluded to were not members of the Federation.

Mr. Curtis Bennett: Well, I intended my remarks to apply to variety artists generally. It would be better for the profession and the public if these quarrels were avoided. Mr. Curtis Bennett added that in his opinion plaintiff himself did not come out of the case as a Simon Pure. He would bind both complainant and defendant over in the sum of £20 to keep the peace towards each other for the next twelve months.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

A programme full of good things is that submitted at this hall, and, consequently, the weather is not exercising so great an effect over the patronage as might be expected. At the top of the bill are Bella and Bijou, who are much appreciated. In their first item, a Spanish episode, they create a vast amount of laughter; but it is in their second number, a topical one, that they score their greatest success. This is entitled *The Suffragette*, and amusingly hits off the domestic life in a house where the wife gives her attention to matters very far removed from the home. The lady of the duo works hard and with great humour as the militant feminine, and her male partner, as the much-bullied husband, who asserts himself in such an unexpected manner, also adds greatly to the amusement. Mike Nong proves himself to be a refined artist and an accomplished dancer, and is warmly greeted. The Four Jumels, in an instrumental turn, do well. Herbert Shelley, in *Dan the Outlaw*, gives a turn which comprises the acting of a sketch with some half-dozen characters, all but one of them being impersonated by himself. The interlude is very cleverly worked. Mabel Bardine and company, in a sketch, *Nell of the Halls*, submits an interesting little play, dealing with the subject of the husband neglecting his wife and family for a music hall artist, a visit to the artist by the heart-broken wife, and the subsequent reconciliation of them both by the influence of the actress, who renounces the husband.

It is effectively played by Miss Bardine as the actress, Miss Leila Russell as the wife, and Mr. William Brandon as the husband, all of whom act well, their efforts meeting with a hearty reception. Marie Empress, a smart comedienne, makes a hit with "Where are all the girls?" singing with plenty of go; George Ridgwell, billed as the late solo cornet in H.M. Coldstream Guards, appears in the triple rôle of conductor, singer, and instrumental soloist, singing "To-morrow will be Friday," and giving "The Better Land" as a cornet solo, conducting both items himself. The artist sings and plays with genuine taste and expression, and gains much applause. Phil. W. and Nellie Peters, in a turn comprising singing, dancing, cross-talk, and instrumental items, contrived speedily to get on the best of terms with the audience, who were loth to let them conclude.

The Ten Ji Troupe, who share the place of honour at the bottom of the bill, give a clever mystical turn, the best trick in which is undoubtedly their manipulation of the fountains. The merit of their act was speedily recognised in no uncertain way. Jack Pleasants sings two songs. "I'll be cross" suits this artist's peculiar style admirably, and in "For 14s. 6d. a week," equally good as a dame song, he made a decided hit. The Bioscope has much-appreciated films of local interest; and Mr. Walter Greco's fine orchestra is heard to great advantage in Elgar's march "Pomp and Circumstance." Mr. Percy Percival is most courteous in the front of the house.

"THE LITTLE ASCOT HERO."

A Sporting Sketch, Words and Lyrics by Tom Petrie, produced at Sadler's Wells Theatre, on Monday, June 29.

Colonel Lester	MR. H. ROBINSON
Jim Dawson	MR. CHAS. CLEYTON
Bill Seaton	MR. THANE GARTH
Scottie	WEE WULLIE
Violet	MISS HELENE FOREST
Freddie	MISS JESSICA BLACK

We are never allowed to remain long on the borders of sadness during the progress of Mr. Tom Petrie's sketch which has been running at Sadler's Wells during the week. Freddie, the "little Ascot hero," who is left on guard near the stable door of a favourite for the big race, has to encounter a determined wrong 'un in the person of his own father. The boy remembers the treatment of his mother by the brute, and how it brought about her death. The chestnut and the bay are both competitors for the event on the morrow, and Colonel Lester's hopes of winning will be dashed to the ground unless Freddie remains staunch and true to his trust. He is aided in his guardianship by Scottie, a small Highlander, who is, however, drugged by the would-be nobbler. The career of the "bad lot" is brought to a temporary end anyway by a shot from the pistol handed to Freddie by the old trainer, Jim Dawson, and the Ascot hero takes his owner's colours to the front. Miss Helene Forest plays with much charm the rôle of Violet Lester, the daughter of the Colonel, and in that character Mr. H. Robinson sings a pleasing ballad or two. Miss Jessica Black is well placed as Freddie, and we have some witticisms from Wee Wullie, who is seen to advantage in the part of Scottie. Mr. Thane Garth plays the turf tout with no lack of callousness or brutality.

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT CASE.

At Bow-street on Monday Sir Albert De Rutzen gave his considered decision in the case in which James Connor, a hawker, was summoned for offering for sale a pirated copy of a musical work, namely, a perforated music-roll, being the pianoforte accompaniment of a song called "The Bandolero."

Mr. R. D. Muir (instructed by Mr. Percy H. Beecher) appeared on behalf of Messrs. Chapoell and Co. in support of the summons; Mr. Scrutton, K.C. (with him Mr. George Elliott), defended.

This was a test case brought for the purpose of deciding the rights of composers and owners of copyright in relation to mechanical devices for the reproduction of music. A similar summons against the defendant in respect of a talking-machine disc was not gone into.

The magistrate said it was held by the Court of Appeal in the case of Boosey and Wright, in 1900, that a perforated roll was not a copy of a sheet of music within the Copyright Act of 1842. Since then two new Acts dealing with musical copyright had been passed, and it was contended on the part of the prosecution that the law was thereby altered with regard to perforated rolls. He (the magistrate) had, however, come to the conclusion that there was nothing in the two later Acts to lead him to suppose that the Legislature intended the words "written or printed copy of a musical work" to apply to a perforated roll. The summons would therefore be dismissed, but without costs.

Mr. Muir asked for a case to be stated, and his worship, in readily agreeing to do so, said he should not be at all sorry if his decision was held to be wrong.

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WANTED, First-Class Companies, for DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E., Aug. 31, Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, March 8, 15, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, Aug. 17, Oct. 26, Nov 16 (three nights), Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 8, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, Oct. 29 (3 nights), Feb. 8, 22, March 8, 15, 22, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, Nov. 9, 16, March 8, 22.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, Sept. 21, Oct. 12, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, Aug. 17, Oct. 5, Nov. 30 Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, Oct. 5 26 (three nights), Nov. 23, 30, Xmas (Seven Nights), Jan. 11, Feb. 8, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, July 13, Xmas (7 nights), Feb. 15, March 1, 8, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, Oct. 22 (3 nights), Nov. 9, 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan 4, 11, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for July 13, Theatre Royal, Leicester; Aug. 17, Reading and Huddersfield; Aug. 31, Dalston.
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WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, Aug. 10, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, Aug. 17, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 30, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, Aug. 17, 31, Sept. 14, 21, 28, on (3 nights only).
Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE, July 27, Sept. 28 (?), Oct. 19, 26, and a few Autumn Dates.
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Entirely New Electric Installation on Stage.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE, July 20 (3 nights), Oct. 26, Nov. 9, onwards.
Apply for all above, ROWLAND, T., Folkestone.

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Lessee, J. BANNISTER HOWARD.

WANTED, a few good Dates open for No. 1 Attractions only. No Dramas wanted. Bookings for this year include "The Dairymaids," "Belle of Mayfair," "Charley's Aunt," "Cingalee," "Little Michus," "Truth," "Florodora," "The Private Secretary," "Peter's Mother," "The Follies," "A Message from Mars," "The Earl and the Girl," "The Hypocrites," "The Beloved Vagabond," "The Merry Widow," &c., &c.
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Wanted, First-class Musical Attractions, for few remaining Autumn and Spring Dates.
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HARRY ESDEN, Empire, Sunderland.

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General-Manager, ALEXANDER TELFORD.
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Address, 16, Ridley-villas, Newcastle.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.

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Open to arrange First-class Panto, 1910.
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On all matters affecting the visit—printing, plots, &c., GORDON JEFFERSON.
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WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

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BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE, Jan. 11, April 5, 12, May 17, May 24.
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WANTED, Companies, Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 18.
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THEATRE ROYAL, MERTHYR.
Manager, ALBERT WITHERS.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, July 20, 27, Aug. 3 and 10, Oct. 19, Dec. 14, and Spring Dates.

WANTED, Attractions, Town Hall Theatre, Cromer; Alexandra Hall, Dovercourt, fitted with Stage and Scenery, to Oct. 3, with exceptions; Hunstanton and Skegness can also be arranged in conjunction. De Valence Gardens, Tenby, Sept. 21 (week). Apply, BARING BROS., Cheltenham.

WANTED, Queen of the Lakes Pavilion, Keswick, really Good Companies, for August, September, onwards, shares or rental. MCKANE, Fitz-arcade.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S New Production.
WANTED, Nov. 16, Dec. 7.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Oct. 19 (North), and Dec. 7.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, Feb. 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres Sept. 28, Dec. 21, 28.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S New Production.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 24 (?), Sept. 28.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 10, Jan. 4, March 29.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 10, 31, Oct. 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Jan. 18, 25,
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 14, Nov. 2, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19 26, Nov. 2.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER,"
WANTED, Theatre, Sept. 14. Nov. 2, 9, 23, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Aug. 31, Oct. 2, Nov. 5.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Norwood, Wentworth-road, Harborne, Birmingham.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Aug. 10, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5, 26.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9, 23, Dec. 28, on.
Now booking 1909.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Prince's Theatre, Llandudno.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, Theatres. Mr. Sidney is desirous of filling July 20, July 27, Aug. 3.
THOMAS SIDNEY, 16, Long-acre, W.C. 2894 Gerrard.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 14 (?), 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S "CHARLEY'S AUNT" COMPANIES.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Sept. 14 and 28 (Midlands), Sept. 14 and 28 (Midlands), Oct. 5, Oct. 5, Oct. 5, Oct. 5, Nov. 9 and 30 (South), Nov. 9 and 30 (South),
Address, CECIL BARTH, The Managers' Club, Savoy-mans., London, W.C.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 12, 19, 26, also Xmas week, 7 nights. Farewell Tours.
Address, 26, Southampton street, Strand, London.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, Theatres, for
FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."
Grand Revival of Chas. Reade's Famous Play, playing to Splendid Business.
Refer
Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff, Prince's Theatre, Preston.
J. H. Curry, Esq., P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

Vacant Aug. 31,
Sept. 7, 14, 21,
and onwards.

"THE BETTER LAND,"
The Great Domestic Drama produced at Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, June 22.
An Emphatic Success.
Autumn Tour commences Aug. 31.
Vacant Sept. 14, 21, and on.

Pantomimes,
"BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Vacant Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,"
Vacant Jan. 4, 11, 18, and later.

Managers, Note.
These Pantomimes are perfect in every detail, beautifully mounted and dressed.
Company of Star Artists,
Specialities, Dancers,
and Full Chorus.
Re dates,
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's T., Liverpool.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 21, Nov. 9 and 16, Xmas and New Year, Jan. 4, onwards, for the above attraction. Address,
C. F. WRIGHT, Manager for Messrs. Armadale and Warren, 10, Richardson-road, Hove, Sussex.

WANTED, Theatres for T. Edward Ward's Companies, "Second to None," Xmas, Feb. 1, 8, 22, Easter; "The Love of the Princess," Oct. 5 (?), Oct. 19 (?), Xmas.

T. E. WARD,
Theatre Royal, Scarborough.

MR. WILL DENNIS'

"LITTLE LORD FAUNTLEROY" CO.
Including Miss Gertrude Netterville as Mrs. Errol.

WANTED, owing to change in arrangements, July 16 to 18, to follow Ramsgate, 20th to 25th, 27th to Aug. 1, 3rd to 8th.
Weeks or half-weeks.
Refer O. H., Blackpool; O. H., Buxton; P. O. W., Grimsby; T. R., Portsmouth.
All coms., NORMAN CLIFTON, Business Manager.
Th. R., Ryde.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."

WANTED, Oct. 12, 26, Nov 2, and few later.
Refer, this week, T. R., Merthyr.
No finer production touring.
E. A'DELL, Lessee and Manager,
Pavilion Theatre, Teignmouth, S. Devon.

WILLIAM HOLLES and NANNIE GOLDMAN in Arthur Shirley's Great Domestic Drama,
"THE STEPMOTHER."
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, Nov. 9, 16.
WILLIAM HOLLES, 16, Great Newport-street, W.C.

"THE HONEYMOON."
WANTED, good Theatre, for this acknowledged Success, July 20, and various on.
Tremendous success this week, Hippo., Sheerness.

GILBERT PAYNE, Royal Palace T., Ramsgate.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR AND HARTWELL J. KIRBY'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
Finest cast of Dramatic Artists Touring. Magnificent Scenery by McCulloch, Sheffield. Splendid Plant of Full-coloured Printing by Allen's and McCaw's, and a most Attractive Play, received everywhere with the greatest enthusiasm.
Enormous success at T. R., Rotherham, this week, in spite of tropical weather.
Refer to Holbery Hardy, Esq.
WANTED, July 27
(between Halifax and Stockport),
Aug. 24
(follow Alexandra, Hull),
Sept. 21, and onwards, with exceptions.
ARMOUR and KIRBY,
to-day, T.R., Rotherham; next, T. R., Sunderland.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-Class Theatre,
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
FRED BULMER, c/o "The Era." Vacation address.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.,
"THE CURATE" and
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK," by Rass Challis.
WANTED, good Theatres, for few remaining Autumn Dates.
Address, MAURICE, Hippodrome, Croydon.

"IN THE RANKS."
Tour commencing Star, Liverpool, Aug. 3.
Powerful Company.
New Plant of Printing by David Allen.
Entirely new Scenery by Francis Bull.
WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 21, Oct. 12 19, Nov. 30, Xmas, and Spring.
BERESFORD WHITCOMB, Pavilion Theatre, E.

"LOVE RULES THE WORLD."
WANTED, for Sidney Rennef's Co., July 20 and 27, strong Cast, splendid production.
G. M. COPPING, T. R., Sheffield; next, Barrow.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S COMPANY,
"THE PRICE OF SIN."
"WHEN THE LIGHTS ARE LOW."
WANTED, July 13.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, P. O. W. T., Grimsby.

WANTED, Theatres, "The Grip of the Law," Comedy-Drama, vacant July 6.
MOULE and NICHOLLS,
June 29, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, and 28.
MAUD HILDYARD, 28, Broadmead-rd., Folkestone.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, First-class Drama Theatres, for this Great Success. Fourth Year of Tour.
HENRY L. OSMOND, T. R., Sheffield.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, Feb. 15, for Miss Edith St. Clair's "Aladdin."
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

Mr. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
"MR. SHERIDAN,"
"NELL GWYN OF DRURY LANE,"
&c.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre,
Aug. 17, Aug. 17, Aug. 17.
Address,
Managers' Club, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for
"MRS. DOT."
Greatest of all London Successes.
Tour opens Aug. 3.
See Companies Page.
PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-road, N.W.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Aug. 17 and Sept. 14.
Address, C. M. JULIAN, P. O. W., Salford.

WANTED, July 27, Aug. 24, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, Xmas, for "Dandy Fifth."
HALDANE CRICHTON, Opera House, Harrogate.

Mr. LEWIS WALLER'S CO., in "ROBIN HOOD."
WANTED, Theatres, Only Vacant Dates, Sept. 28, Oct. 5 (?). P. CLIVE ROSS, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
Aug. 3, Oct. 12, 19, 26.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates
Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 7.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates
July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 19.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates
July 13, Oct. 5, 19, 26.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and the late Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, July 27, Aug. 3, Aug. 3, and few later.
Seventh year of tour and success greater than ever.
"THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD."
A fine new domestic play, full of powerful human and child interest. Splendid production and cast. Managers please send dates.
"DIVORCED."
Can be Let for Special Weeks.
July 6, Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26,
Nov. 9, 16,
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28,
Jan. 4, 11, on.

July 6, T. R., Stockport.

MR. WENTWORTH CROKE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, nights), Sept. 7, Dec. 26 (7 nights), vbgvbgk
WANTED, Aug. 10, "Bondman."
Aug. 31 (3 nights),
Sept. 7, Dec. 26 (7 nights),
"Prodigal Son."
Piccadilly-mansions, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S COMPANIES.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, for either Play, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 28. Now Booking Spring, '09. Coms., GEORGE KIRK, 46, Aldred-road, Crookes, Sheffield.

"MAN TO MAN"
(by arrangement with W. Bourne), under the direction of FRANK ADAIR and EDWARD LLOYD.
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 19. FRANK ADAIR, Alexandra Theatre, Hull, July 6.

MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY, in
"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
The Musical Comedy Success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical Comedy at its brightest.
WANTED, Aug. 10 (to follow Southport), and sundry dates onward.
Now Booking Autumn, Winter, and Spring.
Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Letters to Londesborough Theatre, Scarborough.

"THE MIDNIGHT MAIL."
WANTED, for this real Money-maker, now in seventh year of continuous tour, Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 2, March 1, 8, April 12, May 31. CHAS. H. LONGDEN, 4, Ringwood-ter., Brockenhurst, Hants.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4 (?), 11, 18, Feb. 8, March 1, 15, and 22.
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, South Shields.

Grand Production of
"CONVICT 99."
WANTED, Autumn Dates, from Sept. 14, onwards.
"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
The following dates vacant for this Enormous Success: Aug. 3, Bank Holiday (between Liverpool and Reading), Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 23, and onwards. Manager, ALFRED H. GRAHAME, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, offers for successful Musical Comedy, now Touring. Can be seen near London. Small capital; complete production. Box 6,681, "The Era."

WANTED, for the Great Serpentello Variety Co.
(Now Touring),
First-lass Halls and Theatres,
on share or rental.
Address, SERPENTELLO, Palace, Grimsby.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, First-class Artists, in various Lines, for above Play.
Terms, references,
full particulars in every case,
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Powerful Leading Lady, for Countess Steinback; must be tall, have good appearance, and power and pathos. Terms, references, MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, for First-class Autumn Tour, starting July 27, Gentlemen, with experience in Society Comedies, Leading Juvenile, Character Comedian, Eccentric Light Comedian, and Character Actor, Character Actress for Aristocratic Old Ladies. Full details of parts played to Box 6,654, "The Era."

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
WANTED, one Lady and two Gentlemen, to walk on and play small parts in Pastoral Plays. Letters only. W. H. ASHLEY, 40, Churton-street, Victoria, S.W.

WANTED, very tall robust Heavy Man, for Italian part; Comedian for Policeman (tall); Aristocratic Old Man, with good voice, to bring down curtain; Actress for strong common character part; Clever Small Girl, important part, to look seven or eight, over licensing age preferred, one who could be engaged with mother or father, or both; four weeks' tour in best halls, beginning Aug. 3; rehearse two weeks. State height, experience, salary. Box 6,664, "The Era."

"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
WANTED, First-class Character Comedian, for Durdles; Powerful Leading Character Actor, John Jasper; good steady Carpenter, to play part; Juvenile Man for Edwin Drood (small part). Lowest terms, references, MORTON POWELL, Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Cattermole and Douglas, "Private Secretary" Tour, only vacancies; also Principal Baritone. WEATHERSBY'S Agency, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Heavy Lady and Gentleman, rehearse July 13; also Clever Child Actress (must be small and over 14), to rehearse July 20. Address, with photos., C. M. JULIAN, R. T., Morecambe.

WANTED, First-class Juvenile Leading Man, through disappointment, to rehearse July 20, open 27th. Photos., refs., and full particulars to GEORGE KIRK, 46, Aldred-road, Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, tall smart young Juvenile, Special fortnight. Address,
HUMPHRIES, Hippodrome, Brighton.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY" CO.
WANTED, tall gentlemanly Heavy Man. Photo, &c, FRED BULMER, c/o "The Era," Vacation Address.

WANTED, Heavy Man, for one week, July 20, rehearse July 15, Sheffield. Terms, &c., to STEPHEN E. SCANLAN,
P.O.W. Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, Dick Darville (Juvenile Light Baritone), for "Dandy Fifth."
HALDANE CRICHTON, Opera House, Harrogate.

WANTED, Light Comedian, special week, Warrington, July 13, rehearse Sunday, July 12. Lowest terms and fullest partics., ALEXANDER WILLS, Pier, Southport

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, refined Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, for West-End Production, possible short Provincial Tour first; also few Small Part Vacancies; experience unnecessary if talented. No callers. Letters for appointment. Address, MANAGER, Tuddenham's Agency, 304, Regent-st., W.

WANTED, Coach, for "Madame Angot," Jan. 4, Feb. 6, 1909. Amateur society. Write fully and immediately, with references. ALLOTT, 17, Queen's-crescent, Lincoln.

WANTED, to Rehearse Immediately, First-class Baritone, with large répertoire, refinement essential. Lowest terms and particulars (al fresco), STRACHAN, 43, Alma-road, St. Albans.

WANTED, really good Tenor (through releasing), for High-class Al Fresco. Photo., references, terms HARRY HARCOURT, 4, Conway-road, Paignton, Devon.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by First-class Experienced Soprano, excellent pianist, solo accompanist, engt., £2 weekly. Refs. leading managers, attractive appearance, rép., &c. Box 6,669, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Lady Amateur, height 4ft. 7in., Slavey Part in Playette or Sketch. Box 6,658, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Alf Selwood and Ethel Bateman. Disengaged July 11, Comedian and Chambermaid; both sing and dance. This, T. R., Leicester; next, T. R., Leeds.

WANTED, by Lady, Seaside Engagement for Season, with good Concert Party; fine trained Soprano, large répertoire. CARLYLE, care of Smith's Library, Saltash.

WANTED, Known, Bass Vocalist of the Levantine, 1907, Gold Medallist, compass CC—E; highly cultured; free July 29. HAVELOCKE, 8, Castlegate, Grantham.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Conductors, Comedians, for Pantomimes.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Comedians for Ali Baba, Cassim, Wishee Washee, Atkins, Cogia Baba, Mrs. Crusoe, Simple Simon, two pairs of Knockabout and Patter Comedians, Principal Boys for Abdullah, and Ganem, Principal Girls for various Pantos., and Chorus Ladies, not less than 5ft. 6in. All must send photos., and where can be seen working, to FRED J. LITTLE, 4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, Pantomime, Principals and Seconds, not expensive, Knockabout Comedians, and others. Apply letter, VALENTINE, 8, Dean-street, Oxford-street.

WANTED, for Pantomime and Otherwise, young attractive Chorus Utility Ladies; smart girls over 14. VALENTINE, 8, Dean-street, Oxford-street.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, "Babes in the Wood," "Aladdin," "Beauty and the Beast." Wanted, Artists, in all Lines, Comedians, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Dancers, Specialities; also Good Producer, and two Conductors. Mark envelopes "Panto.," and address, with full particulars, to FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, late of Drury Lane, vacant for Panto.
All coms., Empire, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Valdo Brothers, First-class Knockabouts, with Original Comedy Acrobatic Absurdity,
"THE ECCENTRIC MOTOR-'BUS MEN,"
"THE ECCENTRIC MOTOR-'BUS MEN,"
"THE ECCENTRIC MOTOR-'BUS MEN,"
"THE ECCENTRIC MOTOR-'BUS MEN,"
open to accept good Pantomime.

July 6,
HIPPODROME, POPLAR, LONDON.

WANTED, Known, The Blondels, Guitar and Mandoline Experts, with English, Italian, and Spanish Songs. At Winchester, the brightest number in the most brilliant of pageants. Open for Pantomime, &c. Grove Cottage, Hampton-on-Thames.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, immediately, competent, reliable Scenic Artists.
Terms, references, &c.,

H. O. RICHARDSON, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, quick and reliable. Apply,
HARPHAM, 141, Portman-market, N.W.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for High-class, Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted during Vacation. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, town or provinces. Refs. Address, 26, Elgin-terrace, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Stafford, Scenic Artist; best references and best work. 24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Acting-Manager for Palace of Varieties, Attercliffe; must have first-class credentials. State age, height, salary, and enclose photo. if possible, also copies of testimonials. No wires. Address, T. A. EDWARDES, Temple House, Derby.

WANTED, an Assistant Acting-Manager and Treasurer, for a Provincial Theatre, must be thoroughly experienced, understand bookkeeping, Bars, &c. State full particulars, references, and lowest terms. Silence a polite negative. Box 6,683, "The Era."

WANTED, a Good All-round Stage-Manager and Carpenter, for First-class Music Hall, one performance nightly; only those that have a thorough experience in running the stage on advanced vaudeville lines need write. WILL COLLINS, 1, Durham House-street, Strand.

WANTED, Two Assistant Acting-Managers, with thorough experience of the twice-nightly system, and that are not afraid of work. Write, WILL COLLINS, 1, Durham House-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for First-class Autumn Tour, starting Aug. 10, hard-working and thoroughly experienced Advance Agent. References to Box 6,652, "The Era."

WANTED, Good Working Agent in Advance to open July 22. Apply, with terms and references, MILTON BODE, County T., Reading.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, at once, good Agent for new turn, can be seen shortly in London. Address, VOLANT, 13, Anerley-grove, Upper Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, a clever, ambitious Young Man, having full knowledge of the Film-hiring Business. State past experience and salary expected. L. ROBERTSON, c/o "New York Herald," 81, Fleet-street, London.

WANTED, Carpenter, used to Fit-ups, also Baggage Man, open July 27. ANDREW SPENS, 1, Brookwood-road, Southfields, S.W.

WANTED, for First-class Autumn Tour, starting Aug. 10, Smart Baggage-Man, to play Servants' parts. References to
Box 6,653, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, T. P. Duignan, late Acting-Manager Empire, Belfast, and Hippodrome, Blacqpool, open for Engagement, similar. Address, 4, Inchicore-road, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Henry Hague, General Entertainments Manager for Scarborough Corporation, Liberty Autumn, for First-class Hall or Theatre, thoroughly experienced, highest references. Address, Town Hall, Scarborough.

WANTED, Position as First-class Resident-Manager; thoroughly experienced; highest references; banker's guarantee if wanted. Box 6,655, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Agent in Advance or other capacity; well recommended by Albert Chevalier Esq.; willing and hard-working.
G. L.,
14, Culvert-road,
South Tottenham, London, N.

WANTED, by Electrician, permanent Engagement, competent mechanic, Theatrical and Workshop experience. H. W. L., 37, Turner-street, Whitechapel, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Carpenter, Resident or Tour; good references. Address, J. B. CHANDLER, 47, Hanover-gardens, Kennington, London, S.E Join at once.

WANTED, Billposter (Lancashire Town), permanent, wages 26s.; must bd first-class man. References. Apply, Box 6,659, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, Attendant, Selling Programmes, &c., or Waitress; highest refs. Write, Miss V. HUMPHRIS, 8, Cavendish-place, Cavendish-square.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Maid; good plain needlewoman; good refs. V. WOOD, 34, Claribel-road, Brixton, S.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

MILTON BODE and EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, to Open July 27, Conductor (Violin), must be well up in variety business and have an up-to-date répertoire of music; also Wanted, First Violin, Trombone, Clarionet. Write full particulars, salary required, and references, to C. B. FOUNTAINE, Manager, Royalty T., Chester.

WANTED, Bandmaster, Aug. 1, Industrial Training-ship Clio, off Bangor; 250 boys; First Cornet Player, good teacher, tactful disciplinarian. Salary £75, with uniform and cabin accommodation; dinners provided on board, 6d. per diem. Charming neighbourhood; educational centre. Apply, with references, personally or by letter, to Mr. T. WESTLAKE MORGAN, Brinsmead Galleries, 18, Wigmore-street, London, W.

WANTED, Musical-Director (Violinist), Flute, Clarionet, Pianist, Trombone, Drummer with Effects, thoroughly experienced in Operatic and Variety business, commence July 20, eight weeks. Apply, with references, to HARRY TUNBRIDGE, Opera House, Bridlington.

WANTED, Musical-Director (Violinist), Cornet, Trombone, Pianist, Flute, Clarionet, Oboe, and Drummer. Send copies of references. H. L. SKIVINGTON, Hippodrome, Greenock.

WANTED, Violin-Conductor, Pianist, First Cornet, for the season, from Aug. 3; must be used to Variety. References, lowest terms, SWEET, New Watford Empire.

WANTED, Young Lady Violinist, to augment First-class English Ladies' Orchestra, performing now on the Pier, Scheveningen, Holland, to join July 25; must be capable, and of good stage appearance. A. KNOWLES, Foxton-place, Ashton-u.-Lyne.

WANTED, two good Violinists, for Café to open August 3; must be well experienced. State age, with two recent testimonials, and salary required.
Permanency.
E. J. ROGERS, Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, at Once, First Violin (Répetiteur), for Variety Theatre; must be first-class Player, experienced and reliable.
Apply, CONDUCTOR, Empire Palace, Edinburgh.

WANTED, High-class Violinist, to play with Pianist, for six or seven weeks, in the Isle of Man, commencing third or fourth week in July, salary 45s. weekly; must be steady and reliable. State Orchestral experience and references. Address, PIANIST, 84, Kirkmanshulme-lane, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, for a well-known Musical Show, Brilliant Cornetist; must be young, strong player, good executant, reliable, smart, height about 5ft. 8in; good salary. Box 6,663, "The Era."

WANTED, for the Great Lafayette Stage Band, three good strong Cornets, two Trombones. Call Monday, between 12 and 1, at 29, Leicester-square, W.C. Mr. SYDNEY M. HYMAN.

WANTED, Aug. 3 to Sept. 12, Cornet, Clarionet, Drums; Aug. 10, Flute, Trombone. Lowest terms, references Miss LOUIE BETTS, Musical-Directress, Theatre Royal, Margate.

WANTED, Tenting with Sir R. Fossett's Circus, good sober Solo Cornet, 32s. 6d.; also Solo Trombone, 30s. Apply, E. COOK, B.M., Fossett's Farm, Ravensthorpe, Northampton.

WANTED, good Cornet, Clarionet, and Drums, Shares, permanent. PHILLIPS, Town Band, 4, Richmond-avenue, Southend, Essex.

WANTED, at once, a good First-class Solo B Flat Clarionet Player, must have good instruments, must be steady, respectable, and reliable. Write, stating age, and salary required, to MANAGER, Ten Loonies Co.,
June 29, Palace, Hull;
July 6, Empire, Leeds.

WANTED, good First Clarionet or Bassoon Player, as an Attendant in a County Asylum. Salary commencing £34, increasing to £48, all found, extra on promotion, single man. Apply, with testimonials as to character and abilities, W. GRAINGER,
County Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED, Clarionet, to open Monday, July 6 to 31, for Felixstowe. Apply, stating terms, to TAYLOR, Bandstand, Felixstowe.

WANTED, for P. Staff, Worcester Regt., B flat Clarionet, E flat Bass, and Saxophone Players; reliable men only. J. KNIGHT, Bandmaster, Worcester.

HIPPODROME, NORWICH
"THE BOSTOCK CIRCUIT."
WANTED, Trombone, to commence on the 20th inst.; must be sober; also other instrumentalists for later date. Send permanent address, with age and refs.; engagement permanent to suitable men. V. C. WHITE, Conductor.

BUFF BILL'S GREAT COMBINED SHOWS, IRELAND.
WANTED, a good Bombardon Player; must read in Bass Cleft; also a good Euphonium Player; must be really sober and attentive to business. Bombardon to open at once, with above great show. Address, T. REYNOLDS, Music-Director, Buff Bill's Circus and Menagerie, Bray, Ireland.

SOMERSET AND BATH ASYLUM, COTFORD, NEAR TAUNTON.
WANTED, Male Attendant (Bombardon Player), wages commencing at £26 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform, with extra pay for band.
Apply, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, at Once, good young Euphonium and Horn-st, or Second Cornettist, for Big Musical Act; long engagement; must reside in London. Particulars to L. CARLE, 18a, Morat-street, Brixton, S.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, at once,— for Croydon Town Band, good Euphonium Player. Terms shares.
WALTERS, 51, Waddon New-road, Croydon.

WANTED, to Open July 20, an Experienced Trombone and Solo Cornet; must be accustomed to operatic and dramatic business. Latest references and salary to, MUS. DIR., Victoria Villa, Dalkeith-road, Dundee.

WANTED, Viola, immediately, for Municipal Orchestra, Bridlington; experienced Concert Work. Write age, experience, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Prince's-parade, Bridlington.

WANTED, First-class Oboist, for eight weeks, commencing Aug. 3, Grand Theatre, Blackpool. Refs. and lowest terms to J. PRITCHARD, 78, Lancaster-street, Barnsley, Yorks.

WANTED, Oboe, Horn, and 'Cello, four weeks Aug.; also Pianist, at once, for Seaside.

Box 6,675, "The Era."

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Managing-Director, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.
WANTED, Flautist, to commence Aug. 3, 1908. Apply, with references, to
J. O. SHEPHERD, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Flute, combine Brass, tenting Ireland; Second Violin write in; combine Brass. Address, FRANK FISHBURN, 55, Brentnall-street, Stockport.

CANBURY GARDENS, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES.
Bandstand Concerts,
by the sanction of the Mayor and Corporation.
Responsible Director, PHIL RAY.
WANTED, Pianist, Tenor, Baritone, Comedian, immediately for new branches. 'Phone 19 Malden; or write, PHIL RAY, New Malden, Surrey.

WANTED, an Accomplished Pianist, Young and Attractive Lady, long tour, with high-class comedy company, salary £2. Box 6,671, "The Era."

WANTED, for Poole's Myriorama, First-class Pianist, Conductor, able to arrange, good Violinist, Double Drums, commence Aug. 3. Terms to POOLE, Studio, Malmesbury.

WANTED, Double Drummer, with full Effects; Pianist, combine Violin; Leading Violin, and a first Solo Cornet and Clarionet.
Excellent references given.
Thoroughly acquainted with Concert, Theatre, and Variety.
Apply, Messrs. RUDALL, CARTE and Co., 23, Berners-street, London, W.

C. W. POOLE'S No. 1 MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, for Free Trade Hall, Manchester, for ten weeks, to commence July 27, Double Drums and Effects, with Tympanis; must wear uniform. Age and references to J. R. POOLE, Studio, Gloucester.

WANTED, immediately, good Double Drums and Effects, for Town Band, Bandstands, and one hour pitch daily, seventeen weeks. State lowest terms and reference; no Sunday work. Also for seven weeks, open July 27, First Violin, also Horn, double-handed preferred; business as above. FORD, Band Offices, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, an experienced Drummer, able to play Tympanis (provided).
Apply,
stating age, experience, references, and salary, to MUSICAL CONDUCTOR, Oxford Music Hall, W.

WANTED, for the Duke of Devonshire's Private (Eastbourne) Orchestra,
Second Trumpet,

Permanent Engagement,
to commence at once.

Apply,
T. PAS,
10, Camden-road,
Eastbourne.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, Viola and 'Cello, not over 30 years of age, and single; none but competent players need apply. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 at the end of the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and according to promotion to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Apply to THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, First Violinists, 'Cellists, and Pianists, for White Star Line, Mediterranean Service; must have had good orchestral experience; audition before engaging. Applicants state age, experience, and give names and addresses of two references for character and ability. Engagements for not less than six months, commencing in August and September. Condition on application to CHARLES WM. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Military Band, for Skating Rink, Rhyl, August 1, numbering 8 or 10. Apply, SECRETARY, Queen's Palace, Rhyl.

WANTED, Good Brass Band, English or Foreign, ten or twelve pieces, for Franco-British Concession, long hours and lots of work. Address, H. F. MCGARVIE, Waldorf Hotel.

WANTED, immediately, String, Wood, and Brass Instruments, two months, Seaside, First-class Professionals. Apply lowest, &c., Box 6,686, "The Era."

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Musical-Director, Engagement, good Music Hall; thoroughly experienced and reliable; references; offers. MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 100, Erdington-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director or Violin, Viola, London references; good library; age 35. ROBT. J. FULLER, 43, Graylands-road, Peckham, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor of Orchestral or Military Band; can supply music and brilliant uniforms. Testimonials from high officials. Box 6,656, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Musical-Director (Violin), thoroughly experienced in Variety, London experience; good library. Address, T. RICHARDSON, Conductor, Hippo., Peterborough.

WANTED, KNOWN, Musical-Director (Violin) or Leader desires change; thoroughly reliable; Variety bus., &c.; age 29. Offers. H. STONE, Palace, Blackburn.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin or Viola; thoroughly experienced in all Lines. PRITCHARD, 30, Chiswick-lane, Chiswick, W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Leader, brilliant Violinist, Liberty, open Aug. 3. Musical Comedy or any business; highest references. Address, VIOLINIST, 47, St. Mary's-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violin, combine Cornet, with pictures, in or near London; assist billing, &c.; experienced. Moderate. Box 6,646, "The Era."

WANTED, by Second Violin, temporary or permanent Engagement, commence August; only moderate wage desired. Box 6,648, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Violinist or Leader, few weeks only; smart, refined; age 23. GAME, 42, Stratford-road, Kensington, W.

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin; fully experienced all Lines; can open at once. Address, 11, Barclay-st., Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Violin, experienced, middle age; steady, realiable; can start immediately. Offers. VIOLINIST, 65, Sartoris-road, Rushden.

WANTED, Known, thoroughly experienced Violinist and Double Bass, Ladies, open to offer. Box 6,662, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Young Lady Violinist seeks Engagement in Orchestra, Second Violin; some experience, small salary. Box 6,661, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by good Violinist (Leader), experienced in Variety and other lines; thoroughly reliable, at Liberty 6th. Address, J. F. CARTER, P.O., Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady, age 19 years, as Violinist and Vocalist, Solo or Orchestra. AUGUSTA OWNSWORTH, 295, Sheffield-road, Templeboro', near Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement as First Violin or Viola, well up in Variety and Theatre, Seaside or permanency; good refs. HALLMANN, 71, Hawthorn-road, Levenshulme.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Violinist; excellent references. Write, FIDDLER, 39, Plato-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, good young Cornettist. Disengaged through closing. H. ANGEL, 47, Stopford-rd., Upton Manor, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Cornet, Theatre or Music Hall.
Add., R. O. DONOGHUE, Buckingham House, York.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly experienced Cornet, through disappointment; London or Provinces. Address, W. DRAKE, 70, Kentish Town-road, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged, experienced Cornet, Variety, Musical Comedy, or Programme. 41, Church-street, Clapham-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Cornet, Reliable, and thoroughly experienced, any business, three years last engagement. JACK HIRST, 2, Tattersall-st, Blackburn.

WANTED, by good reliable Clarionet, Engagement, for four weeks; would deputise; Army 5 years (solo); total abstainer. Letters, "CLARIONET," 85, North-street, Edgware-road, London.

WANTED, by Young Man, Second Clarionet Player Engagement, with any Band; pitching. W., 75, High-road, Tottenham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, through closing, or deputising, any business. C. SMITH, 10, Pembroke-house, Stanmore-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoon, thoroughly experienced in First-class String and Military Orchestras; excellent references. BASSOON, 79, Hudson-street, Preston.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass, experienced. GEORGE W. CRANE, 43, Potter's-terrace, Bross Croft, Hadfield, Derbyshire.

WANTED, by String Bass, Situation, any district.
J. REEVES, 133, Burrage-road, Plumstead, Kent.

WANTED, by Euphonium Player, late 8th Hussars, situation, town or country; excellent refs; permanent staff band preferred. H. G. J., 14, Avarn-road, Tooting

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Euphonium; good refs.; can open at once. Address, CHARLES GRICE, 2, Raymede-street, Ladbroke-grove, London.

WANTED Known, Double B Bombardon, Dis., requires Season's Engagement, town or seaside; experienced; good refs. Address, BOMBARDON, 142, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, by well-known Horn Player, used to Concert Work, Engagement as First Horn, in First-class Orchestra or Military Band, Seaside. Box 5,621, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, French Horn, Disengaged, seeks Re-engagement.
J. S., Holly Cottage, Derby-road, Croydon.

WANTED, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, Engagement or Deputise (London preferred). Address, H. E. 'CELLIST, Box 6,650. "The Era."

WANTED, an Engagement, as 'Cello, Music Hall, Theatre, or Seaside; good references; thoroughly experienced. E. INKPEN, 8, Milton-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cellist, through closing; any business; would deputise; refs. WILTSHIRE, 92, Kendrick-road, Reading.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Oboe, theatre or music hall, disengaged Aug. 1. LAYFIELD, 203, Brunshaw-road, Burnley.

WANTED, Engagement by Harpist, on Pleasure Steamer, &c, Clyde preferred; good reader. Address, 49, Lavan-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by L. F. Ford, Flautist, any business, Variety preferred; good refs. Address, 3, Upper Berkeley-place, Clifton, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, by a Young Lady, in Orchestra as Pianist. All particulars write, C/o M. L. LEUS, 24, High Holborn, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, by N. Robinson, Pianist, Orch. or Self, any Bus.; steady, reliable, good reader; excel. refs.; any dis. Woodbine Cottage, Victoria-road, Dartmouth.

WANTED, Engagement as Pianist, good accompanist, sight reader, at Liberty during July and August. PIANIST, 152, Herbert-road, Plumstead.

WANTED Re-engagement, by Lady Pianist, good experience, orch. sight-reader.
PIANIST, 26, Herndon-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Re-engagement, Lady Pianist, Brilliant Soloist and Accompanist; 15 years' experience. Address, A. L., Band, Empress Theatre, Earl's Court.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer, with all effects; competent, sober, and reliable; Liberty now, any business. 27, Towson-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Double Drummer. EDWARDS,
76, Richmond-road, West Brompton, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer, reliable, experienced, and steady, Orchestra or Military. W. G., 38, Draycott-avenue, Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Double Drummer, thoroughly reliable, string or military, good refs. DRUMS, 107, Graham-rd., Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra. Open for Engagements (through misunderstanding with Palace Pier Co.). Each musician a soloist; songs if required. All young, refined, smart uniform, any number. Wire or write, ORCHESTRA, 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Percy Hollyman's Orchestra Disengaged for the Summer Season; any business. Terms, P. H., 358a, King-street, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by the Hogarth Orchestra, four to eight performers; large répertoire. Apply, DIRECTOR, 32, Merton-avenue, Chiswick.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, F. D. Barry's Celebrated Family Orchestra can be engaged, Hungarian and Imperial Uniforms. 60, Thorold-road, Ilford, Essex.

WANTED, Engagement during Summer Season, by a Trio (Instrumental); extensive répertoire. Apply, C. H. J., 142, Askew-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Engagements, by Ladies' Trio, Vio., 'Cello, and Piano; thoroughly experienced; soloists. K. W., 112, Longstone-road, Eastbourne.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Duffy's Circus, Tenting Ireland, useful Artists in all Lines; those doing two Acts preferred, no fancy salaries, but money sure, about four months' engagement, to open Monday, July 13. Address, DUFFY'S Circus, Monday, Bruff; Tuesday, Kilfinane, co. Limerick.

WANTED, a few Useful People, for Small Circus; also Agent, one not afraid to use the brush, and tell the tale. Circus, Tollesbury, Essex.

WANTED, July 11, 23, Aug. 1, 3, 12, 22, Acrobats, Wire Walkers, Gymnasts, Comedians, Handcuff Manipulators, Serios, Novelties. WOOD, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, Good Troupe of Ground Acrobats, First-class Troupe of Performing Dogs, and other Good Speciality, suitable for outdoor performances; week commencing July 13. Performances each afternoon and evening. State number, full description of act, and lowest terms. Mr. H. HAGUE, Entertainments Manager, Town Hall, Scarborough.

WANTED, Suitable Act for Tenting. State terms. Letters, address, EDWIN GEORGE PINDER, Royal Circus, Perth, Scotland.

WANTED, to Open at Once, Long Tenting Season, Musical Act, Single or Double; one who can lecture to pictures preferred.
Bosco, Circus, Oldcastle, Ireland.

WANTED, Four Lady Swimmers, for First-class Aquatic business. State terms, tricks, three months' engagement, to open Oct. 1, 1908; fares paid on journey. Apply by letter only, with photo., Box 6,676. "The Era."

GRANDE CIRQUE, PINDER, FRANCE.
WANTED, at once, few good sober Grooms, Tenting. Terms, &c., address, PINDER CIRQUE, Sunday, Evreux; Monday, Louviers.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, who presents his Arabian Mare Silver, in great Novelty Act, Vacant July 12, 19, 26, and Aug. 2. Maerdy Squire, Ferndale, Glamorgan.

WANTED, July 20, week, and various later dates, Percy Victor's Wonderful Dog Minstrels, concluding three weeks Southport, Dudley Castle Fêtes, &c. July 7, 8, 9, Wolverhampton Fêtes. 48, Bilston-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, useful people with useful acts, free for Winter Engagements. Sanger's Hippodrome, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED, Aug. 3, by Levene and Wilton, Aerial Pot-Pourri, and The Almars, Bar Act, Great Attraction. Thanks for offers. Coms., 36, Graham-road, Dalston, N.

WANTED, Known, Le Meres, Original Clown Cricketers, at Lib. for Aug. 3, onwards; good game guaranteed. Terms, 18, Grosvenor-terrace, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Known, I Challenge the World.—G. W. Houghton, "the Human Torpedo," is open for Season's engagement with First-class Pier, with his Sensational Diving and Swimming Exhibitions, including big Specialities, Human Torpedo and Dive in Flames. Address, Central Pier, Morecambe, until further notice.

Balloon Ascents.
WANTED, Known, Lieut. Lempriere, the Popular Reliable Aeronaut, can undertake one more Balloon or Parachute Engagement August Bank Holidays. For Aeronautical Displays of Every Description, address, LEMPRIERE, Handsworth, Birmingham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
P'hone, 1626 Gerrard. Manager, HARRY LANE. Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.
WANTED, Big Specialities and Variety Artists in all Lines.
Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys,
Principal Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts,
Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dancers.
All communications as above.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to WM. BLOGAM, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Variety Artists,
Variety Artists,
Big Specialities,
Big Specialities,
The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts
The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts
in the Business,
in the Business,
for
Blackpool, Morecambe, Southport,
Douglas, Brighton,
and Ireland,
for July 13, onwards.
Send full list of
Bookings, Lithos., and Lowest Terms,
to
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Monday, July 13, and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, July 13, and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Big Specialites,
Aug. 3, onwards.
Lowest terms, first letter,
booking, lithos., &c.,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 09261.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, July 27, Aug. 10, 24. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for North. Absolute lowest first letter. Tour list. Appointment only. ROBERTSON'S Agency, 9, Burnbank-gardens, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Specialities. Lowest terms. Talented Amateurs write. HATZAN, 117, New Church-street, Bermondsey, London. Stamp for reply.

WANTED, for Al Fresco Concerts, Refined Artists, all Lines, well up in concerted numbers and sketches. PARRISH, 6, Victoria-avenue, Swansea. P.S.—Old friends write in.

WANTED, Al-Fresco Artists, all Lines; good money to good people. Stewart Braide write. Box 6,684, "The Era."

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, July 13, on, for London, Chatham, Dover, Sandgate, Midlands, and North. Artists not known to me, I can arrange a trial week to enable me to see their Act. Please send bookings and lowest, 1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W. Can only be seen by appointment. Telephone, 15 Brixton.

VERNO'S AGENCY
(under the direction of L. Verno and H. Arnold),
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, July 6, on. Teles., "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Artists, Attractions, Novelties, Specialities, to work stage or ring, Clowns, Comedians, Sisters, Lady Troupes, in fact, anything that will draw; Musicians, String and Brass; Good Show Ladies, willing to learn wrestling. Photos., lithos., CLEMPERT'S Agency (on tour), Patti's Royal Circus, Dover.

NEW PALACE THEATRES OF VARIETIES, CHELTENHAM.
General-Manager, Mr. EDWARD B. SHENTON.
Business-Manager, Mr. JOHN WALTERS.
Architect, Mr. WINSTANLEY, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.
WANTED, Known, due notice of opening date will be given.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future Dates. Lithos., terms, and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, July 13, Westminster, Liverpool, Turns all Kinds, Henri Cazman's own Co.; excellent opportunity for Acts to be seen for future Booking. Wire (and when and where in Liverpool last), HENRI CAZMAN, Empire, Glasgow.

WANTED, good Comedy Turn, Special two weeks July 20, if suitable probable season. Absolute lowest, H. MCLENNAN, Albert Pier, Rothesay, N.B.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines, 8 days, commencing Friday, July 17, also July 27, and later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Big Specialities,
Wanted, Sensational Acts,
Wanted, Dumb Acts,
Artists in all Lines,
for France.
Address,
with all particulars, lithos., &c.,
G. W. GERALD,
23, Faubourg St. Denis, Paris, France.

WANTED, for Aug. 3, onward, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to JAS. TYRER, The Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Aug. 3, one week, Newport, Mon., good refined Speciality; also Vocalist, Instrumentalist, for Tour. DAVIS' Pictorial Enterprises, 4, Rothesay-road, Newport.

WANTED, for France, Big Specialities. Money no object. Terms and lithos. first instance, FLORIA, Palace, Bradford.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, Specialities, Comedians, Serios, Comedy Acts, Doubles doing Singles, Acrobats, and Big Continental Turns, for all towns in the North, for immediate dates and on. Write at once to the Reliable Agent.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO.,
31 Islington, Liverpool.
'Phone, 1269 Royal. Gen.-Manager, WM. LUND.
WANTED, the Biggest, Sensational, and Specialty Acts in the Market. Money no object for the right stuff. Send full list of bookings, lowest terms, with lithos., photos., &c. Always Vacancies for Star Turns.

WANTED, for Poole's Myriorama, the biggest Variety Acts, New, Sensational, and Comic, for long and short Engagements, commence Aug. 3, 10, Sept. 7, Dec. 24, Jan. 11, and on; must have drawing powers. Lowest terms to POOLE, Studio, Malmesbury.

WANTED, Sensational Acts of all Kinds, big Cycling Acts and Comedy Speciality Acts. BROWN and Co., 58, Chicksand-st. Seen by appointment only. 'Phone 1098 City.

WANTED, Acts of all Descriptions. Send full list bookings, with absolute lowest. KEEBLE'S Agency, c/o Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

WANTED, at Once, Big Tops for London and Provinces. No small turns need apply. Interviews by appointment only. MAURICE FRITZ, General-Manager, Albemarle Variety Syndicate, 157, Strand, W.C. Tel. 4967 Ger. Telegrams, "Templify, London."

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
WANTED, Tops, Middles, and Bottoms, Specialities, Comedians, Comediennes, Sisters, &c., &c. Nothing too big, nothing too small. Apply, MANAGER, as above.

WANTED, Monday next, Doubles doing Singles and good Single Turn. Wire lowest summer terms. GUSTAVE, Pierrot Pavilion, Macclesfield.

WANTED, Speciality Tabloid Musical Comedy or Song Scena (to use local chorus), Bars, Juggler, Acrobats Sisters, Serio, Comedian, &c., open Saturday, Dec. 26 (matinée and evening), also Dec. 28, week. Lowest, lithos., &c., at once, FARNSWORTH and DYSON, Variety Agents, 124, Crookesmoor-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Select Concert Parties, Pierrot Troupes or other complete Entertainments. State full particulars and terms to THE COVENTRY CRICKET GROUND Co., LTD., Hertford-chambers, Coventry.

WANTED, Pierrot Troupe, complete, on shares, or would sell rights of pitch, entertainment now running. MANAGER, 29, Spring-street, Rugby.

WANTED, Vocalists for Illustrated Songs, own slides, July 13, onwards. Répertoire and lowest terms (one performance nightly, Saturdays two; small town). BEANLAND and EMERSON, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, for week commencing July 20, Vocalists, Pianist with Musical Sketches and Refined Specialities, for First-class Concert Party. Lowest terms, full particulars, MANAGER, 43, Southfield-road, Bedford Park.

WANTED, Vocalists and Entertainers, to work from Bandstand. Send full particulars, YOUNG, Estate Offices, Pwllheli, North Wales.

WANTED, immediately, for big Music Hall Turn, Tenors and Basses, good voices essential, one week's rehearsal only. Trial next Tuesday at 2. Rehearsal Theatre, Malden-lane.

WANTED, Young Lady Cyclist, to join well-known Novelty. Write full particulars, HALL, Theatre, St. Anne's-on-Sea.

WANTED, for the Halls, Villain, young, good stage presence, experienced, used to struggle, and foreign accent. Terms, Box 6,670, "The Era."

WANTED, for Pier, South Coast, Aug. 3, fortnight, really First-class Humorist, Character Monologues, &c., funny, but strictly refined. Appointment, London. Particulars firstly to AUSTIN, 30, Peter-st., Blackpool. Soprano, Comedienne, Pianist, may write.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Al Fresco Comedian and Humorist, with extensive and refined Répertoire, suitable for good-class Audiences. State terms for whole season. H. R., Essex House, Colwyn Bay.

PLEASURE GARDENS, REDCAR.
WANTED, real live Comedians, well up in Concerteds, Gags, good Répertoire of Songs. Photo., lowest terms, H. MACDONALD, 5, Muriel-street, Redcar.

WANTED, a First-class Comedian or Piano Humorist, open Monday. Lowest terms, refs., photo., 329, London-road, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Small Boy, good appearance, over 14, good Step-dancer, for English Halls and the Continent. Apply, SATANELLA, 41, Lisle-street, 11 to 12 o'clock.

WANTED, First-class Experienced High Treble Chest Tone Soloist, boy, young, small preferred; permanent engagement. NELSON, Empire, Leeds. July 6, Hippo., Preston.

Operators.
WANTED, two experienced Operators, with full Knowledge of Film-renting. Write, stating references and where actually employed, also if willing to travel. L. ROBERTSON, "New York Herald," 81, Fleet-street, E.C.

WANTED, Pupil, to Learn Bioscope Operating, proficiency guaranteed; public exhibition by Pupil, who is given absolute charge before being certified proficient; premium required. THE MONARCH PICTURE Co., this, Palace, Long Eaton; next, Waterloo Theatre, Whitby.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

Managers, if your audiences are weary, secure Maude Jester.
WANTED, Known, Maude Jester, the Lady with the Voice. Her Choruses are sung by everyone; free through halls closing, July 6, 13, 20, 27. Panto. settled. For terms address, Maude Villa, 90, Elesmere-road, Saltley.

WANTED, Known, Jean Macduff, the newest Scotch Comedienne, colossal success nightly. Press and Public unanimous in their praise. Managers secure this winner. Good Scotch Songs wanted. Coms. to HERBERT MELVILLE, Rathbone Gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, by Nellie Nora, Dainty Instrumental Act, Monday next, also July 13; smart, up-to-date, and pretty dresses. Wire, 170, St. Mary's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday next, July 6, by Mlle. Du Roche, Vocalist.
Wire Offers, Empire, York.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist, July 6 and 13.
Perm. address, 32, North Side, Clapham Common.

WANTED, by Comedienne, Al Fresco, for Monday next. Wire,
VERE, Tivoli, Brierley Hill, Stafford.

WANTED, month's engagement, from July 12, Seaside, by two Professional Ladies; brilliant Violinist, smart Comedienne, Dancer. VERONIQUE, Towers, Studley, Warwickshire.

WANTED, July 6, 20, Aug. 3, 17, Babs Lloyd, Star Artists, and Nellie Vance, Comedienne. Wire, 2, Leonard-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, the Premier Lady Banjoists, Vocalists, Dancers, at Liberty July 13 and 20. July 6, Opera House, Workington.

WANTED, by Sisters Holly, Character Duettists and Dancers, July 13, onwards; also Lucy, Comedienne, Whistler. Offers, 32, Orchard-lane, Lye, Stourbridge.

WANTED, Aug. 3, and onwards, by Jack Vann, Dutch Comedy Yodelist. Address, 24, Alderney-road, Mile End, London, E.

WANTED, next week, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina).
Grand Theatre, Douglas.

WANTED, by Walter Curtis, the Humorous Entertainer. Aug. 17-24 and 31, 1908. Large Répertoire of Funny Items. Next, Albert Hall, Southport.

WANTED, Known, W. P. Sheen,
The Merry Widow who talks.
A Pattering Dame par excellence.
July 13 and 27, to precede and follow Palace, Reading, and onwards.
Address, c/o "Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, American Irish Comedian, all-round Dancer Liberty Monday, July 6. Wire, Hippodrome, Blyth.

WANTED, by Frank Whiteley, Comedian and Dancer Monday, July 6. Wire, Empire, Cleethorpes. Return here again Aug. 10. Sure turn.

WANTED, by Fred Stafford, Lightning Act of Art and Music, dates, Aug., onwards.
24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Tom Londberg, Character Actor, Comedian, Lecturer, and Management, at Lib. Sept. 21; also Al-Fresco, 1909. Add., Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea.

WANTED Known, George Turner, Versatile Comedian and Dancer, Liberty for Al-Fresco, Piers, Fêtes, and Pierrots; large rép.; exp. 5, Azenby-road, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, by Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese Conjurer, July 13, week, North or Scotland; also Aug. 10, 17, and 24. This Theatre, Stanley, Durham; next, Opera House, Workington.

WANTED, to thank Dr. Bodie for eight weeks, and T. C. Panes for return; also B. Kennedy and G. K. Hall, and others, for offers, by Li Chang Hi. Vacant Aug. 10, 17, and 24.

WANTED, Halls, Galas, &c., George de Franklin, American Comedy Conjurer, is vacant Aug. Address, Care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, World's Champion Bantam-weight Wrestler, taking on all comers. Great successes all over Scotland, also on re-engagements with E. H. Bostock, Esq. A sure and genuine Draw everywhere. Can accept offers for Aug. 10, and few dates in September and October. All coms. to Clicquot's Agency; or 34, Margaret-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, The Vollmers (Master Harry and Little Ruthie), Violin Soloists and Dancers, vacant July 6, 13, and 20. Permanent address, 39, Tassie-st, Shawlands, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday, and July 13, 20, The Monckton's (Fred and Lillie), in their Furiously Funny Farcical Features, "Two in a Flat," "Are Wives Dummies?" A very popular and screaming comedy episode is that of "Two in a Flat," which is presented by Fred and Lillie Monckton. There are some exceptionally funny passages, and the sketch is greatly enhanced by the beauty of the stage-setting.—Lancaster Standard, June 26, 1908. Wire, Empire, Stockport; next, 12, Kyotts Lake-rd., Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, by the Great Kyoto, Japanese Pot-Pourri Act; May Geraldine, Comedienne, Dancer. Offer invited for July 6, 13, 20, 27, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, Sept. 7, onward. 41, St. Mary's-square, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, The Kooks (Harry and Rose), Flexible Acrobats, Dancers, &c.; also Queenie De Gay, Soprano, Liberty A. B. H., onward. 167, Lavender-hill, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Agnese and Arthur Lynch, in American Picture Songs, Vacant July 13, one week. Wire, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, July 6 and Aug. 3, E. W. Selman, Comedian; Ivy Gallard, Smart Comedienne. Programme Hit, Doncaster, Monday, fourth return, Regent-street, Salford.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Original Marvellous Pardoes, in their great Acrobatic Speciality Comedy Act, a scream; also Miss Lottie Holland, Burlesque Actress and Dancer; the two above Turns are the making of any Programme. Wire or write, Olympia, Bury.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Webb, Musical Clowns, at Liberty July 27, Aug. 10 and 17. This week, Empire, Bradford; next week, Palace, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Two Eltons, Triple Bars, Comedians, Marblesque Trio, Statuary, Tableau; two big Acts, Lib. July 13. Hippo., Blackpool.

WANTED, July 13 and 20, by Will and Roze, Comedy Acrobatic Conjurers. Big Novelty Act. Queen's Theatre, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Tarr and Matey, in Acrobatic and Juggling Speciality, new and original apparatus, vacant July 6 and 13.

WANTED, July 6 and 13, The Carlsens, Comedy Trampoline Act, always a success, splendid two-sheet posters; would join in good Combination. 23, Cooper's-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Phinas and Aida, Pocket Gymnasts, with an Act entirely their own, on Tour; Liberty for Panto.

WANTED, July 6, 13, by the Two Le Bruns, Unique Vocal and Juggling Speciality, introducing Edie, the Child Cinquevalli, the Little Queen of Clubs. Wire, Pavilion, Belper, near Derby.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon Trio, Acrobatic and Risley Eccentrics, vacant July 20 and 27. Communications, 3, Winsley-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, The Four Legieres, Premier Acrobats, are Vacant July 13, and on. Address, Post Office, Bruff, County Limerick, Ireland.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Screamingly Funny Acts, dates August; specially engaged, Carnival, Glasgow. P. A., 8, Fenwick-street, Manchester; or STEBBINGS.

WANTED, July 13, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Spanish City, Whitley Bay.

WANTED, 6th, 13th, and 20th, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe (5) "The Society Athletes." Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, by Bessie Travis, only Lady Ventriloquist and Pianist, July 6 (through Accrington fire) and 13. Wire, Hippo., Lancaster.

WANTED, July 6, 13, and onwards, by Geo. Gulliver, First-class Ventriloquist. Wire to-day, Hippo., Oldham; Sunday, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, July 13, 20, Aug. 3, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two Smart Acts. Offers. Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

WANTED, Known, Bosanquet's New Act, "The Fiddler's Windfall," has proved an enormous success. The North Star, Darlington, says:—Both houses were packed on the appearance of Bosanquet and Co. The Barrow Daily Mail says:—This popular place was well filled, despite the sultry weather; and no wonder, for there is a special attraction in Bosanquet, whose performance roused the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm, and brought down the house. Bosanquet and Co. (a big drawing card), Vacant one week, Monday next, July 6. Wire, Hippo., Darlington, till 10 o'clock a.m. Sunday; after, 31, Hermitage-road, Finsbury Park, London.

WANTED, by Bosanquet and Co.'s Sensational Act, a Drawing Card, vacant Monday next, July 6. Wire till 10 o'clock Sunday, Hippo., Darlington; after, 31, Hermitage-road, Finsbury Park, London.

WANTED, for The Dagonet's Costume Concert Party, July 13, week, Pier Pavilions or similar booking. JOSEPH BLASCHECK, 43, Southfield-road, Bedford Park, London, W.

WANTED, Known, The Royal Strolling Pierrots are at Liberty for six weeks, commencing Monday, July 13, owing to their licence being refused at the puritanical borough of High Wycombe, seven eminent Artists, with an extensive Répertoire and good Wardrobe. Terms, HAYES and CLUFF, 12, Hughendon-road, High Wycombe.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty,
the Wonderful and Artistic Selbinis,
July 6 and 20, also Sept. 14.
All communications to
SELBINIS, 193, Brixton-hill, London.

WANTED, by Swift Duo, Novel and Funny Cyclists, July 13 and 20.
Mon. next, Empire, Hyde.

WANTED, Known, Lieut. Albini and his Lady in Black, made his seventh appearance in Folkestone, and drew the record business of the season; return at a substantial rise Aug. 10 same Act, returned Top of Bill this week to Dover with "Sailor and His Lass" Illusion, with one of the most classy companies of Artists, and business good. The Press says: The one and only Albini is always a big item of interest in Dover. Sixth visit. Monday, July 6, New Palace, Reading.

WANTED, by Lieut. Albini and his Charming Young Ladies, July 13, 20, 27, and Aug. 3. Wire or write, New Palace, Reading. Sure Draw, Big Attraction.

WANTED, Known, Caban's French Circus, Ponies, Donkeys, Goat, and Dogs, few immediate vacancies. All coms., White City, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Novel Dog Show, the Only Act of its Kind before the Public. The Show that stands alone. Liberty July 13, 20, and 27. Theatre Royal, Croydon.

WANTED, Dates Sept., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the biggest Novelty ever introduced, Troupe of Dogs. Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Monday next, also July 13 and 20, Kitty Woodford's Dog Circus and Orchestra.
Wire, Pavilion, Abertillery.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, Vacant July 6, 13, and 20.
Wire, 47, St. John's-park, Upper Holloway, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Augett, in Good-class Pierrot or Concert Party, Refined Comedian, Humorist, and Patterer; big rép. Address, 47, Hallam-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Young Knockabout Comedian and Pantomimist, age 21, at liberty to join good sketch. Coms., JACK KNOX, 8, Perth-st., West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Known, Smart Tumbler and Dancer would like to join Comedy Act or other. Address, Box 6,651, "The Era."

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
not the ordinary,
the extraordinary.
The Marionette Music Hall Originators.
The feature of every Programme.
Open for July 13, 27 Aug. 3 and 10,
Will accept same through any Agency,
or direct to W. J. D'ARC.
This week,
Hippodrome, Huddersfield.
Next week,
Empire, Islington.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Travers's Bioscopes, at Liberty. Moderate terms. Films for Hire; write for List. TRAVERS, 154, High-st., Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, July 6, on, by Operator, with own First-class Machine, Sheet, &c., complete; excellent refs. A. WHITE, perm. add., 38, Tower-street, West Hartlepool.

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WANTED, Wanted, Known, "One of the Biggest Hits yet" best describes the enormous success of our latest marvel,
The Slot Diabolo,
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The Slot Diabolo,
an Automatic Amusement Machine, in which the public love to place their money, for the fascinating play it gives them. It gives no trouble, but it gets the dollars. Get one now.
Procrastination is the thief of time—and money. Every day you delay means money lost. Write for terms and particulars of 100 other "money magnets."—Vide testimonial.

THE MINERVA AUTOMATIC AND MILLS NOVELTY CO., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C. Owners and patentees of the famous Electric and Automatic Violin. Telegrams, "Minervauto, London." 'Phone Holborn 5705.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

Important Notice.

WANTED, Known, that as from the 20th of June, 1908, Messrs. Limonaire Brothers of Paris, have taken over the business and premises of their Manchester Agent, Mr. A. Righini, and that in future all letters, remittances by cheque, or post, must be made payable and addressed to Messrs. Limonaire Brothers (of Paris), Show Organ Builders, 47, Great Clowes-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

N.B.—Messrs. Limonaire Brothers have much pleasure in adding that they retain the services of Mr. Arthur Righini as their Manager and representative in Manchester.

TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROTHERS, AND CO. Sole Makers of the only Patent Cake Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17,402, July 30, 1907. Improvements protected, No. 25,150, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements protected, No. 2,649, Feb. 6, 1908. REGISTERED TRADE MARK, "CAKE WALK."

WANTED, Known, users as well as makers who infringe will be proceeded against. These machines are running successfully at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Blackpool, Weston-super-Mare, and in English and Continental Fairs. Recognised as a Triumph of Engineering Skill for simplicity, lightness, and durability. Appreciated by the Public everywhere. For further particulars, write, or call on the Sole Makers, Farncombe-street, and 94 and 98, Bermondsey Wall, Bermondsey, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars, C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to Know I Sell Secondhand Silver Watches, 800 and 935 silver, Ladies' and Gents', 3s. 6d. each; Levers, from 5s. to 10s. each; Silver Alberts, 2s. 6d. per oz.; New Metal Watches, at very low prices. SIMONS, 100-101, Houndsditch, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Automatic Kalloscope, with good pictures, 30s.; Barrels, with ticket drawers, by Haydon and Urry, 12s. each; Sweet and Picture Delivery or Card Machines, very attractive, 40s. each. ROSS, 97, Graham-road, London, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Automatic Pistol Coin Shooter, ½d. return, 50s.; Cock and Hen Egg Delivery Machine, 5ft. high, £7; Automatic Talking Machine, modern tone arm, £7; Postcard Views, cheap. ROSS, 97, Graham-road, London, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Stacey's Showmen's Stores Address is 510, Kingsland-rd., London, N.E. Established Settles-st. sixty years. Everything for the fair.

WANTED, Known, Latest Novelty, the Hindu Spirit Writer, grand investment for seaside, bazaars, fair grounds, &c. ADVANCE, 510, Kingsland-rd., N.E.

WANTED, immediately, for large Building, in the very best position, in one of Ireland's largest Cities (population about 50,000), free of opposition, every description of Side Attractions, Slot Machines (every variety Ear Phonographs, Mutoscopes, &c.), Working Models, Automatic Shooting Devices (Range, Jungle, Vacuum, &c.), Lifters, Lady Palmist (young, with knowledge of music preferred), Distorting Mirrors, Phrenologists, Electric Photos, Punch Balls, Marionettes, Wire and Glass Workers, &c., &c. Liberal Sharing Terms and long Engagement can be offered for anything that is Novel, Refined, and Attractive; Smart, Experienced Doorsmen and Mechanician communicate, full details, photo., posters, &c., MANAGERS, All Amusement Co., 18, Glentworth-st., Limerick.

WANTED, Known, Good Freaks, Novelties, &c., can have eight, ten, or twelve weeks' Engagement at my American Museum. Send fullest particulars, terms, photo., &c., and sample of lithos., A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, good quick-showing Novelties, for Booth, a good run of Fairs right up to Xmas. Shares or Salary; must have good Flash. PROFESSOR RUBY, 104, Station-road, Glastonbury, Somerset.

WANTED, good Character Reader, &c., for Seaside Resort. State age and experience. WILMAN, 25, Eastgate-row, Chester.

WANTED, Auctioneer, used to Tent Work; must be money-getter, good stock-keeper, and steady; good appearance essential. State lowest wage, references, &c., first letter, apply, Box 6,649, "The Era."

WANTED, Several Good Doorsmen, a Good Traction Engine Driver who understands Electric Light, Good Operator, a few Good, Useful Chaps, Good Dancing Girls for Parade, also a Good Electrician. Apply, KEMP, Cinematograph, Orton's Show Factory, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, Best Doorsman Obtainable, for Maze. Address, giving references, experience, wages required. PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, Wire-worker, for Franco-British Exhibition. State full particulars to Box 6,673, "The Era."

WANTED, Galas, Bailey's Punch and Judy, Dog Toby, next week, three days' Gala, Wolverhampton. Address, Bennett-street, Buxton. Chair up.

WANTED, Known, J. J. Mathews, Punch and Judy and Ventriloquial Entertainer, open for Engagements for Galas, &c. 36, Balfour-street, Runcorn, Cheshire.

WANTED, by Champion Bag Puncher, Engagement with Travelling Showman, carries own fittings. Offers. JACK CHAMBERS, 27, Chapel-lane, Blackley, Manchester.

WANTED, Lecturer at Liberty, Pictures a Specialty, but experienced all lines; good delivery; dress well; good refs. MCMORREN, 5, Westfield-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, by Auctioneer, Situation, thoroughly reliable and energetic worker to any audience; will join for trial anywhere at own expense. Box 6,677, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Tom Maynard, the well-known Showman, at Liberty; recently Coop's Excursions. Communications, 42, Canning-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Lady, smart Saleswoman, attractive appearance, good Electric Engraver, now Disengaged; highest references; experienced Exhibitions work. E. HOLMAN, P.O., Littlehampton.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a complete COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS, FOR JULY.

ENGLAND.

July 4. Ashover (2,362)
July 4. Barlborough (1,942)
July 4. Belper (11,360)
July 4. Silstone (2,180)
July 4. Stainsby (121)
July 4. Stokeferry (700)
July 4. Wakefield (36,000)
July 4. Worcester (43,966)
July 6. Bognor (6,200)
July 6. Bradford (236,240)
July 6. Haxey (1,800)
July 7. Chipping Norton (3,800)
July 7. Sampford Courtenay (900)
July 7. Taunton (21,600)
July 9. Burnley (97,044)
July 10. Headless Cross (3,500)
July 10. Leeds (423,000)
July 10. Menston (1,745)
July 10. Ringwood (4,400)
July 10. Stroud (9,200)
July 10. York (75,560)
July 11. Chapel-en-le-Frith (4,652)
July 11. Holmesfield (510)
July 13. Baildon Feast (6,000)
July 13. Spilsbury (1,500)
July 15. Chumleigh (1,200)
July 15. Linton (1,800)
July 15. Salisbury (17,100)
July 15. Swaffham (3,400)
July 16. Brierfield (7,300)
July 16. Darwen (38,200)
July 16. Launceston (4,353)
July 17. Sutton-in-Ashfield (11,624)
July 18. Atherstone (5,000)
July 18. Dewsbury Feast (31,500)
July 18. Dursley (2,400)
July 18. Hatherlow
July 18. Hollinwood (8,962)
July 18. Horsham (9,500)
July 18. Normanton (Temple) (2,800)
July 18. Stalybridge (27,000)
July 18. Tunstall (10,500)
July 20. Bramley Feast (9,000)
July 20. Kingsbridge (3,000)
July 21. Tipton (20,500)
July 22. Chesham (7,300)
July 22. Haworth (5,100)
July 22. Nelson (35,000)
July 23. Chiddingley (800)
July 24. Glemsford (2,000)
July 25. Compstall (2,330)
July 25. Epsom (11,000)
July 25. Hockwold (800)
July 25. Longsight (16,500)
July 25. Mossley (14,800)
July 25. Reading (60,000)
July 25. Walton (1,470)
July 27. Cley-next-the-Sea (700)
July 27. Keighley Feast (40,000)
July 27. Knottingley Feast (6,500)
July 27. Melksham (2,500)
July 27. Saltaire Feast (5,000)
July 27. Sandford (200)
July 27. Shipley Feast (25,000)
July 27. Windhill Feast (7,352)
July 29. Bollington (3,600)
July 29. King's Nympton (566)
July 29. Olney (2,500)
July 29. Unsworth (2,289)
July 30. Alresford (2,000)
July 30. Heyford (800)
July 31. Alfreton (6,120)

SCOTLAND.

July 4. Perth (30,749)
July 11. Hawick (17,805)
July 11. Motherwell (54,274)
July 13. Dumbarton (18,836)
July 13. Glasgow (622,355)
July 16. Johnstone (10,502)
July 16. Kirkcudbright (3,500)
July 18. Arbroath (22,372)
July 20. Edinburgh (208,069)
July 20. Forfar (12,051)
July 20. Leith (76,667)
July 22. Rothesay (7,323)
July 23. Leven (6,000)
July 25. Tweedmouth Feast (3,469)
July 27. Kinross (2,136)
July 30. Kilmarnock (34,161)

WALES.

July 4. Pontypool (6,000)
July 6. Llanllyni (4,972)
July 31. Tenby (4,700)

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GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Arthur Roberts and Co., the Simms, Orpheus, Ludwig Amann, Alexandre and Hughes, T. E. Finglass, the Merrions, Frances McNulty, Bioscope, Mike S. Whallen.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
John Lawson and Co. in Répertoire, Boden and Bell, Lily Langtry, Fred Poplar, Bioscope, Frank Bernard and Co., Kitty Wager, George Westland, Albert Whelan.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Gilbey, Mr. Paul Barnes of New York, Bi-Bo-Bi, Northern Troupe, Peter Bermingham, "Iona," Billy McClain and Co., Herald Comedy Four, Cissie Curlette, Bioscope, Howard and Harris.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
W. C. Fields, Lena Willard, Bert Woodward, St George Sylvester, Gittins's Opera Co., Fred Curran, Betty Green, Bioscope, Arthur Lennard, Terry and Lambert.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Auger and Co., Sisters St. Julian, Bioscope, Kioto, Stelling and Revell, Harry Weldon, Cline and Clark, Le Balle Nello, Chas. Stevens, Winifred Hare, Nellie Wallace.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Harry Lauder, the Maples, Sisters Grovini, Gus Garrick, Hallen and Hayes, Tennyson and Wallis, Mena Brae, Bioscope, Henry Coutts and Co.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Bella and Bijou, Four Jumels, Herbert Shelley, Reichen's Dogs, Lizzie Glenroy, Marie Empress, Bioscope, Phil and Nettie Peters, Ten Ji Troupe.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Mark Sheridan, Lyric Quartette, Harry May Hemsley, May Henderson, Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Narow Bros., Peggy Pryde, Walker and Lake, Andy Fagan, Marie Blythe, Bioscope, Guyer and Crispi.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Ernest R. Abbott's Co. in "Trilby."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
George Robey, George Lashwood, Bob Hamilton, Ralph and Nellie Howard, Helen Trix, Ethel Hayden, De Wynne Bros., Spry and Austin, Bioscope, Laurie and Beatty.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Eugene Stratton, Elsie Robey, Rich and Rich, "Home from the Honeymoon," Ted E. Box, Billy French, Will Musgrave, Bioscope, Proveanies.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Neil Kenyon, Huxter Bros., Powell and Vesey, Sinclair and Whiteford, Seven Wulfrunas, Fred Elton, Lilian Lowe, Lozelle, Bioscope, Leslie Bros.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Whit Cunliffe, New York Nippers, Mason and Bart, Harry Tate's Co. in "Motoring," Franco Piper, Nell Emerald, Nellie Martell, Bioscope, Thorpe and Coe.

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Until Further Notice.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Poluski Bros., Gwennie Hasto, Johnson and Bert, Les Marbas, Ian Colquhoun, Valerie de Lacy, Harry Marte, Bioscope, Hunt and Thomas.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
R. A. Roberts, Walter Wade, Wania, Three Cape Girls, La Belle Titcombe, Norman and Leonard Trio, Rosa Loader, Harty Drew, Bioscope, Bros. Griffiths, Ella Shields.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Lil Hawthorne, Jack Pleasants, Leo Stormont, Amy Marsden, Barrett and Knowles, Irene Lee and Candy Boys, Howard and Howard, Tom Woottwell, Roma and Romani, Bioscope, the Leopolds in "The Houseboat."

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Bransby Williams, Harry Leybourn, the Garganis, Bertha Stuart, Mollasso Quartette, Bros. Webb, Wyndham and Waters, Bioscope, Bros. Egbert.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Victoria Monks, Stewart and Morgan, J. W. Rowley, Jennie Johns, Harry Rogers and Co., Arabella Allen, Mike Nono, Evelyn Dess, Bioscope, Mendel.

NOTICE.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of, or damage to, any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

Yvette Guilbert, Albert Chevalier, Phillips and Merritt, C. J. Johnson, Kitts and Windrum, Chas. Coverdale, the Gilberts, Maud Rochez's Monkeys, Dunedin Troupe, Henry Beaumont, Eight Stella Girls, Bioscope, Odette Valerie.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Jack Lorimer, Adey Spencer, Kisbey, Stella Stahl, Frank Hartley, J. W. Rickaby, Pictures, Frank Couch, Hilda Jacobsen.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Laurie's Juveniles, Harry Simms, Gracie Grahame, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, Katie Butler, Olive and Owen, Vandinoff, Pictures, Will Godwin.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Hetty King, Lyric Mummers, Cassie Walmer, Anartos, J. A. Wilson, Barton and Franklyn, Pictures, George Formby.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
Fred Eustace and Co. in "The Amber Light," Arthur Slater, Dorothy Watson, Bertha Winder, Harry Champion, Phillips and Terry, Sadie Simpson, Bros. Redmond, Karno Trio, Pictures, Daisy Dormer.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Mlle. Eldee, Moon and Morris, Ed. E. Ford, George Brooks, Lizzie Daniels, Bioscope, May Mars.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Auguste Van Biene and Co., Sisters Morgan, the Lombards, Five Olracs, Cussac Talma, Musical Schaffers, Bioscope, Will Poluski, Jun.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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(A. Ellerton and A. Ellerton, jun.),
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(S. Fortescue-Harrison and J. Neat).
Sung by Miss Kittee Rayburn.

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(Pelham and Rule),
Sung by Miss Gladys Mavius.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski).
Sung by Miss Carlotta Levey and Miss Florrie Forde.

"SUE, SUE SUE, I'M VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH YOU"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski), and
"I WANT TO GO TO IDAHO"
(Lawrance, Mellor, and Gifford),
Sung by G. H. Elliott.

"ON THE CLIFFS OF NORMANDY"
(Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford),
Sung by Miss May Mars.

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Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:

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Extract from a Two-Column Notice, NEW YORK HERALD, June 11, '08.

I hope Miss Lily Lena is not making her "farewell" to America. I hope she stays till I know her and her songs by heart, that some day I may tell of her and teach them to somebody's children's children.

HAVE YOU GOT ANOTHER GIRL AT HOME LIKE MARY?

that was the inquisitive title of her song. It will wander all over the land like the "Are-there-any-more-at-home-like-you" sextette. Its melody goes through you—positively! In at the ear and out by the mouth. Nobody asks you to join in the chorus (Miss Lena is far too clever for any device so trite), but nevertheless you do join in, and barely below your breath.

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Two absolutely new songs by ERNEST R. BALL, the composer of "LOVE ME AND THE WORLD IS MINE? Note the titles:

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"When sweet Marie was sweet sixteen."
"Katie, darling, I am waiting."
"When the birds in Georgia sing of Tennessee."
"I loved you then, I love you still."

BALLADS.
"I'd live or I would die for you."
"All the world loves a lover."
"As long as the world rolls on."
"Take me with you in your dreams."

SOUBRETTE NUMBERS.
"Little convent miss."
"Pretty little heather bell."
"Wink, wink, wink."
"Several little reasons."
"Learning her lessons."
"Take a sail in my boat."
"Carry me off in a big balloon."
"Oh, Mr. Man, Man, Man."
"You're in love."

MARCH SONGS AND OPENING NUMBERS.
"When the minstrels come to town."
"True heart."
"Stars, stripes, and you."

COON SONGS.
"Just because he couldn't sing, 'Love me and the world is mine.'"
"Party that wrote 'Home, sweet home,' never was a married man."

LIGHT COMEDY AND CHORUS SONGS.
"Shady side of Bond Street."
"Hats off to the King."
"Take me down to Blackpool."
"Lemon in the garden of love."

COMIC.
"They all go to church on Sunday."
"Billy Brown."
"Beautiful dreamy eyes."

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All Artists carrying scenery must have same fireproofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.
Telephone 5954 Avenue.
Telegraphic address, "Stageyness, London."

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FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, JULY 6, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Alice Raymond, the Florias, Geo. Acre, Madge Field, the Lannons, Sisters Varley, Harry Nelson, Niblo's Talking Birds, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Florrie Forde, Musical Palmers, Norah Stockelle, Lew Towars, Browning and Wally, Mlle. Renee, Victor Travers, Ernest Rees, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Pasquali Bros., Annie Lang, Prof. Norton, Harwood's Juveniles, the Violas, Natalia and Diana, Bartholomew Girls, Robins and Collier, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Helen Roberts, the Zelovas, Four Figaros, Chassino, Colin Mail, Dancing Gilberts, Sisters Petram, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Ada Colley, Abel and Welsh, May Audrey, Mac and Hill, the Darntons, "The Art of Deception," Herbert Clifton, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, Pearce and Ward, Bros. Tarrant, Rene Leyton, Chester Lees, Carlotta De Yonsen and Co., Sisters Thorne.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
La Milo and Cruickshank, Lambert and Hands, the Forsyths, Les Currys, Clara Pledger, Howell-Webb and Co., Pallister's Pictures, Mark Henton.

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"A Life for a Life."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Wanted by the Police."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
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PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Leoni Clarke's Cats, Rose Nicholson, the Claymores, Elma Morris, Dick Bradley, Sisters Leon, Mint and Mart, Harry Bold, Slippere, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Peter Gotz, Kitty Willis, Sisters Florence, Irene and Morton, the Roxbys, the Lovelaces, Barrington, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock.
Alber's Polar Bears, Violet Nunn, the Three Arleys, Ruby Parsonage, Zeta Grey and Co., Thornbury, W. E. Whittle, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
May Moore-Duprez, Kremka Bros., Edie Reynolds, San Remo Girls, Four Maisanos, Geo. Lawrence, Five Bombays, the Kirbys, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Edie Coolville, Takio, Les Belles Americaine, Cedar and Elgar, Kitty Clinton, "Rejected Remounts," Corbin's Dogs, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Maude Mortimer, Chas. Cork, Harry Bland, Edie Casson, the Two Ives, Lillie Lassah, Harry Bent, Gallimore Trio, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Ada Parker, A. E. Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Tiny Arnold, Joe Dale, Raymond, Rene Graham, Ramlos, Olmas, Sadie Seymour, Boyne and Hope.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Maggie Walsh, Alice Lingard, Raymond, Lecardo Bros., Sisters Rivers, Mme. Haydee, Satanella Trio, Josephine Cook, Scottie's Waifs, Whizzing the Whirl, Nellie Lunelle, Arthur Bretton.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Geo. Newburn, Raymond, Phern and Phern, Maston, Willie and Johnny, "The Red Web," Woodhouse and Wells, Ethel Scheffer, Richard Purdon, Hemson's Æolians.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Dandy George, Raymond, Kenneth and Kane, the Orchids, Sisters Hampel, McKinleys, Bains and Reid, Garden Troupe, Sisters Clare, Rose Sartella, "After Balaclava."

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Julia Gilbert, Roy Beavis, Mme. Renee, Gertie Lewis, Sisters Edwards, Jack Collison, Raymond, Kenway and Emery, Ruhart, Chas. Tupper.

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Miss ELLA RETFORD is creating a Furore nightly with this Song.
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Sung by Miss HETTY KING.

"CHOOSE HER IN THE MORNING."
Sung by ARTHUR REECE.

"IT'S BETTER THAN BEING A CARNEGIE."
Sung by Miss WINIFRED HARE.

"ON THE CLIFFS OF NORMANDY."
Sung by Miss MAY MARS.

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THE BALLAD OF THE SEASON.
Sung with enormous success by **HARRY CLAFF AND MISS ALICE TREMAINE.**
Band Parts in Two Keys now ready.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY."
Sung by Miss CARLOTTA LEVEY and Miss FLORRIE FORDE.

"MANDY'S WEDDING."
Will be Sung by EVERY PIERROT PARTY in the Kingdom.

"I'M IN LOVE WITH A LONDON GIRL."
Sung by Miss MAY MARTON.

"WHERE! OH WHERE IS MY LANCASHIRE LAD?"
Sung by Miss FLORRIE FORDE.

"SUE, SUE, SUE."

G. H. ELLIOTT'S GREATEST SUCCESS.

"WHO SAID HE DON'T LIKE GIRLS?"
Sung by HARRY SIMMS.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
Sung by Miss EDITH FINK.

"FIFTY LONG YEARS AGO."
Sung by HARRY BANCROFT.

"IOLA."
Sung by Miss GERTIE GITANA

"ESAU, TAKE ME ON THE SEE-SAW."

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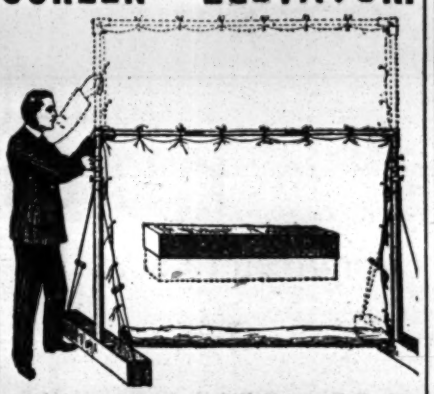

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An interesting illustration of the proverb, "Brevity is the soul of wit," is given in some correspondence between Mr. Robert Arthur, the theatrical manager, and Mr. Lennox Pawle, published by the latter in "The Era" Annual for 1908.

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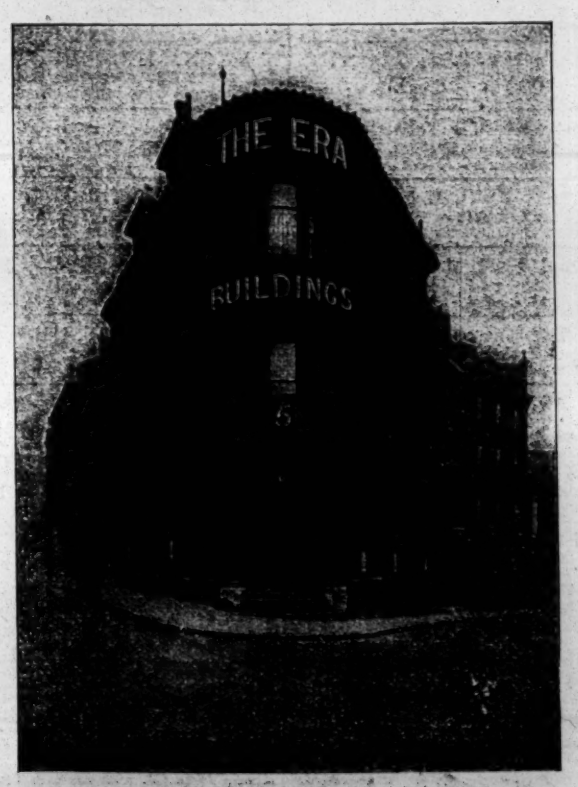

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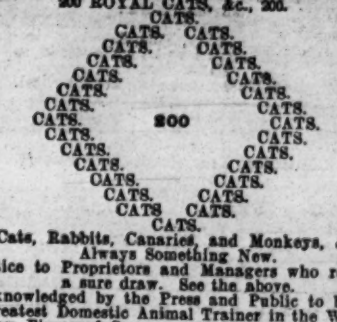

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By Herbert Rule,
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A Chorus the Audience will Sing.
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Proprietors and Managers Surprised
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At the Record Business
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At the Record Business
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Will take a Well-earned Rest.
Will take a Well-earned Rest.
Will take a Well-earned Rest.
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"The Yiddisher Boy" will be rusticating at the Seaside.
"The Yiddisher Boy" will be rusticating at the Seaside.
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"Poverty Street to Golden Square"
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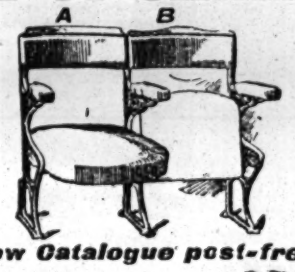

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EARLY TRAINS.

The Railway Companies are despatching many morning trains earlier than hitherto. This will enable subscribers and advertisers in the provincial towns to get copies of "The Era" in time for the breakfast table. Advertisers are requested to forward their advertisements as early in the week as possible, and not later than 7 p.m. on Thursday.

Address:
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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—The stock company here opened for the third week on Monday with *The Unknown*. In the title part Mr. Robert Hall acts with dramatic skill; Miss Ellen Armor gives a spirited representation of Bessie Merrybright; Mr. Larrey Clements is a humorous Pat Mahoney; Dr. Brinkton is in the capable hands of Mr. Frank Thompson; Mr. Leonard Yorke is a conspicuous success as Jack Salt; Miss Florence Delmar is an effective Louise; Mr. Laurence Stevenson a satisfactory Albert Stormking; and Miss Amy Seacombe a smart Cora Vanderbilt. Mr. H. Creagh Hunt proves himself a capable Arnold Tyson, and Mr. Ted Oswald is good as Robert Owen Jones.

ABERDEEN. — PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The engagement of Chung Ling Soo, the Chinese illusionist, has proved a prodigious success; indeed, such feats as his have never been seen before on the local stage, and the huge audiences are unrestrainedly enthusiastic in their approval. The other members of the company are all well received. These include Miss May Fayre, a clever comedienne; Miss Florence and Rose Showell, capital duettists; the Brothers Dean, expert whistlers and dancers; Bert and Dora, resourceful comedy artists; the Fimans, in their highly-amusing fire-station sketch; and Miss Flo Hilton, the popular male impersonator.

BEACH PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—As usual, the programme for the week is changed, and as all the artists are exceptionally clever and versatile, the entertainment continues to be extremely well patronised. Mr. Thomson looks especially well after the interests of his patrons in front. All the turns, which include those of Misses Violet Davidson, Nellie Riach, and Daisy Taylor, and Messrs. Chorley, Connor, Thomson, Jack Marson, Sydney Locklynne, and Vulcaris, the piano expert, are encored.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—In spite of the various counter attractions, the house continues to be well filled at both the evening entertainments. Whimsical Willie Wilbert and Merry Madge Warner appear with great success both as vocalists and instrumentalists; the clever pair are frequently encored. Mr. Dove Paterson provides a deeply interesting hour's cinematograph display; all his films, whether dramatic or humorous, are exceedingly realistic.

ABERTILLERY. — THE PAVILION. — Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce. —*The Rogues of the Turf* is being presented here by Mr. John F. Preston's company. There is a stud of thoroughbred race-horses, and the whole drama shows the temptation and trickery of the turf. Mr. John F. Preston as Joe Flaxman receives high appreciation; Sammy Flaxman, an apprentice jockey, by Mr. Horace Custance is good; while Marion, Lady Heathcote, is excellently performed by Miss Mabelle F. Barlow.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—The stock company is this week presenting *Lured to London* here. Mr. Sydney C. Cranston as the Rev. Leslie Carrington is fully equal to the demands of the character; Mr. Robert Faulkner acts with artistic finish as Geoffrey Carrington; Mr. J. G. Maine gives a fine rendering of Jake Gamble, and Mr. Graham Winsford submits a capital portrayal of Squire Carrington. Mr. Allan Carruthers is very amusing as P.C. Christopher Coppard, and is ably assisted by Miss Violet Temple as Rosannah Lovejoy; Miss Mabel Mannering well maintains her high reputation as Natty; as Lily Sterling Miss Maude Townsend acts with charm and ability; and Miss Francesca Strickland proves efficient in the rôle of Constance Stuart.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—Fred Karno's company in *His Majesty's Guests* has produced unbounded mirth this week. Mr. George Hester as Sergeant Lightning is as original and funny as ever, and the catchy sextette "Six Little Burglars" goes with its old swing; and housebreaking as expounded by the Karno troupe almost ranks as a gymnastic exploit. The principal rôles are undertaken by Messrs. George Hestor, Roy Jackson, C. Usher, S. Kearns, Tom Marnardo; Misses Edith Ager, Kitty Brunton, and Blanch Lynd. Mr. J. B. Helm is general manager for the company, and the orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Scott.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—A drama in which the human affections play a conspicuous part is being produced here for the week, entitled *The Old Home*. Mr. Roland Yorke's company is responsible for the varied character interpretations. As the Rev. Eric Armstrong Mr. Lonsdale gives us a type of the English clergyman which wins the admiration and approval of all who champion the cause of the weak and the oppressed; Mr. Chas. Franmore gives a really fine character-study of Daddy Dean, the father of the girl who is deceived and deserted by a scoundrel; Miss Gertrude Bonser wins sympathy and tears by her pathetic picture of Hazel Dean; Mr. Roland Yorke, the author of the drama, sustains with conspicuous ability the part of Lord Avondale; Miss Mara Collings as Bridget and Mr. Fred de Vere as Sam are responsible for much of the humour introduced; and much ludicrous comedy comes from the acting of Mr. Jas. Lea Hair, and Miss Gertie Douglas, Mr. Claude Agnew, and Mr. Walter Osmond in other important characters.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons.—R. Peel's Band is a feature of the week with opening overture "The Mikado." Something novel and diverting is put forward by Bennett and Stirling, the American comedy entertainers; then comes Louie Herman, who sings in charming manner her own copyright songs; Ormonde Penstone challenges attention as a prestidigitateur; a comedy sketch, *Ferde's Ma-in-law*, is well presented by Miss Ethel Lonsdale, Mr. A. Richardson, and Mr. A. Gordon-Laws; Mike and Lena furnish some good fun as Dutch lovers in a Dutch duologue; Jack Foley is a good comedian; Les Rallis introduce *The Artist and the Monkey*; and Mlle. Naveeda has a novel and sensational illusion, *Eve in the Garden of Eden*. The Bioscope illustrates the Troubles of Mr. and Mrs. Newlywed.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The picture entertainments inaugurated here some eighteen months ago still continue to attract large audiences. This week's selection of films include The Wreckers, Troubles of a House Agent, Billy's Bugle, Even a Worm Will Turn, The Motherly "Pram," and The End of a Dream. Illustrated songs are given by Mr. Glanmore Jones.

BARNSLEY.—NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—La Faille Troupe appear here in a remarkable gymnastic and equilibristic act; La Troupe Espagnole Juanitos do clever feats of tumbling and acrobatism; the Marvellous Woodwards appear in a daring equilibristic cycling act; and the Albas, a thrilling wire performer. Other good variety turns are those of the Two Walonells, comedy acrobats and triple bar performers; and Salida and Vone, American Creole novelty singers and dancers. Nellie Ridgway, comedienne, works adroitly on a wire, assisted by Andrew Martin, eccentric comedian; Vera Mayne, chorus comedienne, and Andie Burns in song, story, and dance, and the Palascope complete the entertainment.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone. —Mr. G. M. Copping's company is here in *Love Rules the World*. Mr. Richard Vane is an effective Harold Kingston; Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne a capital Paul Carruthers; and Mr. Stephen Langton plays well as the villainous Stephen Blight. Mr. Mat Russell as Billy Binks lightens the drama with some good comedy; Mr. Sydney Rennef gives a sterling portrayal of Jim Dixey; and Miss Gertrude Sterroll is a sympathetic Maud. The Flo Morton of Miss Constance Medwyn is a particularly bright and clever character; and Miss Annie Brunette as Mother Grimble and Miss Nellie Freeland as Kitty Snowdrop both do well.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—E. H. Bostock's baboons, introduced by Captain Graham, are the premier turn here; their acrobatic feats are exceedingly clever, and they create roars of laughter with their comical antics. Barnard's Mannikins are another capital item; the dolls are worked in an exceedingly clever and lifelike manner, and the dresses and stage effects are very tasteful. Other good turns are the Two Kays, Elade Clare, Welda and Wynne, Ralph Neucombe, and Vernon's Bioscope.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—There is an exceedingly good programme of pictures here this week, which is being thoroughly appreciated. Capital variety turns are given by Messrs. Fred Rex and Corri and Foote.

BARRY DOCK. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Bogden.—*Under Two Flags* was played here on Monday to a crowded house. Miss Doris Gilham as Cigarette well maintained her high reputation; Mr. Werham Ryott as Louis Victor proved himself a talented actor; Mr. H. Harley West did justice to the part of the brother; as Ezra Baroni Mr. Harry Leander left nothing to be desired; the Princess Corona of Miss Dorothy Last was well portrayed; Miss Daisy Carlton made a lively maid; Mr. C. E. Johnson gave an excellent interpretation of Colonel Chateawroy; and the parts of Lord Royellieu and his friend were well handled by Messrs. Arthur North and Charles Brooke.

BATH.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Leoni Clarke is once again here, exhibiting his large and varied collection of domestic animals, which is quite an entertainment in itself, and, as is customary, he is received with much enthusiasm; the club-juggling and dancing of the Claymores is rightly voted first-class; Slippere, the well-known blind musician and vocalist, meets with a cordial and sympathetic reception; Elma Morris, vocalist, creditably renders ballads; as a tramp cyclist, Dick Bradley does many clever feats; Mint and Mart execute paper-tearing cleverly, and also introduce much humorous patter; the Sisters Leon, duettists and dancers, Rose Nicholson, coon singer and dancer, and Harry Bold, comedian and raconteur, also appear. Raymond's Bio-tableaux retain their popularity.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Good fare is provided at the theatre this week by Kennedy's Komiks. Nat Abatt, a musical clown, received a warm welcome, and his musical turn was exceedingly good; Mr. Chas. Bland, the excellent tenor, delighted the company with his songs; and Val Priestman gave a clever display of clay modelling. Miss Garibaldi's contralto songs, the contortions of Knoto, the singing and dancing of the Sisters Raymond, and the animated pictures are other elements of a highly-successful entertainment.

BELFAST.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ffed W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The star turn here is Mr. Ivan Berlyn and company in *Fagin*. Mr. Berlyn's acting fairly thrills the audience with its intensity. The Ashmed-Ibrahim Troupe perform some really marvellous acrobatic feats; and a warm welcome has been bestowed on Miss Lily Burnand, one of the most accomplished comediennes before the public. The Three Sisters Sprightly produce character impersonations in their own finished style; and also appearing are Mr. Wilson Hallett, mimic; Hayes and Watson, comedians; Les Cabiacs, comedy acrobats; Miss Minnie Warner, comedienne; and the Palace pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmot and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Mr. John Tiller's company of comedians again top the bill, and this week produce with much *éclat Jolly Jack*, the smart nautical ballet, always attractive, in which Miss Gipsy Iris, Mr. Fred Danvers, &c., appear to great advantage; the eccentric juggler Raglus takes well, and deservedly so; and a hit has been made by the Sages (Will and Jenny), comedy artists. Miss Jenny Hartley, a charming comedienne and smart dancer, Mr. Alexander Prince's concertina solos, the Van Host Trio, Continental eccentrics, the clever Passmore Brothers, and the Hipposcope are other attractions.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The leading attraction here is provided by Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten in their juvenile comedy; Mr. Will Godwin, who is assisted by his wife and daughter, appear in *Silence is Golden*; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden produce, with much effect, one of their exhilarating comedies; and Miss Gracie Grahame, a comedienne with some good songs, is loudly and deservedly applauded. Mr. Harry Simms, light comedian, makes a hit, as does Olivo and Owen, in *The Roadside Tinkers*; Vandinoff, described as "the world's lightning artist, Miss Katie Butler, a dashing comedienne, and the Bioscope complete a fine programme.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Another fine exhibition of Animated Pictures has been submitted this week, including Black-eyed Susan, The Nihilists, Father Buys a Picture, Wanted, an Owner, &c. In addition, the Sisters Henderson, expert dancers, appear with much success; also Graham and Edwards, clever speciality comedians.

BILSTON.—AL FRESCO PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—The Imperial Pierrots continue to attract good audiences here. Mr. Alf Brookes amuses with his comical songs; Mr. Harry Plant's burlesque *Jimmy Law* is extremely laughable; Miss Flo Holyroyd sings in capital style; Mr. Fred Fields, baritone vocalist, meets with appreciation; and the programme concludes with an amusing sketch, *Modern Society*.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Miss Go-Won-Go Mohawk and her company, in *Wep-ton-no-mah*, have long enjoyed a large measure of support in this town, which has in no way diminished on the occasion of this, announced as their farewell, visit. Miss Mohawk repeats her very successful and picturesque rendering of the title-rôle; Mr. C. W. Charles is still the able representative of Colonel Stockton; and Mr. Edward Leroy enacts the Spanish desperado, Manuel Lopez, with a finish which denotes a long familiarity with the part. Mr. Alfred Lafolle as Sam White, Mr. Guy D. Hackney as Garry Cullen, and Miss Jessie Hart as Miss Matilda Sniffles furnish the comic business with great verve and proportionate success. Miss Blanche Leroy is an efficient Nellie Stockton; and Mr. Julien Mitchell is a good Captain Franklin. Mr. H. P. Burton is commendably realistic as Chief Ga-ne-Gue. Some trained horses are introduced with effect.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—A really attracted combination is headed by the Eight 'Varsity Girls, whose clever vocal and terpsichorean entertainment is received with great eclat; Sam Lowenworth and Charles Cowan, clever Hebrew comedians, are going strong; and the Brothers Hayes, assisted by Spot, score heavily in their amusing sketch, entitled *Revels in a Billiard Saloon*. Miss Jessie Merrilees is a vocalist of ability; Jessie Barlee and Phil Smith, entertaining vocal duettists; the Rinders, with illustrated songs; Frank Coyle, a capital comedian; Chas. Lestree, an exceptionally able juggler; Clara Victor, comedienne; and Brown's Royal Bioscope, all furnish prominent turns. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical director.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS, ROCK FERRY.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—The popularity of the pierrot entertainments is well maintained by the excellent company, which includes Mr. J. H. Scotland, basso; Mr. Alf. Maynall, comedian; Miss Elsie Steadman, comedienne; Mr. Douglas McLaren, comedian; Miss Dorrie Courtnay, banjoist; Mr. Austin Mahony, tenor; and Mr. Frederick Arthur, accompanist.

BIRMINGHAM. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*A Gambler's Daughter* is making a big success again, on its return engagement, with Adria Hill and Robert Ayrton's company. Both these well-known favourites appear in the play, Miss Hill's fine emotional powers finding full scope in the double rôle of mother and daughter; while Mr. Ayrton finds popularity in the congenial rôle of the ubiquitous Irishman, O'Dare. The support is good all round, the principals being Mr. Alfred Sanders as Solomons, Mr. Harry C. Robinson as Stephen Brand, Mr. H. Barham as Captain Stanhope, Mr. Mortimer Hancock as Tom Brand, Mr. Edward Finlay as Gillman, Mr. George Vinn as Jack Grant, Miss Lizzie Gordon as Carmen Sancho, and Miss Henriette Loydall as Auntie Zeb, &c. *Under Two Flags* was given at the matinée on Wednesday, when Miss Hill and Mr. Ayrton were in high favour as Cigarette and the Hon. Bertie Cecil respectively.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Alfred West's pictures continue to attract, those of this week showing Pekin Wall, Jack and His Sweetheart, Naval Officer's Wedding, and many other interesting sights connected with "Our Army, Our Navy, and Our Colonies." This is the fourth and last week of "the pictures."

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—The Great Vaudeville and Universal Animated Picture Company give excellent variety again, and in addition there is a great dramatic episode by Mr. Frank Ayrton, *The New World*, which is attracting much attention. This is powerfully played by Messrs. J. B. Murray, J. P. Kennedy, Caspar Middleton, W. S. Stephenson, W. J. Morley, and Miss Nelly Moore. The pictures score, as usual; and Willie Hicks, descriptive, and Rose Everette, comedienne, are very successful.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake. — *A Stolen Birthright*, with Mr. Charles Draycott's company, meets with appreciation here. Mr. Draycott's acting of the evil genius, Marco Taddeo, is a salient feature of the performance; Mrs. Charles Draycott shows her ability to signal advantage as Princess Mirando; Mr. George Steel undertakes the arduous rôle of the soldier hero, Prince Andrea, with conspicuous success; Mr. Ernest Stidwell is an admirable portrayer of the faithful friend, Prince Michele; and Messrs. Eldon Selby, Harry Scatchard, and Dane Clarke play useful parts. Miss Eva Norman is graceful as Fidelia, Miss Ethel Vinroy plays the vivacious Nita well, and Mr. Harry Harrop is a capable and humorous Pedro.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*East Lynne* holds sway here, with Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, who give the Heath-Wilson Barrett version. Mr. Cecil Du Gue's sound acting-powers come out well in the part of Carlyle; Mr. Benson North gives full play to the despicable character of Levison; and Miss Julie Kennard's poignant acting as the unfortunate Isobel wrings tears and compassion from all. Mr. Alfred Tate scores in the all-important rôle of P.C. Bullock; and Mr. Harry C. Rutland as Richard Hare, Miss Kate Evelyn as Barbara, Miss Mabel Bishop as Joyce, Miss Ethel Hardacre as Cornelia, and others shine in the company.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The excellent programme provided this week is headed by Arthur Roberts, with his company, in a new sketch *Till Sunday*, which has attracted large audiences; Miko S. Whallen is a popular Irish comedian; Ludwig Amann, one of our finest character quick-change artists, is loudly applauded for his clever impersonation of well-known politicians; Alexandre and Hughes, the Merrions, Tom E. Finglass, the Simms, Orpheus, and Frances McNulty are prominent turns.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Chas. T. Aldrich appears here in a clever quick-change act; Tom Foy, in the sketch *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, is exceedingly droll; Tom Costello makes a hit in his song "My home is far away." The bill includes also William Lee and Helen Bentley, Sisters Allen, Howie and Andie, the Brennans, Callagan and St. George, and the Schiavonys.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The long programme arranged here is most attractive. Horace Mills and W. H. Rawlins have an amusing sketch *Mashing the Missus;* the musical entertainment provided by Ethel Walker is refined; and Lyster and Cook are musical astronomers; Edith St. Clair is a dainty comedienne; and Barbara Babington, Ryder Slone, Harry Zetter, the Saletos, Smart Bros., and Leonard Gautier's animated toy shop are much appreciated turns.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Owen.—Owen Moran is the attraction here, his exhibition of the "noble art" is watched with interest; the Currans are exceedingly funny, as also is Dammerell and Rutland's company in their sketch *House Full;* the Markies in *From Pavement to Stage* make a good turn; Webb and Branston are applauded for their operatic duets; Freddy Butler makes a good impression as a comedian; and Spencer and Mark have a novel act.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The most frequent visitor to Blackpool is Mr. W. W. Kelly's *A Royal Divorce* company, which has possession here this week, and which still draws big houses nightly. Napoleon is again in the capable hands of Mr. Frederick Victor, who scores all along the line, whilst Josephine is played on this occasion by Miss Beth Elliott, who fully justifies her selection for so important a rôle. Miss Maude Lacy as Stephanie, Mr. W. T. Ellonby as General Angereau, Mr. Tom Robertson as Talleyrand, and Mr. Geo. Hudson as the innkeeper likewise prove their histrionic power.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr T. Sergenson.—*The New Barmaid*, played by Miss Violet Osmund's company, is proving attractive here this week. Many new features have been introduced since the last visit, and all with good effect. Miss Osmund plays Dora Heather with vivacity and charm, and Miss Grace Walters is entirely successful in the title-part. Mr. Alexander Loftus repeats his amusing sketch of Bertie White, and is ably assisted in the fun-making by Mr. James Grant as William White. The music is bright and catchy, and Mr. W. E. Vaughan ably directs a good orchestra.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The Savonas are back again here this week, and their musical scena is warmly applauded nightly. Other good turns are contributed by Raie Walters, comedienne; Lily Lonsdale, character vocalist; Talbot and Pearce in a musical duologue; Clive Watts, entertainer and dancer; Ben Albert, comedian; the Carmos, jugglers; the Gothams, vocalists; and Ernie Myers, a very popular comedian.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones's company is the attraction here this week, in the drama, *Life's Sweetest Sins*. Mr. John Davidson gives a fine rendering of the hero, Captain Harold Marston; Miss F. Melrose Millett shows careful study in her portrayal of the character of Doreen Rivers; Mr. David McFarlane plays well the part of the villain, Dr. Colbrooke; Mr. Edgar Morgan is lively and humorous as Bob Tanner, and is capably supported by Miss Nana Flensberg as Bess Grayson. Mr. James Lewis is good as Sergeant Bates; and Miss Nellie Lawson shines as the doctor's daughter, Fay Colbrooke.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A good variety company here is headed by the Piccolinis, Lilliputian midget wonders, who, by their astounding exposition of shooting, wire walking, acrobatics, cycling, and other feats, fairly fetch their audiences, and are deservedly applauded. Other excellent turns are Amos Howard, American dancing comedian; Charles Fields, society juggler; Les Bollingers, "the original rag painters of Paris"; the Marvellous Avolos, in a gymnastic novelty exhibition; the Loader Trio, in a comedy act, *A Bit Too Clever;* Ena Corelli, a dainty little comedienne; Richard Finberg, in a series of character studies from famous plays, &c.; Stuart and Stuart, eccentric comedy entertainers and quaint dancers; Maurice De Riaz, champion Swiss wrestler; and the Premier Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The favourite American drama *Shadows of a Great City* is being presented this week by the stock company. Mr. Albert Sember plays well as Tom Cooper; Mr. Cyril Grier is a good Abe Nathan; Miss Effie Macintosh deserves special mention for her praiseworthy performance of Biddy Roonan; Miss Nina Vaughton is a charming Helen Standish; Mr. Stanley S. Gordon is strong as George Benson; and Mr. Tom H. Solly makes a most amusing Jim Farren.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—The Brothers Horne are here with *The Biter Bit*, and are much appreciated; W. H. Clemart, ventriloquist, with his wonderful mechanical assistants, gives a clever performance; Will Driscoll has a very hearty greeting; Mlle. Yetta shows great dexterity on the slack wire; George Prince creates amusement by his humorous songs; Beatrice Willey contributes old songs in pleasing style; Maudie Ford's dancing and singing are worthy of note; and the Bioscope pictures conclude an interesting bill.

BRADFORD.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N Hepworth.—*A Wrecker of Men* is again being played by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company. Miss Amy Ellam fills the character of the vile Rissa Mallison with great power, and she has fine support from Mr. Eric Campbell as the lion-hearted giant Jim Murley. Miss Gwendoline Talbot is charming as Doris Melville, and as the nondescript Slopper Miss Beatrice Reynolds is amusing. Mr. Milner Noble fills the part of the Egyptian Pharosaphus with effect; Mr J. Ansdell Wilson is vigorous as Railton; as Eric Melville Mr. Thompson Carruthers is intensely dramatic; Mr. Douglas Campbell plays Reggie Verincourt humorously; and all the remaining parts are in good hands.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. John Lawson and his company are here this week appearing in a repertoire of sketches, including *Pigs in Clover*, *The King's Minister*, and *The Monkey's Paw*. Mr. Lawson's acting is much applauded, and he is admirably supported. Boden and Bell are clever juvenile vocalists and dancers; George Westland's Scotch comedy is excellent; in her usual lively style Lily Langtry delights her admirers with her songs; Fred Poplar's comic songs are well received; in a capital sketch, viz., "*Hello!*" Frank Bernard and company are very diverting; Kitty Wager submits an acceptable comedienne turn; Albert Whelan, the clever mimic and entertainer, is on a return visit as amusing as ever, and there are some fine pictures shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Alice Raymond and her Band of Arabs, in a musical extravaganza *A Night in Egypt*, present an entertainment of some merit; George Acre's vocalism is of acceptable quality; the Lannons (Will and May) are good duettists and dancers; Madge Field presents an acceptable comedienne turn; duets by the Sisters Varley are received with favour; a genuine success is achieved by Harry Nelson, comedian, who is distinctly quaint and amusing; the Florias submit a novel and very clever entertainment as equilibrists and wire performers; Victor Niblo's very wonderful parrakeet and cockatoo talk astonishingly, and win great applause and much laughter; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are very entertaining.

BRIDLINGTON.—ROYAL PRINCES' PARADE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Mr. Norfolk Megone, the newly-appointed conductor of the municipal orchestra here, is quickly establishing himself in favour. The vocalist this week is Mr. W. A. Peterkin, a basso of finished style and fine compass. The attraction at Mr. Flockton-Foster's entertainments in the Grand Pavilion is Miss Lillie Shaw, "the toy Vesta Tilley," a really clever little artist; Mr. Will Emmerson and his Loyal Dominion Animated Pictures are well received, and give great delight.

NEW SPA AND GARDENS.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—Herr Simon Wurm and his Imperial Viennese Band commenced their season's engagement here on Sunday with two concerts, and gave some choice selections in a finished style. During the week they are giving promenade concerts twice daily to delighted audiences. The vocalist is Mr. Fred Hudson, a baritone, who receives most hearty applause for his fine rendering of the songs allotted to him in the programme. Mr. Surrie Lindon and his vaudeville entertainers are giving some excellent programmes of songs, dances, and sketches, and meet with great success, and at their evening entertainments in the Opera House they give great delight, as do also the fine Animated Pictures shown by the Spaograph.

SUMMER GARDENS. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Charles Beanland.—The entertainment at this popular place of amusement draws large audiences, who are highly entertained by the capital programmes of the Waterloo Pierrots. This week they are presenting a most amusing burlesque pantomime *Cinderella; or, The Little Glass Slipper*, which is quite to the taste of the audience, who loudly applaud the various performers for their amusing portrayal of the various characters in this laughable production.

BRIGHTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—*Dear Old Charlie* is performed here this week by an excellent company under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Williams; and the farcical comedy, produced by Mr. Cyril Vernon, is very cordially received. Mr. George Lesto[illegible] gives a vivacious and delightful impersonation of Charles Ingleton—dear old Charlie; Miss Marjorie Chard makes a charming and graceful Agnes; the merry Gabriel Peploe and the melancholy Thomas Dumpie have admirable exponents in Mr. C. Douglas Cox and Mr. R. S. Trelawney respectively; Mr. Duncan Young is well suited as Colonel Fishbourne, whose wife is ably represented by Miss Leonora Braham; and admirable support is rendered by Mr. Stanley Arthur as Purkitt and Miss M. E. Ellis as Reeve. The play is preceded by *The Cause*, in which the characters are well sustained by Miss Leonora Braham and Mr. Cyril Vernon.

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. Carpenter's stock company is doing excellent business here this week with *Shall We Forgive Her?* Miss Kathleen Russell submits a charming and convincing impersonation of the heroine, Grace West; Mr. A. H. Hallett, jun., is forcible as Oliver West; Mr. Ronald Adair makes a manly and popular Rev. Paul Elsworth; Mr. Ellis J. Preston is powerfully effective as the villainous Neil Garth, and is ably supported by Miss Amy Venimore as Joanna Lightfoot; and the comedy element is admirably presented by Miss Lucy Murray as Aunt Martha, Miss May Day as Nellie West, and Mr. Charles A. Preece as Reggie Walton. The remaining characters are satisfactorily sustained, and the drama is finely staged and mounted.

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lépard.—There is a capital company here this week. Dutch Daly, the concertina soloist and dialogue artist, is enthusiastically received; Ernie Mayne, "the simple one," contributes very amusing songs and patter; My Fancy is a smart and popular sand dancer; Carl Lynn, "the king of animal mimics," achieves distinct success; Rose and Calvert's comedy business is warmly appreciated; Hyram Travers is very entertaining with his original cockney character creations; Vi Adele is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Clack and Clack are clever lady acrobatic barrel-jumpers; Kathleen Grey, comedienne, is cordially applauded; Monnie Emerald is a dainty vocalist and dancer; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. John Humphries and company appear with great success in the farcette *Ancient Britons;* Charles Vincent, comedian, evokes hearty laughter with his medley of popular songs; Queenie May sings in pleasing style; Gena Manon, comedienne, is well received; the Wakeman Quartet contribute their vocal selection delightfully; Will H. Fox's clever trick pianoforte playing and amusing patter win hearty applause; Tray and Rich are smart patterers; Dan Crawley achieves great success with his comic songs; the Villions are clever and daring in their cycle act; Charlie Jerome sings and dances himself into high favour; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Leslie Faber and company opened here on Monday with *The Manœuvres of Jane*. Mr. Leslie Faber gave an admirable impersonation of Lord Bapchild; Miss Winifred Arthur-Jones made a bright and charming Jane Nangle; Miss Muriel Pope as the scheming Constantia Gage was highly effective; Miss Elizabeth Watson's Mrs. Becchinor and Miss Beatrice Ainley's Pamela Beechinor were well played; and praiseworthy enactments were submitted by Mr. F. G. Thurstans as Mr. Nangle and Mr. Charles Combe as George Langton.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Mr. Leigh Lovel's company is here this week with *In the Soup*. Miss Octavia Kenmore merits warm praise for her admirable impersonation of Judith Gillibrand; Mr. Leigh Lovel is well suited as Horace Gillibrand; Mr. Arthur McCullock's Abernethy Ruppershaw, Miss Katherine Maynard's Mme. Moppert, and Miss Fay Garnet Vayne's Dephine are effectively played; Mr. Norman Clark's M. Moppert is a neat character study; and Mr. Stanley York ably impersonates Paul Hemming.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The animated pictures here prove very attractive, and three daily exhibitions are well attended. The film representing the leading incidents in *Macbeth* merits especial notice. The Gambler conveys a dramatic story; The Shipwreckers is highly sensational; The Organ-grinder's Child is an interesting and exciting picture; and prominent among the humorous ones are Jones and the Lamp-post, and The Irascible Father. Mr. J. R. Dobson contributes songs in good style. Mr. Arthur W. Briggs adds considerably to the effectiveness of the various pictures by his clever and appropriately descriptive pianoforte accompaniments.

BRISTOL. — PALACE. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Paul Cinquevalli heads the programme; his juggling feats are as perfect as ever, and he has an enthusiastic welcome each evening. Fred S. Peake and company score with their dramatic sketch, *The Hypocrite*, the parts being well taken by Mr. Peake, Mr. Edwin Morton, and Miss Dora Davis. Winnie Derson is a pleasing comedienne; Charles Ashdowne, comedian, introduces some smart legmania dancing; the Spanish Goldini Troupe amuse with their carpet-spinning speciality, and also introduce some tumbling, &c.; Harry Anderson, vocal comedian, obtains applause; Dolly and Madge McCalla, juvenile song and dance artists, are successful; Harold Thorley has a good baritone voice, his songs are well selected, and he sings effectively. This week we have two sets of animated pictures, depicted by Vernon's Bioscope, one very effective set of films representing The King and Queen on Board the Royal Yacht, and the other, The Dog Outwits the Kidnapper.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—George M. Marriott and company are successfully presenting their military sketch, *The Flag of France*, the parts being capably taken by Miss Edith Finlay, Miss Ada Dare, Messrs. G. M. Marriott, Frank Seton, T. M. George, and J. H. Boyde. The sketch is founded on Ouida's *Under Two Flags*, and it is well staged. Randolph King is an exceptionally clever quick-change artist, his sudden changes being sufficiently effective to be quite startling; Florrie St. Roy, comedienne, introduces some smart acrobatic dancing; Eugene and Willie amuse as double fiddlers and acrobats; Gene Selby scores as a coon comedian, dancer, and bone soloist; Sidney Brothers are expert trick cyclists; and Johnny Danvers, comedian, obtains considerable applause. The performance concludes with interesting animated pictures.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—There is again a grand series of pictures on show this week. On the Chronomegaphone Miss Victoria Monks with her favourites is the principal attraction, and on the Bioscope some of the latest living pictures are to be seen.

TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, the Corporation; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Sherratt.—Mr. Nat Travers, the popular comedian, and a company of variety artists opened on Monday, and met with a cordial reception. The following are appearing nightly:—Nat Travers, Rosa Davis, Rose Gower, Ashley and Wells, Kitty Lorraine, Arthur Kingston, Harry Harvey, Ivan Coherney, and Rose Lyndon.

BURY (LANCS.). — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Closed. Will open August Bank Holiday.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The animated pictures are still proving a great attraction here. The series this week includes The Old Composer, Wrongly Accused, Nervous Twitching, Chauffeur's Nightmare, and others. The variety turns are Miss Sylvia Bond, an American soprano vocalist, and Mr. G. V. Campbell, a quaint comedian.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings this week we had Mr. Trevor Lowe and Taylor Platt's company in *You Never Can Tell*. The piece was greatly enjoyed and really excellently played. Miss Katherine Stuart delineated Mrs. Clandon admirably; and Miss Gwladys Morris was exceptionally good as Gloria. Miss Clara Earle made a piquant Dolly Clandon; and Mr. Donald Calthorp was quite at home as the youth, Philip Clandon. Mr. F. Cremlin acted consistently as the disagreeable Mr. Crampton; and Mr. Trevor Lowe was an excellent Finch McComus. Mr. George Howard was a capable Bohun; Mr. Leslie Hamer's Valentine was a piece of fine, all-round acting; and in Mr. Chas. Daly we had a delightful William.

CARDIFF. — EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Whit Cunliffe, a comedian of exceptional ability, is here; Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe in *My Burglar* display fine histrionic powers; Franco Piper's banjo playing and juggling are extraordinary; Nell Emerald, a sparkling and sprightly comedienne, appears in song and dance; Mason and Bart, novelty comedy gymnasts, are excellent; Harry Tate's company in *Motoring* causes roars of laughter; and the New York Nippers, in an original dancing act, are very clever. Nellie Martell is a first-class comedienne. The special Bioscope pictures of the C.T.I.E.C. Carnival have been shown with remarkable and striking clearness.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—A clever and startling performance is given here by Alber's Polar Bears; the Three Arleys appear with success in a pot-pourri, with their trick cycling dogs; Zeta Grey and company take exceptionally well in the musical sketch *The Lancashire Lass;* Thornbury is a particularly smart chromographist and artist in sand and smoke. Other delightful turns are done by W. E. Wiltle, American ventriloquist; Violet Nunn, coon artist; and Ruby Parsonage, a sprightly comedienne. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are also to the fore.

CARLISLE.—THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, who top the bill this week, are on a return visit, and their comedy cycle act has lost none of its popularity. Josh Dixon, with some capital songs, is a big favourite; Ada Cerito, a dainty comedienne with good songs well sung, again delights audiences; something quite out of the ordinary in an acrobatic act is introduced by the Calbas, whose performance is distinctly novel; Bernard and Weston, too, have a style quite their own as patter comedians. Some good pictures by the Pepiscope conclude.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. F. W. Bolam and Sydney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—Edison's Pictures still continue to be a popular attraction. Among those attracting special attention may be mentioned the reproduction of the race for the Cumberland Plate, which was specially taken for the patrons of this hall. Other capital films are The Eagle's Nest and A Child's Prayer, both very interesting items. Some capital variety turns are engaged.

CASTLEFORD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Charles Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—This popular house was crowded to excess on Monday to again witness a fresh series of humorous, pathetic, and instructive animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. These pictures are forming the chief attraction during the summer months, and the attendance of such large audiences is truly astonishing. At intervals Madame Lizzie Casey, in illustrated songs, is applauded for her dainty and artistic vocalism.

CHATHAM.—BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Edie Veno tops the bill here. Sandy McNab's antics as *The Mummy* prove highly amusing; Ellis and Watts are successful as dancers; Brayne and Lloyd's absurdity, *The Tree of Truth*, is a much-liked novelty; Mlle. Marjutti gives a pleasing acrobatic scena; and Arthur Kingston, comedian, and Victoria Glenn, a promising singer and dancer, complete the variety turns. Lacey's Erascope has fresh pictures.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. S. Davis; Manager, Mr. E. G. Woodhouse.—The hit of the evening is made by Verno and Voyce in their topical act *The Fly Far Man*. A very entertaining item is *The Red Domino*, contributed by the Misses Beryl Martingale and Molly Maguire. The comedy-sketch *Poor Master* is a triumph for Mrs. Bennett, who appears as Mrs. Flareup; Ethel Dunford's songs are highly appreciated; Terry and Bently's act is freely applauded; and also appearing are Bessie Benson, comedian and dancer, and Frank Weir, comedian. Views by the Edisonograph complete a popular bill.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Harold Montague; Business-Manager, Mr. G. Ivor Sparke.—Mr. Darcy Clayton's company, The Gipsies and their Jester, present a refined and humorous entertainment here. Mr. Will Gane (the Jester) makes the house laugh heartily; with Miss Florence Croft (Carmen) he pleases greatly in the humorous duet, "Molly Malone." Mr. Walter Grigg (Don Carlos) sings "The Vagabond" and "The Bandolero" in grand style, and with Miss Dorothy Francis (Maritana) scores in the duet, "Irish Courtship." This latter lady evokes an enthusiastic encore with her rendering of "In Sweet September." The songs and dances by Miss Inez de Baisson (Valeta) are charmingly rendered; and Mr. Edgar Berte (Rinaldo) makes a decided hit with his monologues. The trio, "The Dear Little Shamrock," by Miss Florence Croft, Mr. Walter Grigg, and Miss Dorothy Francis, is deserving of special mention. In the interval Montague's White Ladies' Orchestra renders some excellent selections.

WESTCLIFFE GARDENS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Graham, Russell, and Bentley.—Miss Emily Foxcroft (contralto) is a great attraction here. Mr. Walter Montagu provides a musical treat in his clever manipulation of various instruments. Humour is supplied by Mr. Bert Graham, Mr. Bernard Russell, and Mr. Will Bentley.

COLCHESTER. — HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—That well-known illusionist Carl Hertz tops the bill this week, and his most versatile show is followed with intense interest from start to finish; Alice Hollander, the Australian contralto, has a flattering reception; L. W. Harris, a light comedian, has an easy style and good delivery; Wright and Elton, comedy artists, work assiduously, and with success; Lillian Farrar goes particularly well in her patriotic song; Zeta Russell is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; and the Pathé novelties on the screen conclude a good entertainment.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—*At the World's Mercy*, a musical comedy, is a great attraction here. The piece is written and presented by Mr. Carr Loates, who has a capable company. Miss Cissie Milford undertakes with marked success the dual rôle of Skittles and Kitty Knott; Alice Lloyd is pleasingly impersonated by Miss Molly Bee; Mr. Carr Loates is responsible for some fine acting as Jabez Barber; Mr. G. D. Knight does well as Morris Goldstein; Mr. Terry Davies effectively takes the part of Frank Manley; "Dot" (Miss Stella Locke) and Charley Smart (Mr. Jess Boxer) are responsible for much fun and humour.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—The Bouncing Dillons, comedy gymnasts, do some astounding tricks here on the horizontal bar; the Venetians' vocal songs and living statuary have a good effect; Maestro and Cretta are novel equilibrists and tumblers; Alec Kendal keeps the audience in roars of laughter by his patter and songs. Other artists engaged are Cromo and Hamilton, in *Artful Aladdin*, and Reid and Power, in a comedy duologue, entitled *The Chambermaid*.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—Green and Wood appear here in a clever comedy knockabout turn; The Six Æolians do a pleasing vocal and dancing act; the Cole de Losse Duo, in a comedy wire act, are smart; Will Johnson is a lively and entertaining comedian; Daras, comedian, dancer, conjurer, and impersonator, is well received; Jock Mills, Scotch comedian, and Daisy Martell, comedienne, contribute capably. The Bioscope pictures conclude.

CROYDON.—HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Jackson Hayes; Managers, Mr. Samuel James and Mr. Newman Maurice.—Miss Rose Moncrieff and Mr. Fred Southern's company is here with *The Curate*. Mr. Ross Challis gives a fine, manly portrayal of the Rev. John Audley; Mr. Harry Gilbey submits a graphic impersonation of Gilbert Westwood; Mr. L. Hocking appears to considerable advantage in the dual rôles of Gregory Verner and Sergeant Snipe; Mr. Fred Southern is very droll as Simon Peter Muggs; Miss May Emery is a charming and interesting Mabel Verner; and Miss Rose Moncrieff is a great favourite, and scores at every point as Dick, the trumpeter. Varieties are supplied by Miss Lillian Violet, a pleasing juvenile comedienne; Mr. E., in comic patter and picture act; the Evalos, in a smart juggling act; Capt. Devereux, with his clever performing dogs; and a series of novel animated pictures. Mr. Newman Maurice is a capital manager, and Mr. Frank Bradsall proves himself an excellent musical-director.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Fred Karno's company is here with the musical extravaganza *Saturday to Monday*. Miss Julia Basset as the Bride gives a capital portrayal; Miss Ada Maskell is clever and vivacious as Belina Dobbs; as Violet Perrin Miss Elsie Molly is successful; Mr. Ainsley Burton as John Willie Jaggs causes roars of laughter; Mr. H. Aston is funny as Alphonse de Gagge; as Mr. Black Mr. W. H. Morgan does well; Mr. Harry Fisher is well up in the part of Mr. Potts; Mr. Victor Smith is also seen to advantage. Masters F. Dance and F. McDonagh are well balanced as John Willie Jaggs and Bartlett Jaggs. Other members of the company work valiantly.

NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C Hersee.—A strong programme this week. Alec Hurley and company in the sketch *The Coster's Friendly Lead* are enthusiastically received; the Cromwells are exceptionally good; Miss Carlotta Levey is an excellent turn. Other attractions are Barney Vox, ventriloquist; Gus Hindell, comedian; Eugene Joly, cornet soloist; Farr and Farland, aristocratic comedians, and Robb Gilmore, corkscrew dancer.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Owner and Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Occupying first place this week are the Ten Genis, risley acrobats, whose novel turn proves a distinct success; at the other end of the bill are the Austral Trio, capital all-round artists, who find ample scope for their abilities in their act, entitled *A Musical Evening;* Dunn and Reano, parody gymnasts, submit a clever act, interspersed with droll byplay; Vernon Harcourt gives impersonations of notable characters in a particularly fine style; the Brothers Harrison, comedians, soon make themselves popular; Tom Bassett is a pleasing actor-vocalist; Happy Attwood, described as the "little lump of fun," causes uproarious merriment; and Vena Valma, in song and dance, gains well-deserved applause. The Bioscope concludes with a laughable set of pictures. On Wednesday Mr. Charles Denley, assistant-manager at the Grand, and Mr. Herbert Taylor, assistant-manager at the Palace, took their annual benefit, and had the pleasure of presenting a most liberal bill of fare to large and enthusiastic audiences.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—*A Master of Millions* is being produced this week, and on Monday evening was well received by two large audiences. The title-rôle is admirably sustained by Mr. Alex. C. Grant, who is part author; as Reginald Carrington, Mr. A. E. Winnington is a distinct success; while he has two able assistants in Jeremiah Moggins, a tutor of the young (Mr. Frank Lester) and Bill Donivan, the smasher (Mr. Harry Moroney). Mr. John L. Schofield acquits himself excellently as Eric Gordon; and the part of his wife is creditably played by Miss Isobel Edbrooke. The lighter element is supplied by Miss Amelia Herries, who is an expert dancer, and Mr. Leo Whamboult, in the humorous rôle of Widow Murphy.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Mr. C. Watson Mills's company are producing an interesting domestic drama, entitled *A Warning to Women*. Mr. Leonard Lawrence admirably impersonates Dr. Marcus Dread on the machinations of whom the play hinges; Miss Lillian Herries as Moira Kennion is deservedly appreciated for a creditable rendering of a difficult part; Mr. Sydney Ernest is amusing as

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Lord Eversleigh, a scion of a noble house; and Miss Douglas Hicks is also deserving of particular mention.

DOUGLAS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Hemming; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—In the interim which always occurs in Douglas during the seasons Mr. T. R. Wood is keeping the Grand Theatre warm by presenting his own show. The audiences have been most satisfactory, the entertainment having secured the appreciation of large and delighted houses. The animated pictures have been excellent in idea and intention; Miss Kate Twist, who has a resonant contralto voice, vocalises ballads pleasantly; and Miss Nellie Hewitt introduces a new musical act, which catches on. This young artist is a clever musician, and should get "there." Mr. Tom Odlin also is a comedian of real humour, his *Son of a Millionaire* sketch being distinctly original. Uno Udono's whistling and mimicry are well worth listening to; Bural, the happy Dutchman, also scored by his concertina playing

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—*Sowing the Wind*, admirably enacted, has been the attraction at this playhouse for the current week. Miss Kitty Cavendish's Rosamund Athelstone was quite a surprise. Playgoers knew she was an accomplished actress, but her pathos rang true. Mr. Arthur Gibbons as Brabazon was quite in the picture. His portraiture was keen and incisive. Mr. Frederick Moyes as Ned Annesley was picturesque and romantic; Mr. Frank Bradley's Lord Petworth was a sketch that Thackeray might have outlined; Mr. Edward Nainby was adequate as Watkin; and Mr. C. W. Standing, Miss Mabel Innes, and Miss Mabel Sealby satisfactorily filled important rôles.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brittain.—The principal feature at the Palace this week is Mr. Arthur Pinero's old playlet *Hester's Mystery*, enacted by Mr. Horace Pollock and a full company. Miss Lola Patey secured success as a Dutch colleen; the Sisters Carina presented a refined and entertaining turn; Mr. John Macauley, a character ballad vocalist, the Three Merrills, and Vernon's Bioscope have also proved attractive.

DERBY CASTLE.—Proprietors, The Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Kelly.—An excellent programme is presented at Derby Castle. The grand ballroom has been packed. The variety turns include the Lukushima Troupe, Miss Ina Lorrimer, Mlle. Ada Gatley, Mr. Charles Rogers, the Velter Bros., and Vernon's Bioscope.

BUXTON'S PIERROT VILLAGE, with new songs and interludes, catches the conscience of the public.

MR. F. G. CONNOR, at the Hippodrome, made on Monday the most successful opening he has experienced in Douglas; and he knows the requirements of Douglas.

OTHER entertainments are Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's Pierrot Troupe on Onchan Head; Mr. Charles Dare at the Empire; two houses nightly at the Empire and on Douglas Head.

DOVER.—PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter.—The star turn is that of the Great McBanns, who give a wonderfully smart exhibition of club manipulation, and are thrice recalled at every performance. Next in merit comes the impersonation of the "Lady in Black" by Russell Wallet, whose excellence of make-up and the all-round cleverness of his show are highly commendable. Mr. and Mrs. Shelley have a bright little duologue in *Miss Summerson's Baby*, and an exciting performance on the slack wire is contributed by Celest; the methods of Archie Pitt, comedian, are exceedingly humorous, and he scores heavily with his "Simple Willie" song and "I don't think." Coon songs are sung pleasingly by Nellie Chandos, who also dances with considerable skill, Ida Kathrena giving a pretty dance in the guise of an automatic doll, and being heartily applauded.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The annual Hippodrome season started here on Monday on the two-houses-a-night system. It is some time since R. G. Knowles has appeared in this city, and his songs and patter were most heartily enjoyed. De Gracia's Royal Assam elephants were indeed a treat, and one of the best and cleverest performances we have seen here; Tiller's Twelve Palace Girls did some clever dancing and singing, for which they were heartily applauded; Francis O'Flynn gave a capital display on the banjo; Roze and Challoner displayed clever comedy in their sketch *The Porter and the Singer*; the Les Montaldos were most entertaining in their equilibristic and slack wire performance, introducing highly-trained parrots and cockatoos; Leo and Roland gave a very novel and hand balancing performance; Miss Laura Vere appeared with success as a vocalist, and the Royal pictures by Louie were interesting and most enjoyable.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr W S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—This place of amusement has an excellent display of pictures here this week, including the great wrestling match Hackenschmidt *v.* Madrali, An Arabian Legend, Kempton Park Races, The Land of Nod, Getting Rid of Ma-in-Law, The Roll of Lino, Our Cousins from Abroad, A Cold and Frosty Morning, A Free Pass to the Theatre, Hostage, &c.; and the turns presented by Will and Roze, in a pot-pourri act, *Le Café Magique*; the Arnolds, in a cabinet illusion act; and Bob Pearson, humorist and guide, are of a high order. Full houses are the rule.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Jack Lorimer, a clever versatile Scotch comedian, tops the bill, and scores a great success; Frank Hartley, boy juggler, gives a clever performance, and Adey Spencer, "the girl from the hat shop," is an attractive turn; Hilda Jacobsen, musical comedy artist, is an immense favourite and loudly applauded, and J. W. Rickaby is an amusing comedian; Frank Couch, patter comedian, scores, and Stella Stahl, comedienne and dancer, makes a decided hit; Kisbey, "the call boy," is, as usual, entertaining, and the Empire pictures are much enjoyed. The performance concludes with the Empire tournament.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr Charles; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Daly and O'Brien, who head the bill here this week, are a clever pair and high in public favour; whilst Alf Gibson, quaint comedian, also proves very popular. Leo Tell causes a good deal of amusement with his mimetic imitations, and the Countees, harmonising duettists, create a favourable impression; the Three Moxons score well as acrobatic performers, and the Nicholsons are an up-to-date and smart comedy duo; in a clever shooting act on the slack wire Langstow is deservedly applauded, and Maude Vera sings and dances in capital style; as a comedian Will Owens is successful, and the latest events are portrayed on the Bioscope.

PAVILION (KINGSTOWN).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's Vaudeville Entertainers are the attraction here this week, and give a dainty and refined entertainment. Miss Lilian Barnes, a pleasing contralto vocalist, is well received; Harry Herbert, comedian, keeps the audience in good humour; Elfie Vincent, comedienne and dancer, provides a capital turn; and other artists deserving of mention are Gerald French (tenor), R. H. Stephens (entertainer), Aline Sudbury (soprano), Maynard Dakin (comedian), and Jack Macdermott (humorist).

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C A. James.—A capital programme includes the Dellars, comedy duettists; Alice Oxford, descriptive vocalist; Alf Blydon, comedian and champion dancer; Jim Deller, vocalist and dancer; Charles Coll, light comedian, and the cinematograph.

EASTBOURNE.—NEW PIER THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Miss Annie Hughes and a well-selected company are appearing in *The Mollusc*. Miss Annie Hughes as Mrs. Baxter is a perfect embodiment of the indolent and selfish "mollusc"; Miss Lilias Waldegrave, abundantly endowed with Nature's charms, is a sweet, sympathetic, and womanly Miss Roberts; Mr. Athol Stewart, delightfully natural and frank, is perfectly successful as Tom Kemp; and Mr. Cecil Rose, easy and refined, does ably as Mr. Baxter.

THE Russian giant Machnow continues his promenades along the pier, and during each evening Mr. Albany Ward gives an exhibition of his fine animated pictures.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—On Monday and Tuesday evenings the children attending the Roman Catholic schools gave a very creditable performance of the juvenile operetta *Princess Ju-Ju*. The children were trained with splendid results by Miss Kirk and Miss Trist, and Mr W. Webb, of the Devonshire Hotel, was again a prominent and substantial help, as is usually the case, in all good causes.

THE ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the top of the bill are Mr. Arthur Rigby and company, who are appearing in a finely-staged little musical comedy, *The Isle of Ooma*. Mr. Charles Paton scores well in the song "The march of the married men"; Mr. Mark Leslie is a successful coon artist; the Three Sisters Duquesne have a pleasing and novel singing, dancing, and skipping act; Mr. Kid Johnson and Miss Maisie Pelham are a versatile couple in *The Golf Match*; Mr. Sid Bandon sings his songs with feeling; Daley and Collins patter and amuse the audiences, and new pictures are added.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. William Mollison's revival of *Rob Roy*, which started a short season under favourable auspices on Monday evening, comes opportunely for summer visitors, and, in the hands of the strong company engaged, the production should enjoy a new lease of prosperity. Mr. Ben Davies, in the rôle of Francis Osbaldistone, was received with much warmth and cordiality, his artistic singing of the many songs introduced into his scenes being greatly enjoyed. Every song was loudly encored—a distinction shared by Miss Kitty Brownless for her delightful rendering of the vocal numbers allotted to the part of Diana Vernon; Mr. William Calvert made a stalwart and effective Rob Roy, and Helen Macgregor was very vigorously interpreted by Miss Evelyn McNay; while a characteristically dramatic Rashleigh was found in Mr. Whitford Kane; the Dugal "Cratur" of Mr. R. B. Drysdale, the Major Galbraith of Mr. Tom Walker, and the Andrew Fairservice of Mr. Wm. A. Mackersy were realistic impersonations; Mr Henry Deas and Mr. Leslie Newton did well as Captain Thornton and Mr. Owen; and Miss Ethel Armit gave a very interesting and successful study of the smaller part of Mattie. The crowning glory of the performance was Mr. Mollison's masterly presentment of Bailie Nicol Jarvie, a most excellent and lifelike picture of the famous old worthy of the Sautmarket.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—The Zancigs are attracting crowded audiences here this week. Their entertainment remains as mystifying and wonderful as ever, and the rapidity with which Mrs. Zancig describes articles handled by her husband evokes repeated applause. Signor and Mme. Borelli give their clever musical act, containing so much that is musically and mimetically attractive; the Sisters Anderson dance with exceeding dash, their skipping-rope dance being marked by especially novel features; the Wille Brothers, in their daring acrobatic and balancing feats, compel the enthusiastic plaudits of their audiences, and Miss Aida Martin approves herself an admirable comedienne and dancer; Barton and Ashley are very amusing in a new humorous sketch entitled *Adam the Second*, while Little Zola rouses loud laughter by his really droll sketches; Miss Lena Verdi deserves more than a passing word of praise for her clever singing and dancing; Miss Rhoda Paul's male impersonations are distinctly good, and views shown by the Bioscope conclude a capital programme.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Joe Peterman's company in *The Pawnbroker* occupies the leading position on the bill submitted here this week; Clark and Hayden in musical comedy duologue provide a delightful turn; Sim Maree is a clever and original contortionist; Dan Whitley makes a decided hit; Estrella dances uncommonly well; Beattie Bloom, comedienne, Wisper, comedy juggler, Madge Allan, comedienne, and the King's Pictures complete a good bill.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas France.—Mr. Junius Booth's excellent company is presenting *Monte Cristo* here. Mr. Booth's impersonation of Dantès is one of the finest pieces of work ever presented to Gateshead audiences; Miss Conyers Radcliffe is also entitled to much praise for her interpretation of Mercedes; Mr. Millar Anderson presents a notable Noirtier; and Mr. Ed. Coates is seen to advantage as Mondego. The part of Danglars is treated with care by Mr. A. Bowerman; Mr. C. W. Crowe is well suited with Villefort; and Albert de Morcerf is realistically portrayed by Mr. Kendrew Milson; Miss Violet Carter makes a delightful Sophie Danglars.

GLASGOW. — METROPOLES, LTD. — Managing Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—*Greed of Gold* is being presented here this week by Mr. T. Morton-Powell's company. As the unscrupulous rogue (Harry Hood) Mr. Murray Yorke succeeds in obtaining the execrations of the audience; Mr. James Jarrett plays with vigour as Tom Wolstead; Mr. Alf. Stretton acts in good style as Arthur Erroll; Mr. Sydney Bryant as Cull Sing keeps the house in a ripple of merriment; Miss Elma C. Turner as Dora gains much approbation; Miss Annie Barclay as Mrs. Maxwell contributes an admirably conceived impersonation; Miss S. Bryant as Patty Marfield is a pleasing dairymaid; Mr. Victor C. Rolfe is well placed as Mr. Brightstone; and the rôle of Cecil is sweetly played by Miss May Ediss. As the rollicking Irishman, Con Creamer, Mr. Denis Campbell fulfils all requirements. Between the acts the phonograph gives selections, and a fine series of animated pictures concludes the performance.

EMPIRE. — District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Walter Passmore is again here with *The Constable and the Pictures*, in which he is now assisted by Miss Mary Fraser and Mr. Charles Childerstone. Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery create much fun with their *Would-be Actors* skit; Bert Weston is a very smart light comedian, with lots of clever patter; Will English's coon songs and dances take extremely well; Burnetti gives an excellent musical turn with imitations of well-known performers; King's College Boys contribute several well-harmonised choruses, and illustrated songs are given by John Donald; Max York introduces his cleverly-trained fox terriers; Leonie Dixon is a smart serio and neat dancer. The Bioscope concludes a good programme.

Zoo-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Geo. B. Reno and company cause roars of laughter with their amusing turn, American Nonsense; the Three Dreadnoughts give a marvellous shooting act, with many new and ingenious feats; the Cattaneo Troupe display great agility in an acrobatic act; Hampton and Bauman in old and new negro melodies provide a very enjoyable turn; Nat Watkins is a smart eccentric comedian, with a good style; Alice Lorette and her statue dog again prove a popular item; Jenny Sneddon contributes two illustrated songs; Ernesto is very clever as a juggler and musical equilibrist; Elton and Elma are most amusing in their triple-bar display; and several clever films are shown on the Bioscope.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—The negro sketch, *The Sunny South*, with its clever songs, dancers, and comedy business, heads a good bill; the Denwartz Troupe of acrobats give a wonderful display of agility and strength, the feats of the ladies being simply marvellous; the Waldrons cause much fun with their sketch, *The Silly Burglar*; the *Maritana* Operatic company give selections from that opera on the earlier evenings of the week, and later from *The Bohemian Girl*; Wright and Lawson are a smart couple of dancers, knockabouts, and contortionists, with lots of new business; Walter Barrett is a baritone vocalist of special merit; Edna Latonne sings several songs with taking choruses; Marie Vere is a pleasing soprano; and Stuart and Evans are clever comedians and patterers.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—A good company this week includes Herbert Rule, a smart and original comedian; A. J. Gamble, the favourite Scotch comedian and eccentric dancer; the Falcons in their neat and clever acrobatic turn; Rae and Calden, the transatlantic comedy duo; and Ferguson and Mack, comedians and patterers; Dolly Harmer's character songs take well, and the catchy chorus songs of Minnie D'Aubyn prove popular; Marie Stroud is a clever comedienne; an enjoyable sketch is provided in *A Slippery Day*, an original oddity registered and copyrighted by Mr. Rich. Waldon; Mr. Rolands Martin (the shoemaker) and Mr. Jas. Chippendale (the lawyer) are very good as the quarrelsome neighbours, who are continually playing jokes on one another, and lots of knockabout fun is provided by a trick staircase. The Bioscope concludes.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The Five Mowatts appear here this week with great success, their lightning dexterity with the Indian clubs astonishing all beholders; Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's spectacle, *St. George and the Dragon*, proves a highly entertaining production; and an amusing sketch of cross purposes is *When the Clock Went Wrong*, performed by Matthews and Cowper; Peggy Lennie and Walter Hast display versatility in their operatic fantasy, *The Sea Nymph*; the instrumental act of Les Frasettis is a good item on the programme; another pleasing feature being the illustrated chorus songs of Anthony Hope; Hall and Earle, the Chinaman and the tramp, cleverly combine comedy and acrobatic skill; Florence Yayman's coon caricatures are highly diverting; a smart pair of comedians are seen in Hans and Lux, and coloured films are shown on the American Bioscope.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The Bioscope, the principal item here, shows amusing and interesting pictures. The variety programme is sustained by the Three Royal Temples, popular operatic vocalists; Bros. Lunelle, vocalists and dancers; Miss Evie Edwards, comedienne; Wallie Gilbert, descriptive vocalist; and Penley and English, sprightly and amusing comedy artists in duologues of a most diverting pattern.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Miss May Stebbing, a pleasing comedienne, takes well here; Alf. Handly is really smart as a dancer; in a comedy turn Melvin and Max succeed as acrobatic, buck, &c., dancers; and Cissie Wallace is refined and finished as a singer and dancer.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Tony Iveson as the ragman at the piano gives a very entertaining turn; the Vyponds, society entertainers, go well; Pringle and Grey are good in *Kitty's Night Out*; Yeager and Da-Costa, in American coonisms, are a lively pair; Lily Hales is an excellent dancer; the Calcotta introduce a neat musical scena, *Rags and Tatters*; Smith and Johnson, coloured artists, are successful; and Frank Hardie and company play *For the Honour of the Regiment*. The Palacescope concludes.

GRAVESEND.—GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—At this hall during this week Rose Cabani, refined comedienne and dancer, has done well; Harry Kent, a comedian of the light order, has scored nightly; the Sisters Reno, eccentric and acrobatic dancers, have proved themselves a good turn; the Three Dares, instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers, are highly amusing; Bert Williams is a clever ventriloquist; Royston and Royce, vocalists and dancers, have received much applause; and Larola, the clever man with funny ways, has caused endless laughter.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's company in *The Lion and the Mouse* is occupying the boards here. Miss Christine Silver's charming personality, coupled with intense acting, as Shirley Rossmore makes her a big favourite with the audience; Mr. Leslie Carter gives a masterful rendering of John Ryder; Mr. Martyn Roland displays marked ability as Jefferson Ryder; Mr. Dan Dyer gives a clever character sketch of Dorkins; Mr. A. W. Baskcomb is excellent as the Hon. Fitzroy-Bagley; Mrs. Rossmore has a clever exponent in Miss Violet Greville; Miss Margaret Murray as Mrs. Ryder hits off the grand dame perfectly; Miss Florence Read is a winsome Kate Roberts; Mr. Douglas West a dignified Alfred Stott; and Mr. John Wheatman a good Whitmore Roberts, M.P. Mr. Herbert Greville is general-manager for Mr. Walter Maxwell.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—An excellent programme is being presented here this week. Mr. Leicester Cooke gives a clever equestrian turn; the St. Johns are very smart comedian-musicians; Rex Fox presents a novel ventriloquial act; the Ettenas give a clever performance on the rolling sphere; Haley's Juveniles are a turn of exceptional merit; Addison introduces three cleverly-trained dogs; Ada Webb and Water Nymphs continue their fine aquatic display; and Doodles is funnier than ever, and at every appearance is greeted with laughter and applause.

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Miss Veronica Brady and company are presenting a smart Dutch scena, entitled *Miss Gretchen*. Mr. Lewis Wigley's singing and dancing are much applauded; Pulo is a clever juggler; Miss Maggie Strachan's songs at the piano are smart; Mr. Carl Osmond, the tramp cartoonist, is excellent; Mr. Frank Lawton, of *The Belle of New York* fame, delights everyone with his whistling and dancing; Mr. Charles Ulrick is a clever barrel jumper; and excellent pictures are being shown on the Britanniscope. Mme. Angless's band performs some fine selections.

WELLINGTON PIER PAVILION.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation.—The Orchids (Mr. Fred Rome, Miss Haidee Hamilton, Mr. Dalton Murray, Miss Ada Wheeler, Miss Laura Caffyn, and Mr. Wilfred Stracey) are presenting a very refined and artistic programme here.

CHAPPELL'S PROMENADE CONCERTS. — Proprietress, Mrs. S. Lawton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—The new turns here this week are Miss Blanche Marion, a very pleasing comedienne; Miss Ray Randall, comedienne; and Ryde and Beeman, exceptionally clever comedian-acrobats.

MINSTREL ARENA.—The Black Diamond Minstrels are presenting a new programme, and are still very popular.

GREENOCK.—EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; General-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The Prince Edward Animated Pictures are still proving attractive here. The films shown include The Fight in the Eagle's Nest, Angels, Funny People, Rival Cyclists, The Wonderful Overcoat, and Storm and Sunshine.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company is presenting two of his popular dramas. The visit commenced with the performance of *The Price of Sin*, and a capital representation was given. Miss Violet Carlyle takes a prominent part as Nancy Crawford, and her charming acting wins complete approval; Mr. Graham Woods is excellent as Lieut. Ray; Mr. Stephen E. Scanlan suitably represents the schemer, Frank Foster; Mr. Russell Bogue accomplishes sterling work in the pathetic part of the veteran, Jake Foster; Mr. William Heilbronn is quite equal to the requirements of the part of Major Crawford; Miss Gwynne Warren gives a spirited impersonation of Kate Creleyn; and others taking important parts are Mr. Tom Roydan as Jack the Welsher, Mr. Val Gully as the Rev. James Small, Mr. Francis Serle as Jim Trotter, and Miss Cissie Podmore as Charlotte King. The other play presented during the week is *When the Lights are Low*.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—A dramatic story of Canadian life is told in the sketch *Under the Maple Leaf*, which is well acted and smartly staged by John Henderson and company; the Columbia Trio are popular comedians with original and amusing business; Beau and Belle are a couple of vocalists whose voices blend excellently; the Sprees introduce good songs, dancing, and patter in their scena *Twickenham Ferry*; Abalo and Hurst appear in a very laughable comedy speciality; Princess Pauline is a charming comedienne who is scoring a distinct success; and Allsopp and Beckwith provide an amusing turn.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company is here this week with *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. L. Darra makes a good impression as the Rev. Tom Godley; Enoch Jaggins is well played by Mr. P. Beckett; as Ben Jaggins Mr. C. Ashwell is successful; Mr. Garrod takes the part of Phil Drive very acceptably; Miss E. Edoni is good as the excitable Gretchen; Miss Violet Hammersley is a success in the part of Fern Godley; and Miss Madge Gillard shows ability as Myrtle.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The Pasquali Bros. are creating a sensation at the Palace this week with their acrobatic entertainment; Annie Lang is a good dancer; Professor Norton gives a smart conjuring turn; Harwood's Juveniles are clever in a *Children's Christmas Eve*; Natalia and Diana are graceful lady gymnasts; the Violas gain unstinted applause for their second-sight exposition; the Bartholomew Girls sing very acceptably; Robins and Collier create roars of laughter in an acrobatic display with comedy of a high order; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux conclude.

HAMILTON.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—The Warsaw Brothers are deservedly popular here; Silbon's Circus introduces some cleverly trained cats and dogs, and a pony; W. G. Weber, bass vocalist, is warmly applauded for his rendering of well-known songs; the Whittakers do a smart comedy act, *Dick Whittington*; May de Rowse sings and dances prettily; Chummie La Mara takes the fancy of her audience; Mallia and Bart are smart in a acrobatic sketch entitled *The Baggage Smashers*; Farrell and Dunn, patter comedians, and the Bioscope conclude the entertainment.

HANLEY. — GRAND. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatre and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—A fine programme is again being put on here by the management, and business continues first-class. Fred Lincoln is a clever comedian with catchy songs; the Sisters Wingrove appear with success; Cull Pitt is good; *The House of Tinn* is cleverly put on and well played; the Elvio Trio are quite artistic in their original act; Ross and Grayson win loud applause; Joe Boganny's troupe of lunatic bakers cause roars of laughter; Selma Broatz, lady juggler, is heartily recalled; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux shows an interesting and instructive picture depicting the training of French police-dogs.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Kennedy and Moore.—Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—Another superb collection of up-to-date films is shown this week. They are as steady as a rock and very clear. The chief are Stop those Barrels! which is a screamer, The Black Princess, Tormented by Ma-in-Law, Freddy's Magnet, Woodland Tragedy, Walter the Postman, and Day of Robbery. Miss Alice Verti sings some fine songs cleverly.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—The theatre opened on Monday after cleaning and renovating, and looked very smart. A large audience was present to see Mr. Haldane Crichton's company in the ever-popular play *The Dandy Fifth*. Miss Pauline Hague repeated her well-known impersonation of Kate Lorimer, and won hearty plaudits for her sweet singing; Miss Isa Bowman was good as the girl Polly, and Miss Maud Nichols amusing as Mrs. Von Blitzen; Mr. Will Smith was the Colonel, and Mr. Frank Barclay was well placed as Dick Darville, Mr. George Beverley being excellent as Sergt.-Major Milligan and Mr. Jack Crichton appearing to advantage as Trooper Brown. For the latter half of the week the same company played *The Dancing Girl of Spain*, followed by *Office Hours*.

THE KURSAAL.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—During the serious illness of Mr. Julian Clifford, Herr Max Heymann, of the Bath Orchestra, has been engaged. For this week Miss Violet Elliott (contralto) is the vocalist, and Mr. Ernest Hastings, the entertainer, is proving very popular. Mrs. Max Heymann was announced as the solo pianist for the Wednesday symphony concert, and for a special matinée to-day Miss Margaret Cooper will give songs at the piano.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg.—Another week of pictures is being fully appreciated by well-filled houses, considerable interest being shown in the films depicting Romeo and Juliet, Across the Atlantic, The Counterfeiters, and The Little Ship Boy. Amusement is supplied by Tommy in Society, Depilatory Powders, The Chauffeur's Dream, and The Super's Début.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—This attractive house was re-opened on Monday by Mr. Lewis Waller's principal company, on a week's visit, in the romantic comedy, *Robin Hood*. The company is under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross and stage-managed by Mr. C. Bruce Winston. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards, in the name rôle, was forceful and picturesque, and finely showed the romantic personality of the outlaw in the third act; Miss Lilian Stennis was quite the lady of quality as the Lady Marion de Vaux, and showed an excellent conception of the character, and quite won the sympathies of her audience. Fine support was afforded by Mr. Laurance Tessier, a manly and virile Will Scarlet; Mr. Spencer Lloyd as Alan A'Dale, whose songs were finely rendered; Mr. Clive Ross as John Little, whose sturdy physical proportions made him a formidable opponent at quarterstaff; and Mr. C. Bruce Winston, who was a humorous Friar Tuck. Miss Laurie Flockton was piquant and winsome as Adela, maid to Lady Marion; Miss Irene Malvesyn made an austere and stately Queen-Dowager; Mr J. N. Briant was impressive as King Richard; Mr. H. Elliott Ball presented a clever characterisation as Prince John; Mr. Richard Fielding as Hugo de Longespee, the evil genius of the piece, gave a consistent impersonation of the rôle; and Mr. Herbert Gray was an imposing personage as Fitz Alwynne.

ROYAL CONCERT HALL.—The Royal Italian Circus, of which Mr. Edwin Gilley is general manager, concludes its three weeks' visit here to-day. It has throughout that time provided an excellent entertainment by its exceedingly well-trained animals, and Directeur B. Volpi has had every evidence of appreciation from his audiences.

HIPPODROME.—Closed for renovation.

PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Payne's Bio-Photoscope, with some up-to-date pictures, are well to the front. Some of the most effective scenes are Romeo and Juliet, Bobby's Fire-engine, and The Pony Express. Local talent is secured by the appearance of Mme. Amy Atkins, a soprano vocalist; Mr. Drew Mackintosh and Miss Annie Stalman are associated in the pleasing duologue *The King's Messenger*. This incident, which occurs on the Russian frontier, is remarkably well acted. An admirable performance is given by Doroswami, a skilful violinist; Mlle. Flora Lumiere submits a pleasing exhibition of electrical dancing; the musical interlude, *Who'll Shut the Door?* is given by Miss Blanche Bayley, Mr. J. D. Hunter, and Mr Charles Hawker; Mr. Charles Diamond and Miss Beatrice introduce some lovely duets on the harp and saxophone.

BEACH CONCERT PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Blackmore.—The Wallis-Arthur Syndicate Co. here give every satisfaction to its numerous audiences by its enjoyable entertainment. Mr. Blackmore scores in Hastings because he gives to the public a clean, clever show.

PUBLIC HALL.—The London Animated Picture Co. continue its exhibition of animated pictures, which are of a varied and pleasing character; the films are steady and bright, and the pictures remarkably clear.

ST. LEONARD'S PIER.—The Kimonos, a Japanese costume concert company, are performing here with success. The various songs and choruses are rendered in excellent style. Special credit is due to Mr. Alan Thorpe for his well-rendered tenor songs; also Mr. Alban Booth, for his clever solos on the zither banjo; magical problems are expounded by Yettmah, the Japanese prestidigitateur, assisted by Miss Sasa San.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The attractions here during the week are Miss Agnes Spadoni with her trio of beautifully-trained ponies; Ford Williams, bass vocalist; Athalan, a clever juggler; Walton and Lester, comedians; Miss Marie Jones, ably supported, in her quick-change sketch *How to Win a Bet*; Fred Land, an effervescent comedian of ability; the Onalisw Trio of acrobats in their unique specialities with the slack wire; and amusing films on the Bioscope.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. A. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—The happy idea of a light entertainment which Mr. Morton has hit upon for the summer season has evidently met the taste of his patrons; the sketch, the pictures, and the songs have been the means of attracting many who have no care for more substantial amusement at this season of the year.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, MORTON'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Morton; General Manager, Mr.

About six weeks ago I was suffering with

PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE,

brought on probably by painting my face for my eccentric business. I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

VANISHED LIKE MAGIC,

and the scurf is entirely gone. I cannot tell you how thankful I am at having taken "Clarke's Blood Mixture," and I shall recommend it to everybody, as I think it only right that such a remedy should be known.—(Signed), JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnny," Llandudno's Popular Comedian, Thorndale, Llandudno, Feb. 24, 1908.

MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnnie," Llandudno's Popular Comedian (from a photo.).

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE,

the World-famed Blood Purifier, is an invaluable Remedy for all Skin and Blood Diseases, such as Eczema, Scrofula, Scurvy, Bad Legs, Ulcers, Abscesses, Boils, Pimples, Sores and Eruptions of all kinds, Glandular Swellings, Blood Poison, Rheumatism, Gout, &c. It has over Forty Years' reputation, and thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it.

2/9 per Bottle, and in Cases containing Six Times the quantity, 11/-. Of all Chemists and Stores, or post-free on receipt of price direct from the

Proprietors: THE LINCOLN AND MIDLAND COUNTIES DRUG CO., LINCOLN.

Geo. Morton.—A vast amount of water has run through the bridges since *Man to Man* was first introduced to a Hull audience by Mr. Bounce. On this occasion, however, Messrs. Ed. Lloyd and Frank Adair's company are responsible for the show. Mr. F. R. Robertson is well cast as Geo. Gordon, whilst the Ethel Maythorne of Miss Louie Adair is a very presentable performance. The comic relief is efficiently handled by Mr. Herbert Williams, who cast as Samuel Plumtree produces any amount of merriment. Mr. Frank Adair is seen to highly-satisfactory effect as Richard Ellerton. There is apparently money in *Man to Man* for many years to come.

GRAND THEATRE.—Closed for redecoration, &c.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Kennedy's Komiks are still amusing, the following artists appearing this week:—Little Hatch, comedian; the Gelders, illusionists; Dolly Vince, vocalist; the Incemore's marionettes; West and West, duettists; Ivy Dene, dancer; Eric Incemore, comedian; Frank Lyndon, musician; and a series of pictures.

IPSWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. B. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Head.—The bill here this week includes Miss Clarice Sefton, a graceful dancer and singer; Fraser and French, with marvellous powers in clog-dancing; and Florence Esdale, soprano vocalist. Mlle. Paula has a very clever animal show, in which ponies, dogs, and baboons figure; the Sisters Brooke are spirited dancers; Tom Edwards is an excellent ventriloquist, and Alfred How mimics musical instruments, animals, and birds in quite a realistic manner; Dick Thomas and Lincoln Taylor have a quick-change scena entitled *Fun on the Midland*.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—The above theatre was closed last week for redecoration. This week Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company is here in *The Way of the World*. Mr. J. P. McBride is an excellent Cecil Montague; Mr. H. Skardon plays with force and skill the part of Captain Fred Slade; Mr. Clarence Temple shows himself a talented actor in the part of Matthew Malyon; and Mr. Hammond causes much amusement as Horatio Bluff. Miss N. Delacy does justice to the part of Kate Montague; Miss Marie Fontaine does well as Polly Bell; and Miss Sidney Crowe gives a very powerful rendering of the part of the unscrupulous Adela. The comedy is in the capable hands of Mr. D'Arcy Kelway as Joe Sparrow.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris.—Amy Flanagan is a capital male impersonator; Morimura, described as a Japanese magician, performs a number of bewildering mechanical conjuring tricks; A. C. Spry is distinctly out of the common run of quaint comedians; Jenny Alexander is a promising child entertainer, and her imitations of Vesta Tilley and Harry Lauder were particularly good; Charles Leighton is an amusing tramp pianist; whilst Harry Brown, the American coloured comedian and eccentric dancer, is the chief success of the entertainment, which is brought to a close by Spry and Monti with an amusing sketch.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Messrs. Carson and Kendall are to be congratulated on the talent they have secured for this week. Large audiences are the rule, and they are delighted with the fare provided. Mr. Hugh Brady's sketch combination met with great success on Monday; Mr. Algy Spalding was amusing and vigorous; Miss Polly Denville acted with ease and grace; Mr. Dobson Clyde was thoroughly efficient in his part; and Mr. Freddie Bentley lent capital support. The Gascoignes gave a first-class entertainment; Will Willis, comedian, is amusing; and Frank Street's yarns are much appreciated; Mons. De Lil succeeds in perplexing the audience; and Hulbert is a capable ventriloquist. New pictures are projected on the screen by the cinematograph.

LANCASTER. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Francini Olloms and Page are at the head of the bill this week, being nightly recalled for a clever performance. Mons. Salmon, trick cyclist, is paying a return visit, as also are the Sisters Silcott, vocalists and dancers. The Belmoir Sisters dance well; Frank Lynn, comedian, has some good patter; and Harry Cotton sings capital songs. As an operatic vocalist Mollie Wolstenhulme is decidedly good. The Hippograph is still acceptable.

LEEDS.—THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—District-Manager, Mr Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—The Ten Loonies in *Dotty* are causing roars of laughter, their diverting sketch being well received; Marie Kendall is as popular as ever; Clown Zertho's dogs give a fine exhibition of animal intelligence; a clever dancing turn is given by Nipper Lupino Lane; Alice Maydue's songs are well appreciated; and other good turns are provided by Foreman and Fannan, Steve McCarthy, Howard and St. Clair, and Fred Earle. A special feature this week are Biograph pictures of the Royal visit.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush—Everhart, the timber scientist, gives a unique turn and one that is appreciated; Lisbon and Barker, Geo. Phillips, Mr. and Mrs. Wordley, Hulse, Chas. Wilson, and Probyn and Bates also provide cause for mirth, and Les Rubens give a turn that is out of the ordinary and one that hits the popular bull's-eye.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Harry Roxbury, "Prince of Monte Carlo," is delighting the audiences at the above house this week; the Three Comedy Chanters render their songs in a delightful way; Lieut. Travis gives a turn that finds an appreciative audience, and Kathleen Cogan, the Tafonas, Ted Cowan, Gicardo, Della Sisters are also well received. Terris and May give a diverting turn, and other good turns are provided by the Three Cunards and Ruby Bijou.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sam Jones.—Doody and Wright, Charles Penrose, Prince Milner Trio, Clifton and Gibson, and the Royal Welsh Vaudeville company provide the amusement and entertainment at this house this week, and crowded houses are testifying to their ability and mirth-provoking qualities.

LEICESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The attraction is provided this week by a visit of Mr. Harry Tilbury's company in the romantic comedy-drama *The Blind Foundling*. Mr. George Fry makes an excellent impression as Gerald Dalton, and Mr. Horatio Sinclair plays well as Mark Redman; Miss Belle Tilbury is seen to considerable advantage as Isabel; Mr Harry Tilbury is very funny as Dick Dobbins, and sings a song in commendable style; Miss Arline T. George is vivacious and smart as Winnie Dobbins; Little Phyllis deserves special praise as Fairy, the blind foundling; and Miss Annie Newall as Viola Waterford; Mr. Bernard Webb as Jasper Waterford, and Mr. Fred Owen as Parson Ray are others who should be signed out for portrayals of merit. This place of entertainment will close this (Saturday) evening until August Bank Holiday for alterations and redecorations.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Bertie Rayland.—The lead in a thoroughly good and versatile bill is taken here this week by canny Neil Kenyon, who is on a first visit. His Scottish character studies and stories are delightfully given, and the ovation accorded him from all parts of the house is well deserved. The Leslie Bros., eccentric musicians, bottom the bill, and are scoring their usual success with their mirth-provoking and clever instrumentalism; Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford are again presenting their really funny and cleverly played comedy incident *Getting Even*, which is splendidly received; the Huxter Brothers display marvellous agility and smartness as acrobats and tumblers, being great favourites; Fred Elton, in his speciality scena at the piano, uses a good voice to considerable advantage in a turn of special merit; Pip Powell and Katie Vesey are very good in their refined and amusing dialogue *A Perfect Woman*, the dancing of Miss Vesey calling for high praise; Lilian Lowe is aptly described as a charming vocalist; Lozelle does some clever feats as a gymnast; the Seven Wulfrunas are entertaining in their comic acrobatic speciality, *Fun in a Café*; and the Bioscope shows a beautiful dramatic subject in ten tableaux entitled The Pardon.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The chief attraction this week is supplied by Carlotta de Yonson and her popular sketch company in the scenic detective dramette *The Case of Coiners*, which is meeting with a cordial reception. Mr C. Douglas Carlile (the author) is seen to conspicuous advantage as Sexton Blake; Carlotta de Yonson displays her well-known ability as Annette Conre; Mr. Chas. A. Carlile does full justice to the part of Jim Railton, and Master Le Gilbert is capital as Tinker. The sketch is especially well staged. Chester and Lee's electric theatre des fantoches provides a thoroughly entertaining turn; Fred Pearce and Kitty Ward are good comedy artists, their burlesque boxing evoking screams of hilarity; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is a special feature with beautifully-shown pictures, including The Black Princess, Three Ladies and a Bull, and J. A. Jarvis's Swim Through London. Other entertaining turns are given by the Sisters Thorne, comediennes and dancers; the Brothers Tarrant, comedians and dancers, and Rene Leyton, vocalist.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The usual full programme of moving pictures and vaudeville is given here this week, the principal films, thrown with their usual clearness, being From Earth to Moon, Magic of Music, The Angel of the Village, For Baby's Sake, The Phlegmatic Gentleman, &c., which are interluded with enjoyable turns by Ada Scott, contralto vocalist; Dean and Wilton, comedy acrobats; and Master William Edwards, the winner of the singing competition, in illustrated song. The various singing competitions held here have proved so successful that the fourth in succession is taking place this week

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. Felix Pitt and company are this week presenting *Across the Continent*. Mr. Pitt is again seen to advantage in the rôle of Mr. Goodwin; Mr. Charles Halling acts with vigour in the rôle of Joe Ferris; Mr. Edward Warden gives an excellent interpretation of John Adderley; Miss Muriel Dean acts excellently as Louise; Miss May Warden is well placed as Clara; and the comedy is well looked after by Mr Hyland O'Shea and Miss Edie Martin in their respective rôles of Knuckle Bone Johnny and Susan. The theatre will now be closed for the summer vacation until further notice.

LIVERPOOL. — ROTUNDA THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn has been here this week with his company, presenting *Send Him Victorious* and *The Woman Who Was Dead*, both of which plays paid a first visit to this city. In the former, which met with every acceptance, a manly and dignified Captain Allison was portrayed by Mr. Beaudyn; Mr. Frank Holyoake did justice to the rôle of the King of Ravonia; Mr. G. M. Montanini figured prominently as Colonel Kaufmann; the Major Strauss of Mr. Arthur Tomlin afforded general satisfaction; Mr. James Archer proved an excellent governor; Miss Cecilia Crawford as Gretchen, and Mr. Harry Oates, in the character of Geordie Walker, were responsible for some capital comedy; Miss Marie Robson did well as Countess Kara; and the Ethel Hardinge of Miss Irene Munroe was pleasing.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—The attraction here this week has been *A Woman's Past*, presented by an able company sent by Messrs. A. Hamilton Warden and Charles V. Sandford. Miss Maisie Hanbury made a most charming Bessie, her sympathetic and intelligent reading of the part gaining cordial recognition; Mr. Jerrold Heather played David Heath with distinction; Miss Mary Mallalieu was very satisfactory as Dorothy Heath; Miss Gertrude Harrison creditably impersonated Clara Darrell; and good support also came from Messrs. Charles V. Sandford (Frank Dellaunoy), Oswald Cray, Philip Nailor, A. Hamilton Warden, William Berson, Wilson Munroe, and Cecil Dainton.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Foremost here this week was W. C. Fields, the quaint juggler, who caused roars of laughter; the popular Arthur Lennard had a cordial reception; Terry and Lambert proved as merry as of yore, their humorous character sketch, *English Types Through American Eyes*, being especially diverting; Ernest Charles Gittens and company provided an admirable military episode, *The Daughter of the Regiment*; Fred Curran had some quaint songs and parodies; St. George Sylvesta, assisted by Miss Vera De Courtney, performed a number of smart conjuring tricks; and others who contributed to the programme were Lena Willard, comedienne; Bert Woodward, trick cyclist; and Betty Green, juvenile comedienne and dancer.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—*Defending His Honour* has been produced here during the week.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Top of the bill here this week was Jan Rudenyi, who, with a capable combination of artists, presented a gratifying musical sketch, *The Power of Music*; Tom E. Conover raised endless laughter with his absurdity, *The Drink Cure*; Cliff and Mont were a merry vocal and dancing duo; Cyril Carle sang several pleasing numbers; Burley and Burley, as quaint acrobatic comedians, were a capital turn; the ridiculous Recco proved an amusing burlesque acrobat; and the programme also contained the names of the Stowe Bros., and Dolly Ross, comedienne and dancer.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan. John E. Coyle was in big type here this week, and his latest songs have been richly enjoyed; another prominent liner was Sam Elton, who proved as funny as ever; Barney Armstrong had a gratifying reception; some remarkable legerdemain was gone through by the particularly able Satsuma; Ernest Montefiore and company pleased with the dramatic and musical sketch, *The Little Colonel*; Cullen and Carthy, along with the amusing little Cluley, did work which created shouts of laughter; as acrobats and equilibrists the Mayos gave every satisfaction; the Three Sydney Girls pleased with their singing and dancing; and Mlle. Edwin, contortionist, also appeared.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole. —*Divorced*, from the pen of R. P. Rutter, has been played by the stock dramatic company this week, the principal characters being undertaken by Messrs. Sydney Grant (Sir Edwin Kelmar), Cecil Ravenswood (James Rookley), Harry Tresham (Leonard Minton), E. D. Allen (Colbrook Chugley), Robb Wilton (Digby Chicken), R. Seath Innnes (James), Miss Lilian Radbourne (May Minton), Miss Florence Palmer (Violet), and Miss Nancy Mitchell (Polly Sparks). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed some capital pictures.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Miss Vesta Fay, male impersonator, has appeared here this week. The Bioscope continues to please audiences.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—An exceptionally pretty and interesting spectacle, entitled *Jack, the Giant-killer*, presented by George Auger, the giant actor, and his liliputians, occupied the top of the bill here this week. The audience greatly enjoyed the remarkable contrast between Mr. Auger and his assistants. The ever-welcome Winifred Hare was given a most cordial reception for her latest successes, which comprised "It's better than being a Carnegie"; Nellie Wallace, another favourite, earned loud applause; Harry Weldon, the swell entertainer, proved an excellent turn; Stelling and Revell were a funny pair of comedians; a clever singing and dancing act came from Cline and Clark; the wonderful equilibristic efforts of Kioto evoked loud applause; and also in the list were the Sisters St. Julian, duettists and dancers; Charles Stevens, character vocalist; and La Belle Nello, contortionist.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Heading the bill here this week were the Musical Twelve, under the direction of Edward Hesseltine, whose able musical mélange, *The Bohemian Girl*, was greatly enjoyed; Carr and Rose had a pleasing operetta, *A Winning Double*; Jenny Manningo presented a skilful juggling entertainment; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco amused very much with their absurdity, *Trafalgar-square, London, 4 a.m.*; the singing and dancing of Lily Palmer found general acceptance; a neat ventriloquial turn was provided by Alpho; F. A. Martell showed some wonderful skill in balancing himself on his fingers; and also in the list were George Don, comedian; Handel and Lee, smart musicians; Rose D'Aulby, vocalist; and Harry Morris, comedian.

ROSCOMMON.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Millmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. M. Crewdson.—The stock company here under the direction of Mr. Percy Boucher, has this week given *A Child of Misfortune* and the farce, *Love in a Kitchen*. On Friday evening a complimentary benefit was enjoyed by Mr. Crewdson, when the programme consisted of variety turns.

LLANDUDNO.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. P. Pugh.—For six nights this week Mr. Lionel Brough and Mr. Tom Craven's company is appearing in a triple bill, viz., *The Lady in Red*, *The Yarn Spinner*, and *Milky White*. The various parts of *The Lady in Red* were capably undertaken by Mr. Stephen Adeson (Mr. Johnson), Mr. Tom Craven (William), Miss Clara Milvain (Mrs. Johnson), and Miss Isabel Collier (Cora). The duologue *The Yarn Spinner*, in which Mr Lionel Brough and Miss Mary Brough appear, is received with roars of laughter. *Milky White*, in which Mr. Tom Craven undertakes the title-rôle, is excellent. Messrs. Adeson (Dick Duggs), Jackson Wilcox (Archibald Good), Miss Mary Brough and Miss Isabel Collier contribute greatly to the success.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company is here for six nights in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. Carr makes a capital Uncle Tom; Mr. E. A. Massingham's Phineas Fletcher is good; Mr. Dudley Wynton as Mr. St. Clair is well placed; Miss May Turner as Mrs. St. Clair is effective; Aunt Ophelia commands attention in the person of Jenny Malcolm; and as Topsy Miss Annie Watson is all that can be desired. Walter Langford is clever on the banjo, and Rowe and Holden are excellent cake-walkers.

PIER HEAD PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe.—Mona Vivian (formerly Wee Mona) tops the bill here, and captivates all by her pleasing manner and clever dancing; Mr. Albert Chapman is a baritone above the average; Mr Clifford Grey is original as a raconteur; Mr. R. Sutcliffe contributes some good songs in an able manner, and Mr. Tom Stewart's impersonations are first-class. Miss Theresa Foote ably presides at the piano.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—This building is closed till July 27, when the first of the musical comedies will be presented —*The Merry Widow*.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The British Biograph are presenting another delightful series of pictures, which are well received by large audiences nightly. The variety bill includes De Henau, who presents a wonderful turn with his toes, which embraces paintings in oils and the manipulation of sundry musical instruments; the Zedoras excel as Oriental gymnasts; Blanco and Emilie are a clever vaudeville couple; and Mlle. Aladina displays excellent training with a number of cockatoos.

MAIDENHEAD.—PAVILION PLEASURE GARDENS. —Proprietor, Mr. George Gude.—The Cadets are well patronised this week. Mr. Colin Gent is recalled for a fine rendering of "Mona"; Miss Twort makes a hit with "You'll be Daddy and I'll be you"; and Miss Delamere is pleasing in the song and dance, "The Booby Boo." Mr. Jack Anders takes well with "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?"; Leo. Fallowfield puts a lot of amusing business into his rendering of "Put me among the girls"; and Will Harris is laughable as conductor of a concerted piece on the lines of "Jimmy Law."

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. T. M. Sylvester. A successful engagement this week is Fred Karno's company in their popular sketches, *Early Birds* and *Mumming Birds*. The humour of the pieces appeals to crowded audiences, who thoroughly enjoy the pantomime work of the clever company. Alf. Chester is a popular comedian; Rita Bell, "the jolly little Dutch girl," soon dances herself into favour; Morrin and Cardiff, cross-talk patterers, and Jim E. James, instrumentalist, are popular; and other attractions are Vela, on the wire; The Cedrics, speciality comedy jugglers; and the Bioscope.

MANCHESTER. — METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company provide the attraction here this week in the shape of F. A. Scudamore's well-known drama, *Is Life Worth Living?* Mr. Douglas Vigors gives a manly representation of Lionel Roy, and is well matched by the charming Madge Roxton of Miss Lillian Earle; while Miss Jeannie Burgoyne acts finely as Isabel Corsby; Mr. Herbert Hollister makes an effective villain as Randolph Kerr; and Mr. Frank Denis distinguishes himself in the rôle of Ronald Roxton. The play is well staged, and is quite sensational in the second act.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The Six Brothers Luck, in *Lift 'Em, Limited*, provide a brisk and amusing top turn here this week, the next principal places of honour being filled by the famous Craggs in the smart comedy sketch, *Billy*, and the beautiful Mlle. De Dio in a series of magnificent picture dances. The Daunton-Shaw Troupe add a wonderful cycling act; Sanford and Lyons, cross-talkers and simultaneous dancers, are remarkably smart and amusing; and other clever and entertaining turns are provided by Hugh Barclay, baritone vocalist; Irene Rose, in a neat vocal incident; Fred Keeton, eccentric comedian; the Three Prestons, in the absurdity, *The Liftman's Rise*; and Vickey Delmar, acrobatic dancer and instrumentalist.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Happy Fanny Fields is the top star here this week, to the delight of good audiences, who accord the clever little lady a big reception; Miss Marquis introduces with success her stud of highly-trained cobs; the Kurios are seen to advantage in a vastly amusing act; Ray Maskell, comedienne, sings nicely and dances in fine style; Sydney Lee manipulates cards in surprising fashion, his act of "deceiving" being extremely neat and well received; Frank Seeley, a comedian of the eccentric order, takes well; Charles Fisher's Comedy Opera Company are capital in *The Music Master* and excerpts from *Faust*; and the Vasilesque Troupe of gymnasts on the triple bars are something out of the ordinary. Two vocal items by the choir, and A Bird of Freedom—an excellent film—on the Bioscope, complete.

KING'S THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company are the attraction here this week in that sensational melodrama, *A Sister's Sin*, adapted to suit two performances nightly. The company is a good one, and includes Miss Mabel Scudamore, Miss Edie Macklin, Mr. Hugh Carmichal, Mr. T. Arthur Ellis, Mr. Will Percy, Mr. Harry Lyndon, and the Misses Clara Santley, Patricia Conaughton, Mabel Ray, and Violet Bales.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr Walter de Frece; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Harry Gratton, assisted by Tom Taylor and William Benson, is here this week in his domestic incident entitled *Man, the Brute*, a highly funny sketch, which is well acted and creates roars of laughter. *Christmas Eve*, a midnight episode, is a neat little sketch, well played by Irve Hayman and Little Marie Montague; the Lyons Trio are very clever and amusing in a capital pantomimical and dancing act; Minnie Mace dances exceedingly well; Violet Stockelle is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; Larry Lewis, comedian, takes well; and on the occasion of our visit Martin Conway, a popular eccentric comedian, and the Wastana Trio of lady jugglers (acting as deputies for Charles Austin, comedian, and Joe Nightingale and Arthur Stigant) contributed excellent items. Pictures, good as usual, complete.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The programme here this week is one of all-round excellence. Millie Legarde, the well-known comedy artist, meets with a fine reception, especially for her song, "Maimie, I'm a-waiting with the motor"; Luna Love, a charming comedienne, also is highly successful, her singing and dancing being very taking. *A Cosy Couple*, a clever duologue adapted from a story by Sir A. Conan Doyle, is very well presented by two unnamed artists, and is greatly enjoyed; Margaret Radcliffe, vocalist, sings nicely; Rose and Wold, as the Sentry and the Maid, are exceedingly clever in their wire act; Rich and Radford have smart patter, and are good dancers; Fred Cadwall and Daisy Verne are capital in a comedy scena, introducing a smart dance; and excellent dancing is also done by the Sisters Clarette and Queenie West, comedienne. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope pictures are excellent, especially A Trip through Savoy.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—A delightful scena is presented here this week by Messrs. Dottridge and Instone's company, entitled *Rosie's Birthday Party*, the singing and dancing being done in admirable style; Victor and Louis, comedians and vocalists, make a decided hit as *The Golfer and the Caddie*; the Olympians demonstrate the art of ju-jitsu self-defence; and the Ramsey Trio, knockabout comedians, are responsible for much laughter; Nat Gould, character comedian, and Bert Danson, comedian, are both capital; and good turns are also those of Daleno and Stream, patter comedians, and Slavo, comedy juggler. Bioscope pictures complete.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Kay.—Dolly Elsworthy and company top the bill here this week in *The Orange Girl*, and are warmly applauded; Fanny Wentworth, the well-known Society entertainer, is excellent in her sketches at the piano; Beattie and Babs, those exceptionally clever juvenile entertainers, are charming in their pretty song and dance scena, *A Pavement Rehearsal*; and Curwen and Belle are smart burlesque artists. Other enjoyable turns are offered by Spangles and Sawdust, in comedy stage aerial act; Leo D'Alvar, in novel gymnastic act; Will Hebden, comedian; and Maddison Brothers, comedians and burlesque boxers.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Assistant-Manager, Mr. George Phillips.—An excellent programme is offered here this week by Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's entertainers, including the following popular artists:—Marriott Edgar, comedian; Marjory Moore, comedienne; Emilie Tait, soprano; Fred Field, humorist; Frank Gordon, light comedian; and Bernard Knox, at the piano.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Hardy.—Mr. Julian Graham's company has been appearing with *Juno, the Living Statue*. Mr. Arthur Lenville has been amusing as Timothy Twinkle; Mr. Fred Carrington has played with success as Samuel Strong; and Mr. Richd. Teasdale has made the most of the part of Detective Murphy. Miss Kate Graham Beck has played Juno effectively.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—*Jack's the Lad*, the musical extravaganza, by the Jake Friedman company, heads the bill this week, and is briskly played by Mr. Fred Lester (as Jack), Mr. John Sargent (Capt. Salt), Mr. Ted Black (the Sheriff), Mr. Frank Hawthorne (Jack's mother), Mr. V. Coleman (the Bailiff), and Miss Rosali Jacobi (Mirabella, the belle of the village). The other turns include Rosie Bartlett, comedienne; Vincent, acrobatic table expert and tumbler; Gladys Mavius, Canadian coon; Jack Rae, comedy gymnast; Billy Williams, comedian; and the usual series of Bioscope pictures.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, H. W. Player.—*A Woman Worth Winning* is played here by Mr. Percy Norman's company. Mr. Gilbert Standing presents a capital impersonation of Amos Pauloff; Mr A. B. Mackay is an excellent General Borinski; Mr. Carthage Coldcleugh gives an able impersonation of Ivan Burdoff; Mr. George Edwin Cleve makes the most of Fergus Lovinsky; an admirable study of Roma Pauloff is presented by Miss Chrissie Dunbar; Miss Trixie Leighton merits praise as Lola; and Katerina Kloss is well represented by Miss Ida Mackay.

MEXBOROUGH.—NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—A fine series of pictures is being shown here this week. A beautifully-coloured film is entitled Modern Sculptors. Other pictures include: Tragedy of Mont Blanc, Loved too Late, Treasure Cave, Pierrot and the Devil, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—*The Idler* is being presented by Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft's company. Mr. Phillip Cuningham has had many successes in Middlesbrough, but he has never been seen to better advantage than in his impersonation of Mark Cross; Mr. Stephen T. Ewart gives a remarkably fine interpretation of the rôle of Sir John Harding; and as his wife Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft shows herself to be an artist of exceptional ability; Mr. William Attfield is good as Simon Strong; and for the part of Mrs. Cross a clever representative is found in Miss Elspeth Dudgeon. Miss Zoe Davis gives a charming impersonation as Kate Merryweather; and Miss Rida Treiselle is good as Mrs. Glyn-Stanmore. Mr. Richard Dalton as the General and Mr. Haldane Dalton as Bennett also do full justice to their respective parts. *Captain Swift* has been also produced during the week.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Edward Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*The Dandy Doctor* is being played here this week by Mr. Edward Marriss's company. Mr. Charles A. Stephenson plays with amusing briskness the American millionaire, and he meets with general favour; a good deal of the success of the piece is due to the rare low comedy of Miss Florence Smithers; as Jane, the general servant, she had only to appear with the inevitable smudge upon her face, and the house was convulsed. Miss Smithers has varied opportunities in the piece, and whether as the slavey, or as the mistress, whom she is called upon to personate, she is always most amusing. The choleric old Colonel is well taken by Mr. Herbert Pearce; Mr. E. H. Bertram as the smart young doctor and lover is very successful; while Mr. Leslie Martin as the locum tenens is very amusing. The Colonel's Daughter is taken by Miss Mollie Wynne, who admirably fulfils all the requirements of the young lady in musical comedy. The rest of the company, not forgetting the Empire Girls, the Dutch Girls, and the chorus and troupe of dancers, fully keep up the standard of excellence. The scenery and costumes are exceedingly pretty.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—The renowned Boissets create roars of laughter in their sketch, entitled *The Dock Strike*, here this week; while Malcolm Scott scores a great success with his patter; the banjo efforts of Emil and Ediss are much appreciated; and Hughes and Elliott give a delightful singing and dancing turn; Edith Cummins possesses a fine voice; and other items are given by Nellie Atherton and company, Marguerite Ismay and Coons, and Marie Longden.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—Mackinnon's Scottish Meisters, a comedy quartette, deservedly occupy the star position here this week; and Ingram and Irving present an amusing farce. Some good singing is provided by Adah Dyson and Reginald Payne, Joe Humphreys, and Ada Fawn; and other entertaining numbers are given by the Three Panamas, acrobats, and Will Freedo, comedian.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Julian.—Mr. Sydney Spenser's company has been enjoying a good week's business here, with *My Sweetheart* and *A Wonderful Woman*. The cast is an excellent one, and Mr. Ed. Rawlinson scores a genuine success as Tony; whilst Miss Lizzie Hall makes a dainty Tina; Mr. Spenser makes the most of Joe Shotwell, Mr. Wilton Hardinge is good as Harcourt, and Miss Gipsey Alexander plays Farmer Hatzell's wife to the life. Other parts are well filled, and in the second-named piece Mr. Spenser himself is excellent as the Marquis de Frontignac.

WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Atkinson.—The bill is topped here by Gustave Fasola, in his clever illusions, and he has proved very popular; Marin Zona has a good juggling and equilibristic act, in which there is new and novel business; Sandy and Carl amuse with neat patter and eccentric dance; Ugo Nap proves himself a most versatile entertainer; Stidder and Dunbar have a most amusing musical act, in which there is also some excellent 'cello playing by the gentleman. Bennett and Martell, Harry Briggs, and Jack Hayten are also in the bill.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—The well-known drama *Her One Great Sin* is the attraction here this week, and is proving very popular. Mr. Frank Lennard gives a powerful performance in the leading rôle, whilst as the erring wife Miss Lydia Donovan is convincing. Other leading rôles are ably played by Mr. C. Q. Tulford and Mr. A. G. Raymond.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Jas. Hare's company in the romantic Servian drama *A Destroyer of Men* proves good entertainment here this week. The chief part, Count Starevitch, is powerfully interpreted by Mr. F. Harker, whilst Mr. L. Clarke as his son plays the rôle very creditably. Valuable assistance is also given by Miss Irene Clifford.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The programme here this week is of the highest order. George Gilbey at the top of the bill proves as popular as ever; Mr. Paul Barnes—of New York—who shares with George Gilbey the premier position on the programme, is a monologist with a taking style, and his patter (mostly Yankee) goes extremely well; in the sketch *Adventures of a Happy Tramp* Howard and Harris find ample opportunity to display their talents as clever knockabout artists; and Charles Frazer and company with a new comedy illusion, *Jona*, prove very interesting. The Herald Comedy Four are vocalists of special note; Peter Bermingham, a Scotch comedian, dispenses any amount of good fun; and Cissie Curlette, a dainty comedienne, finds much favour. Other talented artists appearing are the Northern Troupe, Bi-Bo-Bi, and Billy McClain and company. The Bioscope completes.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Frank and Jen Latona head an exceptionlly strong bill here this week, and once again their songs, music, and drollery prove popular. Marcel and Boris provide some wonderfully clever handbalancing; the Westwoods introduce trick cycling of unusual merit; Geoffreys and Benson, comedy duologue artists, prove vastly amusing; and a novel dancing turn by the Berthos goes well. Other artists contributing meritorious turns are Dorothy Gould, Stacey and Williams, J. W. Gallagher, and Harry Friskey.

NORTH SHIELDS.—CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The bill here this week is headed by Messrs. Macdonald and Huntington, American eccentric comedians, who

Voice and Throat.

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have been warmly greeted. Lieutenant Chard and his dogs have also been received with much favour, and Miss Alice Maye, soprano, renders her songs in capital style. Kendricke and Laura, versatile artists, meet with hearty applause; Miss Olive Sara, speciality artist, has made a hit; Mr. James Mack, comedian, sings funny songs; and the Mouldoscope is as much enjoyed as ever.

NORWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Berzac's juggling sea-lions and seals are meeting with much appreciation; W. H. Harries, Alan Borthwick, and Co., in a farce called *Half a Dollar*, are immensely amusing; Godfrey James, the "singing collier," has an excellent voice; Hyde and Cody Trio are clever acrobats; Poppy Lytton and Jack Bland, in a sketch, *A Lesson in Love*, are appreciated; Stevens and Rennior, comedians and dancers; the Sisters Terry, duettists and dancers; and Ivy Aberdare, comedienne and sand dancer, with the Hippo. Bioscope, complete the programme.

NOTTINGHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—A splendid reception is given R. A. Roberts, who is appearing this week in two sketches, *Dick Turpin* and *Ringing the Changes;* Griffiths Bros. afford huge delight by their never-ceasing comicalities; Ella Shields makes herself a general favourite in the songs, "Walking round the world," and "Do you want any coal"; another interesting turn is provided at the piano by Rosa Loader. Hearty congratulations are showered on La Belle Titcomb for the marvellous management of her trained horse; and Harry Drew draws applause for his rendering of bass songs. A clever musical sketch, *The Itinerant*, is presented by the Norman and Leonard Trio; and Walter Wade is rewarded for a humorous monologue. Dancing by the Three Cape Girls, also Wania, in a Russian dance, earn merited applause; and the Bioscope supplies some admirable films.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. Stanley Carlton and company are here in *A Secret Wedding*. Mr. Stanley Carlton gives a manly impersonation of Edgar Hartington and his vindictive cousin, Herbert, is ably played by Mr. Marshall Meade. Miss Ruby Maude as Grace Edmondson acts in a clever manner, and is well received; Miss Maggie English as Jack, a waif, gives a faithful representation of the character; and Miss Ruby Hamilton Belasco makes an excellent Elise Marchand; Miss Ethel Lawson is good as the Avenging Angel; Miss Emily Lewis as Polly does excellent work and ably assists Mr. Seymour Perry as the poetic Billy Barton; Mr. Edgar Garth and Mr. Fred Conway as the twin brothers, Jim and Ted Ward, are capital; and Mr. Charles Cameron is good as Ben Drummond. *A Marriage of Vengeance* will be staged during the latter part of the week.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*A Mother's Love* is being presented by Mr. Fred L. Connynghame's company. Miss Rosa Mervyn appears as Winnie Wingate, and she quickly gains the approval of the audience; Miss Mabel Durham is a capable Ellaine Mervin; and Miss Gladys Lloyd is excellent as Marjorie; whilst Miss Dorothy Monkhouse is a capable Mary Stewart; Mr. Arthur Mervyn is a manly hero as Paul Wingate; Mr. Robert Gilbert as the villainous Geoffrey Mannering is very smart; Matt Ruddock keeps the house roaring with laughter, the part fitting Mr. Connynghame like a glove; Mr. S. Clifton as Rolf Mervin is very good; and Mr. Tom Taylor makes a capital Joe Jackson. A comedy sketch, *Balmy*, precedes the drama, and the various characters are capably played by Messrs. Connynghame, Mervyn, Taylor, and Gilbert.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kilrow.—Mr. Hymack is the star here, and his act is clever and mystifying; the Clement Trio, in a comedy trapeze act, are very popular; Charles Norton in his mimetic monologue was well received; the Society Quartette sing and dance in a capital manner; Leo King, vocalist, sings his songs well; and Winifred Ward is an excellent male impersonator; Miss Ida Kessanly's Royal Fox Terriers are pleasing in their clever tricks; Roland Carr, comedian and dancer, does well; and a laughable picture on the Dottoscope concludes.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Frank Stuart's company is this week giving an admirable presentment of *The Curate* and *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*. In *The Curate* the title-rôle (Rev. John Audley) is convincingly and most realistically portrayed by Mr. P. C. Wentworth; while Mr. A. W. Thompson ably sustains Gilbert Westwood; and Mr. Chas. Ninian does well as Gregory Verner. Mr. Frank Stuart impersonates the robust Sergeant Snipe excellently; and Mr. John Hitchings is very amusing as Simon Peter Muggs. Miss Mona Hall achieves distinction, and sings admirably as Dick, the Trumpeter; Miss Belle Russell is good as Mrs. Muggs; and Miss Theodore Henries shows dramatic skill as Katinka Vodski. Miss Winifred Stuart contributes a very graceful, feeling, and charming performance as May Verner.

PAISLEY.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Douglas F. Bostock.—A capital programme is provided here this week, at the top of it being the name of Morris Cronin, the wonderful juggler, assisted by his equally clever troupe; one of the cleverest and most remarkable entertainments ever seen at this house is contributed by Wylie's dogs; the Two Mohamed Labas are accomplished Arab jugglers and tumblers, and have a splendid reception; the comedy episode, *My Lady Betty*, provides much amusement, being capitally sustained by Miss Nellie Stevens and Messrs. Frank Elliston and P. G. Twyman; R. A. Speedwell is entertaining in his lightning sketches of famous statesmen and others; Lina Leslie, comedienne, gives a pleasing turn; Dave Summerhill, Scotch comedian, is successful in his songs; Charles McLaren, a youthful vocalist, is highly appreciated; and the Hippodrome Bioscope continues to interest and entertain.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—The Szarvasi Ferencz Family are a clever troupe of Hungarian singers, dancers, and acrobats; Henry and Tyler, comedy cyclists, are skilful and clever; Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian dancer, is excellent; Frank Boyce, character comedian, in up-to-date songs, is a decided success; Leo, ventriloquist, deserves warm praise; Perette and Mona, in their quick-change musical act, *Teasing the General*, are exceedingly good; Scotch humour and comedy are introduced by Jessie Star; the Tiviliscope in a series of up-to-date films concludes a smart bill.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Edmund Tearle's stock company is this week appearing in *East Lynne*. Mr. Tearle personally undertakes the rôle of Lord Mountsevern, his deep and sonorous voice being particularly well suited to the part; Miss Kate Clinton created an impression with her impersonation of Lady Isabel, and Miss Wanda Beresford fulfilled high expectations as Barbara; Mr. Fawcett Lomax is at home as Justice Hare; and Mr. Stuart Black forcibly brings out the creditable features of Carlyle; Mr. J. Cooke Hinton makes an excellent villain; and Miss Ethel Storey, as Cornelia, shows herself to be an actress of ability.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Miss Marie Lloyd is here for the week. She has lost none of her old vivacity, her latest "Directoire" song catching on immensely; Tom Hughes is a delightfully unconventional comedian, and has a splendid repertoire of down-to-date witticisms and gags; Burns and Danvers have a fascinating burlesque operetta, of which the outstanding feature is the lady's excellent soprano voice; and Trick and Trixie score in a turn of a similar nature; Kreamer and Braun have a distinctly novel attraction, consisting of mechanical contrivances by which horses and cyclists can be matched against each other; one of the Macs works hard as a knockabout comedian; and Alice Blandford, a New Zealand vocalist, created a good initial impression.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—Heading the bill are the Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats; they are prettily costumed, and their daring and clever feats win much admiration. Patty Yole makes a commendable success by virtue of a pleasant voice and graceful dancing; Sam Ropely as a comedian, causes much laughter; the Yorkshire Mill Lasses (Mona and Gladys Wells) discourse harmony of a high order, and are warmly applauded; Edwards and Dacre, in a duologue, *What a Life*, are comical; the Izons (Arthur and Ada) do some clever dancing, and their patter and songs add to the general entertainment; Harry Keeble's ventriloquial turn is much appreciated; Molly O'Guarde, with good songs, is successful; while Mr. Arthur Alexander and Co., in a dramatic episode, *For the Honour of the Family*, give a performance of considerable merit. Animated pictures are also shown by the Alexandra Bioscope. The orchestra, under Mr. A. Richardson, is exceptionally good.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction this week is the company of Messrs. Sutton and Raynor, in a répertoire of powerful plays. On Monday and Tuesday *Camille* was given; on Wednesday and Thursday, *Moths*, and on Friday *Harvest*. Gaston de Rieux, in the first-named production, was powerfully portrayed by Mr. Raynor; the Comte de Varille was ably characterised by Mr. Cecil Wynne; Armand Duval was successfully presented by Mr. Conrad Heywood; Georges Duval was ably played by Mr. Milton C. Curtis; Jean was cleverly delineated by Mr. Chas. R. Bickell; and Messrs. Reginald Winter and Thomas Crossley left nothing to be desired as the Comte de Geary and the Comte de Noir respectively; and most praiseworthy acting was contributed by Miss Henrietta Schrier, Miss Dorothy West-Symes, Miss Lisa Coleman, and Miss Nellie Statham.

PORTH.—THE PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping the bill here we have Ross and Lewis, comedy artists, in their humorous dancing idiosyncrasy. The Boston Twins, burlesque boxers, are a capital pair; Miss Henriquette Maude, the London *Daily Mirror's* New Zealand girl, presents her unique act in picture and story of her daring experiences round the world, and is accorded a warm reception. She scores well as an elocutionist. Jack North extracts much merriment as the peculiar comedian; Little Pam, the American boy comedian, singer and dancer, is a great success, and is accorded a warm reception; Bros. St. Clair, comedy knockabout cyclists, are exceedingly clever; Edie Gray and Coons are thoroughly appreciated; Tate and Tate meet with approval; and Mueller and Coyne are also worthy of mention. The Palascope delights everyone.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*Charley's Aunt* is being presented here this week, by Mr. Brandon Thomas and his company. Owing to sudden indisposition Mr. Thomas has not played, and Mr. McCausland Stewart has acted most ably, in his place, the part of Sir Francis Chesney. Mr. G. A. Seager caused plenty of hearty laughter by his personation of Lord Fancourt Babberley, his acting in the name-part being all that could be wished; Stephen Spettigue was admirably presented by Mr. Roy Byford; Mr. Hastings Lynn was a successful Jack Chesney; Charley Wykeham was capitally taken by Mr. Basil Lynton; and Brasset found an able representative in Mr. Sydney Compton; Miss Vere Gerald played with distinction the rôle of Donna Lucia; Kitty Verdun was charmingly portrayed by Miss Olivia Glynn; Miss Grace Russell made an agreeable Amy Spettigue; and Miss Evelyn Grey made a winsome Ela Delahay. The comedy is preceded by the one-act play, *The Lancashire Sailor*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The musical comedy drama, *One Woman's Wickedness* is staged here for the week by Mr. Chas. H. Phelps and his good all-round company. Mr. Phelps taking the rôle of the hero, Phillip Beaufort, with most commendable energy and ability; Mr. Ernest Vaughan as Jem Craggs makes the very best use of his opportunities; Mr. Clifford Spencer is also very good as Lord Algernon Fitznoodle. Messrs. Montague Corri (Limpi Larry), Frank Hertie (Paul Rogue), Frank Rogers (Sam), all do capable work in their respective parts; Miss Millie Domis acts cleverly as Jennie Jiggles; Miss Marie Pemberton did well as Marrienne Beaufort; Miss Madge Douglas as the heroine, Lillian Craggs, was responsible for some excellent acting; and Miss Irene Carrington gave a well sustained impersonation of Janet Raymond, the woman giving the name to the play.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Bertram.—Messrs. Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles' able company are here with a dual bill for the week. On Monday evening, *The London Fireman* was played, Mr. Frank E. Petley acting powerfully and incisively as Colonel Fleming and Hal Curtis, the London fireman. Mr. Edwin J. Collins as the smooth-tongued villain, Viscount Fleming, displayed very marked ability; Mr. William Burgess plays effectively as Henry Curtis; Mr. John W. Ryder is excellent as Abel Fortnum. The lighter side is well looked after by Mr. George E. Scully as Nixey Stinger and Miss Olive Lloyd as Polly Bramble. Miss Gertrude Price makes a capable Grace Curtis; Miss Nellie Weddington, as the Countess Fleming, acquits herself admirably; and Miss Helena Walbran, as the much persecuted heroine, Ida Curtis, plays the part with conspicuous success. The powerful drama, *Saved from the Sea*, is to be given on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The chief attraction here this week is the animal act of the well trained and docile troupe of ponies, bears, dogs, and baboons, presented by Carl and Mary Ohm, which gave unbounded satisfaction; Vere and Royal, a pair of comedy artists, show vocal ability, and please well; the Comedy Girls, Sisters Pine, in golf scena, are brisk and most amusing; as very capable vocalists and instrumentalists, the Four Watsons were highly appreciated; the Leonards, in a smart and diverting comedy act, well deserved the applause they received; E. J. Sheldon shone in song and dance; Farley, Rennie, and Farley, in excellent fooling sketch, *Fun at a Railway Station*, scored; J. W. Winton gave a very clever ventriloquial entertainment with the aid of McGinty and others, and had a most gratifying reception; Happy Tom Parker, star comedian, caused great hilarity by his droll singing and dancing; Payne's Bio., with up-to-date pictures, concludes.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Topping the bill for the week here, Garland, Douglas, and company, in original musical mélange, entitled, *Pull-Man Porters*, give an extremely satisfying turn; Haig and Novel, comedy artists and tumblers, were well received; Sisters Herbert, a pair of juvenile duettists and dancers, were heartily encored for some capable work. The item submitted by Mr. Will Van Allen, tramp musician and raconteur, was enthusiastically greeted, and was recalled for his very clever musical efforts; Miss Flo. Cecil, a bright and piquant comedienne and dancer, was much liked; Bros. Bright, gymnasts du salon, did some exceedingly smart hand-balancing; Mr. Edward Crosland's Melody Makers, in their phantom scena, *The Burglar's Dream*, were meritorious, and gained two curtains; Burns and Bentley, comedians and dancers, work hard, and please. Hippo. pictures of an agreeable character, and the very sagacious performance of Lockhart's Elephants, introduced by Captain Taylor, fill the programme.

PRESTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Fred C. Summerfield and company, in *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*, are here this week. As Felix Beverley, a consummate scoundrel, Mr. F. C. Somerfield holds his audience from rise to fall of the curtain, and portrays a by no means easy character in a masterly manner; as Mary Geoffrey Miss Cecilia Dare wins the sympathy of the audience by her finished and earnest rendition of the part; Mr. Ed. E. Louis is a manly and convincing Jack Stirling; and Mr. Wilson Summers scores as Geoffrey Langdon; Mr. Marcus Grey is decidedly good as Colonel Miles; Mr. Percy Brown and Mr. Percy Dawsone as Thomas and Charles are responsible for the light comedy, and they thoroughly succeed in keeping the house in good humour, and they are ably supported by Miss Katie Lever, who as Sweet Nancy is most piquante and refreshing. Miss Cissie Bellamy fulfils the part of the adventuress, Mrs. Sands, in a most finished and realistic manner; Mr. Ivan Mavis as Arthur Bellairs imbues the character with the requisite vapidity; and Mr. Harland Brookes and Mr. John Turnbull both prove themselves capable as Detective Blake and Inspector Froest respectively.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—John C. Brandon and company top the bill, in a melodramatic sketch, entitled *The Girl and the Tough*. The characters are well sustained by Messrs. J. C. Brandon, Leslie Tylor, and Miss Rose Dane. The story is decidedly original. Adkin gives a ventriloquial turn; Ted Waite, eccentric comedian, receives a rousing reception; Wallace Whitney, character comedian, brings down the house with his song and patter, "Tubby, the footballer," and scores with his local allusions; the Sicilians give some finished trios, and are accomplished performers on the mandoline and guitar; Dunningarto, the sleight-of-hand king, succeeds in mystifying his audience, and gives a very clever exhibition of card palming; Beattie Foster, comedienne, contributed a couple of songs, and was much applauded; Nelson's Newsboys are a quintette who present some capital songs and clever dances. The Elixir of Life on the Bioscope concludes.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—Good houses have been secured at the Royal Victoria Theatre by Mr. George Warters's company, in *The Gay Deceivers*. It is an extremely lively piece, and the music is very bright. Mr. Mark Lester's Joseph is the hit of the production, but all the artists are capable comedians. Special reference should be made to the work of Miss Dorothy Chard, Miss Ciceley Stucky (Winnie), Miss Kate Chard (Mrs. Dewar), Messrs. Guy Williams, G. Delaforce, and F. Stanmore. Miss Pauline Prim, danseuse and sifflleuse, makes a popular appearance; and the other members of the company are excellent, the Directoire Girls contributing much to the smartness of the production.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—At the above theatre, on the first three nights of the past week, Mr. Gilbert Payne's company appeared in the musical farcical comedy, *The Honeymoon*. The play concerns mainly the adventures of a young man who, having married against the wishes of his rich uncle, endeavours to pass his wife off as a widow who keeps house for him. The impossible situations which arise can be well imagined. The piece provides a great deal of amusement, and gives Mr. Gilbert Payne the opportunity to be simply immense in the part of Nathaniel Noodle, who is on his honeymoon. The part of Jack Armstrong, the nephew, is well played by Mr. Leslie Erle; Mr. Chris Anslie does capitally as Colonel Vandyke Brown, the peppery old uncle; and Mr. Fred Fulton gives a laughable impression of a "Johnny" from town, Archie Mashington. Miss Celestine Brandon, who fills the rôle of Madge Armstrong, the alleged widow and housekeeper, appears to considerable advantage; and Miss Myra Douglas (Stella Le Brunn) and Miss Rosie Kearns (Emeretta Noodle) add considerably to the attractiveness of the piece. There are some very clever speciality dances by the Four Godfrey Girls. The scenery and general mounting is excel'ent, and, altogether, *The Honeymoon* is a nice, bright show.

MARINA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. C. Dew and L. Valeriani; General-Manager, Mr. W. J. Attack.—The Marina Theatre has been well patronised during the past week, and the standard of the pictures is maintained. There is again a capital selection of films, and the electric manipulation is a manifest improvement on the old system. The management is introducing a sacred entertainment next Sunday evening.

READING.—THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Herbert E. Terry's company are appearing in *His Brother's Keeper*, which is extremely well rendered. The farce *Three in a Pickle*, by Freda Sharlotte's company, creates great amusement; the Tiger Lily, a coloured lady, gives a good exhibition of acrobatic dancing; Texas Hattie, another coloured performer, supplies a clever tight-rope display; the Primrose Four, a quartette of Welsh vocalists, sing very harmoniously; Norah Noble is a pleasing comedienne; the Sisters Hall, vocalists and dancers, are well received; Lieut. Albini, illusionist does some clever tricks; and the entertainment concludes with some good Bioscope pictures.

ROCHDALE.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Animated pictures by the Empire Bioscope continue a source of great attraction here. The Pretty Flower Girl, The Mountaineer's Son, The Irascible Father, and Over the Sticks proved most interesting and enjoyable. Variety turns are submitted by the Eldons, musical comedy duettists; Mabel Robarts, in illustrated songs; and Beatrice Hill, operatic and ballad vocalist.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—La Milo creates an undoubted sensation, and her artistic posing is received with rapturous and well-deserved applause. Cruickshank's pictorial films are responsible for the reproduction of special items from La Milo's répertoire; Mark Henton is an excellent humorist; Miss Clara Pledger is heard to great advantage; the Forsyths score heavily in a speciality act, *The Tramp in the Nursery;* Pallister's American Bioscope gives a splendid selection of living pictures. A touching episode, *The Galley Slave*, is included in the programme. Mr. Howell Webb gives a powerful portrayal of Henri Peton, and Mr. Charles Bennett is a smart Sergeant Debroche; Miss Magdalen Moore is pleasing as Mme. Ducharme, and Miss Pauline Desborough scores as Margot; Miss Mabel Rose is pretty as Jeanne. Messrs. Lambert and Hands submit a refined vocal scena, and Les Currys are responsible for a very clever musical act.

RYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Constant.—During the first half of the week Mr. Will Dennis's company created an excellent impression in the well-known piece, *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. Miss Gertrude Netterville as Mrs. Errol and Mr. Francis Roberts as the Earl of Dorincourt both acted with exceptional ability, and they were well supported by Miss Marian Fawcett as Minna, Miss Beryl Grayham as Mary, and Messrs. George Roberts and William Lockhart.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Julian Malvern's company is presenting this week the powerful play *I Defy the World*, full of sensational incidents. Mr. Lewis Gilbert capably sustains the part of Leon Darville; the villain, Count de Beaulieu, was well portrayed by Mr. O. Douglas; Miss Gladys Harting-Walton is a charming Pauline Delaporte; Miss Mary Ainslie makes an excellent Blanche Darville; Fanchette is well played by Miss Florrie Green; Mr. Charles M. Julian is very comical as Samuel Wozzle; and the comedy business is also well sustained by Mr. Newton Pearce as Najack, Mr. Dalton J. Bosher as Bochon, and Miss M. Lillian as Marie Wozzle.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Cissie Lawson (Mrs. John Lawson) drew a large audience on Monday evening, when she appeared as Fay Faber in *The Devil's Sunday*, a clever sketch of the smart set; Otto and Olga gave a good comedy and musical act; the Three Sisters Thurban, vocalists and instrumentalists; Jessie Jukes, comedienne and dancer; George Benson, boy mimic; Oakes Trio of vocalists, dancers, and comedians; Ivy Gallard, comedienne and dancer; E. W. Selman, character comedian; and Graham and Baron, patter comedians and expert dancers, also gave smart turns.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Ye Dame Rowland Hill, comedian, keeps the house in roars; a pretty aerial gymnastic performance is given by Ariel and Astarte. Other excellent turns are given, including Arthur Harris, actor-vocalist; Musical Morellis, great comedy musical and vocal act; Fritz Kornau, whistler; Fremel and Fremel, patterers and eccentrics; Helm and Cozens, in *The Doctor and the Patient;* W. G. Wesley, character comedian; Three Cascaleas, smart acrobats; and Thierry and Liell (Georgette and Bernard), in an incident of the French Revolution.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The cinematograph pictures (shown twice nightly) are an excellent draw each performance. This week's pictures include Golden Tree Tournament, In a Submarine, Separation Wanted, Franco-British Exhibition, Father and Son, Monty Buys a Motor, Love or Victory, Witch's Kiss, and Lady Doctor's Husband. The audiences heartily join in the chorus with Mr. Lester King in "The Singer was Irish."

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Lessees, The Excelsior Animated Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. George Barry.—The fine selection of films, which include the celebrated Romeo and Juliet series, continue to draw well here; Musical Zelda displays her versatility on a number of instruments; and Wal Owen, the silent comedian, causes much laughter by his queer antics.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—For this week Miss Grace Warner has been engaged in a répertoire of plays, including *The Scarlet Clue*, *The Little Widow*, and *Lady Audley's Secret*. On Monday the first-named was presented. Mr. George Gordon played the part of Michael Stanton with great success; Jack Esmond and Harry Esmond were ably impersonated by Mr. Terence O'Brien; Edward Croker found a good exponent in Mr. A. B. Lyons; Billy was cleverly drawn by Mr. W. Black; as Crazy Jim Mr. V. Garnet-Vayne gave satisfaction; Sir Desmond was well presented by Mr. J. Clarence; and Miss Grace Warner gave a finished portrayal of Sal Scarlet; Eisie Dane being charmingly interpreted by Miss Evie Conway.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—The Parisian beauty, La Freya, is original and clever; Sid Cotterell and company in *The Substitute* score a decided success; the Four Sisters Victoria are smart instrumentalists and dancers; O'Malley and Brown are successful in a comedy sketch; the Three Delaries present some good acrobatics; and Lottie Govell, comedienne and dancer, is appreciated. Amy Elcock is a dainty comedienne; and pictures by the Bioscope complete the entertainment.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—Chief amongst a particularly good show of pictures are A Briton's Promise, The Bargee's Daughter, March Winds, &c. Nat Lewis, character and actor vocalist, scores highly.

SHEFFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Old, Old Story* is being presented by Miss B. Carlton's company. Miss Bonwin Carlton makes a vivacious soubrette; Miss Marie Dempcer secures warm sympathy as Nettie, and Miss Kitty Maynard makes a pretty and interesting Jessie Hazel; Mr. Edward Surrey grips the attention of the house as the detective Grimshaw; Mr. P. Watson's John Hazel is a convincing performance; the villainous James Marlow has a dramatic representative in Mr. Cowell Clarke; and good work is done by Mr. T. Squires, Mr. H. J. Butler, Mr. T. Macdonald, and Miss Esther Lamont. The play is effectively staged, and its pathos and humour exactly hit the tastes of the Royal patrons.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*It's Never Too Late To Mend* is being played here. Mr. Hugh Montgomery succeeds John Wainwright in the part of Tom Robinson, and he gives an admirable reading of the reformed thief; Mr. Cecil Melton is good as the honest, single-hearted Fielding; Miss Gertrude Entwistle is a graceful Susan Merton; Mr. T. G. Warry repeats his amusing impersonation of Jacky; and other well-played characters are Mr. Charles F. Johnson's Rev. Francis Eden, Mr. Harry Cave's Crawley, Mr. Edwin Davies' Levi, Mr. Leonard Marshall's William Fielding, Mr. W. R. Wilson's Captain Hawes, Mr. W. R. Weldon's Mr. Merton, Mr. C. E. Linney's Mr. Meadows, Mr. H. Lawson's Boy, Miss M. Ashton's Mary Lee, and Miss Millie Wilton's Joseph.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The bill is headed by that charming and refined character vocalist Miss Lil Hawthorne, whose delightful songs were cheered to the echo on Monday by a crowded audience. Mr. Tom Woottwell is another local favourite appearing with success; Mr. Jack Pleasants caused much hilarity; Roma and Romani submitted a pleasing musical entertainment; and the screaming comic ballet *The Houseboat*, smartly rattled through by those expert comedians and pantomimists the famous Leopold Troupe, was provocative of loud laughter and hearty applause. Others engaged are Mr. Leo Stormont, the popular vocalist; Howard and Howard, in a very amusing act; Miss Irene Lee and her smart Candy Boys in an up-to-date interlude; Knowles and Barrett, duettists; and Miss Amy Marsden, a pleasing artist. Some new pictures were well received

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The star turn here is Mr. Julian Rose, who on Monday was enthusiastically received in his laughable monologue "Levensky at the Wedding." Miss Mabel Le Blanche, a talented dramatic vocalist, was loudly applauded; a conjuring act on entirely original lines was done by M. Picitt and Mlle. Lizette in their sketch *The Crazy Cook;* Brull and Hemsley kept the house thoroughly amused in their clever musical and terpsichorean burletta *Fun in a Music Shop;* a well-mounted and novel version of *Dick Whittington* was introduced by the Cheers, in which several well-trained cats also assisted with characteristic feline grace; Mr. Bert Brantford sang a parody on the popular coon ditty; a smart ladder act was performed by the intrepid Silvas; and Mr. Jay Laurier won cordial applause; and the Four Geraldos did some expert club juggling feats. The Barrascope pictures, by Pathé Frères, were heartily cheered.

GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Mersano, in the character of the gallant little Captain Kettle, is giving his unique mystery performance to good houses; and other diverting artists at the comfortable and well-managed downtown theatre are Stuart and Evans, a clever duo; Miss Cissy Esdaile; Learto, with his new and pleasing entertainment; Miss Flo Burnett, Mr. Dan Connor, Mr. Jones (with illustrated songs), and the pretty and talented Sisters Lavender. The new and artistic animated pictures are well received.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred W. Holmes.—The new arrivals on Monday were the well-known Testo Bros., Mr. Herbert Bates, and Miss Nellie Walton; A Trip to Morocco, The Cat Came Back, The Organ-Grinder's Daughter, and other pictures are deservedly applauded.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—The musical comedy, entitled *The New Girl*, was on Monday, by a delightful and favourable presentation, accorded a magnificent reception, and Messrs. Cowper-Smith and Douglas Payne have capital assistance from a talented company. The play, which has only one interval, causes real good amusement, the humour is clean, catchy songs prove popular, and the dances are cleverly executed, while the choruses give every satisfaction, Mr. Julian Rutt ably directing the

A Remarkable Testimonial

PLAYER'S NAVY CUT

"Thirteen Years Ago."

The Proprietors of Player's Navy Cut recently received the following letter from John Fenn, Esq., Solicitor, 27, 28 and 29 Furnival St., London, E.C.

"Last evening I opened a 2oz. box of your Navy Cut purchased by me at Sandown, I.W., thirteen years ago which I had put by. Trying a pipe I found it excellent and in perfect flavour. I have another box (square pattern) fifteen years but not yet opened. I thought you would like to know this."

PLAYER'S GOLD LEAF NAVY CUT

BY THE IMPERIAL TOBACCO CO (OF GREAT BRITAIN)

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augmented orchestra. Mr. Arthur Poole is a strong exponent of Colonel Bullett, V.C., who maintains his reputation for both acting and singing with marked success; Miss Rosa Bennett in the name part early establishes herself a favourite by clever acting, singing, and dancing, and gets heartily received; Mr. Ralph Lynn makes a capital Bertie Holbrook, and who is even more successful in masquerading as a schoolmistress and with smart dances. Mr. Edgar McIntyre as Harry Harrow is decidedly good, and he also shares singing honours; Miss Beatrice Sutherland in the dual rôle of Little Flossie and Jane, a maid, is eminently suited, while her step-dancing with Mr. Kenneth Black, jun. (a comedian who pleases immensely), has many recalls, both artists being seen to great advantage in this respect. Miss Ivy Leighton as Cerise gives a good portrayal; and Miss Victoria Douglas makes a prominent schoolmistress in Martha Grim.

THE KURSAAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—Another excellent variety programme is submitted this week in the theatre, and for which Miss Beatrice Harold's Palace Troupe of Gipsy Girls have been retained, while their costume scenas are creditably portrayed; Griffin and Ardel give evident pleasure in their eccentric acrobatic feats; Mr. Ernest Bishop, with concertina, is well received; Miss Eva Rosslyn, burlesque actress, wins hearty applause; Miss Carmichael is popular with skipping-rope dances; and Mr. T. E. Cliffe pleases as a comedian. A good series of entirely new pictures on the Bioscope make a popular concluding item, and dancing follows immediately, during which another concert takes place in the café chantant, where the Palace Troupe again appear.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—The Native Choir from Jamaica, who made such a favourable impression last year by their highly successful entertainments, are extended a cordial reception this week, while their programmes give intense delight to most appreciative audiences, who demand recalls of every item. The choir render most tastefully both action and humorous choruses, and some particularly evoke a lively interest. Mr. F. Weaver, who entertains with coon songs, is very popular for his smart dances; and Mr. Noel Sylvester, in humorous recitations well rendered, wins favour. Mr. Carlton Bryan, Mr. Gordon Shelton, Mr. Blake, Miss Blackburn, Miss MacDermot, and Miss Welsh all contribute songs with precision.

THE LEAS BANDSTAND.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—Daily performances are given by the Chierrots Concert Party, under the direction of Mr. Alfred Davies, who provide first-class programmes in admirable manner, and which are well supported. The Rouge-et-Noir Concert Party follow with excellent evening entertainments, and well maintain their reputation.

PIER HILL BANDSTAND.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—Large crowds flock here at each of the three daily performances, where the Pick-Me-Ups, under the direction of Mr. George Robins, are more entertaining than ever, and whose change of programme every few days meet with general approval.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company appear in *The Shaughraun*. Mr. Thorne as Conn throws plenty of life and merriment into the part, and receives good support from Miss Winifred Barton as Moya. Claire Ffolliot is sweetly depicted by Miss Maud Russel; Corry Kinchela is ably delineated by Mr. James Skea; Mr. Dunlop Stewart makes an impressive Father Dolaw; Robert Ffolliot and Captain Molineux are both well played by Mr. A. J. Haviland and Mr. P. Harper. The piece is well mounted, and the cast is an all-round good one.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—An enthusiastic reception was given to Hetty King, male impersonator; Smiler Lee appears in place of George Formby in a comedy turn; the Two Anartos are funny and clever musicians; some good numbers are introduced by the Lyric Mummers; J. A. Wilson and his dog Towser are favourably received; a novel musical act is contributed by the Barton and Franklin Trio; Cassie Walmer is good; and the Bioscope completes.

COSY CORNER, SEA FRONT.—Mr. Geo. Burton's comedians introduce a speciality of dainty concerted numbers. "Mandy," is an excellent item, in which the whole of the company show their terpsichorean abilities; Bert Albert, light comedian, displays ability in his song; "The Cameron Men," a solo by Miss Pattie Burton and chorus by the company, never fails to get an encore; humorous gags and lively choruses make the show go. Mr. John Skershaw entertains at the piano. Several new sketches have been put on, including *A Race for a Hundred Pounds*, *Modern Matchmaking*, and *Sidelights in the Law Courts*, all being very popular.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—Mr Augustine Knight's company in *Mysteries of the Thames* is performing this week. The character of Richard Brandon is played with power by Mr. Knight, and Miss Francis Waring takes the part of the unfortunate wife, Kate Brandon, in a most feeling manner; Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson plays the villain, Captain James Denbigh, very ably and with unction; and Mr. Tom J Taylor raises a laugh as Peter Waggles; Mr. Edward E. Swinton's Bill Bosco is a good study; Miss Nellie Jackson is to be congratulated upon a capital male impersonation in Berty Fitzgerald, and praise must also be given to little Doris Brereton as Doris; Miss Effie Bartlett invests the part of Flash Nell with realism.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic Carnell.—A programme full of variety is given this week, at the top of which is the McConnell Trio, whose sketch is full of novelty; the Brothers Durant give a comical acrobatic performance; Halma is a smart and clever juggler; Mollie Seymour sings sweetly and plays the violin, and Gladys and Alber are exceedingly versatile; Ted Curtis and Picks earn well-merited applause; Eily Adair sings an Irish song acceptably, and Miss Cole is also successful; Manson and West produce a laughable sketch entitled *Telling the Tale*.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun. — Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company is here in *£1,000 Reward*. Mr. J. Wilton acts with power and effect as Gilbert Lisle; Mr. Frank J. Pitt impersonates Vincent Rainforth in admirable style; Mr. Frank Dallas gives a humorous rendering of Inspector Gilbert; Mr. Dick Seddon is amusing as Dick Springthorpe; Mr. Edward De Vere makes a capable Fred Ingleford; and Mr. Geo. Marriott, jun., is an able Fred Ingleford, jun. Miss Kathryne Eckart sustains the character of Mme. Sanson with marked distinction; Miss Violet Ingram is a pleasing Meg; Miss Alice Clarke makes a capital Mrs. McCarthy; and Miss Minnie Goepel is very successful as Kitty Springthorpe.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Remarkably clever feats are performed here by Yamamoto and Miss Koyoshi, Japanese equilibrists; Unthan, armless wonder, is thoroughly entertaining; Mackintosh and Royal are expert clog and big boot dancers; Harry Thurston, burlesque comedian, is highly successful; the Betsons are amusing in the comic cycling sketch, *A Tramp's Holiday*; and Chas. Rowen, comedian; Ryan and Hall, eccentric comedians; and Dene and Dawson, in *Stage Aspirants*, complete a capital programme.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—A short dramatic season takes the place of the usual variety show for a few weeks, and Mr. Sidney Dench's company is presenting twice nightly a drama, *The Prince of Rogues*. The piece proves popular, especially with the pit and gallery. Geoffrey Flint is well presented by Mr. Edward Avinall, who is ably seconded by Miss Violet Lytton as Rita. Mr. Tom Ronald gives a manly representation of Frank Farrell; Miss Dora Dench is a winsome Winnie Harwood; and much amusement is caused by the vagaries of Josh Buggins, ably portrayed by Mr. Bert Dench. Mr. Sidney Dorey is the detective of the drama to the life; and Miss Alice May fills the part of Polly Dibbs in a capable manner.

SUNDERLAND.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Grieveson.—Messrs. Wm. A. Armour and Hartwell J. Kirby's *The Best of Her Sex* company is appearing here. Mr. Hartwell J. Kirby himself impersonates the unscrupulous Leslie Verney in a manner that earns the execrations of the "gods"; Mr. Ed. E. Ashby plays the young hero Phillip Farringdon very capably; Mr. Herbert J. Walton, in the short part of Sir Stanton Farringdon (who is shot in the first act), with considerable effect; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks is commendable as the Rev. Stephen Maxwell; humour is supplied by Mr. J. W. Hooper (Peter Jorkins), Mr Herbert de Ville (Jake Smith), and Mr. Fred Yarnold (Holy Joe), along with Miss Alice Buckland, who as Polly Perkins assists to enliven the proceedings. Miss May Grayce is pleasing as Ruth Raeburn, and the rôle of the adventuress Vera is well presented by Miss Alvina Mining.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—A strong and interesting bill is headed by the remarkably clever trio of conjuring, sleight-of-hand, and general mystifyers, Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco; May Mars, comedienne, makes a welcome reappearance, the first in the town since her recent pantomime successes here, securing an excellent reception; Mlle. Eldee appears in a series of posing pictures with lantern effects that are appreciated; Moon and Morris (natives of the borough, who have recently come prominently to the front) are a couple of comedians out of the common run, their dancing being unique. The bill also includes such well-known artists as Lizzie Daniels, comedienne, who contributes a couple of numbers and a smart dance; George Brooks, an exceedingly quaint character actor and nautical comedian; and Ed. E. Ford, billed as the Australian sundowner.

OLYMPIA.—Lessees, The American Roller Skating Rink Co.—There is no waning in the popularity of this entrancing pastime, the present generation having taken it up with surprising enthusiasm and gusto, far exceeding that of three decades ago. This week a grand masquerade carnival night was given, when the floor presented a brilliant and gorgeous appearance, the novel and humorous costumes being most numerous.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Closed for summer season.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—*A Fight for Life* is thrillingly performed here this week by Ada Franks's company.—Mr. Courtney Robinson was eminently fitted for the rôle of Count Adrian; and as La Cardell, alias the Tigress, Miss Violet Lesborough played a difficult part admirably. Mr. William Mathews as her son, Carlos, played the part in a convincing manner.

THE EMPIRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The name of Eugene Stratton has not yet lost its drawing powers, and full houses are nightly paying tribute to "the Ideal Coon," who appears in old and new numbers; the Proveanies provide a cycling turn that is really extraordinary; Ted E. Box, with quaint and amusing mannerisms, and great whistling abilities, is much enjoyed; a sketch, *Home from the Honeymoon*, is capitally played by Arthur Jefferson's company; Rich and Rich have a mania for juggling with words which makes their contribution a noteworthy one; Elsie Roby excels in her act, *The Slavey*; and Billy French does some wonderful wooden shoe dancing. Will Musgrove dispenses humour ad lib.; the Bioscope pictures maintain a high standard.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—Messrs. Chabot and Ballard's company is here in *Only a Woman*. As Courtenay Wallace Mr. Percy Ballard is capital; Mr. F. Green's Lieut. Rd. Summerfield is a meritorious performance; as Lieut. Rodney Summerfield, Mr. W. H. Wilson is eminently successful; James Dobson and Bill Bumpkins are well interpreted by Messrs. H. Barker and F. Edwards; Miss Violet Crawfurd wins immediate favour as Marie Lestoc; as Violet Redgrave, Miss Flora Leslie is suitably cast; Miss M. Douglas provides mirth as Eliza Jane.

HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—The Cytoza Bros. give a neat acrobatic turn here; Ap Morgans increases in popularity; and Geo. Goldburn is a great comedian. Auto provides plenty of fun in his musical comedy act; Connie Rubee and Denby and Dent contribute in no small measure to the success of the evening. Some excellent films are shown.

TYNEMOUTH. — PALACE-BY-THE-SEA.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—The season is now in full swing, and the large auditorium is usually well filled by quite a fashionable throng. Commencing on Sunday with a grand musical programme, with an augmented orchestra, under the baton of Lieut. Henry Amers, fresh from his American and Continental, and Royal Agricultural show successes, there was an exceptionally good house; and on Monday and the remainder of the week premier honours go to Wilton Heriot and company's Anglo-American alliance in an original sketch that afforded ample opportunity for the lightning-like abilities of quick-changes by the clever protean artist Heriot. John Duncannon, the well-known basso, sings with his usual brilliancy and power; the Solio Trio increase their popularity in song, dance, and cakewalk; Kavados, juggler and equilibrist, proves exceedingly smart; Arthur J. Hill, the mannikin mimic, is amusing; and Marello, Punchinello performer, with the Palace Variety Orchestra, under the leadership of Mr. W. A. Crosse, and an interesting display of the most recent and up-to-date pictures, provide unusually good fare. The courteous and urbane manager, Mr. Lindon Travers, continues to see to the comforts of those in front.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Ryder Boy's company is continuing the third week here with *The Lady of Lyons, She Stoops to Conquer*, and *A Fool's Paradise*. On Monday night Lord Lytton's play had a capital reception, and in the title-rôle Miss Alice Hughes enacted the part of Pauline in charming fashion, her denunciation of Claude in the third act being very fine; Mr. Henry Worrall as Claude Melnotte won the highest encomiums for a finished interpretation of the gardener's son; Mr. Ryder Boys was well placed as Colonel Damas; and as Beausiant, Mr. Harold Neville infused plenty of dramatic force into the part; Mr. Murray Graham was amusing as Glavis; and Monsieur and Madame Deschappelles were cleverly presented by Mr. Alan Modie and Miss Betty Noel; Miss Florrie Hicks was a motherly widow Melnotte, and Miss Elsie Bron a winsome Janet. The staging and dressing of the play left nothing to be desired.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Kinnard supplies an excellent turn here, and his remarkable illusionary feats are exceptionally well done; Lillie Lu Raine scores well with a series of cornet solos, and Baby Boden is a clever young comedienne. The pictures are rare specimens of the photographer's art.

NEW PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—May Moore Duprez is one of the happiest of Dutch girls; the Kirbys are capital burlesque artists; the Four Maisamos are a smart quartette of eccentric musicians; Edie Reynolds plays some delightful violin solos; and the San Remo Girls are charming comediennes and dancers; the Kremka Brothers are novel and amusing acrobats; the Five Bombays are the possessors of rich voices; and George Lawrence is a capable comedian.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. F. B. Woulfe and company are here with *Lady Godiva*. Miss Ethel Griffiths, in the title-rôle, displays remarkable ability; an effective rendering of Lady Aldyth is forthcoming from Miss Mildred Eversleigh; Miss Edith Lorraine as Elfrida and Miss Sarah Wheatman as Editha do excellent work; as Leofric, Earl of Mercia, Mr. Claude Aymond is heartily applauded; and in the interesting rôle of Tom of Coventry Mr. F. B. Woulfe scores a decided success. A characteristic portrayal of Algar comes from Mr. Stephen Crossley; Mr. Leslie Manton makes a faithful Unwolf, his retainer; and Edgar finds an excellent exponent in Mr. William Melvyn.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The evergreen *Round the Clock*, with Charles Majilton at the head of affairs, is once more paying a visit to the district and providing enjoyment to numerous admirers, old and new. H. O. Wills's eccentricity elicits roars of laughter, and several recalls are awarded him. An exceptional treat is afforded lovers of operatic vocalism by the engagement of J. W. Turnbull, whose splendid voice and enunciation in "Let me like a soldier fall" and "Oh, 'tis a glorious night," from *Oberon*, charm all. Sibb and Sibb contribute a graceful performance on the double trapeze; equilibrism has a capital exponent in Zenora, whose novel hand-balancing feats are fully appreciated. Attraction is also added to the programme by W. H. Smart, "the eccentric Scotchman," and Kitty Lavigne, comedienne and top-boot dancer.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—Chassino, in his novel shadowgraphy, in which his feet as well as his hands are employed with marvellous effect, is creating quite a sensation; in addition to the shadowgraphy, his mimicry of birds is considerably above the usual exhibitions in this line. The sinuous gyrations of Miss Helen Roberts in the "Salome" dance and Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" dance are charming; all her movements are graceful, and the effect fascinating. The Miniature Marionette Circus, manipulated by the Sisters Petram, is remarkably well done, and meets with considerable applause; the Dancing Gilberts receive quite an ovation for their exceptionally clever display of dancing, which is as novel as it is clever; muscular strength is fully displayed by Les Zelovas in their smart acrobatic equilibristic performance; the Four Figaros, in International song and dance; Colin Mail, light comedian; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are also attractions in the programme.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — GRAND PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The Vagabonds are proving a great attraction here. Miss Olive Sparke rendered "The Moon has his eyes on you" most artistically; Miss Leslie Lulu's sweet voice was heard to the utmost advantage in "Mandy"; "Under the Weeping Willow Tree" was given by Miss Marie Longmore with rare expression; Mr. Leslie Burgiss's rich baritone voice found plenty of scope in "The Robber King"; Mr. Arthur Thomas's comic gags and playing of divers instruments were exceptionally good; Mr. Harold Montague, an artist to the finger-tips, is a great favourite locally, and quite surpassed himself in his humorous sketch, *The Choral Society*. Mr. Claude Russell is exceptionally good at the pianoforte; Mr. John Lambert shows some first-class pictures by Pathé Frères on the Bioscope.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is presenting *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* here this week. Mr. Weldon Atherstone, an actor of ability, gives an excellent representation of John Jasper; Mr. Harry Twyford is successful as Neville Landless, also presenting a clever character-study of Mr. Datchery; Mr. Walter Demoney, in the title-rôle, deserves praise; Mr. Karl H. Edwards invests the part of Durdles with humour; and Mrs. Morton Powell ably impersonates the character of Rosa Bird. Miss J. Risley makes a capital Deputy; Helena Landless is in the capable hands of Miss M. Beatrice; and Mr. Richard Harriss acts well as Mr. Chrisparkle.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Marco.—Some magnificent films have been shown this week, including The Silver King, a realistic representation in animated photography of the great drama as played by the late Mr. Wilson Barrett. College Chums, The Inquisitive Boy, The Bathers' Race, The Arabian Legend, and several other pictures of the highest order afford the greatest pleasure to large and delighted audiences nightly. Mr. Charles Clifford, from the Crystal Palace, &c., &c., the popular humorist and master of the harp, has had most flattering receptions in his entertainment of humorous songs, sayings, and sweet melodies.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John J. Scott.—This week the Lynches, American song illustrators, have proved a big attraction; Dale and Vale, in their vocal and dancing speciality, go well; Miss Flo Christine is a refined serio and clever dancer; and the Penryns cause roars of laughter in their Welsh knock-about sketch, *A Welshman in Bedlam*.

YORK. — ROYAL. — Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; General-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*The Gentleman Jockey*, presented by Mr. Ed. Marris' company, is here. Mr. Cecil W. Parke, in the title-rôle, pleased everybody; Mr. Leonard Dalrymple as Archie Fitzherbert took full advantage of the scope afforded him; Mr. Arthur Proctor as P.C. Barrowby kept the audience in merry mood; Mr. Helier le Maistre as David Grayson acquits himself admirably; Frank Snakesworth is ably embodied by Mr. W. B. Nugent; Mr. Victor Rowland is good as Grant; Miss Ethel Ward as Poppy Grayson plays in a dainty style; Miss Lillian Drake as Kitty is a decided success; and Miss Gertie Reid is an ideal Peppin. The Lottie Stone Quartette as the four maids add considerably to the success of the play by their clever dancing and singing.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Brooke.—Lillie Soutter is always a warm favourite here, and her appearance during the present week has been hailed with general delight; the juggling feats with heavy weights of Francis Gerard has caused much wonderment, whilst the comical exploits of his assistant have been heartily enjoyed; the Three Sisters Transfield in their musical entertainment are a distinct success; the playing of Miss Violet King has proved a most enjoyable item; and Vowles and Bryan in their refined scena have been applauded; too much praise cannot be given to the Hersleb Bros. for an entertainment which is at once unique, clever, and funny. There are two excellent films on the Bioscope, and the programme is completed by Maurin's Fountain, one of the most pleasing and artistic productions it is possible to imagine.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND THEATRICAL ACCOUNTS.

BY

CUTHBERT E. SMEDLEY, Chartered Accountant.

CHAPTER II. (*continued*).

As has been indicated, the Acting-Manager receives the returns of the cash from the Box-office and the Pit and Gallery, as well as the independent returns from the counters. From these returns he prepares a total return of the House Receipts for the day, which is then recorded in the House Receipts Book.

FINAL RETURN.

.....*day*.....*19*.....

No. of Performance .....

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Booking						
Libraries.....						
Front Doors						
Upper Circle.....						
Pit						
Gallery						
Late Money						
				£		

The accuracy of the Acting-Manager's final return may be tested by:—

(1) An investigation of the tickets in the Box-office, which should show that all tickets which have been torn out have been accounted for in cash, due allowance being made for complimentary and library tickets.

Complimentary tickets should be under the sole control of the Acting-Manager, and a record should be kept of the tickets so given away, and the parties to whom they are given.

Tickets given away and the stub must always be stamped "complimentary" or ear-marked in some way, such as by the signature of the Acting-Manager, so as to enable the counter to distinguish such tickets in his return.

(2) Counting the counterfoils given up to the check-takers.

Unless there is collusion between the check-taker and the money-taker, the counting the counterfoils forms an absolute check on the cash.

From the Library Booking Return the Manager must post up the Libraries Book.

A convenient form of ruling is given below:—

LIBRARIES BOOK.

Date.	Total.	Lacon.	Webster.	Army & Navy.	District Messengers.	Roy.	Ashton.	Keith Prowse.	Less Disc.
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	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	s.	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	

Accounts are usually rendered to the libraries monthly and a discount varying from 5 to 10 per cent. is allowed. The total of each column, less discount, is the amount due by each agent. Detailed accounts as shown below are made up from the counterfoils of the library tickets, and should be agreed with the total shown to be due according to the libraries book before being rendered.

Messrs......

Dear Sir,—I here append details of your account with us for the month ending .....
190 .

..... Manager.

DATE.	Stalls 10s. 6d.		Dress Circle 7s. 6d.	Dress Circle 5s.	Upper Circle 5s.	Upper Circle 4s.			£	s.	d.
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(To be continued.)

THE "HALL OF MUSIC."

The following interesting article appears in "Chiefly Concerning Music Halls," published by T. Fisher Unwin in the late nineties. It is from the pen of Mr. George Gamble, and is a dream of the possibilities of the modern music hall. Some of these anticipations have been realised; others are within measurable distance.

"Hitherto have I written chiefly of things as they are; now will I write only of things as they could be. Come! Let us dream.

"Lo, we are in a place of perfection! The music hall has departed; in its stead is a hall of music. The palace of varieties is now but a building where can be found differences only of kind and not of degree. And things are so ordained that evening shall be young and night-time blue. And, although Raucous indeed is gone with his red Nose, and Sot's Singultous Songs, where no one knows—'still a Ruby kindles in the Vine and many a Garden by the Water blows.'

"Here (in our dream, be it remembered) is no massing of the gross masquerading as the gay, no death-like dullness put forth as all that there is of most brilliant. Here is no riot of fact, but only a revel of fancy. Here is no rule of the plumes, but only a reign of the roses. And the roses are beautiful, fragrant, inermous; and the plumes, though forced to abdicate in favour of the flowers, are no longer mere black feathers fit only for funerals, but are redyed to whiteness and wedding-value.

"Gone is the hideous and the hateful; gone is the unhappy and the unnecessary. Gone are the horrisonous discords; and in their stead are melodies sweet and harmonious. Gone are the honeyless words of stupidity; and in their stead are sayings sweet and wise. Gone are the rags maculated and pediculous; and in their stead are garments comic but clean, garments occasionally unkempt but invariably undisturbing. And the costumes of the women, though rich and gay and shining, are coloured correctly.

"As for the authors—though they are not precisely duplicates of Burns and Beranger, yet have they in themselves something of W. S. Gilbert and W. E. Henley; though they are not exactly makers of national ballads and immortal songs, yet (as with the two last-named) are they always witty and inspiring, always masters of rhyme and reason, always producers of the original and the well-expressed. For example, no longer do they write concerning wine and woman as if they knew nothing about either; no longer do they permit themselves to believe that age cannot wither nor custom stale the infinite vulgarities of the cab-rank and the racecourse. And so we may desist from exhorting them to be less bad; for they now, though not always quite equal, are always quite good. They are intelligent and satisfying: because they are rightly encouraged. They are reliable and pleasing: because they are rightly paid. And they are not only popular and duly appreciated; they are competent and finely meritorious: because the public has grown discriminative, and become intolerant of the bad, and desirous only of the good.

"Especially has the music improved It is now in the hands of trained men: who are as properly rewarded as should be all artists that are worthy of their pay. These men show that a piece of work can be technical without being tiresome, can be the more craft-like without being the less enchanting; and they contrive, in the manner of Alfred Cellier and Sir Arthur Sullivan, that a melody shall be cultured, sweet, riant, graceful, and yet have the mercantile qualities of being easy and memorable. The tunes of the music hall (in our dream, be it still remembered) possess all the merits of those of the concert-room, with an added fire of spontaneity and an accessional charm of resource. Modelled more upon the French and less upon the German, or quaint and dear and flowing as is ever the best of the English, these tunes are very popular—as popular as was 'Ta-ra-ra-boom-de-ay.'

"An lo!—in our dream-built hall of music—we now hear Voices and see Visions.

"'I am the Spirit of Song: I appease; I do not appal.'

"'I am the Spirit of Dance: I enchant; I do not repel.'

"'I am Gaiety: I enliven; I do not depress.'

"'I am Pleasure: I renovate; I do not destroy.'

"'I am Entertainment: no longer can you say with truth that it is better to work than to be amused.'

"Anon the melody changes, and we hear a song of the open road. Again the melody changes, and we hear a song of the open sea. And the steady sturdy tramp-tramp of armed men gives place to the mighty on-coming swash-swash of ironclad ships And, loud and high, the voices are heard of such writers as Algernon Charles Swinburne, with his 'Word for the Navy' and William Ernest Henley with his 'England, my England. And, higher still, and higher (as a 'runner' might tip with fire if a vast illumination surprised a festal night, outlining round and round Paul's dome from pillar to spire) comes—not as his paraphrase will perhaps imply, the accents of Robert Browning and his 'cello strains of Love—but the notes of Rudyard Kipling and his trumpet blasts of Imperialism. Little matters it now, that the music hall is more of a schoolroom than a playground for the British brain; there is something *good* to learn; and not the pleasantries of 'We don't want to fight, but, by Jingo if we do, we've got the ships, we've got the men, we've got the money too!' Instead, are to be heard the rhymes and reasons of that consummate literary artist who is the acclaimed and accredited mouthpiece of the nation that, though *imperfect*, is the *best* that has ever had being on the face of the known globe—the man who gave that splendid shout, 'The English Flag'—the man who sounded that note of warning, 'Recessional'—the articulate man who sang 'A Song of the English.'

"And in the palace of which we are dreaming may be distinguished many other voices—equally great, equally potent; but all different. Man does not live by patriotism alone.

"In their own time Shakespeare and his fellow craftsmen dominated the thought of all England, uplifted the hearts of the people to issues braver and finer. Whence was the message delivered? From the playhouse! . . . In our time, the play is mentally naught beside the novel and the newspaper. Attack a subject in print, leave it for dead—long after, it shall be found on the stage, not only alive, but pretending to have been born there . . In the future, we may find ideas truly starting into life from the theatre itself. What if others should germinate in the very music hall?

"The future! Ah, that is a convenient place—for dreams."

INDISPENSABLE! Rayne's Pocket Date Book. Price 1s. Contents: Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance. Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list of brougham proprietors, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c., &c. Send twelve stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

HISTORIC BY-WAYS.

In his "Miniatures from London Life," Mr. T. R. Croger devotes several chapters to "Historic By-ways," and in one interesting chapter on Crosby Hall and Great St. Helens, he writes:—In Bishopsgate-street Within stands Crosby Hall. This fine house was built in 1466 by Sir John Crosby. It is said that it was then the highest house in London. It has passed through many vicissitudes since, and as it is now a restaurant well known to all city men, who partake of their modest chop eaten in the fine old banqueting-hall—the said chop having been cooked at the immense old fireplace—and the beer, if any, drawn from a bar placed in a splendid oriel window, it is needless for me to more particularly describe the place. Yet it may be interesting to remember that it was in this house that the hunchback Richard, Duke of Gloucester, was living when, according to Shakespeare, he stopped the funeral train of an enemy that he might make love to Lady Anne, to whom he says (*Richard III.*, Act 1, Scene 2):—

"Look, how my ring encompasseth thy finger,
Even so thy breast encloseth my poor heart;
Wear both of them, for both of them are thine.
And if thy poor devoted servant may
But beg one favour at thy gracious hand,
Thou dost confirm his happiness for ever.
Lady Anne. What is it?
Glou. That it may please thee leave these sad designs
To him that hath most cause to be a mourner,
And presently repair to Crosby Place."

It was at Crosby Place that Shakespeare arranges for the interview between Gloucester and the two ruffians whom he has engaged to murder his brother Clarence (Act 1, Scene 3):—

"*Glou.* How now, my hardy, stout-resolved mates!
Are you now going to dispatch this thing?
First Murderer. We are, my lord; and come to have the warrant,
That we may be admitted where he is.
Glou. Well thought upon; I have it here about me.
When you have done, repair to Crosby Place.
But, sirs, be sudden in the execution,
Withal obdurate, do not hear him plead;
For Clarence is well spoken, and perhaps
May move your hearts to pity, if you mark him.
First Murd. Tut, tut, my lord, we will not stand to prate;
Talkers are no good doers: be assured
We go to use our hands and not our tongues."

Shortly after this conversation had taken place, Clarence was found dead, drowned in a butt of Malmsey, as all the world knows.

At the time that the two boys, Edward V. and his brother, were smothered in the Tower, Gloucester was living here.

Many other men of note have occupied the house from time to time, one of the most celebrated being Sir John Spencer, of whom I will give some particulars later on.

Behind Crosby Hall is Crosby-square; the centre is occupied by the fine old church of St. Helens: it has been very aptly described as "the Westminster Abbey of the City." This church was founded by Constantine the Great, the first Christian Emperor of Rome, in honour of his mother Helen; but the present edifice was erected in various times from 1212, in the time of King John and later. It is all very old and of great interest to the historian. Of the many famous men entombed there, perhaps the most renowned was Sir Thomas Gresham, who was buried in 1564. He was a very great man in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and he probably did more for the success of English commerce than any other man that ever lived, for, being sent as representative of his Queen to Antwerp, which was then "the hub of the universe," he succeeded in persuading shipmasters to bring their vessels with their consignments to the Thames, and so made London the chief port of the world's trade.

There is an old story to the effect that, when an infant, he was found by a boy who followed a grasshopper to capture it, and discovered the child in the grass. This seems to have some countenance in the fact that the vane on top of the Royal Exchange, which Gresham founded, is a metal grasshopper. This is a pretty little anecdote, but, unfortunately, like so many of our cherished beliefs, it is not true. The father and the uncle of Sir Thomas were both of them great merchants in the City of London, and each of them had been Lord Mayor in his time. Moreover, visitors to breezy Cromer may spend a pleasant afternoon by taking a drive or ride to the village of Gresham, where Sir Thomas and his ancestors had lived. Gresham Castle is now a ruin level with the ground, only the lower parts of the walls being visible, surrounded by the remains of the moat. The castle was a square one, with bold round towers at the corners, and must have been approached by a drawbridge.

It is interesting to note that while we in London pronounce the name Gresh-am, the people of Norfolk call it Gres-ham.

One other man of importance I must not pass without mention, although there are many names associated with this place that should be referred to.

Sir John Spencer was a very rich and powerful merchant. He, his wife, and their only child, a daughter, lived in Crosby Place, but they had also a country residence—namely, Canonbury Tower, a place built in 1523 by Prior Bolton, of St. Bartholomew the Great, as a rural retreat for himself and the monks. This tower still stands; it is in the parish of Islington. Sir John Spencer, it is said, aspired to wed his daughter to a man like himself, but she, like so many young ladies, even in the good old days, had notions of her own upon that subject.

Dr. J. E. Cox, the late vicar in charge, who was so delighted always to show visitors over his beautiful old church, and who was a great lover of art generally, and music in particular, has written a most interesting book, called "The Annals of St. Helens." In it he tells in his delightful way the following story, which I shall probably spoil in the retelling, just as much as he made it luminous.

He says that one day the baker called at Canonbury Tower. He carried a large basket to hold the bread. Into this basket the maiden crept, as she was remarkably small, being unlike her parents, if we may judge by their effigies in the church. She was carried away and married to the man of her choice, Lord William Compton.

Sir John and Lady Spencer were heartbroken, and refused to be comforted. Sir John was a great man at the Court of Elizabeth, and by and by the Queen sent for him, saying that she had a charge to lay upon him; that she was interested in an infant to which she intended to stand as godmother, and that she wished Sir John Spencer to join her in her kindly office, and act as godfather to the child. Of course, he readily consented. The baptismal day duly arrived; the ceremony performed, the broken-hearted father took the helpless infant in his arms to bless it and make it his heir, he having cast off his disobedient child. When all was complete, at a signal a door was thrown open, and there, upon their knees, to ask pardon, were the parents of the infant, Sir John's daughter and Lord William Compton!

This delightful story, the result of the ready wit of the Queen, should be read in Dr. Cox's book. The monument to Sir John and his wife, with the little daughter at her devotions, should be seen by visitors to this church. Dr. Cox used to say that he was sure that Shakespeare had some of his plays performed in an old coaching-yard, the Four Swans, that stood opposite Crosby-square.

That Shakespeare did know the neighbourhood well is certain, as he was an inhabitant of the parish, and his name appears upon the rate-book.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

On Friday evening, July 3, the pupils of Mr G. H. Snazelle gave a dramatic performance in the theatre of the Guildhall School of Music, and considering the marked ability shown by the pupils, who were, with one exception, ladies, it was to some extent a pity that a stronger programme than a very short comedietta and a farcical episode were not forthcoming in the dramatic portion. The large audience, however, greatly enjoyed the performances, and the ladies' concert given later on the evening proved additionally attractive owing to the presence of Mr. Snazelle as master of the ceremonies. The first item in the programme was R. C. Carton's comedietta *The Ninth Waltz*, in which the character of Richard, who comes from abroad just in time for the ninth waltz and the hand of the young widow, was played in a manly and effective spirit by Mr. Stanley Hughes, while Miss Emily Surridge gave a charming account of Florence, the young widow. In a farcical episode, *A Mere Man*, by Herbert Sears, Mr. Snazelle introduced the daring and not unsuccessful experiment of a concert during the farce. The scene of *A Mere Man* takes place in the Chatham Street Old Maids' Club, and as the farce is not especially a strong affair, the little concert greatly enlivened matters. Miss Lilian Exton played the president of the club, Miss Margaret Lymbery being Lady Betty, a serious girl, while Miss E. M. Beagley was effective as the lazy girl Dolly; and Miss Violet Knight gave considerable interest to Irene, an American girl with a most pronounced accent. Miss Goadsby, a girl no longer, was played with much humour by Miss E. M. Surridge; and the other characters of Maisie and the Hon. Mrs. Rickerby were intelligently performed by Miss Gertrude Ketchell and Miss J G. Badcock. The ladies' concert given during the farce introduced Miss Doris Cloud's String Quartette, who gave a pleasing selection of music. The Mitchell Vocal Quartette also were heard in a charming rendering of German's lively song, arranged as a quartette, "Love is meant to make us glad," which was encored. The Mitchell Quartette are pupils of Mr. Isidore de Solla. Mr. Snazelle's pupil, Miss Katrine St. Clair, gave a clever recitation, "Why I Laugh," and laughed so naturally that it proved infectious. Miss Florence Paull sang "Tell me, my heart" (Bishop) and Miss Exton was most heartily applauded in her recitation showing how life is like a pack of cards. A pupil of Herr Francesco Berger, Miss Dorothy Holden, gave an excellent piano solo of selection from *Rigoletto;* and a little pupil of Mr. Snazelle's, Miss Linder, who looked about nine years old, very prettily recited "The Water-mill" with good emphasis and admirably clear enunciation, the audience giving the youthful performer a most hearty recall. Miss Dora Palmer sang "A Rose Garden" (Ahn von Carse) with effect, and Mr. G. H. Snazelle, to the huge delight of the audience, recited his extremely funny story of "The Whistling Man," who tries by this means to cure himself of stuttering. When the laughter caused by this story had subsided, Mr. Snazelle, who was warmly greeted, announced that shortly he would be going to Australia for a year, and hoped on his return to continue his lessons on elocution at the Guildhall School.

The students' orchestral concert on Wednesday evening was given, as usual, in the fine hall of the City of London School, before a large audience. Dr. Cummings, the principal, conducted the orchestra, which was first heard in Gounod's Symphony No. 2 in E flat, originally played at the Crystal Palace in October, 1864, and again in April, 1871. Considering that the symphony is written by the composer of *Faust* the work proves somewhat uncertain in its lack of strength, although there is pleasing music in the Larghetto, and the finale is lively and effective. The orchestral students showed great intelligence in their playing of the symphony. In Mr. Landon Ronald's prelude, "Life," Miss Violet Oppenshaw used her fine voice most artistically, and was ably accompanied by the orchestra; while Miss Jessie Attwell gave a remarkably neat and finished performance of the solo instrument in the first movement, Allegro Maestoso, from Chopin's Pianoforte Concerto in E minor. Miss Gladys Ancrum sang "Mon cœur s'ouvre à ta voix" with a fair amount of success, though showing a tendency to force her voice at times. A new Concert Overture MS., by Miss Ethel Scarborough, performed for the first time, proved a pleasing and melodious work. Miss Scarborough has written some very effective passages for the wind instruments in the opening and best theme of the overture, and if the finale was to a certain extent slightly diffuse, greater experience will increase her natural gifts. The young composer, who had a most hearty reception, conducted the overture with considerable ability. Miss Jenny Hyman, the official accompanist of the school, presided at the pianoforte.

MISS MILDRED COTTELL, who has had an offer to star as Lady Marion Beaumont, Miss Constance Collier's part in *The Sins of Society*, has been engaged for some time by Mr. Wentworth Croke for the part of Helga in *The Prodigal Son*.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday, at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, Mr. R. A. Robinson (chairman) presiding.

THEATRE AND MUSIC HALL LICENCES.

The General Purposes Committee reported as follows:—

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee have had under consideration the question of the procedure at meetings of the Council held for the purpose of hearing applications for licences for music, music and dancing, and stage plays, and have suggested to us that the Council should delegate to them the power to grant and refuse licences, subject to a right of appeal to the Council in certain specified cases, and that the Council, when hearing the appeals from the Committee's decisions, should not debate the cases in public after hearing the evidence for and against the applications, but that any deliberations upon an application should, as in the case of the Committee's proceedings, take place in private.

While not prepared to recommend the delegation of authority in the manner suggested by the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, we are of opinion that the suggestion that the deliberations of the Council, when sitting as the licensing authority in respect of music, music and dancing, and theatre licences, should be conducted in private may well be adopted, and we submit the necessary amendments of standing orders to secure this. These amendments may need revision should the Local Authorities (Admission of the Press) Bill, which has passed all stages in the House of Commons, and has been introduced into the House of Lords, become law.

The Rev. STEWART HEADLAM moved that the recommendation be referred back to the Committee, as he thought that this was an extremely dangerous proposal. His memory carried him back to a time when there was a plot directed against the privileges of the theatres and music halls, and he thought that the electors ought to know how their representatives voted on these questions. What they wanted was a free discussion.

Mr. H. H. GORDON seconded the amendment.

Mr. GREENWOOD, the chairman of the Committee, said that the matter had been very carefully considered. A great many of them had felt for some time that the procedure at the annual Licensing Sessions left a great deal to be desired. The suggested alteration in the standing orders would not lead to any alteration in the usual policy of the Council. The division lists would be published in the proceedings of the Council, as in the case of all other divisions, and he hoped that the recommendation would be carried.

SIR JOHN MCDOUGAL supported the recommendation, as he thought that to consider their decisions in private was a very proper course to adopt.

The amendment was defeated on a show of hands.

Mr. GORDON moved a further amendment to the effect that provided a vote or division be taken, such vote or division be taken in public. He held that the ratepayers had a right to know how their representatives voted.

The CHAIRMAN said he thought the amendment was quite unnecessary.

SIR EDWIN CORNWALL said he should vote against the amendment, as he believed it would only lead to a muddle if adopted.

A division was then taken, and the amendment was defeated by fifty-eight votes against forty-four.

A further amendment was moved by Mr. DEW to refer the whole matter back to the Committee. He said that hitherto they had always done the business with open doors, and their constituents had a right to know how they voted.

Mr. GOSLING seconded the amendment, which was lost.

The amendments to the standing orders were then agreed to, and Mr. GREENWOOD undertook to bring up a report as to the methods of taking votes and divisions on the granting of theatre and music hall licences under the new system.

MR. REYNOLDS' QUESTIONS.

Mr. WALTER REYNOLDS called attention to the waste of time which occurred at the last meeting, and asked the chairman of the General Purposes Committee whether he would recommend that the Council should sit two days instead of one; or such alteration in the standing orders as to enable the Council to get through the work in a single day like rational business men.

Mr. GREENWOOD, vice-chairman of the Committee, said his reply must be in the negative.

Mr. REYNOLDS also quoted a paragraph in the report of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee giving statistics as regards Whit-Monday, and stating that the general behaviour of the crowds was very orderly, and only six convictions for drunkenness recorded. He wished to know whether, in the face of these figures, further restrictive legislation was needed. (Laughter.)

Mr. HUNTER (chairman of the Committee)—I am not to be drawn on a temperance question. (Laughter.)

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A FEW EXTRACTS FROM THE PRESS.

"The Queen," Feb. 1, 1908, said:—
. . . . "For this is no ordinary so-called beauty treatment, no mere enhancement of beauty nor covering of defects, but a veritable change of face."

"The Gentlewoman," March 21, 1908, said:—
"It is a veritable magician's cave, that artistic, reposeful suite of salons at 35, Old Bond Street, which bear the name of Auguste, for . . . . . not only wrinkles, no matter of how long standing, are removable, but even the deep seated scars of small pox."

"The Ladies' Field," Aug. 31, 1907, said:—
"Now that I have seen with my own eyes and felt with my own hands the simply marvellous results of this method, I realise that it is only ignorance and not advancing years that allows a woman to become wrinkled and therefore look old."

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CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL FETE.

Favoured by brilliant weather, the fête at the Botanic Gardens on Tuesday for the benefit of Charing Cross Hospital was entirely successful. The programme of the day commenced at 3 p.m., with a selection by the Elderhorst String Orchestra. At half-past three H.R.H. the Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll, the president of the hospital, arrived, and was received by the Right Hon. Lord Wcardale and members of the council. Her Royal Highness proceeded to the site of the open-air theatre, where she was met by little Dolly Dot, a clever child, attired as Cupid, who spoke the following prologue of welcome, written by Miss Meta Fanny Bowman :—

Sweet Princess, gentle dame and squire,
Whom Love and Pity both inspire
To soothe your fellow mortal's pain,
And bring him back to Hope again—
To heal those stricken in the strife,
The fallen on the field of Life,
All ye, Love's self doth now invite
To the feast prepared for your delight,
To sweet beguile the golden hours
Amid these leafy, fragrant bowers—
We'll do our best nor count the cost,
And trust Love's labour mayn't be lost.
Sweetest Rosebud, bring thy flowers,
Haste thee from thy beauteous bowers.

Miss Dot then led a little child to the Princess, bearing a bouquet, and continued :—

Now, by our glorious Shakespeare's aid,
We'll flit to Arden's forest shade;
Find a goodly company
Underneath the greenwood tree.
The chord of love we'll find and strike it,
This is surely *As You Like It*.
Sound the horn till the welkins ring!
Come, ye players, the play's the thing.

The Princess then declared the fête open, and the forest scenes from *As You Like It* were given, arranged as a woodland masque, the whole entertainment being under the direction of Miss Italia Conti. A very creditable rendering of the ever-popular play was given, Miss Conti speaking Rosalind's lines in soft and silvery tones, and with refined and delicate expression. Mr. Lewis Casson was a gallant Orlando—manly, earnest, and expressive. Two admirable interpretations especially deserve notice—the Touchstone of Mr. Ben Field, keen, unctuous, and amusing, and Miss Claire Greet's very clever and characteristic performance as Audrey. Miss Alys Rees was dainty and distinct as Celia; and Miss Evelyn Martheze was quietly commendable as Phœbe. Mr. William Luff was a good and sound Oliver, and especially distinguished himself by his bold delivery of the speech descriptive of Orlando's accident. Mr. Farbridge was duly senile and affectionate as Adam; and Mr. Ernest Griffen endowed the Banished Duke with due dignity and geniality; Mr. Arthur Fane enacting Jacques with conscientious care. Mr. Robert Grey well filled the rôle of William; Miss Margaret Bright Morris did a pretty solo dance as Hymen; and there was some good glee-singing by the Westminster Singers, the song, "It was a lover and his lass," with a setting by R. H. Walthew, being well rendered by Messrs. W. H. Brereton and Percival and the Misses Ethel and F. Lewis. A neat epilogue was spoken at the conclusion of the performance by Miss Dolly Dot. The stage-managers for Miss Conti were Mr. Claude Vernon and Mr. Albert Murray.

Amongst the ladies announced to preside over the tea tables near the café chantant were many of the most popular performers in *Lady Frederick*, *Havana*, *The Dairymaids*, and *Butterflies*, Messrs. Reginald Eyre, D. P. Williams, Albert Murray, Charles Banks, John Alexander, F. J. Williams, George Highland, and E. Hammond being stewards. Amongst the artists who kindly consented to contribute, by permission of their respective managements, to the café chantant entertainment, arranged by Mr. H. Bernhardt, were Mme. Yvette Guilbert, Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. John McCormack, Miss Constance Collier, Miss Phyllis Dare, Mr. Harry Fragson, Miss Stella St. Audrie, Mr. Louis Bradfield, Miss Jean Aylwin, Miss Jessie Lonnen, Mr. George Robey, Miss Mabel Russell, Miss Lucie Caine, the Westminster Singers, Mr. Alfred Lester, Mr. John Bardesley, Mr. W. H. Berry, Mr. Walter Divine, Miss Enid Leonhardt, Miss Elsie Irving, Little Dolly Dot, Miss Annie Mars, Misses Dorothy and Violet Edge, Miss Ethel Lewis, Mr. Percival, and the St. Paul's Glee Singers.

The numerous shows in the grounds were freely patronised. At *Lady Frederick's* Court of Feminine Fripperies and Masculine Mysteries, Miss Florence Wood presided over an exhibition of model gowns and hats, generously supplied by the Maison Vendôme; selections by the gramophone Caruso, Tetrazzini, were heard with pleasure, and a special record of the famous scene between Lady Frederick and Mme. Claude, in the play, being applauded. In the "Masculine Mystery Corner," Mr. "Joe" Browne gave a performance for gentlemen only which created much curiosity. The honorary manageress, Miss Florence Wood, was assisted by Miss Minnie Terry, Miss Beatrice Terry, Miss Dora Barton, Miss Naomi Barton, Miss K. Sinclair Thomson, Miss W. Howland Roberts, and Miss Therese Nordblom, the stewards being Mr. Edmund Breon, Mr. H. J. Haviland, Mr. Drelincourt Odlum, Mr. Burnaby, and Mr. D. P. Williams. Miss Helen Murphy told people's fortunes by their palms, without any charge whatever except the admission to her tent, the steward for her show being Mr. Lauderdale Maitland.

THE NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, July 6,
"THE CORSICAN BROTHERS."

This renowned play was received with marked approval by a large audience at the Lyric on Monday last. Mr. Sidney Bland played the two brothers, Fabien and Louis del Franchi, with excellent effect. Mr. J. G. Vane as Chateau Renard did well; Mr. J. O. Stewart gave a finished performance as Baron de Montgiron; Mr. J. Hignett was humorous as Baron Martelli; Mr. J. W. Wilkinson as Orlando caused much laughter; Mr. Hugh Wallace was quite satisfactory as Alfred Meynard; Miss Cissie St. Elmo as Mme. Savilia del Franchi was particularly good; and Miss Amy Clyndes was a sympathetic Emilie de Lesparre. *The Corsican Brothers* was followed by a new play in one act (of two scenes) entitled *The Holy War*, based on recent Morocco events, written by Mr. Carlton Wallace. It is hardly a worthy example of Mr. Wallace's well-known ability as a writer of drama. The mounting of both plays left little to be desired, and both were really well dressed.

A CONTRADICTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—At a meeting of the Actors' Union in Manchester on Sunday, May 31 last, a certain member stated that the Actors' Union and the Touring Managers' Association had formed joint committees to draw up a contract, which would take into consideration payment for matinées and rehearsals. My committee desire to state that they have no working sub-committee with the Actors' Union for any purpose whatever, nor are they considering any changes in regard to rehearsals or payment for matinées.—Yours faithfully,

MONTGOMERY MARTIN,
Secretary, Actors' Association.
Savoy-mansions, W.C., July 6, 1908.

Copy of Testimonial to the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Co. From 41, Cavendish-place, Eastbourne. Mr. Harris. Sir,—My skirt has arrived and I am delighted with it. I must also thank you for splendid way you cleaned my pleated lace and silk matinée coat.—I am yours (signed), Kitty Carson. [Advt.]

EDWIN DROOD DEVELOPMENTS.

What was to be the final evolution of the story? asks Mr. Edwin Charles in "Keys to the Drood Mystery," published in one volume by Collier and Co. First and foremost Jasper must be punished. But would death by the hangman, which he so richly deserved a thousand times over, be an adequate punishment according to the Dickens ideal? Here is a picture of the man as I conceive Dickens to have meant him to look in the eyes of his readers :—

Of all the villains, wrong-doers, and murderers he presents to us, John Jasper stands out alone, a devil incarnate. Sikes was merely a ruffianly brute, whose one idea of vengeance was to slay. Wicked villain and parricide in intent though Jonas Chuzzlewit was, there is some small grain of retributive justice in his murder of Montague Tigg, swindler and unscrupulous blackmailer. As for Bradley Headstone, he was a very poor bungler, and, personally, I have always felt sorry for him, and have thought that Eugene Wrayburn, who could find no better use for his elegance, his polish, and his education than to goad and taunt an unsophisticated village schoolmaster into madness, deserved some punishment, and was much too well rewarded in winning so splendid a girl as Lizzie Hexam for a wife. But John Jasper!—the uncle, who, conceiving a passion for his nephew's betrothed, determines upon that nephew's death and plans the details of it while greeting him with honeyed words and eating at table with him—the host who can stand over the sleeping form of his guest, a form full of virility and of the joy of life, a boy with all the golden visions of youth stretched out in long vista before him, and hungrily count the days which must elapse ere that form shall be dull and lifeless—the guardian who can put maddening drugs into the wine of two hot-headed boys so that they may quarrel and so that one of them may be suspected of the murder of the other, which he himself intends to commit—the man who can forge a key for the opening of a sepulchre, in which the present healthy living shall be hidden when it has become the murdered dead—the choirmaster who, with murder in his heart, hearing the solemn words "from battle and murder and from sudden death," can intone with reverent voice "Good Lord deliver us"; and who at the recital of the Commandment "Thou shalt do no murder," melodiously sings, "Lord have mercy upon us and incline our hearts to keep this law." What *can* we say of such a man but that he is the blackest-hearted villain, the most cunning and the most remorseless murderer ever limned by mortal pen?

If Dickens could paint the sufferings of a low brute like Sikes in such language as this :—"Let no man talk of murderers escaping justice and hint that Providence must sleep. There were twenty score of violent deaths in one long minute of that agony of fear." If he could describe the anguish of so miserable a coward, so terror-stricken a wretch as Jonas Chuzzlewit in these burning words.—"The raging thirst, the fire that burnt within him as he lay beneath the clothes, the augmented horror of the room, when they shut it out from his view; the agony of listening, in which he paid enforced regard to every sound, and thought the most unlikely one the prelude to the knocking which should bring the news; the starts with which he left his couch, and looking in the glass imagined that his deed was broadly written in his face, and lying down and burying himself once more beneath the blankets, heard his own heart beating Murder, Murder, Murder, in the bed"—what glowing language would he have used to portray the feelings of a man like Jasper, who had concerted his measures so carefully that he thought himself immune from discovery? As Jasper sat in the condemned cell, the place to which his feet had been hurrying him since first he allowed his passions to get the better of his judgment; since he allowed his judgment to be sapped and undermined by an insidious drug—what raging, maddening thoughts would rush through his head as he reflected that all his caution, all his calculations, had been nullified by so simple a thing as a ring! "Why did Ned conceal it from me?" And the answer to this question would be part of his punishment. Edwin had kept the possession of it a secret, because he so thoroughly believed in Jasper's love for him that he could not bear to worry and vex him by telling him of the broken engagement. Jasper's own hypocritical protestations of a love which did not exist had led to the commission of a dreadful crime. How keen would be his chagrin at such a reflection. Again he would ask, "Why did chance seem to put everything so easily in my way? From the first moment I commenced to think of this murder, every step seemed to be purposely smoothed for me." What a galling thought that Fate had been leading him on through his own evil passions to his ultimate downfall! The very opportunities which had induced him to commit his crime had risen up and mocked him. And the opium—the drug which had enabled him temporarily to forget his daily drudgery—the drug which had given him such golden, glittering visions—the drug under whose influence the commission of his crime had seemed so easy a task—even that had failed him; for at the last it had turned and given him into the hands of his enemies. And yet he had tested it. Had he not carefully listened to the Chinaman, the Lascar, and the hag herself, whilst they were under its influence, and had not all their chatter been "unintelligible"? How could he know that that miserable, ignorant old woman, the keeper of the den, would be shrewd enough to study his temperament, and would thus be able to mix the drug for him in such a way as to make him talk intelligibly? Such thoughts as these would chase each other in maddening medley through his brain day and night, night and day, till the hour of doom arrived.

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There are many lessons to be learned from a careful and studious perusal of such a book as "The Mystery of Edwin Drood." Even he who runs may read if he is on the watch for what is there to teach him. If I have read the character of Jasper aright, as I have earnestly striven to do, he is a type of all that is bad. As in "Oliver Twist" Dickens said :—"I wished to show, in little Oliver, the principle of good surviving through every adverse circumstance and triumphing at last," so, I think, the character of Jasper is the other side of the medal, for he is the personified principle of Evil, who, amidst holy surroundings, begins with dissatisfaction at the routine and monotony of his life, and instead of seeking to vary it by healthy exercise and recreation, takes to noxious drugs that poison the mind as well as the body; continues in envy of his nephew's happier lot, and ends in murder and the gallows.

Dickens always preaches the great human lesson that crime and wrong-doing are necessarily and inevitably followed by punishment. Look at the examples to be found in his books! Fagin dies by the hangman; Sikes hangs himself accidentally in attempting to escape human justice; Bumble and his wife are brought to penury and want and become inmates of the very workhouse in which they had before reigned supreme; Bradley Headstone drowns both Rogue Riderhood and himself, and Silas Wegg is properly rewarded for his terrible treachery and ingratitude; Ralph Nickleby hangs himself in remorse, and his tool Squeers suffers long imprisonment; Quilp is drowned in the slime and ooze of the Thames, and Brass and his sister come to the gutter; Steerforth is drowned near the home he so wantonly wrecked; Jonas Chuzzlewit poisons himself, and Pecksniff and his daughter Charity become street beggars.

MR. WALTER GAY.

Mr. Walter Gay started his theatrical career in a small Shakespearean fit-up company, playing everything from utility to Hamlet. He then was engaged as juvenile lead in a society drama called *Gabrielle*, in *Crutch and Toothpick*, and other pieces. Joining Mr. F. R. Benson, he had most valuable experience in such parts as Mercutio, Macduff, Joseph Surface, and others. Stock seasons at Ramsgate and Ipswich followed, and at the former place Mr. Gay supported Mr. Charles Warner, who went down to "star." Mr. Warner's kind influence secured him many engagements in after years. Among his favourite parts in these early days was that of Louis Percival in *Jim the Penman*. Melodrama claimed him when the late Mr. Eliot Galer secured his services as leading man for stock at the Opera House, Leicester, with a tour of *With the Colours* to follow. He was then engaged by Messrs. Gatti for two tours of *Harbour Lights* and *In the Ranks*, and as a consequence a much-valued engagement at the Adelphi followed. With Miss Fortescue he played Jura in *Moths*, and in *Pygmalion and Galatea;* and for nearly three years he was with Mrs. Langtry for tours and seasons at the St. James's and Princess's Theatres, playing such parts as Spencer in *Clancarty*, Cæsar in *Antony and Cleopatra*, Sir Geo. Ormonde in *Peril*, Oliver in *As You Like It*, &c. Modern drama succeeded the legitimate when Sir Augustus Harris selected him to play Julian Belford in *The Prodigal Daughter*, followed by other tours of Drury Lane dramas under Mr. Henry Dundas's management :—*A Life of Pleasure* (lead), *A Run of Luck* (lead), &c. He then supported Mr. Charles Warner at the Princess's in *The Life We Live*, played Sir John Harding in *The Idler* with Mr. Charles Cartwright on tour, and was Truthful James in Mr. Mortimer's comedy of that name for two tours. Equally important work came to him when Mr. Cartwright asked him to create the heavy part in the production of Mr. Ben Landeck's *Chicot the Jester*. This was followed by an engagement as lead in *In Sight of St. Paul's*, on tour. Engagements at the Pavilion, E., the Crown, Peckham, the Lyric, Hammersmith, as leading man preceded his selection by Mr. Lewis Waller for the part of the King in *The Three Musketeers* at the Globe and Garrick Theatres. A lighter task was the part of Captain Carew in *His Excellency the Governor* with Miss

[*Photo by H. M. Allen.*

MR. WALTER GAY.

Kate Phillips, on tour. Neither must we forget to mention in this brief record that he was engaged by Mr. Henry Arthur Jones to play Mr. Tree's part in *The Dancing Girl*, on tour; nor that as Simon Dale in *English Nell* he supported Miss Florence St. John for two tours. For a few years, owing to family arrangements, Mr. Gay had to leave the stage, and devoted himself to public affairs at his native town of Tenby, being Town Councillor, Poor Law Guardian, and Mayor of the town. He, however, turned to the boards, when he was selected by Mr. Arthur Bourchier in the spring of this year to play Captain Villiers in Mr. Eugène Stafford's *Simple Simon* company. Mr. Gay has not yet settled his autumn work.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, July 6, the Drama, entitled
"THE LITTLE BREAD-WINNER."

Mr. J. A. Campbell's principal company, aided by some well-executed sets, shows to conspicuous advantage in the above play, and the best possible results accrue from a well-selected cast who, working hard together, maintain the interest of the audience from the beginning to the end, and earn the applause which is lavishly meted out to them. Lord William Dorrington, a Quaker, is ably undertaken by Mr. H. B. Peppin. Mr. Louis Lingard portrays the part of Richard Lawrence with success, and achieves distinction. Mr. Alfred Maurice gives a clever delineation in the character of Joseph Prior, a cunning and plausible villain; delivering his lines with excellent effect, he soon becomes most flatteringly unpopular. Mr. Sidney Lynn causes no little amusement as Charles Prior; Dr. Chadwick is adequately essayed by Mr. Wallace Carey. Little Marjorie Lawrence, a very engaging and talented young lady, sustains the character of Meg, "the little bread-winner," with charm and bright vivacity, and assisted by her singing and dancing ingratiates herself with the audience. Miss Lissa Young is diverting as Bobby Trott, and also scores in song and dance. Miss Millie Ford stands out prominently as Kate Cherry, and gives a good rendering of the part. Ruth Cherry is also capably characterised by Miss Kitty Melville. Miss Emmie Barton and Miss Clara Hunt, in their respective rôles of Margaret Daventry and Bridget O'Flanagan, merit commendation, while Mr. Ed. Alderson, Mr. Thomas Minns, and Mr. Henry Gooch lend sufficient aid in minor parts.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, July 7, the Drama entitled
"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."

Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here this week in the above drama. Mr. Fraser Brunner as Phillipe Malvoisin takes advantage of the many opportunities afforded in the strong character; Mr. Teddy Myles gives a humorous impersonation of the Irish policeman Paddy Boyle; and Mr. Will Glaze works hard with excellent results as Sammy Sharp. Miss Thorne Hallam supplies an excellent performance of the sorely-tried Eleanor Deane; Miss Queenie Fraser Brunner renders valuable assistance as Sally Sloper; and Miss Ruth Zillwood as Ninion Malvoisin is responsible for a forcible and effective reading of this important character. The drama is well staged, and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Wm. Stephenson, provides some acceptable selections between the acts. The Bioscope pictures are still an additional attraction.

ACTORS' UNION.

Mr. H. Tripp Edgar presided at the usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union held at Hummum's Hotel on Tuesday afternoon. Amongst those present were Messrs. J. W. Braithwaite, J. Hastings Batson, F. Rawson Buckley, Henry Bedford, Orlando Barnett, Edward Chester, Walter Clarke, Charles Calvert, Frank Copeland, Fred Elvin, Frank Gerald, Sidney N. Hallowes, J. B. Innes, Fred Jacques, Geo. P. Lester, Fred F. Loyd, Bruce Lindley, A. J. May, Wm. Macready, Edward Y. Rae, Charles Stafford, Charles R. Stone, A. Maitland Stapley, Alfred Terris, J. Milne Taylor, James Turner, Carl Vallender, and Albert Wainwright; and Mesdames Walter Bentley, J. W. Braithwaite, C. Bromley, May Conrade, M. Clavering, E. Chalmers, Florence Creagh, E. Erskine, A. Gracey, Maud Kirwan, Eva Lumley, L. L'Estrange, Kitty Marion, I. Montcrieff, C. Macallister, Jessie Rutter, Sybil Rutter, Nellie Taylor, and Millie Vere.

The Chairman, after dealing with the objects of the Union in the usual manner, and complaining of what he considered the hypocritical attitude of Mr. Cecil Raleigh towards that body, made a vigorous pronouncement on the subject of the minimum wage. That much-discussed question, he said, was by no means dead, and the object which it raised would continue to hold uppermost place in their thoughts. He did not believe that the establishment of a minimum wage would be prejudicial to the profession as a whole in that, as had been urged by some people, it would reduce all salaries to that level. The history of trade unions showed that there had been no inconsiderable increase in wages where a minimum had been in force. It was a point to which the Union would have to give very careful consideration, and the meeting could be reminded that a minimum wage was the first object of the Union.

Mrs. Walter Bentley expressed the opinion that if a salary of £2 a week were paid to the most insignificant members of a theatrical company, it would induce a large number of poorly-paid clerks and governesses to join the profession.

The Chairman, in reply to this criticism, remarked that this would be scarcely probable, in view of the fact that the actor did not get an engagement all the year round, and that his salary, therefore, would not amount to £2 a week for fifty-two weeks.

Mr. Frank Gerald supported the Chairman, and went on to say that if any member wished to have the subject of a minimum wage struck out of their rules, he was at liberty to call a general meeting to determine the matter. He took that opportunity of informing the members that the committee had inspected premises which could be used as a club, and it was hoped within the next week or so to submit a scheme in this respect to the members.

Other speakers were Mr. Henry Bedford, Mr. Fred Loyd, Mr. Charles R. Stone, and Mr. J. H. Batson.

ADVERTISING CURTAINS.

Some important questions in connection with the interpretation of contracts for notices on advertising curtains in theatres arose at Wandsworth County Court on Monday, when Judge Harington, K.C., heard an action, in which the Expert Advertising Company, of Rectory Chambers, Norfolk-road, Sheffield, were the plaintiffs, and Mr. A. Gasson, an optician, of Battersea Park-road, the defendant. The case for the plaintiffs was that defendant signed a contract for his advertisement to appear on the advertising curtain at the Shakespeare Theatre, Lavender Hill, Battersea, the amount being £3, and the stipulation being that the advertisement should be shown "three times during each performance." Evidence was given by James Solly, the fireman, and J. H. Armsworth, the flyman, as to the exhibition of the curtain, the three times to be once before the performance, once during the interval, and once at the end of the performance. A paper to this effect was signed after each performance.

Defendant's solicitor said the words of the contract were "three times during each performance." If given before the play commenced, would that be "during the performance"?

His Honour : Is not that putting it a bit too high? You would not have the curtain lowered in the middle of a scene.

The solicitor : No, but there are two or three acts in most pieces.

Defendant, giving evidence, said that on signing the contract he was told that the pantomime season was worth all the money, for then there were two shows a day. On two occasions in February and October he went to the theatre, and only saw the curtain once during the performance. It was lowered when the early doors were opened, but it was so dark nobody could read it. At the close they turned out the lights, and the people at the same time, and so it could not be seen. He complained to the plaintiffs in November, and they said they had never had a complaint before.

Mr. Corfield, another advertiser, deposed to visiting the Shakespeare on June 1, and to the curtain not being shown. He did not wait till the end. Two other witnesses gave similar evidence.

Defendant's solicitor said he had several other witnesses.

His Honour : What are they to prove?

The solicitor : That they did not see the curtain?

His Honour : Perhaps they did not look for it.

The solicitor : If your Honour is satisfied—

His Honour : I am satisfied that on certain occasions the curtain was not shown the three times, but does that vitiate the whole contract?

The solicitor : Yes, if they make continual breaches.

After further argument his Honour said this was a very unsatisfactory case. The plaintiffs appeared to carry on their business at Sheffield. They obtained orders from people in London, but had no power over the stage-managers, and appeared to take no steps to see that the contracts were carried out. He was not satisfied that the contract in this case had been carried out, and there would be judgment for the defendant.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, July 6, the Play in Four Acts entitled
"TRILBY."

This adaptation of Du Maurier's famous novel has been selected as the first of the four attractions which Mr. Ernest Abbott will put before the frequenters of this popular playhouse during his season. Mr. Abbott is well known in this district as a sterling actor, and his reception on Monday evening was well deserved, for he presented an excellent study of the difficult rôle of Svengali. Mr. Abbott is supported by an excellent company, including Miss Ada Abbott, whose Trilby was a capital performance from start to finish. Mr. John Lester's Taffy was good indeed; Mr. Edwin Keene was an amusing Sandy; Mr. Frank Stephens as Little Billee won well deserved applause for a capable performance; Mr. Weedon Ross played Gecko effectively; Mr. Douglas C. Phelps, at one time the manager of the Greenwich Theatre for Mr. Arthur Carlton, gave an excellent representation of the Rev Thomas Bagot; Mr. Herbert Morgan was good as Zou-Zou; and the same may be said of Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown as Dodor and Mr. Fred C. Roper as Manager Julian; Miss Louise Gilmore was a capital Mrs. Bagot; and Miss Marjory Tennant an excellent Mme. Vinard; Miss Florence North as Angele and Miss Doris Graham as Mimi were all that could be desired in their respective parts. Mr. Davis-Brown is stage-manager, and Mr. Philip Layton acting-manager for Mr. Abbott, and Mr. Bertram Iles is the popular and courteous resident-acting-manager of the theatre.

SCENE-PAINTERS OF THE PAST.

By GEORGE TWEDDELL.

To the list of distinguished artists who have practised scene-painting should be added the name of Sir E. Landseer and another celebrated animal painter and R.A., the late Sydney Cooper, who was a scene-painter in early life, and received his first instruction from the scene-painter employed at the old Canterbury Theatre, which in after years became his property. The late Wm. Beverly once painted an act-drop for him, in which he inserted the figures and animals. This shows what splendid artists have practised scene-painting, and many more can be added, like Sam Bough, the fine Scotch landscape painter, who worked with Mr. Beverly at the Manchester Theatre Royal; also another great name—the fine Gothic architect, Augustus Welby Pugin, used to assist the celebrated scenic artists, Charles Marshall, W. Telbin, and Greives, at the King's Theatre, in the drawing of architectural subjects. I will close this present article with an extract from the speech of M. Van de Weyer, at the banquet given to Mr. Macready in 1851, as showing how the work of our scene-painters was appreciated fifty-seven years ago :—"No foreigner could visit English theatres without being struck with the extraordinary talent, the real genius, the richness of imagination, the picturesqueness of the colouring, and the beauty of the architecture displayed by the artist in scenic decorations." In this, Sir C. Eastlake, P.R.A., in a speech that followed, quite concurred.

When the greatest of clowns, Grimaldi, appeared in the pantomime of *Mother Goose* at Covent Garden in 1806 we find the elder Greive painted several of the scenes; in fact, his name appears on old bills at the latter part of the previous century, so the Greives were a connecting link with De Loutherborg. Another very old scene-painter who passed away some thirty years ago was George Danson. He worked for many London theatres, but is most remembered by the gigantic diorama of London by night, which was placed in front of the great panorama of London, commenced by Mr. Horner and executed by Mr. E. T. Parris, at the Colosseum, Regent's Park. Mr. Danson painted extensive outdoor scenes at Vauxhall Gardens, and after at the Belle Vue Gardens at Manchester. At the Colosseum was employed George Chambers, of Whitby, who afterwards became the scene-painter at the old Coborg Theatre, where his work so pleased the King, William IV., that he purchased some of his sketches, and appointed him "Marine-painter to the King." Chambers' pictures are very fine and valuable. Another scene painter, W. L. Leitch, became a fine artist in water-colour, and was, I have heard, instructor to her late Majesty the Queen. His sons were also well known scene-painters.

We must now come to a short notice of two very celebrated scene-painters, Clarkson Stanfield and David Roberts. Both became Royal Academicians, and were employed at Drury Lane and other theatres. Stanfield's greatest work was done for Mr. Macready, and has been often described by abler men, so I can only add a few little things. His fine pictures we all know, but, alas! the ultimate fate of the scene-painter's work—the priming-brush—has no doubt swept away most of his work. I was told by an old scene-painter's labourer a good many years ago he had just primed over a cloth by Stanfield painted for *Acis and Galatea*, and "how much he regretted having to put out such fine work"; but so it is to "save canvas" in all theatres. The late William Beverly, with whom I have had the pleasure of conversing, and who was acquainted with both David Cox and Stanfield, told me that when they wanted Stanfield to use some modelled round columns in a scene he refused to use them, and said, "Bring them to me flat; it is my business to make them look round." An old scene-painter long passed from us, Mr. Pitt, and who for long was employed by Mr. Beverly at Drury Lane, told me he worked with both Stanfield and Roberts in the old painting-room at "the Lane." I much enjoyed a chat with old Pitt, as he had known many eminent men in his time, as the poet Byron, Charles Dickens, and the celebrated actor Edmund Kean, and that he had once been the Harlequin when Kean was the Clown. The Pitts, in fact, were a very old theatrical family.

David Roberts, like Stanfield, of course has been well written about. Like D. Cox, all these great men have had their lives published. I remember to have seen a cloth by David Roberts at Drury Lane about 1870. The subject was the interior of a room; but it did not strike us as anything very great. Of late years Roberts' pictures have suffered much severe criticism, and are said to want colour. Be that as it may, we all admire his work in black and white, notably his "Holy Land."

I can now come to William Roxby Beverly, a worthy successor to those great men, and as a scene-painter he certainly has had few equals, and undoubtedly few, if any, ever had such a long and vast experience. He was the real beginner of the spectacular splendours of pantomime and the inventor of transformations, which formerly were such an important feature at Drury Lane, and caused many imitations throughout the country, every pantomime winding up with its "trans."

But Mr. Beverly's transformations always possessed a beauty of their own. They were poetic and refined, and also were always in character with the subject of the pantomime. As G. A. Sala remarked, "He came with a pencil peculiarly, matchlessly, and almost magically his own."

But splendid as were Mr. Beverly's pictures of fairyland, unrivalled for colour and poetic fancy, he was equally good in all other kinds of stage scenery. Some of his sets in the Shakespearean productions, the splendid production of *Faust* in 1865 (with Mr. Phelps as the Spirit of Evil), and many others will live in the memory of those who saw them. Mr. Beverly also was an exhibitor at the Academy, and for some years his large pictures were a feature in the water-colour room, and generally sold for good prices. Mr. Beverly had many pupils, some of them, like William Glover, Charles Brew, James Gates, &c., became well-known scene-painters.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The college concert of Thursday evening, July 2, opened with Schubert's Quartet for Strings, in A minor, played by Miss Goldie Baker, Miss Amy Rydings, Miss Sybil Maturin, and Mr. Cedric Sharpe, the most successful effort of the young performers being in the third movement, Menuetto, allegro. Miss Gladys Moger sang "Lied der Harfenmädchens" (S. von Hausegger) with excellent expression and purity of tone; Miss Moger was also heard in Schubert's "Wohin." Miss Cordelia Montgomery, a Clementi Exhibitioner, gave an interesting piano solo of the old composer's Sonata in C major, Op. 34, No. 1, while Miss Ellen Edwards and Miss E. Muriel Pickup were heard to much advantage in an able performance of Grieg's Sonata for Piano and Violin in G. Schubert's extremely difficult song "Die Allmacht" proved a somewhat too-exacting task for Miss Gwladys Edwards, but the young vocalist won hearty applause and two recalls for her earnest attempt to give the dramatic and devotional spirit required. The other vocalist was Miss Tydfil Brown, who was well received in Marcello's "Quella Fiamma." The last item in the concert was Schumann's Trio for Piano and Strings in D minor, most intelligently performed by Mr. William Conway, Mr. Philip Levine, and Mr. Cedric Sharpe. The accompanists were Miss Ellen Tuckfield and Ioan Powell.

PLAYS AT THE COURT.

The Princess of Wales graciously extended her patronage to the matinée which Miss Granville gave at the Court Theatre on Tuesday, in aid of the funds of the East London Hospital, Shadwell. The institution is one of the most deserving and useful of its kind in London. Situated in a poor and densely-populated part of the East-end, its opportunities for doing good are incalculable. The first trio of the four plays chosen for representation were little tragedies, and it must be confessed that the audience did not have a very cheerful time. The programme opened with the piece in one act, by Rowan Orme, entitled

"THE ANARCHISTS."

Vasilissa .....Miss Esme Beringer
Micholitch Tarhov .....Mr. Godfrey Tearle
The President .....Mr. Charles Vane
Agrafena .....Miss Agnes Hill
Lenotchka .....Miss Dorothy Bell
Markelov .....Mr. Hubert Carter
Ivanoff .....Mr. Charles Gelderd
Teliegin .....Mr. Charles Bruce

In this work we are plunged in the throes of the grim murder revolution in Russia. The scene is a cellar, and in an interview between Vasilissa and her lover, Micholitch Tarhov, we learn that the latter is opposed to reckless assassination. He has his ideals of a new Russia, but he would not wade through blood to reach them. Vasilissa rallies him on his lukewarmness in the cause of the regeneration of the masses, and does not altogether quite believe in the sincerity of his protestations of love. But he swears on the holy cross that he will love her here and hereafter. It is discovered by the brotherhood of the "Red Death," to which both belong, that Micholitch has prevented several "removals," and, when denounced by the president, he owns up. Lots are drawn for the choice of executioner, and the paper with the black cross is drawn by Vasilissa. They are left alone. After a long embrace Tarhov shoots himself, and she follows his example. Miss Vera Beringer touched all hearts by the expression of Vasilissa's distress and despair, and she acted with considerable power. Mr. Godfrey Tearle played with genuine emotion the part of Micholitch Tarhov; Mr. Charles Vane made a stern and dignified President; Miss Agnes Hill was an effective Agrafena; and Mr. Hubert Carter a truculent and revengeful Markelov. The play was carefully produced by Mr. H. de Lange.

The second piece, by Christopher St. John, was a "slice of life" taken from the foreign quarter of New York, the title being

"ON THE EAST SIDE."

Lucia Bandino .....Miss Brineta Browne
John Anthoulis .....Mr. Herbert Grimwood
Henry Green .....Mr. O. P. Heggie
Rosa Anthoulis .....Miss Auriol Lee
George Anthoulis.....Mr. Harcourt Williams
Sandro .....Mr. W. K. Pearce

The family honour is very dear to old John Anthoulis, a Greek refugee, who hates the swiftness and deceit of New York, and longs for the plains of Marathon and the blue skies of his native land. When, therefore, he hears that Henry Green, a raffish young New Yorker, openly boasts of his conquest of the old man's daughter-in-law, Rose Anthoulis, he is filled with indignation, which develops into rage at the seeming indifference of the son, George Anthoulis, to his wife's good name. The old man takes the affair into his own hands, and, confronting Rose with the man who has spoken slightingly of her, takes him by the throat, and demands, with ungovernable fury, that he shall repeat the slander before witnesses. The young wife asserts her innocence, and her statement is confirmed by her traducer. At last the husband is roused, and, seizing the cowering maligner by the throat, he stabs him to death. Mr. Herbert Grimwood gave consistency and strength to a character that might have easily been presented with exaggeration, and his John Anthoulis, the old Greek refugee, was a singularly fine performance. Much the same may be said of the clever delineation by Mr. Harcourt Williams of the difficult rôle of George Anthoulis, the husband; and there was a quiet force in the impersonation of the wife, Rosa Anthoulis, by Miss Auriol Lee, who, like Mr. Harcourt Williams and Mr. O. P. Heggie (who played exceedingly well as Henry Green), were appearing by kind permission of Mr. J. E. Vedrenne. Other parts were effectively handled by Miss Brineta Browne and Mr. W. K. Pearce.

The gloom was even intensified by the representation of a tragedy, in one act, by Rowan Orme, entitled

"THE SENTENCE."

The Judge .....Mr. Hubert Carter
The Woman .....Miss Granville

In the dimly-lit judgment chamber of a secret prison, in the fifteenth century, a woman is being tried by a judge for the assassination of a priest, whom she had stabbed in church in revenge for his betrayal of her husband. The sentence is death by the garrotte, a Spanish instrument of execution. She has one privilege: she is to choose her own time of execution. She prolongs the agony in a second scene, and in the last, realising the futility of life in a dungeon, she takes her place in the chair of death, and the curtain falls. Miss Granville in the much-too-long-drawn-out agony of the woman, physically triumphed over the difficulties of an exhausting part; and Mr. Herbert Carter was a sonorous judge.

The last piece, though lighter, has no dramatic value. It is by Mrs. Tom Godfrey, and bears the title of

"A MODERN DAUGHTER."

Enid Burne .....Miss Dorothy Healy
Dick Burne .....Mr. Hugh B. Tabberer
Claire Chester .....Miss Brineta Browne
Violet Young .....Miss Winifred Clayton
Mrs. Chester .....Miss Frances Wetherall
Jack Longley .....Mr. Geoffrey Douglas

"A modern daughter" is Claire Chester, who, after much earnest persuasion, prevents her mother eloping with a young fool who might be the foolish woman's son. Claire succeeds in convincing the wandering one of the seriousness of her conduct, and the would-be co-respondent is given his *congé*. Miss Brineta Browne and Miss Frances Wetherall did what was possible with poor material. The programmes were sold by Mrs. Sam Sothern, Miss Kirkham, Miss Madge Kirkham, and Miss Annie Hill.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special Newspaper Express Services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	5.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.38

THE VETERANS' FETE.

The theatrical profession has been very much to the fore during the past week in matters of charity. The most important event in this respect which we are called upon to chronicle in the present issue was the Fête of the Veterans, held in the Old Ranelagh Gardens, Chelsea, and opened on Tuesday afternoon by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught. The grounds could scarcely have looked more beautiful than on this fine July afternoon, as crowds of exquisitely-frocked ladies paraded up and down the avenues formed by the rows of stalls.

The Fête Committee, at the head of which was Mr. Joseph Lyons as director-general, was a particularly influential one, and included Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Sir Edward Moss, Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. Alfred Butt, Mr. Neil Forsyth, Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. Harry Hitchins, Mr. Alfred Moul, Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. Hugh Astley, and Mr. John Gatti. Mr. George Alexander served on the County Sale Committee, the honorary organiser of which was Mr. J. S. Wood and the chairman Lord Arthur Hill.

One of the chief items in the programme of entertainments was furnished by Mr. Cyril Maude and his company from the Playhouse in the entertaining one-act comedy *French As He Is Spoke*, which was presented in the Veterans' Theatre. Why the tent in which the piece was played was so named can be merely conjectured from the fact that Mr. Alfred Turner, who managed the show, cried out, in order, we suppose, to induce custom, that no actors under ninety years of age would appear. In the principal character of Peter Mr. Cyril Maude was exceedingly amusing, his facial expressions being particularly mirth-provoking. Mr. Daniel McCarthy gave a capital portraiture of the irritated French father, Monsieur Villiers, and Mr. Ernest Mainwaring was lively and interesting in the part of Charlie Lingard; while that of the latter's sweetheart (Rosine) was charmingly acted by Miss Madge Titheradge. Mr. John Harwood as an inspector of police, Mr. H. G. Onslow as a waiter, Miss Emma Chambers as the hotel manageress, and Mr. C. B. Keston as a policeman rendered able support in their individual capacities.

In Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore's one-act comedy, *The Fatal Stockings*, also played in the Veterans' Theatre, Miss Elaine Inescort appeared to advantage as Mrs. Desmond Crowford, and Mr. Holmes-Gore submitted an excellent interpretation of the part of the pierrot. Miss Inescort also recited in thrilling fashion a poem, by the Poet Laureate, appropriate to the occasion, a couple of verses of which are as follow:—

Behold where in the gutter he doth stand,
A box of matches in his feeble hand.
Yet that same hand once clutched a sabre keen,
Brandished aloft where its cold, speckless sheen
Caught the pale light from foemen's deadly fire,
And many a rider rolled into the mire
At Balaclava.

Then, proud Britannia, thou whose regal sway,
Imperial Rome had envied in her day,
Take these thine aged warriors to thy breast;
Thou gav'st them laurels once, now give them rest.
Recall from streets, and from the workhouse, too,
And tend them whilst thou may'st—it is their due
For Balaclava.

Others whose names appeared in connection with the Veterans' Theatre were Mr. Rutland Barrington, Mr. W. Louis Bradfield, Mr. Nelson Jackson, Mr. Alfred Lester, Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Lauri de Frece, Mr. Lennox Pawle, Mr. Frederick Ross, Mr. Leonard Mackay, Miss Ada Reeve, Miss Lottie Venne, Miss Fanny Ward, Miss Nancy Price, Miss Evie Green, Miss Alice Crawford, Miss Jean Aylwin, Miss Gladys Marsden, Miss Marie Illington, Miss Florence Smithson, Miss Doris Dean, and Miss Florence Rooke. The following ladies kindly consented to assist in the sale of tickets and programmes: Miss Irene Desmond, Miss Gladys Desmond, Miss Mabel Munro, Miss Marian Munro, Miss Lily Mills, Miss Hazel Tharsing, Miss Lucie Caine, Miss Dorothy Monkman, Miss Phyllis Monkman, Miss Olive Cherry, Miss Una Hamilton, Miss Hamilton, and Mrs. Alfred Turner.

Just opposite to the Veterans' Theatre was the space of ground set apart for Miss Maud Allan's dances, that clever lady appearing by kind permission of Mr. Alfred Butt and the directors of the Palace Theatre, and accompanied by the orchestra of that establishment under the direction of Mr. Hermann Finck. It was quite a pretty spectacle—this graceful Terpsichorean act in a sylvan glade in the open air—and Miss Allan, who performed with bare feet, seemed to enjoy the freshness of the green sward as she lightly tripped upon it. It is scarcely necessary to add that her exhibition of classic and artistic dancing proved a source of delight to the spectators.

The El Dorado Palace, which was under the able direction of Mr. Fred Trussell, the manager of the London Hippodrome, was also well patronised. Here Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. Hal Forde, Mr. John Le Hay, Mr. F. J. Arlton, Mr. Alfred Lester, and Mr. Ben Nathan acted as Richardson's Showmen and Assistant Managers; while Mr. William Trussell, manager of the Palace Theatre, Southampton, presided at the piano. An attractive programme was furnished by Mr. George Robey, Harry Fragson, Master Max Darewski, Mr. Morris Harvey, Miss Madge Temple, Miss Evie Greene, Mrs. Lewis Waller, Mendel, George Mozart, Marie Loftus, Helen Trix, Dr. Byrd Page, Sadie Jerome, Douglas Beaufort, Miss Italia Conti, Frederick Ross, Leonard Mackay, Miss Dora Deveen, Miss Doris Faithfull, John Macauley, Osmond Hope, Edwin Barwick, Miss Marie Dainton, Messrs. Guyer and Crispi, Alec Hurley, T. E. Dunville, Tambo and Tambo, the Imperial Russian Dancers, Nancy Price, and Paulo and Troupe in "The Frattelini's Harlequinade." Tickets, &c., were sold by the Misses Vinnie Kingston, Patton, Glendolin Hay, Stella St. Austin, Mabel Dark, Dorothy Ward, Poppy Cannon, Gladys Carrington, Lily Raymond, Marie Desmond, Vere Sinclair, Rose Gee, and Mrs. Fred Trussell. The scenery and exterior had been specially painted by Mr. Bruce Smith.

Charming performances of the pastoral play *The Pied Piper of Hamelin* were given from time to time by members of the Junior Stage Society, Miss Elizabeth Jones directing the production and appearing as the Piper.

Pretty and daintily-attired ladies, many of them members of the theatrical profession, were to be seen fulfilling various useful offices. For instance, one refreshment tent was presided over by Miss Marie Tempest and Miss Marie Lohr, assisted by the Misses Jean Aylwin, Gertie Millar, Coralie Blythe, Muriel Beaumont, and Evie Greene; another one under the direction of Miss Adrienne Augarde, assisted by the Misses Dorothy Thomas, Alice Hatton, Hilda Antony, Pamela Gaythorne, Alice Crawford, and Fely Dereyne.

The Gaiety chocolate stall was in charge of Miss Olive May (of the Gaiety Theatre), assisted by the Misses Gertie May, Marie Mitchell, Kitty Mason, Phyllis Barker, Gertrude Wykes, Adelina Balfe, Mabel Love, Berenice Maxwell, Lena Leibrandt, Ruth Argent, Mabel Russell, Iris Hoey, Gertrude Thornton, Gloria Warren, and Olive Wade; while another chocolate stall was looked after by Miss Phyllis Dare, assisted by the Misses Zena Dare, Blanche Stocker, Doris Stocker, Doris Keyser, Elizabeth Firth, Nellie Hobson, and May Hobson.

A champagne and sandwich tent was in the hands of Miss Eva Moore, assisted by the Misses Decima Moore, Bertha Moore, Jessie Moore, Evelyn Millard, Phyllis Broughton, Fortescue, Julie Opp, Kitty Worth, Nancy Malone, Abbie Scholtz, Helen Ferrers, Dorothy Minto, C. Granville, Sheldon, Maxine Elliott, Elaine Inescort, Marjorie Huth, Marion Terry, Amy Brandon Thomas, Palfrey, May Whitty, and Mabel Hackney. Another champagne and sandwich tent was attended to by Miss Ethel Matthews, assisted by the Misses Lilian Burns, Thelma Raye, Rosalie Toller, Nell Toller, Sybil Arundale, Grace Arundale, Madge Titheradge, and Vera Coburn, and Mrs. R. Hill.

The fête was continued on Wednesday, when it was opened by Lord Roberts, and on Thursday, when Sir George White performed the opening ceremony. On the latter day Mr. Brandon Thomas gave a performance of his play, in one act, *The Colour-Sergeant*, which he wrote for the late Mr. Wilson Barrett. Mr. Thomas gave an admirable portrayal of the part of William Honour, late a colour-sergeant and in the piece a barber, and he received excellent support from Mr. Hastings Lynn in the rôle of the younger Honour, Mr. Basil Lynton as the photographer, Mr. R. Byford as the bargee, Miss Evelyn Grey as "Tucker's boy," and Miss Grace Russell as Nelly, the orphan adopted by the kind-hearted colour-sergeant. The production of the little piece was highly appreciated by the audience.

The labours of Mr. Willie Clarkson in connection with the fête should not be overlooked, for the worthy perruquier of Wardour-street had put forth a special effort in the matter of many of the costumes and dresses, and some of the old soldiers who strolled about the gardens—most of them leaning heavily on sticks, if not on crutches—had been dressed by Mr. Clarkson in the uniforms of their old regiments as they appeared half a century ago. The face of every man of them seared by age or marked by the toils of war, they presented a spectacle which was impressive, if not pathetic.

MR. ALBERT WARD.

THE PRODIGAL SON AND STAGE-MANAGER, MR. GEORGE D. DAY'S CO.

Mr. Albert Ward is a finished actor, with a fine presence and elocutionary powers, such as one nowadays rarely meets with on the stage.—The People, Feb. 1, 1903.

The diction of Mr. Albert Ward is admirable. His voice sounds like a bell. His every word is of perfect coinage. Even the long breath speeches of melodrama become poetic on his lips. Mr. Benson might have trained him. He will make his mark in Shakespeare.—J. T. Grein, Esq., the famous critic, Sept. 15, 1903.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, July 1.—A musical version of Mrs. Pacheco's farce, *Incog.*, entitled *The Three Twins*, has made a decided hit at the Herald-square Theatre, and will remain there throughout the summer. The piece deals with the familiar theme of confused identities. The lyrics are by O. A. Hauerbach, and the music by Carl Hoschna. Miss Bessie McCoy, a clever dancer, and Mr. Clifton Crawford, whose monologue provokes much merriment, are at the head of the company.

"Ski-Hi," a musical comedy, by Charles Alphin, is the summer attraction at the Madison-square Roof Garden. The scenes are laid on a mythical planet, reached by balloons, and much of the fun is created by the exchange of "undesirable citizens" between the earth and other planets.

A tabloid version of *Hamlet* is being performed at Keith and Proctor's 125th-street Theatre, by Paul McAllister and his company. Among the other entertainers at this house are Laddie Cliff, Fred Niblo, and the Military Octet. Mr. Cliff, who hails from "the old country," has firmly established himself in popularity at the American vaudeville houses.

Miss Gertrude Hoffman, who imitates prominent stage favourites in an exceedingly clever and diverting manner, is the "head liner" at Hammerstein's Roof Garden. Other attractions are "Colonel Fred," a trained horse; Gus Edwards's School Boys and Girls, in songs and dances; Rice and Prevost, comedy acrobats; Julian Eltinge, female impersonator; Bedini and Arthur, comedy jugglers; Horace Goldin, the conjurer; Collins and Hart, comedy acrobats; and the Five Musical Avolos.

Over one hundred delegates of the Comité Republicaine du Commerce et de l'Industrie de France visited the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, on Wednesday. They were received at the Warwick-road entrance by Mr. P. Cremieu-Javal, chairman, and the directors of the London Exhibitions, Ltd. After inspecting the educational, agricultural, commercial, industrial, and art sections of the exhibition the party were the guests of the City of London International Commercial Association, of which Lord Strathcona is President, at a banquet in the Quadrant Restaurant in the Western Gardens. Lord Maitland was in the chair, and among the many distinguished personages present were Senator and Mlle. Mascuraud, Senator and Mme. Chouillier, Sir Albert Rollit, Sir T. Barclay, Sir R. and Lady Parkington, Sir T. Brooke-Hitching, Kt., Sir H. Kimber, Bart., M.P., Deputy Casparin, Viscount de la Chapelle, Dr. Salva, and Consul Spierway. In the brief speeches at the dinner a triangular *entente cordiale* was mutually expressed between the three nations of France, Hungary, and England.

PLAYS IN THE GLADE.

When in their full summer-tide glory, the Botanic Gardens form an ideal rendezvous for the plays of the glade, and a pretty knoll surrounded by trees was chosen by Mr. Patrick Kirwan for his opening on Monday evening of a series of productions of Shakespeare that lend themselves to what may be called pastoral treatment. Previous to the performance of *The Tempest* on the evening in question, there was an interesting revival of Samuel Daniel's masque of *The Vision of the Twelve Virgin Goddesses*, which was presented at Hampton Court, Jan. 8, 1604, Queen Anne of Denmark and the ladies of her Court playing in it for the delectation of King James I. Daniel possessed in no eminent degree dramatic gifts, as Professor A. W. Ward points out in his "English Dramatic Literature," but apart from the prominent position which he occupied as a masque writer, and the jealousy which he provoked in consequence, his two attempts in tragedy, *Cleopatra* and *Philotas*, have secured for him a place of his own in our dramatic literature. As a mark of Royal favour he was appointed licenser of the plays performed by the children of the Queen's Revels at Bristol, in the neighbourhood of which city he was residing; and he was subsequently named Gentleman of the Queen's Privy Chamber. Daniel left a more enduring mark upon the growth of a secondary branch of our dramatic literature in his two pastoral tragi-comedies, *The Queene's Arcadia* and *Hymen's Triumph*, the latter being performed in 1614. This has been extolled as adorned by Daniel's most distinctive graces of diction, viz., a purity and manliness to be found in hardly any other Elizabethan writer, and an exquisite simplicity of style.

The scenario of Daniel's masque is briefly set forth in the following synopsis:—Night descends, and, awakening Sleep, orders a vision. Sleep, having received the message, disappears, and Iris comes as the messenger of the Goddesses and gives a scroll to the Sybil, from which she reads a description of the Goddesses as they enter. While the Goddesses give their offerings to the Sybil, the three Graces sing. Then there is a dance of Goddesses and Lords after a short speech from the Sybil, and, after a final dance, the masque ends. The characters of the Goddesses were gracefully presented by members of the Shakespeare Reading Society, of which Miss Mary Darton was the founder, and of which the president is Mr. Beerbohm Tree. The dresses in the masque were made according to the original descriptions, as given by Samuel Daniel. The valley echoed with the ring of sweet voices in the music, and the nymphs that dwelt temporarily in the grove "left their arbours, and footed it like fairies on the grass."

Then followed the performance of *The Tempest*, preceded by a blast on trumpets by two quaintly-dressed musicians. The following is the cast:—

Alonzo .....Mr. Rathmell Wilson
Sebastian .....Mr. J. M. Napper
Prospero .....Mr. Reginald Maurice
Antonio .....Mr. Poole Kirkwood
Ferdinand .....Mr. Gerald Venning
Gonzalo .....Mr. John Troughton
Adrian .....Mr. Louis Palgrave
Caliban .....Mr. Patrick Kirwan
Trinculo .....Mr. Field-Fisher
Stephano .....Mr. Harold Chapin
Miranda .....Miss Lydia Hayward
Ariel .....Miss Barbara Guthrie
Iris .....Miss Eveleen Mills
Ceres .....Miss Violet Bazalgette
Juno .....Miss Ethel Perceval

Mr. Patrick Kirwan's Caliban showed throughout that he had carefully studied the text, and the extremely difficult task of suggesting the mere animalism and brutish nature of the character was successfully surmounted. The make-up was according to the best traditions, and the scene wherein Caliban grovels to the powerful and gifted Prospero may be selected as one of the best-played in the whole representation. Mr. Reginald Maurice showed intelligence as Prospero; and to the scene of the conspiracy between Sebastian and Antonio full significance was given by Mr. J. M. Napper in the former part and by Mr. Poole Kirkwood in the latter. Miss Lydia Hayward made a sweet and maidenly Miranda; and Mr. Gerald Venning, an uncommonly tall Ferdinand, realised the dignified devotion of the lover in the first interview with the maiden untutored in the ways of coquetry. The humours of Trinculo and Stephano preserved their Shakespearean character in the keeping of Mr. Field-Fisher and Mr. Harold Chapin. Miss Barbara Guthrie as Ariel had an airy grace; and the representatives of Iris, Ceres, and Juno (Miss Eveleen Mills, Miss Violet Bazalgette, and Miss Ethel Perceval) gave considerable charm to those characters. Mr. Rathmell Wilson, a capable Alonzo, Mr. John Troughton, a competent Gonzalo, and Mr. Louis Palgrave an adequate Adrian, completed the cast.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

At the New Brighton Winter Gardens this week Mr. John Ridding and company have produced *Maritana*, *Faust*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Daughter of the Regiment*, *Il Trovatore*, and *The Lily of Killarney*. There are no less than eleven artists, comprising Miss Sarah Williams, Miss Marion Stanley, Miss Vera Vizard, Miss Grace Parrish, Mr. John Ridding, Mr. Edward Arthur, Mr. E. Ditchfield, Mr. Frank Clarke, Mr. G. Humphrey, Mr. Ernest Carter and Mr. G. H. Ridding. Each opera has been most enthusiastically received.

"'The Follies of 1908,' recently produced by Mr. Florenz Ziegfeld, jun., at the Jardin de Paris, otherwise known as the roof garden of the New York Theatre," says our correspondent, "is a very attractive entertainment, being a musical revue in two acts and twelve scenes, by Harry B. Smith and Maurice Levi. There is no 'plot,' the performance consisting of what are known as 'specialities,' scenic and electric effects, humour at the expense of prominent personages, and the evolutions of a number of handsomely-gowned 'show girls.' Among the scenes may be observed such places of general interest as the Garden of Eden, the Pennsylvania Railway Tunnel, the upper deck of the steamship 'Lusitania,' the Capitol at Washington, and the New York Yacht Club. The persons and events satirised in the entertainment comprise nearly everybody of local importance, and almost everything of national interest that has appeared in the newspapers during the last twelve months."

Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant inform us that St. George's Hall will be closed after to-night, and will be re-opened on Bank Holiday, Aug. 3, with a programme of new and startling mysteries.

Always Refreshing.—Osborne, Bauer, and Cheeseman's "INCOMPARABLE SMELLING SALTS." A delightful adjunct to the toilet, invaluable for the Theatre, Ball, Concert, or any heated Assembly. Of great use in the Sick Room. Insist upon having Osborne, Bauer, and Cheeseman's, which is *the original*. Sold by chemists and stores, 1s., 1s. 6d., 2s., or post free for stamps from Osborne, Bauer, and Cheeseman, 19, Golden-square, Regent-street, London, W.—[Advt.]

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Thursday, July 9.—I have several times had occasion to refer in these columns to the cinematograph shows and to their unfair competition in regard to other entertainments. It seemed indeed strange that these shows sprang out of the ground all over the country, reproducing in cinematographs operas and plays without the payment of any percentage of the receipts to the authors or their representatives. At last, however, the worms have turned, and as these worms formed a compact body, including the heirs of the late Charles Gounod, MM. Courteline, Pierre Wolff, Victor de Cottens, Xanrof, Paul Gavault, and many other prominent men, they brought their grievances before one of our tribunals. They certainly had a good case, and the poor cinematograph had rather a *mauvais quart d'heure*. For all that, the latter made a plucky fight, and tried to prove to the gentlemen on the Bench that no royalty could be claimed on words spoken or songs sung by invisible artists. Moreover, the hot weather favoured the defendants. The temperature in the Justice Hall was very high. The judges looked drowsy, and if they had fallen asleep there is no telling what judgment they would have given on waking from their slumber. No wonder defendants' counsel watched them intently and always addressed them in tones that sounded like a lullaby. But if the worthy gentlemen on the Bench kept their eyes shut they were terribly awake all the time, as the defendants soon found out to their cost. They decided that unauthorised productions of operas, dramas, comedies, and pantomimes by means of the cinematograph constitute direct infringements of the authors' rights. The tribunal, therefore, declared such cinematographic reproductions to constitute illegal performances, and ordered all such films, wherever found, to be impounded and destroyed. This judgment renders cinematograph films or bands reproducing scenes from well-known operas or plays equivalent to printed copies of the music or words of duly copyrighted operas or plays.

Another lawsuit, but of less importance, was brought by M. Aristide Bruant, the well known Montmartre chansonnier, against Alexandre Leclerc for "disloyal competition." The word "disloyal" was not a whit too strong. M. Aristide Bruant is by no means a Montmartre genius. Unlike Fursy and other witty artists, he is not able to write songs that become famous. But he invented an extraordinary costume, and never showed himself in public otherwise than in a flaming red shirt, velvet jacket, large cowboy hat, corduroy trousers of enormous width, and what may be described as short sea-boots. A red woollen scarf twisted round the neck, and worn summer and winter, completes this costume, which made him famous. His artistic cabaret was always well patronised, and he, therefore, was most indignant when this M. Leclerc opened a rival establishment, called himself "Le Bruyant Alexandre," and even copied M. Aristide Bruant's costume. When the case came on for hearing the defendant failed to put in an appearance, because, according to him the Commercial Tribunal had no power to try the action. The Court, however, took a different view, and awarded M. Bruant £80 damages, also forbidding the defendant to copy the plaintiff in the matter of dress or describe himself as "Bruyant," under a penalty of £2 for each time he did so.

One of our confrères a few days ago informed us gravely that Mme. Calvé's name was Roquer, and that Delna was but the pseudonym for Mlle. Ledant. He might, if he had liked, have given his readers a good deal more information, considering that few artists on the regular and music hall stage are known by their family name. The list of pseudonyms is indeed a long one, and here are a few of the principal ones:—Mlle. Brandès is called Brunschwig; M. Alvarez, Gourron; M. Baron, Bouchène; Mlle. Bartet, Jeanne-Julia Regnault; Mlle. Cassive, Louise-Armandine Duval; Mlle. Cheirel, Lericho; M. Chelles, Lechien; M. Colombey, Tardiveau; Mlle. Marguerite Deval, Brulfer de Valcourt; M. Dorival, Lemarchand; Mlle. Dudlay, Dulait; Mlle. Dulac, Latrilhe; Mme. Jane Hading, Jeannette Hadingue; Mlle. Hatto, Frère; M. Lamy, Castarède; Mme. Landouzy, Besville; Mlle. Leconte, Lacombe; Mlle. Lender, Bastion; M. Lugné-Poë, Lugné; Mme. Marlé de l'Isle, Beugnon; Mlle. Méaly, Josserand; Mlle. Mégard, Chamonal; Mme. Réjane, Gabrielle-Charlotte Réju; Mme. Rose Caron, Meuniez. On the music hall stage we have:—M. Polin, Marsalès; M. Sulbac, Sultzbach; M. Claudius, Jouel de Lancidals; M. Dranem, Ménard, &c., &c.

The Comédie-Française promises us many novelties for the coming season. After *La Furie* we will have *Le Foyer*—the cause of so much trouble—which will be put into rehearsal the moment M. de Féraudy is back in Paris. This will be followed by M. Hervieu's *Connais-toi*, and immediately afterwards by *Le Goût du Vice*, by M. Lavedan, and *Le Pourpre*, by M. Henry Bernstein. M. Maurice Donnay is finishing a comedy called *Armande*; and M. Pierre Wolff's new venture will bear the title *L'Homme qui passe*. Towards the end of the season the Comédie-Française will also launch a four-act play, called *Primerose*, by MM. Robert de Flers and de Caillavet.

Contrary to what was announced some time ago, the Gymnase will not inaugurate its season with a revival of *Le Détour*, with Mme. Simone in the rôle she created. Mme. Simone says she has other engagements that prevent her from appearing in Bernstein's play, and author and manager have been compelled to accept this excuse.

A small playhouse, noted for the blood-curdling pieces performed there, has received a work wherein we are promised an execution so true to life that the audience will see the head of the condemned man fall into the basket of the guillotine. It is not probable that the work will ever see the footlights, for the manager of the before-mentioned house has received a letter threatening him with an unpleasant demonstration if he goes too far in his attempts to please the degenerate and hysterical portion of the Paris public.

"THE DRAMA."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—The lament upon the decadence of the modern theatre proceeds apace, but has it ever occurred to the pessimist that, until he makes up his official mind as to the fare he actually requires, the theatre will continue to bore him. Perhaps it should be for the manager himself to prescribe on former remedies—as in the case of *The Flag Lieutenant*—for it certainly does seem a fact that, as sure as a stage provider goes back ten or twenty years and gives a sound but entirely fresh resurrection, the bait is taken immediately, by the very person who has set himself to grumble at the want of fresh ideas and impossible allegories. Good wholesome drama, well played, was always a sure success, and certainly the backbone of the theatre revenue until ten years ago, when the advent of chatter set to cynicism became the fashion, and the golden bridge cut away by a trend of modern thought which listened to a flattering tale of improvement. One could continue for a whole year upon this discussion, but to my poor reasoning the best policy that the modern manager can follow is to go back twenty years in the choice of his plays and the same number forward in the appointment and comfort of his theatre, keeping a watchful eye upon the pockets of an over-taxed public, and a wise discrimination in the prices of admission.—Your faithful servant,

HERBERT SHELLEY.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham will shortly bring the run of *The Mollusc* at the Criterion to an end, and will appear at the New Theatre in September in a new play with a strong part for himself. In this piece, unfortunately, there is no rôle worthy of Miss Mary Moore, who will remain at the Criterion, where she will produce a new modern comedy by Mr. Hubert Henry Davies, with a longer cast than that of the play which has been so successful at the Criterion.

"The Mollusc" has had a remarkable career. With only four parts, and not relying on scenery for support, it has been a striking success. This may be attributed to the fact that the public can always enjoy a comedy of quiet life that comes home to them if it be really humorous. The difficulty is that this kind of play requires perfect acting, and artists like Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Moore are becoming rarer every day. All playgoers will regret that yet another piece with parts for them both could not be secured.

Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Sir Charles and Lady Wyndham, Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander, Miss Maud Allan, Miss Maxine Elliott, Miss Mary Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude and Miss Maude, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Terry were present at Lord and Lady Michelham's garden party at Strawberry Hill on Saturday last, to meet Mr. Balfour and other vice-presidents of the London Municipal Society.

Mr. George Alexander, who filled the difficult position of examiner of the competitors for Mr. J. M. Barrie's prize of £5 at the Academy of Dramatic Art on Thursday, awarded the prize to Miss Athene Seyler, whose performance as Fay Giuliani is an extract from *The Princess and the Butterfly* we praised so highly after the recent matinée at the Playhouse. Mr. Alexander is an excellent judge, and Miss Seyler has probably a fine future before her.

Mr. Seymour Hicks has the sympathy of everyone in his most annoying and painful position. His yachting cruise has had perforce to be abandoned, and the tedium of recovery to a man of his active temperament must be intolerable. If anything could facilitate it, it would be a sojourn at the country house at Kingsbridge which he has taken for the summer. Kingsbridge is a charming old-fashioned village in South Devon, near Bolt Head, Slapton Lea, and other interesting places.

Miss Isadora Duncan, whose dancing has made such a sensation at the Duke of York's Theatre, first attracted attention eight years ago. Her performances were given more or less in private on several occasions at the New Gallery. The tickets cost a guinea, the entertainment began at ten o'clock, distinguished persons preluding Miss Duncan's performances with addresses on the subject of dancing. On one occasion, when she gave a "Botticelli evening," Sir William Richmond spoke, on another, when she embodied music, Sir Hubert Parry orated. In consequence of the success of Miss Duncan's dances Mr. Charles Frohman has made arrangements whereby she will continue her season under his management in London. An entire change of programme will be given each evening.

Sir W. S. Gilbert, who is always ready to fulfil his duties as the Squire of Grim's Dyke, and who acted as judge for the Limerick competition at the fête in aid of the Teddington Cottage Hospital, in the grounds of "The Grove," Teddington, the other day, will publish his version of *H.M.S. Pinafore* in narrative form early in October. Sir William, who will be sixty-two in November, is the very picture of a hale and hearty country gentleman.

Mr. Lewis Waller and Mr. Tom B. Davis will produce at the Lyric Theatre in the autumn a new version by Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy of the famous old drama, *The Duke's Motto*. Mr. Waller will also appear as Hotspur in *Henry IV.* for a short run, and will give an original version of Prince Hal in *Henry V.* Mr. John Brougham's adaptation of *Le Bossu*, which was first presented at the Porte St. Martin, Paris, in the September of 1862, was produced at the Lyceum on Jan. 10, 1863, with Fechter, Miss Carlotta Leclercq, George Vining, H. Widdicombe, and the adapter in the cast. The success of the Brougham version led to the preparation of another entitled *Blanche de Nevers*, which was done at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on the Easter Monday of the same year, with Mr. Henry Irving as the villainous Gonzagues. The part of Lagardère ought to suit Mr. Waller exactly.

Mr. Waller has forwarded to the Secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, a further batch of postal orders to the amount of £9 5s. 9d., Sir John Hare sends £1, and Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, and Miss Mary Moore forward to the fund the postal orders as they receive them in exchange for their autographs.

The Queen has taken a box for the special matinée at the Lyceum Theatre on Tuesday in aid of King's College Hospital Removal Fund, and the Duke and Duchess of Connaught will bring a party of six. Sir W. S. Gilbert will appear on the stage in *Rosencranz and Guildenstern*, Captain Marshall will play Hamlet, and in the cast will also be Miss Marion Terry, Mr. Nigel Playfair, Mr. James Hearn, Mr. A. E. Benedict, Mr. G. Skillbeck, Mrs. Nigel Playfair, and Miss Rosalie Toller. Miss Maud Allan will dance and Mr. Huntley Wright, Mr. Martin Harvey, Miss de Silva, Miss Mary Rorké, Mr. Cyril Maude and company, Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. Graham Browne, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, Miss Ethel Beavans, Mr. Franklyn Clive, Mr. William Devereux, Miss Winifred Emery, Mr. and Mrs. Matheson Lang, Miss Ada Reeve, Mr. Yorke Stephens, and Miss Lottie Venne will contribute to the programme, an item of which will be a new play called *A Matter-of-Fact Husband*.

Mr. Ernest Carpenter, after the arduous work connected with six productions at the Lyceum, has been seeking rest and change at Chamounix. Writing home on Wednesday last, he said, "I am here at the foot of Mont Blanc, having motored right through the centre of France from Boulogne, across the mountain passes, 5,000ft. high, into Geneva, and on here. We hope to reach London next Sunday. It has been a glorious tour through the most wonderful scenery."

The Academy of Dramatic Art has arranged two invitation matinées at the Rehearsal Theatre for Monday and Friday. Selections from *The Manœuvres of Jane* and *The Liars* will be given, and *Penelope's Lovers*, a new one-act play, by Mr. George P. Bancroft will be performed. On the latter occasion, with Mr. Pinero's permission, the fourth act of *The Princess and the Butterfly* will be presented, with Miss Athene Seyler as Fay Zuliani, a performance which recently gained her the gold medal and free tuition of the Academy. Other features will be Mr. Frederick Fenn's charming play *Op-o'-me-Thumb*, performed without tuition so as to test the students' creative capacity, and a demonstration of the Delsarte system of the art of expression, as taught in the school, showing how "stage falls" can be done without violence. The academic term ends on Monday week with Shakespearean selections on the school stage in Gower-street.

Mr. George Alexander, in an interesting chat with a *Daily Express* man, says:—"I am no believer," he said, "in theatrical 'booms' and 'slumps.' The past season has been vilified as something unusually demoralising. The public, we are told, is staying away from the theatres. This is not my experience. The pieces the public wished to see have all done exceedingly well. If authors and managers do not provide such pieces the public is not to blame. There is no habit to go to the play in one year and to avoid it in another. It all depends on the plays.

"Each theatre is individual to itself. A manager is like the director of an orchestra. He gives sometimes one tune and sometimes another. But the manager is not always ignorant when he does not play the tune to which the bank balance dances. He may be doing his best work even then. I know that when the St. James's Theatre is not crowded it is because there is something in the piece which does not attract the larger public. But, while the public is the best judge of what is attractive, that play may still be a fine piece of artistic work, and I may be very proud to have produced it and to be playing in it.

"The serious playgoers are represented by about one-eighth of the general playgoers and the other seven-eighths want only frivolous entertainments. I wish I could afford always to cater for the saints."

The theatrical entente cordiale between London and Paris, of which there are so many and such pleasant signs to-day, existed in 1845, when Macready paid a visit to Paris. In his diary for Jan. 19 of that year he says:—"Called on M. Leduc. . . . He gave me a very cordial reception; told me of the unanimity of the literary men in Paris on my acting; gave me George Sands' address. Quite the *entente cordiale*."

Mr. Charles Frohman will, early in the autumn, present Mr. G. P. Huntley and his own company in a new musical play at the Hicks Theatre after the end of the run of *A Waltz Dream*.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Irving's present to Mr. Frederick Barrington Ward and Miss Molly Smith (daughter of Mr. A. C. Smith, of Balliol College, Oxford), who were married at the Church of St. Cross, Holywell, Oxford, was a handsome dinner service. Little Miss Elizabeth Irving was one of the train-bearers. Mr. Irving is a New College man, a B.A. and an M.A., and took a second class in the Honour School of Modern History. He was called to the Bar in 1894.

Miss Amy Rogerson, who died at Brixton on Monday, was born in 1867. She expired after a short illness, leaving a husband and three children, a mother, and a brother. The funeral took place at Norwood Cemetery on Wednesday. She was the granddaughter of the late James Rogerson, a member in 1863 of the Drury-lane stock company, and was daughter of the late Whit Rogerson and Jessie St. Clair, a sister of Mr. Harry Rogerson, and wife of J. H. Booth, now appearing in Australia. Miss Rogerson made her first appearance in one of the late Charles Sullivan's productions, and also fulfilled engagements with the Milton Rays, Mr. Fred Warden, Mr. Arthur Jefferson, Mr. J. Pitt Hardacre, Hardie and Von Leer, Mr. W. D. Forsdike, Mr. Fred Karno, the Leopolds, and others. Amongst the parts sustained by her were those of Julia Latimer in *The Old Love and the New*, Haidee in *Darry the Dauntless*, Dot Linwood in *Daybreak*, Peggy in *Black Diamonds*, Daisy in *Royal, the Scout*, Maria in *The Bootblack*, Minnie Zerio in *Jacko*, Polly Phillpotts in *Rich and Poor of London*, Jane Adelaide in *A Path of Thorns*, Pattie in *A Beautiful Fiend*. She also played in *Queen of Hearts, His Majesty's Guests, The Dandy Thieves*, and *Saturday to Monday*.

The Hon. Mrs. Cecil Edwardes, who is sister-in-law to Lord Kensington, will next week make her first appearance at Covent Garden as Marguerite under the *nom de théâtre* of Mme. Edwina. Mrs. Edwardes is the daughter of Mr. F. Martin, of Vancouver, British Columbia, and was married to the Hon. Cecil Edwardes, the elder of Lord Kensington's two brothers, in 1901. She has studied singing and acting under the direction of M. Jean de Reszke.

Mr. Lyn Harding, in conjunction with Mr. Sidney Cooper, will, by arrangement with Mr. Cyril Maude, send *The Flag Lieutenant* on tour in the autumn, with the exception of those towns which Mr. Maude proposes visiting with his own company. Mr. Harding will not be able to appear in the piece on tour, as he is engaged for a part in a West-end production in September.

Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company, in the new musical comedy, *The Flower Girl*, is everywhere prosperous. So great was its success at Edinburgh that Messrs. Howard and Wyndham have offered dates for the coming autumn, and Mr. J. F. Graham, after seeing the piece, booked it for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham.

On July 8, 1908, at the Grammar School Hall, Dedham, Essex, was presented for copyright purposes a new and original play in four acts, by Herbert Chorley, entitled *The Undercurrent*.

Mr. C. St. John Denton, who has just returned from Australia, has arranged on behalf of Messrs. Denton Bode and McKenzie, Ltd., to produce a Cinderella pantomime in conjunction with Messrs. Meynell and Gunn on a magnificent scale at the Theatre Royal, Melbourne. In addition to the company they already have out there, a principal boy and other artists will be imported from England. Mr. Denton speaks very highly of Australia, and says the Cornstalks are the keenest judges and form the best audiences he has ever met.

The modern Greek play, to be entitled *The Duchess of Athens*, to which we referred a few months ago as the joint work of Dr. Constantine Pouptis and Mr. Alexander Clark, M.A., is rapidly approaching completion, and the authors look forward to its production in a West End theatre in the near future. The subject matter of the piece will be quite different from anything that has been seen in London for a great many years.

Miss Doris Gilham, who to-night concludes a year's engagement under the management of Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow, has been engaged by Mr. Wentworth Croke for the part of Glory Quayle in the new version of the *The Christian*.

Mr. George Alexander has accepted a one-act play by Mr. Walter Frith called *The Miniature*, and will play the leading part in it on tour in front of *The Thief*. Mr. Frith, who is the son of the famous R.A. and painter of "The Derby Day," is the author of at least a dozen plays, amongst which *The Man of Forty*, produced at the St. James's in 1900, and *Her Advocate*, done at the Duke of York's in 1895, are, perhaps, the most remembered.

Sir Theodore Martin, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., who honoured Mrs. Brereton Douglas by calling at her new quarters in Bond-street on the occasion of her recent "At Home," has presented her with a copy of his book, lately finished, entitled "Queen Victoria, as I Knew Her," to which Sir Theodore has added his autograph, the date, and the name of the recipient.

At the weekly committee meeting of the Actors' Union the following were present:—Messrs. Child (chairman), Lindley, J. W. Braithwaite, Royce Milton, George P. Lester, A. Maitland Stapley, Doré Lewin Mannering, Henry Bedford, J. Hastings Batson, and Harry C. Momber.

Mr. Milton proposed, and Mr. Bruce Lindley seconded, that a letter from a committeeman in the provinces should count as an attendance at the committee meeting for the week in which it is received. The motion was carried unanimously. The secretary was instructed to convey to the relatives of the late Dr. J. K. Fell an expression of sympathy from the committee on their sad bereavement. Mr. H. Hesslegrave was appointed the agent for the stock company at the Grand Theatre, Stockton, in the place of Mr. Frank Strickland, Mr. Hesslegrave to take up his duties in three weeks' time. Mr. Fred Constable was appointed the provisional chairman for the Sunday evening meetings at Liverpool.

Mr. Frank C. Bangs, a veteran of the American stage, died in Atlantic City, U.S.A., on the 12th ult. He had been an actor for forty-six years. In 1858 he appeared before a New York audience for the first time at Laura Keene's Theatre. In later years he played with Edwin Booth, Lawrence Barrett, Charles Fechter, and Adelaide Neilson. Two years ago he was badly hurt in a street accident, and a farewell benefit performance was given in his behalf at the New York Casino.

Miss Violet Agnew, who has just concluded a tour as Joanna Jones in Mr. W. Holles' *The Stepmother* Co., is now a patient in the cancer and tumour hospital (Lopes Ward), Fulham-road, S.W., and will be glad to hear from and see old friends. The visiting days are Sundays and Thursdays from two till four.

A matinée of *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*, with Mme. Tetrazzini in the cast, will be given at Covent Garden on Wednesday, July 22.

Madame Melba has generously sent to the London Hospital a cheque for £2000, the proceeds of the matinée at Covent Garden which she organised on behalf of that institution.

The Theatre Royal, Goole, has been purchased by Mr. Fred Greaves, of the Royal Hotel, Goole, from Mr. James Bentley, auctioneer, of Knottingley, and the West Riding General Purposes Committee have transferred the licence to Mr. Greaves from Mr. John E. Tomlinson. Mr. Greaves will have the place thoroughly renovated, and will make important structural alterations. The building will be re-opened at the end of August.

Mr. R. A. Roberts, the Protean actor, will shortly tour with the drama, *Straight from the Shoulder*, in the provinces. Mr. Charles Boult will be the general manager of the company, and Mr. Matthew Boulton, Miss Beatrice Burdett, Mr. Leonard Clarke, Miss Edie Casson, Mr. George H. Child, Miss Frances Bruce, Mr. George Fisher, Miss Beatrice Moore, Messrs. Cuthbert Dennison, Franklin McAvoy, and Fred. Beck will be members of the cast. The music has been composed by Mr. Denham-Harrison, and all scenery, properties, furniture, and accessories will be carried. The preparation and production of the drama will be under Mr. Roberts's personal care, and Mr. George H. Child will be the stage-manager.

Mr. Martin Comstock was immediately engaged for the autumn by Miss Maud Hildyard on her return from Australia, this making his third engagement with that lady.

Mr. Thomas Francis has resigned his position of acting-manager at the Metropole Theatre, Gateshead, to take up an appointment with Mr. Sidney Bacon.

The annual elocution competition of the British Empire Shakespeare Society will take place this year at 3 p.m., on Friday, at the Playhouse, which has been kindly lent by Mr. Cyril Maude. The number of professional entries is larger even than last year. Mr. Henry Arthur Jones will be the judge, and Mrs. Patrick Campbell will be one of the prize donors.

Mr. Lyn Harding has secured the provincial rights of *The Flag Lieutenant*, which is being presented by Mr. Cyril Maude to crowded houses at the Playhouse. The tour, which commences in October, will be under the direction of Mr. Lyn Harding and Mr. Sidney Cooper.

Messrs. E. D. and J. Maundy Gregory have arranged with a well-known author to give a lecture tour in the autumn dealing in a novel manner with certain questions of the moment.

Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer has under consideration an offer from her son, Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann, to fulfil an engagement at his new Empire Theatre, Calcutta, in a series of grand Shakespearean revivals, with a tour of China and Japan to follow. Meantime she will resume her tour in August for the autumn.

Mr. Cecil A. Collins will commence his tour of *Hands Across the Sea*, by the late Henry Pettitt, on Aug. 24. In addition to Mr. Collins, the cast will include Messrs. G. Clifton Boyne, Clive Currie, Frank Woodville, Patrick Fitzgerald, A. L. Burke, Lawrence Grove, Guy Smethurst, Misses Lilla Nordon, Marjorie Davenporte, Kirsteen Graeme, and Beatrice Whitney. Mr. Charles Beresford will be the business-manager.

Mr. John R. Huddlestone, the manager of the Opera House and Winter Gardens, Blackpool, will be married on the 27th of this month at St. Anne's-on-Sea to Mme. Rocca, of Nice. Mr. Huddlestone's many friends have wished him joy very heartily.

Amongst those who sent presents to Dr. F. H. Cowen and Miss Frederica Richardson at their recent marriage were Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Mr. and Mrs. George Grossmith, and Mr. A. W. Pinero.

Mr. Leonard Rayne has secured from Mr. Oswald Brand the sole South African rights of his entirely new version of *Monte Cristo*.

The National Association of Theatrical Producing Managers of the United States have been officially notified that the Canadian Government has removed all duties heretofore imposed on scenery used by theatrical companies in tours of the Dominion. In future, American theatrical managers wishing to tour Canada will merely have to put their scenery under bond to be taken out of the country within a specified time, the money then to be refunded. This is the same way in which scenery is bonded when brought from a foreign country into the United States. The new order will take effect on July 1. The question of Canadian duties has been particularly aggravating to the American theatrical companies, as they frequently find it necessary to cross the boundary two or three times in a single tour, and have hitherto had to pay duty each time. Moreover, there has been no fixed rate. The National Association of Theatrical Producing Managers recently voted that after May 1, 1909, no companies should be sent into Canada, unless certain modifications in the copyright law and the consequent protection against piracy were put into effect, specific mention being made of the injustice of the customs exactions. The new rule was obtained through the intervention of the Canadian Theatre Managers' Association.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison has arranged with Miss Decima Moore to appear in that great success *Mrs. Dot*, which is now crowding the Comedy Theatre. Miss Moore has already had a brilliant success in two of Miss Marie Tempest's parts, viz., those in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy* and *The Truth*. The rehearsals of all the Hutchison companies are in full swing under Mr. Percy Hutchison's able direction.

Mr. Hayden Coffin, who is at present playing in *Butterflies* at the Apollo, has, since *The Cingalee* case in March, 1905, been smarting under the imputation that he, prior to the introduction of Major Fraser to Mr. George Edwardes, imposed terms for such introduction. This impression was removed on Saturday by Mr. Justice Darling in the King's Bench, who stated, "Everybody seems satisfied that in introducing Major Fraser, Mr. Hayden Coffin did it as a matter of friendship, and not for reward. Anybody who thinks differently has no ground for his opinion." His Lordship caused some amusement when counsel was unable to say whether Mr. Coffin was an actor or a singer by remarking, "I was under the impression he was both."

Mr. Coffin's last appearance in the Courts was in a case in which an Inland Revenue official prosecuted him for employing a male servant without a licence. Mr. Coffin pleaded that it was the first time in twenty years he had so transgressed the law, and the magistrate imposed a nominal penalty of half a sovereign.

Mr. Wm. Yates Gregory has secured a lease of the Gaiety and Music-hall, Blyth, which he intends running on thorough up-to-date lines, and will open on Monday, August 3rd. Mr. Thomas Baugh has been engaged to take up the management.

We learn that a powerful syndicate has been formed, with Mr. Wm. Yates Gregory as managing director, to erect an up-to-date theatre in the township of Wrexham. A most central position has been secured in the main street leading from the railway station.

Mr. Gregory comes from one of the oldest stocks of theatrical managers in the country, being a near relative of the late Mr. Mercer H. Simpson, having assisted that gentleman for a number of years as acting-manager of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham. Mr. Gregory takes the name of Yates from his grandfather, Mr. Mark Yates, who served under the management of Messrs. Munro and Simpson and two generations of the Simpson family. Mr. Wm. Yates Gregory is the only son of Mr. James Gregory who, for over twenty years, managed Day's Concert Hall, Birmingham.

Mr. Langdon Mitchell, author of *Becky Sharp* and *The New York Idea*, has written a romantic American play, dealing with the early history of New York, during the Revolutionary period, the plot admitting of elaborate scenic effects. The play is to be produced in New York by Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger.

Mr. E. W. Silverthorne, having recently concluded a long spring tour as manager of *The New Clown* company, has been engaged by Mr. Percy Hutchison for the autumn.

The new German Theatre, at the corner of Fifty-ninth-street and Madison-avenue, is to be fitted with a fire curtain of chilled steel in one solid sheet, and covered on both sides with asbestos. The curtain will be operated by electricity, and when it is lowered the stage will be as completely separated from the auditorium as if a metal wall intervened.

"Lady Frederick's" recent reception at the New Theatre was a great success, and was especially appreciated by French and American visitors to London, who attended in large numbers.

Miss Fannie Ward's tenancy at Terry's Theatre having expired, the run of *The Three of Us* terminated on Friday, when she took a well-earned rest, after a most artistic and interesting season. Miss Ward will resume the run of *The Three of Us* at a London Theatre in the autumn, and arrangements have been made for several other plays to follow.

Mr. Patrick Kirwan's Idyllic Players appeared at the Botanical Gardens, Edgbaston, on Tuesday and Wednesday in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* respectively. The surroundings gave exceptional realism to the plays, and the players, led by Mr. Patrick Kirwan, were exceptionally good, and found much appreciation for their efforts.

Mr. Lester Collingwood has returned from his sojourn among the Americans, who were so pleased with their vivacious visitor that they wanted to make him an American citizen; but nevertheless, and "in spite of all temptations, he remains an Englishman." Mr. Collingwood during his stay in New York visited Coney Island and the Bowery, and in honour of his presence the National Anthem was played in four of the leading theatres. He is impressed with the Americans, whom he describes as a great people, and is lavish in his praise of their hospitality. He was the guest of millionaires, Senators, and the leading impressarios, and gave a dinner in return for their hospitality.

The case of Arthur Stannard, described as of West Kensington-mansions, came before the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday upon an application for discharge. The debtor, a civil engineer by profession, attributed his failure to the loss of £4,000 in connection with *Winter's Weekly*, the publication of which ceased some years ago, to ill-health, and also to stoppage of income through the prolonged illness of his wife, "John Strange Winter," authoress of "Bootles' Baby." Debtor added that his wife, whose affairs he managed, at one time earned £1,200 a year. It was reported that the liabilities amounted to £857 and that the assets would realise 30s. The only offence reported was the absence of assets equal to 10s. in the £, and his honour granted the order of discharge, subject to a suspension of two years.

At Westminster Police Court on Thursday Mr. Harry Arthur Hands, a flautist, sued Mr. Robert Courtneidge for damages for breach of contract. Mr. Courtneidge was producing the musical comedy called *The Dairymaids*, and the plaintiff applied for a position in the orchestra. He received a postcard from Mr. Chapman on behalf of Mr. Wood, the conductor of *The Dairymaids* orchestra, telling him that he would be required, and giving the times of the rehearsals at the Queen's Theatre. He attended several, and on the day before the performance played till nearly 12.30. The conductor said he must stop later, but the plaintiff left to catch his last train.

Mr. Wood said on the night in question he told Mr. Hands about twelve o'clock that he could not go home, and plaintiff went back to his seat and played a number. Just before 12.30 a.m. plaintiff came up to him again, and witness told him he was not to go. Plaintiff, however, did leave, and the next morning witness told him his services were no longer required. Mr. Ignatius Orrelana, a conductor, and Mr. Harold Vickers, conductor of Daly's Theatre, stated that when a man was kept late it was customary to pay his cab fare home. The case was adjourned.

Mr. George Grossmith has been relating to a *Pall Mall* representative the story of the production of *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the Opera Comique. "Mr. D'Oyly Carte," said Mr. Grossmith, "had arranged to follow *The Sorcerer* with an opera by Sir F. Burnand and the late Mr. Alfred Cellier, a most delightful and charming composer. From some cause or other, never explained to this very day, poor Alfred Cellier lost not only Burnand's manuscript, but also his own music. So Mr. D'Oyly Carte fell back on Sir William Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan, who wrote the opera under high pressure. It was completed, in fact, in an incredibly short period, and, so far as Sir Arthur Sullivan was concerned, at a time of severe suffering, for when he composed this bright and delightful music he was lying on his back enduring great agony. Sir William Gilbert, as in *The Sorcerer*, founded the story of the opera on one of his former works, on this occasion from a combination of 'The Bab Ballads,' especially 'Captain Reece' (of 'The Mantelpiece') and 'The Bumboat Woman's Story.'

"In spite of very modest mounting, the opera ran for nearly two years. It was not, however, at first a very glaring success financially. Curiously enough, the boom started in America. Those were the days when there was no understanding with regard to copyright. American managers produced the opera without any arrangement with its author, or its composer, or Mr. D'Oyly Carte, and it was played at five or six theatres in New York as well as in other cities of the United States. Its originality, its delightful music, its clever dialogue all appealed to American audiences, and at last English people, anticipating the present Prince of Wales's advice on another subject, began to 'wake up.' 'If Americans,' they said, 'can see so much in the opera, what is the matter with us?' and then they began to rush to it. Sir William Gilbert was not so well understood then as he is now, and people at first took the opera too seriously.

"Mr. D'Oyly Carte had a great belief in the opera; the Syndicate had not, and when the receipts went down notices to quit went up. We all had a fortnight's notice. But at this moment Mr. D'Oyly Carte claimed the opera against the Syndicate and he kept us on. This resulted in the production of the piece by the Syndicate at the Imperial Theatre, so that there was the unique state of affairs of the same opera running at two theatres in London at the same time. This was only part of the trouble, for the Syndicate came to the theatre and tried to seize the guns and the scenery. There was such noise and fury behind the scenes that the audience thought there was a fire, and I had to make a speech during the performance whilst playing the part of Sir Joseph Porter, telling them it was only a little dispute and there was no cause to be alarmed.

"This was followed after the fall of the curtain by another speech from Mr. Rutland Barrington (the Captain Corcoran), who stated what had really happened. In the meantime there had been a rush outside the theatre, in which the late Mr. Richard Barker, the stage manager, was pushed down a flight of steps. Out of revenge he called on the Marines who appeared in the opera to use their bayonets and charge the enemy up again, which in those stirring days they were only too pleased to do.

"Of course there was an action afterwards, and counsel who cross-examined me asked, with reference to a period when the theatre was closed for the alleged purpose of repairing the drains, 'when was the first complaint of the drains smelling?' To which I replied, 'When the receipts went down.' Sir William Gilbert, who was in court, was heard audibly to mutter, 'Pecunia non olet' (money does not smell)."

"The Servant in the House," by Charles Rann Kennedy, closed its first New York engagement on the 27th ult., at the Savoy Theatre, New York, where it opened on March 23. The same production will return to the Savoy in the autumn, following the presentation there of *Diana of Dobson's*, in which Miss Carlotta Nillson is to appear, under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman. The Savoy has been open continuously since September, 1906, when Miss Rose Stahl appeared there in *The Chorus Lady*, which had a very long run. *The Man of the Hour* kept the house open all last summer.

Dr. Mathieu, of the Theatre Doctors' Friendly Society, stated in Paris on Thursday that most of the cases doctors are called upon to attend in Paris theatres—and every theatre and music hall must have a doctor on duty at every performance—consist of nothing more serious than loosening a woman's corsets. "Women," he said, "go to places of entertainment immediately after a more or less hastily-eaten dinner. They faint, or suffer from a feeling of suffocation or cramp, and all that is necessary is to loosen the tight lacing."

Dr. Lenglois said that Paris theatres are notoriously ill-ventilated. "Very often the emotion of the play has unpleasant effects on women, or perhaps it is a theatre ice eaten too hastily. Certain it is that the vast majority of sudden cases doctors are called upon to attend in theatres and music halls are not serious, and not worth the services of the 120 doctors who nightly give their services to places of entertainment.

Mr. Edward Paulton, part-author of the famous *Erminie*, has written a comic opera in tabloid form called *The Naked Truth*, which has "caught on" at the Fifth-avenue Theatre, New York. Mr. Harry Davenport and Miss Phyllis Rankin fill the leading rôles. The scene is laid in Normandy, and the story deals with the love of a young sailor and his sweetheart, Estelle. During his absence she has become infatuated with the charms and alleged title of Johnnie MacIntosh, a sergeant in the Scotch Highballs, who is in Normandy pushing a new brand of Scotch whisky. Estelle (Miss Rankin) believes in him implicitly, but her father is convinced that MacIntosh (Mr. Davenport) is an economiser of the truth. He and the young sailor hit upon a scheme to prove MacIntosh's falseness to Estelle, and, in consequence, she returns to her old love. Among the musical numbers are "Honeymooning," sung by Miss Rankin, and a Scotch song, "Hey, Hey, Hey, Sergeant MacIntosh," sung by Mr. Davenport and the chorus.

"An association has just been formed in Paris," writes our correspondent, "styling itself 'Le Théâtre Indépendant,' patronised by many well-known persons in the world of art and letters. The object of this association is to produce plays by talented young dramatists who fail to have their works accepted by the Paris managers. The theatrical season of the Théâtre Indépendant will last from Sept. 1 to May 31, and during these nine months nine performances will be given. Each play will be brought out at Fémina or Marigny, after which it will be taken either to the provinces, or be transferred to a house in one of the outlying Paris districts. If the new association adheres to its rules and shows no favouritism, it may do some excellent work; but they have already had in Paris many similar institutions, which all came sooner or later to grief, because they could not resist the temptation offered them in the form of a big cheque by 'society dramatists' willing to pay a handsome sum for the pleasure of seeing their productions brought out."

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Tree on Autobiographies.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE, who will soon take a well-earned rest at Marienbad, wishes it to be known that he is not writing his reminiscences. "There is nothing," he says, "that I detest more than autobiographical attitudes, but if I am tempted to indulge in them I shall certainly delay that proceeding for the splendid leisure of twenty years hence. Autobiography, as I said the other day in reference to the gramophone, adds a new terror to life, and makes death a long-felt want."

Sir John Hare's Memories.

SIR JOHN HARE has given us another instalment of his agreeable reminiscences in the *Strand Magazine*. The article includes the following letter from the late William Terriss:—"Royal Adelphi Theatre, Sept. 23, 1887.—My Dear Hare,—Your very kind letter has given me the greatest pleasure. It is scarcely necessary for me to remind you that it was to your able guidance that I am indebted for my first ideas in the art of acting, and, although still conscious of my faults, I cannot help feeling proud to read such kind and flattering words as you have thought fit to pen me. I hope to keep your letter as a mark of your esteem, which I assure you I value more than that of any living actor. Commend me to Mrs. Hare, and believe me always sincerely yours,—WILL TERRISS."

The Kendals.

"OLIVIA," says Sir John, "marked my last notable production at the old Court Theatre, and my tenancy soon after came to an end in July, 1879. I now found myself face to face with a great problem. I had no wish to abandon theatrical management, which profoundly interested me, but I was fully conscious of the fact that an enterprise which lacked the aid of a strong leading actress was as unstable as a house built on sand. As I desired a permanent rather than a fleeting association, I made a proposition to Mr. W. H. Kendal that he should join me in the management of the St. James's Theatre, on the understanding that his wife should support our association throughout. Arrangements were completed, and then commenced a management which lasted from October, 1879, till July, 1888. It was a period which passed without a cloud or misunderstanding between us. Our arrangement was that Mr. Kendal should undertake the business side of the partnership, and that the conduct and management of the stage should be left under my entire control. And so controlling, I remained an autocrat, Mrs. Kendal herself setting the lead by the most implicit loyalty. I was always inclined to be critical, and remember her once saying to me at rehearsal, 'For Heaven's sake, Hare, what's the matter with me? You've never said anything!'

A Happy Inspiration.

"I AM, and always have been, a sceptic in what is called the inspiration of the moment in acting, although I know there are many who differ from me on this subject. Still, there are exceptions to every rule, and unrehearsed effects have often proved extremely successful, as I have reason to remember on the production of Pinero's play, in which I appeared as the bibulous ne'er-do-well, Baron Croodle. The piece had been rehearsed carefully from every point of view; but, on the first night, when I was left alone on the stage as that disreputable but amusing old scoundrel, the following unrehearsed incident occurred. The family were supposed to have retired to lunch, and I was sitting disconsolately meditating over my evil, if imaginary, past. There came the sound of a champagne cork drawn in the next room, at which I pricked up my ears, and, quite unintentionally till that moment, my face lit up with the delightful recollections which that well-known sound inspired. The house roared with laughter, and it is perhaps unnecessary to say that this unrehearsed effect was invariably repeated, while it never failed to elicit an additional burst of merriment throughout the run of Pinero's witty play.

Hare and Tennyson.

"IT was during our management of the St. James's that I first had the honour of meeting the late Lord Tennyson, and my brief association with the great poet left an everlasting impression upon my memory. Accompanied by Mr. Kendal, I went—on the Poet Laureate's invitation—to his house at Haslemere to hear a little one-act play he had written, called *The Falcon*, founded on a story by Boccaccio. It may be imagined with what veneration we entered the residence of that great man. After lunch, which was almost unbroken by conversation, we went into his study, and I still seem to see and hear him, puffing away at his pipe, which he replenished every now and then from the jar of tobacco placed conveniently at his side

"His manner was rugged—'frosty, but kindly.' I wished to say what I thought about the piece, which he read with great deliberation, but dared not. The play was much too long for so slight and delicate a subject, but at the close I felt it my duty to tell him that, in its present form, its success was doubtful. I was impelled to do this, for, though delighted with the prospective honour of producing his play, in doing so I did not wish to produce anything which might be considered unworthy of his genius. When I had summoned up courage to tell him as respectfully as possible what I ventured to think, he became exceedingly indignant, and the matter was evidently at an end. We were not pressed to stay, and shortly afterwards left to catch our train. In walking down the garden we heard footsteps behind us, and, turning round, found it was Tennyson, who said somewhat abruptly as he put the roll of manuscript into my hand, 'Cut what you like, but, for God's sake, never let me see it!'"

Edmund Payne as a Scene-painter.

"ONE day when I was painting scenery at the Theatre Royal, Jersey, I had a very nasty accident. I had hoisted one of the frames about halfway up the scenery so that I might embellish the top, and while climbing over to fix up the rope on the opposite side, the opposition rope gave way, and I slipped down to earth at top speed. The friction of the rope, as I gracefully made for the bare boards of the stage, was so keen that it completely burnt the palms of my hands, and for some days I was 'handless.'

A Difficult Duet.

"I HAD a fairly-good tenor voice, and one evening, when I was in Jersey on the occasion of a benefit for some local charity, I changed my female attire to evening dress, and joined Mme. Dorval, our principal girl, in the 'Excelsior' duet. I stood by her side in the approved style of a concert singer—my attitude would have put Sir Charles Santley, at his best, quite in the shade—holding a piece of music of which I couldn't read a single semi-quaver—or any other quaver for that matter—before me, and joining lustily in this extremely difficult vocal duet. I confess that I fully expected the audience to pass me out baskets of ripe fruit in the shape of Jersey cabbages, young tomatoes, and blasé sea-kale; but, strange to say, they appreciated the duet intensely—they were evidently fine judges of music—and it was 'kept in' for the rest of the run of the pantomime."

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

MISS VERA BERINGER'S MATINEE.

On Thursday, July 9, for the first time in London, the New and Original Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Henry Seton, entitled

"THE BOYS."

Brian O'Donaghue	MR. CHAS. GOODHART
Mortimer Wilberley	MR. FRED LEWIS
Micky Halloran	MR. WILFRED SHINE
Major Robert Rayner	MR. E. STATHAM STAPLES
Captain Hugh Wilson	MR. GEORGE SILVER
Peter Tubbs	MR. MAX LEEDS
Ananda	MR. JOHN BRABOURNE
O'Driscoll	MR. JOHN FAIRWAY
Colonel Harkner	MR. CHAS. TOWSON
Bat	MR. ELLIS CARLYLE
Waiter	MR. EDEN POTTS
Bobbie Davies	MR. REGINALD CRAVEN
Lane-Marriot	MR. DOUGLAS IMBERT
Miss Petunia Parsons	MISS CARLOTTA ZERBINI
Patricia O'Donaghue	MISS FLORENCE LLOYD
Katherine O'Donaghue	MISS VERA BERINGER
Mary O'Donaghue	MISS MAY BLAYNEY
Miss Maynard	MISS M. HOLFORD

Bearing a title closely resembling a world-famous comedy, Mr. Henry Seton's farcical play was first produced in London at the Court Theatre on Thursday, at a matinée given by Miss Vera Beringer. *The Boys* was originally staged at the Grand Theatre, Croydon, on May 11 last, when it met with a friendly reception. Since then a new third act has been provided.

When three charming young ladies proceed to disguise themselves as young men in conventional evening dress, and thus attired make their appearance in the smoke-room of a country hotel, it is not difficult to imagine the kind of fun likely to arise from such a risky experiment. The girls, be it said, had a sufficient reason for their eccentric behaviour—it was not a mere freak without a purpose. The Misses O'Donaghue were only anxious to do their father a good turn. Their uncle, Mortimer Wilberley, had gone abroad and made a fortune; but, being a woman-hater, had given O'Donaghue to understand that if the latter had any sons all his money would be left to them. But it so happened that Mrs. O'Donaghue presented her husband with daughters, and their father, thinking it a pity that the fortune should go elsewhere, had given out that in each case boys had been born to him. The three girls during their father's temporary absence from home are placed under the charge of their strict and staight-laced maiden aunt, Miss Petunia Parsons, who arrives just in time to witness an impromptu dance, the girls' partners in the merry frolic being their respective sweethearts, Major Robert Rayner, Captain Hugh Wilson, and Mr. Peter Tubbs. The gentlemen make a hurried departure, being considerably awed by the frigid attitude of the obviously suspicious maiden aunt. A telegram from Wilberley announcing his arrival in Ireland and asking O'Donaghue to meet him at Ballymurran Hotel with the three "nephews" naturally causes considerable consternation, and, as the result of a hurried consultation, the trio decide to assume male attire, and so deceive their uncle as to their real sex.

The scene of the second act is the smoke-room in Ballymurran Hotel, where Uncle Wilberley duly meets his supposed nephews and invites them to partake of whiskies and sodas, and offers them cigarettes. A military ball is in progress at the hotel, and Rayner, Wilson, and Tubbs are awaiting the arrival of the three girls, whom they have invited. They fail to recognise their sweethearts in the young men in evening dress who are introduced to them by Wilberley. The whisky, followed by champagne, proves too potent for the youngest girl, Mary, and an amusing quarrelling scene ensues. In the midst of it Miss Petunia, who has ascertained the whereabouts of her charges, arrives on the scene; but the electric light having been switched off, the girls escape, and O'Donaghue, to whom his daughters had sent a wire, is considerably astonished to discover Miss Petunia in the dark with the gay young officers.

In the last act the girls return home, but are met by their lovers, who, having learned from O'Donaghue's Irish servant, Micky, the trick that had been played upon them, determine to have their revenge, and continue the quarrel begun at the hotel, to the terror and dismay of the three maidens. To carry the joke still further, they don feminine garments, and when the girls reappear in their usual garb their father himself joins in the conspiracy to perplex and exasperate them. However, Uncle Wilberley is induced to overlook the deception that has been practised upon him, and his pretty nieces will in due course receive the money intended for "the boys."

Mr. Charles Goodhart as Brian O'Donaghue gave an appropriately brisk and breezy rendering of the part; Mr. Fred Lewis repeated his comically stolid embodiment of Mortimer Wilberley, who has an amusing trick of speaking his thoughts aloud, though entirely unconscious of the habit; Mr. Wilfred Shine can always be depended upon to give a richly humorous and delightfully natural sketch of Irish character, and his impersonation of the faithful Irish servant, Micky Halloran, again proved one of the chief acting successes of the piece; highly amusing and effective was Mr. E. Statham Staples' portrayal of the diminutive officer, Major Rayner, his love-making scene with Patricia O'Donaghue being particularly good; Mr. George Silver did exceedingly well in the rôle of Captain Hugh Wilson; and Mr. Max Leeds scored as Peter Tubbs. Mr. John Brabourne had a silent part as Ananda, Mr. Wilberley's' Cingalese servant (mistaken for a woman by Aunt Petunia), but he played it very cleverly; Miss Vera Beringer displayed charming vivacity and high spirits as Katherine O'Donaghue, and did all that was possible with the part; Miss Florence Lloyd was a merry and mischievous Patricia, and entered heartily into the spirit of the fun; while Miss May Blayney was daintily pretty and pleasing as Mary, who is reluctantly persuaded to put on masculine dress. Her acting in the scene in the smoke-room after the hitherto timid Mary has been compelled to partake of whiskey and wine was especially worthy of praise. Miss Carlotta Zerbina gave a capital sketch of the prim Miss Petunia Parsons, whose horror at the discovery that she has made a mistake in the sex of the Cingalese servant is most amusingly depicted; Miss M. Holford was well placed as Miss Maynard, one of the lady guests at the officers' ball; and able service was rendered by Mr. John Fairway as O'Driscoll, Mr. Chas. Towson as Colonel Harkner; other minor parts being safely entrusted to Messrs. Ellis Carlyle, Eden Potts, Reginald Craven, and Douglas Imbert. The comedy was excellently produced by Mr. Hubert Druce.

THE Exchange Telegraph Company, Ltd., desires to state in regard to a paragraph published by it on the 23rd ult., relating to an incident at the Holborn Empire on the 22nd ult., during the performance of Mr. George Gray's sketch, *The Fighting Parson*, that the information was received from a reliable correspondent and the company had no reason to doubt its correctness. The facts of the incident, however, appear to have been exaggerated, as no damage whatever was done to the premises, nor was there any difficulty in restoring order. A section of the audience resented Mr. Gray leaving the stage during the performance of the second house. As the report might possibly do damage to the proprietors of the hall, the company desires to make the above announcement, and expresses its regret for the annoyance which has been caused by the circulation of the original paragraph.

MISS DUNCAN AT THE DUKE OF YORK'S.

One of the most beautiful examples of the "poetry of motion" ever seen in London was submitted by Miss Izadora Duncan at the Duke of York's Theatre on Monday evening. Miss Duncan, who is slightly known to Londoners by some classical dances which she did at the New Gallery about eight years ago, has since then made a great reputation as a dancer at Berlin and elsewhere. She is very finely proportioned, with a long neck and arms, strong and shapely legs, well-formed feet, and features beaming with openness and expression. Her dancing is exquisitely graceful, and held the audience enthralled by its rare beauty. The announcement that Glück's music in *Iphigenie in Aulide* would be used may have led to the supposition that something of a dramatic nature in pantomime was to be provided; but Miss Duncan's dances had little reference to the old Greek story. Indeed, it would often have been agreeable to have had a hint now and then from the programme as to what was the meaning of some of the dances, which evidently were intended to depict something. On one occasion Miss Duncan appeared to be throwing a dart; on another she seemed to be playing at some game with cards or counters. Most memorable of all her evolutions was the one expressive of the most perfect delight. To see Miss Duncan tripping round the stage, which was enclosed in brown curtains, was to witness an entrancing exhibition of human happiness. The very spirit of joysome gladness was in the dance. Another expression of gaiety was a kind of country dance to a lively strain. It was exuberantly animated and active, and brought down the house. Energetic and inspired was the Bacchic dance done by Miss Duncan later on in the course of the evening. The mystic "elevation" of the Bacchanal was admirably shown, and the collapse and final fall at the end of the dance were very effective. There were also some dances of a soberer and more melancholy nature, done in longer robes than the delicately draped Greek tunic which was Miss Duncan's usual costume. Every step and movement was governed by the most classical grace and beauty, and the entertainment, though in the ordinary run of things it would have been too much in one key, made a very favourable impression on the well-pleased audience, who recognised soon after Miss Duncan's entrance that they were in the presence of a saltatory genius. The charm of the entertainment, its classical quality, and the sweetness and shapeliness of the dancer had their effect on those who beheld this marvel of facile and harmonious movement. They applauded Miss Duncan unstintedly, and at the close of her performance, in answer to an enthusiastic encore, she favoured the house with an additional item of a gay and festive nature. In the intervals Miss Duncan's young pupils supplied several pretty little ballets. Miss Isadora Duncan's entertainment is astonishingly artistic and marvellously graceful and classical, and Mr. Charles Frohman may be congratulated on the success of his latest presentation.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Although given late in the season, Bizet's masterly opera *Carmen* attracted a large audience to Covent Garden on Thursday night, July 2. Generally, the performance was excellent. Madame Maria Gay again repeated her striking impersonation of the wayward gipsy heroine, while she did not spare herself in the exacting music of the part. The picturesque and appropriate costumes of Madame Gay also lent additional interest to her fine performance. Mr. Marak, who essayed the character of Don José for the first time at Covent Garden, sang the charming flower-song with great expression, but his acting in the dramatic portions of the opera was somewhat deficient in power. An American singer, Madame Rider-Kelsey, who, as Micaela, made her first appearance, created a most favourable impression by her beautiful voice and finished singing. Escamilla was played by M. Scandinani, and Mr. Gilibert gave, as usual, a masterly performance of Il Dancario. The music of Frasquita and Mercedes was charmingly sung by Mesdames Severina and Lejeune; and a capital rendering of the delightful quintet in the second act was given. Mr. Panizza conducted the opera most skilfully.

Giordano's opera *Fedora* was performed at Covent Garden on Tuesday evening, and aroused considerable interest. Miss Cavalieri, who appeared as Fedora, was far more successful in this character than in her previous performance of Manon. Miss Cavalieri sang with greatly increased power, while her attractive personality and graceful, if not very dramatic or convincing, acting made Fedora interesting. A new-comer, Mr. Garbin, played the rôle of Loris with much intelligence. Although Mr. Garbin seemed somewhat nervous at first, he greatly improved later in the opera, and his fine voice and manly bearing in the part will, when greater confidence is inspired, prove Mr. Garbin a welcome addition to the list of artists at Covent Garden. Mr. Scotti was an excellent De Siriex; and Madame Lejeune made a most lively and spirited Olga. Mr. Zucchi, who was in the original cast, again played Desiré; and the parts of Cirillo and Gretch were admirably performed by Messrs. Marcoux and Gianoli. Special mention should also be made of Mr. Lierchar's Boleslao. The opera was beautifully mounted, and Mr. Panizza secured excellent results from the orchestra.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday evening, July 6, the Play entitled "EAST LYNNE."

Mrs. Henry Wood's famous novel "East Lynne" lends itself readily to dramatisation, and the adaptation as presented at the Pavilion on Monday evening evidently was to the taste of the audience, although we think the introduction of the "Votes for Women" business was an innovation which should have been omitted from the play. The Archibald Carlyle of Mr. Ashley Page was a performance of sterling merit, this favourite actor meeting with enthusiastic applause whenever he appeared on the stage. The erring Lady Isabel was played with intensity and power by Miss Marion Denvil, who was exceptionally good in the last act. The villainous Captain Francis Levison was vigorously rendered by Mr. Walter Thornton, whose general incisiveness and excellent acting are to be commended. The fugitive, Richard Hare, was well portrayed by Mr. Raymond Wood; while the eccentricities of Justice Hare were made the most of by Mr. Herbert Lloyd. Mr. Harry Brandon was duly humorous as Lawyer Dill; and Mr. Charles L. Foster was a dignified Lord Mount Severn. The Barbara Hare of Miss Mabel Lowe was an effective study; Miss Nell Gilmore extracted much fun from the part of Cornelia Carlyle; a pathetic picture of Little Willie was presented by Miss Bertha Hanbury; and Miss Agnes Rothsay was a pert Suzanne. The scenery and appointments were in the best possible taste.

IRISH PLAYS AT THE COURT.

The Irish Stage Society and the London branch of the Celtic Association took possession of the Royal Court Theatre, Sloane-square, for the final three days of last week, and presented a series of Irish and Welsh plays. Mr. Patrick E. Doherty is deserving of more than a passing word of thanks for affording the opportunity of several pretty pieces being presented to the public. The chief interest on the opening night centred in the curtain-raiser, *Leap Year in the West*, a bright play from the clever pen of Miss Johanna Redmond, the youngest of Mr. John Redmond's daughters. This little piece was originally produced early in the present year before the Irish Literary Society, and created a most favourable impression, which was deepened by the effective manner of its presentation at the Court. The two characters were sustained by Miss Esther Redmond and Mr. Barry O'Brien. Miss Redmond, whose wedding to Dr. Power, of New York, is fixed for next week, made love in a delightful fashion, and proved herself to be an amateur actress of much grace and talent. Mr. O'Brien ably supported his rôle.

On the second night Mr. W. P. Graves's Irish operetta *The Postbag* formed the first portion of the programme, and it went as well as when it made its first appearance in the full tide of the Gaelic revival six years ago—to further which object, by the way, is the author's theme. The piece was ably interpreted by Miss Hilda de Angelis (Kitty O'Hea, Mr. D. Byndon-Ayres (Phelim, the postboy), and Mr. Jerome Murphy (Seaghan, the smith). The catchy and tuneful music of Mr. Michele Esposito was spiritedly sung by all three artists. Miss de Angelis made a distinct hit as Kitty and Mr. Jerome Murphy was very fine as Seaghan. The operetta was followed by a masque, by Ernest Rhys, with music by Vincent Thomas, entitled

"THE QUEST OF THE GRAIL."

King Arthur	MR. WINGFIELD HEALE
Sir Galahad	MISS GWENDOLLEN LALLY
Sir Percival	MR. LAUNCELOT CRANE
Sir Gawain	MR. C. COURT TREATT
Sir Launcelot	MR. C. F. BARRETT
Sir Kay	MR. ALLAN GOMME
Sailor	MR. W. H. NICHOLSON
Court Minstrel	MR. DIXON
Timor Mortis, Arch Druid, Hermit	MR. JOSEPH PAYNE
Arch Druidess	MISS D'AUVERGNE UPCHER
Queen Quenever	MISS DOUIE
Nimuë (Vivian), Tradition	MISS EDITH RHYS
Tradition's Child	MISS ESTHER TILLEY

The story which the masque presents is that told in the old Welsh and French romances dealing with the quest of Sir Percival, Sir Galahad, and other Knights of the Round Table. The scenes range from a dramatic prologue in which the old rites of the Druids are shown as dimly foreshadowing the high mystery of the Sancgreal. The masque itself opens with the journey of Percival (the Parsifal of Wagner's' drama) to be knighted at the Court of the Haut King Arthur. A tableau of the chivalry at the high feast of Camelot, with Quenever and Launcelot, Percival and Galahad, is broken by the advent of the Hermit, who calls the knights to the quest. The Round Table is disbanded, and Galahad and his fellows set forth. In an interlude is shown the dance of Vivian and her maidens, which tempts the knights to forego the quest; and the masque closes with the going of Quenever with her nuns to Amesbury, and, last, the finding of the mount and castle of the Grail by Sir Galahad.

The masque was beautifully mounted, the scene being laid in a forest glade which was quite a stage picture, and the dresses were historically accurate. The production was under the direction of Miss Edith Rhys, who made a success of the rôle of Tradition and who was rewarded by quite a shower of bouquets from admirers in the stalls. There was a graceful dance by water nymphs arranged by Miss Maud Douie, who was an excellent Queen Quenever. The feature of the cast, however, was the Sir Galahad of Miss Gwendollen Lally, who looked the character to the life and interpreted it in an ideally chivalrous fashion. Mr. Launcelot Crane made a manly and muscular Sir Percival, and Mr. Joseph Payne was admirable in each of the triple rôles he enacted. Mr. W. Heale was a knightly King Arthur, and Miss Esther Tilley was very good as the child.

The closing performances of the series were an Irish play, *An Vadbacht*, written in the vernacular, by P. Conroy, and *The Absentee*, by Messrs. Graves and Keene.

MR. ALEXANDER'S INTENTIONS.

Mr. George Alexander brought his season at the St. James's Theatre to an end on the evening of the 3rd inst. amidst a scene of great enthusiasm. Responding to undeniable demands for a speech, he said:—

"It is my privilege to express my grateful thanks for your generous support during my eighteenth season at the St. James's Theatre. I am proud to have had the honour of producing Mr. Pinero's play, *The Thunderbolt*, and I wish to thank my colleagues behind the curtain for their admirable work in this interesting drama. You will be glad to hear that Mr. Pinero is now writing another play for production at this theatre. During the autumn I am paying a short visit to my provincial friends with *The Thief*, a play which was withdrawn in the height of its success, and which I hope to revive later on. During my absence in the provinces my theatre will be occupied by one of our finest English actors, Mr. Forbes Robertson, who, with his talented wife, will appear at the end of next month in a new play by Mr. Jerome K. Jerome. On my return to town I produce a new play by Mr. Alfred Sutro, and I am pleased to say that Miss Irene Vanbrugh will once more be associated with me as leading lady. At the conclusion of the run of that play I intend to revive two old favourites, *The Prisoner of Zenda* and *Old Heidelberg*. My future plans include new plays by Mr. Hubert Henry Davies and Mr. Haddon Chambers. I look forward to that future with confidence and hope, because I feel sure that you will extend to me that kindness and consideration which in the past have made me your grateful and obliged servant."

CHARITY ENTERTAINMENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I am writing to protest against the very bad taste—to use no stronger term—exhibited by the promoters of certain entertainments given in aid of charity. When money is required for any good cause, members of the theatrical and musical professions are the first to whom an appeal is made, and their willingness to assist is proverbial. I have before me a recent advertisement announcing one of these charitable entertainments. Although almost every artist of note in London had "generously given" his or her services, only one name is mentioned. Supposing this to be the work of an energetic Press agent, it says little for the tact of the promoters that it should have been issued apparently with the seal of official approval.

At entertainments of the above description those who give their services are working for a common cause—Charity—and they meet on common ground. On such an occasion *all* names should be published and arranged in alphabetical order.—Yours faithfully, ALBERT CHEVALIER.

Green Room Club, July 8.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

At the council meeting, held at 409, Strand, on Monday, Mr. Fred Grove presiding, Messrs. Chris Walker, Cecil Brooking, C. F. Collings, F. J. Arlton, Edmund Gurney, Fewlass Llewellyn, Richard A. Greene, Clarence Derwent, Misses Agnes Imlay, Marion Lind, Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary) were present.

The chairman read letters from Miss Rose Mathews, enclosing report and balance-sheet of the matinée at the Scala on the 25th ult., and enclosing a cheque. The chairman also read a letter from Mr. Kirkwood, enclosing a letter from the Touring Managers' Association, and a telegram from Mr. Cecil Raleigh.

The secretary read the minutes of the council meeting held on June 29, and the meeting confirmed, and the chairman signed, same.

The secretary read letters from Mr. Thomas Fell, and received instructions to send a vote of condolence to him on the death of his father, and also read a letter from Mr. C. Stevenson.

The hon. solicitor reported that he had had seven interviews with members, and advised them; that he had received £50 from a manager in settlement of another member's claim against him for damages for breach of agreement, that he had written him acknowledging the receipt, and had sent on the cheque. He enclosed his half-yearly account up to June 30.

The council had to reject an experienced amateur, on the ground that his election was against the rules of the Association.

Two new members, Miss Winifred Hart-Dyke and Mr. Dudley Stuart, were elected.

Mr. Brooking proposed and Mr. Walker seconded that the account of the report of the "Socials" Committee be rescinded. This was discussed and carried.

The hon librarian reported the receipt of the following books from George Allen, publisher:—"An Artist's Love Story," "The Letters of Sarah Siddons and Her Daughters to Sir Thomas Lawrence," and six other volumes. The secretary was instructed to send a vote of thanks to Mr. Allen.

The secretary of the Finance Committee read the report, which the Council accepted.

A.A. MATINEE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In forwarding to you a copy of the balance-sheet for the matinée given by me at the Scala Theatre on June 25, in aid of the Debenture Debt on the Actors' Association, may I offer through your columns my very sincere thanks for the particularly generous help and assistance of *The Era*, *The Stage*, Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Adnam Sprange, Miss Georgina Hamilton, Miss Hilda Hatton, Miss Inez Bensusan, Mr. Cecil Collins, Mr. Montague Wigan, Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn, Mr. Arthur Fagge, and all those members of the Association who assisted in the dramatic performance on the 25th ult., and in ticket-selling and in programme-selling at and before the matinée. Thanks are also due to Messrs. May, Brinsmead, and Clarkson for their generous help.

It is matter for deep regret that, with so much willing help and able support from some fifty members of the Actors' Association, that the results of the matinée, as the enclosed balance-sheet shows, are not more than £10 18s. 2d. towards the Debenture Debt of the Association. A matinée given by working actors for an object little understood outside the profession could not be expected to appeal to the general public. But the Association numbers nearly one thousand members, and had each of these, even those on tour, sold a single seat—even a gallery seat—their Association would have benefited to a large extent.—Yours faithfully,

ROSE MATHEWS.

9, Trafalgar-studios, Chelsea, S.W., July 4, 1908.

MISS ROSE MATHEWS'S MATINEE.

BALANCE-SHEET.

RECEIPTS.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Sale of Tickets—		
Through R. Mathews and individual members A.A...	23 11 6	
Through Sec. Actors' Association	5 5 6	
Takings at Scala, June 25 ..	3 2 0	
Stage Office	0 18 0	
Keith, Prowse, and Co.....	8 12 0	
		41 9 0
Sale of Boxes—		
Dr. Distin Maddick for King's Box	10 10 0	
Mr. Hayden Coffin for Prince of Wales's Box	2 2 0	
		12 12 0
Sale of Verses and Programmes, Scala, June 25		3 7 11
Advertisements on Programmes (through Miss Georgina Hamilton)		10 18 6
Subscriptions—		
Miss Ellen Terry	5 0 0	
Mr. Cecil Raleigh	5 0 0	
The Era	5 0 0	
Stage	5 0 0	
Miss Rose Mathews	1 0 0	
Mr. Adnam Sprange	1 0 0	
Mr. Rathmel Wilson	0 10 6	
Miss Sime Seruya	0 10 0	
Miss Sybil Thorndyke	0 10 0	
Miss Emily Luck	0 5 0	
		23 15 6
		92 2 11

EXPENDITURE.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Rent of Scala Theatre (including one rehearsal)		40 0 0
Electric Lighting (including one rehearsal)		0 18 0
Rights of Programmes (including one rehearsal)		3 0 0
Carpenters, Machinery Department, Scala		6 16 0
Electric Department, Scala		1 7 6
Property Men and Properties ..		2 9 2
Furniture Hire—		
J. S. Lyons	3 10 0	
F. Palmer and Co.	0 3 0	
		3 13 0
Hire of Scenery, W. T. Helmsley		2 10 0
Bugler for Sergeant of Hussars		0 5 0
Printing—		
David Allen	12 0 0	
News of the World	0 10 6	
E. T. Herron and Co. (tickets)	1 10 0	
Bird Bros. (tickets).....	0 5 0	
		14 5 6
Advertisements—		
Daily Telegraph Insertion..	0 5 0	
Sandwich Men	0 8 8	
Distribution of Posters	0 4 0	
		0 17 8
Typing Parts		1 8 6
Rehearsal Rooms		0 12 0
Stationery, Postage, Telegrams..		3 2 5
Total.....		81 4 9
Balance to Association Debenture Debt..		10 18 2

Signed, ROSE MATHEWS.
ADNAM SPRANGE.

July 4, 1908.

HER Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg was present at the performance of *Fédora* at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, on Tuesday evening.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE DIEBIN."

Sensational Drama, in Four Acts, by C. McLellan, produced at the Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches, July 1, 1890.

Sylvane ..... Herr Dysing
Berton ..... Herr Hartwig
Mme. Berton ..... Fraulein Hoppe
Raoul ..... Herr Sarnow
Claire ..... Fraulein Seidel
Kleschna ..... Herr Cornelius
Leah ..... Fraulein Wasa
Schramm ..... Herr Scheibach
Favre ..... Herr Raventos
Sophie ..... Fraulein Kruger
Baptiste ..... Herr Ristow

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, Thursday, July 9.—This play is something out of the ordinary line of drama, and has caught on immensely. Not only the main theme is interesting, but incidental episodes and dialogue are well constructed, while the acting is good all round. It may be premised that it is a summer season, under the management of Herr Pilz, the company proper of the Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches being holiday making. The word "sensational," is scarcely the right designation for the play, whose plot is briefly the following:—M. Sylvane, a member of the Senate, has a theory that there is good in everybody, and he makes a point of endeavouring to find out the good parts of all. His theory is put to the test before our eyes. A girl named Leah has been trained by her eminently respectable papa to the profession of burglary, in which she has become proficient. One night she breaks into M. Sylvane's house, but is caught in the act by our philanthropist. How he works upon the thief appears quite wonderful, but his theory bears good fruit; the law of love prevails. After a long an interesting talk, Leah leaves the house unharmed, and, we feel convinced, she will steal no more. Her gratitude she proves later on by taking upon herself the theft of jewellery, of which a member of a family closely allied to Sylvane is guilty. Sylvane, however, knows who the thief is, and will not accept her sacrifice. Leah has now become a happy and useful member of society, thanks to M. Sylvane's "theory." The interesting piece was admirably interpreted, Fräulein Wasa, Herren Dysing, Cornelius, Sarnow, and Raventos being especially commendable. The house was crowded, and the play is filling the bill nightly.

At the New Royal Opera a highly successful performance of *Don Giovanni* was given last week. Two famous stars, who have many times been partners in this opera's principal rôles, formed the chief attraction. Frau Lilli Lehmann as Donna Anna and Signor D'Andrade as Don Juan are names to conjure with, although both artists are past their prime. From the famous queen of song all aspiring artists may learn much, whether upon the stage or in the concert room; while Francesco D'Andrade's Don Juan is without doubt his best rôle. The stars were admirably seconded, and the large audience was enthusiastic.

A musical burlesque, by Johann Nestroy, was produced at the Neues on Saturday, creating a more than favourable impression. The piece is a very old one, but it is amusing throughout, and the audience overlooked the slightly old-fashioned characters, and only enjoyed the broad jokes they uttered. The management devoted all possible pains to the selection of an adequate cast and to effective mounting.

"Der Mann mit dem Monokel," Gummier's sensational farce, is doing capitally at the Thalia, attracting good houses every night. The rights of the piece have been acquired for a number of provincial stages.

The laughable *Blue Mouse*—MM. Engel and Horst's latest farcical production—has passed its fiftieth consecutive performance at the Lustspielhaus, and is filling the bill to the exclusion of all else. From all appearances it will probably run through the holidays, and well on into the coming season. Prince Eitel Friedrich, the Emperor's second son, put in an appearance recently with his wife, and their Royal Highnesses obviously enjoyed themselves as much as the others in the large audience.

"Carmen" was given at the New Royal Opera on Sunday, and *Mignon* on Saturday, with Fräulein Burchard in the title-rôle, was a distinct success.

It is stated that Director Gregor, of the Komische Oper, is about to wed Miss Rogers, an American operatic singer.

"THE MERRY WIDOWER."

Mr. Henry Herne and Miss Ida Millais, who have been associated with the water playlet, *Blackmail*, and other successful sensational sketches, have turned their attention to lighter fare in their latest production, and on Monday last presented for the first time at the Palace, Hammersmith, a humorous absurdity, *The Merry Widower*, a miniature farce that is full of droll situations and funny lines, and which kept the audience on the laugh from the rise to the fall of the curtain. The names of the characters are not given on the programme, and it is somewhat difficult to give a detailed account of the plot, but the following may give some idea of the amusing quiproquos and droll incidents it contains. The Merry Widower (Francis) is anxious to again enter the bonds of matrimony, and has capitulated to the charms of an equally merry widow (Amy Darlington). The only hindrance to their happiness is that each has been left with a step-child—Ida with a big, burly fellow who might easily be mistaken for her father, and Francis with a grown-up step-daughter, blessed with much wealth but very little personal attraction. Neither Ida nor Francis have disclosed the ages of these encumbrances, and both are anxious to get them married and settled, and thus clear the way for their own wedding. The step-daughter of Francis, a frolicsome female named Daisy Blobbs, is not at all averse to getting married, and the unfortunate male allotted to her is a mysterious Captain Compass, whom none of the parties concerned has ever seen. A disreputable interloper who has been in hiding under the table, overhears the conversation, and determines to impersonate Compass. But he already has a wife, a hard-working laundress, and when she discovers her scheming husband embracing Daisy on the couch, she makes things pretty warm for the couple, even depriving Daisy of some of her back hair. She also declares that if Daisy has her "old man" she shall also have the kiddies, and presently returns with three sturdy young ruffians—a droll incident that evoked hearty laughter. There are many other funny situations and misunderstandings ere the identity of the two step-children is revealed, and they decide to relieve their guardians of their presence by getting married to one another, and things are adjusted satisfactorily for everyone at the finish. Mr. Herne and Miss Millais and the company supporting them all act their parts admirably, and great care has evidently been taken in allotting the characters to suitable representatives, the result being an excellent all-round performance. *The Merry Widower* will undoubtedly be heard of again.

There is a good programme for the Hippodrome season at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells. Clark and Hamilton do a couple of good acts; Gala and Norris, in song and dance, have a very cordial reception; Baby Vi Davis, infant vocalist, sings with expression; clever comedians are Julian Ross and Hardy Palm; Olive Aston makes a graceful principal boy; the Hippodrome Pictures are as popular as ever.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

The annual outing of the Elephant and Castle Theatre staff took place on Sunday last. Fortunately the stormy weather of Saturday did not continue, and the journey to Box Hill in brakes from the theatre was therefore one of the principal sources of pleasure during the day. Lunch was served in the Hand-in-Hand Hotel, Betchworth, after which the party engaged in a cricket match and some sports which had been arranged.

At lunch the health of "The King" was proposed by Mr. Sydney Barnard (manager) and that of "Success to the Elephant and Castle Theatre" by Mr. Walker (Worthington's, Ltd.). The cricket match, Male Staff v. Female Staff, was won by the Male Staff in spite of the fact that the men had to use sticks and the ladies were allowed bats. A tug-of-war, Front v. Back, resulted in a win for the Back. Among those present were Messrs. George, Dan, and Sydney Barnard, and Mr. Clifford D'Este (acting-manager). The arrangements were in the hands of the stewards, Messrs. J. Waters, G. H. Osborn, and W. Stephenson, who are to be congratulated on a most successful day.

The Lyceum staff were favoured with a fine day for their second annual outing on Sunday last. The party, numbering nearly one hundred, went to Brighton, and had dinner at the Unicorn Hotel. In the absence of Mr. Henry Smith and Mr. Ernest Carpenter, the directors of the theatre, Mr. William Smith presided at the dinner, and was supported by Mr. F. C. Crowe, Mr. Eric Mayne, Mr. A. Smith, and Mr. Armstrong.

After dinner the Chairman proposed the toast of "The King," which was heartily received. On being pressed for a speech, the Chairman said, that in his opinion the Lyceum staff was absolutely the finest in London—(applause)—and as long as the management and the staff worked together as they did at the Lyceum there could only be one result—success. Other managers, he said, were getting jealous of their success. A company was also being formed to open the Princess's Theatre as a popular playnouse; but whatever happened, there was only one Lyceum.

Mr. Crowe, the able general-manager, was also called on for a speech, and upon rising to respond to the invitation, was received with an ovation which testified to the popularity of this gentleman with all present. Mr. Crowe said he had to apologise for the absence of the directors, but in their name, and also for himself, he had to express their and his own entire satisfaction with the work of the staff in all departments. They had all helped greatly to achieve the success which had been secured, and while they worked as they had done nothing could go wrong. In concluding, Mr. Crowe called for a vote of thanks for Mr. Alf. George and Mr. Raphael, and all those who had assisted to make the outing a success.

Mr. Eric Mayne had also to make a speech, and in doing so said it was quite a treat for the actors at the Lyceum Theatre to be on the stage and meet the staff, who were all jolly good fellows. He had, he said, never found either a management or a staff to match those of the Lyceum.

Mr. Armstrong, the assistant stage-manager, made a terse little speech, and concluded by suggesting that it would be well to get out in the open air if they were all as hot as he felt. (Laughter.) The party then adjourned to have a photograph taken outside the hotel.

The outing was enjoyed by everybody, and merrily separated on arriving home at 10.30 p.m. Those responsible for the arrangements were Messrs. P. Raphael and A. Tong, hon. secretaries; Mr. A. George, master carpenter, hon. treasurer; Messrs. H. Oxley, F. B. Fidge, W. Mountain, W. Gibson, and W. T. Rowe, committee; and Messrs. J. Pilgrim, F. Hodsel, and W. Thompson, stewards.

The St. James's Theatre permanent staff went for their outing on Sunday to Bourne End by train and from there to Henley, where dinner was provided at the White Hart Hotel. Mr. W. Barbour, the electrical engineer for the theatre, presided, supported by Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley, general manager, Mr. Whittaker, treasurer, Mr. E. V. Reynolds, stage-manager, Mr. A. P. Horne, secretary, Mr. E. Arnold, box office, and Mr. James Cullen, master carpenter. After dinner the party went by launch to Shiplake, tea being supplied on the launch, returning home by train after a very pleasant outing.

The Alhambra staff, numbering over fifty, went last Sunday to Clacton for their outing. Dinner was provided at the Brunswick Hotel, Mr. Williams, the master carpenter, presiding.

At the meeting of the executive committee of the N.A.T.E. on Tuesday, Mr. G. Dyball, vice-president, presiding, the hon. secretary to the Sports Committee presented the audited statement of the Sports accounts, which, allowing for additions received since the previous meeting, showed a total of £20 2s. 1d.

Additional ticket money:—H. Bolton, electrician, His Majesty's, 2s.; Mr. G. Bailey, master carpenter, Fred Terry's company, 11s. 6d.; H. J. Kemp, 7s.; C. T. Cory, donation, 10s.

The balance from the Sports will be placed to the credit of the Open Benevolent Fund, and with the portion allocated from the Coliseum concert makes a total for this fund this year of £37 17s. The gross total raised for benevolent purposes this year by the committee is £105 19s. 6d. The report was accepted.

The secretary reported on his attendance at the annual Conference of the General Federation of Trade Unions, held at Oxford last week. The report was accepted. It was decided that the secretary should attend the annual Trade Union Congress to be held in Nottingham in September.

The committee also gave instructions that particulars should be ascertained for insuring the secretary and clerk under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

The Prince of Wales's Theatre staff, back and front of the house, went for their annual outing on Sunday to Clacton-on-Sea. Special saloon carriages were provided for the party by the Great Eastern Railway Company. Dinner was provided at the Brunswick Hotel. The usual loyal toasts and the health of friends and guests were received in a princely style, Mr. Robert Andrews, master carpenter, distinguishing himself, as usual, with his eloquence, and being energetically supported by Mr. J. A. Fraser, property master. The party spent a most enjoyable day in driving, boating, and other innocent pleasures, returning to Liverpool-street Station in excellent humour. Messrs. R. Chandler, J. Andrews, and J. Parker acted as stewards, and made admirable arrangements for the creature comforts of those attending the outing.

The Bros. Huxter take a well-earned holiday next week at their Worcester residence after a ten months' tour of England and the Continent. They restart the Moss-Stoll tour on July 27 at South Shields.

"A SHAKESPEAREAN LUNATIC."

Comedy Sketch, produced at the Palace, Camberwell, on Monday, July 6.

Sir Henry Witchititipit ..... Mr. Geo. E. Lewis
Tim ..... Mr. Edmund Russon
The Lunatic ..... Miss Rose Edouin

Quotations from the Bard are utilised with very droll effect in this new comedy episode, *A Shakespearean Lunatic*, which was played for the first time in London at the Camberwell Palace on Monday last, when it met with much approval. The action takes place in a provincial hotel, where Sir Henry Witchititipit, a rich baronet, is staying. He is meditating an early departure to London when the curtain rises, but is interrupted by the appearance of his valet, Tim, who is considerably perturbed by the attentions of an actress who has escaped from a lunatic asylum. She has a mania for spouting Shakespeare, and on her appearance immediately breaks out into the demented Ophelia's speech. "Where is the beauteous Majesty of Denmark?" also giving Portia's "Quality of mercy" lines, &c. The frightened valet endeavours to humour her, suiting his behaviour to her moods, and there is much hilarity when the lunatic, as Lady Macbeth in the sleep-walking scene, weirdly mutters, "To bed! To bed!" and Tim partially unrobes. The climax comes when the actress, a lady of imposing presence, wildly flourishing the poker, breaks out into Henry V.'s speech before Harfleur, "Once more unto the breach,' and the curtain falls on the complete discomfiture of the baronet and his valet.

The success of the sketch was mainly due to the impressive acting of Miss Rose Edouin as the lunatic. The accomplished actress delivered the many selections with fine elocutionary effect, their varying nature being admirably differentiated, and she was loudly acclaimed at her exit. Mr. Edmund Russon as the valet comically indicated the terror of Tim at the unwelcome attentions of the lady; and Mr. George E. Lewis was quite satisfactory as the baronet.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

The strong bill which Mr. T. S. Mayne is submitting at the Stratford Empire during this, his last week as manager is attracting crowded audiences at both performances nightly. Mr. George Robey is irresistibly funny in "Bang went the chance of a lifetime," which is followed by a diverting burlesque on the Bard of Avon, his third item, a dame song, "Mrs. B.," completing a very diversified turn, and the tumultuous laughter and applause which this clever comedian provokes would seem to indicate that there is no reaching the top note of his popularity.

Another favourite who has a very hearty reception is Mr. George Lashwood. Immaculately dressed, and a regular fashion plate for any budding Beau Brummel in the stalls, his first number is "Hang out the front door key," followed by "Dear Mr. Admiral." In his last song, "Twilight," he smartly introduces local allusions, which add to its success, and this number should long remain in his répertoire. Edward Lauri and May Beatty achieve much success in the sketch *In Her Boudoir*, a merry trifle which adequately serves to exploit the fine vocal ability of Miss Beatty and the mirth-making propensities of Mr. Lauri. Mention must be made of their charming assistant, who can both sing and dance well. Miss Ethel Haydon is very warmly received in a couple of ballads, which are rendered with much expression. De Wynne Brothers contribute a balancing and mounting act which denotes rare skill and strength, and a clever touch of comedy is introduced into their turn by the air of unconcern and nonchalance they adopt after the conclusion of each difficult feat.

Miss Helen Trix is a prepossessing young lady, who is very entertaining in some catchy songs and whistling solos, in which she accompanies herself at the piano, and the loud applause at the conclusion of her act is thoroughly deserved. Spry and Austin provide some merry moments during their occupancy of the stage, which is all too brief for the audience, judging by the cordiality with which this smart and diverting duo are received. Mr. Bob Hamilton makes a decided hit with his contribution to the programme, and Ralph and Nellie Howard display much talent in a musical sketch, *A Military Maid*. The Bioscope is this week showing a series of pictures depicting wild birds at home, which is both interesting and instructive, and a splendid example of photographic art. The capital selection by the orchestra under the baton of Mr. Albert Whipp, Mus.Bac., is thoroughly enjoyed by early comers.

NEW PLAYS IN BERLIN.

June 1. *Im Goldland*, four-act play, by MM. Hiller and Gerand—Luisen.
" 3. *Unter der Guillotine*, one-act comedy, by MM. Héros and Abric—Neues.
" 5. *Der ungläubige Thomas*, farce, in three acts, by MM. Laufs and Jacoby—Friedrich Wilhelm-Städtisches.
" 6. *Russalka*, three-act opera, by A. Dargomischsky (Russian opera season)—New Royal Opera.
" 10. *Die Brettl-Gräfin*, three-act vaudeville, by G. Verö—Deutsches.
" 10. *Im Unterseeboot*, comedy, in two scenes, by MM. Laumann and Olivier—Deutsches Chamber Plays.
" 10. *Der Tugendwächter*, three-act farce, by MM. Nancey and Armont—Deutsches Chamber Plays.
" 12. *Die Stimme des Blutes*, play, in five acts, by A. von Wchlau—Luisen.
" 19. *Der Mann mit dem Monokel*, three-act farce, by F. Gunniver—Thalia.
" 26. *Gelbstern*, play, in three acts, by MM. Burg and Turszinski—Deutsches.
" 29. *König für einen Tag*, comic opera, in three acts, by A. Adam (Morwitz opera season)—Schiller O.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

June 1. Thomas Bare and Emma Bare.
" 1. Paul Habans (Paulus), aged 63.
" 2. Charles Swann, aged 80.
" 3. Mrs. William Walton (Annie Craston).
" 4. Gilbert Arrandale, aged 39.
" 6. William Henderson.
" 7. Alice Denvil.
" 11. John Kemble.
" 14. Alick Macmillan, aged 21.
" 16. Mrs. Charles Darrell (Amy Tempest).
" 16. Harry Goddard, aged 57.
" 18. Mrs. Frederic Baugh (Alice Harvey), aged 43.
" 19. Lilibel Lowrie, aged two years.
" 22. William Thorpe Chadwick, aged 57.
" 25. Mrs. Josephine Michell.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THE WAGE OF SHAKESPEARE.

Mr. Sidney Lee, in his interesting "Life of Shakespeare," speaks with certainty of the remunerative nature of the calling of an actor in the days of the first great actor-playwright. He says:—"It was as an actor that at an early date Shakespeare acquired a genuinely substantial and secure income. There is abundance of contemporary evidence to show that the stage was for an efficient actor an assured avenue to comparative wealth. In 1590 Robert Greene describes in his tract entitled 'Never too Late' a meeting with a player whom he took by his 'outward habit' to be 'a gentleman of great living' and a 'substantial man.' The player informed Greene that he had at the beginning of his career travelled on foot, bearing his theatrical properties on his back, but he prospered so rapidly that, at the time of speaking 'his very share in playing apparel would not be sold for £200.' Among his neighbours 'where he dwelt' he was reputed able 'at his proper cost to build a windmill.'

"The travelling actors, from whom the highwayman Gamaliel Ratsey extorted a free performance in 1604, were represented as men with the certainty of a rich competency in prospect. An efficient actor received in 1635 as large a regular salary as £180. The lowest known valuation set an actor's wages at 3s. a day, or about £45 a year. Shakespeare's emoluments as an actor before 1599 are not likely to have fallen below £100; while the remuneration due to performances at Court or in noblemen's houses, if the accounts of 1594 be accepted as the basis of reckoning, added some £15.

"Thus over £130 (equal to £1,040 of to-day) would be Shakespeare's average annual revenue before 1599. Such a sum would be regarded as a very large income in a country town. According to the author of 'Ratsels Ghost,' the actor, who may well have been meant for Shakespeare, practised in London a strict frugality, and there seems no reason why Shakespeare should not have been able in 1597 to draw from his savings £60 wherewith to buy New Place. His resources might well justify his fellow-townsmen's opinion of his wealth in 1598, and suffice between 1597 and 1599 to meet his expenses, in rebuilding the house, stocking the barns with grain, and conducting various legal proceedings. But, according to tradition, he had in the Earl of Southampton a wealthy and generous friend, who on one occasion gave him a large gift of money to enable 'him to go through with' a purchase to which he had a mind. A munificent gift, added to professional gains, leaves nothing unaccounted for in Shakespeare's financial position before 1599.

"After 1599 his sources of income from the theatre greatly increased. In 1635 the heirs of the actor, Richard Burbage, were engaged in litigation respecting their proprietary rights in the two playhouses, the Globe and the Blackfriars theatres. The documents relating to this litigation supply authentic, although not very detailed, information of Shakespeare's interest in theatrical property. Richard Burbage, with his brother Cuthbert, erected at their sole cost the Globe Theatre in the winter of 1598-9, and the Blackfriars Theatre, which their father was building at the time of his death in 1597, was also their property. After completing the Globe, they leased out, for twenty-one years, shares in the receipts of the theatre, to 'those deserving men, Shakespeare, Hemings, Condell, Philips, and others.' All the shareholders named were, like Burbage, active members of Shakespeare's company of players. The shares, which numbered sixteen in all, carried with them the obligation of providing for the expenses of the playhouse, and were doubtless in the first instance freely bestowed. Hamlet claims, in the play scene (3, ii. 293), that the success of his improvised tragedy deserved to 'get him a fellowship in the cry of players'—a proof that a successful dramatist might reasonably expect such a reward for a conspicuous effort. In *Hamlet*, moreover, both a share and a half-share of 'a fellowship in a cry of players' are described as assets of enviable value (3, ii. 294-6). How many shares originally fell to Shakespeare there is no means of determining. Records of later subdivisions suggest that they did not exceed two. The Globe was an exceptionally large and popular playhouse. It would accommodate some two thousand spectators, whose places cost them sums varying between 2d. and 2s. 6d. The receipts were therefore considerable, hardly less than £25 daily, or some £8,000 a year. According to the documents of 1635, an actor-sharer at the Globe received about £200 a year on each share, besides his actor's salary of £180. Thus Shakespeare drew from the Globe Theatre, at the lowest estimate, more than £500 a year in all.

"His interest in the Blackfriars Theatre was comparatively unimportant, and is less easy to estimate. The often-quoted documents on which Collier depended to prove him a substantial shareholder in that playhouse have long been proved to be forgeries. The pleas in the lawsuit of 1635 show that the Burbages, the owners, leased the Blackfriars Theatre after its establishment in 1597 for a long term of years to the master of the Children of the Chapel, but bought out the lessee at the end of 1609, and then 'placed' in it 'menplayers which were Hemings, Condell, Shakespeare, &c. To these and other actors they allotted shares in the receipts, the shares numbering eight in all. The profits were far smaller than at the Globe, and if Shakespeare held one share (certainty on the point is impossible), it added not more than £100 a year to his income, and that not until 1610.

"His remuneration as dramatist between 1599 and 1611 was also by no means contemptible. Prices paid to dramatists for plays rose rapidly in the early years of the seventeenth century, while the value of the author's 'benefits' grew with the growing vogue of the theatre. The exceptional popularity of Shakespeare's plays after 1599 gave him the full advantage of higher rates of pecuniary reward in all directions, and the seventeen plays which were produced by him between that year and the close of his professional career in 1611 probably brought him an average return of £20 each, or £340 in all—nearly £30 a year. At the same time the increase in the number of Court performances under James I., and the additional favour bestowed on Shakespeare's company, may well have given that source of income the enhanced value of £20 a year.

"Thus Shakespeare in the later period of his life was earning above £600 a year in money of the period. With so large a professional income he could easily, with good management, have completed those purchases of houses and land at Stratford on which he laid out, between 1599 and 1613, a total sum of £970, or an annual average of £70. These properties, it must be remembered, represented investments, and he drew rent from most of them. He traded, too, in agricultural produce. There is nothing inherently improbable in the statement of John Ward, the seventeenth-century vicar of Stratford, that in his last years 'he spent at the rate of a thousand a year, as I have heard,' although we may reasonably make allowance for exaggeration in the round figures.

"Shakespeare realised his theatrical shares several years before his death in 1616, when he left, according to his will, £350 in money, in addition to an extensive real estate and numerous personal belongings. There was nothing exceptional in this comparative affluence. His friends and fellow-actors, Heming and Condell, amassed equally large, if not larger, fortunes. Burbage died in 1619 worth £300 in land, besides personal property; while a contemporary actor and theatrical proprietor, Edward Alleyn, purchased the manor of Dulwich for £10,000 (in money of his own day), and devoted it, with much other property, to public uses."

ON THE ROAD, JULY 13.

An Abandoned Woman.—T. R., Woolwich.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Chatham.
At Duty's Call.—T. R., Scarborough.
At the World's Mercy.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
Boyne, Mr. Leonard.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
Boys', Mr. Ryder, Co.—Court T., Warrington.
Camille.—Prince's T., Llandudno.
Country Girl in London.—O. H., Coventry.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Worthing.
Faber, Mr. Leslie.—Folkestone and Hastings.
Fair One with the Golden Locks.—Hull.
Fight for a Life.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Flower Girl.—Grand T., Llandudno.
For Love and the King.—T. R., Aston.
Gay Deceivers, The.—Empire T., Southend.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—T. R., Stockport.
Go-Won-Go-Mohawk.—T. R., Edmonton, N.
Great Awakening.—King's T., Southsea.
Greed of Gold.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
His Sister's Honour.—Star T., Swansea.
Honeymoon, The.—Palace Pier, Brighton.
Hughes, Annie.—Hastings and Folkestone.
I Defy the World.—Empire T., Oldham.
It's Never too Late to Mend.—Jarrow.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Wick and Thurso.
London Fireman.—Metropole T., Devonport.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Manxman.—Royalty T., Morecambe.
Master of Millions.—Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent.
Mysteries of the Thames.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Old, Old Story.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Power of the King.—Court T., Wigan.
Prodigal Parson.—O. H., Coventry.
Prodigal Son (Western).—T. R., Stratford.
Ridding, John, Opera.—West Pier, Morecambe.
Royal Divorce.—O. H., Blackpool.
Shaughraun, The.—T. R., Sunderland.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Pal., Bordesley.
Warner, Miss Grace.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Warning to Women.—King's T., Southsea.
When Other Lips.—T. R., Bolton.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Londesboro' T., Scarboro'.
Woman Worth Winning.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
World and the Woman.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Wrecker of Men.—Theatre Royal, Bolton.
Youngest of Three.—O. H., Buxton.
£1,000 Reward.—Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

MR. BURT SHEPARD'S DEPARTURE.

Once again the loyalty of the Water Rats to their fellow rodents was demonstrated on Friday, when Mr. Burt Shepard was at St. Pancras given a royal send-off to Australia, where he is, under contract to Harry Rickards, to delight the Antipodean public during the next six months. There was an uncommonly strong muster of Rats, who, despite adverse weather conditions and a late night overnight at the Vaudeville Club, assembled in force to bid God-speed to the travelling member. Among those on the platform were Prince Rat Fred Ginnett, Bank Rat Will Oliver, Past King Rat Wal Pink, Peter Bijou, Dave O'Toole, Joe Pennyson, Joe O'Gorman, Percy York, Charles Warren, Frank Halker, V. L. Granville, Bill Manning, Walter Kelly, E. Edelstein, M. J. Regan, Hamilton Hill, M. P. Bentley, Tom Case, Dave Pigott, Harry Webber, Teddy Marks, Hy. Wemburn, H. C. Hibberd, Jacob Hyams, Dan Ricardo, Will Hanvarr, Herbert Austin, and Douglas Miller. As the train steamed out of the station the anthem of the Water Rats was sung with great fervour, Mr. Burt Shepard leading off. Mr. Shepard sails per R.M.S. Ormuz, and opens at the Tivoli, Sydney, on his arrival.

BATTERSEA PALACE.

A most attractive bill is being submitted during the current week at this palatial place of amusement. After a very lively overture by the orchestra, under the capable bâton of Mr. H. Lucas, Roy Beavis gives some very good samples of magic, and wins applause for his efforts; Miss Bertie Lewis as a follower of Vesta Tilley, dressed in an immaculate grey suit, which fits her admirably, sings "Don't you think so?" and "Father often did the same," to the satisfaction of the audience. A smart lady juggler is seen in Mme. Renée, who introduces some excellent tricks. Messrs. Kenway and Emery give a very amusing dialogue, entitled *She Would Have a Soldier*, the male partner being very smart in his cross-talk. A turn that is a little away from that usually seen is presented by Mr. Charles Tuppen, of Camberwell, who lately won the championship at the Horse Show for coach-horn tootling by playing a fine selection from *The Mikado* and some old-time ballads with success. The most popular and original act is that presented by Ruhart, who adopts a very eccentric make-up, and with a most elaborate fit-up gives a very good burlesque of a conjurer, causing the audience to burst into laughter. He certainly deserves all the applause he receives, for his performance is decidedly novel. Another amusing item is Jack Collinson's combination, including Frank Marney as the inimitable Jimmy Green in the evergreen sketch *Topsy-Turvy School*. In spite of the time that it has been before the public, it still has the power to cause hearty laughter. Julia Gilbert, a versatile artist, is to be commended for her rendering of "Nightingale" and "I never knew how much I loved you." The Sisters Edwards are good exponents on the drums, as well as charming vocalists and nimble dancers. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux bring one of the most successful programmes seen at this hall to a close with pictures, entitled The Stormy Winds, The Busy Slavey, and Too Old to Work. Mr. James McCarthy, the popular resident-manager, assiduously studies the comfort of his numerous patrons.

At the fête organised for the Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans at Chelsea Hospital, T.R.H. the Duke and Duchess of Connaught attended an *al-fresco* entertainment in the Eldorado Theatre. Among the chief entertainers were Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. Harry Tate, and Mr. Harry Fragson. T.R.H. expressed the greatest satisfaction at the manner in which the arrangements had been carried out by Messrs. Fred Trussell and John Le Hay.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ½; Empire, (15s. paid), 1½, ditto (10s. paid), 1; London Pavilion ordinary 3 5-16, ditto pref. 4½; Metropolitan, 10s.; Moss' Empire, 5, ditto 5 per cent. pref., 3⅜; Oxford, 6½; Palace, 1; Tivoli, 5½; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 7-16.

At the garden party at Buckingham Palace on Monday last a great crowd gathered round the Punch and Judy show of Prof. Smith, and for nearly forty minutes the guests stood before the show watching the working out of the evergreen tragedy of Punch and Judy.

At the Palace Theatre, Dundee, last Friday night (3rd inst.), whilst Miss Beattie Bloom was singing her latest successful song, entitled "Always keep a bit of silver in your inside pocket," a gentleman in the stalls stood up in the audience, and, placing his hand in his inside pocket, threw Miss Bloom a handful of silver.

The Awards.—The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, K.C., the official arbitrator appointed to the music hall dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at *The Era* Offices. Copy, including postage, three-halfpence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MORTON AS AL FRESCO CATERER.

Mr. Charles Morton arranged to open the North Woolwich Gardens on the Whit Monday (1868) that followed the Oxford fire. There was a time, it will be remembered, writes Mr. Chance Newton in his admirable sketch of the career of the "Father of the Halls," that whatever fête was put on there it was sure to rain tremendously during the whole time of the entertainment. So much so, that this resort became known as the regular abiding place of Jupiter Pluvius. For some time during Mr. Morton's tenure, however, the Gentleman with the Watering Pot graciously stayed his hand, and for a time all went as merry as the marriage bell mentioned by the too-much-married bard Byron.

Undismayed by the heavy blow which he had suffered by the destruction of the Oxford, Charles Morton set to work at North Woolwich with right good-will and characteristic courage. He had all the lovely flowers and trees of these gardens put in proper arboricultural order, and the pathways strewn with fine sea-shells, which glittered like jewels in the sun's rays—whenever there was any sun to send those rays forth. All the different buildings in the Gardens were thoroughly overhauled, a new stage was put in the Concert Hall, and two magnificent dancing platforms were added to the other attractions. To the usual concerts, given daily and nightly, there were tacked on what was then rare, namely, a Sunday Concert, of a very refined order.

For the usual week-day warblings, of course, many popular comic singers of the day were chartered, and in addition to the excellent musical programmes of this kind, there were to be found, both indoors and outdoors, quite a number of other entertainments. These included wondrous feats by the best acrobats, farces and ballets in the theatre, dancing on the two large platforms, and performances by sundry gymnasts who "flew through the air with the greatest of ease," as George Leybourne used to say in his then popular "Flying Trapeze" song.

An exceedingly picturesque feature at these Gardens was a painting representing the Heights of Magdala, and on one gala occasion there was invited a number of Volunteers, who presented a fine mimic representation of the famous storming of those heights. What with the cannonading, the mortar-firing, the martial music, and the inevitable "grand display of fireworks," the whole scene was both interesting and animated. The hoisting of the Union Jack was the signal for a striking *feu de joie*. The National Anthem was given by the massed military bands, which included six Volunteer contingents, besides the two extensive bands belonging to the Gardens.

Speaking of the Volunteers' visit to North Woolwich Gardens, it will to many be interesting to note that both Manager Charles Morton and his brother, William (who, of course, assisted him in this al fresco enterprise) had a good deal to do with the development of the Volunteer system, now displaced by the new Territorial Army, then comparatively in that state in which Charles Dickens's holiday-maker described Steam—to be—namely, "only in its infancy." It is a great credit to both Mortons, that at a time when the Volunteer idea was much decried and sniffed at, they gave frequent valuable assistance to the officers engaged in the promotion of that system. In point of fact, William Morton, after being in the ranks of the First Surrey Artillery Volunteers, soon became a senior sergeant, then second-lieutenant, and anon first lieutenant thereof.

Harking back awhile to North Woolwich Gardens, it should be added that during the last three months of Mr. Morton's season thereat continual success resulted. Unlike the time when poor William Holland held the sway there, good old Sol thought fit to shine for an extensive period every day, and the said Holland's relentless foe, Jupiter Pluvius, appeared to be enjoying what professionals call "a well-earned rest." As the autumn shades drew nigh, Morton prepared two mammoth fêtes to last two days and two nights. For these grand events the Gardens were decorated with all sorts of flags, national and otherwise, many of which were borrowed from the other Woolwich's Arsenal and Dockyard.

But lo! at the very hour of starting the first of these gigantic entertainments, Manager Morton's North Woolwich luck suddenly changed! The rain began to pour down in such torrents as though it had made up its mind to make up for the three months during which it had been "resting." The tents were soaked through and through, and the once proud flags clung in soaked fashion to the flagstaffs. Although there was no shadow of a suggestion that the deluge would abate, the Manager, being always of a most punctual turn of mind, had the Gardens opened at the moment of the time originally announced. For a long while, not a visitor hove in sight, but in due course some few arrived. As yet, however, there was no indication of the coming of the artists, or of the members of the orchestra. Nothing daunted, the Manager took ferry over to South Woolwich, and there contrived to secure from his military and other friends a sufficient number of skilful instrumentalists to form a full-sized band.

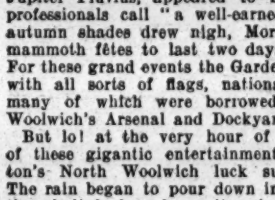
Of course the outdoor shows, and especially a grand balloon ascent, which had been arranged, had to suffer according to the line spoken by poor King Lear on a similar wet and stormy occasion, and "bide the pelting of the pitiless storm." Some few hours later the rain and the wind began to simmer down, and the gallant aeronaut at once proceeded to carry out his contract. Amid the cheers of what, under less moist circumstances, would have been the multitude, the balloon went up, and later it was discovered that it had descended many miles away. In due course, however, the bold balloonist returned to the Gardens and proceeded to make arrangements for the second Mammoth Fête.

To the general joy of all concerned, at the starting of this fête the sun again shone out, and the gigantic programme was carried out to the letter, and in the presence of a huge gathering. This programme, it may be mentioned, included a performance of John Gay's famous play, *The Beggar's Opera*, the enormous success of which at the time of its production by Manager Rich, in the reign of good Queen Anne (since deceased), gave rise to the celebrated quip that it "Made Rich gay and Gay rich."

This was the last fête given by Mr. Morton at these once historic Gardens. For awhile he thought of trying his fortune there again, but when the balance-sheet came out, and when he also found that so much more would have to be expended before any greatly beneficial result could be hoped for, he resolved to quit, rather than to risk all his resources on so inevitably precarious a venture, and one so utterly at the mercy of the elements.

THE Queen and suite were present at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, on Monday evening, at the performance of *Otello*.

ANCHOR LINE.



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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

SENEX.—*We have discovered that Mme. Thillon died at Torquay in 1903, in April or May, and that an obituary appeared in the Torquay Times.*

ARTHUR WILLIAMS.—*Mr. Joseph Arnold Cave commenced his management of the Victoria Theatre with the production of* The Sin of a Life; or, Remorse and Atonement *with the following cast:—Captain Dashmere, Mr. J. H. Doyne; Lord Edwin Clarencourt, Mr. Howard Russell (his first appearance in London); Ralph Maythorn, Mr. E. Fitz-Davis; Mark Rodwell, Mr. Lewis Nanton; Sam Filcher, Mr. G. P. Jaques; Billy Brads, Mr. G. Skinner; Toby Trotters, Mr. Fred Hart; Rose Maythorn, Miss Neville; Betsy Blossom, Miss Jenny Elton; Fanny Rodwell, Miss Lizzie Grey; Dame Maythorn, Mrs. J. H. Doyne (her first appearance in the Metropolis); and Maggie Minx, Miss Clara Johnstone.*

PARATOR (Sunderland).—*The Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, was opened on Monday, Feb. 20, 1837, under the management of Mr. Montague. The original Tyne Theatre and Opera House in the same town was opened on Sept. 23, 1867.*

ANONYMOUS (Noel Park, N.).—Jerry and a Sunbeam *is published by Samuel French and Co., Southampton-street, Strand, W.C., in their Sixpenny Editions.*

NANCE ELDER.—*We have forwarded your question to our local correspondent, and will give an answer next week.*

GURGER.—*The poem is entitled "Gunga Dhin," and is by Rudyard Kipling. Any bookseller will tell you, and procure the book.*

T. GREENACRE.—*Charles Godfrey's last public appearance was on the stage of the Empire, Nottingham, Feb. 12, 1900. He died on March 23 of the same year at Brierley Hill, Staffordshire, where he was buried.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

ALEXANDRE.—July 6, at Tilehurst, Pollard-road, Mitcham, Surrey, the wife of John W. Alexandre, of a daughter.

BUTT.—July 7, at 37, St. Mary's-mansions, St. Mary's-terrace, W., the wife of Alfred Butt, managing-director of the Palace Theatre, of a son.

DUNDAS.—July 1, at their residence, West Derby, wife of Cyril Dundas, of a daughter Both well.

MARRIAGES.

WHITELEY—WRIGHT.—On July 5, at Christ Church, Brixton, Ben Whiteley (Five Whiteleys) to Lottie Wright (Peggy Fame), daughter of Harry Wright and Nellie Gannon. Australian, American, and foreign press please copy.

DEATHS.

BANGS.—June 12, in Atlantic City, U.S.A., Frank C. Bangs, American actor.

BYRT.—March 29, at the General Hospital, Madras, after an operation for liver abscess, Wilfred Clarence Byrt, known professionally as Witty Wilfred Ashby (of the Musical Ashbys), age 32.

CARLIN.—July 6, at Hanwell Lunatic Asylum, Charles Carlin (Charles Austin), late of Carlin and Price, music hall comedians, age 49.

WILLSON.—On July 4, at 5, Manor-mansions, Finchley, F. Stuart, second son of the late Captain Willson, of Cheltenham, in his 38th year.

IN MEMORIAM.

BLANDE.—In memory of my mother, Mrs. S. A. Blande, who died on July 15, 1901.—EDITH.

HEMMING.—In loving memory of my dear father, William Walton, who died July 8, 1904. R.I.P. Never forgotten by his daughter Daisy.

MARTIN.—In loving memory of Ada Beatrice Martin, who died July 11, 1905. Never forgotten by her devoted husband.

MORRELLI.—In loving memory of our darling baby Connie, who died July 7, 1907. Deeply lamented by her mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Sid Morrelli.

WALTON.—In ever-loving memory of William Walton (Hemming), who departed this life July 8, 1904. Deeply regretted.

WALTON.—In loving memory of George Walton (Hemming), who died at Durban, South Africa, July 15, 1903. Never forgotten by his nephew, GEORGE SWINNERTON.

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Beaton, Mr. R.
Beere, Mr. Bernard
Belasco, Mr D.
Benson, Miss Lily
Bentley, Mr. W. E.
Biddall Bros.
Bill, Buff
Boswell, Miss
Bouwmeester, Mr. Theo
Bright, Mr. Arthur
Burnett, Mr. Cade
Calvert, Mr. Louis
Campbell, Mr. J. A.
Campbell, Mrs. P.
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Carey, Mr. Pat
Carlton, Mr. Edward
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Cedrics, The
Chadwick, Mr. H. B.
Charrington, Mrs. Chas
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Cliffe, Mr. H. Cooper
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Hart, Mr. A. G.
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Hunt, Miss Violet
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May, Miss Melinda
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Wieland, Mr. G.
Willard, Miss Lena
Williamson, Mr. A. W.
Willis, Mr. Joe
Wilton, Mr. Jack
Woodville, Mr. R. K.
Woodward, Capt.
Wylie, Mr. Lauri

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Adeline Raby—Saturday, July 11.
Agnes D'Aragon—Saturday, July 11.
Myra Stansfield—Saturday, July 11.
Letta Poole—Saturday, July 11.
Lottie Govell—Sunday, July 12.
Joe Tennyson—Sunday, July 12.
Hettie Cornwallis—Sunday, July 12.
Agnes Hazel—Sunday, July 12.
Hilda Bretton—Sunday, July 12.
Ina Cunard—Sunday, July 12.
William Holles—Sunday, July 12.
Allen Hanbury—Sunday, July 12.
Austin Brereton—Monday, July 13.
Gladys Archbutt—Monday, July 13.
J. E. Vedrenne—Monday, July 13.
Oscar Beringer—Tuesday, July 14.
Forbes Dawson—Tuesday, July 14.
Nellie Malcolm—Tuesday, July 14.
Jessie Millward—Tuesday, July 14.
Marie Tempest—Wednesday, July 15.
Fred Herbert—Wednesday, July 15.
Beatrice Lamb—Wednesday, July 15.
Ida Mackay—Wednesday, July 15.
Herbert M. King—Wednesday, July 15.
Jennie Hallwark—Wednesday, July 15.
Tom McKay—Wednesday, July 15.
Harry Clyo—Wednesday, July 15.
Ada Blanche—Thursday, July 16.
Conway Wingfield—Thursday, July 16.
Evelyn de Worms—Thursday, July 16.
Joseph O'Mara—Thursday, July 16.
Will Sley—Thursday, July 16.
Armando Calcedo—Thursday, July 16.
E. A. W. Abadaroff—Thursday, July 16
Arthur W. Howard—Thursday, July 16.
Minnie Jeffs—Friday, July 17.
Florrie Robina—Friday, July 17.
Ada Brogden—Friday, July 17.
Marjory Armstrong—Friday, July 17.
Tom Edwards—Friday, July 17.
Victor Knight—Friday, July 17

THE Three Röhrs—who are booked for an extended tour (about two years) in America—are fulfilling a short engagement at the White City, Manchester, where they give, four times daily, a daring cycle exhibition inside a large steel globe. They ride ordinary bicycles at a great speed and pick up small objects from the bottom of the cage while they are in a horizontal position. A most sensational feat is that of "looping the loop" by Mr. John Röhr, who provides the motive power by pedalling his bicycle while the cage is turned up on end.

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WILLIAM FRANCIS, Deceased.
Pursuant to the Act of Parliament of the 22nd and 23rd Vic. cap 35, intituled "An Act to further amend the Law of Property and to relieve Trustees."
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the estate of William Francis, late of The Knoll, St. Helen's Park Road, Hastings, in the County of Sussex, formerly of 40, Birch-grove, West Acton, in the County of Middlesex, music publisher, deceased, who died on the 10th day of January, 1908, and whose will was proved in the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice at the Principal Registry, on the 19th day of May, 1908, by Florence Ruth Francis, widow, the relict of the deceased, and one of the executors named in the said will, are hereby required to send the particulars in writing of their claims and demands to the undersigned, the Solicitor, for the said executor, on or before the 1st day of September, 1908, after which date the said executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Deceased amongst the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims and demands of which she shall then have had notice, and will not be liable for the assets of the said Deceased or any part thereof, so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands she shall not then have had notice.
Dated this 1st day of July, 1908.
PHILIP J. RUTLAND,
of 67 and 69, Chancery-lane,
London, W.C.
Solicitor to the said Executor.

ERNEST HEATHER, Deceased.
Pursuant to the Statute, 22nd and 23rd Victoria, cap. 35, intituled "An Act to further amend the Law of Property, and to relieve Trustees."
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that all creditors and other persons having any claims or demands against the estate of Ernest Heather, late of 4, Bridge-avenue, Hammersmith, in the County of London, actor, deceased (who died on the 5th day of June, 1908, and whose will was proved in the Principal Registry of the Probate Division of the High Court of Justice, on the 29th day of June, 1908, by Frederick John Mote and William Johnson, the executors therein named), are hereby required to send the particulars in writing of their claims or demands to us, the undersigned, on or before the 9th day of August, 1908, after which date the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims and demands of which they shall then have had notice, and they will not be liable for the assets of the said deceased, or any part thereof, to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they shall not then have had notice.
Dated this 9th day of July, 1908.
E. and J. MOTE,
1, South-square, Gray's Inn,
London, W.C.,
Solicitors for the Executors.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

Abrahams, jun., Mr. Morris	Aug. 10, 1907
Adeson, Mr. Charles	April 25, 1908
Alexandra, Late Miss Ada	March 23, 1907
Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Armstrong, Mr. Barney	Nov. 30, 1907
Atkin, Late Mr. John A.	Jan. 5, 1907
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Bent, Miss Buena	April 6, 1907
Bentley, Mrs. Walter	July 20, 1907
Bernard, Mr. Albert	Oct. 5, 1907
Bertie, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Bolder, Mr. Robert	July 20, 1907
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brandram, Late Miss R.	March 2, 1907
Bretti, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brittain, Mr. Arthur	Oct. 19, 1907
Brodie, late Mr. Matthew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brooking, Mr. Cecil	Nov. 2, 1907
Brooks, Mr. E. Oswald	Nov. 16, 1907
Browne, Miss Winnie	March 7, 1908
Bruno, Mr. Albert	Feb. 23, 1907
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred.	June 27, 1903
Callaghan, Mr. T. C.	Feb. 23, 1907
Camp, Late Mr. Jack	April 6, 1907
Cannon, Miss Mayme	July 13, 1907
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Carter, Late Mr. John	July 13, 1907
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Chappell, Late Mr. James	Feb. 2, 1907
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Collins, Mr. Patrick Ross	March 16, 1907
Collins-Rolfe, Mr. Arthur	April 13, 1907
Connor, Mr. J. F.	Oct. 12, 1907
Cooke Mr. Stanley	March 30, 1907
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Cooper, Miss Florry	Aug. 10, 1907
Cooper, Mr. Charles K.	Feb. 23, 1907
Cox, Mr. Ernest H. G.	Feb. 23, 1907
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T	March 28, 1908
Crawford, Miss Alice	Nov. 9, 1907
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 7, 1907
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Curry, Late Mr. H. J.	April 27, 1907
Darnley, Mr. Herbert	Aug. 17, 1907
Dashwood, Mr. Arthur	July 20, 1907
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Day, Mr. David	Nov. 30, 1907
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Draycott, Mr. Charles	June 13, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edmonds, Late Mr. E.	May 4, 1907
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Edwards, Late Mr. G. H.	April 11, 1908
Empress, Miss Marie	Feb. 8, 1908
Feldman, Mr. Bert	Dec. 14, 1907
Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Fogerty, Late Mr Robert	July 6, 1907
Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908
Fox, jun., Mr. Charles	July 13, 1907
Francis, Late Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Francis, Mr. Nelson	May 4, 1907
Fuller, jun., Mr. John	July 27, 1907
Gibbons, Mr. Arthur	July 4, 1908
Goldston, Mr. Will	Feb. 22, 1908
Goodall, Miss Edyth	June 13, 1908
Grant, Mr. Christie	Feb. 29, 1908
Gregory, Late Mr. John	Dec. 28, 1907
Gribben, Mr. Harry A.	March 7, 1908
Grimes, Mr. W. J.	May 23, 1908
Hales, Mr. T. G.	April 6, 1907
Hall, Late Mr Owen	April 13, 1907
Hamilton, Miss Rose	April 18, 1908
Hamilton, Late Mr. Wm.	April 20, 1907
Hanbury, Late Miss Lily	March 7, 1908
Hanlon, Late Mr. Bob	July 6, 1907
Hansard, Late Mr. J. B.	Feb. 8, 1908
Hardacre, Miss Ethel	July 4, 1908
Harding, Mr. Alfred	May 2, 1908
Hare, John	Nov. 16, 1907
Harrington, Mr. J. P.	Nov. 30, 1907
Harvey, Late Mrs Frank	June 15, 1907
Harvey, Mr. Martin	June 22, 1907
Hawthorne, Miss Lil	Feb. 15, 1908
Holding, Mr. Thomas	Jan. 18, 1908
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.	May 16, 1908
Howard, Mr. J. Bannister	July 20, 1907
Howe, Late Mr. J. B.	March 14, 1908
Howson, Late Mr. Charles	Nov. 9, 1907
Hudspeth, Late Mrs. J. H.	March 7, 1908
Humphrey, Miss Ola	Sept. 7, 1907
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905
Imeson, Miss Florence	Feb. 29, 1908
Ivatts, Mr. C.	Aug. 10, 1907

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1908.

THE CULT OF THE DANCER.

HOMER called dancing "the sweetest and most perfect of human enjoyments"; and he doubtless meant to include both the performers and the spectators in those who obtained delight from the practice. A phenomenon of the present season has been the remarkable vogue which has been attained by the efforts of Miss MAUD ALLAN and Miss ISADORA DUNCAN, the one at the Palace and the other at the Duke of York's Theatre. Dancing as an "entertainment of the stage" has had its ups and downs. We do not refer to the evolutions of the *corps de ballet*, which, with their semi-spectacular attraction, are always acceptable; but to the efforts of the individual "star" artist. There have been various phases in the history of this agreeable art; and we seem to be witnessing one of those periodical "booms" of dancing which occur in England from time to time.

Dancing has one great advantage; it is impossible for the amateur to excel in it. To become a first-rate *danseuse* it is necessary to go through a very severe physical training, and to keep it up by strenuous practice. It is true that, like acting, the amateur element has every now and then attempted to intrude itself. LOUIS XIII. and LOUIS XIV. both took part publicly in ballets; but the latter monarch "paid his footing" by founding an Academy of Dancing with the famous LULLY as its chief composer. The introduction of female dancers did not take place until 1681; hitherto, the males had had it all their own way. With the advent of LOUIS XIV.'s corpulence, and consequent indifference, ballet became unfashionable; but, in the early part of the eighteenth century, it was galvanised into favour by the feats of Mlle. SALLE and the CAMARGO, the latter, we are told, being "able to do eight entre-chats before touching the ground"—a remarkable performance, truly. These ladies had undoubtedly a great vogue, and they are favourably mentioned by such a sharp critic as VOLTAIRE. It was in the first half of the nineteenth century that the individual *danseuse* shone forth with glory in Great Britain. It is not easy, from the data which have drifted down to us, to understand the enthusiasm created by TAGLIONI, FANNY ELSSLER, and CERITO. TAGLIONI was especially adored. "Songs," says Mr. REGINALD ST. JOHNSTON, in his excellent "History of Dancing," "were composed about her, books and music were dedicated to her, and Taglioni hats, dresses, and overcoats were seen in all the shop-windows. The theatres at which she appeared were crowded to the doors." FANNY ELSSLER, her rival, was only a little less fondly worshipped. And it should be noted that this admiration was not that of an aristocratic clique, or of a body of influential friends. TAGLIONI and ELSSLER reigned in the hearts of the people, who saw in their performance an exquisiteness and a beauty of movement which cannot be conveyed to us in print.

There was much in the old style of ballet dancing that savoured of the merely mechanical, such as the "regulation" walk on "the points," and other customary exhibitions of physical strength and skill; and it is easy to understand how the style degenerated. It was not until many years later that a new form of the art, called "skirt dancing," was presented to the public at the Gaiety Theatre by Miss KATE VAUGHAN. As Mr. ST. JOHNSTON says: "The grace and charm of the new style could not be denied; and the superiority, if only from an artistic point of view, of this form of dancing—built on the old Greek model—over the stiff and conventional movements of the Italian school was evident." Miss VAUGHAN was one of those born artists whose charm and talent are self-evident at the outset, and for years she was the idol of the admirers of stage-dancing. The new school had many votaries, and the popularity of Miss ALICE LETHBRIDGE, Miss SYLVIA GREY, Miss FLORENCE LEVEY, Miss LETTY LIND, Miss TOPSY SINDEN, and Miss MABEL LOVE was very great. How intense was the admiration that was lavished upon Miss VAUGHAN may be estimated by the following extract from Lady BURNE-JONES's biography of her husband: "Another and different vision also flits across my mind in the form of the wonderful dancer KATE VAUGHAN, 'MIRIAM ARIADNE SALOMÉ VAUGHAN,' as EDWARD called her. Never shall I forget seeing him and RUSKIN fall into each other's arms in rapture upon accidentally discovering that they both adored her." In the South African grave of KATE VAUGHAN lie buried many of the pleasantest memories of one's youth.

The tendency of modern dancing is to develop in the direction of intrinsic beauty, and to depart from the more or less acrobatic achievements of former years. The exhibition of these latter is on the same par as disclosing the machinery which works a show. The hard and, at first, painful exercises of the trained *danseuse* are valuable, not in themselves, but as conferring the wonderful grace and ease which result from complete command of every limb and muscle. They are not in themselves pleasing to view, suggesting, as they do, difficulty and suffering; and they are unusual and unnatural. CAMARGO was doubtless a more accomplished dancer for being able to do eight entre-chats in the air; but a spectator of taste would have echoed the remark of Dr. JOHNSON, who, when told that an elaborate piece of pianoforte-playing by a lady was difficult, said that he heartily wished it had been impossible. The beauty of the dancing of Miss MAUD ALLAN and Miss ISADORA DUNCAN lies in the art with which art is concealed, in the illusive spontaneousness of its expression, in the way in which natural movements are chosen and harmonised to produce an entrancing result. The beauty of the human figure in repose is many times doubled when the picture is a "moving" one; when each beautiful pose is followed by another equally exquisite; and when, by artistic selection, the ugly and the awkward are eliminated, and only the pose "of purest ray" is presented to the beholder.

"THE SHADOW ON THE BLIND."

Dramatic Sketch, by Stafford Smith, produced at the Standard, Pimlico, on July 6.

Ned Mortimer .....MR. STAFFORD SMITH
Charles Mortimer .....MR. E. BEAUMONT
Inspector Webb .....MR. J. JOHNSON
Goggles .....MR. E. L. VICTOR
Mary Mortimer ....MISS MARY STAFFORD SMITH

A sensational playlet usually finds a place in Mr. T. S. Dickie's programme at the popular variety house hard by Victoria Station, and that in the current week's bill, written and produced by Mr. Stafford Smith, and played for the first time on Monday, met with the approval of the large audience, and is an interesting and exciting playlet. The principal character is Ned Mortimer, a tramp, who returns to the village which he left some years previously rather suddenly, having robbed his own brother Charles. Charles is now a Scotland-yard detective, and is expected home at his farmhouse in the country by his wife, Mary, who, on her return from a walk, finds the tramp in the kitchen, where he has been helping himself to the food that has been prepared for Charles. Mary soon recognises her precious brother-in-law, and is eventually persuaded by Ned not to mention to her husband that she has seen him, and the tramp departs. When Charles arrives we learn that he has been sent to the village to try and find the murderer of a farmer who has been robbed and killed, and suspicion falls on a tramp who was seen in the neighbourhood at the time. After the detective has gone to consult with the local police inspector, Ned again makes his entry, and as he is likely to be captured if he leaves the house, Mary tells him to hide in an adjoining room, following him in. Charles returning, and not finding his wife, and learning from a stupid countryman, Goggles, of her visitor, turns out the gas, and sees the shadow on the blind of his wife and a stranger. When Mary comes out he accuses her of concealing a lover, but Ned reveals himself, and after angry words between the brothers, in which the tramp swears he did not commit the murder, but will not peach on the real culprit, his pal, he goes to an adjoining room and shoots himself, just as he is about to be arrested. Mr. Stafford Smith, an actor of much experience and ability, was responsible for an effective impersonation of the ne'er-do-well Ned; Mr. E. Beaumont made a forcible and earnest Charles; the comic relief was supplied by Mr. E. L. Victor, very funny as the clumsy chawbacon Goggles; and Miss Mary Stafford Smith was natural and easy as the sorely-tried Mary Mortimer.

A very popular comedian in the programme at the Standard is Mr. Sam Mayo, the immobile one, his two songs "Little by little, and bit by bit" and "A terrible tale" being so mirth-provoking that a third was asked for and given. Another funny man who was successful in creating merriment was Mr. Geo. Collins, who has a droll ditty in "Bread and dripping for dinner," the lament of a henpecked husband whose wife keeps him on very frugal fare. The Crown Trio, who appear as two gallant sons of Mars, and a demure waiting-maid, harmonise tunefully, and sing some popular numbers agreeably, their turn being greatly enjoyed; and the Delomes are particularly expert step and clog-dancers, their smartly-worked turn being loudly applauded. Burns, Emerson, and Smith, American darkey entertainers, submit a pleasing interlude of song and dance, the comedian of the trio doing some clever somersaulting; Hughes and Carney, cross-talk comedians, have a funny football gag and an absurdly laughable boxing act; and Miss Daisy Hicks, an attractive comedienne, contributes a couple of entertaining ditties in "If you don't want lots of gold" and "I've got no right to love you." Mostol's musical act is varied, novel, and appreciated at its true worth; and Memora, "the living book of dates," answers questions put him from all parts of the house swiftly and accurately, and certainly has a marvellous memory. A delightful series of pictures on the Edisonograph are Water Babies; or, The Little Chimney Sweep, an adaptation of Charles Kingsley's story; and other films shown are The Theatrical Garden Party, The Sausage Stealer, Miss Pimpernel's Gown, and Too Much Champagne. Mr. Sid Owen, Scotch character comedian, and Miss Alice Hughes and company in *The Star of the Bazaar* are also on the programme. Mr. Maurice Volny is the courteous and astute assistant-manager here, and the capable little band is under the careful control of Mr. Frederick Allwood.

OWING to her continued success in Africa, Miss Crissie Cross was induced to prolong her engagement, and did not arrive last week, as stated in these columns, but is due to arrive to-day (Saturday).

MR. RANDOLPH KING opens at the Oxford for three weeks next Monday, and is now booked well into 1911, Mr. Harry Day having taken over his bookings entirely.

SHAKESPEARE AND FREEMASONRY

Mr. Lewis M. Miller has been writing in the *Freemason*, calling attention to the remarkable coincidence and correspondence between Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man and the seven stages of Masonic existence. He remarks:—

You remember that Shakespeare says:—

All the world's a stage
And all the men and women merely players;
They have their exits and their entrances;
And one man in his time plays many parts,
His acts being seven ages.

Having thus laid down his general proposition, he enters into particulars:—

I.

At first the infant,
Mewling and puking in the nurse's arms.

That's the E.A. He has just entered upon Masonic life. As yet he is but a callow fledgling in Masonry. He knows little of its principles, and has but slight appreciation of the wisdom crystallised in its lectures. Like the infant, he cannot walk or even stand alone. He takes his Masonic nourishment in liquid form, from the nursing bottle and spoon, for solid food is too strenuous for his digestion. But we are willing to coddle him for a while, for the good we expect of him in the future.

II.

Then the whining schoolboy, with his satchel
And shining morning face, creeping like snail
Unwillingly to school.

That's the F.C.. He has now reached the formative and educational period of Masonic life, the period of physical growth and mental development. Like all youth, he entertains extravagant ideas of his own endowments and capabilities, and dreams day dreams and night dreams of his own future achievements. But, like the larva in the chrysalis, he is still in a transition state, and far from perfect, giving no hint as yet, except to the eye of faith, of his future beauty and splendour.

III.

And then the lover,
Sighing like furnace, with a woeful ballad
Made to his mistress's eyebrow.

That's the M.M. He has now attained the full stature and perfection of Masonic manhood, and stands before the world a just and upright Mason, challenging its respect for the sterling qualities that go to make up his character. He is full of life and vigour, his hot blood courses through his veins, and he is anxious to accomplish something in the arena of life. Creation and procreation are his essential characteristics.

IV.

Then a soldier,
Full of strange oaths and bearded like the pard,
Jealous in honour, sudden and quick in quarrel,
Seeking the bubble reputation
Even in the cannon's mouth.

That's the Junior Warden. The ordinary affairs of life no longer satisfy him. He is fired with ambition to win Masonic honours, and, as the soldier seeks the bubble reputation even in the cannon's mouth, so the Junior Warden is ready to fight his way onward and upward, and tread round after round of the ladder that leads to fame and honour within our mystic circle. And he will not be satisfied until the royal purple of our fraternity rests upon his honoured shoulders.

V.

And then the justice,
In fair round belly with good capon lined,
With eyes severe and beard of formal cut,
Full of wise saws and modern instances;
And so he plays his part.

That's the Senior Warden. As the justice deems himself but little lower than the supreme court, so the Senior Warden deems himself but little lower than the Master. The goal is just in sight, and the wire edge is worn off his ambition. He has grown more sedate, for he can afford to wait for the honour that will surely come. His dignity is something oppressive, for is he not the pillar of strength, the main guy of the Lodge, the stay and support of the whole institution? He has filled his head full to bursting of the wisdom and traditions of the elders. The fledglings of the flock gaze upon him in awe,

and still the wonder grows,
That one small head should carry all he knows.

And this accumulated wisdom he accommodatingly doles out to his less informed Brethren upon the slightest provocation.

VI.

The sixth age shifts
Into the lean and slippered pantaloon!
With spectacles on nose and pouch on side;
His youthful hose, well saved, a world too wide
For his shrunk shank; and his big manly voice,
Turning again towards childish treble, pipes
And whistles in its sound.

That's the Master. He has reached the summit. He has grown old in Masonry; he is the ripe and mellow, rich and fragrant fruit upon the tree. He no longer represents the energy, and activity, and ambitions of Masonry, but represents the pillar of wisdom. He lives in the happy reflection consequent upon a well-spent life, and will die in the hope of a glorious immortality.

VII.

Last scene of all,
That ends this strange, eventful history,
In second childishness and mere oblivion:
Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything.

That's the Past Master.

THE ALEXANDRA, PONTEFRACT.

Monday night witnessed the opening of Pontefract's first permanent theatre, and in the Alexandra Theatre of Varieties the townspeople have undoubtedly one of the handsomest and best-fitted-up houses in the country. The interior is exceedingly pretty, and the stage is large enough to put on the biggest turn travelling. The decorating and furnishing work has been done by the well-known firm of Messrs. A. R. Dean and Sons, of Birmingham, and to the smallest detail everything has been carried out on the most up-to-date principle. The management have been very fortunate in their choice of general manager, and in Mr. Tom Diacoff they have engaged one who knows the theatrical ropes well, and under whose supervision the venture already shows every likelihood of being a great success.

An excellent bill was put on on Monday, every one of the nine turns being good. The Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats had a fine reception, their exceedingly clever performance being well appreciated. The Yorkshire Mill Lasses sing their sentimental songs as well as ever, and their capital voices took the crowded audience by storm. In a programme of excellent variety one of the best turns is that of Arthur Alexander and Co., whose powerful presentation of the well-written sketch, *For the Honour of the Family*, won for them loud applause. Patty Yole's impersonation of the little girl was alike most amusing and clever, and is one of the best things this comedienne has done; and Sam Ropely gives a side-splitting character sketch, in which the Man in Blue is parodied, to the great amusement of the house. Other attractive turns are presented by Edwards and Dacre, in a duologue "What a life!"; the Izons, Arthur and Ada, in song, patter, and dancing; Molly O'Guarde, sentimental vocalist; and Harry Keeble, an up-to-date ventriloquist. Altogether the venture had an excellent send-off, and Mr. Diacoff and his directors are to be heartily congratulated on their enterprise.

MR. ADNEY PAYNE'S WILL.

A painful story of the relations of Mrs. Clara Agnes Adney Payne with the children of her late husband, Mr. George Adney Payne, music-hall proprietor, was told during the hearing in the Probate Court on Friday, the 3rd inst., of the suit brought by his eldest son, Mr. Walter Payne, and his son-in-law, Mr. Walter Gibbons, who, as executors, propounded a will dated May 19, 1904, as the last will of Mr. Adney Payne. Mrs. Payne replied that that will was revoked by a subsequent will which had never been revoked, but which could not be found, and by which the testator left his property equally between her and his children by his former marriage. The executors by their reply denied Mrs. Payne's allegations, and said that the will she wished to put forward was not duly executed.

Mr. McCall, K.C., in opening for the widow, regretted that he would have to tell a story which was in some respects extremely painful and unpleasant.

The President asked if that were so whether it was a case that must be fought.

Sir Edward Carson, K.C., for the executors, thought the matter could be fought out without unnecessary pain, as it was purely a question as to whether a will was made and executed, but it must be fought.

Mr. McCall went on to say that in the year 1898 the testator was a gentleman who was busily engaged in the management of a considerable number of music halls in and around London. He had a large sum invested in them, and he possessed other securities, from which he derived a very considerable income, and which enabled him to live in considerable luxury, maintaining one house in London and another in the country. In February of that year he had made a will, under which he had appointed his son and his solicitor executors, and had divided his estate into four shares, one to each of his children, the eldest being the son Walter, and the others girls. Mrs. Payne had been a well-known performer at various London theatres and halls under the stage name of Ethel Earle. In that year the late Mr. Payne had many opportunities of seeing her, and he became very much attached to her. They were engaged, and on Nov. 15 they were married. At that time Mr. Walter Payne, the testator's eldest son, was reading for the bar. He had done his best to prevent the marriage, but had failed. Mrs. Payne had been earning something like £50 a week, but she gave up her profession at her husband's request, he saying that she had enough to do to look after two houses.

In 1899 he told her he felt it his duty to provide for her, and he gave her a copy of the will he was about to make. It showed that the estate was to be provided into five shares, of which she was to have one absolutely. Between the time of the copy being made and the execution of the will it was apparently altered, and she was to have only the income of a fifth during her life. At the end of 1899 Mr. Walter Payne was treating his stepmother in a way which, if her statement was accepted, was scandalously bad. Having failed in preventing the marriage, he spread reports about her among their friends, and did what he could to turn his father against the wife. Some of these reports came to the knowledge of Mr. and Mrs. Payne, and attempts were made to stop them. At the end of that year Mr. Payne was induced to make a codicil, striking out of the will the benefit that he had given to his wife. At that time the relations between husband and wife were very much strained, but it was not necessary to go into the details or to apportion the blame, especially in view of the happier circumstances that followed. Mrs. Payne felt bound to insist that the children who had stirred up the strife should be removed from the house, and should reside elsewhere, but being unable to persuade her husband to adopt that course, she filed a petition for judicial separation on Dec. 17, 1902. That was pending when, in January, 1903, she went to stay with a Mr. and Mrs. Wood, who were old friends of the family. While with them she and her husband accidentally met, and in spite of the interference of Mr. Walter Payne, who tried to prevent the reconciliation, they became once more on very happy terms.

Mr. Payne made a settlement of a considerable amount of furniture on his wife, and, with one small exception, they afterwards led the happiest and most affectionate of lives till his sudden death in May, 1907. About May, 1904, a will, which was prepared by Mr. Walter Payne, who had become a barrister, was executed, and under it Mrs. Payne took no interest whatever. Between May and September, 1904, a will was executed, which Mrs. Payne now propounded. Her husband told her his views of a husband's duty to provide for his wife, and especially under such circumstances as existed in his case, and he went on to state in the most distinct terms the provision he had made for her. That will gave her one-fifth of his property absolutely, and it was kept in the safe at their house at Herne Bay, where in the autumn of 1906 she saw it. She saw it was signed by her husband and attested, and that it gave her what he told her he had given her by the will of 1899. The will and its contents were referred to on several occasions by the testator. It was necessary for Mr. Payne to go abroad to engage artists and see how the halls abroad were conducted, and during his absence he wrote her many letters of the most affectionate character, containing the warmest expressions towards her. In October, 1906, he bought a motor car for her. She learned to drive, and became a very skilled driver. Husband and wife derived great pleasure in motoring together. On May 5, 1907, they were driving near Herne Bay, when a cyclist who was approaching lost his head, and rode across in front of the car. In trying to avoid him Mrs. Payne ran into the hedge, the car was overturned, Mr. Payne was seriously injured, and on May 15 he died from a clot of blood on the brain. During the ten days when he knew that his recovery was doubtful he told both doctors and nurse, as well as other people, about the provision he had made for his wife. After his death Mr. Walter Payne took possession of the house and its contents, refused to allow Mrs. Payne access to anything, and the will which had been in the safe had not been discovered since. The case the executors were setting up was that the will which the lady saw was a bogus document, drawn up by the testator to deceive his wife, but that was a story of cruel and mean fraud that ought not to be taken as proved against a dead man except on overwhelming evidence.

The President suggested that as the question was the proof of the execution of the will, a jury was not really required.

Counsel agreed, and the jury was discharged.

Mrs. Adney Payne, who, while the counsel had been telling the story of her married life, had been sitting at the solicitors' table quietly crying, gave evidence, but had to pause from time to time to recover her composure, particularly when telling how her husband died. She was asked with regard to her relations to her step-children, and then as to the disappearance of the will she said she had seen.

The President: There is no suggestion in the pleadings that Mr. Walter Payne made away with the will. It is a very serious matter. Under the statute it amounts to a felony. If that is to be the suggestion, the pleadings will have to be amended. Let us have it out plain. Are you (to Mr. McCall) going to suggest that this gentleman has made away with the will?

Mr. McCall: I cannot suggest that.

The President: Then there is no good going into the question of his relations with the defendant. How is it admissible?

Mr. McCall: I cannot go to the length of saying that any particular person concealed or destroyed the will.

Mrs. Payne went on to say that her late husband asked her to leave the stage on her marriage, and she was very glad to fall in with his wishes. From the time of the reconciliation to the time of her husband's accident she had no communication with her step-children. At the date of the will of 1904 she and her husband were living perfectly friendly together. He begged her to make friends with the children, and she promised to do so. When he was on the Continent he wrote to her three times a day. One day in the autumn of 1906 when they were staying at the house at Herne Bay, the vicar and his wife were coming to dinner, and witness went to the safe to get the silver for dinner. In the safe there were papers and jewellery belonging to the first Mrs. Payne, and the will She saw that it left her a fifth of the estate absolutely. She could not remember the names of the witnesses. She did not read it through; she trusted her husband, who had never told her an untruth. After his death she came up to London and stayed for a few days. She was so broken-hearted and wretched that she hardly remembered what took place when she saw Mr. Walter Payne. She telephoned to Mr. Gibbons that she was returning to Herne Bay, and he replied that the servants had strict orders not to admit her. There was still linen and furniture of hers at the house, and she could not get it. She saw the will also in November, 1906, when they had a large Primrose League meeting.

Cross-examined: She did not know the handwriting of the will; it was not that of her husband.

After the luncheon interval Mr. McCall intimated that the Court would not be further troubled with the matter. Counsel had agreed that the case for Mrs. Payne should not be pressed further, and the plaintiffs agreed that her costs as between solicitor and client should come out of the estate. On behalf of the defendant, probably on behalf of the plaintiff as well, he wished to say that any imputations that had been made were withdrawn.

The President: I am glad; it is quite a proper thing.

Sir Edward Carson: I have made no imputation against the lady, and I should be sorry to think there was any.

The will of May 19, 1904, propounded by the executors, was then formally proved in solemn form and pronounced for.

THE OXFORD.

The audiences at the Oxford are no strangers to the protean actor, for have they not witnessed the clever performances of R. A. Roberts, whose work is so much more interesting than that of the Continental actor, with wild gesticulation and a language not "understanded" of the people. But complete plays presented by one performer are nevertheless somewhat rare on the variety stage, and even rarer still is their presentation by a woman. It is true that in *The Comstock Mystery*, produced at the Oxford last week, Miss Charlotte Parry, the American protean actress, does not take the whole of the characters. She accounts for seven of them, however, and gives evidence of being a clever impersonator of character, with keen observation. The "mystery," which is unravelled by a Pinkerton detective, to whom Sherlock Holmes, if he existed, should take off his hat, concerns the murder of Mr. Comstock, who has been done to death in his own flat. The detective suspects that someone is concealed in a cupboard, and threatens loudly to use his shooting iron. A voluble Frenchwoman emerges, and endeavours to evade arrest by drawing a dagger. The "links" are speedily clapped upon her, and she is removed, to make way for an Irish washerwoman, who has been imbibing too much "potheen." Later comes a young girl of twelve, who on her visit to Mr. Comstock just previous to the murder finds there a poor woman, Mary Hether, who carries a baby, and Mary's crippled brother, Pete. Mary eventually confesses that she committed the crime, and is taken off to the lock-up. Miss Parry's work is skilfully differentiated. It is difficult to imagine that the deformed Pete and the smart Frenchwoman could be one and the same person. Mr. Reginald Parry's Detective has all the necessary coolness and alertness, and Mr. Arthur Jones is responsible for an impressive performance of the silent Sergeant. The play is a distinct acquisition to the variety theatres on this side.

A turn of special excellence is that submitted by Mr. John Le Hay, one of the few comedians who have become eminent on both the legitimate and variety stages. We remember Mr. Le Hay as a ventriloquist, as an excellent tenor singer, and as a chief comedian in the representation of *Véronique*. These are just a very few of his credentials. He has established another by his admirable impersonation of the blind mendicant in *Poor Beggar*, a sketch that gives him all the necessary opportunities of exploiting his drollery. He is an optimist, and knows the world. In rapid succession he exhibits placards bearing the "legends" "Blind from Birth," "Run over by a Motor," &c., and burlesques the idea of a morning "tub" by pouring a quartern of gin into a bird bath. The hoary old humbug, however, who had once been a member of an operatic chorus, bursts into song; and by his cheery philosophy is instrumental in restoring to each other's arms a young couple who have quarrelled. Mr. Le Hay is simply delightful, and *Poor Beggar* should be earmarked as a London attraction of a most laughable character.

Mr. R. H. Douglass, another actor who learnt his business in the theatres, goes extremely well with a capital monologue; Miss Madge Temple sings prettily of a "Kiss"; and the other turns have been recently noticed.

CRICKET.

Favoured with a fine afternoon, Sam Mayo's eleven and the Empire, Camberwell, team had a very pleasant afternoon at cricket. The Empire won the toss, and decided to bat first. The scores for the two innings were:—

EMPIRE.—T. Arnold, 4; W. Franks, 1; C. Shedden, 1; T. Pearson, 35; H. Thacker, 13; P. Ford, 0; F. Hurst, 0; F. Barker, 1; F. Alexander, 1; B. Woodger, 2; H. Heer, 13; extras, 10; total, 81.

MAYO'S ELEVEN.—Hamilton Hill, 0; F. Oray, 0; L. Gardener, 4; E. Budden, 5; C. Ryland, jun., 19; F. J. Wright, 30; S. Mayo, 7; D. Cohen, 1; Lott, 0; D. Barnard, 32 (not out); T. Cowen, 13; extras, 6; total, 117.

EMPIRE (second innings).—Total for six wickets, 83 (innings declared).

MAYO'S ELEVEN (second innings).—Total for four wickets, 32.

THE sketch *Old Virginia* has been played at the Pier Pavilion, New Brighton, this week by a really good company. Mr. H. Buckland, Mr. W. Pringle, Mr. L. Russell, Mr. Bert Erroll, Mr. Kit Keen, Miss Nellie Sheffield, Miss Joey Ellis, Miss Lillian Page, and Miss O. Spark are one and all first-class, and the result of their combined efforts is extremely satisfactory. Mr. W. H. Everleigh is an efficient accompanist.

AN attractive bill is presented this week at the Wakefield Hippodrome. Mlle. Sahara executes some clever dances; the Two Cycos, trick cyclists, give a smart turn; Miss Emmie Ames, in a neat song sceña, has a hearty reception; Harry Bancroft, comedian, sings in good style; the Sisters Brand comediennes, dance well; Souplessi, boneless wonder, is clever; and the Brothers Brookes, comedians, are highly successful.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Alfred Butt has been very busy this week replying to the numerous congratulations that he has received on the birth of a son and heir. The happy event occurred on Tuesday, and mother and boy are doing exceedingly well.

It need scarcely be pointed out that the reputation of the Grand Guignol in the discovery of thrilling and dramatic little plays is world-wide, and in the one-act piece *Après l'Opéra*, which the Empire has secured from Mr. Arthur Bourchier, who purchased the English rights of the piece, a very notable acquisition has been made by the management.

The English adaptation, *After the Opera*, is by Miss Nora Keith, and it will be produced by Mr. Hitchins before the month is out. The little play is packed full of sensational incidents, which take place within the space of half an hour in the neighbourhood of Park-lane, where we meet the leading characters returning from witnessing an opera at Covent Garden. The cast will include Mr. Robert Pateman, Mr. Charles Bryant, and Miss Evelyn D'Alroy.

Mr. H. B. Marinelli was recently interviewed in Paris with reference to the Olympia, which he has just taken over in conjunction with Mr. de Cottens. Mr. Marinelli stated that all was settled with respect to this theatre, and he will re-open it as an up-to-date vaudeville house in August. Drastic alterations will be made in the auditorium, and the theatre will be turned into a *bona-fide* music hall.

"It will be the best show in Paris," remarked the future director confidently to our correspondent, "and will run the finest turns that it is possible to procure the world over." After seeing many vicissitudes, it is to be hoped that this finely-situated theatre will have a fresh lease of life, and that the many improvements and innovations contemplated by Mr. Marinelli will ensure success.

Mr. Harry Tate's company arrived from New York on the liner Carmania last Sunday after a most successful American tour. They return for another extended tour, booked by the Keith Circuit, in September.

Mr. George Lashwood, who returns to the Hackney Empire next week, in the days of the great Vance would have been called a swell comique. But Mr. Lashwood avoids the loudness characteristic of the variety stage of the seventies, and shows perfect taste and exceptional smartness in his dress.

Mr. Horace Wheatley, the genial Irishman, provided an enjoyable turn at the Fête of the Veterans on Thursday last. He revived for this occasion his well-known song, "I'll be a soldier, too," and was accompanied on the pianoforte by his daughter, who is a very clever musician, although still in her early teens.

Mr. Albert Chevalier received a most cordial welcome back on Monday to the Coliseum, where he appeared during the first week of its reopening. He was listened to with almost breathless attention while he put before the audience his pathetic creation of an inmate of "The House." It was in a similar character that the famous comedian triumphed at the Court Theatre, but the old man at the London Coliseum touches all hearts by the eloquence of his appeal. "Mrs. 'Enery Hawkins" is still a wonderfully popular number. It has been before the public for at least fifteen years, and has a delightful humour.

Mr. Alfred Moul announces that he has induced La Belle Leonora to renew her engagement at the Alhambra. This will enable him to present a second edition of "Sal, Oh My!" in which the graceful danseuse will be seen to still greater advantage.

Mr. Alfred Butt has been obliged, owing to the great success of Miss Maud Allan, to postpone the visit of Mlle. Olga Lambart until next year. As has already been outlined in these columns, Miss Allan will present a new suite of dances on Monday next, when she will submit an interpretation of Tschaikowsky's melodious "Casse-Noisettes." In addition to the dances of the Sugar Plum Fairy, Arabian dance, and Reed Pipe dance, Miss Allan will shortly include one or two numbers from Robert Schumann's wholly delightful "Papillon" music, which should lend itself to her interpretations.

The success of the week, so far as the Palace is concerned, is a most unique picture that has been secured for the bioscope, depicting the recent motor races at Dieppe. In the race for the voiturette cars no less than five spills are most vividly shown. The race for the Motor Grand Prix was exhibited on Thursday evening. These pictures are accompanied by a special number, composed by Mr. Herman Finck, and which he has called "The Motor March."

Miss Alice Lloyd sails from New York for England on Wednesday next. She has been scoring "all along the line" with Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell's songs, "Lovelight" and "I want to be among the boys."

The next meeting of the London branch of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union will take place in the club room on Thursday next at 1.15 p.m. Mr. J. B. Williams will address the meeting. Notice of all future meetings will appear in *The Era*.

There will be some slight changes in the Alhambra programme on Monday, when the Pantzer Brothers, return with a new entertainment, and J. W. Winton, the Australian ventriloquist, commences a re-engagement. Robert Steidl, the new humorist, who has made an instantaneous success, enters on his second week, and the Franco-British divertissement *The Two Flags*, with Mlle. Pomponette, is as attractive as ever, while L'Incognita, after many weeks, has not yet exhausted her répertoire.

Last Sunday the staff of the South London Music Hall enjoyed their annual outing, the venue this year being "Magical Margate." Leaving the Metropolis at early morning, the merry holiday-makers to the number of seventy reached Kent's chief seaport before noon, and at once repaired to their headquarters for the day, the King's Head Hotel, Marine front, a palatial building which commands the finest view in the borough. After a refresher outwardly—and, be it whispered, inwardly as well—the party sat down to a princely repast, served in perfect style by mine host Mr. Walter J. Abbott, whom many of our readers will recall was the "right man in the right place" at the Freemasons' Hall, London.

Mr. William Payne, the South London's ever-courteous and popular manager, presided, and beside him at the chief table were, amongst others, the evergreen Mr. Charley Coborn, of "Two lovely black eyes" fame, Mr. C. Howells, *chef d'orchestre*, Mr. W. Wells, Mr. H. Lynch, Mr. C Seaman, and others in responsible positions in front as well as behind the footlights. After the Royal toasts, Mr. Payne proposed "Success to the South London Palace and the Directors," and, need it be said, the bumpers had to be replenished ere the proposer had completed his peroration. Other toasts included "The Chairman" and "The Hotel Manager," after which the party broke up and went their respective ways, to join together again four hours later at "high tea."

Mr. Walter A. Salmond, lately of the Gibbons circuit, has been appointed manager of the Belfast Palace, in succession to Mr. George Harris, who goes to the Hippodrome, Portsmouth.

The magistrates have approved the plans of the new Palace Theatre of Varieties, Cheltenham, and the building operations will commence at once. The general-manager, who is the experienced and able Mr. Edward B. Shenton, intends that the new building shall be quite worthy of the town, and the architect, Mr. Winstanley, of St. Anne's-on-Sea, will utilise to the best advantage the excellent site that has been secured in the High-street.

Mr. Baskerville should feel highly gratified in view of his recent serious loss by fire, by the expressions of sympathy and much more substantial assistance offered him by a number of the most prominent and influential citizens of Maidstone. It is more than likely that he will be connected with a powerful syndicate, who have in view an excellent site for the erection of an up-to-date music hall in that town.

The New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank, which has been closed for some weeks, has been purchased by Mr. A. E. Pickard, of the Panopticon, Glasgow. This theatre, which was only built a few years back at a cost of £5,000, has seating accommodation for upwards of 1,500, and is likely to enter on a new lease of popularity under the direction of Mr. "Ahead-of-the-Times" Pickard, as he bills himself.

Many are the congratulations that are being extended to Mr. J. R. Huddlestone, the popular manager of the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, on his approaching marriage with Mme. Rocca, of Nice, South of France, which is announced to take place in the latter part of this month at the parish church, St. Anne's-on-Sea. The event will not be celebrated in any special way on the exact day owing to the exigencies of the season, but Mr. Huddlestone proposes to invite the staff and tenants to a special evening's entertainment later in the season, when no doubt the event will be celebrated in a befitting manner.

Mr. George C. Doughty, who is touring with his sketch *Captain Cupid*, will on Monday, July 20, produce for Mr. Oswald Stoll at the Hippodrome, Manchester, an entirely new and original comedy-sketch, entitled *A Woman's Way*, written by a well-known authoress. The incidental music has been specially composed and arranged by Mr. Joseph D. Rogers, the well-known conductor.

The first annual staff outing in connection with the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, took place at Bewdley last Sunday, when weather and everything else combined to make a perfect day's enjoyment. The party, which numbered just ninety friends and employees, reached the chosen spot about ten, and the morning was given up to boating on the Severn and to strolling, for which the country around is so beautifully adapted.

After dinner, which was prepared by that excellent cook and hostess, Mrs. Woodward, at the George Hotel, Mr. Edward Foster, the resident-manager, proposed the health of the King; Mr. Lester Collingwood proposed "Moss's Empires" in his usual cordial style, the toast being received with loyal acclamation.

Mr. A. W. Matcham very cordially proposed the health of the chairman, which brought the staff to their feet cheering instanter, so much is Mr. Foster looked up to by the employees, who also exacted speeches from Mr. Harry Lucas (Mr. Foster's understudy) and Mr. J. H. Whittaker, musical-director.

"Our Guests" having been "toasted," the party proceeded per boat to Arley, tea being provided in the beautiful rose-gardens of the Harbour Inn, after which Bewdley, and finally Birmingham were reached in good time and condition. Mrs. Foster's welcome presence added to the happiness of the party, and numerous other well-known ladies were present, Messrs. Harry Lyons, A. H. Williams, Percy Thompson, Willis Crisford, and Chas. Matcham being conspicuous among the gentlemen.

In connection with the retirement of Mr. J. Lacy Lyne from the local management of the Palace, Attercliffe, a very pleasant farewell social was held on Monday evening at the Queen's Head Hotel, Attercliffe, under the presidency of Councillor J. C. Whiteley, who referred to Mr. Lyne's popularity and the success which the Palace had enjoyed mainly through his administration. Mr. Bert Lester, assistant-manager, spoke of the kindly help and benefit he had received at all times from Mr. Lyne. In his reply Mr. Lyne feelingly referred to his pleasant associations with the management and the patrons of the Palace.

Mr. Frederick Fry, the musical-director of the Palace, Bristol, has composed a march, "Your Majesties," in honour of the Royal visit to open the Avonmouth Docks on Thursday. The march was much applauded on Monday evening, full justice being done to it by the excellent Palace orchestra.

Mr. Charles Collette will pay his third visit to the Britannia Pier Pavilion, Great Yarmouth, where during next week he will give a round of his sketches, supported by Miss Joan Derry, the clever young variety actress.

The annual general meeting of the shareholders of Portsmouth Hippodrome was held recently at the registered offices of the company in London, Mr. Frederick Mouillot, chairman of directors, presiding. Although the Hippodrome had only been working forty-seven complete weeks, yet after paying interest on debenture stock, directors, managing directors, and trustees for debenture holders' fees, and all the necessary working expenses, there remained a profit of £9,183 15s., out of which the directors had to discharge the loss upon the first year's working of the Hippodrome, viz., to April, 1907, amounting to £1,092 0s. 9d.

The directors had also set aside the sum of £562 5s. 8d. as a reserve for the upkeep of the building and for depreciation; the balance remaining was therefore the sum of £7,529 9s. 8d. After allowing for the interim dividend which was paid in October last year there remained a balance of £4,529 9s. 8d., out of which the directors proposed to pay a further dividend of 10 per cent. actual, making a total dividend of 20 per cent. over the year.

At the Prince's Theatre, Accrington, on Wednesday, the popular proprietor and manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod, most generously gave a complimentary matinée, to the members of the orchestra of the Hippodrome, many of whom have unfortunately suffered the loss of their instruments in the recent fire. An attractive programme was arranged, and a crowded house was the result.

Amongst the artists who kindly gave their services were Mr. Allan Carruthers, comedian; Gilbert Middleton, tenor; Tom Franks, ventriloquist; Misses Porter and Brown, duettists; Peter Campbell, silleur; Harry Finn, comedian; Master Rober Hamer, vocalist; Thomas Hamer, clog dancer; Wallace Poudrille, society entertainer; the Three Eastwoods, pedestal dancers; Mrs. Bellingham, vocalist; Mrs. Sherrocks, vocalist; and the Prince's stock company, who appeared in Act IV. of *Camille* and the last act of *Sorrows of Satan*.

The Six Brothers Luck have again scored a great hit in their new production, *Lift 'Hms, Limited*, which has delightful irresponsibility, and is impregnated with fun. It was produced by Mr. F. Durell at the Ardwick Empire on Monday with a success that must be very gratifying both to the author, Mr. Chris Davis, and to its clever exponents.

Mr. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. W. H. Clemart, and Mr. Wal Pink are to be the guests at a complimentary dinner given in their honour to-morrow (Sunday) at the Boulogne Restaurant, 27, Gerrard-street, Soho. During the evening a presentation is to be made, and the chair will be taken by Mr. Joe Elvin at 7.30 sharp.

Chevalier Cliquot, a performer for many years himself, speaks five different languages, and has a ripe practical knowledge gained in that very best of schools—experience. He informs us that his theatrical variety agency is growing rapidly, and that he has become a partner in Pasquier's Agency of Paris.

He has been exceedingly busy during the last fourteen days piloting around Mr. Rozenberg, director of the Apollo, Paris, and Mr. Pasquier, of the Etoile, Paris. They have visited London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Blackpool, and have booked some big attractions for the opening of the Paris season. Mr. Cliquot is also running his own combinations extensively through this country.

Mlle. Yvette Guilbert, who was engaged at the London Coliseum for this week, has been forbidden by her medical advisers from appearing in public for some weeks to come. Mlle. Celia Galley has deputised for her at the St. Martin's-lane house.

Miss Adele Levey and Mr. Charles Leverton produced at the Standard, Pimlico, on Saturday night a lively duologue entitled *Find the Lady First*. The lady in this instance is the fair Adèle herself, who plays the part of an ambitious amateur anxious to go on the stage. The entrepreneur to whom she comes discovers that she knows how to fence when she doffs her skirt, and handles the foils like an expert, and the act winds up with a burlesque of the cave scene in *The Colleen Bawn*, which was drolly played by the pair to a most appreciative house.

Mr. Fred Sinclair, of the famous comedy duo, Messrs. Sinclair and Whiteford, now starring on the Moss and Stoll tour, has just purchased the entire rights of the quick-change farcical duologue, *Joining the Company*, by Neville Lynn, originally produced with much success as a one-act play, and will place it at an early date on the halls, where the sparkling little piece should have a long and successful career.

Mr. Allen Thomas and Miss Margaret Parker, after a record tour in Australia, have returned by the Peninsular and Oriental liner Victoria. Their popularity on the ship in giving entertainments for seamen's funds, &c., was so great that the passengers presented each of them with a purse of gold. "The shops in the Bay of Biscay being closed," they were unable to buy a present for themselves.

Vasco, the mad musician, is naturally very delighted at receiving from the Earl of Lonsdale a letter, of which the following is a copy:—"14, Carlton House-terrace, Pall Mall, London, S.W., July 4, 1908.—My dear Mr. Vasco,—Many thanks for your note this morning. I can fully understand, after the violent exertions of your performance last night, that you might have missed what I wished to convey. Both His Majesty and Her Majesty were delighted with the performance, and they both thought it exceedingly clever, and the pieces into which you put feeling exceedingly pretty. Both Lady Lonsdale and myself were delighted with the performance, and think it was quite wonderful, and we are both very much indebted to you for your kindness in having come down and given such a remarkably clever and original performance. I shall be very glad to see you if you are passing by any time.—Believe me, yours truly, (Signed) Lonsdale."

Mlle. de Dio, who will be seen next week at the Hackney Empire in her mystic dances, has had the honour of performing before the Archduke Ferdinand, the Prince of Coburg, and practically the whole of the Austrian Court. A very pretty compliment was paid to her during her Vienna season.

With her husband, Mr. P. H. Boggis, and a party of friends she paid a visit to Maxim's, which is a well-known night café in Vienna. Soon after she had been seated scores of bouquets were thrown to her from all parts of the café, and in a short space of time her table was covered with beautiful flowers—so many, indeed, that she had to engage another carriage to take them to her hotel.

The news of the death of Mr. Wilfred Ashby (of the Musical Ashbys) comes to us from India through his widow, known in the profession as Lallah Ashby. The deceased gentleman, whose real name was Wilfred Clarence Byrt, suffered from abscess of the liver. An operation was tried at the General Hospital, Madras, but without success, and, much to the sorrow of his friends, he succumbed at the early age of thirty-two.

He and his talented wife first went to India in September, 1904, and were most successful in the scattered amusement houses of that vast empire, and also made hits in Burmah, Java, and the Straits Settlements. At the time of his death they had made all preparations for their return to England. Mrs. Ashby has now resumed her position with Mr. Kisto Bysack's Grand Hippodrome company, and under her professional name of Lallah Ashby is working a pretty musical act, introducing organ chimes, revolving bells, Siamese gongs, and solos on the banjo and mandoline. From Mr. Bysack she has received much consideration in her sad bereavement. Besides the widow the deceased gentleman left two boys to mourn his loss.

Mr. Ernie Myers and Miss Lily Lonsdale had been booked to appear on Monday next at the Hippodrome, Accrington, which was unfortunately burned down last week. Mr. De Frece, hearing that they were at liberty, immediately secured them for the Palace, Manchester.

Mr. B. J. Macdermott, son of the late Mr. G. H. Macdermott, who since he left the Richmond Theatre has occupied the position of assistant acting-manager at the New Cross Empire for the past eight months, is leaving to-night to commence his duties on Monday as manager at the Stratford Empire in place of Mr. T. S. Mayne, who goes to the new Tottenham Palace under Mr. Henri Gros.

With him will be Mr. Harold Nuttall, who for the past year has filled the position of assistant acting-manager at the Holloway Empire, and has been kindly released by Moss' Empires to take up his new position.

"Corkscrew," a new coster episode by William Felton, will be produced at the Paragon on July 20 by Mr. Neville Graham, who for the last two years has been touring the halls in Louis Parker's *The Man in the Street*, a character that had such a clever realisation at the hands of Jimmy Welch in the old Strand Theatre days. Miss Margaret Watson, recently on tour in the States with Mrs. Patrick Campbell, has been engaged to support Mr. Graham.

My Fancy, the graceful and fascinating dancer, will produce her big scena *Winter, Spring, and Summer* at the Oxford on Monday next.

Miss Bessie Travis wishes to thank Mr. Willmot for arranging with Mr. Mould, of Accrington, to present her next week at the Town Hall in lieu of her engagement at the Hippodrome, which was recently destroyed by fire.

Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant announce that St. George's Hall will be closed after to-day, to be reopened on Bank Holiday, Aug. 3, with a programme of new and startling mysteries and surprises.

The Spray Sisters, a couple of pretty girls, have just returned from the States after a two years' tour in the principal cities, where their beauty and ability have been heartily recognised. They are now enjoying a few weeks' rest, and have a new act in preparation.

Redford and Winchester, burlesque jugglers, who are meeting with big success at the Palace, had the honour on July 3 of appearing before their Majesties the King and Queen at the Earl of Lonsdale's, Carlton House-terrace. In spite of flattering offers, they must return to the States to play the Orpheum Circuit at the finish of the Palace engagement.

Mr. John Roach, jun., the managing-director of Ruffell's Bioscope Co., on Monday evening celebrated the happy occasion of the coming of age of his accomplished daughter, Miss Ada Gertrude Roach, by giving a dinner to about twenty friends of both sexes, chiefly connected with "Ruffell's," at Frascati's. The restaurant-manager is to be congratulated upon the quality of the dinner and Mr. Roach upon the geniality of the proceedings over which he ably presided.

After dinner the party repaired in a motor-'bus to the Royal, Holborn, where the entertainment was much appreciated. Among the guests were Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Roach, sen., Mrs. J. Roach, jun., Mr. C. Lovesey, Mr. A. W. Walker, Mr. Joe Rosenthal, Mr. W. J. Holmes, Mr. A. C. Lovesey, Mr. and Mrs. Beecham, and others.

The special matinée given by Miss Maud Allan at the Palace Theatre on Friday on behalf of the fund for the entertainment of the foreign athletes taking part in the Olympic Games was most successful. Miss Allan has now given 141 consecutive performances at the Palace Theatre, and as on every occasion the house was sold out Mr. Butt, the managing-director, believes that her engagement has created a music-hall record for London.

Mlle. Arlette Dorgere concludes a brilliant six weeks' engagement at the Alhambra to-day. So great has been her success that there is very little doubt she will in the near future pay a return visit to the Metropolis.

Mr. Charles Carlin, of Carlin and Price, well-known sketch artists, passed away on Monday at the London County Asylum, Hanwell, of which institution he had been an inmate for some time. Mr. Leoni Clarke, "the cat king," has made himself responsible for the expenses of the funeral, which will be carried out by Mr. Theophilus Dunkley to-day, when the interment takes place at the Islington Cemetery, Finchley, at 12 o'clock.

Among the curious and most interesting attractions of the Children's Garden Party given by the Queen in honour of the birthday of Princess Victoria was the Moto-Girl, who was brought on in charge of Mr. Fred Melville in the identical miniature stage-coach which was used in the *Cinderella* pantomime at Drury Lane. A George III. coachman occupied the box, two living footmen stood on the rumble behind the carriage, and the team was composed of six beautiful grey ponies of diminutive size. The "doll" was produced from a box on the roof, and the manner of her treatment and behaviour occasioned uproarious merriment.

Another favourite with Queen Alexandra's little guests was Bostock's baby elephant, Little Hip, who was taken to Buckingham Palace grounds in a furniture-van. He evoked the delight of the Royal kiddies by his accomplishment of a number of tricks, in which a sense of humour was shown, and the docile creature was much admired. He is a real dwarf among elephants, and is said to be the only "performing" African elephant in Europe. Mr. Harold Hilliard escorted him from the Hungarian Exhibition, and Professor Andree put him through his paces.

Mr. Cliff Berzac's educated and docile ponies, pretty little creatures, performed on a small and swiftly revolving table, and the antics of the unrideable donkey Kruger were very funny, causing much merriment.

The anniversary of the opening of the Empire Theatre, Sunderland, was celebrated on the night of the 1st inst. At each house Mr. Harry Esden thanked the audience for their presence and for their generous support during the past twelve months. Notwithstanding the distress in the town and surrounding districts, the result had been most satisfactory.

Mr. Richard Thornton's great aim was to make the Empire a place of amusement where a man could take his wife, his sister, his daughter, or his sweetheart and enjoy a good, healthy evening's entertainment. Whether he had succeeded or not lay with them to say, but there was one thing he might mention, and that was, he was very proud to think that during the twelve months the theatre had been open not one single complaint had been received. Mr. Esden thanked the patrons and the many friends he had made during his stay in Sunderland, and acknowledged the loyalty of the staff. His speech was much applauded.

The anniversary was made a souvenir night, the admirably printed programme containing a frontispiece portrait of Dick Thornton, managing-director, and a full-page picture of Miss Vesta Tilley, who laid the foundation-stone of the house on Sept. 29, 1906, and opened it on July 1, 1907. Other illustrations include pictures of the exterior and interior, and a portrait of Mr. Harry Esden, the resident-manager.

The annual outing of the Eastbourne Hippodrome staff took place on Sunday. The party, numbering fifty-five, journeyed to Rushlake Green in char-a-bancs. Dinner was served at the Horse and Groom, where Mr. S. W. Winter, the proprietor and manager, presided. Among those present were Mr. W. Holloway (acting manager), Mr. W. H. Ash, Miss Showler, Mr. W. A. Kingett, and others. Complimentary toasts were honoured. The weather was delightfully fine, and the outing was thoroughly enjoyed.

The permanent staff of the Hamilton Hippodrome held their first annual picnic on Sunday last, under distinctly favourable weather condition. Their destination for the day was Tinto, whither they were conveyed in a char-a-banc and brake provided by Mr. M'Kay, of the County Hotel Stables. The company, to the number of forty, left at 10 a.m., and reached Tinto's slopes about 1.30. An al fresco luncheon was then partaken of, the catering arrangements being most admirably carried out by Mrs. George Clark, Townhead Street. For the success of the outing all praise is due to Mr. Thomas Verne, the go-ahead and energetic stage-manager.

Miss Lelia Rose and her husband, Mr. E. Downes-Martin, J.P., at their beautiful home, Shrigley Hall, Killyleagh, Co. Down, gave a fête for over a thousand children on Saturday last in honour of their little daughter's third birthday. The gigantic children's party was a delightful function, the weather being glorious.

Among the entertainments provided for the youngsters were conjuring, ventriloquism, &c. By kind permission of Colonel Wallace and officers, the band of the Royal Irish Rifles assisted at intervals with some excellent selections. Much fun was caused during the afternoon by the liberating of a number of huge balloons in different droll forms—fat men, pigs, elephants, policemen, &c. Very popular were the "lucky dips" in tubs of bran, from which each child received two or three toys (of which 3,000 were provided), and the delighted kiddies also received in addition a bag of sweets, bananas, oranges, cakes, and lemonade.

Sports of various kinds were thoroughly enjoyed, money and other prizes being distributed by the fair hostess. Though the fête was given for the school children, it was fully appreciated by three or four hundred adult guests who also attended. The spacious grounds were dotted at intervals with tents and marquees, which, with the temporary stage (erected for entertainments), were all gay with bunting, while the fine old trees gave ample shade from the heat of the sun to those less energetically inclined.

A happy incident in a day of unalloyed enjoyment was a surprise presentation to Mrs. Downes-Martin of a magnificent shower bouquet, composed of pale pink carnations and lilies of the valley, tied with pink streamers, a card attached being inscribed: "Presented to Mrs. E. Downes-Martin by the teachers of Killyleagh in recognition of her kindness to the school children."

The hostess responded in a neat speech of a few words, expressing her delight and thanks for the gift. The masters of the different schools also spoke to express thanks on behalf of the children, and to wish the host and hostess and their little daughter much happiness and prosperity.

Mr. Downes-Martin said: "On behalf of my wife and self, I thank you all for the evidence of the friendly feeling the people of Killyleagh have shown to us. I also wish to thank the teachers for their great assistance and the beautiful bouquet they have so kindly presented to my wife. This fête was organised to celebrate our little daughter's birthday, but was arranged for this date to also celebrate the wedding of our neighbour Colonel Rowan Hamilton's son, which took place to-day, and I ask you to join us in wishing the bride and bridegroom every happiness and give them three cheers"—an invitation that was heartily responded to. Mr. and Mrs. Downes-Martin were then cheered, and smilingly bowed their acknowledgments amidst the greatest enthusiasm.

The Alexandra Theatre of Varieties, Pontefract, opened on Monday, is one of the best places of amusement in the country. No expense has been spared in the construction of the building, and its seating accommodation and general furnishings have been carried out on a most elaborate scale. The proprietors are determined to conduct it, under the management of Mr. Tom Diacoff, in a thoroughly respectable way, so that all classes of the people may find in it a place of healthy recreation and amusement.

Princess Trixie, the educated mare belonging to Mr. W. Harrison Barnes, appeared before the King and Queen and about 400 guests at Buckingham Palace on Monday, the 6th inst., at a children's garden party, the occasion being the anniversary of the birthday of Princess Victoria (and also of the wedding of the Prince and Princess of Wales). This is the second time Princess Trixie has been commanded to appear before their Majesties, the previous occasion being in January last year at Windsor Castle, and it speaks well for the interest taken by the Royal Family in this wonderful animal that she should be requisitioned a second time.

Princess Trixie gave intelligent evidence of her owner's tutoring which greatly interested their Majesties and their guests. One of the feats accomplished was the matching from coloured ribbons the Queen's dress, and another was spelling the uncommon name of Robin. The animal returned to the White City, Old Trafford, on Tuesday, where she is delighting large numbers of people.

The stage hands of the Alhambra had their annual outing on Sunday, their destination being Clacton-on-Sea, where Host Swann, of the Brunswick Hotel, did the party right well. After dinner the toasts of "The Directors, Managing-Director, and Manager" was proposed by the stage-manager, Mr. A. G. Forde, and responded to by Mr. A. Williams, the master-carpenter. Later the party proceeded on a trip by boat to Walton-on-the-Naze, and on the jetty the visitors held a concert for the benefit of the National Lifeboat Institution, realising quite a considerable sum. Altogether a very pleasant day for all concerned.

The outing of the Empire, Camberwell, staff will take place on Sunday. The party, numbering about sixty, will leave Waterloo at 9.46 for Windsor, then by brakes to George Hard's Monkey Island Hotel, Bray, Berks, where they will have lunch. During the afternoon there will be sports and amusements, the party returning after tea to Windsor. The managing-directors of the Empire have been assisting to make this a most enjoyable day for their employees.

A new development is announced in connection with the Brighton Palace scheme, which is being fathered by Mr. Joe Lyons and an influential syndicate. The proposal for medical and electrical baths, which are to be a feature of the undertaking, has met with such enthusiastic support from the medical profession, as shown by numerous letters to the promoters, that it has been decided to make this department still more extensive. This branch will now include brine baths, for which Droitwich is famous, and other kinds.

It had been proposed to establish some fifty different baths, but this number will be doubled. To provide the necessary space it is intended to abandon the ice-skating rink originally contemplated. The patients who will avail themselves of the hydropathic advantages will stay at hotels and boarding-houses, so that the Palace scheme promises to prove more acceptable to the proprietors of such establishments than it was in the first instance.

In days of old when friends crossed the ocean the farewell at the docks was the last each heard of the other until the mail bag brought news of safe arrival on the other side. Now the good-byes may be said at the ship's side and again when she is in mid-ocean, through the wonderful Marconi apparatus. When the s.s. Cedric recently left New York Tom Macnaughten, Mike Norris, Sam Soda, and Billie Reeves, were at the ship's side wishing "bon voyage" to James Donegan and the Dunedin Family. By the aid of the Marconi wireless telegraphy greetings were again heard when the ship was well out to sea. Mr. Donegan remarks that it was very weird to get a message from across the water, "Wish you every success and a safe journey," the message coming apparently from nowhere.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

THE latest additions to Messrs. Francis and Day's series of "sixpenny pops" are, "Come and have a drink with me" and "Fifty long years ago."

MISS ANNA HELD, who is so well remembered at the Palace Theatre, while in London recently, paid a visit to the Tivoli, and was so charmed with Miss Marie Lloyd's "Directoire Girl," by Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, that by special permission of our queen of comedy, the American "star" will introduce this number into the new Ziegfeld production now being specially written round her. It has been Americanised for Miss Held by the author, and will be issued in the States by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, by arrangement with the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.

MISS ELLA RETFORD, who has just returned from a successful provincial tour, made her reappearance at the Tivoli on Monday, when she sang that delightful and catchy song "Take me on the Flip-Flap," from the pens of those well-known writers Charles Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski, jun. The refrain was taken up immediately in every part of the house.

OWING to her great success last week at the Oxford, Miss Madge Temple has been given "star" time this week, and is delighting all listeners with her charming rendering of her two latest successes, "Esau" and "Kiss." On Monday she had to come before the curtain several times before she was allowed to retire.

MISS GRACIE GRAHAME made an instantaneous success last Monday at the Empire, Belfast, with a new song, entitled "Those eyes," written and composed by Miss Edith Findon (of the Findons).

MISS QUENNIE LEIGHTON will produce next week two songs, the joint work of A. Ellerton and A. Ellerton, jun., viz., "The passing of the petticoat" and "Baby's toys." This clever artist is still scoring heavily with another song by the same authors, entitled "A little bit of parsley."

MR. T. E. DUNVILLE will shortly produce a "territorial" song skit by Alf. Ellerton, entitled "The Battersea Terriers." There are excellent chances in this number for the favourite comedian to exploit funny burlesque business.

MISS ADELE ROSE, from the ranks of musical comedy, is about to venture on the variety stage, and has specially commissioned Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell to supply her entire répertoire. She already has two numbers from them, viz., "Girls! Beware of the shady lanes!" and "They always ask for more" in active rehearsal.

LATEST advices from America, just to hand, record the phenomenal hit made in New York by Laddie Cliff with a Scotch comedy song by Harrington and Powell, "How did ye coom to lose your troosers, John?" which this clever young artist will specially "feature" in a New York "production" in September next.

MISS DAISY JAMES, who is still making such a success with John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell's story of three Cockney girls' adventures in the gay city, entitled "As we walked on the gay Boulevards," has this week accepted from the same writers a French number, entitled "Do it if you dare!" which she will produce next week at the Palace, Camberwell.

MISS BARBARA BABINGTON has been achieving a most pronounced success at the Hippodrome, Birmingham, this week, with two of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s songs, viz., "How'd you like to float me?" by John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, and "Mr. Smith, of Aberystwyth," by Harry Castling and Fred Godfrey.

MISS GLADYS HUXLEY has just added to her répertoire a new chorus song written and composed by J. P. Long, entitled "On the Peaks of Derbyshire." This tuneful ditty promises to be one of the most popular items Miss Huxley has yet essayed.

MISS RITA RHYLL, who has been appearing during the week at the East Ham Palace, has been fitted by J. P. Long with a very catchy number, entitled "Come and canoodle in my canoe."

HORACE WHEATLEY IN DUBLIN.

THE TIVOLI.

The large audiences at both performances last evening at the Tivoli were delighted with the reappearance of that popular favourite, Horace Wheatley. He can sing a good song and tell a good story with as great success as ever. Last evening among the songs he gave "Bantry Bay," which was loudly applauded, as were his interesting reminiscences of "M'Intyre."—The Freeman's Journal, June 16, 1908.

Not a seat was vacant at the Tivoli last night, when Horace Wheatley paid a welcome return visit to the city which has witnessed so many of his successes. His appearance on the stage was the signal for an outburst of applause, which was renewed at the conclusion of each song, and reached its full height when he had rendered the favourite "Bantry Bay." His stories of M'Intyre are fresh and witty, and his dancing is as sprightly as of yore.—The Mail.

HORACE WHEATLEY IN BELFAST.

Horace Wheatley remains in good voice, and affords evidence that he can still lay claim to be one of the most famous dancers on the boards. His songs and jest are wholesome, and long ago made him little less than a local idol.—The Saturday, June 27.

THE twentieth anniversary of the Wolverhampton floral fête took place in the beautiful West Park on July 7, 8, and 9, and was attended by a vast concourse of sightseers. The programme, as heretofore, was a most liberal one. There were balloon ascents by Messrs. Spencer Bros., horse-leaping competitions, in which £124 in prizes were offered, a motor-car parade, a novelty in a balloon capture race, open to automobilists, and cycle polo matches. The Coldstream Guards, the Northumberland Hussars, and the Prize Willenhall Bands played in the park, and the beautiful and artistic firework displays by Messrs. W. and J. Wilder, of Birmingham, were much admired.

AN exceptionally good variety programme was given by the following artistes:—The Ben Mohamed Troupe of Arab acrobats in their sensational and daring display, the Banzai Troupe of hand balancers, who introduced some novel tricks; Percy Victor, whose wonderful dogs were highly popular; the Attila Brothers in gladiatorial poses and exciting feats of strength; the Four Herberts in an amusing knockabout show; Ella Zuila and Lulu in a finished performance on the high wire; the George French Troupe of trick cyclists; the Two Reays, silver chain acrobats; the Snow family, skatorial experts; the Sandows, a pair of fine athletes; and the Bros. Bailey's Punch and Judy show, which is a popular institution here.

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

As Director Glueck, of the Apollo, Düsseldorf, has declared in writing his intention of not engaging members of the International Artists' League, that body has appealed to the members of the Variety Artists' Federation and of the White Rats of America, as well as other performers, not to accept any engagements at the house named. The V.A.F. has endorsed the action of the I.A.L. by passing the following resolution: "That members (of the Variety Artists' Federation) shall under no circumstances accept any engagement at the Apollo Theatre, Düsseldorf, or at any other place of entertainment at war with the I.A.L."

THE 568th meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Railway Association was held on Wednesday, when Mr. G. H. Smythson occupied the chair. There were also present Messrs. Fred Millis, W. H. Atlas, G. B. Sinclair, James E. Donegan, Harry Blake, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. Donegan (head of the Dunedin Troupe of cyclists) made his first appearance after an absence of two and a half years in America.

THE result of the ballot for the eighteen vacancies on the committee was announced, the following gentlemen being elected: Hal Forde, Horace White, J. Atroy, Sid Bandon, T. C. Callaghan, Bert Williams, W. E. Gillin, Ben Obo, J. O'Malley, W. Brown, B. C. Jimson, Jack O'Connor, J. Rich, J. J. McNally, J. Tray, Marriott Edgar, H. Cee Mee, J. Crawley, and A. Gallimore. Mr. A. Fletcher, of the Monad Hotel, Rotherham, was appointed agent. The weekly statement showed an increase of fifteen new members and receipts of £36 11s. 6d.

THE Committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild invite all their friends and members of the profession to attend their reception on Wednesday next, 3 to 5 o'clock, at their new rooms, Albion House, 59, New Oxford-street. Please come.

THE annual general meeting of the members of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the York Hotel, York-road. Mr. Fred Karno (president) occupied the chair, and there were also present Messrs. W. J. Wainratta (vice-president), Douglas White (trustee), Frank Heath (hon. treasurer), Pat Carey, Tom Carney, H. E. High, W. Brisco, and W. West. Mr. Jesse Sparrow (trustee) was unable to attend in consequence of a domestic bereavement.

THE principal business was the appointment of officers and committee of management for the ensuing year. Mr. Pat Carey had much pleasure in proposing the election of Mr. Fred Karno as president of the Society. He did not think they could have selected a better man or one more likely to benefit the fund, which, financially, was in a very flourishing condition, the balance at the bank amounting to over £1,400. He sincerely hoped that the membership would now greatly increase. In resigning the position of president he had to thank the members for their kindness and support during his four years of office. He should, however, remain a member of this excellent Society as long as he lived.

MR. HIGH, in seconding the nomination, also testified to the excellent work done by Mr. Carey during his term of office. The resolution having been unanimously carried, Mr. Fred Karno said he was very pleased to accept the position of president, and could promise that he should do his utmost to further the interests of the Society. He hoped to be able to increase the membership.

MR. W. J. WAINRATTA was then re-elected vice-president, and Mr. Frank Heath, hon. treasurer. Other re-appointments were Mr. R. T. Baines, secretary; Mr. A. Oldrid-Clarke, hon. solicitor; Messrs. H. Jennings, Douglas White, and Jesse Sparrow, trustees; J. H. Griffin and G. F. McCarthy, hon. medical officers; and Messrs. W. Brisco and H. E. High, hon. auditors. The Committee of Management, consisting of twenty members, were also elected, and some other business having been transacted, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

THE TIVOLI.

The wordless play still comes from Paris, and the production by Mr. Joseph Wilson on Monday of the mimodrame *La Double Epouvante* (The Double Terror) adds a most interesting item to the already strong Tivoli bill. The novelty is by M. Paul Franck, who assists Mlle. Colette Origny in the representation, the story being set to music by M. Edouard Mathé. The curtain rises on the bedroom of a beautiful Parisian actress, and shows a Raffles rifling drawers and dressing-table. Disturbed by the return of the actress, he hides himself under the bed. Tired out, the actress begins to disrobe, and places her jewels in the dressing-table drawers. Then, flinging herself upon the bed, she plunges into the pages of a "yellow back." Dozing, the book falls from her hands, and, in stooping to pick it up, she catches sight of her concealed visitor. She, however, suppresses her terror, and creeps stealthily to the bell-pull, only to find that the ruffian has taken the precaution to remove it. Feigning sleep, she lies upon a couch, and, in spite of the burglar's threatening knife, with which he touches her throat, she keeps her eyes resolutely closed. Convinced of the genuineness of her slumber, he turns his attention to the dressing-table and pockets the jewellery. But while he is absorbed in ransacking the drawers the actress tip-toes across the room, and making a dash for the toilet-stand, seizes a loaded revolver, with which she holds up the intruder, who in his turn becomes terror-stricken. Before the shining muzzle of the firearm he disgorges everything, and slinks out into the night, while the overstrung woman falls fainting to the floor. M. Paul Franck as the discomfited burglar is intensely dramatic; and the beauty of Mlle. Origny is as unquestionable as her talent. The present composition of the Tivoli bill is largely Yankee. Early in the evening Mr. Leonard Fletcher, an American actor, is heard in a monologue, *At the Telephone*, which is a faint adumbration of similar business powerfully done by our Mr. Charles Warner at the Coliseum. There is considerable humour in the doings of Mooney and Holbein; and the reckless behaviour of Mr. Louis A. Simon in *The New Coachman*, produced last year at the London Pavilion, evokes shouts of laughter. The way in which Mr. Simon gets himself generally mixed up with ladders and articles of furniture is as ingenious as it is droll. Miss Grace Gardner, a pretty actress, gives him excellent support.

Miss Ella Retford has the successful song of the moment in "Take me on the flip-flap," a breezy number by Chas. Willmot and Herman Darewski, which touches lightly and cleverly on the newest sensation at the Franco-British Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush. Miss Retford also adds to her popularity by the rendering of a Chinese love song. Mr. Harry Fragson is as popular as ever in his up-to-date and well-written song on the Licensing Bill; Mr. George Robey still lectures quaintly on the domestic difficulties of Shakespeare and Anne Hathaway; Mr. Tom Dunville brings the tide of laughter to the flood by his amusing rendering of the coon milkman; Miss Gertie Gitana exhibits hereditary ability in her successful song and dance scena; Mr. Frank Leon is a wonderful dancer; much favour is rightly extended to King and Benson, refined comedians; and other turns include Queenie Essex, Nancy Thornton, and Addie Dorina.

MR. MAURICE FAIVA, the youngest hustler in the variety profession, informs us that his director, Mr. B. Willis, is next week sending him on tour through France, to find big novelties.

AN INTERESTING WEDDING.

The marriage of Miss Lottie Wright (known professionally as Miss Peggy Fame), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wright (Miss Nellie Gannon), to Mr. Ben Whiteley (of the Five Whiteleys), at Christ Church, Brixton-road, S.W., on Sunday last, evoked considerable interest, not only among the relatives of the young couple, but among the profession generally, which holds in high respect and esteem the families of the contracting parties. The father and mother of the bride for the last thirty years have been on the boards, either as single performers or in comic sketches; and Mr. Ben Whiteley, the bridegroom, was, figuratively speaking, born in the business, being closely related by marriage and lineage to two of the oldest acrobatic and gymnastic families of the present and past centuries — the Gregorys and the Delevantis. The bride made her first appearance on the variety stage in an operatic toe solo, with Mr. John Leopold's pantomime company, appearing later in conjunction with her sister Gertrude as the Sisters Pacey, afterwards as the Two Stars. At the dissolution of partnership, Lottie became Miss Peggie Fame, under which name she has appeared at all the principal halls in Great Britain.

The ceremony at the church was fixed for 1.15, and precisely at that time the bride was escorted up the aisle by her father, Mr. Harry Wright. The bride wore a cream-coloured silk dress, with over-robe and long train of real old Irish lace. A bridal veil of rich Maltese was crowned with orange blossoms, fastened by a diamond star (the present of her father and mother), and she carried a large bouquet of arum lilies, camelias, lilies of the valley, and pink de Gloire roses. She was attended by four bridesmaids, viz., Miss Sidonia Whiteley, Miss Gertrude Victoria Wright (her sister), Miss Ida Katrina, and Miss Lily Cleveland. They wore Empire dresses of white chiffon, trimmed with white lace and pink roses and embellished with large pink sashes. White lace Victoria hats showered with pink and white roses gave the finishing touches to pretty costumes. Each carried a shower bouquet and wore a jewelled tortoise-shell comb, the gift of the bridegroom. Mr. Harry Whiteley acted as best man, and superintended most ably the marshalling of the carriages for the conveyance to and from the church of the friends and relatives of the bride and bridegroom.

Among those who accepted invitations to the wedding breakfast (at 89, Vassall-road), which was most daintily prepared by the bridegroom's mother, were Mrs. Whiteley, Mrs. Ellen Whiteley, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Whiteley, Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Whiteley (brothers and sisters of the bridegroom), Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Wright (brother of the bride), Mr. Fred Phillipi, Mr. W. Voldani, Mr. Chris Voldani, Mr. William Matthews, Mr. Eric Whiteley, the four bridesmaids, Mrs. Madeline Delbosq, Mrs. A. Delbosq, Mr. and Mrs. Cleveland, Mr. Harry Lester (representing the Terriers' Association, to which fraternity both the bride's father and the bridegroom belong), Mr. W. Delevanti, Mr. Willie Cleveland, and Misses Ellen and Henrietta Delbosq, with Masters Harry, Benny, and Harold Whiteley, Harry Wright, and Alfred Delbosq (nephews and nieces of the bride).

The above-named were all at the church, where we also noticed Mr. Harry de Frece (father of Mr. Walter de Frece), Mr. and Mrs. Fred Neiman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Wyman and daughter, Mrs. I. Doyle and family, Miss Carrie Joy, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Budden, Atlas and Vulcana, Mr. W. T. Harvey (Press Association), Mr. Johnny Alexander, Mrs. G. Smythson and daughter. After the breakfast, Mr. Harry Wright read thirty-six telegrams of congratulation from all parts of the country, the first telegram opened being from Mr. Harvey (Press Association), and the last from Mr. and Mrs. Joe Elvin.

Presents were received from the following, among others too numerous to mention:—Bridegroom to bride, massive diamond earrings; bride to bridegroom, ring; Mrs. Whiteley (mother) to bridegroom, a very antique gold chain; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Whiteley, silver spoons and serviette rings; Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Whiteley, diamond locket and travelling hat case; Mr. T. W Wright and wife (to bride) silver brushes and comb in case, (to bridegroom) silver mounted morocco cigar case; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wright (to bridegroom) silver-mounted dressing-case, (to bride) silver card-case, diamond inlaid; the Terriers, silver hand mirror, &c.; Mr. and Mrs. A. Wright (Films, Limited), silver card case; Miss Ida Katrina, silver photo frames; Aunty Edgersley, case of gloves; Mrs. Whiteley to bride, a unique travelling clock; Mrs. Delbosq, handsome embroidered cloths (Oriental); Mrs. Madeline Delbosq, silver serviette rings; and Miss Lily Cleveland, case of handkerchiefs, &c.

Amid the heartiest of congratulations and showered with confetti, the young couple started for the Continent on Sunday night to spend their honeymoon.

IN the Empire revue, *Oh! Indeed*, now nearing the end of its run, Mr. Farren Soutar appears in a scene in which a number of ladies, wearing huge bird-crowned hats, take their places in an imaginary theatre and obstruct the view of those sitting behind. Mr. Soutar gets a gun and frightens the birds, which rise and fly away.

ONE evening last week a gentleman in the audience who had been sitting behind such a hat, and who had vainly tried to get it removed, suddenly rose in his place and called out, "Will Mr. Soutar kindly turn his gun this way?" The hat, it is said, was promptly taken off.

OPENING OF GORLESTON PALACE.

(BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A notable addition to the various places of entertainment on the East Coast is the opening of the Palace at Gorleston, and in this connection Mr. Geo. Gilbert, proprietor of the Lowestoft and Yarmouth Hippodromes, has displayed commendable enterprise. Thanks to Mr. Gilbert's energies, coupled with excellent catering in accordance with the popular local taste, the "variety business" has "caught on" during the past few years both at Lowestoft and Yarmouth, and the opening of the Lowestoft Hippodrome—the largest place of entertainment in the town—has now been followed by Gorleston's new Palace of Varieties, for which a successful season is confidently predicted. The full seating accommodation of the new building is about one thousand, and the comfort of the audience has been carefully studied in every particular. New and elaborate scenery and effects have been specially furnished by Bull, of London, and the stage appointments leave nothing to be desired.

To meet with present-day requirements, a sliding roof has been constructed, so as to render the whole building delightfully cool. From the terraces patrons are enabled to witness a grand maritime view, and during the summer evenings, when these are thrown open as smoking lounges and promenades, they will undoubtedly provide a popular resort for visitors and others. The sloping floor will also be much appreciated by Mr. Gilbert's clientèle, thus giving a clear and uninterrupted view of the stage. The front portion of the house is provided with handsome fauteuils, upholstered in peacock blue velvet, surrounded by gold frames; the second seats are of padded plush; while the pit is furnished with the comfortable chairs.

The gallery patrons have also been provided for with every consideration. The colouring scheme is pleasing and effective, the light green of the walls contrasting well with the stage fittings and general upholstering. The electric installation comprises ten three-light fittings of 150 candle power each, two electric stage projectors, two flare arc lights, an electric flooding arc of 1,500 candle power, and twenty-four metallic filament Tantalum lamps for stage purposes. Emergency gas fittings have also been judiciously arranged, so that altogether the auditorium will be brilliantly lighted. A fire-proof cinematograph box has been erected in the gallery for presenting all the latest and best pictorial subjects of the day, and no pains have been spared to guard against accidents of any kind. The entertainment to be presented by Mr. Gilbert will consist of the best variety turns that can be judiciously blended with an up-to-date exhibition of animated subjects. Upon his latest enterprise Mr. Gilbert is to be warmly commended, and for the Gorleston Palace a long and successful future is practically assured.

The opening took place on Monday, when there was a large and delighted audience to welcome the initial programme, which was one of all-round excellence. Parke's Eton Boys and Girton Girls gave a capital musical entertainment, and Ruby Dahl gave a clever exposition of her "merry mannikins." Marlow and Manton appeared to advantage in a clever sketch, and Miss Helen Russel (soprano) rendered several pleasing vocal numbers. The display of animated subjects was a popular feature of the programme.

Photo by Charles and Russell. MISS LOTTIE WRIGHT. *Photo by F. Bustin.* MR. BEN WHITELEY.

THE ALHAMBRA.

It is somewhat strange, perhaps, that at the Alhambra we seldom see an English comic singer; French, American, and German have been seen on the stage of this international variety house, but the English comique is a rarity. It is some years since Arthur Roberts sang there "I'm a highly respectable singer," with burlesque imitations of the stars of the day; and we remember Mr. James Fawn. The latest comedian is German—Mr. Robert Steidl, who is also a cosmopolitan—and he has been designated the Arthur Roberts of the German stage, though he disclaims any such title. He writes all his own songs, and he can sing them in English. He has also made a study of our audiences, and after hearing him one can say with perfect truth that he completely understands them. He commenced his turn on Monday with a droll German song, and then went on to burlesque a French military band. He recounts, too, in quaint English the troubles of Poor Old Schmidt. He is clever in his imitations of an English family off to Richmond in a motor-boat, and his funny selection on the 'cello excites loud laughter. He ventures quite successfully on a popular Continental number, "Just along the wall," and a bit of humour that immensely tickled the audience on Monday was when he twisted a serviette into a rough but exceedingly vivid image of a dancing-girl and made it kick in the fashion invented years since by Miss Lottie Collins, when she made such a hit in "Tara-ra-boom-de-ay." He held the stage for a long time on Monday, but not a moment too long. Of the other features of Mr. George Scott's delightful programme we have already written. The pretty divertissement *The Two Flags* pursues its successful course, being applauded to the echo nightly by audiences that are nothing if not cosmopolitan in their tastes. Pretty Arlette Dorgère is in her last week; but La Belle Leonora is prolonging her engagement in the successful skit *Sal-oh-My!* The singing of L'Incognita is creating a sensation nightly, and here Mr. George Byng's orchestra may be praised for their excellent accompaniment. The heartiest enjoyment is also to be derived from the excellent pictures projected on the screen by the Charles Urban Company, and other turns include the Permane Bros., Francis Marty, and Les Niards.

"THE BELLE OF ANDALUSIA."

Spectacular Ballet Extravaganza, in Three Scenes; libretto lyrics by G. R. Sims and Charles Fletcher; music by Herman Finck. The whole invented and arranged by J. R. Huddlestone and John Tiller. Produced at the Winter Gardens Pavilion, Blackpool, on Monday, July 6.

Bomboso	MR. A. E. WILSON
Lola	MISS ADELA CRISPIN
Don Pepito	MISS JESSIE TEMPLETON
Gardito	MR. CHRIS BAKER
Tina	MR. TOM CONWAY
Carmen	MISS MADGE CAMPBELL
Don Rodrigo de Silva	MR. AUGUSTUS WHEATMAN
Ramon	MISS ADA DAVIDSON
Fra Ambroso	MR. FRED RUSSELL
Pedro	MR. BRAME
Pancho	MR. MAITLAND
Pilar	MISS ROSIE CAMPBELL
Camilla	MISS ALICE DONALDSON
Francesco	MR. GEORGE MALPERT
Inan	MR. A. E. DRUMMOND
Concha	SIGNORITA ENRICHETTA PAPUCCI
Manold	MLLE. ADELINA DELINY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The production of the Winter Gardens ballet is an annual event of considerable importance, and the question is always raised, "Will it be equal to last year—which was by far the best of the long series?" However, there is only one answer to that question now, and it is in the affirmative. The ballet of 1908 surpasses all previous productions in grandeur and humour, and is, without doubt, destined for a long run.

The scene is laid in the City of Granada, near the Sierra Nevada, in the ancient Spanish province of Andalusia. It is evening, and the people are amusing themselves after their day's work is done. The King and Queen of the gipsies are present, along with their numerous followers, and there is also a procession of Estudiantinas. As the story unfolds itself we find that Bomboso, Captain of the Contrabandistas, has made himself such a nuisance that the Government have put a price on his head, and have sent Capt. Don Pepito to capture him. Driven from his mountain fastness, Bomboso flies into the town of Granada. He enters the town at night, and meets a lover who is serenading his latest flame, the gipsy Carmen. The troops following close on the heels of Bomboso seize Rodrigo by mistake, and carry him off to prison, where he spends the night. Carmen lodges in the house of one Gardito, a baker, who is completely under the thumb of his wife, Tina. Gardito is disturbed, and comes into the street. He is immediately seized by Bomboso, who demands to be safely hidden till the hue and cry is over. Gardito being a timid man, is terrified, and consents to conceal Bomboso. News is sent to Don Pepito that Bomboso is captured, and he enters the town in the morning with the rest of the troops. The news has also reached Lola, Bomboso's daughter, who seeks Don Pepito and begs for her father's life. Don Pepito says that duty must be done, and orders the prisoner to be brought before him. Rodrigo is produced, and immediately recognised by Don Pepito. Rodrigo is naturally furious, blames Don Pepito, and says that unless the brigand is captured within forty-eight hours he shall be degraded from his rank and dismissed the army. Lola, who has made a great impression on Don Pepito's susceptible heart, tries to persuade him to give up the search; but he is obdurate, and they part, as enemies, though wishing ardently to be friends. In the meantime Bomboso has been making himself comfortable at Gardito's expense. He sends Gardito out of the town disguised in Rodrigo's cloak, with a message to the bandits. Gardito is arrested trying to leave the town, and brought before Don Pepito. Things look bad for him, but Carmen declares he is Morena, the celebrated matador, who is expected to appear at the next bullfight. All the townspeople hail the great matador.

Scene 2 is the patio of a posada on the outskirts of Granada. This posada, or inn, is the meeting-place of the Contrabandisti, and Bomboso comes to consult with members of his band. We see them taking their ease, entertained by dancing girls and musicians. Gardito, posing as Morena, the matador, becomes the idol of all the girls, who make a great fuss of him. Tina is furiously jealous, and Bomboso and his friends make things lively for Gardito. Don Rodrigo, having his doubts about the supposed Morena, arranges to make him prove his identity by showing his skill in an impromptu bullfight.

Scene 3 brings us to the Gardens of the Governor's Palace, where Gardito is made to fight the bull. After being chased and teased, he becomes desperate and attacks the bull with fury. The bull turns tail, and Gardito attacks his enemy Bomboso, overcomes him, and hands him over to the soldiers. He then settles with his wife, and compels her to obey him. Bomboso, being taken, expects to be shot, and Lola finally refuses Pepito's addresses; but a singular fact comes to light which enables Lola and Pepito to marry, and causes Rodrigo to make Bomboso his chief of police. The scene closes with a grand ballet of Toreadors, an Acacia Ballet, and a gorgeous illumination of the Gardens, altogether too magnificent for word-painting.

Everyone concerned in the production is to be congratulated. The costumes are really gorgeous, and are by Alias, of London, and Pascaud, of Paris, made from designs by Comelli and Minon. The wonderful floral effects are created expressly for this ballet by Javey et Cié, of Paris.

The artists, without exception, are all good. Miss Crispin as Lola, Mr. Wilson as Bomboso, Mr. Wheatman as the Governor, Miss Campbell as Carmen, Miss Jessie Templeton as Captain of the Guards, Mr. Tom Conway as Tina, and Mr. Chris Baker as Gardito deserving special mention; whilst the dancing contributed by Signorina Papucci and Mlle. Adelina Delina is something to marvel at.

"A BABY'S SHOE."

A Dramatic Episode, produced at the Bedford on Monday, July 6.

Jim Harrison	GEORGE LANGDON
Dick Desmond	FRANK CORTLAND
Nina	ADA ROSCOE

This short sketch, which was staged on Monday evening last at the Bedford, is a well-written and dramatic little play. It takes its title from the fact that the whole story revolves round a little baby's shoe. The scene is laid in a house in St. John's Wood, where Nina Harrison, who has left her husband some years before, is living a dissolute life under the alias of Madame Raymond. Jim Harrison, a thief by profession, incidentally comes to rob the house, where valuable jewels are known to be. Jim finds it is his own wife he is robbing; but that does not matter to him, for he is desperate. He breaks open the jewel case, there to discover a baby's shoe, and brings out its fellow from his own pocket. Nina is overjoyed at knowing that he had not forgotten their child, which had died. At this moment the police enter to arrest Jim for burglary; but Nina relents towards him, and tells them Jim is there at her invitation. After a short scene, which is most pathetic, Jim goes out and leaves Nina for ever. It is undoubtedly an interesting story and strikingly presented. Miss Ada Roscoe gives a fine delineation of Nina, while Mr. George Langdon plays the part of Jim with considerable force, and they receive good support from Mr. Frank Copeland.

"FIND THE LADY FIRST," successfully produced at the Standard, Pimlico, last Saturday, will be given to-day (Saturday), about 4 o'clock, at the London Music Hall, Shoreditch, E., by Adèle Levey and Charles Leverton.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

12,926.—Harry Reynolds, of Upper Sackville Street, Dublin. Circling the circle.

12,972.—Friedrich Gustav Wilhelm, Heinrich Dulfer, and Theodor Drubel, of London. Improvements in toboggans.

13,027.—Arcade Mallet, of London. Improvements in obturators for cinematographic apparatus.

13,030.—Robert Haylock Owen, of Westminster, London. Device to facilitate the throwing or accelerate the flight of boomerangs and the like.

13,240.—Robert Haylock Owen, of Westminster, London. Improvements in or connected with boomerangs and in apparatus for throwing the same.

13,470.—Herbert John Haddan, of London. Improvements in moving picture machines (Edengraph Manufacturing Company, United States).

13,603.—Edwin Alfred Showell, of Birmingham. Improvements in, or connected with, panic or emergency door push bars and latches.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

19,713.—Greenbaum. Indicating apparatus for synchronously running cinematographs and talking machines.

22,805.—Mackay and Butcher. Easy chairs, theatre seats, and ordinary upholstered chairs.

1968.—Hare. Kaleidoscopes.

6735.—Baker. Musical drums.

11,023.—Tacon. Means for producing optical effects in connection with coloured, pictorial, or printed matter.

14,866.—Wanner. Target holders.

15,048.—Hicks. Illusion amusement device.

15,319.—Reid. Rifle targets.

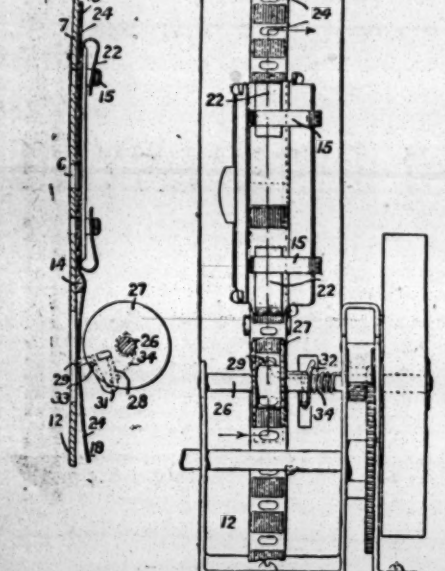
5336.—Lleo, Audouard, and Baraday. Cinematographic and photographic apparatus.

SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

13,027.—Mallet. Obturators for cinematographic apparatus.

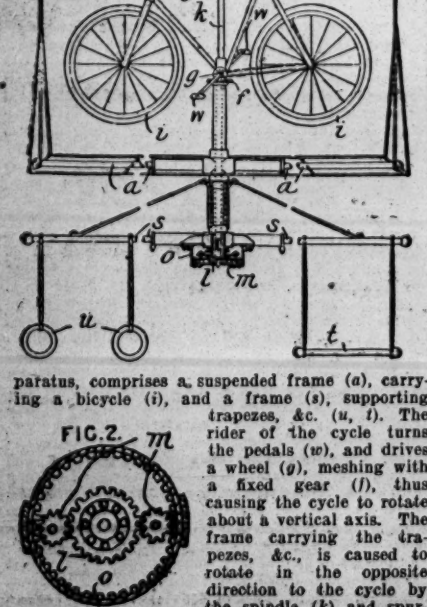
ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

3119.—Kinematographs. Rector, E. J., of New York, U.S.A. Related to a rotary feed-device for kinematograph films in which the engaging finger is moved at right-angles to the path of the film to disengage the finger from the same. The film is guided along a frame (12), mounted on a base (1), provided with an opening (6) for projection purposes. The film passes beneath a plate formed with spring ends (22), engaging with lugs (15) on the plate (7). A lower opening is cut out to allow the proper operation of the rotary feed-device, and above this opening is secured a deflector (14), to facilitate the engagement of the finger with the perforations (24) of the film (18). The

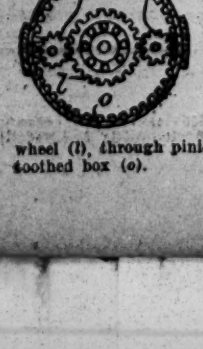


rotary feed is carried by a pair of discs (27) mounted on a shaft (26), journaled in the frame (12), and comprises a wire (28), bent into two U-shaped members, the planes of which are approximately at right-angles. The wire is normally pressed against a bar (33) by a spring (34), tied to the member (31) and the shaft (26). In operating the device, the shaft (26) is driven by suitable gearing from a hand-crank, and the finger (29) engages with a hole in the film (18), to feed the same forward until one end (32) is arrested by a fixed stop on the plate (7). The finger (29) is thus withdrawn horizontally from the slot in the film, and when the end (32) slips off the stop, the spring (34) returns the finger (29) to its normal position. The apparatus may be used without a shutter.

3347.—Acrobatic apparatus. Jones, J. W., of Berlin, Germany. An exercising or acrobatic ap-



paratus, comprises a suspended frame (*a*), carrying a bicycle (*i*), and a frame (*s*), supporting trapezes, &c. (*u*, *t*). The rider of the cycle turns the pedals (*w*), and drives a wheel (*g*), meshing with a fixed gear (*f*), thus causing the cycle to rotate about a vertical axis. The frame carrying the trapezes, &c., is caused to rotate in the opposite direction to the cycle by the spindle (*k*) and spur-wheel (*l*), through pinions (*m*), and an internally-toothed box (*o*).



MORTIMER *v.* O'GORMAN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—As you gave such a full report of the proceedings at Bow-street, I rely on your fairness to allow me the following comments. I have been advised by many friends to appeal against the monstrous decision given by Mr. Curtis Bennett in my recent action against Mr. O'Gorman for assault.

After due consideration, I have decided to let "Black Justice" stand—accept the judgment as another temporary reverse, and go on with the game. I am bound over to keep that which I have never broken—the "peace." As I am not likely to break it, it really does not matter very much, but naturally I resent the stigma it has placed against my name.

I have been afforded considerable amusement and no little gratification on reading the important announcement in the organ of the Federation—under Mortimer v. O'Gorman—that the V.A.F. has scored "another victory." Two thousand five hundred members of the Federation, the Vaudeville Club, the Water Rats, and Mr. Curtis Bennett—I had almost forgotten Mr. Doughty—have scored "another victory" over the one man who has dared to face them alone The battle of Waterloo shall no longer be mentioned in our history—the battle of Bow-street is supreme!

I thank you all for the unconscious compliment you pay to my might. Perhaps it will not be out of place to recall a victory or two scored by me in the past.

When I sacrificed Mr. O'Gorman's friendly pat on the back, the patronising handshake of Mr. Clemart, and the welcome grip of one in whom I held much faith, Wal Pink, and dared to lead the independent candidates, Mr. O'Gorman volunteered the delightful intelligence I should be completely smashed! I was elected.

They told me I was not. I pressed the point—then they told me that I was.

By the way, a few of those "independent candidates" who shouted "Hooray!" so loudly outside Bow-street still owe me their election expenses. Possibly they are too independent now to pay them? Again, when I attended the A.M.U., and defended the good name of the Federation in general and the chairman in particular against the powerful attack prepared by Mr. Williams, Mr. O'Gorman denounced me as a traitor for my pains. After fighting for over half an hour to be heard at the Empire, Camberwell, meeting, he withdrew this charge against me.

After my election the V.A.F. chairman passionately remarked, "If Leonard Mortimer is allowed to enter this committee-room, gentlemen, by so-and-so I walk out." He didn't. He welcomed me in! Regarding my adjourned action naturally I make no comment. Mr. Doughty sneeringly informed me I had been beaten again; but as I understand Judge Woodfall has to decide this matter, I feel sure the former gentleman will allow me to wait the learned Judge's decision. If the day should go against me I shall take my beating like a man, and I hasten to assure all my well-wishers and otherwise I shall shed no tears in court.

I suppose a few of the members of the Federation can remember Mr. O'Gorman's opinion of me during the late dispute. If not, may I remind them:—"Leonard Mortimer is our worker *par excellence*." I won't answer for the French, but I will stand by the statement. You were in trouble then, my gentle bleating lambs, and you wanted men of courage to come out in the open, sacrificing their positions in the music-hall world—even against their own convictions—but in peace? Mr. Coborn, sing that little song again, "Oh! what an alteration!" Of course you know your chairman's opinion of me now—"Blackleg"!

In conclusion, let me assure you—with a clean mind, clean hands, and a tongue as clean and truthful as on the day I gave my evidence at Bow-street—I shall stand before my lonely wicket and play "cricket" to the end.—Yours faithfully,

LEONARD MORTIMER.

"A FRIEND IN NEED."

A Comedy Sketch, by Richard Purdon, produced at Sadler's Wells Theatre on Monday, July 6.

We all know that, according to Mr. George Bernard Shaw, such an entity as "the typical Irishman" does not exist; but those of us—and our number is legion—who have so far failed to reach the heights of Shavian sublimation are quite content to accept Mr. Richard Purdon's humorous portrayal of the eccentricities which are supposed to be inherent in the sons of Erin. The little sketch, *A Friend in Need*, does not aim at the inculcation of any high or philanthropic principles, but merely provides a brief interlude of harmless mirth, eminently suited to the thermometrical readings which it has been the lot of the Meteorological Office to record of late. Mr. Patrick Hogan, on a visit to London, has along with him the usual retainer to be found in the suite of a Milesian wanderer. Resident in a boarding-house, Mr. Hogan, although certainly old enough to know better, falls a victim to the wiles of the charming proprietress, who is, of course, a widow. After indulging in the festive scenes of the metropolis, including the Chamber of Horrors, Mr. Hogan and his friend return to their boarding-house. Here there is a little humorous love-making, and an arrangement to settle the matter for weal or for woe and then retire for the night. A bottle of whisky proves, however, a source of insomnia to the friend (Mr. Murphy), and it is only after various manœuvres that Mr. Hogan can get his friend to testify to his somnolence in a fashion likely to be audible to the neighbourhood. Then Mr. Hogan proves the friend in need. Like Brother Pelican, he watches over the weakling's tendency towards the bottle, but when he is assured that Nature's sweet restorer reigns supreme, he consoles himself with a modest quencher. To make odd numbers even, and to drink his friend's health, are but steps in the rapid consumption of the contents of the bottle, and the inevitable result is that Mr. Hogan retires to his couch with his feet in the position in which most people place their heads. The awakening of Mr. Murphy seems at first likely to lead to disturbances, but the timely appearance of the fascinating widow reconciles the disputants, and an adjournment is made to a belated supper. There is, of course, not much in this which could be called plot, but it affords Mr. Purdon an ample opportunity of displaying his thorough command of what the audience seemed prepared to accept as the proper conduct of a witty, amorous Irishman. Mr. Purdon is well supported by the lady who plays the part of the fascinating widow, and the gentleman who represents his countryman from the other side of the Channel.

DR. WALFORD BODIE, the famous bloodless surgeon, is drawing record houses this week at the Theatre Royal, West Stanley, with his cures and variety company. A fine programme includes Bella Skene, soubrette; the Bongor Trio, international dancers; Signor Bandoni, the one-man band; T. Goron, comedian and dancer; Dolly Robson, the child wonder, vocalist and dancer; Bros. Baxter, Scottish comedians; Francisco, society juggler; and Dr. Bodie, with his great electrical scene, introducing his new sensation, Bodie force.

COPY OF TESTIMONIAL.—To the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Co. Prince of Wales' Theatre, June 17, 1908.—Dear Mr. Harris,—A line to thank you very much for the excellent way you have dyed my frock. I think it is wonderful, because unless I had known I should never have believed the material had been dyed, as it has retained its substance and lustre so well.—With compliments, Yours truly, ISABEL JAY.—[ADVT.]

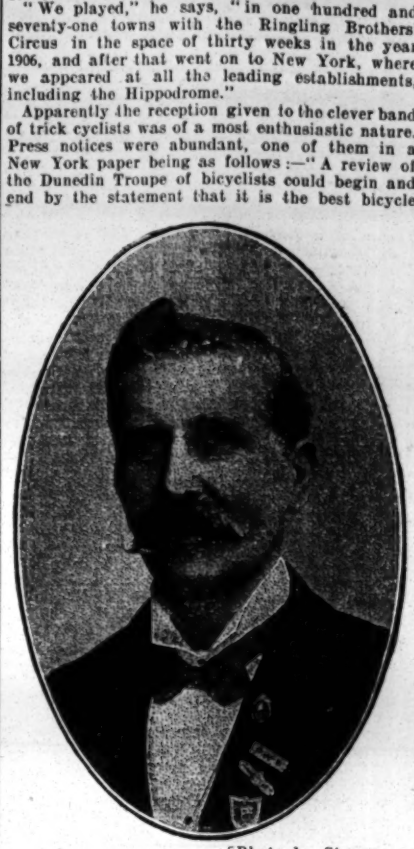
THE DUNEDIN TROUPE.

CHAT WITH MR. JAMES E. DONEGAN.

The famous Dunedin Troupe of bicyclists have just returned from a two and a half years' American tour, and are now engaged on the Stoll tour. Mr. James E. Donegan, the manager and trainer of the troupe for the past twenty-five years, and who is a well-known Australian sportsman, has a little to say concerning the travels of his small party.

"We played," he says, "in one hundred and seventy-one towns with the Ringling Brothers' Circus in the space of thirty weeks in the year 1906, and after that went on to New York, where we appeared at all the leading establishments, including the Hippodrome."

Apparently the reception given to the clever band of trick cyclists was of a most enthusiastic nature. Press notices were abundant, one of them in a New York paper being as follows:—"A review of the Dunedin Troupe of bicyclists could begin and end by the statement that it is the best bicycle



[*Photo by Simmons.*

MR. JAMES E. DONEGAN.

act in the show business. That it is. The team riding commences where all others leave off, and the troupe contains a boy who stands far above all other riders for straight fancy work. This young man does two complete whirls around the handle-bars while in motion before alighting upon the seat. It has been done by others, but with one whirl only. He also rides a 'quad' upon one wheel, and there is not the least bit of riding throughout done on the two wheels, either by the boys or the girls. There are two of each. The young women are riders, dancers, singers, and are doing something all the time to keep the stage alive. Both are excellent acrobats in addition. Besides the bicycle riding on the stage, there is balancing on a tight wire by one boy and one girl seated on machines. Even the music is good.

After leaving the American capital, there were appearances in Chicago, Los Angeles, Salt Lake City, Cincinnati, Boston, Philadelphia, and many other towns. "We then proceeded," continues Mr. Donegan, "to Canada, performing in, among other places, Ottawa, Montreal, and Toronto, and we eventually returned to England by the s.s. Cedric, which left New York on June 18.

"I must tell you that I was treated very well in the States, and our tour was most successful. Fortunately, there were no accidents, but, of course, several very narrow squeaks. The Americans are first-rate judges of good acts, and they like anything that is really clever. Their enthusiasm is most encouraging. I have travelled all over the world, and I find that America is one of the best countries I was ever in. You see, there are so many opportunities for everybody with ability, especially young men."

Mr. Donegan proudly boasts that he now takes round with him a couple of his grandchildren, who are keen bicyclists. And this in spite of the fact that their grandsire is only fifty-four years of age!

"THE GEM," GREAT YARMOUTH.

At eleven o'clock last Saturday the new place of amusement on the Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth, concerning which there has been so much speculation during the past few months, was opened to the public. The lessees are the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd., and their intention is to run living pictures, which are to be continuously on view from the time the building is open until it closes at about eleven o'clock at night. "The Gem" (the style of the new building) is situated on the west side of the Marine Parade, just beyond St. Peter's-road. It has a very ornate elevation in the Renaissance style of architecture. There are two towers on either side of the main entrance, each surmounted by a cupola, and the entrance is decidedly handsome, with its marble mosaic pavement and enriched plaster ceilings. The hall in which the entertainments will be given is 140ft. long by a width of 42ft. There are no stage fittings, the sheet required for the entertainment being shaped to fill the end of the hall. Mr. A. S. Hewitt, A.R.I.B.A., is the architect, and he has certainly designed a building that will be an ornament to this part of the Drive. Mr. W. Harman is the building contractor, and there are several sub-contractors for various work. The electric lighting, both inside and out, has been done at a very large cost, and has been entrusted to Mr. Arnold D. Pank, M.I.H.V.E.

The front of the building is brilliantly illuminated with 1,500 small electric lamps, outlining the whole building. On the domes the illumination is so arranged as to be seen from a great distance, 300 lamps being used on the domes alone. The large lamps at the top are arranged with reflectors, and each lamp is of 144-candle power. The main hall is lighted with twenty-eight 100-candle-power lamps, with aluminium reflecting shades. The main switch is a fine piece of electrical engineering work, and is well worth seeing by anyone interested in electric lighting. All lamps and material are of English manufacture, and the entire installation does credit to Mr. Pank and his staff. There will be seating accommodation in the centre of the hall for 1,200 persons, Dean's tip-up chairs upholstered in red plush being available to patrons. On either side and at the back will be spacious promenades, with a floor covering of red felt. A novelty will be the introduction of the aerophone, which is said to give off the tones of the natural voice from the records used. Amongst the specialities in this respect will be solos by Caruso, Melba, Tetrazzini, and selections by the best military bands. Mr. C. B. Cochran, one of the directors, is in charge of the Yarmouth Amusement Centre's enterprise, and promises first-class entertainments to the public.

Some excellent pictures were shown on the opening day, among the best being "Epsom on Derby Day," depicting the incidents of the road, the course, and race. Large audiences were the rule throughout the first day.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

POND LIFE.—This is a series of intense general interest, and of great scientific and educational importance. By means of the Urban Micro-kinematograph system, the creatures of this fascinating series are seen alive, in their different stages and transformations from larvæ to full-grown insects, moving, swimming, crawling, and jumping amid their natural surroundings. Tremendously magnified, the extraordinary organisms are presented with absolute scientific accuracy in a full series of great general interest and educational worth. The life-story of the frog from the tadpole stage may be read in animated pictures, with valuable examples of the circulation of blood in its webbed feet. The newt, also, from baby to great triton stage is depicted. Terrific combats between water-fleas are shown, and so excited do the combatants become that the beating of their little hearts may be observed. Beautiful and wonderful pond hydra are to be seen in constant motion, as are water beetles in the pugnacious larval stage, and in their subsequent land and water existence. Caddis larvæ, water spiders, the cypris, the dragon-fly, worms of sorts, and crayfish all help to form a sum of marvel, beauty, and scientific worth in this carefully-prepared and produced series such as never before has been attempted.

OUR FARMYARD FRIENDS.—The pictures here described are unique, in that each subject illustrates not only a class, but the very best specimen or specimens of that class, rare or common. While the pictures represent the work of years of collection in various countries, interest chiefly centres in those of the competitors and prize-winners secured at the leading shows of Great Britain and other countries. Almost every domestic animal finds place in one or other of the series, and some of the pictures supply a fund of quaintness and humour which render them instructive by reason of these very qualities. Unusual and excited episodes, too, are furnished in a degree impossible to describe by any other means, as in the views of vast herds of South American cattle, the Chillingham wild cattle, shepherding on stilts in the Llandes, wild goats in their mountain fastnesses, &c. Selected with great discrimination from miles of film, each series forms a model lesson in the natural history of domestic animals and pets such as never before has been published in pictorial or any other form, and the scenes presented will live in the memory of the most inattentive scholar long after the written word has been forgotten by the more studious.

THE RAG-PICKER'S WEDDING.—Few pictures of life amongst the "submerged tenth" can compare with this series in versimilitude, originality, of conception, realistic setting, and perfect enactment. The love affairs of a couple of rag-pickers are faithfully presented, and underlying the scenes of humour are episodes of requited love, happiness amid squalor, and rejoicing under conditions never experienced by the respectable citizen, which lend glamour and romance even to scenes of lawlessnss.

Pathé Frères.

THE BLUE BIRD gives us a pleasing fairy story, which may be thus told:—A wicked queen has two daughters—one ugly and one pretty. The ugly one is the daughter of her first husband, and on her she spends all her love and affection, whilst illtreating the younger and beautiful daughter, the child of her second husband, the reigning king. One day Prince Charming comes along with his suite and presents the game which he has shot that day to the king. The king introduces his two daughters. The prince instantly falls in love with the pretty one. The wicked queen is mad when she hears the prince has proposed for the hand of the younger daughter, and locks her up. The prince makes up his mind to carry her off from her persecutrix. The queen discovers the plot, and when he comes, puts into his arms the ugly daughter, who is hidden in a long veil. A fairy flame carries them off to the fairies' palace, but at the moment of signing the wedding contract the prince discovers the trick, and sends princess off in company with the fairies. The magicians gather round him and turn him into a beautiful bird. Disguised like this the young man enters the window of his beloved; but the queen sends out her archers, and the poor bird falls under their arrows. The Wizard Merlin, however, who has been guarding the prince all this time, appears on the scene, changes him into his own form again, and he marries the young princess with great pomp and splendour.

AN INVOLUNTARY FARMAN.—The young cyclist of a well-known firm is entrusted with the delivery of several cases of goods to rich customers. He piles the boxes on his back and starts at full speed. A wicked wind blows into the cardboard cases, which, acting as an aeroplane, lift the boy up in the air. To the amazement of onlookers he goes over the city, the panorama of which passes before his bewildered eyes, until, the wind ceasing, his apparatus pulls down chimneys and roofs, and drops down in the street where the crowd greet the young explorer enthusiastically.

THE POOR BLIND WOMAN tells a dramatic tale. The blind woman goes about, led by her dog. At home she is ill-treated by her son. Her pale face attracts the attention of an artist who wants to paint her portrait. Every evening she comes home with a five-shilling piece, the price paid to her for each sitting, and her son snatches it from her and spends it in the company of debased friends. The poor blind woman goes to the mountain in search of her son, but she makes a slip and falls into the ravine. Her dog, after sniffing the air, goes straight to the painter's house, and makes him understand that he must come with him and rescue the poor woman. Meantime, her son, who is drunk, picks a quarrel with one of his friends, and receives a piece of glass in the temple, which kills him on the spot. The old woman is taken care of by her generous benefactor.

THE SQUIRE'S RIGHTS.—It is the feudal period. The lady of the castle is distributing bread and kind words to her poor; she is so good that they all worship her, but do not look up to their squire with the same feelings of gratitude, for her husband is a very harsh man, who whips them away from his presence. One day, his peasants finding that their distress is too much for them, arm themselves with forks and scythes and invade the castle; after binding the oppressor with ropes, they drag him to the calvary, where they intend to stone him to death. But his lady, having been warned by one of her poor, comes to them, and entreats them to give up their revenge. Moved by her touching pleadings, the peasants set their victim free. The lord, whose heart melts at their act of magnanimity, kneels down at the foot of the calvary, and promises to be more upright and just in future.

Gaumont Company.

NAPOLEON AND THE ENGLISH SAILOR.—This subject deals with an incident in the life of Napoleon at the period when he was contemplating an invasion of England. An English sailor is captured by the French, and after awhile is allowed to roam unguarded on the beach. One day the sailor espies an empty hogshead near the shore. He captures it, and hides it in a cave. He works for days upon it, and finally makes a tiny boat in which he hopes to escape to England. But he is captured. Napoleon, who has witnessed the scene from the top of a cliff, descends to the shore, and, addressing the prisoner, asks him what made him attempt such a foolhardy freak, and suggests that he must be in love with a British lass. The sailor replies that he has no sweetheart, but that he was anxious to again see his mother. Napoleon is struck with the lad's earnestness, and commands his officer to give him safe conduct, under a flag of truce, to a British vessel. He gives the lad a piece of gold, and wishes him God-speed. The French sailors and soldiers raise three hearty cheers as the British tar sails off. The last scenes show his arrival home and his mother's joy at the return of her son, whom she never expected to see again.

THE MECHANICAL LEGS.—A pair of mechanical legs are purchased for a legless man by his relatives. With his new means of pedestrianism the cripple goes for a trial spin with a companion, but the legs are not easily controlled, and have a strong tendency to break into a run, which leads their owner into sundry troubles. Policemen are knocked over, and a chase is set up which culminates in the cripple taking a header through a window. A constable, who endeavours to pull him back, comes away with the unfortunate legs in his possession

THE SHIRT OF A HAPPY MAN.—This gives us the story of the king who is told by his physicians that he will recover from his maladies if he will for one night sleep in the shirt of a happy man. Search is at once made throughout the kingdom for such a person, but the various persons approached are discovered on being questioned to have some anxiety or other, these being revealed in a series of visions. Thus the soldier is thinking of his probable death on the battlefield, the rich man believes that everybody is robbing him, the lovers are forbidden to marry by their parents, and so on. At last, however, a shepherd is found who has not a care, and is at once taken before the king, who offers him unbounded wealth for his shirt. The shepherd unbuttons his jacket, and it is found that he is not wearing a shirt!

HARRY LAUDER IN A HURRY.—This is a most laughable film, and, according to it, Harry Lauder's idea of haste is apparently the same as the average person's idea of extreme leisure. We see him slowly dismounting at the stage-door of a music hall from his motor-car. The scene then changes to the dressing-room, where the famous comedian disrobes slowly and dons his stage rig of kilt, &c., this operation being enlivened by a series of humorous incidents, in which call-boys, commissionaires, and at last the stage-manager, come in to tell the artist that he is due on the stage. Fine pictures of the famous comedian are shown, in which we see him smiling in his irresistible way.

Nordisk Films Company.

THE GERMAN DERBY AT HAMBURG-HORNE treats the spectator to a number of attractive scenes of this great German sporting event, and it also introduces views of the Kaiser's visit to the racecourse. A TURKISH BATH is the title of another capital Nordisk novelty. It describes in amusing fashion how the bather falls foul of the attendant for his singing while attending to his duties, and how the latter puts the bather through a course of rough treatment, eventually pitching him into a bath and taking out his skin only.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.—This theatre has now been taken for the remainder of the summer season by the New Bioscope Company, which is under the direction of Mr. F. R. Griffiths. A first-class series of films and some excellent variety turns are presented, and the entertainment, for which specially reduced prices are charged, is one exactly suited for the summer evenings. Some of the films, notably THE MAGNETIC REMOVAL, THE NIHILIST, and NERO AND THE BURNING OF ROME, are really splendid, and afford great delight to vast audiences. The Idento Brothers prove themselves clever Jugglers. A young actress, Miss Mona Garrick, gives with capital dramatic effect the scene in the first act of *The Bondman* between Jason and Greeba, and the death of Doctor Faustus from Marlowe's play of that name. The Three Brights also provide a pleasing instrumental and vocal turn. Mr. Albert Matham is the courteous acting-manager for Mr. Griffiths.

MR. GERALD LINDLEY, a rising "society" entertainer, gave a very agreeable matinée musicale at the Waldorf Hotel on Saturday. Mr. Lindley is happy in his selections of pieces, and has a light touch and a pleasant manner. His songs and sketches had a very cordial reception.

AT the Princess Pier Concert Hall, Torquay, there is a capital programme. Mr. Harry Leslie's Comedy Cadets are a really clever combination; Miss Rene Steadman is a very vivacious comedienne; Miss Annie Coxon is a contralto of talent; Mr. Vernon Noble is a light comedy artist of ability, and achieves a conspicuous success; Mr. Jim Pullin, a versatile character comedian, evokes laughter; Mr. George Curzon has a powerful baritone; and Mr. Fred Shepherd does well at the piano. Mr. Harry Leslie is a popular humorist and ventriloquist.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

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BY

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THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

THE Fair at Greenock (for reasons which we have referred to in a separate account in another column) was very quiet as regards business.

THERE were the usual big crowd of entertainers, with over one hundred concerns, great and small. Big shows, little shows, great riding machines, small machines, avenues of throwing games, side-shows, shooting concerns, variety frames, automatic novelty boxes, striking machines, and the other multiform amusements for the show-loving public.

Cinematograph Theatres.

MCINDOE'S superb Scottish coliseum and variety theatre, with its magnificent front, illuminated with thousands of electric lamps, formed a prominent feature of the fair. J. Wingate's new enterprise, the theatre of animated pictures and varieties, was much admired; the electrically-lighted front was a delight of artistic beauty and completeness. We congratulate Mr. Wingate on his latest and greatest enterprise. Wm. Clark, jun.'s high-class exhibition, with a revival of the ghost illusion and a fine range of animated pictures, and Mr. A. Mander's cinematograph theatre made capital displays, and gave great satisfaction.

Other Shows and Novelty Booths.

CHAPMAN'S trained animals and birds, H. Mander's miniature menagerie, Colona's novelty booth, Newton's stereorama, S. Biddall's circus, Buckley's menagerie, Boswell's palmistry tents, and a number of side-shows completed a thoroughly representative array of exhibitions.

Motor Tracks, Riding Machines, Steam Yachts, &c.

WILMOT'S three big machines—the Gordon Bennett motors, the four-abreast steeplechasers, and the tunnel railway—were immensely attractive, with electric lights and grand colour effects.

HOWARD'S steam yachts and Walter Wilmot's helter-skelter tower and three-abreast galloping horses, John Wilmot, jun.'s miniature horses and park swings, Smith's overboats, and W. Wilmot's gem swings were the mechanical attractions at the fair.

Shooting Ranges and Varieties.

THESE standard amusements of the people were supplied by Messrs. John Wilmot, jun., Rostron, Sheeron, Wright, Freeman, Hughes, W. Strand, H. Strand, Wm. Strand, jun., Stevenson, Blockley, Horne, W. Smith, C. Smith, Salvona, Kennedy, Macintosh, McIndoe, Moore, Palmer, Anderson, Knight, Cook, Freeman, Matchett, Towers, Dawson, Faulkner, C. Walter, C. Nelson, W. Slater, T. Dawson, W. Newey, W. Harris, Hunter, Johnson, Hughes, Knowles, and others.

Tideswell Feast.

EXCEPT a few throwing games, there were no amusements at this Derbyshire fair. The Clerk to the Parish Council writes to us as follows:—"One of the best wakes ever held, favoured by grand weather all the week. Every day filled up with something going on. Regret was felt that no steam horses, &c., were present."

Orpington Fair.

THE amusements in the shape of shows, roundabouts, swings, throwing games, and other novelties were supplied by Pettigrove, of London.

Little Hip at Buckingham Palace.

LITTLE HIP, the smallest performing baby elephant in the world, was commanded by the Queen to leave—for a few hours only—the great Bostock Jungle and Arena at the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, and present himself at Buckingham Palace on Monday afternoon as a Royal guest at the children's party of Her Majesty. The toothless tusker is of the African umbrella eared species, and about three years old. Regarded as the mascot of the New York Hippodrome, Little Hip was always a welcome guest at the White House, where President Roosevelt's children made much of him. Mr. Frank C Bostock brought him specially from America to present him to the Queen, and the baby elephant's first performance was most appropriately given at Buckingham Palace before Her Majesty, with whom was the Princess Victoria, the Princes Albert and Henry, Princess Mary, and over a hundred tiny child guests. On arriving on the green lawn, Little Hip placidly trifled with the turf until his "turn" was announced. After exhibiting his first trick, Little Hip coolly approached the Queen, who had come close to the ropes of the impromptu arena, bowed gracefully, and held out his trunk. As this was entirely unrehearsed, Mr. André, the trainer, followed fast, when Her Majesty said, "I have not fed an elephant before, let him have this," at the same time handing him a biscuit. Hip swallowed the Royal offering, and resumed his pedestal and performance. After his second item he again approached his Royal hostess and received a second reward. Modestly contented, he then completed his "turn" by "going to bed," and the Queen joined with the children in hearty laughter and appreciative applause. His Majesty the King witnessed the close of Little Hip's display.

MR. PAT COLLINS' Fun City paid its annual visit to the Hanley Park Fêtes last Wednesday and Thursday, and was a source of merriment to the 60,000 people who visited the show. Our Hanley representative was delighted with the marvellous collection of fun-providers. He was kindly taken by Mr. Collins round the show. The new cake-walk machine was a favourite; the Gordon-Bennett motor track and circular poultry farm were well used; the great twin yachts were very busy; the magnificent organ, costing £2,000, was a treat for the sightseers. Other shows were the cinematograph entertainment showing fine films, the Westwood Family, Prince Perran, the Haunted House, Egyptian Hall, &c. Sallies, cocoanut shies, shooting galleries, &c., were provided by Rowley, Marsden, Wright, Dixon, &c.

FROM Hanley the Fun City was taken to Longton, whose summer fair is being held. Mr. Pat Collins, with his usual generosity, allowed the workhouse and reformatory children to visit the shows, also all the crippled children, Mrs. Collins in addition giving each child 2d. to spend besides.

TREMENDOUS crowds gathered in the spacious park on Wednesday and Thursday on the occasion of the twelfth annual fêtes. The Mayoress (Mrs. G. F. Adcock) opened the show The flower show was a great success. Tremendous attractions to the fêtes were the band of H.M. Coldstream Guards, conducted by Dr. J. M. Rogan, and the band of H.M. Scots Guards, conducted by Mr. F. W. Wood. These bands combined in the evening. A grand balloon race between three balloons, under the direction of Mr. Auguste Gaudron, of Alexandra Palace, was a treat. Horse leaping and a spectacular military tourney were gone through. On the immense platform the following artists appeared: the Four Herberts, in a clever and original act; the Wambas, comedy musicians; Jovial John Douglas, comedian; La Belle Lily and Albert, splendid aerial gymnasts; the Banzai Troupe of Japanese jugglers and hand balancers; Jackson's circus of wonderful performing ponies, dogs, and monkeys; and the Mohamed Troupe of Arab acrobats. Ella, Zuila, and Lulu gave a brilliant performance on the high rope. There was a grand display of fireworks by W. and J. Wilder, of Birmingham, who also illuminated the grounds in the evening. Mr. Arthur Rand, manager of the Grand, Hanley, managed the immense stage performances cleverly

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD IN SCOTLAND.

The July holidays in Scotland are now beginning, and some of the principal pleasure fairs of the workers take place in the holiday month.

Prominent amongst these holiday fairs is the one held at Greenock, the heart and centre of the Clyde shipbuilding trade and its allied industries. Unfortunately for the showpeople, the calamitous lock-out in the staple industry on the Clyde has so impoverished the workers that, although they have come to the fair in as big numbers as ever, they had but very little spending money, and the consequence was extremely moderate business for the entertainers at the fair. It was a pathetic sight to see the multitude at the fair with but little means in their pockets to enjoy its many pleasures.

Hard Work and Little Profit.

At ten o'clock on the Saturday night of the fair we watched the outside parade of a big show at the fair; three capital dancers took the centre of the stage, each in turn danced for all they were worth, the band played, cymbals clanged, drums were beaten, and bells rung, and when the dance was finished eloquent doorsmen extolled the charm of the inside performance. The rally to create a rush of patrons was perfectly worked, and the result was just seven people entered the show after all that work. Such is the toil of the showman when bad trade desolates a district. The showman is (by the very nature of his calling and business in life) a bit of a philosopher. He has learnt full well the uncertain and precarious nature of the spending fund of the people. He knows that either strike or lock-out means bad business for him. He feels at once the pinch of bad trade, yet with optimistic fortitude he learns to take things as they come—to balance the bad times with the good, and to do his best to entertain his patrons on the outside of his show, even when he knows that they have not the ready penny to come inside.

The Guild Meeting at the Fair.

The response to the call of the Guild executive was in every way extremely satisfactory, being in point of numbers present and interest and enthusiasm the best gathering of the many good ones of the present year It took place in Mr. Wingate's new Electric Coliseum (kindly lent by the proprietor). General John Wilmot, V.P., was in the chair, and supporting him on the platform were the Rev. T. Horne and Messrs. Walter Wilmot and Arthur Henderson, members of the Scotch committee of the Guild. Amongst the prominent showpeople present were Messrs. J. Wingate, J. Caddick, H. Stroud, Wm. Clark, jun., J. McIndoe, H. Chapman, John Wilmot, jun., A. Testo, James Wright, J. Buckley, W. Slater, G. Blockley, E. Stevenson, D. Irvine, Charles Wilmot, E. Sheeran, H. Palmer, W. Newey, C. Walter, S. Monte, jun., W. Smith, jun., Wm. Stroud, jun., H. Knowles, J. Hughes, H. Dawson, George Wilmot, C. Nelson, C. Smith, C. Johnson, jun, Nelson Pickles, D. Moore, Hugh Wilmot, J. Howard, W. Stroud, Mesdames Wilmot, Rostron, Cook, W. Stroud, Hunter, John Wilmot, W. Wilmot, Smith, Wingate, Miss Wilmot, and Miss L. Wilmot. Messrs. J. Caddick, jun., A. Henderson, H. Wilmot, and Walter Wilmot acted as secretaries for the enrolment of members and the receipt of subscriptions for the Defence Fund.

The Chairman's Address.

The Rev. T. Horne, in asking their senior vice-president for Scotland, Mr. John Wilmot, to take the chair, expressed the gratification the meeting felt in having the veteran showman amongst them. Although Mr. Wilmot was only just recovering from a severe spell of illness, he had accepted the call of duty, and would preside over that important gathering (Applause.) For twenty years past, in fact ever since the formation of their trade defence society, Mr. Wilmot had been one of its most loyal supporters, ardent workers, and generous subscribers. Every year at the King's Lynn meeting, either in person or by letter, Mr. Wilmot's subscription had come to the society's funds. It was such constant friends and supporters as Mr. Wilmot had been that enabled the Guild to persevere in its good work for the whole show community. (Cheers.) Not only was Mr. Wilmot constant in his support and work, but in addition to that he had readily responded to every special appeal to carry out the necessary work of protecting the fair-ground industry. He (the speaker) therefore rejoiced that General John Wilmot would preside over their deliberations, and it gave him especial pleasure to ask Mr. Wilmot as senior vice-president to take the chair. (Great applause).

Mr. Wilmot expressed his willingness to do all in his power to forward the grand work of the Guild. It had been a great joy to him to welcome their dear friend Mr. Horne to Greenock Fair last year, and now again (unfit though he felt himself to be), yet he gladly responded to the desire of his fellow-travellers at Greenock, and took the chair at their request. He was certain that as it was last year so again it would be this. They would all profit by what the organising chaplain might have to tell them about the work of their old society. They all knew how much Mr. Horne had the showman's interests at heart (Applause.)—He, for his part, would be glad to do his share, and he was confident that all those present, and indeed the whole body of Scotch showpeople, would respond to the appeal for funds to carry on the work of trade defence. He asked Mr. Horne to address the meeting.

The Chaplain on Trade Defence.

On rising to address the meeting, the organising chaplain was most cordially received. During his address (lasting nearly an hour) he held the close attention of the audience. He commenced by reminding his hearers of the satisfactory results of his two visits to Scotland last year. At Greenock and at Ayr the Scotch showpeople had made records that were both creditable to themselves and a bright example to other parts of showland. (Applause.) Proceeding to deal with the work of the guild, he pointed out that in the annual report for last year they had the satisfaction of informing their subscribers and friends that the arduous and expensive branch of their necessary work—opposition to private Bill legislation—would not burden them in 1908. That was perfectly true as regards private Bills promoted by corporations. He was sorry, however, to say that at the very moment when they thought to see the end of Parliamentary defence, a new danger threatened them—not a private Bill of a public body, but one brought into Parliament by Lord Clifford of Chudleigh with the object of reviving all the worst features of the Old Movable Dwellings Act of twenty years ago.

The Serious Nature of the New Danger.

He begged their careful consideration of the new Movable Dwellings Bill now before Parliament, and then proceeded to analyse its drastic proposals, clause by clause, as already set out week by week in our columns. The provisions for compulsory registration, licensing, lettering, marking, and numbering of all vans used for domestic purposes. The powers of inspection and regulation of movable dwellings as proposed in the Bill were carefully and clearly set out by the chaplain, and his hearers were warned of the liberty-destroying and inquisitorial nature of the principles embodied in the measure. He asked the support of Scotch showpeople of all grades to defeat it, or to obtain such material amendments as would make it as little harmful as possible.

What the Guild Has Already Done.

As soon as the Bill was introduced, the guild executive committee set to work to oppose it. Our friends in the House of Lords were informed of our peril, and their influence sought to throw the Bill out. With this end in view, we sent out circulars to members of the House of Lords to enlist their sympathy on our side We organised meetings (like the one he was now addressing) on the principal fair-grounds of the United Kingdom. Resolutions condemning the Bill and petitions against it were sent from these meetings, all of them expressing in proper order and form the objections of showmen and fair-ground traders to the measure. Our Parliamentary agent and the executive officials of the society had used all possible means to express the feeling of the whole body of fair-ground amusement caterers against such one-sided and pernicious legislation. (Applause.)

Efforts at Settlement with the Promoters.

Instructed by the committee, he had opened up negotiations with the promoters of the Bill, and those negotiations had proceeded on satisfactory lines. Concessions of an extremely important character had been obtained, and the present position of affairs was vastly more hopeful.

They might take it from him that the Bill, as originally introduced, was self-condemned and would not pass into law. There were already important amendments which they had discussed with the promoters of the Bill, amendments that would go a good way to secure showpeople from undue interference, and that largely protected the show business from arbitrary interference and the unjust stigma that special legislation implied.

The Extreme Value of the Guild Work.

He begged them to notice the great difference between the attitude of Parliament to-day with regard to the show business and the attitude shown twenty years ago. Twenty years ago it was considered either as a joke or as an act of ignorant presumption for showmen to start a society for mutual help and protection. Public men and corporation officials (with a few rare exceptions) treated the travelling showman with scant courtesy, or at best with kindly tolerance; great Departments of State refused to recognise the vandwellers' society as competent to speak in the name of the men and women of the fair-ground. Twenty years of persistent hard work had changed all that. The old society (now known as the Showmen's Guild) was officially recognised and its officers received into conference by Ministers of State; corporations were now glad to welcome the officials of the society and to invoke their aid and advice in matters concerning the show business. It was not too much to say that for every dispute they had fought out with public bodies a dozen or more had been settled by friendly conference and negotiation. (Applause.)

It was in order that their trade defence organisation might not only grow, but also be made more efficient for its useful work, that he was giving the whole of his time to it and addressing meetings at the great centres of show life. Their machinery was ready; the best brains in the business were devoted to their interests. It was for the showpeople to supply the necessary funds to maintain the society, and to face their enemies fully equipped for the fight. (Applause.)

The Aims and Objects of the Guild.

When they started their trade defence society they set out with two important aims: (1) To vindicate the life and character of travelling showmen, and (2) to protect the trade and business of fair-ground entertainers They had consistently and persistently pursued these aims, and the better esteem in which showpeople were regarded was the measure of their success. Both in Parliament and in treating with public bodies showpeople were better understood and better appreciated. They had shown their solidarity and had also manifested their strength. All this was destined to uplift the show business in the public mind. It was to this work he and those who laboured with him had devoted the best years of their life; the growing influence of the guild was its own testimony of success. (Great applause.) As at all other meetings since Easter, so there at Greenock a resolution condemning the Bill in its original form would be submitted, and petition forms would be taken from caravan to caravan for signatures against it.

In conclusion, he exhorted them to rally to the cause of the Vandwellers' Society, to renew their subscription, and to subscribe liberally to the fund now being raised to fight the New Movable Dwellings. (Great applause.)

Other Speakers.

Mr. Arthur Henderson, of McIndoe's Electric Coliseum, proposed: "That this meeting of showmen and fair-ground traders engaged at Greenock Fair protests against the Movable Dwellings Bill. We claim as lawful traders to be under and obedient to ordinary laws of the realm. We deny that special inquisitorial and liberty-destroying legislation is needed for our trade and mode of life. If the promoters of the measure want to deal with and to penalise gipsy life, let them make their object clear in their Bill by exempting showmen and fair-ground traders from its proposed penalties and restrictions." In submitting the resolution, he especially desired to impress upon his fellow-showmen the injustice that this Bill sought to inflict upon them and their mode of life. Not a word in the resolution was too strong to meet the need of the case. Showmen would oppose all such legislation. (Applause.) He, for his part, would spare no possible effort to throw it out. It was an insult to them and an invasion of the liberties of their homes to propose such drastic interference with their mode of life.

Mr. Walter Wilmot, in seconding the resolution, expressed his confidcnt hope that Scotch showpeople would combine, and all work together to defeat such ill-considered legislation.

Mr. Caddick supported the resolution, and in doing so referred to the great and good work of the guild. He was afraid that showpeople were less generous in the support of good causes of their own than in assisting outside charities. He instanced how benefits were frequently given to hospitals by showmen, and he ventured to think that benefits for the funds of their own society should be more frequently organised than they were at present. He pointed out the good results attending benefit performances organised by the Brothers Collins and by Mr. George Green. All could assist in that way. It was with an earnest desire to further the good work of the guild that he referred to the matter of raising the funds. With regard to the Movable Dwellings Bill and the resolution condemning it, he thought that after the able speech of Mr. Horne they needed no further words from him. He heartily supported the resolution.

General John Wilmot then put the motion to the meeting, and declared it carried unanimously.

Subscription to the Special Defence for Opposing the Movable Dwellings Bill.

Arthur Henderson, £2 2s.; General John Wilmot, £2; Walter Wilmot, £1 1s.; John Wingate, £1 1s.; Mrs. Howard, £1 1s; J. Howard, 10s. 6d.; J. Wilmot, jun., 10s. 6d.; S. J. Rostron, 10s. 6d.; Wm. Clark, jun., 10s. 6d.; H. Stroud, 10s. 6d.; J. McIndoe, 10s. 6d.; H. Dawson, 10s. 6d.; Anon (third subscription), 5s.; H. Chapman, 5s.; J. Caddick, jun. (second subscription), 5s.; George Wilmot, 5s.; Hugh Wilmot, 5s.; David Moore, 5s.; Charles Wilmot, 5s.; Mrs. Smith, 3s.; Wm. Stroud, 2s. 6d.; E. Stevenson, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. W. Wilmot, 2s. 6d. Miss Wilmot, 2s. 6d.; Miss L. Wilmot, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Rostron, 2s. 6d.; "Volcano," 2s. 6d.; E. Sheeran, 2s. 6d.; W. Newey, 2s. 6d; C. Nelson, 2s.; Mrs. Hunter, 2s.; C. Johnson, 2s.; G. Blockley, 2s.; J. Matchett, 2s.; H. Palmer, 2s.; C. Wallis, 2s.; J. Buckley, 2s.; S. Monti, jun., 2s.; D. Irving, 2s.; "A Friend," 2s.; James Wright, 1s.; Mrs. Cooke, 1s.; Nelson Pickles, 1s.; C. Dawson, 1s.; C. Smith, 1s.; Mrs. W. Stroud, 1s.; "A Friend," 1s.; W. Slater, 1s.; J. Spencer, 1s.; A. Testo, 1s.; W Rostron, 1s.

Enrolment of Members.

Walter Wilmot, £1; Messrs. Lithgow and Son (hon. members), 10s.; Mrs. A. Manders, 10s.; Arthur Henderson, 5s.; James Buckley, 5s.; Edward Stevenson, 5s.; Henry Dawson, 5s.; Henry Stroud, 5s.; John McIndoe, 5s.; William Slater, 5s.; Mrs. A. Palmer, 5s.; W. Smith, jun., 5s; Mrs. M. Smith, 5s.; Wm. Stroud, jun., 5s.; George Blockley, 5s.; H. Chapman, 5s.; W. Newey, 5s.; S. J. Rostron, 5s.; H Knowles, 5s.; J. Hughes, 5s.; James Wright, 5s.

Votes of thanks were passed with enthusiasm to the Rev. T. Horne and the other speakers, to the chairman, and to Mr. J. Wingate (proprietor) for the use of the show for the meeting.

In the evening the guild chaplain was the invited speaker at the annual temperance meeting, organised by a committee of Greenock ladies, who for many years have taken a deep interest in the showpeople at the fair.

Penzance Corporation and the Showmen.

THE Guild secretary is in receipt of the following official communication:—

"CORPUS CHRISTI FAIR.
"Town Clerk's Office,
"Penzance, July 4, 1908.

"DEAR SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 3rd, enclosing a letter from the Rev. T. Horne, submitting a suggested scale of tolls for the observation of the Town Council.

"I will lay Mr. Horne's letter before the Council at their meeting on Wednesday next, and communicate with you again thereon in due course.—Yours truly,

"T. H. CORNISH,
"Town Clerk.

"To the Secretary, Showmen's Guild, care of *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C."

Tunstall Wakes.

W. DAVIES' racing cockerels, steam yachts, three-abreast horses, two sets of juveniles, the motor-cars and the horses, the park swings and the motor-car set; Aunt Sallies by Crump, Dillon, Birch, Beaumont, Harriss, and Ford; Winchester ranges by B. Dobson and A. Marsden; stalls by Harriss, Beaumont, Dobson, Morriss, Cordwell, Stiles; and a host of minor attractions too numerous to mention.

THE AWARDS. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "THE ERA" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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A HINT TO PIERROTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Instead of all the members of a Pierrot troupe appearing in the same kind of dress, and assuming the same kind of rôle in the business, why not go in for diversity of costume and rôles of business? Suppose No. 1 appeared as a Court jester, No. 2 as a witty Irishman, No. 3 as a droll Scotchman, No. 4 as a nigger, No. 5 as a country bumpkin, and so on, including our old friends such as Punch and Judy, Ally Sloper, Paul Pry, Jack Horner, and others? I hope some of the Pierrot troupe managers will adopt the idea.—Yours faithfully,

HOW'S THAT.

[Perhaps some of our Pierrot managers will write us on the subject.—ED. *The Era*.]

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THE HISTORY OF THE ALHAMBRA.

The Alhambra has, wrote John Hollingshead, a curious history amongst places of public amusement. It was built by a blameless, Pandemonium-Paving Company, Limited, to further the cause of scientific recreation, and as a glorified Polytechnic it was opened with prayer and an organ. It was a monument of insolvent respectability. Before it had time to reform the unsavoury character of the neighbourhood it had to go into liquidation, and its lease and fittings were offered to any bidders at a Pall Mall auction room. Amongst these bidders was a speculative genius named E. T. Smith, who would have bought Westminster Abbey or the Channel Fleet if they had been under the hammer, and would have thought how he was going to pay for his purchases afterwards. E. T. Smith, amongst other things, had been a policeman, and during his remarkable career he had held more public-houses, wine-vaults, theatres, opera-houses, and music and dancing gardens than half a dozen English Barnums. The building and its contents—known as the Panopticon in the early fifties—which cost, in prospectus figures, £100,000, was knocked down to "Smith" for about £8000. "Smith" accepted the bargain; sold the great organ to St. Paul's Cathedral for one round sum, the great engines and boilers to some other establishment for another round sum, and a lot of little things for various amounts, until he had almost realised the purchase-money. The space where the organ and other furniture stood was converted into a stage, and under the sanction of the great Moll Flanders' Act (the 25th Geo. II. cap 36) he opened it as what we now call a music hall, under the happy title of the Alhambra. To do Smith justice, he gave good music, if his drinks had the usual faults of a "tied house"; as he was at that time the lessee of Her Majesty's Theatre, in the Haymarket, playing, amongst other things, Macfarren's opera of *Robin Hood*, with Mr. Sims Reeves and a large and effective company, to receipts that sometimes fell as low as £12 a night. He sent over some of his singers to the Alhambra, to sing "operatic selections," then very popular, copying Mr. Charles Morton's policy at the Surrey-side Canterbury. These "operatic selections" had an educational influence on the middle and lower middle class. When Gounod's *Faust* was first produced in Paris it did not achieve an instantaneous success, as Gounod was not a rich financier like Meyerbeer, able and ready to buy up the seats of a theatre for two months, until he could grow a fine crop of favourable public opinion. Mr. Gye, the director of the Italian opera at Covent Garden, went over to Paris to see *Faust*, and came back saying that it was not bad, but had only one good thing in it—a soldiers' chorus! In the meantime, Gounod and his friends, by not observing the ridiculous rules and regulations of the International Copyright Treaty of that time, had lost the English rights of his opera on a technical point, and his great and enduring work had consequently fallen into the "public domain." Gounod was no wiser than his brethren in trouble. A Frenchman writes a work, and then lies on his back, expecting International Copyright to fall into his mouth, like over-ripe plums.

Faust, being free game, was seized by Herr Jonghmanns, Mr. Charles Morton's able conductor, and with the aid of Miss Emily Soldene, Miss Russell, and many most capable singers and chorus, it was played so long, and with such profitable results at the Canterbury Music Hall, that every butcher's boy could whistle the principal airs while waiting for orders. When Colonel Mapleson came into possession of Her Majesty's Theatre, and produced *Faust* because it was a novelty, and Mr. Gye, at Covent Garden, followed Mapleson's lead, the novelty was confined to the "upper ten," and their friends and followers.

E. T. Smith followed Morton's example for a time, until, as usual, he disposed of his interest in the Alhambra. He never kept anything very long. It became an American circus for a year or more, and then fell into the hands of Mr. Wilde, of Norwich, the son of a well-known electioneering agent, in the days when votes had an unblushing market value. It was during Mr. Wilde's lesseeship that the most graceful and original acrobat of modern times made his first appearance in England. This was Leotard, the inventor of the "flying trapèze." Leotard's father kept a gymnastic school at Toulouse, and when his son was perfect in his unique performance they went to Paris *en famille*, according to the French custom. Before Leotard was allowed to perform at Franconi's he had to give a demonstration—a trial performance for the licensing authorities. He had to fall from the trapeze from various heights, and go through the form of various possible accidents. When it was found that whatever happened he came upon his feet his licence was granted, and by the advice of Mr. Augustus Harris he was soon induced to come to England. His performance caused a real "sensation." His movements were more like those of a bird than of a man. The ease, the grace, the unerring certainty with which he executed his feats had never been equalled. His three swinging bars, suspended by long ropes, carried him from one high perch to another, right across the auditorium and stage of the vast building. His father stood on the narrow platform placed across the pit and stalls, and carefully swung each pendulum. His mother stood at the wing with prepared chalk and a towel for his hands, and always acted as his dresser. It was a simple family party. Leotard was modest and retiring, and showed whole generations of acrobats how to dress decently. His black leather boots, his lavender leggings and black velvet trunks had nothing of the booth about them. I believe his first engagement at the Alhambra brought him £100 a week, and I know when I engaged him some two or three years afterwards at the same theatre for a return visit I gave him £30 a night. He still had the same modesty and the same family surroundings. He was spared the pain of growing old, and died of lung disease at Toulouse soon after he had attained the age of thirty.

The offending ballet at the Alhambra which invited and obtained prosecution was one which was bodily "lifted" from Drury Lane Theatre. Auber's Oriental opera *L'Enfant Prodigue* was turned into an English spectacular drama called *Azaël*, and produced by James Anderson, the popular actor, and Macready's favourite "young man," at Drury Lane in 1851—the year of the great exhibition. Mr. Anderson's attempt at management in the temple of his old master was not very successful, and, in spite of real camels, Auber's attractive music—the portion of it that was used—and Mr. and Miss Vandenhoff's and the lessee's impressive acting, nothing of *Azaël* remained in the memory except a great dagger-dance with its characteristic melody. This dance, more strikingly produced at the Alhambra by Mr. Harry Boleno, the pantomimist, who had been in the Drury Lane company, served to open the newly-decorated and carpeted Theatre of Varieties in Leicester-square, and to provoke the theatrical monopolists. No theatrical super at a shilling a night, no call-boy, no ballet-girl, and no bill-sticker could have mistaken this dramatic dance for anything but part of a stage-play, though it was left for a whole army of judges and counsel to puzzle their brains over it for months, to split hairs, and formulate nice distinctions. One eminent judge thought that Mr. Henry Russell, singing "The ship on fire" on a platform, accompanying himself on a piano, was performing a "stage-play," with or without a licence. Another eminent judge sought comfort and found it in the blessed word "divertissement"—an imported French term, which was supposed to describe a dance without form and void, that told nothing, and suggested nothing but graceful muscular exercise.

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Nov. 9, 16, March 8, 22.
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Sept. 21, Oct. 12, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Oct. 5, Nov. 30, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, on.
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Oct. 5, 26 (three nights), Nov. 23, 30, Xmas (seven nights), Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 22, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
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Nov. 9, 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan 4, 11, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

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PAVILION OPERA HOUSE.
Lessees, E. and H. TILNEY. Manager, E. PRYCE.

Copy of letter received from Haldane Crichton, Esq., "Dandy Fifth" Co.:—
"I shall have pleasure in making Abertillery better known to the touring manager. A splendid stone building, a blaze of electric light, full and competent orchestra, excellent staff both behind and before the curtain, eight dressing-rooms, lavatories, &c., all on ground floor, stage 35ft. to footlights; run on popular prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d., and business in the last week in May most satisfactory. I shall not forget the Abertillery Pavilion."

WANTED, Companies, Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 18.

Record Business has been done this Whit Week, and Glorious Weather, Local Sports, &c.

Pavilion, Abertillery.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Productions, Musical Comedies and No. 1 Plays, to Open the Dramatic Season, Sept. 14, Oct., Nov., Dec.
Apply to JAMES KIERNAN, Eskdale, Croondle, Douglas, I.O.M., until further notice.

ST. GEORGE'S THEATRE, KENDAL.
WANTED, Good Class Companies, Aug. 13 and 20, Oct. 15 and 29, Dec. 3 and 31.
Now being entirely Refitted and Redecorated.
BUILER, Manager.

COMPANIES WANTED.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

Seating capacity, 3,500.

Acknowledged to be one of the most handsome and best-equipped theatres in the Provinces.

The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only Sept. 3, 4, 5, Nov. 2, 16, Dec. 14.

Now Booking Spring, 1909.
Now Booking Spring, 1909.

All communications, JNO. ED. JOWSEY, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

Telegrams, "Magnet." Telephones 413, 426, 500.

BASINGSTOKE.—CORN HALL.

WANTED, Companies. Finest Hall in North Hampshire, now thoroughly restoring by Town Council, also decorating and re-seating, ready for re-opening, Aug. 31. Moderate rental, or shares. S. WALFORD, Lessee.

WANTED, for Waterloo Hall Theatre, Whitby. Good Attractions, Aug. 6, 13 (three nights), Sept. 14, 21, onwards.
JULIAN BAINBRIDGE, Lessee and Manager.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S
New Production.

WANTED, Nov. Dec. 7. 16.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.

WANTED, Oct. 19 (North), and Dec. 7
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.

WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, Feb. 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.

WANTED, Theatres Sept. 28, Dec. 21, 28
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

FREDK. MELVILLE'S
New Production.

WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 24 (?), Sept. 28.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."

WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 10, Jan. 4, March 29
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."

WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 10, 31, Oct. 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Jan. 18, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres Sept. 14, Nov. 2, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."

WANTED, Theatre, Sept. 14 Nov. 2, 9, 23, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

WANTED, Aug. 31, Oct. 5, Nov. 2
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Norwood, Wentworth-road, Harborne, Birmingham.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

WANTED, Aug. 10, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."

WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5 26.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 12, 19 Nov. 2, 9, 23, Dec. 28, on.
Now booking 1909.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Palace Theatre, Bordesley.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, Sept. 7, 17 (three nights), 21, 28. Oct. 5, 12, 26.
All communications,
J. W. CORDINER, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."

WANTED, Theatres. Mr. Sidney is desirous of filling July 27, Aug. 3 and 10.
THOMAS SIDNEY, Opera House, Blackpool.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.

WANTED, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 12, 19, 26, also Xmas week, 7 nights, Farewell Tours.
Address, 26, Southampton street, Strand, London

WANTED, Theatres, for
"MRS. DOT."
with Miss DECIMA MOORE.
Flying Matinées can be arranged for Mrs. BROWN-POTTER, Miss MABEL LOVE, and Miss DECIMA MOORE in
"MRS. DOT" and "LADY FREDERICK."
PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-road, N.W.

CHARLES FROHMAN'S COMPANY,
in the Enormously Successful Play,
"THE HYPOCRITES."

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Aug. 17, 31, Oct. 12 and 19.
Address, Mr. S. DAUNCEY, 22, Charing Cross, S.W.

Grand Production of
"CONVICT 99."

WANTED, Autumn Dates, from Sept. 14, onwards.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
The following dates vacant for this Enormous Success: Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 23, and onwards.

Manager, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
34, Maiden-lane, Strand, W.C.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR AND HARTWELL J. KIRBY'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
Finest cast of Dramatic Artists Touring. Magnificent Scenery by McCulloch, Sheffield. Splendid Plant of Full-coloured Printing by Allen's and McCaw's, and a most Attractive Play, received everywhere with the greatest enthusiasm.
Enormous Success at T. R., Sunderland, this week, in spite of tropical weather and distress in the town. Refer to Richard Thornton, Esq.

WANTED, July 27 (between Halifax and Stockport), Aug. 24 (follow Alexandra, Hull),
Sept. 21, and onwards, with exceptions.
ARMOUR and KIRBY, to-day, T. R., Sunderland; next, Cambridge, Spennymoor.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN,"
and
"NANA; THE RAGE OF PARIS."

WANTED, July 27 and Oct. 12.
Address during Vacation,
LOIE ESMOND, 27, Esplanade, Whitley Bay.

"THE POWER OF THE KING."
the Brilliant Romantic Military Play.
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
Gorgeously mounted and costumed. The most costly dramatic production of recent years.
WANTED, through obliging Manager, July 20. Wire for July 20 (follow Wigan, precede Middlesbrough). Few Autumn, onwards. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, 64, Apsley-road, Yarmouth.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, Theatres for
FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."
Grand Revival of Chas. Reade's Famous Play, playing to Splendid Business.
Refer
Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff,
Prince's Theatre, Preston.
J. H. Curry, Esq., P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

Vacant Aug. 31,
Sept. 7, 14, 21,
and onwards.

"THE BETTER LAND,"
The Great Domestic Drama
produced at Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, June 22.
An Emphatic Success.
Autumn Tour commences Aug. 31.
Vacant Sept. 14, 21, and on.

Pantomimes.
"BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Vacant Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,"
Vacant Jan. 4, 11, 18, and later.

Managers, Note.
These Pantomimes are perfect in every detail, beautifully mounted and dressed.
Company of Star Artists,
Specialities, Dancers,
and Full Chorus.
Re dates,
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's T., Liverpool.

"WAS SHE TO BLAME?"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
Grand Production at the Junction, Manchester, Easter, 1909.

WANTED, few dates, Autumn, 1909. Write KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, Vauxhall, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"A SISTER'S SIN."
WANTED, July 20, Sept. 14, 28.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Wanted, Sept. 7, 14, 21.
Wire, KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Wanted, for
"LUCKY 'LIZA,"
"LUCKY 'LIZA,"
"LUCKY 'LIZA,"
"LUCKY 'LIZA,"
"LUCKY 'LIZA,"

Xmas and New Year.
DICKIE CLARE,
128, Peter-street, Blackpool.

"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
The Complete Production Travelled.
WANTED, July 27 (follow Bristol), Aug. 10 and 17 (follow Devonport),
for above Most Successful Drama.
JAMES HARE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
The Phenomenal Success at the Playhouse.
WANTED, good Theatres for above, for Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's Principal Company, approved by Mr. Cyril Maude, rehearsed by Lyn Harding. Managers with open time Oct., onward, please address, SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, big Theatres, for this great Drama. Wire Aug. 3, Aug. 3, Aug. 3, Aug. 3, Wire. Tremendous success this week at the Elephant and Castle. Refer Messrs. Barnard.
Monday, Theatre Royal, Woolwich.
Wire for Aug. 3, HARRY FOXWELL, as above.

"MAN TO MAN"
(By arrangement with W. Bourne),
Under the Direction of
Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.
The Hull Evening News says:—
"Man to Man" has been on the road as long as some of us can remember, but never was it better played, or by a stronger company, than last night. How's that, ye sceptical ones?

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 19.
Refer William Morton, and he does know.
FRANK ADAIR,
Theatre Royal, Leeds, July 13, six nights.

MR. R. A. ROBERTS'S CO.
"STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER."
WANTED, Good Theatre, Sept. 14, through cancelling, North preferred.
21, Cheapside, Morecambe.

MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY, in
"THE FLOWER GIRL."
The Musical Comedy success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical comedy at its brightest.
WANTED, Aug. 10 (between Southport and Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham), Aug. 31 (between Morecambe and Cheltenham). Now Booking Autumn, Winter, and Spring.
Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS,
Londesboro' Theatre, Scarborough.

"A BROKEN HEART."

WANTED, Big Theatre, Aug. 10,
between Manchester and London,
only vacant date till May, 1909.
HARRY FOXWELL, 226, Central-drive, Blackpool.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 7 and 14, for this Great Success.
HENRY L. OSMOND, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

"IN THE RANKS."
Tour commencing Star, Liverpool, Aug. 3.
Powerful Company.
New Plant of Printing by David Allen.
Entirely new Scenery by Francis Bull.
WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 21, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 30, Xmas, and Spring.
BERESFORD WHITCOMB, Pavilion Theatre, E.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE CURATE" and
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK," by Rass Challis.
WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 21, vacant through obliging; also Oct. 12 and 19.
Address, MAURICE, Hippodrome, Croydon.

WANTED, July 27, Aug. 24, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7, Xmas, for "Dandy Fifth."
HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre Royal, Portsmouth.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Aug. 10,
Aug. 10,
Sept. 7,
Sept. 7,
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

WILLIAM HOLLES and NANNIE GOLDMAN in Arthur Shirley's Great Domestic Drama,
"THE STEPMOTHER."

WANTED, Oct. 5. 12, 19, 26,
Nov. 9, 16.
WILLIAM HOLLES, 16, Great Newport-street, W.C.

LINGFORD CARSON'S SUCCESSES.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
WANTED, Aug. 17, Sept. 28. "THE POWER OF THE CROSS." Wanted, Sept. 28, Nov. 2. Please address, GEO. A. DE GRAY, 112, Caunce-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Monday, July 13, for
"WHERE WOMAN LOVES."
Dramatic Sketch, by Muriel Cozens. Managers read last week's Era's account of production. Splendid Success. Nothing just like it. Wire,
JAMESON, Bridge End, Peterborough.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4 (?), 11, 18, Feb. 8, March 1, 15, and 22.
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."

WANTED, First-Class Theatre,
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
FRED BULMER, c/o "The Era." Vacation address.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
Aug. 3, Oct. 12, 19, 26.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Aug. 24, Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 30.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 5, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 19, Nov. 16, 23, 30.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and the late Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Aug. 3, Aug. 3, and few later. Seventh year of tour and success greater than ever.
"THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD."
A fine new domestic play, full of powerful human and child interest. Splendid production and cast. Managers please send dates.
July 13, Royalty, Morecambe.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S COMPANIES.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, for either Play, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 28. Now Booking Spring, '09.
Coms. GEORGE KIRK,
46, Aldred-road, Crookes, Sheffield.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26,
Nov. 9, 16,
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28,
Jan. 4, 11, on.
July 13, T. R., Merthyr.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 21, Nov. 9 and 16, Xmas and New Year, Jan. 11, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Good Theatres, Aug. 13 (three), 24, Oct. 26 (to precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 and 30 (to precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. WYN WEAVER, O. H., Buxton.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, "The Bondman," Aug. 10; "The Prodigal Son," Aug. 31 (3 nights), Sept. 7, Dec. 26 (7 nights).
WENTWORTH CROKE,
Piccadilly-mansions, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOURS.
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
WANTED, Aug. 17, Oct. 19.
EUGENE BERTRAM, Killarney, Lewisham.

Miss MABEL LOVE in "LADY FREDERICK."
WANTED, Theatre, Aug. 13 (3 nights). Address,
PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-road, N.W.

"SECOND TO NONE," by Walter Howard.
WANTED, Theatres, Xmas, Feb. 1, 8, and Easter.
Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Scarboro'.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Lively Soubrette Actress, to sing, tall; immediate.
Box 6,697, "The Era."

WANTED, slight, tallish Lady, for Character Comedy; Gentleman, for small part, who can play the Cornet a little. Apply by letter, SKETCH, 2 Cuthill-road, Camberwell.

Mr. FRED GRANVILLE'S
"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND" CO
WANTED, Powerful Robust Actor, capable of Comedy and Pathos, for Tom Robinson; must be recognised Leading Man; also good Juvenile Man for George Fielding, and Heavy Man for Mr. Meadows; tall, good voices and appearance essential. CHARLES F. JOHNSON, T. R., Jarrow.

WANTED, for J. Bannister Howard's "Silver King" Co., Gentlemen for Wilfrid Denver and The Spider; also few Ladies and Gentlemen (tall) to walk on in "When Knights Were Bold." All particulars, WILLIAM MARTIN, Darrell's Agency, 415, Strand, W.C.

"THE FATAL WEDDING" AUTUMN TOUR.
WANTED, good reliable Heavy Man, for Curtis, height not less than 5ft. 9in. Send full particulars, references, lowest terms, and photo., where not known, to
ERNEST GRANT,
8, Clarence-place, Stonehouse, Plymouth.

GRAND THEATRE, STOCKTON.
Twice nightly Stock Season.
WANTED, First-class Heavy Leading Gentleman, rehearse July 31, open Aug. 3, 1908. Lowest terms, photos., and references, to M. MONTGOMERY, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Powerful Heavy Leading Actor, for Constantine Schawbe; Leading Lady, of Power and Pathos, for Gertrude Hunt; &c., &c. Open Aug. 31, Rehearse Aug. 24.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"NO WEDDING BELLS FOR HER" and "SAPHO."
WANTED, for Long Tour, commencing July 27, Good Heavy Man. References, photos., and full particulars, to STUART LOMATH, 62, Liverpool-street, Salford.

WANTED, Tall, Robust, Char. Com. Actor, Heavy Gent., Small Child (14), sing, dance, few Tall Chorus Ladies. WEATHERBY'S Agency, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

WANTED, a good Comedian, for Principal Comedy Parts, &c., in Farcical Comedy, must also be an experienced Stage-Manager, in modern Répertoire; none but first-class Actors need write. Apply by letter only to ALFRED DOVE, Sole Agent for Maurice E. Bandmann's Eastern Tours, 28, Gerrard-street, London, W.

WANTED, Ambitious Young Actor, with some Capital, willing to work hard and go abroad. Experience, age, &c., Box 6,721, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, two Amateurs (Lady for Comedy part, Gentleman for Acting-Manager), small premium, to be returned in salary; genuine. 19, Victoria-crescent, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, First-class Leading Lady, for Sketch, now rehearsing; good voice, tall figure. Particulars and photos., write for appointment. A. G. HENDEN, 76, Elgin-road, Ilford.

WANTED, for "The New Clown" Sketch, Dixon (Ringmaster) and Billy (Strong Man), both must be of big physique. Apply by letter only, with full particulars, to ARTHUR CORNELL, 23, Perham-road, West Kensington.

CHAS. FISHER'S "POCKET OPERA" CO.
WANTED, Principal Baritone, for "Il Trovatore," open July 20; also Bass, Baritone, Pianist, used to music hall work. Apply, Stoll's Hippo., Manchester; next week, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

WANTED, Actor, Gentleman, to stay as Guest, expenses paid, no fee, to run small Theatrical performance, one day a week, from July 14.
Write, Mrs. DOLPHIN,
Sheringham, Norfolk.

WANTED, Smart, Good-looking Chorus and Small Part Ladies, for Important West-end Production, experience unnecessary. Provincial applicants send photo. No callers. Letters for appointment, address, MANAGER, TUDDENHAM'S Agency, 304, Regent-st., W.

Stage Dancing Taught. Three lessons, 2s. 6d. Three Private Lessons, 4s. 6d. Children Carefully Trained. Quartettes and Ballets arranged.
WANTED good Amateurs, to Train for Troupe. KITTY TRAVERS, 12, Yarrell-mansions, Queen's Club gardens, West Kensington.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Susbcription 6d. weekly; yearly, £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Wanted Known,
THE GRENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by excellent Contralto and Accompanist, Summer Engagement. Reasonable terms. Address, WALKER, 27, Sutherland-avenue, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, by Lady, Engagement, with good Concert Party, Seaside preferred; well-trained Powerful Contralto; free July 12; good Accompanist. Box 6,694, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Tenor, fine voice, cultured singer, Répertoire, Engagement for July, Sept., for Piers, &c. Moderate fee. Box 6,706, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Conductors, Comedians, for Pantomimes.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, "Babes in the Wood," "Aladdin." "Beauty and the Beast." Wanted, Artists, in all Lines, Comedians, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Dancers, Specialities; also Good Producer, and two Conductors. Mark envelopes "Panto.," and address, with full particulars, to FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Australia, to sail end of Oct., Lady, for Principal Boy, must be tall, young, good voice, and first-class Artist; also for early spring, Principal Baritone, must be young and tall, and have a fine voice. Apply, C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, Ladies, for Pantomime, First-class Provincial Town, good appearance and good voices necessary. Apply personally (with song), Stage Door, Lyric Theatre, 11.30, Tuesday next, the 14th inst.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Louie Hurman, at Liberty for Panto., Principal Boy. July 13, Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Lizzie Hands, Refined Vocalist and Comedienne, Pantomime, Principal Boy; 5 years' experience. Address, Emp., Barnsley.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, late of Drury Lane, vacant for Panto.
All coms., Coliseum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Panto., by Aldro Lukos, Man Monkey Speciality, introducing Swinging Perch Act and Tumbling Antics. Offers, 22, Osborne-terrace, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Phinas and Aida, Pocket Gymnasts, with an Act entirely their own, on Tour, Liberty for Panto., Palace Scene, Animal Part.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue, of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, for Special Fortnight, start Monday, at Dartford, young and quick Scenic Artist, with own brushes. Wire terms, references, HENRY CHATTEL, Dartford.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for High-class, Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted during Vacation. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, at Liberty for Engagement or Contract. Thanks Milton Bode, Esq., for comfortable engagement. First-class refs. Address, 43, Beaconsfield-street, Chester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Stafford, Scenic Artist; best references and best work. 24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Known, to Variety Agents, Publishers, &c.—Gentleman desires position as Secretary, undertaking general office work, and combining duties of Pianist (Variety experience), sight reader, MSS., one-line copies, transpose, &c., capable of negotiating business, interviewing, &c. Terms moderate, H., Box 6,716, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Acting-Manager, for First-class Tour.
Salary and commission.
Cash Deposit £50 required.
A. M., Box 6,708, "The Era."

WANTED, Resident Manager, for Small Northern Theatre. No photographs or stamped envelopes. Terms and references to Box 6,713, "The Era."

WANTED, thoroughly competent Carpenter, combine small Character Part (Baggageman carried); must be absolutely reliable; good references indispensable. Box 6,707, "The Era."

WANTED, thoroughly experienced and reliable Stage Carpenter, with own tools. State age, height, latest references, and terms.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

WANTED, Smart Bill Inspector, to work round and assist Management at night; no use for anyone but a thorough hustler. Applicants must state age, height, salary, and references. No wires.
T. A. EDWARDES, Temple House, Derby.

NEW PALACE, EBBW VALE.
WANTED, Six Stage Hands, able to use brush, and do window billing. Full particulars first letter, to E. TILNEY, Abertillery, marked "Palace."

WANTED, at Once, Baggage Man, for Long Tour with Mr. Edward Compton. Apply by letter to 1, Nevern-square, S.W.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Business and Acting Manager, fully experienced Dramatic and Variety (twice nightly), first-class London references. Apply Box 6,693, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Agent in Advance or other capacity; well recommended by Albert Chevalier Esq.; willing and hard-working.
G. L.,
14, Culvert-road, South Tottenham, London, N.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Engagement, as Electrician and Operator, Vacant through closing; experienced in Variety and Dramatic working; good reference. BORRILL, P. O. W. T., Grimsby.

WANTED, by Electrician, permanent Engagement, Theatrical and Workshop experience, competent mechanic. H. W. L., 37, Turner-street, Whitechapel, London, E.

WANTED, by Electrical Engineer, with own Bioscope (Chrono), position as Electrician and work pictures. Reasonable terms. MATTHEWS, 322, Camberwell New-road.

WANTED, Reliable, Engagement, by J. Hayes, Master Carpenter and Scenic Artist, late O. H., Middlesbrough, T. R., Ryde; highest refs. 60, Brook-street, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, by Carpenter, with own tools, Situation, age 26, total abstainer; no previous experience with stage work. What offers? H. K., 115, Larkhall-lane, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement by C. Withers, Carpenter, Bench Hand, and Props.; own tools; assist; good refs. 64, Dongola-road, Philip-lane, London, N.

WANTED, Situation, BiH Inspector; £5 bonus paid for permanency if taken.
Box 6,699, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Man, 24, strong, sober, reliable, baggage or anything; can groom horses. LEONARD, 38, Sandgate-road, Preston, Brighton.

WANTED, by Young Man, 25, Situation as Assistant, in any capacity; quick and useful; good refs. G. P., 24, Aberdeen-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Situation as Useful Maid, to Professional Lady; good refs.; age 26; used travel. KENWAY, 28, Josephine-avenue, Brixton-Hill, S.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Known, the next Meeting of the London Branch of the A.M.U. will take place in the Club Room, on Thursday, July 16 next, at 1.15 p.m. Brother J. B. Williams will address the meeting. Notice of all future Meetings will appear in "The Era."

WANTED, Musical-Director (Violinist), Cornet, Trombone, Pianist, Flute, Clarionet, Oboe, and Drummer. Send copies of references. H. L. SKIVINGTON, Hippodrome, Greenock.

WANTED, Musical Director, and Full Orchestra of thirteen, including Pianist, for New Palace, Ebbw Vale, to open Aug. 31. Terms and all particulars to E. TILNEY, Abertillery, marked "Palace."

MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.
WANTED, thoroughly competent and reliable Variety Leader; permanency to suitable man; to open July 27. Terms and references to FRANK H. REED, Palace, Southampton.

ALBERT HALL, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, good reliable Leader and Cornet, to open July 27.
Also Pianist, to open Aug. 3. Send references.
Apply, MANAGER.

CASTLE THEATRE, STOCKTON.
WANTED, to open Monday Aug. 3, a First Violinist, able to lead; also Drummer, permanent, First and Second Horns,
for one week, same date.
Terms, &c.,
J. CHAS. IMESON, Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, First or Second Violinist (Military Band), Second Cornet, from Aug. 16 till Sept. 12; Seaside. Salary for the time, 200s. Apply, H. KIESGEN, 6, Bayham-st., Camden Town, London.

WANTED, Violinist; drunkards save stamps. Address,
SEC., 9, Little Butts-street, Bedford.

WANTED, Two First Violins, Trombone, and Double Drums, commence Aug. 3. Terms and full particulars, E. PRYCE, Pavilion, Abertillery.

WANTED, Exceptionally Fine First Violinist, for Brighton Municipal Orchestra, Concert Player, Permanency. Apply, JOSEPH SAINTON, Musical Director, Brighton.

WANTED, Good Lady Cornets and Flautists, for Ladies' Orchestra, Irish Tour, commencing Monday, Aug. 10. Photos., references, &c., Dr. ORMONDE, 65A, Montgomery-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, good Cornet Solo, to join July 26 to Oct. 3. Refs. and particulars, MICHAEL CONNELLY, Musical-Director, Victoria T., Ramsgate.

WANTED, Good Solo Clarionet, for Season Band (string), nine weeks certain, sobriety indispensable, open Monday next. Wire lowest terms, KLEE, Bandmaster, Tenby.

WANTED, Clarionet, Bass, and Trombone, for Kursaal season, Southend-on-Sea. Lowest terms and refs., REA, 17, Bournemouth Park-road, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, at once, for the Municipal Orchestra, Bridlington, good Double Bass, experienced in Concert work, until Aug. 1. Write, stating age, experience, &c., to MUS.-DIR., Prince's-parade, Bridlington.

WANTED, Wanted, Trombone,
for Exhibition.
State terms and reference.
Box 6,715, "The Era."

WANTED, for Buff Bill's Great Show, Circus, and Menagerie, a Good Euphonium Player, used to circus business; must be sober, and attentive to business. Address, BUFF BILL'S Circus and Menagerie, Waterford, Ireland, Monday.

SOMERSET AND BATH ASYLUM, COTFORD, NEAR TAUNTON.
WANTED, Male Attendant (Bombardon Player), wages commencing at £26 per annum, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform, with extra pay for band.
Apply, MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, Lady Saxophonist and Violinist, instruments provided, open at once, First-class Musical Act. Apply, SAXO, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

WANTED, First Horn, First Cornet (Soloist), and Trombone, for Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Orchestra, commence Aug. 3. Write, with latest references and lowest terms, to MUS. DIR.

WIGAN THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.
WANTED, to Open Monday, Aug. 3, for the above Orchestras, good 'Cello, Second Violin, Solo Cornet, and Trombone. Permanency for good Instrumentalists. Address, WORSWICK.

WANTED, at Once, Seaside, Good 'Cellist; must know variety. Others may write. Age, refs., and lowest terms, HARVEY'S Band Office, Sheffield.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, 'Cello and Flute, open July 20; must be First-class. Terms and refs. (copies), CHAS. W. JOHNSON, Musical-Director.

WANTED, for The Royal Pavilion, Aberystwyth, good 'Cellist and Double Bacso. Age, experience, and salary required, to MUS.-DIRECTOR.

WANTED, Brilliant Lady Harpist, with good voice for Musical Scena (Halls). Letters, H., 108, Castellain-mansions, Maida Vale.

WANTED, Immediately, Harpist, young, good appearance, long tour, first-class halls, well-known trio. LINTON, 10, Little Pulteney-street, Shaftesbury-avenue.

C. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, for Free Trade Hall, Manchester, July 27, Brilliant Pianist; must be used to Variety Work and wear uniform provided. State age, experience and terms, POOLE, Studio, Gloucester.

WANTED, Brilliant Solo Pianist, well up in Dramatic and Variety bus.; open Aug. 10. Add., with latest refs., W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, First-class Lady Orchestral Pianist, only those well up in Variety need apply. Wire, ANGLESS, Britannia Pier, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Gaiety Music Hall, Blyth, Pianist, Violin, Flute; must be used to variety business. Send copy ref., lowest terms, WM. YATES GREGORY, The Tower, New Brighton.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Piano Player, good appearance, who can sing to Illustrated Songs; and other Artists; for Wigan and Leigh. Central H., Leigh.

WANTED, Monday next, good Pianist (Vocalist preferred), for Pierrots, able to read manuscript. Wire lowest Summer terms, GUSTAVE, Clarendon Hall, Watford.

WANTED, Good Piano Player and Comedian; must be smart and steady,
for Auction Mart. Box 6,720, "The Era."

WANTED, a smart Double Drummer, at Once, all Effects, and one who can play Tubular Bells. The bells are found. Five hours daily, including Sundays; Military Band; 9 weeks' engagement. Wire, CONDUCTOR, Lansdowne Villa, West-street, Bognor.

WANTED, a good Double Drummer, used to Pedal Cymbals, for eight weeks, First-class Music Hall, Lancashire; good money. Address, Liberal Club House, Clayton, Bradford, Yorkshire.

WANTED, for Free Trade Hall, Manchester, for ten weeks, to commence July 27, Double Drums, with Effects and Tympanis; must wear uniform provided. Age and references to
J. R. POOLE, Studio, Gloucester.

WANTED, smart experienced Mandoline Teacher, for Classes at Miller's Mandoline College, 6, Bewsey-road, Warrington.

WANTED, Aug. and Sept., First-class Cimbalo (Soloist), also Violinist (Leader), Orch. Pianist, and Drums with Effects, for Hungarian Band. First-class Concert work, Seaside. Only experienced Artists reply; young and single gents preferred, stating references, &c., and salary required. Box 6,696, "The Era."

WANTED, for separate Town Band in connection with Folkestone Military Band, to play in Marine Gardens and other suitable places, make own collections; uniforms provided; a good opportunity for good, steady men: Two Cornets (First and Solo), one B Flat Clarionet, two Tenor Saxhorns, one B Flat Euphonium, one B Flat Trombone, 1 E Flat Bass. Write, SECRETARY, 44, Sandgate-road, Folkestone.

WANTED, First Violinists, 'Cellists, and Pianists, for White Star Line, Mediterranean Service; good orchestral experience; audition before engaging. State age, experience, and give names and addresses of two references for character and ability. Engagements for not less than six months, commencing in August and September. CHARLES WM. BLACK, 14, Castle-st, Liverpool.

WANTED, Full Orchestra, to open Aug. 3; rehearse Saturday previous (Theatre). Terms, references, experience, and instrument, to FRANK SEDDON, Musical-Director, c/o C. St. John Denton, 34, Malden-lane, London, W.C.

WANTED, for Tour, commence Sept., Lady Violin, Cornet, Flute, and Double Bass. Photos., &c., J. H. TOMKINSON, 36, Albany-road, Kensington, Liverpool.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, Viola and 'Cello, not over 30 years of age, and single; none but competent players need apply. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 at the end of the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and according to promotion to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Apply to THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, Brass Band of Ten (Drums included), from Aug. 1 to end of Sept., Leader to find music, must be steady, attentive, competent, and able to play good mixed programmes.
Apply, MUSICUS, The Palace, Rhyl,
with terms and references.

WANTED, Family Band.
Full particulars,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, thoroughly experienced, Conductor, Military or Orchestral Band, Band supplied, any number of performers, neat uniform, popular music. BIDGOOD'S BAND AGENCY, 2, Meeson-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director or Violin, Viola, London references; good library; age 35. ROBT. J. FULLER, 43, Graylands-road, Peckham, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director, brilliant Violinist, Theatre, splendid library of music; highest references. Can supply First-class Instrumentalists. MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 47, St. Mary's-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, Theo. Klee, Liberty, Mus. Dir. or Leader, variety preferred, thoroughly experienced C/o MARSHALL, 4, Mount Pleasant, Rothesay, Scotland.

WANTED, Re-engagement, immediately by Pianist-Conductor through unexpected closing; young, fully reliable; first-class arranger. Highest references. FRED SAEKER, New Hall, Bargoed, South Wales.

WANTED, Known, Frank Barrett, Musical-Director, at Liberty.
9, Boxworth-grove, N.

WANTED, by First-class Violinist, as Leader; can join at once;
up in all lines.
R. HODGES, 23, Bryn-street, Merthyr.

WANTED, Known, good Leader, at Liberty, experienced in Variety and Brilliant Violinist. Address, J. F. CARPENTER, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Violin Soloist and Conductor, Tremendous Draw (Hungarian), Open for Immediate Engagement, at Hotel, Café, or Seaside, &c. Can supply Band. Box 6,690, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin; fully experienced all Lines; can open at once. Address, 11, Barclay-st., Leicester.

WANTED, by Second Violin, temporary or permanent engagement, commence August; only moderate wage desired. Box 6,692, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by First Violinist and Viola, steady, reliable, good reader, nine years in private Orchestra. ALFRED JOEL RICHARDS, Wookey Hole, Wells, Somerset.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, as First or Second, experience all lines; good refs.; Disengaged Aug. 1; thoroughly steady. VIOLINIST, 2, Granville-road, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement as First or Second Violinist, thoroughly competent and reliable; also capable of Leader. J. FURNISS, 79, Victoria-road, Saltaire, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Violin, experienced, middle age; steady, reliable; can start immediately. Offers. VIOLINIST, 65, Sartoris-road, Rushden.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Lady Violinist, Orchestral and Soloist, just concluded successful engt. Palace Pier, Brighton. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, First or Second; good references; late 7th D. Guards. F. BAKER, 2, Sunnyside, Sandgate, Kent.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, good young Cornetist, Disengaged through closing. H. ANGEL, 47, Stopford-rd., Upton Manor, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Solo Cornet; can join at once; excellent refs.
R. O'DONOGHUE, Empire, York.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly experienced Cornet, or Deputising, any Business. A. FOWLER, 4, Pembroke-house, Stanmore-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Cornet, just concluded three months' successful engt., Palace Pier, Brighton, any business. BARRS, 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, combine Viola, Disengaged Aug. 16; sober, steady, reliable; good testimonials; age 25 WHITE, Flushing, Athelstan-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, good sight reader and player, can be recommended, any distance if fare paid. CLARIONET, 84, Lupus-street, Pimlico, London.

WANTED, Known, Open to Engagement; can start at once, Double Bass and E flat Tuba; late Staff Band-Sergt. F. NORRIS, 68, Celt-street, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass, experienced. G. W. CRANE, 43, Potter's-terrace, Bross Croft, Hadfield, Derbyshire.

WANTED, by Bassoonist, Disengaged 18th inst., Engagement, any Business; present situation 12½ years. W. CURRAN, 119, Hanover street, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, young Double Bass, four-string; experienced Variety; good refs.; to commence Aug. 3. Write, MAYO, Rushden, near Northampton.

WANTED, by Double Bass (4 string), Engagement; exceptional references; Variety preferred; Disengaged 18th. JAMES, 3, Brynmer-street, Greenock.

WANTED, Known, Lady Bassist wishes experience; thorough Musician; very low terms if instrument provided; can do songs at piano. Box 6,695. "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Lady Trombone, experienced, now Disengaged. Address, LADY TROMBONE, c/o Mr. Weeks, 70, Bovill-road, Forest Hill, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombone or Euphonium, any business.
Apply, P. EWINS, 9, Garrard-street, Reading.

WANTED, by Euphonium, reliable, good tone, Engagement, Military Band, Seaside. BOURNE, late Grenadier Guards, 106, Culvert-road, Battersea, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by an experienced E flat Bombardon; well up in all standard music; good refs. BRUCE, 154, St. Pancras, Chichester, Sussex.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cello, any business.
'CELLO, 4, Godman-road, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED by 'Cello, late First-class London Music Hall, permanency or Deputising.
F. B., 203, Graham-road, Hackney, N.E.

WANTED, an Engagement, as 'Cellist, in Music Hall, Theatre, or Seaside Orchestra; thoroughly experienced; good references. E. INKPEN, 8, Milton-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute, Piccolo, from Aug., permanent; experienced any Business; strict sobriety, reliable. References and terms, address, LEX WATSON, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, Engagement, by competent Flautist, late R.A. Band, Canterbury Music Hall, London, &c. WILDMAN, 9, Glengall-road, Kilburn, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by N. Robinson, Pianist, Orch. or Self, any Bus.; steady, reliable, good reader; excel. refs.; any dis. Woodbine Cottage, Victoria-road, Dartmouth.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Pianist, for Aug. and Sept.; best references.
NEREPKA, 10, Albert-st., Camden Town.

WANTED, Known, Pianist, Solo and Orchestral, thoroughly experienced; just completed long tour; at Liberty. Address, W., 36, Albert-street, South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Vacant through Disappointment, First-class Pianist, Vocalist, 'Cellist, Violinist; thoroughly experienced; join at once. PIANISTE, Ash House, Redcar, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, First-class Pianist, at Liberty; combine Second Violin, Arrange, Conduct; refs., young; Al-Fresco or Hall. Offers. PIANIST, 14 Chatsworth-street, Leicester.

WANTED, by Lady Pianist and 'Cellist (good), Engagement, month or six weeks, beginning Aug.
Apply
Box 6,703, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Pianist, sober and reliable, good refs., can open at once. PIANIST, 7, Church-place, Dover

WANTED, Re-engagement as Lady Pianist, self or Band, experienced in all Lines, sight reader. MUSICUS, Band, Empress Hall, Earl's Court.

WANTED, Known, Gilbert French, Solo Pianist and Accompanist, seeks Seaside Engagement during Aug.; could double Second Violin. Address, Windermere, Boston-road, Hanwell, W.

WANTED, Engagements, by Double Drummer, with Full Effects; Pianist, combine Violin; Leading Violin; and a First Solo Cornet and Clarionet. Excellent references given. Thoroughly acquainted with Concert, Theatre, and Variety.
Apply, Messrs. RUDALL, CARTE and Co., 23, Berners-street, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly experienced Double Drummer, any Business; steady, reliable; good refs. DRUMS, 107, Graham-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Tympanist, Double Drums, combine Violin, at Liberty. W. H. BAKER, Bethesda-street, Merthyr Tydfil.

WANTED, Known, The Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, three to thirty performers, open for Hotels, Pavilions, Parties. MADAME WILTON DAVIS, 42, Linton-street, London, N.

WANTED, Summer Engagement, by the Hogarth Orchestra, four to eight performers; large répertoire. Apply, DIRECTOR, 32, Merton-avenue, Chiswick.

WANTED, Known, Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, just finished successful three months' engagement on Palace Pier, Brighton, open for immediate engagement, any business, quartette or any number, soloists, smart costume. POPPIES, 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or Seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 55, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement during Summer Season, by a Trio (Instrumental); extensive répertoire. Apply, C. H. J., 142, Askew-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Engagements, by Ladies' Trio, Violin, Piano, 'Cello; experienced Soloists.
K. W., 84, Cavendish-place, Eastbourne.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, to Open at Once, Saturday, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Animal Turns, and all kinds of Specialities, Lady Wrestlers and others preferred, price no object for the right stuff; also Lady Dancers, for Parade. All applying for engagements must be good showmen, willing to work, and if suited, three years' engagement. Also good Agent in Advance; must be a Doorsman; Lady Pianist, Violinist, Cornet Players, and others. Wanted, Bioscope and Operator. Write, call, wire, to J. CLEMPERT, Patti's Royal Circus, Nelson Grove-rd., Merton, Surrey; or, 311, Brixton-rd., London, S.W.

WANTED, Bending or Posturing Act, Jugglers, those that Clown preferred; no Gymnasts. Terms low; join at once. MADDISON, Circus, Sherburn-in-Elmet, Yorks.

WANTED, for well-known Double Comedy Acrobatic Act, a smart Young Man, weight not over 9st.; must be funny, good tumbler, and used to Comedy Acrobatic business as Top Mounter. Write, stating age, height, weight, tricks, if married, and all particulars in first letter, to Box 6,691, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man who can Tumble. State tricks first letter.
Box 6,699, "The Era."

WANTED, smart Young Man, that can work Three-bar Act and Knockabout. Lowest, &c.
Box 6,714, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, who presents his Arabian Mare Silver, in great Novelty Act, Vacant July 12, 19, 26, and Aug. 2. Maerdy Squire, Ferndale, Glamorgan.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Austin, Tumbling, Talking, Knockabout Clowns, with Entrées also Comic Pyramid of Chairs and Food Equilibrist, at Liberty July 20. Address, Wood Castle, Bordesley Green, Birmingham.

WANTED, next week and July 20, Miss Myria Lo-La and Clown, the Marvellous Lady Three-bar Expert. Wire, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, Aerial Gymnasts,
on Tour with
Sanger's Hippodrome.

WANTED, July 13, 20, by Ondra, the Juggling Gymnast, only act of its kind.
Address, 24, Brook-street, Preston.

WANTED, by the Prince Milner Trio, Acrobatic Hoop Juggling, Wire Act, July 20, 27, Aug. 3, owing to closure of halls; two big acts for galas. This week, City Varieties, Leeds; next, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, Engagement, with Travelling Company, Leslie Bros., Magicians and Comedy Jugglers. Address, 13, Kitchener-road, Forest Gate, Essex.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
The Three Röhrs,
The Three Röhrs,
The Three Röhrs,
Looping the Loop in the Revolving Globe.
The most marvellous Bicycle Act of the present, which draws full houses everywhere. At present the biggest Park Attraction at the White City, Manchester. Vacant July 20, 27, and Aug. 3 (Bank Holiday). Salary or Shares, Galas, Fêtes, &c. All coms. to CHARLES ROHR, White City, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ada Webb's Water Wonders, including Elba and Alba, the Aquatic Marvels. Acknowledged the greatest scientific and ornamental Swimming Exhibition in the World. Hippo., Great Yarmouth.

Balloon Ascents.

WANTED, Known, Lieut. Lempriere, the Popular Reliable Aeronaut, can undertake one more Balloon or Parachute Engagement August Bank Holiday. For Aeronautical Displays of Every Description, address, LEMPRIERE, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot air Balloons by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 46a, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by energetic young man, as Advance, for Tenting Show; good sober Faker and Brush Manipulator. Box 6,709, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
P'hone, 1626 Gerrard. Manager, HARRY LANE. Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Big Specialities and Variety Artists in all Lines.
Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys,
Principal Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts,
Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dancers.
All communications as above.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to WM. BIGGAM, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, Monday, July 13, and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, July 27 and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.

WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Big Specialites,
Aug. 3, onwards.
Lowest terms, first letter,
booking, lithos., &c.,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 09261.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Monday next and onwards; also big Tops for London. MAURICE FRITZ, Albemarle Variety Syndicate, 157, Strand, London, W.C.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, July 27, Aug. 10, 24. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, July 20, on. 1A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists, Gentlemen, Al Fresco and Hall, Bioscope, Pianist. Terms, or equal share and benefit, HOWARD, 60, Lord-street, Leigh, Lancs.

VERNO'S AGENCY
(under the direction of L. Verno and H. Arnold),
16 Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, July 13, on. Tele., "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Artists, Large and Small Turns. Absolute lowest first letter. Tour list. Interviews by appointment only. ROBERTSON'S Agency, 9, Burnbank-gardens, Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Variety Artists,
Variety Artists,
Big Specialities,
Big Specialities,
The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts
The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts
in the Business,
in the Business,
for
Blackpool, Morecambe, Southport,
Douglas, Brighton,
and Ireland,
for July 13, onwards.
Send full list of
Bookings, Lithos., and Lowest Terms,
to
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S "ROYAL GIPSY" CO. Estab. 1883. Twenty years' continuous Tour.

WANTED, for Season 1908-9, commence Sept., First-class Artists, in all Lines, Startling Specialities, Pair of Comedians, Sisters, Vocalists, Clever Juveniles, and Bioscope, &c. Only those who can accept tour (about nine months) need apply. Full particulars, and state where can be seen working, to JOHN H. TOMKINSON, 36, Albany-road, Kensington, Liverpool. Interviews by appointment only.

WANTED, First-class and Refined Artists (none others need apply), for Pavilion and Summer Gardens, Northwich, Ladies' and Gentlemen Vocalists, Operatic Singers, Comedians, Mimics, and all classes of Entertainers and Novelties. Pictures. Open July 27. Good stage-director. Address all particulars, MANAGER, 12, Winnington-st., Northwich.

WANTED, Artists, for Boscombe Beach, Sole Permit, used to sketches, dress well, large rép. Write, MANAGER, 15, Seabourne-rd., Pokesdown, Hants.

NEW PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
CHELTENHAM.
General-Manager, Mr. EDWARD B. SHENTON.
Business-Manager, Mr. JOHN WALTERS.

Architect, Mr. WINSTANLEY, St. Anne's-on-Sea.

A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS, DOUGLAS, I.O.M.
Proprietor and Manager, FRED J. CONNOR.
WANTED, Known, big success of opening night, Mon. last, July 6. Many thanks to Artists and others for the numerous telegrams, &c., of congratulations. Pleased to hear from Specialities for Aug. and Sept.

MAIDSTONE PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, Artists, Agents, and all whom it may concern, to Note, Mr. T. M. Sylvester is no longer the Managing-Director of this Company, and all letters and communications should in future be addressed to the new registered offices of the Company at 27, Chancery-lane, to the Secretary, Mr. HENRY ANDREWS.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Lithos., terms, and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Big Variety and Speciality Stars, Aug. 3 (Bank Holiday), and on. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Empire and Lyceum, Stafford.

EXCHANGE PAVILION, KIRKCALDY.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
big Star Turns for Dec., onwards; nothing too big. Leading Top Liners please communicate at once to the sole Booking Agency, DAY'S Agency, 116, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton, S.W. Tel., 712 Brixton.

WANTED, Some Good Variety Turns, for Fête and Gala at Llanelly, Aug. 21 and 22.
Apply,
H. STUDT and SONS, Fair Ground, Maesteg.

WANTED, for small Gala near Birmingham, on Wednesday, July 29, two smart Turns; those in district communicate with lowest terms, &c. JAZON, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, Talent all Lines, July 27, Aug. 3 and Later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

CYRIL DUNDAS'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines. Those near Liverpool and Manchester write in for Saturday night Varieties.
52, Rosthwaite-road, West Derby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Every Class of Acts.
Wanted, Every Class of Acts,
Wanted, Every Class of Acts,
Tops, Bottoms, and Centres.
Tops, Bottoms, and Centres,
Tops, Bottoms, and Centres.

Immediate Vacancies, on.

Nothing too big.
Nothing too small.

HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
Head Office,
Empress Theatre, Hartlepool.

Telegrams, "Chosen."
Telephones 231 and 231A.

Bookings include every Hall of Note in England and Continent.

WANTED, good Comedy Acts and Dancers, near Sheffield, July 27.
Address, WILL ONDA, Temperance Hall, Preston.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, Specialities, Comedians, Serios, Comedy Acts, Doubles doing Singles, Acrobats, and Big Continental Turns, for all towns in the North, for immediate dates and on. Write at once to the Reliable Agent.

WANTED, for Aug. 3, onward, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to JAS. TYRER, The Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Specialities and Novelties, for small Hall. Lowest terms,
KAIL STERN, King's Head, Llandudno.

WANTED, for France, big Specialities, money no object. Lithos. and terms first instance, FLORIA, Palace, Warrington.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
WANTED, Tops, Middles, and Bottoms, Specialities. Comedians, Comediennes, Sisters, &c. &c. Nothing too Big, Nothing too Small. Apply, Manager, as above.

HIPPODROME, ALDERSHOT.
WANTED, First-class Varieties, all Lines, Aug. 10. Silence polite negative. J. GLADWIN (Manager for Mr Soanes).

WANTED, Monday next, for Barnet, Good Doubles doing Singles, also useful Single Turns. Lowest summer terms, GUSTAVE, Clarendon Hall, Watford.

WANTED, Tabloid Musical Comedy (able to use Local Chorus). Speciality and Variety Acts, Open Dec. 26 (Matinée and Evening), also Dec. 28 (week). Lowest, lithos., &c., at once, FARNSWORTH and DYSON, Variety Agents, 124, Crookesmoor-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Select Concert Parties, Pierrot Troupes, or other complete Entertainments. State full particulars and terms to THE COVENTRY CRICKET GROUND CO., LTD., Hertford-chambers, Coventry.

WANTED, Select Concert Parties and Pierrot Troupes, for South Coast, for approved Pitches on Beach, on Shares, Stage, Electric Light, Chairs, and Attendants provided. State number in Troupe, and full particulars, to PROF. LENTON, 17, Lennox-road, Worthing.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

SUMMER GARDENS AND PAVILION,
NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE.

WANTED, First-class and Refined Concert Parties, complete in themselves, Pierrots, Pictures, and Al Fresco Entertainers, Open Dates, July 27, onward.
Good Stage, Electric Lights, &c.
Address,
MANAGING-DIRECTOR,
12, Winnington-street, Northwich.

WANTED, Lady Trick Cyclists, No. 2 Troupe. State terms and age, JAS. E. DONEGAN, per Dunedin Troupe, Box 6,719, "The Era."

WANTED, at once, Ladies for Chorus and Music Halls, with or without experience. Call any day, JOHN HALLICK, 10, Greek-street, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Smart Young Lady, Singer and Dancer, to join first-class quintette, for Continent, good salary, long engagement. Send photos. and full particulars to Miss VALENTINE, 9, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, a good Conjurer and Illusionist, possessing own Illusions,

for a year's (or more) engagement.

Apply,
Box 6,687, "The Era."

WANTED, Gaiety Music Hall, Blyth, Aug. 3, on. Sentimental Vocalist and Refined Speciality Turns.
Lowest terms; Hall small.
WM. YATES GREGORY, The Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, Monday next, one or two weeks, Character Vocalist for Pierrot Pavilion, Wellingborough. Wire lowest. Find own Pierrot dress. MANAGER.

WANTED, Boy Vocalists, Choristers, over fourteen; also Coloured Comedian.
Apply, MUNROE, Empire, Dover, July 13.

WANTED, Two Comedians, doing Singles, for Al-Fresco; rehearse at once. Manager, 11, Arundel-road Great Yarmouth. Bishop and Vale write.

WANTED, smart Comedian, also a Pianist, Sharing terms, for Al Fresco.
Apply, AL FRESCO, Winter Gardens, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Smart Young Lady, to Assist Illusionist; must be pretty and petite; long engagement for suitable girl. Age, height, &c., Box 6,711, "The Era."

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, good Operator, to open July 20; must have good working knowledge of limelight, and provide first class machine and all connections for cylinders and lantern. Comfortable engagement for really first-class man. Apply, with lowest terms and references, to STANLEY ROGERS, above address.

WANTED, thoroughly efficient Bioscope Operator, for Tour abroad; good salary, all expenses paid. Apply, giving full particulars of ability and references, to WEST'S "Our Navy," Anchorage, Southsea.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, one spool nightly, must look after 200 Chairs and make himself useful; long Al Fresco season. Lowest terms, GRAPHO and JACKSON, Abington Park Hotel, Northampton.

WANTED, good Bioscope Operator, willing to make himself useful in the Theatre. Full particulars, last two references, lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, a Competent Operator, for Al Fresco, Waltzdaw Bioscope, lime.
M. W. SHANLY, Winter Hall, Worthing.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist, July 13 and 27. Perm. address, 32, North-side, Clapham Common; CAVILL'S Agency, 108, Strand, W.

WANTED, Monday next, also July 20, 27, and Aug. 3, by Zelda, Novel Instrumental Lady, big act; also Wal Owen, Silent Comedian. Wire, Irving T., Seacombe.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, Banjoists, Vocalists, Dancers, vacant July 13, 20, and 27. Enormous hit Opera House, Workington, six numbers nightly. After Sat. night, 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Monday next and onwards. Wire or write, 12, Florence-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Aug. 17, 24, and 31, 1908, by Walter Curtis, the Humorous Entertainer; large répertoire, refined funny items. Next, Pier, Worthing.

WANTED, July 13, 20, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman, Concertina; Refined.
Grand Theatre, Douglas.

WANTED, by H. E. Bennett, Humorist, Aug. 17 and Sept. 14, Al Fresco or Halls.
105, Cavendish-road, Highams Park, Essex.

WANTED, July 13, 27, Aug. 3, by Syd Herman, Hebrew Comedian. A sure success. Wire, 16, Bittern-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Pier Pavilion, &c., by an accomplished and refined Magical Entertainer; excellent references and satisfaction guaranteed; large original Novelty Spectacular Act, nicely staged, entirely out of the ordinary run of Conjurers. Advertiser is acknowledged one of England's finest Entertainers. Box 6,700, "The Era."

WANTED, July 13, 20, 27, and Aug. 3, by Essler Kessen, the Wonderful Magician and Ventriloquist, to follow tour with Mr. Leslie Harris. Refer North Pier, Blackpool, or Pier Hastings. Clever, refined, and humorous. Coms., 50, Pendennis-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Harry Kardoc, free Monday, on, sure draw, lithos.; also First-rate Bioscope, latest Pictures, electric and gas, iron house, everything carried. Wire or write for one or both, complete show if required. See Card.

WANTED, by Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese Conjurer. Aug. 10, 17, and 24, to follow Dundee. This, O. H., Workington; next, Public Hall, Barnsley.

WANTED, Monday next, July 13, wire, 41, St. Mary's-square, Kennington-road, S.E., Kyoto (Japanese Pot-Pourri Act), also May Geraldine (Dainty Comedienne and Dancer), also vacant July 20, 27, Aug. 10, onward.

WANTED, Monday next, also 20th, by the Two Le Bruns, Unique Vocal Juggling Speciality; Edie, the only child Cinquevalli and Clever Vocalist. Address, 21, Shirley-street, Hove, Brighton.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Comedy Dutch Duo, July 20, also Aug. 3, through Halls closed. Hip., Ashton; next, Met., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, The Vollmers (Master Harry and Little Ruthie), Violin Soloists and Dancers, Vacant July 20, 27, and Aug. 3, 39, Tassie-street, Shawlands, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Webb, Musical Clowns, at Liberty July 27, Aug. 10 and 17. This week, Palace, Hull; next week, Empire, Leeds.

WANTED, by Doyle and Gibson, Comedians and Dancers, July 20 and 27. Monday, Empire, Stockport. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Fame and Fortune, Versatile Speciality Comedians, are vacant July 13, 20, Aug. 3. Address, 38, Larkhill-terrace, Blackburn.

WANTED, July 20 and 27 only, by the Original Two Walonells (Jack and Ben), Refined Eccentric Gymnasts. Address, JACK WALONELL, Empire, Stockport.

WANTED, July 20 and 27, by The Carlsens, Comedy Trampoline Speciality, splendid two-sheet Posters. 23, Cooper's-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Woodbee Wonders, the World's Greatest Comedy Acrobats, at Liberty July 27 and Aug. 3. North preferred Hippo., Queen's Park, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, also July 20, by the Ives, Novelty Bag-punching Speciality Act, most costly, elaborate electric fit-up, beautiful dresses, pretty appearance. Competitions nightly. Starring everywhere. Wire, Pier Pav., Southport.

WANTED, Known, Four Cecilians, Two Distinct Acts, Vacant July 13, 20, 27. Don't want the earth. 120, Victoria-dwellings, Clerkenwell, London.

WANTED, by The Musical Palmers, July 20 and 27, to precede four weeks, Curzon Hall, Birmingham. Share or certainty. Conclude tonight, Palace, Blackburn. Monday, Opera House, Workington.

WANTED, July 13, 20, by The Peps. This week big success Theatre, Worcester.
64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, July 20, 27, by McAleavey Marvels, Irish Champions and World's Greatest Trick and Barrel Jumpers. This, Aquarium, Scarborough; next, Palace, Greenwich.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon's Trio, Acrobatic and Risley Eccentrics, vacant July 27. This, Tiv., Dublin; next, Hip., Belfast. Perm., 3, Winsley-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, The Lashmars, Vacant July 20 27, and Aug. 3, Smart Comedy Act, Songs, Acrobatic Table Work, and Expert Dancers. Address, Post Office, Pontypridd.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Screamingly Funny Acts, dates August; specially engaged, Carnival, Glasgow. P. A., 8, Fenwick-street, Manchester; or STEBBINGS.

WANTED, July 13, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number. Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Spanish City, Whitley Bay.

WANTED, Fêtes and Galas, &c., The Holmars, Stage Trapeze and Ring Act; Miss Lo-La and Clown, smart Comedy Three-bar Act. 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, 13th, 20th, and 27th, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe (five), greatest Athletic Act of all time, including the Beautiful Vulcana, the Originator of the late craze, in her wonderful Classic Poses.
Wire 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Monday next, for Walker's Would-be Acrobats, Globella, Juggling Speciality. Vacant Monday. Wire, 6, Commercial-place, Huddersfield.

WANTED Monday next, also July 20, Aug. 3, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist. Wire, Queen's, Keighley, Saturday; then, Union-road, Macclesfield.

WANTED, July 20, onwards, by Gulliver, First-class Ventriloquist, fine Comedy Act.
Address, New Pavilion, Hoylake, Cheshire.

WANTED, Monday, also Aug. 3, by Harry Keeble, the Ventriloquist, and Gladys Wells, Comedienne. Alex. T., Pontefract.

WANTED, by Trillo, Royal Ventriloquist, Monday, great Act, refined and humorous, one or five figures or both. Wire, 132, Clarence-rd., Grays.

WANTED, by Lieut. Albini and His Mysterious "Lady in Black" Wonder, recognised draw, July 13, 20, 27, and Aug. 3. Permanent address, 125, Tufnell Park-road, London.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
the Wonderful and Artistic Selbinis have
Vacant July 20 and Sept. 14,
only two weeks vacant for next two years.
All communications to
193, Brixton-hill, London.

WANTED, by Swift Duo, Humorous Cycle Act, Monday next, also 20th and 27th.
Wire or write, Empire, Hyde.

WANTED, Known, Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist, vacant July 13, Aug. 10.
Wire, Hippo., Lancaster.

WANTED, Sept., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the biggest Novelty ever introduced with Troupe of Dogs. Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Fêtes, Galas, Halls, Fluffy, the Canine Marvel of the Twentieth Century, Dates for Aug. ELLIS, 17, Clover-street, Rochdale.

WANTED, by Lumière's Original Grotto, Vacant July 20, 27, near London preferred. Wire, share or certainty, to-day, Pier, Hastings. Monday, 27, Merchant-street, Bow, London.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
D'Arc's Marionettes,
not the ordinary,
the extraordinary.

The Marionette Music Hall Originators.

The feature of every Programme.

Open for July 27,
Aug. 3 and 10.

This week,
Empire, Islington;
next week,
Olympia, Shoreditch.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private, Harmon's Bioscope, Marionettes, also Royal Punch and Judy, with Toby. 326, Earlsfield-road, Earlsfield, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
"One of the Biggest Hits yet"
best describes the enormous success of our latest marvel,
The Slot Diabolo,
The Slot Diabolo,
The Slot Diabolo,
The Slot Diabolo,
The Slot Diabolo,
an Automatic Amusement Machine,
in which the public love to place their money, for the fascinating play it gives them.
It gives no trouble, but it gets the dollars.
Get one now.
Procrastination is the thief of time—and money.
Every day you delay means money lost.
Write for terms and particulars of 100 other "money magnets."—Vide testimonial.

THE MINERVA AUTOMATIC AND MILLS NOVELTY CO.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.
Owners and patentees of the famous
Electric and Automatic Violin.
Telegrams, "Minervauto, London."
'Phone Holborn 5705.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENS, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROTHERS, AND CO.
Sole Makers of the only Patent Cake Walk Riding Machine in the World.
Royal Letters Patent, No. 17,402, July 30, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 25,150, Nov. 13, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 2,649, Feb. 6, 1908.
REGISTERED TRADE MARK, "CAKE WALK."

WANTED, Known, users as well as makers who infringe will be proceeded against.
These machines are running successfully at Earl's Court, Crystal Palace, Blackpool, Weston-super-Mare, and in English and Continental Fairs. Recognised as a Triumph of Engineering Skill for simplicity, lightness, and durability. Appreciated by the Public everywhere. For further particulars, write, or call on the Sole Makers, Farncombe-street, and 94 and 98, Bermondsey Wall, Bermondsey, London, S.E.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to send for my new list, with over 2,000 illustrations of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Field Glasses, Bazaar and Fancy Goods; every line right for price. SIMONS, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, Known, Stacey's Showman Stores, new address, 510, Kingsland-road, London. Established Settles-street sixty years. Everything for the Fair. Guns, Cartridges, Swing Ropes, Flare Lamps, Slot Machines, &c. Our latest money-getter, The Hindu Spirit Writer, sure success, &c.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars,
C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Refined Side-show, for Trades Exhibition, Burnley, July 14 to 24 inclusive. Address till Saturday GOODALL, Trades Exhibition, Stockport; afterwards, Burnley.

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties, at all times.
HUMBER'S Waxwork,
George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Known, Good Freaks, Novelties, &c., can have 8, 10, or 12 weks' engagement at my American Museum. Send fullest particulars, terms, &c., and samples of lithos.,
A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, a good Quick-showing Novelty for Booth; good run of Fairs up to Xmas; must have good Flash. Shares or salary. Professor RUBY, Post Office, Pill, near Bristol.

WANTED, for Gala, Aug. 3, Punch and Judy Show. Terms,
TOLFREE, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

WANTED, at once, a good Phrenologist, best position in Margate; Share or Rental. Write SHAW, Marine Arcade, Margate.

WANTED, one or two Smart Paraders; those who can do turn inside preferred. Jack Lorimer, Sam Allen, Paddy Mills write. LAWRENCE, Feast Ground, Cresswell, Derbyshire.

WANTED, good Doorsman, Side Show. Apply,
LESSEE, Tower Pavilion, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Best Doorsman Obtainable, for Maze. Address, giving references, experience, wages required. PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, at once, First-class Doorsman, for Conjuring and Magician Show; must be good talker. Apply, PRINCE ISHMAEL, Old Pier, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, capable men, good talkers, used to pitching, for New Fortune Device; small cash guarantee required. LESTER, Aylesbury. Telephone 69.

WANTED, Good Talking Doorsman (no shouting), tall, wear uniform, for picture show; also Good Biller. QUINTON GIBSON, Scarborough.

WANTED, for Hancock's Coliseum, a Cinématograph Operator, used to Show Business; also a Working Manager, to take charge; and one or two good men, board in or out; good wages to good men; also a good Traction Engine Driver, used to Show Hauling. Fares can be arranged. Apply, HANCOCK, West Hoe, Plymouth.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Mount, Lecturer or Door, First-class Exhibition Pictures a Speciality; experienced all Lines. 5, Westfield-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Tom Maynard, the well-known Showman and Hustler, is at Liberty for Management, Resident or Travelling, Theatres, Halls, or Shows; late Manager, Cook's Excursions. Communications, 42, Canning-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Bert Hall, experienced Comedian and Pianist, late Auctioneer and Manager, for Tom Musgrave. For particulars and refs., apply, 69, Hartington terrace, Lidget Green, Bradford.

WANTED, Engagement, F. W. Britton, well-known Premier Lecturer, Effect-worker and First-class Doorsman. Terms and references apply, permanent address, Bank-place, Auchterarder, Perthshire.

WANTED, Situation, by good all-round man; used to Show Business, Doorsman and Lecturer; Menagerie preferred. Address, C. B., 145, Garfield-street, Salford, Manchester.

To Showmen.

WANTED, to Sell, Freehold Large Café Restaurant, on Wine and Beer License, ample living accommodation, large Tea Gardens, over one acre, with good Cottage, large Ball-room or Shooting-gallery, and Cloak-rooms thereto, perfectly private, with about 370ft. own promenade and frontage to sea, comfortable house, doing already fair trade, with swings, roundabouts, &c., added, attract thousands of visitors, about one mile from Ramsgate and close to Margate, Broadstairs, Deal, Walmer, and Herne Bay. Further particulars and order to view from BUSHELL and Co., Westerham, Kent.

WANTED, to Sell, immediately, large Travelling Bioscope, Walk-up Show, complete (Organ front), the property of Roundabout Proprietor, not having time to attend, will dispose of same, a great bargain. Purchaser could have grounds and travel along with Roundabouts, &c. Show can be seen up by appointment. Apply, NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

DISTILLERY GROUND,
ABERCARN, MON.

WANTED, Known, John H. Rennie has received instructions from Mrs. Johns to Sell by Auction, on the spot, as above, on Friday, July 17, at 3 p.m. prompt, two Large Travelling Vans, on springs, fitted with slow combustion stoves, large collection of Bellamy's Foreign Shells, Minerals, and Corals, artistically arranged in glass case, also fine Architectural Bellamy's Models of Raglan, Bothwell, and Stokesay Castles, Michael's Mount, and Glastonbury Abbey, and other effects. Full particulars from
THE AUCTIONEER, 6, Skinner-street, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, to Sell, massive carved Two-waggon Walk-up Front, built by Orton, splendid Living Accommodation, very bold and impressive when built up, can be seen, suit Bioscope or any large Show, owner no use for same, will sell cheap, or exchange for First-class Pullman Living Carriage, Road or Rail, not less than 17ft. 6in. long. Apply, JOHNSON, 14, Canal-walk, Southampton.

Owing to Death of Proprietor.

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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Ernest Shand, Barton and Franklyn Trio, Molasso Quartette, Two Anartos, Carlotta Levey, Ed. E. Ford, Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, Ada Cerito, Bioscope, Howard and Harris.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Ed. Clark's "Winning Widows," Lena Verdi, St. George Sylvester, Moon and Morris, Barton and Ashley, Signor and Madame Borelli, Twin Andersons, Kioto, Wania, Bioscope, La Belle Titcombe.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, Aida Martine, Bros. Dean, Rhoda Paul, Roma and Romani, Little Zola, Ten Dixie Girls, Harry Simms, Bioscope, Terry and Lambert.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Bella and Bijou, Lilian Lowe, Gwennie Hasto, Harry Leybourn, Stelling and Revell, Winifred Hare, Nipper Lane, The Brennans, Bioscope, W. C. Fields.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Victoria Monks, Sisters St. Julian, Lupino Bros., Fred Curran, Arthur Lennard, "The Daughter of the Regiment," Daras, Three Cape Girls, Illustrated Song and Glee, Bioscope, Wille Bros.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Bransby Williams, The Leonards, Garganis, Bertha Stuart, Bioscope, Olgar and Elgar, Bros. Webb, Sisters Pine, Carl Howard, George Westland, Bros. Egbert.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Fred Karno's "Moses and Son," Rosa Loader, Harold Thorley, Hawthorn and Burt, Wieland, Harry Weldon, J. W. Rowley, Musical Schaffers, Bioscope, Nellie Wallace.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Chas. Harrington's Co., in "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Happy Fanny Fields, Tom White's Arabs, Frank Lynne, Ian Colquhoun, Three Merrils, Picchiani Troupe, Three Prestons, Lyric Quartette, Bioscope, George Gilbey.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Magic Carpet," Dusty Rhodes, Frank Seeley, Barrett and Knowles, Irene Lee and Candy Boys, Chas Norton, Leonie Dixon, Leo Stormont, Amy Marsden, Bioscope, Lil Hawthorne.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Hetty King, Cassie Walmer, J. A. Wilson, Campbell and Barber, Little Ganty, Marie Santoi and Co., Norman and Leonard Trio, Madge May, Bioscope, Alexandre and Hughes.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Walter Passmore and Co., Frank Hartley, J. W. Rickaby, Howard and St. Clair, Seven Wulfrunas, Florence Yaymen, Lennie and Hast, Hugh Barclay, Bioscope, Sanford and Lyons.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Whit Cunliffe, Burnetti, Irene Rose, Matthews and Cowper Co., Schiavonys, Franco Piper, Vickey Delmar, Ray Maskell, Bioscope, The Craggs.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
George Lashwood, C. J. Johnson, Fred Lincoln, Marion Scott, Charlene and Charlene, Mlle. De Dio, Bros. Redmond, Anna Kenwick, Crown Trio, Bioscope, G. H. Chirgwin.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"Charlie the Sport," The Maples, Nelson's Newsboys, Tennyson and Wallis, Seeley and Rhodesia, Gus Garrick, Sisters Grovini, Mena Brae, Bioscope, Ella Shields.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Elliott Savonas, Kitty Taylor, Four Jumels, Herbert Shelley, Reichen's Dogs, Marie Empress, Bioscope, Phil and Nettie Peters, Ten Ji Troupe, Jack Pleasants.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Ernest Abbott and Co., in "Shadows of a Great City."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Arthur Roberts and Co., in "Till Sunday," Harry May Hemsley, David Stewart, Narow Bros., May Henderson, Tom Lloyd, Walker and Lake, Marie Blythe, Bioscope, Frank L. Gregory Troupe.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Poluski Bros., Mason and Bart, Harry Tate's Co., in "Motoring," Bioscope, Nell Emerald, Fred King and Marie Queen, Nellie Martell, New York Nippers, Harry Rogers and Co.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
R. A. Roberts, Will Johnson, Daunton Shaw Troupe, Will Poluski, jun., Zertho's Dogs, Farr and Farland, Daisy Martell, Bioscope, Griffiths Bros.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Harry Lauder, Arabella Allen, Stratton Mills and Bobby Nairn, Stewart and Morgan, Mitchell and Cain, Billy French, Jenny Johns, Howe and Ardie, Bioscope, Mendel.

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Until Further Notice.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Mark Sheridan, Chas. Stevens, Rich and Rich, Ted E. Box, La Belle Nello, Elsie Robey, Will Musgrave, Bioscope, "Home from the Honeymoon."

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Mike S. Whallen, Tom Foy and Co., Elton and Edwin, Alice Maydue, Ernie Mayne, Johnson and Bert, Fred Elton, Cussac Talma, Bioscope, Callahan and St. George.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Auger and Co., Ouida Macdermott, Frank Bernard and Co., Belle Green, Thos. E. Finglass, Vasilescu Troupe, Max Yorke's Dogs, Vanando, Bioscope, Hymack.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
John Lawson and Co., in Répertoire, Boden and Bell, Frank Couch, Fred Poplar, Peggy Pryde, Tom Woottwell, Kitty Wager, Bioscope, Albert Whelan, Foreman and Fannan.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
George Robey, Ralph and Nellie Howard, Helen Trix, Ethel Hayden, Henry Coutts and Co., De Wynne Bros., Spry and Austin, Bob Hamilton, Bioscope, Laurie and Beatty.

NOTICE.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of, or damage to, any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

Odette Valerie, Celia Galley, J. W. Hall, Nartelloni Family, May Edouin, Fred Edwards and Co., Ten Loonies, Howard and Howard, Selbinis, Coloured Meisters, Jack Neil, Vernon Troupe, Bioscope, Ludwig Amann.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Laurie's Juveniles, Gracie Grahame, Olive and Owen, Katie Butler, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, Vandinoff, Babs Lloyd, Pictures, Will Godwin.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, Hans and Lux, Maud Mortimer, Stuart and Evans, Lily Esplin, Barbara Babbington, Pictures, King's College Boys.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Neil Kenyon, Cissie Curlette, Mlle. Eldee, May Mars, Barlee and Smith, May Fayre, Pictures, Herald Comedy Four.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
Joe Peterman and Co., W. H. Downes, Little Dando, Three Sisters Jerome, Daisy James, Baker and Balfe, Carney and Armstrong, Talbot and Pearce, Pictures, The Delevines.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Alice Raymond and Players, Theresa Da Silva, Witty Watty Walton, Northern Troupe, Billy McClain and Co., Hall and Earle, Carl Lynn, Bioscope, Verno and Voyce.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Dunedin Troupe, Sisters Allen, Cline and Clark, Orpheus, Margaret Radcliffe, Bioscope, Green and Wood.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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"LET ME BUT HOPE."
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Sung by Miss Ethel Hayden.

"IN THE TWI-TWI-TWILIGHT" (Wilmott and Darewski), "YOU'RE PROUD TO BE A SOLDIER" (Nairn and Mathews), "DEAR MR. ADMIRAL" (F. W. Leigh), and "HANG OUT THE FRONT-DOOR KEY" (B. H. Burt).
Sung with enormous success by George Lashwood

"A LITTLE BIT OF PARSLEY"
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composed by Little Max Darewski.

"I KNEW I'D GOT SOMETHING TO DO"
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Sung by Bernard Russell.

BANG WENT THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME"
(Sax Rohmer),
Sung by George Robey.

"MANDY'S WEDDING"
(Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford),
Sung by Paul Mill's Company, The Courtiers, also by Keith Prowse's Entertainers.

"I NEVER REPLY"
(Pelham and Rule),
Sung by Miss Gladys Mavius.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski).
Sung by Miss Carlotta Levey and Miss Florrie Forde.

"SUE, SUE SUE, I'M VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH YOU"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski), and
"I WANT TO GO TO IDAHO"
(Lawrance, Mellor, and Gifford),
Sung by G. H. Elliott.

"ON THE CLIFFS OF NORMANDY"
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Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:

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I hope Miss Lily Lena is not making her "farewell" to America. I hope she stays till I know her and her songs by heart, that some day I may tell of her and teach them to somebody's children's children.

HAVE YOU GOT ANOTHER GIRL AT HOME LIKE MARY?

that was the inquisitive title of her song. It will wander all over the land like the "Are-there-any-more-at-home-like-you" sextette. Its melody goes through you—positively! In at the ear and out by the mouth. Nobody asks you to join in the chorus (Miss Lena is far too clever for any device so trite), but nevertheless you do join in, and barely below your breath.

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"When sweet Marie was sweet sixteen."
"Katie, darling, I am waiting."
"When the birds in Georgia sing of Tennessee."
"I loved you then, I love you still."

BALLADS.
"I'd live or I would die for you."
"All the world loves a lover."
"As long as the world rolls on."
"Take me with you in your dreams."

SOUBRETTE NUMBERS.
"Little convent miss."
"Pretty little heather bell."
"Wink, wink, wink."
"Several little reasons."
"Learning her lessons."
"Take a sail in my boat."
"Carry me off in a big balloon."
"Oh, Mr. Man, Man, Man."
"You're in love."

MARCH SONGS AND OPENING NUMBERS.
"When the minstrels come to town."
"True heart."
"Stars, stripes, and you."

COON SONGS.
"Just because he couldn't sing, 'Love me and the world is mine.'"
"Party that wrote 'Home, sweet home,' never was a married man."

LIGHT COMEDY AND CHORUS SONGS.
"Shady side of Bond Street."
"Hats off to the King."
"Take me down to Blackpool."
"Lemon in the garden of love."

COMIC.
"They all go to church on Sunday."
"Billy Brown."
"Beautiful dreamy eyes."

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Emerson and Baldwin, Prof. Norton, Bains and Read, Takio, Norah Stockelle, the Violas, Natalia and Diana, Pasquali Bros., Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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Maud Rochez's Monkeys, Chas. Resti, Madge Field, Harry Nelson, Cullen and Carthy and Cluley, Bartholomew Girls, Robins and Collier, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Les Zelovas.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Helen Roberts, Chas. Penrose, Ernest Rees, the Three Arleys, Florence Esdaile, Clark and Hayden, the Lannons, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Alber's Polar Bears, Zeta Gray and Co., Ryan and Hall, Walter King, Mr. E., W. E. Whittle, the Evalos, the Kirbys, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Raymond, "House of Tinn," Sisters Florence, Lee Curreys, Cissie Esdaile, Lambert and Hands, The Nicholsons, Harry Royde.

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"A Secret Wedding."

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Wright Aitken and Company, Harry Bland, Bros. Tarrant, Lew Towers, Edie Coolville, Della Sisters, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock.
Peter Gotz, Sisters Belmore, the Vyponds, Jack Lane, Norah Noble, Chassino, Bros. Bradshaw, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Corbin's Dogs, Les Belles Americaine, Victor Travers, Edie Cassen, the Avolos, the Florias, Mayme Cannon, "The Art of Deception," Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
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PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Will H. Fox, Mersano, Venie Emerald, Edwards and Dacre, Larry Lewis, the Varleys, Gracie Hunt, Cestria, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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Matinée every Monday.
Geo. Newburn, Raymond, Ruby Emmerson, Hewson's Æolians, Gertie Lewis, Roy Beavis, Rene, Ruhart, Scottie's Waifs, Whizzing the Whirl.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Dandy George, Joe Dale, Tiny Arnold, Raymond, The Orchids, Willie and Johnny, "The Red Web," Chas. Tuppen, Johnny Worman, Madge Daly.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Ada Parker, A. E. Clifford, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Raymond, Kenneth and Kane, Sisters Hampel, Massona, Sheldon Mills, Hulo Hudgson and Co., Brien McCullough and Co., Marie Neilson.

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Financial Times, Jan. 28:—
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Daily Express:—
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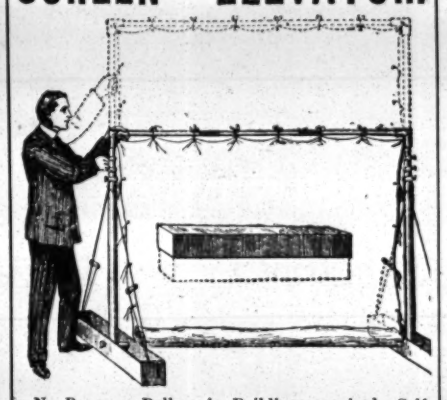

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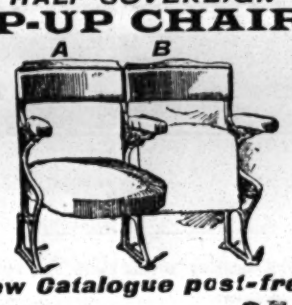

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ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—The stock company here this week presented for the first three nights the Bullock version of *East Lynne*. Miss Mabel Mannering in the rôle of Lady Isabel submitted an artistic portrayal; Mr. Robert Faulkner was completely successful as Archibald Carlyle; Mr. Stanley Bedwell gave an excellent representation of Sir Francis Levison; Mr. J. G. Maine acquitted himself creditably as Lord Mountsevern; Mr. Sydney Cranston was a capital Dick Hare; and Mr. Allan Carruthers a popular P.C. Bullock. Mr. Louis Edmonde as Lawyer Dill and Mr. W. H. Melrose as Justice Hare proved satisfactory; Miss Maude Townsend was seen to advantage as Barbara Hare; and Miss Violet Temple was an effective Cornelia Carlyle, Miss Nellie Lewis being all that could be desired as Willie Carlyle. For the remaining three nights the stage was occupied by a new and original domestic drama entitled *A Scheme that Failed*.

TOWN HALL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Mr. Walter Mould, the late resident-manager of the Hippodrome, which was totally destroyed by fire a fortnight ago, has taken over all the available dates of this hall, making it a temporary abode for variety until arrangements are definitely completed regarding a new stone edifice. A capital programme, chiefly composed of a series of animated pictures, was arranged for the opening week, amongst which The Sleeping Beauty and a dramatic film entitled Beatrice Cenci was the pick. The MacConnell Trio, in their musical comedy sketch, contributed considerably to the evening's entertainment; Bessie Travis proved herself a smart ventriloquist; Eily Adair is a dainty comedienne; and Manson and West delighted the audience with their comedy act.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—The success attending the efforts of Fred Karno's companies is well assured here, and the reception of another this week was even greater than on the two previous weeks. *The Casuals* and *The Mumming Birds* are two farcical extravaganzas which are simply side-splitting, and take up a good part of the evening. The Three Delaries go through a marvellous performance on the trapeze and rings; the Sisters Edwards as dancers, singers, and drummers are as popular as ever; and Aggie Flanagan appears as a male impersonator. On Tuesday as an extra turn a clever professional whistler gave several bird imitations.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Revill.—Mr. Fred Somerfield's company is touring with a stirring melodrama entitled *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*, and its first appearance here this week is creating a good impression on local playgoers. The incidents are of a specially exciting character, and the plot reveals the temptation of a good woman and her ultimate triumph. Miss Cissie Bellamy enacts the part of Mary, Geoffrey Langdon's wife, with refinement, skill, and power; Mr. Paul Beckett as Felix Beverley must also be credited with power, and the same commendation may be applied with equal truth to the impersonation of Jack Stirling by Mr. Edward E. Louis; and the impersonations of Geoffrey Lagndon by Mr. Wilson Summers, and Col. Miles, by Mr. W. E. Passmore, are striking instances of skilful and artistic study of character; Miss Elsie Capell as the Hon. Mrs. Sands plays the society lady in the approved style; Miss Katie Lever is particularly charming as Sweet Nancy. The drama is splendidly dressed and mounted.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—The list of artists here includes the Imperials, ju-jitsu wrestlers, who give a thorough demonstration and explanation of all the locks and holds in ju-jitsu. Fritz Kornau is an expert whistler; Spangles and Sawdust give a smart stage aerial act; Dunningarto is neat and expert as a sleight-of-hand performer; Ted Waite is a good singing comedienne; the Kyasas give amongst other wonderful feats their dental and hirsute novelty; Beattie Foster is a good serio-comic, and Wallace Whitney a popular character comedian. The Gaieties of Divorce is illustrated by the Bioscope.

BARNSLEY.—NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson. — The Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese performers head the bill; Le Diablo, in a cycle act, "looping the devil's wheel," submits a thrilling performance; Miss Lizzie Hands, vocalist-comedienne, is heard to advantage; Spencer and Marks, in an original act, entitled *The Stage-struck Waifs*, are well received. The programme also includes the Athlones, society athletes, in perfect posing of muscular development; Hersleb Bros., Danish comedy artists, evoke laughter in their motor-car act; Theresa and May, in a smart protean act; and Hughes and Elliott, in song and dance. The Palascope completes.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Charles March's company in *The Gamester of Metz* is here. Mr. March, in his numerous disguises, acts as cleverly as ever, and Mr. William Brash is a capital Captain Henri Badaire; Mr. Arthur Merryless is an excellent General de Montparasse; and Miss Lizzie Prescott as Gwendoline Pearson, Miss Nellie Brash as Countess Baldot, and Miss Una Lane as Lucia Baldot act with judgment and taste. A scene from a new play, *The Centurion*, is also billed.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—An exceedingly good all-round programme is presented here this week. The top turn, the Elite Harmony Boys, in a vocal act, *Messmates Ashore*, delight their listeners; Otto and Olga, in a speciality act, are great favourites; Josh Dixon, a comedian, sustains his reputation; an excellent contortionist act is given by Gibbon and Bell; Miss Estrella is an expert barefoot dancer; Miss Mabel Roberts a pleasing vocalist; and Vernon's Bioscope is attractive.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—Some very interesting pictures are drawing capital houses here this week. Miss Lilla Dalma contributes pleasing songs and dances.

BARRY DOCK. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden. — Messrs. Chabot and Ballard present *Only a Woman* here this week. Mr. Percy Ballard gives an excellent representation of Courtenay Wallace; Miss Violet Crawford as Marie Lestoc is herself well suited to the part; Messrs. H. Barker and F. Edwards do well; Mr. F. Green as Lieut. Summerfield scores well; as do Mr. W. H. Willson as Rodney Summerfield. The fun is provided by Miss M. Douglas as Eliza Jane.

NEW GARDENS, BARRY ISLAND.—Lessee, Mr. Arthur Prince; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. MacAllister.—The chief attraction here is Mr. Arthur Prince. Mr. A. MacAllister evokes much applause; and other turns are given by a good all-round company.

BATH.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Miss Dolly Elsworthy is here in her capital sketch *The Orange Girl*; and the Menzies, comedy duologue artists; Alma Moller, Australian vocalist; Ruby Parsonage, comedienne; Matt Merrymount, "the Pantomime Dame"; Jim E. James, bone soloist; Jack and May Mackenzie, in *Married for Money*, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are the other attractions.

BELFAST.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Clarke and Hamilton have been very successful with their smart comedy act; Mr. James Fawn is paying a return visit, and his comic songs have delighted all; the gymnastic feats of the Fitzroys have created quite a sensation; and Les Sousloffs, whirlwind dancers, gain a fine reception, thoroughly deserved. The acrobatic act of the Haydas Troupe is one of the best ever submitted here; and also appearing are Mr. Francis O'Flynn, a banjoist of note; Miss Minnie Mace, comedienne; and the Palace pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmot and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—De Gracias Royal Assam Elephants top the bill, and their remarkable feats have aroused much enthusiasm; Charles Daly and Kitty O'Brien are a smart comedy duo; and Mr. L. W. Harris is a comedian of exceptional merit, with good chorus songs. The Two Countees, humorists and harmonists, take well; and Miss Maud Vera is a charming comedienne and fine dancer. The acrobatic act of the Ted Moxon Trio is one of the best ever submitted here; and Ingram and Irving, the Turkish Tom Thumb, Miss Minnie D'Aubyn, a good vocalist, and the Hipposcope complete.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery return here with their successful skit entitled *The Would-be Actors*, which had a good reception; the King's College Boys must be commended for their vocal items, which have been well rendered; and the talented comedienne, Miss Maude Mortimer, easily gains immense favour for her charming rendering of several catchy songs; Miss Barbara Babbington is aptly described as a clever vaudeville artist; and Hans and Lux, "The College Chums," in songs and patter, receive an excellent reception. Also appearing are Miss Lily Esplin, comedienne; Stuart and Evans, comedians; and the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The animated pictures here are still proving a great draw, and even on the hottest summer evening this theatre is packed to the doors. This week the following views have been exhibited, The Bully and the Recruit, Tramp's Daughter, Disappointed Heirs, Dr. Cornelius, The Lady Barrister, The Perjurer, &c. In addition, Mr. Karl Edwards, vocalist, appears with much success; also the Two Sports, comedy artists, who have made a big hit.

BILSTON.—AL FRESCO PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—Mr. Alf. Brookes and Mr. Harry Plant give a good selection of comic songs; Miss Flo Holroyd sings "Madam'selle New York" with taste and expression; Mr. Fred Field (baritone), Mr. Carl St. Clare (female impersonator), and Mr. Bert Simner (pianist), all contribute to a successful programme.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Frank Lindo's company in the domestic drama *Home, Sweet Home* commands extensive patronage. An excellent representation is much enhanced by a careful and powerful rendering of Stephen Armitage, a part to which Mr. Lindo does the fullest justice; he is ably supported by Miss Marion Wakeford, who wins all hearts by a fine and natural performance of the rather exacting rôle of Joan. Mr. Helsby Wright as the conventional villain Lucas Lyle receives the compliment of being heartily hissed for the fidelity of his conception, and Mr. Archer Brown is well suited as the Duke of Ancaster. Miss Maude Elliott as Sybil Fay is worthy of special commendation; Dick Redmayne is well played by Mr. G. Rogers, and Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle is an efficient David Armitage; Miss Minnie, a promising juvenile, plays Dora with remarkable intelligence and effect, and the remainder of the company are quite adequate to their respective tasks. The scenic effects are on a very complete scale.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Paul Barnes, of New York, is a comedian and raconteur of the first water, and in this, his first engagement in this town, has achieved a pronounced success; Miss Selina Braatz displays extraordinary ability as a lady juggler, and the merit of her clever show is heartily recognised; the Foy Brothers and their able company work hard and with success in their amusing sketch *Pat in China*; and the New Macs are thoroughly entertaining comedians and patterers; the Sisters Dorrell are charming duettists and dancers, and Miss Agnes Asher, comedienne; Mr. Bert Brantford, a character comedian of ability; Mr. Nat Wilkins, a versatile comedian; Miss Jenny Hartley, comedienne, and Brown's Royal Bioscope complete a capital programme.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS, ROCK FERRY.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—A musical comedy described as being without a plot, entitled *The Gay River*, is supported by a clever combination, including Mr. Bert Byrne, Miss Harriet Fawn, Miss Constance Clive, Miss Dora Langham, Mr. Frank Dunlop, Mr. Norman Greene, Mr. William Crawford, Mr. Francis Rayne, and Mr. Dudley Gibson. These entertainments are enjoying a very successful season.

BIRMINGHAM. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Greed of Gold* is drawing fine houses here, with Mr. T. Morton Powell's company. That clever and unprincipled rogue, Harry Hood, is represented adequately by Mr. Murray Yorke; Mr. Alf. Stretton's ingratiating manner as Arthur Errol is very successful; Miss Elma C. Turner leaves nothing wanting in the part of the wife, Dora; Miss Annie Barclay supplies a clever portrayal of Mrs. Maxwell; Mr. Victor C. Rolfe does well as the friend, Mr. Brightsome; Miss May Clarke finds favour as the boy Cecil; and Mr. James Jarret gives a faithful study of the dumb man, Tom Welstead. The lighter rôles are played with much ability by Mr. Sydney Bryant as Cully Snig, Mr. Denis Campbell as Conn Creamer, and Miss S. Bryant as Patty Marfield.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—The Great Vaudeville and Universal Animated Picture Co. is making a big show here, this week's being a marked success;

George Collins, comedian, scores among the company, and Will Verne, another comedian of a very versatile stamp, and Olive and Wilfred, American comedy sketch artists and dancers, appear successfully. The pictures comprise The Mountaineer's Son, Mandril's Seals, The Secret of the Iron Mask, A Game of Hide-and-seek, Doll-making, An Intricate Duel, Trixie, the Clever Princess, and The Police Women.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*For Love and the King* shows Mr. C. Watson Mill and company here in fine array. Mr. Watson Mill is supported in his cleverly-conceived creation of Jarval by Miss Rosalind Tate, whose charming looks and inspired acting as the Princess Athene kindle the utmost admiration; Mr. John Burton gives a powerful and engrossing study of the miser, Michael Obrenovic; Mr. Henry Earlesmere succeeds well as the son, Vladimir; Mr. T. W. Dunscombe acts with energy as the Prince; Mr. Geoffrey Chate is capable as the Duke; Miss Joan Ellis wins the sympathies of the audience as the beggar-maid, Natila; Miss Marie Ault is successful as Grazia; Mr. Frank Lyndon bears himself well as the King; and, among others, Messrs. Jim K. Woods and Arthur Trail shine as Carl Oppenheim and Kosta Marko respectively.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, with Mr. Chas. Harrington's popular combination, holds the position here, and proves a great attraction. Mr. J. Carr's investment of the titular rôle, with its attitude of grave benevolence, makes a goodly impression; Mr. T. Bowdron invests the character of Legree with due force and brutality; Mr. Chas. Harrington is a popular personage as the goodly Quaker; and the other parts are in excellent keeping, to mention Topsy (Miss Annie Watson), Cassie (Miss Hettie Johnson), Eva (Miss Kitty Bell), George Harris (Mr. Cecil Austin Olgar), Eliza (Miss Hero Hathaway), and Aunt Ophelia (Miss Jennie Malcolm). Some smart specialities proceed from Rich and Moore, Ben Rowe, Walter Langford, Amy Height, Rowe and Holden, Shorty May, and others.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Happy Fanny Fields scored a big success here on Monday, but unfortunately, having caught a chill, was unable to appear at the second house, Nellie Wallace deputising for her. George Gilbey has made a mark with his "Policeman" song; and Frank Lynn comes in for a large share of applause. The Picchianis do a clever acrobatic turn; the cycling act of the Three Merrills is decidedly neat; the Lyric Quartette render their selections with effect; and Ian Colquhoun's rich baritone voice is heard to advantage. Tom White's Arabs and the Three Prestons in a sketch, *The Liftman's Rise*, are amusing.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—*Moses and Son* is the attraction here; a fine juggling turn is done by the Great Weiland, assisted by Mlle. Carlotta; Nellie Wallace's songs are repeatedly encored; an excellent turn is done by Ross Loader, "the slavey at the piano," who entertains her audience and wins loud applause; the Musical Schaffers, J. W. Rowley, Hawthorne and Burt, Harold Thornley, and Harry Weldon add to the mirth of the evening.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Julian Rose, Hebrew comedian, is appearing here in his monologue *Levinsky at the Wedding*, which is very funny; Mlle. Edwin is an expert contortionist; Mike Cray is an amusing comedian; the Westwoods do a remarkable cycling act; John E. Coyle is loudly encored for his songs. Other popular turns are supplied by the Mayos, Satsuma, Gena Manon, and the Three Cunards.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Owen.—Harry Freeman is the big turn here, and has made a hit with his songs; Sinclair and Whiteford have a good sketch, *Getting Even*; Sid Bandon is applauded for his songs; Adey Spencer, Susie and Protti, Auto, Chas. Best, Risbey, and Josie Delaine complete the programme; and Over the Sticks is depicted on the Bioscope.

BLACKBURN.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Junius Booth and company are playing *Monte Cristo* with great success to crowded houses.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—The artists appearing here are Cullen and Carthy, amusing comedians; Maud Rochez, with her Royal Monkey Music Hall; Robins and Collier, in their laughable sketch *The Lady and the Porter*; Harry Nelson, comedian; Les Zelovas, acrobatic equilibrists; Charles Resti, sleight-of-hand artist; the Bartholomew Girls; and Madge Field, vocalist.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Thos. Sidney and company present *The Marriage of Kitty* here this week in a manner deserving of much praise. Mr. Sidney's assumption of John Travers is naturalness itself, and Mr. Edgar Kent gives a good account of Sir Reginald Belsize. A very charming Kitty is found in Miss Mary Thorne, whilst Mme. de Semiano is well represented by Miss Winifred Pearson. *Twenty Years After* is the title of an interesting curtain-raiser.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr T. Sergenson.—*The Dandy Doctor*, played by Mr Edward Marris's company, is again proving attractive fare here. Miss Florence Smithers repeats her really admirable performance of Jane, and carries all before her; Mr. Chas. A. Stephenson as Melchisadek Brown, and Mr. A. Leslie Martin as Bertie Bolingbroke also play their parts exceedingly well, and provide the major portion of the fun; Miss Mollie Wynne is charming and winsome as Ivy Pendred; Miss Lottie Stone's Eight Empire Girls and the Little Dutch Girls contribute some admirable dances.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Little Tich tops a bill which also contains several other eminent artists, including Phil Ray, the well-known comedian; May Moore Duprez, a clever singer and dancer; and Marguerite Broadfoote, a singer of bright songs. Other good turns are supplied by Edie King, comedienne; Bella Ophini, gymnast; La Belle Flora, in an artistic mélange; Dorma Morgan, vocalist; and Yamamoto and Koyoshi, Japanese equilibrists. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope continues to show all the latest pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mrs. Fioni.—The living pictures form the special feature here, and evoke rounds of applause nightly. The variety turns are supplied by Drum and Major, comedy specialists; Odey North, comedian; and the Sisters Stewart, acrobats and singers.

NORTH PIER.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. James Walker.—The Gems are supplying a capital entertainment here this week. The company, which is under the direction of Mr. Wallace Kennedy, includes Miss Bessie Walker, Miss Olive Mortimer, Mr. Ernest Attwell, Mr. David W. North, and Mr. Kenna Lawson.

CENTRAL PIER PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Mark Daly.—Mr. W. H. "Pip" Powell heads a company of excellent artists engaged here this week.

VICTORIA PIER.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Geo. Roberts.—Mr. Sydney Gandy, ventriloquial entertainer, and Miss Inglefield supply a pleasing entertainment here. Herr Blome's orchestra provides the music.

THE WINTER GARDENS AND THE TOWER are also attracting huge crowds daily, without any change in their respective programmes.

BOOTLE.—MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The stock company is this week presenting a sensational drama entitled *A Career of Crime*, the principal characters being well represented by Mr. Albert Sember, Mr. Alfred D. Adams, Mr. Stanley S. Gordon, Mr. Tom H. Solly, Miss Nina Vaughton, Miss Kathleen Magee, and Miss Effie Macintosh.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—The excellent bill provided here is headed by Messrs. Garland and Douglas, who, with their company of eighteen coloured artists, present a unique and original musical mélange. Ethel Newman gives a neatly arranged monologue, entitled "Her Wedding Day," for which she is heartily applauded; Irve Hayman and Little Marie Montague, in *Christmas Eve*, are successful; José Collins renders some capital up-to-date songs, her refined voice being much appreciated; Percival, in his one-man musical comedy, *All through the Christening*, is humorous; Frazer and Haley are responsible for harmonious duets; and the Hippo. pictures exhibit an interesting set of films.

BRADFORD.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—On Monday night Mr. Montague Beaudyn, for the first time here, presented the romantic drama *Send Him Victorious*, which had a very cordial reception at the hands of a large audience. All the elements of an interesting and stirring play are introduced in Mr. Herbert Skardon's work, and the interpretation is excellent. In the part of the political adventuress, the Countess Kara von Mecklinberg, Miss Marie Robson acts with dramatic skill and power; the Ambassador's daughter, Ethel Hardinge, Miss Irene Munroe represents with grace and repose; Mr. G. M. Montanini has a part in the reckless, conspiring Colonel Kaufmann which suits him finely; Captain Frank Allison, a military attaché, is a manly effort on the part of Mr. Beaudyn. The humorous element is capitally sustained by Mr. Harry Oates as an easy-going soldier, Geordie Walker, and by Miss Cecilia Crawford as Gretchen Haltz, a sprightly Dutch maid. The play is very finely staged.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—John Warren, the Court magician, presents a distinct novelty here this week in the shape of a mysterious military episode, *The Magic Carpet*; it is a very clever illusion, and, in addition, Mr. Warren performs some smart sleight-of-hand tricks; Miss Mollie Wynter as the Whistling Nurse, and a good company support Mr. Warren well. Lil Hawthorne, comedienne, is on a return visit, bright and charming as ever; Leonie Dixon, a pretty soubrette, executes a clever dance; Leo Stormont's baritone song is prettily illustrated; Irene Lee and Candy Boys score a distinct success in their clever American song and dance act; Dusty Rhodes, the comedy merchant, sings well, and his patter is funny; Charles Norton, on a return visit with his mimetic monologue *Pro's at the Races* earns applause; Frank Seeley's comedy efforts meet with approval; the songs submitted by Amy Marsden are of a good broad comedy type; and some diverting pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—There is a capital bill here this week. Emmerson and Baldwin provide a fund of amusement as comic jugglers, and their Indian club performance is very clever; as a sleight-of-hand expert Professor Norton is particularly smart and entertaining; Bains and Reed provide amusement with their speciality act *Humsti Bumsti*; Natalia and Diana give a fine performance on the aerial trapeze. Those wonderful people, the Violas, the "White Mahatmas," are again astonishing the audience with their skill in thought transmission, or second sight; Takio, the Japanese, is a clever mimic of sounds; Norah Stockelle is a very pretty comedienne and dancer; as equilibrists and acrobats the Pasquali Brothers are exceedingly clever, and applause greets their performance; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are very interesting.

BRIDLINGTON.—ROYAL PRINCES' PARADE.—Manager for the Corporation, Mr. Charles Palmer.—The Promenade Concerts in the handsome Floral Pavilion drew crowded audiences, and Mr. Norfolk Megone's fine orchestra is daily adding to its reputation. Miss Hope Jackson, the vocalist for the week, possesses a contralto voice of great power and beauty. In the Grand Pavilion this week a special item is a capital turn entitled *A Country Comedy*, arranged by Mr. Flockton-Foster. Mr Ernest Hastings, a popular society entertainer, is delighting large audiences which gather here. The Loyal Dominion Animated Pictures are always a source of great attraction. Thursday was a special gala night, when the grounds were beautifully illuminated, and Messrs. C. T. Brock and Co. gave a fine display of "daylight fireworks."

NEW SPA AND GARDENS.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—The Promenade Concerts by Herr Simon Würm and his Viennese Band are highly appreciated, and Miss Maude Foreshew, the vocalist for the week, possesses a contralto voice of great beauty and compass, her songs being always most pleasingly rendered. Mr. Surrie Lindon and his company of vaudeville entertainers, give some excellent performances in the Grand Opera House. Miss Bertha Frey sings some taking songs with good effect; Miss Olga Gray delights with her humorous songs; Mr. Percy Stanhope and Mr. Milton Hayes are most amusing in their several turns; and Mr. Surrie Lindon's coon songs are effective, as are also the laughable trios contributed by the three gentlemen named. Mr. Trewin Wynne's songs at the piano are very effective, and he is a most able accompanist. Wednesday night was a special programme night, when Mr. Wilson Foster and his finely-trained choir from York made their first appearance before a large audience.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—The Parisian Animated Pictures are delighting the patrons of Mr. Delmar's redecorated place of amusement. The large ball-room is also a source of great attraction, the band, under the conductorship of Mr. A. J. G. Fox, rendering some excellent programmes of dance music. The variety turns in the great hall are varied each week, and the manager keeps his programmes well up to date.

SUMMER GARDENS. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Charles Beanland.—The special attraction at this capital place of amusement this week is an amusing sketch *Hamilton's Diorama*, or a tour round the world. Some capital variety turns are given by Messrs. Geo. Hyam, H. B. Coda, J. Beanland, C. Danton, and J. Bath. Miss Vera Dudley and Miss Rena Rae are comediennes and dancers whose turns are always rewarded with double encores.

BRIGHTON. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl.—In aid of the Arthur Blackman Memorial Fund the Brighton and Hove Operatic Society gave a very successful performance of *Merrie England* here on Monday evening. Miss Florence Donovan (Bessie Throckmorton), Miss Lizzie Over (Jill All Alone), Mr. Reginald Hobson (Earl of Essex), Mr. W. A. Lauder (Walter Wilkins), Mr. W. J. Mitchell (Sir Walter Raleigh), Mr. Harry Taylor (Silas Simkins), and Miss Ella Leggatt (Queen Elizabeth) did admirably. Mr. Norman Richards conducted, and Mr. H. Drury was stage-manager. On the termination of the opera thanks were accorded to Mr. H. Cecil Beryl for the use of the theatre, Mr. H. O. Ward (hon. secretary), and Mr. Norman Richards (conductor).

GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. Ernest Carpenter's stock company is performing *Ticket of Leave Man* here this week. Mr. Ronald Adair gives a fine impersonation of Bob Brierly; Miss Kathleen Russell acts charmingly as May Edwards; Mr. Ellis J. Preston submits an excellent representation of Jem Dalton; Mr. Charles A. Preece's Melter Moss, Mr. Edward McLean's Hawkshaw, and Miss Lucy Murray's Mrs. Willoughby are capital enactments; and able support is rendered by Miss Amy Venimore (Emily St. Evremond), Mr. A. H. Hallatt (Mr. Gibson), Mr. Daniel Greene (Green Jones), and Miss May Day (Sam Willoughby).

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. George Mozart, the poular comedian, is enthusiastically received; Cyril Clensy is a very clever mimic; Rose Elliott sings in capital style; the Arthur Bedini Trio submit an excellent pantomime act; Eldra's cleverly-trained dogs provide a pleasing turn; Harry Cook, comedian, is very successful; Marion Armitage, comedienne, is highly entertaining; Rose Gower is a dainty vocalist; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. Chung-Ling-Soo, Chinese magician, performs marvellous and bewildering feats; Will Vay's Juveniles achieve great success in *Life in the Slums*; Hamid Alexander's musical sketch *Impressions of a Slum Boy in the Country*, is cordially received; the Smart Brothers, acrobatic eccentrics, are clever and amusing; Ross and Lewis are very droll patterers; Fred Keeton is a mirthful comedian; C. Cleland presents a neat satire on juggling; Marie Reeve is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Brill and Hemsley's sketch *Fun in a Music Shop* is good; and the Barrascope pictures are entertaining.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Ernest E. Norris's company is here this week with *The Woman of Kronstadt*. Miss Edith Coleman gives an admirable portrayal of Marian Best; Mr. Edgar Stevenson is a dashing Captain Paul Lassoulie; Mr. Fred Castleman as the Deputy Governor and Mr. Ernest E. Norris as Colonel Bonzo are highly effective; Miss Katherine Harrington's Princess Mary is well played; and Mr. George Fisher and Mr. Harold Wagner as British naval officers merit praise.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Mr. Gilbert Payne and company are here this week with *The Honeymoon*. Mr. Gilbert Payne makes a quaint Nathaniel Noodle; Mr. Chris Ainslie is well suited as Colonel Brown, whose nephew, Jack Armstrong, had a capital exponent in Mr. Leslie Erle; Miss Rose Kearns' Emeretta Noodle and Miss Celestine Brandon's Madge Armstrong are charming representations; and the Godfrey Girls merit commendation for their speciality dances.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Fred Bauer.—There are some capital animated pictures exhibited here this week. Very realistic and dramatic are The Moneylender, The Spy in Camp, Othello, and Rescued from an Eagle's Nest. Much amusement is afforded by Dancing Legs, Buying a House, The Showman's Wife, and The Timid Lover. Mr. Leslie Kimberley contributes admirable songs; and during the whole entertainment Mr. Arthur W. Briggs presides at the pianoforte with great skill.

CONCERT HALL, WEST-STREET.—The Royal Italian Circus is giving excellent entertainments here this week and doing good business.

BRISTOL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—This historic theatre has been closed for a week for cleaning up, &c. On Monday last it re-opened with Fred Karno's company in the musical pantomimical farce *His Majesty's Guests*. There was a large attendance in all parts of the house, and the entertainment provided provoked much laughter. All the company worked very hard and successfully, and special mention may be made of the clever performances of Mr. George Hestor as Sergeant Lightning, Mr. Roy Jackson as Lord Easem, Miss Blanche Lynd as Lady Maud Easem, Mr. Sid Kearns as Mings, Miss Kitty Brunton as Miss Manley, and Mr. Tom Manardo as Selina, the servant girl.

PALACE — Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Charles Baldwin's company is heading the bill with the amusing sketch *The Bank Clerks*. The Four Juggling Geraldos are exceptionally expert with clubs, hoops, &c.; Mabel La Blanche is a pleasing comedienne; Kerr and Koe amuse with dancing and cross-talk; the Brothers St. Clair are smart comedy cyclists; Adah Payne has a fine voice, her songs are well selected, and she evidently has had skilful training as a vocalist; Bert Terrell, "the Deitcher boy," presents a very acceptable turn; Burns and Danvers (Florence and James) do a good turn, the lady being an exceptionally fine vocalist; and Dion Wade, comedian and mimic, obtains appreciation. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Hallen and Hayes, eccentric and wooden shoe dancers, are exceptionally clever in their line, and they provide a really amusing act; Charles Austin, comedian, obtains much appreciation; Susie Dole comedienne, is successful; Johnson and Pelham amuse with song and dance and ball-punching; Fred Hallam, comedian, is popular; the Sisters Wingrove are taking song and dance artists; and George M. Marriott and company score with their dramatic sketch, *For Better! For Worse!* The performance concludes with animated pictures.

BURNLEY. — EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The bill at this house this week is crowded with good things. The Five Mowatts score in their lightning juggling and club manipulation; the Three Orros are a dashing trio of acrobats; Waltare gives a sensational whirling aerial performance on a revolving wheel; the Three Comedy Chanters score in their vocal comedy act; Edmund Kershaw, boy soprano, pleases with his singing; Miss Ethel Veronica, of charming appearance, sings well; the Brothers Obo are a quaint and amusing pair of comedy duologue artists; Les Bollingers introduce a novelty in lightning pictures; and the Empire Theatroscope maintains a high standard.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Good houses are here to enjoy the varied programme submitted. One continual laugh is provided by the Six Brothers Luck and company in *Liftems, Ltd., Universal Providers*, a distinctly funny burlesque, extremely well performed. Victor Niblo and his wonderful talking birds Coo-Coo and Laura receive unstinted applause; Kremka Brothers are a pair of able acrobats whose quick and neat work earns a most favourable reception; and the Forsyths, in a comedy speciality, *The Tramp in the Nursery*, are well received. The Five Bombays are recalled for their singing and dancing; and Edie Reynolds gives beautiful solos on the violin. The San Remo Girls are good comediennes and dancers; and the Sisters Thurban capable vocalists and instrumentalists. The Unseizable Pickpocket is the title of the picture shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Capital pictures of the Channel Fleet at Dover and a programme of other pleasing reproductions, delightfully varied in their selection, are being shown here this week on the Chronomegaphone, and are the cause of much enjoyment to the audiences assembled.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—Mr. H. F. Maltby's company occupied the above theatre for the first three nights of this week, playing *The Youngest of Three*, *Fraud*, and *Sir George of Almack's*. In *The Youngest of Three* Mr. H. F. Maltby repeated his admirable study of George Wendover, and Mr. Arthur Claremont made an ideal Gerald Wendover; Mr. Wyn Weaver played with conspicuous success as Philip Radford, and Mr. Norman H. Tracey was well placed as Samuel Johns. A most commendable character study came from Mr. Brember Wills as Joshua Pynne. The three sisters, Annie, Florence, and Lucy Dulley, were delightfully depicted by Misses Lizzie Maddocks, Florence Wynn, and Mara Maltby.

CARDIFF. — EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Lea.—The following is the fine programme at the Cardiff Empire this week:—Harry Lauder, Scotch comedian; Mendel, the famous blind pianist; Jennie Johns, comedienne; Mitchell and Cain, comedians, "The Frenchman and the other fellow"; Stewart and Morgan, in a high-class vocal speciality; Arabella Allen, the "Dickens" girl; Stratton Mills and Bobbie Nairn, in their successful absurdity, *Fooled*; Billy French, the great wooden shoe dancer; Howe and Ardie, comedy acrobats; and the American Bioscope, with Royal Visit to Bristol.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Once again the sporting element is to the fore here in the person of Peter Gotz, light-weight wrestler, who issues the usual challenges; Chassino excels both as a shadowgraphist and a whistler; an old favourite is Jack Lane, Yorkshire comedian, whose funniosities make him more popular than ever; the Brothers Bradshaw, in acrobatic eccentricities, are successful; the Vyponds are high-class society entertainers; the Belmoir Sisters create a sensation with their dancing; and Norah Noble is a pleasing comedienne.

CARLISLE.—THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The top of the bill here is occupied by Tom Costello, excellent actor and clever vocalist; Barnard's Marionettes are much above the ordinary entertainment of this class. The figures are quite original and cleverly worked. Sira, the one-legged acrobat, is a wonder; the skill and dexterity displayed in his clever tricks bringing down the house. The Two Kays contribute a refined and popular vocal turn, entitled *The Nightingale*. Not the least entertaining turn is provided by Walda and Wynne, capital jugglers and sand-dancers of unusual ability; Millie Howell sings nicely and acts well in character sketches; and May Brilliant is also a success as vocalist and dancer. Some fine pictures by the Pepiscope complete.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. F. W. Bolam and Sydney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—Edison's animated pictures still remain in popular favour, as evidenced by the large and enthusiastic audiences nightly. Some excellent films are provided, up to date and novel. This week the two deserving of special mention are True Till Death and The New Maid. There are some good varieties.

CASTLEFORD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Charles Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The Loyal Dominion Co.'s animated pictures are still "running strong" here. The pictures continue to be good. Perhaps the most popular one is of The King's Recent Visit to Leeds, by the Bradford New Century Co. During the evening Mr. Chas. Watkins, entertainer and sifflleur, does his best to amuse.

CHATHAM — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—This week's attraction comprises Miss Ethel Van Praagh and J. Edward Whitty's company in the drama *An Unwedded Wife*. Miss Van Praagh undertakes with a considerable amount of success the trying rôle of Marion; Little Doris gives a representation of Reggie which is the hit of the production; Mr. George Daiper is very natural as Frank Hawthorne; plenty of fun is introduced by Mr. J. Edward Whitty (P.C. O'Runyin), Mr. Will Casey (Napoleon B. Boomer), and Miss Jessie Gillette (Caraway Crumpet); Mr. R. Wilton Bedford gives a good study of Kit, and the drama is well staged.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Graham's Premier Juveniles, who top the bill here, include several smart young artists, who score in *A Concert on the Lawn*; Clapham and Riskit perform some novel feats on the parallel bars; Woodhouse and Wells are as popular as ever; Harry Webber's Hebrew yarns cause unbounded laughter. Also appearing are George White, comedian; the Brothers Lawrence, who shine more as dancers than vocalists; and Julia Gilbert, comedienne; while the concluding item, Lacey's Erascope, has a screaming film in Oh, that Umbrella!

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. E. G. Woodhouse.—Edgar Budden, roller-skate dancer, is back again; Jack and Evelyn make another hit with *Come into the Office*. As the Substitute, in a sketch of that name, Mr. Sid Cotterell meets with a flattering reception; Woolmer Young excels in "Don't you think it's time?" The Edisonograph has a capital film entitled The Bargee's Daughter; while the programme also includes Nora Emerald, singer and dancer, and Lottie Govell, comedienne.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Harold Montague; Business-Manager, Mr. G. Ivor Sparke.—Mr. Harold Montague and his Vagabonds have returned here this week, and good houses are the order; Mr. Leslie Burgess sings in fine style "The Robber King"; that charming comedienne, Olive Sparke, delights her admirers with "Ypsilanti," and assisted by Harold Montague earns a well-merited encore in the duet, "Do you remember?"; Leslie Lu Lu sings and dances in her usual delightful style, her items, "Mandy" and "Vaggie," being enthusiastically received; Miss Marie Longmore's song, "Under the weeping willow tree," is finely rendered; and Mr. Arthur Thomas, in his musical items, obtains a hearty recall. Harold Montague is as humorous as ever, always delighting the audience, and keeping them in roars of laughter. His items include the song "Do be careful" and a pianoforte sketch. Mr. Claude Russell's pianoforte solo is heartily received; and the farce, *Packing Up*, in which Miss Ethel Mayaffre appears and acts charmingly, is well received. The concerted numbers by the company are excellent; and Montague's White Ladies' Orchestra complete a splendid programme.

WESTCLIFFE GARDENS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Graham, Russell, and Will Bentley.—A specially strong company is here this week, the bill being headed by that celebrated conjurer and ventriloquial humorist Mr. Fred Vallance, who mystifies his audience just as easily as he makes them laugh; Miss Florence Venning is a captivating and charming vocalist, and renders her items, "The green Isle of Erin" and "In sunny Susquehanna," splendidly. Mr. Harry Child is a vocalist of finished style and fine compass, and has a good reception in his song, "The robber king." "The village pump" and "If the missus says," as rendered by Mr. Bert Graham, are vociferously received; and Mr. Bernard Russell is as funny as possible in "I knew I'd got something to do" and "Hold your hand out," both of which are encored. Mr. Will Bentley makes a decided hit in his songs, "Sing my lads yo ho" and "Who said he don't like girls?" and has to oblige again. Mr. Cyril Weller ably presides at the piano.

OPERETTA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. W. F. Jury; Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Jury's animated pictures are still a great attraction here. The films shown include Redskins' Justice, Who Kneaded the Dough, Beatrice Cenci, Olympia Horse Show, &c. Mr. J. Horton is warmly applauded for his splendid rendering of well-known songs, which are illustrated on the screen. A special attraction was presented on Wednesday, when the Howard Bros. gave their marvellous second-sight entertainment.

THE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. P. W. Willard.—The programme here this week is a good one. Mlle. Renee is delightful in her refined musical act; Miss Vera Patey is still a great favourite; Chas. Coverdale is really witty and quaint in his comedy act; and Oakley and James, in "A Little Bit of Everything" are excellent. Clarke's Nippers render a good account of themselves in their unique specialities; Venita is a charming comedienne; and Fred Dorman, light comedian, is a good turn. The Palascope shows some fine films.

COLCHESTER. — HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The Tossing Austins, American comedy jugglers and dancers, head the bill here this week, and give a cleverly humorous show; Gala and Norris, in an artistic musical duologue, entitled *Down South*, reap unstinted applause; Harry Maynard sings a trio of good songs, which, coupled with his engaging personality, engenders the utmost satisfaction; Mlle. Yetta, wire equilibrist, gives a polished performance; Ray Phillips, comedienne and dancer; Eddie Comett, comedian and patterer; and Dolly White, male impersonator, each contribute to the bill, which is concluded with capital films by the American Vitagraph company. On Friday a benefit night was awarded the Colchester and East Essex Cricket Club.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—*The Prodigal Parson* is attracting considerable attention at the above house this week. Mr. Logan Darra gives a very fine impersonation of the Rev. Tom Godley; Miss Violet Hammersley meets with considerable success as the parson's wife; Mr. Alfred Northway gives a typical rendering of the villain, Enoch Jaggins; Mr. W. V. Garrod being successfully responsible for Phil Drive, who is most humorous, and is assisted by Miss Enid Edoni as his wife. Miss Madge Gillard is responsible for the Rev. Godley's blind child.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—Mr. Auguste Van Biene heads the bill this week with a miniature drama, entitled *The Master Musician*. He gave a very fine performance on his 'cello, and was recalled several times. A very fine turn is given by the Five Lunatic Bakers, who perform some wonderful tricks and some very clever acrobating; Mr. Herbert Bates gives some good tenor songs; an admirable sketch is presented by Fred Maitland, in which he "hits off" with great success the Suffragette movement. In one of the boxes appears one of the stage type of Suffragettes, from which she interrupts and defies the speaker, and eventually gets turned out by an attendant; this causes roars of laughter. Other artists are the Three Sisters Transfield and Tony Iveson. The Bioscope pictures show the Dieppe motor races.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The star turn is Chas. T. Aldrich, and is rightly named the man of many parts. For a quick-change artist he would be hard to beat, while as a juggler and imitator of well-known magicians he does some splendid work. The Leslie Bros. are equally at home with any musical instrument, at the same time being highly amusing; William Lee and Helen Bentley appear in an amusing comedy sketch, entitled *A Sure Thing*; Lola Patey possesses a charming voice as a character comedian. Other items well given are Walter Wade, comedian; Harry Drew, the popular Welsh basso; the Five Olracs, acrobats; and Sisters Morgan, duettists and dancers. Bioscope pictures are also given.

CROYDON.—HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Jackson Hayes; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice. — An attractive programme is provided here this week. Blanche Newman is a capital comedienne and dancer; Nat Lynton, swell comedian, is greatly applauded; a farcical sketch, entitled *Tipping the Cabman*, creates much merriment; Mr. Fred Southern and company present a powerful sketch, *Lashed to the Mast*, the principal characters being ably represented by Mr. Fred Southern and Miss May Emery. The programme also includes Rosie Everett, Leon and Nole, and several interesting pictures are shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—This week an interesting variety programme is given on the system of two shows a night. A splendid entertainment is given by the Five Musical Tritons; another clever performance is by the Les Montaldos on the slack wire, introducing parrots and cockatoos; W. H. Smart, an eccentric Scotchman, is well named; Flo Hilton, male impersonator, is up to date; Miss Kitty Lavigne is a capital dancer; and other turns are Maxford and O'Neill, patter comedians; Le Rubens in the scena *A Gipsy Encampment*; Mr. and Mrs. Wordsley Hulse, sketch artists; and new pictures on the New-Bio-Dreadnought.

NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The principal turn is a dramatic episode *Her Princely Betrayal*, played by Mr. Herbert Cottesmore and company, which includes Mr. Oscar Ayde, Miss Amber Wyville, Miss J. Black, Mr. W. Black, and Mr. Royce Milton. The Villions are wonderful acrobatic cyclists; the Wedburns cause plenty of laughter; George Brooks, comedian, is well received; the Lyric Mummers are fine operatic comedy duologue artists; and other good turns are Conan and Doyle, patter comedians and dancers; Master Day, boy diabolist; Lizzie Daniels, comedienne; and the latest pictures on the Pepiscope.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—The great attraction here this week is Eugene Stratton, the well-known comedian. Needless to say, he is meeting with a most cordial reception. Bright Brothers deserve hearty commendation for their graceful and neat athletic and gymnastic novelty; Geo. C. Doughty and company create roars of laughter with their comedy sketch *Captain Cupid*; the Five Saxonias are entertaining in their musical speciality; W. B. Raby, a clever comedian, is soon popular with his audience; Nell Cotter is a dainty comedienne; Dale and Vale are smart dancers; and Carlo Bianchi as an upside down juggler is successful. The Bioscope, with an excellent film, concludes an interesting programme.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Taylor.—Miss Dora Dench and Mr. Sidney Dench's company are this week producing *The Prince of Rogues*. In the title-rôle Mr. Edward Avinal appears to advantage; as Winnie Harwood, Miss Dora Dench is charming; Mr. Tom Ronald makes a manly Frank Farrell; Miss Violet Lytton is clever as Rita Congrieve; Mr. Bert Dent as Josh Buggins is extremely funny; and the remaining characters are all in capable hands.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles' company is this week presenting *The London Fireman*. The company is particularly strong and well-balanced in all departments, the principals being Messrs. F. E. Petley, J. W. Ryder, W. Burgess, E. J. Collins, G. E. Scully, and the Misses Nina Har

Sale, the Sisters Clifton, comediennes, and the Hippodrome pictures with new films complete the programme.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Some exceedingly clever male impersonations are given this week by Emma Don, who scores a tremendous success with a "swell" song and a coster ditty; Monroe's black and white comedy team are a party of vocalists and dancers of exceptional ability; while the skilful make-up of Albert Letine in his female impersonations is very deceptive, his good voice and graceful dancing adding greatly to the success of the turn. Victoria Loving, a charming comedienne; Jenny Adair, vocalist and dancer; Allsopp and Beckwith, a humorous and popular couple; with Carney Brothers, character duettists, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux also appear.

NEW GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—An interesting variety combination holds the boards. Marie St. John is at home as a descriptive vocalist; Bob Best, comedian, is welcome; Comical Walker and his would-be acrobats afford scope for local talent; Marion Blake, a singer of sensible songs, is dainty; Fred Mason, whistling comedian, is popular; Lila Lingard, male impersonator, is well received; and Globella, juggler on the rolling globe, commands approbation.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The second week of the Hippodrome season commenced on Monday with the great Lafayette in his astonishing performance. Edith Courtney sings in an effective manner; the Miller Brothers are smart in their comedy bar act and in their really funny burlesque wrestling act; Billy Farrell, in songs and cake-walks, is warmly applauded; and Tiller's Twelve Palace Girls have a host of admirers. The Royal pictures are exceedingly interesting.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The pictures here this week are both amusing and entertaining, and include Monty Buys a Motor, The Gypsy's Daughter, A Chauffeur's Dream, An Intricate Duel, Great Football Matches (Cup Final, 1908, All Blacks *v.* England, Tottenham Hotspur *v.* Queen's Park Rangers), Frightened by Burglars, &c. Prominent in a good variety programme are Percy Victor's Dog Minstrels, Eddie Clay in a comical novelty act, and Bob Pearson, the popular humorist and guide.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—A good all-round programme is submitted here this week, the premier position being Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten in *A Model School*. Mr. Will Godwin, assisted by his wife and daughter, are warmly applauded for their entertainment; Vandinoff gives an interesting display of oil-colour painting; Katie Butler is as popular as ever; and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden are most successful in their amusing sketch; Gracie Grahame is a most pleasing comedienne; Olive and Owen do well in their comedy act; Babs Lloyd, juvenile comedienne and dancer, also contributes in capital style, and the Empire pictures by Films, Ltd., are up to the usual standard.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Musical Jees, in their renowned act, *The Musical Smithy*, form one of the principal attractions here this week. In a daring and sensational horizontal bar act the Brothers O'Brien are loudly applauded; the Sages, burlesque artists and dancers, are entertaining; and Charles Rowen is a quaint comedian. The Brothers Passmore, comedians and dancers, create great hilarity, and some dainty dancing and good singing come from the Sisters Cora; the Van Host Trio perform clever acrobatic feats; John Donald pleases in his latest song-scena, *The Scottish Exile's Dream;* Beau and Bell, in illustrated duets are well received, and the Bioscope completes a good bill.

PAVILION (KINGSTOWN).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—The excellent programme presented here this week is attracting large audiences daily. Mr. Malcolm Scott tops the bill, and provides a mirth-provoking turn; Miss Lulu Gillespie's vocal numbers elicit well-deserved applause, and Colin Moul, light comedian, supplies a capital turn; Miss Marjory Moore, a bright and vivacious comedienne, meets with a pleasing reception; Mr. Arthur Powell is a clever and amusing comedian; Mr. Jack Macdermott, comedian, and Mr. Forshaw Kershaw, pianist, also add to the success.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—A capital company is appearing here this week, and includes Belle and Bell, sketch artists; Charles Coll, light comedian; Rennie Hirst, comedienne; Bert Wright, comedian and dancer; Bessie Ball, ballad vocalist; Cave and Cave, song and patter artists; Smith and Waller, comedy duo, and the cinematograph.

EASTBOURNE.—PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Messrs. Taylor Platt and Trevor Lowe's company is appearing here in *You Never Can Tell*. Miss Katherine Stuart does clever work and is an interesting and convincing Mrs. Clandon; Miss Clara Earle is a girlishly bright and energetic Dolly; Miss Gwladys Morris a pretty and fascinating Gloria; and Miss Ivy Fenton helps ably as the maid. Mr. Charles Daly gives a fine performance as the waiter, William; Mr. Trevor Lowe as Finch McComas is conspicuously successful; Mr. Leslie Hamer is an excellent Valentine; Mr. F. Cremlin an earnest Crampton; and Mr. George Howard an energetic Bohun; and a particularly well-played part is that of Philip, enacted by Mr. Donald Calthorp.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—During the week the Royal English Opera Company, under the direction of Mr. T. H. Friend, is appearing here in a number of grand operas. On Tuesday evening Verdi's *Trovatore* was given. Mme. Marie Titiens sang finely as Leonora, and her fine work commanded recognition; Miss Edyth Alvord as Azucena was in capital voice, and both for singing and acting must be accorded the fullest praise; and Miss Lilyzie Stock was a dainty, effective Inez. Mr. Tom Griffith, who undertook the part of Count di Luna, used a rich baritone voice artistically; Mr. Frank A. Wood was a perfectly satisfactory Ruiz; and Mr. Fred J. Hargrave worked earnestly and well as Manrico. A small but efficient chorus and an augmented orchestra are under the control of Mr. T. Lawton, and Miss Annie Elliott is the graceful and clever principal dancer.

THE ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the head of the bill are the McBanns, who obtain quite an enthusiastic reception for their novel, smart, and skilful club juggling; Mr. Russel Wallett, always a favourite here, is again well to the front in his female impersonation; Miss Daisy Wood, too, is warmly received for her spirited singing; the Cecilias, lady instrumentalists, submit a pleasing turn; Miss Ida Kathrena gives full satisfaction as "the Dolly Girl"; the Braithwaites have a funny sketch, *Getting Him Home;* Mr. John Parrot causes great merriment as patterer and comedian; and new pictures are shown.

THE BANDSTAND.—Messrs. Arthur and Mills' Pierrots are now established in the bandstand, and are giving very bright, attractive concerts morning and afternoon. Mr. Alec. Johnstone, who undertakes the management, sings his songs with much culture; Miss Edith Blanchard's songs are given with taste and sympathy; Mr. Alf. Hurley, witty and genial, sings and patters to delighted listeners; Mr. Charles Berkeley, with a smart and individual style, is a large contributor to the general fun; Mr. Frank Wood is a capital mimic and a genuinely humorous comedian; and Mr. Jean Desormes has a sympathetic voice. He is the accompanist.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. William Mollison's production of *Rob Roy* is drawing large houses to this theatre. The exquisite singing of Mr. Ben Davies as Francis Osbaldistone is a special feature, and the favourite tenor is recalled again and again; Mr. William Mollison's Bailie Nicol Jarvie is a splendid study of the part, free from any suggestion of over-acting and full of many fine touches of humour; Mr. William Calvert's impersonation of the title-rôle is a virile piece of acting; and Mr. R. B. Drysdale's Dugal Cratin is admirable alike in the make-up and the energy which the actor throws into the part. The veteran player Mr. Tom Walker is again very successful as Major Galbraith, and his resonant voice finds scope in the dramatic rendering of "A famous man was Robin Hood"; Miss Kitty Brownlees is a graceful Diana Vernon, and sings with expression; while Miss Evelyn McNay's powerful acting as Helen Macgregor, Miss Josephine Woodward's droll Jean McAlpine, and Miss Ethel Armit's vivacious Mattie strengthen the cast. A word of praise must be given to Mr. William Lawrence's Captain Thornton and to Mr. Wm. A. Mackersy's Andrew Fairservice. The play is beautifully staged.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—A well-varied programme with a goodly proportion of notable performers has attracted large houses this week. Mr. Ernest Shand, at the top of the bill, provided a fund of entertainment with his songs and amusing patter, in which his versatility as a comedian was well displayed. Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, old pantomime favourites, gave a remarkably clever exhibition of trick cycling, their comic business being happily novel and refreshing; In *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp* Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris introduced a fair amount of humour and a great deal of skilled tumbling; while the facial contortions of Mr. Ed. E. Ford, the Australian sundowner, were something to wonder and laugh at, and the cyclone dancing or whirling of the Molasso Quartette was almost bewildering in its successions of rapid movement. The instrumental, vocal, and dancing speciality of the Barton and Franklyn Trio formed another enjoyable item; pleasing songs were also contributed by Miss Carlotta Levey and Miss Ada Cerito; the Two Anartos showed ingenuity in their musical merriment; and the Bioscope films maintained their usual standard of excellence.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—The Ten Terbinis are heading a strong bill, their fine musical act being received with loud applause nightly. The Royal Court Cadets are very popular, and include Mr. Fred Dice, comedian and dancer, who is a great local favourite; Miss Amy Allnutt, comedienne, who is encored nightly; Mr. Reginald Jecks, whose fine baritone voice is heard to great advantage in popular songs; Mr. Will Challiner, comedian; and Mr. Chas. Sweeney, with Miss Jessie Anderton, brilliant accompanist. On Monday last Mr. Fred Dice, the popular stage-manager, had his benefit, and was rewarded, as he deserved, by a crowded and enthusiastic house. In addition to the usual artists the following assisted in a bumper bill:—Risley and Whittaker, Will Beanland, Howard Callon, Harlin and Hanlon, T. Benson, and a host of others.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—The Loyal British Empire Animated Picture Co., under the direction of Mr. Thos. Robinson, are showing a fine set of films this week and drawing full houses. Chief place must be given to such fine pictures as A Pretty Girl-Farmer, Cossacks of the Don, Why Smith Left Home, The Rival Lovers, and the dramatic film The Corsican's Revenge. Vocal items are given at intervals by popular artists.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Leslie Faber and company were here the first part of the week in *The Liars*. Mr. Faber sustained the part of Colonel Sir Christopher Dering in an able manner; Miss Winifred Arthur Jones as Lady Jessica was excellent, and Mr. Charles Combe scored a success as Edward Falkner. For the latter part of the week Miss Annie Hughes and company in *The Mollusc* occupied the boards.

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—Our old favourites have come back here. That they were welcome was proved by the large audience and prolonged applause. Will Gane, the jester, evidently knows how to amuse the public; Miss Dorothy Francis with her fine soprano voice rendered some good songs, and the same can also be said of Mr. Walter Grieg, the baritone of the party. Mr. Edgar Berte, as a comedian and entertainer, scored a well-deserved success; some clever dances were given by Miss Inez du Buisson; and Miss Florence Croft as the accompanist acquitted herself well.

VICTORIA PIER.—Manager, Mr. Robert Forsyth.—On Wednesday evening a gigantic programme was carried out. The musical spectacular piece, "1812," played on the pier deck, was a tremendous success. The following artists perform in the Pavilion all the week:—Miss Lydia Raie, with banjo and mandoline solos; the Miltons, in a speciality shooting act; R. H. Lane, mimic; the Hall and Wilson Trio of roller cyclists; Harry Ugar, eccentric and patter comedian; and Transfield's Circus, with its beautiful ponies and unridable mule.

TOWN HALL.—Lessee, Mr. E. J. Chadwick.—The London Animated Picture Co., under the direction of Mr. Burroughes, is still attracting full houses; Mr. George Lynton gains applause for his baritone solos.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—A clever juggling performance is given by the Seven Ducos Perezoffs, who are starring here this week. R. Cameron Matthews and company have a laughable farce named *The Honeymoon Baby;* Deans and Wilton are highly amusing in comedy acrobatics; Walter Aubrey proves a clever vocalist and dancer; the Two Lillies present some novel terpsichorean feats; Tom Garland shines as a ventriloquist; Sidney Dolf is successful in a musical *mêlange;* Bessie Knight, comedienne, and the usual pictures are also in the bill.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Miss Grace Warner and Mr. George Gordon and company are appearing here in a répertoire which embraces *The Scarlet Clue, Lady Audley's Secret, East Lynne,* and *The Little Widow.*

GLASGOW. — METROPOLE LTD. — Managing Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Gordon Jefferson.—Mrs. Fred J. Kirk's company occupies the boards here, *The Naval Detective* being given on the earlier evenings of the week and *In Old Madrid* later on. In the first play Mr. Leslie Austin is excellent as the detective, and his various disguises are well carried out; Mr. G. H. Holloway as Dr. Schreiner is a duly cynical villain; Mr. Franklyn Daly is amusing as Captain Hustle; Miss Edith Clare as Lulu Kaufmann is well suited; and Miss Maud Bevan infuses much pathos into the part of Phyllis Leslie. The play was well staged, and a crowded audience heartily enjoyed it.

EMPIRE. — District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—An enjoyable time is provided here by the American comedian Edward Clark and his Winning Widows in a racing sketch, the impersonation of a racing tout being specially good. La Belle Titcombe, with her Arabian stallion, gives a clever equestrian act, and the lady is a vocalist of much merit, singing French and English songs; Barton and Ashley have a new sketch, *Adam the Second*, in which this clever couple introduce a lot of smart business; Signor and Mme. Borelli again make a hit with their impersonations of Continental singers and their cat duets; the Twin Sisters Anderson are dexterous dancers and popular singers; Kioto is a daring Japanese equilibrist; St. George Sylvester is a clever conjurer; Lena Verdi sings and dances with much success; Moon and Morris score in patter and eccentric dancing; Wania appears in Russian dances; and the Bioscope shows the newest pictures.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Fred Karno's company in the lively sketch *Saturday to Monday* is the chief item in the bill here, and the fun of it is much enjoyed. Starr and Leslie contribute a clever vocal and juggling speciality; the Betsons give a smart and novel comic cycling turn; Harry Merrylees takes well in a Scotch dame song; Harwood's Juveniles show considerable ability in song and dance in their sketch *A Children's Christmas Eve;* Bert Danson is an exceedingly funny comedian with several good songs; Paula Peters introduces some trained dogs, baboons, and ponies in a clever act; and the latest Bioscope films are also shown.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Carlton, the quaint one, in card tricks and verbal quips, keeps the audience on the broad grin. Later in the programme he presents his "Mysterious Cross" illusion, which proves very mystifying. Lily Harold gives a bright musical sketch, *Cherry,* in which she is ably assisted by a smart little boy and girl; Frank Lawton, of *The Belle of New York* fame, again proves his ability as a whistler and bone soloist; Minnie Kaufmann as a cyclist astonishes the audience with her skill and daring; Chinko, the young juggler, is exceedingly neat in all his tricks; Ray and Calden take well in their comedy act; Alec Kendal as a pattering comedian made a great success; Elsie Earle sings well; and a knockabout cycling turn is given by the Keegans.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The popular Scotch comedian Jack Lorimer is here this week, and has a flattering reception from his Glasgow friends. Francina, Olloms, and Page excel as tumblers and jugglers, the former also proving himself a most expert performer on the xylophone; the eccentric dancing of Andie Burns meets with well-deserved approval; Stella Stoll is a smart comedienne and dancer; several chorus songs sung by Alice Golding go exceedingly strong; Will Mitcham's instrumental items are always well received, and the patter and funny business of Clifton and Gibson are likewise acceptable. The mechanical extravaganza *Menzies' 'Bus* is seen for the last time this season, the conductor being Rolando Martin and the driver James Chippendale. The Palascope films give an excellent idea of Dog Racing at Govan.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—There is a good programme here this week. Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco are submitting a series of conjuring acts which thoroughly mystify audiences; another interesting turn is that of Terry and Lambert in the vocal sketch *English Types through American Eyes,* which is thoroughly appreciated. The other members of the company include Aida Martine, comedienne and dancer; Rhoda Paul, descriptive vocalist; the Bros. Dean, speciality dancers; Roma and Romani, favourite classical musicians; Little Zola, the popular comedian; Ten Dixie Girls, vocalists and dancers; and Harry Simms, comedian.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Rich and Rare provide a good comedy turn here; Rex and Hunter in their conjuring and trunk act are popular; Edie May and Amy Bathurst excel as comediennes; and the Bioscope is a strong item.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Messrs Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Snow Family of expert and grotesque skaters supply a novel and amusing turn here; and Geo. French's cycle troupe are clever; De Henau paints a langscape, and does other things with his toes; the Three Rubies are a graceful trio of lady contortionists and dancers; the Cromwells are expert jugglers; Little Tim is a quaint comedian; and Mlle. Aladina, with a troupe of trained cockatoos, goes well; the Weimars on the wire have a good reception, and the Palacescope has some capital films.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Leonard Boyne and company in *Raffles* are playing to large audiences here. In the title-rôle Mr. Leonard Boyne's abilities are seen to great advantage, and he is a big favourite. Mr. E. W. Thomas is a strong Bedford; Miss Dora Sevening a charming Gwendoline; Mr. Cecil Brymer makes an excellent Lord Carley; Miss Lilian Hallows plays with distinction as Mrs. Vidal; and as Marie Miss Dorothy Gordon is excellent.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—A triple bill is being presented by Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. Tom Craven, and company. The first item is a smart little playlet entitled *The Lady in Red,* in which Mr. Tom Craven is an irresistibly funny William. Mr. Stephen Adeson makes a smart Mr. Johnson; Miss Isabel Collier a vivacious Cora; and Miss Clara Milvain a charming Mrs. Johnson. The second item consist of a duologue entitled *The Yarn-Spinner,* in which Mr. Lionel Brough, the greatest of yarn-spinners, enumerates his favourite stories, which seem more funny each time they are spun. Miss Mary Brough keeps the house in roars of laughter as Mrs. Cackle. The programme concludes with the celebrated comedy *Milky White.*

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—Les Piccolinos are the cleverest little people ever seen here; Bert Woodward, the cycling coon, is a big draw; the Bohemians are capital instrumentalists; Aerian and Ostara are smart aerial gymnasts; Watson introduces some clever animals; Leicester Cooke is a daring equestrian; Doodles is in fine form; and excellent pictures are exhibited on the Bioscope. The programme concludes with the water pantomime *Fun on the Broads.*

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Mr. Charles Collette, topping the bill here this week, keep audiences in continuous laughter by his witty yarns and smart comedy. In conjunction with Miss Joan Derry, he appears in a witty duologue entitled *Tea for Two.* Miss Flo Somers is good as the Picture-Postcard Girl; the Musical Keiths present a novel musical turn; La Petite Carlina is a clever dancer; Miss Lilian Jefferies a smart comedienne; Pulo is repeating his success of last week; Miss Joan Derry is a smart boy impersonator; Carl Osmond a clever cartoonist and comedian; and the Britanniscope displays some fine pictures.

WELLINGTON PIER PAVILION.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation.—Mr. Charles Gardiner is a quaint comedian; Miss Gertrude Melrose sings good ballads; Professor Thornbury's lightning sketches are capital; Mr. Arthur Melrose is a good mimic; Kent and Keith present a smart musical duologue; Miss Cecile Beresford is a chic comedienne; Master Harry Clark is clever; the Zampas are smart singers and dancers; Mr. Albert F. Banjert is a good elocutionist; Mr. H. Scott Russell a fine tenor; Mr. Rich Taylor a capable ventriloquist; and Kloof and Ramsey are amusing musical comedians. Excellent pictures are exhibited on the Bioscope.

CHAPPELL'S PROMENADE CONCERTS. — Proprietress, Mrs. S. Lawton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—The same artists as last week are appearing at these popular open-air entertainments.

MINSTREL ARENA.—The Black Diamond Minstrels continue in popularity, and their programme is much appreciated.

"THE GEM."—Proprietors, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.—The all-day picture show has proved a huge attraction, no less than 17,000 people paying for admission during the first four days. Excellent films are being shown, including The Suffragettes, The Lighthouse Relief, and Jack Johnson.

GREENOCK. — EMPIRE.—Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; General-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Mr. Sydney Prince, with the Prince Edward Pictures, is still here. The films shown this week, whether of an instructive or amusing nature, were greatly appreciated. Special mention might be made of Little Hannah's Last Dream, Niagara Falls in Winter, Too Old for Work, The False Coiners, and Troubled by his Ma.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Haddon Chambers' plays, *The Idler* and *Captain Swift,* are being presented by Mrs. Greenwood Croft's company. The week opened with *The Idler.* Mr. Philip Cuningham gives a masterly representation of Mark Cross, admirably realising the exceptional temperament of the man; Mr. Stephen Ewart acts with command of force as Sir John Harding; Mrs. Greenwood Croft shows great ability as an emotional actress in the part of Lady Harding; Mr. William Attfield is responsible for sterling work as Simeon Strong; Mr. Richard Dalton is excellent as the peppery General Merryweather; Miss Zoe Davis is thoroughly successful as Kate Merryweather; whilst Miss Elspeth Dudgeon as Mrs. Cross and Miss Rita Treiselle as Mrs. Glynn-Stanmore also contribute excellent representations.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Tudor's ponies are a troupe of highly-trained animals, and their performance is as interesting as it is novel; Cecile and François appear in an attractive speciality which includes graceful dancing and smart acrobatic work; Nellie Coleman creates much amusement with her impersonations of male comedy characters; Marie Jones appears in a clever quick-change act, representing a variety of characters; Dome displays considerable skill as a modeller in clay; Daleno and Stream contribute laughable patter and good dancing; and Hurman is a smart manipulator of hoops, &c.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks. Miss Winifred Maude and company in *The Stowaway* are this week at the Grand. Dicky Dials is ably taken by Mr. Victor du Cane; Mr. Vincent Carlyle makes a vigorous and manly Tom Inglis; Mr. Gilson Brooke is successful as Charles Etherington; Miss Nellie Rousby pleases the audience as Chucky, a newsboy; Mrs. Wingold Lawrence makes a satisfactory Florence Etherington; and Miss Winifred Maude is ladylike and affectionate as Althea Dale.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The chief attraction at the Palace this week is the graceful dancing of Miss Helen Roberts in the now famous "Salome" dance. Miss Roberts had a flattering reception. Mr. Chas. Penrose displays comedy of a very high order; Clark and Hayden appear in a musical sketch, *By Appointment;* the Lannons give a marvellous exhibition of pedestal dancing; the Three Arleys give a clever display, assisted by a troupe of highly-trained acrobatic dogs; Florence Esdaile, vocalist, gives every satisfaction; Sylo gives a clever exhibition of hoop-manipulation; and Miss Ida Mona is very successful as the dancing coon. The pictures complete.

HAMILTON.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Morris Cronin and his clever assistants are topping the bill here this week in a unique juggling scena; Frank Elliston, supported by P. G. Tyman and Miss Nellie Stevens, is appearing in an amusing sketch *Aunt Matilda;* Wylie's dogs are a novel and interesting turn; Burley and Burley are quaint acrobatic comedians; R. A. Speedwell submits an interesting series of lightning sketches of celebrities; the Waldrons are amusing in their absurdity *The Silly Burglars;* Charles M'Laren sings in a pleasing manner; and Lina Leslie, comedienne, in some dainty numbers, and the Bioscope conclude

HANLEY. — GRAND. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatre and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—The star turn is that of the Six Æolians in a refined vocal and dancing act. Robbins, the famous cyclist, introduces something fresh in the form of a buck-jumping bike; Jessie Merrilees is heard in a couple of fine songs; Arthur Albert is a great success; Lorelle appears in an elegant and novel act; Ross and Calvert, comedy artists, in their absurdity are a hit; Mike Nono, the Irish cowboy, dances brilliantly; Lily Eyton is a charming singer; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux is responsible for two fine films.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—Excellent business continues here, and the show is capital this week. Barney Deeley, a good comedian, appears; and the best films are A Bird of Freedom, Brown's Fishing Excursion, Doctored Beer, Walter the Rural Postman, and Lost Ball.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith.—Variety is the rule here this week, and the Empire Comedy Four are the head-liners, and are recalled again and again for their comedy business and sweet singing; Mack Olive and Daisy Baldry appear in a whistling scena, and are greatly appreciated, and Miss Nance Elder sings well; Prof. Dubois and his educated baboon show the wonderful patience and perseverance of animal training; Derenda and Green are two good juggling comedians; Miss Enid Errol and company appear in a smart sketch entitled *The Magic Vase,* wherein Miss Errol does some clever dancing; Wilton Heriot is very clever as a protean actor in his sketch *An Anglo-American Alliance;* and Morrelli and Moore are good in their eccentric act; Maurin's Fountains of 20,000 gallons of water are greatly admired, and some wonderful effects are produced with lights.

THE KURSAAL.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—Miss Margaret Cooper played to a very large audience last Saturday, and was recalled again and again. For this week Miss Norah Newport and Mr. Wilfred Virgo are the vocalists, and the Munrograph shows new films which are greatly appreciated. For the symphony concert on Wednesday, Mr. John Bridge is announced for violin solos, and for Saturday matinée only Miss Haidee Voorzanyer, the wonderful child violinist, is announced to appear. Herr Max Heymann is the conductor now that Mr. Julian Clifford is indisposed.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg.—Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—The pictures shown here maintain their standard of excellence. Some capital ones are attracting good business this week. Roars of laughter greet The Lady Barrister, Policeman's Whistle, Bobby's Fire-Engine, and Mr. Creepy. A Bird of Freedom, depicting the escape of a convict from prison, and Over the Sticks, describing steeplechasing, are intensely interesting.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Miss Annie Hughes and company presented that charming comedy *The Mollusc* before a large and appreciative audience on Monday. Miss Hughes in the principal character, Mrs. Baxter, played in a fine vein of humour the indolent rôle, effectively producing all the fun of which the character is capable, and altogether affording a delightful study. Miss Lilias Waldegrave gave a pleasing representation of Miss Roberts; Mr. Athol Stewart's treatment of the character of the brother, Tom Kemp, merited unstinted praise; while the easy-going and too-indulgent husband, Mr. Baxter, was effectively enacted by Mr. Cecil Rose. The first piece was *A Bit of Old Chelsea,* in which Miss Hughes was seen in a clever study of cockney character. On Thursday and remainder of the week Mr. Leslie Faber and company, including Miss Winifred Arthur Jones, in *The Liars,* was billed.

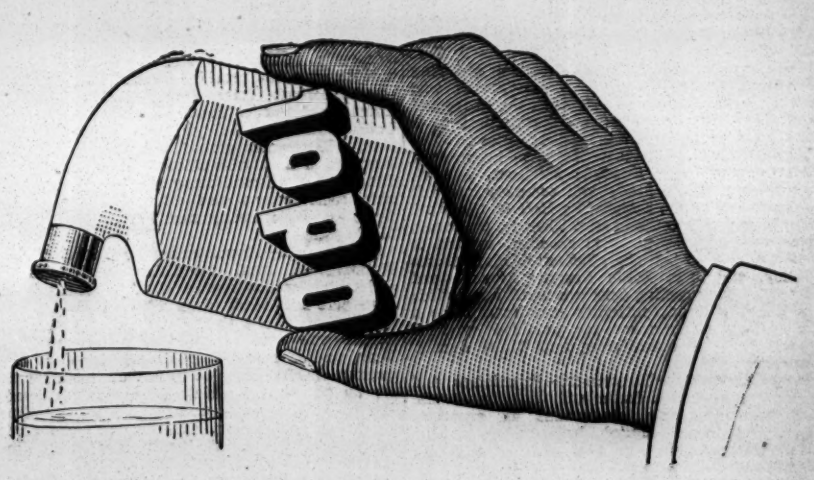
HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—A delightfully new and original programme marks the reopening of this music hall. Harry Bold is an excellent comedian and raconteur; Forest and King are smart and clever gymnasts; some remarkable and effective subjects are depicted by the Bioscope; a very pretty scene, *In a Rose Garden,* is shown by Rosie King, who introduces juvenile maidens in dance and song; Sydney Bach as the Welsh landlady is a remarkable entertainer. A pianist of exceptional ability, he accompanies himself and sings in a most original and amusing manner. The conjuring by Anthony is a feature of clever and special interest, and an attractive turn is given by the Claymores, vocalists and dancers.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—There is a pleasing variety in the programme this week. Payne's Bio-Photoscope shows some interesting pictures; Delafiore is exceedingly expert on the xylophone; Mr. J. D. Hunter, associated with Messrs. Herbert Maule, Frank Growcott, Thomas Boucher, Miss Rene Ashley, and Miss Blanche Bayley, introduce *The Loss of a Lover;* Mme. Haydee's marionettes are manipulated very cleverly; and some bright and tuneful songs are given by the Smart Set Entertainers, consisting of Miss Lena Hutchings, Miss Alice Frazer, Miss Pattie, O'Hanlon, Miss George Martin, Mr. Samuel Woodin, Mr. Oliver Comber, Mr. Lacy Mills, Mr. Edgar Hulland, and Mr. Walter George.

PUBLIC HALL.—The London Animated Picture Company, of which Mr. Gunner E. Gooes is the general-manager, continues here its attractive and varied entertainment in animated pictures.

BEACH CONCERT PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Blackmore.—A large share of the visitors' patronage is secured by the clever entertainers who form the company provided this season by the Wallis Arthur Syndicate. Miss Schultz fully retains her popularity as comedienne, and Mr. Blackmore's songs are well chosen.

ST. LEONARD PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Messrs. Cowper-Smith and Douglas Payne's company is here this week in the musical comedy *The New Girl,* which was



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played for the first time in the borough on Monday, and very favourably received by a large audience. The play abounds in tuneful songs. Mr. Julian Rutt ably directed the orchestra, and the chorus gave every satisfaction. Mr. Arthur Poole as Col. Buller, V.C., has a humorous rôle, which he fills effectively; Miss Rosa Bennett as Hilda Coleman suits the principal rôle admirably, and her singing and dancing are deservedly well received; Mr. Ralph Lynn is good as Bertie Holbrook, and his masquerading as a schoolmistress is very diverting. Miss Beatrice Sutherland, a clever burlesque actress, provides a fine contrast in the dual rôles of Little Flossie and Jane, a "slavey," being associated with Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., in some excellent business. Miss Victoria Douglas is prominent as Martha Grim; Miss Ivy Leighton plays pleasingly as Cerise; and Mr. Edgar McIntyre adds to the merriment as Harry Harrow.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—There is an excellent programme this week. At the head is the brilliant actor-violinist Jan Rudenyi, assisted with great ability by Miss Dora de Winton and John D. Saunders in a musical romance entitled *The Power of Music*. Others are Clive Watts, eccentric comedian and dancer; Ara, Zebra, and Nora, acrobats; Miss Dolly Goldin, an expert and graceful dancer; Miss Alice Lorette and her beautifully-trained dog in an interesting series of tableaux; Charles Kitts and Miss Rhoda Windrum in their screamingly funny military sketch, *The Cuckoo;* a boy (not named on the programme) who uses a sweet treble voice with taste, and some humorous pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—The Royal Comedy Company are still bringing business to this house, and their farce each evening has proved very acceptable. The pictures are exceptionally good, The Two Brothers being strikingly dramatic, whilst Music hath its Charms is intensely amusing.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—A welcome return visit is being paid by *The Bank of England* company, under the guidance of Mr. Chas. Lester. Mr. Lester fills with success the rôle of Sherlock Holmes, and gives the character the requisite colouring; Mr. Eaglesfield and Mr. Henry C. Gilpin paint effectively the conspirators Stephen Hartley and Gordon Isaacs; and Miss Beatrice Anderson gives a very effective picture of the American widow. Miss Hart and Miss D. Riddell ably assist to give a proper representation of the play, which has plenty of exciting episodes to engage the attention of the audience

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Dunford.—*The Girl I Love* is a thrilling act, capably presented here by Fred Maxwell, and Lois Du Cane and company. Lillie Soutter makes a popular re-appearance; the Melroses are loudly recalled; and others include Herbert Rule, a smart comedian; Marie Stroud, Vambert, and the Royal Quintette.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Attila Bros. top the bill in a clever strength act; Emmie Ames and Harry Bancroft are also very popular. Other artists include Horace Jones, Seth King, and Souplessi.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are the attraction here.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Kennedy's Komiks, with the following artists, are concluding their stay here this week:—the Sisters Raymond, vocalists and dancers; Hayes and Hayes, sketch artists; Mr. Dodd, comedian; M. Nolan, comedian; Massey and Nolan, patter comedians; and Miss Ellis and Miss Lily, serios.

IPSWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Manager, Mr. Stead.—The late Capt. Joseph Woodward's Californian sea-lions, now the property of Mr. Berzac, attracted a large audience on Monday, and this attendance continues. They are really wonderful animals. A. W. Haines, Alan Borthwick and company have a really funny farce called *Half-a-dollar;* Joey Aberdare is a good singer and an expert sand-dancer; Stevens and Bennoir are very comical in a similar entertainment; the Hyde and Cody Trio are novel acrobats; the Sisters Terry are paying a return visit; and Poppy Lytten and Jack Bland have a very funny quick-change act called *A Lesson in Love*. Godfrey James, the collier tenor, has a voice of very exceptional quality.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—The attraction here is Mr. Fred Granville's company in *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives an excellent rendering of Tom Robinson; Mr. Cecil A. Melton is a capable George Fielding; Mr. Charles F. Johnson handles the part of the Rev. Francis Eden with skill and care; Mr. Harry Cave gives a good account of Peter Crawley; and Mr. C. E. Linney is powerful in the part of Mr. Meadows. Mr. T. W. Warry causes much amusement in the part of Jackey; Miss M. Milton is pathetic as Josephs, the waif; and Miss G. Entwistle is a charming Susan Merton.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris.—The excellent vaudeville entertainment continues to draw crowded houses here. This week Burns and Bentley prove themselves excellent dancers, and win much kudos with their exhaustive sand-dancing feat; Johnny Fuller as the cat on the wire provides an excellent and mirth-provoking turn; Arthur Boyne sings a couple of funny songs; Bert Williams is a good ventriloquist; Harry Taft gives a star turn as the great American whistling comedian; Marie Wilton is a comedienne who quickly makes herself popular with the gods; and Will Van Allen brings the entertainment to a close as a tramp musician and raconteur.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carson and Kendall; Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Mr. Hugh Brady and company are this week presenting the sketch *The Hole in the Wall*. Mr. Brady portrays the part of Thomas, a servant, in a most amusing manner; excellent support is rendered by Algy Spalding, Dobson Clyde, Freddie Bentley, and Miss Pollie Denton. Blanche and Diacoff in their cycling turn are much applauded; the Harrison Bros., pattering comedians, score a big success. Other turns are provided by Fred Clyde, character comedienne, and Violet Gerald, soubrette.

LANCASTER. — HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Another first-rate programme is arranged this week, and capital business has been done. Warsaw Bros., in a musical comedy act, head the bill, and receive very gratifying appreciation; Cull Pitt is droll with his sleight-of-hand work; J. H. Carrey, comedian and stilt-dancer, is acceptable; Dollie Harmer, comedienne, is nightly encored; and Charles Banks, comedian, with his dog Woof, is a very pleasing turn. Ray and Lingard, in an amusing sketch, *The First of April*, are well received; and the Dancing Gilberts win favour. Comical pictures on the Hippograph wind up the bill.

LEEDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—The evergreen drama *Man to Man* appears once again at this popular theatre, and is warmly welcomed by good houses. A local pantomime favourite, Miss Louie Adair, is in the important part of Ethel Maythorne, and gets a big reception, whilst other prominent characters are capably handled by Messrs. H. Holland, F. R. Robertson, and Frank Adair.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley. — Bransby Williams is here in many and varied character studies, and his accomplished work arouses the demonstrative appreciation of crowded houses; the Bros. Egbert are as diverting as ever in their well-known speciality; a refined musical turn by Olgar and Elgar is enthusiastically received; the Bros. Webb score with a musical farce; comedy acrobatics by the Garganis are a successful feature; Carl Howard wins applause for a humorous speciality; the Leonards dispense acceptable comedy; and other good turns are subscribed by Bertha Stuart, George Westland, and the Sisters Pine.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush—A powerful dramatic episode entitled *Treachery* is at the top of a good bill here, Marion Lind in a central part proving herself a capable actress. The Brothers Brooke do a very funny comedy sketch, which finds great favour; Leslie, Lyn, and Willro are a most amusing trio of comedians; Dan Whitley is also successful as a humorist; Mlle. du Roche is a pleasing vocalist; the Three Eldorados are smart acrobatic grotesques, and of the rest Corcoran Bros., with musical specialty, the Sisters Brand, and Nancy Renshaw are doing particularly well.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Expert acrobats loom large in this week's Hippodrome bill, the Four Rio Brothers and Marcel and Boris each being particularly smart in their respective styles; Diana Hope and company do some fine acting in a clever dramatic sketch, *Her Good Name;* Will Walton and Will Haines are a pair of successful comedians; whilst Thomas and Taylor in a quick-change speciality are very clever; Driscoll and Felino have an entertaining nofelty; Harry Friskey scores as a comedy juggler; that clever pair of sketch artists Geoffreys and Benson are as popular as ever; and Ned Nye completes a good bill.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—The Lyons Trio lead the way here with a humorous and dancing turn which is well to the liking of their many admirers; Blanche and Powell are excessively popular in a fine musical turn; Rita and Roma submit their well-known act with good success; Fred Herbert is a clever topical vocalist, and a new juggler, Ernesto, makes a successful appearance; the Sisters Belmont do well; whilst Jack Martin and Lillian Rigby also contribute successfully.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton.—At the head of a first-class programme here is R. A. Roberts, the original protean actor, in *Dick Turpin* and *Ringing the Changes;* at the other end are the Griffiths Bros., in an exceedingly funny wrestling skit; the Dauntон-Shaw Troupe of trick cyclists display remarkable cleverness; Will Poluski, jun., is a comedian who raises plenty of laughter; Farr and Farland, the aristocratic comedians, give a thoroughly enjoyable show; Will Johnson, the lively comedian; and Daisy Martell, vocalist and dancer, are also entertaining. The Bioscope shows the stirring episode of military life entitled The Bully and the Recruit. We regret that owing to a nervous breakdown Zertho and his dogs were unable to appear after Monday's performance, his place being filled by Tee Tung Foo, the Chinese vocalist, who made his appearance at the first house on Tuesday evening.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Roars of merriment accompany the presentation here of the funny absurdity, *The House of Tinn*, by J. Gar Kiddie and company, who are on a first visit. Mr. J. Gar Kiddie, a really mirth-provoking comedian, scores a conspicuous success as Jeremiah Jinks, being well seconded by Mr. J. W. Groves as Mrs. Arabella Tinn, Miss Lizzie Payne as Miss Molly Tinn, and Mr. Douglas B. Watson as Augustus Hobbs. Capital dances are also contributed, making the entire "show" a thoroughly enjoyable one. Lambert and Hands are vocalists of great merit, their contributions to the programme being received with special favour; Les Curreys are very good in their entertaining and melodious musical speciality; Walter H. Pallaster's Bioscope, as usual, is a most popular attraction. Others who provide interesting turns are Cissie Esdale, comedienne and dancer; the Sisters Florence, vocalists and dancers; the Nicholsons, comedy duo; and Harry Ryde, comedian.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The reopening of this hall is being attended with every success, owing no doubt to the splendid list of moving pictures that are weekly submitted, and the capital vaudeville artists that are continually engaged. Mr. C. A. Hurley, the acting-manager, leaves no stone unturned to make the entertainment as bright as possible. The chief films this week include The Silver King, The Arabian Legend, College Chums, The Inquisitive Boy, The Bathers' Race, The Bandits' Love, Free Pass to the Theatre, Modern Sculptors, The Poacher's Wife, Chinese Acrobats, The Pierrot's Love Affair, Leaving the Old Home, A Lottery Ticket, &c. Miss Bessie Cookson, ballad vocalist, and Charles Jones, a winner of a singing competition here, provide agreeable interludes.

LIVERPOOL. — ROTUNDA THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here this week we have had *Mysteries of the Thames*, presented by Mr. Augustine Knight's capable company. Miss Frances Waring infused into the part of Kate Brandon a deal of sympathetic feeling, which made the character generally acceptable; Mr. Knight's reading of Richard Brandon was marked by tact and power; a strong rôle was that of Captain Denbigh, admirably handled by Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson; rich humour was provided by Mr. Tom J. Taylor, who undertook Peter Waggles; Mr. Edward E. Swinton proved a creditable Bill Bosco; Miss Nellie Jackson, with her male impersonation of Bertie Fitzgerald, earned popularity; Miss Effie Bartlett, in the double rôle of Grace Rochdale and Helen Price, afforded every satisfaction; and valuable contributions also came from Miss Doris Brereton (Litle Doris) and Mr. C. Alan Hineson (Jack Hammond).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineburg.—A most competent combination of artists, under the control of Mr. Ronald Yorke, have here this week given *The Old Home*, which has been received with much favour. Miss Gertrude Bonser was seen to every advantage as Hazel Dean, a charmingly presented type of good woman; thanks were due to Mr. Charles Franmore for an ably-drawn picture of her father, Daddy Dean; Mr. Henry Lonsdale, as the worthy clergyman, Eric Armstrong, well deserved the cordial recognition he received; Mr. Ronald Yorke played well the rôle of Dr. Warburton; Mr. Alexander Bradley did justice to Lord Avondale; Mr. Fred De Vere proved a most humorous Sam Adams; being well supported by Miss Mara Collings, as the lively Bridget Donoghan; and worthy support was likewise given by Mr. James Lee Hair (Timothy Twaddle), Miss Gertie Douglas (Polly Popp), and Mr. Walter Osmond (Jack Warren).

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Walter Passmore and company have held principal place this week with a neat humorous musical trifle, *The Constable and the Pictures*, among the artists being Mary Fraser (Lady Mortyn) and Charles Childerstone (Sir Ronald Stone); Sandford and Lyons were given a hearty reception for their really able simultaneous dancing and amusing patter; the Seven Wulfrunas went through a smart comedy acrobatic speciality, *Fun in a Café;* Howard and St. Clair were as funny as ever with their sketch, *Do You Want to Buy any Coke?* J. W. Rickaby kept his audience in a good humour with his burlesque, *The Toff and the Sailor;* Florence Yaymen had some neat coon caricatures; Peggie Lennie and Walter Hast gave a pretty poetic fantasy, *The Sea Nymph;* and contributions also came from Frank Hartley, a clever boy juggler; and Hugh Barclay, baritone vocalist.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—The stage here has been occupied this week with *A Destroyer of Men*, the company presenting it being that of Mr. James Hare.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Foremost here during the week was Miss Cissie Lawson (Mrs. John Lawson), with the powerful sketch, *The Devil's Sunday*, which was followed with close attention; Raglus, the eccentric juggler, also in big type, showed great cleverness, and caused endless laughter; Maggie Rimmer proved a pleasing comedienne, and earned loud applause; Ted Curtis and Picks, black and white speciality artists, were most enjoyable with their singing and dancing; some excellent concertina playing came from Alexander Prince; and Charles Craston, a smart comedian, and Belford and Mars, vocal comedy entertainers, were also in the list.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Dan Crawley was prominent here this week, and proved as merry as ever; Harry Roxbury and company brought their amusing musical mélange, *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, which was followed with general delight; the Tafanos met with ready acceptance, their comic serenading being particularly diverting; the Onlaw Trio gave a wonderful wire act; as a comedienne and dancer, Kathleen Cogan afforded every satisfaction; Evelyn Taylor, with her chorus songs, earned popularity; a capital turn was provided by Harry Zetter, comedian and eccentric dancer; and the list likewise contained the names of Norah Desmond, pictorial songstress; Edith St. Clair, comedienne; and Ethel Walker, Society entertainer.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Here during the week the "Royal" stock company has been playing to good houses *The Royal Mail*, from the pen of Eva Elwes. Among the principal artists were Messrs. Cecil Ravenswood (Sir Frederick Etherington), Sydney Grant (Daniel Etherington), Harry Tresham (Oliver Trueman), Robb Wilton (Chiko Bobajee), Miss Florence Palmer (Margaret Trueman), Miss Lilian Radbourne (Nina Fairholme), and Miss Nancy Mitchell (Jubilee). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Whit Cunliffe has been foremost here this week, and delighted everybody with his freshest songs, including "Exercise," "Nobody's satisfied," and "I will"; the lively Craggs presented their sketch, *Billy;* Matthews and Cowper had a laughable trifle, *When the Clock Went Wrong;* Franco Piper provided a most pleasing turn with his playing of, and juggling with, banjos; some skilful acrobatic work was gone through by the accomplished Schiavonys Troupe; and Burnetti, character musician; Irene Rose, with a charming incident, "Her First Engagement"; Vickey Delmar, acrobatic dancer, bugle, and drum sololist; and Ray Maskell, comedienne and dancer, also appeared.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Francis Gerard and his comedy assistants have been here throughout the week, with an able show in physical strength; Helen Charles gave a pleasing turn as pianist, vocalist, mimic, and siffleuse; the Corman's Juveniles had a beautiful scena, *The Waif;* Siems astonished his audience with clever conjuring; the Lovelaces (Jack and Lucy) rendered some popular illustrated songs; Ariel and Astarte went through a well-executed gymnastic performance; Victor and Louis presented an amusing sketch, *The Golfer and the Caddie;* the Sprees (Dorothy and Joe) submitted an enjoyable scena, *Twickenham Ferry;* Thierry and Lieli had a well-acted incident from the French Revolution; and also in the list were Harry Tomps, comedian; and the Sicilians, vocalists, &c.

LLANDUDNO.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. G. Pugh.—Mr. Chas. M. Bestic's company is here for six nights in the musical play *The Flower Girl*. Miss Dorothy Firmin as Lily is pleasing throughout, and sings capitally; Mr. Martin Adeson scores heavily as Joe Wheeler, and coupled with Mr. Alfred Donohoe as Johnny Wheeler the comic element is well supplied; Mr. Robert H. Howard as the Hon. Billy Greenhill is well placed, and finds favour; Mr. Edward Kipling as Reginald Rackit is clever, his dancing calling forth rapturous applause; Mr. Henry Adnes (Alphonse de Racquet) and Miss Florence Wilton (Lizette de Racquet) give good French impersonations. Scenic effects and dresses are excellent.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company occupied the boards here with *Camille*. Mr. Cecil Wynne gives a telling portrayal of M. le Comte de Varville; Mr. Conrad Heywood as M. Arnaud Duval stirs the audience by his fervour and expressive representation; Mr. Raynor as M. Gaston de Rieux could not be improved upon, his quick, sarcastic repartee being evidently to the audience's liking; in the title-rôle Miss Henrietta Schrier is seen to full advantage, her powerful portrayal of a difficult part being above the average. *Harvest* was announced for the remainder of the week.

PIER HEAD PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton this week provide yet another new scheme, to wit, a musical comedy, *The Saucy Arethusa*. Mr. Kemsley Scott Barrie is above the average as a lady impersonator; Mr. Jack W. Hughes sings in his usual good style; Miss Elaine Reed is an excellent soprano; Mr. Norman Osborn contributes a clever ventriloquial turn; and Mr. Tubby Edlin is clever at impromptu verse, and his comedy, patter, and song are heartily received.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Callis.—A maypole carnival on skates took place on Friday, July 10, evening dress being compulsory. The building was packed, and a most pleasant evening was spent by both skaters and audience.

LOWESTOFT.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—This huge building was packed on Monday night with an audience numbering about 3,500. The programme comprised several new and attractive features, including some remarkably fine pictorial subjects by the British Biograph Co. Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls scored a decided success in their vocal entertainment, which was both pleasing and refined; Mme. Telka, contralto, introduced several capital vocal numbers; and Wyllie again scored as the tramp musician. A distinct artistic novelty locally was presented by A Ba-Be in a pretty act, *The Post-card Album*, which was vociferously applauded.

MAIDENHEAD.—PAVILION PLEASURE GARDENS.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gude.—Mr. Will Harris is out of the programme this week, by Mr. Gude's permission filling an engagement made previous to joining the Cadets. Mr. Jack Anders sings "What ho! the Boulevards" successfully, and as encore scores with another Shepherd's Bush ditty, "Take me on the Flip-Flap"; Mr. Colin Gent gives a breezy rendering of "The Skipper," and his dramatic song scena, "Dear mother, I've come home to die," is full of pathos and intense feeling; Mr. Leo Fallowfield is fully capable of meeting the extra demands made on him by Will Harris's absence, and is specially good in "Don't be silly"; Florrie Delamere sings in a pleasing manner "Could you love a little girl like me?" and with Colin Gent contributes a spirited Irish song and jig, for which they are vociferously encored. Miss Adelaide Twort's songs are well selected and excellently sung, Tosti's "Good-bye" being particularly fine; Mr. Alex Tyson is a careful and painstaking accompanist, and renders, among other pieces, a brilliant piano fantasia, "Killarney." The laughable sketch, *Watch the Chalk*, by Leo Fallowfield, Jack Anders, and Florrie Delamere, is a bright and lively finish to an excellent entertainment.

MAIDSTONE.—PALACE.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Among the artists appearing here this week, first place must be given to Mr. Fred Lindsay, the Australian whip manipulator. Mr. Lindsay's feats with the stock whip are little short of marvellous, and he has to respond to a well-deserved recall. Nada Moret is a clever American story-teller; Rose and Challoner, in *The Lady and the Porter*, give some clever impersonations; G. P. Trevor and company appear with great success in the dramatic sketch, *Her Country's Enemy;* Philip Levard, illusionist, has some smart patter and novel tricks; La Tostia is a clever mandolinist, her selection from *Les Cloches de Corneville* being encored; Sergt. Carrol gives a novel act, in which tambourine playing is introduced with great success; Amy Bellwood, comedienne, and the Bioscope, complete a popular programme.

MANCHESTER. — METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—The Ramsey Trio top the bill here this week in a capital knockabout comedy act; F. A. Martell gives a sensational equilibristic performance, dancing and balancing himself on his finger-tips; Benson and Rose are good in their comedy duologue; Frank Sley and his marvellous Nipper provide a smart turn in comedy and dancing; Ormonde Penstone, a clever conjurer, is well received; and other entertaining items are provided by Will Hebden, comedian; Mike and Lena, "the Dutch lovers"; Yeager and Da Costa, the Blackville duo; France and Francis, acrobatic comedians; and Handel and Lee, talented musicians.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Bella and Bijou, the popular comedy duo, are at the top of the bill here this week, and are highly successful in a couple of smart and amusing sketches; equally popular, W. C. Fields is signalising his return to Manchester, after an absence of four years, by a perfect exhibition of his peculiarly comic juggling; a big hit is made also by Winifred Hare, the popular burlesque artist; while other good turns are the Brennans, accomplished dancers; Nipper Lupino Lane, boy comedian and dancer; Stelling and Revell, a funny pair of acrobatic comedians; Harry Leybourn, character comedian; Gwennie Hasto, refined vocalist and dancer; and Lilian Lowe, a cultured vocalist.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Victoria Monks, the well-known comedienne, is the top star here this week, and is heard in old and new successes. The Wille Brothers go through a really wonderful head-balancing performance, and do some marvellous feats on a bamboo pole; Arthur Lennard, the popular actor vocalist, is excellent; and Fred Curran, comedian, makes a big hit with a capital song, with an eccentric dance added. Ernest Charles Gittins presents in good style *The Daughter of the Regiment*, with Mlle. Adele Prescott in the title-rôle; Daras scores as comedian, conjurer, dancer, and impersonator; whilst other good items are offered by the Three Cape Girls, long boot dancers; Lupino Bros., as the musician and his poodle; and the Sisters St. Julian, duettists and smart dancers. Miss Nellie Dixon, of the choir, sings "The scent of the lilies" in fine style; and A Trip through the Scottish Highlands on the Bioscope is excellent.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Madge Grey, an exceedingly good comedienne, is the principal attraction here this week. Prominent also are Carr and Rose, in an original operetta, *A Winning Double;* the Olympians, eight in number, demonstrate ju-jitsu interestingly; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco are funny in their spectacular absurdity, *Trafalgar-square, London, 4 a.m.;* the Musical Bentleys present a novel musical act; Alpho, the college boy, is a smart ventriloquist; Lily Palmer sings and dances charmingly; and a pleasing turn by Will Owen, comedian, completes the bill.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—The well-known Anglo-American comedian, Jake Friedman, supported by an excellent company, is here this week in the Dutch operetta, *Happy Holland*, a pretty sketch, with capital singing and dancing; Carl Wilbur is quietly effective in his American comedy, *61, Prospect-street;* the Three Sisters Sprightly are as smart as ever; and wonderfully clever turns are those of the Bob Hanlon Troupe of aerial gymnasts, and the Faludy Troupe of Hungarian acrobats. Other very enjoyable items are offered by Lily Lonsdale, vocalist; Florry Cooper, vocal comedienne; Ernie Myers, quaint comedian and patterer; Les Two Cabiacs, French comedy acrobats; and Minnie Warner, comedienne and clever dancer. Pictures, as usual, complete.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Irene Verona and William Spray, the well-known musical comedy artists, are starring here this week in an absurdity, entitled *My Romeo*. Ruth Molloy, a mimic of music hall stars, is accorded a big reception; Ruby Bijou is a first-rate dancer, her bare-foot dance being particularly well done; Webb and Edna Branston, operatic vocalists, are excellent singers; Rosa Tilley, burlesque artist, takes well; Yvonne Lamor is a smart comedienne; the Six Emerald Gems, vocalists and dancers, foot it merrily and sing well; and enjoyable items are also offered by the Katos, komical kidgets, and Reba and Inez, dancers. As usual, Ruffell's pictures are admirable.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company are here this week in *A Sister's Sin*, which was played successfully last week at the King's Theatre, Longsight. The drama is closely followed by an attentive audience.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Kay.—Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and company, are the attraction here this week in an amusing musical comedy sketch, *Cruise of H.M.S. Victory;* Jenny Maningo is very clever in her novel juggling act, and is well received; Langslow, rifle expert on the lofty wire, gives a smart show; and the Donaro Brothers are neat juvenile acrobats. Other capital turns are contributed by Louie Hurman, singer of own songs; Lena Page, burlesque artist; Jack Foley, comedian; Scott, Scott, and company, in pantomime, *That Awful James;* and Dennis J. McCarthy, actor-vocalist. The Shipwreckers on the Bioscope complete.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Phillips. — As usual, an excellent programme is offered here this week.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Hardy.—The late Wilson Barrett's popular play *Lucky Durham* has been having a most successful run here this week, and it has been splendidly played by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. Now in its fourth year of tour, the piece goes as briskly as ever, and the interest is finely maintained throughout. Mr. S. Herbert Henniker as John Durham has been the leading feature in the play, and has sustained the rôle superbly; Mr. Arthur Leigh has also done splendidly as the Hon. Reginald Steighton, whilst the part of Lord Mountfallon has been capably presented at the hands of Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood; Mr. Henry Nunn has shown ability in the impersonation of Mr. Vallerton; and Miss Alice Esther Belmore has been a success as Helen Vallerton; Miss Rosabel Dodd as Lady Mountfallon, Miss Florence Dulhunty as the Hon. Margaret Steighton, Miss Frances Wolviston as Mrs. Durham (John Durham's mother), and others in the cast have individually and collectively contributed to the smooth running and keen enjoyment afforded the audiences nightly.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—This week's programme has proved a highly entertaining one and the several turns have been much appreciated. Pat Rafferty, among other subjects, sings in eloquent praise of the late General Buller, and Monrin and Cardiff, comedians and dancers, have given an excellent show and received unstinted applause; the Sisters Herbert, pleasing juvenile duettists and splendid dancers, have taken the audiences by storm, and Leo Tell has lost none of his cunning as a master of mimicry and an exponent of the equine "language"; Zeta Russell, vocalist and speciality dancer; Flo Cecil, comedienne, and the Hippodrome pictures also give added interest to the programme.

HALL-BY-THE-SEA.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. C. Evans.—This popular place of amusement reopened for the summer season on Monday with the usual afternoon and evening variety entertainment, the latter being followed by the customary ball at 8.45 p.m. There was a very large attendance in the evening, when the official opening really took place, and the large audience were delighted with the capital bill of fare placed before them by the proprietor, "Lord" George Sanger, through his manager, Mr. Charles Evans. Mr. Wilfred Harvey leads a very capable orchestra this season, and the contributors to an all-round good programme, every item in which was deservedly applauded, included the Sisters Charnley (Annie and Edie), comediennes, dainty dancers, and brilliant bâton manipulators; Barrington, in his freak performances at the piano; Lord, Murray, and Lord, in the comedy gymnastic mélange, *The Intruder;* Charles Williams, character and vocal comedian; the Avrignys, Japanese jugglers and equilibrists; and Effie White, kaleidoscopic dancer, in her latest creation, "The Spirit of the Cave."

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—*£1,000 Reward*, presented by Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company, is here. Gilbert Lisle is ably represented by Mr. J. Wilton; Mr. Edward De Vere is good as Fred Inglewood, and Fred, his son, is well played by Mr. W. Gibson; Mr. Frank J. Pitt is well suited as Vincent Rainsworth; Mr. Joe English is praiseworthy as Dick Springthorpe; and Mr. Frank Dallas causes much amusement as Inspector Gilbert. In the rôle of Mme. Sanson, Miss Kathryne Eckart does capital work; Meg, a flower girl, is sympathetically played by Miss Marjorie Seymour; and Miss Minnie Goepel is a diverting Kitty.

MEXBOROUGH.—NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—An excellent series of animated pictures is being shown here to good houses. These include Dora, a Rustic Idyll, Will Grandfather Forgive? Lady's Companion, The Sacrifice, Elixir of Life, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson. — Mr. G. M. Copping's company presented on Monday *Love Rules the World*. Miss Gertrude Sterral acts with distinction as Maud Carruthers; Miss Constance Medwyn gives a delightful performance of Flo Morton; Mr. Richard Vane does full justice to the character of Harold Kingston; Mr. Stephen Layton makes an excellent Stephen Blight; the humorous side of the play is well kept up by Miss Nellie Freeland as Kittie Snowdrop and Mr. Matt Russell as Billy Binks; Mr. Wilson Wynne does well in the rôle of Paul Carruthers; and Sidney Rennef is a capable representative of Jim Dixey.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Edward Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*The Mockery of Marriage*, a thrilling drama of English life, occupies the stage here this week. The plot is a good one, and its unravelling is followed with great interest. Miss Mabel Liston gives a delightful interpretation of Alva Kenyon, and the rôle of Dick Kenyon is in the capable hands of Mr. W. Graham Arthurs; Mr. Harold Kinton is exceedingly good as Seth Pearce; Miss Kate R. Hughes is successful in the rôle of Mary Ann Barnicott; and the other characters are safely placed.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—A very amusing sketch entitled *The Bricklayers* is given here this week by the Boissets. Belle Braham also provides an amusing turn; the Three Pirmans, an acrobatic troupe, delight the audience, and Cliff Ryland causes much laughter with his songs and patter; Master Clifford is an excellent comedian and dancer. Other turns are provided by Frazer and French, comedians and dancers; Ethel Donna, comedienne and dancer; and Dorothy Gould, vocal comedienne.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—The chief attraction here this week is a sketch entitled *Retribution*, which is admirably played by Mr. Herbert Ferry's company. May Lilian Levey is also a popular turn, and a clever ventriloquist is Cavalli. Percy Carry is very amusing, and the Falcons are clever comedy acrobats; Ada Jenner and company cause much laughter in their skit, *The Lady Barber*, and Abalo and Hurst also do well.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Julian.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company have been appearing with success in *The Manxman*, of which popular drama they have given a fine rendering. Mr. Cross is an excellent Pete, and Miss Minnie Watersford a charming Kate. Other parts are well filled by Messrs. Sydney C. Kearns, Fred Mace, Maurice

Voice and Throat.

Mr. SIMS REEVES, the World-Famed Tenor, writing on "The Art of Singing," said:—"Condy's Fluid clears the Throat and braces up the uvula, which in some singers interrupts the pure emission of the Voice."

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Yorke, Roland A. Bridge; Misses Maud Aldred, Blanche Lee, and Chrissie Bickerstaff.

WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Atkinson.—Cruikshank, the funny fellow, has proved a big draw this week, and Max Gruber, with his well-trained elephant, pony, and horse, has also been an attraction. On the tight wire Albos is excellent, and other good turns are Lillie Lassah, graceful dancer and comedienne; the Saletos, clever head-to-head balancers; the Marsumas in *The Navvy's Rest;* the Four Burnells with their amusing sketch *On the Links;* and Dolly Ross, comedienne.

WEST END PIER.—Secretary, Mr. J. Bastow.—Mr. John Riddings, with his opera company, in costume, has filled the pavilion during the week, and given a high-class entertainment.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—Complete success attends the efforts of the enterprising managers of this popular place of amusement, and crowded houses are the rule nightly. The Hessleine Operatic Party, consisting of five first-class vocalists and three pianists on the stage, give a musical mélange from *The Bohemian Girl*, and the whole is accompanied by the full band, the result being a wonderfully fine stage picture and vocal item which brings down the house. Mr. Percy Maye is a really clever and thoroughly refined female impersonator; whilst Mr. Edward Morissey gives a unique equilibristic musical act; Mr. E. S. Kempton is a very good eccentric dancer, and the animated pictures this week are the funniest one could wish to see. Herr A. Spiegler comes in for a large share of applause for his violin solos.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton.—The pierrots have another excellent entertainment this week. Mr. H. Herbert is a really funny comedian; Mr. R. H. Stephens is popular, and scores well, whilst Mr. Maynard Dakin is always a favourite with New Brighton audiences. Miss Lilian Barnes, contralto; Miss Elfie Vincent, comedienne and dancer; Miss Aline Sudbury, soprano; all please greatly, and are loudly applauded. Mr. Arthur Linton is an able and painstaking accompanist.

TOWER AND GROUNDS.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. C. Brown; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Ellis.—The Sunday Concert on 12th inst. was only fairly attended, but the audience was very enthusiastic. Miss Nellie Ganthony gave one of her clever sketches, and was encored; Mr. Harrison Brockbank was in splendid voice, and had to sing again in answer to loud applause; Miss Alexia Bassian sang two or three items in stirring style. The band under Mr. Thomas Rimmer gave complete satisfaction.

THE PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. Frank Nall.—Skating on Richardson's American roller skates is becoming very popular, and good business is being done. There is an excellent maple floor and a capital band.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Large audiences are this week being attracted to see Mr. John E. Tomlinson's company in *The Secrets of the* ——. Miss Lizzie Palmer creditably portrays the rôle of Ismali, a Christian slave, and she is ably supported by Mr. John E. Tomlinson as Ibrahim Al Murad and Mr. R. Brown as Lieut. Markham.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Sidney Bacon.—*The Way of the World*, a most fascinating drama, is the attraction here this week, Miss Sydney Crowe ably sustains the principal rôle of Adela De Roche, and as Kate Montague Miss Nellie De Lacy is also quite successful. Other leading parts are in capable hands.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The chief attraction of an all-round excellent bill is Miss Hetty King, the well-known male impersonator, who scored a distinct success in her various songs. The ever-popular Alexandre and Hughes are seen and heard to great advantage, and fairly bring down the house with their inexhaustible fund of humour. Another capital turn is provided by Little Ganty, a local comedian, who is aptly described as a "little lump of fun." Another very pleasing turn is that of Norman and Leonard Trio, in a musical sketch, and Campbell and Barber are extremely amusing in a comedy cyclistic turn. Other clever items are contributed by Cassie Walmer, J. A. Wilson and his dog, "Private Towser," Marie Santoi and the Merry Little Japs, and Madge May, comedienne and dancer, the Bioscope concluding.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The star turn here this week is Miss Marie Dainton, whose clever impersonations of other popular artists prove extremely popular. *The Sundowner*, a dramatic incident in Australian life, is also very acceptable as played by Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's company. Other artists contributing excellent turns are Gus Harris, the Three Sisters Silcott, Jane Eyre, Gicardo, Ferris and May, Ted Cowan, and the clever cats.

NEWPORT.—EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Major Gallagher.—Mark Sheridan is the star turn here this week, and with his spontaneous humour keeps the house in roars; Elsie Robey, although in small type, deserved to be classed as a star of genuine genius. Her burlesque of the Spanish dancer is exceedingly funny, full of quaint touches and exaggerations. La Belle Nello, Queen of Equipoise, shows some feats of supreme elasticity of body, and among a glut of comedians who do well are Chas. Stevens, Will Musgrave, Rich and Rich, and Ted Box. There is a good comedy sketch, *Home from the Honeymoon*, by Arthur Jefferson and his company, and the American Bioscope with local pictures.

NORTH SHIELDS.—CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager Mr Wm. Mould.—Topping the bill here this week we have the Whitworth Cycling Girls, who have been very heartily greeted; Wisper, in his comedy act, is clever; and Miss Beattie Bloom, comedienne, is an old favourite. Mr. Will Letters, comedian, is very popular; Miss Maidie Berker, vocalist, is much appreciated; Mr. George Hope, tenor, renders his songs with acceptance; Messrs. Melvin and Max, comedy entertainers, have made a hit; and the Mouldoscope is, as usual, well up to date.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL. Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Edwardes' company is announced to open here on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in *The Merry Widow*.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Marie Lloyd heads the bill, and her piquant style carries all before her, and enthusiastic applause greets her on every side. The Eight 'Varsity girls are an excellent turn; Mark Henton, "the mirthful one," is also good; Farley, Rennie, and Farley, in a comedy act, *Fun at a Railway Station*, create much laughter; Selby and Myers, patter comedians and dancers; Ella Lane, serio; Harry Thurston, burlesque comedian,; the Gilberts, skilful tight wire performers, in a comedy act, *Pastimes in the Park;* together with the Hippo-Bio, are immensely appreciated.

NOTTINGHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Mike S. Whallen, both as singer of comic songs and raconteur of humorous tales, is very successful, and his touches of pathos add no little to the value of his turn. Tom Foy in his sketch *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, evokes unlimited laughter, and his exaggerated ingenuousness is much enjoyed; the Irish-American artists, Callahan and St. George, in a musical duologue, present a turn at once clever and entertaining, and receive long and well-merited rounds of applause; Cussac-Talma, assisted by Mlle. de Forge, produce an illusion of an unusually mystifying character, and the banjo playing of Elton and Edwin is of the highest class; Johnson and Bert are a very comical pair, and their sketch, *A Queer Customer*, is most mirth-provoking; Fred Elton, in his musical sketch, *On Board an Ocean Liner*, which introduces the song "My Monte Carlo Maid," is very happy, and is to be congratulated upon the production of a very refined turn; Ernie Mayne is as funny as ever, and receives the hearty reception he is always accorded here; Alice Maydue in her own line is good; and the programme is concluded with the usual Bioscope pictures.

NUNEATON.—P. O. W. THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS Co., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—After a successful run of five weeks Kennedy's Komiks conclude their visit here. This week's programme is proving as successful as its predecessors. Lucretia gives some clever top-boot dancing; Josie Townsend is an entertaining comedienne; enjoyable turns are given by the Incemores (Living Mannikins), the Gilders (society entertainers), Terry and Snowden (duettitst and dancers), Ivy Dean (speciality dancer), Little Doris (child singer and dancer), and an interesting series of pictures. The Theatre reopens August Bank Holiday.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company in the drama *I Defy the World*, occupies the boards of the premier theatre here, and is much enjoyed. Mr. Lewis Gilbert acts capably in the part of Leon Darville; Mr. Oswald Douglas is clever as the villainous Count de Beaulieu; Miss Gladys Harding Walton as Pauline Delaporte gives a charming delineation, and Miss Mary Ainslie as Blanche Darville does exceedingly well; Miss Florrie Green is a smart Fanchette, and Miss Connie Gray a good Fifine; Miss Maud Lillian as Marie Wozzle and Mr. Chas. M. Julian as Samuel Wozzle are responsible for some capital comedy; Mr. Alfred Denning as General Delaporte and Mr. Chas. Conway as the blackmailer Laroche, give good assistance, and Mr. Frank Wheatly's Andre is a good study.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*The Old, Old Story*, played by Miss Bonwin Carlton and company is here. Mr. P. Watson as John Hazel gives a well-acted portrayal; Mr. J. P. Dryden as James Marlow submits a clever delineation of a forger, and Mr. Edward Surrey as the detective, William Grimshaw, is most effective; Miss Marie E. Dempster makes a sympathetic Netty Hazel; Miss Kitty Maynard a winning Jessie, and Miss Esther Lamont a good Janet Marlow; Miss Bonwin Carlton as the lady bookie causes hearty laughter, and receives great assistance from Mr. Tod Squires as Bobby Blossom; Mr. H. J. Butler is good as Sir Humphrey Hazel, and Mr. T. Hadlin does well as Hilton Thorpe.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kilrow.—Queenie Leighton is the principal attraction this week, and her delightful singing gains repeated recalls; the Soho Trio introduce good singing and smart dancing; Abel and Welsh cause hearty laughter by their eccentricities; and Les Frasettis are excellent musical experts on violin, harp, and xylophones; Mrs. George Graves and company in *The Chorus Girl*, provide a capital turn; Edna Latonne proves a capable male impersonator; Cedar and Elgar are smart in a novel comedy act; the Sisters Barnes are dainty comediennes and dancers, and Edward Tilley is a refined comedian. An amusing picture on the Dottoscope concludes an excellent programme.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessee, Miss Winifred Stuart; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Frank Stuart's company is this week giving capital representations here of *The Streets of London*. Mr. Frank Stuart himself plays the bluff, honest old sailor, Captain Fairweather, in a way that could not be improved on, and gets the warmest reception from his many admirers; Mr. P. C. Wentworth gives a polished, smooth rendering of Gideon Bloodgood that tells home; Mr. Charles Ninian, a most amusing Badger, keeps the ball rolling all the time he is on the stage; Mark Livingstone and Paul find capable representatives in Messrs. A. W. Thompson and W. A. James; and Mr. John Hitchings creates genuine amusement as Puffy. Miss Mona Hall is a bright, amusing Dan; Miss Theodore Henries a sympathetic and conscientious Lucy; and Miss Winifred Stuart adds to her reputation with a most admirable rendering of Alida, that holds her audience throughout the play, and wins well-deserved applause

PAISLEY.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas F. Bostock.—A decided draw here this week is Ivan T'Schernoff's marvellous animal entertainment, with his group of educated ponies and dogs; Daisy Morell is a captivating comedienne; one of the smartest magical and second sight acts ever seen here is contributed by Kahn and Kahn; the Cattaneo Troupe furnish a novel and amusing comedy acrobatic sketch, which is duly appreciated; Tom Bryce and Miss Price are applauded for their excellent comedy sketch, *The Dude's Wooin'*; a capital and original ventriloquial turn is submitted by Prof. Dunning; Elton and Elma are funny and clever in a knockabout triple bar act; Jennie Sneddon sings sweetly, her songs being illustrated; and the Bioscope is entertaining.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls' company are here in *The Battle of the Belles*, which is thoroughly enjoyed; Le Marbas, humorists and acrobatic dancers, are well received; Clown Argo, the eccentric mimic, is responsible for a large share of mirth; the Great Marconis, the electric wonders, are an excellent turn; Godfrey Price, the Rhondda Basso, possesses an exceptionally good voice, and is heard to advantage in some capital songs; George Edney, character vocalist and comedian; Mabelle May, dainty and graceful in song and dance; Bishop and Vale, knockabout comedians and dancers are applauded; and the Tivoliscope, in a series of up-to-date films, conclude the programme.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Tearle's stock company this week is reproducing *Virginus*, on which we had the pleasure of favourably commenting a short time since. The various parts are in the same capable hands, and the piece runs with commendable smoothness. *The Taming of the Shrew* has also been staged.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—"L'Incomparable," as Mr. Paul Cinquevalli is well termed, forms the draw for the week, and his marvellous feats of jugglery continue to call forth unbounded admiration. His attendant, too, imports some genuine humour into the turn. Wright and Lawson furnish some wonderful acrobatic business, being apparently able to turn themselves into any conceivable shape; Winnie Derson is an attractive comedienne; and Harry Anderson has a voice of great strength and penetrative power; the Arthur Gallimore Trio provide refreshing entertainment with their knockabout business; Dolly and Madge McColla are a promising pair of youthful artists; and Rose Sartella and Jock Walker materially strengthen the vocal side of the programme.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—A capital programme is being presented to the patrons at this cosy hall for the current week. Empress, the lady Houdini, handcuff manipulator, gives some marvellous feats; Syd Hermann's Hebrew stories are side-splitting; a refined and artistic gymnastic turn is given by the Rizarclis; the Sisters Ford as comedy duettists well merit the applause that is showered upon them; the Edmonds in *Golden Deeds in South Africa* are extremely neat and effective; Wal Robins is an admirable comedian; Vera Mayne sings a couple of good songs in effective style; the Recars give a capital act; the Leonas manipulate a number of musical instruments with much ability; and some excellent pictures are projected by the Alexandra Bioscope.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction this week is Ada Frank's company, under the direction of Courtney Robinson, in *A Fight for Life*. Count Adrian is well portrayed by Mr. Courtney Robinson; Jean Cardell is capably presented by Mr. Clifton Earle; Mr. Dan Ryan scores as Dan Murphy; Antonio is well sustained by Mr. Charles Higgins; La Cardell is excellently acted by Miss Violet Desborough; and worthy of all praise are Miss Ada Frank and Miss Rose Woodhall as Suzanne and Adell respectively.

PORTH.—THE PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Frank Hardie and company, in a military episode, are accorded a capital reception, their acting being really good, Akbar gives an admirable gymnastic performance, and merits praise; Little Hales, the queen of the wooden shoe, scores a big success, her stepping brings the house down; Pringle and Gray are most entertaining in their screaming military musical absurdity, entitled *Kitty's Night Out;* Bella Leaburn, comedienne and descriptive vocalist, sings remarkably well, and deserves mention; the Calcots are all that can be desired in their musical scena, entitled *Rags and Tatters*, introducing singing, dancing, and banjo duets; Smith and Johnson, coloured drawing-room entertainers, are great favourites here, and are warmly received; H. O. Wills, comedian, creates roars of laughter. He evidently keeps the house in excellent humour; his songs are appreciated. The Palascope, with latest pictures, concludes.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company, under the able direction of Mr. Haldane Crichton, is here this week with the well-mounted and capitally-played comic opera *The Dandy Fifth*. Dick Darville is well and vigorously presented by Mr. Frank Barclay, his vocalisation being much admired. Mr. Jack sustains the part of Trooper Brown in most amusing fashion; Mr. George Beverley does ample justice to the rôle of Sergt.-Major Milligan; Sir Victor is taken in good style by Mr. Bert Gates; Mr. Will Smith makes a soldierly Colonel; and Messrs. Frank Hayle (Jones) and Arthur Wilmer (Robinson) also do very well. Miss Pauline Hague is responsible for an exceedingly clever and charming portrayal of the vivacious Kate Lorrimer, singing her numbers in fine style. The Polly of Miss Isa Bowman is a bright and sparkling performance, full of life and "go"; Miss Maud Nichols is excellent as Mrs. Von Blitzen; and Miss Florence Spurgeon does well as the maid, Antoinette.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The domestic military drama *A Woman Worth Winning* is staged here for the week by Mr. Percy Norman's No. 1 company. The callous and ruffianly General Borinsky is ably and powerfully enacted by Mr. A. B. Mackay; Mr. George Edwin Clive plays very naturally and in manly style as Fergus Lovinsky; Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh gives a realistic and well-sustained personation of the hunch-backed Ivan Bardoff; Mr. Gilbert Standing as Amos Pauloff does excellent work; Mr. Wynne Davies as Fedor Petrovitch is very good; Mr. Sydney Barton acts carefully the part of Czar Nicholas; Mr. E. Kendrick is highly amusing as Peter Popples; and Mr. L. Newman makes plenty of fun as Bertie Scribbles. Miss Ida Mackay plays admirably and is very diverting as Katerina Kloss; Miss Trixie Leighton is most praiseworthy as Lota Kalnovky; and Miss Chrissie Dunbar makes a very charming Roma Pauloff.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eugene Bartram.—The excellent drama *A Warning to Women* is presented here this week by Mr. C. Watson Mills' able company. The detestable villain, Dr. Marcus Dread, finds a very capable exponent in Mr. Leonard Lawrence, who plays the difficult part for all it is worth; the faithful Shaun is impersonated by Mr. William Vane in a manly and sincere manner which is quite convincing; Mr. Leslie Beaufort sustains in capital style the part of Fergus McNaughton; the rôle of the much and sorely-tried Squire Kennion is taken by Mr. Henry Rutland very naturally, and is an admirable embodiment throughout; Messrs. Sydney Ernest, W. Palliser Acock and Oscar Power are amusing and mirth-provoking in their respective parts of Lord Eversleigh, Ferdinand de Joules, and Mike McQuade. Miss Winifred Rutland is a charming representative of Sheila Kennion; Miss Ellen Beverley is well placed as Molly O'Moore; Miss Douglas Hicks does praiseworthy work as Hildred; Miss Edith Rutland is to be highly commended for her clever and natural acting as Miles O'Moore, the cripple; and Miss Lillian Herries gives a very meritorious and artistic portrayal of the unhappy Moira Kennion.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The Andos Troupe of Happy Little Japs give their well-known and finished performance of the art of balancing, much to the gratification of the audience; Daisy Hicks, a dashing soubrette, is well received; and the Shelleys are excellent and pleasing as duologue artists. Frank Bertram and company cause immense laughter in their amusing sketch *The Chaperon;* Cosgrove and Burns shine well as comedy duettists; Ben Albert, a quaint vocal comedian, gains many plaudits for his diverting song "What an Exhibition." Lily Arthur, a smart and effective comedienne and danseuse, has made herself a great favourite; the Primrose Quartette are responsible for some very tuneful vocalisation, and get a very cordial greeting; Kurkamp, the original singing conductor, has an enthusiastic reception for his two very admirably-rendered items; Payne's Bio, with some thrilling motor-racing pictures, concludes.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Mr. Fred Ginnett and company, in the equestrian spectacle *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, go as well as ever; as a conjurer Mr. Henri Bekker is particularly smart in his methods; Mr. Chas. Santon, double-voiced vocalist, charms everyone with his performances; Miss Constance Mori, comedienne and speciality dancer, has a brisk, taking style that wins her great applause; Mr. W. H. Clemart, ventriloquist, gives an artistic turn with the aid of his numerous dummies, and is warmly applauded; the Five Whiteleys, Continental speciality artists, work very hard, and submit an exceedingly smart and daring performance; Mr. George Prince, crazy comedian, causes much laughter; Miss Gladys Mauvis, the Canadian coon, is excellent as a step-dancer; Mr. W. Selkirk's Scottish juvenile display, *All Scotch*, proves attractive and interesting. The Hippo. pictures finish an enjoyable programme.

PRESTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Harry Tilbury and company are here this week, and are presenting the drama *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. A. George Fry enacts the part of the village blacksmith, Frank Lindon, in a manly and convincing manner; Mr. Horatio Sinclair imbues the part of Lord Devant with sufficient villainy, as does also Mr. Bernard Webb as Tom Redman; Mr. Ed. Brown is a capital Geoffrey Harvey; Mr. Fred Owen is a capable Neil Locksley; Mr. Harry Tilbury is distinctly funny as Mickey Doolan, and receives good support from Miss Etta Spalding, who scores as Araminta Dustpan (with song). As the heroine, Florence Lindon, Miss Tilbury appeals strongly to the sympathies of the audience; Little Phylis as Mabel Lindon in Acts 1, 2, and 3, and Miss Annie Newall in the same character in Act 4 are both good; Miss A. T. George is a favourite as Alice Harvey; Mr. Henry Selby as Bobby Peel also draws many a hearty laugh. The remaining characters are all in good hands, and the piece is capitally mounted.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Les Rallis top the bill with their original novelty *The Artist and his Monkey;* the impersonation of a baboon is lifelike, and this clever turn elicited loud applause; Fremel and Fremel, original eccentrics, give a quaint mixture of patter and tumbling; Bennett and Stirling, American comedy entertainers, give a good turn of song and dance and a well-executed xylophone duet; W. G. Wesley, character comedian, is well received; Daucit, the American dancing nugget, brings down the house with her dancing, and has to respond to vociferous encores; Edmund Bosanquet, violin virtuoso, and his "Bosanquephone," is also a fine favourite, who has to appear again and again for his delightful solos; Maddison Bros. are a clever pair of burlesque boxers and patter artists, who give a good turn; a clever turn is given by Dottridge and Instone's company in an interesting sketch of song and dancing, entitled *Rosie's Birthday Party*. The company, ten in number, includes Miss Kittie Trewhitt, Ira Gibson, and Trixie Whyatt; Martin Conway evidently suits the audience by the reception he receives. The Mysterious Parcel on the Bioscope concludes. A capital show, which has not a dull turn.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—*The Lion and the Mouse*, splendidly produced by Mr. Walter Maxwell's company, has proved wonderfully interesting here this week. It would be difficult to get three finer individual efforts than those of Mr. Leslie Carter as John Burkett Ryder (the Lion), Miss Christine Silver as Shirley Rossmore (the Mouse), and Mr. A. W. Baskcomb as Ryder's confidential secretary. There is art writ large over the acting of Miss Silver; Mr. Carter finds splendid scope for his undoubted histrionic ability in the part of the financial genius; and while Mr. Baskcomb had not a very large part to present, his skill in handling it stamps his as a performance worthy of special mention. Mr. Martyn Roland acts capably as the son of Ryder, and the other parts are meritoriously impersonated.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—On the first three evenings of the week Mr. Will Dennis and company appeared in *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, and the production attracted capital audiences. The story of the heir to the earldom of Dorincourt was admirably told, and seems to have lost none of its piquancy. Miss Daisy May portrayed in splendid fashion the title-rôle; her acting was characterised by grace and charm, and her rendering of the lines entrusted to her—in itself no light task for a young actress—was in all respects excellent. Mr. Will Dennis appeared in his original part, Earl of Dorincourt, and his representation of the crusty old aristocrat was very fine indeed. Miss Gertrude Netterville scored a great success in the part of Mrs. Errol, and Miss Marion Fawcett and Miss Beryl Graham as Minna and Mary respectively did good work; Mr. George Roberts was also seen to advantage in his representation of Mr. Havisham. The play was put on in thoroughly satisfactory style. For the last three evenings of the week an attractive variety entertainment filled the bill.

MARINA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Dew and Valeriani; General-Manager, Mr. W. J. Attack.—Under enterprising management the fortunes of this place of entertainment seem to have thoroughly revived, and crowded houses appear to be the rule to witness excellent shows, in which the exhibition of animated photographs of topical, humorous, or educational interest are interspersed with items of song and dance by the juvenile artists Tiny and Mite. These young people have established themselves in the hearts of the Marina patrons, and their undoubted cleverness always ensures a hearty reception. As to the pictures, they are clear and steady. The programme is frequently changed, and those who visit the Marina invariably speak well of the arrangements made there and the attractions provided.

READING.—THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Claude Anderson and Ethel Pender Cudlip are giving selections from *Il Trovatore* in highly-meritorious style; Bennett and Martell are exceedingly amusing in their sketch *The Shipwrecked Mariners;* the Godfreys, in *The Slavey and the Coon*, perform on a variety of instruments cleverly; and Josey present an amusing duologue; De Lilo and Metz, lady bender and comedy juggler, provide a good turn; Harry Marte sings and dances well; the Emson Girls, comediennes. are well received; Flo Inman elicits the sympathies of the audience by her sentimental singing; S. Bedford and company create great hilarity in their farcical comedy *The Second Mrs. Chester;* and the concluding Bioscope Pictures illustrate the Motor-car Races at Dieppe very vividly.

RHYL.—OLYMPIAN GARDENS.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Eric Charlswood.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton are to be congratulated on the talent they have secured for this week. Frank Hook contributes amusing songs and patter; Paddy Duprez is a popular Irish comedian; Dick Tubb, comedian, on a first visit here, is accorded a hearty reception; Jessie Buckle, comedienne, delights everyone with her selection of songs; Bertram Noel is loudly applauded for his clever impersonations; Charlie Bray, a local juvenile comedian, is a great favourite; Eric Charlswood's latest success is the song entitled "Rhyl," which he sings with his usual ability; and Hariett Greene, soprano, Alf Ripon, Scotch ventriloquist, Edith Benson, comedienne, and Theresa Foote, accompanist, also add to the success.

ROCHDALE.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Pictures by the Empire Bioscope predominate here this week, a capital series of films, depicting the following scenes, are presented:—Custom Officer's Revenge, His First Frock Coat, Arctic Hunting, Gamble for a Woman, Woes of a Cinematographer, Poverty and Probity, and Legend of the Ghost. The Three Coopers are amusing in their comedy vocal selections; Jack Hayton is a quaint comedian and dancer; and Florence Raymond submits an acceptable ventriloquial act.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Adria Hill and Robert Ayrton's company are doing well this week in their latest success, *The Gambler's Daughter*, in which Mr. Robert Ayrton ably sustains the part of Desmond O'Dare; Miss Adria Hill adds to her reputation by the manner in which she plays the dual rôles of Mildred and Miriam (mother and daughter); Mr. Harry Elliston is a comical Jew as Solomon Solomons; and Miss Harriett Loydale as Auntie Zeb also keeps the house in roars. Mr. H. C. Robinson plays Stephen Brand, the villain, in convincing style; John Grant is a good study by Mr. Richard Pitt; as also is Mr. Harry Barham's The Weazel. Mr. Cedric Thornley does well as Tom.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—*Fun in a Pawnshop* is an absurdity by Raleigh Abrahams and company, which heads this week's programme and causes much amusement; Silbon's Circus is a very smart performance, especially the acts of several cats; Ethel Loftus gets much applause for her songs and comical antics. The programme also includes acceptable turns by Nell Brough, with whistling songs; Avon and Crest, comedy artists; Major Moss and Son, in vocal scena; Welsh Vaudeville Entertainers (four), instrumentalists and vocalists; and Bernard and Weston, comedians.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—A clever dramatic sketch, *Oliver Twist*, in which Owen McGiveney takes Fagin, Bill Sikes, Artful Dodger, Monks, and Nancy in quick change, is well received. The Four Breens, very smart comedy jugglers; the Days, in mental telepathy; Ada Whitton, male impersonator; Marcus Boyle, funny comedian; Beattie and Gynne, in musical duologue, &c.; Elliott and Warne (Carrie and Tom), comedy artists, tumblers, and dancers; and X-Rays, the five mad athletes, also give clever turns.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The new pictures this week draw well, and include Pretty Flower Girl, Irascible Father, Haunted Bedroom, Britain's Promise, Athlete's Daughter, Hunchback of Notre Dame, Over the Sticks.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's company in *Charley's Aunt* is here. Mr. Syd Compton as Lord Fancourt Babberley was excellent in every way; Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesney and Mr. Basil Lynton as Charley Wykeham did pleasing work. Mr. Theo McCausland Stewart as Sir Francis Chesney, Bart., did well; Mr. Roy Byford pleased all with his clever acting.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—Mr. John Gerant's company in *At Duty's Call* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Matthew Boulton makes an ideal hero; Miss Beatrice Western as Dora showed great skill; Mr. John Gerant as Harold Alison gave full proof of his ability; Mr. Ernest St. John makes a dignified General Gordon, and Miss Ethel Wallis is clever as Salema. Humour is supplied in a pleasing manner by Mr. Frank Caffrey as Terry and Miss Laurie O'Neill as Mary.

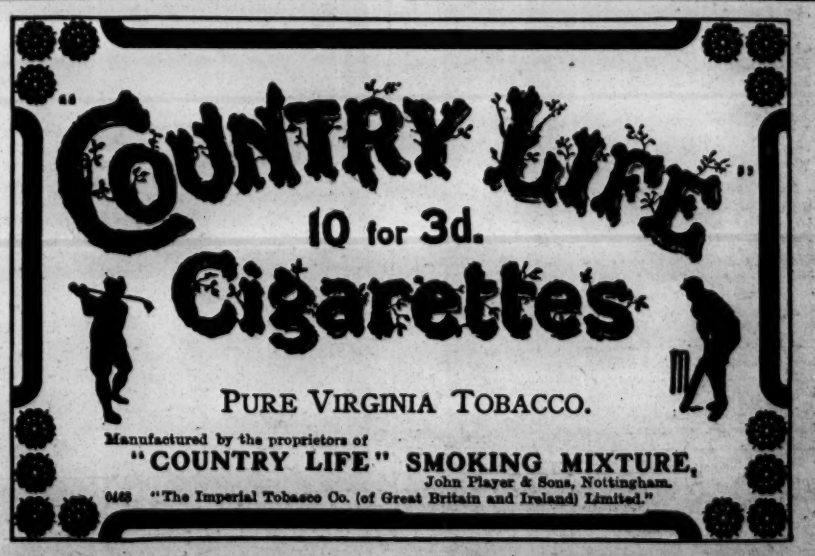
SPA THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Cliff Bridge Co.; Manager, Mr. Francis Goodricke.—*Robin Hood* opened here on Monday with Mr. Ethelbert Edwards in the title part, of which he gave a clever representation; Miss Lilian Stennis as Lady Marion de Vaux rendered excellent support; Miss Laurie Flockton as Adela was untiring in her efforts to please; the part of Alison had careful treatment from Miss Gertrude de Burg; Miss Irene Malvern made an excellent Queen; Mr. C. Bruce Winston was quite at home as a Friar Tuck, and Mr. Clive Ross as Little John provided plenty of humour.

THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. L. Holland.—Wee George Wood is as great an attraction as ever this week in his songs and impersonations; Kennedy's Kiddies do another good turn; Richard Finberg, impersonator, is very good; the Three Lloyds give an excellent turn on the rope; Alfonso, foot equilibrist, and Llewlyn and Davis in vocal scena receive due recognition. Mme. Levante's orchestra of ladies have again been engaged for the season, and submit an excellent programme that suits all tastes. The solo artists are very clever. The programme also includes Professor Jones and his troupe of lady swimmers and also Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, The Excelsior Animated Picture Co.—In addition to an excellent film show, Miss Alma Curzon, comedienne, renders some acceptable items; and the Milsted-Bell Trio present a clever little sketch, entitled *Three Sharps in a Flat*.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Harry D. Lyle.—Mr. Herbert Fuller's company is here this week, and on Monday and two following nights presented *Passion of Life*. Horace O'Neal is in the capable hands of Mr. Alf. Russell; Mr. Stormont Wallett is a popular Daddy Kenny; Jack Kenny finds a clever exponent in Mr. Balfour Denistoun; and the rascally Ralph Flint is faithfully drawn by Mr. Fred Rivers. Plenty of fun is provided by Mr. Herbert Fuller in the rôle of Dan Sprouts; another successful character is that of Fergus McKenna as played by Mr. George E. Merrifield. Mr. Godfrey Hunsley does well as Abdullah; Miss Agnes Collier as Nita O'Neal stands out prominently; as Belle O'Neal Miss Isla Isobel Davies leaves nothing to be desired; and Miss Louise Russell is a charming Alice Kenny, Tilly being cleverly played by Miss Mabel Kent. *A Noble Mother* was announced for the last three nights of the week.

SHEERNESS.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—The chief attraction this week is supplied by Miss Beaumont Collins and company in the dramatic playlet *The House of Terror*, which is meeting with a cordial reception. Miss Beaumont Collins is seen to conspicuous advantage as Meg Harding; and Miss



Stella Leigh as Mother Crawley presents an admirable character-study. Mr. G. Boyd Pearson does full justice to the part of John Dason; and Mr. George Mallett is capital as Mark Verrell. The sketch is well staged. The Three Ramlos, comedy gymnasts, provide a thoroughly entertaining turn; the Knick-Knacks are good comedy artists; and Archie Pitt, quaint comedian, keeps the house in roars of laughter. Other entertaining turns are given by the Sisters Reno, acrobatic dancers; Gladys Williams, serio; and Nellie Chandos, comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope concludes with a humorous film, Grandfather's Pills.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local Representative, Mr. Cyril Parkes.—The usual full programme of moving pictures is given here this week, the principal films, thrown with their usual clearness, being Forsaken, A Norman Vendetta, The Phlegmatic Gentleman, Kidnapped by Gipsies, The Deceiver, &c., which are interluded by enjoyable turns by Nat Lewis, actor-vocalist, who has been retained here for another week.

SHEFFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Outcast of the Family* was played for the first time here on Monday by Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company. Mr. Herbert Bentone made a frank, manly, and sympathetic Stephen Barry, and other characters were well played by Miss Vera Neville, Miss Margeretta Tubskie, Miss Gertrude Morella, Mr. W. Cowell-Clarke, Mr. Chas. H. Coleman (a convincing representative of the squire's son, Harry Thorne), Mr. Bert Atherton, Mr. F. C. Leighton, Mr. E. W. Cudd, Mr. M. Platting, Mr. Ed. Jeffs, Mr Murray Maude, Mr Harold Holmes, Mr. Heaton Lodge, and Little Dorothy. The piece was mounted in a careful manner, and its scenes of pathos and humour afforded wholesome entertainment to an appreciative audience.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—The favourite drama of Russian military life, *Under the Czar*, still continues to thrill the Alexandraites. It is being played to good houses this week by Mr. Wilson Howard's company. Miss Carlotta Anson makes a handsome and emotional heroine as Sonia; Mr. Wilson Howard successfully depicts the bold and masterful Chief of Police, and other principal parts are carefully represented by Miss Madge Clair, Miss Vivienne, Mr. Gerald Smyth, Mr. J. Leicester, Mr. G. Broughton, Mr. J. C. Turner, Mr. Fred Elvin, Mr. F. Merring, Mr. Carl Vallender, Mr. Victor Gordon, Mr. Fred M. Best, and Mr. G. Fleming. The play is effectively staged.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—A novel and amusing top-line attraction here is an up-to-date extravaganza founded on the popular legend *Jack the Giant Killer*, in which the noted giant actor Mr. George Auger appears with great success, supported by a competent company, a midget, who takes the part of Jack, revealing great talent as a burlesque actor and vocalist; Miss Ouida Macdermott's vocal scena, *Redwing*, was enthusiastically applauded on Monday; the Vesilcne troupe of comedy gymnasts made a big hit; Mr. Vanando did a refined and thoroughly humorous ventriloquial entertainment; the celebrated Hymack in his mystifying sartorial monologue and quick changes, again puzzled and delighted Mr. Dunbar's many patrons; and others who gave much pleasure were Mr. Frank Bernard's farce company in *Hello, Central*; Mr. Frank Finglass, the ideal coon; Max York's well-trained terriers, and Miss Bella Green, vocalist and mimic. Good business continues the rule.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—A programme replete with novelty was submited for the approval of a large audience on Monday, the contributors being Phil Ree's stable lads in a smart and very amusing performance; the talented Derrington family in an extraordinary display of trick cycling; Grant and Grant, transatlantic speciality artists in a remarkably diverting and original act; Mr. J. W Callingher, a local pantomime favourite; Mr. Jack Campbell, in well-rendered ditties; the clever and amusing Lavelle Bros., chair experts, tumblers, and comedians; Ross and Grayson, in an interlude distinctly above the average in its special line; Barney Armstrong, comic singer; Messrs. Tray and Rich, in a comedy act, and the smart American Octoroons, in songs and dances. The pièce de résistance this week is *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, one of the funniest sketches seen in Sheffield. Artistic pictures conclude a programme of all-round excellence.

GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—The "Grand," with its new decorations and improvements, presented a delightfully cool, spick-and-span appearance on Monday, when large houses welcomed the following artists:—Leoni Clarke and his famous troupe of cats, mice, rats, &c.; Miss René Lytton, vocal comedienne; Miss Lily Gaston, vocalist; Mint and Mart, expert paper tearers, &c.; Miss Winnie Loftus, a chic comedienne; Mr. Jones, with illustrated songs; and Mr. Dick Bradley, comic entertainer and laughable tramp cyclist, in a funny act.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred W. Holmes.—A Bird of Freedom and other romantic, fanciful, and humorous pictures were well received on Monday, and the variety artists included Eileen and Mayne in a good musical interlude; Tom Johnstone, vocalist; and the favourite Mr. Mark Merry, vocal comedian.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—*The Gentleman Jockey* proves a lively and entertaining attraction as played by Mr. Edward Marris's company. Amongst an excellent array of talent are Mr. C. W. Parke, Miss Ethel Ward, Mr. George Brentwood, Mr. W. B. Nugent, Miss Gertie Reed, and a very old operatic favourite, Mr. H. Le Maistre.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Alber's ten performing bears are the star attraction here, and have been cleverly trained. The Kirbys are an excellent comedy duo; Walter King is a droll comedian; Mr. E. a topical rhymester; and Ryan and Hall are clever acrobats; and Zeta Grey and company, sketch artists, W. E. Whittle, ventriloquist, and the Evalos, jugglers and gymnasts, also do well.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. de Frece and F. Mouillot; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—The Bros. Horne excel in their boxing sketch, *The Biter Bit*. Another popular turn is given by Crosland's Melody Makers in *The Burglar's Dream*; the Eight Lancashire Lads dance excellently; and Morny Cash is funnier than ever. The Sisters Gladwin, Will Driscoll, and Maudie Ford also contribute.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—A packed house on Monday extended a rousing reception to Mr. George Waters' company for their entertaining presentation of the musical absurdity *The Gay Deceivers*. Colonel Dewar has a lively interpreter in Mr. Frank Powell; Frank is creditably taken by Mr. Guy Williams, who sings in pleasing style; Mr. Frank Stanmore gives a humorous impersonation of Lord Reggie; Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram is effective as Pinch, a burglar; the butler Joseph is drolly played by Mr. Mark Lester; Miss Pauline Prim wins special favour as Rosie for her clever whistling solos; Dora Dartrey is a fascinating personality as presented by Miss Dorothy Chard; the part of Winnie Winter is well taken by Miss Dorothy Mackenzie; and Mrs. Dewar is cleverly presented by Miss Kate Chard.

THE KURSAAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—One of the most attractive items in the excellent and enjoyable programme that is given twice daily in the theatre is the sketch entitled *Slavery Days*, which has pretty scenery and a good chorus to add to its interest. The characters are admirably sustained, Mr. Fred Percy in particular being most successful. He is assisted by Miss Ruth Sampson, Miss M. St. Clair, Mr. Jack Miller, Mr. Lev. Casso, and Mr. J. Brownlow. Other creditable turns are given by Miss Daisy Reed, a speciality danseuse, well received; Miss Olive West, comedienne and danseuse; Miss Lilian Constance, a pleasing soprano ballad vocalist; Messrs. Charles Ashdown and Edward Harvey, comedians; and the Palace Ballet, assisted by Miss Harold's Gipsy Girls. Evening performances conclude with the usual series of Bioscope pictures. Dancing takes place both afternoon and evening, and the Gipsy Girls draw good patronage in the Café Chantant.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—A second and concluding week's engagement of the Native Choir from Jamaica proves even more successful than their first, and a thoroughly enjoyable programme again gives intense delight. The dances by Mr. Frank Weaver are loudly applauded; Mr. H. Nation also gives piano solos in a creditable manner.

THE LEAS BANDSTAND.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—The Chierrots, the new company that is gaining marked popularity by their excellent programmes under the able direction of Mr. Alfred Davies, are now giving three performances daily. Those contributing comprise Messrs. Victor Hunter, Walter James, Arthur Leslie, Jack Ferne, Fred Lester, and Hal Cluist, with the Misses Lillian Hubbard and Lily Boundy. Following their last daily concert, another first-class programme is submitted by the Rouge et Noir concert party.

PIER HILL BANDSTAND.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—Three performances also are given here daily by the smart and entertaining company of the Pick-Me-Ups, which has in Mr. George Robins a worthy director, who is rewarded with a large number of appreciative supporters.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company appear here this week in *At Cripple Creek*. Mr. Wernham Ryott makes a capital Joe Mayfield; Mr. Chas. E. Johnson as Martin Mason and Mr. Arthur North as Manuel Alvarez depict a precious pair of scoundrels in good style; the faithful Indian Wahketah is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Reginald Harley-West; Miss Agnes Verity powerfully delineates Dynamite Ann; Miss Daisy Carlton is vivacious as Maggie Mason, the pride of Cripple Creek; Belle Gordon is sweetly represented by Miss Dorothy Lart. Appropriate songs are introduced and a selection by Mr. Harry Leander as a Cripple Creek nigger.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident Manager, Mr. George F. Thompson.—Neil Kenyon is proving a great attraction here, his Scottish mannerisms being well received and encores demanded; the Herald Comedy Four do an original turn, introducing singing and dancing; May Mars with her songs creates a favourable impression; Jessie Barlee and Phil Smith, musical comedy duologue artists, are deservedly applauded; and other good turns are done by Mlle. Eldee, Cissie Curlette, May Fayre, and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE-LANE.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Animated pictures are shown on the Tivoloscope here, and Daisy De Roy with a budget of new songs is well received.

COSY CORNER, SEA FRONT.—Mr. Geo. Burton's comedians are clever. Songs are well rendered by Miss Pattie Burton and Miss May Tudor, and comedy is well represented by Messrs. Russel Ray and Ross. A special feature is made of the concerted numbers and an original sketch, *Modern Watchmaking*, is performed by the whole company.

STAFFORD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Mr. Everard and company are presenting *The Octoroon* this week. Miss Laurie A. Pardy gives an ideal representation of Zoe; Mr. Edwin Turner plays Jacob M'Closky with power; Mr. Francis Everard as Wah-no-Tee acts in a capable and convincing manner; Salem Scudder is in the able hands of Mr. G. P. Beresford; and Miss Edith Leslie as Paul is good. Mr. Fred C. Imbert is seen to advantage as Pete; and others who take prominent parts are Miss Constance Medway as Mrs. Peyton, Miss Hettie Fergusson as Dora Sunnyside, Mr. Charles King as Kath, Mr. Eustace Gibson as Sunnyside, and Mr. Frederick Carr as George Peyton.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Closed until first Monday in August.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic Carnell.—Quite a varied programme is presented this week. A. L. Lawson and Frances Namon, with comical novelty cycle riding and ball punching, take a prominent place, and receive well-merited applause; a pathetic little sketch, entitled *The Little Colonel*, is touchingly played by Ernest Montefiore and company; Bugler Carr is great at balancing; the Onyx Duo perform some national dances skilfully; and Irene and Morton, in their interlude, are amusing. Angelina does tricky things with a cannon ball and other articles; and Stacey and Williams are smart.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—*A Girl Redeemed from Sin* has attracted large audiences here this week. Mr. Clinton Baddeley acts with dignity and power as Ernest Sylveston; Mr. Walle Spinner impersonates the character of Will May in manly style; Mr. Victor Knight is highly amusing as Jim Jakes, capitally supported by Mr. Max Dooley as the Hon. Bertie Boyes and Miss Ada Oxley as Peggy Grey. The Prison Governor has a capable representative in Mr. John Turpin; and Nancy Lee is charmingly played by Miss Olive Fulton.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The Venetians, in a vocal act with dioramic effects, give a pleasing entertainment, and meet with much appreciation; in *The Crazy Cook* Picitt and Lizette perform magical feats in amusing style; a gratifying reception is accorded Claude Feldman's troupe of prize juveniles; Leah Arden's songs are applauded; Doyle and Gibson are amusing patter vocalists; a laughable sketch is *The Doctor and the Patient*, presented by Helm and Cozens; the Walonells are smart comedy acrobats; and J. C. Scatter, comedian, is successful.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's company presents here this week a stirring drama entitled *A Beautiful Criminal*. The play, which is full of exciting incidents, appeals strongly to the sympathies of audiences. A number of the latest pictures are shown by means of Payne's Bio-photoscope.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—This week we have Mr. Alex. C. Grant's company in the sensational drama *A Master of Millions*. The portrayal of the blunt American who has amassed millions is most ably undertaken by Mr. Grant; the part of Lucy Manners is played in a most feeling manner by Miss Dorothy Wilkinson; Isaacs, the Jewish proprietor of the Garden of Pleasure, is capably presented by Mr. Charlie Clarke; Miss Phyllis Elton is good in her line as the Vampire. Other characters are ably supported by the various members of the company.

SUNDERLAND.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Grieveson.—After a lapse of some fifteen years, we have a representation of Dion Boucicault's famous Irish drama, *The Shaughraun*, a play that is almost unknown to the present generation, and, as put on by Mr. Frank M. Thorne, cannot fail to be appreciated. The good-natured, easy-going Irishman, Conn, in the capital hands of Mr. Frank M. Thorne, is full of racy humour; Mr. James Skea as Corry Kinchela is equal to all demands; Mr. Phil Harper is smartly military as Captain Molineux; Mr. Alexander J. Haviland is excellent as Robert Ffolliott; Mr. Dunlop Stewart submits a dignified portrayal of Father Dolan; Miss Maud Russell is smart and energetic as Claire Flolliott; Miss Phyllis Vaughan's impersonation of Arte O'Neal is exceedingly pleasing; Miss Florence Thorne renders excellent service as Mrs. O'Kelly; and Miss Winifred Burton leaves nothing to be desired in her interpretation of Moya. The remaining parts are all adequately filled, and a special word of praise is due for the excellent scenic and other effects.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Excellent variety is being offered to the habitués of this commodious house, which is enjoying a monopoly of providing this class of entertainment at the present time, the week's bill being headed by Alice Raymond and company, in *A Night in Egypt*, where opportunity is given for Miss Raymond exhibiting her skill as the champion lady cornet player of the world amidst unique surroundings and effects. A hearty reception is given to Verno and Voyce, who are paying a return visit in their novel aeroplane craze, *The Fly-far Man*, that provides openings for some musical numbers that receive generous applause; Theresa Ada Silva proves a sweet and talented singer of better-class songs; the Northern Troupe of International dancers contribute some excellent terpsichorean items; Billy McClain and company, with Mlle. Cordelia, appear in the Southern scena, entitled *Parson Johnson*, in which there are three acts that are well taken; Hall and Earle are an amusing couple of acrobatic comedians; and Carl Lynn is decidedly clever in his mimicry of animal life. There is in addition an excellent show of the most up-to-date films procurable.

OLYMPIA.—Lessees, The Skating Rink Co., Ltd.—Roller skating still continues most popular here, and the last carnival was such a thorough success that the management have arranged for a "Cinderella on the rollers," to take place on the 30th inst.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Closed for summer season.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. Evelyn A'Dell and company give a thrilling performance of that domestic drama *His Sister's Honour* at the Star this week. Mr. Arthur Chisholm, Mr. Walter Steele, Mr. Fred Garrett, and Mr. Willie Barrett were all excellent in their respective rôles, and Miss Lilian Rose, Miss Maude Vincent, and Mrs. E. A'Dell were admirable.

THE EMPIRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Those princes of humorists, Sam and Will Poluski, head an excellent all-round programme at the Empire this week, and the famous brothers are at the top of their form. Harry Rogers and company appear in a striking dramatic sketch, *Told in a Flat*, in which the acting is excellent. Mason and Bart are bar performers whose gymnastic display is far above the ordinary; a bright and pleasing turn is given by Nell Emerald; Harry Tate's company in *Motoring* meet with instant approval; Fred King and Marie Queen are a couple of versatile artists; and Nellie Martell is a comedienne of undoubted talent. The New York Nippers' dancing makes them big favourites, and the local views on the Bioscope are excellent.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—Mr. Carr Loates's company is presenting *At the World's Mercy* here. Captain Frank Manley is well portrayed by Mr. Terry Davies; the villainies of Jabez Barber are ably exploited by Mr. Carr Loates; Charley Smart, in the hands of Mr. Jess Boxer, is highly diverting; Miss Mollie Bee wins admiration for her sympathetic interpretation of Alice Lloyd; and in the dual rôle of the stowaway and Kitty Knott Miss Cissie Milford is a success.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Another good programme is provided here, and is worthily headed by Trick and Trixie. Happy Attwood creates plenty of humour; and Chas. Fields does some clever juggling. Lillian Neville has a well-trained voice; Frank Boyce and Will Evans add to the general success; and several good films are shown.

TORQUAY.—PRINCESS PIER CONCERT HALL.—Proprietors, The Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T. Tremlett.—The Dutch Drolls occupy the boards here this week, and a large audience was present at the opening performance on Monday evening. Miss Gertrude Simpson has a quaint and winsome manner, and is deservedly applauded; whilst Miss Dora Harrison has a rich soprano voice, and renders some original selections in pleasing style. Mr. Lester Carey is a capable tenor; and Mr. George Fox has a talented and extremely powerful voice, which he uses to the best advantage. Mr. Frank L. Hayter is the humorist, and Mr. J. B. Fox does well at the piano.

TYNEMOUTH. — PALACE-BY-THE-SEA.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—One of the best programmes of the present season is being submitted for approval here this week, and is meeting with a well-merited amount of success. The Columbia Comedy Trio are vastly entertaining in the operatic absurdity, *Laughter and Song*; Miss Katie Moss excels, not only as a vocalist, but as violinist and elocutionist, securing an enthusiastic reception; Musical Silvo is a clever manipulator of the musical glasses, ringing out many popular and well-known items; the Davison's conjuring is smart; and Marlo's juggling feats are warmly applauded; whilst the Stowe Bros. are experts amongst gymnasts. The Palace orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. W. A. Crosse, finds favour; and there is an interesting display of animated pictures.

WAKEFIELD. — HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. Charles Majilton and company present a diverting sketch, entitled *Trippers*; Everhart and troupe are wonderful hoop manipulators; the Fordyces are spirited dancers; Sandy and Carl, comedians, gain applause in their amusing turn; the Three Royal Temples, operatic vocalists, sing well; and Little Frankie, juvenile artist, is popular.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Ryder Boys' company is concluding its four weeks' season here this week with *David Garrick*, *The Money Spinner*, and *Jane*. On Monday night *David Garrick* attracted an appreciative house, and in the title-rôle Mr Leonard Mudie displayed talents of a very high order. As the bluff and hearty Alderman Gresham Mr. Ryder Boys gave a capital character-sketch; and excellently placed were Mr. Henry Worrall as Hon. Tom Tallyhaut, Mr. Harold Neville as Rumbelow, and Mr. Alan Mudie as Snowberry. Miss Elsie Vron was a charming Violet; and in the lighter rôles of Mrs. Rumbelow and Miss Selina Snowberry the Misses Florence Hicks and Ethel Norbury were very successful. The staging and dresses were effective. A pretty little curtain-raiser, *On the River*, with Mr. Harold Neville as He and Miss Betty Noll as She, was much enjoyed. On Wednesday *The Money Spinner* attracted a good house, and for Friday and Saturday Mr. Nicholls' farce, *Jane*, was announced.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Halma is the chief attraction here this week, and this clever juggler accomplishes some remarkable feats; Harry Wright is a smart comedian; and the pictures are all good.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Another thoroughly versatile entertainment is the order here this week, and the business done is good. Richard Corbin has a remarkable troupe of performing dogs, and for canine sagacity they have not been excelled at this house. J. F. Ellerton provides much amusement with his sketch *The Art of Deception*; and Shaun Glenville as the Tramp has ample scope to develop his high abilities as a comedian and mimic. The Avolos are remarkable acrobats; Mayne Cannon is a charming comedienne; and Victor Travers' business is good and fresh. The quartette of Les Belles Americanes, vocalists and acrobatic dancers, score well; and Edie Casson and Alexander Wills submit a capital sketch, *The Escapade*. The Florias are smart equilibrists; and the pictures are not the least attractive of an enjoyable programme. A matinée in aid of the annual staff outing was attended by one of the largest audiences seen in the spacious place, 1963 paying for admission. The Mayor and Mayoress graced the performance with their presence, and the local amateur talent, including Mr. Clay, vocalist; Mr. Victor Roberts and Mr. W. W. Whittle, comedians; Miss Cissy Howard, comedienne; Miss A. Woodland and Mr. Clay, duettists; Mr. Peter Smith, vocalist; Miss C. Cook, clarionet soloist; assisted by professional artists from Blackburn and Liverpool, including Miss Florrie Forde and Mr. Ernest Rees, all assisted in making the initial venture the complete success it undoubtedly was.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. F. B. Woulfe and his well-selected company are presenting here this week the drama *The Bells*. Mr. F. B. Woulfe acts brilliantly in the rôle of Mathias, his interpretation of the Jew evoking continuous applause; as Walter, Mr. William Meloynge submits a capital rendering; whilst the part of Hans is artistically played by Mr. Bob Anderson. Mr. Clifford Rean leaves nothing undone in his excellent portrayal of Christian; Miss Ethel Griffies makes a charming and clever Catherine; and as Anneti Miss Edith Lorraine scores successfully. Praise is also due to Miss Mildred Eversleigh for her able embodiment of Sozil. For Tuesday and Wednesday *The King and the Miller* is billed, and on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday *Robin Hood*.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—The fare provided this week is of a capital all-round class. The Four Maisanos, in their manipulation of a multitude of instruments, have always been a great attraction here, and they are gaining fresh honours; David Poole's ventriloquism is indeed clever, his patter amusing, and his facial control wonderful; the Kurios are smart in a knock-about scene, which resolves itself into an interesting exhibition of lightning painting; Mackinnon's Scottish Meisters take well in an excellent vocal extravaganza, interspersed with wholesome comedy; Sam Lowenwirth and Chas. Cohan, the Hebrew comedians, successfully perpetrate a number of capital jokes, ancient and modern; Edie Anderson, a *chic* comedienne, excels in dancing; Geo. Reeve's eccentricities are distinctly amusing; and Hilda Playfair is attractive.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—A programme consisting entirely of pictures is being tried here this week. The list contains some excellent films, and those showing A Rogue's Redemption and The Brigands of Calabria are followed with keen interest. Intensely funny are A Catching Complaint, The Brown Family at the Seaside, Acrobats at Play, and a pretty attraction in colour is the film entitled The Flower of Youth.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — GRAND PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The Motlez are making their first appearance here this week, and were given a hearty reception on Monday. Miss Nora Ottoway's song, "Love's echo," was rendered with much expression; Miss Mabel May's song and dance, "Carriboo," gained a decided encore; very humorous was Mr. Sidney Leighton's sketch, *Novelette*; he excelled, too, as as a ventriloquist; Mr. Vere Matthews sang "Song of the sun" with dramatic fervour; Mr. Dan Dugarde's banjo solos were cleverly executed; and Mr. Harold Johnson convulsed his audience with laughter with his extremely humorous dissertation on "Mary had a little lamb." Excellent pictures by Pathé Frères are operated on the Bioscope by Mr. John Lambert.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Messrs. Kimberley, Green, and Hilton's capable company are paying a welcome visit here in *The Power of the King*. Mr. Arthur Hilton acts with consummate ability as Captain Rupert Langrage; Miss Leila Zillwood charmingly portrays Lady Anastasia; the King of Vallombrosa is played by Mr. Charles Whitlock in a dignified manner; Mr. Travis Green sustains the rôle of Crown Prince Oscar with distinction, and is ably assisted in his villainous schemes by Mr. John H. Firmin as General Stenovie. Mr. Milton Drury most amusingly takes the part of Fritz; Miss Georgina V. France is quite equal to the trying rôle of Lady Glorina; and Miss Grace Barton is sufficiently pert as Margot.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Marco.—The pictures this week include The Opening of the Franco-British Exhibition, a sensational film entitled A Red Man's Justice, A Jealous Heroine, Storm and Sunshine, Bewitched Boots, Castle Ghosts, and many other beautiful and instructive coloured animated scenes. The programme is varied by Sharon, the famous street musician, whose character studies are greatly relished by the large audiences nightly.

WORTHING.—THEATRE.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Ernest Benham's London company was here the first three nights with *Saturday to Monday*. As Lord Culvert Mr. Ernest Benham is excellent; Mr. Osborn Adair is very good as Probyn Dyke; Mr. Ernest Young is a typical clergyman as the Rev. Toop; Miss Frances Wetherall enacts the part of Mrs. Wendover to perfection. On Thursday Mr. Edwin F. Fysher's company appeared in *Little Lord Fauntleroy*.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week the Lynches, American song illustrators, were retained for another week owing to their big success last week; the Bendons prove themselves smart comedy artists; while Miss Kate Don is a refined serio and coon songstress. The animated pictures still continue to be a huge success.

YORK.—OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—There is another very excellent company here this week headed by Frank and Jen Latona, who are repeating the wonderful success they attained on their previous visit, and have scored a veritable triumph. Minnie Hunt is a vocalist of much acknowledged ability, and in conjunction with Rhys Thomas contributes a very merry trifle entitled *Her Birthday*; Ida Kessanley's performing fox terriers give a neat and humane show; Salida and Vone are expert dancers, a remark which also refers to Ward and Davies; Selbo, the "King of Clubs," at once commands attention and applause for his extremely neat entertainment; Charles Ulrick as a barrel manipulator can have few equals; and a pleasing song and dance are given by Ena Correlli.

CHARLES MATHEWS ON TOUR.

I was sent on a short tour with Charles Mathews, writes Wybert Reeve in "From Life," by Mr. Knowles, of the Theatre Royal, Manchester. We had to play two nights each in Preston, Bolton, Oldham, Leicester, Doncaster, Derby, and Sheffield. In Preston he found his man had left his Sir Charles Coldstream coat behind in Lancaster or London. He was asking me if I had one that would do when a little bandy-legged amateur—by trade, I believe, a shoemaker—the manager had picked up cheap in Manchester, to play servants and messengers, came forward and said, "Don't be alarmed, Mr. Mathews, don't be alarmed, sir; I will lend you my Sir Charles Coldstream coat." His look as he took the measure of the queer-looking, seedy little fellow was something to remember. "Two Richmonds in the field, eh; I must be cautious. Would you oblige me by playing the part, too, sir?" "Certainly, Mr. Mathews, with pleasure; know every line." "Well," said Mathews, "that's more than I do. Send for the manager. You look it, sir—every inch Sir Charles." "And I play it, too, sir." After a little more joking, having worked the conceited amateur up to a pitch of great exultation, he said, patting him on the head, "Never mind, my boy, managers are so exacting, so are the audience. They might not think you quite as good, and might want their money back. I can't afford to give it up just now." And he walked away highly amused.

At Oldham we played in a large hall. There were no dressing-rooms; we all had to dress at the back of the stage, with an old scene stuck up to divide us from the ladies. A small broken screen was set in the middle of the space, as a compliment to Mr. Mathews, for his use, but it was too small and too ragged to be of the slightest use. "Really," he said, on seeing it, "such luxury, and in Oldham, too. Here"—calling to a dirty-looking stage-man—"will you kindly convey this elegant article of furniture to the seclusion from whence it came. Tell the gentleman who conceived the delicate attention to me his overpowering politeness will be ever remembered. Take it up, my good man, and depart." The man walked off with it, very confused as to whether Mathews was serious or not. He amused me with his Shakespearean quotations. Taking up a chair with a cane broken out of the seat, he said:—

"My mind is troubled like a fountain stirr'd,
And I myself see not the bottom of it."

The chair gave way I was sitting on, and down I fell with my legs in the air—

"And when he falls, he falls like Lucifer."

We could not get the jug replenished with water.

"How poor are they that have not patience!"

And so on, making fun out of our difficulties, and making me laugh when otherwise I should have been considerably out of temper. It was a very bad house, and the factory people who formed the audience could as easily have appreciated a Greek play and player as they could Mathews and his pieces, but he was full of fun about them.

We drove back to Manchester in a rickety omnibus, he having a cab to himself. This gave him the opportunity of occasionally chaffing us, as we bumped along on the road. On our arrival in Derby a letter was waiting for me from an eccentric Irish manager I had the misfortune to be under in my early career, a Mr. Huntley May. He had taken a public-house in Sheffield, and enclosed a bill of a free-and-easy twice a week. The bill announced the engagement of the celebrated Irish comedian, Mr. Macarthy, and of Mme. Castaglioni for the Saturday—the first was himself, the second his wife. I knew very little of him further than that he gave me, a young beginner, Iago, Cassius, Falconbridge, Pizarro, and the Prior in Bertram, with two farce parts to study and play in one week. How I got through them I cannot say. At the end of three weeks I left him. The letter I received was to this effect:—

"DEAR WYBERT REEVE,—I see you and Charley Mathews are announced. He knows me; bring him to my house, a first-rate pub. I will take you both in and do for you. A free-and-easy, with special talent engaged, twice a week. The boys will welcome you.—Yours truly,

"HUNTLEY MAY."

I gave the letter to Mathews, and we had a good laugh over the fellow's cool impudence. I said, "He knows you." "Yes," he replied, "and I know him. The old blackguard induced me to go to him, said he had a splendid company, fine theatre and scenery, and the only living successor to Madame Vestris, whom I was naturally very anxious to see. I found a barn of a place, rags of scenes, two old men, and a few grubby boys and girls as actors and actresses, and the only successor to Madame Vestris was the old rascal's wife." It is needless to say we did not patronise his *pub*.

We played in several wretched theatres during this tour, such as Oldham, Rochdale, Bolton, a theatre with a slaughter-house underneath, and a low concert-room, divided from the auditorium only by a lath and plaster or wooden partition, so that Sir Charles Coldstream was accompanied by distant murmurs of "The pretty barmaid" or "The rat-catcher's daughter." The audiences were not large, but he had the same unfailing good temper. At this time Mr. Knowles, lessee of the Theatre Royal, Manchester, having assisted him out of his difficulties, was "farming him" on a salary; his pockets, therefore, were not affected by the receipts.

No one knew better the secret of his success as an actor than himself. We were talking this over one night at Ryde in 1865, when he said, "I knew the folly of my attempting legitimate high comedy from the first. I was delighted the other night to see a worse Mercutio than myself at the St. James' Theatre, and I said to my wife, 'Well, thank heaven! I have at last seen someone worse than I am.' I never could play Charles Surface. The secret of my success is that I have stuck to original parts—written them myself, or had them written for me—so that people always got the first impression from me. There's a lot in that, Reeve. I never could manage pathos, and so I avoid it; Charles Mathews on the stage, my boy, is a good deal like Charles Mathews off."

I was in Paris at one time and saw him play Plumper in *Cool as a Cucumber* at the Variétés, Sept. 14, 1863. I had heard at the hotel previously it was not a success, and from what I saw it could not have been; the house was badly attended, and his reception exceedingly cool. He introduced a patter song they did not in the least appear to understand.

Speaking of Ryde, I find the following in my diary respecting one of his visits there:—"Walked out to Quarr Abbey and Woods with Charles Mathews; he was telling me about his management of Covent Garden and Lyceum. What a life!—excitement, poverty; it was debt-slavery and popularity; a character weak and unfitted for business—accomplished—and in the end more sinned against perhaps than sinning—a decidedly disappointed life. I did not give him credit for so much serious thought or feeling." One thing struck me as very singular, he not only told me then, but on several other occasions:—"Writs—I used to have them every day. I hardly ever read them or paid attention to them; but I assure you now, I seriously believe I should faint if one was put into my hand." What a change! and one that will hardly be believed by the world; but I am certain he was sincere.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND THEATRICAL ACCOUNTS.

BY

CUTHBERT E. SMEDLEY, Chartered Accountant.

CHAPTER II. (*continued*).

In some theatres the bars are sub-let, in which case a contract is entered into for a definite sum payable at certain periods.

It is, however, more usual for the bars to be under the control of the management, and, if this is the case, a proper system of check must be employed.

Waitresses, in addition to selling for the bars, usually show people to their seats and sell programmes. It is important to keep the programme receipts distinct from those of the bar.

Returns should be made by each waitress of her sales at each performance, and the Bar Manager should initial this return when the cash is given in.

Each bar attendant will make a return of sales, and from them the Bar Manager will make up the total return, which, with the other returns, will be handed to the Acting-Manager, together with the cash.

REFRESHMENT BAR MANAGER'S RETURN.

.....*day*.....*19*.....

	£	s.	d.
Stalls Bar			
Dress Circle Bar			
Upper Circle Bar			
Pit Bar			
Gallery Bar			
£			

No. of Programme .....£ : :

....

Manager's Signature.

The latter must record the individual returns of the Bar staff if they are paid on commission, so that the amount due may readily be ascertained for entry into the Salaries Book, and be paid at the end of the week.

The waitresses' salaries should be apportioned between the two accounts.

The stock must be taken at frequent intervals by competent stock-takers. Their statement will show the actual consumed stock at cost and selling price, and the latter should agree within a little with the actual receipts. The gross profit, as shown by the books, should also agree approximately with the average gross profit shown by their returns.

Programme receipts are checked by the number of programmes printed and given out. It is advisable to have some form of pin or wrapper fastening the programme, which must be taken off to open the programme, so that it cannot be sold twice.

For cloak-room fees it is best to have numbered counterfoil books having the amount of the fee printed thereon, the counterfoil being given as a receipt for the fee and the article left. A return must be made by each cloak-room attendant, which should be checked with the counterfoil tickets.

WAITRESS'S RETURN.

.....*day*.....*19*.....

SALES.	£	s.	d.
PROGRAMMES—			
Afternoon			
Evening			
TEA & COFFEE—			
Afternoon			
Evening			
CHOCOLATES—			
Afternoon			
Evening			
MINERALS—			
Afternoon			
Evening			
SUNDRIES—			
Afternoon			
Evening			
£			

.....

Waitress's Signature.

.....

Manager.

It is found convenient to record in the House Receipts Book the takings for each day from the three sources mentioned above, viz., Bars, Programmes, and Cloak-rooms.

The Acting-Manager will record the total returns from each of these departments, together with total House Receipts, as mentioned above.

REFRESHMENT BAR ATTENDANT'S RETURN.

.....*day*.....*19*.....

	£	s.	d.
STALLS BAR—			
Afternoon			
Evening			
£			
PROGRAMMES—			
No.			
.....Afternoon			
.....Evening			
£			

.....

Manager's Signature.

CHAPTER III.

As a natural sequence to the successful run of a piece produced in London at the present day, one or more touring companies are sent into the provinces and abroad.

The heavy expenses of maintaining a London theatre often render a production unprofitable, although the piece is a success, but the advertisement thus received enables profitable tours to be made.

The first cost of fitting out a touring company is paid at the theatre. To record the transactions of a tour at the Head Office, a Tour Manager's Cash Account and a Tour Production Account must be opened in the General Ledger, and a Tour Book must be kept.

Special care should be taken to record the cost of the production accurately. For example, where, as often happens, scenery, dresses, and accessories which have been used in the original production are altered and used for the equipment of the tour, a transfer entry must be made, debiting the tour production and crediting the original production account with their estimated value.

On commencing the tour, the Tour Manager is given a round sum of money as a float, which is debited to his account.

There are two methods of dealing with the expenditure:

(1) All receipts are remitted to the Head Office, and the theatre refunds weekly the actual amount expended by the Tour Manager.

(2) The Tour Manager uses the receipts to defray his expenses, and only pays to the Head Office the balance, always retaining the original float. If the expenses exceed the receipts, the Head Office must remit sufficient to re-establish the float.

In both cases the Tour Manager is credited or debited with the sums paid to or received from the Head Office, and the balance of his account will show the profit or loss on the tour from week to week.

The Tour Manager must keep a cash book and make a return to the Head Office each week, showing all receipts and expenditure. Vouchers must be obtained for all payments and sent to the Head Office, as well as authenticated copies of the Box-office returns, to enable the receipts to be vouched.

Authors' fees, when payable, should be paid direct by the Tour Manager.

Advertising paid for by the Tour Manager will be recorded in the Tour Sheet. Where, however, the advertising matter is supplied by the Head Office from stock orders, entries should be passed in the Head Office books, debiting the tour with the proper amount.

(*To be continued.*)

SINGING once on behalf of a charity in the North of England, Henry Russell struck up the chorus of his popular song, "There's a good time coming, boys!" whereupon a thin, hungry man, suddenly rising, called out, "Mr. Roussell, can yer fix the toime?" Contretemps of this kind belong to the experiences of most performers. "The Gambler's Wife" was a great favourite with Mr. Russell's audiences. The story is simple. It tells of a woman who lies dying, with her baby at her breast, by the extinct embers in the grate; the husband is away at the gaming-tables. On his return he finds his wife and child dead. Mr. Russell had got to the most affecting portion of this song, and had worked the audience into the deepest silence, when a bony, red-faced woman, jumping up, shouted out, "Wouldn't I have fetched him home!" When such things happen *before* the scenes, the performer is at least secure in knowing that it is the audience who are in the wrong. But it is otherwise when the incident occurs *behind* the scenes. Mr. Russell's delivery of "The Maniac" always worked a spell upon his listeners; yet once, in singing this song, a drunken fellow who was at work on the top of the panorama missed his footing, fell on the stage, and rolled unharmed to the footlights, amid a scene of dismay and merriment no singing could control.

SHERIDAN once wrote to desire that Miss Harriet Mellon would call on him. With admirable coolness he told her that a young actress having seceded from his company, Miss Mellon had always been kept "in his mind," as he had formerly said, and had now a chance of taking the absent lady's place, and as a specimen of her declamation, he requested her to read the scenes of Lydia Languish and Mrs. Malaprop aloud from his own play of *The Rivals*. She felt greatly frightened, and answered, with the naïve, unaffected manner which she retained through life, "I *dare* not, sir, for my life! I would rather read it to all England. Suppose, sir, you did me the honour of reading it to me?" There was something so unassuming and child-like in the way she made this daring request that the manager entered into the oddity of the matter, and read nearly the whole play to his delighted young auditor. She became so identified with the drama that she forgot all dread of the author, and on his request she read the scenes of Lydia and her aunt with so much spirit that Mr. Sheridan "applauded repeatedly," told her she could play either character, and gave her an engagement.

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HAMON ON SHAW.

In certain recent articles on Mr. Bernard Shaw we have been more concerned to point out what we regard as his aberrations and his careless indifference to fact, than to emphasise those of his qualities which are obvious, i.e., his wit and humour, his observation, and his knowledge of certain phases of contemporary life. It is with pleasure that we print an article from the *Nineteenth Century*, which lays stress on them. The author, M. Augustine Hamon, says:—

The Frenchman who reads Bernard Shaw or sees him played is first of all surprised. He perceives, indeed, how greatly this drama differs from that to which he is accustomed, that is to say, from the contemporary French drama. On reflection, he perceives that the differentiation is none the less great, if the dramatic work of Bernard Shaw be compared with that of other contemporary dramatists, whether English, Scandinavian, Russian, German, Italian, or Spanish.

In Bernard Shaw's drama there is indeed something indefinably original and personal, which is not found in any other dramatist.

This originality is due to the fact that Bernard Shaw's drama is no offspring of the romantic drama of Scribe, Hugo, the two Dumas, Augier, or the vaudevillists of the same period—in a word, of the French school of the nineteenth century. On the other hand, all contemporary dramatists, both Scandinavian or French, Italian or English, German, or Spanish, are the faithful disciples of this school. Ibsen himself, whom many superficial critics have regarded as quite outside the French orbit, has written plays which may be regarded as models of well-constructed plays according to the formula of the Scribe school. This identity of structure or technique and even of matters causes a strong resemblance between French works whether they are the product of Hervieu, Donnay, Brieux, Fabre, or Bernstein. The spectator who has seen one has really seen all the others. When according to the happy phrase of G. Polti, *l'adultère dans le mariage indissoluble*, so dear to Dumas, was worn threadbare, the French dramatists threw themselves upon *l'adultère dans le mariage dissoluble*, and they will use this until it is worse than threadbare. Still it is always the same thing; a few happy hits here and there, sometimes more, sometimes less, a few slight variations in the plot, and the thing is done. In truth, the flavouring alone differs: in one there is a little more pepper, and in the other a little more salt, but it is always the same dish which French dramatists serve us up. Nevertheless, they arrange is so skilfully and so astutely, like past masters in cookery, that digestion alone discloses the fact that we have once more eaten of yesterday's dish.

Foreign dramatists have the same technique and the same manner, only the matter with which they deal is slightly different. This produces an illusion, and gives a certain foreign flavour which causes their work to pass as a real novelty. According to the nationality of the authors, the environment and the characters are Scandinavian, Russian, English, and so on. This difference of environment and nationality of the characters causes the French playgoer, somewhat out of his bearings, not to recognise at first the dish served up to him. But during digestion he perceives that it is still the same dish with Norwegian sauce, or Swedish, Danish, Italian, English, or Spanish sauce.

Nevertheless, among all these dramatic works there are many differences in the details of technique and material. The eternal duel of the sexes remains the corner-stone of the drama, but numerous are the variations which in the shape of diverse arabesques are woven with more or less lightness or heaviness by the authors on this apparently immovable basis. Some adopt the tragic, others the comic style. Others combine the two styles in various doses. In our days and for more than half a century, authors of serious plays are fond of the problem play, in whatever country they were born and live.

The problem play is the logical demonstration of a principle. It is the staging of a plea for or against a phenomenon which is rather social than individual. Our dramatist chooses a subject, and fits in characters to put forward their pleas and views on the subject chosen. Often all or almost all the plays of one and the same author relate to the same subject. Thus the drama of Dumas the younger is, so to speak, the drama of adultery. In the same way Ibsen, for the majority of the plays of his mature period (1868-1886), chose criticism of marriage and the family. But he rises much higher than Dumas, because he reaches a philosophic generalisation which the latter had not attained. Ibsen, a genius, sees in the intestinal struggles of families an antagonism between ideals and the actions of life, between our morals, our social institutions generally and our individual development. He is haunted by the problem of the will. He goes more to the bottom of things, and their very essence appears to him to be bad. Thus the principle of authority seems to him criminal. Society appears to him as restrictive of the individual. The State is the curse of the individual. The latter tends continuously towards his own development. This is the essential theme of all Ibsen's plays, and also of those of Björnstjerne Björnson. With these geniuses the problem play had acquired a social scope which it had previously not possessed and did not possess either with the other dramatists, whether French or other of our time, who are nearer the masters Augier and Dumas.

Side by side with the problem drama there is the drama the sole object of which is either to move the sentiment of the spectator or to excite his laughter. Sardou is a master in the former art with his inexhaustible fecundity, his skill in weaving and unweaving a plot and combining incidents. Labiche was the master of the second style with his vaudeville comedies, which, so to speak, mechanically aroused laughter. Now in this style we have Messrs. Courteline, Veber, and Tristan Bernard. This is all moving or amusing, but nearly always lacks depth. At the end of the play we are almost annoyed with ourselves for having been moved or for having wept, or laughed, so clearly do we perceive the superficiality of this puppet theatre.

Different entirely from these dramas is that of Bernard Shaw, and it is this difference which at first surprises, astounds, and shocks. Hence at the outset many a man among us, all being essentially haters of what is new, like the majority of humankind, will subscribe to the opinion of Monsieur Augustin Filon, who said, "Bernard Shaw serait peut-être un grand auteur dramatique, si ses pièces étaient . . . des pièces." For myself, being essentially a lover of the new, I have examined, scrutinised, and analysed the dramatic work of Bernard Shaw, and his artistic beauty and philosophic depth were thus brought home to me. It is quite evident that Shaw is not a playwright in the romantic style, which was followed by all the European dramatists of the nineteenth century as faithful disciples. He has created a work imbued with the originality of genius. He created it regardless of the so-called rules of the art, to the great discomfiture of professional critics and the public which follow them like sheep. All, on seeing his plays, might have said with Lysidas in *La Critique de L'Ecole des Femmes*, "Those who know their Aristotle and Horace see that in the first place this comedy sins against all the rules of Art." Perhaps he would answer them with Dorante: "You are amusing people with your rules, with which you bewilder the ignorant and which you din into our ears day by day. I should very much like to know whether to please is not the chief rule of all rules, and whether a play which has achieved its object has not chosen the right path."

SCENE PAINTERS OF THE PAST

BY GEORGE TWEDDELL.

III.

In the last article I left off with Wm. R. Beverly, by many considered as a scene painter (*per se*) in the front of all; and if we take into consideration his vast experience on the large stages of Drury Lane and Covent Garden, his inventive faculty, exquisite taste, and his great knowledge of all stage effects, combined with executive ability of the finest, and, above all, a master of what artists call "breadth" in painting, we shall find the statement correct. The larger the scale of the work the more important it becomes. Fine details are all very well in their place, but the audience in front do not, as a rule, put up opera glasses to look for fine lines; it is the general effect and colour that gain the applause of the public and where the greatest scenic artists score.

Another very fine scene-painter working at the same period was the late William Telbin, member of the old Water-colour Society, and he undoubtedly was one of the finest artists among scene-painters of the past, and justly divides honours with Mr. Beverly among our greatest masters of scenic painting. The fine scenes in *Manfred* at Drury Lane, the Steel Castle in the pantomime of *The Yellow Dwarf* at Covent Garden, and others live in our memory.

As a painter of act-drops and drapery Mr. Telbin has never been surpassed, and I, for one, think never equalled. The one in use so many years at Drury Lane, representing a mass of white satin with gold fringed embellishments and blue drapery, no one has ever surpassed—a work of art indeed; and, again, the act-drop painted for the Queen's Theatre, Long Acre—a charming landscape surrounded with amber satin curtains—the noble satin curtain at Covent Garden, and others spoke of the talent and industry of this accomplished artist.

Mr. Telbin did much panorama work at one time, and was assisted by the fine figure-painter John Absolon; in fact, at one time Grieve, Telbin, and Absolon were in partnership, and they built the painting-room in Charles-street, Drury-lane, now called Macklin-street, at a time this street was of evil repute and scarcely safe to pass through. It is the subject of a chapter in a book called "Gaslight and Daylight," by Sala, who calls it "Gibbet-street," and shows the den of thieves it harboured then; but the painting-room was held sacred, and no one molested the artists unless by mistake.

Here worked as a pupil that erratic genius Mat Morgan, illustrator of "The Tomahawk," afterwards scene-painter at Covent Garden, who went to America, and there became the first designer of the great pictorial posters now so common and so well done. He died in America in 1890. Ed. Dayes (long at Covent Garden), W. Mason, Edwin Yarnold, and others worked here about this time.

Mr. Telbin's son Henry was said to have had much talent, but met with a sad accident while sketching in Switzerland by falling down a ravine in the mountains. A stone marks the place of his untimely end. It proved a sad shock to his father.

One of Mr. Telbin's best assistants and an excellent scene-painter, for a long time at the Theatre Royal, Manchester—H. P. Hall—passed away in Lancashire this year. He was employed at the St. James's Theatre a few years ago. I have had the pleasure of working with him at the Manchester Theatre, and he was certainly an extraordinary worker, so rapid yet so good—breadth and colour excellent—in fact, my ideal of a scene-painter, and in many ways resembling Mr. Beverly in his way of throwing out the "non-essentials." Mr. Hall's brother, Thomas Hall, was also a well-known scenic artist.

Of Charles Marshall I don't know much, except that he was a celebrated scene-painter at Her Majesty's, and his fine work used to be noticed in the *Art Journal* in the forties. Mr. William Calcott, another well-known painter of scenery, was playing the violoncello in the orchestra at Drury Lane in 1841 when Macready produced Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, continuing to do so till 1846. He tells us he was so impressed by the fine scenery of Stanfield, which he saw nightly, that he ultimately became a scene-painter, and, as we know, rose to a big position at one time in our profession. His brother, Albert Calcott, was also a scene-painter.

There have been many other very able men. I can do no more than mention in a slight and, I am afraid, very incomplete sketch, some, remembered for a time, we trust—at least in our own profession—like Fred Lloyd, John O'Connor, George Gordon, William Cuthbert, Julian Hicks, John Roberts, John Gray, Charles Smithers, and William Pike (who died recently while engaged with Mr. Ryan painting an act-drop for the Alhambra, in front of his work)—all first-rate scene-painters. Poor Billy Pike! good at everything—black and white artist on the *Graphic*, oil and water-colour painter, and scene-painter (which, he told me, had taught him most, and which he loved best).

In these little articles I have, I trust, interested some in this branch of fine art, showing artists who rank among our best that have had much practice in scene-painting, and others that have been purely scene-painters to the end and can leave little but a short remembrance behind. Many fine scenic artists are forgotten, and also many excellent actors; and, like the actor, the scene-painter does not always get his chance. If he is compelled to work in a minor theatre and has nothing to work with and nobody of any consequence sees it, then it matters little what ability he may possess. Such has been the fate of many, no doubt. I do not wish to convey that the army of uneducated handy men who call themselves "scenic artists" have any place here, but unfortunately they drag our art down among a certain class, and vile daubing and "Hogarth's perspective" outdone have been placed before people, who I have actually heard remark "It will look well from the front." But there are some who have never been properly recognised, like one I will mention in concluding this little sketch, one John Crawford, a fine artist all round but as a painter of trees and foliage I have never seen surpassed. He was a J. D. Harding in scene-painting in this, yet I suppose few now remember him. Like others, we may say of him—

"Praise he may win; on the keenest inspection
Critics may rave of his touch and his tone.
Still of his name there is no recollection."

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, July 13, the Drama,
"A WOMAN'S PAST."

An excellent attraction is provided by Messrs. A. Hamilton Warden and Chas. Sandford's company in *A Woman's Past*. It is evident no pains have been spared in the production, the acting being of the best, and the scenery and mounting much above the average. Miss Maisie Hanbury is very convincing in the part of Bessie, the woman with a past, who is blackmailed by her former lover; Mr. Jerrold Heather well sustains the rôle of David Heath; Mr. Charles V. Sandford is very humorous as Frank Dellannoy; while Miss Mary Mallalieu plays up well to him as Dorothy Heath. Mr. Oswald Craig as Uriah Craven is a villain of the deepest dye, and fully merits the chorus of condemnation he gets; Miss Gertrude Harrison as Clara Darrell is equally despicable; Mr. A. Hamilton Warden makes the most of the part of the cheery Clement Harper. The drama is well received by good audiences.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

MISS HAIDEE GUNN'S MARRIAGE.

Miss Haidee Gunn, who was married on Saturday last to Mr. Frank Royde, made her first appearance on the stage at a matinée given by the late Mr. Michael Gunn at the Gaiety, Dublin, as Iolanthe in *King René's Daughter*, and as Portia in the Trial scene of *The Merchant of Venice*, in which she was supported by the Benson company, with Mr. F. R. Benson as Shylock. The late Mr. Macklin then engaged her to play Juliet in the suburbs of London in the Elizabethan style, with Mr. Gerald Lawrence as Romeo. When Mrs. Michael Gunn started a company, which opened at Eastbourne, Miss Haidee Gunn had opportunities of appearing in many parts in the Shakespearian and classical répertory; and she was engaged by Mr. Compton as leading lady, to enact Lady Teazle, Lydia Languish, and other important characters. Mr. Royde, who is the son of Mr. Joseph Howroyd, of Bradford, was a prominent member of the company which Mr. Ian Maclaren and Miss Gunn brought to the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, last season in a Shakespearean repertory.

The wedding took place at Keighley, near Bradford, Yorks, and was a quiet one. The nuptials were celebrated in the parish church of St. Anne, Keighley, from the residence of the bridegroom's father, The High Hall, Steeton, Yorks. The officiating clergy were Rev. Fr. Joseph Russell, P.P., assisted by Rev. Fr. J. O'Connor, of Heckmondwike.

The bride wore a Directoire gown of white chiffon cloth, with a chiffon drapery. The chemisette was made of fine lace with tiny gold bows introduced. A Directoire hat with large white plumes completed the costume, and a white prayer-book was carried instead of a bouquet. There was one bridesmaid, Miss Agnes Gunn, only sister of the bride. She was dressed in a cream lace Princesse robe and crushed strawberry pink hat with long streamers. She carried flowers, and wore an enamel and turquoise brooch, gift of the bridegroom. The best man was Mr. Frank Briggs, of Bradford. The bride was given away by her elder brother, Mr. Brendan Gunn, who journeyed over from Ireland for the purpose.

As the bridal party left the church the organist played a wedding march composed specially for the occasion by Mr. Nabarro, the chef d'orchestre of the Gaiety Theatre.

The happy pair left soon afterwards for Scarborough. The bride's going-away dress was of pale biscuit-coloured cloth, and she wore a Directoire coat and leghorn hat, with chine ribbon and bunches of small velvet cherries.

Amongst those present were Mrs. Michael Gunn, mother of the bride, who was beautifully gowned in pale grey crêpe de chine, and grey crinoline hat, with Bird of Paradise and osprey plumes. Mrs. Howroyd, mother of the bridegroom, was dressed in brown cloth, with touches of blue and gold, and lace sleeves. The toque was to match. Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Keighley, the latter wearing a champagne-colour gauze Directoire dress, and white lace beehive hat, with gold-coloured roses and nattier blue ribbons. Mr. and Mrs. Palliser, uncle and aunt of the bridegroom, Mr. Lossel, and Mr. Sharpe were also present.

The presents and their givers were:—Mrs. Michael Gunn, gold links and dressing bag; Miss Agnes and Mr. Brendan Gunn, silver cigarette case; Mr. Beresford Gunn, hat-box and cheque; Mrs. Howroyd, cheque; Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Keighley, cheque; Sir Charles and Lady Wyndham, hand-pierced silver slippers; Mr. Rupert and Lady Dorothy D'Oyly Carte, ostrich feather fan, tortoiseshell sticks; Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, amethyst necklace; Miss Mary Moore, engraved silver toilet set (six pieces); Miss Violet Vanbrugh, gold and white inkstand; Mr. and Mrs. Weedon Grossmith, pearl and amethyst bracelet; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Compton, silver gilt vanity case; Miss Laird, blue mother-of-pearl fan; Mr. James Lowry, gold mosaic locket; Miss White, silver photograph frame; Miss Finnegan, leather hand-bag; Miss Nellie Manning, silver frame; Mrs. St John Kearney, Mrs. and Miss Egan, gold curb bracelet; Mrs. Leslie, crushed crocodile attache case; Miss Josephine O'Grady, silver pen and travelling inkpot; Mr. and Mrs. Brindley, diamond and sapphire half-hoop ring; Mr., Mrs., and Miss Wisdom-Hely, silver puff box and scent bottle; Mrs. Richard Kavanagh, Irish lace scarf; Mr. and Miss Jury, pearl and enamel brooch; Mr. Willie Sugden, portmanteau; Sir Theo. and Lady Angier, silver travelling clock; Mr. and Mrs. Sam Hemsley, silver serviette rings; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wan, leather-fitted wrist bag; Dr. Waterhouse, golf bag and clubs; Mrs. Graham, lace teacloth; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Phillipson, enamel pendant; Mr. Raymond Stephenson, lace collar; Mr. and Mrs. Davis, fitted tea basket; A. A. Harris, "Stratford-on-Avon," edition de Luxe; Miss Nora Lancaster, two silver egg stands; Major Edwardes, cheque; Sir Francis and Lady Brady, silver hatpin stand; Mrs. James Redmond, silver shoe; Mr. and Mrs. David Allen, silver and tortoiseshell trinket box; Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Craig, silver trinket box; Mr. W. H. Collongham, cheque; Mrs. Beatty Kingston, large silver smelling bottle; Mr. and Mrs. Palliser, cheque and writing-case; Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Villiers, silver casket; Dr. and Mrs. Fitzgerald, silver tea caddy; Sergeant and Mrs. O'Connor, sunshade; Mr. Bronson Albany, manicure set; Mrs. Robert Mitchell, handkerchiefs; Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Naylor, travelling rug; the maid at the High Hall, silver-mounted walking-stick; Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Gill, Irish lace collar; Miss Cotton, Irish crochet collar and cuffs; Mr. and Mrs. Martin (Belfast), pearl and turquoise necklet and pendant; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Handcock, silver toast rack; Miss Olive Pringle, paste buckle; Judge and Mrs. Bodkin, silver card case; Dr. Alfred Callaghan, two silver jam spoons; Mr. Fred. Callaghan, large silver photo frame; Miss Florrie Kavanagh, lace teacloth; Miss Lottie Power, embroidered satin sachet; Miss Agatha Irelande, three lace handkerchiefs; Mrs. Herbert Clifford, embroidered satin sachet, old lace berthe (Bruxelles); Alderman Cotton, cheque; Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Lynch, cheque; Staff of Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, two trunks, two Thermos flasks in cases; Mr. Charles Hyland, travelling clock; Mr. and Mrs. W. Mead, silver engraved perfume holder; Mrs. Prost, bottle of perfume and perfume bottle; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Birch, hand-painted fan, mother of pearl sticks, inlaid silver and gold; Mrs. Herbert Robinson, Irish lace berths; Miss Mary Anne Rogers, notebook; Miss Ellen Kelly, silver-handled umbrella; Miss Bridget Kelly, set of combs; Mrs. and Miss Newcombe, silver button-hook and shoe-horn; Mrs. Waters and Mrs. Tyson, hair ornament; Mr. W. S. Nabarro, special wedding march composed and dedicated to Miss Haidee Gunn; Miss Kate Hodges, earrings; Mrs. Margaret Ryan, embroidered teacloth; Colonel and Mrs. Wellsted, silver purse; Mrs. Quinston Rosse, silver purse; Mr. and Mrs. Macready Chute, crushed morocco attache case; Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Cotton, cut-glass ink bottle and silver stand; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Allen, Sèvres coffee cups and saucers, silver mounts and spoons; Mrs. J. Rodgers, Liberty enamel buckles; Mrs. Ludlow and Mrs. Wynne, Liberty enamel pendant, silver chain; Miss Nancibel and Mr. Stead Rodgers, Liberty enamel brooch, pair Liberty enamel hatpins; Mrs. Hudson, cheque; Dr. Frank Seymour, stylographic pen in chased silver case; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fitzgerald, pierced silver bon-bon stand; Captain Woodroffe, R.E., silver and tortoiseshell box; Mrs. Power O'Donoughue, Russian boots; Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Brunner, antique Sheffield plate tea urn; the Misses Maguire, Limerick lace; Mrs. Henry Webb, two volumes of Swinburne; Mr. Frank Briggs, gold sovereign purse; Mr. Fred. Sharp, triple mirror; Mr. Lossel, Moulton's "Shakespeare"; Mr. and Mrs. J. Metcalfe, silver fountain pen.

MISS HAIDEE GUNN.

MR. PAUL GILMORE.

THE AMERICAN COMEDIAN.

Mr. Paul Gilmore, who is to star next season in *The Boys of Company B*, has developed into the foremost of legitimate comedians. Born in the States, where his father owned and managed theatres, he early assimilated a taste for the stage that ever since has held him in thrall. His parents destined him for the law, and packed him off to college as soon as he could pass the entrance examinations. But even there the allurements of the stage beckoned, and the young collegian left his classics and trudged over to Chicago looking for a position in some theatrical company. Fortune favoured him, and he was given a small part in *The Ensign*, and was further appointed assistant stage-manager. He evinced such ability in the direction of stage-management that he was promoted to chief director. The manager, the late Mr. Jacob Litt, saw such marked ability in the young man as an actor that he gave him the leading rôle in *In Old Kentucky* the following season. His good work here brought him to the favourable notice of the Frohmans, who, billing him as the youngest leading man on the stage, presented him in *The Wife*, *Americans Abroad*, *Charity Ball*, and other kindred pieces. After this good training, he was called to the famous old stock company in Minneapolis known as Litt's Players, and appeared there with Louis James, Julia Arthur, and others equally well known. Again he starred, appearing in *The Three Musketeers* and *Under the Red Robe*, and was selected by Henrietta Crossman as her leading man in *Mistress Nell*. It was during this engagement that Mr. Jules Murry saw him and, recognising the future before him, offered him a long term starring engagement, which he accepted. During the five years already spent under Mr. Murry's management, Mr. Gilmore has starred in *The Tyranny of Tears*, *The Mummy and the Humming Bird*, *Captain Debonaire*, *At Yale*, and *The Wheel of Love*, and this season is appearing in the new comedy, written expressly for him by Ride Johnson Young, entitled *Boys of Company B*. Mr. Gilmore's errand here is to arrange for a London production of *Boys of Company B*.

[*Photo by White.*

MR. PAUL GILMORE.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, July 13, the Military Drama,
"IN THE RANKS."

For the last week of the present dramatic season the well-known Adelphi play *In the Ranks* has been chosen by the management, and that no better selection could have been made was evidenced by the fact that on Monday night the theatre was packed by a large and demonstrative audience, who enjoyed the humour and applauded the heroics. Mr. Ashley Page, looking well in his uniform and using his fine voice to advantage, was a manly and vigorous Ned Drayton, bringing out with effect the many strong passages with which the part abounds. Miss Marion Denvil was womanly and duly pathetic as Ruth Herrick, although we should like to see this brilliant actress in another line of parts. The scheming Gideon Blake found a life-like representation in Mr. Raymond Wood; and Mr. Herbert Goddard was a passable Farmer Herrick. The bluff Colonel Wynter was made presentable by Mr. Bert Lloyd; and Mr. Walter Thornton, forsaking wickedness for the nonce, was a straightforward and upright Captain Holcroft. Richard Belton, who is the cause of so much misery, was quietly played by Mr. T. Weldon Atherstone; and Mr. Ern Carlton extracted much fun as Joe Buzzard. A natural portrayal of Sergeant Searle was given by Mr. Frederick Biron; and Miss Nell Gillmore was a motherly Mrs. Buzzard. Miss Mabel Lowe looked well and enacted Barbara Herrick with much charm; and Miss Alice Moss was a pert Polly Timmins. The remaining parts in a long cast were adequately performed, and the scenery and mounting were excellent. Commencing on Monday next, for seven weeks, a short Yiddish season will be given, and for the autumn a fine English programme has been prepared.

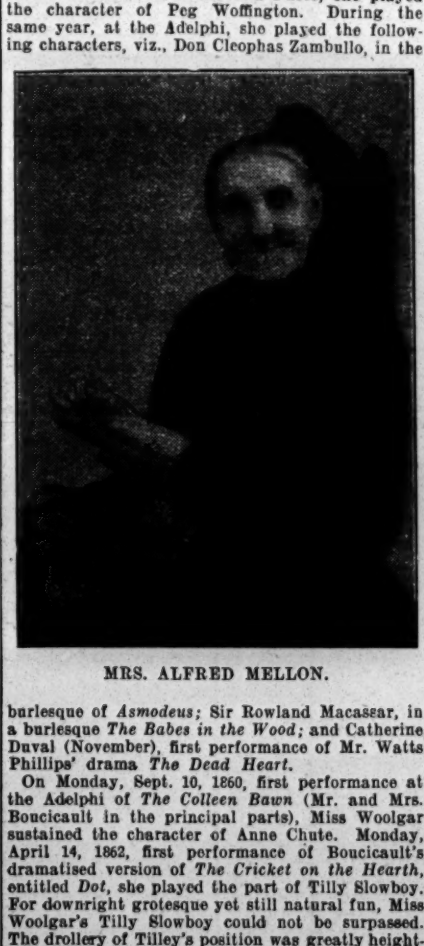
MRS. ALFRED MELLON.

ONE OF THE OLDEST LIVING ACTRESSES.

The engraving below is from a photograph of Mrs. Alfred Mellon. The old lady attained the great age of 84 on Wednesday, July 8. She was then in capital health and able to entertain her family and a few old friends. She was the happy recipient of many flowers, telegrams, cards, and congratulations from her brother and sister artists. Mrs. Alfred Mellon was born in 1824, and made her professional début in London in September, 1843, at the old Adelphi Theatre, in a duologue entitled *Antony and Cleopatra*. At the beginning of her career Miss Woolgar's versatile talents were generally employed in burlesque, in which she attained great repute. Her name will, however, be more generally and favourably known in connection with the series of domestic dramas for which the old Adelphi, under Mr. Benjamin Webster's management, and during Madame Celeste's popularity, became famous. Among the more important of those in which Miss Woolgar played on the occasion of their first performance may be noted the following:—*The Flowers of the Forest* (Lemuel), *The Marble Heart* (Marie), *The Willow Copse* (Meg), *The Dead Heart* (Catherine Duval), &c. Besides the foregoing plays in which Miss Woolgar's acting invariably commanded praise, the following characters and pieces in which she has also appeared on the London stage are entitled to mention, viz., on April 9, 1853, at the Adelphi Theatre, the Widow Somerton, in a farce of more than ordinary merit, by Mr. M. Morton, entitled *A Desperate Game*; on Wednesday, July 20 of the same year, the leading rôle in Mark Lemon's burlesque of *Sardanapalus*; on Monday, March 30, 1854, Anne Musgrave, first performance of Messrs. Tom Taylor and Charles Reade's drama, *Two Loves and a Life*. At Easter, 1854, at the Adelphi Theatre, she played Lord Bateman in Brough's *Overland Journey to Constantinople*, &c. Of this the *Athenæum* said: "The most marked performance in the piece is that of Miss Woolgar as the famous Lord Bateman; particularly in the second part of the drama, where, after an absence from his Sophia for 'seven long years and fourteen days,' his mind reverts to its first love while on the point of contracting a marriage with a new bride, and manifests a state of abstraction and uneasiness peculiarly dramatic. Mr. Brough's burlesques often become serious verities, and for a while sink the fun and bustle in real pathos, with which what is called humour, as distinct from wit, readily coalesces. The scene to which we allude is an instance in point, and was acted by Miss Woolgar with truth and effect. Such painting is like Nature's own, and we were struck with it in the situation we have described as something worthy of being included with efforts of art."

In the same year, on Monday, Dec. 11, she played the part of Marie Blanche in *Pierre, the Foundling*, at the Adelphi. Monday, Sept. 15, 1856, the opening night of the Lyceum Theatre, under Mr. Charles Dillon's management, Miss Woolgar played Florizel in a burlesque by William Brough, entitled *Perdita; or, the Royal Milkmaid*. The same year, Tuesday, Oct. 16, first performance at the Lyceum of *The Three Musketeers*, she sustained the part of Constance; and on Saturday, Dec. 6, Eugénie (of Beaumanoir), first performance of Ed. Falconer's drama *The Cagot; or, Heart for Heart*. In March 1857, at the same theatre, she appeared as Ophelia; Mr. Charles Dillon performing the part of Hamlet. Miss Woolgar's Ophelia was one of the finest performances of the character ever seen. It was full of genius, and the pathos of the mad scene was irresistible.

On Wednesday, Jan. 20, 1858, at the same theatre, first performance of a play of Leigh Hunt's, entitled *Love's Amazements*, she played the part of the Countess de Montelais; and in the same year (September) succeeded Mrs. Charles Young as Miss Vavasour in Falconer's play *Extremes; or, Men of the Day*. The following year she returned to the Adelphi Theatre, and in January appeared there as Dorine in *Tartuffe*. The following month, in a "revival" of *Masks and Faces*, she played the character of Peg Woffington. During the same year, at the Adelphi, she played the following characters, viz., Don Cleophas Zambullo, in the burlesque of *Asmodeus*; Sir Rowland Macassar, in a burlesque *The Babes in the Wood*; and Catherine Duval (November), first performance of Mr. Watts Phillips' drama *The Dead Heart*.



MRS. ALFRED MELLON.

On Monday, Sept. 10, 1860, first performance at the Adelphi of *The Colleen Bawn* (Mr. and Mrs. Boucicault in the principal parts), Miss Woolgar sustained the character of Anne Chute. Monday, April 14, 1862, first performance of Boucicault's dramatised version of *The Cricket on the Hearth*, entitled *Dot*, she played the part of Tilly Slowboy. For downright grotesque yet still natural fun, Miss Woolgar's Tilly Slowboy could not be surpassed. The drollery of Tilley's position was greatly heightened by the perverse pleasure which the reckless Ned Plummer took in frightening her out of her wits—an exhibition of comic terror was constantly taking place in the background.

On Monday Aug. 8, 1864, in a new farce of some interest, by T. J. Williams, entitled *My Wife's Maid*, Miss Woolgar played the leading character, Barbara Perkins. In July, 1865, still at the Adelphi, first performance of Mr. Walter Gordon's play *Through Fire and Water*, she performed the part of Honnor Bright. Saturday, May 5, 1866, first performance at the same theatre of Mr. Benjamin Webster junior's version of Victorien Sardou's *La Famille Benoiton*, entitled *The Fast Family*, Miss Woolgar sustained the part of Clotilde. She managed the scene admirably, and to her vigorous performance throughout of this part of Clotilde, which was an exceedingly arduous one, the success of the drama was attributed.

In the following year, Thursday, Dec. 26, first performance at the Adelphi of *No Thoroughfare* (Messrs. Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins), Mr. Charles Fechter in the leading rôle, Miss Woolgar played Sally Goldstraw. From 1867 to 1875 she acted at various theatres in several revivals of plays of more or less interest. In March, 1875, first performance at the Adelphi of a dramatic version of *Nicholas Nickleby*, from the pen of the late Mr. Andrew Halliday, she undertook the part of Mrs. Squeers. The same year, in October, reappearance of Mr. Joseph Jefferson at the Princess's Theatre as Rip Van Winkle, she played Gretchen; and in 1877, at the same theatre, she performed her original character in *Lost in London*, produced at the Adelphi Theatre in 1867. On Wednesday, May 15, 1878, a performance was given at Drury-lane Theatre in aid of a testimonial benefit to Mrs. Alfred Mellon (Miss Woolgar), in which the principal members of the dramatic profession took part. The result was in every sense most gratifying, and bore ample testimony to her personal worth and considerable merits as an actress. In June, 1879, she appeared nightly at her old theatre, the Adelphi, as Mrs. Candour in a revival of *The School for Scandal*.

Miss Woolgar married the late Alfred Mellon, a gentleman well known in the musical world, and a composer of considerable ability, who inaugurated the series of promenade concerts at the Royal Italian Opera, Covent Garden.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

SYDNEY, JUNE 2, 1908.—Mr. J. C. Williamson produced *The Prince of Pilsen* at the Theatre Royal on the 30th ult. to an overflowing house. Two new actors, Mr. Chas. A. Loder and Mr. George Whitehead, were engaged by Mr. Williamson during his recent trip, and they are welcome additions, the one as an extremely humorous dialect mock Prince of Pilsen, and the other as a manly, fine-voiced, good actor, who "presents" the real nobleman. Mr. Williamson is himself the best "Dutch" comedian heard here since Joseph Jefferson, and he set a high standard hard to follow by those who came after. But Mr. Loder satisfies the present generation; in fact, he is really good. Both gentlemen sing their allotted music with artistic care, and they are both heartily welcomed. Miss Olive Godwin made the widow, Mrs. Crocker, handsomely prominent, and she sang well; Miss Alma Barker as Sidonie was substituted for Miss Fanny Dango, whose doctor prohibited her from appearing; the electric Daisie Wallace gave Jimmy, the bell-boy, a spasmodically funny interpretation; the dude Earl of Shrimpton was capitaly depicted by Mr. Myles Clifton, who scored one of the hits of the performance; Mr. Edmund Sherras, tuneful and careful, made Lieut. Tom Wagner a manly singer; and Mr. Harold Parkes completed the cast as the French waiter, François, most creditably. One word more for Miss Amy Murphy, the New Zealand soprano, whose Nellie Wagner was vocally most enjoyable. The bâton of Mr. Alfred Moulton controlled an excellent chorus and full orchestra, and Coleman and Gordon's scenes backgrounded a very bright production.

MR. HERBERT FLEMMING and Miss Beatrice Day and company have come back to the Criterion, appearing in a well-staged production of *The Mummy and the Humming Bird*. The principal male rôle falls to Mr. Flemming, who depicts the elements of absorption in scientific hobbies, finesse in firmly dealing with the roué, and tender forgiveness with his usual culture. Mr. Flemming and Mr. Gaston Mervale are the truest representatives of English gentility on the Australian stage. Miss Beatrice Day made Lady Lumley winning, defiant, and repentant in turn, and most convincing all the time. The would-be seducer, D'Orelli, was in the conscientious care of Mr. A. S. Homewood, and he gave a good account of the wily Italian; Mr. H. W. Varna, besides staging the play, played Guiseppe, and all the vengeful nature of the man whose domestic peace had been wrecked by D'Orelli was forcefully depicted; Miss Elsie Clarens winningly and charmingly played Mrs. Thornton; Mr. Aubrey Mallalieu made Lord Ronald manly; and Mr. Winter Hall was a valuable Judson. The stars—Miss Day and Mr. Flemming—were warmly welcomed, and heaps of flowers greeted the lady.

THE Tivoli welcomed the Rigoletto Bros. on Saturday night, and gave the novel gymnastic ladder performance hearty recognition; Mr. John Higgins "jumped" into favour and astounded the large audience by his performance, so varied and clever; Little Josephine Johnson also "débuted," and was well received; Mr. Clarence Tisdale returned, and the remainder of Mr. Harry Rickards' large company—already noted—kept things merrily going.

THE National Amphitheatre keeps changing its vaudeville bill. West's Pictures are drawing crowded houses, and will migrate from the Town Hall to the Palace Theatre on the 6th, and a host of other picture shows draw money and people all the time.

IBSEN'S DEVELOPMENT.

"In consistency of style, and in architectural symmetry of construction, *The Pillars of Society*," writes Mr. William Archer, in his preface to the play, "marks a great advance upon *The League of Youth*. From the end of the first act to the middle of the last, it is a model of skilful plot-development. The exposition, which occupies so much of the first act, is carried out by means of a somewhat cumbrous mechanism. No doubt the 'Kaffee-Klatsch' is in great measure justified as a picture of the tattling society of the little town. It does not altogether ignore the principle of economy. But it is curious to note the rapid shrinkage in the poet's expositions. Here we have the necessary information conveyed by a whole party of subsidiary characters. In the next play, *A Doll's House*, we have still a set exposition, but two characters suffice for it, and one the heroine. In the next play again—that is to say, in *Ghosts*—the poet has arrived at his own peculiar formula, and the exposition is indistinguishably merged in the action. Still greater is the contrast between the conclusion of *Pillars of Society* and that of *A Doll's House*. It would be too much to call Bernick's conversion and promise to turn over a new leaf as conventional as the Chamberlain's right-about-face in *The League of Youth*. Bernick has passed through a terrible period of mental agony which may well have brought home to him a conviction of sin. Still, the way in which everything suddenly comes right, Olaf is recovered, the Indian Girl is stopped, Aune is reconciled to the use of the new machines, and even the weather improves, so as to promise Johan and Dina a prosperous voyage to America—all this is a manifest concession to popular optimism. We are not to conceive, of course, that the poet deliberately compromised with an artistic ideal for the sake of popularity, but rather that he had not yet arrived at the ideal of logical and moral consistency which he was soon afterwards to attain. To use his own metaphor, the ghost of the excellent Eugène Scribe still walked in him. He still instinctively thought of a play as a storm in a teacup, which must naturally blow over in the allotted two hours and a half. Even in his next play—so gradual is the process of evolution—he still makes the external storm, so to speak, blow over at the appointed time. But, instead of the general reconciliation and serenity upon which the curtain falls in *The League of Youth* and *Pillars of Society*—instead of the 'happy ending' which Helmer so confidently expects—he gives us that famous scene of Nora's revolt and departure, in which he himself may be said to have made his exit from the school of Scribe, banging the door behind him."

COPY OF TESTIMONIAL to the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Company. From Lillie Monckton (The Monckttons), Birmingham, to T. Harris, Esq. Dear Sir,—Dress received with thanks. Very pleased with same. Am forwarding another during next week.—Sincerely yours, LILLIE MONCKTON.—[ADVT.]

SIR JOHN HARE'S MEMORIES.

"My first substantial success at the old Court Theatre," writes Sir John Hare in his "Reminiscences and Reflections," "was *New Men and Old Acres*, by Tom Taylor and A. W. Dubourg, and produced on Dec. 2, 1876. The leading parts were admirably portrayed by Miss Ellen Terry and her then future husband, Charles Kelly. I played the small part of Mr. Vavasour, an old country squire. A somewhat funny incident occurred during the run of this play. In those days I was always accompanied by a favourite and beautiful old collie called Smut, which I took to rehearsals. It followed me everywhere—even on to the stage, and Tom Taylor begged that I would let it accompany me during the actual performance of the play. I demurred at first, having an objection to animals on the stage, but eventually gave way to the author's wishes.

"NIGHT after night Smut performed his part in an admirable and irreproachable manner, lying down at my feet while I sat under a tree taking part in a duologue with one of the characters. On a hot, sultry night in July, however (for the play enjoyed an exceptionally long run), Smut became bored, thinking, no doubt, that the play had had its day, and that it was now the dog's turn. He advanced quite quietly to the centre of the stage with an almost managerial sense of his own importance, sat down in a dignified manner on his haunches, and yawned in full view of the audience with the sublime indifference of a dramatic critic. The audience were naturally amused, and, encouraged by the success of his unconscious efforts, Smut went from bad to worse by snapping up a passing fly, which he swallowed with the enjoyment of a gourmet, inevitably spoiling the quiet scene on which we were engaged.

"THIS terminated his engagement as an actor (he didn't even get a fortnight's notice), though he soon succeeded in finding other employment as a model for Lord Leighton, the famous painter, who wrote me on his behalf as follows:—'My Dear Hare,—Will you do me a great favour? I want you very much to lend me for an hour (per bearer) your beautiful dog Smut. I have to make a pencil sketch of a dog for a design I have in hand, and it ought to be done *now*—this forenoon. With many anticipated thanks.—Yours sincerely, Fred Leighton.'

"ABOUT this time I received the following characteristic letter from Charles Mathews, which I have culled haphazard from my collection:—'Dublin, Nov. 1, 1877. My Dear Hare,—A young "gentleman," whose name is Conyers Fletcher Norton (age eighteen), wishes to "walk." If you can give him a short innings on your course, do. He is not a Gale, of course, but who knows what he may accomplish with a little practice on your ground?—Faithfully yours, C. J. Mathews.' (Gale was the famous 'walker' of his time.)

"I HAD suggested to W. G. Wills, a Bohemian of indisputable genius, that he should write me a version of 'The Vicar of Wakefield.' He jumped at the idea, and a few months after informed me that the play was finished. The manuscript—if I can so call it—was the most extraordinary thing of its kind I have seen. It was almost illegible, and many of the scenes were written on backs of envelopes, pieces of blotting-paper, and portions of old letters. I remember reading several pages, and then arriving at an obvious hiatus, which I pointed out to Wills, who replied, in a thick Irish accent: 'I've got it, dear boy, in my pocket, or, perhaps, on my shirt cuff,' and he would then produce a suspicious-looking fragment scintillating with literary gems and poetic thought, though the play in its original condition was chaotic in the extreme. It was altogether incoherent and impossible in its first state—a mere embryo of what afterwards appeared when we got it into shape.

"WILLS and I sat up night after night reconstructing the piece, and if I suggested a new scene or alteration to which he was agreeable he would reply, 'I accept that, dear boy.' He then proceeded to make a note on that useful shirt-cuff, underneath which slumbered the sleeves of three jerseys struggling to make their appearance, and perhaps jealous of their owner's partiality for that once white shirt. Eventually Wills wanted to sell me his work for two hundred pounds, as he was always hard up; but one could not take advantage of that ingenuous, big-souled Irishman, and I refused, preferring to give him something in advance of nightly royalties.

"THE production of *The Vicar of Wakefield* was notable not only for the author's success, but for the great achievements of Miss Ellen Terry and William Terriss. The latter made his first really great mark in London on that occasion. I received many letters from him, of which the following is one:—'Royal Adelphi Theatre, Sept. 23, 1887. My Dear Hare,—Your very kind letter has given me the greatest pleasure. It is scarcely necessary for me to remind you that it was to your able guidance that I am indebted for my first ideas in the art of acting, and, although still conscious of my faults, I cannot help feeling proud to read such kind and flattering words as you have thought fit to pen me. I hope to keep your letter as a mark of your esteem, which I assure you I value more than that of any living actor. Commend me to Mrs. Hare, and believe me always sincerely yours—Will Terriss.'

"THE finest stage-management is often unnoticed by the audience and critics. Its very perfection causes it to be accepted as a natural result which passes without comment—like a well-dressed woman, whose appearance should not dazzle the eye, but please it. Nothing should be overemphasised or exaggerated, so that it is only when your attention is drawn to some effect of the stage-management that you notice its existence. Many plays have been ruined through bad stage-management in the handling of duologues. Too much attention is paid to the *mise en scène*, which should only form an unobtrusive background, but one which is in perfect taste. The author's work and the actor's interpretation of it should form the centre from which the eye should never wander.

"I SHOULD like to acknowledge here how greatly the success of our management was due to the many magnificent performances Mrs. Kendal gave of the parts she undertook. She and Lady Bancroft were the most remarkable first-night actresses with whom I have ever been associated. They seemed to give performances which were absolutely inspired on the first nights. Once, I remember, when we were playing *The Lady of Lyons*, I, as Colonel Damas, was inclined to make fun of some of the old-fashioned ideas and high-falutin' sentiment of that play, and sometimes indulged in a little humorous aside or by-play while she was striking an heroic attitude. Mrs. Kendal said to me on one of these occasions: 'Hare, if you make me see the comic side of this play, I shall never be able to play the part again!'"

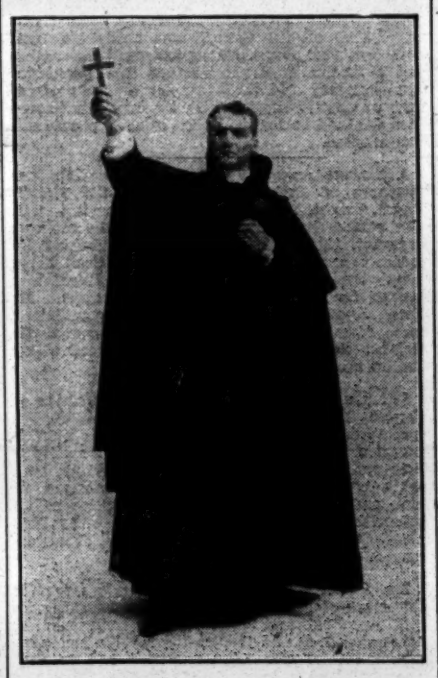
THE triennial Handel Festival is due at the Crystal Palace in June next. It happens that 1909 is also the centenary of the birth of Mendelssohn, and the directors of the Crystal Palace Co. have decided to celebrate the occasion by the inclusion of the best known of Mendelssohn's works. The festival will consequently be called the Handel-Mendelssohn Festival. It is probable that the dates fixed will be as follows:—Saturday, June 12, the General Rehearsal; Tuesday, June 15, Handel's "Messiah" or Mendelssohn's "Elijah"; Thursday, June 17, "Selection Day," when excerpts will be given from Handel's "Israel in Egypt" and Mendelssohn's Choral and Orchestral Works; and Saturday, June 19, Handel's "Messiah" or Mendelssohn's "Elijah." The Handel Festival Choir and Orchestra, numbering 4000 performers, will take part. The most eminent artists are being engaged.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. FRANK BERESFORD.

Mr. Frank Beresford, originally intended for the law, deserted the precincts of Gray's Inn one Saturday, and the following day started on tour with a répertoire company, playing small parts in *Our Boys*, *Money*, *Married Life*, *East Lynne*, &c. An engagement with Miss Maggie Morton followed, the young actor getting valuable experience in that lady's varied répertoire; also in Mr. Walter Bentley's company, playing De Mauprat, Horatio, Del Aquila, &c. Numerous engagements followed, including twelve weeks' stock season at Sadler's Wells Theatre, under the management of the late Miss Edith Russell. Here Mr. Beresford appeared as Claude Frollo (*Notre Dame*), Pierre (*Two Orphans*), Salem Scudder (*The Octoroon*), &c. A tour as Tom Cooper in *Shadows of a Great City*, under the management of the late A. E. Percival; then returning to London for a season at the New Novelty Theatre, Great Queen-street. Special engagements followed with the well-known play *A Day Will Come*, *Bells of Fate*, *Lured to Ruin*. Mr. Beresford was with the Criterion Comedy Company under the management of Miss Emma Hutchison for a considerable period, playing important parts in those old favourites *Pink Dominoes*, *Betsy*, *Brighton*, *Hot Water*, *Great Divorce Case*, *Truth*, &c. One of Mr. Beresford's happiest engagements was supporting the late Osmond Tearle, playing Laertes, Buckingham, Cassio, Gratiano, Beausant, Icilius, &c. Other engagements comprised tours with Messrs. Morell and Mouillot's *My Friend the Prince* and *The Absent-Minded Beggar*, under the management of Mr. J. F. Elliston.

Mr. Beresford is one of the most popular and well-known actors in South Africa, he having spent the greater part of eight years there, having had four long tours in that country under the banner of Mr. Leonard Rayne, playing a great number of the leading parts in that gentleman's extensive répertoire, comprising drama, comedy, Shakespeare. On his first visit to the Colonies, Mr. Beresford appeared as the Duke of Buckingham in *The Three Musketeers*, Mr. Osmond Tearle being the star. Another tour he supported that genial comedian Harry Nicholls. Amongst Mr. Beresford's successes in South Africa may be mention Rossi (*The Eternal City*), Oscar Stephenson (*The Prodigal Son*), Frank Thornhill (*Golden Ladder*), Jack Walton (*Master and Man*), Father Michael (*The English Rose*), George Thornton



[*Photo by Hana.*

MR. FRANK BERESFORD AS "JOHN STORM."

(*Two Little Vagabonds*), title-rôle *Paul Kauvar*, De Beaumont (*Royal Divorce*), Lord Woodstock (*Sporting Life*), Bertie Cecil (*Under Two Flags*), Harold Armytage (*Lights o' London*), Richard Blunt (*Span of Life*), Lord Desborough (*The Derby Winner*). In lighter vein Mr. Beresford appeared as Dr. Sheppard (*Oh, Susannah*), Jack Barrington (*What The Butler Saw*), Wibsey (*Public Opinion*), Charles Shackleton (*Jane*). Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Leonard Rayne, Mr. Beresford has had a benefit in nearly every town in the South African Colonies, and the packed houses and general enthusiasm testify to the great popularity of the young actor. On one occasion Mr. Beresford took up the part of D'Artagnan in *The Three Musketeers* at half-an-hour's notice, owing to Mr. Rayne's sudden indisposition. One of Mr. Beresford's greatest successes was as Marc Antony in Mr. Rayne's magnificent production of Shakespeare's immortal tragedy; he also made a very favourable impression as Laertes, Bassanio, Cassio, &c. During his travels in South Africa Mr. Beresford has had some exciting experiences, at one time being taken into Kimberley on an armoured train; and during a very enjoyable concert tour with that charming music hall artist Miss Billie Barlow (under Mr. Rayne's management) the company were playing at Steynsburg, in Cape Colony, and the guns were thundering away on the adjoining kopjes, and the next day the dead and wounded were brought in. On one occasion the company performed in a goods shed. It was a sight to see the place packed, the officers sitting comfortably on biscuit-boxes, which comprised the front seats, and the Tommies hanging on to rafters, window seats, &c. Mr. Beresford is very fond of South Africa, he having made some life-long friends there, and looks forward to a return visit some day. Mr. Beresford is brother to Mr. J. Cooke Beresford, Miss Alice Beresford, and Mrs. Tennyson Cole, the wife of that eminent artist whose portrait of the King has excited such admiration.

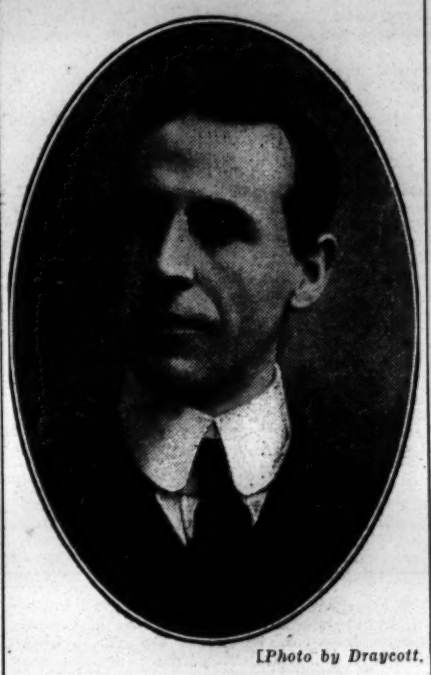
MR. AND MRS. NORMAN MACOWAN (MISS VIOLET STERNE).

Of the younger provincial stars there is a no more popular couple than Miss Violet Sterne and Mr. Norman MacOwan. Miss Sterne and Mr. MacOwan, who have made quite a name for themselves in the provinces, where for the last four years they have been touring *Monsieur Beaucaire* and a répertoire of costume plays, are comparatively young in stage experience, both having made their first appearance on the stage at the end of July, 1900, in the Compton Comedy Company. Miss Sterne and Mr. MacOwan, however, have both come very rapidly to the front, and we shall be much surprised if they do not continue to advance a great deal higher. Both are possessed of remarkably strong and very pleasing personalities, and although their most popular success has been made in *Monsieur Beaucaire*, those who have had the opportunities we have had of seeing their performances in a large répertoire cannot fail to have been struck by the excellence of their work in widely differing parts.

Mr. MacOwan, as his name indicates, is a Scotsman, being, as they say on the other side of the Tweed, a "son of the manse." He was born in St. Andrews thirty years ago on the second of January.

Miss Sterne and Mr. MacOwan had the advantage of playing, at the very commencement of their careers, a very varied assortment of parts. Joining Mr. Compton as junior members of his company, they were entrusted after a short period with more and still more important parts in the very extensive répertoire then being played by Mr. Compton. In the second year with Mr. Compton Miss Sterne and Mr. MacOwan were playing respectively such parts as Julia and Faulkland, Constance Neville and Hastings, Maria and Sir Benjamin Backbite.

In 1902 Mr. Compton retired from the stage for a year, and Miss Sterne and Mr. MacOwan, with



[*Photo by Draycott.*

MR. NORMAN MACOWAN.

the rest of the company, had to seek work elsewhere. It was at this time that Miss Sterne had what she describes as the "heart-breaking" experience of being out of work, and unable to secure anything better than a few engagements for "special weeks." One of these special weeks, by the way, was to support Mr. Mark Melford in a sketch at the Oxford Music Hall, this being Miss Sterne's only appearance in the "halls." Mr. MacOwan, in the meantime, was more successful, and was gaining still more experience in the provinces. Soon after leaving Mr. Compton he was engaged for Frank Frayne in a tour of *The Night of the Party*, and this was quickly followed by such parts as Captain Hawkesley in *Still Waters Run Deep*, Mark Denzil in *Sunlight and Shadow*, Henri de Flavigneul in *The Ladies' Battle*, and James Dalton in *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*.

In the first tour of *Monsieur Beaucaire*, in which Mr. Henry Renouf played the title-rôle and Miss Violet Sterne played Lady Mary Carlisle, Mr. MacOwan was playing the comparatively small part of Lord Townbrake, but after eight weeks he was engaged by Mr. Wilfrid Cotton for the heavy part of the Duke of Winterset. After playing this part with great success for one tour Mr. MacOwan was entrusted with the title-rôle and also with the general management of the company, and this tour, which was the third tour of the piece, was the most successful financially that the piece had yet had. At the conclusion of this tour Mr. MacOwan took over the company from Mr. Cotton, and entered into management for himself.

In June, 1904, he was married to Miss Violet Sterne, and since that date Mr. and Mrs. MacOwan have been touring their own company in *Monsieur Beaucaire* and a répertoire of plays with marked success up to the present time. Their répertoire on tour consists of *Monsieur Beaucaire*, *School for Scandal*, *A Marriage of Convenience*, *David Garrick*, *Gringoire the Ballad Monger*, and *A Soldier of Fortune*.

Mr. and Mrs. MacOwan prefer costume work as

[*Photo by Weston.*

MISS VIOLET STERNE.

a rule, but they do not entirely devote themselves to it, and last summer they conducted a high-class répertoire season of eight weeks at the Grand Theatre, Swansea, during which the following plays were performed:—*The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, *The Profligate*, *The Glass of Fashion*, *Still Waters Run Deep*, *A Fool's Paradise*, *The Tyranny of Tears*, *Captain Swift*, and *A Bunch of Violets*. This season created a great deal of interest in Swansea, and the business far exceeded that of any previous summer season in this theatre.

Mr. E. Oswald Brookes, the manager, was so delighted after the third week that he offered Mr. MacOwan contracts for a thirteen weeks' season this summer, but owing to other plans Mr. MacOwan was unable to accept. He, however, arranged for a four weeks' season in Swansea in March. Mr. MacOwan's rights in *Monsieur Beaucaire* terminated at the end of March. He and Miss Sterne hope shortly to have experience under a London management.

HARRY KILBURN.

Mr. Harry Kilburn has had a great deal of experience in both music halls and theatres, having been on the stage since he was eighteen, and of course has played many parts. His first venture was on the music halls (as a comic singer), where he achieved some considerable success, after which he toured the Continent, playing in all the principal towns of France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Spain, playing in sketches and also shining as a pantomimist and dancer, of which latter art he is very fond. He then returned to England to fulfil a pantomime engagement at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, under the management of the late Sir Augustus Harris, where he was fortunate enough to be so successful with the part entrusted to him that he was re-engaged for the two following Christmas pantomimes, making three consecutive seasons, the latter two years playing the parts made popular by the late Dan Leno at Drury Lane the preceding year under the same management. Other pantomime engagements include Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, Comedy, Manchester, Tyne, Newcastle (this time under the management of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham), two seasons Opera House, Leicester, then Empire, Edinburgh, Alexander, Sheffield, Gaiety Theatre, Dublin (with Mr. Robert Courtneidge), Grand Theatre, Leeds (with Mr. John Hart), and also three consecutive seasons with Mr. Fredk. Mouillot at Opera House, Belfast, Theatre Royal, Dublin, and King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W. Mr. Kilburn has also created several parts in musical comedy, prominent amongst them being Robert White (the policeman) in Mr. Arthur Roberts' *Dandy Dan*, and Samuel Peashooter in Mr. George Dance's *Ladies' Paradise*. Amongst other engagements was one of eighteen months at the Duke of York's Theatre in *The Gay Parisienne* and *A Day in Paris* (with Messrs. Frank Wheeler and W. J. Holloway). Then a season at the Lyric Theatre, playing Sancho Panza with Arthur Roberts in *Don Quixote*. Then came a long tour of the provinces with Hardie and Von Leer's *Dandy Fifth*, playing Sergeant-Major Milligan. He next joined Mr. Geofge Dance's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon*, playing Hi-Lung on the autumn tour and the following spring playing Mr. Pineapple in the same piece. In the autumn he was engaged by Mr. H. C. Beryl to play Major O'Neill in *The Lady Slavey*. Then followed a short tour of the music halls in conjunction with his wife (Miss Ruth Grosvenor). Then came an offer from Baron H. Harriss to play the part of Hans Wagner (the Dutchman) in *The Prince of Pilsen*, which part he has now been playing for eighteen months, and which, he declares, fits him like a

MR. HARRY KILBURN.

glove. Owing to his success in the part, Mr. Harriss arranged with Mr. Kilburn to play the part through the Christmas seasons of 1906-7 and 1907-8, and he completed another tour in June.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, July 13, the Drama, entitled "AN ABANDONED WOMAN."

Keen appreciation is shown at the able efforts of Mr. Harry Foxwell's company in *An Abandoned Woman*, which is being presented here this week, and the authors, Messrs. Miles Wallerton and Francis Gilbert, may be complimented on their share of the work. The drama is well mounted and dressed, and offers a fine chance in the title-rôle to Miss Ruth Zillwood as Ninon Malvoisin to show her dramatic power. She takes every advantage of her opportunities, and gives a very clever impersonation; possessing also a well-modelled figure, she is able to show off to the best advantage a variety of smart gowns. Mr. A. C. Holmes fills the part of Captain Herbert Seaton with successful results; and Mr. Charles Grant does well as Sir Marmaduke Seaton. Robert Saunders, an artist, is ably performed by Mr. P. Morton-Wright; Mr. W. M. Fraser-Brunner portrays the character of Phillipe Malvoisin, a French villain, with skill and judgment; Mr. Teddy Miles is the cause of much laughter as Paddy Boyle, L99, and sings a capital Irish song with a catchy refrain for which he receives worthy recompense. Mr. Will Glaze works hard as Sammy Sharpe, and is amply rewarded by hilarity and applause; Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner makes an efficient Sally Sloper; while Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam is suitably placed as Eleanor Deane. Minor rôles are undertaken by Mr. Arthur Abott, Mr. Harrison Forbes, Mr. George Gormby, little Frances Maddocks, and Miss Lily Addison.

THE NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, July 13,

Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company in "THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."

It is the usual thing now to find the Lyric, whenever we visit it, quite full, but this hardly describes the state of the house on Monday last. The place was crowded, and the above-named drama came in for a most appreciative reception. As the detective, Paul Gouffer, Mr. Scott Leighton gave a finished performance, and Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale as the Chevalier Lucio Delgado made as despicable a continental villain as could be desired. Mr. Alfred Warne was distinctly good as Henry de Brisson; Mr. Arthur Beverley played Lucian Cortier with excellent effect. As the mad Dr. Le Blanc, Mr. Gilbert Hall did well. On the head of Mr. Henri Stewart (Peter Pottleberry) rested the responsibility of creating mirth, and he was entirely successful. Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson, in the part of Marie de Brisson, showed ability and won sympathy. Miss Louie Loners was a particularly lively Babbette, and as La Pinau Miss Elaine Grant was quite satisfactory. On Friday evening a special attraction was provided, *The Sleigh Bells*, another version of *The Polish Jew* being given after the above play.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

NEW THEATRE, CAMBRIDGE.

A dividend of 5 per cent. upon the ordinary share capital, in addition to a substantial sum being carried to the reserve fund, was declared at the annual meeting of the New Theatre, Cambridge, Ltd., held on the afternoon of the 10th inst. Mr. J. W. Clark (chairman of the board of directors) presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. B. Redfern (managing director), G. Swannell (director), W. F. Taylor, T. Coulson, W. Tyler, A. G. Swannell, A. F. Jackson (shareholders), H. Hall and H. Slater (secretaries).

The report of the directors for the year ending June 24, 1908, was as follows:

In presenting their thirteenth annual report the directors are in a position to congratulate the shareholders upon the continuance of the improvement shown last year. As will be seen from the accounts, the profit on the year's working, after allowing for depreciation of plant and furniture, and the payment of debenture interests, amounts to £1,009 18s. 1½d., which, with the amount brought forward from last year, makes a total amount of £1,075 9s. 11½d. available for dividend, &c. Your directors recommend the payment of preference dividend, and advise that a dividend of 5 per cent. free of income-tax be declared upon the ordinary share capital. These dividends will absorb the sum of £590, leaving a balance of £485 9s. 11½d. Of this sum your directors propose to carry £400 to the reserve fund, increasing that fund to £1,000, and to carry forward £85 9s. 11½d. to next year. Under the articles of association Mr. G. Swannell retires from the directorate, and being eligible offers himself for re-election. The auditor, Mr. C. F. Charlton, also offers himself for re-election.

Upon the proposition of Mr. W. F. Taylor, seconded by Mr. T. Coulson, Mr. A. G. Swannell was unanimously re-elected a director of the company.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts, pointed out that last year had not been as good in point of money in hand as the previous year, but still they were in a position to pay their dividends. The causes of the diminution of the balance were somewhat curious. A difficult point was the new assessment, by which the assessment of the theatre had been increased from £550 to £800, which they thought excessive. The directors had the matter in hand. They had given notice of appeal, and the matter had been adjourned for the valuer for the corporation to meet the valuer or expert acting on behalf of the theatre company. He would like to draw attention to the extraordinary caprice of the public in allowing their receipts to drop a matter of £332. He did not think it would have been possible for anybody to have got together a better set of pieces than Mr. Redfern had set before the Cambridge public. The sum of a long story was that Cambridge was a most difficult public to cater for. They could not tell what they liked and what they did not like. They might be quite certain that undergraduates liked musical pieces, but that was the only thing of which they could be certain. In other respects they had had a very satisfactory year. The directors would do their best during the coming year. Mr. Redfern had done his best already.

Mr. A. G. Swannell seconded the proposition, which was carried unanimously.

Mr. Tyler proposed a vote of thanks to the managing-director for his services. He congratulated Mr. Redfern upon the excellent report and balance-sheet produced, and said he took a more hopeful view of the situation than the Chairman. To be able to pay 5 per cent. and carry £400 to the reserve fund was eminently satisfactory. To a great many of them Mr. Redfern embodied the life and soul of the drama in Cambridge. What they would do without him he did not know.

Mr. F. W. Taylor seconded. He did not think about Mr. Redfern's retirement, and hoped during the coming and other years the present managing-director would still be able to give his services to the theatre. He did not think Mr. Redfern's efforts were supported to the extent they deserved in the direction of public patronage, but that was a matter they could not control, and must endeavour to be content with the measure they received. The satisfaction of the shareholders at receiving a 5 per cent. dividend was in a great measure due to Mr. Redfern's efforts.

The vote was accorded unanimously.

Mr. W. B. Redfern proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman for presiding. Mr. Clark, he thought, had taken a rather pessimistic view of the affairs of the past year. It was very right that he should, because it caused them to look into the accounts without having too rosy a view before them. The extra expenses to which the chairman had referred had been incurred from one or two causes which were unavoidable. For instance, the ropes on the stage, or as they were technically called the "lines," had been in use for twelve years, and, like everything else, they decayed. They had all decayed together; that was to say, they had worn out, and had become more or less unsafe, and rather than risk an accident of any kind they were renewing them. In the next place, the wages had exceeded those of the previous year. As a rule that was caused by a larger staff being employed on such occasions as Mr. Benson's performance, the operatic company, and so on. The gas bill for light outside the house he did not think was money thrown away. It had been pointed out to him by visitors to Cambridge, "You don't make any show outside," and he believed an advertisement of that kind—there was nothing vulgar about it—brought in a certain amount of audience. They had advertised rather largely this year. When companies like that of Miss Ellen Terry or the opera companies were in the town, he advertised in more than one paper of the borough. His reason for doing that had been that it satisfied the touring company, though perhaps it might not bring in a very large amount of patronage. He had to thank the Press generally for their kindness to him and to the theatre; but there was one exception he must take, and that was the University *Granta*, which was not only unfair in its so-called criticisms, but was sometimes offensively cynical and almost insulting. It did not matter what piece they had, they never received anything like unqualified praise; however good the piece or the acting might be, there was always a "but." It was very disheartening when one had secured the very best touring companies on the road, and probably the leading actors. They generally got some vulgar abuse. He was quite aware these criticisms were written by young men with little or no experience of theatrical matters, who had probably never written for newspapers before, and indulged in what they called clever writing. Their judgments were entirely against the criticisms written by professional men who understood their business. He was very pleased they had had such a successful year, and saw no reason whatever why in the future they should not do even better. During the past year the chairman had been suffering from illness, and members of his family had also been ill, but he was happy to say there was an improvement in both directions. Although Mr. Clark had not been present at the theatre, he knew he had been with them in spirit, and whenever he (Mr. Redfern) was in the least difficulty he appealed to him, and had his immediate attention and his personal advice. The same applied to Mr. Swannell. He hoped Mr. Clark might live many years to preside over them, and do as useful work as he had done in the dramatic world in Cambridge.

Mr. Tyler seconded the vote, which was carried with acclamation.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Most of the London managers are out of town or shortly to leave. Sir John Hare is at Lower Hare Park, Mr. Tree is at Marienbad, and Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. George Edwardes, and Mr. George Alexander will soon be on the wing, if, at the time of writing, they have not already left London.

MR. LEWIS WALLER is fortunate in his tyre-maker. The front tyres of his Daimler car were driven over 9000 miles before he changed them, and the non-skids on the back wheels averaged a good 3000 miles per pair. We shall be pleased to receive data on the subject from other theatrical motorists.

MR. LEWIS WALLER was fined £9 on Thursday at St. Neots, Huntingdonshire, for driving a motor-car to the danger of the public on the North-road, through the village of Buckden. The police gave the speed as over twenty-six miles an hour, but Mr. Waller said his speed was well under twenty miles.

MISS MABEL LOVE will commence her tour on Monday, July 27, at Llandudno in that great success *Lady Frederick*, under the management of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison. The tour will include Margate, Ramsgate, Kingston, Buxton, Nottingham, Scarborough, Yarmouth, Southport, Kennington, Fulham, Leicester, Croydon, and Manchester. Miss Love will be supported by Mr. Robert Minster, and a very powerful company.

THE annual match between London Actors and Provincial Actors for the benefit of the Actors' Benevolent and Orphanage Funds will be played at Kennington Oval on Tuesday next, the 21st inst. Tickets, price 1s. (including admission to ground and covered stand), may be obtained at any theatre, or at the *Era* Office, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. The teams will be selected from the following:—London—H. H. Ainley, Oscar Asche, Ken. Douglas, B. Egerton, Horace Lane, Eric Maturin, H. Nye Chart, V. O'Connor, C. A. Smith, R. Selby, F. Pope Stamper, H. Wilde, and A. Whitby. Provinces—G. Hannam Clark, B. S. Foster, J. S. Foster, Leslie Holland, T. Homewood, P. F. Knox, S. Livesay, A. Metcalfe, W. P. Morgan, J. Rathbone, E. A. White, J. Wilson, and F. Worlock.

OVER ninety members of the staff of Daly's Theatre, London, paid a visit to Brighton on Sunday for their fourteenth annual outing. They arrived shortly after ten o'clock, and after sampling the attractions of sea and shore returned to the Unicorn Hotel, where they sat down to an excellent dinner. Among those present were Mr. George Graves, Mr. Aubrey Lowe, Mr. Charles Cannon (secretary for Mr. George Edwardes), Messrs. Jupp and King (box office), H. Hart (electrician), Wade (stage-manager), and Scott. The toasts honoured included that of "Success to Daly's Theatre," proposed by Mr. George Graves in a witty speech, and acknowledged by Mr. Charles Cannon. In the afternoon a good many of the party availed themselves of the kind invitation of Mr. Ben Hart to visit the Brighton Palace Pier Theatre; while others went for taxi-cab rides to Rottingdean, Newhaven, and the Dyke. The arrangements were ably carried out by the hon. secretary, Mr. Charles Richards (properties), assisted by Messrs. W. Curtin, C. Holman, W. Shaw, R. Buchanan, and A. Bartlett.

MISS JANETTE STEER is giving an "At Home" to the theatrical profession at 53, Sloane-square Gardens, on Tuesday, at 3.30, to meet Miss Pankhurst, who will give an address on "Woman's Franchise." She hopes those who attend will bring their friends with them.

THE death is announced of Mrs. Parker, widow of the late Captain J. Parker, R.A., and the mother of Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P., author of *The Seats of the Mighty*. The deceased lady passed away at Montrose House, Belleville, Canada, in her seventy-fifth year.

THE Terry's Theatre staff held their annual outing last Sunday. They went to Littlehampton, and then by launch to Arundel, where a sumptuous repast was waiting at the Abercrombie Hotel. The health of the generous donors was drunk with enthusiasm, those toasted including Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. James Welch, Mr. Whittaker, and Miss Fannie Ward. The day passed off very pleasantly, but was marred by a slight shower of rain just before the departure home. The organisers of the delightful outing were Mr. Chris Porter, Mr. R. Carter, Mr. Beasely, and Mr. C. MacManus.

IT is often disagreeable to make an *amende honorable*, but to pen the following, which appeared in a Glasgow paper on Monday, must have been a pleasing task:—"An apology is tendered to the numerous Metropole Theatre patrons who were disappointed in gaining admittance on Saturday night. It may interest them to know that the same play is rebooked for next season.—ARTHUR JEFFERSON, Managing-Director."

MR. CHARLES MANNERS's season with the Moody-Manners company will open at the Lyric on Aug. 17. The répertoire will include *Lohengrin*, *Tannhäuser*, *Die Meistersinger*, *Tristan*, *Aïda*, *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, *Madame Butterfly*, *La Bohème*, *Pagliacci*, and *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Mr. Manners and Madame Fanny Moody are at present on the Continent looking out for new operas and artists. Mr. Philip Brozel, a Russian artist who studied at the Royal Academy of Music, and has several times appeared with success at Covent Garden, will be the principal tenor of the company.

PLAYGOERS whose memories take them back a few years will recall with pleasure the performances of Miss Laura Graves (one of a family of talented sisters) at the St. James's, Haymarket, His Majesty's, and other West End houses. Miss Graves, who left the stage on her marriage, at the height of her success, has found the attraction of the footlights too strong for her, and will make her reappearance in August, under Mr. Frohman's management, as Mrs. Wilmore in Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's play *The Hypocrites*.

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES will give his *Girls of Gottenburg* company a trial trip at the Adelphi Theatre for three weeks, commencing on Aug. 10. Miss Fanny Fields will undertake Miss Gertie Millar's rôle; and Mr. Payne will retain his irresistibly droll part in the musical play.

MISS DREVER toured as Amasis last spring with success, and has been playing the part of Natalie in the northern company of *The Merry Widow*. Miss Drever recently sang Marguerite in Gounod's *Faust*, at Queen's Hall, with the full orchestra and chorus, without rehearsal, the other soloists including Messrs. Joseph O'Mara and Harry Dearth. She is a pupil of Edwin Wareham, the well-known operatic tenor, and studied in France, where she was educated. She is an accomplished linguist, and excels at golf, yachting, fencing, swimming, and tennis. Her father was the late Colonel W. S. Drever, C.S.I., Commissioner of Police in Madras.

MR. FRED S. JENNINGS, the manager of the Lyric, Hammersmith, is, we are sorry to hear, in the doctor's hands, and has been ordered to abstain from work for a fortnight. He has gone to the seaside to recuperate. We wish him a speedy recovery.

MR. W. CLARKSON has just concluded the contract for supplying costumes, wigs, and staff of assistants for making-up at the Cheltenham Pageant, which, produced by Mr. Geo. P. Hawtrey, has been a great success. At the conclusion on Saturday the Mayor made a speech thanking all and sundry (Mr. Clarkson among the number) for the way in which the work had been done. Pageant work seems to be on the increase. Mr. Clarkson has had the honour of providing the whole of the costumes, wigs, and properties for that at Oxford; also the wigs, &c., at Sherborne, Warwick, Bury St. Edmunds, Liverpool, Romsey, and Coventry.

MISS MAY PALFREY'S tour of *Mrs. Dot*, which is one of the biggest comedy successes staged of recent times, will start the first week in September with an exceptionally strong cast—in fact, quite one of the most powerful that will be sent on the road this autumn—and the towns that Miss Palfrey will visit are the following:—Dublin, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Buxton, Birmingham, Plymouth, Bristol, Oxford, Cambridge, Cardiff, Manchester, Belfast, Cheltenham, Harrogate, and Brighton. Miss Palfrey will play Mrs. Dot, and a very interesting engagement is pending for the part of James Blenkinsop, now being played at the Comedy Theatre by Mr. Fred Kerr. Messrs. Walter Hann have been commissioned to supply a duplicate of the scenery now being used in the London production.

"THE LADY OF THE PAGEANT," the farcical comedy which will be presented by Mr. Louis Calvert at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, on Monday, is by Mr. Max Pemberton and Mr. Cyril Hogg. In the third act the personages of the drama appear in the ancient costumes of a "pageant," and much fun arises from the resulting incongruities. Mr. Louis Calvert, who is nothing if not versatile, plays an active and amorous Frenchman.

"KING HARRY'S REVEL" will be given by Viscountess Galway at Serlby Hall, Bawtry, Yorkshire, on Aug. 6, 7, and 8 in aid of the Retford Cottage Hospital. The "revel" is based upon a visit paid to Serlby in 1523 by King Henry VIII. during a hunting expedition. The King and Queen are on their way to the palace of Cardinal Wolsey near by. King and Cardinal meet at Serlby, and are there entertained right royally by the fair Lady Idonea, who holds a "revel"—a fascinating compound of song and dance and masquerade—in honour of her guests. A notable feature of the "revel" will be the characteristic music and dances. Many of the quaint and beautiful old English songs are introduced, and the services of the famous North Notts Choral Society of 130 voices have been called into requisition. There will be over 100 dancers. The book of *King Harry's Revel*, written by Viscountess Galway, is published by Messrs. W. H. Smith and Son.

AN "open night" recital was given on Monday evening at the Cripplegate Institute by students of the Carrington Willis Shakespearean Schools in the presence of a large and enthusiastic audience. Miss Eva Davies opened the programme by delivering "The Curtain," Miss Isabelle Griffiths recited "The Butterfly," and Miss G. Methuen "The Sioux Chief's Daughter." Mr. Atholl Kirkpatrick gave a dramatic rendering of "The Portrait"; Miss Mabel Burrell was humorous in her treatment of "The 11.45 p.m." by Pett Ridge; and Mr. Angelo and Miss Winifred Creswell appeared in an extract from *Measure for Measure*. The judges, finding that Miss Mabel Burrell and Miss Winifred Creswell were equal in merit, allotted them both first prizes.

IN order to enable the French and German visitors to Wyndham's Theatre to follow more closely the story of *When Knights Were Bold*, the management have had inserted in the programmes a synopsis of the play in German and French. The expedient should be useful to many of the foreign visitors now in the Metropolis.

MR. CHAS. DENLEY and Mr. Herbert Taylor took their annual benefit at the Grand Theatre, Derby, on Wednesday last. Mr. Langley Wyatt, who had charge of the stage, dealt with a long programme, necessitating constant and quick changes of scenery, the two performances going through without wait or hitch. After the final performance Mr. T. Allan Edwardes, on behalf of the theatre and Palace staffs, presented Mr. Denley with a handsome Chippendale writing-table and Mr. Taylor with a gold-mounted umbrella.

THE committee of the Actors' Union desire us to state that any member who wishes for information on any matter connected with the Union can, on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope, have such information on application to the secretary.

MR. FRANK LINDO who for the past five years has successfully toured his drama *Home, Sweet Home*, will shortly produce at the Palace Theatre, Newcastle, his new romantic play entitled *Love, the Conqueror*.

MR. TOM B. DAVIS and Mr. Lewis Waller will close their season at the Lyric Theatre on Saturday. *The Explorer*, thanks probably to Mr. Waller's fine performance as the hero, has done good business. He will reopen the Lyric on Sept. 8 with Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy's version of *The Duke's Motto*.

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES, having secured the English rights in the Viennese opera *The Dollar Princess*, which has been such a success on the Continent, will produce the piece at the Hicks Theatre at the end of the year, with Miss Constance Drever and Mr. Tailleur Andrews in leading parts. Mr. Basil Hood will adapt the book.

MR. JULIAN L'ESTRANGE was engaged for a part in Messrs. Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton's new drama at Drury Lane, but Mr. Arthur Collins obligingly released him to enable him to accept an offer made him by Miss Maxine Elliott to go to America as her leading man. Miss Constance Collier (Mrs. L'Estrange) will cross the Atlantic shortly, in order to appear in New York in Mr. William Gillette's version of *Samson*, under the management of Mr. Charles Frohman.

MR. ARTHUR COLLINS is vigorously carrying on the repairs to Drury Lane Theatre which were necessitated by the recent fire, and the house will be ready for reopening early in September. Mr. Cecil Raleigh and Mr. Henry Hamilton, who have been at Folkestone hard at work on the new play for the autumn, are progressing favourably, and have written that popular comedian Mr. Albert Chevalier an excellent part.

"COMUS," of which certain members of the University of Cambridge and others gave a performance in the New Theatre, Cambridge, upon the occasion of the Tercentenary of the poet's birth, was first printed in 1637. In 1634, the two sons and the daughter of the Earl of Bridgewater, returning to Ludlow Castle, were benighted in Haywood Forest, in whose "perplex'd paths" the Lady Alice was lost. John Milton, then a young man of twenty-six, who had recently quitted Cambridge, made of this incident the theme of the *Mask of Comus*, in whose first performance the three children themselves took part. It was presented at the Michaelmas festivities held at Ludlow Castle, where the Earl of Bridgewater, Lord President of Wales, kept his Court. Henry Lawes, afterwards Court Musician to Charles I., composed the music, and himself took the part of the Attendant Spirit.

MISS EVELYN MILLARD has taken the Garrick Theatre from Mr. Arthur Bourchier for five months, commencing on Sept. 1, when she will open with an adaptation by Mr. Roy Horniman of Mr. W. J. Locke's novel "Idols." The story is of a much more serious nature than that of "The Morals of Marcus Ordeyne," and there will be a strong part in Mr. Horniman's version for Miss Millard, whose deep and powerful art deserves an adequate vehicle for its expression. She will be supported by Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Herbert Waring, Miss Edyth Latimer, Mr. Charles Rock, Mr. Arthur Wontner, and Mr. Charles Somerset. It is some time since Miss Millard has been seen in a part quite worthy of her genius.

THE recent Charing Cross Hospital Fête at the Botanic Gardens, which the secretary and Miss Italia Conti organised in a month, and at the fag-end of the season, had most satisfactory results. Miss Conti received the following letter from the hospital:—

"DEAR MISS CONTI,—The council at their meeting to-day desired me to convey to you their most grateful thanks for your work in connection with the fête, which I was able to inform them has resulted (after paying all expenses) in an addition of about £200 to the funds of the hospital. The council think that, considering the difficulties with which we had to contend, this is a most satisfactory result, and they feel that, quite apart from its financial outcome, the function was a thorough success. I take this opportunity of saying what a pleasure it has been to me, in spite of the labour involved, to work with you in the organisation of this fête, and I hope that at some future time we may be again associated for some similar object.

"The council of the hospital wish me to thank very heartily all who so kindly gave their services yesterday, and I shall be much obliged if you can make this known to those who assisted you in the play. I am writing to Mr. Bernhardt in the same way with regard to the Café Chantant, and to the managers of the four theatre groups of helpers.—Yours sincerely, WALTER ALVEY, Secretary.

"Charing Cross Hospital, W.C., July 8."

"ROY," a lovely Newfoundland belonging to Dr. Barton, took £5 at the fête, the Princess Louise specially speaking to him and contributing to his collection. "Joe" Browne, Mr. Graham Browne's bull-terrier, also did well. He was in charge of the "Masculine Mysteries."

A MOVEMENT is on foot by the Actors' Church Union to institute residential clubs in the provincial towns, to be run on the lines of small hotels, for the benefit and convenience of ladies on tour. The Rev. Harold Davidson, who is actively working the scheme, has obtained favourable opinions on the project from many people, including Mr. Tree and Mr. George Alexander. A letter was also received from Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory, strongly advocating the idea.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union was held on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Charles R. Stone presiding. Amongst others present were Messrs. T. W. Atherstone, J. H. Batson, Orlando Barnett, J. W. Braithwaite, W. R. Brown, Walter Clarke, Charles Calvert, George Goodwin, Jerrold Heather, Sydney N. Hallows, Frederick Jacques, Paul Lovett, Frederick F. Loyd, Arthur Machen, Norman A. Overton, Edward Y. Rae, and Clifford Rean; and Mesdames Bessie Armytage, Walter Bentley, Nancie Blair, Florence Creagh, May Conrade, Hylda Denison, Margaret Densmoy, Adelaide Gracey, Maud Henley, Maud Kirwan, Mary Lovett, Eva Lumley, Louise L'Estrange, Irene Moncrieff, Carina McAllister, Kitty Marion, Minnie Thurgate, and Millie Vere. The old questions of a minimum salary and the bogus theatre manager were discussed.

MR. WILLIAM GREET will produce Messrs. Edward and Harry Paulton's three-act farce, *The Old Firm*, at Newcastle, on Aug. 17, with Mr. Richard Golden, the well-known American comedian, in his original part of Daniel Hake. Mr. Clayton Greene, Miss Constance Hyem, Miss Alice Beet, and Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw will be in the cast.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD L. TRACY (Miss Babs Stuart), who were with Mr. Lionel Rignold's répertoire of comedies, have been engaged by him and Miss Ada Blanche for the autumn tour of *What the Butler Saw*.

MR. PAUL GILMORE, who is starring in *Boys of Company B* in the States, is staying at the Hotel Russell, Russell-square. Mr. Gilmore is in London, to arrange for a London production of *Company B*.

MME. META ILLING has every reason to be highly satisfied with the results of her stay in what she pleases to call "your gigantic city." She has left greatly encouraged, and intends coming back to London in October next, to complete all the arrangements in connection with her projected "English Theatre" in Berlin.

MR. LINGFORD CARSON'S new play, *The Great White Chief*, will be produced at the Queen's Theatre, Keighley, on Saturday. An excellent company has been engaged, and a long tour booked. The staging is elaborate. Mr. Carson is also busily engaged rehearsing *The Fight for a Throne* company, *The Power of the Cross*, Lingford Carson's Répertoire company, and another new production, entitled *My Mother, God Bless Her*, a piece containing some striking situations and novel ideas.

THE theatre now being built at Aberaman will be lit up by electricity produced by its own suction gas plant. It is declared to be the finest hall in the Aberdare Valley, with admirable stage arrangements, that will fly all cloths, and large dressing-rooms and conveniences for artists. It is in the hands of a committee elected by public meetings and by the colliery workmen, who are determined to have the best management available to run first-class dramatic and variety entertainments. In addition to the hall is an institute, with baths, billiard rooms, &c., and a free library.

OWING to the success of *The Gay Deceivers*, it will be booked on until its London production in October, when two companies will be sent on tour. The piece, which abounds with screamingly funny situations and smart dialogue, to say nothing of bright numbers, has broken all musical comedy records in every town visited.

MISS ZOE DAVIS, who has been playing Kate in *The Idler* and Mabel in *Captain Swift* during Mr. Geo. E. Mudd's summer tour of those plays, has been courteously released by that gentleman to enable her to accept an engagement with Mr. Walter Melville for the autumn.

MR. R. A. ROBERTS, who is sending his drama, *Straight from the Shoulder*, on a tour, commencing on August Bank Holiday, has retained the services of that energetic young business manager Mr. Charles Boult as his sole responsible director.

MR. PERCY HUTCHISON starts his tour on Monday, July 27, at Bournemouth, with *Brewster's Millions*. Mr. Hutchison is taking the entire London production. Another of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's companies will start at Llandudno on the 27th inst. Miss Mabel Love in *Lady Frederick* and that merry farce *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* opened on Monday last at Blackpool. Other companies, including Mrs. Brown Potter in *Lady Frederick*, Miss Decima Moore in *Mrs. Dot*, will start on Aug. 3 and 10 at Brighton.

MISS EMMA HUTCHISON and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company will start on Monday, July 27, at Bournemouth in *Brewster's Millions* with a very powerful company and the original London production. Mr. Hutchison has been fortunate enough to secure Mr. Cyril Rawdon to produce the play and to remain with the company throughout the tour. Mr. Rawdon has a thorough knowledge of the piece, having been Mr. Frohman's stage-manager at the Hicks Theatre for the ten months of the London run, and many of the ship scene effects are his own invention. The cloud effects are supplied by Mr. Joseph Menchen, of New York. Mr. A. P. Kaye has been appointed general stage-manager. Over fifteen tons of scenery will be carried. The cast includes Messrs. Charles Esdale, Robert Forsythe, Henry Hampson, Aubrey Mather, Otho Hazlewood, Douglas Greet, Barnett Parker, Frank Hilton, and Percy Hutchison; and Miss Violet Ley, Miss Eva Stewart, Miss Sybil Walsh, and Miss Cicely Stuckey. Mr. Hutchison will visit Brighton, Hastings, Eastbourne, Yarmouth, Margate, Llandudno, Douglas, Harrogate, and Buxton in August and September, Dublin, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, Oxford, Cambridge, Manchester, Cardiff, Plymouth, Coronet, and Kennington Theatres.

THE Portsmouth Watch Committee reported the receipt of the following letter from Mr. J. W. Boughton, of the New Theatre Royal. It read:—"As there is such a dearth of London successes this year, I have great difficulty in obtaining the class of productions suitable to the patrons of the King's Theatre. Under these circumstances, I am desirous of altering the character of the entertainment somewhat by giving high-class vaudeville performances occasionally, but before doing so think it only right to ask if there would be any objection on your part. For this purpose I wish to give the same comfort and indulgence to the patrons as is extended in Metropolitan theatres under the London County Council, as in many parts of the provinces, viz., the privilege of smoking."

THE committee reported having resolved that no objection be offered to smoking being allowed to take place in the King's Theatre. A councillor asked whether Mr. Boughton proposed to use the theatre for a music-hall performance without a music-hall licence. The Mayor: No, he cannot do that. Under this licence he is bound to give dramatic performances.

AN alderman pointed out that the Watch Committee had power to grant dramatic licences only. Music, singing and dancing licences had to be obtained from the Magisterial Bench. The Mayor added that all the Council was really concerned with was the proposal to allow smoking, and it was a matter of doubt whether that permission was necessary. If the character of the performance was not in keeping with the dramatic licence, then it would be for the police to act. The minute was adopted.

A PLEASING ceremony followed the matinée performance of *Dear Old Charlie*, at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, on Thursday afternoon last week. The curtain had rung down, and as the audience departed, the theatre staff assembled behind the scenes to make a presentation to Mr. Cecil Beryl, whose imminent departure from the Royal is a matter for sincere and widespread regret. Mr. Beryl, unaware of the purpose of the gathering, came down from his apartment in answer to the staff's petition, and was instantly received with a cordial burst of cheering.

MR. SOMMERLAD, the amiable conductor of the orchestra, made the presentation in a brief, but well-worded little speech, asking "the chief" to accept a little gift from those who had worked so long and harmoniously under his direction, as a token of the esteem and regard entertained for him, and as an earnest of the appreciation all the subscribers wished to express for the many kindnesses meted out to them by Mr. Beryl during his long reign at the Theatre Royal.

MR. BERYL, who was evidently deeply moved by this mark of loyalty and respect, in accepting the gift, a magnificent diamond ring, expressed his acknowledgments in feeling terms. He had never expected this. He regretted they had to part. They had been a happy family, but they had been disrupted, and he rather resented the fact that anyone should have interfered to break their little world of happy intimacy. He hoped their parting would be a short one. He would, therefore, only say "au revoir," but not good-bye. And with another burst of cheering the little ceremony ended.

"CONVICT 99," recently produced at the Crown, Peckham, will start a long tour on Sept. 14 at the Rotunda, Liverpool, with a strong company, new printing, and elaborate scenery.

MISS BEATRICE MARSDENE has been re-engaged by Mr. Reginald Dance for his autumn tour of *Raffles*, commencing July 30, to play Gwendoline Conran.

MR. FRED KNIGHT has, we regret to hear, been confined to the house with gout in both feet and an abscess under the left arm. He hopes, however, to be about again shortly.

THE Colchester Theatre Royal will be reopened by Mr. Charles Macdona on Monday next with Mr George Edwardes's company in *The Merry Widow*.

MISS DECIMA MOORE, whose stall at the Veterans' Relief Fête realised a large sum, will commence playing *Mrs. Dot*, at Brighton, on August Bank Holiday.

MESSRS. SMITH AND CARPENTER will produce the new play by Hall Caine and Louis N. Parker—the title of which has not yet been decided upon—at the Lyceum Theatre on Saturday, Aug. 29.

"LADY FREDERICK" will be transferred from the New Theatre to the Haymarket on Aug. 1, a matinée being given on that date. This is the fifth theatre *Lady Frederick* has visited in London without a break in the run.

A CABLE has been received from Mr. J. C. Williamson, of Australia, reporting the great success of Miss Margaret Anglin in *The Thief*, and the prosperous visits of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* and *The Red Mill*.

AT the Comédie Française on Wednesday, in the course of the performance of *Marion Delorme*, Mlle. Delvair, who was playing Marion, a part she has acted more than 410 times, suddenly lost her memory in the very middle of the piece. The actress had played her part brilliantly throughout the first three acts. She had come to the scene where Marion entreats the King to pardon Didier. Suddenly she stammered and stopped. The prompter called out verse after verse, but the actress was totally unable to proceed.

M. MOUNET-SULLY played half the scene alone, while Mlle. Delvair made her exit. She had no sooner left the stage than she fainted. She would not, however, give up, but pluckily made her reappearance in the fifth act. It was in vain. She could not recall a word of her part, and M. Albert Lambert, who was playing Didier, had to sustain the whole of the dialogue. Mlle. Delvair, supported by three supers, succeeded in pronouncing the last apostrophe, "Regardez tous! Voilà l'homme rouge qui passe!" Dr. Valion, the brain specialist, says that the trouble was caused by irregular circulation of the blood in the region of the brain, and Mlle. Delvair needs rest.

AT the meeting of the council of the Actors' Association, held at 409, Strand, on Tuesday, with Mr. Lewis Casson in the chair, there were present Mr. H. W. Mote (honorary solicitor), Messrs. Clarence Derwent, Fred Grove, Chris Walker, E. Gurney, F. J. Arlton, Richard A. Greene, C. F. Collings, and F. Annerley; and Miss Agnes Imlay, Miss Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary). The chairman read letters from Miss Rose Mathews, F. Llewellyn, and Mr. Topham, and the secretary received instructions to reply to Mr. Topham as per draft letter drawn up by the council.

THE secretary read the minutes of the council meeting held on Monday, July 6, and the meeting confirmed and the chairman signed same. The secretary read letters from Miss Rose Mathews, Mr. Kenneth Blackmore, and Mr. James Bennett, and received instructions to write to Miss Mathews that the council are unable to accept the proposal as to the song; to Mr. Blackmore agreeing with his letter; and to Mr. James Bennett to the effect that the council regret they are unable to take up his case owing to his not being a member, returning him his letter and suggesting that he should send it to the Touring Managers' Association, and to the theatrical press.

THE hon. solicitor reported that he had had interviews with eight members and advised them. The Finance Committee presented the report, which the council accepted. The council discussed at some length the question of a new typewriter, and on the proposal of Mr. Gurney, seconded by Mr. Grove, it was decided to ask Mr. Casson whether he would kindly consent to choose one, which he did. Miss C. Valetta, Mr. Douglas Cecil, and Mr. William Poel were elected as new members, and the secretary reported nine engagements, two being for a West-End theatre.

MR. LESLIE CARTER, who is concluding to-night his 387th performance as the Lion in *The Lion and the Mouse*, is terminating a two years and six months' engagement with Mr. Walter Maxwell, under whose management he has appeared in *When It Was Dark*, *Little Mary*, and *Merely Mary Ann*, and *The Lion and the Mouse*.

A CRICKET match between Harry Roxbury's *Prince of Monte Carlo* company and the Leeds Hippodrome (cupholders) was played last Saturday, at Leeds, and ended in a surprising victory for the Hippodrome eleven, this being the first defeat of the "Carlo" Boys. Going in first, the "Prince" were dismissed for the small total of 28 runs, when the cupholders reversed the score, and responded with 82. Many members of the profession were present.

THE Governors of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre at Stratford-on-Avon have accepted Mr. Charles A. Buchel's fine portrait of Mr. Arthur Bourchier as Shylock, and it will be placed in their picture salon adjoining the theatre.

"THE present condition of the English stage is a subject upon which those most closely concerned with it are practically unanimous: they agree in describing it as deplorable," writes "A Spectator" in the *Saturday Review*. "Religious journals and Church congresses are in the habit of discussing earnestly the question, 'Why do we not go to church?' and with just the same accent and in almost the same words those interested in the stage inquire from time to time, 'Why do we not go to the theatre?' The excuses offered by the defaulters in both cases are practically the same. The non-churchgoer pleads that the church is too close or too draughty, that the music is unsatisfactory and so are the seat cushions, that he cannot pray and the preacher cannot preach; the fact being, briefly, that he believes he can spend his time more pleasantly or more profitably elsewhere. The non-playgoer's excuses may be summarised in the same way, and it is interesting to observe that in neither case is the explanation considered at all adequate.

"A LARGE number—probably much the largest number—of non-playgoers are not kept away either by artistic or religious scruples. They are to be accounted for by much more elementary reasons. The Frenchman goes habitually to the play not because he is an unusually good and gifted person, as those interested in the theatre are tempted to infer, but mainly because he is French; the Englishman does not stay away invariably because he is dull and narrow, but mainly because he is English. The one is born sociable, the other is not; the one considers nothing an amusement that he cannot share with his fellows, the other constantly selects a pleasure that he can enjoy almost alone.

"ROUSSEAU informs us, on the authority of St. John Chrysostom, that a certain barbarian visiting Rome was astonished at the number of theatres and public spectacles which the capital boasted. 'Have the Romans no wives and children,' said he, 'that they cannot spend their evenings at home?' This barbarian was evidently an Ancient Briton, a lineal ancestor of the innumerable men who come home after a day's work and settle down contentedly to a book or a hobby, a game or a talk with a friend. The young and restless may go out to join the throng of amusement seekers on whom Mr. Jones casts a disdainful eye, but the older man does not crave for any diversion that compels him to hurry over his dinner. If the theatre could be reached in five minutes by a subway from his house, he would probably go to it more often than he cares to do as things are, but grace has little and nature much to say in the matter.

"THIS, of course, is no answer to the accusation before us. It is vain for the Puritan to plead that as a mere question of inclination he would rather stay at home than go to the play. He is bound to do his duty at any sacrifice, and both writers, while holding out hopes that there is just a chance of his enjoying himself when he gets there, wisely throw all their strength into proving that it is his duty to go whether he enjoys it or not. The Puritan may be able to do without the theatre, but the theatre cannot do without the Puritan, who is, it seems, the only member of society who can be expected to insist upon a clean, sane, rational form of entertainment. Let him come to the theatre and the theatre is saved, and will save the nation in its turn. 'Set this supreme art upon the summit of your national esteem,' says its eloquent advocate, 'for it will draw all your national life and character to higher and more worthy levels, to starry heights of wisdom and beauty and resolve and aspiration.'

"THE Puritan is much disconcerted by these eloquent phrases; even if he happens to know something of the Greek drama, he has been wont to picture the modern playhouse as a place of amusement or would-be amusement, and is thus abruptly undeceived by Mr. Jones. A place of amusement? What an idea! On the contrary, it is a church—an improved, comfortable, airy, modernised kind of church. 'This, then, is the use of a theatre, that men may learn the great rules of life and conduct in the guise of a play; not formally, didactically, as they learn them at school and in church, but pleasantly, insensibly, spontaneously, and often with a more assured and lasting result in manners and conduct.' The Puritan is at liberty within limits to choose his own diversions, but if the stage is indeed a high moral agent, a teacher of vital truth, a powerful factor in our social redemption, he has no choice but to support it."

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Original Rackstraw.

SIR GEORGE POWER, the original Ralph Rackstraw of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, has been giving a *Daily Chronicle* representative some interesting recollections. "Well do I remember," he says, "the first production of the play at the Opera Comique. At that time, you must remember, Gilbert and Sullivan opera had not settled down into a series of assured successes. It was on its trial, and with *H.M.S. Pinafore* came the crisis—and the victory. Never shall I forget the labours and anxieties of the rehearsals.

"IT was a wonder some of us appeared 'on the night' at all. On the very day before the production, I remember, we rehearsed hard from 11 to 4. Then we had some food, and appeared in the last performance of *The Sorcerer*. Then, directly the curtain was down, we had a bite of supper, and began the full-dress rehearsal of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. This was over at about four o'clock in the morning. All the time the old directors were stamping up and down, utterly dissatisfied. 'Call this wit?' they exclaimed. 'Call this comic opera?' But Gilbert, who knew exactly what he was doing in those days as ever, pegged away. For myself, as you may imagine, I had precious little sleep even when I did get to bed, and I came to the first night as limp as a rag and overwhelmed with nervousness.

"PEOPLE have said," continued Sir George, "that *H.M.S. Pinafore* did not really go ahead until news came of the triumph of the juvenile production of it in America. This is not quite right. The piece was popular from the start. The real truth was that throughout the early days of the run there was a terrific managerial battle going on behind the scenes, which resulted in the victory of Mr. D'Oyly Carte as manager over the old directors, and the formation of the Savoy triumvirate of Carte and Gilbert and Sullivan.

"SULLIVAN was delightful—a real genius, and the kindest, gentlest of men. Although nearly always ill, even in those days, he never said a harsh word. He had a curious, wilful, irresistible sense of humour about him, too—partly due, perhaps, to the blending of Irish and Jewish blood in his veins. To my mind, much of the secret of the success of the Savoy operas is the way in which Sullivan entered into the spirit of Gilbert's topsy-turvy humours, and was pompous when Gilbert was sprightly, or, when Gilbert's satire was keenest and most acid, consciously wallowed in sentiment."

An Angel Unawares.

AT the Veterans' Fête, at Chelsea, last week, one of the gipsies, a popular London actor well disguised, was begging from two ladies. He assured them that the gipsies were almost at their last gip—in fact, hardly had a gip left in them. One of the ladies informed him that already amongst her contributions to the tribal funds she had given a French coin. "Oh, madam," said the Romany Rye, "you can hardly expect the poor gipsy to take a third-class return to France merely to cash it." "No, but it might take you there." "I see," was the reply, "sit on it and float over." When the fair ladies had departed, the Zingary learned that he had been talking to the Princess Louise.

An Unrehearsed Effect.

"AT the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Dublin," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "now turned into a factory, *The Colleen Bawn* was once produced, with real water effects. The manager had made and fixed a very large tank underneath the stage, and had filled it with water. The stage was so made to slide off, and show the element below. In the cave scene, Danny Mann, when shot, fell into the water, and Myles took his celebrated header into the tank, the water of which occasionally splashed up and drenched the orchestra. The revival was such a success that the manager determined to introduce the water scene into his production of *The Lady of the Lake*. All went well until the gallant FitzJames offered to guide the fair Ellen in her fairy frigate o'er the tide. He led her with all the grace imaginable to the boat, placed her carefully in it, leaped into the fragile bark, and seized the oar to push off, when lo! the boat gave a lurch on one side. The fair lady gave a scream, started up, and seized FitzJames round the neck; he lost his balance, and both fell headlong into the water, amidst the screams of the audience. The prompter rang down the act drop, which did not descend, for the flyman had witnessed the accident from aloft, and ran down to render assistance. He plunged in to rescue the lady, who came out dripping from head to foot, and in a most deplorable condition. Her white dress had changed to a very dark drapery, for the commotion had stirred up a considerable quantity of mud from the bottom of the tank, and the noble FitzJames was seen floundering about after his fair ringlet wig and his hat and feathers.

A Flat-faced Hen.

WHEN the company left Ireland, they brought the flyman to Liverpool as a sort of baggage-man, with his wife Nora to look after the wardrobe. It was their first journey across the channel, and next day Nora was suffering from *mal-de-mer*. Patsy set out to get a fowl to make some nice broth. Near the Court Theatre he saw a taxidermist's establishment. Something in the window caught his eye, and he went in and asked the shopman what he wanted for the flat-faced hen in the window. 'Flat-faced hen? We have no flat-faced hens here, sir.' 'Oh yes, you have one now in the window.' 'Oh,' said the shopkeeper, 'that's an owl.' 'I don't care how owld it is,' said Patsy, 'it's for boiling.' 'But, my dear sir,' said the man, 'that's a stuffed bird.' 'Stuffed, is it,' said Patsy. 'So much the better. 'Twill save Nora a lot of trouble.' 'But, don't you see, my fine fellow, that's a stuffed bird? I'm a *taxidermist*.' 'You're a what?' 'A taxidermist.' 'Oh, are you?' replied Patsy. 'Well, you may tax Macdermot as much as you like, but you don't tax me,' and he left the shop. He was wandering about, when he met one of the company, who saw Patsy, and said, 'Hallo, have you lost your way?' 'Not exactly,' said he, 'only a little mixed. If I was only ten minutes' walk from where I am, I'd know where I was.' The flat-faced hen was a standing joke in the company for some time."

Mr. Odell's Outing.

"Odell has often threatened to go to America," writes Mr. Brookfield in his "Random Reminiscences," "and on such occasions he has been fêted at farewell suppers by his myriads of friends, and has remained at home, to their great relief and delight. The only time he actually went to that interesting Transatlantic suburb he told no one. It so chanced that Pinero was going by the same boat. It was that brilliant playwright's first excursion of the kind, and he left this country with a good deal of ceremony. There was a special carriage full of correspondents, who travelled to Liverpool to see him off. They accompanied the illustrious author on board his vessel, and as the tender left the side of the Cunarder there was much cheering and waving of handkerchiefs, and even weeping. As the little boat faded out of sight in the direction of Liverpool, and the ocean greyhound bade her farewell through a hoarse steam-hooter, and dipped her nose into the waves, Pinero, himself a little overcome by emotion, turned from the taffrail, and suddenly saw, seated at his elbow, the quaint form of his old friend Odell, looking exactly as usual—the same coat, the same hat, the same locks. 'Odell!' cried Pinero, in astonishment. 'Why, what on earth are you doing here?' 'I'm—I'm seeing myself off,' replied Odell simply."

SAVOY THEATRE.

On Tuesday, July 14, Revival of
"H.M.S. PINAFORE."

Sir Joseph Porter, K.C.B...MR. C. H. WORKMAN
Captain Corcoran ....MR. RUTLAND BARRINGTON
Ralph Rackstraw .....MR. HENRY HERBERT
Dick Deadeye .....MR. HENRY A. LYTTON
Bill Bobstay .....MR. LEICESTER TUNKS
Bob Becket .....MR. FRED HEWETT
Josephine .....MISS ELSIE SPAIN
Hebe .....MISS JESSIE ROSE
Little Buttercup.....MISS LOUIE RENE

The revival of *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the Savoy Theatre on Tuesday evening was one of those hearty, whole-souled successes that does a manager good to attain. One is always a little anxious, in the case of these revivals, lest the reproduction may not bear comparison with the original performance; but with the Opera Comique cast distinctly in one's memory, we may say with confidence that the performance of *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the Savoy is in every respect equal, and in some superior, to the 1878 one. It is satisfactory to find that few, if any, attempts have been made to improve on the original performance. Here and there a little new business has been introduced. Captain Corcoran's scorn for Sir Joseph Porter's tyranny and impudence is less carefully concealed than it was thirty years ago; and, if we mistake not, in 1878 Ralph Rackstraw did not offer to shake hands with the First Lord after his expression of equality. In consequence of his suffering from a cold, Mr. Barrington's song to the moon at the beginning of the second act was omitted; and the midshipmite does not suck his sugar-stick, but these are mere details.

There is little to be written at this date about *H.M.S. Pinafore*. At the time at which it was produced the English people were undergoing a reaction against melodramatic sentimentalism, and the cynical tone of the libretto was quite in sympathy with the general feeling. Apart from its derision of patriotism, naval heroism, love in a cottage, and civil treatment of sailors—some of the satire would have delighted Captain Kettle—there is a vast amount of fun and humour which is general, and not special or topical. The airs are so swinging and spirited that it is possible to enjoy "For he is an Englishman" without troubling about the sting of the sarcasm involved in the verses; and the burlesque of all the old-fashioned stilted dialogue and the stock situations of melodrama, though not as telling as it seemed to the last generation, is still productive of hearty merriment. The general treatment by the artists is freer and less sardonic, and the singing deserves the warmest and most enthusiastic praise.

A striking personal success must be recorded in the case of Miss Elsie Spain, the Josephine. Miss Spain is good all round. She is not only pretty, but dainty in style and carriage. She has a sweet and engaging expression, and dances lightly and neatly. She possesses an excellent voice, which she knows how to use, and there is an apparent artlessness about her which conceals a keen and alert intelligence. Even when not actively occupied she listens most expressively, and speaks her lines with all the seriousness which Sir W. S. Gilbert's dialogue demands. Her appearance as Josephine was a complete triumph. Her songs were encored again and again, and she attained an absolute and immediate success. Mr. Henry Herbert sings well as Ralph Rackstraw, and acts with all the necessary mock seriousness. Mr. C. H. Workman, while following Mr. George Grossmith's make-up as Sir Joseph Porter and keeping conscientiously to the old traditions of the character, strikes an individual note and gives a performance quite fresh and original in tone. As for Mr. Rutland Barrington, it can only be said that his Captain Corcoran has grown riper and rounder in years; otherwise it is the same inimitable performance as that of 1878. One could not wish it altered in the smallest degree. Mr. Henry A. Lytton's Dick Deadeye has all the necessary grotesque servility, and is a sound and careful performance; and Mr. Leicester Tunks makes a bold and breezy boatswain, and sings "For he is an Englishman" with all the necessary power and vigour. Miss Jessie Rose gives a very bright and piquant performance as Hebe, and Miss Louie René makes a comely Buttercup, and sings the music of the part particularly well. Mr. Fred Hewett does good work at Bob Becket. Mr. W. Raphael's Portsmouth Harbour scene is charmingly picturesque. The chorus is perfect in precision and attack, and is drilled and marshalled *au merveille*; and the opera went on Tuesday with wonderful spirit and zest, a result which was greatly due to the excellent stage management of Mr. Albert James, and the fine conducting of Mr. François Cellier, who, with Sir William Gilbert and Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, was called before the curtain at the conclusion, amidst a scene of enthusiasm which reminded one of the "palmy" days of Gilbert and Sullivan opera.

On Wednesday evening *H.M.S. Pinafore* was preceded by a new operetta, words by Frederick Fenn, and composed by Philip Michael Faraday, entitled—

"A WELSH SUNSET."

Jenny Jones .....MISS BEATRICE MEREDITH
Griffith David .....MR. STRAFFORD MOSS
Mrs. Jones .....MISS ETHEL MORRISON
Mary Fewlass .....MISS MABEL GRAHAM
Nancy Raine .....MISS BEATRICE BOARER
Gwenny Davis .....MISS BERTHA LEWIS
Owen Rhys .....MR. LEO SHEFFIELD
John Lloyd .....MR. SYDNEY GRANVILLE
Morgan LleweHyn .....MR. ALLAN MORRIS

First pieces at the Savoy have generally been in the vein of comedy; but a new departure has been made with the production of *A Welsh Sunset*, which is from the pens of Frederick Fenn and Philip Michael Faraday, who collaborated in the successful opera of *Amasis*. In a pretty village nestling at the foot of the Welsh hills the lads and lasses are rejoicing at the return of Griffith David, who has triumphed as a singer at the Bala Eistedfodd. Griffith's mind, naturally, is filled with ambitious hopes, which are by no means discouraged by his young friends and companions, Owen Rhys, John Lloyd, and Morgan Llewellyn. He speaks of his day-dreams to Jenny Jones, his betrothed, who, weak and ill, sits at her mother's door. If success comes she shall share it; she shall be a great lady. It was to her really that he had so fervently sung his romantic love-song at the competition, and she is ever in his thoughts. Jenny asks him to sing it again, that she may hear it. Her mother suggests that she is too tired, and that Griffith should put it off until to-morrow. But Jenny insists. To-morrow, she says, seems such a long time coming; and, humouring her, Griffith sings. When he has finished, he steals to her side, imagining her to be asleep, but Jenny is dead.

Miss Beatrice Meredith, a young actress and singer who should make her mark, is a pathetic Jenny; Mr. Strafford Moss, an excellent singer, acts with considerable feeling as Griffith David; Miss Ethel Morrison as Mrs. Jones is quaint in her dance; and Mr. Leo Sheffield, Mr. Sydney Granville, and Mr. Allan Morris share the success of the number, which foreshadows in verse the success of Griffith David in London. The four ladies, Miss Ethel Morrison, Miss Mabel Graham, Miss Beatrice Boarer, and Miss Bertha Lewis, add to the gaiety of the opening scene by their singing and dancing.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL MATINEE.

Close upon four thousand people attended the matinée given at the Lyceum Theatre (kindly lent for the occasion by Messrs. Smith and Carpenter) on Tuesday afternoon, in aid of the fund which has been founded for the removal of King's College Hospital to South London. The performance was honoured by the patronage of the Queen, the Duchess of Sparta, Princess Frederick Charles of Hesse, and Princess Victoria, who occupied a box. Her Majesty, on entering the theatre, was presented with a handsome bouquet of pink carnations by the youngest daughter of Mr. Henry R. Smith, one of the managing-directors of the Lyceum, and to Princess Victoria was handed a bouquet of white and pink roses. The box occupied by the Royal party was made beautiful by a pleasing arrangement of palms and pink hydrangeas, and it was draped by a white silk coverlet bordered with crimson.

The programme opened with an overture consisting of Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance," magnificently played by the Lyceum orchestra, augmented on this occasion by instrumentalists from the Palace Theatre and Holborn Empire. Mr. Herman Finck, the musical director of the Palace, Herr Raimund Pechotsch (Lyceum), Mr. James Sale, Mus. Doc. (Holborn Empire), Mr. Edmond Rickett, and Mr. Norman O'Neill, had kindly volunteered to conduct during the afternoon.

The dramatic portion of the entertainment began with

"A MATTER-OF-FACT HUSBAND,"

A Comedy, in One Act, by John Cutler, K.C.

Bella .....MISS ELLA DIXON
Henry .....MR. J. GELDERD

The gentleman named Henry in the piece possesses a most prosaic mind, and common sense has a stronger appeal for him than mere sentiment, however pretty. In this respect, Bella, his wife, offers a strange contrast. In her there is the spirit of romance—a lively little spirit not unknown to thousands of her sex. She gets tired of what she considers their humdrum, homely existence. She would even welcome such a peculiar diversion as that which might be afforded by a visit from a dangerous criminal—a celebrated housebreaker, for instance. Her husband evolves a plan which he hopes will cure her of her romantic ideas, at least in this direction. So he accoutres himself in ferocious-looking hood and mask and articles of dress, and breaks into his own house. What follows may be easily imagined. Bella discovers to her great discomfiture that such a "romantic" visitor as one who talke high-falutin' nonsense and impudently embraces her is not at all a nice companion, and — well, she learns her lesson. Miss Ella Dixon is quite charming as the wife, in spite of her demonstrably perturbed condition at the appearance of what, after all, she considers an unwelcome guest; and Mr. J. Gelderd gives an entertaining account of himself as the strange intruder.

The following item was Scene 2 of Mr. Walter Howard's successful romantic military drama,

"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

Prince Olaf of Sylvania .....MR. LAUDERDALE MAITLAND
Hildred .....MR. ERIC MAYNE
Michael .....MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES
Col. Wellenburg .....MR. S. MAJOR JONES
Capt. Karsburg .....MR. SIDNEY VAUTIER
Capt. Schwartz .....MR. ERNEST CRESPAN
Capt. Sudermann.....MR. ALEC WEATHERLEY
Lieut. Welder .....MR. WYNFRED WILLIAMS
Lieut. Schultz .....MR. HARRY HILLIARD
Nathan .....MR. HERBERT DANSEY
Princess Monica of Illyria....MISS NORA KERIN

Mr. Lauderdale Maitland was once more seen in his spirited characterisation of the gallant Prince Olaf, Mr. Eric Mayne in his convincing portrayal of the villainous Hildred, and Miss Nora Kerin in the pathetic part of the self-sacrificing Princess Monica. Mr. Halliwell Hobbes, in his effective delineation of the cripple Michael, and Mr. Herbert Dansey as the dumb servant, also did notable work, the remaining members of the cast rendering able support. The fine scene representing the Great Hall of Wellenberg Castle excited much admiration.

In the succeeding item Mr. Matheson Lang and Miss Hutin Britton appeared in the wooing scene from *The Taming of the Shrew*, Mr. Lang submitting his vigorous and breezy characterisation of Petruchio, and Miss Britton playing with much zest the rôle of the vixenish Katherine.

Among the single performances, Mme. Ethel Bevans won loud applause for her cultured vocalisation of "Softly awakes my heart"; and Mr. Henry Ainley thrilled his hearers with his recitation of Rudyard Kipling's "Gentleman Rankers" and "The Wee Cot." Mrs. Beerbohm Tree's elocutionary powers were heard to much advantage in the recitation "Lorraine, Lorraine, Loree"; and Miss Phyllis Lett sang in pleasing style "In my sad hours." Miss Marie Tempest and Mr. Graham Browne created huge merriment in the duologue *The Impertinence of the Creature*. Miss Ada Reeve gave an enjoyable selection from her répertoire, Mr. Pierre de Reeder accompanying at the piano, the song "I had to tell the girl she didn't suit" fairly bringing the house down. Miss Maggie Teyte gave evidence of her highly-trained voice in a song from *La Tosca*; and Miss Winifred Emery and Mr. Dawson Millward acted in finished style the love scene between the awkward student and his cousin in *The Hunchback*. Special interest was centred around the doings of Miss Maud Allan, who appeared by permission of Mr. Alfred Butt and the directors of the Palace Theatre Company. Miss Allan's exhibition of her wonderful classical dancing furnished one of the best-appreciated items in the programme. The beautiful orchestration of Chopin's "Mazurka" and Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," played during the dances, gave an added delight to the motions of the graceful follower of Terpsichore, Mr. Hermann Finch conducting the while.

A melancholy Irish play "in two panels" was

"THE TRAGEDY OF TRUTH,"

by Rosamund Langbridge, with Special Music by Mr. Norman O'Neill.

Michael Hennessy .....MR. MARTIN HARVEY
Mrs. Riordan .....MISS MARY RORKE
Mary Riordan .....MISS N. DE SILVA

This piece was originally produced under the title of *The Spell* at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Nov. 2, 1906, and revived by Mr. Martin Harvey at the Adelphi on June 17 last year. Miss N. de Silva enacted the pathetic rôle of the unfortunate girl, whose sense of honour compels her to tell the truth to her sweetheart concerning the spell which has been cast over him by her mother, with a skill which won for her the unstinted admiration of the audience. Mr. Martin Harvey as Michael once more gave us one of his virile portrayals; and Miss Mary Rorke furnished an interesting character-sketch of the old mother.

Mr. Cyril Maude and his company were seen in

"FRENCH AS HE IS SPOKE."

A Comedy, in One Act, adapted by Gaston Mayer from the French of Tristan Bernard.

Peter .....MR. CYRIL MAUDE
Monsieur Villiers .....MR. D. J. MCCARTHY
Charlie Lingarde .....MR. ERNEST MAINWARING
Police Inspector .....MR. JOHN HARWOOD
Waiter .....MR. A. G. ONSLOW
Policeman .....MR. C. HAMPDEN
Rosine .....MISS MADGE TITHERADGE
Hotel Manageress.....MISS EMMA CHAMBERS

Needless to say, the house keenly relished the intensely funny situations in which Peter finds himself as the result of his duplicity in regard to his knowledge of French, and Mr. Cyril Maude admirably brought out all the farcical possibilities of the character, and he received excellent assistance from the other members of his company.

A long afternoon's amusement concluded with

"ROSENCRANTZ AND GUILDENSTERN,"
an Original Play in Three Tableaux,
by Sir W. S. Gilbert.

King.....SIR WILLIAM GILBERT
Queen .....MISS MARION TERRY
Hamlet .....CAPTAIN MARSHALL
Rosencrantz .....MR. NIGEL PLAYFAIR
Guildenstern .....MR. JAMES HEARN
Polonius .....MR. A. E. BENEDICT
1st Player .....MR. G. SKILBERT
2nd Player .....MISS MAY MARTYN
Ophelia .....MISS ROSALIE TOLLER

Courtiers, Ladies-in-Waiting, &c.:—MR. A. B. HORNE, MR. W. S. BIRCH, MR. N. H. M. BURKE, MR. G. MATTHEWS, MR. R. H. HODGES, MR. E. T. H. LEA, MR. N. P. PRITCHARD, MISS FRANCES LEIGHTON, MISS SYBIL THORNDYKE, MISS SYLVIA DRYHURST, MRS. MARK BARR, MISS NELL TOLLER, MISS MARJORY MAUDE, and MISS DOROTHY FANE.

The scene was the Palace of Elsinore, and to "mak siccar," as the Scots say, that it was a regal abode, a sign was exhibited bearing the words: "This is a Palace." The first tableau consisted solely of this place of aristocratic resort, and after the audience had had just sufficient time to realise its dignified grandeur, the curtain was lowered. On being raised the same scene was exhibited to nearly four thousand admiring eyes, and in came the King and Queen. The former is sorrow-stricken at the reflection of one of his youthful indiscretions, the said indiscretion consisting of his having written a play which enjoyed a run of ten minutes. His Majesty had enacted that all who hissed or laughed at his dramatic effort should be put to death, and well and truly had his awful will been obeyed. Passing from his own theatrical worries, the King expresses himself as much concerned with the abyss of dreamy melancholy into which young Hamlet's mind seems to have become submerged. He therefore employs Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to divert the unhappy youth's attention from himself. Ophelia, we learn, is not in love with Hamlet but with Rosencrantz, and she and the two merry varlets who have been instructed to succour the Prince from the thrall of his absent-mindedness conceive the idea of bringing about his eternal disgrace. Therefore they induce Hamlet to produce the unfortunate play written by the King so many years before, and Ophelia obtains a copy of it from the archives of her father, who is Lord Chamberlain. The whole Court indulge in shrieks of ridicule as they hear the opening of the piece. Hamlet, who has been "rolling his glassy eyes" while reading the prologue, is banished to what the King considers a much more intelligent country than his own, and the Prince leaves for England to the strains of "Rule, Britannia." Sir William Gilbert proved a most droll person as the King, and the lines he spoke seemed scarcely in consonance with the majesty of his gorgeous regal robes. Captain Marshall was an exceedingly diverting personage as Hamlet, and he entered fully into the spirit of the part. Miss Marion Terry as the Queen looked not one whit less dignified in her robes than did her spouse in the play, and she spoke her lines well. Mr. Nigel Playfair as Rosencrantz and Mr. James Hearn as Guildenstern provoked a good deal of merriment; and Miss Rosalie Toller, with blanched cheeks and white hair, capitally burlesqued the tearful Ophelia. The music of the piece was arranged and conducted by Mr. Edmond Rickett.

The names of the programme sellers were given as Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Constance Collier, Miss Margaret Cooper, Miss Elfrida Clement, Miss Alice Crawford, Miss Maud Smith, Miss Beatrice Ferrar, Miss May Martyn, Miss Isabel Roland, Miss Olive Terry, Miss Madge Titheradge, Miss Sybil Thorndyke, Miss Rosalie Toller, Miss Nell Toller, Miss Brandon Thomas, Miss Dagmar Wiehe, Miss Dorothy Grimston, and Miss Ada Potter. Much good service was also rendered by the honorary secretary, Mr. George Heyer; the acting-manager and treasurer, Mr. W. F. Crowe; and the stage-managers, Mr. William Devereux, Mr. Henry Armstrong, and Mr. S. Major Jones.

ACTORS v. AUTHORS.

By kind permission of the Marylebone C.C., the annual cricket match between actors and authors had been arranged to take place at Lord's on Thursday afternoon, in aid of the Actors' Benevolent Fund and Actors' Orphanage. The hour fixed for the commencement of the game was eleven, but the start was considerably delayed owing to the late arrival of some of the players. The weather was very dull and threatening, and altogether the condition of affairs was the reverse of exhilarating when a start was made. It was not surprising that under the depressing circumstances the attendance was very poor—less than a hundred spectators being present when the first ball was bowled. The luncheon interval was taken an hour earlier than usual, to give the weather a chance of clearing up, but unfortunately it only grew gradually worse, compelling an early abandonment of the match, to the great disappointment of all interested both in the game and in the deserving institutions which were to be benefited.

The actors' team consisted of Messrs. Harold Wilde, J. Saville Foster, B. S. Foster, V. O'Connor, Leslie Holland, C. Aubrey Smith, R. Selby, B. Egerton, Talbot Homewood, P. F. Knox, and H. H. Ainley; while the authors included Major F. J. Guggisberg, Sir A. Conan Doyle, S. S. Pawling, Cecil Headlam, H. Carrick, A. Anderson, W. Rhoades, A. H. Wood, E. Cleveland Stevens, H. Bleakley, and P. G. Wodehouse. The umpires were Mycroft and Pougher.

The actors' captain won the toss, and the first pair of batsmen in the list were Mr. Harold Wilde and Mr. J. Saville Foster. The first-mentioned made five runs ere seeking the seclusion of the pavilion; and Mr. Foster shortly after was neatly stumped, his score being two. Mr. B. S. Foster, who followed, was out to a catch by Mr. Anderson.

In the meantime, however, the rain had been coming down with a steady persistency that foreboded a wet afternoon, and at half-past twelve, when the score had reached twenty-five for the loss of three wickets, the players made their way to the pavilion. "Why do they want to give over?" asked a jocular spectator who occupied a seat within the shelter of the reserved stand, "it don't rain in here." But by this time it was raining more steadily than ever in the open, and an official inspection of the condition of the wicket resulted in a declaration that no further play was probable. Patiently, however, the representatives of the stage and literature waited for the downpour to cease, but the Clerk of the Weather willed it otherwise, and ultimately it was announced that the match had been postponed until Sept. 3, when, it is hoped, the erratic gentleman just mentioned will be in a better frame of mind.

"TRIXIE."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by John Strange Winter, produced at the Scala Theatre, on Friday, July 10.

Mrs. Desmond .....MISS BETTY STANNARD
Captain Wilson-King ....MR. LAURENCE LEYTON
Lieut.-Colonel Tonkinson ..MR. C. F. COLLINGS
Bishop of Blankhampton ....MR. FRED LEWIS
Lord St. Barbe .....MR. HERBERT H. HERBERT
Wilfred Parker .....MR. CHARLES KING
Lady Agnes .....MISS AUDREY STANNARD
Lady Idleminster .....MISS MILLIE DONATI
Lieut. George Drummond..MR. LAURENCE GROVE
Margaret Chatfield .....MISS SYLVIA MORRIS
Captain Richard Vernon ..MR. GORDON BAILEY
Trixie Armytage .....MISS GLADYS MASON
Chaplain O'Rafferty ....MR. CHARLES DANVERS
Nolan .....MR. VICTOR BROOK
James .....MR. FRANCIS DRAKE

The announcement of the production of a work by John Strange Winter drew a good house to the Scala on Friday evening, July 10, and there was much applause during the performance of *Trixie*, a comedy, in three acts. To the initiated, however, it speedily became evident that in its present shape there is no chance of a run for the piece at a London theatre. In these days, when an Archdeacon invites a dancer to tea, there can be nothing really *outré* in a music-hall star hob-robbing with a Bishop, and with the great improvement in the social status of the variety profession, one can easily understand her being on good terms with the officers of Blankhampton Barracks. As she is a "real good sort," and possesses an attractive personality, she is heartily welcomed when she comes into the lives of Captain Richard Vernon and Margaret Chatfield, the Bishop's daughter. The former's proposal for Margaret is unceremoniously refused. The Bishop has other intentions for his nineteen-year-old girl. She is to marry Lord St. Barbe, an objectionable peer, whose past is at least partly known to Trixie. She really acts as the fairy godmother of the piece, for in order to unite two loving hearts she enters into a plot with Wilfred Parker—the youngest subaltern of the regiment, who is called "Babe"—to mildly compromise the Bishop. His usual prudence deserts his lordship when he is the guest of the regiment. His heart is warmed by excellent wine, and a subtle liqueur is a little too much for him. In a moment of recklessness he promises to put up Trixie for the night. Of this incident the most is made by the artful minx, who promises to cease her pestering of the prelate with letters providing that he gives his consent to the love match which his daughter has mapped out for herself.

Mr. Fred Lewis, who appeared by the courtesy of Mr. Frederick Harrison, was responsible for an excellent character-sketch of the Bishop, whose complacent enjoyment of the good things of this world could not be doubted. Mr. Lewis kept the part in the key of high comedy, but never failed to be humorous when opportunity offered. Miss Gladys Mason submitted a more than usually refined study of Trixie, the music hall artist, about whom there was scarcely a particle of vulgarity. For the sake of theatrical contrast the part might have been played on broader lines—somewhat on those of the Kangaroo girl in *The Arabian Nights*. Miss Sylvia Morris made a girlish and attractive Margaret Chatfield; Miss Betty Stannard created a favourable impression as Mrs. Desmond; Mr. Laurence Leyton was a genial Captain Wilson-King; Mr. C. F. Collings evoked laughter in the rôle of the talkative and oppressive Lieut.-Colonel Tonkinson; Mr. Herbert H. Herbert was consistent in his portraiture of St. Barbe; Mr. Charles King scored a conspicuous success as Wilfred Parker; Mr. Gordon Bailey was a chivalrous and manly lover as Captain Richard Vernon; and Mr. Charles Danvers had a genially Irish manner as Chaplain O'Rafferty.

Trixie was preceded by a shadowy and stupid piece, by Isabel Alexander, entitled

"THE WHITE LADY."

Sir Francis Mavius .....MR. HENLEY ATTWATER
Jennings .....MR. FRANCIS DRAKE
Jessamine Hope .....MISS HELEN CHILD

Miss Jessamine Hope walks about the library at Oaklands, imagining that she is in a deserted house, but suddenly discovers Sir Francis Mavius fast asleep in an armchair. After a great deal of rhapsodical chatter to herself, she kisses the owner, who, on waking up, plays a bar or two of "The Moonlight Sonata." Eventually he sees a hand stealing from behind curtains to switch off the electric light. He threatens to shoot, and Jessamine comes forth to make an immediate conquest. The acting was as undistinguished as the piece.

MR. COMPTON AND THE SIMPLE LIFE.

Mr. Edward Compton concludes his golfing and "simple life" holiday at Sheringham to-day, and commences rehearsals for a long tour on Monday next.

The eminent comedian has been so pleased with his little outing that he has summed it up in a few stanzas, which we append:—

"THE SIMPLE LIFE."

I'm here alone on the Norfolk coast
With neither children nor wife,
But having a better time than most—
I'm living "the simple life."

Up in the morn with the tuneful lark,
I play a good fork and knife,
Then pure fresh air till the night shows dark—
That's part of "the simple life."

A meal or two of the plainest food,
Avoidance of care or strife,
Scarcely a taste of the liquor that's good—
It's bad for "the simple life."

A dip in the briny at eight or nine,
A whirl in the "Duke of Fife"
(A motor that's steered by a pal o' mine—
He's part of my "simple life").

Dinner done, we all sit in the gloaming,
The gramaphone's charms then rife;
Airs Italian to "Home-sweet-home"-ing
Give joy to "the simple life."

But the greatest charm is the game of golf,
Played where the fever is rife,
With a swinging drive for the hole you're off—
"What ho!" for "the simple life."

But another game they play down here—
Husband, bachelor, maid, and wife—
The game of Bridge; but it costs you dear,
And it spoils "the simple life."

EDWARD COMPTON.

Sheringham, July 14.

Not Exactly the Same.

"ONE Saturday morning, a few years ago," writes Mr. Harry Bristow, "I had left my copy of *The Era* at home, and wanted to refer to it while out walking; so I called at an hotel not a hundred yards from a well-known East-end theatre, and, after being served with some refreshment, asked for the loan of *The Era*. The barmaid, who was evidently a new hand, made a search for the paper, came back, and said she was very sorry she could not find *The Era*, but they had the *Builder*. Would that do?"

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE OXFORD.

Mr. George Leyton, no stranger to audiences at the Oxford, where he long since won popularity by the excellence of his dramatic work, is this week presenting his new military scena, *The Last Muster*, written by Mr. J. P. Harrington and composed by Mr. James W. Tate, with incidental music by Mr. Orlando Powell. In the opening scene, Outside Chelsea Hospital, Mr. Leyton, who introduces twelve genuine survivors of the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny, ranging in ages from seventy-two to eighty-one, sings of the gallant charge of the handful of heroes against overwhelming odds, a transparent cloth showing the Charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. The concluding picture represents the interior of Chelsea Church—"the last muster"—the dozen war-worn veterans seated in pews for the service and the boys of the Duke of York's School lining the aisles. Mr. Leyton addresses the veterans in stirring words, and both boys and veterans march off singing the inspiriting chorus "Fighting in the ranks of heroes." On Wednesday, the night of our visit,, the sketch was most enthusiastically cheered, Mr. Leyton being called several times. Mr. Leyton's fine voice and appearance were admirably employed in the song, which he rendered with all his well-known eloquence and earnestness. The singing of Mr. Philip Nolan's choristers in the church scene, Mr. Morris Angel's costumes, and the fine scenery and admirable effects of Mr. W. T. Hemsley all contributed towards the success of the scena. It may be mentioned that Mr. Leyton is continuing here his laudable practice of selling the words of the song for 1d. and handing the proceeds—which up to date have amounted to the handsome sum of £3020—to Crimean and Mutiny veterans throughout the kingdom.

One of the most mirth-provoking interludes in the Oxford bill is still Mr. Will Evans's impersonation of Miss Queenie Winterbottle, the coy damsel who discourses so amusingly of her breach-of-promise case; and the hilarity of the audience is also provoked by the comedian's extravagant burlesque of "pure art dancing to classical music." There is much appreciation for the expert juggling of Radford and Valentine, and the numberless ingenious devices they employ to create merriment never fail, their occupancy of the stage being greatly enjoyed. Mr. T. E. Dunville has a couple of funny songs in "Actions speak louder than words" and "The Postman"; and Mr. Sam Mayo is also well supplied with comic material, and secures a flattering reception. Mr. G. H. Elliott, the favourite chocolate-coloured coon, appears as a dandy darkey to sing of "Sue, Sue, Sue," a tuneful number, admirably rendered, the accompanying dance greatly adding to the attractiveness of the song.

That finished and versatile dancer My Fancy is presenting with much success her novel dancing scena "Winter, Spring, and Summer." In the Winter scene she executes a skilful skate dance; Spring discloses her as a dainty maiden who trips it lightly, fashioning the while an elaborate pattern from a large sheet of paper; and the concluding scene, Summer, represents the sea-shore, the dancer, who presents a charming picture in a dainty bathing costume, here giving an exhibition of her well-known ability as a sand-dancer. An appropriate and well-painted back-cloth illustrates each season, and the accomplished exponent of the "light fantastic" is loudly acclaimed at the conclusion of her arduous and attractive turn.

Miss Addie Dorina evinces much cleverness at character impersonations in her sketch *Dr. Spot's Patients*, an interlude that is greatly enjoyed; Mr. Randolph King is another accomplished protean actor, who changes in a brace of shakes from a burglar of the Bill Sikes pattern to an old miser, who croons over his gold; Dale and O'Malley are a really funny pair of cross-talk comedians who never fail to create merriment; and other enjoyable items in the alluring programme are Mr. John Le Hay in *Poor Beggar;* Mr. Louis A. Simon, Miss Grace Gardner and company, in *The New Coachman;* Miss Katie Marsh, comedienne; Chanti, in quick-change act; Miss Isabelle Dillon, Emil Solbrigg's Automatons, Miss Queenie Essex, and Miss Dorothy L. Clark.

THE BEDFORD.

Standing room only was all there was to be found when we visited this popular hall this week, and it speaks volumes for the success of Mr. B. Pearce Lucas's management to find such crowded houses at this season.

The top of the bill is filled by Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore, who present their society sketch, *The Usurer*, which is a very dramatic play and of intense interest—the story of the unfaithful wife, who, not knowing her husband to be a moneylender, visits his office with her lover. The final scene is especially striking, and the whole sketch is strongly written and holds the audience throughout. Mr. Sydney Mason as the husband presents a fine delineation of the character, and Miss Moore depicts the wife in a finished manner. Messrs. H. Russell and Syd Leslie also lend valuable assistance.

Morander and Darius present a clever gymnastic scene, and their simultaneous work on the bars is very smart and cleverly executed. Fred and Lulu Camplin appear in a very bright little interlude, and receive a terrific reception for their songs and clever patter and neat dancing. The Sisters Hall are a tuneful pair of singers, whose duet, "Sunshine," is very prettily rendered and wins great popularity for the singers. A very entertaining number is that of the Seven Spots, who sing and dance and give great delight by their bright and entertaining show, and they are the recipients of a very pleasing welcome. Lallie Brooke presents a novel scena entitled *Girls Past and Present*, in which she appears in several old-fashioned costumes and makes quite lightning changes to modern costumes *à la* Sandow Girl, Gibson Girl, and others that are so popular at the moment. Miss Brooke sings delightfully, and her quick changes are little short of marvellous. Her crinoline costume creates intense amusement. Eugene and Willie are an amusing couple, who seem to be able to play the violin in any position, even to waltzing; they also give a fine acrobatic display. The Eastern Nightingale, Princess Pokahuntas, sings very sweetly, and her song "The echo in the wood" was admirably rendered, while the singer also sang "Home, sweet home" in a most artistic manner which brought down the house. Mr. Harry Russon appears and sings a smart song, and also once again gives Kipling's "Gunga Dhin," which shows off his talent as a reciter, and the reception he received must have been most gratifying. The Six Idols appeared, and gave a very novel entertainment, *The Dancing Academy*, which is a very fresh idea and should make a big success. The dancing is of a very high order and very smart; also they introduce some distinctly pretty songs, and the whole turn is full of vivacity, and made a big success. Connie Mostyn, sério and dancer; and Leo Olrac, vocalist, also contributed to the programme, while the Bioscope, as ever, is up to date and interesting as usual. The orchestra, under Mr. George Hatley, adds much to the enjoyment of the performance. Mr. Donald Brown, the acting-manager, is unfailing in his courtesy.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

The Camberwell Empire holds the record of introducing a larger number of provincial artists than any house in the metropolitan area. In the current bill there are several that can be classed in this category. Foremost come Squire Wyndham and Tom Waters in a pantomimic musical mélange, *The Professor and His Pupil*, that is productive of uproarious merriment. Into the Professor's studio comes a quaint pupil—long, gaunt, and ugly—munching a huge slice of bread and jam, who informs the Professor that he has been sent by his mother to take singing lessons. Much of the fun that ensues is caused by the Professor's endeavours to teach his irrepressible pupil the first rudiments of *bel canto*, and after much merry fooling his final endeavour to induce his pupil to join him in a duet of "Sally in our alley" is productive of more discord than harmony. Sheila McNeil, a buxom Scottish comedienne, tells many funny little anecdotes *à la* Lauder, and is rewarded with ample applause; Mark Brae, in his song-scena *On the Railway*, hits off in a merry fashion the topics of the day, while his dancing is to be commended for its tireless activity. In a pretty garden scene the Roxbys indulge in a pot-pourri of song and dance. A pathetic ballad, "Come back home again," a sentimental ditty, "The moon between the trees," and a coon song and dance, "Looking for Liza"—the latter remarkable for the one-leg dance by the male performer—are among their numbers.

Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd appear in that screaming absurdity *The Tree of Truth*, which they have brought fully up to date by their reference to the leading topics of the day; while their love-making sends their hearers into fits of uncontrollable laughter. Zenora, in a marvellous exhibition of hand-balancing and jumping, earns liberal applause, especially for his daring table jump. The Bennetts give a dainty and pleasing entertainment, their singing of "The Dandies" arousing well-merited enthusiasm, their dancing and clever jugglery also making a deep impression.

Amos Howard, a smart American coloured comedian, with his song "I ain't coming home" and buck sand-dancing, fairly brings down the house, and in response to an undeniable encore he gives a fine imitation of a railway train entering and leaving a tunnel. Will Harris as a grotesque female is funny in a well-written patter song "He must have changed his mind," and his second effort, "I planted in my garden," is equally good. Esme Delmar is very chic in her invitation song "I'm looking for a sweetheart." This dainty artist also gave a charming rendering of "The song that reached my heart." The Empire pictures are always a strong item, of which Camberwellites never tire. Mr. Percy Ford, the ever-courteous acting-manager, is loyally seconded by his smart and attentive staff.

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

It seems almost unnecessary to remark that only a really good bill-of-fare can be relied on to secure even a fair audience at any house of indoor entertainment in the long evenings of our usually precarious summer. On this hypothesis the quality of the programme provided by the management of the Camberwell Palace can be estimated by the crowded audiences which have assembled here during the week. Miss Dora Healy is a sprightly young comedienne, with a very sweet, if not over strong, voice. Her lyrical description of her adventures "Down at Shepherd's Bush" seems thoroughly to appeal to the imagination of her hearers. The Three Sisters Jerome introduce a novel act, *Aunty's Maid*, which proves to be the medium of displaying the very highly finished step-dancing of the ladies. Carney and Armstrong are two comedians who possess a strong vein of originality. Nowadays it is probably easier to produce a Budget than to invent patter which is not reminiscent of some previous stage celebrity, but these two exponents of the art of harmless absurdity have apparently struck a vein of humour of a peculiarly risible character.

The Durham and Ernest company score a distinct success in their new production,

"AN UNINVITED GUEST."

Rev. Verdant Green..Mr. Harry Huntley Gifford
Jenkins .....Mr. Edwin. Christopher
Cabman .....Mr. Frank Ernest
Mrs. Jenkins .....Miss Helene Forest

The little plot may not be said to be strikingly original, but, at any rate, its handling is fresh and surcharged with fun and humour, which never becomes boisterous or suggestive. The Rev. Verdant Green—for the hero, or victim, rejoices in the patronymic of Cuthbert Bede's immortal Oxonian—comes to London to attend the May meetings. Avoiding the garish frivolity and dangerous worldliness to be encountered in a hotel, he engages private apartments in the establishment of an elderly lady, who, we are given to understand, is not of unblemished character and probity. Unfortunately the reverend sojourner mistakes the precise whereabouts of his temporary abode, and wanders into a closely adjacent house of a Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins. This worthy couple have been from home for a short period on divers missions—the lord and master to attend a brilliant tournament, and the lady to visit her mother. The wife arrives home first, and is temporarily disappointed at the failure of her husband to meet her. Then the clergyman comes on the scene, and the lady is, of course, utterly at a loss to account for his appearance. Anxiety lest her husband, who may at any moment arrive, should put some erroneous construction upon the sacerdotal intruder's presence, she hastily disguises him in the garments of a female, whose taste in dress must at least have been rather peculiar. The husband arrives in what, with sorrow, must be described as a state of alcoholic exaltation. Naturally his wife's female friend puzzles him, and his intellectual muddle does nothing to relieve the situation. Ultimately the masculinity of the visitor is revealed, and, of course, the inevitable outburst of marital indignation is only appeased by the explanation of the originally harmless error which has caused all the trouble.

Miss Hélène Forest plays the part of the much-perplexed Mrs. Jenkins with a most delightful amount of vivacity and charm. She seems to have fully realised what a lady placed under such awkward circumstances would feel and do, and this she thoroughly well portrays to her audience. Mr. Henry Huntley Gifford, in the rôle of the clerical blunderer, takes full advantage of the comic possibilities of the part, but all the while never abandons the refinement which is generally a characteristic of even the most verdant of pastoral divines. Mr. Edwin Christopher puts plenty of "go" into the part of the husband when he thinks he has detected the wickedness of his spouse, and, in fact, completes a very accomplished trio.

In Miss Daisy James the audience welcomes a young lady who has well established herself in the front rank of variety favourites. Her fresh, sweet voice is precisely what we expect from her charming appearance, and she does not leave the stage before she convinces her audience that to her other attributes she adds that of an unusually attractive dancer. In "Over the hills and far away" there is just that vein of pathos which an audience likes, and any inclination to solemnity Miss James soon laughs and dances away when she tells us of her festive adventures in "As we walked on the gay boulevard." Baker and Balfe are two expert xylophonists who give a complete and well-executed operatic selection on their difficult instruments, in place of the usual medley. Miss Mollie Devon is an engaging Irish comedienne, who once again proves the fact that whatever the grievances of the inhabitants of the Emerald Isle may be, its daughters are always sure of a hearty welcome on a London stage. Pathos and humour are well intermingled in her rendering of "Barney, why did you leave me?" and "Just stop your blarney." The Delevines are a troupe of really marvellously clever dancers. In their latest mélange, *Flipp and Flopp*, the members of the troupe find an excellent opening for their various talents, the two exponents of the "Scarecrow" dance displaying an almost superhuman amount of agility and endurance. Talbot and Pearce give their delightful Japanese duologue, *Yo San*. This is very prettily staged, and provides an opening for the tuneful rendering of "Somebody cares for you," "I will love you in December as I do in May," and "Ma cherie," in a thoroughly artistic fashion. Mr. Jack Roland as "the happy cowboy" is both amusing and instructive. It is an improving lesson to hear to what heights the imagination of the son of the pee-rai-ree can attain, and it is a pleasure to listen to Mr. Roland's rendering of such good old classics as "In cellar cool" and "Asleep in the deep."

Joe Peterman's company contribute an amusing operatic burlesque, *The Singing Servants*. Lord Aubrey is fortunate in possessing such a body of accomplished domestics, and he shows full appreciation of the fact by providing them with a Thespian professor to instruct them in his art during his lordship's absence. In the second scene there is some very clever acting and singing, and remarkably good orchestration is introduced. Vernon's Bioscope provides the indispensable animated picture display, and there is in addition a "snap-shot" competition.

THE CANTERBURY.

The Musician's Daughter, given at the Canterbury this week, is simply a reproduction of *Monsieur Jacques*. This old piece was taken from the French of *Pauvre Jacques*, vaudeville, in one act, by the Brothers Cogniard, was originally produced at the Théâtre Gymnase, Paris, Sept. 15, 1835, with the great Bouffé as Jacques. The piece in English form first drew its theatrical breath at the St. James's Theatre, then under the management of Braham, on Jan. 12, 1836, under the title of *Monsieur Jacques*, translated and arranged by Morris Barnett, who played the old Frenchman with marvellous success. The other parts were acted by Strickland as Sequence, Charles Selby as Vivid, Hollingsworth as Antonio, and Mrs. German Reed (then Miss Priscilla Horton) as Nina. There were sung in it three beautiful numbers. The first "To-morrow," by Mr. Barnett; the second "Palermo's Ball," by Miss P. Horton; and the third "A Noble's Daughter," a most charming dramatic duet by Mr. Barnett and Miss P. Horton. *Monsieur Jacques* was revived at the defunct Opéra Comique on Nov. 5, 1892. But little alteration to the old piece could be detected on Monday when it was produced by Mr. Doré Davidson under the title of—

"THE MUSICIAN'S DAUGHTER."

Monsieur Jacques .....Mr. Dore Davidson
Sequence .....Mr. Geo. Rowland
Vivid .....Mr. Robert Nobles
Nina .....Miss Olive Palmer

Mr. Davidson preserves even the names of the characters, which have an old-fashioned ring about them, and we hear such French words as *affreux* and *malheureux*, which the gods at the Canterbury are scarcely likely to understand. The mind of Monsieur Jacques has been affected by the tragedy of his youth, his separation from his beloved wife being brought about by the violent interference of her father who caused the young husband to be imprisoned, whence he escaped with her help. When the scene opens we find the old man in poor lodgings, earning a scanty subsistence by giving lessons. The merit of his compositions has not escaped the notice of his unscrupulous landlord, Sequence, who systematically issues the old man's works and keeps him destitute, in order the more easily to acquire the product of his brain. The old musician enjoys the friendship and devotion of a young poet, Vivid, who shares his common lot; mutual trials have bound them close to each other. With Monsieur Jacques debts are numerous, but the publisher is his only creditor, and to coerce the old man into a transfer of his last opera, Sequence threatens to dispose of all of his effects, including the piano. A young heiress becomes interested in the old man's story, and eventually discovers that she is his daughter. He willingly gives her to the poet Vivid, who had been his comrade in days of affliction. Mr. Doré Davidson is responsible for an interesting impersonation of Monsieur Jacques.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

Business at this hall continues excellent, last week constituting a record, a fact for which Harry Lauder is responsible. The bill for the current week is capitally varied, and contains two established favourites in George Lashwood and Chirgwin. The former gave no fewer than four songs, these comprising "Hang out the front-door key," "The Admiral," "In the twi-twi-twilight," and "He's proud to be a soldier." In each Mr. Lashwood has the house entirely with him, and the perfect manner in which he is attired adds a great deal to the interest of his turn. Chirgwin plays, sings, and gags to his heart's content, and in each item makes a distinct hit, the audience being loth to part with him. Mme. De Dio in a series of dances presented a remarkably beautiful act, the scenic effects developed by the agency of slides securing much applause. Anna Kenwick, in an imitation of a negro singing a coon song, and afterwards in a sand dance, proved herself a capable artist and secured a good reception. Charlene and Charlene presented a refined and clever act, the gentleman being a juggler of great ability and the lady being a xylophone soloist of skill, their call at the end being very hearty. C. J. Johnston, a coloured comedian, gives a smart turn, consisting of two good songs and an exhibition of cake-walking par excellence, the audience showing in no uncertain way their appreciation of his act. The Brothers Remond, acrobatic comedians, are conspicuously successful in their humour business, and their acrobatic business is beyond reproach. Others in the bill are the Crown Trio, speciality vocalists; Fred Lincoln, in a scena *My Pal Jemmy*; and Marion Scott, comedienne. Mr. Walter Greco's fine orchestra is invaluable, and Mr. Trussell is very courteous in the front of the house.

Pete Washington, of the Four Black Diamonds, has recently died of apoplexy at Berlin.

Mr. Ernie Mayne is again on the Stoll tour, and is meeting with great receptions. His services are retained by Mr. Stoll until 1914.

A syndicate headed by Mr. Geo. Conquest will take over the Hippodrome, Sheerness, on Saturday next.

Miss Gertie Gitana is playing her fifth month in London this year. This week she is motoring about fifty miles nightly. From South Tottenham to Putney, from Putney to the Tivoli and Paragon, from the Paragon to Putney, and from Putney to South Tottenham.

Miss Edie Casson (Mrs. Walter Casson), who appeared at the Pier Pavilion, Southport, last week, made an enormous success. She was the recipient of twelve handsome bouquets and presents, testifying to the respect in which she is held amongst her Southport friends.

The management of the Hippodrome have discovered an effectual means of ensuring the comfort of audiences during the summer. A few weeks ago a description was given in these columns of the system adopted at the Cranbourn-street establishment of generating ozone, and this has resulted in making the Hippodrome one of the coolest places of entertainment in London.

Keeps the Skin Cool and Refreshed.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of the sun, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, heat irritation, tan, &c., and Makes the Skin Soft, Smooth, and White. Invaluable for the Complexion, Delightful if applied after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, tennis, playing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. Beetham and Son, Cheltenham.—[Advt.]

ON THE ROAD, JULY 20.

An Abandoned Woman.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
An Unwedded Wife.—Empire T., Southend.
At Cripple Creek.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
At the World's Mercy.—Metropole T., Devonport.
Bank of England, The.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Best of Her Sex.—Grand T., Halifax.
Boys', Mr. Ryder, Co.—O. H., Harrogate.
Charley's Aunt.—Lytham and Buxton.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—O. H., Weymouth.
Diana of Dobson's.—Grand T., Douglas.
Faber, Mr. Leslie.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Face at the Window.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Fight for Life.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Florodora.—Royalty T., Morecambe.
Flower Girl.—T. R., Birkenhead.
For Love and the King.—Elephant and Castle T.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Greed of Gold.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Happy Hooligan.—Empire T., Oldham.
His Sister's Honour.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
Horniman's, Miss, Co.—Grand T., Llandudno.
Hughes, Annie.—O. H., Blackpool.
Idler, The.—Opera House, Buxton.
Idol of Paris.—T. R., Darlington.
It's Never too Late to Mend.—Met. T., Gateshead.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Dornoch and Nairn.
Lion's Heart, A.—Court Theatre, Wigan.
London Fireman.—Palace T., Bordesley.
Love of a Princess.—T. R., Scarboro'.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Ashton.
Manœuvres of Jane.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Merely Mary Ann.—Palace T., Ramsgate.
Mockery of Marriage.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Old Home.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Old, Old Story.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Plucky Nipper.—T. R., Barry.
Power of the King.—T. R., Blyth.
Price of Sin.—T. R., Sheffield.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
Prodigal Son (Western).—Sheerness.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Gaiety T., Douglas.
Ridding, John, Opera.—Palace T., Tynemouth.
Royal Divorce.—Theatre Royal, Leeds.
Sexton Blake.—T. R., Margate.
Shaughraun, The.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—K. T., Southsea.
Under Two Flags.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Warner, Miss Grace.—T. R., Sunderland.
Way of the World.—T. R., South Shields.
Wilkie, Alan, and Co., Londesboro' T., Scarboro'.
Woman Pays.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Wrecker of Men.—T. R., Chatham.
Youngest of Three.—O. H., Harrogate.
£1,000 Reward.—Star T., Swansea.

THE ACTOR AND HIS TRADE.

A short time ago, writes Mr. Arthur Applin, the Actors' Association at their general meeting passed a resolution agreeing that no actor or actress speaking more than three lines should accept a salary of less than £2 a week. It was pointed out at the time that this meant an income averaging about 26s. a week. It was reported that several actors present, members of the Association, voted against this resolution, thinking it unwise that actors should demand such an excessive wage from their employers.

Thus it would appear to the ordinary individual that the actor's trade is not generally a lucrative one, nor is the actor a person to be envied, though his picture fills the windows of the pictorial post-card emporiums, and provincial advertisement-hoardings are flooded with illustrations of what many are pleased to call his art.

At first it will appear to the uninitiated incomprehensible that actors themselves should be not only willing, but apparently anxious, to accept less than £2 a week salary, this to include an unlimited number of free rehearsals, private travelling expenses, and generally all the clothes required for the portrayal of the part they may be called upon to play in modern productions. The cause is not far to seek—though in this case the cause is as extraordinary as the effect. The phlegmatic Englishman is consumed with a desire to portray the emotions of his fellow-men upon the public stage, and therefore all day long men and women are knocking at the doors of managerial offices asking for work, offering to play any part for which they may be cast from James or Mary Ann to Othello or Desdemona, and to play these parts without any remuneration or reward whatever—save, of course, the plaudits of their friends in front.

It is strange that these budding Irvings and Mimi Aguglias never become obsessed with the idea that they are capable of painting great pictures, of building houses, or directing the affairs of their country in Parliament. If they attempted to do any of these things publicly they would be firmly requested to desist; of course, they would be at liberty to play with oils and canvas or bricks and mortar in the privacy of their own homes; but before the student is allowed to enter one of the art galleries or museums to try his 'prentice hand at copying the old masters he must give proof that he possesses in some degree the talents he would exploit. It would be the same with the builder who could not build, the singer who could not sing, and the musician who could not make music. One false note, one incompetent musician in an orchestra, and what a howl arises; but one bad actor in a play—what a matter for congratulation if there be only that one!

The actor's trade is fast becoming a sweated trade—and here the vexed question of union arises; for a genuine actor, a man who has learnt his business, refuses to acknowledge that he trades, and insists on calling himself an artist. But a cook is an artist for the matter of that; so is a builder and an engraver. At the same time they trade; that is to say, they follow a regular employment or way of life; each pursues a business which he carries on for procuring subsistence or for profit. A trade is an occupation, a mechanical employment or handiwork. Acting is—or was—an occupation, a means of subsistence, and the actor's employment is, up to a point, mechanical. There are certain emotions that can only be expressed in certain ways, and the formula, once learnt, has to be repeated day after day, night after night, and perhaps year after year.

So let it be granted that the actor's calling is technically a trade; he has goods to sell, and he sells them in the theatre over the footlights. He is not an artist, in that he cannot create—for he cannot create an emotion—he can only express it. A good actor does great work, and must possess the instincts of an artist; but when he dies his work dies with him; whereas a musician, a sculptor, a painter often only lives after his death.

Euripides is with us to-day. Only a short time ago he hailed us loudly from the noisy Strand, and those of us with eyes to see and ears to hear made the fine fellow's acquaintance again, and talked with him awhile. But his actors, where are they now? Who were they? What did they do?

An actor's life is a short one, his triumph momentary. He is a flame that springs up suddenly, illuminates the darkness of the soul, and is gone. He trades in emotions, but nevertheless he trades. Acting is a business, and he has to learn that business; broadly speaking, there is no school of acting, and so instead of climbing up into the profession, a man tumbles down into it. In the old days the actor learnt his trade in the stock companies. They have ceased to exist; now he pays a premium and walks on in London. It may be if he speaks two or three lines he will be taught intonations and turned into an automatic figure, acting on the principle of a penny-in-the-slot machine, by excitable authors and anxious stage-managers.

And so, to be successful at his trade, the actor must have one or two possessions, wealth or genius. wealth will give him opportunities, and if his wealth be sufficient he will, soon after walking on, build his own stage door, and blossom forth into an actor-manager.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGES.

Dowsett—Jury.—July 11, at Crayford, Kent, Frederick W. Dowsett, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Dowsett, to Elsie M. Jury.

Howroyd—Gunn.—July 11, at the Parish Church of St. Anne, Keighley, Frank Royde (Howroyd), actor, to Haidée Gunn, actress, daughter of the late Mr. Michael Gunn, of the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.

Kay—Wallwork.—July 16, by special licence, Charles Kay, of Three Martinettis, to May Wallwork, of Sisters Iris.

Matthews—Beatrice.—At Liverpool, July 14, Cyprian H. Matthews to May Beatrice.

ANNIVERSARY.

Staples—Comber.—July 15, 1899, at St. Mark's Church, Kennington Gate, Edwin Statham Staples to May Comber (May Staples).

DEATHS.

Clifford.—July 16, at Alag, Budapest, Charles Clifford, aged 29, suddenly, deeply mourned by all who knew him.

Elsmore.—July 12, Arthur Elsmore, for many years with Mr. Edward Compton.

Greaves.—On the 9th inst., at 20, Victoria-terrace, Dudley (the residence of his son), Thomas Greaves, Musical-Director, late of Wolverhampton, the dearly-loved father of Ada Hugh, in his 72nd year.

Hanbury.—Miss Pattie Hanbury (Mrs. Charles Gover), of 114, Sydney-road, Hornsey, N., died Saturday, July 11, 1908, at her home, Hindley, Yorks. R.I.P.

Hargreaves.—July 11, at 78, Roscommon-street, Liverpool, aged 61, Mrs. John Hargreaves, beloved mother of James Hargreaves, conductor, Lyric Theatre, and William Hargreaves, author and composer, after a long illness. R.I.P.

Parker.—July 13, at Montrose House, Belleville, Canada, Jane, wife of the late Capt. J. Parker, R.A., and mother of Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P., in her 76th year.

Robertson.—At 93, North Frederick-street, Glasgow, on the 14th inst., of acute pneumonia, James Robertson, aged 46, concert and variety agent, assistant correspondent of *The Era* at Glasgow.

IN MEMORIAM.

Hawley.—In devoted memory of Emma C. Hawley, died July 22, 1898, and of Frederick Hawley ("Haywell"), died March 13, 1899.

Some time dear hands shall clasp our own once more,
And hearts that touched our hearts long years before
Shall come to meet us in the morning land.

IN MEMORIAM.

THE LATE MARIE WALFORD
(Mystic Marie).

In loving and affectionate memory of our darling sister, Miss Marie Henry Walford (Mystic Marie), the real Trilby, who fell asleep July 19, 1906, age twenty-one. Gone, but never forgotten by her sorrowing brother and sister—

DR. and MRS. WALFORD BODIE.

The Manor House,
Macduff, N.B.

A ministering angel she had been;
Appeared with me in many a scene.
She was so humble midst it all,
And now has answered her last call.
Such talents as to you were sent
Filled all the world with wonderment,
As spellbound they would speak your praise,
And marvel at your mystic ways;
And now your soul is called above
To mansions of eternal love.
Why should we sorrow? You were good—
A type of perfect womanhood.

W. B.

The Five Brewsters, after a successful seven months' engagement in England, returned to the Continent on the 6th inst., and made their début in Ostend, where they scored another grand success. They will return to England in November, to play four weeks on the Stoll tour, previous to their pantomime engagement with Messrs. Dottridge and Longden (*Robinson Crusoe*).

The Six Canadians, Mr. Brewster informs us, have achieved a "monumental success" in Madrid. After playing a month's engagement at the Circo, Paris, they were re-engaged until close of circus season, and were immediately engaged for two weeks at the Teatro Alfonso Principal, Madrid. On the 25th inst. they open at the Coliseo Recreios, Lisbon.

Mr. A. E. Pickard, of the Britannia Panoptico and Noah's Ark, Glasgow, is at present away on a holiday trip through the United States and Canada.

Mr. Russell Brandow, acrobatic dancer, was initiated into the mysteries of the Terriers' Association on Sunday last. Terrier Griff, who was in the chair, performed the ceremony.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

JOHN THOMSON (Philadelphia).—*See "Answers to Correspondents" in* The Era *of July 25.*

MI NAROM.—*We are making inquiries of our correspondents at Hoxton and Birmingham, and will let you know next week.*

ARTHUR WILLIAMS.—*(1) Apply to our publishing department for an answer to your first question; (2)* The Prophet *was produced on Sept. 15, 1849. It was taken from the opera and adapted by Mr. John Wilkins. Our columns do not give the complete cast, but Mr. Henry Howard, Mr. E. F. Saville, Mrs. Hugh Campbell, and Mrs. Saville were in it.*

QUERIBUS.—*The articles on Theatre Accounts have not appeared consecutively. They are copyright, and will shortly be published in book form from "The Era" publishing offices.*

QUÆRENS.—*Miss Constance Collier accompanied Mr. Tree to Berlin in April, 1907. She played in* Antony and Cleopatra *and in* The Merry Wives of Windsor *(Mrs. Ford). In the opening performance of* Richard the Second *Miss Viola Tree played the Queen.*

F. JUSTICE.—*We know nothing of the statement that you say has appeared in several theatrical papers concerning the ladies you name. We should be glad if you can point out the error in our columns if you are able, as we are quite unaware of it. It was Miss Kate Bateman (now Mrs. Crowe) who played Leah, the title-rôle, in* Leah the Forsaken, *which was adapted from the German dramatist Mosenthal's* Deborah, *and produced for the first time in London at the Adelphi on Oct. 1, 1865. The adaptation from the German was undertaken by the late Augustin Daly, and was brought out first at the Howard Athenæum, Boston, Dec. 8, 1862, and then in New York, at Niblo's, Jan. 19, 1863. Miss Bateman appeared in both these productions. There were other adaptations of* Deborah. *The manager of the Adelphi at the time of the production of* Leah *was the late Ben Webster.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Cecil Clayton—Saturday, July 18.
Mrs. Austin Melford—Saturday, July 18.
Queenie Leighton—Saturday, July 18.
Gracie Clements, Saturday, July 18.
Charles Pierpoint—Saturday, July 18
Peggy Pryde—Sunday, July 19.
H. Cooper Cliffe—Sunday, July 19.
Lizzie Norman—Sunday, July 19.
Nellie Gannon—Sunday, July 19.
Datas—Monday, July 20.
Clara Wieland—Monday, July 20.
John Henry Savile—Monday, July 20.
Beattie Shamrock—Monday, July 20.
J. Warwick Moore—Tuesday, July 21.
C. Aubrey Smith—Tuesday, July 21.
Little Tich—Tuesday, July 21.
Frank A. Wood—Tuesday, July 21.
Lucy Rushton—Tuesday, July 21.
Walter M. Cameron—Tuesday, July 21.
Flo Elvin—Tuesday, July 21.
J. P. Lallen—Tuesday, July 21.
Freddy Bentley—Tuesday, July 21.
Gus Elen—Wednesday, July 22.
Haldane Crichton—Wednesday, July 22.
Robb Gilmore—Wednesday, July 22.
Leoni Clarke—Wednesday, July 22.
Florence Marston—Wednesday, July 22.
Frederic Robinson—Wednesday, July 22.
M. Gordon Ebbutt—Wednesday, July 22.
H. Evan Gibbon—Wednesday, July 22.
Marie Scharning—Wednesday, July 22.
Wallie Kaufman—Wednesday, July 22.
Elsie Foster—Wednesday, July 22.
Odeyne Spark—Thursday, July 23.
Richard Cass—Thursday, July 23.
William Mackintosh—Thursday, July 23.
Charles Fulton—Thursday, July 23.
Margaret Story-Gofton—Thursday, July 23.
Anna De Grey—Thursday, July 23.
J. Henry Twyford—Thursday, July 23.
William Gillette—Friday, July 24.
Fergus Hume—Friday, July 24.
Martin Adeson—Friday, July 24.
Barney Vox—Friday, July 24.
Carmen Amoros de Calcedo—Friday, July 24.

HARRY BLAKE, writing from Amsterdam, says that he is having a good Dutch holiday amongst the cheeses and windmills. He resumes business on Aug. 3 at Manchester.

FRESH AS A ROSE!

Add a Little
Condy's Fluid
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It Invigorates the Body and Braces the Nerves. The Strengthening Effect is Simply Magical. Instantly relieves Tender Feet. Of all Chemists and Stores, 1s.

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"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Alexander, Mr. L. T.
Artois, Mr. John
Austin, Miss M.
Austin, Mr. Geo. R. J.
Avolo, Mr.
Bale, Mrs. F.
Barker, Mr. J.
Bastow, Mr. Geo
Bayne, Mr. Ronald
Beaton, Mr. R.
Beere, Mr. Bernard
Bill, Buff
Bonner, Mr. T.
Bordellas, The
Boswell, Miss
Bouwmeester, Mr. Theo
Brennan, Mr. J.
Brumley, Mr. J. A.
Burnett, Mr. Cade
Callan, Mr. John
Calvert, Mr. Louis
Campbell, Mrs. P.
Carey, Mr. Chas.
Carlton, Mr. Edward
Chaplin, Mr. Sydney
Charrington, Mrs. Chas
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Miss D. H.
Clarke, Mr. D.
Cliff, Little
Clyo and Rochelle
Colemments, Miss Nina
Collings, Miss
Collins, Mr. Geo.
Comber, Mr. R. S.
Cooper, Mr. H.
Crawford, Miss Alice
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Crow, Mr. Jim
Cuthbert, Mr. Alfred
Dalton, Miss F.
Dana, Mr. C.
Daniels, Mr. Alf
DAubyny, Miss P.
Delaporte, Miss Gurney
Donegan, Mr. James E.
Doris, Miss Millie
Drew, Mr. J.
Duffy, Mr. John
Duncan, Mr. Albert
Earle, Miss Clara
Eaton, Mr. W. G.
English, Mr. T. S.
Evans, Mr. Wash
Fane, Mr. R. M.
Farland, Mr. B.
Farrington, Miss Nina
Fitzroy, Miss Lily
Ford, Mr. E.
Foster, Mr. Geo.
Foster, Mr. Percy
Fox, Capt. Alex
Freeland, Mr. F.
French, Mr. Henri
Gilhoni, Miss Celia
Glenney, Mr. C.
Gray, Mr. J
Green and Wood
Gregson, Comedy
Grey, Miss Marion
Hall, Miss Jeanette
Hamilton's, Messrs.
Hannan, Mr. Percy
Hardy, Mr. Frank
Hare, Mr. Arthur
Hart, Mr. A. G.
Harvard, Mr. George
Hayes, Mr. Brent
Hebden, Mme.
Hemingway, Mr. Jack
Hone, Mr. Fred
Housden, Mr H. F.
Howard, Mr. Keble
Hudspeth, Miss Marie
Hunt, Miss Violet
Imeson, Mr. E. E.
Iris, Miss Lily
Jacobs, Miss Jennie
Johnstone, Mr. T. E.
Kartelli
Kingston, Mr. Harry
Kioto, Mr. M. T.
Kirk, Miss F.
Knight, Mr. Augustin
Lamor, Miss Yvonne
Lawrence, Miss Queenie
Lea, Mr. Edmund
Le Bois, Mr. G.
Le Diabelo
Le Franc, Mr. Fred
Leslie, Miss Violet
Letine, Mr. Tom
Linwood, Mr. Lance
Lloyd, Miss K. May
Lloyd, Miss May
Lloyd, Miss Rosie
Lynn, Mr. Harry
Macfarlane, Mr. J. H.
Mackney, Mr. Will
Macweys, The
Mather, Mr. Aubrey
Maude, Miss
Max, Mr. Henry
Mazzoni, Mr. Fred
McFarlane, Miss Violet
McGuckin, Mr. Barton
McIntosh, Mr. Gordon
Meredith, Sisters
Millett, Miss Maude
Moore, Miss M.
Moore, Mrs. E.
Morison, Capt. R.
Moss, Mr. W. J.
Mount, Miss Violet
Musgrove, Mr. George
Nation, Mr. H. R.
Nethersole, Miss Olga
Nicholls, Mr. Harry
Nikola, Dr.
Norton, Miss Ruby
Odell, Miss Maude
Osborne, Mr. Jack
Parker, Mr. A. H.
Parsons, Mr. G.
Pawson, Mr. H.
Pollard, Miss Alice
Powell, Mr. Frank
Price, Mr. Wylie
Pryde, Miss Peggy
Pyne, Mr. E.
Richardson, Mr.
Rignold, Miss Bessie
Robbins, Mr. Val
Roberts, Miss Annie
Robinson, Mr. Phil
Rodgers, Mr. Fred
Rose, Mr. Leonard
Rosine, Mr. Carl
Roydat and Walker
Rozel
Sauteron Wonders
Seaton, Dr.
Selwyn, Sisters
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Simmonds, Mr. S. F.
Sivado, Mr. C.
Smith, Mr. Wellesley
Spur, Mrs. Mel B.
Stapeley, Miss E.
Stanley, Mr. G.
Staunton, Miss Cicely
St. Clair, Miss M.
Stewart, Miss Nellie
Stuart, Miss M.
Sullivan, Mr J. J.
Vernon, Miss H.
Villion, Miss G.
Vivien, Miss Violet
Wall, Mr. Harry
Wallett, Mr. R.
Waterfield, Mr. C.
Weltzein, Mr. H.
White, Mr. Gwyn
White, Mr. Stanley
Whittier, Mr. Robert
Wieland, Mr. G.
Willard, Miss Lena
Williamson, Mr. A. W.
Wilton, Mr. Jack
Woodville, Mr. R. K.
Woodward, Capt.
Woodwards, The
Zolas, The Four

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

THE whole autumn tour of Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's *Flag Lieutenant* company, three dates excepted, was booked by Mr. Cooper in a little over a week, and he has been obliged to refuse several offers, showing that playgoers in the provinces are as eager as the Londoners to see the successful drama.

WILLIAM HENRY WEST BETTY had some fantastic notions in dress, which he indulged despite the remonstrances of his friends. One summer he supported a pair of indescribables made of children's map-pocket-handkerchiefs—maps of London and its environs, &c.—marked up at haberdashers at a penny apiece. A gentleman suggested to the late young Roscius the singularity of such garments. "My good sir," replied Betty, "you don't perceive the convenience and utility they are of; for instance, as I am driving I may become doubtful as to my route; under the gig-apron there I have all the information I want upon my thigh." This Betty called his map-ography.

MRS. OLDFIELD wished that she should be well dressed in her coffin. Accordingly, "as the nicety of dress was her delight when living, she was as nicely dressed after her decease, being, by Mrs. Saunders's direction, thus laid in her coffin: she had on a very fine Brussels lace head; a holland shift, with tucker, and double ruffles of the same lace; a pair of new kid gloves; and her body wrapped up in a winding-sheet."

SHORTLY after Liston had made a popular hit in Fielding's *Tom Thumb* at the Haymarket Theatre, he dined one day in the City. After the dessert, and before the ladies had left the room, the whole party arose, and the tables, chairs, &c., were set back, and the guests left standing, in order, as the host explained, "to make room for Mr. Liston to favour the company, before the children went to bed, with *Lord Grizzle's dancing song.*" As may be supposed, Liston *danced off* as soon as he was able from the house of his polite friend, never to return.

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"I'll swear upon that bottle."—TEMPEST, Act ii.; Scene ii.

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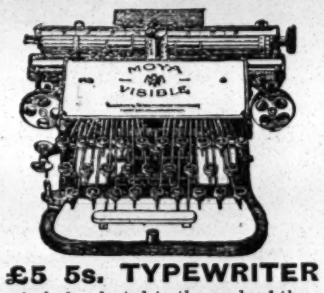

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 1908.

THE PAST DRAMATIC SEASON.

THE half-year dramatic season which has just concluded has been an eventful one. There has been nothing commonplace or stereotyped in its character. All sorts and conditions of art have been represented, and the menu offered to the playgoer has been varied, if not always attractive. Our London *entrepreneurs* cannot be accused of want of enterprise. Unaffected by comparative failures they have returned to the charge with unabated energy, and with increased earnestness of endeavour, and in the end success has been, in most cases, attained.

The season opened immediately after Christmas with the production of *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* at His Majesty's. As often happens in dramatising a novel, the obstacles and impediments were great. Mr. COMYNS CARR probably took the best way out of the difficulty; but the work had certain shortcomings as an acting play, which was a pity, as Mr. TREE'S performance of the principal part was one of his strongest and most telling creations. It is not easy to forget his performance. In the same month Mr. WALLER made a bold bid for success with a drama of romance and adventure, entitled *A White Man*, which had 175 performances at the Lyric before its popularity was exhausted. Mr. CYRIL MAUDE, who was experimenting with different types of entertainments at the Playhouse brought out *The O'Grindles*, in which Miss ALEXANDRA CARLISLE appeared with buoyant animation as an equestrian heroine; and at the Queen's a bushranging drama, called *Stingaree* was put on by Mr. HENRY AINLEY as the aristocratic highwayman. Neither of these pieces had a long run, but their productions involved some excellent acting. A remarkable play which followed in February was *The Beloved Vagabond*, in which Mr. TREE found a character of the class in which he has often triumphed—a dreamy, romantic, fascinating Bohemian. It was a memorable drama, and ran for nearly sixty nights. The importance of strong individuality in the cast of a new play was proved by the success of *Diana of Dobson's* at the Kingsway. The success achieved was greatly the result of Miss LENA ASHWELL being fitted with a rôle which employed her fine abilities to the full. Mr. FRED TERRY'S production of *Matt of Merrymount* at the New Theatre had all the ingredients of his previous romantic successes, and was played with absolute adequacy and effectiveness, securing a fair run. Miss MARIE TEMPEST'S *Lady Barbarity* at the Comedy was another piece of similar artistic calibre, enjoyable to witness, but not enthralling; and Mr. MAUDE also attempted a play of the last century in *Marjory Strode*. At the Vaudeville, the rather unsavoury *Dear Old Charlie* gave place to that entirely wholesome and very amusing comedy, *Jack Straw*, which is still drawing well at that theatre. Mrs. LANGTRY was rather unfortunate in her selection of *A Fearful Joy* at the Haymarket, especially as she acted with unusual vivacity and expressiveness. That fortune will come in time to the bold and persevering was shown by Miss MARIE TEMPEST and Mr. CYRIL MAUDE, who certainly had been very unfortunate, scoring tremendous successes with *Mrs. Dot* and *The Flag Lieutenant*—the one an exquisite comedy of modern life, the other a breezy, spirited nautical drama, with plenty of accurate detail and realistic comedy. *The Thunderbolt*, thanks greatly to the personal attraction and strong acting of Mr. ALEXANDER, had fifty-nine performances at the St. James's; and Mr. SHAW'S intensely humorous comedy, *Getting Married*, in spite of an irrelevant last act, had a very fair career at the Haymarket. The run of *The Explorer* at the Lyric stops for the present on Saturday next for holidays, but it was financially prosperous despite the hot weather. Undoubtedly the most memorable production of the season was Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER'S *Thunderbolt* at the St. James's. It was a credit to the English stage.

It is an axiom in theatrical business that one big triumph will pay for what is lost on several failures; and, slightly depressing as the above resumé may appear at first glance, it must be remembered that several successes of last autumn tapped over into the present year. Amongst these were that delightful comedy, *The Mollusc*, at the Criterion; and *Lady Frederick*, produced at the Court, and finally anchored at the New Theatre. Besides which there was *The Education of Elizabeth* last autumn, and *The Thief*, which ran for nearly 200 nights at the St. James's. Mr. OSCAR ASCHE'S revival of *As You Like It* had over one hundred performances at His Majesty's; and *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York's and *The Admirable Crichton* at the same theatre, both exceeded the "century." Then there were the still running attractions, *When Knights Were Bold* and *The Merry Widow*, which must have made thousands for their fortunate proprietors. Mr. SEYMOUR HICKS'S productions are always successful, as he and Miss ELLALINE TERRISS are perennially attractive.

On the whole, the financial results of the last twelve months may not be discouraging; what "gives one furiously to think" is that so many of this year's plays are adaptations of novels. It seems as if the cleverest brains in the country were drawn into the making of books rather than the preparation of plays. This is partly the result of the more exacting requirements of the stage; but it also comes, we believe, from the fact that it is so much more difficult to get a play accepted by a manager than to get a novel printed by a publisher. Take that great success *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Here was money waiting for a manager for years; but no one seems to have realised that the material was capable of being utilised for stage purposes. But here again we are met with a difficulty. It is not only necessary that a play should be intrinsically good; it must contain a part or parts suitable for some particular leading actor or actress. It has often been pointed out that *Jim the Penman* went the rounds of the London managers without being accepted. The fact only proved that the London managers knew their business. It would be a misfortune to a new author if his piece were produced by a London management unless it contained leading characters adapted to the abilities of the manager or manageress who accepted it. Success is the result of the combination of writing and acting. *The Walls of Jericho* owed its good fortune a great deal to the exact fitness of the two leading characters to Mr. and Mrs. BOURCHIER; *The Thief*, at the St. James's, might have met a different fate but for the fact of Mr. ALEXANDER undertaking the rôle of the husband; and what would *A White Man* at the Lyric have been without Mr. LEWIS WALLER? We have passed from a time when the actor was a Proteus to that in which he is an individual. The old days when a company was composed of a dozen people—all with "lines" of their own—who were expected to "tackle" anything within those lines, to an epoch when an artist is chosen for each new part in each new piece. The result is a marvellously-finished and exquisite *tout ensemble*, and a realism quite incompatible with the old stock system. But the new *régime* leaves very little stability to the actor's life. When he has played one of the parts for which he is exactly fitted he often has to wait patiently until he is wanted for another part. In the end, however, it probably "comes to the same thing." The profession has always been a hazardous and a precarious one; and the courage with which the actor and actress take their chances is an example to those more anxious mortals who are never happy in the present because they are always worrying about the future.

THE VETERAN'S FETE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly correct a slight misstatement in your issue of the 11th inst. *re* the above Fête? You mention Paulo and Troupe in the Frattelini's harlequinade. With all due respect allow me to state that I alone was responsible for the Paulo's harlequinade, which was produced by—Yours sincerely,

HARRY PAULO (Clown).

57, Westminster Bridge-road, S.E.
July 13.

THE Empire Theatre staff took their annual outing on Sunday at Hastings, and a thoroughly enjoyable day was spent. There was a muster of nearly 200, and Mr. A. Aldin, the acting-manager of the Empire, acted as master of the ceremonies. The arrangements were made and admirably carried out by Mr. A. J. Reynolds, a valued member of the staff.

"I HAVE acted Ophelia three times with my father," wrote Fanny Kemble, "and each time, in that beautiful scene where his madness and his love gush forth together like a torrent swollen with storms, that bears a thousand blossoms on its troubled waters, I have experienced such deep emotion as hardly to be able to speak. The exquisite tenderness of his voice, the wild compassion and forlorn pity of his looks, bestowing that on others which, above all others, he most needed; the melancholy restlessness, the bitter self-scorning; every shadow of expression and intonation was so full of all the mingled anguish that the human heart is capable of enduring, that my eyes scarce fixed on his ere they filled with tears; and long before the scene was over, the letters and jewel-cases I was tendering to him were wet with them. Oh, it made my heart sore to act it!"

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, July 16.—July 14, the great French national holiday, has often been described, and columns have been written on the crowd patiently waiting for the opening of the doors of the Opéra, Opéra-Comique, and Comédie-Française, anxious to avail themselves of the opportunity of witnessing a gratis performance. For many years I have had occasion to watch this picturesque street scene, but this time curiosity prompted me to become one of the mob and gather some impressions inside the house. Thanks to the courtesy of one of the Opéra managers I was allowed to take my seat before the spectators arrived, and, punctually at half-past twelve, the first batch marched in. The earliest arrivals of course took the best seats, and in less than half an hour the huge building was filled. I noticed that according to an unwritten law the ladies and gentlemen whose rig-out was somewhat shabby modestly retired to the higher regions, leaving the stalls, the dress circle, and the boxes to those whom heaven had blessed with better, and, above all, cleaner garments. For all that, there were exceptions to this rule of etiquette, for the long rows of artisans and their womankind, neatly dressed in their Sunday best, were occasionally broken by individuals of the loafer species, who, as well as their ladies, showed an utter disregard for toilette. Taken as a whole, the coup d'œil was pleasant. The white bodices—such as women of all classes wear to-day—some more elaborate than others, predominated. The ladies in the front rows had all removed their hats so as not to interfere with the comfort of those sitting behind them, and unconsciously added a special charm to the appearance of the house. For the Parisienne, even the humblest, has the gift of making her hair attractive. Beautifully brushed and waved, it is one of her chief ornaments, and she knows it.

BUT why did the Opéra management produce *Hyppolite et Aricie*? It was an unlucky choice. Rameau's antiquated music, with the feeble tinkle of the harpsichord, was too delicate a fare for such robust musical appetites as a Paris 14th of July audience. *Faust* or the *Huguenots* would have pleased them better. Before half an hour had passed I was on intimate terms with my right-hand neighbour, a gentleman in a somewhat faded coat. He emitted so strong a smell of Camembert that I guessed he was a cheesemonger's assistant, a guess that proved right in the end. From him I gathered much valuable information. Jupiter, Diana, and the other mythological personages in the work not only fogged him; they made him cross. He had never heard of them, and did not care to know who they were. In an outburst of patriotism he even described them in picturesque Montmartre parlance as what, freely translated into English, would mean, "blooming furriners"—an opinion in which my left-hand neighbour, breathing absinthe into my face, concurred. Before, however, the curtain had fallen on the first act I became aware of the fact that these men and women of the people behaved with more tact than those belonging to what we are pleased to call the "educated classes." When these humble spectators felt bored, they did not show it by yawning and indulging in conversation with their neighbours; and if the "stars" received an ovation, the house also applauded the minor artists who had contributed their share towards the afternoon's entertainment. Unfortunately this lesson in manners will be lost on those who, as a rule, ornament our boxes and stalls.

ON Tuesday next the case of Réjane v. Carlier will come on for hearing. When, in December last, Mme. Réjane brought out *La Savelli* she asked Mlle. Carlier to undertake a rôle in the scene at the Bal Mabille. Mlle. Carlier very properly refused to lend herself to an exhibition of a questionable order, and threw up her engagement. And the best proof that Mlle. Carlier was right in not lending herself to this choregraphic display is that Mlle. Grille d'Egout—who used to perform the can-can at the Martin-Rouge and the Jardin de-Paris—was thereupon engaged by Mme. Réjane. Curiously enough, Mlle. Carlier once had a similar trouble with M. Berny, manager of Les Mathurins, who insisted on that young artist impersonating an Annamite in a more than suggestive décolleté; and, by a singular chance, the same tribunal had to try the case. The judge then decided in favour of Mlle. Carlier, who, he said, could not be compelled to play a part in a masquerade unworthy of an actress.

THE French papers—and the English dailies as well—are full of the wonderful necklace affair, as mysterious as the one that cost poor Marie Antoinette her throne. But it has brought the fair Emilienne d'Alençon once more before the public, and that lady is not sorry for this, even at the cost of the loss of a valuable necklace. Emilienne's name evokes curious souvenirs. She first came out in 1889 at the Cirque d'Eté, but her début did not create any sensation. Then came 1893, the year of the precious stones, for it was at that period that Mme. Otero and Mme. Liane de Pougy began to dazzle the good Parisians by a display of their diamonds. Mlle. Emilienne, too, had beautiful stones, and she saw no reason why she should not join this wonderful competition. The difficulty, however, was to secure an engagement. Unlike her two rivals, who had joined the profession and had each a speciality, Mlle Emilienne had only her good looks to fall back upon. So one night she showed herself in public with half a dozen performing donkeys. But she was so frightened of her flock that she gave up that venture, and soon afterwards came out at the Folies-Bergère with a lot of performing geese. Emilienne certainly felt much safer with them than with her donkeys; but the public that night did not feel seriously inclined, and laughed so much at the lady and her birds that she gave up the "profession," and in time became the lawful wife of a well-known English jockey.

IF ever you come to Paris I advise you to go to the Jardin-de-Paris and look at the mechanical organ, which at intervals plays waltzes, polkas, &c. A couple of years ago when there was a general strike of musicians M. Oller, the enterprising manager of the Jardin-de-Paris, had it built to replace the absent gentlemen of the orchestra. To-day it has no longer a *raison d'être*, but M. Oller wants this organ to be heard every night; not with the object of giving his musicians a rest, but to remind them he can at all times dispense with their services. It is "Damocles' organ" hanging over their heads.

ABOUT the year 1778 Mrs. Robinson appeared on the stage, and gained from the character in which she charmed the named of Perdita. She then started in one of the new streets of Marylebone, and was in her altitude. Afterwards, when a little in the wane, she resided in Berkeley-square. She was fine and fashionable, and the men of the day in Bond-street still pirouetted as her carriage passed them. The next day the vehicle was reclaimed by the maker; the Adonis whom she courted fled her; she followed—all to no purpose. She then took up a new life in London, became literary. . . . What was the next glimpse? On a table in one of the waiting-rooms of the Opera House was seated a woman of fashionable appearance, still beautiful, "but not in the bloom of beauty's pride." She was not noticed except by the eye of pity. In a few minutes two liveried servants came to her, and they took from their pockets long white sleeves, which they drew on their arms; they then lifted her up and conveyed her to her carriage—it was the then helpless, paralytic Perdita.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER STEIN IM WEGE."

Play, in Three Acts, by Martha Hensler, produced at the Thalia, July 8, 1908.

Eckert	HERR DEUTSCHINGER
Rosemarie	FRAULEIN WERNER
Luise	FRAULEIN WALTEN
Erich	HERR BECKER
Harald	HERR GROSS
Minna	FRAULEIN MARTIN
Friedrich	HERR WALTER
Hertha	FRAULEIN MARREK
Eberhard	HERR WARESCH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, July 16.—This was a matinée performance, and the piece the work of a beginner, which latter fact was apparent at every turn. Some dramatic talent must be allowed the authoress, but the horrors are piled up with the too evident attempt at effect to appear natural, while the three acts are filled out with crude and uninteresting dialogue. Had the piece been concentrated and better developed it might have proved a successful curtain-raiser. The plot is as follows: A young man falls wildly in love with his foster sister; it is more passion than love, and the girl is repulsed. He endeavours to force her to his wishes, whereupon she snatches up a revolver, which was most conveniently at hand. In the struggle that ensues—he trying to get hold of the weapon—it very naturally goes off, and the youth falls dead. Horrified at the deed she has so innocently perpetrated, the maiden loses her reason—not all at once, but gradually, so that the nerves of the audience may be well strained. After we have been kept on tenter-hooks through a whole act the poor maniac expires, and nobody regrets the circumstance. The acting was good, and some attempt at applause brought out the authoress to bow her acknowledgments. With a temperature of over 80 in the shade, an afternoon passed in witnessing this style of piece is not exactly profitable to mind or body. The audience welcomed with evident relief the bright little farce *Papa's Sommerreise*, by MM. Kren and Schoenfeld, which closed the programme.

THE summer opera season at the New Royal Opera is running well. *Tannhäuser*, however, proved less successful than *Lohengrin*, so that the latter has taken up its earlier place again in the bill. Fräulein Burckhard, the clever young actress from the Court Theatre at Schwerin, takes the rôle of Elsa alternately with Frau Mahlendorff, both being eminently successful.

AT the Morwitz opera season at the Schiller O. a genuine novelty was produced on Saturday, in the form of a musical drama entitled *Die Hoffnung auf Segen*, adapted from Heijerman's tragic play of the same name. The composer is new to fame, Herr Charles Grelinger, and truth compels the record that his music is the opposite of original; it is, in fact, familiar to us throughout, notwithstanding the announcement that the work is produced for the first time on any stage. Neither can anything very favourable be said of the book, and, altogether, the opera will scarcely catch on on this or any other stage.

MLLE. AUSSENAC'S PIANOFORTE RECITAL.

At Queen's Hall on Tuesday afternoon Mlle. Marie Antoinette Aussenac, a native of Portugal, gave her first recital in the presence of a large audience. The young pianist, who was assisted by Mr. Mischa Elman, has studied under Mr. Duvernoy, and gained the first prize in the Paris Conservatoire, and although making her first appearance in London on Tuesday afternoon, has given several recitals on the Continent. At the beginning of her recital Mlle. Aussenac played two Choralvorspiele, "Now comes the Gentile's Saviour" and "Rejoice, beloved Christians," Busoni's arrangement of Bach's Choral Preludes, which proved very effective. Schumann's Etudes Symphoniques also showed that the young pianist had much technical ability, but it was in a group of Chopin's works that Mlle. Aussenac displayed her talents to the fullest advantage. The Etude (Chromatique) in A minor was played with delightful delicacy and finish, and Mlle. Aussenac well deserved the applause that followed her performance of this, and the charming Etude in G sharp minor. The Nocturne in E received expressive treatment, and Mlle. Aussenac was warmly applauded for her interpretation of the charming Impromptu in G flat. If the young artist was hardly so successful in the Ballade in G minor, the Valse in E flat was admirably played. Mlle. Aussenac also gave Mendelssohn's "La Fileuse," "In der Nacht" (Schumann), Henselt's "Si oiseau j'etais," and Saint-Saëns' Etude en forme de Valse, and it should be mentioned that after the group of Chopin's pieces Mlle. Aussenac received a hearty encore. Mr. Mischa Elman gave a masterly rendering of Paganini's violin Concerto in D major and Saint-Saëns' popular Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso (Op. 28). Mr. Waldemar Liachowsky ably performed the duties of the pianoforte accompanist.

PATRON'S FUND CONCERT.

The tenth concert of the Royal College of Music Patron's Fund was given at Queen's Hall on Tuesday night. At this a more cheerful spirit seemed to prevail in the various compositions than at any concert given since Mr. S. Ernest Palmer founded the fund in 1903 in aid of British art. By far the most ambitious of the six new works heard on Tuesday night was Mr. Montague F. Phillips' Concerto in F sharp minor for Piano and Orchestra, which, although far too long in the opening movement, Allegro Maestoso, contained a very pleasing and melodious Andante, only marred in its conclusion by Mr. Phillips' love of strong effects. A stirring finale brought the Concerto to an effective conclusion. Miss Irene Scharrer played the solo instrument with great brilliancy, and the composer and soloist, who have both received their training at the Royal Academy of Music, were recalled several times to the platform amidst most hearty applause. Dr. J. Lyon's Variations on a Sarabande of Handel proved a cleverly-written composition; but Mr. Paul Corder, a student of the Royal Academy of Music, has not produced a particularly interesting or original work in his Gaelic fantasia, "Morar." Mr. Corder in the programme says the fantasia received its name from a little-known spot in the Western Highlands of Scotland, where it was composed, and that a certain Scottish idiom in the subject matter justifies the title Gaelic. In the Scena for Soprano and Orchestra on Tennyson's "Maud," Miss Emily M. Lucas, a blind lady who has studied at the Royal Normal College, had her clever composition most ably sung by Miss Gladys Honey, of the Royal College of Music, both composer and vocalist having a very hearty reception from the large audience. Mr. John St. A. Johnson's Three Songs of Selma, sung by Mr. Albert Watson, showed talent, and were much applauded, the best of Mr. Johnson's songs being "The lament of Minona" and "Little charmer." The sixth and last composition given on Tuesday night was Mr. Fritz B. Hart's Fantasy Overture (from the West Country). Mr. Hart, who has studied at the Royal College, in his lively overture introduces very cleverly three folk songs from the West Country, the work being scored for full orchestra. Sir Charles V. Stanford and the composers conducted, and the London Symphony Orchestra did full justice to the various compositions.

IN a recent issue we described Mr. Montgomery Martin as secretary of the Actors' Association. Mr. Martin is, of course, the secretary of the Touring Managers' Association, Ltd.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

Meyerbeer's opera *The Huguenots*, performed in Italian, was revived on Saturday night, July 11, at Covent Garden in the presence of the Queen, Princess Henry of Battenberg, Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and a large audience. Although three years have passed since *Les Huguenots* has been heard, the revival with a brilliant cast on Saturday proved very welcome. Mme. Tetrazzini sang the showy music of Margarita with the greatest brilliancy; while Miss Destinn, who was in excellent voice, gave a superb rendering of Valentina's part. Mr. Zanatello also was in splendid form as Raoul; and the great duet between Valentina and Raoul was so finely sung that the house was roused to a display of great enthusiasm. A newcomer, Mr. Nivette, who possesses an admirable voice, achieved a distinct success in the part of St. Bris both as an actor and vocalist; while that talented artist Mr. Scotti made a striking and picuresque De Nevers. As the page Urbano Miss Dereyne was successful, and although her voice is hardly powerful enough for the part, she sang "Nobil Signori" with considerable charm. Mr. Marcoux gave an artistic account of the staunch old soldier Marcello's music; and an excellent performance of the orchestral portions was secured under the bâton of Mr. Campanini. The opera was mounted handsomely, and the new scenery, particularly that of the Château de Chenonceaux, strikingly beautiful and picturesque.

La Bohème, which so faithfully reproduces the student life of the Quartier Latin, with its joys and sorrows, its failings and its sympathies, was reproduced at Covent Garden on Monday, being admirably interpreted under the guidance of Signor Campanini, who, however, allowed the orchestra occasionally to drown the singers—and such singers too! The central figure was again Madame Melba, who sang the music of Mimi with a wistful tenderness that was touching even in the gayest moments of the second act. The part must be accounted one of the most successful among the many in which the Australian diva appears. The music in itself is a wonderful reproduction of human emotion through the medium of orchestral and vocal tone, and Madame Melba's particular character of voice suits it perfectly. Her impersonation is always in keeping; the coyness and coquetry she shows in her first interview with Rodolfo, her unrestrained enjoyment of the Christmas feast at the café, her presentiment of her coming end, and the tragedy of her death-bed scene are all portrayed by her with intense realism.

Signor Bonci, who appeared as Rodolfo, the poet, for the first time this season, sang the music with dramatic impulse and great expressiveness. His grief at the death of Mimi had nothing conventional about it, and in this and in the other portions of the opera, his acting was sincere, earnest, and convincing.

A performance of *Faust* was given at Covent Garden on Wednesday night, an unusually late appearance this season for Gounod's popular masterpiece. Madame Edvina, who impersonated Margherita, is an English artist, with, so it appears, no operatic experience. Without doubt Madame Edvina has a beautiful voice, which only requires greater cultivation, while her acting clearly shows that more knowledge of the operatic stage is needed. In the simpler melody of the "King of Thule" song Madame Edvina was heard to far greater advantage than in the florid music of the "Jewel" song. The newcomer had a hearty reception from the audience, but it was evident that more study, both as singer and actress is necessary before Madame Edvina undertakes so difficult a rôle as Margherita. Owing to Mr. Marcoux being indisposed, Mephistopheles was undertaken by Mr. Nivette at very short notice, but with excellent artistic results. Admirably sung and acted, the part of Mephistopheles may be considered the best that Mr. Nivette has given us since his first appearance. The beautiful singing of Mr. Bonci as Faust, and the excellent Valentine of Mr. Sammarco were special features of the performance on Wednesday, while our English artists, Miss C. Hatchard, as Siebel, and Madame Edna Thornton, as Marta, completed an excellent cast. Mr. Panizza conducted.

SIR JOHN HARE'S FAREWELL.

Sir John Hare's many friends and admirers may congratulate themselves that his "farewell" to the stage is only a temporary one. The Garrick Theatre was crowded in every part on the 10th inst., when Sir John appeared with unabated effect and unimpaired art in his famous impersonations of Benjamin Goldfinch in *A Pair of Spectacles* and Lord Kildare in *A Quiet Rubber*. The audience was excitedly enthusiastic, and insisted on a speech from Sir John, who said:—"I have purposely avoided making anything in the nature of a formal farewell, and, therefore, I am sure you will forgive me for not making any formal speech. To-night I do not know whether my heart is more full of pain or pleasure—pain and distress at parting from you, my dear friends, pleasure and pride at your generous, affectionate reception. I feel in a rather difficult position. I have received a good deal of chaff lately as to my farewell, and feel like the boy who cried 'Wolf' once too often, till at last, when the wolf came, no one believed him. At all events, to-night I take a definite farewell in London of one very old friend—Benjamin Goldfinch.

"If I hesitate to take a definite farewell of you, it is because I feel that, though the final parting is imminent—for all I can tell it may be to-night—I cannot brace myself up to say good-bye without a hope that I may still find some valid excuse to return to you in a new part. It now only remains to me to express my thanks; thanks to Mr. Bourchier for having given me the opportunity to make my adieu in the play which began its existence here nineteen years ago, and for the courtesy and kindness he has shown me; and, above all, thanks to the public and the Press, who have been my life-long friends and supporters. They have both conspired to spoil me, but I think I may claim that I am so far unspoiled as to be deeply grateful. And now, my dear friends, I can say no more, save that when nothing remains to me but memory, none will be so lovingly, so gratefully, so proudly treasured as the recollection of your kindness to me to-night and always."

THE death is announced in New York of Julia Elmore, a famous actress of the old school. She was in her ninetieth year, having been born in London in 1819.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN has commissioned Mr. George Grossmith, jun., to translate and adapt the book of the Viennese opera *The Dollar Princess*, of which Mr. Frohman holds the American rights.

GOETHE'S *Faust* will be the opening play at the New Schauspielhaus, Berlin, after the holidays. A number of alterations are to be made in the cast, and the scenic decorations and arrangements will be on a very fine scale. Fräulein Maren—a clever young actress who has lately come much to the front—is cast for Gretchen, Herr Siebert for the name-part, while Herr Adolf Klein, one of Berlin's best character actors, takes the part of Mephisto.

THE centenary of the birth of Mendelssohn comes next year, and the directors of the Crystal Palace will accordingly include some of Mendelssohn's works in the programme of the Handel Festival, which will be called the Handel-Mendelssohn Festival. The Handel Festival Choir and Orchestra, of 4000 singers and instrumentalists, will take part in the concerts, and Dr. F. H. Cowen will conduct.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MR. GEORGE LEYTON, by his splendid exertions, may be credited with the awakening of the public conscience in regard to our neglected heroes of the Crimea and the Mutiny, and the fund now being pioneered by Lord Roberts owes its initiation to this accomplished actor-vocalist. Mr. Leyton, by his own work up and down England, has raised now the sum of £3,032—a noble score indeed in the cause of charity. Many a tottering old fellow whose courage mounted high at Alma, Inkerman, or Balaclava, has cause to bless the name of George Leyton.

THE directors of the Oxford will have a grand military night on Friday, July 31, when they will give half the takings to the Veterans' Fund. Of special significance on this occasion will be the latest military sketch *The Last Muster*, presented with such dramatic force by Mr. George Leyton, who has done nothing better than this during his successful career as an actor-vocalist.

AFTER a continuous as well as phenomenally successful season of 420 consecutive weeks (or rather more than eight years) at the Alhambra Theatre—which surely constitutes a record in stage booking—the unrivalled exhibition of Urbanora animated pictures will, by virtue of a contract just signed by Mr. Alfred Butt with Mr. Charles Urban (on behalf of their respective companies) be, on and from Bank Holiday, Monday, Aug. 3 next, transferred to and exclusively shown at the Palace.

THAT the kinematograph now forms a staple item on the ideal variety programme Mr. Butt has long recognised, and Mr. Urban's supreme knowledge of kinematography and all that appertains to it has been universally attested by the Press. Henceforth, therefore, the Urbanora animated pictures at the Palace, with their practically illimitable range of subjects, will be kept upon the highest rung of the bioscope ladder.

MR. HARRY MASTERS, one of the late George Adney Payne's young men, now the general-manager of the Gibbons' Circuit, was presented on Friday, the 10th inst., by his former colleagues at the Syndicate offices, 1, Durham House-street, Strand, with an illuminated address. The presentation was made by Mr. Henri Gros.

MR. LEON ZEITLIN, on vacating the positions of private secretary to Mr. Henri Gros and that of acting-manager of the Metropolitan, has been the recipient of a handsome gold cigarette case from Mr. W. Collins, the general-manager of the Syndicate halls, and a crocodile and gold-mounted pocket-book from the staff at No. 1, Durham House-street.

MR. FREDERICK W. DOWSETT, son of the late Vernon Dowsett, manager of the Tivoli, and of the late Mrs. Vernon Dowsett, was married to Miss Elsie M. Jury at Crayford, Kent, on Saturday. The bride was attended by her sister Miss Katie Judy, and the bridegroom had as best man his cousin Frederick Martinetti. After the reception, which was held at the bride's house, the happy couple left for Folkestone.

IF you ask Datas, the walking chronologist, for dates, he doesn't hand you out "stone fruit," but just lets you know that he can tell you the exact year and day of the birth of Herodotus, as well as the name of all the Derby winners. He is just now making music hall audiences in the provinces positively sit up with astonishment when they are not standing.

THE Empire will present its new Guignol play, *After the Opera*, early next week. During the brief absence of Mr. Fred Farren, Mr. Alexander Genée—the uncle of Mlle. Adeline Genée—has been induced to take up the rôle of the eccentric toy-maker, Copelius. As Mr. Genée has produced the ballet in all parts of the world, a more fitting representative could scarcely have been found.

MISS MAUD ALLAN gave four matinées and six evening performances last week, and therefore found it a physical impossibility to sufficiently rehearse the new set of dances illustrative of Tschaikowsky's "Noisettes" suite which she proposed to give at the Palace Theatre last Monday evening. They will be submitted on Monday next.

MR. R. A. ROBERTS, protean actor, is the principal attraction on next week's bill at Hackney Empire. Mr. Roberts has had a most interesting career, and tells a good story of an experience just after he embarked on his present protean method. "I remember," he says, "once inviting a committee to watch my entertainment from the back of the stage. I could only persuade one member of the audience to accept my invitation, and a great hulking chap strolled on to the stage and, to my horror, he was a navvy and intoxicated. However, I had to go through with it.

"I SAID to him, 'You have never met me before?' He looked at me and said 'Neow.' I explained that he was to sit at the back of the stage, watch my work, and then duly report whether my assertion, that I, and I alone, played all the characters, was true. I steadied him through the scene to the back. When it was over the man came forward fairly sobered up, for I had made things particularly smart for him that night. To my request: 'Kindly tell the ladies and gentlemen whether I have spoken the truth or not,' he replied, 'Mates, 'e done it all 'isself.'"

THE Empire, Camberwell, staff outing took place on Sunday. The party of over sixty left Camberwell Green by special car for Waterloo, then by special corridor train to Windsor. On arriving light refreshments were served at the Royal Oak and Railway Hotel, and the picnickers proceeded by brakes to Monkey Island Hotel, Bray, where lunch was provided by George Hards. During the afternoon sports were arranged by Mr. G. P. R. Burgess, assisted by Dr. M. Frost. Several ladies competed, the most successful being Mrs. Percy Ford. Tom Arnold gave an exhibition of swimming.

THE party consisted of Harry Bawn, E. Marshal Frost, Percy Ford (Directors of the Empire), G. P. R. Burgess, Mr. and Mrs. Thacker, Mrs. P. Ford, Mr. Redfern, Mr. Kolher, Mr. and Mrs. Wiltshire, Mr. and Mrs. Woodger, Mr. and Mrs. Jewell, Mr. and Mrs. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. W. Nutt, Mrs. and Hettie and Eva Shackleford, Mr. Douglas Holms, Mr. Robinson, Mrs. Taylor, Mr. Latham, Sam Goodworth, Edwin Rutland, Jack Norton, H. Smy, Mr. Cooper and friend, Ben Ballard, Bob Anderson, Tom Arnold, Harry and Miss Ella Heer, W. Aston, W. Noris, Masters Toms and Wilks, Mrs. Brooks, Dalton, and Batten, Miss Borne Smith, Hancock, Holick, Jack Healey, Tim, Dick, and W. Finney, G. and F. Cottingham, W. Few, T. Jesshope, E. Jones, W. Caley, T. Lee, Franks, Alexandre, Shenow, Gough, Collier, Frank Hurst, and several other friends.

CAPTAIN BEN WOODGER (on behalf of the committee who had the management) begs to thank the following ladies and gentlemen for their kind donations towards the fund:—Miss Vesta Victoria, Jesse Sparrow, E. C. Webb, Marshall E. Frost, Harry Bawn, Percy Ford, G. P. R. Burgess, Mr. Simmons, W. Jeapes, Messrs. Oldfield, Thomas Cross, and others, who will kindly accept the best thanks of the whole of the staff of the Empire, Camberwell.

THE Scarborough Hippodrome opens on the 27th inst. with a first-class company.

MR. CYRIL FIELDING SMITH, the popular and able lieutenant of Mr. Wm. Peacock, the managing-director of the Harrogate Opera House, has been appointed to control the front of the house at the handsome new Scarborough Hippodrome, of which Mr. Peacock is also managing-director. Mr. Cyril Fielding Smith has been succeeded at Harrogate by his brother, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.

A GENERAL meeting of shareholders of the Gaiety Theatre, Birmingham, was fixed for yesterday (Friday), when some highly interesting business was excepted to take place.

MR. STANLEY BASKERVILLE, late of the Maidstone Hippodrome, which was destroyed by fire the other day, has been appointed manager of the Maidstone Palace in place of Mr. Sylvester.

THE Huddersfield Hippodrome will be closed from to-day for decorations and repairs, and for the construction of cloak-room accommodation for stalls patrons. The reopening will take place on Monday, Aug. 3.

MEMBERS of the M.H.A.R.A. and the V.A.F. will regret to learn that Mr. Harry Pyrah, of the Imperial Hotel, Morecambe, this week lost his wife suddenly. Mr. Pyrah is the Morecambe agent of the organisations named, and is a justly popular man with variety artists.

MR. WALTER MOULD, the late resident-manager of the Hippodrome, Accrington, which was totally destroyed by fire three weeks ago, has taken over all the vacant dates of the Town Hall, Accrington, making it a temporary abode for variety until the erection of a new vaudeville house.

THIS will be built in stone, and Mr. Bertie Crewe, the well-known London architect, is busy with the plans for an imposing structure. The Council has granted a lease for the land of 999 years. An endeavour will be made to open the new house at Christmas.

MR. WILL WHITE, the popular manager of the New Alhambra Theatre, Belfast, is at present enjoying a well-earned holiday at Blackpool and Douglas. During his short term of office at Belfast Mr. White has by his untiring energy resuscitated the fortunes of this old-established theatre, which at the present moment is enjoying wonderful prosperity.

MR. SAMUEL LLOYD, manager of the Glasgow Pavilion, and Mr. Howard W. Galpin, conductor there, have just returned from a motor holiday to the South of England. Mr. Lloyd is proud of the fact that his car covered 1500 miles with only two tiny punctures, the first day's run being Glasgow to Manchester, and the last York to Glasgow, the latter run (250 miles of difficult country) being accomplished in ten hours.

MR. BERTIE RALLAND, the assistant-manager of the Palace Theatre, Leicester, has been promoted by Mr. Oswald Stoll to the management of the Holloway Empire, and will take up his duties there on Monday next. Mr. Ralland, who is a young man, leaves Leicester with the best wishes of his many friends for his future success in his new sphere of activity. His promotion has been quick, and will, no doubt, be fully warranted. He is a son of Mr. Herbert Ralland, the well-known theatrical manager.

MR. EDWARD FOSTER, the popular and smartly up-to-date resident-manager of the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, is taking a holiday with his equally popular and charming wife at Bridlington. Meanwhile Mr. Harry Lucas, Mr. Foster's apt understudy, acts in his stead, and though it is no child's play to cope unaided with the crowds that the Grand attracts, Mr. Lucas succeeds admirably.

MR. LUCAS, on Monday, at the second house, had to crave the indulgence of the audience for the absence of Happy Fanny Fields, who, after appearing at the first performance, was seized with sudden indisposition, Miss Nelly Wallace being called upon from the Empire to deputise. Miss Fields was still "off" on Wednesday, having had a relapse. Mr. John E. Coyle, at the Hippodrome, has also been absent for part of the week.

MR. A. E. NICHOLLS, the popular acting-manager at the Palace, Carlisle, has accepted an engagement as acting-manager of the New Hippodrome, Middlesbrough, which opens early in August. At Carlisle Mr. Nicholls has made hosts of friends, who, while they will regretfully miss his genial presence, heartily congratulate him on his important appointment. Mr. Nicholls will still be under his old chief, Signor Pepi, who is the managing-director of the new Middlesbrough house.

THE Grand Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, opened for the season on Monday with a speciality variety show, well selected by its popular manager, Mr. Chas. Evans, the programme including the Avrignys, Barrington, the Charnleys, Effie White, Chas. Williams, Lord, Murray, and Lord, &c.

LORD GEORGE SANGER, the proprietor, has been staying at Margate for some weeks, and has been busily engaged in watching an extensive re-decoration of the hall, probably the largest in the provinces. The stage and proscenium have been enlarged, and several additional comforts provided for the public. The Mayor of Margate, Mr. D. T. Evans, J.P., and many of the principal residents were present on the opening night; Mr. Harry Rickards also put in an appearance.

THE ball, which always follows the entertainment, was the usual good feature, and when in full swing made a pretty scene with the soft light from the handsome chandeliers and the tasteful dress of the ladies. Mr. Chas. Evans, who has been fourteen years now with Lord George Sanger, is to be congratulated upon the continued success of his management. Mr. W. Harvey is again the musical director.

MR. NELSON BARRY, the manager of the Manchester Hippodrome, confesses to a desire to make patrons of that house feel at home, and he has to that end transformed the foyer above the vestibule into a place wherein those waiting for admission to the best parts of the house may entertain themselves. Books, magazines, newspapers, writing materials, and every convenience of the ordinary reading-room are provided.

MR. BARRY says:—"People often find when they get to the theatre they have forgotten in their hurry to write a note to a friend. They need not worry now. They can do all the writing they want at the theatre, and there is one the less excuse for absence."

MR. F. J. V. WELCHMAN, the secretary and treasurer of People's Palace, Bristol, has produced a Royal souvenir of the King and Queen's visit to Bristol July 9, 1908, on the occasion of His Majesty opening the King Edward Dock, Avonmouth. The souvenir is well got up, and contains pictorial illustrations of monarchs who have visited Bristol in the past, displaying the historical association of Royalty with that city from the period of Edward the Elder (son of King Alfred) to the present time, thus proving Bristol to have been the resort of monarchs for a thousand years. The proceeds of the sale of the souvenir will be devoted to Bristol charities. A copy of the souvenir has been graciously accepted by His Majesty.

THE new manager of the Canterbury is Mr. Chas. W. Adams, who, we stated in a previous issue, was returning to manage his old house, the Holloway Empire, over whose destinies he has reigned for eight years. He is resigning that position in order to take up his appointment with the Syndicate, which dates from July 27.

MISS VALENTINE (of Radford and Valentine) has had to undergo a nasal operation, and is at present in the hospital recuperating as well as can be expected. She expects, however, to be able to resume work with her partner at the Oxford and Euston next week.

MR. MALCOLM SCOTT last week at the Middlesbrough Empire gallantly came to the assistance of Miss Nellie Atherton in her sketch *Wanted, a Partner*, and without any rehearsal played the comedy part at five minutes' notice, thus extricating the fair artist from an awkward dilemma. Mr. Scott presented Miss Atherton on Saturday night with a charming bouquet, and his courtesy and kindness are highly appreciated by that lady.

BILLY MCCLAIN has been elected a member of the Royal Automobile Club, whose patrons are King Edward, Prince of Wales, and His Grace the Duke of Sutherland.

LITTLE ZOLA has been so successful that Mr. Oswald Stoll has engaged him up till 1912 for his tours. This contract will make up a total of fifteen years that he has been with the firm. Little Zola has not yet settled for pantomime.

MISS LIZZIE GLENROY, who is to open at the Palace Theatre on Monday, was a prominent member of the Glenroy Troupe, and has recently been scoring on her own on the Moss tour.

MISS DAISY DORMER is able to announce that she is fully booked with Mr. Oswald Stoll until 1917—a practical tribute this to this dainty artist's fast-growing popularity. She is to be principal girl in pantomime at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, at Christmas.

MR. MATT WILKINSON will produce on Monday next at the Queen's, Poplar, an up-to-date farcical item from his pen, entitled *On the Flip-Flap*. Smart dialogue interspersed with humorous situations, and an interesting plot, should combine to make this new venture an assured success.

WE regret to announce the death of the well-known musician Thomas Greaves, musical director at the Star Theatre, Wolverhampton (now Theatre Royal) for over thirty-three years, which took place on the 9th inst. at the residence of his son, 20, Victoria-terrace, Dudley. The deceased gentleman broke his arm last November, and never recovered from the effects. His death will cause great grief to many people connected with the theatrical and music hall professions, by whom he was highly respected and esteemed.

THE funeral took place on Tuesday at the New Cemetery, Dudley. Previous to the interment a memorial service was held in St. Luke's Church, conducted by the Rev. Mr. Downe, and attended by a large congregation of the deceased's colleagues and pupils. He leaves behind him two daughters and one son, his wife predeceasing him two years ago.

WE regret to announce the death of Charles Clifford, who was killed on Thursday near Budapest, being thrown from a horse he was riding. It is generally known that he was engaged to that bright and clever artist Miss Jennie Johns, and was to have been married to her in Newport on the 29th of this month. Mr. Clifford was well known in sporting circles both in England and Austria, and his untimely death will be mourned by all who knew him. Miss Johns will have widespread sympathy in her sad bereavement.

MISS MAUD ESMOND, the refined burlesque artist, who is appearing this week at the Empire, Croydon, established a firm reputation as a singer of good songs whilst engaged as principal boy at the Theatre Royal pantomime last Christmas, and her appearance this week at the Empire in the same town has been the signal for a rousing reception. She has received many offers for next Christmas.

MISS MAY AUDREY sails to-day for South Africa per the Kenilworth Castle from Southampton. She opens at Johannesburg on Aug. 10 for six weeks, then on to Cape Town for three weeks. Arriving home on Saturday Oct. 31, she opens on the Monday following at Grimsby, proceeding thence to the London Coliseum, Oxford, and other London halls. She has also signed for forty-six weeks of Stoll tours, which takes her up to Dec. 26, 1910. She is not returning to musical comedy.

"THE KING AND THE BEGGAR MAID" is the title of a new musical sketch, by Mary Righton, which will shortly be seen on the boards of the London variety stage. It is being rehearsed at the Putney Hippodrome, where a private dress rehearsal will be given to-day at 4.50. The action of the piece is set in mediæval times, and the music has been selected from the oldest composers. A love elixir is responsible for the romantic attachment set forth in the title.

MR. ALFRED BUTT has another recruit from the regular stage in the charming Miss Alice Elieson, who is to make her début at the Palace on Monday. She was recently with Mr. Tree at His Majesty's through the run of *Hansel and Gretel* and *The Merchant of Venice*. She also appeared with Coquelin the elder at the same house. Miss Elieson is an accomplished young lady, as in addition to acting and singing she is a solo performer on the 'cello, violin, and piano. Miss Elieson's voice is soprano, and it is intended that she shall sing to the accompaniment of Mr. Herman Finck's orchestra.

MR. FRANK MACNAGHTEN'S staff at the Leicester Pavilion Theatre of Varieties held their annual outing on Sunday last, the rendezvous selected this year being Skegness, a growing and popular seaside resort on the Lincolnshire coast. The merry party, numbering nearly fifty, left the Great Northern station at 8.30, and arrived at their destination at 11.30. The weather throughout the entire day was of the most delightful nature, and the outing was voted one of the best that has been held in connection with the employés of Mr. Macnaghten's pretty Leicester hall.

THE Pier Hotel was made the headquarters for the day, and at the dinner, which was of a most substantial nature, Mr. Joe Lawrence, in proposing the health of Mr. Macnaghten, remarked on the many ways in which that gentleman had endeared himself to his Leicester employés, and also thanked him on behalf of the staff for the generous contribution towards the funds for their outing.

THE afternoon was spent in drives to various places of interest in the neighbourhood, boating, and bathing, after which an adjournment was made for tea at 4.30, the party returning to Leicester at 6.25, arriving home at 9, all having thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Amongst the many present were Mrs. Lawrence, Mr. Britcher (the conductor), and a large number of the patrons motored over. We should not omit to mention that the arrangements were carried out in a satisfactory manner by Mr. Joe Lawrence, who was ably assisted by Mr. Frank Burdett.

THE Elliott Savonas are just able to take a week's holiday—a well-deserved rest, indeed—after a year of hard work. It is not much, but on account of bookings they are unable to extend it.

WHILE Bostock and Wombwell's Royal No. 1 Exhibition was journeying from Banchory to Stonehaven on Sunday the lioness Victoria gave birth to five male cubs. The litter is exceptionally large, and the fact that all the cubs are males is unique.

MR. H. A. JORDISON, of Manchester, has secured a musical comedy playlet for children, entitled *The Coon's Restaurant*, which is quite away from any children's performance on the music-hall stage. He is producing it at the Queen's Park, Hippodrome, Manchester, on Monday. The playlet is from the pen of that well-known sketch writer, Jack Brownson.

THE first annual picnic of the staff of the Sunderland Empire took place on Sunday, the outing being to Seaton Sluice. The party, numbering nearly sixty, left the Empire Theatre stage door at 9.45 in several brakes, and, crossing from South Shields over the Tyne to North Shields, were met there by Mr. Richard Thornton, the managing-director, and Mrs. Thornton, who in their motor-car accompanied the party on their journey along the Northumberland coast past Tynemouth, Whitley Bay, and picturesque Cullercoats and St. Mary's Isle—a trip which was thoroughly appreciated. At the Waterford Arms Hotel at Seaton Sluice the party had dinner.

THE programme of sports resulted thus:—Three-legged Race—Robson and Patterson, 1; Brown and Dennison, 2. Ladies' Egg and Spoon Race—Miss Hanson, 1; Mrs. Brown, 2. 100 Yards Handicap—J. Tindle, 1; H. Brown, 2; Dennison, 3; Robson, 4. Ladies' 80 Yards Handicap—Miss Rutherford, 1; Miss Hanson, 2; Miss Kirk, 3. Muddle Boot Race—T. Dennison, 1; Tindle, 2. Boys' 100 Yards Handicap—Donaldson, 1; O'Connor, 2; Gallewski, 3; Young, 4. Consolation Scratch Race—Miss N. Rutherford, 1; Mrs. Tweddle, 2.

FOLLOWING the sports came a football match between teams captained by Mr. G. Marshall and Mr. W. E. Piercy, the secretary and treasurer respectively of the picnic, to whose efforts much of its success was due. After tea, which was thoroughly enjoyed, Mr. Piercy, the treasurer, proposed a resolution of thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Thornton for their presence at the outing, and to Mrs. Thornton especially for her kindness in presenting the prizes won at the sports.

MR. HARRY ESDEN, the manager of the Empire, responded, and thanked Mr. Piercy and Mr. Marshall and their committee for the manner they had worked. The party drove back home, arriving at Sunderland at 10.45 p.m. after having had a fine and enjoyable day. Mr. W. F. Wells, the energetic manager of the Newcastle Empire, was one of the party.

DR. WALFORD BODIE commences a four months' tour of Scotland on Monday, opening at the Palace Theatre, Aberdeen, making his sixteenth annual visit. He hopes to beat all his previous records, the Palace having now resorted to the twice-nightly system. He will take a four weeks' rest in August, spending a few days at his Highland home, the Manor House, Macduff, after which he will motor through the Highlands, accompanied by Mrs. Bodie and his daughter. He opens his Welsh halls in August. They are now closed for extensive and costly alterations by Dean and Sons, Birmingham. Dr. Bodie, sole proprietor of the Hippodrome and Opera House, Ferndale, and of the Hippodrome and Opera House, Pontycymmer, besides having a big interest in other Welsh halls. He will also open three other theatres at an early date. His new book, entitled "Stage Stories," will be published next week by Simpkin Marshall and Co.

OUR Paisley correspondent writes:—"In April an action was raised in Paisley Sheriff Court, at the instance of Moss' Empires, Limited, against Lady Mansel for interdict against her appearance at the Paisley Hippodrome. The case was concluded on Tuesday, when, on behalf of Moss' Empires, a minute of abandonment was lodged. Scots law allows of this on condition that the defender's expenses be paid, which in this case was agreed to.

"THE result is of importance to those artists engaged for the Paisley Hippodrome who could not appear owing to the fear of a warrant for interdict as well as to Mr. E. H. Bostock, who will now be enabled to book artists hitherto debarred, and those artists previously engaged will now be at liberty to appear at Mr. Bostock's Paisley establishment without the restriction being enforced.

THE eighth annual summer excursion of Barrasford's Birmingham Hippodrome took place on Sunday last. The party, numbering about seventy, journeyed to Worcester in saloon carriages, and at that ancient city embarked on the s.s. Avonmore Castle for Lower Lode, Tewkesbury. On arrival about one o'clock they were met by Mr. Lester Collingwood, who had motored down from the Midland city. An excellent dinner was served at 1.30 by Host Young, of the Lower Lode Hotel. Several short speeches were made, Mr. Harry Lyons, the manager, responding to the toast—given by Mr. Collingwood—wishing continued success to the Barrasford enterprises.

A FISHING competition was held in the afternoon under the guidance of Mr. A. W. Matcham, manager of the Empire, Birmingham, who acted as judge, the prizes having been given by Messrs. Lyons, Collingwood, Matcham, and Dr. Trout. The return water trip was made in a most pleasant manner, and Worcester was reached in time to catch the train landing the Hippodrome party and their friends at the New-street Station well before ten p.m. The entire day was very enjoyable. Manager Lyons was most ably assisted by Mr. T. Middleton, the assistant-manager, and Mr. Lax, the advertising-manager, of the Birmingham Hippodrome.

THE Hippodrome, Stockton-on-Tees, considered one of the finest equipped buildings in the North, and only recently built, has passed into the hands of that astute North agent Mr. Harry Burns, who will keep it open solely for variety. This being his latest venture, we feel sure the profession at large will wish him every success, which he richly deserves, speculating at this time of the year, especially in the North, where the shipbuilding strikes have cast a gloom upon trade in general.

BY the death of Mr. Arthur Barns in Birmingham we have lost the first man who turned a double somersault on the English stage, and who held the record by giving ninety-five somersaults in succession. Mr. Barns travelled with William Cooke's circus fifty-five years ago, and afterwards was a performer in all the circuses in Britain and on the Continent, having the honour of appearing before the Czar Nicholas, William I. of Germany, and Napoleon III. of France, who presented him with medals. Mr. Barns was not only a champion acrobat but a magnificent swimmer, attributing his vigour to the abstemious life which he led—drink in moderation, and tobacco not at all. Birmingham turned out in large numbers to pay a last tribute to his memory.

FOR many years past the anomalies, crudities, and absurdities of the present laws and bye-laws affecting places of entertainment have from time to time called forth the strongest condemnation in these columns. Sometimes it has been the manager of a theatre who has suffered through the present conditions under which he carries on his business, another time it has been the actor or the artist, and again it has been the music hall proprietor or the playwright. Societies have been formed, meetings have been held, agitation has been set going, to bring about a change; but nothing very material has so far happened.

WE have before us, however, a copy of a resolution which is to be moved at the next Trade Union Congress jointly by the Artists' Protection League and the Actors' Union, which, if adopted, should at least make the alteration of the present unsatisfactory state of affairs possible within a comparatively short space of time. The resolution reads as follows:—"That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take steps to bring about a revision in the laws and regulations affecting (*a*) the licensing of theatres and music halls, (*b*) the licensing of plays, and (*c*) the censorship of plays."

WE congratulate the two societies mentioned upon the broad spirit in which their resolution has been framed, and it appears to us that all parties interested in the question should support the resolution in whatever way is practical. When an important industry—and there can be no question as to the importance of the theatre and the music hall of to-day as a great factor in our social system, whether looked upon as an educational force or as a means of healthy recreation and necessary amusement—has been so neglected by the Government of the country that there has been no legislation on its behalf for more than fifty years employer and employee must suffer through that neglect, the worker—that is, the actor and the artist—being, as must always be the case, the first to feel the shoe pinch.

THE present, however, seems to us to be a most favourable opportunity for combined action on the part of all concerned, and further, we think that possibly such unity of action in this matter might lead to unity of thought and purpose on other subjects which would be for the betterment and advancement of all whose livelihood is dependent upon the theatrical and music hall "industry."

MR. FRANK GERALD, the general secretary of the Artists' Protection League, informs us that the support of all other kindred societies is earnestly sought, in order that the resolution may carry as much weight with the Congress as possible. We trust such help will be forthcoming, because we think that it is high time that laws that speak of actors as strolling players, or rogues and vagabonds, and class the variety theatre of to-day with "the disorderly house," should be abolished in favour of legislation that will assist and protect all who earn their living by contributing to the "gaiety of nations."

THE first production of *The New Clown* sketch will take place next Monday evening and during the week at the Chelsea Palace. The performance will be given at 7.25 and 9.40. The cast includes Mr. Arthur Cornell, Mr. William Macready, and Miss Olive Wilton.

MME. HANAKO, the diminutive Japanese actress, who has been making such a name for herself on the Continent, is, says the *Morning Leader*, quite a famous actress in Japan, where she has attained a foremost position in a very few years. Mme. Hanako was born in a little village near Tokio.

SHE first appeared on the stage when she was eight, but it was not until two years later that she decided to take it up as a profession. She soon manifested the most unusual qualities, and rapidly became a much-talked-of little person in Japan. Then came the desire for fresh lands and stages new, and her first visit to Paris, where she was an entirely unheard-of celebrity.

AT a five o'clock tea given by the *Figaro*, she appeared before a distinguished audience in a little sketch. Loie Fuller, who was among the guests present, was at once struck by her genius and by the dramatic strength of the piece in which she appeared. So much so, indeed, that she adapted it into English, and it was produced at the Duke of York's on Aug. 26 last year, under the title of *The Little Japanese Girl*.

THE original is entitled *Otâke*, and in the title-rôle Mme. Hanako will appear on Monday at the Hippodrome. Otâke is the name of the little maid-servant who, finding her mistress, the Countess Yoshiko, out of the way, uses her toilet requisites, makes up her face, and arranges her hair, and, pleased with the result, finally dresses up as her mistress. She is thus discovered by a would-be lover of her mistress, Masou-o, who, mistaking her for the Countess, makes passionate love to her. As he can get no response to his pleadings, for Otâke is nearly paralysed with fright, he denounces her and departs in high dudgeon, leaving the little servant in a state of collapse. There was a tragic ending to the play in its English dress at the Duke of York's, where Miss Pauline Chase played "the little Japanese girl," but this is avoided in the version presented at the Hippodrome.

THE staff of the Walthamstow Palace celebrated their fifth outing on Sunday, the 12th. Leaving Walthamstow by four-horse brakes, they proceeded to Holborn Viaduct Station, where they continued their journey by reserved carriages to Herne Bay, where they enjoyed various delightful walks, sails, drives, &c., until 12.30, when dinner was served at the Albany Restaurant. The chair was taken by Mr. Arthur J. Barclay, and the vice-chairmen were Mr. Lesley Gooch and Mr. H. Petersen. The toasts of "The King," "The Walthamstow Palace," and "The Directors" having been drunk with enthusiasm, the party broke up, to indulge in the varied pleasure of the seaside until 7.30, when they returned to town. Much credit is due to Mr. G. Parker, who was secretary to the outing fund, and the committee, who so ably supported him.

MESSRS. PORTER AND FERGUSSON, the genial proprietors of the Lancaster Hippodrome, entertained their staff to the number of twenty-six by giving them a trip to the Isle of Man last week-end. The boat train was stopped at the Midland station on Saturday evening last to take the party, which included both Mr. Porter, Mr. Fergusson, and Mr. Stebborn (theatrical agent) to Heysham, where they boarded the s.s. Duchess of Devonshire.

SUPPER was served on board, and the party arrived at Douglas about 4 a.m. After a walk round the party returned to the vessel for breakfast. They then proceeded via Laxey by the electric railway to the top of Snaefell, but were disappointed with the view, as it was hazy. Next they journeyed up to Ramsey, halting for dinner at the Prince of Wales's Hotel. Fairy Glen was visited, and on the return to Douglas tea was partaken of at the Alexandra Hotel. Mr. Chas. Fox, secretary of the Palace Gardens, kindly invited the company to the Sunday evening concert. Douglas was left behind at 11.30, and the party returned to Lancaster at 4.30 on Monday morning after a very fine excursion.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

QUITE a crowd assembled at Euston station on Thursday morning to bid farewell to Mr. Fred Day the manager of Messrs. Francis and Day's New York branch, who was returning to that city after a pleasant holiday sojourn in the old country. Among the gathering were Mr. and Mrs. David Day and their granddaughter, also Miss Beatie Day, Mrs. and Mr. J. Hutchens, Miss Sylvia Plucknett, Miss Edie Francis, Mr. William Francis, Miss Helen Trix, Mr. Bert Feldman, and Mr. Herbert Moccatta (of Messrs. B. Feldman and Co.), Mr. John Smith (Messrs. Francis and Day's London manager), Mr. Lester Barrett, Mr. Charles Wilmott, Mr. Hermann E. Darewski, jun., Mr. Henry E. Pether, Mr. Leonard Bellamy, Mr. William Eyke, and other members of the staff from both London branches of the firm. A rousing cheer was given as the train steamed away. Mr. and Mrs. David Day accompanied the voyager to Liverpool, and later in the day he sailed, having as companion Mr. Louis Dreyfus, per White Star s.s. Celtic.

THAT great authority on the art of ballroom dancing, Mr. James Follitt, has dedicated by permission to the Mayor of Scarborough his latest creation, the "Valentine Veleta," and Messrs. Francis and Day have the charming composition in the press. The firm are also issuing "Rosemary," an exquisite ballad by George Fearnley and G. M. Saker.

FRANK LEO has written and composed for Mr. Wilkie Bard one of those characteristic comic songs that have helped to make famous the names of both the author-composer and the comedian. It is called "All day," and has been secured for publication by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT'S voice has never been heard to greater advantage than in his present chorus number, "Sue, Sue, Sue (I'm very much in love with you)," and it has proved nightly during the week one of the most enjoyable items in Mr. Blyth-Pratt's fine programme at the Oxford. Hermann Darewski's flowing melody fits Lester Barrett's lyric like the proverbial glove, and it is a moot point whether this number or the same author and composer's "A heart full of love and a pocket full of money" will be the greater favourite all over these islands when King Pantomime again holds his court. Messrs. Francis and Day publish both numbers.

MISS ELLA RETFORD'S "Take me on the flip-flap" has caught on tremendously at the Tivoli, and the lady's charming personality, ringing voice, and distinct enunciation go far to heighten the effect of one of the most tuneful songs of the day. It is from the practised pens of Chas. Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski, and is enjoying considerable vogue as a "Sixpenny Pop," forming, as it does, No. 461 of the series issued by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MR. J. P. LONG is the author of all Mr. Ernie Mayne's latest hits, with which he is scoring so heavily on the Stoll tour.

MISS HETTY KING produced this week two new songs by E. W. Rogers, entitled "No wonder the hen can't sing" and "The last of the heroes." The latter refers to the Territorials and the Militia. Both were enormous successes.

MR. HERBERT MELVILLE has just secured for Miss Jean Macduff, Scotch comedienne, a song entitled "I'm getting married in the morning," from the pens of those clever writers Messrs. Harry and Chris Carlton.

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

THE entry-forms for the sports can be obtained at 28, Wellington-street, or will be forwarded on receipt of stamped addressed envelope. They can also be had from any variety theatre, variety agent, or provincial agents of the M.H.A.R.A. The entry fee is 1s. for each event. There will be twenty-two events, and therefore an early commencement will have to be made on Aug. 12.

SATURDAY, Aug. 1, is the last day on which entries can be accepted for the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund's fête, gala, and sports at Herne Hill grounds on Wednesday, Aug. 12. The sports are open only to those who have been directly connected with the music hall, theatrical, and circus professions for the last twelve months, and no entry will be accepted unless accompanied with the entry fee (one shilling), and entries must be made and races run in the real name of competitor.

THE list of events includes 120 Yards Running Handicap, One Mile Walking Handicap (open), One Mile Ladies' Bicycle Race, 100 Yards Children's Handicap (boys), 100 Yards Children's Handicap (girls), 100 Yards Agents' Running Handicap, Half-mile Animal Bicycle Race (open), 50 Yards Flip-Flap Race, One Mile Running Race, 5 Miles Invitation Auto-cycle Exhibition Race, 5 Miles Motor Cycle Handicap (open), 120 Yards Hurdle Handicap, One Mile Bicycle Scratch Race (open), 100 Yards Sack Race (open), 360 Yards Steeplechase in Basket Horses; Comic Costume Scramble, 440 Yards Running Handicap, 60 Yards Vaulting Handicap, 440 Yards Johannesburg Cup Race, 100 Yards Wing Race, 360 Yards Henri Gros Cup Obstacle Race, 100 yards Consolation Race, and a special event—Running High Jump for the Vulcana Challenge Cup.

THE support given by the Federation Executive Committee to the Executive Committee of the I.A.L. in their conflict with the Continental managers was heartily supported by sixty members' meetings on Friday last. The meetings were unanimous in their decision not to accept engagements for the proscribed halls under any circumstances whatever, and a considerable number of meetings decided by resolution to submit all offers for Continental engagements to the Federation prior to signing contracts.

THE Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. held their 569th meeting on Wednesday, when Mr. G. H. Smythson took the chair. Messrs. W. H. Atlas, Hal Forde, Arthur Rigby (hon. treasurer), Ryder Slone, W. E. Gillin, F. W. Millis, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary) were also present. The secretary was instructed to send out notices especially requesting those committeemen in town to attend next Wednesday, in order to discuss important business. During the month of June the sum of £25 8s. has been collected for the Benevolent Fund through the extra 1s. charged on renewals; prior to June 1, a period of nearly five weeks, the amount of £30 12s. was collected from this source. It was decided that the Llandudno agency should remain at the Gresham Hotel. The weekly statement showed an increase of thirty-two new members, and receipts £19 12s. 9d.

THE financial statement for the month of June disclosed: Reserve fund, £532 7s. 3d.; deposit account, £158 7s.; current account, £109 15s. 1d.; petty cash, £45; total funds, £845 9s. 4d. Summary of membership:—New members, 1,623; renewals, 3,862; total, 5,485; against a corresponding period in 1907, 1,506 new members and 3,577 renewals.

BENSON and Rose, who have made a hit with their comedy duologue, *Elizabeth and the Baby*, written by Jack Brownson, have secured a new comedy act from the same author, entitled *What did She Want?*

DINNER AND PRESENTATIONS TO JOE O'GORMAN, W. H. CLEMART, AND WAL PINK.

"Old Joe's treble!" That was the title bestowed upon the three gentlemen mentioned above in a telegram sent to the chairman of Sunday's banquet at the Boulogne Hotel, Gerrard-street, by an absent V.A.F. No title could have been more happily chosen. It conveyed a significant and highly-appreciated compliment to the popular chairman of the dinner, Joe Elvin, whose splendid benevolence has won for him the gratitude of his poorer brother and sister artists. Indeed, the note of personal affection towards Mr. Elvin which dominated the attitude of almost every speaker was one of the pleasantest memories of the gathering, which numbered upwards of a hundred. Mr. Elvin, in presenting three medallions to Messrs. Joe O'Gorman, W. H. Clemart, and Wal Pink, made a speech that did credit both to heart and head. Sincerity and earnestness marked every phrase of it. He had travelled the "beaten way of friendship" with two of the trio whom the V.A.F. had chosen to honour, and the crisp, clear sentences, touching in their simplicity, and coming straight from the heart of a man who has always "played the game," made a deep impression. Mr. Joe O'Gorman was not quite at his best, adopting at times a somewhat querulous tone. He is a public man, or, at any rate, a quasi-public man, and calumny is part of their heritage. In the fierceness of controversy he has not escaped it. Criticism, too, if it be at times carping, is an excellent tonic, and loosens the rivets of the armour of self-complacency, hammered out by the too ready adulation of friends. The organisation, as was pointed out by Mr. C. J. Doughty, the excellent young advocate who so worthily fills the position of counsel to it, is in a very healthy condition, and the attitude of its chairman should be circumspect, diplomatic, progressive. At a time of congratulation there should have been an overruling instinct making for restraint and command of passion. Mr. O'Gorman was in happier mood when he spoke of the loyalty of the rank and file of the Federation, for which a big future was prophesied by Mr. Victor Niblo, the Big Chief of the White Rats of America, who spoke of the Federation becoming a gigantic organisation, uniting artists at the uttermost ends of the earth in a bond of unity. The value of Mr. W. H. Clemart and Mr. Wal Pink's work for the Federation in the Arbitration proceedings was mentioned in flattering terms, and a graceful reference was made to Mr. Fred Russell, who was absent from England during the days of Arbitration, but who raised the flag of the Federation in Australia.

Among the guests were many ladies, whose work in the stress of the days of the strike was lightly touched upon by Miss Marie Kendall, in her response to the toast of "The Ladies," wittily proposed by Mr. V. L. Granville. The gathering was larger than was expected, the space being too confined to hold all the guests, and the time was too limited to allow the later speakers to do justice to the toasts entrusted to them. But it was a joyous and exuberant crowd, and conviviality and confraternity reigned.

[*Photo by Hana.*

MR. JOE O'GORMAN.

The project of the testimonial was initiated at a small meeting at Bury, Lancashire, and the contributions, amounting to £215, might have been much larger had the original idea of collections at V.A.F. meetings not been nipped in the bud. The Testimonial Committee were most fortunate in their arrangements, and Mr. Edward Barry (hon. sec.) and Mr. W. H. McCarthy (hon. treas.) worked like Trojans. Other members were Messrs. G. H. Chirgwin, Bert Byrne, Edwin Adeler, Joe McConnell, Ernest Shand, Tony Iveson, G. B. Sinclair, Bert Williams, Billy Brown, Little Ganty, and J. G. Grahame, jun. The testimonial took the form of three medallion badges set in diamonds, the badge presented to Mr. O'Gorman being adorned also with emeralds, a felicitous allusion to his being a son of Erin; that presented to Mr. Clemart in rubies and sapphires—these, with the diamonds, making up the red, white, and blue; and the medallion presented to Mr. Pink was of diamonds and rubies—these last making a subtle allusion to Mr. Pink's name. The medallions are prettily designed and were supplied by Messrs. Rawson, Ward, and Gammage, of Clerkenwell-road, E.C.

Among the company were Fred Russell, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mr. and Mrs. Steve McCarthy (Marie Kendall), Chas. J. Doughty, Eugene Stratton, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tate, Florrie Kendall, Dick Kendall, Nellie McCarthy, Nan Farren, Fred Niblo, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Hooper (Victoria Monks), Diana Hope, Monte Bayly, O'Gorman Bros., Dolly Golden, Daisy Dormer, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Maple, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Nolan (Agnes Hazel), Aggie Nolan, James Allison, Gus Garrick, James Kellino, W. Kellino, Joe Tennyson, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. B. Sinclair, Percy Yorks, Charles Austin, W. T. Ellwanger, Mr. and Mrs. Papa Brown, Jack and Evelyn, Mr. and Mrs. Syd Laurel, Maude Courtney, George Courtney, Richardson Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Billy Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Morny Cash, Hanvarr and Lee, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Motramo, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Donaldson, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Donaldson, Mr. and Mrs. Dusty Rhodes, Billy Downes, Mena Brae, Horace Wheatley, Charles May, Jack Collinson, Dave Carter, Dave O'Toole, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Le Fre, Ryder Slone, Wal Grace, Arthur Reece, Jack Lotto, E. W. Manning, V. L. Granville, Mr. and Mrs. Hal Forde, Joe McConnell, Edwin Adeler, Tambo, M. E. Fitzgerald, J. E. Nightingale, Henry Prenton, Pat Redmond, Walter Curtis, Doody and Wright, Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Bartram, Mr. H. Hibbert, Harry Webber, Morris Hyman, M. P. Bentley, Atlas, Larola, Rose Cabani, Mr. and Mrs. Crook, Eddie Comet, Tom B. Conover, George Manton, Fred Mulvey, Victor Kelly, Bob Taylor, Irve Hayman, Pat Doherty, Mr. and Mrs. B. Barry, Mrs. Radford, Mr. and Mrs. C. Bartram, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McCarthy, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Purvis, Mr. H. Belcham, and Mr. E. N. Sansom.

MR. JOE ELVIN, on rising to propose "The King and Queen and Royal Family," had a reception that it did one good to hear. Then addressing the assembly as "Brother and Sister V.A.F.'s," he said it gave him very great pleasure to propose "the health of three of the very best of good men"; Joe O'Gorman, W. H. Clemart, and Wal Pink. He was more than delighted because two of them—Joe and Wal—were friends of a lifetime. Clemart he had not known so long, but he had found him the best of good fellows—a true friend to the Federation, and therefore a true friend of theirs and his. They were assembled that night to show these good men and true some mark of their esteem, respect, and appreciation for the fine work they had done. Some of them did not know the strenuous and continuous nature of their work. They were among the representatives at the conference of delegates from other music-hall societies in the early days of the movement towards organisation. At all the meetings they were there, always ready with good advice and sound judgment. When the Federation was founded they were there. Then came the Balaclava Charge of the movement—the strike. And O'Gorman, Clemart, and Pink were in the thick of it. When it came to the Conciliation Board, however, they were not all there; but dear old Wal Pink was there, and they knew how well he fought for their interests. When they got the Arbitration Board, and three representatives were sent from the V.A.F. to do battle for the artists, the same old three were there again. They did all that it was possible to do. Proceeding, Mr. Elvin told how the V.A.F. men were congratulated by Mr. Askwith, of the Board of Trade, when they presented the case for the artists, and Mr Clemart was highly complimented on his statement by the Official Arbitrator. Only a few weeks ago they met Mr. Oswald Stoll on the charity matinée question, and impressed on him the desirability that 2½ per cent. of the profits of such matinées should go to the music-hall charities. As President of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, he regretted, for charity's sake, that the proposals of the V.A.F. were not accepted by Mr. Stoll. The work of the trio demanded recognition, and as a tribute of esteem and admiration they had subscribed for three little medallions. Messrs. O'Gorman, Clemart, and Pink were proud of the work they had done, and the V.A.F. would be always proud of them.

MR, JOE ELVIN.

MR. CLEMART.

Turning to Mr. O'Gorman, and addressing him as "dear old Joe," Mr. Elvin said: "It gives me very great pleasure to give you this jewel. You have fought for us nobly and well, and we sincerely hope you will occupy the position of Chairman of the V.A.F. for many years, and go on fighting for us while there is any fighting to be done." At this point the company rose and cheered for a considerable time. "Joe," continued Mr. Elvin when the applause had subsided, "we love you and respect you; and I can only add, God bless your dear old Irish heart." Both Mr. O'Gorman and Mr. Elvin were visibly affected as Mr. Elvin said this and handed the medallion to the V.A.F. Chairman. Next addressing Mr. Clemart, in equally moving terms, Mr. Elvin said: "You have been always a good friend to the Federation, and your work will always be remembered, respected, and admired. We wish you all the good you can wish yourself; and as you go round the profession may you always be starred and never be barred." (Applause.) In presenting his medallion to "dear old Wal," Mr. Elvin said: "I have placed you third, but I have backed you for a place. It is the pleasure of my life to hand you this emblem of our respect and esteem. What a worker you have been! We admire you and thank you, and shall never forget you. You are good, and the little emblem is good, and if the next sketch you write for me is only as good as you are yourself, I shall be more than satisfied." In conclusion, Mr. Elvin said: "We are very proud of these three officers of ours—our representatives. While we have such loyal true hearts to speak and to fight for us in our profession, the Variety Artists' Federation will never die!" (Loud and prolonged cheers.) Mr. Elvin then proposed "Long life, prosperity, and every success to Joe O'Gorman, W. H. Clemart, and Wal Pink"; and it was drunk with three times three, the whole company rising and singing "For they are jolly good fellows."

MR. J. O'GORMAN was received with round after round of applause. Having thanked his lifelong friend, Mr. Elvin, and his other friends for their cordial expressions of goodwill, Mr. O'Gorman said he admitted that he had tried to do something for the Federation, but he thought Mr. Elvin had attributed too much to the officials of the organisation, and particularly to himself. He had been all too flattering in his remarks. At no time had the Federation been a matter of one or two or three or a dozen men doing all the work. At all events, the organisation now had grown too big for that. The work must be done, and was being well done, by the general body of members. He regretted from the bottom of his heart that some of their opponents could not see that gathering. No one of their critics would dare now to question the right of a gigantic profession like theirs to form themselves into a federation, and to run that organisation in the way laid down by its members. The profession had done this successfully, and now that it had been done it did not matter what the papers might say about those who in the process had gone—or been pushed—into the front of the fight. Whilst some of the critics of the V.A.F. said it was too extreme, others had attacked him because he advocated arbitration. He admitted it. They had a good case and were not afraid to put it before an impartial honest man. "Moreover," said Mr. O'Gorman, "we will accept and abide loyally by his decisions in the spirit and the letter. Messrs. Pink and Clemart agreed with me that arbitration was the only possible way out of an impasse. The strike may have been injudiciously called; we were certainly unprepared, and we had practically no funds at our command; but we went on with it, and we fought our way out. Whatever may be said to the contrary, the interests of the artists were not forgotten or neglected by the three men you chose to voice your views.

"Some people have said that you got nothing out of the arbitration. Certainly we did not get all we wanted, or tried for, or even anticipated. But we got something—in fact, we got a good deal. If all the managers were faithfully to carry out the rulings of Mr. Askwith, there would be a great gain to the comfort and advantage of the artists as a body. Mr. Oswald Stoll's name is mentioned frequently as one of the managers opposed to the V.A.F. Personally, I have nothing against Mr. Stoll as a man, and less against him as a manager than against some others. If all the proprietors in the country were abiding by the Award as faithfully as Mr. Stoll, then our profession would be much happier than it is, and you would realise more fully how much was won for the artists by the policy of arbitration.

"Every manager should fulfil the terms of the Award, not only in the letter, but in the spirit. (Cheers.) The time is coming when we may have to make an example of managers who will not do this. The velvet glove is all very well, but the steel fist hits harder." He was seriously of opinion that until they closed one or two of the offending halls they would never have that peace and tranquility in the business that were necessary to the prosperity of the industry they represented. In closing, Mr. O'Gorman thanked the members for the medallion presented to him that evening. Had others been lucky enough to be placed in the position that force of circumstances had placed him in they would have come out as well as he had, or better. ("No, no.") Anyhow, he would always be proud of the honour they had done him for the part he had been allowed by force of circumstances to play in developing the V.A.F. He would be proud to wear the medallion so long as he lived, and when his race was run he hoped to pass it on untarnished to one of his song and dance men—a reference to his two sons.

[*Photo by Hana.*

MR. WAL PINK.

MR. W. H. CLEMART had a fine reception. Having thanked the members for the honour done him in the past and that evening, he referred to the rapid march of events that had brought them to such a splendid meeting within about a year of the arbitration, and within two and a half years of the inauguration of the artists' movements. His work for the V.A.F., he said, had been a labour of love; neither his colleagues nor himself, despite the insinuations of adverse critics, had any thought of subsequent rewards. Had they been asked at the outset, they would have stopped the proposal to give them a testimonial; but by the time they had heard anything of it it was already well on the way to realisation. Then they felt that it would be an insult to their brother and sister artists to throw the generous offer back in their faces, and so the movement of the testimonial was allowed to go on. A certain portion of the Press had held up the officers of the V.A.F. to scorn as self-seekers, as men looking for glory or cash in return for their labours in the cause. At least Mr. O'Gorman and himself had been so slandered—Mr. Pink for some reason or other always escaped these attacks. (A Voice: "He's better looking," and laughter.) Perhaps that was it. Anyway, continued Mr. Clemart, Mr. Pink always succeeded in keeping out of these troubles. As a matter of fact, went on Mr. Clemart, with a smile, he's quite as big an Anarchist as the rest of us! However, none of the officials of the V.A.F. care at all what their enemies said of them so long as the members believed in them and trusted them. He had spent many happy days in connection with that organisation, and he hoped to spend many more; but he thought the function of that evening was the most pleasant he had ever known. (A voice: "Get married!" and another voice: "Don't do it, Bert!" and laughter.) Seeing so many bad examples before him, Mr. Clemart said he would *not* do it. He closed his remarks by again thanking the members for this latest sign of their faith and affection.

MR. WAL PINK, on rising, referred jocularly to the singing of "He's a jolly good fellow." He said he did not know why they pitched it two notes higher for him than for the others, but he supposed that it was some sort of compliment—a suggestion that he was higher, more angelic, than Mr. O'Gorman or Mr. Clemart. He was delighted to see Mr. Joe Elvin in the chair. Joe was the one man above all others from whom he would wish to receive his medallion. Mr. Elvin had spoken most kindly of him that evening, but this was no new experience, for he had known nothing but kindness from Joe Elvin all his professional life, which began about forty years after that of Mr. O'Gorman. (Laughter and "Oh, oh!") "There is the evidence," said Mr. Pink, with a pretence of dramatic gesture, pointing to the younger O'Gormans present. Mr. Pink endorsed the statements of his colleagues that the only criticisms with which they were concerned were those of their friends the members. Those who were *of* the Federation as well as *in* the Federation—those who had the Federation spirit—would not be troubled by interested attacks. He pointed out that the V.A.F. numbers were 1, 2, and 4. No. 3 was missing. They were not to forget No. 3. (A voice: "Fred Russell," and cheers.) It was merely the luck of the game that Fred was in Australia on the occasion we are now celebrating. Had he been in England there would have been a fourth worker for the V.A.F. honoured here this evening. In referring to the Arbitration, he said that in labour circles the name of the Arbitrator, George Ranken Askwith was a household word for honesty. The Award was an honest Award, given by an honest man, and both sides were expected to abide honestly by it. Four years hence it would come to an end unless both sides arranged for its continuance. The V.A.F. must be prepared. The managers might be (and he believed would be) as anxious to maintain the Award as the artists. Anyway, the artists must look ahead. Temporary hardships under the Award—the matinée clause, for example, might have been inconvenient to some of the smaller men—would right themselves in due course. The conditions of working had been systematised. The barring clause was very seldom mentioned, yet had the old barring arrangement not been modified by the Award the Coliseum, of whose new prosperity he was glad to hear, could not have remained open and given remunerative employment—London employment—to a large number of good artists and good V.A.F.'s well known in the country. In closing, Mr. Pink again acknowledged the kindness of brother and sister V.A.F.'s.

MR. V. L. GRANVILLE proposed "The Ladies." Incidentally, he accused Mr. Pink—who at another gathering recently had been entrusted with the same toast—of the possession of an all-embracing knowledge of the subject. Whatever their knowledge of the other sex, or lack of it, all the male members of the profession were agreed that they understood one branch of womankind most thoroughly—namely, the ladies of the V.A.F., who, in the days of the strike, in trying times and inclement weather, greeted their masculine comrades with cheery smiles and words, and who won so many converts by their persuasive eloquence.

MISS MARIE KENDALL'S rising to reply was the signal for a big demonstration, "For she's a jolly good fellow" being sung. The last speech she had made was when on picket duty outside the Oxford. Strange to say, she was never at a loss for a word there; to-night she was. No words of hers would express the pleasure she felt at being present, and her sisters all over the country felt the same as she did towards the recipients of the medallions—their noble leaders.

MR. CHARLES DOUGHTY gave the toast of "The V.A.F.," which he said was healthy in itself and had inspired a healthy respect in others. So long as the V.A.F. was managed by men of ability and character like those they were honouring that evening, so long would it continue to inspire confidence and maintain its strength.

In responding, MR. O'GORMAN said the profession would never know the value of the assistance rendered to the V.A.F. by Mr. Chas. Doughty, who, when they were in a very difficult position, came to them, and worked so hard at the data of their case that within two days he was absolutely saturated with it, and who used his legal knowledge and great judgment so ably on their behalf. (Cheers.) No other man in the profession of the law to-day knew so much about the technicalities of the music-hall profession as Mr. Doughty. Thanks to the support of Mr. Doughty and a large number of other able men—including the members who had assisted so strenuously in organising the provinces during two years and a half of turmoil and stress—the V.A.F. to-day could fairly claim to have weathered the storm. Now, like the Village Blacksmith, they owed not any man, and had a good banking account to their credit. In four years they would be in a position to enforce the Award to the very letter.

The toast of "Allied Organisations" was in the hands of MR. FRED RUSSELL, who received a rousing welcome. The organisations in question he enumerated as the "I.A.L.," the Australian society, and the White Rats of America. "The I.A.L.," said Mr. Russell, "is apparently on the verge of a serious struggle, and I hope that our members will give them all the support possible during the fight." The White Rats, he mentioned, was an offshoot of one of our English societies, the Water Rats, and was founded by a Water Rat, Mr. George Fuller Golden. When the V.A.F. was fighting for the artists' rights over here the White Rats cabled strong assurances of support if required.

The toast was coupled with the name of MR. FRED NIBLO, Big Chief of the White Rats, who in responding said that his presence there that evening was quite in accordance with the British traditions of hospitality and good cheer to the stranger. There were many ties between the English and the American artists, notably the derivation of the White Rats from the Water Rats. The White Rats were with the Federation heart and soul. He trusted these ties would be multiplied and strengthened; that they would become one big beneficent organisation—a huge brotherhood of artists that would cover the face of the civilised world.

The toast of the "Absent V.A.F.'s" was proposed by MR. MONTE BAYLY, who reminded those present that they were celebrating among other things that evening the anniversary of the Award. (Cheers.) Dealing with the causes of the rapid growth and success of the V.A.F., he said that much of this was due undoubtedly to the hard and conscientious work of the ordinary members all over the country. The loyalty and interest of the country members had worked wonders. If the members were proud of the leaders, so the leaders must be proud of the members. No movement, he thought, could show a more united front. He asked the gathering to drink to the absent members, scattered that night in various parts of the world—the men and women of the rank and file, whose courage and devotion had been weighed in the balance and had not been found wanting.

MR. G. B. SINCLAIR replied to the toast.

MR. EDWIN ADELER proposed "The Press," to which Mr. C. C. Bartram responded.

MR. EUGENE STRATTON, in a few heartfelt words, spoke affectionately of "The Chairman," and in a brief response MR. ELVIN recommended to the assembly the V.A.B.F. Sports on Aug. 12 at Herne Hill. He wanted them to be a grand success, and if the V.A.F. and its friends boomed them well they would be the most successful music-hall sports on record. In conclusion, said Mr. Elvin, "God bless you all!" The National Anthem then brought the proceedings to a close.

During the evening the chairman read telegrams from V.A.F.'s and other sympathisers. Among them were the Three Herberts, Little Ganty, Walter Munroe, Josey Mooney, Felix Le Marie, Jimmy Jee, the Brilliants, Fred Connor, Paul Martinetti, J. Grahame, Peggy Pryde, Howard and Sinclair, and Harry Lester, on behalf of the Terriers.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead till the end of the month are: Bramley, on the Great Northern and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Kingsbridge, on the Great Western; Tipton, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Chesham, on the Metropolitan; Haworth, on the Midland; Nelson, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Chiddingley, on the London, Brighton and South Coast; Glemsford, on the Great Eastern; Compstall, on the Midland; Epsom, on the London and South-Western and London, Brighton, and South Coast; Hockwold, on the Great Eastern; Longsight (Manchester), on the London and North-Western; Mossley, on the London and North-Western; Reading, on the Great Western, South-Western, South-Eastern, and Metropolitan and District; Walton, on the London, Dover and East Coast; Cley-next-the-Sea, on the Great Northern and Midland; Keighley, on the Great Northern and Midland; Knottingley, on the Great Northern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction; Melksham, on the Great Western; Saltaire, on the Midland; Sandford, on the London and South-Western; Shipley, on the Great Northern, Midland, and North Eastern; Windhill, on the Great Northern; Bollington, on the Great Central; King's Nympton, on the London and South-Western; Olney, on the Midland; Unsworth, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Alresford, on the London and South-Western; Heyford, on the London and North-Western; Alfreton, on the Midland; Edinburgh, on the London and North-Western, Caledonian, North British, North-Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Glasgow and South-Western, Highland, and Great Western; Forfar, on the Caledonian; Leith, on the North British and Caledonian; Rothesay, on the Caledonian; Leven, on the North British; Tweedmouth, on the North-Eastern; Kinross, on the North British; Kilmarnock, on the North British; and Tenby, on the Great Western Railways.

Guild Work at the Fairs.

Following on the interesting rally of the Scotch showmen for the work of trade defence, the organising chaplain will be busy on the fairgrounds of Lancashire and Yorkshire for the next three weeks. His itinerary as at present arranged includes Dewsbury Feast for next Sunday, Longsight Wakes (Manchester) for the following Sunday, and for the first Sunday in August, Hunslet and Manningham Feasts. In all probability the organising chaplain will attend Dartford Fair for the purpose of holding a meeting of metropolitan showpeople with reference to extremely urgent matters concerning London fairs.

Great Glasgow Fair.

In connection with the work of the Guild, the organising-chaplain paid a visit to Glasgow, and was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Green at their permanent Scottish home, The Carnival, Gallowgate. He was able to see modern Glasgow Fair in the making. There is always a certain romance attached to the memories of the golden past. It is, however, the duty of the true historian to get away from this glamour of the past and to chronicle with strict impartiality things as he sees them, and not viewing through rose-coloured glasses, a glorious past to the detriment of a triumphant present. Great as the memories of Glasgow Fair on its ancient green must be to the patriarchs of the road (fortunately still with us), it must be recorded to the credit of modern enterprise that Glasgow Fair of to-day far exceeds in the number, importance, and attractiveness of its entertainments anything ever done or seen in the days of yore.

Past and Present.

For example, the smallest set of steam-driven hobby-horses on exhibition at the present fair had the honour of being the largest and most up-to-date steam-driven roundabout ever seen at Glasgow Fair when they were first exhibited many years ago. It is actually dwarfed by the side of George Green's magnificent set of switchback motors. The mechanical contrivances, thoroughly up-to-date, invented and exhibited by the proprietor of the carnival, fully attests the fact that we have already stated in our endeavours to honestly apportion the facts of to-day in regard to the show business, and the glories of an honourable yet somewhat overrated past.

Green's Glasgow Fair Carnival.

Inside the carnival grounds we noticed an army of workmen and show employees busily at work preparing for the opening day of the carnival, Thursday, July 16. The principal attractions of the carnival this year will be the great al fresco stage and open auditorium For the all-day-long programme at this great free sight show an excellent company of variety artists has been engaged. Another great free sight exhibit will be Chipperfield's American menager'e. The whole of the wild beast caravans will be ranged on convenient sites for the delight of the patrons of the carnival. The White Vale Theatre, with its excellent stock company, will give dramatic performances at convenient intervals throughout the days of the fair. Green's cinematograph theatre will exhibit an excellent range of up-to-date films; Green's helter-ske'ter promises to be a source of immense delight to all Alpine glissaders. The switchback and scenic railway will also give the delights of exhilarating motion to thousands of patrons. The magnificent motor-car set and the steam horses (to which we have already referred) will, as usual, be amongst the standard attractions of the carnival. There will be shooting galleries, throwing games, and variety stalls in well-ordered profusion, and Caddick and Sons' American photographic saloon will be seen on its well-known position. We hope in the second notice next week to give more exact details of the great attractions of this popular resort of the Glasgow Fair holidays. The grounds will be a blaze of electric light in the evening; hundreds of thousands of parti-coloured electric lamps will illuminate the fair and the vast crowds enjoying the carnival in a blaze of glorious light and colour. We sincerely congratulate Mr. George Green and his most able staff of managers and assistants on the manifest forward signs of a great triumph for their carnival of 1908.

The Vinegar Hill Fairground.

The large open space, Vinegar-hill, Gallowgate, adjoining George Green's Carnival Ground, is now the fairground for Glasgow's historic holiday fair. This ground is also under the control of George Green The following large concerns were already on the ground when we made our visit: Biddall's circus, Wm. Clark, jun.'s, cinematograph theatre and ghost illusion, Carter's coliseum of varieties, P. Swallow's four-abreast jumpers, and a large attendant throng of side-shows, shooting concerns, and throwing games. The fair, of course, as regards the concerns, was but in the making, and from what we were told every foot of available space would be fully occupied, and the very best traditions of Glasgow Fair would be maintained at Vinegar-hill.

The Late B. T. Burnett.

Mrs. Burnett desires us to thank the many friends who have expressed by letter their sympathy with her and her family in their great bereavement. She is particularly grateful to the Rev. T. Horne, Showmen's Chaplain, for all the kind interest and spiritual ministrations given to her late husband. Mrs. Burnett also wishes to thank Mr. Scott and the staff of the Alhambra who so very kindly came to her assistance in the darkest hour of her necessity. A reference to our advertisement columns will show that Mrs. Burnett is anxious to sell as a going concern the well-known "Burnett's Battery." The show pavilion in which the late Professor Burnett gave his unique entertainment—the military assault-at-arms—was thoroughly renovated, and was seen at Olympia this last New Year holiday. We draw attention to this sale in the sincere hope that someone needing a show booth will become its purchaser, and thus materially assist Mrs. Burnett.

A Remarkable Communication.

The Secretary of the Showmen's Guild has received the following letter from the Urban District Council of Buxton:—

"Town Hall, Buxton, July 11, 1908.

"Dear Sir,—I am directed by the Buxton Urban District Council to ask you to communicate with roundabout proprietors or others likely to attend the unauthorised Well-Dressing advertised to be held in Buxton on the 16th, 17th, and 18th insts.

"No festival of the kind has been arranged by the Council nor will be allowed to take place.—Yours truly,

"T. A. Croghan,
"Market Supt.

"The Secretary, Showmen's Guild,
"Strand, London, W.C."

The Guild Secretary has forwarded the following reply:—

"It is not usual for this Association to communicate to its members, without time to verify the authority claimed by corporations, such important matters as the one referred to in your letter. Granting for the moment that the Urban District Council of Buxton has power to prohibit the festivals not arranged by it, there still remains the extremely important fact that the Council has not taken action in time to prevent the arrival on the dates named of roundabouts or fairground amusements. It would have been only just to have given proprietors of such concerns at least two weeks' notice of the intention of the Council to prohibit the Well-dressing festival, and to have stated fully the authority under which the Council holds the right to prohibit. Such notice should have been sent to the trade newspapers read by showmen and itinerant amusement caterers,

"I very much fear that your communication of July 11 is too late to prevent the assembly of roundabout, shows, &c., on the 16th.—Very faithfully yours,

"The Guild Secretary.

"T. A. Croghan, Esq., Sanitary Inspector,
"Town Hall, Buxton, July 15, 1908."

Corporations and the Showmen's Guild.

It is a significant sign of the times that public bodies not only recognise that showmen and fairground traders are organised, and can deal with them effectively through the Guild, but that if public bodies wish to get in touch with showmen it is now good business to communicate officially with the Guild Executive. A few years ago it was the common policy of corporations to refuse recognition to the Guild or to accept its representatives officially. We very much fear that corporations to-day think they can use the Guild for ulterior purposes, and that the Society will be willing to become the subservient tool of public bodies who want to bluff the travelling showman.

It will be seen from the official reply to the letter of the Buxton Urban District Council that the Guild Executive (taught by past experience), is not so foolish as to lend itself to any such sharp practice It will be necessary in every case for public bodies to cite in full the Act of Parliament or the bye-law under which they claim to act.

The day is past and gone for travelling showpeople to be frightened by the autocratic statement, "We prohibit you holding a fair." Corporations would like to possess that power. A great number of important cities and towns have sought to obtain it, but one of the most important rights that showmen possess is the right at common law to exhibit their shows upon private land in England without having to ask permission from the public authority. Of course, we know that under certain old charters a monopoly of fairs exists in certain towns. On the other hand, it is important to remember that although many corporations have tried in recent years to obtain this monopoly, but on the petition of the Showmen's Guild Parliament has refused to give them such powers. This valuable right at common law to carry on the business of catering for the amusement of the public upon private land is one of the most important points in the charter of the showman's liberties secured to him by his own collective and organised work.

Parliamentary Opposition to the Movable Dwelling Bill.

We are informed that the Executive Committee of the Showmen's Guild will have further time granted them by the exigency of Parliamentary business to rally their friends and to perfect their plans to oppose the Movable Dwellings Bill. It is understood that the Movable Dwellings Bill will not be considered again until the Children's Bill of the Government comes up from the House of Commons.

The Prime Minister, in his statement as to the business of Parliament to the end of the present sitting, timed for Aug. 1, states that the Children's Bill will be the first measure sent from the Commons to the Lords when the House reassembles for the Autumn Session in October next. If the understanding holds good that the Movable Dwellings Bill will be considered when the Children's Bill reaches the Lords, this will give, as we have already intimated, a most useful period of time to strengthen the opposition to the Bill, and if necessary to continue the important negotiations of the Guild Executive with its promoters to secure effective amendments safeguarding the business of the fairground. We need hardly add that the Rev. T. Horne, Guild Organiser and Chaplain, and the Parliamentary Agent, Mr. F. Millar, are watching every development of the question in Parliament, and will take immediate steps to meet unexpected contingencies.

Briefly put, the present position is this—the Movable Dwellings Bill will not be considered until October next, unless some unforeseen contingency arises during the next fortnight, but if such does arise all necessary action will be taken to meet the emergency. Taking it for granted that showmen will have until October next to strengthen their opposition and to demonstrate their determination to throw out or to amend the Bill, it will be well for protest meetings to be organised at every fair, and for petitions to be signed and forwarded to the Guild Secretary to be added to those already sent in for presentation to the House of Lords. Will lessees of fairgrounds and showmen of all grades interested in the defence of their home life and business take part in this work by sending to *The Era* office for petition sheets and copies of the printed resolution against the Bill. They will be forwarded on application to the Guild Secretary, *The Era*, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Notes from the Midland Round.

At Redditch Summer Carnival were P. Collins' three concerns, the Wonderland cinematograph theatre, the Gordon-Bennett motor-car track, and the helter-skelter tower or slippery slope; Birch's two ground booths (the midget marvels and the swimming exhibition); H. Hughes' two shows (the assault-at-arms military tournament and the fine art exhibition). The other concerns and amusements were the haunted house, W. Chaplain's and G. Ford's midget ponies and motor-cars; novelty frames, cokers, shooting galleries, and varieties by Messrs. Ford, Chaplain, Humphries, Stanley, Buckland, Butler, and others.

At Headless Cross Cherry Tree Wakes were Chipperfield's cinematograph exhibition; T. Clarke's superb motor-car set, and the No. 2 concern—the Canadian chute; Wilson's shooting galleries, and many other attractions of the usual kind.

At Astwood Bank the entertainers were H. Strickland, with motor-cars and galloping horses, park swings, shooting saloons, and throwing games, and Fletcher's varieties. These three fairs were held within a radius of three miles, and afforded great delight and amusement to the people of a thronged and important industrial district. To finish the story of this part of the Midland round, our correspondent informs us that Scott's steam gallopers are at Hanbury, and Herbert's amusements are located at Studley.

South Wales Echoes.

Mr. W. Haggar's No. 1 magnificent bioscope is at Neath for a week, some of the newest and best pictures are on exhibition, and together with excellent variety turns draws splendid houses. Ford's gondolas, &c., are stationed at Trehafris, and Mr. John Studt, with his fairground aggregation, together with Mrs. Scott's amusements and varieties, are still in the Rhondda Valley. Mr. H. Scard, managing-director of Wadbrooke's electrograph and coliseum of varieties, is busily engaged preparing his new monster programme for the Pontypridd August Bank Holidays.

Alexandra's Circus paid a visit to Hastings on Monday, and was located in the cricket ground. The versatile and talented company included the Motor and Mote Troupe of trick and comedy cyclists in their football match on bicycles; Professor Lorenzo's troupe of twenty educated dogs; the Raisuli troupe of Moorish acrobats; Bellonino, contortionist; the Alpine Bros., in pole-climbing; Traveller and Gardelle, gymnasts; the Altons, in their speciality act, "Demonic Gambols"; Millie Morris, in song, and Little May, a neat transformation dancer. The horses were much admired, and pleasing exhibitions of equestrian skill were shown by Miss Julian, Mme. Denny, the Sisters Merkel, Mr. Anderson, and Mr. J. Yelding. Hairpin, the clown, had some merry jests, and the visit proved a popular one.

Penzance and its Ancient Charter.

There is a good deal of popular feeling in favour of the show-people amongst the great body of the good burgesses of Penzance. Public feeling is much excited over the question of the large claims of the Corporation under their ancient Charter. The local Press on the powers claimed by the Corporation takes an extremely just and common-sense view.

The *Cornishman*, the best-read paper at the Land's End, with both a weekly and a daily issue at Penzance, expresses itself very frankly on the matter of the alleged Charter rights.

No Inherent Mystery about the Charter.

The *Cornishman* says:—"Some of the rumours in circulation about the Corporation Charter and the Corpus Christi Fair are quite incorrect, and no good purpose can be served by keeping the burgesses in ignorance of the facts. Fair rights are said not only to be granted by Charter, but are to be interpreted also under the common law of England. Many decisions have been given in the Courts as to commodity fairs, pleasure fairs, the setting up of opposition fairs, and the like, and some of these might influence a decision in any action brought under a Charter which does not specifically deal with certain points. There is, of course, no more mystery about the Penzance Charter than there is about the bye-laws of the Morrab Gardens; and there is no reason why the translated clauses of the Charter should not be posted side by side with these bye-laws, except that they would take up a good deal of room and would be very seldom referred to by the public. Our Town Council is a body of honourable men, and in any claim they may assert with regard to the transference of the shows to Heamoor, they will only desire their legal due, and not to extract money by sharp practice under a cloak of mystery. That being so, it may as well be said that their rights are contained in the Charter, plus any case which has decided points arising out of similar Charters. Not only is there no mystery about the Charter, as copies of translations are owned by various burgesses, but I am told that a translation was sold by auction at Penzance and was knocked down to the highest bidder."

The Fair Rights of the Charter.

Proceeding, the writer of the article pertinently remarks: "Well, what does the Charter say? We need not bother about minute legal wording, which only confuses the lay mind. I have gone through the 1825 translation, and I find that the fairs were granted to the 'vill of Penzance,' and the size of the vill of Penzance was laid down as half a mile in any direction from a central point. In actual practice, when some rating questions had to be settled which affected both Penzance and Madron, the central point was fixed as the Green Market, and a circle a mile in diameter was drawn around it, which constitutes the Borough of Penzance. The line cuts Prebendary Hedgeland's house in two. The Charter gave the town the right to hold the Corpus Christi Fair on the eve and on the day of the Feast, which would be the Wednesday and Thursday, and the Corporation were given power to make and collect stall charges, &c., during this two days' fair. It was stipulated that this and other Penzance fairs and markets were not to be carried on upon those days to the detriment of similar fairs held in neighbouring places. And as an acknowledgment of all the rights to markets, fairs, &c., granted under the Charter the borough agreed to pay for ever to the Exchequer the sum of five marks annually. A mark is an obsolete English coin of the value of 13s. 4d., so that Penzance was under an obligation from 1614 to pay the sum of £3 6s. 8d. per annum as an acknowledgment of the favour of King James in granting the Charter.

"It should be borne in mind that although the Charter says nothing about the distance within which no new opposition fair could be set up being six or seven miles or twenty miles, yet it is obvious that if Penzance had no Charter right to injure neighbouring fairs held on the same day, the inference is that people who have no Charter rights could not set up a fair within such a distance as would injure the Penzance Fair. And it is at this point that we are face to face with the array of fair cases tried in the Courts, and on which a layman has no right to speak with authority. When counsel's opinion is received it will doubtless be published, but enough is known to show that neither townspeople nor those outside the borough have been familiar even with the clauses of the Charter, much less have they known anything about the law cases which have dealt with rights acquired by usage or by the changes in the habits of the people. On the whole, the fair trouble may not be without good if it has the effect of clearing the air, defining the Council's powers, establishing their rights, and assisting in making such terms with the showmen in future as to give Corpus Christi Fair a fresh lease of life."

The Case for the Organised Showmen.

We do not think after the article we have quoted from the *Cornishman* that much more need be said to justify the action of the organised showmen. It cannot be too often repeated that showmen are entitled to receive at the hands of Corporations and their officials perfectly just and frank treatment. We can all be wise after the event—but it is in this case important to emphasise the fact that if the showpeople had been clearly told the full extent of the powers of the Corporation and if the Corporation officials had sought to justify the Corporation by giving evidence of the powers possessed by the authorities, a great deal of misunderstanding would have been avoided, and probably the present extremely critical state of affairs would not have happened.

We have already, in our reference to the extraordinary letter sent to the Guild secretary by the Buxton Urban District Council, referred to the very scant courtesy certain public bodies show towards the travelling showman. We venture to advise Corporations and their officials that in the future greater consideration will have to be paid to showmen, who, as an organised body of traders having business dealings with public bodies, are entitled to be shown the legal documents, charters, bye-laws, and extraordinary powers possessed by public bodies. We are sure that such fair dealing would prevent a great deal of the friction that unhappily occurs from time to time between showmen and Corporation officials.

Guild Subscriptions, 1903.—H. Strand, 10s. 6d.; H. Strand (second sub.), 5s.; Wm. Strand, jun., 5s.; T. Dawson, 5s.; H. Clayton, 5s.; Wm. Strand, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. W. Strand, 1s.; D. Kennedy, 5s

Decay of an Ancient Fair.

As illustrating the depopulation of some of our agricultural counties, the last attempt to keep Stow Green Fair is an example in point. With a history extending back 800 years, Stow Green Fair, held on common land two miles out from Billingborough, Lincolnshire, was for hundreds of years one of the most important fairs in the Fen country. It originally lasted three weeks, but has dwindled down to two days, and when the fair opened a few days ago it was almost deserted by showpeople and fairground traders.

Popular Fête at Cardiff.

The fairground amusements controlled by Mr. John Studt were extremely attractive at the fête held in the Sophia Gardens, Cardiff. The occasion was the effort in the interests of sweet charity on the part of the United Kingdom Commercial Travellers' Association. Mr. John Studt had his two magnificent machines, and generously gave half the proceeds towards the fund. The opening ceremony was performed by Lord Ninian Stuart. The 1st Gordon Highlanders' band, with pipers and dancers, and the Gordon Boys' band played splendid selections of popular airs.

Messrs Manders' bioscope has had a most successful season of private business at Tenby.

Fête at Bedwellty Park.

A successful fête and gala was held at Bedwellty Park, Tredegar, under the auspices of the athletic club. Thousands visited the beautiful grounds during the day, and an excellent programme was gone through, including sensational feats on the high rope, 60ft. in the air, by Don Pedro; Fred Andyson, comic conjurer; Trillo, ventriloquist; the Jones-Hughes Gymnastic Troupe; Frank Hyett, juggler and balancer; and Les Blancs, horizontal bar experts. There were many other attractions, and a very fine display of fireworks took place at dusk. Music was rendered by the Tredegar Town Band.

Horwich Fair.

Here for the fair were J. Green's farmyard, Walton's shooting saloon and aerial swings, Chadwick's sheets and hammers, Taylor's dolly stalls, J. Grant's Emmas, John Hasting's midgets and giantess (Miss Lambert), Gardiner's palace of delight, Lenard's fisheries, and Johnson's silver cup and clock competitions.

AMUSEMENTS IN WHITLEY BAY.

The Spanish City, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Elderton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Jack Hastings.—The Spanish City, which has been built at an initial cost of £2,000, is quite an Earl's Court in miniature. The grounds are neatly laid out with raised flower-beds, and are now quite a mass of bloom. The main entrance, which faces the sea front at the north end of the magnificent and lengthy promenade, is in the form of a portcullis of a Spanish castle, with a noble arch in the centre, with smaller ones at each side. Leaving the turnstiles, there is a broad walk with a background representing an old garden wall and old dwellings. On the right there is erected a maze of fairly long proportions. Further on is the directors' and manager's offices in the form of an old château. On the north side there is a large "Mat" with a couple of spiral runs that are in constant demand. On the left we come to the pavilion in which the principal performances are given; it seats 1,100 people under cover. The stage is situated on the eastern portion, and provides ample room for almost any class of entertainment. The proscenium opening is of fairly wide proportions with plenty of height and handsomely decorated in the same style of Spanish grandeur. There is a promenade that provides accommodation for close upon another 4,000 people. Surrounding this promenade there are stalls for the sale of all manner of things found in resorts of this kind, all in the old Spanish style. This promenade, along with the whole of the grounds, is illuminated and lighted with brilliant electric lights. In addition there are several side-shows scattered about the grounds. The season's artists, numbering some twenty-six, give two performances daily, and include Courter Dutton, baritone; Percy Wright (late of *The Earl and the Girl* Co.); Teddy Worth, comedian; Jack Hastings, female impersonator; Alex. Alexander, Scotch comedian; the Cameron Quartette; Dora Woodhouse, soprano; Dolly Cusden, contralto; Francis Burton, comedienne; Nelly Stewart, comedienne; and Gertie Gavagham, comedienne, and a first-class orchestra. Each week special variety turns are being engaged in addition to the permanent company. This week the second part of the evening performance consists of a representation of the lively and popular old favourite musical comedy, *Fun on the Bristol*, with Mr. Edward Neville as the Widow O'Brian, played with great gusto by that capable artist; Miss Rosie Neville submits a pleasing rendition of Nora; and Miss Lole Esmond is especially good as Dora McAllister. Mr. Percy Wright is quite at home as Count Menagio; Mr. Jack Hastings merrily accounts for Jerry; and Miss Nellie Stewart is most amusing as Bella. Mr. Teddy Worth heartily impersonates Captain Cranberry; and commendable representations of Tom Cranberry and Richard Spooks are given by Mr. James Cameron and Mr. C. Dutton respectively. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Herbert Somerset. The venture has assuredly "caught on," and the Spanish City is already a *rendezvous* for the crowds who now frequent this popular North Country seaside resort.

The Band Pavilion.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Catlin.—Excellent programmes are being submitted by a good all-round company of pierrots, including Ted Wootton, baritone vocalist; Frank Fox, humorist; Herbert Carrington, comedian; George Hirste, comedian; George Delamere, the languid dude; Robertson Keene, versatile artist; George Houghton, tenor vocalist; and Ernest Westley.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens.

EXIT DOORS.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that at recent inspections of the Britannia Theatre, High-street, Hoxton, it was found that certain of the exit doors had been fastened by means of a wooden bar placed across them, and at the Paragon Theatre of Varieties, Mile End-road, exit doors have recently been found to be chained and padlocked. The Committee were of opinion that notices under the 45th section of the Metropolitan Board of Works (Various Powers) Act, 1882, should be served on the persons keeping open these premises, so as to enable proceedings to be taken should the exit doors again be found to be improperly fastened.

The Committee recommended that the notices be served, and this was agreed to.

EXPLOSIVES.

The Committee reported that during the quarter ended June 30, 1908, explosives and dangerous substances were found to be in use in licensed premises on fifty-seven occasions. In no case were the arrangements found to be unsatisfactory.

INSPECTION.

The Committee reported that the expenditure incurred during the quarter ended June 30, 1908, in connection with visits to unlicensed premises to ascertain whether public music or dancing was given thereat, and in connection with reports upon the character of the performances at licensed premises, amounted to £4 7s. 6d.

CINEMATOGRAPH FIRES.

Mr. W. Reynolds asked the Chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee whether his attention had been called to a cinematograph fire which occurred in Leeds on the previous Thursday, and which had caused a panic, though fortunately no loss of life; and whether he knew of any way to induce the Government to proceed with their promised legislation with regard to cinematograph entertainments in unlicensed premises.

Mr. E. Wild (in the absence of the Chairman of the Committee) said he had no knowledge of this particular fire, and he knew of no way of inducing the Government to bring in a Bill dealing with the question.

THE NEW COUNTY HALL.

The Establishment Committee recommended that the design now submitted of the new County Hall be approved.

The Rev. F. Hastings moved as an amendment that the recommendation be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

In the course of the discussion which followed,

Mr. George Alexander made an appeal to the Committee to protect the architect whose design had been selected and was now submitted for approval. The assessors had agreed that this design was the best of those sent in, and he hoped that members would not spoil the architect's work by suggesting alterations which would destroy the beauty of the original plan. It was impossible to get a number of people to agree on the question of architecture; some liked one form of work and some liked another. He thought that a very English-like argument had been brought forward. In England it was usual for a shopman to recommend a certain article to a customer because he had sold so many of them; but, on the other hand, the French shopkeeper would recommend an article because it was unique. And could it not be urged that the design of their architect was a unique one?

The amendment was defeated and the recommendation of the Committee eventually adopted.

The White City, Old Trafford.

Monday was a beautifully fine day, and this amusement park was crowded all the afternoon and evening. All the side shows did well, and testified to the growing popularity of this pleasure resort. The more the people see the Bontoc Igorrotes the better they are appreciated for their simple primitive customs in their native village. Princess Trixie, the educated mare, also gains in popularity. The scenic railway, the figure-8 railway, and the other outside amusements are kept going.

Hanley Hospital Saturday Fête.

The fairground was situated on the Crown Bank. The principal shows, &c., were E. Holland's racing motor-cars, park swings, electric jumping horse, and cocoanut saloon; J. Storey's fine art exhibition; F. Connor's Aunt Sallys and Winchester range; and E. Saunt's stick stall and bottle breaker, all of which handed one-half their takings to the local charities and hospitals during Friday, Saturday, and Monday.

Accident to Well-known Showman.

We regret to hear of a somewhat serious misfortune which befell Mr. H. Banford, of Ball and Sons' New Lyceum. Mr. Banford was working his turn at the first performance of the show, now located at Tilbury Docks, when he slipped off the stage and fractured his ankle. The mishap created great sympathetic concern amongst the audience. Dr. Rogers was immediately in attendance, and all that surgical skill could do was at once done. Mr. H. Banford, who is a great favourite with the patrons of the show, will be out of the bill for a week or two. He has been with Mr. Ball for the past twelve years. We trust that he will soon be able to resume his work.

The proprietors of Willson's Printing Works, Leicester, send us their new streamer list, just published. This enterprising firm has now one of the finest and largest assortment of streamer letters in the United Kingdom, and their lettering is extremely striking and attractive.

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FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

A DRAMA IN THE TYROL is an absorbingly interesting tragedy. Karl Hauser comes to old Haffner to ask the hand of his daughter, Hathe, to whom he is engaged. Haffner indignantly refused his consent. Hathe weeps and Karl goes away feeling very angry, vindictive and violent, as the rest of his race, coming as they do from the mountains, and walking blindly along he swears to be revenged. Suddenly he perceives old Haffner walking along just above him on the hill, gun in hand, on the watch. He follows under cover of the bushes. The old man stops suddenly, aims and fires and brings down a bird, then pulling out a long cord, he ties it round himself and attaches it to a tree and lets himself down to fetch the bird. Overhead, Karl, watching him with a cruel look, takes out his knife and cuts the rope. A few hours later some men passing that way discover the crushed body of poor old Haffner. Hathe is brought to the spot, and weeps bitterly over her dead father, when she finds the knife which she had given to Karl a few days before as a present. She calls her lover, who is much overcome on seeing the victim of his cruelty, and taking the knife, she stabs him in the heart with it.

DAUBERS' WHIMS.—The painter in this little story has just finished the portrait of one of his clients, and is taking it home, much excited at the thought of the fee which will follow. En route, however, he, we naturally suppose, being somewhere in the clouds, as is natural to those of his class, sundry small boys, by means of pieces of coal, give his portrait a superb moustache. The painter arrives in the garden, where he finds the husband of his client lying full length on a long chair, to whom he shows the portrait. Great is the wrath of that gentleman on seeing the picture. Our painter promises to put matters right and turn out a splendid likeness, but the other refuses. On this the painter fetches a horse that happens to be near, harnesses him to the gentleman's chair, and away he goes, all through the village, with half the world and his wife following, amidst huge satisfaction from the onlookers and to the great delight of sundry and divers fellow painters.

VICTIM OF HIS PROBITY.—This is the title of a dramatic series. A lady, having lost her portfolio full of bank-notes, puts in her claim at the police-station. A penniless vagrant finds the case and takes it to the same police-station, where he is congratulated for his straightforwardness. Presently, however, the poor fellow is suspected of having stolen a few notes which the lady finds are missing from her pocket book. In spite of his denial he is locked up. Later on, a passer-by, having found the missing notes on the pavement, takes them to the police-station, and the officials go to the cell, where they find that the poor man has hanged himself.

TUNISIAN INDUSTRIES present in many open air scenes such phases of native work as rope making, bamboo basket manufacturing, sieve making, cheese making, and copper art.—THE GROTESQUE PEOPLE is a trick film. A series of grinning faces appear on the screen, followed by a troop of small actors, who disappear after performing all sorts of dances. Before retiring they all come back together and salute the audience.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

THE ROYAL VOYAGE TO CANADA.—The departure of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales from Portsmouth en route for the Quebec Tercentenary Celebrations is shown in a magnificent series of pictures secured by the Charles Urban Trading Co. The incidents depict the arrival of the Prince, the inspection of cadets under Admiral Fisher, scenes on the landing stage, farewells between the Prince and his son, the Royal salute by the "Victory," and a close view of the latter vessel.

LITTLE DROPS OF WATER; or Life in a Water Butt.—A further Urbanora micro-kinematograph series, in which are shown the various inhabitants of a water butt, in all stages of existence. Many of the species when thrown upon the screen are magnified millions of times, and the organisms displayed, living and moving in their own surroundings, present a triumph of scientific study and research never hitherto recorded. As, owing to their high transparency, the specimens of bacteria placed under the microscope must in the ordinary way be stained, and the operation of staining kills the germs, examination of typhoid and other disease bacilli is perforce a post-mortem study. By the Urban Micro-Kinematograph, however, this method is changed. The system adopted allows examination of living bacteria, which are shown in this series, for the first time in their history, in all stages of growth and movement.

THE SHIPWRECKERS.—This drama, full of strong situations, abounding in incident and thrilling adventure, with seascapes of wonderful beauty and charming effect, affords a peep into the past, and introduces some customs of the inhabitants of out-of-the-way coast districts. Ships were lured on to the rocks by means of false lights worked with a gentle motion. The method most commonly adopted was to fasten a lighted lantern on to the head of a cow, and the mariner, under the impression that the light was carried by another vessel, would conclude that his own was safe until, sailing unconscious of danger, his ship would dash upon the rocks and become a total wreck. On the principle that "dead men tell no tales," survivors from a wreck met with scant mercy at the hands of the wreckers, who often secured valuable hauls of merchandise and liquor on the break-up of the vessel they had lured to its destruction. The custom is fully and thrillingly illustrated in the present series, which forms a most interesting and enthralling picture story without words. Perfectly photographed, the rock-bound coast of Brittany forms a most picturesque setting for this cleverly enacted sensational drama, depicting one phase of marine life in a past generation.

THE STONE-BREAKER.—A stirring story of ruin, poverty after affluence, honest toil, temptation, fall, disappointment, remorse, and repentance, charmingly told in animated picture sequence. The photographic quality of the picturesque stereoscopic scenes is excellent, while the acting and setting are of a very high class.

NATIVE CUSTOMS IN THE TYROLEAN ALPS.—Taken by an operator with a quick eye for the essential and the picturesque, this splendid spectacular and historically interesting subject presents faithful views of Tyrolean life, character, customs and scenery. The religious beliefs of a simple people are reverently treated, and the illustrations unfold to the eye fresh charms the oftener they are regarded.

THE Urban Co. has just issued a handsome new binding case for the purpose of preserving the weekly circulars on film subjects published by the firm. Case and circulars will be sent to any applicant on receipt of postcard.

Gaumont Company.

THE HAND CHRONOMEGAPHONE.—At the Gaumont premises in Sherwood-street, Piccadilly-circus, our representative was shown a really practical singing machine which is likely to appeal very strongly to showmen and exhibitors. It is called the Hand Chronomegaphone. The Electric Chronomegaphone, which had such as astonishingly long run at the London Hippodrome, and was shown by Royal command before her Majesty the Queen and a distinguished party at Buckingham Palace last year, although a marvellous invention and quite worth the money asked for it, was, as far as price was concerned, a little out of the reach of many showmen and exhibitors. The Hand Chronomegaphone costs £150 only. Exactly the same results are obtained with it as with the more heavy and more elaborate Chronomegaphone. The synchronising devices are, like all great inventions, remarkably simple, thus lessening the likelihood of the machine getting out of order.

The projector and the talking machine are made to run at exactly the same speed, but we were shown that it is possible to increase or diminish the speed of the cinematograph in the event of the operator making a bad start. The apparatus is worked by hand, the only electricity employed being obtained from a small set of dry batteries. The Hand Chronomegaphone is light and portable, weighing only 4cwt. It is wired and fitted with a motor, so that it can be run by electricity should the purchaser so desire. Another great advantage is that the singing and synchronising portions of the machine can be attached to the "Professional Chrono." It is possible to run the projector quite independently of the singing machine, and vice-versa.

JANE SHORE.—The Gaumont Co. inform us that they are, in the course of a few days, producing a cinematograph version of that well-known drama, *Jane Shore*. With the knowledge of Gaumont's previous successes in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Napoleon and the English Sailor*, we can safely predict that *Jane Shore* will have a successful run. It is being produced on a magnificent scale.

THE KING AT BRISTOL is a fine topical film of the same firm. It is of excellent photographic quality, and gives a very comprehensive view of the Royal visit.

THE CUSTOM-HOUSE OFFICER'S STICK is a very exciting drama. We see the smugglers crossing the frontier, and later the officer at home, making the mark on his official stick. He bids his wife goodbye, and goes off with his friend to duty. They come upon the smugglers and a fight ensues. The officer is killed and the other wounded. The smugglers decamp, taking with them the marked stick. At a halting place the rogues fall out, and the one that has the stick is thrown over the mountain side. The fall is not fatal, and with the aid of the stick he gradually makes his way to the very place where the widow of the dead officer resides. He begs for a drink, and it is given him. The widow presently notices the stick, and recognises the marks as those of her deceased husband. She calls the other officer, who is now convalescent, and he accuses the man. He would have had him handed over to the police, but the widow intercedes, saying that a higher power shall punish him. It is altogether a fine subject.

TWO SIDES TO THE QUESTION is a fine Gaumont novelty. We see the police as they appear to be to some people, and then the police as they really are. The subject ends up with a pretty scene, with the presentation of a medal to a wounded but heroic police officer.

Nordisk Films Co.

BANKRUPT; OR, THE FAITHFUL CLERK.—This gives us a pretty little romance. A merchant, whose pretty daughter is engaged to an officer, becomes embarrassed in business and is in danger of bankruptcy. The officer, seeing that his bride is likely to be penniless, deserts her; but the merchant's clerk comes to his aid, pays the workmen with the money he has saved, and is rewarded with a partnership and the daughter's hand in marriage. The scenes are beautifully photographed.

HAPPY BOB'S ADVENTURES are continued in a further instalment this week, and this time they show our hero in an entertaining boxing exhibition, in which his skill with the gloves does not seem to be very pronounced.

HOLLOWAY HALL.—By the courtesy of Mr. F. R. Griffiths, a collection in this hall has been made on behalf of the London Hospital, resulting in a total of £6 6s. 2d.

MR. ANDREW PURCHASE'S menagerie and Mr. Tom Norman's Dahomey Warriors have been at Beach House Park, Worthing, this week.

THE AWARDS.—The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, K.C., the official arbitrator appointed to the music hall dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at *The Era* Offices. Copy, including postage, three-halfpence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

KINEMATOGRAPH regulations respecting the use of the kinematograph in theatres and halls, also the regulations respecting the use of limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the kinematograph or limelight should possess a copy of these regulations.

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WILLIAM JAGO, F.I.C., F.C.S.,

BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

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INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS

13,663.—Thomas Barrasford and William Faulkner, of London. Contrivance to be attached to a cinematograph for the purpose of extinguishing fire in the event of the celluloid films used in conjunction with a cinematograph becoming ignited.

13,709.—Francis Rhodes, Stoke-on-Trent. Novel means of showing pictorial or other cards.

13,786.—James Grant, of London. New game of skill in aiming at a target with plastic projectiles, for use in or out of doors.

13,814.—James Brierley Howard, of Sowerby Bridge, Yorks. New or improved merry-go-round or roundabout.

13,833.—Berlin-Neuroder Kunstanstalten Act Ges. and Dagobert Budwig, of London. Improvements in or relating to devices for displaying illustrations and giving pictorial effects.

13,848.—August Feiler, of London. Improvements in aerial flight chutes.

13,951.—Frank Harvey Urry and William David Locke, of London. Improvements in coin-freed amusement apparatus.

14,081.—Julius Frederick Gems and William Francis Nicks, of London. Improvements in lay figures and the like, intended for purposes of display, or to serve as models, dummies, toys, and the like.

14,119.—John Worthington and Henry Worthington, of Blackpool. Improvements in the method of constructing and arranging cars, carriages, and the like, which shall, as a composite body, execute and perform a combination of forward and rotary motions, the two movements acting simultaneously.

14,203.—Alfred Henry Elsmore, of Liverpool. Improvements in and appertaining to bows, for use in playing upon stringed instruments.

14,257.—Ferdinand von Madaler and Alfred Edwin Wallis, of London. Improvements in disc cinematograph.

14,266.—Oscar Messter, of London. Improvements in the method of obtaining and reproducing speaking living pictures.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

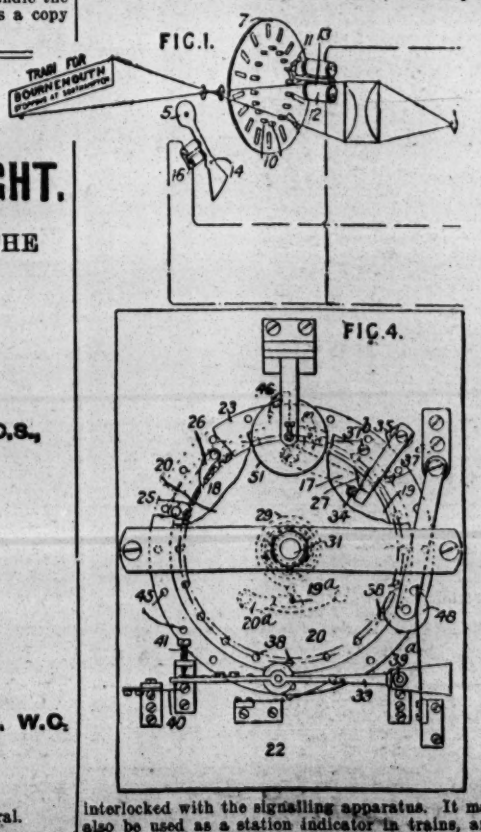
6,194.—Spörri. Synchronisers for phonographs, cinematographs, and the like.

9,699.—Hansen. Apparatus for producing and displaying kinematographic photographs.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

29,001.—Optical projection apparatus. W. R. Sykes, of Bickley, Kent; C. J. Cooke, of Wood Green, London; and W. R. Sykes, of Swanley, Kent.

Relates to slide-changing apparatus for optical projection apparatus, which is controlled from a distance electrically. Fig. 1 is a diagram of the lantern apparatus, and Fig. 4 is an elevation of the distant controlling apparatus. The transparencies are mounted on an endless band, or on a disc (7), provided with laterally projecting pins (10), a crescent-shaped pawl (11), carried by the rotary oscillating armature (13) of an electro-magnet (12), engaging with these pins to turn the disc (7) step by step. A weighted shield (5), pivoted at 14, intercepts the path of the light during the slide-changing process, and is then withdrawn by an electro magnet (16). The controlling device consists mainly of three discs (18, 19, 20), mounted to rotate independently on the spindle (31), the disc (20) being provided with pins (38), corresponding to the pins (10) on the disc (7), and adapted to rock the lever (39) about its pivot (39a), to complete electric circuits alternately at the points (40, 41), and so energise the magnets (12, 16) alternately The disc (18) is turned by hand in one direction only, its backward movement being prevented by a pawl (26) and ratchet-teeth (25). The movement of the disc (19) is limited to one revolution by a stop (34), engaging with a pivoted arm (35), which can turn through a small angle between the stops (37a, 37b). The end of the arm (17), which is pivoted to the disc (18), and is pressed outwardly by a spring, is normally kept in engagement with a notch (27) in the disc (19) by a wedge on the arm (35). To set any slide in position, a peg is inserted in the corresponding hole (45), provided in the dial-plate (22), and the disc (18) is turned through a complete revolution, carrying the disc (19) with it, since the arm (17) is kept in engagement with the notch (27) by contact with the inner edge of a fixed ring (23). At the end of a revolution the pin (34) presses the arm (35) against the stop (37b), and allows the end of the arm (17) to rise into a notch in the ring (23); the spring (29), which has been wound up by the forward rotation of the disc (19), then returns the latter, until a projection (46) on it engages the adjusted peg. A projection (19a) on the disc (19) engages the pawl (20a) on the disc (20), and causes the discs to rotate together, the pins (38) rocking the lever (39) to make the contacts necessary to set the disc (7) in position. A roller (48) acts as a detent, and an escapement (51) limits the speed of rotation of the disc (20), under the influence of the spring (29). This device may be used as a departure and arrival indicator for trains, and may be



interlocked with the signalling apparatus. It may also be used as a station indicator in trains, and may be operated automatically.

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SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

"Standing room only" has been the rule at the rise of the curtain during this week at the Shepherd's Bush Empire. Doubtless Mr. George Robey is to a great extent responsible for this. "The Prime Minister of Mirth" is in very excellent form just now, and has been delivering three most humorous numbers at each performance. "Bang went the chance of a lifetime" is a typical George Robey appetiser, and also one of the best he has ever had. This he follows with his "Waggish Will of Avon," the now well-known and popular skit on Shakespeare; and he completes his contribution with a "dame" sketch, which, whilst being quite original, inevitably recalls some of the quaint old ladies that poor old Dan Leno used to introduce to us. Mr. George Robey is a wonderfully clever comedian, and at the same time the possessor of a powerful personality, which together have given him a place in the music-hall profession second to none. Apart from Mr. Robey, however, the programme this week is one of unusual excellence.

A turn which on the night of our call created a sensation was that given by the De Wynne Brothers, a couple of athletes. These two gentlemen went through a performance of great difficulty in the most unconcerned manner, with the assistance of scarcely any apparatus, and the rounds of applause which their feats drew forth were richly deserved. Ralph and Nellie Howard contribute a bright musical sketch entitled *A Military Maid*; and Helen Trix, who sings songs at the piano, quickly achieves considerable popularity.

Mr. Henry Coutts, billed as the great protean actor, appears in a spectacular and mystic production entitled *Outflanked*, in which he presents some seven or eight characters. Mr. Coutts' performance is remarkable for its rapidity, and his changes are certainly very well done. Spry and Austin achieve their usual big success, their turn causing much laughter. Bob Hamilton, a Scotch comedian, goes very well, some of his jokes being particularly smart; and on the Bioscope are shown an amusing series of pictures, entitled A Useful Coat. Ethel Haydon, looking more beautiful than ever, gives much delight with a couple of sentimental songs somewhat of the ballad type, one of which seemed to be entitled "The dear old home." The programme is completed by Edward Lauri and May Beatty and company in their very successful musical comedy mélange *In Her Boudoir*. May Beatty is a most charming artist and Edward Lauri a clever comedian, so that the great success of this item is not to be wondered at. Mention should be made of the excellent orchestra under Mr. Henry W. May, which has this week been playing the "Shepherd's Bush Two-step," founded on the famous song "Down at Shepherd's Bush."

BATTERSEA PALACE.

This week the management of the Battersea Palace present a really strong programme, appreciation of which is testified to by the excellent audiences nightly filling the house. Miss Winifred Norman is a vocalist of considerable charm and ability, while her dancing is characterised by novelty in execution. Henney and Blanche introduce a dancing duologue, which gives one of them an opportunity for a capitally-executed display of various forms of Continental dancing, while the other tunefully explains the reasons why she'd "Like to be a lady." Harry Village is a humorist of considerable talent, and meets with his audience's approval by his rendering of "He's deaf and dumb and silly" and "Stick to it, Jerry." Mr. Teddy Edmunds and company appear in an unusually mirth-provoking little sketch *The Lady Jockey*. The whole of the fun centres around a gentleman of sporting and theatrical proclivities, who at one and the same time wishes to engage a stable-boy and a lady to take the part of the jockey. The part of the stable-boy applicant is most humorously portrayed, and the little piece goes merrily from start to finish.

A great feature is the cakewalk competition, in which juveniles as well as adults take part. It is really amusing to watch the deadly earnestness of purpose expressed in the youthful faces, and the skill of execution betokens hard training. Whistler is a comedian of very considerable powers, and his labial efforts fully justify the assumption of his *nom de théâtre*. Guest and Newlyn give a comedy duologue, in which they display some marvellously accurate dancing. The Sisters Thorne adhere to the good old waltz-time melody, whose popularity seems never to fade, and to it they effectively render "Float me, Charlie," and "Down in my submarine." Miss Josephine Crook, a young lady possessed of an excellent voice, introduces two illustrated songs, "Take me on the Flip-flap" and "Oh, where is my boy tonight?" the humour and pathos of which are respectively fully welcomed by her hearers. Miss Esther Phillips appears in the serious little drama entitled *The Sorceress*. Miss Phillips is an actress of very considerable dramatic power, and she throws into her impersonation of the principal character a great deal of nervous intensity. She is very well supported by the members of her company. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux bring a capital programme to a close.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—Your Wolverhampton correspondent, in reporting the Flower Show and Fête last week, states that the Four Herberts appeared, whereas it should have been yours faithfully.—THE FIVE ABADAROFFS, 8, Fenwick-street, Manchester, July 15.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"DADDY'S BOY."

Dramatic Episode, by Dick Cruikshanks, produced at the Standard Music Hall on Monday, July 13.

Jack Carlton .....MR. H. W. HATCHMAN
Dr. Philip Harley ....MR. FREDERICK F. LLOYD
Ducie Cholmondeley .....MR. ESME ERSKINE
Nurse Edwards .....MISS EDITH VILLIS
Kate Carlton .....MISS FLORENCE CREAGH

Mr. T. S. Dickie staged yet another new sketch at the Standard on Monday—*Daddy's Boy*—from the pen of Mr. Dick Cruikshanks, a gloomy playlet that held the attention of the audience throughout, and met with a decidedly friendly reception. "Daddy's boy" is the twelve months old son of Jack and Kate Carlton—married, but evidently not mated, Jack spending his evenings in drinking bouts at the club, and his neglected wife finding some little consolation in the companionship of the family doctor, Philip Harley, with whom she contemplates an elopement. The infant is dangerously ill, but being its birthday, the father foolishly insists it should be brought into the dining-room, where the action takes place. Both Jack and his wife are attached to the little chap, and it is therefore somewhat strange that they should absent themselves from home when the child is in such a critical condition—the wife to go to a theatre, and Jack to spend the evening in the usual way, carousing at the club. Kate returns late from the play, from which she has derived no enjoyment, and after dismissing the nurse, reads a letter from Dr. Harley, in which he advises her to "seek a sunnier clime, accompanied by her medical adviser." Soon after, Harley makes his appearance, and again begs her to leave her husband and go abroad with him, but she refuses to leave the child in its present state. Going to the cot, she notices a change in the boy, and the doctor pronounces him dead. Eventually the voice of the tempter prevails, and as the couple are about to depart, the husband enters, slightly inebriated, accompanied by a drunken dude, Dick Cholmondeley. The guilty couple remark that they were going on the balcony, and Jack, not suspecting the child is dead, invites them all to drink "Many happy returns" to "Daddy's boy." Kate endeavours to restrain her husband's hilarity, and finally gets rid of Cholmondeley, and Jack then remembers that he has bought a present for the youngster. Taking the toy to the cot, he tries to wake the infant, and gradually perceives he is dead. He also soon realises the true state of affairs between Kate and Harley, and dismisses the doctor from the house. One would have thought that it was not too late, under the circumstances, to reclaim his wife, especially as she does not appear particularly eager to go with the doctor; but the author has preferred a tragic curtain, and Jack casts his wife aside, and, declaring that he will not be parted from "Daddy's boy," shoots himself.

The rôle of Kate Carlton was enacted by Miss Florence Creagh, who is to be complimented on an admirable performance throughout of a somewhat unthankful part. Excellent also was the Jack of Mr. W. W. Hatchman, particularly effective being the incident where Jack Carlton gradually awakens to the fact that his boy is dead. The other parts were all ably portrayed, and the playlet was adequately staged.

A BLACKPOOL ANNIVERSARY.

Mr. J. R. Huddlestone, the manager of the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, decided upon having a grand pageant in commemoration of the opening of the Winter Gardens (July 11, 1878), and this idea was excellently carried out on Saturday by everyone concerned. Blackpool has had many kinds of fêtes and celebrations, but that of a pageant has not been conspicuous in former programmes; in fact, this form of celebration is more in vogue in the Southern and Midland counties, where they are very popular at the present time.

Notwithstanding the additional attractions on Saturday night, the ordinary price of admission was observed, and thousands turned up to take part in the celebrations, which were held in the Empress Ballroom. Gaiety was the predominant feature of the evening. The programme was so arranged that the public were able to participate in the merry dances, which were freely interspersed with speciality turns by the artists from the Pavilion entertainments. Suspended in front of the balconies were national, colonial, and regimental flags, while the brilliancy of the scene in the ballroom was increased by the illuminated dances and the vari-coloured limelight effects.

The humorous vocalisations of "This Quartette" and Fraulein Katchen Loisset, the charming soubrette, with her performing pigeons, were greatly appreciated items in the first half of the programme, and the latter part of the proceedings was chiefly contributed to by the artists engaged in the *Andalusia* ballet. The musical virtuosi William and Wagner delighted the large audience first of all with their performance; then followed a minuet by the Tiller Troupe and the ladies of the ballet, prettily costumed, and representative of many historical characters.

The floor having been kept clear for these items, then came the piece of the evening—the grand pageant—the Lord Mayor's procession, the whole company taking part in a grand representation. Two trumpeters in regulation uniform heralded the Lord Mayor with a fanfare of trumpets, and the large audience—which packed the balconies and the promenade of the ballroom—cheered lustily as the Lord Mayor and the procession, headed by a page boy, appeared on the scene. The orchestra played an inspiriting march, and then followed in order—

Two Liveried Servants.
Sword Bearer.
Trumpeter. Trumpeter.
Beadle.
Mace Bearer.
LORD MAYOR.
Life Guardsman. Life Guardsman.
Two Sheriffs.
Two Judges.
City Marshal.
Beefeater. Ambassador. Beefeater.
Beefeater. Admiral. Beefeater.
Beefeater. Army Officer. Beefeater.
20 Postillions. Postillions.
Small Page.

Having marched round the room, the Lord Mayor took up a position on an improvised platform in front of the orchestra, where he was accompanied by the Sheriffs, the Judges, Ambassador, &c. Having witnessed the lively and beautiful tambourine dance by the lady members of the ballet, the Lord Mayor and his party reformed in processional order, and after another fanfare of trumpets, the retiring march was commenced, to the accompaniment of further cheering by the enthusiastic audience. The whole concluded with *The Merry Widow* waltz, and a petal shower, the public participating in the dance with great zest and pleasure. The orchestra rendered excellent service with choice selections, under Mr. J. H. Greenhalgh, and so enormous was the success that the pageant is to be repeated this evening.

THE excellent choir assisting Mr. George Leyton in his new production, *The Last Muster*, at the Oxford, was supplied by Mr. Philip Nolan, whose name is synonymous with thorough training.

MR. ARTHUR WOODVILLE, who is appearing at the Ealing Hippodrome this week, is scoring heavily with his two numbers, "In the time of Eve" and "The Ace of Spades." He is also very successful with his dancing, which is altogether a departure from that of the usual "mere male."

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COMPANIES WANTED.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.,
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, March 8, 22, 29, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov. 16 (three nights),
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Oct. 29 (3 nights), Feb. 8, 22, March 8, 15, 22, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 9, 16, March 22.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Sept. 21, Oct. 15 (three nights), Dec. 14, Jan 18, Feb. 1, 15, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Oct. 5, Nov. 30, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
Oct. 5 26 (three nights), Nov. 23, 30, Xmas (seven nights), Feb. 22, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
Xmas (7 nights), Feb. 15, March 15, 22, 29, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Nov. 9, 23, 30, Dec. 7,
Jan 4, 11, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
1908, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 28.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE,
Dec. 14.
Address, R. G. ELDER,
Metropole Theatre, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Aug. 17, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Aug. 17, 31, Sept. 14, 21 28 Oct. 12, on (3 nights only).
Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company, Theatre Royal, Canterbury, for Cricket Date, Aug. 20, 21, 22, Musical preferred. E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
July 27, Sept. 28 (?), Oct. 25,
and a few Autumn Dates.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Sept. 14 (3 nights), Nov. 16, &c.
Entirely New Electric Installation on Stage.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
Nov. 9, onwards.

Apply for all above, ROWLAND, T., Folkestone.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
Aug. 24, T. R., Edinburgh;
and Sept., Glasgow.
Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.
The Only Theatre Open in the City.
WANTED, Pay-Box Attractions,
Various April, 1909, onwards.
Open to arrange First-class Panto., 1910.
Re dates, address, ARTHUR JEFFERSON. On all matters affecting the visit, printing, bill copy, plots, &c., GORDON JEFFERSON. Wires, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

This is indeed the slack season in theatrical business. All the other theatres are closed, and yet the Metropole, by arranging for an earlier vacation, is doing unusual business, many patrons being unable to find a seat on Saturday, the "House Full" notice being early in evidence.—Glasgow Evening News, July 13.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies.
Only Season Dates Vacant:—
Aug. 17 (three nights),
Aug. 31 (3 nights).
Also Wanted, Autumn Dates, commencing Sept. 28.
Apply, W. W. KEENE,
Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, Good Attraction,
Aug. 3,
Wire, C. M. JULIAN,
to-day, Empire, Oldham.
July 20, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
for Aug. 10 (Musical preferred),
Sept. 21, Oct. 19,
Nov. 2, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, S. F. DAVIDSON.
General-Manager, ALEXANDER TELFORD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for remaining Vacant Dates, 1908, and Various, 1909.
Address, 16, Ridley-villas, Newcastle.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Company, for July 27, six nights and two matinées, important date. Thanks for numerous offers. Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Aug. 10 (race week) and Aug. 17.
Apply, R. C. BUCHANAN, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Aug. 10, 17, 24, Sept. 7, 14, and 21.
Apply, MR. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

PIER PAVILION THEATRE,
EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Sept. 14 (three nights), Sept. 24 (three nights) (?), Sept. 28 (three nights), and various dates, onwards.
Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

GRAND THEATRE, SWANSEA.
Sole Lessee and Manager, E. OSWALD BROOKS.
WANTED, No. 1 Musical Comedy or High-class Comedy, for Aug. 17, suddenly vacant.
Wire or write, E. O. BROOKS,
"Underhill," Mumbles, Glam.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
WANTED, First-class Drama, Aug. 3. Wire lowest certainty, CARLTON, Worcester.

WANTED, Companies, Share or Certainty, Aug. Bank Holiday and on.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH,
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only entertained.
Vacant Aug. 3, 10 (?), 17 (?), 24, Sept. 7,
onward, with exceptions.
All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Aug. 10 (?), 17, 24, 31,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Sept. 21, Nov. 9, Dec. 21,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant Aug. 3, Dec. 7, 21, 28,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK,
Vacant April 5, 12, 19, June 7,
onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant July 20, 27, Aug. 3,
onward, with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.

Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c.

ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, Good Drama, Aug. 6, 7, 8; Light Attractions, Aug. 24 and 31 (3 nights), Sept. 23, and Oct. 29, 30, 31 (3 nights).

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH,
Vacant Sept. 17, 18, 19, Oct. 15, 16, 17
(3 nights each).

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP.
Proprietor, S. GOODMAN.
Wanted, Companies, last three nights of weeks, September, and on.

TOWN HALL, RUGBY,
Vacant Oct. 12, and on.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK THEATRES,
Vacant Dates in August and September.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY,
Vacant Sept. 7, and on.

W. PAYNE SEDDON, The Spa, Whitby.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The leading Theatre of the town and district.
WANTED, Known, vacant through transfers, Aug. 10, 17, 24, and 31. Future Bookings include: "The Thief," "A White Man," "Diana of Dobson's," "Jack Straw," "Mrs. Dot," "Lady Frederick," "Brewster's Millions," "With Edged Tools," and the leading Musical Comedies. Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL,
MERTHYR.
Working in conjunction with Bargoed only.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
July 27,
Oct. 19,
Dec. 14,
Feb. 22, '09.
onwards.

Wire re July 27.
Apply, A. JACKSON WITHERS,
Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

The above Theatre is under the same management as Bargoed, but is not working in conjunction with any other Theatres in South Wales.

Will Managers please note that the Bookings advertised do not in any way apply to above Theatres, First-class Attractions only being entertained.

THEATRE ROYAL,
BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, Strong Attraction,
Aug. 10,
only vacant date this year.
Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland,
Booked in conjunction.
Apply, A. C. MOODY.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Big Attraction, Aug. 3, Aug. 17.
E. H. PAGE.

THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Sept. 28, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Xmas (Musical), and onwards, with exceptions. Apply, AUGUSTE A. PEULEVE, General-Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, sound Attractions, Aug. 10, Sept. 21, Oct. 5, 12 (Musical), onwards, with exceptions.
SHERWOOD and Co.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Aug. 17, 24 and on, with exceptions.
Address, W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, Companies Touring Scotland to book Theatre Royal, Inverness. Vacant Dates, Sept., onwards. CAMERON BURGESS, Manager.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Best Companies, Aug. 6, 7, 8; 13, 14, 15; 19, 20, 21. Apply, PHILLIPS.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
Oct. 19 (?), 26 (?), Dec. 21, 28 (?),
Jan. 4 (?), 18 (?), Feb. 1, March 15, 22, 29.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Productions, Musical Comedies and No. 1 Plays, to Open the Dramatic Season, Sept. 14, Oct., Nov., Dec.
Apply to JAMES KIERNAN, Eskdale, Croondle, Douglas, I.O.M., until further notice.

WATERLOO HALL THEATRE, WHITBY.
Centrally Situated, Second Year of Present Management.
WANTED, Companies, Vacant Aug. 6 (three nights), follow "In the Soup," Mr. Leigh Lovell's Company; Aug. 17, through misunderstanding, follow Mr. F. H. Maltby's Company; and various, onwards. JULIAN BAINBRIDGE, Lessee and Manager.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Aug. 17, 18, 19; 24, 25, 26; Sept. 7, 8, 9.
W. PAYNE.

BASINGSTOKE.—CORN HALL.
WANTED, Companies. Finest Hall in North Hampshire, now thoroughly restoring by Town Council, also decorating and re-seating, ready for re-opening, Aug. 31. Moderate rental, or shares. S. WALFORD, Lessee.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Musical and Front Rank Dramatic Attractions, Aug. 31, Oct. 26, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 8 onwards. Good panto. entertained for Feb. 8.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

THEATRE ROYAL, SHREWSBURY.
WANTED, Aug. 10, 17 (Monday and Tuesday only), and 24, First-class Companies only entertained. Communicate, W. C. DORNTON, Business Manager.

WORTHING THEATRE ROYAL.
WANTED, First-class Co., July 27, 30, three nights one matinée each instance; only vacant dates until October; Musical Comedy preferred. Wire or write to SEEBOLD, as above.

COMPANIES WANTED.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Booked by
MOSS EMPIRES, LTD.,
in conjunction with
BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE
and
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only,
BROADWAY THEATRE.
Sept. 7, Dec. 14, April 5, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
April 5, May 17, 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 23.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
April 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Re-opening after alterations, re-decorating and re furnishing, Aug. 24. Wanted, good sound Attractions,
Nov. 2, March 22, April 5, 12, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31.

Address, with full particulars, terms, &c., where can be seen, to
MOSS EMPIRES, LTD.,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., London, W.C.

Envelopes marked "Theatres."

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, MR. FRED GRANVILLE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Dramatic Attractions, Aug. 17, and 31, Oct. 12, Nov. 2.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL,
Wanted, Musical and other High-class London Attractions, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, 14, 21, and on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, Powerful Attractions, Aug. 3, 10, 17, Sept. 21, 28, on.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL,
Wanted, Good-class Attractions, Aug. 3, 10, 17, and onwards.
Re dates, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes for
Aug. 17, 24, and 31, on.
with exceptions.
Applications for dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attraction, Aug. 3; holding capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. Coms. to J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Oct. 19 (North), and Dec. 7
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7
Feb. 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres Sept. 28, Dec. 21, 28
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 10, Jan. 4, March 29
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 10, 31
Oct. 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Jan. 18, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Sept. 14, Nov. 2, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatre, Sept. 14
Nov. 2, 9, 23, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Aug. 31, Oct. 5, Nov. 2
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Norwood, 7, Wentworth-road, Harborne, Birmingham.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Aug. 10, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5, 26.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 12, 19
Nov. 2, 9, 23, Dec. 28, on.
Now booking 1909.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, King's Theatre, Southsea.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 17 (three nights), 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
All communications,
J. W. CORDINER, Opera House, Weymouth.

"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
"THE MARRIAGE OF KITTY."
WANTED, Theatres. Mr. Sidney is desirous of filling July 27, Aug. 3 and 10.
THOMAS SIDNEY, Royalty T., Barrow-in-Furness.

HUTCHISON COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 3, 10, 24, Nov. 2, 9, 23, 30.
See Companies Column.
Can arrange Flying Matinées for
Mrs. BROWN POTTER,
Miss MABEL LOVE,
and Miss DECIMA MOORE,
in "LADY FREDERICK" and "MRS. DOT."
PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-road, N.W.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 12, 19, 26, also Xmas week, 7 nights, Farewell Tours
Address, 26, Southampton street, Strand, London

HARRY NICHOLLS
(Drury Lane, Adelphi, &c.),
with own Company and entire Production, in Romantic Costume Play.
WANTED, Theatres, from Middle of September next.
Rupert Cottage, Bedford Park, W.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
Phenomenal Success at the Playhouse.
Messrs. Lyn Harding's and Sidney Cooper's Co.
WANTED, Nov. 2, 9, 16, Dec. 26 (seven nights ?), and certain Spring and Autumn, 1909.
Address,
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S COMPANIES.
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."
WANTED, in the Midlands,
Sept. 28, Sept. 28,
also Nov. 9 and 30.
All communications to CECIL BARTH,
The Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, London.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
Aug. 8, Oct. 12, 19, 26.
One of the most brilliantly successful High-class Attractions Touring.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Aug. 24 (?), Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 7.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Sept. 14, 21, Nov. 16, 23.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, on, 1909.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and the late Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Aug. 10, 17, and few later.
Seventh Year of Tour, and Success Greater than ever. New Special Scenery and Effects.
"THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD."
A Fine New Domestic Play of Powerful Human Interest. Splendid Production, Printing, and Cast.
Several autumn dates vacant. Address,
C/o NOBLE, 81, Euston-rd., Morecambe (Vacation).

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-Class Theatre,
Aug. 31, Sept. 14,
Aug. 31, Sept. 14,
Aug. 31, Sept. 14,
Aug. 31, Sept. 14,
Aug. 31, Sept. 14,
FRED BULMER, c/o "The Era." Vacation address.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Sept. 7, to follow Alex., Hull.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Wanted, Sept. 7, 14, 21 (Lancs. or Yorks.).
"A SISTER'S SIN."
Sept. 14, 28 (near S. Wales).
Wire for these money-makers to
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26,
Nov. 9, 16,
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28,
Jan. 4, 11, on.
July 20, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
The complete Production travelled.
WANTED, weeks of Aug. 10 and 17 (to follow Devonport). Refer T. W. Rowe, Esq., Palace, Newcastle; Fred Granville, Esq., Queen's, Liverpool. JAMES HARE, to-day, Q., Liverpool; Monday, T. R., Bristol.

"IN THE RANKS."
Tour commencing Star, Liverpool, Aug. 3.
Powerful Company.
New Plant of Printing by David Allen.
Entirely new Scenery by Francis Bull.
WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 21, Oct. 12 19, Nov. 30, Xmas, and Spring.
BERESFORD WHITCOMB, Pavilion Theatre, E.

ARMOUR AND KIRBY'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
WANTED, July 27 (between Halifax and Stockport), Aug. 24 (follow Alexandra, Hull), Sept. 14, and onwards, with exceptions. Wire for July 27, ARMOUR and KIRBY, to-day, Cambridge, Spennymoor; next, Grand, Halifax.

WILLIAM HOLLES and NANNIE GOLDMAN in Arthur Shirley's Great Domestic Drama,
"THE STEPMOTHER."
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26,
Nov. 9, 16.
WILLIAM HOLLES, 16, Great Newport-street, W.C.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Aug. 31 and Sept. 7.
DICKIE CLARE,
128, Peter-street, Blackpool.

Mr. and Mrs. JOHN E. TOMLINSON'S TOUR of Max Goldberg's
Successful Oriental Musical Drama,
"SECRETS."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Aug. 3, onwards, with exceptions. Refer T. W. Rowe, Esq., Palace, Newcastle. Wire for Aug. 3. This, Palace, Newcastle; next, T. R., Crook.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Sept. 21, 28.
Acknowledged as the Best Domestic Drama Touring. HARRY TILBURY, Grand T., Newcastle.

"MAN TO MAN," by arrangement with W. Bourne, under the direction of Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
FRANK ADAIR, T. R., Stratford, July 20.

WANTED, for "Mason," Chief Company, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, 21, 28, and onward, with exceptions. "Mr. Popple," Original West-end Production, Star Cast. Dates from Aug. Bank Holiday, onward. Com., CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-av., W.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Oct. 12 (through obliging), Jan 4 (?), 11, 18, Feb. 8, March 1 and 22. FRANK M. THORNE, Prince's T., Bradford.

"WAS SHE TO BLAME."
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
First tour fully booked.
WANTED, Theatres, few Vacant Dates, Autumn, 1909. This piece booking faster than any before. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, HINTON, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

MR. R. A. ROBERTS'S CO.
"STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER."
WANTED, Good Theatre, Sept. 14, through cancelling, North preferred.
30, Upper Baker-street, N.W.

HARRY BENET'S "SERGEANT BRUE" CO.
WANTED, Aug. 3 (three nights, to precede Worthing), 17 (between Ryde and Ramsgate), 31, and Sept. 7 (?). Wire or write,
15, Glaserton-road, Stamford Hill, N.

WANTED, Good Theatres, Aug. 13 (three), 24, Oct. 26 (to precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 and 30 (to precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. WYN WEAVER, O. H., Buxton.

MISS ADA FRANK'S CO.
"A FIGHT FOR LIFE."
The Biggest Popular Dramatic Success on the Road.
WANTED, Aug. 24, Aug. 24, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, 14, and on, to precede and follow Alex., Birmingham. COURTNEY ROBINSON, Queen's, Farnworth.

"AN ABANDONED WOMAN."
WANTED, Big Theatres, for this great Drama. A strong Play, full of Pathos and Comedy.
Vacant Oct. 12, 19, and Xmas.
A clear Stage only required.
Wire, T. R., Woolwich; Mon., Rotunda, Liverpool.

"A PRINCE OF ROGUES."
WANTED, for this Never-failing Attraction, Aug. 3, 17, Sept. 7 (through disappointment), Oct. 12, only vacant dates this year. Address, SIDNEY DENCH, T. R., Ilkeston.

LINGFORD CARSON'S SUCCESSES.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
WANTED, Aug. 17, Sept. 28, "THE POWER OF THE CROSS." Wanted, Sept. 28, Nov. 2. Please address, GEO. A. DE GRAY, 112, Caunce-street, Blackpool.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, Theatres, for FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."
Grand Revival of Chas. Reade's Famous Play, playing to Splendid Business in spite of tropical weather. Refer
Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff,
Prince's Theatre, Preston.
J. H. Curry, Esq., P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

Vacant Aug. 31,
Sept. 7, 14, 21,
and onwards.

"THE BETTER LAND,"
The Great Domestic Drama
produced at Queen's Theatre, Liverpool,
June 22.
An Emphatic Success.
Autumn Tour commences
Aug. 31.
Vacant Sept. 14, 21, and on.

Pantomimes,
"BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Vacant Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,"
Vacant Jan. 4, 11, 18, and later.

Managers, Note.
These Pantomimes are perfect in every detail, beautifully mounted and dressed.
Company of Star Artists,
Specialities, Dancers,
and Full Chorus.
Re dates,
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's T Liverpool.

"LOVE, THE CONQUEROR."
"LOVE, THE CONQUEROR."
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"LOVE, THE CONQUEROR."
"LOVE, THE CONQUEROR."
"LOVE, THE CONQUEROR."
"LOVE THE CONQUEROR,"
an entirely New and Original
Romantic Play,
written by Frank Lindo
(Author of
"Home, Sweet Home," &c.),
will be toured by him
in Spring and Autumn, 1909.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for above.

Many thanks to numerous Managers who offered
Production Date.
Have arranged
(by kind permission of T. W. Rowe, Esq.),
to produce at
Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

Mr. Frank Lindo,
Miss Marion Wakeford,
and exceptionally Powerful Company.

Also the beautiful trained thoroughbred Horse, Diamond.

Clear stage only required.

All communications,
FRANK LINDO,
Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S COMPANIES.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, for either Play, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 28. Now booking Spring, '09.
Coms., GEORGE KIRK,
Court Theatre, Wigan.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 21, Nov. 9 and 16, Xmas and New Year, Jan. 11, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.,
"THE CURATE" and
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK," by Rass Challis.
WANTED, Sept. 21 (South), vacant through obliging, also Oct. 5 (to precede Leeds) and 19. Address, MAURICE, Hippodrome, Croydon.

The New Musical Absurdity,
"THE GAY DECEIVERS,"
was Produced June 22. Re-booked before fall of curtain. Refer E. Michael, Esq., Margate; C. Beryl, Esq., T. R., Brighton; R. Richeux, Esq., Victoria, Ramsgate; and this, George Conquest, Esq., Empire, Southend.
WANTED, July 27, August Bank Holiday, and on, with exceptions. All coms., GEORGE WATERS, Empire, Southend; July 20, Worthing.

"A BROKEN HEART."
"A BROKEN HEART."
WANTED, Big Theatre,
Aug. 10,
Aug. 10,
Between Manchester and London.
Only Vacant Date till May, 1909.
The Greatest Play of the Day.
HARRY FOXWELL, 236, Central-drive, Blackpool.

MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY, in
"THE FLOWER GIRL."
The Musical Comedy Success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical comedy at its brightest.
WANTED, Aug. 10 (between Southport and P. O. W., Birmingham), Aug. 31 (between Morecambe and Cheltenham). Now booking Autumn, Winter, and Spring. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Grand T., Llandudno. Next week, T. R., Birkenhead. See Companies Page.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Aug. 17 and Sept. 7.
Wire, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

Grand Production of
"CONVICT 99."
WANTED, Autumn Dates, Sept. 21 (North), 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 9 and 23 (North), 30, and on.
"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
The following dates vacant for this Enormous Success: Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 23, and onwards.
Manager, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
Theatre Royal, Margate (six nights).

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, good Theatres,
Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5 and 19.

Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN,
July 20, Star Theatre, Liverpool;
July 27, Grand Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Jan. 11, April 12, May 10, 17.
"THE WOMAN WHO WAS DEAD,"
The Great Human Play.
Wanted, Dec. 21, 28, March 1, on.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
Wanted, 1909, July 5, 12, 19.
Kindly refer re above sound attractions to Messrs. Wm. Morton, M. Montgomery, F. Laidler, Sam Fredericks, H. S. Howard, Ch. Trenchard, E. Carpenter, &c., &c. MONTAGUE BEAUDIN, Gaiety, Burnley.

Miss BONWIN CARLTON'S CO.
"THE OLD, OLD STORY."
WANTED, Aug. 10, 24 (Wales preferred). Wire, wire, Aug. 10. EDWARD SURREY. To-day, Col., Oldham (r.); next, T. R., Barry.

"SECOND TO NONE," by Walter Howard.
WANTED, Feb. 1 and Easter, 1909.
Add., T. E. WARD, T. R., Scarboro'.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"MY SWEETHEART" CO.
WANTED, to Rehearse next Week, Tall Lady, for Mrs. Fleeter, good wardrobe; Lady, for Mrs. Hatzell, also capable of playing a Chambermaid part. Terms, photos., references, to SYDNEY SPENSER, P. of W. Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, Young Juvenile Lady, Robust Comedian, Heavy and Leading Gentlemen. Apply, ANDREW EMM MELVILLE, Bungalow, Caswell Bay, near Swansea.

GEORGE GRAY AND CO., LTD.
WANTED, Juvenile Lady and Gentleman, two Good Responsible Gentlemen, Walking Lady, and useful people, for long tour, commencing Aug. Full particulars, lowest terms, refs., &c., GRAY and Co., Stores, Brecknock Hotel, Camden-road, N.W.

WANTED.—Important Vacancies, commencing Aug. 3, Lancashire, rehearse week previously, Juvenile, Comedy, Responsible, A.S.M., good reliable Baggage Man, &c. Age, height, photos., recent references, and lowest terms. A. B. CROSS, "Manxman," c/o Noble, 81, Euston-road, Morecambe.

WELLESLEY AND DEVEYNE ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, capable young intense Actress, for Sketch, dark, Jewish appearance, pretty, refined; also young Gentleman, cultured, experienced, for Juvenile Lead. Age, photo., height, refs., salary expected, letters only. MANAGER, 18, Wandle-road, Croydon, S.W.

WANTED, Heavy Leading Lady, one week London, rehearse July 27; Tall Character Gentleman. Terms, height, references, MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

"SIGN OF THE CROSS."
WANTED, young Actor for Philodemus, Tenor preferred; several Lady Musicians for Orchestra and go on in Revel Scene; and good Advance Agent; long Tour to suitable people. Terms, photos., and references to BOWES, Rose Villa, Watford.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, through disappointment, First-class Juvenile Leading Actor, for Rev. Basil Gortre; Powerful Heavy Lead, for Constantine Schaube; must be over 6ft.; rehearse Aug. 24. MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, a Juvenile Gentlemean, age, height, references, terms, photo., full particulars, must dress well, two weeks. Address, CHARLES HARRINGTON, King's Theatre, Southsea.

WANTED, for Répertoire, Second Juvenile Gentleman, capable Character, to sing preferred, rehearse July 21. Apply, with photos., lowest terms, and full particulars, to Miss GRACE WARNER, this, Metropole, Gateshead; next T. R., Sunderland.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, for above, First-class Gentlemanly Heavy, not under 5ft. 10in.; rehearse 27th, at Weymouth. Full particulars to J. W. CORDINER, Opera House, Weymouth.

"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
WANTED, through releasing Recognised Leading Man. Lowest terms, &c., to ARMOUR and KIRBY, Grand, Halifax.

WANTED, First-class Actor, for Tom Robinson; also Robust Leading Man, for George Fielding, in "Never too Late to Mend," rehearse Tuesday next. Full particulars to
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Immediately, First-class Character Actor, for high-class répertoire; must be tall. Send age, height, references, and very lowest terms, to CHARLES E. SUTTON, "Moths" Co., King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, two good Character Actors for broken English parts, &c., in a Music Hall Act. State height, experience, references, and lowest terms to O. LUCK, Lyceum Hotel, Story-street, Hull. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, four or five Male Choristers, for Musical Comedy, to rehearse at once. State height, age, and lowest terms to LEVY, Pavilion, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

WANTED, Soprano, Accompanist, also Comedy Tenor; both accustomed unaccompanied Part Songs, Concerteds, &c. Refinement absolutely necessary. Open at Once. Send very lowest terms and recent photo., YOUNG, Estate Office, Pwllheli.

WANTED, Bass or Tenor Chorister, one who can play the Euphonium or Trombone; also good Baggage-man, who can play the side drum. Long engagement. Apply, Box 6,726, "The Era."

WANTED, Six Girls (short), good Singers; Pair Dancers, for Music Halls; also Dresser (needlewoman), for Lady Artist. Interviews London. Box 6,735, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 435, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription 6d. weekly; yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GREENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, will anyone give a Lady a chance in a Sketch Co., &c.? Pupil of Messrs. G. and J. D'Auban, late Student of theirs for three years and nine months. Offers gratefully accepted. Box 6,727, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Amateur, Character and Juvenile; has had experience as Stage-Manager. PHILLIPS, c/o King's Library, Dorking.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contralto, experienced, very large répertoire; can play piano. Apply, MARJORIE IRVINE, c/o Mrs. Lavender, Brontstreet, Hendon, N.W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

J. F. ELLISTON'S PANTOMIMES, 1908-9.
WANTED, Chorus Ladies, for above. Tall, Young, and good Voices.
Interviews by appointment only.
Refs., &c., to F. MULVEY,
8, Wilmot-place, Camden Town, N.W.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, "Babes in the Wood," "Aladdin," "Beauty and the Beast." Wanted, Artists, in all Lines, Comedians, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Dancers, Specialities; also Good Producer, and two Conductors. Mark envelopes "Panto.," and address, with full particulars, to FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, all Lines, to communicate at once, sending full particulars, lowest terms, photos., &c.
Handsome Chorus Ladies who can sing, and First-class Dancers, call 11 to 4.
SINCLAIR'S Agency, 136, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Conductors, Comedian, for Pantomimes.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Louie Hurman, at Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Boy.
July 20, Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, late of Drury Lane, vacant for Panto. All coms., Britannia Pier, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Stuart and Evans, Refined Comedians and Dancers. Big Success, this week, Empire Belfast; next, Empire, Dublin. Vacant for Panto. Good offers invited. 3, Saltoun-road, Brixton, London; or PACEY'S or DALTON'S Agency.

WANTED, Known, Burdetti Brothers, Great Eccentric Acrobats, Liberty for Pantomime, Parts and Speciality, Touring Fossett's Circus. All coms., 38, Merton-street, Stoneyholme, Burnley.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Quick Scenic Artist, own Brushes, for two weeks, commence at once. Lowest terms, BATTERSBY, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

WANTED, a First-class Scenic Artist, for one week, Monday next.
Wire, LUCK, Palace, Burnley.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces. Refs. Add., 26, Elgin-ter., Maida Vale, London.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Manager, for the Cork Opera House Co., Ltd.

Apply, stating experience and salary expected (which must be moderate), with copies testimonials, to

Messrs. ATKINS, CHIRNSIDE, and Co., Chartered Accountants, 39, South-mall, Cork.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, smart Acting-Manager, fully capable of taking charge, for above Theatre, to open July 27; experienced in Variety. Security required. State full particulars, references, photo., and lowest terms first letter. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Parade Bridlington.

WANTED, good Acting-Manager, for Music Hall in the North, must be well up in Variety business. Apply, with references, to SIGNOR PEPI, Hippodrome, Darlington.

MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, experienced young Acting-Manager, also Gentleman for good Responsibles, and Young Lady for Small Parts and Understudies. Address, 36, Gloucester-road, Kew, Surrey. No interviews except by appointment.

WANTED, Acting-Manager and Treasurer, at Once, for First-class Theatre; must put down £150 cash as security. Particulars to RESIDENT, Box 6,751, "The Era."

WANTED, Gentleman to act as Director to the Watford Palace of Varieties, which is now in the course of construction; splendid opening for a man who would be satisfied with 50% interest on his investment. Address, in first instance, T. M. SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, London, W.

WANTED, Agent, in Advance, for Seaside Recital Tour. Apply personally, 11 a.m. Monday, H. J. WORTH, Rehearsal Theatre, 21, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, a reliable Man, to Act as Impresario to a Ladies' Vocal Act, for Continental Booking. Address, Box 6,741, "The Era."

WANTED, to Open August Bank Holiday, competent Resident Electrician, young man preferred, and one who is willing to make himself useful. Apply, stating references and lowest terms, to W. J. ANDREWS, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, a thoroughly experienced Carpenter. Send full particulars, age, salary, to ALFRED MUNRO, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Bill Inspector, must be good worker and of good address; also Billman and Effect Worker, open July 22. Apply, MANAGER, American Entertainment Company, Royal Assembly Hall, South Shields.

WANTED, Bill Inspector; only steady, conscientious, good workers need apply. State age, latest references, and lowest terms to J. H. OAKDEN, Lyceum Theatre, Govan, Glasgow.

WANTED, immediately, First-class Wardrobe-Mistress. All particulars and references, Box 6,748, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Gentleman, smart and energetic, Re-engagement as Acting-Manager in Music Hall; thoroughly experienced; can deposit or invest a small amount. Particulars, Box 6,728, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, First-class Acting and Business-Manager Disengaged; fully experienced Dramatic and Variety. London references. Offers invited, town or provincial engagement. Wire or write, MANAGER, 61, Wool-exchange, E.C.

WANTED, Appointment, in the Autumn, as General or Business-Manager, at First-class Hall or Theatre; thoroughly experienced; highest credentials. HAGUE, Entertainments Manager, Corporation, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagement, as Agent in Advance or other capacity; well recommended by Albert Chevalier Esq.; willing and hard-working. G. L.,
14, Culvert-road, South Tottenham, London, N.

WANTED, by Electrician, Permanent Engagement, Theatrical Plant and Workshop experience, competent mechanic. H. W. L., 12, Vardenstreet, New-road, Whitechapel, E.

WANTED, Reliable Engagement by J. Hayes, Master Carpenter and Scenic Artist, late O. H., Middlesbrough, T. R., Ryde; highest refs. 60, Brook-street, Kennington-road, S.E.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

TEMPERANCE HALL, MERTHYR.
WANTED, commence Aug. 3, First-class Musical-Director, Violinist, Clarionet, Cornet, and Trombone. Evening dress. Total abstainers. Age and references, apply, ISRAEL PRICE.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Leader and 'Cellist, for re-opening, Aug. 3. Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for the Duke of Devonshire's
Private (Eastbourne) Orchestra,
a First Violin.

Permanent Engagement;
to commence at once.

Apply,
P. TAS,
10, Camden-road, Eastbourne.

WINTER GARDENS, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, First Violin and Double Bass, to commence at once, to Oct. 4, two performances daily; none but first-class Instrumentalists need apply. Applications, stating terms, experience, &c., to JNO. R. HUDDLESTONE, Manager, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, Second Violin, Pianist, Double Bass, Flute, Drums, Trombone, and Cornet, open Aug. 3, for Season. State absolute lowest, with references, and next week's address, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Parade, Bridlington.

WANTED, First and Second Violins, Viola, Flute, 'Cello, Second Cornet, Second Clarionet, Trombone, Drums, Tympani, open Aug. 3 (five weeks), Theatre. Terms, age, refs., W. RUSSELL, 84, Woodland-terrace, Craig-y-don, Llandudno.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, for Palace of Varieties, Attercliffe, Sheffield, to open Aug. 3, First Violin, Bass, Flute, Cornet, Trombone, Pianist, and Drums. Terms and references must be stated. Address, T. A. EDWARDES, Grand Theatre, Derby.

SPA, WHITBY.
WANTED, for six weeks, commencing July 27, First-class Solo Cornet, also Viola. References and terms to Y. SHEFFIELD, Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Cornet and Tenor Horn Players, for Summer engagement, from Aug. 1. Write to PECORINI, 25, Fleet-street, Torquay.

WANTED, to Open July 20, a Good, Reliable Solo Cornet. References and salary to MUS. DIR., H. M. Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Cornet and Euphonium Player. Write or wire to Mrs. E. PINDER, Ord Circus, Buckie, Banffshire, N.B.

WANTED, good First Cornet and Drummer, for Provincial Hall; must be efficient. Apply in writing, stating salary and experience, to T. GERALD MORTON, District Manager, Empire Theatre, Leeds.

WANTED, First Cornet, for Nottingham Empire. Apply, by letter only, stating experience, salary, &c., Orchestral Dept., Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, to Open July 30, at Rhyl, efficient First Clarionet (String Band); also Pianist, combining Violin. State particulars, DEJONG, Rhyl.

WANTED, Clarionet, open Monday, steady and reliable, permanency. MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Hippodrome, Hamilton, Glasgow.

WANTED, Second or Third Clarionet, to combine good First Violin or 'Cello; 7 weeks' engagement; commence July 27. Write at once to CONDUCTOR, Lansdowne Villa, West-street, Bognor, Sussex.

WANTED, Clarionet, must be well up in Varieties and Standard Selections; sober men only need apply, with last reference. HARRY HINCHCLIFFE, Hippodrome, Darlington.

WANTED, String Bass and Bass Trombone, for
Hastings Military Band,
six weeks, commencing Aug. 1.

MUSICAL-DIRECTOR,
49, West-hill,
St. Leonards-on-Sea.

WANTED, good Bassoon or Clarionet Player, as an Attendant.
Salary commencing £34, increasing to £48.
All found.
Single man.
Apply,
W. GRAINGER, County Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED, Double Bass Player, for P. O. W., Grimsby, July 27; experienced.
J. R. BINGLEY, Mus. Dir., P. O. W. T., Grimsby.

WANTED, at Once, good sober Trombone Player. Terms, 46fr. weekly. Address, CH. KETTERING, Bandmaster, Gd. Cirque Pinder, St. Denis, near Paris, France.

WANTED, Trombone and Drums, open Newry, Aug. 3, evening dress, and assist fittings. Terms 30s. FRED BESCOBY, Conductor, H. and F. Poole's Myriorama, Pavilion-street, Doncaster.

WANTED, a First-class Euphonium Player, for Military and Orchestra; none but excellent performers need apply, also strictly sober. Latest refs. and terms for permanency; 5 hours daily, including Sundays. Apply at once, to CONDUCTOR, Winter Hall, Worthing, Sussex.

WANTED, immediately, good young Euphonium, for Carle's Musical Navvies; prominent Provincial and London Theatres; open Aug. 3. Call (except Sunday), 11 to 6. 18a, Morat-street, Brixton.

WANTED, good Viola Player, to commence Aug. 3; must be a good Reader, and used to Opera. Refs. and terms to W. MORTON, Grand Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, at Once, Seaside, Good 'Cellist, must know variety; also Bass, Leader, First Violin; inland resort, open July 30. Others write. Age, refs., and lowest terms, HARVEY'S Band Office, Sheffield.

WANTED, good Flute, Violin, and Viola, Seaside Season; High-class Concerts. Terms, age, RONALD, 23, Sea View-parade, West End, Morecambe.

PALACE THEATRE, DUNDEE.
WANTED, Pianist, Cornet, and Drummer (effects), well versed in variety business, sobriety indispensable.
State salary.
MUNDELL, M.D.

WANTED, for Hancock's Travelling Coliseum, a Pianist; must be used to show business, and willing to assist a little in building up and pulling down. Also a Cinematograph Operator, used to Fair Business. Good wages to the right people. All communication to be sent, HANCOCK, West Hoe, Plymouth. Can join Monday, Hancock's Coliseum, Mutter's Field, Honiton.

WANTED, First-class Piano Player for Leigh, and also one for Wigan. Wire, World in Motion, New Central Hall, Leigh.

WANTED, commence immediately, First-class Orchestral Pianist, about five hours daily; also good Clarionet. Terms, MANAGER, Victoria Pier, Folkestone.

WANTED, Good Pianist (Vocalist preferred), Tenor, Baritone, and Bass, high-class al fresco. Refs., photos., lowest terms (letters only). E. HARRIS, 39, Baroness-rd., Hackney, N.E.

WANTED, Pianist (gent.); must be good Memoriser, for Pictures only. Permanent; no travelling. Open North, Aug. 3. Sobriety indispensable. Lowest terms first letter.
BLACK, 141, Roker-avenue, Sunderland.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, to accompany and do own Show at Piano for Seaside Tour.
Apply personally, 11 a.m. Monday, H. J. WORTH, Rehearsal Theatre, 21, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, First-class Drummer, Tympanies and Effects, to open July 27. Age and references. FREDERIC BRAHAM, Regent T., Salford.

WANTED, Experienced Drummer.
Apply, H. DEAN, Musical-Director,
Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

WANTED, week, Aug. 10, in the vicinity of London, Lady Instrumentalists. STOCKHAM, 16, The Grove, Villa-rd., Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Flute, Drums, Violin, Bassoon, for South Coast, about ten weeks. Lowest terms and if agreeable to shares. Box 6,731, "The Era."

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 75, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

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"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, First Violinists, 'Cellists, and Pianists, for White Star Line, Mediterranean Service; good orchestral experience; audition before engaging. State age, experience, and give names and addresses of two references for character and ability. Engagements for not less than six months, commencing in August and September. CHARLES WM. BLACK, 14, Castle-st, Liverpool.

WANTED, First and Second Violinists, 'Cellist, and Bassoon; must be used to Musical Comedy. Open Monday, July 27. State in first letter, lowest terms, previous experience, references. NIGHTINGALE, Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, to Tour with Military Band, commencing July 27, First-class E Flat Clarionet, Oboe, Bassoon, Tenor Saxophone, Euphonium, Bass Trombone, E Flat Bass, String Bass, and Drums. Apply, CONDUCTOR, 64, Gibson-square, Islington, London, N.

THE ROYAL PAVILION, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, at once, good Musicians, for Orchestra. Write, stating age, experience, salary required, BANDMASTER, Pier, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, a refined Ladies' Orchestra of 5 or 6 performers (good costumes), Vocalists preferred, to commence Aug. 1. Apply, with lowest terms and full particulars, MANAGER, American Entertainment Company, Royal Assembly Hall, South Shields.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Musical-Director, Engagement, good Music Hall; thoroughly experienced and reliable; refs. Offers, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 100, Erdington-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Conductor, brilliant Pianist; can supply Band, Uniforms, and latest Music. MUS.-DIR., Pendine, Oaklands-road, Hanwell, W.

WANTED, Engagement, experienced Variety Conductor (Violinist), late De Frece, Macnaghten, and Bostock's Circuits. CONDUCTOR, 166, Humberstone-road, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, good Variety Leader, at Liberty; reliable and experienced Violinist. Address, 266, Liverpool-street, Salford.

WANTED, Known, Conductor, Leader, rép., compose, arrange, at Liberty, Tour or Resident. Address, A. TAGGART, 141, Harold-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director, brilliant Violinist, Theatre, splendid library of music; refs.; Liberty, open Aug. 3. MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 47, St. Mary's-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Conductor (Violin); thoroughly experienced in Variety; London experience; good library. At Liberty Monday. RICHARDSON, 44, Welbeck-street, Hull.

WANTED, an Engagement as Leader or First Violin; thoroughly experienced and reliable; can open at once. JAS. HEAP, 4, Heardman-avenue, Wigan.

WANTED, Engagement, Leader or First Violin, in First-class Orchestra; experienced Concert work. VIOLINIST, 18, Victoria-road, West Bridgford, Nottingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Elsie West, Orchestral and Solo Violinist; just concluded Successful Engagement with Poppy Orchestra, Brighton. 3, Lyndhurst-drive, Leyton, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Violin Soloist and Conductor, Tremendous Draw (Hungarian), Open for Immediate Engagement, at Hotel, Café, or Seaside, &c. Can supply Band. Box 6,690, "The Era."

WANTED, by Second Violin, temporary or permanent Engagement, commence August; only moderate wage desired. Box 6,723, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Violinist, Open to Engagement for Violin or Viola, Orchestra and Solo; good refs. CROOMS, Brighton-road, Surbiton, S.W.

WANTED, position as Second Violin or Viola, Theatre or Music Hall, permanent or deputising, Leeds, Bradford, or Huddersfield. Address, J. H., Cow Green, Halifax.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violin or Viola; any Business.
42, Netherwood-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Known, Violinist, Disengaged Aug. 1, experienced all lines, as First or Second Violin; abstainer; good refs.; permanent preferred. VIOLINIST, 2, Granville-road, Felixstowe, Suffolk.

WANTED, Engagement, Young Lady, Violin, Vocalist as Second Violin in Ladies' Orchestra, Mus. Com., &c., good voice. Miss L., 38, Acklam-road, Notting Hill.

WANTED, by Violinist, young, good répétiteur or leader, Seaside Engagement; good refs. Address, Box 6,746, "The Era."

WANTED Engagement, by Violinist (lady), Orchestra
Write, 3, Clarence-parade, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Engagement as Cornettist, experienced and reliable.
R. H. GORE, 73, Menzies-road, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, combine Viola, Disengaged Aug. 16; sober, steady, reliable; good testimonials; age 35. WHITE, Flushing, Athelstan-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass Player, at Liberty July 27. W. G. STONE, Orchestra, Empress Club, Dover-street, Piccadilly, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass, near Manchester preferred; good sight-reader. FOXALL, 44, Cross-street, Rhodes, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, W. Kibble, Double Bass, at Liberty; last 10 years Variety experience; good refs. 27, Bodmin-street, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Double Bass and Cornet, Engagements; can open at once; any business. Address, MORTON, 84, Barton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass; experienced. GEORGE W. CRANE, 43, Potter's-terrace, Bross Croft, Hadfield, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass, long experience in Theatre and Variety; highest references. PAGE, per. address, 31, Princess-street, Nuneaton.

WANTED, through disappointment, Engagement, Bassoon, any Bus.; good refs.
WEBBER, 30, Yelverton-road, Battersea, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Open to Engagement; can start at once, Double Bass and E flat Tuba; late Staff Band-Sergt. F. NORRIS, 68, Celt-street, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, by reliable and steady Trombone, Seaside or any Business; Deputising.
WALDEN, 14, Oakley-road, Canonbury, N.

WANTED, Known, Trombone, Shop or Deputising, London only, slack through disappointment. H. W. D., 92, Haggerston-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, by good reliable Trombone (experienced all branches), owing to mistake. Reference. Present engagement finishes 20th. SAMPSON, Trombone, Hippodrome, Hamilton.

WANTED, Situation, by Chas. Pace, as Trombone Player; can join at once; up in all Lines. 85, Fitzwilliam-street, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Horn Player, town or country Orchestra, or Military. SENFT, 116, Faraday-road, Wimbledon.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady 'Cellist; experienced; month or six weeks, commencing Aug. Apply, Box 6,738, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, 'Cello, experienced in Theatre and Variety; steady and reliable; good references. 'CELLO, 24, Upper Haugh, Rawmarsh, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, Viola, permanent or deputising, Birmingham district preferred, or Seaside Engagement; age 25. 62, All Saints'-rd., King's Heath.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, or Deputising, by First-class Oboeist, till July 30; any business; excellent refs. WRIGHT, 3, Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Oboe, Theatre or Music Hall, Disengaged Aug. 1. LAYFIELD, 203, Brunshaw-road, Burnley.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Oboe, any Business, London or Suburb; refs. if required. G. W. WEBB, 50, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Flute, Piccolo Engagement; permanent; thoroughly experienced, reliable; any Business; strict sobriety; genuine references. Address, terms, AL. WATSON, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo Soloist; String or Military. SWALLOW, 84, Tower-hill, London, E.C.

WANTED, by experienced Flautist, Engagement, Theatre or Variety, N.C.O. leaving Army; excellent references. MASKELL, 7, Married-quarters, Mooltan Barracks, Tidworth.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianist; experienced in Orchestral, Dram. and Var. Good offers only. SILVESTER, 54, Cavendish-place, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Lady Pianist, as Accompanist; good reader. Apply, c/o M. L. Lens, 24, High Holborn, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Gilbert French, Solo Pianist and Accompanist, seeks Seaside Engagement during Aug.; could double Second Violin. Address, Windermere, Boston-road, Hanwell, W.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Pianist, for Aug. and Sept.; best references. NEREPKA, 10, Albert-st., Camden Town.

WANTED, Engagement, good Pianist, Sight-reader, MS., Variety Concerts, Pictures; reliable, good refs. Miss M. LINGHAM, 247, Bexhill-road, St. Leonards.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist, sober and reliable; good references; can open at once. PIANIST, 7, Church-place, Dover.

WANTED, by Pianist and Vocalist, also Lady Vocalist, Engagement, singly or jointly. BRETON, 2A, Sycamore-st., Oldham-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, by Pianist, Re-engagement; good orchestral experience, for Seaside, Café, Club, &c. Box 6,749, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Double Drums and Effects, Dramatic or Variety; good references; can join after 25th; total abstainer. R. MURPHY, 77, Waring-street, Leicester.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Engagement, young and steady; good references. Apply, Box 6,730, "The Era."

WANTED, Shop as Double Drummer, in or near London, 20 years' experience. A. E. BOOTH, 31, Brading-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Drummer, thoroughly experienced, Variety preferred, reliable; good refs. DRUMS, 107, Graham-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, &c., highly experienced Theatre or Music Hall. MUSICUS, 38, Draycott-avenue, Fulham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Poppy Ladies' Orchestra, finished three months Palace Pier, Brighton; any number; Soloists, Singers. Offers to POPPIES, 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known.—A conductor wishing to keep his String Band is seeking a Theatre for Winter Season, or sooner if desired; thoroughly up to Variety and Concert Work. Applications to be made by letter to Messrs. RUDALL CARTE and Co., 23, Berners-street, London.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or Seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Agent, in touch with best work, by Bandmaster of a smart Yeomanry Band (Hussar). String and Military Band; excellent répertoire. Box 6,732, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagements, by Trio Ladies, Vio., 'Cello, Piano, Soloists; thoroughly experienced. For terms, address, K. W., 59, Tideswell-rd., Eastbourne.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Biggest Acts available, for Lifeboat Demonstration, in Sept.; no small Acts required. Terms, lithos., to CAPT. CLAYTON, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, for Six Days' Gala, Aug. 3 week, at Leeds, Wire Walker, Trapeze Artists, Acrobats, Acts all Lines. Send lithos., memos., terms, to GEORGE BURTON (of Sheffield). 39, Henry Nelson-street, South Shields.

WANTED, for Aug. 3, Lady Contortionist and other Artists. Send lowest terms, memos., permanent address, BARRETT'S Agency, 566, Queen's-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Parachutists, Acrobats, High Wire Act, Flying Trapeze Act, Dumb Shows of all Descriptions, Aug. 3 week, outdoor, near Sheffield. Variety Turns for a Picture Show. A town in Ireland Aug. 3, one week. Address, letters only, J. ALMO, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, a Troupe of Acrobats or Gymnasts, two ladies and two gentlemen, for long tour commencing September. Full particulars, Box 6,747, "The Era."

WANTED, for Poole and Bosco's Circus, Vocalist, Musical Act, or Pair of Comedians, to Open at Once. BOSCO, G.P.O, Belfast.

WANTED, a Young Man, about 18 or 20; good Posturer or Tumbler. Address, BROWN, 23, Henery-street, Church, Lancashire.

WANTED, smart young man, as Assistant for Wire Act, must be able to Tumble. State tricks and terms in first letter. Address, JAMES H. JEE, Lansdowne Hotel, 22, Loch-promenade, Douglas, I.O.M. P.S.—George, who helped at Crystal Palace, write at once.

WANTED, Smart Boy, about 14 years of age, with slight knowledge of Acrobating. Address, J. SWALLOW, 6, Thornley-st., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Elephant Trainer. Paul Telzero write. Box 6,725, "The Era."

WANTED, for Sir R. Fossett's Circus, a few respectable Grooms and Tentmen. Apply, Fossett's Farm, Ravensthorpe, Northampton. P.S. —Will "Boy Jack" write at once?

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, who presents his Arabian Mare Silver, in great Novelty Act, Vacant July 12, 19, 26, and Aug. 2. Maerdy Squire, Ferndale, Glamorgan.

WANTED, Galas, Circuses, Vaudevilles, Liberty Bank Holiday, Turle and Turle, Rollicking Comedy Gymnasts; two Acts. 26, Wood-street East, Manchester.

WANTED Known, The Ostieers, Flying Ring and Bar Performers, Liberty for Galas and Circus. Wire, 76, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Known, George Davilla Walks the High Telephone Wire mounted on Stilts. Great success Scotland's Brighton, Portobello. Perm., Forest View, Honey-lane, Waltham Abbey.

WANTED, Known, Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, Aerial Gymnasts. Sanger's Hippodrome Tour.

WANTED, by Dick Dagmar (late Dagmar Wonders), to join Hand-balancing Act or well-known Troupe. 46, Percy-street, Tynemouth, Northumberland.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone, 1626 Gerrard. Manager, HARRY LANE. Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Big Specialities and Variety Artists in all Lines.
Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys,
Principal Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts,
Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dancers.
All communications as above.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to WM. BIGGAM, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

BARNARD'S AGENCY, SHAW-ST., LIVERPOOL, Tel. 2349 Royal.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists in all Lines, also strong Attractions, July 27, onwards; Sharing terms. Send full particulars, with lithos. and full list of bookings and vacancies.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Always Vacancies for Star Turns.
Several wanted for Panto. and America.
Mischievous Rocco, Sisters Emson, Stebbing, Terry, Rivers, Bartholomew, Brenton, Les Belles Rays, Misses Billie Burford, Nellie Lunelle, Beatrice Renee, and Marie and Enid communicate at once.
SINCLAIR'S Agency, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, new to Brighouse, Aug. 3, onwards, for the above Theatre. Artists who have written lately and received no reply, please write again. Silence a polite negative. State lowest in first letter to save time to BEANLAND and EMERSON, Parade, Bridlington.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, July 27 and onwards; 2 houses nightly. Nothing too big. Apply, stating terms, &c., FALCONER JACKES, Acting-Manager.

WANTED, Monday, July 27, and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, July 27, onwards, Variety Artists, Doubles doing Singles; good, cheap Specialities, new to Spennymoor. MANAGER, 12, King-st., Spennymoor.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, July 27, and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD.

DR. BODIE'S WELSH HALLS AND TOURS.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, August, onwards. Big Stars, with own Combinations, on share or certainty, nothing too big, for Hippodrome and Opera House, Ferndale; Hippodrome and Opera House, Pontycymmer, two of the gold-mines of Wales, now closed for extensive and costly alterations by Dean and Sons, Birmingham, the favourite theatrical furnishers. Ferndale holds 1,200, Pontycymmer 1,500. Prices, 2s. 1s. 6d., 1s., 9d., and 6d. both places, once nightly. Also for Dr. Bodie's No. 1 and No. 2 Companies. Rehearsal Monday next at Palace Theatre, Aberdeen, at 1 prompt, for the following Artists: The Musical Palmers, Lambeth and Robertson, Dolly Robson, Brothers Baxter, Fransanaico, Bella Skene, Doragor Trio, Li Chang Hi, R. Calvert, Nurse Mitchell, W. Henry, and Full Staff. All must attend; no excuses. All letters address to
Dr. WALFORD BODIE,
Sole Proprietor,
Palace Theatre,
Aberdeen.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.

WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, July 27, Aug. 10, 24. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply.
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for the Gaiety, Glasgow, now and on.
Artists known to me kindly communicate at once.
HARRY BOWERMAN, General-Manager.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, July 27, on. 1A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Big Variety and Speciality Artists, for Aug. 3 and on. Lowest terms.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Aug., onwards, only those communicate who have never appeared at Castleford or Pontefract.
TOM DIACOFF, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

WANTED, Fête Artists, all Lines, 29th; also Hoop Bowling Act. SECRETARY, The Cypresses, Shanklin.

VERNO'S AGENCY
(under the direction of L. Verno and H. Arnold),
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, July 20, on. Tele., "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, Vocal Comedians, Vocalists, and Clean Comedians preferred.
State lowest terms,
Apply, MANAGER, Public Hall, Carlisle.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Monday next, onwards, also big Tops, for London. MAURICE FRITZ, Albemarle Syndicate, 157, Strand, W.C. 'Phone 4957 Gerrard. Telegrams "Templify, London."

NEW PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
CHELTENHAM.
General-Manager, Mr. EDWARD B. SHENTON.
Business-Manager, Mr. JOHN WALTERS.
Architect, Mr. WINSTANLEY, St. Anne's-on-Sea.

A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

WANTED, Known, Call, Mablethorpe Galas, July 23 and 24. Rehearsal 11 o'clock for all engaged by me. (Signed) ALLAN MCASKILL, Sole Agent.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.

WANTED, good Sound Turns, Aug. 3, 1908, onwards.
For Dates apply, R. G. ELDER,
Metropole Theatre,
Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Gaiety, Blyth, Aug. 10, on. Refined Variety Turns, Hall small. Lowest terms.
W. YATES GREGORY,
The Tower, New Brighton.

WAKEFIELD PARK GALA, Aug. 3.

WANTED, through disappointment, one or two good Speciality Turns. Lowest terms, TOLFREE, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool.
'Phone, 1269 Royal. Gen.-Manager, WM. LUND.

WANTED, the Biggest Sensational and Speciality Acts; money no object for the right stuff. Send bookings, terms, lithos., photos., &c.

WANTED, Good Specialities, and Artists in all Lines, for Palace, Maidstone. Those who have not appeared in the town for twelve months. Apply, FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, London, S.E.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HIPPODROME,
STOCKTON-ON-TEES.
Lessee and General-Manager,
HARRY BURNS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
the Greatest Stars
in the Profession,
immediate dates, onwards.

All communications to be addressed solely to
HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
Head Office, Hartlepool.

Note.
My registered letter address is just "Hartlepool," not West Hartlepool.

Telegrams, "Chosen."
Telephones, 231 and 231A.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates. Lithos., terms, and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-av., W.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone 2345 Tron.

WANTED, Specialities, Comedians, Serios, Comedy Acts, Doubles doing Singles, Acrobats, and Continental Turns, for all towns North.

JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S "ROYAL GIPSY" CO.

WANTED, for Season 1908-9, commence Sept., good Speciality (Dumb Show), Soprano, Contralto, Serios, Tenor or Baritone (Interlocutor); only those who can accept Tour (about nine months) need apply. Full particulars, J. H. TOMKINSON, 36, Albany-rd., Kensington, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Aug. 3, onward, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to JAS. TYRER, The Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, First-class Specialities, Comedians, Vent., &c., North, for Aug. 3 week, for Pardoe's Variety Company. Acts with good lithos. write, with lowest terms, to W. PARDOE, Theatre, Middleton, Lancs.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, Star Attractions, Aug. 3, 10, 17, and later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

PALACE THEATRE,
READING.

WANTED, for July 27, Top, Bottom, and Middle of Bill. Artists also kindly say what other vacancies they have.

Letters only, no interviews.

STANHOPE and Co.,
12, Buckingham-street, Strand.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.

WANTED, Tops, Middles, and Bottoms, Specialities, Comedians, Comediennes, Sisters, &c., &c. Nothing too Big, Nothing too Small. Apply, MANAGER, as above.

WANTED, for Aug. 10 and onward, big Sensational Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Comedians, Comediennes, and all kinds of Speciality Acts. BROWN and Co., 58, Chicksand-street, N.E. 'Phone No. 1098 City. Clients seen by appointment only.

PAVILION AND PLEASURE GARDENS,
NORTHWICH.

WANTED, Refined Entertainers, Al Fresco and Pierrot Artists, Novelties. Send all particulars and lowest terms, hall very small, good stage and electric light. Address, MANAGING-DIRECTOR, 12, Winnington-st., Northwich, Cheshire.

WANTED, for Paris, First-class Novelties, the Absolute Best of Speciality Acts. Money no object. FLORIA, Palace, Blackburn.

WANTED, for Bristol, Aug. 3, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Bar Performers, Serios, Comedians, Novelties; also for Chesterfield, Aug. 12. WOOD, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

PAVILION PLEASURE GARDENS CO.,
NORTHWICH.

WANTED, Concert Parties, complete in themselves, Pierrots and Al Fresco Parties, &c.; must be refined. Good stage, electric light. Best terms and particulars, Vacant Aug. 3, and on.
Address, MANAGING-DIRECTOR,
12, Winnington-street, Northwich, Cheshire.

WANTED, Select Concert Parties, Pierrot Troupes, or other complete Entertainments. State full particulars and terms to THE COVENTRY CRICKET GROUND Co., LTD., Hertford-chambers, Coventry.

WANTED, good complete Concert Parties and Pierrot Troupes, for South Coast, for approved lock-up Stages on beach, on equal shares; Stage, Electric Light, Chairs, and Attendants provided. State number in Troupe and full particulars. PROF. LENTON, Winter Hall, Worthing.

WANTED, Dramatic Sketches, Novelties, &c. List bookings, lowest terms, or useless. KEBBLES' Agency, G.P.O., Rochdale.

WANTED, for Summer Tours, 1909 (16-20 weeks), Sopranos, Comediennes, Light Comedy Comedians, Character, Patter, Comedians, and Pianists (gents.).
Only Artists of high-class standing, strictly refined, and used to touring the best Pier Pavilions need write.
State full particulars and lowest terms,
HARRY LESLIE,
91, Percival-street, Manchester, S.E.

WANTED, Smart, Pretty, Acrobatic Dancers, who can sing and also step dance. Call, practice dress, 11 to 4.
SINCLAIR, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Smart Speciality Dancers and well-developed girls for Physical Culture Scene. Photos., &c., to MILTON HASTINGS, 1, Royal-crescent, Don-road, Jersey.

WANTED, to complete Novelty Quartette, two smart Lady Acrobatic Dancers. Letters only to ERNEST, 75, Church-rd, Homerton, London, N.E.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, Amateurs and beginners, for Chorus and Music Hall Engagements, a splendid chance to enter the Profession. Call or write, JOHN HALLICK, 10, Greek-street, Shaftesbury-avenue.

WANTED, Young Lady, for big success, Musical Comedy Duologue (Scotch); must have splendid singing and speaking voice. Age, height, lowest terms, photo., &c., ANDREWS, P.O., Duncon.

WANTED, Serio, small Gymnastic Shows, and Specialities, for Galas, near Bristol, Aug. 1, 15, and 27. CARL FREDERICKS, Britannia Pier, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, a High-class Dress Suit Humoroist and Refined Turns, Aug. 1, 10, 17, and 24. State lowest terms. No fancy prices. MANAGER, American Entertainment Company, Royal Assembly Hall, South Shields.

WANTED, a good Character Comedian; able to Fall and Knockabout, for a Music Hall Act; also a Posturer, for Demon part and capable of Character Parts. State height, experience, references, and lowest terms to O. LUCK, Lyceum Hotel, Story-street, Hull. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, a genuinely Funny Comedian, for a Music Hall Sketch; salary no object for the right man. Only those that can be seen working need apply, with full particulars, to Box 6,745, "The Era."

WANTED, Dwarf, for Sketch Company, to join at once. Address, L. DONALDSON, 202, Camberwell New-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, for Fête, near London, Aug. 3, Contortionist, Lady Juggler, and Double Acrobatic Act. CLAUDE ERNEST, Agent, 75, Church-road, Homerton, London, N.E.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.

WANTED, Operator, with own machine, to open Aug. 3. (Permanency to right man. Fully qualified electric. State make of machine, experience, and references. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Parade, Bridlington.

TEMPERANCE HALL, MERTHYR.

WANTED, a First-class Biograph Operator; one who is not afraid of work and make himself generally useful. Permanency to the right man; total abstainer. Age, references. Commence Aug. 3. Those who wrote before, write again. Apply, ISRAEL PRICE.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Permanency, an expert Bioscope Operator, and wife, used to lime and electric; must be willing to make themselves useful. Apply, giving experience and references, and lowest terms, to M. W. SHANLY, 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operator and Variety Artists. State particulars to W. PIPER, JUN., Mill-street, Co. Cork.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Babs Lloyd, Star Artist, vac. July 20, Aug. 3. Big success Emp., Dublin. After Saturday, B172, Witton-road, Aston.

WANTED, by Nellie Nora, Musical Act, Monday next, also 27th, vacant through misunderstanding. Wire, 69, North-road, Lancaster.

WANTED, Known, Sheila McNeil, Scotch Comedy Artist, vacant July 20, 27. Wire, Empire, Camberwell, or 106, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist, July 27, Aug. 3.
Next week, Victoria Hall, Southend.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Ductiists and Expert Dancers, Mon. next. Wire, 64, King's-st., Maldon, Essex; after Sun., 12, Florence-st., Islington, N.

WANTED, Monday next, one week, Frank Coyle, Character Comedian. Wire, 160, Woodhouse-street, Leeds. July 27, Hippo., Lancaster.

WANTED, by Walter Curtis, the Refined Humorous Entertainer, Aug. 17 and 24; large répertoire, really funny items. Address, Pier, Worthing.

WANTED, July 20, 27, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina).
Theatre, Paisley.

WANTED, July 27, Aug. 3, James Brady. A comic singer.—Vide Oswald Stoll.
Sure hit. Wire, 33, Conway-street, Leeds.

WANTED, July 27, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey, two Acts if required. Wire or write this week, Pal., Aberdeen; next, City Var., Leeds.

WANTED, Mon. next, on, by Cecil Terry, thoroughly experienced Al-Fresco; well up in Gags, Concerteds, Sketches, &c. Theatre, Nuneaton.

WANTED, an Engagement as Boy Coloured Comedian, Vocalist, and Dancer, by Harry Robinson; concluded five years with Walter F. Munroe and Emma Don and Co., July 20. H. ROBINSON, 6, Wiltshire-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, immediate Dates, Val Priestman, New Act, Painting and Sculpture, also Chorister, Panto., and Agent. C/o "Era." On Tour, Grand, Luton.

WANTED, Pier Pavilions, &c., few weeks,
by Refined Class Magician.

Acknowledged by the entire Magical Profession to be one of England's Finest Magical Entertainers.

Highest possible references.

Original Novelty Spectacular Act.

Particulars upon application.
Box 6,740, "The Era."

WANTED July 27, Aug. 3, by M. J. McAleavey, Irish Champion Trick and Barrel Jumper, the Originator and Only Performer that Lights Candle on Head; twenty genuine jumps each house. Palace, Greenwich.

WANTED, Monday next and July 27. Wire, Palace, Ramsgate. Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist and Pot-Pourri Act; also May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer. After Sat., 41, St. Mary's-square, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Aug. 3, 10, 17, Matt Wilkinson's Screaming Act, "On the Flip Flap"; also Violet Beatrice, Boy Impersonator. Queen's, Poplar.

WANTED, Monday next, also Aug. 3, 10, 17, by Salida and Vone, Refined Creole Comedy and Speciality Artists. Always a success. Wire, Empire, York.

WANTED, by the Great Marconis, most wonderful Electric Act on Earth, Monday next, to Aug. 17, through postponing Tour. Sailing for Australia Aug. 28 by the Mooltan. Playing to packed houses, Tivoli, Pentre. Address, 23, Colnbrook-street, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next and July 27, The Monckton's (Fred, Lillie), the popular Comedy Duo, in Screamingly Funny Episodes, "Two in a Flat," "Are Wives Dummies?" Wire, 12, Kyott's Lake-road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, by the Vollmers (Master Harry and Little Ruthie), Violin Soloists and Dancers, July 27, Aug. 3 and 17. Address, 39, Tassie-st., Shawlands, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday next, also 27th and Aug. 3, by the Two Le Bruns, Vocalists and Jugglers. Wire, 21, Shirley-street, Hove.

WANTED, Aug. 3 (North preferred), by Wills and Mackenzie, Vocal Speciality Act. Cliff Cottage, Newtonhill, near Aberdeen.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Webb, Musical Clowns, at Liberty July 27, Aug. 10 and 17. This Empire, Leeds; next week, Empire, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, The Maro Duo, at Liberty July 20, in their Quaint Comedy Bar Act. Address 126, Porter-street, Hull.

WANTED, by the Two Walonells, Eccentric Gymnasts, July 27, Aug. 3, only.
Address, JACK WALONELL, Grand, Manchester.

WANTED, July 27, by the Nevilles, Cross-talk Comedians and Patterers. Enormous success this week Knightstone Pav.; next, Grand T., Aberavon, S. Wales. Wire or write.

WANTED, Known, Kloof and Ramsay, vacant July 20 and 27 (postponing Brussee's), Musical Novelty Burlesques and Vocalism. Wire, Wellington Pier, Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Doyle and Gibson, Patter Comedians and Dancers, Monday next, also July 27. Wire, Empire, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, Harland and Rollison, Comedy Musicians, at Liberty July 20, 27. Address, Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate. After Sunday, 126, Lambeth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED.—The Musical Palmers thank Proprietors for offers. Accepted with Dr. Walford Bodie. Still open July 27, North or Midlands. To-night, Opera House, Workington; Monday, Palace Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Avrignys, Great Jap Jongleur Number, July 20 and 27.
Wire, Hall-by-Sea, Margate.

WANTED, 27th and 3rd, by the Wonderful Society Athletes, the Atlas-Vulcana Troupe (five), including the Beautiful and Marvellous Miss Vulcana, the Champion Lady Athlete of the World, and the cause of the late posing craze. American and Continental Managers, &c., &c., wanting Big Novelties see this Act at the Middlesex (9.15) during next week. P. A., 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon Trio, vac, July 27, Acrobatic and Risley Performers. This. Hippo., Belfast; next, P., Morecambe. Perm., 3, Winsley-road, Bristol.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Screamingly Funny Act, dates August. Specially engaged, July 13, 20, Carnival, Glasgow; or STEBBINGS.

WANTED, July 27, Aug. 3, 10, by The Peps, Complimented by A. Carlton, Ecq.
Monday, Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Aug. 10, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Post Office, Mablethorpe.

WANTED.—The Five X-Rays, Mad Athletes, Gymnasium Fun at Practice. Hit of the Bill, Hip., Salford Free Aug. 17. Coms., 35 Abbotsford-place, S.S., Glasgow.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by The Derdneys, New and Novel Comedy Speciality Artists, Wire-walkers, Tumblers, Spade Dancing, Funny Patter, Globe-walking, only Act of its kind. Last two seasons with Harry Joseph, Esq., Pantos.; first vacant date, Sept. 7, on. Offers invited, home or abroad. Complimented by all Proprietors. Success everywhere. Permanent address, 19, Vere-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, for Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globella, Juggling Speciality; vacant Monday, for Galas, &c. Wire, Empire, Doncaster.

WANTED, Monday next, also 27th, by Gulliver, First-class Ventriloquist. Wire, Pavilion, Hoylake; after Sunday, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Monday next, also Aug. 3, by Hulbert Ventriloquist and De Lil, Illusionist. Two Acts Wire, Union-road, Macclesfield.

WANTED, July 20, to precede Alhambra, Morecambe, by Tom Kelso and Co., Screaming Absurdity (without vulgarity), "The Silly Servant." Grand, Manchester. Wire Monday, 10, Crossland-street, Nottingham. Panto. settled with J. F. Elliston, Esq.

WANTED, Known, Carl Fredricks' Merrymakers and Colonial Pictures.
Sydney Gardens, Bath.

WANTED, July 20, 27, Aug. 3, by Lieut. Albini and his "Lady in Black" Wonder, a mysterious High-class Comedy, in which the audience take part. 100 Laughs in 15 minutes guaranteed. Wire till Sunday night, Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate; after, 125, Tufnell Park-rd., London, N.

WANTED, Known, the Marvellous Selbinis, at Liberty Monday next, July 20, for week only.
All communications to permanent address,
193, Brixton-hill, London.

WANTED, Known, Swift Duo (Lady and Gent.), Humorous Cycle Act. Mon. next, Opera House, Workington. Vacant July 27, Aug. 3.

WANTED, Johnson and Devere, Great Comedy and Expert Cyclists, have July 20 and 27 Vacant. Offers invited. Wire or write, Empire, York.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Novel Dog Show, the only Act of its kind in the world, introducing the Canine "Streets of London," wonder of the age. Liberty July 20, 27. 23, Edgar-road, Bow, London, E.

WANTED, Fêtes and Galas, Alice Fontainbleau, World-renowned Troupe of Dogs, and Rolling Globe Equilibrist. Tremendous success, Alexandra Gala, Rhyl. 16th, 17th, 18th, Gala, Trentham Hall. Few Vacant Dates. Com., Chester Cottage, Rhyl.

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'LEAVING MONTE CARLO,' Sung by Miss DORA LYRIC.

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HAVE YOU GOT ANOTHER GIRL AT HOME LIKE MARY?

THE RAGE OF AMERICA! READ THIS!!

Extract from a Two-Column Notice, NEW YORK HERALD, June 11, '08.

I hope Miss Lily Lena is not making her "farewell" to America. I hope she stays till I know her and her songs by heart, that some day I may tell of her and teach them to somebody's children's children.

HAVE YOU GOT ANOTHER GIRL AT HOME LIKE MARY?

that was the inquisitive title of her song. It will wander all over the land like the "Are-there-any-more-at-home-like-you" sextette. Its melody goes through you—positively! In at the ear and out by the mouth. Nobody asks you to join in the chorus (Miss Lena is far too clever for any device so trite), but nevertheless you do join in, and barely below your breath.

NOTE.—A limited number of permits will be granted for this GREAT CHORUS SONG.

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"IN THE SHADOW OF THE PYRAMID,"

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Two absolutely new songs by ERNEST R. BALL, the composer of "LOVE ME AND THE WORLD IS MINE? Note the titles:

"ALL FOR LOVE OF YOU" AND "SOME DAY YOU'LL COME BACK TO ME."

DO NOT OVERLOOK OUR GEMS OF SONG.

HARMONIZING NUMBERS.
"Sweet Jessie, dear."
"When sweet Marie was sweet sixteen."
"Katie, darling, I am waiting."
"When the birds in Georgia sing of Tennessee."
"I loved you then, I love you still."

BALLADS.
"I'd live or I would die for you."
"All the world loves a lover."
"As long as the world rolls on."
"Take me with you in your dreams."

SOUBRETTE NUMBERS.
"Little convent miss."
"Pretty little heather bell."
"Wink, wink, wink."
"Several little reasons."
"Learning her lessons."
"Take a sail in my boat."
"Carry me off in a big balloon."
"Oh, Mr. Man, Man, Man."
"You're in love."

MARCH SONGS AND OPENING NUMBERS.
"When the minstrels come to town."
"True heart."
"Stars, stripes, and you."

COON SONGS.
"Just because he couldn't sing, 'Love me and the world is mine.'"
"Party that wrote 'Home, sweet home,' never was a married man."

LIGHT COMEDY AND CHORUS SONGS.
"Shady side of Bond Street."
"Hats off to the King."
"Take me down to Blackpool."
"Lemon in the garden of love."

COMIC.
"They all go to church on Sunday."
"Billy Brown."
"Beautiful dreamy eyes."

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All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent in to the London Offices fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.
All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.
All Artists carrying scenery must have same fireproofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.
Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."
In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.
Telephone 5954 Avenue.
Telegraphic address, "Stageyness, London."

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, JULY 20, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Hal Godfrey, The Forsyths, Norah Noble, Maston, Sisters Thurban, Mathews and Brown, The Gascoignes, Leslie Bros., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Ten Loonies, Pearce and Ward, Lambert and Hands, George James, Francini Olloms and Page, The Florias, Dolly and Elsie, Niblo's Talking Birds, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Alice Raymond's Players, Billy French, Bains and Reed, The Varleys, Edie Reynolds, Harry Nelson, Gracie Hunt, Ryder Slone, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Maud Dennis, The Izons, "House of Tinn," Bartholomew Girls, Jack Lane, Edie Coolville, Lawrence Barclay, Emerson and Baldwin, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Hyde and Cody Trio.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Sterling and Love, Daisy Hicks, Velma Sisters, Pasquali Bros., Natalia and Diana, Ethel Scheffer, Harry Bland, Pictures.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
(Closed for Decorations.)

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
(Closed for Decorations.)

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"A Royal Divorce."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
"The Casuals" (Karno), Dolly and Madge McCalla, Bros. Hamilton, Lew Towers, Rose Tilley, "Mumming Birds" (Karno), Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Carlton, Two Lillies, Taree, The Walcots, Will and Roze, San Remo Girls, Albert Sinclair, Mysterious Cross, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock.
"The Orange Girl," Alma Moller, Les Belles Américaines, The Evalos, Takio, Mr. E., Cedar and Elgar, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Helen Roberts, Clark and Hayden, The Violas, Ernest Rees, Prof. Norton, Les Zelovas, Robins and Collier, Harry Grey, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Paul Barnes, Dancing Gilberts, Florence Esdaile, The Kirbys, Frank Seeley, Norah Stockelle, Chas. Resti, W. E. Whittle, "The Art of Deception," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Silbon's Circus, Queenie West, Harry Bancroft Cliff and Kean, Little Dando, Emmie Ames, The Leonas, Satanella Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Minnie Kirby, Kenneth and Kane, Sheldon Mills, Vi Romaine, The Frazer Trio, Brien McCullough and Co., Harry Luck, Tony Cooper, Blanche Newman, Kurkamp, Is It You? Competition, Pictures.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Ruby Emmerson, Major Moss and Son, Cherry Lass, Lisbon and Barker, Norah Desmond, G. Newburn, Sisters Thorne, Cake Walk Competition, Carlotta De Yonson and Co., Pictures.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Joe Dale, Tiny Arnold, Kenway and Emery, Lecardo Bros., Ruhart, Sisters River, Carlotta De Yonson and Co., Cake Walk Competition, Corcoran Bros., Chas. Tuppen, Pictures.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Ada Parker, A. E. Clifford, Josephine Crook, Gertie Lewis, Guest and Newlyn, Arthur Bretton and Co., Kitty Clinton, Chassino, Lew Lake and Co., The Four Kellys, Pictures.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Hewson's Æolians, Sisters Hampel, Johnny Warman, Madge Daly, Marie Neilson, Scottie's Waifs, Whizzing the Whirl, Fred Burton, Violet Mills, The Guyons, Pictures.

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The most emphatic Chorus Hit of the moment.

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"CHOOSE HER IN THE MORNING." Sung by ARTHUR REECE.
"IT'S BETTER THAN BEING A CARNEGIE." Sung by Miss WINIFRED HARE.
"ON THE CLIFFS OF NORMANDY." Sung by Miss MAY MARS.

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"WHO SAID HE DON'T LIKE GIRLS?" Sung by HARRY SIMMS.
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"FIFTY LONG YEARS AGO." Sung by HARRY BANCROFT.
"IOLA." Sung by Miss GERTIE GITANA

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Evening Standard, Jan. 20:—
"The Era" Annual shows its customary excellence, and has some good "yarns."

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
The Star, Jan. 16:—
Mr. Lennox Pawle's appearance in pantomime at Drury Lane gives point to some correspondence, now published by "The Era" Annual for the first time. As an example in brevity it should commend itself to managers and actors.

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Code Word, "EMPLATRE."

These two hooligans did not think over the matter before assaulting the wrestler and his friend, the acrobat, for the first scoundrel is lifted into the air and made to revolve like the wings of a windmill, while the other is carried away to the police-station by the acrobat, who makes him use his hands as the wheel of a barrow, while his feet are the shafts in the hands of his adversary.

165ft. The Subject, **£2 15s. 0d.**

A DRAMA IN THE TYROL.

Code Word "ELAN."

Karl Hauser is furious now that Haffner has refused his consent to his marriage with dark-eyed Hathe, the old peasant's daughter. Suddenly he perceives old Haffner walking along just above him on the hill, gun in hand, on the watch. He follows under cover of the bushes. The old man aims, fires, and brings down a bird; then, pulling out a long cord, he ties it round himself, after attaching it round a tree, and lets himself down to fetch the bird. Overhead, Karl, watching him with a cruel look, takes out his knife, and cuts the rope. The body of poor Haffner having been discovered a few hours later, Hathe finds that the knife she had given Karl a few days before has been used for cutting the cord, and, calling in her lover, she stabs him in the chest with it.

595ft. The Subject, **£9 18s. 4d.** Toning, **£1 0s. 0d**

TUNISIAN INDUSTRIES.

Code Word, "EPAULE."

Titles of the pictures: Rope-making, Bamboo Basket Manufacturers, Sieve-making, Cheese-making, Copper Art.

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VICTIM OF HIS PROBITY.

Code Word, "EMERSION."

A lady, having lost her pocket-book full of bank-notes, puts in her claim at the police-station. A penniless vagrant finds it and takes it to the same police-station, where he is congratulated for his straightforwardness; but presently the poor fellow is suspected of having stolen a few notes, which the lady finds are missing, and, in spite of his denial, he is locked up. Later on, a passer-by having found the missing notes on the pavement, gives them back to the lady, and the officials go to the cell, where they find that the poor man has hanged himself.

379ft. The Subject, **£6 6s. 4d.**

THE WONDERFUL SCARF.

Code Word, "EMBRASSER."

This precious talisman, which comes from the East, enables those who know how to use it to disappear at once if they like. The lucky owner of this scarf is now disappearing instead of paying his bill. Then the people he assaults are terrified at the idea that it must be a spirit which has knocked them down, for he is rendered invisible as soon as he has played his trick.

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Code Word "ENJEU."

A series of grinning faces appears on the screen, followed by a bevy of small actors, who disappear after performing all sorts of dances. Before retiring, they all come back together and salute the audience.

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DAUBER'S WHIMS.

Code Word "EMBUCHE."

The painter in this little story has just finished the portrait of his client, Mrs. Handsome, and is taking it home. En route, however, he, being somewhere in the clouds, small boys, by means of pieces of coal, make Mrs. Handsome a moustache. The painter arrives in the garden, where he finds Mr. Handsome, lying at full length on a long chair, to whom he shows the portrait. Great is the wrath of that gentleman on seeing the picture. Our painter promises to put matters right, and turn out a splendid likeness, but all to no purpose. Mr. Handsome will have none of him. On this the painter fetches a horse that happens to be near, harnesses him to Mr. Handsome's chair, and away he goes. All through the village, with half the world and his wife following, amidst huge satisfaction from the on-lookers, and to the great delight of sundry and divers fellow-painters.

445ft. The Subject, **£7 8s. 4d.**

A FORTUNATE ACCIDENT.

Code Word, "EAU."

A young man, in trying to stop a runaway horse, has been dragged a few yards by the animal, and he is slightly injured. A lady and gentleman step out of the carriage, and thank him profusely; their daughter joins in. Next morning Mr. Hill calls on their rescuer, a poor artist, who proudly refuses the money Mr. Hill offers him. Later on, according to Miss Daisy's entreaties, he asks her parents' consent to their marriage; but they are so shocked with the audacity of the proceeding that they show him the door, in spite of their daughter's tears and sobs. She is made desperate by her parents' refusal, and she writes to her lover that she is going to kill herself. Then she stretches herself on a bed of flowers, possessed of poisonous scents. Luckily, the young painter arrives just in time to save her again from death, and her parents have to yield to the young people's entreaties, and all ends happily.

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A Day in the Life of a Sicilian Hermit.

This is a rather uncommon subject for a film, which gives a good idea of the picturesqueness of beautiful Sicily, at the same time a glimpse of the daily life of the Roman Catholic hermits there.

The Blue Bird.

Is another fairy tale well worth taking a prominent place among our fairy tales and pantomimes made specially for children, for no expense and trouble has been spared to make a success of same.

A Bailiff's Adventures.

This comical subject has been very much appreciated on account of the skilful way John Pill and Guy get rid of him who worries them for the payment of their rent, a thing which is quite out of the question for them, for they have not a penny to bless themselves with; and in any occurrence like this the audience is sure to side with the jokers.

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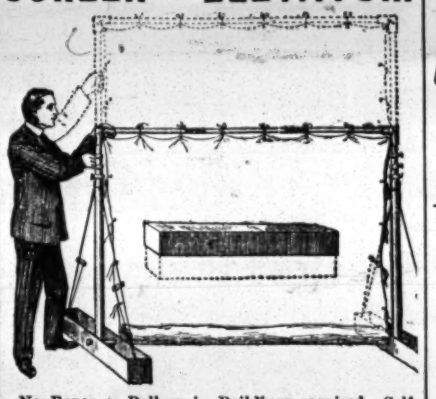

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Yours faithfully,
H. GOLDSMITH-WHITTON,

Late Manager, West's "Our Navy," Ltd. &c.
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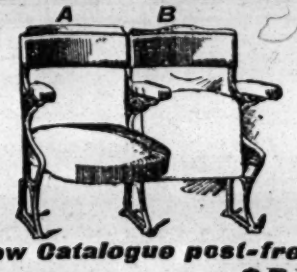

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PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, the United County Theatres, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—As usual, the appearance of Dr. Walford Bodie crowds the house in every part. The performance is as marvellous as ever, and he is supported by an excellent variety company which include the following clever artists:—Miss Lambert and Mr. Robertson in a humorous rural courtship sketch; Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese magician; Francisco, juggler; the Musical Palmers; the Dongor Trio of solo dancers; the Brothers Baxter, comedians; Miss Dolly Robson, vocalist; and Miss Bella Skene, burlesque actress.

BEACH PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—Mr. Scott Skinner, the famous violinist, shows the same consummate mastery of his instrument as ever, and the other members of the company likewise receive an embarrassing number of encores. The list includes Miss Violet Davidson, soprano; Mr. Jack Marson, tenor; Mr. Dan Williams, comedian; Miss Daisy Taylor, comedienne and dancer; Vulcares, "the Scottish Grossmith"; Messrs. Chorley and Connor, comedians; Mr. G. W. Walker, baritone, and Mr. David Thomson, comedian.

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ABERTILLERY. — THEATRE METROPOLE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborne.—For the reopening of this popular theatre, the drama, entitled *The Trail of the Serpent*, is performed by Mr. A. Campbell Kelly's company, and an excellent house witnessed the first performance. Miss Nana Cameron is excellent as Rachel, a gipsy; and Ethel Maynard, by Miss Gladys Sylvester, is portrayed in a realistic way. Gipsy Jake (known as Tenderheart) is well sustained by Mr. A. Campbell Kelly. The efforts of Mr. Geo. Porteous as the Serpent is highly appreciated; and Sir Gerald Kingston, by Mr. Del Leone, is all that can be desired. The son, Gerald Kingston, is well acted by Mr. Fletcher. For the remaining three nights of the week the same company is producing *A Gamble with Life*.

PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Although the weather has been most delightful, the patronage of this excellent music house has been well kept up. This week the historical drama, *Lady Godiva*, is successfully produced by Mr. John F. Preston's company. The title-rôle is excellently sustained by Miss Mabelle F. Barlow, and is highly appreciated. Mr. John F. Preston portrays the part of Tom o' Coventry in a pleasing and efficient manner; and Lady Aldyth is capitally played by Miss Hettie Gale. Robin Shacklebolt is amusingly enacted by Mr. Horace Custins; Mr. Leslie Hawkins's Leofric is a realistic assumption; and the Elfrida of Miss Ethel Rainsforth well deserves the appreciation obtained.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Closed for re-decorations.

TOWN HALL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—A strong programme is being presented here, the leading feature being a series of animated pictures, including The Brigands of Calabria; the great Halma, society juggler, also appears, and keeps the house thoroughly interested with his remarkable feats; Miss Cloe, a dainty vocalist, proves popular, and Wright and Lawson are clever acrobats and dancers; Ted Curtis and his picks are received with much favour, and Chas. Carr scores as a vocal comedian; Tripello provides a musical turn of exceptional merit, and Chas. Ulrick, the barrel king, wins great appreciation in the smart manner he manipulates the barrels with his feet.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—The programme presented here this week is again of all-round excellence. The famous Kellinos, in their speciality act, *A Fête in Venice*, at once arouse admiration; W. E. Gillin is a unique ventriloquial artist; the Polio Trio exhibit skill as musicians on the xylophone; Chas. Leighton makes a welcome reappearance; the Claymores are exceptionally fine in their club-swinging; Harry Bold sings two good songs, and the Bioscope brings an attractive programme to a finish.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*The Prodigal Parson* is here this week. As the Rev. Tom Godley, Mr. Logan Darra invests the character with force and verisimilitude; Mr. Alfred Northway as Enoch Jaggins is sufficiently unscrupulous to merit the condemnation of the audience; Miss Violet Hammersley as the parson's wife has a trying part, but she accomplishes her task with skill; Mr. Chas. Ashwell as Enoch's dissolute brother, gives effect to the villain's varied inclinations; the battle between this scoundrel and Ned Kettlepin, by Mr. W. Vincent, is one of the startling features of the play; Mr. Owen Remonde is capital as Phil Drive. There are a number of minor parts in serviceable hands, including those of Mr. R. A. Bridge and Misses Enid Edoni, Carlene Yorrick, E. Vincent, Madge Gillard, and others.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—Zeta Grey and company give a musical act, called *The Lancashire Lass*, which is highly amusing; Scott, Scott, and company introduce a bit of good pantomime work; the Sprees (Dorothy and Joe) are most entertaining in the scena, *Twickenham Ferry;* Rousby and Rene (Harry and Nell) introduce a Lancashire comedy duologue, "Fine Feathers"; the Four Breens are clever jugglers; the Zedoras as gymnasts have a speciality act—a revolving apparatus; Yeager and Da Costa are really funny as a couple of Black Coons; the Farrows (Harry and Louie) are good sketch artists; and Martin Conway is a singing comedian of the eccentric order. Tommy and the Policeman's Whistle is subject of Bioscope illustration.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—A lengthy and diversified series of animated pictures, interspersed with finely illustrated songs, still continues to draw crowded houses here, despite the hot weather.

BARNSLEY.—NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—Maurin's Marvellous Fountains, a spectacular water scene of much beauty, heads the bill; Picitt and Lizette contribute an original and highly humorous magical sketch, entitled *The Crazy Cook;* Alex Prince is a concertina soloist of much merit; Fred Cary is a funny comedian, with most diverting songs and patter; Stowe Bros. are smart acrobats and equilibrists; Pete is an exceptionally clever "man monkey"; Fred Herbert in songs introducing topics of the day is well received; Mallia and Bart, in an acrobatic absurdity, *The Baggage Smashers*, do well; and Chas. Coll, light comedian, and the Palascope, with new films, complete the bill.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—*The Marriage of Kitty* is being charmingly presented here this week. Miss Mary Thorne is really fine as Kitty, playing the part in a most natural and refreshing manner. As Madame de Gemiano Miss Kitty Lofting is delightfully versatile; Mr. Edgar Kent takes the part of Sir Reginald Belsize, Bart., in a taking and capable manner; as John Travers, the solicitor, Mr. Thomas Sidney is charming in his free and easy style; and the remainder of the cast is in excellent hands.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Blake and Amber top the bill here with a laughter-provoking skit on the drama and opera, which was much enjoyed; George Brooks proves a very popular comedian; Master Day gives a marvellous diabolo entertainment; Yolande Dobel is a charming comedienne; Ethel Dunford furnishes some capital vocal numbers; and Lizzie Daniels is a comedienne with a pleasing manner. Vernon's Bioscope is still very popular.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—The pictures here are of an excellent standard, and are proving very popular. Miss Vena Valma intersperses the programme with some capital songs and dances.

BARRY DOCK. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—*The Plucky Nipper* is being presented by Miss Bonwin Carlton's company. Mr. Piercy Watson gave a fine representation of Captain Frank Leslie; the Polly Hithard of Miss Bonwin Carlton was excellent; Mr. Edward Surrey submitted a good study of Bill Burgess; and as Richard Vanborough Mr. J. P. Dryden displayed ability. Miss Kitty Maynard made a pathetic Daisy Paget; and the humour was provided by Mr. Tod Squires as Tommy Atkins.

BATH.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—One of Mr. Fred Karno's troupes are appearing here this week in two of their well-known and hilarious pantomimical sketches, *The Casuals* and *Mumming Birds*, both of which are received with great enthusiasm and undoubted pleasure by the audience. The other turns comprise Lew Towers, a capital actor-vocalist; Rose Tilley, a charming burlesque actress; Dolly and Madge McCalla, juvenile artists, far above the average; and the Bros. Hamilton, comedians and simultaneous dancers. Raymond's Bio-tableaux always appeal to a large section of the audience.

SYDNEY GARDENS.—With the return of the warm weather Mr. Carl Fredericks and his nine merry-makers are once again attracting large audiences by the capital and varied entertainment they provide.

BEDFORD. — ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Variety is still the order at the above, Kennedy's Komiks playing to good houses each night. Mr. Natt Abott keeps the audience in roars of laughter with his jokes and funny ditties; Henriette and Selina dexterously manipulate numerous musical instruments; the Darnleys sing some good operatic airs; Mme. Bellamy is loudly applauded for her fine rendering of old ballads; Keane Harker brings down the house with his comic songs; the Miltons are well received in their unique and clever skating turn; Miss Winnie Wentworth appears in one of her characteristic songs; Miss Ella Vane also contributes to the vocalism, and the Komikoscope concludes an admirable entertainment with an exhibition of interesting pictures.

BELFAST.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The leading attraction is provided by Arthur Rigby and company, who produce with every element of success their Eastern episode, entitled *The Isle of Ooma*. This comic opera in miniature affords Mr. Rigby much scope for displaying his versatile humour, and he at once established himself a favourite. The acme of perfection is exhibited in the marvellous shooting act of the Three Royal Dreadnoughts; and a marked reception has been extended to Caryl Wilbur and company, who present their smart American comedy, *61, Prospect-street*. Mr. Russell Carr is undoubtedly a clever ventriloquist; and the Lyons Trio, in their dancing act; Miss Florry Cooper, comedienne; Charles Austin, comedian; and the Palace Pictures, complete.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. T. Downs.—Mr. Arthur Prince, one of the best of ventriloquists, heads the bill, and his performance has been voted a great success; Curtis Leo, assisted by Little Noblesse, appears to much advantage in the mysterious speciality entitled *Fun in a Drawing-room;* Mr. John Donald presents his vocal scena, in which his fine voice is heard with infinite pleasure; Mr. Will Douglas's Troupe of Jolly Bakers submit their clever Risley act, some of their feats being quite extraordinary; and Miss Lucy Coventry is a charming comedienne and fine dancer. Also in the bill are Bugler Carr, equilibrist; Stacey and Williams, comedy duo; Beau and Belle, in a vocal scena; Sisters Cora, duettists and dancers; and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Barton and Ashley top the bill, and this famous American comedy duo create much mirth with their new act, entitled *Adam the Second;* Signor and Mme. Borelli are compelled to respond to hearty encores for their realistic and humorous imitations; Mr. Ed. E. Ford, "the Australian sundowner," presents his remarkable facial imitations; and Miss Lena Verdi is a delightful comedienne and dancer. Aida Martine, comedienne, takes well; and a pleasing appearance has been made by Miss Rhoda Paul, one of the best male impersonators seen here for some time. Mr. Andie Burn, comedian, is a remarkably clever dancer. The Bioscope completes the bill.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Another fine exhibition of pictures has been presented here. This week's series comprises The Wreckers, Hurry Up, Please, The Lottery Ticket, Mr. Hayseed's Bargain, and many other beautiful films. In addition, Miss Daisy Devonport, an accomplished comedienne, appears with success; Mr. R. C. Note, a really clever comedian, made a big hit on Monday with his chorus songs.

BILSTON.—AL FRESCO PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Battersby.—The Imperial Pierrots are giving a capital entertainment this week. The popular comedians, Alf. Brookes and Harry Plant, prove successful laugh-raisers; Miss Flo Holroyd, Mr. Fred Field, and Mr. Carl St. Clare render their songs in a pleasing manner.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Charles M. Bestie's company in the musical comedy of *The Flower Girl* is on an initial visit here and have deservedly scored an instantaneous success. In the course of a spirited performance Mr. Martin Adeson, in particular, is pre-eminently successful by his irresistibly humorous and clever assumption of Joe Wheeler; Mr. Edward Kipling as Reginald Rackit displays a vivacity and skill which is positively exhilarating, and Mr. Robert H. Howard plays the Honourable Billy Greenhill with considerable vocal and histrionic ability; as Lily, the flower girl, Miss Dorothy Firmin is admirably suited, singing her various numbers with

exceptional skill and effect; the impersonation is a most charming one, abounding with chic and vim. Mr. Alfred Donohoe, as Johnny Wheeler, is first class, and special mention is due of Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Florence Wilton as Alphonse and Lizzitté de Racquet; Miss Jeannie Holmes is efficient as Miss Greenhill. The chorus and supernumeraries are all that can be desired, and Mr. William T. Gliddon, the composer, personally conducts.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Kennedy's Kiddies form a leading attraction, and have caught on immensely; they are exceptionally good singers and dancers, and their entertainment is thoroughly successful; Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's company in an interesting sketch, entitled *Convict 99*, is well received, and Velazzi's juggling feats are exceptionally smart; Miss Mabel Thorne, comedienne, and a general favourite; Barnard's mannikins in a cleverly-manipulated and effective show; Mr. Jack Dawe, a good comedian; Mr. Tatten Hall in some entertaining comic songs, and Brown's Royal Bioscope are all important items in an excellent programme. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical director.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS, ROCK FERRY.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—An entire change of company introduces Morton and Bowman, duologue artists; Miss Betty Greene, comedienne; Mr. Frank Hook, comedian; Mr. Marriott Edgar, the man in red; and Mr. Bernard Knox, accompanist, all of whom are excellent in their respective lines of business.

BIRMINGHAM. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Home, Sweet Home* is the attraction this week, this being its second visit with Mr. Frank Lindo's company. Mr. Lindo's acting as the husband, Stephen Armitage, is always natural, and commands full sympathy with its earnest and vigorous tone; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle plays with clever, rugged force, as the foster-parent, David Armitage; Miss Marion Wakeford's acting is quite in keeping with the character of the high-born heroine, Joan; Mr. Helsby Wright is effective as Lucas Lyle; Mr. G. Rogers's conception of the rôle of Dick Redmayne is very successful; Mr. Archer Brown comes out well in the part of the Duke of Ancaster; and Mr. Horace Kenny, as the Hon. Percy, and Miss Maude Elliott as Sybil Fay are shining examples. The remaining parts are well played, and the piece is adequately staged.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—The Great Vaudeville and Universal Picture Company continues to run successfully here. The reappearance of Mr. Will Euston, coster comedian, has been attended with much enthusiasm; Mr. Freddy Butler, "Birmingham's own boy vocalist," has elicited much applause with his illustrated songs; and the McKinleys have done well in their clever song and dance specialities. The animated picture display is by that eminent firm, Pathé Freres, and comprises the latest films issued by them.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*The Corsican Brothers*, finely acted and staged, is a big success here, with Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company. Mr. Sidney Bland differentiates the twin rôles, Fabien and Louis, admirably and subtly; Mr. G. Vane preserves the balance of the piece as Chateau Renard; Mr. J. O. Stewart gives an excellent rendering of the Baron de Montgiron; and Messrs. J. Hignett, J. W. Wilkinson, H. Marchmont, and Hugh Wallace, are very good in their rôles. Miss Cissie St. Elmo invests the character of Madame dei Franchi with fine grace and dignity; Miss Aimee Graltan Clyndes displays perfect sympathy with the rôle Emilie; and the subsidiary parts are made much of. *The Holy War* follows, and in which most of the above appear to advantage.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The London Fireman* held the stage here the first half of the week, since when *Saved from the Sea* has been the attraction. Both have been played by Messrs. Garside and Knowles' company, and in the former, Mr. J. Forbes Knowles has scored a big success in the titular rôle, Hal Curtis; Mr. Edwin J. Collins acts the despicable Viscount Fleming with a firm grip; Mr. William Burgess shows the brutalised nature of the elder Curtis admirably; Miss Grace Garside elicits praise and sympathy in the rôle of the unhappy wife, Grace; Mis Helena Walbran scores with her sweetness and sympathy as Ida Curtis; Miss Nellie Waddington acts with a proper show of feeling as the Countess; Miss Nina Harding is an entertaining Polly Bramble; and Mr. Geo. E. Scully acts well in concert as Nixey Stinger. In *Saved from the Sea*, Mr. Knowles, Mr. Collins, and Miss Walbran are also well cast as Dan, Fenton, and Nancy respectively.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—La Incognita is the possessor of a rich soprano voice; Walter Passmore and company delight the audience with the sketch *The Constable and the Pictures*. A musical sketch *In Her Boudoir* is ably presented by Edward Laurie and May Beatty; Elton and Edwin are clever banjoists; and Bob Hamilton, Ted E. Box, J. G. Aitken, and Vickey Delmar complete.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The Chas. Fisher Opera Co. appear here with their usual success in *Il Trovatore*; E. C. Gittings and company present a sketch *The Daughter of the Regiment*, the cast of which includes Mlle. Prescott, both sketches being highly appreciated. The Wille Bros. are exceedingly clever acrobats; Barry Lupino sings, dances, and turns somersaults in funny style; the Bandurria Troubadours entertain with the mandoline and guitar performances; Mr. Hymack is a clever comedian; Mazie Hibbs, Gipsy Woolf and her Six Sunbeams, and Lily Hayes are applauded for their singing and dancing.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—George Mozart, a popular comedian, is attracting large houses here; a musical mélange *The Prince of Monte Carlo* is presented by Harry Roxbury, who appears as P.C. Longfellow. The music, dancing, and scenery are up to the highest standard. Phil Rees' Stable Lads, Cumming and Seaham, acrobatic comedians, the Soho Trio in a vocal and terpsichorean novelty, the Musical Silvos, Botello and Virgina, Driscoll and Felino, and the Tafanos, are in the long and pleasing programme.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Miss Annie Hughes and company are paying a very welcome visit here this week with *The Mollusc*, and meeting with the most gratifying success. Miss Hughes submits an excellent portrayal of Mrs. Baxter, and brings out with telling effect all the idiosyncrasies of this complex character; no less successful is Miss Lilias Waldegrave as Miss Roberts; her naturalness is positively charming; Mr. Athol Stewart contributes a capital piece of acting as Tom Kemp, and Mr. Cecil Rose has a part that suits him in Mr. Baxter. *A Bit of Old Chelsea* is the curtain-raiser, and here again Miss Hughes scores another success as the flower girl.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr T. Sergenson.—*Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* is being enacted here this week by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Mr. George Mudie very cleverly assumes the part of Mr. Ponderbury; whilst Miss Annie Stalman amply justifies her selection for the rôle of Mrs. Ponderbury; Mr. Drew Macintosh does well as Mervin Thorpe, and Mr. Geo. Child merits commendation as Captain Rumford; Miss Florence Wix as Mme. Modjeski, and Miss Florence Wellesley as Ethel Penniston are also good.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Tom Costello tops a big bill here this week. Other attractive turns are supplied by Dan Crawley, comedian; Will H. Fox, comedian and musician; May Moore Duprez, "the jolly Dutch girl"; Monie Emerald, comedienne and dancer; Trapnell Family, acrobats; Francis and Alfred, jugglers; Athas and Collins, comedians; and La Belle Flora, in an artistic mélange.

BOLTON.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.; Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Oswald Williams, versatile illusionist, is making his first appearance here in a series of astounding illusions, including "The Flying Chest." He is assisted by Winifred La Barte and company. Other turns are Jack Hayton, the Lancashire Lad; Violet Leslie and Jack Ford in *The Billposter's Dilemma*, in which they introduce comedy caricaturing and character mimicry of star artists; Aidee Mellor, vocalist; the Two Lauries, society acrobats; Will E. Stopit, eccentric comedian; Edie Tennis and Gertie Laune in their original vocal scena *Chapters from Life*; the Milfords, cross-talk comedians and dancers; the Five Musical Tritons, vocalists and instrumentalists; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The attraction this week is the drama, *The Way of Transgressors*, by Nita Rae, and played by the stock company. Mr. Albert Sember is exceedingly good as Cecil Kenmore; also Mr. Alfred D. Adams in the rôle of Harold Marchant. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon is well placed as Manuel; Miss Nina Vaughton plays Inez Saville in her usual pleasing manner, and Barbara has a good representative in Miss Kathleen Magee. The humour of the piece is well taken care of by Mr. Tom H. Solly and Miss Effie Macintosh.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Phil Ray is paying a return visit, and with his songs and patter keeps the audience convulsed with laughter; Leo Tell, "the master of mimicry," rightly deserves this title, his imitations of musical instruments, &c., being most realistic; Kitty Colyer, American comedienne, contributes some "catchy" songs, whilst her dancing is clever; Will Van Allen renders an overture on the banjo in a masterly manner; Little Tichbourne, comedian, is successful in his "big boot" dancing; Louise Zetland's powerful voice is heard to advantage; the Alskarno Trio, comedy Risleyists, show remarkable dexterity; and the Bioscope pictures are very interesting.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—This theatre reopened on Monday, when Mr. Edward Marris's company presented *The Gentleman Jockey* to an appreciative house. Miss Ethel Ward as the heroine is admirably suited; Mr. Cecil W. Parke as Sir Francis Granmere is manly and convincing; a most capable study of a villain is submitted by Mr. W. B. Nugent as Snakeworth, who is foiled in his work by a village constable, excellently played by Mr. George Brentwood; Mr. Helier le Maistre as Grayson has a capital opportunity, and uses it well in the last act, when he sings "Chorus, Gentlemen"; Miss Gertie Ward as Pippin does well; while the Lottie Stone Quartette dance most delightfully; Mr. Leonard Dalrymple besides giving a finished performance of Fitzherbert, undertakes the duties of business manager. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. George Ess, who is responsible for many of the musical items introduced.

BRADFORD.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company is here for the week with *The Shaughraun*, and large audiences have heartily greeted the evergreen Irish drama. It is capitally staged, and the acting is good. Mr. Thorne's humour as the genial, sprightly Conn is prolific; Mr. Phil Harper is a manly Captain Molineux; Mr. Alexander J. Haviland is earnest and altogether excellent as Robert Ffolliott; as Father Dolan, Mr. Dunlop Stewart is good; Mr. J. Skea plays Corry Kinchela well; Mr. H. Macauley's Harvey Duff is a fine performance; Miss Phyllis Vaughan very charmingly fills the part of Arte O'Neal; Claire Ffolliott has a capital exponent in Miss Maud Russell; Miss Winifred Barton is good as Moya; and as Mrs. O'Kelly Miss Florence Thorne is diverting.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—The charming burlesque artist Winifred Hare is the bright particular star here this week, and her reception has been very cordial; Harry Weldon is on a return visit, and his eccentric style and songs elicit hearty laughter; Carl Howard's burlesque conjuring is amusing. On the triple bar the Vasilescu Troupe are clever and entertaining; Max Yorke, with his wonderfully trained fox terriers, furnishes a clever and novel turn; G. B. Reno and company as "An Odd Lot" are grotesque and amusing; the Sisters Allen are dainty duettists and dancers; Little Keeno is a boy comedian of some promise; Walter Bellonini juggles cleverly, and has a smart assistant in "Wal"; and there are some good pictures shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Those clever instrumentalists and funny comedians, the Leslie Brothers, have again met with an enthusiastic reception here; Norah Noble is a pretty comedienne and dancer; Mathews and Brown, coloured duettists, dance cleverly; an excellent imitation of a mechanical doll is the feature of the Forsyth's sketch, *The Tramp in the Nursery*; Maston, Yorkshire mimic, is clever and amusing; the Three Sisters Thurban are expert instrumentalists and good vocalists; excellent comedy juggling and clever balancing feats by the Gascoignes win hearty applause; Hal Godfrey and company are amusing in the sketch *A Very Bad Boy*, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are very interesting.

BRIDLINGTON.—ROYAL PRINCES' PARADE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—The Promenade concerts given by the Municipal Orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. Norfolk Megone, are increasing in popularity. The vocalist this week is Mr. Harry Blackie, a pleasing baritone. In the Grand Pavilion the great attraction is Mr. Victor L'Estrange, an illusionist, whose tricks are smartly performed. The new series of pictures by the Loyal Dominion Animated Picture Company include a fine film of the procession during the King and Queen's visit to Leeds, taken specially for Mr. Will Emmerson, the enterprising manager of this up-to-date show. Mr. Flockton-Foster and his costume comedy company are frequently introducing new items in their programmes.

NEW SPA AND GARDENS.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—Herr Simon Wurm and his Viennese Band give some excellent programmes at their promenade concerts, the vocalist this week being Miss Katie Moss, soprano, who gives great satisfaction to the large audiences who assemble under the glass dome. Her playing of the violin obbligatos to her songs is a great treat, and her songs at the piano are always redemanded. The performances by the Lindons, entertainers, are very popular, Mr. Bob White being as great a favourite as ever in his humorous songs. The "Spaograph" pictures add to the attraction of the big programmes given each evening by the company in the Opera House.

THE PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—That talented musical combination the Zerbinis are paying a welcome return visit to this popular place of entertainment, and their turn evokes great enthusiasm from large audiences. The Parisian Animated Pictures are always a source of delight, and Mr. Delmar is constantly adding new attractions.

SUMMER GARDENS. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Charles Beanland.—Mr. Harry Tomlin, a fine versatile vocalist, with a well-trained voice, is always heartily applauded among the items in the popular programmes given by the Waterloo Pierrots. *Mme. Samuel's At Home* is an amusing sketch given by the company this week.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. Ernest Carpenter's stock company is performing *It's Never Too Late to Mend* here this week, and attracting large audiences. Mr. Edward McLean achieves distinct success as George Fielding; Mr. Ronald Adair gives an excellent portrayal of Tom Robinson; Miss Kathleen Russell makes a charming Susan Merton; Mr. A. Hallett, jun., is powerfully effective as Mr. Meadows; Mr. Ellis J. Preston's Rev. Mr. Eden, and Mr. Harry Oxley's Mr. Haws, are admirably played; Miss Amy Venimore is a capital Mrs. Merton; and others who render able support are Mr. Charles A. Preece and Mr. H. C. Lanceley.

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is a capital company here this week. The Brothers Poluski are as clever and amusing as ever; Edie King is a dashing comedienne and pleasing dancer; the Five Whitelys are capital acrobats; Ryan and Hall's comedy wrestling is very diverting; Josh Dixon sings and patters in humorous style; Helen Forsyth is an excellent ballad singer; Anthony, the burlesque juggler, is cordially received; Steve Barlie is a gifted edeophone and concertina soloist; and the Alhambrascope pictures are excellent.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. Paul Cinquevalli wins enthusiastic applause with his marvellous juggling and balancing feats; Daisy Wood achieves great success in her song, "Splash me"; Evelyn Taylor's popular ditties are warmly appreciated; the Sisters Wingrove are dainty dancers; Ross and Grayson are an amusing comedy pair; Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford are highly successful in the farce, *Getting Even*; the Westwoods give a clever exhibition of acrobatics on cycles; the Five Juanitos give a capital display of gymnastics; Percy Farrimond, the Lancashire singing collier, is cordially received; and Satsuma is a smart conjuror.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Messrs. Frank G. Bayly and Arthur Eldred's company is here this week with *When We Were Twenty-one*. Mr. Frank G. Bayly is capitally suited as Richard Carewe; Mr. Arthur Eldred acquits himself admirably as the Imp; Miss Katie Johnson is a delightful Phyllis; the trio of Guardians are ably represented by Messrs. F. Rawson Buckley, Talbot Homewood, and P. L. Julian; Miss G. Bartle-Frere is amusing as Mrs. Ereison; and praise is due to Miss Violet Graham (Babette), and Miss Margaret Yarde ("Firefly").

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Mr. Lionel Brough and Mr. Tom Craven's company is here this week, with a triple bill—*The Lady in Red*, *The Yarn Spinner*, and *Milky White*. In the first-named piece the parts are ably sustained by Mr. Stephen Adeson (Mr. Johnson), Mr. Tom Craven (William), Miss Clara Milvain (Mrs. Johnson), and Miss Isabel Collier (Cora). Mr. Lionel Brough is distinctly effective in *The Yarn Spinner*; while, in *Milky White*, excellent representations are submitted by Mr. Tom Craven (Milky White), Mr. Stephen Adeson (Dick Duggs), and Miss Mary Brough (Mrs. Sadrip).

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The animated pictures are very attractive. A Mexican Love Story and A Gendarme's Honour convey interesting stories, and among the amusing films are Land of Nod, An Economical Overcoat, and The Little Motorist.

CONCERT HALL, WEST-STREET.—The Royal Italian Circus is still achieving well merited success here.

BRISTOL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Mr. James Hare and company are here with the romantic Servian drama *A Destroyer of Men*, the play being staged with liberality. Mr. Hare acts with considerable power as Karl Mischla; Miss Irene Clifford is effective as Olga Mischla; Miss Jessie Yatman presents a refined and sympathetic exposition of Vida Ravel; Mr. Frederick Harker is consistent as Count Starevitch; Mr. Leonard Clarke and Mr. James Duncan act carefully as the two sons Paul and Michael; the comic parts of Coco Tatchoski and Nina Pattakake are rendered in amusing style by Mr. Edmond O'Grady and Miss Bessie Frank; and the remaining characters are all carefully performed. The quick scenic change from the convict settlement on the island of Seavgorod to the open sea is effective.

PALACE — Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Interesting animated pictures are being shown here representing the Royal visit to Bristol on the recent opening of Avonmouth Dock, the films being photographed by Mr. Dunscome, a local optician. Cruikshank, "the fool of the family," presents a good turn; Richard Corbin's dogs are marvels of training—they do a clever performance all by themselves, Mr. Corbin only appearing at the end of the turn; Allsopp and Beckwith amuse as a comedy duo; Rose Sartella is a pleasing American comedienne; the Arthur Gallimore Trio do well as comedy artists; Jock Walker, Scotch comedian, is appreciated; and Harry Taft, comedian, whistles with much power. The performance concludes with The Magnetic Removal, depicted by Vernon's Bioscope.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—The Great McBanns, American club jugglers, are exceptionally clever in their line, and they are duly appreciated. Jack and Evelyn score with their speciality *Act of the Period*; Miss Beaumont Collins and company successfully present a fine dramatic sketch, *The House of Terror*, with special scenery effects by E. G. Banks, Imperial Theatre; the Chicago Gypsy Girls are decidedly effective in their harmony vocal scena; Marie Reeve, comedienne and dancer, does a pleasing turn; Karr and Kooney, comedians, are deservedly appreciated; and Connie Mostyn, serio and dancer, is successful. The performance concludes with a good display of animated pictures.

BURNLEY. — EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Another admirably diversified programme is given here this week. The Venetians please greatly with their singing and beautiful illustrations, the love song being loudly applauded. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde give a most interesting and clever shadowgraph performance; and Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley and company submit a bright musical sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*. The Sisters Jerome sing and dance acceptably, and Arthur Harris contributes songs with a swing. A pretty singer is Madoline Rees, and an exceptionally funny picture is shown by the Empire Theatroscope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Paul Barnes, of New York, heads the bill here, and his string of jokes told in a droll manner quite convulses the audience. His singing, too, is most acceptable; another clever American is W. E. Whitlie, ventriloquist, whose resemblance to President Roosevelt is most striking; Miss Florence Esdaile in a medley of opera music is loudly encored; the Kirbys, in their duologue are funny; and Miss Nora Stockelle is up-to-date in her song about the "Flip-Flap." A laughable sketch, *The Art of Deception*, is presented by Mr. J. F. Elliston's company, the prominent comedy being created by Mr. Shaun Glenville as the tramp. Charles Resti is a smart conjurer; the Dancing Gilberts give a novel act; and The Architect's Apprentice is a humorous picture by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Gaumont's Chronophone concludes this week with a most interesting show. A speciality is a fine picture on the Bioscope, illustrating the local regatta, which is cheered again and again. Mr. Harry Lauder, Mr. Will Evans, and Miss Victoria Monks' voices are also heard and seen through the Chronomegaphone, and are heartily applauded. The living pictures are up to date, and Mr. H. Ellis, "who is in charge of the entertainment," is to be congratulated.

CARDIFF. — EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The array of talent this week is headed by Mark Sheridan, who seems a greater favourite than ever. Lottie Lennox makes a hit with her vivaciously rendered numbers; Spry and Austin, two favourites with Cardiffians, are greeted with genuine applause; Charles Parker's Six Æolians provide a capital vocal and dancing entertainment; Harry Rogers and company prove particularly interesting in a dramatic sketch entitled *Told in a Flat*; the De Wynne Brothers gain considerable appreciation for their refined athletic act; Ralf and Nellie Howard are popular in a musical sketch, *Military Mad*; Adey Spencer is a charming comedienne; and Kisbey, described as "the call-boy," and a new series of Bioscopic pictures are also in the bill.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company are here in a stirring episode, entitled *The Orange Girl*. A unique turn is provided by Tokio, who as a mimic is really admirable; the Evalos are masters of jugglery; and Cedar and Elgar are smart comedians in their comedy act, *Ye Dayes of Olde*; Mr. E. is a clever patterer, his pictorial remarks being extremely humorous; Les Belles Americaine, vocalists and trick dancers; Alma Moller, ballad vocalist; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux complete a first-class entertainment.

CARLISLE.—THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The first visit of Mr. Herbert Cottesmore's company in the Sicilian drama entitled *Her Princely Betrayer* created considerable interest on the opening night. Mr. Oscar Adye was the principal figure, and gave a sound performance; Miss Amber Wyville was sympathetic and interesting; and Miss Jessica Black and Messrs. Ivan Cleveland and William Black filled their respective parts adequately. The scenery and dressing were excellent. Estrella, a clever dancer, met with a favourable reception; Tony Iveson, the comedy tramp pianist, and the Villions, acrobatic cyclists, are on a return visit, and, with new business, are more popular than ever. Burley and Burley have a quaint and decidedly taking style as acrobatic comedians; and Otto and Olga contribute a smart musical comedy act, which was deservedly appreciated. George Acre, with capital character songs, and some fine pictures by the Pepiscope conclude.

CASTLEFORD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Charles Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—Another pleasing series of the Loyal Dominion Co.'s animated pictures forms the principal attraction again this week. By way of a change George Young, a blind musician, gives some pleasing selections on the concertina.

CHATHAM — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. Barnard.—After a brief interval we have another play from the pen of C. Watson Mill, entitled *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss Amy Ellam is powerful as Risca Mallison; Mr. Chas. E. Lovell appears successfully as Isaacs, a Jew, and as Karnaphus; Miss Gwendoline Talbot gains the sympathy of the house as Doris Melville; and other parts are in good hands.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES. — Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The Sisters Herbert are a dainty pair of juvenile singers and dancers; Wyndham and Waters create roars of laughter in *The Professor and His Pupil*; the Geni Family give a particularly smart acrobatic display; Harry Desmond scores with "Oh, what a comical thing!" A Separation Wanted and The Wonderful Scarf are amusing films realistically projected by means of Lacey's Erascope. Rosie Gaston, serio; Davis and Deane, comedians and patterers; and the Vallis in musical act complete the bill.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. E. G. Woodhouse.—Here we have Ida Brophy, who scores with "Only to call her Baby"; Delafiore, zylophone expert; the Sisters Grosvenor, a trio of pleasing vocalists; Cumminger and Colonna, in expert sand-dancing; Alice Maple, a neat little serio; Pat Rafferty, an old favourite here, who is enthusiastically recalled for "Paddy at Loch Lomond," "Where is my wandering boy?" and other ditties; and Mlle. Haydee's cleverly-manipulated miniature vaudeville theatre. A word of special mention must be accorded to The Phantom Artist, which is the title of a very novel film presented by means of the Edisonograph.

CLACTON-ON-SEA. — WESTCLIFF GARDENS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Graham Russell and Bentley.—In a capital programme here Mr. Bert Graham creates roars of laughter with his song, "If the Missus says"; Mr. Bert Russell is always amusing, his contributions bringing down the house; Mr. Will Bentley provides humour in his songs, "You needn't tell everybody" and "Is there a doctor about?"; Mr. Gorton Young is a basso vocalist of considerable ability, his handbell solos also being well received; Miss Dora Thorpe's songs with 'cello obbligato are finely rendered, and Mr. Bret Harden's whistling and imitations are extremely clever.

PALACE-BY-THE-SEA.—Managing-Director, Mr. P. W. Willard.—Some exceptionally clever performers are billed here this week. The Sisters Reno, transformation dancers, are a leading attraction; the Bros. Mills give a remarkably clever equilibristic turn; Miss Vera Patey charmingly renders some catchy chorus songs; Boyd and Gilfain are enthusiastically encored for their item, "Fifteen Minutes in Sunny Spain"; Montague Biggs is an entertaining mimic; Gus Hindell, in song and story, creates roars of laughter; Bessie Benson dances cleverly, and Mr. Fred Dornan scores with humorous songs. The Palascope shows some fine films.

OPERETTA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. W. F. Jury; Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—The animated pictures this week include Romeo and Juliet, Each one in his turn, The way to get rid of Ma-in-law, and Thief by necessity. Mr. J. Horton's illustrated songs, and Miss Clairette Florence's excellent pianoforte selections complete the programme.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—This historic house signalised its post-vacation opening in the happiest possible fashion, a crowded audience giving a hearty reception to Mr. George Edwardes's company in that most seductive of musical plays *The Merry Widow* on Monday evening. The dresses, which enhanced the beautiful effect of the scenery, are by Mrs. Patrick, Mme. Herbert, Mme. Field, and Morris Angel and Son; whilst the tour is under the direction of Mr. J. A. E. Malone. Miss Mysie Devine created a most favourable impression by her impersonation of the world-famous Widow, singing in capital form and acting some of the more tense moments with considerable feeling. Her success was aided by the powerful aid rendered by Mr. Frank Greene as Prince Danilo, a part to which he was eminently suited by reason of his pleasing baritone voice, and the ease and cleverness with which he turned from grave to gay and *vice versa*. Mr. Edward D'Arcy, perhaps at times apt to wander from the old-man dignity of Baron Popoff, was nevertheless a cause of much laughter, and, when in his lighter vein, was indeed an immense success; whilst the eleventh-hour morality of Natalie, his wife, was portrayed with unmistakable cleverness by Miss Ada Thomas, a lady who revelled in top notes, to the great delight of her auditors, who frequently applauded loudly; Mr. Ripley Evans, the possessor of a particularly sweet voice, gained many encores for his singing as Vicomte Camille de Jolidon; Mr. Fred Fowler was intensely funny as the pertinent, yet at times obsequious Nisch; whilst Mr. F. W. Pedgrift made quite the most of the part of M. de St. Brioche, one of the Parisian "widow" (with fortune) hunters, his pertinacity leading to many humorous situations. A trio who appeared well placed were Mr. William Allison as Marquis de Cascada, Mr. Clifford Soyler as General Novikovitch, and Mr. Robert Needham as M. Khadja. Miss Daphne Glenne, Miss Violet Hobson, and Miss Lucie Donati as Olga, Sylvanie, and Frascovia respectively, were each charming; whilst as Frou Frou, one of the Maxim Girls, Miss Katie May showed to advantage. The choruses were well rendered, though it was noticeable that the male voices showed the greater ability, and the tour should be an eminently successful one.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—This week Mr. Fred Lindsay, the Australian whip-wonder, in his thrilling exhibition, is thoroughly appreciated; his show is enhanced by some capital films portraying bush life, pastimes, and competitions. Les Cablacs, French acrobats and dancers, give a bright and clever entertainment; Sergt. J. P. Carroll, tambourine expert, is awarded tremendous applause for his really extraordinary show; Flo Cecil renews her acquaintance with the locals, and goes as well as of yore; Jenny Alexander proves herself a clever mimic; Rose and Challoner appeal strongly as a comedy duo with a taking show, and Archie Glen is a promising comedian and raconteur.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—An interesting melodrama, entitled *A Sister's Sin*, is being presented here by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company. Mr. T. Arthur Ellis is successful in the leading rôle of Harold Raymond; Mr. Hugh Carmichael is responsible for the villain, George Oakley; Miss Clara Santley so strikingly successful in the rôle of Charzel, is ably assisted as Redempta by Miss Patricia Conaughton; Miss Mabel Scudamore is responsible for Minnie Hastings; and some clever juvenile acting comes from Miss Violet Bales, and Miss Mabel Ray as Redempta's son, and May Raymond. Considerable humour is introduced by Mr. W. Percy, Miss E. Macklin, and Miss Lynn Darlington as Larry Murphy, Floss Perks, and Nell Stubbs respectively.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—First on the list this week is Mr. Tom Edwards, the huntsman ventriloquist, who causes roars of laughter; the Empire Comedy Four delight the audience with their funny quartettes; the Markies provide a capital turn, playing popular choruses on bottles, bells, glasses, &c.; the Brothers Ford, simultaneous dancers, meet with a good reception; Bonnetti and Corrie give a capital juggling act; Dean and Dover appear in an original comedy act, entitled *The Typist and the Messenger Boy*; other artists are Nellie Farrell, Frank C. Mason, John Henderson, and Lizzie Sinclair.

CROYDON.—HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Jackson Hayes; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice.—The principal item on the programme this week is a sketch by Mr. Fred Sothern and company, entitled *A Lucky Soldier*. Mr. Harry Gilbey as Capt. Hamesley does well; Winnette is in the capable hands of Miss May Emery; and Mr. Fred Southern capably fulfils the rôle of Bob Sankey. Toby Cooper, a local favourite, renders some good songs; Rubie Parsonage is a good comedienne and dancer; Marie Leonard, in illustrated songs, is applauded; and the animated pictures shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux are interesting.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—The head of an exceedingly good programme this week is Lydia Yeamans, a capable actress-vocalist, whose singing and imitations gain her unstinted approbation; another outstanding feature is a sensational sketch, entitled *Blackmail*, which is ably presented by Henry Herne, Ida Millais, and Harry Cullenford; Max Gruber and Miss Adelina, with their wonderfully-trained elephant, horse, and pony, should receive special mention, the performance being both clever and unique; Hinto and Wootton submit a capital football match on bicycles, which is watched with much interest; Horace Jones, Welsh comedian, is highly successful; Martell gives an excellent exhibition of hand-balancing; Dolly Ross is a pleasing comedienne and skilful dancer; and Benson and Rose appear to advantage in a diverting comedy duologue. The Bioscope is, as usual, interesting.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Taylor.—This week a musical drama, entitled *In Old Madrid*, is being produced by Mrs. Fred J. Kirke's company. Mr. Leslie Austin, who undertakes the dual rôle of Frank Lyndhurst, the hero, and Count Corregillo, should be complimented upon his success, and he is ably assisted by Miss Edna Clare, who appears to advantage as Violet Lyndhust; Mr. Franklyn Daly is good as Mendoza, a toreador; and the comedy element is supplied by Mr. Walter T. Hybert as Rodgers, and Miss

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Florrie Jackson, who cause much hearty laughter. Several good songs are given by Mr. Leslie Austin and Miss Florrie Jackson, which are cordially appreciated. The minor parts are well handled, and the play is well mounted.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—A musical comedy-drama, entitled *At the World's Mercy*, performed by Mr. Carr Loates' company, is meeting with a very favourable reception this week. The principal contributor is Miss Cissie Milford, a smart dancer and quick-change artist, who undertakes the dual rôle of Kitty Knott and Skittles the Stowaway with commendable ability. Mr. Jerry Davies is very smart as Captain Frank Manley; and Mr. Carr Loates is a conventional villain as Jules Barber. Other members of the company whose several accomplishments are noticeable are Messrs. Boxer, Rodway, and Knight, and the Misses Hill, Courtney, and Hunter.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Little Tich, the well-known comedian, is starring here this week, and provokes the greatest hilarity with his quaint songs and funnisities. Viviana and company in their scena *The Toy-Shop* is an exceedingly smart and clever performance; a novel gymnastic display by Ajax and George is appreciated; Tiller's Palace Girls, vocalists and dancers, continue to give great satisfaction; Harry Merrylee's Scotch songs are applauded; the Six Albyns in their comedy act *The Squire's Hunting Party* provide a pretty and effective turn; and Mlle. du Roche, burlesque artist, and the Royal pictures also contribute to a capital programme.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The new pictures shown here this week are both interesting and amusing, and include The Last Cartridge, Long Jack of Texas, The Dog Detective, The Little Blind Girl, and The Drunken Mattress. In the variety programme are Sam Frisco, a smart and amusing comedian; Dolly Boston, a charming soubrette; the Two Sports in a laughable potpourri act; the Sisters Fagan, celebrated Irish jig and reel dancers; and the ever-popular humorist and guide, Bob Pearson.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The centre of attraction here is found in Miss Cissie Lawson and company in their sensational sketch *The Devil's Sunday*, which is well received. Maude Mortimer is most pleasing and agreeable as a comedienne; the King's College Boys in *The Students' Concert* are very good; and Stuart and Evans are a capital pair of comedians. Ray Maskell, comedienne and dancer; Hans and Lux, the argumentative college chums; Yorke Wilson, eccentric comedian; Lily Esplin, character comedienne; and the Empire pictures are also in the bill.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Leoni Clarke, with his well-trained cats, rats, canaries, monkeys, &c., heads the bill here, and is warmly appreciated. Howard and St. Clair in their sketch *Do You Want Any Coke?* cause roars of laughter; the Sisters Brenton score in pretty songs and dances; the Haverleys, song illustrators, are accorded a capital reception; Minnie D'Aubyn, burlesque artist, has many admirers; Ingham and Irving afford much amusement in their sketch *The New Office Boy*; and Tom Thumb, Continental comedian, makes a decided hit. Excellent turns are added by Flake White, lightning painter and cartoonist, and L. W. Harris, light comedian. The Bioscope, depicting Bobby's Fire Engine, completes.

PAVILION (KINGSTOWN).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—The attraction here this week is Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's company in a new and original yachting episode entitled *The Saucy Arethusa*, which proves successful. As a lady impersonator Mr. Kemsley Scott Barrie excels; Mr. Norman Osborne is a most entertaining ventriloquist; Miss Elaine Reed, a pleasing soprano vocalist, is well received; Mr. Tubby Edlin, comedian, is exceptionally good; and some fine vocalism is contributed by Mr. Jack W. Hughes.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here:—Cave and Cave, song and patter artists; Bessie Bell, ballad vocalist; Pleasant Jack, quaint comedian; Belle and Bell, sketch artists; Bert Wright, comedian and dancer; Eric Thornber, the copper-coloured coon; and the Cinematograph.

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Variety entertainment is still in demand, and the supply is amply met by the combination here this week. Daisy Parkes, comedienne and dancer, is a sparkling turn; Arthur Wells, character comedian, delights; Elsie Le Var, dainty soubrette, is aptly described; Darwin, man monkey, is a refreshing number; the Harrolds, duettists and dancers, are exceedingly neat in footcraft; Edgar Cook, the conjuring chef, is dexterous and smart; and George Marquis and Grace Mignonette, comedy artists, are welcome.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Milton Bode's capital company is here this week, appearing in *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Miss Veronica Brady is a pretty and clever representative of Mrs. Pineapple, and her singing and dancing are well received; Miss Gwennie Harcourt is again the Fi-Fi, and plays the part with great success, her songs gaining enthusiastic applause; Miss Elsie Skillings sings admirably, and is a dainty and refined Princess Soo-Soo; and Miss Maud Adams is a decided success as the prudish Mrs. Brown; Mr. Will Harman is an able comedian, and he arouses many hearty laughs by his funny work as Pineapple; Mr. Rudolph Kloss is again a dignified and imposing Emperor Hang-Chow; Mr. P. Allerton-Turner is cleverly made up, and does good work as Chippie Chop; Mr. Harry Jennings is a polished and effective Tom Hatherton; and Mr. Leonard May gives excellent help as Hi Lung. The dresses are very pretty, the performance crisp and bright, and the chorus and augmented orchestra are under the able conductorship of Mr. Knight Pearce.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Mr. Louis Calvert and his company are appearing here in a new farcical comedy, entitled *The Lady of the Pageant*, a full account of which is given on another page.

THE ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the top of the bill are Hooker and Davis, with their six attendant "cow-boy" girls. Miss Davis gives elaborate examples of toe-dancing, and the turn is well received. Elvio, Ross, and Elvio have a smart and bustling absurdity in *Those Troublesome Slaveys*; Mr. Joe Archer sings and patters glibly to the amusement of his hearers; Mr. and Mrs. F. Shelley have a very diverting sketch, Miss Summerson's Baby; Miss Sadie Seymour is a refined and pleasing comedienne; Mr. Cyril Carle sings dramatic songs realistically; the Sisters Clifton sing and dance neatly; and new Bioscope pictures complete the bill.

EDINBURGH. — ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—At a time of the year when Edinburgh is crowded with visitors from all parts of the world, no more suitable fare could well be provided than the favourite national drama of *Rob Roy*, and Mr. William Mollison's special production of the piece continues its successful run. Mr. Mollison does full justice to the dry humour of the Baillie; and the merits of Mr. Ben Davies as a singer make him a popular representative of Francis Osbaldistone. The Rob Roy of Mr. Wm. Calvert is a sterling and manly performance; Mr. E. B. Drysdale gives an exceedingly characteristic impersonation of the Dugal Crâtur; and Mr. Tom Walker's Major Galbraith is marked by the ease of familiarity. Among the ladies, Miss Evelyn McNay and Miss Kitty Brownlees deserve great commendation, the former for her spirited acting as Helen Macgregor, and the latter for her fine singing in the rôle of Diana Vernon; while both Miss Josephine Woodward and Miss Ethel Armit do good work as Jean McAlpine and Mattie. Other parts are all in capable hands, and the drama is staged with all the advantages of excellent music and picturesque scenery.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—A programme, with many brilliant artists and full of intense and sustained interest, is presented at the Empire this week. Miss Hetty King's refined, yet animated, style makes her male impersonations a complete success; Mr. Albert Whelan is admirable alike in the mimetic and musical parts of his entertainment, and his imitations of music hall favourites are given with rare fidelity; Mr. Whit Cunliffe, bright and spirited as ever, displays genuine humour in the rendering of several new songs, "Exercise" and "Nobody's satisfied," evoking much applause; and Miss May Mar's stately presence and expressive singing give full effect to her selections, "In the shadow of the Pyramids" being specially noticeable. There is much bustle and exhilaration in the performance of Billy McClain and company; Sahib Gustave Fasola proves himself to be an illusionist of the first class; the Great Northern Troupe of International Dancers dance with dash, neatness, and grace; Miss Cassie Walmer is a vivacious comedienne; Miss Cissie Curlette provides an excellent turn; and the Bioscope closes one of the best entertainments we have seen at this house.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Will Dennis's company, in *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, was here the first half of the week. Mr. Will Dennis as the Earl of Dorincourt gave a brilliant portrayal; Miss Gertrude Netterville made a dignified Mrs. Errol; Mr. Havisham was well presented by Mr. George Roberts; Miss Daisy May was a vivacious and charming Lord Fauntleroy; and Mr. William Lockhart caused some merriment as Mr. Hobbs. The latter part of the week Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company paid a return visit with *The Belle of New York*.

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—The Royal Entertainers are here, under the direction of Mr. Hickman Smith. In concerted numbers they are particularly pleasing. Mr. Harry J. Rowland is a diverting humorist; Mr. Hickman Smith is heard to advantage; Miss Edith Cooper sings in a charming manner; Miss Marie Westcott contributes good songs; and Mr. Robert Tattersall performs some remarkably clever conjuring tricks, his ventriloquial turn also being applauded.

VICTORIA PIER.—Manager, Mr. Robert Forsyth.—Mme. Ghita Corri, the star turn here this week, is heard to great advantage; A. G. Spry is droll; Whit Acre appears in some new and excellent songs; Alfonza balances and turns barrels in a most amazing manner; and another speciality turn is Cavalli, the French athlete. The Sisters Gladwin appear in a pretty, graceful, and clever act; Miss Margaret Ogilvie, Australian comedienne, and Nita, in a mysterious levitaton act, and the interesting Hippodrome pictures, complete.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Dave Samuels, a genuinely funny Hebrew, has been amusing large audiences here this week; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto present an interesting and amusing cycle act; Sandy McNab and company have a laughable absurdity in *The Egyptian Mummy*; Harold Thorley is an entertaining baritone; Ward and Davis are seen to advantage in a comedy duologue; and the Monte Carlo Girls, dancers, and the usual pictures complete.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. France.—Mr. Fred Granville's clever company is appearing here in *It's Never Too Late To Mend*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery makes a praiseworthy Tom Robinson; and Miss Gertrude Entwhistle a creditable Susan Merton. Other parts are in capable hands.

GLASGOW. — METROPOLE LTD. — Managing Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—We have here this week Mr. Samuel James and company in *Wanted by the Police*. Mr. Samuel James gives a finished and artistic performance of Philip Stanhope; Miss Helen Vigors is pathetic and telling as Mary Stanhope; the exacting rôle of Fanny Fordyce is cleverly taken by Miss Eva Bertram; Mr. Ronald Grahame displays ability as Nunkey Snarl; Mr. Ernest Regent as Richard Crawford, and Mr. George Thorpe as Bertie Beresford do justice to their parts; and Mr. Willis Collins is successful as Silas Underwood. The Charley Sparrow of Mr. Fred W. Grahame and the Molly of Miss Ethel Bateman are amusing.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—George Robey heads the bill here, and his up-to-date patter and his comic songs keep the house in a continual roar; the Dunedin Troupe display wonderful skill in trick cycling; Hilda Jacobsen is a universal favourite; the Seven Wulfrunas, lady and gentlemen acrobats, are novel in their performance; Guyer and Chispi provoke much fun; and Ethel Haydon is a vocalist of ability. The cyclonic dancing of the Molasso Quartette is highly appreciated; the Two Anartos are quaint and humorous; and Margaret Radcliffe in illustrated song is successful.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Those cleverly trained sea lions and seals, originally toured by Capt. Woodward, and now under the direction of Cliff Berzac, are the principal turn here this week; the Hadji Mohamed Troupe of acrobats display wonderful agility in their tumbling feats; Oakden is a smart ventriloquist; the Three Pirmans take well in an acrobatic turn; and another clever acrobatic item is given by the Carpos Bros. Minnie Clive and Bob Owen repeat their enjoyable vocal act, *The Roadside Tinkers*. Little Eileen, comedienne and dancer, Ruby Dahl, with her "Merry Manikins," and Tom Verne, novelty skater, complete a good company.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—An excellent company here is headed by Victoria Monks, who is accorded a great reception, especially for her new song, "Take me back to my home"; Peter Bermingham is another strong favourite, and his quaint comicalities are heartily enjoyed; Will Godwan and company are given a most enthusiastic recall for the powerful sketch, *Repentance*; Grahame and Harrington also take well with their clever playlet, *A Daughter of Pleasure*. A turn of special interest this week is the violin playing of Mr. Howard W. Galpin, the conductor here; Daly and O'Brien, as singers and dancers; Ridiculous Rocco in his acrobatic feats; and the Austral Trio of musical artists complete a first-rate programme.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The Hebrew comedians, Lowenwirth and Cohan, are starring here this week, and singing "My Little Eva," the song with which they made such a hit in the Royal Princess's pantomime at Christmas. As a setting for the song, Mr. Waldon has staged the "Saloon of the Lusitania" scene, with the rocking stage movements, and some good rough and tumble fun is introduced, the Scotch comedy part being played by J. T. Macmillan. A clever, singing, dancing, and acrobatic act is given by the Szarvas-Ferencz Troupe of Hungarian artists in their picturesque costumes; Captain Ellis and Son, two smart coloured artists, give a clever musical and comedy turn. Roars of laughter greet the antics of the Wood-bee Wonders in their acrobatic business; Selbo is a most dexterous juggler with clubs, &c., and his neatness and cleverness elicit hearty applause; a good comedy turn is given by Ted Cowan; Pat Carey scores in a couple of Irish ditties; and Dolly Denton is a smart comedienne. The Bioscope concludes.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Ernest Shand's witty patter keeps the house convulsed here; George Gilbey continues to meet with undiminished popularity; Alexandre and Hughes secure unbounded success; the Barton and Franklin Trio are well applauded; and the Brothers Dean, whistlers and dancers; Carlotta Levey, with her songs, "He was one of the boys," and "A poor relation"; Lilian Lowe, vocalist; the Twin Andersons, dancers; Schiavony's Troupe of Acrobats; and Mike Nonon, dancer; all contribute to a good programme.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The variety talent here this week includes that popular favourite, J. H. Harris, in his latest songs; Signor Bandoni, Millie Stratton, and Hetty Hunter. The Bioscope pictures are up-to-date, and are heartily enjoyed.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Messrs Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Harriet Vernon pays an initial visit, and is very sucessful; Massona is a clever comedy juggler, and Les Marbas are a graceful and agile pair of acrobatic dancers; Sydney Bach, as the Welshwoman at the piano, was accorded a hearty welcome; Akbar is a smart gymnast, and Rich and Radford in cross talk and dance, are well received; as are also the Elgonas in a neat gymnastic act; Miss Bella Leaburn has some good chorus songs. The Palascope interests all.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company in the late Wilson Barrett's play, *Lucky Durham*, is occupying the boards here this week. Mr. S. Herbert Humber gives a masterful rendering of John Durham; Mr. Arthur Leigh is excellent as the Hon. Reginald Steighton; Mr. Vallerton is well played by Mr. Henry Nunn; Mr. W. F. Clitherow gives a clever character sketch of the Moneylender; Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood is a dignified Lord Mountfallon; Mr. John Hart makes a typical Jasper; Mr. J. H. Gerald is good as Arthur Walcombe; Miss Frances Wolviston displays great ability as Mrs. Durham; Miss Elsie Mayne is charming as Miss Premore; Helen Vallerton has a clever exponent in Miss Alice Esther Belmore; and Miss Rosabel Dodd is good as Lady Mountfallon. The play is exceptionally well mounted.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—An excellent all-round company is appearing here this week in that sparkling comic opera, *The Dandy Fifth*. Miss Pauline Hague's fine presence, charming manner, and excellent singing as Kate Lorimer make her a big favourite; Mr. Jack Crichton is very funny as Trooper Brown; Mr. George Beverley makes a rollicking Sergeant-Major Milligan; Mr. J. Edward Fraser is a manly Dick Darville; Mr. Will Smith is good as the Colonel; and Miss Maud Nichols is a dignified Mrs. Von Blitzen. Excellent glees are rendered by the Blue Moon Quartette. Miss Sadie Thompson contributes a clever dance. The opera is conducted by the composer, Mr. Clarence C. Corri.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls are an exceptionally clever turn; Learto introduces his clever dog "Babs"; the Bros. Valdam are smart acrobats; Bert Woodward repeats his success of last week; the Four Maisanos present a refined musical act; Leicester Cooke is a daring horseman; and Doodles introduces new absurdities. The Water Pantomime, *Fun on the Broads*, is causing much merriment. Excellent pictures are shown on the Royal Bioscope.

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Joe Boganny and his troupe of Royal Lunatic Bakers are topping the bill, and proving a huge draw; Little Della is a clever vocalist and dancer; the Eeduns present a picturesque musical scena; Carl Fredericks is a smart entertainer; Arthur Blount is a good comedian; Mlle. Cordelia appears in a clever kaleidoscopic dance; Little Zola is creating unlimited fun with his smart patter and funny songs; and excellent pictures are exhibited on the Britanniscope.

WELLINGTON PIER PAVILION.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation; Manager, Mr. Arthur Cash.—Ethel Dove is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; the Raymond Trio present a clever musical and dancing act; Kate Cohen sings some good ballads; Will Cornish is a clever handbell soloist; Mollie Seymour is smart, both as a comedienne and musician; Dene and Dawson are capital duologue artists; Anita Edis is a dashing comedienne; Duncan and Brasque present an entertaining sketch; Ida Kathrina is clever as the Human Doll; Will Crackles is a very funny comedian; Albert Christian is an excellent baritone; Denby and Dent are clever comedians; and excellent pictures are shown on the Pavilion Bioscope.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.—Excellent films, including the Pierrot's Jealousy and Spanish Views of Postcards, are being exhibited here to large audiences. The front of the building is now electrically illuminated each night, and is greatly admired.

CHAPPELL'S PROMENADE CONCERTS. — Proprietress, Mrs. S. Lawton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—The new turns here this week are Lavelle Bros., clever acrobats, and Bernard and Weston, funny comedians.

MINSTREL ARENA.—The Black Diamond Minstrels are drawing large audiences here this week.

GUERNSEY. — THEATRE ST. JULIANS.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris.—A return to vaudeville entertainments is made this week and business is good. A hit is made by Will Van Allen, tramp musician and raconteur; Harry Taft excites surprise by his wonderful whistling; Bert Williams, ventriloquist, is exceptionally good; Johnny Fuller is agile on the wire; Burns and Bentley are comedians and dancers; Arthur Boyne proves a funny comedian, and last but not least is Miss Marie Wilton, a clever comedienne, who meets with much success.

CANDIE GARDENS.—The Galeties are here under the direction of Mr. Wilson James; their performance is well up to their standard of excellence. The troupe includes Miss Ruby Wilson, Miss Gertrude Hart, Messrs. Allan Stainer, Percy Watson, A. Coleman, and Wilson James.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Armour and Kirby's company are at this house in *The Best of Her Sex*. Mr. A. J. Hicks shows ability in the part of the Rev. Stephen Maxwell; the parts of Phillip Farringdon, Leslie Verney, and Vera Delorme are ably taken by Mr. E. E. Ashby, Mr. H. J. Kirby, and Miss Dora Price; Miss Alice Buckland makes a good housemaid as Polly Perkins; and as Ruth Raeburn Miss May Grayce gives a faithful and tender rendering of the devoted wife.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The chief attraction at the Palace this week is Alice Raymond's Troupe of Musicians in an artistic scena, *Egypt*. The turn is much appreciated, and is very smart. Gracie Hunt is a ladylike young comedienne, with a tuneful voice; Billy French gains unstinted applause for a very clever wooden shoe dance; Bains and Reed are two clever acrobats; Ryder Slone is very popular, and sings three good character songs with marked success; the Varleys are two tuneful lady vocalists; Harry Nelson is a quaint comedian; and some good pictures are shown this week.

HAMILTON.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Miss Paula Peters with her troupe of trained animals, comprising a pony, dogs, and baboons, gives an exceptionally clever and dainty display of animal training; Daisy Morrell renders her various numbers, interpoiated with good-humoured chaff, in a breezy, vivacious manner, which makes her exceedingly popular; the Cataneo Troupe are good in an amusing comedy acrobatic sketch; Tom Price, assisted by Miss Price, is deservedly popular in *The Dude's Wooing*; a capital ventriloquial turn is submitted by Professor Dunning; Kahn and Kahn are entertaining in their conjuring and second sight business; Elton and Elma, in their amusing knockabout triple bar act, Dave Summerhill, Scotch comedian, and the Bioscope conclude a very excellent programme.

HANLEY. — GRAND. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand. — Mr. August Van Biene is here with *The Master Musician*, and his marvellous powers draw forth great applause. Shirley Siggins and company, including Miss Ella Murlone, make a big hit; Chas. Kitts and Rhoda Windrum present *The Cuckoo* skilfully; the Tokio Troupe of Japanese acrobats win great favour; Miss Mollie Doon is a charming comedienne; Alec Kendall is a smart patterer; Victor Travers is a tumbling comedian of originality; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux shows a beautiful film of the Grand Prix Motor Race.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—A fine series of pictures is shown this week, including A Would-be Hero, A Sailor's Romance, The Rivals, Miss Pimpernel's Gown, and All's Well that Ends Well. Little Hatch, dwarf comedian, makes a tremendous hit with songs and patter.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. Rider Boy's company appeared in an adaptation of Fielding's "Tom Jones," entitled *Sophia*. Mr. Alan Mudie as Tom Jones, gave a manly performance, and was seen to advantage in the part; Mr. Rider Boys was the Squire Western, and made a bluff and genial country gentleman; Mr. Harold Neville was excellent as the hypocritical Blifil, and Mr. George H. Pye made an amusing Partridge; Miss Ethel Norbury was a very handsome Lady Bellaston, and in her scenes with Tom Jones, played well; Miss Betty Noel was a smart and vivacious Honour, and Miss Elsie Vron was a pretty Molly Seagrin. For the remainder of the week, Mr. H. F. Maltby's company in *Fraud* by Mr. Maltby occupied the theatre.

THE KURSAAL.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—Mr. Thorpe Bates (baritone) and Miss Mabel Crow (contralto) are the vocalists here this week; Miss Crow is a great favourite, and her fine voice is heard to great advantage; Mr. Astley Weaver, the well-known entertainer, is also in the bill.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—A delightful change is introduced into the picture show this week by Mr. Chas. Ferrier, who renders the descriptive solo to the pictures illustrating the song, "I'm tying the leaves so they come down." The films shown are, many of them, above the usual standard.

THE spell of fine weather is bringing large audiences to the promenade to witness the performances given by the Premier Pierrots, who have now become very popular. A complimentary benefit to Miss May Thorn on Wednesday was a great success.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr Charles E. Scutt.—Messrs. E. Taylor Platt and Trevor Lowe's company is here with a dual bill for the week. On Monday Mr. George Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* was excellently played. Mr. F. Cremlin contributed an admirably-conceived impersonation of Fergus Crampton; Miss Katherine Stuart as Mrs. Clandon; Miss Gwladys Morris as Gloria; Miss Clara Earle as Dolly; and Mr. Donald Calthrop as Phillip, all contributed clever character portrayals. Mr. Charles Daly's acting of William was a salient feature of the performance; Mr. Leslie Hamer played Valentine with fine spirit; Mr. Trevor Lowe was seen to signal advantage as Finch McComas, and Mr. George Howard acted as Bohnn with conspicuous success. On Thursday *Arms and the Man* was played.

HIPPODROME. — General-Manager, Mr. H. V. Fisher; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—An excellent programme is opened by the droll comedian, Eugene Brant; some thrilling scenes are depicted on the new Hipposcope; the Sisters Delmore (Edie and Gertie) are dainty vocalists and step-dancers; an attractive programme of part songs, duets, and choruses is introduced by a bright and pleasing selection of juvenile vocalists, under the direction of W. D. Mackensie and company—the fifteen voices, male and female, harmonise very sweetly; Percy Johnson is very original as a comic comedian; in an episode, *Athletes at Play*, J. Agustin and Annie Hartley are remarkably smart; Miss Lily Black sings some pleasing songs; Mac Stuart and Tressie Stuart are eccentric comedy entertainers, and decidedly quaint dancers.

PROMENADE PIER.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Under the direction of T. H. Friend, the English Light Opera Company are giving the principal scenes from *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, and *The Marriage of Figaro*. The operatic artists include Mme. Marie Titiens, Miss Edyth Alvord, and Miss Elizabeth Burgess, Mr. Fred J. Hargrave, Mr. Tom Griffith, and Mr. Arthur Winckworth, conducted by Mr. T. Lawton. The operas are handsomely mounted, and the scenery is picturesque. Large audiences are attracted, and the reappearance of these excellent artists has proved very welcome. The lady artists sing their parts with considerable charm, while the actors submit delightful renderings of the songs allotted to them.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION. — Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—The National Ladies' Choir, conducted by Mr. Cyril Getliff, is providing the entertainment here this week. The ladies sing pleasingly, and have an attractive stage presence, and prove a high-class variety company. Animated photographs and pictorial songs are included in their extensive répertoire. Mr. Cyril Getliffe contributes a well-executed violin solo, and Mr. Fred Hill has a good ventriloquial turn in addition to character songs.

HULL.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. H. Dunford.—Adams and Ward top the bill in a funny acrobatic act; Cecile and Francois establish themselves big favourites; the Delia Sisters obtain much applause; and the antics of George Don create much amusement. Other good turns include Abale and Hurst, Joe Humphries, and J. C. Manley.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Stidder and Dunbar are a good principal turn, along with Blanche and Diacoff, who make a welcome re-appearance in their sensational cycle act. The Two St. Johns appear in a talented musical act. Bros. Brooks and Sisters Brand are also big favourites.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. B. Emerson.—Animated pictures are drawing crowded houses.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*A Prince of Rogues* is the attraction this week, played by Miss Dora and Mr. Sidney Dench's company. Miss Dench herself secures much admiration for her rendering of Winnie Harwood; Mr. Tom Ronald gives a good reading of Frank Farrell; Mr. Newton Buckland's Richard Harwood is a praiseworthy performance; Mr. Sidney Dorey is a smart representative of Detective Kenry; and Mr. John Blake is successful as John Leyton. Miss Alice May is a lively Polly Dibbs, and Mr. Bert Dench's quaint impersonation of Josh Buggins creates much merriment. Miss Violet Lytton displays ability as Rita Congrieve, an adventuress, and Geoffrey Flint, the evil genius, is played with much cleverness by Mr. Edward Avinall.

IPSWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Stead.—Miss Marie Lloyd is the star engagement for the present week, and the house is packed at every performance. The brilliant comedienne sparkles as successfully as ever. Other items in the bill are the Eight 'Varsity Girls in an amusing musical and dancing turn; Mark Henton who calls himself the mirthful one; Farley, Rennie, and Farley in a busy comedy act, entitled *Fun at a Railway Station*; and Ella Lane in some catchy songs; the Gilberts, clever performers on the light wire; Harry Thurston, a burlesque comedian, and Selby and Myers with some amusing patter.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company is here this week with *A Gambler's Daughter*. Mr. Robert Ayrton is well placed as Desmond O'Dare, while Mr. H. Elliston causes much amusement as Solomon Solomons. Mr. H. C. Robinson plays with force the part of Stephen Brand, and Mr. E. Barham is well placed as Dick. Mr. Basil Mitchell makes the most of the part of Jack Grant. Miss Adria Hill gives a most excellent portrayal of the dual rôle of Mildred Grant and Miriam Grant. The other parts are in very good hands, and the mounting of the drama is most perfect.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris.—This week the one-house-a-night system has been adopted here. Miss Clarice Mayne is delightful, her demure singing charms the house, and her imitations are particularly good; Ivy Kildare's songs are well pictured; Ivy Proudfoot is a neat comedienne; Jessie Wilton is *chic* and vivacious; George A. Richins is a good mimic; Morny Cash gains kudos as a comedian; and an excellent programme is brought to a close by the well-known ventriloquist Fred W. Millis.

SPRINGFIELD PAVILION.—The Motlez opened here on Tuesday night. Mabel May is a neat dancer; Nora Ottoway is the soprano vocalist; Harold Johnson is an amusing humorist; Dan Dugard is the banjoist; Vere Matthews appears as a baritone; and Sydney Leighton is the able director and accompanist.

LANCASTER. — HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The Gothams, vocalists and comedians, head the bill this week, and are well received; the Weldas are not only smart jugglers, but clever sand dancers; and Dunn and Reano, comedy gymnasts, cause roars of laughter; the Sisters Draycott sing nicely; Alpho, in a ventriloquial sketch, has a great following; and Harry and Elsie Mayville supply a pleasing turn. The Hippograph Pictures are not the least entertaining item on the programme.

LEEDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*A Royal Divorce*, always a strong attraction here, is again filling this theatre during the present week. Mr. W. W. Kelly's company includes that accomplished actress Miss Edith Cole, whose fine work as the Empress wins enthusiastic appreciation; Mr. Keith Fraser makes a powerful and convincing Napoleon; Miss Winnie Tempest is

About six weeks ago I was suffering with

PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE,

brought on probably by painting my face for my eccentric business. I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

VANISHED LIKE MAGIC,

and the scurf is entirely gone. I cannot tell you how thankful I am at having taken "Clarke's Blood Mixture," and I shall recommend it to everybody, as I think it only right that such a remedy should be known.—(Signed) JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnny," Llandudno's Popular Comedian, Thorndale, Llandudno, Feb. 24, 1908.

MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnnie," Llandudno's Popular Comedian (from a photo.).

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a charming and sympathetic Marie Louise; the Stephanie of Miss Maude Lacy is a most satisfactory effort; and Mr. Stanley Harrison is to the fore with a telling personation of the Marquis de Beaumont.

EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—Chas. T. Aldrich, the famous American comedian, tops the bill here, and his quick-change work and burlesque juggling is vastly popular; John Lawson is also a big attraction, his répertoire of dramatic sketches being received with much enthusiasm; Tom Woottwell is again a first favourite with vocal comedy; Fred Poplar and Frank Couch are other effective comedians. Peggy Pride's contributions prove most acceptable, as also does a capital turn by that accomplished musician Orpheus. Other clever and successful artists are Kitty Wager, comedienne; Boden and Bell; and Mitchell and Cain.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Walter Ellis and company are here, presenting a farcical sketch *The Sleepwalker* in capital style, and the entertainment is much enjoyed; Frank Gala and May Norris score a success with a capital sketch *Down South*; May de Rouse finds a ready reception of her neat song and dance; a good turn is provided by the Fordyces, vocalists and clog-dancers; and a cordial reception is also awarded to Agnes and Arthur Lynch, Watson and Naylor, Hicks and Hunter, and the Phantos Troupe.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Julian Rose heads the bill here with a clever and amusing Jewish character study, and the turn is enthusiastically received; an uproarious comedy sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law* is cleverly done by a smart company; Hal Forde is a clever comedian; the Cheers introduce their trained cats with great success; an expert and graceful acrobatic act by Mlle. Edwin wins lavish applause; and Ethel Walker, the Mayos, Dorothy Gould, Herbert Rule, and Edith St. Clare are each very successful in their respective lines.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—The Waldrons are old favourites at this popular hall, and their clever comedy turn is enthusiastically applauded; Day Conroy, a popular comedian, again gets a rousing reception. The great Motor Race at Dieppe shown on the Bioscope is an interesting interlude, and very successful turns are subscribed by Fraser and French, a couple of clever dancers, and Queenie May, a favourite vocalist.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton.—Mike S. Whallen, who stars this week, displays his well-known versatility and smartness in a manner that delights all sections of the audience; the Boller Bros. are remarkably daring and clever cyclists, whose show is one of the best seen here; Arthur Jefferson, Ltd., present, to the accompaniment of hearty laughter, an original and well-played farcical comedy sketch, entitled *Home from the Honeymoon*; Stelling and Revell, a really funny pair, score their usual success; Nelson's Newsboys, comedians, singers, and dancers, provide a thoroughly enjoyable and popular turn; Rich and Rich are mirth-provoking comedians, whose diverting turn is greatly appreciated; Burnetti, the original character musician, is very good, his performances on various instruments deserving special praise; Elsie Roby, comedienne-pianiste, is entertaining in her novel act, *The Slavey*; the Simms, in their vocal and dancing scena, *From School to Stage*, submit a highly meritorious turn; and the Bioscope is also a feature in a good all-round and enjoyable entertainment.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—At the head of this week's bill are the Pasquali Brothers, who display wonderful smartness as equilibrists, their head and hand balancing evoking loud applause; Leo Sterling and Addie Love are very good in their comedy act, *A Domestic Musical Squabble*; Nathalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts, give a clean and clever performance; and other artists who submit entertaining turns are the Sisters Velma, vocalists and dancers; Ethel Schaffer, American picture songstress; Daisy Hicks, dainty comedienne; and Harry Bland, comedian. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is a special feature with The Trollhatton Waterfalls, A Quiet Inn, and Organ Grinder's Daughter.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—Good business continues to rule here, the chief films this week being A Red Man's Justice, Castle Ghosts, A Jealous Heroine, Storm and Sunshine, and Bewitched Boots. An old Leicester favourite is appearing this week in W. H. Downs, the popular coloured vocalist, whose well-rendered songs are greatly appreciated; the Bros. Bathell shine with a good acrobatic performance. The sixth singing competition is taking place this week, and Bernard McDermott, the previous winner, is rewarded with a week's salaried engagement.

LIVERPOOL.—ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company, under the direction of Mr. Teddy Myles, paid a visit to this theatre during the week with *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Ruth Zillwood, in the character of Ninon Malvoisin, played with much dramatic strength, and at times held her audience; Mr. Teddy Miles as the humorous Paddy Boyle made his audience shout with laughter; Mr. W. Fraser-Brunner displayed a deal of earnestness as the villainous Phillipe Malvoisin; Mr. George Gormley did well with the part of Sir Marmaduke Seaton; Mr. P. Morton-Wright deserved commendation for his Robert Saunders; Mr. A. C. Holmes was successful as Captain Seaton; Mr. Will Glaze was a lively Sammy Sharpe; as Sally Sloper Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner proved diverting, and Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam afforded satisfaction as Eleanor Deane.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—The attraction here throughout the week has been *I Defy the World*, presented by Mr. Julian Malvern's company. Mr. Lewis Gilbert was a capable Leon Darville, and gained the sympathies of his audience; Mr. Oswald Douglas showed much dramatic power as the rascally Count Beaulieu; Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton, a popular Liverpool actress, played sweetly and tactfuly the rôle of Pauline Delaporte; the lighter parts were admirably presented by Miss Maud Lillian (Marie Wozzle) and Mr. Charles M. Julian (Samuel Wozzle); Mr. Alfred Denning was well placed as General Delaporte; Miss Mary Ainslie did excellently with the character of Blanche Darville; Miss Florrie Green acquitted herself as Fanchette, and valuable assistance also came from Messrs. Charles Conway (Laroche) and Frank Wheatley (Andre).

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Harry Tate headed the bill here with his fishing sketch; Hawthorn and Burt proved immensely funny as Hebrew character comedians; Weiland, assisted by Mlle. Carlotta, presented his smart comedy juggling show; Carney and Armstrong gave a bright all-round turn as vocalists, dancers, and whistlers; the able little artist, Nipper Lupino Lane, had a cordial reception; Harry Leybourne, as the "nervous lady," aroused much laughter; Olgar and Elgar were a couple of clever and refined lady musicians; Helen Trix, at the piano, gave a pleasing turn as vocalist and whistler, and contributions likewise came from Gracie Grahame, comedienne, and Mr. and Mrs. Finden, sketch artists.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Top of the programme here this week has been Mr. Harold Nuttall's company in *The Ghost of Jerry Bundler*, which proved highly amusing; the smart McConnell trio gave one of their capital musical comedy sketches; the Bros. Durant provided a pleasing turn with the burlesque aeroplane; a clever comedy tumbling act came from Gladys and Alber; Mollie Woolstenhulme sang operatic numbers in pleasing fashion; Bessie Travis had a neat ventriloquial show; Alfred Lawson and Frances Namon introduced some smart comedy cycling and ball punching; and Ely Adair, a dainty comedienne, also appeared.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager Mr. Walter Hassan.—The favourites, Horace Mills and W. H. Rawlins have topped the bill here his week with their comedy, *Mashing the Missus*, in which they were supported by a good company; some extraordinary work as equilibrists was performed by Marcel and Boris; Gus Harris, the Hebrew character delineator, was as funny as ever; sensational trick cycling was shown by the Derrington family; a much-appreciated comedy duologue came from Geoffreys and Benson; as a juggler young Gicardo displayed a deal of skill; the Three Sisters Silcott pleased immensely with their singing and dancing; J. W. Gallagher had some most amusing songs and patter; and others in the list were Harry Friskey, comedy juggler, and Gena Manon, vocalist.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The stock company here continues to afford every satisfaction. This week the drama given was *A Fisherman's Daughter*, from the pen of J. Russell Bogue, and included in the cast were Messrs. Cecil Ravenswood (Sir Victor), Harry Tresham (Dermott O'Sullivan), Sydney Grant (Victor Chepsley), Miss Florence Palmer and Miss Lilian Radbourne. Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the Bioscope here, the following artists appeared during the week:—Nancy Renshaw, comedienne, and Manson and West, with the sketch, *Telling the Tale*.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—The sensational diving of Kearney P. Speedy has proved a big draw here this week; Edward Clark and his winning widows presented a neat miniature racing musical comedy, entitled *The Piker*, being a study of the American tout; the popular Russell Wallett had a hearty reception; as musical comedians the Warsaw Bros were delightful; Robb Gilmore caused endless laughter with his queer corkscrew dancing; the Kurios raised a deal of merriment; the Lupino Bros. had a humorous musical trifle; Leonie Dixon, soubrette and expert dancer, afforded general satisfaction, and Russell Brandow, coloured dancing comedian, also appeared.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Crowded houses is the general rule at this latest addition to local places of amusement. Here this week Edmund Bosanquet gave some skilfully-played selections on the violin, and also introduced the wonderful instrument, entitled the "Bosanquephone"; as exponents of ju-jitsu, the Imperials showed to great advantage; Fields and Lewis kept their audience in a merry mood with their burlesque novelty, picture postcards; Les Rallis had an interesting novelty, *The Artist and His Monkey*; the Foy Bros. and company submitted an amusing sketch, *Pat in China*; Phil Herman brought some of his funny songs; Victor Courtney, as boots at the piano, caused a deal of laughter; Helm and Cozens had a screaming absurdity, *The Doctor and the Patient*; and others who appeared included the Sisters Belmont, dancers, and the Onlaw trio of wire performers.

LLANDUDNO.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. G. Pugh.—For six nights Miss Horniman's company appeared here in *Candida* and *Widower's Houses* by Bernard Shaw. On Monday *Candida* was received by a large audience. Mr. Henry Austin does full credit to the part of the Rev. James Mavor Morell, Miss Ada King being natural as Proserpine Garnett; Mr. Basil Dean gives a good impersonation of the Rev. Alexander Mill, and Mr. Edward Landor is effective as Mr. Burgess; Miss Mary Price Owen, in the title-rôle, is all that could be desired; and Mr. Iden Payne as Eugene Marchbanks gives a most expressive rendering of a very difficult part. *Candida* is preceded by the comedy *Woman's Rights*, and *Widower's Houses* by *A Question of Property*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. Harold V. Neilson and company present *The Light that Failed* at this theatre. Torpenhow is capitally portrayed by Mr. John Stuart; Miss Lilian Kevil Davies gives a good rendering of Bessie Broke; Miss Ella Thornton as Maisie is natural and captivating; whilst Mr. Harold V. Neilson gives a powerful representation of Dick Heldar.

PIER HEAD VARIETIES.—Local Manager, Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's Pierrots continue to find great favour with the residents and visitors. This week the bill is headed by Mr. J. H. Scotland, whose bass solos appeal to all; Mr. Alf. Maynall and Mr. Douglas MacLaren are comedians above the average; Miss Dorrie Courtney is clever on the banjo; Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe is at home, as usual; Mr. Austin Mahoney has a good voice; and Miss Elsie Steadman an old favourite, is rapturously received.

LOWESTOFT.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Large holiday crowds continue to patronise this popular resort, the excellence of the programmes being thoroughly maintained, and especially with regard to the fine pictorial exhibition of the British Biograph Company, under the experienced management of Mr. Fred Gilbert. The variety bill is of a very entertaining character, and include the Bohemians, a smart musical couple; J. H. McCann, a clever comedian and expert roller-skate dancer; and Mlle. Juliette's educated sealions, who go through a really wonderful performance. Of pictorial series special mention should be made of the recent Motor Race at Dieppe, with its attendant thrilling episodes.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—After six weeks of successful vaudeville, a commencement of drama is made this week with Mr. Junius Booth and his company in *Monte Cristo*. As Edmund Dantes Mr. Booth is in perfection; Mr. Shinton as Danglers is also excellent; Miss Violet Carter as Baron Danglers' daughter, and Miss Radcliffe as the Fisher Girl, and afterwards the Countess, are very good in their respective parts. The scenery is very good, especially the Balcony scene and the Prison scene, with tableaux.

MAIDENHEAD.—PAVILION PLEASURE GARDENS.—Proprietor, Mr. G. Grude.—The entertainments by the Cadets this week are of the usual excellent character. There is, however, special interest in the sketch with which the programme ends. It is an original piece in three scenes, written and worked up by the members themselves. As a result, each one is fitted with a part to suit his style. Under the title of *The Runaway Schoolgirl* is depicted the consequences of a wayward girl's infatuation for the stage, and scope is given for character impersonation of the showman (Mr. Leo Fallowfield), clown (Mr. Will Harris), strong man (Mr. Jack Anders), and fat man (Mr. Alec Tyson). Each enters well into his part, and makes good use of every opportunity. In the title-rôle Miss Florrie Delamere acts naturally; Miss Twort brings sufficient dignity to bear on the part of the mother; and Mr. Colin Gent is a capable and persuasive lover.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hardy.—*Sexton Blake* has been staged here this week. Mr. Horace Hunter admirably sustains the title-rôle; Mr. Algernon Syms is a dignified Squire Lovell; Mr. Charles East displays the villainies of Randolph Lovell with realism; and Mr. John M. East is effective as Simon Faggas, a burglar. Mr. Brian Daly's Farmer Blackburn and Mr. William Felton's Roger Blackburn merit praise; Mr. Billy Ross is funny as Tinker; and Miss Lily Hammersley unaffected as the heroine, Marjorie Lovell. Miss East Robertson makes a pleasing Philadelphia Kate, and Miss Alma Vincent does well as Euphemia Pattacake.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Joe Elvin and company head the bill this week with *The King of the Castle*, and the little sketch has provoked roars of laughter. Baby Vi Davis has scored a success; Charlie Deane is popular; and other contributors to an interesting programme include Lena Leslie, comedienne; Chas. Sloman, comedian; Charles F. Best as "McBunker, the mountebank"; and the usual Bioscope pictures.

HALL-BY-THE-SEA.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—Extensive alterations have been made here. The stage has been brought out in a half-circle some distance in front of the existing proscenium, thus giving ample room for single turns in front of the first cloth. There are also other innovations which the visiting public will appreciate. This week's programme includes the Stavordale Quintette of banjo and harp specialists, who give a very clever performance; Nellie Lunelle, soubrette and expert dancer; Rose and Wold, acrobatic wire walkers, in their comedy sketch *The Sentry and the Maid*; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers; the Davenports, illusionists; and Billy Hobbs, coon delineator and dancer. The dance which follows each evening concert is attracting good numbers.

MANCHESTER. — EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—George Auger, the giant actor, with a Liliputian company, is seen here this week in *Jack, the Giant Killer*; the Five Mowatts are conspicuous in a rapid club-manipulating performance; Farr and Farland, aristocratic comedians, are well received; the Three Merrills give a good turn on cycles; Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery in *The Would-Be Actors* are entertaining; and other smart turns are Frank Hartley, the boy juggler; Florence Jaymen, a very good coon comedienne; Carl Lynn, imitator of animal sounds; and the Sisters Morgan, accomplished duettists and dancers.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Madge Grey, the popular comedienne, is very entertaining in song and patter, and, as usual, has a good reception. Margit and Lener do some clever acrobatic tumbling in an eccentric fashion; *Rosie's Birthday Party*, as presented by Dottridge and Instone's juvenile company, introduces some delightful songs and dances; the Musical Morrellis give a smart entertainment; Ted Waite, comedian, sings three comic songs, and more are demanded; whilst others who do well are the Lovelaces, in illustrated songs; W. G. Wesley, character comedian; and Will Owen, comedian, with smart patter. Enjoyable pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—The Curzon Sisters, who provide a beautiful and sensational aerial act, are the principal attraction here this week; a fine reception being given also to Leslie Harris, a musical entertainer of extraordinary talent; Terry and Lambert, American entertainers, are smart and popular; Jack Pleasants, comedian, scores as usual in his own quaint style; and a hearty reception is accorded to Cestria, comedy juggler and waiter; Roma and Romani, classical musicians; Kioto, the Japanese equilibrist; Jenny Hartley, comedienne and dancer; George C. Doughty and company, in a sketch noticed elsewhere; and Carl Lynn, mimic, who, on the occasion of our visit, deputised successfully for J. W. Rickaby.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—A popular attraction, *Moths*, is presented here twice nightly by Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company. A clever and effective interpretation is given. Mr. Cecil Wynne is powerful as Sergius Zouroff; Mr. Conrad Heywood makes a heroic Correze; Mr. Raynor's Lord Jura is a smart and popular piece of work; while as Vere Miss Dorothy West Symes acts with great sincerity and charm, and Miss Nellie Statham makes a success of the rôle of Lady Dolly. The piece is well staged.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Edward Marris and company are to the front here this week in an amusing sketch, *The Dandy Millionaire*, which goes with a rare swing. Willette Whitaker and F. Wilbur Hill are delightful singers and instrumentalists, and are highly successful; James Fawn, the popular comedian, is as droll as ever; Barney Armstrong, with his quaint assistant, makes a big hit; Rosie Bartlett, a very pleasing comedienne, is well received; Hayes and Merritt are exceedingly smart comedy trampolin artists; the Fitzroys are clever society gymnasts; and Lena Wylie, vocalist, sings nicely. The Palace pictures are capital.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Lily Burnand, the well-known burlesque artist, tops the bill here this week, and meets with a big reception; the Blessings go through an exceedingly clever head and hand balancing performance; Maude Elliston and company are seen to advantage in a capital farce, *Dobson's Day Off*; Enid Errol and company, in a fantastic dancing episode, *The Magic Vase*, are very good; Helen Charles is a delightful society entertainer; and Ena Compton is a pleasing comedienne. Other enjoyable items are those of Leonard Gale, comedian; Alexandra Royal, burlesque artist; and Harry Ray and Lillie Calden, comedy duo. As usual, Ruffell's pictures are excellent.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—A capital programme here includes Henri Cazman, in a pot-pourri entertainment, entitled *Le Café Chantant*; the Milstead Bell Trio, in a go-ahead comedietta, *Three Sharps in A Flat*; Petro and Don, sensational comedy gymnasts; Denaro Bros., clever juvenile acrobatic performers; Elliott and Warne, comedy tumblers and dancers; Henry and Tyler, remarkably good trick cyclists; Marcus Boyle, a breezy comedian; and Ada Whitton, male impersonator. H. A. Jordison's sketch is noticed elsewhere.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Kay.—An excellent programme here this week is headed by Francis Gerard and his comedy assistants, who go through a remarkably clever performance; Ida Barr, a favourite vocalist, scores; the Olympians give an interesting and neat exhibition of ju-jitsu; the Ramsay Trio cause roars of laughter in a capital knockabout act; and Frank Sley and marvellous nipper make a big hit. Other smart turns are those of French and Fremel and Fremel, eccentrics; the Sisters Terry, duettists; Handel and Lee, in delightful musical act; and Moon and Morris, comedians and dancers. On the occasion of our visit Harry Goodburn, comedian, did not appear, a capital extra turn being provided. Romeo and Juliet on the Bioscope is a fine film.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Phillips.—Excellent turns are offered here this week by a first-rate company, including Edith Heron-Brown, entertainer; Winifred O'Connor, vocalist; C. D. Rukie, Lancashire comedian; Harold Browne, baritone; Donal McDougal, Scotch comedian; and J. A. Tunbridge at the piano. All the turns are deservedly well received.

MEXBOROUGH.—NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—The programme here this week is especially good, and includes, amongst other pictures, The Devoted Governess, French Recruit, A Slave's Hate, Two Unlucky Thieves, and Institute of Beauty.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson. — The romantic play *Robin Hood* is being presented here this week by Mr. Lewis Waller's company. The cast is a talented one, and the piece is nicely staged. As Lady Marion de Vaux Miss Lillian Stennis meets with gratifying success, the audiences being quite carried away by her effective acting. As Robin Hood Mr. Ethelbert Edwards is responsible for a remarkably good interpretation; Mr. H. E. Ballably plays the part of Prince John with dramatic power and distinction; and as King Richard Mr. J. N. Briant gives great satisfaction. Mr. C. Bruce Winston gives an amusing impersonation of the rôle of Friar Tuck; and that of Adela is in the capable hands of Miss Laurie Flockton. Mr. Clive Ross is good as John Little; and other rôles are in the hands of capable artists.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—Clark and Hamilton deservedly occupy the top of the bill here this week, their "Song of Nations" and Japanese scena being highly appreciated. Ferguson and Mack, in an absurdity, *The Dimple Sisters*, greatly amuse the audiences; and some excellent singing and dancing is provided by the Society Quartette. The Carina Sisters prove themselves expert musicians; and Harry Catton, comedian, is very amusing. Hampton and Bauman are good; and Rose Cambray, burlesque artist, does well.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—*The Last Command*, the scene of which is laid in South Africa, is the title of a dramatic sketch presented here this week by Fred Maxwell and Miss Lois Du Cane, assisted by a strong company. The play is cleverly enacted, and is greatly appreciated. Lennie and Hast are good in a poetic fantasy, *The Sea Nymph*; and some excellent singing is done by W. G. Webber.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. M. Julian.—Mr. Charles Constant's company has been appearing in the ever-popular *Florodora*, and the production is a most creditable one. Mr. Gus Danby as Tweedlepunch, the genial fraud, causes endless amusement, and he is ably supported by Mr. Jack Parker as Gilfain, Messrs. Vernon Booth, Morrice Holmes, and Evilyn Davis. Miss Lillie Blythe makes a capital Lady Holyrood, doing all her business in the neatest manner. Miss Daisy Lake is the Dolores, and her fine voice is heard to great advantage. The chorus is good, and Mr. H. Hartman is the capable musical director. Special dances are provided by Daisy Wickenden and Florrie Weber.

WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Atkinson.—Holiday-makers have been regaled with a smart bill during the week, in which Maud Rochez's monkey music hall has taken a foremost place. The monkeys are certainly well trained, and especially funny are those comprising the orchestra in the mimic music hall. Cullen and Carthy, with little Cluley, are as funny as ever, and the patter is first class; great fun has been caused by Conway and Leland, the clever monopedes, who have some original business; Thomas and Taylor have a neat quick-change act entitled *Fun on the Midland*, in which railway passengers are happily burlesqued; Nellie Walton, singing mill girl, has a fine voice, which she uses to great advantage; and Jack Rae, comedy gymnast, Mike Cray, "catch-as-catch-can" juggler, St. Ruth and Conyers, harmonising duettists, and Tom Moore, comedian, are also in the programme.

CENTRAL PIER.—Manager, Mr. Emilius Hill.—The casting and trampoline act of the Osnatos has topped the bill here very effectively, and it is certainly a very clever performance, the work on the trampoline being particularly good. Tudor's educated ponies are very smart, and obey the directions of their trainer with remarkable precision; Effie White's kaleidoscopic dance, "The Spirit of the Cave," is distinctly charming and quite a triumph in its way; the well-known whistler Mack Olive (who is assisted by Daisy Baldry) delights the audience with his scena "The Candy Store," as performed by him in *The Belle of New York*. Harry Vardon, ventriloquist, the Selwyns, vocalists and dancers, and Bert H. Delmar, with his Comets, are features in the entertainment. Some fine high-diving and ornamental swimming is done from the pier head by G. W. Houghton, the human torpedo.

ALHAMBRA PALACE.—Manager, Alderman John Gardner.—Here Miss Rose Atherton and company are seen to advantage in an amusing episode, *Murphy's Affinity*, the characters being sustained by Misses Audrey Canning and Cissie Kingsley, Messrs. E. Mullins, F. H. Parkinson, and Hugo Flowden. Langslow in his shooting act on the flexible wire is a taking turn; and Dan Robans, vocalist of repute, the Moxons, comedy acrobats, Zulyka, with her animals, Style and Wynch, comedy duo, and Dexter, illusionist, complete an acceptable bill.

WEST END PIER.—Secretary, Mr. John Bastow.—The Dandies have greatly pleased their audiences during the week with very diversified programmes. The new pier-head has been opened, and has added greatly to the pleasure and comfort of patrons.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—Another first-rate programme is provided, and full houses are the rule. Mr. Henry Wright, the veteran extempore vocalist, is meeting with much enthusiasm, and Miss Joan Deering scores a success in her songs, in which she accompanies herself on the violin. Miss Flo Penley and Mr. G. English play a bright and rollicking sketch in good style, and Miss Dorothy Watson proves herself a clever and refined artist in her songs at the piano. Belford and Mars also give a humorous sketch, and Herr A. Spiegler is received with great applause, his violin solos being always masterly. The animated pictures are beyond reproach, being evidently selected with the greatest care and judgment.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. G. W. Sutton.—The star during the week is Mr. Malcolm Scott, who is received with great delight, and is always a favourite in New Brighton. Miss Mona Vivian, a charming pierrette, scores heavily; Miss L. Gillespie sings excellently; and Miss Margery More pleases the audience with her undoubted ability. Mr. Tubby Edlin is a good comedian, whilst Mr. Paddy Duprez also causes laughter. An admirable accompanist is found in Mr. Forshaw Kershaw.

PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. Frank Nall.—Skating on Richardson's American roller skates is still going strong, the attendance being very satisfactory.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—Mr. Harry Tilbury and company present a new play here this week, under the title of *A Dishonoured Wife*, of which he is the author. It is a really dramatic play, well calculated to win the approval of any audience. As the hero Mr. Victor Rae acts in a quiet, forceful way that is very effective, and Miss Belle Tilbury plays the devoted wife with true sympathy; whilst the comedy business is in the capable hands of Mr. Tilbury himself.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—One of the best dramas dealing with Russian life is Mr. Fred Jarman's *Under the Czar*, which is presented here this week by Mr. Wilson Howard and company. Chief amongst Mr. Howard's supporters is Miss Carlotta Anson, who plays with true, artistic ability the character of Sonia Gregrovitch; as an English officer Mr. Gerald Smythe is equally successful; and other parts are all in capable hands. On Thursday and Friday *At the Foot of the Altar* were presented.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The place of honour on a splendid programme is this week occupied by Neil Kenyon, who received a very gratifying reception on Monday evening. He appeared in his latest Scotch character study "The Poetie o' Dunrobin," in which his quaint humour has full scope; La Belle Titcomb and her trained Arabian horse provides another very entertaining turn. A good deal of amusement is caused by Tom Foy and company, in their little absurdity *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, and the laughter is further maintained by Mr. Ernie Mayne, a comedian of great originality; Gwennie Hasto was well received in a refined singing and dancing act; whilst Irene Rose, a young vocalist, shows great promise. A most clever and amusing cross-talking and dancing act is that of Sanford and Lyons, and a Russian dancing turn is also contributed by Wania; whilst Mlle. Eldee does some fine illuminated posing, the Bioscope completing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—John Humphries, a popular pantomime favourite in Newcastle, heads the bill here this week, and causes much amusement in a farcical sketch *Ancient Britons*, in which he is capably supported; Walter Emerson, a comedian of marked ability, gives a lively and pleasing turn; and other artists appearing are Frank Elliston and company in *My Lady Betty*, George Antill, the Ellimans, Hayes and Watson, the Three Cunards, Frank Cass, Fyne and Hurley, and Ruby Bijou.

NORTH SHIELDS.—CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Lizette Troupe, lady acrobats, singers, and dancers, are at the top of the bill here this week, and present a very enjoyable act; the Three Panamas, in their pot-pourri turn, are received with much favour; and the Sisters Ford, duettists, have many admirers. Mr. James Gradey, eccentric comedian, has made a great hit; Miss Molly Cingarde, vocalist, meets with a hearty reception; the Newbolds, speciality artists, have created a favourable impression; and the Mouldoscope exhibits some excellent pictures.

NORWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Sid Doody and Edie Wright, Australian comiques, are entertaining and humorous; and the same may be said of the Damerell and Rutland company in a farce entitled *House Full*. Richardson Taylor, the whistling ventriloquist, is good; Edie Verno, comedienne, is successful; and the other turns are Jack Neil, Scotch comedian; the Falcons, comedy equilibrists; Fred Keeton, comedian; and Frank Maura, juggler; together with the Hippo.-Bio.

NOTTINGHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Crowded houses have nightly cheered to the echo the songs and artistic methods of Harry Lauder, and his visit will long be remembered. The Provcanies are an excellent troupe of lady cyclists whose daring deeds a-wheel bring forth the highest expessions of admiration. The songs of Ian Colquhoun are heartily appreciated; while a comedy sketch by Wm. Lee and Helen Bentley elicits uproarious laughter. Ouida Macdermott is deservedly applauded for her vocal contribution entitled "Redwing"; and the Four Figaros contribute a charming instrumental and dancing item. Bessie Butt, soubrette; Will Musgrave, comedian; and Bert Weston, comedian, add to the pleasure of the audience; and the usual pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

OLDHAM.—ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kilrow.—Tschernoff's animals head the bill, and they give a marvellous performance. Le Silvas, in an equilibristic ladder act, are very daring and sensational; Dandy George and Rosie, in a very pretty and neat turn, are excellent; Culpitt, assisted by Miss Adele, is very droll in his tricks and talk; Sam Redfern is as funny as ever in his act; Sophia Bond is a pleasing vocalist; the Three Comedy Chanters are very amusing; and Eric Johns sings well. The Dottoscope concludes with a good picture.

PAISLEY.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas F. Bostock.—The top of the bill this week is occupied by Horace Wheatley, Irish comedian, who is as entertaining as on previous visits; Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, exceptionally clever in their line, provide a really amusing vocal sketch; Athalan does a clever equilibristic turn; the Betsons display expertness and skill in a comedy cycling sketch; Bert Danson, American eccentric comedian, has some funny patter; Harwood's Juveniles obtain much appreciation in their vocal scena *A Children's Christmas Eve*; Madge Allen is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; and not the least entertaining turn is provided by the Fimans, in their comedy scena *The Fire Station*. Some fine pictures by the Hippodrome Bioscope complete.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping the bill this week is Richard Karsy's Myriophone, a beautifully toned instrument, whose admirable playing delights the audience; E. H. Bostock's group of educated baboons, introduced by Capt. Grahame, are exceedingly clever; the Snow Family, in their skating exhibition, are highly interesting. In an

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unique cycling turn the George French Troupe deserve warm praise; the Cosman couple, in smart patter and song, are loudly applauded; Smith and Johnson, drawing-room entertainers, Little Tim, quaint comedian, Rowland Hill, comedian, and the Tivoloscope conclude an excellent bill.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Edmund Tearle and company entered on Monday on the last week of the stock season, the attraction being *A Woman's Revenge*. Mr. Tearle undertakes the exacting part of Frank Drummond, a barrister, and scores a pronounced success; the rôle of the heroine, Mary Lonsdale, is adequately filled by Miss Kate Clinton; Miss Mary Campbell impersonates the adventuress, Mabel Wentworth, and though the part is a somewhat distasteful one, the acting was perfect. Miss Leah Fabri is pathetic as Little Mary; and other hard-working members of the company are Messrs. F. Lomax, B. Turner, and J. C. Hilton. Later in the week *Macbeth* was staged to a good house.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Chung Ling Soo twice nightly mystifies large audiences, who follow his conjuring tricks with rapt attention. The Four Juggling Geraldos perform some remarkable feats, one member of the quartet proving himself a comedian of no mean ability. Miss Adah Payne has a voice of excellent range and power, and her efforts meet with well-deserved applause; and Dion Wade excellently impersonates well-known artists. Bert Terrell scores with some songs rendered in high falsetto; Kerr and Koe present an amusing farce entitled *Yards and Houses;* and Mabel La Blanche is an entertaining comedienne. Vernon's Bioscope has this week one of the most amusing and attractive films yet submitted; it is entitled The Chauffeur's Dream.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—Mahatma mystifies audiences here, and causes some amusement in her exhibitions of second sight and thought-reading. Slippere, blind entertainer, assisted by Miss Ramsay, sings well and shows skill on the piano and 'cello; Sylvene, assisted by Mlle. Florence, performs skilful feats as an equilibrist; Tom Joy tickles the audience immensely with funny songs and actions; and a couple whose fun evokes much merriment are the Brothers Tarrant. Miss Amy Bellwood is a comedienne who wins approbation; E. W. Selman creates a favourable impression with his humorous songs; Miss Ivy Gallard wins loud applause for her smartly-executed dances; and pictures by the Alexandra Bioscope are being shown and appreciated.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. G. M. Copping's company is here this week with *Love Rules the World*, by T. G. Bailey. Harold Kingston is ably delineated by Mr. Richard Vane; Stephen Blight is well portrayed by Mr. Stephen Langton; Paul Carruthers is capably assumed by Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne; Mr. Matt Russell scores as Billy Binks; Miss Constance Medwyn meets with conspicuous success as Flo Morton; and Miss Gertrude Sterroll cleverly characterises Maud Carruthers.

PORTH.—THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping a good bill here this week we have Bennett and Martell, whose singing, dancing, and acrobating are accorded a hearty reception; the Emsons (Rita and Kitty), refined duettists and expert dancers, score a success; Fritz Kronan delights the audience with his excellent whistling; the Three Rubies acquit themselves creditably as acrobats, contortionists, and trapeze artists; Mlle. Aladina gives an admirable performence with her marvellously trained cockatoos; the Weinars deserve high compliment for their admirable turn. Charles Weinar proves himself to be an efficient instrumentalist; the Tintas are really good in their unrivalled double acrobatic act; De Henau is undoubtedly a clever painter, the drawings executed by him being simply marvellous; the Palascope has an admirable series of pictures.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Leslie Faber and his able company is here with a double bill, and opened on Monday to an appreciative and full house with *The Liars*. Mr. Faber's impersonation of Colonel Sir Christopher Deering was of high quality, his light touch and kindly persuasive sincerity of purpose being quite convincing; Miss Winifred Arthur Jones was delightful as the rather irresponsible Lady Jessica Nepean; Mr. Charles Combe as Edward Falkner played with marked success; the uncouth and inconsiderate Gilbert Nepean found an excellent representative in Mr. Ernest Ruston; Messrs. Richard Neville, F. G. Thurstans, Bellenden Clarke, and Frank Latham sustained their several parts of Freddie Tatton, Archibald Coke, George Nepean, and the Waiter at the Star and Garter in first rate style. Miss Hilda Moore looked and acted sweetly as Beatrice Ebernoe; Lady Rosamund Tatton played with captivating vivacity by Miss Jessica Thorne; and Dolly Coke and Ferris were well taken by Miss Muriel Pope and Miss Beatrice Ainley respectively. For Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings *The Manœuvres of Jane* was billed..

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The sensational drama, *The Face at the Winaow*, is being played here this week by Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company. Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale gives an effective and realistic study of the Chevalier Lucio Delgado, alias The Wolf; Mr. Scott Leighton as Paul Gouffet, a detective, acts with cleverness and success; Mr. Alfred Warne plays creditably the murdered Henry de Brisson; Mr. Arthur Beverley is admirable as Lucian Cortier; Mr. Henry Stewart is highly amusing as Peter Pottleberry; Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson is an attractive Marie de Brisson, acting with much intensity; Miss Louie Lonora is smart and brisk as Babette; and Miss Elaine Grant is praiseworthy as La Pinan, Queen of the Rogues' Retreat.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. B. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Gibbon.—*Uncle Tom's Cabin* is staged here this week, Mr. Charles Harrington's combination being responsible for a welcome return visit. Mr. St. Clair is played by Mr. Dudley Wynton in most satisfactory manner; Miss Kitty Bell makes a winsome and very capable Eva; Uncle Tom is admirably personated by Mr. J. Carr; Mr. E. A. Massingham submits a clever portrayal of Phineas Fletcher; Mr. Cecil Austin-Olgar does good work as George Harris; Mr. T. Bowron is able and vigorous as Legree; and Mr. Walter Langford's embodiment of the Lawyer Marks is capital. Miss Hero Hathaway well depicts Eliza Harris; Miss Hetty Johnson as Cassy is very good; Mrs. Carr portrays Aunt Chloe in effective style; Miss Annie Watson is first-class as Topsey; and Miss Jenny Malcolm as Aunt Ophelia deserves commendation.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The Boissets, in their pantomimical absurdity, *The Bricklayers*, "a new light on the Labour question," gain plenty of applause for their humorous knockabout business; Bros. Idento, comic jugglers, provoke much laughter; Kitty Rayburn, a smart comedienne, makes a decided hit; Walter Stanley, eccentric comedian and dancer, scores in his amusing song and dance; Florence and Lillian give a charming and refined musical act of much ability and versatility, and receive recalls; Nellie Chandos, a vivacious comedienne and danseuse, has a gratifying reception; King and Benson give an excellent and much appreciated turn; and Payne's Bioscope, with new and instructive films, complete the Bill.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Mr. Carl Hertz, the renowned illusionist, assisted by Miss Emmeline D'Alton, is giving some of his best known and mysterious tricks to the delight of the audience; the Cambrian Trio of vocalists receive a cordial greeting for their excellent efforts to please; A-Ba-Be's Picture Postcard Album deserves high praise for a capital series of artistic and well presented pictures; Mr. Will Driscoll excells as a comedian and dancer; Percival, in his one-man musical comedy, *All Through the Christening*, gives a most diverting act; the Eight Lancashire Lads are an attractive item, and their clog dancing is greatly admired; *Christmas Eve*, a midnight episode, is played with much success by Irve Hayman and Little Miss Montague; Miss José Collins, a dashing comedienne, pleases all for her two sparkling numbers. The Hippodrome pictures conclude a most enjoyable programme.

PRESTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company is presenting for the first time in Preston *The Outcast of the Family*. Mr. W. C. Clarke is good as Sir Henry Thorne; Mr. F. C. Leighton gives a powerful portrayal of his son, Harry Thorne; Mr. C. H. Coleman enacts the rôle of the villain, Richard Martin, in a very natural manner; Mr. H. Bentome is strong in his part of Stephen Barry; Mr. Bert Atherton is responsible for the comedy parts, and as Joe Bushell is very droll; Mr. E. W. Cudd makes a capital Abram Wasper; Mr. M. Platting as Uncle Sam, and Mr. Ed. Jeffs as Seth Sleeke are both equally good in their respective parts; and Messrs. Murray Maude, Harold Holmes, and Heaton Lodge all prove themselves capable in the parts allotted to them. Miss Vera Neville is a smart and vivacious Nancy Bray; Miss Margaretta Tueski is excellent as the scheming Grace Redburn; Little Dorothy is good as Little Rob; and as Ruth Miss Gertrude Thorella has a heavy part to play, from which she emerges triumphantly. The drama is well staged.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—The attractions here this week are many. Topping the bill is Owen McGiveney in a new quick-change dramatic sketch, adapted from "Oliver Twist," and the characters enacted are Fagan, Bill Sykes, the "Artful Dodger," Monks, and Nancy. Mr. Owen McGiveney deserves the highest praise, and being a Prestonian, the audience were not slow in showing their appreciation of his abilities. Lena Page is a burlesque actress with a good voice; Edna Francis is a characteristic vocalist and dancer; Chas. Coburn appears to have solved the problem of perpetual youth; he is as sprightly as ever, and receives an ovation; Dennis J. McCarthy is an actor vocalist who gives a good turn; the Days, second-sight seers, give a clever seance of mental telegraphy, and are well received; Jenny Maningo gives a clever display of juggling with Shrapnel shells and cannon balls, and is well received; Carr and Rose (Fred and Ada) have a capital original operetta, entitled *A Winning Double*. A Chauffeur's Nightmare on the Bioscope concludes a capital show.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—Henry Arthur Jones's famous drama *The Silver King*, which has been before the public for so many years and yet retains its hold upon their affections, has been the attraction at the Royal Victoria Theatre and Pavilion on each evening of the past week, and the production has been attended by large and enthusiastic audiences. The title-rôle is finely assumed by Mr. Fred D. Davis; while Miss Edyth Goodall plays Nellie Denver in almost perfect manner; Daniel Jaikes, the old butler, is in the admirable hands of Mr. Edward J. George, and the part of Samuel Baxter, the detective, is made the most of by Mr. E. Stidwell. The villainous Captain Herbert Skinner of Mr. Stanton Sharpe is a really fine piece of work, and his actions call forth the opprobium of the audience—a good compliment, of course, to the artist. The parts of Henry Corkett, Elijah Coombe, and Cripps—the Captain's assistants in nefarious designs—are respectively undertaken by Messrs. George Belmore, Arthur Wright, and Fred May; and the acting of Miss Kathleen Maud as Olive Skinner is well worth complimentary reference. The remaining ladies and gentlemen in a heavy cast perform their allotted tasks in highly creditable manner. The play is well mounted and staged, and is in all respects a thoroughly good show. The last performance in Ramsgate will be given this (Saturday) evening at 7.45.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—On the first three evenings of the past week Mr. Herbert Greville's company occupied the boards at the Royal Palace Theatre with a production of *Merely Mary Ann*, which is from the pen of the well-known Jewish writer Mr. Israel Zangwill. The part of Lancelot, who composes classical music which no one will publish, was ably assumed by Mr. Martyn Roland; and the character of Peter—who, in his spare time, composes music understood by the man in the street, which publishers will buy—was well represented by Mr. Stanley Logan; Miss Jessica Solomon carried off the honours of the piece as Mary Ann Merely, the ingenuous country maid, who, first introduced to one's notice as the drudge of a London boarding-house, subsequently becomes the possessor of a large fortune left by her mother. Mrs. Leadbatter, a garrulous widow, and landlady at the lodging-house referred to, was capably portrayed by Miss Violet Greville; and Miss Florence Radcliffe did well as Rosie, her very much-affected daughter. The various other parts were one and all entrusted to excellent artists, and individual reference to them, therefore, becomes hardly necessary. The scenery of the play was capital, and the whole show went well. It attracted fairly good audiences. The bill for the last three nights consists of the play *A Warning to Women*, by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company.

MARINA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. C. Dew and L. Valeriani; General-Manager, Mr. W. J. Attack.—Large audiences continue to testify to their appreciation of the entertainments put on by the Marina management. Sunday evening's exhibition of animated pictures of sacred subjects was admirable, and the week-night shows have been eminently successful. The theatre has been thoroughly cleaned, re-decorated, and lighted throughout with electricity.

READING.—THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—D'Arc's Marionettes are very cleverly manipulated; the Mannikins represent well-known music-hall stars, whose voices and mannerisms are exceedingly well mimicked. Ernest Montefiore and company elicit the sympathies of the audience in a touching dramatic episode of the South African War, entitled *The Little Colonel;* Harry Barnes and company give a capital exposition of the terpsichorean art in *The School of Dancing*. Some exquisite dresses are displayed in this production. The Garricks appear successfully in a pot-pourri of songs and dances; Edmund Caselli is a finished player on the banjo; W. P. Sheen, "the merry widow who talks," has an inexhaustible fund of witty patter; Percy Maye is a good impersonator of lady characters; Du Bois and Fuller, the humorous eccentric dudes, are entertaining; and some amusing scenes are depicted on the Palace Bioscope.

ROCHDALE.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—R. A. Speedwell tops the bill here with a novel and cleverly-executed series of picture paintings; Blanche and Powell give, in their drawing-room act, an entertaining and enjoyable turn; and Fred Smarte sings with considerable success. The Godfreys, in *The Slavey and the Coon;* Pete and Juno, comedians and dancers; Harry Keeble, ventriloquist; Gladys Wells, vocalist; and the Empire Bioscope complete the programme.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—The popular musical comedy *My Sweetheart* commenced a welcome return visit with Sidney Spenser's company on Monday, and that gentleman in the rôle of Joe Shotwell; Tony Faust is in the capable hands of Mr. Edward Rawlinson; Miss Lizzie Hall makes a charming Tina; and Mrs. Fleeter is well played by Miss Ada Chapman. The villain is capably sustained by Mr. Harry T. Butler. Mr. Wilton Hardinge makes a funny "Dash-it-all"; Mr. F. W. Freeman (Dr. Oliver), Mr. James Porter (Farmer Hatzell), Miss Gipsey Alexander (Mrs. Hatzell), Miss Olive Downes (Peckaboo), Miss Lily Smith (Christie), and Miss Violet Etherington (Emmeline) also do well in their various characters.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Astley's American Circus is a very funny act, much appreciated; much charming music is provided by the Five Saxonias; Wee McGregor, Scotch comedienne, has many admirers; *A Lesson in Love* is a smart, up-to-date quick-change speciality by Lytton and Bland; Edmund Kershaw, boy soprano, Jack Holland, character comedian, Lillie Lassah, comedienne and dancer, the Three Tivoli Girls, vocalists and dancers, and Dolly Dodds, serio and ballad, are also very good entertainers.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Wallace Whitney, character comedian, is highly successful with his *Tubby the Footballer; La Marseillaise*, a scene in a garret in a poor part of Paris, by Walter Raynham, Marie Santley, Edgar C. White, and Kate Gurney, is a cleverly-acted sketch. Mlle. Naveeda, a clever illusionist, Dunningato, with his smart sleight of hand, Adkin, ventriloquist, Jack Foley, comedian, Victor and Louis, in *The Golfer and the Caddie*, Louie Hurman, in her own songs, the Sicilians, and Beattie Foster, comedienne, also contribute to a capital programme.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Good houses assemble twice nightly to enjoy the excellent animated pictures, which this week include Dick, the Kisser, The Bird of Freedom, the Dieppe Motor Race, Love in a Kneading Trough, The Resurrection of Ramesis, Oh, that umbrella! and the pictures illustrating the song "Will you go-go?"

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and company are this week presenting *The King's Rival, Julius Cæsar, The Lady of Lyons, Belphegor*, and *Richard III.* On Monday *The King's Rival* was given, with Mr. Wilkie as Don Cæsar De Bazan, a character which he thoroughly well portrayed; Mr. Alexander Marsh as Philip II. acted with much refinement and grace as King of Spain; Don José was in the able hands of Mr. Frank Royde, who received due appreciation for his efforts; Miss Maud Gill as Pedro was beyond reproach; and Miss Carrie Baillie displayed admirable earnestness in her acting.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company, in *The Love of the Princess*, is here, with Mr. Wilson Coleman as Conrad, a character in which he is most successful. Miss Ward as Princess Idalia is pleasing; and Miss Nellie Garside, the daughter of the proprietor of the Theatre Royal, is a great favourite as Lady Irene. Mr. E. H. Dobell was excellent as Josef; and Mr. Graham Winsford as the loyal lover closely approached perfection.

SPA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Cliff Bridge Co.; Manager, Mr. Jas. Goodricke. — *Dear Old Charlie* opened for a week here, with Mr. George Lestocq in the title-rôle. He gave a fine performance in the many difficult situations in which he is placed. Miss Margaret Chard as Agnes was admirable; and Miss Lenora Braham as the mother was admirably suited; Mr. Douglas Cox and Mr. R. S. Trelawney as Peploe and Dumphlie were responsible for much humour.

THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. H. Holland.—Mlle. Levante's orchestra is giving three programmes daily. This week Mr. Fred Taylor, a tenor singer, is here, and possesses a delightful voice; Ernie Myers, comedian, is on a return visit, and evinces originality; the Cromwells give a good juggling display; and the Richards Trio show much ability as acrobats. Lily Lonsdale, vocalist, sings in a refined way; Sydney Lee gives a good exhibition in his various palming tricks; and the programme also includes David Poole, ventriloquist; Gravetta and Parr, in pot-pourri act; Wal Owen, comedian; and Mlle. Zelda, with organ chimes. Prof. Jones and his troupe of lady swimmers, Mons. Le Clair's Canine Picture Gallery, and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

OLYMPIA.—Proprietors, Scarborough Corporation.—The New Century Pictures are here for the season with an excellent supply of up-to-date films, which are well shown.

OLD TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, Scarborough Corporation.—The London Animated Picture Co. give frequent change of programme daily with fine films.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiernan; Lessees, The Excelsior Animated Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. George Barry.—A number of excellent animated pictures are exhibited here this week. A capital variety company includes Belle Dainton, comedienne and dancer; Milligan's Coloured Quartette; the Riscos, eccentric cyclists; and Naughton and Gold, a clever pair of cross-talk and patter duettists, and simultaneous dancers.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—*The Mockery of Marriage* is the attraction here this week, the company being Mr. W. Graham Arthur's. As Dick Kenyon in the prologue and Sir Montague Jephson in the drama Mr. Arthur stands out prominently. A powerful Jack Stanley is supplied by Mr. Austin Mortimer; Seth Pearse is well drawn by Mr. Harold Kinton; and Toby is humorously sketched by Mr. Frank Masters. As Alva Kenyon Miss Mabel Liston gives an artistic portrayal; Rose is pleasingly drawn by Miss Chris Middleton; and Mary Ann is well done by Miss Kate R. Hughes.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors. Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—*The Brixton Burglary* was played here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday by Mr. C. A. Hill's company. Mr. C. A. Hill was a talented exponent of Septimus Pontifex; Mr. Edward Beecher did well as Fraser Green; Mr. Randolph Reade as Richard Diggle is well suited; and Messrs. H. Garthorne, Mr. Chas. Alexander, and Mr. Lawrence Winning maintain their respective characters with success. Miss Amy Singleton impersonates Alicia Green with force and skill; Miss Ada Gordon as Petunia is satisfactorily suited; and the Misses Ivy Williams and Eileen Kerin complete the cast. On Thursday *Our Boys* was presented. Each play was preceded by the duologue *By Mutual Consent*.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Local Representative, Mr. Cyril Parks.—This week's pictures include the following:—Saved by St. Bernard Dogs, A Victim of Science, The Angel of the Village, Revenge, The Lady Barrister, and Wanted a Match.

SHEFFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company, in the realistic drama, *The Price of Sin*, opened to a good audience on Monday. An absorbing story, artistic new scenery, and admirable acting gave genuine pleasure. Miss Violet Carlyle, looking handsome in her beautiful dresses, acted with her accustomed charm as the heroine. Other parts were well played by Mr. Graham Woods, Mr. Morris Maude, Mr. William Heilbron, Miss Gwynn Warner, and Miss Margot Chapman. Plenty of excuses for merriment were provided by Mr. Val Gully as an irrepressible manservant. All the minor parts were carefully represented.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—A drama which follows the best traditions of the old Adelphi is Roland Yorke's new domestic play, *The Old Home*, which was acted to an appreciative house on Monday by the author's company. Several local favourites were in the cast, notably Mr. Charles Franmore, who submitted a clever character study as Daddy Dean; Mr. Henry Lonsdale, the earnest representative of Eric Armstrong; Mr. Fred De Vere, who appeared successfully as Sam Adams; Mr. Roland Yorke, who made a characteristic medico as Dr. Warburton; and Miss Gertrude Bonser, who won the warm sympathies of the audience in the emotional part of Hazel Dean. Other characters were played with conscientious care by Mr. Alexander Bradley as Lord Avondale, Mr. James Lee Hare as Timothy, Mr. Walter Osmond as Jack Warren, Miss Mara Collings as Bridget, and Miss Gertrude Douglas as Pollie. The piece was carefully mounted.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—After a long absence, Mr. Laurence Irving on Monday made his reappearance here, and received a cordial greeting from a crowded audience. The sketch, *Feed the Brute*, was heartily applauded, thanks to the efforts of Mr. Irving and his clever colleagues. Mr. Warren's illusionary phantasy, "The Magic Carpet," was a prominent item on the bill; Mr. Arthur Lennard is a big Empire favourite; the Shaw-Daunton Troupe do a smart and graceful cycling act; Ludwig Amann's facial entertainment always wins hearty applause; and other talented performers this week are the Bros. Webb, musical comedians; the pretty and accomplished Sisters St. Julian; Mr. Will Johnson, eccentric patter vocalist and dancer; Fred Curran, comic singer; and Miss Daisy Martell, comedienne. Excellent animated pictures conclude the well-arranged programme.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The extraordinary illusionary, scenic, mimetic, and musical spectacle of the famous American artist Lafayette, and his forty skilled assistants, supplies a brilliant entertainment, and the enthusiasm of the crowded house culminated on Monday in a perfect tornado of applause, the curtain having to be raised again and again. The original Continental comedy jugglers, Cornalla and Edie, also made a terrific hit; and other first-rate turns were Mr. Harry Zetter, a clever comedian and dancer; Miss Diana Hope's company, in a dramatic episode; Mr. H. O. Wells, comedian; Terry and Bentley, comedy entertainers; Miss Kathleen Coggan, vocalist; Ariel and Astarte, gymnasts; and Vay's talented Juveniles, in *Life in the Slums*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin. — The favourite wrestling athlete, Peter Gotz, tops this week's bill, and the excellent programme is contributed to by Mr. Charles Penrose, a popular singer of catchy ditties; Miss Madge Field; Mr. C. Jones, with picture songs; Clifton and Gibson, in a novel performance; Les Curreys, novelty artists, &c. Some good contests have taken place nightly, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux, with admirable films, has more than justified its prominent place in the "Grand" bill of fare.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—*The Way of the World* is here this week. Capt. Slade is strongly depicted by Mr. H. Skardon, who is well supported by Miss Sidney Crowe as Adela de la Roche. Mlle. Bellini is spiritedly delineated by Miss Marie Fontaine; Miss Nellie De Lacy as Kate Montague and Miss Marie Marah as Marion Fanshaw fill important parts. Other characters are capably portrayed by Mr. J. P. McBride as Cecil Montague, Mr. C. Temple as Matthew Malyon, Mr. A. Hammond as Horatio Bluff, and Mr. Henry Slater as Ned Montague. The piece is well mounted.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident Manager, Mr. George F. Thompson.—The programme here is headed by a playlet entitled *The Little Stowaway*. The Norman and Leonard Trio delight the audience in *The Itinerant;* Little Ganty is a favourite here; and good comedy is introduced by Rose and Calvert. George Rae, Scotch comedian; Spituri, wonderful boy juggler and mimic; Madge May, dainty comedienne; and the Bioscope complete.

TIVOLI.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Will Letters has a hearty welcome here; pleasing songs are contributed by Madge Berker; the audience is delighted with Chester and Lee's new electric theatre, Des Fantoche, with its elaborate transformation scene. Sam Hartley, contortionist, and the Tivoloscope conclude the entertainment.

THE COSY CORNER.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Burton.—Burton's Bohemians are maintaining their reputation here. A good quartette of comedians, Messrs. Ray and Ross, Bert Albert, and George Russell, keep the ball rolling. Miss May Tudor and Miss Pattie Burton add considerably to the enjoyment of the audience; and Mr. Jno. Kershaw's monologues are highly appreciated.

STAFFORD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—A fine variety programme is the attraction here this week. Mlle. Flora Lumière as "the human butterfly" presents a most effective illuminated dance; Judge's cockatoos is a highly interesting and pleasing turn; the Incemores, living mannikins, are very amusing; the Rinders, in picture and song, are well applauded; Charles Lestree proves to be a smart juggler; the Peps give a highly finished gymnastic exhibition; and the Empire Bioscope, with new pictures, concludes.

ST. HELENS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic Carnell.—At the head of the bill this week are Yamamoto and Miss Koyoshi, who give a fine exhibition as equilibrists, for which they are loudly applauded; Raglus is a marvellously smart as well as eccentric juggler; Luigi Salvino, a clever boy, plays many instruments in masterly fashion; Flo Warner has great success with her songs; Billie Burford shines in a Directoire gown and new songs; and Miss Leah Adell's sweet voice is heard with pleasure in old Irish songs. An amusing picture on the Barrascope completes a pleasing programme.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Unstinted praise has been bestowed upon Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company, presenting his drama *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* here for the first time. Standing out prominently is the powerful acting of Mr. Paul Beckett as Felix Beverley; Mr. Edward E. Louis is effective as Jack Stirling; Colonel Miles has a capable representative in Mr. Wm. E. Passmore; Mr. Percy Brown as Thomas and Mr. Percy Dawsone as Charles provide amusement, capitally supported by Miss Katie Lever, who is most pleasing as Sweet Nancy. Miss Cissie Bellamy acts feelingly as Mary; and Miss Elsie Capell's impersonation of the Hon. Mrs. Sands is dignified and clever.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The visits of Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls' company are exceedingly popular, and large audiences have this week laughed as heartily as ever at their amusing sketch *The Battle of the Belles*. Rose Elliott makes a distinct success with her well-chosen songs; the Sages are clever and amusing burlesque artists; smart gymnasts are Craig, Rose, and Craig; Nina Gordon, in her imitations of popular artists, is appreciated; Frank Bertram and company, in a comedy sketch *The Chaperon*, are mirth-provoking; Cavalli is an entertaining ventriloquist; and Ray and Miles, comedy jugglers, meet with favour.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's company is presenting *The Unknown* here this week to large audiences. Some of the latest pictures shown at the end of the performance were an additional attraction. Next week the theatre is to be closed for cleaning and renovation, but will be reopened on Aug. 3 with another of Mr. M. Montgomery's dramas.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—Stanley Carlton and company, in the modern drama *The Secret Wedding*, is the attraction for this week. The piece is nicely mounted, and some of the sets are especially worthy of mention, viz., the Drawing-room at Hartington Hall and The Devil's Cave. Miss Ruby Maude plays the part of Grace, the heroine, in a sweet and winning manner; a finished piece of acting is that of Mr. Charles Cameron as the butler at the Hall; Edgar Hartington is in the hands of Mr. Stanley Carlton; and the villainy of his plotting cousin Herbert is ably represented by Mr. Marshall Meade. A clever and amusing sketch of the poetic greengrocer's assistant, Billy Barton, is given by Mr. Seymour Perry, who is ably seconded by Miss Emily Lewis as Polly.

SUNDERLAND.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Grieveson.—The attraction here is provided by Miss Grace Warner and company in a repertoire of popular plays, opening on Monday in the *Scarlet Clue*, with Miss Warner as Scarlet Sal, and her various other aliases. Mr. George Gordon lends valuable assistance as Michael Stanton; and Mr. Terence O'Brian enacts the dual rôle of the Brothers Esmond; Mr. V. Garnet-Vayne does well as Crazy Jim, and Mr. Edgar Bruce is responsible for Cockney Evans. Miss Phyllis Massey (Reggie) is excellent, and Miss Esther Dean plays Musette with considerable verve. *East Lynne* and other well-known plays are also announced.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Heading the bill here is George Formby, as the "odd fellow from Lancashire," who contributes no fewer than four numbers at each house. Marie Santoi and her Merry Japs are popular in a bright musical sketch entitled *A Japanese Tea Garden;* J. A. Wilson and his dog Towser are well received; and the programme is also contributed to by the Ten Dixie Girls, vocalists and dancers; Harry Sims, comedian; Barlee and Smith, musical comedy artists; Bi-Bo-Bi, eccentric musical comedians; and Green and Wood, eccentric knockabouts.

OLYMPIA.—Lessees, The Skating Rink Co., Ltd.—Despite the fact of the tropical weather, the devotees of the "rollers" gather together in force to practise their favourite pursuit or craze, and to acquire proficiency for the forthcoming Cinderella.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Closed for summer season.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. T. J. Pitt's company give a fine performance of the detective drama *£1,000 Reward*. As a "Tec." of the new school Mr. Pitt plays finely, and Mr. Frank Dallas portrays a thief-taker of a very different order efficiently; Miss Kathleen Eckhart as Mme. Samson is particularly good, her singing being very effective; whilst Mr. Arthur Merton as Fighting Jepps is a decided success.

THE EMPIRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—There is a really wonderful bill provided for Empire patrons this week. George Lashwood came provided with some new songs, and his welcome demonstrated that not only his popularity, but his talent, is as great as ever; W. C. Field's originality and skill as a juggler make his turn a par-

ticularly good one; Mendel's turn, as usual, is characterised by refinement and skill, his wonderful talent being greatly appreciated; Cussac Talma, who is assisted by Mlle. Yvonne de Forges, is an illusionist of the most mystifying type; Bobbie Nairn and Stratton Mills present a capital sketch; and Stewart and Morgan are duettists of great ability. A first-class comedy acrobatic display is given by Howe and Ardie, and the Bioscope concludes.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—The reopening after the vacation took place here on Monday, when Messrs. Cowper-Smith and Douglas Payne's company presented the musical comedy *The New Girl*, and a large audience showed its appreciation of the sparkling and witty piece. Miss Rosa Bennett in the title is well-known in Torquay, and soon became a great favourite, whilst Mr. Arthur Poole as Colonel Ballet, V.C., kept the house in roars of laughter with his quaint humour. Miss Ivy Leighton was a pleasing Cerise, and her singing was much appreciated, whilst Miss Victoria Douglas made a severe Martha Grimm. As Bertie Holbrook Mr. Ralph Lyon was quite in his element, and really did extremely well, carrying the party through with considerable ability, whilst Mr. Edgar McIntyre also did well as Harry Harrow. In the burlesque part of Brown, the Butler, Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., provokes much merriment, and he is ably assisted in the second act by Miss Beatrice Sutherland as Jane.

Princess Pier Concert Hall.—Proprietors, the Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T. Tremlett.—A welcome visit is being paid by Mr. Stuart Alexander and "The So and So's," who were so popular here last season. Miss Maude Davis is a light comedy vocalist of considerable ability, and her pleasing and dainty manner win her frequent applause. Miss Lilian Loeffeler introduces some good step dancing, and Miss Maud Phillips is heard to advantage in some well-known songs. Mr. Harry Quiningborough does excellently, his appearance being marked with repeated applause, whilst his amusing monologues cause great hilarity. Mr. George Sharratt is also very popular, and does some clever business, and Miss Dorothy Edwardes is an able accompanist. Mr. Stuart Alexander is a tenor of considerable talent, and is encored nightly, whilst mention must be made of the concerted numbers, which are rendered in a unique and very acceptable style.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Business-Manager, Mr. Arthur H. Burdett.—The Hippodrome season, which is now drawing to a close, continues to be well patronised. The bright particular star this week is La Poldini, who in her chic songs is accompanied by a clever child pianist. Comedy specialities are contributed by Morelli and Moore and Phillips and Merritt, who are well received. Jack Roland, in comedy attire, and E. J. Sheldon, the modern coon, are both much applauded in their songs; Zeta Russell is a clever young vocalist and dancer; and Ruffell's Bioscope completes the programme.

TYNEMOUTH.—Palace-by-the-Sea.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—Another excellent and well-diversified programme is being put on here this week, commencing on Sunday with a high-class musical programme in which Miss Katie Moss, A.R.A.M., excelled as vocalist, violinist, and reciter; Miss Rosa Crow proved a success with her 'cello solos; and Mr. J Knowles McLean did well with his songs. For the remainder of the week Mr. John Ridding's opera company is appearing in a round of condensed operas, opening on Monday with *Maritana*, with Miss Sarah Williams in the title-part—a charming rendering; Don Cæsar, in the hands of Mr. Edward Arthur, was also a creditable performance; and Mr. John Ridding ably enacted the rôle of Don José. *Faust, The Bohemian Girl, The Daughter of the Regiment, Il Trovatore*, and *The Waterman* are also billed. In addition, there are varieties by Arthur Croxon, humorist, and Essmann, the juggling waiter.

VENTNOR (Isle of Wight).—Grand Pavilion.—On Monday and two nights following the Serenaders, a combination of highly-trained artists, gave their entertainment. Their programme was somewhat lengthy, but every item was most heartily received. Miss Mabel Johnson, a highly-trained soprano, did extremely well; Miss Ellice Rayne, a fine contralto, was heard to great advantage; Mr. Alfred de Grey is a pleasing tenor; and Mr. Malcolm Cockerell, rich baritone, was appreciated. Mr. Sydney Hamilton is a magician and humorist of the first water; and Mr. Leonard Burke made a most efficient pianist. The audience was most enthusiastic.

On Tuesday afternoon, at the Grand Pavilion, the famous Besses o' th' Barn Band gave one of their special concerts. The conductor was Mr. Alexander Owen, who had to bow his acknowledgment again and again.

WAKEFIELD. — Hippodrome. — Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—A clever protean act is contributed by Miss Marie Jones, assisted by Mr. Ernest Munro; Lozelle gives an excellent gymnastic turn; Bert and Dora, comedy artists, are very entertaining; Mr. George Bendon, comedian, is a popular favourite; Miss Gertrude Lytton, comedienne, is much appreciated; and Mr. Billy Gulson, vocalist, merits favour. Interesting Bioscope pictures are displayed.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Ryder Boys' company brought a month's season to a close on Saturday night with a successful performance of the farce *Jane*. At the close, in answer to enthusiastic calls, Mr. Boys tendered thanks for the flattering support accorded him, and expressed his hearty appreciation not only of the splendid manner in which his twelve plays had been mounted, but of the excellent provision made for the artists. The place is undergoing a thorough renovation, and the season will reopen on August Bank Holiday.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—The dainty comedienne Maggie Rimmer sings in charming fashion; Almona is a first-class equilibrist; and Charley Cranston has a fine collection of songs, which are all rendered in capital style. The pictures, especially those showing the King and the Dreadnought and Napoleon and the English Soldier, are excellent specimens.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Business is good here this week. Miss Helen Roberts is well received for her wonderful interpretation of a "Salome" dance; the Violas are remarkable second-sight experts; Les Zelovas are capital acrobatic equilibrists; Ernest Rees has thoroughly established himself, and his songs are all well received; Harry Grey has a fund of humour which is unlimited; Professor Norton is a clever sleight-of-hand artist; and Marjory Clark and Percy Hayden delight all with their sketch, *By Appointment*. Robins and Collier again make themselves especially popular with the sketch *The Lady and the Porter*. The pictures are good.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Burns.—Such favourites as the Columbia Comedy Trio are inimitable in their operatic absurdity, and Harry Burn's Juveniles are a troupe of precocious and clever youngsters. Flo Hilton is a tricky little male impersonator; Everhart and his assistants give one of the most wonderful exhibitions of hoop manipulation that it has been the lot of a West Hartlepool audience to witness; the comedy playlet, *My Burglar*, presented by Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe, is brimful of fun; the Calcottis in their novel scena *Rags and Tatters*, excel in dancing and banjo playing; and other acceptable attractions are Harry Tomps, in a novel comedy act, and Teresa da Silva, vocalist.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—One's desire for variety could be well appeased at the Palace this week, where pictures continue to hold sway.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Grand Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—One of the smartest shows seen here for some considerable time was that given by the Strolling Players on Monday. Miss Madge Nicholson, a pretty little lady sang "Caroo" most charmingly, receiving an encore; another very clever artist is Miss M. Harrison, whose song and dance, "Betty, I'm pining," was rapturously received; Miss Marie Gerrard is thoroughly artistic in her musical monologues; Mr. Hugh Lloyd possesses a voice of rare purity, which was heard to the utmost advantage in "Nirvana," and his ventriloquial turn was exceedingly clever; Mr. H. Scott Leslie's character sketches deserve the highest eulogy, his voice and style is very much like Albert Chevalier's; the star turn is indubitably Mr. Gilbert Fernie. This versatile comedian fairly brought down the house with his numerous comic songs. Mr. John Lambert shows some very beautiful pictures by Pathé Frères, on the Bioscope.

Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. Payne.—Mr. Albany Ward's animated pictures are here for the first three nights of the week, and are proving a big attraction. The film that pleases most is Louis N. Parkre's historical pageant. Amongst the variety turns Madame Vivian's "Queen of the Earth" was warmly received; Mr. Herbert Greville's company opened on Thursday in *Merely Mary Ann*, the play is exceptionally well cast.

WHITBY.—The Spa.—Lessee, Mr. Payne Seddon; Manager, Mr. R. W. Mitchell.—The attraction at this theatre has been exceptionally good. Commencing on Monday, and continuing during the week, "The March Hares," including Mr. Davy Burnaby, Mr. Edmund Hollick, Mr. Bernard Russell, Miss Maud Jay, Miss Florence Foster, and Miss Kathleen Severn, have given daily an excellent programme, which holds the continuous attention of the large audiences. Under the direction of Mr. Yorks Sheffield, the popular leader, the orchestra will give selections thrice daily, commencing on Monday, on the promenade. Upon the skating rink, where the pastime has become very popular, a special band has been provided during the week. A fancy dress carnival is being arranged on the skating rink for next week.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company.—Mr. Joseph Bebb's talented company is appearing here to delighted audiences, in *A Lion's Heart*. Mr. Henry Bedford gives a powerful impersonation of Rizardo; the villainous Gaspard Dobre finds a capable exponent in Mr. Stephen Scanlan; Miss Ada Oakley excels in her charming portrayals of Rizardo's wife and the lion-tamer's daughter. The character of Dick Lorimore is in the capable hands of Mr. Leonard Booker; Mr. E. Lowrie is exceptionally good as Timothy Puggs; Mr. Archie Helsby is a conspicuous success as Col. Robert de Villefort; Miss Florence Barnes ably enacts the part of Bessie; and Mr. H. G. Brandon as Jack Bealey deserves special mention. The play is exceedingly well staged.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Marco.—A series of effective films include The Duel After the Ball, The Law of Honour, A Mountaineer's Flirtation, The Pierrot and the Devil, and The Enchanted Mirror, all of which appeal to that which is sentimental or humorous in the crowded audiences nightly. Great enthusiasm is created by the marvellous dexterity with which Tom Carpenter, described as the "champion ball pancher of the world," gives his capital performances.

WREXHAM.—Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week the big attractions have been J. W. Rowley, a great favourite here, who with his songs and racy reminiscences keeps the house in roars of laughter; and the Brothers Harrison, with amusing patter and clever dancing.

YORK.—Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—*Hester's Mystery* is a delightful play, admirably presented by Mr. Horace Pollock and his company. Miss Pearl Keates as Hester at once excites sympathy by her charming rendition; Miss Patty Groves is breezy and thoroughly natural as Nancy Butterworth; and amusing parts are capitally played by Horace Pollock, Edmund Pollock, and Harry Collier. Carrie Laurie's Juveniles are a popular turn; the Martellonis are acrobats of pronounced merit, who are applauded; and Nat Wilkins is a comedian whose efforts are enjoyed. Edwards and Dacre contribute a real sketch; Eva Chadwick sings with taste; Geo. Westland's patter amuses; and the Coopers provide an enjoyable entertainment.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DURBAN, June 20.—Theatre Royal (Sub-Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.).—Wheeler's new London Gaiety company, with *The Belle of New York*, is here. Miss Alice Pollard as the Salvation Army lassie won general favour, and sang and acted with a charm which earned cordial recognition. As Fifi Fricot Miss Lilian Bell acquitted herself with marked ability; Miss Ivy Louise as Mamie Clancy and Miss Mabel Medrow as Cora Angelique scored distinct successes; Mr. Frank Wheeler was in his element as Karl Von Pumpernick; Ichabod Bronson had a worthy representative in Mr. W. Clark; Mr. Charles Willoughby as Blinkey Bill caused much amusement, and his dancing was exceedingly clever; and Mr. H. Hancock as Harry Bronson acted admirably.

DURBAN, June 24.—Theatre Royal (Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.).—*The Girls of Gottenburg* is here. As Max Moddelkoff, Mr. Frank Wheeler is the life and soul of the production; Miss Alice Pollard acted and sang herself into favour, and met with well-deserved encouragement; Mr. C. Willoughby as Brittlebotti gave a rollicking representation; as Otto, Mr. M. Hancock was successful, his fine voice being well suited to the rôle; Miss Lilian Bell as Elsa met with undeniable success; Miss Ethel Clarke as Clementine worked hard, her duets with Mr. Frank Wheeler adding largely to the success of the piece; Mr. W. Clarke as the Burgomaster looked and acted satisfactorily. The minor parts were in capable hands, and the staging and scenery were all that could be desired.

Rodney's Winter Gardens are enjoying well-earned patronage. The artists appearing are Mesdames Netta Ralston, Masie Louw, Betty Bellair, and Smythe, and Messrs. J. Macklane and C. M. Rodney.

The Standard Theatre, Johannesburg, is occupied by the Leonard Rayne company in *Robin Hood*, with Mr. Norman Partriege and Miss Dorrie Roberts in the leading rôles, ably assisted by a well-selected company.

His Majesty's Theatre (Lessees, The Belgravia Amusement Syndicate).—Max Martin is an accomplished coon artist and dancer; Dolly Webb, Durban's popular comedienne, is meeting with success, and has become very popular; Master Halpain has a good voice; Mme. Kate Midwinter, in her rendering of the "Miserère," is ably assisted by Mr. Randolph Epstyne, whose solos are also good; Miss Shina Monachowa is a clever dancer; Gertie Lanner is a favourite; and Madeline Le Sar, a smart soubrette, completes the company.

A NAMELESS PLAY.

A Play without a name, by T. M. Paule, Produced at the East Oxford Theatre, Oxford, on Monday, July 20.

Eric Duncombe, LL.B.	Mr. F. Forbes-Robertson
Captain Clive, H.M.R.C.	Mr. Sydney Hawton
John Scott, M.D.	Mr. Jack Allerton
Hon. Bertie Symkins	Mr. Tom Leeson
Sir Richard Temple, M.P.	Mr. Richard Beaton
Barrington Selmore, M.P.	Mr. A. D. Scudamor
Marcus Selmore	Mr. Claude Agnew
Wilkins	Mr. Edmond Beresford
P.C. Browne	Mr. Robert West
P.C. Keene	Mr. Henry Mullgate
Dixon	Mr. Austen Milroy
Esther Leroy	Miss Eva Fryett
Stella	Miss Margarette Collins
Vera Desmond	Miss Avice Meredith

Mr. E. A. Esmonde produced on Monday night the above play, which had a very favourable reception from a good house. Act 1 opens in the smoke-room of The Towers, where Eric Duncombe, Captain Clive, and Dr. Scott are discussing their financial prospects, and a wealthy marriage as the only way out of them. They decide to cut the cards, the winner to be allowed a free field for proposing to Vera Desmond, a wealthy American heiress, the ward of Sir Richard Temple, a prominent M.P. Luck favours Eric, and on the arrival of Vera the others leave them together. Vera has overheard some of the conversation, and plays the old game of pretending to be ruined. Hearing this, Eric proposes, is accepted, and finds that the money is all right after all. The curtain falls on Eric's triumph, and the discomfiture of Clive and Scott.

Act 2 takes place at Sir Richard Temple's town house, the day before the election. We now discover that Vera has been infatuated enough in the past to write letters to Marcus Selmore, who has escaped from prison, where he was sent for forgery, and now demands £200 for the letters or threatens to expose their old relations to Eric and hand him the letters. Barrington Selmore, the father of this precious scoundrel, also holds a stupid letter written by Sir Richard, running down the chiefs of his own party to Selmore, who was then a colleague, but is now a bitter opponent, and unless Sir Richard at once sends in his resignation Selmore threatens to publish the letter and hold him up to ridicule. Eric overhears this, and decides on a bold action to serve Vera and save her guardian. To accomplish this he tempts an old burglar, Wilkins, who is now in Sir Richard's employ, once more to use his old skill and burgle Selmore's safe, and secure the incriminating letters.

In Act 3 we find Selmore full of his impending triumph over Sir Richard, refusing Vera's entreaties, who then leaves him. Eric and Wilkins then enter, break open the safe, and secure the incriminating letters.

Act 4 sees the settlement of affairs all round—the restoration to Sir Richard of the letter, that frees him again to enter Parliament, and the enforced recovery from Marcus of Vera's incriminating letters by her lover, Eric. Marcus then commits suicide, and Sir Richard blesses Eric and Vera, and assents to their early marriage.

The management have gone in for the curious plan of offering three guineas to anyone of the audience suggesting the most suitable title for the above play, the winner to be announced from the stage next Saturday night. Mr. F. Forbes-Robertson gave a powerful and well-balanced rendering of the part of Eric Duncombe; Captain Clive and Dr. Scott found capable exponents in Messrs. Sydney Hawton and Jack Allerton; Mr. Tom Leeson was a very amusing Hon. Bertie Symkins; Mr. Richard Beaton made a dignified and impressive Sir Richard; and the same can be said of the efficient way Mr. Scudamor filled the part of Barrington Selmore. Mr. Claude Agnew made a handsome figure of his profligate son, and acted with commendable force and reserve, his acting when checked by the sight of his mother's photo from shooting his father calling forth loud cheers; and Mr. Edmond Beresford gave a clever sketch of the character of Wilkins. Miss Eva Fryett was a bright and vivacious Esther Leroy; Miss Collins did well in the small part of Stella; and Miss Avice Meredith was a most charming exponent of Vera, acting in a sympathetic, natural way that quite took the house. Mr. Paule's play had a very good reception and, when the first night's nervousness has worn off, and the artists do themselves full justice, should go well; but the comic element needs strengthening.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

The first performance of Puccini's lurid opera, *La Tosca*, was given for the first time this season at Covent Garden on Saturday night, July 18. The Queen, Princess Victoria, and the Duke of Sparta were present, as well as a large and distinguished audience. Miss Cavalieri, who played Tosca, achieved a greater success in this character than in her performance of Fédora or Manon Lescaut. In the great dramatic scene of Scarpia's death Miss Cavalieri fully realised the horror of the situation, being received by the audience with frantic applause at the fall of the curtain. Miss Cavalieri's undoubted triumph in Puccini's opera was due more to her ability as an actress than vocalist. Mr. Scotti, as on former occasions, made a superb Scarpia, every detail of this repulsive character being carried out in the most artistic manner. Mr. Garbin made a striking figure of the unhappy Cavaradossi, and sang the music with considerable power; while the Old Sacristan, the only cheerful part in this sombre opera, was admirably performed by that clever artist, Mr. Gilibert. Spoletta was played by Mr. Zucchi; and Mr. Campanini, who conducted, gave full effect to a performance of absorbing dramatic interest.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, July 20,

"THE TICKET-O'-LEAVE MAN."

Mr. Ernest Abbott's season is now in its third week, the attraction being Tom Taylor's popular play, *The Ticket-o'-Leave Man*. Mr. Abbott plays Bob Brierly in a straightforward, manly fashion, which makes him a great favourite; Mr. Herbert Morgan is sufficiently villainous as Jem Dalton; Mr. Edwin Keene gives a capital character sketch of Melter Moss; Mr. Douglas Phelps scores heavily as Hawkshaw; Mr. John Lester is good as Mr. Gibson; Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown is an excellent Maltby; Mr. J. Smith is good as the waiter; while Mr. F. Roper and Mr. Walter Pease are well placed as Mr. Burton and Mr. Sharpe. Miss Florence North is a capital Sam Willoughby, bright and clever throughout; Miss Marjorie Tennant is very amusing as the talkative Mrs. Willoughby; and it would be difficult to find a more pleasing and sympathetic May Edwards than that of Miss Ada Abbott. For Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday *Lady Audley's Secret* is the attraction.

Mr. Buchanan Wake has been engaged by Mr. Seymour Hicks for his autumn tour of *The Gay Gordons*.

Mr. Percy Williams (late manager of the Royal and Grand Theatres, Plymouth, and now conducting the famous play, *The Fatal Wedding* on tour) has secured the rights of Hall Reid's latest American success, *Alone in the World*, and will produce it for the first time in this country at the Theatre Royal, Woolwich, early in February next.

THEATRICAL CRICKET.

London Actors v. Provincial.

It may possibly be assumed that the overshadowing attractions of the Olympic contests at Shepherd's Bush were answerable for the very meagre number of spectators who assembled on Tuesday at the Oval to witness the match between histrionic teams drawn from the Metropolis and the provinces respectively. The weather, indeed, was fairly good, and no one would for a moment suggest that the object to which the gate-money was to be applied, viz., the Actors' Orphanage and Benevolent Funds, does not meet with the heartiest sympathy alike of members of all branches of the theatrical profession and of their wide circle of friends and supporters. The team which came forward to do battle for the provinces proved themselves no match for the men of the Metropolis, and in the end were beaten by ten wickets; in fact, but for the efforts of Messrs. A. W. Metcalfe and C. King, they might have been defeated by an innings.

Of course the home team had a wonderful accession of strength in the presence of Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, the old Sussex captain, and he gave an excellent display of his "round the corner" bowling which served to dismiss six of his opponents for 26. Along with Mr. B. Egerton, he accounted for the entire provincial team for 50 in the first innings. The Londoners succeeded in knocking up 152 in their first turn at the wickets, 48 being made by Mr. A. W. Metcalfe before he was caught out by Mr. Leslie Holland, and 40 by Mr. C. Aubrey Smith. In the second innings Messrs. V. O'Connor and H. Wilde did most of the bowling, Wilde taking four wickets for 17 and O'Connor four for 43. Metcalfe and King made a good stand in the second innings, the former being 22 not out and the latter being caught by F. Pope Stamper when he had accumulated 33. There was a general unanimity among the spectators that on both sides the fielding was distinctly the best part of the play. In short, it may be said that not a catch was missed, Mr. Henry Ainley especially putting in some very hard work. The following are the full scores:—

Provincial Actors.

	1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
P. F. Knox, b Egerton	4	c Douglas, b Horton	4	
E. A. White, b Egerton	2	b O'Connor	3	
H. Morgan, c Horton, b Smith	11	b O'Connor	0	
R. Selby, c Foster, b Egerton	6	lbw, b Wilde	4	
S. Livesay, b Smith	2	lbw, b Wilde	17	
Guy Rathbone, b Egerton	9	b Wilde	2	
Leslie Holland, c Foster, b Smith	1	st Stamper, b Foster	3	
F. G. Warlock, c Egerton, b Smith	0	c Douglas, b O'Connor	7	
A. W. Metcalfe, b Smith	0	not out	22	
C. King, c Douglas, b Smith	2	c Stamper, b O'Connor	33	
J. P. Robertson, not out	7	b Wilde	10	
Byes 2, l-b 4	6	Byes 8, l-b 2	10	
Total	50	Total	115	

London Actors.

R. Horton, run out	5	Kenneth Douglas, c Holland, b Livesey	5
H. Wilde, c Holland, b Metcalfe	48	Eric Maturin, c Selby, b King	0
B. S. Foster, c Knox, b Warlock	17	F. Pope Stamper, run out	0
V. O'Connor, run out	20	Clifford Brooke, b King	0
C. Aubrey Smith, not out	40	Byes 11, l-b 3, n-b 1	15
B. Egerton, c Livesay, b Metcalfe	1	Total	162
Henry Ainley, b King	11		

Second Innings:—Foster, not out, 0; Ainley, not out, 4; extras, 0. Total (for no wickets), 4.

Umpires: Edwards and W. Abel.

"Way of the World" Co. v. Jarrow Engineers.

Played at Jarrow, July 14, and resulted in a win for the "pro.'s" by 28 runs. For the winners D'Arcy Kelway, Pat Quinn, and F. Fitters batted well, while H. Sherwood Martin took 5 wickets for 9 runs. Scores:—

"Way of the World" Co.—H. Sherwood Martin, b Bowers, 0; D'Arcy Kelway, b Bowers, 14; Pat Quinn, run out, 13; Simpson, b Walls, 0; Campbell, b Walls, 0; J. P. McBride, b Bowers, 3; Allister, b Bowers, 0; Fitters, run out, 13; Anderson, c Wall, b Bowers, 0; McKie, c and b Bowers, 0; Tieney, not out, 10; extras, 4. Total, 57.

Jarrow Engineers.—Frame, b Sherwood Martin, 7; Newton, c Quinn, b Sherwood Martin, 0; Paul, c McBride, b Tieney, 0; Robson, lbw, b Tieney, 1; Talbot, run out, 4; Trimble, b Tieney, 1; Bowers, b Tieney, 0; Walls, b Sherwood Martin, 1; Foster, b Sherwood Martin, 11; Cran, b Sherwood Martin, 2; Barkley, not out, 0; extras, 2. Total, 29.

"Way of the World" Co. v. Jarrow Tradesmen.

Played at Jarrow, on the 17th inst. The actors won easily, thanks to Herbert Skardon, who made a well-played 32, and to the bowling of Sherwood Martin and Tieney, the former taking 4 wickets for 7, and the latter 6 for 11. Scores:—

Jarrow Tradesmen.—T. Mason, c Fitters, b Tieney, 1; J. Mason, st Lakin, b Sherwood Martin, 1; C. Burkill, b Sherwood Martin, 8; Swan, b Tieney, 0; J. Heron, b Tieney, 0; W. Smith, b Tieney, 0; P. Heywood, b Sherwood Martin, 0; Stewart, c Kelway, b Sherwood Martin, 2; Lyall, b Tieney, 1; Watson, not out, 3; J. Hood, b Tieney, 8; extras, 2. Total, 26.

"Way of the World" Co.—H. Sherwood Martin, b Swan, 2; J. P. McBride, b Swan, 0; Pat Quinn, b Heron, 3; Laking, c Smith, b Heywood, 8; Herbert Skardon, c Heywood, b Heron, 32; Tieney, b Heron, 0; Taylor, b Mason, 1; D'Arcy Kelway, b Mason, 1; Bert Conway, b Mason, 0; Harland, b Mason, 0; W. Fitters, not out, 0; extras, 3. Total, 51.

"Way of the World" Co. v. Jarrow Police.

Played at Jarrow, July 10, and resulting in a victory for the actors by 14 runs. Sherwood Martin again bowled well, taking 5 wickets for 19 runs. Scores:—

"Way of the World" Co.—H. Sherwood Martin, b Twiney, 14; Armstrong, run out, 5; Mason, b O'Brien, 13; Herbert Skardon, c Smith, b Nicol, 1; Morton, c Winlow, b Spoors, 14; Heron, run out, 4; D'Arcy Kelway, c and b Twiney, 2; Pat Quinn, b Twiney, 5; Bert Conway, b Twiney, 1; J. P. McBride, b Twiney, 2; Taylor, not out, 0; extras, 5. Total, 67.

Jarrow Police. — O'Brien, b Armstrong, 2; Twiney, c Heron, b Sherwood Martin, 2; Simpson, c Heron, b Sherwood Martin, 8; Johnstone, b Armstrong, 7; Smith, st Morton, b Sherwood Martin, 5; Campbell, c Kelway, b Armstrong, 2; Winlow, b Sherwood Martin, 6; Nicol, c Heron, b Sherwood Martin, 0; Mason, c and b Heron, 8; Spoors, not out, 10; Green, b Armstrong, 1; extras, 2. Total, 53.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News*.

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican*.

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star*.

Mr. Douglas Gordon has been engaged by Mr. Maurice Bandmann for leading parts in the comedy company he is sending to India and the Far East, sailing Aug. 14.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The annual distribution of prizes to the students of the Royal Academy of Music took place on Friday, July 17, Her Grace the Duchess of Wellington this year giving the awards and prizes to the successful pupils. As in former years, a short concert preceded the prize-giving. Raff's "Cavatina" was cleverly played by the orchestral students, who were also heard in Boccherini's charming "Zer Minuet" and Sir A. C. Mackenzie's "Zingaresca." Mr. Hans Wesseley conducting. The choral students afterwards gave a four-part song, "Summer Night," by R. L. Herman, and the "Spinning Chorus" from *The Flying Dutchman*. The accompanists were Mr. Ralph Letts and Miss Mary Burgess, and at the organ Mr. B. J. Dale. Sir A. C. Mackenzie conducted the choral students. In coming forward to give his address, Sir Alexander Mackenzie had a most cordial reception.

The principal, in speaking of the presence of Her Grace the Duchess of Wellington, said, "A more direct and personal interest is attached to the fact that in 1830, along with three other friends of the institution, Arthur, Duke of Wellington, signed the petition for the Charter under which we work," and the great commander would, he ventured to think, have been considerably impressed if he had seen the present appearance of the modest little school which in 1822 contained only between twenty and thirty pupils. Sir Alexander, in speaking of the continued success and prosperity of the school, said: "No one is better qualified than myself to express the opinion that the school is being loyally served by an accomplished body of musicians, who do not limit their efforts to the present education, but as often as not extend a personal interest to the future of their pupils." The principal said he should not make a lengthy speech, "as there had been no change in the board of directors with the single exception of the retirement of our friend Mr. Morton Latham, whose place had been taken by Sir John Murray Scott, Bart., to whom the nation is deeply indebted in connection with the great art collection known as the Wallace Gallery." In speaking of several additional names on the list of professors, Sir Alexander mentioned Mr. C. W. Perkins, organist of the Birmingham Town Hall, Dr. F. G. Huntley, organist of St. Peter's Eaton-square, Mr. Frederick Moore, a former student and experienced pianoforte master, and Mr. Thomas Meux, an English vocalist who, with Signor F. Rossi, professor of the Italian language, will join our staff. In speaking of the late chairman, Mr. Thomas Threfall, Sir Alexander, amidst great applause, announced that his widow makes an annual grant to the Academy of £125. Other annual gifts are the Alexander Roller Memorial Prize of £5 5s. by Mrs. Roller, a donation of £500 from Mr. Lesley Alexander for the benefit of viola and violoncello players, and two excellent oil-paintings of the portraits of the brother musicians Charles and Samuel Wesley. After referring to the capital performances given of *The Barber of Seville* and Verdi's difficult *Ballo in Maschera*, Sir A. C. Mackenzie said "I note an enormously augmented interest in, and a more enthusiastic and intelligent understanding of, music, as well as the surprising growth of native-born talent. The technical skill of our own performers has reached a very high point. Among the quite young it is almost phenomenal; while the number of clever and really gifted English composers is perhaps even more striking. It is a hopeful sign tha our native singers are, year by year, securing a firmer footing on the great stage at Covent Garden. In mentioning the most distinguished students of the year the principal referred to Mr. Bertram O'Donnell, winner of the Worshipful Company of Musicians medal given to the most distinguished student in the Academy. Miss Elsie Owen, winner of the Dove Prize, Master Horace G. Perry, who had won the Threfall Scholarship for organ, and Mr. Percy Hughes, who had secured the Alexander Roller prize for pianists. After the distribution of prizes by the Duchess of Wellington the proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Her Grace for her kindness in being present that afternoon, moved by Mr. W. E. Bigge and seconded by Mr. E. E. Cooper.

"AN ARTIST'S LOVE STORY."

Some remarkable revelations are made in the book with the above title, by Oswald G. Knapp, which has just been published by George Allen. The story told in the correspondence quoted is that of the grand passion of Sir Thomas Lawrence, the artist, for the lovely but ill-fated daughters of an equally lovely and more talented mother, the great actress Mrs. Siddons, with whom Lawrence had been on terms of intimacy from his youth, and whom he always continued to regard with reverence and affection. The true story of this disastrous double-courtship and double-desertion, says Mr. Knapp in his preface, has never yet been told, and consequently the character of Lawrence has, in some quarters, suffered more than his conduct altogether deserved. It has even been suggested that he was responsible for the death of one or both the girls who were so deeply attached to him; but, whatever mental suffering his inconstancy may have inflicted on them, he must be cleared at any rate of this charge on the testimony of Mrs. Siddons herself. On the other hand, he has been excused as merely the innocent object of an unrequited passion—at any rate in the one case; or sympathy has been demanded for him as being the more to be pitied of the two—a view which, as it will be seen, is even farther from the truth than the other. At the outset all the details of the tragedy were known (if we except the three chief actors in it) only to one other person besides Mrs. Siddons herself. Even her husband and brother were kept in the dark till the last act was reached, and the rest of the family seem never to have been fully taken into their confidence. Contemporary gossip made guesses, more or less wide of the mark, and biographers have, for the most part, passed lightly over a subject on which they had no accurate information, or feared to wound the feelings of the living by disclosing too freely the failings of the dead. The fullest account is to be found in Fanny Kemble's "Records of a Girlhood"; but even she, who, as the daughter of Charles Kemble, and therefore the cousin of the unfortunate girls, had the best opportunity of learning the facts, was clearly in error in several particulars. For it happens that a correspondence between the chief actors in this strange drama and the one friend who shared their secret has survived; which, being written while it was still proceeding, not only gives an account of it at its most tragic moment, but incidentally serves to test the correctness of other versions of the events which preceded it. It was preserved by this friend, in the first instance, as she tells us, for her own justification in case of a possible scandal which she had at the time good reason to anticipate. This danger soon passed away, but the letters were still kept with a view to publication when the susceptibilities of the living could no longer be hurt by the disclosure of the truth, and for this purpose they were left by her to her most intimate friend and correspondent. On the death of Mrs. Siddons the question of their publication was mooted, but dropped apparently on the ground that there were still some who might be pained by their disclosure. The lapse of a century since they were penned, and the publication of a version of the story, as mentioned above (copied in a recent life of Mrs. Siddons), removes this objection. The book is admirably illustrated, and contains some amusing letters.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND THEATRICAL ACCOUNTS.

BY

CUTHBERT E. SMEDLEY, Chartered Accountant.

CHAPTER III. (*continued*).

The Tour Sheets, when received at the Head Office, must be checked and then entered into the Tour Book, the ruling of which is given below :—

TOUR BOOK.

.....TOUR.

Week Ending.	Town.	Receipts. £ s. d.	Total Payments £ s. d.	Salaries. £ s. d.	Travelling Expens's £ s. d.	Rent and Light. £ s. d.	Advertising. £ s. d.	Printing. £ s. d.	General Expens's £ s. d.	Stage Expens's £ s. d.	Profit to Date. £ s. d.	Loss to Date. £ s. d.

DETAILS OF EXPENDITURE.

Salaries.				Travelling Expenses.				Stage Expenses.				Sundries.			
Voucher No.	£	s.	d.	Voucher No.	£	s.	d.	Voucher No.	£	s.	d.	Voucher No.	£	s.	d.

Tour Sheets can be obtained printed in duplicate in books. The duplicate is obtained by inserting a carbon paper. In the case of a small tour, the stereotyped ruling will be found adequate, but for important tours more extensive forms will be found necessary. The advantages of this form are :—

(1) A complete record of each tour is available in one book, so, in the event of sheets returned to the Head Office being lost or mislaid, a duplicate copy can be obtained without any difficulty.

(2) The Tour Manager, without any additional writing, retains a copy for himself. This is of the utmost importance, for frequently queries may arise thereon, which may not have been noticed until some weeks after the return has been made.

TOURING COMPANY.

Week ending.....19.....

Engagement at.....

CASH ACCOUNT.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance from last Return ...				By Salaries			
„ Remittance from H.O.....				„ Travelling Expenses			
„ Receipts as per Box Office Returns				„ Stage Expenses			
				„ Sundries			
				„ Remittance to H.O.			
				„ Balance forward			

CHAPTER IV.

It is now proposed to describe the books of account kept by the Accountant of the theatre, from which the balance-sheet and profit and loss account are prepared.

The system is that of double entry, such as is used in all commercial enterprises. The books are :—

(1) Cash Book.
(2) Petty Cash Book.
(3) Invoice Journal.
(4) Creditors' Ledger.
(5) Advertisement Ledger.
(6) General Ledger.
(7) Journal.

1.—The Cash Book should be a tabular one, as shown below. It should be ruled off at least once a month, and the totals of the columns posted to the General Ledger. It is written up from the Bank Paying-in Book and the Cheque Book.

CASH BOOK.

DR.

Date.	Particulars.	Folio.	House Receipts. £ s. d.	Bar Receipts. £ s. d.	Programme Receipts. £ s. d.	Cloak Room Fees. £ s. d.	Libraries. £ s. d.	Tours. £ s. d.	Folio.	Sundries. £ s. d.	Bank. £ s. d.

CR.

Date.	Particulars.	Folio.	Bought Ledger. £ s. d.	Folio.	Details. £ s. d.	Bank. £ s. d.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

COPY OF TESTIMONIAL.—Netherly, Guestling, near Hastings. July 22 '08. To Manager, Chemical Cleaning Co. Dear Sir,—I am very pleased indeed with the way you have cleaned all the things.—Yours truly, FRANCES IVOR (Mrs. Bert Thomas). [ADVT.]

THE HISTORY OF THE LYCEUM.

The present Lyceum Theatre, writes Mr. Michael Williams, in "Some London Theatres," the third standing upon the same site, owes its origin to a building erected in 1765, by the well-known architect, James Payne, on some ground belonging to the old town-house of the Lords Exeter. It was originally intended for a picture gallery, and the Incorporated Society of British Artists at first held their annual exhibition here. But the Lyceum also, in its earlier existence, seems to have been turned to many other uses. In the winter of 1783 Signor Biaggini exhibited an air balloon, described as "an Aerostatical Globe of ten feet in diameter, at the Great Room, known by the name of Lyceum, nearly opposite Somerset House, Strand." In the following February, the Montgolfier balloon was shown "for a few days, before its removal to Oxford, in the Grand Apartment, called the Lyceum, three doors above Exeter Change." This balloon, we are told, was forty feet in circumference, was entirely overlaid with gold, and was exhibited by a Monsieur Chevalier. Other balloons were also shown, by Lunardi and Count Zambeccari, during this same year. They were followed, in 1785, by an exhibition of waxwork, quaintly set forth, in the phraseology of that day, as "a Cabinet of Royal Figures, most curiously moulded in wax, as large as Nature." The visitors to this exhibition were further informed that they might have their portraits taken in wax, or miniature, by the proprietor of the show, and "should the Portraits not be thought the most striking and correct Likenesses, he would not expect anything for his trouble." This was, at any rate, honest on the part of the proprietor—a certain Mr. Sylvester.

Collins gave a comic musical lecture, *The Evening Brush*, in the years 1788-9, when Master Linley occasionally played the violoncello, between the parts. This young Linley was subsequently the famous violoncello player of the opera orchestra. George Savile Carey was lecturing here in April, 1789, and in December the elder Dibdin gave his entertainment, *The Oddities, or Dame Nature in a Frolic*. Dibdin also lectured in January, 1791, and in March of that year Moses Kean, the ventriloquist, and father—or uncle—of Edmund Kean, gave his imitations. In or about the year 1794, Dr. Arnold, the musical composer, converted the back part of the premises into a small theatre—henceforth the first Lyceum Theatre—but was unable to procure a licence for theatrical performances, owing to the then all-powerful opposition of the Drury Lane and Covent Garden managers. Astley, however, burnt out in Westminster, took refuge, with his equestrian company, at the new theatre, in the months of August and September. A little earlier, Mr. Reeve had been giving his lecture, *Mirth's Museum, or the Country Club*, on the same boards. In 1795 it was opened as Handy's New Circus, with "The Little Devil" from Sadler's Wells, and other popular performers. In 1798 it was a "Theatre of Astronomy," in which Mr. Lloyd displayed his *Dio-astro-dozon, or Grand Transparent Orrery*. On Monday, July 22, 1799, Mr. Wilks, of the Dublin Theatre, delivered a lecture, *A Cabinet of Fancy*, illustrated by transparencies.

In the year 1800, Cartwright's "Musical Glasses," long a favourite amusement with the public, were to be heard at the Lyceum. During the next year, Mr. Philipstahl set up his *Phantasmagoria;* and in 1802, "The Invisible Girl" was the attraction. Robert Ker Porter's large pictures, The Battle of Alexandria, The Earthquake at Lisbon, The Battle of Lodi, and others, were successively shown, during the early years of the present century. An exhibition of gas illumination was the feature of 1804, and Laurent attempted what would now be styled a variety entertainment, consisting of music, dancing, and short pantomimes, the first of which latter was *Neptune, or Harlequin Woodcutter*, in 1805. The first play ever acted on the stage of the original Lyceum Theatre was, we believe, Otways's once famous, but now almost forgotten tragedy, *Venice Preserved*. This was represented by some amateurs, on Monday, April 21, 1806, under the special patronage and countenance of the Duchess of Gordon, one of the best-known leaders of Society at the time. Robert Palmer gave his *Portraits of the Living and the Dead*, in August, and the singer, Incledon, his *Voyage to India*, in September of the above year. Mr. Ingleby, "the king of all the conjurers," leased the Lyceum for the Christmas holidays of 1807-8, and in March, Dibdin introduced a new vocal entertainment, *The Professional Volunteers*. Mr. Ingleby was again here in December, 1808, as well as for the early months of the ensuing year.

The element of fire, however, indirectly exercised a very material influence upon the fortunes of the Lycum, about this time. The burning of Drury Lane Theatre—on February 24, 1809, left the manager and his company on a sudden without a home. It was willingly enough that Mr. Wroughton, and the committee, now seconded the efforts of Mr. Samuel John Arnold—son of the former proprietor—to obtain a licence for the Lyceum, since, although this only extended to the performance of operas, and the lighter forms of the drama, such as spectacle, pantomime, and extravaganza, for a limited number of weeks in each year, an arrangement could now very easily be come to for its occupation during the remaining months, by "Their Majesties' servants," until the larger house in Brydges-street could be rebuilt. Accordingly, all difficulties having been smoothed away, the theatre—enlarged and redecorated—was opened by the Drury Lane company on Tuesday, April 11, with Colman's comedy, *John Bull*, followed by the farce of *The Prize*. These were supported by Messrs. Siddons, Bannister, Johnstone, Miss Duncan, and Mrs. Henry Siddons. On the next night Elliston played Captain Absolute, to the Lydia Languish of Miss Duncan. *The Soldier's Daughter, The West Indian, The Cabinet*—with Braham and Mrs. Mountain—*The Honeymoon, The Heir-at-Law*, a new comedy, *Grieving's a Folly*, which had had a run of several consecutive nights, *The Poor Gentleman, Three, and the Deuce, The Critic, Pizarro, The School for Scandal, Love in a Village, Rosina, Ella Rosenburg*, and *The Stranger*, were presented during the brief season which terminated on Monday, June 12. On Monday, June 26, the Lyceum was reopened, on his own account, by Mr. Arnold, as the English Opera House, by which name it long continued to be known. The opening novelty was a new ballad opera, *Up all Night, or the Smuggler's Cave*, composed by a Mr. King, with Dowton, Phillips, Horn, Mrs. Bishop, and Mrs. Mountain in the principal parts. There was also a ballet, *Love in a Tub*, with music by Bishop. The scenery for both pieces was painted by Mr. Greenwood, the well-known scenic artist. The Princess of Wales, who seems to have greatly affected this theatre, was present on the occasion. Various novelties were produced in the course of the season, the most noticeable amongst them being a three-act musical piece by Theodore Hook, entitled *Safe and Sound*, the cast of which included Dowton, Horn, Phillips, Oxberry, Penson, Smith, Wewitzer, Mrs. Mountain, Mrs. Bishop, and Mrs. Orger. Mrs. Billington appeared as Mandane, in *Artaxerxes*, for Mrs. Mountain's benefit, on Monday, Sept. 11, and Mr. Arnold's first season terminated most auspiciously about a week later.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE

On Monday, July 20, for the first time in London, the Drama, in Four Acts, by C. Watson Mill, entitled

"FOR LOVE AND THE KING."

Jarvel ..... Mr. C. Watson Mill
Michael Obrenovic ..... Mr. John Burton
Vladimir Obrenovic .... Mr. Henry Earlesmere
Prince Uros Dragomir .. Mr. T. W. Dunscombe
Duke Ferdinand Dragomir .. Mr. Geoffrey Chate
Carl Opponheim ..... Mr. Jim K. Woods
King Kara Dragomir ..... Mr. Frank Lyndon
Kosia Marko ..... Mr. Arthur Trail
Vitomir Ladie ..... Mr. G. H. Organ
Corporal Reston ..... Mr. A. H. Leslie
Vadoe ..... Mr. D. Adams
Natila ..... Miss Joan Ellis
Grazia Obrenovic ..... Miss Marie Ault
Edith Meredith ..... Miss Francis Tierney
Princess Milania ..... Miss Laura Munro
Princess Athene ..... Miss Rosalind Tate

The elements of melodrama most favoured by the popular playgoer are contained in *For Love and the King*, in which a plot to overthrow a European monarchy is allied to incidents of a romantic and exciting character. The piece, which was originally produced at the Prince of Wales's, Mexborough, on April 13, is this week making its first London appearance at the Elephant and Castle, where large houses have given it a hearty greeting. A full account of the story was given in our issue of April 18 last, but it may be recalled that the dominating figure of the piece is a young Englishman, who, under the name of Jarvel, has entered the Army of a supposititious state called Sylvonia, and risen to the rank of captain. Uros, the King's nephew, and Crown Prince of Sylvonia, who assumed the disguise of a sculptor, has fallen in love with Natila, a lowly maiden, said to be the offspring of a miser named Michael Obrenovic, but in reality the daughter of the King, from whom Michael had stolen her when a child. Natila has also gained the affection of the young Englishman, but when he learns of her betrothal to the Prince, he determines to do all in his power to bring about the union. Such an unequal marriage is prohibited by the laws of the State, but the Prince determines to set convention at defiance, and, relinquishing all claim to the throne, gain his livelihood by means of his art. The King bitterly opposes the match, and, when he meets Natila, bids her give up all thought of his son, and she promises never to see him again. Declining all monetary assistance, Natila makes her way towards the mountains, but is followed by Jarvel, who determines to secure her safety. The miser and his son Vladimir are the head of a conspiracy to overthrow the dynasty, and, learning that the secret council is to meet that night, Jarvel gains access to the chamber, where, hidden behind a panel of the wall, he learns of a plot to kill the Royal Family, and of the secret of Natila's parentage. He is discovered and overpowered, but not before he has sent the tidings to Princess Milania, who is favourably disposed towards Natila. The conspirators endeavour to obtain from Jarvel the whereabouts of the girl, but he firmly refuses, and is dragged into an adjoining chamber for the purposes of being tortured. A realistic scene is then enacted. There is a rattle of chains and the clang of irons, and from the adjoining room issue terrifying groans and ejaculations indicative of the most exquisite torture. Again and again voices are heard calling upon Jarvel to yield, but without avail, and presently he staggers forth, his forehead smeared with blood, and his breast covered with the same sanguinary fluid. Further efforts are made to induce him to reveal his secret, but he again refuses, and, receiving a sword thrust, falls apparently dead. He lies insensible till daybreak, when he recovers sufficiently to drag himself to the window and make his escape.

The villain Vladimir is convicted of cheating at cards in the third act, the victim being the sister of Jarvel, who has come from England to tell her brother that he has inherited a baronetcy. Jarvel appears, and, enquiring after Natila, learns that she is nowhere to be found. She is discovered, however, by the King at the door of a neighbouring monastery, and is offered assistance by his Majesty. Natila, however, refuses the offer, and no sooner has she departed than the King, from whom the knowledge has been kept in consideration of his delicate health, learns from his exultant enemy, Michael the miser, that she is his long-lost daughter. Efforts are made to find the unfortunate girl, but she falls again into the clutches of the miser. She is speedily rescued by Jarvel, who restores her to the Crown Prince, with whom she is now on terms of equality. The miser and his son meet with the fate reserved for the villain of the piece, and Jarvel, having fulfilled his mission prompted by "love and the King," sets out for England with his sister.

The cast is practically the same as that of the first performance. As Jarvel, Mr. C. Watson Mill gives a powerful rendering of the young soldier of fortune, of whom he makes an heroic figure. His voice rings forcefully in the thrilling lines he has to utter, and throughout he wins the cheers of the audience. His outstanding scene is that of the torture episode, which he enacts with horrifying realism. In an incident somewhat similar in a recent production, the stage was darkened for the purpose, but in the present scene the episode is enacted in the full glare of the limelight, which shows up the gory marks which are supposed to be the result of fiendish tortures. The scene, though unduly protracted, had the startling effect intended, and there were many little shrieks from hysterical females. Mr. John Burton accentuates the hatred and bitterness of the traitor, Michael Obrenovic; and Mr. Henry Earlesmere is the object of a volume of hisses for his masterly treatment of the part of Vladinir Obrenovic, the traitorous officer of the King's Guards. Mr. T. W. Dunscombe gains distinction by his quiet, but effective, acting as Prince Uros; and Mr. Geoffrey Chate scores repeatedly as the mincing Duke Ferdinand, always coming out strong at the right moment. Mr. Frank Lyndon gives a fine portrayal, marked by much feeling, of the aged and infirm King Kara. As a German artist, with a great capacity for consuming ices, Mr. Jim K. Woods is the cause of much hearty laughter. Miss Rosalind Tate is a sympathetic Princess Athene; and Miss Joan Ellis makes a pretty and pathetic figure of Natila, "the beggar maid." The performance of Miss Marie Ault as Grazia, the vivacious daughter of the miser, who is by turns humorous and sentimental, gains great admiration; and Miss Francis Tierney is to be credited with a refined and intelligent study of Edith Meredith, the English young lady in search of her brother. Mr. Arthur Trail gives a picturesque performance of a bloodthirsty revolutionary bent on revenge. No expense has manifestly been spared on the production, the scenery for which is elaborate, and the uniforms and costumes elegant and costly. It had a reception which was a good augury of future success.

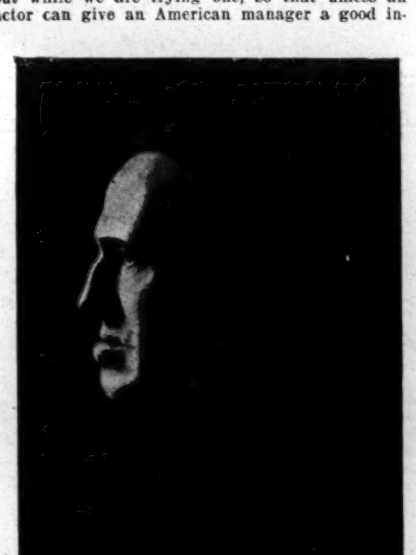
Mr. Lawrence Derrick was responsible for a most successful production of a pretty Pastoral play called *Mischief-Making* on Wednesday last at Gravesend. Two performances were given in the course of the afternoon in the beautiful grounds of Wombwell Hall, before a large gathering of the *élite* of the neighbourhood, including the Countess of Darnley and Mr. Colyer Ferguson, J.P. Mr. Derrick, who had arranged some very effective dances, business, &c., stage-managed and took entire control of the performance, in addition to playing the leading male part, and was accorded, as he deserved, warm recognition by all present for the able manner in which he had carried the production through.

CHAT WITH MR. LEONARD SHEPHERD.

It is nearly five years since Mr. Leonard Shepherd—who arrived in London from America the other day—starred in this country as Shylock, Richard III., Hamlet, Iago, and the other big Shakespearean rôles, and he would probably have continued doing so until now but for the offer he received to play leading Shakespearean rôles in America, and although he has come over to London either for business or for a holiday nearly every summer, he has confined his engagements to the States ever since. He originally went out for a nine months' engagement, touring all through California and the West, intending to return to take out his own company here; but an offer to join the late Richard Mansfield just before leaving, and, later, one to go under Mr. Harrison Grey Fiske's management, for whom he played in several productions, made him abandon his plans on this side. He then played Herod for a time, and toured all through the middle West, and this last season, besides playing a New York season, and playing the big Eastern cities, he has been all through the South, to New Orleans and Texas, under the management of Mr. Augustus Piton. His wife, Miss Helena Head, who went out to the States at the same time as her husband, to play Rosalind, Portia, and other Shakespearean rôles, has also stayed in America, so far as her engagements have been concerned. She recently gave some interesting recitals in New York from *Macbeth*, which character she played in South Africa, eventually starring in it herself with her husband. This last season she has been with Mr. E. H. Sothern, playing Florence Trenchard in his revival of *Lord Dundreary*, and has also appeared in his production of *Don Quixote*.

Mr. and Mrs. Shepherd, who have both had tempting offers to return to America, are now down in Devonshire enjoying a well-earned rest, with their little girl, and expect to return to the States in September for their autumn engagements, Mr. Shepherd to go under one of his old managements, and Miss Head to return to Mr. E. H. Sothern, to resume her part when he again revives *Lord Dundreary*.

Speaking on the subject of the opportunities in America for English actors, Mr. Shepherd says:—"It depends entirely upon the man himself. I know quite a number of English actors who have gone out there 'on spec,' and have come back disappointed. And yet American managers are all comparatively easy to get at. You can knock at the door and see most of them. Over here, unless they know your work personally, everybody has to rehearse on approval. Then the Americans are much quicker in their methods than the English. They will try a dozen people and 'fire' all out while we are trying one, so that unless an actor can give an American manager a good in-



[*Photo by Bangs.*

MR. LEONARD SHEPHERD.

dication of what he can do with a part directly he starts rehearsal, he doesn't stand much chance. They don't give you credit for doing anything else beyond what you can show them at once. I advise English actors going to the States to study well their prospective parts, and to furnish a pretty good indication of their abilities to play them at the first time of reading. The American manager is not willing to take it for granted that everything will be all right at the end of a month's rehearsal.

"Mr. Harrison Grey Fiske allows about five weeks' rehearsal, but the period is shorter in the case of some of the other producers. This last season with Mr. Chauncey Olcott only three weeks' rehearsals were given to the production of the Irish drama, *O'Neill of Derry*, which was under the management of Mr. Augustus Pitou. Another great difference which the English actor will find in America is that you don't get the actor-manager out there. Their theatres and their productions are governed by business men, and they engage stars to play their leading parts. They look upon the presentation of their pieces from the purely commercial point of view. They choose their actors by the pesonality of the men, and the possibility that he may be a versatile character actor does not sway their judgment. 'Will this man look the part without any make-up?' is the sole question they feel called upon to decide.

"There are no New York actors in the sense that we understand the term of London actors, as all American productions go on tour along with the stars. If a piece is a failure, they drop it at once, and do not permit it to run on in the hope that it will weather the storm—a principle that receives too much consideration in this country.

"Finally, I would warn English actors contemplating engagements in the States that they must be prepared to work hard out there. To imagine that the stage affords an easy means of earning a livelihood is a grievous mistake?"

The staff of the Lyric, Hammersmith, held their first outing on Sunday last, nearly sixty persons taking part. The programme for the day was thus arranged:—Train to Henley, then boat to Marlow, where an adjournment for lunch at the Crown Hotel was made, then on again to Windsor, with tea on board, and train home. A delightful day was spent. Mr. and Mrs. Croke, together with Miss Louie Chalmers and Master Norman Chalmers, motored to Marlow, and then accompanied the party as far as Windsor. Mr. J. Allaway presided at the lunch, where the healths of "The King," "Mr. and Mrs. Croke," and "Mr. F. S. Jennings," the popular manager, were enthusiastically drunk. It was much regretted that Mr. Jennings was absent through illness, but a wire was received from him, wishing them a pleasant day.

"A SCHEME THAT FAILED."

Domestic Drama, in Four Acts, by Mr. Fred Green, produced at the Prince's Theatre, Accrington, on Thursday, July 16.

Harry Vaughan ..... Mr. Stanley Bedwell
Doris ..... Miss Nellie Lewis
Sis ..... Miss Maude Townsend
George ..... Mr. Chas. Sydney
William Smith ..... Mr. Allan Carruthers
Mary Jones ..... Miss Violet Temple
James ..... Mr. Louis Esmonde
Mark Rudge ..... Mr. W. H. Melrose
Jim Rudge ..... Mr. J. G. Maine
Reggie Hardy ..... Mr. Sydney C. Cranston
Philip Norton ..... Mr. Robert Faulkner
Kate Norton ..... Miss Mabel Mannering
Barbara Dane ..... Miss Francesca Strickland

(from our own correspondent.)

This drama is skilfully constructed, full of telling line, and includes plenty of "comic relief." The story opens in Devonshire, where Harry Vaughan, a gentleman of means and a widower, lives with his daughter Doris. He has for a neighbour one Philip Norton, a rake and a profligate, who has recently married a pretty young lady for her wealth. On one of his many visits to London Norton meets an adventuress named Barbara Dane, with whom he becomes so infatuated that he installs her in a house near his own. Barbara learns that Harry Vaughan's gamekeeper, Mark Rudge, is aware of their relations, and is afraid that he will impart the information to Kate, Philip's wife. She acquaints Philip with this, and he determines he will prevent Rudge telling tales. He proceeds home in a half-drunken state, and decides to desert his wife and throw in his lot with Barbara. He abstracts from a safe all the money and valuables it contains, and, snatching up a gun, leaves the house. He encounters Mark Rudge, and shoots him dead. Jim Rudge, the gamekeeper's son, accuses Philip of the crime. But Philip, who is sobered by what he has done, tells Jim that he is aware that certain articles have been stolen by him from the Vaughan household, and if Jim does not keep silent he (Philip) will lodge information with the police. Rudge is afraid, and Norton induces him to fix the guilt of the murder on Harry Vaughan. Observing Harry's little daughter, Doris, playing with a small toy gun, Jim asks her if she thinks her father could hit a flowerpot, which he places upon a hedgerow near the body of Mark Rudge. Vaughan fires, and breaks it, and Rudge, rushing in, charges him with the gamekeeper's murder.

Three years elapse, and in the second act we are introduced to Harry Vaughan's brother, George, in a bungalow in West Africa, where we also find Barbara Dane and Philip Norton. Barbara poisons George, who expires. Norton disguises himself as George Vaughan, and proceeds to England, with Barbara as his wife. Harry Vaughan falls in love with Kate, who, believing her husband to be dead, accepts him.

The third act opens in a drawing-room on their wedding day. We see them leave for the church. Jim Rudge denounces and exposes Norton, to the dismay of Kate.

In the fourth act Norton, seeing the game is up, confesses everything, informing Vaughan that it was Barbara who administered the poison to George. Barbara, who is lying in wait for Norton, overhears his confession, plunges a dagger in his heart, and, calling a constable, gives herself up.

The play was admirably acted throughout by the members of the Prince's stock company. Mr. Stanley Bedwell made a manly Harry Vaughan, playing in most convincing fashion; Philip Norton was forcibly embodied by Mr. Robert Faulkner; Mr. J. G. Maine as Jim Rudge was well cast, and he did not fail to make the most of it; Mr. Sydney C. Cranston was responsible for an excellent portrayal of Reggie Hardy; and Mr. W. H. Melrose was capital as Mark Rudge. Mr. Allan Carruthers was very amusing as William Smith, and was ably assisted by Miss Violet Temple as Mary Jones; Miss Mabel Mannering in the part of Kate Norton scored a distinct success, submitting a natural depiction of the character, and proving herself a capable and charming actress; Miss Nelly Lewis as Doris was very successful; Miss Francesca Strickland essayed the rôle of Barbara Dane with excellent effect; and Miss Maude Townsend was all that could be desired as Harry Vaughan's sister.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, July 20, the Musical Play, entitled, "JUNO."

Diverting from the usual course of drama, musical comedy fills the bill for the current week at this theatre. The story of *Juno*, written by Mr. Geo. Roberts, with lyrics by Mr. H. G. French, and music by J. S. Barker, is not distinguished by novelty. Chief interest centres round the statue, Juno, which is accidentally brought to life by the placing of a chain round its neck by Timothy Twinkle, a solicitor's clerk. Juno naturally falls in love with Timothy, who has not a very prepossessing appearance, and who is already engaged to be married to Priscilla Strong, his landlady's step-daughter. Timothy soon has enough of his living statue, who gets him into numerous scrapes by turning up at the most awkward moments. In the final act Timothy again secures the chain, and Juno reverts to her former condition of stone. The play offers a good opportunity to Miss Kate Graham Beck, in the title-rôle, to display a well-cultivated voice, which she uses to excellent advantage. Mr. Charles Leverton is kept pretty busy in the character of Timothy Twinkle, and works hard, extracting as much fun as his lines will permit. Samuel Strong is capably undertaken by Mr. Fred Carrington, who secures applause for his song, "A bumper of sparkling wine." Mr. Richard Teasdale as Sherlock Beake scores also in song and dance. Miss K. O'Malley is amusing as Mrs. Marie Strong; Miss Marie Beresford makes a suitable Priscilla Strong; Miss Ida Lawrence as Lottie Timson creates a favourable impression; and Les Papillons are expert dancers. Mr. George Walker, Mr. W. Millard, Mr. Sam Baylis, Miss Jeffie Raymond, and Miss Eva Blackford complete the cast.

A certain antiquary, when Kemble first assumed the part of Richard, took objection to the prayer-book he affected to read in this scene. "This book," writes Boaden, "for aught I know the 'Secret History of the Green Room,' which Kemble took from the property-man before he went on, our exact friend said should have been some illuminated missal. This was somewhat inconsistent, because one would suppose the heart of the antiquary must have grieved to see the actor skirr away so precious a relic of the dark ages, as if, like Careless in *The School for Scandal*, he would willingly 'knock down the mayor and aldermen.'" It was at this time, probably, that antiquarianism first stirred itself on the subject of scenic decorations. The solitary banner unfurled by Kemble, as Richard, bore a white rose embroidered upon it. "What!" cried the antiquaries, "a king of England battling with invaders and yet not displaying his royal banner!" And remark was made upon the frequent mention of armour that occurs in the later scenes of the play. We have "locked up in steel"; "What! is my beaver easier than it was?" "And all my armour laid into my tent"; "The armourers accomplishing the knights"; "With clink of hammers closing rivets up"; "Your friends up and buckle on their armour." Yet, as Boaden relates, it was no less strange than true, that, in Kemble's time, "excepting the breastplate and thigh-pieces on Richmond, not one of the *dramatis personæ* had the smallest particle of armour upon him in either army."

OUR MUSICAL DIRECTORS.

MR. WILLIAM CORRI.

Mr. Corri is a member of a well-known musical family of Italian descent, and may be said to have commenced life in the orchestra at the age of fourteen. In fact, he played the violin in the orchestra of the Standard Theatre, under his father, the late William Corri, and soon made his way to the leader's seat, and so became his father's right-hand for some years. He left the Standard to go on tour with Mr. J. L. Shine as conductor of *Little Don Juan*, and thus said good-bye to the violin and the Standard. On his first introduction to Mr. Shine he was met with the remark, "You're very young for a conductor, Mr. Corri," to which he replied: "Well, and you're very young for a manager, Mr. Shine." He was also engaged for the following tour and to compose new numbers for the burlesque.

His next engagement was at the Globe, with Mr. Chas. H. Hawtrey, during the run of *The Private Secretary*, which proved to be a long engagement, as he went with Mr. Hawtrey to the Comedy when his tenancy of the Globe expired. Mr. Corri wrote all the music required for Mr. Hawtrey's productions at these theatres, and conducted *Atalanta*, produced by him at the Strand.

It was during his engagement at these theatres that he composed the ear-haunting pizzicato entr'acte "Baby's Sweetheart," which was played everywhere, and still finds a place in string orchestral programmes. Indeed, he says, "I was only reminded of this fact at the Christmas of 1905, when I received a present from its publishers, Messrs. Hawkes and Sons, in the shape of a cheque, which was a very pleasant Christmas-box." His next engagement was with Mrs. Langtry at the St. James's Theatre to conduct and write the music for her production of *As You Like It*. So pleased was the "Jersey Lily" with his efforts that she re-engaged him for her season at the Princess's with *Antony and Cleopatra*, for which he also composed some of the incidental music.

From Mrs. Langtry he went to Sir Augustus Harris to conduct *Orpheus and Eurydice* on tour, and was complimented by the then Mr. Harris for his share in the production, when Augustus made a speech to the audience on the opening night. Mr. Harris also re-engaged him for the spring tour of *The Young Recruit*. Speaking of his first interview with Mr. Harris, Mr. Corri says: "It was at Drury Lane Theatre, when Mr. Alfred Moul was also present. 'What do you think of this young man, Alfred?' asked Harris. To which Moul replied, 'He is a good conductor and a good musician.'"

When Mr. William Corri the elder was taken ill in Manchester in December, 1892, his son complied with an urgent appeal to go to his aid. This meant practically writing in about eight days the music for Mr. Flanagan's pantomime at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, when his father was the musical-director. "From this period," Mr.

[*Photo by Metropole Studios.*

MR. WILLIAM CORRI.

Corri says, "my work has been principally in the provinces; and except for a couple of pantomimes for the Queen's, Manchester, one for J. F. Elliston, one for Denton and Bode, London, and a spring tour with Miss Ada Blanche and *The Telephone Girl*, has been almost entirely for Mr. John Tiller. I commenced my innings," he says, "with this enterprising and successful manager at the Christmas of 1899 and am still 'not out'." His opening score was the music composed for the sketch *Jolly Jack*, so successfully produced at the Empire, Liverpool. This was followed by successful musical sketches, pantomimes, and other work.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, July 20, the Drama, entitled "GREED OF GOLD."

The popular drama *Greed of Gold*, from the pen of H. R. Silva, is drawing large audiences to the Shakespeare Theatre this week. Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is responsible for the representation, which is in all respects thoroughly satisfactory. The play is interesting from start to finish, and is staged with completeness; the scene in which a real model working beam engine is introduced being a clever piece of stagecraft. Mr. Walter H. Domoney plays the part of the scheming Harry Hood with due effect, his delivery being well emphasised. Mr. C. Stafford is a manly Arthur Erroll, and invests the character with just the right amount of vigour and determination. Mr. James Jarrett gives a neatly varied piece of acting as the dumb man, Tom Welstead, and his dumb show in the last scene is cleverly executed. The essentials of mirth-making are supplied by Colly Sprig, a tipster, whose misadventures are many and various, and are drolly carried out by Mr. Sydney Bryant. Mr. Denis Campbell as Conn Creamer also contributes his share of the fun, and is ably seconded by Miss S. Bryant as Patty Marfield. Mr. Victor C. Rolfe is a capable exponent of the part of the barrister, Mr. Brightstone, and Miss May Ediss, a young girl, acts prettily as Cecil Hood. As Dora Miss Elma C. Turner has a thorough grip of the character, submitting a finished impersonation of the unhappy wife, which enlists the sympathy of the audience. Miss Annie Barclay is a stately Mrs. Maxwell, and the minor parts are all capably sustained.

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"HAPPY HOOLIGAN."

A Musical Farce Comedy, in Three Acts, Produced, for the first time in England, at the Empire Theatre, Oldham, on July 20.

Happy Hooligan ..... Mr. Wm. H. Lester
Donald Macgregor ..... Mr. Jos. J. Sullivan
Max Guggenheimer ..... Mr. John K. Hawley
Charley Flipp ..... Mr. Harry Emeric
Widow Johnson ..... Miss Lottie Wilson
Rose ..... Miss Rose Lyndon
Nettie ..... Miss Blanco Moure
Daisy ..... Miss Lilian Lilyan
Oiki San and Cowboy ..... Mr. Jack Henry
Constable ..... Mr. A. R. Galloway
Mr. "Notsowell" and Marks
Mr. J. W. Woodbridge
President of the Tokio Tram Co.
Mr. H. A. Hewitt
Chinese Laundryman ..... Mr. Albert Chink
Nurse Girl ..... Miss Lily Callen
Mrs. Phat ..... Miss Clara Pierse
Yo San ..... Miss May Yorke
Wut Guy ..... Miss Nan Ainslie
Yoco Mey ..... Miss Beatrice May
Chop Suey ..... Miss Doris Hartley
Oyama ..... Miss Doris Ainsley
Newsboy ..... Mr. M. McCluskey

(from our own correspondent.)

The comedy opens in Tokio, with the Widow Johnson, her niece Rose, and Charley, her secretary, along with Happy, Donald Macgregor, Max Guggenheimer, and Nettie, who are on a trip around the world. Owing to he non-arrival of the widow's remittance, the party are stranded. Charley obtains the post of manager to the Tokio Tramway Co., and he enlists the services of Macgregor and Max as driver and conductor respectively. Then the fun commences, and after the two have made the most of their opportunities, the first act ends with the whole party en route for New York. The second act opens in Macgregor's pawnshop, opened by using the widow's money, obtained by fraud, he having married her. He takes Max into partnership, and instructs him in the business; but he does everything wrong, and causes his partner any amount of trouble. In the last act the scene is laid at the home of the widow, near London, and Happy Hooligan, who has been of great assistance to the widow, having come into a legacy, marries the lady, who has obtained a divorce from her second husband; and all ends happily. A large audience was present to witness the initial performance, and, judging from the hearty laughter which greeted the artists in their fun-making, success should be certain. Mr. Wm. H. Lester impersonates the name-part, Happy Hooligan, and he does excellent work in his singing and dancing; Mr. Jos. J. Sullivan as Donald Macgregor and Mr. John K. Hawley as Max Guggenheimer are responsible for the bulk of laughter-producing, and their efforts to please kept the house in a continual roar; Miss Lottie Wilson appears as Widow Johnson, and she makes a capital study, her singing being very good; Miss Rose Lyndon is a dainty Rose, her niece; and the dancing of Miss Blanco Moure in the part of Nettie fairly caught on. Mr. Harry Emeric as Charley Flipp, secretary to the widow, works very hard and does well. The remaining characters are well played. The dresses are magnificent, and it should be noted the number of changes taking place during the play, there being no fewer than fourteen. The scenery is fine, and does credit to the artist responsible, Mr. A. W. Barker. The play abounds in plenty of tuneful melodies, arranged by Mr. Aubrey Kennett, who also has charge of the direction of the orchestra. Mr. Herbert Lloyd is the genial general-manager, and he has a company who work in a very hearty manner. They have had a good send-off, and three hearty cheers were given at the close by the company to celebrate the event.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The programme of the Students' Concert on Thursday evening, July 16, opened with Schumann's "Quartet for Strings" in A. The executants were Miss Dorothy Devin, Miss E. Muriel Pickup, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Miss Beatrice Harrison. Although the playing of the second movement was somewhat rough, the young performers gave a good account of the *Adagio* and the spirited finale. An excellent performance of Mozart's "Sonata for Piano and Violin in B flat" by Miss Ellen Edwards and Miss Amy Rydings received hearty and well-deserved applause from an audience smaller than usual owing to the wretched weather, but which made up in enthusiasm what they lacked in numbers. Another interesting item in the programme was Mr. Eric Gritton's admirably-played organ solos of "Ein' feste Burg," "Gott des Himmels und der Erden," and "Jauchz, Erd, und Himmel, juble!" from Max Reger's "Choral-Vorspiele." The theme of the first, "Ein' feste Burg," is the fine old hymn tune of which Meyerbeer makes such effective use in his opera of *The Huguenots*. The vocalists in this concert were Miss H. Muriel Robinson, heard in two songs of Schumann, "Stille Thränen" and "An den Sonnenschein"; Miss Florence Barrow, who was very successful in the "Willow Song" and "Where the bee sucks," by Sullivan; and Miss Alice Moffat, whose singing of Liza Lehmann's "Titania's Cradle Song," written on Shakespeare's familiar verse "I know a bank whereon the wild thyme blows," and Purcell's "Hark! the echoing air" were much applauded. The trio of Dvorák for piano, violin, and violoncello in F minor, played by Miss Grace Humphery, Mr. Sidney Bostock, and Mr. Cedric Sharpe with considerable ability, concluded the concert, the accompaniments of which were Miss Ellen Edwards and Mr. William Murdoch.

The orchestral concert of the Royal College on Tuesday evening commenced with Beethoven's fine Symphony, No. 8, in F, of which an excellent performance was given by the orchestral students under Sir Charles V. Stanford. Mr. Frank Bridge's Rhapsody for Orchestra, played for the first time on Tuesday evening, cannot be taken seriously. Perhaps the young composer does not intend it to be, but even in a rhapsody there is some dominant theme—take Liszt's 11th and 12th Rhapsody for piano, for example. In Mr. Bridge's composition there are occasional snatches of quaint and fanciful passages, varied with crashing chords, which show the composer is a disciple of Strauss. In the more subdued portions Mr. Bridge displays evident talent in writing for the orchestra, and the composer, who conducted, had a most cordial reception from the large audience. Mr. Thomas Peatfield proved himself an able violinist in Lalo's "Concerto for Violin and Orchestra in F major; and the band gave a brilliant performance of Josef and Joh. Strauss's delightful polka "Moulinet" and waltz "Schatz." In the vocal side of the programme Mr. Spencer Thomas distinguished himself by his singing of Mozart's "Dalla sua pace"; while Miss Amy Bosworthick won a hearty recall for three songs of Edward Elgar's "Sea Pictures," the charming "Where corals lie" being particularly well sung.

John Kemele, who was so minutely observant of the great dramatic canon, "suit the action to the word," that he would study before a glass the proper position of a finger even, seeing an actor *hold down* his head on his pronouncing "O heaven!" and *hold it up* on pronouncing "O earth!" said, "That fellow has committed a solecism with his head."

The Queen, Princess Victoria, and suite witnessed Miss Isadora Duncan's dancing at the Duke of York's Theatre on Monday.

ACADEMY OF DRAMATIC ART.

An interesting matinée was given by some of the students of the Academy of Dramatic Art at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, on the afternoon of the 17th inst. The miniature playhouse was packed with an audience consisting mainly of friends of the pupils, and amongst prominent theatrical folk were Sir W. S. Gilbert, Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Mr. Cyril Maude, Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Fred Kerr, Mr. C. M. Lowne, Mr. Herbert Waring, Mr. Fisher White, Mr. Lyell Smith, Mr. W. L. Courtenay, and Mr. H. Chance Newton.

The principal new item of interest in the programme was

"PENELOPE'S LOVERS,"

a Play, in One Act, by George P. Bancroft.

Lord Colbeck .....MR. WILFRED FLETCHER
Jack Meredith .....MR. LANE CRAWFORD
Bertram Ashbrook.....MR. FREDERICK JAMES
A German Waiter .....MR. LYONEL WATTS
Muriel March .....MISS PHYLLIS DAVEY
Penelope March .....MISS ATHENE SEYLER

It is a pleasing little play that Mr. Bancroft has written around what in real life is too often an unpleasing subject. Penelope March is an actress who has won some fame in her profession. She gets an offer of marriage from Lord Colbeck, who is seemingly a genuine enough individual. But Mistress Penelope is a lady with something of a past, and she considers it necessary to tell the story of it to her aristocratic suitor. A few years previously, in her less palmy days, she had lived on certain terms with one Jack Meredith. The latter has now returned to England after having made a fortune abroad. His wife had recently died, and he now calls on Penelope and expresses his deep affection for her. That lady's previous caller, Lord Colbeck, had informed her that her relations with Meredith would not adversely influence his feelings towards her, and he left after having extracted from her a promise of a definite reply the same evening. Apparently Penelope is undetermined as to whom she shall choose, but when she learns that Meredith's intentions are that they shall resume their former mode of cohabitation she decides in favour of Lord Colbeck.

The piece was, on the whole, capitally acted. Miss Athene Seyler was quite an engaging personage as Penelope, and she handled the part with considerable skill, in spite of its inherent dicultics. Miss Phyllis Davey charmed the audience with her interpretation of the part of Penelope's domesticated sister; and Mr. Wilfred Fletcher successfully portrayed the character of the persuasive lover, Lord Colbeck. Mr. Lane Crawford gave a careful study of the rôle of the less agreeable Jack Meredith; and a word of recognition should be awarded to Mr. Lyonel Watts as a German waiter and Mr. Frederick James as a solicitor.

In Act IV. of Mr. Pinero's *The Princess and the Butterfly* Miss Seyler again distinguished herself, this time in a most artistic and effective piece of character-acting as Fay Zuliani; while Mr. Lane Crawford and Mr. Lyonel Watts also showed to advantage in their respective rôles of Sir George Lamorant and Faulding. In *'Op-o'-Me-Thumb* Miss Seyler, who, by the way, is the holder of the gold medal for this year presented by Sir Squire Bancroft, essayed a part quite different from her previous ones, and with it she gained her triumph of the afternoon. Very strikingly did she bring out the pathos of the character of Amanda Affleck, and the performance was one which would have done credit to an actress of some experience. Miss Pearl Timberlake as Mme. Didier, Miss Constance Cook as Mrs. Galloway, Miss Thora Daiemond as Rose Jordan, Miss Phyllis Davey as Celeste, and Mr. Frederick James as Horace Greensmith all showed great promise. Altogether the directors of the Academy of Dramatic Art may feel proud of their pupils. The afternoon concluded with an exhibition, under the instructorship of Miss Elizabeth Earle, of the Delsarte system of the art of expression, whereby the body is trained to express adequately the emotions of the mind, the training including the art of executing stage falls naturally and without violence.

THE BEN GREET PUPILS.

Deserting for the moment their little studio at 3, Bedford-street, Strand, in favour of the more commodious and well-appointed Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, the pupils of the Ben Greet Academy of Acting gave a private performance on Monday afternoon last before a full and appreciative audience. Shakespeare and Pinero filled the bill, the Immortal Bard being represented by extracts from the forest scenes of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the eminent modern dramatist by Acts I. and II. of *The Times*. The first-named selection showed that the scenic resources of the little Rehearsal Theatre are equal to the setting of a woodland glade in which Oberon's ungallant scheme for the discomfiture of Titania is laid. Four characters only were concerned in the excerpt. The fairy queen had a winsome exponent in Miss Gwladys Alder, who acted with delicacy but was lacking in feeling. Miss Jeanne Langlois made an Oberon of noble mien, and declaimed her lines very well, especially at the close, when her performance very much improved. Miss Tina Langlois was a boisterous Puck, but her gaiety was obviously forced, and her articulation by no means clear. Miss Sylvia Norton prattled prettily as the First Fairy, playing with admirable spirit and intelligence.

Complete justice was done to *The Times*, which put the audience into an agreeable state of merriment. Chief honours rested with Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., who appeared by permission of Messrs. A. and S. Gatti. He put much comic force into his rendering of the splenetic Percy Egerton-Bompas, M.P., and achieved a great success. Mr. Percival Clark, of the "Phillipians" company, was a chivalrous and gentlemanly Viscount Lurgshall, investing the part with much quiet expression; and quite a character-study of the Hon. Montague Trimble was given by Mr. Arthur Baldry, who displayed comedy talent of a high order. Miss Elspeth Holland acted with refinement and delicacy as Beryl, admirably preserving the sentiment of the scenes in which she is engaged. Mr. Robert Ashby took a broad view of the responsibilities of the son Howard, who in speech and manner gave little indication of any University training. Miss Hélène Millée played with intelligence and effect as Mrs. Egerton-Bompas; and Miss Lottie Hornsby essayed with success to portray the aristocratic hauteur of the Countess of Ripstow. Miss Mary Trenchard adopted the approved Irish accent as Mrs. Hooley; her daughter Honoria was played with rugged charm by Miss Irene Colyile; and the Timothy McShane, M.P., of Mr. A. L. Burke was drolly ferocious, the lines being skilfully emphasised. Miss Gwladys Alder acquitted herself with credit as Lucy Tuck, and Miss Teresa Hornsby's rendering of the gushing Miss Cazalet was a clever characterisation distinguished by much variety of expression.

The curtain had to be raised several times at the close, so delighted were the audience, who would have been well satisfied to have seen the concluding portion of the play. The performance was one of the most successful ever given by the popular school, the autumn term of which, it may be added, begins on Monday, Sept. 21.

MESSRS. MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON have taken over the lease of the Theatre Royal, Brighton, from Aug. 3. The old-established theatre is now being re-decorated, and will re-open on the date mentioned with Mr. George Edwardes's *Merry Widow* company

BUSINESS MANAGERS.

MR. H. B. FITZGIBBON.

Mr. H. B. Fitzgibbon is one of the best known and most able business-managers on the road. Beginning as an amateur, with much success, Mr. Fitzgibbon came, for a brief period, under the tutelage of the eminent actor Mr. Herman Vezin. His regular professional work commenced when he joined the late Mr. Wilson Barrett's company at the New Olympic Theatre in December, 1890, afterwards going on tour with that popular actor, and remaining with him for some four years. In this time he made two long American tours, visiting all the principal cities of the United States and Canada. Mr. Fitzgibbon obtained a varied experience, playing many parts in Mr. Barrett's remarkably extensive répertoire of the Shakespearean and classical drama and the many fine melodramas which he staged. In this respect Mr. Fitzgibbon may surely claim a record for the "legitimate," as a protean artist, having on one memorable occasion—at the Star Theatre, Brooklyn, owing to an epidemic of illness amongst the members of the company—been called upon, and successfully played, six parts in two plays on two consecutive nights! Prior to leaving Mr. Barrett, Mr. Fitzgibbon had his first insight into theatrical management, with which branch of the business he eventually identified himself, being appointed to assist the business-manager in his duties. In this connection, it may be noted, that he is a skilled shorthand writer, and has had some journalistic experience, which has stood him in good stead, having specially reported for the *New York Herald* and the leading London dailies, contributing articles to the *Evening Standard*, &c. Mr. Fitzgibbon comes of a literary and theatrical stock, his father having been a writer of considerable reputation, and co-author with the late Robert Buchanan of several dramas and plays, while his grandmother was an actress of repute in the days of Madame Vestris, with whom she frequently appeared. Mr. Fitzgibbon was engaged for a further tour abroad, but receiving an offer from Mr. H. Cecil Beryl and the directors of the Nottingham Theatre Company, he obtained his release at Mr. Barrett's hands in order to take up the position of acting-manager of the old Theatre Royal, Nottingham, retaining that post for upwards of three years, until the theatre was pulled down for rebuilding. He was then engaged by Mr. William Greet as business-manager of *The New Mephisto* tours, with which he remained two seasons. He was subsequently offered a further engagement, but had to relinquish it in order to fulfil a contract with Mr. George Edwardes, with whose *Circus Girl* company he made a long tour. His next engagement was with Mr. Edward Compton, with whose tours he was associated for a lengthy period, covering eight years, gaining much useful experience and doing much valuable work. During the intervals of Mr. Compton's touring, Mr.

[*Photo by Parker.*

MR. H. B. FITZGIBBON.

Fitzgibbon occupied successively the posts of acting-manager at the Paisley Theatre and at the Theatre Royal, Hanley, varying this resident work with tours. He was with the last Dan Leno production, *Mr. Wix, of Wickham*, when phenomenal business was done; afterwards piloting the original tour of *Joseph Entangled*, Mr. H. A. Jones's successful comedy. In the autumn, 1906, Mr. Fitzgibbon was engaged by Mr. George Alexander as business-manager of his North company of *His House in Order*. Mr. Alexander desired to retain him for the spring and autumn, 1907, but he was under contract to return to the Compton Comedy Company for the spring. On its conclusion Mr Compton offered Mr. Fitzgibbon a further year's engagement, including the acting-management during his London season at the St. James's. Feeling, however, that the time had come to venture into "fresh fields and pastures new," Mr. Fitzgibbon decided to resume his position as business-manager of Mr. George Alexander's North company, and has recently concluded a very successful season with *His House in Order*. "The man in front," says an interviewer, "is born, not made. He must possess the patience of Job, united to an urbanity, a serenity, and a courtesy which nothing short of a cataclysm can disturb, and his capacity for business must be as wide and as deep as that of the chairman of a New York trust. All these qualities Mr. Fitzgibbon has shown he possesses, and has amply justified the confidence which successive managers have reposed in him." He hopes to find a wider sphere of work, where his enthusiasm and his energies may have full scope.

THE NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, July 20, the Drama, entitled "THE SHADOWS OF A GREAT CITY."

Mr. Arnold Bell has engaged a strong company to represent the above powerful play, which met with an enthusiastic reception on Monday, when the Lyric held its usual crowded audience. Mr. Bell gave an excellent interpretation of the part of Tom Cooper. That popular heavy man, Mr. Fred Morgan, submitted one of his usual finished performances as George Benson. Mr. F. C. Robson did well as Arkwright, the detective. Mr. C. L. Ludlow was distinctly good as the pawnbroker, Abe Nathan; and as Jim Farren, the thief, Mr. A. T. Lennard was equally satisfactory.

Miss Frances Campbell, in the dual rôles of Annie Standish and his daughter Nellie, earned much applause, and was presented on Monday with a beautiful bouquet. Miss Nelly Daly caused much laughter by her impersonation of Biddy Roonan. As Mrs. Higgins Miss V. Campbell gave an effective performance.

For Friday evening a special performance of *East Lynne* was announced.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS ELSIE VRON.

A young Shakespearean actress of considerable promise, Miss Elsie Vron began by studying art for four years in a Manchester studio, and in the winter months took part in amateur theatricals, appearing in *The School for Scandal*, *Tom Jones*, &c., at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, with Mr. Ryder Boys, with whose company she is now playing lead on tour. Her first professional appearance was made in Aberdeen before a distinguished audience, which included the Lord Provost and all the mayors from several surrounding towns. The débutante made her first curtsey to the play-going public in the character of the Third Witch in *Macbeth* with Mr. William Mollison's company. "It was," says Miss Vron, "a weird little character suitable to my weird little feelings. No one in that bright assembly could have dreamt how the heart of the raw recruit throbbed that night. The part was accommodating to my shaking limbs, for my hands to shake and my voice to tremble is what I had rehearsed.

MISS ELSIE VRON.

I remember they did quake unnaturally naturally on that night from sheer fright! After the cauldron scene, when I wondered if I really were steeped in witchcraft—so terrified I felt—a few minutes remained to transform me into a reliable-looking gentlewoman for Act IV. The fall of the curtain left me feeling happy my first night was over, and that I could look forward to loving my profession always." Miss Vron also played Celia in *As You Like It* (which has always been her favourite character), Nerissa in *The Merchant of Venice*, and Kate Carnegie in *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* during the week—a very creditable performance when one considers it was the young actress's first professional engagement. Since then she has played several Shakespearean parts with Mr. Mollison, and in March last acted with him in her native city of Manchester, which she considers, of all towns in the world, the most just, critical, and generous.

MISS ADA FRANK.

The career of this bright and clever young lady has been far from an indolent one spent amongst the roses and the flowers. Daughter of a naval officer, Captain Frank, she commenced her early theatrical days as a member of several amateur dramatic societies. Then, her thoughts turning to the more serious side of the profession, she joined Fred H. Graham's pantomime company, playing second girl in *Cinderella*. This was followed by a long engagement with the late Ellen Cranston and Clarence Burnette, playing the child's parts in *A Man in a Thousand*, *Our Guardian Angel*, *East Lynne*, stock at the Theatre Royal, Blyth, playing Mother Guttersnipe in *The Mystery of a Hansom Cab*, creating the soubrette's part in *The Border Heroine*, the title-rôle in *Trilby*, Corny Carlyle in *East Lynne*, Tina in *My Sweetheart;* then playing the juvenile part in Dottridge and Long-

MISS ADA FRANK.

den's *Serpent's Coil*, followed by two tours as Carrie in *When London Sleeps*, with the author, Charles Darrell; two tours with Mr. T. Morton Powell as Pattie in *Greed of Gold;* tours with Clara Weston, *The Devil's Device;* then two years with Mr. Fred Southern sketching, during which Miss Frank played some two hundred parts, ranging from chambermaid, boys, old hags, to lead; then back again to the theatres, staying for two and a half years with Mr. F. Marriott Watson to play Emma, chambermaid part in *The Black Mask;* followed by two engagements with Mr. F. G. Kimberley, chambermaid part in *Bound to Win;* then specially engaged by Mr. Charles Herrick to create the part of the artist's model in *The Triumph of Truth;* three and a half years with Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholls, playing chambermaids in all their pieces; and finally creating the low-comedy part in their successful sketch, *The Battle of the Belles*. Now Miss Frank has taken up the reins of management, for herself, touring the successful comedy-drama, *A Fight for Life*.

To those about to enter this profession and who imagine it to be a life of ease and comfort, Miss Frank could tell some sad stories of life spent in endless striving for engagements, with a slender purse, of supperless evenings followed by a night spent on cold bare boards in some of the humblest lodgings in cruel London.

MR. R. W. HUTTON.

Mr. Ralph Wollaston Hutton was born at Dover, and educated at Bedford Grammar School and University College, Oxford. He made his first professional appearance at the New Theatre, Cambridge, as a waiter in *Money*, on Jan. 23, 1900, and two nights later joined Mr. Ben Greet for his season at the Comedy Theatre. For the next eighteen months he continued with Mr. Greet's comedy and pastoral company, playing a variety of parts and understudying, both in *A Royal Family* and in the round of Shakespearean and old English comedies.

In 1900 Mr. Hutton indulged in a somewhat premature attempt at management, in conjunction with an "old actor" who should have known better, which venture came to a somewhat abrupt conclusion. After a stock season with Mr. Douglas C. Phelps, playing Sir Richard Yorke in *The Union Jack*, Dr. Brinkton in *The Unknown*, &c., and four weeks with Mr. James Willard's *A Woman of Pleasure*, he was engaged again by Mr. Ben Greet to play the Duke of Hull and A.S.M. in *The Second in Command*. He was fortunate on more than one occasion, during a second tour with this piece, to play Major Binks—Mr. Maude's part.

In the summer of 1902 Mr. Hutton was stage manager to Mr. Alfred C. Calmour for his production of *The Queen of the Roses* at Wyndham's, after which he returned once more to Mr. Greet to tour with *Sherlock Holmes*, playing at different times Moriarty, Forman, Bassick, and Parsons. In the spring of 1903 he played Pifferi and Tomasso in Mr. Howard's *Eternal City*, and in the autumn the Pope. The following year Mr. Tree engaged him to play Father Pifferi on tour, and he was re-engaged by Mr. Tree in the autumn for *The Darling of the Gods*, playing Kugo for the greater part of the tour, and Kato, a Fisher of Carp, for about four weeks. Mr. J. B. Howard then engaged him to play Kato in his tour of the same drama, and in the autumn of 1905 he was the Pope once more in Mr. Howard's No. 1 *Eternal City*.

In February, 1906, Mr. H. F. Maltby engaged him to stage-manage his first tour of *The Youngest of Three*, in which he was the Samuel Johns, also playing under the same management Lord Midhurst in Mr. Weaver's drama, *In Holy Orders*. At the beginning of last year Mr. Hutton took part in the Stage Society's production of *The Cassilis Engagement* at the Imperial, playing Watson, and understudying Mr. Sam Sothern, and also at the Criterion played Pierre in the production of *The Wooden Shoe*. After this he was engaged by Mr. Monckton Hoffe as his general manager for his tour of Oscar Wilde's comedies, *The Importance of*

[*Photo by Dixon Cooke.*

MR. RALPH HUTTON.

Being Earnest and *Lady Windermere's Fan*, playing Dr. Chasuble in the former, and Tuppy in the *Fan*.

SUFFRAGETTES AND ACTRESSES.

Miss Janet Steer gave an "at-home" at her residence, 53, Sloane-gardens, S.W., on Tuesday afternoon, when an address in favour of the extension of the franchise to women was given by Miss Christabel Pankhurst. Miss Steer had invited a number of distinguished lady members of the theatrical profession, and amongst those present were Miss Mary Moore, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Miss Sidney Fairbrother, Miss Vane Featherstone, Miss Mabel Love, Miss Lottie Venne, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Muriel Wylford, Mrs. Vedrenne, Mme. Zelie de Lussan, Miss Phyllis Carr, Miss Compton, Miss Marta Cunningham, Miss Marie Raby, Mrs. Jopling Rowe, Mrs. Sam Sothern, Miss Muriel Wylford, Mrs. Lucette Ryley, Miss Dora Barton, Miss Esme Beringer, Mrs. McLean, Miss Julie Markham, Miss Rose Nutthall, Lady Duff Gordon, Lady Rivett Carnac, Mrs. A. Bryce, Miss Dora Fellowes, and others.

At the opening of the meeting a new Suffragette song and march, entitled "Stand up, women!" written by Mr. Cayley Calvert, the music composed by Miss Tennyson, and arranged by Mr. W. W. Meadows, was sung by Mr. Edmund Cooper. Mr. Meadows acted as accompanist. The song was described as "an urgently-needed counterblast to the scores of sneering, and often ribald, ditties at present aiming at bringing the women's cause into contempt and ridicule." The song was admirably rendered by Mr. Cooper, and was received with much applause.

Miss Janet Steer, who is an ardent supporter of the cause of the Suffragettes, then briefly addressed her guests, pointing out that women were seeking for knowledge and for truth. It was a sign of the times. Women were awaking from a long, long sleep, and beginning to realise that there was something to be done. She had great pleasure in introducing Miss Christabel Pankhurst to the audience.

Miss Pankhurst, in the course of an eloquent and telling speech, proceeded to explain exactly what it was that she and those who were associated with her were working for. They only asked for votes to be granted to women who paid the rates and the taxes the same as the men. She was sure that the vote would give women a freer scope for their development. Every woman, both rich and poor, ought to be interested in this cause. She appealed to the ladies present to join the militant Suffragists, and pointed out that, while at the present warfare was being waged with the Cabinet Ministers, a time might come when the war would be directed against men generally.

On a show of hands all the ladies present expressed themselves in favour of women suffrage.

MR. APPLIN ON ACTING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The simplest way to become a great actor in England is to have a play with a great part. It may not be easy to suit an actor at once, but, given a sufficiently clever playwright, or, perhaps one should say, play-journalist, with sufficient time to study his patient's temperament, he will, in course of time, evolve a part in the play entirely suited to his client. We can well imagine, for instance, Mr. Pinero or Mr. Henry Arthur Jones writing a play round Mr. Balfour or the Bishop of London, which, with proper scenic effects—Westminster Abbey at night, the terrace of the House of Commons at dawn, or the interior of a famous brewery—would draw all London.

The play itself would not matter if the leading man had plenty to do and the scenic effects were sufficiently realistic. It would be quite easy to cast the smaller parts, and no one would take much notice of them—mere choir boys, Members of Parliament, or brewers' assistants speaking three lines.

This is not a fanciful picture: it represents the stage of to-day. It is thus the actor *trades*. He can be divided into three classes—the amateur, the competent actor, and the actor-manager. These can be sub-divided into the educated and the uneducated, the bogus and the honest. The amateur is not confined entirely to the provinces, though he has almost ruined theatrical business there, and has helped to close a great many theatres, but he also fills the gaps in big London productions. He walks on or dances on; he plays servants, nice young men and young women about town; he is educated, and is trusted by his tailor; he generally speaks the King's English, and in London he is fairly harmless. If he is in earnest he can learn his business; if he is not, he at least amuses himself, and saves the manager a salary. To speak of an uneducated actor is hardly fair; moreover, the particular type to which I refer has almost ceased to exist, having been driven out of the provinces by starvation wages, and amateurs drawn from the servant girl and clerk classes. His education in many ways is, or was, very complete; he knew his business, every trick of the stage; he could fence, sing, dance; he knew much and could do much my young gentleman straight from college did not know and could not do. He was *not*—for this how grateful the play-going public must have been—a drawing-room actor. He was indeed a mummer, and he was proud of his trade—or, rather, he called it his art, and perhaps with some truth, for he was nearer the artist than the actor of to-day: the emotions with which his audience was inspired came from his heart and his head, not from scenery or pictorial printing.

But he has passed away, alas! for the English stage. That we want him and his rugged, homely methods is shown by the reception that was given to the Sicilian players at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

Then there is the competent actor, who is well educated, the semi-successful man who as yet has not been wiped out by the avalanches of pictorial, scenic, and mechanical effects that yearly sweep the stage. He is confined entirely to London, for the provinces cannot afford him, except perhaps once a year for two or three weeks. We seldom give him opportunities of acting, because *he* is only an actor and not a manager; but at the Court Theatre not long ago he showed us of what he is capable—showed us that, with an independent or national theatre England could produce actors and dramatists worthy to rank with those of France or Germany. These actors—and, of course, by actors I include actresses—consider themselves lucky, many of them, if they are working for six months out of the twelve. They rely for their work, not on themselves or their public, but on the whim of the public, the playwright, the producer, or actor-manager. Accident often engages, and failure disengages, them; and more than fifty per cent. of the plays produced in London are failures.

It may be interesting to note that because a play is a failure it does not mean it is a bad play, or one that many thousands of people are not extremely anxious to see; it does not mean that the salaries are excessive, for though one man may be taking a hundred, several are taking two or three, pounds a week, or less. It means that the trade of the actor and playwright is being ruined by the men who trade or gamble in theatres. A builds a theatre and leases it to B, B sub-lets it to C, who in turn leases it to D, who will sub-let it to E, who has either written a play he wishes produced, or is anxious to face the limelight as a leading man. He is not interested in the drama of his country; he is only interested in the tragedy of himself.

We see those tragedies year after year.

Possibly the man who is paying three or four hundred a week rental for his theatre considers it unfair to that theatre to produce a play that is not gorgeously mounted. If he is playing the leading part it is important that he should surround himself with magnificent scenery, and both he and his company must be faultlessly dressed. Clothes make the man, so why not the actor? Moreover, people like to look at nice clothes and nice scenery; and so, when the time comes to arrange the salary list, there is not much left for the actor. Art, what art there be, is on the whole sorry business, and has to be written with a very small a. And so the actor does not really trade in emotions, he trades in frocks and frills, in scenery and limelight, and the beautiful act-drop and the luxurious stalls.

Seeing these things, knowing these things, can we expect the actor to have any love or respect for his public or for his work? Nature forces him to respect his stomach; he must live, and to live he must take part in the stupid gamble. He knows there is little chance of his doing good or worthy work, and, however successful he may be, little chance of his ekeing out more than the most precarious living, unless he finds someone who will gamble in his talents and procure him the lease of a theatre. It is hardly too much to say there is scarcely an actor living who is content with being an actor: his one ambition is to be a manager, or, rather, an actor-manager. He is not wanted as an actor in London, he knows he cannot exist; his only chance is to find a backer, or collect a few pounds—and gamble.

And so theatres spring up like mushrooms in the night; scenic artists are always busy, the stage-hands of London theatres are formed into a powerful, united body, composed of clever, intelligent men, who earn excellent wages; in certain districts the shops of theatrical costumiers even rival in number the local public houses. A splendid and flourishing business is done by the sub-letting of programmes and cloak-rooms. Many dressmakers have been helped to fame and fortune by modern theatrical productions—and what ordinary woman can resist the temptation of wearing fifty-guinea dresses, and possibly being paid a few shillings a week for doing so?—Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR APPLIN.

MISS GRACE HARLINGTON has been re-engaged by Mr. Frank Bertram to play Batty in his autumn tour of *The Breed of the Treshams*.

COPY OF TESTIMONIAL to the Chemical Cleaning Company. July 22, 1908. From E. Oswald Brooks, Sole Lessee and Manager, Grand Theatre, Swansea. T. Harris, Esq.—Dear Mr. Harris,—Please accept my best thanks for the excellent way in which you have carried out the work I recently entrusted to you. Both my wife and myself are extremely pleased with the manner in which you have executed our commissions.—Kind regards, yours faithfully, E. OSWALD BROOKS. [ADVT.]

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham is completing negotiations by which Captain Robert Marshall will furnish him with a new play for use in the near future. Meanwhile, *The Mollusc*, which celebrates its 250th performance at the Criterion on Monday, is being so much sought after that its run might well be continued until the production of the new comedy by the same author, Mr. Hubert Henry Davies, of which Miss Mary Moore will be the principal figure. When the time arrives for Sir Charles and Miss Moore to reappear together, it will be in a new comedy by Walter Ellis, entitled *The Duke and the Demi-God*, the personages of the title being respectively an English aristocrat and an American millionaire.

The theatrical stage is temporarily to be deprived of the services of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Alfred Butt, the manager of the Palace, having succeeded in inducing the distinguished couple to enter into an engagement to appear at the Palace in the course of next year. Mr. and Mrs. Bouchier will be touring the provinces up to the end of January, returning to the Garrick early in February, so that their appearance at the variety theatre is some distance ahead. They will be seen in several small plays associated with their names, and in all probability some novelties will also be produced.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell will embark upon a short provincial tour, starting on Sept. 14, with Mr. Pinero's play *The Thunderbolt*. Mrs. Campbell will herself sustain the part of Phyllis Mortimore, and her daughter, Miss Stella Campbell, will have the rôle of Helen Thornhill. Performances of a German version of *Electra*, and of Hervieu's *La Course du Flambeau*, both of which have been translated into English by Mr. Arthur Symons, will also be given in the course of the tour.

An event is announced at the West Pier, Brighton, for next week which ought to attract the attention of the many Londoners who have been interested in the establishment by Miss Horniman of a répertoire theatre in Manchester. A distinctive feature of the enterprise has been the bringing together of a permanent company whose all-round excellence, rather than the prominence of any particular member, has been secured. The company has not confined its operations to Manchester, but has made excursions to other dramatic centres with most gratifying results, winning admiration in every town visited.

In addition to staging plays by Shakespeare, Rostand, St. John Hankin, and Charles McEvoy, as well as bringing forward some promising new authors, Miss Horniman's company has made a feature of Mr. Bernard Shaw's plays, two of which they will perform on their visit to Brighton. *Candida* is announced for Monday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings and Saturday matinée, and *Widowers' Houses* for Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday evenings and Wednesday matinée. The productions have been all under the direction of the general-manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne. The company returns to Manchester in September, and in the meantime the Gaiety Theatre in that town, which has been purchased by Miss Horniman, is being rebuilt.

Hearty congratulations have been given to Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Blumenthal (Miss Marie Montrose), who on the 17th inst. had a welcome addition to their household in the shape of a daughter. Miss Montrose will be well remembered by London playgoers as a charming ingenue and vocalist. She made her first appearance at Drury-lane, when no more than six years of age, in the part of Mamillius in *A Winter's Tale*, and after an interval in which to complete her education, went on tour with a juvenile opera company. She was the principal girl of Sir Augustus Harris's *Dick Whittington* at Drury-lane in 1894, and her panto-mime engagements have been numerous. She has also won fame in musical comedy, one of her greatest successes being as Tina in *My Sweetheart*.

Mr. H. Cecil Beryl, who has won such popularity during his long association with the Theatre Royal, Brighton, which has now come into possession of Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton, is to be the object of a public testimonial. Alderman Colbourne, J.P., of Brighton, is the treasurer of a fund which has been opened, and an influential committee includes the Mayor of Brighton and the Mayor of Hove. Promises of support have been received from the Duchess of Marlborough, the Hon. Mrs. Campion, and many others.

The extent of Mr. Beryl's work during his long sojourn at Brighton hardly needs any allusion, so well is it known not only in the popular town itself, but in the metropolis and other parts of the kingdom. His connection with the theatre has extended over eleven years, namely from March 25, 1897, but many years prior to that date he had made a name both as actor and manager. One of his earliest engagements was with the stock company at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, where he widened his knowledge and developed his talents as an actor. Later he secured an engagement with Mr. and Mrs. John Billington as leading juvenile, both on tour and at the Globe Theatre. Subsequently Mr. Beryl created the parts of Harry Valentine in *Rough and Ready* and Lieutenant Lisney in Paul Merritt's play, *Olive Branch*.

Mr. Beryl entered upon managerial work by becoming lessee of the Lincoln theatre. Next he was found booking and managing the first tour of *Diplomacy*, with a cast including J. H. Barnes, J. D. Beveridge, E. D. Ward, Miss Carlisle, and Miss Sophie Eyre. Then Mr. Beryl settled down in Scotland, and for several years directed the affairs of the Royal Princess's and Grand Theatres in Glasgow, and the Edinburgh Theatre Royal. Following upon his Scotch experience, Mr. Beryl conducted tours for Mr. Wilson Barrett and Mrs. Bernard Beere. In 1892 the Nottingham Theatre Co., Limited, secured his services as manager, and then came his advent to the Theatre Royal, Brighton, which has been productive of such gratifying results.

Apart from the theatrical profession, Mr. Beryl has done much good public work since he has been in Brighton. He was for some time a zealous and valued member of the Brighton Town Council, and when he retired in 1905 he was the recipient of a copy of a resolution passed by the Pavilion committee according him a hearty vote of thanks for his valuable services as chairman of the committee during the year, and his unvarying courtesy to the members on all occasions. An expression of sincere regret occasioned to them through his retirement from the council was added.

Many congratulations have reached Mr. J. Langdon Lee, resident-manager of the Royal and Grand Theatres, Plymouth, who was married this week to Miss Kathleen Winter, youngest daughter of Mr. Winter, South Brent. The ceremony, which took place at Holy Cross Church, Tothill, was performed by the Rev. Father Kane. The bride looked very charming in her travelling dress, which was of two shades of brown. Mr. A. E. Pine (brother-in-law of the bridegroom) acted as "best man," and among the relatives present were Mrs. A. E. Pine and Miss Lee, sisters of the bridegroom. The honeymoon is being spent in South Devon.

The new play by Hall Caine and Louis N. Parker, based upon the former gentleman's novel "The Manxman," will be produced at the Lyceum on Saturday, Aug. 29. Mr. Ernest Carpenter on Monday will read to the members of the company the first two acts of the piece, for which a definite title has not yet been decided upon. The Lyceum version of the popular story contains much fresh matter, and one of the most picturesque scenes will be that of the historic Castle Rushen, where the ceremonials connected with the crowning of the old kings of the island took place. Mr. Matheson Lang will be the Pete, the character associated with the name of the late Wilson Barrett, and Miss Hutin Britton the Kate.

Miss Lena Ashwell, whose sister is the foundress and patroness of the pretty little Frances Club for actresses at 425, Strand, has written to Mr. Frank Desprez thanking him for a gift of a set of pictures for the walls of the dining-room of the club.

Mr. Martin Harvey, whose season at the Adelphi Theatre opens on Sept. 9, with *The Corsican Brothers*, has engaged Miss Mary Rorke for the part of Madame dei Franchi and Mr. Vincent Sternroyd for that of Chateau-Renaud. *The Conspiracy*, the new one-act play (which has not yet been seen in London), will also be in the initial bill.

The death occurred on the 13th inst of Mrs. Nancy Beattie, formerly lessee of the Blackburn Theatre Royal. The deceased lady was in her sixty-second year, and passed away at the residence of her sister, Mrs. Young, in Revidge Mount, Blackburn, after an illness extending over seven weeks. A native of Pudsey, Mrs. Beattie's maiden name was Miss Baker, and she married Mr. Charles Henry Scholes, who was better known as Mr. C. H. Duval. In the late sixties Mr. Duval became lessee of the Blackburn Theatre Royal, and upon his death, about 1884, Mrs. Duval remained lessee.

Some years later she married Mr. William Chalmers Beattie, who died about ten years ago. In 1886 the theatre was bought and re-built by Mr. E. F. Elliston, and for some time afterwards Mrs. Beattie remained at the theatre. Later she removed to other towns, but for the last four years has resided in Blackburn. The funeral took place at the Blackburn Cemetery on the 16th inst.

The private performance of the prohibited play, *Three Weeks*, adapted from Mrs. Elinor Glyn's novel, was duly given at the Adelphi on Thursday. There was a distinguished audience, including Prince Francis of Teck, the Duchess of Rutland, Lord Curzon, and the Austrian and German Ambassadors, and among the members of the profession were to be found Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, and Miss Alexandra Carlisle.

The piece, which was produced by Mr. Charles Hawtrey, was staged in a most lavish manner. The authoress herself took the part of the Queen, or, as she was described throughout the play, "The Lady." A few departures from the novel were noticeable in the play, the chief point of difference being in the final interview of the young Englishman with the Queen, just before the latter is murdered by her husband. A prologue had also been added. A noteworthy incident of the afternoon was the serving of tea at intervals by imposing-looking servants in knee-breeches and silk stockings.

A large attendance of both bodies was present at the joint meeting of the Shakespeare Memorial Committee and the National Theatre Shakespeare Memorial Committee, held at the Mansion House on Tuesday, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. The gathering was convened for the purpose of proposals being set forth for the amalgamation of the two committees.

Resolutions were unanimously carried as follows:—1. That the Shakespeare Memorial Committee consist of the members of the present Shakespeare Memorial Committee and the members of the present National Theatre Shakespeare Memorial Committee. 2. That an executive committee be elected, consisting of twenty-one members, with the addition of an hon. secretary and a secretary, and with power to add to their number.

The following were elected members of the executive committee:—The Earl of Plymouth, the Earl of Lytton, Viscount Esher, the Lord Mayor, Sir John Hare, Dr. Furnivall, Mr. Wm. Archer, Mr. H. Granville Barker, Mr. S. H. Butcher, K.C., M.P., Mr. J. Comyns Carr, Mr. Sidney Colvin, Mr. W. L. Courtney, Mr. Robt. Donald, Mrs. G. L. Gomme, Mr. Edmund Gosse, Mr. Sidney Lee, Mr. Sidney Low, Mr. H. W. Massingham, Hon. Mrs. Alfred Lyttelton, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. G. B. Shaw, Prof. I. Gollancz (hon. secretary), and Mr. Philip Carr (secretary). It was further resolved to invite Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree and Mr. Forbes-Robertson to join the executive committee.

The Shakespeare Theatre will be the scene on Monday next of the first production on any stage of the new drama by Mary Ford, entitled *The Power of Lies*. Mr. Marshall Moore will produce the piece, and a strong cast has been selected. Incidental music, of which a feature has been made, has been composed by Mr. Michael Connolly. Entirely new scenery has been painted. Mr. Otto Minster will play the juvenile lead. The production is under the general direction of Mr. Charles R. Hardy.

Miss Mary Ford (Mrs. Charles Howitt) will create the attractively-drawn character Margaret Hardie in her drama, *The Power of Lies*, to be produced at the Shakespeare on Monday. Miss Gladys Ford-Howitt (daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Howitt) is the schoolgirl heroine. The gowns worn by Mrs. Howitt and her daughter are said by competent judges to be delightful creations.

Baron Harriss's principal *Prince of Pilsen* company, with Miss Sophie Harriss as the bright, particular star, embarks upon its fifth tour at the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, next week.

The prize for amateurs for ladies taking part in the competition under the auspices of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, held at the Playhouse on the 17th inst., was won by Miss Eve Jame. The George Alexander prize for Elocution at the Guildhall School of Music was awarded to Miss Anais Holbrook, and the School prize to Miss M. A. Farrell on Monday last. All three ladies are pupils of Mr. Cairns James, professor of elocution at the Royal College of Music, and Guildhall School of Music, and principal of the School of Musical and Dramatic Art, New Oxford-street.

The recent production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Theatre Royal, Worcester, for the Shakespearean Festival was so successful that there has been a great demand for reproductions of the comedy for Pastorals. One was given at Pershore on the 17th inst., when Mr. Arthur Carlton's daughter Elsie appeared as Puck with very great success, receiving a handsome bouquet at the end of the performance. An acknowledgment of Mr. C. H. Croker-King's ability as the producer was made by Colonel Hudson, who, while presenting him with a handsome laurel wreath on behalf of the Cottage Hospital, spoke very highly of the great talent he had displayed as the stage-director.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* company, which includes Mr. George Mudie, Miss Annie Stalman, and Miss Florence Wix, started a most successful tour at Blackpool on Monday. The house was crowded, and much enthusiasm was aroused. This merry farce, which ran for over eight months in London at the Vaudeville Theatre, is booked right up to next April.

Mme. Yvette Guilbert will make her appearance on the London dramatic stage in an adaptation of the comedy *Mariage d'Etoile*, which was produced at the Paris Vaudeville some two months ago. The story is that of a wealthy young man, who is betrothed to the daughter of a famous actress, but finds himself yielding to the fascinations of the mother. Mme. Guilbert's rôle will be that of the actress alluded to, and she will be supported by an English company. The version will be made by Mr. Edward Knoblauch, the adaptor of *The Shulamite*, and the production will take place at a West End theatre in the course of next year.

"The Early Worm" has definitely been decidedly upon as the title of Mr. Frederick Lonsdale's new comedy, which is to be produced at Wyndham's on Tuesday, Sept. 1. The cast is a most attractive one, and will include Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Mr. A. E. Matthews, Mr. Alfred Bishop, Mr. Wilfred Draycott, Mr. A. W. Baskcomb, Miss Muriel Beaumont, and Miss Fanny Brough.

Mr. Lonsdale's musical play, which is to be produced at the Prince of Wales's on Sept. 3, is to be called *Princess Marie*, in place of *The Queen of Cadonia*, the title originally fixed upon. Mr. Adrian Ross is responsible for the lyrics and Mr. Sidney Jones for the score. Included in the cast will be Miss Isabel Jay, Miss Gracie Leigh, Mr. George Barrett, and Mr. Huntley Wright.

The performances of *King Harry's Revel* which are to take place at Serlby Hall, Bawtry, the seat of Viscount Galway, on Aug. 6, 7, and 8, promise to be of great interest. The revel has been arranged by Lady Galway, and is being produced by Mr. M. V. Leveaux. Besides writing the "book," Lady Galway is to play the part of the Lady Idonea de Serlby, and the cast also includes Countess Fitzwilliam, Lady Knaresborough, Lady Katherine Pilkington, Lady Evelyn James, the Hon. Mrs. Sandars, the Hon. Violet and Helen Meysey Thomson, Mrs. Whittaker, Viscount Galway, the Hon. R. James, Colonel A. E. Whitaker, Captain Kennard, Captain Rankin, Captain Skeffington Smyth, the Rev. C. Scott Moncrieff, and the Rev. F. Burney.

The active members of "Le Cercle Artistique," we are told, will be scattered all over the provinces in the fulfilment of their autumn engagements, but a certain number hope to be in town in September, when they will give another entertainment consisting of a dramatisation of one of Guy de Maupassant's short stories, together with selections from Browning and a new wordless play set to classical music. Full particulars may be obtained of the secretary, 69, Huron-road, Balham.

"What the Butler Saw" will start its sixth tour on August Bank Holiday and visit Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and most of the principal provincial theatres. Mr. Lionel Rignold will once again be seen as that inquisitive but humorous individual, the Butler, a part in which he has already amused and delighted many thousand playgoers.

Miss Grace Lester concludes to-night at the Islington Empire a special re-engagement with Mr Alan Holt's sketch, *A Society Woman*, and is re-engaged by Mr. Frederick Melville for autumn, commencing at the Coronet Theatre, Aug. 3.

Mr. R. A. Roberts, the world-famous protean actor, is hard at work this week and next rehearsing his company for his forthcoming tour of his four-act domestic drama, *Straight from the Shoulder*. In addition, Mr. Roberts is, on alternate nights, playing his sketches, *Dick Turpin* and *Ringing the Changes*, twice nightly at Hackney, a sufficient proof of the clever performer's fondness for work.

Mr. Frank J. Pitt, who has successfully toured the powerful detective drama, *£1000 Reward*, for the last two years, is taking a short rest at Torquay next week, previous to commencing his autumn tour at the Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

At a special general meeting of the Playgoers' Club, held on Monday, it was resolved: "That this meeting accepts in principle the suggested amalgamation of the O.P. Club with the Playgoers, but refers back to the Playgoers' Club Committee the whole question of terms, to be submitted to a subsequent general meeting for confirmation. A sub-committee consisting of Messrs. F. S. Hess, E. J. Bevan, L. E. Harfield, W. Sparks, W. R. Bennett, E. A. Whitehouse, and J. Sharpe was appointed to arrange the matter.

Mr. E. H. Knight's company starts its tour with the new play *The Lighthouse Robbery* at the Lyric, Hammersmith, on Monday. The company includes Mr. Stanley Bedwell, Mr. H. Wallace Curnock, Mr. Wilfred Mansfield, Mr. Herbert Lewis, Mr. Willie Reid, Miss Francesca Strickland, Miss Maggie Stewart, Little Ethel Lovett, and Miss Hilda Baynton. The scenery, which is most effective, includes an elaborate revolve from the interior to the exterior of the lighthouse.

Mr. Tom B. Davis has engaged Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cane for the parts of Israel Hart, the Hebrew moneylender, and his sister Anna, in Miss Evelyn Millard's production at the Garrick Theatre of *Idols*, adapted by Mr. Roy Horniman from Mr. W. J. Locke's novel of that name. Many of our readers will doubtless remember Mr. Cane's clever performance of Ezra Lazareck in *New Babylon*, a character he represented over 1,000 times.

The short Yiddish season at the Pavilion Theatre opened on Monday night to a large and enthusiastic audience, when an excellent company, under the direction of Mr. M. D. Waxman, gave a very fine performance of *Captain Dreyfus*. The crowded audience welcomed their favourites with floral tributes, accompanied by many gifts of a personal character. A change of play has been given each night.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Sam Arthur, who passed away at the West London Hospital, Hammersmith, on the 17th inst. The deceased actor was the son of the late Mr. Charles E. Geary, of Lowestoft, and was only thirty-nine years of age. His last appearance was made at the Grand Theatre, Walsall, on Feb. 10, when he played Captain Jack Fortescue in *A Fight for a Throne*. His death, which was due to heart disease, was unexpected but peaceful. The funeral took place at Chiswick Cemetery on Tuesday amid many tokens of regret.

Mr. W. W. Keene, who has been for many years associated with Mr. Lewis Waller in his productions, has resigned his position at the Lyric Theatre to assume the general management of the Répertoire Theatre Syndicate, which operates at the Theatre Royal, Margate. The Association is considerably enlarging its operations, and proposes to make the production of new plays its principal work.

"The Sins of Society," the latest Drury-lane triumph, is shortly to be given at the leading suburban and provincial theatres, Mr. F. W. Bolam having acquired the entire English rights of the piece. The cast includes Miss Pattie Browne, Miss Grace Leslie, Miss Dorothy Giles, Miss Janet Hodson, and Messrs. Blake Adams, C. F. Collings, Frederick Annesley, E. Vassall Vaughan, and Edwin Palmer. The tour, which will be under the management of Mr. L. Ashton-Jarry, starts at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, on August Bank Holiday.

Covent Garden Opera House will be in the hands of the builders for some time after the close of the present season, when rearrangements are to be made for the greater comfort of the occupants of the pit and grand tier boxes by the alteration of the slope of the partitions. Fireproof walnut frames are to be introduced, and the dividing walls so arranged that the stage will be almost as easily overlooked from the back as from the front of these boxes.

In lieu of the usual autumn season, four weeks of opera in English, under the auspices of the Grand Opera Syndicate, will be given next year, starting on Jan. 16. Three complete cycles of *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, under Dr. Hans Richter, are promised, and the first performance of Dr. Naylor's prize opera, *The Angelus*, is also included in the scheme.

Opera-lovers will not, however, be left to languish during the autumn, for the Moody-Manners' company will again be found at the Lyric, where its annual season of opera in English at popular prices will begin on Aug. 17. The répertoire will include *Lohengrin*, *Tannhäuser*, *Die Meistersinger*, *Tristan*, *Aïda*, *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, *Madame Butterfly*, *La Bohème*, *Pagliacci*, and *Cavalleria Rusticana*. Mr. Philip Brozel, who has made such vast progress in his profession during the last few years, will be the principal tenor.

Recent awards at the Royal Academy of Music have been made as follows:—The Charles Lucas prize, for composition, has been awarded to Eleanor C. Rudall, a native of London; the Schloesser prize, for accompanying, to Kathleen Thomson, of Bristol; the Frederick Westlake memorial prize, for pianoforte, to Helen M. Dodd, of Newcastle-on-Tyne; the Anne E. Lloyd exhibition, for singing, to Eugenie Ritte, of London; the Parepa-Rosa prize, for sopranos, to Alice Baxter, of Nottingham; the Julia Leney prize, for harp, to Dot Lyons, of London; and the Joseph Maas prize, for tenors, to Andrew Jones, of Bangor.

The Walter Macfarren gold medals, for pianoforte, have been awarded to Dorothy L. Grinstead and Ambrose Coviello; Messrs. James Tubbs and Son's prize was secured by Henry O. Parsons; Messrs. Hill and Son's prize goes to Evan Williams; the Dove prize has been awarded to Elsie Owen; and the Charlotte Walters prizes have been gained by the Misses Elsie May Davidson and Florence A. Hudson. The Betjemann gold medal (operatic singing) has been awarded to Mary Fielding; the Ridley Prentice memorial prize to Clara Smith; the Charles Rube prize (ensemble playing), to Henry O. Parsons, Elsie Owen, Edwin Quaife, and John Mundy; and the Hannah Mayer Fitzroy prize (violin) to Edwin Quaife. Melba prizes have been secured by Mary Fielding and Marie I. Wadia, the Bowen gift by Hettie Franklin, and the Alexander Roller prize (pianoforte) by Percy Hughes.

Mr. Ernest A. Douglas has been engaged by Mr. Wm. Greet for an important part in his production of *The Old Firm* at the Tyne, Newcastle, on Aug. 17.

We offer to Mr. Reginald Grant, the popular manager of the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, our congratulations on his marriage, which took place on Wednesday, the 2nd inst. On the previous evening Mr. Grant was made the recipient of a beautiful silver tea service by the members of the theatre staff, with whom he is distinctly popular. Mr. W. W. Kelly, in making the presentation, spoke of Mr. Grant's popularity, and wished him, on behalf of himself and staff, every happiness. Mr. Grant briefly replied on behalf of himself and his bride, and said the gift would be one of his most valuable possessions.

The final of the London Inter-Theatre Golf Tournament was decided on the Huntercombe Links on Wednesday. In the result Queen's Theatre beat Lyric Theatre by 2 points to 1, thus securing possession, for a year, of the challenge shield. For Queen's Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., beat Mr. F. Brereton, and Mr. Arthur Hart beat Mr. Victor Lewis, while Mr. Dan Rolyat lost to Mr. A. E. George.

The Theatre Royal, Torquay, during the summer recess has undergone considerable improvement. By the abolition of the old staircase leading from the pit to the gallery, accommodation has been made for nearly a hundred additional persons in the pit. In the orchestra stalls the seats have been re-upholstered, whilst new carpet has been provided throughout the theatre. Improvements have been effected in the lighting of the vestibule and the corridors, whilst the latter have been decorated to match the foyer. Numerous other renovations have been carried out, and altogether a sum of about £250 has been spent in decorations and alterations.

Worksop, in North Notts, has long been without proper accommodation for theatrical performances, but this defect will shortly be remedied, and in a most practical and up-to-date manner. Hitherto the Criterion Hall in Bridge-street has done duty as a theatre, but it has been a mere apology, and the proprietor, Mr. S. Goodman, has, with commendable enterprise, decided to transform the old hall into an up-to-date modern theatre. With this object in view the hall has been gutted, the roof taken off, and the old balcony taken down, nothing being left of the old fabric but the side walls. The stage accommodation, the brickwork of which is nearing completion, is on a very large scale, and built to something like twice the height of the old stage, with of course proper grid and fly accommodation and appliances, the space being such as will provide adequately for the largest companies travelling.

Underneath the stage new and spacious dressing-rooms are being built, and the whole of the scenery will be new. The floor of the old hall has been taken up, and will be relaid in a sloping direction towards the stage, so that all in the pit may have a good view of the stage, and the hall will be tastefully decorated. The dress circle is to be beautifully upholstered and laid with carpet throughout, and the entrance to this part will be separate from that to the pit. The theatre will also be fitted up with electric light and limelights. There will be two emergency exits and lavatory accommodation, ladies' cloak-room, and all other necessary adjuncts provided. An important feature of the alteration will be the ventilation, which will be carried out by Messrs. Shorland Brothers, of Manchester, on the most scientific lines, and altogether it is intended to make the theatre one of the best in the provinces. It will be named the "Gaiety Theatre," and will be opened on Sept. 10 with the musical comedy *The Dandy Fifth*.

Mr. Will H. Thorne, the well-known actor, has been carrying off swimming honours, and was the winner of the Serpentine S.C. 55yds. veterans' handicap, which was decided on the Hyde Park lake on the 16th inst. The age limit is forty-five years, but the majority were well above that figure, one competitor being eighty-one and another seventy-six. Mr. Thorne, who completed his half-century six years ago, had a start of 17sec., and won a well-contested race by a foot, his time being 1min. 38 1-5 sec.

The usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union was held on Tuesday afternoon at Hummums Hotel, Mrs. Walter Bentley presiding. Others present were Messrs. D. Lewin Mannering, Chas. Calvert, Cecil G. Calvert, Ewart Drake, Carl Lyle, W. Ruddle Brown, Geo. P. Lester, W. Macready, C. C. Grattan, Jerrold Heather, Fred F. Loyd, Frank Copeland, Sydney N. Hallowes, Edwin Wilde, Fred Jacques, Paul Lovett, Edward Y. Rae, Chas. V. Sandford, Harry G. Rutland, Charlie Clarke, and Alfred Terris; and Mesdames Bessie Armytage, Maud Henley, Kitty Marion, Bessie Bedford, Carina McAllister, Mlle. Vere, Eva Lumley, Adelaide Gracey, Ruby Wyndham, May Conrade, Mary Lovett, Maud Kirwan, Elsie Sinclair, Florence Creagh, Mrs. Henry Belding, Gertrude Gilbert, T. Silvestre, Emma Stockley, and Constance Bromley.

The chairwoman, in the course of her remarks, strongly urged the foundation of a school for the use of children whose parents were members of the Actors' Union, so that the youngsters could be properly educated and cared for while the fathers and mothers were on tour. Mr. Jerrold Heather and Mr. William Macready spoke in support of Mrs. Bentley's proposal, and the latter gentleman gave instances of brutal treatment of actors' children. Mrs. Bentley further suggested that the A.U. should write to stage-managers and others in reference to the late hours at which chorus girls and poorer members of a company were kept at rehearsals, many of the girls being compelled to walk long distances at night owing to their having lost the last train or tram. She would be pleased to contribute to the postal expenses.

It was explained at the private meeting which followed that the proposed club would be run independently of the Union, inasmuch as the funds of the A.U. would not be used in carrying the club on, and, on the contrary, it was hoped that the club would subsidise the Union.

Mr. G. Morton-Williams has been engaged by Messrs. Northway and Garrod to create the heavy lead in their production of *A Country Girl in London*, which takes place at the Theatre Royal, Macclesfield, on Saturday next.

Mr. Charles Bradford and his wife, Miss Brenda Leslie, who have just concluded a nine months' tour of the provincial theatres with Mr. J. H. Tomkinson's No. 1 Royal Gipsy company, have been re-engaged for his 1908-1909 tour, starting in September.

Miss Violet Osmund's company will produce *The Belle of the Ball*, a musical comedy, in three acts and four scenes, by L. Norden, music by E. T. De Banzie and Michael Dwyer, for the first time, at the Opera House, Southport, on Monday. The cast is a strong one, and includes Robert Hyett, Gertrude Melville, Maude Terry, and Johnnie Schofield. Elaborate scenery has been painted for this production by T. Robinson, of Liverpool. Mr. Alexander Loftus, who is producing the play, has been rehearsing at the Opera House, Southport, for the last two weeks. It was at this theatre, and under his management, that *The New Barmaid* was launched on her successful career some fourteen years ago.

At the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, Messrs. Murray King and Clark were on Wednesday night honoured by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Eastbourne, the Mayor and Mayoress of Dieppe, and the Mayor of Boulogne. The performance was that of the new play, *The Lady of the Pageant*, in which Mr. Louis Calvert appeared in his clever creation of a remarkable Frenchman.

Miss Beth Elliott, who has for the last eleven months been conspicuously successful in the part of Josephine, in Mr. W. W. Kelly's *A Royal Divorce*, is taking a well-earned rest at Colwyn Bay. The highest praise has been given this talented young actress by the managers of the theatres visited, by Mr. Kelly himself, and by the Press and public. We may hope that Londoners will soon have an opportunity of seeing her in a similar rôle.

In the hall of the Battersea Polytechnic on Saturday the scholars of the secondary schools gave a performance of *In the Days of Chaucer*, a pastoral interlude, written by Miss E. F. Ohlson. It was in two scenes, the first in a garden behind the Tabard Inn, Southwark, and the second at St. Thomas-a-Watering, a meadow on the road to Canterbury, the period being 1386. Mr. Janan deserved credit for the general organisation. The music was specially composed by Mr. J. P. Attwater, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O., and the costumes were made by the Girls' School and the properties by the Boys' School, the authority of the celebrated Ellesmere manuscript being followed. The result was a picturesque and pleasing entertainment.

The committee of the M.C.C. have generously granted another date this season for the Actors v. Authors match, which was completely spoiled by rain last week. The game will be played at Lord's on Thursday, Sept. 3, and all tickets sold for July 16 and not used will be available on the later date. The match is for the benefit of the Actors' Benevolent and Orphanage Funds, and as considerable expense was incurred last week with no reimbursement from the gate, it is hoped that a large number of tickets may be sold. Books of tickets will be forwarded to any members of the profession who will endeavour to dispose of them on application to Mr. H. Nye Chart, Westbury, Carlton-road, Putney, or to Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, the Playhouse.

At Bow-street, on Thursday, Sir A. de Rutzen gave his decision in the case against the Waldorf Theatre Syndicate, Ltd., and Mr. George Frederick Hughes Morgan, who were jointly summoned, by the Westminster City Council, for the non-payment of rates amounting to £1253 9s. 4d., due in respect of the Waldorf Theatre. Details of the case have already appeared in our columns.

The magistrate said that it had been argued on behalf of the defendants that there had been no occupation on the part of the receiver, and in support of that contention a case had been quoted in which it was decided that the appointment of a receiver, under somewhat similar circumstances, did not constitute a change of occupation. He (the magistrate) was bound by that decision, and that put an end to the case so far as the receiver was concerned, and necessarily so far as the syndicate was concerned. Therefore, the summons must be dismissed, and he felt sorry for the Westminster City Council that it must be so. He should be pleased to state a case for the higher Court if he was asked to do so. An application for costs was refused.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Tree and "Alexander."

MR. BEERBOHM TREE was laying a foundation-stone the other day, and, to round off his speech, he improvised, on the spur of the moment, the following "quotation":—

"Oh, that as easy were the use of verb and vowel
As is the deft manipulation of a trowel."

After the ceremony, one of the City Fathers, a very puffy and important old gentleman, came up to Mr. Tree and said to him severely: "Excuse me, sir, but I do not remember the quotation you introduced into your speech." "What!" said Mr. Tree, "have you never read your Pope?"

Irving Anecdotes.

"ON one occasion," says Mr. Walter Herries Pollock, in his "Impressions of Henry Irving," just published by Longmans, Green, and Co., "I was sitting in the audience during the scene in the Witch's Kitchen. The action was just nearing the point where the Witch, failing to recognise Mephistopheles, turns and rends him as an intruding malapert, whereto he gives a fantastical retort. Something had distracted my attention from the stage (I had seen the play a good many times), and when I looked again Mephistopheles was gabbling some partly intelligible jargon at top speed, and laying much more stoutly than usual about him with a whisk to overturn and shatter the crockery on the shelf above the couch on which he half reclined. Meanwhile the Witch stood aghast and astounded, as well she might. I was puzzled because I had just missed the clue to this unaccustomed departure, which was accepted by the larger part of the audience as a diverting and intentional incident in the scene. What had happened was this. Mead was playing the Witch with his usual excellence. But his memory failed him, as now and then it would do, after he had burst through the cloud of lurid smoke; and he stood literally struck dumb for the moment. Irving took in the situation at a glance, and spoke as quickly as he could all the words he could remember of the Witch's speech, filling it in with nonsense phrases, and giving to the jumble a tone as of one who could read the Witch's thoughts. Here was an instance of the "double consciousness" employed by the actor, who, never forgetting the character he impersonates, is yet at all moments ready to cover up and repair any mishap or mistake in the stage business by which he is surrounded.

A PRECISELY similar incident took place in *The Lyons Mail*, when the player of Lesurques's father, appearing while the robbery, with murder, of the mail is in full blast, forgot to utter the fateful words addressed to Dubosc, 'My son!' Quick as thought Irving improvised the words, 'I am not your son!' thus implying those which ought to have been spoken, and almost simultaneously with the utterance fired the pistol which wounds the old man. The rapidity and the noise of the whole thing was more than enough to prevent general perception that anything had been slurred or omitted, or that the improvised words were in fact sheer nonsense, since Dubosc was entirely ignorant that his double or his double's father had any existence.

"ANOTHER instance from *Faust* is somewhat different in kind. This was noted in the scene of the sword fight between Faust and Valentine, with Mephistopheles at the back giving, beyond the knowledge of Valentine, the aid of his sword to Faust's. The scene was most carefully got up, and was in its way a special feature in the whole performance. The swords when crossed flashed fire, not the "shower of sparks" defined and approved by Mr. Vincent Crummles, but an eerie, lambent, blue flame, due to ingenious electrical apparatus. This involved the wearing of special non-conducting gloves by Faust and Valentine. On this occasion the player who was undertaking the part of Valentine at very short notice, had, not unnaturally in the circumstances, forgotten when he was called for the stage to put on his glove. Consequently, at the first crossing of the blades, he got a full shock, and, during the whole of the fight, considerately shortened, had to do his best, bravely enough, under the assault of repeated shocks. The mocking mirth of the aiding and watching Mephistopheles was usually restrained, sometimes was confined to a sardonic smile. On that night it was very audible, insistent, effective. And here was an instance of the actor's double consciousness merged into unity. Mephistopheles could not properly stop to inquire into Valentine's misfortunes or to express any sympathy. But it was quite in keeping with the character that he should laugh at Valentine's unavailing efforts. Thus, then, the surprise of the actor-manager and the devilish merriment of Mephistopheles found absolutely common ground in as natural and appropriate a laugh as could be given on any stage."

"IN connection with *Two Roses*, one incident, by force of its oddity, has stuck in my memory. One night (it was probably the first night), in a spirited scene with Jack Wyatt, played by Mr. Charles Warner, one half of Irving's moustache fell off. Deftly, and taking cover under his tall hat, Irving removed the other half, and appeared with a shaven lip through the rest of the play. The person most to be pitied was Mr. Warner, who, facing Irving, saw the whole thing, and preserved gravity enough to prevent any infection of tittering in the audience. Wherefore I presently, in print, congratulated Irving and Mr. Warner on presence of mind preserved throughout 'a stage accident.' Thereon a kindly critic, writing of theatrical affairs at large, and thinking that folk might be unduly alarmed, reassured them in his feuilleton by explaining that the 'stage accident' was nothing worse than the loss of half a moustache."

A Safety Bucket.

THEY enforce the regulations against theatre fires in France, and are nothing if not official. M. Paul Mounet appeared at Havre recently as the Missionary Bishop in *Le Duel*. As he lighted a cigar at the wings, an officer of the Fire Brigade informed him that he must not smoke in the theatre. "But it is in the play," explained M. Mounet; "I am smoking as I go on, and then I throw my cigar on the stage." "Very well," replied the officer. So M. Mounet made his entrée as usual, but following him were two firemen, one with a bucket of water and the other with a huge sponge. The audience, appreciating the situation, roared and applauded with delight, and M. Mounet carefully deposited his cigar in the bucket and wiped his fingers on the sponge before proceeding with the dialogue.

A Stage Landslip.

THE late Mr. Alfred Dampier was a man of remarkable resource. At the old Melbourne Theatre he was once appearing as Starlight in *Robbery Under Arms* when the stage carpenters were unusually careless. Suddenly a backcloth and a pile of scenery came down with a crash, exposing the bleak brick interior behind. For a moment Starlight gazed at the ruin; then he yelled: "Aha! What did I foretell? The landslip—the landslip! Run for your lives!" And he headed the retreat as the curtain fell.

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

A SILVER WEDDING.

In one of Henri Murger's stories he alludes to a gathering of clever people as being different from most dinner-parties, in the fact *que l'on s'amusait*. When the number of diners exceeds that of the Muses, the assembly sometimes degenerates into that fearful thing, a "function." There was no danger of that happening in the "Pinafore" room at the Savoy Hotel last Tuesday evening, when a brilliant gathering took place to do honour to *The Era*, the occasion being the silver wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Desprez. With such indefatigable raconteurs as Mr. Beerbohm Tree and Mr. E. S. Willard; with journalists like Mr. Ernest Parke, the editor of the *Star*, and Mr. W. J. Fisher, whose plucky contest of Canterbury was one of the exciting incidents of the last election; with witty and pretty women like Miss Adrienne Dairolles (Mrs. W. J. Fisher) and Miss Eva Moore (Mrs. H. V. Esmond) (who was unable to stay the whole evening as she had to appear in *The Explorer* at the Lyric); with an ardent "Suffragist" like Mrs. Carl Hentschel; and with such an appropriate and interesting guest as Sir George Power, the original Ralph Rackstraw of *H.M.S. Pinafore*, there was no fear of things ever "falling flat." Also of the party were Mr. A. E. Newbould, Miss G. Kirkby, and Mr. Carl Hentschel. Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, who has not been so well of late, kindly looked in on the party assembled in the *foyer*. Unfortunately at this time many of the leading managers were otherwise engaged, and the following letters were regretfully sent and received:—

"MY DEAR MR. DESPREZ,—I would gladly have accepted your kind invitation on such an interesting occasion, but, alas! I am acting. It will be my last week or last week but one. Had it been later or on a Sunday I could have managed it. I shall be with you in spirit. Will you kindly present to Mrs. Desprez a trifling souvenir of my appreciation of the excellent manner she must have brought you up.—Yours very sincerely,
"CHARLES WYNDHAM.
"Criterion Theatre, Piccadilly, W.
"July 8."

"DEAR MR. DESPREZ,—I should have been only too delighted to have accepted your kind invitation for the 21st, but I regret to say I left London for my holiday last week, and shall not be there again until late in the autumn.—With all good wishes, yours very truly,
"JOHN HARE.
"Lower Hare Park, Newmarket.
"July 16."

"DEAR MR. DESPREZ,—Unfortunately we shall be holiday-making on the 21st and away from London, or we should have been delighted to be present at your silver wedding. We are sending you a little souvenir of the happy event as a slight token of appreciation of your excellent work in the service of the stage.—Yours sincerely,
"GEORGE ALEXANDER.
"57, Pont-street, S.W.
"July 8, 1908."

"DEAR MR. DESPREZ,—Please accept warmest congratulations from Mrs. Martin Harvey and myself on the happy occasion of your silver wedding.—Yours very sincerely,
"MARTIN HARVEY.
"Sheringham.
"July 21."

DEAR MR. DESPREZ,—Nothing would have given me greater pleasure than to have been present at your silver wedding. Unfortunately, I shall be out of town, but please ask me to your golden and diamond wedding. With kindest regards to you both.—Believe me, yours sincerely,
"GEORGE EDWARDES.
"Daly's Theatre, W.
"July 10, 1908."

Letters of kindly congratulation were also received—from various parts of the kingdom and the Continent—from Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Terry, Mr. Brandon Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson, and many other leading actors and actresses.

An amusing diversion was created in the course of the evening by a mystifying telegram from His Majesty's Theatre, signed "Tree," saying that he had been obliged to go to Marienbad, and wishing the happy pair "bimetallism." Mr. Tree was mercilessly chaffed at this imagined *exposé* of the methods by which his zealous and courtly secretary, Mr. Whelen, distributed artificial courtesies. When the laughter had subsided a second peal was evoked by the discovery that that inveterate *farceur* Mr. Tree had secretly sent the wire himself. In the course of the evening, Mr. Tree amused and delighted the guests by reading aloud to them Mr. Comyns Carr's translation of the very funny "Flea" song in the new version of *Faust*. It was agreed that Mr. Carr had dealt very skilfully with the difficulties of the German original.

Mr. E. S. WILLARD, rising to propose the health of Mr. and Mrs. Desprez, said that twenty-five years ago things in London were very different. There was then, for instance, no His Majesty's; and Shaftesbury-avenue had not been invented. The other day he heard a young lady, one of the minor lights of the drama, talking to a friend, who asked her where she lived, whether she was still in Brixton? To which the young person replied, "Brixton, indeed! Certainly not! Why, we've moved to Shaftesbury-avenue!" There were now no "knife-boards" on the omnibuses, and there would, he supposed, soon be no horse 'buses at all. He remembered in the old days of the Princess's he was sitting on the top of an omnibus, talking with a friend by his side, when the conductor gave him his change. Feeling that it was sixpence short, Mr. Willard made some remark to the man, who, returning, again tried to palm off on him a false balance. In the end, after a slight altercation, Mr. Willard was "paid in full," and as he was getting off the 'bus, the driver called to the conductor, "What an idiot yer was to try it on 'im, Bill! Why, that's the 'Spider'!" Some twenty-five years ago Mr. Frank Desprez, with the assistance of Messrs. Gilbert and Sullivan (laughter), was drawing full houses at the Savoy (laughter), being in the habit of supplying the first pieces. They were acquainted with his work from the time he left writing plays to join the staff of *The Era*, his leading articles in which paper, dealing with thorough knowledge and understanding with the wants and feelings of the stage, had been deeply appreciated by the profession. Since then, as Editor, he had kept a watchful eye on its interests, and had always opposed anything that could injure or degrade the drama. He asked them to drink the health of Mr. and Mrs. Desprez, and to wish them every happiness and prosperity till the time of their golden wedding.

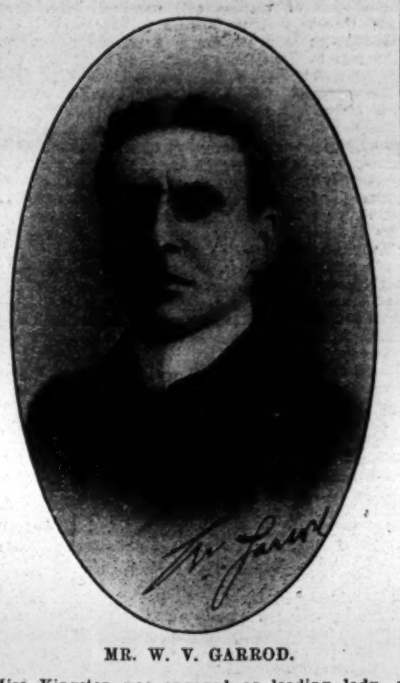
Mr. FRANK DESPREZ, in reply, said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—I am not about to spoil the effect of Mr. Willard's charming speech by making another. Indeed, there is nothing for me to say. My wife forbids me to praise her—in public; and Mr. Willard has left me very little to say in praise of myself. I thank Mr. Willard for his generous speech; I thank you for being present here to-night, and especially Mr. Tree for so kindly travelling from Harrogate to join our party; and I say, in the words that poor Henry Irving so often used on his first nights, "Thanks, thanks, and yet again, thanks!"

Amongst the numerous presents were a handsome silver jewel-case, from Sir Charles Wyndham; a beautiful silver table dish, from Mr. and Mrs. George Alexander; a handsome claret-jug, from Mrs. R. D'Oyly Carte; an elaborately chased solid silver tray, from Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Parke; a very pretty toilette-box, from Miss Adrienne Dairolles (Mrs. Fisher) and Mr. W. J. Fisher; a valuable silver salver, from Mr. Edward Ledger in Scotland; and two charming *bonbonnières*, from Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hentschel.

NOTABLE THEATRICAL WEDDING.

A theatrical marriage of considerable interest took place at the Church of the Ascension, Balham, on Sunday last, when Miss Bertha Kingston was united in wedlock to Mr. W. V. Garrod. The ceremony was a very quiet one, only a few relatives being present.

Mr. and Mrs. Garrod became acquainted six years ago, on Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's first tour of *Under Two Flags*, and on Mr. Garrod's entry into management some four years ago, in conjunction with Mr. Alfred Northway,



MR. W. V. GARROD.

Miss Kingston was engaged as leading lady, a position she has retained ever since, playing the principal rôles in *The Sledge-Hammer*, *The Prodigal Parson*, *Still Waters Run Deep*, *The Sleigh Bells*, *Delicate Ground*, &c. She is an accomplished musician, having won the bronze medal of Trinity College and bronze medal of London Academy, besides numerous honours certificates. Previous to entering the theatrical profession, Miss Kingston studied for three years at the Lambeth Art School, and the accomplishments thus gained have proved of great value in the designing of scenery and costumes for her husband's productions.

MISS BERTHA KINGSTON.
(Mrs. W. V. Garrod.)

After a course of training under Mrs. Crowe, Miss Kingston secured her first engagement about seven years ago, appearing in *East Lynne*, under the management of Mr. Pitt Hardacre. A lot of varied work followed, and then she appeared as Kyndrede in *Every Man* when Mr. Wm. Poel first revived the play at the Charterhouse.

This was followed by a tour with the Drury-lane drama, *The Great Ruby*. Then came several lengthy engagements with Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow, during which Miss Kingston played Cigarette and the Princess in *Under Two Flags*, Dorothy in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, Ottiline Mallinson in *Lord and Lady Algy*, Phœbe in *As You Like It*, and Lady Rassendyll in *The Prisoner of Zenda*. She was also engaged for the short-lived *Sword of the King* at Wyndham's Theatre. Between these engagements Miss Kingston appeared with Mr. Philip Carr at the Botanic Gardens in pastoral plays, Milton's *Comus*, Ben Jonson's *The Hue and Cry after Cupid*, &c., Mrs. Beerbohm Tree being in the cast.

It is just ten years since Mr. Garrod made his first professional appearance at the Opera House, Cork, under the management of Mr. Wm. Calvert, having previously studied elocution under the late Charles Clegg, and appeared as an amateur in Liverpool. Since then he has played about 150 parts, sustaining all the principal rôles in Mr. Calvert's répertoire of twenty plays. Engagements with various melodramas were followed by a return to répertoire, supporting Mr. Lancelot Lowder as Joseph Surface, &c. He afterwards fulfilled a long engagement with Mr. Norman V. Norman as leading man, and later toured with Irish drama. Then came a long tour with Mr. Henry C. Arnold as Deepwater in *The Prodigal Daughter*. Subsequently joining Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow, he created the part of the Black Hawk in *Under Two Flags*, also appearing as Mr. Dent in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, and Jaques in *As You Like It*. This was followed by stock seasons at Bradford and Leeds, during which he played Bloodgood in *The Streets of London*, &c., and appeared with Mrs. Lancaster Wallis in *The Lady of Lyons*. Returning to Mr. Arnold, Mr. Garrod played Deepwater for another long tour, and then Mr. Francis Laidler engaged him to create the leading part in a new piece at Bradford. Following this he starred with Mr. Martin Adéson in the title-rôle in *A Human Terror*, a new version of *The Mysteries of Paris*. A tour as Sir John Harding in *The Idler*, and appearances in pastorals at the Botanic Gardens, Manchester, came next, and then Mr. Garrod fulfilled a long-standing engagement with Mr. Arthur Collins and Mr. Milton Bode in the leading heavy part in the Drury-lane drama, *The Best of Friends*. A short re-engagement with *The Idler*, *Captain Swift*, and *A Woman of no Importance* was followed by a long tour as Lucas Lyle in *Home, Sweet Home*, this being Mr. Garrod's fourth engagement with Mr. Frank Lindo. After a summer stock season, during which he created the Nubian Imp in Miss Daisy Halling's play *The Fire Witch*, Mr. Garrod joined Messrs. Polini and Melford for the Spider in *The Silver King*. Immediately after this he embarked in management in partnership with Mr. Alfred Northway, touring Wilson Barrett's drama, *The Sledge-Hammer*, for fifty-five consecutive weeks. Then they acquired the rights of *The Prodigal Parson*, and starting on Feb. 12, 1906, the tour has continued up to the present without the slightest interruption, Mr. Garrod having played the title-rôle 741 times. By way of a change he has appeared on odd occasions as John Mildmay in *Still Waters Run Deep*, and Mathias in his own two-act version of *The Sleigh Bells*, a part in which he has been remarkably successful.

After a brief holiday, Mr. Garrod will produce a new play, entitled *A Country Girl in London*, in which he and his wife will create the leading parts. They have been the recipients of many handsome presents, notably from the members of *The Prodigal Parson* company.

AN ELOCUTION COMPETITION.

Mr. Henry Arthur Jones acted as the judge in the elocution competition held by the British Empire Shakespeare Society at the Playhouse on the afternoon of the 17th inst. There were thirty-four entries, and the competitors had to give two skill recitations—one serious, the other comic. The following were the results:—

Juniors (under 16),—1, Miss Margot Balfour (Edinburgh centre); 2, Miss Nellie Innes (London); commended, Miss Alice de Grey (Stratford-on-Avon).

Professional Ladies.—1, Miss Hazel Thompson; 2, Miss Kathleen Rind; commended, Misses Margaret Chatwin and Carrie Haase.

Professional Gentlemen.—1, Mr. Howard Rose; commended, Mr. Arthur Trantom.

Amateur Ladies.—1, Miss Eve Tame (London); 2, Miss Annie Walden (London); commended, Misses Georgina Jebb (Birmingham), Doris Marzetti (London), and M. E. Wells (Sheffield).

Amateur Gentlemen.—1, Mr. P. L. Eyre (London); 2, Mr. A. C. Rickatson (London); commended, Messrs. W. L. Barber (Birmingham), H. E. Brown (Bristol), Joseph O'Dowd (Sheffield), and Hugh J. Percy (Alnwick).

Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, in the course of the afternoon, made the following speech:—A shrewd old judge once advised a junior brother to give his verdict, but never to give a reason for it. I am going to violate that old judge's wise piece of counsel. I am going to give you a reason for my verdict to-day.

A piece of acting, a display of elocution, may be judged from three main points of view. First, there is the personality of the actor or the reciter, and this rightly counts for much. We are ready to pardon many faults in those who draw us by a charming or a mysterious personality. On the other hand, we all know many estimable actors and actresses who the better they act the more we don't want to see them. After personality there are natural gifts of voice and temperament, of fire, of passion, of comic force. After personality and natural gifts comes training, the conscious direction of personality and natural gifts to a definite end, all that is summed up in the word "Technique." I shall, so far as possible, leave out of my reckoning what is due to personality and natural gifts, and I shall award the prizes chiefly on the score of technique. Not that I value personality and natural gifts less highly than technique; indeed, in a general way, I should put them first. But on the English stage to-day we are sadly to seek in the matter of training, of technique, of elocution. This is where we lamentably fail in comparison with our French friends. I do not think anyone who has watched the recent performances of the great Coquelin at His Majesty's can fail to acknowledge that in the matter of training we have much to learn, and this is especially the case in the matter of the delivery of verse. We have in our English blank verse line a far nobler and stronger instrument than the French alexandrine. The French alexandrine is a very irritating measure unless it is correctly and beautifully spoken. But a French company will go through an entire rhymed play, giving the right measure and accent to every line, and yet without any sense of constraint or awkwardness; moving easily under the weight of the verse like ladies and gentlemen in old court dress. You do not feel that it is less natural to speak in verse, you merely feel that it is more beautiful. But on an English stage how rarely in a Shakespearean play do we get the specific delight that the verse should give us, how rarely does a line fall upon our ears and give us the pleasure of music, a pleasure akin to that of hearing a fine passage on a violin. We get other delights in an English theatre, but we do not get the delight of hearing verse beautifully and musically spoken. I have heard whole scenes of verse delivered in an English theatre, and unless I had known them by heart I could not have told that they were in verse; I should have thought them to be a mere jumble written by an author who thought it a very fine thing to write prose that would occasionally scan as a blank verse line.

From these considerations, then, I am trying to award the prizes to-day for lines that are most correctly spoken.

It is a very difficult thing to do off-hand. It is difficult for the performers to lose their self-consciousness and do themselves justice. A judge would like to have longer and more varied hearing than this necessarily hurried and limited competition. He would like to have fuller opportunities before he could be quite sure that his verdict exactly summed all the merits of the competition. However, it is a case where swift and decisive judgment is a necessity, and having indicated the grounds of my decision I must give my verdict accordingly.

RICHARDSON, who was the last of the real race of itinerant dramatic showmen, amassed a fortune by unwearied industry; for upwards of forty years he reigned supreme in Smithfield and other fairs. It happened at the time of a fair at St. Albans that a dreadful fire occurred Richardson and his company did their utmost to extinguish it, and their services were considered valuable. Some time afterwards a subscription was raised for the uninsured sufferers. A plain-looking man, in a rusty black coat, red waistcoat, corduroy inexpressibles, and worsted stockings, entered the committee-room and gave in his subscription—£100. "What name shall we say, sir?" asked the astonished clerk. "Richardson, the penny showman," was the proud reply.

"THE LADY OF THE PAGEANT."

Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Max Pemberton and Cyril Wentworth Hogg, produced for the first time at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, on Monday, July 20.

Prosper Vandelay ..... MR. LOUIS CALVERT
Sir Titus Eastrey ..... MR. EDWARD RIGBY
Harry Eastrey ..... MR. ERNEST GRAHAM
Mr. Honeyspinner ..... MR. FRANK T. ARLTON
The Rev. Arthur Sheldon .. MR. G. ELPHINSTONE
Ali Ben Hassan ..... MR. SANDYMENN
Wallace ..... MR. LEONARD CALVERT
Sandwichmen
MESSRS. BRODIE, MACKLIN AND HARMAN
Police Officers
MESSRS. CHARLES BISHOP AND W. PENNING
Footmen ..... MESSRS. COLMER AND DOREEN
Claudine Dawn ..... MISS DAISY FISHER
Mrs. Marris ..... MISS NELLY GRIFFIN
Lady Violet Deane ..... MISS VERE SINCLAIR
Molly Gibbs ..... MISS GLADYS DALE
The Countess ..... MISS MAUD HENDERSON
Sara ..... MISS MARION MCCARTHEY
Betty ..... MISS EDITH BRENT
Phyllis ..... MISS VIOLET FENTON
Lady Eastrey ..... MISS ERNITA LASCELLES

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Time and place are indeed opportune for the production of a farce bearing the above title. The spirit of pageantry is conspicuously before the townsfolk of Eastbourne, but by a curious coincidence the date and place for the first performance were settled without any knowledge of the time chosen for the Pevensey Pageant, which is being enacted during the week. The piece has a story of agreeable freshness, and the satire contained in it is clever and amusing. Sir Titus Eastrey, a retired carpet seller, is lord and master of Eastrey Park, and at the opening we are introduced to a number of people busy rehearsing for the pageant to be held in the grounds. Sir Titus is to essay the rôle of Julius Cæsar, but at the same time he forbids his wife taking any part in the pageant, as he considers it beneath the dignity of the wife of a baronet to assume any kind of fancy dress. He is eminently a proper person, and he expects his wife to live up to a high standard of morals. But the young and pretty Lady Eastrey has not been entirely above suspicion, for during her sojourn in Paris she met an artist, Prosper Vandelay, and a close but innocent attachment sprang up between them. The artist delighted to paint her only, and he used her as a model for painting advertisements for soaps, cigarettes, &c., so that Paris hoardings are decorated with pictures of the woman who is now Lady Eastrey. These posters, which are sometimes of the partly-nude and classical order, find their way to England, and, unfortunately, the Rev. Arthur Sheldon, the master of the pageant, happens to see one of them. He recognises the features of the wife of Sir Titus, and at once communicates the news to the husband, whose ideas of propriety now receive a sad shock. Prosper Vandelay is in London, and Sir Titus at once procures a warrant for the arrest of the artist on a charge of libel by exhibiting the pictures which have given so much offence, and he proceeds to London to see the order carried out. Sir Titus visits the Frenchman in his studio, and furiously asks for an explanation. Vandelay's innocent mind cannot realise the situation, and he begs the injured husband to allow his wife to return with him to his studio in Paris. This request, calmly made by the artist, further infuriates Sir Titus, and in the midst of his wrath a knock is heard at the door, and Lady Eastrey appears. Sir Titus conceals himself in a sedan chair, and hears his wife and Prosper talking of their former happy days spent in Paris. The police arrive to arrest the painter, but in mistake carry off and imprison the baronet. In the meantime preparations are going forward for the pageant: a new Julius Cæsar has been appointed to take the place of Sir Titus, and Lady Eastrey decides in the absence of her husband to appear as Boadicea. Prosper Vandelay, too, turns up as a troubadour, and amuses the assembled crowds. In the midst of the bustle, Sir Titus appears, the police having discovered his identity, and at once released him. He hurries to the field in the Roman toga, only to find a rival installed in the character of Julius Cæsar, his wife dressed as Queen Boadicea, and, worst of all, the hated artist present. Vandelay now explains that he wants the lady on account of her excellence as a model for his work. Lady Eastrey vows she loves her husband, and him alone, and the Frenchman departs. There are now two Cæsars in the field, and the curtain descends as they are both addressing their legions at the same time.

Mr. Louis Calvert as the calm and innocent Frenchman, Prosper Vandelay, gives a very amusing performance, and the quaint broken English, often capable of several constructions, are delivered with a humour which appealed to the audience; Mr. Edward Rigby works hard and ably as Sir Titus; Mr. Frank T. Arlton contributes genial and genuine fun as Mr. Honeyspinner, the rival Cæsar; Mr. G. Elphinstone has much to do as the Rev. Arthur Sheldon, and does it admirably; and Mr. Ernest Graham is a bright, manly Harry Eastrey. Miss Ernita Lascelles has the necessary physical attributes for the impersonation of Lady Eastrey and Boadicea, and her acting is always earnest and effective; Miss Daisy Fisher is a dainty and pleasing Claudine; and the smaller parts, of which there are many, are all capably handled by members of an efficient company.

"IN a stock season in a Northern town, by a company of which I was leading actor," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "there was produced the great American play of *Under the Gaslight*, of which the principal feature was the 'thrilling sensation' of a railway train crossing the stage at express speed. The leading part, a character called Snorky, a one-armed man, is tied to the rails by the villains, and, of course, rescued at the right moment, as the train is heard coming along at terrific speed. Now the stage carpenter was very enthusiastic about this train, and devoted all his time to its making; and he turned out a very fine-looking engine and two carriages—'profile,' of course. He was very proud of his work, and he determined that he himself should work the engine. He picked out two of his best men to work a carriage each, so that nothing should mar the performance. The train was fastened together by a string running along behind. 'Now, lads,' said the carpenter, 'make no mistake. I run with the engine, and you run after me, each with a carriage; but don't be seen by the audience. Bend a little, so that your heads are not visible. Do as I do, and all will be right.' The last scene came, the lights were lowered, signals were set, line clear, and red fire lighted, and Snorky was safely bound to the rails. The cue was given, Snorky acting for all he was worth, working up the scene, till the excitement became intense, the engine shrieking, the red light glaring, Snorky was rescued, and on dashed the train; but unfortunately the poor carpenter stumbled over something in his way. Over went the engine, and he on top of it. The carriages, following on at great speed, fell over the engine, and all were muddled up together, each man struggling to get on his legs, and frantically endeavouring to extricate himself. It was a terrible 'railway accident' indeed. Fortunately it was the end of the drama, so the curtain descended on a dreadful catastrophe."

QUIN was asked once what he thought of turtle-eating. "By Heaven!" he said, "it is a thousand pities that on such an occasion a man has not a stomach as long as the cable of a first-rate man-of-war, and every inch palate."

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE COLISEUM.

Mr. Oswald Stoll's policy at the Coliseum has resulted in a dividend at the rate of ten per cent. per annum on the six months' working of the new conditions. We may, therefore, offer him very appropriately our heartiest congratulations on the high position the magnificent house has taken in the rota of London amusements, a position due to the originality of the programme, which is largely made up of theatrical items. Mr. Stoll has presented many prominent players from the legitimate houses, and considerable interest has been manifested in the appearance at the Coliseum of Miss Dorothy Grimston, the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, who has won success in such parts as Nina in *His House in Order*. Miss Grimston makes her début on the London variety stage in a playlet by E. Phillips Oppenheim, the author of "The Master Mummer," "The Prince of Sinners," and other books whose name is quite new to the "lesser stage." The piece is entitled

"THE MONEY SPIDER."

Gordon Holmes .....HERBERT BUNSTON
Richard Fargus .....HENRY LATIMER
Margaret Holmes .....DOROTHY GRIMSTON

Richard Fargus enters the study of Gordon Holmes (millionaire) with sinister intent. He had been a prosperous mill-owner, but in the stress of competition Gordon Holmes, the "spider" of the story, had sent him under. The struggle is now hopeless, and only revenge is to be thought of. On the study table of Holmes, awaiting his signature, are agreements taking over certain of Fargus's ventures. The bargain made had been a hard one, and the beaten man is handling with grim determination a shining revolver, when his meditations are disturbed by the entrance of Margaret Holmes, wife of the millionaire. She learns his purpose, and pleads eloquently for her husband's life. She will prevent him signing the papers at all costs. Fargus agrees to postpone his vengeance, but when the clock strikes he will shoot. Holmes listens to the pleading of his wife unconcernedly, and ridicules her quixotic notions concerning business. The man of commerce, he says, must make use of brains and opportunity. If he should fail to do this, he will go under as Fargus has done. But Margaret's agonised appeals eventually have their effect, and the documents are destroyed. With the silent departure of Fargus the curtain falls.

Miss Dorothy Grimston acts with an intensity and a pathos that keep the house in a tension of silence, and her success in so big a house is a fine testimony of her elocution. Mr. Henry Latimer contributes a sinister study of the disappointed Fargus, and Mr. Herbert Bunston presents a consistent portrait of the keen business man, Gordon Holmes.

Miss Madge Crichton is another new comer from the theatres. She finds an excellent vehicle for her abilities in the monologue by Laura Leycester, entitled *George or Arthur?* Both lovers have promised to call, but the object of their adoration is not quite certain which of the two is to arrive first. She passes the qualities of the two in review, and her woman's wiles and the author's wit supply the audience with a delightful quarter of an hour. A hilarious time is spent with Bella and Bijou, who present their latest skit, *The Suffragette*, with great success. For charm and idyllic qualities commend us to Callahan and St. George (lady and gentleman) in their Irish musical duologue *The Old Neighbourhood*, which is a genuine and deserved triumph. The harp is most skilfully played by the lady, who also sings the ballads of the disthressful country with natural pathos. Her companion is a comedian of the first rank. The Lyric Mummers present a duologue, in which the piano plays a prominent part, and the loves of a modern pierrot and pierrette are told in harmonious and well-rendered duets. Comedy is uppermost in the turns of Albert and Edmunds and Goodfellow and Gregson; sensational dancing comes from the Sousloffs; Celia Galley, a consummate artist, imitates Sarah Bernhardt cleverly; Odette Valery is a Cleopatra of considerable dramatic intensity, as shown in her dancing scena; and other turns in a fine programme are Binns and Binns, Alcide Capitaine, Mavis Clare, and the Ten-Ji Troupe. The Bioscope illustrates interesting incidents.

THE SURREY.

Mr. Frank Macnaghten's *locum tenens* here, Mr. Roy Cochrane, has had the satisfaction of viewing full houses this week. Foremost on the programme are Lew Lake and his crowd of Cockney comedians in *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, which is received with shouts of laughter. As Nobbler—one of the Nuts—Mr. Lew Lake gives a creation all his own; while as his timid pal, Jerry, Mr. Bob Morris is both clever and amusing. Miss Kitty Wilmore as the dashing Edith Arlington is smart and charming.

The Leonards, in their comedy duologue *True Blue*, are highly amusing. Susan Soapem, a housemaid, has been deceived by a police-constable who, after borrowing her savings, had disappeared. Susan has just entered on her duties in a new situation, when she is interrupted by the unceremonious arrival of a policeman, who has been flung down the area steps by his prisoner. He tries to make love to Susan, but she has an abhorrence of men in his uniform, and tells him the reason. All his old affection returns, and he tells her he is her old lover Bob Catchem, and when she asks for the return of her money, he says he gave it to the War fund. This satisfies Susan, and Bob, to show off, produces a pair of handcuffs, and on Susan asking him to demonstrate their use, he clasps them on his own wrists. He is much concerned to get them off again, as he is expecting his inspector round, and begs of Susan to get the key from his pocket and unlock them. She gets the key, and with it a bundle of girls' photos. Bob declares they are all his sisters, but Susan won't release him until he has written a promise of marriage. Merry laughter follows the unfolding of this simple and amusing story, and this clever couple well earn the liberal applause bestowed on their efforts.

Kitty Clinton, a *chic* and charming comedienne, gives point and expression to her two songs—"Have you another girl at home like Mary?" and "I must ask my mother first." The Four Kellys are smart, daring, and skilful male and female acrobats. One of the ladies turns a somersault from a pedestal some fourteen feet high. Gertie Lewis, male impersonator, is an active, sprightly dancer; Guest and Newlyn, in their potpourri of cross-talk, bâton-spinning, and dancing, have to respond to a triple recall; the Breton Troupe of pantomimists keep the ball of fun merrily rolling in their knockabout pantomime *The Tramps' Picnic*; Josephine Crook, in her illustrated song "Take me on the Flip-flap," takes her audience with her in the chorus with much gusto and enjoyment; Ada Parker, a youthful comedienne, is a skilful dancer; A. E. Clifford does exceedingly well in his descriptive song "Girls, Girls"; Chas. Sino is an expert sifleur; and in shadowgraphic scena he is most amusing. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux close an entertainment rich in variety and enjoyment.

CHELSEA PALACE.

An assortment of varieties at the popular palace at Chelsea contains at least one item that has the distinction of a first production, and it is no less ambitious an effort than an abbreviated version of *The New Clown*, which made so conspicuous a hit on its production at Terry's in the February of 1902. The story, it may be remembered, is that of a young lordling who imagines he has killed his friend, and seeks refuge in a circus, where he takes up, with dire results, the rôle of a clown. Happily the man supposed to be dead turns up strong and well, and the amateur "Joey" throws up his part with joy. The action of the sketch is confined to the interior of Dixon's Circus, of which a realistic setting is given. Mr. Arthur Cornell plays Lord Cyril Garston, and never spares himself in his efforts to create laughter. He is an admirable light comedian, with methods not at all unlike those of Mr. James Welch, who created the rôle, and though he hurried his lines towards the close, his delivery was skilfully pointed and the funny dialogue lost nothing of its drollery. Mr. Meadows invests with rugged humour the rôle of the circus proprietor; the strong man, in whom the new clown arouses such resentment, is realistically depicted by Mr. G. Gibbons; and a comely circus-rider is found in Miss Olive Wilton. The diverting antics of the donkey Flip-Flap, who can be made to bray melodiously whenever called upon, should not be overlooked. The sketch had a gratifying reception, and may be relied upon to please any audience.

A playlet of recent production is also that of *The Boatswain's Mate*, which is from the clever pen of Mr. W. W. Jacobs in association with Mr. Herbert Sergeant. The piece is both humorous and exciting, and under the direction of Vaughan and Lawson it provides an enjoyable interlude. Still another sketch to which novelty attaches is that of *Madrid, 4 p.m.*, which serves to introduce Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, the last-mentioned, if we mistake not, being a bucking mule which indulges in many extraordinary capers. The scene is a Spanish amphitheatre, and an amusing burlesque of a bull-fight is given. A return visit is made by France and Stewart, with their clever and refined sketch, *The 100 to 1 Chance*, which is the cause of uncontrollable merriment; and Brayne and Lloyd also create laughter with their broad and pungent comedy in *The Tree of Truth*.

The voice insured by Mr. Herbert Clifton for £1,000 proves to be a strong falsetto, which he utilises in the burlesque of several musical comedy favourites, giving imitations, among others, of Miss Zena Dare and Miss Gertie Millar, in songs associated with their fame, and, responding to an encore with an extravagant travesty of Miss Camille Clifford's "Gibson Girl." Mr. Clifton is also a grotesque dancer of no mean ability. Dancing of many nations is done by Mr. Leonard Gorney, who gives expert specimens of his native Russian, the Hungarian, the Dutch, and the Chinese, not even hesitating at the British hornpipe, and executes all his interesting selections amid the loudly-expressed satisfaction of the audience. Mr. Arthur Reece gains the ear of the house with his tuneful and humorous advice on how to choose a wife, and afterwards his invitation in song to "Come to the land of Bohemia" is interrupted by a policeman, who is himself a vocalist, and is induced to join in the refrain. Coon songs at the piano are indulged in by Miss Mabel Bright, who appears as a communicative child, and displays an agreeable talent for dancing. Contributions to the programme are also made by Miss Bessie Lind, comedienne, and by Jeapes's Graphic, which supplies an amusing series of pictures. Mr. Henri Gros, the managing-director, looks in occasionally to note the good business done, and in the meantime the interests of the hall are safe in the hands of Mr. J. Norman Berlin, the courteous and alert acting-manager.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

An excellent programme is submitted this week to the patrons of this popular establishment, of which Mr. Ernest Bridgen is the courteous acting-manager, assisted by Mr. C. Young. After the overture ("Pique Dame") had been admirably rendered by the band under the able direction of Mr. Forbes Russell, the first turn on the programme on the night of our visit was that of Foreman and Fannan. These favourite artists were in excellent form, and were warmly applauded in duologue and songs "La-da-diddle-de" and "My little Zulu baby." Mena Bray, Dutch girl, contributed a pretty little turn, consisting of a song, "Tina," and dance. Gus Garrick's imitations of famous comedians were very successful and afforded much amusement, the impersonations including Sam Mayo, Harry Champion, Harry Lauder, and a French comedienne. The Zancigs interested all with their marvellous entertainment. They are aptly billed as "two minds with but a single thought," and as psychological experts are inimitable. The sisters Grovini are very clever gymnasts, smart and attractive, and deservedly applauded; Ella Shields made a huge success with her songs "No money in your pocket," "Walking round the world," and "Coals," and proved herself a delightful singer of coon songs; the Maples appeared in a clever duologue entitled *How to Treat a Burglar*, and wound up with a smartly-executed dance; Tennyson and Wallis made a success with "My Japanese girl," and are patter comedians and dancers of considerable ability; the Coloured Meisters were very successful glee singers, their contributions, including "My rosebud" and "Laughing at us all," were loudly applauded; and the performance concluded with the American Bioscope, which exhibited a magnificent picture entitled The Paris Fire Brigade Drill.

FREE REHEARSALS.

At Brompton County Court on Monday, before Judge Bray, George Lake Grange, described as an actor, of New King's-road, Fulham, sued W. H. Savile, the proprietor of a music-hall sketch, residing at Bishop's-mansions, to recover 25s. in respect of a week's salary.

Plaintiff's wife appeared, and stated that her husband had recently been engaged in cinematograph work. He asked her to look at the columns of the theatrical paper the *Stage*, and if she saw anything that was likely to suit him to reply to the advertisement. She did so, and saw among the advertisements one from the defendant for a tall gentleman; and, her husband being a man 6ft. 2½in. in height, she sent her little boy round to the defendant, and on her husband's behalf asked for 35s. per week. Subsequently an interview took place between her husband and the defendant, and the latter arranged to pay her husband 25s. weekly, and fixed a rehearsal for the following Saturday, thus confirming the agreement.

Defendant, in evidence, said he was producing a new sketch with seven people in it. It was customary for the actors in such a production to give their services free at one week's rehearsals, and six out of the company of seven did this. Mr. Grange told him he was not in quite comfortable circumstances, and did not see his way to pay his expenses to and from Fulham and the Surrey Theatre, where the sketch was to be produced. Witness thereupon agreed to pay out-of-pocket expenses. The production of the sketch was, however, postponed.

In reply to his Honour, the defendant said he had no witnesses to prove the custom to which he had referred. He added that he considered the plaintiff's claim a most improper one. A promise to pay his out-of-pocket expenses had been twisted into an agreement to pay salary.

His Honour said the onus rested with the defendant to show that it was customary for artists to give their services for a week, but no witnesses were present to prove this, and under the circumstances he could not find that such custom was proved. There would be judgment for the plaintiff for 25s., the amount claimed.

MR. SAMMY SHIELDS, Scotch swell comedian, is the latest to join the Terriers' Association. On Sunday last he was initiated by Griff, who was in the chair.

"THE MORETON PEARLS."

A Dramatic Sketch, by Russell Vaun, Produced at the Hammersmith Palace, on Monday, July 20.

Gentleman Jack .....MR. CHAS. VANE
Detective Durham .....MR. EDWARD CRANSTON
Olga le Strange .....MRS. BENNETT

The portrayal of human perfidy has always been a favourite subject with the dramatist, and when a woman is the exponent of this revolting side of and "My little Zulu baby." Mena Brae, Dutch fully stirred. In *The Moreton Pearls* Mr. Russell Vaun has embodied an episode in which the apotheosis of various evil passions—hate, greed, and treachery—may be said to be reached. Olga le Strange is a strikingly handsome adventuress married to Gentleman Jack, the leader of a gang of burglars, known as the Scarlet Masks. Under the alias of Mrs. Murgatroyd she has obtained an introduction to the household of Lord and Lady Moreton, at Moreton Manor. The famous family pearls are the object of the cupidity of the gang, and arrangements have been made for their removal by Gentleman Jack, with Olga's assistance. But Detective Durham, of Scotland Yard, has succeeded in laying the members of the gang by the heels, with the exception of their leader. He presents himself to Olga, and offers her the alternative of arrest or her admission as King's evidence. The temptation is great, and, coupled with an underlying hatred of her husband, and the probability of securing the jewels for herself, induces her to agree to betray Gentleman Jack into the hands of the police. To obtain the jewels she murders the Countess, and, on her husband appearing on the scene, she places the dagger in his pocket. In trying to leave the mansion, Jack falls into the police trap, but contrives to escape their clutches, and returns to wreak vengeance on his faithless wife. He finds her gloating over the possession of the jewels, and, in a scene of gruesome horror, strangles her. The scena affords Mrs. Bennett an excellent opportunity of displaying her very strong dramatic powers. She certainly takes full advantage of that opportunity, and is ably supported by Mr. Charles Vane as the betrayed husband. Mr. Vane imparts the maximum of exasperated ferocity to the part; Mr. Edward Cranston gives a quietly effective rendering of the rôle of the detective, being more like the genuine article than the usual stage presentments of those functionaries.

PROVINCIAL TALENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Your complimentary notice of the Empire, Camberwell, in your last issue reads: "The Camberwell Empire holds the record of introducing a larger number of provincial artists than any house in the metropolitan area." Might I point out that a great amount of the booking of provincial artists—perhaps all—at this theatre is through my agency? And may I again say—as I mentioned when I opened up a correspondence in *The Era* not long ago under the heading of "Latent Talent"—that there are still plenty more artists awaiting their entrée? I saw a manager the other day, and spoke very highly of a certain comic singer—one who is, like others, awaiting his Mecca; and he don't mind waiting, as an entrance to Town under certain conditions is a bit of a farce—and his reply was, "Don't know him; never heard of him." What is an agent for but to find new people? This class of agent is worth 10 per cent. I have never yet, as an agent of recent years, waited for an act to be found for me and brought under my nose, and then sat, in a complacent manner with a top hat on at an angle of 45deg., and said, "Call up at the office in the morning."

You will quite excuse, I am sure, my availing myself of your report, but in the rough-and-tumble of the agency world, to quote the old saying, "its a poor heart that never rejoices," and if you don't blow your own trumpet nobody else will. To use an auctioneer's term, "Any bids?"—Yours faithfully, WILL DALTON

(Dalton's Agency).

29, Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester, July 20.

THE first death in the ranks of the head office staff of Moss' Empires and associated companies since its establishment, nearly four years ago, has occurred. On Saturday morning last a telephone message was received announcing that Mr. Alfred Calder Mumford, the manager of the legal department, had died during the night of double quinsy. The deceased gentleman, who was well known and universally respected in the variety world, had only been absent from his post four days, and even whilst at home had insisted on transacting as much of his business as was possible. Mr. Mumford, before being appointed to Moss' Empires, was "right-hand man" to Messrs. Smith, Rundell, and Dods, solicitors, subsequently becoming secretary to the Coliseum, Ltd., and the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empires, Ltd. The funeral took place on Wednesday at the Kingston Cemetery.

THE Mining Exhibition at Olympia, which is now entering on its last week, was visited on Tuesday evening by the nine miner heroes who, earlier in the day, had been decorated by the King. On Saturday, July 25, the exhibition will be viewed by nearly the whole of the members of both Houses of Parliament.

PECULIAR interest attaches to the engagement of La Belle Nello at the Hackney Empire next week. Some weeks ago, it will be remembered, the death through accident of Clown Delevanti was recorded. La Belle Nello was an apprentice for ten years of the famous old clown, and originally appeared with the Three Delevantis. The supple grace of the young lady is eloquent testimony to the thoroughness of Clown Delevanti's training. La Belle Nello has just returned from a three years' world tour, and has been booked by the Moss-Stoll syndicate for some years ahead.

MISS CLARICE MAYNE, the talented comedienne and mimic, who has made such a rapid advance to the front rank of the profession, has this week signed 108 weeks' contracts with the Syndicate halls through the agency of Mr. Harry Day, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, who is her exclusive representative.

THE engagements at the Palace, Maidstone, are made solely through Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, to which firm artists should apply.

MR. ALFRED BUTT, who has done much to bring the theatre and the music hall stage into touch with each other by the engagement of dramatic "stars" and the production of little plays, announces the important engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier (Miss Violet Vanbrugh) for the Palace Theatre. No precise date has been fixed, and, owing to previous engagements, the interesting event can scarcely happen until next spring. They have two excellent duologues in Mr. Alfred Sutro's *A Marriage Has Been Arranged* and Mr. R. C. Carton's *Ninth Waltz*, both of which have already been stamped with the seal of public approval at the theatres; but possibly they will present something quite new.

THE AWARDS.—The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, K.C., the official arbitrator appointed to the music hall dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at *The Era* Offices. Copy, including postage, three-halfpence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ROYAL MUSICIANS.

Since the Norman conquest, writes a correspondent, music as an art has been fostered by nearly all the sovereigns of England. In early times monarchs encouraged in various ways the bands of minstrels that perambulated the country, and it was a knowledge of music, according to legendary history, that secured the restoration of Richard I. (1157-1199) to his country and his throne, his imprisonment in the castle of Dürnstein being discovered by his favourite minstrel, Blondel de Nesle.

"In the stillness of the night he preluded on his instrument," says Mr. F. J. Crowest in "The Story of British Music," and "began to sing a romanza composed by Richard in Palestine at a time when ardent love for the beautiful Marguerite, Countess of Hennegau, filled his whole heart. As each verse of the song had a refrain, he was sure that if the captive was really Richard he would now betray himself. Blondel's supposition proved correct. A voice, hollow, yet practised in the art of singing, answered from the prison:—

'I know with full assurance that woman's gentle care,
Brings comfort, hope, endurance, in time of deep despair.'

Then did Blondel feel certain that he had found his patron and his King. He sped to England and told his story to the barons and nobles. Without loss of time a treaty was entered into for Richard's ransom."

Edward IV. (1442-1483) established a Court band, from which organisation is derived the title of "Master of the King's Musique," an appointment now held by Sir Walter Parratt, although the Royal orchestra, as a part of the Court, was abolished a few years ago.

Richard III. (1450-1485) took special interest in the improvement of singing in the Chapel Royal, and authorised one John Melynek "to take and seize all such singing men expert in the science of music as he could find and think able to do the King's service." But it was not until the Tudor period that an English monarch actually won distinction as a composer.

This was Henry VIII. (1491-1547), whose extensive knowledge of music was due to his early training for the Church, music in those days being an essential feature of the education of an ecclesiastic. "His Majesty," wrote the Venetian Ambassador in 1519, "is very accomplished, a good musician, composes well, is a most capital horseman, a fine jouster, speaks good French, Latin, and Spanish, is very religious, hears three masses daily when he hunts, and sometimes five on other days." Henry composed numerous motets, among those preserved in the British Musueum, and published by Messrs. Novello, being the anthem "O Lord the Maker of all things," and the madrigals, "Pastime with good company," "O how beauteous art thou," and "The time of youth." The song, "Now fayre, fayrest off every fayre"—to quote the original title—is a melodious effusion His Majesty composed for the marriage of his sister Margaret with James IV. of Scotland—a union from which King Edward VII. traces his descent.

Elizabeth (1533-1603), as became the daughter of Henry VIII. and Anne Boleyn, was extremely fond of music, and was a fine virginal player, as well as the possesor of a rich mezzo-soprano voice. A quaint story is told of her in Burney's "History." Sir James Melvil was sent to her by Mary Queen of Scots in 1564 on a diplomatic mission. Elizabeth asked him how his Queen dressed. What was the colour of her hair, whether that or hers was the better, which of them two was the fairer. Then she asked what kind of exercises Mary used.

"I answered," said Melvil, "that when I received my despatch the Queen was lately come from hunting; that when her more serious affairs permitted she was taken up with reading of histories; that sometimes she recreated herself with playing upon the lute and virginal." She asked if she played well. I answered, "reasonably for a Queen." The same day after dinner my Lord of Hunsden drew me to a quiet gallery, that I might hear the Queen play upon the virginal. After I had hearkened awhile, I took up the tapestry that hung before the door of the chamber, and seeing her back was towards the door, I entered within the chamber, and stood a pretty space hearing her play excellently well. But she left off immediately so soon as she turned about and saw me. She appeared to be surprised to see me, and came forward seeming to strike me with her hand. She asked me how I came there. I answered, "As I was walking with my Lord Hunsden I heard, as we passed by the chamber door, such a melody as ravished me, whereby I was drawn in ere I knew how," excusing my fault of homeliness as being brought up in the Court of France, where such freedom was allowed, and declaring myself willing to endure what punishment Her Majesty should be pleased to inflict upon me for so great an offence. Then she sat down upon a low cushion, and I upon my knees by her, but with her own hand she gave me a cushion to lay under my knees, which at first I refused, but she compelled me to take it. She enquired whether my Queen or she played the better, and I found myself obliged to give her the praise.

James I. (1566-1625), according to Tassoni, wrote "not only sacred compositions for the voice, but found out of himself a new kind of music, plaintive and mournful, differing from every other."

Playford records that Charles I. (1600—1649) was "not behind any of his predecessors in the love and promotion of this science, especially in the service of Almighty God, and with much zeal he would hear reverently performed, and often appointed, the services and anthems, being by his knowledge in music a competent judge therein and would play his part exactly well on the bass viol." The only composition of this monarch which has been preserved is his setting of Thomas Carew's poem, "Mark how the blushful morn." His principal tutor was John Cooper, who, after his return to England from Italy, called himself Signor Coperario!

George IV. (1762-1830), when he was a young man, was an accomplished musician, taking part in quartets with Karl Abel, Wilhelm Cramer, Johann Salomon, and other great instrumentalists of the day, and he sang patriotic and jovial ditties his fine bass voice being eulogised by Rossini, who by the way, gave music lessons to Queen Victoria His Majesty was a severe critic, as is instanced by an anecdote recorded by George Smart. He attended in 1822 a concert at the Pavilion, Brighton, at which Catherine Stephens (who in 1835 was married to the Earl of Essex) was singing. Not caring for her voice His Majesty said to Smart:—'You conductors force a performer upon the public whether capable or not. Now, Sir George, you know Miss Stephens is not a great singer—give me your candid opinion." The reply was diplomatic: "It would be presumption in me to offer an opinion to your Majesty, who is so good a judge in musical matters."

Thibault IV., King of Navarre (1201-1253), was the first monarch to distinguish himself as a composer, and his song, "L'Autrier par la Matinée," is preserved and occasionally heard in musical circles.

Frederic the Great (1712-1786), who "studied harmony in secret because his father considered music to be an effeminate pastime," wrote many military marches and a number of concertos for the flute, his favourite instrument. "He often performed," says one writer, "in the evening five concertos on the flute, which his Royal orchestra had to accompany. In composing he wrote down only the melody, and he indicated in words how the bass and the other parts should be contrived; for instance, 'here the bass shall be in quavers,' 'here the violins shall play alone.' These directions he gave to his Kapellmeister Agricola, who then completed the score."

RACHEL'S BOUQUET.

In the conversation of the actor's foyer of the Français, writes Albert Rhodes, the past is often referred to. The lights nearest the present burn most brightly and the old ones somewhat dimly. The anecdotes concerning Talma are becoming rare; the people who knew him have passed away. Rachel is still talked of, as well as Mlle. Mars and Mlle. Georges, for some of the talkers personally knew the three. There are some curious features in the life of the first of the trio, which are not without interest. As those will recollect who have read Thackeray, the *deus ex machina* in the case of the Fotheringay was old Bows in the orchestra; in that of Rachel it appears to have been, or something approaching thereto, Samson, a leading comedian of this theatre, and a member of the society, who was her professor. When Rachel presented herself at the Français, after passing two or three years at the Conservatoire, she first applied to Provost, another comedian of this theatre. "You are not made for the stage," said he; "you had better go on the Boulevards and sell bouquets." When she reached Samson there was some encouragement. "If I had your organ," said he, "I would work miracles." "Then put your genius into my voice," returned she; "be my master."

Samson, who was author as well as actor, undertook the dramatic education of the young person with the remarkable larynx, and in a short time made such progress with her as to induce his colleagues to receive her as a pensionnaire. At her introduction into the establishment she offered the name of Eliza—her baptismal name being Elizabeth Rachel—to which the manager objected, saying that she should be called Rachel. Through the efforts of Samson—it was the best he could do—an important part was confided to her during the warm season, when most people were off at the watering places. On one of these unfashionable summer nights Jules Janin, "the prince of critics," happened to be present, although as a rule, according to his own account, he objected to the Russian bath. In the next edition of this journal the Parisian world was informed that a new planet had arisen in the theatrical horizon, destined to pale several that had until then shone with steady lustre. The following day the grateful young woman went to the critic and thanked him, when the writer turned the scene into copy, with that spirit of exaggeration for which he was known. Rachel had been at the Gymnase Theatre before entering the Français, and, according to him, she spoke her language imperfectly, saying to him: "C'est moi que j'étais-t-au Gymnase l'an passé"; to which he returned, with a peal of laughter, "Je le savions!" But we are not obliged to believe this because Jules Janin wrote it.

She had played soubrette parts at the Gymnase, and was under the impression that such work was suited to her, until she placed herself in the hands of Samson, whose first injunction was that she should forget all about comedy as soon as possible.

In two or three months the effects of Rachel's studies with Samson were evident. Notwithstanding her talent, she did not, or could not, play a part until she had repeated it word for word from the mouth of her professor, who taught her the musical side of the interpretation as well as the dramatic, for there is a cadence in the old tragedies which may not be translated into foreign tongues. The pomp of rising and falling declamation found its high priestess in Rachel; the effect was marvellous. The finances of the establishment, which for a time had been at ebb, rose tide high. At the end of one of her brilliant victories she carried an arm full of flowers from the stage and deposited them in the lap of Provost, saying:—

"Won't you buy some? You recollect you advised me to sell them."

"Come," answered the comedian, "forget the advice and embrace the false prophet."

MR. FRANK HARDIE is reproducing next Monday at the Camberwell Empire his highly sensational American episode, *Pedlar Sam*, with entirely new scenery and effects, by Francis H. Bull.

A HUNGARIAN fête, organised by an influential committee presided over by the Lord Mayor, was given at the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, on Tuesday afternoon in aid of the League of Mercy. The Austro-Hungarian Ambassador was present, and the opening ceremony was performed by the Countess of Chesterfield, president of the Kensington branch. A host of distinguished guests attended the gala matinée in the Summer Theatre of the "Hungarian Street."

AT the concerts Mme. Ilka Palmay (Countess Kinsky), formerly of the Savoy Theatre, Mme. Sarolta d'Argay, Mme. Erma Torok, and other celebrated artists contributed a national Hungarian programme, which met with cordial appreciation from a representative international audience. Afterwards, at the Old Welcome Club, in the Western Gardens, there was a reception by the committee and stewards in honour of a Hungarian deputation from Budapest, with the artists of the National, Magyar, and King's Theatres of the capital. At the conclusion of the final National Hungarian Concert the festivities were brought to a close by a performance of the Csardas lance.

THE first house-dinner and concert of the Canonbury Tower Club, Canonbury-square, was held on Saturday evening. The Warden, Major Dance, occupied the chair. The excellent programme included Miss Lilian Homesley, an American artist new to England, whose series of self-accompanied children's songs delighted the large audience present. Her acceptable contributions included "I want the moon," "In daddy's arms," and a German soldier song, and she had a most flattering reception, her ditties appealing specially to the ladies. Mr. Robert Anthony, a rising young baritone singer, sang several songs, and his excellent voice and style quickly made him a favourite Miss Margaret Hall Walker, although far from well, gave an admirable rendering of "April morn" and other songs. Miss Maude Longhurst, a contralto with a fine rich voice, had a splendid reception, her artistic rendering of "Eva" and "Angus Macdonald" being greeted with prolonged applause. Mr. Will Ballard scored with his comic ditties; and Mr. Charles Norman's "Song of the Camp"—a recitation in which snatches of songs were introduced—proved one of the successes of the evening. Mr. Frank Frith acted as accompanist, and Mr. Will Clinch gave valuable assistance as stage-manager.

MR. F. T. STUDD, ventriloquist and magician, the proprietor of "The Funmakers," writes as follows:—"In your issue of July 18 your Southend correspondent has sent an erroneous report re the Pier Hill Bandstand. 'The Pick-me-Up's' only appear twice daily, and my company, 'The Funmakers,' also twice daily."

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ON THE ROAD, JULY 27.

AN ABANDONED WOMAN.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
AN UNWEDDED WIFE.—T. R., Leeds.
AT CRIPPLE CREEK.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
AT THE WORLD'S MERCY.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
BELLE OF NEW YORK.—Pier, Eastbourne.
BELLE OF THE BALL.—O. H., Southport.
BOYNE, MR. LEONARD.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
BULMER, MR.—Alexandra T., Hull.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.—O. H., Harrogate.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—O. H., Weymouth.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S.—Grand T., Blackpool.
FABER, MR. LESLIE.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—East Oxford T., Oxford.
FIGHT FOR LIFE.—T. R., Tyldesley.
FLOWER GIRL.—Empire T., Oldham.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—T. R., Woolwich.
GIRL REDEEMED FROM SIN.—T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
GREAT AWAKENING.—King's T., Southsea.
GREED OF GOLD.—Grand T., Halifax.
HIS SISTER'S HONOUR.—T. R., Barry.
HORNIMAN'S, MISS, CO.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
HUGHES, ANNIE.—Londesboro' T., Scarborough.
HYPOCRITES, THE (N.).—O. H., Harrogate.
IDOL OF PARIS.—T. R., Darlington.
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND.—Sunderland.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Nairn and Lossiemouth.
LION'S HEART, A.—Palace T., Bordesley.
LOVE OF A PRINCESS.—Prince's T., Bradford.
LOVE RULES THE WORLD.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—T. R., Aston.
MERELY MARY ANN.—O. H., Torquay.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Gaiety Theatre, Douglas.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—T. R., Scarboro'.
PLUCKY NIPPER.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
POWER OF THE KING.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
PRINCE OF PILSEN.—O. H., Blackpool.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—T. R., Stockport.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—Gaiety T., Douglas.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Queen's T., Manchester.
SEXTON BLAKE.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
SILVER KING.—Borough T., Stratford.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN (HARRINGTON).—Southampton.
WARNER, MISS GRACE.—Theatre Royal, Crook.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—O. H., Buxton.
WOMAN PAYS.—Prince's T., Bradford.
WOMAN WORTH WINNING.—Met. T., Gateshead.
WRECKER OF MEN.—Elephant and Castle T.
£1,000 REWARD.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.

HERMAN MERIVALE'S REMEMBRANCES.

My grandfather's essays in play-writing, says Herman Merivale in "Bar, Stage, and Platform," began in an interesting fashion. His wife's father—Devonian like himself—was the famous scholar and head-master, Dr. Drury; and both loved the play. And, on a fit-up stage in Exeter, one night they saw a strolling player enact Othello and Harlequin. And so overcome and startled were they by the man's extraordinary power, that my grandfather at once wrote to Byron, then of the managing committee of Drury Lane, which was but at a low ebb, and advised him to find the player out. Byron only laughed and pooh-poohed him, assuring him that he was always hearing of these wandering genii, who never came to anything. But Drury Lane ebbed more and more, and one morning my grandfather got a letter from him to say that something had to be done, and that if the Exeter genius could be unearthed he would give him a chance on the recommendation of so good a critic. So the seekers set to work, and after much ado discovered the wanderer in some out-of-the-way corner of mere rustic Devon, ebbing like Drury Lane, and run low down indeed. The story that followed is known to all the world, for the poor, world-tossed genius went to London, and waited hopelessly enough for the chance that came at last. And they called him at the theatre "the litle man in the capes," and his name was Edmund Kean. Perhaps he was the greatest actor, if we may trust all the records, who ever flashed upon our stage. And it was not only as Shylock that he appeared. In a metaphorical sense he repeated his Exeter experiment. "They say that the fellow is a good Harlequin," said an envious member of the company, after he had struck the empty benches into fire, till "no one could have thought that so few people could kick up such a row." "Yes," said the kindlier Fawcett, "he's the best I ever saw, for he has jumped at once over all our heads together."

And so from Kean to Kean, from father unto son, from Edmund unto Charles. Our families were close friends, of course, after that beginning, and he was much at my father's table in my young boy-days, thereby, I think, dissipating for ever any fears of the woolsack that might have haunted my bar-doomed life. Annoyed with my mother, who was an invalid, unable to attend the theatres, because she admitted one evening that she had been to hear Albert Smith (his jealousies were always boyish), he carried me off to his theatre in revenge, and introduced me to his columbine, whose flounces and eyes settled my tastes definitively. He became so fond of me, and I of him, that I almost lived at the Princess's during the holidays. Early after breakfast I trotted off to rehearsal as if I were a child-actor, and wandered at my will from box to stage, and stage to box. Particularly when the *Midsummer Night's Dream* was being rehearsed, when all the pretty girls of the company, save when their scenes were on, collected in the Royal box and petted me. Kean had a wonderful eye for pretty girls, and this was a real bevy, headed by one who still remains in my mind, in spite of all the dreams of later beauties, as the loveliest woman in her youth whom I have ever seen—out of a real stage-stock—Carlotta Leclercq. She was but a dancer first, and then a columbine, and as she had no especial talent, rose from the ranks by sheer right of beauty. Kean trusted her, as a first "speaking part," with Phœbe in *As You Like It*, and such a queen of curds and whey, with bugle eyeballs and with cheeks of cream, might have made Rosalind herself turn very man to love her. She was a perfect woman without flaw—features without a fault, yet with no lack of expression—height, hair, and limbs, figure, and proportions, all in the fairest symmetry of womanhood.

MESSRS. MARY AND Co., of Green-street, Leicester-square, made the costumes and wigs for Mr. W. D. MacKenzie's company in *Moments with the Masters*, at the Hippodrome, Hastings.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

J. B. CLAYTON.—*The author of* The Cat and the Cherub, *Chinese play, produced for the first time in London at the Lyric on Oct. 30, 1897, was Chester Bailey Fernald.*

ALLMAN.—*Miss Maude Branscombe was the Phœbe in Miss Wallis's revival (under that lady's management) of* As You Like It *at the Gaiety (matinée) on April 11, 1883. Your questions involve considerable search, and we may be able to say more next week.*

SENEX.—*Mme. Anna Thillon's approaching retirement from the stage was announced in* The Era *of May 20, 1855, the first of her farewell performances taking place at the Lyceum on May 16, 1855, when* The Crown Diamonds *was revived, Mme. Thillon playing Catarina, the heroine of Auber's opera, a part in which she first appeared before an English audience in 1844.*

MR. JOHN THOMSON (Philadelphia).—*Verdi's opera* Il Trovatore *was adapted into English by Mr. Charles Jeffreys, and was produced in that language for the first time at Drury Lane Theatre on March 24, 1856, with the following cast:—Leonora, Mme. Lucy Escott; Azucena, Miss Fanny Huddart; Manrico, Mr. Augustus Braham; Count di Luna, Mr. Henri Drayton; Ferrando, Mr. Farquharson. You will see by this cast that neither Sims Reeves nor Clara Novello were the originals of the characters of Manrico and Leonora. The opera was produced under the management of Messrs Tully and Kingsbury.*

J. ELLIS WELLS.—*There is an actor of that name who has been touring in* Monte Cristo. *We do not remember the charity performance you speak of, and do not know whether the actor referred to appeared in it.*

A. PALMER.—*The Garrick Theatre, Charing Cross-road, W.C., was opened by Mr. (now Sir) John Hare on April 24, 1889. See notice above.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

BLUMENTHAL.—On the 17th inst., at 4, Brightwell-avenue, Westcliff-on-Sea, the wife of R. G. Blumenthal (Marie Montrose)—a daughter.

ROYDAN.—July 18, at 7, Brading-road, Brighton, the wife of Tom Roydan (Emmeline B. Lewis), of a son.

MARRIAGES.

BEATON—GOULD.—At St. Aidan's Church, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on July 17, 1908, by the Rev. Herbert Bott, M.A., Alexander Foggie, second son of Mr. A. F. Beaton, Newcastle, to Eleanor Caroline, the only daughter of Mr. Fred Gould, Ashington.

CLIFFORD—JOHNS.—Charles Clifford to Miss Jennie Johns, to-day, July 25, at St. Pancras.

GARROD—KINGSTON.—On July 19, at the Church of the Ascension, Balham, S.W., by the Rev. A. W. Hooper, M.A., W. V. Garrod to Bertha Kingston.

DEATHS.

ALLEN.—On July 16, at 7, Macbeth-street, Liverpool, Vivian Alwyn, the dearly beloved son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Arnold Allen (Effie Macintosh); aged 1 year 6 months.

BEATTIE.—July 13, at Blackburn, Mrs. Nancy Beattie, formerly lessee of the Theatre Royal, Blackburn; aged 61.

GEARY.—July 17, West London Hospital, Hammersmith, W., of heart disease, Sam Arthur (Geary), aged 39. Interred at Chiswick Cemetery, July 21. His end was peace.

GREAVES.—On July 9, at 20, Victoria-terrace, Dudley (the residence of his son), Thomas Greaves, Professor of Music, of Wolverhampton, in his seventy-second year.

IN MEMORIAM.

D'ALMAINE.—In loving memory of Mary D'Almaine the beloved mother of Mrs. Maud Barrasford who died July 18, 1906, at Hippodrome House Brighton. Sadly missed, dear grandma.—"Pats and Teddy."

"CLANHOGITY," a most original sketch, will shortly be produced by Jack Neville's company.

MR. AND MRS. HENRY COUTTS are recuperating this week in their river bungalow Dabchicks, Laleham-on-Thames, returning to the Empire, Liverpool, on Monday.

MISS MAY MOORE-DUPREZ, "the jolly Dutch girl," has just signed four years' contracts with the Syndicate halls, five years with Mr. Thomas Barrasford, and other proprietors, making 176 weeks, all booked by her sole and exclusive representative, Mr. Harry Day, Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand.

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No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Augarde, Miss A.
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Austin, Mr. Geo. R. J.
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Barrow, Mr. T.
Bastow, Mr. Geo
Beaton, Mr. R.
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Bonner, Mr. T.
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Brennan, Mr. J.
Brumley, Mr. J. A.
Cass, Mr. F.
Cattaneo, Mr. Max
Chambers, Mr. H.
Chard, Lieut.
Charrington, Mrs. Chas
Chatto, Mr. W. R.
Chirgwin, Miss Clara
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Miss D. H.
Clarke, Mr. D.
Collier, Mr. Hal
Colemments, Miss Nina
Cooper, Mr. H.
Costello, Mr. Harry
Crawford, Miss Alice
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Crow, Mr. Jim
Cuthbert, Mr. A.
Dalton, Miss F.
Daniels, Mr. Alf
Darnley, Mr. H.
Dean, Miss Violet
De Gracia, Mrs.
Doris, Miss Millie
Duffy, Mr. John
Dumont, Mme.
Duncan, Mr. Albert
Duncan, Miss M.
Duncan, Mr W. O.
Elton, Mr. S.
Fainy, Mr. Chas.
Fane, Mr. R. M.
Farrington, Miss Nina
Fischer, Mr. Harry
Florodora Girls
Ford, Mr. E.
Foster, Mr. Geo.
Frasettis, Les
Freeland, Mr. F.
French, Mr. Henri
Gilhoni, Miss Celia
Glenney, Mr. C.
Graydon, Mr. James
Green and Wood
Gregson Comedy Trio
Grist, Miss Amy
Groves, Mrs. J. H.
Hall, Miss Jeanette
Halter, Mr. Frank
Hamilton's, Messrs.
Hannan, Mr. Percy
Hare, Mr. Arthur
Hart, Mr. A. G.
Harvard, Mr. George
Hasluck, Mr. L.
Hayes, Mr. Brent
Hebden, Mme.
Holmes, Mrs.
Hemingway, Mr. Jack
Horsfall, Mr. Basil
Housden, Mr H. F.
Howard, Mr. Keble
Hudspeth, Miss Marie
Iris, Miss Lily
Jacobs, Miss Jennie
Kartelli
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Kirk, Miss F.
Knight, Mr. Augustin
Lawrence, Miss Queenie
Lea, Mr. Edmund
Le Diabelo
Le Franc, Mr. Fred
Letine, Mr. Tom
Lind, Miss Letty
Lloyd, Miss May
Lloyd, Miss Rosie
Lynn, Mr. Harry
Macfarlane, Mr. J. H.
Mackney, Mr. Will
Macweys, The
Mather, Mr. Aubrey
Maude, Miss
Maugham, Mr. W. S.
Max, Mr. Henry
Maxford, Mr. Dan
Mazzoni, Mr. Fred
McFarlane, Miss Violet
McGluckin, Mr. Barton
McIntosh, Mr. Gordon
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Milian, Mr. Max
Millett, Miss Maude
Moore, Miss Mabel
Moore, Mrs. E.
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Morison, Capt. R.
Morton, Mr. Teddy
Mount, Miss Violet
Moxon, Mr. Billy
Musgrove, Mr. George
Nation, Mr. H. R.
Neill, Mr. Sinclair
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Norton, Miss Ruby
Odell, Miss Maude
Osborne, Mr. Jack
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Roydat and Walker
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Ruschmiller, Mr. S.
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Sanford, Mr. L. G.
Sansbury, Mr. V.
Sauteron Wonders
Sceats, Mrs.
Scott, Mr. C. W.
Scott, Mr. Malcolm
Selwyn, Sisters
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
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Stahl, Miss Rose
Stapeley, Miss E.
Stanley, Mr. Frank
Stanley, Mr. G.
Staunton, Miss Cicely
St. Clair, Miss M.
St. Clair, Mr. F. V.
Steinway Quartette
Stewart, Miss Nellie
Sullivan, Mr J. J.
Vernon, Miss H.
Villion, Miss G.
Wall, Mr. Harry
Waller, Mr. L.
Wallett, Mr. R.
Ward, Mrs. Harry
Weltzein, Mr. H.
White, Mr. Stanley
Whittier, Mr. Robert
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Wieland, Mr. G.
Willard, Miss Lena
Williamson, Mr. A. W.
Woodville, Mr. R. K.
Woodward, Capt.
Woodwards, The
Yates, Mr. T.
Zolas, The Four

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Nat C. Goodwin—Saturday, July 25.
Arthur Rigby—Saturday, July 25.
Nat Travers—Saturday, July 25.
Roy Cochrane—Sunday, July 26.
Frank Tyars—Sunday, July 26.
Augustine Knight—Sunday, July 26.
Frank Lister—Sunday, July 26.
Tom Craven—Sunday, July 26.
Joan Wellman—Sunday, July 26.
Gus Garrick—Sunday, July 26.
Olga Audré—Monday, July 27.
Fred Bentley—Monday, July 27.
Percy Boucher—Monday, July 27.
Nellie Marler—Monday, July 27.
Alf. Robini—Monday July 27.
(Miss) Ray Ford—Monday, July 27.
Louie West—Monday, July 27.
Mary Anderson—Tuesday, July 28.
Kate Phillips—Tuesday, July 28.
Barton McGuckin—Tuesday, July 28.
Marie Kendall—Tuesday, July 28.
Will Poluski—Tuesday, July 28.
Will Onda, jun.—Tuesday, July 28.
Charles Collette—Wednesday, July 29.
Agnes Imlay—Wednesday, July 29.
Richard Cowell—Wednesday, July 29.
Leonard Williams—Wednesday, July 29.
Clare Manifield—Thursday, July 30.
Fred D. Harris—Thursday, July 30.
(Miss) Sydney Fairbrother—Friday, July 31.
Flora Hastings—Friday, July 31.
Marie Thornton—Friday, July 31.
Marion Fitzgerald—Friday, July 31.
E. Story-Gofton—Friday, July 31.

A MOST alluring programme is being arranged for the August Bank Holiday at the Crystal Palace. There will be a large number of military bands, and a feature of the day will be a great athletic and cycling meeting promoted by the Anerley Bicycle Club. Variety shows in the Centre Transept, Fred Karno's company in the theatre, grand military tournament by the Frontiersmen, and all kinds of side shows will combine to provide amusement for the thousands of visitors to the famous resort. Messrs. Brock will give a magnificent display of fireworks at night.

WHILE on the Pier at Colwyn Bay last Friday (the 19th) Mr. A. Hubner ("Corelli") observed a party of school children in danger of drowning while bathing in the sea, and by his promptness in raising an alarm,, and getting some boats out, luckily succeeded in effecting their rescue. The four girls were safely brought ashore, and though unconscious eventually recovered. For his timely assistance he was on Monday presented by the children with a very handsomely engraved solid silver cigarette case inscribed with their names.

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MIDDLESEX.
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Frank Hardie and Co., in American Episode "Pedlar Sam," Lilieth Leyton, in new Monologue "The Golden Butterfly," Wisper, Charles Banks, and Dog, Mabel Baird, "The Three Permans," Beattie Bloom, "Fame and Fortune," Harry Bancroft, The Three Westbrooks, Jeapes' Animated Graphic, and Elvio, Ross and Elvio, in "Those Troublesome Slaveys."

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.
Probrietor, Mr. J. C. COE. Manager, LEWIS VINCENT. Monday, July 27, 1908, Mr. J. Kottler Reynolds in "Conscience," an extra special display of Animated Photography (Harry Lauder in a Hurry, A Dream in Toyland, The Bargee's Daughter, The Unseizable Pickpocket, The Magnetic Removal, Romeo and Juliet), Estio and Luigy, Three Sisters Wynne, Marquis and Mignonette, George V. Campbell, Elvio Trio, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley, Daisy Hurdle, Albert Riley, Arthur Slater, Hughes Bros. Trio.

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Twice Nightly, at 6.10 and 9.0.
Monday, July 27, 1908: Fred Russell, the Lloyd-Philips Company, "His Just Reward," Ida Brophy, Miss Gladys Hooley, "The Violin Girl," Madge Bryce, Cyril Carle, W. T. Thompson and Co., "Watch the Chalk," Leare and Trib, Mabel Carr, Frank Hartley, the Bioscope, the American Gypsy Girls.
Artists are notified that they must send their full Bill Matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1 o'clock Mondays. All must attend. Artists not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at option of Management.

CHELSEA PALACE.
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"The Courier of Lyons," P. Davey's Co.,
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Eadie and Ramsden, Billy Williams,
Florence Schuberth, The Four Aces, Gertie Gitana,
Freda Sharlotte and Co. in "Kindred Ties,"
Harry Russon, Jeapes' Graphic, and
Addie Dorina in "Dr. Spot's Patients."

ROYAL STANDARD MUSIC HALL
(facing Victoria Station).—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. S. DICKIE. One House Nightly. Monday, July 27.—Phil Ray, Viviana and Co., Jas. Malam and Co., Fanny Robina, the Great Alvaro, Callie and Walker, Edith Evelyn, Iva Mona, Keneth and Kane, Florrie Cooper, Rand and Mack Dennis and Morris, Colin Kay, Edisonograph, and others. Rehearsal, Monday, 1 o'clock. Open 7.30 (Sat., 7 o'clock). Commence 7.40 (Sat., 7.15). Tele., 503, Westminster. Assist-Manager, Mr. Maurice Volny.

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Bill matter must be sent in fourteen days before opening, in accordance with Clause 18, same to be sent to Manager, Queen's. Artists please note rehearsal must be attended Mondays, 1.0 o'clock, according to contract.

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ROBERT STEIDL.
LA BELLE LEONORA in "SAL, OH MY!"
MR. and MRS. TOMSON, FRANCO PIPER,
MLLE. POMPONNETTE, in
"THE TWO FLAGS," &c.

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COPYRIGHT AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING RIGHT.

Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.

Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.

Chapter IV.
MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.

Chapter V.
INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

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Adeson, Mr. Charles.....April 25, 1908
Alexandra, Late Miss Ada.....March 23, 1907
Allen, Mr. Frank.....Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie.....Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta.....June 13, 1908
Armstrong, Mr. Barney.....Nov. 30, 1907
Atwill, Mr. Lionel.....June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon.....May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George.....Dec. 14, 1907
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas.....Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith.....April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss.....March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred.....April 4, 1908
Bent, Miss Buena.....April 6, 1907
Bentley, Mrs. Walter.....July 20, 1907
Beresford, Mr. Frank.....July 18, 1908
Bernard, Mr. Albert.....Oct. 5, 1907
Berte, Late Mr. Charles.....May 30, 1908
Bolder, Mr. Robert.....July 20, 1907
Booker, Late Mr. George A.....April 4, 1908
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Brandram, Late Miss R.....March 2, 1907
Brett, Mr. Edwin.....Feb. 22, 1908
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Brooking, Mr. Cecil.....Nov. 2, 1907
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Crawford, Miss Alice.....Nov. 9, 1907
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Draycott, Mr. Charles.....June 13, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart.....April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.....April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada.....March 21, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita.....May 9, 1908
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Edouin, Late Mr. Willie.....April 18, 1908
Edwards, Late Mr. G. H.....April 11, 1908
Empress, Miss Marie.....Feb. 8, 1908
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Hales, Mr. T. G.....April 6, 1907
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Hamilton, Late Mr. Wm.....April 20, 1907
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Leon, Miss Connie.....April 4, 1908
Lester, Mr. Alfred.....May 9, 1908
Little, Mr. Fred J.....April 18, 1908
Loftus, Miss Kitty.....June 8, 1907
Lloyd, Mr. Samuel.....Aug. 10, 1907
Lucas, Mr. and Mrs. E. H.....March 14, 1908
Maclachlan, Mr B. G.....Nov. 23, 1907
Macowan, Mr. and Mrs. Norman.....July 18, 1908
Maule, Mr. Herbert.....Dec. 7, 1907
Maundy-Gregory, Mr J.....May 23, 1908
Melford, Late Mr. Austin.....Jan. 25, 1908
Mellon, Mrs. Alfred.....July 18, 1908
Nicholls, Mr. Harry.....Feb. 23, 1907
Olive, Miss Edyth.....July 4, 1908
Orford, Miss Emmeline.....March 7, 1908
O'Sullivan, Late Mr. Denis.....Feb. 8, 1908
Percy, Mr. Esme.....July 4, 1908
Potts, Mr. W. E.....June 27, 1908
Price, Mr. Wylie.....June 6, 1908
Raby, Miss Mary.....May 16, 1908
Radcliffe, Miss Florence.....April 4, 1908
Rees, Miss Rosemary.....March 14, 1908
Reynolds, Mr. Walter.....Dec. 7, 1907
Rickards, Mr. Harry.....May 16, 1908
Rolyat, Mr. Dan.....March 28, 1908
Roma and Romani.....April 4, 1908
Ronalds, Miss Stanley.....March 28, 1908
Rousby, Mr Wybert.....Sept. 14, 1907
Scott, Mr. Bennett.....Dec. 7, 1907
Searelle, Late Mr. Luscombe.....Dec. 21, 1907
Sheridan, Late Mr. J. T.....Dec. 8, 1906
Simpson, Miss Sadie.....April 25, 1908
Sinden, Miss Topsy.....Dec. 28, 1907
Smith, Mr. George H.....March 16, 1907
Snazelle, Mr. G. H.....July 4, 1908
Stanmore, Mr. Frank.....March 14, 1908
Starr, Mr. Geo. O.....Feb. 8, 1908
Urban, Mr. Charles.....May 18, 1907
Victor, Late Miss M..A.....March 16 1907
Waller, Late Mr. John.....April 4, 1908
Waxman, Mr. Morris D.....April 11, 1908
West, Mr. Alfred.....May 16, 1908
Wheatley, Mr. Horace.....Aug. 17, 1907
White, Mr. Reginald.....April 25, 1908
Willard, Miss Amy.....April 11, 1908
Wilmot, Mr. John.....Sept. 28, 1907
Wirth, Mr. Philip.....March 14, 1908
Witmark, Mr. Julius P.....June 29, 1907
Wood, Mr. T. R.....Oct. 5, 1907
Woods, Mr. Alfred.....Aug. 11, 1907
Woolf, Mr. Jack.....Jan. 11, 1908
Worth, Late Miss Beatrice.....April 20 1907
Wright, Mr. Stewart D.....Nov. 17, 1907
Young, Mr. Sidney.....May 2, 1908
Zangwill, Mr. Israel.....April 6, 1907

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, JULY 25, 1908.

PINAFORE AND PUGILISM.

In one of the choruses in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, which Mrs. R. D'OYLY CARTE has revived with such triumphant success at the Savoy, it is stated that the British tar is a "soaring soul," and that his fist should be "ever ready for a knockdown blow." Sir W. S. GILBERT is an ardent yachtist, and has probably imbibed, with the scent of the briny, some of the spirit of this immortal verse. There are few, even of the younger generation of dramatists, who could have dealt as promptly and vigorously with an assailant as he did outside Covent Garden Theatre last week. At about a quarter past eleven, it seems, he was walking up Endell-street looking for a cab. He had found one, and was getting into it, when he received a blow on the mouth from a young man about twenty years of age, who at the same time made a violent grab at the dramatist's watch-chain. Fortunately, the bow of the watch broke, and the swivel of the chain came out; and so the assailant "got nothing for his trouble except a rather severe blow on the face," which Mr. GILBERT "contrived" to deliver during a "momentary hold" on the coat of the thief. Sir WILLIAM was, however, prevented from capturing the highwayman by the presence of four or five confederates, who blocked Sir WILLIAM'S way till the rascal was out of sight.

Sir WILLIAM complains, we hear, that proper police precautions are not taken to prevent attacks on elderly gentlemen who may be taking the air, or a cab, in Endell-street between eleven o'clock and midnight; but really, when those elderly gentlemen are so extremely well able to take care of themselves as Sir W. S. GILBERT appears to be, official assistance scarcely seems necessary. The only use of the police in such cases would be to act as sleuth-hounds and run down the game which the hunter had struck before it had time to mingle with the herd and escape to the woods and thickets of Long Acre and its vicinity.

Sir WILLIAM'S character and views form a nice and interesting study, and the revival of *H.M.S. Pinafore* gives one an excellent opportunity of analysing his system. He has all the Anglo-Saxon hatred of *blague* and effusion, and all the Anglo-Saxon admiration for acerbity coupled with genuine good qualities. There is something extremely admirable in this complete, definite, and defensive personality. "Whom do I love?" asked NAPOLEON. "DUROC, perhaps? Yes, for the fellow never shed a tear!" The reduction of everything in the heavens above and the earth beneath to a kind of grey pulp, flavoured with literary quality and mordant wit, is a phenomenon which can hardly repeat itself. There is, and there can be, but one W. S. GILBERT. We do not believe that the GILBERTIAN humour has any deep foundation in logic or in ethics. For some time we fancied that the satire in *Patience* showed an anti-Greek and pro-Hebraic spirit; but latterly we learned that Bunthorne and Grosvenor were originally curates, and that it was only by an afterthought that they became æsthetes. Sir WILLIAM seems to satirise, as a certain other Scotch gentleman swore, "at lairge." Everything is absurd; let us lay on hard all round as long as the bladder holds to the string. It is ridiculous that people should be proud of their country; it is ridiculous that any of them should prefer pretty things to ugly ones; it is ridiculous that we should love or hate or procreate. We have often been struck by the intellectual likeness between Sir W. S. GILBERT and the renowned Captain Kettle. The ethics of the merchant service—feed your crew on beastly garbage, and, if they complain, knock them down with a belaying-pin—are carried out by the gallant little captain with a thoroughness which compels admiration; but one cannot help wondering what the situation looks like from the point of view of the common sailor—"Oh, the irony of that word!"—and if the results, which, according to Mr. CLARK RUSSELL, are the usual ones, of mutiny, murder, and ultimate shipwreck and starvation, are all for the best in this best of all possible worlds. The piquancy of the study of Sir WILLIAM'S mind lies in its combination of limitations and qualities. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern* is perfect as far as it goes; but what a curiously circumscribed outlook it demonstrates! What an odd attitude was that which ridiculed effeminacy in *Patience* and laid the scene of the first act of *H.M.S. Pinafore* on the deck of the "Victory," with a comic First Lord travestied as NELSON!

The curious felicity of Sir WILLIAM'S verse raises libretto-writing to the level of the fine arts. The extraordinary manner in which, in the midst of a scene of utter absurdity some phrase or sentence used to flash out, cutting deep into the flesh like a razor of a South Carolina nigger; the wonderfully rapid solution of a sentiment in the biting acid of irony; and an elvish, prankish love of fun and mischief are yoked with a literary faculty which, in its surroundings, is phenomenal. The best of Sir WILLIAM'S work may easily pass unobserved. What a depth of suggestion, for instance, lies in the phrase "As some of you may know," addressed by Little Buttercup to the ladies on board the vessel in the second act of *H.M.S. Pinafore!* How exquisite is the turn of phrase in *Iolanthe* when the Lord Chancellor says, "Allow me, *as an old Equity draughtsman*, to make a suggestion"; and then proceeds simply to reverse the existing statute! How sly and "pawky" is the humour of the lines of the Judge's song in *Trial by Jury:*

> I soon got tired of third-class journeys,
> And dinners of bread-and-water;
> So *I fell in love* with a rich attorney's
> Elderly ugly daughter.

Few of us can maintain the Porcupine attitude towards life even for a day. An east wind, a fit of indigestion, or an ill turn done us by one trusted will transform us into pessimists for a period; but sooner or later, as JOHNSON'S friend said, "Cheerfulness will come creeping in"; and we become false to the religion of bitterness. It is the merit of Sir WILLIAM GILBERT that he has been consistently "cynical"; and this without the help of poverty, family troubles, or ill-health. What excellent wearing quality there is in this kind of temperament is shown by his recent action in defence of his property. We wish the gallant old Knight many more years of cleverness and combativeness.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The weekly meeting of the council of the Actors' Association was held at 409, Strand, on Tuesday. Present:—Mr. Robson Paige (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Clarence Derwent, Chris Walker, F. Morland, Franklyn Walford, Richard A. Greene, Edmund Gurney, and F. Annerley, Misses Agnes Imlay, Lucy Sibley, and Marion Lind and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The Finance Committee, consisting of Miss Agnes Imlay, Miss Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Annerley, met on Monday, and the secretary of the committee read the report, which the council discussed at great length.

The following were elected members:—Nancy Grogan, A. L. Burke, and Duncan Yarrow.

The chairman dealt with two suggestions.

The secretary reported ten engagements made since the last meeting of the council.

The council interviewed Miss Irma Fielden with reference to a member. The council also interviewed Mr. Jules Charmettes with reference to his claim.

A letter was drafted and sent to the *Referee* with reference to the paragraph which appeared in that paper on Sunday, the 19th inst., with regard to the meeting of the council on Tuesday, July 14th.

The secretary informed the council that a representative from the London County Council called upon him with reference to the proposed licensing of theatrical agencies, with a view to stopping bogus institutions, and asked what would be the views of the council of the A.A. on the matter. He received instructions to write to the L.C.C. to the effect that the council of the A.A. are unanimously of opinion that theatrical agencies should be licensed.

ACTORS' UNION.

AT the weekly meeting of the executive of the Actors' Union held on the 9th inst., the following were present:—Messrs. Lennox Pawle (chair), J. W. Braithwaite, J. H. Batson, D. Lewin-Mannering, Paul Lovett, A. Maitland Stapley, F. Rawson Buckley, Henry Bedford, Frank Gerald, Fred F. Loyd, Royce Milton, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Letters were received from the following committee men who are out of town, the communications counting as an attendance:—Messrs. Lewis Gilbert, F. Strickland, E. J. Collins, Harry C. Momber, and Cecil G. Calvert. The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary was instructed to contradict the rumour that commission is charged for engagements obtained through the agency of the Union. He was also instructed to notify members that it is possible that the hearing of Provincial County Court summonses, upon application to the judge, may be transferred to London. One member was elected.

THE usual weekly committee meeting of the Actors' Union was held at 49, Bedford-street, on July 16, when the following were present:—Messrs. Geo. P. Lester (chair), Jerrold Heather, E. Howard Templeton, Fred F. Loyd, W. Ruddle Brown, J. W. Braithwaite, D. Lewin-Mannering, Oswald Marshall, H. Tripp-Edgar, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Letters (which count as an attendance) were received from Messrs. Bruce Lindley, Frank Gerald, Cecil G. Calvert, Harry C. Momber, Paul Lovett, and Royce Milton. The minutes of the last meeting were read and signed. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Secretary of the Touring Managers' Association, and was further instructed to convey the sympathy of the committee to the relatives of the late Franklyn Graham, and inform them that as Mr. Graham was out of benefit at the time of his death, they have no call on the Death Levy Fund of the Union.

IT was decided that the Union be represented at the Trade Union Congress to be held on Monday, Sept. 7, at the Mechanics' Institute, Nottingham, and for the five following days. The question as to whether there should be a special issue of stamps in connection with the Benevolent Fund was referred back for further consideration. The rough draft for the scheme for the club was submitted to the committee by the sub-committee elected for the purpose, and the Secretary was instructed to place the matter on the agenda for further discussion on the following Thursday. Five applications for membership were placed before the committee and passed.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, July 23.—Despite the heavy rain that fell at intervals, the audience at the Théâtre Antique de la Nature enjoyed the performance of *Les Maudits*, the new work by M. Henri Fescourt. It is a tragedy founded on the history of Cain. The author shows us Cain, the prey to remorse. He knows he is cursed, and, followed by his tribe, he leads a vagabond life. None of his children, however, know of the crime he has committed. Lameck, his favourite son, has discovered a fertile district, and the tribe is on the point of settling down there, when Tsella, one of Cain's daughters, a kind of prophetess, announces that if they remain on that spot terrible calamities will happen. "The brother," she says, "will be slain by the brother, and the son will be cursed by the father"; and the terrified Cain does not know whether she refers to the past or to the present. In the second tableau Cain hears the sound of music in the distance. After a while a body of men on horseback appear, and Cain is thunderstruck. He has never seen a horse, and he thought that he and his sons were the only inhabitants on earth. Mad with rage and fear, he wakes his sons. They attack the strangers, who, thanks to their horses, manage to escape. Cain's sons, however, have made a prisoner, whom they take to their father. At the sight of the youth Cain utters a shriek, for he recognises the features of Abel. The young captive then explains that his name is Djaël. He is a descendant of Seth, a son of Eve, born after Cain fled into the desert. And Djaël adds that in the land whence he comes he is beloved on account of his likeness to Abel. Cain is convinced that Jehovah has sent him Djaël as a proof that his sin has been pardoned, and he consents to return with Djaël to Seth. In the final tableau Lameck, Cain's favourite son, is jealous of his father's unaccountable affection for Djaël. Lameck, who knows nothing of Cain's past, does not understand Cain's allusions to Abel, and, under the influence of his wife, Adda, he kills Djaël. Tsella's prophecy has come true. Once more a brother has killed a brother, and the murderer has been cursed by his father. But Lameck and the rest of the tribe do not trouble about the blood that has been spilt. Brutal and cruel, to them the life of a man is not more valuable than that of a beast; and they start to conquer the land where Seth is living, leaving Cain lamenting over the body of the murdered boy. The impressive work was excellently acted by MM. Froment, Durozat, Bert, Olin, Mayral; and Mmes. Kalff and Marbeau.

DURING the hot summer months many members of the theatrical profession fight out their differences in a court of law. It is their way of enjoying their holidays. This week's action has been one brought by Mlle. Anne Ratcliff, a young Belgian artist, against M. Abel Deval, manager of the Athénée. The lady claimed £800 damages from that gentleman for breach of contract, but, to her horror, it was she who was condemned to pay that sum to M. Deval. In 1903 Mlle. Ratcliff had been engaged at the Athénée for thirty performances, at a salary of £4 per night. But things did not go smoothly. Mlle. Ratcliff started by refusing to appear in *Chiffon* and in *La Petite Milliardaire*, and, after much trouble, she was induced to accept a rôle in *Nelly Moray*, the première of which was announced for April 10, 1905. The rehearsals began, the scenery was ready, when, the day before the dress-rehearsal the lady threw up her rôle and returned to Brussels. At the time she gave no reason for playing this trick on her manager, but when the case was heard she stated, through her lawyer, that, according to her, M. Deval had done everything in his power to make her rôle a complete failure. She accordingly claimed a forfeit of £800. M. Deval's counsel said that this accusation was absurd, and but a lame excuse to conceal the true reasons of the lady's flight to Brussels, adding that it was an unpardonable trick to play on a manager the day before the première. The Court took this view, and, as I stated before, it is the fair complainant who has been mulcted into the damages. The Parisians, therefore, have never had an opportunity of applauding Mlle. Ratcliff, who is now gracing the Théâtre du Parc in Brussels with her presence.

BUT all the members of the theatrical profession do not quarrel during the summer months. It is also a time for lawful love-making, and those who have been too busy to think of Cupid whilst their theatres were in full swing allow their passion to boil over during the dog days. This week two interesting engagements are announced. The first is that of M. Broussan, director of the Opéra, with Mlle. Jeanne-Samary-Lagarde. The readers of *The Era* all know M. Broussan, of whom constant mention has been made in these columns. As to Mlle. Samary, she comes from a good stock. She is the daughter of the well-known Mlle. Samary, sociétaire of the Comédie-Française, snatched away by a cruel illness. Beautiful and talented, her death at the time created quite a consternation in Paris. Her mother was Elizabeth Brohan; and her famous aunt, Augustine Brohan, took charge of her artistic education. Mlle. Jeanne, M. Broussan's fiancée, at one time thought of joining the profession, but her marriage with the director of the Opéra will prevent her from carrying out her intention. The other engagement is that of Mlle. Germaine Le Senne, niece of the well-known critic, Camille Le Senne, with M. Charles Batillot. At the recent Conservatoire competition Mlle. Le Senne received the first prize in opera, and, as I had already occasion to remark, we may expect great things from this gifted young artist. *The Era* offers its heartiest congratulations to the two young couples.

THE Variétés will reopen its season with *Le Roi*, the great success of last season. The next novelty will be *Le Circuit*, a comedy by MM. Robert de Flers and de Caillavet, with MM. Brasseur, Guy, Max Dearly, Prince, and Mmes. Lantelme and Magnier in the principal rôles.

AT the Folies-Dramatiques MM. Desvaillières and Moncousin's three-act operette *Mademoiselle Trompette* will be read to the artists in the course of the coming week. The rehearsals will begin at once, so that the new work will probably be ready for production on Sept. 1. The title-rôle will, I hear, be undertaken by Mlle. Alice Millet.

MLLE. CLAUDIE DE SIVRY, who scored a great success as Mme. Bertony in *Le Chant du cygne*, has just signed a three years' engagement with M. Deval of the Athénée.

THE Nouveautés is still drawing crowded houses with *Occupe-toi d'Amélie*; but as many of the artists are either away on their holidays or on tour, the cast is constantly being changed. Thus, the part of Amélie, created by Mlle. Cassive, has been undertaken by Mlles. Landry, Lucile Nobert, and, quite recently, by Mlle. Magda Simon. It is the same with the rôle of Irène, which has been played, first by Mlle. Carlix, then by Mlle. Mais, and latterly by Mlle. Dorigny. As to the men, M. Paul Ardot has passed his rôle of Adonis on to M. Lamare; M. Melchissédec is replacing M. Baron *fils*; and M. Mayral now impersonates the Prince in the absence of M. Decori.

THE following new operas will be produced at the Opéra-Comique in the course of the coming season:—*Solange*, by MM. Aderer and Salvayre; *Léone*, by MM. Montorgueil, Arène, and Samuel Rousseau; *Sanga*, by MM. Eug. Morand, Paul de Choudens, and Isodore de Lara; *Myrtil*, by M. Ernest Garnier; *Chiquito*, by M. Jean Nougnès; *Pierre le Véridique*, by M. Xavier Leroux; and *On ne badine pas avec l'amour*, by M. Gabriel Pierné.

MR. KELLY AND THE VETERANS.

Mr. W. W. Kelly, T.C., had, on the 17th inst., a pleasing recognition of his excellent work in connection with Birkenhead Veterans' Relief Fund at the hands of the honorary officials and members of the committee. It is well known in Birkenhead that whatever the popular proprietor of the New Theatre Royal undertakes is done thoroughly and in a practical way. Many charitable and philanthropic objects in the town have benefited handsomely through his efforts. When Lord Roberts appealed to the generosity of the public on behalf of the Crimean veterans still surviving, a local committee was formed in Birkenhead, and in connection with that committee Mr. Kelly rendered yeoman service. It is not too much to say that the financial result obtained was largely due to the practical efforts he put forth. The members of the committee decided to recognise those efforts in some tangible way, and by personal subscriptions they obtained an illuminated address, which was presented to Mr. Kelly in the Mayor's parlour at the Town Hall on the above date. The Mayor (Mr. Arnold Bloom), as chairman of the local fund committee, presided over the gathering, and the company included Mr. W. W. Kelly, Alderman E. G. Mason (hon. treasurer), and Mr. Herbert Halsall, T.C. (hon. secretary). The Town Clerk (Mr. J. Fearnley) sent an apology for absence through another engagement.

The Mayor opened the proceedings by observing that they were met for the purpose of presenting a testimonial to Councillor W. W. Kelly in recognition of the excellent services he had rendered to the people of Birkenhead during his residence amongst them. Mr. Kelly had proved himself to be a worthy citizen. During the time he had had the Theatre Royal great changes for the better had taken place, and he had brought to the town high-class talent for the benefit of the public. He had invariably associated himself with every philanthropic movement in the town. The different hospitals, and many other charitable institutions, had benefited by his good work. He had been the means of gathering together a sum of over £1,000 for these laudable objects. When about six months ago Lord Roberts approached him (the Mayor) to assist in raising money towards the Crimean Veterans' Fund, he consulted Mr. Kelly, who immediately, with his usual promptitude and good nature, promised to give a performance at his theatre free of all expense in aid of the fund. A committee was formed to make the necessary arrangements, and as the result of the matinée which was held shortly afterwards the sum of £131 was handed over to the fund. Now, the committee had determined not to let Mr. Kelly's kindness pass by without some due recognition, and they decided to make him a presentation, which was heartily subscribed to by every one of them. Turning to Mr. Kelly, the Mayor continued: "I have very great pleasure, Mr. Kelly, on behalf of the members of the committee of the Crimean Veterans' Fund, in presenting you with this very handsome testimonial, and I desire to express, on their behalf and my own, our most earnest and best wishes for yourself and Mrs. Kelly, who has on all occasions sympathetically and ably assisted you in all these deeds of benevolence."

An address, handsomely illuminated and framed, was then uncovered, and Mr. H. Halsall, as hon. secretary, read its terms, as follows:—

"To W. W. Kelly, Esq., T.C.

"Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned honorary officers and members of the Birkenhead Veterans' Relief Fund Committee, desire to place on record our deep appreciation of the kindly assistance you have always willingly given to the sacred cause of charity, not only in connection with this particular fund, but also to any undertaking promoted in this borough having the relief of the distressed as its object.

"We also fully recognise that your benevolent intentions have always been fully shared in by your accomplished and esteemed wife.

"That you may be long spared to give us the benefit of your generous counsel, and to remain with us as an honoured citizen of Birkenhead is the sincere wish of

"Arnold Bloom, Esq., T.C.,
Mayor, Chairman.
"E. G. Mason, Esq., Alderman,
Hon. Treasurer.
"Herbert Halsall, Esq., T.C.,
Hon. Secretary."

(Then followed the names of the members of the committee, twenty-seven in number.)

The Mayor added that as the funds subscribed exceeded the cost of the illuminated address, they decided to obtain a leather pocket-case, and in that had been inscribed a facsimile of the address (illuminated), to further show to Mr. Kelly the esteem and respect in which he was held by them all.

Alderman Mason, in presenting the pocket-case to Mr. Kelly, wished him and Mrs. Kelly many years in Birkenhead of health, happiness, and prosperity, and observed that this additional gift was in such a form that Mr. Kelly would be able to carry about with him a deep assurance of their very kindly sentiments.

Alderman Shaw, on behalf of the Council, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Kelly for the manner in which he met their efforts in connection with the Veterans' Fund, and Mr. Halsall seconded.

The vote was passed with hearty acclamation.

Mr. W. W. Kelly, who was received with enthusiasm, said he stood there that day the proudest and happiest man in Birkenhead. What he had done towards the advancement of not only this but of other charitable matters he had done from the fulness of his heart, and because he considered that it was his duty to do so. At the same time, he really could not thank them sufficiently for their kindly expressions. They had made him a very happy man in presenting him with this magnificent and very appropriate testimonial, which his wife and he would honour for the remainder of their days. He did not know at whose suggestion the duplicate of the address in miniature was made, but he thought it was a very happy one. In his travels abroad—and he was a considerable traveller—it would always be a pleasure to him to show, by that pocket-case, what kind friends he had in Birkenhead. When he came to Birkenhead twelve years ago and took possession of the Metropole Theatre he was asked by the Magistrate's Clerk for a surety or two. He immediately called upon Mr. Michael Byrne, who was the most substantial surety he could get, and who had been his surety ever since; and as another, he got his solicitor, Mr. G. F. Lees. They were responsible for the safe conduct of the theatre, and through them he (Mr. Kelly) had, he hoped, gained the appreciation of the public, and especially of the theatre-goers of Birkenhead. With regard to the Veterans' Fund, he regretted that Lord Roberts did not suggest his scheme much earlier, so that others of the veterans who had now passed away might have shared in some of the comforts. However, it was fortunate that those who now remained could end their days in comfort. After assuring the meeting that his wife would be as delighted as he was with the gifts presented to him, Mr. Kelly, in very cordial terms, proposed a vote of thanks to the Mayor for presiding that day. He said Mr. Bloom was "one of the best." He looked back with great satisfaction to the day when he seconded Mr. Bloom's nomination for the Mayoralty, and he knew that none of them had occasion to regret the selection then made.

Mr. Proudman seconded, and Mr. G. F. Lees supported the vote of thanks.

MASONS AT WORK.

A very large gathering of the members of the Chelsea Lodge 3098 were present at the Chelsea Town Hall on Friday last to greet the W.M., Mr. Henry Coutts, upon his occupying the W.M. chair for the first time since his installation, a notable fact being that the whole of the invested officers were present, the Lodge being constituted as follows:—Mr. H. Coutts, W.M., Messrs. James W. Mathews and Albert Le Fre, P.M.'s, W. Hitch, S.W., Harry Bawn, J.W., Wolfe S. Lyon (treasurer), C. J. Doughty (secretary), W.F., K. Walton, S.A., G. H. Dyball, J.D., B. A. Bigny, I.G., Angelo Asher (organist), L. G. Sharpe, E., T. Lester and H. E. Micklen (stewards). The W.M. initiated Messrs. Charles Whittle, Harry Lovell, W. H. Wallis, Bowker Andrews, Paul Murray, W. Cutlin, and Ernie Mayne into the mysteries of Freemasonry, advanced Messrs. Ernie Foster and W. A. Stone, and completed the ceremony with Messrs. Leslie Bell, J. T. W. Grant, and Mr. Cecil Harry Phillips, the last-named being at the request of Mr. Herbert Chenery, the W.M. of the Asaph Lodge, that Lodge having adjourned to November next, being assisted in this ceremony by Mr. James W. Mathews, who rendered the Traditional History in a very masterly manner. Following, the reigning Master congratulated Mr. H. Griff upon his safe return from a very successful tour of America, and invested him as a steward of the Lodge. The first Master of the Lodge, Mr. James W. Mathews, on behalf of the members of the Lodge, presented Mr. Wolfe S. Lyon with the regalia worn by members of London rank, and in so doing stated that when the request from the Grand Master came that the Past Masters of the Lodge should select and forward to the Grand Lodge the name of some brother who from work done on behalf of the craft they thought entitled to receive the honour of London rank, he and his brother Past Masters were unanimous in the opinion that Bro. Lyon, having conceived and promoted the Lodge, was the fit and proper man to receive that honour, and, being asked to present him, on behalf of the members of the Lodge, with the insignia of the order, they were endorsing with their approval the action of the Past Masters.

Mr. Lyon, in response, thanked the Past Masters for selecting him, and the members of the Lodge for the very handsome present they had made him, and of which he could not help but to feel very proud, and the pleasure was so much more keen that it was presented in the presence of his son, who, by their kindness in altering the bye-laws and allowing him to initiate him, was a member of the Lodge; but that he was, if possible, more prond of the fact that he had promoted a Lodge which in the exceedingly short space of three and a half years had a membership numbering 114 men who were daily making the influence of Freemasonry in its fullest sense felt not only in Great Britain, but also in all parts of the civilised globe, as from the nature of their profession they were veritable birds of passage—here to-day and gone to-morrow; and a further proof of the interest taken, if further proof were required, was emphasised by the fact that there was present at that meeting members who had come from Brighton, Reading, Southampton, Nottingham, and elsewhere to attend their Masonic duties, and who would have to rush off to catch trains which would enable them to return in time to attend to their business in the evening.

In addition to the names already mentioned, the following members were present:—Messrs. Ernie Chester, G. H. Hill, W. H. Atlas, Monte Bayly, Fred Neiman, C. H. Burton, H. R. Mayville, Victor Kelly, Tom Parker, James S. Lyon, W. Collinson, Douglas White, Valazzi, Albert Christian, Herbert Austin, H. Kay Rameden, Robt. W. Duce, Gray Mosely, &c., and as visitors Messrs. W. J. Carey, J. D. Burnett, Bernard Cohen, H. Wardlow Fuller, and T. Gaston White.

"A WOMAN'S WAY."

Sketch, in One Act, by Mollie Laney, produced for the first time at the Hippodrome, Manchester, on Monday, July 20.

Charlie Lovel .....MR. GEORGE C. DOUGHTY
Kitty Lovel .....MISS MOLLIE LANEY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A clever and pleasing idea is neatly developed in Miss Laney's new sketch, *A Woman's Way*, which was successfully produced at the Manchester Hippodrome on Monday. The scene is the home of the Lovels, and, in honour of Charlie's birthday, Kitty has bought him a new silk hat, after the impulsive manner of young wives, without first acquainting herself with the size he wears. She places it upon a chair, pending his arrival, and, among other reflections concerning him, indulges in the hope that he is, after six months of married life, cured of his old habit of backing horses. A telegram arrives. On opening it, she finds it is for Charlie: "Don't forget Flo—three thirty. She's a pinch." What can this be but an assignation? Quite in a woman's way, she yields to jealousy, and Charlie, appearing just then, is in for a hot time. Of course, just like a woman, hearing nothing but her own voice, and believing nothing but her own surmises, she threatens to go home to her mother, and, upon Charlie's desperate acquiescence, proceeds to put her threat into execution. It is now, on her disappearance from the room, that Charlie finds the hat. What is this but compromise? The hat is much too large for him; it is the hat of a gentleman visitor concealed by his wife. Now Kitty is in for it! The accusations and reproaches that succeed clinch the matter—Kitty is to go. At this juncture Charlie finds a letter addressed to him on the table. It is a communication from his solicitors, telling him that the bank in which his whole fortune was invested has stopped payment. This means ruin. Kitty, now ready to go, looks round for a last word, womanlike. His attitude—the letter in his hand—tells her something is wrong. Only one thing can come of it—the misunderstanding of the telegram is cleared up. In the hour of misfortune she stays—quite in a woman's way. The acting was of a quality in keeping with the cleverness of the theme. Mr. George C. Doughty's impersonation of Charlie Lovel was natural and thoroughly entertaining; and Miss Mollie Laney's depiction of the hasty but affectionate wife was informed by that inside knowledge of the character one might have expected from her authorship of the piece—upon which, and its success, she and Mr. Doughty are to be congratulated.

The pretty incidental music has been specially composed and arranged by Mr. Joseph D. Rogers, the well-known conductor.

"THE COON'S RESTAURANT."

A New Musical Comedy Playlet, produced at the Queen's Park Hippodrome, Manchester, on Monday, July 20.

Harry .....MR. HARRY LAPPO
Nellie .....MISS ALICE STEWART
Chloe .....MISS DOLLY LANCASTER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

This is essentially a juvenile production, which was fairly well received by an audience which appreciated Mr. H. A. Jordison's endeavour to provide an entertaining *morceau*. It represents the attempt of Harry, a planter's son, to amuse the coons by opening a restaurant in an amateur way, while Chloe hinders his efforts as much as possible. The representatives of Chloe and Nellie both sing and dance well; the scenery is good, and the whole thing, bodied out with a juvenile chorus, is prettily done.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

THE METROPOLITAN, which may really be regarded as the third building of that name, will be opened on Monday, Aug. 24. There will be a private view on Friday, Aug. 21, when Mr. Henri Gros, managing-director, and Mr. Jack Edgar, manager, will be "at home" to a host of friends and well-wishers.

A CHAT with Mr. John F. Revill, the clerk of works to Mr. Frank Matcham, who has planned the sweeping alterations and important improvements at the Met., revealed to us the very liberal scheme under which the practically new hall will be conducted. Cheap prices and luxurious comfort are the watchwords of Mr. Gros, who, like the astute caterer that he is, has his finger on the pulse of the public and reads the signs of the times.

THE old tavern, which had a history as a posting-house in the days of the village of Padyngton, has been demolished to make room for a new exit and entrance to the balcony, and the purchase of an adjoining shop has enabled Mr. Matcham to complete the façade in the Edgware-road—an architectural improvement that will strike the eye of the wayfarer.

THE seating accommodation has been increased by four rows of seats in pit and balcony, the occupants of which will luxuriate in tip-up chairs installed by Lyon and Co. Considerable alterations have been made to the box fronts, which will, of course, be elegantly embellished to harmonise with the colour scheme of the decorations of the house, which are to be of cream, gold, and a pretty shade of green.

BEHIND the proscenium there will be every possible new appliance that can in any way aid that desideratum of the modern music-hall—celerity in stage setting, and the chances of effective, realistic scenery and elaborate mounting are much improved by the widening of the stage itself. It is unnecessary now to give more detail of a building that will be a veritable people's palace for Paddington, as it will be fully described in our columns on the occasion of the private view.

THE PALACE, Tottenham, will open its doors on Aug. 31. Mr. Henri Gros will be present at the opening, and will then depart for Bad Nauheim for a much-needed holiday.

UP to the moment of writing, the grand military night, which is to take place at the Oxford on Friday evening next, has received the patronage of Earl Roberts, V.C., Lord Cheylesmore, the Lord Mayor of London, Sir George White, V.C., and the general committee of the Crimea and Indian Mutiny Fund.

MR. ALBERT CHEVALIER has been re-engaged by Mr. Oswald Stoll for a special fortnight at the Coliseum, commencing Aug. 3. During the first week of this engagement Mr. Chevalier will appear as Turby, in a condensed version of the favourite old farce, *The Goose With the Golden Eggs*, as performed by him 300 times on tour. For the second week he will, for the first time, impersonate the old French actor, Achille Talma Dufard, in *Behind the Scenes*, a tabloid edition of *The First Night*. Mr. Chevalier will be supported by Messrs. E. W. Garden, Harry Brett, Arthur Brankston, Bertie Baxter, Mesdames Mabel Garden, and Daisy Irvine.

THE part of Achille Talma Dufard has always been a favourite one with our leading actors ever since Mr. Alfred Wigan played the character in his own adaptation of the French piece *Le Père de la Débutante*, and his impersonation was considered by a leading and enthusiastic critic of the day (1849) to possess sufficient originality, refinement, and heartiness to challenge any version of the character, past, present, or to come. Mr. Beerbohm Tree has played the part somewhat recently, but we may expect original treatment of it from Mr. Chevalier, whose accent we are sure will be irreproachable.

MR. CHARLES BEECHAM AND MR. WORLAND S. WHEELER, manager and acting-manager and secretary for the past eight years at the Paragon, have resigned their positions at that establishment, which they will shortly leave to enter into partnership as sketch producers and dramatic and variety agents. Messrs. Beecham and Wheeler have already taken offices in Henrietta-street, Covent Garden.

AT a meeting of the directors of the Coliseum Syndicate, Ltd., held in London, on Tuesday, an interim dividend for the half-year ending June 30, 1908, was declared at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, free of income tax, on the ordinary shares of this company. The share books will be closed for seven days prior to Aug. 1, upon which day the dividend will be paid. It will be remembered that the company reopened the London Coliseum on Monday, Dec. 16.

THE Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empire Palaces, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend on ordinary shares for the half-year ending June 30 last at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, free of income tax.

MR. ALFRED MOUL will introduce at the Alhambra on Monday some manifestations which are so puzzling that "The Mystery of Mysteries" fitly describes the performance. To avoid the possibility of trickery the simple adjuncts required have all been made by employees of the house under the superintendence of the master carpenter, and they will be put together on the stage in sight of the audience. Further, committees of ladies and gentlemen drawn from various parts of the house will be asked to examine the performers. It may be added that, courting the fullest enquiry, tests have been carried on for some weeks past by independent persons, who, like the management, have failed to discover the secret of how material is formed out of space. Perhaps the public will be more fortunate. Mr. and Mrs. Tomson, the author of "The Mystery of Mysteries," gave a private demonstration at the Alhambra on Friday (yesterday) afternoon.

MR. LEO DRYDEN, who gave us in "The miner's dream of home" one of the finest descriptive songs ever written, is very much up to date with "The White Man," which is founded on the story that was told at the Lyric recently in Mr. Milton Royle's drama of the same name. Mr. Dryden is nothing if not picturesque, and his newest character suits him exactly.

MR. HERBERT SHELLEY'S success is so sound with *Dan the Outlaw* that he has lately received a tempting offer to tour it through the whole of Ireland as a play. He is also in negotiation for New York, and presents it at Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday.

A SENSATION of a novel character is to be introduced at the Empire Theatre on Monday, when a troupe of highly-trained dogs, under the direction of M. Velanchi, will play a game of football. This is their first appearance on any stage, and it is safe to say that the excitement of this canine contest will be quickly communicated to the audience, judging by a picture of the game which appeared recently in an illustrated newspaper. The Empire Bioscope has secured the exclusive rights of presenting in the West-end of London the results of the Olympic games, and these will be shown each night on the screen.

THE Tivoli, Pentre, will be closed during next week for some necessary alterations.

A SYNDICATE has been formed for the purpose of erecting a place of amusement at Darwen. Operations will be commenced shortly.

THE Pavilion, Abertillery, is closed next week for renovations, and will open on Bank Holiday for the second season of varieties, two houses nightly.

THE directors of the Leicester Palace Theatre, Ltd., have declared an interim dividend on the ordinary shares for the half-year ending June 30 last, at the rate of 7½ per cent. per annum, free of income tax.

MISS ETHEL DONNA had to give up work last Thursday (16th) at the Empire, Middlesbrough, through a touch of influenza. She has gone to Brighton for a few days, but resumes business on Monday next at Hull.

THE Manchester Hippodrome and Ardwick Empire, Ltd., have announced a final dividend for the year ending June 30 last at the rate of ten per cent. per annum, free of income tax, £4000 being transferred to the reserve account, and the carry-forward being slightly more than last year.

SIGNOR PEPI had a disappointment last Monday at the Hippodrome, Darlington, and 'phoned over to Manager Rembges at the Empire, Middlesbrough, for a turn. Cliff Ryland was at hand and so went over, and made his first appearance at the new Darlington house on Monday. Judging from the hit he made Cliff will be wanted there again.

THE Coventry Empire closed on Saturday last for re-decorations and alterations, and will be re-opened on August Bank Holiday. Mr. Kay Draco, the manager of this house, rode in a one mile scratch cycle race at some Coventry sports last Saturday, against Mr. Lennox Barry, the manager of the Empire, Coventry, who won, after a closely-contested race, by a few yards.

A LARGE and influential committee is being formed with the object of presenting Mr. Lennox Barry with a testimonial on the occasion of his benefit, which is to take place next month. During his sixteen months' stay in Coventry Mr. Barry has always taken an active interest in all charitable matters which have come under his notice, and has been the means of adding considerably to the funds of several local institutions. The testimonial is to take the form of a cheque.

ON the south sands, South Shields, recently, the Bathing Facilities Sub-Committee, together with other members of the Town Council, met for the purpose of formally naming and launching the new surf boat built for the Corporation, to be used by the beach attendant for the purpose of rendering aid to bathers who may be in trouble.

COUNCILLOR J. K. HALL, proprietor of the Tivoli, South Shields, referred to the efforts of the Bathing Facilities Sub-Committee to properly equip and popularise the south beach. The Corporation also felt that whilst they encouraged bathing, they should also, as far as possible, provide for the safety of bathers, and to this end they now had very wisely provided a boat of such a character.

THE Mayor performed the christening ceremony, naming the boat the "J. K. Hall." He said that the interest which Councillor Hall had taken in developing and popularising the sands made it peculiarly acceptable to them that his name should be associated in this way with this new feature of the seaside facilities. He had therefore great pleasure in naming the J. K. Hall surf-boat. His Worship then broke the customary bottle of wine across the bow of the boat, which was subsequently launched.

THE transformation which has been effected at the Hippodrome, St. Thomas-street, Scarborough since last February is in several respects remarkable. It is now no longer the old circus so familiar to Scarborough people and others, but an entirely new Hippodrome. The old arena and encircling rows of seats have gone, the balcony has gone—everything has gone but the bare walls and even these have been altered and strengthened in parts. Nobody who knew the old place will recognise even the faintest shadow of a resemblance to it in the new.

TO-DAY the Hippodrome—which will be opened for the season on Monday next—is an up-to-date theatre, furnished on the most approved and ever luxurious lines, with decorations of walls and boxes and balconies and ceiling in the choicest shades of white and blue and gold, which are altogether pleasing to the eye, and which give an air of much refinement to the interior. Mr William Peacock—whose father-in-law was the late Mr. Sam Adams, of the old Philharmonic, Islington, the Royal, and the Trocadero—of the York Empire, and the Grand Opera House, Harrogate, is the managing-director.

THE fine house has a holding capacity of two thousand, there being on the ground floor orchestra stalls, pit-stalls, and pit; the first tier is the grand circle, and above that the gallery, whilst there are six boxes, three on each side. Behind the pit the circle and the gallery there is a promenade, and the exits are so arranged that it is calculated the house can be emptied in a minute and a half.

THE handsome and elaborate main entrance in St. Thomas-street will be used for the occupants of the dress circle, orchestra stalls, and pit stalls only, the dress circle being approached from a flight of broad marble steps in the main entrance. A large corridor enables the gallery audience waiting for admission to be in shelter in wet weather. An arrangement of this kind has also been made for the pit and all other portions of the house. The whole building is to be lighted by electricity. The rebuilding has been carried out to the plans of Mr. F. Tugwell, the architect of the Theatre Royal, York, and the Opera House, Harrogate.

LA MILO has been recently winning golden opinions at the Palace, Aberdeen. A local critic says "that the inhabitants of the granite metropolis found themselves in a new atmosphere. At a time when all the world is watching the progress of the Olympic games, modelled on the glories of Grecian athleticism, we, in Aberdeen," he says, "are fortunate in having the living embodiment of that statuesque grace which the great Greeks of the golden age loved to portray in the marble. La Milo, the queen of living statuary, has drawn crowded houses to the Palace Theatre, and her poses may be described as educational, refined, beautiful, and impersonal."

THE Winter Gardens and Victoria Pavilion, Morecambe, are to be sold by auction (by order of the Court of Chancery), by Mr. G. H. Petty, at the Midland Hotel, Morecambe, on Tuesday, Aug. 25, at three o'clock in the afternoon precisely, subject to conditions to be then produced. The property includes the large concert or music hall called the Victoria Pavilion, the Winter Gardens or Ballroom, and six lock-up shops, a valuable freehold property occupying a commanding position. The Pavilion and Ballroom premises are licensed for the sale of intoxicating liquors. For further particulars apply to the auctioneer, 62, Market-street, Lancaster; or to J. G. Wright, solicitor, Lancaster.

MR. ORLANDO POWELL, so long chef d'orchestre at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, nightly occupies the conductor's chair at the Oxford, what time Mr. George Leyton is presenting Mr. John P. Harrington's dramatic scena, *The Last Muster*, to which Mr. Powell has composed the incidental music.

MR. GUS ELEN, who is in Stanley, N.B., has been enjoying a fairly good time, though he has sprained his ankle, which seems to be getting on all right now. Mrs. Elen has been bitten by a dog on the arm, the animal tearing an expensive blouse she was wearing at the time.

THE conditions have been a bit unfavourable for fishing, and Mr. Elen has only grassed two salmon, but has had good sport with the sea trout. Ernest Shand spent a week with him in the early part of the month, and they had a good time together, both visiting Loch Leven, and catching some fine trout—the most beautiful they ever saw. Mr. Elen, whose forty-sixth birthday was on Wednesday, is not fretting at his absence from the boards.

JOHN LAWSON has received an offer to visit America, but is experiencing a difficulty in postponing his contracts here. There would be not the slightest doubt of his success. Lawson gave us dramatic thrills on the variety stage before the Grand Guignal pieces had been heard of in London.

MRS. JOHN LAWSON paid her first visit to the Empire, Dublin, this week with that powerful work, *The Devil's Sunday*. Of her success there is no doubt, and all the Dublin papers speak in praise of her acting. This clever lady will be seen at the Grand, Clapham, on Bank Holiday in *The Woman and the Apple*.

THE famous Gaiety comedian, John L. Shine, is about to introduce a new and up-to-date single turn. And why not? A more versatile comedian could not be found. Who does not remember his fine impersonation in *Hogmanay*, or his blatant millionaire in Sydney Grundy's *The Glass of Fashion?* His advent in a new rôle will be looked for with much interest. He will appear during the week of Aug. 17 at the Palace, Reading, having been secured by Mr. Howard Watson through Will Oliver's agency.

MR. TOM MCNAUGHTON, genial and breezy as ever, is back again with his two partners in the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.—Messrs. John P. Harrington and Joseph Kandt—looking bronzed and thoroughly "fit," after a delightful trip from America on the Lusitania. Tom has done some wonderful things in the way of "placing" for the Berners-street firm whilst in America, perhaps his biggest achievement in this direction being the arranging for no less than fifteen of the Monte Carlo songs with one firm alone, the Ted Synder Publishing Co., of New York.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR, well known as Napoleon in Wills's play, *A Royal Divorce*, will produce at the Palace, Bow, on Monday, what is termed an "Impressionist" sketch, entitled *Meredith's Masterpiece*, in which he will have a strong acting part. Special scenery has been painted by Mr. F. H. Bull.

MR. GALLAGHER, who was appointed manager of the Willesden Hippodrome at the opening of that house, is severing his connection therewith, and Mr. Horace Sheldon, the chef d'orchestre there, who is the son of Mr. Ernest Sheldon, of Aberdeen and Dundee, is also leaving.

MR. FRED MILLER, the popular general-manager of the Canterbury and Paragon, will sever his connection with the Syndicate to-day, and his resignation has been received with unfeigned regret among the habitués of the Canterbury. For close on eight years Mr. Miller has been a familiar figure there, and his unfailing courtesy and genial kind-heartedness have made him the staunch friend of a great number of people.

MR. MILLER in 1893 was appointed secretary to Mr. Arthur Tressider, manager at the Paragon, and on his death occupied the same post to Mr. Will Lennon. He succeeded Mr. Lennon as manager at the Paragon, and when Mr. Fred Holden severed his connection with the Canterbury, the directors appointed Mr. Miller as manager of the Canterbury and Paragon, a position he has held for about eight years.

IT was during Mr. Miller's managership that the golden anniversary of the Canterbury took place, when all the music-hall celebrities of the day were present, including the late Mr. Charles Morton, the father of the halls, and founder of the Canterbury.

AT the golden anniversary Mr. G. Adney Payne took up the old rôle of chairman, an office long since abolished at music halls.

MR. MILLER has had another appointment offered to him, but as yet he has not come to any decision on the matter. The Canterbury will be run on the two houses a night plan at the end of September.

MISS NELLIE WILSON arrived at Sydney (Australia) on the 17th inst., per the s.s. "Himalaya," after a most enjoyable and pleasant trip.

MR. HERBERT DARNLEY will shortly launch another big music hall production. He will not survey mankind from China to Peru, but keep the action in the Flowery Land. Mr. Darnley wrote the late Dan Leno's greatest successes, including the farcical comedy *Mr. Wix of Wickham*, *Tower of London*, *Mrs. Kelly*, *Buying a House*, &c., and is part author of *Moses and Sons*, *His Majesty's Guests*, &c.

MR. GEORGE LEYTON will also shortly produce a song with a play-title, viz., "The Flag Lieutenant," founded on the successful piece by Major W. P. Drury and Mr. Leo Trevor now running at the Playhouse. The verses will be from the pen of Chris Davis and the music by Orlando Powell.

MR. JOHN E. COYLE, the popular comedian, has been attacked with hæmorrhage of the lungs. The first intimation of the mischief occurred on Sunday, the 12th, at Liverpool, and on Tuesday last week, after the first performance at the Birmingham Hippodrome, Mr. Coyle was seized with a second and more severe attack, when Drs. Trout and Bennett attended him, and prescribed absolute rest for three months, and a holiday abroad. We understand that all Mr. Coyle's contracts are cancelled up till October.

THE Tivoli report shows a net profit for the twelve months ended June 30 (after providing for £5,833 interest on the mortgage and debentures) of £15,468. In January last an interim dividend of £4 per cent. (less income-tax) was paid. The directors now recommend the payment of a further dividend of £6 per cent (less income-tax) for the half-year ended June 30, 1908, together with a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share (free of income-tax), equal to £12 10s. per cent. for the year.

AFTER payment of this dividend and bonus, the directors propose to deal with the surplus by applying £5,000 to the general reserve fund, making £20,000 to the credit thereof, and carrying forward the balance to the current year's accounts. A highly satisfactory report, on which the shareholders may be heartily congratulated. Mr. Henry Tozer (chairman), who will offer himself for re-election on Wednesday next at the seventeenth annual meeting, will again be the unanimous choice of the shareholders. Of that there can be no shadow of doubt.

WE are very pleased to say that Mr. Charles Clifford was not accidentally killed while riding near Budapest, as announced in our "Variety Gossip" of last week. Our information came from Mr. Clifford's brother, who, with the whole of the family, was deceived by mistaken identity. We extended our sympathy to Miss Jennie Johns; we now offer that charming artist and her fiancée, Mr. Charles Clifford, our heartiest congratulations on their marriage, which takes place quietly to-day. Mr. Willie Hesketh will officiate as best man.

THE space occupied by the Edgbaston Reservoir, Birmingham, may be utilised for the purpose of a "Fun City." Messrs. Fred Ginnett, P. Collins, and Frank Bostock are named in connection, and the figure mentioned is £1,000.

THE sketch *The Sheriff and the Rosebud*, by W. Townsend Collins, which was produced for the first time on June 23 last at the Manchester Hippodrome, is to be given for the first time in London on Monday at the Shepherd's Bush Empire.

THE story is laid in the romantic and picturesque regions of the Pacific slope, and has been adapted from a work by Horace Annesley Vachell, author of *Her Son*. Miss Ida Morgan, daughter of the resident-manager at Shepherd's Bush, Mr. E. P. Morgan, will repeat her impersonation of Sadie ("Bud").

THE monologue which Miss Madge Crichton is playing at the Coliseum this week is written by Miss Laura Leycester, who has furnished Mr. Colin Bryce (just returned from America) with a farce entitled *Are You a Socialist?* which he will shortly produce at a London music hall.

THE Bordesley Palace, Birmingham, has turned out very successful since its conversion, last October, from a music hall into a playhouse. For one thing, its resident-manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward, spares himself no effort in popularising his show-place and fare with the locals, while his conduct of the house is perfect.

LAST Saturday Mr. Woodward held a children's matinée with Mr. Charles Harrington's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* company, playing to over 4,000 of the little ones, and at the end got them out comfortably in less than four minutes. This week Messrs. Garside and Forbes Knowles' company is playing here to extraordinary summer business.

"THE HARMONIC CRANKS, entertainers," is the exact announcement on the Euston bill of a group of merrymakers, who speed the time with song, with jest, and with comic business. The scene is a modern hostelry on a festive occasion, and a burly policeman is called in to assist with his fine voice the harmonious sounds—as full and sweet as ever echoed over the valley at the foot of Mount Helicon. There is an imp of mischief, an excellent dancer, in the frolic of the "cranks." A lady Suffragist, too, just gives a hint about "Votes for Women," and something very scathing also is said concerning the Licensing Bill. It is all delightfully irresponsible and amusing, and the Harmonic Cranks have an assured future.

THE daring aerial performance by the Sisters Curzon at the Manchester Hippodrome, this week, came to a dramatic but painful end on Tuesday night, when one of them let go her hold whilst whirling in mid-air, and dropped into the arena cushions, a distance of 30ft. At the time of the accident both performers were hanging by the teeth, and, as the young lady dropped, the other end of the revolving swivel swung from a horizontal to a vertical position. With great presence of mind the remaining performer clutched at the rope, and thus saved herself.

MISS WILLARD, as the injured lady is known in private life, was removed to the infirmary in an unconscious condition. She remained in this state all night, but next morning she was better. The doctor's examination showed that the wrist was apparently broken, but beyond severe bruises on the face and body, there was no other serious injury.

THE two young ladies are sisters, and are of American extraction, one being married; but the pair have always played under the name of Curzon. Six weeks ago they came to England for the first time, and after a continuous run at the London Hippodrome, went on to Manchester without a rest. An examination of the apparatus used by the Sisters Curzon revealed that all was in perfect order.

THE eleventh annual meeting of shareholders of the Birmingham Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, Ltd., took place on Friday, the 17th, Mr. John Young presiding. The directors regretted that the year's trading would not permit of a dividend. The profits, after providing for debenture interest, insurance, salaries, and depreciation, amounted to (including the balance brought forward) the sum of £702 9s. 11d. This, the directors recommended, should be carried forward.

DURING the year competition had considerably increased. Matinées had been instituted, but discontinued during the summer, and the general expenses much lessened. It was suggested that if the board was composed of local gentlemen interested in the theatre it would be advantageous. After some discussion the balance-sheet was approved. The directors offered to resign, but the future composition of the board was deferred for discussion at the adjourned meeting, to take place on July 29.

A PLEASING innovation has been made at the Palace Ball-room, Blackpool, in the shape of a ballet entitled *The Children's Dream of Toyland*. This was submitted to the public on Saturday evening, and met with an enthusiastic reception from an enthusiastic audience. Mlle. Pauline Rivers, who is responsible for the novel and attractive production, is to be highly complimented, and so are the 150 local children taking part in it.

THE theme running through the tableaux is that of a little family, tired out with play and fallen into slumber, awakened by fairies to find themselves in possession of a sort of Pandora's box—in this case the contents being up-to-date dolls and toys. These characters are, of course, taken by the children, and with song and dance and a series of picture groupings, glorious animation is preserved up to the grand finale, in which thousands of lights are employed, the scene being surpassingly pretty and novel.

SPECIALITY numbers are given by the Misses Lena Melville, Gertie Langley, Edith Howarth, Lily Lofthouse, and Violet Harold. Then there are the "Pauline" and "Dainty Dandies" sextettes, and other groups of tastefully attired performers who give dances of an interesting character.

MR. PAUL BARNES, of New York, concludes his first visit to England this week, sailing next Tuesday for the United States on the s.s. Ivernia. He is enthusiastic about England, its audiences, and everything concerning the old country. He has had a great time, but intends to have a greater when he returns next January. Barnes is booked practically solid from next February to April, 1910, and he is going to broach a new cask of jokes, japes, and stories. Meanwhile he retires to his finely-situated country home in New Hampshire, where, on the lakes adjoining, he indulges in his favourite hobby of motor-boating.

THE staff of the Empire Theatre, Swindon, held their annual outing on Saturday. Train was taken to Gloucester, where a steam launch was chartered to convey the party up the Severn to Tewkesbury, where dinner was served. The esteemed managing-director, Mr. Alfred Manners, accompanied the party.

THE annual outing of the staff of the New Cross Empire takes place on Sunday. A special saloon train will leave New Cross Station (L.B. & S.C.R.) for Brighton at 8.40 a.m., returning from Brighton at 7.10 p.m. Dinner will be served at the Washington Hotel, West-street, at 1.30 p.m. sharp. The chair will be taken by Mr. Ernest Bridgen (manager) and the vice-chair by Mr. C. Young (assistant-manager).

THE first annual picnic of the staff of Barrasford's Hippodrome, Sheffield, took place on Sunday to Dove Dale, situate in the midst of Derbyshire's grand and majestic scenery. The party, numbering about sixty, and including Mr. E. D. Elbourne, the resident-manager, and Mrs. Elbourne, journeyed by "special" Midland train to Matlock, where well-appointed coaches were in waiting to convey them to their destination. Dinner was served in good style at the Peveril of the Peak Hotel, after which a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Elbourne, who, in a brief, but happily-worded, reply, spoke of the good feeling that existed amongst the staff.

THE staff of the Empire, Newcastle, on the 19th had their sixteenth annual outing to Warkworth, in delightful weather. Dinner was served at 1 p.m., after which Mr. W. P. Wells, the courteous manager, proposed the toast of the day, "The Moss' Empires, Ltd.," coupled with the name of Mr. Richard Thornton. Mr. Wells also made a presentation to Mr. John W. Dawson, the popular musical director of the theatre. The present took the form of a roll-top writing-desk, silver clock, almanack, and silver candlesticks. Mr. Dawson replied in feeling terms, and ringing cheers were given for him.

THE result of the sports held during the day was as follows:—Girls' Skipping Race (under 16 years).—Miss Joyce, 1; Miss Elliott, 2. 120 Yards (open to staff).—Dunlavey, 1; Derry, 2; Graham, 3; Levett, 4. Egg and Spoon Race (Ladies).—Miss Ridley, 1. Boys' 100 Yards Race.—Stephens, 1; Dryden, 2. Ladies' Costume Race (first prize kindly given by Mrs. Thornton).—Miss Thompson, 1; Miss Ridley, 2. Ladies' Skipping Race.—Miss Cooke, 1; Miss Thompson, 2. Veterans' Race (50 Yards).—Jenkins, 1; Brierley, 2. Muddle Boot Race.—Brown, 1; Battersby, 2. Three-legged Race.—Sharp and Kilbour, 1. Managers' Race.—Mr. Kelly was a popular winner, with Mr. Boardman second, and Mr. Phillips third. Messrs. Wells, Bell, Pellow, Buckingham, and Abrahams were among the "also rans." The prizes were afterwards gracefully presented by Mrs. Thornton. After a most enjoyable day the party returned to Newcastle by the 7.15 train.

MR. JOHN DONALD in his scena *A Scottish Exile's Dream* met with a very hearty reception in Ireland on Monday last at Belfast. His reception was not at all surprising as the popular vocalist played there in pantomime last year, also the previous year; but all the same his new rôle came as a welcome surprise.

A PARTY of friends and relatives of Osborn and Brookes, the popular comedy duo, assembled at St. Pancras Station on Friday morning to wish them a pleasant voyage and happy engagement with Mr. Rickards in Australia, to which land they sail by the s.s. Orotava. They return early next year to fulfil London engagements.

W. D. MACKENZIE'S musical scena, *Moments With the Masters*, an entirely new and original production, with a chorus of fifteen voices, introducing the Human Ocarina, has been doing great things at the Hippodrome, Hastings, getting six and eight curtain calls each night and crowding the house. The Human Ocarina has to give two encores. Mr. Vivian Fisher, the managing-director here, says that no show has caught on so well since the house has been built.

LITTLE MONA CONNOR, daughter of Fred J. Connor, proprietor and manager of the Hippodrome and Circus, Douglas, was the recipient of many valuable presents on Monday night last, the occasion being her birthday. The circus was crowded, and the clever little rider was received with a great ovation on Mr. Albino, the ring-master, making the presentations, the donors being Manx and professional friends.

THE new Hippodrome for Todmorden, situate in Halifax-road, is progressing satisfactorily. The roof is being put on, and in a few days the building will be covered in. The seating is being pushed on, the fireproof curtain is in hand, and the electricity contract will be given out very shortly, an efficient scheme of lighting having been specially provided. A long list of engagements has been already entered into, and the manager (Mr. Richard Dewhurst) is assured of a handsome structure. The opening date is Monday, Oct. 5.

THE CANTERBURY will open its doors on Monday with a new manager, Mr. Charles W. Adams, who will be remembered as the popular resident chief at the Shepherd's Bush Empire. Under the auspices of Mr. Frank Leon, the famous clog dancer, a competition will be held, and the clang of wooden shoon will be heard every evening during the week. There will be no entrance fee. The prizes consist of a silver belt and title of amateur champion of England, also silver medallions, cups, and medals. Jack Sheppard and Miss Ruby Vesta will appear in the Great Trunk Mystery, and a new coster episode, entitled *Corkscrew*, will be presented by Nevill Graham & company. Another novelty is "Memora," the girl with the marvellous memory.

THE case of the United Counties Theatres, Ltd. v. Chanti came before his Honour Judge Woodfall in the Westminster County Court on Monday by way of a claim for damages by music-hall proprietors against an artist for breach of contract. Mr. Walter Payne was counsel for plaintiffs, and Mr. Doughty for the defendant. The case for the plaintiffs was that defendant was engaged to perform at their Plymouth hall, and wrote that he was too ill to fulfil his contract. He wrote that he had a slight attack of rheumatic fever, but sent no medical certificate. Plaintiffs had put him at the top of the bill, and had to go to considerable trouble and expense to get another turn to take his place. There was a clause in the contract that a medical certificate must be supplied in cases of inability to perform through illness.

MR. DOUGHTY said the only person who had suffered was Chanti, who lost his salary. Illness, he submitted, was an excuse in law. His Honour said the contract was a binding one, and had been partly performed by each side, defendant having supplied the bill matter and plaintiffs having put it in the bill. What damages had plaintiffs sustained? What was the cause of the contract being broken? The illness, not the absence of the certificate. Plaintiffs would have suffered the same had defendant sent the certificate, and they would have had to engage another artist just the same. He quite understood the necessity for a certificate, and here the artist agreed to supply one if he fell ill and was unable to perform. Plaintiffs were entitled to nominal damages, which he assessed at 40s.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

ONE of the tremendous booms that occasionally happen in the world of popular song has just occurred. The Isle of Man has gone positively frantic over the song by Dan Lipton and C. W. Murphy entitled "Oh! oh! Antonio!" which Miss Florrie Forde has been singing at Douglas. It being Glasgow Fair week, popular Douglas has been thronged with holiday-making Scots, all of whom are singing the ditty at all hours everywhere. Messrs. Francis and Day have immediately placed the song in the "Sixpenny Pops," and so great and continuous are the orders by letter, telegram, and telephone, the presses have been going night and day to keep pace with the demand.

AMONG other "Sixpenny Pops" just issued or in the press which Messrs. Francis and Day are placing on the market are "A heart full of love and a pocket full of money," "Take me back to the Isle of Man," "Esau, take me on the see-saw," "Where, oh where, is my Lancashire lad!" "The jocular joker," "Shake hands," "If I had only slept another minute," "Whistle, and shut your eyes," "Don't run after the girl," "Speak of a man as you find him," "Who said he don't like girls?" "Hang out the front door key," and "The end of the pier."

AMONG the new dances that Messrs. Francis and Day have secured none are likely to be more popular than the new round dance invented by Mr. Tom Walton, the popular M.C. of the White City, Manchester, and composed by Mr. L. C. Everitt, entitled "Alma." Already many visitors at Blackpool, Douglas, and the White City have danced their soles from their uppers to this daily redemanded morceau. The same may be said of the same inventor and composer's two-step "The Boston," which took second prize at the conference of the United Kingdom Association of Teachers of Dancing. This also is being published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA'S new song "The lass who loved a sailor," by John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, has been purchased by Mr. David Day's firm, as has also that funny comic song "When he's three-score ten," the Old Age Pension song, written and composed by E. P. Weston and Harry Bedford, and sung by the latter.

MISS VESTA TILLEY has secured from F. W. Leigh and Kenneth Lyle a clever and tuneful number entitled "The simple human girlie."

ALICE LLOYD'S "Lovelight" song, which has been the rage of her second successful American tour, will now be "featured" in Florence Zeigfeld's production, *The Follies of 1908*, by Miss Lucy Weston at the New York Theatre, Broadway. "Isn't it lovely to be in love?" has been fixed with the same production, and will also be sung by Miss Lucy Weston. "Sweet Eileen" will be specially "featured" in Messrs. Shubert's new production, *The Mimic World*, at the Casino Theatre, Broadway. "Good-bye, Mr. Williams," is now the leading song of Laddie Cliff, who has made such a success in the States. "Lovelight" is published by Francis and Day in America, and the three last-mentioned songs by the Ted Snyder Publishing Co., of New York.

MISS ANNA HELD, in a characteristic letter to Messrs. Harrington and Orlando Powell, has gracefully tendered to them her thanks for their Americanised version of Miss Marie Lloyd's "The Directoire Girl," which the American star will be specially "featuring" in the States shortly, and has commissioned these writers to supply her with several new numbers for the forthcoming Zeigfeld production.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA'S "song o' the sea," entitled "The lass who loved a sailor," by Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, which she will produce for the first time on August Bank Holiday at Greenock, has been acquired for publication by Messrs. Francis and Day. Miss Victoria has this week accepted another number, "The job won't suit," from the same writers.

MR. TOM B. NEWSOME, the author of all Rowland Hill's successful "Dame" songs, has fitted him with two historical numbers in "Henry the Eighth" and "In the days of Cromwell."

MISS MILLIE HYLTON, who opens at the Liverpool Empire on Monday, will sing two songs, both written and composed by Charles Wilmott and Hermann Darewski, jun. The first is "Take me up on the Flip-flap," and "Meet me under the Golden Dome." The latter will be heard for the first time, and has a very catchy refrain. Miss Hylton will also sing it on her return to town shortly.

OUT of the many successes with which John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell have furnished Miss Marie Lloyd, never perhaps have they found her one quite so good as "The Directoire Girl." The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. have already exhausted the large first edition, and a big order for fresh copies has been placed with their printers to cope with the insistent demands for this most successful of "Sixpenny Successes."

MISS LIL HAWTHORNE has been scoring on the Stoll tour with the novel American song "The boy who stuttered and the girl who lisped." The idea is quaintly original, and Miss Hawthorne further adds to its attractiveness by a most becoming costume.

MISS CARRIE SWAIN, the world's favourite vocalist, who appears at the Coliseum for a week, commencing Aug. 3, prior to her departure for America, will sing "Carissima," published by M. Witmark and Sons.

THE success of the ballads composed by Mr. Ernest R. Ball, who gave us "Love me and the world is mine," is something phenomenal. It is rare indeed when a composer follows a great success with other numbers equally attractive. Miss Truly Shattuck is singing "As long as the world rolls on," by this popular composer, and the song seems destined to become quite as popular as the others in Mr. Ball's catalogue.

MR. ANDIE CAINE is singing "Way down in Colon Town" to delighted audiences in Filey, the gem of the northern watering places. This number will certainly be found in all the principal pantomimes during the coming season.

MR. DAVE CARTER, the original singer of "Love me and the world is mine," is taking a most deserved holiday at Brighton. Mr. Carter has introduced, with the greatest possible success, the pretty Irish song "Where the River Shannon flows."

MISS GERTIE GITANA has been increasing her already great popularity by her charming rendition of Witmark's song "Sweet Jessie dear."

MISS JESSIE MERRILEES returned to London on Monday, opening at the Duchess, Balham Miss Merrilees is making a great success with Ernest R. Ball's ballad "I'd live or I would die for you."

IT seems likely that during the coming season we are to have more than one musical comedy of an ornithological nature, as, on good authority, we hear that the clever bird impersonator, Mr. Walter Stanton, has been approached with offers to star in an original piece of that nature, to be built round him.

MESSRS. BEECHAM AND WHEELER.

Mr. Charles Beecham and Mr. Worland S. Wheeler, who have held the respective positions of manager and secretary at the Paragon, Mile End-road, tendered their resignations at a directors' meeting on Wednesday last, having entered into partnership as dramatic and variety agents.

Mr. Beecham commenced his duties at the Paragon in a humble capacity, and was subsequently promoted to a position in the office. Under the observant eye of Mr. G. Adney Payne, he learned the rudiments of the music-hall business, and was soon appointed secretary and treasurer at the

MR. CHARLES BEECHAM.

South London. He next accepted the position of secretary at the Paragon, subsequently becoming manager, upon Mr. Fred Miller leaving to take control of the Canterbury.

Mr. Beecham has worked under many managers, including Messrs. Thiodon, Will Lennon, Harry Lundy, Fred Holden, and Fred Miller. He is a life governor of the Albert and Victoria Hospital and the Poplar Hospital. Among his many productions were *The Freebooter*, *Sherlock Holmes*,

MR. WORLAND S. WHEELER.

Captain Dreyfus, *The Night Alarm*, *Black v. White*, *Cromwell or the King*, and *The Silent Sentinel*, the last three being written by his present partner, Mr. Worland S. Wheeler.

Mr. Wheeler at the age of eighteen was a journalist. He entered the service of the late Mr. Geo. Adney Payne as shorthand writer at the Canterbury, then under the management of Mr. Fred Holden. After a short time Mr. Wheeler was appointed secretary and treasurer to the Paragon, and commenced his duties with Mr. Beecham as manager.

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

MR. JOE O'GORMAN, the chairman, and the general secretary, Mr. Monte Bayly, have been instructed to attend the forty-first Trade Unions Congress to be held at Nottingham on Sept. 7, and the five following days, as delegates from the Variety Artists' Federation.

AT the 570th meeting of the M.H.A.R.A., held on Wednesday, the following members were present:—J. W. Cragg (trustee, who occupied the chair), G. H. Smythson, W. E. Gillin, W. H. Atlas, Lieut. Albini, Walter Munroe, Albert Voyce (chairman), Sid Bandon, John Alexander, Harry Blake, Bert Williams, J. Tray, J. Atroy, W. Brown, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. John McConnell, of the Ship Hotel, Blyth, and Mr. Wm. Cockburn, of the Railway Hotel, North Shields, were appointed agents in those towns.

IT was announced that the Liverpool office, situated at 21, Houghton-street, Liverpool, would be ready for opening before August Bank Holiday, and it was decided to send Mrs. Egerton, of the American Bar, Lime-street, Liverpool, a letter conveying the sincere thanks of the Association for her past services. The weekly statement showed an increase of twenty new members and receipts of £32 2s. 6d.

AT the Sports on Wednesday, Aug. 12, at Herne Hill, there will be five championship races, and special interest will be attached to the motor-cycle racing between C. R. Collier, C. V. Colver, and H. Martin, who will compete in a three-cornered match for one, two, and five miles at the special request of Mr. Harry Tate. C. R. Collier will also attempt to lower the five-mile record. The prizes will be presented by Mrs. Joe Elvin. A solid silver cigar case will be the gift of *The Era*. The event to which it is to be allotted has not been settled.

A MOST successful reception was held on Wednesday at the new office of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, Room 63, Albion House, 59, New Oxford-street, W.C., under the auspices of Mrs. Fred Ginnett, president, Mrs. Eugene Stratton, vice-president, and Miss Belle Elmore, hon. treasurer, who received the guests. The sister guild of theatrical ladies sent congratulatory letters through Miss Fanny Brough, Mrs. Kitty Carson, and Mrs. Edward Compton, and hearty messages were also sent by Miss E. G. Clarke, the Actors' Church Union, and others.

AMONG those who looked in during the afternoon were Mrs. Herbert Shelley, Mrs. Charles Coborn, Miss Kate Vulcana, Miss Bertha Graham, Mrs. Northcott, Miss Northcott, Mrs. Hole, Mrs. Mayer, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Bartlett, Mrs. Doust, Mrs. Chas. Mitchell, Miss Kettner, Mrs. Bradgate, Miss Alice Chapin, Miss Eva Erskine, Miss Maud Horsnell, Miss Poppet Ginnett, Dr. Crippen, Mr. Douglas Stuart, and many more.

MISS MELINDA MAY, the secretary of the Guild, wishes to return thanks to Mrs. and Miss Northcott for a donation of 5s. and a parcel of clothing to Mr. Marsh of Brixton for decorating Guild rooms with beautiful plants; also to Misses McNeill (Edinburgh) for a parcel of clothing, to Miss Kate Vulcana for a collection of 6s. 6d., and to an anonymous donor of clothes.

MR. BEN WOODGER, secretary of the Music Hall Home, has received the following letter from the founder and hon. director (H. Lee J. Jones) of the Food and Betterment Association of Liverpool: "Dear Sir,—In accordance with promise, we have much pleasure in herewith forwarding £5 for the aid of your praiseworthy project. Please accept this gift as a humble and small token of our admiration and thankfulness for the collective magnificent assistance the theatrical profession of all sections and grades has so whole-heartedly given this Association in the past. With every good wish."

OTHER contributions to the Music Hall Home Fund are 13s. 9d. from Mr. Rolmaz, Grand Theatre, Manchester, and £1 2s. 6d. from Mr. P. A. Lennon, of the Camberwell Palace.

MR. GEORGE WHITELEY, late Patronage Secretary of the Treasury, and chief whip to the Government, who was recently made a peer, has taken the title of Baron Marchamley. Lady Marchamley is a daughter of W. Tattersall, Esq., of Quarry Bank, Blackburn, and a first cousin of Mr. W. H. Clemart, vice-chairman of the Variety Artists' Federation, and King Rat.

AFTER being for many years at the York Hotel, Waterloo-road, the Music Hall Sick Fund has changed its quarters, and members are requested in future to address all communications to the Secretary, the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

MUSIC-HALL CELEBRITIES.

MISS ROSE HARVEY.

An established favourite both on the legitimate and variety theatres, Miss Rose Harvey hails from the thriving little seaside resort of Sandwich, close to Deal and Dover. As a girl her voice was considered good, and her services were in great request for local concerts and entertainments. At the age of fifteen she was induced to join a touring choir, her original idea being to stick to the concert platform. But it was not long before she adventured into the music-hall world, and since then her career has been one of constant success. As a ballad singer and burlesque artist she has toured town and country, making for herself friends and admirers wherever she has gone; while her ventures into pantomime have met with equal success. Her engagements in the latter capacity have included three as Crusoe, one as Dick Whittington, and two as the Prince in *Cinderella*.

Miss Harvey declares herself very much attached to pantomime, but owing to the poor salaries offered, notwithstanding enquiries for her services, she was reluctantly compelled to relinquish her favourite work. An example of Miss Harvey's popularity with the children, as well as a tribute to the youthfulness of her appearance, was furnished in a small letter from a small boy, which reached her when she was playing Crusoe at Cheltenham two years ago. Her juvenile correspondent wrote:—"Will you come to my Ma's 'at-home' next week? I hope you will bring your gun and white fur dress." "I thought it quite too sweet," says Miss Harvey. "Of letters and

[*Photo by Rotary Photo Co.*

MISS ROSE HARVEY.

tiny presents, sprays of flowers, paste brooches, &c., from factory girls," she adds, "I have received quite a number, which I have treasured far above more expensive presents."

One of her most interesting experiences was a tour with a music hall company to Johannesburg, some years ago, the delights of the voyage and the enthusiastic reception she received from both the Boers and Uitlanders in that town being themes of which she never wearies. Lately Miss Harvey has been alternating her music hall singing turn with that of playing a very pretty part in a sketch produced by Mr. Maitland Marler, entitled *His Worship the Mayor*, in which she appears as an artist's model.

Miss Harvey possesses a really excellent voice, and has all the charm of a finished actress, and if one day she should go into musical comedy, as she is rather desirous of doing, she will most likely blossom out into a first-rate favourite. Off the stage her geniality seems to increase. She likes things that are "jolly," and in addition she is fond of tennis, driving, and motoring—"with the pace quick!"

TRICK and Trixie, after a successful six months' tour in England, have been booked by M. B. Leavitt, of New York, for the Rentz Santley company for thirty-five weeks' tour, commencing about the middle of August. They are leaving Waterloo to-day at ten o'clock, sailing from Southampton by the s.s. "St. Paul." They are well booked for 1909 on their return to England, and have also settled for pantomime for 1909-10, with Mr. Arthur Carlton, of Worcester.

MORTIMER *v.* V.A.F.

The action brought by Mr. Mortimer against Mr. Joe O'Gorman and the V.A.F., which has been so often adjourned, came to an end on Monday in the Westminster County Court, when Judge Woodfall gave a final judgment in favour of the Federation.

Originally the plaintiff sought to recover damages for an alleged breach of indemnity, stating that while he was a member of the Federation (he has since left it) he was called out in the great strike, and, according to his case, he was indemnified against any loss attending him by striking, without which, he said, he would not have come out. Some, he alleged, had full pay from the Federation, while he only had part. First he sued the Federation as a body, and the action went against him; then he sued the members individually, which, according to a statement by his counsel, was done on the advice of Mr. Doughty, the Federation's counsel, who had contended that the Federation was wrongly sued as a body.

Mr. R. Storry Deans, who had previously watched plaintiff's interests, was not in court on Monday, but Mr. Walter Payne appeared in his place, and Judge Woodfall recited to him a digest of the case, emphasising the main points in dispute.

Mr. Payne put forward that the alleged illegal action of the Federation occurred prior to the operation of the Trades Disputes Act, and on that account plaintiff should not be held to be debarred from relying on the agreement that had been given him that he should be indemnified against any loss of salary.

Mr. Doughty produced a number of volumes, and intimated that he could cite many cases which would meet Mr. Storry Deans and Mr. Payne's contentions and prove his own.

However, he was not called upon to do so.

The judge said that this was an action to recover damages for breach of indemnity which plaintiff said arose out of his breaking a contract in consequence of the action of the Federation. Plaintiff was fulfilling an engagement at the Canterbury Music Hall, when a messenger—a sort of ambassador—came down and said he was to strike. As to his loss, it was stated "You'll be all right," and that induced him to break his contract. He (the judge) did not know, and had not to inquire, whether the aims of the strike were good or bad, but he had to say what was the object of the Federation, and he found it was to injure the hall proprietor. That was the effect of plaintiff coming out, and that was the intent. That being so, the Federation appeared to have paid him sums of money, but not to have carried out the indemnity. The action in inducing him maliciously to break his employment was an illegal act, and contrary to public policy. Plaintiff had to rely on the contract to indemnify him, and that contract was illegal, so he could not recover in this action. Mr. Payne's submission was that the illegal acts were before the Trades Disputes Act operated, but this was not in his (the judge's) opinion a trade dispute. Plaintiff himself said that it was not a general strike. It was one directed against two proprietors, and the whole trade must be concerned to make it a trade dispute. The defendants must have judgment; but he would make no order as to costs, the reason for defendants' success being their own illegal act.

Mr. Doughty thought the defendants were entitled to some costs, irrespective of the result of the trial.

The Judge decided to consider the whole question of costs, stating that his decision would be communicated, and counsel need not attend.

THE EMPIRE.

A deep contrast to the daintiness and charm of *Coppélia* at the Empire is found in the latest bijou melodrama produced there by Mr. H. J. Hitchins on Tuesday night. The novelty is a translation by Miss Norah Keith of the Grand Guignol bijou drama by E. Reibrach and G. Docquois entitled *Après l'Opéra*, which in its English dress is known as

"AFTER THE OPERA."

Lawrence Devas .....MR. ROBERT PATEMAN
Captain Gordon Follett ..MR. CHARLES BRYANT
An Inspector .....MR. VERNON
A Burglar .....MR. T. WALLS
Marie .....MISS ELSIE CLERC
Lady Lulu Devas .....MISS EVELYN D'ALROY

The scene is a luxuriously-furnished boudoir in a Park-lane mansion. Lady Lulu Devas, a society beauty, her elderly husband, and her lover, Capt. Follett, have returned from the opera. The husband, Lawrence Devas, receives a telegram, which makes it imperative that he shall depart for the North by the midnight train. It is palpable that Mrs. Devas has but little affection for the man who has endowed her with all the luxury that immense wealth can command. He is the "Coal King," and Follett is deeply in debt. On the husband's departure the woman tempts the lover to stay, and with reckless abandon she has just thrown herself into his arms, when they are both alarmed by footsteps. Follett would face the intruder; but persuaded by the piteous entreaties of Lulu—who thinks that her husband has played her a trick and returned—Follett exits by the window.

He has only just gone when a burglar enters the boudoir, and catching the hapless woman by the throat strangles her. In the next scene Follett is discovered by the police in the act of climbing down from the balcony, and the inspector demands an explanation. Briefly explaining that a woman's honour is concerned, Follett is departing, when he comes face to face with Devas, who has missed his train. It is an awkward predicament for Follett, but it is no time for parley. Who was it that had interrupted his *tête-à-tête*—possibly a burglar. He will not reply to the eager, angry questioning of Devas, but thinks only of the danger of the woman upstairs. Instinctively he feels that something terrible has happened. In a state of harrowing anxiety the two men—husband and lover—enter the house, to discover that their worst fears are realised. Lulu, the airy trifler with a husband's honour, lies dead on the floor, and the guilty miscreant who has robbed and murdered her has escaped. Lawrence Devas, with a cunning born of furious jealousy, charges the Captain with theft and murder, telling the police to search him for notes that he (Devas) had given to the murdered woman; but Follett is spared a trial at the New Bailey by the return of the police with the murderer handcuffed. His confession foils Devas in his hastily-planned scheme of vengeance, and in an access of fury the latter attempts to shoot Follett, but his arm is knocked up by the inspector, and bloodshed is avoided.

The acting is excellent; and in consequence the drama is thrillingly impressive. That finished and experienced actor, Mr. Robert Pateman, plays with a well-sustained power as Lawrence Devas, and makes it abundantly clear that the elderly husband is something more than an adoring dupe. The volcano of passion in the final scene is very finely handled. Mr. Charles Bryant as Capt. Follett plays a difficult part with great tact and judgment, especially in the final scene. Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, looking very charming as that alluring Delilah, Lulu Devas, displays considerable ability, and in securing her the management has made an excellent choice. She realises exactly the temperament of the woman, and hence her indisputable success. The little piece is a triumph, and should have a good run.

[*Photo by Guttenberg.*

MANCHESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES STAFF OUTING.

PICNIC TO BUXTON, JULY 19TH, 1908.

The staff of the Palace, Manchester, had a delightful day for their outing on Sunday to Miller's Dale and Buxton, in the far-famed Peak district. Eighty were expected, but seventy-four actually made the journey. The train left Manchester Central Station at 9.50 and arrived at Miller's Dale at about 11 o'clock. The drive to Buxton through lovely country was hugely enjoyed, and dinner at the Shakespeare Hotel in that beautiful town followed, Mr. Fred Leighton presiding. Telegrams of good wishes were read from Mr. Walter de Frece and Mr. Peter Watson. During the afternoon another beautiful drive to the Cat and Fiddle, Goyt Valley, and Long Hill added immensely to the pleasure of the party, who pronounced the picnic to be the best they had had since the Palace opened seventeen years since.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR AUGUST.

ENGLAND.

Aug. 1. Appleby (1,800)
Aug. 1. Baslow (1,000)
Aug. 1. Burnham (3,000)
Aug. 1. Calow (611)
Aug. 1. Calver (374)
Aug. 1. Calverley (2,575)
Aug. 1. Curbar (794)
Aug. 1. Dartford (18,700)
Aug. 1. Froggatt (84)
Aug. 1. Greenhill (525)
Aug. 1. Heywood (25,000)
Aug. 1. Kingston-on-Thames (34,400)
Aug. 1. Ludford (714)
Aug. 1. Marple (5,100)
Aug. 1. Mellor (1,584)
Aug. 1. Milnrow (5,100)
Aug. 1. Redditch (11,300)
Aug. 1. Royton (13,000)
Aug. 1. Shirland (3,697)
Aug. 1. Stretton (613)
Aug. 1. Swadlincote (18,000)
Aug. 3. Accrington (43,000)
Aug. 3. Bicester (3,300)
Aug. 3. Bilston (24,000)
Aug. 3. Birkenhead (111,000)
Aug. 3. Blackheath (21,000)
Aug. 3. Brigg (2,300)
Aug. 3. Castleacre (1,600)
Aug. 3. Cheltenham (49,600)
Aug. 3. Clevedon (6,000)
Aug. 3. Doncaster (29,000)
Aug. 3. Fleetwood (12,000)
Aug. 3. Garston (17,300)
Aug. 3. Hampstead Heath
Aug. 3. Hanley (61,500)
Aug. 3. Haslingden (18,600)
Aug. 3. Hendon (17,000)
Aug. 3. Hunslet (66,000)
Aug. 3. Ilkley (7,500)
Aug. 3. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,300)
Aug. 3. Malvern (16,500)
Aug. 3. Manningham (45,051)
Aug. 3. Middlesbrough (91,300)
Aug. 3. Morecambe (12,000)
Aug. 3. New Brighton (10,000)
Aug. 3. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,903)
Aug. 3. Newmarket (10,700)
Aug. 3. Northampton (87,000)
Aug. 3. Otley (8,726)
Aug. 3. Portsmouth (189,000)
Aug. 3. Reigate (25,000)
Aug. 3. Richmond (Surrey) (31,000)
Aug. 3. Ripon (8,200)
Aug. 3. Rodley (2,100)
Aug. 3. Rushden (12,500)
Aug. 3. Ryde (11,000)
Aug. 3. Salford (221,000)
Aug. 3. Seaham Harbour (10,200)
Aug. 3. Southport (48,400)
Aug. 3. South Shields (97,300)
Aug. 3. Stafford (20,275)
Aug. 3. Stanningley (5,579)
Aug. 3. Taunton (21,600)
Aug. 3. Tunbridge Wells (33,400)
Aug. 3. Wanstead Flats (9,200)
Aug. 3. Wormwood Scrubs
Aug. 3. Wyke (5,936)
Aug. 5. Boston (15,700)
Aug. 5. Milnsbridge (4,952)
Aug. 5. Wombwell (13,500)
Aug. 6. Evesham (7,100)
Aug. 6. Tanhill (8,200)
Aug. 8. Barlow (1,110)
Aug. 8. Bolsover (3,752)
Aug. 8. Cheetham Hill (35,000)
Aug. 8. Clay Cross (8,587)
Aug. 8. Cowhill Wakes
Aug. 8. Crabb's Cross (4,560)
Aug. 8. Denton (9,357)
Aug. 8. Hazel Grove (6,000)
Aug. 8. Lindfield (2,300)
Aug. 8. Wessington (614)
Aug. 8. Whitefield (11,500)
Aug. 8. Whitwell (1,924)
Aug. 10. Denholm (3,239)
Aug. 10. Drypool (Hull) (32,000)
Aug. 10. Eccleshill (8,500)
Aug. 10. Horncastle (4,000)
Aug. 10. Rawdon Feast
Aug. 10. Silsden (4,000)
Aug. 10. Stockport (70,500)
Aug. 11. Earlestown (8,000)
Aug. 12. Mitcham (12,000)
Aug. 12. Sowerby Bridge (11,100)
Aug. 12. York (75,560)
Aug. 13. Brighouse (10,750)
Aug. 13. Gildersome (3,200)
Aug. 13. Highworth (2,500)
Aug. 13. Padiham (12,200)
Aug. 13. Queensbury (6,212)
Aug. 14. Ashton-under-Lyne (40,492)
Aug. 15. Astwood Bank
Aug. 15. Droylesden (13,500)
Aug. 15. Glossop (5,000)
Aug. 15. Lelant (1,810)
Aug. 15. Mottram (4,650)
Aug. 15. Rochdale (74,000)
Aug. 15. Shaw (5,000)
Aug. 17. Kirkstall (4,000)
Aug. 17. Long Eaton (13,000)
Aug. 17. Lowmoor (2,397)
Aug. 17. Morley (20,000)
Aug. 19. Barnsley (40,000)
Aug. 19. Birstall (6750)
Aug. 20. Darley (2,725)
Aug. 21. Great Harwood (12,000)
Aug. 21. Hartlepool (22,800)
Aug. 21. Stonehouse (1,800)
Aug. 22. Ashbourne (4,756)
Aug. 22. Bracknell (2,200)
Aug. 22. Darlaston (15,400)
Aug. 22. Delph (5,000)
Aug. 22. Ipswich (66,600)
Aug. 22. Middleton (13,000)
Aug. 22. Newton Heath (30,000)
Aug. 22. Shipton (10,800)
Aug. 22. Saddleworth (4,256)
Aug. 22. Whittington (3,730)
Aug. 24. Beeston (30,000)
Aug. 24. Bingley (9,261)
Aug. 24. First Lee Fair
Aug. 24. Guiseley (4,300)
Aug. 24. Horsforth (3,900)
Aug. 24. Pudsey (17,585)
Aug. 24. Yeadon (7,800)
Aug. 25. Crediton (4,000)
Aug. 25. Hooley Hill
Aug. 25. Taxel or Whaley Bridge (1,548)
Aug. 26. Bakewell (3,500)
Aug. 26. Hinckley (11,300)
Aug. 26. Irlams-o'-th'-Height (27,000)
Aug. 26. Shaftesbury (3,000)
Aug. 26. Shrewsbury (27,000)
Aug. 26. Strood (10,000)
Aug. 27. Cleckheaton (12,000)
Aug. 27. Romsey (4,200)
Aug. 28. Bradford-on-Avon (4,500)
Aug. 29. Eccles (35,000)
Aug. 29. Eyam (1,422)
Aug. 29. Halton (Lancs.) (916)
Aug. 29. Oldham (150,772)
Aug. 29. St. John's Chapel (1,400)
Aug. 29. West Houghton (9,356)
Aug. 31. Farsley (5,500)
Aug. 31. Halton Feast (Leeds) (2,200)
Aug. 31. Hucknall-with-Huthwaite (5,000)
Aug. 31. Watchett (2,000)

SCOTLAND.

Aug. 4. Alyth (3,000)
Aug. 4. Cupar (4,511)
Aug. 5. Kelso (4,006)
Aug. 6. Kirkcaldy (22,347)
Aug. 8. Paisley (79,335)
Aug. 12. Alloa (11,417)
Aug. 13. Biggar (1,200)
Aug. 14. Hawick (17,803)
Aug. 21. Irvine (9,603)

WALES.

Aug. 3. Cardiff (164,000)
Aug. 3. Merthyr Tydfil (26,500)
Aug. 3. Mold (4,000)
Aug. 3. Swansea (90,423)
Aug. 15. Malpas

Bramley, Leeds.

WITHIN a twopenny tram ride from the city of Leeds, with its million or more of people, lies the ancient township of Bramley. It is equally as accessible from Bradford and its teeming population, and close by are Newlay, Stanningley, Rodley, Armley, Kirkstall, and Wortley. It is this stupendous fact of the busy hives of industry linked together by cheap tram lines that gives increasing value to the feasts and fairs on the central Yorkshire round.

GIVEN a good site, with cheap tramways, and the people will crowd a well-ordered fairground. It was so on the Saturday night of the feast when we visited the fair. Everybody seemed caught in the whirl and joy of the feast. Old and young alike, on innocent fun and pleasure bent, crowded shows, roundabouts, swings, busy shooting galleries, and throwing games, thronged stalls, and novelty frames, amusement caterers, giving the people what they needed—recreation in its best and most healthy form.

THE big shows were those of Tuby and Sons, Enoch Farrar, and John Crighton. The big machine novelties were those of Messrs. J. W. Waddington, W. H. Marshall, A. Morley, and John Groom (with helter-skelter tower), Tower's miniature jungle, and the shooting concerns, throwing games, novelty stalls, &c., of Messrs. Waugh Bros., Ratcliffe, Baines, Fawcett, Shaw, R. Williams, E. Seed, S. Waddington, and others, made up the attractions of the fair.

GUILD SUBSCRIPTIONS, 1908:—J. Leonard, 5s.; C. Ives, 5s.

New Brighton Tower.

THE Millican Plantation Show, that has been the attraction at the New Brighton Tower Theatre since May 23, ceased to play in that theatre on Friday last. While the style of entertainment offered would have been appreciated in America or in any other country where the genuine negro is known, it did not appeal to a British public, who always think of the negro with sentimental ideas of beautiful melodies, such as "The Swanee River," "My Old Kentucky Home," and like musical gems. The performances given by the Millican company were more of the coon shouting and rag-time character, and the patronage was consequently kept at such a pitch that it was not found profitable to continue it. Mr. Millican's contract was based on a percentage of the receipts, and his receipts did not justify a continuance of the entertainment, so it was decided to close the company. Mr. Arthur Ellis replaced it with a variety combination, which included Willard's Merry Mannikins, Tom and Amy McKay, Georgo Goodburn, Connie Croston, and the Animated Bioscope of the Weiskers Carbonora Company. This combination seems to have given great satisfaction to the patrons of the Tower.

THE Bass Brewing Company excursion to the New Brighton Tower on Friday last was made under the best of weather circumstances, and the 10,000 trippers were given the freedom of the New Brighton Tower Park, with all its various attractions, including Cummins' Wild West, the cost of the picnic being borne by the directors of the company. This is not only the best organised "outing" in England, but a more enjoyable time was never spent than by these people at the Tower on Friday last.

THE Sunday night concert at the New Brighton Tower theatre last Sunday night was an exceptionally brilliant one, the audience numbering quite 3000, and the demands on the artists engaged for encores necessitated the shortening of the programme by several numbers. Madame Blanche Marchesi was there at her very best, and while she was on the programme for three numbers, she was forced, in response to the general demands, to give nine. The music licence of New Brighton Tower only permits of a concert of an hour and a half, but the Tower management have this season each week provided such attractions as have made it almost invariably impossible to get through the entire programme within the prescribed time. For next Sunday, July 26, Zimbalist, the incomparable Russian violinist, will be the principal attraction.

ON Saturday, Sept. 19, the annual Eisteddfod at New Brighton Tower will take place, and the entries that have already been made for this event indicate that it will be the largest and most successful of these events, which have grown in popular favour during the past ten years.

W. W. DILLINGHAM, one of Colonel Cummins' most expert cowboys, was married on Saturday to Miss Stewart, a daughter of the proprietor of the Lifeboat Hotel, Victoria-road, New Brighton. The wedding came as a surprise to the many friends of both parties, who have only known each other for a few months, but all seem to be happy, and quite a celebration was indulged in on Saturday night at the residence of the bride's parents. Everybody wishes Bill and his bride the best of luck.

Notes from Wales.

AT Neath Messrs. Wm. Haggar extended their visit for a few days, as their exhibition proved so popular, many new pictures—new to Neath—attracted crowded houses. A grand fête and gala was held in the beautiful old abbey ruins on Thursday. Glorious weather was the means of attracting a large number of spectators. Messrs. J. T. Danter catered for the pleasure of the visitors with his racers, shooters, Emmas, cokernuts, swings, &c., part of the proceeds of which they gave in aid of the local charity.

AT Mountain Ash Messrs. Dooner have a good programme for their numerous patrons. Several new pictures are well worthy of notice. The variety part of the entertainment consists of Nellie Anderson, serio comedienne, who well merits the applause of the audience. The Lashmars, song, dance, and legmania artists, present a clever turn, which is immensely appreciated.

MESSRS. WADBROOKE'S biograph and varieties are on a return visit to Tylorstown, where they proved very popular. Several new and entertaining subjects are shown nightly to old and new friends.

MESSRS. CRECRAFT'S bioscope are on a visit in the Aberdare district with some very good films which are new since last visit.

PROFESSOR LLOYD opened a successful visit at Abercynon with his new cinematograph exhibition.

The White City, Old Trafford.

THE annual exhibition of the National Rose Society—whose headquarters are in London, where they hold exhibitions in the Inner Temple Gardens and Regent's Park—drew an immense crowd to this amusement park on Tuesday, and included a wide area of exhibitors—professional and amateur—the chief prize going to Belfast.

THE Three Röhrs, clever daring trick cyclists, finished their engagement here on Saturday. Their star turn is "looping the loop" in an inverted steel globe, and they have had a very successful run.

Two sensational acts are performed this week—one a ride down the water-chute (the highest in England) on a cycle into the water, and the other is "the human flame," which is a dive of about 80ft. by a man enveloped in flames into the lake.

SAM ANDERSON, the winner of the 12st. championship belt at the Manchester Palace Tournament last week, and several of the other competitors are giving an acceptable exhibition of wrestling in the White City Circus this week.

THE excellent weather brings the people to this lovely amusement park, where the band gives most acceptable selections, and innumerable amusements are going on in all parts of the grounds.

Alleged Nuisance by Noises.

THE WHITE CITY, LTD., OLD TRAFFORD (from the very commencement), have had many obstacles thrown in their way by residents and property owners in the vicinity, one of which prevented their being granted a drink licence. Then the Blind and Deaf and Dumb Asylum objected to the lights and noises, which have been moderated. It may be mentioned that much of the deterioration in the value of the property in the neighbourhood is due more than anything else to the enormous goods traffic to and from the ship canal, the chief docks of which are close to the White City. An action was brought in the Chancery of Lancashire by a large owner of residential property in the rear of this amusement park for an injunction and damages for deterioration of his property by reason of the noises of the water-mill wheel, screams of excited females on the water chute, the band of the negro plantation show, &c., and on the conclusion of a great deal of evidence on both sides, Vice-Chancellor Leigh-Clare intimated that he would reserve his judgment until he had visited the premises on a date to be kept secret from the defendants (the White City, Ltd.). The Vice-Chancellor duly attended, and to satisfy himself more completely, asked the Manchester Registrar of the Court to visit the locus in quo on another occasion. The Registrar's report agreed with the Vice-Chancellor's view of the matter, and while considering that the tenants were not unreasonable in saying that the houses were not as desirable for residential purposes as before the construction of the White City, and that the value of the property had deteriorated, he (the Vice-Chancellor) could not say that this was an actionable nuisance which he could restrain. He therefore gave judgment for the defendants, but with regard to costs, the Vice-Chancellor did not think the plaintiff ought to pay the whole of them. He would have to pay one-half of the defendants' costs, as well as his own.

AT the Moor Meadows, Maidenhead, we have a week of Studt's galloping horses, motor-car track, and bioscope exhibition. They are doing a roaring business, the fairground being crowded nightly. Studt Brothers promise that the whole of the takings on Friday will be given to local charities. Their organisation is one of the most complete ever seen here, and is most excellently managed. The whole show is lit with electricity, for the production of which all necessary plant is carried. The proprietor's living caravan is a model of excellence in every way. Unfortunately the magnificent Gavioli organ could not be played, as a showman who recently visited us was prosecuted for an alleged nuisance, caused by an instrument of similar character. At considerable extra expense our Silver Town Band (under Bandmaster Busby) is engaged for the week. This is billed as Studt's first visit to Maidenhead. Assuredly the patronage he receives will cause it not to be the last.

The Cricket Field.

AN evening fête, with balloon ascent, is billed for Thursday, 23rd, a special attraction being a parachute descent by Miss Viola Spencer-Kavanagh. Maidenhead Town Silver Band is engaged, and arrangements are made for dancing.

Stalybridge Wakes.

THE Lancashire folk in this great centre of the cotton-spinning industry value their famous local holidays—the Wakes. Here to entertain the vast crowd of patrons were Captain Tom Payne with new Bioscope show, P. Collins with Wonderland, the Westwood Giant Children, Ball's Midget Marvels, and small exhibitions by Messrs. Payne, W. Shaw, and Blakey. The first-class aggregation of machines included sets by Messrs. P. and J. Collins, T. Hurst, W. Mitchell, and Hibbert; shooters, throwing games, and varieties by Messrs. Cordwell, Royle, White, Jewell, Clough, Cornwell, Burton, and many others.

Darwen Wakes.

THE good people of Darwen were right well supplied with amusement by the following enterprising showmen and fairground traders:—J. Hastings (with two shows), Westray, Patterson, Ralph, and Pedley (with small show), and Tom Holden. John Green, T. Mitchell, Wm. Helm, John Sharp, and Mrs. Holden with machine novelties big and little; George Cornwell, Luke Marsden, J. Jepson, A. Sedgwick, J. Freer, Isaac Harrison, H. Redfern, and J. Ingham with shooting ranges, varieties, and throwing games.

The Guild Meeting at Longsight.

In accordansce with long-standing custom, the annual summer meeting of the Showmen's Guild will take place at Longsight Wakes, Manchester, on Sunday next. The meeting will take place in the St. Agnes Schools, adjoining the Wakes ground, at 8 p.m. The Organising Chaplain will be glad to meet as many members as possible at that gathering. There are important matters to report.

Wolstanton Wakes.

AMONGST the capital shows, machines, &c., at this village Wakes were Beach's Premier Exhibition, W. Davies's fairground novelties, the electric jumping horses, steam yachts, juvenile motors, miniature horses, and park swings. The other entertainers were: Messrs. Birch, Holt, P. Davies, J. Jewell, and many others with all the fun of the fair.

The Spanish City, Whitley Bay.

THIS resort, at what is known as Newcastle-by-the-Sea, continues to receive most generous patronage from the many visitors that throng the place, the season being now at its height. In addition to the Toreadors proper, there are specially contributed items by the Whitworth Cycling Girls and Gaapkin, the latter being extremely clever as the tramp cyclist; Edward Vyson, ventriloquist and mimic; and last, but by no means least, we have the Davisons, the Anglo-American mystifiers and thought transferers or mental telepathists, who astound their audiences with their apparently marvellous feats.

What the Lions Saw.

"DUKE OF YORK" BOYS IN THE BOSTOCK JUNGLE, HUNGARIAN EXHIBITION.—"Earl's Court" defied the elements on Saturday (18th inst.), for the scientific drainage of the promenades insured shelter and safety from slush. The cadets of the Duke of York's Royal Military Academy, numbering over five hundred strong, and accompanied by their friends, came in with their band, and apparently enjoyed everything. The delight shown in the Great Bostock Jungle and Arena was so expressive that the lions, disturbed by the red uniforms, wished to come outside the bars and join them. The cadets had never before seen so compact and complete a collection of savage brutes dragged from the wild's recesses, and they enjoyed themselves mightily. Mr. Frank C. Bostock (the Animal King) escorted the officers around the jungle, explaining the different characteristics of the beasts. The coal mine and its realistic depths were thoroughly explored, and the various other entertainments also had their share of attention. It was a picturesque sight when the whole body marshalled up in the Imperial Court, and played national airs, while the band of H.M. Irish Guards, in deference, listened.

Alligators' Fight in "Hungary."

AN exciting surgical operation was performed recently on an alligator belonging to the Great Bostock Jungle and Arena at the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court. The necessity for calling the services of Dr. E. H. Scott, who is veterinary surgeon to Mr. Frank C. Bostock, "the Animal King," was caused by a fierce fight which occurred between the patient and a fellow alligator the previous morning under rather extraordinary circumstances. It appears that Siva, a half-bred American Indian lady who is in control of the Saurian pit, was fondling in her arms "Baby," a very young alligator. Suddenly it spasmodically wriggled from her, and fell into the pool, where a new and more than usually vicious animal had just been placed. Startled at her pet's danger, Siva lost her balance and plunged into the water, where the savage one, crawling quickly over the backs of the other animals, came with open jaws at the woman. As he snapped at her arm, her old friend, the largest of the beasts, seized his lower jaw and broke it on the right side. The trouble was all over in a few tense minutes and danger past. Mr. Bostock then decided to have the maimed alligator killed, but finally yielded to the entreaties of Siva, who had seen the Indians treat similar injuries among Saurians. So the surgeon was sent for, and after a rough mould had been taken, a hollow splint holding an antiseptic solution was fitted to the wounded jaw, and a bandage holding all, including the tongue, was passed round. Sad and discomfited, the defeated alligator now rests in a private pool for the next few weeks.

The Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union.

THE next meeting of this Society will be at Dewsbury on the Tuesday in the Feast Week. For place and time of the gathering see our advertisement columns. The Secretary desires a strong muster. Business of great importance is on the agenda.

ANSWERS TO SHOWMEN.

If N. Clifford will address to Mountain Ash this week-end, the show he asks for may be there. If he fails in finding the show there, let him address (under cover), Showmen's Letter-box, The Era, and we will forward it on to the private address of the firm.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD AT BRAMLEY.

Owing to Dewsbury Feast being a week later than usual this year, the Rev. T. Horne had to re-arrange his itinerary of the Yorkshire Feast and take Bramley instead of Dewsbury, as previously arranged.

Dewsbury Feast this year clashes with Longsight Wakes, Manchester, and as the Organising Chaplain has taken Longsight Wakes for many years past, on no account could it be omitted from his itinerary. In order to meet the Yorkshire members of the Guild, and in some measure compensate them for the loss of the anticipated gathering at Dewsbury, the Organising Chaplain made arrangements at the last moment for meetings of the Guild at Bramley.

Every show and concern on the ground was visited and told of the emergency meeting at Tuby's Show at half-past three o'clock on the Feast Sunday.

Yorkshire Showmen in Conference.

The response to the call of the Guild was eminently satisfactory, and the attendance of the showpeople was (considering the lateness of the call) extremely good.

Mr. J. W. Waddington, V.P., presided, and supporting him were the Rev. T. Horne, Guild Chaplain, John Gavan, Edward Seed, W. Fawcett, H. Baines, Randall Williams, Stephen Waddington, Charles Shaw, W. Ratcliffe, J. Waugh, Towers, Saunders, E. Waugh, Mrs. A. Morley, and others. There were also a large attendance of employees, who took a deep interest in the proceedings.

Mr. Waddington, in opening the conference, referred in warm language to the work of trade defence so ably conducted by their reverend friend, the Chaplain. It was in order that the Yorkshire Fairground traders and amusement caterers should understand better and support that work better that Mr. Horne had come to Bramley. He, for his part, was ready to do his part in the necessary work of protecting the show business from attack and injury. He doubted not that the showpeople at Bramley Feast (as at other fairs) would rally to the support of the cause. (Applause.) The Movable Dwellings Bill was a most serious matter to them all, especially so to their poorer brethren. The powers asked for were of the most obnoxious character and placed a most undeserved stigma upon showpeople and their mode of life.

He would not pursue the matter further. Their Chaplain and Trade Organiser was with them, and he felt sure that the conference would be better able to discuss the Bill after they had heard the address he now called upon Mr. Horne to deliver. (Cheers.)

Address by the Rev. T. Horne.

On rising to speak the Organising Chaplain was enthusiastically received. He commenced by fully explaining how it was that he found himself speaking to showmen at Bramley, when, according to his own plan, he ought to have been at Dewsbury. However, the urgency of their business was so great, and the work before them so important, he felt constrained to fill in the spare Sunday he found that he had by coming to them at Bramley Feast.

The work of opposing the Movable Dwellings Bill had been carried forward from the day it was introduced down to the meeting he was now addressing. That work was of vital importance to all who earn their livelihood following the fairs. A time-honoured and lawful industry was threatened with virtual extinction by crude and ill-considered legislation. A home industry that touched the livelihood of seventy thousand people was attacked. The holidays—local and general—of the people were endangered. It was, therefore, a matter of life and death to them that the Bill should be effectively opposed, and that the fairground business should be protected. (Applause.)

What the Guild Has Done.

The Guild has rallied the friends of the showmen and the friends of the popular open-air amusements of the people in the Houses of Parliament. It has done more than that; it has already, by negotiations with the promoters of the measure, very largely altered its character, and has materially modified its drastic proposals. (Cheers.) Showpeople would gain nothing by ignoring the serious nature of the evils of gipsy life, and the serious menace to public health that insanitary encampments of gipsies and squatters on common lands were.

The promoters of the Bill had a case as against the gipsy and the squatter. The showman or the fairground trader using vans and tents in his trade and business was utterly separate and apart from the objectionable life of either gipsy or squatter. It was for them, as showmen and as fairground traders, to safeguard their character from unjust aspersion and to protect their avocation in life from attack. We should gain nothing, he said, by refusing to see the difficulties that faced public bodies with regard to the problems of both gipsy and tramp life.

Points of Agreement.

In entering into negotiations with the promoters of the Bill, he had frankly agreed that the problem of finding some means of bringing the gipsy or squatter under the restraints of citizenship was a great problem. He did not impugn the good intentions of the authors of the Bill. All that he asked for was that whilst they sought to reform the small and decreasing class—the gipsies—that lasting injury and most undeserved stigma should not be suffered by the large and increasing class of people who provided the open-air entertainment of the workers at our fairs, feasts, and wakes. (Applause.)

Another point of agreement was the important fact that the organised showmen did not oppose the educational clauses in the Bill. He had laid before the Government and before the promoters of this particular measure the proof that showpeople were as anxious as any other class of parents in the country that their children should be well educated. He had again and again made it quite evident that the organised showmen would not shield careless or negligent parents—(cheers)—that if such parents were found amongst them, they desired that the law deal with them as with all other classes of the community.

Why Showmen Object to the Bill.

Showmen deny that special liberty-destroying legislation is necessary for them or for their business in life. They take their stand against the Bill on the broad ground that it implies that their homes on wheels are outside the sanitary and health provisions and securities of the common law of the land. They claim that there is ample security, ample provision, for the health and sanitation of show vans under the Public Health Acts, the Housing of the Working Classes Act, and the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act. Under these Acts the movable dwelling of the travelling showman is now subject to the same inspection and the same local control as the fixed dwellings in both town and country.

The showman denies that either his home life or his business needs special legislation: that is the position that the showman takes. He is under, and subject to, the ordinary laws of the realm, and loyally obeys them.

What did the Movable Dwellings Bill aim at? Its great object was to compel the gipsy and the land squatter to observe the ordinary decencies and amenities of life—to compel him, in a word, to give up his wandering life, and settle down and be no longer a wanderer on the face of the earth. Would the Bill secure that object? He (the speaker) had no mission to defend the gipsy—the show-people were not Romanies—but if history taught anything, one lesson was clear: that coercive and tyrannical legislation never succeeded in destroying the strength and genius of a race. You may imprison, you may persecute a race, but you cannot make it change its essential character.

He held no brief for the gipsy, but he doubted not that, when the time came for meeting this Bill in Parliament, even the gipsy would find a champion to stand up for him.

He had spent many years of his life in making it clear that in no sense were show-people gipsies. The showman travelled from town to town, from fair to fair. The working plant of his trade and business (essentially a home industry) required that the home should be part and parcel of the show. Though wanderers in a sense, they were more at home than any other class of workers in the commonwealth. They were proud of their homes, and they resented being classed as fit subjects for special legislation. They lived honest, cleanly, and virtuous lives as a class. He, as their chaplain, claimed this for them. He had maintained this character for them from a thousand platforms, and no one had been able to bring reliable evidence against that position.

The Campaign of the Guild Against the Bill.

Without a break during the past four months—at fairs in all parts of the country—the Guild had held meetings protesting against the measure. They had in the meanwhile opened up negotiations with its promoters, and extremely important amendments had been, and were still, under consideration. He was not able to make these negotiations altogether public, but he was able to repeat what he referred to in his opening remarks—that the Bill, in its present form, was dead and buried, and that at the worst a much milder and more reasonable Bill would be submitted at the third reading.

The Guild Executive had sent him into conference with Lord Clifford, and important concessions touching their interests had already resulted.

In conclusion he begged his hearers to rally to the support of the fighting funds of the Guild, either by additional subscriptions or by joining as ordinary members. He was confident that out of all this threatened trouble and danger the organised showmen would come triumphant, that they would be drawn closer together, and that their organisation would grow and prosper. To this work he had set his hand. He knew them, and had every confidence that their time-honoured craft and talented profession would maintain its strong hold upon the heart of show-loving England, which, despite all that the pessimists had averred to the contrary, was Merrie England still.

Emergency Committee Meeting.

At the Chaplain's suggestion, the meeting then resolved itself into committee to consider the suggested amendments. This led to a most interesting and helpful discussion. The chairman (Mr. Waddington), and Messrs. Gavan, R. Williams, E. Seed, H. Baines, W. Fawcett, C. Shaw, and Mrs. Morley gave valuable suggestions.

It is the intention of the Organising Chaplain to submit the proposed amendments of the Bill (the outcome of his conference with the promoters) to all the meetings he may address during the adjournment of Parliament. He feels that along the lines of amendment by negotiation will probably lie the wisest and safest course to secure adequate recognition of the showman's case against the Bill.

Guild Subscriptions at Bramley Feast.

Mrs. Morley, 5s.; Messrs. E. Seed, 10s.; H. Baines, 5s.; W. Fawcett, 5s.; R. Williams, 5s.; J. Waugh, 5s.; J. Gavan, 5s.; S. Waddington, 5s.; E. Waugh, 5s.; and Towers, 2s. 6d.

At the close of the conference the usual complimentary votes were accorded to the Rev. T. Horne, the chairman, and Messrs. Tuby and Sons for the use of the show pavilion.

Guild Service at Night.

The evening meeting of the Guild took the form of the Guild service. The beautiful show of Messrs. Tuby and Sons was the chapel of ease to the parish church on the feast ground; and right well did the showpeople appreciate the privilege of attending the simple yet helpful Church service.

The service was taken throughout by the Rev. T. Horne, Guild Chaplain, who preached the sermon, taking for the subject the Holy Gospel for the Sunday. Mr. C. Shaw (manager) and the whole of the working staff of Tuby's electric coliseum rendered yeoman service in making the service a success.

The Accident to a Showman.

MR. H. BANFIELD writes to us to say that he is unable to reply to the numerous kind letters from his brother and sister artists throughout the country. He desires them to accept through the medium of *The Era* his great thanks for their sympathy with him in his trying circumstances. He is doing well. Both Mr. and Mrs. Alf. Ball are most assiduous in their kind care and attention.

Bostock Challenges His Detractors.

We gladly insert the following energetic disclaimer from Mr. Frank Bostock. The Lion King is as direct and as fearless in dealing with the vipers of slander amongst mankind as he is in the jungle of animal life.

TO THE EDITOR SHOWMAN'S WORLD, THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—It having come to my knowledge that a maliciously concocted statement has been and is still being disseminated far and wide that the *tatooing* on the sacred beast in the Temple of the Bostock Jungle and Arena, Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, is "faked," *i.e.*, merely painted on, I hereby offer to give the sum of one thousand guineas to a public charity, to be selected by a third party if the said *tatooing* be not genuine and deeply fixed in the animal's hide.—Yours sincerely, BOSTOCK. The Jungle and Arena, Earl's Court, S.W., July 21, 1908.

KINEMATOGRAPH COPYRIGHT.

THE LAW AFFECTING THE SAME.

BY

WILLIAM JAGO, F.I.C., F.C.S.,

BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

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FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

PAPER TEARING.—This is, perhaps, a necessary title, but it is one, we are convinced, that does not adequately convey anything approaching a comprehensive idea of the subject. It is one of marvellous magic, mystery, grace, beauty, and enchantment. The performances of the characters alone shorn of their mysterious fabrications are calculated to entrance any audience. In a series of inexplicable illusions, graceful animate characters in old-time costumes are created from torn paper, and, in their turn, generate and construct others, animate and inanimate, from shreds, rolls, sheets, and strips of paper cleverly torn and manipulated. PAPER TEARING commends itself to us as the most wonderful trick subject we ever saw.

MARATHON RACE.—The Urban Co. have secured, by special privileges, a picture of the start of the competitors in this historic event from Windsor Castle. Cameras were stationed at different points along the route commanding a most favourable view of the proceedings.

ROYAL VOYAGE TO CANADA.—This series, of course, shows the departure of the Prince of Wales for the Quebec Tercentenary Celebrations. It concludes a close portrait view of H.R.H. and many celebrities, pictures of the new warship Indomitable and of the renowned Victory, panoramic views of the Indomitable from stem to stern, the arrival of the Royal train, the farewells, Prince Edward wishing his father God-speed, a party of cadets from Osborne, including Prince Edward, with Admiral Sir John Fisher at their head, being closely inspected, concluding with the Indomitable steaming out of Portsmouth Harbour, the Victory firing a salute.

GERMAN DRAGOONS CROSSING THE ELSE is a military subject of great general interest and technical value. Cavalry methods of crossing a wide, swiftly-flowing river are fully demonstrated, every movement of horses and men being faithfully reproduced. Kit inspection and the safe arrangement of accoutrements are first shown, after which the colonel assembles his officers in a semi-circle and delivers his instructions. The next view presents a body of men prepared to cross the river, and the entry into the water of men and horses is keenly watched from the bank by the rest of the regiment. Once out of the horses' depth the men dismount, and an original picture is shown as men and horses strenuously breast the current and safely arrive on the opposite bank, riders up. The second part illustrates the crossing of the main body of men in punts, each man leading a swimming horse. The animals seem to enjoy the experience equally with the men, and their bright, glossy appearance as they emerge forms a beautiful photographic study. A scene of great animation as horses and men are accoutred to resume the march concludes this vigorous and stimulating series.

Pathé Frères.

THE INVENTION OF PROFESSOR CURIOS is a film novelty that introduces many comic scenes. It is not likely that Prof. Curios will ever rank among the benefactors of mankind. This jocular old gentleman has made a discovery, but the use he makes of it will not win him the thankfulness of his victims. With his new electro-motor magnet the malevolent scientist makes everybody turn and whirl about, thus causing them to be knocked down and trampled on, to our amusement, but certainly not to theirs. Mr. Curios is sure to fall a victim to his invention as soon as his machine gets out of order.

MR. FUZZ.—This very brief title concerns a fairy tale. Once upon a time there was a queen who had a son, so ugly and misshapen that one doubted whether he was human or not. A fairy who was at his birth, however, assured the mother that he would be very amiable and intelligent, and further, that he would be able to impart intelligence to the person he loved best. Seven years after the birth of this boy another queen from a neighbouring throne gave birth to a little girl of rare beauty. The same fairy happened to be at the birth of the little girl, and declared that she would have no intelligence or charm, but that she would be able to impart beauty to the one she should love the best. And so it was, every day the little girl seemed to grow more and more stupid. The queen, although a good mother, could not help getting angry with her daughter at times, which rendered the girl very unhappy. One day when she had gone to the woods to cry she met the young prince, who had previously fallen in love with her photo, and so strong is love that the prediction of the fairy came true.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE.—Isabelle, accompanied by her chaperone, Rosane, is taking a walk on the mountain when she meets a young and gallant cavalier, the sight of whom fills her heart with pleasure. The squire, falling in love with her at first sight, comes back every day to the place of their first meeting, and soon the two faithful to the tacit appointment, take long and delightful walks together, whereas the squire's valet makes love to the chaperone. Yet, for reasons very important, her parents decide to marry her with her cousin, a powerful duke, whose estates join theirs. She entreats in vain. The day comes for her to meet her affianced husband, who proposes to her with the air of one who has a distasteful task forced upon him. On looking at each other, however, a cry of pleasure escapes from their lips, for they recognise one another, and thank their parents' will which sanctions by a marriage their idyll in the mountains.

BOBBY ON THE SPREE treats the spectator to several comical situations. Bobby Junior, the son of a very well-known M.P., goes for an evening's outing with his father's evening dress and top hat on. Meeting two ladies he knows, they go together to a fashionable restaurant; but an hour later Bobby is completely tipsy, and he breaks all the glasses, after which, taking the pictures on the walls for so many targets, he throws at them everything he finds in the room. Having been shown the door by the waiters, Bobby takes from his pocket his father's card, which produces a wonderful cooling effect upon them, and makes them bow low before him, while they utter some excuse. On leaving the restaurant Bobby meets two hooligans, whom he calls his friends—his "dear friends"—who are so amiable that they insist on seeing him safely home, and taking with them a few valuables as a token of their lucky meeting. After this Bobby is ill, the house is ransacked by his "dear friends," and a shower of bills and complaints pour in addressed to Bobby's father.

Gaumont Company.

THE Gaumont Co. inform us that their Cinematograph version of JANE SHORE will be ready for reproduction in a very few days from now. With Gaumont's latest successes in our minds such as ROMEO AND JULIET, BLACK-EY'D SUSAN, and NAPOLEON AND THE ENGLISH SAILOR, we are looking forward to a very comprehensive and perfect representation of the popular drama. Gaumont's are doing excellent work by placing on record such brilliant cinematograph versions of our popular English plays. They are receiving congratulations from exhibitors and others on the success of their films ROMEO AND JULIET and NAPOLEON AND THE ENGLISH SAILOR.

A STAG HUNT is a fine descriptive review finely photographed and excellently tinted, every detail of the hunt being described. With a magnificent pack of hounds the meet sets out, and there soon commences a stirring chase. We witness the capture, the kill, and the home-coming. It is altogether a realistic film.

HARRY LAUDER IN A HURRY, which was exclusively produced by Gaumont's, is proving a tremendous attraction. Other films by Gaumont's of importance are MECHANICAL LEGS, a furiously funny novelty, and THE SHIRT OF A HAPPY MAN, a brilliant version of an old-time story, beautifully coloured.

THE second examination of kinematograph operators and exhibitors, which is held under the management of a joint committee of the Kinematograph Manufacturers' Association of Great Britain and the Northampton Polytechnic Institute, London, took place at the Northampton Institute on June 29 and 30. The examiners were Messrs. Nevil Maskelyne and S. D. Chalmers. Thirteen candidates were successful in securing the higher certificate, and one in securing the preliminary certificate. The names are as follows:—Higher Certificate: Barker, W.G., London; Boddington, H., London; Coulson, W. T., London; Dickson, L. D., Edinburgh; Harvey, S., Norwich; Hayles, W. H., Cambridge; Hogan, W. J., Belfast; Jewill, W. F. G., London; Leonard, G. A., London; Neal, W. H., London; North, W. E., London; Palmer, G., London; Smith, T. D., London. Preliminary Certificate, Kirby, E., London.

FOR both grades of certificates the candidates have to pass an important practical test, but for the higher certificate written answers are also required to questions set in the scope of the syllabus, of which full particulars will be found in the committee's booklet. We print in full below the questions set on both days of the examination. In their report the examiners state that the average knowledge was better than in the previous examination, and they call attention to the necessity for a thorough acquaintance with the L.C.C. regulations, and the reasons for making them. They also suggest that manufacturers be asked to mark resistances in ohms, so that operators may be led to appreciate the theory of resistances. They also suggest that those in authority over operators should do all they can to impress upon their subordinates the desirability of obtaining certificates of efficiency, and when opportunity occurs practical evidence of the value attached to a certificate should be given by showing a preference for the employment of duly certificated operators.

A.
Kinematograph Examination.
June, 1908.
One hour.

Four Questions (of which 1 and 6 must be two) to be answered.

1. You are required to project a 15ft. picture, using alternating current at 100 volts. What current would you take? Describe the resistances, carbons, and fuses you would use, and show by a sketch how the connections are made.
2. Describe in detail your method of making the connections for a mixed jet of high power. State exactly what you do, and in what order, to get the best possible light.
3. Describe the appearances on the gate (*a*) when the light is too close to the condenser, (*b*) when the light is too far to the left and too low down.
4. What focal length lens would you require to project a 12ft. picture with a working distance of 36ft.?
5. Give the substance of the L.C.C. regulations about resistances. Why are these regulations made?
6. What would you do first and afterwards in the following emergencies:—
   (*a*) The back member of the condenser broke and part fell into the lantern.
   (*b*) The handle came off.
   (*c*) The film took fire in the gate.
   (*d*) The tube blew off the oxygen cylinder.
   (*e*) The coal gas (hydrogen) cylinder was found to be empty half-an-hour before the show.
   (*f*) You found the film to be the wrong way when you began to turn.

B.
Kinematograph Examination.
June, 1908.
One hour.

Four Questions (of which 1 and 6 must be two) to be answered.

1. You are required to project a 12ft. picture, using continuous current at 200 volts, and are required to take as little current as possible. What carbons, fuses, and resistances would you use?
2. How would you test the quantity of gas in your cylinders? How much gas would you require to show a picture 10ft. diameter for one hour?
3. Give a sketch of the "gate" and mask; show how the light should come on the gate when projecting the film.
4. Describe how you would centre up the film and lantern slide. What should be the focal length of a lantern lens to be used with a 2½in. focus lens? Explain how you get your result.
5. What are the L.C.C. regulations as to the use of lime-light; give reasons for these regulations.
6. What would you do first and afterwards in the following emergencies:—
   (*a*) A spring broke.
   (*b*) The re-winding belt came off.
   (*c*) The fuse went.
   (*d*) The bellows of the regulator burst.
   (*e*) The shutter came off.
   (*f*) A cry of "fire" in the hall.

Cinematograph Fire Dangers Ended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

SIR,—On Feb. 28 last the Home Secretary received a deputation from the L.C.C., urging him to introduce legislation to provide against the terrible dangers of cinematograph exhibitions in unlicensed buildings. The Home Secretary promised a short Bill during the present Session; but notwithstanding my questions in the Council asking for the fulfilment of that promise, and those of a similar nature by the Earl of Kerry in the House of Commons, the Session is ended, and nothing has been done. But in consequence of the subject having been brought into such prominence, other brains have been at work, and it is now almost safe to say that, so far as is humanly possible, the hitherto dangerous cinematograph lantern can be made as harmless as a night-light. A most simple and inexpensive device for instantly quenching a film fire was brought to my notice a month ago by Mr. Thomas Barrasford. I immediately organised a visiting committee of the L.C.C. to view the apparatus at work, and each member of that committee, which included representatives of the Architect's Department and the London Fire Brigade, was delighted with the automatic working of the machine.

At Wednesday's meeting of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee I placed a notice of motion on the agenda paper as follows:—"That an addition be made to the cinematograph regulations requiring the use of some apparatus for immediately and automatically extinguishing fire in the event of the film becoming ignited." This motion was carried with enthusiastic unanimity, and has now become a part of the regulations of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee governing the use of cinematograph lanterns in theatres and premises licensed by the County Council.

From now on the apparatus—which is very cheap—will no doubt be adopted most willingly by every cinematograph operator in the kingdom, and, indeed, the world, for it will be to the interest of both manufacturer and operator to use it.

Here is good news indeed, for with one of these attachments to a cinematograph lantern an outbreak of fire will become practically impossible, and from the moment of its adoption the public will be able to view these delightful and educational entertainments in complete security. A public exhibition of the apparatus will shortly be held.—Yours, &c., WALTER REYNOLDS.

County Hall, Spring-gardens, S.W.
July 24, 1908.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

14,363.—Albert George Pirkis, of London. Improvements in hobby or toy horses and the like.

14,376.—Jules Inger, of Kilburn, London. Frame exhibiting the events of the day, theatrical notices, and advertisements.

14,383.—Joseph Franz Bachmann, of London. Safety device for tight-rope walking.

14,409.—François Sallé, of London. Improved means for producing theatrical effects.

14,514.—John Calhoun Deagan, of London. Improvements in musical bells.

14,551.—William Claude Fields, of Liverpool. Improvements in appliances for juggling with balls.

14,684.—Robert Fox and Andrew Cruickshank, of London. Means for producing advertising and other cinematograph pictures in railway tunnels and the like.

14,765.—Bert Dent, of Palace Theatre, Greenwich, London. Reserved seat guard with hat-rack combination.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

10,611.—Philbrook. Methods of and apparatus for reproducing pictures or photographs in natural colours.

24,525.—Moy and Bastie. Automatic shutters for cinematograph projectors.

SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

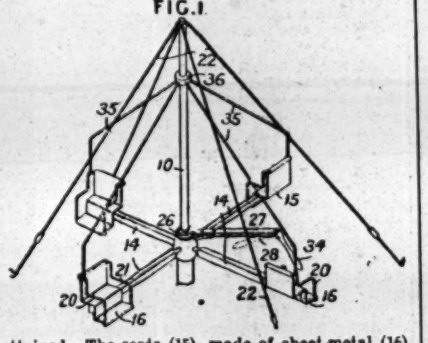
9,370.—Mathelot and Gentilhomme. Arrangement permitting of synchronising the movements of two bodies.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

3,510.—Roundabouts. P. R. J. Willis, of Kingston-on-Thames, Surrey. (C. F. Orrick, Mount Vernon, Illinois, U.S.A.)

A mast (10), supported by guy ropes (22), carries rotating arms (14) bearing seats (15). The arms are rotated by the occupant of one of the seats, who operates a handle (34) pivoted to levers (27, 28), attached to a ratchet arrangement (26) on the mast. The handle (34) may be either held or released when speed is

FIG. 1.

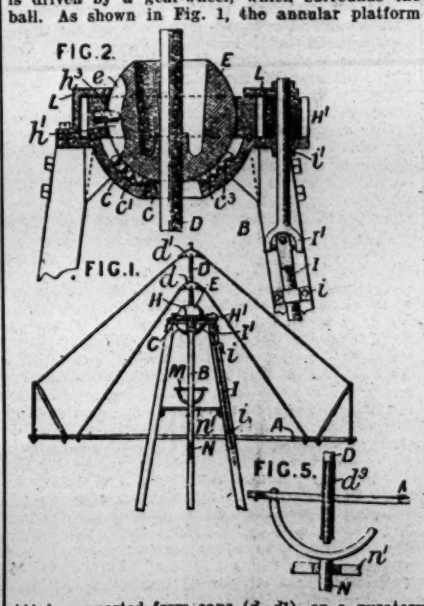


attained. The seats (15), made of sheet-metal (16), with wire side supports (20, 21), are held in position by rods (35), formed with vertical parts near the seat, and attached to a collar (36) on the mast. The rods (35) may be used to support a canopy, or to dry clothes upon.

4,105.—Roundabouts. C. L. Barnhart, of New York, U.S.A.

Roundabouts are constructed with the means for imparting the gyratory motion arranged below the gyratory shaft, and the ball on the gyratory shaft is driven by a gear-wheel, which surrounds the ball. As shown in Fig. 1, the annular platform

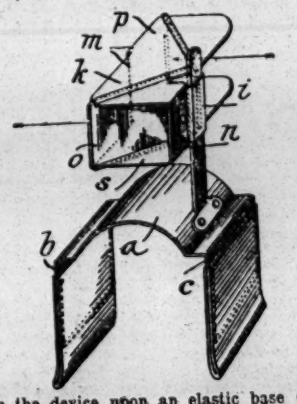
FIG. 2.



(A) is supported from caps (*d*, *d*1), on a gyratory shaft (D), in a manner similar to that employed in similar apparatus. The shaft (D) is provided with a ball (E), mounted on balls (*c*3, Fig. 2), in a socket (*c*1) of a plate (C), secured by bolts or screws to a supporting-frame (B). The shaft (D) extends through an opening (*c*) in the plate (C), and is provided preferably with a roller or sleeve (*d*9, Fig. 5), which engages a slotted plate (M), mounted as shown on a shaft (N), which is mounted in a bracket (*n*1), and is rotated in order to oscillate the shaft (D). The ball (E) is driven by a gear-wheel (H), provided with studs (*h*3), which engage longitudinal slots (*e*) in the ball. The wheel (H) is driven by suitable means, such as a gear-wheel (H1), driven from a shaft (I), which is mounted in bearings (*i*, *i*1), and may be formed in two parts, connected by a universal joint (I1). The wheel (H) is preferably mounted on balls (*h*1), and is prevented from rising by keepers (L) secured to the plate (C).

4,255.—Teaching shooting. C. von Kropff, of Gotha, Germany.

The device shown in the figure is placed over the lock of a gun, preferably not close to the sight, and enables simultaneous control by two persons of the aim taken by a person using the gun. Mirrors (*o*, *p*) of dark-coloured glass are secured in indentations in a metal frame, comprising walls (*k*, *m*, *n*, *s*). A socket (*i*) on the frame slidably



secures the device upon an elastic base (*a*), the sides (*b*, *c*) of which are covered with leather or other soft material. The target and sights are visible to persons looking in the direction of the arrows.

CINEMATOGRAPH FIRES.

AN INSTANTANEOUS EXTINGUISHER.

In a previous chat with Mr. Walter Reynolds, he emphasised the "chaotic condition of the English law with regard to cinematograph entertainments," and advocated the compulsory provision by exhibitors of a fireproof enclosing box for the operator.

Questions *re* the safety of the public and the prevention of fire in connection with cinematograph exhibitions in theatres and premises licensed by the London County Council have been asked at the Council's meetings twice by Mr. Walter Reynolds, and also in the House of Commons, but the uselessness of relying on the Home Secretary to do anything in the matter, owing to the congested state of business, has been realised.

An appliance has been brought to Mr. Reynolds's notice by Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the owner of the device, for immediately and automatically extinguishing fire.

Mr. Walter Reynolds was so struck by the machine's possibilities, that he quickly organised a "viewing committee" of the Theatres and Music-halls Committee to see the appliance in operation.

This visiting committee included officers from the architect's department of the London County Council and the London Fire Brigade. Every member expressed himself delighted, and Mr. Walter Reynolds's next step was to put the following notice of motion on the agenda paper of the Theatres and Music-halls Committee, which on Wednesday, July 22, was enthusiastic and unanimous in adopting it.

The motion reads: "That an addition be made to the Council's regulations requiring the use of some apparatus for instantaneously and automatically extinguishing fire in the event of the films becoming ignited."

The language of this motion will now become part of the rules and regulations respecting the use of cinematograph lanterns in theatres and premises licensed by the London County Council.

With regard to the machine spoken of by Mr. Walter Reynolds, we hear that it is simple in construction and cheap, and has been patented by its owner, Mr. Thomas Barrasford, who is taking steps to manufacture same, and place it on the market for immediate use.

Inspection of the device is cordially invited.

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All those who handle the Cinematograph or Limelight should possess a copy of these Regulations.

LIMITATION OF NUMBERS.

MESSRS. GRAYDON AND RUTLAND'S REPORT.

On Dec. 17, 1907, the Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the London County Council wrote Mr. Graydon, the honorary secretary of the Association, that the committee had decided to recommend the Council to adopt the following rule:—

"Persons must not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the intersecting gangways, and in no circumstances must the number of persons admitted to any part of the premises exceed the number for which the exits from that part are certified by the Council to be sufficient."

Against this, on Jan. 29, 1908, the Association and other proprietors lodged a memorial containing the following clause:—

"Whilst, therefore, your memoralists submit that the reasons set forth herein must satisfy the Council that the proposed rule is unnecessary, they are quite prepared, if desired, to nominate a committee of your memoralists to meet a committee of your Council in the hope of arriving at finality in matters affecting such enormous public interests."

And the Theatre and Music Halls Committee appointed a sub-committee, of whom Mr. Greenwood (chairman), Mr. Wilde, and Mr. Walter Reynolds acted, to receive a deputation of four memoralists. Mr. Stoll, Mr. Tozer, and Mr. Graydon were appointed, as was Mr. Henri Gros, but he preferred not to act, and Mr. Rutland was appointed in his stead.

The deputation held meetings and arranged to uncompromisingly resist limitation and to contend that the past and present arrangements at halls of

(1) Keeping intersecting gangways clear;

(2) Keeping sufficient room at back and sides for passing to and fro; and

(3) Clearing the house in a few minutes,

rendered limitation unnecessary.

On June 24, at Spring Gardens, the deputation was received, and considerable discussion ensued. Mr. Greenwood intimated that halls must accept limitation, and that if the halls did not themselves suggest the numbers, the Council would deal with individual proprietors, and not with the memoralists as a body. This, the deputation said, would be opposed by the memoralists as a body until Parliamentary powers had been obtained.

At this juncture Mr. Rutland settled, and the deputation put forward, the following concrete suggestion:—

(a) That the interscecting gangways be kept clear;

(b) That sufficient room for passing to and fro be fairly maintained at the backs and sides;

(c) That the time occupied in clearing the house should not exceed, say, three minutes;

and these, the sub-committee said, they would at once submit to the full Theatres and Music Halls Committee.

Since then we are glad to be able to report that the L.C.C. has written to us stating that the committee have carefully considered the views expressed at the interview, and now think it unnecessary to take any action as regards the number of persons to be admitted into any place of entertainment in which the following conditions are fulfilled:—

(1) The intersecting gangways to be kept clear.

(2) Sufficient room for passing to and fro to be maintained in the gangways and passages at the sides and rear of the seating.

(3) The time occupied in clearing the house of the audience not to exceed three minutes.

Mr. Gros, the president of the Association, intends to convene an early meeting to discuss the matter in order that we may communicate with the L.C.C. without delay.

For Philip G. Rutland and self,
(signed) J. L. GRAYDON.

"THE CORKSCREW."

A Coster Episode, produced at the Paragon on Monday, July 20.

Bill Johnson ..... MR. NEVILL GRAHAM
Mary Jones ..... MISS LILIAN EARLE
Maggy Purvis ..... MISS MARGARET WATSON

A pathetic little play is *The Corkscrew*, presented for the first time on Monday evening at the Paragon by Mr. Nevill Graham and company. It reminds us of the one-act play *'Op-o'-Me-Thumb*, which deals with a similar phase of life. The scene in the piece under review is "a poor room, rented by a poor girl in a poor neighbourhood." The girl is Maggy Purvis, a cripple, nicknamed "Corkscrew," who is, and has been for some few years, in the habit of attending, like a sister, to some of the creature comforts of her coster friend, Bill Johnson, whom, unknown to him, she loves with all her heart. There seems to be no finality to the sacrifices she is prepared to make for him, and, perhaps not unnaturally, when one day he visits her with the information that he is going to get married and asks her advice as to how he should furnish the new home, she feels that a great happiness has entered into her life, and, of course, Bill's bride is no other than herself. So she prepares herself accordingly, purchases materials and makes herself a new dress, powders and rouges her face in order that she may look more beautiful in his sight. Later there enters on the scene Mary Jones, who is introduced to Maggy as the future Mrs. Bill Johnson. Miss Margaret Watson acts feelingly in the part of Maggy Purvis, and the picture she gives is a peculiarly pathetic one. Mr. Nevill Graham furnishes a capital coster study as Bill Johnson; and Miss Lilian Earle suitably enacts the rôle of Mary Jones.

Conspicuous among the other items in the programme is Mr. Jack Sheppard, the handcuff king and goal-breaker, whose act arouses great enthusiasm and admiration. The trunk illusion in conjunction with Miss Ruby Vesta is a smart piece of mystery-working.

THE action, which was down for jury trial during the forthcoming recess in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, in which Mrs. Dora Finburgh, wife of David Finburgh, wholesale stationer, Maplewell House, Leicester, sued Moss' Empires, Ltd., Edinburgh, for £1000 damages, has been settled.

THE pursuer and her husband, while in the Empire Theatre, Glasgow, in November last, were ordered to leave, and certain libellous statements were, it is averred, made about her. Mrs. Finburgh has now accepted a tender of £150 by the defenders and expenses and an apology for what took place on the occasion complained of.

MR. CHARLES COBORN writes us very enthusiastically about a turn which has been appearing with him this week at the Hippodrome, Preston. He says: "It is known as Miss Zona Vevey and company, in *My Lady's Bower*. The bright little lady is supported by Herr Max Erard, a cultured musician, and others. The act is clever, pretty, tuneful, refined, and beautifully staged, and managers should lose no time in securing it. I shall expect a box of cigars from every manager who engages it through this recommendation. It was an instantaneous success here, and I believe would be everywhere."

BY the way, Mr. Coborn himself has made a new departure by submitting a Lancashire impersonation for the first time in a song entitled "Owd Sal o' Mine." Its reception gratified him muchly.

JAPANESE AT THE HIPPODROME.

The exquisite taste of the Japanese nation is reflected in the setting of the Japanese play which Mr. Oswald Stoll and Mr. Frank Allen, in their restless pursuit of originality and novelty, put on at the Hippodrome on Monday afternoon, introducing at the same time a Jap comedienne of rare gifts. Mme. Hanako is quite a famous actress in her own country, and was born in a village near Tokio. She first appeared on the stage at the age of eight, and, like our own Ellen Terry, speedily made up her mind to become an actress. Her famous countrywoman, Mme. Sada Yacco, a few years ago familiarised us with the tragic drama of her country at the theatres; but it has been left to the latest comer to illumine what is sometimes called the irregular stage with the subtlety and charm of her art. In *The Darling of the Gods* we learnt something of the possibilities of Japanese scenery, but nothing could possibly be more refreshing or dainty than the exquisite ensemble by Mr. Joseph Harker, who has been specially commissioned to paint the scenery. He has very cleverly duplicated a Japanese house and garden now to be found in the South Kensington Museum, and the whole setting can be dropped into the arena with the lowering of the circular curtain—a clever device, due to the ingenuity of Mr. Frank Parker, the Hippodrome stage-director. The little play in which Mme. Hanako appears is by W. Shiko and Loie Fuller, and is entitled

"OTAKE."

Countess Yoshiko ..... MISS MASSA
Masou-o ..... MR. NADAYAMA
Gaushitshi ..... MR. YOSHIKAWA
Otaké ..... MME. HANAKO

The piece was produced in pantomime at the Duke of York's Theatre on Aug. 26, with Miss Pauline Chase in the title-rôle, the incidental music being arranged by Mr. John Crook. When the curtain rises, Masou-o is just coming away from the country house of the Countess Yoshiko, with whom he is in love, and, in taking leave of that lady, expresses the pleasure he has derived from his visit. Left alone, the Countess receives from her manservant, Gaushitshi, a letter, whereupon she sends him for her mantle, and prepares to pay a visit to some friends. Finding it too warm, she takes the mantle off, and then departs. The little maid-servant, Otaké, overweighted with a large package, struggles heroically with it into the house, and, observing the toilet requisites of her mistress, proceeds to make up her face and arrange her hair. She is delighted at the effect, and commences to dance. Perceiving the robe of her mistress, she puts it on, and struts about the room. Masou-o returns unexpectedly, and, mistaking the maid for her mistress, makes passionate love to her, but receiving no response to his pleadings, denounces her and throws his flowers at her. Otaké, though much alarmed at the incident, soon forgets her fright at the return of Gaushitshi, who brings home some purchases of the Countess, and immediately recognises the little girl. After a love-scene, Gaushitshi proposes marriage. She accepts, saying, "After all I prefer to be a poor man's wife rather than a Countess with beautiful dresses." Gaushitshi remembers he has to return for his mistress, but before his departure earnestly advises Otaké to take off the robe. The lover of the Countess returns, and again urges his suit, without success. Becoming furious, he stabs poor little Otaké, discovering his terrible mistake on the return of the Countess, who takes the dying girl tenderly in her arms. On this pathetic picture the curtain falls.

The acting of Madame Hanako is most interesting to watch. One needs no knowledge of Japanese to understand the eloquence of her gesture play. She reached a high plane of comedy-acting in the making-up scene, the childish glee of Otaké being most naturally suggested. The dance, too, is exceedingly graceful. The death-scene does not appeal quite so strongly to the Western mind, but it is genuinely pathetic. Miss Massa makes a stately Japanese lady of the Countess Yoshiko; Mr. Nadayama capably realises the fury of the lover Masou-o; and Mr. Yoshikawa is an amusing Gaushitshi. The novelty should draw large crowds to the Hippodrome, which looks delightfully cool.

"THE COSTER'S CHRISTMAS EVE."

A Sketch, Produced at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday, July 20.

Bill Hawkins ..... MR. NAT TRAVERS
Jim Barton ..... MR. IVAN COHERNEY
Bob Stevens ..... MR. GEORGE MALVERN
Meg ..... MISS ETHEL GREENE

We have it on generally accepted authority that "West is West and East is East," and we are somehow coming to realise that at the beginning of the twentieth century the denizens of the Orient are quite on a level with the occidentals in obtaining their fair share of the things which go to make life pass at least pleasantly. At all times the Messrs. Abrahams provide a programme which earns the unstinted applause of their patrons, and the one with which they are just now filling their house is just of that light, summery nature which is calculated to attract those who are not willing to brave the eccentricities of a fickle summer. The principal novelty which is introduced at the Queen's this week is *A Coster's Christmas Eve*, produced by Mr. Nat Travers and a very competent company, nearly thirty strong. The story is slight, but combines both comedy and pathos in just the due proportion to appeal to an East-end audience. With the flightiness of her class, Meg, a queen among the costers, throws over her sweetheart, Bill Hawkins, in preference for some lover in a presumably more exalted station in life. Bill is of sterner stuff than most of his kind, and so, instead of knocking under, he betakes himself to that land of promise, Canada, where he prospers exceedingly. After three years' exile, if so it can be termed, he returns, and on Christmas Eve we are introduced to a party of his old friends celebrating his accession to wealth. Jollity is of course the prevailing note of the proceedings, and we have some good singing and dancing. Bill himself gives a rather pretty song, entitled "A mother is a bloke's best friend," while his old pal, Bob Stevens, likewise enlivens the company with a delineation of the "East-end aristocracy." While the proceedings are at a height, Jim Barton, an old comrade, enters, to announce the presence outside of Meg, perishing in the snow falling in the street. Proverbially impulsive, the costers welcome the return of the other wanderer, and a reconciliation to her former lover forms a fitting termination to the scene. The principals show considerable dramatic force, and have a thorough idea of the lights and shadows of coster life. Mr. Nat Travers makes full use of the opportunities at his disposal; while Miss Ethel Greene is a pathetically pretty exponent of the repentant sinner. The piece is well staged.

LITTLE HACKENSCHMIDT (pupil of the great Hackenschmidt), the undefeated champion bantam-weight wrestler, after a successful provincial tour will appear next week at the Islington Empire. His manager (C. Cliquot) informs us that he is willing to back him against all comers in his own class. Little Hackenschmidt is only a mere boy of nineteen.

MISS ROSE HAMILTON, who has been resting for eight weeks after a throat operation, resumed business this week at the Hippodrome, Southampton, where she has made a hit with her dialect impersonations and a new song by Harrington and Powell, entitled "Don't you think?" Next week she will appear in a boy's song, entitled "Goodbye to Maudie," at the Hippodrome, Portsmouth.

ARTISTS' LEAGUE MANIFESTO.

The International Artists' League has come to grips with some German managers, and the following appeal has now been issued:—

"We beg to draw your attention to the fact that a boycott has been declared by the I.A.L. against the Apollo Theatre, Dusseldorf; the Reichshallen, Cologne; the Kolosseum, Essen; the Thalia, Elberfeld; and the Olympia Theatre, Dortmund. This has been done solely because the directors of the above-named halls had announced, through agents and others, as well as by written communications to artists, that for the future they would not engage members of the Lodge, and, furthermore, because they requested members to hand in their resignation to the Lodge previous to the signing of a contract. This is an undoubted fact in the cases of the directorates of the Apollo Theatre, Dusseldorf; the Thalia, Elberfeld; the Kolosseum, Essen; and the Reichshallen, Cologne; plenty of documentary evidence being in the possession of the Lodge. With regard to the management of the Olympia Theatre, Dortmund, there had hitherto only been rumours in circulation regarding their decision not to engage members of the Lodge. Two weeks previous to the declaration of the boycott, however, the management had been politely requested by letter, and subsequently by telegram, to contradict such rumours. At the same time it was pointed out that no reply and an ignoring of the Lodge's query could only be interpreted to mean that these rumours were based on fact. In the case of several wires the reply was prepaid, yet no answer was received. Even allowing for a possible absence on holiday or otherwise, ample time had been allowed for a reply, and the I.A.L., therefore, felt themselves compelled to place the Olympia Theatre in Dortmund on the black list. In addition to the boycott, other countermeasures will be taken to protect members of the Lodge and other artists against any consequences, and no stone will remain unturned to secure the desired end.

"In a public meeting of artists, held in Berlin, on July 8, and attended by 262 people, the management of the Lodge made a plain, straightforward statement of the position of affairs which had led up to taking decisive steps. Thus those present were afforded a clear view of the situation, and were enabled to form an unbiassed judgment. After careful examination of the documents, which were open to public inspection, and an exhaustive discussion, where all the pros and cons were carefully considered, the meeting voted solid in favour of the I.A.L.'s action.

"It is, of course, within the realms of possibility that there are yet elsewhere artists, and even Lodge members, who do not see the necessity for the step taken. But if it is taken into consideration that during the past nine weeks every single meeting of the Lodge in Berlin has been attended by from fifty to seventy members, who dealt almost exclusively with the question at issue, and that all resolutions were passed unanimously (or, in one single case, with but one dissentient voice), and with full knowledge of all the circumstances leading up to the dispute; that, furthermore, the public meeting already referred to unanimously sanctioned the resolution, it may safely be assumed that those who, owing to absence, were unable to obtain a clear insight into all the details of the matter, would readily have cast their votes with the overwhelming majority.

"For these reasons we ask all those who were unable to obtain a full view of what went on behind the scenes to confidently rely on the judgment of the fully informed, reliable, and responsible persons present. We, therefore, appeal to all artists of either sex and every nationality to stand united, and thus to prove not only to variety managers, but to the general public as well, that the 'strolling people,' who, for centuries past, have had to fight for their existence as though they had been outcasts, have at length fully realised the dignity of their position. By a determined display of a perfectly justifiable *esprit de corps*, and by a firm resolve, even at some personal sacrifice, to secure honourable recognition, it will be possible to put an end, once and for all, to the intolerable present state of the law and the unfairness of the contract. For that is the goal which we hope to reach, and every upright and true artist will know how to act."

The V.A.F. and the White Rats of America are standing by the International Artists' League in their determination to get a fair contract for the members of the profession, and to check the oppressive conditions under which they are called upon to work. A defence fund has been inaugurated to help the boycott, and, thereby, to obtain the recognition, by the proprietors and managers implicated, of the demands of the I.A.L.

LA MILO.

The one and only great La Milo, world-famed as the faithful personator of Lady Godiva in the Coventry Pageant, has decidedly proved that "nothing succeeds like success." Her living marble representations of the world's highest ideals of sculpture have sent a thrill of Elysian sensation through two continents. Her fame was created by her astounding and artistic productions, resulting in the enchantment of audiences whose appreciation of this ideal in marble has decidedly proved her art to be one by which all classes are entranced and enlightened. Following her exceptionally apt demonstration and comparison of the silently beautiful and the noisily ugly came the advent of the ultra-Purist pharisee, whose notorious "chants" awakened a healthy interest in the beautiful poseuse, La Milo, leading her onward, victory on victory, to absolute triumph, to the utter rout of that pawky and lachrymose old fossil, Stiggins, the prophet of gloom. Crowded and packed houses have been the order of running for two and a half years, since La Milo first breathed her message in marble, leading to daily competition for her act. Hence, despite the existence of Stiggins and his satellites, La Milo has again been re-booked by those who have experience of the drawing power of her exhibition—an exhibition which has had the approval of thirty-one watch committees and magistrates, and the ungrudging appreciation of the best of the Art and Press world, and last, but not least, the Pulpit. The verdict of three of the greatest English moral reformers of the day has emphasised the absurdity of the doctrines emanating from the whitened sepulchre of prejudice, by bringing into comparison fatuous egoism and calm appreciation of conscionable truth. On this test of comparison, and on its lesson to Stiggins, La Milo has stood strong and resplendent, a bright star in the theatrical firmament, fixed by managerial and public approval as a beautiful ideal—a woman with a mission. Mr. Oswald Stoll, whose great critical and financial experience of managerial and proprietary responsibility in catering for the amusements of the public, is a safe man, and one intellectually fitted to grasp all possibilities. He knows artistic worth when he meets it! Hence he has re-engaged this beautiful meteoric star for the tour 1909. [Communicated.]

HONITON Summer Fair opened with the old-fashioned ceremonies, the town crier, in three-cornered hat and lace coat, walking the fair with a gilded glove on a pole. "Oyez! oyez! oyez!" he cries. "The glove is up, the fair's begun. Let no man be arrested till the glove is taken down." There was a goodly crowd of entertainers with shows, roundabouts, shooters, and variety frames. The local caterers were also present in excellent array.

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MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Oct. 5, Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 7, Feb. 8, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.,
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, March 8, 22, 29, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov. 16 (three nights),
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Oct. 29 (3 nights), Feb. 22, March 8, 15, 22, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 9, 16, March 22.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Sept. 21, Oct. 15 (three nights), Dec. 14, Jan 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Oct. 5, Nov. 30, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Oct. 5 26 (three nights), Nov. 23, 30, Xmas (seven nights), Feb. 22, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
Xmas (7 nights), March 15, 22 29, April 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Nov. 9 23, 30, Dec. 7,
Jan. 4, 11, 25, Feb. 1, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

F. W. BOLAM'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE,
Nov. 30, Dec. 14 and 28.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE,
Dec. 14.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATEHEAD-ON-TYNE,
Wanted, Good Variety Turns.
Add., R. G. ELDER, Gen. Manager, Met., Gateshead.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Aug. 17, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 21, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Aug. 17, 31, Sept. 14, 21 28 Oct. 12, on (3 nights only).
Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company, Theatre Royal, Canterbury, for Cricket Date, Aug. 20, 21, 22. Musical preferred. E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.
WANTED, Pay-Box Attractions,
Various April, 1909, onwards.
Open to arrange First-class Panto., 1910.
Re dates, address, ARTHUR JEFFERSON. On all matters affecting the visit, printing, bill copy plots, &c., GORDON JEFFERSON, Wires, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only
THEATRE ROYAL, DUBLIN
Sept. 7, Nov. 2, Dec. 7.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Sept. 21, Dec. 7.
OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
Aug. 3, Sept. 7 (3 nights each date), Sept. 14, 15, 16.
Apply, F. MOUILLOT,
1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, immediately, First-class Attractions, for Aug. 10 and 24.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR,
24A, Regent-street, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for the following dates: Aug. 10, 17, 24, and Sept. 7.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Important Attractions,
Sept. 7, 28.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.
Lessee and Manager, S. F. DAVIDSON.
General-Manager, ALEXANDER TELFORD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for remaining Vacant Dates, 1908, and Various, 1909.
Address, 16, Ridley-villas, Newcastle.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Aug. 10. Unexpectedly Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Attractions.
WENTWORTH CROKE.
Piccadilly-mansions, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF,
Will be Re-opened August Bank Holiday.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Vacant Dates for
First-class Attractions,
Aug. 10 (?), Aug. 17, 24, various, onwards.
Address, with all particulars,
ROLLO BALMAIN,
Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, High-class Companies, for
Aug. 10 (Musical preferred),
Sept. 21, Oct. 12,
Nov. 2, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

THE NORTHERN THEATRES CO., LTD.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
New Opera House, Halifax, Aug. 24, Sept. 7,
Theatre Royal, Rochdale, Sept. 7-21.
Letters, OTTO C. CULLING, Gower Hotel, W.C.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Musical and Front Rank Dramatic Attractions, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, Oct. 26, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 8, onwards. Good Panto. Entertained for Feb. 8. Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Aug. 17 (unexpectedly vacant). Wire or write to W. W. KELLY, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

PAVILION, CHORLTON, MANCHESTER.
Proprietors, Messrs. H. B. LEVY and J. E. CARDWELL. Now playing to Excellent Business under the New Management.
WANTED, Good Musical and Light Comedy Companies, Good Concert Parties, &c, Sept. 14, and on. LEVY and CARDWELL, Pavilion, Chorlton, Manchester.

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WANTED, Attraction, Aug. 3; holding capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. Coms. to J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Aug. 10, 17, 31, Bilston and Wednesbury.
Address, HARRY BATTERSBY, T. R., Bilston.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH,
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only entertained.
Vacant Aug. 31, onward, with exceptions.
All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Aug 31, Sept. 14, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Sept. 21, Nov. 9,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant Dec. 7, 21,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant April 5, 12, 19,
onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Aug. 24, 31,
onward, with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.

Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

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WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only,
BROADWAY THEATRE.
Sept. 7, Dec. 14, April 5, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
April 5, May 17, 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 23.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
April 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Re-opening after alterations, re-decorating and refurnishing, Aug. 24. Wanted, good sound Attractions,
Nov. 2, March 22, April 5, 12, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31.

Address, with full particulars, terms, &c.,
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MOSS EMPIRES, LTD.,
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BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The leading Theatre of the town and district.
WANTED, Known, vacant through transfers, August 10, September 28, October 5 and 19.
Future Bookings include: "The Thief," "A White Man," "Diana of Dobson's," "Jack Straw," "Mrs. Dot," "Lady Frederick," "Brewster's Millions," "With Edged Tools," and the leading Musical Comedies. Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
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Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for
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with exceptions.
Applications for dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
Oct. 19, 26, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LTD.
Managing-Director, Mr. FRED GRANVILLE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Dramatic Attractions,
Aug. 10, 17, 31, Oct. 12, Nov. 2.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, Musical and other High-class London Attractions, Aug. 17, 24, Sept. 7, 14, 21, and on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, Powerful Attractions,
Sept. 21, 28, on.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Good-class Attractions,
Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, and on.
Re dates,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Dramatic Attractions, Aug. 10, Sept. 21, Oct. 12 (musical), Oct. 19. Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

WANTED, Good Companies for Treherbert and Maesteg, 3 or 6 days each, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, 14, and 21, Nov. 9, 16, and 23, Dec. 7, and 14.
Apply C. W. POOLE, Palace Theatre, Gloucester.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Best Companies, Aug. 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, Sept. 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23. Wire, PHILLIPS.

WANTED, Extra Special Attractions for Sept. 7, Nov. 2, 16, 23, 30, Dec. 14, Xmas, Jan. 4, 11. Nothing too big. HORNER Victoria T., Burnley.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Productions, Musical Comedies and No. 1 Plays, to Open the Dramatic Season, Sept. 14, Oct., Nov., Dec.
Apply to JAMES KIERNAN, Eskdale, Croondle, Douglas, I.O.M., until further notice.

WANTED, Companies Touring Scotland to book Theatre Royal, Inverness. Vacant Dates, Sept., onwards. CAMERON BURGESS, Manager.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Drama, Variety, Musical and Farcical Comedies, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, on. W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

DUDLEY OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, Known, No Vacant Dates this Year. Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 1, 22, onwards, with exceptions. Variety Co.'s not entertained. J. MAURICE CLEMENT.

WATERLOO HALL THEATRE, WHITBY.
Lessee and Manager, JULIAN BAINBRIDGE.
Second Year of Present Management, Centrally Situated, Electric Light throughout.
WANTED, Good Attractions, Aug. 17, 24, Sept. 7, 14, and various, onwards.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, for Victoria Hall, Ripon, First-class Attractions, Aug. 3 (?), 6 (3 nights each), and on, with exceptions; good Panto. Xmas. CLEMENT.

VICTORIA THEATRE, SACRISTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, Variety or Drama, from Sept. 7, onwards. Good Pantos. write in. JOHN C. LOWES, proprietor.

BASINGSTOKE.—CORN HALL.
WANTED, Companies. Finest Hall in North Hampshire, now thoroughly restoring by Town Council, also decorating and re-seating, ready for re-opening, Aug. 31. Moderate rental, or shares. S. WALFORD, Lessee.

COMPANIES WANTED.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating Capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the most handsome and best-equipped Theatres in the Provinces.

The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, three nights, Sept. 3, 4, 5, Nov. 16, Dec. 14.

These are the only Vacant Dates this year.
Now Booking Spring, 1909.
We are prepared to give substantial Guarantees to really Big Attractions.

All communications,
JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet."
Telephones, 413, 426, 509.

WANTED, Stock Co., with Scenery, for Small Stage, Aug. 3; two pieces weekly. District 70,000. Empire, Riddings, Derbyshire. GUSTAVE, Clarendon Hall, Watford

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Nov. 16, Dec. 7.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Oct. 19 (North), and Dec. 7.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9 (Scotland), Dec. 7, Feb. 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres Sept. 28, Dec. 21, 28.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, March 29.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 31. Oct. 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Jan. 18, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Aug. 24 (?), Sept. 28.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 14, Nov. 2, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatre, Sept. 14. Nov. 2, 9, 23, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Aug. 31, Oct. 5, Nov. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Norwood, 7, Wentworth-road, Harborne, Birmingham.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Aug. 10, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5, 26.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9, 23, Dec. 28, on.
Now booking 1909.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Grand Theatre, Southampton.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Sept. 21-28, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
All communications,
J. W. CORDINER, Opera House, Weymouth.

"IN THE RANKS."
Tour commencing Star, Liverpool, Aug. 3.
Powerful Company.
New Plant of Printing by David Allen.
Entirely new Scenery by Francis Bull.
WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 21, Oct. 12 19, Nov. 30, Xmas, and Spring.
BERESFORD WHITCOMB, Pavilion Theatre, E.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, also Xmas week, 7 nights, Farewell Tours. Address, 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London.

JULIAN MALVERN'S TOUR,
"I DEFY THE WORLD."
by Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Sept. 21, Oct. 5, and 19.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN,
This week, Star Theatre, Liverpool (5th visit).
July 27,
Grand Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY, in "THE FLOWER GIRL."
The Musical Comedy Success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical comedy at its brightest.
WANTED, Sept. 14, to follow Cheltenham, and dates onward. Now booking Autumn, Winter, and Spring. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, T. R., Birkenhead; next week, Empire, Oldham. See Companies Page.

Mrs. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, Aug. 17, unexpectedly Vacant
Address, 36, Gloucester-road, Kew, Surrey.

"THE MORALS OF MARCUS."
from the Garrick Theatre, London.
Mr. Ernest E. Norris and Specially Selected Co.
WANTED, Aug. 3, and onwards, with exceptions. Address, C. H. BOWMAKER, 25, Pemberton-gardens, N.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Sept. 7 and 14.
Address, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield.

CHARLES FROHMAN'C COMPANY, in the Enormously Successful Play,
"THE HYPOCRITES."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Aug. 31 (Midlands), Oct. 12 and 19 (South).
Address, SILVANUS DAUNCEY, 22, Charing-cross, S.W.

HORACE STANLEY CO.
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, 28, near London, Nov. 9, 16.
London or South Coast.
HORACE STANLEY,
Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy. 3 weeks.

ARMOUR AND KIRBY'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
WANTED, Aug. 24 (follow Alexandra, Hull), Sept. 7, 21, and onwards, with exceptions. ARMOUR and KIRBY, to-day, Grand, Halifax; next, T. R., Stockport.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE CURATE" and
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK," by Rass Challis.
WANTED, Sept. 21 (South).
Clear stage only required.
Address, MAURICE, Hippodrome, Croydon.

WANTED, July 31st (3) (N.), Aug. 27 (3), Oct. 26 (precede B'pool), Nov. 9 and 30 (precede Gaiety, M'ter), and Spring, '09. WYN WEAVER, Mr. H. F. Maltby's Co., P. T., Llandudno.

"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Elaborate and Costly Revival.
New Scenery, Uniforms, Dresses, &c.
Cast of Fifteen Picked Artists. Troupe of Dancers.
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 19, on.
M. BEAUDYN, Gaiety T., Burnley.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 7.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Sept. 14, 21, Nov. 16, 23, 30.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 5, 12, 19.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Theatres, for FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."
Grand Revival of Chas. Reade's Famous Play, playing to Splendid Business in spite of tropical weather. Refer
Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff,
Prince's Theatre, Preston.
J. H. Curry, Esq., P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

Vacant Aug. 31,
Sept. 7, 14, 21,
and onwards.
"THE BETTER LAND,"
The Great Domestic Drama
produced at Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, June 22.
An Emphatic Success.
Vacant Sept. 21 and on.
Pantomimes,
"BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Vacant Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.
"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,"
Vacant Jan. 4, 11, 18, and later.
Managers, Note.
These Pantomimes are perfect in every detail, beautifully mounted and dressed.
Company of Star Artists,
Specialities, Dancers,
and Full Chorus.
Re dates,
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's T., Liverpool.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.

"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Sept. 7, to follow Alex., Hull.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Wanted, Sept. 7, 14, 21 (Lancs. or Yorks.).
"A SISTER'S SIN,"
Sept. 14, 28 (near S. Wales).

Wire for these money-makers to
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"WAS SHE TO BLAME."
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
First tour fully booked.
WANTED, Theatres, few Vacant Dates, Autumn, 1909. This piece booking faster than any before. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, HINTON, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26,
Nov. 9, 16,
Dec. 21, 28,
Jan. 4, 11, on.

July 27, Prince's, Portsmouth. (Vacation.)

HARRY NICHOLLS
(Drury Lane, Adelphi, &c.),
with own Company and entire Production, in Romantic Costume Play.
WANTED, Theatres, from Middle of September next.
Rupert Cottage, Bedford Park, W.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 21, Nov. 9 and 16, Xmas and New Year, Jan. 11, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, East Oxford Theatre, Oxford.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S COMPANIES.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, for either Play, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 28. Now booking Spring, '09.
Coms., GEORGE KIRK,
Court Theatre, Wigan.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and the late Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Aug. 10, 17, and few later.
Seventh Year of Tour, and Success Greater than ever. New Special Scenery and Effects.
"THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD."
A Fine New Domestic Play of Powerful Human Interest. Splendid Production, Printing, and Cast.
Several Autumn Dates Vacant.
Address, 52, Altom-street, Blackburn.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S CO.'S.
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING,"
Oct. 9, to oblige J. W. Boughton, Esq.
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON," Sept. 7 and 21, to precede and follow Glasgow.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Sept. 14 and 28, to precede and follow Glasgow.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7,504 Gerr.

WANTED, Theatres, for Harry Bene's Co., "Sergeant Brue," Aug. 17, between Ryde and Ramsgate. Aug. 31-Sept. 7, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
WANTED, First-Class Theatre,
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
Aug. 31, Sept. 14.
FRED BULMER, ALEXANDRA THEATRE, HULL.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4 (?), 11, 18, Feb. 8, March 1 and 22. FRANK M. THORNE, Prince's T., Bradford.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Sept. 7,
between Blackpool and Mexborough.
DICKIE CLARE, T. R., Leigh, Lancs.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
WANTED, Theatre, Vacant Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26. HARRY TILBURY, Miners' T., Ashington.

"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Jan. 11, April 12.
M. BEAUDYN, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
WANTED, 1909, July 5, follow Bradford.
M. BEAUDYN, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
New Title of "The Woman Who Was Dead."
WANTED, Dec. 21, 28, on.
M. BEAUDYN, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, Theatres for "The Love of the Princess," by C. Watson-Mill, Xmas and Feb. 1, 1909. Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Bristol.

WANTED, Theatres, for "Second to None," by Walter Howard, Feb. 1, and Easter, 1909. Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Bristol.

ARTISTS WANTED.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Gentleman, to Play Polonius, Jacky ("It's Never too Late to Mend"), &c.; Stage-Manager, to Play Principal Parts; Young Lady and Gentleman, to Play Small Parts, and Understudy. Letters only, with lowest terms, to Theatre Royal, Huddersfield.

WANTED, for Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer's Tour, Young Lady and Gentleman, for Small Parts and Understudies. Address, 36, Gloucester-road, Kew, Surrey.

WANTED, Grand Opera Artists, Disengaged for Autumn, to send Répertoire. Terms, &c., letters only, GITTINS, London Coliseum.

WANTED, immediately, Juvenile and Character Actress, also two Juvenile Gentlemen, one for boy's part. Trial performance. Box 6,774, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, for Sketches, Stock Company, Juvenile Lead, Old Man, Young and Old Woman, for South of England, Permanent. Apply, Box 6,773, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Powerful Actor, for Aristocratic Military Part, good presence and voice essential. Measurements, Refs., Terms, &c., to T. E. WARD, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

WANTED, for Tour, Character Actor, to Double, must have the following qualifications: Height 5ft. 9in. to 6ft. 1in., strong voice, soldierly carriage, capable of looking and playing Army Sergeant. Personally, 10 to 12 Sunday, or by letter, 68, Wiesbaden-rd., Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Leading Gent. (good), Stage-Manager, Comedian, Chambermaid (sing and dance), and other Artists, for Stock. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum, Stafford.

WANTED, through releasing, Gentleman for a few weeks, for Dr. Oliver, in "My Sweetheart." Address full particulars, S. SPENSER, Prince's T., Blackburn.

WANTED, Comedian for Musical Sketch, must sing a little (baritone); also Robust Tenor (tall). Abstainers Preferred. Fullest particulars and last two references (which will be applied for), by letter only.
F. ALKIN, 104, Lloyd-street, Manchester.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
WANTED, a Lady and Gentleman, to Play Small Parts; must be tall. Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, W.C. Letters only.

WANTED, Two Gentlemen for Comedy Parts and Responsibles in Shakespeare and Old Comedies. Letters and Photos, Miss GLOSSOP-HARRISS, 9E, Hyde Park-mansions, W.

WANTED, Lady Elocutionist, for High-class Entertainment in October; Gentleman Baritone for Al Fresco Concerts.
Apply to Mr. HUBERT BLOUNT,
Secretary, Actors' Association,
409, Strand, W.C.
N.B.—Non-members must apply by letter only in the first instance.

WANTED, smart Young Lady Humourist at Piano, à la Margaret Cooper, and Pianist; indoors. Latest photo. and répertoire imperative. C., 28, Charing Cross-road.

WANTED, immediately, Baritone or Tenor Soloist, seven or eight weeks, Al-Fresco. Photos., refs., and lowest terms. HERBERT DICKESON, 6, Hathcrleigh-terrace, Exmouth, Devon.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription 6d. weekly; yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Known, Wanted,
THE GRENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, will anyone give a Lady a chance in a Sketch Co., &c.? Pupil of Messrs. G. and J. D'Auban, late Student of theirs for three years and nine months. Offers gratefully accepted. Box 6,727, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Contralto, experienced, very large répertoire; can play piano. Apply, MARJORIE IRVINE, c/o Mrs. Lavender, Brent-street, Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Managers, Manageresses, Actresses, &c., Drama, Sketch, Variety; Lady, experienced all-round, good appearance, refined, musical, needlewoman, domesticated, widow (38) of known performer desires Engagement (highest refs.) or permanency; small salary. Box 6,762, "The Era."

WANTED, by the I.D.K. Minstrels, Aug. 17 and 24. Pier or Hall, where good business can be done by Seven First-class Artists.
MANAGER, 26, Kingsway, Mortlake.

FANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Conductors, Comedian, for Pantomimes.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, for Pavilion Theatre, E., Pantomime Artists, all Lines, including Principals, Chorus, Dancers, &c., to Communicate at once, sending full particulars, lowest terms, photos, &c., to EDWARD KING, Pavilion Theatre, E. No interviews except by appointment.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Burdetti Bros., Great Eccentric Acrobats, Lib. for Pantomime, Parts and Speciality, touring Fossett's Circus. All coms., 38, Merton-st., Stoneyholme, Burnley.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, quick, own brushes; commence immediately.
HARRY BATTERSBY, Theatre, Bilston.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, KNOWN, McCulloch and Co., Scenic Artists, Sheffield, are Open to Receive Contracts.

Most Reasonable Terms.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery and Properties of every description. Good work; reasonable prices. J. JACKS, 46, Holloway-rd., London, N.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Scenic Artist, unexpectedly at Liberty for few weeks; capable of high-class work.
Box 6,760, "The Era."

WANTED, by Alfred Ford, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces, late Queen's Theatre, Swindon, 47, Englefield-road, Dalston.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, a Manager, thoroughly experienced back and front of house.
Preference given to one who has been accustomed to one-house-a-night and the arranging of times, including management of bars.
Good salary with house.
Write, enclosing copies of references, to W. COLLINS, 1, Durham House-street, Strand.

WANTED, Smart Young Acting-Manager, by well-known Management, Typist, with own machine. Lowest Terms, Age, Height, Latest References, to Box 6,763, "The Era."

JAZON AND NIGHTINGALE'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, at once, Smart Acting-Manager, shorthand and typist preferred.
Write, with full particulars as to age, &c., and salary expected, to Theatre Royal, West Bromwich.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Acting-Manager for Scottish Variety Theatre, only those Fully Competent of Controlling Staff, and with a full knowledge of the whole of the working of the back and front of the house and advertising department need apply, with full particulars as to age, experience, salary, and names of whom to apply for reference. Box 6,769, "The Era" Office.

NEW HIPPODROME, MIDDLESBROUGH.
WANTED, Stage-Manager for New Hippodrome, Middlesbrough, must be well up in Variety Business, Twice Nightly. Apply, with References, to SIGNOR PEPI, Hippodrome, Darlington.

WANTED, Gas and Electric Engineer, State Age and Experience, Lowest Salary, and Latest Reference (letters only), to H. OSWALD REDFORD, Gen. Manager, Opera House, Cheltenham. Open about middle of August.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Cardiff, really steady, useful Carpenter, props., capable making and decorating, and touching up, open immediately. All details to ROLLO BALMAIN. No wires. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Carpenter (Bench Hand), to commence Aug. 10.
Apply, HORNER, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, Hard-working Man, as Baggage and Dresser; also respectable, Hard-working Agent in Advance. ASHLEY, 40, Churton-st., Victoria. Letters only.

WANTED, for Victoria Hall, Ripon, Handy Man, used to Stage Work, Billing, &c; wife, cleaner. Refs., Ives (Williams), late Whitby, write CLEMENT.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, Known, Vacancies now filled. Thanks to applicants. Impossible to answer all. BEANLAND and EMERSON.

WANTED, in the Autumn, Appointment as General Business-Manager of First-class Hall or Theatre, thoroughly experienced and reliable. Highest References. HAGUE, Corporation Entertainments Manager, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Acting-Manager, Shortly Disengaged, thoroughly experienced Theatre and Variety Management, back and front, including bars. Knowledge of 1,500 up-to-date variety turns, prices, &c., highly recommended. Box 6,777, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman, with £500 to invest, would like to join Theatrical Business; fond of travelling. Send particulars. Box 6,758, "The Era."

WANTED, by thoroughly experienced young Business-Manager, good Resident Berth as Advertising Manager, Asst. Acting-Manager, Treasurer, &c. Best credentials. Offers. Box 6,775, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Agent's Office, Bill Inspector, Agent in Advance, Correspond German, Dutch, know my business, reliable. JOHNSON, Waterloo Hotel, Blyth.

WANTED, by Electrician, Permanent Engagement, Theatrical, Plant and Workshop Experience, Competent Mechanic. H. W. L. 12, Varden-street, New-road, Whitechapel, E.

WANTED, Engagement by Practical Stage Carpenter, Resident or Tour, First-class Refs. CARPENTER, 32 Gladstone-av., East Ham.

WANTED, Engagement, as Property Master and Maker, in the Provinces, 20 years' Good Reference, Theatre Royal, Brighton. Address, E. BRIDGER, 9, Ashford-rd., Preston Drove, Brighton.

WANTED, by Lady's Maid, Re-engagement, Town, Tour, or Abroad, Young, Educated. Good Cook, Needlewoman, 8 years with the same professional lady. BROWNE, 5, Sevington-street, Maida Vale.

WANTED, Situation, as Useful Maid to Professional Lady; good references; willing, domesticated; age 26. KENWAY, 28, Josephine-avenue, Brixton Hill, S.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

ANDREWS' PICTORIAL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, to Open Aug. 3, and onwards, 1 Musical Director (Pianiste), to compose and arrange dead up-to-date and suitable music for pictures, complete change required weekly; 6 Pianiste Conductors; 50 Musicians, in all lines; 6 Baritone Vocalists and Lecturers; 6 First-class Operators; 30 High-window Billers, Doorsmen, and Effect Workers. Particulars, References, Terms for Resident Permanencies,
A. and H. ANDREWS, St. James's Hall, Plymouth.

WANTED, for Twice-Nightly Variety, Open Aug. 17, Musical Director (Violinist); also Trombone. Apply, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, at Once,
Good B flat Cornet,
and Bassoon Players,
for Enlistment in good Line Infantry Band.

Apply, BAND MASTER,
c/o Boosey and Co.,
295, Regent-street, London.

WANTED, a smart Leader, First and Second Violin, 'Cello, Bass, and Drums; must be strictly temperate and thoroughly understand Variety. Permanency. Apply, with last two references, which will be personally enquired into, to CONDUCTOR, Empire Theatre, Swindon.

WANTED, Leader, First Violin, for a Few Weeks, thoroughly experienced in Variety Business, to Open Aug. 3. Terms and references, WILLIAM CLOSS, Musical Director, Grand Theatre, Bolton.

WANTED, good Leader, for Palace, Bath, commence Monday, Aug. 3. Lowest terms, age, and references to C. WRIGHT, Conductor.

WANTED, Good Leader, Flautist, Drummer, Tympanies, and Effects. Age and refs., FREDERIC BRAHAM, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, First Violin and Clarionet, commencing Aug. 3, for about 6 weeks, 6 nights, 2 matinées weekly. Only competent musicians please state lowest summer terms, age, and send references to SEEBOLD, Theatre, Worthing.

WANTED, First Violin, Experienced, in Variety, Sound Executant, and Capable of Lead if Required. One Performance, Two Matinées. Terms, 35s. Open Aug. 10. Refs., Experience, Age, to A. W. LEGGETT, M.-D., Alhambra, Brighton.

WANTED, for Eight Weeks, commencing Aug. 3, Second Violin (Deputy), for Theatre near Liverpool. RHODES, Central Pier, Morecambe.

WANTED, Lady Violin; also 'Cello; must be well up in Orchestral and Solo work.
Wire, Mme. ANGLESS, Britannia Pier, Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, Lady Violinist, commencing Aug. 10 at Oldham. State experience and lowest terms for Permanency, to
GOODALL, Mount View, Liversedge, Yorks.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Cornet Soloist, reliable, to Enlist in a good Regiment serving abroad until 1910.
good bonus and a course of instruction so as to enable entry to Kneller Hall for position of Bandmaster in the Army.
Wanted, to sail this coming Trooping Season.
Apply, S. W. B., Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, London, W.

WANTED, First-class Cornet Player, for Permanency, Theatre Royal, Jarrow. Apply, giving references, lowest terms, &c., to HUGH ROBERTSON, T. R., Jarrow.

WANTED, through disappointment, for Town Band, good Cornet, Clarionet, and Drums. Terms, shares. Permanent. Write or wire, GIFFORD, 4, Richmond-avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Good Cornet, for Variety, Alhambra, Morecambe, Commence at once. Terms and References to F. B. BEARD, 29, Sea View-parade, Morecambe.

HASTINGS MILITARY BAND.
WANTED, E flat Clarionet and First Cornet,
commence Aug. 1,
for eight weeks.
Apply, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR,
Birk Hall, Marina, Bexhill-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet; can join at once; experienced; Orch. or Military. References. F. F. ONSLOW, 2, Baxter-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Good Clarionet and Bass for Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon., Aug. 1, well up in Musical Comedies, Standard Overtures. H. BULL, Conductor, 58, Aldeburgh-street, E. Greenwich, London.

WANTED, for the Duke of Devonshire's Private (Eastbourne) Orchestra, a Second Bassoon.

Permanent engagement,
to commence at once.

Apply,
P. TAS,
10, Camden-road,
Eastbourne.

WANTED, to commence Aug. 17, experienced Double Bass, also Drums, with Effects. Apply, with reference, HORNER, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, String Bass or Second Clarionet, for Season. Particulars to ALEX. CORRISON, Conductor, Penzance Military Band.

WANTED, for about Six Weeks, Inland Resort, Bass, Leader, First Violin; also 'Cello and Trombone, seaside. Age, Refs., and Lowest Terms, HARVEY'S Band Office, Sheffield.

WANTED, Good Bass, Trombone, Military Band, five hours daily, including Sundays. Terms and latest refs. to CONDUCTOR, Winter Hall, Worthing.

WANTED, Wanted, Bass, combine Clarionet.
RICHARDES, Bandmaster, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, for Castle Theatre, Stockton, a First-class Trombone Player, commence Aug. 3. Latest References and Terms to
J. CHAS. IMESON,
Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Good Flute and Piccolo Player, start at once. All communications,
J. H. CLEVE, Palace, Hammersmith.

WANTED, for Dr. Walford Bodie's Hippodrome and Opera House, Ferndale, South Wales, smart Pianist; must be Sight-reader, well up to Variety and Dramatic Music, assist Billing. Long Engagement to the right Pianist. State absolute lowest terms, with reference, to TOM N. MILLS, Hippodrome, Ferndale.

WANTED, Pianist, to Play Second Violin Parts. Permanency.
SMITHSON, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, Pianist, Violin, Cornettist, Sight Readers, Joint or Single, for George Mallin's Burlesque Co., Rehearse Immediately. Fares Arranged. Reply, G. MALIN, Rathleash, Portarlington, Ireland.

WANTED, at once, Good Pianist, with own Portable, for High-class Concert Party, Permanency. HARTZ, Eglinton Hotel, Portrush, Ireland.

WANTED, Drums, Tympani, &c, Open Aug. 3 (5 weeks); also Oboe, Bassoon. Age, Refs., Lowest Terms, WILHELM RUSSELL, Grand Theatre, Llandudno.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin, Viola, 'Cello, and Flute and Piccolo, not over thirty years of age, and single. None but competent players need apply. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 at the end of the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and, according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Apply to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, for the Bournemouth Municipal Orchestra, to Commence early in October, a Really Good First Violin, also Viola, thoroughly experienced in Classical Music, Two Concerts Daily (Sundays excepted), Winter or Permanent Engagement. Apply, with terms and references, to Mr. DAN GODFREY, Musical Director, Winter Gardens, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Musicians, First Violin, Flute, and Piccolo, and Second Cornet, to assist First; must be good, and used to Variety Business. Permanency if suitable. Lowest terms to C. W. POOLE, Variety Palace Gloucester.

BEAUMARIS PIER ORCHESTRA.
WANTED, Saturday, Aug. 1, to Saturday, Sept. 5; four hours daily (no Sunday), Flute, Piccolo Soloist; also good Double Drummer, with Effects. Send particulars and lowest terms, McELWEE, Grand Lodge, Garth-road, near Menai Bridge.

WANTED, Trio of Lady Instrumentalists, Violin, 'Cello, and Piano (or Harp), for season, to open Saturday, Aug. 1. Apply, enclosing photos., and state terms and experience, G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

NEW HIPPODROME, MIDDLESBROUGH.
WANTED, Full Orchestra, to open Aug. 17; competent and reliable Musicians only apply, with references, &c., HARRY HINCHCLIFFE, Mus. Dir., Hippodrome, Darlington.

WANTED, Ladies, Violins, Clarionets, 'Cello, Bass; preference given those combining Vocalist. Permanent, lowest terms, Miss NEWTON, 111, Montague-street, Blackburn.

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement.
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, to Complete Orchestra of Theatre Royal, Cardiff, various Instrumentalists, including Bell Player, Open Aug. 3. Address, with all details, ROLLO BALMAIN.

WANTED, Known, Albert Theatre, Brighouse, Vacancies now filled. Thanks to applicants. Impossible to answer all. BEANLAND and EMERSON.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Musical-Director, Engagement, good Music Hall; thoroughly experienced and reliable; refs. Offers, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 100, Erdington-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Mus. Dir. (Piano and Violinist), Engagement, Tour or Resident, good refs., and experienced, Tour preferred. Add., W. MARSHALL, 36, Barnard-st., Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, Violin Soloist and Conductor, Tremendous Draw (Hungarian), Open for Immediate Engagement, at Hotel, Café, or Seaside, &c. Can supply Band. Box 6,690, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Variety Conductor, Violin, London experience, Good Library, can open Monday. THOS. RICHARDSON, 44, Welbeck-street, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Mr. A. Taggart, Leader, Rép. Conductor, Composer, Arranger, at Lib., Tour or Resident, any Bus. Add., 141, Harold-rd., Hastings.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Elsie West, Orchestral and Solo Violinist; just concluded Successful Engagement with Poppy Orchestra, Brighton. 3, Lyndhurst-drive, Leyton, Essex.

WANTED, Holiday Engagement, by Lady Violinist (or Viola); thoroughly experienced; Orchestral, Ensemble, or Solo. NEWALL Stuart House, Kew-road, Richmond.

WANTED, by Second Violin, temporary or permanent Engagement; commence August. Only moderate wage desired. Box 6,757, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin; steady and reliable; capable of Leader; good refs. FURNISS, 79, Victoria-road, Saltaire, Yorks.

WANTED, Engagement, Violinist, First or Second, all Lines; thoroughly steady; Disengaged Aug. 1; good refs. VIOLINIST, 2, Granville-road, Felixstowe.

WANTED, by good Second Violin, Re-engagement, combine Viola; good refs.; sober, reliable. E. W., 69, Culverden Park-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Known, Miss Marie Scott, Violin and Soprano, and Miss Femmie Schoenthal, Cornet, Dis. Aug. 5. Add., 18, Windsor-pl., Rothsay, N.B.

WANTED, Known Good Variety Leader, at Liberty, Reliable, and Brilliant Violinist. Address, VIOLINIST, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Violinist, Lady, Engagement in Ladies' Band (First Violin preferred) for month of August. Box 6,775, "The Era."

WANTED, an Engagement as Leader or First Violin, thoroughly experienced and reliable. JAS. HEAP, 4, Heardman-avenue, Wigan.

WANTED, Engagement by Good Cornettist, out of work through fire, thoroughly experienced, Good References. Terms Moderate. J. FRANKS, 56, Fountain-street, Accrington.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet Player experienced and reliable; any Business; can open at once. ROBSON, 2, Waterhouse-terrace, Parish Church, Halifax.

WANTED, Known, Cornet, Experienced, Disengaged 25th, Well Recommended, would Deputise Variety, Musical Comedy, &c. A. M. U., 41, Church-street, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Solo Cornet; any Business; good references if required. Address, A. ANSTIS, 35, Blaker-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, £5 Bonus given for Permanent Billet as First or Second Clarionet, Military or Orchestra, Excellent Testimonials, life abstainer, age 34. J. B., 7, Denmark-street, Folkestone.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, by Clarionettist, experienced all Lines; also by good Violin; Theatre preferred. CLARIONET, 21, Lord-street Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, good Clarionet or Oboe seeks Engagement, Variety or Theatre; excellent credentials, Military and Orchestra. Accept nominal wage, gain experience. MUSICIAN, 219, Lyham-road, Brixton Hill.

WANTED, Engagement, W. Kibble, Double Bass, at Liberty; last 10 years' Variety experience; good refs. 27, Bodmin-street, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Double Bass, can join at once, Orchestra or Military. References. JONES, 55, Worsley-road, Patricroft, Manchester.

WANTED, Situation, by String Bass; any district.
J REEVES, 133, Burrage-road, Plumstead, Kent.

WANTED, Known, Good Bassoonist, Open for Immediate Engagement, First or Second, High Pitch. Address, stating terms, W. BATES, Ashworth-terrace, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass, Long Experience in Variety and Theatre, Highest References, finishing season. Perm. Add., PAGE, 31, Prince's-street, Nuneaton.

WANTED Engagement by Lady, Double Bass and Drummer, at Liberty Aug. 8.
SCOTT, Pier Pavilion, Deal.

WANTED, by Trombone or Euphonium, Viola or Second Violin, any Business, together or separate. H. B., 67, Southampton-st., Reading.

WANTED, Situation, by Chas. Pace, as Trombone Player; can join at once; up in all Lines. 65, Fitzwilliam-street, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bombardon, Combine Double Bass, any Business. Good Refs., late of famous 29th Regt. Band, also Opera House, Berlin, Canada. BARBER, 255, Lovely-lane, Warrington, Lancashire.

WANTED, Known, French Horn, Pianist, or E flat Bass, wants regular employment. C. SALES, 2, Anne of Cleves-road, Dartford, Kent.

WANTED, by French Horn Player, Short Seaside Engagement, any Business; experienced and reliable. HORN, 130, Neill-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Lady 'Cellist, Soloist and Orchestral, next three weeks.
Write Box 6,768, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by good Viola Player; varied exper. Refs. J. R. BALFOUR, 47, Pembridge-road, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement as Viola or Bombardon, any Business, Young, Experienced, and Reliable, Abstainer. VIOLA, 22, Wells-rd., Bath.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Oboe, Theatre or Music Hall, Disengaged Aug. 1. LEYFIELD, 203, Brunshaw-road, Burnley, Lancs.

WANTED, by experienced Flautist, Engagement, Theatre or Variety, N.C.O. leaving Army; excellent references. MASKELL, 7, Married-quarters, Moultan Barracks, Tidworth.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, permanent, immediate; thoroughly experienced all lines. References; always steady reliable. Terms, ALEX. WATSON, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Flute and Piccolo; highest refs.; sober and reliable; thoroughly experienced Variety and Operatic. FLAUTIST, Theatre, Seacombe.

WANTED, Engagement, by N. Robinson, pianist, orch. or self, any business, good reader, excel. refs., steady, reliable, any dis. 2, Victoria-place, Dartmouth.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianist; experienced in Orchestral. Dram. and Var. Good offers only. SILVESTER, 84, Cavendish-place, Eastbourne.

WANTED, by Pianist, Re-engagement; good orchestral experience, for Seaside, Café, Club, &c. Box 6,749, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement by Pianist-Violinist, Experienced, Steady, Excellent Refs., Orchestra or Music Hall, Permanency. Lib. Aug. 17. —MANTON, 20, Union-street, Camborne, Cornwall.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good, Smart Double Drummer and Tympanist, with effects, Steady and Reliable, Permanency preferred. 15, Orchard-terrace, Chichester.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Drummer and Tympanist; permanency preferred. G. PABLO, 22, Woodland-avenue, Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, The Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, 3 to 30 performers, open for Hotels, Garden Parties. Madam WILTON DAVIS, 42, Linton-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, to Café and Hotel Proprietors, Small Professional Orchestral Band, Shortly Disengaged, Good Répertoire. Moderate Terms. Box 6,766, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagements, by Trio Ladies, Vio., 'Cello, Piano, Soloists; thoroughly experienced. For terms, address, K. W., 59, Tideswell-rd., Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, Rosabel Quintette, including Vocalists, Disengaged Aug. 8 to 29. Miss TELFER, 28, Wardour-street, London.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Acrobats, Three-Bar, Wire, and other Acts, Artists doing Double Acts Preferred, Aug. 3. Send Sample Lithos (if any) and Lowest Terms to
WILDER'S, Agents, Great Francis-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, for Fête in Herts, on August Bank Holiday, Slack-Wire Walker, who as a separate turn can do a Juggling or similar show. Lowest Terms, WEBSTER and GIRLING, 44, Upper Baker-street, London, N.W.

WANTED, Good Juggling Act, Bending or Posturing Act, others save stamps, terms low, join at once. MADDISON, Circus, Ryhill, Yorks.

WANTED, High Diver to do Bicycle Dive from the Hastings Pier. Full particulars to Prof. DAVENPORT, The Iron Promenade Pier, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, who presents his Arabian Mare Silver, in great Novelty Act, Vacant July 12, 19, 26, and Aug. 2. Maerdy Squire, Ferndale, Glamorgan.

WANTED, Frank Anderson, Eccentric, and his Comical Seizing Ass, Zulu. Big Success, Dublin, Belfast and Welsh Galas. Free Aug. 3, on. Perm., 3 Leopold-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, at Lib. Aug. Bank Holiday Week (or Galas), Three Eccentrics, Clowns Acrobat, Comic Conjurers, Vent., Sketch Artists. Wire, P. O., Ely, till Mon.; then, P. O., Bury St. Edmunds.

WANTED, Clown, Funny Harry Fossett, Permanent Address, for Winter Engagements, Write Mr. Gardner, c/o Mr. England, 3, Gray Frayer-street, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Bella Ophini, Daring Lady Gymnast, First Time in this Country, is at Liberty for Fêtes and Galas, August Bank Holiday; also Open Time Aug. 10, onwards, for Vaudeville. Address, BELLA OPHINI, 21, Compton-terrace, Highbury, London.

WANTED, Known, The Maro Duo, Quaint Comedy Bar Act, Liberty July 27. Wire or write, 126, Porter-street, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Leon, Great Comedy Triple Bar Act, also Leandra, Eccentric Juggler, Vac. Aug. 3, 10, for Galas. 24, Brook-st., Preston.

WANTED, Aug. 3, by The Bromans, Funniest Comedy Gymnasts Breathing.
Address, care of "The Era."

WANTED, by the Two Walonells, Eccentric Knockabout Gymnasts, Aug. 10 and 17.
Address, JACK WALONELL, Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Herman and Evelyn, World's Greatest High-rope Performers are Open for Fêtes, Galas, Halls, and Circuses, Aug. 10, on. Apply to HERMAN, Franklin's-gardens, Northampton; or GEO. MANNING, 169, Stamford-st., S.E.

WANTED, Known, Signor Lorenzo, the Great High-mast Performer, who performs 100ft. in mid-air without the aid of a net; one of the Cleverest and Most Daring Performers ever witnessed; now terminating six months' engagement with F. Cray; outdoor amusements. At Lib. for August Bank Holiday, and onward. Wire or write, 15, Abbey-road, Merton, Surrey.

WANTED, Known, Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, with First-class Acts, Sanger's Hippodrome Tour. Specially Retained by John Henry Cooke, Esq., Edinburgh, November, December. Free Xmas. Address, 15, Upper Elmwood-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, The Ostieers, Flying Ring and Bar Performers, Liberty for Galas and Circus. Wire, 76, Westmoreland-road, Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Engagements for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot air Balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 458, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
P'hone, 1626 Gerrard. Manager, HARRY LANE. Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Big Specialities and Variety Artists in all Lines.
Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys,
Principal Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts,
Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dancers.
All communications as above.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to WM. BIGGAM, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

EMPIRE THEATRE,
HYDE.
Lessee, FRED GRANVILLE.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, 1 night, Saturday, Aug. 1. Railway fare 1s. return from Manchester. Also Vacancies for Talent, Aug. 3, onwards.
Coms. to H. G. GRIFFIN,
Empire Theatre, Hyde.

WANTED, Monday, Aug. 3, and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Aug. 3 and onwards. A. E. PICKARD.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Doubles, doing Singles, Bioscope Operator, used to gas, Pianist (to sing), Open Monday, Redcar. B. KENNEDY, Empire, Doncaster.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now, onwards.
Apply Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Aug. 3, on. Terms, lithos., EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Variety Artists,
Variety Artists,
Big Specialities,
Big Specialities,
The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts
The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts
in the Business,
in the Business,
for
Blackpool, Morecambe, Southport,
Douglas, Brighton,
and Ireland,
for Aug. 3, onwards.
Send full list of
Bookings, Lithos., and Lowest Terms,
to
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.

NOTICE.

The above Theatre, which is at present undergoing structural alterations, will be Re-opened Early in October, and run on Variety Principles. Further Notice of the Exact Date will be Announced in Due Course.

WANTED, for Above,
Variety Artists in all Lines.
TOPS, MIDDLES, and BOTTOMS.
Specialities, Comedians, Comediennes,
Sisters, Double Turns, &c., &c.
Nothing too Big. Nothing too Small.
Apply, MANAGER, as above.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48 Brisbane-street, Greenock.

WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Artists, all Lines,
August,
September,
and
later dates.
Apply,
J. FIONI,
Hippodrome,
Blackpool.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, two weeks, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, Vent, Conjurer. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Novelties, &c. List bookings, vacs., and lowest first instance, KEEBLE'S Agency, Win. Gds., New Brighton.

WANTED, High-class, Refined Artists, Humorists, Quartette Parties, &c. Apply, lowest terms, no fancy prices. MANAGER, American Entertainment Company, Royal Assembly Hall, South Shields.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.

WANTED, Artists in every Line, Nothing too Big, Nothing too Small. Immediate Dates and on, for Glasgow, Aberdeen, Dundee, and all Towns North, Continental Acts write in at once. Note.—Artists asking Two Prices—one to the Proprietor and one to me, save stamps. Rock bottom in first letter.

GAIETY, BLYTH.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Aug. 10, onward. Remember, Hall Small.
W. YATES GREGORY,
The Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Aug. 3, Second Sight Act and good Singles, with large Répertoire. State if new here, or letters wasted. SIDNEY DOLF, Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

VERNO'S AGENCY
(under the direction of L. Verno and H. Arnold),
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, July 27, on. Tels., "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Aug. 3, on. 1A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

CYRIL DUNDAS'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Saturday Night Varieties, those near Liverpool and Manchester write in. Rosthwaite-road, West Derby, Liverpool.

NEW PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
CHELTENHAM.
General-Manager, Mr. EDWARD B. SHENTON.
Business-Manager, Mr. JOHN WALTERS.

Architect, Mr. WINSTANLEY, St. Anne's-on-Sea.

A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

WANTED, Everybody to know that Papa Brown, the Agent, will resume business Aug. 3. Wanted, a few Good Turns, new to London. Will the Artists Booked by me for the Palace, Maidstone, Monday next please attend Rehearsal early?

WANTED, Turns in all Lines, Gainsboro', Aug. 3 and 10.
ALFRED SELWYN, New Laithes, Horsforth.

WANTED, Variety Turns; also 20 Smart Chorus Ladies for Panto. Full particulars, photos, terms, FRED HARTLEY, Theatre Royal, Woolwich, S.E.

WANTED, Best of Talent only, in all Lines,
for Temperance Hall, Merthyr,
Aug. 3, onwards.
Full particulars and
where Acts can be seen.
CADLE, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

NEW PALACE OF VARIETIES, EBBW VALE.
Proprietors, Messrs. TILNEY.
Entertainment-Manager, LEO FRITZ.

WANTED, the Greatest Talent in all Lines that money can procure for Aug. 31 and on. Apply, with full particulars, to LEO FRITZ'S Variety Agency, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton, S.W. Telegrams, "Evelyncia, London." 'Phone 467 Brixton.

WANTED, for Aug. 3, onward, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to JAS. TYRER, The Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, for France, Big Specialities. Money no object. Lithos., &c., to
FLORIA, Pav., Leicester.

WANTED, Three Specialities, Aug. 3, First Post Monday; also Acts for Future Dates. MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Good Speciality, Open Monday, Al Fresco Pavilion.
Wire, H. LEVAINE, Gardens, Withernsea.

JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S "ROYAL GIPSY" CO.

WANTED, for Season 1908-9, commence Sept., a really good Speciality (Dumb Show).
J. H. TOMKINSON, 36, Albany-road, Kensington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, Amateurs and beginners, for Chorus and Music Hall Engagements, a splendid chance to enter the Profession. Call or write, JOHN HALLICK, 10, Greek-street, Shaftesbury-avenue.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone, 1269 Royal.
General-Manager, WM. LUND.

WANTED, the Biggest Sensational, Speciality, and Singing Acts. Only right stuff required. Photos., booking, terms, lithos., &c., by return.

WANTED, for August and onward,
Star Acts in all Lines.
Star Acts in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105, Strand, W.C.

HIPPODROME, MALDON, ESSEX.

WANTED, Speciality Acts, all Kinds, suitable for Small Stage, Doubles doing Singles. Full particulars, with Absolute Terms, FRED J. LITTLE'S Agency, 4, Arthur-st., New Oxford-st., W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

CLIQUOT THEATRICAL UNIVERSAL AGENCY.

WANTED, Biggest Acts in the Profession, for Paris; nothing too big.
Also Artists, all Lines, for England.
Notice.
Following first-class Artists have been booked by me since last fourteen days.
The Musical Jackson Family, Szaravasi Troupe, Clarke's Nippers, Chas. Mathews, William and Wagner, Sisters Petram, Emlyn Jones, Little Ganty, Wild, Willie, and West, Kramka Bros., Alex. Lukos, Nancy St. Jones, Voldam Bros., Musical Johnstons.
Not so bad, is it?
Full particulars (interviews by appointment), address,
CLIQUOT, 23, Brook-st., Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for Immediate Dates North,
Acts of all Descriptions.
I can give you from 5 to 9 weeks in Scotland.
Send me a Complete List of your Bookings and Absolute Lowest Terms, together with a Description of your show, and Permanent Address.
Letters to be Addressed,
to Argyle, Birkenhead,
next week only (July 27);
After that to
44, Cranbourn-street,
Leicester-square,
London, W.C.
KARL F. HOOPER.

PAVILION, ABERTILLERY.
Proprietors, Messrs. TILNEY.
Entertainment-Manager, LEO FRITZ.

WANTED, the Greatest of Attractions for Aug 3 and on. Artists can have six weeks in Wales. Apply, with full particulars, LEO FRITZ, Variety Agency, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Big Attractions, for First-class Halls, on sharing terms, Aug. 3, on; also Artists, of all descriptions, for seaside towns, &c. Send full list bookings and vacancies, with lithos., BARNARD'S Agency, Shaw-st., Liverpool. Telephone, 2349 Royal.

WANTED, for Aug. 10 and onward, big Sensational Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Comedians, Comediennes, and all kinds of Speciality Acts. BROWN and Co., 58, Chicksand-street, N.E. 'Phone No. 1098 City. Clients seen by appointment only.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.

WANTED, a Top of Bill for Aug. 3, for above. State lowest first letter to save time.
BEANLAND and EMERSON, Parade, Bridlington.

WANTED, for Tour, Aug. 3, Small Troupe of Performing Ponies and Dogs, with two or three Acts; also Acrobats, with more than one number. Wanted, to Hire, Mat for Stage, with or without Ring Fence. ALFRED SAKER and Co., Dramatic, Variety, and Circus Agents, 37, Kingstreet, Covent Garden, London.

NEW PIER PAVILION, TEIGNMOUTH, DEVON.

WANTED, thoroughly sound reliable Bright Costume Concert Parties, for Aug. 3 and 17, Season's Dates. Share terms only. Business excellent. Must be parties of repute, or useless. No wires, please. E. A'DELL.

WANTED, Sisters, Acrobats, Music Turns, and Speciality, for August Bank Holiday, and on. Percentage. HAYWOOD, 41, Keith-grove, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, for High-class Song-Scena, Long Engagement,
Soprano, Principal, Experienced in Musical Comedy; Violinist, Solo, Young Lady, 16 to 20; Girl Actress, First-class Mimic and Singer.
Age, Experience, Terms, Photos (returned), to SAVILE'S Agency, 29, Bishop's-mans., Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Monday next, good Vocalists and Comedians, for Matlock Bath; Al-Fresco. Lowest summer terms, GUSTAVE, Clarendon Hall, Watford.

WANTED, Aug. 3, Vocalists and Doubles, doing Single. Apply, MANAGER, Continental Picture Co., Assembly Rooms, Rotherham.

WANTED, Good Lady Vocalist, for long engagement, to sing Illustrated songs, Good Voice Essential. Send Photo, Age, References, Lowest Salary, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Lady Vocalist, Comedienne, Accompanist, Sight Reader, Aug. 3, fortnight, Pier Concert Party. MORGAN, 30, Richmond-gardens, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, by Lake-Grange and Kingsley Candler's Pierrots, Baritone; also Banjoist Coon Singer. Terms, Refs., Clarence Hotel, Burnham, Somerset.

WANTED, a Clever, Experienced Young Lady, with attractive appearance, for high-class entertainment party; must be an excellent vocalist and dancer, and have a good wardrobe. Good salary for first-class artist, engagement six weeks if approved. State full particulars as to business, previous engagements, and references, Mr. HENRY HAGUE, Corporation Entertainments Manager, Town Hall, Scarborough.

WANTED, smart, pretty Soubrette, Musical Sketch London; rehearse Wednesday. No photos. For interview, apply Box 6,781, "The Era."

WANTED, a Smart All-round Comedian, to Open Aug. 3, for 8 weeks. Rehearse Friday. Lowest Terms, Photo, Répertoire, &c., to GRAPHO and JACKSON'S Enterprises, 349, Wellingboro'-road, Northampton.

WANTED, a good Conjurer and Illusionist, possessing own Illusions,
for a year's (or more) engagement.
Apply,
Box 6,687, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man, for Legmania Work. State age, height, and weight, photo. (if any). Address, DELEVINE, 15, Albert-square, Clapham-road, S.W. Letter only.

WANTED, a Picture Show, to run hour and half; must find own gas and sheet, and have all the latest subjects for two weeks; Scotland, Aug. 3 and 10. Address, with lowest terms, FASOLA, Hippodrome, Hamilton, Scotland.

WANTED, Good Singing Pictures, First-class Show; also Good Drawing Turns; Good Business Certain. MANAGER, Albert Hall, Jarrow.

WANTED, an Operator, with Up-to-date Films and all Appliances for Short Tour,
Comedian to Sing and Dance,
Child Artists to Sing and Dance, First-class Ventriloquist, Refined Comedienne, and sober Baggage-man, willing to make himself generally useful. All must be used to Concert Party work. Send photos. (which will be returned) and lowest terms, last two references (which will be applied for). Letters only; no callers entertained. FREDERIC ALEXANDER, 22, Hazelbourne-road, Balham Hill, S.W.

WANTED, Good Operator, with Own Bioscope, Films and Gas Found, for
Al Fresco, South Coast.
M. W. SHANLY,
33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.

WANTED, First-class Operator, with First-class Machine and Lantern, for gas cylinders; must have good working knowledge of limelight. Apply, with lowest terms and references, to STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, with own machine (lime), to take charge of stage and Superintend Billing, Gainsboro'. ALFRED SELWYN, New Laithes, Horsforth.

WANTED, for Pictures and Variety (portable), Operator (lime), Pianiste. Useful Girls and Boys (sing, dance), Long Tour, Live in, no Fancy Salaries, Lowest Terms, can join immediately. Box 6,765, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Albert Theatre, Brighouse, Vacancies now filled. Thanks to applicants. Impossible to answer all. BEANLAND and EMERSON.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist, July 27 and Aug. 3. Wire, Prince's Hall, Southend; or 32, North Side, Clapham Common.

WANTED, Monday next, also Aug. 10 and 17, by Zelda, the Novel Instrumental Lady, Big Act; also Wal Owen, Silent Comedy Act. Wire, The Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Sheila McNeil, Scotch Comedy Artist, Vacant July 27.
Wire, 106, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, by Miss Alice Oakley, Comedienne, Monday next, July 27; also Aug. 3, 10, 17. Wire, 157, Brook-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Managers and Agents, The Sisters Valli will in future be known as Ellean and Aimée. This, Chatham; next, Tonypandy.

WANTED, by T. Owen Hunter, Refined Humorist, last two seasons Reuben More, Esq., and Will Catlin, Esq., Liberty Monday next. Wire, Hunter, Pierrots, Troon, N.B.

WANTED, by Perce Upton, Patter Comedian, also Lawrence Milton, Actor-Vocalist, Aug. 3, 10. Offers to Palace, Forest Gate, E.

WANTED, July 27 and Aug. 3, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina).
1, St. James's-terrace, Newcastle.

WANTED, July 27, Aug. 3, by Syd Herman, Hebrew Comedian, Sure Success. Wire, Oxford, Middlesbrough; after Saturday, 34, Warburton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, the Undefeated Bantam-weight Champion Wrestler, after an Enormously Successful Provincial Tour, will appear week of July 27 at
The Empire, Islington, London,
8.0 and 10.45 nightly.
Notice.
Managers who desire to secure the above Successful Box-Office Magnet are invited to see the above Act.
All communications to my Manager,
C. CLIQUOT, 37, Rupert-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Monday next, by Morimura, the celebrated Japanese Illusionist, Concludes to-night, Palace, Maidstone; after, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Aug. 3, by Frank Sley and his Nipper, Refined Comedians, Speciality Dancers. This, Hippo., Hulme; next, Q. P. T., Manchester; or DAY'S.

WANTED, Aug. 10, Tom Franks (Vent.) The Callows (Comedy Duo and Dancers). Two reliable turns. Piers, Pavilions, Halls. 101, Sultan-street, Accrington.

WANTED, Monday next. Wire, 41, St. Mary's-square, Kennington-road, S.E. The Great Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Comedy Juggler, Conjurer, and Dog; also May Geraldine, Comedienne, Dancer. Aug. 3, Crystal Palace, London. Vacant Aug. 10, 17, 24, Sept. 7, onward.

WANTED, Known, the Knotellas (Harry and Rose), Flexible Acrobats and Dancers, &c., Two Distinct Turns if Required, Liberty A. B. H., onward. This, Mablethorpe Fêtes. Coms., 208, Wandsworth Bridge-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, Rousby and René (Harry and Nell), in Orginal Comedy Duologue, Vacant Aug. 3 and 10. Address, Hippo., Preston.

WANTED, Known, Bob Best, Comedian, and Lila Lingard, The Male Impersonator, Lib. July 27 and Aug. 3. Wire, Soyland Cottage Ripponden, near Halifax.

WANTED, by H. Keeble, Ventriloquist, and Gladys Wills, Comedienne, Aug. 10, 17, North. This, E., Rochdale; Mon., Win. Gds., New Brighton.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Comedy Dutch Duo, Aug. 3, through Hall closing. This, O. P., Workington; next, P., North Shields. Thank J. Tully for Contracts.

WANTED, by Hemsley and Ambrose, for "The Coster's Motor Honeymoon," Aug. 3, 10, 31, also Sept. 14. 38, Berwick-street, All Saints', Manchester.

WANTED, Aug. 3, 10, by the Two Le Bruns, Extraordinary Juggling and Vocal Speciality. Wire, 21, Shirley-st., Hove; or write, Grand Theatre, Doncaster.

WANTED, Monday next, The Monckton, in Screamingly Funny Farcical Episodes, "A Woman's Curiosity," "Are Wives Dummies?" and "Two-in-a-Flat." Triple bill if desired. Two nights each. Wire, Palace, North Shields (return).

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Musical Clowns, Aug. 10 and 17.
Address, 4, Specnham-road, Stockwell, S.W.

WANTED, the Cosman Couple, Great Comedy Act, Monday next; also Aug. 3.
Wire, Tivoli, Pentre, S. Wales.

WANTED, Aug. 17 and 24, by the Two Walonells and Dog.
Address, 5, Lyndhurst-grove, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Kilby and Kempton, Patter Comedians; also Comical Knockabout Donkeys, at Liberty for Galas, Aug. 3, on. 31, Roderick-road, Sparkhill, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Novel Comedy Act, Aug. 3, 10, 17, and 24.
July 27, Gaiety, Chatham. Wire or write.

WANTED, Monday, also Aug. 3, 10, by Chant and Chant, Bright Vocal Comedy Act. Wire for a Laughing Hit. Alhambra, Morecambe.

WANTED, Aug. 3 and 24, Lola and Jake, Smart Comedy Three-Bar Act.
Address, JAKE, Queen's Theatre, Dublin.

WANTED, The Musical Palmers thank Dr. Bodie for pleasant week, Palace, Aberdeen. A Few Vacant Dates, Sept. and Nov. Add., Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Screamingly Funny Act, Aug. 10, 17, 24.
Monday next, P. H., St. Anne's; or STEBBINGS.

WANTED, Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globella, Juggling Speciality; Vacant Galas, &c. Address, 29, Spring-gardens, Doncaster.

WANTED, Aug. 3, 10, 24, by the Peps, Star Comedy Act, Own Scenery, Galas, Sports, or Theatres. Agent, TOM SHAW.

WANTED, Known, Lack and Ford Trio, Comedy Acrobats; Miss Male, Wire Act, Vacant Aug. 3 and 10; these are two big acts just completed six months' Sequin Tour, South America. Managers requiring two First-class Numbers cannot do better than to book these Acts. Success on every bill. 27th, Palace, Dover.

WANTED, Aug. 10, on, by Herman and Evelyn, Up-to-date Wire Act; also Cosselly, Acrobatic Table Act. Franklin's Gardens, Northampton.

WANTED, Aug. 10, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number. Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, 27th and 3rd, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe.
Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, July 27, Aug. 10, by Gulliver, Tiptop Ventriloquist. Wire, to-day, Pavilion, Hoylake, Cheshire; after Sunday, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Capt. Alex. Fox, Ventriloquist, Unexpectedly Vacant Monday next and Aug. 3. Wire, c/o ANDERTON, Rowland, Honiton, Devon.

WANTED, New Year's Week, Dec. 28, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart acts Monday, Hippodrome, Gorleston.

WANTED, Monday next, by Royal Pierrot Entertainers (seven in number, four ladies, three gentlemen), appearing second week, with great success, at Pavilion Cricket Grounds, Coventry. Wire, ELLIS, Royal Pierrots, Coventry, Clever Specialities.

WANTED, Known, Swift Duo, Novel Cycling Speciality. Vacant Monday next, also Aug. 3. Wire, Opera House, Workington.

WANTED, Sept., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the biggest Novelty ever introduced with Troupe of Dogs. Aquarium, Scarborough.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Aug. 3, 1908, the Famous Kellinos, One Week Only. Share or Certainty, with or without own Company.

Playing this week to Enormous Business, with own Company, at Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

Wire, until Saturday night, above; after, Vaudeville Club, Charing Cross-road.

Mr. GILBERT PAYNE and CO. of COMEDIANS in "THE HONEYMOON." "THE HONEYMOON." the Funniest Musical Sketch on Record.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 26. Plays 30 minutes. Six Principals, twelve Chorus and Dancers. Full set carried. Special plant of printing. A Top Liner that can Draw. Address, GILBERT PAYNE, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

WANTED, Monday, also Aug. 3, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Boxing Act before the Public. Competitions nightly. Wire, Empress, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Healthy, Good-tempered, Young Woman, Single, as Assistant to Good Conjurer, used to the same business, at Liberty at once. K. W., 66, Mallinson-road, Clapham Junction, London, S.W.

WANTED, by Bert Warner, Legmania Artist and Posturer, Engagement with Pantomime Troupe or Sketch. Coms., 113, Herbert-road, Manor Park, E.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, D'Arc's Marionettes, D'Arc's Marionettes, D'Arc's Marionettes, D'Arc's Marionettes, D'Arc's Marionettes, not the ordinary, the extraordinary.

The Marionette Music Hall Originators.

The feature of every Programme.

Open for Aug. 10.

This week, Palace, Reading; Next week, Waxworks, Cardiff.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private, Carl Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also Punch and Judy, with Toby. 264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park.

WANTED, Known, Travers's Bioscopes, at Liberty. Moderate terms. Films for Hire; write for list. TRAVERS, 154, High-street, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements for First-class Bioscopes, 20 minutes to 2½ hours, Exclusive Programmes. Vacant Aug. 3, on. Competent Operators only, Electric or Lime. ALBANY WARD, Islip, Oxford.

WANTED, Engagement, First-class Bioscope, by Harmonium Player (own portable). Vocalist, Lecturer, Steady, Reliable, Competent. BAYLIS, 9, Bishopgate-street, Norwich.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known. Wanted, Known. Important. That the Next Meeting of the BRITISH ROUNDABOUT PROPRIETORS AND SHOWMEN'S UNION will be Held at the Castle Hotel, Dewsbury, on Tuesday, July 28, at 2.30 p.m. When a good Muster of Members is requested for the Transaction of Important Business. (Signed) T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, "One of the Biggest Hits yet" best describes the enormous success of our latest marvel, The Slot Diabolo, The Slot Diabolo, The Slot Diabolo, The Slot Diabolo, The Slot Diabolo, an Automatic Amusement Machine, in which the public love to place their money, for the fascinating play it gives them. It gives no trouble, but it gets the dollars. Get one now. Procrastination is the thief of time—and money. Every day you delay means money lost. Write for terms and particulars of 100 other "money magnets."—Vide testimonial.

THE MINERVA AUTOMATIC AND MILLS NOVELTY CO., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C. Owners and patentees of the famous Electric and Automatic Violin. Telegrams, "Minervauto, London." 'Phone Holborn 5705.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars, C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to send for my new list, with over 2,000 illustrations of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Field Glasses, Bazaar and Fancy Goods; every line right for price. SIMONS, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, London.

TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROTHERS, AND CO. Sole Makers of the only Patent Cake Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17,402, July 30, 1907. Improvements protected, No. 25,150, Nov. 13, 1907 Improvements protected, No. 2,649, Feb. 6, 1908. REGISTERED TRADE MARK, "CAKE WALK."

WANTED, Known, users as well as makers who infringe will be proceeded against. In the Chancery Court, July 3, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady granted an injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402, 1907. This machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for simplicity, lightness, and durability. Appreciated by the Public everywhere. Write, or call on the Sole Makers, Farncombe-street, and 94 and 98, Bermondsey-wall, Bermondsey, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Stacey's Showman's Stores, New Address, 510, Kingsland-rd., London, N.E. Everything for the fair. Established 50 years. Lists free.

WANTED, for August Bank Holiday, Steam Roundabouts, Swings, Side Shows (Free Pitch), for Large Fête and Gymkhana, grounds on main road, easy pull in. Apply at once to ALBERT PARROTT, Hon. Sec. Sutton Military Band, High-street, Sutton.

SPANISH CITY, WHITLEY BAY. WANTED, Special Attractions and Side-shows for August Bank Holiday Week. The Only Amusement Park in the North. Reasonable rent, or sharing terms. Apply, CHAS. ELDERTON, General-Manager.

WANTED, Known, Good Freaks, Novelties, &c., can have 8, 10, or 12 weeks' Engagement at my American Museum. Send Fullest Particulars, Terms, Photos, and Samples of Lithos. A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Freaks and Novelties at once. HUMBER'S Waxworks, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, good Doorsman, for Peep-show and Windy Corner; wages £1 per week and 1s. in £ commission; smart man can earn good money here; one that does not drink preferred. Apply to BARRON BROTHERS, Sea View Exhibition, Great Yarmouth.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Doorsman, Wanted, Doorsman, with good appearance, at once. Apply, stating salary required, EHRLICH, Exhibition, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Dumb Show Turns for Outside Covered Stage, for week commencing Monday, July 27. Wire, GREEN, Carnival, Glasgow.

Doorsman.

WANTED, Smart, Sober Man, as Doorsman and Biling Hand, able to use sticks, and to be generally useful; long, comfortable engagement to right man. Post full particulars, terms, and copies of last three references, SOUTHWELL, Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, First-class Operator, to Join Dick's Electric Show Immediately. Windygates, Fife.

WANTED, Young Lady, with long fair hair, 10s. weekly. Permanent show. Write, MAGIC WELL, 94, Camden-road, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Carl Harmon's Royal Marionettes and Punch and Judy. Change of address, 264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park, S.W.

WANTED, immediate Engagement, by Lady Character Reader; good notices; S. Ireland preferred; half shares or otherwise. Write, PALMIST, 53, Harbour-row, Queenstown, Ireland.

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors, a First-class Tattooed Man by Japanese Professional, in five different colours, would like to get on Exhibition; single. Photo sent. Write full particulars, F. W. PINFOLD, 5, King Edward's-road, Coventry.

WANTED, Offers, Arthur Clark, Funny Comedian, Sketches; plenty of Gags, Pianist, Auction Tents, Picture Shows, Pierrots. Address, Bank Chambers, Worksop.

WANTED, Known, Lecturer, at Lib., can Describe a picture as it should be, Fluent and Grammatical, Experienced all Lines.—Box 6,759, "The Era."

WANTED, by Auctioneer, Situation; thoroughly reliable worker of any class stock and pitch; will join for trial anywhere at own expense. Box 6,743, "The Era."

PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL. South End of Promenade. Telegrams, "Popular, Blackpool." Telephone 158 Blackpool. The Premier Outdoor Amusement Resort in England. The Permanent Attractions now include the Scenic Railway from Coney Island (one mile long), The Highest and Longest Water Chute in England, The Picturesque River Caves of the World, The Ever-Popular Helter-Skelter Lighthouse, A Reproduction of a Street of Sunny Spain, and many others. WANTED, Applications for Concessions for anything new and up-to-date. Address, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen and Roundabout Proprietors, that I have Ground to Let at the following places: Folkestone and Deal, Sept. Fairs, and Canterbury Great Michaelmas Pleasure Fair to follow, a First-class Cinématograph Show, Ground Free. Applications to W. WAGHORNE, Agent to J. F. Macklin, Switchback Proprietor, Nelson House, Godington-road, Ashford, Kent.

WANTED, Known, all Parties requiring Ground for the Regattas, for all Kinds of Amusements, Bank Holiday, Aug. 3, The Warren, Dawlish; Aug. 5, Exmouth Regatta; Aug. 7 and 8, Babbicombe Regatta; Aug. 12, Dawlish Regatta; Aug. 15, Exeter Regatta; Aug. 18 and 19, Paignton Regatta; Aug. 19, 20, and during the week, Plymouth Regatta; Aug. 21 and 22, Brixham Regatta; Aug. 24, 25, and 26, Torquay Regatta; Sept. 1 and 2, Totnes Races; Sept. 8 and 9, Fête at Cockington, Torquay. Do not forget this year, three days' Regatta at Torquay. All Communications to be sent until over Bank Holiday, W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Amusement Caterers, West Hoe, Plymouth.

WANTED, Refined Side Shows requiring small Spaces for new all-day Show-hall, very shortly opening in the Strand, London (near Charing Cross), Mysteries, Palmist, Electric Shows, &c., anything really good, opening Sunday Evenings and all day weeks; grandest position in London; renting terms only. Write, DIRECTOR, 135, Queen's-road, Watford, Herts, describing Show and Space required.

THE JAPANESE CITY AND FANCY FAIR, VICTORIA HALL, CAMPBELTOWN, ARGYLESHIRE, Aug. 6 to 25. 125 towns have been visited by this, the Only Entertainment of its Kind Touring the Country. WANTED, to Let, Spaces, at 20s. weekly, including Scenic Hall, Counters and Gas-fittings. One or two Quick-showing In-and-out Side-shows can be taken on rental or shares. Admission free by programme. Address, MANAGER, Japanese City, Public Hall, Rothesay, N.B.

WANTED, to Let, Space, suit Palmist (Female). 92, Uxbridge-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Known, Ground to Let, Walsall Wake, Aug. 1, 3, and 4 (on the Midland-road Field), for good Walk-up Show. Apply, MANAGER, 6, Silver-street, Walsall.

WANTED, Known, Ground to Let at Teignmouth and Dartmouth Regattas, for all Kinds of Amusements. Apply, Messrs. ANDERTON, Fair Field, Seaton, Devon; or MARSHALL HILL, en route.

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Jack Lorimer, Ray Maskell, Stella Stahl, Barton and Franklyn, Joan Deering, Henry A. Moore, Pictures, Carlotta Levey.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Tom Foy and Co., Harry Simms, Lily Black, Huxter Bros., Ernie Mayne, Orpheus, Harry Drew, Pictures, Marie Santoi and Co.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
Auguste Van Biene and Co., Violet Rose, Archie Pitt, Bioscope, Edie Gray, Sisters Caselli, Chris. Richards, Emlyn Jones Quartette, Dora Lyric, Gladys and Alber, Devon and Earle, Duncan's Collies.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Jack Pleasants, Marie Kendall, Irene Rose, Gwennie Hasto, Cole de Losse Duo, Albert Whelan, Steve McCarthy, Bioscope, Sanford and Lyons.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
The Five Mowatts, Ouida Macdermott, Chas. Norton, Four Figaros, Clown Argo, Bioscope, J. W. Rowley, Laurie and Beattie.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

N.B.—Silence in every case a polite negative. Artists are requested not to enclose a stamped envelope. Letters marked "Private" will be delayed.

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Written, composed, and sung by Harry Lauder.

"LET ME BUT HOPE."
(Percy Edgar and H. E. Pether),
Sung by Miss Ethel Hayden.

"IN THE TWI-TWI-TWILIGHT" (Wilmott and Darewski), "YOU'RE PROUD TO BE A SOLDIER" (Nairn and Mathews), "DEAR MR. ADMIRAL" (F. W. Leigh), and "HANG OUT THE FRONT-DOOR KEY" (B. H. Burt).
Sung with enormous success by George Lashwood

"THE SIMPLE LITTLE MILLINER."
(Written and composed by Leslie Stiles).
Sung by Miss Millie Lindon.

"A LITTLE BIT OF PARSLEY"
(A. Ellerton and A. Ellerton, jun.),
Sung by Miss Queenie Leighton.

Dedicated by permission to M. Paul Cambon.
"THE FRANCO-BRITISH MARCH,"
composed by Little Max Darewski.

"I KNEW I'D GOT SOMETHING TO DO"
(Fred. Hastings).
Sung by Bernard Russell.

BANG WENT THE CHANCE OF A LIFETIME"
(Sax Rohmer),
Sung by George Robey.

"MANDY'S WEDDING"
(Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford),
Sung by Paul Mill's Company, The Courtiers, also by Keith Prowse's Entertainers.

"I NEVER REPLY"
(Pelham and Rule),
Sung by Miss Gladys Mavius.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski).
Sung by Miss Carlotta Levey and Miss Florrie Forde.

"SUE, SUE SUE, I'M VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH YOU"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski), and
"I WANT TO GO TO IDAHO"
(Lawrance, Mellor, and Gifford),
Sung by G. H. Elliott.

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Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:

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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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AS LONG AS THE WORLD ROLLS ON.
WHEN SWEET MARIE WAS SWEET SIXTEEN.
MY DEAR.
DOWN IN THE VALLEY FAIR.
SWEETHEART! SWEETHEART!
I LOVED YOU THEN, I LOVE YOU STILL.
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All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent in to the London Offices fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.
All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.
All Artists carrying scenery must have same fireproofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.
Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."
In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.
Telephone 5954 Avenue.
Telegraphic address, "Stageyness, London."

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, JULY 27, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Peter Gotz, the Walcots, Fyne and Hurley, Sisters Edwardes, Gracie Hunt, Chas. Penrose, Flo. Burnett, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, &c.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Six Bros. Luck, W. G. Wesley, Ethel Sheffer, Les Belles Americaine, Irene and Morton, Dunn and Reano, Bains and Reed, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Leslie Bros., the Forsythe, San Remo Girls, Norah Noble, Little Dando, Maston, Lambert and Hands, Dave Samuels, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Reano's Famous Band, Florence Esdaile, Larola, Takio, Rose Cabani, Sisters Belmore, Foreman and Fannan, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, Dancing Gilberts, Sisters Varley, Florias, Harry Luck, "Sons of Toil," Alma Moller, Sydney Mason and Co.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
(Closed for Decorations.)

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
(Closed for Decorations.)

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"An Unwedded Wife."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Carlton, Harry Milton, Sisters Bronson, Mayme Cannon, Della Sisters, Taree, Mysterious Cross, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock.
Juggling Geraldos, Alfonzo, Bartholomew Girls, Edie Coolville, Lawrence Barclay, Rose Tilley, Mabel La Blanche, Wilson Hallett, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Ferguson and Mack, Lew Towers, W. B. Whittle, Madge Field, Ryder Slone, Norah Stockelle, Hampton and Bauman, the Vyponds, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Gotham Quartette, Victor Travers, Natalia and Diana, Hartley Dyson, Prof. Norton, Mathews and Brown, John Donald, The Violas, Pasquali Bros., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Conway and Leland, Albert St. Clair, Harris and Worth, Gold and Sterling, Amy Bellwood, Tom Dunmore, Edie Reynolds, the Simms, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Raymond, Alice Maydue, Lecardo Bros., Sisters Hampel, Guest and Newlyn, Marie Neilson, Chas. Tuppen, Frederick Victor, Josie Delaine, Carlotta De Yonsen.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Kenway and Emery, Raymond, Hewson's Æolians, Daisy Hurdle, Cedar and Edgar, Gertie Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Vi Romaine, Harry Merrylees, "After Balaclava," Josephine Crook, Fred Burton, "It It You?"

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
"Is It You?" Raymond, Brooks and Lawlor, Maggie Walsh, Norah Desmond, Nellie Lunelle, Kitty Clinton, Hyde and Cody Trio, Harry Bland, Red Triangle, Bros. Weltman.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Joe Dale, Tiny Arnold, Cullen, Carthy, and Cluley, Raymond, the Lannons, Minnie Kirby, Cherry Lass, Eight Lancashire Lads, Lisbon and Barker, "House of Tinn," Scottie's Waifs, Whizzing the Whirl.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Sisters Rivers, Harry Bancroft, Emmie Ames, Sheldon Mills, Raymond, Fred Southern and Co., "Is It You?" Woodhouse and Wells, Ruby Emmerson, Cissy Esdaile, the Menzies.

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Rehearsal 12.0 noon.
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Re-open for the Season, Monday next, July 27.
REHEARSAL at two o'clock for Mr. Willcox and Band, the Four Rosares, Sandy and Carl, Cambo, Little Hatch, the Bros. Testo, Ben Jackson, Smith and Johnson. Artists of every description required for Aug. 10 and future dates.

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direct from the Executive of the above Exhibition, and not through any other party or parties.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Daily Express:—
An interesting illustration of the proverb, "Brevity is the soul of wit," is given in some correspondence between Mr. Robert Arthur, the theatrical manager, and Mr. Lennox Pawle, published by the latter in "The Era" Annual for 1908.

Children On the Stage.

THE ACT

AFFECTING THE

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN ON THE STAGE

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MARATHON RACE FROM START TO FINISH.

A PLEASANT SURPRISE.

Code Word, "ECUYER."

Isabelle, accompanied by her "duegne" Rosane, is taking a walk in the mountains, when she meets a young and gallant cavalier, with whom she falls in love at first sight; and as he loses his heart to her at once, the following days see them going to, and meeting at, the same place; but as the young lady's parents for reasons very important decide to marry her to her cousin, a powerful duke whom she does not know, she cries her heart out, and entreats in vain. She must submit to the ordeal of being wooed by a man she is sure she will never love; but, lo, on looking at each other, the young people recognise one another, and thank their parents' will which sanctions by a marriage their idyll in the mountains.

626ft. The Subject, £10 8s. 8d. Toning, £1 0s. 0d.

MR. FUZZ.

Code Word, "EMPYREE."

Once upon a time there was a queen who had a son so ugly and misshapen that had not a fairy told her that Prince Fuzz would be amiable and intelligent, and, moreover, would be able to impart intelligence to the person he loved best, the poor mother would have been very much downhearted. Several years later, another queen from a neighbouring throne gave birth to a beautiful little girl, but the same fairy declared that she would be silly, but that she would be able to impart beauty to the one she should love the best. And so it was that Prince Fuzz meeting the princess in the wood one day when she had gone there to cry over her silliness the prediction of the good fairy came true. They were married at the Royal Palace, and must be happy to this day.

956ft. The Subject, £15 8s. 8d. Toning and Colouring, £8 16s. 0d.

WOOD-FLOATING IN MORVAN.

Code Word, "EPERVIER."

Titles of the pictures:—In the Forest, Down the Stream, Passing the Lock, A Stream of Logs, Gathering the Logs at Clamecy, Arriving in Paris; At the Bakehouse.

460ft. The Subject, £7 13s. 4d. Toning, £1 0s. 0d.

BOBBY ON THE SPREE.

Code Word, "ENORME."

Bobby Junior, the son of a well known M.P., goes for an evening outing with his father's evening dress and top hat on. Meeting two ladies he knows, they go together to a fashionable restaurant; but presently Bobby is completely tipsy, and he breaks glasses, bottles, and pieces of furniture. The waiters show him the door, but Bobby takes from his pocket his father's card, and hands it over to them. In the street he calls two hooligans his "dear friends," and the scoundrels, seizing the golden opportunity offered to them, insist on seeing him home, where they ransack the house. The next day a shower of bills and complaints pour in addressed to Bobby's father.

545ft. The Subject, £9 1s. 8d. Toning, 18s.

MY NEIGHBOURS ARE GIVING A DANCE.

Code Word "EMPLETTE."

Poor Mr. Jones is suffering with a splitting headache, and his neighbours, instead of treading noiselessly in their flat just above him, are having a musical evening. John knocks with his cane against the ceiling in order to ask them to stop their disturbance; but they, instead of complying with the young man's wish, begin to dance a barn dance, which makes the floor creak and give way, landing in John's room all his noisy neighbours.

230ft. The Subject, £3 16s. 8d.

THE INVENTION OF PROFESSOR CURIOS.

Code Word, "ENFILADE."

It is not likely that Prof. Curios will ever rank among the benefactors of mankind. With his new electro motor magnet the malevolent scientist makes everybody turn and whirl about, thus causing them to be knocked down and trampled on. Mr. Curios is sure to fall a victim to his invention as soon as this machine of his gets out of order, and nobody will pity him.

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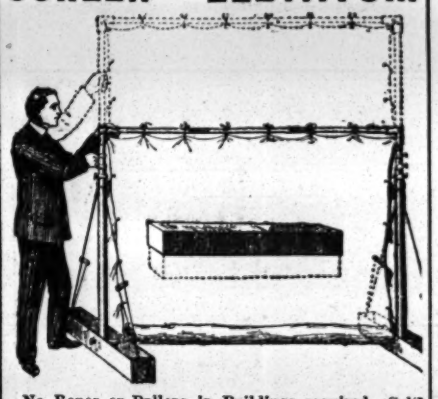

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The comedy-drama *At Cripple Creek*, which is presented by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, draws large audiences this week. Mr. Wernham Ryott makes an heroic Joe Mayfield, and Miss Agnes Verity is admirable as Dynamite Ann; Mr. Charles E. Johnson plays powerfully as the Cripple Creek terror, and Mr. Will Hook is a lively Reggie Harwood. The female characters are exceptionally well represented by Misses Dorothy Lart, Daisy Carlton, Norah Dillon, and Rosie Hopkins. Mr. Harry Leander as a nigger, Mr. Wills, and Mr. Harley-West are also most successful in their parts. The piece is finely staged.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Dr. Walford Bodie's audiences are as big and as appreciative as last week. He is supported by a strong company, including Li-Chang-Hi, the Chinese magician; the Gordon Troupe of international dancers; Mr. George Hyatt, juggler; the Brothers Baxter, Lambeth and Robertson, Little Dolly Dobson, and others.

BEACH PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—The present season finishes on Saturday. Owing to the bad weather early in summer the audiences were somewhat smaller than at the same time last year, but latterly the house was crowded at all performances. The artists this week are Miss Violet Davidson, soprano; Miss Daisy Taylor, comedienne; Mr. Scott Skinner, the famous violinist; Messrs. Chorley and Connor, comedians; Mr. Jack Marson, vocalist and entertainer; Mr. Dan Williams, comedian; and Vulcaris, "the Scottish Gross-smith." It is unnecessary to add that under the direction of Mr. David Thomson, himself a Scotch comedian of the front rank, the entertainments have been exceedingly enjoyable all along.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—Miss Vesta Rae, a comedienne of unusual ability and charm, remains for another week; Mr. Joe Lennox is a dexterous juggler who well knows the value of humorous patter; Little Etta shows singular dexterity as a trick dancer; and Mr. Will Sheridan is popular as a banjoist. Mr. Dove Paterson's films are all deeply interesting. The house is crowded at both evening performances.

ABERTILLERY. — THEATRE METROPOLE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborne. —Mr. Carr Loates presents this week the musical drama entitled *At the World's Mercy*, which is staged in excellent style. Miss Cissie Milford excels as Skittles, the stowaway, while she portrays Kitty Knott, a music-hall star, in a very realistic and natural manner; Alice Lloyd, the heiress, is excellently sustained by Miss Molly Bee; and the Charley Smart of Mr. Jess Boxer is very amusing. Miss Pauline Courtney as Dot is quite at home in her part; Mr. Terry Davies makes an ideal Captain Frank Manley; Mr. Carr Loates as Jabez Barber, a solicitor, is all that could be desired; Morris Goldstein, a Jew, is capitally acted by Mr. C. D. Knight; and the Slouching Sam of Mr. Leo Rodway is a natural study. The play is well staged, the scenery being quite new.

ACCRINGTON.—TOWN HALL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The World in Motion animated pictures continue a successful career here, and are proving a capital attraction. The principal films submitted this week are Three Maids and a Bull, The Wreckers, and The Arabian Dagger. Miss Mollie Woolstenhulme, operatic vocalist, gains warm recognition; Baby Boden is an exceedingly clever juvenile vocalist, her dancing winning well-merited applause; and Almon deserves praise for his neat acrobatic performance.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—The sketch by G. B. Trevor and company, *Her Country's Enemy*, is an episode of the Crimean War, and Mr. J. P. Carroll, an old soldier of India, displays marvellous dexterity with the tambourine. Nada Moret tells in song and story of the Piper Findlater episode at Dargai; Rose and Challoner are a pair of smart duologuists, and in *The Porter and the Singer* sing well and evoke much laughter; La Tostia is a clever mandolinist; Mr. Fred Lindsay, the Australian bushman, with a lash 25ft. long attached to an 18in. stock, performs some surprising feats. The Bioscope pictures include one of Jack Johnson, the coloured boxer, in training, and another showing how bucking broncos are broken in.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—This week's attraction is *A Girl Redeemed from Sin*. The leading rôles are well sustained by Miss Olive Fulton as Nancy Lee, the mill girl, by Miss Ada Oxley as Peggy Grey, Nancy's friend, and by Mr. Jo Monkhouse as Will May, a ship's officer. Other important parts have excellent interpretation by Messrs. Philip Ore, Victor Knight, Gifforde Reynolds, and Misses Fannie Olive.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Good business is being done here. Helm and Cozens appear in their skit *The Doctor and the Patient*, which may be truly described as a screaming absurdity; Percy Curry, the original "candy man," is also here in new songs and old favourite ditties; Lena Page sings in charming style some serio-comic refrains; and Ada Jenner is very pleasing in her sketch, *The Lady Barber*. Ida Barr sings some sentimental songs in good style; Pat O'Connor gives specimens of his humour in song and of his expertness in dance; a novel juggling act is given by Jenny Maningo, "the daughter of the regiment"; Dennis McCarthy is a good character comedian and actor-vocalist; F. V. St. Clair is a very clever extempore artist and famous singing comedian; Edna Francis is a talented vocalist and dancer; and the Bioscope is interesting in its illustrative experiments, The Elixir of Life.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—The return visit of Mr. Charles March's No. 1 company with *The Gamester of Metz* constitutes the attraction here this week. The part of Paul Baldot is undertaken by Mr. Charles March, the author, who acts throughout in manly and convincing fashion; Mr. Arthur Merryless is a dignified and soldierly General de Montparasse; and Lieutenant Heave and Louis Badaire have capable representatives in Mr. Fitzroy Cooper and Mr. Pringle Roberts. Mr. Fred Kew appears as the villainous Captain Badaire, and plays the rôle of this heartless scoundrel with considerable ability. Mr. William Dochary as Ferdinand Du Basson, a heavy tragedian, and Mr. John Westlow as Goliath Grou, a French master baker, supply much merriment. Miss Stella Argent as Countess Baldot is satisfactory; light comedy is supplied by Miss Lizzie Prescott (Gwendoline); and Miss Una Lane acts with grace and feeling as Paul's sister, Lucia.

BARNSLEY.—NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—Ivan Tschernoff's highly-trained horses and dogs go through their performance in a wonderfully clever and sagacious manner; Ernesto wins applause in a smart juggling act; Nancy Renshaw, negro comedienne and bone soloist, obtains a cordial greeting; Towyn Thomas's Royal Welsh Entertainers sing well; Sydney Lee, prestidigitateur, gives a good turn; Joe S. Atkins, comedian; the Three Chanters, in a vocal comedy act; and Zetta Russell, comedienne, are all heard to advantage. Some good pictures are shown by the Palacescope.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE —Mr. C. H. E. Brookfield's comedy, *Dear Old Charlie*, and the scena, *Salome*, are winning deserved praise this week. Mr. Williams should feel encouraged to find that his strong company is thoroughly appreciated. The title-rôle in *Dear Old Charlie* Mr. George Lestock portrays to perfection, he, together with Miss Marjorie Chard, receiving much applause. The friends, Gabriel Peploe and Thomas Dumpie, by Mr. Douglas Cox and Mr. S. Trelawnay, are never tedious. With Miss Leonora Braham as the mother-in-law, and the able support of the rest of the company, the full humour of the comedy is interpreted. Great applause is given to Miss Mabilia Daniell at the close of her weird performance. Miss Daniell is supported by Mr. Robt. Hilton, Mr. Phillip Desborough, and Mr. Hugh Travers, in the rôles of Herod, the astrologer, and the executioner respectively, each of whom leaves nothing to be desired.

THE TIVOLI.—From a sensational point of view perhaps the comedy cyclists, the Villons, have made the biggest impression. Their marvellous performance leaves one with the idea that nothing is impossible awheel. Matthews and Cowper are extremely funny in their sketch, *When the Clock Went Wrong*, the ambiguities of Barney keeping the house roaring. That the week's bill is a good one is evidenced by the continued full houses.

NEW HIPPODROME.—This popular exhibition of animated pictures is more than maintaining its standard of excellence, as is witnessed by the full houses nightly. Mr. Routledge is to be congratulated upon having so finely gauged the taste of his patrons. Ethel Foote and Alf. Corrie are most deserving of the applause they receive in their comedy interludes.

BARRY DOCK. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—*His Sister's Honour* is presented here this week by Mr. Evelyn A'Dell's company. Frank Stanley is well portrayed by Mr. Walter H. Wilson; and the acting of Miss A. E. A'Dell as Ivy Merion highly appreciated. Mr. Walter Steele scores as Sir Richard Redvers; Mr. Fred Garrett submits a good study of Dr. Godfrey; and in the hands of Mr. Willie Barrett Timothy Timid leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Lilian Rose as Dora Stanley is well received; Miss Maudie Vincent as Marie is very amusing; and other parts are adequately sustained by Messrs. Alf. Harry, John Leyland, E. Larkins, and Fred Stone. The piece is effectively staged, and the musical numbers prove very acceptable.

BATH.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Carlton is starring here this week, when, in addition to his usual sleight-of-hand tricks and amusing banter, he introduces a most bewildering illusion entitled "The Mysterious Cross," which completely baffles the audience as to how it is done. One of the best and most novel musical acts seen locally for a long time is that of Taree, whose playing upon the mouth-organ and auto-harp is both melodious and clever. His reception is cordial in the extreme. A captivating and refined comedienne is Mayme Cannon, who has several capital songs in her répertoire; Harry Milton, besides being a capable Dutch comedian, proves himself a first-rate step dancer; the Della Sisters, the ladies in black, and the Sisters Bronson, duettists and dancers, each contribute acceptable turns. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux remain a fixed attraction.

BELFAST.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The chief feature of this week's bill is supplied by Mr. Jake Friedman and company, who produce with every element of success their Dutch operetta, *Happy Holland*. Mr. Friedman himself is the life of the piece, his performance being highly diverting, and he is ably assisted by a company of nearly thirty artists. The acme of excellence is exhibited by the Faludy troupe of acrobats, their feats being simply marvellous; and the usual hit is made by Mr. Barney Armstrong, whose rendering of "Why do they call me an extra turn?" is inimitable. Miss Belle Braham, an accomplished songstress, is accorded an ovation nightly; and the Austral Trio, in their musical act; Miss Rosie Bartlett, comedienne; Mr. Jock Campbell, Scotch comedian; and the pictures complete.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The star here is Mr. Julian Rose, who appears to advantage in his amusing monologue, *Levinsky at the Wedding*, which creates laughter of the heartiest nature; Mr. Leoni Clarke returns to this city, and introduces his marvellously-trained cats, rats, monkeys, canaries, &c., in a wonderful performance; Mr. Geo. D'Albert, a clever comedian, quickly makes himself a favourite with his fine rendering of several songs; Harrigan and Holt uphold their reputation as smart comedians and dancers; the cycling feats of Mr. A. D. Robins are quite amazing; and Miss Nellie Farrell delights all with her rendering of Irish songs. Also here are the Haverleys, American song illustrators; Lozelle, in his speciality act; Howard and St. Clair, a capital comedy duo; and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The leading position here is filled by Mr. Jack Lorimer, the famous Scotch comedian, whose inimitable rendering of several songs gained him a great reception on Monday. Miss Carlotta Levey, the pantomime favourite, sings several catchy chorus songs, which at once command success; the mimicry of Mr. Henry A. Moore is marvellous in its realism; Barton and Franklin introduce with much effect their musical act and dancing speciality; and Miss Bella White is a delightful comedienne and dancer. Also here are Miss Joan Deering, vocalist and violinist; Miss Stella Stahl, a neat comedienne and dancer; and the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The animated pictures exhibited under the direction of Mr. Cecil Wilson include the famous filmograph The Black Princess, Uncle's Picnic, The Innkeeper's Nightmare, Father and Son, and Walter the Postman. The variety element is sustained by Mr. Harry Wright, who is always entertaining, his songs being encored nightly; and the Ramsey Trio, funny knockabout comedians, their sketch, *Birdie's Welcome*, creating roars of laughter.

BILSTON.—AL FRESCO PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Battersby.—The Imperial Pierrots provide a capital entertainment this week, concluding with a sketch, *Matrimonial Bliss*.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Closed for the week. Winter season commences on Bank Holiday.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—A leading attraction here is Miss Victoria Monks, the charming and accomplished comedienne, who is fulfilling a first engagement here with the greatest possible success. Another excellent turn is that of Mr. George French, whose abilities as a clever and versatile comedian command general recognition; Cosgrove and Burns, very entertaining vaudeville artists, are prominent favourites, and the Ten Union Jack Boys (the Nautical Nightingales), Mr. W. B. Roly (comedian), Mr. Steve Bartle (concertina soloist and vocalist), Mr. Harry Vardon (a smart ventriloquist), and Brown's Royal Bioscope are also included in a liberal programme.

Olympian Gardens, Rock Ferry.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—A brisk performance of *The Saucy Arethusa* introduces Mr. Dick Tubb (comedian), Miss Elaine Reed (soprano), Miss Jessie Buckle (comedienne), Mr. Bertram Noel (comedian), Mr. Cecil Warwick (tenor), Miss Mabel Danby (comedienne), Mr. J. W. Hughes (bass), Mr. Norman B. Osborne (ventriloquist), and Kemsley Scott-Barrie (the Merry Widow). On Wednesday the Follies in *New Ideas* constituted a strong attraction.

BIRMINGHAM. — Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo. — *Monte Cristo*, adapted and enacted by Mr. Junius Booth, has obtained full houses here. Besides the graphic and inspiring performance of Mr. Booth in the title-rôle, there is some excellent acting all round. Mr. Kendrew Milson gives a capital impression of M. Nortier; Mr. A. Bowerman acts well as Baron Danglars; Mr. E. Coates takes his opportunities in full as the Count de Morcref; Mr. C. W. Crowe is at home as M. Villefort; Mr. Walter Long is received with much favour as Albert de Morcref; and Miss Conyers Radcliffe's portrayal of Mercedes has a charm that is all its own. Mr. Percy Braithwaite creates an agreeable diversion as Caderousse; and Miss Alice West is very efficient as La Caronte. Mr. Fred Martin makes an effective Abbe Ferrara.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—The Great Vaudeville and Universal Animated Picture Company is now on its last week, and presents—Will Euston, the popular coster and actor-vocalist; James Irwin, the clever boy singer; Busset and Chandos, in an entertaining pierrot sketch entitled *The Rivals*; and a capital selection of pictures, including The Bewitched Son-in-Law, Blue-Beard, Dauber's Inheritance, Le Las Ricochet, The Haunted House, Enchanted Glasses, Institute of Beauty, Honourable Ways, Shipowner's Daughter, Eight Months Away from France, and The Student's Jokes.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*Wedded to Crime*, presented by Mr. Ernest Chesney, proves a big attraction here. Miss Florence Lillwood scores as the wife, Lizzie Medwin, her portrayal gaining general admiration for its various graces; Mr. Edward H. Hobart gives a clever rendering of the husband's part, Harold Hartree, known as Medwin; Mr. Ernest Chesney brings out the rôle of the swell mobsman, Crayle, with great effect; Mr. Vyvian Thomas is satisfactory as Johnny Dyce Morris; and Messrs. Walter Dale and Dudley Walton play the two apprentices smartly; Mr. Arthur Roberts succeeding as the detective. Miss Kitty Russell acts in a pleasing style as Bessie Goodluck; Miss Lizzie Deane is prominent as Mar; Miss Maud Arnold is very successful in her portrayal of Kate; Mr. Leonard Aardale elicits great applause for his vigorous acting as Harry; and the Misses Marie Grace and Mabel Lamont complete the cast with their clever presentments of, respectively, Lady Gwendoline and Linda.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*A Lion's Heart* has made a very strong impression here, with Mr. Joseph Bebb's company. Mr. Henry Bedford's powerful acting as Rizardo kindles tremendous enthusiasm; Miss Ada Oakley, both as the wife and daughter, shows ability and charm; Mr. Stephen Scanlan gives the necessary "sting" to the part of the rascally Dobre; Mr. Leonard Booker does finely as Dick Lorimore; Mr. Archie Helsby is nothing lacking as de Villefort; Mr. H. G. Brandon displays great merit as Jack Bealey; Miss Florence Barnes is a worthy representative of Bessie; Mr. Edward Lowrie's clever humours pervade the play as Timothy Puggs and Chamboran; and an extensive company support. The play is well-mounted.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—A return visit of Frank and Jen Latona obtained a hearty welcome; Fred Edwards and his company present a really smart sketch, *The Kleptomaniacs*, and the Ten Loonies appear in their musical extravaganza, *Dotty*, which is artistically mounted. Nell Emeral, Carrie Laurie's Juveniles, Johnson and Bert, Mirsky Frank Couch and Noland Noble complete the bill.

Empire Palace.—Resident Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—George Lashwood has had a big reception here, his songs being repeatedly encored; the Provenies are an exceedingly clever troupe of lady trick cyclists; Harry Tate's company is here again, in *Motoring*; Harry M. Hemsley is particularly good as a child impersonator and caricaturist; the Ten Dixie Girls sing and dance themselves into favour in their sketch, *The Silver Coon*; and Arthur Jefferson's company presents a comedy sketch, *Home from the Honeymoon*. Leonie Dixon, Walter Wade, and the Lombards add to the success of the evening.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Another long and entertaining programme is headed by Cornalla and Eddie, whose clever juggling and tumbling, combined with humour, is highly appreciated; Diana Hope and company have a dramatic sketch, *Her Good Name*; Herbert Clifton gives good imitations of popular artists; and the Derrington Family are daring in their trick cycling act; Carrie Laurie's Miniature Comedy company, in *The Belles of the Kitchen*, are entertaining. Jane Eyre, the Three Sisters Silcott, Kathleen Cogan, Gicardo and Geoffreys, and Benson complete the programme.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Owen.—The principal attraction here is Chas. Baldwin's company, in the amusing sketch, *The Bank Clerks*; another capital sketch is *The Dinner Hour*, presented by Ted Karno and company; the Calcotts have a good musical entertainment; Mlle. Jetta is exceedingly smart on the slack wire; Craig, Rose, and Craig are expert gymnasts, and Blake and Granby, and Josh Dixon are responsible for some comedy.

BLACKBURN.—Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Will Murray.—A capital programme is provided here by the Six Brothers Luck in two pantomime sketches, *The Hermit* and *Liftem's, Ltd;* W. G. Wesley, comedian; Ethel Sheffer, illustrated songstress; Les Belles Americaines, dancers; Irene and Morton, comedy artists; and Dunn and Reano, in a speciality act.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Page.—Mr. Sydney Spenser's company are appearing here in *My Sweetheart*.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Baron H. Harriss's *Prince of Pilsen* is paying another visit here this week. Mr. Hairy Kilburn contributes a very humorous portrayal of Hans Wagner, and Mr. Leslie Owen is seen to advantage in the title-rôle. The singing and acting of Miss Sophie Harriss, who again represents Mrs. Maddison Croker, is exceedingly clever and pleasing, whilst Miss Nellie Lomas as Nellie Wagner and Miss Mabel Dent as Sidonie perform their allotted parts with credit. There is a strong and capable chorus, and the scenery and costumes are on an elaborate scale.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company is creating an excellent impression here this week with *Diana of Dobson's*. All the characters are in experienced hands, and the production is entirely successful. Miss Emelie Polini plays Diana Massingberd with lifelike fidelity; Miss Daisy England gives a capital account of Miss Pringle; and Miss Gwynneth Galton very cleverly handles the part of Mrs. Cantelupe. Mr. Edward Vaughan as Capt. Bretherton and Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce as Sir Jabez Grinlay strike exactly the right note. Other minor parts are in very capable hands.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The principal turn here this week is that of Mr. Hymack, the excellent comedian and change artist, who is accorded a big reception nightly; Dan Crawley continues his engagement for a second week, and merits the appreciation he receives. The famous Craggs appear with great success in a sketch, and the Trapnell Family evoke loud applause by their clever acrobatic feats. The efforts of David Poole, ventriloquist, Lillie Lassah, comedienne, Fred Hastings, comedian, Smarte Bros., acrobats, Tambo and Tambo, tambourine spinners, and Jack and Evelyn, entertainers, are also well received. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope continues to show the latest pictures.

Hippodrome.—Manageress, Mrs. Fioni.—The pictures are still the big feature here. The variety company engaged this week includes Will Doran and Co., in a sketch; Bros. Obo, comedians; and Arthur Astill, the whistling mimic.

BOLTON. — Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—*A Warning to Women* is on a return visit here, and is being presented by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company. The drama is well staged. The part of Moira Kennion, the unhappy heroine, is treated with considerable ability by Miss Lilian Herries; Mr. Leonard Laurance ably filling the part of Dr. Marcus Dread. All the other characters in the play are in good hands.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—An excellent variety programme is submitted here this week, the turns including Francini, Olloms, and Page, acrobats, equilibrists, tumblers, and jugglers; Bessie Willow, burlesque actress and vocalist; Dunningarto, sleight-of-hand king; the Sages (Will and Jenny), comedy burlesque artists; Helen Charles, pianist, mimic, and siffleuse; Francis and Alfred, jugglers, &c.; Harry Morris, character comedian; Alpho, ventriloquial college boy; Gorman's Juveniles in a scena, *The Waif*; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — Muncaster Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The stock company is this week playing the sensational drama *Through the World*, the principal characters being played by Messrs. Albert Sember, Stanley S. Gordon, Alfred D. Adams, Tom H. Solly, Cyril Grier, Alfred Grenville, and Misses Nina Vaughton, Kathleen Magee, and Effie Macintosh.

BOSCOMBE.—Hippodrome, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—Clarice Mayne, comedienne and mimic, with her clever impersonations of celebrated artists, is much appreciated; Peggie Lennie and Walter Hast gave a poetic fantasy, entitled *The Sea Nymph*, the beginning of the week, there being a change the latter part, when they are producing a new and romantic Hebrew fantasy, entitled *The Oracle*. Walton and Lester, comedians, are responsible for great merriment; a pretty scene is provided by A-Ba-Be's picture postcards, a series of tableaux that are warmly applauded; Constance Mori dances neatly, and her songs are well rendered; Gladys Mavins, the Canadian girl, wins general admiration, her quickness of action being extremely clever; Harry Webber, Hebrew character comedian, is good; and Arthur Woodville, dancer and vocal comedian, is appreciated. The Hippo pictures conclude.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison commenced their tour with *Brewster's Millions* here on Monday. The play is magnificently staged, and the yacht scene, specially built by Mr. Ballard, master carpenter Hicks's Theatre, evoked tumultuous applause, the curtain having to be raised five times at the close of the act, while at the close of the performance the audience would not be satisfied until Mr. Hutchison had delivered a speech. This popular actor is at his best in the rôle of Monty Brewster, and threw himself with all his heart into his task, which is a heavy one; Miss Cicely Stuckey is charming as Peggy, depicting the varying moods of a young girl cleverly; Miss Violet Ley is easy and stately as Mrs. Dan de Mille; Miss Francis Davey scores her points well in the character of Janice, a strong-minded woman; and as Trixie Clayton Miss Sybil Walsh is decidedly good. Strong support is given by Mr. Cyril Rawdon as Charlie Harrison, Mr. Robert Forsythe as Mr. Grant, and Mr. Henry Hampson as Archie Golding. The production reflects the greatest credit upon Mr. Cyril Rawdon for the manner in which he has overcome the many difficulties there are when staging such a play in a provincial theatre.

BRADFORD.—Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*The Love of the Princess*, the latest romantic play by Mr. C. Watson Mill, was presented for the first time here on Monday by the T. Edward Ward company, who gave a very capable representation of the story dealing with the plotting and intrigue associated with the inner life of a modern Court. The scenic effects are very fine, and the costumes are magnificent. The confirmed gambler, Prince Conrad Ramona of Uldersburg, the dupe of thieves and conspirators, is a part which fits Mr. Wilson Coleman finely, and he is admirably supported by Miss Ward, who is earnest in her acting as the persecuted Princess Idalia; Conrad's sister, Lady Irena, is prettily played by Miss Nellie Garside; Mr. E. H. Dobell's representation of the attenuated and profligate King Josef of Ilarnia is a well-studied and convincing performance; as the traitor, Count Nicholas Danillo, Mr. Ernest E. Imeson is effective; and Mr. George Antley, with some humour, plays his friend, the wealthy parvenue, Duke Scarfe; Mr. Beckett Bould is good as Lieut. Orlans; Mr. Graham Winsford is manly in utterance and bearing as Lieut. Zaroff, the King's Messenger; Mr. Charles Herberte plays the unsympathetic Prince Regent of Narava acceptably; Mr. Edgar Morgan humorously fills the part of Conrad's faithful servant, Boris; and Miss Helen Elmar wins sympathy in the small part of Ilarina's unhappy Queen Constantia.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—In their distinct creation *The Palace of Orpheus* those clever and versatile instrumentalists, the Elliott-Savonas, are again delighting patrons here; Arthur Lennard, the popular character vocalist, is received with abundant favour in his descriptive songs; Thorpe and company please greatly with their clever little sketch, *My Burglar*; J. W. Rickaby is amusing with his burlesque songs and patter; trick cycling of a clever and daring character is accomplished by the Daunton Show Troupe; Fred Curran has some funny songs and a quaint style, and the excellent programme also includes acceptable contributions by the Sisters St. Julian, duettists and dancers, Daisy Martell, comedienne, and the Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Peter Gotz, the famed light-weight wrestler, is here this week, and much excitement marks his bouts with all comers nightly. In their nautical creation, *She Loved a Sailor*, the Walcots are successful; approbation greets the turn by the Twin Sisters Edwardes, vocalists, &c.; Charles Penrose submits a good comedy turn, and Gracie Hunt, comedienne, is received with favour. In their comedy sketch, *Coster and Dude*, Fyne and Hurley again prove amusing; Flo Burnett, vocalist, is a distinct success, her songs eliciting hearty encores; in a musical comedy act Ross and Grayson are very funny, and elicit hearty laughter, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are interesting features of the good programme.

BRIDLINGTON.—Royal Princes' Parade.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Crowded audiences are the rule at Mr. Norfolk Megone's promenade concerts here. Miss Leonora Sparks, prima donna from the Royal Opera, Covent Garden, enraptures the audience by her superb voice. In the Grand Pavilion the extra attraction this week is Messrs. Chester and Lee's Marionettes, a very clever show. Mr. Harry Randall, that clever comedian of Drury Lane fame, makes his first appearance before a Bridlington audience this week in some of his latest songs. The Loyal Dominion animated pictures are very amusing this week, especially a new one, The Unseasonable Pickpocket, which is one of the greatest marvels of animated photography Mr. Will Emmerson has presented here.

New Spa and Gardens.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—Herr Simon Wurm and the Viennese Band are giving some of their choicest programmes here, Mr. Maurice's piano solos being especially delightful. Miss Gertrude Bloomfield, the vocalist for the week, quickly established herself in favour by her sweet soprano. Mr. Surrie Lindon and his vaudeville entertainers are appearing twice daily under the glass dome. The great features of the week are the Venetian Carnival and Battle of Confetti, and Brock's great show of daylight fireworks. Animated pictures are given in the open air, being projected with wonderful effect on the end of the Opera House.

New Spa Opera House.—Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—The summer theatrical season here was inaugurated on the 23rd ult., when Mr. Tunbridge gave his patrons a great treat in bringing before them Mrs. T. Greenwood-Croft's talented company in that finely-written play *The Idler*. Mr. C. C. Corri's company, under the direction of Mr. Haldane Crichton, opened here on Monday with *The Dandy Fifth*. Mr. Jack Crichton makes the most of his opportunities as Trooper Brown, and with Miss Nora Moira is responsible for most of the fun. Miss Pauline Hague is charming as Kate, her songs being beautifully rendered; Mr. Percy Baverstock is an amusing Colonel; Mr. J. Edward Fraser is very successful as Dick Darvill; Geo. Beverley as the Irish sergeant is very funny; and Miss Maud Nichols makes the most of her part as the Colonel's sister.

BRIGHTON. — Grand Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—On Monday Mr. Ernest Carpenter's stock company entered upon the last week of their engagement here and gave a performance of *The Colleen Bawn*. Mr. Ronald Adair achieved distinct success as Hardress Cregan; Mr. Charles A. Preece displayed able acting and singing as Myles Na Coppaleen; Mr. Villiers Stanley's Danny Mann and Mr. Ellis J. Preston's Squire Corrigan were admirably played; Mr. Danell Greene was effective as Kyrle Daly; and Mr. H. C. Lanceley did well as Father Tom; Miss Kathleen Russell made a charming Ann Chute; Miss Amy Vennimore was successful as Mrs. Cregan; Miss Lucy Murray was a pleasing Eily O'Connor; and Miss Emmie Barton gave a capital representation of Sheelah. The drama was preceded by *Good for Nothing Nan*.

Alhambra.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—Marie Lloyd wins very enthusiastic applause for her delightfully rendered songs; Joe O'Gorman's humorous songs and stories are warmly appreciated; Duncan and Godfrey's vocal efforts in a coster romance are well received; the Brothers O'Gorman are effective in song and dance; Florence Yaymen was admirable in burlesquing coon songs; Edward Rutland is a capital comedian; Mabel Le Roy and Ella Lane are able comediennes; and the Alhambrascope Pictures are, as usual, highly interesting and amusing.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Arthur Prince wins enthusiastic applause for his clever ventriloquial sketch; Tom Costello, comedian, is as popular as ever; Ted E. Box gives capital whistling imitations of birds and animals; Ida Rene is a great success in her song, "The Devil"; Dolly Harmer is successful with her popular choruses; the Tafanos, comic serenaders, are cordially received; Barrington gives a clever turn on the pianoforte; Kurkamp, the singing musical conductor, is effective; Harry Roxbury and company appear with marked success in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*; while Arthur Gallimore's trio of comedy artists and Charles Carr, dancer, also win warm appreciation.

West Pier.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Miss Hornlman's company opened here on Monday with *Candida*. Mr. B. Iden Payne gave a fine impersonation of Eugene Marchbanks; Miss Mary Price Owen was a pleasing Candida; Mr. Henry Austin was manly as the Rev. James Morell; Miss Ada King was distinctly effective as a lady typist; Mr. Edward Landor as Candida's father and Mr. Basil Dean as the Curate were well placed. The programme for the week also includes *Widowers' Houses*.

Palace Pier Theatre.—*The Serious Family, or Butterflies and Beetles* occupies the boards here this week. Mr. J. E. Cowell gives a capital representation of Captain Murphy Maguire; Mr. J. R. Cunningham is effective as Charles Torrens; Mr. Martin Francis and Miss Alice Murray are well suited as Aminadab Sleek, M.P., and Lady Sowerby Creamly respectively; Miss Maud Normanton is a capital Mrs. Ormsby Delmaine; and the remaining characters are ably represented.

Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The animated pictures here are still very attractive. Foremost among them is The Blue Bird, comprising a series of fairy incidents. Other pleasing films include Hoist with his Own Petard, The Serpent's Tooth, and The Braggart. Mr. William Lenton contributes illustrated songs in good style.

Concert Hall, West Street.—The Royal Italian Circus opened its last week here on Monday. The engagement has proved highly attractive.

BRISTOL.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* is the attraction this week, the drama being tastefully staged and well played by Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company. Miss Cissie Bellamy and Miss Elsie Capell both act admirably their respective parts of Mary (Geoffrey Langdon's wife) and the Hon. Mrs. Sands. Mr. Paul Becket evinces power as Felix Beverley; Mr. Edward E Louis does well as Jack Stirling; Mr. Wilson Summers is seen to advantage as Geoffrey Langdon; Mr. W. E. Passmore gives a good portrayal of Colonel Mills; and the comic parts of Thomas and Sweet Nancy are capitally taken by Mr. Percy Brown and Miss Katie Lever.

Palace — Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Chung Ling Soo, the Chinese magician, heads the programme with his exceptionally clever act, several new illusions being introduced. Carozi and Keith do a good turn, in which humour and clever juggling are combined; Les Voces, operatic vocalists, sing acceptably; Martin Henderson, blind musician, is a skilful pianist and concertina player; Keegan and company amuse with their comedy and cycling act; Martine and Son please with illustrated songs; Arthur Albert, descriptive vocalist, is appreciated; Jessie Lee is a pleasing vocalist; and the Brothers Dean score with their simultaneous dancing, whistling, &c. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

Empire. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Morritt, humorist, heads the bill, and is much applauded for his clever turn; Mabel Thorne, comedienne, has some good songs, and is deservedly appreciated; Georgette Thierry and company score with the dramatic sketch *A Daughter of the Revolution*; Charles Sloman, comedian, obtains applause; Lily Eyton, character comedienne, does a pleasing turn; Mlle. Jenny's Persian-Angora cats and monkeys are admirably trained; and the Sisters Clifton are smart duettists and skipping-rope dancers. Animated pictures conclude.

BURNLEY.—Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The best of houses are here greeting the turns which make up a most admirable programme. Capt. Max Gruber and Miss Adelina, with their elephant, horse, and pony, head the list. The animals are wonderfully well trained, and receive unstinted applause. Lady Mansell and her juveniles earn much approbation; and original is the turn of Dandy George Duo, including smart contortions and a cleverly-trained dog. The Vettes Bros. introduce a pleasing item, in which acrobatic skill is displayed; and Ted Percival, baritone, sings well; Lily Lonsdale pleases greatly with "My little Deutcher girl," and Ernie Myers causes much laughter with his song and patter; J. Etherington, actor-vocalist, is encored; and Only a Dog is the picture shown by the Empire Theatroscope.

Palace Theatre and Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Genuine laughter-makers are the Gothams, in harmonised selections, interspersed by humour; skilful and pleasing acrobatic work is done by the Pasquali Bros.; the Violas give a clever exhibition of thought-reading; and John Donald, in "A Scottish Exile's Dream," sings well, and is greatly appreciated; Natalie and Diana perform a smart trapeze turn; Matthews and Brown, coloured comedians, are excellent dancers; and Hartley Dyson, a local baritone, sings well. Victor Travers is a laughable comedian, with capital legmania business; Professor Norton performs some attractive sleight of hand feats; and the bill is closed with good films by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BURY (Lancs.).—Circus of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The animated pictures are still proving very popular here. The most appreciated are Scottish Highlands, Baby's Playmate, Colonel's Orderly, Law of Honour, and Little Sammy's Sucker. The variety turns are supplied by Aidee Mellor, vocalist, and T. C. Edwards, baritone.

BUXTON. — Opera House. — Proprietors, The Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—For this week we have Mr. Allan Wilkie and his excellent company in a round of Shakespearean and old English plays. On Monday evening *The Merchant of Venice* was performed, Mr. Allan Wilkie giving an excellent embodiment of the Jew. Mr. Alexander Marsh played excellently as Bassanio; and Mr. John Paley was a capable Antonio. Mr. Houston Meharry quite upheld the dignity of the Duke of Venice; and Mr. Frank Royde was excellent in every way as Gratiano. Mr. Ivor Barnard was the Salanio, Mr. Frank Leach Salarino, and Mr. Sinclair Neill Prince of Morocco. Miss Mildred Surrey played admirably as Nerissa; and Miss Maud Gill was a piquant Jessica. Miss Carrie Baillie was an irresistible Portia; and the minor parts are all capitally acted. The play is well staged. Included in the week's programme are *As You Like It, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, School for Scandal*, and *She Stoops to Conquer*.

CARDIFF. — Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Mr. John Lawson is appearing this week in a répertoire of sketches, and presented on Monday the popular piece *Humanity*. Mr. Lawson is supported by several talented artists, and makes a great success. *Pigs in Clover, King's Minister*, and *The Monkey's Paw* are other pieces this versatile actor puts on during the week. Two smart comedy artists are Kent and Keith, who keep the audience in roars of laughter by their skilful entertainment; a novel act is that provided by La Belle Titcomb, a fair Parisienne, who has a valuable assistant in her beautiful and well-trained stallion Ali; the Narow Bros. create a great impression with their trick cycling and capital knockabout business; while the skilfully-managed illusion performed by Cussac-Talma and Mlle. de Forge is one of the smartest things in that line; Lee Tung Fi is a Chinaman who posseses a first-rate voice; and another gifted vocalist is Hugh Barclay, who renders "The Boys of the Old Brigade" in fine style. The Russian dancing of Wania proves interesting; and a pleasing singer is Blanche Vincent, who appears in a Spanish costumed song. The Bioscope completes an all-round excellent programme.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—At the head of a specially attractive bill of fare this week are the Geraldos, club jugglers and hoop manipulators, whose act is both clever and amusing. Wilson Hallett gains much approbation for his extraordinary imitations of little children; a breezy item is provided by the Bartholomew Girls, who contribute a couple of "goey" songs; and Lawrence Barclay maintains his reputation as a comedian of considerable merit. Alfonso, feet equilibrist; Rose Tilley, burlesque actress; Edie Coolville, a piquant comedienne and dancer; Mable la Blanche, comedienne, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux with fine pictures complete the programme.

CARLISLE.—H.M. Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mr. R. Stewart M'Kind; Manager. Mr. Thos. Courtice.—After having been closed for three weeks the theatre was reopened on Monday night, and a house crowded in every part gave a hearty welcome to Mr. Frank Lindo's company, which appeared in the drama *Home, Sweet Home*. During the interval the house has been thoroughly cleaned and redecorated, and with its prevailing tints of deep crimson and cream presents a particularly smart appearance. Mr. Frank Lindo, the author and producer of the piece, appears as the hero, Stephen Armitage, and gives a sound and powerful performance, which met with well-deserved appreciation. Miss Marion Wakeford as the heroine has a part which suits her admirably, and her acting throughout was artistic; Mr. H. Kenny as the Hon. Percy and Mr. Lionel Ray as Lord Silvermore were amusing; and Messrs. Lawrence Doyle, Archer Brown, and Helsby Wright gave creditable performances. Miss Hetty Webster made an imposing Lady Somerton; and Sybil Fay, a music-hall artist, was enacted with good taste by Miss Maude Elliott. Miss Minnie Warden, too, was quite a success as little Dora. The scenery and mounting were particularly good, and the whole performance met with a most favourable reception.

The Palace. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The top of the bill is occupied by Blake and Amber, who give a distinctly novel and clever turn; the Three Royal Dreadnoughts give a marvellous exhibition of rifle-shooting, the accuracy and skill displayed amazing and delighting the audience; Conan and Doyle, old favourites here, crack wheezes in their own inimitable style and dance as nimbly as ever; Miss Ethel Dunford has good songs, which she sings with nice effect. One of the best dancers seen here for some time is Herbert La Martine; originality and cleverness marked his efforts, and his reception was most enthusiastic. The Pepiscope shows some interesting pictures.

CASTLEFORD.—Queen's Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Charles Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—An entirely new series of pictures is introduced here this week by the Loyal Dominion Co., and are, as usual, proving a powerful attraction. At intervals Miss Frances Haskoll, with illustrated songs, sings "The Boys of the Brigade" and "Stay in your own backyard" in a pleasing manner.

CHATHAM. — Barnard's Palace of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have the Davenports, a pair of neat conjurers; Dalino and Stream, comedians and dancers; Wal Robbins, who entertains in his old familiar way; Happy Attwood, with comic song and parody; Will Driscoll, swell comedian and dancer, who is renewing his acquaintance with local pleasure-seekers; and screams of laughter follow the results of using the Depilatory Powder as depicted by means of Lacey's Erascope; while special mention must be made of the thrilling American sketch *The Girl and the Tough*, which is enacted in realistic style by Miss Rosie Dane, Mr. Leslie Tyler, and Mr. John G. Brandon.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. E. G. Woodhouse.—Claude Feldman's Beau Ideal Troupe of Prize Juveniles top the bill here, and gain many well-deserved encores for their singing and dancing. Barney Vox has some very ready dialogue in his ventriloquial act, *Fun Outside Cassidy's Cabin*; Haldane and Bright are indeed an entertaining couple; Miss Daisy Fowle successfully deputises for Miss Kate Trail; also in the bill are George Payne, eccentric comedian; Wright and Elton, in their speciality, *The Lady Artiste*; Maude Beaumont, burlesque actress; and pictures by the Edisonograph form an entertaining finale to the show.

CHESTER. — Royalty Theatre. — Proprietors, Messers. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—After a vacation of three weeks, this house re-opened on Monday with a variety programme. Green and Wood create roars of laughter in their comedy acrobatic act; Jack E. Dawe, character comedian, is highly successful; Vandenoff, the lightning artist, turns out several oil paintings in a few seconds; Master May, boy vocalist, sings pleasingly "Love me and the world is mine"; Frank Haskoll appears in songs at the piano; and others in the bill are Alice and Bob Melrose, comedy duo; Phyllis Seymour, soubrette; the Eeduns; and Vernon's Bioscope.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.—Operetta House.—Lessee, Mr. W. F. Jury; Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—The great feature of the picture entertainment here is a grand film of the Franco-British Exhibition and the great Marathon Race. The film is one of the finest ever seen, and the hall is crowded nightly. Other interesting films are shown, including A Wet Day, Matrimonial Stages, Silver King, Wild Coast of Cornwall, &c. Mr. J. Hortin's illustrated songs are still a popular item in the entertainment.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. Harold Montague; Business-Manager, Mr. Ivor G. Sparke.—Harold Montague and his Vagabonds have returned here, and are attracting good audiences by the excellent entertainments they provide.

West Cliff Gardens.—Proprietors, Messrs. Graham Russell and Bentley.—In addition to the stock company, Miss Emily Hayes, contralto; Mr. Walter Montague, raconteur and musical crank; and Mr. P. Gorton Young, baritone and campanologist, are appearing here. The entertainment is of the usual high standard, and the audiences are large and appreciative.

COLCHESTER. — Hippodrome.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The top line this week is a satirical sketch entitled *The Village Fire Brigade*, billed as an importation from the States. Campbell and Barber prove a great turn in a cycle act which is brimful of cleverness and humorous episodes; Tom Hearn juggles in his own well-known style, and is accorded a hearty reception; Stuart and Stuart, comedy duo, are very entertaining; whilst another good pair are Kloof and Ramsey, in an act of musical eccentricities. Billy Hobbs, billed as an American comedian, elicits applause for his strikingly funny yarns; and the Sisters McKay shine as duettists and dancers, and look very smart in their military uniforms.

COVENTRY.—Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. F. Forbes-Robertson and Miss Avice Meredith with a capital company are representing *A Play Without a Name*, of which a full account was given in our last issue. A prize of three guineas is offered to any member of the audience for an appropriate title.

Hippodrome Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—Heading the bill is Charcot with his automatic man; John Henderson and company appear in a drama entitled *The Land of the West*, which is heartily received; the Gascoignes, in a comedy juggling and balancing act; the Four Delewares, in a novel act entitled *Revels in a Billiard Saloon*; the Marvellous Howards, with an exhibition of mental telepathy; Le-Nora Walker, comedienne and dancer; and Walker and May, America's coloured comedians and dancers, also contribute to the programme.

CROYDON.—Hippodrome and New Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Jackson Hayes; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice.—A capital programme is provided here this week. Jack Goldswain, boxer, heads the list, and several interesting bouts are performed; some good wrestling is exhibited by Alf. Hewett; Bessie Nielson is a talented comedienne and dancer; Marie Tilley proves herself a capable low-comedy artist, and dances excellently; Chas. Wren, facial artist, is very amusing; Sadie Southern's illustrated songs are well rendered; the Brothers Glenn produce a comedy sketch, *Kaos in a Kafé*; and the pictures shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux call for special mention.

DARLINGTON.—New Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The programme is of excellent quality and is drawing very good houses. Mr. Charles Fisher's Pocket Opera Company is a most enjoyable item; Kelly and Agnes, comedy couple, are very entertaining, and Tony Imeson, assisted by Dave Hornby, presents the sketch *The Ragman at the Piano*, which serves as a medium for some clever songs and patter. The bill also includes J. Shingleton, singing collier; Estrella, barefoot dancer; Otto and Olga, comedy musical experts; Bert Kemble, comedian; and the Pepiscope pictures.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—The premier item on the bill this week is Leo Dryden, who introduces two musical playlets in which his singing and acting are a pronounced success. The programme also includes Kelly and Ashby, whose knockabout sketch, entitled *Fun in a Billiard Room*, is both novel and clever; the Primrose Four, male vocalists, are heard to distinct advantage in several tuneful songs; the Florodoras are three charming comediennes, and are cordially received; the Godfreys cause much merriment as comedy musicians; Chas. Lestree is a praiseworthy juggler; Fields and Lewis are clever burlesque artists; and the Rinders are successful as pictorial songsters. The Bioscope, as usual, does not lose any of its interest.

Palace.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Taylor.—Mr. Stanley Carlton's company is here in the drama *A Secret Wedding*. In the rôle of Edgar Hartington Mr. Stanley Carlton acquits himself very creditably; Grace Edmondson is commendably enacted by Miss Rubie Maude, a talented young actress; Mr. Marshall Meade as Herbert Hartington makes a typical villain; Mr. Seymour Perry as Billy Barton, and Miss Emily Lewis as Grace cause much amusement in their respective characters; and the remaining parts are in good hands.

DEVONPORT.—Metropole Theatre.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Miss Frances Deleval presents her specially selected company in *Love's Golden Dream*,

and does very good business, the piece abounding in West-country scenes and incident. Miss Delaval impersonates Margery, and therein proves herself an actress of pronounced ability; Mr. Percy Warram scores by his manly presentation of Captain Jack Darrell; other noticeable impersonations are those of Messrs. E. Crogan, L. Stokes, Thorne Tracey, and Misses Jennie Bostock and Irene Tracey.

DOUGLAS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Hemming; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's chief provincial company opened on Monday in *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* at the Grand Theatre this week. Mr. George Mudie, a comedian of resource and experience, acts admirably as Mr. Ponderbury; Miss Florrie Wix is chic as Mme. Modjeski, and Miss Stalman makes an impressive Mrs. Ponderbury. The mise-en-scene was all that could be desired, and the other characters were well interpreted. The play was preceded by the one act comedy, *His Landlady*, of which Mr. George Mudie is the author. It was well received.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—A pretty and idyllic musical comedy, *The Mimosa Maid*, is attracting crowded audiences to this beautiful playhouse. Miss Marie Studholme, of picture postcard fame, is the bright particular star. The company have been well selected. Mr. Austen Huegon, part author, has seen to the production personally. The music is delightful.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun., Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brittain.—At this place of amusement a most seductive programme is presented, with the result that crowded houses are the result of the management's enterprise. Mr. Ernest Shand is a host in himself. Holiday crowds want to laugh, and he compels them to do so. Miss Lola Paley is a charming comedienne; Mr. Tom Stuart is a clever actor and mimic; Miss Agnes Molteno's new vocal scena "An Old Time Story," has quite caught on; Miss Minnie Kaufman is a daring trick cyclist. Then in addition Fred Maitland is a comedian of parts; Chinko, the boy juggler, requires some beating; Vernon's Bioscope reproduces the trend of the world's march. In fact, at the Palace a programme is provided which suits all idiosyncrasies when one remembers that dancing to the melodious strains of Mr. Harry Wood's orchestra is thrown in.

Other amusements in Douglas are Derby Castle, with Miss Florrie Ford and Mr. Jock Whiteford as star turns; Buxton's Pierrots and Tea Village on the Promenade; Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's comedians on Onchan Head; Mr. Fred Connor's Hippodrome; all drawing crowded houses.

DUBLIN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The Hippodrome season entered on its last week here on Monday night, when an exceptionally strong programme was presented to a full house. Fragson, who styles himself the "Entente Cordiale Comedian," met with an enthusiastic reception; another excellent item of the programme is the illusion act of Mlle. Von Etta, and Will Douglas and his five Jolly Bakers are both clever and amusing; the Tossing Austins, American jugglers and dancers, are recalled nightly; Captain Elliss in his comedy singing act scores a decided success; the "Mysterious Mahatma," in her mystifying performance, causes quite a sensation; the Twelve Palace Girls are still to the fore; Pat Lynch submits good dancing; and the Royal Pictures are a feature of the entertainment.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The excellent display of animated pictures which are attracting appreciative audiences here include: A Child's Revenge, The Miser's Daughter, The Witch's Cane, The Stolen Purse, A Race for a Husband, The Phantom Guard, Flowers for Mother, The Detective, Me and My Two Pals, Scenes at the Zoo, &c.; and the variety programme is headed by Tom Wheatley in a smart ventriloquial turn, which has caught on immensely; Lo, La, and Jake, in a clever triple bar act, and the popular guide, Bob Pearson.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—This week we have Barton and Ashley in a humorous sketch entitled *Adam the Second*, and large audiences have been highly entertained; Andie Burns, in song, story, and dancing extraordinary, keeps the house highly amused; and Alda Martini, full of vivacity, is pleasing in song and dance; Signor and Mme. Borelli's pianoforte and vocal duets are a strong item of the programme, and their efforts are deservedly recognised; and Eva Daunton, a dainty soubrette, meets with a warm reception; Rhoda Paul, in new songs and scenery, gives a much appreciated turn; and Lena Verdi is a charming comedienne and dancer; Ed. H. Ford, "the Australian Sundowner," merits warm applause; Films, Ltd., are showing some interesting pictures, and the Empire Tournament completes a varied programme.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—An excellent bill of fare is headed here this week by Francis Gerard, whose marvellous feats of strength are loudly applauded; Lawson and Namon score a distinct success in their comedy cycling act; and very entertaining are Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde in a speaking shadow act; Attilla Brothers, Olympian Gladiators, are clever, and are warmly received, and the old favourite Charley Robinson meets with a hearty reception nightly; some popular duets are charmingly rendered by Florence and Rose Showell, and Frank Whitely enhances his reputation as a comedian and dancer; Hess and Lisbon in their roller skating act provide an acceptable turn; and Lucy Coventry is an engaging comedienne and expert dancer; and the Bioscope is to the front with some capital pictures.

PAVILION (KINGSTOWN).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—At this pleasant resort the change of company is attracting large audiences daily. Mr. J. H. Scotland, the possessor of a fine basso voice, sings several pleasing numbers, which elicit loud applause, and Miss Elsie Steadman submits an amusing turn which is greatly enjoyed; some popular tenor songs are well rendered by Mr. Austin Mahony, and Mr. Alf. Maynall is a comedian of more than ordinary merit. Others who add greatly to the success of the programme are Douglas MacLaren, Scottish comedian; Jack Macdermott, the favourite comique; and Frederick Arthur, in selections on the piano.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. G. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—Moneta and Ford, comedy duettists; Harry Dandy, comedian and dancer; Eva Searle, comedienne; Eric Thornber, coon vocalist; John Conley, eccentric comedian and dancer; and the Cinematograph.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is appearing here in *The Belle of New York*. Mr. Frank Lawton is the bright particular star, and as Blinkey Bill his clever work as siffleur, dancer, and manipulator of the bones makes him a warm favourite. Miss Florence Hersee as Mamie Clancy plays brightly and dances neatly; Mr. Arthur Ricketts returns as Ichabod Bronson, and he scores well with his songs; Mr. James A. Watts does capital work as Harry Bronson, his singing and dancing being of distinct merit; Mr. Jos. R. Tate causes much laughter as Von Pimpernick; Mr. William Jordan works hard as Doc. Snifkins, and Mr. Alec Godfrey is a good Kenneth Mugg; Miss Hebe Kneller sings and acts with much daintiness as Violet Grey; Miss Dorothy Dore is a sweetly sympathetic Fi-fi, who sings very prettily, and Miss Winnie Browne is a fascinating Cora Angelique, her dancing being graceful. The remaining parts are in able hands. The musical director is Mr. B. J. Patterson.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Mr. Leslie Faber and his company are appearing here this week in *The Liars*, and keenly interested audiences applaud enthusiastically, curtains being numerous at the end of each act. Miss Winifred Arthur Jones gives a delightfully natural and distinct performance as Lady Jessica; Miss Ethelwyn Arthur Jones, brightly frank and girlish, is an interesting Lady Rosamond; Miss Elizabeth Watson is an eminently satisfactory and effective Mrs. Crespin; Miss May Saker makes the most of her part as Dolly Coke; Miss Hilda Moore is an attractive, romantic Beatrice, and Miss Beatrice Ainley does her little well as Ferris. Mr. Leslie Faber, handsome and fascinating, plays the fine part of Sir Christopher Deering with great success; Mr. Lewis Willoughby, earnest and penetrating, does able work as Falkner; Mr. Frank Bickley is a decisive Gilbert Nepean, and Mr. Maurice Elvey a satisfactory George; Mr. Richard Neville plays with point and effect as Freddie; Mr. Jerrold Manville makes much of the rôle of Archibald Coke, and smaller parts are in good hands. *The Manœuvres of Jane* was to be played later in the week.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the head of the bill is Mr. Jake Freidman's company, which is appearing very successfully in the bright, condensed musical play *Jack's the Lad*. The singing is pleasant, the comedians funny, and the whole performance bright and taking. Les Rallis have an original and exciting turn in *The Artist and the Monkey*; Mr. Fred Hallam is a popular comedian; Miss Amy Elcock is very pleasing as a singer and dancer; Selby and Myers patter and dance effectively; Le Gros is an entertainer of merit; Edie Anderson is a comedienne and dancer who commands applause, and new pictures are shown.

EDINBURGH. — ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. William Mollison and company entered upon the closing week of their engagement with *Rob Roy* last Monday evening before an audience which crowded the house in every part. Mr. Ben Davies was in splendid voice, and his finished singing of several Scottish ballads evoked repeated encores; Mr. Mollison's fine performance of Bailie Nicol Jarvie and Mr. William Calvert's vigorous impersonation of the bold outlaw are of signal merit; while admirable work is done by Miss Kitty Brownless—an expressive singer—as Diana Vernon, Miss Evelyn McMay as Helen Macgregor, Mr. Whitford Kane as Rashleigh Osbaldistone—a really notable piece of acting—and Mr. R. B. Drysdale as the Dugal Cratur. The scenic effects are beautiful, and Mr. George Burnley, the musical conductor, deserves more than a passing word of praise for the skill with which he directs the orchestra.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—An old favourite in the person of Mr. Neil Kenyon headed this week's bill, and the popular artist's powers in compelling either tears or laughter by the pathos and mirth of his songs and stories were greeted on Monday evening with great acclaim. Owing to indisposition, Mr. Kenyon was unable to continue his engagement after the first night's performances; but the management fortunately secured the services of Mr. James A. Moran, a clever Scottish humorist, who during the remainder of the week supplied a most amusing and excellent entertainment. The quips and cranks of Alexandre and Hughes, combined with their admirable concertina playing, provide another very bright and enjoyable turn; and a very interesting exhibition of cycle riding, including some smart acrobatic work, is given by the Dunedin Troupe; while clever comedy marks the sketch given by Little Ganty and Madge May; and Mlle. Eldee appears in a series of illuminated posings, which are exceedingly effective. Mr. Fred Bowyer's powerful tabloid drama, *The Little Stowaway*, is successfully produced by Mr. Bertie Sheldon, with Miss Marjory Armstrong and Mr. John K. Walton in the leading rôles; the Norman and Leonard Trio contribute a pleasing musical sketch; and the Bioscope keeps well to the fore with a choice display of new films.

FLEETWOOD. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—A strong attraction here this week is Mr. Charles Constant's *Florodora* company. As Anthony Tweedlepunch Mr. Gus Danby keeps the house in a roar the whole time he is on the stage; Mr. Martin D. Pitt as Frank G. Abercoed uses his powerful voice to great advantage; Cyrus G. Gilfain has an able exponent in Mr. Jack Parker; Miss Daisy Lake as Dolores has a part which suits her immensely, and she takes full advantage of her opportunities; Miss Lillie Blythe as the scheming Lady Holyrood is exceptionally good, and is vociferously encored nightly for her "Tact" and "I've an inkling" songs. Other parts are well taken by Mr. Stanley Bartram, Miss Louie Danby, and Mr. Emlyn Davis. There is a strong chorus, and the piece is elaborately staged.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—The Loyal British Empire Animated Picture Company, under the direction of Mr. Thos. Robinson, are prolonging their season, and still drawing crowded houses. Included in this week's long list are The Brigands of Calabria, Black-Eyed Susan, The Kitchenmaid's Dream, and The Pirates. Several smart variety turns contribute to an excellent evening's entertainment.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Messrs. Taylor, Platt, and Trevor Lowe's company are here this week with *You Never Can Tell* and *Arms and the Man*. In the first named piece Miss Katherine Stuart as Mrs. Clandon gave a very graceful portrayal, her acting being exceedingly fine; Miss Gwladys Morris and Miss Clara Earle as the two sisters played well; Mr. Donald Calthorp scored a success as Philip Clandon; Mr. Leslie Hamer as Valentine was all that could be desired; Mr. F. Cremlin made a good Fergus Compton; Mr. Trevor Lowe was well placed as Finch McComas; and Mr. Charles Daly as the waiter gave a clever delineation, investing the part with considerable humour.

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—The Gipsies and their Jester, under the direction of Mr. D'Arcy Clayton, are delighting large audiences here. As Dado the Jester Mr. Will Gane is received with tremendous applause, and with Miss Florence Crofts achieves a richly deserved triumph; Miss Dorothy Francis and Miss Inez du Buisson are general favourites; Mr. Walter Grigg sings well; and Mr. Edgar Berte is cordially received.

VICTORIA PIER.—Manager, Mr. Robert Forsyth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jack Forsyth.—Percy Victor's wonderful dog minstrels top the bill here, and go through a most difficult performance; Mr. Arthur Blount is a smart patter comedian; Mr. Fred May is a humorist of ability; Miss Marie Ford is a chic comedienne and dancer; Miss Rosie Stevens is remarkably successful in characteristic dances; Vela, the tramp, gives a clever exhibition of rope walking; Mr. Vernon C. Booth, baritone, sings some fine songs; The Cedrics are a pair of comedy artists; Miss Barbara Ellison is a fine elocutionist, and takes part in a smart sketch entitled *The House Next Door*, assisted by Miss Rosie Stevens and Mr. Vernon C. Booth. Animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Mr. Edward Marris's company is paying a return visit with *The Dandy Doctor*, and is again meeting with the utmost approval. In the part of Brown, the millionaire, Mr. Owen Dacroy causes continual laughter by his perpetual drollery. Mr. Herbert Pearce is responsible for much hilarity as Colonel Pendred, and Mr. C. Burrunston Williams wins applause for his impersonation of Dr. Vandyke, while Mr. A. Leslie Martin is very amusing as Bertie Bolingbroke. Miss Florence Smithers has a congenial part in Jane, and throughout the performance infuses all the desirable vim into the part. Miss Mollie Wynne gives a fine impersonation of Ivy Pendred, her singing and acting securing well deserved applause. Minor parts are in good hands, and the chorus do excellent work.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—An excellent blend of comedy and drama is provided here this week by Mr. Harry Foxwell's company in *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Ruth Zillwood takes the title-part, Ninon Malvoisin, and in appearance and acting is an ideal adventuress. The humorous scenes are much above the average, the credit being mainly due to Mr. Teddy Myles, who gives a very amusing portrayal of an Irish policeman; Mr. Herbert M. King bears himself in gentlemanly fashion as Captain Seaton; and as the injured wife Eleanor Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam presents a pleasing picture; Mr. Victor Garnet-Vayne as Sammy and Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner as Sally do good service in the comic scenes; Robert Saunders is strongly represented by Mr. Norman B. Purnell, and due weight is given to the part of Sir Marmaduke Seaton by Mr. Frederick Hendry.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—George Formby is starring here, and this clever Lancashire comedian is going better than ever, his patter being particularly smart. An interesting turn is provided by the masked lady L'Incognita, who displays a voice of wonderful range in an English song and an operatic scena in French. Hawthorn and Burt are a clever couple of Hebrew comedians and eccentric dancers, and were accorded a very hearty reception. Bi-Bo-Be, on a variety of novel instruments gives an enjoyable musical turn; Harry Leybourn's impersonations of concert hall types are wonderfully clever; Master Edward Frisby is a popular young vocalist; Cissie Curlette takes well in her songs and imitations; and the Northern Troupe show their skill in some national dances. J. F. Ellision's company in *The Art of Deception* provide lots of fun, Shaun Glenville as the tramp being especially good.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Horace Wheatley tops the bill here, and in song and dance proves his popularity to be as great as ever. Fred Moule, E. D. Nicholls and company cause roars of laughter with their funny sketch, *That Dreadful Detective*. Some exceedingly smart dancing is given by Miss Enid Errol in a clever and amusing sketch, *The Enchanted Vase*, in which Chas. W. Anson and Caroline Fenton provide the comedy element. Jay Laurier is an excellent comedian, with many original touches; Winifred Ward as a male impersonator with several good songs made a decided hit; the Pickfords took well in a comedy duologue; Rosé Cambry has a smart "Merry Widow" song; and Dave Summerhill, Scotch comedian, proves popular. A very enjoyable musical turn is provided by the Elite Harmony Boys, as *Messmates Ashore*, and they were given a most enthusiastic reception.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good—Dainty Daisy Dormer tops the bill here, and this popular comedienne gets a hearty reception from her many admirers. Another strong favourite is Maude Mortimer, who comes provided with several very catchy songs. One of the best American turns seen here for years is that of Hill and Whitaker, singers and instrumentalists, the lady (Willettee Whitaker) being a comedienne of very special gifts, while the gentleman is a clever musician; their reception was most enthusiastic. Tom Leamore goes strong in his comedy business; and the patter and dancing of Ike and Will Scott was much enjoyed. Ted Curtis and his piccaninnies also prove highly popular; and hearty laughter is heard during the comedy sketch by Robins and Collier, *The Lady and the Porter*. George Langdon and Connie Laurie take well in their excerpts from famous plays, including *The Silver King* and *The Bells*; L. W. Harris is a light comedian with a good style; Wilman gives a clever musical turn; and Mons. and Mlle. Oretta show considerable skill in their equilibrist business.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Richard Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—The principal turn is filled by Peter Bermingham, Scottish comedian, and his reception on the opening night was extremely cordial. The Sisters Cora, duettists, were also shown marked favour; and Anthony, comedy conjurer, amused the audience with his tricks. The other items included the sketch *To New York for the Week-End*, with the rolling deck of the steamer, in which Peter Bermingham and J. T. M'Millan appear; Sisters Ford, character duettists; Chas. Ulrick, barrel king; Daly and O'Brien, comedy dancers and singers; Langslow, rifle expert; Three Coopers, harmonising vocalists, and the Bioscope with interesting pictures.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Miss Hetty King's male impersonations are exceedingly smart, and she is a great favourite; May Mars takes well in a "Flip-flap" song, and then gives her beautiful scena, *In the Shadow of the Pyramid*, for which she received several enthusiastic recalls; Billy McClain and his coloured compatriots give their lively song and dance sketch of Southern life; the Three Prestons again cause roars of laughter with their *Liftman's Rise*; Carl Lynn is a great favourite in his animal mimicry, and gets a well-deserved double encore; Cassie Walmer, the popular comedienne and dancer; Iben-Obed, the marvellous Arabian equilibrist; Margaret Radcliffe, in illustrated songs; and the Herald Comedy Four, in their novelty act, are the other noteworthy items in a lengthy programme

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—This theatre re-opened on Monday after a short vacation, and is again under the control of Mr. Bowerman. For this week he has secured a good company, including the New Macs, in their patter, song, and dance items; Ella Duncanson, the popular ballad vocalist; Neil McNab, a new Scotch comedian; Hughes and Kendal a clever comedy couple; Vi Rochelle and Nellie Hawthorne, comediennes and dancers; and the Sisters Darrell, in their taking duets. In addition a good display of Bioscope pictures is given.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Director, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The Bioscope plays an important part in the programme here this week. The films are good and the subjects entertaining. In addition, there is a good variety programme, which includes Careta Dahlia, the famed lady gymnast, who performs some clever feats; Bell and Bright, comedy artists; Harry Arnold, Scottish comedian; and May Tyler, comedienne and dancer.

GRAVESEND.—GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—Mabel Sinclair is a first-class ventriloquial turn; Ernest Rees in his drolleries scores heavily; Alice Maple is a bright comedienne and graceful dancer; Delafiore, a remarkably clever xylophone player, meets with a hearty reception; the Three Grosvenors, who sing popular melodies in harmony, are highly successful; Lily Butler, low comedy artist, meets with a flattering reception, and last, but not least, is Mlle. Haydee with her miniature theatre, some clever tricks with puppets being performed.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale. —Mr. Milton Bode's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon* is here this week. The play is sumptuously mounted and beautifully dressed. Miss Gwennie Harcourt as Fi-Fi creates roars of laughter; Miss Elsie Shillings is charming as Soo-Soo; Mrs. Pineapple has an excellent exponent in Miss Veronica Brady, whose singing and dancing is much applauded. Mr. Will Harman is very funny as Pineapple, and is responsible for much merriment; Mr. Rudolph Kloss makes a pompous Emperor; Mr. P. Allerton Turner plays Chippie Chop well; Mr. Leonard May is excellent as Hi Lung; Mr. Harry Jenning makes a manly Tom Hatherton; as Mrs. Brown, the official mother-in-law, Miss Maud Adams adds much to the fun. Great praise is due to Mr. P. Allerton Turner for his able stage-management.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Fred Karno's company of comedians are appearing here in *The Mumming Birds*, *London Suburbia*, and *The Casuals*. Daisy Yates is a singer of excellent songs; Mostel appears in a smart musical act; O'Mally and Brown present a capital comedy act; Little Victoria is a dainty dancer; May and Arthur are smart patter vocalists and dancers.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—Patrons of this popular establishment are liberally catered for this week. Mlle. Juliette's highly-trained performing sea-lions are a huge draw; the Garden of Girls, a troupe of fifteen excellent lady singers and dancers, appear in a very artistic entertainment; Aerian and Ostara are exceptionally clever aerial gymnasts; Leicester Cooke is a daring horseman; Addison introduces four cleverly-trained dogs; the Four Louberts combine comedy with a smart acrobatic turn; the water pantomime, *Fun on the Broads*, is still causing much merriment; Doodles, to whom nothing comes amiss, is diving from the roof of the building, as well as introducing absurdities throughout the performance. Excellent pictures are displayed on the Royal Bioscope.

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Harry Rogerson, the "tired" comedian, is creating roars of laughter in his three-legged dance; the Five Vernons give a first-rate musical entertainment; Mlle. Cordella repeats her success of last week; Bessie Herbert has an excellent style; Victoria Loving is a pleasing comedienne and clever dancer; Carl Fredericks is a very versatile entertainer; the Athlones are two fine muscularly developed athletes; Little Della is a charming vocalist; Amy Robson scored well; capital pictures are being shown on the Bioscope.

WELLINGTON PIER PAVILION.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation; Manager, Mr. Arthur Cash.—De Lilo and Metz present a smart acrobatic and juggling act in a very novel form; Dion Wade is a very funny comedian; Lambert and Glover, duologue artists, create much merriment; Allis and Casatti are very good; Arthur Pearle's whistling is very fine; Victoria Mause gives a very pleasing singing and dancing turn; Lilian Neville has an excellent soprano voice; Louie Belrose is a dainty comedienne; Mike Asher sings good songs, and executes an exceedingly clever dance; Mr. Arthur Verne is a good comedian; excellent pictures are exhibited on the Bioscope.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.—Crowds are still attracted here to witness the excellent display of animated pictures.

CHAPPELL'S PROMENADE CONCERTS. — Proprietress, Mrs. J. Sarah Lawton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—A capital programme is being presented here by the same artists as appeared last week.

MINSTREL ARENA.—The popularity of the Black Diamond Minstrels is still ascending, and large audiences are the rule at each performance.

GUERNSEY. — THEATRE ST. JULIANS.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris.—We are again served with vaudeville fare this week. The engagement of the famous boxer Gunner Moir is proving an immense draw, his exhibitions with local men being particularly exciting; Wallan, juggler, is a past-master of his art; Vere and Royal do well; Medley Barrett is the comedian; and Zenora, and Kitty Malone, a clever comedienne, prove attractive; and Ruffell's Bioscope completes the programme.

HALIFAX.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—T. Morton Powell's company, in *Greed of Gold*, is at the Grand this week. The drama is well staged and mounted. Mr. W. H. Domoney takes the part of Harry Hood; Mr. C. Stafford gives a vigorous rendering of Arthur Errol; Mr. S. Bryant is well placed as Cully Snig; Mr. D. Campbell scores as Conn Creamer; and Mr. J. Jarrett does well in the difficult part of Tom Wellstead. Miss Elma C. Turner plays capitally as Dora; Miss S. Bryant is successful as Patty Marfield; and the boy, Cecil, is intelligently played by Miss May Ediss.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Norah Noble is an acceptable singer and good dancer. The Forsyths introduce, in *The Tramp in the Nursery*, some good business and a clever doll dance; Maston, the Yorkshire mimic, is very good; Dave Samuels, Hebrew comedian, soon got on good terms with his audience with his funny songs and smart patter; the San Remo Girls are successful in song and dance; Lambert and Hands gain applause for their vocal scena; Leslie Bros., in *Music Mad*, are responsible for hearty laughter, and prove to be clever musicians; Little Dando is a small but successful comedian; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux shows some good pictures.

HAMILTON.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Gustave Fashola, Indian Fakir, in a remarkable series of illusions, is topping the bill here this week; Wild, Willie, and West are exceptionally clever in their trampoline and trap scena, *The Bounding Navvies*; Wood, Wells, and Wilkins are another exceptionally clever trio, who introduce some excellent singing and comedy business in their scena, *The Piano Tuner*; Bert Danson, American comedian, is diverting in songs and patter; Madge Allen sings and dances prettily; Alhalan performs some marvellous equilibristic feats; the Finmans are amusing in their comedy scena, *The Fire Station*; The Belsons introduce some clever cycling tricks in a scena entitled *A Tramp's Holiday*; and an interesting series of films on the Bioscope concludes an exceptionally strong programme.

HANLEY.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Agnes Spadoni, with her three admirably trained horses, is very successful; the Grand Pictures show how the French train their firemen—a fine film; Geo. Brooks is a hit in humorous effusions; Florence Aylin sings two catchy chorus songs; Welland, the comic juggler, makes a decided hit with his funny and clever business; Lizzie Dniels, comedienne, is good; and Charlie Deane is again a great favourite. The star attraction is a very welcome return visit of the lightweight champion, Jabez White, who gives a finished object lesson on how to spar. He is meeting local champions nightly, giving a prize on Friday to the best. Chas. Vesty travels with him and gives a fine exhibition of ball punching.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—The clearness and steadiness of the pictuers shown at this beautiful theatre are the talk and admiration of the Potteries. This week they include Bobby on the Spree, The Dog Outwits the Kidnapper, the Pursuit of a Suit, The Perjurer, The Music Teacher, Hilda's Lovers, The Boy Detective, At the Stage Door, The Clown Doctor, and a Mysterious Boudoir. Mr. C. Lisbun, a champion skater and a clever comedian, supplies the vaudeville items.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. Brandon Thomas's company appeared in *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. G. A. Seager as Lord Fancourt Babberley scored a well-deserved success, and his performance was admirably supported by Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Basil Lynton as Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham respectively; Miss Olivia Glynn and Miss Grace Russell as the young ladies, Kitty and Amy, gave pleasing characterisations; Mr. Sidney Compton as the college scout was amusingly lugubrious, and Mr. Spettigue, played by Mr. Roy Byford, was as vivacious as ever. The smaller parts were all well filled. *Charley's Aunt* was preceded by *The Lancashire Sailor*, also by Brandon Thomas. For the remainder of the week Mr. Charles Frohman presents *The Hypocrites*.

THE KURSAAL.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—Miss Constance Collier recited selections from her large and varied répertoire on Monday afternoon to a large and fashionable audience. Mr. Harry Randall is announced for a special matinée on Tuesday. Miss Robertson Grimston is the vocalist for the week, and Mr. Curtis Leo, the popular conjurer, the entertainer. Miss Evelyn Stuart is announced as solo pianist for the symphony concert on Wednesday, which Mr. Julian Clifford will return to conduct after his long and serious illness, and he is sure of a rousing reception.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. Ferrier.—The picture shows continue to be popular here, and this week capital films are shown, which include Baby's Playmate, Buying a House, The Hunchback's Luck, The Charmed Sword, The Baby Elephant, Cowboys and Redskins, The Caterpillar Engine, The Gentleman Gipsy, Japan Rapids on the Ozu River, and Those Scandalous Boys.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr Charles B. Scutt.—A return visit is paid this week by Mr. Leonard Boyne and his company in *Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman*, and a large and delighted audience assembled on Monday to give the popular actor a hearty welcome. In Mr. Boyne's delineation of A. J. Raffles the warp of an otherwise charming personality was skilfully presented, and the author's cleverly devised drama found very capable exponents respectively in the company supporting him. Particularly effective was the acting of Mr. Harold West as "Bunny"; Miss Dora Sevening as Gwendoline Conran was equally admirable; the acting of Mr. E. W. Thomas as the American Detective, Bedford, and of Mr. Buckstone Clair as Crawshay was equally good. Characteristic renderings were given by Mr. Arthur Willoughby as the Earl of Amersteth, by Miss Blanka Stewart as Lady Melrose, and by Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald as Lady Ethel, the remaining rôles being also well presented. *Raffles* is well mounted, and the scenery deserves praise. Mr. Montague Love stage-managed. Mr. Francis Simpson, who has recently recovered from a severe attack of enteric, is now the business-manager for Mr. Leonard Boyne.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Shiela Daly, an attractive comedienne, is accorded a hearty reception; some dramatic subjects are cleverly depicted on the new Hipposcope; Phil Bransby, the coster comedian, proves exceedingly amusing; some part songs and pleasing ballads are rendered with much sweetness and expression by Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls; the Sisters McCalla (Dolly and Madge) introduce some pretty and graceful dances; Alice Maude and company are associated in a laughable sketch; Johnny Dwyer is a truly eccentric character comedian; a diverting operetta, entitled *Sunny Spain*, is an attractive turn given by Austin Boyd, the tenor vocalist, and Trixie Gilfain, on the bagpipes.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The English Light Opera company, under the direction of Mr. T. H. Friend, are still attracting good audiences. Besides the operas *Il Trovatore*, *The Marriage of Figaro*, &c., *Faust* is the most popular. The splendid form and excellent voices of the artists achieve a distinct success. Taking the last-named opera, Mr. Fred J. Hargrave, as Faust, distinguishes himself both as an actor and a vocalist; Mr. Arthur Winckworth delivers the difficult music of Mephistopheles with considerable ability; Mr. Tom Griffiths as Valentine sings in spirited fashion; as Siebel Miss Edyth

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Alvord, with a voice of sympathetic quality, lends agreeable variety to the play. Madame Marie Titiens as Marguerite sings the music with a wistful tenderness which earns a cordial welcome. The whole of the operas are bright and tunefully rendered under the conductorship of Mr. T. Lawton.

Beach Concert Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. George Blackmore.—Favoured by the genial weather, the entertainers provided by the Wallis Arthur Syndicate supply a much-sought-for entertainment. The al fresco concerts in the Alexandra Park also attract large audiences.

Public Hall.—The entertainment provided by the London Animated Picture Co. continues pleasingly educational and attractive, the subjects being well chosen and varied in character.

St. Leonards Pier Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Cyril Getliffe's National Ladies' Choir is attracting fair audiences. The pretty singers, in picturesque dresses, render a variety of pleasing songs, trios, and quartettes; cornet and violin solos are also introduced, Mr. Getliffe himself holding a high position as a violinist. Variety is given to the entertainment by an amusing ventriloquial sketch by Mr. Fred Hill. The show concludes with a series of bright animated pictures.

HULL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Wm. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—The summer season of sketches, pictures, and songs has met with much success, and will be continued until the end of August. This week, a comedietta, *A Wooden Leg*, in which Miss Rita Rosslyn and Mr. W. Carriden take part has met with favour.

Alhambra Theatre.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. Morton.—A new version of Daudet's *Sapho* is drawing big business to this house. It is the first occasion on which the play, in any form, has been seen at the East End house. Fanny La Grande finds ample opportunity for Miss Lizzie Montague, who is faithful to Daudet's picture; Mr. Stuart Lomath catches the public taste as Jean; whilst old Uncle Cæsar could have no better representative than Mr. Percy Shaw. The other representatives work hard. The play is excellently mounted, and business is increasing nightly.

ILKESTON. — Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. A. Campbell-Kelly and company are here in *A Gamble with Life*, Mr. Campbell-Kelly appearing as Neville Marsden; Miss Nana Cameron as Freda, the outcast, does excellently well. The remaining artists are successful.

IPSWICH.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Stead.—Sid Doody and Edie Wright, the Australian comiques, are paying a return visit and received a hearty welcome; Jack Neil is a humorist of Scotch nationality; the Falcons are extremely clever acrobats, and their agility and remarkable feats thoroughly deserve the applause they evoke; Fred Keeton is another comedian, and Edie Veno, an eccentric both in singing and dancing; Richardson Taylor is a ventriloquist, but does also some clever whistling turns; Frank Maura, described as the Mexican Wonder, does some clever balancing; Damerelle and Rutland give a laughable farce entitled *House Full;* and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—The attraction here this week is Mr. and Mrs. John E. Tomlinson's company, with *The Secrets*. Mr. R. Brown gives a manly portrayal of Lieut. Markham; Mr. John Worth is seen to advantage as Nouredin Ali; Mr. Fred C. Palmer is quite at home in the part of Hon. Cecil Cholmondeley; Mr. J. E. Tomlinson makes an ideal Ibrahim Al Murad, a slave dealer; and Mr. Bailey simply revels in the part of Breezy Bill. Mr. H. Woodin and Miss M. Palmer cause much amusement as Peter Wilkins and Winnie Wilkins; and Miss Lizzie Palmer makes an impression as Ismaili, the Christian slave. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

JERSEY.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris.—Big business is being done here during this, the race, week. Gunner Moir is demonstrating his claim to the title boxing champion of England by meeting local champions; Jessie Wilton sings some taking songs; Zenora does some good hand balancing; Ivy Proudfoot sings tuneful melodies; Vere and Royal prove a clever couple, and wind up with characteristic dancing; Kitty Malone appears as the Gibson Girl; Wallan does clever juggling; and Ruffell's Bioscope is once more in evidence.

Oddfellows' Hall.—The Kinematograph entertainment known as *The King's Service* is paying its annual visit here under the direction of Mr. Ernest Mansell. Miss Maude Evelyn sings several American songs, illustrated by slides.

Springfield Pavilion.—The Motlez are still here. Mr. Basil Spencer appears as a pierrot, and gives some good pianoforte selections; Miss Mabel May is a vivacious dancer; and Miss Nora Ottoway sings charmingly.

Triangle Park.—The Æolian Concert Singers opened here on Monday night, and were very cordially received. The band of the first East Surrey Regiment played during the first half of the programme.

LANCASTER. — Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Another capital programme is arranged this week, at the head of the bill being the Haytors in a very amusing sketch *The Plumber*. The Society Quartette of singers and dancers have a great reception; whilst Stuart and Evans, comedians, win favour. Theresa De Silva, vocalist, well merited her encore, as also did Gladys Huxley, comedienne. Ariel and Astarte supply a pleasing horizontal bar act, and Frank Coyle does well. The Hippograph completes.

LEEDS.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*An Unwedded Wife* makes a first appearance here this week, and good audiences have voiced their appreciation of its many thrilling passages. The principal character of Marion is played in perfect style by that accomplished actress Miss Ethel Van Praagh; the villain, Philip Blackstone, gets a most effective personation at the hands of Mr. C. Lodge Percy; and Mr. George Daiper makes a satisfactory hero. A juvenile part is cleverly done by Little Doris; Mr. E. W. Bretton displays ability in the rôle of Martin Hallet; whilst on the comedy side Mr. J. Edward Whitty provokes great hilarity as a comic policeman, being ably assisted by Mr. Will Casey and Miss Jessie Gillette.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—The leading turn here is supplied by George Auger, the giant actor, and his company of midgets, who participate in a quaint playlet entitled *Jack, the Giant Killer*. The entertainment is most amusing. Lil Hawthorne subscribes some new items in her best style, and gets the usual enthusiastic reception; a comedy illusion, *The Enchanted Iona*, is successfully presented by Charles Frazer and company; Frank Bernard and company also have a novelty which is well to the liking of the audience; Barrett and Knowles, in vocal speciality, again do extremely well; Vanando is an entertaining ventriloquist; and of the rest Olive and Owen, Amy Marsden, and David Stewart are particularly successful.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—A dramatic playlet, *The House of Terror*, is presented in effective style by Miss Beaumont Collins and company, and evokes demonstrative appreciation; Barrington and Grey appear in a pleasing vocal scena with great success; Bert and Dora submit a comedy speciality which is well liked; Arthur Harris is an actor-vocalist of considerable ability; and a feature of the programme is a series of fine Bioscope pictures of the Marathon Race.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—The Brothers Boller lead here with a sensational cycle performance; that smart Hebrew pair, Lowenwirth and Cohan, are again having a successful week; the Brothers Permane submit a skilful and amusing acrobatic performance; a capital musical turn by the Ellimans wins great applause; Cummin and Seaham score with a humorous novelty; Will Vay's Juveniles are applauded for a clever entertainment; Frank Cass and Will Sullivan are both popular in their respective styles; whilst Gena Manon and George Antill also contribute good items to a programme of all-round excellence.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—H. O. Wills, a smart comedian, is prominent here; George Young, a blind musician, is rewarded with applause for his wonderful musical turn; the Three Merrions are comedy entertainers above the average; and Helen Martin is particularly successful with vocal renditions. There is also on show a capital film of the Marathon Race.

LEICESTER.—Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton.—A rousing reception is being extended here to Harry Lauder, who is on a second visit. His song "My Scotch Bluebell" is a great favourite, and is accorded round after round of applause. He finally renders a verse of "Rocked in the cradle of the deep," which discloses a voice very few of the audience ever dreamt this gifted artist was possessed of. Walter Bellonini repeats with special favour his smart juggling act, being assisted by his mirth-provoking assistant Wal; the Three Lloyds excel in their clever and clean turn on the bounding cables, their intricate feats being accomplished in a manner eliciting unstinted applause; Ian Colquhoun, the favourite baritone, is securing his usual warm welcome; Fred Poplar, in a dramatic burlesque, raises hearty laughter; Kitty Wager is a captivating and pretty comedienne; Mazie Hibbs is a capital vocalist and excellent dancer; Will Musgrave entertains with his policeman's song; and the Bioscope is a feature with the story picture A Man in a Thousand, shown in ten tableaux.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—A well-played and popular dramatic episode, entitled *The Usurer*, is being presented here this week by Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore and company, in which Miss Moore as Irene Dane and Mr. Mason as Herbert Dane display histrionic talent above the average. The original Dancing Gilberts are particularly smart in their novel dancing act; the Fionas are excellent equilibrists and slack-wire artists; the Sons of Toil are very good in their musical speciality act on a number of brass instruments; Harry Luck, with some really funny songs, creates plenty of merriment; the Sisters Varley are capable duettists; and Alma Moller, vocalist, also appears. A special feature of the programme is Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope with the Marathon Race, Cinematograph Evidence, and Walter, the Rural Postman.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—As usual, the pictures here are good, and include this week The Law of Honour, Duel after the Ball, The Little Marauders, Wedding in Brittany, A Modern Samson, The Pierrot and the Devil, and A Mountaineer's Flirtation, which are interspersed with turns by Master William Edwards and James Bown, winners of singing competitions held at this hall. Another comic singing tournament is taking place this week.

LIVERPOOL.—Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*Sexton Blake* has again come to Liverpool, this time to the popular north-end house, where good business has been done. Mr. Horace Hunter handled the title-rôle in a manner which earned for him general favour; Mr. Algernon Syms ably sustained the part of Squire Lovell; a very amusing Tinker came from Mr. Billy Ross; Miss Alma Vincent, as Euphemia Pattacake, helped with the fun; the villainous Randolph Lovell was well portrayed by Mr. Charles East; Mr. John M. East was effective as the burglar, Simon Faggas; and excellent work also emanated from Miss Lily Hammersley, Mr. Bryan Daly, Mr. William Felton, and Miss East Robertson.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Under the direction of Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair the favourite *Man to Man* was presented here thoughout the week. Mr. Denholm Muir did excellently as the Rev. Philip Ormond; Miss Louie Adair very capably held the part of Ethel Maythorne; Mr. Edward Lloyd was a success as George Gordon; in the rôle of the villainous Richard Ellerton Mr. Frank Adair afforded great support. Thanks were due to Miss Adeline Lester for her smart conception of the spinster, Miss Lavinia Dove; and good work was also done by Messrs. H. Holland, Herbert Williams, Clifford Bown, and Miss Evelyn Warde.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Wilkie Bard is the big line here this week, and Millie Hylton, with her latest successes, stands prominent at the bottom of the bill. Both have had a hearty reception. Henry Coutts and company presented a smart sketch, *Outflanked;* Frederick King and Marie Queen submitted a neat comedy turn; Ethel Whiteside and her piccaninnies are accorded hearty applause; Hans and Lux are a couple of humorous patter comedians; Nellie Stratton, comedienne, pleases immensely; a highly-appreciated musical turn comes from Roma and Romani; and Lilian Lowe sung several songs in pleasing style.

Lyric.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Principal here this week has been Henry Herne's company with an attractive sketch, entitled *The Colleen Bawn;* Sable Fern brought her latest songs, which were received with every appreciation; Nancy Thornton pleased with several numbers; Ernest Montefiore and company presented the always-acceptable trifle, *The Little Colonel;* loud laughter followed the work of the humorous Alec Kendal; some pleasing songs were sung by Leah Adell; as a musician the youthful Luigi Salvano showed a deal of talent; and Harry Barclay, light comedian, also appeared.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager Mr. Walter Hassan.—A strong bill has been put forth here during the week, the top place being occupied by George Mozart, who brought his latest funniosities; Hall and Earle, with the amusing trifle, *The Chinaman and the Tramp*, were particularly diverting; Dorothy Gould had a most cordial reception for her acceptable songs; Driscoll and Felino gave a funny skit, *Paddock Life;* the Cheers submitted a clever cat show entitled *Dick Whittington;* some smart dancing was executed by the Three Cunards; as acrobatic dancers the Berthos showed talent; the Sisters Wingrove deserved the applause they received for their duets and dancing; *Ferdie's Main-Law* aroused a deal of laughter; and contributions also came from B. Babington, comedienne, and Herbert Rule, comedian.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The stock company here have during the week given *Sapho*. Mr. Harry Tresham very ably undertook the rôle of Jean; Mr. R. Seath Innes handled the part of Dechelette with every credit; Miss Florence Palmer was a tactful Sapho; Mr. Robert Wilton proved successful as Cesaire; and worthy support came from Mr. E. D. Allen, Mr. Cecil Ravenswood, Miss Lilian Radbourne, Miss Nancy Mitchell, and Miss Emmeline Enthwistle.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—George Robey has been foremost here this week, and proved a big attraction; Ethel Haydon was given a grand reception for her pleasing songs; the Bros. Miller, as gymnastic comedians and burlesque wrestlers, proved exceedingly amusing; a clever all round show came from Daras, comedian, conjurer, dancer, and impersonator of celebrities; the Lyric Quartet rendered some pleasing harmonised picture songs; Cestria aroused endless laughter with his funny juggling and acrobatic duties; the three Sisters Jerome gave a novel act, *Aunty's Maid;* the singing of the King's College Boys was appreciated; and the Sisters Morgan, duettists and dancers, earned applause.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Heading the bill here this week is a particularly accomplished quick-change artist named Owen McGiveney, with a dramatic sketch entitled *Oliver Twist*, in which he presents several characters; Caban's French circus proves exceedingly pleasing; Dottridge and Instone's comedy company give a smart sketch, *Rosie's Birthday Party;* as comedy entertainers Bennett and Sterling are well received; Edwin Austin renders a number of popular selections on the concertina; Burns and Bentley provide a smart vaudeville turn; as eccentric acrobats Margit and Lener amuse greatly; Will Owen proves as funny as ever; the Kyasyas give a smart athletic exhibition; and also in the programme are Harry Nelson, comedian; Dancit, "Queen of the Golden Clog"; and Les Zelovas, acrobatic equilibrists.

LLANDUDNO.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. A. G. Pugh.—Miss Emma and Percy Hutchison's company occupy the boards for six nights with *Lady Frederick*. Miss Mabel Love in the title-rôle is all that could be desired, and she obtains rounds of applause each evening. Sir Gerald O'Mara is capably undertaken by Mr. Patrick Quill; Mr. Robert Minster gives a first-class representation of Mr. Baradine Fouldes; Miss Eleanor Delaporte does justice to the part of Lady Mereston; Mr. E. F. Meads acquits himself creditably as Lord Mereston; Mr. Edward Bonfield is good as Capt. Montgomery; Capt. Gambier is at home in the part of Admiral Carlisle; Miss Lynn Fontanne is chic as Rose; and Miss Beatrice Grosvenor is a good Madame Claude. *Lady Frederick* is preceded by *The Peacemaker*, in which Misses Eleanor Delaporte, Lynn Fontanne, and Rita Ward and Messrs. Patrick Quill and Edward Bonfield appear effectively.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. H. F. Maltby's company was here the first part of the week with *The Youngest of Three, Fraud,* and *Sir George of Almack's*. On Monday the first-named piece was given. Mr. H. F. Maltby making an excellent George Wendover, acting with power throughout. Mr. Arthur Claremont as Gerald Wendover gave an equally good portrayal; Mr. Wyn Weaver as Philip Radford was well placed; and Mr. Brember Wills was at home in the dual rôle of Joshua Pynne and Paul. Miss Lizzie Maddocks (Annie Dulley) and Miss Florence Wynne (Florence Dulley) were capital as the embittered and dignified sisters; whilst Miss Mara Maltby was irresistible as Lucy Dulley, her charming manner greatly appealing to the audience. Mr. George Grossmith's recitals were announced for Friday and Saturday.

Pier Head Varieties.—Manager, Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe.—The top of the bill is Mr. C. D. Reekie, whose Lancashire drolleries call forth roars of laughter; Mr. Harold Browne possesses an excellent voice, and is a singer above the average; Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe is as entertaining as ever; Miss Edith Heron-Browne does admirable work at the piano; Mr. Donal McDougal renders some good Scotch songs; and Miss Winifred O'Connor is a first-class soprano.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—This house re-opened for the season on Monday with the first of a series of musical comedies, *The Merry Widow*, which was presented locally for the first time by Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company. The leading parts were carefully treated, and the fine chorus and effects added generally to a capital representation.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The brilliant weather does not in any way affect the crowded houses at this highly-popular resort, and the excellence of the programmes is well maintained. The British Biograph Company present an entirely new series of pictorial subjects this week, under the experienced management of Mr Fred Gilbert, whose efforts are thoroughly successful in this particular department. The variety bill is headed by the Four Maisonas, musical artists; Prof. Evansio, with his plate-spinning novelty; and Sim Maree, the Indian boy contortionist, in a wonderful act.

MAIDENHEAD.—Pavilion Pleasure Gardens.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gude.—The Cadets have a good programme this week. Mr. Colin Gent sings "In friendship's name" and "If everybody were as kind as you," Miss Adelaide Twort is successful with "The gift" and "Queen of Love," and the two give an excellent rendering of the duet "Flow gently, Deva." Miss Florrie Delamere is redemanded for "Meet me, Jenny, when the sun goes down," and is much applauded for a song and spirited dance, "Come down from that big fig tree." Jack Anders has a smart way with him, and is heard to advantage in "You can't do without a girl" and "Meet me under the clock"; Leo Fallowfield causes roars of laughter with "That pudding" and "Don't be silly," and Will Harris keeps the attention of his audience with "Clap hands, daddy's come home!" and "You mustn't do a thing like that." The concerted numbers are well prepared, "Down in the old cornfield" being particularly well sung. The sketch *On the Brain* is very amusing.

MAIDSTONE. — Palace. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—A good programme includes Mr. Fred Ginnett's company in the equestrian sketches, *Rejected Remounts* and *Dick Turpin*, the former causing hearty laughter, while in the latter a well-trained mare is introduced. The Pemms are clever knockabout comedians; Leon and Noel please with their dancing; Miss Dora Daly is a smart comedienne; and others in a well-varied bill include Rudge Whitworth, entertainer; H. E. High, acrobatic skate dancer; Charles Vernon, comedian, and the Bioscope.

MANCHESTER.—Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Herbert Lloyd's company occupy the boards here in the new musical comedy *Happy Hooligan*. The principals, who include W. H. Lester (Hooligan), Jas. J. Sullivan (Macgregor), John K. Hawley (Guggenheimer), Harry Emerie (Charley Flipp), Lottie Wilson (Widow Johnson), and Rose Lyndon (Rose), all sustain their parts well. The chorus work is good and powerful, and all the songs are tastefully rendered. The dancing is cleverly executed, and the delightful dresses are a feature of the entertainment. The show is given twice nightly, and very well received.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Chas. T. Aldrich, the American quick-change comedian, is the popular top star here this week, and Harry Weldon, "the swell entertainer," shares the honours with some smart eccentric comedy. Russell Wallett, the lady in black, goes well, as usual; a big reception is accorded to Bertha Stuart, a very pleasing Scotch character vocalist; the Warsaw Bros., musical comedians, provoke laughter; and pleasing turns are added by Bessie Butt, soubrette and dancer; the Schisvonys, expert gymnasts; Gracie Grahame, versatile comedienne; and Gipsy Woolf, in *The Mermaid of Margate*, supported by her Six Sunbeams. The Bioscope shows incidents in the Marathon Race.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Harry Tate and company are here this week in that highly-amusing incident *Fishing*, and, if possible, are more diverting than ever. King and Benson, as the Messenger Boy and the Soubrette in a clever vocal comedy act, meet with a big reception; the Seven Wulfrunas do some smart acrobatic business in their speciality *Fun in a Café;* Olgar and Elgar are deservedly well received in a high-class vocal and instrumental act; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden are exceedingly good in a capital sketch; Helen Trix is smart in songs and whistling at the piano; Robb Gilmoure makes a hit with his eccentric style and "corkscrew" dance; and excellent dancing is done by Russell Brandow, a coloured comedian. The vocal items by the choir and up-to-date Bioscope pictures complete.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—*La Marseillaise; or, The Story of a Song*, is a pretty sketch, well acted by Mr. Walter Raynham, Miss Kate Gurney, Miss Marie Santley, and Mr. Edgar C. White. Martin Conway is a funny comedian, and is well received; Mlle. Naveeda presents a clever illusionary act with great success; the Sicilians sing well, and one in particular plays the mandoline in fine style; Ormonde Penstone is a neat prestidigitateur, and takes well; Mabel Robarts sings pleasing illustrated songs in good style; Victor and Louis are very smart in a vocal comedy act; Victor Courtney is entertaining at the piano; Billy Yeager and Emma Da-Costa dance well; and the Foy Bros. and company are amusing in the sketch *Pat in China*. Pictures complete.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—An excellent all-round programme here this week includes Arthur Rigby, the popular comedian, and smart company in a delightful miniature comic opera, *The Isle of Doma;* Jordan and Harvey, those vastly amusing Hebrew dialect comedians, who create endless laughter; and the Achmed-Ibrahim Troupe of Bedouin Arabs, in their astounding acrobatic performance. Other turns, all above the average, are those of Elton and Edwin, banjoists; Jenny Alexander, mimic; Tally Ho! Trio, comedy vocalists; R. C. Matthews and company in the farcical sketch *The Honeymoon Baby;* Charles Santon, double-voiced vocal comedian; and Haig and Novil, comedy artists, acrobats, and smart dancers. His First Frock Coat on the Bioscope is amusing.

Tivoli. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Minnie Leslie and Edgar Stevens top the bill here this week in a very pleasing vocal comedietta, *Love Levels All*. The Cattanees are highly diverting in a clever acrobatic act; Wilfred Burnand is an exceptionally good mimic and character impersonator; Jenny Reeve is a comedienne with plenty of go; Marjorie Merle, musical comedy artist, has a good voice; Elsie Claire sings pleasing songs nicely; Pueblo and Cropp are capital dancers; and enjoyable items are also those of Edmunda, singing ventriloquist; and Will Gerton, comedian. Several fine films are shown by Ruffell's Bioscope.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—*The Fiddler's Windfall*, a neat episode which is being played here with success this week, gives Bosanquet, the well-known violinist, an opportunity of showing how delightfully he can play. The Imperials are good in an instructive exhibition of Ju-jitsu, concluding with a bout of wrestling with a local man; Angelina, who juggles with a cannon ball, is clever; Hilda de Grey is a Tyrolean vocalist of merit; Dolly and Elsie are dainty juveniles who sing sweetly; Harry Zetter, comedian, wins applause for singing and funny business; Frank Sley, assisted by a clever youngster, does well in song and dance; Amos Howard, a coloured artist, dances exceedingly well; Celeste is a marvellous slack-wire walker and bâton swinger; and Francis Hanlon is a dainty singer and dancer.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Kay.—*Murphy's Affinity*, a very amusing comedy sketch, well presented by Rose Atherton's company, is to the front here this week. Nelson's Newsboys sing and dance well; Ted Waite, a comedian of the eccentric order, takes well; Fred S. Peake and company are seen to advantage in a dramatic costume episode, *The Hypocrite;* and the Days are highly successful as second-sight seers. Other good items are provided by Marcus Boyle, a capital comedian; Ada Whitton, neat male impersonator; the Lovelaces, pleasing song illustrators; and the Camerons, in smart duologue. Tommy and the Policeman's Whistle on the Bioscope is amusing.

Rusholme Pavilion.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Phillips.—*The Gay River*, "a musical comedy without plot," invented and produced by Messrs. Edwin Adeler and Clifford Morgan, is the attraction here this week. It is played in fine style by the following popular artists, all of whom do well:—Mr. Frank Dunlop, Mr. Bert Byrne, Mr. Charles North, Miss Connie Clive, Miss Nellie Crawford, Miss Harrie Greene, Miss Harriet Fawn, Miss Norah Walker, Mr. Francis Rayne, and Mr. A. Parry. The originally concerted numbers are by Messrs. Arthur W. Parry and Frank Dunlop.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hardy.—This week Mr. Lionel Brough, Miss Mary Brough, and Mr. Tom Craven, with a West End London company, have appeared in a light triple bill, namely, *The Lady in Red, The Yarn Spinner*, and *Milky White*. The four characters in *The Lady in Red* were capably undertaken by Mr. Stephen Adeson (Mr. Johnson) and Mr. Tom Craven (William), their original parts, Miss Clara Milvin (Mrs. Johnson), and Miss Isabel Collier (Cora). The duologue *The Yarn Spinner*, in which Mr. Lionel Brough and Miss Mary Brough appeared, has been received each evening with roars of laughter. The up-to-date version of *Milky White*, in which Mr. Tom Craven sustains the name-rôle, is excellently played. Miss Mary Brough, Miss Isabel Collier, Mr. Stephen Adeson, and Mr. Jackson Wilcox contribute greatly to the success of the piece.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Heading the programme this week is *The Orange Girl*, a tabloid form of the play of *Nell Gwynn*, presented most successfully by Miss Dolly Elsworthy, who cleverly takes the part of Nell Gwynn. Mr. Roy Redgrave plays King Charles II. well, and the Misses E. Moss and A. Allwood and Messrs. J. Willoughby and Adderley Howard effectively sustain the other characters in the sketch. Irve Hayman and little Marie Montague appear with success in the midnight episode *Christmas Eve;* and other turns include Mark Leslie, swell coon; the Gilberts, wire walkers; Evelyn Taylor, comedienne; and Maud and Sidney Wood, duettists.

Hall-by-the-Sea.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—Jack Charman, popular vocalist, sings remarkably well; Phern and Phern in their 'phone act are exceedingly good; and Zaleski, the golden spider, is a clever contortionist. Goggin and Davis, versatile comedy acrobats, Rosie Archer, lady mimic at the piano, and the Five Paulastos, comedians, in *Fun in a Garden*, also contribute to the success of the evening's entertainment.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—After the usual vacation this theatre re-opened on Monday night with a strong variety programme. The Bros. Onda, in their comedy three-bar act, make a decided hit; Atroy, the society juggler, is well received; Mlle. Violi is a remarkably clever performer on several instruments; and Will Rain and company submit a screamingly funny comedy act, *Motor Maniac*. Other artists include Tom Hudson, comedian; Mark Merry, comedian; Pearce and Ward, eccentric comedian and soubrette; Lily Ford, burlesque actress; and Fred Tenby, comedian. A series of up-to-date animated pictures is also given.

New Picture Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter.—Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—The excellence of the programme here is well maintained. This week's pictures include Meeting of the Kings, The Old Actor, The Death-Bed Marriage, Across the Frontier, Two Little Motorists, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—A powerful play entitled *The Power of the King* is being produced here this week by Messrs. Kimberley, Green, and Hinton's principal company. Mr. Gerald Blake gives an admirable impersonation of the part of Captain Langrage, while as the Crown Prince Oscar some powerful acting is given by Mr. Travis Green. A clever representative is found in Mr. Charles Whitlock as King Vellombrosa; as Lady Annastasia a delightful impersonation of the character is given by Miss Leila Zillwood; Miss Georgina V. France is pleasing in the rôle of Lady Glorina; and Mr. John Firman as General Stenovie, Mr. Milton Dandy as Fritz Tashheim, Mr. Fred Hughes as Capella, Mr. John Campbell as Alberta, Miss Grace Barton as Marget, and Miss Violet Jarson as Rosa are all that can be desired.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—Alice Raymond and players provide the premier turn here this week in a musical extravaganza entitled *A Night in Egypt*. It is a most delightful turn, and the audiences are quite carried away with the music that is provided. Miss Eugene Magnus and Mr. Lionel d'Aragon's company are exceedingly good in their studies from life entitled *Memories;* Talberto and Douglas, comedy artists, do well; and Lupino Lane is an excellent comedian and dancer. A clever turn is given by the Bouncing Dillons; and Goodfellow and Gregson, comedy artists, Billie Burford, comedienne, and Tom Yorke, comedian, also add to a capital programme.

Oxford Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—Fred Maxwell and Miss Lois Du Cane have been retained for another week, and are presenting a delightful sketch entitled *The Girl I Love*. A Hungarian troupe of acrobats are remarkably clever, and Cora Cassellis's impersonation of a Spanish girl in the national song and dance is very fine. Other good turns are also given.

MORECAMBE.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. M. Julian.—For the first three nights of the week Mr. Lewis Waller's company, under the management of Mr. F. Clive Ross, appeared in *Robin Hood*, and were well received. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards gave a fine rendering of the outlaw, and Miss Lilian Stennis was a charming maid Marion. On Thursday and for the remaining part of the week Mr. Brandon Thomas's company was seen in the ever-popular *Charley's Aunt*, and the cast included Misses Evelyn Grey, Grace Russell, Oliva Glynn, Vere Gerald, Messrs. T. McCausland Stewart, Roy Byford, Hastings Lynn, Basil Lynton, G. A. Seagar, and Sydney Compton.

Alhambra Palace.—General-Manager, Alderman John Gardner.—A good holiday bill has been provided here. The Zano Brothers made a great deal of fun on the triple bars with their business; and Irena and Laura are capable vocalists and dancers. A really smart turn is that of Ruhart, an original burlesque artist. For acrobatic eccentricities commend us to the Brothers Bradshaw, and for genuinely clever hand-balancing the Bonanzas will take a lot of beating. A really comical couple are the Brothers Harrison, comedians, whose make-up is "extra"; the Gus Onlaw Trio are seen to distinct advantage in a novel wire act; Drum and Major purvey comedy in the manner of old hands at the game; a most amusing sketch is presented by Tom Kelso and company entitled *The Silly Servant*, and the audience fairly revel in it; a smart illusion act is given by Picitt and Lizette, the clever business being carried out in a kitchen set; a great number of birds, rabbits, &c., are produced, and the act is one of the best. The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. F. B. Beard.

Winter Gardens.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Atkinson.—The great Morris Cronin and his smart assistants have delighted audiences with their fine juggling work and genuine comedy; Carter Livesey and Lilian Roseberry continue to raise much hilarity in their skit *The Would-be Actors;* Chas. R. Whittle has been requesting all and sundry to "Put me amongst the girls" all the week, and he has proved a bright turn; the Arnatos are as funny as ever; Fritz Kornan whistles with success; Maxey and Pete make fun on the cycles; Mollie Doon is a dainty comedienne; N. T. Kioto proves himself amongst the cleverest of Japanese equilibrists; and Gillin is "killin'" as a ventriloquial adept.

Central Pier.—Manager, Mr. Emilius Hill.—Topping the bill, Will H. Fox has been a popular success, and his smart patter and clever manipulation of the piano are equally acceptable. The Brothers O'Brien go well in their well-known horizontal bar act; extremely funny is the sketch *The Egyptian Mummy* presented by Sandy McNab and company; dashing and delightful are applicable terms in referring to the trapeze act of the Sisters Geretti; and there are also in the programme Ray Ford, comedienne; the Lynches, illustrated songs; Alfred Eugene, juggler; Monie Emerald, dancer and songstress.

MORLEY.—Empress.—Lessee, Mr. Maurice Press; Manager, Dr. C. Barrington Clarke.—A capital company has been billed here under the supervision of Serpentello, who has been very popular with his exhibition of contortionism Princess Pauline's interpretation of serio-comedy won warm approval. The Bros. Brookes, comedians, the Sisters Brand, duettists, Herbert Clark, musician, and Abals and Hurst, sketch artists, were the additions to a good company.

Copenhagen.—*Women and Wine* was Monday and Tuesday nights' attraction, and crowded houses were the rule. Other plays were produced during the week.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—Hundreds were unable to obtain admission to this popular place of amusement on Monday and Tuesday evening, a state of things perhaps not surprising when one considers the really magnificent programmes put forward by the enterprising managers. This week there are no less than ten turns of a very high-class nature, in addition to the band and animated pictures. The Yorkshire Mill Girls score a great success by their delightful singing; Prince Schaboo, a coloured bass vocalist, is also very well received; a remarkably clever performance on several instruments is given by Miss Lillie Luraine; whilst Kinnard, the merry magician, and Mr. Harry Keeble, ventriloquist, both cause much laughter and gain loud applause for their excellent and refined items. Miss Greta Scott is an admirable mandoline soloist; and Miss Caine, described as Oxfordshire's nightingale, sings most delightfully. A quick-change humorous act by Nora and Flora had a fine reception; Herr A. Spiegler charms his hearers with masterly violin solos; and the animated pictures are first-class.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parker.—A musical comedy without plot is the description of *The Anglo-Indians*, produced this week by the managers, and received with evident enjoyment by the frequenters of the Pier Pavilion. Mr. Kennedy Allen is a popular comedian, and shares the honours of the evening with Mr. A. Johnson, comedian, Mr. Albert Chapman, baritone, Miss Ethel Bryant, vocalist and expert dancer, Miss Lillian Wesson, soprano, and Miss Kitty Kennedy Allen, comedienne. All the ladies and gentlemen of the company work hard, and the

result is a pleasant evening. Mr. J. A. Lowe should not be forgotten, for his solos and accompaniments are distinctly good. "The Follies" appeared on Tuesday evening, with great success.

NORTH SHIELDS.—CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager.—Mr. Wm. Mould.—The principal attraction here this week is a clever magical and second sight performance which is presented by Kahn and Kahn, and has been warmly greeted; Mike and Lena, Dutch comedy artists, have had a cordial reception; Professor Dunning, ventriloquist, introduces an enjoyable act; Messrs. Vasey and Ramsay, eccentric comedians and dancers, are very smart; Mr. Jack North, comedian, is popular; Miss Alice Hayes, comedienne, is well received; Mr. Charles Ruble, comedian, goes well, and the Mouldoscope concludes.

NORWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Among the artists this week are the Bros. Ashley, in their clever boxing sketch, entitled *Next, Please*, which is full of fun, and causes endless laughter; Charles F. Bert as MacBunker, the mountebank, is another good turn; Arthur Ferris and Ethel May, in a musical comedy, *Two's Company; Three's* ——? deserve every praise; Alfred Graham's Premier Juveniles, in their vocal scena, "A concert on the lawn," Phillips and Merritt, in a musical travesty, "A touch of vaudeville," Sinclair and Parr, with Miss Alice Hollander, Australian contralto, and the Hippo. Bio. complete a pleasing entertainment.

NOTTINGHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The quaint mannerisms and comicalities of Louie Freear are always provocative of hearty laughter, and as 'Liza, in the sketch, *'Liza's Limerick*, she gives an amusing portraiture of a slavey; as an impersonator of celebrities Ludwig Amann is exceedingly clever; Elsie Roby as the slavey at the piano is both entertaining and smart; and the Musical Schafers blend comedy and harmony in their sketch, *The Garden of Melody*. As funmakers, Rich and Rich are hard to beat, and their item is thoroughly enjoyed; the New York Nippers, dancers, Boden and Bell, juvenile dancers, Nellie Martell, comedienne, and Andy Fagan, comedian, contribute to the entertainment. Excellent films are shown on the Bioscope.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company, in *The Flower Girl*, had a capital reception on Monday. Mr. Martin Adeson, in the character of Joe Wheeler, is irresistible, and his singing and acting keep the house in a constant state of merriment; Miss Dorothy Firman, in the title-rôle, Lily, is a delightful singer, and no less successful as a dancer; Miss Florence Wilton as Lizette de Racquet is excellent as a French lady, and she receives much assistance from Mr. Henry Adnes as Alphonse de Racquet; Miss Jeannie Holmes as Miss Greenhill is a realistic suffragette; Mr. Edward Kipling as Reginald Rackit, gives a clever and amusing rendering of a dude; Mr. Robt. H. Howard sings very well as the Hon. Billy Greenhill; and Mr. Alfred Donohoe as Johnny Wheeler is very clever, Catchy music and good dances do much towards success, and an excellent chorus is quite equal to the demands made upon it. The composer, Mr. Wm. T. Gliddon, personally conducts the orchestra.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kilrow.—Harry Champion, the quick and quaint comedian, makes another hit; Kitts and Windrum, in *The Cuckoo*, present a sparkling turn; Dot Stephens, in her imitations, scores a triumph; Webb and Branston, operatic duettists, sing delightfully; the Saletos provide a smart, refined head and hand balancing act; and Simms and Simms are excellent in a musical comedy turn. Florence Somers is a dainty comedienne; and Fayre and McHenry are capital in dance and cross-talk, The Dottoscope again shows capital pictures; Mac, Greg, and Mac appear with success in a new comedy act.

TEMPERANCE HALL, HORSEDGE-STREET.—The Royal Canadian moving pictures have opened here, under the able management of Mr. Dobie. Two shows a night draw crowded houses. An attractive programme is provided, consisting of both serious and humorous films, including £100 Reward, The Brigands of Calabria, A Sign from Heaven, Ragpicker Caricaturist, and The Duel After the Ball.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here with *The Face at the Window*. As the Chevalier Lucio Delgardo Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale is a decided success, and Mr. Scott Leighton is distinctly good as Paul Gouffet; Mr. Arthur Beverley works well as Lucian Cortier, and Mr. Alfred Warne makes the most of Henry de Brisson; Mr. Henri Stewart is quaint and amusing as Peter Pottleberry; Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson sustains the rôle of Marie de Brisson with grace and distinction, and Miss Louie Lenora is a bright and agile Babette.

PAISLEY.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas F. Bostock.—The place of honour is deservedly given this week to the performing sea lions and seals owned by Cliff Berzac, and Captain Woodward, their trainer, is responsible for as marvellous and as clever a performance as has ever been seen at this house. Another excellent exhibition of animal training is submitted by Paula Peters, whose wonderful group of educated and exceedingly clever ponies, baboons, boarhounds, and fox-terriers gain unstinted praise; Alice Hughes and company score a success with a capital sketch, *Star of the Bazaar*, which forms one of the most laughable interludes of the programme; Ruby Dahl, in a marionette novelty, The Merry Mannikins, provides a thoroughly enjoyable turn; as a vocalist and mimic Fred Horsfall is greatly appreciated; Naughton and Gold are mirth-provoking comedians and expert dancers; marvellous dexterity is shown by Tom Verne in his roller skating and dancing act; Little Eileen is dainty and refined in her singing and dancing contributions; and the Hippodrome Bioscope furnishes some excellent pictures.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The season opened with a return visit of *The Merry Widow*, and a packed house assembled on Monday to greet the popular favourite. Miss Clara Evelyn impersonates Sonia, her vivacity and charm receiving due appreciation, and her rendering of the Villya song being clamorously applauded; Mr. Robert Michaels is Prince Danilo, and establishes himself a firm favourite by his breezy style and acting, while the tuneful waltz with the widow was redemanded time after time. As Baron Popoff Mr. Lionel Victor has a stock of quaint sayings which never fail to elicit shrieks of laughter; Mr. Aubrey Standing as M. de Jolidon displays the possession of an excellent tenor voice, which does full justice to the songs falling to his lot; Miss Mary Grey (Natalie) is also an actress and vocalist of ability, being particularly strong in the latter department; the subtle humour of Mr. Tom Redmond as M. Nisch is a cause of continuous merriment.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Cruickshank's amusing and original patter, coupled with diverting parodies on popular songs, constitutes a most attractive turn; Richard Corbin's dogs form an entertainment in themselves, a striking feature of the performance being that the animals execute their human evolutions in the absence of their trainer, who does not appear until the end of the turn; Rappo nad Ella are remarkably skilful in the gymnastic business; Harry Taft is a whistler and raconteur of no mean ability; the Lyric Mummers' vocal contributions are well received; D. W. Watson strikes an original chord with some accomplished cornet and coach-horn playing, and Allsopp and Bekwith and Jerry and Bentley furnish attractive numbers in the comedy line.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—This comfortable hall continues to be well patronised. Blanche and Diacoff head the bill, and in their great cycle whizz delight and highly amuse the audience. Paul Cavalli performs some difficult feats of strength; Tom Joy, comedian, is re-engaged for this week, and his quaint style and funny songs are again causing much laughter. The Royal Quintette of international dancers are graceful, and receive well-merited applause; Daisy Devonport is appreciated for her songs and dance; R. C. Note, comedian, is heartily applauded; Akbar, gymnast, gives a daring performance on the silver-ringed trapeze; Bella Leaburn appears with much success as a comedienne; and the Sisters Clare gain warm recognition for their songs and dances. The Alexandra Biscope is again showing an interesting series of animated pictures.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Bannister Howard's No. 1 company in *Florodora* is here this week, meeting with an enthusiastic reception; Mr. Fred Eastman scores highly as Anthony Tweedlepunch, his quaint witticisms and business causing great amusement; Mr. Stanley White sustains in imposing style the rôle of Cyrus W. Gilfain; Mr. Basil Mercer plays quietly but most effectively as Frank Abercoed, his song, "Under the Palm," being much applauded; Captain Arthur Donegal is taken in capital style by Mr. Herbert St. John, and Mr. Edwin Oxlee makes a clever study of the small part of Leandro; Miss Lilly is a charming Angela Gilfain, singing her numbers very prettily; Miss Maisie Ellinger is a dashing and comely Dolores, and her vocalisation is of a high order; Miss Edith Housley as Lady Holyrood is admirable, her vocal numbers being excellently rendered.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*Love Rules the World* is staged here for the week by Mr. G. M. Copping's good all-round company. The much-injured hero, Harold Kingston, is played by Mr. Richard Vane in manly, vigorous style that quite won the house; the unscrupulous Stephen Blight finds an excellent exponent in Mr. John Cecil; the difficult part of the half-witted Jim Dixey is finely acted by Mr. Sidney Rennef; Mr. Alex Wilson Wynne does capital work as Paul Carruthers; and Mr. Frank Etheridge as Farmer Carruthers is very good. Miss Gertrude Sterroll provides a careful and painstaking study of the heroine, the unfortunate Maud Carruthers; the thankless part of Flo Morton is powerfully presented by Miss Constance Medwyn; Mother Grimble is characteristically portrayed by Miss Annie Brunette; Miss Nellie Freeland is a lively Kitty Snowdrop, and Mr. Matt Russell as Billy Binks is most entertaining.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Gibbon.—Miss Maud Hildyard and company in *The Great Awakening* are here for the week. Miss Hildyard's portrayal of Lola Selby, *alias* Lady Merton, is powerful and well sustained throughout; James Selby, an escaped convict, is played by Mr. Wallis Clark in vigorous, robust manner; Mr. Cecil Gray cleverly doubles the parts of Sir Henry Merton and his son, Jack Merton, and Mr. Stephen Langton furnishes a capital embodiment of Captain Harry Lambert; Miss Fay Garnet-Vayne as Molly Merton is excellent; Miss Cissie Podmore as Selina Worts and Mr. Rule Pyott as Billy Brass are responsible for the lighter side of the drama.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The topliner of a bright and attractive bill is the old favourite Kate Carney, the coster comedy queen, who presented to a full audience her new scena, *The Yiddisher Boy*, and scored tremendously; Violet Ray, violoncello soloist and soprano vocalist, submitted a very pleasing turn; Cissie Lupino is expert in her speciality dances, and gained cordial approval; Raymond Trio, in refined and excellent dancing and musical act, did well; Dave O'Toole, eccentric comedian, created much amusement by his droll mannerisms; and Jock Walker, comedian and patterer, was very good; another prime favourite here, May Henderson, the dusky comedy queen, gave three of her tuneful and sprightly numbers, and was vociferously encored. Payne's Bio., with some well-defined films, concluded the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Mr. Arthur Roberts and company, with his new farcical sketch, *Till Sunday; or, the Girl Who Took the Wrong Towing Path*, takes pride of place here, and gained unbounded plaudits. Mr. Roberts enacts three of the characters in his own inimitable style; and Messrs. W. Rokeby, Harry J. Worth, Harry Huddleston, and the Misses May Hallett and Ruby Celeste are responsible for the other clever personations. The Alskarno Trio are brisk and up-to-date in their Risley business; Miss Minnie Mace, a most attractive comedienne and dancer, is well received; Mr. Godfrey James, the tenor-voiced collier, submits a tuneful turn, and is encored; Miss Rose Hamilton, a smart and vivacious comedienne, is highly appreciated; Les Piccolinos, Liliputian wonders, are a capable troupe; Miss Kitty Colyer is excellent in song and dance; Mr. Fred Earle, comedian, causes great amusement by his diverting patter and quaint ditties. The Hippo. pictures, portraying latest events, complete a good bill.

PRESTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Gilbert Payne and his company are this week presenting the musical farcical comedy *The Honeymoon* for the first time in Preston. Mr. Chris Ainslie is capital as the irascible Col. Vandyke Brown; Mr. Leslie Erle sings well, and also proves himself an accomplished banjoist in the part of Jack Armstrong. Mr. Fred Fulton is very funny as Archie Mashington, and sings the songs allotted to him capitally; Messrs. Gus Tomlin, Bert Gray, and Fred Bentley, in the respective parts of L'Estrange, Timothy Tubb, and Policeman X.O. all do well. Mr. Gilbert Payne is the life and soul of the piece as Nathaniel Noodle, and works hard and receives excellent support from Miss Rosie Kearns, who creates much laughter as Emeretta Noodle; Miss Celestine Brandon as the heroine Madge Armstrong wins loud applause for her singing. Speciality dances are introduced by the Godfrey Girls, and the chorus contains some sprightly ladies with effective voices. The piece is well received.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Burke, Andrus, and Frisco cause much laughter with the comical mule in their absurdity, *Trafalgar Square, London*. J. C. Scatter, comedian, has some good songs; Rousby and Rene (Harry and Nell), in their Lancashire duologue, *Fine Feathers*, take well; the Four Breens, American comedy jugglers, are an excellent turn, their display with the Indian clubs calling forth loud applause. Scott Scott and company in their pantomime, *That Awful James*, cause much laughter; the Three Royal Temples, including Mme. Louie Gilbert, present one or two operatic selections in fine style; Zeta Grey and company in their musical comedy act, *The Lancashire Lass*, are old favourites, and score heavily; Louie Hermann gives some good songs; Elliott and Warne (Carrie and Tom) are versatile comedy artists, tumblers, and dancers; Jack Foley, comedian, and Romeo and Juliet on the Bioscope conclude a good all-round show.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Melvin.—The attraction at this theatre is Mr. George Dance's variety company, and good audiences have been secured. The principal items in the programme have been the new musical comedy sketches *The Local Amateurs* and *The Burglars' Ball*. Each of these is finely put on, and creates much amusement. Mr. Charles B. Hargreaves (as Joe Smiler in the first-named sketch) and Mr. Billy Stephens (as Swank among the burglars) are particularly successful. The programme also includes Miss Maude Dennis, with her sensational classical dance "The Vision of Salome," and the trick shooting act of Mlle. Leonie de Lausanne and company contains some really marvellous performances with rifles, and elicits thunderous applause. There are also items from Miss Madge Robertson (ballad vocalist), Hugo and Smit (a clever and comical bar performance), Mr. Syd Owen (Scotch comedian), Mr. Eugene Brandt (comedian), and illustrated songs and pictures on the Bioscope.

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE AND PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—A bright and pleasant show is *The New Girl*, presented by Messrs. Cowper-Smith and Douglas Payne's company. Mr. Arthur Poole is a huge success as Colonel Bullett, V.C., and the rôle of the New Girl is finely portrayed by Miss Rosa Bennett; Miss Ivy Leighton also makes a hit as Cerise (a French school girl), and others who are responsible for really good work are Messrs. Ralph Lynn, Edgar McIntyre, and Kenneth Black, Miss Bertha Buckley, and Miss Ruby Vyvian. The piece contains some catchy numbers, and some extremely clever dancing is also seen. The situations into which the amorous Colonel finds himself led are humorous in the extreme. Good audiences have been the rule.

MARINA THEATRE.—Lessees, F. C. Dew and L. Valeriani; Manager, W. J. Attack.—This place of amusement has apparently taken a new lease of life, and under its new title—the Excelsior Picture-drome—is attracting weekly large audiences to its exhibitions of animated photography. Nothing better than the films presented have been shown in Ramsgate, and effective variety items are interspersed with capital effect. The house is run on the twice-nightly principle.

READING. — ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—This theatre will be reopened for the season on Monday next.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. G. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The Scottish Meisters display their ability here in a vocal extravaganza entitled *Ancestral Spirits*. The members of the quartette all possess good voices, and sing a selection of national airs in excellent style. They also introduce some Scottish dances effectively. Luis Hardt gives a wonderful exhibition of physical strength; Durham and Ernest's company present an amusing comedietta, *An Uninvited Guest;* the Sisters Belmont dance very gracefully; Charles Coverdale is a witty comedian; the Brothers Etharien, eccentric comedians, give a very droll turn; Ford and Maxwell are well received; Charles Leighton does some extraordinary things on the piano; and Saxo performs on a variety of instruments. The entertainment concludes, as usual, with some good Bioscope pictures.

REDDITCH.—PUBLIC HALL.—The Universe Animated Picture Company, under the direction of Mr. F. Lee, opened here on Monday last for a short season. The specialities are given by the Dunvilles. There have been good attendances.

ROCHDALE.—EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thos. Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—A capital programme is presented to the patrons of this popular place of amusement. "The Great Fritz" astonishes the audience by a series of mystifying illusions; Les Valdos create roars of laughter in their absurdity *The Eccentric Motor-'Bus Men;* Ivey Aberdare is a refreshing comedienne and skilful dancer; Clifton and Gibson, comedians, the Darntons, duettists, and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete the list.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*A Heart's Desire*, by Frank Adair, is this week presented by Mr. G. M. Hurst, and draws good houses. Mr. R. F. Stacey cleverly sustains the principal rôle of Lord St. Ives, alias Jim Denman; Orya, a half-caste, is well played by Miss Lily Prescott; Luke Forrest, a blackmailer, is excellently portrayed by Mr. E. Leroy, and Mr. C. King is a fitting exponent of David McCulloch. Mr. Archie Ainsleigh as Eric May, Mr. Victor Howard as Hon. Bertie Beresford, Miss Blanche Leroy as Gwendoline Ross, and Miss Gertrude Gilman as Hon. Elsie Beresford, with Mr. J. Hames (an aged butler) and Miss R. S. Malone (a young housemaid), contribute to a lot of laughter with their comical incidents. Mr. Charles Clark as Bardsley and Mr. Arthur Jones as Gendarme also do well.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Harold Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—*My Lady Betty*, a romantic comedy episode by Vincent Gordon-Corelli, of the period of 1770, is well played by Frank Elliston, Richard Oliver, and Nellie Stevens. The Satanella Trio of sensational dancers and Continental comedy artists, give an expert performance. A smart acrobatic act is given by Kremka Bros., and Rose Elliott gets much applause for her songs. The excellent programme also includes the following acceptable turns:—Brothers Armstrong, comedians and patterers; Daisy Reed, comedienne and dancer; Ned Grayson, comical instrumentalist; Nellie Moore, clever impersonator of Wilfred Denvers and Gaspard, the miser; and Beau and Belle, in novelty scena *Present and Past*.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's melodrama *A Sister's Sin* is fitted into twice-nightly performances, and finds much favour by good audiences. Mr. T. Arthur Ellis as Harold Raymond and Mr. Hugh Carmichael as George Oakley ably sustain respectively the hero and villain; Miss Mabel Scudamore is a charming Minnie Hastings; Mr. W. Percy as Larry Murphy, Miss Edie Macklin as Floss Perks, and Miss Lynn Darlington (who does some excellent singing) as Nell Stubbs, are a very funny trio, who are joined in the laughter-making by Mr. Harry Lindon as Theophilus, and Mr. Ernest Frere as Ikey Moses. Charzel is excellently portrayed by Miss Clara Santley, and Redempta is also good in the hands of Miss Patricia Conaughton; Miss Violet Bates as Jack and Miss Mabel Ray as May Raymond cleverly play the children. Mr. Edward Bikker makes a good study as Walter Hastings.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—His First Frock-coat, The Custom Officer's Revenge, The Crazy Conjurer, The Angel of the Village, The Student's Revenge, Smuggling Across the Frontier, When Father Came Home from Switzerland, Sea-birds' Haunts, and other good pictures are given twice nightly to good houses. A benefit was announced for Mr. Lester King on Friday, when several special pictures, &c., were ordered.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiernan; Lessees, The Excelsior Animated Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. George Barry.—In addition to an excellent show of pictures, we have here this week Emil Aspden, comedian and mimic; Carnie Croston, vocal comedienne; and Evelin and Norrie, in a clever and interesting little comedy sketch, entitled *Set a Thief*.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—Miss Annie Hughes' company, in *The Mollusc*, is the attraction here. Miss Hughes gave a delightful interpretation of Mrs. Baxter, and showed much ability; Mr. Cecil Rose was exceedingly good in the part of the husband; as Tom Kemp Mr. Athol Stewart was most pleasing, and Miss Lilias Waldegrave gave much satisfaction as Miss Roberts.

SPA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Cliff Bridge Co.; Manager, Mr. Jas. Goodricke.—*The Idler* is here, played by Mr. T. Greenwood Croft's company, Mr. Herbert Ford taking the title-rôle most successfully; Mr. J. H. Beaumont as Sir John Harding did especially well; Mr. William Atfield as Simon Strong was very good; Mr. Rd. Dalton as General Merryweather was splendid, being well supported by Miss Geraldine Somerset as Kate Merryweather.

THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. L. Holland.—The principal attraction here is Mlle. Sahara, who gives a graceful exhibition of classical dances and a representation of Salome; Ryan and Hall do an excellent comic turn, and are well received; Wee McGregor sings well; the Bros. St. Clair give a good display of footer on bicycles. Other turns include George Blakeney, vocalist; Tom Moore, comedian; Leo and Roland, acrobats; Queenie May, comedienne; Hurman, juggler; and G. Webber, vocalist.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Garside.—Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—Mr. J. H. Campbell's company in *The Little Breadwinner* is here. Little Winnie Crisp as Meg shows much ability; Mr. W. M. Lynton as Richard Lawrence is successful; and Mr. Alfred Maurice as Joseph Prior wins recognition for his efforts. Mr Sidney Lynn as Bobby Trott is a favourite.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. Fielding Smith.—The opening took place on Monday last with a programme of first-class artists, full particulars of which appear elsewhere. Bella and Bijou are topping the bill this week, and sustained their reputation in two splendidly-acted sketches, which put the house into a capital humour; Mallia and Bart also shared the favouritism for their comical eccentricities; the Martelloni Family of acrobats gave a highly-finished display of their many abilities, and were recalled; the Sousloffs as whirlwind dancers gave a really fine exhibition, and were most favourably received; Selbo is indeed the King of Clubs, judging from his manipulation of them; the Candy Boys submitted some fine and intricate dancing; *The Drink Cure*, played by Tom E. Conover and company, fairly brought the audience to concert pitch, and they were also recalled. Mr. Wal Croft sang Scotch songs in capital style, and Anna Kennick sang her coon songs well. The orchestra was under the direction of Mr. F. Kell.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors. Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—*The Prodigal Son* is being played to good audiences this week by Miss Maud Western's excellent company. Mr. F. Dudley makes a typical squire as Sir John Fanshawe; and his two sons, Harry and Jack, are efficiently represented by Messrs. W. A. Buckstone and Claude Seaton respectively. The comedy element is exceptionally strong. Larry McGehan, in the hands of Mr. J. Newton Cowling, is a rollicking, jovial individual, and provides a character-comedy study which the audience thoroughly appreciate. Miss Maud Western as Mary, the housemaid, is an able assistant; Miss Mabel Hall wins deserved sympathy and applause as the outcast, Dick; Mr. John Levey acts with power and emotional ability as Bill Burke; and Mr. J. O. Stevenson makes the character of Ralph Marsden appear sufficiently detestable. Miss Ada Hender ably handles the part of Margaret Marsden; Miss Sophie Reiss is an emotional Nellie Burke; and the smaller rôles are in safe hands.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local Representative, Mr. Cyril Parkes.—A Suspicious Husband forms a very comical film, and a powerful drama in pictures is Saved by the Telegraph Code; and a beautifully-coloured film is The Goddess and the Spinner. Other pictures include The Two Guides, A Thief by Necessity, Mont Blanc Tragedy, and The Lovelorn Goatherd.

SHEFFIELD.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*For Her Husband's Sake*, an interesting new comedy-drama, was played on Monday by Mr. Millar Anderson's company. Miss Mabel Mannering appeared with success as Estelle Baudet; Mr. Robert Faulkner acted with care and distinction as Lieut. Jack Seymour, R.N.; Mr. Millar Anderson was a finished representative of Herbert Grey, the villain of the story; and other parts were distributed as follows:—Joseph Dene, Mr. J. Stafford; Sam Gorgans, Mr. Albert Rogers; Tony O'Neill, Mr. F. Doyle; Petro, Mr. Ryan; Alphonse, Mr. Walter Long; Maria Dene, Miss Maud Townsend; Vic, Miss Gem Lloyd; Eileen, Miss Doris Laine, &c. The piece was effectively staged. The well-known French play *Camille* was billed for the benefit of Miss Mabel Mannering on Friday.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—After an admirably-played selection from *The Mikado* by the splendid band, under the direction of Mr. H. Renton-Gardner, the large house on Monday was well entertained by the following artists:—Mr. Walter Passmore and his company, in a whimsical operatic absurdity *The Constable and the Pictures;* Messrs. Stelling and Revill, the popular Empire favourites, in their funny triple-bar act *Comedy and Agility;* Mr. Carl Howard, a diverting humorist; Howard and Harris, a comic tramp and a handsome burlesque actress, who do some clever and original dancing; Mr. Tom Lloyd, a laughter-provoking comedian; Miss Jennie Hartley, a pretty vocalist and dancer; Little Keeno, vocalist; Mr. Harry Marte, dancer and vocalist; and Miss Peggy Pryde, full of energy and Cockney humour. Some good comic films were also exhibited.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The great American artistic genius, the extraordinary Lafayette, has been retained another week. On Monday he and his talented company appeared in the gorgeously-mounted illusionary extravaganza *The Lion's Bride*, which was received with thunders of applause by a crowded audience; Hayman and Franklyn, society entertainers, did a smart show, and received well-deserved approbation; Silbon's Circus was a pleasing item. The graceful, pretty, and elegant Mlle. Marjuti made a big success in her act *From Demon to Fairy*, and other successful performers this week are Mr. Harry Friskey, a comic juggler; Theresa and May, novelty artists; Mr. Percy Farrimond, Marcel, and Boris, Continental Wonders, the Barrascope, and Miss Violet King, pianist and solo violinist.

GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—The lamp of vaudeville is shining brightly here, tended carefully by Mr. Turpin, and the following artists:—The Steelopolis, champion cake-walkers, Miss Daisy Hicks, the Velma Sisters, Mr. C. Jones, Mr. Harry Royde, the Nicholsons, Raymond, with his popular animated pictures, and the accomplished Sisters Thauban, musical experts. Mr. Turpin has been a year at the Grand, and to mark the occasion he received a little memento in the shape of a magnificent diamond scarfpin, subscribed for by a few well-wishers.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred W. Holmes.—Salida and Vone, the smart coon and the beautiful Créole, are starring here; Reed and Wright, variety entertainers, Harry Starling, comedian, and a series of films by all the famous firms make up an attractive programme. This establishment has been cleaned and entirely redecorated in light tones.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd; Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*The Private Secretary* was presented here on Monday by Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company. Mr. Cyril Price-Evans as the Rev. Robert Spalding wins honours by his irresistible fun; Mr. Ben Barnett is an able exponent of Harry Marsland, and Mr. Wentworth Fane gives a vigorous and entertaining portrayal of Douglas Cattermole; Mr. Tom Taylor-Vinson supplies a good rendering of Mr. Marsland, M.F.H., and Messrs. Charles Sims and Charles Clayton amuse by their impersonations of Mr. Cattermole and Mr. Sydney Gibson; Miss Sybil Chester shows ability as Miss Ashford, and wins warm appreciation; Miss Josephine Richards is well suited as Edith Marsland, Miss Winifred Williamson pleasingly enacts Eva Webster, and Miss Camilla Norrys is successful as Mrs. Stead. Messrs. J. Briggs and Sam Rossiter sustain their respective parts with credit.

THE KURSAAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—The two daily performances here gain hearty support from enthusiastic admirers. The Ten San Tan Girls provide an especial attraction in their vocal and terpsichorean scena entitled *An Eastern Slave*, which, with its songs and dances alike tastefully executed, gains unstinted applause. Another pleasing scena is *Encore*, creditably portrayed by the Misses Renee Reel and Ruby Bradfield, much enhanced by clever toe and step dancing; Mr. Geo. Neno, a popular comedian, contributes the funny sketch in *The Bunham Beauty Show*, and impersonates Mrs. Pimpleton with evident success. He is ably assisted by Mr. Louis R. Morton as M.C.; Eugene and Willie evoke immense enthusiasm by their talented performance as acrobatic double fiddlers; Mr. Will Crackles is entertaining as a comedian and speciality dancer; and Miss Sybil Matthews earns recognition as a vocalist. Comic, pathetic, and dramatic Bioscope pictures at the evening performances prove highly amusing, and the dance programme is gone through, while a capital entertainment is submitted in the Café Chantant, where Mrs. Joseph Carter conducts a ladies' concert party, with Mr. Mashing Dickinson at the piano.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. M. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—The London Animated Picture Co., which Messrs. Gooes Bros. successfully presented last week, drew forth applause by their up-to-date entertainment. They have been retained, and the excellent programme of entirely new pictures which they show this week proves delightful and entertaining. By special request the great Ober-Ammergau Passion Play was shown on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, while at the two performances daily illustrated songs by Mr. George Lynton (baritone) are well rendered.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—After being closed for three weeks for cleaning purposes, the Opera House was reopened on Monday, when a new musical play, entitled *The Belle of the Ball*, was produced, a notice of which appears in another column.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Roland Yorke's company appears this week in *The Old Home*. Daddy Dean is a natural piece of character-acting by Mr. J. H. Clyndes; the Lord Avondale of Mr. Roland Yorke is well depicted; Mr. David G. Noble gives an excellent portrayal of the Rev. Eric Armstrong; Hazel Dean is charmingly enacted by Miss Laura Walker; Mr. Fred L. Connynghame as Sam Adams and Miss Mattie Crawford as Pollie Popp are responsible for good comedy, in which they are assisted by Miss Mara Collings, who hits off the character of Bridget Donoghan in good style. The piece is well mounted.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—*The Yorkshire Lad in London* gives Tom Foy opportunities for his funny mannerisms, which delight the large audience. Marie Santoi and Merry Japs are well received in a Japanese tea-garden; a musical scena, entitled *The Deputy*, is enjoyably contributed by Orpheus; some good leaping is displayed by Huxter Bros.; Harry Drew sings two good songs; Ernie Mayne creates a favourable impression; and other excellent items are provided by Lily Black, vocal comedienne; Harry Simons, light comedian, and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE-LANE.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hull.—Harry North, a quaint comedian, has a good reception; Geo. Hope, a tenor, renders two songs to the delight of the audience; Doyle and Gibson contribute good jokes and patter; and the programme is completed by the Tivoloscope.

COSY CORNER, SEA FRONT.—Mr. George Burton's excellent company of comedians still attract good audiences by their bright songs, comedy items, concerted pieces, and an amusing sketch.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—Foremost in this week's programme are Thomas and Taylor, who create much merriment in *Fun on the Midland*, whilst other meritorious turns are given by Pete and Juno, coloured comedians and dancers; Mollie Augarde, chic comedienne; Friscari, king of jugglers; the Lizette troupe of lady acrobats; George Rae, Scotch comedian; the Clarkes, speciality artists; and others.

ST. HELENS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic. Carnell.—Miss Helen Roberts presents a series of classic dances, her interpretation of Mendelssohn's Spring Song being perhaps the most beautiful; the Stowe Bros. execute some exceedingly clever feats as equilibrists; Arthur Andrews is amusing; and Bessie Travis, the lady ventriloquist, is entertaining. Acceptable turns are also given by Maggie Rimmer, George Acre, and Charlie Craston.

SALADS *are rendered very appetizing by the addition of*

LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE.

It much improves their flavour and enhances their "freshness."

By Royal Warrant to H.M. the King.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company has entertained large audiences here this week with capital representations of *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. Logan Darra acts impressively as the Rev. Tom Godley; Enoch Juggins is capably impersonated by Mr. Alfred Northway; and Mr. Charles Ashwell makes an excellent Ben Jaggins. Phil Drive is a thoroughly amusing character in the hands of Mr. Owen Remonde; Miss Enid Edmi acts exceptionally well as Gretchen; and Fern Godley is charmingly portrayed by Miss Violet Hammersley.

Empire. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —*The Red Letter*, presented by Messrs. Leslie Bell, F. Wilson, G. Graham, and Miss Lily Pearl, is the chief attraction here this week, and has proved highly interesting. Clever and pleasing are Les Bollingers, the Parisian rag painters; Nellie Walton, the singing mill girl, is heartily applauded; Cumminger and Colonna are expert sand dancers; the Three Seabornes are smart acrobats; Spry and Monti, vocalists and dancers, are an amusing pair; and Chas. Cassell, vocal comedian, and Babs Lloyd, coon vocalist and dancer, contribute their share to the entertainment.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—Mrs. Fred J. Kirke's company this week is presenting the musical drama *In Old Madrid*. Mr. Leslie Austin scores a success as Frank Lyndhurst; plenty of comedy is obtained from the part of Horatio J. Rogers by Mr. W. T. Hybert; and Miss Edna Clare sustains the part of Violet Lyndhurst capably. The other parts are well filled.

SUNDERLAND.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Grieveson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas Ettrick, L.Mus., L.C.M.—This week's attraction is provided by Mr. Fred Granville's No. 1 company, in the thrilling drama, *It's Never too Late to Mend*, which, judging from its reception here, has lost none of its drawing capacity. Mr. Cecil A. Melton plays well as George Fielding; Mr. E. Howard Templeton is a forcible exponent of Tom Robinson; Mr. Charles F. Johnson is adequate as the Prison Chaplain; and Mr. Harry Cane is excellent as the rascally attorney, Peter Crawley. Mr. Edwin Davies enacts the Jewish Levi for all it is worth; and Mr. T. G. Warry, as the aboriginal Kalingaloonger, submits a painstaking study. Miss Gertrude Entwhistle is pleasing as Susan Merton; Miss M. Ashton is successful as Mary; and Miss Millie Wilton capably portrays the part of the victim-waif, Josephs. Mr. Leonard Marshall is responsible for the rôle of William Fielding; and Mr. R. W. Weldon enacts that of Mr. Merton.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Premier honours are divided between Marie Kendall, the versatile comedienne, and Jack Pleasants, a popular comedian. The former strikes a lively chord with her "Taximeter cab," and other numbers; and Mr. Pleasants with his unique humour also finds much favour. Sanford and Lyons, smart patterers and simultaneous dancers, are prominent; Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, agreeably amuses his audiences; and others contributing include Irene Rose, in an incident entitled *Her First Engagement*; Gwennie Hasto, vocalist and dancer; Cole de Losse Duo, in comedy wire act; Steve McCarthy, comedian and dancer; and an exhibition of Bioscope pictures.

SWANSEA.—The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Messrs. Chas. H. Phelp and Ernest Vaughan's company produce, with effect, a new drama, entitled *Man or Beast*, a detailed account of which is given on another page.

Empires, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Mark Sheridan is the chief fun-promoter at the Empire this week, and his drolleries keep the whole house roaring; Lottie's Lennox's songs sparkle like her dresses, which is saying a lot; an admirable athletic turn is contributed by the De Wynne Bros.; Spry and Austin are old favourites, and this visit their turn is as humorous as ever; a turn of undeniable excellence is given by Arabella Allen, whose impersonations of Shakespeare's and Dickens' characters are excellent; a talented musical turn is contributed by Ralph and Nellie Howard. Kisby, the call-boy, Adey Spencer, and the Bioscope conclude.

TON-Y-PANDY.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—For the current week Fred Karno's company in two farcical sketches is the attraction. Two shows a night are given with great success. In *The Mumming Birds* the honours fall to the precocious "boy" in Etons and the intoxicated "Johnnie." Sid Owen and W. H. Downs are both well received in their respective songs, and the other turns are of a high standard of merit.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar Harper.—Heading the bill we have Eddie Stidder and Gwennie Dunbar in a clever musical act; Bishop and Vale, eccentric knockabouts, score well; Massons juggles with success, and May Neale and the Neilsons also add to the pleasure of the evening. Excellent pictures include The Black Princess and The Two Brothers.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company is here this week in that pretty little comedy *Merely Mary Ann*. In the title-rôle Miss Jessica Solomon is a great success, and gives a really sympathetic rendering of the part, whilst she is ably assisted by Mr. Martyn Roland, who does admirably as Lancelot; Mr. Stanley Logan as his friend Peter is remarkably good, and Miss Violet Greville makes a typical lodging-housekeeper. The somewhat quaint part of the Rev. Samuel Smudge is in the capable hands of Mr. Robert Entwistle, who certainly makes the most of his opportunities, whilst Mr. Herbert Smale also does well as Herr Brahmson.

Princess Pier Concert Hall.—Proprietors, the Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T. Tremlett.—"The M.A.'s" Costume Comedy Company occupy the boards here this week, and are doing well. Miss Gladys Robinson has a powerful soprano voice and Miss Minnie Hull is a good contralto; Miss Edith Eatherley at the piano renders some amusing sketches, and provides some excellent fun; Mr. Stanley Ridout, tenor, and Mr. Adolph Fowler, bass, do well, and Mr. Courtney Mayverne introduces some ventriloquial business.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—The present is the last week of the Hippodrome season until it is resumed in October next, and the closing programme is a particularly strong one, including, as it does, Carl Hertz in his wonderful illusions; James Fawn, in his latest successes; Flo Cecil, a chic comedienne; Morrin and Cardiff, who repeat their recent successes before Royalty; Lena Leslie, comedienne; and Jack Binns, vocal comedian, as well as the Ruffell Bioscope. Commencing on the August Bank holiday there will be a two months' dramatic season. The first Hippodrome season has proved a remarkable success, and is playing to crowded houses, even in July.

TYNEMOUTH. Palace-by-the-Sea and Summer and Winter Gardens.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—Another excellent week's business is being done here. On Sunday night a concert of exceptional merit was put on, including such vocalists as Miss Ada Crossley and Miss N. Strangham, and a juvenile boy pianist who was quite a treat to hear. The varieties for the week include Gilbert Girard, the clever mimic of musical instruments, animals, &c.; Wright and Lawson, knockabouts, who are very smart; the De Veres' Marionette Theatre, cleverly manipulated and amusing; Les Rubens, the Merry Vagabonds, in Gipsy vocal scena; and Lytton and Band, sketch artists and dancers. The Palace Pictures complete the bill.

WAKEFIELD. — Hippodrome. — Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The Royal Banzai troupe of Japanese equilibrists give a clever performance; the Two St. Johns contribute a good musical and dancing turn; Paul Edwards and Louie Dacre, sketch artists, prove popular. Other turns include Miss Cissie Ferndale, comedienne; Mr. Horace Jones, character-comedian; and Miss Pattie Bella, comedienne.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Some excellent pictures are shown here this week, and special reference should be made of those depicting A Trip to Canada, The Customs Officer's Revenge, and The Great Fire.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Ferguson and Mack head the bill here this week, and their absurdity, *The Dimple Sisters*, is responsible for convulsive laughter. The Vyponds are delightful entertainers; Miss Vypond charms all with her rendering of "Maggie, the Girl of Dundee," whilst Mr. Vipond scores a brilliant success with his pianoforte solos. Hampton and Bauman are rare exponents of darkey life; Norah Stockelle is a dainty comedienne; Ryder Stone is a capital comedian, his song "Sing, sing" meeting with approbation; W. E. Whittle is a first-class ventriloquist; and Lew Towers, a smart actor-vocalist. Madge Filla, with good singing and dancing, makes many friends. Pictures showing the life of a governess are rare specimens of the photographer's art.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. F. B. Woulfe's celebrated company is drawing crowded houses here this week in the successful drama *Trilby*. An excellent interpretation of Trilby is given by Miss Ethel Griffies, and the important and characteristic part of Svengali is in the worthy hands of Mr. F. B. Woulfe; as Gecko Mr. S. Crossley makes a capital study; Mr. L. Manton does remarkably good work as the Rev. Mr. Bagot; the rôles of Sandy McAllister and Talbot Wynne ("Taffy") are admirably portrayed by Mr. Bob Anderson and Mr. Claude Aymond respectively; an effective rendering of the Hon. W. Bagot ("Little Billie") is presented by Mr. C. Melvyn; Miss Mildred Eversleigh makes up well as Mme. Vinard, an das Lady Cornelys Miss Madge Nelson is all that could be desired; well-merited applause is accorded to Miss Louie Adaire for her able embodiment of Lady Alice. *East Lynne* and *Jane Shore* are also billed.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—Another week of pictures is the attraction here, and the audiences are thoroughly enjoying A Tour Through Ireland, £100 Reward, A Cockney Courtship, A Sentimental Thief, Too Old to Work, Wun Lung in London, Caught in his own Trap, and The Vanishing Thief.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Grand Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The Nonentities are making their first appearance here and are well received. Mr. Fred Evered was encored for his rendering of "I saw my chance"; Mr. Oscar Mills excels as a humorist; Mr. Roland Foster is heard to advantage in "Alcala"; and Mr. L. F. Summer gives a fine rendering of "Thora"; Miss Louie Counsell sings "My dusky queen" charmingly; Miss Madeline Stone's Irish folk song is well received, and so too, is Miss Linda De Laine's pianoforte solo. Mr. John Lambert shows some very good pictures on the Bioscope.

Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Will Dennis's company is here this week in *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. Mr. Francis Roberts's impersonation of the Earl of Dorincourt is remarkably fine; Miss Daisy May shows exceptional talent in the title-rôle; Mrs. Errol is well portrayed by Miss Gertrude Netterville; Miss Marion Fawcett is extremely good as Minna; Mr. A. Curtis is humorous as Wilkins; so, too, is Mr. H. Lawrence as Dick; Mr. Hobbs finds a good exponent in Mr. William Lockhart; Mr. G. Roberts is praiseworthy as Mr. Havisham; and the same can be said of Mr. N. Clifton as Higgins.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk and their well-selected company are presenting here this week the drama *From Shop Girl to Duchess*. Miss Neil as Sylvia Grey adds immensely to her reputation with a fine emotional portrayal of the character; Miss Florrie Grove is a capital exponent of the part of Tilly Dobson; Miss Queenie Lamont wins admiration as Gertrude Haynes; Miss Amy B. Ellis is a great success as the Dowager; and Miss Marie Clavering figures well as Lady Cinderella. Mr. Douglas Cecil sustains the rôle of the Duke of St. Baynum with distinction; Mr. D. Tremayne is a capable Pelham; Mr. Frank S. Strickland performs his part as Gilbert Spate with consummate ability; Mr. Robert Cromwell proves a most humorous apprentice as Tommy Tinkler; and Mr. T. Lionel Ellis does well as Sir Morris Maitland.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Marco.—The admirable pictures shown this week include A Story of Treasure Island, A Bad Shilling (depicting a thrilling and dramatic story), The Enchanted Guitar, A Romance of the Fur Country, and many most beautiful coloured films. Miss Ivy Dene, a dainty soubrette and clever dancer, meets with a great reception, and the Gelders (Van and Lily), favourite magicians and entertainers, are very popular conjurers.

WORCESTER. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—The Musical Keiths are accomplished and agile musicians; La Dor troupe of acrobats are marvellously daring; Matadors, in *A Spanish Bullfight;* and the Stanleys, in a musical sketch, are most amusing. La Petite Carlina is equally successful as a dancer and as a quick-change artist; Mar and Kooney and the Danbys are very acceptable as funny men; the Clarkes' "globe-trotting" is very clever; and Karl Edwards' coster songs are very taking. On Wednesday Besses o' th' Barn Band took possession of the theatre, and on Thursday a company of Malvern amateurs produced a musical comedy, entitled *The Mummy*, written by amateurs, in aid of the funds of the County Cricket Club.

WORTHING.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—A happy selection has been made in Messrs. Frank C. Bayly and Arthur Eldred's company in *When We Were Twenty-One*. As Richard Carew Mr. Frank Bayly gives a highly finished impersonation; Mr. Arthur Eldred does justice to the character of Richard Audaine; Mr. F. Rawson Buckley excellently portrays the character of Sir Horace Plumley; Miss Margaret Yarde leaves nothing to be desired in the part of Kara Glynesk; and Miss Violet Graham is excellent as Babette. The remaining characters are in capable hands. For Thursday Mr. George Waters' company was announced to pay a welcome revisit, producing *The Gay Deceiver*.

WREXHAM.—Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—Patrick Playfair, a clever papierographist, assisted by Miss Vera Davis, gives an original paper speciality; and Cliff and Kean, in their comedy and dancing act, meet with an enviable reception. The animated pictures included the sensational Dieppe Motor Race.

THE NATURE OF IAGO.

So much has already been written upon the character of Iago—so begins an excellent article by W. H. Hadow in the *Albany Review*—that it may seem a needless temerity to add anything to the tale. Every line has been scrutinised, every feature interpreted; there is, it would seem, no corner to which a further explanation can penetrate. And yet, when all is said, the result is not wholly satisfying. The "motiveless malignity" which is Coleridge's interpretation, the "Artist in Tragedy," which is Mr. Swinburne's, both seem to imply that for once Shakespeare has abandoned human nature: that he has described a temperament which is wholly diabolic. Mr. Robert Bridges believes that "the whole thing is impossible": that the Iago presented to the audience is not the Iago who lives among the other characters of the play. Mr. Bradley, though he comes nearer than anyone else to a complete picture, yet leaves one or two points in darkness. It may be worth inquiring whether the facts cannot bear a simpler explanation than they have yet received: whether, when Kean played the part as a human being he may not have been more in the right than Hazlitt who censured him: whether, in short, Shakespeare's "Villain," as the first Folio bluntly describes him, may not be a consistent villain of flesh and blood, rather than an impossible combination of mere malice and hypocrisy.

At the outset of the play he is twenty-eight years of age, which means that he has been about ten years in the service. He is a capable soldier, who has fought well "at Rhodes, at Cyprus and on other ground, Christian and heathen," who has risen to the office of Standard-bearer, and who believes himself to have a claim to that of Lieutenant. Again, he is evidently popular, a genial companion at the canteen, who can take a glass and sing a good song; and, what is more to the purpose, he is the trusted adviser of everybody upon the stage. "Honest Iago," they call him, and when any one of them is in trouble—Roderigo, Cassio, Othello, Desdemona herself, he is the one person in whom they all confide, and to whose counsel they all appeal. It is clear that he has never been found out in any act of treachery or mischief, and, accomplished hypocrite though he be, ten years is a long period for a successful masquerade. Again, he is wholly and inherently selfish: intent on his own advancement, and unscrupulous as to the means of securing it; but there are two qualities which, from a certain form of selfishness, are almost inseperable. The first is a superficial good-nature which likes popularity, and is quite ready to purchase it by gift and service so long as they involve no serious cost. Many of the most selfish men in the world are agreeable, and even kindly, until you cross their interests; then they are adamantine. The second is an instinctive dislike of the sight of pain, except where the temper is made cruel by anger or fear or jealously. It is not pity, it is not compassion, it is a personal feeling of discomfort which is a spurious counterfeit of these. And because the world takes little pains to distinguish counterfeit from sterling, such persons are accredited with a sympathetic disposition when in reality they are only anxious to rid themselves of an annoyance. We have, therefore, but to suppose that, up to the scene which immediately precedes the play, Iago had never found any occasion to sting: that his life had run on a straight course with no rival to remove and no injury to avenge; if this be granted there is no difficulty in explaining his popularity and the confidence which every one reposes in him. He had all the external qualities of "a good fellow," and nothing had as yet occured to bring out the latent evil below the surface. Thirdly, his intellectual power, though extraordinarily keen and subtle, has very obvious limitations. He can treat the immediate situation, he can weave the immediate strand of the plot, with a skill and a dexterity that are almost uncanny; and it is evident as the play proceeds that he takes an intense pleasure in the exercise of his sinister ingenuity. But he has almost no foresight. His plot, as will be seen presently, is from hand to mouth, it constantly puts him to new shifts, it hurries him into a catastrophe of the nature of which he had, when he began, no expectation. His intellect, in short, is comparable to that of a chess player who can make a brilliant next move, but who cannot see six moves ahead.

Fourthly, and this is in some respects the most important point of all, he is "a filthy cynic" in his estimate of women. He simply does not believe in woman's purity, nor does he regard his disbelief as a matter of any moment. He takes the view, which was commonly held by mediæval satire and comedy, that all women are "guinea-hens," that all love is appetite, and that a deceived husband is a target for laughter. He uses the vilest terms when he tells Brabantio of Desdemona's flight, and has evidently no idea that they are offensive. He sets forth his doctrine to Roderigo in an easy, familiar tone, as though it were a commonplace of reasonable judgment. His way of entertaining Desdemona, on her arrival in Cyprus, is to regale her with epigrams upon the unchastity of her sex. And, for climax of testimony, he comes so near to believing in his wife's infidelity that he actually taxes her with it; yet it does not seem to make any difference in his treatment of her.

Such is the character—cold, selfish, unscrupulous, not gratuitiously malicious, impure, and therefore sceptical of purity, keen witted, but almost wholly devoid of imagination—into which there falls like poison a rankling sense of injustice. His friends have applied that he many have the Lieutenancy; it has been given to Cassio, whom, rightly or wrongly, he regards as his inferior. It is idle to inquire (though it has often been inquired) whether his description of Cassio is a fair statement: you do not expect an angry man to speak fairly of a successful rival. The keynote of the play is that he is mortally aggrieved and offended by Othello's action. When Roderigo says:

"Thou told'st me
That thou didst hold him in thy hate,"

Iago answers, not with a plain affirmation, but with a flash of rage:

"Despise me if I do not;"

and then breaks, like a flame, into the tirade about favouritism and neglected merit, which is one of the most genuine outbursts of emotion in his entire part. There is, I believe, no understanding of the play unless we realise that Iago's first motive is a rankling sense of personal wrong. He hates Cassio because he is jealous of him; he hates Othello for having given him cause of jealousy; he makes up his mind to cry quits upon both of them. But it is not a diabolic attraction to evil for evil's sake: it is a very human passion of revenge smarting under injury.

As yet there is not the smallest indication that he wishes or contemplates the death of either. If he had, there were plenty of means at his disposal. He simply wants to hit back: first, to wound Othello without losing his favour; then to degrade Cassio and "have his place." And here comes in the second of his three motives. His desire of revenge, though keen, is not so keen as to obliterate his ambition. He wishes "to serve his turn upon the Moor," but he wishes also that the Moor shall appoint him Lieutenant. And so from the first he stands committed to a double game.

Mr. Frederick Melville has completed a new melodrama, which is entitled *Married to the Wrong Man*. It will be produced at the Elephant and Castle on Monday.

JOHNSON AND SHAKESPEARE.

It may be said of Shakespeare, writes Hazlitt, that "those who are not for him are against him"; for indifference is here the height of injustice. We may sometimes, in order "to do a great right, do a little wrong." An overstrained enthusiasm is more pardonable with respect to Shakespeare than the want of it; for our admiration cannot easily surpass his genius. We have a high respect for Dr. Johnson's character and understanding, mixed with something like personal attachment; but he was neither a poet nor a judge of poetry. He might in one sense be a judge of poetry as it falls within the limits and rules of prose, but not as it is poetry. Least of all was he qualified to be a judge of Shakespeare, who "alone is high fantastical." Let those who have a prejudice against Johnson read Boswell's Life of him: as those whom he has prejudiced against Shakespeare should read his *Irene*. We do not say that a man to be a critic must necessarily be a poet; but to be a good critic, he ought not to be a bad poet. Such poetry as a man deliberately writes, such, and such only, will he like. Dr. Johnson's preface to his edition of Shakespeare looks like a laborious attempt to bury the characteristic merits of his author under a load of cumbrous phraseology, and to weigh his excellences and defects in equal scales, stuffed full of "swelling figures and sonorous epithets." Nor could it well be otherwise; Dr. Johnson's general powers of reasoning overlaid his critical susceptibility. All his ideas were cast in a given mould, in a set form; they were made out by rule and system, by climax, inference, and antithesis. Shakespeare's were the reverse. Johnson's understanding dealt only in round numbers: the fractions were lost upon him. He reduced everything to the common standard of conventional propriety; and the most exquisite refinement or sublimity produced an effect on his mind only as they could be translated into the language of measured prose. To him an excess of beauty was a fault; for it appeared to him like an excrescence; and his imagination was dazzled by a blaze of light. His writings neither shone with the beams of native genius, nor reflected them. The shifting shapes of fancy, the rainbow hues of things made no impression on him: he seized only on the permanent and tangible. He had no idea of natural objects, but "such as he could measure with a two-foot rule, or tell upon ten fingers": he judged of human nature in the same way, by mood and figure: he saw only the definite, the positive, and the practical, the average forms of things, not their striking differences—their classes, not their degrees. He was a man of strong common sense and practical wisdom, rather than of genius or feeling. He retained the regular habitual impressions of actual objects, but he could not follow the rapid flights of fancy or the strong movements of passion. That is, he was to the poet what the painter of still life is to the painter of history. Common sense sympathises with the impressions of things on ordinary minds in ordinary circumstances: genius catches the glancing combinations presented to the eye of fancy under the influence of passion. It is the province of the didactic reasoner to take cognizance of those results of human nature which are constantly repeated and always the same, which follow one another in regular succession, which are acted upon by large classes of men, and embodied in received customs, laws, language, and institutions; and it was in arranging, comparing and arguing on these kind of general results that Johnson's excellence lay. But he could not quit his hold of the common-place and mechanical, and apply the genral rule to the particular exception, or show how the nature of man was modified by the workings of passion or the infinite fluctuations of thought and accident. Hence he could judge neither of the heights nor depths of poetry. Nor is this all; for being conscious of great powers in himself, and those powers of an adverse tendency to those of his author, he would be for setting up a foreign jurisdiction over poetry, and making criticism a kind of Procrustes's bed of genius, where he might cut down imagination to matter of fact, regulate the passions according to reason, and translate the whole into logical diagrams and rhetorical declamation. Thus he says of Shakespeare's characters, in contradiction to what Pope had observed, and to what everyone else feels, that each character is a species, instead of being an individual. He, in fact, found the general species or *didactic* form in Shakespeare's characters, which was all he sought or cared for; he did not find the individual traits or the *dramatic* distinctions which Shakespeare has engrafted on this general nature, because he felt no interest in them. Shakespeare's bold and happy flights of imagination were equally thrown away upon our author. He was not only without any particular fineness or organic sensibility, alive to all the "mighty world of ear and eye," which is necessary to the painter or musician, but without that intenseness of passion which, seeking to exaggerate whatever excites the feelings of pleasure or power in the mind, and moulding the impressions of natural objects according to the impulses of imagination, produces a genius and a taste for poetry. According to Dr. Johnson, a mountain is sublime, or a rose is beautiful; for that their name and definition imply. But he would no more be able to give the description of Dover cliff in *Lear*, or the description of flowers in *The Winter's Tale*, than to describe the objects of a sixth sense; nor do we think he would have any very profound feeling of the beauty of the passages here referred to. A stately commonplace, such as Congreve's description of a ruin in the *Mourning Bride*, would have answered Johnson's purpose just as well, or better than the first; and an indiscriminate profusion of scents and hues would have interfered less with the ordinary routine of his imagination than Perdita's lines, which seem enamoured of their own sweetness:—

"Daffodils
That come before the swallow dares, and take
The winds of March with beauty; violets dim,
But sweeter than the lids of Juno's eyes,
Or Cytherea's breath."

No one who does not feel the passion which these objects inspire can go along with the imagination which seeks to express that passion and the uneasy sense of delight accompanying it by something still more beautiful, and no one can feel this passionate love of nature without quick natural sensibility. To a mere literal and formal apprehension, the inimitably characteristic epithet, "violets *dim*," must seem to imply a defect rather than a beauty; and to anyone not feeling the full force of that epithet, which suggests an image like "the sleepy eye of love," the allusion to "the lids of Juno's eyes" must appear extravagant and unmeaning. Shakespeare's fancy lent words and images to the most refined sensibility to nature struggling for expression: his descriptions are identical with the things themselves, seen through the fine medium of passion: strip them of that connection, and try them by ordinary conceptions and ordinary rules, and they are as grotesque and barbarous as you please. By thus lowering Shakespeare's genius to the standard of common-place invention it was easy to show that his faults were as great as his beauties; for the excellence, which consists merely in a conformity to rules, is counterbalanced by the technical violation of them.

The wedding took place at Birkenhead on the 22nd ult. of Mr. Reginald Grant, the acting-manager of the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, and Miss Ethel Roche. Amongst the numerous gifts was a silver-mounted oak tea-tray and a tea set from the staff of the theatre.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(From our own correspondent.)

SYDNEY, June 18.—*Humpty Dumpty* has now a second edition at Her Majesty's Theatre, added interest being created by new business and songs by Mr. Bert Gilbert. The booking is still good, but on Saturday next *Mother Goose* will be revived after about eighteen months' travel all over the Commonwealth.

"The Prince of Pilsen" is enjoying a good time at the Royal, where Mr. J. C. Williamson's other company devote every possible energy to the public's amusement. Mr. Charles Loder and Mr. George Whitehead increase their own popularity, and Miss Amy Murphy and Miss Mabel Morgan prove the value of the native vocal product. Next Saturday Miss Fanny Dango will be the French maid, having happily recoved from her illness, and Miss Alma Barber will be the Edith Adams of the cast.

At the Criterion the Flemming-Day company has hit the popular taste in *The Mummy and the Humming Bird*. But on the 20th *The Morals of Marcus* will be staged, with Miss Beatrice Day as Judith Mainwaring and Mr. A. S. Homewood as Sir Marcus Ordeyne, with several new folks to participate in the distribution of parts.

The Tivoli has a very large bill, and Mr. Harry Rickards gives his patrons the best result from his to and fro voyaging in quest of talent. The Deane Tribune Trio, Regoletto Brothers, the Ahlbergs, Baby Watson, Bebe Gourlay, Fred Bluett, Will Lochrane, Marsh Little, Beatrice Mercer, Naomi Tanner, Clarence Tisdale, Alberto, and others appear, to be added to on Saturday by the appearance of the Desmond Sisters.

West's pictures at the Palace, Spencer's theatrescope at the Lyceum, American Picturesque Co. at the Victoria Hall, pictures and vaudeville at the Oxford, ice-skating at the Glaciarium, Bohemian drama at the Haymarket Hippodrome, and vaudeville at the National Amphitheatre are all doing good, cool weather-business.

The Royal Artillery Band from Newcastle (England) arrived on Tuesday, and was welcomed at the Band Rotunda in Hyde Park. The associated bands of city and suburbs—200 strong—met the visitors at the Railway Station, and played them thence to the Park, where the Brigadier-General and several men prominent in public life made speeches of welcome. In the evening the band, under the capital conductorship of Mr. Robert Smith, roused a Town Hall audience to unwonted enthusiasm. Every item was loudly applauded and encored. The soloists were Messrs. McEvoy (cornet), A. Arlom (piccolo), and Smith (clarionet). Mr. P. A. Howells, of Adelaide, directs the venture, and the popular Mr. M. Marcus is touring manager.

The Sydney Philharmonic Society on the 11th gave its first concert, under the bâton of its new conductor, Mr. Joseph Bradley, and perhaps the best performance ever given by the society was furnished to the members and public. Mendelssohn's "Lobegesang" and Beethoven's "Choral Fantasia" were the *pièces de résistance*, with Mme. Slapoffski, Miss Zara Wolinski, and Mr. Walter Whyte as soloists in the "Hymn of Praise," and Mr. Lawrence Godfrey Smith solo pianist in the Fantasia. Mme. Slapoffski also sang the "Inflammatus," and Mr. Whyte the "Cujus animam" from Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, both being in splendid voice.

Miss Gladys Alpen, daughter of Herr Hugo Alpen, teacher of singing to the State schools, gave a valedictory concert at the Town Hall. The young vocalist obtained unstinted praise. Signor Addison, Miss Hilda Harris, and Mr. W. Knight, a new tenor from Queensland, enhanced the pleasure of the evening by capitally-rendered selections.

SYDNEY, June 23.—*The Morals of Marcus* is the Criterion bill, and a very fine interpretation of W. J. Locke's comedy is given, the new man, Mr. A. S. Homewood, proving himself an exceptionally clever actor. Mr. Homewood as Sir Marcus exploits a different rôle from his Italian roué in *The Mummy and the Humming Bird*, and comes out with great credit. He has with him a consummate actress in Miss Beatrice Day, whose sweet charm as Judith Mainwaring pervades the whole play. Miss Guildford Quin's Carlotta is a strong, forceful characterisation. Mr. W. J. Montgomery makes Sebastian Pasquale picturesque and attractive. Another returned favourite is Miss Nelly Mortyne, who is a formidable Mrs. Ordeyne; Miss Jean Blair makes an excellent Antoinette; and Miss Elsie Clarens' Mrs. McMurray and Mr. J. R. Forde's Stensor are good performances. The play is admirably staged by Mr. Flemming, and tutored by Mr. H. W. Varna.

"Mother Goose" was revived on the 19th by Mr. J. C. Williamson at Her Majesty's for one week. The two comedians, Harry Phydora and Harry Shine, were in their old parts as Mother Goose and her son, and that means roaring fun for three solid hours. Mr. Bert Gilbert was out of the cast. Miss Mabel Morgan replaced Miss Florence Young as Colin, and Miss Nance Maher was Jill, instead of Miss Olive Morell, both being acceptable. Miss Beatrice English filled Miss Celie Ghiloni's place in the singing of Heartsease's music, and Pressy Preston again scored as Gretchen. Next Saturday *The Thief*, with Miss Margaret Anglin, Mr. George S. Titheradge, and Mr. Dion Titheradge in the cast, will be staged here.

At the Royal *The Prince of Pilsen* is running strong. Miss Fanny Dango has recovered, and now plays the French maid, while her clever substitute, Miss Alma Barber, now plays the Vassar student, formerly acted by Miss Maud Thorne, on her way to England at present. Miss Dango was warmly welcomed, and the public gave evidence of its love for Miss Barber by applauding her every effort.

The Tivoli welcomed the Desmond Sisters in their charming singing of "The East and West End." They are a judicious addition to Mr. Harry Rickards' bill. Mr. Grafton West, comedian and dancer, appeared. Another new-comer, Mr. Harry Linden, made an instantaneous success in his comedy work. Miss Ida Berridge is a pleasing serio-comic singer, and Mr. Richard Cecil a good baritone. The Gibson Girls returned, and the Deane Tribune Trio, Baby Watson (a furious favourite), and Mr. Fred Bluett help Mr. Rickards' treasury to keep full.

CRICKET.

Thespids C.C. v. Playgoers C.C.

Played at New Malden, July 25. The Thespids won easily, thanks to their superior bowling and a magnificent first-wicket stand by their popular captain, C. Aubrey Smith (107), and B. L. Bisgood (96).

Playgoers.—H. H. Walkers, b Polley, 10; C. F. Reiner, st Mayo, b Carrick, 49; L. S. Wells, lbw b Carrick, 11; G. Dawdrey, lbw b Graham, 0; A. Wallers, c Mayo b Carrick, 0; F. Buck, b O'Connor, 18; H. J. Pullman, lbw b Carrick, 9; A. Verge, c Polley b Graham, 15; J. C. Johnson, c Graham b O'Connor, 8; H. Rees, c Lennon b O'Connor, 16; R. F. Rees, not out, 6; J. Rees, b Polley, 0; extras, 15; total, 157.

Thespids.—C. Aubrey Smith, c Pullman b Wells, 107; B. L. Bisgood, st Buck b Wells, 96; E. D. Bisgood, b R. F. Rees, 56; A. Anderson, b H. Rees, 12; H. Carrick, c Verge b H. Rees, 0; R. Bracehall, b H. Rees, 15; E. Cameron, not out, 14; H. Mayo, not out, 4; extras, 10; total (for 6 wkts.), 314. R. Graham, V. O'Connor, V. R. Polley, and H. O. Lennon did not bat.

Miss E. Nolan-O'Connor, who made such a success in *The Parasites* at the Scala last month, has been specially engaged by Mr. Percy Hutchison to understudy Mrs. Brown-Potter in *Lady Frederick*.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AND THEATRICAL ACCOUNTS.

BY

CUTHBERT E. SMEDLEY, Chartered Accountant.

CHAPTER IV. (*continued*).

2.—The Petty Cash Book is described in Chapter I. The totals of the various columns must be posted to their proper accounts in the General Ledger.

3.—The Invoice Journal is the usual columnar one. The totals of the columns are posted to the General Ledger, the details being credited to the personal accounts in the Creditors' Ledger.

4.—The Creditors' Ledger or Bought Ledger is posted from the Cash Book and Invoice Journal. It is advisable to keep a total account in the General Ledger (Sundry Creditors' Account), so that this ledger may be balanced separately.

5.—The personal accounts in the Advertisement Ledger are debited from the Journal. The basis of the Journal entry is obtained from the cards, as described in Chapter I.

6.—The principal accounts in the General Ledger are:—

(1) Share Capital.
(2) House Receipts.
(3) Library Receipts.
(4) Bar Receipts.
(5) Programme Receipts.
(6) Salaries.
(7) Sundry Creditors.
(8) Stage Expenses.
(9) General Expenses.
(10) Production. (A separate account must be opened for each production.)
(11) Bar Purchases.
(12) Bar Account.
(13) Printing and Stationery.
(14) Advertising.
(15) Authors' Fees.
(16) Programme Account.
(17) Plant.
(18) Furniture and Fittings.
(19) Lighting.
(20) Bar Fixtures and Fittings.
(21) Tour Cash Account. (A separate one for each tour.)

The House, Programme, and Bar Receipt Accounts must be agreed with the House Receipts Book. The receipts from Libraries Account, after bringing in outstandings, should be agreed with the Libraries Book.

The Salaries Account should be debited from the Cash Book with the total weekly salaries paid. A Journal entry must be periodically passed to write off those salaries which should be charged to the Bar, Advertising, and Programme

AVERAGE BOOK.

Year Ending.....19 Year Ending.....19 Year Ending.....19

	No. of Weeks Open.... Average per Week. £ s. d.	No. of Weeks Open.... Average per Week. £ s. d.	No. of Weeks Open.... Average per Week. £ s. d.	House Receipts	No. of Weeks Open.... Average per Week. £ s. d.	No. of Weeks Open.... Average per Week. £ s. d.	No. of Weeks Open.... Average per Week. £ s. d.
Salaries, Artists							
" General							
Advertising ...							
Printing							
Stage Expenses							
General "							
Rent, Rates, &							
Taxes							
Telephone & Insurance							
Lighting							

Accounts, in accordance with the analysis shown in the Salaries Book. It will almost invariably be necessary also to debit each production with some part of the salaries.

The Sundry Creditors' Account is credited with the amount of the total column in the Invoice Journal and debited with the total of the cash paid, as shown by the Bought Ledger column in the Cash Book. The balance of this account should agree with the total of the balances in the Creditors' Ledger.

The Production Accounts require very careful attention. It is of the utmost importance that nothing but the expenditure actually incurred in the original cost of staging the new piece should be charged under this head.

The value of a production, of course, varies very largely in accordance with the nature of the piece, and it is impossible to lay down any hard and fast lines as to the proper manner in which these accounts should be written off.

The value of the properties, dresses and scenery, after a piece has been taken off, is usually trifling, compared with the original cost. It may happen that a tour is being sent out, and that the original scenery, etc., can be adapted for the tour fit-up. In this case the tour production should be debited and the original production account credited with the estimated value. In any case, the whole of the cost of a production should be charged against revenue during the run of the piece, except where there is very good reason to anticipate a revival. Even in the latter case there would necessarily be a further large expenditure, and the amount carried forward should in all cases be a very small proportion of the original cost. The only basis to work on is the probable length of the run of the piece, and to write off a proportionate amount.

It is usual to keep each production in the books at a purely nominal figure as a matter of record.

The Bar Account, after transferring the purchases, receipts, and salaries, and bringing in the stock, will show the profit or loss on this department. The Programme Account should be similarly treated.

Furniture and fittings are subjected to very hard wear, and must be amply depreciated. This will be readily understood when the cost of carpets and the frequent renewals of the same is taken into consideration.

The Tour Cash Accounts, if kept on the principle suggested in the previous chapter, show at any time the exact profit or loss on any particular tour. A detailed Profit and Loss Account can be obtained from the Tour Book.

Where a Treasury Sheet is used, an account should be opened for the Treasurer, to which should be debited all cheques drawn to him. From the Treasury Analysis Book the expenditure must be journalised, and the balance on the account agreed with the actual sum the Treasurer has in hand.

The remaining books and accounts mentioned above do not call for any special mention.

The results of commercial trading are most readily appreciated when the percentages that the expenses bear to the turnover are compared.

In theatrical affairs these percentages would not convey a true comparison, as there would be large variations depending on the length of the run of a piece.

The best method of comparison is to average the expenses according to the number of weeks the piece is running.

Where this is done it will be found convenient to keep an Average Book, so that a permanent record can be retained.

The ruling shown below will be found easily adaptable to different circumstances. If considered necessary, each department can be treated separately. The specimen ruling shown is for the House Receipts only and expenses chargeable against the same.

A MEDIÆVAL SHOCKER.

"This lurid little play" (remarks Mr. J. A. Symonds) is the phrase by which Mr. Swinburne characterises *A Yorkshire Tragedy*. No better words could be chosen to convey its specific quality. Like the asp, it is short, ash-coloured, poison-fanged, blunt-headed, abrupt in movement, hissing and wriggling through the sands of human misery. Having dealt with it, we are fain to drop it, as we should a venomous thing, so concentrated is the loathing and repulsion it excites.

"Walter Calverley, of Calverley, in Yorkshire, Esquire, murdered two of his young children, stabbed his wife into the body with full purpose to have murdered her, and instantly went from his house to have slain his youngest child at nurse, but was prevented. For which fact, at his trial at York, he stood mute, and was judged to be pressed to death." This passage from Stow's Chronicle fully expresses the argument. All that the author did was to introduce a few subordinate characters, among whom we may reckon Calverley's colourless and over-patient wife; and to explain the motives of the crime. The play exists in and for the murderer, or rather for the devil who inspires him; for Calverley is drawn as acting under diabolical possession. He has lost his fortune by gambling and loose living in town. His lands are mortgaged. His brother lies in prison at the University for a debt contracted at his request. He returns to Yorkshire in a frenzy of despair and anger; the game of life has been played out; his children are beggars, his wife an insufferable encumbrance; a calenture of murderous delirium seizes him, and he wreaks his rage in a tornado of madness. The action hurls along at such furious speed, the dialogue is so hurried and choked with spasms, that no notion of the play can be gained except by rapid perusal at one sitting. We rise with the same kind of impression as that left upon our sight by a flash of lightning revealing some grim object in a night of pitchy darkness. The mental retina has been all but seared and blinded; yet the scene discovered in that second shall not be forgotten.

Quotation is to little purpose in a case like this. Yet I must support my criticism with some extracts, selected to show in what particulars the realism of this piece differs from that of the last. The husband enters to the wife. Let her, if she wants to keep whole bones in her body, turn her dowry into cash for him to squander:

"Let it be done;
I was never made to be a looker-on,
A bawd to dice; I'll shake the drabs myself,
And make them yield, I say, look it be done."

She goes to do his bidding:

"Speedily, speedily!
I hate the very hour I chose a wife:
A trouble, trouble! Three children, like three evils,
Hang on me. Fie, fie, fie!"

What follows is after the same fashion. Stroke upon stroke, the artist stabs the metal plate on which he etches, drowning it in aquafortis till it froths. Prose takes the place of blank verse in cooler moments of the victim's passion:

"O thou confused man! Thy pleasant sins have undone thee; thy damnation has beggared thee. That Heaven should say we must not sin, and yet made women! give our senses way to find pleasure, which being found, confounds us! Why should we know those things so much misuse us? O would virtue had been forbidden! We should then have proved all virtuous; for 'tis our blood to love what we are forbidden. . . . 'Tis done; I have done't i' faith: terrible, horrible misery! How well was I left! Very well, very well. My lands showed like a full moon round me; but now the moon's in the last quarter—waning, waning; and I am mad to think that moon was mine; mine and my father's and my forefathers'; generations, generations! Down goes the house of us; down, down it sinks. Now is the name a beggar; begs in me. That name which hundreds of years has made this shire famous, in me and my posterity runs out. In my seed five are made miserable besides myself: my riot is now my brother's gaoler, my wife's sighing, my three boys' penury, and mine own confusion."

The only redeeming point in the whole ghastly picture is that, tortured still with appetites and longings, writhing on damnation's rack, this doomed man has yet a thought, if not a tear, to spare his wife's, his brother's, his sons' ruin. But he is caught, like a scotched asp, in the devil's fork. And when chance, at this climax, offers one of his children to his sight, the fury starts up, fanged to strike:

"My eldest beggar!
Thou shalt not live to ask an usurer's bread,
To cry at a great man's gate, or follow,
Good your honour, by a coach; no, nor your brother;
'Tis charity to brain you."

And brain them both he does. First, the boy playing with his "top and scourge." Next, the child in a nurse's arms. A servant hastens in at the noise. "Base slave, my vassal!" Down goes the groom, trampled on, bruised, gored with riding spurs. The devil is up in the man, and off he rides upon a saddled horse to find his last child, feverish for further bloodshed. On the way his nag falls, over-driven, stormed into stupidity. The officers are after him, and he is caught. In the clutch of justice the devil in the man is still unquelled. He snorts out curses. But they bring him home, and confront him with his wounded wife. Then the wretch, delivered of his demon, outcast from mercy, is led forth in silence to his punishment.

WHAT IS A DRAMA?

A drama, writes Mr. William H. Fleming in "Shakespeare's Plots," is "an imitation of one entire, great, and probable action, not told but represented, which, by moving in us fear and pity, is conducive to the purging of those two passions in our minds." Such is Aristotle's definition of tragedy, as translated by Dryden.

Although so old, and referring primarily to the Greek drama, this definition of Aristotle, with some slight modifications, is substantially true of the Shakespearean and modern drama.

One of these modifications relates to the subject of the drama, which, Aristotle says, is "*one* entire . . . action." He restricted a drama to the imitation of one action, occurring in one place, on one day. This is the Greek law of Unity. Shakespeare perceived that this was neither natural nor artistic. In the physical world time and change are essential elements of evolution. The same is true of the growth and development of a man, intellectually, emotionally, ethically. In each of his dramas, therefore, Shakespeare has depicted numerous actions, occurring frequently in widely separated places, at many different times. He does, however, preserve Unity. These multiform and apparently, but not really, inharmonious elements are fused by the poet into one æsthetic whole.

The law of Unity when applied to the Shakespearian and modern drama implies in it the existence of three specific properties:—

I.—One main action. There may be several sub-actions, but there must be one, and only one, main action.

II.—One hero or one heroine. There must not be more than one of either. Neither must there be both.

To the latter dictum there is an exception. Sometimes the action of a drama is the result of the joint conduct of a hero and a heroine. In such a case the hero and heroine are a dramatic unit. They are like a binary star, two stars so closely situated, revolving together around a common centre of gravity, that they emit one light; or like two streams which join and together form a river. So in a drama sometimes there are a hero and a heroine who are so intimately related, who act in such perfect unison, that the action of the drama is the result of their joint conduct. Examples of such a drama are *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*. With this exception a drama must have one hero or one heroine, but not both.

III.—A drama must portray one great passion. As human conduct is very complex, is the expression of many feelings, thoughts, purposes, there is in a drama oftentimes the portrayal of several passions. One of these, and only one, must be dominant. All others must be secondary, subdominant. This dominant passion may be jealousy, or, more properly, outraged love, as in *Othello*; ambition, as in *Macbeth*; patriotism, although misguided, as in *Julius Cæsar*; love, as in *Romeo and Juliet*. There must be one and only one dominant passion which sways and controls the *dramatis personæ*.

Such is the law of Unity when applied to the Shakespearian and modern drama.

Again, Aristotle says, "not told but represented." This goes to the very heart of the subject, and describes, very briefly, but with unerring accuracy, the nature of a drama, whether it be ancient or modern.

The term "drama" is a Greek word, derived from the verb *drao*, which means "to do, be doing, accomplish, fulfil." It literally means something done, a performance. A drama is the poetry of conduct. Its primary and essential quality is *action*. It is not simply a narrative of events. If it were it would be an epic. Nor is it only an expression of emotion, passion. If it were it would be a lyric. "What is that which we call dramatic?" asks James Russell Lowell. He answers: "In the concrete, it is that which is more vivid if represented than described, and which would lose if merely narrated."

That which differentiates a drama from an epic or a lyric, in fact from every other form of literature, is that in it the poet expresses his thought, emotion, not so much by words as by action. The men and women who are the medium by which the poet expresses himself appear before us living, speaking, acting. The theme of the drama is man in action. That action is a collision between the hero and the society in which he lives, or between him and the great moral laws which govern the universe.

A drama is a representation—*re-presentation*—of an action, its causes, its progress, its consequences; as it reveals and affects the doer, and also others within the scope of its influence.

Jack Johnstone, an eighteenth-century actor, was very proud of his patrician acquaintances; and as the Prince of Wales was partial to his Irish ballads, he was a constant member of the jovial societies of the year 1790 and thereabouts. Suett inflated poor Johnstone with the hyperbolical praises that he vowed the Prince had lavished on his singing; whilst he amused Johnstone's associates with very different accounts. Johnstone had one note (E in Alt), which he took very clearly in his falsetto. It was his delight to dwell on that tone an unconscionable time; so much so, that Suett told Erskine that the Prince once coming into his box whilst Johnstone was at his favourite exercise, turned to his friend and said, "I verily believe he has held that note ever since we were here last"—the Prince having been, the week previous, according to Suett, driven out of the theatre by "Paddy's protracted howl."

MORE IRVING MEMORIES.

No artist, says Mr. Walter Herries Pollock in his very amusing and interesting "Impressions of Henry Irving," just published by Longmans, Green, and Co., ever rises, or begins to rise, to the top of any profession or employment amid universal applause; probably there are still plenty of people who, if they spoke out their inmost opinion, would rank Shakespeare with taste and the musical glasses. To the upholders of any individual fame or success there will always be a reasoned as well as an unreasoning opposition. This would seem to be an immutable law, without which the world would be a place very different from what it is, and, *ceteris paribus*, a much duller place. The opposition, as above hinted, is not usually very slow in appearing, and certainly it was not long after Irving was on the way to greater ventures in London than playing so-called "character parts" and light comedy, sometimes with a dash of something stronger, to the plaudits of critics, public and private, that some persons of much perception, and many who could not be so described, began to find serious faults in his acting. There were some grave and reverend signiors, with every right that intellect could give to express their opinion, who always maintained that he was no actor; but that again was a matter of pure opinion and not of criticism. Among those who said that he acted, but acted in many ways badly, the chief points of objection might be summarised in the word *mannerism*. This word applies equally to the use of the voice and to the use of the limbs. To facial expression it can hardly refer unless, indeed, that should degenerate into grimacing, a decadence of which, so far as I know, Irving was never accused by any considerable critic. Of mannerism one knows, so far as record can tell, every actor who has won his way to the highest distinction has been in his time accused; nor is the reason for this very far to seek. In this connection it may not be amiss to begin by quoting certain remarks made by Palgrave Simpson, an authority, if ever there was one, on the whole history of plays, playwrights, and actors, as reported in the late John Coleman's book, "Players and Playwrights." People who knew both men may recognise that if sometimes the manner is Coleman's the matter is Palgrave Simpson's.

"An actor who would make a great name," said the speaker, "ought to be a mannerist. No man has ever been a popular favourite in my time unless he was a pronounced mannerist. Charles Young was a mellifluous mouthing mannerist; Charles Kemble was a silver-toned, sententious mannerist; Edmund Kean was a stuttering, spasmodic mannerist; Macready and Phelps were always grim and growling over their bones; Charles Kean had a chronic cold in his head; Keeley was sleek and sleepy; Buckstone was a chuckler, and loose in the text; Ben Webster was always imperfect, and had a Somerset dialect . . . all these actors owed their popularity to their being more or less pronounced mannerists."

It is not likely that Palgrave Simpson put the last phrase quite so baldly, although, according to Murdoch, a justly famed American actor who played at the Haymarket, Macready was recognised as a player of level and high merit, but nothing beyond that, until he deliberately adopted a mannerism of intonation with what were called "Macready pauses." After that, *teste* Murdoch, he attained greatness. Westland Marston, who had no doubt as to Macready's greatness, described his later method of utterance much as Murdoch did, giving, however, a different explanation of it, and found a special fault in his bearing in moments of repose. Curiously enough this fault was found with an attitude not unusual with Irving, that of standing with one knee bent while the other was rigid. When the grain of salt is added, it will be admitted, probably, that there is a good deal of truth in these pretensions. To the instances adduced it may be added that John Kemble appears to have been always stately and always asthmatic, while he allowed himself strange pranks in pronunciation, as in the well-known case of *aitches* for *aches* (in *The Tempest*). Further, the *Times* of Friday, Jan. 23, 1807, noticed "Mr. Kemble's revival of" the same play, "only for the sake of protesting against" his "inroads upon the territories of English orthoëpy," while admitting his "appropriate dignity" as Prospero. Recording by the way that he was "hissed every night" for odd tricks of utterance, it was itself inclined to good-humoured merriment, but found indignation stealing in at Prospero's call upon his *sarevant* Ariel. The great paper dwelt distressfully on his habitual misuse of vowels and of consonants, and of his "excess of distinctness." The brief notice ended thus:—"But we are totally at a loss to account for the two other monstrosities besides *Caliban* which were apparent on Wednesday night, the *perfijjus* and the *varetshu* for *perfidious* and *virtue*; and we accordingly throw down our pen *in despair*." The italics on the final words surely strike a note of grievous hopelessness.

To go further back one is to suppose that Quin's elocution in blank verse was of the most correct and most rotund kind, with, as Mr. Barton Baker says, a "sing-song delivery undoubtedly borrowed from the Parisian stage, where it was the mode during the time of Louis XV., while his action was of what has been termed the tea-pot order; in fact, that his method in blank-verse tragedy was a sublimation of that which was wont, within present memory, to be taught to and learnt by public school boys who figured before an audience on speech days. Of the heretic who, greatly daring, completely overturned Quin's traditions, David Garrick, there is a sort of general idea that he could fly with equal success at any game in comedy or tragedy, and that he had no mannerisms to speak of. On neither point was this in truth the opinion of contemporary critics. Here is a letter, obviously unbiassed, addressed to him by an anonymous correspondent at Dublin in August, 1742.

"The first thing I shall mention (and which I insist upon that you reform) is your false pronunciation of several words, which can be owing to nothing but custom and prejudice in a man of sense, as I am sure you are. The words that I chiefly remember are these: matron, Israel, villain, appal, Horatio, wind; which you pronounced metron, Iserel, villin, appeal, Horetio, and the word *wind* you pronounced short. I cannot imagine what your objection can be to the letter *a*, that you should change it into an *e*, both in the English language and the Latin; or what fault you can find with the English word *matron* that you should be obliged to make it Greek. Does not *Horatio* sound much better than the little word *Horetio*? It is said that Horatius Cocles, when he could no longer withstand the fury of his enemies, leaped into the Tiber. But what did he this for? Was it not for a name? Yes, surely, but never for the name of *Horetius*."

Other faults were found with Garrick's acting and elocution. In private life conversation Garrick was given to the same kind of inarticulate interjection that in a later generation belonged to Macready, and, moreover, to a slight stutter at the beginning of a phrase. As time went on some touch of both these tricks found its way into his stage representations. He was always sensitive as to caricatures of his acting, and it is reported that he was specially annoyed by Foote's taking off his dying scene in the part of Lothario, whereof the mimic thus rendered the concluding words: "Adorns my tale, and che-che-che-che-cheers my heart in dy-dy-dy-dying."

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Thursday, July 30.—Even during the hot summer months the Parisian cannot do without an occasional première; but, fortunately, these take place in the Théâtres de Verdure (open-air theatres), blessed institutions where the overworked journalist can, whilst attending to his duties, inhale a breath of fresh air. This time we were convened to the Théâtre de Verdure du Pré-Catelan to hear *Dalila*, a tragedy in four acts and five tableaux by M. G. Constant Lounsbéry; the incidental music by M. Tiarko Richepin. M. Lounsbéry's heroine varies somewhat from the woman described in the Book of Judges. She certainly is the courtesan, anxious to avenge her race on the mighty Samson, but she falls in love with the man whom she wants to slay, and for a brief moment she is caught in her own trap. I say, for a brief moment, for the death of her brother, killed by Samson, reminds her of her oath, and from that moment the hero is doomed. In the opening scene, laid at Gaza, we see the Israelites cruelly ill-treated by the Philistines, and their hope centred in Samson, who alone can save them. Samson meets Dalila, and, unheeding his fiancée's warnings, is fascinated by the Philistine girl's beauty. In the ensuing tableau the Philistines order Dalila to discover the secret of Samson's supernatural strength, and hand him over to them. Aijah, her favourite brother, implores her not to accept this mission, but Dalila has sworn to accomplish it, and she will not break her word. She then meets Samson, loses her heart to him, and follows him as his humble servant. The third act shows us the Market-place at Gaza Samson appears, carrying on his shoulders the body of a youth he has just killed, and Dalila recoils with horror when in these mangled remains she recognises her brother Aijah. Mad with rage, she vows to avenge his death. When next she meets Samson her love once more takes the upper hand, but, perceiving his cloak stained with her brother's blood, she no longer hesitates, and, having cut off Samson's hair, delivers him to the soldiers hidden behind the tent. The scene of the final tableau is laid in front of the Temple of Dagon. Dalila is cheered by the Philistines, and Samson arrives, led by the faithful Rebecca, his fiancée. On seeing the man she betrayed, Dalila throws herself at his feet and implores to be forgiven, whereupon Samson takes her hand, assures her of his forgiveness, and enters with her into the Temple. After a few moments the huge building collapses. Samson rushes out. Both he and Dalila are wounded to death. With her last breath she calls him, and, groping his way towards her, they are united in death. Despite its shortcomings, the work, which was well received, reflects the greatest credit on the author. It was, moreover, admirably acted by M. de Max, an impressive Samson, and Mlle. Cora Laparcerie, a delightful Dalila. Mlles. Barjac, Clade, and Sarsenne, and MM. Mitrecy, Cautier, and Thierry were also excellent in their rôles.

I informed you that the Opéra intended to produce *Monna Vanna*, M. Maeterlinck's masterpiece, for which M. Février has written the music. In fact, it was decided that the work should come immediately after the *Crépuscule des Dieux*. Now, however, M. Maeterlinck has intimated to the Opéra management, through his lawyers, that he forbids the production of the work "under the existing conditions." What are these "existing conditions"? It is rumoured that M. Maeterlinck had insisted on Mme. Georgette Leblanc singing the title-rôle, a condition which MM. Messager and Broussan had accepted. It seems that these gentlemen have now changed their minds, and want to entrust the part to another artist, which would sufficiently explain M. Maeterlinck's anger. If—which is probable—*Monna Vanna* does not see the footlights at the Opéra, its place will be taken either by *La Forêt*, by MM. Laurent Tailhade and Savard, or by a new ballet by MM. Aderer and Salvayre.

The Palais-Royal announces for this week a revival of *Trois Femmes pour un Mari*, the amusing vaudeville by M. Grenet Dancourt.

The Ambassadeurs announce for Saturday next the première *As-tu vu mon nu?* the new revue by MM. Max Viterbo and Jules Moy. The strong cast comprises MM. Dranem, Moricey, Alberthal, Frey, and Mertel, and Mmes. Foscolo, Melsa, Yina, Narcy, Lange, Nini, Février, Jeanne d'Alma, &c.

Among the most interesting events during the summer season are the performances at the Théâtre Antique at Orange, which never fail to draw a large concourse of strangers. The fêtes this year will last three days, i.e., Aug. 8, 9, and 10. They are under the management of MM. Paul Mariéton, Antony Real, and Boduel. As usual, the principal rôles will be interpreted by the best artists of the Comédie-Française. The programme is particularly interesting. On Aug. 8 will be given *Iphigénie*, with Mmes. Weber, Delvair, and Roch, and MM. Albert Lambert, Paul Mounet, Dorival, and Duparc; *Le Cyclope*, an adaptation by M. Léon Riffard; and the Greek dances in the ballets of *Alceste* and *Orphée*. On Aug. 9 *Médée*, by M. Catulle Mendès, with Mme. Segond-Weber and M. Albert Lambert; and *Le Roi Midas*, an antique comedy by MM. Paul Souchon and André Avèze, with MM. Paul Mounet and Mlle. Provost. On Aug. 10 *Les Burgraves*, with Mr. Mounet-Sully and Mme. Segond-Weber.

At the instigation of M. Bérenger, the prudest man in France, proceedings were taken against those music halls where ladies exhibited themselves insufficiently clothed. Mr. Bérenger, who as a Senator has rendered invaluable services to his country by the excellent laws proposed by him, and carried through, thanks to his energy, has one weak point. Exaggerated décolleté upsets him; and as to the nude, the very thought of it makes him blush all down his back. When, therefore, he heard that in some of the halls artists showed themselves "en nature," he caused inspectors to visit the different places and the matter to be placed in the Public Prosecutor's hands. The tribunal showed itself severe. The managers of the Folies-Royales and Folies-Pigalle have been acquitted, but severe penalties befel the others. M. de Chatillon, manager of the Little Palace, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment and £8 fine, whilst Mlles. Bouzon and Depelley, who took part in the show called *Griserie d'éther*, received for their share fourteen days' imprisonment and £2 fine under the First Offenders Act. Similar penalties were meted out to the others.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, July 27, the Drama, entitled "A WRECKER OF MEN."

In spite of the heat, a goodly audience assembled to witness *A Wrecker of Men*, in which some sensational scenes are contained. Mr. Thompson Carruthers distinguishes himself in the comparatively small part of Eric Melville; Mr. Eric Campbell as the gigantic "slogger," Jim Murley, handles the part in a forceful manner; Mr. Milner Noble is a wily Phrosaphaus; Mr. J. Arsdell Wilson scores as the silent servant, Railton; Mr. Arthur Robinson makes the most of the part of Guise Strange; and Mr. Douglas Campbell is good as the Hon. Reggie. Miss Florence Melrose Millett plays well as Risca Mallison, the woman with a past, the evil nature of the part being maintained to the end. Miss Gwendoline Talbot is a gentle Doris Melville; and Miss Beatrice Reynolds is grotesquely humorous as the slavey, Vavasole Slopper. At the finish of the play the Elephant Bioscope is much appreciated.

Mr. Percy Norman's company, in *A Woman Worth Winning*, has drawn large audiences to the Metropole Theatre, Gateshead, during the week.

GRAND THEATRE, HULL.

The Grand Theatre, Hull, which will be re-opened on Monday, has undergone important improvements in the few weeks it has been closed.

Messrs. Morton have very cleverly retained all that was beautiful in the old decorative scheme, and strengthened that which was weak. The handsome modelling of the fronts of the balconies, the imposing proscenium and ceiling, designed in the Louis XV. style, and intended to represent Dresden china, have been brought into pretty and effective prominence, the colours used being cream, gold, and salmon pink picked out with crimson. The pretty panel over the proscenium is still retained.

A warm, comfortable, yet broad effect has been secured by the introduction of the same colour scheme in the wall decorations on all the tiers, from pit to gallery.

The stalls have been entirely reseated, and with a soft carpet the acme of comfort has been secured for the patrons of this part of the house. The rich maroon velvet hangings harmonise admirably with the general decorative scheme, which throughout is harmonious and a pleasant contrast to the usual cream and gold and sky blue form in many houses of entertainment.

In the electric light installation on the stage, the system adopted is the very latest, and carried out under the rules of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and conforms with the latest Corporation requirements. The wiring is on the three-wire system (Corporation supply) from main distribution boards to a two-panelled board on prompt side of stage, and thence through sub-distribution boards to the different circuits. All the wiring has been drawn into welded steel tubing, the latter being efficiently earthed ensures the maximum of safety possible, inspection and drawing-in boxes being liberally distributed over the system. The introduction of a unique system of "dimmers," of the well-known Lyons' liquid resistances, makes it possible to produce sunset and moonlight effects by the gradual lowering or raising of the lights on the stage, and also the coloured illustration of daylight converging into sunset or moonlight, or the gradual growth of daylight after night to early morn. The switchboard is the conception and device of Mr. Lyons, of Messrs. Tetley and Co., Salford, Manchester, the well-known theatrical switchboard experts. The elaborate wiring system has been carried out by the local firm of W. H. Porte, Pryme-street, Hull. In all there has been used in the installation 10,000ft. of conduit tubing and four miles of wires and cables. Not only this, the stage, which with the settling of the new building had got a little out of the plumb, has been readjusted and laid afresh with "traps" and mechanical contrivances galore, that will be a pleasure and a delight alike to the dancer and the acrobat. Among the minor alterations at the front of the house are the provision of a box office on the ground floor in the entrance vestibule; an extra room on the first floor for gentlemen sitting on the O.P. side of the house, and the installation of Corporation as well as National telephones.

The act drop takes the form of a pair of old tapestry curtains. Each curtain has a woodland scene in a decorated panel surmounted on a deep ornamental dado. Mr. Bogue has been most happy in his choice of subject, and the picture possesses quite a Gobelins effect. The artist has discarded the usual mode of painting, and had recourse to aniline dyes.

The autumn season begins on Monday, when the *Belle of New York* will pay a welcome return visit with Miss Hebe Kneller as Violet Grey and Mr. Frank Lawton in his original part of "Blinkey Bill."

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DURBAN, June 27.—Theatre Royal.—Sub-Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.—Wheeler's London Gaiety company in continuation of their season at the above theatre presented *The Blue Moon* during the past week. Miss Alice Pollard in the rôle of Chandra Nil was dainty and charming; as Lady Brabasham Miss Mabel Medrow acquitted herself admirably; Miss Ivy Louise and Miss Lilian Bell were skilful exponents of the parts of Evelyn Ormsby and Millicent Leroy; Mr. Frank Wheeler as Moolraj kept the audience in roars of laughter, and Mr. Charles Willoughby as Private Charlie Taylor was quite a favourite. Mr. W. Clark made a typical Major Callabone, and was much in evidence. Mr. Ernest Anderson did well as Bobbie Scott, and Mr. H. Hancock as Captain Jack Ormsby deserves eulogy.

DURBAN, July 4.—Wheeler's London Gaiety company appeared in the pantomime *The Forty Thieves* during the week. Mr. Frank Wheeler as Ali Baba was irresistibly funny; Mr. W. Clark as Ali's wife hit off the humour of the part to perfection, while Mr. Charles Willoughby as a Scotch Cassim Baba was a distinct success. Mr. W. A. Hassan took the part of Edward, the donkey, and his antics caused continuous laughter. Miss Alice Pollard as Ganem sang and danced with great success. Miss Lilian Bell scored immensely in the part of Morgiana, and greatly added to the success of the production. Miss Mabel Medrow made a commanding Abdallah, and won considerable commendation. Mr. Lago Clifford represented Hooliman, the American company promoter, to perfection. Mr. H. Hancock as Hassarac, and Mr. Anderson as Beda Baba performed their respective parts successfully. Others deserving of special mention are Miss Ivy Louise as Haidee, and Miss Belle Fairley as the Fairy Queen. The pantomime was well mounted and dressed.

Mr. Tubby Edlin has, by arrangement with Messrs. W. and F. Melville, signed an agreement with Mr. Harry Roxbury to tour for him his latest success, *The Cowboy Millionaire*. Mr. Frederick Melville has presented Mr. Edlin with a handsome gold hunter watch, suitably inscribed, and naturally he is very proud of it. This year, with Messrs. Adeler and Sutton, Mr. Edlin has been singing his own songs, and has written, with Mr. Willmott Fowler, a song for Mr. Malcolm Scott, "The figure eight," for which a big success is anticipated.

"MAN OR BEAST?"

Romantic Drama, in Four Acts, by Charles H. Phelps, played for the First Time at the Star Theatre, Swansea, on Monday, July 27.

Lord Newton ..... Mr. Fred Newland
Hon. Jack Newton .... Mr. Wilford Dewhurst
Sir Richard Tremere ..... Mr. Ernest Vaughan
Col. Bruce Anderson ..... Mr. Frank Hertie
Capt. Donald Macdonald.. Mr. Chas. H. Phelps
Christopher Sharp ..... Mr. W. Boyling
Lothario Sinclair ..... Mr. Alf Kitson
Dr. Watson ..... Mr. Frank Rogers
Pat O'Brien..... Mr. Fred Gresham
Inspector Gresham..... Mr. John C. Gray
Annitta ..... Miss Florence M. Daly
Marie ..... Miss Cissie Clarke
Lettie Fairfax ..... Miss Marie Pemberton
Lady Constantine Winscope
Miss Winifred Lester
Bella Newton ..... Miss Irene Carrington
Rosie Newton ..... Miss Madge Douglas

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Phelps has succeeded in giving to the melodramatic stage a drama that should go far, for it is well written, and its plot is skilfully worked out. The story travels along familiar lines. Sir Richard Tremere, the nephew of Lord Newton, having wrongfully accused Jack Newton, the son, of theft, gets his lordship to disinherit him, and as a consequence Jack leaves the country. With Jack out of the way, the unscrupulous nephew's course is clear. He gets Lord Newton to make him his heir, and, having succeeded, proceeds with the assistance of Annitta, an Indian nurse whom he is supposed to have married, slowly to kill him. The process taking too long, and Lord Newton having made a fresh will giving his son everything, Sir Richard makes a strong bid for the estates by strangling the unfortunate nobleman. Jack comes home, and, finding out that his sister Bella had been betrayed by his cousin, urges Sir Richard to marry her. A quarrel arises, and in the encounter that ensues Sir Richard gives Jack a blow and leaves him for dead. Bella having meanwhile married Colonel Bruce Anderson, Sir Richard threatens to tell the Colonel that Bella was his cast-off mistress unless she gets her sister, Rosie Newton, to marry him. Bella consents; but just as Sir Richard's plans are on the eve of being accomplished Jack turns up, and with the aid of Annitta, whose jealousy has been aroused, puts everything right, and the play concludes in the orthodox way.

Mr. Ernest Vaughan has an unenviable part in that of Sir Richard Tremere, but he enacts it with great ability, and was largely responsible for the success of the production. His villainies were ably assisted by the Indian woman, Annitta, who was carefully portrayed by Miss Florence M. Daly. The arduous part of Bella Newton was powerfully represented by Miss Irene Carrington, who fully deserved the appreciation that was given her; Miss Madge Douglas made a delightful Rosie Newton, who, in addition to acting prettily, sang excellently; the Hon. Jack Newton was endowed with manly fervour and vigour by Mr. Wilford Dewhurst; and Mr. Chas. H. Phelps as Capt. Donald Macdonald made the most of his part. Humour was plentifully provided by Mr. Fred Gresham as Pat and Miss Cissie Clarke as Maria. Mr. Frank Hertie's impersonation of Colonel Bruce Anderson could not be excelled. All other parts were in the hands of a carefully-selected cast. The piece was dressed and mounted admirably.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM, OUTING TO TEWKESBURY, JULY 26.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE OUTING.

Mr. Lester Collingwood's fifth annual Alexandra outing took place at Tewkesbury last Sunday. The arrangements, which were in the hands of Mr. Fred Bernardo, were on a lavish scale, and from a meteorological aspect also it was the day of the year. The party, which numbered 110, staff and friends, was regaled with choice fruits, sandwiches, and refreshment on the way to Worcester, and on the boat to Tewkesbury reminiscences of the last Alexandra pantomime were "discoursed" on the piano by an accomplished lady member of the staff. With other diversions the journey was made wholly joyous. After the dinner at the Bell Hotel, Mr. Collingwood proposed the health of the King, as one who is proud of his loyalty to Royalty; Mr. J. Penzer (Upton's) proposed the "Alexandra" fittingly, and the toast of the day, "The Chairman," was proposed by Mr. A. W. Matcham, of the Empire, who expatiated largely on Mr. Collingwood's "determined" policy and many virtues. Mr. Tom Guest responded for the visitors, and Messrs. Edward Foster (Grand), Fred Bernardo, and others "spoke" a "piece." The afternoon was enjoyed in beautiful sunshine, and after the party had been photographed by Mr. Parkes (of Parkes and Groves), tea was partaken of. The return journey on the boat was enlivened with more harmony, reinforced by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lyons, of the Hippodrome. Birmingham was reached in good time, at 9.45. Amongst those present were Miss H. E. Powell, secretary; Mr. W. T. Guest, assistant acting-manager; Mr. W. S. Jones, stage-carpenter, &c. There were also present Mr. Edward Lauri, Miss May Beatty, Miss Beatty, Mrs. Matcham, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wallis, Mr. A. Bushell, Mr. Jas. McConville, Mr. Chas. Price, Captain Gooch, Mr. Harry Cleveland, Mr. Machin, Mr. and Mrs. T. Wright, Mr. and Mrs. A. Forsyth, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Thompson, and many others.

The Germans are prominent in everything appertaining to scientific chemistry, and in this direction Englishmen in general, and Londoners in particular, are shortly to be given an opportunity of seeing daily at work, and using the most up-to-date appliances, two of the best chemists in Europe. For the International Rubber and Allied Trades' Exhibition, which is to be held at Olympia in September next, a complete working laboratory is being brought over at great expense from Berlin. It will be under the care of Drs. Markwald and Frank, whose names are known all over the Continent, and they will daily demonstrate the treatment of rubber in all forms.

KINGSTON THEATRE IMPROVEMENTS.

The Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, which has been closed for eight weeks for extensive structural alterations and redecoration, will reopen on Monday night, when *Brewster's Millions* will be the attraction. Those who visit it on that occasion will scarcely recognise the interior of the cosy little playhouse, which has always been one of the most popular on the outskirts of London, so great has been the transformation. Alterations, designed with the object of gaining more room and of securing greater convenience to playgoers, have been carried out on a most extensive scale and at considerable expense. Hitherto it has been necessary for patrons of the orchestra stalls to pass through the dress circle—an arrangement that never worked with satisfaction. Now a new passage has been constructed at the side which will remove this difficulty, whilst the space thus saved has been used for the erection of more seats. A new entrance to the green room has been made in place of the one situated awkwardly near to the entrance of the orchestra stalls; a new entrance into the pit has also been made for the convenience of those paying early-door prices. The roof, which began to show some defects, has been taken away, and a new and even more handsome one erected in its place, whilst many other structural alterations of lesser importance have also been carried out. New tip-up seats, handsomely upholstered in purple velvet, have been placed in the dress circle and orchestra stalls, both of which have been thickly carpeted; whilst in the stalls two wide gangways have been cut through the seats, which will doubtless be immensely appreciated when persons are going out or coming in. New seats, upholstered in blue velvet, have been placed in the pit, where the absence of central gangways—always a desideratum—has been remedied by the provision of one opposite each entrance. Besides being a great convenience to habitués, these gangways will be of great use in case of panic or fire, a circumstance that happily never has happened, and it is to be hoped never may. New divans, beautifully upholstered, have been placed in the foyer, new hangings of purple velvet have been provided for the boxes, the green-room has been enlarged, and the band space has been increased so as to accommodate the largest company of musicians likely to be required for any musical play. Perhaps the greatest of the improvements effected is the provision of a new fireproof screen, which will always be under the control of one of the staff during every performance and can be lowered automatically by simply touching a lever. Upon the face of it has been painted a very faithful representation of the famous Lion Gates at Hampton Court Palace—a very familiar object to Kingstonians—which has been skilfully executed by Mr. George Miller, the theatre's resident artist, who has also repainted all the stock scenery. There is also a new double curtain and drapery, the latter being of deep purple velvet lined with blue silk. It was not necessary to do anything to the Royal County's excellent stage, which has always been capable of accommodating anything travelling, and has frequently been eulogised by managers. It only remains to be added that the whole of the interior of the house has been repainted and redecorated with the most pleasing results. The style is what is known as the Adams style, the prevailing tint being old gold and cream in the lower parts, slightly increasing to a lighter tint as it ascends, and the effect is most charming. Mr. Peter Davey, the courteous, painstaking, and thorough managing-director, who has personally superintended the alterations every day during the recess, has devoted much care and thought to the scheme of decoration, and deserves to be highly complimented on the result. As an instance of this, it may be mentioned that special wall-paper of a particular colour and design had to be manufactured in order to fit in with the general scheme. Altogether the Kingston playhouse is now one of the most luxurious in the kingdom, and playgoers in the riverside town may well be proud of it. The alterations have been carried out by Mr. F. H. Gosling, of Kingston-on-Thames, and the furnishing by Messrs. A. R. Dean and Co., of Birmingham.

For the coming season Mr. Davey has secured some of the biggest of the London attractions, whilst in future, in addition to seasons of first-class London dramatic and musical companies, there will be seasons of high-class varieties, twice nightly, an experiment which it is believed will be much appreciated by Kingston audiences, the personnel of which has largely altered since the theatre was built twelve years ago.

AMUSEMENTS IN BRUSSELS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BRUSSELS, July 28.—All the theatres here are closed until September. Summer managements have taken possession of the Olympia and the Eden Theatre, cinematograph exhibitions and a few singing turns making up the programme.

The Molière continues its melodramatic season. Grange and Chiboust's *Voleuse d'enfants* is on the bill just now.

Cinematographs at the Scala, cinematographs at the Théâtre Flamand, cinematographs at the Fair.

The Alhambra remaining closed during the summer months, the Palais d'Eté is the only attraction of our capital; the winter garden makes it the coolest place in Brussels, and crowds of tourists flock there every night to enjoy a very good show: Miss Darwin and her trained cats; the comic singer, Carman; the Sharpshooters, Dervinne, Welling, and Dervinne; Marco Belly and his amusing giving away of conjurer's tricks; Cordua and Maud on the double wire; Miss May Blossom and Geo, in a very neat, funny, and clever bit of eccentric dancing; Thérèse Renz, the world-renowned equestrian; Lucette de Verly, in her latest successes from Paris; the Uessems, a fine act of juggling and acrobatic feats, which pulls the house down; and last, but not least, Spinx, the "safe" man, who being properly locked in a safe by some of the audience, comes out of it in a few seconds.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The weekly meeting of the council of the Actors' Association was held at 409, Strand, on Tuesday. Present: Mr. F. J. Arlton (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Chris Walker, Edmund Gurney, Cecil Brooking, Fewlass Llewellyn, and Clarence Derwent; Misses Agnes Imlay, Marion F. Lind, and Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The minutes of meetings held on July 21 and 23 were read and confirmed.

The secretary read letters from Miss E. Farmer on behalf of Miss Rosina Filippi, also a letter from Mr. F. Topham, and was instructed to write to that gentleman to the effect that the council cannot go back on their decision made last week, arrived at after a careful deliberation and enquiry, and after hearing both sides. The secretary read a letter from Mr. Lawrence Derrick with reference to his address being withheld from a manager, and was instructed to write to Mr. Derrick explaining the matter. He also read a letter from Mr. Richard A. Greene, tendering his resignation from the council, and was instructed to write to Mr. Greene to the effect that the council would rather he retained his seat.

The hon. solicitor reported that the summonses, Miss Elvin v. Seaman and Mr. Barnet v. Seaman, were heard on the 22nd ult., at the Bloomsbury County Court, and a verdict given in favour of the two plaintiffs. The defendant did not appear. The solicitor reported that the summons, Morland v. Monck, came before the Registrar at the Westminster County Court on the 23rd ult., and a verdict was given for the plaintiff. The defendant did not appear. He also reported that he had had an interview with Mr. Grove and advised him.

The report of the finance committee, which met on Monday, was read and accepted.

The council interviewed Miss Irma Fielden with reference to a member, and a vote of thanks was passed to Miss Fielden for her help and the trouble she had taken. Mr. Charles Francis was elected a member.

The secretary reported six engagements made since last meeting of the council.

It was decided that on and after Aug. 4 the rooms were to be closed at 8 o'clock, and the secretary was instructed to put up a notice to that effect.

The following suggestions were read and answered by the Chairman as follows:—Suggestion: I respectfully suggest to the members of the council that they (while members of the council) should not be entitled to accept engagements made through the agency of the council. Answer: It would be unfair to take from members of the council their right to obtain engagements through the ordinary methods of the agency. The council indignantly repudiate any suggestion of favouritism, as no member of its body has taken an unfair advantage of his or her position to obtain an engagement. They wish to have it thoroughly understood that the secretary alone knows the particulars of each engagement before it is put on the board, and that the members of the council have no opportunity of finding out about engagements, except by the same means as ordinary members. In consequence of the gravity of the suggestions implied, the council request the member to attend before them next Tuesday.

Suggestion: It would be a good thing if the A.A. could be open on Sundays. Touring members who have "waits" for several hours during a journey would derive great benefit therefrom. Answer: The council thanked the member for her suggestion, but could not see their way to comply with it at present.

The secretary was instructed to put up a notice that the rooms would be closed on August Bank Holiday.

The secretary asked a question with regard to next year's "Year Book," and received instructions to obtain estimates.

A letter which had been drafted in answer to a paragraph which appeared in the *Referee* was handed to the secretary, with instructions to send same to the editor of that paper.

The council gave the staff leave to have ten days' holiday each, and the secretary was given instructions to arrange the details.

ACTORS' UNION.

At the usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union the following were present:—Messrs. H. Tripp-Edgar (chair), Royce Milton, J. W. Braithwaite, Orlando Barnett, D. Lewin Mannering, A. Maitland Stapley, Paul Lovett, Bruce Lindley, Fred F. Loyd, Cecil G. Calvert, Frank Gerald, Lennox Pawle, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Letters were received from Messrs. Harry C. Momber, J. Hastings Batson, Henry Bedford, George P. Lester, and W. Ruddle Brown. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The secretary having read a letter from a member, asking whether the A.U. could advance him his railway fare to join his company, it was decided to advance him ten shillings for the purpose indicated.

The committee have decided that the Union shall be represented at the 41st Annual Trades Union Congress, to be held at the Mechanic's Institute, Nottingham, on Sept. 7 next and during the week.

Two candidates were elected members, and the resignation of a member was accepted.

The usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union was held at the Hummums Hotel on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. J. W. Braithwaite presiding over a gathering which included Messrs. Alfred J. May, William Macready, Jerrold Heather, Fred Jacques, Tom J. Taylor, Fred D. Daviss, G. Edward Dunstan, and Percy Edsall; and Mesdames Maud Kirwan, Carina McAllister, Ethel St. Barbe, Violet Lawson, Walter Bentley, Gladys H. Walton, Annie Barclay, Maud Henley, Eva Lumley, Irene Moncrieff, Marie E. Robertson, Kitty Marion, Margaret Densmore, Constance Berkeley, and May Conrade. The subject of the new clubs was discussed, and Mr. Macready urged that special endeavours be made in the autumn on behalf of the Union.

Doggett's Coat and Badge—the legacy of a once-famous Drury Lane comedian—was duly competed for on Monday, when the race for the distinctive badge and the monetary reward was rowed on the Thames between London Bridge and Chelsea. The six competitors were Alf. Geo. Wm. Curtis (Bermondsey), Chas. Lewis (Lambeth), George Thomas Jeffries (Erith), James Graham (Erith), Henry Jas. Wm. Ivey (Limehouse), and Henry Ambler (Richmond).

Just below Vauxhall Ivey's boat was overturned, and the occupant, being seized with cramp, was rescued with difficulty. The race was won by four lengths by Graham. Jeffries was second, Curtis third, and Ambler fourth.

Mr. Story-Gofton, who has been giving recitals at Brighton and the London suburbs, as well as lecturing on "Mont Blanc" at the Franco-British Exhibition, has been re-engaged by Miss Ellen Terry for his old part of the Rev. Leslie Rankin in Bernard Shaw's play, *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. This makes Mr. Story-Gofton's third consecutive engagement with the famous actress, whose tour commences at the Aquarium Theatre, Great Yarmouth, on August Bank Holiday.

Copy of Testimonial.—To Chemical Cleaning Co., 6, Argyll-street, W.—July 30, '08, from Hippodrome, Birmingham. Gentlemen,—Dresses to hand to-day. I am delighted with same.—Yours faithfully, Josie Bickford.—[Advt.]

"THE BELLE OF THE BALL."

Musical Play, in Three Acts, by A. Norden, Produced for the First Time at the Opera House, Southport, on Monday, July 27.

Sir Francis Lake .....MR. ROBERT HYETT
Bobbie Fletcher.....MR. LLEWELLYN C. HUGHES
Farmer Jones .....MR. JAMES CHIPPENDALE
James Forster .....MR. E. W. CHEWD
William .....MR. JACK HALE
Timothy Timkins .....MR. JOHNNIE SCHOFIELD
Showman Jack.....MR. FRANK COLLINS
Footman .....MR. E. OSBORNE
Queenie Trevor .....MISS MAUD TERRY
Lucy .....MISS MARY GRAFTON
Alice .....MISS MARY EARLE
Mary.....MISS L'ESTRANGE
Marie .....MISS PENRHYN
Irene .....MISS CARTWRIGHT
Red Riding Hood .....MISS CLARA CASEY
San Toi .....MISS MAY HAWTHORNE
Poppy .....MISS GERTRUDE MELVILLE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

Under the auspices of Miss Violet Osmund this new musical play by A. Norden, with music by E. T. de Banzie and Michael Dwyer, was presented here on Monday evening, and, notwithstanding that the climatic conditions were greatly in favour of outside amusements, there was a large attendance of "first-nighters" to witness the initial peformance, which was accorded a very hearty reception. Considerable interest was taken in the play, which was produced under the personal direction of Mr. Alexander Loftus, and it is a somewhat remarkable coincidence that this gentleman acted in a similar capacity when *The New Barmaid*—which has met with such phenomenal success—was produced at this theatre fourteen years ago.

Although there is plenty of good material for the artists to work upon, there is not much that is new in the conception of the play, which may be briefly characterised as a modern, or rather a revised version, of the well-known fairy tale of Cinderella. The rise of the curtain introduces us to the exterior of Farmer Jones's farm, where the young squire, Sir Francis Lake, arrives, and falls in love at first sight with the farmer's charming daughter Poppy, who has two elderly stepsisters, Alice and Mary, who endeavour to force their amorous intentions on the Squire. The love affairs of Poppy and Sir Francis are, however, more seriously interfered with by the Squire's steward, James Forster, who sets a trap and makes it appear that Poppy has stolen a purse of gold, and further endeavours to malign the heroine, in the interest of his sister Lucy, for whom he has matrimonial designs with the Squire.

In the second act Poppy is left in the interior of the farmstead, whilst her father and two stepsisters betake themselves to the masked ball, which the Squire is giving to the tenantry in the hope of again meeting the farmer's young daughter. Poppy is despondent at being left behind, but is rescued by the Squire's valet, Timothy Timkins, who produces a handsome costume for Poppy, and disguising himself as a lady, acts as chaperone.

Scene 2 in this act is very pretty, and shows the exterior of the Squire's Manor House by moonlight, where Poppy arrives in the brougham drawn by four of the smallest ponies in the world. The third act includes a reception at the Manor House and a masked ball, where the Squire, owing to a conspiracy on the part of the designing steward—who has arranged that the costumes of his sister and Poppy shall be alike—mistakes the former lady for the latter, and proposes marriage to her. When at a given time the guests unmask the mistake is discovered, and the lovers are united.

First and foremost amongst the artists is Mr. Johnnie Schofield in the part of Timothy Timkins (Tibbs), valet to Sir Francis. There is no lack of merriment when he is on the stage (and he is seldom off); his quaint humour and mannerisms are irresistibly funny, and created roars of laughter. Mr. Schofield certainly has abundant opportunity for his display of whimsical comedy, of which he takes full advantage. Possessing an attractive personality, together with a good voice and clear pronunciation, Miss Gertrude Melville was very successful in the rôle of Poppy, which she depicted with vivacity and a natural charm which appealed to the audience alike in an histrionic and vocal sense. Miss Maud Terry delighted the audience by her artistic impersonation of Queenie Trevor, a suffragette, which she played in a spirited and clever style, introducing some effective vocalism; Sir Francis Lake had a fitting and admirable representative in Mr. Robert Hyett, who enacted the part with great credit; Mr. Llewellyn C. Hughes, in the character of the Squire's friend, Bobbie Fletcher, lent very ample support both in acting and singing, and was well placed; Mr. James Chippendale is also very acceptable as Farmer Jones, a somewhat thankless part, which was portrayed perhaps a trifle too heavily; as James Forster, the steward, Mr. E. W. Chewd acquits himself with much credit, and was sufficiently vindictive and austere; his sister Lucy is ably undertaken by Miss Vera Grafton, who appears to advantage in a small part; the two step-daughters, Alice and Mary, have praiseworthy representatives in Miss Mary Earle and Miss L'Estrange respectively, who make the most of the "business" allotted them; Miss Clara Casey and Miss May Hawthorne were sprightly dancers; whilst Mr. Frank Collins as Showman Jack, Mr. Jack Hale as the Coachman, Mr. E. Osborne as the Footman did well; and the Directoire Girls, Miss Penrhyn and Miss Cartwright, in the Parisian Directoire dresses, created attraction.

The play—which will probably have a successful run—is splendidly staged and lavishly dressed, and some of the songs given by the principals are both topical and catchy.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, July 27, the Play in Four Acts entitled FOR LOVE AND THE KING."

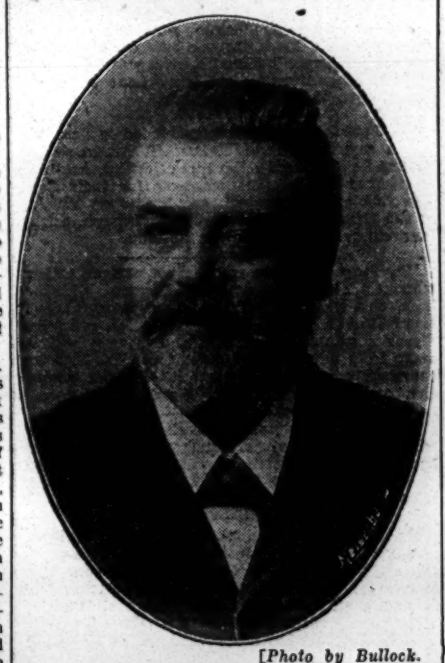
Mr. C. Watson Mill and his No. 1 company are scoring a meritorious success here this week in *For Love and the King*. The well-executed setting and the elaborate and costly dresses and military costumes combine to create an attractive picture, and make more effective a well-written play; and the author, Mr. Watson Mill, who is also in the cast, deserves congratulations on his production, which is received with every sign of approval. As Jarval, a young English soldier, Mr. Mill offers a powerful study, imbued with manly vigour, and secures a strong hold on the audience. Mr. John Burton gives a very good rendering of the part of Michael Obrenovic, a miser and revolutionary. That of Vladimir Obrenovic is in the capable hands of Mr. Henry Earlesmere, who achieves distinction; Mr. T. W. Dunscombe as Prince Uros Dragomir is well suited to the character; Mr. Geoffrey Chate is clever and diverting as the Duke Fernand Dragomir; Carl Oppenheim is ably portrayed by Mr. Jim K. Wood, who is responsible for much hearty laughter; Mr. Frank Lyndon essays the rôle of King Kara Dragomir with success, and the same may be said of Mr. Arthur Trail as Kosta Marko. Miss Joan Ellis plays Natila with earnestness and pathos; Miss Marie Ault does ample justice to her impersonation of Grazia Obrenovic; Edith Meredith is delicately depicted by Miss Frances Tierney; Miss Laura Munro makes an excellent Princess Milania, and Miss Rosalind Tate gives a good reading of the rôle of Princess Athene. Valuable assistance is also rendered by Mr. G. H. Organ, Mr. A. H. Leslie, and Mr. D. Adams.

A CHAT WITH HENRY TAYLOR.

No doubt the news that Mr. Henry Taylor, who for over a quarter of a century has held the reins of the only theatre in Crewe and is now relinquishing his control, will be viewed by many professional people with astonishment, and by not a few with regret, inasmuch as his close and intimate relationship with many touring managers and companies has almost invariably been of the pleasantest and happiest character. It is now that Mr. Taylor finds the weight of years and other business engagements of such a pressing character that this change has been most reluctantly made. In 1881 he saw an opening for the establishment of a dramatic house in Crewe—a town he adopted as his home when the population was only 15,000—and he took the opportunity to convert (if one may be allowed the term) the Catholic chapel, which was being disused owing to the erection of a new church for that body, into a theatre, which he named the Lyceum, and which was visited and utilised by many of the then leading travelling managers from time to time. It was, however, soon found that the building was too small to meet requirements of playgoers, and a limited company was formed. Of this company Mr. Taylor became a shareholder, and was appointed manager, and he held the post for some years, afterwards becoming the lessee. In the early days there was much opposition to the establishment of a theatre by a class of people who had no sympathy either with actors or theatrical managers. Many of the then evident prejudices were removed, and the Lyceum then continued to be patronised not only by the large working-class population, but by the "upper ten" of the district.

On the attainment of his twenty-first year of management Mr. Taylor was the recipient of a valuable silver service and an illuminated book-testimonial expressive of admiration from his many local and professional friends. These were presented at a banquet at the London and North-Western Railway Co.'s Hotel in the presence of a large and representative company. On the occasion of the visit of Miss Bateman (Mrs. Crowe) to the old theatre the audience were so enthusiastic as to insist on drawing that lady's carriage to the railway station en route for Dublin, on the evening of the Friday on which Lord Frederick Cavendish was assassinated in the Phœnix Park. No performance could, of course, take place, and the body of the deceased gentleman passed through Crewe on the following Sunday morning en route for London.

Mr. Taylor's successor is Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett, of the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, and the Opera House, Burton-on-Trent, who is completely changing the interior of the theatre, and will commence his management on the ensuing August Bank Holiday. That gentleman has



[*Photo by Bullock.*
MR. HENRY TAYLOR.

been granted the transfer of Mr. Taylor's full licence, and will no doubt enjoy a large share of public patronage. Mr. Taylor has a fund of interesting stories of his experiences, some of which he hopes to treat our readers to at a later date.

THE NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, July 27, the Drama entitled "THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."

It was on Dec. 31, 1906, that *The Lighthouse Robbery* was first produced in England, being given a week's trial at the Lyric, Hammersmith, and proving distinctly attractive. It caught the eye of Mr. E. H. Knight, well known in connection with *The Grip of Iron*, who acquired the English rights of the play, and, having had it Anglicised and altered in various details, is now sending it on tour. The alterations do not affect the main plot, which deals chiefly with the doings of a hero of the first water, who effects three thrilling rescues from drowning. In the course of the piece he is robbed and turned out of house and home, but eventually comes into his own and marries the girl he had loved all through the play. The success of the production on Monday was never for a moment in doubt, and a crowded audience greeted the piece enthusiastically throughout. Miss Hilda Baynton quite excelled herself as Rose Prescott—the part she originally created in England—and plays it in a sweet and charming manner; Tom Manly is sustained by Mr. Stanley Bedwell, to whose sincere and earnest acting no small measure of the play's success must be attributed; an exceedingly good character study is given by Mr. Herbert Lewis in the part of David Morris; Mr. Wilfred Mansfield does well as the villain, James Hammond, and his father, William Farren, is interpreted by Mr. H. Wallace Curnock, who also acts as Mr. Knight's manager on tour. On Mr. Willie Reid's shoulders as Sam Kidder falls the task of making practically all the fun, and he proved quite equal to his responsibilities. As Mrs. Manly Miss Francesca Strickland is good; Miss Maggie Stewart gives a lively interpretation of Ruth Manly; and little Ethel Lovett proves herself a clever child in the part of Little Nellie. The scenery throughout is excellent, and particular mention must be made of that in Act. II., the change from the interior to the exterior of a lighthouse being most effective. All the scenery has been painted at Mr. Croke's studio adjoining the Lyric, where Mr. Harry Drury is principal artist.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

KEEPS THE SKIN COOL AND REFRESHED.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of the sun, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, heat irritation, tan, &c., and MAKES THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFUL if applied after walking, golfing, cycling, motoring, tennis, playing, &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM and SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MLLE. DU ROCHE.

Mlle. Du Roche, who has established herself as a favourite with music hall audiences and in pantomime, commenced her career fifteen years ago, when quite a child, in the production of *Robinson Crusoe* at the Aquarium Theatre, Brighton, and each succeeding year found her playing important parts in pantomime. For two years (1900-1 and 1901-2) she was Fairy Queen with Messrs. Eglington and Little's pantomime *Red Riding Hood*. During Christmas 1903-4 she played principal girl, viz., Miss Muffett, in the *Bo-Peep* pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Hanley. The next Christmas season (1904-5) found her as principal boy in *Dick Whittington* at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End. The rôle seemed to exactly suit her personality and ability, and during Christmas 1905-6 she played Prince Perfect in *Cinderella* at the Theatre Royal, Barnsley, and in the following year Daniel Defoe's hero in Mr. John Hart's pantomime production—*Robinson Crusoe*—at the Theatre Royal, Bradford. Last season she donned the Lincoln green of Robin Hood in Mr. Fred Granville's pantomime *Babes in the Wood*, in which she scored her usual success. Mlle. Du

[*Photo by A. Sachs.*
MLLE. DU ROCHE.

Roche, who is possessed of a sweet and flexible soprano voice, considers her vocal gifts to be hereditary, as her mother, who is of Welsh descent, possessed a beautiful voice, and Mlle. Du Roche's early childhood was spent in the beautiful Vale of Llangollen, where she sang as a child in a Welsh choir. She has obtained her present position by sheer hard work, having, in conjunction with her husband, played in drama, musical comedy, and comic opera. For two years she worked a double turn, viz., a singing and dancing act, as The Stanleys with her husband, Mr. Arthur Stanley, who is now successfully running a troupe of boys known as Stanley's Urchins. For the last three years Mlle. Du Roche has worked a single turn with great success. She is well booked up on the halls, and looks forward to further success.

MISS DAVIES WEBSTER.

After work with Sarah Thorne, study with Hermann Vezin and Emil Behnke, with Angelo (for fencing), Mons. Petit, and Cæsare Smeraldi (for acting without words), &c., &c., and after complete failure to be even interviewed by a London manager, Miss Davies Webster gave up her ambition of walking on at a London theatre, but some successful performances with amateurs secured an engagement in a fit-up répertoire company. She played Juliet, Portia, and juvenile leads in the Carte comedies. Other engagements for lead in drama, and for Pauline in *The Lady of Lyons*, followed. In 1890 Miss Webster played Klydone in a poetic play of her mother's, *In a Day*, at a

[*Photo by Ellis and Walery.*
MISS DAVIES WEBSTER.

Terry matinée. Mr. Stephen Phillips was in the cast. Too inexperienced to derive much advantage from so early a London début of that kind, she nevertheless secured some encouragement from the critics, who especially praised expression and by-play. After Terry's followed many melodrama leads on tour. Then, anxious to get Shakespearean work, Miss Davies Webster declined an offer of a fourth re-engagement in the tour she was playing lead in, and took a smaller engagement in the Osmond Tearle company, playing Nerissa, Duchess of York, Valeria, Second Witch, &c.; and, as Mrs. Tearle's understudy, the Queen, in *Hamlet*, and Emilia. The latter part she has since played with Murray Carson, and in Mr. R. C. Buchanan's Hermann Vezin tour; whilst she has understudied the Queen in Forbes-Robertson's Lyceum season. After the Tearle tour there was a long break in Miss Webster's continuous work, owing to need for her at home. During this time she took all work she could get in town. This included special weeks at suburban theatres, her own "Dramatic Evenings" in West End suburban halls, and the Lyceum engagement. When able to tour again, her first important engagement was as Esther Coventry, in *One of the Best*, played by her then, and in later engagements, over 300 times. Other engagements have been as Niobe (two tours with Mr. W. P. Seddon's company, one with Mr. Drew Mackintosh), Lady Marchant in *A Bunch of Violets*, the Duchess in *Moths*, and Lady Sneerwell in Miss Fortescue's company, Mrs. Cortelyon (*The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*) in Miss Lucy Wilson's Pinero Répertoire company, and many others. Also, in London, Miss Pringle in *Naughty Nancy*, at the Savoy; Miss Cudlin, in *A Maid from School*, Terry's; Mrs. Quickly in a Botanic Gardens season of Mr. Patrick Kirwan's. Miss Webster has played about 250 parts, so all cannot be recorded. Some important parts are Galatea, Cynisca, Olivia (in *Twelfth Night*), Stéphanie de Mohrivart in *Forget-Me-Not*, and Mirandolina, in her own adaptation of *La Locandiera—Mine Hostess*.

MISS MARION LIND.

Miss Marion Lind is the daughter of the late Lieut.-Col. J. B. Lind, a distinguished officer who fought in the Indian Mutiny and was with Nicholson on the Ridge of Delhi. On her mother's side she also comes of a family which has done service in the East, for her grandfather, the late Sir John Davis, Bart., K.C.B., was the first Governor of Hong Kong.

Miss Lind's dramatic experience would appear to date from her nursery days, when she played the leading parts in plays written by her elder sister, and performed in the Theatre Royal of the nursery. Later on, in Exeter, she was one of the most talented members of the Exeter Dramatic Society, with which, some years before, Miss Vanbrugh had been connected before she went on the stage. Since she went on the stage Miss Lind has ranged the whole scale of dramatic experience, and her great forte is her versatility. She complains that most managers of to-day are unwilling to believe that an actress can be both pathetic and good in comedy. She has often had great difficulty in getting a manager to entrust her with a comedy part, solely because she has proved herself so excellent in a pathetic part. In her opinion, an actress should be able to run the whole scale of emotion. Amongst Miss Lind's experiences have been those of playing in comic opera and pantomime, understudying some of the leading actresses in London, being the persecuted heroine in more dramas than she can count; of taking parts in South Africa which have been created by such different artists as Julie Opp, Gertrude Kingston, and Maude Millett; and touring in England in parts associated with Miss Fannie Brough, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, and Miss Nina Boucicault.

Amongst the parts Miss Lind has played may be mentioned Rosalind, Portia, Viola, and Juliet; Fanny Brough's part in *The Man from Blankley's*, Lady Curtoys (*Wheels Within Wheels*), Julie Opp's part in *A Man of Forty*, Gertrude Kingston's part in *The Manœuvres of Jane*, Joanna in *Mice and Men*, Esther in *Caste*, Mrs. Goldfinch (*A Pair of Spectacles*), Olga Nethersole's part in *A Fool's*

[*Photo by Langier*
MISS MARION LIND.

Paradise, Maude Millett's in *Tyranny of Tears*, Angela (*Royal Family*), Nancy Roach in *New Boy*, lead in *Great Ruby, Cheer, Boys, Cheer, Sporting Life, Harbour Lights, Prodigal Daughter*, Helen MacGregor in *Rob Roy*, &c., &c.

MRS. ALFRED MELLON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I was most pleased to read in *The Era* of Saturday last, July 25, your admirable article on Mrs. Alfred Mellon (undoubtedly the most accomplished and versatile actress of her day). Whether in domestic drama, farce, or burlesque I have never seen her surpassed, if equalled, and I have witnessed her impersonation of all the characters mentioned in your columns, and was present at the old Adelphi when, under the management of Mr. Frederick Yates, she made her début in Chas. Selby's duologue, *Antony and Cleopatra*, in connection with Edward Wright, the popular comedian. My principal object in penning this note is to correct an error in the paragraph which followed the well-deserved eulogium, which stated that *Nicholas Nickleby* was first performed at the Adelphi in 1875. It was first performed at the old Adelphi Nov. 19, 1838, with a cast of quite exceptional quality, for each character was so perfectly represented that it really appeared as if the author had written the parts for the Adelphi artists, so life-like were they represented—Ralph Nickleby, Mr. Cullenford; the handsome John Webster as Nicholas; Newman Noggs by the great character actor O. Smith; Browdie, Harry Beverley, a famous Yorkshire comedian; Squeers, Wilkinson (known as Little Wilkinson); Mantalini, the versatile manager, Frederick Yates; and Poor Mike by Mrs. Keeley. Other characters according to their position in the play were equally well represented.—Yours faithfully,

Charterhouse, E.C. JOSEPH A. CAVE.
July 29, 1908.

[The statement in the article was correct. The version referred to was Andrew Halliday's. The 1838 production was of an adaptation by Edward Stirling.—ED. of *The Era*.]

Of Norris, an actor who died in 1776, the following singular story is told:—"Twelve years after Norris's death Mrs. Barry was acting in the town in which he died the character of Calista in *The Fair Penitent*. In the last act of the tragedy, where Calista lays her hand upon the skull, she was suddenly seized with an involuntary shuddering; she fainted, and was taken to her lodgings. During the night her illness increased, and on the following day, recovering her senses, she anxiously asked whence the skull had been procured which had been used on the preceding night. Upon inquiry, the sexton told her it was the skull of a Mr. Norris, an actor, who was buried in the corner of the churchyard. It proved to be her husband. The shock killed her; she died six weeks afterwards."

THE GAIETY THEATRE COMPANY

The following is the directors' report and balance-sheet of the above company, which will be submitted to the shareholders at the ordinary annual general meeting of the company, at the Gaiety Theatre, on Tuesday:—

Dr. BALANCE SHEET, July 3, 1908.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Capital Issued—		
60,000 Shares of £1 each		60,000 0 0
,, Sundry Creditors.....		10,812 4 7
,, Building Reserve A/c		37,106 14 3
,, Unclaimed Dividends..		277 6 0
,, Balance of Rebates and Royalties		430 3 0
,, Revenue Account—		
Balance July 1, 1907 .. 2,381 0 9		
Add Profit for the year, as per Profit and Loss Account.. 10,179 3 8		
		12,560 4 5
		£121,186 12 3

Cr.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Cost of New Building, including Furniture, Fixtures, Fittings, Appliances, Decorations, &c., &c., to date		97,889 6 8
NOTE.—In lieu of an amount charged for Amortisation of Lease, &c., a Redemption Policy has been effected for £60,000, the premiums of which have been charged against profits.		
,, Stocks, at Cost		367 8 0
,, Stage Properties, including Current and other Plays, Tours, &c. £19,194 16 3		
Less Amount written off 9,574 16 3		
		9,620 0 0
,, Sundry Debtors		2,882 16 10
,, Cash at Bankers and in hand		10,427 0 9
		£121,186 12 3

REVENUE ACCOUNT, from July 1, 1907, to July 3, 1908.

Dr.

	£ s. d.
To Stage Expenses	43,893 4 9
,, Management, Front of House, and General Expenses	5,231 2 7
,, Rent, Rates, Taxes, &c.	7,891 8 7
,, Advertising and Billposting.....	3,978 13 1
,, Insurances	1,170 5 0
,, Printing and Stationery	190 18 2
,, Electric Light and Gas	2,075 17 2
,, Alterations and Repairs	567 8 3
,, Managing Director's Remuneration £1,300 0 0	
,, Directors' Fees 1,000 0 0	
	2,300 0 0
,, Legal Expenses	119 6 11
,, Depreciation written off	9,574 16 3
,, Balance, being Profit, carried to Balance Sheet	10,179 3 8
	£87,172 4 4

Cr.

	£ s. d.
By Entertainment Receipts in respect of Plays produced at the Gaiety Theatre, Royalties and Profits on Tours, Bars, &c.	87,137 17 3
,, Interest	21 19 7
,, Transfer Fees	12 7 6
	£87,172 4 4

AWARDS AT THE GUILDHALL SCHOOL.

The complete list of prize winners at the Guildhall School of Music during the year ending July, 1908, are to hand. The following students have passed the highest grade examination set by the school, and are duly elected Associates for the year 1908. The first three in the order of merit are awarded the school medals as below:—Gold Medallist (with honours) M. Gordon Burgess, pupil of Mr. R. Orlando Morgan (pianoforte); Silver Medallist (with honours), Joseph Haydn Lee, pupil of Mr. C. J. C. Boddington (organ); Bronze Medallist, Eva Robertson, pupil of Mr. L. Cairns James (elocution); Hilda Cornfoot (singing); Clotilde Hart (pianoforte); Ethel R. Walmsley (pianoforte); Mabel Howe (pianoforte); Edith Harnden (harp).

Special Prize Winners:—The Lord Mayor's Prize, a Purse of £5 5s., for Soprano Vocalists. Won by Mary Anderson. The Lady Mayoress's Prize, a Purse of £5 5s., for Pianoforte Students. Won by Muriel Grose. The Sheriff's Prize (Alderman and Sheriff Sir David Burnett), a Purse of £5 5s., for Mezzo Soprano Vocalists. Won by Hilda Cornfoot. The Sheriff's Prize (Sheriff, Sir Chas. C. Wakefield), a Purse of £5 5s., for Contralto Vocalists. Won by Muriel Clark. The Chairman's Prize, a Purse of £5 5s., for Tenor Vocalists (presented by Samuel Alderton, Esq., C.C.). Won by Alfred C. Steed. The Knill Challenge Cup, with Silver Medal, for an eminently deserving student (presented by the late Alderman Sir Stuart Knill, Bart, LL.D.). Awarded to K. Ethel Harman. The Kirkby Lunn Prize, a Purse of £3 3s. (presented by Mme. Kirkby Lunn). Awarded to Lilian E. Allen, pupil of Mr. R. J. Pitcher. The Summers Prize, a Purse of £5 5s., for Contralto Vocalists (presented by H. A. Summers, Esq., C.C.). Won by Violet Oppenshaw. The Knight Prize, a Purse of £5 5s., for Bass Vocalists (presented by Lady Knight). Won by William H. Cooper. The Tillie Gold Medal, for a distinguished Lady Violin Student (presented by Alexander Tillie, Esq., C.C.). Awarded to Maude Willby. The Lady Jenkinson Prize, a Purse of £5, for Pianoforte Students (presented by Mrs. Sartoris). Won by Evelyn Harrison. The Alexander Prize, a Book of Poems, for Elocution Students (presented by Mr. George Alexander). Won by Anais Holbrook. The Tubbs Prize, a Gold Mounted Violin Bow, of the value of £10, for Violin Students (presented by Messrs. Tubbs and Son). Won by Audrey Richardson. The Organ Prize, a Purse of £5, for Organ Students (presented by Mr. James Rolls, C.C.). Won by Edith M. Reed. The Max Hecht Scholarship, £10 per annum, for British Vocalists studying German Classic Songs. Won by Ada Eshelby Phillips. The Dove Memorial Prize, value £9 (under the will of the late Mr. E. S. Dove), for the student who distinguished himself, or herself, most in general excellence, assiduity, and industry. Awarded to Katrine St. Clair. The Libotton Memorial Prize (founded by public subscription), a Violoncello Bow (with inscription) and Bronze Memorial Plaque. Won by Louis A. Rozelaar.

The School Prizes:—Pianoforte, won by Millie Flower; Soprano, won by Lois Barker; Contralto (two prizes), won by Muriel Clark and Gladys Ancrum; Baritone or Bass, won by Chappell Haverson; Violin, won by Winifred Norman, highly commended, Margery Holden; Violoncello, won by John Francis; Elocution, won by May Farnell; Accompanying, won by Lois Barker; Opera, won by Elsie Haughton.

Principal Scholarships for 1908-9:—The Knoop Scholarship, value £75 per annum (given by Baron Johann von Knoop), was awarded to Mr. Eric Leftwich (violoncello), for the year ending December, 1908. The Merchant Taylors Scholarships, £40 per annum, was gained by Miss Audrey Richardson (violinist). The Andrew Carnegie Scholarships went to Miss Grace Hawkins and Master Lionel Stanton; and the S. Ernest Palmer Scholarships to Mr. R. J. Stannard and Muriel Herbert.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham, having assisted at the celebration of the 250th night of *The Mollusc* at the Criterion, left London on Wednesday for Ems, where he will enjoy a brief holiday. Sir Charles will take up his dramatic work at the New Theatre in September, when he will produce Mr. Roy Horniman's adaptation of his own novel "Bellamy the Magnificent." Former esteemed associates of Sir Charles will be found in the cast chosen to support him, the company including Mr. Yorke Stephens, Mr. Richard Lambart, Mr. Stanley Pringle, Mr. Vane Tempest, Miss Kate Cutler, Miss Sarah Brooke, Miss Marguerite Leslie, Miss Honey, Miss Dupong, and Miss Alice Beet.

The new comedy by Hubert Henry Davis, in which Miss Mary Moore will play the principal part at the Criterion, is entitled *Lady Epping's Lawsuit*. The piece is in three acts, one of which is laid in a Law Court. Among the company engaged are Miss Grace Lane, Miss Norma Whalley, Miss Elfrida Clements, Miss J. Evelyn, Mr. Sam Sothern, Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk, Mr. Berte Thomas, Mr. Frederick Volpe, and Mr. Eric Lewis.

It is good news to learn that Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore have just purchased from Mr. Clyde Fitch a new three-act comedy, entitled *A Happy Marriage*, in which there are excellent parts for both artists. It seems, therefore, dependent only on the enduring attractions of the plays in which each popular performer is singly to appear as to when they will be seen again in the same programme.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh will produce the American play *The Man on the Box* at the Pier, Eastbourne, on Thursday. The same occasion will witness the staging for the first time of a new one-act play by W. W. Jacobs and Horace Mills, entitled *Admiral Peters*, taken from Mr. Jacobs' story of that name.

Mr. George Edwardes will begin his two weeks' season with the Gaiety success, *The Girls of Gottenberg*, at the Adelphi, on Monday, Aug. 10. Mr. Edmund Payne will appear in his original creation of Max Moddelkopf, but a new Mitzi will be found in Happy Fanny Fields, the clever variety comedienne, whose appearance in a rôle quite apart from her clever Dutch characterisations gives additional interest to what will undoubtedly prove a popular revival. The cast will also include Miss Thelma Raye, Miss Maisie Gay, Mr. Fred Allandale, and Mr. Lawrence Grossmith.

The Editor of *The Era* (Mr. Frank Desprez) wishes to thank those who have written to congratulate him on his silver wedding and to whom he has not replied individually. An omission from the list of presents published last week was that of a handsome pair of silver candlesticks, the gift of Lady Violet Greville, the authoress of *An Aristocratic Alliance*, which was produced by Sir Charles Wyndham at the Criterion in the March of 1894.

Mr. Arthur Collins has completed the work of casting the new autumn drama at Drury Lane, which is again from the pens of Messrs. Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton, and is due in September. The play, which is as yet unnamed, is in four acts. The principal parts are in the hands of a strong company, comprising such popular artists as Miss Eva Moore, Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. Albert Chevalier, Mr. Basil Gill, Mrs. Lancaster Wallis, Miss Marie George, Mr. Vincent Clive, Mr. Arthur Poole, Miss Lucy Sibley, Mr. Fred Grove, Miss Irene Smith, and Mr. Oscar Adye. Rehearsals will commence shortly.

Miss Lena Ashwell, invigorated by a well-earned holiday on the Sussex coast, is busy rehearsing for her provincial tour of nine weeks, which will begin on Monday at Buxton. The company supporting Miss Ashwell is identical with that which has already earned such a high reputation at the Kingsway Theatre, and includes Miss Frances Ivor, Miss Gertrude Scott, Miss Beryl Mercer, Mr. C. M. Hallard, Mr. Dennis Eadie, and Mr. Norman McKinnel.

During the progress of the tour Miss Ashwell will rehearse a play of serious interest, written by Mr. Wilfred T. Coleby, who made his début as a dramatic author with that clever little sketch of East-End life *The Likes o' Me*. The new piece, which affords Miss Ashwell a congenial rôle, will be produced by Mr. Norman McKinnel, and should make its appearance at the Kingsway during the first week in October. Firm in her confidence in new authors, by the way, Miss Ashwell has just secured a comedy from yet another of "the great unacted," which will see the light at the pretty little theatre in Great Queen-street in due course.

The popularity of Miss Cicely Hamilton's clever comedy, *Diana of Dobson's*, is proved by the fact that it will be performed by no less than four different companies in the United Kingdom during the autumn, while America, Australia, and South Africa will also have an opportunity of making the acquaintance of the volatile draper's assistant.

Success immediate and complete has attended Mr. Percy Hutchison and his company in the first production of *Brewster's Millions* at Bournemouth. On the first night there were thirty-nine calls, and on the second thirty-one, the wonderful ship scene causing a great sensation. It is stated that such enthusiasm has never before been heard in the Bournemouth Theatre. Every night the audience refused to leave the theatre until demands for a speech had been gratified. In spite of the tropical weather the theatre has been crowded, and it looks as though the records of thirty-seven plays produced by the Hutchison management will be beaten.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison on Monday open their fifth annual Brighton season at the West Pier. For two years past they have broken all previous records there, the number of persons paying for admission during the four weeks' season reaching 42,000. The record for one week was held by Miss Lilias Earle and Mr. Percy Hutchison in *Peter's Mother*, over 12,000 people crowding into the West Pier Theatre during the week.

This year the Hutchison season opens with *Mrs. Dot*, with Miss Decima Moore, Miss Emma Hutchison, and Mr. Frank Lacey in the cast; for the second week Mrs. Brown Potter, supported by Mr. P. C. Cuningham, will appear in *Lady Frederick*; the third week *Peter's Mother* makes its fourth visit to Brighton, Miss Lilias Earle again playing the title-rôle, supported by Mr. Eille Norwood and Mr. Vivian Guilbert; and *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* brings the season to a close. The company includes Mr. George Mudie, Miss Annie Stalman, and Miss Florence Wix. Owing to the heavy nature of the production, Mr. Percy Hutchison will not be able to stage *Brewster's Millions* at the Pier, but will visit the Royal in November.

A new play is promised from the pen of Mr. Hall Caine, who has entered into a contract with Mr. M. V. Leveaux and Mr. Derwent Hall Caine for the production in the provinces in the early spring of an entirely new piece. This, it should be added, is not the dramatisation of *The Manxman* which is shortly to be produced at the Lyceum.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree is now enjoying a holiday at Harrogate, where he has taken a house for some weeks. He has decided upon Saturday, Sept. 5, as the date of the production of *Faust* at His Majesty's. Among the distinguished visitors to Harrogate are also Mr. and Mrs. Fred Terry (Miss Julia Neilson) and family. Miss Neilson has made rapid progress towards recovery since her recent illness due to overwork, and playgoers may look forward to welcoming her return to professional work thoroughly restored in health and vitality.

"If We Only Knew" is the title selected by Mr. Harry Nicholls for his new romantic play, which is shortly to be produced. The music is by Mr. John Crook, the composer of *Peter Pan*. The forthcoming tour is being rapidly booked up.

Our birthday list this week includes the name of Mr. Fred Wright, sen., who, if not actually the father of the English stage, is certainly the oldest performer on the active list. Mr. Wright is eighty-two on Thursday, and that he retains his dramatic powers in a full degree was proved by his performance with Mr. Martin Harvey's company at the Adelphi last year and on the subsequent tour. Mr. Wright took a prominent part in the Actors' Orphanage Fund Garden Party at the Botanic Gardens last month, when he presided over Miss Phyllis Broughton's stall, where the winning confections in the hat-trimming competition were exhibited. May he long remain in the profession to the service of which he has devoted the work of over half a century.

Mr. Alfred Lester, who has been away this week on holiday, resumes his part as the Bo'sun in *Havana* at the Gaiety on Monday evening.

Miss Gertrude Irving, who has for some time past been living in retirement, has been engaged by Mr. Gaston Mayer to play the part of Mrs. Wiggs in *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* until Mrs. Madge Carr Cook joins the tour. The company opens at Folkestone on Monday next. Miss Irving, it may be recalled, was for several years leading lady with Mr. Wilson Barrett's companies, playing such parts as Nellie Denver in *The Silver King* and Bess in *The Lights o' London*, both in this country and in America. Miss Irving also extensively toured with her own company in *Baffled*, an adaptation by Mr. Geo. P. Hawtrey of "Parma Violets."

Mr. William Greet, whose companies have for many years toured the provinces with such distinction, will enter upon West-end management with the production on Thursday, Sept. 3, at a theatre yet to be named, of Harry and Edward Paulton's three-act farce, *The Old Firm*. The piece will have a preliminary canter at Newcastle and Hull, the initial production taking place in the former town on Aug. 17.

Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw heads the cast of *The Old Firm*, and will be the senior partner of the firm of Nichols and Nichols, and Miss Florence Lloyd will have the part of a lady commercial traveller. The cast will also consist of Messrs. Clayton Greene, Frank Tennant, Ernest A. Douglas, Richard Golden, George West, and Atheling Farrar, and Miss Beatrice Ferrar, Miss Gladys Mason, Miss Alice Beet, and Miss Constance Hyem.

"Charles Osborne" (Mr. Charles Bolton) passed peacefully away on Wednesday morning in his eightieth year. He died from an internal complaint, after a tedious illness lasting four or five months. He was once connected with *The Era*, and contributed to our columns a number of articles. He was the author of *The Face in the Moonlight*, *A Midnight Marriage*, *The Old Forge*, and other successful dramas and farces. He was originally a clerk in Twining's Bank, and was a member of the Yorick Club, and a great friend of the dramatic profession.

Miss Gertie Millar sails next Saturday by the Lucania to take up her original part in the New York production of *The Girls of Gottenberg*. Mr. Lionel Mackinder and Mr. James Blakeley, who appear in the same piece, have already left England for New York, together with Mr. J. A. E. Malone, who is to superintend the American production.

The Moody-Manners Opera Company will open their season of grand opera at the Lyric on Aug. 17 with *Die Meistersinger*, which will be given for the first time in English. Among other works which will be included in the répertoire will be *Tannhäuser*, *Lohengrin*, *Tristan and Isolde*, *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, *Lily of Killarney*, *Madame Butterfly*, in which Madame Fanny Moody scored a remarkable success last season, and *The Star of the North*, one of Meyerbeer's less known operas.

Mr. Charles Manners is contemplating the production, during his season at the Lyric, of some new works, although his experience in the past does not warrant his relying to any extent on the eagerness of London opera-goers to hear new compositions by native composers. During the summer, however, Mr. Manners has been negotiating with Miss Smyth, with regard to a production in this country of the *Wreckers*, and he hopes in the near future to present this work to a British audience, which will thus be enabled to judge for itself instead of being obliged to be content with reports from Prague or Vienna.

The growth of the National Opera Union brings nearer to realisation Mr. Manners' long-cherished scheme for establishing English opera on a solid and profitable basis. Meanwhile the society opera season at Covent Garden is to be followed by a season for music lovers at the Lyric, with popular prices, ranging from one shilling to seven-and-six. The operas will be mounted with new scenery, and no pains have been spared to ensure historic correctness of detail. The principal tenor of the company is Mr. Philip Brozel. The chorus consists of seventy singers, and there are fifty instrumentalists in the orchestra.

The front of the house staff at the New Theatre indulged in their sixth annual outing on Sunday, when an excursion to the sea was enjoyed. An early start for Margate was made from Victoria Station at eight o'clock, the popular watering-place being reached soon after ten. A bracing brake ride preceded dinner, which was discussed at the Hotel Arcadian, and a boat trip to Dover and back was then undertaken. The return journey from Margate was begun at seven o'clock, town being reached before ten. With such a programme there can be no question as to the unalloyed pleasure of the whole party.

Mr. W. H. Denny, so well known in connection with former Savoy triumphs, has returned from America, where he has established himself as one of the leading comedians. He has been engaged by Messrs. José and Young for their forthcoming tour to play the part of Pharaoh in that highly successful comic opera *Amasis*. Other well-known artists engaged for this production are Miss Winifred O'Connor for the title-rôle and Miss Mabel Burnedge to play the part of Natis, together with Messrs. Edward McKeown, Frank Wood, Walter Brodie, Arthur Stroud, and Fred Hudson. The chorus will be exceptionally strong, and Mr. J. Van Henvel, who conducted the long run at the New Theatre, will again hold the bâton. The management has been entrusted to Mr. E. L. Furst, who represented Mr. Edouard José during his Spanish répertoire tour some few months ago.

Mr. George Alexander, with his customary kindness, has placed the St. James's Theatre at the disposal of the committee of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital for a matinée, to be held in the last week of October or the first week in November, on behalf of the special appeal for £25,000 which that institution is making to complete its new buildings in Great Portland-street. The details of the programme have not yet been completed.

"Straight from the Shoulder," the modern melodrama, in four acts, which is to go on tour under the auspices of Mr. R. A. Roberts, the famous protean actor, will be produced at the Grand, Brighton, on Monday, and will have its introduction to London at the Broadway, New Cross, the following week. The name of the author has not yet been revealed, but as Mr. Roberts is the writer of all his own sketches which have won such renown at the variety theatres, it may be taken that his prolific pen is not altogether dissociated from the new work designed for the dramatic stage.

Mr. G. P. Huntley's new musical play, which he has written in collaboration with Mr. Herbert Clayton, will be called *The Honourable Phil*, and will be produced at the Hicks Theatre on Oct. 14. The score is by Mr. Harold Samuel, additional numbers being furnished by Mr. Ralph Allison. The author claims for the piece that it deals with the nicer side of life, and tells a simple but effective story. The action passes in France, and with the exception of the title-rôle, played by Mr. Huntley, and his valet, allotted to Mr. Horace Mills, all the characters are foreigners. The cast will further include Miss Eva Kelly, Miss Elsie Spain, who has recently made a hit in *Pinafore*, and Mr. Clayton.

The attractiveness of *Lady Frederick* has been fully endorsed on the first production of the play out of London. Mr. Percy Hutchison's No. 1 company opened on Monday at the Grand Theatre, Llandudno, to a packed and enthusiastic audience, Miss Mabel Love, who plays the title-rôle, meeting with an overwhelming reception, being called and recalled after each act. That clever actor Mr. Robert Minster also received individual recognition in the leading part. Miss Love wore some beautiful creations, and Miss Eleanor Delaporte was likewise elegantly arrayed. The entire production calls for hearty congratulations to Mr. Percy Hutchison, to whose steady and thorough rehearsals a large measure of the success is due.

Mr. Philip Leslie has been engaged to support Miss Decima Moore on tour in *Mrs. Dot*. This will be Mr. Leslie's first appearance in the provinces since his return from Australia, and his Freddie Perkins should make him as many friends in the country as did his Harry Bronson in *The Belle of New York*.

The phenomenal success that has attended the production of Mr. Walter Howard's romantic dramas at the London Lyceum has induced Mr. Oswald Brooks, of the Grand, Swansea, to give a "Walter Howard Season" of two weeks, beginning on Monday next at his theatre. The first week will be devoted to the popular author's *Midnight Wedding*, and the second to his hardly less successful play *Man and Wife*.

Mr. Reginald Payne, the popular comedian, who is having a successful tour of ten halls with his wife in a pretty vocal scena, has again been secured by Messrs. Paumier and Howard, and will have an important part in the autumn tour of *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*.

Mr. Herbert Sleath's South company of *A White Man* opens to-night at the Lyceum, Newport. Mr. Frank E. Petley will play in Mr. Lewis Waller's rôle of Jim Carston, a part that should suit this young actor admirably.

The Grand Theatre, Mansfield, will re-open for the season on Aug. 10 with *My Sweetheart*. On the occasion of the flower show at Pleasley, near Mansfield, last Saturday, Captain Cecil Clayton, the managing-director of the Grand Theatre, gave a successful balloon ascent. During the afternoon the wind was rather strong, but about six o'clock captive ascents were able to be given, these proving so popular that it was close upon nine o'clock when the Captain was able to sail right away.

Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's new play, *A Country Girl in London*, will be produced this evening at the Theatre Royal, Macclesfield, which has lately undergone extensive structural alterations. Equipped with new and elaborate scenery, properties, appointments, specially composed music, and a fine plant of new printing, played by a powerful company, and produced in what is practically a new theatre, everything augurs well for the success of the venture. *The Prodigal Parson*, under the same spirited management, has now reached the 130th consecutive week of an unbroken tour, and is playing to capital business everywhere.

"The Power of the Cross" and *A Fight for a Throne* start their fourth and second tours respectively next week—the former at Carlisle, and the latter at Keighley. Both pieces are under the direction of the author Mr. Geo. A. De Gray, who has booked an excellent tour, extending to next Whitsun. *The Power of the Cross* will be equipped with a fresh plant of scenery, executed by the West Riding Scenic Studio, and every promise of continued prosperity is presented.

The re-opening of the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, after extensive alterations and improvements, is announced for Sept. 7. The box-office will be opened three weeks beforehand, and all seats will be bookable in advance. The first production will be a new humorous pastoral by Charles McEvoy, entitled *When the Devil was Ill*.

Miss Horniman's company, under the direction of Mr. B. Iden Payne, will include most of the old members, and in addition there will be several new faces, including Miss Darragh, an American actress of great ability, Mr. Jules Shaw, &c. *When the Devil was Ill* is announced for a fortnight's run, and will be followed by other interesting productions.

Mr. George Traill has been re-engaged by Mr. Bertram for Colonel Sir Henry Curwen in *The Breed of the Treshams*. The piece starts on its fourth year of tour under the Bertram management at the Theatre Royal, Norwich, on Monday, on which occasion Mr. Traill will play the part for the 465th time.

Mr. George Unwin's new one-act play, *The Way Out*, will (subject to the Lord Chamberlain's approval) be produced at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday. The cast includes Mr. Fred Coyners, Mr. Legai Robinson, Miss Ida Scott, and Miss Lorna Lawrence. The novelty will precede *Tom, Dick, and Harry*, which is paying a return visit to that town. Mr. Unwin has undertaken the booking of Mr. Ernest Chesney's companies, commencing with *Wedded to Crime*, which has been successfully touring for some time past, and has been commissioned to write a new comedy sketch for a well-known comedienne, and to take charge of a new production, particulars of which will be announced shortly.

Mr. Martin Harvey, in fulfilment of promises made, will begin a brief tour on Aug. 17, prior to the commencement of his season at the Adelphi. He will visit Llandudno, Buxton, Harrogate, and Middlesbrough, devoting a few nights to each. A feature of this necessarily short tour will be the special revival of *Eugene Aram*.

Miss Edith Blande has had to refuse an offer from Mr. Frederick Melville to play the heavy leading part in *Her Forbidden Marriage*, having already signed with Mr. Mark Blow and Miss Ida Molesworth for a special week, to play Princess Claudia, in *From Slave to Princess*, to be produced by them at the Kennington Theatre on Monday.

Mr. Hugh Fleming, who has been acting as general-manager *pro tem.* for Baron Harriss's *Prince of Pilsen* company, resumes his duties in advance at Llandudno this week. At the termination of the present tour Mr. Fleming concludes eight years' association with *The Belle of New York* and *Prince of Pilsen* companies.

The engagement of Mr. Harry Cane by Mr. Tom B. Davis for Miss Evelyn Millard's production at the Garrick Theatre has been cancelled by mutual arrangement.

Mr. W. Watkin-Wynne, the Australian actor, will produce at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, on Monday, August 10, a new domestic drama, in four acts, from his own pen, entitled *Light in the Darkness*. A strong cast has been engaged, including Messrs. Alfred Beaumont, Arthur Rodney, H. Elmore-Frith, Charles L. Ludlow, Herbert Lloyd, Frank Stuart, Norman Clark, W. Watkin-Wynne, Miss Maud Buchanan, Miss Beatrice Western, Miss Agnes St. Clair, and little Marjorie Lawrence, the clever child actress. Elegant scenery has been painted by W. Dewhurst, jun., and the whole production is under the experienced direction of the author.

The Shakespeare, Clapham, which this week was devoted to the staging of a new play, will witness the production next week of a drama called *The Girl with the Angel Face*. The piece will be presented by Mr. James Willard's company.

Mr. C. St. John Denton has secured for Denton, Bode, and McKenzie, Ltd., the Australasian rights of the successful comic opera *Tom Jones*, which they will produce in conjunction with Messrs. Meynell and Gunn next year. *The Belle of Mayfair*, recently produced by this firm at the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, was eminently successful. They hold options on two important forthcoming musical productions, and will send out an entirely new comic opera company at the conclusion of the present engagements. The enterprising entrepreneurs are also producing pantomime on an elaborate scale in Melbourne this coming Christmas, Miss Meredith Meredro, who was so successful in the pantomime at Drury Lane last year, being engaged as principal boy.

Mr. Powell James, having concluded on Saturday last a summer tour of Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's *Lucky Durham* company, has been re-engaged by them as manager for their *Leah Kleschna* company, which commences on Monday at the Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, a long tour extending through the autumn.

Mr. Fred Bernardo vacates his post as acting-manager at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, this week, to take up his accustomed position with Mr. Lester Collingwood's *When London Sleeps* company on tour. Mr. Bernardo will be away from Birmingham until next March, being entrusted with Mr. Collingwood's London production of *The Babes in the Wood*.

Mr. Henry de Solla has been engaged by Mr. William Greet as stage manager for his new production of *The Old Firm*, which is to be staged at Newcastle on the 17th inst., preparatory to its introduction to the West End.

Mr. Henry Tweedie, the well-known business-manager, desires to correct an erroneous idea which exists that he has retired from the profession. This is very far from being the case, for he is anxious to secure an engagement this autumn. Election registration work has filled his time for some months, but that has now ceased, and Mr. Tweedie is entirely at liberty.

Mr. Alexander Loftus has every reason to congratulate himself on the production of *The Belle of the Ball* at the Opera House, Southport, on Monday, as from start to finish the success of the play was never in doubt. The book is by L. Norden, with music by E. T. de Banzie and Michael Dwyer. Handsome scenery has been painted for the production. Mr. Johnnie Schofield has been allotted a part that fits him like a glove, and while he is on the stage there is not a dull moment. The miniature ponies and brougham are the same as those which recently appeared before His Majesty the King, and the dresses, by Mme. Etole, Mrs. Penny, and Mme. Moelle, of 2, Rue Provence, Paris, with uniforms and hunting suits by Morris Angel, leave nothing to be desired.

Owing to the demands made upon his time by the tour of *The Belle of the Ball* Mr. Loftus has been compelled temporarily to terminate the travels of *The New Barmaid*, which has had a record run of four and a half years' continuous tour. He will send this evergreen comedy out next year, starting August Bank Holiday, with new scenery, dresses, &c.

Mr. A. Hamilton Warden finished on the 18th ult. at the Elephant and Castle Theatre a tour of over three years with *A Woman's Past*, H. F. Housden's successful drama. After a short rest, the play will go on the road again, and will ere long be succeeded by a new drama by the same author. Miss Maisie Hanbury, Mr. Warden's charming leading lady of the above tour, will be in both plays.

An elaborate system for heating and ventilating the house has been introduced by Mr. J. M. Chute at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, which reopens on Monday. The new scheme has been framed on scientific principles combined with practical experience. Originally there was an enormous ventilator in the roof of the stage. This, instead of drawing off the impure air, caused a strong downward current, which flooded the theatre as soon as the curtain was raised. Now intakes have been formed at floor level on three sides, and the pure air coming in will pass directly on to radiators, which can be heated up to any degree necessary.

A network of hot-water pipes has been installed beneath the stage, and with all the passages adequately heated it will be possible to bring the temperature up to any height required. In order to provide a constant supply of fresh air the outer wall of the auditorium, in places more than 2ft. thick, have been pierced dozens of times, while the old chimneys have furnished excellent shafts for drawing off vitiated air, aided, when needed, by electrical fans.

The radiators will be employed only in cold weather, and it is by a continuous change of the atmosphere that the temperature will be kept down in the summer. To still further counteract the effect produced by the raising and lowering of the curtain, many of the ventilating shafts will be automatically opened or closed at the same time.

Miss Mary Anderson (Mme. De Navarro) was the recipient of numberless congratulations on the occasion of her birthday on Tuesday. The famous actress, who retired prematurely from her professional work on her marriage, lives in the quiet, old-world village of Broadway, in Worcestershire, and has for neighbours such well-known figures in the artistic world as Mr. Edwin Abbey, R.A., Sir Hubert Parry, and Mr. Alfred Parsons, A.R.A.

Mme. de Navarro emerges from her retirement only to give her services in the cause of charity. She is among the influential patrons of the recently-established Guild of Catholic Actors, and though she was unable to be present at the matinée at Daly's given in May last, her kindly interest in the movement was shown in a number of medals blessed by the Pope, and brought from Rome personally by Mme. de Navarro for presentation to all who took part in the entertainment.

The Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, has been selected by the Reception Committee of the Iron and Steel Institute of the United Kingdom for the entertainment of its members, and already 1,000 seats have been secured for the Tuesday evening's performance, which is to be given by Mr. George Edwardes's *Merry Widow* company, the attraction secured for that week. Happily, this large booking of seats makes no strain upon the resources of this handsome and palatial place of entertainment, which is by far the largest in the district, seating comfortably 3,500 people.

The Grand Opera House, which is described by many managers who have visited it as "a West-End theatre in the provinces," was only a few weeks ago chosen by the Grocers' Federation for their evening's entertainment, the entire building being bought outright for the members visiting the Conference. Mr. Martin Harvey, who is a big favourite at this theatre, makes his fourth visit very shortly.

Miss Go-Won-Go Mohawk, the popular Indian actress, who has completed her farewell tour of the English provinces with her drama *Wep-ton-no-Mah*, sails to-day for America by the s.s. Mesaba from Tilbury.

The Royal Albert Institute, Windsor, the only place of entertainment in the town, is reopening after extensive alterations and redecorations. The house has been entirely reconstructed, and arrangements have been made for the reception of first-class companies.

Mr. William Lockhart, who has just concluded a three months' tour with *Little Lord Fauntleroy*, opens on Monday with Mr. James Welch in *When Knights were Bold* at the Opera House, Blackpool, playing his old part of the Dean.

"Mrs. Dot," which is now running so strongly at the Comedy Theatre, will be produced on Monday at Brighton by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison. Miss Decima Moore will play the title-rôle.

The Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, re-opens to-night with Mr. G. P. Huntley in *Mr. Popple*. Mr. Graham has been putting his "house in order" during the recess with new fittings, lacquerings, carpets, and hangings, &c., whilst the proscenium front and circles have been entirely redecorated and refurbished.

Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin open the autumn tour of *The Way of the World*, at New Century Theatre, Motherwell, on Monday, with a strong cast, including Messrs. Clarence Temple, J. P. McBride, D'Arcy Kelway, Augustus Hammond, Victor Gordon, H. Sherwood Martin, Pat Quinn, and Charles Slater, and Misses Doris Brooks, Violet Vivieene, Marie Marah, Nellie De Lacy, and Ethel Wynne. Scenery and effects have been made specially for this production, rendering it one of the finest mounted dramas on tour.

"Her Marriage Vow" commences its second year of tour, by a return visit to Mr. and Mrs. Garside's popular theatre, at Scarborough, which the King, when Prince of Wales, was wont to favour with his patronage. Special interest attaches to the occasion, inasmuch as Mr. Garside will resume his original part of Gilbert Carlton, in which he has made such a hit. He has been residing in Scarborough for the past three months, and has become very popular with all classes, visitors and residents, who frequent the historic old Royal.

Mr. Paul Gilmore, the American comedian who has made such a success in connection with the Frohmans, Litt's Players, Miss Henrietta Crossman, and Mr. Jules Murry, and is to star next season in *The Boys of Company B*, is spending a few weeks at the Hotel Metropole, Brighton.

Mr. Gelderd has been engaged by Mr. and Miss Hutchison for the leading part (Gerald Halstane) in their *Mrs. Dot* company. Last autumn, it will be remembered, Mr. Gelderd made a conspicuous success with Mrs. Patrick Campbell in her répertoire.

"The Power of Lies," the domestic drama by Mary Ford, produced at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, on Monday last, will go on tour under the direction of Mr. Charles R. Hardy. Miss Ford, the authoress, desires to express her sincerest thanks to Mr. Marshall Moore, the producer, for his clever work, to Mr. Jules Camens for his beautifully-painted scenery, to Mr. Michael Connolly for his excellent music, and to the ladies and gentlemen who so earnestly portrayed their respective parts.

"The Woman from Russia," a drama, in four acts, by Fred G. Ingleby, was produced for copyright purposes at the Theatre Royal, Jarrow, on July 25.

"King Harry's Revel," which will be held on Thursday and two following afternoons at Scriby Hall, Bawtry, will be supported by a cast in which the aristocracy will be largely represented. The East Gardens looked very beautiful at the first dress rehearsal, which was held last week, and the stage, which is a hundred yards long, was a mass of gorgeous colour. The dances are of great historical interest, and have been carefully rehearsed.

A great improvement has been effected at the Corn Exchange, Hertford, by the provision of a permanent stage, in lieu of the temporary platform which had to be erected on every occasion when the hall was required for theatrical purposes. The stage is 35ft. wide and 25ft. deep, and has been fitted with the regulation sloping floor. Two rooms at the rear have been set apart as dressing-rooms, and additional rooms have been provided in the basement. A passage has been constructed under the platform, thus affording facilities for reaching either side of it.

The lighting of the Corn Exchange is also much improved, an elaborate system of electric lights having been introduced. A new floor has been laid over the entire Exchange, and the gallery has been provided with raised seating. The cost of the work is about £685, the money for which will be provided by a loan, and in order to meet the repayments of principal and interest the Corporation have raised the scale of charges for the use of the Corn Exchange thirty per cent.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Sir John Hare.

"Sir John Hare," says the writer of "Musings Without Words" in *Blackwood's Magazine* for August, "is not merely a comedian of rare accomplishment. He has also proved himself among the best managers of his time. Above all, he is an actor-manager who has not always cast himself for the best part. Never once during the many years in which he conducted the fortunes of the St. James's Theatre did he subordinate the general welfare to his own ambition. In management, as in acting, he aimed only at an artistic presentation. More than once he resigned a part which suited his talent that he might keep a more watchful eye upon the stage. We can only remember one performance—*As You Like It*—in which his taste was at fault, and Shakespeare, be it remembered, lay far outside his province. For the rest, his mounting of plays was as reticent as his acting. 'Nothing too much' was his guiding principle, and he has marked the limits of theatrical decoration so clearly that his words should be written up in every green-room of the world."

Edmund Payne at Oxford.

"During our season at Oxford," says Mr. Edmund Payne, in "Some Stories of Practical Jokes" in *Cassell's Saturday Journal*, "we experienced considerable trouble from the students, the majority of whom seemed to have the strangest ideas of humour. We happened to be there on the fifth of November, and, before a house full of embryo B.A.'s and M.A.'s and A double S.'s, we acted as targets to those serious playgoers, who spent the best part of the evening in flinging crackers at the heroine, squibs at the hero, 'rousers'—a very fierce firework this—at the villain, and a mixture of cracker-squib-rousers at the rest of the company. This part of the performance was not mentioned on the programme, so that, deeming discretion better than being burnt in fourteen places by a mixture of 'Brock and Pain's best,' we closed the theatre for a couple of nights and went to the barracks.

"Writing of students reminds me of some of the efforts of humour the Oxford men used to indulge in in those days when I was putting on weight, and saving five bob a week out of thirty 'whites.' One of their favourite side-splitting, jaw-breaking mirth-provokers was to march twelve abreast down the public highway and clear the road. To an actor whose watch has gone wrong, and who is three-quarters of an hour late in consequence, and has to run a mile, change, dress again, and 'make-up,' and be on the stage in five minutes, this 'road-clearing' performance was great fun. I used to love it.

"Personally, I found the students most entertaining, though to be sure they caused me, in one way and another, to do a lot of extra hard work; but that, perhaps, was my own fault It came about in this way. My burlesque entitled *Caliban* was produced at Oxford, and for some reason or other—modesty, as I have said, is one of my greatest charms—it ran for five whole weeks. In fact, it made the hit of the season. I introduced a song called 'Bob up serenely' from 'Olivette.' This song made a huge hit, and in order to keep the game alive I used to warble fresh topical verses nightly. Indeed, I was simply overwhelmed with topical verses. Members of Balliol College would send me an instalment; a quarter of an hour later another batch of beautiful efforts would reach me from Jesus College; and altogether I used to find myself pretty well every day overstocked with topical stuff—sometimes good, often bad—but generally awful."

Sievier on the Stage.

"Arriving at Dublin," says Mr. Robert Standish Sievier in his Autobiography, "I presented myself to Mr. Egerton, the stage-manager of the Theatre Royal, who in due course introduced me to the lessee, Mr. Michael Gunn, one of the best-natured and most straightforward men it has been my good fortune to meet throughout the world. The opening play was to be *Hamlet*. There was to be a first piece, and, what was more important, I was to play in it. It was one of the old-fashioned farces, and I was cast for the servant. I attended rehearsal, and inquired for my part. This rather annoyed the prompter. Let me here mention that the old-fashioned prompter was, as a rule, an irascible, dusty person, always wearing a stale shave and a frayed collar (with a broken button-hole), which ticklingly irritated his generally well-worn-out patience. His trousers always appeared too long and wrinkled at the ankle, while his unpolished boots matched his sombre tall hat, which gave one the idea it had had the moth in it at least a couple of seasons back. His shirt? Well, I have described enough. Standing by his little table, the rehearsal progressed. As last my entrance was called, and again I asked for my part.

"The little prompter answered with a venomous sting in his tones: 'Your part, sir—your part is this—when this gentleman says "I will ring for the servant," you enter, and placing the things on the tray, exit with them as you came. I assume you can do that?' I remember my answer, and it has often since been repeated to me. I replied: 'Your assumption does me honour. I trust I can aspire to it, but I cannot answer your question off-hand. Permit me to rehearse it.' That dirty little prompter and I were friends from that moment.

"To show how the uninitiated may fall into a trap by betting, I will here explain how I was nearly caught. When I knew I was cast for the servant, I made a bet of five shillings with an actor called Edward Major, who was our leading juvenile, and was cast to play in the first piece, that I would play two speaking parts on the opening night. He *knew* I had not a speaking part in the farce; I *thought* I must have. Of course, I had lost, but I can assure those who are behind the scenes that there is as glorious an uncertainty on the stage as on the Turf.

"The night came. Teddy Major gave me the cue, and on I went. Distracting the audience with some 'business,' he sidled towards me with a sotto voce, 'Eh, laddie—you can leave the dollar on the table, if you like.' This was a cue I had not heard at rehearsal, and before Teddy Major knew where he was I looked him straight in the face, demanding, "Did you say, sir, I was to give the cat the left milk, and the piece of sugar to the canary?' The audience yelled. He was bursting with laughter himself at my consummate audacity, but he replied, 'Take away the tray and attend to your business.' 'Business, sir, certainly,' I replied, adding in similar sotto voce, '*I've* won, and you can put the dollar on the table if you like,' and spilling the milk all down my clothes, I ejaculated, as I wiped it up with the napkin, 'Poor puss, poor puss,' and again the audience roared. I had fairly beaten Major, and handing me two half-crowns—one was a 'property' one, in other words, there was no property in it—he said, as I reached the door with the tray, 'James, you have missed your profession; you should have been an actor. You can go now.' 'Thank you, sir; but I might say if you joined the constabulary it would give you the only chance of taking me up,' and I made my exit amidst roars of laughter. That Irish audience knew the farce from A to Z, and followed our gag more keenly than the play itself."

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

"THE POWER OF LIES."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Mary Ford, produced for the first time at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, on Monday, July 27.

Lady Margaret Harden .....Miss Mary Ford
Charlotte Barton .....Miss Ella Henderson
Phyllis Harden ....Miss Gladys Ford-Howitt
Ruth Carson .....Miss Lillian Williams
Mrs. Elkington .....Mrs. Williams
Kattilana Flyblow .....Miss Davis
Nurse Blair .....Miss Mary Farmer
Servant .....Miss Ida McKenna
Sir George Harden.....} Mr. Otto Minster
Geoffrey Carson .....}
Mr. Isaacs .....Mr. T. W. Ford
Dr. Bletchley .....Mr. Marshall Moore
Joe Barton .....Mr. Herbert Russell
Lord Robert Gordon .....Mr. Dudley Stuart
Ring Master .....Mr. Ivan P. Gore
Detective Hamilton ....Mr. Harcourt Bailey
Warder .....Mr. W. H. Ordish
Hospital Porter .....Mr. James Admans
Tommy .....Mr. Chantry

The action of this piece begins in an hotel at Rotterdam, where Sir George Harden and his newly-made wife are staying for their honeymoon. A letter arrives from Sir George's sister Ruth, who had married unhappily, beseeching him to go to her as she is dangerously ill. Sir George hastens off, but scarcely has he departed than there enters a vulgar woman named Charlotte Barton, who staggers Lady Harden by asserting that she is the wife of Sir George by an earlier marriage, producing a certificate in confirmation of her claim. Preceding the baronet to England, we make acquaintance with Geoffrey Carson, Ruth's ne'er-do-well husband. Under the name of Sir George Harden, whom he greatly resembles, he had in the past espoused the woman Barton, the ceremony, however, having been performed by his associate, Isaacs, habited as a clergyman. We also meet Joe Barton, a ferryman, who is none other than the husband of Charlotte, who thought she had got rid of him by dosing his cup of tea.

Sir George makes his way to his sister's cottage, only to hear her cry for help, and, rushing in, finds that her brutal husband has thrown her into the river. Sir George grapples with Geoffrey, but is stunned by a heavy blow. Struck by the resemblance which he bears to the injured man, Geoffrey resolves to impersonate Sir George and to annex his estates. The scheme works smoothly. Sir George, found in his assailant's coat and hat, is arrested and sentenced to a life term for the murder of Ruth, despite the fact that she is rescued by the ferryman and restored to life. Isaacs is convicted as an accessory and also sent to penal servitude.

Between the first and second acts eighteen years are supposed to elapse, during which time Carson, discreetly remaining abroad, enjoys as Sir George Harden his ill-gotten wealth. The real Sir George has meanwhile escaped from prison, and has taken up his old profession of a doctor. Carson, returned to England, makes his appearance at Lynthorpe, the estate of a Mrs. Merton, whose wealth he covets. He is nevertheless struck by the prepossessing appearance of her daughter, to whom he does not hesitate to make love. Isaacs, too, has escaped from gaol, and confronts Carson with demands for money, the villain's discomfiture being increased by the advent of Charlotte, who proceeds further to blackmail him, though her claim to be his wife is considerably weakened by the appearance of her husband, Joe Barton.

Carson visits Mrs. Merton, who is really the bride of the first act, and is recognised by her as the man to whom she was married. She cherishes a love for Sir George, but her affection is destroyed when Carson asks for her daughter's hand. She reveals her identity as his wife, but when Carson declares his intention of claiming marital rights he is contemptuously rejected. The villain grows insistent, and there is a struggle; but suddenly a commotion is heard outside, and through the curtains of the window is seen the head of a lion, which has escaped from a neighbouring circus. Carson draws a pistol and aims at the beast, who springs upon him and inflicts serious injuries ere he is shot down by his pursuers. Carson is conveyed to the neighbouring hospital, where one of the nurses is found to be no less a personage than his wife Ruth. Carson is placed upon the operating-table, and when the bandages are removed Ruth recognises her husband, and declares that the wounded man is not Sir George Harden. Realising that his end is near, Carson confesses to his deception, and stabs Charlotte Barton to the heart. The madman then takes a flying leap from the window, and is subsequently brought in in a mangled condition. The real baronet, however, soon appears in the person of a mysterious medical man, who, pulling off his false beard and wig, reveals himself as Sir George Harden, and takes his faithful wife to his arms.

The play is carefully represented by competent artists. The authoress is scarcely true to herself in the matter of delivery, and her dialogue is not always heard, but she embellishes her trying scenes with dignity, quiet force, and refinement. The arduous dual rôle of Sir George Harden and Geoffrey Carson furnishes Mr. Otto Minster with dramatic opportunities of which he makes the most. He thoroughly maintains the sinister character of the evil-disposed Carson, his acting being embellished occasionally with a grim humour that is appreciated. A refreshing impersonation is that of the daughter, Phyllis, played with charming coquetry by Miss Gladys Ford-Howitt, who thoroughly looks the character of the dainty schoolgirl just blossoming into womanhood. She derives admirable assistance in many agreeable light comedy scenes from Mr. Dudley Stuart, who plays with crispness and sincerity as the jealous Lord Robert. Mr. Marshall Moore, upon whom devolves the responsibility of production, gives a well-studied and consistent portraiture of the kind-hearted Dr. Bletchley; and a much-appreciated performance is that of the Jew Isaacs, played with comic resource by Mr. T. W. Ford. Miss Lillian Williams reveals elocutionary gifts in the part of Ruth Carson, and gives a clever rendering marked by genuine dramatic skill. As the designing Charlotte Barton Miss Ella Henderson proves herself an effective low comedienne with a real sense of humour; and admirable aid to the fun is given by Mr. Herbert Russell, who is a thorough favourite as Joe Barton; Mr. Chantry, a diminutive comedian, also acting drolly as the call-boy. Miss Ida McKenna makes a comely and painstaking maidservant, and Miss Mary Farmer is equally commendable as a hospital nurse. The piece, which is presented by Mr. Charles Hardy, has the advantage of new scenery, well painted by Mr. Jules Camus, and of effective music from the pen of Mr. Michael Connelly.

The education of Rich, manager of Lincoln's Inn Fields and Covent Garden Theatres, had been grossly neglected, consequently, though he had a good understanding, his language was vulgar and ungrammatical. He had contracted a strange and rude habit of calling everybody "Mister," which gave rise to an unmannerly *bon-mot* by Foote. Rich having called him "Mister" several times, Foote grew warm, and asked him the reason of his not calling him by his name. "Don't be angry," said Rich, "for I sometimes forget my own name." "That's extraordinary," replied Foote, "for though I know you could not write it, I did not suppose you could forget it."

A CHAT WITH WENTWORTH CROKE.

Mr. Wentworth Croke will be responsible for nearly 200 artists this autumn with his six touring companies that start out on Monday Bank Holiday. In spite of his great responsibility as managing-director of the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, and proprietor of the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, he has issued his tour card for the autumn 1908 and spring 1909, the total number of towns that will be visited being over 250.

Mr. Croke's principal company in *The Prodigal Son* will re-open at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, to-day, for seven nights and two matinées. Mr. Hugh Montgomery will again play Magnus Stephensson, the second company starting out on Boxing Day. *The Bondman* company will commence on Monday Bank Holiday at Great Yarmouth with a powerful cast. Mr. Croke's three companies of the new version of *The Christian* will open on the same date at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, and the Alexandra Theatre, Ilfracombe respectively. Mr. Henry Renouf has been engaged to play John Storm in the North company.

A replica of the original productions at the Lyceum and Drury Lane Theatres has been painted by Ernest Howard, in addition to the effects and dresses as used in London.

So great has been the success of the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, that Mr. Croke's bookings run into the autumn of 1909 without a vacant date. His patrons will be presented with all the best class dramatic productions touring.

Mr. P. Howard Sturgess, who has represented Mr. Wentworth Croke in his provincial companies for the past five years, has been appointed general-manager for Mr. Croke's enterprises.

Mr. Wentworth Croke's management of the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, is both enterprising and far-seeing. He has entered into an arrangement with Mr. Tom B. Davis, by which Mr. Croke and Mr. Davis will jointly run the pantomime season at the Shakespeare Theatre for the coming Christmas, and for two or three seasons to follow. Mr. Croke and Mr. Davis have been jointly interested before in musical comedy ventures, so that it is only suitable that they should be jointly interested in the exploitation of pantomime. For the coming season the subject is *Jack and the Beanstalk*, with Miss Ada Reeve as Jack. The book is being written specially by Mr. James Hewson, with the view to fitting Miss Reeve with a part worthy of her talent. The scenery and costumes are receiving the most careful personal attention of Mr. Davis, and everything is being specially designed and made for the production. Some very important scenes will be supplied by the resident artist of the Shakespeare Theatre, Mr. T. Holmes, and the stage will be under the direction of Mr. E. T. Steyne, who has been responsible for some of the most successful pantomimes produced in Liverpool.

[*Photo by Draycott Galleries.*
MR. WENTWORTH CROKE.

Special music is being composed by Mr. Guy Jones, who made his successful début as a composer in London with the recent production of *The Gay Gordons* at the Aldwych Theatre. Mr. Guy Jones is proving himself a worthy successor as a composer to his brother, Mr. Sydney Jones, whose name will be for ever famous as the composer of *The Geisha*. Mr. Fred Allandale, who made such a distinct success in *Aladdin* at this same theatre, will be on hand with some good songs with tuneful choruses.

Another important engagement is that of Mr. Dan Crawley as the Dame. Mr. Crawley has secured popular success in nearly every big town in the kingdom, but it remained for Mr. Croke and Mr. Davis to bring this genuinely funny artist to Liverpool. The Brothers Griffiths have been engaged to make their first appearance in pantomime in Liverpool, and Mr. Lauri de Frece will also be of the company.

A veteran actor of the old days once expressed his extreme dislike as to what he was pleased to term "the sham wine-parties" of Macbeth and others. He had grateful memories of the rather obsolete Scottish melodrama of *Cramond Brig*; for in this work old custom demanded the introduction of a real sheep's head with accompanying "trotters." He told of a North British manager who was wont—especially when the salaries he was supposed to pay were somewhat in arrear, and he desired to keep his company in good humour and, may be, alive—to produce this play on Saturday nights. For some days before the performance the dainties that were destined to grace it underwent exhibition in the green-room. A label bore the inscription: "This sheep's head will appear in the play of *Cramond Brig* on next Saturday night. God save the King!" "It afforded us all two famous dinners," said the veteran. "We had a large pot of broth made with the head and feet; these we ate on Saturday night; the broth we had on Sunday." So in another Scottish play, *The Gentle Shepherd* of Allan Ramsay, it was long the custom on stages north of the Tweed to present a real haggis, although niggard managers were often tempted to substitute for the genuine dish a far less savoury if more wholesome mess of oatmeal. But a play more famous still for the reality of its victuals, and better known to modern times, was Prince Hoare's musical farce, *No Song, no Supper*. A steaming hot boiled leg of lamb and turnips may be described as quite the leading character in this entertainment. Without this appetising addition the play used never to be represented. There is a story, however, which one can only hope is incorrect, of an *impresario* of Oriental origin, who, supplying the necessary meal, yet subsequently fined his company, all round, on the ground that they had "combined to destroy certain of the properties of the theatre."

"THE MAN OF HER CHOICE."

Drama in Four Acts, by Ada G. Abbott, played for the first time in London at the Broadway Theatre, Deptford, on Monday, July 27.

Everard Hilderson .....Mr. John Lester
Berkley Hilderson .....Mr. Ernest R. Abbott
Kingsley Hilderson .....Mr. Herbert Morgan
Barry Hilderson .....Mr. Frank Stephens
Morris .....Mr. Edwin Keene
Miss Penelope Hilderson Miss Blanche Stanley
Mrs. Manx .....Miss Marjorie Tennant
Eliza .....Miss Florence North
Napoleon .....Billy
Barbara Linley .....Miss Ada Abbott

Miss Ada G. Abbott, the authoress of *The Man of her Choice*, originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, on June 24, 1907, under the title of *The House of Shame*, is to be complimented on having produced a well-written and constructed play, in which considerable skill in characterisation is evident, and which contains telling lines and situations and comedy business in abundance. The head of the "house of shame" is Everard Hilderson, owner of the mortgaged Thorpe Royal, where all four acts take place, a widower with three sons, Berkeley, Kingsley, and Barry. The two elder, like their sire, are worthless scamps—the eldest a drunkard; Kingsley a sneaking scoundrel; and the youngest, Barry, a youth home from school because his precious father has not the money to pay the fees. Also of the household is Barbara Linley, the squire's ward, a joyous maiden of some sixteen summers, who, with Barry for a chum, makes things pretty lively at Thorpe Royal. She has a fortune of some £80,000, and it is the Squire's intention that she shall marry Kingsley, and thus enable him to pay off the mortgage. When Berkley hears this, he insists that, if the girl marry, she shall at least have her choice, and to the annoyance of Squire Hilderson and his second son she prefers Berkley. Berkley makes it very evident that she shall be his wife in name only, and also that his father shall not touch a penny of her money, and after the family have retired for the night indulges in his taste for strong liquor, and eventually falls on the floor drunk. Young Barry naturally is upset that Barbara should marry his dissolute brother, but keeps silence, and the act ends on his coming into the room and helping Berkley up to bed. In the second act Berkley and Barbara have been married a few weeks, but both pursue their old style of living—Berkley getting drunk and Barbara indulging in innocent tomboyish pleasures with Barry. The squire and Kingsley endeavour to get Berkley to persuade Barbara to sign a deed entitling her to her marriage portion, but he flatly refuses; and he also tells the girl on no account to do so in his absence. The desperate couple hit on the plan for breaking her in by ill-treating Barry, and whip the lad within an inch of his life; but he will not cry out, as he knows Barbara would sign the deed rather than he should be further punished. When Berkley returns unexpectedly from a ride he demands that Barry shall be let out of his room, and there is a pathetic scene when the tortured lad is brought in. The act concludes with the loyal young wife kissing Berkley and appealing to him to give up drinking, and his better nature is aroused, he realising what a worthless fellow he is. In the third act Kingsley decides to make love to Barbara himself, and then tries to get her to sign the deed; but he mistakes Barry (who disguises himself in one of Barbara's frocks and his aunt's wig for a joke) for the girl. Barry is terrified, and tells Berkley, and the latter, feigning drunkenness, overhears Kingsley endeavouring to get Barbara to go away with him. He then tells Barbara that she is not his wife. The marriage was illegal, and he only pretended to marry her to save her from Kingsley. In a fit of fury Kingsley then says that he has ruined the girl, as she will now be known as his (Berkley's) mistress, and in an exciting episode that ensues falls to the ground lifeless. The squire denounces Berkley as his murderer, but Barbara swears he is innocent. As she is his wife, her evidence cannot be taken, but when it is explained that the marriage was illegal the squire is again confounded. In the last act Berkley really marries Barbara to save her good name, and ere the curtain finally falls she discovers that she is very much in love with him, and will not let him go out of her life, as was his intention.

Much of the success of the play was owing to the excellent all-round acting of the company (Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's), many of the cast being the same as in the original production at Cardiff. Miss Ada G. Abbott, not content with writing the play, undertakes the principal female part of Barbara Linley, a character in which she is seen to decided advantage. In the lighter phases of the rôle, where Barbara, aided by Barry, indulges in all kinds of tomboyish pranks, the actress was particularly happy; and she also thoroughly realised the serious side of the character, especially in the scene with Berkley, where she implores him to give up drinking—a performance triumphant, on which the accomplished artist can be heartily congratulated. Mr. Frank Stephens also came very well through his arduous task of enacting the youthful Barry, pathetic in the extreme being the scene where Barry is brought in after his flogging. He also skilfully indicated the boy's devotion to his girl chum, and his loyalty and affection for his brother Berkley were likewise excellently suggested. An easy and thoroughly sound portrayal of Berkley is given by Mr. Ernest R. Abbott, his depiction of drunkenness never being over-accentuated, and his acting throughout being most convincing. The unthankful part of Kingsley is carefully and capably undertaken by Mr. Herbert Morgan; and Mr. John Lester, who also has an unpleasant rôle in the unscrupulous Everard Hilderson, is also responsible for a finished and quite satisfactory performance. The many comedy scenes are safe in the hands of Mr. Edwin Keene, a quietly droll exponent of the amorous butler, Morris; Miss Marjorie Tennant, as Mrs. Manx, the harassed elderly housekeeper; and Miss Florence North, a quaint-looking domestic, in love with Morris, the trio working admirably together, and creating abundant merriment. Mention must also be made of the excellent portrayal of Miss Penelope Hilderson, a sour old spinster, who contributes to the hilarity of some of the comic scenes, by that experienced and versatile actress, Miss Blanche Stanley. Billy, Barbara's canine companion, and the terror of Miss Penelope, plays his part to perfection. The play is admirably staged.

Lamb relates how he once saw Elliston, sitting in state, in the tarnished green-room of the Olympic Theatre, while before him was brought for judgment, on complaint of prompter, "one of those little tawdry things that flirt at the tails of choruses—the pertest little drab—a dirty fringe and appendage of the lamp's smoke—who, it seems, on some disapprobation expressed by a 'highly respectable' audience, had precipitately quitted her station on the boards and withdrawn her small talents in disgust. 'And how dare you,' said the manager, 'how dare you, madam, without a notice, withdraw yourself from your theatrical duties?' 'I was hissed, sir.' 'And you have the presumption to decide upon the taste of the town?' 'I don't know that, sir, but I will never stand to be hissed,' was the rejoinder of Young Confidence. Then, gathering up his features into one significant mass of wonder, pity, and expostulatory indignation—in a lesson never to have been lost upon a creature less forward than she who stood before him—his words were these: 'They have hissed ME)' "

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

A THEATRICAL "SEND-OFF."

A dainty dinner party was made the means at the Boulogne Hotel, Gerrard-street, on Sunday last of wishing "bon voyage" to the newest enterprise of Mr. R. A. Roberts, who, without deserting the variety theatres, is embarking upon a dramatic venture with *Straight from the Shoulder*, a new piece which starts its career at Brighton on Monday next. At the head of the table sat Mr. Roberts, and the other end was graced by the presence of Mrs. Roberts, who all unseen is no unimportant factor in the protean sketches which have won her husband such wide renown. The assembly also included Mr. Arnold Bell, Mr. Charles Boult, the business-manager of the company, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Child, Miss Beatrice Burdette, Mr. Leonard Clarke, Mr. Fred Beck, Mrs. Wilde, Miss Edie Casson, Mr. Matthew Boulton, Mr. Geo. Fisher, Mr. Edgar White, Mr. A. C. Armstrong, Miss Beatrice Moore, and Mr. Percy Murray, of the Stock Exchange, and Mr. Charles Hallett, also of the Stock Exchange and a prominent member of the Vaudeville A.D.C.

A *recherché* repast was served in admirable style, the menu including a "Bombe en surprise à la *Straight from the Shoulder*," which consisted of the sudden appearance of a block of ice, upon which a limp lion composed of cream, stood passively while a number of fireworks exploded around him. Cordiality and good-fellowship reigned throughout, and the note of the assembly was emphasised when Mr. Bell, with uplifted glass, gave expression to the following sentiment—"May the tears of friendship as they fall crystallise and form jewels to be worn by those we love!—*Straight from the Shoulder*."

After dinner Mr. Boyd rose to thank their manager and manageress for the excellent entertainment which they had given them to mark the starting of the "Governor's" first theatrical tour in Great Britain. They all hoped great things from the tour. That it would be comfortable he had no hesitation in saying; if it was not, it would be their own faults. In the ordinary way a theatrical combination were sometimes treated to a dinner at the end of the tour, but seldom at the beginning, and he hoped it would not spoil them. He thought it would not, but, on the contrary, would do them all good.

Mr. Roberts said, in reply to his old friend and manager, Mr. Boult, who was going to look after the business interests of *Straight from the Shoulder*, he would take the opportunity to offer his reasons for sending out a theatrical company. The question had been asked why had he dared to embark upon such a project, but he would say that it was in order to satisfy an ambition which he had long cherished. He had been on the stage since he was a boy, and had experienced both the rough and the smooth; but he was born with an ambitious brain, and if he did not satisfy it he did not think he would rest in his grave. If the enterprise was a failure, then the money would be lost; but if on the other hand success crowned their efforts, he would be able to go further and do greater things for the regular stage. It had given him great pleasure to rehearse the company, and he was pleased to feel that during the arduous work he had not had occasion to raise his voice once. Mr. Roberts referred to the presence among them that night of Mr. Arnold Bell, an actor of great experience and standing, who had paid them the compliment of attending. Mr. Roberts recalled a story of his more youthful days when he was playing responsibles at 30s. a week. He acted everything from property-man to harlequinade, and if there was nothing to play he played that. On one occasion the manager, who had an important part, wanted to go off for a refresher, and said to a member of his company, "I want a drink; you take the second scene and follow me off up stage; Roberts, you as a beginner, can come and pay!" It was more than a pleasure for his dear wife and himself to receive their friends, both inside and outside the profession. As he had explained, his reason for starting on his enterprise was to satisfy his ambition; but another motive he had was to be an employer of labour artistically, and thus to benefit his brother artists on the dramatic stage.

Called upon for a speech, Mr. Arnold Bell said it was no uncommon occurrence in the old days for companies to start out with a celebration such as they were enjoying that night. It was a graceful compliment too seldom paid nowadays, and it showed that their employers had confidence in them—a confidence that he was sure would be well repaid. Though like Mr. Roberts, he was a "waxer," and was at present in the halls, he had been nearly twenty years a manager, and had learned that the better they treated their companies the more work they got out of them. Treat them like men and you get men's work; but treat them like dogs and you get dogs' work. He sincerely wished prosperity to *Straight from the Shoulder*, and hoped that after that Mr. Roberts would get another success "straight from somewhere else."

The evening was rendered further enjoyable by a number of songs and recitations given by those present. Mr. Roberts delighted all with some diverting imitations of a professional coinpalmist, and with humorous reminiscences of his youthful days, and Mr. Arnold Bell, in addition to reciting a stirring definition of "fame," delivered most impressively the Curse speech from *Ben-My-Chree*. Mr. Child gave a clever dialect recital of "A Tale of a Tog," and contributions were also made by Mr. Fred Beck, Mr. George Fisher, and Miss Beatrice Burdette, who presided at the piano.

Though no objection has been made to Mr. Rutland Barrington's clever "gag" in the new Savoy production *re* the Beresford incident, and no one has detected a "resemblance" to any living admiral in the Sir Berkeley Wynne of *The Flag Lieutenant* at the Playhouse, the Lord Chamberlain has sometimes interfered to stay any direct stage portraiture of eminent characters. Thus Mr. Buckstone was prohibited from appearing "made-up" as Lord John Russell, and Mr. A. Wigan, when performing the part of a French naval officer some five-and-twenty years ago, was directed by the authorities to reform his aspect, which too much resembled, it was alleged, the portraits of the Prince de Joinville. The actor effected a change in this instance which did not much mend the matter. It was understood at the time, indeed, that he had simply made his costume more correct, and otherwise had rather heightened than diminished his resemblance to the son of Louis Philippe. Mlle. Mars, the famous French actress, decided upon defying accuracy of costume, and declined to wear a powdered wig in a serious part. Her example was followed by Rachel, Ristori, and others. When Auber's *Gustave, ou le Bal Masqué* was in rehearsal, the singers complained of the difficulty they experienced in expressing passionate sentiments in the powdered wigs and stately dress of the time of Louis XV. In the masquerade they were therefore permitted to assume such costumes as seemed to them suited to the violent catastrophe of the story. They argued that "le moindre geste violent peut exciter le rire en provoquant l'explosion d'un nuage blanc; les artistes sont donc contraints de se tenir dans une réserve et dans une immobilité qui jettent du froid sur toutes les situations."

So great was the success of *The Flower Girl* at Birkenhead that an immediate date was offered for the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, which Mr. Charles M. Bestic had regretfully to decline, the holder of the booking not being able to release him.

AN AMATEUR ENTERTAINMENT.

In Mr. Philip Treherne's novel, "Miss Chesterton's Decision," an amusing description of an amateur outdoor concert occurs. Mr. Marflete is a rich Philistine, who is present with his family: The tables in the tea tent were packed as closely as possible, and the Marfletes found some difficulty in securing an empty one. As they entered the tent, Lancelot Niton concluded a stirring recitation, entitled "The Murder of Deadman's Gully," with an intensely dramatic gesture, his eyes flashing, his forefinger pointed in Mr. Marflete's direction. The last lines rang out—

"The knife flashed white in the moonlight; ah, God! then it supped blood-red,
And there in the desolate gully lay Jimmy, the scout, stone dead."

"Depressing kind of thing," said Mr. Marflete. "Why will they always recite horrors? This tent's very crowded and stuffy. I wish we'd returned to Pinewood for tea; we shall never be attended to. They've only four waitresses for all these people."

"I do hope Mr. Niton will recite again: he's so good," said Ethel. "Don't you remember, Dolly, we saw him at the Reality in 'The Mendacious Mrs. Madden'?"

"Yes, I remember," replied Dolly. "I enjoyed the play very much. Did you see it, Mr. Meyerbach?"

"Can't say I did, but I only go to musical pieces. I'd sooner sit through three acts of a burlesque than one scene of comedy."

"Has anyone got a programme of the concert?" asked Mr. Marflete.

"It simply says in the souvenir," replied Chesterton," that 'A variety concert will take place under the direction of Mr. Lancelot Niton. Many well-known artistes have promised their services.'"

Mr. Marflete made frantic signals to one of the waitresses, and at last she came and received orders for tea and bread and butter.

"I call this very badly managed," he muttered. "No programmes, and the waiting is abominable, and such waste of time spending a fine afternoon in a stuffy tent."

"I saw a boy at the door selling programmes," suggested Ethel.

"My dear girl, why didn't you tell me?"

"They were sixpence each, papa."

"Then I certainly shouldn't have bought one. If this concert was properly managed there'd be a programme card on every table."

"They seem to take rather a long time between the turns," remarked Meyerbach. As he spoke, Niton appeared on the stage, and announced that Mr. Bainbridge would oblige with some imitations.

Mr. Bainbridge walked jauntily on, faced the audience, and smiled on them comprehensively. "Ladies and gentlemen," he shouted, "with your kind permission and attention I will endeavour to give some imitations."

"What a voice the man's got!" said Mr. Marflete.

"My first will be a pack of hounds in full cry," and he proceeded to make a deafening noise, stamping about the stage and cracking a dog-whip.

"Oh, dear!" exclaimed Mrs. Marflete, "I wish he'd stop. I shall have a headache for the rest of the evening."

Faint applause greeted Bainbridge's efforts.

"My next," he roared, "will be an express train running through a tunnel." This imitation proved noisier than the first. Then followed unrecognisable renderings of leading actors. It was difficult in this instance to distinguish Tragedy from Comedy. He completely drowned any attempts at conversation, and terrified the village organist, who officiated at the piano, by his vigorous methods.

"If that's a sample of the well-known artists," said Meyerbach, when peace was restored by Bainbridge's exit, "I can't say much for Niton's powers of selection."

"This tea's scarcely fit to drink," growled Mr. Marflete. "I call the tea concert an imposture. If that man had gone on howling and stamping I'd have left the place."

"The noise was unbearable," said Chesterton. "Imitations are unsatisfactory at the best of times; it would be difficult to imagine a more dismal performance. I consider such a display of noisy tomfoolery an insult to the intelligence."

Mr. Niton appeared again and introduced Mr. Bartley, the world-renowned prestidigitator, who performed some simple card tricks, placed a rabbit in a tall hat, waved the hat in the air, and the rabbit disappeared; then discovered innumerable flags in the interior of the hat, besides an unlimited quantity of variegated ribbon; finally, he walked up to Mr. Marflete and said, "Excuse me, sir, but are you aware of the rabbit?"

"Go away," said Mr. Marflete, "and don't come bothering me."

The conjuror stretched out his hand, and apparently produced the rabbit from Mr. Marflete's coat pocket. Roars of laughter greeted the accomplishment of this trick.

"I knew the rabbit was there," said the conjuror, "and was afraid it might possibly inconvenience you, sir. This one's always running away; I can't keep him on the stage."

Mrs. Marflete and the girls joined in the laughter, and Meyerbach hid his face in his handkerchief. Chesterton, however, gazed sternly at the conjuror, who instantly remarked, "Excuse me one moment, please, but the Union Jack seems to have found its way into your pocket. One has to be very careful on these occasions; people are so patriotic nowadays. There! that's better." He waved the Union Jack round his head, and departed in triumph for the stage.

"Infernal insolence," exclaimed Mr. Marflete, purple with rage. "I felt inclined to knock the fellow down. I see nothing to laugh at; there was nothing clever in the trick; he had the rabbit and flag up his sleeve the whole time."

At the Opera House, York, the Empire Comedy Four delight all this week in their musical entertainment with comedy of a high order. In *Down South* Frank Gala and May Morris appear to the greatest advantage, and give a neat turn; Bostock's Baboons are extremely clever; and Netty Janowsky's acrobatic act is a popular item. Sketches which go down well are given by Lisle and Ford, Day and Knight, and Rell and Butt; whilst Jack Rae, gymnast, and Tom Cowley, a neat dancer, contribute pleasing turns.

A great stroke of misfortune has befallen the refined little band of al-fresco entertainers known as the Frolics, who had pitched their tent at Golder's Green, outside the terminus of the Charing Cross and Hampstead tube. They had, with some trouble, duly obtained the licence, the railway company, who had let them the site, had been at pains to assist them with electric light in their extensive marquee and had well advertised on the railway the performances, and everything pointed to a prosperous season; when of a sudden the superior landlords—the Ecclesiastical Commissioners—pointed out to the railway company that a clause in the lease forbade any amusements being given on their land. And so the Frolics, who had invested their little capital in the venture, have been given till Monday next to quit! Much sympathy is felt for the troupe, which consists of Misses Isa Miller and M. Jolley and Messrs. O. Fishwick, J. W. Bruce, William Simms, and Franklin Miles, all well-known names in the concert and theatrical world.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

Broad Cockney humour should be welcome, if anywhere, in London's eastern suburb; and consequently *My Pal Jerry*, as presented by Mr. Lew Lake's company, is this week being hailed with delight. The staunch patrons of the popular parts of this well-appointed variety theatre are not too insistent on the score of probability in the Central Criminal Court scene, where those irrepressible burglars, Jerry and Nobbler, certainly upset all preconceived ideas of police-court procedure, and they don't ponder too deeply over the convicts' revolt at Portland, leading to the escape of the pals, while undoubtedly their sympathies are extended to Nobbler at the death of Jerry in the final scene. Mr. Bob Morris and Mr. Lew Lake as Jerry and Nobbler respectively supply unique sketches of submerged Cockneyism, and they are adequately supported by a number of auxiliaries.

Mr. Gus Garrick is cordially received, and he quickly has the audience on the best of terms with some racy stories. Afterwards he gives imitations of the styles of different variety entertainers, being very successful as an immobile comedian and as a bustling Londoner. His depiction of a comic Scot and burlesque of a Continental dancer are equally good. Tennyson and Wallis are clever cross-talk comedians, whose turn is very welcome. Included is a smartly-written duet, "When you get old," which permits of the introduction of up-to-date topical verses, which the audience readily perceive and applaud. The Twin Andersons supply a merry act, quite rollicking in flavour, and with a dash of piquancy added by the novelty of changing for their second contribution merely behind a screen on the stage. The singing of the sisters wins plenty of applause, whilst the popularity and cleverness of their skipping-rope dance is unquestioned.

Miss Edie King, a pretty and sprightly comedienne and dancer, scores heavily with her first song, "Domino," which tells of a venturesome damsel who has a gay time while hiding her identity under a pink domino, and in her second item, "The art of fascination," she displays marked vocal and terpsichorean ability, which fully merits the recognition bestowed upon it. The Coloured Meisters are in great favour with their unaccompanied part singing, and their concluding feline number fairly brings down the house. The Sisters Grovini are a trio of graceful and lissom young ladies who perform a number of difficult and clever acrobatic and tumbling feats with a neatness and dexterity which call forth unstinted praise; and Miss Mena Brae is very successful with a coon ditty, which is followed by a Dutch song and sabot dance. The Bioscope pictures are, as usual, a prominent feature, this week's series including a laughable farce, Grandfather's Pills. The orchestral selection is Déplace's "Amiette," which is rendered with much expression under the bâton of Mr. Albert Whipp, Mus.Bac.

Mr. E. J. Macdermott, whose third week of office it is as acting-manager, looks well after the comfort of those "in front," and Mr. F. C. Cockerill is the courteous assistant acting-manager.

At the Palace, Walthamstow, the holiday attractions will include *Lucky Jim*, by Margaret Parker and company, and George Leyton in *Lucknow*, Edward Frisby, Devon and Earle, A. Slater, Francis and Alfred, Constance Mori, Allis and Cassati, Harry Russon, and the Bioscope.

MANIFESTATIONS AT THE ALHAMBRA.

The last word in the art of materialising from space seems to be spoken this week at the Alhambra, where Mr. and Mrs. Tomson are presenting a séance called *The Mystery of Mysteries*. The genuineness of the entertainment is vouched for by the Alhambra management, who have provided both a dressing-room for the chief performer and the cabinet wherein the trick is performed. On Monday Mr. Alfred Moul appeared on the stage, and claimed that of all the novelties presented during his management at the Alhambra this was the greatest. The materials for the dressing-room and the cabinet used had all been made by the Alhambra staff, and would be built up in view of the audience. He assured his hearers that there were no trap-doors in the stage, which would moreover be covered by two carpets to make communication further impossible. He carried in his hand a length of black gauze, which he said had been sent him twenty minutes before by the costumières of the theatre. In the presence of a committee of ladies selected from among the audience, Mrs. Tomson would disrobe, and habited only in the veil would enter the cabinet to go through her performance.

The undertaking was strictly adhered to. Six ladies and six gentlemen from the audience, having taken their seats on the platform, a frail structure was built up by the stage-hands in full view of the audience, and a small cabinet, to which curtains were attached, was put up by the same means, and furnished with a parrot-perch and several bird-cages. Having been introduced to the audience, Mrs. Tomson immediately retired to the temporary dressing-room, accompanied by the ladies' committee, and in a few minutes emerged clothed only in the veiling. She entered the cabinet, the curtains were drawn, and after a few minutes they were pulled aside, showing a parrot on the perch and the cages occupied by fluttering love-birds. Again the curtains were closed, and on being reopened revealed a gorgeous bouquet of flowers in a vase. For a third time the curtains were drawn, the house darkened, and within the cabinet was seen the figure of a woman dressed in airy robes of white, who sank lower and lower till she almost disappeared through the floor. Then Mr. Tomson entered the cabinet, and after a few passes which suggested that the lady had been under mesmeric influence, brought forward Mrs. Tomson, now again clothed in the black veil, to acknowledge the plaudits of the audience.

The performance is of a most baffling character, and the elaborate precautions taken to obviate any collusion from either above, beneath, or around renders the mystery more impenetrable than anything ever before offered.

At the Tivoli on Monday important additions to the company will be Carlton Macey and Mane Hall, in *A Timely Warning*, a character comedy sketch from America. Harry Tate and company, Bertha Stuart, Will Evans, Frank Harwood, Harry Leybourne, Alexandra Dagmar, the Bensons, Forman and Fannan, Wilkie Bard, Jose Collins, in her Spanish scena, the ever-popular R. G. Knowles, Miss Millie Lindon, Fred Karno's delightful *Mumming Birds*, and Max Waldon will complete the holiday bill.

The first outing of the London Coliseum took place on Sunday last. The party, numbering fifty-six, under the care of Mr. H. Crocker, the popular Coliseum stage-manager, assembled at Charing Cross Station at eight a.m., and started cheerily off for Merry Margate town. On arrival, boating, bathing, and brake rides were indulged in, and at 12.30 all gathered at the West End Hotel, where a splendid luncheon was in readiness, which was done full justice to. Everybody having satisfied the "inner man," and excellent photos being taken, sports took place. Mr. C. Dundas Slater, manager of the Coliseum, and Mr. H. Pryme, assistant-manager, were unavoidably absent. After a thoroughly enjoyable day, the whole party returned to town by the 7.45 train, arriving in high spirits at Charing Cross at eleven p.m. Much credit is due to Mr. J. Higson, who had charge of the arrangements, for the admirable manner in which he conducted the little outing, which was so successful that the Coliseum are to have a trip up river later on.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, Mr. R. A. Robinson (chairman) presiding.

LICENSING SESSION, 1908.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had considered what arrangements should be made for their annual sittings, as the Licensing Committee, to hear applications for licences for music, music and dancing, and stage plays. It has been the practice in past years to hear the applications for licences for places north of the Thames at the Clerkenwell Sessions House, and those for places south of the Thames at Newington Sessions House. They had been informed, however, that on the dates which would be convenient for them to sit at Newington the courts would probably be required for the criminal sessions. They accordingly recommended that the whole of the applications should be heard at Clerkenwell Sessions House on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6 and 7 next. The recommendation was agreed to.

DRURY LANE THEATRE.

The Committee reported that they had considered drawings submitted by Messrs. Pilditch and Co., showing the proposed method of reconstructing the stage portion of Drury Lane Theatre. It is proposed to omit the wall dividing the stage into two portions, to construct the flies, the bridge over the back of the stage, and other portions in steel or steel and concrete, to replace the iron doors at the back of the floors of the scene dock, the basement, and ground alterations. The Committee recommended approval of the proposals, provided that certain conditions be complied with. Agreed to.

THE LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

The Committee, having considered a drawing submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing a proposal to convert cellars on the o.p. side of the pit at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, into a pit refreshment saloon, and to provide a new door to the existing saloon on the prompt side, which is to be used as a stalls saloon, recommended approval of the arrangements. The recommendation was approved.

THE NEW THEATRE.

The Committee approved of drawings submitted by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, showing a proposal to build a new block of dressing-rooms, and to extend the stage on the north side of the New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane. The recommendation was agreed to.

THE TIVOLI.

The Committee having considered a drawing submitted by Messrs. Wylson and Long, showing a cinematograph chamber proposed to be constructed outside the roof of the Tivoli, Strand, recommended that the arrangements shown be approved. The recommendation was carried.

WYNDHAM'S THEATRE.

The Committee having considered drawings submitted by Mr. F. Curzon, showing a proposal to remove certain machinery used for handling scenery from the floor of the flies to brackets fixed in the fly walls at Wyndham's Theatre, recommended its approval. Agreed to.

The sitting of the Council lasted from 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday until 8 a.m. on Wednesday. At its rising the Council adjourned for the usual summer vacation.

The above photo of the H.E.C.C. was taken on the occasion of the match with Moss Empires' Head Office at Elms Park, Walthamstow. The club has had a very pleasant time up till the present. During the season they have played the Tivoli, His Majesty's, and the Theatre Royal, Stratford, and hope to have more contests before the close of the season.

ON THE ROAD, AUG. 3.

Alone in London.—O. H., Leicester.
An Abandoned Woman.—P. O. W., Salford.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Rotherham.
At Cripple Creek.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Belle of Mayfair.—Nottingham.
Belle of New York (Howard).—Eastbourne.
Belle of New York.—Grand T., Hull.
Belle of the Ball.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Beneath the Stars.—T. R., Crook.
Best of Her Sex.—T. R., Stockport.
Bondman, The (Croke).—T. R., Great Yarmouth.
Bourchier, Arthur.—Pier, Eastbourne.
Boyne, Mr. Leonard.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
Breed of the Trehams.—T. R., Norwich.
Brewster's Millions.—County T., Kingston.
Bulmer, Mr.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Charley's Aunt.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Chinese Honeymoon.—Grand T., Leeds.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—T. R., Leeds.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—Prince's T., Bristol.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Ilfracombe and Minehead.
Convict's Daughter.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
Country Girl in London.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Dandy Doctor.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Dairymaids, The (S.).—T. R., Plymouth.
Dairymaids, The.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—O. H., Weymouth.
Dear Old Charlie.—King's T., Glasgow.
Diana of Dobson's.—T. R., Halifax.
Donovan, Rept.—T. R., Bilston.
Driven from Home.—Star T., Swansea.
Eve of Her Wedding.—T. R., Jarrow.
Faber, Mr. Leslie.—Lincoln and Whitby.
Face at the Window.—Carlton T., Greenwich.
Fatal Wedding.—Queen's T., Manchester.
Fight for a Throne.—Queen's T., Keighley.
Floradora (Howard).—Worthing and Tunbridge Wells.
Flower Girl.—Opera House, Southport.
For Her Husband's Sake.—Royalty T., Barrow.
For Love and the King.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
From Shop Girl to Duchess.—Great Grimsby.
Gay Gordons.—Palace T., Ramsgate.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—T. R., Merthyr.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—T. R., Leicester.
Girl Who Went Astray.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Girl Who Wrecked His Home.—Rochdale.
Great Awakening.—New T. R., Birkenhead.
Heart's Desire.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., Cardiff.
Her Marriage Vow.—T. R., Scarborough.
Her Nameless Child.—Barry Dock.
His Sister's Honour.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
Horniman's, Miss, Co.—T. R., Exeter.
Honeymoon, The.—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
Hughes, Annie.—Palace Pier, Brighton.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—New T. R., Blyth.
Irene Wycherley.—O. H., Buxton.
Knight in Armour.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Lady Frederick.—T. R., Margate.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Huntley and Fraserburgh.
Leah Kleschna.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Lion's Heart, A.—Carlton T., Saltley.
Little Breadwinner.—O. H., Dudley.
Love of a Princess.—Queen's T., Longton.
Love Rules the World.—T. R., Sheffield.
Love that Women Desire.—O. H., Coventry.
Lucky Liza.—T. R., Leigh.
Manxman, The.—Theatre Royal, Bolton.
Man and Wife.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Merely Mary Ann.—Barnstaple and Ilfracombe.
Merry Maid.—Grand T. Charley.
Merry Widow.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Midnight Mail.—Oxford.
Mrs. Dot.—Brighton.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—Dublin.
My Mimosa Maid.—Grand T., Harrogate.
Old Folks at Home.—Grand T., Doncaster.
Power of the Cross.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Power of Lies.—Empire T., Oldham.
Power of the King.—Queen's Park, Manchester.
Prince of Pilsen.—Grand T., Llandudno.
Private Secretary.—Court T., Liverpool.
Prodigal Parson.—Grand T., Walsall.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—Marlboro' Theatre, N.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Gaiety T., Douglas.
Prodigal Son (Western).—Maidstone and Deal.
Raffles.—T. R., Torquay.
Roberts, Arthur.—Prince's T., Llandudno.
Royal Divorce.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Sergeant Brue.—Tunbridge Wells and Worthing.
Second to None.—T. R., Bristol.
Sexton Blake.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Sherlock Holmes.—Herne Bay.
Sign of the Cross.—T. R., Dublin.
Silver King.—T. R., Birmingham.
Sins of Society.—Borough T., Stratford, E.
Soldier of France.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Still Alarm.—Grand T., Fulham.
Terry, Ellen.—Aquarium T., Great Yarmouth.
Tom Jones.—Pavilion, Ramsgate.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Wolver'pton.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—O. H., St. Helens.
Two Little Vagabonds.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—T. R., Bath.
Village Blacksmith.—Palace T., Newcastle.
What the Butler Saw.—Aberystwyth.
White Man, A.—Lyceum Theatre, Newport.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Hanley.
Woman Pays.—Lyric T., Hammersmith, W.
Woman Worth Winning.—T. R., Sunderland.
World and the Woman.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Wrecker of Men.—Prince's T., Preston.
Youngest of Three.—Kendal and Saltburn.
£1,000 Reward.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.

At the Alhambra on Bank Holiday the newcomers will be Mlle. Bresina, a piquante French singer, and Tom Nawn and company in a comedy sketch. Steidl still heads the bill. La Belle Leonora has recovered from her slight indisposition and is back in the new edition of *Sal, Oh My!* which, in its fifth month, is still delighting the Alhambra audiences. Equally attractive is the entente cordiale divertissement, *The Two Flags*, with Pomponette and Julia Seale. J. W. Winton, the amusing ventriloquist; and Franco Piper, who seems to have a greater command than ever of the banjo, are also engaged; and Mr. and Mrs. Tomson's manifestations are as mysterious as ever.

Miss Rose La Harte made her first London appearance at the Coliseum, on Monday last, singing "Moon Bear Lucia" and "Starlight Suc."

Mr. Peter Adair writes:—"I am about to show the world there is an athlete at the age of sixty-six going to do something equal to any performance or feat accomplished at the Stadium. I am going to walk, fair heel and toe, 1,305 miles on the road, viz.: on next Friday I start from the Hercules, Kennington-road, at 1.30 p.m., to Land's End, a distance of 305 miles, and after resting one day start from Land's End and walk to John o' Groats—nearly 1,000 miles—and endeavour to make a record for all time for old and young. I already hold the record for the same journey for veterans, having accomplished the journey in 1904 inside twenty-eight successive days, beating Dr. Deighton's time by three-quarters of a day. I invite any walker, pro. or amateur, to contest the journey with me."

Longsight Wakes.

This celebrated Manchester suburban fair was well maintained by John Collins (lessee of the ground), who exhibited his fine set of galloping horses and the twin ships in the air; P. Collins and Son with their magnificent new show, Wonderland II.; Mander's Star Menagerie, Westwood's giant boy and girl show, Hibbert's racing birds, S. Mercer's miniature motors and varieties, Cordwell's throwing games, R. Dixon's variety games and pannum stalls, Hughes and Martin's shooters, and other shooting ranges, throwing games, side shows, and stalls by the caterers on this circuit.

Lion Tamer Attacked.

During the performance at Purchase's Menagerie at Hurstpierpoint on Friday evening, July 24, the lion Wallace savagely attacked Marco the celebrated lion trainer.

After the usual display of expert training, and just as Marco was leaving the cage, the animal made his attack, severely lacerating the trainer's leg. Help was immediately at hand, and Marco was conveyed to a surgeon close by the menagerie, where his wounds were at once attended to. We understand that Marco is progressing favourably.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

Mi Narom.—*The holding capacity of the Britannia Theatre, Hoxton, is estimated at about 3,700, and the seating accommodation at 2,800. The capacity of the Gaiety, Birmingham, is put at close upon 4,000, of which about 2,350 can be seated.*

M. (Edinburgh).—*Perhaps the most comprehensive Life of Edmund Kean is that of J. F. Molloy, published in two volumes by Ward and Downey, London. It is written in narrative form, and includes interesting references to many of the famous actor's contemporaries.*

Miss L. Gray.—L'Amour Mouillé; or, Cupid and the Princess, *was produced at the Lyric Theatre on April 5, 1899;* Florodora *on Nov. 11 of the same year. Miss Evie Greene made her London début on the occasion of the production of the first-named piece. Several years previously she had toured in leading musical comedies and comic operas.*

William Swinbourne.—*The late Sims Reeves, the famous tenor, died at Worthing Oct. 25, 1900.*

A. C. (Blackpool).—*He will be a Scotsman.*

Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.—*A one-act piece entitled* Was She to Blame? *by Henry Louis Bedford, was produced in front of* The Fascinating Miss Kemp *at the Opera House, Crouch End, on Dec. 5, 1904.*

Inquirer.—*Not a whisper of the rumour to which you refer reached us. The report furnished by our correspondent was that the lady topped the bill during the week, and was warmly received for her popular songs.*

G. V.—*We have some remembrance of the interview alluded to, but cannot recall the name or date of the publication in which it appeared. A letter addressed to the lady, who is now staying at Harrogate, might obtain the information desired.*

Arthur Williams.—*The piece referred to was called* Il Trovatore; or, the Gipsy's Vengeance. *We are unable to give you the exact constitution of the cast, but the company engaged included Messrs. William Searle, John Hudspeth, B. Hughes, W. Travers, W. Harmer, H. Lindon, and C. Johnson, and Miss Augusta Clifton, Mrs. H. Lindon, Miss Pettifer, and Mrs. Moreton Brookes. A piece called* The Tempest of the Heart *was produced at the East London Theatre on March 18, 1868.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Roxbury.—At "Maesholme," Arthur-road North, Southampton, on Wednesday, July 29, the wife of Harry Roxbury (Miss Vashtie Wynne), of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Grant—Roche.—July 22, at Birkenhead, Reginald Grant, acting manager of the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, to Ethel Roche.

DEATHS.

Bolton.—July 29, Charles Bolton ("Charles Osborne"), dramatic author, aged 79.

Lundy.—July 29, at Farningham, of heart failure, Harry Lundy, formerly music hall manager.

Watkin-Wynne.—On Friday, July 31, suddenly, the wife of W. Watkin-Wynne.

In Memoriam.

Weeks.—In loving memory of Frank Weeks, who fell asleep 29th July, 1906. Sadly missed. He was a soldier, and bravely he fought his last fight.

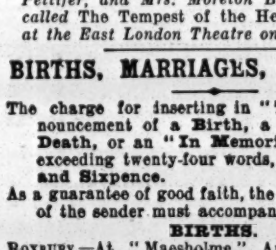
BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Winifred Emery—Saturday, Aug. 1.
Alfred F. Robbins—Saturday, Aug. 1.
Sydney Brough—Sunday, Aug. 2.
Laura Cicedo—Sunday, Aug. 2.
Harry Lyndon—Sunday, Aug. 2.
Christine Nilsson—Monday, Aug. 3.
Algernon Syms—Monday, Aug. 3.
Ida Millais—Tuesday, Aug. 4.
Charles Coborn—Tuesday, Aug. 4.
Harry Fischer—Tuesday, Aug. 4.
H. B. Irving—Wednesday, Aug. 5.
Marie Illington—Wednesday, Aug. 5.
Ernest Rees—Wednesday, Aug. 5.
Jennie Maynard—Wednesday, Aug. 5.
Frederick Wright, sen.—Thursday, Aug. 6.
Ivy Floradora—Thursday, Aug. 6.
Huntley Wright—Friday, Aug. 7.
W. Lovel Hurt—Friday, Aug. 7.

The following artists will appear at the Standard Theatre of Varieties on Bank Holiday:—James Willard and company in *The Ace of Hearts*, Lillie Langtry, Lilian Lea, Thorpe and Coe in *My Burglar*, Kimberley Boys, Lottie Siegenberg, Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Leonard in *Coming Home*, Lil Elfreda, Little Tichbourne, Allsopp and Beckwith, Fred Brockton, Beatrice McAdam, the McKinleys, Rose Nicholson, Davis and Deane, Edisonograph, &c.

ANCHOR LINE.



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No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Arnold, Miss T.
Arthur, Mr. Fred
Artois, Mr. J.
Ash, Miss Edna
Augarde, Miss A.
Austin, Miss M.
Auton, Mr. W. Holmes
Bahada, Singh
Baines, Miss F.
Ball, Mr. Wm.
Barker, Mr. J.
Bastow, Mr. Geo
Beaton, Mr. R.
Beaute, Mons.
Beere, Mr. Bernard
Biddall, Mr. W.
Birch, Miss Belle
Bouwmeester, Mr. Theo
Brennan, Mr. J.
Brookes, Miss E.
Brumley, Mr. J. A.
Campbell, Mrs. P.
Carle, Mr. Leo.
Carte, Mr. Chas.
Cattaneo, Mr. Max
Chambers, Mr. H.
Charrington, Mrs. Chas
Chatto, Mr. W. R.
Chirgwin, Miss Clara
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Miss D. H.
Clarke, Mr. D.
Clark, Mr. J.
Collins, Mr. George
Conroy, Mr. Dan
Cook, Mr. G.
Cooper, Mr. Horton
Crawford, Miss Alice
Cresser, Miss Ada
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Cryer, Mr. Abraham
Cumberlands, The Five
Dalton, Miss F.
Darnley, Mr. H.
Dean, Miss Violet
De Gracia, Mrs.
Donaldson, Brothers
Doody, Miss Sid
Duffy, Mr. John
Dumont, Mme.
Duncan, Mr. Albert
Duncan, Miss M.
Duncan, Mr W. O.
Elton, Mr. S.
Fainy, Mr. Chas.
Fane, Mr. R. M.
Farrington, Miss Nina
Finglas, Mr. F. P.
Florodora Girls
Ford, Mr. E.
Foster, Mr. Geo.
Frasettis, Les
Freeland, Mr. F.
French, Mr. Henri
Gordons, Mrs. Ada W.
Garnet-Vayne, Miss Fay
Gilhoni, Miss Celia
Gray, Miss Mona
Graydon, Mr. James
Green and Wood
Gregson Comedy Trio
Grenville, Miss Helen
Grist, Miss Amy
Hall, Mr. Geo. E.
Hall, Miss Jeanette
Hamilton's, Messrs.
Hamilton, Miss H.
Hannan, Mr. Percy
Hare, Mr. Arthur
Harrison, Mr. W.
Hart, Mr. A. G.
Harvard, Mr. George
Harvey, Miss Adela
Hasluck, Mr. L.
Hayes, Mr. Brent
Hebden, Mme.
Holmes, Mrs. S. O.
Hemingway, Mr. Jack
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.
Horsfall, Mr. Basil
Housden, Mr H. F.
Hunt, Mr. R. A.
Hunter, Mr. G. W.
Hunter, Miss E.
Jacobs, Miss Jennie
Kartelli
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Knight, Mr. Augustin
La Martine, Mr. John
Lea, Mr. Edmund
Le Diabelo
Lind, Miss Letty
Lloyd, Miss May
Lloyd, Miss Rosie
Loftus, Miss K.
Macfarlane, Mr. J. H.
Macweys, The
Mather, Mr. Aubrey
Maugham, Mr. W. S.
Max, Mr. Henry
Mazzoni, Mr. Fred
McGlynn, Mr. George
McIntosh, Mr. Gordon
McKintosh, Mr. Geo.
Mellon, Mr. Alfred
Meynell and Gunn
Millard, Miss E.
Millett, Miss Maude
Moore, Miss Mary
Moore, Miss Mabel
Morison, Capt. R.
Morton, Mr. Teddy
Moss, Mr. W.
Mount, Miss Violet
Musgrove, Mr. George
Nethersole, Miss Olga
Nikola, Dr.
Norton, Miss Ruby
Odell, Miss Maude
Osborne, Mr. Jack
Pakay, Mr. T.
Palfrey, Miss May
Parsons, Mr. G.
Powell, Mr. Frank
Pyne, Mr. E.
Ray, Miss Belle
Reade, Mr. J. G.
Riche, Mr. O.
Rignold, Miss Bessie
Robbins, Mr. Val
Robinson, Mr. Phil
Rogers, Mr. Harry
Rose, Mr. Leonard
Rosine, Mr. Carl
Roydat and Walker
Ruston, Mr. E. H.
Saint, Miss Alice
Saker, Miss Annie
Sanford, Mr. L. G.
Sansbury, Mr. V.
Santeron Wonders
Sceats, Mrs.
Scott, Mr. Wally
Scott, Mr. C. W.
Scott, Mr. Malcolm
Selwyn, Sisters
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Skea, Mr. James
Smith and Beaumont
Stahl, Miss Rose
Stanley, Mr. Frank
Staunton, Miss Cicely
Stratten, Mrs. Jack
St. Clair, Mr. F. V.
St. Just, Mr. Hilton
Sullivan, Mr J. J.
Temple, Mr. Fred
Tosca, Mlle.
Vane, Miss Amy
Vernon, Miss H.
Villion, Miss G.
Wall, Mr. Harry
Waller, Mr. L.
Wallett, Mr. R.
Ward, Mrs. Harry
Waterfield, Mr. Chas.
Weltzein, Mr. H.
White, Mr. Carl
White, Mr. Stanley
Wieland, Mr. G.
Willie Brothers
Williamson, Mr. A. W
Woodward, Capt.
Zanello, Mr. A.

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At the King's Theatre, Gateshead, Ford and Barrass, legmania dancers and vocalists, are starring here this week; Diamond and Beatrice, in a musical speciality, are warmly applauded; Ray and Calden are successful in a refined comedy act; Joe Humphreys, vocal comedian, makes a hit; and Maxford and O'Neill have some really humorous gags; Benson and Rose, in a comedy duologue, and May B. Brilliant, comedienne, are pleasing items in a capital programme.

The attractive Bank Holiday programme at the Crystal Palace will include three variety shows to be given in the centre transept at 12.30, 3.30, and 7.15 p.m. The artists will include Kyoto, in a new and original comedy Japanese pot-pourri act; Oto, a thoroughbred performing pug dog; Texas Hattie, described as America's greatest tight-rope artist; the Tiger Lily, a wonderful dancing acrobat; Clack and Clack, novel comedy lady barrel jumpers, introducing Rosie, the marvellous barrel and table jumper, blindfolded; the Two Dominoes (clown and donkey); and Misses Elsie and Lily Judge with their trick cockatoos, parrots, and macaws.

Karno's comedians will be seen in the theatre in *His Majesty's Guests* at three and seven. Arthur Lancaster, the man with the iron hands, and champion hammer swinger of the world, will at intervals during the day give exhibitions of trick hammer swinging. Besides a host of attractions in the grounds, including military bands, boating, fishing, cricket, bowling, &c., there will be a balloon ascent at 3 p.m.; and, commencing at the same hour, the Annerley Bicycle Club will hold a great meeting on the cycle track. The Mexican Exhibition and village are sure to prove a big attraction, while at Leadbetter's the baby elephant alone is worth a visit. At night Messrs. Brock will give one of their fine displays of fireworks, for which there is no extra charge. On Aug. 8 and following Saturdays special displays of fireworks for children will be seen, including a set piece "This little pig went to market."

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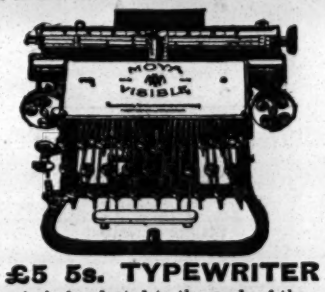

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1908.

THE STAGE FOR WOMEN.

The diversity of opinion as to the desirability of the stage as an occupation for females is very remarkable; and that indefatigable snapper-up of inconsidered trifles, *Tit-Bits*, has been eliciting advice to those about to act from various quarters. The success of the individual counseller appears to have little to do with the opinions given. No one could have had a career of more continued prosperity than Miss ADA REEVE; yet in a letter which we recently published she considered it her "duty to discourage amateurs from entering a profession already very much overcrowded."

"An idea prevails," continued Miss REEVE, "that if a girl possesses average good looks and a fair voice, she is fully equipped to secure fame and fortune on the stage. Most of our great actors and actresses have served a long and arduous apprenticeship from childhood in the minor theatres before being even heard of in London. The road to success on the stage is long and difficult to travel; it runs through the vale of tears and disappointments."

On the other hand, Miss JULIA NEILSON (Mrs. FRED TERRY) and Miss LILLAH MCCARTHY (Mrs. GRANVILLE BARKER) do not consider that the stage is any more overcrowded than other professions for women. "Look at the splendid field one has," says Miss MCCARTHY. "Not London or England only, but abroad—Australia, Africa, Canada—oh, everywhere one finds theatres, and where there are theatres there is the need for actresses. Mind you," continues Miss MCCARTHY, "I mean real, qualified artists—not the girl with the pretty face and figure and an inordinate vanity. If I knew a girl who was just leaving school, I would advise her to train for the stage, if she felt she had any sort of aptitude for it. Let her join a school or classes, and work steadily for three years at music—I regard a knowledge of this as the very first essential—elocution, and voice production, dancing, and fencing. At the end of that time she will have acquired sufficient knowledge of these branches of her art to be able to put them into practical use. Of course, every pretty *ingénue* cannot mature into a leading actress, but for those that are merely such the theatre is a ten years' profession."

Miss JULIA NEILSON speaks favourably of the stage as a calling for women. "I must say I do not see why a girl," she says, "given talent and the necessary perseverance, should not be as successful on the stage as in any other profession open to women. Talent will tell, you know. My husband and myself are constantly on the look-out for young, fresh talent in the ranks of our company, and several of the present fairly prominent members were 'walking on' with us a little time ago. Of course, if a girl is friendless, and wholly dependent on her earnings, she will find it a hard struggle to live compared with the girl of means; but there, again, her position would be the same anywhere else. I should be quite willing for my own daughter to go on the stage if she showed any decided talent for it. Without this she would be sure to fail."

Miss LENA ASHWELL thinks the stage a very good profession "for the kind of girl who wishes, or is obliged, to make her own living, who is possessed of considerable personal attractions, charm of manner, a good voice, an iron constitution, a determination to 'get there' in spite of difficulties, and, above all, a sense of humour."

Miss SYBIL CARLISLE attaches great importance to personal attractions. "Be pretty if you can," she says. "That is my advice. It seems especially important to actresses in this country. I have noticed in the United States, and in France particularly, that natural talent without good looks frequently stamps the successful actress. But in England it is generally otherwise, and here you do not often see a really successful actress who is not handsome, do you? But I should say to any young girl, do not be dazzled by the glare of the footlights unless you are fairly sure of yourself. Our profession is so terribly overcrowded."

Miss ETHEL IRVING says the stage is "shockingly" overcrowded, and Miss MABEL HACKNEY is of the same opinion. Miss HACKNEY recommends the music-hall stage as the finest training-school for a young actress. "There," she says, "they have no stage-manager to teach them how to get their effects. Good or bad, the artists have to stand or fall by themselves, and they have to attract and hold a moving audience."

In England, at present, opinion on sex questions is in a transition state. We have gone beyond the immured and guarded treatment of the French *ingénue;* but we have not yet attained the free and untrammelled, do-as-you-please-and-take-the-responsibility system of the American damsel. The ideal which is most common is that of the young girl who is preserved from the hardships and temptations of life in return for suppressing her natural instincts and abilities and conforming to a type. The brood-mare ideal is naturally that of nine women out of ten—a brood mare with a comfortable paddock, good pasture, and no hard work to do. The "brood-mare" ideal is that also of every man whose income is sufficient to allow him to keep his daughters in ease and comfort.

When, for financial reasons, this ideal cannot be adhered to, fine feelings have to go to the wall. The commonest case of this kind is that of a doctor or other professional man who dies leaving his family unprovided for; and there is no more pathetic spectacle than that of an intelligent young girl, brought up on the "brood-mare" principle, in entire ignorance of the world and its ways, confronted with the necessity of getting a living without any preparation, or the least idea how to set about it. We all know what is the life of the average young lady of the upper middle classes. A little lawn tennis, a little gentle gardening, and a good deal of novel-reading and "practising" on the piano—practice that, in contradiction of the proverb, never seems to make perfect—and much visiting and flirtation—such is the way in which the "brood-mare" ideal is carried out. The method is quite practical; it is the method which has been found by experience to "answer" in the preparation of eligible middle-class wives.

It is from this point of view that the stage as a profession for girls is usually regarded; and regarded, quite logically, with horror and dismay. For what can be more cruel than to train an animal for one course, and then require it to be equal to the emergencies of another? To ask a young girl whose ears have never been outraged by an oath or a coarse expression to go out into a world where both are, unfortunately, quite common; to expect a person who has never done a hard day's work in her life to do six every week and to travel on the seventh day; to take an individual who has eaten of the daintiest and slept on the cleanest, and oblige her to accustom herself to chance cookery and queer couches, and to the worry, the "racket," the anxiety, and the mortifications which must be endured by everyone who has to get his or her living—this is inhuman indeed. When the fowls in LA FONTAINE'S fable were asked with what sauce they would like to be eaten, they answered that they would rather not be eaten at all. But necessity knows no law; and when a young lady brought up on "brood-mare" lines has no means it is for her only a choice of evils. She can become a barmaid, and be on her legs eighteen hours a day for twelve shillings a week and her board and lodging; she can go into a factory, the objections to which course are obvious; she can become a type-writer, a machine working a machine; she can be a teacher, a calling which without a special gift and love of the work is, to say the least, laborious; or she can go behind a counter or enter domestic service. In all these callings she will meet with the same unpleasantnesses in different forms; and she will always be handicapped by the fact of her sex. It is only a question with what sauce she prefers to be eaten. If she follow Mr. BERNARD SHAW'S advice and join Mrs. Warren's profession, she will discover that Mr. SHAW knew nothing about it, and greatly over-estimated its openings and advantages. The stage, for the majority of actresses, is a harassing, exacting, exhausting, and often disappointing calling. But the born actor or actress has the inestimable consolation of the enjoyment which is given by the work itself, by the exercise of function. These are the people whom we want to get on the stage; and to keep off it, by every statement of its trials and troubles, the persons who wish to amuse themselves, to occupy their idleness, or to gratify an empty vanity. For these girls, emphatically, the stage is not the proper place; and it is they, and they only, who "overcrowd" it.

"BUTTERFLIES."

Miss Ada Reeve's æsthetic production of Mr. W. J. Locke's play *Butterflies*, the 100th performance of which took place on Wednesday evening, seems to have caught the fancy of that class of playgoer addicted to "indulgence" in musical comedy. For one thing, Miss Reeve is herself no inconsiderable attraction, for she brings character and grace and charm to every part she essays. Another reason of the success of the piece may be attributed to the prettiness of the scenes and the witchery of the dancing. Miss Reeve's portraiture of Rhodanthe is marked by that engaging archness and fascinating vivacity which has in the past won her so many admirers. Her songs "I want someone to be fond of," "Lapland," and "Many years ago" are rendered with the delightful expression and distinct "character" which have assisted in the making of one artist's fame and fortune. The part of Christopher Podmore, originally played by Mr. Fred Edwards, is now in the hands of Mr. George Giddens, who gives us a most entertaining account of the manner in which Podmore is lured from the paths of strict moral rectitude as understood by the Peckham Puritans to the brief enjoyment of an ephemeral existence in a world unhampered by such deadly dull respectability. Mr. Frank Wilson is now seen and heard to advantage in Mr. Hayden Coffin's part of Max Risadore, and his rendering of the song "The memory of a kiss" gives evidence of great vocal talent. Mr. Lauri de Frece is intensely quaint and comical in the rôle of Yarker, the chauffeur, and his verses concerning the unhappy wight who "had never been in a farm before" are most diverting. Mr. Roy Sydney now takes the part of Peter, "the young man without a penny," acted previously by Mr. Kenna Lawson, and Mr. Sydney's rendering is all that could be desired. No more pleasing representative of Widgery Blake, otherwise Puck, could be desired than that afforded in the person of Mr. W. Louis Bradfield, whose magnificent vocal powers are exercised with good effect upon the song "The girl with the clocks." Miss Iris Hoey and Miss Stella St. Audrie continue to delight Apollo audiences as Elsie and Nora Podmore respectively, and the other rôles have able interpreters. The novelty in the piece is the new classical dance, entitled "La Naissance du Papillon," which is performed with remarkable poetic grace by a very young but very talented dancer, Miss Phyllis Monckman, who appears in fanciful garb as a butterfly. Miss Monkman should certainly be heard of again, and her exceedingly attractive terpsichorean efforts are a feature of the third act, which wins for the youthful artist unbounded applause.

ROYAL OPERA, COVENT GARDEN.

In the second performance of *Faust* on Thursday evening, July 23, there were two changes in the cast, the part of *Faust* being undertaken by Mr. Zenatello and Mephistopheles by Mr. Marcoux. Mme. Edwina again impersonated Margherita with the same results as on her first appearance; another year's study as actress and singer at least is required, a beautiful voice only is not sufficient for so difficult a rôle as Margherita. A fine performance of the hero was given by Mr. Zenatello, the music being beautifully sung; but Mr. Marcoux's Mephistopheles was not entirely satisfactory. Mr. Sammarco again appeared as Valentino, and the rest of the cast was the same as on a previous occasion. Mr. Panizza conducted.

The fifth, and in many respects finest performance of Verdi's gorgeous opera *Aida* was given on Saturday, July 25, at Covent Garden, before a large audience. With only one exception the cast was the same as before. Mr. Nivetti, the French artist, who created such a good impression by his Mephistopheles in *Faust*, appeared as Ramfis on Saturday night, and by his fine voice and artistic style increased the good opinion already formed. Mr. Nivetti's High Priest was a dignified and imposing personage. Miss Destinn was once again a superb Aida, her singing of "Ritorna Vincitor" being received with a storm of applause. Amneris is one of Mme. Kirkby Lunn's finest creations, and the splendid cast was completed by Mr. Scotti's excellent Amonasro, Mr. Radford's King, and Mr. Zenatello's dramatic Radames. Mr. Campanini conducted, and orchestra, chorus, and scenic effects were equally perfect.

MR. DAN GREGORY has been making a gratifying success at Pagel's Circus, Pretoria, and his violin-playing and comicality have been favourably mentioned by the local press.

AT the Paragon on Monday a leading attraction will be Joe Elvin in *Riding to Orders*. Other important engagements are those of the Markies, in *From Pavement to Stage;* Munroe's Black and White Comedy Team; Thos. E. Finglass in character negro songs; Emma Don, character comedienne; Miss Beaumont Collins and Co. in the one-act dramatic playlet *The House of Terror;* Lilian Lowe, ballad vocalist; Memora, the living encyclopædia; King Leo, ventriloquist; Lillie Langtry, comedienne; Nellie Stratton, comedienne; Jessie Star, lady Scotch comedian; Lambert and Glover; and Viviana and company in their Toy Shop dancing scena. That admirable and astonishing juggler Paul Cinquevalli will be a great attraction, and some interesting views will be shown by Ruffell's Bioscope.

Two new turns will be added to the Empire Theatre programme on Monday. Miss Emma Francis will introduce her clever and artistic troupe of Arab boys, and Messrs. Warren and Brockway, musical comedians, will supply some up-to-date American novelties. *After the Opera*, the little tabloid drama which Mr. Arthur Bourchier has introduced to Empire Theatre patrons, is one of the greatest successes ever presented there, and Mlle. Adeline Genée's appearances in *Coppelia* have lost nothing of their charm. On Monday Mr. Hayes, the winner of the Marathon Race, watched his own struggle for victory on the Bioscope, and was vastly delighted with the completeness of the pictorial representation.

ON Sunday last the staff of the Grand, Gravesend, had their annual outing. Leaving Gravesend at 7.20 a.m., they journeyed to Brighton, where they arrived at 10.30. After a pleasant morning dinner was served at the Devon Restaurant, thirty-eight sitting down. During the afternoon the party drove to Devil's Dyke, and on their return partook of tea. The chair was taken by Mr. T. W. Wright, the manager, and Mr. Leslie, the acting-manager, occupied the vice-chair. A vote of thanks was passed to the directors for their kindness, and Brighton was left at 7 o'clock, arriving at Gravesend at 10 p.m. after an enjoyable day.

"THE PROFESSOR'S SECRET," a new sketch which deals with the machinations of an old Jew who poses as a professor of sciences, but is a consummate scoundrel, has been secured by the Wellesley and Deveyne enterprises, and will be produced by them at the Ealing Hippodrome on Monday. For the title-part Messrs. Wellesley and Deveyne have engaged a young American Hebrew character-actor—Mr. Leslie P. Paget—and a cast of exceptional talent has been secured. Striking scientific experiments and mechanical effects will be introduced; and the piece will be liberally staged. *The Professor's Secret* is from the pen of Louis Dagmar—in private life Mr. Frank Bentz, Press-manager to Mr. H. B. Irving.

THE NEW TIVOLI.

At the seventeenth annual general meeting of this company, held at the Tivoli on Wednesday, the report of the directors was carried unanimously. The net profit for the twelve months ended that date, after providing £5,833 2s. 5d. interest on mortgage and debentures, amounts to the sum of £15,468 12s. 2d. In January last an interim dividend of £4 per cent. (less income tax) was paid. The directors now recommend the payment of a further dividend of £6 per cent. (less income tax), equal to £12 10s. per cent. for the year. After the payment of this dividend and bonus the directors propose to deal with the surplus by supplying £5,000 to the General Reserve Fund, making £20,000 to the credit thereof, and carrying forward the balance to the current year's accounts. Mr. Henry Tozer was re-elected chairman, and Mr. John Baker, chartered accountant, of Eldon-street House, E.C., was elected auditor for the ensuing year.

Mr. Henry Tozer, as chairman, said:—We congratulate you, the shareholders, upon another satisfactory year's working—indeed, one of the most successful in the history of the company. The accounts we have presented to you show a net profit for the twelve months ended June 30 last (after providing for interest on the mortgage and debentures) of £15,468 12s. 2d. In January last an interim dividend of £4 per cent. (less income tax) was paid. The directors now recommend the payment of a further dividend of £6 per cent. (less income tax) for the half-year ended June 30, 1908, together with a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share (free of income tax)—equal to £12 10s. per cent. for the year. After payment of this dividend and bonus the directors propose to deal with the surplus by applying £5,000 to the General Reserve Fund, making £20,000 to the credit thereof, and carrying forward the balance to the current year's account. The need of a substantial surplus and reserve fund was never greater than at the present time.

Besides the increased competition—keener than ever—there are such considerations as the licensing question, and from time to time necessary structural alterations and improvements to be borne well in mind. It is not certain that the present confiscatory Licensing Bill will affect our property, although when a predatory legislative spirit triumphs even temporarily over reason it is well not to be too confident that such properties as the Tivoli holding the magistrates' liquor licence may not be somehow affected. I may repeat what has been stated here before, that the percentage of refreshments consumed shows some slight diminution year by year. It amounts to a very few pence per head, and even this small percentage includes, besides cigars, a large amount for mineral waters, tea and coffee, and other non-alcoholic liquors, which conclusively indicates that "necessary refreshment" and not "drinking for drinking's sake" is the essential and logical reason for the existence of this licence. With regard to the other licence, that of the London County Council for music and dancing, we are on the best of terms with that distinguished municipal body, the only outstanding item out of ninety-six requirements which were served upon us about two or more years ago having just been amicably settled.

The questions of limiting the numbers admitted to each part of every music hall which the Council pressed upon us at the beginning of the present year has recently been discussed between its committee and ourselves in a friendly spirit, and I am happy to announce to-day that they have taken a broad, common-sense view of this important question, and have just communicated their decision that "if a house when full can be cleared in three minutes"—as we have contended—"it is satisfactory evidence that the exit accommodation is all that can be reasonably required, and are prepared, therefore, to accept provisionally the proposal that in any case it is unnecessary to place any restrictions on the number of persons admitted."

We purpose satisfying the London County Council Committee as to the sufficiency of our facilities and the rapidity with which our audience can quit the auditorium, and I venture to express the opinion that the London County Council will cordially recognise that we share with them a paramount regard for the complete safety, as well as a thorough entertainment, of the public.

No other disturbing questions at present exist to affect the even and prosperous working of this return. We may, in fact, be said to be "at peace with all men" upon any really important matters. But it must be remembered that to maintain peace we should always be prepared for war; hence our reserve fund should be maintained, and from time to time added to as the profits permit. The profits of the past year show a substantial increase upon last year. Although we have not taken quite so much money, we have spent less.

This practically sums up the observations which it is my pleasurable duty to make to you. I may perhaps mention that the mortgage interest shows a slightly increased charge owing to the mortgagees having availed themselves of the opportunity of the high rate of interest ruling in the money market last year, when the mortgage of £60,000 had to be renewed, to require an additional ½ per cent., which, after strong protest and argument, we felt obliged to submit to. I would add, what I said at a previous annual meeting, that had the present policy of an average 10 per cent. dividend (with occasional bonuses whenever justified) been adopted from the commencement, there would have been £60,000 available for paying programmes which for a long time to come we have arranged, and of other measures we have taken, and are taking, to safeguard your interest. I doubt not that, subject, of course, to unavoidable considerations which we cannot control—such as the prolonged hot weather of this summer—we shall continue to be able to declare satisfactory dividends and strengthen in every way the position of the Tivoli Company from year to year.

I now beg to move "That the directors' report and accounts for the year ending June 30, 1908, recommending a dividend of 6 per cent. (less income tax) for the half-year ended that date, also a bonus of 2s. 6d. per share (free of tax), together equal to 12½ per cent. for the year with the dividend already paid, placing £5,000 to the General Reserve Fund, and carrying forward the balance to the current year's accounts, be and are hereby adopted."

The motion was carried unanimously.

AT the Canterbury on Monday the list of artists engaged includes Little Tich; Viviana and company in their Toy Shop dancing scena; Mooney, Holbein, and company in a comedy sketch; the Four Eugenes, aerial gymnasts; that quaint comedian Dan Crawley; Will Evans in a "farcical, dramatical, operatical, surgical, operation," entitled *The Villian of the Piece; or, The Bloodthirsty Bounder of Battersea;* Fred Sheppard, vocalist; Kitty Wager, comedienne; Lambert and Glover (Helen and Fred) in the absurdity *The Wrong Room;* Alexandra Dagmar, comedienne; Lilian Lowe, ballad vocalist; Fred Poplar, comedian; and Harry Conlin, comedian. Haley's pretty musical scena, *The Garden of the Girls*, will be an attraction; and Ruffell's Bioscope will show some up-to-date pictures. Chas. Worland's company will appear in the sporting and dramatic sketch *Black Against White*, with Mr. Andrew Jephtha (the welter-weight champion boxer), Mr. Wilfred H. Benson, and Miss Mabel Wynn in the cast.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THE STORY OF A LOAN.

At the Clerkenwell County Court on Thursday, Jane Ive, administratrix of the estate of the late Albert Robert Ive, of Broadway, Crouch End, sued Geo. Mitchell, of Amherst-road, N., for £22 as money lent to the defendant by the late Mr. Ive.

Counsel for the defendant said his client was occupied in a commercial house in the city, and, following his fancy and to add to his income, he also ran a small musical comedy. The late Mr. Ive was also connected with the latter company, and travelled about with it to work the limelight. About November 17th last Mr. Ive asked Mr. Mitchell if he could repay £20 which he (Mr. Ive) had advanced some time previously. Mr. Mitchell replied that according to the terms of the loan he was entitled to a month's notice to repay. Mr. Ive, however, pressed for repayment, and a few days later, when the company assembled at Cannon-Street Station for departure to Dartford, where they were booked for a performance, Mr. Mitchell approached Mr. Ive, and handed him a paper package containing twenty sovereigns, saying, "Here is the money I promised you." Mr. Mitchell did not get his I.O.U. returned, as on the following day Mr. Ive was taken ill, and became unconscious, in which state he remained until his death.

Defendant gave evidence bearing out his counsel's statement. He said that for some time he ran the comedy company, and in that connection he was known as George Elmer. In March of last year he borrowed the £20. He was to pay interest of 20 per cent. and was to repay at one month's notice. On Nov. 17 he paid the money to Mr. Ive at Cannon-Street Station, and on returning from Dartford he asked for the I.O.U. Mr. Ive said, "You will have it if I have not lost it." That was the last he heard of it, as Mr. Ive was taken ill the next day. When Mr. Ive put the money in his purse he said, "It is nice to have a friend like this," and shook the purse.

Harold Marsh, musical director of the company, said he saw the money handed over. When Mr. Ive was handing it round the railway carriage it caused some comment amongst the company. Some asked for a loan, and another one said, "Let me smell it." (Laughter.) Mr. Ive said, "You can look but you cannot touch." (Laughter.)

Defendant's wife and several members of the company gave similar evidence.

Mrs. Ive said her husband freely discussed his affairs with her, and he told her of the loan, but never that it had been repaid. She felt sure that the receipt of such a sum as £20 would have been mentioned to her, but although they were talking together for some time on the night it was said to have been paid, he did not speak of it. After his death she found the I.O.U.

His Honour said it had been proved up to the hilt that the money had been repaid, unless there had been not only gross perjury, but a gross conspiracy. He gave judgment for the defendant with costs.

A "HUNGARIAN" Bank Holiday is to be enjoyed at Earl's Court on Monday. Special and elaborate preparations have been made for the great gala at the Hungarian Exhibition on that day. Given fine weather the gardens and grounds, now at their summer zenith, will prove a veritable pleasure resort by day and a brilliantly illuminated fairyland by night, all to be enjoyed at a cost of one penny an hour. If, however, the weather be unpropitious it will be found that never has this popular centre of London been better catered for in the way of shelters, attractions and entertainments.

FOREMOST comes, of course, the great Bostock jungle and arena, where Mr. Frank C. Bostock, "The Animal King," true to his American training and methods, will throw open the doors of the Empress Hall simultaneously with the opening of the Exhibition gates. For twelve hours an attractively assorted continuous programme will be given, and all the famous collection of savage beasts, strange birds, venomous reptiles, &c., including Consul I., the human chimpanzee, Wee Wee, the smallest horse in the world, the glass-eyed lion, the alligator with the broken jaw, the baby sea-lions, and the sacred tattooed beast will be available to visitors.

IN the beautiful al-fresco summer ballroom, which is free to all, dancing on the maple floor will go on from 2 p.m. to 11 p.m. There will be playing of tuneful selections and melodies in various parts of the grounds and buildings by no fewer than five British and Hungarian bands and orchestras, H.M. Irish Guards, Hungarian Cadets, Racz's Tzigane, Miskolczy's Hungarian Gipsies, and Groves' Quadrille Band. Uninterrupted merriment and amusement are assured by the Chute, Ice Caverns, Coal Mine, Auto-Rail, Ballooning, Pharos, Cinematograph, Bush Maze, and a full measure of other interesting features.

MR. ALFRED BUTT has prepared a strong programme at the Palace Theatre on Monday. Miss Maud Allan will give her new dances, selected from and illustrative of Tschaikowsky's tuneful "Casse-Noisette" series; and Mr. Walter C. Kelly, now entering upon the final weeks of his London season with his amusing *Virginian Judge* monologue, will also make some changes in his entertainment. Quite new to England is La Belle Oterita, a very prepossessing young Spanish singer and dancer; she is also an instrumentalist, her guitar solos being extremely popular in Spain. Mlle. Juliette's educated sea-lions with some fresh tricks form another attraction; and the return is announced of those capital eccentric acrobats Spissell Brothers and Mack. Miss Beatrice Lindley, another artist who has temporarily deserted the regular stage for variety, will give a number of imitations of the various styles of popular players. Other artists appearing will be the Brothers Egbert, Nipper Lane, Miss Eileen Douglas, Bromley and Fontein, and Miss Alice Ellison. An important feature will be the inclusion for the first time of the famous Urbanora animated pictures, which are generally acknowledged to be amongst the finest of their kind.

FOR Bank Holiday week at the New Brighton Tower Theatre, in addition to the Towerscope, which is furnished by the Welsker Bros., of Liverpool, an exhibition of up-to-date pictures, the programme will include the Four Scoreys, comedy musicians and contortionists; Miss Mollie Doon, an exceptionally clever young vocalist and dancer; and Messrs. Herbert and Lisbon, the trick dancers and comedians. The management of the Tower give entrance to the theatre now free to all who pay the admission fee to the grounds, but reserve a number of seats at 3d. and 6d. each. This arrangement has proved very popular.

THE profits of the Palace Theatre, Ltd., for the year ending July 26, subject to audit, amount to upwards of £43,000, and after deducting interest on mortgage, there remains a balance of £40,000. The directors propose to write off the amount expended on carrying out County Council requisitions, &c., amounting to £5,000, leaving a balance of £35,000. To this amount must be added the balance brought forward from last year, amounting to £15,250, making in all a total of £50,250. An interim dividend at the rate of ten per cent. has already been paid, and the directors recommend the payment of a further dividend at the rate of thirty per cent. per annum (making twenty per cent. for the year), and leaving to be carried forward to next year a balance of £32,250.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Sir H. Edward Moss, the Chairman of Moss' Empires, Ltd., has been telling in *Pearson's Weekly* "how he climbed the ladder." The dates of events range from 1852 to 1908. In one of the columns the following facts are enumerated:—"Gave much thought as to how I could become the Laird of Middleton, Midlothian. Quitted family roof tree. Started out on tour with a piano and one companion. Lost the capital, and retired from management. Managed a diorama of the Franco-Prussian War. Noticed an advert. in local paper stating that a grand piano would be given away to the first caller at an address in Campbeltown. At once sent a man and cart for it, and, to my surprise, got the piano. Thereby hangs a tale. Laid foundation of my fortune by opening the Gaiety, Edinburgh. Audience for first half hour consisted of a solitary pressman. First carnival at the Waverley Market, Edinburgh. Rent then £150; now pay £2,000. President of Entertainment Committee of the King's Coronation Dinners to the poor."

On the other side of the ladder are the following statements:—"Born Manchester, 1852. Started to learn the piano under protest. Educated Edinburgh, Glasgow; music training under Mr. Andrew Banks. Went to Greenock as general manager and chef d'orchestre of my father's theatre—the first theatre of varieties at Greenock. At Greenock. Also Saturday nights with company at Port-Glasgow and entertainments at watering places and holiday resorts. Uphill fight at first, but when things at their worst conceived the bold idea of bringing London stars to the Gaiety, the fortunes of which were soon afterwards assured. During this time purchased the Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, and also the lease of the Tyne Music Hall, and christened it the Gaiety. Edinburgh Empire built and opened. Before and after this building and opening Empires all over the country. Created Moss' Empires, Ltd. Invaded London. Opened the London Hippodrome. Made a Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant for County of the City of Edinburgh. Decorated by the Shah of Persia. Knighted.

The Music Hall Home committee desire to thank Mrs. O'Brien, of Rule's, Maiden-lane, for box collections of 17s. 9d.; Mr. George Harris, of Hippodrome, Portsmouth (per Fred Neiman) for the amount of £2 8s. 6d., being box collections during a few weeks; and Mr. Stubbs, of the Equestrian, Blackfriars-road, for his kindness. Benj. Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, would be glad to receive any men's old clothes or boots; also any cards that are still out with money upon them. Ten old professionals are still being cared for by the fund. The next committee meeting will be held on Thursday next, at twelve o'clock, at the Palace, Camberwell.

Entries for the Music Hall Sports will now be accepted, and will be received until the first post on Tuesday morning. Prizes have been received from Mr. Masters, Mr. Gibbons, and several others.

Mr. J. W. Curzon, manager of the Curzon Sisters, writes:—"As a number of somewhat exaggerated reports have appeared as to the recent accident to the Sisters Curzon (the Flying Butterflies) at the Manchester Hippodrome, and there seems a disposition in some quarters to blame Mr. Oswald Stoll and myself for allowing such a performance, will you kindly allow me to state briefly the facts? The act has been performed without the slightest mishap for two and a half years at American and other halls, and at the London Hippodrome so recently as a week ago. Under normal conditions, therefore, although 'daring' it is not 'dangerous.' After entering into the Manchester contract I became aware that the local Hippodrome not only gave two shows a night but three matinées, a total of fifteen shows per week. The Sisters had never played more than two performances in one day; and believing that three might be too severe a demand on the strength of my wife and sister-in-law, I asked that they should be excused from the afternoon performances.

"This Mr. Stoll agreed to, but, unfortunately, the permit did not reach me until after the matinée performance on Tuesday had been given. At the subsequent evening show—a moment before it should have ended—the younger of the Sisters fell and fractured a small bone in her wrist, and sustained a severe shock; she did not, however, sustain concussion of the brain, as has been reported. There is no doubt now that my sister-in-law was physically unfit for the third performance; but, plucky artist that she was, she did not want to disappoint her public. I am glad to say that she is going on well, and I shall be grateful if you will allow me to thank our many friends for their kind enquiries, and especially to recognise the kindness of Mr. Stoll and his various assistants."

Mr. James Wright, the theatrical representative of the London and North-Western Railway Company, desires us to correct an error that crept into the columns of the *Referee* in reference to the subject of the fresh railway concessions to bands of touring artists. It was stated that "breaks" in the journeys would be permitted, but this is not so. The new arrangement—which comes into force on January 1st, and which has been agreed to by all the railway companies—will grant the privilege of the three-quarter fare rate from point to point, with *no break on the journey*, to bands, concert parties, travelling orchestras, minstrels, handbell-ringers, and so forth. By this concession such parties as those referred to will enjoy the same economical benefits as those which have been for some time past granted to theatrical companies—a concession, we venture to say, that will be greatly appreciated by those in whose behalf it is made.

Lord George Sanger's freehold property, the grand Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, is to be sold or let on lease for five, seven, or ten years. The property includes the magnificent ball-room, measuring about 250ft. by 50ft., the theatre of varieties, commodious refreshment bars, and a billiard saloon, the whole being fully licensed. Also on the property are charming rustic promenade gardens and a big area of land adapted for sports of every description.

An offer was made to Dorando Pietri, the hero of the Marathon Race, by Mr. Harry Goodson, Mr. Harry Day's able lieutenant, to appear for a week at two or three London music halls. Dorando accepted the offer apparently under a misunderstanding, and signed a contract to that effect. When his Italian friends explained the position to him he tried at once to break his engagement. Having failed, however, to obtain his release he consented to appear on condition that the amount mentioned in the contract should be handed over—half to the Italian Hospital in London and half to an English hospital.

Signor Dorando appeared on Monday night at the Hammersmith Palace, the Oxford, and the Tivoli Theatres. After the depiction of the race by the Bioscope the Italian hero came forward, dressed in the knickerbocker suit he wore on Saturday at the Stadium. He said: "I thank the British public from my heart for their fair play, and the kind appreciation with which they encouraged me and the other competitors between Windsor and the Stadium. Whatever happens to me, I shall never forget their kindness."

The Pavilion, Abertillery, is closed for renovation, but will open next week. Everything is being done to make the house comfortable, and the standard of talent is being raised weekly.

Mr. Mark Lorne, for the last eighteen months acting-manager at the Mansfield Hippodrome Theatre, has been appointed to a similar position at the Grand Theatre.

Mr. Frank Coyle will next week be paying his annual visit to the Alhambra, Morecambe. He is a prime favourite amongst the Yorkshire Tykes, being one himself. Mrs. Coyle and Miss Violet Coyle and "Aunty Coyle" will be present on this occasion.

Mr. John George Silvester Holmes, the genial "giant" who acts as doorkeeper at Pickard's Museum, Trongate, Glasgow, was married on the 23rd ult. in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church there, and the ceremony attracted some attention, especially as General Tom Thumb was expected to have officiated as best man. Indisposition, however, prevented this, but an enterprising cinematograph operator took films of the giant and his bride as they left the church.

That very original comedian Tom Joy should have given a trial turn at the Pavilion on Monday, July 27, but Mr. F. Glenister being away on his holiday, Mr. Joy received a telegram asking him not to come up to town. Ten minutes after he had received the wire Mr. J. Diacoff, the manager of the Alexandria, Pontefract, secured Mr. Joy, at a large increase, for another week.

Messrs. Beanland and Emerson have secured a long lease of the Albert Theatre, Brighouse, and will re-open the house on Monday as a high-class variety theatre. They intend to present drama and musical comedies occasionally, booking only first-class companies. The theatre has been entirely renovated, and a complete system of electric lighting is now being installed. Messrs. Beanland and Emerson have appointed Mr. T. P. Duignan, late of the Empire Theatre, Belfast, and Hippodrome, Blackpool, acting-manager.

Much ingenuity is displayed by Mr. A. E. Pickard, of the Panopticon, Glasgow, in the designation he gives himself on his daybills and advertisements. One week these read "Impresario—A. E. Pickard, Unlimited"; next week he is Enterpreneur, then Director of Ceremonies, Man at the Wheel, Captain of the Ship, &c., &c. Lately he has been figuring as Canadian Explorer and Big-game Hunter, commemorating his holiday in the States and Canada recently.

The newly-constructed Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate, including a Grand Hotel and five shops, with every modern improvement, recently carried out by Mr. Frank Matcham, architect, and accommodating 2,000 people, is to be sold or let on lease. The only cause of sale is the fact that Lord Geo. Sanger is now in his 81st year; but the veteran showman can be interviewed at the Hall-by-the-Sea during the next month, and afterwards at Park Farm, East Finchley, N.W.

Mr. W. Townsend Collins's sketch, *The Sheriff and the Rosebud*, which we noticed on its production at the Manchester Hippodrome, in June, was put on at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, on Monday. The piece is adapted from a story by Horace A. Vachell. Mr. Lionel Atwill distiguished himself in the part of the Sheriff, and Miss Ida C. Morgan made an excellent impression as Sadie. The sketch was extremely well received.

The new Hippodrome, Scarborough, which was designed by Mr. Frank Tugwell, of Scarborough, the whole of the reconstruction being carried out under his personal supervision, was opened on Monday by the Mayor of Scarborough (Mr. Valentine Fowler). Miss Marie Peacock, daughter of the managing-director, sang a verse of the National Anthem, and Mr. Frank A. Tugwell, the architect, presented the Mayor with a gilt key. In the excellent variety company which appeared were Bella and Bijou; the Martellonis, lady acrobats; Mallia and Bart, Continental eccentrics; and those very rapid dancers, the Sousloffs.

Mrs. Fioni's enterprising management of the Blackpool Hippodrome received further recognition this week. On Wednesday the Mayor, Mr. James Battersby, J.P., and Mrs. Battersby, accompanied by the Deputy Mayor, Mr. Councillor Hill, J.P., Mr. Henry Singleton, J.P., of Poulton, and Miss Singleton, Mr. and Mrs. Bibby and friends, paid their first visit to the Hippodrome. One of the features of the programme was an animated picture of a trip from Blackpool to Lytham, introducing scenes at the Blackpool Agricultural Show, the Waterloo Bowling Handicap, the *Manchester Chronicle* Cinderella Children's Holiday Camp, The Fairhaven Lake, the Golf Links, the Tennis Court, and the beautiful Green Drive. Amongst the artists appearing were the Brothers Obo, laughing comedians; Arthur Astill, whistler and mimic; and Will Doran and company. At the conclusion of the programme the Mayor and Mayoress complimented Mrs. Fioni on the excellence of the entertainment.

The new Hippodrome at Middlesbrough is rapidly approaching completion. During the past week good progress has been made, and it is proposed to open the building on the 17th inst. The Hippodrome is situated in High Wilson-street, which is practically in the centre of the town, and runs off the main road. It is about two minutes' walk from the North-Eastern Railway Station. The building is of red pressed bricks, with an ornamental terra-cotta frontage. The height of the building inside is 54ft. to the gallery, and from the auditorium 45ft., the total height of the building from the floor to the roof being 76ft. The auditorium is 80ft. by 75ft. 6in., and the extent over all is 132ft. in length and the width 105ft. The proscenium opening is 41ft. wide and 31ft. high, the total length of the stage being 76ft. The flies are 22ft. above the stage, and the grid 49ft. above. Altogether there is seating accommodation for 2,500 people, and the holding capacity is 3,000.

There are two boxes—one on each side of the stage. Special precautions have been taken in the event of an outbreak of fire. The dressing-rooms number fourteen, and everything for the comfort of the artists is being made. A new feature in connection with this music hall is a corridor which will accommodate 400 people outside of the building, and who may shelter when the weather is inclement. There is also a glass cover in the front of the main entrance in High Wilson-street. Only one refreshment bar is provided, and that is at the back of the circle. The building has been constructed to the designs and plans of Mr. G. F. Ward, architect, Birmingham, by Messrs. Parkinson and Sons, Ltd., contractors, of Blackpool. The place is being admirably decorated by Messrs. A. R. Dean, of Birmingham, and electric fittings, motors, switchboards, &c., are being fitted by Messrs. Thomas Rooke and Co., of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The electricity is to be supplied by the Middlesbrough Corporation. Mr. Fred Inchcliffe, of Leeds, has been engaged as musical-director. The directors of the theatre are Mr. J. Price, of Carlisle, and Signor Pepi, of Darlington. The prices of admission to the hall will be the same as at other local music halls.

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of Mr. Harry Lundy, formerly manager of the Oxford Music Hall, and later of the Royal, Holborn. The sad event took place at Farningham, Kent, on Wednesday morning. A brief biography appears elsewhere.

Mr. Leon Bassett, who has for the past ten years held the post of musical director at the Camberwell Palace of Varieties, terminates his engagement to-day to take up the position of musical director at the Oxford, commencing on Monday. Mr. Bassett is highly popular throughout the music hall profession, as well as among the general public, and has the good wishes of a host of friends.

Mr. Bransby Williams concludes his tour of Moss' Empires this week. He has hardly in any week ever repeated the same show, making some change at each performance, and is glad to record a great success. From Monday next he is resting with his family at his house at Selsey. He will resume work, after his holiday, at Douglas, Isle of Man, where he will appear for two weeks. He will be unable to accept tempting offers to return to America owing to his engagements and to his appearance in pantomime at Bristol.

Mr. Albert Chevalier, who has an excellent part in the new drama at Drury Lane, has been re-engaged by Mr. Oswald Stoll for a special fortnight at the Coliseum, commencing on Monday. He is to appear as Turby in a condensed version of the old farce *The Goose With the Golden Eggs*, which he has played in 300 times on tour. This will be for the first week of the engagement; for the second he will enact Achille Talma Dufard, in *Behind the Scenes*, a condensed version of *The First Night*. Messrs. E. W. Garden; Harry Brett, Arthur Brankston, Bertie Baxter, and Misses Mabel Garden and Daisy Irvine will support Mr. Chevalier in the amusing piece.

Mr. Harry Williams, well known in Australian and American variety circles, who has been so dangerously ill in London, is returning to Australia per s.s. Omrah, Orient Co., Mr. Harry Rickards having generously paid his passage and presented him with a cheque. In addition to thanking Mr. Rickards, Mr. Williams also wishes to express his debt of gratitude to Mr. Horace Wheatley and those of his Australian friends who so kindly rallied round him and helped him to attain convalescence at Bournemouth.

Miss Lil Hawthorne, who has travelled all over the world, had a curious experience in Germany. When she first came over to England she had her two sisters with her, and they were known as the Sisters Hawthorne. Though they could not speak German they accepted a contract to appear at Hamburg; but when they tried to get out at the railway station there the sagacious police for some reason put them under arrest. As the police were hospitable as well as sagacious, they lodged the pretty sisters in a comfortable cell to ruminate at leisure over their misdeeds. Miss Lil, however, kept repeating "Hansa Saal"—the name of the music hall where they were to appear—so someone with more perception than the others telephoned to the manager there and everything was soon put right. It was hardly a cordial reception to the city, but the police evidently thought that they were spies.

Mr. George Gray will pay a welcome return visit to Hackney Empire next week, when he will give *The Fighting Parson*. Mr. Gray tells a most amusing story of an experience in a certain Scottish town. He was playing *The Road to Ruin*, and the pathos of the play was almost spoilt by the number of yelling infants who had been brought in by their mothers. Mr. Gray's kind heart could not suggest that children in arms should be barred, but he hit on a novel plan. On the following day he and several of his company scoured the town in a search for chemists' shops. Eventually they bought up all the babies' comforters, commonly known as "teats," they could lay their hands on, and in the evening Mr. Gray stationed two men each at the pit and gallery entrances. Every woman carrying a child was presented with a "teat," with the result that during the rest of the week *The Road to Ruin* was not disturbed by squalls.

Mr. Leon Bassett, who will take up his position as musical-director at the Oxford on Monday, has a great reputation as a maestro, having started his career under that fine conductor Edwin Bosanquet, at the Canterbury, when that house was the most popular in London. Among other appointments which Mr. Bassett has held is that of leader for the late Dan Godfrey. He was musical-director at the opening of the Blackpool Tower, and also at the Gaiety, Chatham, where he remained for four years, the Croydon Palace, and the Palace, Camberwell, at which last establishment he has been engaged for ten years. One of Mr. Bassett's chief features is his method of utilising the harp, a practice which was only usual in the orchestras for grand opera purposes.

When a week or so ago the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Birmingham Gaiety Theatre of Varieties was held, it was reported that the result of the year's trading would not allow of the payment of a dividend, and a long discussion took place on the offer of the directors to place their resignation in the hands of the shareholders with a view to the board of directorate being composed mainly of Birmingham gentlemen. It was eventually decided to adopt this suggestion, and the meeting was adjourned until Wednesday morning in order that the question of the reconstitution of the board might be further considered. There was again a good attendance of shareholders, and ultimately the following directors were appointed to act for the ensuing twelve months only:—Messrs. F. A. Badman, Harry Lewis, F. Bird, and J. M. Bruce. Mr. Lewis is appointed chairman, a position he occupies at the local Theatre Royal

In the course of the second performance at the Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool, on Saturday last, the opportunity was taken by the staff to present to Mr. Harry Burns a small token of the regard and esteem in which he is held by them, and in recognition of his having concluded the lesseeship of that popular hall of entertainment. A gold-mounted fountain pen from the staff and a gold-mounted cigar-holder from a well-known patron were presented to Mr. Burns by Mr. Harry Thorpe (of Thorpe and Coe), who, in the course of a neat speech, alluded to Mr. Burns's popularity as caterer for the amusement of theatre-goers in the Hartlepools. Mr. Burns, he said, was always courteous to the artists and staff, and he was sure that everybody with whom he became associated, either professionally or socially, joined in their congratulations.

Mr. Burns, amid lond cheers, suitably acknowledged the kindness of his friends. It had always, he said, been his aim to provide them with an entertainment of a high standard, and from the support he had received he believed that his efforts were highly appreciated. Now that he was leaving them, he sincerely hoped that when he opened with his new venture—at the Hippodrome, Stockton—he would be equally well supported. The Hippodrome, Stockton, he said, in conclusion, would be opened on Aug. 3. The proceedings concluded with the singing of "For he's a jolly good fellow," the audience joining in heartily.

Some three years ago, on the advice of Mr. Harry Masters, Mr. John Lawson made the experiment of playing three sketches per week at one hall. So successful was the innovation that Mr. Lawson has been playing a répertoire of sketches ever since. It will be noticed that the idea has been copied by many, but without success, not having the material. Mr. Lawson scores by the fact of his having W. W. Jacobs, Louis N. Parker, Cecil Raleigh, and J. Spencer Sutcliffe as authors for his various works. On his return to town Mr. Lawson will produce a new episode from the pen of Mr. Sutcliffe, whose sketch, *Pigs in Clover*, has made such a hit on the Stoll tour.

Miss Kitty Ransburn, the "Girl in Black and White," who is on tour with popular songs which, she is careful to state, are her own property, has been specially engaged for pantomime by Mr. Geo. Brydon Phillips. She will appear at the Oxford on the 10th inst.

Mr. Fred W. Fitt, part proprietor and manager of the Norwich Hippodrome, is, and has been for some time past, a councillor for the city of Norwich. The term of his office expires in November of this year, and he is offering himself for re-election. We wish him every success.

Scottie, of Scottie's Waifs, was enabled to give 1,287 poor children of Battersea a good breakfast on Saturday by reason of the number of post-cards he sold during the week. He hopes to improve upon that number at the Surrey Theatre to-day.

The sketchette, *Find the Lady First*, performed by Miss Adele Levey and Mr. Charles Leverton, was a great success at the Empress, Brixton, at a matinée on Wednesday, and was retained for the rest of the week.

That clever society entertainer, Miss Ethel Walker, has been making an excellent impression at the Pavilion, Newcastle, and a local paper describes her as a "chic personality that pleases everybody."

Miss Lillie Lassah, who is making a great success at Blackpool this week, has been engaged by Mr. Bannister Howard as principal boy in the Crystal Palace pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*.

Mohamed Ben Mohamed and his nine genuine Souasa Arabs left Stalybridge on Sunday, 12.10 p.m., and arrived at Cologne the next day in time for a matinée, which was certainly quick travelling.

Mr. Billy Downes, comedian, late "Newman and Downes," and later "Downes and Langford," was initiated into the mysteries of the Terriers' Association on Sunday last. Griff, in the chair, performed the ceremony.

Miss Rose Moncrieff's company in the new sketch *The Curate*, by Rass Challis, has made a great success this week at the Battersea Palace, and the merits of the little play are keenly appreciated.

Miss Bertha Stuart, the favourite Scotch vocalist, concludes to-night a brilliant success on the Moss-Stoll tour, and opens again with them next year. On Monday she will appear at the Tivoli and Euston, remaining in London for seven months.

Syd May, the mimic, opened at the London Coliseum last Monday, and at the conclusion of his afternoon turn was offered thirty weeks' engagement to tour America.

Mr. John Baker, F.C.A., of Eldon-street House, E.C., was unanimously elected auditor of the Tivoli Company at its annual general meeting on the 29th ult.

The Arthur Gallimore Trio will return to London on Monday after five months' tour, including the Continent. They will go to America in 1909.

Miss Kitty Clinton, another recruit from musical comedy, has been very busy this year with the Moss-Stoll, Gibbons, Macnaghten, and Syndicate halls, and has been engaged by Mr. Lester Collingwood as principal boy in his pantomime of 1908-9.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. France (Miss Edith Stewart), who have recently been spending a well-earned holiday at Deal, have returned to London and resumed work with their popular sketch *The 100 to 1 Chance*. They will commence a month's exclusive engagement at the Oxford with it on Monday.

Miss Madge Temple, the charming Fenella in the operetta of that name at the Coliseum, is delighting good houses at the Euston with her "Kiss" song and "Esau, take me on the see-saw," both numbers being given with all possible expression and piquancy by this cultured vocalist, who is repeating triumphs won at the Oxford and Tivoli.

Dunning and Kahn and Kahn have arranged to tour with Mr. Willie Frame's concert party in Scotland in 1909 and 1910. The two artists are friends of twenty years' standing. Mr. Dunning will present several novelties in the course of the tour, and is looking forward to the trip as a pleasant change from the halls.

Miss Carrie Swain, who makes her first appearance in London at the Coliseum on Monday next, after a great success in America, made her first decided hit in Australia with her performance in *Cud the Tomboy*, a protean play, which found much favour at the Antipodes. A lucky investment in mining stock added to the financial good fortune of Miss Swain, and for the past few years she has been residing in Paris. A tempting offer from an American manager has induced Miss Swain to emerge from retirement for a short time, and she is realising her one ambition, to appear before a London audience. Miss Swain has a fine voice, and is a very clever dancer.

Ever since the classic Marathon Race was won—and lost—controversy has raged round the name of Pietro Dorando as to the precise manner of his arrival at the Stadium, and as to the amount of assistance he received before reaching the tape. Nothing, however, but photography can settle the point beyond dispute, and at the Empire—whose management has obtained the sole West-End rights of all pictures taken inside the Stadium—a film is shown every night depicting every detail of Dorando's entry into the Stadium and his struggle round the building to the tape, interrupted by his unfortunate collapses. It may be added that the entire progress of the race from Windsor to the Stadium is recorded by the Empire Bioscope.

On Monday morning the decree in the divorce suit, Funk *v.* Funk, was made absolute by the President, Sir John Gorell Barnes, in the Divorce Division of the High Court of Justice. The suit, it may be remembered, was brought by the wife, Mrs. Florence Funk, professionally known as Miss Florrie Gallimore, against the husband, Florian Funk, better known as Florian Fretelli. The grounds of the suit were allegations of adultery and cruelty, and the decree nisi and costs and custody of the child of the marriage was pronounced by the President on Jan. 14 last. Mr. W. H. Armstrong, of 1, Renfrew-road, Lambeth, acted for the wife (Miss Florrie Gallimore), the petitioner. The suit was undefended.

A mass meeting will be held, under the auspices of the International Artists' Lodge, at the Hotel Provence, Leicester-square, to-morrow (Sunday) evening at 7.30. Mr. Robt. Steidl will preside, and a full explanation of the events which led up to the boycotting of the Apollo, Dusseldorf; Reichshallen, Cologne; Olympia, Dortmund; Colosseum, Essen; and Thalia, Elberfeld, by the International Artists' Lodge, the Variety Artists' Federation, and the White Rats of America will be given (in English) by Mr. Wm. Berol, special I.A.L. delegate from Berlin. On Tuesday, at noon, Mr. Berol will speak at a specially-convened meeting at the V.A.F. and M.H.A.R.A. offices, 46, Sydney-street, Manchester. On Wednesday he will be heard at a special meeting at the V.A.F. Agency, Adelphi Hotel, Blackpool. On Thursday Mr. Berol will travel to Liverpool, and will explain the cause of the dispute between the Continental artists and Directors at a special meeting to be held at the new M.H.A.R.A. and V.A.F. offices, 21, Houghton-street.

Mr. Albert Voyce presided at the 570th meeting of the executive committee of the M.H.A.R.A. on Wednesday at the offices of the Association. He was supported by Messrs. Fred Herbert, F. Albini, Harry Bancroft, Sid Bandon, R. Abel, W. H. Atlas, Jack Collinson, Fred W. Millis (V.P.), Bernard Stavordale, John Alexander, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). By a ballot of the committee it was decided to present an illuminated address to Mrs. Egerton, who has represented the Association in Liverpool for many years, and is resigning the position on the opening of the new branch office. With regard to the letter sent to certain members by the secretary last week asking why they had not attended the weekly meetings, it was settled that those who had not replied should be considered to have resigned in accordance with the rules. Two members attended before the committee and made explanations regarding the loss of a concession, and various cases of applications for refunds were dealt with. The weekly financial statement, which was passed, showed a cash total of £37 4s. and thirty-three new members.

Mr. C. J. Carter, the prestidigitateur, has been appearing for a week in Hong Kong, where he played to capacity business every night. He opened on Saturday, June 13, at the local Lyceum Theatre to a house crowded to the doors, the receipts being $1800, and the seats were sold in advance for a week. One year more will complete Mr. Carter's trip all over the world. His route lay from Shanghai, through Tientsin, Pekin, Tsingtau, Vladivostock, Manchuria, Kobe, Yokohama, and Tokio, Japan, thence to Singapore.

Mr J. R. Huddlestone, the manager of the Winter Gardens, Blackpool, was married on Monday at St. Anne's Parish Church, Blackpool, to Mme. Frieda Rocca-Kaczka, of Nice, and formerly of Paris. The ceremony, which was fully choral—the singing being led by a surpliced choir—was performed by the Rev. H. E. Butler (vicar of St. Anne's), who was accompanied by the Rev. Chambre Vaughan (Silverdale, Staffs.). The bride, who was given away by her eldest brother, M. Henri Kaczka, was attired in a lovely Empire gown, with semi-court train of dark salmon-coloured Liberty silk trimmed with old lace, the upper portion being handworked. She wore a broad belt of black satin with long streamers down the back, at the ends of which were gold tassels. Her hat was a delightful creation; it was a large black picture hat with huge black ostrich plumes. She also carried a lovely shower bouquet of pink carnations and lilies of the valley.

The bride was attended by two little girls as bridesmaids—Miss Henriette Kaczka (niece of Mme. Rocca-Kaczka and daughter of M. and Mme. Gustave Kaczka) and Miss Amy Bannister (daughter of Mr. T. Bannister, of Banastre Holme, St. Annes, mutual friend of bride and bridegroom)—who were dressed in white lace, with hats to match trimmed with blue silk. They carried pretty baskets of pink roses. The bridegroom was attended by Mr. T. Bannister (St. Annes and Blackpool) as best man, and Mr. C. R. Hardman (of South Shore), one of the directors of the Winter Gardens Company, acted as groomsman.

The church was crowded with guests to the number of over 100, and, in addition, there were also over 400 employés from the Winter Gardens, inclusive of the members of the popular ballet *The Belle of Andalusia*. Thirty Winter Gardens attendants formed a guard of honour from the church gates to the entrance of the church, and saluted as the party passed along. The church was beautifully decorated by Mr. T. Heaton, head-gardener at the Winter Gardens. A reception was held near the font after the ceremony by Mr. and Mrs. Huddlestone, accompanied by M. and Mme. H. Kaczka and M. and Mme. G. Kaczka. When the French guests came along each lady and gentleman saluted the bride and bridegroom with a kiss on either cheek and wished them every happiness.

A banquet was afterwards given at the Grand Hotel to over 100 guests, and the health of the bride and bridegroom was proposed in a short speech by Mr. C. R. Hardman, and was eloquently responded to by the bridegroom. Mr. James Pearson (chairman of the Winter Gardens Company) proposed the healths of the families of the bride and bridegroom, and commented on the loss one family had sustained and the gain the other had received. Mr. H. Kaczka (the eldest brother of the bride), M. G. Kaczka, and Mr. Jos. H. Huddlestone all responded. The toast of "The Ladies" was proposed by Mr. Hebben, and responded to by Mr. Harry Bannister.

The employés and girls of the ballet made the journey to St. Annes in special cars supplied by the Blackpool, St. Annes, and Lytham Tramways Co. The members of the choir and the bellringers were invited to the Opera House in the evening. Amongst the guests were Mr. Badman, Mr. and Mrs. T. Bannister, Miss Annie Bannister, Mr. Harry Bannister, Mr. Bottomley, Mme. Brunet, Rev. and Mrs. H. E. Butler, Miss Casson, Mr. and Mrs. Collins, Mr. and Mrs. Cox, Mrs. and Miss Girdlestone, Mr. Jos. H. Huddlestone, Miss Huddlestone, Miss S. A. Huddlestone, Mrs. Wm. Huddlestone, Mr. Percy Huddlestone, Miss Rosa Huddlestone, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Hardman, Mr. Ernest and Mr. Harold P. Hardman, Mr. Otto Herger, Mrs. Hebden, M. and Mme. Henri Kaczka, M. and Mme. Gustave Kaczka, M. and Mme. Maurice Kaczka, M. and Mme. Lucien Kaczka, Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Marlor, Mr. B. H. Marlor, Mr. and Mrs. Nickson, M. and Mme. Oller, Miss Patton, Mr. and Mrs. Peace, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. and Miss Rothwell, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Smith, Mr. G. R. Sims, Mr. and Mrs. J. Tiller, Mr. Keble Howard, Mr. C. E. Hands, Mme. Zertho, Mr. and Mrs. Firth, Dr. and Mme. Malaussena.

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Huddlestone afterwards motored to the Lake District for the honeymoon, the guests spending the evening in the Winter Gardens, dining and supping in the Renaissance Salle-à-manger, and enjoying the programme in the pavilion, where one of the pictures shown on the screen was that of Mr. and Mrs. Huddlestone. There was hearty applause, especially when the orchestra at once commenced Mendelssohn's "Wedding March." The march was also repeated, in place of the usual music, for the final spectacle of the ballet.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Mr. Harry Luck—who is, by the way, not related to the celebrated troupe of pantomimists of the same name—has been inundated with letters asking if his comic song, "Stick it, Jerry!" is obtainable. The number is being placed on the market by Messrs. Francis and Day.

On Saturday night last a scene perhaps unparalleled in the history of the Isle of Man was witnessed at Douglas. It being the close of what is known as "the Glasgow Fair Week," the spacious harbour piers from morn to midnight were thronged with thousands of Scots, with sweethearts, wives, and bairns, all eagerly struggling for the steamers that had been chartered to bear them back to Scotland, and with one accord they were all singing at the top of their voices the ditty Miss Florrie Forde has made the song of the year on the island, to wit, Murphy and Lipton's "Oh, oh, Antonio!" Messrs. Francis and Day are printing the number by the hundred thousand, and now huge orders from Blackpool for the song in its "Sixpenny Pop" form show that the mainland is being bitten by the latest craze in the world of popular song.

Miss Winifred Hare has stayed her triumphant progress round the Stoll tour to snatch a week's well-earned rest. The gifted artist will then complete the tour with a further fortnight, and will then again add to the delights of London. She is delighted with the success of Hermann E. Darewski's "It's better than being a Carnegie," and prophesies that the song will be sung everywhere in Britain before the year closes.

At the Euston during the current week some of Messrs. Francis and Day's songs have loomed very largely. Mr. G. H. Elliott at both houses has charmed all by his artistic rendering of "Sue, Sue, Sue, I'm very much in love with you," and "If the man in the moon were a coon," and Miss Madge Temple's beautiful voice has been heard at its best in "Esau, take me on the see-saw." Miss Cissie Thompson, who has likewise been scoring heavily here, will shortly exploit two new numbers issued by Mr. David Day's firm.

Miss Eileen Douglas will make her reappearance at the Palace on Monday with two new songs, entitled "Rosie's young man" and "Little girl, will you marry me?" from the pens of those clever writers, Fred W. Leigh and Henry E. Pether

Miss Norah Emerald, who is deservedly numbered among our most popular singers of chorus songs, has secured from M. Witmark and Sons the singing rights of "Mr. Man, Man, Man." The song has been greatly in evidence at the Paragon during the current week.

Austin and Cowan, whose delightful singing has been appreciated at home and abroad, scored an enormous success at the Empire, Islington, last Monday night by their artistic rendition of the beautiful song "Star of my life."

The summer season often gives the first impetus to the song which will be popular during the coming pantomimes. "Way down in Colon Town," the characteristic Southern number with which Mr. Andie Caine is making a phenomenal success, has already been secured for a number of the leading London and provincial pantomimes.

M. Witmark and Sons introduced to the British public the peculiar instrumental number "The Mosquito Parade," which has probably been played by every orchestra in Great Britain. They have again been fortunate in a successor to that quaint number in "Teddy Bear's Picnic," which is to be found on nearly every programme this summer, and bids fair to be even more popular.

"Dorando," a song and waltz, by Miss Florry Cooper, will shortly be published, while the enthusiasm for the hero of the Marathon Race is still warm.

Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell's sparkling comedy song, entitled "The little bit of girl inside," which will be specially "featured" by Miss Carrie de Mar on the Percy Williams' circuit, in the U.S.A., early in October, has this week been acquired for publication by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter. Miss de Mar will also sing this song, together with three other compositions, all from the pens of Harrington and Powell, viz., "The windy day girl," "Gentle maiden," and "Winkie Winnie," at the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, where she opens for an exclusive engagement in November next.

Miss Josie Collins, fresh from provincial triumphs, will open at the Tivoli, Strand, on Monday next, where her répertoire will consist of two striking numbers (both published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.), entitled "My Cuban Girl" and "My Pyramid Girl." Miss Collins has already arranged to specially "feature" both of these highly successful numbers in pantomime next Christmas. Miss Katie Marsh is also singing "My Pyramid Girl" at the Empire, Portsmouth, on Monday, and Miss Blanche Vincent is singing "My Cuban Girl" at the Empire, Liverpool.

Three of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s songs will be "on top" for the delectation of holiday-makers at the Oxford on Monday next, to wit, "Parasol for two," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, and "Will you be my Valentine?" by Harrington and Powell, both of which will be rendered by Miss Madoline Rees and Messrs. Harrington and Tabrar's most successful song, "Make haste and send me on a girl," sung by Miss Aimée Roberts.

So great is the success which Miss Kate Carney has achieved with Messrs. Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule's latest big "winner," "From Poverty Street to Golden Square," which she will be singing at the Hippodrome, Brighton, on Monday next, that applications for pantomime permissions for this taking number have poured in upon the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. thick and fast. Miss Florrie Forde is one of the notable artists who have already secured this number for pantomime (at the Theatre Royal, Bradford).

Miss Marie Lloyd will be displaying her latest gorgeous frock in her latest sensationally successful song, "The Directoire Girl," by John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, at sunny Margate next week, where she will be nightly appearing at the local Hippodrome. Rarely, if ever, has the trade demand for a song been so swift and heavy as in the case of this number, which forms No. 107 of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "Sixpenny Successes" series.

Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell are exceptionally busy executing special American orders for songs just now, and are proud of the fact that they number among their many clients such "stars" as Mesdames Anna Held, Alice Lloyd, Lucy Weston, Carrie de Mar, Laddie Cliff, and many others who have "made good" on the other side. Harrington and Powell have had many offers, baited with tempting monetary considerations, from American publishers anxious to exclusively handle their songs, but they prefer, at present at all events, to "keep an open mind" on the subject.

Jean Macduff, the female Scotch comedienne, is making a great success nightly with her latest song, "I'm getting married in the morning," at Rathbone Gardens, Portobello. The song was sung for the first time last Friday, and made an instantaneous success, Miss Macduff having to respond to enthusiastic encores.

CHAT WITH MR. GEORGE LEYTON.

It is only a few weeks since there was held at the Old Ranelagh Gardens, Chelsea, a fête in aid of a fund for the relief and assistance of our veteran warriors. The thought of that successful function brings recollections of the services for a similar worthy object rendered by Mr. George Leyton, the well-known actor-vocalist, whose name is strongly connected with a very noble cause. Mr. Leyton's methods of procedure are as sound as the results therefrom. When visiting a town he at once makes inquiries from the local authorities—police, guardians, &c.—for any veteran who may be under their notice. The most deserving—which is determined by his history and close examination of his discharge sheet—has then a benefit on his behalf. Mr. Leyton relies on the sale among the audience of the words in the stirring songs in his répertoire, chiefly his famous "Boys of the Chelsea School," for proceeds to the fund. Copies of the sheet are sold at the small price of one penny, and £30 is no uncommon sum to realise from a large hall in a week. The manager or some other responsible person is appointed trustee of the total sum, out of which, until it is exhausted, the veteran is

[*Photo by Hana.*

MR. GEORGE LEYTON

allowed from ten shillings to £1 per week. So far the aggregate amount which has been distributed by Mr. Leyton to Crimean veterans throughout the country is £3,060.

Mr. Leyton is to still further exert himself, for there was arranged to take place last night, at the Oxford, a performance partly in aid of the Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans, under the patronage of Lord Roberts, Lord Cheylesmore, the Council of Lord Roberts's Veterans' Fund, Sir George White, the Lord Mayor, and the Sheriffs. The arrangements in connection with it included the presentation by Mr. Leyton, with the assistance of veterans, of his latest military scena, *The Last Muster*.

It has been for some time Mr. Leyton's desire to consolidate a fund so that weekly pensions might be made to Crimean veterans, and thus their poverty would be a thing of the past. This point was embodied in the story of Mr. Leyton's exertions on behalf of the old soldiers which was placed before the King, who caused an acknowledgment to be sent to Mr. Leyton, His Majesty evincing considerable interest in the scheme. With the subject of this sketch military playlets are a speciality, and therefore he can carry on his work for the Crimean soldiers with each new one. In this direction one of Mr. Leyton's previous sketches, entitled *The Wreck of the Birkenhead*, was eminently successful.

Among what might be called Mr. Leyton's "literary relics" a letter, dated June 15, 1907, and signed by fourteen veterans, is particularly prized by its possessor. It reads as follows:—

"To Mr. George Leyton.

"Sir, We, the undersigned veterans of the Crimea and Indian Mutiny, consider it our duty to return thanks for the efforts you so generously make in our behalf. Rest assured, we fully appreciate your kindness in the endeavour to brighten our homes in these our remaining days here, and not one of us is under 72 years, and cannot expect to remain much longer in this world.

"That you may have every success in life is the earnest wish of—"

(Here follow the signatures of the aged men.)

To such a document as this and many others of a like character which have been sent to Mr. Leyton a pathetic interest will attach in years to come. When the veterans whom Mr. Leyton has helped have passed, in the course of nature, to the Land o' the Leal, that gentleman's retrospects will surely be of a pleasant character when he remembers that he did his best to comfort the declining years of men who had fought valiantly for their country, and were not too happily circumstanced before this aid was granted.

But Mr. Leyton has done more than collect money for the cause he has so much at heart. He has furnished money for the payment of the expenses in connection with the burial of several veterans, whose last resting-place might otherwise have been of an exceedingly unpretentious character so far as the outward indication of the places where heroes reposed was concerned. On other occasions Mr. Leyton has employed money and influence to remove old soldiers from the workhouse into an environment which implicated less stigma.

Herbert Lloyd's *Happy Hooligan* company opened their season at Oldham last week with great success. Of the many musical numbers introduced, none was more successful than the stirring march song, "Here comes the minstrel band," which was produced with special novel drum effects, and can safely be said to be the song hit of the piece.

Little Tich will make a welcome return to the Oxford on Bank Holiday. Joe Elvin and company will appear in *Deaf*; Amba Austa, in *Oysters and Clam*; and the incomparable Paul Cinquevalli, a great favourite at the Oxford, is also engaged. Wilkie Bard, whose voice has fortunately mended, after many painful throat operations; France and Stuart, in *100 to 1 Chance*; Clarrissa Talbot and Harry Pearse; Selbo, a clever juggler; H. L. Martine, a clever shoe dancer; Aimée Roberts; Dan Crawley; the Eight College Girls; T. E. Finglass; the Warsaw Bros.; Madoline Rees; Venie Clements; Victoria Monks; and George Leyton, in *The Last Muster*, make a very powerful company. Mr. Leon Bassell will take up the direction of the orchestra from this date, in place of Mr. Ernest Bernhardt.

"PEDLAR SAM;
OR, A DIAMOND IN THE ROUGH."

Sensational Sketch, produced at the Camberwell Empire, on Monday, July 27.

Samuel Jefferson ..... Mr. Frank Hardie
Harry Denby ..... Mr. J. C. Goodman
David Fagg ..... Mr. Arthur Stratton
Jack Sharp ..... Mr. A. N. Body
Madge Denby ..... Miss Irene Carlton

This powerful and interesting playlet held the attention of the audience throughout on Monday on its reproduction by Mr. Frank Hardie and his company at the Empire, Camberwell, and is an excellent specimen of the miniature melodrama so popular at the halls. The principal character is Samuel Jefferson (Pedlar Sam), an amusingly loquacious but kind-hearted Yankee, who makes his appearance at Stony Creek, California, and quickly sets about doing good. Harry Denby, a hard-working gold-digger from the "old country," has been robbed of his little store of wealth—some 200 dollars—and his wife, Madge, suspects that her husband's partner, David Fagg, a ne'er-do-well, is the culprit, although Harry will not believe ill of his "chum." Pedlar Sam has met Denby's little boy near the Creek, and tells Harry and Madge that the youngster will not live unless he gets back to his native air. He also advances them the money for his passage to England, telling them that it is the remembrance of his own son that prompts the kindly action. He then relates how he had gone to New York to see his boy, and found him in an hotel dying, and how he learns that the murderer was David Fagg. He has sworn to be revenged, and has tracked Fagg to Stony Creek, and when Madge tells him that the scoundrel is in a neighbouring drinking den he goes off to find him. Fagg appears, and tries to rob Madge of the 200 dollars given her by the Pedlar, but just as he is about to kill her Jefferson, who is "always on the spot or somewhere darned near it," turns up, and she is saved. When she has gone into the house Pedlar Sam proceeds to settle accounts with his son's murderer, and although he could easily kill him with a revolver, decides on a fair encounter, and the couple have a fight with bowie knives. Disarming Fagg, the Pedlar again has him at his mercy, and again refrains from taking what he thinks a mean advantage, and the fight is renewed without knives. Just as the Pedlar is about to give Fagg his quietus some of the latter's chums appear, and Jefferson is overpowered, brutally ill-treated by Fagg and his gang, and finally secured to a stake to await his execution. Madge, of course, comes to his rescue, and this time Pedlar Sam makes no mistake in his treatment of Fagg, shooting him with a revolver which Madge had in her possession. The acting of Mr. Frank Hardie in the important part of Pedlar Sam largely contributed to the success of the production, the many humorous and sage remarks of the medicine man creating much merriment. Very impressive also was his recital of the speech in which he describes how he found his son in New York; and his encounter with Fagg was realistically enacted. Mr. J. C. Goodman did the little that he had to do as Harry capably; Mr. Arthur Stratton excellently portrayed the brutal Fagg; and Miss Irene Carlton was quite satisfactory as Madge Denby.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

Strong and well-diversified programmes are waging a more than successful fight with the sultry weather, and as a consequence seats are at a premium in this popular hall. Mr. R. A. Roberts is at the top of the bill this week, playing on alternate evenings *Dick Turpin* and *Ringing the Changes*. The former, which was presented on the evening of our visit, is from the pen of Mr. Roberts himself, and forms a capital medium for the display of his gifts as a protean actor. Five characters figure in the cast, all of which are portrayed by Mr. Roberts. They include Turpin, a Bow-street runner, a Yorkshireman, Sally, and the daughter of a nobleman he had held up previously. The speed with which he effects his changes of costume is remarkable, and in addition tribute must be paid to the exceptionally complete way in which the different characters are represented, Turpin, the Yorkshireman, and Sally being character-studies of great excellence. It is needless to say that the audience speedily recognised the value of his performance, his reception at the close being enthusiastic. Anthony Holt, in illustrated songs, proved himself to be the possessor of a powerful voice, singing "She waited by the deep blue sea" and "Good-bye, sweetheart" with great taste and skill. Happy Tom Parker, comedian and dancer, made one of the hits of the evening, singing no less than three songs, "It does make me feel funny," "Keep in the same position," and "I don't know if I'm on my head or my feet," with great effect, and his dancing is also very smart. The Cumberlands gave a particularly smart cycle act, requiring great strength and agility and an equal amount of skill, and their reception was deservedly cordial. Percy Honri proved how effective an instrument the concertina is for solo work in a selection from the overture to *Maritana*, splendidly performed, the audience doing their utmost to induce him to give an encore. Verne and Voyce in a skit, *The Fly Far-man*, present an amusing trifle containing dialogue and singing, both being much to the taste of the house. The Sisters Pine, in a musical-comedy act, do well and gain much applause; the Leonards, in *Point Duty*, a comedy singing act, make a good impression, the gentleman being a good comedian; the Lukushimas, Japanese entertainers, are a skilful and accomplished troupe, the efforts of Otara San, a lady foot equilibrist, being singularly clever. The house was very lavish in applause, which was fully earned. The Bioscope is good this week, and Mr. Fred Camp's orchestra gives as an overture an excerpt from *William Tell*.

CHARLES FISHER "POCKET OPERA" CO. AT DARLINGTON.

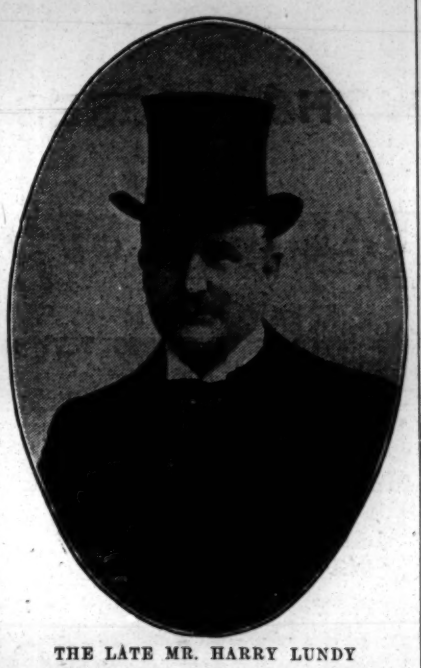
The Charles Fisher "Pocket Opera" Co. are the "star" turn this week. This company, if our memory serves us correctly, were the first to produce "miniature operas" on the variety stage, and although extensively copied, this company still reigns supreme, judging by their performance of a condensation of *Il Trovatore* last night. "Well staged, excellently acted, and delightfully sung" was the popular verdict, and this magnificent trio of voices thoroughly deserved the loud and enthusiastic applause which greeted their efforts.—*Northern Echo and Star*, July 28, 1908.

At the Canterbury Little Tich will head the bill next week, Will Evans and Black versus White being big stars. A very attractive programme will be provided. Fred Lambert, Poplar, Lambert and Glover, Fred Sheppard, Mooney and Holbein, Harry Conlin, Vivian and company, in *The Toy Shop*, Lilian Lowe, Dan Crawley, Shalsy's Garden of Beautiful Girls, Kitty Wager, Alexandra Dagmar, the Four Eugenes, and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

At the Euston on Monday the programme will include the names of J. Leopold and company, in *The Houseboat*, Millie Lindon, Slobrig's Automatons, Bertha Stuart, Eight College Girls, Anthony, Edith Evelyn and company, Dave Carter, Harry Rogerson, Little Victoria, and Amy Clevere.

DEATH OF HARRY LUNDY.

Mr. Harry Lundy, whose death at Farningham on Wednesday morning we have to record with deep regret, began his business career with Mr. Newson Smith, the well-known entertainment accountant, and for some time attended to the checking of the accounts of the London Pavilion. He subsequently undertook the reform of the checking arrangements at the Alhambra, Blackpool; and then, for two years, was manager of the Canterbury under Mr. Payne. This was followed by a four-and-a-half-years engagement in a similar capacity at the Oxford, where Mr. Lundy introduced many successful songs and sketches, including the successful *Over the Sticks* with Joe Elvin, and Leslie Stuart's "Soldiers of the Queen," sung by Mr. Albert Christian. He then returned to the Alhambra, Blackpool, where he controlled affairs for nine months, after which, in the December of 1901, he undertook the management of the Royal, Holborn, which he caused to be rapidly renovated and redecorated, and produced there the celebrated sketch *The Fighting Parson*, with Mr. George Gray in the title-part, and also *The Road to Ruin*, in which that gentleman also appeared. Mr. Lundy was a director of the Glasgow Pavilion; and he engineered many successful ventures in London and the provinces. The



THE LATE MR. HARRY LUNDY

deceased was taken ill at Lambeth on Tuesday, and was removed to Farningham, where he died from heart failure. The funeral will take place at Farningham Church to-day at 12.30 p.m.

THE FORESTERS'.

A particularly bright and entertaining programme is submitted here this week to the patrons of this well-conducted establishment. Miss Gertie Lewis, male impersonator, is one of the latest recruits, and bids fair to become popular; she has a pleasing manner, and is a good dancer. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, in the comedy sketch *True Blue*, supply an enjoyable turn. The gentleman is a genuine humourist; his gags and witty retorts keep the house in a continual ripple of laughter. He is capitally supported by the lady, her clear pronunciation being a special feature. Mr. Harry Merriless, Scotch comedian, possesses a good voice and sings well a parody on "True till death," his second song, in a lady's garb, being "Gang awa' Wullie," which is well received. Miss Josephine Crook, in illustrated songs, is a great favourite, her rendering of "Where is my boy to-night?" and "On the flip-flap" suit the audience to a nicety; Mr. Fred Burton, in a musical speciality act, is entertaining, and displays his abilities by performances on numerous instruments; Kenway and Emerey do a good turn, their little skit, *She Would have a Soldier*, being amusing. Brien McCulloch and company in the sketch *After Balaclava* are effective. The story deals with an old Balaclava hero, who, with his wife, are in extremely poor circumstances, and vainly try and obtain outdoor relief from the workhouse. The rent being due, their few chattels are taken, together with the old veteran's medals. At a meeting of the guardians, the doctor, who is kind-hearted and generous to the poor, is remonstrated with and accused of wasting the ratepayers' money. The old couple arrive, and both die in the guardians' room. Mr. Brian McCulloch has a capital make-up and plays the veteran admirably throughout; Miss B. Fielding as the wife acts with tenderness; as the Doctor, Mr. E. Cwttrim is decidedly good, and the character of Clement Flint, a guardian of the poor, is ably portrayed by Mr. W. H. Brougham. Hewson's Æolians, vocalists and dancers, are a bright combination, the blending of their voices, together with some capital dancing, obtaining for them a hearty reception. Cegar and Elgar, comedians, in *Ye Days of Olde*, are distinctly novel, and with some better material should certainly become favourites. They are possessed of real talent. An interesting competition is taking place this week. Twenty snapshot photographs are exhibited at each performance, and any person in the audience whose photograph is displayed receives five shillings. On the night of our visit there were several lucky recipients of the rewards, which are paid on the stage. Many interesting films are shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Baby's Playmates being specially diverting. Mr. Carl Hamlin leads his tuneful orchestra in masterly fashion.

The Marlborough Theatre, having been cleaned and redecorated, reopens to-day with *The Prodigal Son*. A striking list of autumn bookings include *The Merry Widow*, *The Girls of Gottenburg*, Oscar Asche and Lily Brayton, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, *Miss Hook of Holland*, *The Gay Gordons*, F. R. Benson, *The Sins of Society*, and *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*.

At a special meeting of the Cardiff Watch Committee on the 21st ult. an application was received for the transfer of the licence of the Theatre Royal from Mr. Robert Redford to Mr. Balmain, of London. It was stated that up to that time Mr. Balmain had not produced the licence, and there was no request for a transfer from Mr. Redford as holder, two conditions that ought to be observed before the transfer was granted. It was decided, subject to the production of the licence and a written request from Mr. Redford, and also to a favourable report from the medical officer of health and head-constable being received, that the necessary transfer be granted.

At the South London Tom Leamore will return to the scene of many triumphs on Bank Holiday, and F. Wynne and company will present their powerful scena *The Light at the Window*. Others engaged are Hallam and Stanton, Selbo, La Danseuse, Hinton and Wooton, in their bicycle act, Barrie Lupino, and Ada Cerito.

MAUD ALLAN'S ADVENTURES.

Miss Maud Allan, like Miss Minnie Hauk and other American celebrities, has been captured by Indians in her youth. "I was five years old," she says in the *Weekly Dispatch*, "when we moved from Canada to San Francisco. In our party were my mother and father, my nursery governess, and myself. The train had stopped somewhere to take in water. It was not even a station—just a halt amid miles upon miles of apparently deserted plains. A number of Red Indians came up to sell baskets, moccasins, beads, and trinkets to the passengers. My mother was chatting with some friends, and my governess let go my hand for a moment to look at the curios. I am told I was a very pretty child. I had fair hair and blue eyes, and as I looked at the strangers with childish curiosity they returned my stare. Two of them exchanged remarks in a gutteral undertone.

"The next moment I was caught up and being rushed off in the arms of one of the squaws at a tremendous rate. The suddenness and unexpectedness of it must have dazed me for the moment. At any rate, I did not cry out. What would have been my fate but for the sharp eyes of a railway official I do not know. The Indians have been known to hold children to ransom. There are several cases known in which little girls have been stolen to become a kind of goddess or queen to some particular tribe. The passengers were getting aboard the train when my mother and my governess simultaneously missed me. There was a great outcry. Then one of the conductors espied two squaws scuttling away across the prairie, and with them a glint of golden hair. 'There she is!' he cried.

"At once my parents, the passengers, conductors, and I believe even the engine-drivers, streamed across the long grass after the flying squaws. For a moment or two the Indians held on. One or two of the men following us had drawn revolvers, but whether they would have fired or not is doubtful. There would have been too much risk of hitting me. My captors found themselves being overtaken and dropped me. A few moments later my mother—herself little more than a girl, for she married early—was tearfully hugging me to her breast. Of course, a great deal of this I have learned since. But I believe it was a very near thing. It might easily have been thought that I had got into the train with one or other of the passengers. It the train had left it is doubtful if ever I should have been rescued alive.

"I was passionately fond of the water, and could swim and dive like a beaver. This accomplishment on one occasion stood me in good stead. When I was nine years old a party was picknicking near the swift and dangerous Russian river. There was a part of this river where bathing could be had with safety if care was taken, and here our party went in to bathe. Among the bathers was a woman who carried her baby in with her. Somehow or other she got out of her depth in a part of the river where the current runs fast and strongly. She held the child above her head and cried for help. My companion and I at once rushed to her. I succeeded in getting the baby out while my companions saved the woman.

"Then there was an occasion before this when I had a narrow escape from being trampled to death by a horse. My own pony was sick, but rather than be baulked of my ride, I took up one of the carriage horses. I don't know whether it was the indignity of being ridden instead of driven that affected my mount, but suddenly on a hillside he was doubled up by a spasm of rage or colic. Had I been riding my own pony I should have clung on to his neck, but the big horse's neck was too far away from me, and before I knew what had happened I was under the brute's hoofs. I was picked up bruised and almost senseless.

"Then dogs have always had a fancy for biting me. This is most ungrateful on their part, as I love them and all animals. I was bitten several times as a child, once very badly by a Newfoundland, and since I have been grown up I have been bitten twice—once by a dachshund, the other time by a horse. The latter incident was rather amusing, although I failed to perceive the humour at the time. I was crossing the Nollendorf Platz in Berlin, and had to pass in front of a cab horse having its dinner. Perhaps I knocked against its can—they feed them with cans there—perhaps it thought I had nefarious designs upon its meal; but, anyway, it suddenly reached out and gripped me by the arm.

"Fortunately it was winter and I was in furs, so its teeth did not penetrate my skin, but the pain was considerable, and I yelled. The old cabby was having his dinner on the box-seat—a flask of brandy, a cube of brown bread, and a roll of sausage. The horse, startled by my cry, backed suddenly and violently, mercifully freeing my arm. The shock of the collision sent cabby's flask, bread, and sausage flying in all directions, while he himself proceeded to do a sort of circus act on the horse's back, to the accompaniment of a torrent of German oaths. I don't think I ever saw a man more surprised in my life."

On Sunday last the staff of the Empire, Hackney, held their annual outing. Numbering about sixty, they met at Liverpool Street at 8.30 a.m. and entrained in two saloons specially engaged, leaving by the 9 o'clock for Clacton, which was reached by eleven o'clock, after a most comfortable run down. The party on reaching Clacton soon settled themselves to making the day as enjoyable as possible. Soon some were seen trying their hardest to emulate Woolfe, others going for drives, and some to the boats, after which every one turned up at the Palace by the Sea for dinner at 1 o'clock, all looking as fresh and cool as the proverbial cucumber, and seemed by the way they manipulated the knives and forks that they meant no good to the roast chicken and beef, let alone the roast duck and other good fare provided.

The dinner was served in a capacious and well-arranged saloon overlooking the sea, the tables being laid out in sumptuous style. The usual toasts, "The King" and "Royal Family" and "The Firm" having been given by Mr. Percival, the greatly esteemed manager, and seconded by his able lieutenant Mr. A. Trussell, the party adjourned to the grounds at the rear of the Palace and were photographed, giving the man of the lens rather a lively time. The party then dispersed to make the afternoon as enjoyable as the morning. Three brakes were chartered to take them for a lovely fifteen-mile drive in the country, re-arriving at the Palace about 5 o'clock in time for a welcome tea. They then sought various ways of passing the time left before meeting at 8.30 for the homeward journey.

Thanks to the fine weather and the indefatigable efforts of the president, secretary, committee, and stewards, the day was acclaimed by one and all to have been one of the most successful outings ever held by the Hackney Empire. The president of the outing was Mr. Percy Percival (Manager); secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. Trussell (Assistant-Manager); committee, Messrs. Greco, Poland, and Redman; stewards, Messrs. Esau, Watchorn, and Harriss.

At the Hammersmith Palace on Monday will appear Lew Lake, Cockney comedian, in the farcical absurdity *Bloomsbury Burglars*, Maxford and O'Neill, Lottie Siegenberg, Little "Tich," Bourne, Austin and Cowan, Fred Earle, Tony Black, Carl Rosino, Roches' Comedy Circus, Josephine Crook, Ethel Dove, Archie Royer, Talbot and Pearce, Piquo, Allsopp and Bekwith, and Ella Shields.

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FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

OLYMPIC GAMES IN THE STADIUM.—Messrs. Pathé Frères have several series devoted to the now historic athletic events which have for the past few weeks created so much interest, and even excitement, in London. We are informed that the firm has been granted the sole rights for taking cinematograph pictures within the Stadium, and a specially fine set has been secured depicting the Marathon Race. This, of course, shows Dorando's gallant but unsuccessful efforts for securing the coveted prize, his various falls in the Stadium itself, the arrival of the next competitor, Hayes, to whom was awarded the chief prize, as well as the entrance of the other contestants. This particular Marathon series starts with the parade of the runners before the Princess of Wales, the start at Windsor, the run through Wembley, Hayes and Dorando leading, and the entrance of Dorando first into the Stadium. The writer was afforded the privilege, on Thursday afternoon, of seeing these pictures at Messrs. Pathé's establishment in Charing Cross-road, and he can only speak with unqualified praise of them. The final efforts made by the plucky little Italian competitor, Dorando, give us several pathetic scenes, and the production is one that is bound to become exceedingly popular. The Marathon Race, it should be mentioned, forms the fourth of the Stadium Sports series issued by Messrs. Pathé Frères, and the following series deals with the prizes and shows us the nominal winner, Hayes.

THE STADIUM SPORTS.—The three series not already dealt with furnish magnificent views of other scenes that have occurred in connection with the Olympic Games. The first part shows us the opened ceremony, performed by the King, the general salute, the march-past of the athletes, the mass drills, a swimming match, high diving, high jumping, Danish ladies' display, and water polo (Belgium v. Holland). In the second series the events dealt with are the throwing of the javelin, the tug-of-war (England v. America), archery (ladies v. gentlemen), throwing the discus (Greek style), and the final of the tug-of-war. The third series depicts a steeple-chase, high jumping, pole jumping, high diving, and water polo. With the concluding two series the previous paragraph deals.

PATHE FRERES' PAVILION AT THE FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

MESSRS. PATHÉ'S building in the Franco-British Exhibition has been, during the past few days, visited by, among other notable personages, the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, the Duke of Westminster, and Miss Ellen Terry, all of whom expressed their pleasure at what they saw.

THE SPECTRE furnishes several dramatic scenes. Pierrot, having fallen desperately in love with a lady who laughs at him, steals from the bootmaker (his master) an old stocking full of gold, which he intends giving her to propitiate her. Upon the bootmaker discovering the theft, Pierrot grows reckless and strangles him, after which he goes to his lady-love and offers the gold and his heart. Yet he feels the ghost of his victim dogging his footsteps wherever he goes, and he runs away in the night in the hopes of shaking the idea from his mind, but he is unable to escape the remembrance of his crime, and he expires in a fit of remorse.

UNDER A CROCODILE SKIN is a most laughable Pathé production. A burglar, having been disturbed whilst ransacking a house, hides under a crocodile skin, and withdraws slowly before the very eyes of the terrified policemen. After disturbing the whole neighbourhood, he climbs up a wall in spite of the bullets which flatten themselves on his thick skin, without hurting him in the least, enters a flat, from which he removes all the valuables, and leaving the now useless crocodile skin behind, he startles all his pursuers by his change of shape.

AN INTERRUPTED IDYLL.—Here again we are treated to the comic side of life. A gentleman of an aggressive temper is courting a lady in a public garden, when an old gipsy comes and offers to tell them their fortune. The gentleman is irritated, and he sends away the old woman with harsh words. As she goes she tells him that all sorts of evil will befall him. From that time on, his lady-love, being very impulsive and fickle, has many a whim, each of which places him in a most ridiculous position. Then a young coxcomb plays all sorts of tricks on him, and he is finally left in the garb of a ragged beggar.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

THE Charles Urban Trading Company's output of subjects this week surely establishes a record even for this noted firm of publishers, and where all are of the usual excellence and photographic quality, we regret that space will only permit notice of the topical films published.

THE QUEBEC PAGEANT.—We are authorised to announce early next week the production of a unique and comprehensive series depicting this brilliant and impressive spectacle on the Heights of Abraham. The occasion and surroundings lent themselves to vigorous and magnificent reproduction on the kinematograph, and the Urban operators took every advantage of the privileges and courtesy extended to them by the authorities. Photographic portrait views of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales and other distinguished personages present will, it is hoped, add their quota to the historic value of this gorgeous spectacular reproduction.

GOODWOOD RACES.—Urban cameras, during this annual Sussex fixture, enjoyed privileged and unique positions by special permission of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon, and, favoured by glorious weather, particularly good results were secured. The presence of the King and Queen and Princess of Wales, with a distinguished party from Goodwood House, imparted great éclat to the proceedings, and the principal events, the fashionable crowds, and the beautiful surroundings go to the making of a highly successful motion picture reproduction.

OLYMPIC REGATTA AT HENLEY.—Again the Urban Company scores in choice of most excellent positions for their purpose. The whole length of the course from starting-point to finish is under command, and the first international meeting ever held on these historic waters is splendidly depicted, as are club lawns with their fashionable habitués, the houseboats, the crowds of well-dressed people lining the banks, the spirited contests for supremacy, and all that goes to the making of a highly successful reproduction of a river event.

THE DOVER PAGEANT.—The last topical subject calling for special notice is a reproduction of the gorgeous pageant now being held at the ancient Cinque Port. Admirable groupings, effective costumes, delightful dances, historic and interesting episodes, 2000 performers and appropriate surroundings serve splendid kinematographic purpose. Four sections of this pageant are prepared, each complete in itself, and the whole forms a subject of photographic merit which every exhibitor would do well to secure.

THE numerous Urban dramatic and magical subjects published this week will receive attention in our next issue.

ON Monday six new Urbanora animated pictures will be exhibited at the Palace Theatre. Mr. Charles Urban's six new subjects will include the latest scenes of the two great sporting events of the moment, Goodwood and Henley of 1908, his cameras enjoying privileged and unique position at the Sussex fixture by special permission of the Duke of Richmond and Gordon. Two important "travel" series will be From Quebec to Niagara, via St. Lawrence and the Thousand Islands, and A Run on the Rhodesian Railway, from Umtali to Beira, traversing the famed Amatonga Forest and encountering ground game of all descriptions, including elands, wild goats, cattle, baboons, &c. Another remarkable and exclusively Urban subject, and one which will delight students of ornithology, will be the set of pictures illustrating the Haunts and Habits of Wild Birds, which were exhibited privately to the Lord Mayor, the Lady Mayoress, and their party at Urbanora House a week ago. Specially taken by the famous naturalists Messrs. Richard and Cherry Kearton, these films will furnish the spectator in ten minutes with optical information based upon the assidious watching and waiting of many months.

THE Charles Urban Trading Co. are becoming quite noted for their excellent portraits of celebrated artists. We have one before us of Mr. R. G. Knowles; it is a fine, light study, entitled "Reflections," by their clever artist Mr. Chas. Wyrall.

Gaumont Company.

THE QUEBEC PAGEANT.—The magnificent spectacle which was enacted on the Heights of Abraham, Quebec, during the Prince of Wales's visit to that city has been placed on permanent record by the Gaumont Company, who enterprisingly obtained the exclusive cinematograph rights at a very heavy fee, and have produced what will be voted the best of the long list of excellent pageant pictures which they have secured. Photographically the picture is excellent. We hope to publish further details in our next issue.

MARATHON RACE.—Gaumonts secured a complete picture of the Marathon Race from start to finish. The film was shown at the Coliseum, the London Hippodrome, and Shepherd's Bush Empire the same night. The operators were enabled to get a very close view of the Princess of Wales giving the starting signal, and the subject has also an excellent feature in a picture of Dorando outside his apartments in Church-street, Soho, the moral winner of the race, posing specially for the camera.

MOVING IN.—The same company has placed on the market a very fine representation of Herbert Darnley's music-hall sketch *Moving In*, which was specially performed by Mr. Darnley's company for the occasion. The sketch is a great favourite with the patrons of variety theatres, and describes the trials and troubles of "moving in." Everything goes with a dash, and the scenes are uproariously funny.

BLACK AND WHITE is a clever and original subject. Grotesque figures appear in white on the curtain, and we are treated to a few minutes of delightful humour.

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN is an extremely fine trick film by Gaumonts. The way Johnson uses his bag is nothing short of marvellous. He steals a safe which disappears into a bag, and afterwards he eludes his would-be captors in a most remarkable way. When caught, he calmly produces the safe from the bag and makes off. We see in the end how he has the best of his pursuers.

GAUMONTS have also a pretty fairy story film, THE LEGEND OF NARCISSUS. This is the story of a man who refuses all the approaches of the beautiful nymphs who have fallen in love with him, and is at last turned into the flower, which bears his name, by the gods for admiring his own image.

MR. ROBT. W. PAUL has found it necessary, owing to the development of the kinematograph business, to secure a general manager for this department, and has appointed Mr. J. W. Smith to this position. Mr. Smith is well and favourably known to every exhibitor, having until now managed, under Mr. Will Barker, the business of the Warwick Trading Company. Previous to this he was with Mr. Paul for about six years, before which he was with Mr. Walter Gibbons, who made so well known the Bio-tableaux exhibits with the Randvoll machine; with David Devant, now Maskelyne and Devant, and Horace Chester, the lecturer whose dioramic effects with the triple lantern Mr. J. W. Smith worked. Thus he has a thorough knowledge of the requirements of the up-to-date showman, as well as extensive experience in taking scenes at home and abroad. He is an enthusiastic kinematographer, and boasts that he has never yet failed to fulfil a promise to a prospective customer or disappointed an exhibitor in the delivery of a film.

INVENTIONS.

APPLICATIONS.

14,837.—Louis Henri Huet, of London. Improvements in and relating to apparatus for taking or reproducing animated pictures.

15,011.—Scott King Alexander, of Doncaster, Yorks. Means or apparatus for conducting a music-hall or similar turn.

15,072.—Alfred Hester and Charles Lichfield, of Nottingham. Improvements in spring guns.

15,074.—William Marriott Beasley, of Handsworth, Stafford. New or improved recording target.

15,111.—Crompton and Co., Ltd., and Alan Williams, of London. Improvements in apparatus for raising and lowering stage scenery and the like.

15,140.—Albert Lewis Davis, of London. Improved means for operating and driving gramophones and cinematographs and causing them to run in synchronism one with the other.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

19,519.—Hill and Williams. Sights for small arms of the type known as air guns.

25,939.—Urry. Certain kinds of air guns.

26,630.—Weeks. Theatre curtains, drop scenes, and the like.

28,002.—Konrad and Baumgartner. Driving gear for a band displaying term days, pictures, and the like.

6,229.—Electric arc lamps for theatrical and other stages.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

4,176.—Phonographs.—Klenk, H., and Krebs, H., of Hanau-on-the-Main, Germany.

A phonograph or gramophone, having mechanism (1), record (2), sound-box (4), tone-arm (5), and trumpet (7), is enclosed in a casing provided with sounding-boards (8, 8a), on the latter of which is mounted a series of strings (11), which are directly or indirectly vibrated by the sound waves issuing from the trumpet (7). The strings are connected to a block (10), carried over a bridge (12), and secured to hooks (13). The trumpet (7) may be connected by a strut (19) with the bridge (12), as shown in Fig. 5, to directly vibrate the strings. Doors (15, 16) are provided for the sound-board and strings, and a hinged flap (17) for access to the phonograph. The strings may be struck separately by hand or by a pianoforte action from keys (21) to reinforce the sound of the phonograph. In the modification shown in Fig. 5 the phonograph is combined with a zither.

4,429.—Phonographs, kinematographs. Conade, M., of Paris, France.

Relates to the synchronous driving of phonographs and kinematographs by the application of an apparatus described in a former patent specification. The transmitter (1) is driven either in conjunction with one of the devices (9) to be run in synchronism, or by an independent motor, the others (8) being run by motors receiving alternating polyphase current from the transmitter. Both devices are started at a registration mark, and are gradually speeded up.

FIG.1.

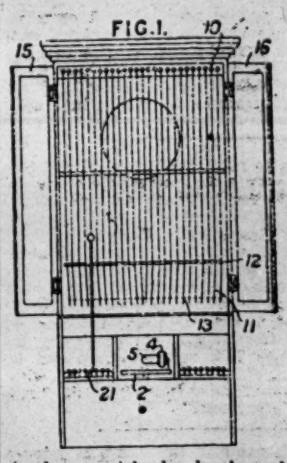


FIG.2.

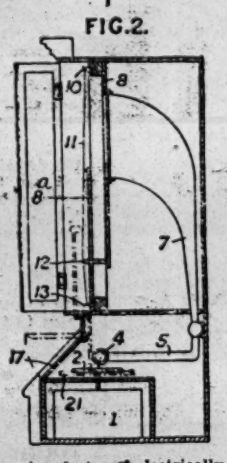
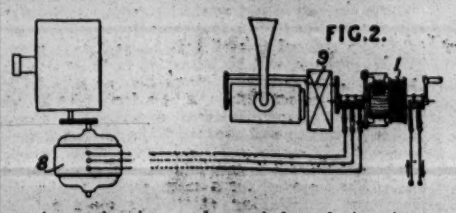


FIG.2.



3,915.—Heating by electricity. Reynolds, A., of London.

The air of theatres, music halls, and rooms is heated by the passage of a current through powdered carbon, or through a mixture of powdered carbon and material of greater resistivity enclosed within walls of carbon or iron, provided with radiating gills and with or without a lining of electrically insulating but thermally conducting material. In Fig. 1 two concentric cast-iron cylinders (*b*) are fitted with a non-conducting lining (*d*). The space between the cylinders is filled with the carbon mixture, and contact is made by electrodes (*f*). An insulating-partition (*e*) causes the current to travel up and down the cylinder. Gills (*b*1, *c*1) are fitted to increase the radiating surfaces. In alternative arrangements the current flows between annular electrodes at the top and bottom respectively, or between vertical rod electrodes. The apparatus may be used for heating water.

FIG.5.

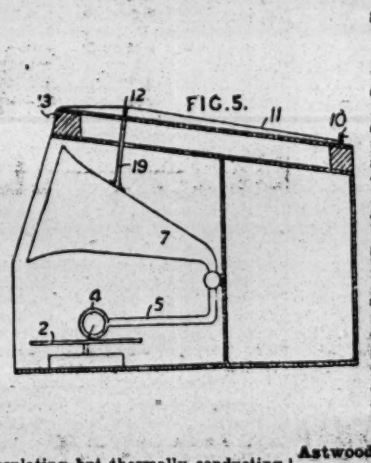
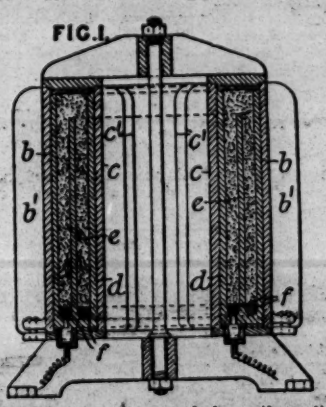


FIG.1.



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South Wales Echoes.

MESSRS. DOONER AND SON at Mountain Ash have a beautiful picture of the Marathon Race from Windsor to the Stadium, which is proving very popular. A very pretty effect are three floral swings, on which the Misses Dooner do a pleasing turn; they sing a very catchy song with a swinging chorus, which won them great and deserved applause. Mr. Boyce, actor-vocalist, is a very smart turn, and scores a great success. Mr. S. White, of Tunnel Railway fame, has a good programme for the holidays at Pontypridd. With his new Bioscope show Mazoni, the handcuff king, is the chief attraction. Messrs. Wadbrooke have arranged a monster fête at Pontypridd for the August holidays. Some of the newest films will be exhibited for the first time in the town. Mme. Melita, who is an expert dancer, heads the variety programme, and is proving very popular.

Astwood Bank.

ASTWOOD BANK is a large village in Worcestershire, three miles from Redditch, thirteen miles from Evesham, nine miles from Droitwich, five miles from Alcester, and eight miles from Bromsgrove. The chief industry is the making of needles. Population about 1,700. Good place for circuses, menageries, galloping horses, &c. Portable theatres do extra well here during winter months.

AT Astwood Bank we have had Strickland's steam gallopers, park swings, shooting saloons, striker, &c.; Herbert's pony roundabouts, swing-boats, bottle battery, cocoanut sheets, &c. At the Red Lion field, Astwood Bank, we have had Scott's Circus, which gave two first-class performances.

Badsey.

AT Badsey were Mr. T. Scott, of Worcester, with steam gallopers, park swings, shooting saloons, cocoanut sheets, &c.

Honeybourne.

AT Honeybourne were Strickland's galloping horses, park swings, bottle shooter, and other numerous amusements.

Bollington Wakes, near Macclesfield.

HERE for the Wakes were:—E. Holland, electric jumping horses, racing motor-cars, and juvenile swings; Farrer's premier exhibition of animated pictures; Winchester ranges and cokernuts by W. Dobson and J. Jones; stalls by Colclough and Winsper; and a variety of small amusements by Beech, Clought, Hall, Jecks, Humphries, and Groom.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are:—Bicester, on the London and North-Western; Bilston, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Birkenhead, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Blackheath, on the Great Northern and South-Eastern; Brigg, on the Great Central; Calverley Feast, on the Midland; Castleacre, on the Great Eastern; Cheltenham, on Great Western, Midland, and Midland and South-Western Junction; Clevedon, on the Great Western; Doncaster, on the Great Central, Great Northern, Great Eastern, Midland, North-Eastern, and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Fleetwood, on the London and North-Western and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Garston, on the London and North-Western and Cheshire Lines; Hampstead Heath, on the North London, Metropolitan, and Metropolitan and District; Hanley, on the North Staffordshire; Haslingden, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Hunslet Feast, on the Midland and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Hendon (Welsh Harp), on the Midland; Ilkley, on the Midland and North-Eastern; Jarrow-on-Tyne, on the North-Eastern; Manningham Feast, on the Midland; Malvern, on the Midland and Great Western; Middlesborough, on the North-Eastern; Morecambe, on the London and North-Western and Midland; New Brighton, on the Wirral; Newcastle-on-Tyne, on the North-Eastern and North British; Newmarket, on the Great Eastern; Northampton, on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, and Midland; Otley Feast, on the Midland and North-Eastern; Portsmouth, on the London, Brighton, and South Coast, and London and South-Western; Reigate, on the South-Eastern; Richmond (Surrey), on the South-Western, North London, Metropolitan, and Metropolitan and District; Rushden, on the Midland; Ryde, on the Isle of Wight, Isle of Wight Central, London, Brighton, and South Coast, and London and South-Western; Rodley Feast, on the Midland; Salford (Trinity Market), on the London and North-Western and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Seaham Harbour, on the North-Eastern; Southport, on London and North-Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Cheshire Lines, and Great Central; South Shields, on the North-Eastern; Stafford, on London and North-Western, Great Northern, and North Staffordshire; Stanningley Feast, on the Great Northern; Taunton, on the Midland and Great Western; Tunbridge Wells, on the South-Eastern, and London, Brighton, and South Coast; Wanstead Flats; Wormwood Scrubs; Wyke Feast, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Boston, on the Great Northern; Hyde Wakes, on the London and North-Western; Milnsbridge, on the London and North-Western; Evesham, on the Great Western and Midland; Tanhill; Wombwell Feast, on the Great Central and Midland; Barlow, on the Midland; Bolsover, on the Midland; Cheetham Hill (Manchester), on the North-Western and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Cowhill Wakes; Clay Cross, on the Midland; Crabbs Cross, on the Midland; Denton, on the London and North-Western; Hazel Grove, on the London and North-Western; Lindfield, on the London, Brighton, and South Coast; Littleborough, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Wessington, on the Midland; Whitefield, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Whitewell, on the Midland and Great Central; Alyth, on the Caledonian; Cupar, on the North British; Kelso, on the North British and North-Eastern; Kirkcaldy, on the North British; Paisley, on the Caledonian, Glasgow and South-Western, and Glasgow and Paisley Joint; Cardiff, on the Great Western, Rhymney, Taff Vale, and London and North-Western; Merthyr Tydvil, on the Great Western, London and North-Western, Taff Vale, Brecon and Merther, Cambrian, and Rhymney; Mold, on the London and North-Western; Newport (Monmouth), on the Great Western, London and North-Western, and Brecon and Merioneth; Swansea, on the London and North-Western, Great Western, Midland, and Swansea and Mumbles Railways.

Mansfield Midsummer Fair.

This year was blessed with glorious weather, and the shows, roundabouts, and fairground novelties all did excellent business. The shows were those of Messrs. Arthur Twigdon, Holland and Sons, and John Proctor. The machine list included A. Twigdon's gondolas, Hall and Proctor's motors, Proctor's helter-skelter tower, and Hall's juvenile motors and horses. Shooters, throwing games, and variety stalls by Messrs. Hall, Hazard, and local caterers.

The City of Ripon New Bye-laws.

The city authorities, in order to preserve the people's rights in their ancient pleasure fairs and public holidays, have recently remodelled their old bye-laws. It will be remembered that under the old bye-laws there was no exemption for the fairs. This point of weakness was seized upon by a contankerous citizen to compel the Corporation to stop the music at the fairs.

After consultation with the executive committee of the Showmen's Guild, it was found that the only way out of the difficult situation was to formulate new bye-laws, specifically exempting the days of the fairs from their provisions. This has been done.

By the courtesy of the Town Clerk of Ripon, we are able to give our readers a full copy of the new bye-laws that affect the show business. We believe it is the first time in bye-laws that the days of the pleasure fairs have specifically mentioned.

TOUTING.

"No person shall in any street or public place for the purpose of selling or advertising any article or obtaining custom tout or importune to the annoyance or obstruction of passengers.

"No person shall, in connection with any roundabout, show, exhibition, or performance, placed or held in any street or on any vacant ground adjoining or near to a street, make or cause to be made any loud and continuous noise by means of any organ or other similar instrument to the annoyance of residents or passengers.

"Provided always that the two foregoing bye-laws shall not apply to the fairs or feasts hereinafter mentioned, or the day preceding or following any such fair or feast, namely:

"The fairs or feasts held on:
January, the last Thursday.
May, the 13th and 14th.
June, the first Thursday and the Friday following.
August, the first Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and the Saturday preceding.
October, the first Thursday.
November, the first Thursday and the 23rd day of that month."

"Out on the Deep."

Bostock Jungle Baby Sea-Lions Born at Sea for Earl's Court.—A rare zoological sight may, after to-day (Tuesday, 28th inst.) be seen by the public daily in the great Bostock Jungle at the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court. It is nothing less than the nursing by two cow sea-lions of their sleeky sucklings born in mid-ocean during the Transatlantic voyage from the Bostock Jungle in New York to the Empress Hall. When shipped from Coney Island no addition to the passenger list of the crowded liner was anticipated, and it is now a moot point between Mr. Frank C. Bostock and the steamship company whether two extra fares should not be charged. The births took place within five hours of each other, and the "boy" and "girl" have never left their mothers' sides since. The quartette are placidly pleased with their surroundings in the coolness of the big pool of the Jungle, and their manner is almost human.

Bilston Wakes.

The annual fair here is being held on a piece of land two or three minutes' walk from the centre of the town, and is well patronised. Collins's Wonderland, with its imposing front, beautiful organ, and outside novelties, proves a source of attraction to adults and juveniles alike. Inside some fine, steady pictures are shown. At the time of our visit Life in the Far West, An Awkward Situation, and A Comical Faces Contest were the chief. Other shows present are the Egyptian Hall of Mystery, Birche's midget show, the Lurlines (aquatic performers), Prince Perrara (Indian magic and tery, Birch's midget show, the Lurlines (aquatic the machine novelties are Collins's racing cockerels, the twin steam yachts, the Canadian helter-skelter, and G. Ford's, Chaplain's, and Cordwell's miniature horses. There is also a good supply of the usual swings, shooters, and throwing games.

Somersetshire News.

The fête and gala season is now in full swing in and around Bath, and several of the leading West of England showmen are to the fore with a capital array of all the latest electrical and mechanical machines, amongst others being Marshall Hill's Fun City, Heal's gallopers, Symonds' World's Fair, Jennings' steam roundabouts, and Chipperfield's Bioscope.

Roundabout Rides.

For the Cottage Hospital.—Mr. Jacob Studt, whose gorgeous steam motor tracks, galloping horses, bioscope, "helter-skelter," &c., attracted such crowds to the vicinity of Maidenhead Moor last week, very generously offered the entire takings of his motor-track and galloping horses on Friday evening for the Maidenhead Cottage Hospital, notwithstanding that he had been put to the expense of engaging the Town Band for the week owing to an objection to the playing of his fine organ. Mr. Studt expressed a wish not to handle any of the takings, and asked the hospital authorities to kindly attend and "run the shows." The following were most courteously received by Mr. Studt:—Messrs. H. J. Mount, J.P., T. G. Wyatt, J. H. Manlove, and H. Parsons (Cookham Dean), and Nurse Tompsett, from the hospital. These put in a lot of time at the show, and took the money from those who patronised the motor-track and galloping horses. The financial result was most gratifying, the total amount taken and given to the hospital being £23 11s. 10s. The amateur "showmen" and the "show-lady" spent a most interesting time, and seemed to enjoy their novel occupation. The committee of the hospital are grateful to Mr. Studt for his generosity, and Colonel Muir (the acting hon. sec.) has sent him a letter of thanks on behalf of the hospital authorities.

Greenock.

Lord John Sanger's Circus, which is on tour in this district, visited here on Wednesday of last week, and gave two performances to delighted audiences. One of the most interesting items of the programme was that given by the troupe of performing elephants; La Belle Fondants, in their musical wire act, were greatly appreciated; Zampo and Clown, the elastic bounders, provided an amusing turn; the Airlees gave a sensational trapeze act; the Austins appeared with success in a double jockey act; the Maro troupe of acrobatic equestrians cleverly executed a number of daring feats; and Cyclo performed the astounding feat of supporting and balancing two ponies playing sea-saw, and also allowing a motor-car to run over his body.

During last week there has been a large concourse of showpeople at Kidwelly. In the Fairfield Mr. H. Steel Parry's Bioscope did exceedingly good business, and could have well stayed another week. He was accompanied by Mr. Daniel Evans' amusements. In the Hillfield (the old original Fair field of the seventies) Messrs. Thos. Hill and Sons had a large crowd of followers, including the South Wales Boxing Saloon, &c. Times are very good in this district just now.

Penzance Corporation and the Showmen.

The *Cornishman* of July 23 has the following interesting note:—"With commendable prudence the communication to Penzance Town Council from the Showmen's Guild was referred to the Market Committee without being read in open Council. It is a matter which requires tactful handling, but given tact there is every reason to hope and expect that all differences between the Council and the fair people will easily be adjusted. Councillor Hill, alluding to a show proprietor's advertisement complaining that no answer had been received to certain proposals, pointed out that no answer could be sent, seeing that this was the first meeting of the Council since the communication had been received. True, but there is no law to prevent an extra meeting being held, or to prevent a committee, or the Mayor, from sending some sort of reply. If a matter is urgent enough to require immediate action there is usually a way out of little ceremonial difficulties; but apparently the showmen's letter was not considered of an urgent nature. The Mayor assured the Council that some of the statements in the advertisement are incorrect."

Knottingley Feast.

This interesting Yorkshire town kept its feast last week, and had for its entertainers Messrs. Tuby and Sons, with their superb coliseum of varieties and up-to-date animated pictures; Vicar's portable Theatre Royal; Hobson's cinematograph; Tuby and Son's motor-cars and galloping horses; Fisher's steam swings; Bronnan and Tuby's shooters; and varieties and stalls by Messrs. Doubtfire, Calver, Walker, Shaw, Fisher, Walser, and others.

Dewsbury Feast.

The best concerns on the Yorkshire round were at this great Yorkshire fair. The mere recital of their names will at once show its importance and its popularity with showpeople and the show-loving public. The great cinematograph shows were those of Howden and Sons, E. Farrar, and Farrar and Tyler; Lewis, the American snake king, exhibited his coterie of pythons and trained serpents; White's miniature animal jungle, J. Westray's small menagerie, E. Ball's midget marvels, Holdsworth's fine art show, and Mrs. Rhodes' novelty booth completed the array of exhibitions. Equally important and imposing were the machine novelties at the feast. These were J. W. Waddington's, Marshall's, Aspland's, Williams's, Holdsworth and Pedley's, P. Collins's, J. Corrigan's, Redfearn's, Gavan's, D. Johnson's, Proctor, Clarke, and Richards's motors, gallopers, "Porker's" Cake-walk machine, tunnel railway, helter-skelter towers, steam and manual swings, juvenile and gem horses, &c.

The other attractions of the fair were shooters, throwing games, varieties, and stalls by Messrs. Seed, Holdsworth, Richards, Jameson, Watson, Clarke, Rhodes, Blake, Vanner, Steward, Turner, and many others.

Westward Ho!

News from the west of Kingsbridge Fair is to the effect that it is being supported by Messrs. W. C. and S. Hancock, with the well-known aggregation of fairground novelties, and Messrs. Haywood, with juvenile motor-cars, and Harker, with shooting range, &c.

Jones's variety show and cinematograph theatre was the principal attraction at St. Austell last week.

News from Scotland.

At Johnstone for the fair week the following entertainers were present:—McIndoe and Wingate, with cinematograph theatres; John Wilmot, with switchback, motor track, and galloping horses; Walter Wilmot, with helter-skelter; Steavenson, with big boats and swings; J. Wingate, with bicycle circus; Wright and Sons, Sheeran, Smith, Moore, and others with shooters, variety frames, and stalls.

Guild Subscriptions, 1908:—Mr. Fisher, 7s. 6d.; Mr. Frank Wood, 5s.; Mr. W. H. Doubtfire, 5s.; Mr. W. H. Jennings, jun., 5s.; Mr. Campbell (Greenock), 1s.

Hollinwood Wakes.

Owing to the clash of dates Hollinwood this year coincided with Longsight. This prevented a number of the concerns taking both places—the usual thing being for Longsight to follow Hollinwood. At Hollinwood were the shows of Kemp and Clarke, the machines of Whiting, Hurst, Mitchells, Harrison, and others, and stalls and throwing games in abundance by a crowd of enterprising caterers.

Guild Meeting at Longsight.

One of the best-attended meetings ever held at Longsight took place on Sunday last in the Parish Room near the wakes ground. After the Guild service, at which the Rev. F. Norburn read the lesson and the Guild Chaplain preached, the business meeting began, and was attended, among others, by T. Hurst (Hon. Secretary), Robert Dixon, S. Mercer, R. Ingham, P. R. Collins, and H. Hibbert. The Rev. T. Horne, in a short address, explained the provisions of the Movable Dwellings Bill, and the negotiations he had carried on with the promoters for the possible amendment of the measure. Messrs. Hurst, Dixon, Hibbert, and P. R. Collins made extremely valuable and practical suggestions, and it was resolved that a general meeting of the Guild committee be held prior to the reassembling of Parliament for the Autumn Session, when the Movable Dwellings Bill will come on again for discussion.

Manchester's New Bye-Laws.

The Rev. T. Horne and Mr. T. Hurst paid a visit to the Town Clerk's offices at Manchester Town Hall on Monday last, July 27, and carefully considered the new bye-laws. The nature of the bye-laws is fully indicated in the following official notice:—

"CITY OF MANCHESTER.
"BYE-LAWS WITH RESPECT TO TENTS VANS, SHEDS, AND SIMILAR STRUCTURES USED FOR HUMAN HABITATION.

"Notice is hereby given that the Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of Manchester acting by the Council of the said City, did on the first day of July, 1908, make and adopt certain bye-laws with respect to Tents, Vans, Sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation under and by virtue of the powers contained in Section 9 of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1885.

"And Notice is further hereby given that it is the intention of the said Lord Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens, at the expiration of one calendar month from and after the date of the first publication of this notice, to apply to the Local Government Board in pursuance of Section 184 of the Public Health Act, 1875, for confirmation of the said bye-laws.

"And Notice is hereby further given that for one calendar month at least from and after the date of the first publication of this notice, and before such application to the Local Government Board, a copy of the said bye-laws will be kept at the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, Manchester (being the office of the said Council), and will be open during office hours thereat to the inspection of the ratepayers of the said City, being the district to which such bye-laws relate, without fee or reward.

"Dated this 15th day of July, 1908.
"WM. HENRY TALBOT, Town Clerk."

After the most careful reading and examination of the new bye-laws the officials of the Guild found nothing to which exception could reasonably be taken. In fact, for years past showmen have strictly complied with the rules of health and sanitation embodied in these bye-laws.

We understand that the Corporation have been driven to secure the powers of the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1885, in order to deal with certain classes in the suburbs of the city who wanted to live in sheds and in old tramcar bodies and railway carriages fixed up in garden allotments or on waste land.

Showmen have readily complied with every request and suggestion of the health and the sanitary officers of the Corporation. Not so these squatters on the land. These people have to be taught lessons of health and sanitation, and the power of the law must be brought to bear upon them.

We should like to point out in this relation how great are the powers that corporations already possess under the Public Health Acts, the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act, and the Housing of the Working Classes Act. Every security for public health and sanitation is given by these laws. The statute book is already full of the most effective safeguards of public health. All of these apply to showmen in their movable dwellings. It is this fact that makes showpeople indignant at the class legislation of such proposals as the Movable Dwellings Bill, and the crude and ignorant fanaticism of would-be reformers who class the healthy homes of the showman with the "rags and sticks of a gipsy tent."

The Rev. T. Horne and Mr. Hurst, in acknowledging the courtesy of the Town Clerk in affording them full facilities to examine the new bye-laws, said that, speaking for the showmen of Great Britain, they found nothing in the proposed bye-laws that they objected to, or that showmen had not at all times willingly complied with.

Harry Banford's Accident.

TO THE EDITOR SHOWMAN WORLD.

Sir,—Numbers doubtless of the readers of the Showman's World would be grieved to read of the accident to the above deservedly popular artist, although relieved to read that he was progressing. Many, perhaps, will be interested to know that in a letter I have received from him he says he is getting on, although it may be a few weeks before he is able to resume business; and that it has very greatly consoled and comforted him to receive such a number of visits and kind letters from friends and well-wishers. I may add that it is a comfort he richly deserves, for a more genial, hard-working, and painstaking entertainer could not be found, nor a warmer-hearted one. He says he hopes to be with us at St. Giles' Fair. I hope so, too, for he is one of the institutions of our grand old fair, and he has won his way to the hearts of crowds of visitors and Oxford people, and would be missed almost as much as the beautiful show he accompanies, or its highly-esteemed and respected proprietor, who, with Mrs. Ball, has done, and continues to do, all in his kind power for the sufferer. I have the honour to remain, sir, very faithfully yours,

T. S. WHITING.

51, St. Giles, Oxford.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR
ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.
MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION (Post Free).

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"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.
For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post if postage be arranged.

NO STAMPS.

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The Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Oct. 5, Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 8, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.,
Dec. 14, Jan. 18, March 8, 22, 29, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov. 16 (three nights),
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Oct. 29 (3 nights), Feb. 22, March 8, 15, 22, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 9, 16, March 22.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Sept. 21, Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Oct. 5, Nov. 30, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
Nov. 30, Xmas (seven nights), Feb. 22,
March 1, 8, 15, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
Xmas (7 nights), March 15, 22, 29, April 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7
Jan. 4, 11, 25, Feb. 1, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Aug. 31, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 21, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Aug. 17, 31, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 12, on (3 nights only).
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First class Company, Theatre Royal, Canterbury, for Cricket Date, Aug. 20, 21, 22, Musical Preferred. E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only
THEATRE ROYAL, DUBLIN,
Sept. 7, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Dec. 7.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Sept. 21, Dec. 7.
OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS,
Sept. 14, 15, 16, Sept. 21, 22, 23.
Apply, F. Mouillot,
1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Important Attractions, Sept. 7, 28.
Fredk. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Sept. 21 and 28, Glasgow.
Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.
WANTED, Pay-Box Attractions.
Various April, 1909, onwards.
Open to arrange First-class Panto., 1910.
Re dates, address, Arthur Jefferson. On all matters affecting the visit, printing, bill copy, plots, &c., Gordon Jefferson, Wires, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

WANTED, First-class Attractions for Aug. 17, 24, Sept. 7, 14, and 21. Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., London, S.W.

WANTED, Special Attractions for the Coronet Theatre, Aug. 17, and Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Aug. 24. Apply Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND.
WANTED, Musical Comedies, or First-class Shows only.
Three Nights, Sept. 17, and
Three Nights, Sept. 21.
Apply, George Conquest, as above.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Musical Attraction, Oct. 26, Musical or other front rank companies for Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, onwards, with exceptions. Good Panto. entertained for Feb. 15. Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

PAVILION, CHORLTON, MANCHESTER.
Proprietors, Messrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell. Now playing to Excellent Business under the New Management.
WANTED, Good Musical and Light Comedy Companies, Good Concert Parties, &c, Sept. 14, and on. Levy and Cardwell, Pavilion, Chorlton, Manchester.

WANTED, First-class Attraction for Gaiety Theatre, Dublin,
for Sept. 7, through cancelling date for Mr. Forbes Robertson. Apply, Mrs. Michael Gunn, above address.

WANTED, Sound Dramatic Attractions. Sept. 21, Oct. 5, 12 (Musical), 19, Nov. 9, onwards. Apply Sherwood and Co., Opera House, Wakefield.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Aug. 10,
Sept. 21, Oct. 12, Nov. 2,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, Thos. Swinton.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, First-class Company (not Drama), Aug. 24, 25, 26. W. Payne.

WANTED, First-class Company, Perth Theatre, for Race Week and Autumn Holiday, Sept. 21, Musical or Light Comedy preferred. Address (till Thursday), J. H. Savile, 5, Mundania-road, Honor Oak, S.E; afterwards, Perth Theatre.

WANTED, Good Companies, Sept. 3 (three nights), Sept. 21 and Nov. 16 (six nights), also Good Pantomime, Jan. 18 or 25. F. Graham Macdona, Lessee and Manager, T. R., Colchester.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Aug. 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, Sept. 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23. Wire, Phillips.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Musical Comedies, and High-class Plays, Oct. 19, 26, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 10, Feb. 1. Apply to
James Kiernan, Owner and Manager.

WANTED, First-class Company, for three nights, Sept. 3, 4, 5. Apply,
Waddington, Theatre Royal, York.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH,
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only entertained.

Wanted, High-class Company, to Open Theatre on Aug. 31.
Vacant Sept. 7, Oct. 19, onward, with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Aug. 31, Sept. 14, 28, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Sept. 21, Nov. 9, Dec. 21, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant Dec. 7, 21, 26, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant April 5, 12, 19, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 7, onward, with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical pieces; last three nights Drama).
Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c.

Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for
Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct 5 and 12, Nov. 2, on, with exceptions.
Applications for dates to Hugh Robertson, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Booked by
MOSS EMPIRES, LTD.,
in conjunction with
BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE
and
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only, BROADWAY THEATRE.
Sept. 7, Dec. 14, April 5, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE
April 5, May 17, 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Nov. 23.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
April 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Re-opening after alterations, re-decorating and refurnishing, Aug. 24. Wanted, good sound Attractions,
Nov. 2, March 22, April 5, 12, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31.

Address, with full particulars, terms, &c., where can be seen, to
Moss Empires, Ltd.,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-st., London, W.C.

Envelopes marked "Theatres."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.
The leading Theatre of the town and district.
WANTED, Known, vacant through transfers, Sept. 7, 28, Oct. 5, and a few onward. Future Bookings include: "The Thief," "A White Man," "Diana of Dobson's," "Jack Straw," "Mrs. Dot," "Lady Frederick," "Brewster's Millions," "With Edged Tools," and the leading Musical Comedies. Apply, Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., BARROW.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, Good Dramas, Aug. 27, 28, 29, Sept. 17, 18, 19 (three nights each); also Vac. Sept. 28 and Oct. 29, 30, 31 (three nights).

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
Vacant Oct. 12, Nov. 16 and 23 (last three days of week).

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP.
Proprietor, Mr. S. Goodman.
Vacant Sept., and on, last three days of week.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK THEATRES.
Vacant Sept. 21, Oct. 5, and on.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Vacant Sept. 7, and on.

W. Payne Seddon, The Spa, Whitby.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the most handsome and best-equipped Theatres in the Provinces.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
WANTED, First-class Attractions Only, Sept. 3, 4, 5 (three nights),
Nov. 16,
Dec. 14.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
All communications,
Jno. Ed. Jowsey,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet."
Telephones, 413, 426, 500.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dramatic, Musical Comedies, or Combinations, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, 14, 21, and 28, Nov. 2, on, with few exceptions; Xmas Vacant, 7 nights (strong attraction); could arrange for travelling panto. to rehearse and produce for that week. Particulars, dates, and terms, Tom Barore.

WANTED a First-class Company, for the Empire, Oldham, Sept. 21, Musical preferred.
Address, Ernest Dotteridge.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Drama, Variety, Musical and Farcical Comedies, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, on. W. E. Potts, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. Ashton, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Good Company, Sept. 3, 4, and 5, 10, 11, and 12, and on, through releasing.
Selwyn, Theatre, Wisbech.

ROYAL ALBERT INSTITUTE, WINDSOR.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for the above weeks, commencing Aug. 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept. 14, 21; Opera or Comedy preferred. Only place of Entertainment in the Town. Write or wire, Restall, Osborne House, Keith-grove, Uxbridge-road, London, W.

BASINGSTOKE.—CORN HALL.
WANTED, Companies. Finest Hall in North Hampshire, now thoroughly restoring by Town Council, also decorating and re-seating, ready for re-opening, Aug. 31. Moderate rental, or shares. S. Wilford, Lessee.

COMPANIES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Oct. 19, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Pantomimes, Jan. 25, March 15.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford. First-class Companies for Sept. 7, Oct. 5, 19, 26, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Companies Touring Scotland to book Theatre Royal, Inverness. Vacant Dates, Sept., onwards. CAMERON BURGESS, Manager.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Nov. 16, Dec. 7.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Oct. 19 (North), and Dec. 7.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9 (Scotland), Dec. 7, Feb. 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Dec. 21, 28.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, March 29.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Aug. 31. Oct. 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Jan. 18, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Aug. 24 (?), Sept. 28.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov. 2, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatre, Sept. 14. Nov. 2, 9, 23, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Aug. 31, Oct. 5, Nov. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, County Theatre, Bedford.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 16, onwards.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5, 26.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 11.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, Bath.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Sept. 21-28, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER, Opera House, Weymouth.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Week of Aug. 24 (to oblige Stanley Rogers, Esq.).
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9 16. Xmas week, 7 nights also Spring. Farewell Tours. Address, 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London.

WANTED, Aug. 24, for "PETER'S MOTHER."
Miss Lilias Earle,
Mr Rille Norwood,
and Mr. Vivian Gilbert in Cast.
PERCY HUTCHISON, 4, Finchley-road, N.W.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S COMPANIES.
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Sept. 28, Nov. 9 and 30.
Address, CECIL BARTH, Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS"
and
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
These Successes resume Tour at Carlisle and Keighley, Aug. 3. All Holiday Dates filled till Aug. 2, 1909.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Vac. Sept. 28 and Nov. 2, through change of route.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE,"
Vacant Sept. 28 and Nov. 23.
All communications, GEO. A. DE GRAY, this, Queen's Theatre, Keighley; next, H. M. T., Carlisle.

"MAN TO MAN."
By arrangement with W. Bourne.
Under the Direction of
Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.
WANTED, Aug. 24, Aug. 24, Aug. 24,
Opened to a Packed House last Monday Night at Star Theatre, Liverpool.
"House Full" boards out at 8.10 p.m.
Refer Harris Fineberg.
Wire or write,
FRANK ADAIR, Royal, Middlesbrough.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY,
"THE FLOWER GIRL."
The Musical Comedy Success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical Comedy at its brightest.
WANTED, Sept. 14 (to follow Cheltenham) and on. Booking Autumn, Winter, and Spring. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Empire, Oldham; next week, Opera House, Southport. See Companies Column.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOURS.
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
WANTED, Oct. 19, Nov. 9 and 16, Only Vacant Dates.
EUGENE BERTRAM, 5, Gilmore-road, Lewisham.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Played by a Cast that Spells Success.
Mr. John B. Shinton, Mr. Alf. Stretton,
Mr. Evan Roland, Mr. Todd Squires,
Miss Gwynne Warren, Miss Ada M. Ryder,
Miss Mary Dolby, Miss Sybil Haughton.
Beautiful Scenery Magnificent Printing.
WANTED, Wanted, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 19.
FRED BULMER, Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

"WAS SHE TO BLAME."
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
First tour fully booked.
WANTED, Theatres, few Vacant Dates, Autumn, 1909. This piece booking faster than any before. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, HINTON, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Nov. 16 and 30, Midlands or South.
DICKIE CLARE, T. R., Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, 14, for "A Clever Impostor."
STUART CLEVELAND, 52, Henry Nelson-st., S. Shields.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
A Solid Financial Success.
The Press pronounce it
a Great Play.
The Public Pay
to see it.
Vacant Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
this Wonderful Money Magnet.
Vacant Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 30.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Aug. 31 (through transfer),
Sept. 14, 21, Nov. 16, 23, 30.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 2, 9, 16.

"LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Feb. 1, 8, 15.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

HARRY NICHOLLS
(Drury Lane, Adelphi, &c.),
with own Company and Entire Production, in Romantic Costume Play, entitled
"IF WE ONLY KNEW."
WANTED, Theatres, from October.
Rupert Cottage, Bedford Park, W.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Entirely New Production of same last Monday; better put on than ever before. Excellent Cast and Bigger Band to Parade.
WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 19, for this Great Draw.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Wanted, Sept. 7, to follow Alex., Hull. One of the Biggest Successes on the Road. Wire for Sept. 7.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
Wanted, Sept. 14, S. Wales preferred. This piece doing bigger business than ever.
Wire for all plays to KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and the late Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, through re-arrangement, Aug. 10, wire, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, and few later.
T. R., Bolton, Aug. 3 (third visit).

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S COMPANIES.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, for either Play, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 28. Now booking Spring, '09. Coms., GEORGE KIRK, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11, on.
Aug. 3, Prince's, Portsmouth.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 21, Nov. 9 and 16. Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, 25, onwards, for the above attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Carlton Theatre, Greenwich, London.

"IN THE RANKS."
Tour commencing Star, Liverpool, Aug. 3.
Powerful Company.
New Plant of Printing by David Allen.
Entirely New Scenery and Effects.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Oct. 12, Xmas, and Spring.
BERESFORD WHITCOMB, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
First-class Company, including Miss Dora Price. Please refer to Otto C. Culling, Esq., re last week at Grand, Halifax
WANTED, Aug. 24 (follow Alexandra, Hull), Sept. 7, and onwards, with exceptions.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, T. R., Stockport.

HORACE STANLEY CO.
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, 28, near London, Nov. 9, 16, London or South Coast.
HORACE STANLEY, Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy. 3 weeks.

WANTED, Managers, with Open Pantomime Dates, who desire to know something to their advantage, to communicate with J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

Grand Production of
"CONVICT 99."
WANTED, Autumn Dates, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 9 and 23 (North), 30, and on.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
The following Dates Vacant for this Enormous Success: Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 23, and onwards
Manager, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
Apply, Aug. 3, Theatre Royal, West Bromwich.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S ENTERPRISES.
All Touring 1908-1909.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
Brilliant Success Everywhere. Please refer.
WANTED, Jan. 11, May 17, 31,
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN,"
New Title of "The Woman Who Was Dead,"
the Strongest of Human Plays.
Wanted, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
Wanted, July 5, 1909, follow Bradford.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Elaborate and Gorgeous Revival.
New Scenery, Uniforms, Dresses, &c.
Company of Fifteen, Troupe of Dancers.
Wanted, Nov. 9, 16, 23, Dec., onwards.
M. BEAUDYN, Metropole T., Gateshead.

WANTED, Nov. 2, 16, Dec. 7, and Xmas, for Corri's "Dandy Fifth." Up-to-date.
HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre Royal, King's Lynn.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 8, March 1, 22, and 29. FRANK M. THORNE, Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

MISS BONWIN CARLTON'S CO.,
"THE OLD, OLD STORY."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Aug. 24, 31.
EDWARD SURREY, Royalty, Llanelly.

Mr. ERNEST CHESNEY'S COMPANY,
"WEDDED TO CRIME."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, 28 (Wales), Oct. 5, on, with various exceptions. For dates, apply GEORGE UNWIN, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Other coms., ERNEST CHESNEY, en route.

Mr. H. F. MALTBY'S PLAYS.
WANTED, for "Fraud," "The Youngest of Three," and "Sir George of Almack's," Aug 27 (3). Oct. 26, Nov. 9 and 16, and Spring.
WYN WEAVER, Kendal and Saltburn.

ROSE MONORIEFF'S CO.
"THE CURATE" and
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK," by Rass Challis.
WANTED, Sept. 21 and 28. Now Booking Spring, 1909. Everything carried. Clear Stage only Required. Address MAURICE, Hippodrome, Croydon.

WANTED, Theatres and Halls, Aug. 10 and 17, and onwards, for the Royal Pierrots, ten Artists, and Variety Company, and Pictures. A big show; grand printing. Can change programme nightly. Address, FRANCIS LOWE, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

THEATRES WANTED.

WANTED, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26.
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
It is a really dramatic play, well calculated to win the approval of any audience.—The Era (Newcastle notice).
Wanted, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26.
Wire or write, TILBURY, Theatre, Ashington.

WANTED, Theatres, for "Second to None," by Walter Howard, Feb. 1, 22, and Easter.
Address, T. H. WARD, T. R., Bristol.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Australia, practically 12 months' Engagement, Musical Comedy Artists; only First-class Recognised People please write.
C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, through releasing, First-class Heavy Leading Actor, for Constantine Schawbe (tall), also good Juvenile Man for Harold Spence. Rehearse Aug. 24. Terms, references, MORTON POWELL, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, for High-class Song-Scena, Long Engagement, Soprano, Principal, Experienced in Musical Comedy; Violinist, Solo, Young Lady, 16 to 20; Girl Actress, First-class Mimic and Singer.
Age, Experience, Terms, Photos (returned), to SAVILE'S Agency, 29, Bishop's-mans., Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Young Lady Vocalist (Soprano), good appearance and figure, age 16-21. Opportunity for smart amateur. Apply, Tuesday, 3 o'clock, The Bay Malton, 160, Great Portland-st., Oxford-st., W.

WANTED, for the Great Lafayette Show immediately, Three Chorus Ladies, good appearance (on and off), Pantomime Actor, and Two Trombones. Call, 29, Leicester-square, between 12 and 1 Monday.

WANTED, Immediately, Baritone Vocalist, to join Pianist and others, for seaside. Write or wire, FRANK CHAPMAN, 7, Avenue-house, Henry-st., St. John's Wood.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription 6d. weekly; yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Wanted, *Known,
THE GRENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

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ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Topham (Ben Greet Companies) has much pleasure in recommending the Misses Tina and Jeanne Langlois for Small Parts in a Good Touring Company. They are clever, bright, and full of resource. Both can Sing and Dance.
Address, El Retiro, Clavering-rd., South Wanstead.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contralto, Experienced, large répertoire, can play piano. Address, MARJORIE IRVINE, c/o Mrs. Lavender, Brent-st., Hendon, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Tenor and Baritone-Pianist, Vacant Aug. 31, Sept. 7, 14, and 21. Anything from Grand Opera to Variety. Photos, References, Notices, &c., PUGH, Wordsley, Stourbridge.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, for Pavilion Theatre, E., Pantomime Artists, all Lines, including Principals, Chorus, Dancers, &c., to Communicate at once, sending full particulars, lowest terms, photos, &c., to EDWARD KING, Pavilion Theatre, E. No interviews except by appointment.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Conductors, Comedian, for Pantomimes.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Principals, and all Lines, Quartettes, Trios, Chorus. Photos., &c., GEO. AYTOUN'S Agency, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Tessie Vandean, Liberty First Boy or Girl, 3 years Principal Lady, "Iona" Co. This, Empire, Leeds; Monday Empire, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Leo Lester, the Great Drury Lane Clown, with his Four-legged Comedians and Miniature Zoo. Vacant for Panto., Speciality, and Up-to-date Harlequinade. Now, Hengler's Circus, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, Vacant for Pantomime, late of Drury Lane.
All communications, Empire Cardiff.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Denby and Dent, Comedians and Dancers, thoroughly experienced. Address, next week, Palace Theatre, Worcester.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

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MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Manager for the Cork Opera House Co., Ltd.
Apply, stating experience and salary expected (which must be moderate), with copies testimonials, to
Messrs. ATKINS, CHIENSIDE, and Co., Chartered Accountants, 39, South-mall, Cork.

WANTED, for Lancashire Variety Theatre, Smart Up-to-date Energetic Acting-Manager; must be thoroughly conversant with all Departments, back and front; also Pianist Musical-Director, must be used to Twice-nightly system. Apply, with copy of references, age, salary required, &c., to Box 6,794, "The Era." The Acting-Manager would open about Aug. 17, and the Musical-Director Aug. 31.

WANTED, Gentleman, to assist in Management of High-class Music Hall, about to be opened; excellent opportunity for a smart, energetic man, capable of controlling staff, taking charge of cash, books, &c., and willing to invest from £300 to £500, secured by debentures. Address, Box 6,804, "The Era."

WANTED, Business-Manager, for Répertoire. Apply by letter.
Miss GLOSSOP-HARRIS, 98, Hyde Park-mans., N.W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Wanted, Immediately, Advance Agent for Bioscope; one knowing good picture towns.
RUSSELL, 46, Shepherd's-place-buildings, Grosvenor-square.

WANTED, Agent in Advance; Open at Once; good Window-biller and able to use the Brush. Send lowest, LOWE, Queen's T., Fleetwood.

WANTED, Fit-ups and Smalls, reliable, hard-working Agent that knows and can book a good paying Tour. Salary and commission. State fullest particulars, references. A conscientious man with experience only required; others save stamps. HARRISON, Pier, Cleethorpes.

WANTED, Assistant-Electrician, for West-end Variety Theatre.
State fully, qualifications, age, references, and salary required.
Address, Box 6,797, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, for the Royalty T., Morecambe, a good Stage Carpenter; one who can keep sober preferred. Address, with lowest terms and references, JULIAN MALVERN.

WANTED, First-class Billposter, one capable of taking charge of a branch if necessary; first-class references essential. Apply, ROCKLEY'S, LTD., Talbot-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, in the Autumn, Appointment as General Business-Manager of First-class Hall or Theatre, thoroughly experienced and reliable, Highest References. HAGUE, Corporation Entertainments Manager, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Advertiser, age 35, seeks Permanent Position in Music Hall as Acting or Stage-Manager, thoroughly experienced, Reliable, and Smart, Splendid References of Character and Ability. £5 offered for Introduction leading to Appointment. Apply, DUGDALE, 32, Sefton-street, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Gentleman, aged 33, possessed of good sound business knowledge, expert at figures, seeks responsible and trustworthy position; 13 years' reference, also good testimonials. J. ENOCH, 10, Grafton-street, Mile End, E.

WANTED, Engagement by Practical Stage Carpenter, Resident or Tour, First-class Refs. CARPENTER, 32 Gladstone-av., East Ham.

WANTED, Engagement, in the Provinces, as Property Master and Maker, 20 years' good reference, Theatre Royal, Brighton. E. BRIDGER, 9, Ashford-road, Preston Drove, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Mrs. Ross, Wardrobe Mistress, now at Liberty; cut and make. 152, Crownfield-road, Stratford, London, E.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Conductor and Full Orchestra for Suburban Theatre. Terms, References, and full particulars, to Box 6,801, "The Era."

WANTED, Competent Leader, for Palace Theatre, Lincoln, open Monday, steadiness essential. Wire, terms, refs., MORRIS, "Amusologia."

WANTED, Two First Violins, Trombone, and Drums. State terms and full particulars, E. PRYCE, Pavilion, Abertillery, Join Monday, Aug. 3.

WANTED, First-class Violin Musical-Director, for Palace, Southampton, to open Monday, August 3. Apply, personally or by letter, to CARL HAMLIN, Foresters' Music Hall.

WANTED, for Sedgwick Menagerie, First Cornet, Leader, 35s. per week; Solo Cornet, Second Cornet, and Euphonium, 30s. per week. Sat., Hayward's Heath; Mon., Tues., Wed., Thurs., Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, Aug. 9, for 8 to 10 weeks, South Coast; Military Band. Terms, references, to Box 6,795, "The Era."

WANTED, to open Aug. 10, a good, reliable Solo Cornet; must be competent. References and salary to MUS.-DIR., H. M. Theatre, Aberdeen.

THE SPA, WHITBY.
WANTED, at Once First-class Solo Cornet; good terms to good man.
References, &c., to
W. PAYNE SEDDON, The Spa, Whitby.

GAIETY THEATRE, DUNDEE.
WANTED, Good Reliable Cornet. Open all Year Round. Terms and Refs., W. HARTLEY, Mus. Dir.

THE PALACE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, Clarionet, permanent; must be first-class Instrumentalist. Refs. to F. H. JEPSON, Musical-Director.

WANTED, at Once, Ripieno Clarionet, for five or six weeks, Small Military Band. Terms, refs., BELLERBY, Deneholme, Ilkley.

WANTED, good First Clarionet, for Military Band; able to play Solo if required; 5 hours daily, including Sundays. Commence at once. Wire to CONDUCTOR, Winter Hall, Worthing.

WANTED, First-class String Bass, 6 weeks, commencing Saturday, Aug. 1; must be reliable performer. Apply, THOS. BENN, Musical-Director, Grand Hotel, Scarborough.

WANTED, immediately, Double Bass, for Minstrels and Empire Theatre; must be thoroughly experienced. Wire lowest terms. Open Mon. DARE, Empire Theatre, Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED, First-class Euphonium, doubles String Bass and Solo Trombone; also Solo Trombone. W. HAWKINS, 59, Tollemache-st., New Brighton, Cheshire.

WANTED, to Open Immediately, to Sept 14, Reliable Euphonium or Trombone and Cornet. State Salary, References. FORD, Band Offices, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, for Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, a reliable 'Cellist (permanency); experienced in Operatic and Theatrical work; age and actual lowest terms (eight performances inclusive); also Viola, for six weeks. Both to commence Aug. 3. Wire, A. SOMMERLAD, Mus.-Dir., 41, Rylstone-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED, 'Cello, for permanency; also various Instruments for Aug. 17 week and other special weeks. Apply, with full particulars and lowest terms, to W. R. KING, The Dalston Theatre, N.E.

WANTED, Immediately, Lady 'Cellist, also Double Bass, Permanent. State lowest terms and experience. Miss NEWTON, 111, Montague-street, Blackburn.

WANTED, Lady 'Cellist, must be Good Soloist, and used to Orchestral Work, Seven Weeks' Engagement, Open at Once, two hours and a half daily. Wire or write, MME. ANGLESS, Britannia Pier, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, good 'Cello, to open Sept. 21, Orchestra, New Theatre, Cambridge. Lowest salary, refs., to CONDUCTOR, 33, Glisson-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, Viola, Clarionet, Trombone, Open Aug. 10. Age, Refs., Terms. CONDUCTOR, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Provincial Tour and London Engagements, with Military Band, First-class Oboe, Euphonium, Cornet, and Solo Trombone, Permanent Engagement, Commence Immediately. Apply, Sunday morning, at 11.30 sharp, to CONDUCTOR, 64, Gibson-square, Islington, N.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Managing-Director, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.
WANTED, Oboe Player, to commence Monday, Aug. 17, 1908. Apply, with references, to J. O. SHEPHERD, Musical-Director.

WANTED, First-class Lady Accompanist, used to Concert Work; short tour. Apply personally, with references. Saturday, between 11 and 4. ALEXANDER, 22, Hazelbourne-road, Balham Hill, S.W.

WANTED, Young Lady Pianist; must be able to read at sight, accompany difficult solos, sing, and play small part. Apply, stating age, height, refs., and photo., absolute lowest terms. Add., B., 25, St. John's-st., Longsight, Manchester.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Brilliant Solo Pianist; well up in Variety, Dramatic, Standard Overtures, and Latest Selections. W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

BEAUMARIS PIER ORCHESTRA,
Aug. 1 to Sept. 5.
WANTED, Good Double Drummer, with Effects. No Fares paid. Wire or write particulars, lowest terms. McELWEE, Conductor, Pier, Beaumaris.

WANTED, to commence at once, good Drummer, with Effects. Wire terms, H. COLLINSON, Pier Orchestra, Cleethorpes.

WANTED, Tympani and Drums, open Monday next, Aug. 3. Wire lowest terms, WILHELM RUSSELL, Conductor, Grand Theatre, Llandudno.

THE DE FRECE CIRCUIT.
WANTED, Musicians, accustomed to Variety Business, for Present and Future Vacancies. Apply, with terms and recent references, to J. HOWARD SHACKLETON, Hippodrome, Portsmouth.

WANTED, for New Palace, Ebbw Vale, Full Orchestra, except M.-D. Address, with terms and particulars, E. TILNEY, Pavilion, Abertillery. Commence Aug. 31. Mark Envelope "Palace."

NEW HIPPODROME, MIDDLESBROUGH.
WANTED, First-class Leader, First Violin, 'Cello, and Drummer (with tymps and full effects), well up in varieties and standard selections. State age, with last reference, HARRY HINCHCLIFFE, Hippodrome, Darlington.

WANTED, experienced Lady Instrumentalists, Aug. 10, week, in the vicinity of London. Madam STOCKHAM, The Grove, Villa-road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Lady Musicians, for Special Fortnight, from Aug. 17, for Orchestral and Solo Work, Singers preferred. Lowest terms, references, to POPPIES, 14, Gladstone-ter., Brighton.

WANTED, Wind Instrumentalists for a Fortnight at Clacton-on-Sea, commencing Sept. 18. Apply, stating salary, to BANDMASTER, Woeley, R.S.O., Essex.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin, Viola, 'Cello, and Flute and Piccolo, not over thirty years of age, and single. None but competent players need apply. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 at the end of the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and, according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Apply to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 75, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
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WANTED Engagement, by experienced Conductor, Brilliant Pianist; can supply Band, Uniforms, and latest Music. MUS.-DIR., Pendine, Oaklands-road, Hanwell, W.

WANTED, Engagement, through closing, by experienced Variety Conductor (Violinist); London and Provincial references; excellent library. CONDUCTOR, 166, Humberstone-road, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Variety Conductor, now Disengaged, desires offers; highest references. Wire or write, CONDUCTOR, 100 Erdington-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Mus.-Dir. (Piano and Violin), permanency in good Theatre (South) or good Tour. W. MARSHALL, 36, Barnard-street, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, G. W. Schofield, Mus. Dir. (Piano and Violin), at Lib. shortly, any business. Good Refs. Address, Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

WANTED, Known, Theo. Klee, still at Liberty, Mus. Dir. or Leader, First-class References. Public Hall, Rothesay, N.B.

WANTED, an Engagement. Open to Immediate Engt. as Mus. Dir. or Pianist. EDWARD ROSSE, Nolan House, Whitcombe Court, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin; fully experienced, and excellent testimonials; age 29; commence any time. Write or wire, L. ROGER, 6, Stainsby-road, Poplar, E.

WANTED, Engagement as Leader or First Violin, any Business, thoroughly experienced, sober, good reference. McMAHON, 51, Stroud-road, Gloucester.

WANTED, Known, Violin Soloist and Conductor, Tremendous Draw (Hungarian). Open for Immediate Engagement, at Hotel, Café, or Seaside, &c. Can supply Band. Box 6,690, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin; experienced player can Open at Once. Address, 11, Barclay-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Second Violin, any Business. References. DALTON, 15, Portland-crescent, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by First Violinist and Viola; steady, reliable, good reader; 9 years in private orchestra. ALFRED JOEL RICHARDS, Wookey Hole, Wells, Somerset.

WANTED, by Second or First Violin, Engagement; moderate wage.
ARTHUR HARRIS, 57, Croxted-road, Dulwich.

WANTED, Known, Violinist, Disengaged, Experienced, all Lines, as First or Second, thoroughly steady, age 30. Good references. VIOLINIST, 2, Granville-road, Felixstowe.

WANTED, by Good Second Violin, Re-engagement, Good References, Combine Viola. Sober, Reliable. E. W., 69, Culverden Park-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Engagement, as Cornet; 12 years' experience in Variety; First or Second; first-class references if required. J. GRIFFITHS, King's Variety, Gateshead.

WANTED, Engagement as Cornet Player, Steady, Reliable, any business can open at once. ROSSON, 2, Waterhouse-terrace, Parish Church, Halifax.

WANTED, Known, Second Cornet Player, desires Engagement. Write to W. CROOK, 5, Foden-street, Newcastle, Staffs.

WANTED, Shop as First or Second Cornet, Disengaged Aug. 11.
Address, Box 6,791, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, £5 Bonus given for Permanent Billet as First or Second Clarionet, Military or Orchestra. Excellent Testimonials, life abstainer, age 34. State terms. J. B., 7, Denmark-st., Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement by Good Clarionettist, Experienced, all Lines; also by Good Violin; Theatre preferred. Schafer, 21, Lord-st., Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement by Double Bass, 8 years in Theatre and Variety. Steady and reliable. Jack Schatten, 32, Edleston-st., Accrington.

WANTED, Known, Open to Engagement; can start at once, Double Bass and E flat Tuba; late Staff Band-Sergt. F. Norris, 58, Celt-street, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass Player; well experienced in any Business; at Liberty. Th. Davis, Basso, 104, Castle-street, Luton, Beds.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass, at Liberty Aug. 3. Good References. W. Gott, 13, Albert-terrace, North Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by String Bass, thoroughly experienced, any Business, London or Suburbs; can open immediately. Basso, 62, Tamworth-street, Fulham.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass Player; reliable and thoroughly experienced; any Business. Address, or wire, W. Furnival, Owen-road, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, by First-class Trombonist, Engagement, Theatre, Music Hall, or Seaside; experienced in all branches. Norman, 112, Canal-road, Mile End.

WANTED, Known, Trombone, Disengaged; any Business taken; long experience Military Band and Orchestra. Trombone, 77, Crampton-street Walworth.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone, for Stage Band, and Assist in Light Occupation; steady and sober. Tapp, 293, Hackney-road, N.E.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, any Business; steady and reliable; Seaside preferred. J. Massey, 11, Como-road Forest Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombonist; experienced and reliable; Theatre or Music Hall. Apply, 20, Warley-street Parkinson-lane, Halifax; or Grand Theatre, Halifax.

WANTED, permanent or resident preferred, French Horn, Pianist; good refs.; Military, Orchestral. Sales, 2, Anne of Cleves-road, Dartford, Kent.

WANTED, Known, 'Cellist, thoroughly experienced; first-class refs., at Liberty Monday, Theatre or Music Hall. Harvey, 2, Tomline-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Engagement as 'Cellist, Variety preferred, Good Reader, Reliable, used to Drama and Variety. Apply Musician, 15, Hoxton-road, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagement as Viola or Bombardon, any Business, Young, Experienced, and Reliable, Abstainer. Viola, 22, Wells-rd., Bath.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Viola Player, age 23; varied exper. J. R. Balfour, 47, Pembridge-road, London, W.

WANTED, by Ernest Benn, Solo Harpist and Pianist (late Austral Trio); good partner for Music Halls, or join good H.A. Show. Perm. add., 21, Castlegate, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo; thoroughly experienced in Variety, Theatre, and Concert. Disengaged from Aug. 3. Would deputise. H. Otto, 75a, Fielding-road, Bedford Park, W.

WANTED, by Flautist. Offers. Open to Anything. Harpists and Combinations please note. 127, Westbury-road, Ilford, Essex.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement; used to Variety; age 25; life abstainer; can start at once F. Pithers, 15, Parliament-street, Gloucester.

WANTED, by Flute-Piccolo, Permanency, thoroughly competent, reliable, strict sobriety, wide experience, all lines. References. Address, Alex. Watson, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Lady Pianist; great experience in Orchestral Playing. Highest references. Wire or write, Box 6,726, "The Era."

WANTED, by Pianist, Re-engagement; good orchestral experience, for Seaside, Café, Club, &c. Box 6,749, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement, Smart Pianist, Variety and Picture Experience, read at sight, transpose, and memorise. Grieve, 14, Milbank-st, Stockton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist, or Pianist-Conductor, late Mus. Dir. Brit. Palace, Bow. Terms mod. Manning, 1, Claribel-rd., Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, The Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, from 3 to 30 performers. Disengaged. Madame Wilton Davis, 42, Linton-street London, N.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good répertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Good Gentlemen's Band, conducted by Lady, at Liberty for Evening Work; also Quintette, Lady 'Cellist, Disengaged. Signorina de Polo, 12, West Hill-road, S.W.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Jugglers, Trapeze, Bars, or any Act, Suitable for Gala, Sat., Aug. 8. Lowest terms to Capt. Clayton, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

WANTED, Two Young Men, Acrobats, Jugglers, Bender, or any suitable Ground Acts. Those doing two turns preferred. Can open at once. Money low, but sure. Circus, Rotherfield, Sussex.

WANTED, Top Mounter for Good Troupe, must do forwards and backs, 7st. to 8st. Address, G. A., 3, Rushcroft-house, Rushcroft-rd., Brixton.

WANTED, at once, Second Mounter and Catcher. State age and weight. Address, George Higgs, care G.P.O., Crewe.

WANTED, smart Young Man, for Fixing-up, Cleaning and looking after Wire Apparatus; little Tumbling required. State tumbling tricks in first letter. Address, J. H. Jee, Hippodrome, Douglas, I.O.M. P.S.—George, who helped at Crystal Palace, write.

WANTED, a Lady Parachutist, Saturday, Aug. 8 Everything Found. Capt. Clayton, Grand Theatre, Mansfield, Notts.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, The Stephenson Equestrian Family, Riders, Equilibrists, Clowns, and the Cleverest Monkeys, Dogs, and Pony Show in England, at Liberty in September for a few weeks only previous to opening with Mr. J. H. Cooke, Edinburgh. Particulars, address, 53, The Rake, Bromborough, Cheshire.

WANTED, Known, Walter Scott's Equestrian Family, at Liberty for the Winter Season with a number of First-class Acts. To Proprietors and Managers of World's Fairs, Fun Cities, &c., could arrange to take Sole Control of Circus Department. For terms and date, all communications, Walter Scott and Sons, c/o Mr. Corbett, 6, Gomm-road, Rotherhithe, London, S.E.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey,
Only One Clown; but, oh, what a Clown!
Only One Donkey; but, oh, what a Donkey!
Only One Agent; but, oh, what an Agent!
All working in glass houses; don't throw.
Crystal Palace, Sydenham. Vacant Aug. 17. Coms., Buer, 71, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, English and Continental Clown, is now appearing with Pagel's Grand Circus and Menagerie at Pretoria, South Africa, and shortly Touring all the Principal Towns of Africa. Still a Success wherever I go. Many thanks to Mr. George Gilbert for kindly releasing me of my summer's engagement at the Yarmouth Hippodrome. All correspondence to Dan Gregory, Pagel's Circus, Box 1,522, Post Office, Cape Town.

WANTED, Known, The Three Flying Orenius's, the World's Renowned Gymnasts, Resting; at Liberty Second Week in Aug. Splendid apparatus; fixed anywhere. No net used. Offers invited. 24, Salisbury-street, New North-road, N.

WANTED, Aug. 3, Fête, by Olrac and Maro, Comedy Bar Act; also The Silvos, Flying Loops. Wire quick for one or two acts. 36, Graham-road, Dalston, London.

WANTED, Known, Burdette Bros., Great Eccentric Acrobats, Touring Fossett's Circus, Liberty Aug. 10 and onwards. All coms., 38, Merton-street, Stoneyholme, Burnley.

WANTED, Known, Ethordo, Pugh, and Olrac, Free Xmas, with First-class Acts. Address, 15, Upper Elmwood-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Original Walonells and Dog, Comedy Gymnasts, at Liberty Aug. 3 and 10. Address, 5, Lyndhurst-grove, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Wild Animal Trainer, Employed by First-class Firms only, well accustomed Arrange Different Groups, wishes Engagement. Box 6,789, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Ada Webb's Water Wonders, including Elba and Alba, Aquatic Marvels. Copied by many, equalled by none. The Natatorial Art brought to Perfection. Continued Success. Hippo., Great Yarmouth.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
P'hone, 1626 Gerrard. Manager, Harry Lane. Representative, Corliss Claflin.

WANTED, Big Specialities and Variety Artists in all Lines.
Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys,
Principal Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts,
Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dancers.
All communications as above.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
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Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Variety Artists,
Variety Artists,
Big Specialities,
Big Specialities,
The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts
The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts
in the Business,
in the Business,
for
Blackpool, Morecambe, Southport,
Douglas, Brighton,
and Ireland,
for Aug. 3, onwards.
Send full list of
Bookings, Lithos., and Lowest Terms,
to
Will Sley,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to Wm. Biggam, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, Monday, Aug. 10, and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, August, onwards.
Dyson, 48, Cottenham-street, Manchester.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Aug. 10 and onward. A. E. Pickard.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now, onwards. Apply,
Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

HIPPODROME, ALDERSHOT.

WANTED, First-class Artists, all Lines, Aug. 10 and 17 weeks. J. Gladwin (manager for Mr. Sounes).

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Aug. 10, on. Terms, lithos., Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-street Manchester.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns doing Singles, Vent., Conjurer, two weeks, Aug. 10, 17, 24. Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, new to Aldershot, Aug. 24. Full particulars, lowest combination summer terms. Please say if ever on the same bill with us and where. Address Bouncing Dillons, Palace and Hippo., Burnley.

GAIETY MUSIC HALL, BLYTH.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Aug. 10, onward, Please remember, Hall Small.
W. Yates Gregory,
The Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists. Top-liners and Smaller Artists write. Can give plenty of work. Full list of bookings and lowest terms imperative. Price no object if can draw. Dan Noble, c/o Hippo., Lowestoft.

VERNO'S AGENCY
(under the direction of L. Verno and H. Arnold),
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Aug. 3, on. Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Star Lady Artists,
Aug. 10, 17, 24, later.
Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Artists, for Aug. 3, Camberley and Reading. Wire for Monday lowest. No singing turns. G. Baker, P.O., Reading.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Aug. 10, on. 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
Re-opening for the Season, Aug. 17.
WANTED, Agents desirous of doing Business, Artists desiring Engagements, also Combinations and Travelling Pantomimes, to please communicate with
Managing-Director.

NEW PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
CHELTENHAM.
General-Manager, Mr. Edward B. Shenton.
Business-Manager, Mr. John Walters.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.
WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
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Artists for
Immediate Dates
and Dates onwards.
Send full list
and very lowest
(this essential),
and permanent addresses.
Will the following please
wire addresses:—
Vasey and Ramsey,
Agustin and Hartley
Hayes and Merritt,
Fields and Lewis,
Leslie, Lynn, and Wilro,
Denwartz Troupe,
Soho Trio,
for Business.
29, Mauldeth-road West,
Withington,
Manchester.
Telegrams:
Granbeste,
Withington-Lancs.
Telephone:
193 Didsbury.

ALLIANCE THEATRICAL AND VARIETY AGENCY, LIMITED.
18-20, Manchester-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Films," Telephone, 6,782, Central.
Manager, Edwin W. Smith
(late Parthenon and Haymarket Music Halls).
WANTED, Artists in all Lines. Wanted, Novelty and Speciality Acts. Nothing too Big. Wanted, Artists for Alhambra, Belfast. Wanted, Artists for Entertainments, Ltd., Tour. Wanted, High-class Artists for New St. George's Hall, Belfast, opening Aug. 17. Wanted, Artists to Send Full List of Bookings and Absolute Lowest Terms. Wanted, Proprietors and Managers, in case of disappointment, to ring up 6,782, Central, or wire, "Films," Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists, Aug. 10, and onwards. Write or call, with full particulars,
J. W. Johnson,
Variety and Pantomime Agent,
66, Waterloo-road.

WANTED, Stars, &c., Aug. 3, 10, 17.
Geo. Aytoun's Agency,
103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Lithos, terms, and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, a Good Comedy Turn, Musical preferred, Monday next, for Galway, small hall, terms must be low, return fare paid. Wire Absolute Lowest, Albany Ward, Islip, Oxford. Silence Polite. Negative.

WANTED, Unknown Turns to do Trial Show at Matinée, Thursday next with a view to booking. Apply, Bert Dent, Palace Theatre, Greenwich, S.E.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Wanted, Talent, all Lines,
Aug. 10, 17, 24, and later.
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

CYRIL DUNDAS'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines, Aug. 10, for Alexandra Theatre, Widnes. Nothing too Big. Rosthwaite-rd, West Derby, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Aug. 3, onward, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to Jas. Tyrer, The Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, Comedy Acrobatic Speciality. Wire or write, Reno, 14, Boundary-road, Merton, Surrey.

BARNARD'S AGENCY, Shaw-street, Liverpool. Tel. 2,349, Royal.
WANTED, Big Attractions in all lines for Immediate Dates and onwards. Send Full List of Bookings and Vacancies. Nothing too big.

WANTED, for Paris, Big Attractions, also a few good Smaller Specialities; must be new for France. Floria, Palace, Halifax.

WANTED, Big Attraction, all Dates, Artists, all Lines for North,
Big Top, Sharing Terms, Aug. 17.
Address, Cliquot, Post Office, Dundee.

WANTED, Big Comedy Singing Acts and Specialities for Aug. 10, onwards. Wire or write immediately, J. Brown and Co., 58, Chicksand-street, N.E. Tel. No. 1,098, City. Will only see Clients by Appointment.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, present and Future Dates; also Dec. 21.
Martino's Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Aug. 10, onwards, Variety and Speciality Acts. Where possible, Full Bookings Imperative. T. Gannon, Variety Agent, West Grove, Bristol.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone 1269 Royal.
WANTED, a Big Top, for Aug. 17. Send full particulars, quick. Beatrice Harold's Troupe wire address; Contract waiting. Always Vacancies for Novelties. Full list of bookings and lowest terms in first instance.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone, 2345, Tron.
WANTED, Tops and Artists in every Line, including Sisters and Troupes of Ladies, for Immediate Dates and on. Write to the Reliable, the man that's on the spot, and runs a Genuine Agency. Nat Gould and George Goldburn write.

WANTED, Tops of Bills for Aug. 17 and 24. All Particulars to Frank Lynne, Hip., Scarborough. Tele. Add., "Skidoo, London."

WANTED, through Disappointment, Refined Musical Speciality, Two Weeks, probably longer, Open Monday. Absolutely lowest. Davis, Pictorial Enterprises, 4, Rothesay-road, Newport.

BOROUGH OF RAMSGATE.
WANTED Musical Troupe.
The Council invite applications for a Musical Troupe to perform on the Sands belonging to them at Louisa Gap, Broadstairs, to commence Monday, Aug. 3, at the sum of £3 a week during that month, and at a sum to be agreed should the pitch be required after August.
Apply to the
Chief Constable, Ramsgate.

WANTED, for Season, 1909, First-class Troupe of Al Fresco Entertainers, for one of the best Piers on the North Coast. Give full particulars, and state where can be seen working.—Box 6,783, "The Era."

WANTED, week, Sept. 7, for Jersey; good Concert or Al-Fresco Party.
Fred McCrea, Gloucester.

WANTED, a Concert Party, for Bognor Pier, on Sharing Terms. Write, stating percentage required, vacant dates, and full particulars, to M. W. Shanly, 33, King Henry's-rd., South Hampstead, N.W.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, Amateurs and Beginners, for Chorus and Music Hall Engagements; a splendid chance to enter the Profession. Call or write, John Hallick, 10, Greek-street, Shaftesbury-avenue.

WANTED, at Once, a Young Lady with a Powerful Voice, for a Sketch.
Apply, 235, Waterloo-road, S.E.

PALAIS DE CRISTAL, JERSEY.
WANTED, Smart Serios and Dancers. Apply, Mr. Sinclair, 118, Kennington-rd., S.E.

WANTED, Smart Young Lady, to Assist in Scena, to play Piano and
Speak a Few Lines.
Apply by Letter to
A. B., c/o Hugh J. Didcott,
Adelphi Chambers, John-street, Strand.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Lady to Sing Illustrated Songs for Long Engagement. Full particulars, lowest salary required, photo, Arthur Carlton, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, good Funny Clean Comedians, Monday next, for Watford, Bushey, Matlock, and elsewhere. Lowest terms, Gustave, Clarendon Hall, Watford.

WANTED, an Acrobatic Pantomimist. State age, height, tricks, experience, and lowest terms to Box 6,790, "The Era."

WANTED, Al-Fresco, smart young Baritone and Humorist. Terms, shares. Send photo., Greenhead, 10, Cavendish, Herne Bay.

WANTED, Comedian, boy preferred, for "The Coons," Restaurant Sketch. Bertie White write. Apply, H. A. Jordison, 51a, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Trick Cyclist, age about 14.
Box 6,809, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Smart, Competent Operators, Electric and Lime; only first-class men need apply; immediate. Jury's Imperial Pictures, 142, Long-acre, London.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Ena Corelli, Dainty Little Comedienne and Speciality Dancer, Aug. 3 and 17. Wire, Empire, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Adie Lewis, Smart Comedienne; large rép.; Songs, Duets, Con., and Sketches. 21, Cavendish-mans., Clapton-square.

WANTED, by Miss Alice Oakley, Comedienne, Monday next, Aug. 3; also Aug. 10, 17, 24. Wire, 157, Brook-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist, Aug. 3 and 10. Piers and Pavilions please answer. Our illustrated songs. 32, Northside, Clapham Common, S.W.

WANTED, Aug. 10, 17, and 24, by Zelda, the Novel Instrumental Lady, Big Act; also Wal Owen, Silent Comedian, Funny Act; two successes always. Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, Vacant Aug. 3, 10, 31, Sept. 21, with their New and Original Drawing-room Piano Act, introducing music, mimicry, banjo overture, &c. 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next and Aug. 24, Miss Myria Lola, in a Marvellous Stage Trapeze Act. Big Success. Queen's Theatre, Dublin. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next and Aug. 10, by Grosvenor Sisters (Three), Singers of Popular Melodies in Harmony; handsome costumes, good songs. Wire, this, Grand, Gravesend (third return); next, 39, Electric-avenue, Brixton.

WANTED, November, onwards, Herr Schuler, World's Greatest Saxophonist. Hear the Baritone, Tenor, and Soprano Voices on Magnificent Range of Instruments, costing £350. Permanent Address, 49, Peter-st., Blackpool. Agent wanted.

WANTED, Neddy Vokes, Comedy, Musical, and Patter Comedian. Liberty Aug. 3, 10, Galas, &c. Wire, 15, Moreton-st., Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Will Owen, Eccentric Comedian, Vacant Aug. 3, onwards, Good Al Fresco Entertained, 10 years' experience. This, Pavilion, Liverpool; next week, 14, Aberdeen-st., Whitworth Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, also Aug. 24, on, by Wyllie, Tramp Musician, Splendid Stage Fit-up; also Miss Telka, Refined Contralto Vocalist. Wire, King's Hall, Skegness.

WANTED, by Oliver Conroy, Comedian, Aug. 17 Sept. 14, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 1908. Central Pier, Morecambe.

WANTED, Aug. 3 and 17, by Syd Herman, Hebrew Dialect Comedian. Wire for the Goods, 34, Warburton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Carrick, Refined Comedian and Mandolinist; unexpectedly Disengage dfor Piers, Al-Fresco, &c. Excellent Répertoire, Songs, Duets, Concerted Numbers, &c. Can produce and manage. Open at once. Wire address, The Pier, Worthing.

WILL WALTON (The Original), Mrs. Rout'em.
WANTED, Sept. 7 and 14, Ashton-u.-Lyne.

Queen's Theatre, Keighley, June 12, 1908.
Dear Mr. Walton.—Allow me to compliment you on your very clever sketch, "The Suffragette." I must say you can make the audience laugh heartily. Every success.—Yours truly, Lingford Carson.

WANTED, by the Original Li Chang Hi, Chinese Conjurer, Aug. 10 and 17, precede Sheffield. This, Palace, Aberdeen; next, Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, Aug. 3, 10, 17, by De Franklin, American Comedy Conjurer. Wire or write, Halls, Galas. This, Lincolnshire Galas. Franklin, Bath-street, Ilkeston.

WANTED, Aug. 10, 17, 24, by Kyoto, Japanese Posturing Contortionist, Comedy Juggler, Conjurer, and Pug Dog; also May Geraldine, Dainty Comedienne, Dancer. Aug. 3, Crystal Palace, London. Wire or write, 41, St. Mary's-square, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, by Keeble, the Vent., and Gladys Wells, Vocalist, Aug. 10 17. Two Sure Winners. This, Winter Gardens, New Brighton; Mon., Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, by The Vollmers (Master Harry and Little Ruthie), Aug. 17, 24, Aug. 3, Opera House, Workington. Aug. 10, Empire, South Shields.

WANTED, Monday next, by Chant and Chant, Bright Vocal Comedy Duo. Wire for a Laughing Hit. 18, Oxford-st., Heaton Chapel, Stockport.

WANTED, Aug. 10, 17, by the Two Le Bruns, Extraordinary Juggling and Vocal Speciality. Address, The Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Aug. 3 and 10, by Fern and Fawn, in Shriekingly Funny Episode "The Conqueror"; also Comedian, Single. Wire, Empire, Matlock, Bath.

WANTED, Known, The Knotellas (Harry and Rose), Flexible Acrobats and Dancers, &c., Liberty Fêtes, Galas. Wanted, one week, Aug. 31 (South), Aug. 3 (week). Grand Pavilion, Mansfield.

WANTED, Known, Levey and Leverton's "Find the Lady First" Sketchette, Empress, Brixton. Vacant Aug. Wire, 97, New Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, by Fields and Lewis, the Great Comedy Act. A Star Turn. Vacant Aug. 10. Wire, Palace, Clacton. A Sure Hit.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Musical Clowns, Aug. 10 and 17.
Address, Palace Theatre, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Bishop and Winkles, Clowns and Knockabouts, Big Success with F. J. Connor, Esq., Hippodrome, Douglas, I.O.M., Business and Pleasure combined. All Coms., Hippo., Isle of Man.

WANTED, Aug. 10 and 17, The Carlsens, Comedy Trampoline Speciality, Roars of Laughter and Applause, Splendid Lithos. Address, Grand, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Sword and Robb, Captain and Idiotic Sailor. Liberty Sept. 28; also Panto. Leeds Arms, Cleethorpes.

WANTED, by Taylor and Bridge, Singing Lancashire Mill Lads, Aug. 3, 10, 17, 24, Halls or Al-Fresco. Wire, Pier, Bangor.

WANTED, Known, Lack and Ford Trio, Comedy Acrobats, Vacant Aug. 10. This is a Big Comedy Act, played all the First-class Theatres in England and Continent. Managers please note.—This is a Clean Comedy Act. Aug. 3, Palace, Battersea.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Aug. 10, by Onda and Leon, the Greatest of all Comedy Bar Acts. Address, 24, Brook-street, Preston.

WANTED, Known, Ryde and Beeman, Acrobatic Eccentrics, Vacant Aug. 3, 10. Wire, 140, Elliot-street, Pendleton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Burdette Bros., Great Eccentric Acrobats, Touring Fossett's Circus, Liberty for Panto. Parts and Speciality. All coms., 38, Merton-street, Stoneyholme, Burnley.

WANTED, Known, Blarney and Kennard, Comedians, Patterers, with Waltzing Dog, Vacant Aug. 3, 10, 17. Wire, 33, Stafford-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, The Musical Palmers, Vacant Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, Conclude Tonight 2 weeks' very Big Success, Aberdeen and Dundee. Monday next, Curzon Hall, Birmingham, with Waller Jeffs, Esq.

WANTED, Aug. 10, Les Blancs, Comedy Bar Act. Geo. Hyatt, Society Juggler. Two First-class Acts. Monday, Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, Walker's Would-be Acrobats, Globella, Juggling Speciality, Vacant Galas. Address, 29, Spring-gardens, Doncaster.

WANTED, Monday, Poole Pelham Trio, Two Ladies and One Gent, Novelty Acrobats and Acrobatic Dancers, and Zednas Sisters, Duettists and Dancers. 56, King's-road, Portobello, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Leo and Roland, Novel Equilibrists, in a Refined and Original Act, introducing their great sensational Ladder Feat, the most daring and skilful hand-balancing feat ever performed, as acknowledged by both Press and Public. Own invention, so pirates beware. Vacant Aug. 10, only open date this year. Add., this week and next, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED Known, that Paul Delano, the World-famous Juggler and Equilibrist, has just returned from Germany, is Open for Engagements. Success everywhere; a most sensational act. Address, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Aug. 3 and 17, by the Three De Venas. Unique Double Jugglers; just returned Continent. De Venas, 17, Rhondda-street, Swansea.

WANTED, by Avrignys, Jap. Jugglers, Aug. 24, North. Address, Gaiety Variety Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Screamingly Funny and Lightning Act, Aug. 10, 17, 24. Monday next, Lofthouse Park. Wire, Stebbings, Manchester.

WANTED, Aug. 3 and 24, Lola and Jake, Smart Comedy Three-Bar Act.
Wire, Queen's Theatre, Dublin.

WANTED, by the Two Walonells, Greatest of all Comedy Gymnasts, Aug. 31, through King's, Edinburgh, closing. Add., Jack Walonell, Alexandria Theatre, Greenock.

WANTED, Known, Phinas and Aida, Gymnastic Speciality, returns to England Nov., Vac. Panto. J. Tully, Agent. Please write, 12, Chadwick-st., Rochdale.

WANTED, Aug. 10, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Franklin's Gardens, Northampton.

WANTED, Aug. 3, 10, by The Peps, Trampolin, Bars. The Best Theatres or Galas.
64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next (one week only), by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe (5), Greatest Top-of-Bill Speciality Attraction before the Public. Wire, Atlas, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, Florence Raymond, Ventriloquist and Mimic, Vacant Aug. 10, 17, 24, 31, Sept. 28, onwards. This, 140, London-road, Blackburn; next, Palace, New Brighton.

WANTED, Aug. 10, onwards, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. This week, specially engaged, Cromo's Pierrots, Norwich; next week, Galas. Address, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Aug. 10, 17, North preferred, Gillin, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist.
Winter Gardens, Morecambe; Mon., Pal., Glasgow.

WANTED, New Year's week and Later Dates, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two Smart Acts. Gaiety T., Blyth.

WANTED, Sept., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the biggest Novelty ever introduced with Troupe of Dogs. Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Aug. 3 and 10, Swift Duo, Cycling Speciality. Wire, Opera House, Workington; after Sat., 40, Sidney-st., All Saints', Manchester.

WANTED, Known, at Lib. Aug. 4, 5, 6, and later, Rodin, Knockabout Cycle Act. Two Good Acts for Galas. Carnival, Glasgow. Monday, Gala Field, Harrogate.

WANTED, Known, Travers's Bioscopes, at Liberty. Moderate terms. Films for Hire; write for list. Travers, 154, High-street, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement for First-class Bioscope, Vacant Five Nights, commencing Tuesday, Aug. 4. Albany Ward, Islip, Oxford.

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"One of the Biggest Hits yet"
best describes the enormous success of our latest marvel,
The Slot Diabolo,
The Slot Diabolo,
The Slot Diabolo,
The Slot Diabolo,
The Slot Diabolo,
an Automatic Amusement Machine,
in which the public love to place their money,
for the fascinating play it gives them.
It gives no trouble, but it gets the dollars.
Get one now.
Procrastination is the thief of time—and money.
Every day you delay means money lost.
Write for terms and particulars of 100 other "money magnets."—Vide testimonial.

The Minerva Automatic and Mills Novelty Co.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.
Owners and patentees of the famous
Electric and Automatic Violin.
Telegrams, "Minervanto, London."
'Phone Holborn 5705.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

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WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. Leete and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Stacey's Showman's Stores. New address, 510, Kingsland-road, London. All Goods of Best Quality. Guns, Cartridges, Lamps, Swing Ropes, &c. Slot Machines, Special Bargains. Electric Phonographs, £5, cost £30; Pleezall Picture Machines, 46s., cost £5; Punch-Ball, £10; &c.

WANTED, Known, Thought Reading, Clairvoyance, suitable Side Shows, &c., Defies Detection, no Code or Practice Required, Sensational Money-making Show. Secret 10s. Mason, 3, St. James's-street, Brighton.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROTHERS, AND CO.
Sole Makers of the only Patent Cake Walk Riding Machine in the World.
Royal Letters Patent, No. 17,402, July 30, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 25,150, Nov. 13, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 2,649, Feb. 6, 1908.
REGISTERED TRADE MARK, "CAKE WALK."

WANTED, Known, users as well as makers who infringe will be proceeded against. In the Chancery Court, July 3, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady granted an injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402, 1907.
This machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for simplicity, lightness, and durability. Appreciated by the Public everywhere. Write, or call on the Sole Makers, Farncombe-street, and 94 and 98, Bermondsey-wall, Bermondsey, London, S.E.

Important Notice.

WANTED, Known, that as from the 20th of June, 1908, Messrs. Limonaire Brothers, of Paris, have taken over the business and premises of their Manchester Agent, Mr. A. Righini, and that in future all letters, remittances by cheque, or post, must be made payable and addressed to Messrs. LIMONAIRE BROTHERS (of Paris), Show Organ Builders, 47, Great Clowes-street, Lower Broughton, Manchester.

N.B.—Messrs. Limonaire Brothers have much pleasure in adding that they retain the services of Mr. Arthur Righini as their Manager and representative in Manchester.

WANTED, a good Helter Skelter or other First-class Amusements for the Best Pitch in Margate, to open at once, shares or rental; also Space for "While-you-wait Photographer." Write or wire, DIXON, The Façade, Margate.

WANTED, Good Novelty, to Open on Monday in Shop; very best position, Brighton, Sussex (18, Kensington-gardens). Best Week in the Year (Race Week). John Chambers and others wire as above if disengaged.

WANTED, Known, Good Freaks, Novelties, &c., can have 8, 10, or 12 weeks' Engagement at my American Museum. Send fullest particulars, terms, photo, and samples of lithos, A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Johnny Trunley, the Fat Boy of Peckham, is Open for Engagements for September and onwards; enormous draw everywhere; 9 years 8 months old, nearly 16st. Terms, &c., F. STEWART, Waxwork, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Mount, Lecturer or Doorsman, First-class Exhibit, Pictures or anything; fluent, dress well; thoroughly experienced. 38, Thanet-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Situation, with Auction Mart, Pianist, Champion Melodion Player, Tent Repairer, Planksman. WILLIAM MORLEY, 59A, Rosomond-street, Hessle-road, Hull.

WANTED, by Smart Young Lady, Position as Gold Wire Worker and Engraver, Good at Sales. Apply, H. M., 8, Bailey-street, Newport.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to Know I Sell Secondhand Silver Watches, 800 and 935 silver, Ladies' and Gent.'s, 3s. 6d. each; Levers, from 5s. to 10s. each; Silver Alberts, 2s. 6d. per oz.; New Metal Watches, at very low prices. SIMONS, 100-101, Houndsditch, London, E.C.

WANTED, to Sell, 7 horse Compound Road Locomotives, by Messrs. Burrell, Thetford, mounted on springs, with awning, Dynamo Plate, Showmen's Fittings, splendid condition, under weight; also 20 arc Dynamo, by Laurence Scott, Norwich, perfect condition; also 2 Show Front Wagons, 14ft. long, Splendid Carved Arch, by Spooner, lately gilded and decorated. The above are all in first-class condition. Apply for full particulars and where can be seen, CHAS. THURSTON, 60, Ketts-hill, Norwich.

WANTED, to Sell, Road or Rail Living Carriage, by Howcroft 17ft. long, 7ft. 6in. wide, coupled up for engine, fitted up 2 bedplaces, side door, double brake, new last September, complete. To be seen, PLINSTON BROS., South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Sell, Electric Lighting Engine, by Green, Leeds; would drive 40 arc lamps, in truck, with or without dynamo. W. REYNOLDS, engineer, Bedford.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, New and Second-hand, Card Delivery, Mother Shiptons, marvellous money-takers, enormous profits. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Gold-mounted Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, your profits doubled. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Four Avery's Penny-in-slot Weighing Machines, iron, in good condition, £12 each. WHITACRE, Foreshore, Scarboro'.

WANTED, to Sell by Auction, Quantity of American Automatic and English Automatic Machines. For Catalogue of Sale to be held Monday, Aug. 10, apply Box 6,769, "The Era."

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WANTED, to Sell, Electric Pianos, Secondhand, in splendid condition, almost like new. cheap, with Tunes, GULDMAN and Co., 7, Sugar-lane, Manchester.

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WANTED, to Sell, Large Distorting Mirrors, in Good Condition.
Box 6,792, "The Era."

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South End of Promenade.
Telegrams, "Popular, Blackpool."
Telephone 158 Blackpool.
The Premier Outdoor Amusement Resort in England. The Permanent Attractions now include the Scenic Railway from Coney Island (one mile long), The Highest and Longest Water Chute in England, The Picturesque River Caves of the World, The Ever-Popular Helter-Skelter Lighthouse, A Reproduction of a Street of Sunny Spain, and many others.

WANTED, Applications for Concessions for anything new and up-to-date.
Address,
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WANTED, Known, to Showmen and Roundabout Proprietors, that I have Ground to Let at the following places: Folkestone and Deal, Sept. Fairs, and Canterbury Great Michaelmas Pleasure Fair to follow, a First-class Cinématograph Show, Ground Free. Applications to W. WAGHORNE, Agent to J. F. Macklin, Switchback Proprietor, Nelson House, Godington-road, Ashford, Kent.

WANTED, Known, all Parties requiring Ground for all the Principal Regattas. First Regatta, Exmounth, Aug. 5; Babbicombe, Aug. 7 and 8; Starcross, Aug. 11; Dawlish, Aug. 12; Sutton Harbour, Plymouth, Aug. 12; Exeter, Aug. 15; Paignton, Aug. 18 and 19; Plymouth, West Hoe Regatta, Aug. 19 and 20; Brixham, Aug. 21 and 22; Torquay, Aug. 24, 25, and 26; Totnes Races, Sept. 1 and 2; Fête at Cockington Park, Torquay, Sept. 8 and 9. Apply, HANCOCK, West Hoe, Plymouth, until Aug. 3; then, Regatta Ground, Babbicombe.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen and Others, Shop to Let, for Short Period, in main City thoroughfare, owing to expiration of lease. Rent only £3 weekly. Keys with ABB and Co., 116, Bishopsgate Without, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Distorting Mirrors to Let, on Hire or Share, Exhibitions, &c. Address, c/o Mrs. Hampshire, Church-lane, Outwood, Wakefield.

WANTED, immediately Space, 7ft., or Shop for Jewellery and Engraving; also Shooting Range, Air Guns. KING, 4, Gratwicke-terrace, Arundel.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a complete
COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS,
FOR AUGUST.
ENGLAND.

Aug. 1. Appleby (1,800)
Aug. 1. Baslow (1,000)
Aug. 1. Burnham (3,000)
Aug. 1. Calow (611)
Aug. 1. Calver (374)
Aug. 1. Calverley (2,575)
Aug. 1. Curbar (794)
Aug. 1. Dartford (18,700)
Aug. 1. Froggatt (84)
Aug. 1. Greenhill (525)
Aug. 1. Heywood (25,000)
Aug. 1. Kingston-on-Thames (34,400)
Aug. 1. Ludford (714)
Aug. 1. Marple (5,100)
Aug. 1. Mellor (1,584)
Aug. 1. Milnrow (5,100)
Aug. 1. Redditch (11,300)
Aug. 1. Royton (13,000)
Aug. 1. Shirland (3,697)
Aug. 1. Stretton (613)
Aug. 1. Swadlincote (18,000)
Aug. 3. Accrington (43,000)
Aug. 3. Bicester (3,300)
Aug. 3. Bilston (24,000)
Aug. 3. Birkenhead (111,000)
Aug. 3. Blackheath (21,000)
Aug. 3. Brigg (2,300)
Aug. 3. Castleacre (1,600)
Aug. 3. Cheltenham (49,600)
Aug. 3. Clevedon (6,000)
Aug. 3. Doncaster (29,000)
Aug. 3. Fleetwood (12,000)
Aug. 3. Garston (17,300)
Aug. 3. Hampstead Heath
Aug. 3. Hanley (61,500)
Aug. 3. Haslingden (18,600)
Aug. 3. Hendon (17,000)
Aug. 3. Hunslet (66,000)
Aug. 3. Ilkley (7,500)
Aug. 3. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,300)
Aug. 3. Malvern (16,500)
Aug. 3. Manningham (45,051)
Aug. 3. Middlesbrough (91,300)
Aug. 3. Morecambe (12,000)
Aug. 3. New Brighton (10,000)
Aug. 3. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,803)
Aug. 3. Newmarket (10,700)
Aug. 3. Northampton (87,000)
Aug. 3. Otley (8,726)
Aug. 3. Portsmouth (189,000)
Aug. 3. Reigate (26,000)
Aug. 3. Richmond (Surrey) (31,000)
Aug. 3. Ripon (8,200)
Aug. 3. Rodley (2,100)
Aug. 3. Rushden (12,500)
Aug. 3. Ryde (11,000)
Aug. 3. Salford (221,000)
Aug. 3. Seaham Harbour (10,200)
Aug. 3. Southport (48,400)
Aug. 3. South Shields (97,300)
Aug. 3. Stafford (20,275)
Aug. 3. Stanningley (5,579)
Aug 3. Taunton (21,600)
Aug. 3. Tunbridge Wells (33,400)
Aug. 3. Wanstead Flats (9,200)
Aug. 3. Wormwood Scrubs
Aug. 3. Wyke (5,936)
Aug. 5. Boston (15,700)
Aug. 5. Milnsbridge (4,952)
Aug. 5. Wombwell (13,500)
Aug. 6. Evesham (7,100)
Aug. 6. Tanhill (8,200)
Aug. 8. Barlow (1,110)
Aug. 8. Bolsover (3,752)
Aug. 8. Cheetham Hill (35,000)
Aug. 8. Clay Cross (8,587)
Aug. 8. Cowhill Wakes
Aug. 8. Crabb's Cross (4,560)
Aug. 8. Denton (9,357)
Aug. 8. Hazel Grove (6,000)
Aug. 8. Lindfield (2,300)
Aug. 8. Wessington (614)
Aug. 8. Whitefield (11,500)
Aug. 8. Whitwell (1,924)
Aug. 10. Denholm (3,239)
Aug. 10. Drypool (Hull) (32,000)
Aug. 10. Eccleshill (8,500)
Aug. 10. Horncastle (4,000)
Aug. 10. Rawdon Feast
Aug. 10. Silsden (4,000)
Aug. 10. Stockport (70,500)
Aug. 11. Earlestown (8,000)
Aug. 12. Mitcham (12,000)
Aug. 12. Sowerby Bridge (11,100)
Aug. 12. York (75,560)
Aug. 13. Brighouse (10,750)
Aug. 13. Gildersome (3,200)
Aug. 13. Highworth (2,500)
Aug. 13. Padiham (12,200)
Aug. 13. Queensbury (5,812)
Aug. 14. Ashton-under-Lyne (40,492)
Aug. 15. Astwood Bank
Aug. 15. Droylesden (13,500)
Aug. 15. Glossop (5,000)
Aug. 15. Leland (1,810)
Aug. 15. Mottram (4,650)
Aug. 15. Rochdale (74,000)
Aug. 15. Shaw (5,000)
Aug. 17. Kirkstall (4,000)
Aug. 17. Long Eaton (13,000)
Aug. 17. Lowmoor (2,397)
Aug. 17. Morley (20,000)
Aug. 19. Barnsley (40,000)
Aug. 19. Birstall (6750)
Aug. 20. Darley (2,725)
Aug. 21. Great Harwood (12,000)
Aug. 21. Hartlepool (22,800)
Aug. 21. Stonehouse (1,800)
Aug. 22. Ashbourne (4,766)
Aug. 22. Bracknell (2,200)
Aug. 22. Darlaston (15,400)
Aug. 22. Delph (5,000)
Aug. 22. Ipswich (66,600)
Aug. 22. Middleton (13,000)
Aug. 22. Newton Heath (30,000)
Aug. 22. Shipton (10,800)
Aug. 22. Saddleworth (4,256)
Aug. 22. Whittington (3,730)
Aug. 24. Beeston (30,000)
Aug. 24. Bingley (9,261)
Aug. 24. First Lee Fair
Aug. 24. Guiseley (4,300)
Aug. 24. Horsforth (3,900)
Aug. 24. Pudsey (17,585)
Aug. 24. Yeadon (7,800)
Aug. 25. Crediton (4,000)
Aug. 25. Hooley Hill
Aug. 25. Taxel or Whaley Bridge (1,548)
Aug. 26. Bakewell (3,500)
Aug. 26. Hinckley (11,300)
Aug. 26. Irlams-o'-th'-Height (27,000)
Aug. 26. Shaftesbury (3,000)
Aug. 26. Shrewsbury (27,000)
Aug. 26. Strood (10,000)
Aug. 27. Cleckheaton (12,000)
Aug. 27. Romsey (4,200)
Aug. 28. Bradford-on-Avon (4,500)
Aug. 29. Eccles (35,000)
Aug. 29. Eyam (1,422)
Aug. 29. Halton (Lancs.) (916)
Aug. 29. Oldham (150,772)
Aug. 29. St. John's Chapel (1,400)
Aug. 29. West Houghton (9,356)
Aug. 31. Farsley (5,500)
Aug. 31. Halton Feast (Leeds) (2,200)
Aug. 31. Hucknall-with-Huthwaite (5,000)
Aug. 31. Watchet (2,000)

SCOTLAND.

Aug. 4. Alyth (3,000)
Aug. 4. Cupar (4,511)
Aug. 6. Kelso (4,006)
Aug. 6. Kirkcaldy (22,347)
Aug. 8. Paisley (79,335)
Aug. 12. Alloa (11,417)
Aug. 13. Biggar (1,200)
Aug. 14. Hawick (17,803)
Aug. 21. Irvine (9,603)

WALES.

Aug. 3. Cardiff (164,000)
Aug. 3. Merthyr Tydfil (26,500)
Aug. 3. Mold (4,000)
Aug. 3. Swansea (90,423)
Aug. 15. Malpas

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WANTED, to Sell, Cheap, Garden Wall, almost new, 6 by 24; also Profile Statue.
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WANTED, to Sell, cheap, Pantomime Dresses, some new, but all in good condition and perfectly clean. Appointment to view, WYNN MILLER, Grand Theatre, Leeds.

WANTED, to Sell, Musical Novelties for Stage purposes of every description. Sole British Manufacturer, LISLE, 5, Cuthill-road, Camberwell.

Upholstered Crimson Plush Seating.
WANTED, to Sell, about 450ft., complete, with backs, standards, and movable arms. Price 1s. 6d. foot, or nearest offer.
LAKE, Theatre Royal, Aston.

WANTED, to Sell, Several Pretty and First-class Illusions, Quick Money-takers, for Side-shows. Particulars, FREDRICKS, Sydney Gardens, Bath.

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"Kindly do not insert my advertisement again, as the self-acting piano which I had to sell has been sold to Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland fame, Whitechapel-road, E. I had also ten other applicants through my advertisement in 'The Era.'
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WANTED, to Purchase, a Good, Secondhand Bioscope, with all Electric Fittings, must be first-class, up-to-date machine; also Up-to-date Films, by best makers; also Good Singing Pictures, complete, by any Good Maker. No Rubbish Wanted. Apply, giving full particulars and lowest price to M. W. SHANLY,
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WANTED, immediately, a Second-hand Cocoanut Matting for Stage Use, 35ft. to 40ft. in diameter; must be cheap. Send particulars to Mme. FILLIS, c/o Sydney M. Hyman, Ltd., Dramatic, Circus, and Variety Agents, 29, Leicester-square, London, W.C.

WANTED, to Purchase Linen, Japanese Lanterns; also Several Large Baskets.
BOGGIS, Empire, Stratford.

WANTED, a Mexican Saddle, any condition, cheap, to dress stage.
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WANTED, Known. Being Desirous of Spending the Winter Abroad, Mr. Sergenson is prepared to let the Grand Theatre, Blackpool (on rental only), from Nov. 2, 1908, to March 27, 1909, inclusive, for Dramatic or First-class Variety, run by Anyone Holding Control of Two or Three Other Halls would prove Highly Remunerative.
The Theatre holds Full Dramatic and Music Hall Licences; also permission to smoke.
The Proprietor pays all rates and taxes.
Silence a Polite Negative.

Apply as Above.

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Apply, Box 6,591, "The Era."

WANTED, to Let, Queen's Hotel Assembly Rooms, Queenstown; accommodation for over 400 people; length 90ft. from entrance to stage, breadth of Hall 24ft.; electric light.
For terms apply to
B. HUMBERT, Proprietor.

WANTED, to Let, St. George's Hall, Ramsgate, Licensed for Music, August and September. H., 6, Caversham-road, Kentish Town.

WANTED, to Let, the Rehearsal Theatre, 21, Maiden-lane, Strand, for Private Theatricals, Concerts, Meetings, Rehearsals, &c. Manager, Mr. J. HERBERT JAY. 'Phone, Gerrard 2633. Wires, "Managerial, London."

WANTED, to Let, for Rehearsals &c., Large Room, 45ft. by 30ft., smooth pine floor; good piano, accommodation, and ventilation; 1s. 6d. per hour with electric light, 1s, without; two entrances. Bay Malton Hotel, 160, Great Portland-street, W. 'Phone, 2,948 Mayfair.

WANTED, to Let, Furnished Flat, in S.W. London, every convenience, bath, electric light, gas stove, piano, garden; select neighbourhood. Terms, 25s. weekly. Apply, REYNOLDS, Belle Vue House, St. John's-terrace, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, to Let, a Bed and Sitting-room; also Combined Room. Moderate.
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Matinée every Monday.
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Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
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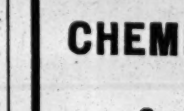

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—This week Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company produce *The Dandy Doctor*. The piece is very brightly played. Miss Florence Smithers shows remarkable versatility in the highly-amusing part of Jane; Miss Mollie Wynne makes a charming Ivy Pendred; Mr. George Brentwood skilfully portrays the potted meat millionaire, Melchisadek Brown; Mr. Herbert Pearce is successful as a heavy father; Mr. C. B. Williams is a most satisfactory Carl; and Mr. A. Leslie Martin's Julius Cæsar is very funny. Some smart and graceful dancing is contributed by Miss Lottie Stone's Empire and Little Dutch Girls. All the minor parts in the piece are capitally filled.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Jack Lorimer, the popular Scotch comedian, makes a welcome reappearance, and is enthusiastically received and encored; Mr. Paul Vandy shows himself to be one of the most dexterous jugglers on the stage; Miss Gladys Huxley is a comedienne of great accomplishment; Miss Stella Stahl sings with considerable dash and piquancy; Mr. Bert Woodward is clever as a cycling coon; Mr. Will Matcham earns applause in his eccentric musical turn; Oakdene exhibits resource and originality as a ventriloquist; Mr. Francis O'Flynn plays the banjo with exquisite skill; and the dancing of the Lillies is exceptionally smart and graceful.

BEACH PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—The principal artists this week are the members of the Downes Family, who excel both as musical instrumentalists and comedians. Miss Violet Davidson introduces a number of new songs, and Mr. Thomson sings some very amusing ditties. Mr. George Park, vocalist, and Mr. Jack Marson are in excellent voice; and the turns of Mr. Dan Williams, vocalist, and Vulcaris, entertainer and accompanist, are likewise highly appreciated.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—The principal artists this week are Mr. G. F. Rollo, an eccentric comedian of considerable originality; Oliver and Twist, a couple of clever society entertainers; Little Etta, comedienne and dancer; and Mr. Dove Paterson, cinematographist, who, among other pictures, shows a magnificent coloured film, a thousand feet long, called The Clockmaker's Secret.

ABERTILLERY. — THEATRE METROPOLE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborne. —The management provides an excellent holiday attraction in the company of Mr. Evelyn A'Dell, who presents *His Sister's Honour*. The company possesses capable artists, and deserves the highest praise. The songs and dances are a speciality.

NEW PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—After a week's vacation for renovation the Pavilion starts on its second season. The Melody Makers head the bill in a very fine musical exhibition in the scena, *A Burglar's Dream*; while Corri and Foote submit a very pleasing turn. Miss Daisy Morrell delights the audience with her very fine songs; Fred Rex scores well as a comedian and dancer; Stidder and Dunbar are exceptionally good as musical exponents; Mlle. Naveeda and company keep the audience spellbound in her remarkable magnetic performance; the Pavoscope adds greatly to the night's programme. The band, under the leadership of Mr. F. Drake, is decidedly good.

ACCRINGTON. — TOWN HALL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—"The World in Motion" animated pictures, exhibited under the direction of Mr. Harold Edwards, provide the bulk of the programme here. Included in this week's long list are The Taming of the Lion Tamer, Bargee's Daughter, Father's Lessons, and a most mirth-provoking film, entitled Galvanic Fluid. The Three Pirmans, novelty gymnasts, meet with a flattering reception, their clever tumbling, combined with humour, being much appreciated; Clarke's Nippers introduce a smart pot-pourri act, including club-juggling, dancing, and ball-punching; Will Hughes, vocalist and dancer, is very popular; and Dorothy Watson submits a capital turn at the piano.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—The Welsh Minstrels sing old melodies (accompanied on harp) that are highly appreciated; Miss Fifi Gordon and her talented troupe of girls, in song-scenas, are highly successful; W. Permane's educated bears have been marvellously trained, and go through many clever tricks; Field appears as a society juggler, and gives an exhibition of balancing, &c.; Miss Lottie Bray sings and dances, and accompanies on the banjo; and Will Farrell sings and patters. The Monckton, in a farcical episode, *Two in a Flat*, create fun. The bioscope pictures complete.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Revill. — Mr. Gilbert Payne's company is here with the musical comedy, *The Honeymoon*, the librettist and composer being Mr. Parker, who plays the central figure, Nathiel Noodle, a countryman on his honeymoon. There is much farcical "business" of the pantomimic order, and the ball of fun is kept rolling constantly. Miss Celestine Brandon as Madge Armstrong enacts the flighty and knowing young widow with much verve; Miss Rosie Kearns plays Emeretta Noodle amusingly; capital interpretations of character are likewise given by Misses Myra Douglas and Maggie Cronin in other eccentric female rôles; Messrs. Chris. Ainslie, Leslie Earle, Fred Fulton, Gus Tomlin, Bert Gray, and Fred Bentley are also responsible for much merriment. The Four Godfrey Girls supply the acrobatic dancing as pretty and chic waitresses.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Elliott and Warne (Carrie and Tom) give a very amusing account of themselves in comedy, acrobatics, and dancing. An attractive "turn" is that of Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in *Trafalgar Square, London—4 a.m.*; Marcus Boyle is again visiting with new comicalities and old favourite songs and patter; Miss Ada Whitton claims attention as a successful male impersonator; the Foy Brothers and company appear in the comic sketch, *Pat in China*; the Lovelaces are capital American song illustrators, the pictures being excellent; Burns and Bentley meet with favour as vaudeville artists; a smart juggling act is given by Angelina; Frances Hanlon is a dainty comedienne and dancer; and the L.C.C.'s Unique Musical Navvies are expert musical comedians. The Bioscope shows Shipwreckers at Work.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—Crowded houses are still being drawn by the admirable collection of pictures, interesting and laughable, which are submitted here. This week's selection includes A Lazy Man, Over the Sticks, A Bird of Freedom, An Attractive Catch, Mistaken Vocation, and The Moneylender. Illustrated songs are contributed by Mr. Glanmore Jones.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—After a month's vacation, during which it has been thoroughly cleaned and decorated, this popular place of amusement was reopened on Bank Holiday, when large audiences crowded the place at each performance. A strong and attractive programme was headed by Miss Lillie Soutter, a big favourite here, who received a hearty welcome; a laughable sketch, full of mirth-provoking situations, entitled *The Sleepwalker*, was presented by Mr. Walter Ellis, assisted by Miss Nydia Marcelle and Miss Elsie Craig in the title-rôle; a pleasing turn was that of Sandy and Carl, in song, dance, and story; a good reception was accorded to the Gentrys, comedy artists; the Dieppe Motor Race on the Palace Attergraph was full of interest; Mr. Harry Luck was an acceptable comedian; Mr. Jack Rae contributed a good turn as comedy gymnast and juggler; and Stelling, with his highly-trained and intelligent dog, came in for well-deserved applause.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood. — Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Tomlinson's company is here this week with *Secrets*. Mr. Reginald Brown furnishes a good impersonation of Lieut. Markham; the Hon. Cecil Cholmondeley is capitally portrayed by Mr. F. C. Palmer; the part of Nouredin Ali is embodied in capital style by Mr. John Worth; Ibrahim Al Murad finds a clever exponent in Mr. John B. Tomlinson; Mr. Herbert Woodin as Peter Wilkins and Miss Madge Palmer as Winnie Wilkins, are smart in their comedy scenes; Mr. H. C. Burt gives an able rendering of Kara Mesrour; and Mr. Albert Wilson plays well as Khalil. Miss Lizzie Palmer as Ishmalli is naturally sympathetic, while her rendering of the more spirited lines is admirable; and Miss Maud Steeple as Zulieira acquits herself well. The Warner Girls give a charming exposition of smart dancing.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—The attraction for the opening week of the autumn season at this house is provided by Mr. Lingford Carson and company, in *The Great White Chief*. Mr. Lingford Carson's conception of the rôle of the dumb chief is very successful; Mr. George Torice is a conventional villain as Hartley Deane, and is ably assisted in his work by Miss Dulcie Lawrence as Hester Stafford; Mr. Mansell Fane very creditably acquits himself as Leo Stanley (the great white chief); Miss Pollie Denville acts with a proper show of feeling as Latika. The other parts are in very good hands, and the mounting of the drama is excellent.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—Morris Cronin and troupe, in an original juggling act, head the bill; Stanley Waller is entertaining at the piano; Souplessi is an expert contortionist; Wylie's dogs go through their performance, in the absence of their trainer, in an amazingly clever manner; the Paolias are well received in their refined athletic act; Dunning is an exceptionally good ventriloquist; K. C. Note contributes songs with a swing; Kahn and Kahn, illusionists, whose tricks are smartly performed, receive rounds of applause. The Palacescope shows some good films.

BARNSTAPLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Bridge Trust; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company were greeted most heartily on Monday when they presented *Merely Mary Ann*. In the title-rôle Miss Jessica Solomon admirably depicted the devotion of a lowly follower of the musical genius Launcelot, the latter part being undertaken with fine skill by Mr. Martin Rowland. Much of the success was shared by Mr. Stanley Logan, who, as the irresponsible Peter, infused just the right touch of comedy, and Mr. Robert Entwistle did well as the loquacious Vicar; Miss Violet Greville delighted the audience with the tribulations of the landlady, whilst the Misses Florence Ratcliffe, Lester Stephen, and Ethel Carlyle accredited themselves with distinction.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—The drama, *For Her Husband's Sake*, is this week's holiday fare, and is thoroughly appreciated. As Jack Seymour, R.N., Mr. R. Faulkner is all that could be desired; and the villain is effectively represented by Mr. Millar Anderson. Mr. Finn Doyle, Mr. Albert Rogers, and Miss Doris Lane brighten the play with clever impersonations. *Camille* was billed for Thursday and Friday.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—This theatre reopened on Bank Holiday with the production of the musical comedy, *Florodora*. Mr. Chas. Constant has assembled a well-balanced company, and the result is all one could wish, the enthusiasm of the audience being unbounded.

THE TIVOLI.—An excellent programme served up this week includes Selma Bratz, a lady juggler of exceptional merit; "The Ragman and the Piano" (Tony Iveson) is both clever and ludicrous. Large houses are the rule.

NEW HIPPODROME.—The up-to-date films which are reeled off rivet attention, and so long as this high quality is maintained this house may depend upon a big share of patronage. Katie Blanche is loudly applauded for her variety contributions.

BARRY DOCK. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—*Her Nameless Child* is being presented by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company. Mr. J. W. Evelyn as Anthony Ford does the part full credit; Mr. Sydney Cranston gives a good portrayal of the son, Arthur Ford; Mr. Arthur E. Pringle ably enacts the rôle of Lord Woodville, and he is well assisted by Mr. Frank Thompson as Mongrole; Mr. Larry Clements as Jem Rivers proves himself a comedian of no mean ability; Miss Pattie Hastings plays charmingly as Phillis Ford; Miss Beatrice Brookes as Bessie Dover is very amusing, and other characters are well sustained by Misses Geraldine Verner, Mona Grey, and Renie Douglas.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Not for the first time, Mr. Charles Harrington's company is once again the August Bank Holiday attraction, presenting the ever-popular *Uncle Tom's Cabin* with all its old success and favour. Mr. J. Carr retains the character of Uncle Tom and Mr. Charles Harrington is once again seen as Phineas Fletcher, both gentlemen being as good as ever. George Harris is well portrayed by Mr. Cecil Austin Olgar; Mr. Walter Langford infuses much humour into the part of Marks; Mr. T. Bowron impersonates Legree with all the necessary harshness; Miss Hetty Johnson is good as Cassy; and Miss Hero Hathaway enacts Eliza Harris with due sincerity. Miss Kitty Bell makes a popular Little Eva, as also is Miss Annie Watson as the irrepressible Topsy. The long list of characters in the cast precludes individual mention, but in Act IV. a capital vaudeville entertainment is given by several members of the company with excellent and enthusiastic results.

PALACE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Foremost in the bill are those astounding equilibrists and tumblers the Pasquali Bros., who meet with a rousing reception. Bains and Reed in their speciality act *Humpsti-Bumpsti* are likewise great favourites; Georgina Middleton is a first-class soprano vocalist; Lawrence Barclay gains much applause for his efforts to amuse; Takio, the Japanese mimic, is on a welcome return visit; and another turn that is cordially received is Alfonzo, equilibrist and tranka performer. Natalia and Diana do many clever and daring gymnastic feats; Edie Coolville is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux and Wright's orchestral selections complete a most enjoyable programme.

SYDNEY GARDENS.—Mr. Carl Fredericks provided excellent fare for the crowds that attended at the commencement of the week to revel in the outdoor attractions he had so liberally engaged, including the Royal Merrymakers' costume party, the Colonial Bioscope, the Bath Military Band, and a display of fireworks by Messrs. Penley.

BEDFORD. — ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—An enthusiastic audience was present at the above on Monday, when Mr. Douglas Bruce's company presented Walter Melville's drama, *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Mr. Harold Macartney had the sympathy of the audience with him as the Rev. Robert

Everton; and Mr. Edward McLean was the popular hero. Mr. Geo. H. Asquin as Dick Punch caused much hilarity, as did his partner, Miss Mary Poulton, as Isabella. Mr. Richard Ferris was the callous, wicked Captain Caversham, who, with his companion, Miss Lydia Mannington as Marian Franklyn, were repeatedly hissed. Miss Madge Morley, in the title-rôle, had a difficult part, and proved herself a clever actress. Miss Sybil Hare's captivating acting and charm of manner as Rose Seymour won all hearts.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—During the recess some structural alterations have been effected on the stage of this popular theatre, by which the management hope to further develop the scenic effects of companies visiting. Much of the interior has also been repainted and decorated, and Mr. G. Jansen, the clever resident artist, has executed a fine new act drop. The opening attraction was furnished by Miss Loie Esmond's company, in *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr. Edward Neville appears to great advantage as Prince Lucio Rimanez, his acting being beyond reproach; Miss Rosie Neville acquitted herself admirably as Lady Sybil Elton, and, with Mr. Nevill, shared the honours of the performance. Congratulations are due to Miss Loie Esmond for her charming assumption of Diana Chesney; Mr. F. Douglas Howard's fine acting in the rôle of Geoffrey Tempest would be difficult to excel; Miss Hiliary Burleigh was a delightful Mavis Clare; and Miss Cecil Bryne was the lodging-house keeper to the life. Mr. J. Le Fleming acted with much distinction as the Earl of Elton; and other rôles were adequately presented by Messrs. Claude Casey, E. Ramsdale, E. Holland Day, and Fred White. *The Green-Eyed Monster* formed a capital curtain-raiser. *Nana* is also billed.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The chief feature of the programme here is provided by the clever Rio Brothers, who perform the most difficult gymnastic feats with remarkable skill; Mr. Harry Brown delights all with his comic songs and good dancing; Mr. J. G. Grahame, jun., and Miss Zerlina Harrington produce with much effect their clever little playlet, *A Daughter of Pleasure*; the Hiatts play a number of musical instruments to perfection; and Haig and Novel create much mirth with their smart comedy act. Mr. Charles Santon is a capital double-voiced vocalist and comedian and Miss Jessie Merrilees is a charming comedienne. The Palace pictures complete a fine programme.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The chief attraction is provided by the Six Brothers Luck, who produce their original pantomimic sketch, entitled *Lift 'Ems*, which creates roars of laughter. Lawson and Namon appear in their cycling act and ball-punching performance, which is exceedingly smart; the Eight 'Varsity Girls gain a great reception for their well-rendered vocal items and first-class dancing; Mr. Walter Emerson returns with his funny songs, which take well; and Gala and Norris, in their musical duologue, appear to every advantage. Also here are Florence and Rose Showell, the popular duettists; Marco, a good illusionist; Hess and Lisbon, in their grotesque speciality; and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The star here is Mr. George Formby, the droll Lancashire humorist, who made a big hit on Monday with his funny songs; the Great Northern Troupe of international dancers exhibit much skill; and the vocal items of Miss May Mars have afforded the utmost pleasure; Miss Jessie Barlee and Mr. Phil Smith must be commended for their capital comedy act; and Bi-Bo-Bi, eccentric musician, is rewarded with a deserved recall. Miss Eva Daunton and Miss Cissie Curlette, comediennes, gain much favour with their charming songs; and the Bioscope exhibits the most up-to-date subjects.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The animated pictures continue to be a great attraction here. Among the films exhibited this week are The Soldier's Wedding, Toothache, Little Flower Girl, A Sailor's Revenge, and Taming the Shrew. In addition, Mr. T. W. Royal, the marvellous clog-dancer, appears with every element of success; and the Lauri Bros., acrobats, do really marvellous feats.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Miss Maud Hildyard's company commenced a six nights' engagement on Bank Holiday in *The Great Awakening*, the development of the plot being watched with keen enjoyment by a crowded audience. As Lola Selby Miss Hildyard handles an exacting rôle with consummate ability; Mr. Wallis Clark gives a powerful and realistic rendering of James Selby; Mr. Stephen Langton is well suited as Guy Rogan, an adventurer; and Mr. Cecil Gray doubles the parts of Sir Henry Merton, Bart., and Jack Merton, his son, with skill and effect; Mr. Dudley Wynton is a capable Captain Harry Lambert; Molly Merton is admirably impersonated by Miss Fay Garnet-Vayne; Mr. Rule Pyott is a good Billy Brass; and Selenio Worts is well represented by Miss Cissie Podmore. Other parts are in good hands, and the scenic effects are on a liberal scale.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Whit Cunliffe, a volatile comedian, and an immense favourite here, is meeting with all his customary success; Mr. Harry Weldon, a versatile and amusing comedian, is also on a welcome return visit, repeating previous triumphs; and Frank and Jen Latona, musical comedians, are a prominent and attractive feature; Ethel Whiteside and her piccaninnies give a thoroughly enjoyable and clever entertainment; Miss Mayme Cannon is a comedienne of exceptional ability; Nellie Farrell, Irish comedienne, is received with acclamation; and liberal entertainment is also supplied by Lea and Kingston in *A Resourceful Lover*; Mr. David Poole, a smart ventriloquist; Mr. Josh Dixon, comedian and clog dancer; Miss Connie Mascot, comedienne and dancer; and the ever-popular Brown's Royal Bioscope.

Olympian Gardens, Rock Ferry.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—The attractive vaudeville entertainments command extensive patronage. This week an excellent combination includes Harry Herbert, comedian; Lilian Barnes, comedienne; Reg Stephens, comedian; Aline Sudbury, soprano; Elfie Vincent, comedienne; Maynard Dakin, Pierrot-Mephisto; and Sullivan Brook, accompanist.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Silver King* was secured for Bank Holiday here, and with Messrs. Polini and Melford's company has maintained its popularity during the week. Tears and applause in abundance have been evoked by the poignant portrayal of Nelly Denver by Miss Edyth Goodall; the trials and sufferings of Wilfred Denver are represented in a truly heart-reaching manner by Mr. Fred D. Davis; the Spider is made the most polished of scoundrels by Mr. Stanton Sharp, and his sleek and oily accomplice, Coombe, is presented to full advantage by Mr. Arthur Wright; the faithful servitor, Jaikes, is a lovable character as here portrayed by Mr. Edward J. George; and the company is also strong in Miss Kathleen Maude as Olive Skinner, Miss Louie Hale as Tabitha Durdan, Mr. Geo. Belmore as Corkett, Mr. Arthur H. Rooke as Ware, &c. Miss Flossie Hale Daviss and Master Eric Dene shine as Cissy and Ned.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Mr. Poppleton of Ippleton* is here on its second visit to Birmingham with its famous representative, Mr. G. P. Huntley. Mr. Huntley is both ingenuous and ingenious in the rôle—delightfully so—and his return has been signalised by crowded houses and loud laughter and applause. The acting and singing of Miss Eva Kelly as the maid, Louise, leaves nothing to be desired by the most exacting; Miss Nellie Hodson sings the numbers and acts the part of La Bolero in the purest vein of comedy; Mr. Max Leeds is unceasing in his efforts to please as the brother, Norman; Mr. Tom May is exceedingly clever and smart as the manservant; Mr. Douglas Phillips renders the part of the singer, Jacques Kenyon, very successfully; Miss Cicely Gray has a very agreeable style with her as Violet Brinton; and the entire cast is very good.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Bernardo.—*Man and Wife* has made a hit here with Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company. Mr. John F. Traynor's acting as Paul calls for the highest praise, and his popularity is beyond doubt; Miss Kate Hallam's conception of the fishergirl, Marcelle, is deeply enthralling, and her reception is great; Mr. Edward M. Hamilton puts in some sound, good acting as Captain d'Esparre; Messrs. Geo. Rammell and Ambrose Horton as Colonel Latour and Sergeant Jacques are both good in their respective styles; Messrs. E. Hall-Eldon and Geo. Vinning are splendidly humorous as the brothers Bimbo and Bambo; Miss Millie Doris is smart as Rosette; Miss Violet Temple appeals powerfully as Ruth; and Mr. Geo. Overs secures sympathy as Jean.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Coal King* is drawing crowded houses here with Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and company. Mr. Alderson's portrayal of Tom Roberts causes quite a sensation, the rescue scene in particular being most exciting. Miss Winifred Love infuses the full measure of graciousness and sympathy into the rôle of the heroine, Grace Shirley; Mr. Ulick Burke does well in the title-rôle, Hartford; Mr. George Hanbury as the reputed son (and villain), Walter Hartford, shows great skill; Mr. Frank Dalton gives an acceptable study of the submanager, Dick Shirley; Mr. A. J. Williams waxes eloquent and popular as the sturdy Seth Baker; Mr. Sam Roberts and Miss Max Hinton give undoubted pleasure in the comic parts Jim Williams and Araminta Green respectively; and Miss Joan Wellman makes a clever character of "Mad Ann."

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*A Lion's Heart* is attracting full Bank Holiday houses with Mr. Joseph Bebb's company. Mr. Henry Bedford continues to win wide popularity with his thrilling study of Rizardo; Miss Ada Oakley brings the audience under her spell both as the mother and the daughter; Mr. Stephen Scanlan wields the villain's power as Gaspard Dobre with infinite skill, and scores big; Mr. Leonard Booker excels in the part of Lorimore; and Miss Florence Barnes, Mr. H. G. Brandon, Mr. Archie Helsby, Mr. Edward Lowrie, and the rest of the company enjoy the utmost success.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*The Love That Women Desire* proves as potent as ever with Astonians, the author's (Mr. G. Carlton Wallace) own company being responsible for the performance. Miss Aimee Gratton Clyndes impersonates Sybil Thorburn with much feeling and power; Mr. Sydney Leyton is received very cordially for his ardent portrayal of the lover, Philip Carnaby; Mr. Morris Maud secures many tributes to his success as the villain, Richard Abingdon; Mr. J. O. Stewart is successful as Squire Abingdon; Miss Jessie Elvin acts with taste as Madge; and the Misses May Neilson, Violet Young, and Dorothy Northmore fill useful rôles.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Saturday to Monday* has set audiences here admiring and laughing by turns. The dresses and appointments of Mr. Fred Karno's popular extravaganza are rich and rare, and his company is of the best. Mr. Gilbert Childs as John Willie Jaggs is quite the most amusing of Benedicts; Miss Julie Bassett makes a most vivacious and alluring Clorinda Dobbs; Mr. Victor Crawford creates excruciating fun as John Willie, jun.; and the remaining "offsprings" are uproariously portrayed by Masters F. Dance and T. McDonagh; Miss Mary Young acts sweetly and is fair to look upon as Violet Perrin; Mr. Victor Smith is acceptable as the lover, Tom Freeman; Mr. Harry Fischer is prominent as Mr. Potts; and Miss Ada Maskell, Mr. E. Allandale, and a bevy of bridesmaids and other clever characters give realism to the performance.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, M. Edward Foster.—The star here is Mlle. Celia Galley. Her Parisian style is pleasing, and her impersonation of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt is excellent. A capital turn is done by Miss Arabella Allen, whose impersonations of Shylock and Little Nell's grandad are marvellous; Steward and Morgan have a big reception, their turn being exceedingly popular; Fred Lindsay is certainly a master of whip manipulation; the Sisters Meredith present a pot-pourri of dancing which is most effective; Greener and Fredkin's Imperial Russian Troupe sing and dance themselves into favour; and the Ten-Ji Troupe present some remarkable illusions. Dan Hendy and Helen Trix complete the bill, and the Marathon Race is effectively depicted by the Bioscope.

Empire Palace.—Resident Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Mark Sheridan is entertaining packed houses here, his wit and humour being loudly applauded. A feature of the programme is the "flying chest" trick which is presented by Oswald Williams; the Lyric Quartet are in fine form, and render their selections with success; George C. Doughty and Molly Laney have a bright and amusing sketch, *A Woman's Way*; and other prominent turns are done by the New York Nippers, Nellie Martell, the Narrow Bros., Harry Sims, and Jennie Johns.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—*The Duchess of Tooting*, presented by Sidney Bacon's company, is the holiday attraction here. This bright musical comedy is full of fun. Charles Parker's Six Æolians have a refined vocal and dancing act which is loudly encored; Ernest Montefiore and company appear in a good sketch *The Little Colonel*; Percy Farrimond is applauded for his songs, as also is Frank Cass; Harry Friskey is a smart American comedy juggler; and the Sisters Wingrove come in for a large share of applause.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Owen.—A prominent turn here is La Pia, described as an enchantress. Her dances are delightful and the scenic effects are good. The Lavails are really clever acrobats; Sable Fern is an old favourite, and is always sure of a welcome here; and Edie Gray and Boys, Billy Hobbs, Corona and Corner, and W. S. Dyke complete the company.

Curzon Hall.—Mr. Waller Jeffs opened his autumn season here to packed houses. The Bioscope depicts most of the latest events, and Dulcie Saunderson well supplies some illustrated songs. The Musical Palmers are an attraction, and their clever entertainment is better than ever; and Daisy Ailmer is applauded for her songs.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—During the close season the above theatre has undergone thorough cleaning process. The reopening on Bank Holiday brought a full house, and the variety turns, given by the Pardoes and their company, provided great enjoyment. The Pardoes met with every success. Mr. Harry Keeble did a clever ventriloquial turn; Fritz gave a wonderful illusionary performance; Messrs. France and Frances and Doyle and Gibson entertained in a remarkably clever manner; Zenith gave every satisfaction; and Mr. Wal Owen, in his comedy act, was equally praiseworthy. Miss Lottie Holland rendered her songs in good style; Miss Gladys Wells was effective in her chorus songs; and Mlle. Zelda was a success in her musical turn.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*When Knights were Bold*, as enacted by Mr. James Welch and company, is proving a great attraction here for Bank Holiday week. Mr. Welch as Sir Guy de Vere is immense, and carries all before him; Mr. Vernon Saintsbury acts well as Isaac Isaacson, and Mr. Cecil Clayton plays Charles Widdicombe in exactly the right spirit; a capital Lady Rowena Eggington is supplied by Miss Audrey Ford; and all the other parts are in experienced hands. *The Wrong Side of the Road* forms a most acceptable curtain-raiser.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge again presents *The Dairymaids* here this week. This company is an admirable one in every respect, the acting, singing, and dancing, together with the dresses and scenery, are all that could be desired. Miss Phyllis Dare makes a charming Peggy, and Miss Edith Blanche is well suited to the part of Lady Brudenell; Mr. E. Statham Staples as Lieut. Brudenell, Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., as Lieut. Meredith, and Mr. Harry Dent as Joe Mivens merit the highest commendation.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The names of George Gilbey and Florrie Ford both appear in big type on the top line of this week's bill, and both artists meet with the most cordial reception at every performance. Other good turns are supplied by The Craggs, acrobats; Frank Sylvo, juggler; Gipsy Woolf, in a song-scena; Tambo and Tambo, tambourine spinners; Dave O'Toole, comedian, and George French, comedian.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—*The Hypocrites* opened to a good house on Monday, when the drama elicited the highest praise. In the part of the Rev. Edgar Linnell, Mr. A. B. Imeson gave a powerful and faithful impersonation that received hearty recognition; Miss Gladys Harvey, in the rôle of Rachel Neve, won much applause for an artistic performance; the Helen Plugenet of Miss Gladys Purnell was a distinct success; Lennard Wilmore, in the hands of Mr. King Fordham, was satisfactory; and the Mr. Wilmore of Mr. Alfred S. Barber was an able representation. To Miss Amy Ravenscourt every praise is due for a finished rendition of the part of Mrs. Wilmore.

The Hippodrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Doyle and O'Connell.—After a thorough renovation and decoration, a capital holiday programme was submitted to a crowded house on Monday. The pictures on view were most interesting, whilst the comedy act of De Vere and Dagmar aroused the hearty applause of the audience. Edith Corelli introduced some very clever dancing of a pleasing description.

The Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baugh.—The new management presented a strong bill for the opening night, when the programme included John Storm and Glory Quayle in *The Veterans*; Vera Mayne, comedienne; Sisters Bremner, international dancers; Harry King, comedian; De Lil, illusionist; Miss Omega, songstress; Hulbert, ventriloquist; and the Bioscope. At each house good audiences were present, and gave the artists a warm reception.

BOLTON. — Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and his company are this week presenting *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross as Pete, and Miss Minnie Watersford as Kate Cregeen, repeat with much success their clever impersonations of these parts, and they are ably supported by Miss N. Mitchell as Nancy, Mr. Fred Mace as Cæsar Cregreen, Mr. Sydney C. Kearns as Phillip Christian, other parts being suitably filled.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—An excellent Bank Holiday programme was given here by Alice Raymond and her Players, who appear in *A Night in Egypt*; the Melroses, vaudeville artists; the Saletos, in a marvellous and refined head- and hand-balancing act; Johnny Holland and Co., in a farcical absurdity, *The Boat-builder*; Ike and Will Scott, comedians; Eva Hope, versatile actress; Flo Hilton, male impersonator; Beau and Belle, in their novel scena, *Past and Present*; the Bob Hanlon troupe of sensational acrobatic somersault throwers; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — Muncaster Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The attraction for holiday week is the drama, *Home, Sweet Home*, by Frank Lindo, and played by the stock company. The staging of the piece is excellent. Mr. Albert Sember is to the fore as Stephen Armitage; and Miss Nina Vaughton is a charming Joan. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon plays Dick Redmayne with good effect; Mr. Cyril Grier is good as Duke of Ancaster; and Mr. Alfred Grenville is well placed as David Armitage. On the reverse side Mr. Alfred D. Adams is very powerful as Lucas Lyle; and Miss Kathleen Magee makes an excellent Lady Summerton. Mr. Tom H. Solly proves himself a capable comedian in his representation of Hon. Percy Ashfield; as also does Miss Effie Macintosh in her handling of Sybil Fay.

BOSCOMBE.—Hippodrome, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—The top of the bill this week is occupied by Maud Dennis, who is appearing in her sensational dance, "Salome," and gained much applause for her grace and beauty of movement. Another good item is a musical comedy, produced by Mr. George Dance, entitled *The Burglar's Ball*, which creates much merriment throughout. Mr. George Dance is also presenting another sketch, entitled *The Local Amateurs*, which is much appreciated. An acrobatic wire-walking and musical entertainment is provided by the Five Whiteleys, who display great cleverness; Daisy Wood is an immense favourite in her successful song, "Splash me"; Larry Lewis, a droll comedian, receives a warm reception; and Ella Stockelle proves herself a dainty comedienne. Madge Robertson's renderings of ballad songs are appreciated; and a series of illustrated songs is an agreeable extra turn. The Hippo. pictures conclude.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. George Alexander's company opened here to an enthusiastic holiday audience on Monday in *The Thief*. Miss Marie Polini was most charming as Marise Chelford, and her portrayal of the part left nothing to be desired; as Richard Chelford Mr. Rupert Lister was thoroughly convincing; so, too, was Mr. Cyril Harcourt in the difficult part of Raymond Leyton. Mr. Owen Nares as Harry Leyton was quite at his ease in a character which fits him admirably; Miss Jean Cadell was quite successful as Isabel Leyton; while Mr. Luke Foster contributed a clever sketch of the detective Prothero. The production is an admirable one in every way. The piece is preceded by a one-act play, entitled *Too Happy by Half*, in which Mr. Charles King, Mr. Owen Nares, Mr. Bernard Stevens, and Miss Eileen Kerin were successful.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson. — Beautifully redecorated and brilliantly lighted, this house was reopened on Monday evening last by Mr. George G. Day's company, in Hall Caine's powerful play, *The Prodigal Son*. The realism of the scenes was finely brought out, and the piece, which is not new to Mr. Hart's patrons, had a very cordial reception. Mr. Albert Ward's clever rendering of the part of Oscar Stephensson was earnest and marked by real dramatic skill; Mr. H. J. Crane's Magnus Stephensson was an effort of sympathetic force and subdued strength; Miss Pauline Emeric was surpassingly good in the dual rôle of Thora and Elin; Miss Pearla Gardner acted consistently and with power as Helga Neilson; and Mr. Jackson Hayes as Stephen Magnusson, Mr. James English as Oscar Neilson, and Miss Violet Carrington as Anna Magnusson, also contributed largely to the success of the representation.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—A return visit of Mr. Fredk. Melville's company, in his strong drama, *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*, is the holiday attraction here, and the piece is again well received. In her impersonation of the title-rôle Miss Beatrice Homer acts with her accustomed power and skill, and she has able support from Miss Gertrude Harrison as the unscrupulous Rose Courtney and Mr. Philip Darien as Jack Merryman. The evil-disposed Hubert Gold is well represented by Mr. Leyton Chancellor; Miss Violet Masaree plays Morita effectively; Miss Nellie Jackson as Aggie Brown and Mr. Freddie Bentley as Tubby Herrick are responsible for much amusement; and the other members of the company contribute to the success of the drama, which is very finely staged.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—A good deal of interest centres this week around the visit of Mr. Laurence Irving, who is presenting, for the first time here, a new sketch concerning the domestic relations between a London street worker and his wife, entitled *Feed the Brute*. Mr. Irving's impersonation of the Cockney worker is a fine character-study; and Miss Beatrice Lett supports him well as Mrs. Pottle. In their clever musical comedy mélange, *In Her Boudoir*, Edward Lauri and May Beatty and company, are again appearing with much success; as "the slavey at the piano" Elsie Robey continues to amuse her audience; Tom Lloyd, comedian, sings some capital parodies; In "The Adventures of a Happy Tramp" Howard and Harris are vastly amusing with their dancing and acrobatic work; on the bars Stelling and Revell do some very clever and some very funny work; Rich and Rich are a pair of capital comedians; as a card manipulator, "the gay deceiver," Sydney Lee, is a past-master; David Stewart's songs are well sung and well illustrated; and there are some capital pictures shown by the Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Owing to an accident to one of the Denwartz Troupe, which is reported elsewhere, their turn here this week is abandoned. There is a good programme notwithstanding, W. G. Wesley contributing good songs and patter, and Clifton and Gibson a comedy turn. Helen Martin, soprano, sings sweetly; a vocal scena by Lambert and Hands is effective; a duologue by Edwardes and Dacre, *What a Life*, contains good songs and patter; as the mountebank MacBunker Chas. F. Best does clever work as a contortionist; in a quaint comedy duo Kelly and Agnas dance well and provide capital comedy; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are a very interesting feature of the programme.

BRIDLINGTON.—Royal Princes' Parade.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Record crowds have been drawn to this popular resort during the holidays, and Mr. Norfolk Megone's promenade concerts have proved immensely popular. This week Mr. Thorpe Bates, a fine baritone, is gaining great praise. Monday was a gala night, and the splendid illuminations and Messrs. Pain and Sons' fireworks were a source of delight. In the Grand Pavilion, Miss Lily Shaw, the toy Vesta Tilley, is paying a return visit; Morimura, Japanese illusionist, is also a very clever turn; and the Flockton-Foster Entertainers continue to give capital programmes.

New Spa and Gardens.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—Herr Simon Wurm's Viennese Band are giving promenade concerts twice daily to large audiences. The vocalist this week is Mr. Dan Billington, the popular Yorkshire baritone, who is always encored for his admirably rendered songs. The animated pictures in the open air, at the end of the theatre, are a great treat to the large crowds which assemble, and the effect is far better than when shown inside. The Venetian Carnival and Confetti Battle is being repeated this week, owing to its popularity on the first occasion; and Mr. Tunbridge is to be congratulated on this new cause of attraction to the large gatherings which nightly assemble on the Spa.

Spa Opera House.—Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—A large and fashionable audience greeted the first appearance here of that talented combination, The Follies, who had a most hearty reception on Monday night. Miss Dollis Brooke, Miss Gwennie Mars, and Miss Ethel Allandale are a charming trio, and their various items showed each of them to be fully possessed of the true spirit of humour. M. Pellissier is a past master in the art of pleasing an audience; Mr. Lewis Sydney is a most humorous teller of funny stories; Mr. Norman Blume and Mr. Dan Everard are finished vocalists and actors; the trio, "Three old men," by Messrs. H. G. Pellissier, Lewis Sydney, and Dan Everard, with Miss Dollis Brooke as the nurse, being one of the cleverest bits of character-acting to be seen. For the last three nights of the week Mr. G. Bernard Shaw's play, *You Never Can Tell*, occupies the boards.

The Palace.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—The Parisian animated pictures are proving a capital holiday amusement at Mr. Delmar's Palace and Winter Gardens, and the variety turns are being constantly changed to suit the pleasure of the patrons of this popular resort of the visitors.

Summer Gardens.—Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Charles Beanland.—An amusing sketch, *Fun on H.M.S. Mirthful*, arranged by H. B. Esda, was produced here for the first time, and proved highly entertaining, and the amusing *Hamleton's Diorama* is a most laughable turn, which gives the members of the popular Waterloo Pierrots an opportunity for each member of the troupe to add to the amusement of the crowded audience drawn here every evening.

BRIGHTON. — Grand Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—The drama, *Straight from the Shoulder*, was produced here on Monday last, and is fully noticed in another column.

Alhambra.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—The holiday attractions here this week are excellent. Hamilton Ashbee Stewart's sketch, *An Outside Chance*, is submitted with complete success by Bellew and Stock's London company, Master Edward Garratt being especially effective; the Sousloffs are clever acrobatic dancers; Dora Lyric gives her songs in capital style; Eadie and Ramsden are smart in a comedy duologue, *Charley's Visit*; Albert Letine's faithful impersonations are well received; Mark Henton is a quaint comedian; Florence Esdaile is a pleasing operatic vocalist; Cissie Lupino dances admirably; Ernest Rees is a droll comedian; Dora Healy, comedienne, is distinctly effective; Walker and Lake are very amusing patterers; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. Miss Kate Carney, supported by an able company, submits the musical sketch, *The Yiddisher Boy*, and wins enthusiastic applause; she is also heard in some of her best songs. The Three Meers are highly successful in their comedy wire act; the Berthos give a wonderful Parisian dancing turn; the Sisters Marion are good duettists; Miss Bertha Winder, "the dancing marvel," wins very hearty applause; Geoffreys and Benson are entertaining in their comedy duologue; Miss Kathleen Cogan, comedienne and dancer, merits warm praise; Gicardo is a clever young juggler; an extra turn is contributed by Mr. Harris, a capital comedian; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

West Pier.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company opened here on Monday with *Mrs. Dot*. Miss Decima Moore gave a delightfully charming and entertaining impersonation of Mrs. Dot; Mr. Frank Lacy was highly successful in his representation of James Blenkinsop; Miss Emma Hutchison acquitted herself admirably as Lady Sellinger; Miss Ethel Grahame made a very pleasing Nellie Sellinger; and Mr. James Geldred's Gerald Halstane, Mr. Philip Leslie's Freddie Perkins, Miss Celia Gordon's Miss Eliza Macgregor, and Mr. William Midgley's Charles merit cordial praise.

Palace Pier Theatre.—Miss Annie Hughes entered on Monday upon a month's season here, and submitted *The Mollusc*. She won the heartiest of appreciation with her thoroughly natural and convincing portrayal of Mrs. Baxter; Mr. Athol Stewart handled the character of Tom Kemp with great skill; Mr. Cecil Rose made the most of his opportunities as the husband; and Miss Lilias Waldegrave was charming and winsome as Miss Roberts. The whole performance proved highly enjoyable to the large audience.

Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The animated pictures here are excellent and up to date, and prove highly attractive. The Olympic Races at the Stadium and the Marathon Race incidents are depicted; the Volunteers at Hollingbury Camp are represented by a realistic film; The Noble Jester and The Squire's Rights convey capital stories, and there is no lack of amusing pictures. Miss Violet Tulley contributes illustrated songs.

Hove Town Hall.—An excellent series of animated pictures is being exhibited here this week by the London Animated Picture Company. The amusing films included When the Devil Drives, The Electric Belt, The Old Mashers, The Fatal Sneeze, and The Modern Burglar. Scenes on a Battleship proved very interesting. Mr. George Lynton contributes illustrated songs in good style; and Mr. George Berry merits praise for his descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to the pictures.

BRISTOL.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—The military drama *Second to None* is being well performed this week by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company. The drama, by Walter Howard, is well staged, and particular mention must be made of the bright and effective uniforms and dresses generally. Mr. Theo Balfour acts with much dignity as Colonel Sir Reginald Greystone; Mr. Frederick F. Lloyd presents a fine and effective character study of the unpopular part of Captain Philip Mannering; Harry Wilding and Frank Wilding have good exponents in Mr. Leonard Williams and Mr. Charles Halling; Mr. J. G. Maine acts impressively as Sergeant Jack Horseman; Mr. Arthur D. Layland and Mr. Frank Austin do well in their respective parts of Lieut. Archer Ballater and Inspector Trueman; Miss Dorothy Clifton and Miss Mary Mallalieu are both admirable exponents of their respective parts of Nell Greystone and May Greystone; the comic parts of Norah, Joe Ruggles, and Private Flutter are capitally taken by Miss Clarrie Yandell, Mr. Allan Carruthers, and Mr. Louis Edmonde; and Mr. Eric Wilde makes the most of the small part of Private Bertie.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here with the new version of *The Christian*, the play being staged in good style. Mr. Roy Redgrave presents an effective study of John Storm; Miss Daisy Scudamore is successful as Glory Quail; and Mr. Fowlass Llewellyn makes an earnest and dignified Father Lamplugh. Other parts are very carefully played by Mr. John T. Hooker, Mr. Wilfred Noy, Mr. Herbert Hewetson, Mrs. Harriet Russell, Miss Kitty Symons, Miss Cora Deane, Miss Stella Campbell, and Miss Florence Hunt. During the vacation a new and complete system of ventilation has been installed in the theatre, which on Monday evening appeared to be very effective in cooling the house, which naturally was packed from floor to ceiling.

Palace — Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Alan Holt's company heads the bill with an effective dramatic sketch entitled *A Society Woman*, which serves to introduce a sensational fight between a man and woman, and a general smash up of furniture, &c. Dan Whitley, comedian, obtains considerable applause; Rappo and Ella are clever gymnasts, &c.; Sid Cotterell and company score with a comic sketch, *The Substitute*; Terry and Bentley, comedy artists, are successful; Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian, does a good turn; D. W. Watson scores with his cornet and post-horn speciality; and the performance concludes with Vernon's animated pictures, including The Royal Visit to Bristol and In Time of Rebellion.

Empire. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire. — King and Benson head the bill with a clever turn, the gentleman being a good tenor vocalist and the lady an expert step dancer. Kitty Colyer is an exceptionally clever speciality dancer and comedienne; Sidney Mason, Theresa Moore, and company present effectively a dramatic sketch, *The Usurer*; the Whittakers have a novel comedy act, *Dick Whittington*; Cyril Earle scores with the dramatic

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scena *Dreams;* Harry Cook, comedian, obtains applause; and Lucy Coventry is a pleasing comedienne and a clever dancer. The performance concludes with a good display of animated pictures.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS.—Superintendent, Captain Villiers.—August Bank Holiday fêtes attracted an immense gathering here. The variety entertainments were, as usual, under the direction of Mr. Tom Wood, the artists including Benno, hand jumper; the Valescoes, comedians; Marie Tilly, comedienne and dancer; the Two Wambos, musical comedians; Wright and Soho, eccentrics; Clifford and Clarke, negro knockabout comedians; Dave Wallace, comedian; and La Belle Lily and Albert, speciality gymnasts. There was the usual Country Fair, Tom Weymouth's band played selections and for dancing, and Wilders, of Birmingham, supplied effective fireworks.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—This theatre reopened on Monday to a big house with *The Worst Woman in London*, which appears to gain in popularity. Miss Sidney Crowe plays admirably the title-rôle; and the accomplice, Vincent Lyle, is well sustained by Mr. George Galsford. Mr. Herbert Skardon makes a fine Jack Felton; and a charming Ruth Milford is presented by Miss Dorothy Haigh. Mr. F. Vernon-Travers carefully portrays James Milford; Mr. Willie Scott as Bob Goldfinch and Miss Polly Marsh as Matilda Parker are the principal fun-makers. Among the chief character-studies are those by Mr. W. H. Monte as Hugh Drayton and Mr. Frank Litchfield as Philip Armstrong.

BURNLEY.—EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The chief attraction here this week is a pretty turn by Miss Zona Vevy and Max Erard, in which delightful singing predominates; the Cattanes Company are a troupe of smart acrobats, and the Sisters Geretti, double trapeze performers, are greeted with enthusiasm; the Brilliants give an admirable rendering of Suppé's work on xylophones, and Luigi Salvino is a youthful musician who plays on a variety of instruments; Andie Burns is a clever dancer, and the whirlwind dance of the Bros. Weltman brings forth high appreciation. The Empire Theatroscope concludes.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Machnow, the Russian giant, is the draw here this week; Little Dando, dwarf comedian, who also appears in conjunction with Machnow, thoroughly amuses the house with songs, and the Bouncing Dillons are responsible for roars of laughter with their bouncing competition; the Four Juggling Geraldos perform some clever and neat tricks, and Gold and Sterling, the Welsh Girl and the Artist, provide a very refined turn; Albert St. Clair is encored for double-voiced vocalism, and Mabel La Blanche is good in song. The Professor's Discovery is the title of the picture by Raymond's Bio-tableaux, and the Twin Sisters Edwardes are good vocalists and dancers.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. De Hague Body.—This theatre was reopened on Monday by Mr. Geo. Alexander's capable company, with *The Thief*. Dramatic intensity, interspersed by delicate touches of humour, mark the scenes between Mr. Stephen Ewart (Richard Chelford) and Miss May Congdon (Marise), the warmth and frequency of recalls testifying to a highly-appreciative audience. Mr. Gerald Ames is tenderly sympathetic as Raymond Leyton; the rôle of the stepmother is played with natural ease and grace by Miss Mary Dibley; the suffering of the wrongly-accused Harry Leyton is pathetically depicted by Mr. Alfred Lugg; while that astute detective, Mr. Protheroe, has a clever representative in Mr. Cyril Cattley. The piece is preceded by an amusing one-act play, *Too Happy by Half*, in which Miss Irene Leonard, Mr. Percy Marmont, and Mr. Alfred Lugg appear to advantage.

BURY (Lancs).—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—After being closed for a short season this house reopened on Monday with a variety programme. Paul Spadoni, gladiator and juggler, and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas, entertainers, are the star turns; excellent shows are also given by Stowe Bros., equilibrists; Avolos, in a novel performance on upright poles; the Merrions, musical entertainers; Bros. Obo, comedians; Dot Stephens, vocalist; and Edward Davies, late tenor Carl Rosa Opera Company.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The animated pictures are again very enjoyable. They include Napoleon and the English Sailor, Little Savoyard, Lady Doctor's Husband, Students' Jokes, The Gipsy's Revenge, Happy Bob as a Suitor, &c. The variety is supplied by Florence Aylwin and F. S. Hulme, vocalists.

BUXTON. — OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, The Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—On Bank Holiday Miss Lena Ashwell and her full London company opened for a three nights' engagement with *Diana of Dobson's*. There was a full house on Monday evening, and the play was received with rapturous applause. Miss Ashwell, in the name-part, was delightful, and particularly in the serious scene with the Hon. Victor did she raise the audience to great enthusiasm. Miss Francis Ivor acted with great tact as Mrs. Cantelupe; and Mr. W. Lemon Warde was satisfactory in his small part of the Waiter. Miss Gertrude Scott played effectively as Mrs. Whyte Fraser; and an admirable study of the self-made man was submitted by Mr. Dennis Eadie. The Hon. Victor was excellently played by Mr. C. M. Hallard; and the "old woman," by Miss Beryl Mercer, was a capital bit of work. Mr. Norman McKinnel had not much to do as the Policeman, but he certainly did it well. The play was admirably staged and dressed. For the remainder of the week we had Miss Marie Studholme in *My Mimosa Maid*.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—On Monday night Mr. Redford opened his autumn season with a choice selection. *Her Love Against the World* is being presented for the first time in Cardiff, by Mr. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's principal company. This stirring romantic play has been accorded a splendid reception by a huge holiday crowd, the drama proving a great attraction. Mr. Walter Howard appears in the all-important part of the Earl of Strathmere, and a finer portrayal of the rôle could not possibly be imagined, the representation being extremely powerful. Quite as successful is Miss Grace Heywood, whose impersonation of Princess of Idalia stamps her as an actress with rare histrionic ability. Miss Rossie St. John charmingly delineates Lionel; while Mr. Lewis Gilbert is a capable Prince Ravensburg. Miss Nellie Fletcher, a well-known Cardiff lady, appears in the rôle of "the villainess," and is accorded a hearty reception. The other rôles in the large caste are in exceptionally good hands, and the piece is capitally played all round and excellently mounted.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—A welcome return visit is made by Bella and Bijou, in their latest répertoire, including that extremely funny sketch, *The Suffragette*. This visit has greatly enhanced their popularity, and their fresh songs and business have been more appreciated than ever. A clever turn is that of the Gregory Troupe in a marvellous exhibition of hoop-rolling and juggling, their performance being startling for dexterity and precision; Little Zola is a comedian of much merit, his patter causing considerable merriment; an exceptional canine entertainment is Reichen's dogs, which give a fine example of animal-training; the Lyric Mummers are clever operatic duologue artists; while the Four Jumels contribute a pleasing musical act. Others on the bill are Phil W. and Nellie Peters, comedy entertainers; Agnes Tina, comedienne and mimic; Jeannie Mackay, comedienne; and the American Bioscope.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—A strong holiday programme has been put forward at the popular Palace, and packed houses have testified to the appreciation of visitors for the Westgate Street house. The artists contributing this week are Annie Schuberth, in an original song scena, entitled *The Deputy;* the Pichel Family of risley acrobats; Frank Seeley, the popular comedian; the Three San Remo Girls, comediennes and dancers; Bayne and Hope, in a costume episode, *An Emperor's Divorce;* Harry Cotton, the eccentric comedian; the Woodwards; and the Sisters Bronson; with Raymond's Bio-Tableaux to complete.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—*The Power of the Cross* is being presented by Mr. Lingford Carson's company. Mr. George A. de Gray, the author of the piece, appears as Curzola, a mysterious character, which requires careful handling. Mr. de Gray is to be congratulated on the success of his performance, which was able and powerful throughout many trying scenes. Mr. Robert Hall as George Fairfax proved himself a sound and capable actor. His drunken scene was one of the hits of the piece. Miss Annie Hylton gave a quiet and artistic impersonation of Margaret Seaton; and Miss Stella Carmichael's fine appearance and clever acting as the adventuress made her hosts of admirers. The comedy relief, in the hands of Mr. Tyrone Power and Miss Etta Turner, was very effective, and warmly welcomed. The other characters were all played with skill, and the scenery and dressing of the piece caused favourable comment.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Mr. Charles Fisher's comedy opera company, who top the bill this week, made an immediate success. Their singing and acting was notable for refinement, skill, and a fine appreciation of the characters portrayed, and the enthusiastic applause which greeted their efforts was certainly well deserved. The Sisters Cora, on a return visit, are again a big success; Miss Mary Ambrose has a fine appearance, and sings catchy songs with delightful vivacity; A. G. Spry is a comedian with a quaint eccentric style, which creates roars of laughter; Eugene Zoly's cornet playing is a strong and popular feature of the bill; the Babusio Brothers introduce many new and clever tricks in their acrobatic act, and meet with a particularly cordial reception; McDonald and Huntington contribute a turn which is immensely popular. Their wonderfully nimble dancing is their strong point.

NEW PUBLIC HALL. — Lessees, Messrs. F. W. Bolam and Sydney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Bacon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—A capital bill of fare is provided for the holiday week by the Edison Animated Picture Company. The principal pictures—The Dusky Princess and A Dash for Liberty—are very much admired. The varieties sustain a high order of merit.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—For three nights this week Messrs. Neville and Carnaby's company appeared at the above rooms, and presented, with great success, the comedy drama, *English Hearts*, the romantic play, *Napoleon's Divorce*, and the comedy drama, *The Silent Witness*. Mr. F. H. Neville and Miss Veronica Clinton impersonated the principal characters most effectively, and were ably supported by a powerful company.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—For the reopening of the dramatic season Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Draycott and company produced on Monday *The Shadows of a Great City* to a crowded audience. Mr. Chas. Draycott is excellent as the thief, Jim Farren, a part which gives great scope for powerful acting and humour; Mrs. Chas. Draycott is natural and pleasing in the dual rôle of Annie and Nellie Standish; the Irish girl, Biddy Roonan, is amusingly played by Miss Louise Millward, who infuses a large amount of fun and "go" into the character; Mr. George Steel achieves an unqualified success as the hero, Tom Cooper; Mr. George Arthur paints a telling picture of the villainous Geo. Benson; and Mr. Chas. H. Herberte is sufficiently smart and abrupt as Detective Arwright. Messrs. Wilfred J. Short and Robert Sawin are typical P.C.'s and warders.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson. — Two large audiences again assembled here on Bank Holiday to witness a further display of a new and up-to-date series of animated pictures, as projected by the Loyal Dominion Co. By way of variety, Miss Amina Rinder, a contralto, with illustrated songs, wins deserved applause; and Charles Lestree, a clever juggler, is very successful.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Excellent audiences assembled here on Bank Holiday to witness another of Frederick Melville's companies, in one of his dramas, entitled *Her Road to Ruin*, which is put on in very good style. Miss Eva Moss makes quite a hit as Jess Willoughby, her sister May having a sweet little representative in Miss Alice Bowes; Miss Marie Wright scores throughout as Jennie Crackling; and other parts are in good hands.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—The Seven Ducos Perizoffs top the bill here, and give a particularly smart juggling act, under the title of *An Animated Super at Maxim's;* with a song, "Turn Round," and some pert patter Nat Watkins makes a hit; *Daddy's Boy* is performed by Miss Florence Creagh and company in a very creditable manner. Others appearing are Blanche Newman, comedienne; Harry Milton, Dutch comedian and dancer; Shirley and Ransome, in *'Arf a Quid;* and Hughes and Carney, comedians; while Mr. Lacey's Erascope projects fresh and up-to-date films.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. E. G. Woodhouse.—The popular proprietor has a good holiday programme, including a condensed version of *The Daughter of the Regiment*, staged by Mr. Ernest Charles Gittens and company; Van Allen, the tramp musician; Thelma de Naal, violinist; Lily Butler, low comedy artist; Leonard Gorney, transformation dancer; Duncan and Godfrey, the well-known entertainers, in *Me and 'Er and the Baby;* and Mabel Sinclair, ventriloquist, on a welcome return visit.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The Eight Stella Girls occupy the top position here; in song and dance they succeed in winning golden opinions. Jack Hayton is a smart clog-dancer; the Three Comedy Chanters render admirably several part-songs, have some smart fooling, and one of the trio gives proof of his versatility by playing "Sweet Adeline" as a cornet solo; the Elsa Satanella Trio appear as vocalists and acrobatic dancers; Zellini, a very funny eccentric juggler, creates roars of laughter with his smartly-worked show; the Imperial Ju-Jitsu Wrestlers (Jack Madden and Tom Pearse) give an exhibition of this interesting form of wrestling. A word of praise is due to the lecturer who introduces this item. Florrie Thurston is an able comedienne and dancer. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope is still featured.

CLACTON-ON-SEA. — WESTCLIFF GARDENS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Graham Russell and Bentley. —The holiday crowds at this popular place of entertainment have been exceptionally large. The efforts of the trio of comedians Bert Graham, Bernard Russell, and Will Bentley are highly appreciated. Miss Emily Hayes, soprano, Mr. Walter Montague, raconteur and musical crank, and Mr. Fred Vallance, the West of England mystery man and ventriloquist, also appear.

PALACE-BY-THE-SEA.—Managing-Director, Mr. P. W. Willard.—The following artists are appearing, and all do well in their respective turns: Virto, in his refined musical act; Harry Bent, humorist and mimic; Eugeine Bolond, contralto; Kenneth and Kane, the comedy duo; Miss Vera Patey, "the summer girl"; Fields and Lewis, burlesque artists; Alice Maple, comedienne and dancer; the Sisters Reno, transformation dancers; and Cumminger and Collonna, sand-dancers. The Palascope shows some fine films.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Harold Montague; Business-Manager, Mr. G. Ivor Sparke.—Harold Montage and his Vagabonds are still here, and are as popular as ever. The company give their usual refined entertainment, in which all the artists appear to great advantage.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—The attraction for the Bank Holiday week is Mr. Louis Calvert's production, *Sunday*, under the direction of Mr. J. Norman Walter, and on Monday night it was received with every show of delight. The title-rôle was undertaken by Miss Marjorie Murray in a manner which evoked frequent and spontaneous applause; Mr. William Giffard portrayed the part of Col. Brinthorpe in a suave and polished manner, and fully shared in the honours bestowed; Mr. J. Norman Walter enacted the rôle of Tom Oxley in an easy and confident manner; Mr. Alec Alves showed marked cleverness in the more stirring episodes as Jacky; and Mr. James Skea gave a capital glimpse of Western life as Towser. Mr. James Hussey was amusing as Lively; and Mr. A. C. Holmes looked well as Davy. The piece was admirably mounted, and won much approval.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The premier turn in the holiday programme is Fred Russell, with his automaton, Coster Joe, and his show is a great success; *Christmas Eve*, a midnight episode, enacted by Irve Hayman and Little Marie Montague, is capitally written and admirably portrayed; Percival, the comedian-pianist, is a genuine treat; Morrin and Cardiff shine as comedians and speciality dancers; Hetty Oehms, an attractive lady conjurer, performs in a creditable manner; and Lena Leslie, in fetching attire, is bright and tuneful.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarence. —Mr. Chas. H. Lester and his company are supplying the holiday attraction here, with the emotional drama, *A Life for a Life*. In the rôle of Don Leo Fernandes Mr. Chas. H. Lester plays with excellent taste; and as Pedro Li Calci Mr. Chas. Yorke is sufficiently villainous. Mr. Chas. Osborne is an able John Evelyn; and as the hero, Kit Oswald, Mr. Harry T. Wood plays with commendable ability. Miss Dorothy Ridelle is a charming Kate Evelyn; and as Vanetta Little Irene is deserving of special mention. Miss Beatrice Anderson in the part of Eulalie proves herself an accomplished actress.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—An interesting piece is at this house, in *The Lancashire Lad*, written and produced by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace. Some splendid scenes are witnessed, one being a clever representation of Blackpool pier. David Elmore, a Lancashire lad, and the hero of the piece, is forcibly represented by Mr. Alec Alexander; while as the villain, Max Carlton, Mr. G. T. Vain, deserves credit; Miss Stanley Burt acts charmingly as Jessie Wincote; Miss Nell Oliver is very successful as Lorna Wincote; and very interesting and funny is the character of John Willie Wardle, the village carpenter, by Mr. Bob Anderson.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—The Riogoku Family is one of the cleverest troupes of acrobats ever seen; the Selbinis, the trick cyclists, perform some very clever feats, which are much appreciated; Harwood's Juveniles give a good vocal scena, entitled *A Children's Christmas Eve;* they also dance very well. A skilful trio of acrobatic dancers are the Three Amaranths. Other artists who submit attractive turns are Selby and Myers, dancers, &c.; Goodfellow and Gregson, entertainers; Evelyn Taylor, and Millie Howell. The Bioscope pictures show the great Marathon Race.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. George Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco. — Following a fortnight's vacation for renovating, &c., this popular house re-opened on Monday night to a large holiday crowd, and a good programme is enjoyed, one of the chief items being a dramatic sketch, entitled *Told in a Flat*, played by Harry Rogers and company. The Picchiani Troupe are a very clever set of acrobats, the chief work falling upon the lady members; Sados is a juggler quite above the ordinary; Ouida Macdermott, as a vocal actress, gives some good songs; Harry Mary Hemsley is a child impersonator and caricaturist. Other turns are Yolande Noble, comedienne; Bros. Lester, duettists and dancers; Steve Bartle, concertina soloist.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE (late LYCEUM THEATRE). —Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Howard.—On Monday evening this place of amusement was successfully re-opened by the new lessee and manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett, who is running it in conjunction with his other theatres, the Shakespeare, London; Opera House, Conventry; and Opera House and Hippodrome, Burton-on-Trent. The interior of the building has undergone a vast transformation during the close season, having been re-modelled, re-carpeted, and elegantly embellished in red, white, and gold. Two boxes have been added, and the electric lighting effects add to the general brilliancy of the house. No expense has been spared to make his patrons perfectly comfortable, and good houses should be the order of things this week. A capital programme is being run twice nightly, and includes the Idento Brothers, comedy jugglers; Lena Scott, on the silver wire; Robert Yelding, novel equestrian act; Leo Bertro, with his marvellous midget pony, on the revolving table; Rolla, queen of the rolling globe; Little Sid, with his educated pony, Little Joey; Zasma, society gymnast; Knoto, contortionist; Franco-British Clowns; and great wrestling match on the Bioscope, Hackenschmidt v. Rogers.

CROYDON.—HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee, Mr. Jackson Hayes; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice.—The following are here this week: Miss Carlotta de Yonson's company, in *Crime and the Criminal*, the Roxbys, Kitty Willis, Harry Lynx, Victoria Wright, Sisters Thorne, Guest and Newlyn, and animated pictures are shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Mr. James Bell's company opened the above, after cleaning and decorating, with *The Idol of Paris*. Miss Annie Bell (Mrs. James Bell) as Flare-Flare excels in the part, and greatly pleased the audience; Mr. Gordon Robey as Prince Serglus Zoresky gives a powerful rendering; as Philippe D'Esterre Mr. Wilson Howard submits a creditable performance; Mr. C. R. Kilbourne as Gustave Langlois is well up to the mark; Mr. Chris Roberts as Theo. Decline is thoroughly suited; Mr. R. J. Hamer is good as Guillame; and Mr. Henry Hare as Victor Cashelle is convincing; Miss Annie Megson gives a capable portrayal of Ann; Miss Phena Powell as Mme. Sansterre does well; and Miss Grace Noble as Olympe Sotage meets with much approval.

NEW HIPPODROME, LTD. — Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—An excellent bill this week is headed by H. O. Wills, comedian, and his bright and breezy manner delights the audience; Lowenwirth and Cohen, Hebrew comedians, are heartily received; Thomas and Taylor, in their quick-change scena, are very smart; other items are furnished by Maggie Walsh, singing mill-girl; Clive Watts, eccentric dancer; Hartley Wonders, in their jumping; and the Kyasyas, in their dental novelty. The Pepiscope is also an attraction.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—An excellent holiday programme this week is headed by Nellie Wallace, whose inimitable eccentricities cause much hearty laughter, and gain her all-round approbation; Francis Gerard, a juggler of the strong man order, gives a unique and sensational performance; Leslie Clare and company are responsible for a clever little comedy sketch, entitled, *Wanted, a Wife;* Tennis and Laune are clever vocal comediennes; Trentanovi Sisters submit a daring gymnastic act; Wat Tyler appears to advantage in a dramatic scena; Ernesto is a skilful juggler and musical equilibrist; and Gertie Moore is a pleasing comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope concludes a highly satisfactory entertainment.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Herbert J. Taylor.—A thrilling drama, entitled *Wanted by the Police*, is being presented here this week by Mr. S. James's company. As Philip Stanhope Mr. Samuel James figures prominently all through, and he is greatly assisted by Miss Helen Vigors, as Mrs. Stanhope; the villain is capably represented by Mr. Wilfred Cheetham; and Mr. Fred W. Grahame, a clerk, and Miss Ethel Bateman, a servant, are responsible for the comedy element.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Adverse climatic conditions apparently have no effect on the attractiveness of Mr. James Hare's company in *A Destroyer of Men*, judging by Monday's house. Tragic and humorous incidents are delightfully intermingled, the whole production running with perfect smoothness. Mr. J. Hare impersonates the dual parts of Herr Runz, an Austrian detective, and Karl Mischla, an exile, in commendable fashion; Mr. Edmund O'Grady is well suited to the part of Coo Tatchoski, and Miss Irene Clifford does well as Olgo Mischla; Mr. Fred Marston has a fine mien and bearing as Count Storevitch, Chief of the Servian Police; and Miss Bessie Frank is a vocalist of promise and ability.

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company has entertained large audiences here this week with capital representations of *The Old Folks at Home*. Mr. Henry Nelson and Miss Sarah Santley handled the rôles associated with the title in a manner which earned for them general favour; Mr. Frank Liston as Lord Howard Kenilworth achieved great success; the part of the unhappy heroine, Dorothy Robin, was enacted with great ability by Miss Maud Warburton; Mr. Frank Caffrey as Ben Jolly was witty and amusing. Characteristic renderings were given by Mr. Aidan F. Lovatt as Andrew Ross, the hero; Mr. Vernon Proctor as Hugh Lovell, a painter; and Mr. Arthur Dudley as Jock, a hunchback. The drama is well staged.

DOUGLAS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Hemming; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird have appeared in Douglas this week, in *The Lyons Mail, Charles the First*, and *The Bells*, and their artistic success has been indisputable. Mr. H. B. Irving's creation of Lesurques and Dubosc, in the first-named piece, has fairly caught the public. It is fine acting —strong, virile, imaginative. Miss Dorothea Baird as Janette was deeply pathetic; Mr. Eric Maxon as Courriel was quite successful; and Mr. C. Dodsworth's Choppard added to the *ensemble* of the production. Miss Phyllis Embury played gracefully as Lesurques' daughter, Julia; Mr. Arthur Curtis's Joliquot was of value; and the old Lesurques of Mr. Frank Tyars was quite in the picture. The engagement is a feather in the cap of the management.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—*The Gay Gordons*, with Mr. Seymour Hicks, has attracted large audiences to the Gaiety Theatre. It is much to be regretted that Miss Zena Dare was unable, through illness, to appear as Peggy, but Miss Ashe made a charming substitute; Mr. Johnny Danvers was quaintly funny as Nat, the showman; Miss Madge Vincent proved herself an actress of talent and resource. The production is quite perfect, and the general consensus of public opinion in Douglas is that *The Gay Gordons* is a show to be seen.

PALACE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brittain. —In the grounds The Gems, an artistic troupe of entertainers, present a delightful *al fresco* show; the Bioscope, with the latest films, attracts. The Opera House has for its punctuated attraction Mr. Ernest Shand, also Professor Norton, who performs some adroit card tricks; Farr and Farland are experts on the banjo; Miss May Newell sings ballads with expression; the Violas, in an interlude of telepathy, are interesting; a humorous sketch, *The Would-be Actors*, is smartly enacted by Miss Lillian Rosseberry, Mr. Albert Mason, and Mr. Carter Livesey.

DERBY CASTLE.—Proprietors, the Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.—Miss Hetty King is the principal feature here this week, and is greatly popular; the Villons give a very clever acrobatic turn; Alcide Capitaine is a graceful gymnast; Dale and O'Malley are quaint and original patterers; and Miss Helen Charles presents an amusing interlude at the piano.

Other attractions in Douglas are the Hippodrome, with Mr. P. G. Connor as chief; Mr. Fred Buxton's Pierrots and Tea Gardens, on the promenade; Mr. Charles Dare's minstrels, at the Empire; and Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's minstrel combination, with Mr. Malcolm Scott as the accentuated drawing-power, on Onchan Headland.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter.—Charcot and his automatic man, who top the bill, give a very interesting performance, while the Gypsy Girls, another star turn, display their well-trained voices in a pleasing harmony scena; Le Groe is an entertaining humorist at the piano; Fred Hallam is an amusing comedian; and the programme also includes *A Daughter of the Revolution*, a highly dramatic sketch, presented by Miss Georgette Thierry and company; Eugene and Willie, acrobatic musical artists, who are well received; and Dorothy Sephton, with catchy chorus songs.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Manager, Mr. Fred Holt.—A musical act of exceptional ability is presented this week by the Four Cecilians; Della Sisters, the ladies in black, have a very novel turn, and much laughter is won by the Bretons (Dolly and Arthur), with their burlesque *Saved from a Watery Grave;* Madge Daly is a comedienne with a fascinating style; the Sisters Varley are excellent vocalists; and Johnny Worman and Sam Williams are a couple of comedians who give distinct and highly amusing turns.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. M. Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—At the re opening here on Monday night a large audience was present to witness *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*, as presented by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Mr. George Mudie got a great reception for his clever and droll assumption of Mr. Ponderbury, and the rôle of Mrs. Ponderbury was filled in an eminently satisfactory manner by Miss Annie Stalman; Mr. Drew Mackintosh supplied a capital representation of Mr. Mervyn Thorpe, and Miss Florence Wix gave a good account of herself as Mme. Polaca Modjeski; Mr. Charles A. Staite ably sustained the part of Hyacinth Grayling, and Miss Madge Elswick depicted the rôle of Lady Baring to every advantage; Capt. John Rumford was successfully assumed by Mr. George Child, and Miss Florence Wellesley was excellent as Ethel Penniston; Mr. H. Burns won credit as Sir Rover Baring; and other smart impersonations were those of Messrs. James Michael, Alfred Ibberson, and Blarney. The one-act comedy, *His Landlady*, preceded, and was well received.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Mr. William Greet's principal company in *The Sign of the Cross* is drawing large audiences. In the rôle of Marcus Superbus Mr. Cyril Austin Lee gives a powerful and realistic performance, and Miss Constance Little distinguishes herself greatly by an artistic portrayal of Mercia; as Tigellius and Licinius Ædile Messrs. Charles Aldred and J. Weatherall are both good in their respective parts, and Miss Cissie Carlton is most effective as Dacia; Nero has a capable representative in Mr. C. Yorke, and Miss Lily Ward cleverly enacts Berenice; Mr. Walter Fleet as Flavius and Mr. Clifford Yates as Titus are also to be commended, while Miss Edith Drayson successfully fills the rôle of Stephanos; Glabro and Philodemus have excellent exponents in Messrs. Frank Wood and Harry Jones, and Messrs. H. Thurston Harris and G. W. Ruff make the most of the parts of Servilius and Strabo.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—A number of excellent films are well enjoyed by full houses. A good variety programme is also presented, and includes Norman and Belle, a capital pair of duettists and dancers; Tom Walters, a humorous comedian, whose songs are in great demand; Fred Wallace, in a smart ventriloquial turn; and Bob Pearson, the popular vocalist and guide.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Truly Shattuck, a talented and refined American comedienne, occupies a prominent position here this week, and meets with a cordial reception; in a smart musical comedy turn the Barton and Franklyn Trio are very successful, and Henry A. Moore, a clever actor and mimic, is deservedly applauded; Miss Carlotta Levey, a charming comedienne, who is no stranger here, obtains considerable applause, and Wright and Elton, in their speciality act, *The Lady Artist*, elicit much laughter; a highly enjoyable item is contributed by Joan Deering, vocalist and violinist; George Payne, eccentric comedian, is nightly recalled; and as an instrumentalist Willman obtains appreciation. The pictures are, as usual, up-to-date, and the Empire Tournament completes a good bill.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Lorch Family of risley performers provide the star turn here this week, and are enthusiastically applauded; Barney Armstrong is as funny as ever, and scores heavily, and La Belle Helene, in a juggling act on the rolling globe, submits a capital turn; Jock Campbell is a highly diverting comedian, and Effie White, kaleidoscopic dancer, wins applause; Archie Pitt, with good songs and patter, Adkin, in a smart ventriloquial turn, Corelli, in *A Lesson in Magic*, and Eva Reed, an excellent comedienne

About six weeks ago I was suffering with

PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE,

brought on probably by painting my face for my eccentric business. I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

VANISHED LIKE MAGIC,

and the scurf is entirely gone. I cannot tell you how thankful I am at having taken "Clarke's Blood Mixture," and I shall recommend it to everybody, as I think it only right that such a remedy should be known.—(Signed) JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnny," Llandudno's Popular Comedian, Thorndale, Llandudno, Feb. 24, 1908.

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE,

the World-famed Blood Purifier, is an invaluable Remedy for all Skin and Blood Diseases, such as Eczema, Scrofula, Scurvy, Bad Legs, Ulcers, Abscesses, Boils, Pimples, Sores and Eruptions of all kinds, Glandular Swellings, Blood Poison, Rheumatism, Gout, &c. It has over Forty Years' reputation, and thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it.

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnnie," Llandudno's Popular Comedian (from a photo.).

and dancer, are also in the bill, and the Bioscope shows an amusing picture entitled Magnetic Removal.

Pavilion (Kingstown).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—Fielding and Hull, musical comedy entertainers, score a decided success; Miss Nell Emerald is warmly applauded for her excellent singing and dancing; Tom Evans, baritone, renders his songs in good style; Marriott Edgar, comedian, has established himself a favourite, and the genial manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott, and Mr. Bernard Knox, pianist, also contribute to a capital entertainment.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The programme here includes:—John Conley, comedian and dancer; Menetta and Ford, comedy duo; Will Titman, lady impersonator; Eva Searle, comedienne and dancer; Harry Dandy, eccentric comedian; James Murphy, comedian and dancer; and the Cinematograph.

EASTBOURNE.—Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—During the week an exceptional attraction is offered here, where Mr. Arthur Bouchier and his company, including Miss Violet Vanbrugh, are appearing. On Monday evening a new one-act play, entitled *Admiral Peters*, by W. W. Jacobs and Horace Mills, was staged for the first time, and this was followed by *The Bishop's Move*. In this the calm, benign manner and the placid, penetrating style of Mr. Arthur Bourchier made his performance as Bishop Ambrose a popular and artistic triumph; Miss Violet Vanbrugh, too, as the Duchess of Quenton played with a grace, charm, and distinction which held the keenest interest of the audience; Miss Mary Weigal did clever work as Mrs. Hericourt; and Miss Winifred Bateman was a pleasing, girlish Barbara. Mr. Bertram Forsyth was a handsome and duly-restrained Francis; Mr. Arthur Whitby undertook the part of Monsignor Campden with clearness and cleverness; and as the brothers Hilary and Martin Mr. William Burchill and Mr. Stafford Hilliard were competent assistants. On Monday afternoon *The Gutter of Time*, a duologue, by Alfred Sutro, was performed for the first time.

Devonshire Park Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Mr. Leonard Boyne and his excellent company are appearing here, on a return visit in *Raffles*. Mr. Leonard Boyne as the cracksman plays with an earnestness and realism which make his work as Raffles conspicuously successful and interesting; Mr. Arthur Willoughby is a dignified and aristocratic Earl of Amersteth; Mr. E. W. Thomas, natural and easy, is a most effective Curtis Bedford; Mr. Cecil Brymer makes excellent use of his abilities and opportunities as Viscount Crowley; Mr. Harold West plays the difficult part of Bunny in admirable style; and Mr. Buckstone Clair is a very convincing burglar, Crawshay. Miss Lilian Hallows gives a strong, well-marked, and penetrating performance as Mrs. Vidal; Miss Dora Sevening is a sympathetic and appealing Gwendoline; Miss Blanka Stewart is a most appropriate and praiseworthy Lady Melrose; Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald is a pretty, attractive Lady Ethel; and Miss Gordon is a good help as Marie.

The Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Hallen and Hayes occupy the place of honour here this week, and as extremely clever dancers and effective comedians they command great applause; the Havanas Troupe of acrobats combine smart and able work with much comic business; Miss Lallah Brooke has a pleasing original turn, in which, by quick changes, she appears as *Girls—Past and Present*; Mr. Angus Strong is a very capable baritone vocalist, who sings in good style; Miss Molly Seymour sings and plays well; Mr. Chas. Sloman gets many laughs as a comedian; Miss Florry St. Roy pleases as singer and dancer; and new pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH. — Royal Lyceum Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie—In the hands of Mr. Charles Macdona's chief company, that very amusing farce *Are You a Mason?* has drawn large houses here this week. Mr. E. H. Paterson and Miss Adelaide Grace developed the differing characteristics of Mr. and Mrs. Amos Bloodgood in good comedy style; and the young married couple, Frank and Eva Perry, found very suitable exponents in Mr. Francis J. Bithell and Miss Rita Narcelli. The rôle of Hamilton Travers gave Mr. Erskholme E. Clive scope for emphasising the amusing peculiarities of a broken-down tragedian; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce was exceedingly happy in George Fisher's masquerading scenes; Lottie was vigorously acted by Miss Mary Kilpack; Mr. G. P. Polson had quite a congenial part in John Halton; and Miss Viola Garland, Miss Rita Johnston, Miss Dulcie Verney, and Mr. Milton Ross all did useful work in their respective rôles of Mrs. Halton, Annie and Lulu, and Ernest Morrison. *A Bad Penny* served as a curtain-raiser.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—The chief honours in this week's bill fell easily to Callahan and St. George, whose musical duologue, entitled *The Old Neighbourhood*, is distinguished by charming novelty and quaint comedy; the great Marathon race was graphically displayed by the American Bioscope; Tom Foy and his associates tickled the audience considerably with the funny absurdity *A Yorkshire Lad in London*; the Griffiths Brothers created great diversion with one of their characteristically cheerful turns; Marie Santoi and company achieved success in the compressed musical play *A Japanese Tea-Garden*; and the Brothers Huxter performed very dexterously as high and long-distance leapers and somersault-throwers. Of the single-handed turns, that of Marie Kendal was one of the most popular; Ernie Mayne's grotesque make-up and comic method produced much merriment; and both Ray and Maskell and Steve McCarthy proved themselves accomplished step-dancers.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. Horniman's company, under the direction of Mr. B. Iden Payne in two plays by Bernard Shaw, and répertoire. *David Ballard* was presented on Monday. In the title-rôle Mr. Iden Payne scored a distinct success, his acting throughout being characterised by a style which could not but make it so; Miss Ada King as the elderly Mrs. Ballard was very natural, while the Gladys Ballard of Miss Penelope Wheeler was all that could be desired; Mr. Charles Bibby well sustained the part of Percy Ballard, while Miss Hilda Bruce Potter was a sympathetic Mercy Hainton; Mr. Lewis Casson and Mr. Jules Shaw were good as Simon Ballard and Darwin Snodge respectively, while Miss Louise Holbrook was amusing as Louisa. *Gentlemen of the Road*, a tramp sketch, was an excellent curtain-raiser.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Gaston Mayer's company in *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* played to enthusiastic audiences here the first part of this week. Miss Gertrude Irving won much applause for her fine rendering of the title-rôle; Miss Rita Carlile as Miss Mazy played the difficult part well; Mr. Frederick Forrest's impersonation of Mr. Stubbins was a capital study; Miss Christine Rayner was an excellent Lovey Mary; and the other numerous rôles were well interpreted. For the latter half of the week Mr. Leonard Boyne revisits the theatre in *Raffles*.

Leas Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—"The Gipsies and their Jester," in a special holiday programme, entertained huge audiences all the week. Whether in concerted or individual items, the Gipsies are thoroughly successful.

Victoria Pier.—Manager, Mr. Robert Forsyth.—The Four Spanish Goldinis in their novel electrical speciality act give a remarkable performance; Charles Coverdale in patter songs and in his laughable sketch impersonations is delightful; the Scarletiers provide a great part of the entertainment with songs, solos, and dances; Mr. Sidney Leon and Mr. Alex B. Gilbert are very good in humorous items; Mr. Tom Walters is a clever banjo soloist; and Miss Daisy May is a dancer of exceptional ability. On Wednesday an illuminated fête and military tattoo was patronised by large numbers.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stead.—Opened on Bank Holiday with a variety company on the two-shows-a-night principle. A clever handcuff turn is supplied by a charming lady called Empress, the lady Houdini. The company also includes Les Sardous (illusionists), Bros. Farrant, Marie Rivers, Sarco (ventriloquist), Jack Middleton (boy singer), and Tom Joy (comedian).

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Leoni Clarke with his trained cats, monkeys, mice, rats, canaries, and rabbits, has delighted large audiences here; Mysticus provides much amusement with a chameleon turn; Rose Elliott, a pleasing singer, renews acquaintance with numerous friends; the Le Crens have a genuine comedy act; J. H. Greener, a singing collier, is warmly praised; the Tafanos have an amusing musical item; Beta Russell sings and dances with agreeable charm, and the usual living pictures complete the bill.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn is presenting *Send Him Victorious* here, and large audiences have witnessed an excellent production. Mr. Frank Holyoake ably portrays the King of Ravonia, Mr. G. M. Montanini is well fitted for the part of Colonel Kaufmann; Miss Marie Robson as the Countess plays the principal female part with distinction, and other rôles are in capable hands.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—The Park Bandstand.—The "Rustics" Costume Concert Party are appearing here this week, and on Monday, gave two performances to crowded audiences. Miss Blanche Myles is an excellent light comedienne; Miss Kate Willey was heard to advantage in her songs; Mr. James Flynne is the possessor of a fine baritone voice and joined with Miss Myles in some excellent duets; the humorous element was in the capable hands of Mr. Tom Merrie and Mr. Alfred Donaldson, the latter also acting as accompanist. Concerted items also brightened the programme.

GLASGOW.—King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—The principal item on the programme this week is Mr. Charles Hawtrey's latest success, *Dear Old Charlie*. A bright and bustling performance is given, in which Mr. George Lestocq fills the part of Charlie with considerable verve and humour. Peploe and Dumpie are amusingly contrasted characters as played by Mr. C. Douglas Cox and Mr. S. Trelawnay; as Colonel Fishbourne Mr. Duncan Young's make-up and bearing are excellent; and as Mrs. Fishbourne Miss Leonora Braham is finished to a degree. In appearance and acting the Agnes of Miss Marjorie Chard is a charming performance; as Purkitt Mr. Stanley Arthur displays a quiet vein of humour; and a smart maid is seen in Miss M. E. Ellis. The second play is the Hon. Eleanor Norton's version of *Salome*, in which the famous dance is executed with wonderful expression by Miss Mabilia Daniell, and the characters of Herod and the Astrologer portrayed with grand elocutionary effect by Mr. Robert Hilton and Mr. Philip Desborough respectively.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—The sensational drama *In Holy (!) Russia* graces the boards here this week. Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy as Renee Rubinoff is a very clever exponent of this rôle; great credit is also due to Miss Roma Tremayne as Catska Lavotski. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy as Mickey Nolan, a witty Irishman, is the bright spark, and his humour was greatly enjoyed; Mr. Henry Compton as Colonel Richard Forrest is also very amusing. Phonograph selections and animated pictures provide attractive items during the intervals.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—This theatre reopened on Monday after the summer vacation, and presented a bright and cheery appearance, having been entirely redecorated in the interval. A large audience extended a hearty welcome to Mr. Julian Malvern's company in the strong drama *I Defy the World*. Mr. Percy Ballard acts with powerful effect as Leon Darville; as his erring wife, Blanche, Miss Violet Crauford also gives a strong rendering of a difficult character; Mr. J. Leicester Jackson makes a duly cynical villain as Count de Beaulieu; Miss Blanche St. Albans infuses much sympathy and pathos into the part of Pauline Delaporte; her father, General Delaporte, is acted with military emphasis by Mr. Alfred Denning; Mr. Chas. Conway gives a good character study as Laroche; Mr. Frank Wheatley is manly and impassioned as the young artist André; Messrs. Newton Pearce and Dalton J. Bosher are amusing as a couple of thieves; some clever comedy is introduced by Mr. Charles M. Julian and Miss Maude Lillian as two cockney tourists; Miss Florrie Green is most effective as the child Fanchette. The play is well staged.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Neil Kenyon tops the bill here, and is getting a great reception; Howard and St. Clair get many laughs with their comedy turn; the Proveanics are an exceedingly smart troupe of lady cyclists; the clever sketch *The Little Stowaway* is much enjoyed; Little Ganty's humour and dancing abilities entitle him to a good place on the programme; a most amusing turn is that of Cestria, the acrobatic juggling waiter; Alice Ford's illustrated songs and the items of Madge May also go well. The pictures of the Marathon Race excite much interest.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The engagement of John Tiller's company in *Doon the Watter* is a decided attraction here this week, and much praise is due to Bob Selvidge, Teddy Gibbs, Barny Dixon, and Lizzie Hay, together with the dainty and clever little dancers. Silvo's selections on the musical glasses and Silvo chimes are excellently received; the Silvas also take well in their ladder performance, while Tray and Rich, comedians and dancers, prove a very acceptable turn; May Marton, a dainty comedienne, makes herself a pronounced favourite, and Bert Kemble as a raconteur must appreciate his reception. The Bioscope, which winds up the evening, is responsible for a sensational picture in The Great Dieppe Motor Race.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Ada Colley is again starring here, and her phenomenal voice is heard in a number of songs. Dainty Daisy Dormer remains another week, and is proving a great draw; Raglus, the comedy juggler, gives a very smart and clever turn; Ajax and George contribute some novel gymnastic feats; and a wonderful equilibristic turn is that of Marcel and Boris; J. B. Preston appears in place of an absent turn, and is well suited in several Scotch character songs; Lytton and Bland take well in a smart sketch, *A Lesson in Love*; and Merton and Rydon, neat dancers, do well in a vocal and comedy turn.

Palace.—Proprietors, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Hayman and Franklin are very funny in their sketch, *A Suit for Divorce*; Pueblo and Cropp provide a distinctly clever turn; Fred Land is a host in himself, and the McConnell Trio in musical comedy sketch, *The Airship*, proved they had lost none of their popularity; Rowland Hill is very amusing. Eily Adair, comedienne; Gillin, ventriloquist; Sisters Gladwin, duettists and dancers; and Ed. E. Ford, in patter and facial expressions, complete the programme.

Coliseum.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The most attractive item of this week's bill is furnished by Ben Nathan and company in the dramatic production *The Fairy Uncle*, which was thoroughly enjoyed. The Dunedin Troupe of trick cyclists are capital performers, and Sanford and Lyons, comedians and dancers, were specially favoured. Other notable turns include Irene Rose, comedienne; Harry Edson and his wonderful dogs; Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, vocal and humorous artists; Mlle. Eldee, in illuminated posing performance; Norman and Leonard Trio, musicians; Marie Burnette, in illustrated song; and the Bioscope, with interesting pictures.

Gaiety, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The Seven Wulfrunas are conspicuous in their speciality, *Fun in a Café*; Geo. Bernard, actor-vocalist, made a good impression, and Lizzie Power has a strong and pleasing voice. The other turns include Alexandra Royal, vocal comedienne; Dave Summerhill, Scotch comedian; the Percys, speciality artists; M'Kinnon Family, vocalists and instrumentalists; and the Bioscope, with up-to-date films. Patrons are noting with pleasure the return of Mr. Wm. Milne to the post of conductor.

Britannia.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Mlle. Cartia shows agility as a juggler and gymnast, and Rosie Bell is a successful coon singer; Neil Gow, Scotch comedian, is very popular; Walter Ross, comedian, and the Bioscope, with a comprehensive series of pictures, are also in the bill.

GLOUCESTER. — Palace. — Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Nat Clifford makes a first appearance and a hit here, and Herbert Clifton, mimic, pays a welcome return visit; a very pleasing turn is supplied by Charles Buval as the Happy Dutchman; the Cecilias, lady instrumentalists, do well, and Picitt and Lizette put on a smart magical act, *The Crazy Cook*; Miss Hilda Valma, clever vocalist at the piano; the Bros. St. Clair, comedy cyclists, and Mlle. Yetta are applauded, as are Dyson and Payne in a neat vocal scena. The Palacescope pictures conclude.

GRANTHAM.—Empire and Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. A. Campbell; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Marshall.—The Empire reopened on Bank Holiday after several alterations, including the addition of an elegant glass awning over the entrances and a new illuminated sign. Inside, the orchestra has been dropped a foot, and on the circle balcony is to be seen a handsome testimonial in a massive gilt frame, presented to Mr. Campbell by the members of *His Old Folks at Home* company. Mr. Campbell has a good bill this week, the Three Comerfords topping it with a clever knockabout act. The Bros. Curran are also quite smart in their boxing act; Kavados is very good with his cannon-ball juggling; some excellent patter and singing is provided by the Rowntrees; Henriette and Selina do good work on the piano, violin, 'cello, &c.; and Miss Flo Melville is a clever singer of light comedy songs. Pictures on the Bioscope are interesting.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — Royal Aquarium Theatre.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—The patrons of this establishment have a great dramatic treat this week in the first appearance here of Miss Ellen Terry in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. In the character of Lady Cicely Waynflete, Miss Ellen Terry displays all the skill of the true artist, and whenever she is upon the stage rivets the whole attention of the audience; Mr. James Carew gave an excellent portrayal of Captain Brassbound; Mr. George Fitzgerald made a dignified Sir Howard Hallam; the Rev. Leslie Rankin had a clever exponent in Mr. Story-Gofton; Mr. Max Montesole gave a clever character sketch of Felix Drinkwater; the Cadi was well played by Mr. H. Hay-Cameron, and Mr. Frank Powell looked every inch a naval officer as Captain Hamlin Kearney.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company are appearing here in *The Bondman*. Mr. Oswald Lingard displays great histrionic ability as Adam Fairbrother; Mr. R. Scrope Quentin makes an excellent Jason; Miss Georgina Wynters' acting as Greba is of a fine order; Mr. W. H. Rotherham plays Father Ferrati exceedingly well. The several minor parts are ably filled. The play is well mounted.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—Leicester Cooke gives a clever equestrian turn; Mendel, the blind pianist, gave some astonishing illustrations of his retentive memory and skilled playing; Sim Maree is a clever contortionist; Haley's Garden of Girls repeat their success of last week; Captain Max Gruber and Miss Adelina introduce a very cleverly trained elephant, horse, and pony; Szarvasi Ferencz Troupe of Hungarian athletes are exceedingly clever; Doodles is still creating an abundance of fun, especially in the "Spanish Bull-fight" and "Fun on the Broads." Chuting the chute is still very popular, and some excellent pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

Britannia Pier Pavilion.—Managing Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—The Six Brothers Luck are topping the bill here this week, and are proving a huge draw, the fun being fast and furious while they occupy the stage; Miss Beatrice Vernon is an excellent soprano; Mr. W. L. Cockburn's splendid bass voice is heard to advantage; Chummie La Mara is a big favourite with her excellent songs; Bert Lowe is a very funny comedian; Maggie Strachan is a capital musical entertainer, and Nell Brough is very successful in her whistling solos.

Wellington Pier Pavilion.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation; Manager, Mr. Arthur Cash.—Hal Chapter is a very smart comedian; Fancourt and Rubie successfully appear in a clever Dutch scena; Julian Ross is a singer of good descriptive songs; Harry Braham is a clever facial expressionist; Kenway and Emery appear in a very witty duologue; Cecilia Maude is a charming vocalist; Georgea Fairburn is successful as a mimic; William Gourlay is very funny; Cressie Leonard is a charming comedienne; Goggin and Davis are clever acrobats.

Chappell's Promenade Concerts. — Proprietress, Mrs. Sarah Lawton.—The new turns are Captain Devereux, who introduces some cleverly trained dogs; and Henry Foden, who appears in a smart hand-jumping and balancing act.

The Gem.—Proprietors, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.—Excellent pictures are being shown throughout the day to large audiences.

Minstrel Arena.—The Black Diamond Minstrels are presenting an entirely new programme of songs and screaming sketches.

GREENOCK. — Alexandra Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The above theatre reopened on Monday night, when an excellent variety programme was presented. During the vacation the house has been redecorated and painted, and a full and complete installation of electric light has been made. A new act drop from the brush of Mr. John Connor, the scenic artist at the Alexandra, adds to the general effect. The management have made a decided hit in securing Miss Vesta Victoria, and the popular comedienne has been a big success. Miss Maude Mortimer makes herself exceedingly popular in some excellent songs; the Walonells contribute a lively acrobatic turn; Robins and Collier, in their sketch, *The Lady and the Porter*, are very diverting; Frank Belford and Ethel Mars present an artistic vocal act, entitled *A Cook's Tour*, which meets with hearty approval; and the Alexandroscope shows the latest pictures.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk are presenting their new drama, *From Shop-Girl to Duchess*. Miss Neil displays her customary cleverness as the shop girl, Sylvia Grey, and is especially good in the emotional scenes; Mr. Douglas Cecil acts with distinction as Arnold Vyvian; Mr. T. Lionel Ellis gives a dignified representation of Sir Morris Maitland; Mr. Frank Strickland portrays Gilbert Spate with success; Mr. Douglas Tremayne does well as Pelham; Miss Amy B. Ellis gives a pleasing impersonation of Lady Isabel; Miss Beatrice Hudson is equally good as Lady Celeste, and the same may be said of Miss Marie Clavering as Lady Cinderella. The comedy is well sustained by Miss Florrie Groves as Tilly Dobson, and Mr. Robert Cromwell as Tommy Tinkler.

The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Florrie Gallimore is repeating her former successes here, and her répertoire of new songs is very popular; Mlle. Sahara is causing great interest by her graceful performance of the celebrated Salome dance; the Brothers Durant give a capital airship burlesque, followed by smart gymnastics; Fred Bamford, the newsboy whistler, gives a demonstration of his exceptional powers; Kitty Clinton is a charming comedienne; the Sisters Brenton are clever dancers; and Johnson and Bert contribute an amusing knockabout comedy act.

GUERNSEY. — Theatre St. Julians.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company gave a delightful presentation of *Diana of Dobson's* here on Saturday. Miss Dorothy Green merits warmest praise for her clever handling of Diana; Mr. Alfred Harris capably embodied Sir Jabez Grinlay; Miss G. De Serville was very effective as Mrs. Fraser; and Mr. H. G. Bentley portrayed Captain Bretherton with considerable tact. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* proved a pleasing curtain-raiser.

On Monday Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama opened for a season, and crowded houses are the rule. The beautiful pictures are up to date, and the show is bright, attractive, and instructive. Some capital variety business is provided by Loudoun Cameron and Maud Dunham, Eileen and Maynie, the Seddons, and Miss Frederica's wonderful troupe of dogs and a clever pony. Mr. Bert Berry is the guide.

HALIFAX.—Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are the chief attraction here this week. There are some very entertaining subjects—notably from Pathé Frères and Gaumont—thrown on the screen. Dolly Goldin is a young but accomplished dancer; Fred Athalan contributes a smart balancing turn.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Forster.—The Tossing Austins are providing a clever and amusing turn at the Palace this week. The lady is an agile and clever dancer, and the gentleman a very clever comedy juggler. The Florias are good in a musical and slack-wire performance; Hayes and Merritt, bounding trampolinists, gain hearty applause for their clever acrobatic work. Lew Towers, light comedian; Victor Travers, eccentric comedian; Renee Grahame, character vocalist; John Donald, in *A Scottish Exile's Dream*; Zeta Grey and company in *The Lancashire Lass*; and a couple of very interesting Pictures complete an entertaining programme.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company opened at the Royal this week with *Diana of Dobson's*. The company has been carefully selected, and does credit to Miss Ashwell's judgment. Miss Violet Gould, Miss Eva Lonsdale, Miss Dorothy Garth, and Miss Olga Esme as assistants at Dobson's all give evidence of careful study and attention to detail; it will be difficult to improve upon Miss Emelie Polini's versatile rendering of Dana Massingberd; as Mrs. Cantelupe Miss Gwynneth Galton is excellent; Miss Clarissa Selwynne is dignified and ladylike as Mrs. White-Fraser; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce's Sir Jabez Grinlay is a meritorious performance; Mr. E. C. Villiers as Captain Bretherton plays to life the easy-going, careless military gentleman of small means; Mr. Frank Woolfe makes the small part of Police-Constable Fellowes prominent. *Diana of Dobson's* is preceded by *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, in which Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce appears to advantage as the bishop, and Mr. Frank Woolfe gives a splendid rendering of the convict, holding the audience spell-bound throughout his recital.

HAMILTON.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Berzac's (late Capt. Woodward's) performing sea lion and seals are topping the bill here this week, and are warmly received; Alice Hughes, who receives excellent support, is extremely popular in a musical comedietta, *The Star of the Bazaar*; Mabel Thorne sings some catchy chorus songs in such a manner as to quickly persuade her audience to join in; Little Eileen is a dainty child comedienne and dancer; Ruby Dahl and her mock marionettes, in a novelty, entitled *The Merry Mannikins*, are very excellent; Anita Wayman sings her various numbers in a pleasing manner, Naughton and Gold, comedians and dancers, George Rae, Scottish comedian, and the Bioscope conclude.

HANLEY. — Royal. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—A splendid house gathered on Monday and gave a right royal welcome to Mr. Allan Wilkie and his well-chosen company. The pieces put on this week are *Belphegor the Mountebank*, *David Garrick*, *Two Orphans of Paris*, *The Fool's Revenge*, and a special triple bill, including *Hounslow Heath*, *The King's Rival*, and *Delicate Ground*. *The Two Orphans* was played on Monday, and was followed with the keenest possible interest. Mr. Allan Wilkie as Jacques is superb, and won wholehearted approbation; Mr. Alexander Marsh has a difficult rôle as the crippled brother of Jacques, but he comes out with flying colours; the two orphans are played by Miss Carrie Baillee and Miss Mildred Surrey with great skill, the former being especially brilliant; Mr. Frank Royde as Linieres, Mr. Sinclair Neill as the Chevalier, Mr. Ernest Diggins as the Marquis, and Mr. Ian Fleming in a comic rôle performed their parts with infinite credit to themselves. This is Mr. Wilkie's first visit to Hanley, and we feel sure it will not by any means be his last. He has installed himself a very warm favourite already.

Grand.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Coram, ventriloquist, has a very smart act, which goes finely; the Eight Lancashire Lads sing and dance most cleverly; De Canty's Water Grotto is thoroughly enjoyed by one and all; the Grand Pictures show a capital-tinted film, The Farmer's Daughter, which evokes loud applause. Also appearing are McCann, roller-skate dancer; Blake and Granby, comedy duologue artists; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic; Olive Lenton, comedienne; and Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers.

King's.—Lessees, Messrs. Kennedy and Moore; Operator and Acting-Manager, Capt. F. Shaw.—A splendid holiday programme is put forward this week. The best films are A Flower-Girl's Life-Story, The Pardon, Banana Skins, The Shy Fellow, Under a Crocodile's Skin, March Winds, The Mountaineer' Son, and Weird Symphony. Ida Rochefort, a juvenile of decided merit, with a good voice, sings sweetly and most successfully.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Pescock; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Fielding-Smith.—For the holiday attraction here Mr. Frank Curzon's company opened a three nights' engagement in the new play, *My Mimosa Maid*, including Miss Marie Studholme. A house packed to the doors witnessed the first performance on Monday night, and it is safe to say that seldom, if ever, has a more beautiful stage picture been seen in Harrogate. Miss Marie Studholme was bright and vivacious as Paulette, and was accorded a most hearty reception. Mr. Charles McNaughton was amusing as Victor Guilbert, the sweep, and Mr. Chas. E. Paton was excellent as Max Guilbert, the bailiff; Mr. Percy Cannot gave a true performance of a self-satisfied man as Gerrard; Miss Rosie Begarnie appeared as Popitte and Miss May Garstang as Mme. de Pilaine, the proprietress of the mimosa plantation. Other parts were in reliable hands, and the orchestra was under the baton of Mr. Leonard Hornsey. For the rest of the week Miss Lena Ashwell and company appeared in *Diana of Dobson's* and *Irene Wycherley*.

The Kursaal.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—This week is the Harrogate Gala Week, and a host of first class attractions are in the bill. First and foremost of all for three nights is the one and only Vesta Tilley. She is received with rapturous applause at each appearance. Time stands still with this wonderful and ever-fresh artist. Mr. Nelson Jackson is amusing with his songs and sketches at the piano, and Miss Leonora Sparkes has a very beautiful voice, which she uses to the greatest possible advantage. For Thursday the band of the Gordon Highlanders is announced, and for Friday The Follies appear at a matinée only. On Saturday the wonderful Mischa Elman at a matinée will give violin solos. Mr. Julian Clifford has had to take another week's rest after his long and serious illness, and his place this week has been taken very ably by the leader, Mr. John Bridges. Mr. Clifford is announced to return on Saturday if his doctor (his Worship the Mayor, Dr. Neville Williams) will permit.

HARTLEPOOL. — Empress. — Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Pictures continue to be successful here. This week's special attractions are The Hooligans and Sherlock Holmes. An illustrated song, "When you were sweet sixteen," is well presented pictorially and vocally.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Mouillot's company has been here on a three days' visit in *The Girl Behind the Counter*, under the stage-management of Mr. Geoffrey Allsopp, the augmented orchestra being directed by Mr. W. D. J. Damant. Mr. T. Lockridge was notably good as Charles Chetwyn, and his songs were finely rendered; Miss Gracie Moore won all hearts by her pleasing acting and singing as Winnie Willoughby; Mr. Fred Park gave a humorous exposition of the rôle of Adolphus Dudds, and was associated in a comic dance with Miss Irene Lavington, a pleasant and prepossessing Susie. Mr. H. B. Clark Chadwick won much success in his "Sir Walter Raleigh" song; Mr. Claude Dampier was alert and active as Mons. Duval; and Mr. Ferris Pounds did well as the Viscount. On Thursday and for the remainder of the week *Tom Jones* was billed for performance by Mr. Fred Mouillot's principal company.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Mr. Frank F. Street is a good singer and delightful story-teller; Amandus, the facial mimic, cleverly impersonates celebrities; a welcome re-engagement is that of the Sisters McCalla (Dolly and Madge), vocalists and dancers; the Hipposcope depicts some effective subjects, Our Dog Friends, A Wife's Revenge, &c.; the Czar's Royal Troupe exhibit some clever and original dancing; a pretty and singularly well-acted playlet entitled *Bluff*, is presented by Duncan and Brasque; Rosina is very expert on a variety of instruments; Henri Cazman introduces *Le Café Chantant*, a turn at once clever and entertaining; Allan and Hart, rapid change artists, are accorded a hearty reception.

Pier Pavilion.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Miss Edith Trew, soprano vocalist, sings with much good taste here; a comedy sketch, entitled *A Warm Affair*, creates fun; Messrs. Chas. Hawker, Herbert Maule, and Miss Blanche Bayley are associated in the sketch. Miss Violet King makes a first appearance here; she is remarkably skilful either on the piano or violin, and accompanies her own songs; Karr and Kooney are particularly good as comic comedians; Payne's Biophotoscope describes some exciting scenes and accidents connected with the Dieppe Motor Derby; some cleverly-arranged prismatic effects are shown by Mons. Maurin's Fairy Fountains, in which twenty thousand gallons of water are poured on the stage. On Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 4, Messrs. Baring Brothers introduced Mischa Elman, the musical genius, assisted by Miss Eleanor Felix (Soprano) and Mr. Waldemar Lischowsky (accompanist).

Beach Concert Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. George Blackmore.—Wallis Arthur's concert season here has been very successful, and, favoured by the fine weather, continues to draw large audiences. The ballads by Miss Elsie English and Miss Sybil St. Elmo give much pleasure. Miss Marie Schultz is a *chic* comedienne; and Mr. Dolf Wheeler as humorist, dancer, and instrumentalist has many admirers.

Cricket Ground.—Messrs. Hastings and Whayman returned here on Saturday last, and large crowds have thronged their show throughout the holidays. At dusk the grounds are brilliantly illumined by their own system of electric light, and shooting galleries, quoits, skies, swings, and switchback have been kept busy, providing both amusement and entertainment to the attracted crowds.

St. Leonards Pier Pavilion.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—On Monday Messrs. Frank G. Bayly and Arthur Eldred's company opened here in *When We Were Twenty-one*. Mr. Frank G. Bayley gave a very capable representation of Richard Carewe, and was ably supported by Mr. F. Rawson Buckley (Waddles), Mr. R. Grey (Soldier Man), and Mr. P. L. Julian (Doctor). Miss Margaret Yarde acted very forcefully as the Firefly, Miss Katie Johnson did well as Phyllis, her portrayal gaining general admiration; and Mr. Arthur Eldred was satisfactory as the Imp. Miss G. Bartle-Frère was well-suited to her rôle of Mrs. Ericson.

HUDDERSFIELD. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas J. Phillips.—For the reopening after the summer vacation Mr. Edmund Tearle and his company are appearing in a well-chosen répertoire, which includes *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, *Jeanie Deans*, *Ticket-of-Leave Man*, *The Three Musketeers*, and *Richard III.* Mr. Tearle's robust personality and method are well known, and he receives generally admirable support from his colleagues, including Miss Kate Clinton, Miss Mary Campbell, Miss Madge Raper, Mr. Stuart Black, Mr. J. A. Keogh, Mr. Bernhardt Turner, Mr. Arthur W. Jones, and Mr. Fawcett Lomax.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The bill here includes the Cole de Losse Duo, a pair of smart comedians, in a clever performance on the

Miss Jennie Hartley, a young comedienne and dancer; Wieland, an expert juggler with a keen sense of humour; and interesting pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—This beautiful theatre has undergone complete renovation, and the Bank Holiday audience gave full and appreciative endorsement of Messrs. Mortons' efforts to make the house one of the most comfortable in the provinces. Bannister-Howard's company, in *The Belle of New York*, was the opening attraction. Mr. Frank Lawton, in his original part of Blinky Bill, is a great attraction; of the two Bronsons, Mr. Arthur Rickets cleverly portrays the elder, whilst the younger is well sustained by Mr. James A. Watts; Miss Dorothy Doria is a fine type of Parisienne; the Cora of Miss Winnie Brown is a pleasant impersonation; Miss Hebe Knel'er in the title-rôle is equal to every call made upon her.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—Mr. Morton is still continuing the Pictures and songs for a short season longer. This week, for Bank Holiday and the races, The Marathon Race, cleverly depicted on the screen, has been a great attraction; and Miss Rita Rosslyn and Mr. W. Carriden are responsible for a diverting comedietta, entitled *The Suffragette*.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—A play, new to this city, *The Girl Who Went Astray*, was produced on Monday, and instantly caught the public taste. The leading figure is sustained by Miss Gwynne Warren, and this artist proves the possession of no small talent; Miss Ada M. Ryder has a part that draws the sympathy of the house; the heavy rôle, well sustained by Mr. Alf. Stretton, stands out very prominently. A clever comedy trio are Miss Mary Dalby, Mr. Evan Roland, and Mr. Tcd Squires. The mounting of the play is excellent. The Pictures are still a strong feature at the interval.

ILFRACOMBE.—Mr. Will C. Pepper's "White Coons" are doing excellent business here. Mr. Fred Frampton is a droll leader, with a fund of humorous songs and recitations, and can get the utmost out of his wheezes when aided by Mr. Alf Wood, an old Moore and Burgess and Mohawk banjoist and singer; Mr. Dick Loyd (with the sobriquet of "Clarence") warbles ballads and sea songs in a pleasant fashion, and Mr. W. R. Nono infuses great vigour and élan into his many songs and dances; Miss Hilda Hudson's powerful mezzo-soprano voice and good comedy manner gain her plenty of applause, and Miss Lydia Prescott has a tasteful style of singing good-class songs. A recent addition to the company is Miss Evelyn Harrison, who sings feelingly whilst playing an effective obbligato on the violin. The "Coons" have a neat little "fit-up," well lighted by electricity, and are in the full tide of success.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The company of Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond are here this week in *A Soldier of France*. Miss Florence Zillwood appears as Pauline Lorraine, her reading of the part meeting with marked approval; whilst Little Gertie Renaud is a pleasing little performer as Master Louis Lorraine. Mr. Edward Hobart presents a capital impersonation of Lieut. Louis Lorraine; and Mr. Leonard Aardale as Corporal Jean exhibits much ability. The Rita of Miss Dora Weber deserves praise; Miss Jennie Clare as Margot is a capital exponent; and Mr. Freddie Edwards as Pollyput Jollyboy is very amusing. Mr. Milton C. Curtis gives a suitable rendering of the part of Duke de Laval; and Mr. Albert Guyon makes the most of the unpleasant rôle of Judas Delara.

IPSWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Head.—Miss Alice Hollander, the Australian contralto, is winning golden opinions this week; Arthur Ferriss and Ethel May have an amusing sketch entitled *Two's Company, Three's*—? Phillips and Merritt have also a musical travesty entitled *A Touch of Vaudeville*, and the Brothers Ashley a boxing sketch called *Next Please*; other artists are Miss Maud Marshall, a Scotch singer; W. P. Sheen, "the merry widow who talks"; and Sinclair and Parr, Irish comedians; Alfred Graham's Premier Juveniles have a good vocal scena, *A Concert on the Lawn*, and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. Wilson Benge and company is here this week in *The Eve of Her Wedding*. Mr. Arthur Keand gives a first-class rendering of the part of Squire Leverton; and Mr. Henry Danson does full justice to the part of Dick Leverton. Mr. Wilson Benge gives a most manly portrayal of the part of George Tremain; while Mr. C. Digby causes much amusement as Rudolph Earle. Mr. Wilson Campbell plays with force and skill the part of Dean Clifton; and Mr. Ernest Regent is quite at home as Giovanni. Miss Sadie Smith is simply charming in the part of Mavis Leverton; and Miss Daisy Cook handles the part of Gwendoline Younger with skill; while Miss Effie Bartlett gives a most telling portrayal of Reine de Telle, the adventuress.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris.—The old love of the legitimate was well evidenced on Monday, when vaudeville gave place to Miss Lena Ashwell's company, in that powerful and pathetic romantic comedy, *Diana of Dobson's*, which drew a large and enthusiastic audience. Miss Dorothy Green, who takes the title-rôle, is an accomplished and charming actress; Miss Mary Stuart causes considerable amusement as Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss Georgette de Serville is a successful Mrs. Whyte Fraser; and Miss Molly Tremaine, Miss Kate Turner, Miss Nannie Griffin, and Miss Eva Leonard Boyne represent the lady assistants at Dobson's. Mr. H. Greendon Bentley is particularly good as Captain Bretherton; and Mr. Alfred Harris gives a finished interpretation of the difficult part of Sir Jabez Grinlay. The piece is preceded by *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, in which Mr. Alfred Harris excels as the Bishop.

ODDFELLOWS' HALL.—Messrs. Gale and Polden's "Life in the King's Service" are showing a number of new films this week.

SPRINGFIELD PAVILION.—The Motlez are proving a popular company of entertainers, and have this week been reinforced by Miss Lena Leighton, a light comedy vocalist of considerable merit.

TRIANGLE PARK.—The Nonentities opened here on Monday before a typical Bank Holiday audience. The band of the East Surrey Regiment provides the first half of the programme.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—The holiday attraction here is Mr. Geo. Cremen's company in *The World's Verdict*. Mr. Herbert Bentone invests the character of Nathan Black with artistic skill; the villainy of Jasper Woodleigh is powerfully portrayed by Mr. Henry Carlisle; Mr. W. C. Gregory is a capable George Ashford; Mr. Alfred Selwood and Miss May Waugh contribute some amusing comedy; Miss Molly St. George is a most effective Cora; and Miss Madge Blundall as Florence Woodleigh is very successful.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. Bailey and Co.—Miss Inez Howard's company is here this week in *Driven from Home*. Mr. Walter Jeffery is a manly Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. George Claremont presents a fine character study of Anthony Raybrook; Mr. H. C. Hunt is a capable villain, being ably assisted by Mr. H. C. Gilpin as Dick Sanders; and Miss Winnie Donavan quickly gains the sympathies of the audience by her charming representation of the dual rôle of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—A successful commencement of the theatre season has been made here this week with the presentation of *The Dandy Fifth* by Clarence C. Corri's company, which is an excellent one. Miss Pauline Hague gave a delightful rendering of the part of Kate Lorrimer, and Miss Nora Morra made a vivacious Polly; Mr. J. Edward Fraser sang and acted exceedingly well as Dick Darville; Mr. Jack Crichton as Trooper Brown was irresistible, and George Beverley was exceedingly funny as Sergeant-Major Milligan; whilst the Colonel of Mr. Percy Baverstock was a most convincing and finished piece of acting.

LANCASTER. — HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The Trapnell Family of lady acrobats head the bill and receive a hearty reception; May Lilian Levey, comedienne, is paying a return visit, as also is Hobart, comedy juggler; the Sages, comedy burlesque artists, win favour; Harry Wright, comedian, causes roars of laughter; and Dorma Morgan is an acceptable vocalist; Hillman and Russell supply a vocal comedy duologue to perfection, and the Hippograph, depicting The Quicksands, &c., completes a first-rate entertainment.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*A Chinese Honeymoon* inaugurates the autumn season here, and good holiday crowds have enjoyed the presentation. Miss Elsie Skillings, in the principal rôle, is a delightful actress, and sings her numbers in pleasing style. Miss Veronica Brady, as Mrs. Pineapple, makes a good impression in the part; Mr. Leonard May makes the most of the generous comedy part of Lord High Admiral; and Mr. Will Harman also makes a big success of the rôle of Mr. Pineapple. Miss Gwennie Harcourt is the Fi-Fi of the company, and is particularly good.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Mr. Hall Caine's famous drama *The Christian* is the holiday attraction here. Mr. Henry Renouf makes a most effective and convincing figure as John Storm, whilst in that character of many moods, Glory Quayle, Miss Doris Gilham is a complete success. The two leading clerical parts are in the hands of Mr. Edwin Ling and Mr. C. T. Turpin, and both are cleverly presented.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—Miss Winifred Hare is the bright particular star of this week's Empire bill, and her clever turn evokes the lavish applause of hosts of admirers. That popular vocalist, Arthur Lennard, once again gets a gratifying reception; La Belle Titcombe presents her wonderfully trained horse with great success; J. W. Rickaby is a favourite comedian here; and Harry Marte also does well in a similar line. Billy M'Clain and company provide a laughter-provoking speciality; there is a clever dog show engineered by Max Yorke; the Vasilescu troupe of comedy gymnasts do a capital turn; and the Sisters Allen also make a successful appearance.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—A dramatic item, *The Princely Betrayer*, is the leading turn in a capital programme, Mr. Oscar Adye amongst others achieving distinction in its presentation. Mlle. de Rose repeats her vocal triumphs; Hilda Claremont is another pleasing vocalist; and Slippere, the blind musician, is wonderfully clever, and comes in for a big reception. Other good turns are subscribed by Pat Lynch and Stuart and Evans; Lieutenant Chard's dogs are seen in a wonderfully intelligent exhibition; J. H. Hawtrey enhances his reputation as actor-vocalist; and Talberto and Douglas score with an entertaining speciality.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—The leading turn here is Lafayette, an American artist, whose versatile turn makes a big impression, crowded audiences being nightly moved to vociferous applause. He promises the sensational act, *The Lion's Bride*, for the latter part of the week. A pair of very clever acrobats and tumblers, Olloms and Page, get a big reception; Phil Rees' Stable Lads again provide an acceptable turn; and other leading lights are the Three Sisters Silcott, Susie and Protti, Flo Warner, and May Fairclough.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Neville Graham and company head the bill with a successful episode, *The Man in the Street*; the Society Quartette provide a capital entertainment; Lillie Lassah, a pleasing comedienne and dancer, is again very popular; Charles Coll leads the comedians in clever style; Mike Cray, with his intelligent dog, makes a hit; whilst of the rest, the Calcotts, the Sisters Lytton, and Elton and Elma are particularly successful.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—After the usual summer vacation this premier theatre reopened its doors on Monday evening, when a really first-rate performance of the still popular drama *Alone in London* was given by Mr. J. F. Elliston's company. The play has also the merit of being well staged. Miss Theresa Osborne displays exceptional histrionic ability as Nan, the flower girl, and Mr. Percy Rhodes as the unscrupulous Richard Redcliffe is also a conspicuous success; Mr. W. S. Hartford, an actor of ripe experience, leaves nothing to be desired as John Biddlecombe; Mr. Lonnen Meadows scores his usual success as Charley Johnson, and Miss Gertie Douglas as Liz Jenkinson is also very good; Miss Nellie Lauraine is a really smart exponent of the part of Mrs. Maloney; Miss Mary Stafford Smith is excellent as Chickweed, and as Little Paul Miss Elsie Clarke merits warm praise; Mr. Frank Sutherland is good as Spriggins, and both Mr. Percy Bell as Jenkinson and Mr. Harry McClelland as the banker, Mr. Burnaby, are deserving of eulogy.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R Beaumont.—After a short closure this popular drama house reopened on Monday evening, and presented a spick and span appearance after the thorough cleaning to which it has been subjected, and the redecoration of the whole of the building, begun a short time ago, is now completed. The opening attraction was provided by a first visit of Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company in the modern drama, *A Girl Redeemed from Sin*, which met with a cordial reception from an audience that filled every part of the theatre; Miss Olive Fulton is a conspicuous success as Nancy Lee; Mr. Jo. Monkhouse, as Will May, is to be highly complimented on a performance of special merit; Mr. Clinton Baddeley is very good as Ernest Sylveston; and Mr. Victor Knight as Jim Jakes, Mr. Walle Spinner as the Hon. Bertie Boyes, and Miss Ada Oxley as Peggy Grey are responsible for amusing and clever embodiments; and Miss Fanny Olive as Mrs. Lee, Mr. Philippe Orr as Robert Denham, Mr. Gifforde Reynolds as Samuel Lee, and Mr. John Turpin as the Prison Governor are also to be singled out for credit. The play is mounted in good style.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton.—The usual big holiday audiences are unstinted in their delight at the smart programme submitted here, at the head of which is Miss Louie Freear, who is presenting the farcical absurdity, *Snooks*, in which this remarkably versatile little comedienne as Jemima, the slavey, has full scope for her talents. Miss Freear is assisted by a capable company. Daras is a smart conjurer, a really fine Spanish dancer, and a clever impersonator of various musical celebrities; the Brothers Webb are making a big hit as musical clowns; Barrett and Knowles are really funny comedians; Lottie Bovell is an attractive comedienne and clever dancer; Hawthorn and Burt are entertaining and popular Hebrew comedians and dancers; Howe and Ardie are excellent and novel comedy gymnasts; Walter Wade is a very good vocal comedian; and Gus Le Clerq tells some witty and smart things as a raconteur. A special feature is the Bioscope, showing exclusive films of the Leicestershire Agricultural Society.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Large holiday audiences heartily appreciate the bill of fare here, at the head of which is Geo. M. Marriott and company in the sensational dramatic sketch, *The Maid of the Alps*, in which Mr. Marriott as Mother Pethard and Miss Edith Findlay as Louise are conspicuous, being admirably supported by Mr. Fred Conway, Frank Seton, and Mr. John A. Stimson. Miss Emmie Ames makes a hit with her songs, which are given with much daintiness and charm; Madge Field, comedienne and dancer, is another lady who is cordially received; Harry Bancroft scores a well-deserved success, and others in the programme are Rose Gaston, a popular and vivacious comedienne; Keane Harker, a capital eccentric; and Winnie Wentworth, comedienne. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, as usual, is a strong feature, with well-shown films.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—Large holiday audiences are enthusiastic in their praise of the really fine assortment of moving pictures shown here this week, included in which are A Story of Treasure Island, A Bad Shilling, The Woman Who Wasn't, A Romance of the Fur Country, The Great Dieppe Motor Race, and Will Grandfather Forgive? which are interspersed with entertaining turns by Esta May, a capital vocalist, and Joe Audley, a popular local comedian. Mr. Hurley, the painstaking manager, has had the dome of the hall redecorated, and the stage and other parts of the building are undergoing thorough cleansing.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—The above theatre was reopened on Saturday night, when Mr. Dickie Clare presented for the first time here the musical absurdity entitled *Lucky Lisa*, and was accorded a hearty reception from a full house. Mr. Clare as Silas Slim kept the audience in roars of laughter; Miss Madge Brownie in the rôle of Eliza Bird pleased the audience immensely, her singing being greatly appreciated. Mr. Norman H. Lee admirably enacted the rôle of Paul Pettitoe, and Mr. J. W. Forrest caused much amusement by his droll sayings as the gardener William Biffins. Miss Evelyn Wood was a pleasing Sadie Potts, her singing being much admired; and La Belle Trio contributed a series of clever acrobatic dances. The remaining parts were all in capable hands.

LINCOLN. — ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope.—The theatre has been renovated, special attention being paid to the lighting and heating. The reopening attraction is *The Liars*, in which Mr. Leslie Faber and Miss Winifred Arthur Jones have scored a triumph. The support is thoroughly good. Mr. L. Willoughby is a forcible Falkner; Mr. W. Gregory is a painstaking Gilbert Nepean, and Mr. Frank Bickley a strong George Nepean, while Mr. Jerrold Manville's Coke is a rich piece of comedy; Miss Ethelwyn Arthur Jones as Lady Rosamund accentuates that character artistically, and Miss May Saker's Mrs. Coke is completely commendable.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies, with the aid of lively Lily Prince, score here in blithesome song and dance; the Arleys give a remarkable acrobatic turn, and Martinett and Wallace are a couple of coloured musicians of high quality. The Millicent Freres, Edie Reynolds, the Bartholomew Girls, Alice Lingard, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux add to the enjoyment of a strong bill.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The season commenced at this house on Monday with *The Private Secretary*, in the presence of a large audience. Mr. Donald Price-Evans delighted everybody with his Rev. Robert Spalding; Mr. W. Hargreave, it is needless to mention, kept his audience in a roar of laughter as the blunt Cattermole; the part of the persistent Gibson was delightfully presented by the able Mr. Frederick Tyrrell; Mr. Laurence Grove made an excellent Douglas Cattermole; the small parts of Edith and Eva were pleasingly undertaken by Miss Florence Trissilian and Miss Dorothy Ripley; Mrs. Alfred Davies did the most with the character of the chaperone; and Miss Cecily Wade acquitted herself as the landlady. *The Wild Man from Borneo* was a curtain-raiser.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*A Royal Divorce* paid its fiftieth visit to this theatre on Monday, when Miss Edith Cole assumed, with her well-known charm, the rôle of Josephine. A new Napoleon was presented by Mr. Keith Fraser, whose reading of the part was intelligent and forceful; Mr. George Hudson made a humorous Grimaud, carefully refraining from "colouring"; excellent work came from Messrs. Percy H. Vernon (Talleyrand), Stanley Harrison (Marquis de Beaumont), and T. G. Bailey (General Augereau). Every credit was due to Miss Winnie Tempest, for her fine portrait of Marie Louise; and Miss Maude Lacy pleased as Stephanie. Mention should be made of a picturesque new drop curtain, from the brush of Mr. Thomas Holmes, the resident scenic artist of the Shakespeare Theatre, which was shown for the first time on Monday evening.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*For Love and the King* has drawn large and enthusiastic audiences. Mr. C. Watson Mill had behind him a capable company. As the heroic Jarval, Mr. Mill quickly won the approval of his audience; Miss Rosalind Tate shared honours by her charming portrayal of Princess Athene; the powerful character of Michael Obrenovic was done full justice to by Mr. John Burton; thanks were certainly due to Mr. Henry Earlesmere for his Vladimir; Mr. Jim K. Woods presented a very humorous Carl Oppenheim; Miss Joan Ellis pathetically impersonated the unfortunate Natila; and other parts were capably sustained by Mr. Alfred Hilliard, Mr. Frank Lyndon, Mr. Arthur Trail, Mr. Geoffrey Chate, Miss Frances Tierney, Miss Laura Munro, and Miss Marie Ault.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—The holiday attraction here this week has been *In the Ranks*. Mr. Jerrold Heather played the part of Ned Drayton with power; Miss Violet E. Lawson made an admirable Ruth Herrick; Mr. Andrew Money handled the rôle of Gideon Blake with tact and discretion; Messrs. Bert Lloyd and Walter Thornton ably impersonated Colonel Wynter and Captain Holcroft; Mr. Arthur Crompton proved a humorous Tim O'Flannigan, assisted by Miss Vibray Weaver as Mrs. O'Flannigan; and good support also came from Miss Doris Whyte (Barbara Herrick), Mr. P. Beaufoy (Farmer Herrick), and Mr. Ern Carlton (Joe Buzzard). The company is under the direction of Mr. Beresford Whitcomb.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Heading a strong programme are the merry Phil Ray, and Carlotta Kara, to both of whom were given hearty receptions; *The Organ Grinder* is a powerful sketch, well presented by Alicia Ramsey and Rudolph De Cordova and company; Hymack proved as merry as ever; the Three Prestons gave their amusing absurdity, *The Liftman's Rise*; a pretty and popular scena, *The Silver Coon*, was submitted by the Ten Dixie Girls, including Miss May Carter; as one-legged equilibrists and dancers, the Bros. Diamond showed to advantage; and other artists in the list were J. G. Aitken, Scotch comedian; and Lena Verdi, comedienne and eccentric dancer.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—On Saturday evening last a seven nights' engagement was commenced here, with *The Conscience of a Judge*. Among the principals were Messrs. Kenyon, Musgrove, and Laurence Stevenson, Miss Barbara Fenn, and Miss Elsie Isaacs.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Miss Helen Roberts, with her Salome and other dances, well merited the rounds of applause she received for her charming and graceful work. Prominent also was George D'Albert, who brought his latest successes; the audience thoroughly enjoyed the funny juggling of Griff; Nash and Noel proved a particularly diverting couple of comedians; an amusing and clever animal show was provided by Silbon; and likewise in the list were Crissie Cross, vocalist and dancer; Joe Archer, comedian; and the Leonas, expert banjoists, with their illuminated musical novelty act.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Top of the programme here this week are Jake Friedman and company, with the artistic and funny operetta, *Happy Holland*; a neat vaudeville turn came from Albert Bellman and Lottie Moore; Kendrick and Laura submitted an appreciated interlude; Dolly Ross danced and sang in a manner that won much applause; the quaint humour of George Antill made everybody laugh; smart work on the silver chains was done by the Three Donals; Ryder Slone had some amusing songs; an acceptable scena, *The Nightingale*, was provided by the Two Kays; and the Zaid Trio, with an Oriental speciality, also appeared.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*The Woman from Nowhere*, by Arthur Shirley, has been presented here this week by the "Royal" stock dramatic company. The principal parts were ably undertaken by Messrs. Harry Tresham, Robb Wilton, Cecil Ravenswood, Sydney Grant, R. Seath Innes, Miss Florence Palmer, Miss Lilian Radbourne, and Miss Florence Cameron. Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—A welcome visit here this week has been that of Alexandre and Hughes, who kept their audience in shouts of laughter; the remarkable vocal powers of L'Incognita earned for the lady general applause; Tom Edwards caused a deal of merriment with his ventriloquial doll, "Curly"; the Bros. Horne had a comedy boxing match, which aroused much laughter; a flattering reception was given to Gertie Gitana for her dancing and singing; Harold Thorley rendered several numbers in capital style; the Borellis had some smart mimicry, which was funny; and contributions likewise came from Frank Couch, comedian; and Aida Martine, comedienne and dancer.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Foremost here this week has been William Garland and Fred Douglas's company, with *A Trip to Coontown*, which proved amusing; Le Diabelo went through a sensational performance on "the Devil's Wheel"; smart acrobatic work came from the juvenile Denaro Bros.; a clever second sight performance was given by the Days; Mabel Robarts had some pretty illustrated songs; as juggler and equilibrist Marlo afforded satisfaction; and also on the programme were George Young, blind musician; and Amos Howard, dancing comedian.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. Arthur Roberts opened here on Monday for the week, in a répertoire of sketches, entitled *Courtship and Marriage, Till Sunday, Packing Up, A Midnight Kiss*, and *The Importance of Being Another Man's Wife*. In *Till Sunday*, Mr. Roberts is the life and soul of the piece, keeping the audience in roars of laughter throughout, undertaking a triple part; Miss Ruby Celeste as Mrs. St. Hilary is excellent, and most winsome in manner; Mr. Harry Huddlestone is good as Biggs; and Mr. William Rokeby well placed as Mr. St. Hilary.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. G. Pugh.—Baron H. Harriss' company are here for six nights, in *The Prince of Pilson*. The chief interest is centred in Mr. Harry Kilburn as Hans Wagner, his comicalities being loudly applauded; Miss Sophie Harriss as Mrs. Maddison Crocker being a commanding figure, and singing well; Mr. Leslie Owen as Carl Otto is well placed; and Mr. Arthur Geary as Lieut. Tom Wagner sings excellently. Mr. Charles Rogers as Arthur de Willoughby gives a good representation; and Mr. Ernest Gifford as François is remarkably smart with his footwork.

PIER HEAD VARIETIES.—Local Manager, Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe.—Mr. Malcolm Scott heads the bill here, and keeps enormous audiences convulsed whilst he occupies the boards; Miss Lube Gillespie has a soprano voice far above the average; Miss Edith Benson also finds favour; Mr. Paddy Dupres scores as a comedian; Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe, the local favourite, is as popular as ever; and Mr. Bernard Knox is an efficient accompanist.

PIER PAVILION.—Secretary, Mr. S. Hughes.—The pier orchestra is now at full strength, and under Mr. A. W. Payne, of London, has crowded audiences nightly. On Saturday, Madame Crossley and Miss Lucy Nuttall sang magnificently; and an hour before the concert commenced seats were at a premium.

LONGTON. — QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Proprietors, Longton Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. H. Sherriff Howard.—This popular house reopened to a very large audience on Monday with Mr. T. Edward Ward's company in *The Love of the Princess*, a piece eminently suitable to the habitués. Miss Ward gives a charming reading of the Princess, and together with Mr. Wilson Coleman as Prince Conrad—a very fine performance—enlist the sympathies of the audience throughout. Mr. Ernest E. Imeson is excellently suited in the part of Count Nicholas; Mr. C. H. Dobell as the King, if somewhat lacking in dignity, makes up for it in intensity; Miss Nellie Garside and Mr. George Antley relieve the piece with some laughable comedy, and Messrs. Beckett Bould, Graham Winsford, Charles Herberte, and Miss Helen Elmar are all worthy of especial mention. The piece is most sumptuously mounted and dressed.

LOWESTOFT. — MARINA.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is presented this week by Mr. Geo. Dance's company. Miss Amy Gray works charmingly in the name-part, and Miss Cissie Sephton affords much genuine humour as Mina; Mr. Tom Shale scores admirably as Mr. Hook, and Ludwig Scnapps is carefully played by Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun.; Mr. Tom Seymour does well as Simon Slinks, and Mr. Crimp scores in the character of the Bandmaster. For the latter part of the week *The Girls of Gottenberg* is staged.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—A crowded Bank Holiday audience witnessed the programme here on Monday. At the top of the bill we have the pleasing and ever-welcome Elliotts and Savonas, the famous musical specialists and expert cyclists, who were recalled again and again; Miss Florence renders in pleasing style some capital illustrated vocal numbers, and the British Biograph Company present the latest and best pictorial subjects.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Gunner Moir and a very strong variety company gave their services at this theatre on Friday last, July 31, on the occasion of the popular manager's third annual benefit, and to judge by the crowded house he was accorded a good benefit. During the interval Mr. Beard suitably thanked those present for the support they had given him on that evening and during the time he had been in charge of the theatre.—The season commenced at this theatre on Monday with Mr. Austin Knight's drama *Mysteries of the Thames*, which is put on well and supported by a very good and strong cast.

MAIDENHEAD.—PAVILION PLEASURE GARDENS.—Proprietor, Mr. G. Gude.—For the Bank Holiday entertainments good preparation was made; still it was impossible to meet the demand to accommodate the immense crowd. Commencing on this day, the style of programme is altered by the introduction of Oriental colouring. New scenery has been painted, and the dressing of the troupe is changed. The two ladies (Miss Twort and Miss Delamere) appear as Japanese maidens; the two comedians (Will Harris and Leo Fallowfield) are dressed as Chinamen; and Mr. Jack Anders (light comedian) and Mr. Colin Gent retain the cadet costume. The programme is of the usual attractive character, each performer being thoroughly capable in his or her own line, and the applause is unstinted. The concerted numbers give evidence of careful preparation, and the incidental "gag" introduced is highly amusing. The sketch, *The Runaway Schoolgirl*, which was so well received a short time since, is repeated. As a special holiday attraction Miss Edith Manley is engaged; her songs, with topical and impromptu verses, make a decided hit.

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Miss Marie Dainton is the attraction here this week, and to judge by the hearty reception accorded her on Monday her popularity is as great as ever, her imitations of well-known theatrical celebrities being well received. Cliff Ryland is always a favourite here, and his store of stories seems inexhaustible; Chas. Banks and his clever dog Woof are popular; Jo Belmont is a clever whistler; the Jollies, entertainers and vocalists, give a smart turn. Others appearing are Miss Ray Ford, comedienne and dancer; Miss Rita Rhylle, comedienne; Jack Hart, comedian, and the pictures.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Drama holds the boards here this week, and Miss Maud Western's company is being well received in *The Prodigal Son* and *A Mother's Redemption*.

MANCHESTER.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Topping the bill here this week are the Geni Family, in an original Risley acrobatic display; Edith St. Clare is a pleasing comedienne; J. W. Gallagher, comedian, is well received; the Sisters Terry are entertaining duettists and character comediennes; and other interesting turns include Moon and Morris, comedians and dancers; Spangles and Sawdust, in an aerial act; Bert Bowden, a quaint comedian; Jack Foley, comedian; Louie Harman, in her new repertoire of songs; and Fritz Kornan, whistler.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The appearance of George Robey at the top of the programme here this week is ensuring large and delighted audiences; while Henry Coutts, supported by a smart company, is seen to advantage in his great protean sketch, *Outflanked*. Ethel Haydon, a refined vocalist, is well received, as usual; Les Marbas, humorists and acrobatic dancers, are a capital turn; an accomplished musical turn is given by the Cavallotti Brothers; the Simms (Rosa and Kitty) are distinctly successful in their vocal and dancing act, *From School to Stage*; while other good turns are added by Hans and Lux, the comic college chums; Will Musgrave, comedian; and Mazie Hibbs, vocalist and speciality dancer.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Chung Ling Soo, the well-known conjurer, is the top star attraction here this week, and he succeeds in bewildering with a series of marvellous tricks, all neatly performed. T. B. Vaughan and John Lawson's company are highly successful in W. W. Jacob's amusing sketch, *The Boatswain's Mate*, which is well acted; Tom Terriss and Betty Gordon play well in a farcical sketch, *Just We Two*; Rex Fox gives an exceedingly clever ventriloquial and musical act on the slack wire; Orpheus, a master of melody, wins great applause for his delightful musical scena, *The Deputy*; and Will English makes a big hit with his burlesque "walks." Other entertaining items are those of the King's College Boys, vocalists; the Twin Andersons, clever dancers; a part song by the Choir; "Honey, you'se ma lady love," illustrated song, well sung by Mildred Timms, of the Choir; and some smart Bioscope pictures.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—An excellent programme here is headed by Edmund Bosanquet and company in *The Fiddler's Windfall*, an entertaining and clever episode; while the Juanitos Troupe of acrobats worthily share the principal honours. Harry Blake, comedian, makes a big hit in his songs and patter; Seims, king of illusionists, is highly popular; Dottridge and Instone's company in *Rosie's Birthday Party*, provide a clever and delightful act; and other capital turns are the Ramsey Trio, knockabout comedians; Chas. Lilburn, comedian; Hilda De Grey, Tyrolean vocalist; the Musical Morrellis; Day and Knight, the musical bachelors, and Shavo, expert comedy juggler.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr Walter de Frece; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Marie Loftus, delightful as ever, is to the front here this week, and her skit, *Singers, Past and Present*, is a fine bit of burlesque; Carl Hertz, assisted by Emmeline D'Alton, is successful in several neat illusions; Belle Braham, the pictorial songstress, proves very popular; Alf Ripon, Scotch ventriloquist, is deser-

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vedly well received; and other good turns are the Haydas Troupe, sensational comedy acrobats; Baby Vi-Davis, a clever juvenile; the Brothers Ford, smart dancers; Daisy Martell, comedienne and dancer; and Will Johnson, comedian, with some good patter. Pictures on the Bioscope are also included in the programme.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur R. Wilkes.—Charles Angelo, of musical comedy fame, is very much to the front here this week in a pleasing musical pot-pourri entitled *Apres le Théâtre*, assisted by six very charming actresses, including Christine Ray, the original Continental "Gibson Girl." The Royal Welsh Entertainers, including a clever lady harpist, meet with a big reception, their singing being exceedingly good; Arthur Albert, vocal comedian, sings well, and is greatly appreciated; Rose Cambry, Australian burlesque artist, is well received; and Madge Bryce is a pleasing comedienne with catchy songs. Others who provide good turns are Charles Denton, comedian; the Sisters Les Fleur, duettists and dancers; Sharon, in musical speciality; and Agnes Hanson, comedienne. Ruffell's Bioscope pictures complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—*The Power of the King*, well adapted to suit two shows a night, excellently presented by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton's company, is the attraction here this week. In the heroic parts Messrs. Gerald Blake, Charles Whitlock, and Miss Leila Zillwood are seen to advantage as Captain Rupert Landgrave, King of Vallombrosa, and Lady Annastasia respectively; whilst in the sinister parts Messrs. Travis Green, John H. Firmin, and Miss Georgina V. France are equally good. The lighter vein is well brought out by Misses Wilton Drury, Fred Hughes, and Miss Grace Barton. The scenery is good.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Kay.—After a highly successful week at the Metropole Theatre, Herbert Lloyd's excellent company are the attraction here in that screaming extravaganza, *Happy Hooligan*, to the delight of large audiences.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Secretary and Acting-Manager, Mr. George Phillips.—The programme here, which is up to its usual high standard, includes Charley Harvey, the droll; A. J. Braddock, solo pianist; Harrison Latimer, baritone vocalist; Jimmy Watson, comedian; Edna Barrett, comedienne and dancer; Fred Barnes, light comedian; and an absurdity entitled *The Broken Statue*, played by Charley Harvey and Co.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hardy.—Nothing could have provided a brighter holiday attraction than the presentation here of W. Somerset Maugham's delightful play, *Lady Frederick*, with Miss Mabel Love in the title-rôle. The happy, sunny philosophy of Mr. Maugham's heroine just strikes the right note, and Miss Mabel Love's winsome interpretation of the part, especially in the famous dressing-room scene, has carried the audience with her completely. Her acting, in conjunction with Mr. Robert Minster as Mr. Baradine Fouldes, has won delighted encomiums and applause as the audience have watched the battle of wits upon which the two enter, and which ends in a complete victory for both sides, if such a thing can be possible. Mr. Patrick Quill sustains the rôle of Sir Gerald O'Mara with briskness; and Miss Eleanor Delaporte plays with effectiveness the part of Lady Mereston, who goes to any length to prevent her son, Lord Mereston (Mr. B. F. Meads) marrying the bewitching Lady Frederick. Mr. Edward Bondfield, as the ambitious and scheming usurer, Capt. Montgomery, is good; and Capt. Gerald Gamber makes an excellent Admiral Carlisle. Miss Lyan Fontanne plays Rose Carlisle pleasingly; and the remaining characters, Thompson (Mr. John Orme), Pierre (Mr. Frank Hillary), Mme. Claude (Miss Beatrice Grosvenor), Albert (Mr. Bruce Smith), and Angelique (Miss Rita Ward), are all efficiently played. *The Peacemaker* is the curtain-raiser each evening.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The holiday bill of fare is headed by Miss Marie Lloyd, and there have been crowded audiences at both performances nightly. Miss Lloyd has had a magnificent reception, and on Monday night she, at the two houses, had to do no less than ten "turns." She has some quite up-to-date songs, which have been received with great enthusiasm. Vestor, eccentric musician and lightning cartoonist, also has the merit of being up-to-date with Sievier and Dorando among his sketches; Hayes and Watson give a smart exhibition of dancing; and Josie Gallimore, soubrette and speciality dancer, sings pleasingly and dances splendidly; Jack Roland, the happy cowboy, is a man with a remarkable depth of voice; and Johnny Fuller, the cat on the wire, is exceedingly good. A turn by Ella Lane and the usual series of animated pictures complete the programme, the enjoyment of which is much enhanced by the playing of an efficient and effective orchestra, directed by Mr. Wendel Compton.

HALL-BY-THE-SEA.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—A big holiday crowd filled this large building at both the afternoon and evening shows on Bank Holiday, and a good attendance has been the rule during the week. Arthur Rose, in a scena, *The Actor's Last Call*, gives evidence of high histrionic ability, and has been deservedly applauded for his capable rendering of a difficult subject, in which he portrays Shylock with great dramatic force; Carrie Harding and Jack Preston, comedy artists and speciality dancers, appear with success in various comedy creations, including *The Editor and the New Sub*; Zaro and Arno, comedians, are extremely funny in their horizontal bar act, in which they create roars of laughter; Dorothy Dacre presents a novelty in vaudeville; Will Cornish gives a unique musical speciality, in which he plays sweet-toned bells and various instruments with effectiveness; the Bob Pender Troupe, eight in number, described as the fun-makers, do not belie their title, and in their pantomimical comedy, *The Long and the Short of It*, keep the audience highly amused.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—*Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*, presented by Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company, formed an attractive Bank Holiday programme. Miss Cissy Bellamy admirably sustained the part of Mary, and Miss Elsie Capel scored as the Hon. Mrs. Sand; Mr. Paul Beckett plays powerfully as Felix Beverley; Mr. Edward E. Louis successfully undertakes the part of Jack Stirling; Mr. W. E. Passmore does well as Colonel Miles, and Thomas and Sweet Nancy have capable representatives in Mr. Percy Brown and Miss Kate Lever.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The reopening of this hall took place on Monday Bank Holiday with a programme of unusual excellence, contributed by musical selections by Richard Karsy's Mynophone, Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre, De Henau, who paints pictures with his toes; Mlle. Aladina's well-trained cockatoos; Nellie Dunbar, comedienne; Delafiore, xylophone expert; the Lashmars, comedy acrobats; and Irene and Morton. An excellent array of Biograph pictures include Diabolical Itching, The Lazy Man, A Briton's Promise, Nocturnal Thieves, The Counterfeit Coin, and The Music Teacher.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is this week presenting *Greed of Gold*. Mr. James Jarrell plays with intense power the part of the dumb man, Tom Welstead; the rôle of Harry Hood is cleverly taken by Mr. W. H. Domoney; Mr. Chas. Stafford shows ability as Arthur Errol; as Cully Snig Mr. Sydney Bryant is a typical tipster; Mr. J. Narston imparts the humour of the Emerald Isle to the character of Conn Creamer; Miss Elma C. Turner plays with dramatic instinct in the part of Dora; Miss Beatrice May Hughes does well as Cecil; and Miss S. Bryant is a capital Patty Manfield.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—The Bank Holiday programme here is an exceptionally good one, some of the leading pictures being A Red Man's Justice, The Corsican's Revenge, Physician of the Castle, The Poacher's Wife, Mr. and Mrs. Jollygood Go Tandeming, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—The well-known drama, *Man to Man* is being presented here this week by Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair's company. The play is admirably staged, and the representation of a railway collision, and the escape of convicts from Portland form striking instances of stage realism, and the interest in the development of a powerful story is well sustained throughout; Mr. Frank Adair gives a capital impersonation of the part of Richard Ellerton; and the rôle of George Gordon is in the capable hands of Mr. Edward Lloyd. Mr. Herbert Williams is exceedingly good as Samuel Plumtree; and Mr. H. Holland does well as Matthew Ellerton. Miss Louie Adair is very pleasing in the rôle of Ethel Maythorne; and Miss Evelyn Warde is good as Lavina Dove. Mr. Denham Muir does full justice to the part of the Rev. Philip Dormond; and Mr. Clifford Brown is very amusing as Bill Burkley, a convict.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*Leah Kleschna* is the holiday attraction here this week. The drama is being presented by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, and the performance is thoroughly enjoyed by large audiences. Miss Bessie Rignold, in the title-rôle, has an emotional part of no small difficulty to portray, but she comes out of the ordeal with great distinction; the same may be said of Mr. William Clayton, who appears as Kleschna; while Mr. Hamilton Deane gives an excellent interpretation of Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Algernon Hicks is excellent as Roone Benton; and Mr. Gilbert Heron does full justice to the part of Schram; Mr. Chas. Barrett as General Burton and Valentine Favre, Miss Ethel Russell as Madame Burton, and Miss Emmie Wallace as their daughter, are all that can be desired.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembyes.—A capital programme is provided here this week, and amongst a number of old favourites none enjoyed a more cordial reception than Albert Whelan, a versatile and accomplished entertainer, who quite delights the audience; Terry and Lambert, old favourites with Teesiders, are as good as ever in their character sketches; whilst Peter Bermingham, a quaint little Scotch comedian, who is on his first year's tour, has a great future before him. His songs are very witty, and he keeps the audience in a constant roar of laughter with his patter; Ethel Bourne is a charming contralto; and Boyd and Gilfain are delightful in a vocal sketch.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Alf. Graham.—Large holiday audiences greatly appreciate the programme given here this week. Exceedingly clever is Halma, who gives a fine exhibition of juggling; Les Rubens also contribute an enjoyable turn in a vocal scena, "A gipsy encampment"; Vaubert, an illusionist, gives a smart entertainment; and other turns are given by Stevens and Renner, Amy and Ada, the Ormesby Quartette, Julian Mack, Dallas and Varden, and Brady and Johnson.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Julian.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company, in Wilson Barrett's last play, *Lucky Durham*, have been appearing with success this week. A fine interpretation of the part of Durham has been given by Mr. S. Herbert Humber; and Miss Alice E. Belmore has proved a charming Helen. Mr. Arthur Leigh has delighted all with his clever light comedy as Reggie; and all other parts are well cast. Admirable indeed is the mounting.

ALHAMBRA PALACE. — Manager, Alderman John Gardner.—Topping the bill, Agnes Spadoni and her well-trained horses have proved a sure draw; Mackinnon's Scottish Meisters, in their vocal extravaganza, *Ancestral Spirits*, have delighted everybody; Mlle. Laserno's performing cats have pleased at each house; the Sisters Ford have proved their ability as character duettists; Gibbon and Bell present a really novel acrobatic and dancing act, *Wanted a Partner;* those funny comedians, Walton and Lester, are quite up-to-date; and some clever work on the wire is presented by Johnson and Devere. Frank Coyle and Drum and Major have purveyed comedy; whilst great fun has also been caused by Brayne and Lloyd, in *The Tree of Truth*.

WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Atkinson.—A very good bill has pleased holiday-makers. Miss Madge Temple, of musical comedy fame, has proved very popular, and her songs are excellent; Morny Cash has demonstrated what humour there is in the Lancashire lad; and Jack and Evelyn have made furious fun. Clever comedy cycling has been contributed by Lotto, Lilo, and Otto; and Burley and Burley have "twisted" and made merry on every occasion. Other features are the Four Karnos, in *The Dinner Hour;* the Bohemians, smart instrumentalists; Victor and Louis, comedians and vocalists; Passmore Bros., novel dancers; and Blake and Amber, frivolity artists.

CENTRAL PIER.—Manager, Mr. Emilius Hill.—Tschernoff's wonderfully-trained horses and dogs have proved a magnetic attraction here, and it is certainly a fine act; F. A. Martell has balanced and danced on his finger-tips, to the delight of all looking for a good thing; clever shooting has been accomplished by Major Charles, Vera and Lillian; Oliver Conroy is irresistibly funny in make-up, gag, and dance; the Dartons are nice duettists; the Betsons have a smart comedy cycling act; Arthur Harris sings really good descriptive songs; and Hicks and Hunter are neat skate dancers.

WEST END PIER.—Madame Ella Russell and W. Backhaus gave a most successful concert here last Sunday, and Madame Albani sang on one night. During the week the Middies and Maids, and Herr Morgann's Blue Hungarian Band have been the attractions.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—The dramatic season opened here on Monday, Mr. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company appearing in *The Way of the World*. Mr. J. P. M. M'Bryde is well suited in the rôle of Cecil Hardy; his sorely-tried wife finding an equally apt exponent in Miss Nellie de Lacy; Mr. Clarence Temple submits a refined bit of character acting as Matthew Malyon, a circus proprietor; the villainous captain, Slade, and his equally villainous associate, Lady Adela, find excellent exponents in Mr. Victor Gordon and Miss Marie Fontaine; and Mr. Augustus Hammond is to be congratulated for the able manner in which he played the part of Horatio Bluff. There is abundance of comedy work in which Miss Violet Vivienne and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway shine.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—Miss Bessie Travis, ventriloquist, Mr. Fenton Cross, speciality entertainer, and Mr. G. Maston, mimic, have made distinct successes here. Mr. Walter Stanton in his cockatoo and rooster impersonations has caused wonder, his properties and business in both performances being excellent; Les Bollingers, Parisian rag pickers and painters, do a unique turn; Miss Mina Denvil sings admirably, and Mr. H. E. High, skater, Miss Mary Parkinson, soprano, and Miss Queenie, child vocalist and dancer, distinguish themselves. Herr Spiegler and the beautiful animated pictures complete a fine programme.

TOWER AND GROUNDS.—Directing-Manager, Mr. J. Calvin Brown; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Ellis.—Bank Holiday saw a great crowd all over the grounds, whilst the theatre did fine business. The Four Scorreys, Miss Mollie Doon, Messrs. Herbert and Linden, and the Towerscope were all splendidly received. The Wild West and other side shows were largely patronised.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Parker.—A large audience assembled on Bank Holiday to witness the performance of the Pierrots. There is an excellent company, including Mr. Tom Stuart, Master Charles Bray, Messrs. Morton and Bowman, Mr. Arthur Aldridge, Miss Evelyn Goldard, and Miss Audrey Esmonde. One and all greatly please the audience. Mr. Stanley Holt is the able accompanist.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—This theatre was re-opened on Monday evening, after the summer vacation, with the ever-popular farcical comedy, *Tom, Dick, and Harry*. Mr. George Unwin as the choleric General is exceedingly clever; and the title-parts, Tom, Dick, and Harry, are smartly represented by Mr. Fred Conyers, Mr. Dennis Bryan, and Mr. Legai Robinson. Mr. William Foley, as a French barber, is good; and the ladies of the company, Miss Lorna Lawrence, Miss Marie Lewis, Miss Jessie Price, and Miss Ida Scott, handle their parts with discriminating skill and effectiveness. As a curtain-raiser was presented a new one-act play, entitled *The Way Out*, a notice of which appears in another column.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The attraction for the opening night here was the new musical comedy, *The Belle of the Ball*. The company has been well chosen by Miss Violet Osmund. Miss Gertrude Melville, who plays Poppy, the belle of the ball, sustains the part cleverly, and receives excellent support from Mr. Robert Hyett as the squire (Mr. James Chippendale), Miss Ethel Bertram, Miss L'Estrange, and Miss Maud Terry. The bulk of the fun is in the hands of Mr. Johnnie Schofield, who has a characteristic part, and proves once more his great ability as a comedian.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden this week present the ever-popular drama, *The Village Blacksmith*. The leading rôle is played by Mr. Sam Livesey with great force and truthfulness; and Mr. Albert Sinclair is equally successful as Captain Leo. Other parts are in capable hands.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—Miss Grace Warner and her company are here this week, and opened on Monday evening with *The Scarlet Clue*. Miss Warner, in the rôle of Scarlet Sal, has an exacting part, which she ably plays; whilst Mr. George Gordon lends excellent support as the gentlemanly villain. *East Lynne* and *Lady Audley's Secret* are also billed.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The star this week is Mr. Arthur Playfair, in a sketch, *327, Finsbury*. Other excellent turns are those of Wild, Willie, and West, the bounding navvies, Shaun Glenville and company, Gena Manon, Cummin and Seaham, Derrington Family, Lily Black, Will Hay's Juveniles, and Enid Errol and company.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Reano and his famous band are at the head of an excellent bill this week. It is a combination of thirty instrumentalists, and on Monday evening came in for a well-deserved ovation. Ludwig Amann, impersonator, receives another big welcome. George B. Reno and company evoke screams of laughter with his burlesque military drill; Vanando's ventriloquism is also a feature of the bill; and Ian Colquhoun, the well-known baritone, sings a couple of good songs. A well-performed little sketch is presented by Arthur Jefferson; Little Keeno proves quite a wonderful comedian for his years; Bessie Butt sings and dances in a bright and entertaining style; and the comedy of Mitchell and Cain has considerable merit. The Bioscope completes.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett.—Reopened on Monday, with a continuation of varieties. Green and Wood give an acrobatic display, which is both clever and comical, and highly appreciated; Carney Bros., character vocalists, please with their vocal scena, "Brothers in a true tale of everyday life"; Rene, the girl juggler, receives a flattering reception; Frank Haskoll entertains at the piano; Vandinoff, assisted by Mme. Louie, shows his skill in oil colours; Phyllis Seymour, dainty soubrette and dancer; Roy Beavis, conjuror; and Master May, boy vocalist, all meet with favour. The Premier Imperial Pictures are greatly in advance of previous displays here.

THE NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Thos. A. Evans; Musical-Director, Walter Ashton.—The Five Rays, in a gymnastic display, "Mad Merry Moments," have a method that is immensely amusing; Madge Beresford is a charming and captivating comedienne, with some taking songs; Johnny Dwyer, the versatile comedian, is here again with success; Maude Beaumont, "the lady with a big voice" and an imposing presence, is also a success; Billy Ross and company, in *Maloney's Troubles*, give a mixed turn of dancing and boxing; the Three Orleans appear in song and dance act; the Watson Family are here again in their musical medley; the Four Delawares, dancers, &c., and Horace Shrillo, whistler, also appear; and the Palace Pictures take their usual place on the programme. The excellent orchestra has been augmented, and the overture, "Popular airs," arranged by Bandmaster W. Ashton, is a great success.

FRANKLIN'S GARDENS.—Proprietor, R. Wainwright.—Good amusement of a varied description was provided on Bank Holiday, for the patrons of these beautiful gardens. Herman's performance on the high wire was intensely thrilling, and was highly applauded; the Great Hodginis gave a good turn on the aerial revolving ladder; La Dor Troupe gained applause for their pleasing act; the Matadors were screamingly funny in their sketch, *The Spanish Bullfight*. The Testo Brothers, in a musical comedy act; the Two Clarkes, on the globe; Sinclair, juggler; Calile and Rene, on the flying rings; Casselly, table jumper; and the Bodley Brothers, also furnished meritorious turns. Capt. Bidmead, with the new captive balloon, "Wren," was also well patronised for short aerial journeys. The Rushden Volunteer Silver Prize Band and the Finedon Old Prize Band were also engaged.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—This house, after having been redecorated, &c., reopened for the season on Saturday evening last, when Mr. Lingford Carson's répertoire company commenced a seven nights' engagement, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* being the attraction. As Robert Brierley Mr. G. Ed. Hall gave a good representation of the part; and Mr. Eric Forth scored as James Dalton. Hawkshaw was capably undertaken by Mr. Ernest J. Fare; Mr. Will White was seen to advantage as Melter Moss; Mr. Arthur Mervin acquitted himself creditably as Green Jones; and Mr. J. P. Lallen did well as Mr. Gibson. Miss Amy McNeill was much appreciated as Emily St. Evremond; Miss Rosa Mervyn gave a satisfactory portrayal of May Edwards; Miss F. Ferina was clever as Sam Willoughby; and Miss Emma Rainbow made the most of Mrs. Willoughby. *The Heart of a Hero*, *A Modern Adventuress*, and *The Octoroon* have also been successfully produced during this week.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The top of the bill here is occupied by Kennedy's Kiddies, in an entertaining vocal terpsichorean and athletic scena, which has been heartily greeted. Miss Frances Haskoll, with her illustrated songs, has been much appreciated; and Prof. Marvelle's Cockatoos have been one of the hits of the programme. Herr Liston, animal impersonator; Mr. Jim Hilbert, eccentric comedian; the Vocal Chameleon, and the Mouldoscope all contribute successfully.

NORTHWICH. — PAVILION AND PLEASURE GARDENS.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Managing-Director, Mr. Hy. S. Dacre.—The above place of amusement was opened on Monday night under the most favourable auspices. The building, which is situated on the banks of the Dane, is admirably appointed, and no expense has been spared to ensure the comfort of both audience and artists. It is decorated in pink and white, and lit throughout with electric light. Commodious dressing-rooms are provided, and the auditorium is comfortably fitted up with crimson plush tip-up chairs for the better-class seats. A covered promenade along one side of the building, tastefully decorated with shrubs and flowers, allows members of the audience to enjoy a stroll and at the same time listen to the performance, as one side of the pavilion can be thrown open. Arrangements have been made for first-class concert parties, and on Monday The Whims opened to a house packed from floor to ceiling. In addition to this excellent party the management have secured the services of Mr. Wheelan (operatic tenor) and Mme. Marie D'Alcourt (soprano).

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Frank Bertram's excellent company is appearing here this week to good houses in *The Breed of the Treshams*. Mr. Sydney Bland acts with much force and power as Lieut. Reresby, called "The Rat"; Mr. Alfred Hollies is very good as Viscount Dorsington; Mr. W. R. Winning as Colonel Hungerford and Mr. George Traill as Colonel Sir Henry Curwen ably fill their respective parts; Mr. Howard Brenman is satisfactory as the Hon. Francis Trensham; Miss Mildred Hodson is charming as the Hon. Margaret Hungerford, and Batty is pleasingly given by Miss Grace Harlington. The dresses are effective.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—This week's programme is much appreciated. Mr. Arthur Croxon, mimetic comedian, is well received; Bert Danson; American eccentric comedian, is equally appreciated; the Royal Delomes as duettists and dancers in their speciality, *The Phantom Clogs*, receive much applause; and Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford, in their sketch, *Getting Even*, create great fun; Hanvaar and Lee, in *The Golfer and the Maid*, are clever with the clubs and knockabout business; the Three Calbas, in *Fun in a Billiard-Room*, exhibit much muscular power and skilful hand-balancing; and Miss Florence Burns, ballad vocalist; Mark Leslie, swell coon; Hampton and Ranman, Darktown minstrels, and the Hippo. Biograph, with interesting pictures, are also in the programme.

AGRICULTURAL HALL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The Royal Canadian Animated Pictures announce the close of their successful and lengthened season on Saturday next.

ARCADIA LAWN, THORPE GARDENS.—A company of pierrot serenaders are giving pleasing entertainments, which are highly appreciated and patronised.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The autumn season had a good send-off on Monday last, when Mr. Milton Bode's company appeared in *The Bell of Mayfair*. Premier honours must be accorded Miss Queenie Finnis for her charming embodiment of Julia Chaldicott; Miss Blanche Astley makes a delightfully pert Pincott; and Mrs. Paula Fernau is capitally placed as the Countess of Highgate. Mr. Harry Parker is inimitable as Sir John Chaldicott, and never over-emphasises the part; Mr. Edward Hugounet play with the right touch of comedy as Raymond Finchley; and the singing of Mr. Laurence Wensley as Hugh Meredith is a feature of the performance; Mr. Lauri Lisle is sufficiently polite in the character of the Count; and Mr. G. McCloskie makes a suave Dr. Lawrence. Miss De Loviere as the Gibson Girl earns hearty commendation; and Miss Nellie Cozens represents Lady Chaldicott with admirable taste.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*Two Little Vagabonds* is proving a huge success this week. Miss Florence Dalton gives a very natural presentation of the much-wronged wife, Marion Thornton, and gains the warmest praise; Miss Denise Zaleski (Dick) and Miss Alice Leon (Wally) acquit themselves with great credit; Miss Marion Fawcett proves thoroughly efficient as Barbara Scarth; and a welcome touch of humour is given by Miss Marie Pritchard in the part of Biddy Mullins. As the jealous husband, George Thornton, the vigorous acting of Mr. Richard Greene is greatly enjoyed; and Mr. Arthur B. Melborne makes a capable exponent of Captain Darville. A good character study of Bill Mullins is supplied by Mr. Martin Sands; Mr. Edmund Cuthbert does well as Leeson; and is ably supported by Messrs. Stanley Field and Fred Archer.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The visit of Walter Passmore, in *The Constable and the Pictures*, is drawing huge audiences, and the fun runs fast and furious. He is capitally assisted by Miss Mary Fraser and Charles Childerstone; two smart artists are seen in Hill and Whitaker, whose music and song prove thoroughly interesting; Mason and Bart draw hearty laughter by their comicalities as gymnasts; and Harry Tate's company, in *Motoring*, is also an excellent mirth-provoker. The popularity of J. W. Rowley is well evinced by his reception; and Leo Stormont makes many friends by his singing and reciting. Peggy Pryde again demonstrates her wonderful vivaciousness; Olive and Owen are well rewarded for their efforts; and the Dieppe Motor Race forms a sensational item as shown on the Bioscope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—This house was reopened on Monday, when Mr. Frank Lindo's company presented *Home, Sweet Home*. A capital hero is Mr. Lindo, who as the young fisherman wins hearty applause; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle is well placed as David Armitage; Mr. J. W. Evans gives a worthy representation of the Duke of Ancaster; the necessary villainy is supplied by Mr. Helsby Wright as Lucas Lyle; Mr. G. Rogers is good as Dick Redmayne; Miss Winnie Warden plays well as Little Dora, and Miss Marion Wakeford is a charming Joan. The remaining parts are filled up satisfactorily. The piece is well staged.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Miss Mary Ford and her company opened on Monday in the new drama, *The Power of Lies*, written by Miss Ford. That lady's conception of the character of Lady Margaret Harden received well-merited applause; and Miss Gladys Ford-Howitt makes a most winsome Phyllis Harden; Miss Ella Anderson appears as Charlotte Barton, and proves a most capable and amusing artist; Miss Lillian Williams gave an artistic rendering of the part of Ruth Carson. Mr. Otto Minster, in the dual rôle of Sir George Harden and Geoffrey Carson, stands out prominently, his acting being highly appreciated. Mr. Marshall Moore as Dr. Bletchley makes a capital study; Mr. Dudley Stuart is smart as Lord Robert Gordon, and Mr. Herbert Russell plays Joe Barton in a very amusing manner; as Mr. Isaacs Mr. T. W. Ford seems to have a part which suits him very well, and he makes the most of it, with good results. The company also includes Misses Davis, Farmer, McKenna, and Mrs. Williams, and they are very good in their respective parts. The remaining characters are well played, the whole play being well dressed, and the scenery being new and well painted, and no doubt success will attend Miss Ford, as she deserves.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—After being closed for two weeks this popular place of amusement opened on Monday evening with Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company in *The Nihilist*. The company includes Mr. Walter Bentley, who appears as Ivan Nowasky, and he shows his elocutionary powers to the full extent; Mr. Leo R. Neilson as the autocratic Prince Alexander is most capable; and Mr. Silverstone as Piertree Petroff, of the Secret Police, acts very cleverly. Miss Edna Clare as Alexina Orloff makes a sympathetic heroine, her daughter being cleverly played by Little May Ediss; Miss Florrie Kelsey is a forcible Princess Olga, and gains much applause. Miss Jessica Ford as Katrina and Mr. H. Wright as Bobby Smart are responsible for some excellent comedy, and Mr. Butler Stanhope does well as Karl Orloff. The remaining characters are played by a clever company.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kilrow.—Cruikshank, "the fool of the family," furnishes a most amusing turn; the Bellong Brothers are excellent cycle equilibrists, and take well; Richardson Taylor is a very good ventriloquist, causing much laughter; Jack Neil is well received in his Scotch eccentricities; Les Ados present a clever turn in Olympian play; Wright and Lawson are a curious and eccentric couple; Florence Elliott is a good vocalist, and Wilkie Hesketh is a smart mimic. The Dottoscope concludes with some good pictures.

TEMPERANCE HALL, HORSEDGE-STREET.—The Royal Canadian pictures are still drawing large houses, the principal films exhibited being the Marathon Race, The Old Actor, The Reprieve, Magnetic Removal, Uncle's Will, The Serpent's Tooth, and many others, and large numbers are being turned away nightly.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company opened here on Bank Holiday to a full and appreciative house with *The Midnight Mail*. Mr. George Harvard, as the hero, Harry Steyne, scored an easy success; while Mr. Chas. H. Longden gave a clever and sympathetic rendering of Leonard Royle. Mr. C. P. Wentworth portrayed the villain, Hassan Padisha, with excellent effect; and Mr. Charles Carte worked very hard and kept his audience highly amused with his humorous rendering of Billy Brewer. Mr. T. C. Glenville was very effective as Jasper Thornleigh; Mr. J. Wilkinson did well as Sergeant O'Flynn; and Mr. Warburton made the most of Edward Barclay. Miss Jeannie Weston made a graceful Lady Phyllis Bustace; Miss Daisy Clifford was bright as Nancy Brewer; and Miss Marie Longden was well suited as Miss Mildmay. Miss Trissie Humphreys sustained the part of Mary Steyne with conspicuous ability and success.

PENTRE. — TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Carl and May Ohm's Continental animal circus of ponies, dogs, monkeys, and bears is exceedingly well received; Alfonso Silvano, equilibrist, is deservedly applauded; Beattie Foster, an up-to-date vocalist; Dan Conroy, comedian; the Gilberts, in their tight wire act; the Llewellyns, Australian vocalists; Wallace Whitney, character comedian; Yeager and Da Costa; the Blackvilles; E. Morrisean, musical equilibrist; and the Tivoliscope are also in the programme.

PAISLEY.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas F. Bostock.—The principal turn this week is filled by Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, who has a gratifying and popular reception. Winifred Ward is an effective male impersonator, and sings her songs in capital style; the Harmony Boys render with admirable ability and expression some part-songs and pleasing ballads; *That Dreadful Detective* is an excellent mirth-provoking burlesque drama, capitally performed by Fred Moule, E. D. Nicholls, and company; Ted Waite, eccentric comedian, proves exceedingly amusing; Kathleen and Carter Pickford are associated in a laughable comedy duologue, entitled *Her First Offence;* the Three Coopers, comedy and harmonising vocalists, give a first-rate entertainment; the Brothers Lawrence are applauded for their expert dancing; and the Hippodrome Bioscope concludes.

PETERBOROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—The holiday attraction here this week is the amusing farcical comedy, *In the Soup*, presented by Mr. Ernest Dare's company. Mr. Esme Parcy fills the part of Horace Gillibrand with success; Mr. Harry Douglas is well placed as Abernethy Ruppershaw; Mr. Evelyn Beerbohm is very good as Paul Hemming; Mr. Huntley Gifford is worthy of praise as Mons. Moppert; Mrs. Edgar Colona is an excellent Mrs. Bates; Miss Margaret Curwen is a graceful Delphine; and Miss B. Egerton and Miss M. Lowe-Dare are good in their respective parts of Mme. Moppert and Judith Gillibrand.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *The Dairymaids* drew a crowded audience to the Royal on Monday, the breezy naval strain permeating the piece being particularly attractive to a West Country audience. As was to be expected, Mr. Dan Rolyat, in his original part of Joe Mivens, was the life and soul of the humorous business, his representation of an irresponsible tar being exceedingly funny, whilst his vocal contributions are also a feature of the performance; Mr. Nelson Keys, who created a splendid impression here in *When Knights Were Bold*, does excellently as Lieut. Sam Brudenell, and enhances his former reputation; Mr. J. A. Warden has a fine brogue as the amorous Irish medico, Dr. O'Brien; and Mr. A. W. Ashdowne as Lieut. Frank Meredith scores with his feminine make-up in the last act. Miss Clare Marsden is an attractive Peggy, a rich soprano voice adding to her other charms; Miss Gladys Silvani is smart and up to date as Eliza, the maid of all work; Miss Young is dignified and aristocratic as Lady Brudenell; and Miss Madge Avery fills the comparatively small part of Miss Pyechase in most commendable fashion.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The star attraction at the Palace is Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, whose forte is some clever and up-to-date conjuring illusions and humorous business, the whole turn being marked by finish and precision; Wilson Hallett does well as a mimic of children, and provides an acceptable number; Ch

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—Crowded audiences have assembled here this week. Heading the bill is N. T. Kioto, a Japanese performer, who gives a smart and interesting exhibition of equilibrium; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, in a vocal act, have refined methods, and are highly appreciated; Bishop and Vale, comedians and dancers, cause roars of laughter with their quaint humour and knockabout business; Marie Neilson, full of vitality, sings well and dances vigorously; Percy Johnson, comedian, is really funny; the ball-punching of the Ives wins warm approval, and Will Wallis adds gaiety to the evening with humorous songs; Gracie Hunt as a chorus comedienne is cordially welcomed. Interesting and amusing pictures by the Alexandra Bioscope complete the programme.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. Fred J. Webb's company in *A Knight in Armour* is here. Frank Milbourne is capitally played by Mr. Fred J. Webb; Mr. Max Coutts ably enacts James Milbourne; Bill Newton is capably portrayed by Mr. Lewis Nation; Dominie Domino is cleverly characterised by Mr. Hyland O'Shea; Sternhold Keyes is in the able hands of Mr. George Paradise; a distinctive feature is the Olive Webb of Miss M. Danvers-Smith; and worthy of praise are the Misses Lallah Price, F. Nanton, Isabel Stephenson, and Nancy Dorris as Lady Priscilla, Florrie, Nellie Watts, and Trixie Wells respectively.

PORTH.—THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Sammy Shields, Scotch comedian and football enthusiast, is a big favourite; the Cromwells are deserving of every praise for their unique and novel juggling act; the Sisters Morgan, duettists and dancers, are exceptionally smart; Craig, Roze, and Craig give a clever gymnastic performance; Clark and Hayden delight the audience in their musical comedy duologue, *By Appointment;* the Royal Korries, in their refined xylophone and dancing act, are accorded a hearty reception; Bessie Willow is a capital burlesque actress and vocalist; Fred Cary, comedian, is paying a return visit here, and scores an unbounded success; Netty Janowsky does remarkably well in her eccentric acrobatic act; and the Palascope, with its series of up-to-date pictures, is thoroughly enjoyed.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—For the August Bank Holiday week Mr. George Edwardes's able company are attracting full and delighted houses here with the sparkling light opera *The Merry Widow.* Miss Clara Evelyn, in the name-part, played and sang with light-hearted and charming vivacity, and with a fine dramatic touch quite in keeping with the various moods of the gay Sonia; Mr. Robert Michaelis gave a manly personation of Prince Danilo, acting with true comedy, and singing his numbers with excellent point and finish; Baron Popoff, in the hands of Mr. Lionel Victor, was a highly diverting personage, playing the rôle in most amusing fashion; Nisch was taken by Mr. Tom Redmond in a droll manner, most praiseworthy; Mr. Grafton Williams as General Novikovitch was genuinely funny; Vicomte Camille de Jolidon was sustained by Mr. Aubrey Standing with great ability, his vocal efforts being much admired; Mr. J. S. Durant made the most of the part of M. Khadja; and Messrs. Albert Kavanagh (Marquis de Cascada), Lennox Coombes (M. de St. Brioche), and E. C. Spalding (Waiter at Maxim's) were meritorious in their respective rôles. Miss Mary Grey portrayed Natalie in very effective style and sang charmingly; Miss Nora Barry as Olga was very good; and Miss Suzanne Selbourne as Sylvanie and Miss Mary Morison as Prascovia, deserve mention. The mounting and dressing was most sumptuous and greatly admired.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—A huge holiday crowd assembled here on Monday evening to witness the popular sporting detective drama *£1,000 Reward,* presented by Mr. Frank J. Pitt and company. Mme. Sanson was personated by Miss Katheryne Eckart in a powerfully and well-sustained manner; Vincent Rainsworth, detective, new school, was played by Mr. Pitt very cleverly, and was much applauded; and Mr. Frank Dallas makes a humorous contrast as Inspector Gilbert, detective, old school. Mr. J. Wilton supplies a capital exposition of stage villainy in the rôle of Gilbert Leslie, alias Darrel Grey; Mr. Edward De Vere is successful as Fred Ingleford, the elder; and his son is satisfactorily taken by Mr. W. Gibson. Mr. Arthur Merton gives a very good study as Fighting Jepps; Miss Alice Clarke is excellent as Mrs. McCarthy; Miss Marjorie Seymour is most pleasing in the part of Meg, a flower girl; Miss Minnie Goepel as Kitty Springthorpe and Mr. Joe English as Dick Springthorpe both do praiseworthy work. The piece is most realistically staged.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The management of this fine playhouse, having decided upon the two-houses-a-night principle, with vaudeville and dramatic sketches, introduced the new feature for the first time on Bank Holiday to a large and appreciative audience at both performances. Arthur Prince, the celebrated ventriloquist, in his famous naval scena, with his pert boy Jim, heads the programme, and gains great recognition of his undoubted talent; Yvonne Valois, ballad vocalist, was admirable in her selections; Diana Hope and company presented the society episode, *Her Good Name,* with great dramatic detail, and was much applauded; Jay Laurier, Scotch comedian, gained a good hearing for his amusing numbers and business; Vasco, the mad musician, was most entertaining; Harry Merrilees, a comedian of the ilk, did good work; Emmerson and Baldwin, as cyclonic juggling comedians, shaped cleverly, and caused unbounded satisfaction; Hal Godfrey and company in a capitally-depicted and well-mounted sketch *A Very Bad Boy,* gained great and well-deserved commendation; and animated pictures of an amusing character by the Barrascope concluded an excellent entertainment.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—An excellent programme is submitted to the holiday folk for the week at this house. The Kurios, in comical concoction of comicalities, scored well with their extraordinary amusing pantomimical act; Bertha Norwood, soubrette and danseuse, was much liked for her pleasing contribution; Vasey and Ramsey, as speciality artists, received a cordial greeting for some clever work; Katie Marsh, an attractive and charming comedienne, vocalised most harmoniously and received many plaudits; Barrington, a capable musician and clever trick performer at the piano, created a good impression, and was encored; the Two Cabiacs, French comedy acrobats, were smart and daring, gaining much applause; T. E. Box, eccentric comedian and siffleur, caused plenty of laughter by his quaint mannerisms; the Three Rubys, graceful gymnasts, always an attractive turn here, did well. Owing to the very sudden illness of Radford, of Radford and Valentine, a substitute had to be found at short notice for these most capable pair of artists, who were top billed. Payne's Bioscope, with some highly amusing films, conclude.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—On Monday Mr. Harry Fragson, the *entente cordiale* comedian on the piano, created quite a record for his most able and very artistic efforts, the audience vigorously applauding after each item; Miss Minnie Warner, the indiarubber girl, pleased well; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, American comedy artists, in sketch, *The Dancing Master,* were encored for some clever work; Mr. Harry Maynard, vocal comedian, had a cordial reception; the Westwoods submitted a very daring and exceedingly sensational cycling act that was enthusiastically greeted; Mr. Randolph King, in *One Man Programme,* a protean act of much merit, gained a recall; Mr. Sam Mayo, a comedian with an impassive style and immobile face, was responsible for causing some very hearty laughter; Achmed-Ibrahim troupe of Bedouin Arabs display great daring and cleverness in their performance and posing, and elicited much applause; Miss Marie Blythe, comedienne, and the Hippo. pictures finish.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Executors of the late Mr. W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—This theatre reopened on Monday last after the summer vacation with Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft's company, in Haddon Chambers's charming play, *The Idler.* The company is a good one, and had an enthusiastic reception. As Mark Cross Mr. Herbert Ford is exceptionally good; Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont is most natural as Sir John Harding; Mr. William Attfield gives a good account of himself as Simon Strong; General Merryweather is most ably portrayed by Mr. Richard Dalton; Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft as Lady Harding leaves nothing to be desired, and deserved the applause she received; Miss Geraldine Somerset plays the part of Kate Merryweather in a vivacious and captivating manner; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon acts the part of Mrs. Cross to perfection; Miss Rita Trekille is an excellent Mrs. Glynn-Stanmore; and Mr. Haldane Dalton renders the small part of Bennett very capably. The play is well mounted. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday *Captain Swift* was presented.

PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company is here this week in the melodrama *A Wrecker of Men.* Mr. Eric Campbell fulfils the rôle of Jim Murley, the Slogger, very satisfactorily; Mr. Milner Noble is also good as the wily Pharosaphus; Mr. J. Ansdell Wilson is quite at home as Railton; Mr. Arthur Robinson is a clever Guise Strange; Mr. Douglas Campbell makes a capital Hon. Reggie Verincourt; Mr. Chas. E. Lovell enacts the dual rôle of Ezekiel Isaacs, a Jew, and Karnaphus, a mummy, in a commendable manner. Mr. Thompson Carruthers plays the part of Eric Melville in a powerful manner, and deserves much praise; Miss Beatrice Reynolds as Vavasole Slopper extracts much humour from the character, and causes much merriment; Miss Gwendoline Talbot is a sweet Doris Melville, and is a firm favourite; as Risca Mallison (a woman with a past) Miss F. Melrose Millet is distinctly clever, and maintains the character with the utmost sangfroid.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—A refined and varied programme is presented this week, and includes Miss Rose Atherton's comedy sketch, *Murphy's Affinity,* with Mr. E. Mullins, Miss Audrey Canning, and Miss Cissie Kingsley in the principal parts, all of whom do well, and succeed in raising hearty laughter. Victor Courtney, "boots at the piano," is a good turn, and deservedly well received; Harry Zetter is a comedian and eccentric dancer who pleases; the Sisters Mawdesley and Dolly and Elsie are two duos of dainty juvenile dancers and vocalists; Richard Finbey, character-actor, gives some capital representations of Svengali and John Storm, from *The Christian;* the Original Zedoras, gymnasts, on an original revolving apparatus, give a clever turn, and win loud applause; Ida Barr is a vocalist with a rich contralto voice; Morander and Darius Trio, lightning simultaneous gymnasts, have a novel turn and a good reception; and the Sprees, in their scena, *Twickenham Ferry,* are also good. Henri Vernon Harcourt, protean actor and mimic, gives some clever impersonations of celebrities past and present; and Tommy and the Policeman's Whistle on the Bioscope concludes.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—After the summer vacation the reopening performance took place on Monday, Mr. Alex. Grant's company appearing in the sensational drama, *Master of Millions.* Mr. Grant is very effective as Alexander Daunt; Mr. J. L. Schofield does well as Eric Gordon; and the part of Reginald is ably taken by Mr. A. E. W. Barnes. Stella St. Lisle, an adventuress, has an excellent exponent in Miss F. Russell; and Miss J. Edbrooke acts well as Marion Gordon. The Sisters Grauden dance very acceptably.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—The Bank Holiday attraction at this theatre was Mr. Seymour Hicks's famous production from the Aldwych Theatre, *The Gay Gordons.* The piece attracted a crowded house on Monday night, and the attendances have been good at each of the other performances. The production may well be regarded as the best which has visited the theatre since its renovation. Carrying something like seventy performers, the company is exceptionally well found. Miss Maie Ash (Peggy Quainton) and Mr. Fred Lincoln (Angus Graeme) are the stars of the piece, but everything is well done, and some of the musical numbers are remarkably captivating. *The Gay Gordons* remains for the rest of the week.

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE AND PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—On Monday and two following nights Mr. F. Mouillot's No. 1 London company appeared before large audiences in the well-known comic opera, *Tom Jones.* The booking was by arrangement with Mr. Robert Courtneidge. Mr. Cyril Thompson was a great success in the rôle of Tom Jones, the foundling; and Miss Margaret Stonor appeared to especial advantage in the part of Sophia (Squire Western's daughter). Mr. Charles McLagan made a stately Squire Western; and the whole of the remaining characters were well sustained. The scenery and mounting of the play reached a high standard of excellence. On Thursday another of Mr. Mouillot's companies commenced a three nights' engagement in *The Girl Behind the Counter,* from Wyndham's Theatre.

MARINA THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. F. C. Dew; Manager, Mr. W. J. Attack.—The pictures shown are fully up to the high standard previously maintained, and would be extremely hard to beat. The variety turns are also of a capital nature, especially that of Tiny and Mite, two especially clever child artists, who receive encores at each of their two performances nightly.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Milton Bode.—This popular place of entertainment was reopened for the season after the summer recess on Monday evening, when a strong company appeared in the new sensational play, *Man or Beast.* Mr. Ernest Vaughan gives a powerful rendering of the important part of Sir Tremere; Miss F. L. Dady is forcible as the Indian Nurse; Miss Irene Carrington is excellent as Bella Newton; Miss Madge Douglas is very charming as the heroine, Rosie Newton; Mr. Charles H. Phelps, as Captain MacDonald, is highly amusing; Mr. W. Boyning as Christopher Sharp, Mr. A. Kitson as Lothario Sinclair, Mr. Fred Newland as Lord Newton, Mr. Charles D. Pitt as the Hon. Jack Newton, Mr. F. Graham as Pat O'Brien, Mr. Frank Hertie as Colonel Bruce Anderson, Miss Cissie Clarke as Marie, Miss M. Pemberton as Lettie Fairfax, and Miss W. Lester as Lady Constantine Winscope sustain their respective characters in good style, and the other parts are in good hands. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings the musical comedy-drama, *One Woman's Wickedness,* was presented by the same company.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—A splendid holiday programme is presented this week. Lockhart's elephants show wonderful docility and intelligence; Collins's See-Saw Girls give a smart performance, and dance very gracefully; the Sisters Herbert, two juvenile artists, give a pleasing turn; Mr. Alfred Wellesley and company create great amusement in their sketch, *Uncle's Courtship;* Miss Rosa Loader is very droll as "the happy slavey at the piano"; Messrs. Daleno and Stream are amusing comedians; Mr. Harry Bland, comedian, is also well received. The Marathon Race is realistically depicted on the biograph.

PIERROT PAVILION.—The Original Royal Pierrots are doing excellent business at their pavilion adjoining the new Thames promenade, under Mr. Hamilton Baines' able management. Mr. Gus L. Harris, society entertainer, and Mr. George Green are great favourites; and the other artists are also well up to the mark. A sacred concert is being given every Sunday evening by special artists.

RHYL. — PAVILION.—The new concert pavilion was opened by Lord Mostyn on Thursday, the 30th ult. A fine performance of Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah* was given by the Rhyl Choral Society. The vocalists engaged included Miss Gleeson White, soprano; Miss Gertrude Lonsdale, contralto; Mr. John Harrison, tenor; and Mr. Herbert Brown, bass.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Eric Charlswood.—Mr. J. H. Scotland, the favourite basso, gives a fine rendering of several songs here this week; Miss Elsie Steadman, the charming and accomplished comedienne, obtains a hearty welcome; Miss Dorrie Courtney is an admirable banjo soloist; Mr. Alf. Maynall, comedian, is responsible for great merriment; and Eric Charlswood has some good songs, which he sings with effect. Mr. Douglas Maclaren, comedian, Mr. Austin Mahony, tenor, and Mr. Frederick Arthur, accompanist, complete.

SKATING RINK.—A new skating rink, with a maple floor of 40,000 square feet in area, has been erected in place of the Queen's Palace, which was destroyed by fire in November last. Valosky, the Russian skater, gives exhibitions of fancy skating; and Signor Pecorini's band has been engaged for the season. Other attractions include Gilbert Rogers's Jovial Jesters, W. Churchill's Entertainers, and Cheetham's pictures.

ROCHDALE. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—The theatre reopened for the season on Monday evening with *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home,* a play that found much favour with the popular patrons. Mr. Fred W. Goddard acted with power the part of Jack Marshall, afterwards Lord Lynton; Mr. Paul Barry Lewers cleverly portrayed Leonard Kenyon; and Miss Louie Hampton was most effective in the delineation of Bertha Marshall.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The programme submitted here this week is one of all-round excellence. The Brothers O'Brien give a marvellous and daring horizontal bar act, for which they are deservedly appreciated; Will Godwin is effective in his descriptive vocalism; Curwen and Belle, in *The International Club,* are clever and highly amusing; Tiny Arnold sings and dances with charming effect; Agnese and Arthur Lynch, in picture songs; Ulrick, barrel and trancka performer; Lecardo Brothers, comedy acrobats; and The Marathon Race, by the Empire Bioscope, completes the list.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—This place of amusement has been closed for three weeks, during which time it has been entirely redecorated, a very pretty colour scheme in green, pink, and gold being tastefully carried out, the result being particularly pleasing. For the reopening week Miss Ethel Van Praagh and company are paying a return visit, after an absence of about five years, with *An Unwedded Wife,* and are having crowded houses. Mr. J. Edward Whitty is seen to advantage as P.C. Runyin; and Mr. C. Lodge Percy does well as Philip Blackstone. Mr. George Daiper gives a finished portrayal of the part of Frank Hawthorne; and Mr. Will Casey scores as Napoleon B. Boomer. Mr. R. Wilton Bedford is smart as Christopher Lennox; and Mr. Robert Young is deserving of mention as Inspector Grabbem. Miss Chandos does well as Nurse; and Miss Jessie Gillette is a sprightly Carraway Crumpet. Little Doris as Reggie speaks her lines very effectively; and Miss Ethel Van Praagh, in the title-rôle Marion, gives a strongly emotional and highly-finished portrayal of a most difficult rôle. An augmented orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. S. Burgan, is responsible for some excellent selections, and the mounting and scenery are exceedingly effective.

RYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Constant.—A splendid holiday attraction has been provided by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company in *The Dairymaids.* Miss Isa Bowman is again a favourite in the part of Peggy, of which she gives a dashing rendering; Miss Mora Hersee as Winifred, Miss Kitty Kirwan as Miss Penelope Pyechase, and Miss Maud Lucy as Eliza, all perform in capital style. Messrs. Sam Lysons, Frank Manger, Frank Barclay, and Edwin Dodds, as Sam Brudenell, St. Meredith, Dr. O'Byrne, and Joe Mivens respectively, all did splendid work, evoking continuous merriment and applause. The choruses were brightly and tunefully rendered under the direction of Mr. Frank Corrie.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company, under the direction of Mr. Teddy Myles, presented on Monday, to a packed house, *An Abandoned Woman.* Miss Ruth Zillwood makes a great impression as Ninon Malvoisin; and in the able hands of Mr. W. Fraser-Brunner the villainies of Philip Malvoisin are well portrayed. Much fun is contributed by Mr. Teddy Myles as Paddy Boyle, Mr. M. Vayne as Sammy Sharp, and Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner as Sally Sloper. Captain Herbert Seaton is capably presented by Mr. Herbert M. King; and the heroine, Eleanor Deane, is well sustained by Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Mr. Sidney Dooley and Mr. Charles Seymour's company, in the musical comedy sketch, *A King for a Day,* played by Will Letters, James Newland, Sidney Dooley, Robert Barbour, Miss Fannie Wallace, and Miss Maidie Berker, keep the audience (twice nightly) laughing continuously; Edie Veno, an eccentric comedienne, gets much applause. The programme also includes Estrella, a clever barefoot dancer; Bonnetti and Corri, eccentric jugglers; George Prince, crazy comic; Dick Graham, a singer of sensible songs; Conan and Doyle, comedians and dancers; Phern and Phern, musical speciality artists; Gus Hindell, patterer; and Minnie Wren, versatile comedienne.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—*When London Sleeps* is capably presented twice nightly by Mr. Lester Collingwood's company. Captain Rodney Haynes is very well played by Mr. Harry Wren; Miss Mabel Scudamore is a charming Queenie Carruthers; Mr. E. E. Ashby makes a fine David Engleheart; and Miss Lilla Wilde is an excellent Hilda Carode. Mr. F. E. Thomas as Bob Jones, Miss Mona Hall as Carrie Jones, and Miss Bella Power as Mrs. Jones, cause a lot of laughter. Mr. Douglas Campbell is also a very funny Sammy Blyth; and the other characters are in good hands.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The new animated pictures this week are very interesting, Tommy and the Policeman's Whistle and Baby's Playmate being among the best.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—Mr. Robert McDonald's company is here in *The Dairymaids.* Miss Empsie Bowman as Peggy was pleasing and graceful; Miss Nellie Bowman as Eliza was genuinely droll; as Joe Mivens, A.B., Mr. Dan Agar kept the fun going; and Mr. Bernard Vaughan as Dr. O'Byrne was exceedingly good.

SPA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Cliff Bridge Co.; Manager, Mr. Francis Goodricke.—Compton's Comedy Company is here this week. On Monday *The Rivals* was performed, with Mr. Compton in his famous part of Bob Acres, in which character he was appearing for the 565th time. Mr. Henry Croker as Sir Anthony Absolute was excellent; and Mr. Ivan Leslie as Falkland did well. During the week the programme has been changed nightly. On Tuesday Mr. Compton appeared for the 1,440th time as David Garrick.

THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. L. Holland.—Hayley's Juveniles make their first appearance here this week in a song-scena, and give a capital show, interesting in all its details. *Perdie's Ma-in-Law,* a sketch full of originality and humour, is enacted by the Corries; Chief Cody gives a wonderful exhibition of shooting ability; the Three Bardellors are a strong trio of gymnasts; Jack Davie sings comic songs in good style; Caselli is a banjoist of no mean order; and the programme includes Leo and Roland, equilibrists; Wm. Ainsworth, illusionist; and Alpho, ventriloquist. Mme. Le Vante's Orchestra of Ladies gives three concerts daily, the vocalist being Miss Annie Hargreaves, who possesses a fine contralto voice.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—*Her Marriage Vow* is here this week, the company being that of Mr. E. L. Garside and Mr. J. Forbes Knowles's, with Mr. E. L. Garside in the leading part, in which he does exceedingly well. All the other parts are in capable hands.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Fielding Smith.—On Thursday, in the second week of its opening, the New Hippodrome was honoured by their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia, and the Earl and Countess of Londesborough and their guests. The Follies were specially engaged for the Royal visit, and had due recognition of their well-known ability as entertainers. The programme this week includes the names of the Empire Comedy Four; Nada Moret, vocalist; R. A. Speedwell, the wizard painter; Maud Esmond, burlesque artist; Frank Lynne; Derenda and Green, juggling comedians; and the Original Regals. On Sunday evening last Madame Albani sang at a sacred concert to a crowded house.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiernan; Lessees, The Excelsior Animated Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. George Barry.—The Paris-Dieppe Motor Race is the principal picture attraction here this week; the variety company including Fenron Mulcaster, descriptive vocalist; Miss Kate Kearney and Mr. Evan Davies, in a dramatic scena entitled *The Deserter;* and the Three Behans, in a novel quick-change comedy act. On Thursday a benefit performance was given for the parents of the late George Henry Woods, who recently lost his life by drowning at Egremont, in a gallant attempt to save his companions.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—*The Outcast of the Family* is being played by Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company. Mr. W. Cowell Clarke as Sir Henry Thorne is well placed; Harry Thorne is powerfully sketched by Mr. F. C. Leighton; Mr. C. H. Coleman portrays the villainy of Richard Martin with ability; Mr. Herbert Bentone impersonates Stephen Barry with excellent effect; Joe Bushell is a popular part as presented by Mr. Bert Atherton; Miss Gertrude Morella is a sympathetic Ruth; Grace Redburn is skilfully drawn by Miss Margaretta Tueskie; Nancy Bray is vivaciously played by Miss Vera Neville; and Little Bob is well done by Little Dorothy.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—The top line this week is an American speciality, introduced by Hooker and Davis and their six cowboy girls, the chief feature being the eccentric "mad" dance of Miss Mabelle Davis; the Godfreys, comedy artists, provide a most enjoyable turn; Ella Lorraine, vocalist, deserves special mention for her excellent rendering of "Annie Laurie" and "Will you love me in December"; Montague Biggs, female impersonator, is clever and amusing; Lillian Travelle, comedienne, is a chic and dainty artist, and is cordially received. Other entertaining turns are provided by Sam Dalton, comedian; and Fraser and French, comedians and dancers of ability. The Bioscope concludes.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—The excellent display of animated pictures, which are attracting appreciative audiences, include Chamois Hunting, A Brother's Sacrifice; The Cossacks of the Don at Moscow; Cupid's Pranks, and It's Not the Cowl that Makes the Friar.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The Lyceum reopened on Bank Holiday to a large audience with Mr. Brandon Thomas's popular company, in the laughable farce, *Charley's Aunt.* General pleasure was expressed at the artistic effect of the redecorations. Particular attention has been given to the sanitary conditions of the dressing-rooms and the comfort of the artists and staff. The prevailing tones are cream and gold, the necessary relief being afforded by the rich hues of the carpets, upholstery, and draperies. The architectural beauties of the spacious plafond and dome are well displayed by the improved electric lighting.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—After a week's closure the historic Tudor-street playhouse has opened its doors, after a general cleaning down and new safety curtain installation, and good houses have this week enjoyed the performance of Mr. G. M. Copping's company in *Love Rules the World.* Mr. Richard Vane makes a manly hero as Harold Kingston; and as a contrast there is Mr. John Cecil's vivid picture of the villain, Stephen Blight. Miss Gertrude Sterroll wins sympathy as the pretty but suffering Maud; Miss Nelly Freeland is a vivacious Kitty; Miss Constance Medwyn succeeds in the dramatic rôle of Flo Morton; Mr. M. Russell causes hilarity as Billy Binks; Mr. A. W. Wynne, Mr. Frank Etheridge, Mr. Sidney Renneff, and Miss Annie Brunette also appear to advantage.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*A Heart's Desire* was played to a large audience on Monday by Messrs. Elliman's company. Mr. R. F. Stacey's acting as Lord St. Ives shows power and commendable restraint; Miss Lily Prescott cleverly depicts the noble qualities of the half-caste, Olya; and other characters are excellently represented by Mr. Archie Ainsleigh, Mr. Victor Howard, Mr. Edward Leroy, Mr. Chas. King, Mr. John Hames, Mr. Charles Clark, Miss N. Malone, Miss Blanche Leroy, and Miss Gertrude Gilman.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The artists scheduled for the Bank Holiday week included Mr. G. H. Elliott, the well-known and favourite "chocolate-coloured coon"; Mr. Julius Tannen, the clever monologue artist; Lady Mansel and her talented juveniles; Mr. Charles Fraser and his smart assistants, in the new illusion, "Iona"; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, sketch artists; Mr. Robb Gilmore, "the little lump of drollery"; Miss Leonie Dixon, serio-comic vocalist; Barton and Ashley, in their bright and exhilarating pantomimic and spectacular whimsicality, *Adam the Second;* the Marathon Race, by the American Bioscope; and the pretty and fascinating burlesque actress, Miss Gracie Grahame, with new songs.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The following excellent and palatable bill of fare was set before a packed house on Monday: Mr. George Mozart, the funny comedian and mimic; Mr. Joe Peterman and company, in the diverting sketch, *The Pawnbroker;* the talented Macdonald Trio in *The Musical Garden;* the Barrascope, with artistic pictures; the comical Permane Brothers, in a laughable act; Bottelo and Virginia, trapeze artists; Mlle. Edwin, contortionist extraordinary; the Mayos, equilibrists and acrobats; and Miss Carrie Laurie's juvenile company, in *The Belles of the Kitchen.*

GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Engaged at this comfortable resort are J. W. Alkin's company in the dramatic sketch, *Nihilism;* Corcoran Brothers, speciality artists; Maston, mimic; Bert and Dora; Mr. C. Jones, vocalist; Miss Nora L. Stockelle, serio-comic vocalist; and the Dancing Gilberts, in a novel performance. The Raymond Bio-tableaux are still a popular feature in the Grand entertainment.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred W. Holmes.—In addition to the French Motor Derby and other up-to-date pictures, are engaged Mr. Blanco White, coon vocalist; the Sisters Draycott, duettists; and the Quavers.

ALBERT HALL.—Mr. Victor Hamilton's U.S.A. Animated Picture Exhibition opened to a large audience on Monday.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—This week Mr. Walter Melville's stirring military drama, *A Soldier's Wedding,* is proving a powerful attraction. It is capitally played and staged, and meets with a hearty reception from holiday audiences.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank MacNaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Strassburger's Midgets top the bill and prove a great "little" attraction; Ben Albert scores as a droll comedian; the Gregson Trio cause hearty laughter with *The Dummy;* Les Zelovas excel as acrobats, and the Leslie Bros. are well applauded for a capital musical act. Harry Grey and Keith and Merson also prosper well.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Arthur Rigby is presenting his miniature musical comedy, *The Isle of Ooma,* with remarkable success. The music, girls, and scenery are all exceedingly pretty, and Arthur Rigby is the life and soul of the piece, which bristles with fun from start to finish; Clarice Mayne is a delightful mimic, and wins golden opinions; Walton and Lester score with their "Muddled Magic"; and other successes are achieved by A Ba-Be's Picture Postcard Album; Minnie Mace, comedienne and dancer; Frank Hartley juggler; Alskarno trio of acrobats; and Godfrey James, tenor vocalist.

VICTORIA HALL.—The Royal Italian Circus opened for a short season here on Bank Holiday with conspicuous success. All the animals are splendidly trained, and the performance, which achieved such a triumphant success in London, is one of the smartest ever seen. Great praise is due to Signor B. Volpi, who is undoubtedly one of the most successful animal trainers now before the public; and to Mr. Edwin Gilley, the courteous business manager, for presenting such an interesting performance, which appeals to old and young alike.

PIER PAVILION.—Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Sait.—Sydney James' Royal Strolling Players, under the direction of Mr. Gilbert Fernie, a popular dialect comedian; another huge success is scored by Mr. H. Scott-Leslie, whose monologues have been quite the feature of the week. He is a very clever artist, and excels in song, sketch, and story; Mr. Hugh Lloyd (tenor) sings beautifully, and his ventriloquial act is highly appreciated; Miss Maidie Harrison is a dainty dancer, and Miss Marie Gerrard (songs at the piano), and Miss Madge Nicholson (soprano) also prosper well. A handsome new crimson silk plush tableaux curtain has been fitted to the stage by Messrs. A. R. Dean and Sons, of Birmingham, which considerably improves the appearance of the interior of this pretty building, besides being most effective and supplying a long-felt want.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company is here in *Two Little Sailor Boys.* Commander Noel Tregarthen is played in breezy fashion by Mr. H. E. Herbert; Miss Blanche Steele displays histrionic ability as Lola Grey; Admiral Grey is skilfully portrayed by Mr. C. W. Spencer; Mr. H. M. Clifford makes a good Tom Yorke; Miss Muriel Dean is a sweet Mildred Grey; Mr. Tom E. Sinclair gets a great deal out of Ben Baxter, and is ably assisted in the supply of the comedy element by Miss Lizzie Chambers as Lucy and Mr. Fred Acton as Jack Jolly, A.B. Lieut. Richard Redstone and Jim Royston are ably accounted for by Mr. Horace Booth and Mr. Sydney Frennes. The scenery and mounting are good.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Mike S. Whallen proves as popular as ever here and gives the "Irish Wake" as an encore. A number of well-trained monkeys are presented by Maud Rochez in an imitation of a music hall stage, and reflect great credit on their trainer; Tom Wootwell in vocal character studies has a good reception; Gwennie Hasto is an old favourite; Will Poluski, jun., is a good comedian and eccentric dancer; Francis McNulty dances well; Boden and Bell, juvenile duettists and dancers, are well received; and the Bioscope completes a good programme.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Corman's Juveniles are smart young artists, and are received with great enthusiasm. Walter Aubrey, coon vocalist and buck dancer, takes well; and the bill is completed by the Tivoliscope.

COSY CORNER, SEA-FRONT.—Proprietor, Mr. George Burton.—Ross and Gray contribute a capital comedy item, *Potted Poetry;* "Love me, and the world is mine" is well rendered by Mi

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

Few more suitable attractions could be found for the opening of the season at the Marlborough than Mr. Wentworth Croke's capital company in *The Prodigal Son*. He has the advantage of a grandly effective impersonator of Magnus in Mr. Hugh Montgomery, and as Oscar Mr. Gordon Macintosh acts with admirable expression and refinement. Mr. Charles Cooper plays Stephen Magnusson with dignity and power, and Miss Barbara Gott as Anna is full of deep feeling and emotional ability. Miss Valerie Crespin depicts Thora with characteristic skill; and as Elin is tender, natural, and sympathetic. Miss Mildred Cottell is able and efficient as Helga, and Mr. Philip Renouf puts plenty of stubborn force into his impersonation of Oscar Nellsen. Miss Marie Harcourt as Margaret is thoroughly satisfactory; and Mr. E. Christopher (the Sheriff), Mr. Ernest Rivarz (Dr. Olsen), Mr. G. Dickson-Kenwin (Director of Casino), and Mr. Arthur Hall (Eric Arnassen) all do well. The stage management, under the direction of Mr. Charles A. Maynard, is excellent in every way, and the drama is picturesquely and liberally mounted.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 3,
"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."

Agreeable Bank Holiday fare is provided this week at the pretty Notting Hill Gate theatre in the shape of one of Mr. Fred Melville's melodramas of the good old-fashioned sort, *Her Forbidden Marriage*. It teems with incident and surprising dénouements, and it is by no means wanting in comic relief to leaven the more exciting moments of the drama. Mr. Kenneth Black as Sir George Lancaster, is very well cast; Mr. Henry Lonsdale is a prime favourite as the fervid and intense young inventor, George Madison, and repeatedly earns the enthusiastic cheers of the gallery, just as Mr. Louis Hector as Charles Devereux, a very transparent scoundrel, and Lady Lucretia Lancaster, Sir George's second wife (as the programme cryptically announces it, "married yet not married"), a part admirably rendered by Miss Grace Lester with all the necessary strength of handling. Miss Geraldine le Sage is pretty as a picture as the bright, winsome, and gracious Lucy (Sir George's ward, who flouts her guardian's authority and marries where she loves, and thus gives the piece its name). Mr. Leonard Maxwell is Geoffrey Broughton, who assists in the attempt to force Lucy's hand. Mr. Fred de Vere as Timothy Tuttell, jack of all trades and master of none except the gentle art of mirth-making, and Miss Maude Merrick as Polly Lovejoy, in service and frightened of marriages, helps him in this congenial task with much acumen and ability. Others who take part in the piece are Mr. Arthur Hickman as John William (a clerk thinking of matrimony), Mr. Rawdon Vivian as the parson who performs the ceremony of marriage, Mr. James Raymond (a witness to the marriage), Mr. William Griffin as Inspector Doone. Joe Lambkin, an old rustic very much married, is a part safe in the hands of Mr. Philip Renouf; Mr. George Elsworthy as Benjamin Wardle, Mr. Leslie Nutter as Jenkins, and Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh as the Mother Superior all work hard, and little Lucy, the child of the forbidden marriage, is also capitally played by Little Lucy. Real horses, motors, bicycles, and ponies take part in the scenes of the play. Mr. Harry Dooley is business-manager for Mr. Fredk. Melville's company. Mr. Eade Montifiore is now installed as resident business-manager at the Coronet.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 3, the Musical Farce entitled
"HIS MAJESTY'S GUESTS."

A week's reopening of the Crystal Palace Theatre, which was closed for the vacation, is made this week, and large audiences have derived much amusement from the performances of Mr. Fred Karno's company in the diverting farce *His Majesty's Guests*. The fun of the piece is fast and furious, and is maintained chiefly by the efforts of Mr. George Hestor, who plays that resourceful custodian of the law Sergeant Lightning. Mr. Hestor is a comedian of original methods, and no member of the audience has been able to resist the effect of his drollery, which finds vent in many a fresh-found "wheeze" and much comic by-play. Mr. Rupert Strutfield plays Lord Easem in finished style typical of the young aristocrat. His voice is well modulated, and every effect is given to the lines which he has to deliver. His accomplice, Lady Maud, has a vivacious representative in Miss Aggie Morris, who sings with piquancy and dances admirably. Her song, "In Society," is particularly enjoyed. Mr. C. Usher is again associated with the rôle of Mr. Miffin, and gives a performance complete in every detail. Mr. Sid Kerns is Mr. Minks, and gives a droll impersonation of the rev. gentleman, a penetrating voice aiding him in a character impersonation of great merit. Miss Kitty Brunton is a clever exponent of the "new woman," Miss Manley; and Miss Josie Bryor makes a prepossessing Dolly Miffin. The energetic domestic, Selina, is cleverly represented by Mr. Tom Manardo, whose dancing is an agreeable feature of his performance. Fritz, the majestic doorkeeper at Miffin's Emporium, is portrayed with regal dignity by Mr. T. Ellis Burton, who is the cause of much merriment; Mr. Sam Gosling does well in the part of the nephew Harry, and the rest of the cast are in excellent hands, the bevy of aristocratic maidens being represented by a comely contingent of ladies. The song and dance "Six little burglars" gains the customary tokens of favour, and the knockabout business of the production results in continuous laughter. Mr. Sharp acts efficiently as manager for Mr. Bannister Howard, under whose auspices the theatre is run.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Aug. 3, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled
"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

The above excellent drama was a capital selection for Bank Holiday, and the large audiences testified to their appreciation of the entertainment by hearty laughter and frequent and prolonged applause. The play is a fine sermon in a palatable form. The tale of Barbara Wade's gradual descent is cleverly told, and the final scene in the life of the unhappy woman is such as to leave a deep impression for good. Miss Hilda Beverly is an excellent exponent of the character, and carries much sympathy with her throughout. Hers is a clever and convincing performance. Miss Dorothy Hildebrande is a charming representative of the young schoolmistress, Constance Cornell; Miss Nita Langford looks and acts well as Nellie Meadows; and Miss Daisy Maynard is a bright and amusing Tilly Vane. Toby Turvey is capitally played by Mr. Fred Hodson, who, with Miss Maynard, keeps the house in roars of laughter. Others doing well in their respective parts are Miss Emily Crossly (Jane Thomas), Miss Nellie Butts (Georgie Watts), Miss Kate Walton (Jessie Wilson), Miss Gibbons (Fay Dudley), and Miss Nellie Noble (Gertie Seemton). Mr. Jack Fortescue gives an excellent performance as Jack Livingstone, the husband of Barbara; Mr. Edward Chester is a clever and gentlemanly representative of Cuthbert Lumley; Mr. Charles Franmore is again the Farmer Meadows, and his acting is as good as ever; Mr. Fred Withers is very good indeed as Luke Ramsden; Mr. Edward Valentine is an earnest and sympathetic Dr. Weston; Mr. J. Johnson is good as the police-constable; and Mr. Walter Johnson is efficient as Crotis. Other capable members of the long cast are Mr. David Borone (Joe Coyle), Mr. George Wilson (Fred Hickley), and Mr. Harold Mace (Harry Butler).

The scenery and appointments are, as usual, complete. Mr. Bertram Iles, the courteous acting-manager of the theatre, looks well after the comfort of patrons of the establishment..

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 3, the Comedy-Drama, entitled
"FROM SLAVE TO PRINCESS."

The autumn season at this theatre opened on Bank Holiday with Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in a fascinating comedy-drama entitled *From Slave to Princess*. The action of the play takes place throughout in Caspania, and the powerful plot is thoroughly interpreted by an able and well-chosen company. Perhaps the most difficult part in the whole cast is that of the Princess Claudia, played with marked skill by Miss Edith Blande, whose conception of the rôle is remarkably well executed; Mr. Austin Milroy as Prince Julian is seen at his best. There is an amount of pathos in his scenes with Vera, his betrothed, which introduces a touch of sentiment into a drama fraught with thrilling episodes. These are relieved at intervals by the humour displayed by the inimitable Amelia and Patrick O'Brien. The former character is admirably played by Miss Kitty Sinclair, while the latter is in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Benson. The pair combine well in their duet version of "Shy Ann." Miss Sylvia Harrington as Vera, the slave-heroine, does ample justice to her part, of which she gives a most sympathetic rendering. Michael Bordoni, the evil genius of the story, creates quite a sensation as enacted by Mr. Arthur Elwyn, whose delineation of the rôle is unimpeachable. Mr. Dermont Fitzgibbon as Colonel Alexis is certainly very clever; Mr. Arthur Escourt as Peter gives a realistic sketch of a Russian serf, while Mr. Reginald Huntworth as King Adrian is admirable. Messrs. Johnny Leoni, Charles Brooke, and Francis Curtiss all contribute their share towards the success of a striking production. The scenic effects, costumes, and uniforms leave nothing to be desired.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, August 3, the play, entitled
"SAPHO."

The Dalston Theatre reopened on Monday evening after the usual midsummer vacation, and *Sapho* is presented by Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company to appreciative audiences. Fanny Legrand, otherwise known as Sapho, who is discredited as being "the worst woman in Paris," is sustained by Miss Ida Abbott, who, in spite of the undesirable nature of the character, wins favour by reason of her excellent acting and the amount of feeling she puts into her work. Mr. Ernest R. Abbott is the Jean Gaussin, and the intensity which he brings to bear in the many trying scenes falling to his share entitle him to much praise. Both he and Miss Abbott are the recipients of much applause. Mr. Herbert Morgan does well as Henri Dechelette, an engineer; and Mr. Charles Tring as Flamant, a felon, provides a capital character sketch. The more humorous side of the story finds representatives in Mr. Frank Stephens as Uncle Classaire, Mr. W. Firth as old Legrand, a cabman (Fanny's father), and Miss Louise Gilmore as Aunt Divonne. Miss Florrie Norton as Lucy has the good fortune to represent a most amiable character.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Aug. 3, the American Drama, entitled
"THE STILL ALARM."

The Fulham theatre reopened its doors after the summer vacation on August Bank Holiday with a special holiday attraction in the shape of *The Still Alarm*, given by Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company. Mr. Matthew H. Glenville undertakes the part of the hero, Jack Manly. He plays it in a vigorous and natural manner, and deserves the applause he gets. Mr. Lewis Kennedy is satisfactory as Franklin Fordham; Mr. Gerald Kennedy enacts the villain, Gorman, in a neat and effective manner, and makes his part tell; Mr. Fred Osmond has a good character part as Doc Wilber, and causes a great amount of amusement; Mr. J. Sutton Pateman also provides an ample supply of humour as Joe Jones; and the other members of the company, who represent firemen, do some very smart work, and also contribute some excellent part-songs which form a pleasing interlude. Nor must we omit those excellent performers Pegasus and Bucephalus, the two fine grey horses, which belong to the Fire Brigade, and the greyhound Laddie, the firemen's pet. Miss Beatrice Shirley plays capitally as Elinor Fordham; Miss Hettie Zillwood is bright and effective as Carrie Wilber; and Miss Mabel Veriton is quite satisfactory as Mrs. Manley. The plan of reducing the prices of admission is being tried, and it is to be hoped that this bold experiment will prove as successful as it deserves to be.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Aug. 3, the Drama, entitled
"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."

Well mounted and capably acted, the above drama is attracting large and appreciative audiences to the Royal this week. Although the plot is unfolded in a pathetic vein, still the play abounds in many merry moments and mirth-provoking incidents. Mr. Ronald Adair is warmly received as Willie Mason, a British tar, and both in pathos and comedy he submits a clever study of a vigorous English sailor. Mr. Fred Ingram, as Johnny Walker, is the source of much merriment; James Harcourt is in the capable hands of Mr. Raymond Wood, who carries out his various schemes with marked effect. Mr. Sidney Sarl is responsible for the part of Bill Slater, and makes a favourable impression; Mr. Frank R. Robertson does ample justice to the character of Jack Fenton; and Richard Fenton is naturally essayed by Mr. Frank Denis; Miss Nannie Meade displays much ability as Vesta Le Clere, and is entirely successful; Poppy Slater is humorously portrayed by Miss Marie Kildare, who achieves distinction. Although the character of Sophie Coventry may not be powerfully marked, Miss Jessie Belmore imbues the part with daintiness and charm; Miss Zoe Davis is well placed as Lucy Coventry. In minor rôles Mr. John Wilson, Mr. G. Brackley, Mr. Frank Barnard, Mr. James Green, Mr. Charles Herman, Mr. G. Lacey, Mr. C. Carter, Mr. Danell Greene, Mr. C. Lacey, and Miss Lily Trounsell lend admirable assistance.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Aug. 3, the Play, in Five Acts entitled
"IN THE MIDST OF LIFE."

A very favourable reception was accorded Mr. Chas. V. Sandford's clever company in Marylebone this week, the West Londoners welcoming the resumption of their weekly drama in gratifying fashion. Mr. Guy Hastings enacted David Armstrong in a most convincing way, his elocution being excellent; Mr. Sydney T. Pease was forceful and vigorous as Henry Gerniston; Mr. Hal Charlton did well as Sir John Rosmead; Mr. John S. Chamberlain proffered a clever character study of Capt. Bargery; Mr. Edgar J. Coyne humorously portrayed Joe Drummond; and Mr. Charles V. Sandford was well to the fore as Richard Dixon. Miss Edith Savery made a good impression as Sybil; Miss Madge Berresford was bright and lively as Molly Bargery; Miss Alice Heather was suitably cast as Lady Helen Rosmead; and Miss Maud Linden sustained Margaret Grey with much womanly grace and tenderness. The play was followed by some excellent animated pictures, and concluded with the highly amusing farcical comedy *All Alive*. It was pleasant to find back at his duties in front once more the popular Mr. James Sinclair, who always looks after the comfort of Mr. William Bailey's patrons.

DEATH OF H. H. BARRINGTON.

Dramatic suddenness marked the death of Henry Harding Barrington, which occurred at Bradford on Saturday. The deceased actor was taken ill the previous evening, but no immediate danger was feared. He consulted a medical man, and though when he went to bed he did not complain of any particular pain, he died early next morning of severe cardiac trouble. Deceased was forty-four years of age, a native of Southsea, and was remarkable for his histrionic abilities and striking stage presence.

The late Mr. Barrington commenced his professional career at the age of four as Little Willie at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth. At eight years of age he was taking regular rôles in pantomime, and at twenty he had over 150 different parts to his credit. He went on the first American tour of *Muldoon's Picnic*, and remained with the company until he had played every male part in the piece, in addition to that of Mrs. Muldoon. He then joined Miss Le Tellie's *My Sweetheart* company as Dr. Oliver, and stayed with her until her répertoire company was founded, being allotted such rôles as Alfred Evelyn, Bob Brierly, &c. Included in the parts which he afterwards undertook were those of the Doctor in *Saved from the Streets*, the Priest in *A Father's Oath*, Owen Glyndon in *The Black Flag*, Joe Prentice in *Proved True*, lead and acting-management in *Parma Violets*, Kershaw in *Jane*, the Priest in *The Rose of Rathboy*, Orloff in *A Life's Revenge*, Milford in *The Worst Woman in London*, Raybrook in *Driven from Home*, Captain Norman in *Her Second Time on Earth*, and the heavy part in *The Girl of To-day*. Mr. Barrington also played stock seasons with the late Andrew Melville, Mr. Gould at Newcastle, Mr. Sheldon, and the Brothers Melville, and discharged many pantomime engagements and appointments as stage-manager. In London he created the rôle of Cleary, the Yorkshire bookmaker, in *Sporting Life*, produced by Mr. Leonard Boyne at the Shaftesbury in January, 1898. He also played with Mr. Brien McCullough in sketches at the variety theatres.

The deceased actor's last part was that of Stephen Magnusson in Hall Caine's *Prodigal Son*, toured by Mr. George D. Day's company, which was appearing at Bradford last week. The widow, professionally known as Miss Florence Lovell, is also a member of Mr. George D. Day's company, playing the part of Anna Magnusson. During their twenty years of married life they had always acted together.

The funeral took place on Tuesday at Scholemoor Cemetery. The chief mourners were the widow and sisters of the deceased. All the members of the company sent a wreath, and floral tributes were also forwarded by the theatre management and others to whom the late Mr. Barrington was well known, both in his professional and private capacity.

We have received the following letter from the widow:—

"Dear Sir,—Doubtless you have read of my irreparable loss in the death of my beloved husband. Our twenty years of married bliss has been remarked by all that knew us. Our work has nearly always been together, and our engagements with the best of managers, including the present one, Mr. George D. Day, whose kindness, together with that of his wife, Miss Lily Hall Caine, has been most touching during my great trouble. Mr. Hall Caine was almost my first sympathiser by wire, a copy of which I send: 'Mrs. Barrington, T. R., Bradford. My deepest sympathy with you in your great bereavement. I share your loss in losing so excellent an actor and so good a colleague. May time bring you comfort.—Hall Caine.' Miss Lily Hall Caine also wired her sweet sympathy: 'I cannot express how shocked and deeply grieved I am at the sad news. Accept my heartfelt sympathy. I only wish I were near you.—Lily H. Day.' Shoals of telegrams and letters still continue to arrive. Mr. John Hart has also shown much kindness.—Yours in sorrow, "FLORENCE LOVELL.
"(Mrs. Henry Harding Barrington).
"T. R., Bradford, Aug. 5."

THE OPERA SEASON.

The Grand Opera season at Covent Garden, which closed last week, has been the most brilliant on record. No special novelties were produced with the exception of Bizet's opera, *The Pearl Fishers*, which for many years has not been performed and may, therefore, be considered a novelty; and Umberti Giordano's *Fedora*, given after a lapse of two years, while Meyerbeer's once popular opera *Gli Ugonotti*, but now somewhat neglected, proved a most welcome revival owing, no doubt, to the fact that the cast included Tetrazzini, Miss Destinn, Mr. Zenatello, Mr. Scotti, and Messrs. Marcoux and Nivette. No cycle was given this season, but fine performances under the admirable conductorship of Dr. Richter were heard of Wagner's *Die Walkure*, *Götterdämmerung*, *Tannhäuser*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *The Meistersinger*, and *The Flying Dutchman*. *Faust* and *Carmen* were performed somewhat late in the season, and the two representations of Gluck's *Armida* proved most complete and artistic. A welcome feature of the past season was the great advance made by our native vocalists, Mr. Walter Hyde, Mme. Edna Thornton, Mme. Edyth Walker, Mr. Clarence Whitehill, Mr. McCormack, Mme. Kirkby Lunn, Miss Hatchard; while two newcomers, Miss Cavalieri and Mr. Nivette, achieved considerable success. Mme. Melba and Mme. Tetrazzini have both been unsparing in their efforts, and special mention must be made of the splendid work accomplished by Mr. Zenatello. A pleasant feature of the season was Mme. Melba's matinée, given to celebrate her twenty years' unsurpassed singing at Covent Garden, and it was a kind thought of the great prima donna to give the proceeds of the matinée, a sum of £2,000, to the London Hospital. Noteworthy also have been the performances of *Aida*, and the splendid impersonations of the hero and heroine by Mr. Zenatello and Miss Destinn; while Verdi's *Otello*, with Mme. Melba as Desdemona, a part that admirably suits her beautiful voice, are interesting features of the past season. *Lucia di Lammermoor* was mounted no fewer than six times, no doubt for the sake of the mad scene and the opportunity it gave Mme. Tetrazzini for a display of her wonderful technique in the florid music. Mme. Maria Gay's Carmen was another successful event, and mention should be made of the excellent work accomplished by Messrs. Sammarco, Scotti, Gilibert, Marcoux, Nivette, Griswold, Miss Dereyne, and Miss Maud Santley. In the list of operas Verdi comes first with *La Traviata* given seven times, *Otello* five, and *Rigoletto* five, Donizetti's *Lucia di Lammermoor* had six interpretations, and the same number was accorded to Rossini's *Il Barbiere di Siviglia*. *Madame Butterfly* and *La Bohème* were each played five times, *Manon Lescaut* three, and *La Tosca* twice. *The Flying Dutchman*, *Götterdämmerung* and *Tannhäuser* were given twice, *The Meistersinger*, *Tristan und Isolde* and *Die Walkure* three times; while four renderings of *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci*, two of *Faust*, two of *Carmen*, three of *I Pescatori di Perle*, three of *The Huguenots*, two of Gluck's *Armida*, and one of *Fedora* completed the list. The principal conductors were Dr. Richter, Mr. Campanini, and Mr. Panizza. The excellent chorus and fine orchestra maintained their high reputation, and the season has been notable for the admirable performances of the familiar operas, while crowded houses have been the rule rather than the exception.

The Chancery Lane Safe Deposit, 61-62, Chancery lane, W.C., have made special arrangements, and can afford special facilities for storing jewellery, plate, and other valuables during the holiday season.

"LONDON WITH THE LID OFF."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley, played for the first time at the Stratford Theatre Royal on Monday, Aug. 3.

Rev. Allen Gordon ..... Mr. Stanley Carlton
Gratton Gale ..... Mr. William G. Marshal
Mr. Templeton ..... Mr. Marshall Meade
Collini ..... Mr. James Hart
Percy Plunker ..... Mr. Launcelot Usher
Sam Rendall ..... Mr. Edward Vincent
Trencher ..... Mr. Tom Murray
Flickster ..... Mr. Fred Coutts
Cousin Peter ..... Mr. Alfred Deane
P.-C. Sharpe ..... Mr. Dan Warden
Inspector Conway ..... Mr. Percy Roland
P.-C. Morton ..... Mr. Fred Garth
P.-C. Gordon ..... Mr. Bert Garrett
Messenger Boy ..... Master Charles Buxton
Mord Emily ..... Miss Rose Morton
Clara Jane ..... Miss Emily Marshall
Peppermint Poll ..... Miss Grace King
Julie ..... Miss Mildred Chapman
Jane Wilson ..... Miss Alice Thorne
Sally Perkins ..... Miss Julia Martin
Mary Elliott ..... Miss Annie Montague
Mrs. Fordyce ..... Miss Muriel Ross
Dolly ..... Miss Emily Lewis
Mrs. Glendale ..... Miss R. Hamilton Balescu
Sarah Shafto ..... Miss Charlotte E. Bellinger
Madge Rendall ..... Miss Amy Eliam
Astra Bell ..... Miss Rubie Maude

The revelations of the seamy side of London life which occasionally appear in the newspapers supply an inexhaustible subject for writers of melodrama, and *London with the Lid Off* is immediately suggestive of sensational disclosures. The interesting and thrilling story principally deals with the adventures of a young and friendless girl in London, and we might suggest the piece could be more aptly entitled *London's Temptations*.

When we first meet Astra Bell it is at a West End registry office controlled by a precious pair, Mrs. Glendale and Sarah Shafto, in league with a foreigner (Collini) and a blind burglar (Gratton Gale). The gang run the registry office as a cloak for a very vile and vicious business, and Astra Bell, an applicant for employment, with her fair face and figure, would be "worth hundreds" to them, as one of the gang remarks. But among the callers at the registry office is a young clergyman, Allen Gordon, who interests himself in the friendless girl, their respective fathers happening to have been close friends. On the track of this "Home of Rest for Unemployed Girls" is also Madge Rendall, daughter of a retired detective, who has strongly inherited the parental trait for the detection of crime. Madge, disguised, goes to the registry office at night, when it is transformed into a gay gambling and drinking saloon, and her father, learning her mission and scenting danger, follows. Sam Rendall, feared and hated, meets his doom at the house, for the blind burglar gets him into his clutches and strangles him, exclaiming, with that intuition which the blind must possess, "No one saw me do it." The crime is fixed on Astra Bell, for she discovers the body and summons aid. She is now, indeed, in need of a friend, for the guilty gang have escaped; and though she is not convicted, the fact of being in such a den of vice weighs against her, and finally she is remanded to a reformatory. Chance brings the Rev. Allen Gordon here, and before leaving he assures Astra that he can obtain her discharge and get her a situation. That nefarious pair, Mrs. Glendale and Sarah Shafto, also visit the reformatory, and, under threats of exposure, endeavour to get Astra to go with them; but Allen Gordon returns just in time to frustrate their designs. Astra is duly installed as assistant to Gordon's friend, Mr. Templeton, a jeweller, and, with the fact that she has become affianced to Gordon, her troubles appear at an end. But it is not to be. The gang, who have returned to the burglary business since the police raid on the registry office, plan to rob the jeweller. The two women enter the shop to make purchases, and they recognise Astra. The jeweller is called on one side and is told a tale which evidently impresses him, for Astra is dismissed, her employer giving it as his belief "once a criminal, always a criminal"—an unsympathetic and harsh remark which a clergyman like Allen Gordon, who has come to the girl's aid, ought to have strenuously repudiated. Poor Astra, with a cloud still over her, determines to go right away; but the gang require her now to help in the burglary, and the distraught girl consents to meet them. All this time Nemesis is on their track in Madge Rendall, who has sworn an oath to avenge the murder of her father. At first Madge thought Astra guilty, but is now convinced of her innocence. By feigning a drunken hag, she learns of the projected burglary, and promises Astra to stand by her. The confederates, with Astra, obtain admission to the jeweller's, and with tools which "would cut through a steel bar as easily as through any kind of cheese," the blind burglar sets to work, insured against interruption by having brought a facsimile of the safe door, behind which he conceals himself. Astra, however, rings an alarm bell, and the blind man, with imprecations, gropes around after her. He seizes the girl, and her life is in peril; but the lady detective, aware now of her father's murderer, comes to the rescue. Then ensues a deadly struggle between the powerful blind man and the two women, which is only ended by the timely entrance of the police. Their tether run, the gang meet their deserts at the hands of justice, and the curtain falls on the happy reunion of Allen Gordon and Astra Bell.

The piece is most creditably interpreted by Mr. Stanley Carlton's carefully selected company, and the new scenery is very appropriate. Though the plot is somewhat overburdened with minor characters, and the comic relief, which concerns the matrimonial mishaps of Percy Plunker and his wife Dolly, is inclined to be too obtrusive, the piece can be easily welded into a highly-popular touring production. Miss Rubie Maude as Astra Bell is the central figure of the piece, and she plays with much tact and sympathy, and looks the part well. As the lady detective Madge Rendall Miss Amy Eliam is a decided success, her clear, incisive style making the character deeply interesting; but why the final appearance in the garb of the drunken hag instead of as the smart detective? Mr. Stanley Carlton has a part that suits him well as the Rev. Allen Gordon, acting with sincerity and conviction; Mr. William G. Marshal supplies a graphic sketch of the blind burglar, Gratton Gale, and is especially good in the struggle in the last act; Miss Charlotte E. Bellinger submits a well-defined and resourceful characterisation of Sarah Shafto, whose accomplice in crime, the cunning, hypocritical Mrs. Glendale, is cleverly interpreted by Miss R. Hamilton Balesco. Mr. Marshall Meade is well placed as Mr. Templeton; Mr. James Hart contributes a sound performance as Collini; Mr. Lancelot Usher is very amusing and entertaining as Percy Plunker; and Miss Emily Lewis is a vivacious and engaging Dolly. Other parts are all played with intelligence and care, and *London with the Lid Off* is likely to add another leaf to Mr. Shirley's laurels.

The Princess Louise with her husband, the Duke of Fife, visited the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, on Thursday. After inspecting the various sections of exhibits the Royal party entered "the Hungarian Street," where Her Royal Highness made several purchases of the national embroideries worked by the women peasants in their native homes.

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"ADMIRAL PETERS."

A Play in One Act, being an Adaptation from W. W. Jacobs' story of that name, by W. W. Jacobs and Horace Mills, produced at the Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne, Monday, Aug. 3.

George Burton ..... Mr. Arthur Whitby
Joe Stiles ..... Mr. Leon Quartermaine
Mrs. Dutton ..... Miss Mary Weigall

(from our own correspondent.)

The quaint humour contained in Mr. W. W. Jacobs' tales of old sailors has appealed to most readers, and when the experienced services of Mr. Horace Mills, with his extensive knowledge of stagecraft, are enlisted in the staging of one of these tales, the result should be an abundance of fun, and, to judge from the laughter which greeted the first performance on Monday evening, the play will achieve its purpose.

Down at Seacombe lives a naval pensioner, George Burton; there, too, lives a widow named Mrs. Dutton; and it is easy to see that George Burton thinks a great deal of Mrs. Dutton, and she, in return, looks with a favourable eye on George. George is visited by an old messmate, Joe Stiles, and the two friends visit the village inn, the Cock and Flowerpot, where they both get very drunk. Mrs. Dutton, who is "chapel and very particular," hears of George's lapse from his professed semi-teetotalism, and the two sailors puzzle their brains to invent a story which will perchance obtain forgiveness for George from Mrs. Dutton. George ultimately decides to introduce to Mrs. Dutton his old pal, Joe Stiles, as Admiral Peters, and he can then account for his drunkenness as the result of "acting under orders." This explanation is given, and Joe is duly presented as Admiral Peters. Mrs. Dutton is flattered by the polite attentions paid her by such an exalted person, and her affections are quickly transferred to the pseudo Admiral. Poor George is now drilled and exercised by the "Admiral Peters," and he also recounts imaginary tales of travel, in which George Burton does not always appear in a favourable light; and when George is asked to recount the tale of his discovery in the chimney of a room where lived the favourite wife of the Sultan of Zanzibar, Mrs. Dutton leaves with a look of withering scorn for George, and a gracious smile for the "Admiral." George now accuses his friend of being a snake in the grass, and transplanting him in the affections of Mrs. Dutton; but the "Admiral" expresses his willingness to be bought off. George reluctantly pays over £5, and the railway fare to Joe, on condition that he departs for ever and at once from Seacombe. Joe agrees, and pockets the bribe. As a parting shot, he tells poor George that he, "the Admiral," would have had Mrs. Dutton for himself if it had not been that he is *already married*.

Premier honours must be given to Mr. Arthur Whitby, who gave a delightfully humorous sketch of the rough, bluff, and hearty naval pensioner, George Burton; Mr. Leon Quartermaine spoke well as Joe Stiles, and played the part on refined lines; and Miss Mary Weigall, as the impressionable widow, Mrs. Dutton, caught exactly the style and manner of a woman bred in a country village.

"THE GUTTER OF TIME."

A Duologue, by Alfred Sutro, produced at the Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne, on Monday, August 3.

Mrs. Tansford ..... Miss Violet Vanbrugh
Sir Harry Jardine ..... Mr. Bertram Forsyth

(from our own correspondent.)

The Gutter of Time is a powerful little play, in which a woman with a sensational past is the chief figure. Mrs. Tansford is listlessly skimming a novel when a visitor arrives at her flat in the person of Sir Harry Jardine. Young, rich, and handsome, he has fallen deeply in love with the charming, fascinating Mrs. Tansford. She, although considerably older than Sir Harry, loves him in return, but her life has been such that she feels she cannot accept the true, honest, manly love which is now offered to her, and in order to disgust Sir Harry she recounts her past history and shows to him how her life has been refuse floating down the gutter of time. Married at a very early age, her life began badly, for her husband, an enthusiastic astronomer, paid greater attention to his study of the stars than to his young and handsome wife. For three years she endured this life, and then a singer named Tansford crossed her path, and with him she fled from her lawful husband, who divorced the erring wife as soon as he discovers what has happened. She and the singer then lived together as Mr. and Mrs. Tansford, but ill-luck followed them—the singer lost his position, and he now lives by luring young and rich men to his flat, where he fleeces them at cards. The woman living with him serves as the decoy, and men are lured to the house only to be rooked. This mean, despicable part she is playing she frankly confesses to Sir Harry Jardine, but in face of all these horrors connected with the woman he loves he still asks her hand in marriage; but the adventuress, whose soul still lives, refuses to degrade him, and the servant is summoned to show him out. Miss Violet Vanbrugh plays the part of Mrs. Tansford in a perfectly artistic manner. She has all the charm and attractive appearance which the part of the fascinating woman of the world demands, and she acts with a depth of feeling and sympathy which holds the audience in closest attention. Mr. Bertram Forsyth, too, demands a very large measure of praise for his frank, sincere work as the lover, Sir Harry Jardine.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Aug. 3, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton, entitled
"THE SINS OF SOCIETY."

Mr. Fred Fredericks is to be congratulated upon securing for the Borough Theatre such a strong attraction as the Drury-lane success, *The Sins of Society*, which is opening its autumn tour here this week. Crowded audiences are the order nightly, and much applause is bestowed upon the magnificent spectacular effects with which the story is embellished. Mr. F. W. Bolam has secured a very strong cast, the members of which all acquit themselves with credit. Miss Grace E. Leslie plays very powerfully as Lady Marion Beaumont, handling every phase of the character with complete success; Miss Pattie Brown is a delightful exponent of Lady Goldbury, and is a prime favourite; Miss Dorothy Giles is a graceful, charming, and tender Lady Gwendolen Ashley; and the autocratic Duchess of Danebury is very appropriately played by Miss Janet Hodson. Mr. C. F. Collings as the scheming Noel Ferrers submits an artistic assumption of gentlemanly blackguardism; and Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan plays in manly and incisive style as Sir Dorian March. An outstanding performance is the James Hogg of Mr. Blake Adams, who is always very droll and interesting. Other parts in an exceptionally long cast all receive careful treatment.

MRS. ALFRED MELLON.

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—In the interesting recollections of Mrs. Alfred Mellon's various rôles, her creation of Ruth Tredgett, in Sir W. S. Gilbert's play *Charity*, has been omitted, produced at the old Haymarket Theatre. I have a very distinct recollection of this most admirable performance, and associated with her in the cast were Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, the late Messrs. Chippendale, Teesdale, Howe, Clark, and Buckstone; also the late Miss Amy Roselle.—Yours faithfully, G. BRYDON-PHILLIPS.

Broadstairs, Aug. 4, 1908.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The Council of the Actors' Association held their usual weekly meeting at 409, Strand, on Tuesday. Present Mr. Frederick Moriand, in the chair, Messrs. Robson Paige, Chris Walker, Clarence Derwent, Poole Kirkwood, Jackson Wilcox, F. Annerley, Misses Agnes Imlay, Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount, secretary.

The secretary informed the Council that he had received a verbal message to the effect that Mr. A. T. Hilton, a member of the Association, died on Saturday, Aug. 1.

The chairman read a letter from Mr. Richard A. Greene, who last week tendered his resignation from the Council owing to the fact that he would be away on tour, thanking the Council for asking him to retain his seat, and saying he would be pleased to do what he could whilst on tour.

The hon. solicitor's report was read, and instructions were given to the secretary to write to Mr. Mote expressing complete confidence in him, regretting the annoyance he had been subjected to, and expressing the hope that he would not tender his resignation.

There had been no Finance Committee meeting, but Miss Agnes Imlay read the secretary's weekly statement, which the Council accepted.

The secretary was instructed to place before the Council each week the exact number of members who had paid their subscriptions.

The secretary was instructed to write to the editor of the *Morning Leader*—with reference to a paragraph which appeared in that paper on July 31—to the effect "that the Council can discover no official by whom the information, as printed, was given. They desire to state that the information, in so far as it refers to the membership of the A.A., from wheresoever obtained, is incorrect, and that as compared with former years the number of members who have paid their subscriptions to date is distinctly good."

Mr. Franklyn Vernon and Miss Phyllis Vaughan were elected members.

The secretary reported two engagements made since the last meeting of the Council.

ACTORS' UNION.

At the usual weekly meeting of the committee the following were present:—Messrs. Cecil G. Calvert (chairman), D. Lewin-Mannering, Paul Lovett, H. Tripp-Edgar, Geo. P. Lester, Fred D. Davis, J. Hastings Batson, J. W. Braithwaite, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Letters were received from the following committeemen during the week:—Messrs. G. H. Child, E. H. Templeton, Owen Roughwood, J. Lennox Pawle, Orlando Barnett, Jerrold Heather, Henry Bedford, Lewis Gilbert, H. C. Momber, E. Y. Rae, Edward Chester, Fred F. Loyd, Edwin J. Collins, Harry Paulton, A. Maitland Stapley, Harry Paulton, jun., Frank Strickland, and Oswald Marshall.

It was decided that the general secretary should represent the Actors' Union at the Trade Union Congress at Nottingham this year.

Mr. Harry C. Momber having tendered his resignation from the executive, the secretary was instructed to inform him that it had been accepted. Mr. H. Naylor Grimson automatically takes up the seat on the committee vacated by Mr. Momber, and the secretary was instructed to notify him of the fact.

A member was advanced the sum of £1 from the Benevolent Fund.

Further details of the club were discussed at length, and the matter was again referred back for further information.

Two candidates who had sent in application forms were elected members.

Special stamps have been decided upon for the purposes of collecting subscriptions for the Benevolent Fund. The secretary would be glad to receive names and addresses of those members who would care to undertake the sale of these stamps.

Members' baskets can now be insured against all risks at the rate of 26s. per cent. per annum, and those wishing to insure their baskets are asked to communicate with the secretary.

Mr. Leslie Arthur has been appointed assistant-secretary to the Union. Mr. Blackmore starts his three weeks' vacation on Saturday next, and will return to town on Aug. 31.

Mr. H. Tripp-Edgar will take the chair at the weekly meeting of the A.U., to be held at Hummums Hotel, Covent Garden, on Tuesday next, the 11th inst., and Mr. Cecil C. Calvert will occupy a similar position on the 18th inst.

"THE WAY OUT."

An Incident, in One Act, by George Unwin, produced, for the first time, at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday, Aug. 3.

The Man .....Mr. Fred Conyers
The Boy .....Mr. Legai Robinson
The Woman .....Miss Lorna Lawrence
Maid .....Miss Ida Scott

(From our own correspondent.)

The story circles round the life of a "social butterfly." Father and son love the same woman, and the latter, while she coquettes with the son, is really deeply attached to the father. With the father it was an episode of his young days. He goes abroad, and returns to find his son enamoured of his former sweetheart. He thereupon urges her not to encourage the boy—who, by the way, is ignorant of what has gone before—and the woman, in a moment of despair, and stung by the words of the father, poisons herself, dying in the presence of the son, the two being alone at dinner. It is a dramatic trifle, with a tragic sequel, and perhaps not very convincing, but it is well written and played. The characters, as portrayed by Mr. Fred Conyers, Mr. Legai Robinson, and Miss Lorna Lawrence, are all really clever and convincing studies.

AN INAUGURATION AT CARDIFF.

The Theatre Royal, Cardiff, was reopened on Monday by Mr. Rollo Balmain, the new lessee, under most promising conditions. The house was packed, and it must have been most encouraging to Mr. Balmain to receive such a flattering ovation at the conclusion of his initial performance. Mr. Balmain has opened and reopened many theatres during the course of his theatrical career, but it is questionable if ever greater appreciation has been extended to him than that given by the City of Cardiff on his assumption of the reins of management of the Royal. Mr. Balmain has literally worked marvels during the brief period he has been in Cardiff. A fine installation of electric light, decorations, alterations, structurally and otherwise, have all been made under his control, and that his idea of popular prices (4d. to 2s. 6d.) has caught on there can be no manner of doubt.

The new lessee opened with his own company in *Hoodman Blind*, and appeared with his usual success as Jack Yeulett, supported by Miss Sara Mignon Balmain in her now famous delineation of the dual rôle of Nance and Jess. Mr. Balmain has a carefully selected and powerful company, who all work exceptionally hard in their respective characters. Mr. Balmain was called before the curtain, and in response to enthusiastic demands for a speech uttered a few felicitous words, and read a number of telegrams from prominent managers and artists of the theatrical and music hall profession wishing him good luck in his new venture. While thoroughly appreciating such kindly expressions from his friends and colleagues, he doubly valued a message from Mr. Robert Redford, of the New Theatre. The speaker's remarks were cheered, and at the fall of the curtain the vast audience gave three ringing cheers for their new manager.

"A MERRY MAID."

Musical Comedy Burlesque, Produced, for the first time, at the Grand Theatre, Chorley, Lancs., on Monday, Aug. 3.

Larry O'Hooligan .....Mr. Vivian Wakeman
Hon. Cecil Taft .....Mr. Niel Hardy
Thady Clancy .....Mr. Ireland Cutter
Von Swank .....Mr. Phil Goldie
Sharpe Scrivener .....Mr. Horace Hillerby
Angelina Vere-de-Vere....Miss Fanny Adamson
Bertie .....Wee Geo. Wood
Biddy O'Hooligan ..Mr. W. Shaw Hutchinson
Flossie Kixie .....Miss Ray Watson
Peggy O'Hooligan .....Miss May Gibson

(From our own correspondent.)

This theatre reopened for the season on August Bank Holiday, when a capital house assembled to witness the production for the first time of a new musical comedy burlesque, entitled *A Merry Maid*. The story deals with Irish life, and is woven around the O'Hooligan family, who have inherited a large fortune from a relative. The action opens at the home of the O'Hooligans, where Peggy's eighteenth birthday is being celebrated. The family lawyer, Mr. Sharpe Scrivener, comes to read the will, the contents of which are satisfactory. At the same time, the lawyer has formulated a scheme to obtain the money, and instructs two of his friends, the Hon. Cecil Taft and Mrs. Angelina Vere-de-Vere, to visit the O'Hooligans, Cecil to win the hand of Peggy, and Angelina to woo Larry, the head of the family, the lawyer himself designing to wed Biddy. Peggy, however, has other views, and is interested in Thady Clancy. The lawyer persuades Larry to take a holiday at the Riviera, and they all start for Liverpool to join the steam yacht Merry Maid. Larry becomes entangled with a music-hall artist, Flossie Kixie, who determines to accompany them on the voyage.

The second act opens aboard the yacht. Larry discovers Flossie Kixie as stewardess, and Flossie releases him from his promise. He, however, discovers her to be the daughter of an old friend, and renews his engagement, resolving to marry her on their arrival ashore. The last scene is that of a ball given by Larry to celebrate his engagement, and the finale sees the lawyer and Cecil betrothed to Angelina and Biddy respectively.

The whole constitutes a very bright and up-to-date entertainment, the interest never flagging from beginning to end. The music is sparkling and melodious, and includes many very catchy numbers. The scenery is all that can be desired, and reflects the greatest credit upon Mr. James Hemingway, the artist. The play was excellently represented by Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company. As Larry O'Hooligan Mr. Vivian Wakeman acquitted himself with every credit; Mr. W. Shaw Hutchinson as Biddy O'Hooligan caused roars of laughter by his exceedingly clever study; Mr. Niel Hardy was a successful Cecil Taft; as Angelina Vere-de-Vere the scheming widow, Miss Fanny Adamson was admirable; and Miss Ray Watson as Flossie Kixie deserves congratulations. Miss May Gibson, who possesses a beautiful voice, acted charmingly as Peggy. The chorus was strong and efficient, and the production owed much to the efforts of Mr. H. B. Levy, who wielded the bâton.

TRINITY COLLEGE CONVERSAZIONE.

On Thursday evening, July 30, a large number of visitors assembled at the conversazione given by the principals of the Trinity College, in the handsome rooms of the Royal Institute of Painters in Water-colours, Piccadilly. After the reception of visitors the first part of a small concert was given by the pupils of the Trinity College. Mr. Patrick Thayer played Edouard Schütt's "Etude Mignonne," pianoforte; and Miss Kathleen Lawler was much applauded for her violin solo, Allemanda from Suite, Op. 26 (Franz Ries). Chaminade's showy song, "L'été," was cleverly sung by Miss Florence Griffiths; and a very young student of the college, Master Richard Johnson, displayed marked executive ability in Olsen's pianoforte solo, Papillons, No. 5, being heartily recalled and warmly greeted by the visitors. Mr. John Searcy Physick sang "The Two Grenadiers" (Schumann) with considerable power and expression; while Miss Margaret Richardson produced a good tone in her violoncello solo of Godard's "Sur le lac," the first part of the concert concluding with a brilliant performance of Liszt's Rhapsodie Hongroise, No. 2, for piano, by Miss Maud Agnes Winter, L.T.C.L. After an interval for refreshments the second part of the concert commenced with a piano solo by Master Edward S. Mitchell, L.T.C.L., who played the first of Six Preludes (MS.) of his own composition, which showed much promise, and was well received by the audience. A recitation, "What my lover said" (Homer Greene), was admirably delivered by Miss Olive Warren; and Miss Ethel Izard greatly pleased the visitors with her violin solo, Allegro Moderato from Seventh Concerto (De Beriot). Miss Hilda Felstead sang "Oh, Love from Thy power," from Saint-Saëns' "Samson and Delilah," ably; and Miss Bertha Tomlin received much applause for her performance of Chopin's Nocturne in F sharp. Mr. Horace Witty was set down for Clay's effective song, "The Sands of Dee"; and the programme concluded with Popper's Polonaise in D minor, played by Mr. Walter Britton. The accompanists were Mr. Leonard Gordon, Miss Bertha Tomlin, and Miss Maud Agnes Winter.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS GEORGIE DE LARA.

Unlike many of our modern actresses, Miss Georgie de Lara, the descendant of a fine old theatrical family, and the grand-daughter of the late Charles Dibden Pitt, tragedian, has been thoroughly "through the mill," playing every kind of part, from Willie Carlyle upwards. At the age of thirteen she had some good experience in répertoire, under the excellent management of the late Charles Bernard. Then came some hard stock work and rough "fit-up" experiences, till 1896, when she was engaged for musical comedy by Messrs. Morell and Moulliot, under whose management she remained for five years, playing several characters in *The Shop Girl*, *My Girl*, *The Circus Girl*, &c. A series of pantomime engagements followed, including two seasons at the Court, Liverpool, and two at the Gaiety, Dublin,

MISS GEORGIE DE LARA.

at the latter theatre being specially engaged by Mr. Robert Courtneidge. Shortly after came a special Exeter engagement, to play Hortense, in *Poor Jo*, supporting Miss Jennie Lee, by whom she was highly complimented on her performance. Closely following came an engagement with the late John Atkin, for the *Grip of Iron*, in which she played successively the three parts, Marie, Sophie, and Cora. Miss de Lara remained with the piece two years, at the conclusion of which period she was engaged by Mr. Ernest B. Norris for heavy lead in the stock company at the Elephant and Castle. Then came a most successful pantomime engagement at the Borough, Stratford, as fairy godmother, in Oscar Barrett's *Cinderella*. Shortly after Miss de Lara was engaged by Messrs. W. and F. Melville for stock, at the Standard and Terriss Theatres, and played Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet*, Widow Melnotte (*Lady of Lyons*), Marcel (*Woman and Wine*), and created the rôle of Peggy Munro in Mr. Walter Melville's successful play, *The Soldier's Wedding*. Miss de Lara is the wife of the well-known comedian, Mr. Kennedy Allen.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(From our own correspondent.)

PIETERMARITZBURG, July 10. — Scott's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. D. B. Scott; Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.—The above theatre was opened on Thursday night with *The Girls of Gottenberg*, which was played to an enthusiastic audience. The piece, which went with a swing from start to finish, reflects great credit upon Mr. Frank Wheeler, under whose personal supervision it was produced. Mr. Wheeler himself undertook the rôle of Max Moddelkhoff, and realised the comicalities of the part in a manner entirely his own. Miss Alice Pollard as Mitzi captivated all by her charming singing and graceful dancing. As Brittlbottl Mr. C. Willoughby added largely to the success of the piece; Kannenbier was well accounted for by Mr. Simpson, his impersonation of the aged innkeeper being a fine character study. In Miss Lilian Bell the part of Elsa had a charming interpreter; Miss Ethel Clarke as Clementine acted delightfully; Mr. W. Clarke as the Burgomaster scored an undoubted success; and Mr. N. Hancock's fine voice was heard to advantage in the rôle of Otto, a Prince of Saxe-Hildesheim. Miss Mabel Medrow gave a capital representation of Minna, her dainty singing meeting with appreciation. All the minor parts were in capable hands, and there was an efficient chorus. The three sets for the piece are the handiwork of Mr. Roland Pym, and were all that could be desired.

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NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

July 2. *Leap Year in the West*, play, by Miss Johanna Redmond (Irish Stage Society)—Court.
" 3. *The Postbag*, piece, by W. P. Graves, with music by Michele Esposito (Irish Stage Society)—Court.
" 3. *The Quest of the Grail*, masque, by Ernest Rhys, music by Vincent Thomas (Irish Stage Society)—Court.
" 4. *An Vadbacht*, play, in Irish, by P. Conroy (Irish Stage Society)—Court.
" 4. *The Absentee*, by Messrs. W. P. Graves and Keene (Irish Stage Society)—Court.
" 6. *A Vision of the Twelve Virgin Goddesses*, masque, by Samuel Daniel (originally presented at Hampton Court, Jan. 8, 1604)—Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park.
" 7. *The Anarchists*, tragedy, in one act, by Rowan Orme—Court.
" 7. *On the East Side*, tragedy, in one act, by Christopher St. John—Court.
" 7. *The Sentence*, tragedy, in one act, by Rowan Orme—Court.
" 7. *A Modern Daughter*, play, in one act, by Mrs. Tom Godfrey—Court.
" 9. *The Boys*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by Henry Seton (first produced at the Grand, Croydon, May 11, 1908)—Court.
" 10. *Trixie*, comedy, in three acts, by John Strange Winter—Scala.
" 10. *The White Lady*, play, in one act, by Isabel Alexander—Scala.
" 14. *A Matter-of-Fact Husband*, comedy, in one act, by John Cutler, K.C.—Lyceum.
" 15. *A Welsh Sunset*, operetta, words by Frederick Fenn, music by Philip Michael Faraday—Savoy.
" 17. *Penelope's Lovers*, play, in one act, by George P. Bancroft (Academy of Dramatic Art—Students)—Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane, W.C.
" 20. *For Love and the King*, drama, in four acts, by C. Watson Mill (orginally produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Mexborough, April 13, 1908)—Elephant and Castle.
" 23. *Three Weeks*, adaptation, by Mrs. Elinor Glyn, of her novel of the same name (produced privately on account of prohibition by the Censor)—Adelphi.
" 25. *The Woman from Russia*, domestic play, in four acts, by Fred G. Ingleby (for copyright purposes)—Theatre Royal, Jarrow.
" 27. *The Power of Lies*, drama, in four acts, by Mary Ford—Shakespeare, Clapham.
" 27. *The Man of Her Choice*, drama, in four Acts, by Ada G. Abbott (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, June 24, 1907, under the title of *The House of Shame*)—Broadway, New Cross.
" 30. *The New Tenants*, comedy, in three acts, by Geoffrey Wilkinson — Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane.

Revivals.

July 14. *H.M.S. Pinafore*, comic opera, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan (originally produced at the Opera Comique Theatre, May 25, 1878)—Savoy.

Provinces.

July 16. *A Scheme That Failed*, domestic drama, in four acts, by Fred Green—Prince's Theatre, Accrington.
" 20. A Nameless Play, in four acts, by T. M. Paule—East Oxford Theatre, Oxford.
" 20. *Happy Hooligan*, musical farce comedy, in three acts—Empire Theatre, Oldham.
" 20. *The Lady of the Pageant*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by Max Pemberton and Cyril Wentworth Hogg—Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.
" 27. *Man or Beast*, romantic drama, in four acts, by Charles H. Phelps—Star Theatre, Swansea.
" 27. *Belle of the Ball*, musical play, in three acts, by A. Norden—Opera House, Southport.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, the Comedy, in Four Acts, entitled "BREWSTER'S MILLIONS."

After being closed for eight weeks for extensive alterations and redecoration, the Royal County Theatre reopened its doors on Monday evening, when the above attractive comedy was presented to an appreciative audience. The admiration of those present was divided between the play, which was admirably presented by a capable company, under the joint captaincy of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison, and the greatly improved interior of the theatre, which was the theme of universal congratulation. The general interest of the play, which comes to Kingston for the first time, was not, however, lost sight of, and those taking part in it were warmly applauded for their efforts. Chief amongst them were Mr. Percy Hutchison, who played Monty Brewster with great success, Miss Violet Ley as Mrs. Dan de Mille, and Miss Cicely Stucky as Peggy.

Mr. H. Tripp Edgar has been re-engaged by Mr. Oscar Asche for his autumn tour.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(From our own correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday, Aug. 6.—The Ambassadeurs has given us *As-tu vu mon nu?* a revue in three tableaux by MM. Max Viterbo and Jules Moy, the latter gentleman the well-known comic "chansonnier" of the Boîte à Fursy. M. Moy's répertoire is peculiar in so far that it is exclusively composed of songs and recitations, all of them shriekingly funny, but at the same time woefully coarse. Nor is M. Moy a respecter of persons, and I am therefore inclined to think that of the two collaborators it is he who is responsible for having introduced into the above revue a scene which, at the dress rehearsal, provoked a terrific uproar. As no doubt you know, Mlle. Fallières, the daughter of the President of the French Republic, is engaged to be married to M. Lanes, the President's private secretary. In their attempts to be funny the authors, in the second scene, introduced M., Mme., and Mlle. Fallières, and M. Lanes, but in doing so they had overstepped the mark. The audience, incensed at this mark of disrespect towards the head of the State, began to shout "Rideau!" ("Lower the curtain!"), and when the artists ignored these calls the tumult became indescribable. Cries of "Vive la République!" "Down with Viterbo and Moy!" "Vive la France!" were heard on every side, and even when at last the curtain was lowered the audience were not satisfied. They insisted on an apology, and as this was not forthcoming they called for the "Marseillaise," which was played amid tremendous applause, the spectators rising and waving their hats. On the night of the première the objectionable scene—almost needless to say—was left out, and the revue, amusing in some parts, met with a favourable reception, although many of the jokes are coarser than any I have ever heard on a music hall stage. As is generally the case in revues, most public men come in for a large share of chaff. Thus in the first tableau we had M. Clemenceau, Senator Humbert, M. Bunau-Varilla (editor of the *Matin*), M. Lépine, Count Moltke, M. Ruez, the Brothers Isola, and the Emperor William, without whom no revue is complete. Nor is M. Bérenger, the prude Senator—to whom I referred last week—forgotten, and we see him in conflict with the ladies whom he caused to be prosecuted for exhibiting themselves on the stage too scantily dressed. We next are introduced to the "Kiss-Kiss," a new dance gracefully performed by Mlles. Poussette and Launey. We also see Baron Henry de Rothschild, M. Claretie of the Comédie-Française, Polin, Miss Compton, and Yvette Guilbert; and the revue ends with a parody on *Chantecler*, i.e., a défilé of all the animals which M. Edmond Rostand's work is said to contain.

Two theatrical lawsuits on the list for this month will only come for hearing in October next. The first is an action for libel brought by MM. Messager and Broussan, directors of the Opéra, against the *New York Herald*, the said libel being contained in articles written by our confrère, M. Pierre Véber. M. Véber is very talented, but he hits rather hard, and the directors of the Opéra say that his attacks were unjustifiable. The case promises to be interesting.

The other important action is that of M. Victorien Sardou against the *Matin*, which, as will be remembered, published an account of *L'Affaire des Poisons* after the dress rehearsal, a proceeding not in keeping with Paris customs.

Altogether, many theatrical disputes will have to be settled in a court of law in the month of October. Thus pretty Mlle. Carlier is suing Mme. Réjane for breach of contract, and her example has been followed by the fascinating Mlle. Lantelme. M. Bruhé, the actor, has gone to war against M. Parel, manager of the Vaudeville, who, in his turn, is fighting M. Bataille, the well-known dramatist. "Art," says good old Horace, "has a softening influence." I often wonder whether he meant these words seriously.

Not long ago we had the pleasure of applauding Mlle. Maggie Gauthier in a revue at Marigny, and we little thought that this charming comedienne, who looked bewitching in the rôle of a little princess, would soon wear a genuine tiara. "Oui, ma chère, une vraie princesse." For Mlle. Gauthier is now the fiancée of Prince de l'Isle-Montréal, and the wedding will take place next month. *The Era* offers her its hearty congratulations.

The Variétés will reopen with *Le Roi*, after which will come MM. Francis de Croisset and Feydan's comedy *Le Circuit*. The principal rôle therein will be played by Mlle. Diéterle, one of the "stars" of the Variétés.

It is rumoured that M. Henri Busser, one of the chefs d'orchestre at the Opéra, intends to resign his post, but the news wants confirmation. It is also whispered that Mme. Litvinne is throwing up her engagement at the Opéra, which would indeed be a matter of regret, and for which we should have to thank Mme. Cosima Wagner, who, as I have informed you already, compelled the Opéra management to entrust the principal rôle in the *Crépuscule des Dieux* to another artist than Mme. Litvinne.

M. Mathieu, the new manager of the Ambigu, announces two important novelties for the coming season. One is *L'Agence Legris*, by M. Jacques Roullet, a sensational work. The other is *La Boscotte*, by M. Georges Maldague.

A few months ago the opérette *Le Chevalier d'Eon* was brought out at the Porte-Saint-Martin. It was magnificently staged, excellently interpreted, but—it proved a disastrous failure because the libretto and the music were dull. Poor Chevalier d'Eon! He has now been liquidated, for everything connected with the work was, on Tuesday last, brought under the hammer. Gone the scenery which we admired so much: the Court of the Hôtel Ramponneau, the famous room in the Versailles palace, the Tuileries Gardens, &c. Gone also the splendid Louis XV. coach, the rich harness, the luxurious chairs, tables, &c. An enormous sum has been lost over this venture by those who were rash enough to enter into it.

Every day our papers bring letters from admirers of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt insisting on the great artist receiving the Cross of the Legion of Honour. Too much fuss is being made about this business. May Mme. Bernhardt soon receive this distinction, for it will make her happy, and one will then no longer have to listen to the hysterical outbursts of Mme. Bernhardt's injudicious friends.

ANNUAL OUTING OF STAFF OF PAVILION THEATRE, E., TO BOGNOR ON SUNDAY, JULY 26th, 1908.

PAVILION THEATRE OUTING.

The annual outing of the staff of this theatre took place on Sunday, the 26th ult., at Bognor. The party, numbering over forty, left London Bridge Station in reserved carriages at 8.40, arriving at the pretty Sussex town at 11 o'clock. At 12.30 the company sat down, under the presidency of the manager, Mr. Edward King, to a sumptuous repast, provided by host Potten at the Belmont Restaurant, to which everyone did full justice. After the usual toasts, the health of the management of the theatre was proposed by Mr. C. E. Crosby in well-chosen and appropriate terms, which was eloquently replied to by Mr. Edward King, who spoke strongly of the necessity in any theatre of system, discipline, and loyalty. After the toast of "The Chairman," humorously given by Mr. Leveson Linton and heartily drank, the whole party motored over to Chichester, returning in time for tea, and leaving Bognor at 6.30, after having spent one of the most enjoyable days ever remembered. The weather was perfect, and every praise is due to Mr. C. E. Crosby, who zealously and successfully carried out the duties of hon. secretary to the outing, which will remain a red-letter day in the history of the establishment.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has returned to town from Harrogate, and is assiduously engaged in preparations for the forthcoming production at His Majesty's of Stephen Phillips and Comyns Carr's new play, founded on *Faust*. The authors themselves are affording Mr. Tree all possible assistance in the staging of their piece, which promises to equal, if not surpass, in scenic elaboration any of Mr. Tree's former productions.

Mr. Forbes Robertson will produce, during his forthcoming season at the St. James's, a new play elaborated by Mr. Jerome K. Jerome from his own short story, "The Passing of the Third Floor Back." The piece will be in three acts, and the rôle to be played by Mr. Forbes Robertson will be that of a stranger who exercises a bewildering, but beneficent, influence over the various personages in a Bloomsbury boarding-house. Miss Gertrude Elliott will be happily in the cast, which will also include such conspicuous favourites as Mr. Marsh Allen, Mr. Ian Robertson, Mr. Ernest Hendrie, Mr. Edward Sass, Mr. Wilfred Forster, Miss Kate Bishop, Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Carlyon, Miss Haidée Wright, and Miss Alice Crawford.

Mr. Arthur Collins has strengthened the cast of the autumn drama at Drury Lane by the engagement of Miss Wallis (Mrs. Walter Reynolds). The last appearance of Miss Wallis at the National Theatre was with Sir Henry Irving as the Abbess in *Dante*. She also accompanied the late great actor on his last American tour and in the provinces.

Mr. H. B. Irving's reappearance at the West End will be made either before Christmas or early in the New Year. His plans give promise of a most interesting season, which will include the assumption for the first time in London of many of his famous father's parts, including Lesurques and Dubosc, Charles I., Louis XI., and Mathias. An important feature of Mr. Irving's London season will be the production of Justin Huntly McCarthy's *Cæsar Borgia*, which he tried, with gratifying results, in Edinburgh last November. It has attractive parts both for Mr. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird, and the opportunity of seeing these two admirable artists again in the West End will be eagerly seized.

A new play for Mr. Irving will be forthcoming in a three-act "Society" piece, at present called *Lord Arthur Saville's Crime*—a title which we suggest would be more euphonious if the "Arthur" were left out. It is the work of Messrs. Cannan and Peacey, and its scene is laid around Mayfair. Mr. and Mrs. Irving are provided in this play also with fine parts.

Mr. Irving started his tour auspiciously at Douglas, Isle of Man, on Monday, and had a magnificent reception. His répertoire includes *The Lyons Mail*, *The Bells*, *Hamlet*, *Louis the Eleventh*, *Cæsar Borgia*, and *The Sergeant of Hussars*—the little play by Miss Cicely Hamilton, which was performed by the Play Actors' Society. Mr. Irving's travels will take in Llandudno, Dublin, Belfast, Scarborough, and Eastbourne, and other important bookings pending will make up a tour brief but brilliant.

Mme Patti will make one of her few but heartily welcome appearances in the autumn, having promised to sing at a concert in aid of Father Vaughan's charities. The entertainment will be given at the Albert Hall in November. The celebrated vocalist has been enjoying a holiday at Carlsbad, but has returned to London this week on her way to Craig-y Nos Castle.

The list of works to be performed during the first week of the Moody-Manners season of opera in English at the Lyric gives promise of a rare musical feast. The season begins on Monday, Aug. 17, with *Lohengrin*, in which the principal rôles will be sung by Mesdames Fanny Moody and Marie Louise Roger and Messrs. Philip Brozel, William Dever, Charles Moorhouse, and Charles Manners. *Faust* is underlined for the Tuesday, with Mesdames Kate Anderson and Rosina Beynon and Messrs. Seth Hughes, Lewys James, and Charles Manners in the cast. The Wednesday matinée will be devoted to *Il Trovatore*, in which Mesdames De Vere Sapio and Mary Norton and Messrs. Charles Carter and William Dever will appear, and the evening will welcome *Madame Butterfly*, rendered as far as the principals are concerned by Mesdames Fanny Moody and Toni Seiter and Messrs. Seth Hughes and Lewys James.

"Aida" is announced for Thursday, Aug. 20, the chief artists being Mesdames De Vere Sapio and Toni Seiter and Messrs. Philip Brozel, Lewys James, Charles Manners, and Charles Magrath; and *Tannhäuser* is set down for Friday, when the principals will be Mesdames De Vere Sapio and Kate Anderson and Messrs. Louis Laurier, William Dever, and Charles Magrath. For Saturday's matinée *Madame Butterfly* is announced, with Mesdames Fanny Moody and Toni Seiter and Messrs. Charles Carter and William Dever; and the week will be completed with *Cavalleria Rusticana*, with Miss Enriqueta Crichton and Messrs. Seth Hughes and Lewys James in the cast, followed by *Pagliacci*, in which Miss Kate Anderson and Messrs. Philip Brozel, William Dever, and Lewys James will appear.

The statement that Mr. Frederick Volpé is in the cast of *Lady Epping's Lawsuit*, the forthcoming production at the Criterion, is incorrect.

The contemplated amalgamation of the O.P. and Playgoers' Clubs having fallen through, a special general meeting of the members of the former will be held in the Club Room on Thursday, Aug. 20, at 8 p.m., to consider, and, if approved, to sanction, its future policy. Among the propositions to be submitted to the meeting will be that of admitting ladies to membership, at an annual subscription of 10s. 6d.

At the meeting of the Playgoers' Club on the 20th ult., the general feeling was that the O.P. Club should realise their own assets and then come to the Playgoers' Club, which would mean a payment by the Playgoers' Club of about £100 instead of £460. Under the new conditions, it is intended to discontinue the present O.P. Club premises. Their headquarters will be after Oct. 1 at the Criterion Restaurant.

"Princess Marie," the new musical play, written by Mr. Frederick Lonsdale and composed by Mr. Sydney Jones, will be produced at the Prince of Wales's on Sept. 3. The action takes place in a supposititious country, the King of which, laying aside the affairs of State, disguises himself in order to go freely among his people. During his disappearance the heir-presumptive becomes regent, but, coming under suspicion of having caused His Majesty's removal, is the object of much unpleasant attention, out of which great fun arises. The cast will include Mr. Huntley Wright, Mr. George Barrett, Mr. F. Pope-Stamper, Mr. Bertram Wallis, Mr. Akerman May, Mr. J. T. MacCullum, Miss Gracie Leigh, Miss Amy Martin, and Miss Isabel Jay.

During Sir Charles Wyndham's absence holiday-making at Ems, his part in *The Mollusc* at the Criterion is being played by Mr. Yorke Stephens. Miss Frances Vine has the rôle associated with Miss Mary Moore.

Mr. Seymour Hicks, now completely recovered from the effects of his recent mishap, is applying himself to work in good earnest, and began this week by starting three companies of *The Gay Gordons* on the road, himself appearing with Miss Zena Dare in the No. 1 company at Douglas. While on his travels he will devote his leisure to rehearsals of a new comedy, the work of Mr. Michael Morton and M. Paul Gavault, which is to be presented in due course either at the Hicks or some theatre other than the Aldwych. The popular comedian's return to London will be made on Dec. 10, when he and Miss Terriss will begin an engagement at the Palace lasting six weeks.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hicks' deft pen has been busy, and he has completed his transformation into a musical play of *The Court Scandal*, produced some nine years ago at the Court. The new title is to be that of *The Laughing-Stock*, and the music is by Mr. Frank Tours, with lyrics by Mr. Adrian Ross. The mounting of the piece will be daintily done on the lines of a Meissonier picture, and the principal lady's part will afford Miss Terriss one of the best acting opportunities of her career.

"Richard III.," in which interest is growing enormously, will be presented by Mr. Hicks in the near future. The version owes nothing to Cibber, but is purely Shakespearean It will be mounted on an elaborate scale, but the provinces will not be denied a sight of the production, for Mr. Hicks intends afterwards to take it on tour entire, visiting all the big towns. The actor-dramatist's labours have also included the making into a new form of musical play of *La Dame aux Camellias*, which will also have lyrics by Mr. Adrian Ross and music by Mr. Frank Tours. Mrs. Hicks will play Marguerite, who will be a model of virtue, and Mr. Hicks will be an Anglicised Armand Duval.

Mr. Hicks has also secured the rights of *The Dictator*, to make into a musical play with Mr. Harding Davis, who is coming over to England for the purpose. With the purchase of *The Hampton Club*, Stevenson's little piece, from le Grand Guignol, which he proposes doing next season, Mr. Hicks may be said to have laid up a goodly dramatic store.

A dramatist whose name was almost as familiar in English theatrical circles as in those of his native country has passed away in the person of Mr. Bronson Howard, one of America's foremost writers. His literary gifts have been employed in numerous clever pieces, some of which have enjoyed great popularity in London. From his pen emanated *Brighton* and *Truth*, which furnished Charles Wyndham with two of his earlier successes, the former produced at the Court in 1874 and the latter at the Criterion in 1879. In America they were played under the titles respectively of *Saratoga* and *Hurricanes*.

"The Old Love and the New" (originally known as *Lilian's First Love*, and subsequently *The Banker's Daughter*, was also popular in England, where it was produced in 1879, and other examples of his art witnessed here were *Young Mrs. Winthrop*, brought out at the Marylebone in 1882, and *The Henrietta*, produced in 1890. Later works were *Shenandoah*, *Aristocracy*, *Peter Stuyvesant* (in collaboration with Brandon Matthews), *Diamonds*, *Moorcroft*, *Old Love Letters*, *Wives*, *Baron Rudolph*, *One of Our Girls*, and *Met by Chance*, all of which were greatly popular in the States.

Mr. Howard was born in Detroit, Michigan, U.S.A., on Oct. 7, 1842, and was educated at New-haven, Connecticut. He began his literary career as a journalist in New York, but from 1872 devoted his attention solely to playwriting. In 1880 he married in London Miss Alice Wyndham, thus becoming the brother-in-law of Sir (then Mr.) Charles Wyndham. He was a member of the London, Savage, and Green Room Clubs, and was president of the American Dramatists' Club, which had its origin in a dinner given to Mr. Howard in 1891. He died at Avon-by-the-Sea (New Jersey) in his sixty-sixth year.

Among the comparatively long list of deaths in the profession to be recorded this week is that of Mr. A. T. Hilton, who died suddenly in London on Saturday morning last, at the age of sixty-seven. The late actor was a native of Aberdeen, and his name is widely associated with the rôle of Rob Roy in Scotland's national drama. He had the distinction of playing with Kean, Dillon, G. V. Brooke, and other well-known old actors. He travelled the provinces extensively, and also visited Australia. One of his last appearances was at Terry's during Miss Godfrey Turner's season. The interment took place in his native city of Aberdeen.

America is claiming many of our leading actors and actresses, who are already on their way, or are engaged to visit the States this month. Among those who have already departed for the hospitable shores of the New World are Mr. George Grossmith, jun., Mr. James Blakeley, Mr. Lionel Mackinder, Miss Edith Kelly, and Miss Gertie Millar. Included among those who have booked their passages for New York in time for the production of new plays are Miss Alexandra Carlisle, Miss Constance Collier, Miss Beatrice Forbes Robertson, and Mr. Julian L'Estrange.

A new play from the pen of Mr. Charles Hannan has been accepted for West End production by Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry. The piece, which is in four acts, is of a somewhat different class from the costume plays in which these artists have recently been appearing, and is a modern play, containing strong rôles for both the principals.

Mr. A. B. Imeson, who returned from America three weeks since, was immediately engaged by Mr. Sylvanus Dauncey to play Rev. Edgar Linnel, in Mr. Chas. Frohman's principal company, *The Hypocrites*. Mr. Tree saw the play at Harrogate last week, and afterwards went round to Mr. Imeson's dressing-room and heartily congratulated the actor upon his performance. Mr. Imeson, it may be remembered, was with Mr. Tree for some time at His Majesty's.

Miss Evelyn Millard, who begins her season at the Garrick with Mr. Roy Horniman's adaptation of Mr. W. J. Locke's novel, "Idols," on Sept. 2, has surrounded herself with a competent body of artists. The complete cast will consist of Miss Millard, Miss Edyth Latimer, Miss Augusta Haviland, Mrs. Harry Cane, Miss Ethel Ingram, and Messrs. Herbert Waring, C. W. Somerset, Alfred Brydone, Charles Rock, Arthur Wontner, C. Leveson-Lane, Evelyn Vernon, Heath Haviland, Guy Fletcher, Frank Danby, Albert Sims, and Allan Aynesworth.

One of the most beautiful theatres in the kingdom is disappearing from London by the destruction of the Imperial, which, after vain attempts at disposal, is now in the hands of the house-breakers. Its marble columns, stately halls, and classic proscenium are all gone, and the work of pulling down the walls is in progress. The theatre was rebuilt for Mrs. Langtry, and opened on April 22, 1901, with *A Royal Necklace*, in which the famous actress appeared as Marie Antoinette. Among the distinguished names which have been associated with the theatre during its short career are those of Mr. Herbert Waring, Mr. Somerset Maugham, Mr. Bernard Shaw, Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. Oscar Asche, Mr. Lewis Waller, Miss Evelyn Millard, and Mr. Martin Harvey. The site of the theatre will shortly be offered for sale.

Mr. George Edwardes' two weeks' season with *The Girls of Gottenberg* at the Adelphi begins on Monday. Mr. Edmund Payne will have his original part of Max Moddelkopf, and Happy Fanny Fields will essay the rôle of Mitzi. The cast will also include Miss Thelma Raye, Miss Maisie Gay, Mr. Fred Allandale, and Mr. Lawrence Grossmith.

Mr. George Edwardes had a highly encouraging report to make at the annual general meeting of the Gaiety Theatre Company, Ltd., over which he presided on Tuesday. He congratulated the shareholders upon the result presented, and upon the fact that the directors were able to pay a dividend of 15 per cent. for the past year, which went to prove the truth of what he said at the last meeting, that the set-back which they then had was only of a temporary nature. When the present production of *Havana* came to an end the whole of the old Gaiety company would return to the theatre; but up to the present he must say that the experiment which they made of having an entirely new company to play in that piece was justified.

They were, he continued, about to send *The Girls of Gottenburg* on tour, with Mr. Edmund Payne in his original part; while Miss Gertie Millar had started for the United States to play in that piece there. As to the future, the directors did not propose to declare interim dividends, because it might be desirable to hold the money in hand, and they therefore intended to adopt the policy of making only an annual distribution. It was in the opinion of the directors very desirable that the reserve fund should be further augmented, and they would pursue that policy, and he hoped to be able to keep to the payment of a regular dividend in the future at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum.

The report was unanimously adopted. Mr. A. G. Mackenzie was elected to a seat on the board. In reply to a vote of thanks, Mr. Edwardes stated that the reason why *The Merry Widow* had gone to Daly's Theatre instead of to the Gaiety was that it was a piece which, owing to the singers required, and for other reasons, it was quite impossible to cast with the original Gaiety company.

We extend our sympathy to Mr. Watkin Wynne in the great bereavement he has sustained by the loss of his wife, following very closely upon that of his eldest son, Jack, who died in April last. The deceased lady was interred in the family vault at Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday last. The pathetic interest of Mr. Watkin Wynne's double loss is deepened by the fact that it was his wife and son who inspired him to write the play *Light in the Darkness*, which he is producing at the Lyric, Hammersmith, on Monday next Every assistance has been rendered by Mr. Wentworth Croke, and Mr. Arnold Bell is helping to rehearse and produce the piece.

The cast of *Light in the Darkness*, which Mr. W. Watkin-Wynne will present for the first time in England at the Lyric, Hammersmith, on Monday, includes Messrs. Alfred Beaumont, H. Elmore Frith, Arthur Rodney, Charles L. Ludlow, Bert Lloyd, Norman Clark, Frank Sturt, and W. Watkin-Wynne, and Misses Maud Buchanan, Beatrice Western, Agnes St. Clair, and Little Marjorie Lawrence. On the same evening a handsome souvenir of the new version of Mr. Hall Caine's play, *The Christian*, which will visit Hammersmith this autumn, together with a gold mounted pendant of Miss Grace Chalmers (Mrs. Wentworth Croke), will be presented to every member of the audience paying for admission.

We regret to record the death on Monday last, after a long and painful illness, of Miss Gertrude Glyn, the accomplished and well-known composer. The deceased lady, who was fifty-two years of age, was the wife of the Rev. W. Mitchell Probert, Chaplain of the Bethnal Green Infirmary, and was younger daughter of the late Sir George Parker, Bart., of the 74th Bengal Native Infantry, and Cantonment Magistrate of Cawnpore. Amongst her various works should be mentioned the waltz "Amore," Egyptian march "The Sirdar's Own," war march "Roberts of Candahar," Norwegian dance "Etoile Polaire," and the waltz "Fair Bride of Madrid." The funeral took place on Thursday at Fulham Cemetery, in the presence of many relatives and friends, the Rev. E. G. Barnes, of St. Thomas's, Victoria Park, officiating. There were many floral tributes.

The successful comedy, *What the Butler Saw*, started its sixth tour under the joint management of Miss Ada Blanche and Mr. Lionel Rignold at the Coliseum Theatre, Aberystwyth, on Bank Holiday. Owing to slight indisposition, Miss Ada Blanche was unable to appear during the week's visit, but joins the company on Monday at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, where she will again take up her part of Kittie Barrington, in which she has appeared considerably over 600 times.

While staying at Harrogate last week, Mr. Beerbohm Tree saw Miss Gladys Harvey's performance of Rachel Neve, in *The Hypocrites*. During his "visit behind" the distinguished actor asked to be introduced to the young actress, and expressed himself highly delighted with her work.

The Theatre Royal and Hippodrome, Barry Dock, celebrated this week the anniversary of its opening. An artistic souvenir has been issued, depicting various parts of the house, and giving portraits of the managing-director, Mr. Arthur Carlton, and his able manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden, since whose appointment business has wonderfully improved.

Following upon the triumphal production of *Brewster's Millions* at the Theatre Royal, Bournemouth, Mr. Percy Hutchison and his company have moved to the County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, for the holiday week, and were greeted with great enthusiasm, the excitement of the ship scene having an appropriate accompaniment in a hurricane of applause from the audience. Talking of the yacht, it is said that this superb set, weighing, as it does, 10½ tons, is the biggest "prop" ever toured.

"The Head of the Firm," a comedy, translated by Mr. Leslie Faber from the Danish of Hjlmar Bergstrom, will be produced at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Thursday next. Included in the cast will Mr. Faber, who will produce, Mr. Charles V. France, Mr. Evelyn Beerbohm, Mr. Frederick Morland, Mr. Richard Neville, Miss Beatrice Ainley, Miss Muriel Pope, and Miss Elizabeth Watson. Mr. Walner Gregory will be manager.

The Brixton Theatre reopened after the summer vacation on Bank Holiday afternoon, when Mr. Frank Bertram's company presented *The Convict's Daughter*, which hitherto had been seen in all the theatres on the Surrey side of the Thames with the exception of the house on Brixton Oval. Mr. Bertram is a host in himself in the characters of Weary Willie, Michael Graham, and Convict 99.

The prettily-decorated Opera House at Kidderminster reopened on Monday for the autumn season under the most favourable auspices. The energetic managing-director, Mr. James P. Moore, has secured an irresistible list of bookings, including *The Prince of Pilsen*, *Florodora*, *Dairymaids*, *When Knights Were Bold*, and *The Merry Widow*, all to be presented before the pantomime season.

A meeting of the Touring Managers' Association was held at the Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, on the 31st ult. Present: Messrs. E. Lockwood (in the chair), Herbert Ralland, Wentworth Croke, Norman V. Norman, E. Graham Falcon, F. Weathersby, A. Clifton Alderson, G. Brydon Phillips, W. Muskerry-Tilson (hon. solicitor), and Mr. Martin (secretary). A letter of complaint was received, and further information asked for. It was resolved that Mr. Walter Howard's name be placed on the register of members.

Communications were received from the Actors' Union, in reference to standarised contract, complaining of the letter written to *The Era* and *Stage*, and the secretary was instructed to reply that the committee think that it was unwise for a member of the Union to announce at a public meeting in Manchester a matter that was *sub judice*.

A discussion took place *re* an advertisement in a contemporary offering to play copyright pieces in certain clubs on Sundays, and the hon. solicitor was instructed to deal with the matter. The revised standardised theatre contract, with alterations made by the hon. solicitor, was referred to the sub-committee, in order to complete. A member wrote in reference to a week out at commencement of tour, asking for advice as to how to proceed. After consideration, the best advice available was given. Mr. T. Arthur Jones was elected a member of the Association.

On the same date a meeting of the committee of the Managers' Club was held. Present: Messrs. E. Lockwood (in the chair), A. Clifton Alderson, E. Graham-Falcon, Charles Carey, F. Weathersby, W. Muskerry-Tilson (hon. solicitor), and M. Martin (secretary). The monthly accounts were submitted and passed, and cheques ordered to be drawn.

The attention of the committee was called to an advertisement in the *Referee*, wherein a member gave the club address for business purposes. As it was considered against the interests of the club, the member in question was asked to attend the meeting, and gave an undertaking that such advertisements should not appear again. Letters of resignation were received and accepted from Mr. George Clarkson, Mr. Lilford Arthur, and Mr. Arthur Jefferson. The following gentlemen were elected members of the club: Mr. Arthur Elliott, Mr. T. Arthur Jones, Mr. Joseph St. Clair, and Mr. Charles E. Hardy.

Mr. Rollo Balmain, the new lessee and manager of the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, can boast of a pedigree going back to the Scandinavian Vikings. The ancestral prestige was maintained in 1715, when members of the family turned out for the Elder Pretender, and later in '45, when they followed the flag of Prince Charlie. One of the race, Count Balmain, was the Russian Government representative guarding the fallen Emperor Napoleon at St. Helena, whilst another member founded the city of Balmain, in New South Wales.

The Cardiff Watch Committee last week received a deputation from the Cardiff Theatre Royal Company, with a request for a licence for the performance of stage plays. The chairman explained that when Mr. Balmain appeared before the committee last week they were under the impression that the licence could not be granted until the late lessee's consent to the transfer had been obtained, but they had since learned that Mr. Redford's interest in the theatre had ceased, and they now only had to consider the theatre company and Mr. Balmain. Reports having been submitted showing that the lessee had taken steps to effect certain immediate improvements which they considered necessary in the theatre, and an undertaking having been given to make certain structural alterations with the least possible delay, the committee granted the customary licence for twelve months.

"The Belle of the Ball" met with a flattering reception at the Tyne, Newcastle, on Monday, no fewer than eight curtains being taken for the second and third acts. Mr. Charles Adeson has been added to the strong cast. Mr. Alexander to the production of the play at a West-end theatre.

Mr. Challis Herrick opened on Saturday last at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, as business-manager for Mr. Wentworth Croke's *The Prodigal Son* company.

Mr. John McCormack, the gifted young vocalist, who appeared recently at Covent Garden, will go to Naples in the spring, and is appearing at the San Carlo Opera House. Mr. McCormack has been re-engaged for Covent Garden next season; and on closing he will sing at the Metropolitan Opera House, New York. The youthful singer, who is only twenty-three years of age, had no idea of taking up music as a profession till 1902, when he was induced by a friend to enter for the National Irish Festival, and won the gold medal.

A "dramatic evening" formed part of the social programme which marked the visit to Sheffield last week of the British Medical Association. The Lyceum Theatre, spick and span from the hands of decorators and upholsterers, was generously placed at the disposal of the reception committee, and Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont, with the loyal help of Mr. C. N. Crossland and other local amateurs, opened the theatre on Oct. 29 for a special performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*. A special charm was given to the function by the appearance of those two distinguished artists Miss Constance Collier and Mr. Henry Ainley, who were both received enthusiastically. The play was staged in a careful and artistic manner, and Mr. Beaumont was heartily congratulated on the success of the performance.

A silly and heartless joke was on Monday afternoon perpetrated on the friends of Mr. Ernest Howard, the well-known scenic artist, who is now at Bristol superintending the working of scenic properties used in Hall Caine's play *The Christian*. Mr. Howard, in the best of health, left Northampton, where his studio is situated, on Sunday, in order to be in attendance at Bristol, and at five o'clock on Monday afternoon there was received in Northampton a telegram announcing that Mr. Howard was dead. The message shocked and grieved the gentleman's friends beyond expression, and no time was lost in wiring for confirmation or denial. The reply came through quickly, and great was the relief felt when it was found that the first message was a grim joke on the part of the sender—a friend of Mr. Howard's and of the gentleman to whom it was despatched.

The visit of Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Lady Frederick* company which concluded on Saturday at Llandudno was marked by an extraordinary scene of enthusiasm. At the fall of the curtain on the last act Miss Mabel Love was called no less than eight times, and the stage was a perfect garden of flowers. Mr. Robert Minster, who gives an artistic performance as Paradine Fouldes, also obtained unstinted applause on taking his call. The company opened at the Grand Theatre, Margate, on Monday, to a crowded house, and Miss Love and Mr. Minster had to acknowledge the plaudits of the packed house on more than twenty occasions in the course of the evening.

The handsome new building at Stockton-on-Tees, called the Castle Theatre, which is designed to take the place of the old Theatre Royal, burnt down two years ago, was formally opened on the afternoon of the 30th ult. by the Borough Member, Sir Robert Ropner, in the presence of a large and representative gathering. The lessee of the theatre, which seats 2,500, is Mr. J. Chas. Imeson, and the acting-manager, Mr. Cecil C. Imeson. The opening performance was *The Lady of Lyons*, played by local amateurs in aid of charities. Mr. W. Kirk, J.P., appeared as Claude Melnotte, a part, it may be noted, which he undertook on the occasion of a similar performance shortly after the opening of the old Theatre Royal in 1868.

The success attending the production of *A Country Girl in London* has been so pronounced that Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod have already acquired the rights of another play from the pen of Mr. Frank Price. The title has not yet been decided upon, but preparations will be started at once, and the production may be expected early in 1909. This will be the third company touring under the direction of Messrs. Northway and Garrod.

Mr. Montague Beaudyn will have three companies touring this autumn and next spring, namely, *Send Him Victorious*, *The Power of a Wicked Woman*, originally produced under the title of *The Woman Who Was Dead*, and *A Traitor Prince*, which is being revived on a large scale with new scenery and effects.

Mr. Derwent Hall Caine is about to appear in a new play written by Hall Caine specially for his son. It is entitled *The Fatal Error*, and its story deals principially with Iceland. The first production will take place at the Prince's Theatre, Llandudno, on Sept. 14 next.

Miss Maisie Hanbury, long known as leading lady with Mr. A. Hamilton Warden's companies, is fulfilling a special engagement with Mr. Fredk. Melville's new production at the Elephant and Castle Theatre this week and next. She afterwards rejoins Mr. Warden for important parts in *A Woman's Past* and his new play, which will shortly see the light.

Miss Ella Anderson, an Australian actress and vocalist, has made a hit on her first appearance in drama in the English provinces. She plays a sort of "Connie Ediss part" in Miss Mary Ford's *Power of Lies* company, and her clever performance at the Empress Theatre, Oldham, this week has won warm praise.

Mr. Frank Adair has secured from Mr. Fred Maxwell the entire theatre rights of his play, *The Heathen and the Christian*, which was successfully produced at St. James's Theatre, Manchester, on July 8, 1907, and made a pronounced hit on a subsequent trial trip. The play, which is written round the Boxer rebellion, will be sent out in the spring of 1909. New scenery is now being designed for the production, and everything, including real Chinese dresses, flags, trophies, and armour, will be carried. An entirely new plant of printing is also being designed by the author. Mr. Adair will play the principal part of Li, the Chinese avenger.

"Twelfth Night" has been selected for the second annual general performance of the British Shakespeare Society at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, to be held (under the direction of Mr. Acton Bond) on Sept. 30, Oct. 1, 2, and 3. There will be two matinées and two evening performances, and the two casts will be drawn from the acting members all over the kingdom. Several of these engaged made successes last year in *The Merchant of Venice*.

Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton has been engaged to succeed Mr. Leslie Faber as the Rev. Edgar Linnell, the leading part in Mr. Charles Frohman's South company of *The Hypocrites*. Mr. Leyton was the Jack Frobisher in Mr. Bourchier's *Walls of Jericho* company last autumn, and he will also be favourably remembered for his excellent work in the recent performances by the Play Actors at the Royalty and Scala Theatres.

A memorial praying for the renewal of the patent of the Queen's Theatre, Dublin, which expired on March 25, 1907, was received by the Solicitor-General for Ireland at a sitting held in Dublin Castle on Wednesday. The application was made on behalf of Mr. Frederick Wentworth Marriott Watson, and there was no opposition. Details of the proposed alterations to the building were submitted, and an undertaking was given that the safety of the public would be ensured. The Solicitor-General said they were all agreed as to the desirability of granting the patent. The application will be laid before the Lord-Lieutenant in due course.

Mr. R. A. Roberts's new play, *Straight from the Shoulder*, has made a pronounced hit on its first production at Brighton this week. Wednesday night's returns greatly exceeded those of Monday, and everything points to a huge week. The London production takes place at the Broadway, New Cross, on Monday.

Mr. J. H. Savile, after busy seasons at his theatres at Perth and Paisley, has been enjoying a brief vacation in town, visiting also Brighton and other places on the South Coast. His theatres reopen for the season immediately—Perth on Monday next and Paisley on the 17th.

The death has occurred at Buenos Ayres of José Ferenczy, formerly the leading tenor of the famous Court Theatre at Weimar. In the early eighties he took over the management of the Carl Schultze Theatre at Hamburg, where he remained for ten years. After a short time at the Muncipal Theatre at Karlsbad, Ferenczy accepted the post of Director of the Central Theatre at Berlin. With such plays as *The Geisha* and *La Poupée* he did well at the commencement, but eventually ill health led to financial difficulties last year. He then took a company out to South America.

The Kennington Theatre is now fitted up with the Ozonateur apparatus for purifying the air, and Mr. Robert Arthur claims that the atmosphere of the house is as healthful as that of Margate.

Miss Marie Hall gave a most successful violin recital at the Opera House, Jersey, on the 31st ult., standing room only being available long before the commencement of the performance. Miss Hall was assisted by Miss Lonie Basche at the piano, and Mr. C. Stuart Edwards, the brilliant baritone, sang several songs, including Handel's "Wheree'er you walk." His Excellency Major-General H. S. Gough, C.B., C.M.G., was present with a Government House party.

A movement is on foot to celebrate Salvini's "eightieth birthday," which is still some years distant. The committee in Rome, it is said, requested the Italian Ambassador in London to ask of the leading English actors and actresses leave to include them in the honorary committee. The celebration, at which Salvini will be present, is fixed for New Year's Day. Salvini's chief successes in England were made in *Othello*, *King Lear*, and *Morte Civile*, the exciting tragedy recently given by the Sicilian Players at the Shaftesbury.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Sir John Hare's Surprise.

"DURING the time which elapsed between the closing of the St. James's and the building of the Garrick Theatre," writes Sir John Hare in the *Strand Magazine*, "I spent a season in association with my old friend Arthur Chudleigh, on the opening of the new Court Theatre. I had secured the rights of a French farce by MM. A. Bisson and Mars, which had been produced with enormous success in Paris. It was entitled *Les Surprises du Divorce*. I obtained the English rights on the strong advice of my agent, who had been present at the *répétition générale*. He had wired me that the part was one eminently suited to myself, and on no account whatever ought I to lose the option secured. In fact, so urgent did he deem it that he begged me to send him the money over in cash the next day, which I did. It was fortunate that I followed his advice, as the French author wished to withdraw his promise of the previous night, and was only kept to it by the presentation of the money in hard cash in fulfilment of the agreement.

"I AWAITED the arrival of my somewhat costly purchase with eager curiosity and anxiety, which was not allayed by my discovery on reading the MS. that I had become the possessor of a roaring farce, and not a comedy, as I had anticipated. The chief character, said to be 'eminently suited' to me, was obviously intended for an eccentric light comedian. I determined, however, to experiment on this part, although somewhat out of my line, at the solicitation of Chudleigh, who, with Mrs. John Wood, was about to inaugurate a joint management of the new Court Theatre. Thus I found myself once more in my old neighbourhood, and had the gratification of finding that the play (*Mamma*, as we christened it) was a remarkable success all round. It ran for one hundred nights to packed houses.

The Fortunes of Production.

"APROPOS of *The Profligate*, I may mention a curious fact which shows how unreliable and uncertain are the tastes of the public. Pinero's play was performed to crowded houses till the end of the London season, and in the autumn I started my provincial tour at Manchester with the same piece and cast. Having at all times met with the warmest support from the Manchester public, I naturally expected in this most theatre-loving of all cities an endorsement of the London verdict, and looked forward with confidence to a great success. To my dismay, however, we opened at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, to a house of forty pounds, which, strange to say, did not show any signs of increasing.

"ON the Tuesday the manager of the theatre entreated me to revive *Mamma*, the play previously produced at the Court. *The Profligate* company very kindly consented to rehearse in two days parts they had never seen played, and on the Thursday *Mamma* was presented to a two hundred pound house. This continued, and the extraordinary circumstance was emphasised by the fact that the Manchester public had not hitherto seen either play. Then came the reverse. We went to Liverpool the next week and played to the utmost capacity of the theatre with *The Profligate!* We did not require *Mamma* at all!

Hare and Millais.

"ONE of my happiest memories is of when I sat to Millais for my portrait, at the request of the great artist himself. This was indeed a labour of love on his part, for he not only paid me the compliment of inviting me to sit for it, but presented the picture when finished to my wife. The recollection of the hours that I spent in Millais's company (and I had over twenty sittings for this portrait) remains a treasured memory. He was as delightful in his conversation when engaged in the exercise of his art as he was in private life. I was never allowed to see the portrait until it was quite finished. Directly a sitting was completed, and I attempted to get a glimpse of his work, he would turn its face to the wall and say, 'Run away, boy' (an affectionate attitude he frequently adopted to me, though there was no great disparity in our ages), as he pushed me playfully out of the room.

H. B. Irving's Success.

"IT was in *A Fool's Paradise* that young Harry Irving made his first success and gave promise of that ability he has since developed to a degree which has already given him a high position in his profession. His first appearance had taken place in my revival of *School*, and no doubt his performance was marred by the nervousness of a beginner and was not altogether successful. His father was very anxious about him, but I had no doubt as to his latent ability, and told Sir Henry so. The following is an extract from a letter I received from Irving subsequently, and will speak for itself:—'. . . I am afraid that Harry has been a great anxiety and worry to you, but your affectionate kindness will be remembered by him as long as he lives. For myself, my dear Hare, I have no words to thank you with. No one could or would have done what you have done, and with my heart and soul I hope and trust you may not be disappointed. God bless you, old friend.—Ever, Henry Irving. Sept. 4, 1891.'

An Odd Error.

"BEFORE I went to America, Sir Henry Irving kindly suggested I should give a performance of *Caste* at the Lyceum Theatre, and I then made my first London appearance in the part of Eccles. By this revival I am reminded of an amusing slip made by that fine actor, Forbes-Robertson, when playing D'Alroy. I don't think he cared very much about the part, and was sometimes apt to be a little abstracted. At the performance in question—no doubt engrossed in his own managerial plans, which were then ripening, and have since matured and reflected the greatest credit on himself and the stage he so worthily adorns—he came to the couplet:—

"'Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than Norman blood!'

But in thinking of his brother, perhaps, in connection with the cast of a play he was shortly to produce, he rendered it thus:—

"'Kind hearts are more than coronets,
And simple faith than *Norman Forbes!*'"

Toole and the Yankees.

MR. EDWARD SIDNEY sends us a curious extract from an old paper containing a speech of the late J. L. Toole at the Lyceum Theatre, New York. In the course of his address from the stage he said:—"I hear the objection made occasionally that my characters are rather too English. Well, ladies and gentlemen, there ought to be no misunderstanding about that. I came here as an English actor, and never pretended to be anything else.

"WHEN my very good friend, Mr. Joseph Jefferson—(applause)—visited London, I played with him every night—not in the same piece, but on the same evening—and nobody objected that his inimitable *Rip Van Winkle* was too American. We all knew that it was an American character, and he could not properly make it anything else. And what would be the use of my playing *Paul Pry* and *Off the Line* as if they were Irish or Dutch? (Laughter.) I am glad to see that my friends Mr. Montague and Mr. Rignold are not reproached in the same way. After all, you know, *Henry the Fifth* was tolerably English—(laughter)—and it would be no good to talk about making him otherwise."

"THE GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE."

Play, in Five Acts, by James Willard, produced for the first time at the Shakespeare, Clapham Junction, on Monday, Aug. 3.

Sir John Wentworth ... } MR. NAYLOR GRIMSON
Thomas Wentworth .... }
Stephen Arkwright .....MR. AUSTIN MORTIMER
Mark Fenning .....MR. FENTON WINGATE
Jasper Death .....MR. FRED G. EVISON
Martin Flood .....MR. DOBELL LYLE
Rev. Gordon Cross .....MR. CECIL MANNERING
Hon. Percy Paget .....MR. ALLEN CHARLES
Jim Bates .....MR. DICKY BIRD
Matthew Crupps .....MR. FORBES LEIGHTON
Inspector Lane .....MR. DAVID MORGAN
James Govett .....MR. HENRY LEE
Bill Muggs .....MR. ROBERT DORE
Ena Wentworth .....MISS P. DAILLEY
Nellie .....MISS WINIFRED DELEVANTI
Mollie Maitland .....MISS MILDRED CARR
Pollie .....MISS ORMONDE
Angel Leigh .....MISS FLORRIE GREEN

Feminine representatives of vice on the stage have hitherto reached a more or less mature age, but in Mr. James Willard's absorbing play, which had its first production at the Shakespeare on Monday, the chief atrocities are the work of a young girl with flaxen curls and a face of cherub-like sweetness, who lies, calumniates, and assassinates with the best—or the worst—of her class. She is the ward of the wealthy Sir John Wentworth, who has taken her under his protection at the request of his brother Thomas. The latter has gained an unenviable reputation through some shady business in connection with the rubber industry in the Congo, and wishing to disappear from society, requests his brother to carry out a funeral, by which it will appear that Thomas has been buried. So striking is the likeness between the brothers that Thomas's daughter, Ena, actually imagines that it is the baronet who is dead, and that her father is falsely passing himself off as Sir John. She refuses to take any help from him despite the fact that some years before she had been betrayed by a scoundrel named Stephen Arkwright, and is living in the direst poverty. The mystery surrounding the mock burial has been partly penetrated by the old sexton, Jasper Death, who knows no more than that it was not the body of Thomas Wentworth that was buried in the village churchyard at West Marlow. He communicates his suspicions to Angel, whom, he gives out, is his granddaughter. Learning that Ena is to benefit by the baronet's will, Angel determines to have her removed, and engages a ruffian, named Martin Flood, to murder her on her way to London. The evil deed is, however, prevented by the Rev. Gordon Cross, who is in love with Ena, and offers her marriage. In the third act Ena is seen living with her child in a garret in Drury-lane, and is there visited by Angel and her grandfather, who wants to supplement his information about the dead body. While the mother has gone out Angel puts poison into the medicine of the little girl, who is lying dangerously ill; but the youngster revolts at the liquor, and is let off at the request of her mother's sister, an actress, who arrives in the dress of a pantomime prince.

Anxious to find out what is contained in the tomb at West Marlow, Angel repairs thither after dark with the intention, if possible, of forcing open the grave. She is discovered by the Rev. Cross, who accuses her of sinister motives, but she retorts by threatening to declare that she had been lured there by the rev. gentleman himself. The secret of the grave is eventually disclosed in Act V., when Angel plays her last card. She has succeeded in inducing her guardian to make a will in her favour, and coming upon him in the hall, contrives to blindfold him while he sits in a chair, and taking a pistol blows out his brains. The police are summoned, and Angel declares that she saw her victim commit suicide. The position of the body, however, makes that theory impossible, and Angel is arrested on suspicion. Incensed at her discomfiture, she seizes the pistol and fires at Ena, but the bullet reaches the heart of the old sexton, who ere he succumbs declares that the girl was no other than a nameless workhouse child. The document which the dead man had left in Ena's charge to be opened after his death is read, and reveals the fact that the body about which so much discussion has been aroused was that of a woman, the wife of Thomas Wentworth, who had died in Africa and was sent to England for burial. The assertion is substantiated by Thomas himself, who comes forward and declares his identity, claims his daughter Ena, and joins her hand with that of the Rev. Gordon Cross.

The play received admirable interpretation at the hands of Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company. Miss Florrie Green has all the qualifications for the title-rôle, which she renders with every effect. Her assumption of innocence and girlish modesty is admirable, and the vindictive characteristics of the part are equally well portrayed, Angel's evil deeds being accomplished with a jaunty air and a contempt for convention which gives them added piquancy. An impersonation of outstanding merit is also that of Mr. Fred G. Evison, who makes much of the part of Jasper Death. His make-up is a study, and as a portrayal of senility, combined with cunning and unscrupulousness, it is an impersonation that would be hard to surpass. Mr. Evison took a comic view of the old reprobate, and much laughter was aroused in consequence. The performance was also brightened by the appearance of Miss Mildred Carr, who played Mollie Maitland, an actress. At one period of the play Mollie appears in the dress of a principal boy, but really acts the good fairy throughout, and Miss Carr's buoyancy and chic are effective in keeping the house in good humour. The much-tried Ena Wentworth is artistically represented by Miss P. Dailley, who brings to bear on the part agreeable intelligence and sincerity; and Ena's child, Nellie, is presented in a pleasingly natural way by Miss Winifred Delevanti. Mr Naylor Grimson plays with grim earnestness as Sir John Wentworth, with whom he doubles the rôle of the brother Thomas; and Mr. Austin Mortimer submits a capable impersonation of the scheming Stephen Arkwright, speaking in clear and forcible tones, impaired only by a cutting of the consonants that should be easily remedied. A manly and energetic parson is found in Mr. Cecil Mannering, whose acting and elocution are excellent; and a sound and vigorous performance of Martin Flood, a blackmailer, is given by Mr. Dobell Lyle. The comic side of the cast is enhanced by the presence of Mr. Dicky Bird, who is a mirthful exponent of a chauffeur, and by Mr. Allen Charles, who provides a funny interpretation of a foppish youth. The entire scenic production was built and painted at Mr. Wentworth Croke's studios at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith. The hall at Wentworth House is a massive scene of great beauty, with its oaken walls, polished floor, and rich furnishings, and the village church is also realistically set; but the handsome carpet which covers the floor of the garret in Drury-lane scarcely harmonises with the dilapidated walls and other indications of poverty. The piece, which is well-knit and interesting throughout, was received with every token of satisfaction, and at the end the author was given the compliment, unusual in a melodramatic production, of a call, which Mr. Willard duly acknowledged.

MISS DORIS BROOKES made a decided hit on Monday last at Motherwell, where she appeared as Adela, in Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's *Way of the World* company. She has been engaged to tour right through the autumn with the piece.

"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Frederick Melville, produced at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Monday, Aug. 3.

Jack Gladwin .....MR. OSWALD CRAY
Captain Deering .....MR. H. LANE BAYLIFF
Sergeant Manners .....MR. JOE LIVESEY
Doctor Brandon .....MR. HENRY EUSTACE
Landlord of Portsmouth Tavern .....MR. CLAUDE VERNON
Brown .....MR. CHARLES DARTON
Henry .....MR. LEWIS MCMAHON
Usher of the Court .....MR. HENRY FIELDING
Timothy Clinker .....MR. SYD CLAYDON
Jasper Skinner .....MR. CHARLES VIVIAN
Hugh Brown .....MR. F. SOMERSET
Archie Bird .....MR. PAIGE LAWRENCE
Sir James Flint .....MR. GATENBY BELL
Frank Aylesbury .....MR. HARRY MILDING
Bertie Swanker .....MR. C. LEOPOLD
Lord Hawke .....MR. VERNON
Nurse Harmsworth .....MISS BEAMISH
Nurse Manners .....MISS ROSALIE NATRELLE
Mother Snaggs .....MISS AMY VICKERS
Jane Seaweed .....MISS CLARE HENRY
Dolly Fritter .....MISS MAY DAVIS
Rose O'Connor .....MISS MAISIE HANBURY
Ruth .....MISS GERTRUDE BOSWELL

The name of Melville in association with melodrama is synonymous with success, and the latest production from the pen of Mr. Frederick Melville, played before a crowded and delighted house at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Monday, contains all the ingredients necessary in a compound of this nature—exciting episodes and pathetic passages in abundance, and plenty of comic relief that is especially welcome. The "wrong man" of the title, who is married to the long-suffering heroine against her will, is a cowardly cur named Deering, a captain in the King's Own, who, when ordered to the front, is afraid at the last moment and deserts. It is Jasper Skinner, a rascally innkeeper, who brings about his marriage with Ruth, thought in the neighbourhood to be his daughter. She is really no relation to Skinner, and the old man has only kept her under his roof because he imagines her to be the offspring of a South African millionaire, and a rich heiress. The girl at first will not consent to wed Deering, but the old reprobate and Deering—who is his son—eventually manage to get her to a registry office, and she is taken to a tavern near Portsmouth to spend her honeymoon. Skinner and Deering have brought a box supposed to contain documents that will reveal the girl's identity, but when opened it is found to hold nothing that will lead to the acquisition of the wealth the precious couple hoped to handle, and the rage of Deering when he finds out that he has wedded a penniless girl can be imagined. Jasper takes his departure, and Deering, deciding to make the best of his bargain, endeavours to caress his bride, who declares that rather than he shall touch her she will kill herself. Here it is that the hero, Jack Gladwin, formerly a briefless barrister but now a private in the King's Own, comes to her aid, and eventually bargains with Deering to sell his wife for £15 in cash, the villain leaving after pocketing the "yellow boys" and promising not to write to or molest his wife in any way in future. In the second act, a villa at Goring-on-Thames, Ruth is living with Rose O'Connor, a friend of Gladwin's, who has promised to protect her, and the couple are anxiously awaiting the home-coming of Jack, who, for gallantry at the front, has been promoted to the rank of Captain, and has also come into millions. Rose has all along made it evident she is in love with Jack, and Ruth, discerning this, declines his offer of marriage when first made. It must here be explained that Deering has been reported to have died abroad. Eventually she consents to wed Gladwin; but further misfortune is in store for her, and on her second wedding day whilst left alone for a few minutes, Deering breaks into her apartment. The shock of seeing the man she had been led to believe was dead, and the vile accusations he makes against her before Gladwin, apparently unhinge her mind, and deprive her of the power of speech. In the third act she is being looked after in a hospital, and there is a chance of her ultimate recovery, a harrowing scene being enacted where Jack, who has again volunteered for active service, comes to bid her good-bye. Deering and Skinner succeed in abducting her from the ward, and she is taken to a wretched garret, brutally ill-treated by Deering, and tied to the bedpost. From this unpleasant position she is released by Sergeant Manners, who has come to find Deering, who, he learns, is the betrayer of his daughter Olive. She endeavours to explain by dumb actions that Deering and Skinner intend to murder Gladwin, whom they learn has left all his wealth to Ruth should he be killed. She finally thinks of writing on the wall, and Manners goes out to be revenged. He is mistaken by the villains for Gladwin, and killed, and Ruth, coming on the scene, is charged with the murder. In the last scene, the Interior of the Old Bailey, she is seen in the dock, her husband, owing to the sudden illness of counsel for the defence, taking his place and pleading for her life. The afflicted Ruth enacts the tragedy in dumb-show, and most of the principal characters give evidence; and finally Jasper declares that it was Deering who killed Manners; Ruth, who regains the power of speech, is released, and Deering arrested.

The success of the drama was largely contributed to by the excellent all-round representation, especially praiseworthy being the acting of Miss Gertrude Boswell in the trying part of Ruth. In the early scenes of the play the actress admirably indicated the despair of the ill-treated girl; and in the episodes where she had to rely entirely on dumb-show she was most convincing, her acting throughout of an arduous rôle being meritorious, and one for which she gained frequent recognition by the audience. Miss Maisie Hanbury was a refined and natural Rose O'Connor, and admirably suggested the girl's affection for Jack; and Miss Rosalie Natrelle as Nurse Manners skilfully indicated the devotion of the wronged woman for her betrayer, Captain Deering. Mr. Oswald Cray made a gallant and manly Jack Gladwin, particularly praiseworthy being his acting in the last scene; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff as Captain Deering pursued his career of crime with a calmness and ease which were very effective; a forcible and realistic portrait of Sergeant Manners was submitted by Mr. Joe Livesey; and Mr. Charles Vivian as the crafty and crawling Jasper Skinner enacted an unpleasant character with much cleverness. Mr. Paige Lawrence as Archie Brown, Jack's friend, and the patient wooer of Rose O'Connor, contributed considerably to the enjoyment of the evening by his bright and natural portrayal. The comic scenes were quite safe in the hands of Miss May Davis, a pert and pleasing Dolly Fritter, the point and distinctness with which she delivered her lines being of immense value in the scenes in which she appeared; and Mr. Syd Claydon, an alert and resourceful Timothy Clinker—pot-boy, soldier, and doctor's assistant. The tooth-extracting scene was especially provocative of laughter, and throughout the happily-associated couple worked hard and always with success. The numerous other characters were all admirably enacted. The play, which had evidently been well rehearsed, was excellently dressed and staged, particularly praiseworthy being the sets representing On the Road to Portsmouth, A Villa at Goring-on-Thames, and the Interior of a tavern near Portsmouth.

MR. SYDNEY PAYNE, who has been touring in South Africa as Mme. Esty's musical director, has accepted (by permission) an engagement to conduct a special week of grand opera in Johannesburg. He will therefore not arrive in London till Sept. 5.

"A COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON."

Domestic Drama, in Four Acts, by Mr. Frank Price, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Macclesfield, on Saturday, Aug. 1.

Squire John Hamilton ..MR. JOHN B. SHERIDAN
Frank Gordon .....MR. W. V. GARROD
Godfrey Clinton.....MR. G. MORETON WILLIAMS
Job Smithers .....MR. CLIFFORD MARLE
Heinrich Oppenheim .....MR. E. W. AVERY
Wilberforce Puddyphat ....MR. SEYMOUR PERRY
Joe Button .....MR. EDWARD ASHTON
P.C. Brown .....MR. C. MITCHELL
P.C. Green .....MR. T. E. EVANS
Gwendoline Gordon ....MISS JOSEPHINE COLONA
Adelaide Puddyphat .....MISS LESLEY ADAIR
Marjorie Hamilton .....MISS BERTHA KINGSTON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod are well and favourably known in Macclesfield by reason of their production of *The Prodigal Parson*, and expectation ran high as to their new play, *A Country Girl in London*, which had its initial performance at the Theatre Royal on Saturday last. The piece scored an immediate and emphatic success.

The story tells of a young country girl, Marjorie, daughter of Squire Hamilton, of Langdale, who in a fit of pique makes an unfortunate marriage. She is really in love with Frank Gordon, her father's farm bailiff. The latter's sister, Gwen, has been betrayed in her early days by an unscrupulous adventurer, Godfrey Clinton, but she has kept his identity concealed. She comes to borrow money from Frank with a view to starting afresh in another country. Overhearing a part of their interview, Marjorie believes her to be a former lover of Frank's, and, piqued at his supposed duplicity, accepts Clinton's proposal. The latter has only Hamilton's money in view in making the match. During the day Frank has transacted business for his master at a neighbouring cattle market, and a large sum of money is locked in the safe for the night. Aided by a degraded accomplice, Job Smithers, Clinton is resolved to secure this money, and hopes to throw the blame upon a young couple named Puddyphat, to whom the Squire has given a night's lodging. Clinton and Smithers have knocked the Squire insensible, and are making off with the money when Gwen confronts them and seizes the bag. An alarm has been raised, and they disappear. Frank enters, and, seeing the bag in her hand, believes Gwen to be the thief. Not realising the situation she goes, fearing her presence may compromise her brother. To save his sister, Frank takes the onus of the crime on his shoulders, and Marjorie is left to believe him not only false to her, but a thief into the bargain. Six months have elapsed when the next act opens, the scene being laid in the flat of Heinrich Oppenheim, a Continental swindler of the "swagger" order. The Puddyphats are now installed here as hall-keeper and maid. Made reckless by the failure of her effort to lead a better life, Gwen has returned to her old ways, and is now Oppenheim's mistress, but his heartless treatment of a young fool who has lost "borrowed" money to him at cards and intends to blow his brains out is too much for her, and, after treating him to a piece of her mind, she takes her departure. Clinton, finding Oppenheim disconsolate at the loss of his "decoy duck," suggests that his wife, Marjorie, should take her place. She is lured to the flat, but in the meantime Frank Gordon, just released from prison, turns up with an introduction to Oppenheim from a fellow prisoner. Only then does he realise that this introduction is with a view to joining Oppenheim's gang. Learning, however, of the plot against Marjorie, and of her marriage with Clinton, he remains for a time shamming drunkenness, but is led to an inner room to sleep it off, and, re-entering at the critical moment, effects Marjorie's escape. The next act takes place in a mean street near Blackfriars Bridge. Exposure has come to Oppenheim, and warrant is out for Clinton's arrest on a charge of burglary. The prison brand follows Frank, and now he is reduced to the post of a nightwatchman. Marjorie, despite his treatment, is still faithful to her husband, and will not leave him. She learns now who really committed the robbery, and that it was Frank's sister she saw in his arms. Hamilton, coming to town in search of his daughter, is trapped by Clinton, Oppenheim, and Smithers, and threatened with murder if money is not forthcoming. Smithers, it should be mentioned, has long entertained a secret passion for Gwen, and, despite his reckless manner, he is not so bad at heart. Playing upon his love for her, Gwen secures the key of the house where Hamilton is held prisoner and effects his escape. This last outrage is too much for Marjorie, and she returns home with her father, leaving Clinton for ever.

In the last act we are back at Langdale Manor. Gwen and Frank have decided on sailing for Canada the next morning, Mr. Hamilton having provided for them in return for their kindness to Marjorie. The love between Marjorie and Frank has grown stronger through adversity, and it is to avoid painful meetings that he is going abroad. After the family have retired Clinton, Smithers, and Oppenheim break into the house. They are in very low water now, and are making a last attempt on Hamilton's money. Frank, sitting in the darkened room unseen, closes the window and traps them. Clinton, cornered, draws a revolver, and Gwen, entering at the moment, receives the shot. Maddened at seeing the woman he loves fired at in cold blood, Smithers snatches the revolver and shoots Clinton dead. Gwen, however, is only wounded, and, Clinton dead, Marjorie is at last free to marry Frank. The final situation is very cleverly worked up and exciting to a degree. There are many subsidiary incidents in the plot, in which the Puddyphats play a prominent part; and a gem of humorous characterisation is the German Oppenheim.

The mounting of the play calls for unstinted praise, it is beautifully staged, and Mr. E. Egerton, the scenic artist, is to be heartily congratulated. The incidental music has been made a special feature, and Mr. Gordon E. Stutely's efforts in this direction add greatly to the general success and effect.

Mr. Garrod is responsible for the production, with Mr. Clifford Marle as stage-manager and Mr. John B. Sheridan as assistant stage-manager. The first performance went without a hitch, and it is evident that neither trouble nor expense had been spared in the making of the general success.

Miss Bertha Kingston has a quiet and effective style and personal charm exactly suited to the title-rôle. She portrayed all the pathos of the part with rare emotional power. Miss Josephine Colona made a handsome Gwen, and was equally good in both pathetic and passionate scenes. Miss Lesley Adair was an imposing Adelaide, towering over her small husband, Wilberforce, played by Mr. Seymour Perry in a delightfully dry and droll manner. Frank was in the able hands of Mr. W. V. Garrod. The part does not give the opportunity of other rôles we have seen him in, but he was more than equal to its requirements. Mr. G. Moreton Williams made Clinton a handsome, well-bred scoundrel, adding plausibility to Marjorie's marriage. Mr. Clifford Marle had a difficult part in Smithers, but showed well the varying moods of his wayward character; and Mr. E. W. Avery gave an irresistibly funny account of the craven Oppenheim, his broken German being very well managed. Weight and dignity, combined with ripe experience, marked the Squire Hamilton of Mr. John B. Sheridan; and characteristic sketches of a Metropolitan policeman and a rustic by Mr. T. Edward Evans and Mr. Charles Mitchell completed the cast.

"STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER."

A Four-Act Drama, by R. A. Roberts, produced at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on Monday, Aug. 3.

CHARACTERS IN ACT I.

Dr. Francis Bedford ....MR. MATTHEW BOULTON
David Gleeson .....MR. LEONARD CLARKE
Jim Green .....MR. FRED BECK
Donald Macgregor ....MR. CUTHBERT DENNISON
Henry M. Grant .....MR. FRANKLIN MCAVOY
Millicent Grant .....MISS BEATRICE BURDETT
Mary Gleeson .....MISS FRANCES BRUCE
Sergeant Bright .....MR. BERTRAM CARLTON

CHARACTERS IN SUBSEQUENT ACTS (SIX YEARS AFTER)

Harry Bletchley .....MR. MATTHEW BOULTON
Major Lucas .....MR. LEONARD CLARKE
Rev. John Armitage.....MR. GEORGE H. CHILD
Jim Green .....MR. FRED BECK
Fred Stafford .....MR. GEORGE FISHER
Millicent Grant .....MISS BEATRICE BURDETT
Miss Brittle .....MISS EDIE CASSON
Gladys Brittle .....MISS BEATRICE MOORE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A very cordial reception was given to *Straight from the Shoulder* last Monday afternoon, when it was produced at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, and attracted a large audience. The nerve-exciting drama is ably written; the characters are true to life; and the play possesses a powerful love interest; while the deeply-emotional episodes have pleasing contrasts in entertaining comedy scenes. The story opens in David Gleeson's home, in a poor lodging-house in the East End of London. David is a drunken bully, but his wife, Mary Gleeson, is a good soul, who strives, but with no success, to reform her husband. From David's companion, Jim Green, alias "Bunky," Mary learns that the pair have some important "business" in hand for the night, and while she is engaged repairing David's ragged jacket she finds a letter in the pocket. From the letter she learns that David and his evil associates intend robbing a Mr. Grant, a diamond merchant, who is expected to meet his daughter at the docks. Further, the letter is accompanied by a portrait of the daughter, Millicent Grant. Mary determines to go to the docks and apprise Miss Grant of the intended robbery. David puts on his coat, misses the letter, and, demanding it from his wife, strikes her to the ground; but, happily, Dr. Francis Bedford arrives upon the scene, hits David "straight from the shoulder," and floors him. The doctor recognises in Mary one who was his patient in her village home. David vows vengeance upon the doctor. In the second scene of the act, in a street near the docks, the doctor is paying a visit to a patient; he meets Millicent Grant and promises, after terminating his visit, to conduct her to her father. Mary arrives, tells Miss Grant of the impending danger, and the young lady repairs to the adjoining house to find the doctor. Mr. Grant enters upon the scene, escorted by the scamp "Scotty," disguised as a porter. The latter is one of the villains, and, as may easily be imagined, Mr. Grant is robbed of his diamonds and beaten to death, and before the scene closes Millicent finds her father dead, and the doctor accused of the murder; for, as "Scotty" has secreted a packet of diamonds in that innocent man's pocket, the policeman who arrives upon the spot readily believes the doctor guilty of robbery and murder, and marches him off. The second act opens in the Vicarage Gardens. Six years have elapsed, and five of them Dr. Bedford has spent in prison for the assumed robbery of Mr. Grant's diamonds. The doctor is now known as Harry Bletchley, a land steward, and David Gleeson poses as Major Lucas, with Jim Green as his "man." The Major is enamoured of Millicent Grant, but she spurns him and falls in love with Bletchley, and soon consents to become his wife. The Major and his "man" both identify Bletchley; but Jim Green, tired of his association with the Major, determines to champion the cause of the innocent doctor. In the third act we find Bletchley and Millicent married and happy, and learn that the Major has been sent to prison for forgery. Millicent is curious, and anxious to learn more of her husband's early life. She comes across an old newspaper giving an account of her father's murder, and becomes possessed of the letter which Mary Gleeson had, years before, found in her husband's coat pocket. It is, however, enclosed in an envelope, which is not to be opened till Mary's death. Millicent's suspicions are aroused. A thunderstorm ensues; and the villainous Major (David) arrives, seeking shelter from the storm, and also from the police. Husband and wife are confronted by the revengeful Major, who accuses the doctor of luring away his wife Mary, and unfolds the whole story of the doctor's imprisonment. A powerful scene ensues, in which Millicent discards her husband, throws her wedding ring to the ground, and bids him farewell. In the final scene, at Blackstone Abbey, there is an exciting meeting and struggle between the doctor and the villainous Major. Millicent arrives with the letter which proves the Major's guilt; but the miserable and dying wretch, simulating remorse, secures the letter and tears it in pieces. There is another struggle between the hero and villain. The latter, who makes no attempt to clear the character of the wrongly-accused doctor, dies; but, fortunately, Jim Green confesses to the whole of the villainy, and husband and wife are happily reunited.

Mr. Matthew Boulton gave an earnest, manly, and convincing impersonation of the deeply-wronged Dr. Francis Bedford, known also as Harry Bletchley. In the affecting and stirring scenes with his wife he won the unanimous favour of the audience. Mr. Leonard Clarke was powerfully effective as David Gleeson, afterwards Major Lucas; Mr. Fred Beck as Jim Green, alias "Bunky"—who suffered from a chronic "dry mouth"—was very amusing; Mr. Cuthbert Dennison as Donald Macgregor, alias "Scotty," Mr. Franklin McAvoy as Mr. Henry M. Grant, and Miss Frances Bruce as Mary Gleeson did well in their small parts. Mr. George H. Child made a sympathetic Rev. John Armitage; Mr. George Fisher was effective as the unlucky Fred Stafford, who was assisted in his financial troubles with the villainous Major by the warm-hearted Dr. Bedford; Miss Edie Casson was well suited as the garrulous Miss Brittle; Miss Beatrice Moore made a vivacious Gladys Brittle; and Mr. Bertram Carlton was an able Sergeant Bright. Very warm praise must be accorded Miss Beatrice Burdett for her charming and artistic treatment of the character of the long-suffering Millicent Grant. The play was produced, rehearsed, and equipped by Mr. R. A. Roberts, under the personal direction of Mr. Charles Boult. The appropriate music incidental to the drama has been expressly composed by Mr. Denham-Harrison, of the Royalty Theatre, London.

"DIE MEISTERSINGER" IN ENGLISH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

SIR,—I see it stated in many papers—*The Era* amongst them—that during their forthcoming season at the Lyric the Moody-Manners Opera Company will perform *Die Meistersinger* for the first time in English. This statement, which I presume is founded on a managerial communication, is incorrect, as the opera in question was performed in English by the Carl Rosa Opera Company at Covent Garden in October, 1897, when Mr. Ludwig appeared as Hans Sachs and Miss Alice Esty as Eva.—Yours faithfully,

EDWIN H. SHEAR.

6, Clement's-inn, Strand, W.C. Aug. 4, 1908.

MME. MELBA is to visit America in December, and will sing at the Manhattan Opera House, New York, and at the Philadelphia Opera House. She leaves England on Dec. 5, and will remain in Australia for about seven months. Mme. Melba reappears at Covent Garden in 1910.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(Continued from page 11.)

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*The Girls of Gottenberg* drew a large and fashionable audience on Bank Holiday, and the strong company Mr. George Dance presented obtained a hearty reception. Mr. Bertie Wright was strikingly popular in his skilful inpersonation of Max Moddelkopf, and was equally successful in both singing and dancing; Miss Ellaline Thorne made herself a great favourite as Mitzi, her talented interpretation being enhanced by pleasing dances and delightful singing; Mr. Tom Shelford in both song and dance gave entire satisfaction as Prince Otto; Mr. Hugh Henson as Captain Kilbrecht, Mr. Howard Cridland as Sergt. Brittl Bottl, and Mr. George Foley as the Burgomaster represented their parts successfully. Miss Gladys Guy was seen to great advantage as Elsa, her songs and dances gaining general recognition; and her maid, Lucille, had a good rendering by Miss Susie Raymond; Miss May Marshall characterised Clementine with successful results, being very pleasing also in songs; Messrs. Rudd Allen and H. C. Williams were other capable exponents. *Miss Hook of Holland* was the attraction for the last three nights of the week.

The Kursaal.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—The Bank Holiday programme opened with a morning performance of an attractive character in the theatre, followed immediately by an entertainment in the café chantant, while both were repeated in the afternoon and evening. That produced in the theatre is an excellent and diversified one that wins hearty applause from most appreciative audiences. A very popular turn is that given by the Misses Renee Reel and Rubie Bradfield, who are loudly recalled for their skilful toe and step dancing. Smart acrobatic feats by the Four Leopolds gained equal merit; *Rhyming to Win* is an absurdity that gives immense pleasure in the happy interpretation by Mr. J. B. Rand and Miss Gracie Mack, who also entertain with good dancing; Miss Madge Ainsley is a decided success in song and dance; Mr. Wal Robbins, well known to local audiences, maintains his reputation as a black-and-white comedian; Messrs. Allen and Hall, comedians, and Mr. Charles Russell, vocalist, also contribute in pleasing style. Mr. Geo. Neno introduces funny songs in his usual amiable manner, and appears in the sketch *The Bunkum Beauty Show* at the evening performances, being assisted by Mr. Louis R. Morton. Bioscope pictures conclude each evening. For the café chantant programme the following artists make a capital concert party: the Misses Kate Oxford, Esme Delmar, Carrie Wood, Marie Lester, Nellie Giles, and Lillian Devon. Mr. Alec Cater is master of a long dancing programme, and Mr. Harry Read directs the musical arrangements of both theatre and dancing.

Pier Hill Bandstand.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—A special holiday programme is provided by the Pick-Me-Ups, the talented concert party of Mr. George Robins, who command large crowds daily. The 'cello solos by Mr. Stanley E. Angless deservedly win recalls, and the mandoline solos by Miss Nina Lorenza are also heartily applauded; Mr. Harry Ruming is a humorist of ability, and his sketches cause much laughter; Mr. Alf Wharton proves popular in humorous songs; Mr. Walter Dolphin is a vocalist well received, with a good selection of songs; Miss Nellie Hutchinson sings delightfully, and Miss Lorenza contributes humorous songs in pleasing style.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—An enjoyable entertainment of pictures is presented here by the London Animated Picture Company, and the two daily performances get well supported. Extra films were shown for the holiday attraction. The beautifully coloured illustrated songs are well rendered by Mr. Geo. A. Stevens.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company, under the direction of Mr. F. Martin Morris, in the two-act musical play *The Flower Girl* provides an attractive entertainment here for the Bank Holiday week. Miss Dorothy Firmin is very successful in the title-rôle both histrionically and vocally; Mr. Martin Adeson is responsible for much of the merriment in the part of Joe Wheeler, which he portrayed with irresistible humour; the Hon. Billy Greenhill was very ably impersonated by Mr. Robert H. Howard, and the same may be said of Mr. Alfred Donohoe in the character of Johnny Wheeler; Miss Florence Wilton is very smart as the French lady, Lizette de Racquet, and is well supported by Mr. Henry Adnes as Alphonse de Racquet; excellent comedy sketches are presented by Miss Jennie Holmes as Miss Greenhill, a typical suffragette, and Mr. Edward Kipling as Reginald Rackit.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—The theatre reopens this week with Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company in *Two Little Drummer Boys*, which is excellently staged. Mr. Edward Bikker is soldierly and well set up as General Kingsley, and Mr. Harry Scott plays the part of Capt. Frank Carsdale with appreciation; Mr. Oswald Douglas has an exacting part in the character of Capt. George Darrell, and does well, while Mr. Alexander Knight makes a capable Lieut. Allen Kingsley; Miss Mary Ainslie is winsome as Alma Kingsley, and Miss Nesta Sandford gains the sympathy of the house as Margaret Rivers; the two little drummers, Eric Carsdale and Jack Smith, are excellently taken by Miss Maggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas; roars of laughter are caused by the comicalities of Mr. Will Percy and Mr. Chas. Gallier as Quincy O'Quirke and Timothy Trimmer and by Miss Patricia Connaughton as Molly Meadows. The drum and fife band is also an attraction.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic. Carnell.—Bob Hutt heads an attractive bill with a sketch entitled *Welcome Home*, supported by an excellent company; the Sisters Petram present the Marionette Circus; Alec Kendal's patter is very amusing, and Harrigan and Holt are well applauded for their efforts; Molly Woolstenhulme sings sweetly, and Forrest and King dance well.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—The numerous exciting incidents and interesting situations in *The Best of Her Sex*, capably presented by Mr. W. A. Armour's company, have commanded the close attention of large audiences here this week. Mr. Percy Horton gives an excellent impersonation of Philip Faringdon; Mr. Henry Lloyd acts powerfully as Leslie Verney, and Mr. Edwin Worsley is thoroughly pleasing as the Rev. Stephen Maxwell; Mr. J. W. Hooper is an exceedingly funny P.C. Jorkins; Mr. Hume Fergus as Simon Denny and Mr. Dan Mining as Holy Joe are amusing; Miss Alvina Mining is charmingly sympathetic as Ruth Raeburn; Polly Perkins is delightfully played by Miss Alice Buckland, and Miss Dora Price's portrayal of Vera Delorme is realistic in a marked degree.

Empire.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The musical comedy sketch *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, presented by Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and troupe, is the chief attraction here this week, and provides an abundance of mirth. Agnes Molteno, a delightful vocalist, in her scena *A Dolly and a Couch* is repeating her success of a previous occasion here; the Krags, gymnasts, are muscular men of much ability; Harry Bold, comedian, is an able story-teller; Webb and Branston, operatic duettists, are deservedly applauded; Amy Bellwood is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; and the Claymores are smart buck dancers and club jugglers.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Castle Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. J. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil C. Imeson.—Last night the above theatre opened with Mr. George Edwardes's company of *The Merry Widow* before a crowded audience. Miss Constance Drever impersonates Sonia (the Merry Widow), and she was a big success, her playful and mischievous pranks being as amusing as her singing was excellent; Mr. Leonard Mackay is Prince Danilo, and establishes himself a favourite with his style and acting, while the tuneful waltz with the Widow was rendered time after time; as Baron Popoff Mr. Eric Thorne has a stock of quaint sayings, which never fail to elicit shrieks of laughter; Miss Ethel Cadman's singing earned a fair share of the evening's applause; Mr. W. H. Rawlins as Nisch caused continuous merriment; Mr. Haigh Jackson as Viscomte Camille de Jolidon has a fine voice and does justice to his songs. During the evening Mr. Imeson (lessee) received numerous telegrams wishing him success in his undertaking.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—A splendid holiday programme has been arranged for the re-opening. The Boller Brothers, trick cyclists, head the bill here this week; they are very clever and graceful; Mr. Chas. Diamond and Miss Beatrice, harpist and saxophone manipulators, are exceedingly clever and receive loud applause; Little Pam, comedian and dancer, quite charms the audience with his catchy songs; Frank Elliston and company, in a sketch entitled *Aunt Matilda*, create roars of laughter; other attractive turns come from Ross and Lewis, in a Yankee-Doodle Duo; Saville Brothers, acrobatic comedians; Miss Alice Blandford, comedienne; the Four Monte Carlo Girls, speciality dancers; Miss Maud Vera, comedienne and dancer; Everhart, hoop manipulator. The Bioscope, with up-to-date pictures, concludes.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery reopens here this week with a drama entitled *A London Actress*. There were crowded houses last night, and the drama will undoubtedly prove a holiday attraction. A number of the latest pictures are shown by means of Payne's Bio-photoscope.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—This hall again reverts to variety this week, the chief attraction being provided by Heseltine's Musical Twelve, vocalists and pianists, who render parts of the *Bohemian Girl* in charming and efficient manner. Spry and Monti are highly diverting; Henry Herne and company, on a return visit, present the thrilling sketch *Blackmail;* the Onlaw Trio in their wire act are clever; and Rozel gives a fine exhibition as an aerial gymnast; Ethel Donna, Jack Manley, and Ernest Clifford also appear. The Bioscope depicts various stages of the great Marathon Race.

STROUD.—Fromehall Park.—Messrs. J. and W. Wilder, of Birmingham, the well-known caterers and firework artists, supplied the talent and firework display for a Bank Holiday fête, which proved very successful. Percy Victor's dogs are a novel and interesting turn; the Great De Ova is a smart and clever gymnast; the clever acrobatic performance of the Seftons was a feature of special interest; an attractive turn was given by the Reays, hand balancers; Mlle. Tosca was graceful and skilful on the silver wire; the Leros caused great merriment as knockabout boxers; and Mlle. Vanda did excellently in her juggling act on the rolling globe. Messrs. Symonds' world's fair and side shows were in attendance and did good business. Stroud Town Prize Band, under the direction of Mr. W. C. Smith, played up-to-date selections of music during the day.

SUNDERLAND.—Theatre Royal.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Esden.—Percy Norman's company in *A Woman Worth Winning* is drawing crowded houses here this week. Mr. George Edwin Clive gives a capital impersonation of Fergus Lovinsky, whilst Amos Pauloff finds an apt exponent in Mr. Gilbert Standing; the rascally General Borinski is in the powerful hands of Mr. A. B. Mackay; Mr. Wynne Davies makes the most of his opportunities as Fedor Petronovitch; and Miss Chrissie Dunbar gives a refined and pathetic impersonation of Roma Pauloff.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; a capital holiday programme is provided here this week, the chief attraction being the appearance of Charles T. Aldrich in his clever and original burlesque on modern magicians and jugglers; Russell Wallett, female impersonator, provides a surprising and diverting turn; the Molossa Quartette give some remarkable and unique exhibitions of cyclonic dances; the Schafers score a huge success by their novel musical act; Lola Patey is a character comedienne of considerable ability; the Five Olracs, rag-time acrobats, score in their amusing sketch entitled *The Tourist and his Tormentors;* William Lee and Helen Bentley contribute a racy sketch entitled *A Sure Thing;* Harry Drew, Welsh basso, also contributes. The entertainment winds up with the usual show of animated pictures.

SWANSEA.—The Grand.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—The Grand reopened on Monday to typical holiday houses, when Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company presented in brilliant style *The Midnight Wedding*. Miss Annie Saker appeared in her original part of the Princess Astrea Von Strelsburg, and her interpretation of the part was a noteworthy one; as Paul Valmar Mr. Alfred Paumier acted with distinction; another capitally played character is that of Capt. Rudolph von Scarsbruck, in which Mr. Mayor Cooke was excellent; as was also Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes as Lieut. Eugene von Strelsburg; excellent humour was dispensed by Messrs. James E. Page, Harry Richardson, and Algie Spalding, who as Sergeant Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Otto kept the house well amused.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. Andrew Melville had a rousing reception here on Monday night, when he opened a week's stay with *Driven from Home*. Mr. Melville himself played the part of Willie, and his touching portrayal of the part was the outstanding feature of the play; Miss Rose Ralph enhanced her reputation here by her Laura Raybrook; Mr. Felix Pitt was a thorough success as Anthony Raybrook; whilst Mr. Chas. Bendon was a thorough villain; comic relief is well provided by Mr. Fred C. Imbert.

Empires, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—No better attraction could possibly have been brought to the Empire than John Lawson, who in *Humanity* on Monday night fairly captured the house. *Humanity* will be played also on Friday and Saturday, and *Pigs in Clover* (Tuesday), *King's Minister* (Wednesday) and *The Monkey's Paw* (Thursday) will complete Mr. Lawson's répertoire. Some excellent head balancing is contributed by the Willie Bros., while Verno and Voyce in the skit on the aeroplane craze is a very funny effort; Syd May comes with excellent impersonations of well-known artists; Hugh Barclay sings illustrated songs with effect; and Kent and Keith prove themselves bright and effective. May Brilliant, comedienne, Blanche Vincent, vocalist, and the Bioscope complete.

SWINDON.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—After being closed for a short vacation this theatre reopened on Monday evening last with a good programme. The Five Vernons, the great xylophone specialists, are vociferously applauded for their musical entertainment; Edith Garrick, contortionist, is particularly smart; the songs of Frank Boyse, singing comedian, go well; and a very clever turn is that of Kartelli on the slack wire. Cynthia, child comedienne, gains applause; and Clara Greta, comedienne, is pleasing in her Spanish song and dance. Harry Taft, the American comedian and whistler, causes roars with his comicalities. The Empire pictures are amusing.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—A crowded and delighted house on Monday evening welcomed Mr. Reginald Dance's company in *Raffles*. In the title-part Mr. Reginald Dance acts with superb subtlety, and thoroughly pleases the audience. He is excellently supported by Mr. Stanley Lathbury as Lord Crowley; whilst Mr. Edward Irwin makes a keen and calculating Curtis Bedford. Miss Ruth Mackay plays the part of the adventuress, Mrs. Vidal, with clever effect, and wins for herself frequent applause; and Miss Beatrice Marsdene is a dainty and attractive Gwendoline Conron. Miss Frances Titherage has a winsome manner as Lady Ethel; whilst Miss Dora Lewis as Marie also does well. As Crawshay Mr. Rivers Bertram was all that could be desired; and Mr. Lewis Edgard made a pleasing Harry Manders.

Princess Pier Concert Hall.—Proprietors, the Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T. Tremlett.—The Bank Holiday attraction here is Mr. Reuben More's concert party, "Artists and Models." Miss Gwennie Ross is a talented soprano, and is frequently encored; and Miss Florence Driver also sings very acceptably. Miss Mabel Wier introduces some pleasing step dances; whilst Mr. Robert G. Dunn has a powerful baritone voice. Mr. Arthur R. Carlton is a humorist and impersonator of considerable talent; whilst Mr. Reuben More is a clever ventriloquist.

WAKEFIELD.—Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here this week in the drama *A Broken Heart*. Mr. Frank Beresford gives a good representation as John Barnard; Mr. George M. Newall fills with distinction the part of Stephen Raylton; Mr. Tom Armitage causes much merriment as Tony Tibbetts; Mr. Harry Barrs submits a strong portrayal of Gash Gills, and Mr. P. M. Wright ably represents Rev. Mr. Staunton; Mrs. Harry Foxwell gives an excellent portrayal as Mary Barnard; Miss Margaret Thorne is seen to advantage as Mrs. Barnard; Miss Elsie Deane is admirable as Sally Turner; Miss Daisy Rocheford is efficient as Little Mary; and Miss Dorothy Oswald is praiseworthy as Grace Fanshawe.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. Harry Roxbury's company, including Mr. Tubby Edlin, appear in a musical mélange, *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, which is bright and amusing; Phillips and Tony are successful in a sketch, *The Revolt of Man;* Miss Dolly Denver is an excellent dancer; Will and Roze are diverting in an acrobatic conjuring turn; Hilda and Beatrice give a pleasing musical act; Alvar is a smart gymnast; and Mr. Hubert Davis, comedian, is entertaining.

WALSALL.—Her Majesty's Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Heading the bill here are the Royal Entertainers, the Gothams, who prove a great attraction; Elton and Edwin, banjoists, are exceedingly clever; Wilson and Waring are amusing in their comedy act, *An Ugly Duckling;* the Three Lloyds prove themselves marvels on the bounding cables; Bob Hamilton is a smart comedian, as also is Marie Empress, who is well received; a most amusing and entertaining pair are Carney and Armstrong, who sing, dance, and whistle. The American Bioscope completes the bill.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod are presenting the drama entitled *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. Logan Darra as the Rev. Tom Godley is capital; Mr. Alfred Northway does well as Enoch Jaggins; and Mr. Charles Ashwell is good as Ben Jaggins; and Mr. Walter Vincent is well placed as Ned Kettlepin. Miss Violet Hammersley appears successfully in the part of Fern Godley; Miss Madge Gillard is capital as Myrtle Godley, the blind child; and Miss Carlene Yorick makes a smart Fräulein Korale.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—During the fortnight this place of amusement has been closed handsome decorations have been effected. The reopening on Monday night was welcomed by a large audience. Mr. Lewis Waller's company, under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross, gave a capital representation of the romantic play *Robin Hood*. In the title-rôle Mr. Ethelbert Edwards gave a finished portrayal of the bold outlaw; a graceful and tender Lady Marian was Miss Lilian Stennis; as Friar Tuck Mr. C. Bruce Winston was highly humorous; Mr. F. Clive Ross made the most of Little John; Mr. Lawrence ably sustained the part of Will Scarlet; Mr. Spencer Lloyd made the most of Allan a' Dale; Mr. J. N. Bryant scored as Richard, King of England; and a capital study of Prince John was submitted by Mr. H. Elliot Ball. Valuable support was forthcoming from Mr. Ernest Gray as Fritz Alwynne, Mr. Richard Fielding as Hugo de Longespel, and Mr. Lambert Plummer as the Abbot of Jervaux. Miss Irene Malvesyn was a dignified Eleanor; Miss Laura Flockton pleased all as Adela; and Miss Gertrude de Burgh was an arch Alison. The staging was very effective.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Hurman is a capital juggler, and Vardon a clever ventriloquist. Pictures showing the King's prize cattle at Worral Show are amongst the list of an excellent series.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—There was a rare holiday crowd at this house on Monday night, and Jack Pleasants, who heads the bill, had the house convulsive with laughter with his humorous songs. Margit and Lener are especially clever, and their feats are all deftly executed; Ethel Sheffer contributes an excellent turn with illustrated songs; Dunn and Reano are smart comic acrobats; Harry Nelson is a quaint comedian with a stock of original patter; Mlle. Bartinelli supplies a weird contortion act; Matthews and Brown are clever comedians; and Hanid Alexander scores well in a novel act at the piano. The pictures are an amusing set.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—After a season of some eight weeks' variety business, a change to drama is proving very successful. Mr. Fred Granville's company is this week appearing to capital houses in *It's Never Too Late to Mend*, in which Mr. E. Howard Templeton acquits himself well as Tom Robinson, excellent work being done by Mr. Cecil A. Melton in the rôle of George Fielding. Mr. Charles F. Johnson is an ideal Rev. Francis Eden; Miss Gertrude Entwistle enlists the sympathy of the audience throughout with her charming acting in the character of Susan Merton; and a clever piece of character work is the Josepha of Miss Millie Wilton.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—First place in the holiday bill is that of Marie Jones in her quick-change novelty *The Way to Win a Bet*, the changes in dress and character made by the lady being so complete and quick as to be almost inconceivable. Effective and neat dancing is done by the Glenroy Troupe of international dancers; some smart acrobatic eccentricities by the Kremka Bros. are repeatedly aplauded; Gravetta and Parr introduce sand-pictures, clay-modelling, impersonations, paper-tearing, and burlesque ventriloquism; Carr and Rose retain their popularity in an operetta; and Dora Noble, comedienne and dancer, Rose Archer, mimic at the piano, and some excellent pictures by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux add to the attractions of the programme.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is here for the first time in *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. Bert Beswick, a hard-working and clever comedian, kept the house convulsed with laughter whenever he was on the stage; Mr. Chas. Benson made an excellent Isaac Isaacson; Mr. Algernon W. Lee was praiseworthy as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe; Mr. Colin Johnson looked and acted the part of the Rev. Peter Pottlebury extremely well; the braggadocio Sir Bryan Ballymote found an excellent exponent in Mr. Humphrey Warden; Mr. Chas. Roadknight's Wittle was a good performance, and so was the Barker of Mr. Sydney F. Courtenay; Miss Edith Anton Laing, a really good actress, gave an artistic impersonation of Lady Rowena Eggington; Miss Madge Devereux as Miss Sarah Isaacson, Miss Ada Waugh as Lady Millicent, and Miss Mary Guthrie as Kate Pottlebury were all distinctly good in their respective rôles; Miss Norah Kingsley as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave is entitled to the highest eulogy, and Miss Eva Ellis as Alice Barker deserves a word of praise.

Grand Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The John Ridding Opera Company is paying another visit here, and is attracting crowded houses. On Monday *Maritana* was staged. Miss Sarah Williams's beautiful voice was heard to great advantage in the title-rôle; her acting, too, was exceptionally good; Miss Vera Vizard's Lazarillo proved her an artist to the finger-tips, her singing of "To the mansions of the blest" received quite an ovation; Mr. John Ridding's Don Jose deserves the highest encomiums; Mr. Edward Arthur's Don Cæsar was an admirable impersonation; Mr. Frank Clarke made an imposing Charles II.; Mr. Geo. Humphrey was capable as the Captain of the Guard, and so was Mr. E. Ditchfield as Alcade.

WEYMOUTH.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Nobbs.—*Raffles* is here this week. Mr. Reginald Dance scored a great success as Raffles; Mr. Edward Irwin as Mr. Curtis Bedford played carefully and well; Mr. Lewis Edgard was exceedingly good as Harry Manders, and Mr. Oswald Griffiths as Lord Amersteth and Mr. Stanley Lathbury as Lord Crowley sustained their respective parts most capably; Mr. Rivers Bertram as Crawshay was excellent; Miss Ruth Mackay as Mrs. Vidal gave a clever rendering, and Miss Frances Titherage as Lady Ethel was charming; Miss Beatrice Marsdene was a winning Gwendoline Conran, and Miss Mildred Orme was successful as Lady Melrose; Mr. L. Willing as Goldby, Mr. D. Grogson as Barraclough, and Mr. Charles Baker as Merton were good in their respective parts, and Miss Dora Lewis was effective as Marie. The play was well mounted.

WIDNES.—Alexander Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiddie.—The theatre reopened for the dramatic season on Monday, the house being crowded in every part. During the "close time" extensive decorations have been artistically carried out, and the electric light system has been completely reorganised, the result being a marked increase in illumination. Mr. Ian Maclaren, who created quite a furore in Widnes six months ago, pays a return visit with his Shakespearean productions. *Othello* was finely acted and well staged on Monday. Mr. Maclaren is physically suited for the part of the Moor, and played with distinction. His resonant and sympathetic voice declaimed the bard's lines splendidly throughout. Mr. Wilson Gunning was excellent as the cunning Iago; Miss Marguerite Cellier played Desdemona charmingly and with dignity; Mr. A. Linson Wells was a good Lodovico; Mr. J. V. Bryant was an impressive Cassio; the Gratiano of Mr. Geo. Relph was a good study; Mr. Murray Hathorn was a sound Brabantio; the Duke of Venice found a capable exponent in Mr. Sproston; Mr. C. Kingsley gave a sound reading of Montana; Mr. Gordon Philipot played Roderigo on excellent lines; Miss Muriel Dole was capable as Emelie; and Miss Gertrude Littlewood played effectively as Bianca. On Tuesday Mr. Maclaren gave his version of *Garrick* with success. In *The Merchant of Venice* on Wednesday he was an excellent Shylock; Miss Cellier won much applause as Portia. On Thursday *The Rivals* was presented, and on Friday *The School for Scandal*, Mr. Maclaren appearing as Charles Surface. On Saturday evening *Hamlet* is to be presented.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. Herbert Lloyd and company in *The Millionaire Tramp*, are appearing before large houses. Mr. Jack Lyle is seen in the rôle of Pierpoint, and his clever impersonation is most humorous; Edwin Forest-Black is ably presented by Mr. Paul Lovett; Mr. Charles Weir is creditable as Staley; Mr. Gilbert Clark sustains the rôle of Arthur Edgerton with great ability; Mr. Harry Gregory deserves special recognition as Ezra Trumbull; while Abraham Jones finds a capable exponent in W. W. Evans. Miss Sybil Carl Rosa as Estella Hampton portrays the character with much charm and reality; Miss Daphne Gelstone ably enacts the part of Cynthia Trumbull; and Miss May Yates causes much mirth as Josie Trumbull.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—The star turn is a delightful one, the Ten Loonies revelling in a rollicking musical sketch entitled *Dotty*. The Mayvilles also deserve special mention for their clever performance; Mezzetto is an accomplished juggler, who introduces some particularly clever feats; Great Albas is a daring wire performer who accomplishes some clever tricks; and the Two Countees cause quite an ovation with their songs. May de Rowse, comedienne and dancer, wins much applause; Henri Bekker mystifies the audience with his conjuring tricks; and Jack North, comedian, is accorded a hearty reception. Other excellent turns are given by Pearce and Ward and Alf Holt.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Marco.—Sabino, the musical marvel, plays on numerous instruments with skill, and introduces his dancing figure, whose steps and gyrations cause much merriment. The beautiful pictures include Sports of the World, The Doctor's Experiment, The Cider Industry, Love too Late, and many other amusing and instructive films. Crowded houses have been the rule nightly.

WORTHING.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—A happy selection has been made for this week in Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in *Flordoroa*. Mr. Fred Eastman as Anthony Tweedlepunch is the life and soul of the piece, his quaint humour procuring rounds of applause. Mr. Stanley White does well as Cyrus Gilfain, as does Mr. Basil Mercer as Frank Abercoed; Miss Lily Gullick is well placed as Angela Gilfain; Miss Cazella is extremely good as Cynthia Belmont; and as Lady Holyrood Miss Edith Hously puts in good work. Special mention is due to the well-balanced chorus. Mr. Harry Benet's company in *Sergeant Brue* is also billed.

WREXHAM.—Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week Frank and Violet Payte, in their racing sketch, entitled *Also Ran*, proved a splendid attraction; Purvis and Partner, in their original up-to-date musical comedy duologue, did well; while Miss Lily Brammer, comedienne and vocalist, and F. Dunlo, eccentric comedian, also proved acceptable turns.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

Notwithstanding the heat on Monday last the indoor attractions of the Alexandra Palace were as largely patronised as the outside. All the available bands were requisitioned to play in selected parts, so there was never a dull corner to be found. At four o'clock Professor Auguste Gaudron's representative made a successful ascent in a hot-air balloon and parachute descent. Curiously, the accompanying weight attached to the balloon left before the allotted time and fell with a thud simultaneously with the detachment of the parachute, fortunately doing no harm. The effect was that the balloon instead of overturning in the usual manner went sailing merrily away and was lost to view. At six o'clock the new gas balloon made an ascent in the South Front; at 6.15 a display by girls of the Islington Drill Brigade in the Skating Rink. In the Central Hall three performances took place. Amongst the many meritorious numbers may be mentioned the pedestal dancer, Mr. Arthur James; the silver chime handbell ringer; Rolls and Ritz, triple-bar experts; and particularly pleasing and well-executed cornet solos by Miss Adeleine Parkyn, who may be congratulated for the continuous marks of approval of which she was the recipient. A pair of sensational flying gymnasts, Aerian and Btara, were remarkably smart in their business, and their agility without a hitch evoked loud applause. The massed bands concert, consisting of the Queen's Military Band, conductor, Mr. S. Norris; band of 21st Battalion County of London Regiment, conductor Mr. W. King, and the Middlesex Military Band, conductor Mr. W. Garlick, at seven o'clock was likewise successful. Great praise is due to the M.C., Mr. W. H. Treasure, who travels many miles on a Bank Holiday to act in that honorary capacity. The organ solos of Mr. G. D. Cunningham were never-tiring items of appreciation. A fine firework display by James Pain and Son, the Royal pyrotechnists, was given on the Lake Island at nine o'clock, and included many new specimens of the fire art. The theatre was occupied on Monday and during the rest of the week by Stewart's Perfect Pictures and Popular Entertainers. To select one number more than another for commendation appears superfluous, for all were good. The Incendiary Foreman film amongst the pictures was a wonderfully realistic effort, and the laughter-provoking ones were cordially received. Doretta, a clever vocalist, did well. Daisy Graham's birds and her baby dog Nap (whose photo may be termed a striking one) were received with acclamations. Harry Stewart, the protean artist, won warm favour; Leonard and Mac as knockabout comedians hold their own with any; and Miss Kitty Woodford not only attracts with her American illustrated songs, but possesses a wonderful combination of trained dogs in her circus and orchestra.

AMUSEMENTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

(From our own correspondent.)

WELLINGTON, June 20.—Theatre Royal.—Notable amongst the artists at Messrs. Fullers' theatre are Mr. Fred Graham and Miss Nellie Dent, who, having migrated from the theatre, now temporarily relinquish the "halls" for a holiday. They are sailing for England by the Athenic, but promise to return. Their sketch, entitled *Packing Up*, has been enthusiastically received.

Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Allen Hamilton.—Mr. Harry Rickards invades this colony once again with a variety company, which is appearing for some ten nights. The audiences are extremely large, and the turns are popular. The more effulgent stars are the Stavordale Quintette, Sisters Kloss, Alma Gray, and the Brothers Artois.

Kubelik is advertised to appear at the Town Hall on Saturday next and two other nights. This is an event that provides a change from cinematograph shows and football matches.

AUCKLAND, June 18.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Messrs Meynell and Gunn's dramatic combination entitled the "Beatty-Mackintosh" Company are here. The stars, as may be supposed, are Miss Madge Mackintosh and Mr. Harcourt Beatty. They opened with *Her Love Against the World*.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The Royal Princess's Theatre, Glasgow, the sole proprietor of which is Mr. Rich Waldon, will reopen on Monday, after extensive structural alterations and decorations. Many improvements have been effected, and have resulted in the provision of practically a new theatre. The reopening attraction will be the famous Adelphi drama, *In the Ranks*. Smoking, it may be added, is permitted in all parts.

Peter Adair, the hero of the 1,000 mile walk from Land's End to John o' Groats in 1904, called at *The Era* office yesterday at noon and informed us that his old friend Mr. Will Oliver, the world-famed variety agent, desired him to remain in London a few more days, and postpone his walk from London to Land's End and then from Land's End to John o' Groat's till Thursday next, as he (Mr. Oliver) is going to approach the management of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund Committee, with a view of seeing whether arrangements can be made for Peter Adair to do a special walk of five hours duration—from the commencement to the end of the sports—to give the public at large an opportunity of witnessing the stamina of a man at sixty-six years of age, and absolutely the oldest recognised working athlete in the variety profession, and the only all-round athlete in the United Kingdom who possesses seven complimentary letters from King Edward VII. Mr. Oliver has kindly offered to pay for all extra advertising for Peter Adair's special performance.

The dramatic season at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, commenced on August Bank Holiday with a welcome visit from Mr. Harry Benet's company in *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Denis Lyndon gave a capital interpretation of the title-rôle, and was well supported by Mr. Harry Benet as Crookie Scrubbs; Mr. Lister Marrch and Miss Daisy Dare were excellent as the son and daughter of the Sergeant; while Miss Ray Anderson made an admirable Lady Bickenhall and Mr. Edwin Lancaster was very successful as the police magistrate and Mr. Frank Farrant as Gerald Treherne. For the week-end Mr. Bannister Howard's company is paying a revisit with *Florodora*, with Mr. Fred Eastman as Tweedlepunch and Miss Lily Gullick as Angela Gilfain.

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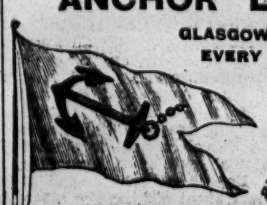

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ON THE ROAD, AUG. 10.

Alone in the World.—Queen's T., Manchester.
An Abandoned Woman.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Ashwell's, Miss Lena.—T. R., Nottingham.
At Cripple Creek.—T. R., West Stanley.
At the World's Mercy.—Hippodrome, Sheerness.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—Grand T., Douglas.
Belle of New York (Howard).—Court T., L'poo.
Belle of the Ball.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Best of Her Sex.—P. O. W., Salford.
Bondman, The (Croke).—Coronet Theatre, W.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Brewster's Millions.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Bulmer, Mr.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Captain Drew on Leave.—Grand T., Hull.
Charley's Aunt.—Saltburn and Whitby.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—Barnard Castle and Rhyl.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—T. R., Hanley.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—T. R., Birmingham.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—Eastbourne and Tunbridge Wells.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Barnstaple and Weymouth.
Coal King.—County Theatre, Bedford.
Compton Comedy Co.—Whitby and Bridlington.
Convict's Daughter.—Grand T., Fulham.
Country Girl in London.—Grand T., Chorley.
Dairymaids, The (S.).—Southend and Bexhill.
Dairymaids, The.—T. R., Belfast.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Pier, Southend.
Diana of Dobson's.—T. R., Nottingham.
Donovan, Lydia Rept.—Carlton T., Greenwich.
Driven from Home.—T. R., Cardiff.
East Lynne (Kelly).—Carlton T., Birmingham.
Eve of Her Wedding.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
Faber, Mr. Leslie.—Prince's T., Bristol.
Fatal Wedding.—T. R., Woolwich.
Fight for a Throne.—P.O.W., Grimsby.
Flower Girl.—T. R., Rochdale.
For Her Husband's Sake.—Alexandra T., Hull.
For Love and the King.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Gay Gordons.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—T. R., Leicester.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Bolton.
Great Awakening.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Greed of Gold.—T. R., Batley.
Her Marriage Vow.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Her Nameless Child.—T. R., Colne.
His Wife No Longer.—T. R., Preston.
Horniman's, Miss, Co.—P.O.W., Birmingham.
Honeymoon, The.—Grand T., Radcliffe.
Hughes, Annie.—Palace Pier, Brighton.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—O. H., Buxton.
Knight in Armour.—Grand T., Aberavon.
Lady Frederick.—Palace T., Ramsgate.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—West Pier, Brighton.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Peterhead and Brechin.
Lancashire Lad.—Star Theatre, Swansea.
Leah Kleshna.—Grand T., Leeds.
Light in the Darkness.—Lyric O. H., Ham'smith.
Little Breadwinner.—Bargoed.
London with the Lid Off.—Bilston.
Love of a Princess.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Love Rules the World.—Star T., Liverpool.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Smethwick.
Lucky Liza.—Queen's T., Fleetwood.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—West Calder and Bathgate.
Manxman, The.—Grand T., Walsall.
Man and Wife.—Grand T., Swansea.
Maude's, Miss Winifred.—Century T., Motherwell.
Merely Mary Ann.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Merry Widow.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Midnight Mail.—Bristol.
Mother's Salvation, A.—T. R., Edmonton.
Mrs. Dot.—O. H., Southport.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—Spa T., Scarborough.
My Mimosa Maid.—Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.
Old Folks at Home.—T. R., Sheffield.
Peter's Mother.—Ramsgate.
Power of the Cross.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Power of the King.—T. R., Scarborough.
Prince of Pilsen.—Royalty T., Morecambe.
Private Secretary.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Prodigal Parson.—Hippodrome, Barry.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—Peterboro' and Worthing.
Prodigal Son (Day).—T. R., South Shields.
Prodigal Son (Western).—Maidstone and Deal.
Royal Divorce.—O. H., Coventry.
Sergeant Brue.—T. R., Ryde.
Second to None.—T. R., Chatham.
Sexton Blake.—County T., Reading.
Sherlock Holmes.—Cromer and Lincoln.
Silver King.—T. R., Dublin.
Sins of Society.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Soldier of France.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Still Alarm.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Straight from the Shoulder.—Broadway T., New Cross
Terry, Ellen.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
The Thief N.).—T. R., Great Yarmouth.
The Thief (S.).—Grand T., Southampton.
Tom Jones.—Tunbridge Wells and Margate.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Bordesley.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Two Little Vagabonds.—T. R., Leigh.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Way of the World.—Century T., Motherwell.
What the Butler Saw.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
When London Sleeps.—Queen's T., Longton.
White Man, A.—T. R., Plymouth.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Court T., Warrington.
Woman Pays.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Woman Worth Winning.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
World and the Woman.—T. R., Coatbridge.
Worst Woman in London.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Wrecker of Men.—T. R., Barnsley.
Youngest of Three.—Whitby.
£1,000 Reward.—T. R., Worcester.

CRICKET.

"With Edged Tools" Co. *v.* "Broken Heart" Co.

Played at Chickenley Ground, near Dewsbury, on Aug. 6, the latter winning in a two-innings match by 5 wickets and 7 runs. Scores:—

"With Edged Tools" Co.—1st Innings: Eastwood, 18; Brook, 5; W. P. Grant, 0; H. Armitage, 18; C. Goldsmid, 46; A. Pocket, 0; H. Morgan, 24; C. Modeley, 6; C. Clayton, 5; G. Fisher, 0; H. Butler, not out, 2; total, 124. 2nd Innings: Eastwood, 6; Brook, 29; W. P. Grant, 9; H. Armitage, 3; C. Goldsmid, 6; A. Pocket, 10; H. Morgan, 0; C. Modeley, 7; C. Clayton, 0; G. Fisher, 0; H. Butler, not out, 0; total 70.

"Broken Heart" Co.—1st Innings: H. Foxwell, 8; H. C. Jarvis, 39; P. M. Newell, 29; T. T. P. Sherwood, 0; P. M. Wright, 0; H. Barrs, 0; C. Grant, 6; C. Facer, 1; C. Facer, 4; C. Pickering, not out, 7; J. Audsley, 0; total, 94. 2nd Innings: H. Foxwell, 10; H. C. Jarvis, 19; P. M. Newell, 0; T. T. P. Sherwood, not out, 65; P. M. Wright, 6; H. Barrs, 3; C. Grant, not out, 4; total for 5 wickets, 107.

Mr. Harry S. Hart is spending a three weeks' holiday at Wimereux.

At the head of the bill at the Chelsea Palace is Victoria Monks, who will sing "John Bull's Girl" and "Moving Day." Other artists engaged are Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, Harry Anderson, Ada Cerito, Kitts and Windrum in the merry farce *The Cuckoo*, Frank Harwood, Lidden and Haywood, Winnie Derson, and Tom Leamore. Jeapes' Animated Graphic will also be an attraction.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Communications.

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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

Arthur Williams.—*The cast, as far as we can give it, of* A Poor Girl's Temptation; or, A Voice from the Streets, *produced at the City of London Theatre, March 1, 1858, was as follows: Jessie Bolton, Mrs. Henry Lindon; Luke Bolton, Mr. Wm. Searle; Mrs. Bolton (Jessie's stepmother), Mrs. Moreton Brookes; Lord Whetherton, Mr. W. Harmer; Signor Nobbilini, Mr. W. Travers; Eelskin Jack, Mr. Beaumont Hughes; Elinor Warren, Miss Ada Clifton. Amongst those engaged were also Mr. E. Shirra, Mr. G. W. Simms, and Miss Lizzie Johnson.*

W. H. Whiteway-Wilkinson.—*The firm that originally published the song is now non-existent, and the work is, in all probability, out of print.*

Francis Hawley.—*The original cast of* The Man in the Street, *produced at the Avenue, May 14, 1894, was:—Jabez Gover, Mr. James Welch; Philip Adare, Mr. G. R. Foss; Minnie Adare, Miss Winifred Fraser.*

J. A. C.—*Miss Vesta Tilley's first appearance was made at Gloucester at the tender age of three. To state the exact date would be an infraction of our rule never to give the ages of members of the profession.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Allan.—On Aug. 3, at 38, Cromwell-avenue, Highgate, wife of Mr. Reginald Allan, of a son.

Ross.—At 8, Stanley-gardens, Belsize Park, N.W., on Wednesday, Aug. 5, the wife of Frederick Ross (Marjorie May), of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Willie—Loftus.—July 23, at Manchester, George Willie, of Wild, Willie, and West (the Three Bounding Navvies), to Ethel Loftus, comedienne.

DEATHS.

Barrington.—On Aug. 1, suddenly, at T. R., Bradford, Henry Harding Barrington, of 15, The Grove, Hammersmith, W., the dearly beloved husband of Florence Lovell, who deeply mourns his loss. "Remember me."

Boyne.—On July 30, at 8, Rochester-square, N.W., Elizabeth Isabella Rowden, the beloved mother of Adie Boyne.

Conway.—At Blackpool, Aug. 5, Basil, the much-loved son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom W. Conway, aged 8 years.

Glyn.—Aug. 3, after a long and painful illness, Gertrude Glyn, composer, aged 52.

Hilton.—On Aug. 1, suddenly, at 31, Crowndale-road, N.W., A. T. Hilton, aged 67. Interred at Aberdeen.

Macarte.—July 26, at Callicoon (N.Y.), of pleurisy, Adelaide Macarte, variety artist.

Mora.—Tom Mora (Robertson), late Dezmonti and Mora, age 37, of consumption, on July 30, at 2, Dewey-street, Tooting, S.W. Sadly missed.

Moss.—Aug. 2, at Middleton Hall, Midlothian, Mrs. M. Moss, widow of the late James Moss, son., and mother of Sir H. Edward Moss.

Verren.—July 29, at Southea, of consumption, Milner Verren, variety artist, aged 34.

Watkin Wynne.—On July 31, Nora, the dearly beloved wife of Watkin Wynne suddenly departed this life. Requiescat in pace.

White.—On July 31, the beloved wife of V. C. White, Musical-Director. Peacefully passed away. Interred on Aug. 3 at the New Cemetery, Scarborough.

In Memoriam.

Howard.—In loving memory of John Howard, who fell asleep in the deep, Aug. 9, 1907. Deeply mourned by his mother and brothers. R.I.P. Brother to Clive Watts.

Kershaw.—In memory of Edmund Kershaw, of Rochdale, who died Aug. 8, 1907. Rest in peace. Marjory and Forshaw.

Vast.—In loving remembrance of Stephen Vast-Verinder, beloved husband of Marion Herbert, who passed away Aug. 11, 1906, in his thirty-ninth year. Deeply regretted.

At the Spa Theatre, Whitby, Mr. Leslie Faber's company have been appearing during the week in *The Liars* and *The Manœuvres of Jane*. Mr. Leslie Faber as Col. Sir Christopher Deering earns the frequent approval of the audience, whilst Mr. Lewis Willoughby enacts the rôle of Edward Falkner with distinct credit; Mr. Walter Gregory and Mr. Frank Bickley as Gilbert and George Nepean respectively show a clear conception of the parts; Miss Elizabeth Watson as Mrs. Crespin, and Miss Hilda Moore at Beatrice Elurnoe are excellent, whilst Miss May Saker as Dolly Coke, Miss Beatrice Arfley as Ferris, and Miss Ethelwyn Arthur Jones as Lady Rosamund Tatton sustain their parts with credit; as Lady Jessica Nepean, Miss Winifred Arthur Jones proves highly successful.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Alexander, Mr. T. K.
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Arnold, Miss T.
Artois, Mr. J.
Ash, Miss Edna
Augarde, Miss A.
Auton, Mr. W. Holmes
Bahada, Singh
Baines, Miss F.
Baldwin, Mr. J.
Barnard, Mr.
Beaute, Mons.
Bendons, The
Biddall, Mr. W.
Blakey, Mr. R.
Bordeverry, Col. J.
Boulton, Mr. M.
Braham, Mr. Harry
Brennan, Mr. J.
Brookes, Miss E.
Brumley, Mr. J. A.
Callan, Mr. John
Carle, Mr. Leo.
Carlsens, Tthe
Caselli, Miss Cora
Chambers, Mr. H.
Chard, Lieut.
Chirgwin, Miss Clara
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. J.
Conroy, Mr. Dan
Conynghame, Mr. F. L.
Cook, Mr. G.
Cooper, Mr. Horton
Cottrell, Mr. Robert
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Cross, Miss C.
Cryer, Mr. Abraham
Cuthbert, Mr. A.
Dean, Miss Violet
Doody, Miss Sid
Doreen, Miss Lilian
Dumont, Mme.
Duncan, Miss M.
Duncan, Mr W. O.
Elton, Mr. S.
Fainy, Mr. Chas.
Farrington, Miss Nina
Finglas, Mr. F. P.
Ford, Mr. E.
Freeland, Mr. F.
French, Mr. Henri
Gordons, Mrs. Ada W.
Garnet-Vayne, Miss Fay
Gordon, Mr. S.
Gray, Miss Mona
Grenville, Miss Helen
Grist, Miss Amy
Hall, Miss Jeanette
Hamiltons, Messrs. W.
Hamilton, Miss H.
Hannan, Mr. Percy
Harcourt, Miss Enid
Harrison, Mr. W.
Hart, Mr. A. G.
Hasluck, Mr. L.
Hemingway, Mr. Jack
Hickey, Mr. L. D.
Hudson, Mr. Eric
Hunt, Mr. R. A.
Hunter, Mr. G. W.
Jacobs, Miss Jennie
Jerome, Mrs.
Jossett, Mr. Fred
Kartelli
Keith, Miss Nora
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Lafayette, the Great
Lant, Mr. William
Lanty, Miss Olive
Le Diabelo
Lind, Miss Letty
Lloyd, Miss Rosie
Lloyd, Mr. Hugh
Loftus, Miss K.
Lupino, Mr. George
Luxmore, Miss Mabel
Macfarlane, Mr. J. H.
Mackay, Mr. W. J.
Mackimmon's Comedy F
Macweys, The
Marriott, Mr. Geo. M.
Maude, Miss Winifred
Maugham, Mr. W. S.
Maxford, Mr. Dan
McCann, Prof.
McGlynn, Mr. George
McKintosh, Mr. George
Mellon, Mr. Alfred
Meynell and Gunn
Millett, Miss Maude
Moore, Miss Mary
Moore, Miss Mabel
Morison, Capt. R.
Morton, Mr. Teddy
Moss, Mr. W.
Mount, Miss Violet
Muller, Mrs. W.
Musgrove, Mr. George
"Mysticus"
Nethersole, Miss Olga
Nikola, Dr.
Odell, Miss Maude
Oliver, Mr. J. C.
Osborne, Mr. Jack
Palfrey, Miss May
Parsons, Mr. G.
Paull, Miss E. G.
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Pollock, Mr. E.
Powell, Mr. Frank
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Robinson, Mr. Phil
Rogers, Mr. Harry
Romer, Mr. Adrian
Rosine, Mr. Carl
Rubens, Mr. H.
Ruston, Mr. E. H.
Saint, Miss Alice
Sauteron Wonders
Sceats, Mrs.
Scott, Mr. Malcolm
Seymour, Mr. Harry
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Smedley, Mr. Cuthbert
Smith and Beaumont
Stahl, Miss Rose
Staunton, Miss Cicely
Stratten, Mrs. Jack
St. Clair, Mr. F. V.
St. Just, Mr. Hilton
Sydney, Mr. Ben
Temple, Mr. Fred
Terry, Mr. Jack
Tilbury, Mr. Walter
Tosca, Mlle.
Ulrick, Mr. Chas.
Vane, Miss Amy
Vernon, Miss H.
Villion, Miss G.
Walford, Mr. Archie
Wall, Mr. Harry
Waller, Mr. L.
Wallett, Mr. R.
Ward, Mrs. Harry
Weltzein, Mr. H.
White, Mr. Stanley
Williams, Mr. Chas. H.
Willie Brothers
Yorke, Mr. Percy
Young, Mr. T. B.
Zanello, Mr. A.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Barton McGuckin—Saturday, Aug. 8.
Herbert Morgan—Saturday, Aug. 8.
Wallace Erskine—Saturday, Aug. 8.
Mrs. Saba Raleigh—Saturday, Aug. 8.
Helena Head—Saturday, Aug. 8.
Otho Stuart—Sunday, Aug. 9.
Geo. H. Smythson—Sunday, Aug. 9.
Sydney Barraclough—Sunday, Aug. 9.
Nellie Nelson—Sunday, Aug. 9.
Forshaw Kershaw, Sunday, Aug. 9.
Melville Bickford—Monday, Aug. 10.
Richard Vane—Monday, Aug. 10.
Daisy Gwynne, Monday, Aug. 10.
Alice Thornton—Tuesday, Aug. 11.
Becky Elliston—Tuesday, Aug. 11.
Lewis Marcus—Tuesday, Aug. 11.
Oakdene—Tuesday, Aug. 11.
Jessie Winter, Tuesday, Aug. 11.
E. W. Royce—Tuesday, Aug. 11.
Mary Collette—Wednesday, Aug. 12.
Sid. Cotterell—Wednesday, Aug. 12.
Frank Sherlock—Wednesday, Aug. 12.
Beryl Mercer—Thursday, Aug. 13.
Louisa Peach—Thursday, Aug. 13.
Ambrose Manning—Friday, Aug. 14.
Bransby Williams—Friday, Aug. 14.
Rose Cazalet—Friday, Aug. 14.
Charles Lilburn—Friday, Aug. 14.

Mr. Francis O'Flynn, "the man who makes the banjo talk," writes:—"I am informed by several conductor friends that a humorous musical sketch, entitled *A Southern Wedding*, has been recently published. From description, I find it is similar to one of the comedy sketches I occasionally introduce into my act. To prevent any misunderstanding, I might mention that Messrs. Clarke and Earle were the first to introduce an imitation of a negro wedding in public years ago. At that time I obtained permission to use this number, and since then have been playing the same in my solo act, and also whilst I was associated with the Earle and Earle Banjo Duo. My Press notices referring to the above sketch date back to 1901, and to-day I am the only solo performer in the country giving a faithful representation of a coloured Southern wedding. I only mention this matter, as I think in all fairness some credit is due to the persons who produced and popularised the number."

At the Theatre Royal, Wednesbury, this week, Mr. Harry Battersby has been presenting his company in the drama, *The King of Crime*. Ronjarre, alias Gaston Lemaire, is artistically portrayed by Mr. F. B. Woulfe, and as the old miser Gandelu Mr. W. T. Miller makes a decided impression; Mr. Claude Aymond submits a capital characterisation as Simon, whilst the rôle of Louis Mascarot is in the safe keeping of Mr. William Melvyn; excellent comedy is infused into the part of Mick Maloney by Mr. Sam Williford; Miss Ethel Griffies as Henriette, Ronjarre's blind wife, wins the appreciation of all her hearers; as Minnie Patenlair Miss Grace Evelyn proves a great favourite; Miss Lillie Lawrence's delineation of Mme. Mourivot is well worthy of the highest praise, as also is Miss Edith Loraine in her interpretation of Clarisse.

"I'll swear upon that bottle."—Tempest, Act II., Scene II.

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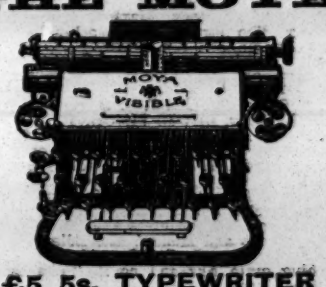

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Managing-Directors,
Mr. Ernest Stevens and Mr. R. C. Buchanan.
Aug. 3, "THE PRODIGAL SON."
Aug. 10, "SUNDAY."
Note.—Owing to change,
Sept. 7
may be open for First-class Attraction.
Address all communications re dates to Mr. J. B. Mulholland, King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W. All other communications to Messrs. Stevens and Buchanan, Marlborough T., N. 'Phone 131 North.

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6.30. Twice Nightly. 9 o'clock.
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Monday, Aug. 10, 1908, Fred Lindsay, the famous Australian whip wonder, showing marvellous feats with the stockwhip, T. E. Dunville (every evening at 8.55), Kitty Wager, Walker and Lake, Fred Poplar, Sisters Hampel, Frank Harwood, Daisy Jerome, the Electric Spark, Nellie Chandos, Franko Midgets (the smallest conjurers and illusionists in the world), Lands and Montes, The Edisonograph, The Nye-Arthur Comedy Co., Jerrold Robertshaw, in something quite new and novel, "The Devil's Mate," May Henderson.

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Twice Nightly, at 6.10 and 9.0.
Monday, Aug. 10, 1908: Thiery and Lieli, in "A Daughter of the Revolution," Charles Sloman, Davis and Dene, Stowe Brothers, Marie Goodwin, Lambert and Butler, Manson and Rack, Walter Wallis, Dulcie Laing, The Bioscope, Coram, &c.
Artists are notified that they must send their full Bill Matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1 o'clock Mondays. All must attend. Artists not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at option of Management.

ROYAL STANDARD MUSIC HALL
(facing Victoria Station).—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. S. DICKIE. One House Nightly.
Monday, Aug. 10: Tom Costello, Ritter and Foster, Alice Lingard, May Henderson, The Lorrisons, Oakley and James, Percy Hannan, Henny and Blanche, E. Fergusson and Co., in "Invasion," Harding and Preston, Sybil Montague, Julian Ross, Edisonograph. Rehearsal Monday, 1 o'clock. Open 7.30 (Sat. 7), commence 7.40 (Sat. 7.15). Tele. 503 Westminster. Assist.-Manager, Mr. Maurice Volny.

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At 6.40 and 9.10.
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Bill matter must be sent in fourteen days before opening, in accordance with Clause 18, same to be sent to Manager, Queen's. Artists please note rehearsal must be attended Mondays, 1.0 o'clock, according to contract.

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MLLE. POMPONNETTE, in
"THE TWO FLAGS," &c.

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ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

Abrahams, jun., Mr. Morris	Aug. 10, 1907
Adeson, Mr. Charles	April 25, 1908
Alexandra, Late Miss Ada	March 23, 1907
Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Armstrong, Mr. Barney	Nov. 30, 1907
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Bentley, Mrs. Walter	July 20, 1907
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Bernard, Mr. Albert	Oct. 5, 1907
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Bolder, Mr. Robert	July 20, 1907
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brittain, Mr. Arthur	Oct. 19, 1907
Brodie, late Mr. Matthew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brooking, Mr. Cecil	Nov. 2, 1907
Brooks, Mr. E. Oswald	Nov. 16, 1907
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred	June 27, 1908
Camp, Late Mr. Jack	April 6, 1907
Cannon, Miss Mayme	July 13, 1907
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Carter, Late Mr. John	July 13, 1907
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Collins, Mr. Patrick Ross	March 16, 1907
Collins-Rolfe, Mr. Arthur	April 13, 1907
Connor, Mr. J. F.	Oct. 12, 1907
Cooke Mr. Stanley	March 30, 1907
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Cooper, Miss Florry	Aug. 10, 1907
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T	March 28, 1908
Crawford, Miss Alice	Nov. 9, 1907
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 7, 1907
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Curry, Late Mr. H. J.	April 27, 1907
Darnley, Mr. Herbert	Aug. 17, 1907
Dashwood, Mr. Arthur	July 20, 1907
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Day, Mr. David	Nov. 30, 1907
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Donegan, Mr. James H.	July 11, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Draycott, Mr. Charles	June 13, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edmonds, Late Mr. E.	May 4, 1907
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Edwards, Late Mr. G. H.	April 11, 1908
Empress, Miss Marie	Feb. 8, 1908
Feldman, Mr. Bert	Dec. 14, 1907
Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Fitzgibbon, Mr. H. B.	July 25, 1908
Fogerty, Late Mr. Robert	July 6, 1907
Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908
Fox, jun., Mr. Charles	July 13, 1907
Francis, Late Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Francis, Mr. Nelson	May 4, 1907
Frank, Miss Ada	July 25, 1908
Fuller, jun., Mr. John	July 27, 1907
Gay, Mr. Walter	July 11, 1908
Gibbons, Mr. Arthur	July 4, 1908
Gilmore, Mr. Paul	July 18, 1908
Goldston, Mr. Will	Feb. 22, 1908
Goodall, Miss Edyth	June 13, 1908
Grant, Mr. Christie	Feb. 29, 1908
Gregory, Late Mr. John	Dec. 28, 1907
Gribben, Mr. Harry A.	March 7, 1908
Grimes, Mr. W. J.	May 23, 1908
Hales, Mr. T. G.	April 6, 1907
Hall, Late Mr Owen	April 13, 1907
Hamilton, Miss Rose	April 18, 1908
Hamilton, Late Mr. Wm.	April 20, 1907
Hanbury, Late Miss Lily	March 7, 1908
Hanlon, Late Mr. Bob	July 6, 1907
Hansard, Late Mr. J. B.	Feb. 8, 1908
Hardacre, Miss Ethel	July 4, 1908
Harding, Mr. Alfred	May 2, 1908
Hare, John	Nov. 16, 1907
Harrington, Mr. J. P.	Nov. 30, 1907
Harvey, Mr. Martin	June 22, 1907
Harvey, Miss Rose	July 25, 1908
Hawthorne, Miss Lil	Feb. 15, 1908
Holding, Mr. Thomas	Jan. 18, 1908
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.	May 16, 1908
Howe, Late Mr. J. B.	March 14, 1908
Howson, Late Mr. Charles	Nov. 9, 1907
Hudspeth, Late Mrs. J. H.	March 7, 1908
Humphrey Miss Ola	Sept. 7, 1907
Hutton, Mr. Ralph	July 25, 1908
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905
Imeson, Miss Florence	Feb. 29, 1908
Ivatts, Mr. C.	Aug. 10, 1907
Jackson, Mr. T. Ellis	July 27, 1907
Jones, Mr. Tom	April 4, 1908
Kay, Miss Ethel	March 28, 1908
Kilburn, Mr. Harry	July 18, 1908
King, Mr. Claude	June 20, 1908
Lambert, Mr. R. Lawson	Feb. 8, 1908
Leitch, Late Mr. George	May 25, 1907
Leon, Miss Connie	April 4, 1908
Lester, Mr. Alfred	May 9, 1908
Little, Mr. Fred J.	April 18, 1908
Loftus, Miss Kitty	June 8, 1907
Lloyd, Mr. Samuel	Aug. 10, 1907
Lucas, Mr. and Mrs. E. H.	March 14, 1908
Maclachlan, Mr B. G.	Nov. 23, 1907
Macowan, Mr. and Mrs. Norman	July 18, 1908
Maule, Mr. Herbert	Dec. 7, 1907
Maundy-Gregory, Mr J.	May 23, 1908
Melford, Late Mr. Austin	Jan. 25, 1908
Mellon, Mrs. Alfred	July 18, 1908
Olive, Miss Edyth	July 4, 1908
Orford, Miss Emmeline	March 7, 1908
O'Sullivan, Late Mr. Denis	Feb. 8, 1908
Percy, Mr. Esme	July 4, 1908
Potts, Mr. W. E.	June 27, 1908
Price, Mr. Wylie	June 6, 1908
Raby, Miss Mary	May 16, 1908
Radcliffe, Miss Florence	April 4, 1908
Rees, Miss Rosemary	March 14, 1908
Reynolds, Mr. Walter	Dec. 7, 1907
Rickards, Mr. Harry	May 16, 1908
Rolyat, Mr. Dan	March 28, 1908
Roma and Romani	April 4, 1908
Ronalds, Miss Stanley	March 28, 1908
Rousby, Mr Wybert	Sept. 14, 1907
Scott, Mr. Bennett	Dec. 7, 1907
Searelle, Late Mr. Luscombe	Dec. 21, 1907
Shepherd, Mr. Leonard	July 25, 1908
Sheridan, Late Mr. J. T.	Dec. 8, 1906
Simpson, Miss Sadie	April 25, 1908
Sinden, Miss Topsy	Dec. 28, 1907

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 1908.

THE MINIMUM WAGE.

The thoroughness with which everything connected with the stage is analysed and argued out is shown by the remarkable article on the above subject which has been contributed by Miss DAISY HALLING and Mr. CHARLES LISTER to the August number of the *Socialist Review*. The question of the Minimum Wage is debated with scientific calmness; and, whatever we may think of the deductions of the author and authoress, we cannot help admiring the earnest and thoughtful spirit with which their opinions are advocated. They begin with the statement that there are three kinds of provincial companies—two exporting plays from London to provincial centres of culture, and a third providing fare intended almost exclusively for provincial—we suppose they mean lower-class provincial—audiences. There are:

(1) Companies touring recent London successes, paying leading parts as much as £12 a week, and the salaries vary from about £5 to £12.

(2) Companies where the lowest salaries are £1 10s. or £2, and the highest £4 and £5 per week.

(3) Melodramatic companies, where the highest are £2 10s. per week, and the lowest £1.

"Now the last two classes," say the writers, "are far the most numerous. In Class 3, out of £2 10s. the actor must provide his clothes for the part he has to play, unless the piece be a costumed play. When he is not on the stage, he is a 'collar man,' and has to look respectable—a serious responsibility on less than £2 a week. Further, it must be remembered, actors are only employed for about thirty weeks out of the fifty-two of the year. At Christmas time there are ten weeks' pantomime; there is also a slack time in the summer."

"Let us take," say Miss HALLING and Mr. LISTER, "the budget of a leading actor in one of the Class 3 plays, earning an average of £2 5s. a week. £2 10s. is a maximum for those engaged in a melodrama, £2 a minimum; £2 5s. would therefore be a fair mean.

RECEIPTS.	£	s.	d.
30 weeks' salary at £2 5s.....	67	10	0
EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Lodgings	13	0	0
Washing	5	4	0
Wardrobe	10	0	0
Newspapers and Tobacco	5	0	0
	33	4	0

Balance for food £34 6s., i.e., about 1s. 10½d. per diem.

"The leading lady would, of course, have the same sort of budget; the wardrobe item would be higher, but then there would not probably be any expenditure on tobacco and newspapers.

"The £2 minimum suggests itself after scrutiny of the actors' budget given above; it does not appear to be excessive. After taking off expenses incurred—lodging, wardrobe, newspapers, tobacco, &c., we have a margin left that gives the actor under 2s. a day for food. A minimum can only be decided in terms of food, lodging, board, luxuries, &c.; and if we allow an average of thirty weeks' employment in the year for actors we must see that £60 per annum is the least that an actor or actress can live on respectably."

The authors append a touring manager's budget for a week:

	£	s.	d.
Gross Receipts	60	0	0
EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
Salaries paid, leading parts, 2 at £2 5s. each	4	10	0
Comedian	2	0	0
Joint Couple	3	10	0
4 smaller parts £1 10s. each	6	0	0
3 Supers at 6s. a week	0	18	0
	16	18	0
Printing	6	0	0
Fares	3	0	0
Sundries	6	18	0
	32	16	0
45 per cent. of gross receipts to Resident Manager	27	0	0
	£59	16	0

The authors, in continuation of their arguments, allude to the Actors' Union in no very respectful terms. They say: "Actors, it appears, are too respectable to go to pubs, and there are actresses to be considered too. The snobbishness of the actor is really at the root of the whole matter; that is the underlying cause of his aversion to (*sic*) trade union methods, and his sentimental aspirations to management that cause him to forget that his relation to the manager is still one of labour to employer. His high and mighty views, and his abhorrence of anything that savours of the horny-handed, make him a difficult subject for the organiser. This inability to face facts serves to explain why there is no adequate and really representative actors' organisation now in existence, in despite of the fact that actors suffer from the same economic forces as other sections of labour."

We have a higher opinion of the intelligence and character of the actor and actress than Miss DAISY HALLING and Mr. CHARLES LISTER appear to have; and we believe the fact that the actor has shown himself a difficult subject for the organiser simply shows that he is sharp enough to realise the economic differences between his calling and those in which trades unionism has proved successful. In such trades we have hundreds of persons receiving about the same salary and doing about the same amount of work. The average bricklayer has no hope of becoming a speculative builder or an architect. He does his work stolidly and honestly, without enthusiasm, but without neglect. (As it is, it is only the cream of the great body of mechanical workmen who belong to unions; there are a great many non-union workers, ad some firms will employ none others.) But the point is that trades unionism is difficult, if not impossible, in a profession with a gradation of salaries from that of the leading man down to that of the supernumerary, and where a happy hit may raise a humble performer to a position of affluence. There is one obstacle, too, in the way of improvement which, in all these discussions about incompetent paying amateurs and poor companies, has never been mentioned, though, in our opinion, it, and not the "snobbishness of the actor," is the root of the matter; and that is the ignorance and toleration of many audiences in the provinces. If "rotten" companies were hissed off the boards whenever they appeared, it would be absolutely necessary to engage better performers. But there are many places in the provinces where, provided the play be written down to the level of their tastes and intellects, audiences will encourage the poorest and crudest acting. Actors who ought to be sawing wood, actresses who have mistaken their vocation, and paying amateurs hastily coached by the stage-manager, are endured, and even applauded, by these child-like and animal folk. It is the want of critical faculty and discrimination in the English lower class that makes possible the poorness of acting—and consequent poorness of salaries. If the public positively refused to tolerate any performance which was beneath a certain standard, the bogus actor could not exist, and the underpaying travelling manager would be crowded out. By the way, the statement in the article that "in France the evil of the unpaid amateur is obviated by the fact that the Paris managers will not take on any actor or actress who has not been through the Conservatoire," is incorrect.

"LUCKY JIM."

A New and Original Interlude, first Performed in this Country at the Walthamstow Palace, on Monday, Aug. 3.

Gilbert Carstairs .....MR. HERBERT HARDER
Dyson .....MR. MAITLAND STAPLEY
Miss Wilson .....MISS WHITBY
Mason .....MR. MORRICE SEATON
Lucky Jim .....MISS MARGARET PARKER

A smart and bright little sketch is *Lucky Jim*, produced by Miss Margaret Parker and received with shouts of delight at the Walthamstow Palace on Monday. The story is cleverly designed, the situations are naturally led up to, and the dialogue is smart and always in character.

Mr. Gilbert Carstairs, a diamond broker, discovers to his dismay, on opening his evening paper, that certain shares on which his fate depends have gone down to zero. His "confidential" clerk, Dyson, whose pecuniary circumstances are desperate and whose morals as regards property have been entirely mislaid, enlists the aid of a sharp, saucy young newsboy, only known by the name of Lucky Jim. On the departure of Mr. Carstairs, Dyson tells Jim that there are some valuable diamonds in the safe, hands him some burglar's tools, and threatens his life if he refuse. The boy makes a pathetic and stirring appeal on behalf of honesty, but, seeing a loophole through which he can appear to consent without consenting, he promises. While he is in the act of picking the lock, Mr. Carstairs returns, Jim disappears into a wine room, and the diamond broker proceeds to take the diamonds from the safe, and then sits down to pen a letter to his wife, explaining all. While so engaged he is surprised to find Jim in the room. A stormy scene ensues. The lucky one tells such a clear tale that Carstairs begins to believe him, and when Dyson appears matters reach their climax in highly dramatic manner.

The interpretation of the piece by Miss Margaret Parker and her company is deserving of the highest praise all round. As the slangy, cheeky, cheery London *gamin*, Miss Parker has a part that suits her admirably. Whether saying impudent things to her elders, singing a jolly song, or pleading with almost tragic intensity for the aged mother at home, who depends on him, the actress carries all before her, and is rewarded with salvoes of applause and shouts of laughter. Mr. Herbert Harder as Gilbert Carstairs looks well, acts with quiet force, and speaks with great distinctness. As the rascally Dyson, Mr. Maitland Stapley is very villainous—indeed, seems to take a vindictive pleasure in the agony he is inflicting on the boy. Miss Whitby is the lady typist; and Mr. Morrice Seaton an unusually real policeman.

DR. BODIE'S FIRST SPECULATION.

The book of "Stage Stories," by Dr. Walford Bodie, which has just been published by Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co., Ltd., is "chock full" of amusing matter. But the fame of Dr. Bodie lends particular interest to the following account of his first attempt as a public performer:—

It is not a very important place—the Town Hall, Stonehaven—writes Dr. Bodie, but for quite a long time my mind had been made up that it was there that my first appearance in my own sole entertainment should be made. It suited me in many ways. It was only a few miles from Aberdeen, and, therefore, easily accessible, but it was far enough away to afford a full and fair test. I knew no one in the town, and no one in the town knew me. I should arrive there as a stranger and be judged entirely on my own merits. And, I said to myself, and to the two or three friends that I took into my confidence, upon that verdict I will decide whether my future career is to be on the stage or off the stage.

I knew a little of the business. For instance, I knew the value of preliminary advertising, and for weeks before the day on which I was to descend on Stonehaven my bills were placarded all round that doomed town.

Twice I went over from Aberdeen and had a look at the bills. They were to be seen all round the district—on every barn, on every second gate, and on every third house. I do not suppose there was a man, woman, or child in Stonehaven who did not at some time or other pause and look at those bills. Several times I watched people engaged in this task, and speculated as to whether they would take two-shilling stalls or shilling circle seats, or would fight their way into the sixpenny pit.

I was up on the fateful morning at six o'clock, and I hurried over my bath and breakfast. Heaven knows why I hurried. The train from Aberdeen to Stonhaven only takes about an hour, and the performance was not to begin until half-past seven o'clock in the evening. I suppose it was because I was nervous. At any rate, I *was* nervous.

I spent the morning practising my conjuring tricks, and making my vanishing lady vanish, and vanish, and vanish, until—well, I am rather surprised that she ever came back at all. But she did eventually come back, and, done up neatly in her box, carefully labelled, "This side up with care," she, with the rest of my outfit and my one particular friend, journeyed to Stonehaven.

There was an orchestra—a piano, a fiddle, and a nondescript instrument to fill up the gaps. Soon after seven it began to play. During the first piece the house was empty. During the second piece two or three people forced their way into the pit. During the third piece one bold buccaneer, having presumably parted with a blood-stained Spanish doubloon at the front door, spread himself along the front row of the stalls and gazed fiercely at the stage-curtains.

Behind those curtains I was stationed; and through a hole in them I watched the gathering of the clans, and counted the money they had brought with them. Still the orchestra played, and still the audience increased; but very slowly. I was noting it all down on my shirt cuffs. This sort of thing: Pit, 2s.; buccaneer in stalls, 2s.; pit, 2s. 6d. (a family party this); circle, 2s. (a lover and his lass); pit, 5s. (ten rolling stones); stalls, 4s. (two young men after the vanishing lady).

Half-past seven came and went. Very anxiously I consulted my cuff, and added to it one or two late arrivals. Twice I checked the total—30s. Yes, 30s., not a 6d. more or a 6d. less—and the rent of the hall was £2! And I and my properties and my friend had to get back to Aberdeen that night! I paced up and down the stage trying to work the problem out. My calculations were disturbed by a loud clapping of hands and whistling. The audience—the vast audience—now swelled to about 35s., was getting impatient. What was I to do? Should I go on, or should I, like the Arabs, fold my tent and silently steal away? It was not left to me to decide. My friend had shut up the box office, put the contents of the cash-box into his trouser pocket, and come round to the stage.

"Go on," he whispered.

"Is it worth while?" I began. "Hadn't we better——"

For answer with one hand he pulled the curtain cord, with the other shoved me before the audience.

Tremendous applause, during which I bowed repeatedly, and tried to remember whether or not the doorkeeper was a fighting man.

"Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking," were my first words. They seem to me somewhat humorous now, and those of my readers who have hard my stage speeches during recent years will probably take the same view. Even then the words were not quite justified, except by the temporary embarrassment of my hurried appearance. The full sentence was: "Unaccustomed as I am to public speaking, I will now show you a few conjuring tricks."

The inconsequence of the statement was not noticed by my audience. They gave me a sympathetic cheer, and fixed their eyes on me as I produced a pack of cards and made them disappear one by one into the air. Great success! And the other tricks equally so. Then came the ventriloquism. In the course of this I managed to work in a few local allusions which greatly pleased the buccaneer in the stalls and caused some excited whispering among the crowd in the pit. After this my *pièce de résistance*—the vanishing lady. She vanished in her very best style, and completed my triumph. The applause at the end of the performance was—well, it was simply prodigious, considering the size of the audience. I do not think that before or since so few people have ever made so much noise.

Down came the curtain, and I walked off the stage to find my friend and the doorkeeper engaged in intimate talk. The doorkeeper wanted his £2. My friend was explaining to him that as the takings had only amounted to 35s., and as the private wealth of himself and the Great Walford Bodie was about 10s., it was rather doubtful whether we could give him the £2.

"That's just it," I broke in. "We've got to get back to Aberdeen to-night, and we must keep enough for the railway fare. Suppose you take the 35s., and we will call quits."

After a prolonged talk, and the discussion of a little whisky, which, by good fortune, my friend happened to have in his pocket, the doorkeeper agreed to this, and we shouldered the two boxes containing the paraphernalia of my performance, and started to walk to the station.

It was a weary walk. We were both thoroughly disheartened, and hardly exchanged a word. I, for my part, was re-constituting my plan of life on a basis which did not include stage performances, and my friend was probably doing much the same.

When we reached the station we found to our horror that the last passenger train to Aberdeen had just gone. The financial difficulty with the doorkeeper at the Town Hall had taken longer to settle than we had imagined, and although we had escaped with our railway fares it looked as if we should not be able to travel home that night. But the station-master came to our rescue. There was a goods train, he said, due to pass in a few minutes. He would signal it to stop, and would persuade the guard to take us on board. He was as good as his word. And so presently, seated on the box containing the vanishing lady, the Great Walford Bodie ingloriously rode home from his first battle.

MR. W. H. ARMSTRONG, the well-known solicitor to the variety profession, is starting a testimonial to Mr. Fred Miller, late of the Canterbury and Paragon Music Halls.

"A TIMELY AWAKENING."

A Duologue, produced for the first time in England at the Tivoli on Monday, Aug. 3.

Charles .....MR. CARLETON MACEY
Effie May .....MISS MAUD HALL

A bright, well-written little piece, which moreover conveys an excellent lesson to thoughtless, selfish husbands, it thoroughly deserved the favourable reception that marked its first production in this country. Unfortunately, it is only too true that the loving, devoted wife does not always reap the reward which is her just due. In fact, her lucky husband is apt to become spoilt. It so happens in the case of Charles and Effie May. When the head of the household returns home from his city office he finds that his wife has prepared the tea with her own fair hands; but instead of thanking her, he only grumbles that she is ruining the servants by doing their work for them. He is not in the least grateful for her loving regard for his comfort. On the contrary, he flies into a temper because he cannot find a collar-stud while donning evening dress in an adjoining room. Effie thinks he may take her to the theatre, but he has no such intention. Though begrudging his wife pecuniary assistance for her blind sister, he has, according to his own admission, been carrying on an imprudent flirtation with his new typewriting girl, and has treated her to an expensive luncheon. While taking a rest on the couch Charles falls asleep, and has a bad dream. But it has good results, for it is the means by which he is brought to his senses. He dreams that Effie suddenly appears before him very gaily dressed; and not only has she put on grand apparel, there is quite a startling change in her manner. She knows all about the new typewriting girl, and makes scornful allusions to the expensive luncheon and the cheap photograph of the giddy typist which that young lady has given him. But if he imagines that Effie has been pining at home alone all day he is very much mistaken. She has had luncheon, she tells him, with a man who is a "real sport," and generous in the matter of loans. Charles is overwhelmed by these appalling domestic revelations, and when his wife helps herself to a neat whisky, lights a cigarette, and shows an inclination to indulge in high-kicking he abandons himself to utter despair. After a few final remarks which are very much to the point, Effie leaves the house. Charles is by this time reduced to such a condition of wretchedness and despair that he determines to put an end to his miserable existence, and a revolver is the instrument which he selects for his deadly purpose. But at this tragic crisis Charles awakens from his bad dream, and is bewildered to find his wife in her ordinary indoor dress and showing no difference in her manner. Charles has been taught a salutary lesson; and he proceeds to make open confession of his faults, and to admit that he acted as a brute towards his charming little wife. Of course she forgives him, and gladly falls in with his proposal to take her to the opera. The duologue was admirably played.

Mr. Carleton Macey proved an excellent representative of the selfish, inconsiderate husband, who by means of a timely dream is turned from the error of his ways. Miss Maud Hall acted very cleverly and naturally as the wife, presenting a most effective contrast between the real Effie and the Effie of Charles's dream.

"A QUEEN OF MUSIC."

A Dramatic Sketch, produced at the Middlesex on Monday, August 3.

Jim Stockson .....MR. LEO V. GORDON
Captain Burlington ..MR. H. WRIGHT-SCADDAN
Margaret Hamilton.....MISS ESTELLE COLLETTE

There is hardly any task more difficult of attainment to the playwright than the surrounding of a central figure possessed of some outstanding accomplishment with a background at once appropriate and suited to exhibit the particular talents of the leader. In *A Queen of Music* the author, a well-known novelist, has had to find opportunity for the display of a really finished artist's musical abilities and the provision of a reasonably probable outcome of their surpassing influence. Pathos is a sentiment the handling of which requires very considerable skill, as the slightest degree of over-colouring may lead to a degeneracy into bathos. And the artists who undertake the performance of such a piece have to be extremely careful lest they unduly accentuate their own parts and cast a shadow over what is meant to be the feature of the whole situation. In the playlet under review we are confronted with Jim Stockson making his entry to the drawing-room of a famous lady violinist, Miss Margaret Hamilton. As he appears by the window, his intentions are manifest, but their immediate execution is delayed by the entry of the lady and her lover, Captain Burlington. The latter, in urging his suit upon his fair companion, offers her a valuable violin, reputed to have been used by Paganini—a statement carefully noted by the burglarious Jim, concealed for the time being behind a screen. The lady gives her audience a crowning proof of the instrument's latent excellence by performing in excellent style Mendelssohn's Concerto. After her lover leaves she further, for her own, and certainly for her hearers', pleasure, renders the "Salut d'Amour." Then Jim announces his presence, and demands the violin, but accepts instead various articles of jewellery. As he is examining his plunder he recognises among it a woman's portrait as that of his dead wife. The girl begs its restoration because it is her mother's. Then repentance comes to Jim, and he vows his self-inflicted banishment. But Captain Burlington appears on the scene, and, naturally enough, at first proposes to adopt unpleasant measures towards the now regretful sinner. Jim realises that it is hopeless to reform his evil ways, but ere he starts on his long journey he begs his daughter to play to him the air of a song his wife used to sing to him in happier days. Margaret complies, and the wail of "Come back to Erin" leads him to place on the table the jewels he had taken and to surreptitiously depart by the window. As the last notes of the haunting melody die away a shot is heard. Burlington rushes outside, and Jim is assisted in to die in his daughter's arms—he has started on his long journey.

Mr. Leo V. Gordon plays the part of the burglar with a very considerable amount of tragic intensity, while all the time exercising great self-restraint. Mr. H. Wright-Scaddan is a manly lover, who has made up his mind to have the lady he loves in spite of her unfortunate parentage. Of course, Miss Estelle Collette as Margaret Hamilton has the onus of the work upon her shoulders, and it may be said that she does it extremely well. She possesses dramatic power in no inconsiderable degree, and she is a violinist of really outstanding ability. Her tone is good, and she exhibits an admirable command of technique. Good music, as we have often pointed out, always appeals to an audience at a variety house, and in this little piece there is a demonstration of really first-class artistry. And, in addition to the remarkable qualifications we have already enumerated, Miss Collette has a striking and attractive appearance, which is enhanced by charm and freshness of manner and personality.

IN the popular sports provided by the Bath Wheelers' Cycling Club on Saturday an interesting event, arranged as an additional draw, was a half-mile cycle race between Mr. Carlton and Mr. J. E. Melhuish (vice-captain of the Bath Wheelers). Carlton was the winner after a close race, and immediately collapsed in the orthodox manner, and was carried to the tent.

"THE PHILOSOPHER'S DIAMOND."

A Comedy of Marvels, by Nevil Maskelyne, produced at the St. George's Hall on Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 5.

Sir Grimley Greensward, Bart. .....MR. NEVIL MASKELYNE
Huckaback .....MR. E. MORRELL
Bottles .....MR. ARNOLD MUSSETT
Lady Catherine Greensward .....MISS HELEN MCCULLOCH
Ali Ben Slobur .....MR. B. S. ELTON
Djinn al Kohl .....MR. CHARLES GLENROSE
Moonsheen .....MISS CASSIE BRUCE

We understand that a sketch similar to the one under review, but with different illusions, was introduced some years ago at the Egyptian Hall under the title of *The Philosopher's Stone*. This title, however, having been recently adopted for a drama, the present sketch has been renamed *The Philosopher's Diamond*.

The scene, we are told, is "the ancient alchemical laboratory at Corselight Castle, Graveleigh, Ghostershire." Here we are first introduced to Bottles, a servant of Sir Grimley Greensward, who is expecting a visit from a mysterious alchemist, who is supposed to visit the laboratory once in every three hundred years. Already there are omens that something out of the ordinary is going to happen, for, as Bottles attempts to dust a shelf full of old flagons, these suddenly become illuminated, and this strange phenomena is made still more weird by an awe-inspiring whistling sound. Huckaback, a marine store dealer, who comes to fetch away some old clothes and other oddments, prides himself upon the possession of a diamond which he discovered in the pocket of a discarded waistcoat sold to him by the baronet, and Huckaback's honesty is of the kind which does not realise the necessity of returning the stone. Sir Grimley attires him in the fantastic and highly coloured robes of an Eastern magician, and leaves him in the laboratory—an experience which the worthy marine store dealer relishes not. Suddenly, and as mysteriously as suddenly, there appears out of the chamber of a furnace one Ali Ben Slobur, a Mahatma "on the track," presumably for purposes of revenge. Two other "astral forms" come on the scene in the persons of Djinn al Kohl and Moonsheen, the latter a beautiful maiden who possesses the supernatural gift of being able to float in the air, and who appears to assume life and shape out of nothingness. Thoroughly terrified Huckaback conceals himself in the furnace, which is set blazing by the Mahatma. There are other adventures in which Sir Grimley's spouse and that gentleman himself take part, and the sketch, which is thoroughly diverting from beginning to end, ends amusingly with the discovery that Huckaback's diamond is a piece of worthless paste. All the characters are capitally represented, and the illusions most cleverly worked.

There are several contributors to the remainder of Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant's entertainment. Mr. Ernest Hastings submits a delightful musical, anecdotal, and singing performance, to his own accompaniment at the piano; and Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Marriott, the "technopathists," demonstrate the mysteries of thought transference in a truly marvellous manner. The sketch *The Magical Master* is still in the bill, and in it Mr. David Devant in the title-rôle; and Mr. Charles Glenrose, Mr. B. Mackenzie, Miss Dora Devant, and Miss Florence Eaton contrive to furnish great merriment. Essman, styled "the juggling waiter," gains loud applause for his marvellous displays of dexterity with various articles.

ROTHERHAM HIPPODROME OPENING.

Rotherham may now be said to have been brought up to date by the completion of the Hippodrome, which was opened for a public performance on Monday last (Bank Holiday) in the presence of a distinguished audience, including his Worship the Mayor (Councillor G. H. Lodge), a large number of the members of the corporation and officials, local magistrates, and other influential residents. Amongst the special visitors were noticed Messrs. G. Drake, G. Drake, jun., Leo Fritz, Fred Richardson (from London), Gerald Morton, of the Moss' Empires, Ltd., who motored from town specially for the opening, W. H. Haywood, and many other notable patrons.

The front façade is Italian Renaissance in character, and the two domes give dignity to this well-balanced elevation. The main entrance is reached by a flight of terrazzo mosaic steps, the floor of which is marble mosaic with Roman mosaic centre, the whole of the woodwork being of polished walnut. A wide staircase on each side with terrazzo marble treads and Sicilian marble risers, and wrought-iron balustrading bronzed, and headed with solid walnut rail, lead to the mezzarine corridors, which in their turn give access to the front tiers of circle, boxes, and the stalls. The manager's office occupies a most convenient position near the entrance, a ladies' cloak-room also being very easy of access. Staircases from the mezzarine corridors lead to the circle entrance landing. The circle is very compact with ladies' and gentlemen's lavatories and cloak-rooms at opposite sides. The tip-up seats are very comfortable, and are upholstered in rich crimson velvet. The other parts of the house, including pit and gallery, are finished in an equally comfortable and artistic manner. The entrances and exits are very numerous, and by this means the house can be cleared in a very short time.

The interior decorations are Georgian in character, and the colour-scheme is of pink and gold with scarlet furnishing, the whole being particularly pleasing.

Electric lighting is the means of illumination with a secondary gas arrangement in case of failure of the electric light at any time. Six electric fans and a large centre exhaust placed at the top of a beautiful central dome make up an almost perfect scheme of ventilation, and the heating arrangements are carried out by means of low pressure hot-water radiators. The dressing-rooms are very commodious, and the stage fittings are all up to date.

The architects are Messrs. Chadwick and Watson, of Leeds, Messrs. J. Parkinson and Sons, Ltd., Blackpool and London, being responsible for the buildings. Other portions of the work were carried out by Messrs. F. De Jong and Co., Ltd., London (fibrous plaster and decorations), and Messrs. Dean and Son, Birmingham (carpets and curtains). Mr. Thomas Edgar Fox, of Leeds, is managing-director of the company and licensee, and Mr. Claude Shayler is an energetic and courteous manager. The building, which will seat 2,500 persons, was commenced on March 25, 1908, the whole of the work being completed in a little over four months.

The management had been fortunate in securing a strong bill for the opening week, including Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's company in the exceedingly funny absurdity, *The House of Tinn*, which was received with roars of laughter. Miss Ailsa Douglas had the honour of first turn, and the confidence of the management was unanimously endorsed by the crowded house, her songs being received with well-deserved applause; Miss Lily Lonsdale, soprano, was also favourably received; the Ted Moxon Trio are a very clever combination of acrobatic eccentrics; Ernie Myers is a smart comedian; Yamamoto and Miss Koyoshi are watched with breathless interest, and bring down the house with their brilliant performance; the Tally-Ho trio is *The Three Buttercups* and Fyne and Hurley are clever. A splendid orchestra of fourteen performers has been got together under the able leadership of Mr. Thomas Richardson.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The funeral of the late Harry Lundy took place at Farningham Church on Saturday. Amongst the mourners were the son of the deceased, his two brothers, Messrs. E. A. and L. S. Lundy, his three brothers-in-law, Messrs. Blott, Godfray, and Chanter, Mr. Wood, of Farningham, Mr. Frost, and Dr. Stares. Amongst those present in the churchyard were Mr. Joe Elvin and Mr. Lotto. The inscription on the coffin was, "Harry Lundy, died July 29th, 1908, aged 45 years." The following wreaths and flowers were sent:—Cross from widow and son and daughter, wreath from Mr. E. A. Lundy (brother), wreath from Mr. L. S. Lundy (brother), anchor from Mrs. Chanter (sister), wreath from Mrs. Blott (sister), wreath from Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey (brother-in-law), wreath from Mrs. de Gruchy and Miss Godfrey (sisters-in-law), sheaf of lilies from Mrs. D. Lundy), bunch of lilies from May and Toots (nieces), sheaf of lilies from Bertie and Hilda (nephew and neice), wreath from Mrs. E. A. Lundy (sister-in-law), wreath from Mrs. and Miss Hodgson (aunt and cousin), wreath from Mr., Mrs., and Miss Palmer (aunt, uncle, and cousin), wreath from Mrs. Harvey (cousin), harp from Mrs. Abratt (London), sheaf from Mrs. Cowley and Miss Weatherley (London), chaplet, Mr. and Mrs. Wilson and Gordon (Farningham), wreath, Messrs. Farrar and Salibury (London), wreath, Mr. Fred McAvoy and mother (London), wreath, Mr. Harry South (Reading), cross, Messrs. Wood and Frost (Farningham), wreath, Mr. and Mrs. Nash (Brighton), wreath, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Nash and Mabel (Brighton), wreath, Mrs. Reed (Bedfont), sheaf, Mrs. Robinson (Farningham), wreath, Licensed Victuallers, Dartford District, wreath, staff of the Lion Hotel, bunch of flowers, an old servant, cushion of flowers, the manager and staff Oxford Music Hall, wreath, Mr. H. W. Ellis (Farningham), wreath, Mr. and Mrs. J. Elvin (London), wreath, Messrs. Elvin, Lotto, and Stratton.

The Water Rats have organised a motor outing on Sunday to Marlow, where lunch will be eaten at the Compleat Anglers' Hotel, at 3.30. Rats, ratlings, and invites will meet at the Vaudeville Club at 11 a.m. on Sunday, and the start will be made soon after. The procession will be led by Mr. W. H. Clemart, King Rat, in the Hon. C. S. Rolls's famous touring car, "Silver Ghost." Messrs. Joe O'Gorman, Fred Russell, Harry Tate, Fred Ginnett, Will and Sam Poluski, Harry Radford, Carlton, Chas. Austin, Dave O'Toole, The Maples, Seth Egbert, Dusty Rhodes, Frank Haytor, and V. O. Granville are expected to be of the party.

Dr. Walford Bodie has been breaking all his previous records at the Palace, Aberdeen, for two weeks, playing to packed houses twice nightly. This week he is turning hundreds away nightly at the Palace, Dundee. Last week he chartered a special train, and took his company and staff, numbering over fifty, for a day's outing at his Highland home, Macduff. All the company on arrival sat down to a sumptuous breakfast, after which Dr. Bodie, who motored through in his new 35 h.-p. Argyle, took them all over his estate, visiting many of his properties, returning to the Manor House, where Mrs. Bodie had prepared a substantial lunch, which was served in the Bijou Theatre of the Manor House. The rest of the afternoon was spent in song and story, and the company left at 4 p.m., arriving at Aberdeen at 6, after having spent a most enjoyable day. Before leaving Macduff the whole of the company visited the late Marie Walford's (Mystic Marie) memorial, and placed a mammoth floral wreath on her tomb. Dr. Bodie finishes on Saturday night at Dundee, and then goes home for a well-deserved four weeks' rest at Macduff, during which time he will have a motor tour in the Highlands. He restarts his tour in September, and is booked up to the end of 1909.

We are sorry to have to report the death of Mrs. M. Moss, widow of the late James Moss, sen., who passed away at Middleton Hall, Midlothian, on Sunday morning last, the 2nd inst., at the age of seventy-five. The deceased lady, beloved by all who knew her, was the mother of Sir Edward Moss, chairman of Moss' Empires, Ltd., to whom will be extended the sympathy of artists and playgoers alike. The funeral took place at Joppa Cemetery, Edinburgh, on Wednesday last, at 2.45 p.m. Many personal friends were present at the graveside, including Mr. Richard Thornton, of Newcastle, Sir Robert Cranston, and Major Elliot Cranston. Sir Edward and his two sons were chief mourners, also Major Elliot Cranston. Floral wreaths were sent by a great number of sympathisers, including Sir Robert and Lady Cranston, Sir Edward and Lady Moss, the grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Allen and Miss Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Stoll, Mrs. Adelaide Stoll, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Parker, Mr. Cooper, Mrs. Tinsley, and Mr. and Mrs. Houlding, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Richard Warner, Dr. and Mrs. Inch, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Roberts and family, Mr. E. Wyer, Mr. and Mrs. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Rhind, Mr. and Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Fielding, the Head Office Staff (Cranbourn Mansions), Mr. Sam Gething and Staffs of Empire and Coliseum, Glasgow, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook and Mr. C. Bayne, Empire, Edinburgh, tenants of Middleton Estate, and the Orchestra and Staff of Empire, Edinburgh.

"They manage these things better in France," said Sterne in his "Sentimental Journey"; but the statement evidently does not apply to variety contracts in Germany, as Mr. William Berol's informing speech at the Hotel Provence on Sunday showed. The "three days' cancellation" clause, the law that the transference or sub-letting of a theatre voids all contracts, and the other numerous excuses for cancellation, make the existence of an International Artists' Lodge an absolute necessity. The good work done by that lodge in supplying information to English artists as to these and other matters is invaluable.

The following remarkable affidavit, in connection with the performance of the Tomsons at the Alhambra, has been sworn by one of the police female searchers:—"I, Jane Hopkins, female searcher of Vine-street Police Station, hereby declare that I visited the Alhambra Theatre on Wednesday night, July 29, and formed one of the ladies' committee on the stage, and examined Mrs. Tomson before and after her séance, and after a most careful and exacting search I am quite satisfied that she had no birds, flowers, or white material concealed on her person.—Signed, Jane Hopkins. Witness, J. F. Abbott."

Mr. E. H. Bostock, proprietor of the Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow, and several other music halls, has consented to become a candidate for the seat in the Town Council of Glasgow which will be rendered vacant by the retirement of Councillor Dallas, one of the representatives of Cowcaddens Ward. Mr. Bostock has been associated with this district for over ten years.

"Private Towser," J. A. Wilson's wonderful dog, has been successfully operated on by Mr. Wm. Taylor, veterinary surgeon, Clumber-street, Nottingham. No doubt this will be very pleasing news to a great many in the profession, as Towser had a host of friends. The latest bulletin from Mr. Taylor is that Towser is going on first class, and will be all right in a few days. Mr. Wilson returns thanks for various letters and wires inquiring about Towser, and is pleased to say that, with the care and personal attention he has received from Mr. Taylor, he is now out of danger.

All the stars of the variety firmament will be seen at the Herne Hill Athletic Grounds on Wednesday, when a special fête and sports day will take place in aid of the Variety Artists' Fund. Twenty-five events have been arranged. The 50yds. flip-flap race is certain to be of interest, as all the competitors have to turn somersaults for the whole distance. In the sack race, several startling innovations will be seen, and the fertile brain of Mr. Joe Elvin has evolved a novel 360yds. steeplechase. Over a dozen silver cups are to be competed for, besides a long list of prizes, ranging from an egg-stand to a silver tea and coffee service. There will be motor-cycle races, in which Mr. C. R. Collier, the holder of the world's record, will attempt to lower the five mile record on the Herne Hill track; and an aeroplane race, in which each machine will be built from special designs by the competitors. Over 400 entries have been received, and six hours' continuous amusement will be supplied.

The variety profession is taking up these sports most enthusiastically, and with such sympathy and support it is impossible for them to prove a failure. The money from the entries indeed more than covers expenses. The handicapping will be found in another column. Mr. Harry Tate and Mr. Fred Earle, it may be noticed, have entered for all heats in which ladies are concerned; and a child of four months old, Master Carlo, is a competitor for the boys' 100 yards race. The first heat of the 120 yards running handicap will start at 11.30 prompt, and runners are requested to be on their marks at that time, as Mr. Albert Le Fre will run the sports by the clock.

Mr. Maurice Fritz regrets he is unable to enter for the sports, as while he was travelling on his 7-9 h.p. Brown motor-cycle at a speed of sixty-five miles an hour on Herne Hill track, he raised it to seventy-five. Herne Hill track being so small, was not fast enough for this powerful machine, and Mr. Fritz, going round the bend, went over the banking, but fortunately escaped with a few bruises on the back and legs. The machine was completely smashed.

Mr. Harry Priest, late manager of the Theatre Royal and the Hippodrome, Wolverhampton, has been appointed by Mr. T. Allan Edwardes resident-manager of the Palace of Varieties, Atterchiffe, and entered upon his duties last week.

Mr. Peter Davies, F.A.I., will sell, by order of the High Court of Justice, on Thursday, Sept. 24, at three o'clock p.m., at the Law Association Rooms, 14, Cook-street, Liverpool, the Tivoli Theatre, Lime-street, Liverpool; the Park Palace, Mill-street, Liverpool; and the Paddington Palace, Paddington, Liverpool.

The Grand Pavilion South Parade Pier, Southsea, will be opened with befitting ceremony next week. The South Parade Pier is being rebuilt by the Corporation of Portsmouth, who have appointed Mr. Walsh, a manager of experience extending over the past twenty years, and he will settle all engagements and will have sole managerial control. The scheme of entertainment to be provided in the Grand Pavilion will necessitate the engagement of variety artists of the highest order, as well as artists of the theatre stage and concert platform. Furthermore, the very best British bands available will appear during the season.

La Belle Titcombe, the actress-equestrienne, started on a ride through the streets of Cardiff the other day in the same Directoire costume which attracted so much attention when worn by her in Rotten Row some months since. The lady was mounted on her Arab stallion Ali, which is so well trained that it did not appear alarmed at the dense crowds and the cheering. She was preceded by a motor-car, and followed by a groom in uniform, rode via Duke-street and St. Mary-street to the Docks, and returned via Grangetown, Canton, the municipal buildings, and Park-place to the Cardiff Empire.

The recent gale did serious havoc at Whitstable, the New Pavilion, managed by Mr. Jack Rowland, a promising young actor, late of the Apollo Theatre, being totally wrecked. On Wednesday evening there was a large attendance of visitors, and the season had been so far very successful, but on Thursday a distressing sight met the caretaker's eye on his arrival to do his duties for the next performance. Hardly a vestige of the building remained; even the gas brackets had been torn away by the terrific force of the wind. Workmen were at once on the spot endeavouring to get the débris cleared away. It is evident that a more substantial structure is required at this pretty and healthful seaside resort, and Mr. J. Rowland has decided to erect a fine new building for the next season.

The business of the various shows and entertainments at New Brighton Tower on Bank Holiday was by far the largest in the history of that resort. More than 40,000 people paid their way into the Tower grounds, and it was necessary for Cummins' Wild West to give four performances in order to satisfy the demands of the crowd, while the theatre, with its variety programme, gave three performances, and the ballroom, the scenic railway, the figure 8, and all of the other amusement devices were utilised to their fullest capacity by the apparently insatiable crowd of pleasure-seekers. The people of Liverpool and district are begining to wake up to the fact that they have a first-class pleasure resort, with an extremely varied line of amusements and attractions, at their very doors, where they can spend a day of pleasure at a minimum cost.

"A Birthday" testimonial is being prepared for Mr. James Doughty, who claims to be the oldest actor, clown, and trainer of animals, being ninety years of age. He is now working with his troupe of pets on the West Pier, Brighton; and for seventy-five years has followed his professional occupation at Drury Lane, Covent Garden, Surrey, Marylebone, Standard, Sadler's Wells, Victoria, Astley's Amphitheatre, and all the principal theatres in the provinces, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Perth, and with Hengler's Circus, Newsom's, William Cooke's, John Henry Cooke's, and the Great American Circus in the Exhibition of 'fifty-one. He was commanded in 1890 to appear at Osborne before the late Queen Victoria, our present King and Queen, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria, Princess Beatrice, and all the members of the Royal family, and he has been presented with a certificate of merit from the R.S.P.C.A. for kindness to animals.

The employees of the Palace and Hippodrome, Burnley, and a few friends, to the number of seventy-eight, had their first annual outing, with perfect weather. In four motor-brakes, supplied by Mr. Groome, of Whalley, they proceeded by Nelson and Colne to Skipton, and thence via Settle to Ingleton, where, at Ye Olde Hostelrie, there were a capital dinner and tea. After the chief repast, Mr. J. Smith, of the Dog and Duck Hotel, proposed the health of the King, and the toast of "The Directors" was submitted by Mr. Simpson, the manager, and that of "The Visitors" by Mr. Thoburn, and responded to by Mr. Albert Thompson of the Royal Oak Hotel. A presentation was made to Mr. Julius Simpson, the manager, in the shape of a dressing-case, subscribed to by the whole staff. The ceremony was carried out by Mr. Anderson, musical-director, supported by Mr. John Rentoul, the stage-manager. After an enjoyable day's outing the party reached Burnley about midnight.

It is only two years ago since Carney and Armstrong gave a trial show at a Moss-Stoll Empire, with a little absurdity called *The Pro. and the Baggage Man*. Mr. Carney is a Liverpool man, and was engaged in Nottingham some years before he went out to South Africa with the Yeomanry. Armstrong had previously gone out to Africa with the Cape Mounted Police, and it was out there that they first met and struck up a friendship, which developed into their present partnership. Their meeting has a touch of romance. Carney was sent out with a force of the Irish Yeomanry escorting a convoy into Griquatown, when they were attacked by a strong party of Boers. The engagement was a furious one, and there seemed to be no hope for the little band of Britishers, for the enemy outnumbered them six to one, and every man of the escort was hit. At a critical moment, however, a troop of mounted police appeared on the scene, and succeeded in driving off the Boers. Armstrong, who was in the relief party, was attracted by a familiar tune being sweetly whistled, and a search revealed Carney lying behind an ant-hill with a shot through his ankle. Armstrong assisted the wounded man on to his horse and took him into the town, and from that day to this they have been bosom friends. Many a lonesome "Tommy's" heart was cheered by their entertaining efforts, for Armstrong sang ballads and Carney comic songs, and their little impromptu concerts were a real delight to the "boys." Leo Tell, Duncan and Godfrey, Ben Albert, the Eight Lancashire Lads, the Haytors, Madge Osmond, and Fred Kitchen's company in *No. 99*, are other arrivals at the Hackney Empire.

Miss Sadie Simpson, the clever little comedienne and dancer, after three months' illness, will resume business at the Canterbury and Paragon on Monday next.

That well-known composer and arranger, Reginald Allan, was presented on Bank Holiday by his wife with a fine boy. Though not yet in partnership with his proud father as an arranger, the newcomer has on several occasions been already heard trying his voice. Mother and child are doing well.

Miss Rosie Lloyd, home again from America, has been re-engaged through Mr. George Foster's agency, at a large increase in salary, and will commence a short provincial tour on Monday at the Hippodrome, Southampton, with Boscombe, Margate, Clacton, and the Barrasford tour to follow.

Professor Wingard, one of the oldest and most amusing conjurers living, once more had the honour of an engagement at Osborne to amuse the Royal guests of H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg during the Cowes week, and was personally congratulated by H.R.H. Princess Christian and Victoria and Princes Leopold and Maurice on his neat and amusing entertainment.

We regret to announce the death of Rosa Annie Guest, sister of Mr. Charles Crowder, who died on Monday at 38, Wilcox-road, South Lambeth, aged fifty-eight. The funeral was announced for Friday at Tooting, the arrangements being in the hands of Mr. Theophilus Dunkley. We have also to record the recent death of Mr. Milner Verren, a well-known music-hall tenor.

Mr. Verren travelled with the Bohee Bros. and was for two years with the Mohawks. Amongst his most successful songs were "Say Au-revoir," Edgar Bateman and Henry H. Pether's "Playground in the sky," Bateman and Harrison's "Where the ocean meets the sky," and Austin Turner's "Be as you used to be." Mr. Verren died at Southsea on the 29th ult. The funeral will take place at Kingston Cemetery on Sunday. The deceased was only thirty-four years of age.

At the Empire Theatre, Sheffield, on Monday, owing to the holiday rush, Miss Gracie Graham lost her luggage, and had neither music nor stage clothes to open in. Luckily, Mrs. Harold Finden was of the company, and she kindly volunteered to play the accompaniment on a grand piano of a song that she had lately written for Miss Graham, and the ditty was enthusiastically received by the audience. On Wednesday night, Miss Ashley, of Barton and Ashley, met with an accident, and was prevented from appearing, and again Mrs. Finden came to the rescue, and went on at a few minutes' notice to play Miss Ashley's part in their latest production, *Adam the Second*, and came out with flying colours, being congratulated and thanked by Mr. Barton and the whole of the company.

An extraordinary animal entertainment will be given at the Palace on Monday, the 17th inst., when Mr. Butt will present Professor Macart's troupe of comedian and athletic monkeys. Prof. Macart was originally a dog-trainer, and has been with animals of every description all his life. He commenced training monkeys about twelve years ago, and now possesses what is said to be the most valuable troupe of performing animals extant. The intelligence displayed seems incredible. Two of the animals have been taught to waltz, and offer a funny burlesque of the "Merry Widow" waltz. Bill, aged six years, is a baboon who is a keen automobilist and possesses his own car, correctly fitted up in every detail. Joe is an ardent cyclist, and is the only animal who has ever been seen riding a safety cycle, and the construction of this machine differs in no way from those ridden by the ordinary person. Others of the tribe have a penchant for music, and Tony and Bill play "Home, sweet home" as a duet on the sleigh bells. The entertainment also includes a miniature comedy, in which a gentleman, having had a hair-cut and shave, forgets to pay, which results in a fight between barber and client, the latter suggesting that the barber is incompetent.

Mr. Albert Mitchell, formerly manager of the Swansea Empire, who was lately appointed South Wales district manager of the Moss and Stoll Empires, was on the 31st ult. furnished with a striking proof of the appreciation in which he is held by the patrons of the Swansea Empire and the townspeople. The Mayor of Swansea (Alderman Lee), who was accompanied by the Mayoress, Miss Nancy Lee, and the Lady Mayoress of Cardiff, Miss Dearie Thomas, and Miss Willie Thomas, in the presence of a thoroughly representative gathering, including Councillors Sinclair and Protheroe, Mr. R. L. Sails, J.P., Mr. William Coutts (manager Star Theatre), Mr. P. C. Rowe (Mr. Mitchell's successor at Swansea), and Mr. W. H. Lennon (assistant-manager), presented to Mr. Mitchell an address. Eulogistic speeches were made by the Mayor of Swansea, Mr. R. L. Sails, and Miss Lottie Lennox, and the Mayor then formally presented Mr. Mitchell with the address, which was beautifully illuminated and enclosed in a rosewood case, having on the one side (surrounded by exquisite floral work, and surmounted by water-colour paintings of Mr. Mitchell and views of The Mumbles) the address, while the other side contained the signatures. Mr. Mitchell, who was received with musical honours, thanked the Mayor and his Swansea friends for the honour they had done him by presenting him with that beautiful souvenir, which would always remind him of his associations with the dear old town. The Mayor also presented Mr. Mitchell with a purse of gold, and Mr. P. C. Rowe, on behalf of the staff, presented him with a handsome smoker's cabinet. Mr. Mitchell having also acknowledged these, the proceedings closed with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

It is stated that meetings of the proprietors and directors of some of the most important music halls in the provinces have been held in London within the past few days, with a view to arriving at a working agreement, so as to avoid expensive competition in towns served by two or more establishments. Should these plans fructify, it will mean that Moss's Empires, Ltd., which has a capital of £2,086,000, will direct the entertainments at some thirty additional halls.

Miss Melinda May, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, begs to acknowledge gifts of clothing from La Foy, Miss Alice Chapin, Mrs. Crowther, and from an anonymous donor at Gravesend. All are welcome to the receptions, which are held every Wednesday from three to five.

Mr. Fred Land, comedian, has been engaged through Pacey's agency for thirty-two weeks at the Oxford, and will appear on Monday at the Pavilion, Newcastle.

Mr. J. A. Wilson, the favourite negro comedian in the North, should be appearing at the Glasgow Empire this week, but is unfortunately off duty with a sprained ankle.

Mr. Henry Kemble, the popular agent, has just returned to town after a lengthy and most successful tour in the provinces.

Miss Louie Tinsley has written, in collaboration with Mr. Ivan P. Gore, a duologue sketch for herself and husband, Mr. Fred Knight, which will shortly be produced. It is entitled *Betsy's Burgle*, and the music has been arranged by Mr. Denham Harrison.

Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Payne will conclude a most successful tour with their vocal scena at the Porth Palace next week, after which Mr. Payne will go to rehearse his part in *The Prince and the Beggar-Maid*, and Mrs. Payne will enter on a tour of the principal London and provincial halls.

Big Ben Brown and little George Le Clerq commence a Stoll tour at Walsall on Monday next, and are away till Christmas. Mr. Brown has been taking holiday at his bungalow at Shoreham, where he says he has been taking the waters, with a little "something" in them.

Mr. Edgar Bateman has, during the last week or so, been paying his annual visit to different pleasure resorts on the coast, and has had hearty greetings from the members of the various concert parties on beach and pier, notably at Hastings, Brighton, Bognor, Lowestoft, Weston-super-Mare, Margate, and Weymouth, and received an uproarious welcome at Southend.

Mr. George Newburn, the well-known mimic, is appearing at the London Coliseum this week with remarkable success. Immediately after his first performance there on Monday he was approached by representatives of two different American entrepreneurs, who made him very tempting offers for a series of appearances in the Land of Stars and Stripes. He will commence on the Moss tour on Monday.

A new turn, entitled *Arizona*, by Mr. and Mrs. Kemp, will be presented at the Oxford on the 31st inst. It is a series of Indian stories, told by Mrs. Kemp, and illustrated by Mr. Kemp with coloured slides and bioscope films. The pictures include "the only bioscope film in existence showing the Indian rattle-snake dance of the Mopi Indians, taken at great personal risk by Mr. Kemp." The act has had a good reception in America.

Mr. Vernon Bland, the erstwhile comedian, is now, under his own name of Ben Packham, the popular host of the Victory, which adjoins the Hippodrome, Brighton. Ever on the alert for novelty, "Ben" has secured a powerful little playlet from the pen of Edwin France, called *The Honour of Her Sex*. This is being rapidly booked for an autumn tour in the halls, with Mrs. Packham in the principal rôle, and it is expected the production will take place at Brighton in the near future.

At the Hippodrome, Paisley, on the evening of the 30th ult., in the course of Miss Alice Hughes's performance of *The Star of the Bazaar*, one of Cliff Berzac's wild sea-lions, which has only recently been captured and imported, broke out of its cage and made its way to the stage while Miss Hughes and Mr. Frank Lurin were busy with their repartee. Instead of leaving the stage Miss Hughes went on playing as usual, and Mr. Charles Dillon, by his mimicry of the sea-lion, caused roars of laughter. Eventually Captain Walter Ashcroft and his two sailor assistants rushed on in front of the footlights and secured the animal.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday before Mr. Walter Boyle, assistant receiver, of the creditors of Alfred James Dodd, otherwise known as Alfred Wood, who stated that he was a song writer, residing at Brixton-road, S.W., and that he had been engaged in the music hall profession for fifteen years. He occasionally performed, and produced music hall sketches, and he attributed his insolvency to the non-success of a musical comedy called *The Terrible Tomboy*, which he produced about five years ago. The chairman said that there appeared to be only one creditor for £102, his claim being secured to the extent of £80, and no assets were disclosed. The debtor had been adjudged bankrupt, and his affairs would remain in the official receiver's hands.

A newcomer at the Oxford on Monday will be Harry Thurston, hitherto well known as the "Silver King." He will appear in a new burlesque and chorus number on *The Merry Widow*. This has been written and composed by J. W. Tate and Ballard McDonald. Joe Elvin and company will appear in their famous absurdity, *King of the Castle*, and Little Tich will be singing his famous skit, "The General," and the "Park-keeper." Cinquevalli makes his very welcome reappearance here, as also does Kitty Rayburn, Victoria Monks, France and Stewart, Tony Black, Selbo, Madoline Rees, the Eight Dainty College Girls, Dan Crawley, T. E. Finglass, Herbert Le Martine, Venie Clements, Wilkie Bard with his great Limerick monologue, Amber Austa in "Oysters and Clam" and her new song "A House Cleaning," the Warsaw Brothers, and the Bioscope.

A very agreeable Bank Holiday attraction is provided at the Crown, Peckham, over the fortunes of which Mr. Cecil Paget so ably presides, by the New Bioscope Company. The films, which treat of both humorous and dramatic subjects, are of unusual merit, and crowded audiences have signified their enthusiastic approbation. The incidental music provided by the excellent orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Charles Avis, is also a considerable factor in the general success of the entertainment. In addition to the display of animatography, there are several clever variety turns sandwiched in between the pictures. Mr. Jack Monks, a brother of Miss Victoria Monks, who possesses a pleasant tenor voice, is loudly applauded for his rendering of "I'll be waiting for you at the old toll-gate" and "My lady's eyes." Sylvene proves himself a very smart equilibrist; and Violi is accorded an excellent reception for a new musical mélange, introducing various kinds of instrumental music. As at present arranged, the regular dramatic season will recommence in September.

Before his Honour Judge Woodfall, in the Westminster County Court, on the 31st ult., Mr. George Reno, an American variety artist, claimed £46 odd from the Oxford Music Hall. Mr. Doughty was counsel for the plaintiff and Mr. Walter Payne for the defendants. Plaintiff's case was that he performed sketches with his wife and three comedians. Mr. Wilkie Bard was unable to perform, and defendants' manager communicated with Marinelli's agency for a big act to take his place. Reno was mentioned at £50 to £55 for a week, and eventually £40 was agreed to. The claim was for a week and a matinée. The manager from Marinelli's, in cross-examination, said Miss Marie Lloyd might have been known to perform without charge in the place of an artist who was unable to appear, and Mr. Harry Lauder had attended the Alhambra to oblige a sick artist. Witness was acting as plaintiff's agent, but in this case he was requested by the Oxford to supply a turn. There was no idea that the engagement was for one night. Plaintiff, in answer to the judge, said he had never deputised for anyone. He performed at the Oxford on the Monday only, but his company was prepared to go on every other night in the week and at the weekly matinée. His scenery was at the Oxford all the week. For the defence, Mr. Collins, the manager of the Oxford, declared the engagement was to deputise for Mr. Wilkie Bard for one night. Plaintiff refused to take payment for one night. He never heard of an artist sending another as deputy. Cross-examined: An artist was brought from the Tivoli to deputise on other nights. When a turn was engaged for one night the price mentioned always meant at the weekly rate. Other evidence having been given, his honour found for the plaintiff for a week's salary, £40, with costs.

Mr. Herbert Taylor has resigned his position of manager of the Palace Theatre, Derby, after five years, to undertake the managmeent of the Hippodrome, Devonport, which will open about Sept. 7.

Mr. F. V. St. Clair's reception at the Hippodrome, Blackpool, on Monday was enthusiastic. It was from Blackpool Mr. St. Clair took the heroic shoeblack who made a gallant but unsuccessful attempt to save some Bolton lads who had been swept off the steps on the North Shore by a tremendous sea. Mr. St. Clair took the lad on the stage with him, appearing in a little scena at many of the London and provincial halls.

Mr. Chas. Schuberth, the popular resident-manager of the Palace, Bath, has just returned from his holiday, most of which has been spent in motoring to Birmingham, Leeds, Halifax, Bradford, London, and Ramsgate, where a little yachting was indulged in, Mr. Schuberth finishing with a week at Weymouth. A portion of the holiday was also spent in Paris with his chief, Mr. Macnaghten, amongst other things seen being the wonderful Pathé establishment for making cinematograph films.

Mr. Wm. Henry Thorne has once more scored in the swimming world, not as a veteran this time. The race for the "Otto Beit" trophies was a win for him, as—though only a good second (nearly a dead-heat)—there were three prizes, and, of course, he took the second. For the *Daily Telegraph* cup on the 31st ult. he was heavily penalised on account of the two previous wins, therefore he had no chance, his handicap for the cup being 55 yards, and he fears that for the rest of the club's season his chances of again winning are remote.

The tallest actor on earth will be seen at the Hackney Empire next week. This is Mr. George Auger, who stands over 8ft. in his stocking-soles, and weighs 365lb. Mr. Augur will play the giant in *Jack the Giant Killer*, an up-to-date version of the old nursery story. Most of Mr. Auger's fellow-players are short in stature. Ernest Rommell, for instance, is only 36in. in height, and weighs 40lb.; and other tiny players are Caroline Hass and Judy Field. Miss Sylvia Herne, a tall young lady, takes the part of the Princess. Carney and Armstrong, an entertaining couple, are also due at Hackney next week.

A concert was organised by the saloon passengers of the Mauretania on Saturday, the 25th ult., in aid of the Liverpool and New York Seamen's charities. Senator J. S. Frelingheuysen presided. Amongst those present connected with the profession were Miss Rosie Lloyd, who was returning to England after her American successes; and Mr. A. E. Pickard, the well-known Glasgow amusement caterer, who had been visiting Canada and the United States on business and pleasure combined. In the interval, Senator Frelingheuysen made a stirring appeal to the ladies and gentlemen present, on behalf of the widows and children of those brave sailors who had sacrificed their lives in the execution of their duty, with the result that the sum of £69 12s. 6d. was realised.

The record of the family to which the Brothers Egbert belong is extremely interesting. So far as can be remembered, every member has been in the entertaining profession, and even at the present time it is possible for the Brothers Egbert to ennumerate no less than 144 relations who are now appearing before the public. The Brothers Egbert, who jumped into fame some years ago with their *Happy Dustman* tumbling act, are members of the Gee family, which now comprises, among many others, the Maples, acrobats and dancers, the Musical Avolos, the Four Burnells, Miss May Henderson, the Musical Gees, James H. Gee, the wire-walker, and the Philipi Bros., who are well-known acrobats. Boswell's Circus is also numbered amongst this happy family. Indeed, as one of the Egbert Brothers remarked the other evening, "It is impossible for us to appear in any town in England without meeting one or another of our relatives."

Though the successful ballets, *Covent Garden* and *Coppélia*, with Mme. Zanfretta as a leading lady in the one and Miss Adeline Genée as a magnet of irresistible attraction in the other, combined with the dramatic episode *After the Opera*, still constitute the staple fare at the Empire, the variety entertainment receives due attention. Stuart Barnes is a humorist with a dignified and agreeable style, who puts an admirable amount of expression into his delivery of a song, in which he pretends to recognise a lady in the audience as one whom he has already met somewhere. The lady replies to him in song, and finally abashes him by her spirited defence of his gallant attack. Darren and Brockway embellish their clever performances on various musical instruments with many droll diversions, one of the pair impersonating a big and stupid nigger porter very ludicrously. Emma Frances and her Arab boys give way to the spirit of their dancing and acrobatic turn entirely, and charm the audience by the spontaneous energy of their tumbling, Miss Frances's step-dancing being especially quick, active, and accurate. Velanches' dogs create hearty excitement by their energetic efforts in a football match, and his tame fox revolves at will in an illuminated drum. The jumping done by the greyhounds is high and clean. Miss Ray Wallace is a pretty young lady with a winning style, who gives accurate imitations at the piano of well-known variety stars; and the exhibition of films depicting the Marathon Race, the Olympic Games at the Stadium, the Olympic Regatta at Henley, and the French Motor Derby—the last-named including numerous "spills"—excites great enthusiasm.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

The example of Douglas and Blackpool in the matter of that huge song-success, "Oh! Oh! Antonio," by Murphy and Lipton, has been speedily followed all round the coast, and the number so finely sung by Miss Florrie Forde has been seized upon with avidity by every prominent company of seaside entertainers everywhere in Great Britain. Messrs. Francis and Day's printers are throwing off copies of the song without cessation.

The holiday season has set in with its usual severity among the members of Mr. David Day's staff. Lester Barrett will start on Monday for Douglas, Isle of Man, where it is confidently expected he will hear sufficient of "Oh! Oh! Antonio," "Sue, Sue, Sue," and "Take me on the flip-flap," to enable him to recognise the melodies when he returns to Charing Cross-road; Charles Wilmott has been "doing" the Lakes, Blackpool, and the afore-mentioned Mona; Hermann E. Darewski has been busy idling at Morecambe; Henry E. Pether is enjoying a vacation at Margate; and Arthur Francis has been thinking out new waltzes at Scarborough.

Edgar Bateman, who has just begun his twelfth year with Messrs. Francis and Day, has, in conjunction with T. M. Down, written a humorous song, "The Daylight Bill; or, all through altering the clock"; and another off his own bat, entitled "A nice thing commencing with a G." Hermann E. Darewski has set both songs to characteristic melodies.

The Pavilion Girls have been going very well with Messrs. Francis and Day's latest importation in the coon line from the United States. It is called "Mandy Lane," is by William J. McKenna, and professional copies are now ready with concerted chorus for pantomime use.

That magnificent march song, "Johnny Macintyre," which Miss Marie Blythe and Miss Madge Daly have scored so emphatically with, has been already brought out by Messrs. Francis and Day, and a rush of other artists to secure rights is expected. Fred W. Leigh, the author-composer, is to be congratulated on an assured pantomime success.

Two of the late Milner Verren's successes were among the first songs to be issued as "Sixpenny Pops" by Messrs. Francis and Day, namely, "The playground in the sky" and "Where the ocean meets the sky," the former by H. E. Pether, the latter by Denham Harrison. Both lyrics were by the author of "It's a great big shame."

Mr. George Lashwood's phenomenal success, "Hang out the front door key," has been in great request all over West London, in both its "Sixpenny Pop" and dearer form, since the great star put it on on Monday last at the Empire, Shepherd's Bush, and Messrs. Francis and Day report a steadily-increasing demand from all parts of these islands.

Fred E. D'Albert is the author and composer of several new numbers being introduced by Miss Gertie Lewis, the latest male impersonator. The same writer is also responsible for Mr. Harry Leybourne's new act. Mr. Leybourne is this week at the Tivoli and Putney.

Two of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s latest "winners" have been the property of the "man in the street" in Brighton during holiday week:—"From Poverty-street to Golden-square," by Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule, which Miss Kate Carney has been singing nightly at the local Hippodrome; whilst at the Alhambra, Miss Dora Lyric has been doing ditto with Percy Edgar, Worton David, and Kenneth Lyle's stirring number, "I'm leaving Monte Carlo." Miss Lyric opens in town at the Holborn Empire, and Empress, Brixton, with this latter number.

Those delightful entertainers, Miss Clarissa Talbot and Mr. Albert Pearce, are achieving a pronounced success at the Oxford nightly with Messrs. A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott's delightful "song of sentiment," entitled "Somebody cares for you," which is one of the most successful numbers published in the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s now lengthy catalogue of "Sixpenny Successes."

The Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s tuneful and evergreen number, "My Tiny Firefly," seems to be veritably more popular than ever, for not only is it being sung by practically every pierrot troupe at the seaside this season, but also at the Hippodrome, Aldershot, this week, Miss Fifi Gordon and her talented troupe of girls have been charming all auditors with their rendering of this melodious *morceau*.

From far-away Swansea comes news of the emphatic success of Miss Blanche Vincent at the local Empire, in two of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s latest songs (the words of both of which are written by Mr. John P. Harrington), viz., "Down at Shepherd's Bush" and "My Cuban Girl." Miss Jose Collins is also singing the last-mentioned number, and "scoring" very heavily therewith at the Tivoli, Strand, nightly.

Crowds of holiday-makers at sunny Margate have nightly acclaimed Miss Marie Lloyd to the echo in her latest and greatest success, "The Directoire Girl," by Harrington and Powell, and her delightfully arch rendering of the song, and equally charming costume, are already the principal topic of conversation in this favourite seaside resort. Metropolitan patrons of "variety" will soon have an opportunity of resuming acquaintance with "The Directoire Girl," as Miss Marie Lloyd is opening at the Oxford and other West-End halls immediately, where this successful Monte Carlo Co.'s publication will be her *pièce de résistance* for many months to come.

Maud and Sidney Wood, who are following in the footsteps of the older members of the Lloyd family, and presently visiting the States, will appear at the Euston Palace on Monday next, in their latest successful song-scena, "Tennis Courtship," specially written and composed for them by those ubiquitous writers, John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell.

Miss Carlotta Lunn will introduce next week at the Pavilion, Leicester, a new number entitled "Cheer up, Nobody's Girl."

Mr. Wilkie Bard's new song, "All Day," by Frank Leo, has caught on tremendously in town, being a really humorous idea wedded to a melody which is a compeer of the same talented writer's "Cowslip and the cow" and "O! O! O!" Not a little of the success of the item, which Messrs. Francis and Day have in the press, is due to the splendid orchestration supplied by Walter Johnson, the chef d'orchestre of the Tivoli, whose 'cello obbligato to the accompaniment has been greatly admired. Mr. Johnson, who possesses both experience and ability, has at this first-class theatre of varieties proved himself a man fully fitted for an onerous post.

On Monday evening last, the clever Russian acrobats, the Denwartz Troupe, consisting of two youths and three girls, were concluding a clever performance at the Palace Theatre, Bradford, when one of the daring youths fell head first on to the stage, sustaining in the fall a serious injury to his shoulder.

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

Mr. William Berol, addressing a well-attended meeting on Wednesday at Blackpool, Mr. F. V. St. Clair (ex-committee V.A.F.) in the chair, explained the whole situation on the Continent, speaking very strongly regarding the conduct of some Continental managers, more especially as to their treatment of lady artists. The meeting passed a unanimous vote to support (financially if necessary) the I.A.L. in its struggle.

Mr. Berol addressed another meeting of the profession at Liverpool on Thursday. He said that German artists asked for better and more equitable clauses in their contracts than those now prevailing, which had proved very unfair. On the Continent an International Artists' Lodge had been founded, and although only a few years old had become a strong body, and was asserting itself. The managers had retaliated by establishing a league, and a boycott of those who belonged to the Lodge had commenced. Both sides were strong in numbers and finance, and probably the war would develop seriously. Their desire was to get British, American, and other artists to co-operate with them, to stand by them, and not to help the German managers in their policy of injustice. They should refuse to make contracts with those whom the artists were now opposing. Mr. Berol mentioned that during his fortnight's tour through England he hoped to gain the sympathy of all variety artists. The meeting enthusiastically passed a resolution strongly supporting, both morally and financially, the International Artists' Lodge in their struggle.

The monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road, on Tuesday next at 4 p.m.

THE COLISEUM.

A welcome return is being made this week to the Coliseum by Mr. Albert Chevalier, the fine character actor appearing in the favourite old farcical sketch *The Goose With the Golden Eggs* as Mr. Turby, a part played by him some 200 times on his recital tours. The popular comedian is seen at his best as the somewhat eccentric and parsimonious old Turby, who, having a goose sent him by his sister, and not taking kindly to the bird, sends it on to an acquaintance in settlement of a bet. When he learns that the goose has been stuffed with £500 his dismay can be imagined, and his anxiety to get it back and the concluding episode, especially when it is, after all, discovered there is no wealth inside the carcase, were provocative of much hilarity. Mr. Chevalier embellished the part of Turby with many clever bits of by-play and much comic business; and able assistance was rendered him in the fun-making by Messrs. Harry Brett, Arthur Brankston, Bertie Baxter, and Miss Daisy Irvine. Mr. Chevalier also contributed his latest song, "The Workhouse Man," in which he appears as an aged inmate of the Union who evidently feels his position very keenly. The old man doesn't complain much, though; he is allowed to see his life partner occasionally, and talk over old times, and there's something to be thankful for in that. Those who are familiar with Mr. Chevalier's "My Old Dutch" can imagine what a vivid portrait he gives of the old inmate of "the house"—the faltering gait, the feeble voice, and the appearance generally of senility all being most skilfully indicated. The pathos and truth of the impersonation made a deep impression on the audience on the night of our visit, and the accomplished and versatile actor was recalled and loudly cheered at its conclusion.

Early in the programme much applause is lavished on that clever mimic of music hall favourites, Mr. George Newburn, very faithful reproductions being given of Mr. Mark Sheridan, Mr. George Lashwood, and Mr. Harry Tate and some of his assistants in *Motoring*, the last-named being a particularly popular selection. Mr. John Warren submits his clever and diverting conjuring show, concluding with the mystical and smartly-worked interlude, *The Magic Carpet*, assisted by a capable little company—a turn that gave evident appreciation; and the Donaldson Brothers and company presented a burlesque sketch, *Sports in the Jungle*, an elaborately staged and amusing trifle that was accorded the hearty welcome it deserved. Some of the loudest applause heard during the evening was evoked by the wonderfully expert wooden-shoe dancing of Milt Wood; Pip Powell and Katie Vesey present a laughable duologue *A Perfect Woman*; Cornalla and Eddie are droll and clever tumblers and jugglers; and the renowned juggler Mr. Walter Bellonini executes many difficult feats with all his old dexterity and neatness, his assistant, Wal, also contributing considerably to the success of a most attractive show. Mr. James Moran, Scotch humorist, creates merriment by his singing of "Bonnie Maggie Doon" and another number; the cultured vocalism of Mlle. De Lilo, a Parisian singer with a fine voice, is appreciated at its true worth, the lady being rewarded with lavish applause; and other popular items are contributed by Maxey and Pete, trick and comedy cyclists; Carrie Swain, American vocalist; the Sutcliffe Troupe, acrobats, pipers, and dancers, and the Bioscope.

"THE PROFESSOR'S SECRET."

Sketch, by Louie Dagmar, produced for the first time at the Ealing Hippodrome, on Monday, Aug. 3.

Professor Nathan Boronski..Mr. Leslie P. Paget
Julie Boronski ....Miss Margaret S. Fareleigh
Harold Carnaby .....Mr. Stephen Hards

The story of a new combustible is told in this gruesome playlet, which held the close attention of the audience on Monday evening, and obtained an instant and complete success. An effective scena has been invented for the presentation of the underground laboratory in which the action passes. Innumerable flagons of mysterious essences, sparkcoils, models of aerial machines, &c., adorn the subterranean den, the centre of which is occupied by a reverberatory furnace of a power hitherto unknown. It is the invention of a certain Nathan Boronski, who, by a combination of chemicals, has succeeded in producing a caloric whose power is claimed to transcend the electric-arc ten-fold. To secure possession of £1,000, which Harold Carnaby has promised him on certain conditions, Nathan Boronski has, using his beautiful daughter Julie as a bait, lured him to his underground den with the intention of first drugging and then murdering him. Harold arrives with the money, is invited to drink success to the new invention, is drugged, bound, and then searched. Julie, who has until now fallen in with the plans of her father, revolts on the discovery that Harold has treasured her portrait, and really loves her. Delirious with rage the old man seizes her, binds her, and tells her he will thrust her into the furnace, adding, by way of further torture, that he will so far revive Harold that he may witness her death agony ere he himself follows her into the horrible furnace. The piercing screams of Julie, as she is forced towards the fire, are heard without, the police rush in, and in mad despair at the failure of his plans, Nathan Boronski precipitates himself into the furnace and is instantly incinerated. Excellently staged and played by Wellesley and Deveyne's company, *The Professor's Secret* was enthusiastically received, and gave every promise of a successful run.

Mr. George Dance's sketch, *The Local Amateurs*, which was produced on Monday at the Palace, Ramsgate, proved another "bull's-eye." The audience shrieked with laughter, and the screaming but not vulgar situations were heartily enjoyed.

A CHAT WI' W. F. FRAME.

The noted Scottish comedian above named commenced his autumn tour with his concert party on Bank Holiday at Saltcoats. Frame is a very busy man, and someone has said of him, "He very rarely has a cold, as he never has time to catch it." Frame wears well, and seems to wage a perpetual war with Time. He has gone smiling and laughing his way through the world, a quip here, a jest there, and ever the cheery lilting song with the infectious melody which haunts you until you have mastered it. It is now over thirty years since Frame started the tours with which his name is associated, and in that time he has gone to and fro over the land singing and jesting himself into the hearts of thousands.

"I've visited every town and village of any note," said Frame, "from the North of England to the Orkney Islands, and in all the years I've met with nothing but kindness. I've had my disappointments; who hasn't? but I've put a stout heart tae a stey brae, and when I revisit a town I know I'm going amongst friends. Why, I meet people who remember me as far back as I remember myself, and often I am asked to sing a song which I've long forgotten."

"The ladies and gentlemen who comprise my concert company," he continued, "must be clean and clever, whatever be their branch of business, and I fancy that hitherto I've given my Scotch and English patrons every satisfaction in this respect. My programme for this tour, which opens to-night at Saltcoats, includes Mons. Argo, the great animal mimic; Burnetti, the quick-change musical man of many instruments; A. F. Hands, the American sand-dancer and club-swinger; Brull and Hemsley, in the skit *Fun in a Music Shop*; Belrose and De Velin, duettists, and my old freen, Jamie Booth, the musical conductor.

"Tell you about my songs? It's no easy job, I can assure you, for in my time I've sung hundreds. I have never forsaken the 'braid Scots' sang, and never shall, for I find that Scotchmen the wide world o'er delight in the mother tongue, and there is a quaint and convincing humour about the dialect which seems to strike home to the heart of every one. A favourite song of mine in the old days was "My nobby new white hat," and I sang that for a very long time. Another favourite was 'She danced like a fairy,' which went to a lilting tune, and was always the means of putting my listeners into a good humour. 'Jock Tamson's tripe,' sung to an old Scotch tune, is called for even yet, and 'The waddin' o' Dougald Macnab' was a great favourite. One of my most popular songs was undoubtedly 'Hielan Rory,' which captivated not only music-loving Scotland, but also England and the States. Next in popularity comes 'It's a braw, bricht munelicht nicht the nicht, hooch aye,' which was the rage of London for a long time, and served

Photo by Rotary Co.
MR. W. F. FRAME.

as the catch-word of a season. During this tour I'm going to sing 'Deoch-an-doruis, Donald Dhu,' 'She's a braw, braw lass,' and a female golfing song entitled 'I'm getting married.'"

Just then some of Frame's company came upon the scene, and the interviewer bade the famous Scotch comedian adieu.

"THE GOVERNOR'S NEPHEW."

A Comedy Sketch, by Herbert C. Sargent, produced at the Holborn Empire on Monday, Aug. 3.

Governor of Prison .....Mr. Cecil Frere
Joe .....Mr. Windham Guise
Jenny .....Miss Kate Carroll
Tozer .....Mr. Tim Ryley

This little piece has for its theme the frustrated escape of a convict from prison, and the eventual release of another convict, who is unwillingly made to share his efforts at running away. We find the Governor engaged in business in his room, and he receives news of the approaching arrival from India of a nephew whom he has not seen since childhood. On the Governor leaving his apartment, Joe, the terror of Whitechapel, climbs in at the window, and looks around for means of disguising himself. He is disturbed by the arrival of Tozer, a winkle merchant, who has been forced to escape with the other convicts who have broken prison. Tozer sees the telegram announcing the coming of the nephew from India, and proceeds to attire himself in some of that party's clothes which have been forwarded in a bag in advance. Then Joe emerges from the Governor's bedroom, where he has attempted to disguise himself in that official's uniform. Of course, some amusing play takes place between these two until they discover their mutual delinquency. Then Joe annexes Tozer's stolen garb, while the latter adorns himself in a suit of hunting clothes. The gallant behaviour of the purveyor of shellfish to the pretty servant-maid leads to the latter championing his cause. Eventually the Governor returns, and discovers the identity of the intruders into his room, and while Jim is re-consigned to the cells, a pardon arrives for Tozer, and the little scene closes with the announcing of the forthcoming wedding of the latter and the servant-maid.

Messrs. Windham Guise and Tim Ryley are two capable comedians, who extract the maximum of fun out of their respective pretensions to be the returning nephew; Mr. Cecil Frere is an austere-looking official; and Miss Kate Carroll is a lively and attractive maid. Altogether, the sketch goes with dash from start to finish.

Miss Margaret Ashton, whose engagements upon the Moss-Stoll tour were kindly postponed by Mr. Oswald Stoll on account of her recent illness, has been recuperating for some time past at the Royal Hotel, Weymouth. The charming American soprano returned to town this week, and was to be seen with a party of friends in the Members' Enclosure at Sandown Park on Monday last. She resumes her engagements next week at the Empire, Portsmouth.

THE V.A.B.F. SPORTS.

The following are the entries for the above sports at Herne Hill on Wednesday:—

120 YARDS RUNNING HANDICAP.

Wm. Welsh, 4yds.; Henri Bekker, 2yds.; Will Collinson, 4½yds.; Gent Lotto, 8yds.; Desmond O'Gorman, 4½yds.; Joe O'Gorman, jun., 4½yds.; Clito Clifford, 2½yds.; R. C. Bradfield, 2yds.; Harry Ford, 5yds.; Herbert Rule, 5yds.; Harry Bancroft, 9yds.; Dick Norrie, 3yds.; Walter Leopold, 2yds.; Geo. Clarke, jun., 2yds.; H. La Martine, 1yd.; Arthur P. Hall, 3yds.; B. P. Earle, 2½yds.; Ted Cowan, 3yds.; H. Anderson, 5½yds.; E. E. Giles, 2½yds.; Geo. Conquest, 4½yds.; Bert Brantford, 9½yds.; Harry Ardern (Zano Bros.), 1yd.; Jimmy Dunedin, 4yds.; Andy Deans (Tintos), 2½yds.; Walter Watson, 1½yds.; Fred Lorenzo, 7yds.; Coley Grant, 2yds.; Willie Davidson (Crown Trio), 4yds.; Henry Mallin, 5yds.; Fred Paulasto, scratch; Geo. Clarke, sen. (46), 20yds.; Dick Kendal, 10yds.; A. G. Betts, 5yds.; Frank Harvey, 6½yds.; E. Entwistle, 3½yds.; Harry Wright, 25yds.; D. M. H. Hoffmann, 2yds.; Fred Laurel, 3yds.; Alfred Lotto, 7½yds.; Shirley Liggins, 5yds.; Herbert Clark, 6yds.; Sam Mayo, 2yds.; James Agustin, 3yds.; Mike Asher, 5yds.; W. C. Campbell, 3½yds.; Bert Womack, 3yds.; Hal Forde, 7yds.; Elmo, 1yd.; W. L. Murray, 1yd.; Albert Kellino, 13yds.; Bert Roober, 2yds.; Selbo, 4½yds.; Dan Thomas, 3yds.; Will Crackles, 21yds.; Fred Earle, 10yds.; Harry Tate, 6yds.; Horace Sheldon, 6yds.; Will Harris, 1yd.

ONE MILE WALKING HANDICAP.

Desmond O'Gorman, 160yds.; Harry Bancroft, 150yds.; Harold H. Jeapes, scratch; J. Gar Kiddie, 175yds.; J. Cullen, 100yds.; Fredk. Devan, 75yds.; Walter Stanley, 145yds.; Tom Pacey, 45yds.; Oscar Darling, 40yds.; Maurice H. Hoffmann, 60yds.; Victor Anderson, 60yds.; Sam Mayo, 60yds.; Harry Castle, 100yds.; R. J. Sharp, 60yds.; Charles Knight, 70yds.; Dan Thomas, 45yds.; Fred Earle, 85yds.; Harry Tate, 90yds.; Will Ethairien, 175yds.

ONE MILE LADIES' BICYCLE RACE.

Mimie Abel, Mrs. C. Austin, Addie Love, Agnese Lynch, Emily Lyndale, Peggy Pryde, Gladys Duncan, Amy Anderson, Rosie Bancroft, Ira Mona, "My Fancy," Maudie Dunedin, Queenie Dunedin, Clara Lotto, Ada Cerito, Fred Earle, Harry Tate.

100 YARDS CHILDREN'S HANDICAP.

Boys.

James O'Gorman, scratch; Leslie Williams, 7yds.; Edward Bawn, 15yds.; Walter Stanley, jun., 21yds.; Percy Le Fre, 8yds.; Sidney Le Fre, 1yd.; Alfred Joseph Lotto, jun., 95yds.; George Carlo, scratch; Leslie Kellino, 25yds.; James Kellino, jun., scratch; Teddy Traynor, 18yds.; Harold Forde, 50yds.; Master Willie Kloof, 21yds.; W. E. Ethairien, 4yds.; Eddie Ethairien, 25yds.; Willie Ethairien, 11yds.; Norman Leslie, 4yds.; Fred Earle, scratch; Harry Tate, scratch; Mr. Harry Rich, and Mr. Lewis Rich.

Girls.

Norah O'Gorman, 2yds.; Leonora Andrus, scratch; Vera Andrus, 3yds.; Doris Williams, scratch; Nora Williams, 8yds.; Nellie Dunedin, 25yds.; Maudie Dunedin, 25yds.; Irene Carlo, 25yds.; Nellie Hayes, 13yds.; Grace Kellino, 13yds.; Lulu Traynor, 25yds.; Elsie Budden, scratch; Nora Leslie, 13yds.; Fred Earle, scratch; Harry Tate, scratch.

100 YARDS AGENTS' RUNNING HANDICAP.

Louis Lewis, 5yds.; Charles E. Chapman, 13yds.; Fred Neiman, 40yds.; Edwin Brown, 50yds.; Harry Bawn, 14yds.; Tom Pacey, 8yds.; F. Alexander, scratch; Vin Monkley, scratch; Jack Lotto, 30yds.; Fred Durham, 25yds.; Fred Earle, scratch; Harry Tate, scratch; Horace Sheldon, scratch; G. Edwards, 8yds.; F. Napoli, 20yds.

HALF-MILE ANIMAL BICYCLE RACE.

Shaun Glenville, Gent Lotto, Desmond O'Gorman, Joe O'Gorman, jun., Edna Latonne, P. Stacey, Harold Duncan, H. Sheen, Arthur Maxey, Bob Pete, Alfred Joseph Lotto, jun., Alfred Lotto, Sam Mayo, Edgar Budden, Bob Hutt, Fred Earle, Harry Tate.

50 YARDS FLIP-FLAP RACE.

Joe O'Gorman, jun., Hugh Cedar, Ed. Elgar, Herbert Clifton, Kathleen Moore (Soho Trio), Dan Conroy, Arthur P. Hall, B. P. Earle, Bart Doyle, H. Anderson, Andy Deans (Tintos), Alma Waller, Walter Keen, Henry Mallia, Fred Paulasto, Ada Cerito, James Kellino, sen., Sam Mayo, Harry Lester, R. Récco, Fred Earle, Harry Tate.

ONE MILE V.A.F. RUNNING RACE.

Will Collinson, Jas. Thomson (Soho Trio), Harry Ford, Leo Sterling, Dick Norrie, Geo. Clarke, jun., H. La Martine, Ted Cowan, Walter Watson, Coley Grant, Edward Ranier, Dick Kendall, Sam Walsh, D. M. H. Hoffmann, Victor Anderson, W. Dane, Edward Donnelly, Herbert Clark, Sam Mayo, James Agustin, Mike Asher, Harry Lester, Hal Forde, Billy Kloof, W. Mandry (the Morrows), Dan Thomas, Fred Earle, Harry Tate.

120 YARDS HURDLE HANDICAP.

Desmond O'Gorman, 6yds.; Joe O'Gorman, jun., 6yds.; William Rosser, 2yds.; Harry Ford, 6yds.; Harry Bancroft, 10yds.; Dick Norrie, 7yds.; Walter Leopold, 4yds.; Frank Gala, 3yds.; B. P. Earle, 5yds.; Ted Cowan, 8yds.; H. Anderson, 4yds.; Bert Brantford, owes 2yds.; Jimmy Dunedin, 6yds.; Andy Deans (Tintos), 2yds.; Walter Keen, 8yds.; Willie Davidson (Crown Trio), 8yds.; Victor Anderson, 4yds.; Fred Laurel, 3yds.; Harry Quaile, scratch; Harry Carlo, scratch; Herbert Clark, 2yds.; Sam Mayo, 6yds.; James Agustin, scratch; Harry Lester, 20yds.; Bert Womack, 6yds.; Hal Forde, 6yds.; Albert Laurel, 8yds.; Elmo, 1yd.; Selbo, 8yds.; Dan Thomas, owes 2yds.; Fred Earle, 12yds.; Harry Tate, scratch; Horace Sheldon, 5½yds.; Will Harris, 6yds.)

ONE MILE "BUCHANAN" BICYCLE RACE.

Shaun Glenville, Gent Lotto, Edna Latonne, Harold Duncan, W. Rushbrook, Waxie Carter, A. Millichap, Abe Eloski Litz, Rozene Eugene Litz, E. E. Giles, Geo. Conquest, jun., H. Sheen, Bob Duncan, Jimmy Dunedin, Edward Ranier, Geo. J. Kreamer, James Braun, Harry Quaile, Arthur Maxey, Bob Pete, Alfred Joseph Lotto, jun., Alfred Lotto, Harry Lester, Edgar Budden, Fred Earle, Harry Tate.

100 YARDS SACK RACE.

Wm. Welsh, Edward Barry, Desmond O'Gorman, Joe O'Gorman, jun., William Rosser, Kathleen Moore (Soho Trio), Robert Abel, Peggy Pryde, Albert Egbert, Harold H. Jeapes, Hettie Anderson, J. Gar Kiddie, Andy Deans (Tintos), Fred and Amy Maple, Henry Mallia, Tom McKay, Vin Monkley, Little Rezene and Alf Dobson, Victor and Amy Anderson, Fred Laurel, Harry Carlo, Sam Mayo, W. L. Murray, Will Ethairien, Geo. Bailey, Dan Thomas, Fred W. Millis, Bob Hutt, Fred Earle, Harry Tate, Horace Sheldon.

360 YARDS STEEPLECHASE.

Wm. Welsh, Edward Barry, William Rosser, Harry Ford, Bert Brantford, Walter Keen, Henry Mallia, Edward Ranier, Victor Anderson, Alfred Lotto, Harry Carlo, Geo. Mozart, Herbert Clark, Sam Mayo, James Agustin, Jimmy Tray, Bert Womack, H. Costello, Elmo, W. L. Murray, Douglas Hayes (Delawares), Will Ethairien, Dan Thomas, Bob Hutt, Fred Earle, Harry Tate.

COSTUME SCRAMBLE.

Wm. Welsh, Will Collinson, Edward Barry, Desmond O'Gorman, Joe O'Gorman, jun., Harry Ford, Robert Abel, Charles Austin, Albert Egbert, Arthur P. Hall, J. Cullen, James Marba, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Brantford, Andy Deans (Tintos), Tom McKay, Dennis Harvey, Fred Laurel, Sam Mayo, James Agustin, Hal Forde, H. Costello, Albert Kellino, Douglas Hayes (Delawares), Will Ethairien, Will Crackles, Guy Stavordale, Bob Hutt, Fred Earle, Harry Tate, Claude Stuart.

440 YARDS PRESS RUNNING HANDICAP.

Arthur Jarman, 45yds.; E. H. Cotton, 45yds.; J. Harris, 30yds.; Alfred James Manning, 55yds.; C. Douglas Stuart, 220yds.; Geo. C. Wright, scratch; Fred Earle; Harry Tate; C. C. Bartram, 70yds.; A. L. G. Gent.

60 YARDS VAULTING HURDLE RACE.

W. Doust, Eric Farr, Erne Chester, Geo. Schneider, Fred Neiman, Hugh Cedar, Ed. Elgar, Herbert Clifton, Fred Poplar, Dan Conroy, Tom Woottwell, B. P. Earle, Bart Doyle, H. Anderson, Walter Keen, Fred Paulasto, Harry Carlo, James Kellino, sen., Hal Godfrey, James H. Delvin, Albert Laurel, W. L. Murray, R. Recco, Fred Earle, Harry Tate.

440 YARDS "JOHANNESBURG" CUP RUNNING RACE.

Desmond O'Gorman, Joe O'Gorman, jun., Clito Clifford, Harry Ford, Harry Bancroft, Geo. Clarke, jun., H. La Martine, Arthur Gala, Ted Cowan, Harold H. Jeapes, Harry Ardern (Zano Bros.), Coley Grant, Willie Davidson (Crown Trio), Henry Mallia, Dick Kendall, Steve Cooke, A. G. Betts, E. Entwistle, D. M. H. Hoffmann, Fred Laurel, Edward Donnelly, Harry Morgan, Harry Carlo, Geo. Mozart, Sam Mayo, James Agustin, Mike Asher, W. C. Campbell, Bert Womack, Hal Forde, Harry Tate, Fred Earle, Dan Thomas, Will Harris.

360 YARDS OBSTACLE HANDICAP RACE.

Wm. Rosser, scratch; Dan Thomas, 5yds.; Geo. Clarke, jun., 10yds.; J. Agustin, 10yds.; A. Laurel, 10yds.; F. Laurel, 10yds.; Bert Brantford, 10yds.; H. Jeapes, 10yds.; E. Cowen, 10yds.; Andy Deans, 10yds.; Harry Ford, 20yds.; H. Carlo, 20yds.; Fred Earle, 25yds.; Arthur Wright, 25yds.; Harry Tate, 30yds.; H. Rule, 30yds.; W. Leopold, 30yds.; H. Anderson, 35yds.; J. Marba, 35yds.; W. Collinson, 35yds.; G. Schneider, 35yds.; Clito Clifford, 35yds.; R. Abel, 35yds.; Chas. Austin, 35yds.; Harry Bancroft, 35yds.; Coley Grant, 35yds.; Henry Mallia, 35yds.; Fred Paulesto, 35yds.; Dick Kendall, 35yds.; Tom McKay, 35yds.; Vin Monkley, 35yds.; Victor Anderson, 35yds; W. Dane, 35yds.; Geo. Bailey, 35yds.; Douglas Hayes, 35yds.; H. Costello, 35yds.; Bert Womack, 35yds.; Harry Lester, 35yds.; Ed. Donnelly, 35yds.; H. Quaile, 35yds.; Sam Mayo, 35yds.

RUNNING HIGH JUMP.

Joe O'Gorman, jun., Jas. Thomson (Soho Trio), Harry Ford, B. P. Earle, Ted Cowan, Bert Brantford, Jimmy Dunedin, Shirley Liggins, Hal Forde, Geo. Avolo, Selbo, Fred Earle, Harry Tate.

FIVE MILE AUTO-CYCLE RACE.

Tom Greaves, Orpheus, Harold Duncan, Ted Cowan, Leonard Mortimer, A. Wright, Fred Burton, Tom Tweedle, Fred Earle, Harry Tate.

The handicap for this race is being done by Mr. F. Straight, of the Auto-Cycle Club, and is not yet published.

THE OXFORD.

CRIMEAN AND MUTINY VETERANS' NIGHT.

Occasionally the British public realises the fact that it has some duty to perform towards the old veterans who have taken part in stirring deeds in their country's cause. Of course, a crowd or an audience will shout itself hoarse on the slightest provocation in honour of the hero of the moment. But—not, we firmly believe from any stinginess, but purely from want of consideration—when the shouting is over, the everyday needs of the heroes are apt to be forgotten. Now both the legitimate and the variety stage have done their part well in supporting every movement which has for its object the brightening of the declining days of old men of the services. In the variety profession Mr. George Leyton has taken what might almost be termed an aggressive interest in this good cause, for he has actually devoted not only the proceeds of the sale of his songs, but has also given much time, care, and attention to the actual relief of necessitous cases. On Friday, the 31st ult., there was a special performance at the Oxford, under the patronage of Lord Roberts, V.C., Lord Cheylesmore, and the Lord Mayor, in aid of the veterans of the Crimea and Indian Mutiny, one-half of the door receipts being given to the fund already in existence. There was a strong programme at the Oxford last week—Dorando, the moral winner of the Marathon Race proving a powerful attraction—so there was a very good house to encourage Mr. Leyton, who, assisted by Mr. Philip Nolan's choristers, appeared in his latest military scena, *The Last Muster*. In this he presented two effective pictures of Chelsea Hospital. To give just the necessary touch of realism there were present a number of old pensioners from the Royal Hospital, wearing their well-known uniforms, and an array of medals which spoke of participation in many a memorable struggle, either around the walls of the great Russian fortress, or on the sun-baked plains of India. The splendid band of the Blues contributed a series of selections in their own superb style, and the audience seemed perfectly willing to have prolonged their performances. During the evening copies of Mr. Leyton's songs were willingly purchased by the audience, as, apart from their intrinsic merits, the proceeds go entirely to the Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans. It will astonish many people to learn the fact that by such sales a sum of upwards of £3,000 has already been raised, and applied to this splendid end. The other artists in the programme were Clark and Hayden, in musical duologue; Miss Isabelle Dillon, comedienne; Mr. Randolph King, the one-man programme; Mr. Walter Munroe, comedian; Miss Addie Dorina, in her protean production, *How It Is Done*; Mr. Fred Land, comedian; the Marquades, the Waltz Craze; Mr. T. E. Dunville, the funny man; My Fancy, in dancing scena; "Winter, Spring, and Summer"; Miss Dorothy L. Clark, vocal comedienne; Mr. Louis A. Simon, Miss Grace Gardner, and Co., presenting Miss Gardner's latest version of the farce, *The New Coachman*; Signor Dorando, the heroic Italian runner; Dale and O'Malley, comedians; Miss Aimée Roberts, comedienne; Chanti, in his quick-change act; Mr. G. H. Elliott; Emil Solbrig's Automatons; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

The celebrated Pimple, principal comedian of Tom White's Arabs, who has successfully run the show for eight years "on his own," terminated yesterday nineteen years' faithful service with that troupe, with which he still remains connected.

Miss Louie Tinsley has written, in collaboration with Mr. Ivan P. Gore, a duologue sketch for herself and husband, Mr. Fred Knight, which will shortly be produced. It is entitled *Betsy's Burgle*, and the music has been arranged by Mr. Denham Harrison.

Miss May Vincent, described as a music-hall artist, of Gascoyne-road, South Hackney, was sued by the London Photographic Company at the Southwark County Court yesterday in respect of work done. The plaintiffs did not appear, but Miss Vincent, looking refreshingly cool in a light summer dress, told Judge Willis, K.C., all about the claim. She said that she explained to the plaintiffs how often unsatisfactory photographs had been taken for her, and that she would only agree to have photographs from them if the proofs were successful. "As a matter of fact they were most unsatisfactory," the lady added, indignantly; "and now they put in a claim for 17s. 6d. for work done." Judge Willis (smiling): You might bring an action for damages against them for not taking a proper portrait of you. (Laughter.) But it might be difficult to present you truly, you know (with an admiring glance at the lady). Miss Vincent (diffidently): Might I ask for costs, your Honour? Judge Willis: Yes, you shall, and a very pleasant afternoon to you wherever you are going. "Thank you very much indeed, sir," said the defendant, bowing gracefully to the judge as she left.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are:—Denholme, on the Great Northern; Drypool (Hull), on the Great Central and North-Eastern; Eccleshill, on the Great Northern; Horncastle, on the Great Northern; Rawdon Feast; Silsden, on the Midland; Stockport, on the Great Central, Great Northern, London and North-Western, Midland, Great Western, and the Sheffield and Midland; Earlestown, on the London and North-Western; Mitcham, on the London, Brighton, and South Coast; Sowerby Bridge, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; York, on the Great Central, Great Northern, North-Eastern, London and North-Western, Great Eastern, and Midland; Brighouse, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Gildersome, on the Great Northern; Highworth, on the Great Western; Padiham, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Queensbury, on the Great Northern; Ashton-under-Lyne, on the Great Central, London and North-Western, and Lancashire and Yorkshire; and Oldham, Ashton, Guide Bridge; Astwood Bank, on the Midland; Droylesden, on the London and North-Western and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Glossop, on the Great Central; Lelant, on the Great Western; Mottram, on the Great Central; Rochdale, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Shaw, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Alloa, on the North British and Caledonian; Biggar, on the Caledonian; Hawick, on the North British; and Malpas, on the Great Western Railways.

Dartford Fair.

Mr. Robert Clasper, the lessee, set out the fair in capital order. In the centre of the ground were Forrest Brothers' Japanese airship, J. Manders' three-abreast galloping horses, T. Knighton's aeroplanes, C. Thurston's helter skelter tower, juvenile horses and motor-car sets by Messrs. S. Mayne, Manning, Harvey, and Stackwood, and park swings, highfliers, and overboats by Messrs. Clasper, Stenning, Pettigrove, and Mayne.

The cinematograph theatres were those of Messrs. W. Biddall, W. Payne, and Biddall Bros. These fine concerns stood in a line at the top side of the fair ground, and at night presented a brilliant picture with their thousands of electric lights. The other shows were W. Le Neve and Norah Sullivan's, the expert exponents of physical culture, T. Ridley's Variety Empire, Sol. Elliott's school of boxers, T. Knighton's fine art gallery, and Bacon's novelty booth.

Two sides of the fair ground were fully occupied with throwing games, novelty and penalty frames, shooting ranges, toy bazaars, variety stalls, pannam and sweet stalls, confetti stalls, and all the many adjuncts of a well-organised fair. These were provided by Messrs. Pettigrove, Reynolds, C. Bailey, R. Clasper, T. Knighton, W. Stenning, H. Peters, H. Peters, jun., T. Manning, J. Manning, S. Bolesworth, S. Mayne, J. Mayne, G. Harvey, G. Bond, R. Bond, Dalton, Holmes, Clark, Edwards, H. Smith, W. Manning, Bailey, and others.

Guild Meeting at Dartford Fair.

A special emergency meeting of the Showmen's Guild was held on Saturday morning, at twelve o'clock, in W. Biddall's show, the business being to take action against the Movable Dwellings Bill, and to consider the question of defending the fairs in the metropolitan district threatened by local governing bodies with extinction. Mr. Alf. Ball, V.P., was in the chair, and the principal speaker was the Rev. T. Horne, Guild Chaplain. Amongst the prominent showpeople were Biddall Bros., J. Manders, H. Forrest, R. Clasper, W. Payne, S. Bolesworth, S. Mayne, H. Peters, T. Manning, G. Harvey, R. Bond, C. Pettigrove, Mrs. Le Neve, Mrs. Edwards, Mrs. W. Biddall, and Mrs. Clasper. There were also a number of amusement caterers and van-dwellers present whose names did not transpire.

Mr. Ball's Speech.

He had come, he said, to Dartford that morning, at considerable inconvenience to himself, in order to arouse his fellow-showmen in the London district to take immediate steps to defend their business and their home life, so seriously menaced by legislation now before the country. This legislation, as they knew, was being pressed upon Parliament by busy faddists and by local authorities anxious to obtain excessive and prohibitory powers against the show business and the showman's mode of life. It was for that meeting to protest against such restrictive powers being granted to corporations. He asked them to remember what it would mean to have their homes subjected to the invasion and the compulsory inspection of the officers of every town they visited. If such proposals became law then their liberty and security of life would be taken from them.

He asked them to rally to the support of the Guild, their trade society, that was engaged in the arduous fight for their trade and business rights, and for the protection of their homes on wheels from inquisitorial inspection or regulation. They resented being stigmatised and held up to public scorn as a class needing special legislation. They were already under the ample and necessary provisions of the ordinary laws of the land. All the law that was necessary for the whole community they found quite good enough for them. Special legislation would stigmatise them as a class separate and distinct from other people, and that was a disgrace they justly resented. (Great applause.) He concluded by calling upon the Rev. T. Horne to propose a resolution against the Movable Dwellings Bill.

The Guild Chaplain's Speech.

The Rev. T. Horne said that before submitting the resolution he held in hand he desired to explain why it was showmen and other amusement caterers following the fairs objected to such proposals as the Movable Dwellings Bill. He was especially anxious to make the claim for the showpeople that they do live, and always have lived, cleanly, moral, and law-abiding lives. It was not only a gross falsehood to say otherwise, but the bringing of such a charge against them was a dastardly attack upon them, for it involved the loss of their character in the esteem of the public, the very people amongst whom the showman had to live his life openly and seen of all men day by day.

He repudiated the base insult and the lying accusation that such proposals involved. (Cheers.) The show business and the domestic life of showpeople had grown with the growth of the nation. It had won its way and it had progressed like all other industries of the British races. Under the laws common to all classes in the Empire—industrially, socially, morally—the showman was just as other men. Specially drastic and inquisitorial legislation would rob him of his rights and liberties as a citizen of the Commonwealth. Why should the showman be penalised by unjust legislation? Why should he be laid under the stigma of being a menace to public health? Why should his home life be subjected to invidious scrutiny and placed under special penalties? These were questions they were justified in asking, and questions to which no adequate reply had as yet been given.

What the Bill would Mean to Them.

It would place their living-vans under the inspection, control, and registration of all the county authorities in the country. They would have to be inspected, licensed, and numbered. Every officer of every public authority would have the right of invading their homes under the pretence of satisfying himself that the conditions set out in the licence were being observed. ("Shame, shame.") This Bill, if passed in its present form, would destroy the privacy and the domestic security of their home life. It was local government run mad, and any attempt to impose such conditions on any other class of industrious and law-abiding people in the community would lead to rebellion.

Showpeople were already subject to the ordinary laws of health and sanitation. Every law applicable to a permanent dwelling applied to movable dwellings. To these laws they had complied. It was to their own comfort and to their own benefit so to do. It was also to their business advantage to always appear before their patrons and customers as free from reproach. Why, all his hearers knew the sound business value of that proposition. The bare suspicion of a risk to public health was enough to kill a fair. The rumour of it would empty a fair ground and utterly ruin its prospects. He protested against the Bill on this ground alone. It cast an unwarranted slur upon the trade and business of showmen and the habits of life in their homes.

Powers to Prohibit Fairs.

Clause 5 in the Bill gave county authorities power to prohibit fairs. The clause proposes that "where it appears to the registration authority that the encampment of occupiers of movable dwellings on any specified place or places within their area would be dangerous to public health, or constitute a nuisance to the neighbourhood, the registration authority may by bye-law prohibit such encampment on such specified place or places; and any person acting in contravention of any bye-law under this section shall be guilty of an offence under this Act."

It did not need much investigation to see, or much experience of the way in which local authorities strain their powers, to know that, with such powers as that clause indicated, corporations and county authorities would abolish fairs, without even asking the Home Secretary or considering the trading rights of the showpeople, or the holidays and pleasure fairs of the people. He protested against such extraordinary powers being given to local governing bodies, and he moved the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of showmen and fair-ground traders engaged at Dartford Fair protests against the Movable Dwellings Bill. We claim as lawful traders to be under and obedient to the ordinary laws of the realm. We deny that special inquisitorial and liberty-destroying legislation is needed for our trade and mode of life. If the promoters of the measure want to deal with and to penalise gipsy life, let them make their object clear in their Bill by exempting showmen and fair-ground traders from its proposed penalties and restrictions." The motion was seconded by Mr. J. Manders, supported by Mr. H. Forrest, and carried with acclamation.

Petition against the Bill.

The Rev. T. Horne read the petition against the Movable Dwellings Bill, now being signed so extensively at the British fairs. This was signed by those present at the gathering, and left for further signatures at the fair.

The Defence of London District Fairs.

The meeting then went into committee on the question of trade defence in the metropolitan district. The Rev. T. Horne, Mr. A. Ball, Mr. James Manders, Mr. H. Forrest, and other speakers referred to the various hindrances to the show business, both at the fairs and private venture amusement resorts. A most useful discussion took place, and the Guild officials were instructed to take all necessary steps to protect the interests of showpeople. Votes of thanks were given to the Rev. T. Horne, Mr. A. Ball for presiding, and Mr. W. Biddall for the use of his show for the meeting.

Subscriptions to London Fairs Defence Fund.

S. Bolesworth, £1; S. Mayne, £1; W. Stenning, £1; F. Bailey, £1; T. Knighton, £1; H. Peters, £1; H. Peters, jun., £1; Mrs. S. Edwards, £1; amount already acknowledged, £3.

The Alexandra Palace and Park.

The fair grounds are now in full swing. P. Collins's carousals and various appurtenances were doing a roaring trade on Monday, Bank Holiday. Two new camera obscuras have been erected near the East Front by Prof. Charles, who superintends the Punchinello exhibitions and other side shows in the Industrial Hall. The switchback railway commands an important site, and its exhilarating effects were duly appreciated. The shooting gallery in the corridor adjoining the theatre was largely patronised, as were also equally interesting billiard tables on entirely new principles by the inventor, Mr. J. R. Mally. Slipping the slip and the haunted swing were items which did much to empty the pockets of their patrons, and returned full value for the small sums expended. The Italian Gardens in summer beauty enticed many on their way to the renovated conservatory, where the zoological collection was never dull, for who could be tired of listening to the amusing reminiscences of the well-known lion-tamer, "Captain" Henry, the superintendent of that department. The Kinograph Company's bioscope display in the Londesborough Hall attracted large audiences, for which the clever and astute doorman, Mr. Day, was largely responsible. Another meritorious show was that held in the Bijou Theatre, the opposite side, viz., the "A. P. Cadets," whose musical entertainment was varied, humorous, and up to date. Judging by the appreciative audiences these artists have come to stay, and will entice many. Other features in the corridors were receiving such patronage as the frequenters of a Bank Holiday crowd are noted at the Alexandra Palace.

The White City, Old Trafford.

Another of the additional side shows is the Cabinet of Death, known as "La Mort."

Frank Burley gives his ride for life down the water chute on an ordinary bicycle into the lake, and also his daring dive of 60ft. into the lake, and claims to be the only man who does this double act.

He belongs to London, and is thirty-eight years of age. He first started the bicycle dive as one of Captain Paul Boyton's troupe in 1894. He became champion of England at the Royal Aquarium in 1895. He created the American record for head-first diving at Lagoon Park, Kentucky, of 103ft. 6in. into 8ft. of water, and beat Harry Magee, world's champion, at the World's Fair, Chicago.

As a most daring diver he has not escaped without several wounds. He has also done well among the well-known ports of Sweden and Norway, especially Stockholm, Gothenburg, Christiania, Copenhagen, &c.

Princess Trixie, the wonderful thinking horse, draws full houses every time.

The weather continues fine, and this week enormous crowds have kept all the shows and outdoor amusements busy.

THE PEOPLE'S FIGHT FOR MITCHAM FAIR.

The Home Secretary and the People's Rights.

The Rev. T. Horne visited the Home Office last week. He stated the case for the showmen re Mitcham Fair, and left for the consideration of the Home Secretary the whole of the correspondence between the Conservators and himself (in his capacity of official conciliator for the Mitcham Fair tenants), and explained the action taken by the Showmen's Guild to mediate in the matter, and the failure of the efforts made for a peaceful solution of the question.

The Home Secretary Refuses to Abolish Mitcham Fair.

The Guild Chaplain was told that the issues remained the same in the present year as in the years 1906-7. The Home Secretary saw no adequate reason to abolish the fair. When the question comes before him again he will consider the expressions of public opinion embodied in the resolutions of public bodies, public meetings, and petitions.

The Fair Remains.

Mitcham Fair will take place on the usual three days, Aug. 12, 13, and 14. Despite the efforts of the Conservators and the owners of the tollage rights to abolish the fair, or to prevent it taking place, shows, roundabouts, and other popular fair-ground amusements will be on exhibition in Mitcham. We wish it to be clearly understood that so long as Mitcham people desire a fair there will be one, whether it is held on the old Fair Green or on some convenient site. It may please the Conservators to think otherwise, but the fair will remain until the people of Mitcham declare for its abolition. It is the people's annual fair, and the Home Secretary will not abolish it without a strong expression of public opinion in favour of abolition.

What is the Present Position?

We assume that the Conservators and the owners of the fair franchise will do again what they did in the two previous years—this is, refuse to let sites on the Fair Green for the purposes of a fair. We also assume that showmen will attend for the purpose of holding the fair, and the same measures will be taken as in previous years—proceedings by injunction. Forty or more showmen will be added to the noble band of martyrs for fair rights. These men will obey the order of the Court, and next year will leave the field open for other passive resisters to the will of the would-be autocrats of Mitcham.

The Brief for the Showmen.

It will be well to state clearly how the showmen stand at the present moment. The action of the Showmen's Guild has been consistent and quite intelligent throughout, and its policy is set forth clearly in the annual report, published before the decision of the Conservators was known. It reads as follows:—

"No report of this year's work would be complete without a reference to the Mitcham Fair dispute. Carefully avoiding any reference of the questions at issue to the Law Courts, your committee have rendered every possible assistance to the showmen tenants of Mitcham Fair by organising a monster public petition against the abolition of the fair, and presenting it to the Home Secretary, by organising and conducting public meetings in Mitcham itself, and by advising the showmen tenants to keep well within the authority of the charter governing the fair, by scrupulously observing peaceful methods and by negotiating with the Board of Conservators, by petitioning the local governing bodies interested, and by endeavouring to bring about a reasonable compromise, in advocating the removal of the fair from its present congested site to a larger and better ground on Mitcham Common. The action of the Guild Executive in this important matter has been throughout of a pacific and advisory character, and your committee have been careful at all times to differentiate between the appeal to public sympathy and any reference of the matter to the arbitrament of the Law Courts."

The Guild Executive has all along abstained from giving either sanction or support to legal action, or to any attempt to test the powers claimed by the Conservators under their private Act of Parliament obtained in 1891. They do dispute the justice of the claim to ignore the rights of the tenants and traders of the fair. They still further resent the closing of a fair by private Act of Parliament and not by the more just means of the Abolition of Fairs Act, under which both people and traders have a right to be heard in opposition to the proposal to deprive them of rights and privileges long time enjoyed.

What the Guild has Done and will Continue to Do.

It will defend by all proper and constitutional means the great industry and the growing enterprise of the fair-ground. It will put the claim of the showman for full citizenship before the justice-loving public. It will vindicate the character and the work of the showman in the national life, and will show to all men that the showman has a true place in the social evolution and the well-being of the Empire.

It will rouse the general public, and instruct the conscience of the nation in the necessary and all-important work of preserving the local holidays of the working-classes, and encourage every movement for the betterment and the uplifting of the open-air pleasures and amusements of the toiling masses of the country. To understand the work of the Guild, these are ideals that must be borne in mind. With regard to Mitcham, there is one point clear: if the fair is to be saved it must be done by the people themselves. For the showmen tenants, and, of course, in serving them, for the good of the show-loving public, the executive officials of the Guild have worked hard, and have spared neither time nor money in the struggle.

What will Mitcham Do?

Let the situation be properly faced. Where does Mitcham stand to-day on this, to them, important question? What pressure of public opinion is to be exercised by the people of the town over the Conservators?

The showmen know exactly where they stand. Forty-eight showmen have perpetual injunctions out against them; they—the forty-eight—dare not and will not venture on the fair-ground again. The Conservators claim the right to let, or to refuse to let, sites on the Fair Green at fair-time—that is their claim. They want to narrow the issues down to *one* issue—"to let or not to let" ground for the people's fair. Showmen refuse to follow them in the legal maze of that claim—that is not the real issue. The issue is, Shall the people of Mitcham have and hold their fair as their fathers did before them, or shall it be taken from them by the arbitrary action of a small body of men who object to the popular amusements of the vast body of the people?

It is easy for the Conservators to issue a notice "that no sites will be let on the Fair Green." But that is not the real question. The question is the one behind that refusal—the practical denial of the right of Mitcham to use the Fair Green or any other portion of Mitcham Common for the people's fair. The power of the Conservators to abolish Mitcham Fair at their own will is, in all justice, a proper question for the people of Mitcham. What will their answer be, and what action will the people take whose fair and local holiday is being taken away? That, we confidently anticipate, will not be left uncertain for very long. We look forward, with every hope and confidence, that the people will rise in their sovereign majesty, and the would-be dictators of Mitcham will find that justice and fairplay will triumph over all high-handed interference with the rights of the people.

LONDON'S GREAT HOLIDAY FAIRS.

In the year 1874 Frost, the author of that interesting book, "The Old Showmen and the Old London Fairs," ventured to prophesy the total extinction of pleasure fairs. "Fairs," he said, "are becoming extinct, because, with the progress of the nation they have ceased to possess any value in its social economy, either as marts of trade or as a means of popular amusement." He finishes his book with these words: "What need, then, of fairs and shows? The nation has outgrown them, and fairs are as dead as the generations which they have delighted, and the last showman will soon be as great a curiosity as the dodo."

It will be news to the 70,000 showmen of 1908 to know that their one and only historian in 1874 was a prophet of evil; that just before the invention of the steam roundabout, responsible and sympathetic writers like Thomas Frost—whose words we have quoted—looked upon the travelling showpeople as a doomed race, rapidly dying out.

Pleasure Fairs a Growing Necessity of Life.

The writers of 1874 had before them the object-lesson of great provincial cities like Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, and Liverpool, following the bad lead of London in abolishing their corporation-controlled fairs. Local government was beginning to exercise its almost absolute powers to curtail the old customs, holidays, and amusements of the people. Showmen were regarded as non-producers, living on the hard-won pence of foolish people, who would be better at work for their masters than spending their earnings at the fair. That was the economic doctrine of 1874. In order to teach it properly and effectively, the City strained their powers, and fairs of great historic importance were killed by the corporations of our great towns and cities.

"All Work and No Play."—Economic Heresy.

The economists of "the deadly dull school of thought" forgot the two main factors in the crusade against the open-air pleasures of the English people—they forgot the showmen, and they forgot the people. Persecuted men live long lives. The showman, driven out of the centre of the town pitched his tent in the suburbs. The people followed the fair. Wherever the shows went there the people gathered. Nay, the very persecution of the showman excited popular sympathy, and the English spirit of independence led the workers to resent, silently it may have been, yet none the less effectively, the interference of the employers with the holidays and amusements of the workers. The end of the struggle as we see and know it to-day is the triumph of the people, and the full vindication of the showman.

The L.C.C. and the People's Fairs.

Amongst the first of the great local governing bodies to recognise the importance of providing for and controlling wisely and well the open-air amusements of the people was the London County Council. We visited the pleasure fairs of London on Bank Holiday Monday. We saw the London workers at play. We noted the marvellous capacity of the average Londoner to enjoy himself, and to help others to like pleasure. The vast majority of the great crowds at Hampstead, Blackheath, Wormwood Scrubs, and Wanstead Flats were in family groups; this is undoubtedly a great social and economic feature. No other kind of amusement for the workers gives this inducement of the family life. It is not individual, but associated pleasure; all the members of the family have their share in it; it is the triumph of the bassinette and the wheeled chair "pram." When the children were on the roundabout father and mother enjoyed the fun of seeing their little ones in the ecstasy of new joys. This and many other evidences of the real value of a fair came under our observation as we watched the people at play.

The parks and the open commons are sometimes called the "lungs of London," but they are more than "lungs," they are, in a real sense, the theatre of the common life.

The Fair at Hampstead Heath.

"From the Strand to the Heath in Twenty Minutes," that is how the Tube railway has annihilated time and space. The dusty pavements of the heart of London may be exchanged for the greensward of Hampstead and Golder's Green. Life and merriment, fun and frolic, for all alike—one hundred thousand people enjoyed it to the full. The People's Fair on the glorious carpet of the breezy Heath—the great pageant of London at play—was in the making as we traversed "the Horseshoe Walk," and made the grand promenade of the fair. Here were youth and beauty from all parts of North-West London, "Harry and Harriet," "Jarge and 'Liza," bursting with the joy of life. Here at last the glorious time so long anticipated, so laboriously prepared—weeks of wonderful self-denial to end in the fulness of one glorious day, brimming over with delight and happiness.

There were also, and equally happy in their mood of life, other types of character—young men and maidens who never—never except at Hampstead—forget the restraints of the position they hold in the City. The student of human life can find at Bank Holiday time at Hampstead the answer to many of the problems of town life. You do not know your London until you have seen this mixing of the classes and the masses on the open playground of the fair at Hampstead Heath.

The Popular Amusements of the People.

There are three great centres of showlife on the Heath. The first, known as "the Entrance Avenue," stretches from the village right across the Heath. Here were evidences of the careful provision of the London County Council for the necessities of the vast crowds using the fair—municipal control in its best and highest sense—ambulance tents, horse ambulance vans, fire preventive and rescue appliances. Here, too, were temperance refreshment tents, able to deal with big crowds. Following these necessary adjuncts of a properly-ordered fair were scores of coker-sheets and throwing games, novelty stalls, shooting ranges, bazaars, juvenile roundabouts, gem and park swings, and side shows. These were provided by the following capable amusement caterers: Messrs. Forrest Bros., Wilson, Bolesworth Brothers, Ellcott, Burgess, Mayne, Simpson, Birch, Edwards, Peters, Bibby, Shaw, Rowe, White, and scores of others.

The Vale of Health Fairground.

The second great showground was the well-known amusement resort, "the Vale of Health." This is one of the permanent features of the Heath, yet it never fails to obtain its full share of public patronage at holiday times. Mr. Harry Cox provided the principal amusements at this popular centre of the fair—a very fine set of galloping horses, three sets of park swings, and the big wheel overboats. On the open Heath in the Vale were other amusements of a most attractive kind.

The Battery Fairground.

There were three avenues of stalls, throwing games, shooting ranges, sideshows, and riding machines. The principal shows on the Heath were Biddall Bros.' electric cinematograph theatre, and Le Neve and Norah Sullivan's athletes. The smaller shows were those of Messrs. Elliott and Goldsmith.

Wormwood Scrubs Fair.

This popular resort at holiday time drew its tens of thousands of pleasure seekers. A real open-air carnival for the people of South-West London. The shows, roundabouts, and other amusements were provided by W. Beach, who exhibited galloping horses, racing birds, shooting gallery, aerial flight, and other attractions; J. Chittock, with his well-known theatre of animated photography; J. Buckley, with trained animal show; W. Wilson, with electric motor-cars; G. Bond, with juvenile motor-set; Taylor, with gem roundabouts; and a great crowd of other caterers with throwing games, variety stalls, and novelty frames.

Blackheath Fairground.

Unlike the other two popular fairs under L.C.C. control, Blackheath was set out in one long avenue of fairground novelties and stalls, stretching for half a mile on either side of the great central roadway of the Heath. The principal concerns here were W. Wilson's Electric Coliseum, Arnett's ghost illusion show, S. Forrest's Japanese airship, W. Wilson's steam roundabouts, C. Thurston's helter-skelter tower, Wilson's overboats, T. Knighton's amusements, R. Clasper's swings and games, Brown's railway sensation, and coker-sheets, novelty and penalty frames by Messrs. Baker, Irving, Holding, Cain, Pickard, Saunders, Serle Bros., Campbell, Beach, and many others.

Wanstead Flats Fair.

This fair was attended by vast crowds of the workers of East London. The principal concerns were those of Ball and Son, with New Lyceum of Living Pictures; H. Thurston and Sons, with their immense variety of machine and other novelties; Moore Bros., with swings, throwing games; and Bolesworth, with similar concerns.

There were also in attendance many other amusement caterers, with the usual minor novelties and side shows.

Hanley Wakes.

Notwithstanding strenuous opposition by a few cranks on the council, this great fair is still held in the centre of the town, and attracts many thousands from the outlying densely-populated areas. Our representative passed round the show, visiting Mr. Pat Collins's No. 1 Wonderland, with its marvellously devised exits and fine organ. Dave Godfrey was giving a clever sleight-of-hand show. The pictures seen were Billy's Saw, Brigands of Calabria, Up-to-date Removal, and The Inexhaustible Barrel, and The Marathon Race.

Mr. P. Collins also had the cake-walk machine, a large steam yacht, No. 1 and No. 2 motors; Mr. Wm. Davies had two lots of racing-horses, two Atlantic liners, and a set of juveniles; H. Hughes's boxing saloon was doing well, as was Shaw's fine art exhibition; Marsden, Wright, Hughes, and Martin were persuading people to shoot; James Connor and Johnny Cordwell, jun., were doing good business with sallies and rings; and Professors Ellis and Semio obtained many purchasers. There were all and sundry other kinds of shows and stalls, &c., and the wake was favoured with beautifully fine weather.

Swinton Feast.

Under the direction of Messrs. Tuby and Sons an excellent fair was held in this pretty Yorkshire town. The well-known attractions of the Doncaster firm were in attendance, and these included the New Coliseum of animated pictures and varieties and the four-abreast galloping horses. T. Wortley had his two shows on exhibition, the fine art academy and the colliery model. There were also swings and highfliers by Pullan, Silverwood, and Percival; shooters, bottle batteries, throwing games, variety stalls, and other attractions, by Messrs. Campfield, Smith, Shaw, Percival, West, Roland, and other caterers. From the same circuit we have news of Tuby's motors and swings being at Exthorpe and Bloom's variety theatre at Mexborough.

Terry and Lambert's new version of English types through American eyes has made quite a sensation at the Empire, Middlesbrough, some of the latest Yankeeisms by Miss Lambert scoring amazingly. Terry and Lambert recently arrived from America after six months' continuous triumph in that country.

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FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

PIERRETTE'S TALISMAN.—In this we get several clever trick scenes. Pierrot, faithless and clumsy lover that he is, has left an incriminating paper in the pocket of his clothes. This Pierrette finds, and, weeping, gets up and leaves him in the middle of the night and runs out into the cold. She lays down on the trunk of an old tree, and goes to sleep. The good fairy, always so obliging in these matters, comes to her and gives her a talisman, by means of which she can, if she is fairly good, do and have anything she wishes for. What will she not have! First of all, a sedan chair, from which steps an old, well-worn courtier, but by the aid of a little puppet he is soon replaced by a delightful young marquis. All the young swells become enamoured of the pretty girl, who, being now magnificently dressed and with fine jewels, turns the heads of these young gentlemen. A duel takes place, the marquis is killed, and Pierrette accepts the attentions of the victor. Pierrette has now tasted all the pleasures and joys of life, but not yet the delight of seeing Pierrot paid out for his faithlessness, so she makes him see how she is enjoying herself, and how she is made love to by all, just to make him jealous. But this time she has gone too far, and she wakes up with a start to find herself still in the snow. She is neither cruel nor unkind, and it is only in a dream that she has tried to punish Pierrot so severely for his unfaithfulness. All's well that ends well, and one moonlight night we find Pierrot and Pierrette as much in love with each other as ever, in spite of the fact that six little Pierrots have appeared on the scene.

A RUNAWAY MOTHER-IN-LAW.—Mothers-in-law are not supposed to be always on the best of terms with their sons-in-law, but the one in this picture is so unselfish that she undertakes to remove his furniture, and takes the place of the horse in the shafts. This self-denial of hers is badly repaid, however, for, having to go down a sloping street, the poor lady cannot withstand the weight of the carriage, which drags her down and all the furniture with her, making her graze everybody and everything on her way, until she lands in the pool at the end of the village, where she takes a free bath; whereas her son-in-law, delighted at seeing her in such a plight, makes a show of doing his best to help her out.

ON BAD TERMS WITH THEIR HOUSE PORTERS.—A married couple have had the good luck to be on good terms with these officials, but their wish to have a dog is the beginning of war between the two families. The picture of the accidents and misadventures of the tenants harried by the porters is one of the most comical, ending in the removal of the couple and their dog to a quieter abode.

THE MYSTERY OF THE MOUNTAIN is a dramatic and realistic film. The masked man, invisible and unseizable, whose presence in the neighbourhood makes itself known by the horrible murders he perpetrates from time to time, for the bodies of his strangled and stabbed victims are found in the morning, has become such a terror that all the men in the village go on a beat. Their amazement is great, however, when they discover that the culprit is the forester himself, the man to whom has been entrusted the safety of the village and woods.

THE HAUNTED CASTLE.—The peasants in Brittany know a dreadful tale, which they whisper to one another at night; a story that makes one's hair stand on end, which we will relate below as the plot of a very interesting film. During clear nights, the Squire of Badnews used to walk about his castle wrapped in the moonlight, looking like an unearthly being. One night Sir Baldhead and his page Odin, who happened to be on the moor, saw the ghost, and as they were gallant cavaliers, they assaulted the haunted castle, broke in the door, and entered the old buildings, where they became the sports of all sorts of amazing and unheard-of delusions. In one part of his large castle the Squire of Badnews had been holding sequestered for years a noble and titled lady whom he wished to marry against her will. After a series of extraordinary incidents, which ended in the release of the lady, Sir Baldhead was lucky enough to be given her hand and heart for his reward, and so the story ends well, after all.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

QUEBEC TO NIAGARA.—Previous series have dealt with the majesty and sublimity of the great Falls of Niagara, but the noble river into which the waters are hurled has never before been kinematographically depicted from its mouth to the head of the Falls. Beginning with the City of Quebec, a tour is made of the principal streets, with their public buildings and markets. Next is given a deeply interesting panorama of the river front and Alexandra Bay. The ever-restless Lachine Rapids follow, a most fascinating scene of foaming waters rushing through their rocky channels to the Atlantic. By a small steamer, the Island Wanderer, the audience is next taken on a Fifty Miles' Ramble amongst the Thousand Islands dotting the river in beautiful and charmingly irregular sequence. This most romantic journey is an ideal one, even for the experienced traveller.

THE principal islands, verdure-covered and laid out with exquisite taste, form the palatial homes of many of the millionaires and merchant princes of the United States. Built in every conceivable style of architecture, these mansions rear their pinnacles, domes, and spires above the trees amidst which they nestle, and charming close views are afforded as the little vessel negotiates the various coves and inlets of these isolated beauty spots. A pause is made at the Thousand Island Park Landing to permit a view of the liner New York of the Richelieu-Ontario Line, on its journey from Toronto to Montreal. The journey is then resumed, amid most picturesque scenery of islands and umbrageous banks, until the great Niagara Falls are approached. First the busy little Customs boat is seen on its inquisitive and often unwelcome errand; then a view is afforded of the great Power House, which generates electricity for lighting the distant City of Buffalo—a triumph of engineering genius. The Rapids below the Falls are next seen, the waters boiling in fretful resentment of the imprisoning walls on either side; and finally the Falls in their full glory burst upon the delighted gaze.

THESE are viewed from aspects innumerable, and though each picture differs from its fellows, all the scenes are grand and impressive in their majestic beauty. In their order appear the Horseshoe Fall, the American Fall, Grand View of the Rapids from the Brink, Goat Island, Moonlight View of the Falls from Below, with the spray and mist rising to a great height in dense and picturesque clouds, Distant View of the Main Fall, Close View of the Bridal Veil Fall, a very close picture of the waters rushing in immense volume over the brink, the Cantilever and Railway Bridges Spanning the River and Connecting the United States with Canada, the Rapids below the Falls, and the Whirlpool from the American Side. For variety, grandeur, romance, picturesque loveliness, Nature defying science on the one hand and coquetting with human ingenuity and enterprise on the other, this original travel series is unsurpassed, and has few equals.

THE LIGHTNING POSTCARD ARTIST. — Unusually vivid, engrossing, and comic pictures are rapidly drawn upon postcards without apparent human agency. The pencil moves mysteriously, and a penknife sharpens the point in full view of the audience, no hand controlling either instrument. Lively and entertaining results follow, and another series is added to the long list of unique "magical" productions for which this company is famous. It is a delightfully whimsical subject of genuine humour, magic, mystery, and original treatment.

Gaumont Company.

THE Gaumont Co., of Chrono House, Sherwood-street, London, have just received a cabled advice from Mr. Frank Lascelles, the master of the Quebec pageant, stating that a special command has been received from the Prince of Wales for a cinematograph record of the scenes of pageantry at the 300th anniversary birthday of Canada, which have just taken place on the Abrahams Heights, Quebec.

THE Gaumont Co. had already received the exclusive rights for cinematographing this gorgeous historic display, and had arranged for the exhibition of same at all the principal theatres in Great Britain, but the Prince of Wales especially interested himself in the matter, and commanded that no detail of the event should be left unrecorded. The work was therefore entirely taken in hand by Messrs. Gaumont, who sent out special operators direct from London. The Gaumont Co. were the only cinematograph firm on the scene, and an honour has been accorded them by this special Royal command.

The Salomé Dance.

WALTER TYLER, LTD., have secured an interesting film of the Salomé dance, as performed by a highly-talented artist. The film, which is of Messrs. Tyler's own taking, is of photographic quality which promises well for the firm's subjects when they commence manufacturing on a large scale, as we believe they purpose immediately. The dance opens by Salomé, clad in the customary light costume and ornamental headpiece, walking down the steps at the back of the stage. She comes slowly forward, waving her arms in the graceful manner which Miss Maud Allan has rendered famous, then begins dancing, and at last, falling fatigued to the ground, sees the head of John the Baptist, recoils in surprise, then is overcome with joy, and dances joyously round the head and kisses it. Then, however, she is overcome with horror at the blood, and, throwing the head away, herself falls in a swoon. This subject should certainly be a success, considering the vogue of the dance which it represents, and its success will certainly be assisted by the manner in which Messrs. Tyler have set and produced it.

URBANORA AT THE PALACE.

Even a Palace audience, accustomed as it is to the perpetual feast of good things provided by Mr. Butt, would be guilty of hypercriticism if it could find the least fault with the Urbanora programme presented for the first time on Bank Holiday, after its transfer from the Alhambra on the expiration of its eighth consecutive year of display. The Charles Urban Company lives fully up to its reputation, and has this week at the Palace excelled its past brilliant records in variety of subject, originality of conception, photographic excellence, and thorough grasp of the requirements of the audience. Not only does the display prove of general interest, but each section appeals particularly to a particular class.

The Marathon Race, with its dramatic finish, is depicted with a wealth of detail from the start by Royal hand at Windsor Castle, past various points of vantage en route, to the arrival of Dorando, Hayes, and Hefferon at the Stadium. The Grand Prix motor race on the Dieppe circuit, by reason of the spills, thrills, speed, and dangerous curves, holds the audience in breathless fascination. The picturesque Downs, paddock, enclosure, course, and fashionable crowds at Goodwood, with the race for the Gold Cup, acclamation of the winner, and weighing-in episodes, have always a peculiar charm, but this year the advance made by Urbanora in the kinematographic art secures the presentation of the views in greater perfection than ever before. Olympia-at-Hanley, which follows, is a brilliant presentation of what is regarded as an historic river event. The lawns, houseboats, punts, and the well-dressed people lining both banks form an admirable setting for the spirited struggles of the wet bobs, and Leander is well depicted as showing the way to the Belgian crew from start to finish.

Next come the always-welcome—and, in this case, more-than-ever fascinating—studies of the Kearton Brothers of Wild Birds in Their Haunts. These nature lovers, who were long ago admitted to the freedom of the feathered community, seem able to work their own sweet photographic wills with birds of every degree. Wonderful confidence between them is firmly established, both mother and baby birds feeding from the hand of one brother while that of the other Kearton turns the handle of the camera. A well-thought-out programme is concluded by a marvellous film of the magical variety, quaint, whimsical, clever, and intensely amusing, entitled The Lightning Post-Card Artist. In rapid movement comic pictures are drawn, apparently without human aid, upon post-cards. Puppet forms move in comical fashion, a penknife sharpens a pencil, a wooden hobby horse throws its equally wooden rider, and a coal black negress changes colour, first to stolid white loveliness, then to that of a vivacious brunette, and finally at a critical moment back to the original, to the discomfiture of a male admirer.

We predict for Urbanora at the Palace an engagement which will, at any rate, equal in length and popularity that just terminated at the Alhambra. Mr. Urban thoroughly understands his business; in fact, what to the manager of a theatre is simply a star turn is to him the study of a lifetime. Failure of that to which he puts his hand is impossible, and, knowing his public and their tastes, with the facilities he enjoys, he is both capable and confident of satisfying the kinematographic demands of the most fastidious audience in the world.

Harry Banford's Accident.

MR. BANFORD sends us the following interesting letter:—

"Dear Sir,—I regret to inform you that I am still unable to resume work. For thirteen years past I have never missed Mitcham Fair, and this enforced absence from the show front will be a great disappointment to me. I thank Mr. T. S. Whiting, of Oxford, and my many other friends for their letters of good cheer and comradeship. I had a pleasing adventure the other day. I drove to Wanstead Flats just to see the fair and the dear show. It was indeed a tonic to me. Mr. and Mrs. Ball were, as usual, all kindness and good fellowship. I returned to my rooms at Tilbury Docks all the better for my jaunt to the fair."

MISS LOUIE PEACH will be at the Palace, Reading, next week, with her sketch, *Taming a Husband*. She will be assisted by Mr. Nelson Watts-Phillips and Mr. W. T. Blount.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

15,450. Charles Skinner, of London. Improved talking machine needle for playing disc records.

15,469.—Edward Charles Robert Marks, of London. Improvements in kaleidoscopes. (William Nelson McComb, United States).

15,473.—Symphonionfabrik Aktiengesell-schaft, of London. Improvements in or relating to sound boxes of gramophones and like machines.

15,496.—Hugo Kamman and Aladar Kaszab, of London. Improvements in targets.

15,500.—Frank Mitchell, of London. Improvements in or relating to target practice apparatus.

15,576.—Paul Balthazar Theophil Berner, of London. Improvements in phonograph horns.

15,728.—George Oulton, Charles Ablett, and William Edward Lightfoot, of Manchester. Improvements in sound-recording and reproducing machines.

15,771.—Charles Skinner, of London. Improvements in disc talking machine soundbox needle-holding apparatus.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

26,107.—Dupuis. Continuous feed cinematographic apparatus.

4,040.—Muller and Rousset. Cinematographic apparatus.

5,926.—Perris. Amusement apparatus.

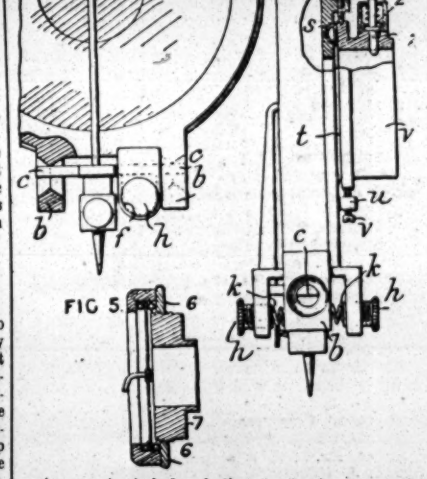
SPECIFICATIONS OPEN TO INSPECTION.

21,799.—Escamez and Moriones. Talking machines.

15,050.—Caille. Photographic reproduction of colours.

4,792.—Gramophones. Fischer, A., of Kensington, London.

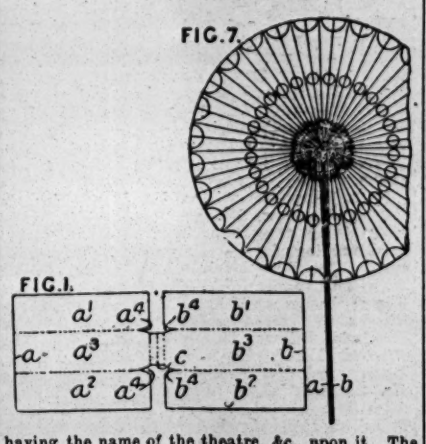
In sound-boxes the stylus bar is sensitively and securely hinged in two brackets on the sound-box, and has an arm depending between two



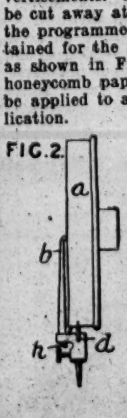
springs actuated by hollow nuts in two other brackets on the sound-box, which carries at its back two brackets (*u*, Fig. 2), each having a centre-screw (*w*), holding the flange of a tube (*v*), and securing a rubber washer (*t*) in an annular groove (*s*). The tube (*v*) carries a pin (1) which is secured by a spring (2) and a cap (5), or by a rubber ring, and engages two holes in the tone-arm connected by a groove, thus locking the sound-box in the two positions for playing or needle-changing. The circular or partly-circular stylus bar (*c*) works in a doubly countersunk hole in the brackets (*b*, Fig. 1), and has an arm (*f*) with one or two springs (*k*) set in hollow nuts (*h*, Fig. 2), which adjust the sensitiveness of the stylus or the tension of the diaphragm. According to the provisional specification, the damping springs may be used without the nuts, but fixed to the stylus bar and brackets. The back of the sound-box may be formed in two parts (6, 7, Fig. 5), so that the centre part (7), which is nearly equal to the diameter of the diaphragm, may be screwed or pushed in, and held at any distance to allow variation of the air-space between the diaphragm and the back of the sound-box.

4,798.—Programmes. Wertheim, J., of London.

A programme is utilised as an advertising medium and as a fan. In Fig. 1, the blank is formed with two approximately rectangular portions (*a*, *b*) connected by a narrow piece (*c*) and provided with a folding flap or flaps (*a1*, *a2*, and *b1*, *b2*). The upper portion of the central part (*a3*) is left blank for the application of a separately printed programme slip, a space above this



having the name of the theatre, &c., upon it. The portion *b3* is provided with a similar programme slip, the remainder of the space on both the central portions and the flaps being occupied by advertisements. To facilitate folding, the blank may be cut away at the parts *a4*, *b4*. By constructing the programme of card, &c., a firm handle is obtained for the fan when in the extended position, as shown in Fig. 7. The fan may be formed of honeycomb paper or by zigzag folding, and may be applied to a pamphlet, catalogue, or like publication.



4,507.—Gramophones. Landon, J. M., of London.

A flat spring (*d*) has one edge fixed to the shell (*a*) of a sound-box, and is parallel with the stylus bar (*b*) and the diaphragm, the other edge over which the stylus bar is connected being left free to move. A screw (*h*) is provided to adjust the tension of the diaphragm.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS' LODGE.

Under the auspices of this body a well-attended meeting of variety artists was held in the Hotel Provence on Sunday night. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Robert Steidl, Mr. Charles Coborn took the chair, and briefly introduced Mr. William Berol, who has specially travelled from Berlin to this country for the purpose of clearly laying before British artists the reasons which have led to the boycotting of five variety theatres in the Rhineland.

MR. BEROL said that on behalf of the I.A.L. he had to express his high appreciation of the reception he had met with in this country. He had expected to see the meeting that night principally composed of his fellow Continental artists, but was more than pleased at the presence of such a number of representative British artists. The matter which was most interesting and most dangerous to British artists entering into contracts with Continental managers was the correct interpretation to be placed on such contracts. There were now few contracts in existence similar in terms to those of eight years ago. Then any cause for cancellation barred the performer from all halls. Managers had bitterly resented the introduction of free contracts, preferring instead "slaves' contracts." To such iniquitous contracts the I.A.L. owed its origin, and its seven years of hard work had borne good fruit in many directions. It had struggled to place clearly before artists the real meaning of many of the clauses in the contracts, which in their ignorance artists were too ready to sign, only to find when it was too late that they were subjected to some utterly inequitable restraint. There could be no provision more harsh or unjust than the "three days' cancellation clause," which placed the performer absolutely at the mercy of the unscrupulous manager. As distinguished from England, Continental engagements were by the month instead of the week, and this involved a variation according to the exact length of the month, and in Germany "days of repentance" were also legally struck out. A provision, Mr. Berol continued, which must seem perfectly astonishing to his English hearers, was that the transference or sub-letting of a theatre voided all contracts. This, of course, enabled a manager, if he wished to disencumber himself of any artist or body of artists, simply to effect a transference to some dummy, and then, *ipso facto*, the contracts lapsed. Again, occasions of public mourning were made the grounds for cancellation. Thus in 1888 the deaths within about three months of two Emperors led to complete disorganisation in the engagements of artists in Germany. Many engagements were entered into, not with the object of securing the actual appearance of artists, but with a view of precluding their engagement in opposition houses. A most irritating and dangerous stipulation, of which nefarious advantage could easily be taken, was that any infraction of the "rules of the house" was a ground for immediate cancellation. Such rules were usually quite amorphous and indeterminate, and were very often concocted to suit the exigencies of the moment. As an instance of this Mr. Berol related how a lady had been engaged to perform at a Continental house. On her arrival the manager wished to break the contract, but naturally the performer refused. For three nights she did her turn evidently to the satisfaction of the audiences. On the fourth night, expecting her turn to be, as on the other nights, far on in the evening, she lingered with a friend over dinner, and when she presented herself at the theatre was informed that she was to have appeared early in the evening, and as she was not there her contract was cancelled. In addition to the arbitrary injustice of such cancellations of contracts, loss of travelling expenses was incurred, and the managers retained the right to the payment of damages. While the leading artists could, of course, refuse to accept all such contracts, their smaller brethren had no alternative, and the I.A.L. strongly urged the united action of all members of the profession. During their seven years' existence they had secured the abolition of the payment of 4 per cent. on all salaries to the authorities in Bremen, and they were now combating the active opposition of Mr. Gluck, the president of the Managers' Association. While they were at present engaged in an active contest with the managers of five halls in the Rhineland, they made no appeal that contracts should be broken. Their policy was to bring about the introduction of contracts of a different kind, and with a view of being in a position of bringing matters before the notice of the shareholders the Lodge had purchased shares in a number of halls. These, Mr. Berol concluded, were the facts and policy of the I.A.L., and he made a strong appeal to British artists to give them both financial assistance and active personal co-operation.

Mr. C. C. BERTRAM pointed out that the artist's life on the Continent was a pleasant one. The climate was usually delightful, engagements were for a month at least, and the life generally was an agreeable one. But all these advantages ought to be accompanied by equitable contracts whose clauses could not be abused. At present many of these contracts were nothing more than options which the managers could refuse if they felt inclined. As the I.A.L. was by law only allowed to utilise its funds in the assistance of its own members, it was now trying to raise another fund which should be for the benefit of outsiders.

Mr. GEORGE GRAY remarked that he had heard with amazement some of the clauses which were included in Continental contracts. Stringent as many contracts might be on this side of the Channel, England was yet a paradise compared with the Continent. But Mr. Gray strongly deprecated any such aggressive action as strikes, and urged the adoption of diplomatic methods in the struggle for freedom and justice, and moved a resolution that "This meeting wishes to extend its sympathy, and pledges its unstinted support to the International Artists' Lodge in its endeavour to obtain a fair and equitable contract."

Mr. Walter Hast seconded, and Mr. Delbose, Mr. Edward Clark, and others having joined in the discussion, the resolution was unanimously carried. A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

Notes from Scotland.

LORD GEORGE SANGER'S Hippodrome paid a highly-successful visit to Leven last Monday, the matinée being well patronised, while the evening performance was witnessed by an appreciative audience of quite 7,000. The outspanning of this great city on wheels attracted numbers of spectators on Sunday. Stately elephants and contemplative camels quietly moving about in their allotted sphere on the links, had quite a following.

THE entertainment was altogether praiseworthy. "Dick Turpin's Ride to York," of course, was a popular item. Perhaps the most graceful turn in the lengthy programme was Miss Lina's "haute école" act, with her fine thoroughbred Hawcombe." Some excellent horsemanship was exhibited, the elephants were amusing, the acrobats were clever and daring, the clowning was specially good. There was no waiting between turns, and the show went with a snap from start to finish.

A NEW arrival at the Tivoli is Clarissa Talbot and Charles Pearce in their delightful Japanese sketch *Yo San*. Alexandra Dagmar, the dashing serio, will also make her reappearance at this hall. The rest of the bill includes Karno's *Mumming Birds*, Harry Tate in *Fishing*, Harry Leybourne, Frank Harwood, the Bensons, Will Evans, Max Waldron, Foreman and Fannan, Bertha Stewart, Wilkie Bard, José Collins, R. G. Knowles, Millie Lindon, and T. E. Finglass.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

THE prizes for the successful competitors in the Theatrical Regatta will be presented on Sunday evening at the Freemasons' Arms, Long Acre.

THE application of the Oldham Branch of the N.A.T.E. for certain increases in the rate of pay in the local music halls has, in the absence of a mutual agreement between the local managers and the society, been referred to the General Federation of Trade Unions, who have deputed their sub-committee for the Oldham district to go into the matter. Messrs. T. Ashton, J.P. (secretary of the Amalgamated Operative Cotton Spinners) and Mr. James Crinion, J.P. (of the Amalgamated Card and Blowing Room Operatives) are members of this sub-committee. It is understood that the sub-committee are acting in a similar capacity for the Musicians' Union.

THE agenda of the Trade Union Congress, which will assemble in Nottingham on Sept. 7, has been issued. The Amalgamated Musicians' Union are responsible for resolutions Nos. 3 and 4, as follows:—

3. "That this Congress reaffirms the condemnation of the action of the Government in allowing Army and Navy bandsmen to compete with civilian musicians, and instructs the Parliamentary Committee to render every assistance to the Musicians' Union to put an end to the competition of Army and Navy bandsmen against civilian musicians, a great number of whom through this competition are thrown out of employment and deprived of their means of livelihood."

4. "That this Congress condemns the practice of allowing Police bandsmen to enter into competition with civilian musicians, as such competition deprives the civilian musician of his means of livelihood; and, seeing that the Police regulations forbid policemen from entering into competition with civilians, this Congress considers that civilian musicians should be equally protected with other civilians."

RESOLUTION No. 13 stands in the name of the Actors' Union and the Artists' Protective League, and is as follows:—

"That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to take steps to bring about a revision of the laws and regulations affecting (*a*) the licensing of theatres and music halls, (*b*) the licensing of plays, and (*c*) the censorship of plays."

RESOLUTION No. 14 appears over the name of the Variety Artists' Federation, as follows:—

"That this Congress instructs the Parliamentary Committee to demand of the Government a special Commission to investigate the existing laws regulating theatres of varieties, and, if necessary, to introduce such legislation as may be necessary to protect the interests of variety artists and others who are dependent upon same for their livelihood."

IT is difficult to say from the concluding portion of the "V.A.F." resolution whether "and others" means others who are dependent upon employment in variety theatres or upon the artists for a livelihood. It is, however, highly probable, even if the Standing Orders Committee of the Congress do not redraft these last two resolutions, that the general scope of the Actors' Union resolution will be retained, as, obviously, the general public represented by the Congress are just as much concerned in the reform of regulations governing theatres as those governing music halls, and they will, no doubt, take a comprehensive view of the amusement business as a whole. The Congress is much opposed to sectionalism, either in reform or in organisation.

THE Stage Employees are more concerned in the first resolution of the Musicians' Union than in the others, as they also suffer from the competition of soldiers in all the military towns, where in many cases soldiers are employed in the various stage departments. This is a form of competition which the civilian workman is justly entitled to object to. The soldier is assured of food, clothing, and shelter, and pocket-money. Far too many workmen have little of either of these, and no sort of security in their enjoyment as is possessed by every soldier.

THE National Executive Committee of the N.A.T.E. met on Friday evening to consider the above resolutions, and to decide as to the attitude of their delegate at the Congress towards the same.

THE Cinematograph Operators' Society have been informed by the L.C.C. that the Council will be glad to consider any observation the society may desire to make on a new apparatus to be used to extinguish fires arising out of the use of the cinematograph. The matter is to be considered at a special meeting of the committee of the society.

MR. S. J. KESSELL, who has been in hospital for a considerable period, is now out, and, although unable to resume work, is making satisfactory progress. The Heads of Departments' Association are considering ways and means of assisting Mr. Kessell to effect a complete restoration of his health and strength.

MR. T. HONOUR, a popular member of the General Staff, N.A.T.E. Committee, was married on Sunday, and at a meeting of the committee of the branch on Wednesday evening a cordial and unanimous vote of congratulations and good wishes was passed to Mr. and Mrs. T. Honour. Mr. Honour is employed at Wyndham's Theatre.

THE announcement that the Mysterious Cross illusion being performed at the Palace, Bath, last week by Carlton was to be exposed attracted many to the hall on the 30th ult. The exposure was the result of a challenge made on Monday night by a gentleman who, after witnessing the performance, demanded proof that it was not accomplished by the aid of mirrors or wires. Carlton, who deposits £50 with the managers of the houses where he performs as a forfeit in the event of his failing to show that the trick was faked, offered to give a private exhibition of the trick on the following morning, but this was refused, and a public exposure demanded. Carlton thus faced with the difficulty of either having to pay over the £50 or make good his offer by exposing the trick chose the latter course.

AT both houses on the 30th ult. Carlton, after giving his "show" under ordinary circumstances, explained that in response to the challenge he had decided to expose the trick, and there and then proceeded with the business with the curtains of the cabinet up and in full view of the audience. It was plain to all present that the trick was the outcome of a very smart change between the lady and gentleman, the former being cleverly concealed in the cabinet and changing place with the gentleman without disturbing the ropes and knots with a deftness only acquired by constant practice.

CARLTON, in a conversation after the performance, stated that the illusion was the outcome of his own ideas, and it has been presented at all the principal London music halls with great success. The exposure in Bath is absolutely the first time it has been done in public, and it will, of course, prevent it being brought to Bath again. Carlton assured our representative that never before had he been forced to give a public exhibition, a private view always satisfying the challenger. Having exposed the trick locally, it would be useless to continue it as a mystery, and consequently for the remainder of the week Carlton performed it in full view of the audience.

CRYSTAL PALACE AMUSEMENTS.

The foreigner was largely conspicuous in the crowds who thronged the beautiful glasshouse at Sydenham, on Bank Holiday, and visitors from other lands have also formed a goodly proportion of the large numbers who have patronised this favourite resort during the week. The usual generous provision has been made for holiday makers, and the permanent attractions of the Palace have been supplemented by many alluring shows. The theatre is reopened for the week with performances twice daily by Mr. Fred Karno's company of *His Majesty's Guests*, to which reference is made in another column, and in the centre transept is located a variety show in which some admirable artists are included. The programme is begun by Clack and Clack, acrobatic barrel jumpers, who combine comedy with agility. Particular praise is given to the child Rosie, who leaps from a table in and out of barrels blindfolded and with feet tied. The Tiger Lily is a young lady of colour who sings and dances blithely, turning somersaults meanwhile with celerity. She also manages to play a concertina while executing similar manœuvres. Another lady of dusky hue is Texas Hattie, who does marvellous feats on the tight-rope, including somersaults, skipping rope evolutions, and the playing of a violin as an accompaniment. Her feats are performed with agreeable smoothness and finish. Kyoto has a new Japanese pot-pourri in which contortionism, conjuring, and burlesque juggling are combined with agreeable effect. Kyoto's twistings and turnings are of snake-like intricacy, and are executed with a sense of humour that is heartily appreciated. His dog Oto, said to be the only thoroughbred performing pug in the country, contributes greatly to the hilarious effect of the act, which is enjoyed to the full. The prettiness of the show presented by Miss Judge's cockatoos, parrots, and macaws commends itself to all. One of the birds is a triple bar performer, and does feats that would tax the ability of the best in that line, and the display of the clever birds, who still go through the stirring house-on-fire scene, is heartily relished. Domino the clown makes much fun out of his conversations with Domino the donkey, who gives convincing proofs of his sagacity so well brought out by his trainer. The accompaniments to the variety performance are furnished by the Crystal Palace Military Band, who also give performances in the North Tower Gardens under the conductorship of Mr. Herbert Godfrey.

Mr. Robert Leadbetter's menagerie is still to be found in the North Tower Gardens, and furnishes one of the finest zoological collections ever exhibited. Included in the wild animal company are nine lions, of which Prince, who was born in the menagerie, is a magnificent specimen; and lordly elephants, Royal Bengal tigers, a herd of camels and dromedaries, leopards, panthers, bears, wolves, antelopes, kangaroos, and gazelles are among the interesting collection. There are also Babs, the baby elephant, and Tree-ilby, the baby camel, neither of whom should on any account be missed.

To the Mexican Village, situated in the grounds near the North Tower, many visitors have repaired. They have been well repaid in a sight of a "Corner of Mexico," in which are to be seen houses typical of the country occupied by natives, all of whom are busily engaged at their trades and crafts, which include those of lace-making, feather-working, butterfly-making from silk, beadworkers, and embroidering. A family of Yucatecos is seen in native costumes and work, and native cooks preside over a real Mexican kitchen. Picturesque scenes surround the village, and include a realistic view of Mount Popocatepetl, the "smoking mountain," and of the Cathedral, the St. Peter's of Mexico. Not the least striking of an interesting exhibition are the exercises in throwing the lassoo indulged in by the young men of the community.

In the Chinese Court Mlle. Dalmere's troupe of educated rabbits, cats, dogs, doves, rats, upwards of forty in number, all go through a novel and unique performance, and in the Electric Theatre Dekhna, the Man of Visions, presents examples of Indian temple magic, including clairvoyance and visions, the Indian rope trick, and other marvels of the Hindu Thaumaturgists. The performance is under the management of Mr. Stanley H. Bell, member of the Inner Magic Circle, St. George's Hall. An exhibition of works of art, by Prof. Zeiller, Sculptor to the Royal University of Munich, is given in the Pompeian Court. The organ recitals by Mr. F. W. Holloway have excited the deepest admiration, the selections comprising excerpts from the best masters.

A grand firework display by Messrs. C. T. Brock and Co. was also in the Bank Holiday scheme of amusement.

Belle Hemsley, daughter-in-law of the well-known scenic artist of that name, has joined forces with Austin Ambrose, better known as Sam McCulloch, son of the well-known scenic artist of that name, in a "screaming" absurdity, *The Coster's Motor Honeymoon*, with great success. They have also another novelty of the coster type, *A Fatal Rehearsal*, a domestic episode of comedy and pathos, by Sam McCulloch.

In an interval in the performance at the King's Theatre, Southsea, on Monday the Rev. Bruce Cornford made a few remarks to the audience. He said:—"My title to make a few remarks to you to-night must lie in the fact that for over nine years I have had the honour to be associated with the theatres of Portsmouth as their hon. chaplain. . . . There is no doubt that all thoughtful people should be concerned in both the quality and the tone of all public entertainments and amusements. They extend from the Lord Chamberlain at the top to the little boy who has paid his twopence to get into the gallery, and who is just as welcome as anyone else in this great house. The past ten years have undoubtedly marked a very great improvement in this respect. There are an ever-increasing number of people, respectable and clean-living, who demand, and will have, a respectable and clean entertainment to which they can take their wives and daughters in the evenings.

"At this moment the wave of public patronage turns to a lighter form of amusement with more variety in the programme. This beautiful playhouse from to-night will endeavour to satisfy that want in this great and rapidly growing neighbourhood. It is a great pleasure to me to be allowed the privilege of welcoming this new departure on the borders of my own great parish. Mr. Boughton and his many friends have built and equipped one of the most handsome theatres in England, and now, in association with Mr. Thomas Barrasford (whose name is of course a household word in connection with this class of entertainment), propose to give us a series of vaudeville dramatic entertainments, interspersed with flying matinées, which shall be unexceptionable in character, and free from gross vulgarity or veiled indecency.

"I ask you to give this laudable attempt your heartiest support. That is why I am here. And if any should deem it an inconsistency I would remind them of this patent fact: what the public demand the public will have. A theatre, to pay, must meet that demand. If you wish for what Mr. A. Chamberlain, speaking of Mr. Barrasford's theatre at Birmingham, called 'an example of what a good, clean entertainment should be,' see that you get it! It is the declared intention of this management to give it you, and at a cost that will not strain your pockets."

THE PARAGON.

Good audiences have witnessed a most attractive holiday programme here this week. The most prominent place in the bill is occupied by Mr. Joe Elvin and company in *Riding to Orders*. The famous Cockney comedian has a character in which his racy humour is fully employed, and he is supported by a company and numerous auxiliaries who work perfectly together. Needless to say, a hearty welcome is given to popular Joe, and loud laughter is aroused during his occupancy of the stage. Mr. Paul Cinquevalli, appropriately named as the incomparable juggler, receives many encomiums for his difficult and clever feats, while the facial expressions of his smart assistant keep the audience in good humour. Miss Lily Langtry, full of dash and go, obtains immediate favour with her first song, "The person at the house next door." Further opportunities are afforded in her second item, "At the Exhibition," in which a clever sprint dance is accomplished. Munroe's Black and White Comedy Team are very entertaining, for they give a good all-round performance of comedy, singing, and dancing, the funniosities of the humorist keeping the house in a continual ripple of laughter. Thos. E. Finglass in character negro songs proves himself a talented artist. His first number, "The black sheep," is very tuneful, and is well rendered, and in "Idaho," a catchy lyric, concluding with a well-executed dance, he is assisted by a clever young lady.

King Leo, ventriloquist, possesses some smart gags, and diverting repartee take place between himself and the doll Jerry. His singing, too, of "Rocked in the cradle of the deep" is exceedingly good, and obtains a hearty round of applause. Miss Lilian Lowe's well-trained voice is heard to advantage in "Flight of ages" and "I never knew till now how much I loved you." The Markies, in comedy, *From Pavement to Stage*, are interesting, many popular tunes being played on instruments of an original design. Their speciality is the rendering of "Stars and Stripes" on ordinary bottles, a performance which is distinctly good. Memora, in feats of memory, is amusing and interesting, for the gentleman answers instantly and accurately many difficult questions. Much good humour is caused by some of the queries emanating from the gentlemen in the lofty regions. Miss Nellie Stratton sings daintily "In an old Sedan chair" and "Little songbird."

Miss Beaumont Collins and company, in a one-act dramatic playlet, *The House of Terror*, by John C. Brandon, supply one of the best sketches seen on the halls for some time. The scene is that of Mother Crawley's den off Ratcliff Highway, and a certain John Dason (a gentleman cracksman) arrives and interviews the old woman. Dason has committed a murder, and the wife of the murdered man is imprisoned in the old woman's house, the death of her husband having turned her brain. Many engrossing scenes take place, the finale being reached by the wife (Meg Harding) stabbing the murderer just as he is about to shoot a detective who has come to arrest him. Miss Beaumont Collins as Meg Harding supplied an artistic study, and Mr. Boyd Pearson as John Dason played perfectly throughout; Miss Stella Leigh as Mother Crawley and George Mallett (a detective) worked well together, their characters being finely portrayed. Viviana and company in a toy-shop dancing scena provide an interesting few minutes with their characteristic dancing and comedy. Lambert and Glover in the absurdity *The Wrong Room* cause much merriment, and Miss Emma Don and Miss Jessie Star contribute tuneful numbers. Many interesting films are displayed by Ruffell's Bioscope. The popular and genial manager, Mr. Chas. Beecham, looks well after the visitors' comfort. He is completing his arrangements for the change which takes place at the end of the month, when he goes into partnership with his assistant, Mr. Wheeler, as dramatic and variety agents. His staff and friends are sorry to lose him, and he has the best wishes of all.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

The autumn season began here on Monday, when a huge audience filled the house from floor to ceiling. During the recess Mr. George Dance has not been idle in adding to the comforts of his clientèle. The "pretty little house on the green" has been redecorated, cleaned, and generally smartened up; the seating arrangements have also been attended to, and the keynote prevailing is comfort generally. Wallan opens the programme with some wonderful balancing; he is deft of hand, and his tricks are clean cut; his general smartness met with prompt recognition on the part of the audience, and it may be added he richly deserved the applause showered on his efforts. Variety followed in the shape of Mr. Teddy Edmunds' company in *The Lady Jockey*; it is the old question of misunderstanding. A wealthy young sportsman, Mr. Ranaleigh, who combines the turf with the drama, is running a drama entitled *A Fast Life*, and has engaged a lady for the leading rôle; he has also a vacancy for a stable lad, who is mistaken by the actress for Ranaleigh's manager. There is the usual amount of cross purposes, and everyone concerned in the sketch works hard. The audience enjoyed *The Lady Jockey* amazingly. Juvenility is represented by Beattie and Babs, and apparently appreciated. Knockabout business is faithfully depicted by Hall and Earle, who appear in a laundry scene as a tramp and a Chinaman respectively, and generally make things lively. Their antics and gambols proved quite diverting and thoroughly amused the audience. Miss Daisy Jerome was incomparably bright, and evidenced that histrionic ability which has done so much to enhance her reputation. The audience laughed heartily at the troubles brought about by "A little pat of butter on the floor"; but in the second song her dramatic ability was realised at its best in a song-story dealing with Mephistopheles, and his triumphs and disappointments. Lastly she gave her quaintly irresistible ditty, "Doh, rah, mi," &c. Comedy was supplied by Walter Stanley, who warbled amusingly of lodgers and such-like trifles. All London has laughed ere this at the drolleries of the Harmony Four, a turn rich in humour, cleverness, and talent; at Richmond this happy quartette created another triumph. Their various items were cheered to the echo, and they were called four times before the curtain. There is not so much novelty about that one can ignore altogether a novelty entitled *The Maid in the Moon*. Here we have a distinctly artistic and tuneful addition to the programme admirably enacted by a couple of clever artists, but modesty is evidently their motto, as there is no clue to their identity on the programme. The Bioscope scene gave a dramatic story dealing with The Recruit and the Bully, and the entire programme was one of the best ever given here—which is saying much. Mr. H. B. Harries is the new business-manager here, and as such leaves nothing to be desired.

The holiday programme at the Palace, Hammersmith, includes the names of Fred Lindsay, whip champion, T. E. Dunville, May Henderson, Daisy Jerome, Fred Poplar, Kitty Wager, Lanos and Monks, Franco's Midgets, Jerrold Robertshaw in new and novel sketch *The Devil's Mate*.

While a cinematograph exhibition was being given at the Islington Empire Music Hall on Monday, some films came in contact with a flame, and the cinematograph machine took fire. The audience left without panic, and the flames were confined to the cinematograph machine. Two men, Daniel Wiltshire and Richard Augustus Macaulay, were, however, burned on the faces and hands.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, June 30.—Miss Margaret Auglin opened at Her Majesty's Theatre on the 27th to an overwhelming house, every seat in the theatre being sold a week before at a 50 per cent. advance in price, and the famous Canadian actress created the greatest impression of any actress, save Ristori and Bernhardt, and the clamour at the booking office is almost unprecedented. *The Thief* was the play, Miss Auglin being the Marise Voysin, and nothing could excel her comedy, pathos, love-making, despair, or contrition. Miss Auglin held her audience spellbound during the whole of the second act, which she and Mr. Henry Kolker (as Richard) have to themselves. At the end of that act there came thunders of applause, lasting some minutes. Mr. Henry Kolker is a very fine actor. His Richard was tender and strong, with a manly bearing throughout. An old and much-loved favourite, Mr. George S. Titheradge, came back to us, and enjoyed the rapturous welcome awaiting him aften ten years' absence. Mr. Titheradge's acting as Raymond Lagardes was marked by careful detail and absolute naturalness. Mr. Dion Titheradge, who was the Henri of his own age (nineteen), made a most creditable début, and proved himself, as an upper-circler shouted, "a chip of the old block!" Miss Susie Vaughan was the Isabel Lagardes—comely, winning, and correct in every syllable and action. Mr. Sydney Stirling made the most of M. Zambard, the detective, completing a small cast of singular value. Mr. John Coleman provided three exquisite interiors, and Mr. J. C. Williamson personally saw to their superb furnishing. Mr. J. W. Hazlitt stage-managed the play, which should have a very long run.

Mr. Flemming's new bill, *The Morals of Marcus*, provides the Criterion audiences with acting and comedy of the best. Miss Beatrice Day, Mr. A. S. Homewood, and Miss Guildford Quin hold their own in their respective parts, so that no change will be necessary for some time.

"The Prince of Pilsen" at the Royal gives Messrs. Loder and Myles Clifton lots of opportunities for fun-making; and Miss Olive Godwin increases her popularity at each performance. The "Sea Shells" duet between Miss Amy Murphy and Mr. Whitehead, the popular baritone, goes with *éclat*, and the chorus and ballet are perfect.

The Tivoli added Mr. Harry Salmon and Miss Ida Chester to its Rickardsian bill. They give a sketch, *The Blacksmith's Boy*, gladly accepted by the audience. Miss Olga Montez was another newcomer who had a most encouraging greeting.

The Royal Artillery Band concluded a long series of recitals on the 27th, and with its conductor, Mr. Robert Smith, went north next night. The band returns in August, when, it is hoped, arrangements will be made for it to play during the visit of the American Fleet.

West's Pictures are still at the Palace, where, in addition to night and afternoon shows, the place is crowded every Saturday morning with school children, who are shown instructive and humorous pictures—a most creditable innovation. The Lyceum, Queen's Hall, and Victoria Hall have pictures, and the Hippodrome has melodrama nightly. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mallinson begin their song-recitals at the Town Hall to-morrow night, when the Yorkshire Society will muster in force, and give Mr. Mallinson (a Leeds man) an official reception. The recitals are being managed by Mr. Wynn Jones.

Mr. Lewis de Gwen gave a dinner to the Royal Artillery Band, at which his own Viceregal Band attended, and in the spirit of true fraternity a very happy time was spent.

MELBOURNE, June 30.—Her Majesty's Theatre, —Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. E. J. Tait.—*The Merry Widow* has now been running for seven weeks, yet there is no diminution in the numbers or enthusiasm of the audiences which fill this theatre nightly. The gorgeous setting of the production, its catchy music, and the admirable manner in which the minor parts are filled form a fitting setting for the acting of Miss Carrie Moore, Mr. Higginson, and the rest of an admirable company. Mr. J. C. Williamson is running cheap excursion trains from the principal country towns this week at exceptionally low rates to enable our "country cousins" to witness this excellent production.

Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Meynell and Gunn; Business-Manager, Mr. Stanley W. Cherry. *The Belle of Mayfair* is meeting with a success no less than that of *Miss Hook of Holland*. Saturday night saw a packed house, which heartily appreciated the many gems in a production that is full of life and colour. Miss Gracie Sinclair has won an assured position with Melbourne playgoers, and Miss Ruth Lincoln has added to her previous honours; while the rest of the company lend capable aid to one of the most fascinating performances that have been presented to Melbourne audiences.

Bijou Theatre.—Director, Mr. Edwin Geach; Business-Manager, Mr. George Marlow.—A packed house witnessed the sensational melodrama *The Heart of a Hero* on Saturday night. The company includes Mr. Ernest Leicester, who made a distinct "hit" in the part of Jem Resdale, a Lancashire lad. His acting throughout was followed with keen interest. Mr. Leicester was ably supported by Miss Ethel Buckly, who infused the part of Mary Ryder with an amount of sweetness of manner that appealed to all. Other characters were most satisfactorily played by Mr. Stewart Garner (Mark Marle), Mr. Tait (Wilfred Marle), Mr. Kenneth Hunter (Jack Collison), Miss Nellie Ferguson (Nell Resdale), while Mr. J. P. O'Neil as Timothy Keighno deserves to be specially mentioned. The play was elaborately mounted, and several striking tableaux were shown.

Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon.—A particularly strong programme is being submitted just now, and includes the Meymotts, English sketch artists; the Four Musical Ibsens; Austin Rudd, descriptive vocalist; J. P. Ling, monologue entertainer; Regan and Ryan, eccentric comedians; Charles Mildare, whistling comedian; the Four Rosebuds, Eugene Elliott, Irving Sayles, Ethel Preston, Les Warton, Muriel Andrews, Fanny Powers, and Myrtle Marsden. Mr. Fred Aydon, Mr. Rickards' genial manager, met with a sad domestic bereavement last week, when death removed his eldest, dearly-loved daughter. Universal sympathy is felt in professional circles for the popular manager and his family.

Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Brennan.—A complete change of programme was presented on Saturday evening to a full house. The Two McLeans made their first appearance, and astonished all with their remarkable dancing. Excellent turns were contributed by Maxwell and Roberts, Miss Vivie Keeling, Hagan and Fraser, Clements Brothers, Ernest Pitcher, Joe Charles, Maggie Fraser, James Croydon, Eunice Hemmings, Baby Sylvia, P. J. Knowles, James Marion, and many others.

Wirth's Olympia.—Manager, Mr. P. Miller.—An entirely new series of West's Pictures were presented here on Saturday evening to a crowded house. This enterprise has now been running for nearly twelve months, and the attendances nightly show no signs of falling off. The films submitted include every variety of subject. West's full military band provide excellent music.

"The Law of Copyright," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR
ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.
MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns

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"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

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COMPANIES WANTED.
TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Oct. 5, Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.,
Dec. 14, Jan. 18, March 8, 22, 29, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov. 16 (three nights),
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Feb. 22, March 8, 15, 22, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 9, 16, March 22.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Sept. 21, Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Nov. 30, Feb. 1, 15, 22, March 15, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Nov. 30, Xmas (seven nights), Feb. 22,
March 1, 8, 15, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
Xmas (7 nights), March 15, 22 29, April 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, 11, 25, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Aug. 31, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 21, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Aug. 20, 31, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 12, on (3 nights only).
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company, Theatre Royal, Canterbury, for Cricket Date, Aug. 20, 21, 22, Musical preferred. E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, onwards,
and a few Autumn Dates.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Sept. 14 (3 nights), Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7, onwards.
Entirely New Electric Installation on Stage.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Sept. 21, 22, 23 (?), Nov. 9, onwards.
Apply for all above, Rowland, T., Folkestone.

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only, THEATRE ROYAL, DUBLIN
Oct. 12, Nov. 2.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Sept. 21, Dec. 7.
OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS.
Sept. 7, 8, 9 (?), Sept. 14, 15, 16, Sept. 21, 22, 23 (?).
Apply, F. Mouillot,
1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.
WANTED, Pay-Box Successes, May 3, various, onwards.
Open to arrange Stock, June and July, also Panto.
Coms., Arthur Jefferson.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Important Attractions, Sept. 28, Oct. 5.
Fredk. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, at Once, First-class Attractions for the Coronet Theatre, W., Aug. 17, and at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Aug. 24.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions, Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 10, holding capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c.
Address, J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions,
Oct. 5 (?),
Oct. 12,
Oct. 19,
Oct. 26,
Vacant to oblige Mr. Macdona.
James Bell.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
Brilliant Re-opening.
Enormous success of New Management.
For vacant dates address Rollo Balmain.

Will Managers who have not been responded to kindly pardon delay and write in again?

WANTED, Known, Aug. 24 open, through transfer, and various immediate dates.

THEATRE ROYAL, SUNDERLAND.
Sole Proprietor, Richard Thornton.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, April 19 26, May 3, 17, June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 19, 26.
Apply, Harry Esden, Empire, Sunderland.

THEATRE ROYAL, RYDE.
WANTED, Musical Comedy or Star Attraction, Aug. 24 (one of the best season dates).
Apply to C. Constant.

THEATRE ROYAL, MIDDLESBROUGH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Aug. 31 and Sept. 21.
Particulars to
J. Chas. Imeson.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT.
THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic or Operatic Companies, for the following dates: Ashton, Nov. 2; Stockport, Nov. 23 and Dec. 14.
Address, Charles Revill, Stockport.

IPSWICH LYCEUM.
WANTED, Companies, Sept. 7, 28, Oct. 5, Nov. 5 (three nights), Nov. 16 and 23 (three nights), vacant for High-class Attractions. Miss Parkin, Ipswich Lyceum.

THEATRE ROYAL, NORWICH.
WANTED, Companies, for Aug. 31 and Sept. 7.
Fred Morgan, Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, sound Dramatic Production, Sept. 21; also Musical Comedy, Oct. 12. Apply, Sherwood and Co.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
WANTED, Good Companies, Aug. 31 (three nights), Sept. 21 (3 nights).
J. Ritson, Lessee and Manager.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH,
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only entertained.
Vacant Aug. 31, Sept. 7, Oct. 19,
onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Wanted, High-class Attraction, to open Royal Artillery Theatre, Woolwich, on Aug. 31 or Sept. 7.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Sept. 14, 28, Oct. 5, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Sept. 21, Nov. 9, Dec. 21,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant Dec. 7, 21, 28,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant April 12, 19, June 7,
onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Aug. 17, 24 31,
onward, with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical pieces; last three nights Drama).
Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c.

Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

Seating Capacity 3,500.

Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in the Provinces.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Nov. 16.
Will guarantee anything really big.
Dec. 14.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

Bookings include:—
"The Merry Widow,"
No. 1 Moody-Manners Opera Company,
Mr. Martin Harvey,
Mrs. Brown Potter, "Lady Frederick,"
Mr. George Alexander, "The Thief,"
"Merrie England,"
"A White Man,"
"Mrs. Ponderbury's Past,"
"The Sins of Society,"
J. F. Elliston's Grand Xmas Production,
"Humpty Dumpty."

All communications,
Jno. Ed. Jowsey,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet." Telephones, 413, 426, 500.

Note.—Although "The Merry Widow" does not open until Sept. 28, we have already over £200 in private bookings for the Tuesday evening's performance.

WANTED, First-class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN,
First vacant date Nov. 23.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
Only vacancy Nov. 16 and 23
(last three days of week only).

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP,
Opens Sept. 14; vacant Sept. 21, 28, and Oct. 19
(last three days of week only).

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY,
Vacant Sept. 7 and on.

DUMFRIES and HAWICK THEATRES,
Vacant Sept. 21, Oct. 5 and 12.

SPA, WHITBY,
All Engagements complete.
W. Payne Seddon, Whitby.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Musical Attraction, Oct. 26; Musical or other Front-rank Companies, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, onwards, with exceptions. Good Panto. entertained for Feb. 15. Add., T. Allan Edwardes.

GLOBE THEATRE, ROYAL MARINES, DEAL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Aug. 27, Nov. 5, on (last three nights of each week).
Apply, Manager.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Musical Comedies, and High-class Plays.
Oct. 19, 26, Dec. 28,
Jan. 4, 10, Feb. 1. Apply to
James Kiernan, Owner and Manager.

WANTED, First-class Company, Perth Theatre, for Race Week and Autumn Holiday, Sept. 21. Address, J. H. Savile, Perth Theatre, Perth.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies, Drama or Musical.
James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Good Dramatic Attraction, for Sept. 14, owing to "Man to Man" being barred by author's rights; also Vacant Sept. 28. Address, Rich. Waldon, as above.

WANTED, absolutely First-class Attraction, Aug. 20, 21, 22. Full Season Date. Wire, Smith, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Sept. 21, Oct. 12,
Nov. 2, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, Thos. Swinton.

WANTED, Big Attraction, Pier Pavilion, Southend Aug. 17 (week), two shows daily if desired. Wire, Manager.

WANTED, good Sound Drama or Musical Show, Aug. 31, Sept. 14. Fullest particulars,
W. Pardoe, Theatre, Middleton, Lancs.

MALVERN.
MALVERN.
MALVERN.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS THEATRE.
ASSEMBLY ROOMS THEATRE.
ASSEMBLY ROOMS THEATRE.

One Booking Fortnightly.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Oct., Nov., Dec., Jan.
Full-sized Scenery taken; Electric Light, &c.

Past and future Bookings include F. R. Benson's Principal Co., H. B. Irving, Moody Manners, &c.

Apply, M. T. Stevens,
Lessee and Manager.

WANTED, First-class Panto. Production, for Xmas, also Travelling Pantos., later.
Rollo Balmain, T. R., Cardiff.

WANTED, Company, three nights, Aug. 13, 14, and 15. Wire, W. E. Potts,
Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Central Theatre, Altrincham, Aug. 31, onwards, with exceptions. Coms., Chas. Seymour.

HIPPODROME, SHEERNESS.
WANTED, good Attractions, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 19, on, with exceptions, Musical preferred.
Manager, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRE, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.
Musical Comedy or Very Special Attraction.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, Nov. 23, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant April 19, May 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Re-opening after alterations, re-decorating, and re-furnishing.
Oct. 5, Nov. 2, 16, April 5, May 10, 24, 31.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
Moss' Empires, Limited,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, BOLTON.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Oct. 19 (Musical), Dec. 21, 28 (?), Jan. 4, 25 (Panto), Feb. 1 (Drama), March 15 (Musical), 29.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.

Managing-Director, Mr. FRED GRANVILLE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attractions, Aug. 17, Aug. 17, Aug. 17.
Wire. Wire. Wire.
Also Vacant, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Spring Dates.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, High-class Musical and other London Attractions,
Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, and later dates.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE,
No Vacant Dates.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Good-class Attractions, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 9. Certainty if desired.
Also Wanted, Good Pantomimes.
Re Dates,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for
Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct 5 and 12, Nov. 2, on, with exceptions.
Applications for dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Aug. 17, 24, and Sept. 7, 14, and 21.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The leading Theatre of the town and district.
WANTED, Known, vacant through transfers, Sept. 7, 28, Oct. 5, and a few onward. Future Bookings include: "The Thief," "A White Man," "Diana of Dobson's," "Jack Straw," "Mrs. Dot," "Lady Frederick," "Brewster's Millions," "With Edged Tools," and the leading Musical Comedies. Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., BARROW.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Drama, Variety, Musical and Farcical Comedies, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, on. W. E. PORTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, Known Aug. 10, 1908, "A BROKEN HEART."
Bookings include:—
"Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush" (Mr. William Mollison), "The Dairymaids," "The Breed of the Treshams," "Claudian," Chung Ling Soo, Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's Co.'s, Mr. Fred Melville's Co.'s, "Sherlock Holmes," "Leah Kleschna," "Prodigal Son" (G. E. Day), "Lucky Durham," &c., &c.
1908.—Only Vacant Date, Dec. 14.
1909.—Feb. 22, onwards (with exceptions).
EDEN THEATRE, BISHOP AUCKLAND.
is now being booked in conjunction with Blyth.
Vacant Dates, Sept. 14 and 21, 1908.
Apply, A. C. MOODY, Lessee and Manager, Blyth; or J. HUNTLEY, Manager, Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, Good Company, Sept. 3, 4, and 5, 10, 11, and 12, and on, through releasing.
SELWYN, Theatre, Wisbech.

BASINGSTOKE.—CORN HALL.
WANTED, Companies. Finest Hall in North Hampshire, now thoroughly restoring by Town Council, also decorating and re-seating, ready for re-opening, Aug. 31. Moderate rental, or shares. S. WALFORD, Lessee.

THEATRES WANTED.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, week of Aug. 24 (to oblige Stanley Rogers, Esq.).

Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."

WANTED, week of Aug. 31, to precede Theatre Royal, Dublin, for this Phenomenal Success, which, on its last visit to the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, played to £717 on the week.
A Powerful London Company, including the Celebrated Actress, Miss Laura Hansen, as Lady Isabel.
Wire or write immediately to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 11.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Sept. 21 (?), 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
All communications,
J. W. CORDINER, Pier Pavilion, Southend.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9 16. Xmas week, 7 nights also Spring. Farewell Tours. Address, 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
Phenomenal Success at The Playhouse.
WANTED, Nov. 2, Dec. 26 (7 nights), Feb. 1, 15, various, onwards.
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

HARRY NICHOLLS
(Drury Lane, Adelphi, &c.),
with own Company and Entire Production, in Romantic Costume Play, entitled
"IF WE ONLY KNEW."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 2.
Rupert Cottage, Bedford Park, W.

"MAN TO MAN"
(by arrangement with W. Bourne),
under the direction of
FRANK ADAIR and EDWARD LLOYD.
WANTED, Sept. 14, Oct. 5 and 12.
Only Vacant Dates this Year.
FRANK ADAIR, Opera House, St. Helens, Aug. 10.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 14, and onwards, with exceptions. Refer Charles Revill, Esq., as to show and business here. WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, to-day: T. R., Stockport; next, P. O. W. Theatre, Salford.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 14, and Xmas.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 14.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 14 and 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Dec. 21, 28. WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, March 29.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 5.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Jan. 18, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION,
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 19.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov. 2, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatre, Sept. 14. Nov. 2, 9, 23, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Aug. 31, Oct. 5, Nov. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE,
Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 16, onwards.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."

WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5, 26.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.

"BABES IN THE WOOD."
The Record Breaker.
Vacant Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
WANTED, First-class Theatre,
Vacant Jan. 4, 11, 18.
"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1.
Managers Note.
These Productions are perfect in every detail. Beautifully Mounted and Dressed. Company of "Star" Artists, Specialities, Dancers, and Full Chorus.
Re Dates, FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."
WANTED, for this Elaborate Revival, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, and later.
Playing to Big Business everywhere.
Refer,
H. J. Currey, Esq., P. G. W. Theatre, Grimsby.
R. S. Elder, Esq., Metropole T., Gateshead.
Hugh Robertson, Esq., T. R., Jarrow.
H. Esden, Esq., Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
W. Forsdike, Esq., Alex. T., Sheffield.
Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff, Prince's T., Preston.
"THE BETTER LAND."
The Greatest Domestic Drama of the Day.
Produced at the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, July 22.
An Emphatic Success.
Wanted, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, and later dates.
Every Scene and Property carried.
Company of Star Artists.
Re Dates,
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO.'S.

"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Sept. 7, Oct. 26, only Vacant Dates, for this huge Attraction.
Excellent Cast and Printing.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Wanted, Sept. 21, to follow Middlesbrough; Oct. 5, to follow Stockport.
Managers see this New Production of an Old Success at Rotunda, Liverpool, next week.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
Wanted, Sept. 14, 28, for this favourite Play. Fast booking 1909.

Wire, KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Theatres, Stanley Carlton's Co., "London with the Lid Off," by Arthur Shirley. Success. Refer Sam Fredericks. 10th, Bilston.

WANTED for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11 18, Feb. 8, March 1, 22, and 29.
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

WANTED, Aug. 24, 31 (three nights each), Sept. 14 (six nights), Ernest E. Norris and specially organised Company, "Morals of Marcus" or West End Répertoire.

CHAS. H. BOWMAKER,
25, Pemberton-gardens, N.

WANTED, Aug. 17, "Beneath the Stars." Complete Production, Strong Co., magnificent pictorials. Printing ready. Wire Sat., DAVIES, Theatre, Crook; after, Theatre, Scunthorpe.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, 28, near London; Nov. 9, 16, London or South Coast.
HORACE STANLEY, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.

"A PRINCE OF ROGUES."
WANTED, Aug. 17 and 31.
Wire, SIDNEY DENCH, Theatre R., Ilkeston.

WANTED, Nov. 2, 16, Dec. 7, and Xmas, for Corri's "Dandy Fifth," up to date.
HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

"THE CONVICT."
WANTED, Sept. 7 (follow Perth) and 14.
WINIFRED MAUDE, Century Theatre, Motherwell, N.B.

FRANCES DELAVAL'S
Daring'y Original Play,
"LOVE'S GOLDEN DREAM."
WANTED, Aug. 24, Sept. 7.
Wire, to-day, Central Theatre, Altrincham.
Aug. 10, Metropole, Abertillery.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE CURATE" and "THE BELLS OF OLD YORK," by Rass Challis.
WANTED, Sept. 21 and 28. Now Booking Spring, 1909. Everything carried; clear stage only required. Address, NEWMAN MAURICE, Hippodrome, Croydon.

"IN THE RANKS."
Tour commencing Star, Liverpool, Aug. 3.
Powerful Company.
New Plant of Printing by David Allen.
Entirely New Scenery and Effects.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Oct. 12, Xmas, and Spring.
BERESFORD WHITCOMB, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

Mr. H. F. MALTBY'S PLAYS.
WANTED, for "Fraud," "The Youngest of Three," and "Sir George of Almack's," Aug 27 (3), Oct. 26, Nov. 9 and 16, and Spring.
WYN WEAVER, Waterloo Theatre, Whitby.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 5, Oct. 26, 27, 28 (three nights).
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
through transfer, Aug. 31, through transfer,
Sept. 14,
Sept. 21,
Nov. 16, 23, Dec. 7, 28, Jan. 4, 11.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 22, March 1.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, and few later.

"THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD."
A Fine New Domestic Play, full of Human and Child Interest. Few Autumn Dates Vacant.
Aug. 10, G. T., Walsall.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Nov. 9, 16,
Dec. 21, 28,
Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25,
Feb. 1, 8, on.

Aug. 10, T. R., Worcester.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 7, 21, Nov. 9 and 16, Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, 25, onwards for the above Attraction.
Address, ARMADALE and WARREN,
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S COMPANIES.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, for either Play, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 28. Now booking Spring, '09. Coms. GEORGE KIRK,
This, Prince of Wales' Theatre, Grimsby; next, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Played by a Cast that Spells Success.
Mr. John B. Shinton, Mr. Alf. Stretton,
Mr. Evan Roland, Mr. Todd Squires,
Miss Gwynne Warren, Miss Ada M. Ryder,
Miss Mary Dolby, Miss Sybil Haughton.
Beautiful Scenery Magnificent Printing.
WANTED, Wanted, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 19.
FRED BULMER, Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

"MERELY MARY ANN."
From the Duke of York's Theatre.

WANTED, Sept. 21.
Vacant, Sept. 21, Vacant.

H. GREVILLE, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE POWER OF THE KING."
WANTED, through misunderstanding, Sept. 14 (Lancs. or Yorks.), Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 16 and 23, Spring 1909 fully booked. Acknowledged the best mounted, best costumed, best played, and best money drawing Attraction on the road. It never fails to get return dates offered, and it always draws exceptionally big business. Wire for Sept. 14. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, Queen's Park Hippo., Manchester; next, T. R., Scarboro'.

MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
"THE FLOWER GIRL."
The Musical Comedy Success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical comedy at its brightest.
WANTED, Oct. 5, and on. Booking Autumn, Winter, and Spring. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Opera House, Southport. Letters, Theatre Royal, Rochdale. See Companies Column.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S COMPANIES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED (through transfer), Nov. 2, Dec. 28.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN,"
Booked by W. Morton, Esq., after seeing, for Whit Week, 1909.
Wanted, Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 28.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
Wanted, July 12, follow Alex., Sheffield.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Georgeous Revival Co. of 15; Troupe of Dancers.
Wanted, Nov. 16, 23, Dec. 21, 28.
Wires, Gateshead. Letters, Grand, Byker.

Mr. MONCKTON HOFFE'S COMPANY,
in
"IRENE WYCHERLEY"
(by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell).
Special Company in this Famous Kingsway Theatre Success.
Elaborate scenery carried.
WANTED, First-class Theatres Only, Sept. 21.
Address, M. HOFFE, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Really Good Theatres, Sept. 7,
Oct. 5,
Oct. 26,
Dec. 28.
JAMES BELL.
T. R., Darlington.

"WAS SHE TO BLAME."
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
First tour fully booked.
WANTED, Theatres, few Vacant Dates, Autumn, 1909. This piece booking faster than any before. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, HINTON, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"LUCKY LIZA."
WANTED, Nov. 16 and 30,
Midlands or South.
DICKIE CLARE, Queen's, Fleetwood.

CHARLES CONSTANT'S
COMPANIES.
"FLORODORA."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Oct. 5, 12, Nov. 2.
"ALADDIN" PANTO.
Production at Theatre Royal, Bolton, on Boxing Day and four following weeks.
Wanted, big No. 1 Theatres only, where big money can be taken, Feb. 1, 8, to follow Bolton.
"BLUEBEARD" PANTO.
Wanted, First-class Theatre, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, on, with exceptions.
Re dates for all above, apply to
C. CONSTANT, Theatre Royal, Ryde.

MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE,
"THE GIPSY GIRL."
"THE GIPSY GIRL."
MISS SYBIL ARUNDALE,
WANTED, Dates for above Attraction, from Oct. on.
Apply, EDWARD MICHAEL,
15, Craven-street, Strand.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 22, and Easter, '09, "Second to None," by Walter Howard.
Address, T. E. WARD, Lyceum, Newport.

Grand Production of
"CONVICT 99."
WANTED, Autumn Dates, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 23 (North), 30, and on.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
The following Dates Vacant for this Enormous Success: Oct. 12, Nov. 23, and onwards.
Apply, Manager, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
Aug. 10, County, Reading.

ARTISTS WANTED.

Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR'S MANAGEMENT.
WANTED, Full Company, for "East Lynne," London, Special Week. Rehearse Tuesday next. Interviews by appointment only. Full particulars to THE MANAGER, Coronet Theatre, W.

BRITANNIA THEATRE,
HOXTON.
Stock Season.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, for the above Theatre, commencing Monday, Sept. 7, rehearse Aug. 31. Lowest terms, photos., and references to M. MONTGOMERY, Rotunda T., Liverpool.

"THE BETTER LAND."
WANTED, Artists: First-class Emotional Leading Lady, young, good appearance; Heavy Lady, Leading Man, Comedian, Chambermaid, and good Responsibles; also clever Boy Actor (over 14), rehearse Sept. 14. Address, with full particulars, references, photos., and, if possible, where can be seen playing, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool. N.B.—Mark envelopes "Better Land."

WANTED, Low Comedian (Nigger part), Heavy Character Gentleman, Leading Lady. State terms, height, reference, photos., MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, London.

WANTED, to Open Aylesbury, Aug. 22, full Company, including Pianist, Carpenter, and Property Man to play Small Parts; used to Stock. Old friends write. A. J. POULTON, 14, Springfield, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.

WANTED, open Monday next, Gent. for Leads and Heavies, Leading Lady, and good Responsible Gent, used to good Portables, and able to study four pieces weekly; a most comfortable engagement to steady reliable people. WHITMEE, Portable Theatre, Newbury, Berks.

WANTED, Star Leading Actress, Strength and Emotional Power. SAM DUCKWORTH. Wires, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool. Letters, Colosseum, Oldham.

Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR'S MANAGEMENT.
WANTED, Star Artist, for Lady Isabel, "East Lynne," Special Week, London. Rehearse Aug. 11. Full particulars to THE MANAGER, Coronet Theatre, W. Interviews by appointment only.

WANTED, for J. Barnister Howard's "Silver King" Co., Gentlemen, for Wilfred Denver and The Spider. All particulars, references, &c., WILLIAM MARTIN, Darrell's Agency, 415, Strand, London.

LEONARD MORTIMER and CO., LONDON.
WANTED, First-class Heavy Man, also Excellent Character Comedian, open Aug. 17. All particulars, refs., photo., lowest. Letters only, LEONARD MORTIMER, 158, Clapham-road, S.W.
No interviews without appointment.

"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE" CO.
WANTED, to Rehearse next week at Grimsby, Juvenile Character Actor (strong, short part with small double); also powerful tall Juvenile Leading Lady, rehearse Aug. 17. All particulars, height, &c. (Juv. man wire), to GEO. A. DE GRAY, to-day, Carlisle; next, H. M. T., Aberdeen.

WANTED, Rehearse to-day, Young, Responsible Actor, good voice, about 5ft. 8in. or 9in., for Otto, "Midnight Wedding," combine Assistant Stage-Management; also Strong Baggage and Fit-up Man. Wire, references, age, terms, height, HENRY CHATTELL, Dartford.

WANTED, Young Character Actor, play Old Men and French parts; powerful. Apply by letter, ADOLPH LUCK, Pavilion Music Hall, Liverpool.

WANTED, for "The Assassin," tall Aristocratic Old Man Actor; rehearse Aug. 17. AUGUSTINE KNIGHT, Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, vacancy for approved Young Gentleman, to play small part and understudy, on Tour; business and stage-management taught if desired; moderate premium, partly returned in salary. Address Box 6,809, "The Era."

WANTED, a Really First-class Funny Light Comedian, also a Good Actor for powerful Broken-English Part.

References, height, age, and terms to
Box 6,827, "The Era."

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, Amateurs and Beginners, for Chorus and Music Hall Engagements; a splendid chance to enter the Profession. Call or write, JOHN HALLICK, 10, Greek-street, Shaftesbury-avenue.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies. Call Tuesday next, at the Kennington Theatre, 11 o'clock.
FRANK POSTLETHWAITE'S Agency.

WANTED, a few exceptionally smart Choristers, to complete immediate West-End Production. Only those with first-rate qualifications need apply. Call, STEDMANS, 58, Berners-street, W., Monday next, 4 o'clock, sharp.

WANTED, Baritone Vocalist, tall, good appearance (evening dress), to sing two simple Duets with Lady. Special week, Manchester district; rehearse day previous. Particulars, REGINALD PAYNE, Palace, Perth.

WANTED, for few weeks, for Costume Party, Light Comedy Baritone (able to Harmonise); rehearse Aug. 13. Full particulars, absolute lowest, WATKINS-JELF, Concert Hall, Westward Ho!

WANTED, High-class Concert Vocalists (ladies and gentlemen), for Gaiety Restaurant, Strand; voice trial for ladies on Monday next at 3 p.m., gentlemen Tuesday next at 3 p.m.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Known,
Wanted, Known,
Artists able to put on
well-written, rehearsed, and dressed Sketch
of Humorous Character
(lasting 15 to 20 minutes)
may write,
with full particulars,
to the
MANAGER for the Corporation,
New South Parade Pier, Portsmouth.

Must be Novel,
and have had a Successful Production.

Immediate and onward dates.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription 6d. weekly; yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Topham (Ben Greet Companies) has much pleasure in recommending the Misses Tina and Jeanne Langlois for Small Parts in a Good Touring Company. They are clever, bright, and full of resource. Both can Sing and Dance.
Address, El Retiro, Clavering-rd., South Wanstead.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady Vocalist, Violinist, First-class Training, wishes Holiday Engagement end Aug. or beginning Sept.; good testimonials. Box 6,808, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Versatile Elocutionist wishes to join good Shakespearean or Old English Comedy Company, two years' Amateur experience. Write, Box 6,811, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Comedian, with plenty of own single Gags,

must be used to Pantomime.

Send terms, and what Pantomime played in, to
J. GAR KIDDIE,
this, New Hippodrome, Rotherham;
next, Palace, Blackburn.

Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Conductors, Comedian, for Pantomimes.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, for Pantomime, First-class All-round Dancers. Apply, SYDNEY T. RUSSELL, 4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, W.C.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines. Send full particulars and where can be seen working, to FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Sisters Bronson, Duettists and Dancers. This week, Hippo., Cardiff. Per. add., 94, Gower-st., London, W.C.

WANTED, by Bradley, Cyclist, also Animal Part, could work Cycle Act in Skin; wife small part and Speciality; tall, good figure; also vacant Aug. 17, Sept. 7. Comedy Tramp Cyclist and Mint and Mart, Comedy Sketch Artists. King's, Gainsborough.

WANTED, Known, Newcombe and Lendon, Clever Versatile Comedians and Dancers, and Speciality Artists, free for Panto. Only No. 1 Companies entertained. Thanks to Managers for offer. Success, Arcadian Cadets, Buxton; re-engaged after first week for rest of season and next, 1, Marlow-street, Buxton.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, for Permanent Position. Apply by letter, JOHN TILLER, 15, Lime-grove, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, at once, with own brushes; also Carpenter, with own tools. Apply, M. MONTGOMERY, Rotunda T., Liverpool.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for High-class, Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, Arrangements temporarily complete. Thanks for Offers. At Liberty shortly for Autumn or good Pantomime Engagement. Address, 29, Buckingham-street, York.

WANTED, Contracts, Artistic Scenery, Properties, compare prices and models. W. B. BOSTOCK, Scenic Studio, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester. Est. 1894.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, immediately, for Gaiety Theatre, Birmingham, competent
General-Manager.
General-Manager.
General-Manager.
General-Manager.
General-Manager.
General-Manager.
General-Manager.

Apply,
with full particulars
as to
qualifications
and salary required,
to
JAMES M. MCINTOSH,
6, Cherry-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, experienced Assistant Acting-Manager. Applicants must state age, height, positions held and for what period, present salary, salary required, and references; if possessed, recent photograph (which will be returned) should be enclosed. No application will be considered which does not give full particulars. Applicants must be able to pass a guarantee society. Address, ASSISTANT, Moss' Empires, Ltd., Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, a Smart Writer, to work Libretto for Comic Opera up to date. Apply by letter, M. G. S., Lyceum Club, Piccadilly.

WANTED, Working Agent in Advance, must window-bill and distribute throwaways. All particulars, E. VIVIAN EDMONDS, to-day, Grand, Wolverhampton; next, Theatre Royal, Halifax; open at once.

WANTED, Electrician, by Artist, to work on Stage; must be single man, fall, not above 32 years of age, strictly sober, smart personal appearance; must thoroughly understand continuous and alternating current, connecting motors in series and parallel; one who can do mechanic's work preferred
Address, with references, particulars,
O. MENOTTI, 51, Rocky-lane, Anfield, Liverpool.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Electrician and Cinématograph Operator, for permanency, must be an expert and willing to devote entire attention; also Required, exceptional Specialities (not Knockabouts), for Re-opening. Lowest terms, full details, and latest references, to KENNEDY and MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Steady, Reliable Bill-poster, must have sound knowledge as to care of horses; permanency to suitable man. BILL-POSTING CO., Mexborough.

WANTED, Smart Young Bill-poster, care horse and trap, good brush hand. FRED LEWIS, care of Andexter, 39, Earl-street, Belfast.

WANTED, good tempered, educated Lady Governess, for little boy 5 years old, able to speak French and English, to travel. Send terms; all expences paid. Address to Mr. CABAN, Hippodrome, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement by Stage-manager and Electrician, thoroughly experienced, twice nightly system; first-class references. C., 19, Parkfield-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, by Electrician, permanent engagement, Theatrical and Workshop experience, competent. H. W. L., 12, Varden-street, New-road, Whitechapel, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement as Property Master and Maker, in the Provinces, twenty years' good reference Theatre Royal, Brighton. E. BRIDGEN, 9, Ashford-road, Preston-drove, Brighton.

WANTED, by reliable experienced Man, Props., Baggage, small Parts, own tools; tall; first-class references. H., 16, Gladstone-ter., Hastings.

WANTED, Situation as Billposter; 8 years' references from last situation as Branch Manager. E. TURNER, 21, Brancroft-lane, Mansfield, Notts.

WANTED, Known, Bill-poster, young man, requires Situation as such; good refs. Apply, S. VERRELL, 2, Saxon-road, Bromley, Kent.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, a Competent Leader, accustomed to High-class Music Hall Performances, with Good Credentials, to send Lowest Terms and Full Particulars, for Immediate Engagement, to the Manager for the Corporation, New South Parade Pier, Portsmouth.

WHITE STAR MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE.
WANTED, First-class Leader and Solo Violinist, Aug. 19 till Dec. 26; First-class Leader and Solo Violinist; also 'Cellist, Sept. 5 until end March or early April, 1909; vacancies for Violinists, Pianists, 'Cellists, and Contrabassists, for Cunard and White Star Lines Winter Services, Oct. to end of March next. Audition in London or Liverpool necessary before engagement. Applicants state age, experience, and give names and addresses of two references as to character to Charles Wm. Black, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Smart Leader, Solo Cornet, and Drums, for New Palace, Tottenham; all must be well up in Variety Business. Apply with age, terms, and references, to Wm. Burgess, Conductor, 10, Carnarvon-place, Boscombe.

WANTED, good Leader, to open Aug. 10, also First Violin, for the 17th, twice nightly. Apply, stating age and references, and salary, to F. Camp, Mus. Dir., Empire, Holloway, London, N.

WANTED, thoroughly competent Leader, for High-class Varieties; Open about Aug. 17. Good terms. Permanency. Musical-Director, Hippodrome, Hamilton, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Leader, to open Aug. 17. Latest references and terms, address (endorsed "Leader"), T. Allan Edwardes, Grand T., Derby.

WANTED, at Once, Two to Four Weeks, Good Leader, First Violin, inland resort. Others may write. Age, refs., and lowest terms, Harvey's Band Office, Sheffield.

THEATRE ROYAL, GLOSSOP.
WANTED, for Permanency, Brilliant First Violin, also Clever Cornet. Open Aug. 17. State age, terms, references, to Sydney Spenser, Grand T., Mansfield.

WANTED, First-class Violinists and Violas, commence at once. Terms, age, &c., Ronald, 23, Sea View-parade, West End, Morecambe.

IPSWICH HIPPODROME.
E. H. BOSTOCK CIRCUIT.
WANTED, at Once, Good, Sound First Violin, strictly sober, and thoroughly experienced in variety; permanency. Add., Sydney Davies, M.D.

WANTED, First-class Violinist at Once till end of October; Seaside. State terms, age, and references. Box 6,825, "The Era."

WANTED, a brilliant Solo Cornet, for five weeks, Military Band, commence at once, five hours daily, including Sundays; good salary. Wire, Conductor, Winter Hall, Worthing.

WANTED, for Ramsgate Town Band, good Cornet, Horn, Euphonium, and Bass. Shares. Harry Woolage please write. Harry Yates, Ship Inn, Ramsgate.

WANTED, good reliable Cornet, for Seaside Engagement, six hours daily, no Sunday; open Aug. 17. Barry, 60, Thorold-road, Ilford, Essex.

WANTED, for the Great Lafayette Co., two B Clarionets, two First Trombones (must be strong players, and sober if possible), four Chorus Ladies, one Baggage Man. Apply, 29, Leicester-square, Mr. Sydney Hyman's Office, Monday, between 12 and 1 o'clock.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION BAND.
WANTED, good First Clarionet Players, to commence at once. Address, Bartle and Rimmer, Belmont-street.

GRAND THEATRE, DOUGLAS.
WANTED, Clarionet, reliable, for seven weeks, open Monday, £2 2s. per week; half salaries matinées. Musical-Director.

WANTED, good Bassoon Player, as an Attendant in a County Asylum, salary commencing £34, increasing to £48, all found; single man.
Apply,
W. Grainger, County Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED, a good Trombone, commence at once, four weeks' engagement, Military Band. Wire at once, Alexandra, Conductor, Band, Pavilion, Littlehampton.

WANTED, good Trombone Player, to open Aug. 17; must be good, and thoroughly used to Variety Business. Apply, Harrison, Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

EMPIRE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, to open Monday, Aug. 17, must have First-class references, and be thoroughly used to Variety business. Apply, stating terms, to R. Thornton.

WANTED, good Flute and Piccolo, to commence Aug. 15. State salary. Drums can also write. A. Collinson, Pier Orchestra, Cleethorpes.

WANTED, for Dr. Walford Bodie's New Hippodrome, Ferndale, S. Wales, smart Pianist, used to Variety and Dramatic Music; also Stage-Carpenter and wife, wife as cleaner or money-taker; others assist Billing, &c.; long engagement. Absolute lowest terms to Tom N. Mills, Hippodrome, Ferndale.

WANTED, Singing Pianist, Contralto; must play from memory.
Long India-China Tour.
Box 6,815, "The Era."

WANTED, a smart Drummer, who understands Variety business; steady and thoroughly up to his work; commence Aug. 17. All communications, W. B. Moore, Empire, Glasgow.

WANTED, Double Drums, with Effects, open once or later; life shop to useful man. Apply, with lowest terms, &c., at once, to Denville, Hippo., Houghton-le-Spring.

WANTED, a First-class Double Drummer, with all effects, commence at once, till Sept. 12, five hours daily, including Sundays. Terms, wire to Conductor, Lansdowne Villa, West-street, Bognor, Sussex.

WANTED, Ladies' Bijou Orchestra, consisting of Pianist and four other Instrumentalists, for frequent performances, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., at Franco-British Exhibition. Send terms and credentials to Box 6,816, "The Era."

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Bandmasters or Proprietors of Best Military or other Bands, with Immediate and Onward Vacant Dates, to send Full Particulars by Letter to the Manager for the Corporation, New South Parade Pier, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Tenders for a Band of Eight Instrumentalists (including Conductor), by Committee Folkestone Amusements Association, to play in the Leas Shelter for six months, commencing Sept. 20 next. Tenders must state price per week for (a) one performance only (morning) and (b) two performances (morning and afternoon), daily (Sundays excepted), including the supply of music, musical instruments, and uniforms, proposed formation of Band, Conductor's references, and be addressed, Finn, Radnor-chambers, Folkestone, not later than Tuesday, Aug. 18. The Committee does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

WANTED, Band of Lady Musicians, to provide Concerts at an Exhibition to be held from Nov. 28 to Dec. 3. Apply, stating terms, to T. Barrass, 13, Alfred-street, North-rd, Darlington.

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalists, permanent, join at once. Wire terms, or write, Mus.-Directress, Exhibition, Victoria Hall, Campbeltown, Argyllshire.

WANTED, Wind Instrumentalists for a Fortnight at Clacton-on-Sea, commencing Sept. 18. Apply, stating salary, to Bandmaster, Weeley, R.S.O., Essex.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor or Pianist, Double First Violin, Compose, &c.; young, liberty Aug. 17. Conductor, 28, Middle-street, Worcester.

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin; experienced player can Open at Once. Address, 11, Barclay-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Second Violin (combine Piano), twenty years' Staff Band; excellent references; any business. Gorman, 27, Dynevor-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, by Violin, combine Piano, good permanency as Leader, Répétiteur, or Pianist; good references. John Trafford, care of Market Hotel, Preston.

WANTED, by good Second Violin, Re-engagement, good references, combine Viola; sober, reliable. E. W., 69, Culverden Park-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Engagement, in Orchestra, by experienced Violinist; excellent refs. Apply, Violinist, 2, Hustler-street, Bradford, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, Violinist, Disengaged, experienced all Lines, as First or Second, thoroughly steady, age 30; good refs. Violinist, 4, Manning-road, Felixstowe.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist (lady). Write, 2, Douglas-grove, Ackers-st., C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist and Harpist; good readers; steady and reliable. Harlow and Stewart, 4, Golden-butts, Ilkley.

WANTED, Shop as First or Second Cornet, Disengaged Aug. 11.
Address, Box 6,791, "The Era."

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement, any business, young and reliable; can start at once; good refs. Box 6,813, "The Era."

WANTED, by Second Cornet (through reduction in Orchestra), Engagement, any line; well up in Variety; good transposer; reliable, take First when required; Liberty after the 15th. T. Donoghue, Hippo., Portsmouth.

WANTED, Engagement by good Clarionettist; experienced all Lines; also by good Violin. Theatre preferred. Clarionet, 21, Lord-st., Lower Broughton, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, combine Viola, Disengaged Aug. 15; sober, steady, reliable; good testimonials; age 25. Geo. White, Ordnance Yard, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, thoroughly experienced Clarionet, at Liberty through reduction of Band; could open immediately, any Bus. Wire, Clarke, Bandstand, White City, Manchester.

WANTED, Situation as Clarionet, through disappointment, any business.
117, Murray-road, South Ealing, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, long experience in Variety and Theatre; highest references. J. Page, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, eight years' experience all Lines; good refs.
F. Robinson, 100, Selborne-st., Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Trombone, experienced, Engagement, any business.
A., 11, Dorset-buildings, Edward-st., Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by a First-class Trombonist, any Business; strictly attentive to business, and reliable. Box 6,824, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Euphonium, Doubles String Bass and Solo Trombone; also Solo Trombone. W. Hawkins, 59, Tollemache-street, New Brighton, Cheshire.

WANTED, Known, 'Cellist, used to Variety and Drama; should prefer Variety. Apply to Musician, 15, Hoxton-road, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagement, either as 'Cellist or Clarionet; highest refs. for both Instruments. S. Irwin, 23, Chingford-rd., Walthamstow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, capable player, any business; good references; can open at once. Johnson, 14, Portland-road, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, by Flute-Piccolo, Engagement; competent, reliable, wide experience all Lines; join at once. References. H. R. Watson, Hippodrome, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, good Accompanist (Piano), at Liberty Aug., Sept., Gentleman. Only genuine offers. Address, M. S., 34, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianist, experienced Accompanist, excellent Sight-reader, day or evening. C. R., 6, Cromwell-avenue, Ravenscourt Park, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Pianist, good experience, orch., sight-reader. H., 26, Birdhurst-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianist, experienced Orchestral, Dram., and Var.; good offers only; Disengaged Aug. 15. Silvester, 84, Cavendish-place, Eastbourne.

WANTED, by Young Lady, Re-engagement as Pianist; thoroughly up to Variety. Pictures, MS. Refs., Miss M. Lingham, 247, Bexhill-road, St. Leonards.

WANTED, Engagement, by Reliable Double Drummer and Effects; experienced any business, good instruments; excellent references. Musician, Post Office, Torre, Torquay.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly experienced Double Drummer, steady and reliable. Variety preferred; good refs. Drums, 107, Graham-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, by Military Band, Engagements, town or seaside; smart uniform; good repertoire. B. M., 56, Chipstead-st., Parsons Green, S.W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Orchestras. "Poppies," engaged for Edinburgh Exhibition; "Shamrocks," now playing at Franco-British Exhibition (Irish Village). Open for future Engagements, any number; Soloists. Smart dress. Singers if required. Perm. add., "Poppies," 14, Gladstone-ter., Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Venetian good Gentlemen's Band, conducted by Lady, at Liberty for evening work; also Quintette Disengaged. Signorina de Polo, 12, West Hill-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Small Ladies' Orchestra Disengaged now, Expert Players, free through misunderstanding, Singers. Write or wire, Madame Nellie Baker, 114, Woodlands-rd., Ilford.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WORLD'S FAIR CIRCUS,
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.
WANTED, for the above, commencing Dec. 24 till Feb. 6, 1909, Big Speciality in all Lines, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Risley, or any First-class Novelty Act that can be worked in a Circus Ring.
Apply, T. E. Read, as above.
Silence polite negative.

WANTED, Equestrians, Male and Female Stand-up Riders, for the Continent. Open Sept. 1 or Oct. 1. Send photos., all particulars, and terms, Papa Brown, Agent, Holland House, Durand-gardens, S.W.

CIRQUE PINDER, FRANCE.
WANTED, good Lady Rider, to commence at once, with or without own horse, bareback preferred. Write or wire, Sat., Sun., Dieppe; Monday, St. Valery en Caux; Tuesday, Fecamp.

WANTED, a good Triple-bar Performer, able to work Straight. State tricks, terms, height, &c., Ondra, 24, Brook-street, Preston.

WANTED, experienced Top-mounter, to join well-known Troupe; must do forwards and backs. Send full particulars and weight to 3, Rushcroft-house, Rushcroft-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Brothers Austin, Equestrians, will be at Liberty for winter season, now touring with Lord John Sanger's. Particulars address, Lord George Sanger, Farm, East Finchley, London, N.

WANTED, Bumble, the Great Musical Agouste, Talking Clown, Entrées, good in Pantomimes. Arrive in England Aug. 12, from Algiers. Address, "The Era."

WANTED, Aug. 17 and 24, Volto, Clever Comic Gymnastic Act.
13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Herman and Evelyn, World's Greatest High-rope Performers, are at Liberty for Fêtes, Galas, Halls, and Circuses, Aug. 10, onwards. Apply to Herman, Franklin's Gardens, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Leoville, Tight-Wire and Æolia, Stage Trapeze, Liberty Aug. 10 and 17. Wire, 12, Barbel-st., Westminster, London.

WANTED, Known, Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, High-class Acts.
Sanger's Hippodrome, Dundee and Aberdeen.

WANTED, Aug. 10, on, Fêtes, &c., Zarinella, Contortionist and Comedy Act. This week, St. Albans and Poole Fêtes. 4, Cleveland-road, N.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot air Balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. Spencer Bros., Ltd., 458, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ada Webb's Water Wonders, including Elba and Alba, Aquatic Marvels. Copied by many, equalled by none. The Natatorial Art brought to Perfection. Continued Success.
Hippo., Great Yarmouth.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
P'hone, 1626 Gerrard. Manager, Harry Lane. Representative, Corliss Claflin.
WANTED, Big Specialities and Variety Artists in all Lines.
Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dancers.
All communications as above.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to Wm. Biggam, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, Monday, Aug. 17, and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Variety Artists, Variety Artists, Big Specialities, Big Specialities, The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts The Biggest and Most Marvellous Acts in the Business, for Blackpool, Morecambe, Southport, Douglas, Brighton, and Ireland, for Aug. 3, onwards. Send full list of Bookings, Lithos., and Lowest Terms, to Will Sley, 180, Oxford-road, Manchester. Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09144.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Aug. 17 and onwards. A. E. Pickard.

DR. WALFORD BODIE'S
WELSH HALLS.
HIPPODROME, FERNDALE:
HIPPODROME, PONTYCYMMER.
WANTED, Artists, all Lines, August, onwards, nothing too big, for above towns; also for Dr. Bodie's No. 1 and No. 2 Companies of Royal Magnets. Terms, &c., to Dr. Walford Bodie, The Manor House, Macduff, N.B.
Three days' silence please accept as polite negative pro tem.

MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Professional or Amateur, to give Special Trial Show (matinée), with a view to engagement on above circuit. This will be a great opportunity for an introduction to this and other well-known circuits as many of the leading managers and agents will be present. Please write, describing act, and time required. No booking fees; no interviews. Over eighty turns booked this season. Stamped envelope to Manager, Sadler's Wells Theatre, Rosebery-avenue, London, E.C.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
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DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY Artists for
DALTON'S AGENCY Immediate Dates
DALTON'S AGENCY and Dates onwards.
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY and permanent addresses.
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY Will the following please
DALTON'S AGENCY wire addresses:—
DALTON'S AGENCY Vasey and Ramsey,
DALTON'S AGENCY Agustin and Hartley
DALTON'S AGENCY Hayes and Merritt,
DALTON'S AGENCY Fields and Lewis,
DALTON'S AGENCY Leslie, Lynn, and Wilro,
DALTON'S AGENCY Denwartz Troupe,
DALTON'S AGENCY Soho Trio,
DALTON'S AGENCY for Business.
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY Telegrams:
DALTON'S AGENCY Granbeste,
DALTON'S AGENCY Withington-Lancs.
DALTON'S AGENCY Telephone:
DALTON'S AGENCY 193 Didsbury.
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WANTED, Variety Artists
Wanted, Variety Artists
Wanted, Variety Artists
Wanted, Variety Artists
Wanted, Variety Artists
Wanted, Variety Artists
Wanted, Variety Artists
Wanted, Variety Artists
to Note
that the Manager
of the new
South Parade Pier
is Open
to receive
Applications for Engagements.
Applications for Engagements.
Applications for Engagements.
Applications for Engagements.
Applications for Engagements.
Applications for Engagements.
Applications for Engagements.
Applications for Engagements.
Immediate and onward dates.
The very highest class
of Artist only
invited to send absolute lowest terms,
six nights (one show only)
and two afternoons weekly,
to the
Pier Manager
for the Portsmouth Corporation,
Portsmouth.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, Co. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists, Sept. 14, and on, a good break going North. T. C. Rawes, Prop.

WANTED, Artists, Aug. 10 and on, Illustrated Songs and Musical Shows. Lowest terms to Beanland and Emerson, Queen's T., Castleford.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Aug. 17, on. Terms, lithos. Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists of all Description, Aug. 17, onwards.
Write, with full particulars, or call, J. W. Johnson, Variety and Pantomime Agent, 66, Waterloo-road, S.E.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
(under the direction of L. Verno and H. Arnold),
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Aug. 10, on Tele., "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Aug. 17, on 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton

PALACE THEATRE, CORK.
PALACE THEATRE, CORK.
PALACE THEATRE, CORK.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, must be refined Applications, lowest terms, &c., to Mr. Thos. F. O'Brien, Manager, Palace Theatre, Cork.

WANTED, Artists having Vacant Dates, and who have not worked Margate or Ramsgate, to forward full particulars of bookings, with absolute lowest salary, to Mr. Chas. Evans, Grand Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, West Bromwich. Artists. Quote only lowest terms. Acts for Top of Bill specially wanted. Sept. 7, onward. Apply, Sites, Ltd., 57, Chancery-lane, London, W.C.

WANTED, Illustrated Song Artists for Sundays (own slides).
Graphic, 154, Charing Cross-road.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Tenor, Soprano, Pianist, Vocalist, Sight-reader, Instrumentalist, Bioscope Operator (own machine, gas or lime). Open at once. Lowest (or shares), Smith, c/o Holt, Fleet Hotel, near Worcester.

NEW PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, CHELTENHAM.
General-Manager, Mr. Edward B. Shenton.
Business-Manager, Mr. John Walters.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.
WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
Re-opening for the Season, Aug. 17.
WANTED, Agents desirous of doing Business, Artists desiring Engagements, also Combinations and Travelling Pantomimes, to please communicate with Managing-Director.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Lithos, terms, and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, First-class Turns, Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 7, later.
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

NEW PALACE, EBBW VALE.
Proprietors, A. Tilney and Sons.
Entertainment Manager, Leo Fritz.
WANTED, the greatest Variety Acts, price no object, for Aug. 31 and on. Apply, with full particulars, to Leo Fritz's Variety Agency, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton, S.W. Telegrams, "Evelyncia, London." 'Phone 457 Brixton.

PAVILION, ABERTILLERY.
Proprietors, A. Tilney and Sons.
Entertainment Manager, Leo Fritz.
WANTED, the greatest Acts in all Lines, bigger the better, for Aug. 17 and onwards. Apply, with full particulars, to Leo Fritz's Variety Agency, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton, S.W. Telegrams, "Evelyncia, London." 'Phone 457 Brixton.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. Cummings.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, Aug. 31, onwards. Absolute lowest once nightly. J. Cummings, 97, Whitevale, Dennistown, Glasgow.

WANTED, Big Comedy Singing Acts and Comedians, for Aug. 24 and onwards. Ryan and Hall wire address immediately. J. Brown and Co., Variety Agents, 58, Chicksand-street, N.E. Tel. No. 1098 City. Clients seen by appointment.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY,
HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY,
HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY,
HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY,
233, Kennington-road, S.E.
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233, Kennington-road, S.E.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Aug. 17, and onward, Aug. 17, and onward, Aug. 17, and onward, Big Specialities, Star Comedians, &c.
Also Quartette and Chorus of Ladies for Pantomime.
Full particulars to above.

WANTED, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to Jas. Tyrer, The Palace, Oldbury.

EMPIRE, WATFORD.
WANTED, Small Specialities all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, Aug. 17, 24, onward.
Lowest and bills, J. Sweet, above.

WANTED, Variety Talent and Specialities, Aug. 31, and on, for Falkirk, Scotland. Address, Brothers Silvester, Picture Palace, Skerries, Dublin.

WANTED, for Paris, First-class Specialities. Terms, lithos., and perm. address first instance. Floria, Palace, Lincoln.

WANTED, Big Novelties, to Top, in London, that will Draw. Immediate dates. Maurice Fritz, General-Manager, Albemarle Variety Syndicate, 157, Strand. 'Phone, 4957 Gerrard.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone, 234Y5, Tron.
WANTED, Tops and Artists in every Line, including Sisters and Troupes of Ladies, for Immediate Dates and on. Nat Gould and George Goldburn write.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, Top of Bill, for Aug. 17, one house nightly, twice Saturday. State lowest first letter, small town. Beanland and Emerson, Parade, Bridlington.

WANTED, Tops of Bills for Aug. 17 and 24. All Particulars to Frank Lynne, Empire, Glasgow. Tele. Add., Skidoo, London."

WANTED, Big Top and Bottom, Aug. 17 week, and onward. State lowest terms and bookings. F. Yates, 14, Waterloo-rd., London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, that the New Derry Empire reopens Aug. 31. Those who wrote before please write again; Hall small; people doing Singles and Doubles preferred. No further connection with Fred Or. All communications Sole Proprietor, W. Cody, Cavan Hotel, Bundoran, Ireland.

PAVILION AND SUMMER GARDENS, NORTHWICH.
Enormous success of the opening of above. The prettiest, brightest, electric lit summer building. The last word.
WANTED, complete Concert Parties; no Sharing, we give Certainties only. Quote lowest, to include Sacred Concerts on Sunday. No offers made, and all particulars required.
Address, Managing-Director.

WANTED, for Worthing, Select Concert Parties and Troupes, for approved pitches on beach, 50 per cent. share, stage, chairs, piano, electric light, and attendants provided. State number of troupe and fullest particulars, to M. W. Shanly, 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead; or Local Office, Winter Hall, Worthing.

WANTED, for Bognor Pier, a Select Concert Party, on sharing terms.
Apply, giving full particulars, per centage required, and vacant dates, to M. W. Shanly, 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead; or, Winter Hall, Worthing.

WANTED, for United States Tour, for Autumn of 1909, a Concert Party of Bell Ringers, also playing other instruments. Five to eight Artists. Address, American Concert Manager, Box 6,806, "The Era."

WANTED, at Once, Vocalist, for Select Outdoor Pitching; terms, share. Height of season. Full particulars, Baker, 35, Chelmsford-avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, good Baritone, for Comedy Part in First-class Trio, for Halls. State experience. Box 6,830, "The Era."

WANTED, a good Conjurer and Illusionist, possessing own Illusions,
for a year's (or more) engagement.
Apply,
Box 6,687, "The Era."

CHAS. FISHER'S "POCKET OPERA" CO.
WANTED, Baritone Comedian, must have excellent voice and play piano. Apply, photos, if possible, and references, to Chas. Fisher, Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Refined Coon Comedian and Dancer, for three weeks' Al Fresco Engagement, commencing Sept. 7. Full particulars to H. R., Essex House, Colwyn Bay.

WANTED, High-class Humorists, Illustrated Song and Refined Varieties, Aug. 17 and 24. Apply, Manager, American Entertainment Company, Royal Assembly Hall, South Shields.

WANTED, Ladies for Roller Skating, for Long Engagements, Paris. Good Skaters preferred. Call Monday, 10-12.
Sherek and Brapp, 17, Lisle-st., Leicester-square.

WANTED, Lad, First-class Trick Cyclist, for Long Tour in England and Continent; one with some experience of Teacup Track Riding; must have good references, or useless. Those who only require a few weeks' work save stamps. Must be young and experienced. Write full particulars, Blanche and Diacoff, Alexandra T., Pontefract, Yorks.

WANTED, Artists all Lines requiring Scenery, Props., or Trick Stuff, to note address of W. B. Bostock, Scenic Studio, Rumford-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Victoria Cross, Laughing and Character Comedienne. Vac., Sept. 21 on; also Panto., Girl or Scotch Character. Offers, Pier Pav., St. Annes-on-Sea.

WANTED, by Lillie Le Main, Comedienne and Dancer, Monday next and on, Music Halls or Combination. Apply, 70, Carr-road, Nelson, Lancs. Agents Wanted.

WANTED, Monday, Aug. 10, by Miss Maude Poole, Serio Coon Vocalist and greatest Acrobatic Dancer travelling. Address, 58, King's-road, Portobello, N.B.

WANTED, Monday next, also 17th, by Madge Beresford, smartly-gowned Comedienne. Terrific success this week, Palace, Northampton. Wire for draw.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist, also Illustrated Songs, Dates in August. Perm. Add., 32, North-side, Clapham Common, S.W.

WANTED, Monday, Lydia Raie, Banjo Queen, Trick Mandolinist, with own Coloured Pictures. Success everywhere. Bottom of Bill, Empire, Watford, Wire.

WANTED, Known, smart Soubrette, Vocalist (Contralto) and Instrumentalist, experienced; good appearance, Disengaged; prefers Continent. For photo., &c., write A. A., 69, Gower-street, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, vacant Aug. 10 and 31, Music, Mimicry, Ragtime Dancing, Singing, &c. 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Bert Danson, the Eccentric Comedian, in Latest Successes, including "Suffragette" and "In Love with a Girl." Terrific Hit, Hippo., Norwich, this week; 15 min. (each house) of screams of laughter, following the Top of the Bill too. Vacant Aug. 17 and 31. Next week, Queen's, Leeds.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Monday next, by Percy Maye, owing to transferring Hippo. Eastbourne. New and Smart Business; beautiful scenery; elaborate dresses. Wire, wire. 15, Morland-buildings, Millbank, London.

WANTED, Sept. 7 and 14. I will give £20 to any charitable institution if my monologue has not been a success in every town I have produced in.

WALTON, Comedian, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, Ben Jackson, the man with the Banjo and the Cards, vacant Aug. 17. Address, 29, Kinmel-street, Rhyl.

WANTED, Aug. 17, and few following weeks, by E. W. Selman, First-class Humorous Comedian, in all new songs, will join First-class Al Fresco. Address, Public Hall, Sheffield, with Redfern's great Picture Show.

WANTED, Aug. 10, by Sam Shipley, Comedian, Successful Always. Wire, Empire, Hull. Sunday, 1, Goodwin-street, Pendleton, Manchester.

WANTED, by the Original Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese Conjurer, Aug. 17 to precede Sheffield. Enormous Success. Starring, Palace, Dundee; next, Tivoli, Barrow.

WANTED, Known, Paul Delano, the Expert Juggler, Clubs Manipulator, has returned from a Tour round the World. Address, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Aug. 17, on, Auto-Mati, full Strong show, finish by allowing powerful motor and occupants to drive over body; two people. MERREDITH, Empire, Cradley. Agent write.

WANTED, Aug. 17, 24, by Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Conjurer, and Dog, a Pot-Pourri Act; May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer. Enormous success, Crystal Palace, London. Monday, Hippodrome, Colchester.

WANTED, Aug. 24, by The Moncktons (Fred and Lillie), the popular Comedy Duo, present their Screamingly Funny Farcical Episodes, "Are Wives Dummies?" "A Woman's Curiosity," "Two in a Flat." Aug. 10, Pavilion, Liverpool.

WANTED, by The Vollmers (Master Harry and Little Ruthie), Violinists and Dancers, Aug. 17, 24. This, Opera House, Workington; Monday, Empire, South Shields.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Monday, Aug. 10, 17, Novel Dutch Songs, Patter, Dialect, and Dancing. Refer, MANAGER, here, Queen's, Gateshead.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Aug., Adele Levey and Charles Leverton, in Sketchette, "Find the Lady First." Success, E., Brixton, &c. Wire, 97, New Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, also 17 and 24, by Zelda, the Novel Instrumental Lady, Big Act; also Wal Owen, Silent Comedian. Two Successes, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, Monday, by Chant and Chant, Smart Vocal Comedy Duo. Wire for a Sure Hit. 87, Wollaton-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, at Liberty Oct. 5, on, The Millons, the World's greatest Illusionists and Pot-Pourri Act, specially engaged by Robert Forsyth for twenty-week season, Hippodrome, Folkestone, terrific success. Address as above.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Musical Clowns, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 23. Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, S.W.

WANTED, by Merry and Bright, Popular Comedians, Aug. 10, 17. This, Empire, Islington. Coms., 106, Great Portland-street, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Sword and Robb, Comedians, Dancers, "The Captain and the Idiotic Sailor." Vacant Sept. 28, also Panto. Leeds Arms Hotel, Cleethorpes.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton (Novel Comedy Act), Monday next, Aug. 10, 17, 24. Wire, Empire, Dublin. After Saturday, 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston, London.

WANTED, Monday next, and 17th, by the Two Le Bruns, Unique Vocal and Juggling Novelty. Wire, Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Immediate Dates, Edelweiss Quartette, International Vocalists, Speciality Dancers, elaborate scenery and stage effects. EDWIN WALTERS, 29, Hampstead-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Lack and Ford Trio, Comedy Acrobats; Miss Maie, Wire Act; two big Acts; vacant Aug. 24. Managers should Book these Acts, sure success. Monday, Hippo., Crewe.

WANTED, Aug. 10, onwards, by Herman and Evelyn, up-to-date Wire Act; also Cosselly, Acrobatic Table Act.

WANTED, Known, Three Flying Orenius's, Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts, at Liberty Monday, Aug. 17. Permanent address, 24, Salisbury-street, New North-road, N.

WANTED, Fêtes and Galas, &c., Alex and Jolly, Comedy Triple Bar Act. Miss Myria Lo-La, the beautiful and marvellous Lady Trapeze Expert. Silver-plated Apparatus Frame. Two First-class Acts. Address, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Aug. 24, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Monday next and later. Terrific success, Lofthouse Park, Wakefield. Agent, STEBBINGS, Manchester. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, by the Original Walonells, Greatest of all Comedy Gymnasts, Aug. 31, through King's, Edinburgh, closing. Add., Hippo., Paisley.

WANTED, Aug. 24, 31, by The Peps, Modern Comedy Gymnasts. Just the best. Agent, TOM SHAW. Monday, King's Theatre, Gateshead.

WANTED, Known, The Four Woodbee Wonders, the World's Greatest Comedy Acrobats, the hit of all Programmes, free Aug. 17 and 24. Coms., 14, Alexandra-road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, The Maro Duo, Quaint Comedy Bar Act. This week, Galas; next, Hippodrome, Wigan. Vacant Aug. 24.

WANTED, Aug. 17 and 24, by Bessie Travis, Ventriloquist. Starring Winter Gardens, New Brighton. Mon., Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract, write or wire.

WANTED, New Year's week and later dates, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illusionist); two smart Acts. Theatre R., Grantham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Adkin, Ventriloquist the Man and the Doll. Wire, Tivoli, Dublin. Agent, WILL SLEY.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Wire or write, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, "THE DUTCH DROLLS," (the Original Dutch Serenaders), the Smartest and Brightest of Entertainers, the Box-Office Magnets, have Vacant, through breach of contract, Aug. 10, Aug. 10, Aug. 10. Wire. Wire. Wire. Wire. Performance 30mins. to 2 hours. Refer here to W. Bolland, Esq., as to success. Topping the Bill, and Justify it. FRANK L. HAYNER, Pier Pavilion, Cleethorpes. Other Vacancies Aug. 24 (?), 31 (?), and on. Good reliable Booking Agents look us up.

WANTED, Known, The Selbinis, the Most Wonderful and Artistic Bicycle Pot-Pourri Act before the Public. At Liberty one week only, Sept. 14, Halls, Fêtes, or Galas. Communications to 193, Brixton-hill, London.

WANTED, Aug. 17 and 24, Swift Duo, Comic Cycle Speciality. Monday next, Queen's Theatre, Dublin, where address.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, The Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists; also Lillian Sivado, Lady Gymnast, vacant Aug. 17, 24; two distinct Acts. Address, 36, Ryder-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Rosini's Miniature Menagerie, Rosie the thought-reading Dog, and Starlight, educated Pony; vacant Aug. 10, 17, 21. Coms., 43, Great King-street, Hockley, Birmingham.

WANTED, Sept., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the biggest Novelty ever introduced with Troupe of Dogs. Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Wonderful Troupe of Performing Dogs, Talk of Yarmouth, Lib. Aug. 17. Good lithos. 9, Lancaster-road, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Aug. 10, 17, 31. This Act can Top any Programme. No bluff. Chard's Dog Circus; 14 Dog Artists. Now the Whole Talk of Leeds. Queen's Theatre, every evening.

WANTED, Known, Hal Berte, the most accomplished Roller-skater in England, has a few vacant dates, Rinks or Halls. Address, PROF. HAL BERTE, Meredith's Rink, Porchester Hall Bayswater.

WANTED, by young Knockabout Comedian and Pantomimist, to join good Sketch or anything suitable. Coms., J. K., 46, Western-road, Oxford.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private, Carl Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also Punch and Judy, with Toby. 264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park.

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WANTED, Roundabouts, Swings, up-to-date Novelties, best position in Southend, on tram route, to open at once. Address particulars of Novelties to ALPHA, Kursaal, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Swings, Roundabouts, Side-shows, and Games, Unionist Fête, Sydney Gardens, Bath, Aug. 27. Particulars, CARL FREDRICKS, Sydney-gardens, Bath.

WANTED, any kind of Outside Show, for Sept. 23 or Oct. 8. FRED THOMAS, Commercial Inn, Narberth, South Wales.

WANTED, Side Shows, for small spaces, in new all-day Hall, opening in Strand, near Charing Cross, entrance free, open Sunday evenings; best pitch in London. Rental terms. Write, DIRECTOR, 169, Castellain-road, W.

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WANTED, Known, good Freaks, Novelties, &c., can have eight, ten, or twelve weeks' Engagement at my American Museum. Send fullest particulars, terms, photo., and sample of lithos., A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

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WANTED, Actor-Orator, of Gentlemanly Appearance and Commanding Voice. Address, H. F. MCGARVIE, Pharaoh's Daughter Building, Franco-British Exhibition.

WANTED, for Haggar's Electric Bioscope, three Lady Dancers, two Comedy Knockabouts, or any Speciality Act, suitable for exterior of Bioscope Show, to open at once; those used to Fair business preferred. Actual lowest first letter to HAGGAR, Bioscope, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, good Paraders (male and female), for Bioscope Show; used to the Business. Money sure. Full partics. to HASTINGS and WHAYMAN, Cricket Ground, Hastings.

WANTED, a good Descriptive Doorsman, one who can tell the tale in a gentlemanly manner; good wages to a steady respectable man. BERTRAM'S Zoo, Foreshore, Southport.

WANTED, the Best Doorsman in England, who thoroughly understands the proper working of a Show Front, can join at once. Address, H. F. MCGARVIE, Pharaoh's Daughter Building, Franco-British Exhibition.

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WANTED, immediately, Watchmaker Floorman. State wages and particulars, FARR, Auctioneer, Promenade, Blackpool.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, Electric, Hughes' Imperial Machine, Monday till Sept. 28; must help in Waxworks during day. HOLT, Waxworks, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, immediately, experienced Attendant for Flying Lady Show; must be sober and good worker. Address, MANAGER, Japanese City, Campbeltown, Argylishire.

WANTED, Piers, for Aug., Harmon's Marionettes and Punch and Judy. Wire, Kursaal, Bexhill, Saturday; after, 264, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Bros. Bowman, Punch and Judy, also Dog Toby, always working, five Galas. This week, Crewe Hospital Fêtes; to-day (Saturday), address, Cromartie-street, Longton.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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WANTED, by well-known Lecturer and Manager, Situation, introduce Pictures, Diorama, or Novelty Act. C/o Burdett, 64, Evelina-road, Peckham.

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WANTED, Applications for Concessions for anything new and up-to-date. Address, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL. BAKERS' EXHIBITION, Sept. 5 to 12, 1908. GROCERS' EXHIBITION, Sept. 19 to 26, 1908. BREWERS' EXHIBITION, Oct. 17 to 23, 1908.

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WANTED, to Rent or Lease, for First-Class Slot Machine, Parlour, Shop, large, main thoroughfare, any large city. Send particulars. Box 6,807, "The Era."

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Apply as Above.

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CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, AUG. 10, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Machnow, Ethel Sheffer, Marie Jones, Ellis and Watts, Rosie Archer, Renee Grahame, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Martinetti and Wallis, Chas. Jerome, Little Dando.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Harry Weldon, Carr and Rose, The Simms, Tossing Austins, Norah Noble, Zeta Grey and Co., Maston, Mathews and Brown, "The House of Tinn," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Conway and Leland, Madge Field, Dunn and Reano, Helen Martin, Edwardes and Dacre, W. G. Wesley, Baker and Baife, Frank Leon, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Jack Lane, Lambert and Hands, Three Sisters Silcott, Millicent Bros., Chas. F. Best, Lew Towers, Mlle. Bartenelli, W. E. Whittle, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Marquis Dassie, Alfonso, Jock Walker, Pichel Troupe, Harry Cotton, Barrington, Annie Schuberth, Chanti, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, The Gentreys, Nellie Lunelle, Albert Sinclair, George Marriott and Co., Leon and Noel, Harry Bent, Carlotta Lunn.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"Mystery of Edwin Drood."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"An Unwedded Wife."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"The Girl Who Wrecked His Home."

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Picture Entertainment.

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PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Strassburger's Midgets, Flo Burnett, Chas. Penrose, Edie Reynolds, Bartholomew Girls, Rosie Everette, Gregson Comedy Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Bains and Reed, George James, The Florias, Lawrence Barclay, Kitty Clinton, Pearce and Ward, Virto, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock.
Six Bros. Luck, Alpho, Millie Howell, Irene and Morton, Georgina Middleton, Kremka Bros., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Gothams, Dolly Brough, Billy French, Les Frasettis, Gold and Sterling, Jim Cheetham, Gravetta and Parr, Dave Samuels, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Jack Pleasants, Hanid Alexander, Larola, Browning and Wally, Rose Cabani, The Ellimans, Kelly and Agnas, Ferguson and Mack, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Harry Nelson.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Lillie Soutter, Bros. Tarrant, Mostol, Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, Zampah Bros., W. H. Downe, Margit and Lener, Ramond's Bio-Tableaux, Willie and Johnnie.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Raymond, Lannons, Sisters Thurban, Cherry Laas, Leo Dryden, The Desmonds, Sydney Mason and Co., Augustin and Hartley, Fields and Lewis, Roxbys, Nellie Lewis.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Raymond, Allsopp and Beckwith, Florence Inman, Sisters Darnton, Sheldon Mills, Cissy Esdaile, Josephine Crook, "Grip of Iron" Co., Keith and Merson, Tony Cooper, Piquos.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Raymond, Happy Atwood, Jennie Gray, Daisy Hurdle, Guest and Newlyn, Two Lillies, Minnie Kirby, Jack's the Lad, May and Barnes, Fred Maxwell and Co.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Raymond, Sisters Belmoir, AliceMaydue, Akbar, Bella Leaburn, Cedar and Elgar, Howard Collison, Harry Lynx, "Moses," Three Sisters Jonghman.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Lisbon and Barker, Raymond, Marie Elsie, "Frenchman's Courtship," Madam Valois, Fred Southern and Co., Queenie West, Frederick Victor and Co., Frank F. Street, Grey and Welford, Cullen and Carthy and Cluley.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Daily Express:—
An interesting illustration of the proverb, "Brevity is the soul of wit," is given in some correspondence between Mr. Robert Arthur, the theatrical manager, and Mr. Lennox Pawle, published by the latter in "The Era" Annual for 1908.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Evening Standard, Jan. 20:—
"The Era" Annual shows its customary excellence, and has some good "yarns."

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
The Star, Jan. 16:—
Mr. Lennox Pawle's appearance in pantomime at Drury Lane gives point to some correspondence, now published by "The Era" Annual for the first time. As an example in brevity it should commend itself to managers and actors.

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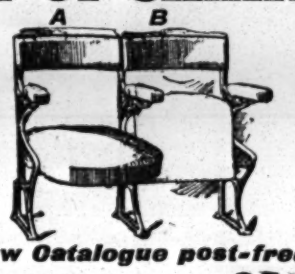

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER. BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Chapter I. COPYRIGHT AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter II. PERFORMING RIGHT.
Chapter III. INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.
Chapter IV. MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.
Chapter V. INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette.

Published at "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

SHAKESPEARE ON TOUR.

The chief differences between the methods of theatrical representation in Shakespeare's day and our own, writes Mr. Sidney Lee in his "Life of William Shakespeare," lay in the fact that neither scenery nor scenic costume nor women-actors were known to the Elizabethan stage. All female rôles were, until the Restoration in 1660, assumed in the public theatres by men or boys. Consequently the skill needed to rouse in the audience the requisite illusions was far greater then than at later periods. But the professional customs of Elizabethan actors approximated in other respects more closely to those of their modern successors than is usually recognised. The practice of touring in the provinces was followed with even greater regularity then than now. Few companies remained in London during the summer or early autumn, and every country town with two thousand or more inhabitants could reckon on at least one visit from travelling actors between May and October. A rapid examination of the extant archives of some seventy municipalities selected at random shows that Shakespeare's company between 1594 and 1614 frequently performed in such towns as Barnstaple, Bath, Bristol, Coventry, Dover, Faversham, Folkestone, Hythe, Leicester, Maidstone, Marlborough, New Romney, Oxford, Rye in Sussex, Saffron Walden, and Shrewsbury. We may refer to Halliwell-Phillipps's "Visits of Shakespeare's Company of Actors to the Provincial Cities and Towns of England" (privately printed, 1887). From the information there given, occasionally supplemented from other sources, the following imperfect itinerary is deduced: 1593, Bristol and Shrewsbury; 1594, Marlborough; 1597, Faversham, Bath, Rye, Bristol, Dover, and Marlborough; 1603, Richmond (Surrey), Bath, Coventry, Shrewsbury, Mortlake, Wilton House; 1604, Oxford; 1605, Barnstaple and Oxford; 1606, Leicester, Saffron Walden, Marlborough, Oxford, Dover, and Maidstone; 1607, Oxford; 1608, Coventry and Marlborough; 1609, Hythe, New Romney, and Shrewsbury; 1610, Dover, Oxford, and Shrewsbury; 1612, New Romney; 1613, Folkestone, Oxford, and Shrewsbury; and 1614, Coventry. Shakespeare may be credited with faithfully fulfilling all his professional functions, and some of the references to travel in his sonnets were doubtless reminiscences of early acting tours. It has been repeatedly urged, moreover, that Shakespeare's company visited Scotland, and that he went with it. In November, 1599, English actors arrived in Scotland under the leadership of Lawrence Fletcher and one Martin, and were welcomed with enthusiasm by the king. Fletcher was a colleague of Shakespeare in 1603, but is not known to have been one earlier. Shakespeare's company never included an actor named Martin. Fletcher repeated the visit in October, 1601. There is nothing to indicate that any of his companions belonged to Shakespeare's company. In like manner, Shakespeare's accurate reference in *Macbeth* to the "nimble" but "sweet" climate of Inverness, and the vivid impression he conveys of the aspects of wild Highland heaths, have been judged to be the certain fruits of a personal experience; but the passages in question, into which a more definite significance has possibly been read than Shakespeare intended, can be satisfactorily accounted for by his inevitable intercourse with Scotsmen in London and the theatres after James I.'s accession.

A few English actors in Shakespeare's day occasionally combined to make professional tours through foreign lands, where Court society invariably gave them a hospitable reception. In Denmark, Germany, Austria, Holland, and France many dramatic performances were given before royal audiences by English actors between 1580 and 1630. That Shakespeare joined any of these expeditions is highly improbable. Actors of small account at home mainly took part in them, and Shakespeare's name appears in no extant list of those who paid professional visits abroad. It is, in fact, unlikely that Shakespeare ever set foot on the continent of Europe in either a private or professional capacity. He repeatedly ridicules the craze for foreign travel. To Italy, it is true, and especially to cities of Northern Italy, like Venice, Padua, Verona, Mantua, and Milan, he makes frequent and familiar reference, and he supplied many a realistic portrayal of Italian life and sentiment. But the fact that he represents Valentine in the *Two Gentlemen of Verona* (I. i. 71) as travelling from Verona to Milan by sea, and Prospero in *The Tempest* as embarking on a ship at the gates of Milan (I. ii. 129-44), renders it almost impossible that he could have gathered his knowledge of Northern Italy from personal observation. He doubtless owed all to the verbal reports of travelled friends or to books, the contents of which he had a rare power of assimilating and vitalising.

The publisher Chettle wrote in 1592 that Shakespeare was "exelent in the qualitie he professes," and the old actor William Beeston asserted in the next century that Shakespeare "did act exceedingly well." But the rôles in which he distinguished himself are imperfectly recorded. Few surviving documents refer directly to performances by him. At Christmas, 1594, he joined the popular actors William Kemp, the chief comedian of the day, and Richard Burbage, the greatest tragic actor, in "two several comedies or interludes" which were acted on St. Stephen's Day and on Innocents' Day (Dec. 27 and 28) at Greenwich Palace before the Queen. The players received "xiiili. vjs. viiid. and by waye of her Majesties rewarde vili. xiiis. iiijd., in all xxli." Neither plays nor parts are named. Shakespeare's name stands first on the list of those who took part in the original performances of Ben Jonson's *Every Man in his Humour* (1598). In the original edition of Jonson's "Sejanus" (1603) the actors' names are arranged in two columns, and Shakespeare's name heads the second column, standing parallel with Burbage's, which heads the first. But here again the character allotted to each actor is not stated. Rowe identified only one of Shakespeare's parts, "the Ghost in his own *Hamlet*," and Rowe asserted his assumption of that character to be "the top of his performance." John Davies of Hereford noted that he "played some kingly parts in sport." One of Shakespeare's younger brothers, presumably Gilbert, often came, wrote Oldys, to London in his younger days to see his brother act in his own plays; and in his old age, when his memory was failing, he recalled his brother's performance of Adam in *As You Like It*. In the 1623 folio edition of Shakespeare's Works his name heads the prefatory list "of the principall actors in all these playes."

That Shakespeare chafed under some of the conditions of the actor's calling is commonly inferred from the "Sonnets." There he reproaches himself with becoming "a motley to the view" (cx. 2), and chides fortune for having provided for his livelihood nothing better than "publike means that public manners breed," whence his name received a brand (cxi. 4-5). If such self-pity is to be literally interpreted, it only reflected an evanescent mood. His interest in all that touched the efficiency of his profession was permanently active. He was a keen critic of actors' elocution, and in *Hamlet* shrewdly denounced their common failings, but clearly and hopefully pointed out the road to improvement. His highest ambitions lay, it is true, elsewhere than in acting, and at an early period of his theatrical career he undertook, with triumphal success, the labours of a playwright. But he pursued the profession of an actor loyally and uninterruptedly until he resigned all connection with the theatre within a few years of his death.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—A highly-sensational piece, *The Power of the Cross*, by Mr. George de Gray, was played by Mr. Lingford Carson's company for the first time in Aberdeen on Monday. Mr. de Gray himself spiritedly impersonates the part of the pronouncedly Mephistophelean Baron Woulfe Corzula, who is the master villain of the piece, and he is admirably supported by Miss Stella Carmichael as the adventuress. Mr. Tyrone Power plays rollickingly as an Irishman; Miss Annie Hylton makes a graceful heroine; Miss Phyllis Vaughan is no less charming as the "good fairy" of the drama; and Mr. Alexander A. Hayiland gives a powerful portraiture of a young doctor. The piece is elaborately staged.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Jack Lorimer continues on his triumphant career, and responds nightly to many encores; Miss Paula Peters gives a marvellous performance with his trained animals; Mysticus's famed chameleon act earns the heartiest plaudits of the audiences; Mr. J. C. Scotter is a smart comedian and dancer; Ford and Barras show singular dexterity as "legomaniacs" and singers; Miss Stella Stahl is a captivating comedienne; Mr. Woolmer Young's fine voice makes his turn very popular; the Le Crews appear with the utmost success as burlesque artists and dancers; and Miss Zeta Russell dances gracefully and sings sweetly.

Beach Pavilion.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—The Downes Family, which includes four artists of remarkable talent and versatility, are now prime favourites; Miss Violet Davidson continues to sing charmingly; Mr. Jack Marson varies his fine vocalisation by telling good stories; Mr. Thomson has several capital humorous ditties which he renders most "pawkily"; Mr. Dan Williams is a superior comedian; Mr. George Park possesses a splendid bass voice; and Vulcaris (the accompanist) contributes some original and entertaining musical interludes.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. B. Lee.—Miss Amy Bathurst contributes the principal turn. This clever lady not only sings her coon ditties with skill and vivacity, but ranks as a champion sand and wooden-shoe dancer. Oliver and Twist are comedians of resource with a dash of originality in their methods; and Mr. J. W. Dewar makes a hit with his comic Scotch songs. Mr. Dove Paterson, who will appear at the Crystal Palace shortly, shows a highly interesting selection of the latest cinematograph films.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—Miss Frances Delaval is presenting the sensational and thrilling drama, *Love's Golden Dream*. The leading part Margery is excellently portrayed by Miss Delaval, whose acting is very realistic; the Captain Jack Darrell of Mr. Harry Rutland is a fine assumption; and Mr. Edmund Grogan scores highly as Rev. Harold Tre Wynne. Mr. W. Bradford as Gustave de Marconi (an Italian) is all that can be desired, and Pete, with songs, is agreeably portrayed by Master Johnny Johnson. Mr. L. W. Halfpenny makes an ideal coster of Covey, and Little Carry Johnson as Tommy Tittlemouse is admirable.

Pavilion.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—*Saturday to Monday* is excellently staged at this popular hall by Mr. Fred Karno's talented company. John Willie Jaggs is excellently sustained by Mr. Gilbert Childs, who is very amusing throughout, and keeps the audience in roars of laughter. Miss Julia Bassett as Clorinda Dobbs is a success, and Miss Ada Maskell represents Belinda Dobbs to the delight of the audience. Mr. Harry Fischer as Mr. Potts is good, and Miss Mary Young acts cleverly as Violet Perrin.

ABERYSTWYTH. — Coliseum. — Mr. Arthur Roberts was the chief attraction on Monday and Tuesday evening, when he was heartily welcomed by a crowded house. He was ably supported by Miss Ruby Celeste and vaudeville company in their répertoire. During the remainder of the week the Follies occupy the boards.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—This theatre reopened on Monday after the summer vacation with Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Great White Chief*. Mr. Mansell Fane gives a first-class rendering of the title-rôle; Mr. Lingford Carson plays with force and skill the dumb part Reindeer; Mr. George Torice does full justice to the part of Hartley Deane, and Mr. Leonard Maitland causes much amusement as George R. Walker. Miss Pollie Denville submits a charming representation of Latika; Miss Dulcie Lawrence is effective as Hester Stafford, and Miss Amy Ross Clyde is all that can be desired as Martha Jane Curtley. The play is mounted in good style.

Town Hall.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—A capital series of animated pictures is being shown here, including a number of dramatic and comic subjects. The films include The Despatch Bearer, A Lottery Ticket, A Poor Man's Romance, and The Architect's Apprentice. The Three Comedy Chanters are singers of merit, Marion Blake is a fine serio comedienne, the Artes (coloured vocalists and dancers) have a great reception, Miss Dulcie Milner is a dainty vocalist, and Milner and Story (comedy duo), are excellent.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—Out of a good variety programme the best item is undoubtedly that of Alfred Wellesley in *Uncle's Courtship*. Mr. Wellesley's humour is quaint and natural, and he is supported by Miss Beatrice Webb and Frank Harris. The Three Berlin Belles give some clever speciality dances and marches; Miss Kitty Malone sings and dances with fine effect; Glen Alva renders two songs; Keegan and company evoke fun with their antics as awkward cyclists; and Prof. Buer and his donkey afford variety. One of the most appreciated items on the programme is the Bioscope, on which several interesting and funny pictures are given.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE. — Theatre Royal. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Revill.—Annual closing week previous to the Wakes holidays.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The head of the present week's bill is taken by Garland and Douglas's company of coloured coons in the attractive sketch *A Trip to Coontown*. The genuine sable-skinned nigger plays a conspicuous part in the songs, choruses, and grotesque antics. The Sisters Mawdsley are clever juvenile performers; Petro and Leon (Hattie and Pete) give some really startling exercises as gymnasts; the Sisters Terry are charming duettists; George Edney is a good character vocalist; Langslow, the balancing wonder, introduces variety into the performance with his sharp-shooting on the flexible rope; Denaro Bros., the troupe of juvenile acrobats, are expert and daring performers; Moon and Morris, as simultaneous dancers, whose stepping is a wonder in the poetry of motion, nightly evoke admiration and applause. The Bioscope this week is a very special performance in cinematography—Gaumont's masterpiece, a wonderful film, produced at big cost. Shakespeare's romantic tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*, with perfect scenario.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—This week's selection of pictures is varied and interesting, the principal items are Driven by Hunger, Too Much Champagne, Wild Birds, A Gipsy's Devotion, John the Idiot, and the great Marathon Race. The illustrated songs are also an attractive feature.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—Astley's American Circus heads the bill here this week, and in connection with this turn, amateur riding competitions are held at each performance, and cause hearty laughter. Mr. Cull Pitt is a clever and interesting conjuror, whilst his running fire of witticisms adds much to the charm of his performance; a pleasing turn is that of Tennis and Laune, a couple of ladies who are good in both song and dance; the Godfreys (lady and gentleman) are applauded for their musical and comedy act; Eugene is an effective juggler; Miss Mabel Le Roy, comedienne, Mr. Charles Rowen, comedian and dancer, and the Marathon Race on the Palace Attergraph also contribute interesting turns.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—The theatre was re-opened on Monday for the season with *I Defy the World*, played by Mr. Julian Malvern's company. Miss Blanche St. Albans gives a pathetic rendering of Pauline; Mr. Alfred Denning as Pauline's father does ample justice to the military character; as Leon Darville Mr. Percy Ballard acts with power, and he has a splendid foil in Miss Violet Crauford. The villain of the piece is adequately taken by Mr. J. L. Jackson; the Laroche of Mr. Chas. Conway is a capable impersonation; and the manliness of Mr. Frank Wheatley as André is much admired. Miss Maude Lillian and Mr. Chas. M. Julian are responsible for wholesome fun as the two cockney tourists; and Messrs. Pearce and Bosher are amusing as the two thieves.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood. — Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here this week with *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Miss Beatrice Flower gives an excellent reading and a clever study of the Ugliest Woman; a manly and convincing performance is that of Mr. Philip Dorien as Jack Merriman; Mr. Leyton Cancellor gives a really good interpretation of the unscrupulous Hubert Gold, and receives excellent support from Mr. Leonard Thackeray as Antonio Luchesi and Miss Gertrude Harrison as Rose Courteney; Mr. William De Brigard gives a good representation of the gambling artist, Tom Redvers; the comedy characters of Tubby Herrick and Aggie Brown are in the capable hands of Mr. Freddy Bentley and Miss Nellie Jackson; a clever and realistic portrait of a London hooligan is presented by Mr. Harry Leyton; Dr. Carr is sympathetically played by Mr. Gerald Nolan; and Miss Violet Macree gives an impressive portrayal of Morita, an Italian girl.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Bridge Trust; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—On Monday and Tuesday, Mr. Wentworth Croke's company presented *The Christian*, and although this is its third visit, the popularity of the play seems undiminished. As John Storm, Mr. F. Gedge Twyman displayed undoubted ability; Miss Margery Fane won golden opinions for her bright and forceful rendering of Glory Quayle; Miss Alice Maude made a dignified but kindly Mrs. Callender; Miss Gladys Vernon, as Polly Love, quickly gained the sympathy of the audience; and the Misses Grace Baring and Kate Lee admirably undertook the two "backsliders," Black Meg and Mother Kent. Mr. John H. Batson's impersonation of Father Lamplugh had much to commend it, and his acting throughout was keenly appreciated; Archdeacon Wealthy was delineated with reverence and dignity by Mr. W. Mallalieu; Lord Robert Ure received ample justice at the hands of Mr. G. Montague Lane; and Mr. Edward Ouston proved a clever exponent of the repentant Horatio Drake; Mr. F. Russell Kirkley making the most of the exhortative parent, Lord Storm.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre.—Patrons are this week regaled with the American novelty, *A Millionaire Tramp*. Mr. Herbert Lloyd has secured a company which gets all possible out of the piece.

His Majesty's.—*When We Were Twenty-One* is being produced this week by Messrs. Frank G. Bayley and Arthur Eldred's company, and is receiving much appreciation. This production introduces us to a very good company. The principals, Mr. F. G. Bayley as Richard Carewe and Mr. A. Eldred as the Imp, are ably supported by Miss Margaret Yarde as Firefly, and by the rest of the company.

The Tivoli.—Chas. Fisher's Pocket Opera Company takes first place here this week. These three singers render very effectively the best known parts of *Il Trovatore*. Alf Chester, comedian, and Rozel, on the rope, receive much applause. The bill throughout is a very attractive one.

New Hippodrome.—There is no diminution of the crowds which nightly flock to this living picture exhibition. The film When Casey Joined the Lodge is screamingly funny, and for those whose chief delight is a good laugh no better entertainment could possibly be provided. Legerdemain by Vanbert is a further contribution to the long programme.

BARRY DOCK.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—*The Prodigal Parson* is being presented here. Mr. Logan Darra as the Rev. Tom Godley sustains the rôle with ability; Miss Violet Hammersley plays Fern Godley on excellent lines; Mr. Alfred Northway does full justice to the heavy part of Enoch Jaggins; Mr. Charles Ashwell plays Ben Jaggins in a capable manner; Mr. Walter Vincent does well as Ned Kettlepin; and Miss Enid Edoni and Mr. Owen Remonde as Gretchen and Phil Drive respectively are really excellent.

BATH.—Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Strassburger's Midgets, comprising three ladies and two gentlemen, are providing a versatile entertainment this week, the little folk causing much interest and plenty of amusement. That brilliant violinist Miss Edie Reynolds meets with a remarkably favourable reception; the Bartholomew Girls score a success in their military and Irish duets and dances; the Gregson Comedy Trio once again create hilarity in their comic act, *The Dummy*. Rosie Everette, comedienne, also appears.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*The Coal King*, which is being played here by Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and company, is admirably staged and produced. The Lancashire dialect and infectious laughter of Mr. Sam Roberts as Jim Williams make him a great favourite; Mr. Ulick Burke as Sir Reginald (the Coal King) comes in for much applause, and Mr. Geo. Hanbury, who undertakes the difficult rôle of the schemer, is amply rewarded by the hisses from pit and gallery; Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's natural impersonation of the true man—Tom Roberts—is much appreciated; Miss Winifred Love gains sympathy as Grace Shirley; Miss Max Hinton is a pretty and vivacious Araminta Green; Miss Joan Wellman plays the trying part of Mad Ann with conspicuous success, and Miss Lucy Cato is good as Mrs. Baker.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The return visit of the musical comedy, *The Dairymaids*, has afforded much pleasure to the patrons of this theatre. Presented by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's capital company, which includes Miss Phyllis Dare, the piece met with great success on Monday. Miss Dare assumed the rôle of Peggy in a delightful manner, and her reception was something to be proud of. Her songs, The Sandow Girl" and "Hello, little stranger," won immense favour. As Joe Mivens Mr. Harry Dent was simply inimitable, his humour being fairly irresistible; and a most charming interpretation of Winifred was submitted by Miss Gladys Ivery; Miss Edith Blanche deserves praise for her clever impersonation of Lady Brudenell, and Miss Marjorie Manners was good as Helene; a capital impersonation of the stern schoolmistress, Penelope Pychase, was submitted by Mrs. Rose Edouin Lewis, and a more diverting impersonation of Sam Brudenell than that of Mr. E. Statham Staples could scarcely be desired; Miss Lottie Sarjeant, an accomplished comedienne, was exceedingly droll as Eliza, and Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., appeared to advantage as Lieut. Frank Meredith, R.N.; Mr. Percy Marshall was admirable as Dr. O'Byrne, R.N. The full chorus and augmented orchestra were under the skilful direction of Mr. Arthur Wood.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The Tally Ho Trio top the bill, and with comedy and vocalism have been most successful. Mr. Frank Fenton stages *Only an Actor*, in which his capital acting calls for more than ordinary praise; Baby Vi Davis, vocalist, exhibits remarkable ability for one so young; and the feats of Lazern, magician, are really marvellous; the droll songs of Mr. J. G. Aitken, Scotch comedian, keep the audience highly amused; and Miss Ethel Whiteside, with her piccaninnies, provides a capital entertainment consisting of vocalism and dancing; the Zaid Trio appear in their clever Oriental speciality, and the programme is completed by Selby and Myers, comedians, and the Palace pictures.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The first appearance in Belfast of Zena Vevey, in her vocal scena, *My Lady's Bower*, must be chronicled as a great success. Miss Vevey, who is the happy possessor of a fine voice, is assisted by Herr Max Errard, composer and conductor, and not a little of the triumph of the scena is due to his efforts. The Lorch Family appear in their marvellous acrobatic performance, their feats being startling in the extreme; the Great Weiland is aptly described as America's funniest juggler, there being nothing but laughter while he occupies the stage; and Miss Mabel Thorne is a delightful comedienne with fine songs; Alice Hughes and company appear to advantage in their musical comedietta, *Star of the Bazaar*, and Mr. Johnny Dwyer is a capital comedian who knows how to please an audience. Also here are Baby Bowden, vocalist and dancer; Tremel and Fremel, eccentrics; Archie Pitt, comedian, and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The star here is Mr. Neil Kenyon, the droll Scotch comedian, whose songs have created the heartiest laughter. The Norman Leonard Trio return with their musical act, *The Itinerant*, which is always welcome; and a hit has been made by the Herald Comedy Four with their droll comedy and capital singing; Mr. Will Man plays a number of musical instruments with much cleverness; and Little Ganty's comic songs have been hugely enjoyed; Boden and Bell, juvenile duettists, take well, and Miss Madge May is a charming comedienne. The Bioscope, under the direction of Mr. McGibney, exhibits some capital films.

New Alhambra Theatre. — General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—This old-established theatre is still achieving great success with the new programme submitted. Under the watchful eye of Mr. Will White nothing is left undone to merit this gratifying support. This week, under the direction of Mr. Cecil Wilson, another new set of views are being exhibited, including The Lottery Ticket, Unknown Talent, The Miser, The Suffragette, Pony Express, &c. Also appearing are Mr. Syd Herman, a droll Hebrew dialect comedian; and Gilroy and Gros, clever comedians, whose patter is certainly most amusing.

BILSTON.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—*London With the Lid Off* is the title of the piece presented here this week by Mr. Stanley Carlton's company. Mr. William G. Marshall plays the part of Gratton Gale, the blind burglar, in a masterly manner; Miss R. Hamilton Balesco and Miss Charlotte E. Bellinger are very good as Mrs. Glendale and Sarah Shafto; Miss Amy Ellam is successful as Madge Randall, the lady detective; and Miss Rubie Maude wins sympathy as Aston Bell. The humorous element is well sustained by Mr. Lancelot Usher (Percy Plunker), and Miss Emily Lewis (Dolly).

BIRKENHEAD. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—A return visit from Mr. Frank Bertram's company with *The Breed of the Treshams* has been attended with excellent results. On the present occasion Mr. Sydney Bland is the representative of Lieut. Reresby, "the rat," and wins high eulogium by his portrayal; Viscount Dorsington is finely played by Mr. Alfred Holles; Mr. W. R. Winning gives an effective rendering of Col. Clement Hungerford, Colonel Curwen is well impersonated by Mr. George Traill, and the Hon. Francis Tresham is cleverly embodied by Mr. Howard Brenan; as the Hon. Margaret Hungerford Miss Mildred Hodson is admirably suited, playing the part with much acceptance; Miss Grace Harlington is a capital Batty, and Miss Madge Cottier, as Mrs. Bagshaw, and Miss Dorothy Duncan as Helena Pierrepoint are both excellent in their respective impersonations.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Ching Lung Soo, the marvellously expert Chinese magician, is again here, and his clever and imposing show is unmistakably the attraction of the evening; Les Voces, talented operatic duettists, are also an agreeable feature, and the Firmans in their sketch, *The Fire Station*; Mr. Victor Travers, eccentric comedian; the Brothers Dean, exceptionally smart dancers; Mr. Will Musgrave, a good comedian; Carozi and Keith, comedy jugglers; Miss Leoni Dixon, a charming comedienne; and Martini and Son, with illustrated songs, are all prominent successes.

Olympian Gardens, Rock Ferry.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—An entire change of company introduces Harry Leslie's Comedy Cadets, Jim Pullin (Lancashire comedian), Miss Rene (comedienne), Blanko White (American comedian and dancer), George Curzon (baritone vocalist), Miss Annie Coxen (contralto), Vernon Noble (light comedian), and Mr. Fred Shepherd (pianist). Business is excellent.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Christian* (new version) is once more the attraction here, creditably presented by Mr. Wentworth Croke. The John Storm of Mr. Henry Renouf is a performance of fine merit, and elicits the most favourable of receptions; Miss Doris Gilham puts a clever and highly-enthralling portrayal of Glory Quayle to her credit; Mr. Oswald Marshall is successful as Horatio Drake; Mr. George R. Montford gives a suave and polished study of Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Edward Ling puts earnestness and dignity into the character of Father Lamplugh; Mr. C. E. Turpin lends full play to the traits of Archdeacon Wealthy; and Mr. Arthur E. Maskell, Miss Sinna St. Clair, Miss Margaret Brodie, Miss Alice Leigh, and others play with vigour and also with discretion.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Widowers' Houses*, preceded by *Gentlemen of the Road*, formed the attraction here on Monday, since when *The Return of the Prodigal* and *The Postern Gate*, and *David Ballard* and *The Subjection of Kezia* have been played on respectively Thursday and Friday evenings. The company, which is Miss Horniman's, is excellently constituted, and is under the direction of Mr. B. Iden Payne, who, in *Widowers' Houses*, played Lickcheese in a manner that left nothing to be desired; Miss Penelope Wheeler acted as Blanche in quite the "Shavian" spirit; Mr. Jules Shaw was likewise true to the part of Sartorius; Mr. Chas. Bibby was successful in his efforts to amuse as Cokane; Mr. Lewis Casson deserved encomiums as Harry French; Miss Louise Holbrook and Messrs. Basil Dean and Leonard Mudie completed an excellent cast.

Alexandra Theatre. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*The Woman Who Gambles*, with Mr. Morton Powell's company, takes the public well here. Miss Edith Wallis, in the titular rôle, the Countess Natalie Steinbach, acquits herself with fine passion and feeling; Miss Doris Pass secures much sympathy with her clever presentment of the persecuted heroine, Cora Gouldhart; Mr. Clifford Kean makes a very popular hero as Count Otto; Mr. Norman A. Overton proves a powerful villain as Baron Cratzlaw; Mr. Reginald Fox declaims finely in the part of the friend, Lieut. Carl Ctzarteriski; Miss Brenda May is a fascinating maid as Zanette; and others who score are Mr. Victor T. Raymond, Mr. Reginald Oldroyd, Miss Lillian Rignold, Miss Lily Malvern, &c.

Metropole Theatre. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Her Marriage Vow* is meeting with favourable reception here, with Messrs. Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles's company. Both named are in the cast, Mr. Garside as Gilbert Carlton, and Mr. Knowles as Ned Benton, putting all their well-known powers into these respective characters; Miss Helena Walbram as Kate Walters is a stage heroine that appeals successfully to all hearts; Mr. Edwin J. Collins is quite equal to the part of Daffy Dan; Mr. John W. Ryder undertakes the rôle of Walters most creditably; Miss Nelly Shirley is distinctly good as Hester Norton; Miss Winifred Barton is popular as Maggie Clare; and Mr. Dan Ryan as that "broth of a bhoy," Larry Leary, is responsible for many merry moments.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley. — Licensee and Manager Mr James Alexander.—*The New East Lynne*, furnished by Mr. W. W. Kelly, has proved positively irresistible to Saltley playgoers, tears, cheers, and laughter overtaking each other in quick succession. Miss Laura Hansen's portrayal of the ill-starred Isabel is exquisitely drawn; Mr. Frederick Harker is a dignified and withal sympathetic Carlyle; Mr. W. H. Garbois invests the despicable qualities of Levison with admirable point; Mr. Byron Pedley relieves the intensity of the play with some welcome and clever comic relief as Murty O'Flynn; and the others are successful, including Miss Sophy Shinton, Miss Nellie Lucas, Miss Amy Manfree, Miss Ivy Jackson, Mr. Cole Aspinall, and Mr. M. Talbot.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*In the Midst of Life*, with Mr. Chas. V. Sandford's company, is playing to good houses here. The rôle of David Armstrong is played on excellent lines by Mr. Guy Hastings, his diction being notable; Mr. Sydney T. Pease plays with commendable energy as Henry Gernison; Mr. Hal Charlton gives a meritorious rendering of Sir John Rosmead; Mr. Sandford's ability in the part of Richard Dixon is cordially recognised; Mr. John S. Chamberlain submits a clever study in character as Captain Bargery; Miss Maud Linden acts like a heroine of true womanly feeling as Margaret Grey; Miss Elsie Forster makes an acceptable part of Sybil; Miss Alice Heather is good as Lady Rosmead; and Mr. Edgar J. Coyne as Joe Drummond and Miss Madge Beresford as Molly are specially bright and humorous.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Two Lancashire Lasses in London*, presented by Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer, has drawn plenty of patronage hither. Mr. Herbert Pearson imparts a natural manliness to the character of John Edmonds which is very pleasing; Mr. Chris. Mason fills the rôle of Samuel Hallett admirably and consistently; Mr. E. Rayson-Cousens acts well without overdoing the part of the Rev. Frank Selby; Mr. Fred Morgan scores well as Jonas Deane; Mr. Harry V. Mann as the partner, Langley, does well; Miss Marguerite Trevosper gives an ideal representation of Bessie Edmunds; and the child, Lucy, is nicely played by Miss Marie Longden. The Misses Rosslyn Vayne and Alice Defoe account satisfactorily for "the lassees"; and Miss Evelyn Shaw is excellent as Jane Adelaide Bloomfield.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The Donaldson Bros. are here with their game-hunting burlesque *Sports in a Jungle*, which is very funny. J. W. Rickaby was loudly applauded for his eccentric songs; Pip and Powell have a smart duologue, *A Perfect Woman*; the King's College Boys give a "Students' Concert," which is well received; Hallem and Hayes were well applauded for their turn, their dancing being far above the average; Mena Brae sings and dances in her usual merry Dutch style; and Nora Emerald, comedienne; a dramatic sketch, *The Organ-grinder*; and Edward Clark and his winning widows are in the bill.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The excellent programme provided here is headed by Queenie Leighton, whose catchy songs are delightfully rendered and loudly applauded. The dancing of Bonnie Goodwin's Four Real Apollo Piccaninnies is exceptionally smart; the athletic world introduce Bert Wickham, whose marvellous feats of strength are much admired; while the Three Orros have a good gymnastic display. *Told in a Flat* is a bright comedy sketch; Ralph and Nellie Howard have a pleasing musical entertainment which was highly appreciated; and other popular turns are the New Macs, Carl Rosine and Mlle. Margaret in an illusion, and Andy Burns, comedian.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Another big bill of excellent turns is provided here, the foremost being Star and Leslie, whose humour is most enjoyable. The Bros. Martine are clever on the xylophone; Grahame and Harrington Lane have a smart Parisian episode, *A Daughter of Pleasure*; Clown Barker and Rozska, Kendrick and Laura, the Bethos, Ajax and George, Herbert Rule, and W. T. Thompson and company in the sketch *Watch the Cheese* are all good turns.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Owen.—There is an excellent programme here. *A Society Woman*, a sketch presented by Alan Holt's company, being a big turn, while the acting all round was good. Woodhouse and Wells are very funny comedians, as also are Farr and Farland. Millie Denham is a charming comedienne, and Edgar Budden and Harry Taylor and Sylvia are well applauded.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Harry Tilbury's company occupies the boards here this week in *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. Victor Rae gives a creditable portrayal of Frank Lindon; Mr. Fred Owen displays his detective powers as Neil Locksley in grand style; as Lord Devant Mr. Horatio Sinclair proves most capable, and his accomplice (Tom Redman) is well presented by Mr. Bernard Webb; Mr. Harry Tilbury keeps the house in merriment as Micky Doolan, and the same might be said of Miss Etta Spalding as Araminta. Miss Arline T. George is particularly effective as Alice Harvey, and little Miss Phyllis gives a characteristic rendering of Mabel Lindon; Miss Belle Tilbury wins the hearts of all by her charming acting as Florence Lindon.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Sir John Hare is paying his last visit to Blackpool this week, and although the utmost enthusiasm prevails at every performance, there is naturally a touch of sadness in the air. During the early part of the week *A Pair of Spectacles* was the attraction, when Sir John repeated his world-famed impersonation of the benevolent Benjamin Goldfinch, and Mr. Charles Groves was equally successful as Uncle Gregory; Miss Mona K. Oram was delightfully natural as Mrs. Goldfinch, and Miss Amy Brandon Thomas pleasingly portrayed Lucy Lorimer. The other parts are also in the most capable hands. *The Gay Lord Quex* was in the bill for the latter part of the week, and *Caste* is to be played on Saturday.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Seymour Hicks and company are packing this popular house to overflowing every evening this week. *The Gay Gordons* is exactly suited to the palate of the holiday-makers, with which the town is now crowded. Mr. Hicks is a big favourite in Blackpool, and his Angus Graeme is equal to anything he has done before—which is saying a great deal. A capital comedian is Mr. Johnny Danvers, who plays Nervy Nat, and Mr. George Carroll is the right man for Edmund Sidons. Miss Zena Dare sings and dances nicely as Peggy; while Miss Madge Vincent as Victoria Sidons and Miss Nellie Dade as Charlotte Siddons also merit the highest commendation. A capital dancer is Mr. Will Bishop, who plays Jack McPhrisky. The chorus, dresses, and scenery are excellent.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Eugene Stratton tops a big holiday bill here this week, and his quaint characterisations again meet with marked approval. The Bros. Ashley contribute a sketch; Steve Bartle is a capable concertina soloist; Burley and Burley are clever acrobats; Harris and Worth find favour as comedians; Frank Hartley is a smart juggler; Florrie Forde is retained because of her great success last week; and George French is here for the same reason.

Hippodrome.—Manageress, Mrs. Fioni.—Pete and Juno, comedians, Patta Bella, vocalist, and the Bros. Harrison, comedians, are engaged here this week.

North Pier.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. James Walker.—A capital entertainment is provided here this week by Mr. Foden Williams, society entertainer; Mr. Richard Taylor, silfleur, ventriloquist, and mimic; Mr. Teddy Whittle, humorist; Mr. Hyam Long, musical humorist; Master W. Hyslop boy soprano; and Mr. Alfred Ainsworth, pianist.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company has fulfilled a successful engagement here in the drama entitled *A Broken Heart*. In the principal rôle of John Barnard, Mr. Frank Beresford plays in a vigorous manner; Mr. George M. Newall is good as the young man of fortune, Stephen Raylton; Mr. Herbert Barrs assumes the character of Gash Gills with ability; Mr. P. M. Wright is satisfactory as the Rev. Stainton; Mr. George Addison gives a good piece of character acting as Shrimps *alias* the Ostrich; and Miss Shella Walsh as Mary Barnard plays with artistic ability.

Gaiety.—Lessee, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baugh.—Heading the bill here this week we have Mr. J. H. Milburn, the popular vocal comedian and burlesque actor; France and Francis are clever comedy acrobats; Palette and his dog Max are very amusing; Fred Mayne supplies a humorous turn; Fern and Fawn have a laughable sketch, *The Conqueror*; and the Three Gilbeys are instrumentalists of merit.

The Hippodrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Doyle and O'Connell.—The engagement of Kennedy's Kiddies, comprising twelve clever juveniles, has proved a strong attraction here, and the pictures shown continue popular.

BOLTON. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—An original mystery drama, *The Girl With The Angel Face*, is the attraction here this week. The play is presented by an excellent company (Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Millard's). Miss Florrie Green plays the title-part with such ability as repeatedly to call forth the execrations of the audience; Mr. Fred G. Evison displays a fine piece of character acting as Jasper Death, a former village sexton; Mr. Naylor Grimson is responsible for the dual part of Sir John Wentworth and Thomas Wentworth; Miss Phyllis Dailley is clever as Ena Wentworth; Miss Mildred Carr proves herself a capable comedienne in the character of Mollie Maitland; and others worthy of note are Mr. Cecil Mannering as the Rev. Gordon Cross; Mr. Allen Charles as the Hon. Percy Paget; Mr. Forbes Leighton as Matthew Crupps; Mr. Austin Mortimer as Stephen Arkwright; Mr. Fenton Wingate as Mark Fenning, and Miss Winifred Delevanti as Nellie.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Big houses have this week welcomed the return of the musical sketch *Dotty*, by the Ten Loonies, mad musicians; another item in an excellent programme is a spectacular and mystic production, entitled *Outflanked*, in which Mr. Henry Coutts, protean actor, makes some remarkably quick changes. Also in the bill are Mr. Will Freedo, comedian and dancer; Mike Cray, comedy juggler, and his dog Dooley; A. G. Spry, Anglo-Australian comedian; McDonald and Huntingdon, eccentric entertainers; Harry Barrett and Jack Knowles, versatile comedians; Alec Kendal, comedian and patterer, and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Nothing succeeds like success, and *The Merry Widow*, as presented by Mr. George Edwardes's company, is an illustration of the axiom. The play was most cordially received on Monday night, when a packed house demanded calls at the end of each act. Miss Clara Evelyn as Sonia was a conspicuous success, her acting being finished and graceful, and her singing delightful; Mr. Basil Foster played the part of Danilo with rare skill; Miss Mary Grey's fine voice was heard to great advantage in the character of Natalie, which she played and dressed with exquisite taste; as Baron Popoff Mr. Lionel Victor is fitted with a part which suits him admirably, and gives him full opportunity to display his undoubted humour; Mr. Grafton Williams as Novikovitch and Mr. Albert Kavanagh as Nisch were delightfully droll. Mention must be made of the valuable services rendered by Mr. Harrison Frewin, the musical director.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Williams the farcical comedy of *Dear Old Charlie* was presented for the first time here on Monday, when a large audience assembled and entered heartily into the humour of the situations. As Charles Ingleton Mr. George Lestocq is very amusing; Mr. S. Trelawney as the gloomy bore, Thomas Dumpie, and Mr. C. Douglas Cox as Gabriel Peploe contribute largely to the fun of the piece; the pompous Colonel Fishbourne is capitally played by Mr. Duncan Young; Miss Leonard Braham in the part of his showy wife

various companies now appearing at the several places of amusement in the town.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company opened here on Monday with *Under Two Flags*, and has been doing excellent business. Owing to indisposition Miss Molesworth was unable to appear as Cigarette, but the part was admirably sustained by Miss Agnes Verity; Mr. Mark Blow as Bertie Cecil Royellieu, afterwards known as Louis Victor, achieved distinct success; Mr. Austen Mulroy was excellent as Lord Rockingham; Mr. Arthur Elwyn did well as Colonel Chanteroy, the Black Hawk; Mr. Dermot Fitz-Gibbon was suited as Lord Royellieu; Mr. Harry Benson proved very entertaining as the valet, Rake; Miss Kitty Saville was a pleasing Lavina; and the remaining characters were ably sustained.

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—Malcolm Scott, "the woman who knows," evokes hearty laughter with his amusing patter; Sam Mayo, "the immobile one," is very humorous; Sterling and Love are highly successful in *A Domestic Musical Squabble;* Chummie La Mara's songs are warmly appreciated; Takio, a Japanese mimic, is well received; the Leytons are smart as "Bertie and the Barmaid"; Ina Lorimer is a pleasing comedienne; Ray and Lingard are entertaining in the comedy duologue, *The First of April;* George Fairburn is a capital comedian; and the Alhambrascope pictures are excellent.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Lafayette, "America's foremost entertainer," gives a clever and very amusing turn, replete with marvellous illusions; Marcel and Boris are smart equilibrists; Harry Friskey is an amusing comedy juggler; Carlton, comedian and card manipulator, wins cordial applause; Mlle. Edwin is a skilful contortionist; W. Fulbrook and company are well received in *Astronomy;* Dolly Rose is a dainty comedienne and dancer; the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here this week with *Lady Frederick.* Mrs. Brown Potter submits an artistic and charming impersonation of Lady Frederick Berolles; Mr. Philip Cunningham gives an excellent portrayal of Paradine Fouldes; Mr. Herbert Garthorne acquits himself admirably as Lord Mereston; Miss Phyllis Menners is well suited as the dressmaker, Mme. Claude. The play is attracting large audiences.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Miss Annie Hughes and her company, opening their second week here on Monday, gave a capital performance of *Miss Tommy.* Miss Hughes presented a delightful enactment of the title-rôle, and won frequent and hearty applause; Mr. Evelyn Vernon was very effective as Peter Hope; Mr. Alick Chumley submitted a good impersonation of William Clodd; Miss Athol Stewart was excellent as Dick Danvers; and Miss Elinor Foster gave an able rendering of the part of "Mr. Morrison."

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The exhibition of animated pictures here continues to draw good houses. The films, The Territorials Under Canvas at Hollingbury Camp and The Court Physician are excellent, descriptive, and thrilling; and others meriting especial recognition are The Gladiators' Fight, the Haunted Castle, A Mother's Secret, and The Lottery Ticket. Miss Violet Tulley contributes capital illustrated songs.

HOVE TOWN HALL.—The London Animated Picture Company's exhibition here continues to do good business. The portrayal of the Ober-Ammergau Passion Play is an especial feature.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. Leslie Faber and his company are here for the week. On Monday evening *The Liars* was played to a good house. Mr. Faber presented a convincing performance of Colonel Sir Christopher Deering; Miss Winifred Arthur Jones acted admirably as Lady Jessica Nepean; Miss Ethelwyn Arthur-Jones was pleasing as Lady Rosamond Tatton; Mr. Lewis Willoughby was sufficiently fervent and expressive as Edward Falkner; Mr. Walter Gregory and Mr. Frank Bickley did well as Gilbert and George Nepean; and the remaining parts were all carefully played by the Misses Elizabeth Watson, Hilda Moore, May Saker, Beatrice Ainley, Messrs. Richard Neville, Jerold Manville, Frank Lathom, John Moorhead, and George Stretton. *The Manœuvres of Jane* and *The Head of the Firm* were also billed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*The Midnight Mail* is being well played here by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company. Mr. George Havard acts admirably as Harry Steyne; Miss Trissie Humphreys is pleasing as Mary Steyne; Mr. Charles Carte presents a highly creditable impersonation of Billy Brewer; Miss Daisy Clifford does well as Nancy Brewer; and other important parts are well acted by Mr. Charles H. Longden, Mr. J. Mann, and Miss Jeannie Weston. The play is staged in a very effective manner.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Master Edward Garratt is amusing as the Little Stranger in the racing sketch, *An Outside Chance,* and is well supported by other members of the company. The Jackley Trio score with a pot-pourri speciality; Alex Prince is a clever concertina soloist; the Lyric Mummers, vocal duologue artists, are successful; Maud Prenton is a pleasing comedienne; Sam Spira, society entertainer, is successful; and Madge Allan is a capable comedienne and dancer. The performance concludes with a good selection of animated pictures by Vernon's Bioscope.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Charcot succeeds in mystifying the audience with his "automatic man"; Henry Barnes and company present a good act, *The School of Dancing;* the Six Idols being exceptionally clever dancers; Queenie May is a pleasing character-vocalist; Eva Hope and company score in selections from Dickens; Angus Strong, baritone vocalist, is successful; Mabel Carr is a capable comedienne; and the Geoffs successfully present a smart comedy sketch. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

BROUGHTON. — VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*The Great Awakening* was welcomed by a full house on Monday, when Miss Maud Hildyard made an admirable Lola Selby; Mr. Stephen Langton ably assisted as Guy Rogan; James Selby was well played by Mr. Wallis Clark; Mr. Cecil Gray did well in the dual capacity of Sir Harry Merton and his son; Mr. Rule Pyott as Billy Brass and Miss Cissy Podmore as Selina Worts capably sustained the comedy parts; Mr. Dudley Wynton adequately presented Captain Harry Lambert; and a charming Molly Merton was that by Miss Fay Garnet-Vayne. Mr. David Curtis, Mr. Tracy Barrow, Mr. Godfrey Sheldon, Mr. Eric Dane, Mr. T. Bancroft, and Mr. Edwin Gordon did well in their several characters. The scenery was excellent.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. De Hague Body.—Messrs. Elliman's company, with *A Heart's Desire,* is here for the week. Miss Lily Prescott as the half-caste heroine gives a successful rendition of that somewhat original part; Miss Gertrude Gilman is a pleasing Elsie Beresford; Mr. R. F. Stacey acts with spirit and pathos as Lord St. Ives; as does also Mr. Archie Ainsleigh (Eric). A villain of the most pronounced type is Mr. Edward Leroy (Luke Forest); and an amusing quartette are Mr. J. Mitchell (Bertie), Mr. John Hames (Coombes), Miss Blanche Leroy (Gwendoline), and Miss N. S. Malone (Julie). The two latter contribute graceful dances.

BURY (LANCS.). — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The programme here for the "Wakes" week is a capital one. Large crowds have patronised the show, which includes Minnie Kaufmann, the clever trick cyclist; the Mirthful Mariners (Will Probyn and company) in a nautical burlesque; Chinko, the juggler; Clive Watts, comedian and dancer; Fitzroys, gymnasts; Fraser and French, dancers; Nellie Walton, singing mill girl; Nancy Renshaw, laughing comedienne; and the Ottograph pictures.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The pictures are again very interesting this week. The chief ones are Summer Months in North Europe, A Cruel Joke, Catching a Tartar, Oh, that Boil, and Stolen Boots. Variety turns are given by J. S. James, banjoist and bone soloist, and the Russels, American song illustrators.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Sons.—A capital programme includes the Foy Brothers and company in a sketch, *Pat in China;* the L.C.C.'s, musicians who play on novel instruments; Mr. Henri Vernon Harcourt, protean actor; Harry Blake, comedian; Pat O'Connor, step dancer; Hilda de Grey, burlesque actress; Jack Foley, comedian; the Camerons, comedians; and Louie Hurman, vocalist.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Buxton Gardens Company, Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—The first three nights of this week were devoted to a return visit of *The Hypocrites,* played by Mr. Silvanus Dauncey's company. As the Rev. Edgar Linnell Mr. A. B. Imeson proved himself an actor of exceptional ability, and well suited to the part; Mr. Wilmore was very ably played by Mr. Alfred S. Barber; a capital sketch of the son, Lennard Wilmore, came from Mr. King Fordham, and Mr. Charles Harley gave a spirited picture of Mr. Viveash, the family lawyer; Mr. Cecil Brooking was typically clerical as Rev. Everard Daubeney, and Mr. Sydney Hamilton played effectively as Sir John Plugenet; Mr. Hanworth Browning stage-managed and played Dr. Blaney; Miss Gladys Harvey acted with charm and power as the ill-fated Rachel Neve, and Miss Gladys Purnell played nicely as Helen Plugenet; Miss Florence Steventon was amusing as the busybody, Mrs. Blaney, and Miss Madge Severne played efficiently her small part of Mrs. Linnell; Miss Violet Harley was successful as Patty; Miss Amy Ravenscroft must be given unstinted praise for her excellent and artistic work as Mrs. Wilmore. For the remainder of the week we had Mr. James Welch and company in *When Knights were Bold.*

CARDIFF. — NEW THEATRE. — Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Most popular has proved this week's visit of *The Beloved Vagabond,* for the excellent representation of which Mr. Mouillot's No. 1 company is responsible. The piece has been remodelled since its production by Mr. Tree at His Majesty's. A fourth act has been added, and the ending of the piece is now in conformity with that of the novel. Mr. Arthur Royston undertakes the rôle of Gaston de Nerac, and depicts with exceptional skill the various moods and exhilarating adventures of the philosophic Bohemian. Miss Nita Faydon achieves great success by her perfect rendition of Blanquette, a part which seems particularly suitable for this gifted actress; Miss Kathleen Harrington displays much ability by her handling of the rôle of Joanna; Mr. Ramsey Macbeth's histrionic powers are given full scope in the character of Asticot; the Comte de Verneul is portrayed by Mr. Warburton Gamble with a regard for details which denotes the true actor; and the impersonation of Lord Rushworth by Mr. Alfred Drayton is the work of an artist of experience. The staging of the play is admirable.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Mr. George Robey is paying a more than welcome return visit this week, and on Monday night two crammed houses accorded the popular comedian a hearty reception. A clever sketch, entitled *The Boatswain's Mate,* is presented by T. B. Vaughan and John Lawson's company in humorous fashion; a great favourite is Miss Ethel Haydon, who sang her numbers so sweetly as to evoke enthusiasm; Gus Garrick proves himself a comedian of undeniable merit; Tennyson and Wallis, patter comedians and dancers, cause considerable fun; Frank Bernard and company are first class in a comedy act entitled *Hello!* and Bert Weston is an excellent comedian. The Sisters Grovini are graceful and clever gymnasts; Maggie Rimmer, singer and dancer; and a bioscopic film complete.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Rollo Balmain.—The second week under the new management has been crowned with even greater success. The piece in evidence is *Driven From Home,* an exceptionally strong drama, presented by Andrew Melville's capable company. Mr. George Beresford fills the rôle of Walter Hatherleigh with credit; in Mr. Charles Burdon the part of Geoffrey has a smart exponent; and Mr. Felix Pitt is admirably suited as Anthony Raybrook. Miss Nancy Roberts enacts the part of Laura Raybrook in artistic style; Miss Edith Leslie as Margaret Bailey is greatly admired; and Miss Lizzie Ingles deerves praise for her rendering of Barbara Ashdown. Jabez Thomas is safe in the hands of Mr. Harry Cornwall; and Mr. Fred C. Imbert is a successful John Anderson. Mr. Edward Finlay (Dick Saunders) and Mr. Percy Dawsone (Willie) are worthy of mention.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Big audiences have been drawn during the week. The Six Brothers Luck fill a very large proportion of the entertainment, appearing in two of their best sketches, *The Hermit* and *Lift 'Ems, Ltd.* The amusing combination prove quite up to expectations. The Kremka Brothers are a duo of particularly smart acrobats; Irene and Morton do well in their clever comedy interlude; an extra turn is given by Bert Maddison, a Welsh character impersonator, who naturally takes well in Cardiff; and other turns are contributed by Georgina Middleton, a dainty vocalist; Millie Howell, a refined character singer; and Alpho, a clever ventriloquist.

LARGE audiences assembled on Monday to show Cardiffians' appreciation of the first year's existence of the Palace, that day being the anniversary of the opening. In the absence of the lessee, Mr. Arthur Burton expressed his principal's thanks for the support given him during the previous twelve months.

CARLISLE.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—This week Mr. Harry Foxwell's company fills the bill with *An Abandoned Woman.* Miss Ruth Zillwood, who appears in the principal rôle, gains well-deserved appreciation and applause; Mr. Teddy Myles, as the comedy Policeman, evokes laughter; Mr. Herbert M. King contributes a sound performance as Captain Seaton; and Mr. Frederick Hendry is quite successful as Sir Marmaduke Seaton; and Mr. Wm. Fraser-Brunner makes the heavy part conspicuous.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, who tops the bill this week, is paying his first visit here; the Hartley Wonders are the "last word" in a jumping act; Henry Hilton is a conjuror with a nice style and good tricks; Hicks and Hunter contribute a laughable comedy act; and Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire mill-girl, sings her way into favour. Cambo, the musical monkey, is quite at home on quite a variety of instruments; Arthur Melrose is an excellent comedian; and some fine pictures by the Pepiscope complete.

PUBLIC HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Sidney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas France; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—That excellent film, Napoleon and the English Soldier, is the principal attraction submitted by the Edison Animated Picture Company, and is attracting good audiences.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman, J.P.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott are here on a second week's visit, and opened on Monday to a large audience with *A Stolen Birthright.* The company are thoroughly capable and the scenery quite adequate. Mr. Draycott appears in the rôle of Stefano and makes a great success with a clever and telling reading; Mrs. Draycott's portrayal of Princess Miranda also merits much praise; the knavery of Count Marco loses none of its sinister effect at the hands of Mr. George Arthur; Mr. George Steel's impersonation of Prince Andrea is admirable throughout; Mr. Charles H. Herberte is noticeable for good work as Prince Antonio, and Mr. Wilfred J. Short is thoroughly in his element as Prince Michele; Miss Eva Norman sings effectively, and is a dainty and charming Nita; with his quaint and humorous business Mr. Harry Scratchard causes much laughter as Pedro; Miss Issa Steel makes the most of her part as Fidella; and Mr. Harry Hazell makes a capital sergeant. Other plays billed for the week are *The Colleen Bawn, The Octoroon,* and *The Ticket of Leave Man.*

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manger, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The entertaining programme here finds favour with appreciative audiences. De Vere's Marionettes score a decided success; Nellie Nord on many musical instruments contributes an enjoyable turn; the Loyal Dominion Co. furnish some amusing, instructive, and interesting living pictures, which are vastly enjoyed.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Corman's Juveniles are scoring in their scena, *The Waif,* the best individual effort being that of a little girl who sings "Sunset turns the ocean's blue to gold." Tom Garland has a novel and well-worked ventriloquial act, and also submits a conjuring entertainment under the name of Bert Anderson; the Sisters Clifton are applauded for their skipping-rope dance; a turn out of the ordinary is provided by the Hughes Brothers Trio, in a football match on bicycles, which is greatly appreciated; Flo Chevalier renders her songs in a sweet voice; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley appear with success in a merry little trifle, entitled *Betsy's Blunder;* O'Malley and Brown, the popular comedians, are responsible for a laughable ten minutes; and Vernon's Bioscope projects an entire change of films weekly.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—Messrs. A. Northway and W. V. Garrod's excellent company is appearing here this week in the new play entitled *A Country Girl in London.* The drama is of exceptional merit, and the scenery (by Mr. E. Egerton) and mounting particularly well done. Mr. W. V. Garrod represents Frank Gordon in his usual masterly style, Mr. J. B. Sheridan doing exceedingly well as Mr. John Hamilton; Godfrey Clinton is rendered in effective and telling manner by Mr. G. Moreton Williams, while Mr. E. W. Avery as Heinrich Oppenheim and Mr. Clifford Marle as Joe Smithers are very capable; Marjorie Hamilton is sympathetically played by Miss B. Kingston, Miss Josephine Colona giving a charming and powerful interpretation of Gwendoline Gordon; and Miss Lesley Adair is well placed as Adelaide Puddyphat.

CLACTON-ON-SEA. — PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Harold Montague; Business-Manager, Mr. G. Ivor Sparke.—Harold Montague and his Vagabonds are performing to large and appreciative audiences here. Mr. Montague keeps the house in roars with his item, *The Choral Society.* With Miss Olive Sparke he introduces some clever duets. The latter lady charmingly renders "Hunting for a husband." Miss Leslie Lu Lu, in her songs and dances, is as vivacious as ever; and Miss Marie Longmore proves herself an able vocalist. Mr. Leslie Burgess renders his songs capably; Mr. Arthur Thomas cleverly manipulates various musical instruments; and Montague's White Ladies' Orchestra scores with some excellent selections.

PALACE-BY-THE-SEA.—Managing-Director, Mr. P. W. Willard.—Farley, Rennie, and Farley head the bill here this week, and are enthusiastically received in *Fun at a Railway Station;* Duncan and Brasque make a hit with their playlet, *Bluff;* Ida Kathrena, "the human doll," gives a clever performance; Eugene and Wille, "musical grotesques," do some clever business; Miss Vera Patey, "the Summer Girl," charmingly renders catchy chorus songs; and Madge Daley, comedienne, Ethel Dove, character artist, and Johnny Worman appear to advantage. The Palascope shows some fine pictures.

WEST CLIFF GARDENS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Graham Russell and Bentley.—Miss Emily Foxcroft, contralto, on a return visit, is meeting with great success; Mr. Fred Vallance, conjurer and ventriloquist, gives some smart turns; and Mr. Joseph Bull is a revelation as a banjoist. The trio—Bert Graham, Bernard Russell, and Will Bentley—score all along the line with their humorous items.

OPERETTA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. W. F. Jury; Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—The films displayed here are as instructive and amusing as ever, and include, among others, Crazy Conjurer, Corsican's Revenge, Lady Doctor's Husband, Brigands of Calabria, and £100 Reward. The vaudeville portion of the entertainment is in the able hands of the Henris, clever equilibrists, and Miss Clarisette Florence, in illustrated songs.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—The first three nights of the present week were blank, the last three, with a Saturday matinée, being apportioned to Miss Ellen Terry and company in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion.*

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Mr. Frank Hardie and company are paying a return with the dramatic sketch *For the Honour of the Regiment,* the cast comprising, in addition to Mr. Hardie himself, Miss Irene Carlton, Mr. Arthur Stratton, Mr. Reginald Payne, and Mr. Fred Dobell. Kyoto, the acme of versatility, is roundly applauded for his varied entertainment; Jack Roland scores remarkably with his "Bacchus" song and other contributions; Phil Bransby appeals strongly to the coster-loving public; Fancourt and Rubie work particularly hard with their comedy business and with success; Chas. Banks and Woof, also on a return visit, are well received; and May Geraldine is an appealing comedienne and dancer.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. William Greet's chief company opened a week's engagement on Monday in *The Sign of the Cross* to a crowded house. The exacting part of Marcus Superbus was filled by Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee in a manner that left nothing to be desired. As the heroine, Mercia, Miss Constance Little gave a convincing conception of her rôle. She possesses a pleasing voice and emotional instincts, and holds the sympathy of her audience throughout. Mr. Frank Wood made an admirable Glabrio, and amused in his humorous ways; Mr. C. Yorke as Nero was very successful; Miss Lily Ward was a most impressive Bernice; Miss Edith Drayson was very realistic as Stephanos; Mr. Charles Aldred as Tigellinus and Mr. J. Weatherall as Licinius were effective; and Mr. Arthur Budd as Virtarius was most satisfactory. The other members of the company acquitted themselves creditably. The staging and scenery were capital.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—A large and appreciative audience witnessed a return visit of that powerful historical drama *A Royal Divorce,* presented by Mr. W. W. Kelly and a strong company. Miss Margaret Watson gives a highly finished rendering of the Empress Josephine; Mr. Keith Fraser is to the fore with a very fine impersonation of Napoleon; Miss Maude Lacey makes a charming Stephanie; Miss Winnie Tempest displays marked ability as the haughty Marie Louise.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. L. Barry.—The top of the bill is occupied by the Geni Family, Continental Risley acrobats, whose feats are remarkably well executed; Mackinnon's Scottish Meisters, in their vocal scena, *Ancestral Spirits,* are good entertainers, their singing being delightful; the Three Cunards are dancers of exceptional ability; Charles Lilburn is full of funny sayings and songs, and Arthur Albert, the popular actor-vocalist, had a hearty reception. Other artists are Ivy Aberdare, dancer, and Tiny Arnold, an entertaining little artist. A fine series of pictures finish a good programme.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The Craggs head the bill with a comedy sketch in which their well-known skill is evident; the veteran J. W. Rowley is well received; Carl Lynn is very successful as an imitator of wild animals; the Lyric Quartette captivate the house in illustrated quartettes; and other well-rendered items are those of Alf Drinkwater, comedian; Sisters Allen, duettists and dancers; the Cromwells, comedy jugglers; Wilson and Waring, and Harry Marte, comedian. The Bioscope pictures conclude.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—An excellent programme here this week includes Lack and Ford Trio, clever comedy acrobats; Ethel Yorke, comedienne, sings well; Miss Maie on the wire is good; Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd, in *The Tree of Truth,* create laughter; Mozetto, assisted by Button, does some smart juggling; W. P. Sheen makes a hit with his songs; Wellesley and Deveyne's company, in a sketch, *The Professor's Secret,* is entertaining, and the pictures on the Operascope conclude.

CROYDON.—HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Jackson Hayes; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice.—A capital programme is provided here. The Gelderns are clever magicians; Ivy Dene is a smart comedienne and dancer; Hilda Mascot is a dainty comedienne; The Rivers, duettists and dancers, are appreciated; the Four Kellys are accomplished acrobats; two fine sketches, entitled *Kingdom of Hate* and *A Russian Spy,* are submitted by Miss Carlotta de Yonson and company; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux Pictures are particularly interesting.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Daly's Circus is here with a good company, including Zama, gymnast; Miss Lena Scott, wire walking; Knoto, contortionist; Robert Yelding, equestrian; Raymond's performing dogs; Idento Brothers, comedy jugglers; and Leo Bertro, with his marvellous midget pony on the revolving table. The wrestling match, Hackenschmidt *v.* Rogers, is portrayed on the Bioscope.

NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Selma Braatz, lady juggler, heads the bill, and scores a big success; Matthews and Cowper, in the sketch *When The Clock Went Wrong,* take well; Harry and Elsie Mayville, Lilliputian novelty artists, contribute a good entertainment; and other good turns are those of Smarie Brothers, acrobatic eccentrics; Fyne and Hurley; Sam Redfern, comedian; and Amy Marsden, low comedy artist. The Pepiscope provides an interesting feature.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—Miss Helen Roberts is appearing this week as the star turn in a series of classical dances, including the Salomé dance, and is accorded a hearty reception; the Four Rios, described as America's foremost gymnasts, are responsible for a distinctly neat and clever turn; the Bendini Trio are exceedingly good; their pantomimical efforts causing a continuous roar of laughter; Ernest Clifford is a praiseworthy comedian and dancer; Elton and Elms, triple bar knockabouts, are clever and amusing; Spry and Monti, in a hodge-podge of nonsense, are diverting; Jack Manley is successful as a character vocalist; and Ethel Donna is a charming comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope also adds to an entertaining programme.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Miss Bonwin Carlton's company, in *The Plucky Nipper,* furnish this week's bill of fare. Miss Carlton undertakes the rôle of Polly Hittard with first-rate ability; Miss Kitty Maynard as the blind girl, Daisy Paget, also earns high encomiums; and other hard-working members of a good cast are Messrs. F. W. Lowther, E. Surrey, F. Dalend, and S. Moore.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—The first visit here of *The Girl Who Lost Her Character,* as presented by Mr. Douglas Bruce's company, has excited the keenest interest. Mr. Edward McLean pleases with an earnest realisation of the Rev. Robert Everton, bestowing a worthy carefulness in action and utterance admirably in agreement with the strength and charm; the heroic rôle played by Mr. Harold Macartney is sustained with decision and impressiveness; as Captain Geoffrey Caversham, the schemer and scoundrel, Mr. Richard Ferris is most satisfactory; Marian Franklyn is in the excellent hands of Miss Lydia Mannington; Miss Madge Morley, as Molly Vernon, acts and speaks effectively; the work of Miss Sybil Hare in the part of Rose Seymour exerts a potent charm; much merriment was forthcoming from the joint exertions of Mr. Geo. H. Asquin as Dick Punch, a whimsical, eccentric young soldier, and of Miss Mary Poulton as the dressmaker Isabella Jones. Mr. Augustine Bowerman was a successful exponent of Detective Weathersby; Mr. Geo. Mitchell spared no effort in his depiction of the repentant forger; and very droll was Mr. Campbell as the market quack doctor.

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—The Musical Keiths top the bill here in clever renderings of popular songs; Helen McGregor, a Scotch contralto vocalist, greatly pleases by her singing of Scotch ballads; Primavesi, with his novel juggling tricks, is highly appreciated; Sisters Edwardes, in their clever dancing, excite admiration; Bert Bowden, comedian, is warmly received; and Dot Stephens, in impressions of prominent artists and her phenomenal success, "What is home?" is a great favourite; the Bouncing Dillons, comedy gymnasts, are most amusing.

DOUGLAS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director Mr. Alfred Hemming; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—Mr. Milton Bode's *Belle of Mayfair* company, under the direction of Mr. Hugh Nolan, is here this week. Miss Queenie Finnis presents an artistic realisation of Julia; her maid is well enacted by Miss Blanche Astley; Miss Ayres Tandy sings remarkably well; Mr. Lawrence Wenley is an interesting Hugh Meredith, and the other rôles are sincerely played.

GAIETY THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is giving great delight here this week. Mr. Arthur Reynolds in the title-rôle is quaintly humorous; Mr. Frederick Lyne displays genuine capacity for low comedy; Miss Marie Wilson as Miss Hook of Holland is really charming, playing with exquisite taste and admirable artistry. The other members of Mr. George Dance's company make the characters effective.

THE PALACE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brittain.—Miss Vesta Tilley is at the Palace, and the audiences have this week been enormous. She is a real magnetic attraction. Other turns here are Alcide Capitaine, Dale and O'Mally, May Newall, Helen Charles, the Villons, Binns and Binns, all clever, all successful. In addition, Vernon's Bioscope and dancing, under the direction of Mr. Harry Woods.

DERBY CASTLE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Kelly.—Mr. Carter Livesey and Miss Lillian Roseberry present a clever sketch, *The Would-be Actors,* which evokes laughter; Mr. Charles Bignell, with his new songs, which have catchy choruses, excites enthusiastic applause; Marin and Lona show great talent in an original juggling and acrobatic act; Humpsti Bumsti is a very funny interlude; Pinnifax and Paulo are remarkably smart; and other clever turns are those of Helena Cecile, a society entertainer, and Sylvo, a quaint juggler.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. F. J. Connor.—Large audiences have responded to the attractions of a liberal programme. Whimsical Walker is a great success, his witticisms being really original; Little Mona Connor, the talented daughter of the proprietor, gives a dashing performance on her pretty performing pony Shamrock. The programme also includes Mons. de Marco and his wonderful animals, monster baboons, pretty ponies, clever dogs; Mlle. Leah Claire in a really wonderful display of horsemanship; James and Jenny Gee in their act on the revolving wire.

OTHER amusements in Douglas are Mr. Charles Dare at the Empire Theatre, Mr. Frederick Buxton with his Pierrot Village, and Messrs. Adeler and Sutton on Onchan Head with minstrelsy.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. F. G. Whitelock.—Miss Clarice Mayne, at the top of the bill here, has become the rage with her well-rendered ditties; Lallie Brooke has a charming and artistic scena, entitled *Girls, Past and Present;* the high-class dancing of C. S. Melvin, the Scotch comedian, rouses encores; the Havannas Troupe introduce novelties into their acrobatic act; the effective violin playing of Mollie Seymour is duly appreciated; and a series of interesting and up-to-date films on the Hippodrome Bioscope meets with a favourable reception.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—That amusing comedy *The Private Secretary* is drawing full houses nightly. As the Rev. Robert Spalding Mr. Donald Price Evans evokes hearty laughter; and Miss Florence Tressilian cleverly enacts the rôle of Edith Marsland; Mr. W. Hargreaves gives an exceedingly droll impersonation of Mr. Cattermole; and Mrs. Alfred Davis excellently sustains the part of Miss Ashford; Mr. Marsland is capitally embodied by Mr. Frank Stanley; and Miss Cicely Wade makes a pleasing Mrs. Stead; Mr. Frederick Tyrrell is a capable exponent of Mr. Gibson; Miss Dorothy Ripley plays with success as Eva Webster; Mr. Lawrence Grove impersonates Douglas Cattermole with credit; and Mr. Andrew Wright is satisfactory as Harry Marsland. The laughable farce, *The Wild Man from Borneo,* capitally played by Mr. Lawrence Grove, Miss Florence Tressilian, Mr. Andrew Wright, and Miss Dorothy Ripley, precedes.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's excellent company, in *The Silver King,* is patronised by large audiences nightly. Mr. Fred B. Daviss as Wilfred Denver acts with force and convincing sincerity; and Miss Edyth Goodall portrays with charm and feeling the rôle of Mrs. Denver; Mr. Stanton Sharp is to be commended for his admirable impersonation of Captain Herbert Skinner; and as Cissy Miss Florrie Hale Daviss is decidedly good; Jaikes has an able exponent in Mr. Edward J. George; and Miss Kathleen Maude acquits herself well as Olive Skinner. Mr. Arthur Wright does full justice to the part of Elijah Coombe, and Miss Mabel Gardener gives a good account of herself as Mrs. Gamage; Mr. George Belmore makes the most of Henry Crockett; and Frank Selwyn is satisfactorily played by Mr. Charles Birch.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—Among the pictures exhibited here this week are: An Intruding Husband, The Magnetic Removal, Catching a Tartar, The Troubles of a House Agent, A Good Repentance, The Shipwrecker, &c.; the variety artists Fritz and Fritz, comedians and dancers.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—George Formby scores his usual success with his mirth-provoking songs. Another capital turn is that of Miss May Mars, whose catchy chorus songs are nightly encored; the Northern Troupe of dancers are warmly applauded for their graceful and artistic performance; and Bi Bo Bi, eccentric comedian, causes many a laugh. The Sisters Belmont, duettists and dancers, contribute acceptably; much hilarity is created by Rose and Calvert, with a comedy act; Miss Barlee and Phil Smith, comedy musicians, are greatly appreciated; and Cissy Curlette, a chic comedienne, meets with a flattering reception. The pictures are as usual interesting, and the Empire tournament completes a good programme.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Eight 'Varsity Girls, in a vocal and dancing act, entitled *A Musical Evening,* give a clever and much-appreciated turn; the Martonelli Troupe provide a smart acrobatic and vaulting entertainment; and Gibbons and Bell present a pleasing speciality act. Lilian Lee, a charming soprano, meets with a cordial reception; in their musical dialogue, "Down South." Gala and Norris are highly successful; and Violet Gillis is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Harry Verdon, in his ventriloquial act, is a popular turn; the Brothers Lecardo are diverting acrobats; Will Walton is an amusing comedian; and the Bioscope, depicting the Marathon Race, concludes.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—The Irish Animated Photo Company commenced a short season here on Saturday last, when an excellent programme was presented to a large audience. The films, which are both instructive and amusing, include: The Pierrot's Talisman, Quebec to Ni

and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Harry Peters.

Pavilion, Kingstown.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—The Anglo-Indians are appearing here this week in *A Musical Comedy without a Plot*, and drawing capital houses. Miss Ethel Bryant is warmly applauded for her rendering of "In an Old Sedan Chair"; Mr. Harrison Brockbank's powerful voice is heard to advantage in several popular numbers; and Miss Kitty Kennedy Allen, a dainty comedienne, scores a decided success. An enjoyable turn is given by Mr. Alf Johnson, character impersonator; and Miss Lilian Messon, soprano vocalist, contributes some capital songs. The comedian, Mr. Kennedy Allen, gains deserved applause; and Mr. James M. Lowe ably assists at the piano.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here this week: Professor Wallace, novelty ventriloquist; Harold Colin, comedian; Will Rollason, baritone; Nellie McMerry, comedienne; Fox and Fox, duettists and dancers; Will Titman, comedian and lady impersonator; together with the cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Lewis Waller's principal company, in *Robin Hood*, is greatly appreciated here this week. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards in the title-rôle is a big success, and displays distinct artistic ability; and the part of the heroine Lady Marion is played by Miss Lilian Stennis with remarkable power and pathos; Mr. Lawrence Tessier makes a bold and manly Will Scarlett; Mr. H. Elliot Ball fills in the part of the despotic Prince John in convincing style; Mr. F. Clive Ross combines effective general-managership with the humorous part of Little John; and Mr. C. Bruce Winston is a jovial and refreshing Friar Tuck. An excellent Adela is found in Miss Laura Flockton; and Miss Gertrude De Burgh plays Alison in a pretty and natural style. The piece is well staged and the scenery excellent.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. B. Peberdy.—An enjoyable programme this week includes the following clever and well-known artists: The Brothers Ross, in comedy act and boxing competition; the Fixe X Rays, very smart athletic lunatics; Madge Bryce, a charming contralto; Maudie Beaumont, a lady with a big voice; Nellie Sheldon, comedienne; Ramsey Trio, knockabouts; and Alfred Grady, comedian and dancer. Excellent pictures are given on the Empire Bioscope.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Wentworth Croke presented the new version of *The Christian* during the first half of the week. An admirably earnest portrayal of the Hon. John Storm came from Mr. Roy Redgrave, and Miss Daisy Scudamore brought much artistic endeavour to bear upon her reading of the ever-varying part of Glory Quayle. Mr. Wilfred Noy's Horatio Drake merited fully the very warm commendation it received; Mr. Herbert Hewetson's Lord Robert Ure was depicted in sufficiently lurid colours; Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn contributed a powerful study of the outspoken Father Lamplugh; Mr. John T. Hooker caused no little amusement as Archdeacon Wealthy; Miss Molly Hayden made a delightfully natural Mrs. Callender, Miss Cora Deane easily gained sympathy for the cruelly-wronged Polly Love, and Miss Florence Hunt was clever as Black Meg. *Brewster's Millions* is the week-end attraction.

Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—The bill is headed by Charles Baldwin's comedians and pantomimists in a new absurdity entitled *The Bank Clerks* (an amalgam of rough-and-tumble pantomime and melodrama). Tamanoto is an expert wire-walker and perpendicular rope performer; the Gypsy Girls (four in number) are warmly appreciated for their admirably-rendered vocal quartettes; Mollie Doon is a dainty and refined comedienne and dancer; Ruby Emerson is an altogether charming comedienne; and Mark Henton (the mirthful one) and Hippodrome Pictures complete the programme.

Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. G. Hayes.—Mr. George Dance's company is appearing here this week, and on Monday evening attracted a full house. A musical comedy sketch, *The Local Amateurs*, smartly acted and well staged, caused much laughter; Miss Francis Migley is a pretty, bright, and attractive Molly; Mr. G. B. Hargreaves works hard in some funny business as the Sailor; Mr. Edward Royston does excellent duty as Seth; and Mr. Fred Richards is full of effective vivacity as Mons. Jules. Another sketch, *The Burglar's Ball*, proved very successful. The smart work of Mr. Billy Stephens as Swank, and the handsome presence and capital acting of Miss Florence Hylton as Lady Humphreys, are distinctive features. Miss Maud Dennis gives a weirdly fascinating "Salomé" dance; Mlle. Leonie de Lausanne contributes a surprisingly skilful exhibition of shooting; Hugo and Smit are very clever acrobats and bar performers; Miss Kate Robertson sings with taste and effect; pictures are shown on the bioscope; and Mr. Tom Dunmore and Mr. Percy Dalton complete the bill as comedians.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—The light refreshment afforded by a new musical piece, entitled *The Belle of the Ball*, seen this week for the first time in Edinburgh, has proved very acceptable here to summer playgoers. Running on tolerably familiar lines, the thread of its Cinderella-like story is found strong enough to sustain a little of everything, from pantomime to grand opera, from melodrama to farce; and the compound is made entertaining by the efforts of the performers. Mr. Johnnie Schofield as Timothy Timkins, the comic valet, has some lively scenes, in which his quaint humour is displayed. The rôles of the young Squire and Farmer Jones are well filled by Mr. Robert Hyett and Mr. Charles Adeson; and an unusually quiet type of stage villain is portrayed with due restraint by Mr. E. W. Chewd. Messrs. Llewellyn C. Hughes, Jack Hale, and Frank Collins, in minor parts, also contribute to the general entertainment. The Cinderella rôle of Poppy is gracefully played by Miss Gertrude Melville; Queenie Trevor is presented as quite a bright and charming suffragette by Miss Maud Terry; and the disagreeable sisters Alice and Mary have their weak points sufficiently emphasised by Miss Ethel Bertram and Miss L'Estrange; while Miss Vera Grafton does well as Lucy Foster. Songs, duets, choruses, and dances receive their full marks of appreciation.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Mike S. Whallen is at the head of a pleasant programme, his animated patter and cleverly-extemporised verses being productive of great amusement. The vocal character studies of Tom Woottwell, marked by a peculiarly quiet and commendable method, formed another enjoyable item on the bill; which further included entertaining vocal selections contributed by Gwennie Hasto, and a musical scena entiled *The First Engagement* by Irene Rose, a juvenile artist, whose songs were warmly applauded. Another smart ladies' turn was provided by the Proveanies, a bevy of six pretty girls, forming a wonderfully clever troupe of trick cyclists. Orpheus displayed his accomplishments as a performer on an almost unlimited number of musical instruments; the Five Olracs achieved some new and difficult feats in their acrobatic interlude; Les Marbas did some extraordinary twirling and somersault flinging; Mitchell and Cain gave a brisk duologue between a Frenchman and another fellow; the Bioscope showed incidents in motor-car racing; and Sandford and Lyons were loudly encored for their smart cross-talk and their very ingenious simultaneous step-dance movements.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—*Diana of Dobson's* is being presented here this week by Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company, and is attracting houses which, by the continued applause, show how much they appreciate the efforts of all the members of this talented company. In the title-rôle, Miss Dorothy Green is charming, infusing abundant spirit and vivacity into the part; Mr. H. Grendon Bentley is a capital Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton; Mr. Alfred Harris is excellent as the self-made man, Sir Jabez Grindley, Bart; and Miss Mary Stuart as the match-maker is good. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* makes an excellent curtain-raiser, with Mr. Alfred Harris as the Bishop and Mr. Alfred Wainwright as the Convict.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company, in *The Way of the World*, opened the season here to a good house on Monday night, for a week's engagement. As Matthew Malyon, the circus proprietor, Mr. Clarence Temple acquitted himself well; while Mr. D'Arcy Kelway, as Joe Sparrow, the clown of the circus, also put in some effective work. Mr. J. P. McBride as Cecil Hardy, and Mr. Victor Gordon as Captain Fred Slade, also played their parts with conspicuous ability; while Mr. Wm. Gibson as Tiny Green, the jockey, had much to do with the success. Miss Doris Brookes, as Lady Adela Hardy, had an exceedingly heavy and difficult part to play; Miss Nellie de Lacy as Kate Montague (equestrienne) had a highly popular part, which she rendered well; and Miss Violet Vivienne as Polly Bell and "Mlle. Bellini" (a lady of Amazonian proportions and great muscular power) created much diversion by the ease with which she performed many "manly" feats.

FLEETWOOD.—Queen's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Snelson.—*Lucky Liza* is paying a welcome return visit. Miss Madge Brownie as Eliza Bird (Lucky Liza) is the life and soul of the piece, and is a most vivacious comedienne; Miss Vesta Brownie takes the part of Virginia Blatherwick delightfully; Miss Evelyn Wood sings two songs well; as Billy, the page-boy, Mr. Will Merry does good work; and Mr. T. W. Benson is a most convincing Barrister. Mr. Norman H. Lee makes the best of a difficult part; Mr. Dickie Clare attempts a triple rôle as Silas Slim of New York, the Judge, and the French Waiter; La Belle Trio give some smart dances.

Co-operative Hall.—The Loyal British Empire Animated Picture Co. are showing films this week, and are being rewarded with crowded houses. Some excellent variety turns appear at intervals, and the show is invariably well received. On Wednesday the crew of the R.M.S. Viking gave a grand concert and dance in aid of the local hospital by kind permission of Mr. Robinson, the manager. The hall was packed.

GATESHEAD.—King's Theatre.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager Mr. Harold Arnold.—Kennedy's Kiddies, in song and dance, are extremely popular here; a turn deserving high praise is that of Tom Bryce and Miss Price; the Peps, comedy gymnasts, please with trampolin business; Barney Murphy, a local mimic, is rapidly coming to the front; Les Rubens have an enjoyable scena named *A Gypsy Encampment*; the Five Bom Boys, singers and dancers, and Clack and Clack, lady acrobats and barrel jumpers, complete the programme.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolan; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company, in *Two Little Sailor Boys*, has met with a good reception here this week.

GLASGOW.—King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—The frequent visits to Glasgow of Mr. Charles Macdona's company with *Are You a Mason?* give good proof of its popularity, and the enthusiasm of the audience on the opening night was as pronounced as ever. The company is a good one, and Mr. E. H. Paterson as Amos Bloodgood fills that humorous part splendidly, and is well supported by Mr. Francis J. Bithell as the son-in-law. Other notable parts are in the hands of Messrs. H. Langdon Bruce, Erskholme E. Clive, Wilton Ross, and Miss Rita Narcelli. The comedy is preceded by an interesting dramatic episode, entitled *A Bad Penny*.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company is this week paying a first visit in the moving drama *A Gambler's Daughter*. Miss Hill appears in the first act as the gambler's neglected wife, and afterwards as the daughter, Miriam Grant, both parts being played with capital effect. For the rôle of the witty, easy-going Irishman Mr. Ayrton has all the qualifications, so that his Desmond O'Dare is a pleasing study; the humour of the play is also helped by the Solomons of Mr. Harry Elliston. Mr. Harry C. Robinson renders excellent service by his vigorous portrayal of the villain, Brand, whose son, Tom, is successfully represented by Mr. Mortimer Hancock. The Ralph Gillman of Mr. Fred G. Ingleby is a creditable performance; as Captain Stanhope Mr. Frank Wheatcroft bears himself well; and as Jack Grant Mr. Basil Mitchell is also good. The part of the negress, Auntie Zeb, is particularly well done by Miss Harriette Loydall, other well-filled parts being the Carmen of Miss Maude St. John and the Carita of Miss Lovell.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—*The Female Swindler* is at Govan this week, and appeals to the patrons of this popular house. The drama is cleverly staged, and Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company gives the play every justice. Miss Violet Ellicott, in the title-rôle, shows herself an adept in the part (her original one, by the way), her acting being very powerful all through; Mr. Joseph Millane as John Coulson makes a decided hit, and both acts and looks the part; the villain (for this play possesses the male as well as the female element) is splendidly personated by Mr. Stanley Radcliffe (Geoffrey Warden). Mr. John Hitchings, who during the play takes no less than four characters, is entrusted with the comedy parts, and, along with Miss Bella Moody (Mary Ann), keeps going the humorous interludes.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—That versatile little artist Miss Louie Freear takes the place of importance here with her carefully-selected company in a farcical sketch from the pen of B. Soane Roby, which is entitled *Snooks*. As Jemima (the "slavey") Miss Freear is par excellence, and keeps her audience in roars of laughter. Callaghan and St. George are exceptionally well received in their musical duologue, *The Old Neighbourhood*, their vocal and instrumental efforts being alike capital; the Brothers Huxter, who are always welcome to Glasgow, meet with the reception which they so well deserve; Ernie Mayne, a pantomime favourite in the city, is also particularly well received. A clever and original juggler is Sados, whose various tricks never fail to amuse. At the commencement of the week Lily Burnand, being indisposed, was deputised for by a Scotch comedian. Lola Patey, a Dutch colleen, is very well received; Helen Trix, in her songs at the piano, must indeed feel pleased at the reception accorded her. Her American songs are very catchy. In her illustrated songs Marie Burnette does well.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—This week John Tiller's company is giving *A Trip to Paris*, and the rollicking fun provided by Bob Selvidge, Barney Dixon, Teddy Gibbs, May Sharples, Nelly Rodney, and Lizzie Hay is much enjoyed. A good variety company, in addition, includes Queenie Essex, in all her latest catchy songs; Sinclair and Parr, in their comedy duets; Florence Esdaile, a pleasing vocalist; Maud Marshall, a clever comedienne; and Ruhart, who gives an amusing travesty of vaudeville items, assisted by La Belle Rosalind.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Vasco, "the mad musician," tops the bill here, and his clever turn, helped by the elaborate stage-setting he now gives it, takes extremely well. Hayman and Franklin, the Hebrew artists, cause roars of laughter with their sketch, *A Suit for Divorce*, and their song and dance items go well; Rose Elliott retains her firm hold on the Glasgow public, her catchy songs being always popular; Alexander and Bertie contribute a clever and daring trapeze act; Blake and Granby are highly diverting in their *Man in Possession* sketch; Karr and Kooney's songs and patter take well; Haig and Novel give a clever dancing and knockabout turn; Marjorie Cannon is a smart comedienne; and Ethel Walker, despite her loss of voice, is clever in her mimicry at the piano. Will Vay's Juveniles were also appearing on the earlier evenings of the week.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The short musical comedy *A King for a Day* is the star turn here, and Messrs. Sydney Dooley and Charles Seymour's company give an enjoyable performance, their principal comedian being Will Letters. Conan and Doyle are smart patterers and dancers, and take well; G. W. Hunter as a raconteur is accorded a hearty welcome once again; the Two Kays present a well-arranged musical scena, entitled *The Nightingale*, with several excellent songs; Ike and Will Scott, in their comedy act, are a smart and popular turn; Josh Dixon's quaint style makes him a great favourite here; Ida Barr as a vocalist was accorded a hearty reception; and Ingram and Irving are funny in their sketch, *The New Office Boy*.

Coliseum.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—An excellent company is headed by Charles T. Aldrich, whose lightning changes and burlesque magician business meets with well-deserved applause; a most amusing sketch, *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, is submitted by Tom Foy and company; Marie San Toi and the Merry Japs provide a very pleasing miniature musical comedy in *A Japanese Tea Garden*; the Griffiths Brothers' duelling and wrestling absurdity keeps the house in a continuous roar; Walter Wade's admirable voice is heard to advantage in the mimetic monologue *Patsy Burke*; Alice Forde sings chorus songs with charming effect; a promising comedian and dancer is seen in Little Keeno; Ray Maskell excels as a dancer; and Frank Lynne gives point to several comic ditties.

Gaiety, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—In spite of the holiday season, large audiences are turning up nightly, and the various artists are well received. Hess and Lisbon are responsible for a clever and interesting performance on roller skates; the Sisters Bremner also take well in Glasgow, and their turn is appreciated. In a head-and-hand equilibrial entertainment the Seymons are seen to advantage; while Hargadon and Cole meet with a very enthusiastic reception for their Scotch speciality act. Cissie Norton as a male impersonator does well, a like remark applying to Bell and Bright and Harry Arnold. The Bioscope, with its latest and up-to-date films, proves also an interesting item.

Panopticon.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—An interesting variety programme is arranged here for the week. Charles Ously, expert clog-dancer, is the principal attraction; Lizzie Power, vocalist, is also specially favoured in her songs. The other turns include Jim Anderson, Scotch comedian, and Kitty Lavigne, comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope is a special feature.

GLOUCESTER.—Palace.—Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Tschernoff's dogs are exceedingly clever and well trained; Dan Conroy causes laughter with songs and patter; Clark and Hayden play a neat little duologue, *By Appointment*; Telka is a good ballad vocalist; Frank Coyle rattles off his songs smartly; Voules and Bryan have a refined scena, *Song and Story of a Garden*; and Craig, Rose, and Craig give their clever gymnastic speciality. Wylie, a tramp musician; Titan, strong man; and May Fayne, soubrette, also entertain.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—A bumper house greeted the first appearance in Yarmouth of Miss Marie Studholme in *My Mimosa Maid*. Her charming manner, graceful dancing, and sweet singing soon captivated the audience, and for each of her songs encores were demanded. Mr. Charles McNaughton was irresistibly funny as Victor Guilbert, and kept the house in a continuous ripple of laughter; Master Archie McCaig, a diminutive comedian, appeared as Bock, his rich vein of humour making him a big favourite; Mr. Percy Carr was excellent as Emilie Gerrard; Mr. John H. Goldsworthy and Mr. Leslie Fairfield were very good as Captain Laurier and Lieut. Courmardet; Miss Ruby Gray's charming voice was heard to advantage as Marcelle Pilaire; Mr. Arthur Jackson gave a clever character sketch of Groue, the waiter. The play was exceptionally well-dressed and mounted, and the orchestra was ably conducted by Mr. Leonard Hornsey.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. George Alexander's excellent company is presenting *The Thief* here this week to crowded audiences. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart gives an excellent portrayal of Richard Chilford; Miss May Congdon is a great success as Mrs. Chilford; and Mr. Harry Lugg is good as Harry Leyton. As Isabel Leyton Miss Mary Dibly is very good, and Mr. Gerald Ames gives a fine interpretation of Raymond Leyton.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—The Savonas are presenting their ever-welcome musical turn, which proves a great draw; the Elliotts are introducing many new novelties in their cycling turn, and are as popular as ever; Leicester Cooke appears in a clever equestrian act, entitled "Peace and War"; Miss Eloine is a graceful gymnast; Max Gruber and Miss Adelina repeat their success of last week; the Czar's Royal Troupe of Russian whirlwind dancers are amazing in their dexterity; Ada Webb's troupe of lady swimmers continue their success; Doodles is still a favourite, his new absurdities creating much laughter; and excellent pictures are exhibited on the Bioscope.

Britannia Pier Pavilion.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. George Mozart (who is a native of Yarmouth) is topping the bill here this week, and proving a huge draw; Mr. W. L. Cockburn is repeating his success of last week; Little Sunbeam is a very accomplished artist; Miss Maggie Strachan introduces some new and pleasing numbers at the pianoforte; Bros. Lang are very clever; Lena Leslie is a smart quick-change artist; and Mr. A. B. Houghton is entertaining at the pianoforte.

Wellington Pier Pavilion.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation; Manager, Mr. Arthur Cash.—An excellent programme, full of tuneful songs and amusing ditties, is presented by the Gaieties (Misses Ruby Wilson, Gertrude Hart, and Messrs. Percy Watson, Harry Collman, Alan Stainer, and Wilson James).

Chappell's Promenade Concert.—Proprietress, Mrs. Sarah Lawton; General Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—The same artists as those appearing last week are doing duty here.

The Gem.—Proprietors, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.—Excellent films are being shown here, and are giving great satisfaction, especially the one illustrating the flight of the airship La Republique.

Minstrel Arena.—The Black Diamond Minstrels continue to present a good programme, and are very popular.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The principal attraction here this week is the well-known male impersonator Miss Hetty King, who is heard to advantage in several catchy songs, and meets with an enthusiastic reception. The Viviana Troupe present a novel scena, *The Toy Bazaar*, which meets with hearty approval; Ray and Delmore are seen in a comedy act, which gets its full share of praise; J. B. Preston, Scotch comedian; Dora Martine, a particularly graceful gymnast; Jennie Lynwood, comedienne; and the Alexandroscope are other attractions.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—A new romantic military drama, *A Fight For a Throne*, is being presented by Mr. Lingford Carson's company. Mr. John S. Millward is a prominent figure as Captain Fortescue, and is well suited to the part; Miss Dora Eastlake is also responsible for an important share of the work as the Princess Esme; Mr. Gerald Cyrne acts well as the King, Nicholai; Mr. Charles B. Linney vividly portrays the scheming Prince Otto; Mr. Tom Royden is equally good as his fellow conspirator, General Rodna; Miss Margaretta Tueskie is thoroughly equal to all demands as the Countess Valeska; and others taking part in the play are Miss Lilith Gabriel as Lady Pat, Mr. Chas. H. Hughes as Tom Ferrett; Mr. Patrick Evans as Lieutenant Fitzmaurice; Mr. Gerald Clark as Lieutenant Rodna, and Mr. Stewart Quartermayne as Sir George Coventry.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—The Delevines appear in an amusing speciality, *Flip and Flop*, which includes excellent knockabout comedy and eccentric dancing; the Waldrons are a talented pair of comedy artists with original humour; Louie Goodofsky, a youthful violinist of eight years, has taken the audiences by storm with his wonderful performances; Les Belles Americaines are a quartette of charming vocalists and dancers, their coon business being especially good; Florence Somers, the picture post-card girl, is a popular artist; the Melroses appear in a comedy act; and Bonnetti and Corrie are clever eccentric jugglers.

HALIFAX.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—The Grand picture season is in full swing, and some excellent subjects, including animated views of the Yorkshire Agricultural Show held in Halifax the previous week, were much appreciated by a crowded house. Edward Davis, tenor, was well received, and a smart banjo turn was contributed by G. H. Pardoe.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Conway and Leland top the bill at the Palace this week, and are deservedly popular; Edwards and Dacre are good in the comedy duologue, *What a Life*; Baker and Balfe as xylophone experts, give a fine rendering of *Maritana*, and Mr. George M. Maker introduces his eccentric dancing to good effect. Frank Leon contributes an excellent turn, in connection with which he has organised a clog dancing tournament; Dunn and Reano are eccentric parody gymnasts; Helen Martin scored as vocalist; W. G. Wesley, character comedian, Madge Field, comedienne, and a series of pictures comprise a programme which gives endless amusement to good audiences.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company open at the Royal this week with *Woman and Wine*. Miss C. St. Elmo as Marcel Rigadout acts with powerful dramatic effect; Mr. J. Milne Taylor as Hugh Seymour, the aged and blind artist, infuses much pathos into the part; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds as Dick Seymour portrays the erring son with intense dramatic effect. Mr. W. Manning as Professor Sauter, Mr. Harry Harrop as Charles Sauter, and Miss Ethel Vinroy as Janet Marlow, a young widow, are responsible for clever and amusing comedy. Mr. Ashmore Vincent as Phineas Collins, the attorney, makes a successful schemer, and Mr. Frank Thomas is good as the Moneylender. Miss Violet Simns as Mary Andrews gains much sympathy in her finished rendering of a difficult part, and Mr. Edwin T. Kisby as Caliban, the Hunchback, is very popular. The play is well staged.

HAMILTON, N.B.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. B. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr René Clayton.—Kathleen and Corton Pickford furnish a refreshing and altogether excellent bit of comedy acting in their comedy duologue, *Her First Offence*; Ted Waite is funny in the extreme in his rendering of parodies of popular songs; Winifred Warde is dainty and debonair as the "Immaculate Boy"; the Silvos furnish an interesting ladder act; Fred Moule, E. D. Nicholls, and company are amusing in burlesque melodrama, *That Dreadful Detective*; the Elite Harmony Boys are an entertaining glee party; the Three Coopers and the Bros. Lawrence, together with the Bioscope, conclude.

HANLEY.—Royal.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*A Chinese Honeymoon*, which was originally produced here some fifteen years back, is with us again with new scenery, dresses, and songs, and is making things hum in the Potteries. Mr. Milton Bode's company has been well selected. Miss Gwennie Harcourt as Fi-fi installed herself a warm favourite at once, and her numbers were enthusiastically encored; Miss Veronica Brady as Mrs. Pineapple has opportunities for using her fine voice as well as her acting abilities; Miss Elsie Skillings plays Soo-Soo well, and her vocal efforts are warmly appreciated; Mr. Will Harman as Mr. Pineapple is excruciatingly funny; Mr. Harry Jennings as Tom Hatherton acts and sings capitally; Mr. Leonard May deserves warm praise for his portrayal of the Admiral; Miss Maud Adams does infinite credit to herself; Mr. Rudolph Kloss as Hang Chow is admirably suited; and Mr. P. Allerton Turner is well placed as the Lord Chancellor.

Grand.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—The Australian wood-cutters (Jackson and Maclaren), with axes and saws, are the talk of the district; the Three Royal Dreadnoughts astound everyone by their marvellous marksmanship; the Mezzettis, horizontal bar performers, in their absurdity, *The New Recruit*, gain warm appreciation; Edie and Ramsden introduce a novel act. The top-liner is Whit Cunliffe, whose return visit finds him more popular than ever. He introduces a couple of smart songs in "Exercise" and "Not satisfied," and the old favourite, "Hello." Marie Empress is a clever comedienne; Maidie Scott, comedienne, causes merriment; and Russel Wallet surprises all by his clever make-up, and his business is smart.

King's.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—Packed houses are this week keenly appreciating the pictures shown. Mr. Will Calvert, a truly versatile vocalist, is thoroughly enjoyed in pathetic and comic songs.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Felding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. James Welch, supported by his company, opened in the phenomenal success, *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. James Welch, a great Harrogate favourite, repeated his clever and exceedingly funny performance of Sir Guy de Vere to a house packed in every part. Miss Ernita Lascelles as Lady Rowena was all that could be desired; Mill William Lockhart was well placed as the pompous Dean; and Mr. Cecil Kinnaird made the most of his opportunties as Sir Brian. Miss Ethel Royale as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave was dignified; and Millicent and Marjorie Emington, and Kate Cottlebury were well played by Misses Violet Grahame, Gretchen Yates, and Adrienne Yates. Mr. Vernon Sanabury was good as the Jew, Isaac Isaacson; and Miss Phillis Back was very successful as his daughter Sarah. Mr. Cecil Clayton was amusing as the would-be jester, the Hon. Chas. Widdicombe; and Mr. Talbot Homewood was a hard worker in the part of Wittle, the valet. A special word of praise is due to Mr. Herbert Ransom for his Herald. For the last three nights of the week Mr. Forbes Robertson and company appeared in a new play by Jerome K. Jerome, entitled *The Passing of the Third-floor Back*, preceded by the popular curtain-raiser, *Carrots*.

The Kursaal.—General-Manager, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—Miss Marguerite Cornille is here this week, and makes a great success in her extensive répertoire as a singer and comedienne. Miss Palgrave Turner is also heard to great advantage. Harry Lauder was announced for a flying *matinée* on Thursday, and Madame Ella Russell and Herr William Backhaus were down for a special concert on Friday.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Pictures continue to provide the entertainment here, and many that are shown are more than usually amusing, the Wrong Bag and Too Fat being exceptionally so. Considerable interest is shown in those depicting Tunny Fishing, An Indian Idyll, and A Tour Through the Tyrol Alps. An illustrated song, "Come back to Erin," is prettily presented.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A large house was attracted here on Monday to the first performance in Hastings by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Brewster's Millions*, and the success attained was undeniably well deserved. Mr. Percy Hutchison made a very effective Monty Brewster, and gave reality and conviction to the rôle. Miss Cicely Stuckey was simple and pleasing as Peggy; Mr. Cyril Rawdon acted very commendably as Charlie Harrison; the financially embarrassed Colonel Drew was admirably impersonated by Mr. A. P. Kaye; Mr. George Salver did good work as Captain Perry; Miss Sybil Walsh was an attractive Trixie Clayton; and the remaining numerous rôles were creditably represented. The mounting of the piece was very praiseworthy, the yacht scene being marvellous. Mr. A. P. Kaye stage-managed. On Thursday and for the remainder of the week Mr. Gaston Meyer presented the excellent comedy *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Harry Desmond is a favourite character comedian; the scenes depicted on the bioscope give an interesting contribution to the bill; Calile and Walker are excellent vocal comedy artists; the Three Sisters Ruby are smart and original singing contortionists; a truly eccentric comedian is found in Charles Gardener; Le Gros is remarkably clever in his entertainment, "Songs, Bits, and Pieces at the Piano"; Miss Lillie Langtry sings in a spirited fashion, and leaves a distinctly favourable impression; an interesting turn is given by the Zampas, speciality dancers and duettists.

Pier Pavilion.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The variety entertainment that was so successful last week is still occupying the boards here. Miss Winifred Dixon is a popular soprano vocalist and renders her songs with delightful ease and fluency; Curtis Leo gives a mysterious speciality, *Fun in a Drawing-room*; Miss Katie Moss is an excellent vocalist and solo violinist; the prismatic effects of Maurin's Fairy Fountains are singularly attractive; Thornley Dodge scores a decided success as a versatile comedian; the programme would hardly be complete without Mr. J. D. Hunter and his smart little company, appearing in an amusing sketch. Mr. Hunter is associated, in the farce *The Secret Panel* with Messrs. Herbert Manle, Charles Hawker, and Charles Tubbs, and Miss Eva and Miss Blanche Bayley.

Public Hall.—The London Animated Picture Company continues here its interesting coloured and stereoscopic living pictures, and provides a pleasing and instructive entertainment, the comic element being by no means neglected.

Beach Concert Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. George Blackmore.—The company provided here by the Wallis Arthur Syndicate continue a popular item of entertainment. The baritone songs of Mr. H. V. Cropton are of real merit; and no less successful on the humorous side are the topical songs by Mr. George Blackmore.

Alexandra Park.—The Borough Amusements Association held its second fête of the season on the evening of the 6th inst. The attractions were a torchlight tattoo by the local military and Territorials. The Borough Band, conducted by Bandmaster Vince, combined with the regimental bands in the British Army Quadrilles and the "1812" overture. Mr. Philip Goepel's Red Hungarian Band provided the music for dancing on the lawn.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas J. Phillips.—Mr. J. F. Elliston has organised a thoroughly capable combination for his tour of the well-known drama *Alone in London*. The cast includes Miss Theresa Osborn, who plays Nan with fine feeling; Mr. Percy Rhodes, crisp and callous as her brutal husband, Richard Redcliffe; Mr. W. S. Hartford, a bluff John Biddlecomb; Mr. Harry McClelland, dignified as Mr. Burnaby; Mr. Blundell Fenten, careless and merry as young Burnaby; Mr. Percy Bell and Mr. F. Sutherland as Jenkinson and Spriggins, a pair of pretty scoundrels in league with Redcliffe; and Miss Mary Stafford Smith, a pathetic figure as Tom Chickweed. The drama is admirably mounted.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The attractive bill here consists of Carl and Mary Ohm with a troupe of trained ponies, dogs, bears, and monkeys; Miss Nellie Starr, comedienne and dancer; a dainty sketch touchingly played by Eade Montefiore and company; the Eight Stella Girls, vocalists and dancers; Bennett and Martell, a pair of comedians and eccentric dancers whose comedy roused the house to great enthusiasm; Will Doran and company in a sketch entitled *An Inventor's Troubles*; Mr. Ernest Chas. Gittins's company in potted opera, *The Daughter of the Regiment*; Mlle. Adele Prescott, who sings artistically as Marie; and exciting pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The dramatic season opened on Monday with a very fine representation of *Captain Drew on Leave*. The play created a very fine impression and drew forth pleasant and appreciative comment from the large audience. A delightfully strong company has been gathered together, and Miss Cynthia Brooke invested the rôle of Mrs. Moxon with an infinite charm, such as we expect from so talented an artist. The part of the Captain, entrusted to Mr. Claud King, had some nice work thrown into it by this gentleman, the best being in the third act. Mr. Gerald Venning caught all the point of the heavy rôle, and filled it well. The Miss Mills of Miss Norah Carton was a very commendable piece of stage study, and met with full appreciation. The remainder of the cast did well.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton;

Annie and Nellie Standish Miss Frances Campbell makes an unqualified success.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Gudgeon.—This week we have here Mr. George Cremen's company, who nightly produce the sensational domestic comedy drama, *The World's Verdict*. Mr. Herbert Bentone strongly enacts the part of Nathan Black; Mr. William Forde ably portrays the character of Sir Geoffrey Woodleigh; and Mr. Henry Carlisle that of Jasper Woodleigh. Messrs. W. Gregory and Alfred Selwood are respectively good as George Ashford and Sammy Carrott, a great oddity; and Miss Molly St. George gives an able display of acting in the rôle of Cora Cassillis. The staging and mounting are all that can be desired.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Herr B. Poreezer.—The visit here this week of Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's* has proved enormously popular. The production was in every way exceedingly good. In the title-rôle Miss Violet Vorley was distinctly "great," and was supported by a capable company. Mrs. Cantelupe was played well by Miss Hilda Francks, and as Mrs. Whyte Fraser Miss Pamela Hope appeared to advantage. Mr. Briscoe Owen, with his capital portrayal of Captain Bretheton, helped the play much; and Mr. Philip Sanders took the part of Sir Jabez Grinlay successfully.

LANCASTER.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Capital business has been done this week, and the proprietors have every reason to congratulate themselves. The Four Netherlands supply a pleasing turn, being good singers and dancers, with attractive costumes; Bros. Bright, athletes, give a fine display of strength; and Ernie Myers, comedian, has humour. Lily Lonsdale, vocalist, sings well; Les Curreys, in a musical turn, are acceptable; Jennie Hartley, juvenile artist, is well received; and the star turn is supplied by Ethairien Bros. The Hippograph also adds to the enjoyment of audiences.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—That successful play, *Leah Kleschna*, is being presented here for the first time. Miss Bessie Rignold displays considerable ability in the name part, winning much appreciation; Mr. William Clayton is in the character of Leah's father, and his restrained, yet forceful, acting is most convincing; Mr. Hamilton Deane's portrayal of Paul Sylvayne is a meritorious performance, manly and impressive in every phase; whilst the remainder of Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company all prove very capable.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Another sensational drama, *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*, is the attraction here, and, being full of striking incidents, is quite successful. The hero, Jack Marshall, is portrayed in manly and convincing style by Mr. Fred Goddard; the adventuress is a really clever effort by Miss Louise Hampton; and, in fact, the company all round is a powerful one, and well up to its work.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires.—District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—The crowded state of the house at every performance during this present week testifies to the increasing popularity of Harry Lauder, who leads the bill, and delights his admirers with several favourite items; the Daunton-Shaw Troupe are doing some sensational trick cycling feats; one of the most successful turns is Charles Norton, in character impersonations; Howard and Harris contribute a vocal comedy turn which is well liked; Russell Brandow, Harold Thorley, and Tom Lloyd each provide acceptable entertainment in their respective styles; whilst the Four Figaros and sisters St. Julian also make a successful appearance.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—A realistic dramatic sketch, *Blackmail*, is the principal item of entertainment here, and the presentation is much appreciated; De Henau does some marvellous things with his toes; the Soho Trio do extremely well in song and dance; and that comical trio, Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, with their performing mule, provoke much amusement. Other leading turns in a good bill are Bert Danson, Lucy Coventry, Fred Hallam, Aladina, and Babusco Brothers.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos, Barrasford.—Kartelli, a clever performer on the slack wire, is very popular here, doing some particularly smart things on a cycle; Wild, Willie, and West are again vastly amusing in their speciality; Enid Errol and Co. score well in a singing and dancing speciality; Botello and Virginia are most expert trapeze performers; that popular comedian, Ryder Slone, has a big reception; L. W. Harris is also amusing in a similar line; Carrie Laurie's company again present a successful entertainment; and of the rest, Percy Farrimond, Sisters Wingrove, and Lily Black are doing particularly well.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—That clever and versatile artist, Daisy Dormer, heads a good programme here, and her items are loudly applauded; Sammy Shields, always a favourite here, again gets a rousing reception for his comical turn; Master May achieves success as a vocalist; Souplessi is a wonderful contortionist; Beau and Belle present a vocal comedy sketch in clever style; and of the rest, Phern and Phern score well with comedy speciality.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—We have as the attraction this week Mr. Edmund Tearle and company in a répertoire of popular plays, including *Othello, A Woman's Revenge, Richard III.*, and *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. The famous tragedy was performed on the opening night, when Mr. Edmund Tearle appeared with his usual success as Othello, and received admirable support from Miss Vera George as Desdemona. Mr. Stuart Black made an excellent impression as Cassio, and Mr. Bernhardt Turner as Iago did full justice to the part. Others deserving special commendation are Mr. Fawcett H. Lomax as the Duke of Venice, Miss Mary Campbell as Emilia, Mr. Joseph A. Keogh as Barbantio, and Mr. Vernon O. Crabtree as Roderigo. On Tuesday evening Miss Kate Clinton (Mrs. Edmund Tearle) appeared as Mary Lonsdale in *A Woman's Revenge*, with Mr. Edmund Tearle as Frank Drummond, and were supported by a good all-round cast.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—A first visit is being paid here this week of *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*, presented by Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's excellent company. The drama is well staged. Miss Cissie Bellamy is a conspicuous success as Mary, and as Felix Beverley Mr. Paul Beckett is also deserving of high praise. Miss Elsie Capell renders a good account of herself as the Hon. Mrs. Sands, and Mr. William E. Passmore as Colonel Miles, Mr. Wilson Summers as Geoffrey Langdon, and Mr. Edward E. Louis as Jack Stirling are good. Both Miss Katie Lever as Sweet Nancy and Mr. Percy Brown as Thomas are well suited in comedy parts. The play is received with special favour.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton.—At the head of a capital list of turns this week is George Lashwood, aptly styled the vaudeville Beau Brummel, who is meeting with his usual ovation from all sections of the audience. At the other end of the bill is Mendel, the blind pianist, whose really marvellous exposition of intricate pianoforte playing is rewarded with rounds of well-deserved applause. Roars of laughter continue while J. W. Hall, a really funny comedian, occupies the stage, and he is also accorded a fine reception. Rhoda Paul, a dainty, smartly-dressed, and vivacious male impersonator, renders her songs in a manner that elicits unstinted praise; Bob Hamilton is an excellent Scotch comedian, and an expert concertina player; Ouida Macdermott, the vocal actress, is very good, and achieves success with her song "Redwing"; Max York introduces a number of cleverly-trained fox-terriers; the Vasilescu troupe of comedy gymnasts give a funny and smart act on the triple bars; W. G. Webber is a bass vocalist who sings delightfully; the Marathon Race is well shown on the American Bioscope.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Retained over another week, Mr. Geo. M. Marriott and company take the lead with the dramatic episode *Oliver Twist*, in which Mr. Marriott as Fagin is seen to conspicuous advantage. Mr. Fred Conyers is a success as Bill Sikes, and as Nancy Miss Edith Finlay is to be complimented on an excellent embodiment. Mr. John A. Stimson as the Artful Dodger and Miss R. Dance as Oliver Twist are both good. The vaudeville part of the programme is contributed to by the Gentrys, who are favourites, and display smartness in their comedy, dancing, and eccentric tumbling act *Bits*; Harry Bent, who gives some clever imitations of leading stars with great success; Albert Sinclair, who sings in two distinct voices to the delight of the audience; Nellie Lunelle, a capital comedienne and dancer; Carlotta Lunn, a popular chorus vocalist; Leon and Noel, comediennes and dancers; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope throws on the screen the Marathon Race and A Drama in Morocco.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—There is the usual excellent supply of grave, gay, and humorous moving pictures here this week, the principal ones being the Marathon Race, the Dieppe Motor Race, The Doctor's Experiment, Love too Late, Sports of the World, The Cider Industry, Father's First Baby, The Sorcerer's Scissors, Wanted a Maid, and The Student's Ransom. Minnie Frazer, vocalist, and Edwin Holmes, comedian, also appear. The eighth singing competition is taking place this week, the competitors being allowed to sing any song, and the audience to act as judges.

ASSOCIATION HALL.—Cook's Pictures (from Australia), presenting Sunny Queensland, Life Among the Australian Blacks, The Great Rush for Gold, and a large number of entirely new pictures to Leicester, are located here this week. There are also popular picture songs.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—A crowded house welcomed Hardie and Von Leer's company in the celebrated drama, *Two Little Vagabonds*. Mr. Richard A. Greene gives a powerful presentation of George Thornton, and Mr. Arthur E. Melborne submits a finished performance of Captain Darville. Miss Florence Dalton is highly successful as Marion Thornton; Miss Marion Fawcett makes an effective Barabara Scarth; Wally is capably characterised by Miss Alice Leon; and Dick finds a vigorous exponent in Miss Denise Zaleski. Mr. Martin Sands supplies a characteristic study of Bill Mullins, alias The Gaffer, and is ably assisted by Miss Marie Prichard as Biddy Mullins. The remaining parts are all well filled.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—*Sherlock Holmes* was billed to open on Thursday for three evenings, with Mr. H. Hamilton-Stewart in the title-rôle.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—A novel and entertaining acrobatic show is that of Bains and Reed, who evoke continual applause and laughter. The Florias give a smart wire act; Virto's musical mélange is entirely meritorious; and the songs of Laurence Barclay go well. Kitty Clinton sings acceptably, as does George James, and Pearce and Ward contribute some lively burlesque boxing. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux exploit various entertaining films with complete success.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Here during the week delighted audiences renewed acquaintance with the merry *Belle of New York*, a really excellent company having been sent by Mr. Bannister Howard. Mr. Frank Lawton gave his inimitable study of Blinkey Bill; Miss Hebe Kneller made a dainty "Belle"; Miss Florence Hersee pleased greatly as the vivacious Mamie Clancy, her dancing being particularly appreciated; Miss Winnie Brown was an up-to-date Cora, a rôle she filled to everybody's satisfaction; Mr. James A. Watts, as the younger Bronson, was full of life; roars of laughter followed the work of Mr. Joseph R. Tate, "the polite lunatic"; and also that of Mr. Arthur Ricketts, who undertook Ichabod; Miss Dorothy Doria was a winsome Fifi, receiving encores for her songs; and excellent support also came from Messrs. Wm. Hartigan (Snifkins), Alec. Godfrey (Mugg), Hal Kirke and R. L. Cody (the twins). The mounting of the comedy was capital, and many new numbers were introduced.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*Merely Mary Ann* made another appearance here on Monday, Mr. Herbert Greville's company presenting it. Miss Jessica Solomon was given a most cordial reception for her admirable conception of the title-rôle; Mr. Martyn Rowland displayed rare skill as the musical genius Lancelot; the part of Peter was ably handled by Mr. Stanley Logan; Miss Violet Greville, along with Miss Florence Radcliffe, were extremely funny as the lodging-house keeper and her daughter; Mr. Robert Entwistle contributed largely to the merriment as the loquacious clergyman; and others worthy of mention were Miss Ethel Carlyle (Countess Foxwell) and Miss Lester Stephen (Lady Chelmer).

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The attraction here during the week is *Two Little Drummer Boys*, presented by an able company, under the guidance of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. The prominent part of General Kingsley found in Mr. Edward Bikker an able exponent; Mr. Harry Scott did excellently as Captain Carsdale; the trying rôle of Captain Darrell was carefully handled by Mr. Oswald Douglas; Mr. Alexander Knight did justice to Lieut. Kingsley; Miss Maggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas, as the "boys," were much appreciated; capital comedy came from Messrs. Will Percy (Quiney) and Charles Gallier (Trimmer), and Miss Patricia Connaughton (Molly Meadows); Miss Nesta Sandford showed ability as Margaret Rivers; and Miss Mary Ainslie proved a pleasing Alma Kingsley.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—An acceptable version of *Sapho*, given by Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company, has been a big draw here throughout the week. In the title-rôle Miss Ada Abbott played with remarkable intensity, and deserved the general applause she received; Mr. Ernest R. Abbott showed much tact and discretion as the tempted Jean Caussin; Mr. T. B. Wilson clearly understood the part of Dechelette; as the felon Flamant Mr. Charles Tring did all that was necessary; Mr. Frank Stephens presented a humorous Cesaire; Sapho's father was ably undertaken by Mr. Herbert Morgan; and worthy support also came from Miss Isabel Singleton (Aunt Divonne), Miss Florence North (Lucy), and Miss E. Gertrude Jones (Josaph).

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Heading the programme here this week was Joseph Hart's *Futurity Winner*, a racing sketch that was much enjoyed; Tom Edwards gave his neat ventriloquial turn; Barry Lupino astonished by his remarkable dancing; Oswald Williams introduced some surprising conjuring feats; Carlotta Levey earned a warm reception for her latest songs, including "He was one of the boys," and "I'm going to try my luck in London"; the Lombards had a clever gladiatorial act; a pretty musical sketch, entitled *Starry Ski*, was supplied by Lena Maitland and company; and contributions also came from Mlle. Eldee, with beautifully illuminated poses, and Maizie Hibbs, vocalist and speciality dancer.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here during the week *The Outcast of the Family* was given by Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company, which included Miss Gertrude Morella (Ruth), Miss K. M. Davies (Grace), and Messrs. F. C. Leighton (Harry Thorne), and W. J. Miller (Stephen Barry).

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Top of the programme here this week we have had Mooney and Holbein, whose comedy sketch, *Oysters, 1s. per Bucket*, caused shouts of laughter; James Willard and company presented in capital style a dramatic episode, *The Ace of Hearts*; a most appreciated turn was that provided by the musical Wakeman Quintet; as gymnasts and equilibrists La Faille troupe showed ability of a high order; Dorothy Watson, at the piano, had some neat trifles; Forrest and King were a couple of smart comedy acrobats; Hurman proved himself an accomplished hoop manipulator and juggler; Marco went through a number of clever conjuring tricks; and Edith Chantler, juvenile soprano, sang several numbers with taste.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—*The Duchess of Tooting*, with Stephen Adeson as Fitz, has been here this week, under the control of Sidney Bacon; Francini Ollome and Page had a smart musical act; Frank Cass brought his latest and delighted everybody; Diana Hope and company presented a neat society episode, *Her Good Name*; the dancing of Susie and Protti was watched with keen interest; the Permane Brothers amused greatly with their eccentricities; Lieut. Travis gave an interesting ventriloquial show; clever gymnastic work came from Ariel and Astarte; and Phil Rees' Stable Lads went through a novel entertainment.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The stock company here have during the week given *A Touch of Nature*, the principal parts in which were capably undertaken by Messrs. Harry Tresham, Sydney Grant, E. D. Allen, Cecil Ravenswood, Robb Wilton, and the Misses Florence Palmer, Lilian Radbourne, Florence Cameron, Helen Richmond, and Evelyn Kingston.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Much interest was aroused here during the week by the appearance of Mr. Laurence Irving with the new sketch, *Feed the Brute*. The eminent actor was worthily supported by Miss Beatrice Lett and Miss Mollie Russell. That always popular comedian, Ernest Shand, was as merry as ever; the able McConnell Trio gave their appreciated vocal and comedy sketch; Hilda Jacobsen pleased with her latest numbers, including "Flip flap"; clever wire-walking was executed by the Five Whiteleys; as duettists and speciality dancers the Twin Andersons won favour; George C. Doughty and Miss Molly Laney had an amusing trifle, *A Woman's Way*; the Barton and Franklin Trio presented a most satisfactory instrumental, vocal, and dancing speciality; and Eily Adair, comedienne and dancer, also appeared.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—*The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, presented by Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and company, is a sketch that pleased greatly here this week; Lockhart's elephants, under the control of Captain J. Taylor, went through an interesting show; as coon specialists Yeager and Da-Costa were a good turn; the Moncktons submitted a most amusing episode, *Two in a Flat*; W. J. Raby had some funny songs and patter; the Musical Morrellis showed high accomplishments; Dolly and Elsie did good work as juvenile vocalists and dancers; and also in the list were Fritz Kornan, whistler, and Harry Zetter, comedian and eccentric dancer.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. Charles Constant's No. 1 company appeared here for three nights in the musical comedy *Florodora*. Mr. Gus Danby as Anthony Tweedlepunch causes endless amusement; Mr. Jack Parker is good as Cyrus G. Gilfain; Mr. Martin D. Pitt sings well and evokes applause as Frank Abercoed; Mr. Stanley Bartram is well placed as Captain Arthur Donegal; Miss Daisy Lake is a capital Dolores; and Miss Lillie Blythe is captivating as Lady Holyrood. *You Never Can Tell* was announced for the latter end of the week.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. G. Pugh.—Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird occupied the boards on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday with *The Lyons Mail, Hamlet*, and *The Bells*, with a matinée on Wednesday of *Charles the First*. On Monday, in *The Lyons Mail*, Mr. Irving was seen at his best, acting throughout with great power; Miss Dorothea Baird as Janette also won the greatest admiration; Courriol, Choppard, and Fouinard were in the safe hands of Messrs. Eric Maxon, Charles Dodsworth, and Tom Reynolds respectively; Mr. Frank Tyars gave a good representation of Jerome Lesurques; Mr. Frank Cochrane was at home as Dorval; Mr. Arthur Curtis was well placed as Joliquet; and Miss Phyllis Embury gave an excellent portrayal of Julie. On Tuesday night a large audience witnessed *Hamlet*, and Mr. Irving was called and recalled. *The Hypocrites* was announced for the remainder of the week.

PIER HEAD VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe.—*The Gay River* is here for the week. Mr. Bert Byrne is excellent, Mr. Frank Dunlop is irresistible as the waiter, and Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe contributes several items in his usual vivacious manner. Misses Connie Clive, Nellie Crawford, Harriet Greene, Harriet Fawn, and Nora Walker render good songs; and the same may be said of Messrs. Rayne and North.

LONGTON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Longton Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. H. Sherriff Howard.—Mr. Lester Collingwood, whose name is a household word here, presented a fourth visit of *When London Sleeps* to a packed house on Monday. In the part of David Englehart Mr. Edward C. Ashby gave a powerful impersonation; Miss Mabel Scudamore, in the rôle of Queenie Carruthers, submitted a telling performance; the Hilda Carrode of Miss Lilla Wilde was excellent; Captain Rodney Haynes, in the hands of Mr. Harry Wren, was in every respect satisfactory; the comedy element, in the charge of Messrs. Douglas Campbell, Frank Howard, Miss Mona Hall, and Miss Bella Power, provokes unstinted laughter; Mr. Fred Barnardo played P.C. Stone during the first visit of the piece over twelve years ago, and again gave a finished and artistic character study.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—This week Mr. Seymour Hicks's company appear in *The Gay Gordons*, in which Miss Maie Ash scores well as Peggy Quainton, while Mr. Frank Lincoln is equally successful as Angus Graeme. Other parts are carefully treated by the Misses Ida Laurie, Emily Mellon, Nellie Lonnen, Katie Butler, and Messrs. Tom Graves, Edward Beecher, and Edward Mainby.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—This huge building continues to draw splendid business, the programme presented being in accordance with the popular taste. The British Biograph Company, under the experienced management of Mr. Fred Gilbert, are again to the fore with a fine series of animated pictures, including a couple of dramatic subjects, The Wreckers and Blue Bird. The variety bill include the Four Andersons, in a funny knockabout sketch, *Uninvited*, and Natalia and Diana, a smart couple of lady gymnasts. The Bros. Pasquali are the cleverest athletes seen here for some time, and mention should also be made of the stirring vocal numbers of Wilson Martell, whose efforts meet with universal approval.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Walter Melville's military drama, *A Soldier's Wedding*, is here this week, under the able management of Mr. Whitcombe. The piece is effectively produced. The cast is of the best, and the scenery and effects conduce to a bright and thrilling performance.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—The Franco-British Animated Picture and Vaudeville Company are here this week with a fine assortment of moving pictures. Miss Poppy Holland makes a hit with her songs; Percy Curry is a good vocal comedian; Miss Francis Haskoll was pleasing with her illustrated songs; and Miss Ada Jenner in the burlesque absurdity, *The Lady Barber*, was well received.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—Miss Maggie Morton is always sure of a good house at Maidenhead, but that on Tuesday last, when her company played *Is Life Worth Living?*, must have been a record one. Mr. Marchant Penn is good as Lionel Roy, Mr. Benn Carr is natural as Rowland Roxton, and Mr. Raymond Chester is well suited in the part of Randolph Kerr. Mr. Thomas Spencer as the watchman, Mr. James Welch as Peter Stoke, and Mr. Frank Venn as Tim, all present well-studied representations of their parts, and Mr. Fred Collins does well as the policeman. Miss Nina Harding acts with feeling as Madge, Miss Sybil Grey is pathetic as Isabel, and Miss Margaret G. Davidge and Miss Amy Lloyd-Earle are remarkably good as Bet Dabs and Sally Sloke. The scenery is good, and the steam-roller incident is received with much enthusiasm.

MAIDSTONE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Good business is being done here this week. The famous Kellino Troupe are the great attraction, their feats of skill as acrobats, tumblers, &c., being quite sensational; they are also clever musicians. The Polio Trio of experts on the xylophone gain genuine applause; Ernest Rees, the well-known comedian, is irresistibly funny; Dot Hardy gives a vivacious and pleasing turn; Hamilton and Chester delight all with their refined singing; T. W. Watson, the one-armed cornet and post-horn player does well; Alice Maple sings some good songs and dances skilfully; Johnny Fuller, the "cat on the wire," is popular; and the Biograph exhibits some up-to-date films, including the great Marathon race.

MANCHESTER.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Mr. Alex. C. Grant and company in *A Master of Millions* provide the attraction here. Mr. Alex. C. Grant presents a powerful sketch of Daunt, "the Master"; Eric Gordon is cleverly impersonated by Mr. J. L. Schofield; Mr. E. W. Barnes is an effective Reginald Carrington; and Miss F. Russell plays Stella St. Lisle with considerable success. Some smart humour is contributed by Mr. C. Clarke as Isaacs, and Mr. Leo N. Lambourt as Widow Murphy. The staging is very good.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—An enjoyable programme here this week is headed by Alexandre and Hughes, the ever-welcome fun-makers, in gag and melody, and Gertie Gitana, an exceptionally clever vocal artist and dancer; while Barton and Ashley also figure prominently in a new farcical creation, *Adam the Second*; the Ten Dixie Girls add a pretty vocal and dancing scena; Lena Verdi, comedienne and eccentric dancer, is well received; Carl Howard gives a smart comedy act; Betty Green is a pretty and promising juvenile comedienne and dancer; and pleasing items are added by David Stewart, in an illustrated chorus song, and Harry Simms, light comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Reano and his famous band are scoring a huge success here this week in a series of classical pieces handled in remarkable fashion by the conductor; and Phil Ray, the well-known patter comedian, has a fine comic répertoire, and is tremendously popular. Harry May Hemsley is a smart caricaturist and child impersonator; Farnley and Lee give a clever exhibition of eccentric step-dancing; Mlle. Carlotta Kara, the Oriental singer, is a pleasing and novel turn; and other clever and accomplished items are provided by George Ridgwell, vocalist, conductor, and instrumentalist; Hawthorn and Burt, Hebrew comedians and dancers; the Molasso Quartette of cyclonic dancers; and Aida Martine, dainty comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope depicts a sensational "pirate" episode.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. R. Trippett.—Morny Cash, the popular Lancashire comedian, tops the bill here this week with his usual success. Le Diabolo loops the "Devil's Wheel" in a highly sensational manner; and Dorma Morgan, a dainty American comedienne and vocalist, sings delightfully, and meets with a deservedly good reception; Allen McAskell, the man of few words, provides a smart "showing-up" turn; and other good turns are given by Leo D'Alva, gymnast; the Days, remarkably expert sight seers; Marcus Boyle, Elliott and Warne, eccentric dancers. The School-boy's Joke is the Bioscope subject.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Much laughter is caused here this week by Joe Peterman and company in *The Pawnbroker*; and La Belle Titcomb, the famous Parisian actress, with her wonderfully trained Arabian stallion, provides a pleasing turn. Madge Gray, the mimetic comedian, scores, as usual; and lees, who sings nicely; Gladys Mavius, the Canadian girl; Wanis, clever Russian dancer; J. G. Kempton, comedian and dancer; Burns and Bentley, vocalists and dancers; and the Primrose Quartette, harmonious vocalists. Pictures are also included in the programme.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The Krags go through a remarkably clever and sensational gymnastic act here this week; George Langdon and company, including Connie Laurie, are highly successful in "Scenes from Famous Plays"; and excellent turns are contributed by Flora Cromer, contralto entertainer; Annie Braddon, the Manx Girl; and Rud and Stevens, in their comedy sketch, *Married or Photographed*. Entertaining items are also those of Mary Ambrose, character vocalist; J. S. Evals, the patterer with pictures comic and otherwise; Clancy Girls, acrobatic dancers; and Charles Coll, comedian. Ruffell's capital Bioscope pictures complete a good all-round show.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—The Four Bruns, who top the bill here this week, juggle with clubs in a very clever manner; and Martin Conway, a favourite comedian, is highly amusing; the Original Zedoras give a neat, though daring, flying gymnastic act; and Dunningarto is a clever sleight-of-hand artist; Cumminger and Colonna are excellent sand dancers; Morander and Darius Trio, novel gymnasts and vocalists, in a musical interlude sing and perform gymnastic feats with ability; George Young is a successful blind concertina player; the Maddison Brothers, comedians and burlesque boxers, patter in a breezy manner; Scott, Scott, and company are amusing in sketch, *That Awful James*; and J. W. Gallagher, comedian, sings in pleasant style. The Elixir of Life on the Bioscope completes.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—The Original Szarvaci Ferencz Troupe are exceptionally clever acrobats, and are very much to the front here this week; Wyndham and Waters, in their laughable act, *The Professor and His Pupil*, are very successful, and are well received; Fanny Robina, a favourite Manchester comedienne, scores as usual; Ikey Moe, a smart little Hebrew, makes a big hit; Florry Cooper sings nicely, and is greatly appreciated; Amos Howard dances well; whilst other entertaining turns are offered by Edith St. Clair, a pleasing comedienne; Les Rallis, in amusing novelty, *The Artist and His Monkey*; and Billie Brit, a capital comedian. Too Old for Work is the Bioscope subject.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Manager, Mr. George Phillips.—*The Saucy Arethusa*, a musical comedy without plot, is the attraction here this week, and is playing to record houses. The company includes the following capable artists, all of whom play and sing well: Miss Mabel Danby, Miss Jessie Buckle, Miss Elaine Reed, Mr. Cecil Warwick, Mr. Bertram Noel, Mr. Kemsley Scott-Barrie, Mr. Dick Tubb, Mr. Jack W. Hughes, Mr. Norman Osborne, and Mr. Willmott Fowler.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Captain Cecil Clayton.—This theatre reopened on Monday with Mr. Sydney Spenser's company in *My Sweetheart*. Mr. Edward Rawlinson, in the part of Tony, played to perfection; Mr. Sydney Spenser was well placed as Joe Shotwell; the rôle of Harold Bartlett was in the capable hands of Mr. Harry T. Butler, jun.; Mr. Wilton Hardinge filled the rôle of Dudley Harcourt with credit; Mrs. Fleeter was well portrayed by Miss Florence Delmar; and Miss Alice Inman caused much merriment by her Mrs. Hatzell. Tina was in the capable hands of Miss Lizzie Hall.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hardy.—Mr. George Edwardes's company opened here on Monday to a packed house with *The Merry Widow*. It was a three nights' engagement, with a matinée on Wednesday afternoon. Miss Mysie Devine impersonated Sonia with vivacity and charm; Mr. Frank Greene played Prince Danilo in a breezy and altogether satisfactory manner; as Baron Popoff Mr. Edward D'Arcy was extremely funny, his stock of quaint sayings eliciting repeated outbursts of laughter; Mr. Ripley Evans was extremely good as Vicomte de Jolidon, doing full justice to the songs entrusted to him; Miss Ada Thomas displayed ability as an actress and vocalist in the rôle of Natalie, being particularly good in her songs; the subtle humour of Mr. Fred Fowler as Nisch was also responsible for a good deal of boisterous merriment. Mr. Mouillot's No. 1 company, with the opera, *Tom Jones*, was in the bill for Thursday.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—This week's programme has included Harry Randall and Harry Champion, both of whom have had flattering receptions; the Woellhafs, comedy artists; Daisy Stratton, comedienne and dancer; B. H. Alunn, the upside-down marvel; Daisy Wood, comedienne; and Percival, the clever comedian-pianist, are also in the bill.

HALL-BY-THE-SEA.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—The list of artists here for the week is an attractive one, among those contributing to an all-round good entertainment being Harvey's American Boys and Girls, including Daisie Dennis; Maude Vera, comedienne and speciality artist; Rita and Roma, vaudeville entertainers; Massona, the jolly juggler; Dolly and Madge McCalla, juvenile entertainers; and the Brothers Obo, burlesque artists.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—*The Master Criminal* is presented here by Miss Winifred Chalmers. Mr. Henry L. Osmond is well suited in the character of Telford Lestage; Miss Chalmers skilfully sustains the part of Cecile; and a lengthy cast also includes Mr. Edward Avenal, Mr. J. C. Carlyle, Mr. Chas. Tolcher, Mr. Harry Cooke, Mr. Russell Yorke, Mr. B. C. Hacking, and Miss Violet Lytton, Miss Frances Trevelyan, Miss Mabel Tremere, and Miss Frances Carlyle.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Victor Newman provides the star turn here this week in characters from Shakespeare and Dickens. Other excellent turns are also submitted by Lomas, the man monkey; Leslie and Player, duettists and patterers; the Gilberts, in a light wire act; the Korries, in a drawing-room musical entertainment; the Three De Venas, in a juggling speciality; Jac kand North, comedian; and the Three Alskarnos, in a comedy Risley act.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—This theatre was reopened on Monday with Mr. Charles Majilton's company in *Round the Clock*. It was a good send off for the new season, and a well-filled house punctuated the performance with laughter and applause. Mr. Chas. Majilton as Gabriel Gadforth was quite in his element; Mr. Randie Wilson as Old Geugan was most amusing; Messrs. Ben Storey (Denby) Jock Laughran (the cabman), and Jim Bond (Bartle Burke), all contributed generously to the fun. Mlle. Salprunelle had a flirty representative in Miss Maddie Majilton; Mrs. Gadforth was well played by Miss Rennie Walton; Miss Nora Christie was eminently successful as Bertie Kelvin; Miss Jenny Hughes as Mary Chatterton, Miss Nellie Clifford as Georgina, and Miss Lizzie Boyle as Miss Binkie were good. *The Plumber* was billed for the last three nights of the week.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company is this week presenting the musical comedy burlesque, *A Merry Maid*. Mr. Vivian Wakeman plays excellently as Larry O'Hooligan; the Hon. Cecil Toft is cleverly typified by Mr. Neil Hardy; Mr. Lawrence imparts the atmosphere of the Emerald Isle to the character of Thady Clancy; Mr. Horace Hillerby makes a hit as Lawyer Sharpe Scrivener; Mr. Phil Goldie is successful as Von Swank; Mr. W. Shaw Hutchinson makes a most entertaining dame as Biddy O'Hooligan; Miss May Gibson is a sprightly and entertaining Peggy O'Hooligan, and sings charmingly; and the widow Angelina Vere de Vere is cleverly played by Miss F. Harrison.

NEW PICTURE HAL

Dome, in his neat clay modelling and bright comedy; and the dancing Gilberts.

Central Pier.—Manager, Mr. Emilius Hill.—The Hadji Mohamed Ben Mendani troupe of Moroccan tumblers, and the wonderful Selbinis, cycling extraordinary, have been the features of a bill of general excellence at this popular pavilion. Charles Santon, double-voiced vocalist (his soprano is charming); and David Poole, ventriloquist, have equally proved favourites. Elton and Edwin are brilliant exponents of the art of banjo twanging; Lillie Currie is a capable vocalist; Indiana a nimble contortionist; the Kramer Family are excellent aerial performers; and Miss Henriquette Maude tells with picture and story of her journey round the world.

MOTHERWELL. — New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales. — Miss Winifred Maude and company are this week appearing in *The Convict*. Mr. G. M. Olivert is a manly and convincing Jack Britton; and Miss Winifred Maude is deserving of praise as the sorely-tried heroine, Dora Renshawe. The villainous Captain Hurley and his female accomplice in crime find suitable exponents in Mr. T. Arthur Coleman and Miss Wingold Lawrence; Mr. Leonard S. Harris is well suited in the rôle of Charles Renshawe. There is a strong comedy element in the play, which provides ample scope for the excellent comedy acting of Messrs. Victor du Cane, W. E. Simpson, Herbert Rossiter, and Miss Alice Leslie.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Interesting and attractive entertainment is provided here this week by H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company in Henry Seton Merriman's great work, *With Edged Tools* (arranged as a play by H. Armitage). The company is well chosen and strong, and in the part of Jack Meredith William F. Grant is responsible for a most interesting and convincing study; as Guy Oscard Mr. Henry Nunn gives a manly and forceful interpretation, whilst the unscrupulous West African trader, Victor Durnovo, could not have been better and more truthfully portayed than by Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; in the character of Jocelyn Gordon Miss Phyllis Relph displays a sympathetic touch and charm; Miss Marie Leonhard is responsible for a clever study of the wayward and thoughtless Millicent Cheyne. Other leading rôles are ably played by Mr. J. A. Rosier, Mr. C. Hartopp, Miss Isabel Grey, and Miss Frances Wolviston.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche's company in *What the Butler Saw*, received a hearty welcome here on Monday by a large and discriminating audience. As Pink, the butler, Mr. Lionel Rignold is seen at his best, and provides most of the mirth and amusement of the play; Miss Ada Blanche, who has quite recovered from her recent indisposition, is again seen to great advantage in the character of Mrs. Barrington, achieving once more a signal success. The principals receive splendid support from the other members of the company, particular mention being due to Mr. Charles Fawcett, the bogus bachelor, Mr. Hornby Warburton as Dr. Clayton, and Mr H. H. Rignold, Mr. George Ascot, Mr. Raymond Dudley, Miss Christine Jenson, and Miss Lilian Rose.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Bulmer, supported by a powerful company, presents here this week, for the first time in Newcastle, *The Girl Who Went Astray*. In the title-part Miss Gwynne Warren gave a clever delineation, and very successful impersonations were those of Mr. John B. Shinton, Mr. Alf. Stretton, Mr. Evan Roland, Mr. Percy Warlow, Miss Ada M. Ryder, and Miss Sybil Houghton.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—A crowded audience greeted the first appearance in Newcastle of the new military drama, *Send Him Victorious*, on Monday evening. In an all-round strong company, Mr. Montague Beaudyn as Captain Allison and Miss Irene Monroe deserve special mention, whilst Mr. G. M. Mantanini, Miss Marie Robson and Miss Cecilia Crawford contribute in no small degree to the success of the undertaking.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The premier position here this week is occupied by Eva Williams and Joe Tucker, assisted by Bert Smith, in their original absurdity, *Skinney's Finish*; Violet Lloyd provides a pleasing turn with contributions on the piano and violin; Fred Hand always proves amusing, and was accorded a hearty reception, whilst other capital turns are provided by Harwood's Juveniles, Tom Yorke, Thomas and Taylor, Flo Warner, Evelyn Taylor, Horace and Olga's dogs and cats, and the Marathon Race on the Barrascope.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—There is an exceptionally strong programme here this week, with Mr. Hymack and Maud Rochez occupying the principal line. The former gives his customary marvellous quick-change act, which well merits his name of the Chameleon Comedian, and Maud Rochez presents an entirely new animal novelty, a variety theatre controlled by monkeys; a wonderfully clever company of juveniles is presented by Carrie Laurie, their dancing and singing being heartily encored; whilst roars of laughter greeted Cornalla and Eddie in a really smart juggling and acrobatic knockabout turn; another amusing turn is provided by Johnson and Bert, *The Landlord and his Queer Customer*, and the Imperial Russian Troupe of singers and dancers are also well received. Other good turns are provided by Harry Drew, Welsh basso, the Musical Schafers, and Harry Tate's company in *Motoring*, the Bioscope completing with views of the Marathon Race.

NORTHAMPTON.—Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett.—The Musical Saxonias are paying a return visit with their saxophone band "Poet and Peasant" and "Away down South" being their principal items; Max Stuart and Kessie Stuart are amusing and eccentric comedy entertainers and quaint dancers; Marie Neilson is a pleasing comedienne and an expert dancer. Other items are furnished by Sig. Carlos, the upside-down juggler; T. C. Edwards, with bass songs; Flo Hilton, male impersonator; and Davis and Gledhill, roller cyclists. The Premier Imperial pictures, with new subjects, give the finishing touch to the programme.

The New Palace Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—Sable Fern tops the bill here, and provokes great enthusiasm; Chris Van Bern is a genuine comedian, who amuses by his funny patter and droll surprises; Les Elgonas excel as gymnasts; and the Four Janowskys give a good acrobatic display; Ivy Leaf is a nimble-footed comedienne; Silver Sybil pleases with her song "Beware," which suits her deep contralto voice; the Two Countees gain great favour with their humours; Gertie Lewis appears as a male impersonator; and The Brigands of Calabria, shown by the Palace Pictures, gains great applause.

NORTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Miss Grace Warner and her company opened here on Monday with *The Scarlet Clue* before an appreciative audience. As Sal Scarlet Miss Warner was well received, and Mr. George Gordon was responsible for a capital impersonation of Michael Stanton; Mr. T. O. O'Brien was good as the twin brothers, Jack and Harry Esmond; Mr. A. B. Lyons displayed much ability as Edward Crocker; Mr. W. Black made the most of Billy the Rotter, and Mr. Guy Routh scored as Crazy Jim; Miss Kathleen Cranson as Mother Scrooge deserved praise; Miss E. Conway was well suited as Elsie Dane, and little Nora Bretton as Little Polly was very pleasing. For Thursday and Friday *East Lynne* was announced.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—Miss Cassie Walmer, an immense favourite, tops the bill here, and her various songs are loudly applauded; Otto and Olga present an enjoyable musical and comedy act; Messrs. Doyle and Gibson, comedians and dancers, are accorded a hearty reception; the Brothers Lavelle, acrobatic comedians, are smart; Little Ena, comedienne and dancer, is a decided success; Mr. George Dormard, comedian, does a good turn, and the Mouldoscope pictures are as usual interesting.

NORTHWICH.—Pavilion and Pleasure Gardens.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Managing-Director, Mr. Henry S. Dacre.—The beautiful pavilion is crowded out, and numbers are turned away. Owing to their success, the Whims Concert Party have been re-engaged for this week, and in addition to this capable company, Madame Marie D'Alcourt, and Mr. J. Wheelan have also been retained. This talented couple have been the source of much enjoyment with their excerpts from grand opera. Of the Whims, Mr. Alfred Bennett is an easy first. He is a clever, refined comedian, and his graceful dancing and quaint humour cause roars of applause. Miss Nellie James is rightly recalled for her dainty rendering of coon songs; a droll performance is that of Miss Dorothy Herries, whose study of a boarding-house chambermaid is true to the life; Mr. Edwin Wolseley is a capable baritone; Miss Eileen Dagmar possesses a sweet soprano voice, which she uses with good effect; Madame Anna Lang is an excellent violinist; Mr. Geoffrey Morris is a capable accompanist. The concerted numbers of the company are good, and the dances of a high order of merit.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Clarence C. Corre's company in *The Dandy Fifth* is here this week, gaining high appreciation. Mr. Percy Baverstock is excellent as the Colonel; Mr. J. Edward Fraser, both in singing and acting, admirably impersonates Dick Darville; Mr. George Beverley as Sergt.-Major Milligan deserves praise; as Trooper Brown Mr. Jack Crichton was a great favourite; Miss Pauline Hague is a charming Kate Lorrimer; Miss Nora Morra as Polly is most successful; Miss Maud Nichols is good as the Vivandiere and Mrs. Von Blitzen; Miss Sada Thompson gave a clever tambourine dance; and the concerted pieces by the Blue Moon Quartette obtain much appreciation.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—The Royal Tokio company of Japanese performers are very clever in their Oriental entertainment; Frank Elliston and company are amusing in a comedy sketch, entitled *Aunt Matilda*; and Irve Hayman and Little Marie Montague are equally so in their little sketch. Jack Rae with his trained terrier arouses interest, and Simms and Simms are good musical comedians. The other items of the bill are Nora Stockells, comedienne and dancer, George Acre, Australian comedian, and Rose Sartella, American comedienne, and the Hippodrome Bioscope.

NOTTINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Miss Lena Ashwell and company are here this week, in *Diana of Dobson's*, and crowded and enthusiastic audiences are the response to so attractive an engagement. Miss Lena Ashwell assumes the rôle of Diana in a thoroughly efficient manner, and it is an unqualified pleasure to watch her powerful, yet restrained, acting; Miss Francis Ivor is successful as Mrs. Cantelupe; and a clever piece of characterisation is that of Miss Beryl Mercer, as the old woman. Miss Gertrude Scott is charming as Mrs. Whyte Fraser; and a good representation of the horrified forewoman is provided by Miss Ada Palmer. Mr. C. M. Hallard has a most congenial part as Capt. Bretherton to which he does full justice; and Mr. Dennis Eadie adds no little, as Sir Jabez Grinley, to the success of the play. Mr. Norman McKinnel, though only on the stage so short a time, proves himself a thorough artist; and Mr. W. Lemmon Warde does well in a small part. The other assistants at Dobson's are capably represented by Misses Nannie Bennett, Mary Barton, Muriel Vox, and Doris Lytton. The play is well mounted and produced. It is preceded each evening by an interesting little episode, *The Likes o' Me*, in which Master Philip Tonge makes a thoroughly successful appearance.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—A powerful drama, *Mysteries of the Thames* is produced here by Mr. Augustine Knight's company. In the part of Richard Brandon Mr. Knight finds ample scope for his gifts, and is well supported by Miss Francis Waring; Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson, as a genuine stage villain, earns the unstinted deprecation of the audience; whilst plenty of sympathy is evinced for Grace Rochdale and Doris, two parts well taken by Miss Ella Vane and Miss Elsie Jones. Miss Vane also successfully doubles the part of "Flash Nell." Mr. Edward E. Swinton does well as the burglar; and a clever representation is that of Mr. Tom J. Taylor as a country bumpkin. Mr. Charles E. Hill makes a good detective; and a typical publican is found in the person of Mr. George Stephens. Messrs. Edward Fryer, Joseph Cairns, J. E. Abbott, and J. L. Carroll, as the warders, are conspicuous; and Messrs. Sydney James and William Young both do well in small parts. Miss Olive Lanty, in a male part, and Miss Marie Robertson complete the cast, and the whole production is of the highest order of merit.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Mlle. Celia Galley presents to Nottingham audiences a good French turn, which is highly appreciated; Miss Truly Shattuck, the American comedienne, has a gratifying reception; the Ten-Ji Troupe have nothing to learn in the art of conjuring and mystification; and Edward Lauri and May Beatty are as amusing as ever. Spry and Austin always succeed in raising plenty of laughter; and Stewart and Morgan are old friends, whose appearances never seem to tire the Empire's patrons. As acrobats of the more refined and finished sort none can possibly be better than De Wynne Bros.; and a bright little singer of pleasing songs is Miss Jennie Johns. Gifted with a charming presence and a reserve of dramatic force, Miss Arabella Allen is very successful in her impersonation of literary characters. The programme is completed by the usual Bioscope pictures.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—On Monday Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company opened here in *A Soldier of France*. Mr. Leonard Aardale is a capital Corporal Jean; Judas Delara is capably portrayed by Mr. Albert Guyon; and Mr. Edward Hobart is good as Capt. Lorraine. Miss Florence Zillwood gives an excellent interpretation of Pauline Lorraine. Comedy is well supplied by Mr. Freddie Edwards (Pollyput Jollyboy) and Miss Jennie Clare (Margot); and little Gertie Rennad is good as Louis Lorraine.

OLDBURY.—Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Tyrer.—After a month's vacation this cosy hall was opened on Aug. 3 to packed houses. This week's programme includes the following artists: Eva Reed, dancer; Little Lilla, comedienne; Miss Dorothy Drew; Prof. Lewis, ventriloquist; Mr. Reg. Shaw, bass vocalist; Ethardo and Pardo, jugglers; and Doyle and Massey, eccentric comedians.

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Fred Karno's celebrated comedians opened here on Monday with the farcical sketches, *Mumming Birds*, *Early Birds*, *London Suburbia*, and *The Casuals*, which are greeted with roars of laughter. Harry Brown's songs are excellent; Chas. E. Stelling and his clever dog Kiswaski give a smart turn; Everhart, the timber scientist, gives a clever exhibition of hoop manipulation; the Jean Idara Troupe perform some ancient and modern dances delightfully; Lily Arthur is a capital vocalist and dancer; Devon and Earle are capital dancers in the wooden shoe; Jos. Belmont whistles exceedingly well; and Walter Emerson is as effective as ever.

Colosseum Theatre.—General Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company opened here on Monday in *The Conscience of a Judge*, by Madge Duckworth. Mr. Kenyon Musgrave appears as Herbert Granstone, the judge, his acting being talented; Miss Barbara Fenn as Jessica Draycott is sympathetic; Miss Mabel Coleman as Ethel Vaughan is also very good; Little Kitty is cleverly played by Miss Elsie Isaacs; Miss Mona Dawlish makes a good Mrs. Draycott, and a rich vein of comedy is well worked by Miss Madge Seymour as Mary Rostron, being ably assisted by Mr. Frank Ayrton as John Summers; Mr. Sam Courtney is a most vindictive Sir Edward Mervin, and Geoffrey Granstone is ably played by Mr. Lawrence Stevenson.

Temperance Hall, Horsedge-street.—The Royal Canadian Pictures are still proving very popular here.

OXFORD. — East Oxford Theatre. — Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. James Hare's company is here with *A Destroyer of Men*. Mr. James Hare undertakes the triple rôle of Karl Mischla, Herr Runz, and Uno with great success, exhibiting undoubted ability and versatility; while Mr. Fredk. Marston enacts Count Starevitch with force and power. As Michael Mischla Mr. James Duncan is seen to advantage; and Mr. Duncan Bell is good as Paul Starevitch. Mr. Edmond O'Grady is a prime favourite with his bright and witty interpretation of Coco Tatchoski, and is very amusing; Miss Jessie Yatman proves herself a very charming and dainty actress with her delightful performance as Vida Ravel; and Miss Bessie Frank, with some good songs, is a vivacious Nina Pattakake. The part of Olga Mischla is sustained with telling effect by Miss Irene Clifford, an actress of no mean histrionic power.

PAISLEY.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas F. Bostock.—Marie Loftus, who heads the bill this week, is delighting her many admirers with new songs, and renews her popularity as a comedienne. Tony Iveson, assisted by David Hornby, is responsible for a clever musical and comedy act entitled *The Ragman in the Drawing-Room*; Musical Silvo provides an excellent entertainment by playing on musical glasses and the silvochimes; the Carpos Brothers exhibit a wonderfully neat and novel acrobatic and head-balancing act; Minnie D'Aubyn scores an unqualified success by her singing; a clever and sprightly little comedienne is May Marton, who sings and deports herself well; Bert Kemble as a comedian and raconteur gains approval; the Two Walonells are entertaining as comedy acrobats and gymnasts; and the Hippodrome Bioscope is to the front with interesting and amusing pictures.

PENTRE.—Tivoli Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—An excellent bill of fare is presented here this week. On the top is Cussac Talma, assisted by Mlle. Yvonne de Force, in a series of illusions; Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre is up to date; May Lilian Levey, the popular comedienne, is enthusiastically received; smart and sensational feats are presented by the Wambas, trapeze artists; novel acrobatic tricks are introduced by Les Zelovas; Kisbey, the call boy, is applauded; the Orchids are smart comedy artists; and Lily and Albert, comedy instrumentalists and patter duo; Miss Adey Spencer, drawing-room entertainer; and the Tivoliscope complete.

PETERBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Mr. Wentworth Croke presented *The Prodigal Son* on Monday to a crowded house. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives a powerful reading of Magnus Stephensson; and Oscar Stephensson is dramatically portrayed by Mr. Gordon Mackintosh. Stephen is finely impersonated by Mr. Charles Cooper; Mr. Philip Renouf is successful as Oscar Neilson; Miss Mildred Cottell gives an interesting performance as Helga; and Miss Valerie Crespin is an excellent Thora Neilson. Miss Barbara Gott is well received as Anna; and Miss Marie Harcourt charmingly embodies the part of Elin. Other parts are ably taken by Mr. E. Christopher, Mr. Ernest Rivarz, Mr. G. Dixon-Kenwin, Miss Una Gilbert, and Miss Nellie Gilbert.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's company, in *A White Man*, is this week supplying a welcome change. To Mr. Frank Petley is entrusted the part of Capt. James Wynnegate, and his acting is of a high order; Mr. Lewis Broughton has a somewhat thankless task as the Earl of Kerhill, but carries out his duties satisfactorily; Mr. R. A. Brandon as Big Bill creates a profound impression, and deservedly obtains hearty applause; and Mr. Thomas Swem as the impetuous Shorty is very amusing. Mr. Eric Hudson's sonorous voice is well adapted to the rôle of Jab-y-Wana; and Mr. A. C. Hardie is "at home" as the bully, Cash Hawkins. Miss Rhoda Ray makes a pathetic Nut-u-Rich, and admirably portrays a part that could easily be overdone; and Miss Eleanor May is delightfully sympathetic as the Countess of Kerhill. The piece is admirably mounted.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Arthur Norton is starred as the 9st. Græco-Roman champion, and has had some tough encounters with local aspirants; the Cattaneo Troupe entertain with interesting tricks; Jimmy Shields is a smart one-legged comedian and dancer; Bessie Knight is an accomplished comedienne and dancer; Marguerite Ismay and company have a pretty coon item; and Sid Cottrell and company and James Laurie also appear.

PONTEFRACT.—Alexandra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—Wragg and Wragg, military athletes, gain a fine reception; a capital performance is that of Will and Rose, acrobatic conjurers, their comedy is good and their feats original; J .P. Carroll, tambourine manipulator, scores with clever business; Smith and Johnson, coloured comedians, receive well-merited recognition; Bessie Travis, a good ventriloquist, gives an amusing performance; Johnny Dewar, patterer and comedian, keeps the house in continual roars of laughter; Dale and Vale, singing and pedestal dancers, receive well-deserved applause; and Flo Christine sings and dances successfully. The Three Tivoli Girls sing well, and their dancing is exceptionally good. Some realistic pictures are exhibited, which are much appreciated.

PONTYPRIDD. — Royal Clarence Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction this week is the return visit of Mr. Charles Harrington's company in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Phineas Fletcher is ably delineated by Mr. Harrington; Uncle Tom is sympathetically played by Mr. J. Carr; Mr. Edwin Clarke capably enacts the part of Mr. St. Claire; Mr. T. Bowron impersonates Legree realistically; and Mr. Walter Langford scores as Marks; Miss Hero Hathaway effectively portrays Eliza Harris. Worthy of every praise also are Miss May Turner as Mrs. St. Claire, Miss Annie Watson as Topsy, Miss Hettie Johnson as Little Eva, and Miss Carr as Aunt Chloe.

PORTH.—Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping a capital programme here this week is Nat Clifford, comedian, who scores a decided success; Hilda Valma, who vocalises at the piano, possesses a sweet voice, and meets with approval; Chas. Buval, the happy Dutchman, is thoroughly appreciated; the Cecilias, lady instrumentalists, provide an admirable turn; Mlle. Yetta proves herself an efficient and graceful wire equilibrist; Herbert Clifton, mimic, scores highly; Dyson and Payne, in their pretty vocal scena, supply a noteworthy turn; and Picitt and Lizette deserve unstinted praise for their magical extravaganza, *The Crazy Cook*. The Palascope with its grand series of up-to-date films concludes.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Messrs. Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton's powerful drama *The Sins of Society* is being presented here by Mr. F. W. Bolam's strong company. The scenery and mounting are very fine, notably Windsor Weir, which was much admired. Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan gave a vigorous and manly interpretation of Sir Dorian March; as the unscrupulous Noel Ferrers Mr. C. F. Collins was all that could be wished; Mr. Blake Adams's embodiment of James Hogg was very amusing; Mr. Frederick Annerley as Mr. Morris presented an admirable study; the Rev. Martin Hope was played with sympathetic feeling by Mr. Edwin Palmer, and Mr. George Walters was good as servant to James Hogg; Miss Grace E. Leslie portrayed with dramatic power and with great distinction the erring Lady Marion Beaumont; Miss Patty Browne was a charming Lady Goldbury; Miss Dorothy Giles a graceful and winsome Lady Gwendolen Ashley; Miss Janet Hodson a clever Duchess of Danebury; Miss Mabel Murray did well as the Hon. Mrs. Murgatroyd; and Miss Kathleen was praiseworthy as maid to Lady Marion.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Messrs. F. Marriott-Watson and Sanderson Moffatt, with a capital company, are staging here for the week the romantic musical drama *What a Woman Did*. Mr. Marriott-Watson makes of Raffaelle Duros an excellent scoundrel; Mr. Reg. Kloof ably seconds the Marquis in his rascally proceedings; Mr. S. Moffatt plays Conrad in admirable fashion; Mr. C. Elton Morgan is well placed as Fritz; and Mr. Owen Edwin is genuinely funny as Peter Pippin. Miss Florence E. Florence evokes the sympathy of the house by her pathetic Elise de L'Orme; and Miss Phillis Hamilton makes the very best of the rôle of La Papillon; Miss Flo Norman ably portrays Fanchon, and Miss Nora Waylett does well as Nannette.

King's Theatre. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Harmony Four are most diverting in their original musical comedy, and Messrs. Begeran, Barrett, Hughes, and Scott Rae are admirable in their several impersonations; Grace Langley is a dashing serio; Beattie and Babs a highly gifted pair; and Hall and Earle, the Chinaman and the Tramp, have a smart acrobatic turn; Mr. Frank Hardie and company present an exciting American episode, *Pedlar Sam*, gaining many recalls; Blake and Amber, American frivolity artists, prove popular in a parody on grand opera; the Three Meers in a comedy wire act are side-splitting in their capital fooling; Ferris and May in a comedy musical spasm, *Two's Company, Three's —?* are heartily greeted, and *The Maid and the Moon*, the latest musical novelty, and a series of amusing pictures by the Barrascope conclude.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Capt. Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The bill of fare for the week here includes John Lawson and company in *Humanity*, which has lost none of its attractions; the Sisters Selwyn, in a refined vocal and dancing act, gained much applause; the Donnas Trio, triple trapeze equilibrists, have a warm greeting for their clever and daring business; Bessie Herbert, soubrette with a sympathetic and vigorous style, does well; Harry Rogerson, the tired comedian is responsible for much amusement; Gladys and Alber, acrobatic comedy couple, are keen and smart; Fred Herbert, topical vocalist, is well received; Miss Margaret Ashton, American comedienne, dashing in song and vivacious in personality, scores well; and Payne's Bio, with extremely clever pictures, concludes.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Topping the bill are Mr. Lew Lake, the Cockney comedian, and his company in the farcical absurdity, *The Bloomsbury Burglars*; Miss Violet Stockelle, vocalist and dancer, is very charming; Gicardo, boy juggler, submits some smart and clever work; and Mr. Larry Lewis is a quaint comedian with dry, droll manner; Les Sousloffs, whirlwind dancers, are well named; Mr. Michael Nolan, Irish comedian, is genial and racy of the soil, and does exceedingly well; Walton and Lester, billed as the World's Worst Wizards, give a capital and amusing entertainment; Mr. James Fawn, the ever-green humorist, gains a good hearing for his well chosen and smartly rendered numbers. The Hippo pictures, depicting up-to-date events, finish a capital programme.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Crowded houses have extended a hearty welcome to Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's*. In the title-rôle Miss Emelie Polini is most successful, and enacts the part in a manner that carries conviction and arouses sympathy; Mr. E. C. Villiers as Captain the Hon Victor Bretherton is likewise a success, and receives hearty plaudits; Miss Gwynneth Galton as Mrs. Canteiupe, and Miss Clarissa Selwynne as Mrs. White-Fraser are both admirable; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce presents a clever character study as Sir Jabez Grinlay, Bart.; Miss Dorothy Garth gives another clever piece of character acting as the Old Woman. Mr. Frank Woolfe as P. C. Fellowes and Mr. Stewart Dawson as the Waiter are equally good in their respective parts. Miss Daisy England as Miss Pringle and the Misses Violet Gould, Eva Lonsdale, Olga Esmé, and Dorothy Garth as the assistants (living in at Dobson's), carry off the dormitory scene in a most spirited manner. The comedy is preceded by *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, a dramatic little playlet founded on an incident in "Les Misérables," in which Mr. Frank Woolfe gives a most powerful portrayal of the convict.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk's company in their new drama, *From Shop Girl to Duchess*, are doing good business here this week. As Arnold Vyvian Duke of St. Baynum Mr. Douglas Cecil gives a clever rendition of the part; Mr. Douglas Tremayne is very humorous as Pelham; Mr. T. Lionel Ellis is a capital character study as Sir Morris Maitland, M.D.; the Gilbert Spate of Mr. Frank S. Strickland is a clever bit of acting; Mr. Robert Cromwell has most of the comedy in his hands as Tommy Tinkler, and Miss Florrie Grove as Tilly Dobson ably supports him, the part being well fitted for this young lady's particular style. As Sylvia Grey (the Shop Girl) Miss Mary Neil has a most exacting part to fulfil, and right well she does it, eliciting the hearty and sympathetic applause of the house; Miss Amy B. Ellis as Isabel the Dowager Duchess, and Miss Winifred Trevor as the Countess are both equally good; Miss Mary Clavering is a vivacious Lady Cinderella; Miss Beatrice Hudson as the unprincipled Lady Celeste Delamere gives a most clever portrayal of a by no means easy part; Miss Dora Woodberry and Miss Queenie Lamont as Fifine and Gertrude Haynes respectively are good; Messrs. Henry Gerald as M. Scalameux, E. S. Nuttall as Corbet, and Cresswell as Mason give good accounts of themselves. The dresses are excellent, and the scenery good. Special mention should be made of Scene 3, Act 2, Waiting-room at Charing Cross Station, which is certainly novel.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—A very welcome change from the ordinary bill of fare is provided here this week in the musical comedy, *Happy Hooligan*, and crowded houses (twice nightly) accord it a most hearty welcome. The piece overflows with catchy songs, tricky dances and sprightly girls, not to mention the broad American comedy which is judiciously introduced. As Happy Hooligan Mr. Wm. H. Lester is much in evidence, and causes much laughter with his drolleries; Mr. Jos. J. Sullivan as Donald Macgregor, in conjunction with Mr. John K. Hawley as Max Guggenheimer, succeed in bringing down the house at every entry; Mr. Harry Emeric is good as Charley Fipp; Miss Lottie Wilson is a most charming Widow Johnson; while Miss Rose Lyndon is bewitching as Rose; Miss Blanco Moure is an excellent Nettie, and wins rapturous applause for her speciality dancing in Scene 2; Miss Lilian Lilyan as Daisy and Mr. Jack Henery as Oki San are also good. The chorus is composed of some very pretty girls with good voices, who each and all add much to the success of the piece, which is splendidly mounted, the dresses (of which there is a great variety) being excellent. Great praise is due to Mr. Herbert Lloydd, under whose direction it is produced.

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—*The Honeymoon*, an entertaining farcical comedy, has been played this week. Among several able comedians with the company the foremost is Mr. Gilbert Payne, who as Nathaniel Noodle keeps the audience in merry mood; Mr. Fred Hulton is also very entertaining, and Mr. C. Ainslie (the Colonel) and Mr. L. Earle (Jack Armstrong) also add to the success of the piece. Some capital singing, dancing, and instrumental music are introduced.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Victoria Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—Mr. Fred Karno's company of clever comedians have been paying a welcome return visit to Ramsgate this week in an intensely amusing production, *His Majesty's Guests*. There have been crowded houses, and the laughter has been great. Mr. George Hestor as Sergeant Lightning, the eccentric custodian of law and order, is wonderfully droll in gesture, movement, facial expression, and spoken line. His performance is mimicry par excellence, and he is well supported by the other members of the company. The "Burglars' Chorus" still remains an exceedingly popular feature of the show.

Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—On the first three nights of the week Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company played to large houses in the well-known comedy by W. Somerset Maugham, *Lady Frederick*. The feature of the engagement is the appearance of Miss Mabie Love in the title-rôle, and this charming actress was at each performance loudly applauded at the fall of the curtain. Mr. Robert Minster was greatly successful as Paradine Fouldes, the part of Sir Gerald O'Mara (Lady Frederick's brother) was admirably assumed by Mr. Patrick Quill, and Messrs. E. F. Meads and E. Bonfield did capitally as Lord Meneston and Captain Montgomery respectively. Smaller parts were filled in excellent manner by Messrs. A. Bruce Smith, Harry Winton, John Orme, and Gerald Gambier. Miss Mabel Love was well supported by Miss Eleanor Delaporte as Lady Meneston, Miss Lynn Fontanne as Rose Carlisle, Miss Beatrice Grosvenor, and Miss Rita Ward. The various situations of the comedy were attentively followed, and the splendidly epigrammatic lines keenly enjoyed. *The Peacemaker*, an excellently-played curtain-raiser, has preceded the comedy each evening. On the second three evenings of the week another of the Hutchison companies has occupied the boards, staging in first-rate style *Peter's Mother*.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—*The Adventures of Sexton Blake* is being played here this week. Mr. Horace Hunter gives a powerful rendering of the title-part; Mr. Charles East as Randolf Lo[illegible] acts in forcible style; and Simon Faggas is characteristically impersonated by Mr. John M. East. Roger Blackburn is well represented by Mr. William Felton; Mr. Algernon Syms acts well as Squire Lovell; the part of Tinker is amusingly sustained by Mr. Billy Rose, who is well supported by Miss Alma Vincent as Euphemia Pattacake; Marjorie Lovell is charmingly portrayed by Miss Lily Hammersley; and Miss East Robertson gives a good sketch of Philadelphia Kate.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Sidney and Partner do some clever trick cycling feats, including a daring sensation, entitled "The Devil's Drum"; Miss Dora Barrington and Miss Lesley Grey appear with success in a vocal scena, *Sentiment and Jest*; Wells and Mackenzie introduce an effective vocal turn; Miss Louisa Peach and company are amusing in the sketch *Taming a Husband*; the Brothers Brooks are droll comedians; and Celeste gives an expert slack-wire and baton juggling performance. Herbert Shelley shows versatility in the Irish protean play, *Dan, the Outlaw*, the whole of the characters being impersonated by himself; Louie Belrose and the Sisters Brand, comediennes, are well received; and some Russian scenes are depicted by the Palace Bioscope.

Pierrot Pavilion (Thames Promenade). — Mr. Hamilton Baines took his benefit on Wednesday, and his enterprise in providing an excellent series of al-fresco performances found appreciation in a very numerous attendance of friends and patrons.

ROCHDALE. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Flower Girl* is proving a welcome attraction here this week, the music is light and catchy, and some capital songs are introduced. Miss Dorothy Firman charmingly enacted the title-rôle, Lily, her vocaliam, dancing, and acting established her a warm favourite. Mr. Martin Adeson as Joe Wheeler is a most versatile artist, and created roars of laughter; Mr. Alfred Donohoe successfully played the part of Johnny Wheeler; Mr. Robert H. Howard possesses a capital voice, and fulfils the part of the Hon. Billy Greenhill to great advantage; Mr. Edward Kipling as Reginald Rackit, and Mr. Henry Adnes as Alphonse de Racquet, are both successful; Miss Florence Wilton is a vivacious Lizette de Racquet, and Miss Jeannie Holmes admirably enacts the part of Miss Greenhill, a suffragette.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Four Geraldos, club and hoop jugglers, top the bill here with an exceptionally clever and bewildering performance; Lozelle is a graceful gym

Ferina. *The Shaughraun* was staged on Wednesday night.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—A musical comedy drama, entitled *At the World's Mercy*, performed by Mr. Carr Loates's company, is meeting with a favourable reception. Miss Cissie Milford displays versatility in the dual rôle of Skittles and Kitty Knott; Mr. Leo Rodway is a typical Capt. Frank Manley, being ably assisted by Miss Molly Bee as Alice Lloyd; and Mr. Carr Loates is a conventional villain as Jabez Barber.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local Representative, Mr. Cyril Parkes.—A judicious selection of animated pictures, both interesting and laughable, has met with hearty approval here this week. The series include The Bad Shilling, The Sacrifice, A Modern Samson, A Pierrot's Mother, Dora, Aunt Maria, and The Moneylender.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—There was a large audience here on Monday, when Mr. George Edwardes's company began a welcome return visit in *The Merry Widow*. Brilliantly staged and well performed, the play was again received with enthusiastic applause. Miss Constance Drever repeated her arch, vivacious, and captivating impersonation of the lively young widow; Mr. Leonard Mackay shared the honours of the famous waltz song with Miss Drever, and his acting and singing as Prince Danello were enjoyable; Mr. Eric Thorne was heartily welcomed as Baron Popoff, and caused great hilarity; Miss Ethel Cadman sang effectively; and the vocalism and acting of Miss Sylvia May, Mr. W. T. Andrews, and Mr. S. Bellamy was thoroughly appreciated. There was a large and admirable chorus, and the scenery was artistic.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—A very pleasing and instructive domestic drama, *The Old Folks at Home*, is being acted here this week by a talented company, under the direction of Mr. J. A. Campbell. Miss Maud Warburton wins the sympathy of the house as Dorothy; Mr. Frank Liston acts with discretion and care as Lord Howard Kenilworth; that old Sheffield favourite, Mr. Frank Caffrey, keeps the audience in roars as the irrepressible Ben Jolly; and other characters are well played by Mr. Henry Nelson, Mr. A. F. Lovatt, Mr. Vernon Proctor, Mrs. Arthur Dudley, Miss Kate Froude, and Miss Sarah Santley. The drama is effectively mounted.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—The charming actress, Miss Chrissie Dunbar, opened to a good audience on Monday, supported by Mr. Percy Norman's company, in *A Woman Worth Winning*. Miss Chrissie Dunbar acted with her usual emotional power as Roma Pauloff, and looked superb in her beautiful costumes; Mr. Sidney Barton made a dignified Nicholas; and other characters were well sustained by Mr. Gilbert Standing, Mr. George E. Clive, Mr. A. B. Mackay, Mr. Jack Corlass, Mr. W. Davies, Mr. Carthage Caldclugh, Mr. Louis Newman, Mr. Ernest Kendrick, Mr. H. Stuart, Mr. W. Burnett, Miss Trixie Leighton, and Miss Ida Mackay. Effective scenery and properties add spectacular interest to a thrilling story.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The graceful and accomplished comic opera artist, Miss Winifred Hare, is delighting her countless local admirers this week with charmingly-rendered songs; Mr. Mark Sheridan's patter makes the "welkin ring" with roars of laughter and applause; the clean humour and quaint remarks of Mr. Cruikshank are in great favour with all classes; the sketch *The Stowaway* is a great success, and proves well worthy of revival. Leading characters are cleverly portrayed by Mr. J. K. Walton as the captain, and Miss Marjorie Armstrong in the title-rôle. The Three Lloyds do a smart act on the bouncing ropes, and receive hearty applause; Miss Elsie Roby's style is quite novel and full of "go"; and other good turns are done by Messrs. Rich and Rich, low comedy merchants; Mr. Sydney Lee, conjuror; Howard and St. Clair, &c.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—Mr. Walter C. Kelly, in his original mimetic monologue, the Virginian Judge, made a hit here on Monday; a smart and refined musical comedy sketch is given by those talented artists Bellman and Moore; the Three Donals, graceful athletics, win loud and deserved applause; some good excuses for merriment are supplied by those diverting comics, Mr. Dan Whitley and Mr. George Antill; the Tafanos are versatile duettists and dancers; and Webb and Branston, operatic vocalists; Ormonde Penstone, prestidigitateur; the Barrascope, with humorous episodes; and the Shaun Grelville farce company, in *The Art of Deception*, make a very attractive programme.

GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Good business is the rule here with the following array of talent:—Cliff and Kean, comedy entertainers; the Hamiltons, sketch artists; Miss Winnie Wentworth, serio-comedy artist; the Almas, equilibrists and acrobats; Mr. Keane Harker and Mr. J. Wright Atkins' company, in a thrilling one-act play, *The Oath of Vengeance*. Some artistic, dramatic, fantastic, and comic films by the Raymond Bio-Tableaux Co. are much enjoyed.

ALBERT HALL.—Victor Hamilton's U.S.A. Picture Co. concludes a successful season this week.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Leigh Lovel, Miss Octavia Kenmore, and company are here this week, playing in a talented fashion Ibsen's famous pieces, *A Doll's House*, *The Master Builder*, and *Hedda Gabler*. In *The Master Builder* Mr. Lovel acts with great ability and success as Halvard Solness; Mr. Arthur McCulloch makes a genial and capable Dr. Herdal; Mr. C. W. Sykes plays carefully and well the part of Knut Brodik; Mr. E. Stanley Yorke merits praise as Ragnar Brodik; Miss Catherine Maynard as Aline Solness performs a somewhat thankless part in a most creditable manner; Miss Gladys Morris is a sweet Kaia Fosti; and Miss Octavia Kenmore acts with artistic grace and talent as Hilda Wangel.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. George Alexander's company has been scoring a great success in *The Thief*. The company is well-balanced, and an excellent representation is given. Richard Chelford is played in convincing style by Mr. Rupert Lister; and Miss Marie Polini ably sustains the part of Marise Chelford; Miss Jean Cadell and Mr. Cyril Harcourt are seen to great advantage as Mr. and Mrs. Leyton; whilst Mr. Owen Nares as Harry Leyton and Mr. Luke Forster as the detective are also excellent. The scenery and effects are in excellent taste, and the ladies' costumes handsome.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Miss Marquis and her performing cobs provide the star turn, the cleverly-trained ponies being received with enthusiasm. Chanti is a clever protean artist who scores all along the line; and Annie Schuberth sings admirably. Barrington's musical turn is highly enjoyable; and other good items are given by the Pichel troupe of acrobats; Alfonzo, equilibrist; Jock Walker, Scotch comedian; and Harry Cotton, comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Harry Fragson, the "entente-cordiale" comedian, is the bright particular star, and scores with his humorous songs at the piano; that well-known Achmed Ibrahim troupe of tumblers and acrobats win golden opinions; Josie Gallimore, a chic comedienne; The Westwoods, cycling duo; Harry Maynard, comedian; Minnie Warner, a smart dancer; and Ida Brophy, a comely comedienne, also prosper well.

PIER PAVILION. — Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Sait.—"The Scarlet Mr. E.'s," headed by that prince of humorists, Mr. Walter Dowling, drew good houses to this favourite resort on the first three days of the week. The Penarth Male Voice Choir gave two capital concerts on Thursday.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. — EMPIRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—A three-nights' engagement of *The Dairymaids* drew excellent patronage, and on Monday Mr. Robert Courtneidge's strong company gave a delightful and enjoyable presentation of the popular musical play. Sweet singing, pretty dances well executed, and choruses under the direction of Mr. Albert Bartlett aroused keen enthusiasm. Mr. Johnny Osborne was immensely popular in his able characterisation of Joe Mivens, his dancing being especially admired; Miss Gladys Silvani gave him worthy assistance as Eliza, and well deserved the many recalls she won by a clever impersonation; Mr. Nelson Keys, who made a lively rôle of Lieut. Sam Brudenell, R.N., won honours as a comedian; and Messrs. A. Wykes Ashdowne and J. A. Warden also provided good fun as Lieut. Frank Meredith, R.N., and Dr. O'Byrne, R.N., respectively. Miss Clare Marsden was seen to advantage in the rôle of Peggy, and her singing was greatly pleasing; Miss Mabel Younge made a stylish and successful character of Lady Brudenell; Miss Madge Avery gave a dignified portrayal of Miss Penelope Pychase; and Miss Clarice Lockstone as Winifred and Miss Dorothy Laine as Helen also were successful. Mr. George Edwardes is presenting *The Merry Widow* the remaining three nights of this week.

THE KURSAAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—At both afternoon and evening entertainments encouraging support from large audiences is given here. Mr. J. Carter's Ten San-Tan Girls make another appearance after a week's absence, and their rendering of the scena in *An Eastern Slave* has a popular reception; the retention of Miss Madge Ainsley, burlesque actress and dancer, gives evident satisfaction; Zaro and Arno are seen in clever acrobatic feats which greatly please; as do also the smart acrobatic eccentricities of Griffin and Ardel. Mr. Edward Mortimer provides hearty merriment as a humorist; and the Misses Nellie Giles (operatic vocalist) and Carrie Wood (soubrette and danseuse) also contribute with success. The Kursaal Belles give a no less enjoyable programme in the Café Chantant, which includes a capital series of bioscope pictures.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—Mr. Henry Swinerd is paying his annual visit here this week with *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, which is admirably presented by a clever company. Mr. Walter Ashley as Captain George Fielding is decidedly good; Mr. Walter B. Nugent as Captain Edward Dudley gives a well-studied impersonation; Mr. Harry Ugar in the rôle of Silas Crump never ceases to entertain; Mr. Dean Cliffe as Featherstone Haugh and Mr. William H. Hearson are responsible for much good humour; Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith displays talent in acting, singing, and dancing; Miss Dorothy Desmonde in the name-part is eminently suited, her singing being a special feature of a creditable portrayal; Miss Nellie Valentine is successful as Ruth Montrose, and also gains singing honours. Smart and clever acrobatic dances by the Misses Florence Corri and Daisy Holbrook are well applauded.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS. —Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—A more than usually attractive entertainment is provided during the current week by the engagement of Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's capital company in Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's charming comedy *Mrs. Dot*, which was presented here on Monday evening for the first time, and was received with marked evidence of approval. Miss Decima Moore gave a brilliant interpretation of the title-rôle, the varying moods of the volatile widow being skilfully and artistically treated throughout; Miss Emma Hutchison depicted the part of Lady Sellenger in a highly commendable and natural manner; Miss Ethel Grahame finds favour with the audience by her winsome portrayal of Nellie Sellenger; Mr. Frank Lacy is an admirable and clever exponent of James Blenkinsopp; Gerald Halstane had a capable and fitting representative in Mr. James Gelderd; Mr. Philip Leslie sustained the part of Freddy Perkins very successfully; other good comedy sketches were supplied by Miss Celia Gordon as Miss Eliza MacGregor; Mr. H. Allistoun Sampson as Mr. Rixon; Mr. R. Van Courtland as Mr. Wright; and Mr. William Midgley and Mr. F. F. Abbott as Charles and George respectively. The play is preceded by a one-act comedietta, entitled *Her Dearest Friend*.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. George D. Day's company is here in *The Prodigal Son*. Mr. Albert Ward as Oscar Stephenson displays histrionic ability; Magnus is splendidly portrayed by Mr. H. T. Crane; Stephen Magnusson and Oscar Nellsson are well played by Mr. Charles Herberte and Mr. James English; as Thora and Elin Miss Pauline Emeric is seen to advantage; Helga is powerfully depicted by Miss Pearla Gardner; Miss Florence Lovell and Miss Kate Osborne as Anna and Margaret are all that can be desired.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton.—Mlle. Sahara renders classical dances in pleasing style here; Cadwell and Verne, who appear instead of Howard and St. Clair, are well received; Vernando is an able ventriloquist; Lee and Bentley and company contribute a smart comedy sketch, *A Sure Thing*; some excellent music and dancing are submitted by Espinosa and Neilson; Geo. Payne is a clever comedian. The remaining items are the Brothers Weltman, good acrobatic dancers; the Volners, refined entertainers; and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI (LAYGATE LANE).—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Professor Marveles and his wonderful performing parrots and cockatoos do an excellent turn here; a musical item is contributed by Sabino, who introduces some dancing figures; Herr Nichel is a clever bird imitator; and the Tivoliscope completes the bill.

COSY CORNER.—Mr. George Burton's clever entertainers are much appreciated here, contributing good songs and patter, some excellent comedy items, new concerted pieces, and an admirable sketch.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—The premier position in this week's bill is worthily filled by Will Godwin, a vocalist who gains in favour on each engagement; the Voco Duo are exceedingly diverting in their vocal scena, *The Spider's Web*. Mlle. Rene, the lady Cinquevalli, is warmly applauded; Roy Bevis, court magician; the Three Transfields, in their musical act; Violet Leslie, vocalist; and Clark and Heap, vaudeville entertainers, complete an enjoyable programme.

ST. LEONARDS.—PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Frank Westhersby's company on Monday opened a week's engagement here in *Facing the Music*. Mr. Dare Austin was commendable as the Rev. John Smith; Miss Ida Chapman as the Curate's wife carried out her rôle convincingly; John Smith was breezily played by Mr. Arthur Dennis, who had capital support from Mr. Robert Noble as Dick Desmond; Miss Amy Lorraine was ideal as Mrs. Parting; and Miss Helena Parsons added to the merriment as Nora.

ST. HELENS. — THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—*Man to Man* is being presented here under the personal direction of Messrs. Edwin Lloyd and Frank Adair. Mr. Lloyd appears in the part of George Gordon with admirable success; and Mr. Adair's Richard Ellerton is well worth seeing. Mr. H. Holland takes the part of Matthew Ellerton acceptably; and Mr. Denholm Muir makes quite the conventional parson as Rev. Philip Ormond. The love-making of Samuel Plumtree (Mr. H. Bruce Williams) and Miss Lavinia Dove (Miss Adeline Lester) is much enjoyed. Miss Louie Adair shows much spirit and force in the character of Ethel Maythorne. Mr. Clifford Bown gives a capital study as Bill Burkley.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic Carnell.—A big programme includes a welcome return visit of Les Piccolinos, the wonderfully clever midgets, whose performance is received with great favour; Griff is specially engaged to make laughter, and succeeds admirably; the Leonas play duets on several instruments pleasingly; Marie Rouse sings a coon song and dances well; the Three Pirmans perform on the bars; Cavalli is an excellent ventriloquist; and Sandy and Carl, comedians, and Joe Archer add to the gaiety of the night.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—A distinct attraction for the Wakes holidays is provided here in *Why Men Love Women*, which is presented by Miss Ellen Snow and company in capable style. Gerald Fielding is impressively portrayed by Mr. Oliver Rogers; Mr. Lionel Gadsden acts admirably as Capt. Staniloff; Mr. Basil Horsfall makes a fine Maharajah of Balore; and Orlando Figgins is amusingly played by Mr. Harwood Roberts. Miss Ellen Snow acts with feeling and grace as Violet Livingstone; Miss Maud Court ably fills the character of Muriel Zoluski; and as Mrs. Figgins Miss Roland Watts Phillips sustains the part with marked ability.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Atlas and Vulcana and the Sisters Atlas have attracted crowded audiences here this week, their clever weight-lifting and the beautiful Vulcana's posing being enthusiastically applauded. The Burnells, in their sketch, *On the Links*, are boisterously funny; Kirk and Saraski give an entertaining display in the electric aquarium; Henry Curwen and Marie Belle are highly amusing in their impersonations; the Lynchs, song illustrators, are successful; Day and Knight are pleasing in a musical episode, *What Might Have Been*; and Marian Armitage, comedienne, and Jack Hayton, comedian, are favourably received.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — CASTLE THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. J. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company presented here this week in brilliant style *The Midnight Wedding*. Miss Annie Saker appeared in her original part of Princess Astrea Von Strelsburg, and completely won the hearts of the audience; as Paul Valmar (Swordmaster of the Red Hussars) Mr. Alfred Paumier acted with distinction; Mr. A. E. Winnington-Barnes as Eugene Von Strelsburg was excellent, as was also Mr. Mayor-Cooke as Rudolf Von Scarsbruck, Mr. James E. Page as Sergeant Max, Mr. Harry Richardson as Corporal Otto, and Mr. Algie Spalding as Private Bobo caused much merriment in their love-making with Miss Ada Champion as Kathie.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Tarro Miyake, ju-jitsu wrestler, who heads the bill here this week, gives a fine exhibition of his style of wrestling, and causes much excitement with his challenges among the locals; Messrs. John Brandon and company, in a sketch entitled *The Lovely Liars*, cause much laughter; Victor and Lewis, the golfer and the caddie, are good comedians; Brothers Bradshaw, acrobatic eccentrics, are very clever; Brenda and Green are smart club jugglers. Lillian O'Gorman, comedienne; Sisters Herbert, duettists and dancers; Three Royal Temples, operatic vocalists; and the Pictoscopes are also in the programme.

GRAND THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week to crowded houses a drama, entitled *The Guiding Star*. Payne's Bio-photoscope shows some up-to-date pictures.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—Miss Nellie Wallace, the popular comedy artist, provokes much amusement by her various contributions; the grotesqueness of her wardrobe and the way she "flits" about the stage are really too funny for words; Martell gives a good exhibition of ball-juggling and bouncing; Royston and Royce are a clever comedy couple; the Brady-Johnson company presents a laughter-raising concoction of misunderstandings; Morrisey, as an instrumental equilibrist, presents a novel and pleasing act; Handel and Lee are clever instrumentalists; Harry Luck's parody song takes well; Babs Lloyd is a dainty little dancer; and The Dieppe Motor Race is shown on the bioscope.

SUNDERLAND. — THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. Ronald Yorke's company, in *The Old Home*, is drawing crowded houses here. Mr. David G. Noble gives a masterly impersonation of the Rev. Eric Armstrong; Mr. Ronald Yorke infuses considerable power into the rôle of Lord Avondale; Mr. J. H. Clyndes, as Daddy Dean, gives a clever character study; Miss Laura Walker is a refined and pathetic Hazel.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Rich. Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Fred Edward's company top the bill here this week, and submit a capital sketch entitled *Kleptomaniacs*, the principal parts being in the able hands of Miss Bertha Northam and Mr. Fred Edwards; Arthur Jefferson and company score a huge success in a capital comedy sketch written by himself, and entitled *Home from the Honeymoon*; Cestria proves himself to be a comedy juggler and acrobatic comedian of exceptional merit; May Edouin, in an original novelty costume act, receives a flattering reception; Bessie Butt, soubrette, pleases with her songs and delightful dances; Rex Fox submits a unique musical act on the wire; Will Poluski, jun., comedian and dancer, has a budget of good songs; Howe and Ardie are two comedy gymnasts of more than usual ability. The entertainment winds up with the usual show of animated pictures.

OLYMPIA.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. B. Barnes.—The fashionable pastime of roller-skating has evidently taken a firm hold in the Wearside borough, judging by the crowded state of the rink nightly. As the previous masked and costume carnival was such a huge success, another one was held on Thursday.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—*Man and Wife* is the attraction at the Grand this week, played by Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company. Miss Kate Hallam makes a delightful Marcelli; Mr. John F. Traynor is the central figure of the piece, and as Paul Revere he bore himself admirably; Mr. Edward M. Hamilton as Captain D'Esparre was greatly successful; and Miss Millie Doris as Rosette made a charming Vivandiere.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is meeting with great success in *A Lancashire Lad*. As the lad Mr. Alex. Alexander acts with power, and is well supported by Miss Stanley Burt, who as Jessie Wincote is particularly effective. As the villainess Miss Nellie Oliver is excellent; and Mr. Percy Maitland as her husband is no less effective.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—That diverting couple Bella and Bijou top the bill here this week with the latest skit, *The Suffragette*, and the excellence of its humour is beyond doubt. The Frank L. Gregory Troupe give an extraordinary turn with wooden hoops; Reichen's dogs are certainly highly trained; Little Zola installs himself a big favourite; and Phil W. and Nellie Peters are acceptable comedy entertainers. Agnes Tina, a little lady of tender years, provides a clever turn; brilliant music is contributed by the Jumels; and Jennie Mackay, the lavender girl, sings sweetly. Bioscope pictures of the Marathon Race are A1.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—A capital programme is provided here this week, the turns including Sears, America's foremost illusionist, assisted by Edythe MacVermon; Zibb and Zibb, in their daring trapeze act; Lilian Boyne, dainty comedienne; Ara, Zebra, and Vara, acrobats; Hinton and Wooton, in a football match on bicycles; St. George Sylvesta, necromancer, supported by Vere de Courtney, in a series of illusory novelties; Diana Hope and company, in the society episode, *Her Good Name*; and the Empire pictures.

TORQUAY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr Arthur Pearse.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is doing good business here this week in *When Knights Were Bold*. Miss Edith Anton Laing as Lady Rowena impersonates the part with particular ability; and Miss Madge Devereux is seen to advantage as Miss Sarah Isaacson. Mr. Charles Roadknight is good as Wittle, as is also Mr. Humphrey Warden as Sir Brian. Mr. Colin Johnson makes a typical cleric as Rev. Peter Pottlebury; Mr. Algernon W. Lee is very clever as Hon. Charles Widdicombe; and the rôle of Isaac Isaacsoft is in the capable hands of Mr. Charles Benson. The character which has made this piece so popular, that of Sir Guy De Vere, is admirably taken by Mr. Bert Beswick, who keeps the house in tumultuous roars of laughter the whole evening, and is heartily applauded after each act.

PRINCESS PIER CONCERT HALL.—Proprietors, the Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T. Tremlett.—A crowded house welcomed the appearance on Monday evening of that popular costume comedy company, the Tatlers, under the direction of Mr. Louis Rihll. Mr. Rihll is an entertainment in himself, and provokes hearty laughter whenever he is on the stage. The concerted numbers are thoroughly appreciated.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—The dramatic season is continued this week with a visit from Mr. Mouillot's company in *Tom Jones*. Miss Margaret Stonar is a charming Sophia, and acts the part of Fielding's heroine with much grace and charm; Miss Florrie Saunders supplies an admirable study of Honor, the maid; the title-rôle is ably sustained by Mr. Cyril Thompson, who makes an ideal Tom Jones, and also sings well. Other characters are capably sustained.

TYNEMOUTH. — PALACE-BY-THE-SEA.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—Ernest Hastings, the popular musical humorist, is paying a welcome return visit here this week; Sydney James's strolling players contribute a capital turn; the Sisters Cora, comediana, have a hearty reception; Gilbert Fernie is a comedian of considerable ability.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—The attraction here this week is Mr. G. M. Copping's company in the drama *Love Rules the World*. The part of the hero, Harold Kingston, is well depicted by Mr. Richard Vane, and Mr. John Cecil is very effective as Stephen Blight, the villain; Mr. A. W. Wynne does full justice to Paul Carruthers; Mr. M. Russell is seen to advantage in his humorous rendering of Billy Blake; and Mr. Frank Etheridge proves successful as Farmer Carruthers. Miss Gertrude Sterroll gives a charming rendering of Maud; Miss Constance Medwyn merits praise as Flo Morton, and Miss Nelly Freeland is smart as Kitty.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. Joe Peterman's company is creating much merriment here this week in a musical extravaganza, *The Belle of the Orient*; the Four Regals fully earn the ovations they receive for their feats of strength; Mlle. de Rose displays fine vocal powers; Mr. J. H. Hawtrey, vocalist, is cordially received; the Milfords, comedians, are amusing; Miss Adnee Mellor, ballad vocalist, and Mr. Harry Hutin, comedian, also merit appreciation.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Allan Wilkie is paying a welcome return visit here, and a hearty reception was given the talented actor on Monday evening when he submitted a scholarly interpretation of Shylock. A charming Portia was Miss Carrie Baillie; Mr. Alexander Marsh delivered the lines allotted to Bassanio with rare effect, and Mr. John Paley was especially successful as Antonio; Mr. Ernest Digges was an acceptable Lorenzo, and Mr. Ian Fleming a humorous Lancelot. The members of the company who have previously won their spurs in Warrington were all well placed in their respective rôles. *Othello*, *Richard III.*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Bells*, *David Garrick*, and *Hamlet* were also billed during the week.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—There is another capital set of pictures here this week, and the entertainment is up to the usual high standard pitch of excellence.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. S. D. Bradbury.—There is another capital entertainment here this week, and the business done is excellent. The Gothams are exceptionally smart comedians and vocalists; Dave Samuels is a quaint comedian; Billy French is a smart wooden-shoe dancer; and Jim Cheetham scores with his whistling and imitation of many bird songsters; Little Dolly Brough is a delightful entertainer, and Les Frasettis play on several classical instruments in first-class style; Gravetta and Parr are clever novelty artists, and in the sketch, *The Welsh Girl and the Artist*, Gold and Sterling make a hit. The pictures are good.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Kuner.—Mr. Harry Battersby's Imperial Pierrots are being received here with every success. Mr. Alfred Brookes is a favourite comedian; and Miss Florence Holroyd proves herself a charming soubrette. A good performance is that given by Mr. Harry Plant, patter comedian and musical marvel; Mr. Carl St. Clair, mimic and impersonator, is heartily appreciated; and Mr. Bert Simner, baritone and musical-director, is greatly popular. Valuable assistance is forthcoming from the clever entertainer Paul Jones; and pictures, shown on the Pierroscope, bring the performance to a close.

WEST BROMWICH.—NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—Yukio Tani makes a welcome reappearance here. Among other prominent features in a strong programme are the Hayes and Watson Trio, in the original comedy, *Three in a Bar*; Iris Yohe, a delightful comedienne; the Three Celtics, in comedy and harmony; Harry Hasto, a clever comedian; Veld, a fine instrumentalist; and Silbon's Circus, which introduces some well-trained horses. The Hippodrome pictures depict the great Marathon Race.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Liconsee, Mr. J. P. Moore; Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—During the holiday season this place of amusement has been closed "for alterations and repairs," and it now presents a most charming appearance. New and more comfortable seats have been provided, it has been redecorated throughout, and lit with electric lights. It is also under new management, Mr. R. Nightingale, the popular manager, having become the lessee, in place of Mr. Harding Thomas. The attraction this week is provided by Mr. Joseph Bebb's company, which is producing *A Lion's Heart*, in which Mr. Henry Bedford appears with great success as the lion tamer, and Mr. Stephen Scanlan as Gaspard Dobre. Miss Ada Oakley is very fine as Louise, the wife of the lion tamer in the prologue, and as Marion in the play, while the other parts are all very admirably sustained.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND. — Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Mr. Wilson Benge and his company present this week *The Eve of Her Wedding*, which is being appreciated by well-filled houses; Mr. Wilson Benge and Miss Sadie Smith appear in the leading rôles of George Treymain and Mavis Leverton, and are deserving of every praise for their admirable acting; a capital portrayal of the cripple, Jack Hearne, is contributed by Mr. A. E. Holland; Miss Effie Bartlett is realistic in the trying rôle of Reine de Tille; a capable rendition of the part of Gwendoline Younger is given by Miss Daisie Cook, and Mr. K. Arthur is successful as Bill Goggins.

PALACE.—Proprietor Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Shrieks of laughter accompany the absurdities of Charles F. Best in his burlesque mountebank performance; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic, is an old favourite, of whom a West Hartlepool audience never tires; ventriloquism has a capable exponent in W. E. Whittle in his scena, *President Roosevelt on the Field of Battle*; graceful contortions are performed by Mlle. Bartenelli; Lambert and Hands are well received in vocal scena; a clever and sensational gymnastic performance is given by the Millicent Frères, and other attractions are supplied by Three Sisters Elcott, vocalists and dancers; Lew Towers, light comedian, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Norman V. Norman is paying his annual visit here, and on Monday staged *Still Waters Run Deep*. Mr. Norman's interpretation of John Mildmay was a thoroughly artistic one; Mr. Alfred Gray made Captain Hawkesley sufficiently villainous, whilst Mr. Sam Wilkinson gave a fine character sketch of Mr. Potter; Mr. J. F. Lambe as Mr. Dunbilk, Mr. J. Cassell-Cott as Mr. Langford, Mr. Cyril Percy as Mr. Markham, Mr. C. Carson Freer as Gimlet, and Mr. J. A. Smith as Jessop were all good in their respective characters. Miss Beatrice Wilson's histrionic ability found plenty of scope as Mrs. Sternhold; Miss Violet made a charming Mrs. Mildmay, and Miss Adeline M. Granville was praiseworthy as Mary.

GRAND PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The Dandies are always sure of a big reception here, and on Monday the audience showed how thoroughly it appreciated their efforts. Miss Rhoda Gordon sang "Vilia" most charmingly; Miss Josephine Gordon's rendering of "If the world were ruled by girls" was loudly encored; Mr. Philip Moore's fine voice was heard to advantage in "The Yeoman's Wedding"; Mr. Stephen Fitzgerald is a great favourite locally, and this clever comedian's humorous songs were vociferously received; Mr. John Lambert shows some very beautiful pictures by Pathé Frères on the Bioscope which are well received.

PIER KIOSK.—Mr. Henri's variety company, The Happyknacks, are proving a big draw here. Miss Lalla Hankinson is an excellent comedienne; her song "Auntie" was loudly applauded. A really smart turn is Miss Kate Flynn, who sang with expression "The Gay River"; Mr. Will Cullen excels as a comedian, his rendering of "Afraid to go home" being really funny; Mr. T. Kaufmann is an artist whose efforts were much appreciated, and Mr. Ed. Rosse sang "Thora" artistically.

WEYMOUTH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Nobbs.—Cowper Smith and Douglas Payne's company in *The New Girl* have scored an immense success, and have extended their stay in consequence; Miss Rosa Bennett as Hilda Coleman won tremendous applause; Mr. Arthur Poole as Col. Bullett was heartily received; Mr. Ralph Lynn as Bertie Holbrook was a capital impersonation, and Mr. Edgar McIntyre as Harry Harrow showed conspicuous talent; Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., played the butler, Browne, capitally; Miss Ivy Leighton was a charming Cerise, and Miss Beatrice Sutherland gave a pleasing rendering of her part; and Miss Victoria Douglas was very good as Martha Grimm. The chorus is a capable one, and the piece is well mounted.

WHITBY. — THE SPA THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Payne Seddon.—The attraction at this theatre during the initial days of the week has been Mr. Edward Compton's company in *The School for Scandal*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *David Garrick*, preceded each evening by *The Desperate Lover*. There were large and appreciative gatherings on each occasion. On Thursday evening Mr. George Robertson's company, in *A Message from Mars*, drew a capital house. On Saturday last "The Follies" appeared at the Temperance Hall, and met with a rousing reception.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas Kiddie.—This week the two-houses-a-night system is reverted to. The Musical Butlers do a good turn; the La Don Troupe are clever tumblers and double-ladder wonders; the Two Clarkes are good at their business; Melvin and Max dance with wonderful skill; the Three Singing Colliers have made a capital local reputation, and their turn is much enjoyed; Dewey and Clay are a coloured couple who sing duets and dance with decided ability.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. Ian Maclaren, supported by his talented company, is appearing here in Shakespearean répertoire. The week's programme consisted of *Hamlet*, *David Garrick*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, and *Othello*. The characters in the various plays were most capably presented, and the visit of the company has been much appreciated.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The Dunedin Troupe are responsible for a daring cycle act, which creates quite a sensation; Spadoni presents her stud of well-trained horses, and an

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Drama, by Fredk. Melville, entitled

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."

After a rather prolonged vacation the King's Theatre reopened on Monday for what promises to be a busy autumn season, judging from the attractive list of coming events already announced. For the present week Mr. Mulholland is content to rely upon one of the Melville series of dramas now so popular. *Her Road to Ruin* has been seen here before, and, as on the previous occasion, has proved a pronounced success. Large audiences have followed the story of Jess Willoughby, who, for the sake of leading a life of pleasure, allows herself to become mixed up with a gang of swindlers, and falls in love with the chief. The plot is ably developed in Mr. Melville's characteristic style, and, played by a good company, goes with a will. Mr. Henry Wolston, who undertakes the part of the Rev. Frank Temple, is a sound and powerful actor, and soon makes himself popular with the audience; very praiseworthy is Mr. Heaton Grey in the character of Tom Wells, a journalist; Mr. H. Williams is good as Mr. Derwent, the solicitor; and Inspector Homewood of Scotland Yard is capably handled by Mr. Wm. Brooke. The arch scoundrel Philip Hardy is exceedingly well played by Mr. Alex. Bradley, his final exit in custody being so loudly acclaimed that it is a tribute to his unquestionable ability; Mr. Victor Moors renders Charles Cholmondeley with much tact and skill; loud roars of laughter greet the very amusing acting of Mr. F. C. Brooke as Dicky Gerald; Mr. Dare Clarke gives a vigorous impersonation of the Bishop; and Mr. Thomas Henry is an excellent Billy Grimes. Miss Eva Moss repeats her very expressive and earnest performance of the heroine, Jess Willoughby, and duly secures the utmost approbation; Mary Dawson is represented by Miss Nellie Bonser with much power and effect; Miss Alice Bowes ensures everybody's sympathy by her pleasant acting as May Willoughby; an old Hammersmith favourite, Miss Marie Wright, makes a successful Jennie Crackling. The scenery is a credit to the handsome theatre, which, by the way, has been choicely redecorated during the recess.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

The attraction here this week has been *Sunday*, which has been produced under the supervision of Mr. Louis Calvert. As Arthur Brinthorpe Mr. Wilson Blake takes full advantage of his one chance; Mr. Wm. Giffard as Colonel Brinthorpe acts with earnestness and power; as Tom Oxley Mr. T. Norman Walter is excellent. Miss Marjorie Murray plays Sunday with remarkable skill and intelligence. Her appearance is decidedly in her favour, and her power of emotional expression is considerable. She delivers the passionate speech in the second act with striking energy and depth of feeling, and is tender and sympathetic in the sentimental passages. Altogether, Miss Murray may be warmly praised for her very effective performance. Miss Lila Barclay enacts the Nun with admirable reserve and distinctness; and Miss H. G. Edwin plays Mrs. Naresby quite cleverly. Mr. James Skea as Towzer, Mr. A. C. Holmes as Davy, Mr. James Hussey as Lively, and Mr. Alec Alves as Jacky all act with ability. The piece is well mounted.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 10,

"THE STILL ALARM."

The popularity of Joseph Arthur's great American drama *The Still Alarm* was amply testified by the large and appreciative audience which greeted its production at Kennington on Monday by Glenville and Osmond's company. The piece was presented with all the accessories which have contributed in no small measure to its success. The enthusiasm of the house was unbounded when the beautiful horses Pegasus and Bucephalus were harnessed to the fire-engine in the New York Central Station at the receipt of the "Still Alarm" signal, and dashed off to the conflagration in time to allow of Jack Manley, the hero, to rescue the heroine from the mansion which John Bird, the villain, had set ablaze. Not only was the presentation of these scenes a triumph of stage-craft, but the tragic intensity of the plot was relieved by the singing of the Lyric Quartette, whose tuneful melodies were excellently rendered. A more fearless and stalwart hero than the Jack Manley of Mr. Mathew Glenville it would not be easy to find. He acted with great power throughout. Miss Beatrice Shirley was well placed as the unfortunate Elinor Fordham, giving a faithful sketch of the girl who was sacrificing her love for Jack Manley in order to save her father. The rôle of the latter was admirably filled by Mr. Lewis Gordon, who furnished a good representation of the unhappy parent caught in the villain's toils. Mr. Gerald Kennedy was allotted the uncongenial part of John Bird, and he played it with a good deal of skill. The lighter side of the drama was also in able hands. Mr. Fred Osmond was seen at his best as Doc Wilber, the drunken old clerk, enacting the rôle with great cleverness. Mr. Tom Beasley won every heart by his lively delineation of Willie Manley, and as Carrie Wilber, his sweetheart, Miss Hettie Zillwood was a warm favourite. Miss Mabel Veriton made a loveable mother to the boys Manley, and Mr. T. Varney was exceedingly funny as Bill Nozzle, the station fireman. Others who deserved mention were Mr. J. S. Pateman, Mr. G. Francis, Mr. E. Tudnor, Mr. W. Edwards, and Mr. G. Owen, firemen, and Mr. E. Hamilton, a servant. The greyhound Laddie, the fireman's pet, was also an object of much interest.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled

"THE BONDMAN."

Mr. Wentworth Croke's clever company is appearing in *The Bondman* at the pretty Notting Hill Gate Theatre. This is one of the most stirring and powerful of Hall Caine's dramas, and is likely to repeat its Drury Lane success "on the road." The scene of the Farm at Harvest Time is sweetly pretty and picturesque, and the "set" of the Sulphur Mines, with the convicts at work, and the explosion of the mines, provides a most realistic and awesome picture. The stage management reflects great credit on Mr. Reginald A. Hunt. Miss Georgina Winter is a very charming, and withal powerful, representative of the part of Greeba Fairbrother, and her gracious presence as well as her emotional strength, gain her golden opinions. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin is a fine virile figure of a man, and a good elocutionist, as the rough diamond, Jason, and he gains the sympathy of the audience throughout for the rugged force and nobility of the character portrayed, as well as for his personal merits in its interpretation. Mr. Lionel Atwill is an excellent foil to the more forceful character of Jason, as the gentle, unsuspicious, but over-exacting, Michael Sunlocks, and the scenes in which the two foster-brothers meet on the sulphur mines is tense and powerful to a degree. Mr. W. H. Rotheram doubles the parts of Grandfather and Father Ferrati, and right well he acquits himself, and gives just the delicate handling to the latter part which it requires. Mr. Alfred Fisher is duly saturnine and repulsive as Governor Testa; and Mr. F. J. Waller does well as his more suave and specious coadjutor, Dr. Boni. Mr. George R. Austin is noteworthy in the part of Marshal of the Police, a rôle to which he renders full justice; Mr. Oswald Lingard makes a fine heroic figure of the pious and good-hearted Adam Fairbrother; and Miss Madge Langrton secures many a hearty laugh by her crisp and droll delivery of Mrs. Fairbrother's kaleidoscopic comment on the affairs of life, and helps us to lose sight of the despicable nature of the woman's time-serving doctrines. Miss Gertrude Helene as Mona, Master Walter Neville as Danny, and Misses Marie Greenhouse and Julia M. Willis, as the Callow girls, do good service. All the smaller parts are well played, and the dance in Act II., from Edward German's "Nell Gwynne" suite, is excellently performed. Mr. R. W. A. Brewer is responsible for the steam production and effect, and Mr. G. E. Williams is business-manager.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Melodrama, entitled "THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."

There was a well-filled house at the reconstructed and redecorated Kingston playhouse on Monday, when the first of six performances of this, one of Mr. Melville's best productions, was given, and the reception accorded to it was certainly of a most flattering description. The company is an excellent one all round. Mr. Ronald Adair, as the bluff and breezy Jack Tar, Willie Mason, wins the sympathies of the on-lookers in all parts of the house. Miss Jessie Belmore, who plays the part of the erring Sophie Coventry, also scores a great success with a very winsome piece of acting, which is enhanced by an equally pleasing appearance. Mr. Frank R. Robertson makes an acceptable Jack Fenton; and Miss Zoe Davis acquits herself admirably as Lucy Coventry, his wife, and the girl who took the right turning. The heavy lead is admirably sustained by Mr. Raymond Wood in the part of James Harcourt, who loses none of his polished villainy in his hands. Mr. Sidney Sarl makes good use of his opportunities as his tool, Bill Slater; and Miss Nannie Meade, as his accomplice, Vesta le Clare, gives a lurid portrayal of the reckless woman of Society. The lighter parts of the play are ably sustained by Mr. Fred Ingram as Johnny Walker, and by Miss Marie Kildare as Poppy Slater. The mounting of the play is beyond all praise.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Aug. 10, for the First Time in London, the Drama, in Four Acts, by R. A. Roberts, entitled

"STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER."

Dr. Francis Bedford ....Mr. Matthew Boulton
David Gleeson .....Mr. Leonard Clarke
Donald Macgregor ....Mr. Cuthbert Dennison
Henry M. Grant .....Mr. Franklin McAvoy
Sergeant Bright .....Mr. Bertram Carlton
Rev. John Armitage ....Mr. George H. Child
Jim Green .....Mr. Fred Beck
Fred Stafford .....Mr. George Fisher
Millicent Grant .....Miss Beatrice Burdett
Miss Brittle .....Miss Edie Casson
Gladys Brittle .....Miss Beatrice Moore
Mary Gleeson .....Miss Frances Bruce

A hit as effective as that suggested by its title has been made by the new drama, *Straight from the Shoulder*, which drew a large and enthusiastic audience to the Broadway on Monday, when the piece received its introduction to the Metropolis. The drama, which is the work of Mr. R. A. Roberts, the popular protean artist and actor, while dispensing with any lurid sensationalism, possesses many stirring incidents, and New Cross playgoers have during the week experienced a succession of thrills. There is, too, an agreeable freshness about the comedy element, which is seldom forced, and arises naturally out of the action of the play. The title is an alluring one, and indicates the lines on which the story proceeds, stimulating in the breasts of a popular audience that love of fair play which is to them a cherished tradition. The plot of the piece was fully detailed on its production at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on the 3rd inst., but it may be recalled that the leading figure is that of Francis Bedford, a young doctor, who steps in to defend a weak woman from the cruelty of her blackguard husband, and with his forcible "left" sends him to earth. Bent upon revenge, the villain, David Gleeson, succeeds in fixing upon Bedford's shoulders the onus of a foul crime, with the result that he is sent to penal servitude. Six years later, released from gaol, the doctor, under an assumed name, woos the daughter of the man with whose murder he was charged, and Gleeson, coming upon the scene, is about to divulge the awful circumstances of the doctor's past when his mouth is stopped by his accomplice, who, vowing to do no more evil, declares he will reveal the truth. In the interval that elapses between the second and third acts, Bedford, the wrongly accused, and Millicent Grant, the murdered man's daughter, have become man and wife, but their domestic felicity is marred by the appearance of Gleeson, who has been in prison, but escapes and takes refuge in the doctor's house. He loses no time in informing Millicent of the fact that her husband is the man upon whom the guilt of her father's murder has been laid; but the villain does not get off triumphant, for the doctor again gets in his trusty left, and Gleeson goes off to seek shelter in a neighbouring abbey. The agonised wife finds herself unable to accept her husband's protestations of innocence, and, tearing off her wedding-ring, flings it at his feet. Francis sets out to follow his traducer in order to wring the truth from him, and traces him to the abbey, where, amid the ivy-clad walls and turrets of the ruin the two men struggle for mastery. Meanwhile Millicent arrives with a letter in which her husband's innocence is proclaimed, but Gleeson, simulating remorse, gains possession of the document, and destroys it ere he dies a miserable death. His former accomplice, however, is at hand to clear the doctor's name, and all is well.

Mr. Roberts's carefully-selected and well-drilled company have had the benefit of the chief's supervision at rehearsals, and work in perfect harmony. Mr. Mathew Boulton leads the way with an artistic interpretation of Dr. Francis Bedford, of whose sterling qualities he gives a convincing portrayal. He has admirable elocutionary gifts, and his utterance of many dashing speeches secure them a ready hearing. The emotional abilities of Miss Beatrice Burdett are put to excellent use in the exacting rôle of Millicent Grant. Delicacy and grace mark her earlier scenes, while in the episodes wherein the distressed wife undergoes so severe a trial, and, removing her wedding ring, casts it scornfully at the feet of her husband, her dramatic intensity is profound. Mr. Leonard Clarke is a skilful exponent of David Gleeson, who rejoices in the fact that he has no conscience, and revels in his nefarious work. His portrayal at the end of the broken and distracted man grovelling on the ground at the approach of the victim of his schemes is a skilful piece of work artistically coloured. The lighter side of the piece is sustained by a number of typical characters. Jim Green, the accomplice of the villain, who afterwards becomes his footman, is responsible for many diverting moments. He is represented with irresistible drollery by Mr. Fred Beck, who makes the utmost of every opportunity to create mirth, his efforts resulting in peals of merriment. Assistance in the cause of mirth is derived from Mr. George Fisher, an excellent light comedian, and from Miss Beatrice Moore, a prepossessing and vivacious soubrette, who enact a pair of young lovers who are constantly quarrelling. Their encounters are made decidedly diverting, and the enjoyment of the audience is unlimited. Great advantage to the comedy element is also obtained by the presence in the cast of Miss Edie Casson, who plays the maiden aunt with animation and charm, brightening every scene in which she appears by her amusing loquacity. Mr. George H. Child, in whom are invested the responsibilities of stage management, plays with marked ability as the Rev. John Armitage. Admirably made up and speaking with due emphasis, Mr. Child cuts a venerable figure as the Dr. Primrose-like parson, and commands the esteem of all. Miss Frances Bruce acquits herself ably as the unfortunate Mary Gleeson; as Sergeant Bright Mr. Bertram Carlton is all that could be desired; Mr. Cuthbert Dennison gives a characteristic rendering of Donald Macgregor; and Mr. Franklin McAvoy acts impressively as the ill-fated diamond merchant. The music, composed by Mr. Denham Harrison, has no small share in the success of the production, which is enhanced by entirely new scenery and elaborate lighting effects, and has all the elements of a money-making melodrama. Mr. Charles Boult is the business-manager for the company, and his presence in the front of the house ensures a hearty welcome to all.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Drama, entitled

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."

The popular parts of the well-appointed house at Clapham Junction have been crowded this week to extend a welcome to Mr. Walter Melville's company in one of his earlier works. The trenchant pen of Mr. Melville has dealt vigorously with various social sores in the dramas which he has given to the stage, and in *A Girl's Cross Roads* he has put the disease of dipsomania effectively before the public eye. His principal character is that of a lady of good position, and the ravages wrought by drink are shown with a dramatic ingenuity that results in many poignant scenes. The part of the wretched wife who falls a victim to the liquor fiend is played by Miss Hilda Beverley, who portrays with unerring skill each stage of the downfall of Barbara Wade until she reaches the lowest depths of degradation. The representation exerts an impressive effect, and Miss Beverley, who never spares herself in her portrayal, is justly the recipient of frequent and hearty cheers. The play is rich in picturesque characters, not the least effective of which is that of Nellie Meadows, a variant of the fascinating adventuress that Mr. Melville has so often portrayed. There is a distinct vein of humour in the rôle of the old farmer's erring daughter, and it is to this side of the character that Miss Nita Langford devotes much attention, with the most agreeable results. Her dramatic gifts and excellent facial play are also well employed, and the utmost effect is made out of the rôle. Cuthbert Lumley, her associate in villainy, is played in easy-going style by Mr. Edward Chester, who cleverly carries out the author's intention, and is responsible for much of the merriment that arises out of his scenes of repartee with Nellie Meadows. The virtuous and modest young schoolmistress, Constance Cornell, is realistically represented by Miss Dorothy Hildebrand, who gains the sympathy of the audience throughout the many trying scenes in which she figures. The distressed husband of the inebriate, Jack Livingstone, is depicted in forcible and vigorous style by Mr. Jack Fortescue, who looks the manly young squire to perfection, and delivers his lines in finished style. Mr. Charles Franmore's rendering of old Farmer Meadows is perfect in make-up and acting. Many of the heart-stirring lines of the piece fall to the old country farmer, and Mr. Franmore does not fail to make the most of them, acting with a force and truth to nature that win constant and hearty cheers. Fun is supplied in abundance by Mr. Fred Hodson, who develops the character of Toby Turvey on broad lines. Loyal service in this capacity is also done by Miss Daisy Maynard, a favourite exponent of low comedy in Mr. Melville's dramas. In the present instance she has the rôle of Tilly Vane, the affianced wife of Toby, and together they are successful in putting the house into roars of laughter. A pleasing portrayal of the generously disposed Dr. Weston is given by Mr. Edward Valentine; and the Luke Ramsden of Mr. Fred Withers is a sound and capable performance. Other characters of a lengthy cast are suitably portrayed, and the drama is set with completeness and care. Mr. Harold Wagner, the able manager of the company, must be congratulated on the success of its visit to the Shakespeare.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Drama, entitled

"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."

Mr. Frank Bertram's company is entertaining Fulham playgoers with a vigorous representation of the above stirring melodrama. The play has plenty of effective situations, and gives scope for some good work by the actors. Mr. Bertram himself takes the important rôle of the convict, Grahame, and handles the part with no mean skill, being equally effective in drawing cheers and laughter. Mr. Escott Robson plays the villain, Jasper Thorn, admirably, and gets much applause; Mr. W. Burgess is dignified as Neville, the banker; and Mr. Walter Graham does well as Harold Trevelyan. Mr. Willie Black creates much amusement as the very Irish constable and warder, O'Laragan; and Mr. H. Loye-Staples is a properly stern Inspector Harper. Miss Lillian Dean plays with sincerity and charm as Edith Grahame; and Miss Amy Randolph is bright and amusing as Betty Hyne; while Miss Nellie Waddington makes the most of the trying part of Marian Thorne. The minor characters, such as the various convicts and warders, are well in their places, and all work hard to make the piece go.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Drama, entitled

"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."

Mr. Fred Melville's latest production, *Married to the Wrong Man*, entered upon its second week on Monday, and has been playing to packed houses. The play has achieved an unqualified success. Miss Gertrude Boswell has been the recipient of numerous bouquets during the run, and her fine acting in her many trying scenes has been greatly appreciated. Mr. Charles Vivian still continues to present an interesting study of Jasper Skinner; and Mr. Oswald Cray is a popular hero, Jack Gladwin. The Elephant Bioscope makes an acceptable break in the evening's entertainment, and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. J. Reillie, supplies some excellent selections. Mr. Sydney Barnard is an ever-courteous manager.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the modern drama, by David Muskerry, entitled

"A GIRL REDEEMED FROM SIN."

The members of Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company are appearing this week at the Dalston Theatre in the modern drama, with a really interesting story, entitled *A Girl Redeemed from Sin*. The centre of attraction in the piece is Nancy Lee, a mill girl, who through the vicissitudes of what is commonly styled "fortune," is made the medium of many temptations and trials, even to the point of being brought to the gallows, from the grim jaws of which she miraculously escapes. This trying part is admirably sustained by Miss Olive Fulton, who brings an amount of dramatic art to bear upon the representation which does her infinite credit. Mr. Philippe Ore, who plays Lord Denham, contributes equally to the success of the play by the careful rendering of a part which is at once interesting and powerful. Mr. Clinton Baddeley as Ernest Sylveston, cousin to Lord Denham, whose title he assumes after he has helped to dispose of his relation, constitutes a villain who is cordially detested by the audience, and thereby wins the successful actor's reward. Mr. Jo Monkhouse as Will May, of H.M.S. Good Hope, is not only an ardent lover and a typical sailor, but, in adopting different disguises in the course of the piece, he proves that he is not only an expert in the art of making up, but that he is also a bit of a quick-change artist. His success is complete. Mr. Victor Knight as Jim Jakes, another sailor, Miss Ada Oxley as Peggy Grey, his sweetheart, and Mr. Wallie Spinner as the Hon. Bertie Boyes provide the fun of the play, and very successfully too, some of the most comical scenes keeping the audience in a roar. Mr. Gifforde Reynolds as Samuel Lee, Miss Fannie Olive as Mrs. Lee, and Miss Gertie Pawle as Mrs. Mac each help to sustain the interest of the story, for the full working out of which there are no less than twenty characters.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

The New Bioscope Company, under the able direction of Mr. F. R. Griffiths, has been here for several weeks past, and is attracting good audiences with a light and pleasant entertainment which is very suitable for the present summer weather. The films shown are above the average, and their general effect is enhanced by the appropriate incidental music which accompanies them. Some of the pictures are particularly good, notably Worthy of the Name, The Gambler, In the Shadow of the Law, and The Right to Live. Atroy, described as "a society juggler," provides a smart turn; Viola is particularly successful in her performance on various musical instruments; Amandus is loudly applauded for his facial mimicry; and Rosina performs ably on the silver bells and banjo. There is a complete change of programme every week. Mr. Albert Mathams is the courteous acting-manager. The regular dramatic season will commence in September.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Musical Comedy, entitled "FLORODORA."

A most welcome change is to be chronicled at this favourite South London house by the presentation by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company of this ever-popular musical comedy. The theatre was crowded on the night of our visit, and the melodies, duets, and songs, the amusing scenes with the irresistible Tweedlepunch and lively atmosphere of the piece, aroused much enthusiasm. Mr. J. Bannister Howard has surrounded himself with a clever body of artists; the chorus is capable, pretty and engaging; and the famous "Tell me, pretty maiden," receives an ovation. *Florodora* is also well staged and dressed, while the augmented orchestra materially add to the charm of the whole performance. Mr. Fred Eastman as Tweedlepunch is the life and soul of the performance. His acting throughout proved highly to the taste of the house. Mr. Stanley White (the general and stage manager for Mr. Bannister Howard) does extremely well as Cyrus Gilfain; Mr. Basil Mercer is a handsome and effective exponent of Frank Abercoed; Mr. Edwin Oxlee as Leandro does good work; Miss Maisie Ellinger is a capable and charming Dolores; Miss Lily Gullick is a dainty Angela; and high praise must be awarded Miss Edith Housely for her portrayal of Lady Holyrood. Throughout the evening there were numerous encores. Mr. Will T. Taylor, Mr. Fred Melville's urbane acting-manager, is ever to the front in looking after the interests of visitors to this successful theatre.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Drama, entitled "THE FATAL WEDDING."

A warm reception is offered this week to Mr. Bert Coote's company in *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. Cecil A. Melton as Howard Wilson has a part which suits him to a nicety, and he makes the most of his opportunity. Robert Curtis is successfully undertaken by Mr. Frank Harrison; Mr. Charles Locke affords much amusement in the character of Toto, a French butler; Mr. Cyril Melton is diverting as Peter Schwartz; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh gives a good impersonation of Cora Williams; Miss Ethel Kay imbues the part of Mabel Wilson with the necessary pathos, and gives an impressive rendering; Bridget is humorously essayed by Miss Ethel Sarjient, who causes genuine and hearty laughter; and Miss Lulu Wohlmann displays much ability as Jessie and speedily becomes on good terms with everybody. An agreeable feature of the evening is the introduction in Act 3 of some exceptionally clever children, amongst whom may be mentioned Miss Dorothy Pain, the possessor of an excellent soprano voice, her rendering of "Killarney" evoking hearty applause. Miss Sarah Rich, Miss Hilda Mablert, Miss Marie Wilson, Miss Violet Dupre, Miss Hetty Kelly, and Master Tom Grice, the little champion clog dancer, all show talent combined with clever training.

GREEENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Frank M. Thorne, entitled

"HER ONE GREAT SIN."

This old-established theatre has returned to the one-house nightly system, and is doing good business under Mr. Arthur Carlton's energetic management. The piece selected for this week's attraction is the drama entitled *Her One Great Sin*. Mr. Frank Thorne's capital play is well acted. Miss Lydia Donovan, as Grace Warhurst, is a tower of strength in herself, her performance being both powerful and sympathetic. Miss Donovan is admirably supported by her excellent company; Mr. Frank Lennard gives a fine performance of the character of Reuben Warhurst, which won general recognition; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford is very good indeed as Arnold Thornhill, bringing out the complex points of this difficult part with great cleverness; Mr. Alfred G. Raymond is very popular as Jerry Jumble; Mr. Charles E. Lambert's Dan Hundle is a capital performance; Jack Hundle is very well acted by Mr. J. Crondace; Mr. J. Nella is very good as Mr. Benton; as is Mr. M. Stirling as Ben Barkley and Mr. Charles Marshall as Robert Brown; and the rôle of P.C. Jackson is in the safe hands of Mr. C. Dale. Mrs. E. F. Brady gives a capital study of Bet Hundle, clever and unexaggerated; Miss Nellie Lambert is a bright and pleasing Nancie Wimpenny; and Charlie and Gracie are attractively impersonated by Ray Fairfax and Maudie Lambert. The play is well dressed and liberally mounted, and gives general satisfaction. Mr. John A. Powell is the able conductor of an excellent orchestra.

"The prices of admission to the early theatres," says Dutton Cook, "varied according to the estimation in which they were held, and were raised on special occasions. 'Twopenny rooms,' or galleries, were to be found at the larger and more popular theatres. In Goffe's *Careless Shepherdess*, 1656, acted at the Salisbury Court Theatre, appear the lines:—

'I will hasten to the money-box
And take my shilling out again;
I'll go to the Bull or Fortune, and there see
A play for twopence and a jig to boot.'

The money received was placed in a box, and there seems to have been one person specially charged with this duty. Dekker, dedicating one of his plays to his 'friends and fellows,' the queen's servants, wishes them 'a full audience and one honest doorkeeper.' Even thus early the absolute integrity of the attendants of the theatre would appear to have been a subject of suspicion. 'Penny galleries' are referred to by some early writers, and from a passage in the 'Gull's Horn Book,' 1609—'Your groundling and gallery commoner buys his sport for a penny'—it is apparent that the charges for admission to the yard, where the spectators stood, and to the galleries, where they sat on benches, were the same. In Dekker's 'Satiro-mastix,' one of the characters speaks scornfully of 'penny bench theatres,' where a gentleman or an honest citizen 'might sit with his squirrel at his side cracking nuts.' But according to the Induction to Ben Jonson's 'Bartholomew Fair,' first acted in 1614, at the Hope, a small, dirty theatre on the Bankside, which had formerly been used for bear-baiting, the prices there ranged from sixpence to half-a-crown."

ATTENTION AT THE THEATRE.

"At the first night of Mr. E. H. Sothern's *Hamlet*, in the fall of 1900," writes Clayton Hamilton in the *North American Review*, "I had just settled back in my chair to listen to the reading of the soliloquy on suicide, when a woman behind me whispering to her neighbour, 'Oh, look! There are two fireplaces in the room!' My attention was distracted, and the soliloquy was spoiled; but the fault lay with the stage-manager rather than with the woman who spoke the fatal words. If Mr. Sothern was to recite his soliloquy gazing dreamily into a fire in the centre of the room, the stage-manager should have known enough to remove the large fireplace on the right of the stage.

"Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, when she acted *Hamlet* in London in 1899, introduced a novel and startling effect in the Closet scene between the hero and his mother. On the wall, as usual, hung the counterfeit presentments of two brothers; and when the time came for the ghost of buried Denmark to appear, he was suddenly seen standing luminous in the picture-frame which had contained his portrait. The effect was so unexpected that the audience could look at nothing else, and thus Hamlet and the queen failed to get their proper measure of attention.

"These two instances show that the necessity of economising the attention of an audience is just as important to the stage-manager as it is to the dramatist and the actor. In the main, it may be said that any unexpected innovation, any device of stage-management that is by its nature startling, should be avoided in the crucial situations of a play. Professor Brander Matthews gave an interesting illustration of this principle in his article on 'The Art of the Stage-manager,' in the *North American Review* for February, 1904. He said:

"'The stage-manager must ever be on his guard against the danger of sacrificing the major to the minor, and of letting some little effect of slight value in itself interfere with the true interest of the play as a whole. At the first performance of Mr. Bronson Howard's *Shenandoah*, the opening act of which ends with the firing of the shot on Sumter, there was a wide window at the back of the set, so that the spectators could see the curving flight of the bomb and its final explosion above the doomed fort. This scenic marvel had cost time and money to devise; but it was never visible after the first performance, because it drew attention to itself, as a mechanical effect, and so took off the minds of the audience from the Northern lover and the Southern girl, the Southern lover and the Northern girl, whose loves were suddenly sundered by the bursting of that fatal shell. At the second performance, the spectators did not see the shot, they only heard the dread report; and they were free to let their sympathy go forth to the young couples.'

"'Nowadays, perhaps, when the theatre-going public is more used to elaborate mechanism on the stage, this effect might be attempted without danger. It was owing to its novelty at the time that the device disrupted the attention of the spectators.

"'But not only novel and startling stage effects should be avoided in the main dramatic moments of a play. Excessive magnificence and elaborateness of setting are just as distracting to the attention as the shock of a new and strange device. When *The Merchant of Venice* was revived at Daly's Theatre some years ago, a scenic set of unusual beauty was used for the final act. The gardens of Portia's palace were shadowy with trees and dreamy with the dark of evening. Slowly in the distance a round and yellow moon rose rolling, its beams rippling over the moving waters of a lake. There was a murmur of approbation in the audience; and that murmur was just loud enough to deaden the lyric beauty of the lines in which Lorenzo and Jessica gave expression to the spirit of the night. The audience could not look and listen at the self-same moment; and Shakespeare was sacrificed for a lime-light. A wise stage-manager, when he uses a set as magnificent, for example, as the memorable garden scene in Miss Viola Allen's production of *Twelfth Night*, will raise his curtain on an empty stage, to let the audience enjoy and even applaud the scenery before the actors enter. Then, when the lines are spoken, the spectators are ready and willing to lend them their ears.

"'This point suggests a discussion of the advisability of producing Shakespeare without scenery, in the very interesting manner that has been employed in recent seasons by Mr. Ben Greet's company of players. Leaving aside the argument that with a sceneless stage it is possible to perform all the incidents of the play in their original order, and thus give the story a greater narrative continuity, it may also be maintained that with a bare stage there are far fewer chances of dispersing the attention of the audience by attracting it to insignificant details of setting. Certainly, the last act of the *Merchant* would be better without the mechanical moonrise than with it. But, unfortunately, the same argument for economy of attention works also in the contrary direction. We have been so long used to scenery in our theatres that a sceneless production requires a new adjustment of our minds to accept the unwonted convention; and it may readily be asserted that this mental adjustment disperses more attention than would be scattered by elaborate stage effects. At Mr. Greet's first production of *Twelfth Night* in New York without change of scene, many people in the audience could be heard whispering their opinions of the experiment—a fact which shows that their attention was not fixed entirely upon the play itself. On the whole, it would probably be wisest to produce Shakespeare with very simple scenery, in order, on the one hand, not to dim the imagination of the spectators by laborious magnificence of setting, and, on the other, not to distract their minds by the unaccustomed conventions of a sceneless stage.

"'What has been said of scenery may be applied also to the use of incidental music. So soon as such music becomes obtrusive, it distracts the attention from the business of the play; and it cannot be insisted on too often that in the theatre the play's the thing. But a running accompaniment of music, half-heard, half-guessed, that moves to the mood of the play, now swelling to a climax, now softening to a hush, may do much toward keeping the audience in tune with the emotional significance of the action.

"'A perfect theatrical performance is the rarest of all works of art. I have seen several perfect statues and perfect pictures; and I have read many perfect poems: but I have never seen a perfect performance in the theatre. I doubt if such a performance has ever been given, except, perhaps, in ancient Greece. But it is easy to imagine what its effect would be. It would rivet the attention throughout upon the essential purport of the play; it would proceed from the beginning to the end without the slightest distraction; and it would convey its message simply and immediately, like the sky at sunrise or the memorable murmur of the sea.

NEW PLAYS IN BERLIN.

July 1. *Die Diebin*, sensational drama in four acts, by C. MacLellan—Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches.
" 4. *Der Zerissene*, three-act burlesque, by Nestroy—Neues.
" 8. *Der Stein im Wege*, play in three acts, by Martha Henxler—Thalia.
" 11. *Die Hoffnung auf Segen*, three-act opera, by C. Grelinger—Schiller O.
" 18. *Das Geheimnis von New York*, four-act play, by J. Manz—Bernhard Rose.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The usual weekly meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association was held at 409, Strand, on Tuesday, with Mr. F. J. Arlton in the chair. There were also present Mr. H. W. Mote, honorary solicitor, Messrs. Robson Paige, Poole Kirkwood, Clarence Derwent, and Cecil Raleigh, Misses Agnes Imlay, Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Messrs. A. and S. Gatti to the effect that the Actors' Association would be unable to have the use of the rooms at the Adelphi Restaurant after Sept. 29 next. The secretary was instructed to write to Messrs. Gatti acknowledging the receipt of their letter, and informing them that possession would be given on the date named. A letter was also read from a medical officer saying that as he was shortly going abroad for an indefinite period he must fain resign his appointment of hon. medical officer, and recommending another doctor to fill the vacancy. In reply the secretary was instructed to write and express the Council's regret and their thanks for past services.

The Council decided to institute a fresh "Bogus Managers Book," in which the secretary was instructed to enter all the necessary particulars of each case as it came up. The book is to be kept under lock and key, and is to be reserved for the use only of the secretary and members of the Council at meetings. The honorary solicitor reported that he had issued execution in three matters. Mr. Arlton read the report of the Finance Committee, which was accepted.

Mr. W. H. Hargreaves was elected a member of the Association. The secretary placed before the Council the record of a candidate for election, which was asked for last week, and the Council, after perusing same, gave instructions for a letter to be written regretting they were obliged to postpone the applicant's election until he had had more experience. The Council decided that the secretary should each week place before them a short resumé of the letters he had received during the week and the replies he had made thereto.

The Council discussed at great length the question of new premises, and eventually gave the secretary instructions to put up a notice to the effect that, the Queensland Government having acquired the whole of the premises at No. 409, Strand, the Council would welcome any suggestions in writing as to any desirable premises that may be obtainable. Such suggestions were to be addressed to the secretary.

PORTABLE THEATRES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Your able article on the minimum wage I read with very great interest. There is not the slightest doubt that you hit the right nail on the head in remarking that the want of critical faculty and discrimination amongst the lower English classes makes possible the poorness of acting.

Just recently I was engaged to produce a play of my own in a portable theatre, and was greatly struck by the quality of the acting and the quickness and accuracy of the study of the actors. Amongst them I found an old Britannia stock comedian, versatile as ever, an ex-leading lady of the Melville touring companies, highly educated, refined, altogether an excellent actress, and three public school old boys, tall men, all in the prime of life, driven there by competition.

The portable theatre has in the last few years made enormous strides, while touring managers have been steadily losing ground. The portable in which my play was being produced stood in a town that once boasted a permanent theatre, where it was customary to run touring companies. As an actor-manager who has visited this town I am in a position to state that it was a particularly "frosty" date, £40 gross being considered an excellent week's business. The portable manager growls if he doesn't take that on a Saturday night, his other nights averaging about £10 each—£90 gross—not bad for a man who has no fares, very little printing, and ground-rent only (having once paid for his theatre).

I was utterly astonished at the cosiness of the interior. Beautifully fitted up with plush seats—even the pit was upholstered—half a dozen comfortable private boxes, an upper circle running right round the theatre, the walls lined with red baize, checkers in handsome uniforms, an excellent band of eight performers conducted by a well-known musician: everything suggested warmth and luxury, a striking contrast to the large permanent theatre in the next town—a dreary, barn-like building, where touring companies were playing to empty benches. By the way, the portable manager might with advantage improve the dressing accommodation. As wage-earners, portable leading people do far better than touring actors in Class 3 (melodramatic companies).

Their income runs right through the year. A married man can settle down with his wife and children. The wife, if she does not act, does all the housework, bakes the bread, cooks the dinner (and, mind you, she can cook), looks after the children, making their rooms a real home.

Of course, the great objection to portable work is the billing, building, and scene-shifting, but perhaps as time goes on this will be done away with.

To young people without private means I would advocate an apprenticeship to this stock work: it is excellent training, and a very valuable asset in the summer, when many shows are off the road and funds are low. I might add that the fare provided consists of up-to-date dramas by Shirley, George R. Sims, &c., musical comedies, comedies, and Shakespeare. I witnessed an excellent show of *The Merchant of Venice*. I enclose my card.—Yours faithfully,

PUBLIC SCHOOL OLD BOY.

23, St. Patrick's-road, Ramsgate.
Aug. 10, 1908.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—*The Heathen and the Christian* was produced at my theatre on March 31, 1902, consequently the date and place of production (St. James's Theatre, Manchester, July 8, 1907), as mentioned in your last issue are incorrect.—Yours faithfully, Joseph L. S. Moss. The New Royal, Edmonton, N., Aug. 13.

"GARRICK and Macklin," says Cooke, "frequently rode out together, and often baited at some of the public-houses on the Richmond road. Upon these occasions, whenever they came to a turnpike, or to settle the account of the luncheon, Garrick either had changed his breeches that morning and was without money, or else used to produce a 36s. piece, which made it difficult to change. Upon these occasions Macklin, to use his own phrase, stood Captain Flashman'—that is, paid the charge. This went on for some time, when Macklin, finding that Garrick never took his turn of paying the expenses, or repaying those he had advanced for him, challenged him one day for a debt he owed him, and then pulled out a long slip of paper, in which the several disbursements were entered, according to date, place, and company, 'and which, sir,' said the veteran, 'amounted to between thirty and forty shillings. The little fellow at first seemed surprised, and then would have turned it into a joke; but I was serious, sir, and he paid me the money, and after that we jogged on upon our own separate accounts.'"

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PIETERMARITZBURG, JULY 15. — SCOTT'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. D. B. Scott; Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.—Yet another success has been achieved here by that popular production *The Merry Widow*, crowded houses being the rule nightly. The staging and the costumes do great credit to the management, and a specially augmented orchestra under the conductorship of Mr. Burton acquits itself in a capable manner. Miss Alice Pollard as the captivating and winsome widow Sonia scored a big success, her finished acting and dainty singing entirely winning the hearts of the audience. Miss Mabel Medrow made a stately Natalie, her duets with Mr. H. Hancock, who undertook the character of Vicomte Camille de Jolidan, being well rendered. Mr. Frank Wheeler played Prince Danilo, and was wanting neither in the serious nor the lighter side of the rôle, his change from the light-hearted inebriate to the serious, sober-minded man being artistically effected. Baron Popoff was ably represented by Mr. W. Clark, who also undertook the duties of stage-manager. A large amount of merriment was created by Mr. C. Willoughby as Nisch. Miss Ivy Louise executed a very pretty *pas seul* in Act. III. and proved herself an accomplished dancer. All the minor parts were in capable hands, and the chorus gave every proof that they had been carefully trained.

MISS KATHERINE POLE, assisted by a well-selected company, has begun a season at His Majesty's Theatre, Johannesburg, in a series of Bernard Shaw's plays. Miss Katherine Pole, as may be remembered, was leading lady with the Sass Nelson company.

THE Wheeler-Edwardes 1908 Gaiety company are due to open in *The Little Michus* at the Theatre Royal, Durban. The company includes Misses Elsa Porters, Ruby Vincent, Chrissie Rallands, and Messrs. De Beers and Foster Courtenay.

THE Tivoli, Capetown, is to be reopened in the near future, when local talent to a large extent will be used and prices consequently lowered.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, Durban, is doing good business under the able management of Mr. Aubrey Hyman, Mme. Alice Esty being largely responsible for the success achieved. She is heard nightly in several solos, and in the Miserère scene from *Il Trovatore*, in which she is ably assisted by the fine vocalist Mr. I. Mirwish. Miss Daisy Mayer is a clever coon delineator and sand-dancer. An excellent item is the farcical tabloid entitled *My Little One*, presented by Picton Roxburgh and Miss Fanny Wright. Another pleasing turn is Mr. Guy Ryder's singing and whistling. The comedy and dancing act by the Espinosas surpasses anything of that description seen here for some time; Les Donvells, the instrumentalists, are very interesting; and Williams and Warden, Irish comedians, keep the house in roars of laughter.

GLASGOW PRINCESS'S REOPENING.

This popular house has been in the hands of tradesmen for the past three months, and from gallery to stalls the building has been remodelled at a cost of over £2,000. The accommodation has been increased from 2,300 to 2,500, extra exits have been made, and the family circle has been remodelled and extended. There are ladies' cloak-rooms on each side of the circle, and also a gentlemen's cloak-room, while the bars in stalls and circle have been enlarged and modernised, and a new chocolate stall added in the vestibule. From an artistically arranged entrance-hall the dress circle is reached by a marble staircase adorned with Venetian mirrors and lighted with handsome electroliers. A crimson Axminster carpet gives tone and warmth to the stalls.

The interior of the auditorium generally has been tastefully decorated in cream, pale salmon, and gold, while the walls are papered with a crimson art pattern. The new kind of seating in the gallery will be appreciated by "the gods." It has been arranged so that the feet do not come in contact with the clothing of those in front. The Master of Works has expressed entire satisfaction with all the arrangements.

These extensive alterations have the effect of making the Princess's practically a new theatre, and a notable point is that Mr. Rich. Waldon placed all the contracts with local firms, a fact much appreciated in the present state of trade. The opening attraction was the famous Adelphi drama *In the Ranks*, and an audience which filled the house in every part gave a hearty welcome to Messrs. Sims and Pettitt's play. The company is that of Mr. Beresford Whitcomb, and is an excellent combination. Mr. Jerrold Heather plays the hero, Ned Drayton, with dash and go, and carried the sympathy of the audience with him from his first entrance. Miss V. Ennis Lawson is a charming Ruth Herrick, playing the part with simple pathos and unaffected charm; Miss Dorris Whyte is equally well suited as the more light-hearted Barbara, and her soldier-lover, Captain Holcroft, was well acted by Mr. Walter Thornton, who stage-manages the production. Villainy was accorded its usual reward, thanks to the finished acting of Mr. Wilton Reed; a very clever character sketch was the Richard Belton of Mr. T. Weldon Atherstone; another good performance was the Farmer Herrick of Mr. P. Beaufoy; humour was liberally supplied by Mr. Ern. Carlton as Joe Buzzard, Miss Eleanor Papera as his mother, and Mr. Will H. Moss and Miss Amy Byron as Mr. and Mrs. Timmins; Mr. Bert Lloyd was duly splenetic as old Colonel Wynter; Mr. Frederick Fox made a brisk Sergeant Searle; and the other parts were well filled. The play was specially well staged. During one of the intervals Mr. Rich. Waldon stepped in front and made a short speech of welcome and thanks to the large audience, and expressed the hope that the many alterations would all tend to the comfort of his patrons and still further enhance the popularity of the popular Princess's.

CRICKET.

"THE BONDMAN" (MR. WENTWORTH CROKE'S Co.) v. ROYAL NAVAL HOSPITAL, GREAT YARMOUTH.

Played at Queen's road on Aug. 7, and resulted in a tie. Scores:—

"THE BONDMAN" Co.—A. Poole, c Murphy, b Brooks, 13; S. Travers, b Brooks, 5; O. Lingard, b Brooks, 7; G. E. Williams, b A. E. Roberts, 8; M. Montesole, c Houseman, b Murphy, 15; L. Atwill, b Roberts, 0; P. Lawton, run out, 1; R. S. Quentin, c Brooks, b Murphy, 0; F. Gregory, c and b Murphy, 4; G. Austin, b Murphy, 0; C. Terry, not out, 1; extras, 9; total, 63.

ROYAL NAVAL HOSPITAL.—J. Bevan, b Travers, 4; J. Murphy, run out, 3; Captain Houseman, b Travers, 4; H. Ruddock, b Williams, 1; J. C. Peters, c Poole, b Williams, 29; A. E. Roberts, b Travers, 2; Rev. Brooks, c Williams, b Montesole, 7; A. H. Carlisle, b Williams, 2; W. Mutton, b Williams, 4; J. Mayo, not out, 2; extras, 5; total, 63.

After a very enjoyable game, tea was kindly provided on the ground by the Rev. Dallis Brooks.

SEYMOUR HICKS' "GAY GORDONS" Co. *v.* RAMSGATE POLICE.

Played at Ramsgate on Aug. 7, the *Gay Gordons* winning by 27 runs. The scores were:—Ramsgate Police, 112; *Gay Gordons*, 139.

"GAY GORDONS" C.C. *v.* "GIRL BEHIND THE COUNTER."

Played at Ramsgate on Aug. 8, the *Gay Gordons* winning by 9 runs. The scores were:—*Gay Gordons*, 59; *Girl Behind the Counter*, 50.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS NELLIE HEWITT.

The young and promising artist above named was born and educated in Birmingham, and began her musical career at a very early age. When she was six years old an Erard pianoforte was purchased for her, and her remarkable gifts developed. Engagements as a pianist followed while she was still almost a child at high-class concerts in London, Liverpool, and Birmingham. Miss Hewitt became mistress of other instruments, though still working at the piano, and gaining cap and gown and diploma for her playing. "At this moment the banjo was the vogue," says Miss Hewitt, "so my father secured me one, and soon I was playing the leading instrument with a hundred players, and was a success for several years." At this period Miss Nellie Hewitt operated on many musical instruments, including the xylophone, Japanese fiddle, mandoline, fairy bells, silver tubes, banjo, sleigh bells, the set of hand-bells, banjourine, guitar—in fact, about a dozen instruments. She played for the Countess of Warwick

MISS NELLIE HEWITT.

both at Warwick Castle and in Birmingham, at garden parties, at bazaars, at social functions. Miss Hewitt also took pupils. For the last three years she has toured with Professor Woods' musical and pictorial enterprises through the provincial towns of importance. Miss Hewitt also acts as pianist at the sacred concerts which Professor Wood exploits at the Grand Theatre, Douglas, every Sunday evening during the season. The young artist's musical act is perfectly equipped, and comprises the most up-to-date and first-class instruments. In the near future she contemplates a Barrasford tour.

HERMAN MERIVALE'S TOUR.

"We were not a success at Coventry," writes Herman Merivale, describing the adventures of an amateur travelling company. "The weavers didn't like us, and gathered round our lattice at the inn at night, even so far as throwing stones at us. We bore it bravely, and for the next night sent out double orders without result. Nobody used them. So, as the fair was on, we walked through it two and two, beating drums and blowing trumpets. And yet they came not. We picnicked, all of us, at Kenilworth, and the leading lady played Juliet to my Romeo from a ruined window, to the amazement of some honest families about. We wound up our engagement with a dance upon the stage, the band from Leamington having come over in our honour. We danced into the night, and I yet remember our boldest in his shirt-sleeves, a tankard of beer beside him, waltzing with the critic of the *Coventry Herald!*

"The company had to be left behind at Coventry in pawn, and when we four got back to Leamington, we bailed it out. On our return to Oxford as we should be, we raised a dummy in the corner-seat of the train. We set up a great-coat in sitting attitude, and covered our leading lady's muff on the top of it, looking just like back hair, with a tall hat leaning down over it. We inflated a glove, and set a cigar between the fingers and a ticket in the hatband. And then we threw a rug across the figure. When the guard asked for tickets, we said the man was ill, and we dared not disturb him. The guard declared that he must, and crossed between us. Then roused the dummy, who fell into bits. From Oxford, afterwards, I had to take the train and travel across country, to join a circuit of another kind—the Norfolk Circuit at Norwich, as judge's marshal to Chief Justice Erle.

"The pleasant companionship of Matthew Arnold lightened that circuit even for so young a man.

"Arnold was an amusing talker on the subject of the Drama, caring admittedly only for the classic. He looked upon the *cothurnus* as the truest analyst of the perplexities and destinies of life, and had small sympathy, which was odd in him, with the laughing portraits of the Muse of Comedy, which had in them to him something of the nature of mere caricature at best. The plays of Aristophanes were in reality but satire in burlesque, and even the comedies of Molière were to him but as weaker imitations. Twice only in my memory of him do I remember his going to the theatre; once, because our alliance induced him to ask me for a box to see a modern-life play of mine and Craufurd Grove's, then strongly running at one of the London theatres. He expressed himself afterwards to have been very much entertained, and interested too, but placidly observed that he had been most struck by the improbabilities, that is the unfailing companions of the Drama, which to my old experience seem more in attendance nowadays than ever. But people forget that a play is an epitome of a mere corner of time enlarged but in imagination, and that to touch the probable at all is as much as can be expected of it. 'People don't do such things' is the quieter comment on half the plays of nowadays. The nearest thing to do is not to be impossible. How can you be real in a room with only three sides to it? Well, I fell into my error in good company in that case. Baron Martin, the famous Yorkshire racing judge, had before him a case in which counsel quoted *Romeo and Juliet*. He said that he had heard of it but never read it; and as the case was adjourned on the rising of the court, would do so that night, and tell them what he thought about it the next morning. Whereon he opened the proceedings by remarking in his broad Yorkshire: 'I've read your *Romeo and Juliet*, and don't think much of ut. It's a tissue of improbabilities from the beginning to the end.'"

THE Electric Theatres, Ltd., 20, Bedford-street, Strand, are advertising in our columns for halls, theatres, or large shops (40 by 80 or 30 by 100), with entrance fronting upon principal streets in thickly-populated districts. Such premises are required on lease for a term of years.

"LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS."

A new domestic Drama in Four Acts, by W. Watkin-Wynne, produced at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, on Monday, Aug. 10.

Will Mortimer .....MR. ALFRED BEAUMONT
Sir Charles Mortimer, Bart., M.P. .....MR. H. ELMORE FRITH
Raymond Frere .....MR. ARTHUR RODNEY
Denis O'Brien .....MR. CHARLES L. LUDLOW
P.-C. Jarvis .....MR. BERT LLOYD
Joe Stack .....MR. NORMAN CLARK
Evans .....MR. FRANK STURT
Detective-Sgt. Seymour..MR. W. WATKIN-WYNNE
May Mortimer .....MISS MAUD BUCHANAN
Agnes Green .....MISS BEATRICE WESTERN
Nora Power .....MISS AGNES ST. CLAIR
Little Jack Mortimer LITTLE MAJORIE LAWRENCE

This new drama was played for copyright purposes at the old Queen's Theatre, Birmingham, as long ago as June 25, 1902, and it is the first dramatic work from the pen of Mr. W. Watkin-Wynne, an experienced and popular Australian actor. As a playwright Mr. Watkin-Wynne's experience of the stage has stood him in good stead. *Light in Darkness* is an excellent specimen of the type of drama that makes a powerful appeal to the average audience; and as there are signs of a revived interest among theatre-goers in the play of incident as a welcome change from the more complex problem play, the production under notice bids fair to have a successful career. It is certainly worth the attention of managers in search of a piece that has unquestionably many recommendations to the favour of provincial playgoers.

The plot shows evidence of careful construction. In the first act we learn that Sir Charles Mortimer, Bart., M.P., and squire of Helsby Hall, has quarelled with his eldest son and cast him off because the young man acted contrary to his wishes in regard to his marriage; though it is not easy to discover what valid objection the old man could have to his son's choice, for May Mortimer is not only an attractive young woman, but possesses many excellent qualities as wife and mother. The younger Mortimer, an outcast through no fault of his own, has gone for a sailor, and his father has made a new will leaving all his property to a nephew, Raymond Frere, who lives with the old man at the Hall. In her husband's absence May makes an unsuccessful appeal to the squire, as her little boy Jack is ill and in need of certain delicacies which she has not the money to purchase. Sir Charles tells her that he can only treat her as he would any ordinary pauper who asked for help, and she scornfully rejects his assistance on such terms. Raymond Frere, who has forged his uncle's name, and is hard pressed for ready money, plans to break open a safe belonging to the squire, and is assisted in his burglarious work by one Joe Stack, a sporting tipster. Will Mortimer, returning from a voyage, pays a visit to his old home, and arrives just in time to find the burglars at their work. He interrupts them, and is shot by Frere, who also denounces him as the would-be robber. The police are called, and the wounded man is given into custody for attempted burglary, eventually receiving for the alleged crime a sentence of fifteen years' penal servitude. In the meantime his unhappy wife has found true friends in Nora Power, a maidservant at the Hall, and her sweetheart, Denis O'Brien. The couple marry, and become the host and hostess of the village public house, known as the "Fox and Hounds"; and when May is by the action of the squire forced to leave her house on his estate, the O'Briens offer her and her boy the shelter of their humble home. News arrives that there has been an outbreak among the convicts at Portland, and that three of them have been shot dead, including Will Mortimer, but this report turns out to be untrue, Will having saved the life of the governor of the prison, and escaped. He returns to the village disguised, and obtains work on the very estate to which he is rightful heir. An incident of the first act is the appearance of Agnes Green, otherwise known as Black Bess, a gipsy, whom Raymond Frere has promised to marry.

May Mortimer, having effectually disguised herself, obtains an engagement at the Hall, where she is known as Mrs. Dean, and prevents the murder of the squire by poison. Having watched the arch-villain Frere "doctor" some port wine which Sir Charles is about to drink, she intercedes just in time, and denounces his nephew as the would-be murderer. Frere denies his guilt, but another witness of the crime appears in the person of Agnes Green, who seeks revenge on the villain who has deceived her, and has also attempted her life.

In the last act Frere abducts the boy Jack, who has been successful in winning the favour of his grandfather, and carrying him to a bridge which crosses a mill-stream, throws the struggling lad into the water. Jack is, however, rescued by his father, and Frere is taken into custody. Husband and wife are reunited, and Sir Charles is reconciled to his son, the story being thus brought to a happy ending.

Mr. Alfred Beaumont presented a natural and manly embodiment of the hero Will Mortimer, displaying force and vigour throughout. In a scene where he discovers his cowardly cousin Raymond Frere behaving brutally to little Jack, and applies the horsewhip to the scoundrel's own back, Mr. Beaumont aroused the genuine enthusiasm of the audience by his virile acting. Mr. H. Elmore Frith was also good as Sir Charles Mortimer, whose hard, unforgiving nature is somewhat redeemed by his kind treatment of his outspoken little grandson Jack, a part played with much intelligence an animation by little Marjorie Lawrence, who has had considerable experience in similar rôles. Mr. Arthur Rodney so ably portrayed the consistent villainy of Raymond Frere that he was loudly hissed at those times when the man's evil nature revealed itself in a particularly unpleasant manner. Miss Maud Buchanan played the heroine with a sincerity and force that won for her the favourable verdict of the audience. Prominent characters in the play are Denis O'Brien and his wife Nora, the warm-hearted Irish couple, who had capital representatives in Mr. Charles L. Ludlow and Miss Agnes St. Clair, both giving remarkably bright and racy portrayals. The native humour and drollery of Denis and the delightful vivacity and briskness of Nora were very welcome, and the couple quickly established themselves as firm favourites with the audience. Mr. Norman Clark gave a neat and telling sketch of Joe Stack, who in the last act is ruthlessly murdered by Frere. Miss Beatrice Western put plenty of force and feeling into the part of the gipsy Agnes Green, and scored well throughout. The author, Mr. Watkin-Wynne, was content to appear in the last scene, at the old mill-house, as Detective-Sergeant Seymour, who apprehends Frere; and Mr. Bert Lloyd, as P.-C. Jarvis, a village policeman, and Mr. Frank Sturt, as footman at the hall, completed a competent cast. Mr. Lloyd also fulfilled the duties of stage-manager. The play was produced by Mr. Watkin-Wynne, and the scenery was excellent.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales, accompanied by Prince Edward of Wales, witnessed the performance of *Butterflies* at the Apollo Theatre on Saturday evening. On Monday Prince Edward accompanied the Princess of Wales to the Playhouse, and enjoyed the representation of *The Flag Lieutenant*.

AT the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, on Monday the orchestra, directed by Mr. Thomas Hilton, played the French national air, "La Marseillaise," in honour of Mlle. Fallière's marriage, a printed notice to that effect in French being placarded at the front of the house.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Aug. 13.—*Le Tour du monde en 80 jours* has been successfully revived at the Théâtre du Châtelet, and the boys and girls, of which there were a great number in the house, grew as excited over the exploits of Phineas Fogg and Passepartout as did their elders when Jules Verne and Adolphe D'Ennery's work was produced for the first time at the Porte-Saint-Martin, on Nov. 7, 1874. The rôle of Fogg was then created by Lacressonniere; Dumaine impersonated Corsican; Alexandre played Passepartout; and Vaunoy, Fix; whilst the parts of Aouda and Néméa had been entrusted to Mlle. Angèle Moreau and Mlle. Pauline Patry. The cast this time was an exceptionally strong one. M. Hamilton proved a splendid Passepartout; M. Demay was excellent in the rôle of Fogg; M. Jullien imparted the necessary fierceness to the character of Archibald Corsican; and M. Bardès supplied an amusing sketch of Fix. Mmes. Marchetti and Maylianes did full justice to the rôles of Aouda and Néméa.

IN our last week's issue we announced the sale of the scenery and costumes of the *Chevalier d'Eon*, the piece which had come so hopelessly to grief at the Porte-Saint-Martin. Although the things were quite new, and had cost an immense amount of money, they fetched wretched prices. There is nothing surprising in this. Theatrical paraphernalia at a public sale are, so to say, given away. The uninitiated, of course, think that provincial managers and impresarios secure those lots; but here, in the theatrical world, we know better. There are in Paris two or three export firms who buy up all they can in the way of costumes, which are then carefully packed in boxes and sent to traders on the East Coast of Africa. These traders forward the goods to the interior of the country, where guileless blackies accept them greedily in exchange for their local produce. Not very long ago the whole of the *Cirque d'Hiver* property came under the hammer, and found its way to Africa; and we can be quite certain that ere long a negro chief will become the happy possessor of poor Chevalier d'Eon's Court suit, for which, very likely, the chief will give some valuable elephant tusks. But there is a dark side to everything. Sometimes the negro chief is dishonest, and not only refuses to pay, but squares accounts by knocking out the brains of the missionary who negotiates the transaction. This, too, sounds strange, yet is absolute truth. The export houses always apply to missionaries to act as their agents, and the latter, as a rule, consent to it, as it eases their own work. It is said that our Colonial Minister, during his short trip to Africa, was received by a dusky potentate in a most gaudy costume. "I fancy I have seen that dress somewhere!" exclaimed the Minister. "No doubt you have, sir," promptly replied the Minister's secretary, "at the Châtelet!"

So much has been written on the Comédie-Française, that it is quite surprising that a London magazine should have made such a misstatement in regard to the Sociétaires' salaries, mixing these up with the "feux," which is altogether a different thing. The system is simple enough. Let us take the Sociétaire who has a "part entière" (full share) in the concern. This share is sub-divided into three parts. There is the salary, which, be there a profit or a loss at the end of the theatrical year, is fixed at 12,000 fr. (£480) per annum. Then comes the share in the profits, which, of course, vary. Last year each full-share Sociétaire was entitled to 18,000 fr. (£720). I say "entitled," for according to the rules of the house only one-half of that sum was paid to him and the rest placed to his credit, to be handed to him the day he resigns his membership. Finally, there are the "feux," a small sum, varying from 10 to 15 francs, paid to the Sociétaire every time he or she plays. The "feux" on matinée days are, for some unknown reason, fixed at 50 francs, and, almost needless to say, are much sought after by Messieurs et Mesdames les Sociétaires. These "feux," on the average, bring in about 2,000 fr. (£80) per annum. In other words, each Sociétaire received last year: 12,000 fr. salary, 9,000 fr. share in the profits, 2,000 "feux," in all 23,000 fr. (£920), with £360 placed to their credit. To this can be added the sums they receive whilst on tour, or starring in the provinces, but which have nothing to do with the money they receive from the house.

"LE ROI CHARMANT," a fairy tale in two acts, by M. Michaud d'Humiac, was produced at the Théâtre de la Nature de Champigny, where it met with an excellent reception. It is a pretty story, pleasantly told in flowing verse, of a young King who marries a shepherdess, and was capitally interpreted by M. Jean Frederick and Mlle. Adrienne Beer.

FIRE INSURANCE IN NEW ZEALAND.

We have been favoured with the following letter which has been sent to Mr. J. F. Elliston, of the Theatre Royal, Bolton, and vice-chairman of the Theatres Mutual Insurance Company, by Mr. B. J. Fuller, the enterprising young manager of five theatres in New Zealand. Mr. Elliston has been instrumental in getting the rates of fire insurance on theatres in the United Kingdom reduced to 2ls. in the £100. In New Zealand no such happy conditions exist, the present rate being no less than 90s. per £100. Mr. Fuller wants to find a remedy for this excessive charge, and Mr. Elliston has kindly promised to help him in the matter.

[COPY]

"J. F. Elliston, Esq.,
"Bolton.

"Dear Sir,—I take the liberty of writing you on the subject of mutual fire insurance. I was very interested in your interview in *The Era* of April 4. The subject of mutual insurance has been discussed here, and until I saw that article I had no idea that theatres were penalised in Great Britain, but thought that New Zealand only suffered in that respect. Would it be asking you too much to ask you to send me a few particulars in regard to the scheme?

"To give you an idea as to how we are treated by the Underwriters' Association, and to quote one case only which is symbolical of the lot: The Princess's Theatre, Dunedin, is a two-tiered theatre, built of brick and stone, the front and back of which is detached. We have a fine asbestos curtain, the stage is entirely cut off from the dressing-rooms by fireproof doors; we have two paid firemen on duty at every performance, hydrants everywhere (including the flies), and we worked under stringent bye-laws. Our rate is 90s. per £100 insurance. There has not been a fire in the main centres at the theatres since 1864.

"Trusting that you will accede to my request, and thanking you in anticipation, — Faithfully yours, (Signed) "B. J. FULLER.

"Fuller's Vaudeville Circuit, New Zealand.
"Wellington, June 23, 1908."

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Edward Terry will begin his autumn tour on Monday at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, and his travels will take him to the principal provincial towns, including Liverpool, Manchester, Edinburgh, Cork, &c. In addition to his usual répertoire, which will consist of *Liberty Hall*, *Sweet Lavender*, *The Magistrate*, and other old favourites, the eminent comedian will present at Scarborough on the 25th, for the first time out of London (by arrangement with Mr. Arthur Bourchier), the popular Garrick piece *Fiander's Widow*. The company supporting Mr. Terry will include Misses Edith Coleman, Gwendolen Wren, Sophie Lingwood, Agnes Knights, Evelyn Ormonde, and Ella Dixon; and Messrs. Edmund Hollick, Kenneth Brampton, Percy Crawford, William Dexter, George Byrne, and Penn Hamilton. Mr. Poole Kirkwood will be responsible for the stage-management, Mr. A. R. Garland will be the advance representative, and Mr. Arthur Graeme the business-manager.

The new stage at Drury Lane is now nearly completed, and will be quite ready for the reception of the autumn melodrama. As has been before stated, Messrs. Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton have chosen for their main theme the subject of marriage and divorce, and have evolved an engrossing play. The story is that of a man of good family who has married a dancing girl, but wishes to wed a lady of title. He goes to a foreign land to obtain the needed divorce, and having accomplished his purpose returns to England. He enters into a second union, and in course of time a son is born. At the father's death, however, his offspring's title to the estates is disputed by a relative, but the ingenuity of the authors finds a way out of the difficulty quite satisfactory to the traditions of melodrama.

"Pete," the new adaptation of *The Manxman* by Hall Caine and Louis N. Parker, is making every progress towards production at the Lyceum on Saturday week. As in the Drury Lane drama, the subject of the divorce law is touched upon, but a different aspect of the theme has been chosen, the problem which is treated in *Pete* in the last act being the rights of the parties to the custody of the child.

Mr. Matheson Lang will play the title-rôle, and Miss Hutin Britton will be the Kate Cregeen. Many Lyceum favourites will be found among the cast, which is completed by Messrs. Eric Mayne, Wilfred E. Payne, Frederick Ross, S. Major Jones, Chas. L. Ludlow, H. K. Ayliff, Sidney Young, Joseph O'Brien, Sidney Vautier, Wilfred Edmunds, Henry Brooks, Ernest Cresfan, Charles Terric, and Henry Armstrong, and Misses Rita Tompkins, Lillian Digges, Blanche Stanley, Dora Clements, and Lillian Tweed. The play will open at the Parlour of the "Manx Fairy," changing in Act 2 to Pete's Cottage. Act 3 will show The Keep of Castle Rushden, and a return will be made to Pete's Cottage in Act 4. The production will be under the stage direction of Mr. Ernest Carpenter.

Miss Decima Moore made an instantaneous success as Mrs. Dot upon the presentation of the piece at Brighton last week, press and public speaking in the highest praise of Miss Moore's performance. Bank Holiday crowds filled the West Pier Theatre every night, and so encouraging were the receipts that Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison have arranged for another visit to be paid to "London-by-the-Sea" in October. At Southport this week Miss Moore's success has been equally great.

Miss Moore's triumph is enhanced in no small degree by her charming and artistic dresses, which were specially designed for her. In Act I. she wears a striking combination of the Empire and Directoire styles, carried out in soft grey and white striped chriptaline. The coat effect is in black taffeta laced across, and caught with gold filigree buttons and tassels, and the square-cut neck piece of sapphire embroidery brings in just the touch of colour which gives the cachet to the gown. The "fascination hat"—the latest creation for the coming season—is of black, with royal blue feathers and ospreys, and Miss Moore carries a Directoire parasol of royal blue to match.

The gown worn in the second act is particularly quaint, and is made rather on the Grecian lines in soft white Indian muslin. The stole ends, back and front, are of raspberry and white figured and bordered muslin, and are caught well above the waist with a loose knotted sash of black velvet ribbon. The stoles and underskirt are finished with several rows of narrow white fringe, and the wearer carries a raspberry and black sunshade to correspond. Act III. finds Miss Moore in a charming gown of champagne silk, beautifully hand-embroidered with large mediæval pattern heliotrope and green flowers. The costume is finished off by the introduction of a cascade of heliotrope down the back, a parasol of the same colour is carried.

Mrs. Brown Potter has borne the Hutchison flag to Brighton this week and achieved an instant success in *Lady Frederick*. Despite the hot weather, hundreds were turned away, and all records were beaten each night. The eminent actress was cheered again and again at the end of the performance on Monday, and Mr. Philip Cunningham's success as Paradine was almost as pronounced. Although appearing as Brewster at night, Mr. Percy Hutchison found time to conduct all the final rehearsals.

Miss Lilias Earle and Mr. Eille Norwood commence a long autumn tour on Monday at the West Pier, Brighton, in *Peter's Mother* with Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. This is the seventh tour of this popular play and its fourth visit to Brighton, which at present holds the top place as regards receipts of any of the thirty-eight Hutchison comedies.

Miss Earle, who is so well known both in London and the country as a comedy actress, has appeared in all the principal parts of *Cousin Kate*, *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, *The Liars*, *Mrs. Dane's Defence*, &c., playing in the last-mentioned piece with Sir Charles Wyndham during Miss Mary Moore's absence. Her performance of the title-rôle in *Betsy* at the same theatre will also be agreeably remembered.

Miss Earle is fortunate in having the support of Mr. Eille Norwood, who for the second time joins the Hutchison management. Mr. Norwood has lately added to his laurels as a comedian with Sir Charles Wyndham and Mr. Cyril Maude, and can ill be spared from the Metropolis. An excellent cast has been selected for this tour, Mr. Vivian Guilbert, who has been acting at the Court under Mr. Otho Stuart's management, being engaged to play Peter. The company will visit all the principal cities.

The numerous friends of Mr. C. B. Vaughan will be grieved to hear that he is suffering from a severe attack of rheumatic fever. Mr. Vaughan was taken ill a week before he was to begin his engagement to play Sir Charles Wyndham's part in *Captain Drew on Leave*, which is being toured by Miss Nora Carton. Fortunately Mr. Claude King, who has just returned from a tour abroad, was able to undertake the part, which he is now playing with great success. Mr. Vaughan, we are glad to say, is getting on as well as can possibly be expected.

Mr. Seymour Hicks is giving away, in the course of his autumn tour, a deliciously comic souvenir of *The Gay Gordons*, consisting of a series of caricatures of scenes in the play, drawn by Mr. W. Barton Wilkinson. They are introduced by a letter to "Mr. and Mrs. Public and all the little Publics," by Miss Betty Seymour Hicks, the little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hicks. A charming feature of the souvenir is found in a portrait of the little authoress herself, and annotations attributed to her at the foot of the pictures.

Thus it is learned that the dog which appears in Act 1 of *The Gay Gordons* is called Brandy, and has been so christened by Mr. Hicks "because he has only to pat the dog and say 'Soda,' and the servants understand." Of one of Mr. Wilkinson's drawings, the little commentator says, the artist has tried "to make everybody as funny as he can—even the comedians, which, of course, is a mad thing to attempt." She also vouchsafes the information that "Daddy is really a beautiful dancer—with one foot," and a picture which shows Mr. Seymour Hicks and party of the Gay Gordons singing with much gesticulation an uproarious chorus, she describes as "One of Daddy's Quiet Scenes." The souvenir is embellished by excellent portraits of Mr. and Mrs. Hicks.

London is not to be entirely deprived of the beautiful Imperial Theatre. It is being taken down in sections in order to be rebuilt on another site, the exact locality of which is for the present a secret. The house will be run by a firm of well-known caterers.

The housing of the Actors' Association is a problem once more confronting its executive. This time the change is not one of expediency, but of compulsion, the whole of the premises at 409, Strand, having been acquired by the Queensland Government. The upper floor at Gatti's Restaurant, to which the Association removed last January, was not an ideal place structurally for such an institution, but it possessed many advantages, and was not beyond the means of the society, which during its stay there has materially strengthened its position, and has added substantially to its roll of membership

Suggestions will be welcomed by the Council from members as to any desirable premises they might have in view. The Actors' Union are now considering the establishment of a clubhouse. Would it be out of place to suggest that now is the time for the opening up of negotiations for the joining of forces of two societies which have so much in common?

Miss Florence Lovell (Mrs. H. H. Barrington) desires to extend through our columns her thanks to many friends for their kind messages of sympathy in her terribly sad bereavement.

Miss Ethel Irving will in course of time be seen in a part in sharp contrast to that of the genial Irishwoman with which she has achieved such distinction. The new rôle is the central figure of a play by Mr. A. E. Jessup which bears a resemblance to the famous hypnotism scene in *The Bells*. The leading character of Mr. Jessup's piece is a girl who is thrown into a trance as the result of an accident, and under that influence reveals the incidents of her girlhood, when she was the victim of an unscrupulous scoundrel. Her statements, however, show her to have been innocent of evil, and the relations between herself and her betrothed are in no way impaired.

Mr. Charles Vane, who has recently returned from Australia after fulfilling a two years' engagement with Messrs. Meynell and Gunn, sails to-day for India and the Far East, where he will sustain a round of leading parts under the management of Mr. Maurice Bandmann.

Miss Georgie Corlass is due to arrive in England in a few days by the P. and O. s.s. Simla. She has had a most gratifying time out East, her greatest success being obtained in *The Merry Widow*.

Among the interested audience at the performance of Mr. Herbert Sleath's *A White Man* company at the Lyceum, Newport (Mon.) on the 3rd inst., were two students from the Carlisle University, Pennsylvania, U.S.A., the university supported by the United States Government for the higher education of the North American Indian or Red Man. Running Elk and Black Eagle, members of the University football team now touring England, and happening to be in Newport, spent the evening at the Lyceum, and were particularly struck by the characters of Tab-y-wana (Mr. Eric Hudson) and Baco White (Mr. F. T. Martin), and could hardly be made to believe these gentlemen were not really members of the Ute tribe, so perfect was both their characterisation and delivery of the Ute language. It may be added that Mr. Martin spent many years in Wyoming, U.S.A., and is a very fluent Indian linguist and student.

Miss Glossop-Harris, who has been having a long and much-needed rest at her bungalow on the river, starts rehearsing for her fourth tour on Monday week. She is adding *The School for Scandal*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *and David Garrick* to her répertoire, and has made some important engagements, including those of Mr. Arthur Goodsall and Miss Gertrude Tate.

Amongst the distinguished audience who filled the Theatre Royal, Margate, last week to witness Miss Mabel Love's performance in the title-rôle of *Lady Frederick* were the Mayor, Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, Sir William Richards, and many other well-known people at present visiting this popular health resort. Mr. Percy Hutchison arranged for two of his companies, i.e., *Lady Frederick* and *Peter's Mother*, to be at the New Palace Theatre, Ramsgate, this week, and new record business has been the result.

Miss Gladys Lloyd, who was with Mr. Lionel Rignold's répertoire of comedies in the spring, has been re-engaged by Mr. Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche for their autumn tour of *What the Butler Saw*. Last week, owing to the indisposition of Miss Blanche, Miss Lloyd sustained that lady's part with complete success.

Mr. Francis Hawley has been engaged by Messrs. Paumier and Howard as general-manager for *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* South tour.

Some delightful dresses are to be seen in *Captain Drew on Leave* now being toured by Miss Nora Carton. Miss Carton herself as Miss Mills wears some charming "creations," including a blue evening dress in the second act that is specially to be noted. Miss Cynthia Brooke, who plays Miss Moxon with her accustomed success, dons a heliotrope satin frock with old paste buttons that is pronounced by fair frequenters of theatres to be "a perfect dream."

Disorderly scenes were caused by the "claque" during a performance of the opera *Mascheri* at Leghorn on Saturday. The claquers were refused tickets by the management, but contrived to purchase admission in order to revenge themselves for their exclusion. Missiles were thrown at the stage, and Mascagni, who was conducting the opera in person, was struck by an orange. He contrived to wield the bâton until the soprano was struck, as she was singing, by onions and garlic, and then left his place, exclaiming, "I will not remain in a theatre where onions are thrown at a lady." The composer subsequently returned and was warmly cheered, while the claquers were hissed.

Mr. Lewis Waller, having enjoyed a brief holiday, is making preparations for the production on Sept. 8 of Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy's adaptation of *The Duke's Motto*, which will be produced at the Lyric on Tuesday, Sept. 8. The play is an entirely new version, but retains all the important points of the original plot. Mr. McCarthy considers that the fight of Lagardère at the Château de Caylus is a fine example of the case of one against a multitude, and as such worthy of comparison with the struggle of Grettis the Strong in the Icelandic Saga, of Bussy d'Amboise in *La Dame de Montsereau*, by Dumas, or the last fight of Hereward the Wake in Kingsley's novel.

The same date has been chosen for the production at the Aldwych of *Paid in Full*, a drama by Eugene Walter, which was brought out in New York seven months ago, and is still running. The cast is thoroughly English, and will consist of Mr. Louis Calvert, Mr. Paul Arthur, Mr. A. B. Tapping, Mr. H. V. Esmond, Miss Nora Lancaster, Miss Daisy Markham, and Miss Kate Sergeantson.

The Bandmann Comedy Company, twenty-five strong, left London by the P. and O. s.s. Britannia on Wednesday for their tour over Mr. Bandmann's eastern circuit. After a few weeks' sojourn in the Mediterranean and Egypt the company will proceed direct to India and the Far East. Miss Florence Hamer will again undertake the entire lead, and among the artists engaged are Messrs. Charles Vane, Douglas Gordon, Thomas Sidney, Douglas Vigors, Lloyd Lowndes, C. F. Cooke, Harry Neville, Spencer Geech, and Norman McLeod, and Miss Florence Hamer, Blanche Forsythe, Lucy Beaumont, Lallie Forsyth, Dutchie Forsyth, Esme Gordon, Sybil Harcourt, and Lilian Vaughan.

The company will play all the most recent London successes of which Mr. Bandmann has obtained the rights. They will include, *When Knights Were Bold*, *Lady Frederick*, *The Flag Lieutenant*, *Mrs. Dot*, and *Jack Straw*. In the répertoire will also be *The Little Minister*, *The Night of the Party*, *Why Smith Left Home*, *What Happened to Jones*, *the Wrong Mr. Wright*, *The Lady of Ostend*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, and *English Nell*. The stage manager and producer of the company is Mr. Thomas Sidney.

Miss Ida Molesworth's and Mr. Mark Blow's *Under Two Flags* company will begin its fourth return visit to the suburbs on Monday, starting at Kennington, with the Coronet and Fulham to follow. This week *Under Two Flags* is making its seventh visit to Brighton in six years, and that the business is better than on any former occasion speaks volumes in favour of this sterling play, which is a never-failing box-office attraction.

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton will commence their autumn tour at Buxton on Sept. 3, their répertoire consisting of *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Othello*, and *The Two Pins*. The company will be practically the same as that which has supported the popular players during the last few years at the Adelphi and His Majesty's Theatres and on tour. At the conclusion of the autumn tour, which ends at the Broadway, New Cross, on Dec. 12, Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton hope to be able to secure a suitable West-end theatre to produce their new play, *Count Hannibal*.

Mr. C. Adolf Seebold deserves great credit for the great improvement made in the Theatre Royal, Worthing. The little house has been freshly decorated and upholstered, and the general appearance is both pleasing and effective.

Mr. Frank Nelson has now quite recovered from his serious illness. Mr. Nelson has served under two managements only for the last eight years, namely, those of Mr. Mouillot and Mr. Peter Davey, and has also run his own tours. He should find no difficulty in obtaining another managerial position.

Mr. Henry Swinerd's company, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner, will open on Monday at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, in the successful musical play *Dare-devil Dorothy*. The piece is now in its ninth year of tour, yet its drawing powers are as great as ever. The principal members of the company are Mr. Walter B. Nugent, Mr. Walter Ashley, Mr. Harry Ugar, Miss Nellie Valentine, and Miss Dorothy Desmonde in the title-rôle. Miss Nellie Harcourt will play Judith, a part she has enacted nearly three thousand times. Both Mr. Swinerd and Mr. Cordiner will be at the Fulham Theatre with the piece.

The reopening of the Royal County Theatre, Reading, marks the commencement of Mr. Edward Compton's proprietary connection with the theatre, Mr. Compton and Mr. Milton Bode being now the proprietors and managers. The Compton Comedy Company is booked for a visit to the County Theatre in the late autumn, and Mr. Compton will himself appear on the boards. Mr. Bode and Mr. Compton are also in partnership at the Brighton, Huddersfield, Wolverhampton, Northampton, Dalston, and other theatres.

Mr. Harry Phydora will long cherish remembrances of his dramatic triumphs in Australia under the ægis of Mr. J. C. Williamson, with whom he played the principal comedy parts in two pantomimes, viz, *Mother Goose* and *Humpty Dumpty*. Mr. Phydora might still be playing to the Cornstalks, who have made him a prime favourite, but he has returned to his native shores to continue a successful career only interrupted by his big record "down under."

Miss Evelyn Shelley, who has been seriously ill for some time, is now convalescent, and able and ready for work. She wishes to thank, through our columns, all friends for kind inquiries.

Mr. F. W. Marriott Watson, who is perhaps better known to the profession as F. Brooke Warren, the author of many well-known dramas that have been touring England successfully for the past twelve years, has just acquired a long lease of the Queen's Theatre, Dublin. The theatre will be rebuilt and enlarged, and will be one of the most up-to-date and comfortable theatres in the British Isles. The alterations will be very extensive, and the stage will be capable of presenting the largest attractions touring. It is expected to open the theatre in January next, when high-class drama will be the fare.

Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company with *The Flag Lieutenant* will open their tour at Kingston on Oct. 5. Mr. George Mallett has been appointed business-manager.

Mr. Monckton Hoffe has engaged Miss Maude Henderson to play the title-rôle in *Irene Wycherley*, this being her second engagement with Mr. Hoffe. Mr. Charles Garry, just returned from America with Mrs. Patrick Campbell, will play Philip Wycherley.

On the occasion of Mr. F. B. Woulfe's benefit at the conclusion of that gentleman's highly successful stock season at the Theatre Royal, Wednesbury, Mr. Harry Battersby, the proprietor, presented him with a gold watch. The gift was accompanied by a short speech, thanking Mr. Woulfe for his untiring work, and for the lavish and complete way in which all his productions were staged. On Sunday last Mr. Woulfe left Wednesbury after an eight weeks' stay for a long tour, to play the part of Ronjarre, and to act as general manager of Mr. Battersby's company. The season at Wednesbury has been an unqualified success, and on the night of Mr. Woulfe's benefit the house was filled to overflowing.

"The Passing of the Third Floor Back" was produced by Mr. Forbes Robertson at the Grand Opera House, Harrogate, on Thursday. It is an allegorical play, the scene of which is laid in a Bloomsbury boarding-house. A passer-by takes a room in the establishment, and embodying the Spirit of Love, points out to his fellow boarders their faults and petty spite. He thus plays upon the better side of each one's nature, and effects a complete reformation ere he departs. Mr. Robertson acted wonderfully in the title-rôle, and Miss Gertrude Elliott gave a clever assumption of a slavey. Mr. Edward Sass also scored a hit. There was a huge house, and calls were given for the author, who, however, did not respond. The piece will be seen at the St. James's on Sept. 1.

Mr. Leonard Rayne sailed last Saturday for Cape Town on the Union-Castle Company's steamer Walmer Castle. Both at Waterloo and Southampton many of the popular actor-manager's friends assembled to wish him God-speed on this his tenth trip to the Cape. He received, too, a large number of "send-off" telegrams, one well-wisher wiring to him, "If we do meet again, why, we shall smile," and receiving the reply, "If we do meet again we'll smile indeed"—both well-known lines from *Julius Cæsar*.

Mr. Rayne has with him two of the most popular pieces at present running in London, namely, *Mrs. Dot* and *The Flag Lieutenant*, with the latter of which he proposes opening his new season at the Standard Theatre, Johannesburg. He also holds the sole rights for South Africa of *A White Man*, *Diana of Dobson's*, Mr. Oswald Brand's powerful version of *Monte Cristo*, *A Cigarette-maker's Romance*, and *The Breed of the Treshams*. Then, as "curtain-raisers," he has *The Chance* (by Mr. Frank Vernon) and *The Agitator* and *A Bit of Old Chelsea* (by Mrs. Oscar Beringer). Replicas of all the dresses, uniforms, &c., used in the London productions are provided for the various plays.

The Gaiety Theatre, Methil, was reopened on Monday. During the recess the whole interior has been thoroughly cleaned and decorations have been completed. White and gold was the original scheme, but here and there have been added, with artistic effect, touches of pale blue. As it stands now, it is one of the prettiest little theatres in the country. The dressing-rooms are spacious and comfortably fitted and electrically lighted throughout.

On Monday, the opening night, Mr. Arnold, the popular manager, came before the curtain to make a little speech of greeting. He specially thanked Messrs. Edward Clark, scenic artist, Mr. Robert Cairns, stage carpenter, and Alex. Russell, electrician, for their loyal work. Modestly he kept his own name quiet, but his work is known and appreciated by the public. The bookings for the forthcoming season include a number of powerful attractions, and at Christmas or New Year Mr. Arnold will produce his own pantomime.

Mr. Norman Macowan, who recently completed his 677th performance of Monsieur Beaucaire, has been engaged by Mr. H. B. Irving for his season in London.

"The Early Worm" will make its appearance at Wyndham's on Sept. 1, which is also the date chosen by Mr. Forbes Robertson for the first performance of *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* at the St. James's. The former piece serves for the return of Mr. Weedon Grossmith to the West End in a part admirably designed for his talents, and the accomplished comedian will have sterling support in Messrs. A. E. Matthews, Alfred Bishop, Wilfred Draycott, H. Stephenson, A. W. Baskcomb, Forbes Dawson, and E. W. Laceby, and Miss Fanny Brough and Miss Muriel Beaumont. The play has distinct aristocratic tendencies, two acts being laid in the hall at Lord Mayton's and the other in the saloon on a Duke's yacht.

Miss Florence Watson has been engaged to play the part of Queenie Trevor in *The Belle of the Ball*, replacing Miss Maude Terry, who sails for America on Thursday next. Miss Watson opens at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, on Monday.

At Bow-street Police Court on Wednesday three young men, respectably attired, giving the names of Harry Luck, Charles Wilcox, and Samuel Reynolds, were charged as suspected persons attempting to pick pockets. A detective stated that at about a quarter past eleven on Tuesday night he saw the prisoners pushing among the people who were leaving the Vaudeville Theatre. Luck made an unsuccessful attempt to open a handbag carried by a lady whilst she was being pushed by the two other prisoners. Reynolds afterwards got in front of a lady and gentleman in evening dress who were about to enter a cab. Wilcox placed his hand on the gentleman's watch-chain, and at the same time Luck pushed against him. Witness and his colleague then arrested the three prisoners. There had been frequent complaints of late of robberies outside the Vaudeville Theatre. At the request of the police, the prisoners, who declared themselves innocent, were remanded for inquiries as to their antecedents.

A calamity was narrowly averted at the scenic studios of Mr. Leolyn Hart, in Latona-road, Old Kent-road, on Sunday evening, between the hours of six and seven, when a large fish-curing warehouse adjoining caught fire. By the untiring efforts of the Fire Brigade the flames were prevented from getting a firm hold of the studios. One portion of the storage department in which many tons of valuable scenery is kept had the roof completely burnt off, and this part of the premises also suffered considerably from water. If the fire had caught the main building, which occupies an enormous ground space, and in which much valuable work, wholly and partially completed, for several forthcoming productions is housed, the damage would have amounted to many thousands of pounds. The greatest difficulty was experienced in getting the horses out of the stables, which were completely burnt out. Fortunately, the damage is covered by insurance.

A change has taken place in the management of the F. R. Benson Shakespearean companies, and for the future the North, South, and Mid land tours will be under the direction of Mr. W. H. Savery, who for some years past has been connected with the Benson enterprises. Mr. Henry Herbert will be the stage-director of these companies, and also play the leading rôles in the North combination. Mr. Hugh Gwyther is the London representative of the firm, who retain their offices at 11, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden.

The North company finished a most successful forty-two weeks' tour at the Theatre Royal, Worthing, in June, and reopen on Sept. 7 at the same town, having been specially engaged for Mr. C. Adolf Seebold's annual benefit. During the autumn they will visit, among other towns, Plymouth, Exeter, Worcester, Burton-on-Trent, Coventry, Rochdale, and Wolverhampton. The company, which has worked its way into the front rank of Shakespearean combinations, has been considerably strengthened, and the effect of the productions has been enhanced by the acquisition of new scenery. The South company, which commences operations at Littlehampton on Aug. 20, has also been augmented, and will carry an extensive and popular répertoire. On Aug. 26 they are giving a pastoral performance of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* in the Vicarage garden at Bognor, in aid of the building fund of St. Wilfrid's Church.

At the finish of the performance of *Brewster's Millions* at the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, on Monday, the directors sent the resident acting-manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt, to ask Mr. Percy Hutchison to wait upon them, and not only did they compliment him upon his rendering of "Monty" Brewster, but said the production was one of the finest ever offered to the provinces, "the great storm scene" in the third act, with the "elaborately realistic yacht," creating especial admiration.

A battle of flowers at Vizella in Portugal recently was converted into an encounter between two amateur bands of music. Great rivalry has for many years existed between the two musical forces, and when in the middle of the festivity they met in the street, their long-suppressed hate burst forth, and they commenced exchanging insults. Finally, losing all control, they rushed at each other, using their musical instruments as weapons. A portion of the public took part in the quarrel, and the place was soon transformed into something like a battlefield. Revolver shots were fired and knives were used, until the police and a force of infantry were called out, and order re-established. The number of wounded is very considerable. Some of the musicians, with their shapeless instruments, passed the night in prison.

The theatrical tastes of the present-day public are touched upon in an interview with Mr. Frank Rothsay, whose large experience, including twelve years as manager at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, should entitle his opinion to respect. "Good drama, of course," said Mr. Rothsay, "has its many patrons, but I am inclined to think that comic opera will shortly be more in the ascendant than it has been for the past seven years. At the same time, whatever may suit and tickle the public fancy for the time being—long or short period—I am firmly convinced that good, stirring plays like *The Silver King* and *Lights of London* will always command big and appreciative audiences." Mr. Rothsay thinks, however, that plays as written to-day are hardly of the same consistency or up to the standard of those of years ago.

Mr. J. Charles Imeson desires to avail himself of our columns to thank all his friends for their numerous kind congratulatory telegrams on the occasion of the opening of his new theatre at Stockton on the 3rd instant. He is pleased to say his enterprise is a great success.

Mr. Edward Thane, author of *The Mockery of Marriage*, will produce at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, on Monday, for Mr. C. Hamilton Baines a new drama from his pen entitled *Dark Deeds of the Night*. The piece will be played throughout the week.

Pius X.'s attitude towards the drama is evidently most favourable. He has sent his blessing to a new theatre at Malta, which has been built under the auspices of the St. Patrick's Young Men's Society. It bears the title of "The House of Youth," and it is proposed to use the theatre for the performance of high-class plays and operas. At the opening performance, says the *Universe*, a telegram was received from the Papal Secretary of State, Cardinal Merry del Val, conveying the Apostolic blessing "upon an enterprise which much interests him."

After fulfilling three special weeks with *The Power of Lies*, in which he played the part of a benevolent doctor and acted as "producer," Mr. Marshall Moore has returned to town.

Mr. Edward Beecher has been engaged by Mr. Seymour Hicks for the part of Andrew Quainton in *The Gay Gordons*, thus returning to musical comedy, from which he has been absent since managing *Ma Mie Rosette* for the Associated Managers. Mr. Beecher is an enthusiastic cricketer, and successfully led the Gay Gordons C.C. to victory in two matches last week.

Mr. Norman V. Norman has arranged to produce the great Haymarket success *Under the Red Robe*, adapted from Stanley Weyman's novel by the late Edward Rose, with himself as Gil de Berault, and Miss Beatrice Wilson as Renée de Cocheforêt. Mr. Norman will shortly revive at the Marlborough Anthony Hope's *Adventure of Lady Ursula*, which has not been seen in London for some time, Miss Beatrice Wilson will play Lady Ursula Barrington, a part in which she has won the greatest success in most of the provincial cities, and Mr. Norman will himself play Sir George Sylvester.

The Hicks Theatre will reopen early in October, when *The Honourable Phil*, written by Mr. G. P. Huntley and Mr. Herbert Clayton, with music by Mr. Harold Samuels, will be produced. The event will mark the return to the West End of Miss Denise Orme, whose admirable work at Daly's will be recalled with pleasure. In the cast will also be Miss Julia Sanderson, an American singer and actress of much popularity, Miss Elsie Spain, Miss Barbara Huntley, Miss Eva Kelly, Mr. Horace Mills, Mr. Clayton, and Mr. O. B. Clarence, with Mr. Huntley himself in the title-rôle.

Mr. Joseph Coyne, who has played without one interruption through the run of *The Merry Widow*, and Miss Alexandra Carlisle left on Thursday for New York. They will open at the Garrick Theatre there on Aug. 31 with *The Mollusc*.

Hardie and Von Leer's autumn production, *The Sailor's Wedding*, by H. Brinsley Hill, will be seen for the first time on Monday, Sept. 7, at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway. The new piece, which is already in rehearsal, is described as "a romantic drama of life and love in sunny Italy." The action takes place amid the picturesque surroundings of the Neapolitan Riviera, and something quite exceptional may be looked for in the way of scenic illustration. A powerful company has been engaged, and a tour of the large towns will follow the initial production.

During the lengthy vacation the Theatre Royal, Dewsbury, has been overhauled, renovated, and refurnished, and the interior now presents a charming and artistic appearance. For the benefit of the pit and stall patrons the footlights have been lowered to the extent of 18in., thus affording a clearer view of the stage. In addition the electric lights comprising the footlights are now fully up-to-date, and include all the essential colour effects. The two walls at each side of the proscenium are now set out in panels with ornamental fibrous plaster moulding and elaborate painted shields. At each side of the proscenium two large fibrous plaster consols or tresses have been introduced, and these, along with all the rest of the ornamental plaster work, are now painted in cream and old gold shades, and freely gilded.

The walls throughout the auditorium are covered with a nice shade of rose du Barry, which harmonises with the chairs and carpets. The shafts of all columns are treated with Japanese paper in cream and gold shades. The dress circle, side circles, vestibule, corridors, promenades, and stalls have been carpeted with splendid Axminster. The boxes have new festooned crimson silk plush draperies and curtains, and the stalls, circle, and side stalls have been fitted with new, improved tip-up chairs, upholstered in rich crimson velvet. This work has been placed in the hands of Messrs. A. R. Dean and Sons, of Birmingham, and no expense has been spared in bringing the theatre up to date. In addition the dressing-rooms and the whole of the rear of the stage have been painted and cleaned.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Irving Anecdotes.

Up to the last moment of his career on the English stage, writes Mr. Walter Herries Pollock in his "Impressions of Henry Irving," he was more than willing to listen to any suggestion concerning either his own acting or the general conduct of any performance under his direction. There must be many friends by whom this trait in him will be remembered, and it is probable that, as one writes of his productions and acting, instances of it only too crowding will recur to the memory. For the present, at least, one may suffice. It was during a "long run" revival of *Hamlet* that he suddenly adopted the reading in the burial scene, "the cat will mew, the dog will have his *bay*," instead of "his day." This reading has always struck me as on a par with the famed suggestion that "the child is father to the man" should be changed to "the man is father to the child." This contention I presented to Irving, in his own frequent tone of affectionate banter, in more than one way. He said little; indeed, I think he only used an habitual and non-committal phrase—"Ah! you think that, do you?"—but a few nights later I found that he had gone back to his original reading. I do not doubt that he had had remonstrances other than mine, the which combined, if he had in truth resented criticism, would only have made him cling more closely than ever to his new departure.

Anything for a Change.

It seems probable that he first took to the *baying* dog from sheer desire to break, however little, the monotony of constant repetition. For during this, or a similar, long run of *Hamlet*, I was with him in his dressing-room just before the burial scene, and noted with surprise that a scarlet feather was being placed in his black hat. To my natural inquiry he answered: "Well, you know very likely that there's reason for supposing that scarlet was in old days the mourning colour of Denmark. But that's not really it—no. The truth is—anything for a change, however little, in these long runs." The thing, says Mr. Pollock, is trivial in itself, but what a comment on the inevitable effect of long runs!

Talking and Acting.

One curious instance of the double personality in Irving's case comes back to me from *The Corsican Brothers*. It may be remembered that at one point of the masked ball scene the Parisian twin, Louis, has to cross the stage with a moody and preoccupied air at the back of the noisy crowd of masks and pierrots. Just before this I had been with him in his dressing-room, eagerly discussing some matter quite unconnected with theatrical affairs. When we were getting to a crucial point he was called to make this traverse. He gave a slight movement of impatience and then, "Come on," he said, "or we may forget this. We shall just have time to finish it going down and crossing the stage." So down the stairs and across the stage we went, Irving, the moment his foot touched the boards, assuming an air of profound melancholy the while he continued with me a conversation which was perfectly cheerful. And he had timed it exactly; the point at issue had been cleared up just as we reached the opposite wing.

A Quick Change.

There was another instance of a more rapid kind in *Faust*, the great drama, which, however transmogrified, exercises a spell on the imagination and memory. Here, too, we had continued a conversation from his dressing-room down the stairs and to the wing where Mephistopheles waited the cue for his final appearance on the stage, wherefrom he carried off Faust in a blaze of lightning. The talk interested us both, and Irving kept it up till the last possible moment, when the man at the wing, ready with the lightning, urged him on. Then, "Step back out of the way of the blaze," he cried to me, and in a moment was on the stage saying, in cutting and commanding accents, "My horses shiver in the morning air." His caution, and that almost as hastily given by the lightning-man, came none too soon, as I had become absorbed in the discussion. Then he returned, with Faust half-enwrapped in the cloak of Mephistopheles, and so soon as Faust left him resumed the conversation exactly where he had dropped it.

A Quaint Cartoonist.

"When I was at Oxford," writes Mr. Edmund Payne in *Cassell's Saturday Journal*, "I lived with a certain actor whose father was on the original staff of *Tit-Bits*. We were both earning the same salary, and I found my new companion a very pleasant change indeed after the jealous coon with whom I had resided at Cardiff. As a matter of fact, as an actor he was a failure, but he was a clever lightning cartoonist; and the management, discovering this latest virtue, used to introduce his cartooning turn during the show, when he would, on big sheets of cardboard, rough out extraordinarily life-like likenesses of all sorts and conditions of celebrities of the day.

"Unfortunately, however, spoiled by the sudden influx of a whole thirty shillings a week, he took to excessive indulgence in the flowing bowl, with the result that on occasions when he came on to do his turn he was so 'disguised' that 'pon my word, if you'd have asked him I don't believe he could have told you whether he was in Europe or in Kamschatka. But he was a conscientious fellow, and would insist on doing his work. So, blinking like an owl, and swaying like a ship in distress, he would grip his pencil—once he leaned over the footlights and grabbed the conductor's bâton—and proceed to draw—or rather try to do so, as, in this condition, he generally started too near the edge of the paper—and after beginning by drawing Gladstone's head he would wander right off the paper with half Bradlaugh's nose, meander back again and trace out Disraeli's mouth, and finish up with Jem Mace's chin. For the back of the head he was generally content to sketch Disraeli's. Underneath this mosaic masterpiece he would write 'Lord Tennyson.'"

Doughty and Grimaldi.

Mr. James Doughty, the old actor and clown who will celebrate his ninetieth birthday on Aug. 28, remembers the famous song "Hot Codlins," which was sung by Grimaldi and by Doughty after him. It ran, the *Mail* reminds us, as follows:—

A little old woman, a living she got
By selling of codlins, hot, hot, hot;
This little old woman, so we have been told,
Tho' her codlins were hot, she was monstrously cold;
So to keep herself warm she thought it no sin
To run and get half a quartern of ——

Here the audience shouted the names of various beverages, starting with gin, and the expert clown finished off the line triumphantly with some potation they had not mentioned. "And what are codlins?" asked the interviewer. "Hot baked apples." "There, now," said a member of Mr. Doughty's family, "I have heard that song hundreds of times and I always thought it was fish!"

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

"THE MAN ON THE BOX."

Light Comedy, in Three Acts, by Grace Livingstone Furniss, founded on Harold McGrath's novel of the same name, produced at the Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne, on Thursday, Aug. 6.

Lord Kintire ..... Mr. Bourchier
Hon. Charles Henderson .. Mr. Charles Vernon
Colonel Annesley, U.S.A. .. Mr. Dore Davidson
Count Karloff ..... Mr. Bertram Forsyth
Major Frank Raleigh .. Mr. Leon Quartermaine
Judge Watts ..... Mr. Stafford Hilliard
Pierre Flageot ..... Mr. Arthur Whitby
O'Brien ..... Mr. Philip Ascot
Cassidy ..... Mr. William Burchill
Martin ..... Mr. F. Cecil
William ..... Mr. R. Hope
June Annesley ..... Miss Pamela Gaythorne
Mrs. Conway ..... Miss Mary Weigall
Nancy Henderson .... Miss Winifred Bateman
Cora ..... Miss Eva Killick

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The third of the novelties vouchsafed by Mr. Bourchier during his stay at Eastbourne was reserved for Thursday of last week, and was by far the most important of the series. It afforded opportunity of seeing Mr. Bourchier in a purely comedy part, and his success was proved by the frequent and hearty laughter and the numerous recalls. The action of the play opens in Judge Watts' Room in the Third Precincts Court at Washington, U.S.A. The officials of the Court are discussing a charge against a supposed groom giving the name of "James Osborne," who is accused of disorderly conduct, reckless driving, and of the abduction of two ladies. "James Osborne" is really Lord Kintire (brother of the Hon. Charles Henderson), and is fond of practical joking. After a ball Lord Kintire had the idea of taking the place of his brother's coachman, shaving off his beard, and driving home his sister-in-law, Nancy, and Mrs. Conway, and then at the end of the drive to snatch a kiss from Nancy. By mistake he gets a ticket numbered 66, which he mistakes for 99, and proceeds to drive carriage 99 furiously along two miles of street in Washington. He does not discover his mistake until he has attempted to steal the kiss, upon which he is given in charge by the lady occupant, Miss June Annesley, with whom Lord Kintire had previously fallen in love. Appearing at the Court to give evidence against the coachman, Miss Annesley denies abduction, but blushingly admits the kiss, and in the result James Osborne is fined 35 dollars. Favourably impressed by the appearance and behaviour of the charged coachman, Miss Annesley pays his fine and writes him a note offering him the place as her groom. In order to be near his lady-love and to carry out the joke his lordship determines to accept the proposal. Act. II. finds Lord Kintire duly installed as groom to Miss Annesley at Chevy Chase. He greatly advances in the estimation of his mistress by pulling her safely off her runaway horse. James, however, refuses to wait at table, and proves a difficult fellow-servant to work with. Having lost his fortune by gambling at Monte Carlo, Colonel Annesley, father of June, has agreed to sell plans of fortifications for 20,000 dollars to a Russian count named Karloff, and the final arrangements for handing over the plans are overheard by James. Miss June thanks James very tenderly for saving her life. She realises he has occupied some higher position, and her suspicions being aroused she asks Nancy (Kintire's sister-in-law) to bring a photograph of Lord Kintire without a beard. Nancy and June put their heads together and determine to unmask the false groom. James is sent for, but as he has been mending a stove pipe his hands are covered with soot, and when Nancy appears to identify him as Lord Kintire, he rapidly passes his grimy hands over his face and is quite unrecognisable. Outwitted in this attempt to prove the identity, Miss June, in Act III. is waiting for the arrival of the photograph. James is made to wait at dinner, and is sent to bring a packet containing a portrait of Bob Kintire without a beard. Miss June, in a second attempt to prove James a fraud, opens the packet, only to find the picture of a bald-headed baby—the only photo of Bob without a beard. Count Karloff now appears again, and in offering the 20,000 dollars demands also the hand of Miss June. In desperation Colonel Annesley is tempted to accept the money, but the demand with threats for his daughter's hand is more than the Colonel can bear, and he strikes the Count. James now appears to refer the Count to a high official of State, who is waiting for him. The Count, thinking that James is in the Secret Service, at once withdraws. Lord Kintire now gives up his masquerading, and a very pretty love scene takes place between Lord Kintire and Miss June, which ends in their betrothal.

The representation of the piece was heartily enjoyed. Mr. Bourchier played the part of Osborne, the coachman, in a calm, imperturable manner that had an irresistibly humorous effect. He has much funny business in the Court scene, where he proved a most unruly prisoner and quite a rival to Sam Weller in smartness and repartee. As the deferential groom, too, he was very funny, and his appearance as an improvised nigger especially caused peals of laughter, and cheers that brought the distinguished actor back many times with face still blackened. Miss Pamela Gaythorne as June Annesley proved a popular hit. Delightfully bright and animated, she entered into the spirit of the part, played without a trace of affectation, and won the unstinted applause of the audience. The other parts were all rendered in sound and capable fashion, and the production gave proof of every future success.

MRS. LEWIS WALLER SUED.

The case of Wilkes v. Waller came before His Honour Judge Woodfall in the Westminster County Court on Friday afternoon, Aug. 7. It was a claim by a theatrical and variety agent against Mrs. Lewis Waller, the well-known actress, for commission on an engagement.

Mr. Simner was counsel for the plaintiff, whose case was that his client secured an engagement for defendant at the Pavilion, Glasgow, at £150 for a week and £12 10s. for one matinée. She performed, and was paid £162 10s. On that plaintiff claimed the usual agent's commission of 10 per cent., of which 2½ per cent. went to Mr. Lloyd, the manager of the hall.

The defendant conducted her case in person, and early in her statement was gently pulled up as she was relating what could not be admitted as evidence. Judge Woodfall took great pains to explain the position to her—that as the case stood there was no defence to the action. She said it was represented to her that there would be two matinées paid for, but that was a matter for a counter-claim. If she wished to make a counter-claim and call Mr. Lloyd, he would grant an adjournment.

Eventually it was agreed that the case should be adjourned on defendant paying the amount claimed into court. If, after taking advice, she decided not to go on, then judgment would be entered for the plaintiffs with costs.

Miss Elsie Forster has made an encouraging first attempt at juvenile lead, this week playing the child of twelve in the third act and the charming girl of eighteen in Acts 4 and 5 of *In the Midst of Life* at the Theatre Royal, Aston, Birmingham. The young actress was highly complimented on her appearance and rendering of the dual-rôle.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THE ADELPHI.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Musical Comedy, Written by George Grossmith, jun., and L. E. Berman, Music by Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton, Lyrics by Adrian Ross and Basil Hood, entitled "THE GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG."

Otto ..... Mr. Lawrence Grossmith
General the Margrave of Saxe-Nierstein ..... Mr. Jocelyn Hope
Albrecht ..... Mr. Fred Allandale
Brittlbottl ..... Mr. Fred Payne
Colonel Finkhausen ..... Mr. Arnold Lucy
Fritz ..... Mr. J. Redmond
Hermann ..... Mr. Arthur Whitehead
Franz ..... Mr. Lawrence Robbins
Karl ..... Mr. Ellis Holland
Burgomaster .. .. Mr. Douglas Munro
Kannenbier ..... Mr. A. Chentrens
Adolf ..... Mr. Charles Brown
Policeman .. .. Mr. D. Logum
Waiters ..... Mr. Wm. Garrett / Mr. Drake Goodban
Corporal Reithen ..... Mr. H. Glyn
Max Moddelkopf ..... Mr. Edmund Payne
Clementine ..... Miss Maisie Gay
Elsa ..... Miss Thelma Raye
Lucille ..... Miss Florence Phillips
Eva ..... Miss Kitty Sparrow
Lina ..... Miss Nancy Rich
Freda ..... Miss Dora Dent
Anna ..... Miss Peggy Paton
Katrina ..... Miss Florence Melville
Barbara Briefmark ..... Miss May Weston
Betti Berncastler ..... Miss Ethel Wilson
Mitzi ..... Happy Fanny Fields

The Girls of Gottenberg was produced at the Gaiety Theatre on May 15 last year, and afterwards had a long and successful career at that house. The cast on that occasion included Mr. George Grossmith, jun., as Otto, Mr. Robert Nainby as Brittlbottl, Mr. Edmund Payne as Max Moddelkopf, and Miss Gertie Millar as Mitzi. Previous to despatching the present company on a tour to the principal provincial cities, Mr. George Edwardes has given them a fortnight's season at the Adelphi, the twelve nights commencing on Monday, when the popular musical play was again received with loud laughter and enthusiastic applause. The company is happy in retaining the possession of that tower of humorous strength Mr. Edmund Payne, whose irresistibly droll impersonation of the comic hairdresser sends the house into roars and screams of laughter. He is particularly funny in the last act, when the intrigues of Max Moddelkopf culminate in a series of absurd embarrassments. Mr. Lawrence Grossmith plays Otto, Prince of Saxe-Hildesheim, with an easy grace and a neat and quiet comedy that are very effective; and the part of the Burgomaster's daughter, Clementine, has a very quaint and artistic exponent in Miss Maisie Gay, a winning comedienne with a natural style and a humorous emphasis that is never overdone. Miss Thelma Raye is full of spontaneous gaiety and activity as Elsa. Miss Florence Phillips is a very agreeable, alert, and prepossessing Lucille, and her dance in the second act is a great success. Happy Fanny Fields is absolutely exuberant with electric energy; and her distinctness of utterance and the expression which she puts into her delivery of her lines combine to make her performance an exquisitely piquant one. Her dances, alone and with Mr. Payne, are repeatedly encored, and, altogether, Happy Fanny supplies a most exhilarating addition to an entertainment which already bubbles over with feminine fascination and girlish frivolity. She sparkles and scintillates with smartness, and sings her songs with inspiriting animation. Mr. Fred Payne is genuinely amusing as the Sergeant of Hussars, Brittlbottl; and Mr. Arnold Lucy gives due weight and emphasis to the rôle of Colonel Finkhausen, Mr. Fred Allandale making Albrecht sufficiently smart and conceited for the character and acting with skill and alertness. Mr. Douglas Munro is duly demonstrative as the Burgomaster; and Mr. Charles Brown repeats his extravagantly effective impersonation of Adolf. The scenery, by Mr. Alfred Terraine and Messrs. Joseph and Phil Harker, well bears a sound inspection; and the costumes, designed by Percy Anderson, again please the eye, as the strains of Mr. Philip Braham's competent orchestra delight the ear. Mr. Edward Royce has produced the piece for Mr. George Edwardes with care and ability.

"I remember," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope to us, "the late Henry Irving's first visit to the city of Dublin. He was engaged as juvenile leading gentleman to appear at the Queen's Theatre, then under the management of Mr. Henry Webb, who appeared in London afterwards with his brother, Chas. Webb, as the Two Dromios. Irving's opening part was that of Frank Friskly in *The Boots at the Swan*. Friskly has to speak outside before he enters on the stage, 'Upstairs is he? Then I'll find him?' The moment Irving appeared he was greeted with a perfect storm of hisses, shouts, and groans; the audience refused to listen to a single word. The manager had to come on the stage and endeavour to appease the angry 'gods,' who would not be silenced, but kept on shouting out the name of the actor who had left the previous week owing to some disagreement with the management. He had been a tremendous favourite with the habitués of the theatre. They wanted him back, and refused to listen either to the new actor or the manager. 'The actor you call for,' cried the angry manager, 'shall never again appear at this theatre. You have crushed the sensibilities of this young actor. This uproar is a perfect disgrace, and I shall shut up the gallery altogether!' 'Arrah, shure, you can't afford to do that, Mister Webb!' cried some of the 'gods.' Eventually Irving left, and the other actor was reinstated. Some years elapsed. Irving had created for himself a name which had become a household word, and had become a great tragedian. His next visit to Dublin was to the Theatre Royal, where he opened in *Hamlet*. After the performance students from Trinity College and the townspeople assembled in their thousands, waiting for him to appear. His carriage was in readiness to take him to his hotel. The moment he was seated the horses were taken out of the shafts and the students drew him through the streets, which were lined with people, with bands playing and a big torchlight procession. He was escorted, amidst deafening cheers, to his hotel, where he was called on for a speech, and the same ovation awaited him each evening during his stay."

An anecdote which illustrates Irving's readiness of repartee is told by Mr. Alfred Turner. When the production of *The Medicine Man* was in preparation at the Lyceum, Irving played the part of the strange *medico*, who had a solitary affection for some "little yellow birds," which he kept in his surgery. When at last the property man had procured a cage for the purpose, it was bran-new, and there were no evidences that it had ever been used as an aviary. On Irving complaining that it looked too clean, the zealous property master ran for a brush of whitewash and made four or five gigantic "droppings" on the floor and perches of the cage. "That is worse still," said Irving, much annoyed. "It is canaries that I am supposed to be keeping—*not eagles!*"

His Highness the Sultan of Zanzibar witnessed the performance of *The Mikado* at the Savoy Theatre on the evening of the 7th inst.

IRVING IN INTIMACY.

Time has mellowed our estimate of the late Sir Henry Irving, and it is a weighty testimony to the intrinsic beauty of the actor's character that, when the excited admiration of his lifetime has moderated into affectionate regret, the dead man remains as admirable and as lovable as ever. Mr. Walter Herries Pollock's book "Impressions of Henry Irving," which was recently published by Longmans, Green, & Co., is full of the interest which attaches to intimacy with genius. Mr. H. B. Irving in his Preface remarks: "Walter Pollock knew my father first at that critical time when he had just set his foot on the ladder of fame; and he saw and talked with him during those succeeding years in which, in the teeth of opposition, less scrupulous and considerate than the successful actor of to-day is called upon to encounter, the 'fashionable tragedian' fought his way to full and general recognition. Mr. Pollock writes as a friend; his writing will be none the less interesting and trustworthy for that. No man was ever more loved and regarded by a few good and tried friends than my father. It is well that those of them who will should tell us something of Henry Irving."

And this book is full of actuality, appreciative understanding, and kindly and sympathetic humour. The "little weaknesses" which are described as delightfully harmless, and very agreeable. They endear Irving to us by their gentle humanity, and one rises from the perusal of these impressions, "gathered in public and private during a friendship of many years," with even a better opinion of the great actor than before. Mr. Pollock does not represent him as above all imperfection, but he shows him as always simple, natural, and sincere. How pleasant, for instance, is the following revelation:—

"When he had decided, after considerable hesitation, to produce *Romeo and Juliet*, he had further and deeper misgivings as to whether he should himself play Romeo or Mercutio, and his final decision was mainly due to a feeling, probably correct, that the public would expect to see him as Romeo. His rendering of the part was not one to which as a whole any honest critic could give unqualified approval, although in some scenes, particularly those with the Friar and with the Apothecary, he played up to his best mark. That he was among the critics who did not think well of the whole performance will now be seen.

"After he had made up his mind, he came one evening to see my wife, myself, and my late brother-in-law, Captain Pipon, R.N., who was staying with us. After some talk to which the foregoing observations are due, he sat down to read to us many of the scenes in which Romeo appears. He read at half tone, yet gave its full force and meaning to every character, and it was evident throughout that his conception of the part of Romeo was instinct with beauty and truth. He indicated fully all the passion, all the moods, all the impulse, and all the weakness of the character, and, in a subtle fashion, brought all the movement and life of the various scenes before one's mind's eye. I doubt if he ever had a more rapt audience, and certainly not the least rapt of the three was the sailor, who was a very keen student of Shakespeare. When the glamour of the reading had come all too soon to an end the reader put down his book, looked round at us, and said with a half-humorous sigh: 'There, that is what I *want* to make of Romeo. Unluckily, I know that on the stage I cannot come anywhere near it.' He waved away all attempts at protest and repeated, 'No, no. I know I can't do it. How I wish I could! But I must do the best I can.' When he had gone back to his rooms Captain Pipin expressed the feeling of all three hearers in the words, 'If only he could play Romeo as he read it he would set the town ablaze. But what a Mercutio he would make!'"

There is a revelation in the account given of the workings of Irving's mind with respect to his Lear. Of this Mr. Pollock writes:—

"I have no reason to suppose that Irving ever really altered the conception of a part when once he had thoroughly studied it, save in one truly amazing instance. Of this instance I am told by my old friend Mr. F. Tyars, a thoroughly excellent and accomplished actor, for very many years one of Irving's most trusted lieutenants. On one occasion he, as Irving's understudy, played King Arthur, and a fine, dignified, chivalrous performance he made of it. I learn from him that the exception to Irving's general rule was actually in the tremendous character of King Lear, and that the change was definitely adopted in the time between Irving's arrival at the theatre to dress and the rise of the curtain on the first night of the production. Such a transformation is as bewildering to the student as one imagine it must have been to Irving's play-fellows. It fully accounts for the strangely-hesitating touch which was noticeable in Irving's treatment of the earlier scenes on that night, and which never wholly disappeared afterwards. The swiftness of mind which decided so portentous an alteration in so short a time could hardly meet with an equally swift response from other faculties trained through many rehearsals to obey a different command from heart and intellect. Nor, I think, can this 'handy-dandy' process have failed to affect the actor's reflections on the part and on his own performance of it as time went on. Therefore, it may well have had something to do with the fact that he never thought of reviving the play. For his own sake this was matter for rejoicing to those who knew how much 'more than common' the acting of the character moved and shook him.

"But nothing here said is in contradiction of what has been put forward as to his never-ceasing study of every part he undertook, whereof a further instance comes into my mind as I write, and may therefore, perhaps, be here mentioned. It was told to me by my mother who, during a revival of *Hamlet*, observed, with friendly concern, that he was looking harassed and worn. 'Ah!' he said, 'that's nothing; only want of sleep last night. As you know, with acting and with the management of the theatre I have not too many hours for sleep, and I was kept awake by thinking of that poor young fellow.' 'Of whom?' 'Why, of Hamlet! Think of him, all alone with his misery in that abominable court, and you won't wonder that it kept me awake.' This is noteworthy, too, as showing that to Irving as to Macready the great characters of the drama were not abstract ideas to be dissected, or ingenious imaginations to be turned to the player's account in a showy performance, but living, thinking, feeling beings to enlist sympathy, study, penetration whereby the actor might call up their semblance as in a mirror to the very best of his power."

Irving thought that the effect of his Othello was marred by the disappointment of the audience with his costume:—

"His Othello was apparelled as a Venetian General, and thus he was shown in a beautiful water-colour sketch by Sir John Tenniel, which before and during the first performance of *Othello* and, to the best of my recollection, ever afterwards, hung in Irving's dressing-room. After this sketch his armour and costume were designed and executed, and very well they became him.

"The effect on the audience, however, was not identical with that produced on some approving critics. Irving seemed always to have, apart from what reached him by hearsay, a kind of sixth sense as to what an audience was thinking and feeling—a component part, no doubt, of the magnetic contact he established between them and himself, or, if you will, a corollary to it. Not long after the first night of the play I noted that he had introduced decidedly marked hints of Oriental costume in the scenes where armour was not the only wear. He explained this to me by saying, 'The fact is "they" expect to see Othello as something entirely Eastern and mysterious; they've always thought of him in that way, and they don't at all understand finding him dressed like the other characters in the play. I ought to have thought of that and given up the idea, which, as you know, I greatly liked, of correctness.' The concessions made were no doubt judicious from this point of view, but Irving thought, rightly I imagine, that a certain amount of irreparable harm to the production's success had been done by the first surprise or disappointment of spectators who had expected to see a thoroughly Moorish Moor."

The following anecdote would be incredible if it were not so well authenticated:—

"I recall," writes Mr. Pollock, "yet another illustration of the actor's 'dual personality,' which reminds one of Garrick cracking jokes at the wing between the passionate outbursts of Lear, taken from the first representation of Othello at the Lyceum. It was told to me, not by Irving himself, but by the actress who was then playing Desdemona, and who clearly did not believe in the 'dual' theory, since she found its exemplification somewhat upsetting. 'What,' she said in pathetic tones, 'what do you think he said when he was supposed to be stifling me behind the curtains? Can you guess?'

"I replied, naturally, that I could not.

"'Why, he asked me what my mother had ordered for supper. Think of it!'

"I did think of it; and came to the conclusion that with Garrick and with Irving this thrusting of trivial matters into the interstices of a great emotion may at first sight seem (as it did to Dr. Johnson with his 'Punch has no feelings') evidence of shallowness, but is, in fact, a temporary and much-needed respite for an actor who has been, and immediately again will be, at the highest strain of mental and physical intensity, in feeling and expressing a storm of passion."

"FOR LOVE OF A WOMAN."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Nita Rae, produced at the Theatre Royal, Tyldesley, on Monday, Aug. 10.

Ned Merrick ..... Mr. Arthur Chisholm
Guy Manor, *alias* Guy Clavering .. Mr. F. Lloyd
Allen Paget ..... Mr. Eustace Day
Major Hulmes ..... Mr. Charles Ninian
Albert St. Everamond .. Mr. Leonard Harrison
Sam Holland ..... Mr. Fred Ramsdale
Tom Jones ..... Mr. Ernest Yandell
Warder ..... Mr. Brook Leicester
Nell Paget ..... Miss Dorothy Routh
Marjory Hulmes ..... Miss Elsie Shelton
Jane Manor ..... Miss Eva St. Vincent
Nance Manor ..... Miss May Day

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

After a production at Stafford on July 27 and last week at Farnworth, the above new play reached the Theatre Royal, Tyldesley, this week. It opens with a scene in the grounds of The Grange, where preparations are going on for a marriage between Guy Manor *alias* Guy Clavering and Nell Paget. Ned Merrick, who also loves Nell, is supposed to be in America, but having made a large fortune there, returns home and arrives at the Grange shortly before the hour appointed for the wedding. Ned has brought back with him to England a child called Nance Manor, whom he has learned is the granddaughter of Allen Paget, her mother being dead. He has discovered that her father is Guy Clavering, who had previously married Nell Paget's elder sister, and then deserted her. The projected wedding is in consequence abandoned. Subsequently Clavering murders old Allen Paget, who is blind, but possesses great wealth, and tries to throw suspicion on Ned Merrick by wiping his bloodstained knife on the latter's coat. Caught in the act by little Nance, he reveals the fact that he is her father, and by this means extracts from her a promise not to betray him. Ned Merrick is arrested and sentenced to death for the crime of which he is innocent. Nance obtains means to see the condemned prisoner in his cell, and tells him all she knows. Ned advises the girl how she can assist him to secure his liberty, and Ned makes good his escape. Finally Clavering and Ned meet in the grounds of The Grange, where a struggle takes place, and the villain is shot dead. The play has many capital situations, and interest is well maintained throughout. It is presented by Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Day's company. Mr. Arthur Chisholm acts with commendable force and earnestness as Ned Merrick; Mr. Eustace Day submits a very capable performance of Allen Paget, and a powerful characterisation of Guy Manor is given by Mr. Fred Lloyd; Miss May Day is entitled to much credit for her clever delineation of Nance Manor; Miss Dorothy Routh is effective as Nell Paget; Marjory Hulmes is well represented by Miss Elsie Shelton, and Miss Eva St. Vincent is admirable as Jane Manor. Genuine humour is supplied by Mr. Charles Ninian (Major Hulmes), Mr. Leonard Harrison (Albert St. Everamond), and Mr. Fred Ramsdale (Sam Holland). The piece is prettily costumed and effectively staged.

THE QUEEN'S, DUBLIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—In the interest of Mr. Ellis Jones and the Joseph family, who for upwards of half a century were patentees and proprietors of the Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin, we think that it is only fair, in view of some of the statements which were made in connection with the recent application by Mr. Marriott Watson for a new patent for the theatre, that the following facts should be placed before the public:—

1. The theatre, which was then known as the Adelphi Theatre, was acquired by the late Mr. John Charles Joseph in the year 1844, and the building was remodelled at his expense and reopened in that year under the name of the "Queen's Royal Theatre."

2. The interest of the Joseph family was purchased by Mr. Ellis Jones in the year 1892 for the sum of £5,000.

3. In the year 1893 Mr. Ellis Jones acquired a new patent for the theatre, and expended a further sum of over £5,000 in alterations and improvements to the building, such alterations and improvements being carried out in accordance with the city bye-laws.

4. That the improvements referred to included the installation of a double fireproof curtain, which was either the first of its kind or among the first to be installed in any of the Dublin theatres.

5. That on April 6, 1908, Mr. Ellis Jones made an offer in writing to the Provost and Senior Fellows of Trinity College (the landlords of the theatre) to take a lease of the theatre and the four adjoining houses for ninety years, at the yearly rent of £350, and undertook to expend £6,000 in improving the property, and in making that offer it was pointed out to the College that Mr. Jones considered he had a prior claim to consideration to anybody else by reason of the fact that he had been in occupation of the theatre for a long number of years, that he had paid £5,000 for the interest in the theatre and patent, and that he had expended more than another £5,000 in renovations.

6. That the reply which the Bursar of Trinity College made to Mr. Jones's offer was that negotiations with Mr. Watson had been finally concluded in February, 1908.

7. That at the recent inquiry held at Dublin Castle in connection with the granting of the new patent to Mr. Marriott Watson it was stated that the date of the contract between him and Trinity College was June 15, 1908.—Yours faithfully,

HAMILTON AND CRAIG.

30, South Frederick-street, Dublin, Aug. 11.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

LONDON PAVILION.

An entertaining novelty in Mr. Frank Gleniser's programme at the London Pavilion is the smartly-enacted interlude given by Terry and Lambert, entitled "English Types through American Eyes." This exceedingly clever lady and gentleman first impersonate a London cabby and his fare—a vivacious and daintily-attired damsel who decidedly gets the better of a verbal encounter with "Gentleman Joe"; and next represent a Lancashire lass and her sweetheart, admirable and amusing impressions that won loud applause, as did also their singing of "Sally in our alley." Their most humorous contribution was, perhaps, that in which they submitted an American's idea of an English lord and an Englishman's impression of a Yankee heiress. Mr. Terry's portrayal of a penniless peer, with a "skinful of blue blood," and his partner's impersonation of a slangy American girl who persuades him to propose, were droll caricatures, the dialogue being very laughable. The clever and versatile couple concluded their highly-appreciated turn with impressions of a coster and his "donah," and the flattering reception accorded them left no doubt as to the success of their latest creation. Mlle. Alexia, in "The She-Devil and the Demon," continues to arouse enthusiasm and admiration by her wonderful whirlwind dancing, valuable assistance being given her by M. Orfeo, as the demon lover; and the Darras Brothers submit one of the cleverest equilibristic acts at present to be seen on the halls, praticularly skilful being the ease and sureness with which one of the twain balances himself on his head on a swinging trapeze.

Mr. Allan Shaw's entertainment quite justifies its description on the programme as a "masterpiece of modern coin manipulation," a demonstration of digital dexterity which must have taken years of patient practice to have brought it to its present state of perfection. Mr. Shaw has a pleasant way of taking the audience into his confidence while producing and vanishing coins, and the wonderful control he has over the muscles of his hand is shown in his concluding item, his entire turn being greatly enjoyed. Mr. Gilbert Girard submits some most realistic imitations of various musical instruments, &c., his canine mimicry being particularly like the real thing. Rose and Challoner have an amusing playlet in *The Porter and the Singer*, the male of the duo contributing some appreciated mimicry of Mr. Gus Elen and Mr. T. E. Dunville; Thorpe and Coe submit their admirably enacted comedy sketch, *My Burglar*; and Haines, Borthwick, and company also arouse much merriment with their farcical playlet, *Half-a-Dollar*.

A quartet of comedians in the bill who long since won fame as funny men are Mr. Tom Leamore, Mr. T. E. Dunville, Mr. Harry Ford, and Mr. Edwin Boyde. The first-mentioned has a comical "Rajah" song, but his most humorous contribution is his droll impersonation of a broken-down swell. An impossible dude is also a most mirth-provoking personage, as portrayed by Mr. Harry Ford, who likewise compels laughter with "Can't he take my word." Mr. T. E. Dunville is well supplied with comic material in "Actions speak louder than words" and "Sticky-back, the postman," the last-mentioned a particularly funny number; and the droll style and songs of Mr. Edwin Boyde create the usual hilarity. The refined instrumental act given by those two accomplished musicians, Florence and Lillian, is keenly appreciated, the fine violin playing of one of the ladies being loudly acclaimed; Mr. Eli Hudson, the well-known and accomplished flute and piccolo soloist, is awarded a flattering reception; and other enjoyable items in the well-diversified and alluring programme are given by Clare and Pastor, comedy artists; Mr. Gene Selby, comedian and bone soloist; the Pavilion Girls, in their attractive songs and dances; Miss May Henderson, the popular darkey impersonator and clever dancer; and the Three Laurels, in their acrobatic act.

THE COLISEUM.

It was in 1849 that Alfred Wigan adapted *Le Père de la Débutante* under the title of *The First Night*, and on the same plot Henry J. Byron founded his comedy of *The Prompter's Box*, in which he played Fitzaltamont, the crushed tragedian. In producing a tabloid version—*Behind the Scenes*—of the original at the Coliseum Mr. Albert Chevalier—who, by the way, has been drawing packed houses—has not erred in the way of diffuseness or business. His treatment of the character of Achille Talma Dufard has been extremely judicious, and it is interesting to note that the farcical element which has so often disfigured the performances of Wigan's adaptation mentioned above is very much subordinated to the legitimate comedy vein. There is no clowning, and therefore the humour is legitimate and produced by legitimate means. The cast of *Behind the Scenes* is as follows:—

Achille Talma Dufard ..Mr. Albert Chevalier
Mr. Flat .....Mr. E. W. Garden
Mr. Vamp .....Mr. Harry Brett
Mr. Parnassus .....Mr. Arthur Brankston
George .....Mr. Bertie Baxter
Celia Fitz-James .....Miss Daisy Irvine
Rose Dufard .....Miss Mabel Garden

Mr. Chevalier adopts a wonderful make-up for the part of the proud old father who proclaims with all the dignity of an ancient *sociétaire* that he is *artiste* of the Théâtre Français. His "tickling" of the vanity of the author, Mr. Parnassus, is delicious, and there is always the note of pathos running through the impersonation. We never lose sight of the old man's abiding affection and tenderness for his daughter, and we cannot fail to recognise that he is instinctively a gentleman. A most interesting début in the piece is that of Miss Mabel Garden, whose sire and grandsire have assisted to make theatrical history. Miss Garden is fresh, ingenuous, and winsome, and as Rose Dufard wins sympathy on her first entrance. She gives every promise of sustaining the high reputation of her family. Her father, Mr. E. W. Garden, plays the manager, Mr. Flat, with all the assurance of wide experience. Mr. Harry Brett is amusingly fussy as Vamp, the stage-manager, who guides the "storm" at the Corinthian Theatre, and Miss Daisy Irvine is duly haughty and autocratic as Miss Celia Fitz-James, the established star, who walks out of the theatre and gives the débutante her chance. Mr. Arthur Brankston emphasises cleverly the egregious vanity of the author.

A great success is scored by that excellent comedian Mr. John L. Shine in *The Actor's Art*, which is vivified by his series of remarkable impersonations of a Lancashire man, a Scotch elder, and a coster. Incidentally, also, he doubles the parts of an unsuccessful solicitor and a briefless barrister, the comic confusion resulting being possible only through his marvellously realistic make-up and powers of mimicry. The public have welcomed many fine artists at the Coliseum, but none more accomplished than John L. Shine.

Time was when serpentine dancing was done without serpents; but, as the tragedy of Cleopatra is associated with an asp, Miss Odette Valéry in her impersonation of the Egyptian Queen, fondles a sinuous snake which twines itself round her beautiful shoulders and neck. The dramatic strength of the production is undeniable, and Miss Valéry expresses with eloquent gesture the grief and determination of Cleopatra, but the spectacle of the coiling reptile is not exactly entrancing. The compiler of the programme is slightly incorrect in his natural history. The asp and other poisonous ophidians bite, and do not "sting." We know that Shakespeare makes Shylock say "Wouldst thou have a serpent sting thee twice?" But the natural history current in Elizabethan days was not for all time.

Other artists include Maud and Sydney Wood, comedy artists, in *Tennis Courtship*; Eldra and his well-trained dog Prince; Ross and Lewis, in an American idiosyncrasy; Miss Florence Maymen, in her burlesque coon business; Mr. James Moran, Scotch humorist; Lydia Yeamans (accompanied by Mr. Fred J. Titus), who brings the house down in her imitation of a kiddy reciting, and sings "Sally in our Alley"; Belloni's cockatoos, Mlle. De Lilo, the Parisian star; the Cole de Losse Duo; and Julius Tannen, who is a quaint American story-teller.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

The most important item in a lengthy and particularly fine programme at the Shepherd's Bush Empire during this week has been a new sketch, *The Brigands of Tarragona*, produced for the first time on Monday evening last. Author and producer are one—to wit, that well-known and popular comedian and writer for the music hall stage, Mr. Herbert Darnley. It may be said at once that this new sketch, which has four scenes, is extremely funny, and that its progress called forth roars of laughter, and was undoubtedly very much to the taste of the audience; which, of course, is almost everything. If an audience likes a turn, then that turn is good enough, and *The Brigands of Tarragona* was certainly liked. Mr. Darnley has not, perhaps, devoted so much attention to the invention of a plot as to the invention of humorous business, but the slight connection between the scenes and the lack of coherent dramatic action militate not in the least against the success of his latest effort. The four scenes are The Tarragona Barracks, The Colonel's Quarters, The Tarragona Express, and The Brigand's Mountain Home. The cast is as follows:—

Pepo .....Mr. Chas. H. Bell
Nipo .....Mr. H. Snowdon
Banano .....Mr. Lowry Leslie
Caraneta .....Miss Annette Sellens
Colonel Montano .....Mr. Wallace Bosco
Clarissa .....Miss Clara Bell

As suggested above, the sketch is chiefly remarkable for its funny business, which is almost entirely of the "chasing round" and "knockabout" type, but which, all the same, is really very laughable. In the first scene we have a brigand hanging round, anxious to abduct the Colonel's daughter, an enterprise which is unsuccessful; the second is devoted entirely to the examination of recruits by the Colonel; in the third we witness soldiers boarding a train en route for the brigands; and in the fourth we see them arrive at the brigands' lair. The whole business winds up with a most comic fight. Praise for the success of the sketch is chiefly due to those who play in it, in particular, Mr. Chas. H. Bell. Mr. Bell was on the go all the time, and always funny; a very bright and inventive comedian, Mr. H. Snowdon, also did very well, and Mr. Lowry Leslie and Mr. Wallace Bosco were quite good. Miss Annette Sellens as the Colonel's daughter had one or two numbers to sing, which she did extremely well, and Miss Clara Bell was picturesque and graceful as the brigand's wife. The dancing of the Tarragona Dancing Girls was also distinctly worthy of mention.

The remainder of the programme includes the Poluski Brothers, who are going better than ever, and have some new business, which includes the throwing on a screen of some most funny "views"; the Brothers Redmond, acrobatic comedians ("Willie, come here"); Charlene and Charlene, in a particularly good act, expert juggling and playing on the xylophone; Mlle. de Dio, in her beautiful dances, including "Terpsichore's Dream"; the Crown Trio of speciality vocalists, very good; C. J. Johnson, "champion cake-walker of the western parts of New York and Paris"; Leslie Harris, very funny in his entertainment at the piano; Fred Lincoln, in his clever scena *My Pal Jemmy*; Miss Marion Scott, a dainty comedienne; and the American Bioscope, showing a series of pictures, entitled A Bird of Freedom. It is not to be wondered at that at the second house on Monday this lengthy programme lasted until within a few minutes of midnight Mr. E. P. Morgan, late of the Hippodrome, Manchester, is the acting-manager at this house, and the ever-busy Mr. Jess Smith his genial assistant.

BOW PALACE.

Mr. Leo Dryden is winning high favour at Mr. Macnaghten's magnificent East-end hall this week. Mr. Dryden's song-scenas are well known and well liked. He first appears dressed as a cowboy in a cabin scene, and sings a song, "A White Man"—which, we are told, was suggested by Mr. Milton Royle's play of that name—from which we learn that the singer is proud of belonging to the race the distinctive colour of whose skins is fair. Mr. Dryden's second song is "Good-bye, bachelor boys," and his third is "Lucy Manette." Here he appears as the familiar Sydney Carton, and gives ample evidence of his fine voice and expressive manner. The audience is not slow to appreciate Mr. Dryden either as an actor or as a vocalist. Cherry Lass, comedienne and dancer, does some capital coon singing and dancing, her ditties, "Cherry" and "Mr. Wright," being extremely well received. Mr. Sydney Mason and Miss Theresa Moore present the dramatic episode, *The Usurer*, and in it Mr. Mason as Herbert Dane, the hero, and Miss Moore as Mrs. Dane act uncommonly well. They are well supported by Messrs. H. Russel, Syd Leslie, Harry Arnold, and E. J. Harris. The Desmonds submit a most attractive illustrated song act, the prettily sentimental numbers rendered being "Two blue eyes," "Daddy's little girl," and "My sweet Elaine." The Lannons distinguish themselves as duettists and pedestal dancers; and the Sisters Thurban as vocalists and instrumentalists in their songs, "Won't you float with us?" and "Drummer Girl," prove very popular. Miss Nellie Willis is a refined comedienne and dancer with a most pleasing style, and her ditties, "Pack your trunk to-night" and "Why don't you come round and see me?" are immensely appreciated. The Roxbys have an excellent comedy speciality in which their voices are heard to advantage in "Come back again," "Between the trees," and "There she is." Agustin and Hartley engage in some clever barrel jumping in their act, *Athletes at Play*; and Fields and Lewis give a delightful turn as comedy duettists. Raymond's Bio-tableaux display several interesting pictures. The comfort of the audience and the general conduct of affairs are ably looked after by Mr. Charles Harvey, the popular manager.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

An entertaining and high-class programme is current at this popular surburban hall, and the management certainly cannot complain of lack of support on the part of the public. On the evening of our visit the house presented a most animated appearance, seating accommodation being at a premium. Early in the evening Miss Florence Schuberth sings with much success, and has to listen to much applause on concluding. Maxey and Pete, a couple of trick cyclists, have assuredly adopted originality as a password. The easy and graceful manner in which they perform many daring tricks clearly goes to show that no small amount of time and pains must have been spent in bringing their act up to a pitch of excellence. The comedy merchant especially is a most quaint individual, and roars upon roars of laughter greet his efforts to master the mysteries of trick cycling.

Mlle. Zoula Boncha, described on the programme as a wonderful child Salome dancer, gives three dances entitled 'The Snake Charmer," "The Dance of the Egyptian Mummy," and "The Spring Fairy." A more familiar and more popular turn is that given by Dora Lyric, a charming comedienne, who sings a couple of numbers in a taking manner. Those chosen are excellent vehicles for displaying her vocal abilities, and the choruses, and especially that of her second number, the popular "I'm leaving Monte Carlo," are right nobly taken up by the boys on the top shelf. S. and G. Auer, a most versatile couple, piece together and make into pictures numerous pieces of rag. This is very clever; but a great asset in their performance is the remarkable acrobatic ability displayed by the male member, much laughter being evoked by his many funnosities.

Fred and Arthur Conquest and Co. make a decided hit with their farcical sketch, entitled *Something for Nothing*. In this much scope is given these clever brothers for a display of their talent, and it is almost needless to say that whilst they are in possession of the stage there is one long continuous laugh. Fred, as Old Grabbit, the moneylender, is admirably placed, and Arthur as Simon Soppy, the office-boy, has a part that suits him to a "T." Ted Cowan, in a droll manner, sings a couple of capital numbers, which are evidently much appreciated. James Brady, tenor vocalist, has certainly chosen his songs well, and it is a pity that time does not permit of his giving the encore demanded by the house.

A prime Brixton favourite is Will Evans, the signalling of his number alone being the cause of a perfect hurricane of applause. He is giving his protean sketch, entitled, *Richard Turpin, Esq.* As a mirth-maker this is great, and kind friends in front are fairly convulsed with the quaint interpretation of the various characters he is supposed to play single-handed. Edna Latonne, a male impersonator, sings a capital song about "Old friends." Looking immaculate in evening clothes, she scores an instant success, and her style leaves little to be desired. The whistling of Ted E. Box is wonderful, and he must certainly take a prominent place in the ranks of sifflеurs. Amongst other items in the programme may be mentioned Roxborough and Wright, in a sketch, entitled *My Little One*; Lee and Kingston; and, lastly, Rose Atherton and Co., in a funny sketch, entitled *Murphy's Affinity*. A pleasant evening is brought to a conclusion with some interesting pictures on the Bioscope.

THE BEDFORD.

When we visited this cosy hall on Monday evening we found a packed audience, for Mr. B. Pearce Lucas's patrons never seem to be drawn away from their favourite resort, even in the summer evenings, and the management can always be relied on to provide a first-class programme. Heading the bill is a dramatic sketch of the Reign of Terror period, entitled *A Daughter of the Revolution*, which is presented by Miss Georgette Thierry's company. It tells of an actress who has attracted the attentions of Maurice Seulis, an aristocrat, and she knowing some facts of his past life taunts him with it, and hands him over to the grim tribunal of the sans-culottes. It is a well-written little play, and Miss Thierry plays the character of Marcelle, the actress, with great skill. Mr. Bernard Liell too is to be highly complimented on his portrayal of Maurice, his acting at the end of the play and his final exit being especially fine. The whole is well mounted, and has a cordial reception nightly.

Miss Dulcie Laing is a most winsome lady, whose dancing is far above the average, and her skipping-rope dance won her tremendous applause. The Harleys present a comic absurdity, entitled *The Navvies' Rest*, and it is of the most mirthful description. They give some really clever and entirely new tricks on bicycles, and make a very big success. There are few ventriloquists, if any, better than Coram, who, with his "pal" Jerry, makes his appearance here. His patter is most diverting, and the little jokes with the audience are very amusing, and his welcome is quite a hearty one. Marie Goodwin is a bright comedienne and scores with her songs, especially her second number, "Stupid Mr. Cupid." A very smart hand-balancing act is given by the Stowe Brothers, whose work is all neatly done, and the catch from the spring-board is very striking and novel—in fact the whole turn is uncommonly fresh and interesting. A comedian with a style of his own is Mr. Walter Wallis, who soon has his audience in a roar of laughter with his song, "I see you've got your high hat on," and he makes himself so popular that his audience are loath to part from him. Miss Amy Elvira, a finished artist, sings a couple of songs in fetching style. One of them, "My Lady Molly," is an extremely pretty number. Lambert and Butler are a couple of patter comedians who sing and dance themselves into high favour and keep the house full of amusement. Charles Sloman is a comedian who cannot fail to please; he has much amusing patter, and his song "Waiting" has a chorus which the gallery soon caught hold of and joined in. Some neat dancing is given by Davis and Dene, who make a big success. Those old favourites, the Kimberley Boys, are also on the programme, and are as irresponsible and diverting as ever with their new business and songs. The bioscope completes the bill. Mr. George R. Hatley and his orchestra add much to the success, and the courteous acting-manager, Mr. Donald Brown, is as usual well to the fore to welcome his many friends.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

An exceptionally good programme is being presented at this popular hall for the current week, and business continues particularly good. At the top of the bill is George Auger and company in an extravaganza entitled *Jack the Giant Killer*. Mr. Auger, who is billed as the tallest man on earth, finds his physical proportions very useful in depicting the giant, which he does most successfully. He is supported by a company that contains some of the smallest people in the world, and the effect is decidedly humorous. Chief among these is Ernest Rommel, a most acceptable comedian, who plays Jack. He scores a distinct hit. The production causes a good deal of laughter, and must be credited with making a most successful bid for popularity. Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's company is presenting *No. 99*, a very clever and highly dramatic trifle. Mr. Lister, who is well known locally for many fine performances, is to be congratulated on a very powerful study of the ex-convict, and is capitally supported, very good being the gentleman who plays the District Attorney. Duncan and Godfrey are appearing in that old favourite of theirs, *Me and 'Er*, and the humour and semi-tragic elements of the sketch finds a ready response in the audience. Ben Albert does well in two songs, sung in his original style, his reception being very good; Madge Osmond, a male impersonator, goes down very well; Leo Tell is certainly one of the cleverest imitators of musical instruments that has been here, and his "equine conversations" are very realistic, and he gains a good deal of applause; the Eight Lancashire Lads, in songs and dances, meet with their usual success, their turn being very smart; the Haytors in a comedy oddity, *The Plumber*, make a good impression, laughter being continuous; and Carney and Armstrong in a whistling, singing, and dancing and cross-talk turn scores a success. Their methods have a touch of novelty in them, and their reception is very cordial. The Bioscope is very good this week, and Mr. Walter Greco's fine orchestra is of great service during the evening. Mr. Percy Percival is most courteous in the front of the house.

BARNARD'S, GREENWICH.

Mr. Bert Dent has this week given his patrons a bill of great excellence, as usual, and has been rewarded with very good business. Mr. Randolph King, the clever protean artist, interested all present with his smart impersonations of familiar characters. He was especially successful in the following, viz., a countryman, a celebrated French ventriloquist, a Chinaman, coster, and a miser. He was warmly applauded. Mr. John Parrot contributed a clever turn, consisting mainly of smart and original patter, but he can also—as he puts it—make a noise like a singer. He is very amusing. Miss Susie Dole, an attractive young artist, sings very pleasingly her pretty song, entitled "Little Maid of Sunshine," for the rendering of which she was loudly applauded. Daley and Collins, billed as the funniest couple in the Western Hemisphere, do much to justify their description. Their turn is bright and decidedly funny, the dialogue being crisp and cleverly spoken. Auto, an excellent musician, manipulates with great skill such instruments as the saxophone, concertina, and other popular instruments. The Knick-Knacks contribute a clever duologue entertainment, and also introduce some smart dancing, which is greatly appreciated and warmly applauded. Miss Minnie Hunt sang her song "She is a lady" in a style that wins general approbation. Miss Gladys Hooley appears with great success in her excellent sketch, entitled *The Violin Girl*. Miss Hooley is responsible for a charming performance, and is capitally supported by her company. The entertainment concludes at each of the two nightly performances with some interesting pictures on the Bioscope. A word of praise is due to the excellent band, so ably conducted by Mr. D. Dealer.

THE SOUTH LONDON.

Legendary lore is put to dramatic use at the South London, where *St. George and the Dragon* is a prominent item of the current bill. The sketch is presented by Messrs. Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company, and gives a version of the doughty deeds of England's patron saint in picturesque fashion. The realms of Beelzebub are shown, and St. George is awakened from a long sleep by a sorceress, who causes him to be clad in a suit of mail and commands a procession of the remaining Six Champions of Christendom to appear before him. In a subsequent scene St. George is found in Egypt, where the fabled encounter with the dragon takes place, ending in the intrepid youth's triumph. Miss Cissie Wade makes a gallant St. George and Miss Dora Gregory declaims her lines effectively as the enchantress. Mr. Harry Valdo plays in whimsical fashion as a quaint denizen of the woods. The dragon is a lifelike property, and its descent upon the stage, with gleaming eyes, flaming mouth, and tail wagging ferociously, is very impressive, and heartily cheered. A striking display is also made by the seven champions, who are mounted on ponies and clad in traditional garb.

One of the foremost exponents of the saltatory art appears in the comely person of My Fancy, whose twinkling feet are watched with delight. Her intricate step and sand dancing positively fascinates the audience, who become completely absorbed in the performance, and express their approval of many a neatly-executed movement in enthusiastic cheers. Jordan and Harvey are again at the South London, and their Hebrew cross-talk creates the usual hilarious effect, their duet about "Solomon" being no less diverting. Mr. Walter King, the quintessence of melancholy, secured many a hearty laugh on Wednesday by the domestic amenities of a much-married man, into the relation of which amusing references to the Variety Sports just concluded managed to creep.

An exhilarating interlude is supplied by a dozen or so of bluejackets called the Union Jack Boys, whose concerted singing and dancing is greatly relished. One lad did very well with a ballad about "Sweet Marie," and another essayed "Love me and the world is mine." Mr. Will Driscoll, announced as the "swell comedian," sings of "Bachelor Boys" in dashing style, and also has an admirably-conceived song in "His one redeeming feature," the sentiment of which makes a direct appeal to the popular ear. *The Express Baby*, in which many piquant allusions are contained, is represented by Evelyn and Esmond to the accompaniment of uncontrollable laughter. Mr. Leonard Teel makes a hit as a comedian, and Phillips and Merritt are also in the bill, which concludes with a display of interesting pictures by Ruffell's Bioscope. Mr. William Payne, greatly invigorated by a fortnight's holiday at Yarmouth, has resumed his duties as manager.

"THE TOAST OF THE TOWN."

A Dramatic Sketch, by Luke Jellings, presented at the Holborn Empire, on Monday, Aug. 10.

Capt. Roger Staversley ....Mr. Sydney Brough
Lord Ray Tremaine .....Mr. F. D. Yates
Prudence .....Miss Marshall West
Lady Peggy Fordingbridge..Miss Maude Millett

The donning by a young and beautiful lady of masculine attire for the purposes of an affaire d'amour forms no new incident in play and story, but it at least has the advantage of affording an attractive and pretty situation, for the duplicity is of the kind that charms rather than offends the spectator. So when the winsome Lady Peggy Fordingbridge pays a surprise visit to the house of her lover, Lord Tremaine, and finds a letter addressed to a celebrated actress, the idea occurs to her to adopt some disguise, and deceive the amorous nobleman into believing that it is her brother who is confronting him. Previous to this, however, she has induced one Captain Roger Staversley to regard her as the actress, and she arranges with him to face Lord Tremaine as the Hon. Walter Fordingbridge. When his lordship arrives the angry "brother" of the Lady Peggy charges him with unfaithfulness, and in such unmeasured terms does she denounce his conduct that he challenges her to a duel, under the impression that she is a man. Of course, the lady's identity is disclosed after a short bout, and Captain Staversley is agreeably surprised to learn that she herself is Lady Peggy, and that he is her accepted. Miss Maud Millett acts in a most engaging manner as Lady Peggy; and Mr. Sydney Brough makes a fine figure of a soldier as Captain Staversley, and gives us a gallant lover withal. Mr. F. D. Yates submits a capital study of the part of Tremaine; and Miss Marshall West is an acceptable maid.

"A SOUTHERN WEDDING."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Seeing Mr. Francis O'Flynn's letter in *The Era* of last week respecting the banjo sketch *A Southern Wedding*, I would like to say that there are so many versions of bells, organs, choirs, &c., all built round the imitation of a parson's voice, that I consider it would be somewhat difficult to say who really was the first to produce a sketch of this particular character, there being so many performers who have worked the idea during the last twenty years.

I remember as a boy in the eighties seeing an itinerant street musician named Billy Mills doing an imitation of a parson's voice on an old cheese-box banjo in Bristol; also Mays and Hunter were doing a similar thing, entitled *A Country Church Service*. This would be in the nineties. I also have Press cuttings showing I was doing fourteen years ago a similar sketch, in which was introduced the modulations of a parson's voice, with usual bells, &c.

I could enumerate others who were doing similar stuff nearly two decades ago, and it shows the truth of the old saw, "There is nothing new under the sun."—Yours faithfully,

A. VOWLES REEVES.

Aug. 12, 1908.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

ON THE ROAD, AUG. 17.

An Abandoned Woman.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Batley.
Ashwell's, Miss Lena.—Prince's T., Bristol.
At Cripple Creek.—Theatre Royal, Darlington.
At Duty's Call.—County T., Reading.
At the World's Mercy.—East Oxford T., Oxford.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—Court T., Liverpool.
Belle of New York (Howard).—O. H., Southport.
Belle of the Ball.—King's T., Glasgow.
Best of Her Sex.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Bondman, The (Croke).—Devonshire Park, Eastbourne.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Brewster's Millions.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Bulmer, Mr.—Theatre Royal, Blyth.
Captain Drew on Leave.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Charley's Aunt.—T. R., Bradford.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—Pwllheli and Llandrindod Wells.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Royalty T., Chester.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Gaiety T., Douglas.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—Palace T., Ramsgate.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Ryde & Shanklin.
Coal King.—Court T., Wigan.
Compton Comedy Co.—O. H., Harrogate & Grimsby.
Convict's Daughter.—T. R., Edmonton, N.
Country Girl in London.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Dairymaids, The (S.).—T. R., Plymouth.
Dairymaids, The.—Colchester and Ramsgate.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Fulham Theatre, S.W.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—Scunthorpe and Gainsboro'.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—T. R., Gt. Yarmouth.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—Eastbourne and Weymouth.
Driven from Home.—Theatre Royal, Barry.
East Lynne (Kelly).—Queen's T., Manchester.
Eve of Her Wedding.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Faber, Mr. Leslie.—Princes T., Llandudno.
Fatal Wedding.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Fight for a Throne.—Carlton T., Saltley.
Flower Girl.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
For Her Husband's Sake.—T. R., Lincoln.
For Love and the King.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—Grand T., Walsall.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Alex. T., Birmingham.
Great Awakening.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Greed of Gold.—Queen's T., Longton.
Her Marriage Vow.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Her Nameless Child.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
Honeymoon, The.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
Horniman's, Miss, Co.—Grand T., Leeds.
Hughes, Annie.—Palace Pier, Brighton.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—O. H., Wakefield.
Knight in Armour.—Treherbert and Maesteg.
Lady Frederick.—County T., Kingston.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—Cromer, Hunstanton.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Kirriemuir and Markinch.
Lancashire Lad.—T. R., Bristol.
Leah Kleschna.—T. R., Jarrow.
Little Breadwinner.—King's T., Longsight.
London with the Lid off.—P. O. W., Salford.
Love of a Princess.—Star T., Swansea.
Love Rules the World.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Chatham.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Broxburn and Lanark.
Manxman, The.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Man and Wife.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Maude's, Miss Winifred.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Merry Maid.—Pavilion T., Chorlton.
Merely Mary Ann.—T. R., Glasgow.
Merry Widow.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Midnight Mail.—Rochdale.
Mother's Salvation, A.—Bordon Camp and Bognor
Mrs. Dot.—O. H., Torquay.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—Whitby.
My Mimosa Maid.—Londesborough T., Scarborough.
Norman V. Norman.—Weston-s.-Mare and Basingstoke.
Old Folks at Home.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Peter's Mother.—West Pier, Brighton.
Power of the Cross.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Power of the King.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Prince of Pilsen.—Castle T., Stockton.
Private Secretary.—T. R., Nottingham.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Merthyr Tydfil.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—T. R., Birmingham.
Prodigal Son (Day).—T. R., Dewsbury.
Prodigal Son (Western).—Bognor.
Rogue at Large.—Century T., Motherwell.
Royal Divorce.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
Sergeant Brue.—Margate and Gravesend.
Second to None.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Sexton Blake.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
Sherlock Holmes.—O. H., Leicester.
Sign of the Cross.—T. R., Belfast.
Silver King.—T. R., Edinburgh.
Soldier of France.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Still Alarm.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Straight from the Shoulder.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Terry, Edward.—O. H., Tunbridge Wells.
Terry, Ellen.—T. R., Colchester.
The Thief (N.).—O. H., Buxton.
The Thief (S.).—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Tom Jones.—Folkestone and Eastbourne.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Leicester.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—T. R., Tyldesley.
Two Little Vagabonds.—T. R., York.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Village Blacksmith.—Miners' T., Ashington.
Way of the World.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
What the Butler Saw.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
When London Sleeps.—T. R., Smethwick.
White Man, A.—T. R., Exeter.
Why Men Love Women.—T. R., Ashton.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Bedford, Leigh
Woman and Wine.—T. R., Hanley.
Woman Pays.—T. R., Sheffield.
Woman Worth Winning.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Worst Woman in London.—T. R., W. Bromwich.
Wrecker of Men.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Youngest of Three.—T. R., Preston.
£1,000 Reward.—T. R., Barnsley.

Denis Murphy, of Elm Park-road, Chelsea, was summoned at Woolwich last week for having driven a motor-car at Lower Market-street, Woolwich, without having a registration mark affixed, and his employer, Fred Karno, of Vaughan-road, Camberwell, was summoned for aiding and abetting in the commission of the offence. It was stated for the police that Murphy was stopped on July 7 while driving a motor-bus, in which were sixteen passengers, and which bore only a maker's identification mark. Murphy told Police-sergeant 25 R that "his guv'nor, Fred Karno," had the car on seven days' trial. Application had been made to Spring Gardens to have it registered, and he (Murphy) had been told that the papers would be sent on. The registration was completed at 2.30 p.m. on July 7.

Mr. Clarke argued that there had been no reasonable opportunity for registering the car. Mr. Barker withdrew the summons against the chauffeur. The magistrate (Mr. Hutton) said he knew Mr. Karno as a very busy gentleman, and had activities in other directions. It appeared to be a technical offence. Mr. Clarke having pointed out that a Saturday and Sunday intervened between the purchase of the car and its registration, the magistrate imposed a fine of 5s., with 10s. 6d. costs, on the summons against Mr. Karno.

A music-hall singer named Mansuelle is bringing an action against M. Pataud, general secretary of the Electricians' Trade Union, who through plunging Paris in darkness and consternation last Monday night, has been nicknamed "the King of Paris." On Monday, just as Mansuelle was about to appear at his music-hall, the electric light went out, the establishment was closed, and Mansuelle lost his night's salary. He now sues "King" Pataud for it, and also claims £4 damages. The matter will be decided by a county court judge, who has never before been called upon to settle such a dispute. If the singer wins scores of his colleagues may be expected to bring similar actions.

Mr. Frank Parker's new production at the Hippodrome is due on the 31st inst. Its chief sensation will be a gigantic wave which engulfs the villain. Specially ingenious machinery is being installed. The title is *The Sands of Dee*, written by those experienced authors Alicia Ramsey and Rudolph de Cordova. Carl Keifert is responsible for the incidental music, and the celebrated scenic artist, Joseph Harker, will probably present his best work in an up-to-date seaside scene.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

"The Era" is sold by all Newsagents in all the leading English, Irish, and Scotch towns, every Saturday Morning. Price Sixpence.

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Cash must accompany order.

Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "The Era," Ltd., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

Gaston.—A Gentleman of France *was produced at the Avenue (now the Playhouse) on June 4, 1904, with the following cast:—Gaston de Marsac, Mr. Murray Carson; Henry of Navarre, Mr. George Silver; Vicomte de Tarenne, Mr. G. A. Traverner; Baron de Rosny, Mr. J. D. Saunders; M. de Bruhl, Mr. J. J. Bartlett; M. Fresnay, Mr. J. C. Aubrey; Simon Felix, Mr. Blake Adams; M. d'Aubeterre, Mr. Annand; M. d'Aurenberg, Mr. Harold; M. de Paul, Mr. Attwater; Provost Marshal, Mr. Charles Terric; Pierre Senach, Mr. George Hartley; Matthew, Mr. Geo. Williams; Mark, Mr. O. Barnett; Jean Perrault, Mr. S. Langton; Victor Papin, Mr. F. Elton; Landlord, Mr. Laundy; Fanchette, Miss Marianne Caldwell; Mathurine, Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay; Mme. de Bruhl, Miss Dora de Winton; Countess de Grammont, Miss Cull; A. Page, Miss Iris Labrow; and Mlle. de la Vire, Miss Esmé Beringer.*

F. J. H.—*We believe not. The last time the writer saw the celebrated tight-rope artist was at the Britannia Theatre during the management of the late Mrs. Sara Lane, and no net was spread beneath him on that occasion.*

E. B.—*Maybe some reader of* The Era *will supply the name of the publishers of a song which is on the market as a "record," and which is entitled "Old Jim's Christmas Hymn."*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Braithwaite.—July 30, Mrs. Percy Braithwaite (Miss Doris Dallimore), of a daughter. Both well.

Gregory.—At North Evington Infirmary, widow of John Gregory, of a son, on July 23, 1908.

Jenner.—On Aug. 2, at 35, Albemarle-road, Seacombe, to Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Jenner, a son.

Ray.—July 19, at 9, Waterloo-road, Middlesbrough, the wife of Bob Ray (Bros. Ray), of a daughter.

Ross.—Aug. 5, at 8, Stanley-gardens, Belsize Park, Marjory May, wife of Frederick Ross, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

Keyford—Strange.—On Tuesday morning last, at the Registry Office, Lancaster, Miss Cissie Strange, sketch artist, to Mr. J. H. Keyford, music hall manager. The pair left on Tuesday evening for the South, after a farewell gathering of numerous friends on Central Pier, Morecambe.

DEATHS.

Closs.—Suddenly, but very peacefully, Aug. 8, at Southsea, William F. Closs, Musical-Director, Grand Theatre, Bolton, the dearly-loved husband of Lillie Wingfield. Gone, but not forgotten.

Guest.—Aug. 3, at 38, Wilcox-road, South Lambeth, Rosa Annie Guest, aged 58.

Hall.—Aug. 10, at 33, Aliwal-road, Clapham Junction, Elizabeth Hardyman, the dearly-loved mother of Adela Harvey and George Edward Hall.

In Memoriam.

Geretti.—In loving memory of my beloved mother Amelia Geretti, who died Aug. 16, 1906. Deeply mourned by her sorrowing daughter, Addie.
No human mind could understand the pain
That's in my heart, till we can meet again.

Lambert.—In loving memory of our dear daughter Winifred Mary, who departed from us Aug. 13, 1906, age 2 years. Gone, but not forgotten by her loving father and mother, Edwin and Emmie Lambert.

Spencer.—In loving memory of George Spencer, late Drury Lane, Haymarket, Lyceum Theatres, who passed away Aug. 19, 1907. Never forgotten by his loving wife and son.

Walton.—In sweetest memory of my baby Leslie (birthday Aug. 15), only son of Walter and Maude Walton (of Walton and Lester), who died Xmas Day 1903. Never forgotten by his parents.
I often sit and think of you,
When I am quite alone;
But memory seems the only friend
That grief can call its own.—Mother.

White.—In loving memory of Tom White (Tom White's Arabs), who departed this life Aug. 17, 1900, aged 42 years. Gone, but never forgotten by his old faithful servant Pimple. R.I.P.

Widdicomb.—In loving memory of Jarvis Widdicomb, who passed away Aug. 17, 1898. Never forgotten, dear, by your wife. Ten lonely years.

About forty of the employés of the Empire and Hippodrome, Bristol, attended the annual staff outing on Sunday. In beautiful weather the party, which was in charge of the popular resident-manager, Mr. Sid Macaire, were conveyed in brakes to Cheddar, via Red Hill. The celebrated little town was reached shortly before one o'clock, and dinner was served at the Cliff Hotel. The toasts included the healths of Mr. B. Pearce Lucas (the managing-director) and Mr. Macaire, and they were received with the utmost cordiality, Mr. Macaire responding in suitable and appreciative terms. Subsequently Gough's caves were visited, and the return journey was completed by about ten o'clock.

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Armitage, Mr. Harry
Arnold, Miss T.
Ash, Miss Edna
Auton, Mr. W. Holmes
Bahada, Singh
Baines, Miss F.
Baldwin, Mr. J.
Bale, Mr. Ed. Geo.
Barnard, Mr.
Beaute, Mons.
Bendons, The
Bernhardt, Mme. Sarah
Biddall, Mr. W.
Blunt, Mr. G.
Brookes, Miss E.
Carle, Mr. Leo.
Carlsens, Tthe
Carver, Mr. Geo.
Carver, Mr. Cecil A.
Carver, Mr. P.
Caselli, Miss Cora
Caselli, Mr. E.
Cash, Mr. Morny
Cecilians, The Four
Chapter, Mr. Hal
Child, Mr.
Cliquot, Chevalier
Conynghame, Mr. F. L.
Cook, Mr. G.
Coop, Mr. Colin
Costello, Mr. H.
Cottrell, Mr. Robert
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Doreen, Miss Lilian
Duncan, Mr. Albert E.
Duncan, Mr W. O.
Durrell, Mr. F.
Fainy, Mr. Chas.
Farrington, Miss Nina
Field, Mr. Penfold
Finglas, Mr. F. P.
Fischer, Mr. Harry
Franklyn, Miss Eugene
Ghalom, Miss Celia
Gordons, Mrs. Ada W.
Gordon, Mr. S.
Grenville, Miss Helen
Grey, Miss Minnie
Hall, Mr. E.
Hamiltons, Messrs. W.
Hamilton, Miss H.
Hanson, Mr. Geo.
Harcourt, Miss Enid
Harrison, Mr. W.
Hearn, Mr. James
Hemingway, Mr. Jack
Hickey, Mr. L. D.
Hubbard, Miss Ida
Jessett, Mr. Fred
Johnson, Mr. Mike
Jones, Mr. Henry A.
Juliette, Mme.
King, Mr. Leo.
Kioto, Mr. N. T.
Lafayette, the Great
Lane, Mr. Mark
Lant, Mr. William
Lanty, Miss Olive
Leander, Mr. Harry
Leroy, Miss Blanche
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Macdonald, Mr. Jack
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Palfrey, Miss May
Paull, Miss E. G.
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Pollock, Mr. E.
Pook, Mrs.
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Powell, Mr. Frank
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Ray, Miss G.
Roadnight, Mr. C. A.
Romer, Mr. Adrian
Roscoe, Miss Ada
Rubens, Mr. H.
Saint, Miss Alice
Sceats, Mrs.
Schlesinger, Mr.
Selkirk, Mr.
Seymour, Mr. Harry
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Smedley, Mr. Cuthbert
Smith and Beaumont
Stahl, Miss Rose
Staunton, Miss Cicely
Stephens, Miss Dorris
Stratten, Mrs. Jack
St. Just, Mr. Hilton
Temple, Mr. Fred
Thara, Miss
Tilbury, Mr. Walter
Ulrick, Mr. Chas.
Venus, Miss Mab
Walford, Mr. Archie
Waller, Mr. L.
Walton, Mr. W. W.
Ward, Mrs. Harry
Wardbrook, Miss
Waterfield, Mr. C.
White, Mr. Stanley
Williams, Mr. Chas. H.
Willie Brothers
Wood, Mr. Charles
Yorke, Mr. Percy
Young, Mr. T. B.
Zanello, Mr. A.
Zerbinis, Mr. Victor
Zolas, The Four

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Phyllis Dare—Saturday, Aug. 15.
Albert Ward—Saturday, Aug. 15.
Nellie Moore—Sunday, Aug. 16.
(Miss) Lancaster Wallis—Monday, Aug. 17.
Lilian Beaumont—Monday, Aug. 17.
Gerald Blake—Monday, Aug. 17.
Edward Boston—Monday, Aug. 17.
Fred Fordham—Monday, Aug. 17.
Edith Cruikshanks—Tuesday, Aug. 18.
(Miss) E. Cowley-Polhill—Tuesday, Aug. 18.
J. H. Clyndes—Tuesday, Aug. 18.
Frank Denman-Wood—Tuesday, Aug. 18.
Madge O'Neale—Tuesday, Aug. 18.
(Miss) Stanley Ronalds—Tuesday, Aug. 18.
Anna Rose—Wednesday, Aug. 19.
Gwendolen West—Thursday, Aug. 20.
Audrey Canning—Thursday, Aug. 20.
Maitland Marler—Thursday, Aug. 20.
John Marx—Thursday, Aug. 20.
Marie Collins—Thursday, Aug. 20.
Florence Watson—Thursday, Aug. 20.
Henry Ainley—Friday, Aug. 21.
Marian Maple—Friday, Aug. 21

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

July 4. F. Stuart Willson, aged 37.
,, 6. Charles Carlin, aged 49.
,, 9. Thomas Greaves, aged 71.
,, 11. Pattie Hanbury (Mrs. Charles Gover).
,, 11. Mrs. John Hargreaves, aged 51.
,, 12. Arthur Elsmore.
,, 13. Mrs. Jane Parker, aged 74.
,, 13. Mrs. Nancy Beattie, aged 61.
,, 14. James Robertson, aged 46.
,, 16. Charles Clifford, aged 29.
,, 16. Vivian Alwyn, aged 18 months.
,, 17. Sam Arthur (Geary), aged 39.
,, 26. Adelaide Macarte.
,, 29. Charles Bolton, aged 79.
,, 29. Harry Lundy, aged 45.
,, 29. Milner Verren, aged 34.
,, 30. Elizabeth Isabella Rowden.
,, 30. Tom Mora (Robertson), aged 37.
,, 31. Mrs. W. Watkin-Wynne.
,, 31. Mrs. V. C. White.

Roller skating is again fast coming to the front, and it is suggested to form a society, to be known as the Association of Professional Skaters. Several well-known performers have agreed to join, among them being Capt. Ben Woodger, expert ice and roller skater, late manager of St. Stephen's Rink, Westminster, and elsewhere; Hal Bert, England's champion speed and fancy skater; Arthur West, the Pocket Expert; Percy Powell, eccentric dancing skater; the Sisters Neil, and Miss Mable Whayte. It is intended to run this Association on the same lines as that of America, run by Carl Reynolds. Professional skaters who would like to interest themselves in this should send their names to Capt. Ben Woodger, Empire, Camberwell.

The Claughton Music Hall, a valuable freehold property, situate in Claughton-road, Birkenhead, is to be sold by private treaty. The electric car to all the railways and Woodside Ferry passes the property. The hall is completely fitted, and replete throughout with all requirements necessary for carrying out the various purposes for which it was built, viz., the holding of balls, concerts, religious services on Sundays, dramatic performances, and exhibitions. Further particulars and information will be furnished on application to J. R. Simm and Sons, estate agents, 56, Hamilton-square, Birkenhead.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 1908.

"THE STAGE AND STARVATION."

As a rule, one pays little attention to statements about the stage which are made in the non-professional Press, which is, first and foremost, concerned in creating a sensation; and perhaps the above heading, which struck the eye at the top of a column in the *Daily Graphic* last week, was not entirely free from a suspicion of "scare." When, however, an authority of the weight and experience of Mr. H. BLACKMORE, the head of the long-established agency in Garrick-street, vouchsafes information, it is certain to be reliable; and the *Daily Graphic* was wise enough to go to the fountain-head for information respecting the state of the stage at present. Though Mr. BLACKMORE's remarks hardly warrant the startling title of the article, they are serious enough. He attributes the difficulty in obtaining engagements at this season to the fact that fewer companies than usual are this year being sent on tour, largely in consequence of there being a dearth of really attractive plays. In the spring, touring companies experienced such bad times that caterers decided to restrict their enterprise. One popular company organiser has reduced the number of companies from twelve to three or four.

Mr. BLACKMORE is of opinion that there is about 5 per cent. more overcrowding than usual. In one sense, he says, the theatrical profession is never overcrowded, because whenever there is a vacancy for a part requiring real talent the number of people qualified to fill it is very, very small. For the most part, the existing overcrowding is due to the failure of so many who, coming from other callings, manage to get a single engagement through "thieving agencies," and then, on account of their incompetency, are thrown on the stream. "Too many young people," says Mr. BLACKMORE, "score successes at smoking concerts and penny readings, and then never rest content until they face the footlights. That is the curse of the theatrical profession, and these are the people who are overcrowding it, making the competition unduly keen, wasting the valuable time of others, and doing no good for themselves."

"Recently," Mr. BLACKMORE adds, "I noticed a statement to the effect that 800 so-called actresses applied for a small part in a touring company. I venture to say that of that total not more than twenty were really suitable for the position. Nearly everybody disengaged applies. The advent of the music-hall sketch has led to a reduction in the number of turns, and that has proved a serious matter for the variety artist. The distress is largely confined to those who, without real qualifications, have forsaken other vocations for the stage."

The theatrical profession, ever since the remarkable "boom" of some years since, has been suffering from inflation. Fortunes have been made in the provinces with such ease and with such small expenditure of individual genius that the difficulty of the task has been minimised. It must be remembered that, in the last generation, the people who made money by touring did so by giving the country folk practically the same show that was offered to the Londoners, and the same recipe for success is employed by the leading London managers at the present day. It takes some time for people to wake up to the fact that they are not getting the worth of their money; but, when they do arrive at that conclusion, it takes some time also to alter their opinions again. Vogue, reputation, the general estimate are matters of more importance than is generally considered. Many people are apt to fancy that the public can be imposed upon; and so it can, but only for a while. No business can run long merely on the momentum it acquired in its days of life and spirit. These things move in cycles. There is the cycle of intense effort, producing prosperity and success; this is followed by over-confidence, carelessness, and laziness, resulting in time in loss, retrenchment, and revived activity. We are now passing into a cycle of the third sort. The paying amateurs and untrained individuals, the bad companies and the weak plays, are, by a natural process of the rejection of the unfit, becoming eliminated. The travelling managers are sending out fewer companies, finding, as Mr. BLACKMORE says, that it is impossible to secure a sufficient number of "attractions." When reform and regeneration are in the air, there is always hope. Things had got to be so bad that they were "bound" to mend. As for "starvation," there is less danger of that on the stage than there ever was. There are so many persons with private means or other sources of income now on the boards that, in many cases, it will be merely a case of "going home to mamma," and returning to a sphere which should never have been deserted, leaving the professional actor and actress to find openings for their ability and experience. It would be unfair, indeed, if these parasites of the stage, after being only a few months upon it, should add to the burdens already laid on our noble theatrical charities; and we may rely on discrimination being exercised by our almoners in the relief of applicants. Let the help go to those who have deserved it by long and patient service, not to the grasshopper visitors of a passing day.

NEW SOUTHSEA PAVILION.

A new pier and pavilion, built by the Corporation of Portsmouth at a cost of £70,000, to replace the South Parade Pier, which was destroyed by fire four years ago, was opened on Wednesday by the Mayor, Councillor Foster. It will take rank as one of the handsomest piers on the South coast. The length of the pier is 610ft. The pavilion, which is the principal feature of the pier, is approached through a handsome vestibule opening on a minor hall, which may be used as a skating rink. A large concert pavilion leading from this has seating accommodation for 1,700 persons on the ground floor, and for 600 in the balconies. The auditorium is decorated in white enamel, with gilt floral designs. From a promenade outside the balcony Spithead, the Solent, and the Isle of Wight can be viewed; and there is a spacious promenade around an ornamental bandstand at the pier-head. After the opening ceremony on Wednesday, the Mayor (Councillor F. G. Foster) entertained at luncheon a large party, which included Vice-Admiral Robinson, Colonel Bor, R.M.A., Mr. F. R. Y. Radcliffe (Recorder of Portsmouth), Sir John Baker, M.P., Engineer Rear-Admiral Corner, Engineer Rear-Admiral Haddy, and the Mayor of Bournemouth. Concerts and entertainments are to be given every day in the pavilion, which is one of the handsomest buildings of its kind on the coast.

SOMETIMES one hears with dread that a new melody has "caught on," and within a few hours has been sung and whistled all over a great city. Again, it happens that a tuneful number deserves to live. Such a one is "Far away in Australia," sung for the first time this week in Manchester by Miss Annie Braddan, a young lady who has left musical comedy for the variety theatres. The song was immediately taken up by the audience at the Tivoli and sung with the greatest enthusiasm.

MISS BRADDAN is booked with Mr. Robert Arthur for pantomime, and already Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have received many requests for the singing rights. It may be mentioned that "Far away in Australia" was specially written and composed for Miss Braddan by those prolific music manufacturers, Charles Wilmott and Hermann Darewski, jun.

A CASE was heard at West Bromwich County Court, before Mr. Registrar Walker, in which Stanley Rogers, pantomime writer, of North Shields, claimed £10 damages from Albert J. Withens, of the New Hippodrome, West Bromwich, for the infringement by unauthorised performances of the plaintiff's pantomime entitled *Aladdin*. In the alternative the plaintiff claimed £10 or his fee for licence to perform the said pantomime for the season 1907-8.

MR. A. A. MILLICHIP, who appeared for the plaintiff (the action being undefended), explained that the plaintiff had written a pantomime entitled *Aladdin*, of which he owned the copyright. Last Christmas this pantomime was produced at the West Bromwich Hippodrome, where it ran for two weeks. No application was made to the plaintiff for the use of the pantomime, and the production was quite unauthorised. It was now stated that the defendant had sent a letter to the Registrar saying that he had decided not to defend the action, and offering to pay the claim by monthly instalments. The Registrar gave judgment for plaintiff for the full amount claimed, and an order was taken for the payment of £2 down and £2 a month.

THE *Sunday Chronicle* last week, dealing *in extenso* with audience and vaudeville management, pays a particular compliment to Mr. William Collins, the general superviser of the Syndicate halls, which embrace some fourteen vaudeville entertainment houses. It says: "It is a thousand pities that the management of some music halls cannot keep their cheaper patrons in order. As an example of orderly audiences and excellent management of the gallery contingents, I can think of none better than the Ardwick Empire, where a system laid down by William Collins, the first manager, and maintained by the present one, H. Hall, is enforced to-day. It is a veritable school of order."

THE Cardiff Palace and Hippodrome staff held their first annual outing on Sunday. Chepstow and Tintern Abbey were the places chosen, and a delightful day was spent. Mr. Arthur Burton, the popular Palace manager, was in charge, and tributes were paid Mr. Frank Macnaghten, the proprietor, and those associated with his circuit.

MR. JACK ROWLAND intends to run his popular concerts at Tankerton-on-Sea until the middle of September. He has had his pavilion, recently destroyed by the gale, reconstructed, and good business is reported.

THE "GEM" MUSIC CASE.

On Saturday at Yarmouth, before Mr. J. W. de Caux (chairman), and Messrs. E. B. Blake, T. J. Saul, J. Sutton, and A. S. Cooper,

Chas. Blake Cochrane, manager of the "Gem," appeared to five summonses for keeping open this hall for public singing without having first obtained a licence, and also for causing an obstruction on the footpath by the playing of a gramophone from the balcony. The Town Clerk prosecuted; Mr. G. Elliott (London), instructed by Messrs. Ferrier and Ferrier, defended.

Mr. Elliott first asked that any magistrates interested in any rival entertainment should not adjudicate, as the case would probably have to go to a higher court, and he did not want to raise any objections hereafter.

Mr. W. Harrison, Dr. A. C. Mayo, and Mr. H. D. Arnott thereupon withdrew, but Dr. Mayo stated he had no interest in any entertainments. Mr. W. Barnard said that as he was also a member of the Corporation he would withdraw.

The Town Clerk said the summonses were laid under the Public Health Act Amendment Act. A music and singing licence had been applied for, which the magistrates in their discretion refused. The performances consisted of a cinematograph show, the playing of a gramophone, piano playing, and singing accompanied on a piano. The verses of the song were thrown on the sheet and the audience joined in the chorus. There had not been any recent decision on the 1890 Act, but the law might be taken to be that where the music or singing is subsidiary to some other performance a licence is not necessary; but if the music was a substantial part of the entertainment then a licence was required. The Town Clerk submitted that in carrying on this entertainment without a licence at the "Gem" hall defendant had acted unlawfully.

Mr. Elliott said the only issue was as to whether the music was "subsidiary."

The Chairman said it was an elastic word.

Chief-Inspector Moore said that on July 31st he visited the "Gem" at 8.50 p.m., when pictures were being shown. Then there was an interval and the gramophone played. Next a man sang, accompanied by the piano, pictures being thrown on the screen to illustrate it. The song was "Love me and the world is mine," and after that another, "When sweet Marie was sweet sixteen." The audience sang the chorus in each case. "When sweet Marie was sweet sixteen" was described on the posters as a musicalette. Exactly the same kind of thing was going on at a later date. On Sunday he paid two more visits, at eleven and twelve, when the proceedings were similar, the song he heard being, "Love me and the world is mine." He paid two other visits, at 4 p.m. and 7.30, when the programme was the same. The audience left about 10.30, and the place was shut up shortly after. On Bank Holiday, at 11.30 a.m., a gramophone was being played from the balcony outside. At 12.15 the same show was being given, and also in the afternoon and evening. On Tuesday he found the programme was the same.

Cross-examined: He saw nothing objectionable in the entertainment. The pictures were entertaining and possibly instructive. He saw the rough riders and axemen of the Australian bush. Except when the gramophone was playing there were always pictures on the sheet. He believed this was so from morning till night. Songs were given about four times a day. The hall was opened at eleven in the morning, and closed at eleven at night, so that there was twelve hours' entertainment and a song every three hours. The soloist did not stand in the light, but in a corner. The audience was not invited to sing the chorus. During the song pictures were shown to illustrate it.

Mr. Elliott said that on one day one song was sung, and on the next day another, but no two songs were sung on the same day.

Chief-Inspector Moore, re-examined, said he always heard the same song on any one day. There was applause and an encore was demanded, but not complied with. If the hall was lighted up the soloist could be seen.

By the Chairman: The gramophone in the interval he considered fairly entertaining. The songs were very nice. He considered the gramophone and songs a part of the entertainment, which drew and pleased the public.

Detective Boulton said the chorus was a catchy one, in which the audience might be expected to join, and it was very likely to be heard about the streets. He had heard the same song on the beach. Cross-examined: He saw nothing objectionable in the nature of the entertainment.

By the Chairman: The audience appreciated the entertainment. After the song there was loud applause, and a request made for an encore, which was not granted. The words of the chorus appeared on the screen.

The Chief Constable, Mr. W. Parker, said he had several times visited the Gem Hall. He entirely agreed with what the previous witnesses had said, and the audience certainly applauded whether from pleasure "or the other way on." (Laughter.) Either the piano or the gramophone was going.

Cross-examined: There was no platform. He had not seen anything objectionable in the slightest degree.

The Chairman: Has the singer a good voice?

The Chief Constable: Is he here? (Laughter.) He did not please me. (Laughter.)

By the Chairman: He considered the music and singing a very substantial part of the performance. The piano was a good one, and the lady accompanist was a very decent player.

Mr. Elliott said the point at issue was one that was not merely local, but one which, sooner or later, would be made to apply all over the United Kingdom. Apart from the legal position, defendant was not, in carrying on the entertainment, attempting in any way to rebel against the authority of the Bench, and whenever the law was definitely stated he would be the first to give it respectful obedience. Nothing was farther from the mind of the Legislature than to interfere with any innocent form of entertainment, the original object of the statute being to control deleterious amusements. He denied that it was defendant's intention, by getting in the thin end of the wedge, to blossom out into a full-blown music hall. His object was simply to give an elevating, instructive, and attractive entertainment. No song had been sung there, no photograph shown, in which the sternest moralist could find a shadow of reproach. Defendant came to Yarmouth as a stranger, and it would have been preferable that he should have come first to the magistrates, produced his plans, and explained what his entertainment would be, but he took advice and relied upon it. The solid part of the entertainment was the exhibition of pictures, while the music and singing were purely subsidiary, incidental, and subordinate; though he quite agreed they might be an interesting and amusing part of the entertainment. Although believing his legal position was secure, he acted on a suggestion to apply for a music licence, but that application was made without sufficient consideration and under some misconception. The licence was refused, and he then took further advice, and was informed his entertainment did not need a licence, and for that reason he continued it. Defendant was anxious, even at expense to himself, to obtain an authoritative legal definition, and for that reason defended these summonses. If the magistrates found the music was the substantial part of the entertainment then undoubtedly a licence was required, but if, on the other hand, the pictures were the main part of the entertainment, no licence was needed. The principal object of this entertainment was a cinematograph exhibition which went on continuously, and was its permanent feature throughout the day, as distinguished from, and in contrast with, the musical performances and the songs which were merely added to it as a kind of sauce or relish to make the main part of the performance more attractive. If it only rested on the gramophone, he would point out that there were plenty of places in Yarmouth where it was allowed to be used without any licence at all. Then there was the piano, and he would ask the Bench to decide whether or not a mere piano accompaniment to pictures illustrating a song was a main part of the entertainment given.

Defendant, a director of the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Limited, and one of the lessees of the "Gem" entertainment hall, said the entertainment consisted of animated pictures, which were continuous, except for slight intervals, when people went out and others came in. The hall was open from eleven to eleven, and while the pictures were appearing on the screen a piano accompaniment was played. To give the operator time to clear his films every three hours there was a four-minute interval, during which a song was sung. The class and type of the entertainment were the same day by day. He had never allowed the exhibition of any picture to which the smallest exception could be taken. The scenes were interesting, amusing, and instructive. Nothing was shown on Sundays to offend anyone's religious susceptibilities, the pictures consisting of Scripture or travel scenes.

Cross-examined: The last place of entertainment he managed was the International Horse Show at Olympia, in London. He had been into a cinematograph show on Ludgate Hill, where an automatic piano was continuously played. He would not say the entertainment would be deadly dull without the music. Quite as many people would probably come to the "Gem" without the music, but he would not like to drop the music, as he considered it an attraction. When the audiences had sung the choruses he had many times requested them to desist, and some who were rowdy were put out. The duration of the programme was roughly an hour. The gramophone occupied about ten minutes. The soloist and his wife, who were ready to sing when required, were paid £5 per week, but the individual operating the cinematograph, the main part of the entertainment, received a good deal more. Musicalette was a coined word of his own to describe the combination of music and pictures.

Re-examined: The cinematograph side of the entertainment cost six to seven times as much as the musical part of it.

By the Chairman: He considered the music a distinctive embellishment, and he would not mind giving up the gramophone, as he did not think it would affect the popularity of the entertainment one whit. Music in melodrama was an embellishment. He would call it a useful adjunct, not a necessary adjunct.

Mr. G. H. Lovewell Blake, solicitor, said he went into the "Gem" entertainment at 9.30 on Sunday night, and during the next half-hour there was nothing but pictures. Then came the interval, when the gramophone was turned on. He considered the music very decidedly subsidiary.

Cross-examined: He heard one song outside before he went in, and he heard one song inside. He paid his admission in the ordinary way, and no one connected with the building knew who he was. He considered the song a good one, speaking musically.

Mr. J. H. B. Gedge, chief clerk in the County Court office, and local correspondent to *The Era*, said he considered the entertainment an all-day picture show. The musical part of the performance was quite subordinate. He had been each week, and had not yet heard a song.

The Rev. W. T. Goodrich said he had twice visited the "Gem," and the cinematograph was the dominant feature.

The Town Clerk: You did not go to hear "When sweet Marie was sweet sixteen"?

Witness: No. (Laughter.)

The Chairman: You did not attend on a Sunday evening?—No, I did not. (Laughter.)

Dr. A. H. Moxon said he had been three times to the "Gem," and the pictures were the principal feature. The gramophone began to play at the end of the entertainment, and the people began to go, at which he was not surprised. (Laughter.) He did not join in the chorus because he could not sing. (Laughter.)

The Town Clerk: Have you ever been to the London music halls?—Yes; years ago. (Laughter.)

Mr. A. Taylor Harbord, solicitor, said he paid two visits to the "Gem," and he considered the pictures the chief thing. He did not join in the chorus because he could not catch the refrain.

The magistrates retired, and were absent ten minutes. On their return the Chairman said there could be no doubt that a public entertainment was given at the "Gem," and a majority of the magistrates were of opinion the music and singing were not merely subsidiary, but formed a substantial part of the entertainment. On the first summons defendant would be fined £5 and £1 each on the other four.

In regard to the summons for causing an obstruction by the playing of the gramophone, Mr. Elliott said he had assured the Town Clerk it was with great regret Mr. Cochrane found himself in trouble with the police. It was not admitted that any obstruction was caused, but Mr. Cochrane expressed great regret that it should be even thought he had done anything contrary to the wishes of the police. He offered every possible undertaking a man of honour could give that under no circumstances whatever should anything of the kind take place in future. He was assured by the Town Clerk, with whom he had consulted, that on this understanding he would apply that the summons for obstruction might be adjourned *sine die*. With regard to the magistrates' decision as to a licence he bowed to it, but Mr. Cochrane, of course, reserved all the rights of appeal he might have.

The Town Clerk said that in view of the undertaking he would ask that the "obstruction" summons might be adjourned *sine die*.

To this the magistrates assented.

THE National Co-operative Exhibition will open at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday next, and remain open until Saturday, when it will be supplemented by co-operative flower, fruit, and vegetable shows. There will be adult and junior choirs with thousands of voices under the bâton of Mr. Allen Gill, F.R.A.M., and Mr. Charles J. Jeapes' athletic sports, gymnastic drill displays, choir contests, and dramatic performances, concluding with a grand display of fireworks by Messrs. Brock. On this day thousands of Co-operative Trade Unionists and others interested in this movement will travel from all parts of the country to the Palace.

SPECIAL fireworks for the children are given by Messrs. C. T. Brock and Co. at the Crystal Palace every Saturday with an amusing set piece entitled "This Little Pig went to Market."

THE Printing and Allied Trade Charity Sports will take place at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, Aug. 15, commencing at 3 p.m.

MISS EILEEN DOUGLASS is making a hit at the Palace Theatre with her new number "Rosie's young man," by Messrs. Fred W. Leigh and Henry E. Pether.

"OH, oh, Antonio" is the rage of the Isle of Man, where it has been sung for three weeks by Miss Florrie Forde. Messrs. Dan Lipton and C. W. Murphy, the authors and composers, may well feel satisfied with their success.

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

THE usual monthly meeting of the committee of the Music-Hall Sick Fund was held on Tuesday at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Fred Karno, the president of the Fund, the chair was taken by Mr. Pat Carey, and there were also present Messrs. Frank Heath, Tom Carney, Geo. Fredericks, and R. T. Baines (secretary). The business was of a purely formal character, and concluded with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE general meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation, to be held on Sunday, Sept. 6, is marked "important." The chief business will be to consider the position of the V.A.F. with respect to the reported combine of managerial syndicates and circuits. It is also proposed to rescind Rule 30, which refers to loans.

MISS MELINDA MAY, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., begs to thank Mrs. Vernon Cowper for the sum of 6s. kindly collected by her; also La Foy, Miss Alice Chapin, Mrs. Crowther, and an anonymous donor at Gravesend for gifts of clothing, and she would be grateful for similar gifts. All are welcome to the receptions, held at the offices every Wednesday from three to five.

MR. DOUGLAS STUART'S river outing on the 23rd inst. in aid of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund will be under the patronage of Mr. Joe Elvin (President). Arrangements have been made with the London and South-Western Railway Company, through Mr. A. H. Hoyle, to run a special train of first-class saloons to carry the party from Waterloo to Reading and back, the journey being made in an hour and a half. From Reading, the commodious steam launch, Queen of England, has been engaged, and the river trip will be through Caversham, Mapledurham, Whitchurch, and Pangbourne (the pearl of English landscapes, the whole district being a painter's paradise). The price of ticket (inclusive of every item—train, launch, luncheon, tea, refreshments, &c.) is 21s. They may be obtained from Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, 28, Wellington-street, W.C.

THE secretary of the Music Hall Home has received from Mr. Jesse Sparrow the sum of £1, collected by Mr. Jesse Sparrow; from Mr. W. F. Channdy (Birmingham Theatre Gala and Charity Sports), £5; also contributions from Mr. P. A. Lennon (box collection Palace, Camberwell), Mr. Percy Ford, Empire, Camberwell, and Mrs. O'Brien (Rule's, Maiden-lane). The secretary also desires to acknowledge the kindness of Atlas in sending cigars to inmates.

THE TIVOLI OUTING.

The Tivoli "wayzgoose" was a tremendous success last Sunday. For five years the employees at the Tivoli had not had a general outing; not because they did not want it, but by reason of stress of business.

It was indeed an ideal day, and the genial Mr. A. L. Groth, who presides over the box-office in town, made a capital president. Not a hitch occurred. Some fifty members of the staff, gay and happy, assembled at the L. and S.W. Railway Station, Waterloo. It was pleasant to see the beaming face of Mr. James Howell flitting around like the proverbial good fairy, Mr. Howell on this occasion representing his coadjutor, Mr. Joseph Wilson, who is on his annual vacation. A message was duly received from the chief and read out to the "boys and girls." It ran: "I am present with you in spirit, and wish you all a jolly enjoyable time." Cheer oh! One almost thought it to be a miniature Ascot Cup Day, judging by the pretty frocks of the ladies and the "Sunday best" of the boys. Everything went off with a bang, and all returned home as pleased and jovial as they started. The meeting of the staff at Waterloo Station was timed for 8.25 sharp; the train arrived at Shepperton at 9.54 a.m., the party going by brakes to Chertsey, which was reached at 10.40 a.m., a halt being made for sandwiches and refreshments; then on to the beautiful district of Virginia Water (11.30 a.m.). The return to Chertsey (1.30 p.m.) immediately preceded dinner at the Cricketers at 2 p.m., which was followed by a pleasant voyage in a launch up the Thames, Chertsey being again reached at 5.30 p.m. Tea was taken at 6 p.m., and the party returned to Waterloo at 10.10 p.m.

MISS WINIFRED HARE'S song "It's better than being a Carnegie" is taking the provinces by storm. This dainty number is making such rapid headway that Messrs. Edgar Bateman and Hermann E. Darewski, jun., may surely count upon it being a most prominent panto. number.

MR. HERMANN E. DAREWSKI, JUNR., who has been spending a short holiday at Morecambe, was highly delighted on visiting the Winter Gardens to hear his "Twilight Valse" played by Mr. Tom Shaw's fine orchestra, Miss Madge Temple singing his and Lester Barrett's latest number "Sue, Sue, Sue," the Pierrots on the West End Pier singing eight of his songs, and Mr. Wilhelm Morgan's Blue Viennese Band playing yet another of this well-known composer's compositions, "Paquita" intermezzo, as well as the "Best of All Selections," which included those well-known songs "In the twilight," "In the valleys of Switzerland," and "Sue, Sue" as a cornet solo, that in itself shows how popular Mr. Darewski's compositions are and how rapidly he has come to the front.

MR. HERBERT LA MARTINE is pleasing the patrons of the Oxford this week with his quaint rendering of the song "Just because he couldn't sing 'Love me, and the world is mine.'" Mr. La Martine has recently returned from Australia, where he was most successful, "Bye-bye, my Caroline" being one of the great hits of his répertoire.

MISS FANNY ROBINA made an enormous hit on Monday night at the Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester, with a new song entitled "The Land of Promise," written and composed by Billie Bint and Florry Cooper.

MR. EUGENE STRATTON is scoring at Blackpool with "Somebody's been around here since I've been gone." The song is just in 'Gene's vein, and is a splendid vehicle for the quaint humour in which he rejoices. It will be heard in London shortly.

M. WITMARK AND SONS are very jubilant over the success of their instrumental success "The Teddy Bears Picnic." This catchy foot-moving melody has "caught on" everywhere, and all kinds and conditions of bands and orchestras are playing it to the delight of their audiences.

MISS MINNIE D'AUBYN introduced for the first time at the Paisley Hippodrome on Monday a new song-scena entitled "Back in that home once more." The song is in praise of the miner, and was written and composed by Miss Marie le Frane. With an appropriate setting and excellent lighting arrangements, Miss d'Aubyn scored an unqualified success.

"TAKE me on the Flip Flap," sung by Miss Ella Retford, and "Meet me under the golden dome," sung by Miss Millie Hylton, are undoubtedly the two greatest Exhibition songs on the market. Both are excellent specimens of Messrs. Charles Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski, jun.'s work.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

In consequence of the retirement of Mr. Harry Bawn from the Empire, Camberwell, Mr. Jesse Sparrow has been appointed sole managing director for a term of years.

In the absence of Mr. Percy Ford, who is enjoying a well-deserved holiday at Worthing, Mr. Gus Danter is officiating as acting-manager at the Empire, Camberwell. Mr. Gus Danter, who is in his twenty-fifth year, is the son of Mr. Jesse Sparrow, and is the proprietor of *The Sword of Justice* sketch recently produced with such conspicuous success at his father's establishment. Gus Danter made his first appearance on the stage at the Grand, Clapham Junction, in the children's pantomime of *Cinderella*, produced there on Boxing Day, 1896, when he was associated with Georgina Leno, the Sisters Pine (daughters of Bob and Jennie Leonard), Edie King, Charlie Warren, and others who have since become well-known music hall artists.

Mr. Frank Postlethwaite, the well-known variety agent, has acquired Mr. Harry Bawn's interests in the Camberwell Empire, and most of the future bookings will pass through his hands.

Miss Alice Lloyd, at present on a visit to Austria, will play the star part in Flo Ziegfeld's new musical comedy, *The Bonnie Belles of Scotland*, which will be produced in the States in September. Messrs. John P. Harrington and Mr. Orlando Powell are busy preparing a new budget of songs for the lady, who, like her celebrated sister, has conquered two hemispheres.

American soubrettes and comediennes have for years been a feature of the Drury Lane pantomime. Mr. Arthur Collins has introduced therein Miss Madge Lessing, Miss Marie George, Miss May de Sousa, and his latest engagement is Miss Truly Shattuck, who made so great a success recently at the Coliseum and Empire. Miss Shattuck is appearing during the current week at the Empire, Nottingham, and is making an especial feature of Ernest R. Ball's song "As long as the world rolls on."

Miss Meredith Meredro, who played Hugh de Longespée in Mr. Arthur Collins's Christmas production of *Robin Hood* at Old Drury, has been enjoying a well-earned vacation in the country, but will resume business in London on Aug. 31, when she will sing "Star of my life" and "Way down in Colon Town." After a short season in London Miss Meredro will proceed to Australia, where she will appear in pantomime.

When a new production is necessary at the Empire the new ballet *Paris*, written by Lieut.-Col. Newnham-Davis, with music by Mr. Cuthbert Clarke, will be presented, but *Coppelia* and *After the Opera* are doing such excellent business that no important change in the programme need yet be anticipated.

Mr. W. Leslie Gooch, son of Miss Fanny Leslie, who for about a year past has been acting-manager at the Walthamstow Palace, has been appointed acting-manager and treasurer at the reconstructed Metropolitan, Edgware-road. Mr. Gooch, who enters upon his new duties on Monday, will have the best wishes of a host of friends.

Mr. Walter Stanton opens at the Oxford and Paragon on Monday next in his lifelike impersonations of the Cockatoo and the giant dancing Rooster, in both of which creations he caused such a sensation in the Lyceum pantomime. Mr. Stanton's bird dresses are invented, patented, and made entirely by himself, and it is interesting to note that 15,000 feathers are used in the rooster dress and 10,000 in the cockatoo dress. For his performance Mr. Stanton has just trained a cockerel which was bred by Lady Craven.

Stylo with his wonderful hoop juggling effects is doing exceedingly well at the London Hippodrome. Audiences there are evidently more than satisfied with Stylo, even though they have seen Everhart.

Mademoiselle Lydia Kyakset, prima ballerina assoluta of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatre, will appear at the Empire on Monday in a series of dances selected for the most part from the ballets which so delight the Russian nation. She will be supported by M. Adolph Bolm, the solo dancer of the St. Petersburg Imperial Theatre. This gentleman had the honour, some few weeks ago, to receive personally from the King of Sweden a decoration which is only awarded for the greatest artistic merit.

Mr. William Payne, manager of the South London, has been the recipient of a handsome silver cigar-case, presented by his staff in appreciation of the enjoyment derived from the recent annual outing, over which he presided. The excursion to "magical Margate" on July 20 was voted a record success, an agreeable finale being supplied by a supper, to which Mr. Payne entertained the party at a local restaurant on the return to town.

Mr. Leon Bassett, musical director of the Oxford, and his brother, Mr. W. L. Bassett, have received many messages of sympathy on the death of their father, who expired on Monday at King's College Hospital after an operation.

Another successful motor run was organised by the Rats on Sunday, when a number of cars, headed by Mr. W. H. Clemart, King Rat (who had with him Misses Amy and Adrienne Augarde), started at 12 o'clock for the beautiful district of Marlow.

Here lunch was taken at the Compleat Angler, and an enjoyable afternoon was spent on the river by many of the party, which included Mr. and Mrs. Harry Tate, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Radford, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Maple, Mr. and Mrs. Dusty Rhodes, Messrs. Dave O'Toole, Dave Carter, Chas. Austin, Sam Poluski, Seth Egbert, Frank Haytor, Carlton, and others.

Miss Sable Fern, the star turn at the Northampton Palace this week, returns to London on Aug. 24 for thirteen weeks, opening at Mr. Gibbons' halls. Her Quakeress character song, "Oh! Mother Eve," by Frank Leo, has caught on immensely at Northampton.

Mr. Gus Elen will enjoy many happy recollections of his stay in Scotland, where he has been fishing in Loch Leven, Loch Lomond, and in the Rivers Tay and Endrick. During his holiday he has caught about 90lb. of fish.

Mr. George Dance's new musical sketch, entitled *The Local Amateurs*, which was recently produced, has scored a remarkable success, and is delighting holiday-makers in the seaside towns. The sketch is being elaborated on, and will continue its successful career on the principal variety theatres of the country later in the autumn.

Mrs. John Lawson has been appearing at the Euston this week with her sketch, *The Woman and the Apple*. This episode has proved a worthy successor to *The Devil's Sunday*, though the latter work is still called for, and promises to become a classic like the famous *Humanity*. Next week Mrs. Lawson will be seen at the Olympia, Shoreditch, where she will wear for the first time two new and specially-designed costumes.

The Liverpool Parthenon is no more. Since the advent into that city a dozen years ago of the big music hall syndicates its existence has been somewhat precarious, and before closing its doors a few months since the old place was used for a cinematograph show. In its hey-day the Parthenon was controlled by Mrs. Stoll, mother of a gentleman who now stands high in the music hall world. It is about to be converted into a clothing emporium.

Mr. C. F. Morgan, the well-known and always popular acting-manager, whose latest engagements with Mr. W. W. Kelly, of *Royal Divorce* fame, and Signor Pepi—both in his Blackpool and Barrow houses—have proved so successful, has accepted another engagement from Signor Pepi as acting-manager of the Palace, Carlisle. Mr. Morgan commenced his duties last week.

There was a large gathering of directors, friends, and the staff at the Palace Theatre, Carlisle, last week, to bid adieu to Mr. A. E. Nicholls, on the occasion of his leaving to take up his duties as acting-manager of the New Hippodrome, Middlesbrough.

Mr. Nicholls, who has acted as manager of the Palace since its opening in March, 1906, has made himself highly popular, and rejoices in the following presentations: From the directors and friends, an illuminated address, cheque for a very substantial sum, and a solid and handsome travelling bag; from the front of the house, a massive gold watch, suitably inscribed; from the orchestra, a heavily silver-mounted ebony walking-stick; from the stage hands, a writing bureau; and from business firms in the town, a large silver photo frame and beautifully bound book of music.

Mr. Long, chairman of directors, made the presentations, and expressed in feeling terms the general regret felt at Mr. Nicholls leaving the border city, Mr. Nicholls responding. After the presentations the company sat down to supper, the chair being taken by Mr. C. F. Morgan, and a happy and convivial night was spent.

Mr. A. E. Pickard, of the Panopticon, Glasgow, was approached by various friends to allow his name to be nominated for a vacancy in the Glasgow Town Council, but in a letter of thanks he excuses himself on the ground of the work connected with his many enterprises, including his recent acquisition, the New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.

Mr. E. H. Bostock, the popular proprietor of the Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow, and numerous other enterprises, has just had the honour of being returned unopposed for the Town Council of Glasgow as representative for the Cowcaddens Ward of the city. Mr. Bostock's sympathetic efforts in the cause of charity at all times, and his keen business ability and sound common sense, have made him a great favourite in Glasgow, and his election to the Council Chamber is an honour to him and to the municipality.

Mr. E. P. Morgan was entertained at dinner at the Victoria Hotel, Manchester, on Sunday, by a number of prominent Manchester gentlemen, the occasion being to bid him farewell after a residence in the town of nearly four years. At the conclusion of a sumptuous repast, Mr. Geo. Ashton (the chairman), in a eulogistic speech, presented Mr. Morgan with an illuminated address, together with a pair of double-handled solid-silver vases for Mrs. Morgan, inscribed "For old time's sake, from her friends in Manchester," and to Miss Ida Morgan was given a silver and gold jewel casket.

Mr. Morgan was also the recipient of many other beautiful and costly presents from the gentlemen of the local Press, the Hippodrome Choir, the entire front and back staff of the theatre, &c., and from Mr. Robert Peacock, the Chief Constable of Manchester, he received a letter, which he prizes very highly.

On Wednesday afternoon, under most perfect conditions as to weather and natural surroundings, the new Corporation Pier and Pavilion was formerly opened by the Worshipful Mayor of the County Borough of Portsmouth (Councillor F. G. Foster, J.P.). The new pier has been erected to take the place of the one destroyed by fire some years ago, and a large and fashionable company assembled at the reception, and for a preliminary view of the very handsome structure as a whole.

The Concert Pavilion is beautifully modelled and spacious, and with its general decorations in fibrous plaster, enrichments picked out in colours and gold, with its maple floor, gives a delightfully sumptuous appearance, most restful and charming. Its seating capacity is nearly 1,500. Ample provision has been made for emergency exits, four being placed on the first and nine on the ground floor. The illumination and lighting is on a most liberal, not to say lavish, scale, and the stage has all the latest possible improved style of electric fittings.

Mr. Josiah Law, who has succeeded Mr. Leon Bassett as musical-director at the Camberwell Palace, held a similar position for several years under Mr. John Hart at the Star Palace. He is an excellent violinist, having studied under Herr Maurice Ruda, and was a favourite pupil of the late Auguste Wilhelmj, who presented him with a valuable violin.

Williams and Warden and Picton Roxborough and Fanny Wright, on their return from South Africa, organised a concert on the "Briton," and the result, £6 3s., will be divided equally between the V.A.B.F. and the Seamen's Charities.

The annual picnic of the Manchester Hippodrome staff took place on Sunday last. The party, accompanied by their manager, Mr. Nelson Barry, left Manchester at 8.15 a.m. *en route* for Castleton. After partaking of breakfast on arrival some enjoyable sports took place, the prizes for the various events including a valuable watch and bracelet. These two latter prizes were given by the manager for the winner of the mountain climbing competition. At the conclusion of the sports the party were photographed, and an adjournment was then made for dinner. Mr. Harry Garnham (the advertising manager) proposed the health of their chief, Mr. Oswald Stoll, and the directors. Mr. Nelson Barry responded, and in a very pleasantly worded speech expressed his thanks for the kindly manner the whole of the staff had received him amongst them. After dinner the party had a pleasant drive to Hathersage.

"Sal, Oh My!" and its "Up-to-date" continuation, in which Mlle. Leonora has made such a hit at the Alhambra, owe much to the music arranged by Mr. George Byng, the musical-director of the house. It is now an open secret that the delicate satire which has made all London laugh during the last five months emanates from the busy brain of the managing-director, Mr. Alfred Moul. To him are due the charming incidents which have provided patrons of the Alhambra with an amusing burlesque of *le dernier cri* in classical dancing, and also the introduction of Mlle. Leonora, who bids fair to remain a popular favourite for a long time to come. Mr. Robert Steidl, the German humorist, remains at the Alhambra for another two weeks, he having been successful in obtaining postponement of his immediate Continental engagements.

Mr. Richard Warner is taking his annual holiday at Homburg, where he is deriving great benefit from the waters.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sugden have received so many communications regarding their successful sketch *A Quiet Night in a French Hotel*, that they wish it known that they have made no contracts for the sketch till 1909.

At a general meeting on Monday of the shareholders of the Camberwell Palace presided over by Mr. Howard Smith, the adoption of the annual report and balance-sheet was moved. The chairman pointed out that there was a fair profit on the working of the theatre during the past twelve months. The motion was agreed to.

The issuing of debenture stock became the subject of an interesting discussion, and it is probable that a scheme will shortly be formulated for the creation of debentures to replace the existing mortgage. It was maintained that as the property was freehold the debentures would form a safe and fair investment. Messrs. Howard Smith and Arthur Bray, the retiring directors, were re-elected.

Mr. John L. Shine, the eminent comedian, who is delighting Coliseum audiences in *The Actor's Art*, proposes presenting himself as a "single turn" at the Palace Theatre, Reading, on Monday next. His entertainment will consist of a bunch of personal anecdotes and songs by Messrs. Frederick Shine and Dr. F. Osmond Carr, the famous composer of *His Excellency, Morocco Bound, In Town*, &c. May we predict a similar success to this departure as was attained by Mr. Shine in the world-renowned "Irish Parliament," in *Morocco Bound*, by the same composer? As we before remarked, "Why not?" The engagement has been engineered by that astute agent Will Oliver.

Mrs. George Everard, widow of the late popular song-writer, is returning to the stage under her old professional name of Miss Beverley Yorke. She opens at the Chelsea Palace on Monday.

Miss Lil Hawthorne has found another big winner in the novel song "The boy who stuttered and the girl who lisped." Miss Hawthorne has been so long identified with chorus songs that her character comedy impersonation in this novel number comes as a surprise to her legion of admirers. The song is published by M. Witmark and Sons, who have given exclusive rights of it to Miss Hawthorne.

The directorate have appointed Mr. Charles Marte successor to Mr. Charles Beecham in the management of the Paragon. For eight or nine years Mr. Marte was manager of the Palace of Varieties, Southampton, under the Graydon *régime*. He deserted the entertainment world a couple of years ago in order to take up a very good commercial position, but now returns to his old love. Not only has he fulfilled managerial appointments in various parts of England, but is still an excellent performer. He will be best remembered as being a partner with "Harlow" at the old Royal, where he appeared in a musical sketch. Mr. Marte, who is a thorough organiser, received valuable lessons in discipline when his life was devoted to the sea, before he went to Southampton.

Mr. Marte's assistant-manager, Mr. Pierre Cohen, is also an expert. He received his schooling at the neighbouring Pavilion Theatre under his uncle, Morris Abrahams. For some years he was resident-manager at the Standard Theatre, Johannesburg, for Frank De Jong, and has just finished a tour with Charles Macdona's *Duchess of Dantzig* company. Mr. Cohen is extremely well known in the East End.

There has just been included in the Urbanora exhibit at the Palace Theatre a full series of animated pictures of the Cowes week. The scenes, which were expressly taken for this theatre by the Urban operators, and are singularly clear in definition, include close views of Shamrock, Germania, Cicely, Britannia, Creole, Carina, and other racers in all classes, as well as the splendid cruiser Indomitable, and a delightfully intimate picture of their Majesties on board the Royal yacht.

Miss Mabel Sinclair, the premier lady ventriloquist, accompanied by her husband and manager, Mr. Arthur Palling, sails to-day for New York per s.s. Columbia, for the purpose of an extended tour through the Western States. She returns to Great Britain early in April to fulfil continuous engagements over the Moss and Stoll circuit.

Miss Marion Fawcett, author of the clever sketch *Lucky Jim*, produced at the Walthamstow Palace on Aug. 3, is in the proud position of having had no less than four successful sketches from her pen produced in England, America, and Australia respectively during the last eighteen months.

Mr. J. A. Wilson has received his wonderful dog Private Towser from Mr. Taylor, veterinary surgeon, Nottingham, absolutely cured and in the pink of condition. After a week at the seaside he will resume business with Moss and Stoll at Liverpool, Aug. 24.

Miss Helene Forest will be playing a revised version of her dramatic sketch *A Woman of Paris* at the Canterbury next week. A powerful cast has been engaged, and Miss Forest will, we may rest assured, repeat her previous success as the intensely dramatic Phédéle Lemoine. She is now booking a tour.

Miss Madge Temple, before commencing her Coliseum and other London engagements with new songs by Messrs. Wilmott and Darewski, is taking a short holiday at her home in Boston Spa. This delightful vocalist has been compelled to decline many good concert engagements for the winter in town owing to the fact that astute variety managers have fully booked her.

Miss Kitter Rayburn is particularly proud of the letter of acknowledgment from his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, to whom she sent a copy of her successful song, "Won't you come to me in Canada?" Miss Rayburn is enjoying excellent receptions at the Oxford, where her dainty costume of black and white is particularly admired, and the chorus of her chief song resounds from gallery to stalls.

Mr. Herbert Darnley's sketch, *The Brigands of Tarragona*, which was successfully produced at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday last, is referred to in our notice of the current programme at that popular hall. On Monday Mr. Darnley and the principal members of the company were rewarded with an enthusiastic call.

The creditors met recently under the failure of George Abel, described as of Greycoat-gardens, Westminster, music-hall artist. The debtor, well-known in connection with the production of the sketch *Three of a Kind*, states that he has been connected with the theatrical profession for the past eighteen years. He attributes his present position to the cancellation of contracts for the performance of sketches in music-halls, in consequence of the sketch prosecutions. He returns his liabilities at £2,217, and states that he has no available assets. The case was left in the hands of the Official Receiver.

Miss Vesta Tilley opened her engagement at the Palace, Douglas, I.O.M., to a record house on Monday, 8,500 people paid for admission, and the enormous ballroom was packed during the forty-five minutes she occupied the stage, during the interval in the dancing, &c. This breaks all records at the Palace, there being twice as many people as attended the Melba concert.

Miss Vesta Tilley had an amusing, but not with her an altogether unusual, experience at Douglas on Sunday night last. The popular artist had attended a concert, and the crowd, recognising her as she left, gathered round, and the police had to clear a way for her to her vehicle. Thousands followed as Miss Tilley drove to her hotel, cheering as they ran by the side of her carriage.

Mr. Ernest Bridgen, the manager of New Cross Empire, is holiday-making just now. He is enjoying a coasting steamer trip as far as Plymouth, but will return to Deptford and duty next Monday, his vacation having been curtailed for the time being owing to the fact that Mr. Christie, the district-manager, must be in Paris next week.

Rousby's company goes to the Hackney Empire on Monday with *Greater London*, which will be seen for the first time on any stage. It is produced in a form of a scenic review, with elaborate panoramic cloths, in connection with the most up-to-date electrical appliances, preceded by a reproduction of the earliest panoramic view of London extant, as Shakespeare saw it 1543, from the Sutherland Collection, Oxford. In the first scene our French friends will be seen admiring the Mighty London of 1908, looking east from the roofs of Westminster.

Mr. Bransby Williams has been spending a pleasant time at his seaside home at Elsinore, Selsey, enjoying the sea and country, with an occasional lark. He was one morning discovered with an apron as a new barber in the village shop, "lathering up" and talking of the weather, &c. Later he astonished the natives by serving tobacco and cigarettes in the "village Gluckstein's," an experience that has been giving him opportunity for meeting some interesting character-studies. Her Majesty the Queen honoured the village by the sea the other day, motoring down. No one quite knew who she was. The fishermen talked to her of their lobsters and crabs, and afterwards stood open-mouthed when they were told that they had been conversing with the Queen.

We record with regret the death of Mr. William Closs, for the past eleven years musical director of the Bolton Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd. Mr. Closs, who was only thirty-four years of age, was a well-known figure in the Grand Theatre orchestra as leader of the band. He had also been the composer for more than ten years of the incidental music of the various pantomimes produced by Mr. J. F. Elliston. He was a native of London, and at the early age of nineteen he became the musical director for Roby's Midget Minstrels, with which company he toured the country.

Signs of consumption manifested themselves during his conductorship of the last Christmas pantomime at the Theatre Royal, and he visited Southport for several weeks at the conclusion of the pantomime. Other complications ensued, and a fortnight ago he sought restoration to health at Southsea, but without avail, and passed away there on Saturday. Sympathetic telegrams were received from Wilkie Bard, Harry Tate, Cinquevalli, Lil Hawthorne, Maud Mortimer, and others equally famous. The deceased, whose Bolton home was at 25, Halstead-street, leaves a wife and two children.

The sympathies of entertainers of every degree throughout the country will go out to Mr. Henry J. Corner, of the Dandies, who has just lost his wife and great helpmate. Mrs. Corner died in St. Thomas's Hospital last Saturday night of typhoid fever, after only a few days' illness, at the early age of thirty-six. She was well known and greatly respected in the profession.

As Kate Augusta Davies Mrs. Corner, who was a brilliant vocalist and distinguished professor of the pianoforte, held for some years the position of official accompanist at the London Academy and the Guildhall School of Music, where her remarkable musical ability secured her many prizes. Her services, too, were in great request at the Sunday concerts of the South Place Ethical Society.

She coached many members of the Carl Rosa and other operatic companies, and, among many pleasant associations, she contributed in no small degree to the success of Miss Clara Butt at the instance of Sir Joseph Barnby on the occasion of Miss Butt's first important public engagement in *The Golden Legend* at the Albert Hall.

Eventually Miss Davies joined her husband (Mr. Henry J. Corner) in the now well-known company, "The Dandies," shortly after participating in a Royal command to appear before their Majesties the King and Queen at Sandringham on the occasion of her Majesty's birthday. At the conclusion of the entertainment she had the honour of being presented and congratulated by their Majesties. She was related to the Watkin Wynnes, who claim to be descendants of the royal blood of Wales.

The funeral took place at Lambeth Cemetery, Tooting, on Wednesday. The funeral service was read by the Rev. Mr. Carrack. The coffin was covered with beautiful wreaths. Among those who sent them were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Russon, Stephen Fitzgerald, and Rhoda and Josephine Gordon, Mrs. Anspach, Florrie and Lionel Wallace, Margaret Parker and Herbert Harden, Alfred and Julie, Eddie and M. Warren, Mrs. Charles P. Smith, Guildhall School of Music, Frederica Smith and Freddie, Rose and Charlie, Bert, Mater and Nell, from the husband, and from mother and father. The arrangements were admirably carried out under the direction of Mr. Theophilus Dunkley.

An extraordinary scene was witnessed at the second performance at the Liverpool Olympia on Saturday night. The appearance of Miss Gertie Gitana was the signal for enthusiastic applause from a packed house, and after singing "Jessie Dear" Miss Gitana said that in response to the call for an encore she would give "My Sweet Iona." Despite the tremendous applause, Miss Gitana did not sing another number, but made repeated bows from the wings.

Although the curtain had in the meantime been lowered, and raised again preparatory to the appearance of Mr. Tom Edwards, the clever ventriloquist, the applause did not cease, and the introductory music by the band was prolonged. This, however, had no effect, and when Mr. Edwards made his appearance not a word was audible. Putting his dummy on the couch, he called from the wings an attendant, who brought him a magazine and a bottle of stout, which Mr. Edwards leisurely consumed. Even then it was impossible for the artist to commence. Consequently he removed his dummy underneath the couch and took its place. After the outburst had lasted more than ten minutes he was able to proceed. The demonstration was in no way directed against Mr. Edwards, who at the conclusion of his entertainment was loudly applauded.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Messrs. Francis and Day are issuing Miss Vesta Tilley's new song, written by Edgar Bateman and Archie Mills, the latter a smart young member of the celebrated Colwick Hall (Nottingham) Pierrots, and entitled "That's the time a fellow wants his ma." Maurice Scott is the composer. Another new song, which will be issued instanter, and as a "Sixpenny Pop," by Messrs. Francis and Day, is the number with which Mr. Dan Crawley has been scoring so heavily at the Oxford—to wit, "We've all been doing a bit." The ditty is, words and music, by Tom Connor, the writer who supplied consistently for years George Beauchamp and Herbert Campbell with songs ever in the public ear, and who has found in Mr. Dan Crawley a good and clever singer.

Happy Tom Parker, a comedian who has earned his spurs at that great training ground of many a "star," Chappell's Ring at Yarmouth, has gone so great at Mr. Stoll's halls that one of his songs has been in demand everywhere and will be published by Messrs. Francis and Day directly. It is called "I don't know whether I'm on my head or whether I'm on my feet," and is by Will Hyde and J. P. Long.

Miss Florence Goodwin, the daughter of a late well-known artist of that name, has scored a great success at the Bedford this week with "Every little bit added to what you've got" and "Stupid Mr. Cupid," two of Messrs. Francis and Day's songs.

"The Daylight Bill," the new humorous song which Hermann Darewski has set to music, has been already sought for by artists innumerable and by representatives of the big voice-reproducing companies, and one of the greatest and most wideawake of the foremost stars of the variety firmament, Mr. R. G. Knowles, has, we hear, secured the song. It is by T. M. Down and Edgar Bateman.

Fred W. Leigh, a song writer and melodist better than whom few exist, has just started a fortnight's vacation at Worthing, and one of his fellow-workers—like the Irishman who enlisted in the 39th Foot so as to be near his brother in the 40th—has carried his sea-fishing gear to Eastbourne for a like period because it is only three towns distant from his confrère on Mr. David Day's staff. On Friday evening the latter (a well-known Cockney writer) was seen in a small boat off Beachy Head, inditing a truthful fishing experience to the *Anglers' News*, and ever and anon casting a nervous glance backward at the noble promontory, as though half expecting it to fall on him and what he was writing.

Paul Pelham has, maybe, as a writer *solus*, had the week of his life, having supplied Miss Freda Sharlotte with a dramatic monologue, "Is life worth living?" the Sisters Sprightly with two items, "The simple life" and "Fashions"; a song for Mr. Geo. D'Albert, "Put yourself in his place"; two comic songs for Mr. Fred French; three ditties for Miss Mabel Moss; and three for Miss Flo Turner, the latest recruit from the legitimate stage.

Miss Millie Hylton's stage setting to her new song, "Meet me under the golden dome," which has during the week been cheered to the echo at the Shoreditch Olympia, is worthy of the best traditions of the scene painter's art. The *Daily Mail* building at the Franco-British show is beautifully limned, and the scenic night effects in the latter part of the number, which reflects the greatest credit on Chas. Willmott and Hermann E. Darewski, are worthy of the master electrician of any first-class West-End house.

Miss Dora Lyric has been at the Holborn Empire during the current week, in her truly great success, "I'm leaving Monte Carlo," by Worton David, Edgar, and Lyle, and enthusiastic audiences have joined in the catchy chorus. Miss Lyric has duplicated her West-End success, with the same song, at the Empress, Brixton, this week, also, and the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. may certainly be congratulated on possessing in this song one of the biggest potential winners of the forthcoming pantomime season.

Sunny Boscombe has this week in no half-hearted fashion fully endorsed Brighton's verdict the week before that Miss Kate Carney's latest stupendous winner, "From Poverty-street to Golden-square," by Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule, is undoubtedly the finest motto chorus song of the present season, and the success of this number has been simply phenomenal at the local Hippodrome, where delighted audiences assist the fair singer, with almost deafening results. Miss Carney is to be felicitated on having in this song one of the catchiest in her répertoire, and the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are equally lucky, inasmuch as they are the publishers.

Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell are, in conjunction with Mr. George Arthurs, busily engaged in writing a new number for Miss Marie Lloyd, the tentative title of which is "Names." For Miss Marie Lloyd's "Directoire Girl," by the two first-named gentlemen, there are ever-increasing trade demands.

The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are now issuing a few music-hall permissions for several of their most popular songs hitherto tied up to one or two singers, notably, "Rose with her Sunday smile," so successfully sung by Miss Gladys Mavius; "Bilbao," sung by Misses Bijou Russell and Kitty Tims; "How'd you like to float me?" sung by Misses Dolly Denton and Barbara Babington; and last, but not least, "I must trouble you to pack your trunk to-night," Miss Bijou Russell's coon number. As only a limited number of permits will be granted, applications should be immediate.

Miss Daisy Dormer is at present on a short provincial tour, and is reaping a rich harvest of applause for her dainty rendering of Castling and Godfrey's catchy number, "Anywhere will do." This song is exclusively reserved for Miss Dormer and must not be sung by any other artist at music halls. Pantomime permissions will be granted by the Star Music Co.

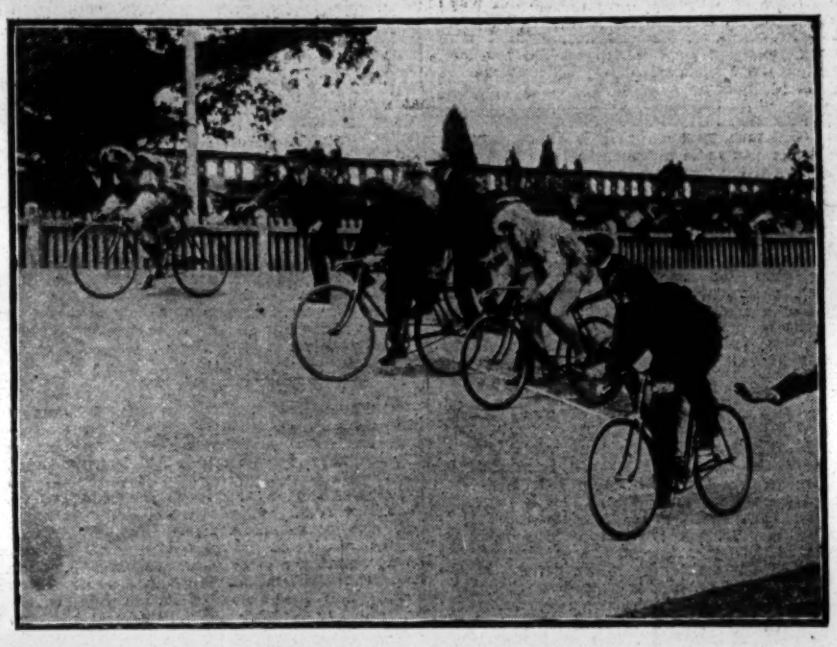
Miss Gwennie Hasto is specially featuring on the Moss tour Lawrence and Godfrey's "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" which is winning its way to a tip-top place among popular songs. The Lovelaces are also making a hit with this number, illustrated by most effective slides. The chorus is taken up first time, and looks like being as big a success here as it is in America. This is another Star Co.'s winner.

Mr. Herbert Melville has just secured for Miss Jean Macduff, the lady Scotch comedian, a new song, entitled "Mrs. Jock McGra." It is by the same composers as her "I'm getting married in the morning," and is certain to prove another big winner.

The season's song-hit at Douglas, Isle of Man, is undoubtedly "Love me, and the world is mine." Possibly no song has ever been sung by so many singers in so short a space of time as this popular number. It is very satisfactory to the composer (Mr. Ernest R. Ball) to know that his composition has been sung in every country in the world, and enjoys the greatest sale of any similar song in the market to-day. M. Witmark and Sons, the publishers, are also to be congratulated on the enormous success of the song.

VARIETY ARTISTS' SPORTS.

The committee, officials, and all responsible for the conduct of the fête, gala, and sports held on behalf of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, on Wednesday afternoon, at the Herne Hill Athletic Grounds, are to be heartily congratulated upon the excellent manner in which everything was arranged. And in saying this, we refer not merely to the organisation and direction of the purely athletic portion of the afternoon's programme, but also to the arrangements made for the convenience of the public. The wants of the members of the Press had also been well studied, and were well attended to, Mr. C. W. O'Connor, the Press representative of the Palace Theatre, rendering yeoman service in this direction. There was a capital attendance of spectators to witness what proved to be a most interesting series of contests, and fine weather helped to make matters still further agreeable both for competitors and onlookers. It should be mentioned that this was the first occasion on which sports were held with the object of augmenting the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, although last year's similar function, which was held at the Crystal Palace—a little previous to the formation of the new music-hall charity—was concerned with Wednesday's meeting in so far as the temporary holders of some of the prizes were concerned. Amongst those present in a big representative gathering of variety folk were Mr. Joe Elvin (president), Mr. Paul Martinetti, Miss Victoria Monks, Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, the Burnetts, the Brothers Egbert, Miss Marie Kendall, Miss Adrienne Augarde, Miss Amy Augarde, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. Wilmer Hallett, Mr. Walter Stanton, Mr. Will Oliver, and Mr. Fred Ginnett.



START FOR THE ANIMALS' RACE. *Photo by Half Tones, Ltd.*

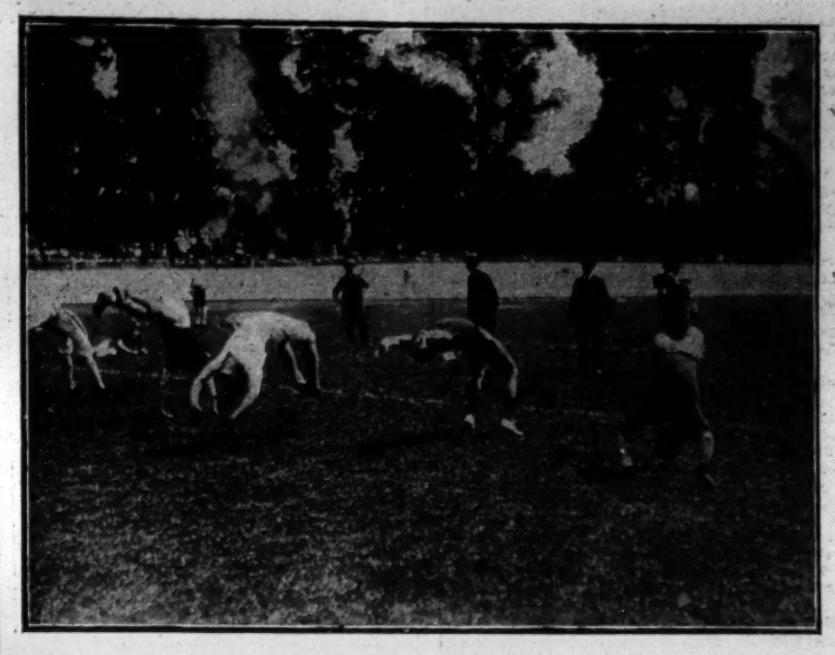
The officials for the sports were:—

President: Mr. Joe Elvin.
Vice-President: Mr. Wal Pink.
Hon. Trustees: Mr. J. W. Cragg, Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, and Mr. Harry Lauder.
Hon. Treasurer: Mr. Harry Blake.
Secretary: Mr. C. Douglas Stuart.
Chairman of Sports Committee: Mr. Albert Le Fre.
Sports Committee: Messrs. Fred Herbert, J. E. Dunedin, Harry Bancroft, W. H. Altas, G. H. Smythson, Arthur Rigby, Horace White, T. C. Callaghan, Mike Fitzgerald, H. Griff, Bob Hutt, R. Abel, J. Alexander, and Sid Laurel.
Judges: Messrs. H. Vanderhout, Joe Cohen, Jack de Frece, Sydney Hyman, Frank W. Shorland, and R. C. Warnes.
Timekeepers: Messrs. Percy Longhurst and Frank Matthews.
Official Starter: Mr. George Thurling.
Stewards: Messrs. Seth Egbert, J. Tray, Fred Neiman, B. Stavordale, Albert Voyce, and Bert Williams.
Clerk of Course: Mr. Hal Forde.
Marksman: Mr. George Dyball.
Handicapper and Referee: Mr. R. P. Watson.
Press Representative: Mr. C. W. O'Connor.

Motor-cycling formed almost the principal feature of the Sports, and no small excitement was created by it. There were originally two heats in the five miles' handicap, but as only five competitors turned up out of a total entry of ten it was decided to run only one heat. Mr. Harry Tate, on a 2¾-h.p. Matchless, won easily by two laps. It was clear almost from the beginning that, accidents barred, his would be the victory. Ted Cowan, who came in second, had a close finish with the third man, L. Mortimer, there being only a wheel's length between them. The five miles' invitation auto-cycle race was won by Mr. C. R. Collier in 5min. 49sec., and that gentleman, in giving an exhibition of motor racing by way of attempting to lower the five-mile record on the Herne Hill track, performed the distance in 5min. 45sec. The five miles' invitation motor-cycle handicap was won by the same rider, after a keen contest, in which Mr. H. Martin, who was leading until the last lap but one, had a spill, fortunately without injury to himself. In the one mile walking handicap for the Frank Allen Challenge Cup, previously won by Thomas McGowan, Harold H. Jeapes distinguished himself after a tough struggle, and passed the tape first. This event proved, perhaps, the most interesting in the whole programme, by reason of the excellent form shown by practically all the competitors. Hal Forde won the premier prize, consisting of a handsome solid silver tea and coffee service, presented by the Grand Order of Water Rats, in the 120 yards running handicap, and here again music hall athleticism was seen at its best. Considerable attention was attracted to the one mile V.A.F. running championship for the fine challenge cup, the previous holder, George Clarke, jun., again securing the trophy. He has only to win it once more to become its permanent possessor. In the running high jump for the challenge cup given by Miss Vulcana (of Atlas and Vulcana), which is also to be won three years in succession to secure ownership, Geo. Avolo triumphed with a capital performance of 4ft. 9in., which he eclipsed by a subsequent jump of 5ft. The Buchanan Challenge Cup for the one mile bicycle race, won last year by Gent Lotto, was on this occasion taken by James Braun, his time being 2min. 28sec. The 120 yards hurdle handicap also proved a sensational event in its way, J. Agustin winning the solid silver cup given by Miss Marie Kendall, Sam Mayo and Harry Ford coming in second and third respectively. In the 440 yards Press running handicap, Mr. C. Douglas Stuart took the first prize, a dessert and flower-stand, the gift of Miss Lil Hawthorne. As Mr. Stuart, however, was allowed a start of 220 yards, the probabilities of his victory were only too obvious before the race commenced. Mr. Alfred J. Manning, of *The Era* clerical department, rendered an admirable account of himself, and entered second, thereby adding to the appointments of his table a beautiful silver-plated fruit épergne, presented by the Elliotts and Savonas. Without unduly flattering our own household, we might be permitted to say that Mr. Manning's leg work was far superior to that of any of the other contestants in this race. Of course, there was the usual hilarity over the comic costume scramble and the obstacle races.

MR. BOB HUTT,
CHIEF FUN-MAKER, V.A.B.F. SPORTS.

There was plenty of fun in other directions, too. Mr. Bob Hutt's humour being no less diversified than the various costumes he assumed, and the antics he and his little band of comedians indulged in gave rise to uproarious merriment. Then there was a wonderful aeroplane, which was sent in motion at the sound of an explosion, but which did not appear to attempt to gain ascendency over Count Zeppelin. There was, too, a laughable—almost cruelly laughable—burlesque of Dorando entering the Stadium after the Marathon Race. The side-shows also proved entertaining. Jack Collinson and company presented at intervals in a tent the weird and thrilling drama *Maria Martin; or, The Murder in the Red Barn*, Mr. Collinson appearing as the murderer, supported by well-known comedians, including Miss Selina Seaforth. The Bros. Egbert exhibited a marvellous novelty, which they guaranteed nobody had ever seen before. In Harry and Flora Blake's U.C.M. Museum were shown "curiosities collected at enormous expense from all portions of the earth," Mr. Sanders being the lecturer. A "Simple Life" Exhibition, for men only, was under the direction of Mr. Bob Hutt, and the "Talking Parrot" was another sensation; not to forget the sale by auction by Mr. Walter Inge of "a very valuable collection of curios and antiques, &c., obtained by artists from everywhere." Mr. Peter Adair, the veteran pedestrian, amused himself, at the suggestion of Mr. Will Oliver, by walking around the field for five hours.



THE FLIP FLAP RACE. *Photo by Half Tones, Ltd.*

It was quite a valuable collection of prizes that Mrs. Joe Elvin charmingly presented to the successful competitors at the conclusion of the Sports, and it was computed that their value exceeded the sum of £500.

One could scarcely leave this subject without paying a compliment to Mr. Leon A. Bassett for the delightful selections of music performed by his Light Infantry Band during the afternoon, and for his able conductorship.

The results of the different contests are as follow:—

120 YARDS RUNNING HANDICAP.

First prize, handsome solid silver tea and coffee services on stands, presented by the Grand Order of Water Rats; second prize, fitted gentleman's leather travelling case, presented by the *Stage*; third prize, set of razors for every day in the week, presented by Mr. Jimmy Shields; fourth prize, salad bowl, presented by Mrs. Fred Neiman.

Heat winners: Fred Laurel, 3yds.; J. Augustin, scratch; Will Crackles, 21; Bert Brantford, 9½; W. L. Murray, 1; Hal Forde, 7; Dick Kendall, 10; D. M. R. Hoffman, 2; Ted Cowan, 2½; W. C. Campbell, 2½. Second Round.—Heat 1: Kendall 1, Brantford 2. Time, 12 3-5sec. Heat 2: Forde, 1; Cowan, 2. Time, 13sec. Heat 3: Crackles 1; Murray 2. Time, 13 2-5sec. Heat 4: Mayo 1, Asher 2. Time, 13 2-5sec. Final: Forde 1; Kendall 2, Cowan 3, Mayo 4. Won by a foot; same. Time, 13 2-5sec.

ONE MILE "FRANK ALLEN" CHALLENGE CUP WALKING HANDICAP.

Present holder: Thomas McGowan.

First prize, handsome silver-plated and gilt flower bowl and epergne, presented by the *Performer*; second prize, a pair of silver-plated entrée dishes, presented by Mrs. Jack de Frece; third prize, silver-plated cake dish, presented by Mr. C. Douglas Stuart.

Harold H. Jeapes, scratch, 1; F. Devan, 75yds., 2; Fred Earle, 25, 3. Jeapes caught Devan 60 yards from home. They walked shoulder to shoulder to within a few yards of the finish, when Jeapes, with a splendid effort, got in front and won by three-quarters of a yard; good third. No time taken.

ONE MILE "MAYO AND EARLE" CHALLENGE CUP LADIES' BICYCLE RACE (SCRATCH).

To be won three years in succession.

Present holder: Miss Gladys Duncan.

First prize, handsome silver-plated tea and coffee service, with kettle, on oak tray, presented by Mr. Walter Gibbons; second prize, flower epergne, presented by Mr. John Lawson; third prize, lady's travelling companion, presented by Mr. Bernard Stavordale.

Gladys Duncan 1, Clara Lotto 2. Won very easily.

100 YARDS CHILDREN'S HANDICAP (BOYS).

First prize, marble clock, presented by Odhams, Ltd.; second prize, fishing-rod, presented by Mr. Alf. Abrahams; third prize, suit of clothes, presented by Miss Winnie Brook.

E. Ethairien, 11yds., 1; E. Bawn, 15, 2; E. Traynor, 18, 3; P. le Fre, 8, 4. Won by inches; same.

100 YARDS CHILDREN'S HANDICAP (GIRLS).

First prize, large doll's house, presented by Mr. Walter Inge; second prize, lady's jewelled miniature watch in case, presented by Mrs. Harry Ford; third prize, solid silver hand mirror, presented by Miss Jeannie Thomas.

L. Andrus, scratch, 1; E. Hayes, 13yds., 2; G. Kellino, 13, 3. Won by a yard; foot.

Photo by W. M. Wolfe.
MR. C. DOUGLAS STUART.

Photo by Graphic Studio.
MR. HARRY TATE, WINNER OF THE BIG RACE.

MRS. JOE ELVIN.

Photo by Graphic Studio.
MR. G. BAILEY, WINNER OF SACK RACE.

Photo by Graphic Studio.
MISS MIGNON CORAN.

Photo by Graphic Studio.
MRS. JOE ELVIN PRESENTS PRIZE TO MR. BOB HUTT.

100 YARDS AGENTS' RUNNING HANDICAP.
First prize, silver-plated rose bowl, presented by Mr. J. Whiteman, of Leeds; second prize, oxydised silver Russian cigar-case, presented by Mr. W. Jackson (Lancashire Lads); third prize, silver-mounted walking-stick, presented by Mr. Henry de Frece.
Heat 1: "Pap" Brown, 50yds., 1; Fred Nieman, 40, 2. Won by a yard. Time, 9 3-5sec. Heat 2: F. Napoli, 20, 1; V. Monkley, scratch, 2. Won by 3 yards. Time, 10 4-5sec. Final: Brown 1, Nieman 2, Napoli 3, Monkley 4. Won by 2 yards; good third. Time, 9 3-5sec.

HALF-MILE ANIMAL BICYCLE RACE (COMIC EVENT).
First prize, massive marble clock, presented by Mr. Jack de Frece: second prize, silver-plated egg-stand, presented by Messrs. Jackson, Pixley and Co.; third prize, glass vases, presented by the Motramos.
Gent Lotto 1, H. Sheen 2, A. Macey 3, H. Duncan disq. Won by a length. Duncan was disqualified for boring. Time, 1min. 13 2-5sec.

50 YARDS COMIC FLIP-FLAP RACE.
First prize, handsome seven-string zither banjo, presented by Mr. G. H. Chirgwin; second prize, silver cigar-case, presented by *The Era*; third prize, ivory table steel, presented by Mr. Geo. Thurling.
Andy Deans 1.

ONE MILE V.A.F. CHALLENGE CUP RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIP.
Present holder: Geo. Clarke, jun.
First prize, two professional travelling hampers, of best quality, made by White Bros., presented by the Terriers' Association; second prize, silver cup, presented by Mr. Steve McCarthy; third prize, silver cigar-case, presented by Kelly and Agnes; fourth prize, field glasses in case, presented by Henekey's, Ltd.
G. Clarke, jun., 1, Dick Norrie 2, D. M. H. Hoffman 3, W. Watson 4. Won by 6 yards; a yard. Time, 5min. 8sec.

FIVE-MILE MOTOR CYCLE HANDICAP.
(Open to the profession.)
First prize, presented by Mr. Edwin Boyde; second prize, travelling clock, presented by Mr. Carl Hertz; third prize, fish knife and fork, presented by Mr. Harry Parker, of Brighton.
(Competitiors allowed to pedal for the first hundred yards, after which all pedalling must cease.)
Harry Tate, 200yds., 1; Ted Cowan, 200, 2; L. Mortimer, scratch, 3. Won by two laps; a wheel. Time, 6min. 46 3-5sec.

120 YARDS HURDLE HANDICAP.
First prize, handsome solid silver cup, presented by Miss Marie Kendall; second prize, silver-plated cup, presented by Mr. Sam Isaacs; third prize, silver-plated tea and coffee service, presented by Mr. Gus Garrick; fourth prize, suit of clothes, presented by Mr. Geo. Nyman.
Heat winners: Bert Brantford, owes 2yds. (time, 20sec.); Harry Ford, 6 (20 1-5sec.); J. Augustin, scratch, (19 2-5sec.); D. Selbo, 8, w.o.; Fred Laurel, 3 (19 4-5sec.); Sam Mayo, 6 (19 2-5sec.); W. Harris, 6 (18sec.). Second Round.—Heat 1: Augustin 1, Harry Ford 2. Time, 17 4-5sec. Heat 2: Harris 1, Mayo 2, Laurel 3. Winner protested against. Time, 18sec. Final: Augustin 1, Mayo 2, Ford 3, Laurel 4. Won by 1½ yards; half a yard. No time taken.

ONE MILE "BUCHANAN" CHALLENGE CUP BICYCLE RACE.
(To be won three times in succession.)
Present holder: Gent Lotto.
First prize, handsome case of cutlery, complete set, presented by the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association; second prize, silver-plated cruet stand, presented by Mr. Rosslyn Stuart; third prize, glass epergne, presented by Mr. J. E. Dunedin.
James Braun 1, Harold Duncan 2, Gent Lotto 3. Won by 3 yards; a yard. Time, 2min. 28sec.

100 YARDS SACK RACE (FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN).
(Ladies to pick up and assist the gentlemen.)
First prize (lady), fruit and flower epergne, presented by the New Goswell Printing Co., Ltd., (gentleman), case of cutlery, presented by Mr. Harry Masters; second prize, lady's and gentleman's umbrellas, presented by Mrs. Fred D. Harris; third prize, lady's and gentleman's umbrellas, presented by Mr. Alf. J. Penfold.
G. Bailey 1, Hettie Anderson 2, Andy Deans 3.

360 YARDS STEEPLECHASE IN BASKET HORSES (COMIC EVENT).
First prize, solid silver bowl, presented by Mr. Joe Elvin; second prize silver set of salt cellars, presented by Mr. Edward Lauri; third prize, opera glasses, presented by Mr. Howard Smith.
Walter Keen 1, D. Hayes 2, V. Anderson 3, Elmo 4.

FIVE MILES INVITATION AUTO-CYCLE EXHIBITION RACE.
First prize, value £7, second prize, value £2, third prize, value £1; presented by Mr. Joe Elvin.
By special request of Harry Tate, C. R. Collier, C. V. Colver and H. Martin ran a three-cornered match for one, two, and five miles.
C. R. Collier 1, C. V. Colver 2, H. Martin 3. Won by a length. C. R. Collier rode the distance in 5min. 45sec.

FIVE MILES INVITATION MOTOR CYCLE HANDICAP.
First prize, value £5; second prize, value £2; third prize, value £1; presented by Mr. Harry Tate.
Heat 1: H. V. Colver, scratch, 1; W. Hodgkinson, 20sec., 2. Heat 2: C. R. Collier, scratch, 1; W. W. Genn, 20, 2; T. A. Carter, 15, 3. Final: Collier 1, Hodgkinson 2, Genn 3. Won by quarter of a lap. Time, 5min. 49 4-5sec.

RUNNING HIGH JUMP FOR THE "VULCANA" CHALLENGE CUP.
Presented by Miss Vulcana (Atlas and Vulcana). To be won three years in succession.
First prize, handsome spirit and game cabinet, presented by the Variety Artists' Federation; second prize, presented by Mr. Fred Niblo; third prize, V.A.F. stamps for one year, presented by Mr. Sammy Shields.
G. Avolo, 4ft. 9in., 1; Bert Brantford, 4ft. 8in., 2; Harry Ford, 4ft. 6in., 3. Avolo subsequently jumped 5ft.

COMIC COSTUME SCRAMBLE.
First prize, fitted gentleman's leather travelling bag, presented by Mr. Walter de Frece; second prize, picnic tea basket, presented by Miss Kittee Rayburn; third prize, xylophone, presented by Mr. Herbert Lisle.
Fred Earle 1, D. Hayes 2, Will Collinson 3. Won by 2 yards; 3 yards.

440 YARDS RUNNING HANDICAP (PRESS ONLY).
First prize, dessert and flower stand, presented by Miss Lil Hawthorne; second prize, silver-plated fruit epergne, presented by the Elliotts-Savonas; third prize, stationery cabinet, presented by Mr. Charles Whittle.
C. Douglas Stuart, 220yds., 1; A. J. Manning, 55, 2; G. C. Wright, scratch, 3. Won by 60 yards. Time, 41 2-5sec.

60 YARDS VAULTING HURDLE RACE.
First prize, gentleman's gold watch, presented by Miss Vesta Tilley; second prize, set of carvers, presented by Mr. Vin Monkley; third prize, set of silver salt cellars, presented by Mr. Fred Neiman.
Albert Laurel 1, G. Schneider 2, Fred Panlash 3. Won by a yard. Time, 13 2-5sec.

440 YARDS "JOHANNESBURG" CUP RACE (SCRATCH).
Cup presented by the Directors of the Empire Theatre, Johannesburg, S.A., per Mr. Sydney M. Hyman. To be held one year only, but if held three years in succession it becomes the absolute property of the winner.
Present holder: Geo. Clarke, jun.
First prize, the Harry Lauder Cup, presented by Mr. Harry Lauder; second prize, gramophone, presented by Mr. Billy Williams; third prize, case of fancy cutlery, presented by Messrs. Walton and Lester; fourth prize, V.A.F. stamps for one year, presented by Larola.
G. Clarke, jun., 1, Fred Cowan 2, C. Clifford 3, H. Ardern 4. Won by 20 yards; 6 yards. Time, 55 2-5sec.

360 YARDS "HENRI GROS" CUP, OBSTACLE RACE.
Champion cup, presented by Mr. Henri Gros. To be held by the winner for one year only, and returned to the Committee.
Present holder: W. Rosser.
First prize, marble clock with bronze figures, presented by Mr. Tom Lee, The Russell Hotel, Brixton-road; second prize, professional travelling hamper, latest make, presented by White Bros., of Nottingham; third prize, suit of clothes, presented by Mr. Binks, of Liverpool.
G. Bailey, 35yds., 1; H. Quaile, 35, 2; Harry Bancroft, 35, 3; F. Laurel, 10, 4. Won by a yard.

100 YARDS CONSOLATION RACE.
(Only those who have competed in other races and lost are allowed to enter for Consolation Race.)
First prize, massive marble clock, presented by Mr. Ralph Levy; second prize, set of fish knives and forks, presented by Mr. Harry Ford; third prize, silver-plated flask, presented by Messrs. Bowman and Morton; fourth prize, leather cigar case, presented by Mr. Harry Bedford.
W. L. Murray 1, B. Wormack 2, W. C. Campbell 3, M. Asher 4. Won by a yard; foot. Time, 11 4-5sec.

Special prizes.—For the ladies collecting the most money by sale of flowers, programmes, and postcards: first prize, leather purse with miniature watch, presented by Miss Maud Courtney; second prize, green leather handbag, presented by Miss Violi. For organisers of side shows collecting most money: first prize, suit of clothes, presented by Messrs. Neuman and Co.; second prize, umbrella, presented by the De Breans. For Boys' Race: kites, presented by Mr. Thomas Bright. For best all-round athlete: silver-plated salad bowl, presented by Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, and Co. For the comedian causing the most fun: gold medal.

The following ladies kindly consented to sell programmes, postcards, and flowers in aid of the fund, under the direction of Miss Melinda May (secretary, Music Hall Ladies' Guild):—Mesdames Vi Adele (Miss Hutt), Geo. Antill, Kathleen Barrett, Monica Barrett, Alice Chapin, Elsie Chapin, Hilda Collinson, May Conroy, Crowther, Sheila Daly, Phœbe Elkington, Belle Elmore, Alma Gallimore, Fred Ginnett, Minnie Glyn, C. Grant, Dolly Harmer, Lil Hawthorne, Ida Hetherington, Kathleen Hoyle, Bob Hutt, Millie Hylton, Florence Kendall, Edie King, Evelyn Le Claire, Lylie Lewis, Kitty Marion, Geraldine Montrose, Ida C. Morgan, Lena Pinaud, Florrie Robins, Beatrice Stavordale, Marjorie Stavordale, Florrie Worth, and Beattie Worth.

List of prize-givers: Mr. Alf. Abrahams, Mr. Harry Bedford, Mr. Binks (Liverpool), Bowman and Morton, Mr. Edwin Boyde, Mr. Thomas Bright, Miss Winnie Brook, Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, Miss Maud Courtney, Mr. J. W. Cragg, the De Breans, Mr. Walter de Frece, Mr. Jack de Frece, Mrs. J. de Frece, Mr. Henry de Frece, Mr. J. E. Dunedin, Eliotts-Savonas, Mr. Joe Elvin, *The Era*, Mr. Harry Ford, Mrs. Harry Ford, friend of Hal Forde, Mr. Gus Garrick, Mr. Walter Gibbons, Grand Order of Water Rats, Mrs. F. D. Harris, Miss Lil Hawthorne, Henekey and Co., Mr. Walter Inge, Mr. Sam Isaacs (Sam Isaacs, Ltd.), Mr. W. Jackson (Lancashire Lads), Jackson, Pixley and Co., Kelly and Agnes, Miss Marie Kendall, Larola, Mr. Harry Lauder, Mr. John Lawson, Mr. T. Lee, Mr. Ralph Levy, Mr. Herbert Lisle, Mr. Harry Masters, Mr. Steve McCarthy, Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, Mr. Vin Monkley, the Motramos, Mr. Fred Neiman, Mrs. F. Neiman, Mr. S. Neuman, New Goswell Printing Co., Mr. Fred Niblo, Mr. George Nyman, Messrs. Odhams, Ltd., Mr. Alf. Penfold, *Performer*, Miss Kittee Rayburn, Roberts, Seyd, and Co., Sanders and Co., Mr. Jimmy Shields, Mr. Sammy Shields, Mr. Howard Smith, *Stage*, Mr. Bernard Stavordale, Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, Mr. Rosslyn Stuart, the Terriers, Miss Jeannie Thomas, Mr. George Thurling, Miss Vesta Tilley, Variety Artists' Federation, Mlle. Violi, Miss Vulcana, Walton and Lester, Mr. J. Whiteman, White Bros., and Mr. Charles Whittle.

MOTOR-CYCLING AT THE SPORTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I attended the Music Hall Sports meeting at Herne-hill on Wednesday last, and witnessed the "gamest" struggle of a roadster motor-cycle against Messrs. Colliers' trade racing "Matchless" motor-cycles it has ever been my good fortune to see. The rider of the roadster (1908 3½ "Triumph," all on—mud-guards, pedals, number-plate, &c.) was Mr. Leonard Mortimer (who, I understand, is an enthusiastic "Triumph" motorist) and he simply made "hacks" of the only other two roadsters in this amazing competition.

He started scratch, and had to give Mr. Harry Tate (on C. R. Collier's famous "Matchless" racer) 200 yards start. This start he also conceded to Mr. Ted Cowan, who had Harry Martin's equally famous "Matchless" racing bike, and eventually finished only a wheel behind Mr. Cowan, who secured second place.

The result to me was as astonishing as the handicap was amazing. Mr. F. Straight, of the Auto-Cycle Club, was down on the programme as handicapper for this curious event; but surely he never knew the machines that Messrs. Tate and Cowan intended to ride?

Much amusement was caused by Mr. Harry Tate, who kept the other competitors waiting on their lines while he went round the track two or three times to "warm" his racer.

Mr. Mortimer must feel proud of his fine effort, and equally proud of his "game" mount.—Yours faithfully,
A. T. STANTON.

GAUMONT COMPANY.

The Prince of Wales took great interest in the cinematographing of the Quebec Pageant by the Gaumont Company, and when in Mid-Atlantic sent a Marconigram to express his hope that the pictures would turn out successfully, and that through these cinematograph records the whole world would be able to see and appreciate the wonderful scenes enacted on the Plains of Abraham or Quebec. Messrs. Gaumont paid for and obtained the exclusive rights, which were cabled to them from Quebec, notwithstanding much influence brought to bear upon the authorities in favour of an American concern. In view of Messrs. Gaumont's wide experience with the English Pageants, it was felt that they were better able to do justice to the subject than any other concern.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

A Hydropathic Revenge treats the spectator to several comic scenes. This is how the story can be told:—At the hotel: An American lounging in a rocking-chair, rings the bell near at hand. Enter a servant. The Yankee: "My pipe." The servant gives it to him and goes. Another ring. The Yankee: "Tobacco." The servant, irritated, gives it to him grudgingly, and bangs the door on leaving the room. A minute later the Yankee rings again, and says "A light" to the exasperated servant. Ten p.m. The Yankee comes back, and throws himself on the bed without undressing. He rings the bell, and loosens a shower bath apparatus. The water pours down upon him, while the servant, through the keyhole, enjoys his revenge. Not for long, however, for the Yankee having seen him, makes him partake of the free bath.

The Border Limit.—Under this title we get a story of two neighbours (Rochin and Roval), who had been on bad terms for some time on account of a border limit between their respective pieces of ground, which Rochin was sure was not exactly where it ought to have been, and which Roval always replaced a little further into his own—Rochin's—field; of this he was sure. The last time Roval had to put back the stone he uttered some threats, for it was really too much for the man's patience. As ill-luck would have it, the ox-drover was in love with Roval's daughter, and a rival to Rochin's son with whom he had picked a quarrel; but instead of giving a fatal blow to the young man, it was the father he killed, and everybody in the village said that it was Roval who did it. The police come to arrest the supposed murderer; but his daughter, distracted with grief, runs away from home and wants to kill herself. The ox-drover, however, having followed her, confesses to his crime the moment she is going to throw herself into the river. Young Rochin, overhearing the dreadful thing, throws the murderer into the water, where he is drowned, then he opens his arms to the girl, who is now ready to face life again and its sorrows and joys.

A School Friend.—Comedy is well represented in this series. Two ladies meet in the street, look at each other in surprise, hesitate at the recollection of a likeness to a well-known face, then come forward with hands outstretched, while they utter each other's names. They had been school friends, but their paths in life lying in different directions, they have not met for years. One is richly married, while the other has linked her life to that of a man whose profession can be termed house-breaking, although he makes a show of having a trade of some sort. During lunch, at which the wealthy couple have been invited by the wife school chum, the latter receives a false telegram summoning her "to the death-bed of her aunt." In reality she goes to the house of her school friend, which she strips of its valuables, with the aid of her husband. However, the two burglars are discovered and punished according to their deserts.

The Beauty and the Beast.—This film is the staging-up of a fairy tale written by Madame Leprince de Beaumont, in which an incautious merchant is obliged to send one of his daughters to the dwelling place of a terrible monster. Yet the beast loves the girl, and she, after pitying it, loves it on account of its kindness. This love causes the beast to resume itse former state of human being, and they are married and live happily ever after.

The Unlucky Winner.—A conflagration at Spitzberg having caused the ice houses to melt and the inhabitants to be drowned, the small town of Catchit is organising a lottery for the benefit of the victims, the first prize being a South American animal. Old Peter being the lucky winner, he walks about the town with his beautiful Peruvian llama, which, struggling for freedom all the time, makes everybody run away. After various incidents the beautiful Llama lands at an important menagerie, where Old Peter makes up his mind to let it stay, for really it was too much in the way in his small cottage and town.

In connection with the Marathon Race film Messrs. Pathé Frères have received the following letter:—

"Messrs. Pathé Frères, London,
"31, 33, Charing Cross-road, W.C."
"8, Church-street, Soho, London,
"Aug. 6, 1908.

"Dear Sirs,—After having seen the film you took of the Marathon Race and my arrival inside the Stadium, I am pleased to compliment you on this wonderful production, as I am very pleased with it, for it shows all the incidents of the finish of the race.—I am, dear Sirs, yours truly,

Dorando

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

Travelling Through Russia.—Original, quaint, realistic, and impressive incidents of life in little-known Russia, which will edify and amuse at one and the same time. Beginning with St. Petersburg, delightful views of the Nevski Prospect and the principal streets, buildings, and bridges across the Neva, with their civil and military traffic, are afforded. A grand review of soldiers is next presented. First appears the infantry in line of battalions with fixed bayonets, and in more or less perfect alignment, every man fit and workmanlike. A regimental band is next shown, accompanying with its music the march of a regiment in sections of four on their way to kinematograph instruction and entertainment in the official school. Examples follow of Russian peasant industries: primitive spinning and weaving by women and children.

Views of Moscow next occur—a panorama from the river front, the Kremlin, the Great Bell of Moscow (showing the fracture), some of the cannon left by Napoleon, the ornate Pokrovsky Cathedral, &c. Scenes in and around Tiflis, the capital of Caucasia, are then projected. River and town views, narrow streets, quaint bullock carts claiming right of way over the more modern tram car. Russian racecourse scenes open with the arrival of the Viceroy and a dashing Cossack escort. Episodes of the races follow, including the paddock, the enclosure, the signal bell, the race, the winning jockey and his mount, weighing-in, &c.

Next we get a palase courtyard scene, which shows the Viceroy and his lady accompanied by a brilliant staff. Then there are scenes at the river-side, rafts floating down stream, the landing, refreshing the powerful oxen used to haul the heavy logs, a quaint team of six oxen, log rolling and haulage by bullocks—archaic, but effectual methods—and drivers seated backwards on the wide cross-bars or yokes. These are followed by characteristic Cossack dances and pastimes. Officers and men alike enter into these national sports with a zest and individual rivalry pleasant to witness. Formed in a semi-circle, the onlookers accompany the dancers by beating hands to the lively measures. The dancers detach themselves from the circle, and with nimble feet and twirling bodies emulate the previous performances with great verve in solo, duet, trio, and quartette dancing.

The interesting series concludes with a folk play performed by Cossacks—the enactment of a love scene, rivalry, fight, victor brings in the bride. The ring closes, and the fair lady is chased round the inner circle by the aspirant for her hand, until finally his ardour apparently convinces her of his eligibility.

The Asphalter's Dilemma is a comic picture-story of two Italian asphalters. One is industrious and the other arrives in a lazy mood. Expostulations and a quarrel ensue, which result in the loafer throwing his chum into a cauldron of boiling tar. The survivor then goes on the spree, but his crime so works upon his mind that everyone with whom he comes in contact assumes the form and features of his late victim. Most amusing incidents follow each case of "mistaken identity," and the climax is reached when the loafer is sleeping off the effects of his potations. The victim emerges in sections from the cauldron, the parts unite, limb to limb, and a happy ending is furnished by the villain and his victim, both greatly relieved, going to celebrate the occasion.

The Signalman's Sweetheart.—The signal-cabin is brightened for its occupant by a visit from his beloved. On her departure, and while still in sight of the signalman, the girl is assailed by two ruffians, robbed, and maltreated. Her lover dare not leave his post: the express is signalled, and a strenuous conflict between love and duty is depicted as the pointer indicates the near approach of the train. He remains at his post, but telegraphs for assistance, which arrives in the nick of time. The girl is carried to the cabin, but the signalman has fainted. His duties are undertaken by the relief men, and the lover bears his precious charge home. The subsequent meeting of the convalescent lovers forms a touching scene, and concludes a most absorbing and exciting series.

The Wrong Lottery Number.—The story of an official mistake in the publication of a lottery number is most amusingly depicted here. The holder of the declared winning number makes merry with his friends, borrows money, and purchases clothes in anticipation, holds high revel at an expensive hotel, and finally arrives at the lottery office, to be plunged into comic despair by the statement that the winning number is 5866, not—as originally stated—5899.

"Urbanora" at the Palace Theatre.—There has just been included in the "Urbanora" exhibit at the Palace Theatre a full series of animated pictures of what cannot be regarded other than as the most memorable Cowes Week—alike from a national, social, and a sailing point of view—that has ever been celebrated on the waters of the Solent. The scenes, which were expressly taken for this theatre by the Urban operators and are singularly clear in definition, include close views of Shamrock, Germania, Cicely, Britannia, Creole, Carina, and other racers in all classes, as well as the splendid cruiser Indomitable and a delightfully intimate picture of their Majesties on board the Royal yacht.

CINEMATOGRAPH ACTION.

An action of considerable importance to cinematograph proprietors and proprietors of music halls and other places of entertainment where the cinematograph is an attraction came before his Honour Judge Benson in the Sheffield County Court on Thursday, Aug. 13. The plaintiff was Elisha Charles Clayton, cinematograph proprietor, of 276, Western Bank, Sheffield; and the defendant was William Holland, of the St. James's Theatre, Manchester. Plaintiff sought to recover £25 damages, representing two weeks' engagement in lieu of notice, for breach of contract, and 10s. for the use of a special film of the Grand National Race. Mr. T. E. Ellison (instructed by Mr. Kesteven) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Meunier represented the defendant. Plaintiff's case was that early in the year, hearing that the defendant had taken over the control of the St. James's Theatre, Manchester, he went to see him for the purpose of obtaining a contract to show Bioscope pictures at his theatre. Plaintiff's terms were £15 for a ninety minutes' show nightly, or £12 10s. for a sixty minutes' show. A contract was entered into, and one of the terms of this contract was that a fortnight's notice should be given before the engagement was terminated. In accordance with this agreement plaintiff commenced showing his pictures at the theatre on March 2. The pictures were shown for some time without complaint, and then the defendant wrote, stating that some of the pictures were not as new as he desired, and to the effect that he was very anxious not to be beaten by the Grand Theatre, a rival place. A little while before the Grand National Race was run defendant wrote to the plaintiff, asking him to endeavour to procure a picture of the race to be shown on the Saturday night. If plaintiff could not obtain this film so soon after the race defendant suggested that a picture of the old Grand National be shown, as "one Grand National is very much like another." Plaintiff was not able to obtain a picture of the real Grand National the day after the race was run. Accordingly he obtained a film of an old Grand National, and this film was shown on the Saturday night, and the real one was put on the screen on the following Monday.

When on one occasion plaintiff went to see the defendant he pointed out to him (the defendant) that he (the defendant) had taken off one of the latest films and one of the best in that week's show—The Pumpkin Race. On Monday, March 30, defendant wired to the plaintiff, stating that the pictures had not been the latest and most up-to-date, and giving him notice that the engagement terminated on the following Saturday. Plaintiff thereupon went to see him, and in the interview defendant admitted that he was going into partnership with another man who had films and apparatus of his own. Therefore, plaintiff's services would be no longer required. Plaintiff, in the course of his evidence, admitted that three of the films he had used were not up to date, but these, he stated, were included in the programme at the desire of the defendant. Mr. F. W. Holmes, manager for Jasper Redfern and Co., Ltd., Sheffield, said the pictures exhibited were a first-class show. Some of the films were supplied by his firm to the plaintiff. In some cases, said witness, their films were shown first at their own place—the Grand, Manchester—and were then supplied to the plaintiff, and in other cases the plaintiff had the use of the films before they appeared at the Grand. Some of the films supplied to the plaintiff never had appeared at the Grand. Mr. W. E. Dennison, manager of Films, Limited, said the pictures that plaintiff had shown were "a good average for a picture show." A great many of the pictures were up to date. Mr. Lacy Lyne, the late manager of the Palace Theatre, Attercliffe, and Mr. John Mason, Bioscope operator, also spoke as to the good quality of the pictures shown by the plaintiff.

For the defence it was urged that there had been a general breach of the contract by the plaintiff, as he had undertaken to show the most up-to-date and best pictures procurable, but he had not done so. The defendant, in the witness-box, asserted that a number of the pictures were anything but up to date. The film The Pumpkin Race, which he acknowledged was up to date, he did not use, as he understood that it had been shown at the Grand Theatre a week earlier. He denied that he had expressly desired the plaintiff to show the three old films that plaintiff had referred to in his evidence. Also he denied that he had told the plaintiff that he would have kept the plaintiff on if it had not been for his losses and for the arrangements he had made with another man. On several occasions he had said to the plaintiff that the pictures were not as new as they should be. Under cross-examination, defendant admitted that whether or not a film was up to date was purely a matter of opinion. His Honour, in summing up, said the question to be considered was: What was an up-to-date picture? No two witnesses in the case appeared to have specifically agreed as to what really constituted an up-to-date picture. It seemed to be purely a matter of opinion as to the length of time during which a picture might be so described. He came to the conclusion that there had been no substantial breach of the agreement to justify the sudden termination of it not in accordance with the terms of the contract. But his Honour held that the plaintiff was entitled to recover only the damage that he had sustained on account of the loss of the two weeks' employment. Accordingly he gave judgment for the plaintiff for £6 10s.

Godolphin Eugene S. Cooke, aged 16½, son of Mrs. Mab Barton, was passing on Friday morning, Aug. 7, at half-past ten on his bicycle in front of the Eye Hospital, St. George's-circus, when the horses of a country cart drew in to take water from a trough and knocked him over. A doctor and nurse ran out of the hospital and attended to him. The police then came on the scene, and the sufferer was removed on an ambulance to St. Thomas's Hospital, where he now remains as an in-patient. From X-rays examination the doctors find the arm is not broken. The accident has been a great shock to his mother.

An important engagement for *The Sands of Dee* is that fine actor, Mr. J. H. Barnes, who it is interesting to recall, first appeared at the old Lyceum as Irving's double in *The Bells*, and later, at the same house, supported Mary Anderson as Ingomar, some years after his series of successful engagements at the old Strand. He is as well-known, too, in America as in London. Mr. Barnes is an original member of the Green Room Club, and has written quite a quantity of serious verse.

The story of this latest Hippodrome drama opens with a representation of the sands of Dee, the sea being seen in the distance. Basil Dean, the village villain, as he cannot honestly win the love of Mary Stephens, determines to sell up the home of her old fisherman father, whose bond he holds for £100. The old man's grandson, on his arrival from America, learns of his family's dire straits, and offers to settle the financial difficulties.

By a pretext Basil persuades Mary to come on the sands of Dee in the hope of meeting John Hooper, her lover. When she arrives, he seizes her and binds her to the warning post. He knows that the racing tide will turn in ten minutes and sweep everything to destruction. But a tiny child gives warning of Mary's awful fate, and, just in time, John gallops into the rapidly-rising waters and rescues her in sight of Basil, who in his madness falls over the edge of the cliff, and is lost in the swirl of the current.

The new Hippodrome, Middlesbrough, will open its doors on Monday. This magnificent building, which is one of the finest music halls in the North, will accommodate 3,000. The chairman of the company is Mr. John Price, the managing-director, Signor Pepi, and on the board of directors are Messrs. Will Sley and David Bliss. The acting-manager is Mr. A. E. Nicholls. The company engaged for the opening is Arthur Prince, Cynthia, Three Royal Dreadnoughts, Athas and Collins, Jock Whiteford, Tally Ho Trio, the Carmos, Pepiscope, and Florrie Forde. Enormous success is anticipated.

Mr. Fenwick, who has for some years been stage-manager at the Palace, West Hartlepool, has been appointed stage-manager.

Frame, the evergreen, who, with his talented variety company, is touring Scotland, on his last American tour received an unsolicited testimonial as a mirth-provoker from a New York physician, who wrote as follows:—"Shut up in the house with *grippe* for three weeks, I determined to go and see if a good laugh wouldn't cure me. Sure enough, this morning I feel better than for a long time, and I shall recommend Dr. Frame to my patients suffering as I have." Hooch aye!

The interment of the remains of Miss Adelaide Macarte took place at Brockley on Wednesday, the funeral being from 54, Tressillian-road, St. John's, S.E.

Mr. Frank Price, whose play, *A Country Girl in London*, was so successful on its recent production by Messrs. Northway and Garrod that these enterprising managers have already secured another drama from his pen, has disposed of a musical-comedy sketch to Moss' Empires. Some delightful music has been written for the sketch by Mr. Ernest A. Thiel, one waltz song in particular being calculated to linger in the memory. The principal parts will be in the hands of Mr. Daley Cooper and Miss Mabel Lait, who have already scored largely in the same author's sketch *The Duke of Codham*.

A striking tribute has been paid to John Lawson's drawing powers this week at the Portsmouth Empire, where he is playing the never-failing *Humanity*. Notwithstanding that it is the week after the holidays, "House Full" boards have been in evidence all the week. This week Mr. Lawson has tried some new staircase effects in the big fight, and he promises to introduce them on his appearance in town. *Pigs in Clover*, by J. J. Spencer Sutcliffe, will be Mr. Lawson's first production on his return to London. This episode has proved a remarkable success in the country.

The latest quotations of music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra 1½; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. pd.), 1½; Do. (10s. pd.), 1; Gaiety, 1½; London Pavilion Ord., 3½; Do. Pref., 4½; Metropolitan, 10s.; Moss Empire, 5½; Do. 5 p.c. Pref., 3½; Oxford, 6 1-16; Palace, 19s. 9d.; Tivoli, 5; Variety Consolidated Theatres, ½.

At the Holloway Empire this week Mr. E. A. Esmonde has produced a sketch without a name, by T. M. Paule, offering a prize to the discoverer of the best title. Sir Richard Temple, a politician, annoyed at being excluded from the Cabinet, writes an angry letter to the Prime Minister, which falls into the possession of one Barrington Selmore, M.P. Sir Richard fears that Selmore may use it to ruin him. Eric Duncombe, who is in love with Sir Richard's ward, induces his servant, a reformed convict, to "burgle" Selmore's house and secure the letter, obtaining as his reward Sir Richard's consent to the match. The little piece was well acted all round.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are: Kirkstall, on the Midland; Long Eaton, on the Midland; Lowmoor, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Morley, on the Great Northern and London and North-Western; Barnsley, on the Great Central, Midland, Lancashire and Yorkshire, and Hull, Barnsley, and West Riding Junction; Birstall, on the London and North-Western; Darley, on the Midland; Great Harwood, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Hartlepool, on the North-Eastern; Stonehouse, on the Midland and Great Western; Ashbourne, on the London and North-Western and North Staffordshire; Bracknell, on the London and South-Western; Darlaston, on the London and North-Western; Delph, on the London and North-Western; Ipswich, on the Great Eastern; Middleton, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Newton Heath, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Shipton, on the North-Eastern; Saddleworth, on the London and North-Western; Whittington, on the Midland; and Irvine, on the Glasgow and South-Western Railways.

GUILD subscriptions, 1908: Per Mr. Frank Mellor, Oldham, subscribers to the funds for opposing the Movable Dwellings Bill, £15; Mrs. E. Whittaker, hon. member, 10s. 6d.

Featherstone Feast.

HERE for the Feast were Tuby's Coliseum, Wortley's two shows, White's Dime Museum and No. 2 show, the Stereorama, Kent's great freak crab show, Tuby's motor track, Tuby's four-abreast horses, and swings and highfliers by Messrs. Pullan and A. and W. Fisher. The Winchester ranges, bottle batteries, novelty and throwing games were by Messrs. Pullan, Fisher, Culver, Walsen, Griffiths, Johnson, Caulfield, and Smith.

Bilton Feast, Harrogate.

AT this well-known Yorkshire pleasure fair were Dennis's circus of varieties, Smith and Warren's switchback, Harniess' steam horses, and the usual minor attractions, in well-ordered variety.

Middlesbrough Holidays.

FOR the amusement of the people at holiday time, the following capital aggregation of shows, roundabouts, &c., was at the Market Fairground: Crow's cinematograph show and galloping horses, Rich's juvenile horses and swings, Lamonds' gem motors, and swings, shooters, and variety frames by Duffield, Twillery, Hutchinson, Walkins, Hasker, and Rich.

Brighton Fair.

LONDON-BY-THE-SEA had its holiday fair. Here were two great menageries, the well-known concerns of Wm. Sedgwick and A. Purchase, Tom Norman's show, the Dahomey Village, Elliott's boxers, roundabouts by Carter and Smith, and shooters, throwing games, and stalls by a big crowd of amusement caterers.

News from Scotland.

KELSO Fair holidays were kept in famous swing by Miller's cinematograph theatre, Cross and Broughton's machines, swings, shooting ranges, and variety stalls, and the concerns of Messrs. Russell, Cooper, Black, and other caterers.

Biggleswade.

MESSRS. BARKER AND THURSTON are paying their third annual visit to this town, and are located in the large Market-square during this week. The electric motor-cars are quite an attractive item, and are well patronised. The cinematograph exhibition, under the direction of Mr. Charles Thurston, is crowded at every show; the films exhibited are very much up to date, and universal satisfaction is given to appreciative audiences. On Tuesday afternoon Mr. Chas. Thurston, with his usual generosity, invited the inmates of the Workhouse to the show, and after the performance each visitor received a present in the shape of tea, sugar, tobacco, &c. Needless to say, the visitors were very grateful to Mr. Thurston for this act of kindness. On Sunday Mr. Thurston gave a show, the proceeds, amounting to about £10, being given to the local Blanket Society for the poor.

Stockport August Fair.

THE principal concerns at this fixture were supplied by the local firm of show caterers, Hibbert and Sons, who exhibited galloping horses, racing birds, and park swings. The big show was Capt. Tom Payne's superb new bioscope. Shooters and varieties were supplied by Messrs. Jewell, Cordwell, Thomas, and other caterers.

Drypool Feast, Hull.

DRYPOOL is the great riverside suburb of Kingston-on-Hull. It keeps its own fair the second week in August, and is usually well supplied with shows, machines, and fairground novelties. The machine novelties were the principal attractions this year, and these included motor-tracks by Howden and Son and J. W. Waddington, Richards's new cake-walk machine, Morley's steam swings, Shipley's galloping horses, and Payne's manual swings. The other amusements were Payne's rifle saloon and coker sheets, T. Burgin's variety frames, and W. H. Doubtfire's throwing games.

Holiday Fair at Hastings.

IN the cricket ground at this popular seaside resort Messrs. Hastings and Whayman have held a Fancy Fair for a fortnight. These enterprising showmen are able to set up a complete fair—cinematograph theatre, motors and galloping horses, aerial flight, swings, shooting galleries, and throwing games.

Lindfield Fair.

THIS old countryside fair was held under ideal conditions as regards weather and the attendance of visitors. There was the usual aggregation of fairground novelties, and right well did the people enjoy the fun of the fair.

Moss Side Wakes, Manchester.

THIS new venture on the suburban circuit of Cottonopolis was well maintained by P. Collins, jun.'s No. 2 Wonderland exhibition of living and talking pictures, Mander's Star menagerie, Westwood's Colonial giant children show, J. Hastings' two ground booths, the giant lady and Major Mite, the Midget Wonder, and various side shows.

THE riding machines were John Collins' three sets, the motor-cars, the electric jumping horses, and the steam yachts; there were shooting ranges, throwing games, penalty frames, pannum and toy stalls, by a crowd of caterers, including Messrs. S. Mercer, Walsen, Humphries, W. Murphy, and J. D. Humphreys.

Hazel Grove Wakes.

A GREAT aggregation of fair-ground novelties gathered at this suburb of Stockport for the annual wakes. There were two grounds, and on these were seen E. Holland's machines, W. Davies' machines, Marple's living pictures, Dobson's shooting gallery, Jewell's varieties, Birch's similar concerns, S. Jones' throwing games, and a well-ordered display of minor novelties, stalls, &c.

The Latest News from Penzance.

THE *Western Evening News*, under date Aug. 13, has the following short report of the proceedings in the Penzance Borough Council with regard to the extraordinary claim of the Corporation to prevent carnivals on private land in or near the borough:—

"CORPUS CHRISTI FAIR: LEGAL ACTION.

"On the subjects of South-terrace and Corpus Christi Fair, the Mayor asked the Corporation to go into committee immediately after the close of the meeting.

"Mr. W. H. Julyan said these matters were important, and he hoped members would not be annoyed if incorrect information appeared in the Press consequent upon the absence of reporters.

"When the committee proceedings were over, the Town Clerk (Mr. T. H. Cornish) said the Council had received a report with regard to the state of the negotiations for the purchase of land at South-terrace, and, as those negotiations were incomplete, it was resolved that they should be continued.

"Concerning Corpus Christi Fair, the Corporation had had read to them the case submitted to counsel (Mr. S. H. Leonard, Recorder of Penzance), and his opinion thereon regarding the rights of the Corporation, and the opinion was distinctly favourable to their contention. Consequently, he (the Town Clerk) was directed to take the necessary steps at law, as laid down in counsel's opinion.

"This meant (added Mr. Cornish) that the Town Council would commence an action for a declaration of rights, damages, and an injunction against Colonel Bolitho, Mr. J. Kemp White, Messrs. Hancock, Anderton and Rowland, and Brewer."

IT will be extremely interesting to our readers to read the full text of the learned counsel's opinion. The claim to a monopoly of fair rights is a big claim in itself, but the further claim to prevent the owners of land letting sites for pleasure carnivals and fêtes is a much more serious matter, and is an invasion of the right of property that will meet with the strongest protest and opposition.

The World's Fair, 1908-9.

MR. T. E. READ is again making forward arrangements and preparations for the Empire's greatest fair under cover, at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington. Bostock's No. 1 Menagerie will again be the zoological attraction; Hanneford's Canadian Circus, with great aerial and equestrian turns, will again have command of the arena. We draw our readers' attention to the advertisement in this week's issue. We note that Mr. Read is giving a preference to his old tenants.

CARMARTHEN August Fair was held on Wednesday in beautifully fine weather The attractions at the pleasure fair were not so numerous as in previous years, but business on the whole was good. Messrs. Haggar and Sons' electric bioscope and Mr. Steel Parry's electric bioscope were the chief attractions, and there were numerous cokernut shies, Aunt Sallies, aquariums, &c.

AT the Winter Gardens, New Brighton, another first-class programme is provided this week. Cronow, in his protean act; the Lynnes, in a smart musical sketch, and the Six Colberts, in a clever juggling interlude, have all scored unmistakably. Mr. Vernon Harcourt recites "The Dream of Eugene Aram" in a masterly manner, and Mlle. Vernona, who plays upon several novel instruments, and Mr. Alex Lofton, coloured comedian and dancer, are both favourites with the audience. Herr A. Spiegler arouses enthusiasm by his splendid violin solos. The animated pictures are all admirable.

THE Pierrots are appearing at the Pier Pavilion, New Brighton. Mr. Charles Harvey is warmly received by his admirers, and Mr. Harrison Latimer proves himself the possessor of a fine baritone voice. Mr. Fred Barnes and Mr. J. Watson are smart comedians, and Miss Edith Benson has a sweet voice, whilst Miss Edna Barrett is a good dancer; Mr. Harvey also appears in a sketch, *The Broken Statue*. Mr. A. J. Braddock accompanies admirably.

THE bill for the variety entertainment given in the New Brighton Tower Theatre this week includes a second week for the Four Scoreys, with their queer musical entertainments and peculiarly attractive effects; the Emerald Gems, a combination of four bright young ladies in Hibernian songs and dances; Miss Nellie Hill, a clever young songstress and acrobatic dancer; and the Zuyder Zee Girls in Dutch songs and dances; together with the Tower Bioscope with a number of pathetic and comedy pictures.

THE New Brighton Tower Theatre has taken a new lease of life since the change in policy was inaugurated, and the business now is constantly what is termed "capacity."

THE Cummins's Wild West in the big arena and all the numerous attractions at Brighton Tower are doing an exceptionally large business since Bank Holiday, and as the people of Liverpool, Manchester, and district have their outings mostly in August and September, the prospects for a big business at the Tower are particularly bright.

HERETOFORE the theatre at the Brighton Tower has been closed during the winter season, but it is altogether probable that it will be kept open as a variety house all through the cold weather.

FOR the concert on Sunday night at the Brighton Tower Theatre the eminent tenor Ben Davies, with the renowned Tower orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. Thomas Rimmer, will furnish the programme. Last Sunday night Miss Marie Hall, the famous violinist, and party gave the concert, and packed the great house to its utmost.

MISS MABEL MAVIS writes:—"In noticing the Pier Pavilion, Hastings, last week your representative omitted all mention of my name. Truly, on Tuesday evening I was able to do little more than apologise, as I had cut my hand when finishing the previous evening; but all the rest of the week I gave my usual entertainment, and met with a more than gratifying reception. To be omitted from a notice in *The Era* is a calamity to be avoided when possible."

MR. LOUIS DE REEDER'S agency has been moved to more commodious offices at 24, Buckingham-street, Strand.

WITH much *éclat* the Sylvan Palace in the Elysian Grove, Aberystwith, was opened on Wednesday afternoon, Aug. 5., by Sir Edward W. Parry-Pryse, Bart., Gogerddan. The building, situated close to the entrance to the Grove, is 80ft. long by 40ft. wide, and is capable of seating 800 people. It is constructed of red pine, which on the outside is decorated with cream and blue paint and on the inside varnish has been used. At the upper end is the platform, which is 40ft. wide by 15ft. deep.

IN declaring the hall open, Sir Edward Pryse said he was delighted with the hall which Mr. Richardes had provided. It would form a great addition to the attractions of the town. Mr. Richardes, in reply, thanked Sir Edward Pryse for the many kind things which he had said. Mr. Harry Collins' Merry Mascot Minstrels then submitted an entertainment, which was much appreciated. In the evening Captain Fossett Roberts was in the chair, and another excellent programme was submitted by the Minstrels. The manager is Mr. A. Vaughan.

SHOWMEN AND CITIZENSHIP.

THE remarkable development of showman enterprise in the present day has opened up great possibilities of public service to the showman. We need only refer to the fact that showmen are to-day distinguished and useful members of Town Councils, and in some instances have been chosen as aldermen and mayors. This, of course, has been where, in addition to the travelling concerns following the fairs, the showman has had large interests and fixed exhibitions in his own town.

The latest candidate for civic honours and for public service is the world-famous and universally respected Edward H. Bostock, proprietor of the Glasgow Zoo and Hippodrome. Mr. Bostock is a vice-president of the Showmen's Guild, a man of great business acumen, and closely identified with all that is best in the world of shows.

The Glasgow paper, the *Bailie*, under date Aug. 12, gives the following interesting local biography of Mr. Bostock under the heading "Men You Know":—

"One of the men whom all Glasgow folk know, whose name is a familiar word in their mouths, is

MR. E. H. BOSTOCK.

Mr. Bostock, of the Zoo-Hippodrome. The Bostock family have long had a leading place in the ranks of wild-beast tamers, of those who apply themselves to the work of forming zoological collections or establishing menageries. They are descended from the George Wombwell whose travelling menagerie was so popular half a century ago over the length and breadth of the land. But popular as had been the Wombwell collection with our fathers, that of Bostock when it visited Glasgow was equally popular. Something like a dozen years back, or thereby, Mr. E. H. Bostock, who had already formed an intimate acquaintance with Glasgow, made up his mind to settle down in our midst. He leased the building known as Olympia, at the east end of the New City-road, converting it into a zoological museum, wherein he placed his extensive collection of beasts, birds, and reptiles, the largest private collection of its kind in the United Kingdom. The 'Zoo,' to give it the name by which everybody knew it, and everybody knows it to-day, was opened in 1897, and became, from the date of its opening, a place of general resort. Later on he added a variety theatre to his zoological establishment, and the theatre—its recognised title is 'The Hippodrome'—is as popular as 'The Zoo.' To run two such enterprises, and run them successfully, means that Mr. Bostock is a first-rate man of business. His work is work that demands energy, foresight, and a close acquaintance with affairs. He must know, down to its most minute detail, the work of both departments of his establishment; what is more, he must know Glasgow and the people of Glasgow—what the people of Glasgow like, how they desire to be amused, and the prevailing trend of their feelings and tastes on all matters of public import. It was consequently a happy inspiration that led Mr. Bostock, when Councillor Dallas intimated two or three weeks ago his retirement from the representation of the Sixteenth Ward, the Cowcaddens Ward, in the Town Council, to determine that he would become a candidate for the vacancy. Mr. Bostock is essentially a Cowcaddens man. He lives and moves in the Cowcaddens. While he has necessarily a general interest in the city as a whole, his special interest is in the ward in which he is one of the largest ratepayers. His prosperity is bound up in no small measure with the prosperity of his own district. As a member, moreover, of the Town Council, he would bring a fresh eye and a vigorous brain to the consideration and discussion of things municipal. The City Fathers, as everybody knows, are prone to get into ruts. They follow in one another's footsteps, coming into odds over minor matters, but seldom holding more than one view in regard to subjects of the first importance. Consequently the appearance of Mr. Bostock in their midst would constitute something of a new departure, and a departure distinctly advantageous to the city, in the membership of the Corporation. Mr. Dallas, who has retired from the Cowcaddens seat, was a model member of the Town Council. He was unconventional; he was never afraid to speak out. And these are two qualities which, we may feel certain, would distinguish the George-square career of Mr. Bostock, should the vacancy, as everybody understands that it will, fall to his lot. Like Mr. Bostock's other friends, the *Bailie* wishes him all manner of success—continued success in his Zoo-Hippodrome establishment, and success in his candidature for the representation of the Sixteenth Ward."

LAST Saturday Captain Cecil Clayton, managing-director of the Grand Theatre Company, Mansfield, held his second annual fête. During the afternoon and evening good stage performances were given. Captive-balloon ascents were a great feature. About seven o'clock a right-away ascent and a parachute descent took place. After rising to a height of 6,000ft. the lady parachutist left the balloon and landed about three miles away. The balloon continued its voyage, and eventually landed at Boston, a distance of sixty miles. The fête was a great success.

"PATENTS AND DESIGNS"—a new illustrated weekly journal—will be published at 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C., on the 22nd inst., by Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, whose name has been so long associated with successful newspaper management, and should be carefully perused by every reader of this column. This paper is called into existence by the coming into force on the 28th inst. of the principal provision of the new Patents Act, which will practically revolutionise existing relations between foreign patentees and British manufacturers. The price of the paper will be twopence. A special column will be devoted to "Inventions Needed," and will no doubt contain many useful suggestions which readers of inventive faculty will turn to profitable account.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

16,051.—Thomas Henry Rochford, of Dublin. Improvements in programme indicators for music halls, theatres of varieties, and the like.

16,114.—Société Anonyme des Plaques et Papiers Photographiques A. Lumiere et ses fils, of London. Improvements in or relating to the manufacture of film for cinematograph and like apparatus.

16,115.—Société Anonyme des Plaques et Papiers Photographiques A. Lumiere et ses fils, of London. Method of renovating or repairing worn cinematographic films.

16,272.—Edouard Belin, of London. Improvements in apparatus for reproducing at a distance pictures or designs.

16,274.—Arthur Kuhle and Justus Hattemer, of Liverpool. Improvements in tracker-bars for self-playing musical instruments.

16,289.—Norbert Josef Pollak, of London. Obstacle path for sport and amusement.

16,361.—Paul Sacerdote, of London. New or improved speed indicator for indicating the number of rotations per unit of time of record discs or cylinders of gramophones, phonographs, and the like.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

19,037.—Foulds. Apparatus for purposes of amusement.

24,932.—Hall. Talking or sound reproducing machines.

25,569.—Lees, Lees, and Lees. Apparatus for heating theatres, buildings, and the like.

2,975.—Johnston. Fire-extinguishing apparatus.

3,987.—Muller and Rousset. Plate for cinematographic projections and process of and apparatus for the manufacture of the same.

12,125.—Turner. Device for training and shaping the moustache.

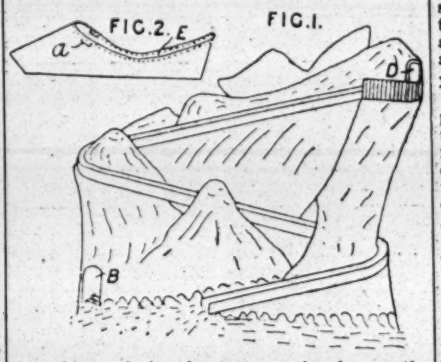
SPECIFICATIONS OPEN TO INSPECTION.

2,038.—Purpura. Illusory apparatus.

9,371.—Mathelot and Gentilhomme. Arrangement permitting of synchronising the movements of two bodies.

ABRIDGEMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

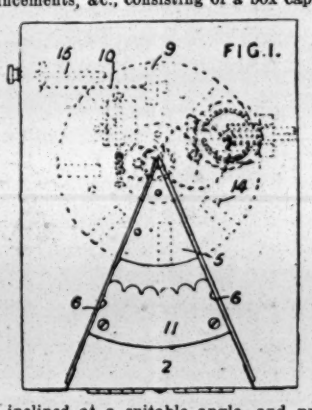
5,808.—Tobogganing. Mateyka, F. J., of London. A tobogganing track consists of a serpentine course, Fig. 1, surrounded by canvas scenery, a staircase leading from an opening (B) in the scenery to the top (D) of the track. The floor of the track is polished, and rows of balls are let into the track so as to reduce the friction in places and allow the toboggan to descend at varying speeds. The toboggan is shaped like a slipper, as shown in Fig. 2, and is formed with a leather bottom, canvas or leather sides, and a cone framing (E) with handles (a) around the top. The track is formed with hand-rails and with raised sides, which, at the curved parts of the track, are provided with casings in which are mounted balls to guide the toboggans in their descent. Electric



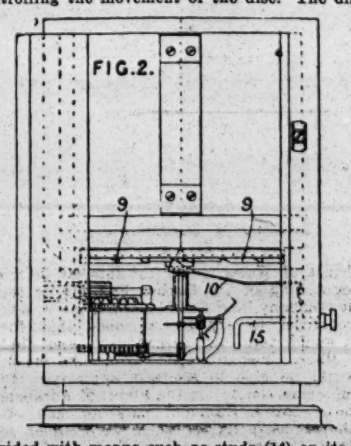
fans for producing breezes are placed near the track.

5,553.—Advertising; kaleidoscopes. Spong, J. O., of London.

Apparatus for producing and exhibiting kaleidoscopic effects, and in some cases advertisements, announcements, &c., consisting of a box capable of



being inclined at a suitable angle, and provided at the front with an opening such as 2, enclosed by means such as 6, arranged at an angle to each other; a rotating disc or box such as 5 carrying the coloured objects, and in some cases advertisements, and having its centre near the angle of the mirrors; a spring hammer for tapping the disc and actuated by its movement; and a device for controlling the movement of the disc. The disc is



provided with means such as studs (14) on its face to retard the movements of the objects. In the construction shown, the disc is rotated by a spring motor, and its movement is controlled by an arm (15). The spring hammer (10) is caused to give a succession of taps by projections (9) on the underside of the disc.

In addition to the advertisements on the disc, carried, for example, on a suitable projection, figures or devices may be placed on the plate (11), or wire, or wall in the opening, and an advertisement glass illuminated by a lamp in the box may be arranged in the front of the casing. According to the Provisional Specification, the mirrors are so arranged as to be capable of adjustment as regards angle and position.

THE CHARTER FAIR AT MITCHAM.

Despite the persistent efforts of the Mitcham Conservators to extinguish the fair, the people of Mitcham had their annual three days of open-air amusement without let or hindrance—not the people of Mitcham alone, but of South London (Clapham, Balham, Tooting, Merton, Croydon) have joined in the great carnival of the open fair. If ever an old-time institution deserved to live on account of its present-day usefulness then Mitcham Fair deserves not only to live and prosper, but it deserves full opportunity, on a bigger site on the people's common, to grow with the growing needs of the vast population the fair serves.

The Conservators' Great Opportunity.

Again we ask the Mitcham Conservators to consider the matter on wise and broad lines—to get away from the merely personal and sectional reasons for their present line of action and to give generous consideration to the wishes and the claims of the people of Mitcham and of South London. The Home Secretary is prepared to favourably consider any reasonable scheme for the removal of the old fair to a new and bigger site on the common.

The Conservators are to-day what the Lords of the Manor were years ago. To make a fair was to confer a public benefit; it was good for the people and good for the trade and business of the town. No one who has given any real thought or study to the social and economic problem of to-day will deny that wholesome open-air amusement is altogether good for the workers of our towns and cities. The Conservators of Mitcham Common Lands have a great opportunity of providing for this undeniable need of the people. We ask them to do the right thing—in this instance the wise and generous thing—provide a larger fairground, and ask the Home Secretary to transfer the Charter rights of the fair to the new ground. We already know that the showmen would gladly co-operate with the local authorities in asking for its removal to a new site. Surely it is not beyond the resources of the leaders of the people to bring about a peaceful and practical solution of a matter that appeals so directly to public sentiment as the maintenance of the people's ancient fair?

Honest Sentiment and Sound Business Sense.

To acknowledge that public sentiment is right in desiring to retain and to improve the fair the Conservators will best attain the great object for which the Board was created—the maintenance of the people's commons for the people. The increased revenues from the larger fairground would give them means to improve the commons and to make them more and more the playing-fields and the gardens of the people. We understand that to a certain extent there has been a change in the personnel of the Board and its officials. We suggest that a review of its past policy with regard to the people's fair would be not only wise and opportune, but it would win the esteem and respect of the great masses of the people to whom the commons are the precious heritage of the past, and the only land that remains common to all alike, rich and poor, lord and commoner.

London's Interest in the Fair.

All the great London newspapers sent their representatives to Mitcham to chronicle day by day the incidents of the fair. Thousands of visitors from all parts of the Metropolis went to "Lavender Land" to see and hear the very latest development of the struggle of the people of the old village to maintain their fair and ancient annual holiday.

Showmen from all parts of England gathered in order to make the fair. In point of actual number of showmen, stallholders, fairground traders, and amusement caterers Mitcham has never seen so great an invasion. The liberty of the Charter to draw on to the ground is well known to the whole body of showpeople, near and far. The attempt of the Conservators for the past three fairs to set up another custom by issuing a notice of wholesale refusal to let sites on the Fair Green was again ignored, and at the customary time the showmen drew on the Fair Green, and the shows, roundabouts, &c., were soon in process of erection. This took place, according to the usual plan, at noon the day before the fair, and all the concerns were ready for their crowds of patrons on Fair-day—Wednesday, the 12th—and the two following days.

Shows and Machines on the Fair Green.

Biddall Bros.' electrograph stood on the central pitch at the top of the green, J. Mander's fine set of steam horses were on the ground at the main entrance, and G. Beach's composite set, racing birds and horses, was on the central pitch. G. Holmes's juvenile motors were also erected. These concerns were quite sufficient to occupy most of the available ground on the green, but in addition to these were numerous stalls, throwing games, swings, side-shows, and toy bazaars.

On the other available sites at the junction of Mitcham and Croydon roads were the minor shows—stalls and throwing games, shooters, strikers, cokers, and novelty frames of a big crowd of amusement caterers. The one great result of the action of the Conservators has been to ensure an entirely new aggregation of fairground novelties and fresh set of entertainers for the people's fair.

Private Venture Fairgrounds.

The chief of these again this year, as last, was provided by Mr. H. Thurston, whose enterprise in the matter is most commendable, and whose success has fully shown what we have endeavoured to impress upon the minds of the Conservators, that, given a chance to grow, Mitcham Fair would become the best of the few remaining fairs of Greater London. Mr. Thurston was able to find room for some of the old tenants of Mitcham Fair now under the injunction of the High Court not to trespass on the Fair Green. Mr. Thurston exhibited his fine set of motor-cars—his No. 2 set—the galloping horses, and the helter-skelter tower. The other shows, &c., on this ground were:—W. Le Neve and Norah Sullivan, the "Sandows" of the fairground; C. Bailey's fine art show and shooting gallery; Harris's park swings and shooting range; and throwing games, coker sheets, and variety stalls by Messrs. Harris, H. Smith, R. Theodore, H. Barnard, W. Harris, C. Ives, E. Shaw, C. Kefford, W. Stackwood, Swales, J. Harris, and other caterers.

Mr. Alf. Ball's Private Ground.

Mr. Ball was able to exhibit his splendid new show on the same commanding position as last year. He was also able to find room for some of his fellow-showmen, who like himself are under the ban of the High Court. The new Lyceum was again the centre of attraction, and Mr. Ball himself more popular than ever with the people of Mitcham.

Other Private Pitches.

Mr. Wm. Biddall with the Royal Electric Bioscope again pitched on private land adjoining the Fair Green. This show was deservedly much admired and drew big audiences.

On several small pitches of private land a number of the old tenants now under injunction found opportunity of still catering for the amusement of their old friends and patrons. It was easy to see that the people of Mitcham sympathised with the old tenants of the fair, and that popular feeling ran high in favour of the showmen forbidden to use the Fair Green.

MOUNTING SHAKESPEARE.

Mr. Tree, wrote Mr. A. B. Walkley, in "Drama and Life," in respect to Mr. Tree's production of *Much Ado About Nothing*, is not only justified in giving us a fresh treatment of Shakespeare; he simply cannot help himself, if he would keep Shakespeare alive; and the text-worshippers, the strait sect which would turn Elizabethan stage-directions into phylacteries, are in reality the people who can only think of Shakespeare as dead. Their absurd attitude is at the acme of absurdity when adopted over such a play as *Much Ado About Nothing*, which *as* a play is as bad as bad can be. It is just the play which Aristotle might have had, by anticipation, in mind when he dwelt on the supreme importance of plot. Everybody knows the weaknesses of *Much Ado*. It has the initial weakness—shared with many another of Shakespeare's plays—of a dramatised novel. In the church scene Claudio is cheerfully degraded into a blackguard for the sake of a *coup de théâtre*. The cock-and-bull story of Hero's death is invented, and Claudio is turned into a weak ass, for the sake of another *coup de théâtre* in the final scene. What, then, is it that, despite its crying faults, makes *Much Ado* so delightful? It is, to begin with, its strong and pulsing vitality—the expression of Shakespeare's experiencing and enjoying faculty—the intense animal, semi-savage vitality of Benedick and Beatrice, the "May of youth and bloom of lustihood" in Claudio, the enduring vitality of Leonato and Antonio leaping out into flame in their old age, the minx-like vitality of Margaret and Ursula, the roystering and bacchanalian vitality of Borachio, the sturdy bovine vitality of Dogberry. And then it is its *panache*, its careless non-moral Renaissance romance. And, again, it is its Hugoesque touch of the luridly-fiendish in Don John set against the shifting polychromatic revel of masque and dance. Here is the "virtue" of the play, the set of elements by which it lives; and all the questions we need ask ourselves about the present revival are concerned with these elements. Does it make the best of them? Are they helped or are they hindered by Mr. Tree's innovations?

I believe that any jury of "average sensual men" will unhesitatingly find for Mr. Tree on both counts. The acting is brimming over with that vitality which, as I have said, is the prime characteristic of the play. Mr. Tree "keeps the pot a-bilin'" as merrily as Mr. Pickwick when hustled down the slide by Sam Weller. There are parts, it may be, in which his temperament would be more comfortably at home; his Benedick is, however, a very careful and on the whole successful "composition." If, as has been objected, he has his own way with stage directions, I can see no harm in it. He climbs a tree in the scene in the arbour instead of hiding behind the usual shrubbery, he jots down "The God of Love, that sits above" on his tablets instead of singing the song—and why should he not? There is tremendous vitality in Mr. Calvert's Dogberry—an altogether admirable piece of work. But this Dogberry harangues the watch from a window, instead of from the causeway. Heavens, what sacrilege! Vitality, again, is the mark of the scene in Leonato's garden, which in Mr. Tree's version becomes the capital scene of the play—the vitality of nature as well as of men and women. Moonlight dwindles to darkness, darkness greys into dawn, dawn glows into broad sunshine; a strepitous carnival is stilled to dead silence, which gives way to the song of birds and cheerful morning sounds—always there is movement, always a sense of life. But the stage-directions give no warrant for all this.

Mr. George Bastow, of "Galloping Major" fame, will make a welcome reappearance at Hackney Empire on Monday in his latest song success, "They won't know I come from the country."

Miss Lily Hall, of the Sisters Hall (correct name Lily Alexander), is to be married to Mr. Harry Mason, of Mason and Bart, at St. Mark's Church, Clapham-road, on Sept. 7.

Mr. Kyburn-Dellar has temporarily seceded from the cast of *The Pixies' Revel* in order to fulfil some previously made contracts in London, and he is this week playing his original part in *The Violin Girl*. He returns to the Empress, Brixton, on the 31st inst. with a revival of *The Moneylender*, as formerly played by him in London for over 300 nights. Mr. Kyburn-Dellar's next new production will be called *The Flaming Hussy*, and is "in one flame."

Miss Sylvia Cavalho, assisted by Mr. Clifford Pembroke, is appearing with great success this week at the Hippodrome, Rotherhithe, in the mirth-provoking sketch *The Husband of Peggy*.

Miss Dott Coutts, wife of the cleaver protean artist Mr. Henry Coutts, we regret to say, was taken ill during her performance on Monday, and has since undergone a serious operation, which will keep her inactive for several weeks to come. She only started work on Monday after several weeks off through illness.

We have few dramatic singers among the ladies of the variety stage, and therefore the turn of Miss Bertha Stuart—now on her third visit to the Tivoli—is all the more welcome. Miss Stuart, who is a Scots lassie, has intense feeling, which she puts into the rendering of the immortal ballads of her native land. The Tivolians listen intently, and her rousing reception at the end of her turn must be sweet music in her ears.

Mr. Leslie Stiles is on Sept. 5 sailing for the States, being under engagement to Mr. Frohman.

Mr. Carl Lynn, who has been called "the crowned king of animal mimics," will be seen on Monday at the Coliseum. He is booked on the Moss and Stoll tour for 1909 and 1910, and has received tempting offers for America.

The Burnley magistrates have resolved that in premises where cinematograph exhibitions are given licences will only be granted under the same conditions and restrictions as exist at the local Empire.

Brien McCullough will play Coupeau in a condensed version of *Drink* at the West London Theatre on Monday next. In this part Brien has created quite a sensation, and the public have pronounced it a psychological study.

On entering her bedroom on Sunday night Mrs. Woolf, wife of Jack Woolf, the proprietor of Wonderland, Whitechapel-road, found the room in disorder and a wardrobe forced. £20 in gold and jewellery valued at £20 being missing. The thief or thieves must have effected the robbery while the licensed part of the premises was open for business. No arrest has yet been made.

Mr. Henry Herne and Miss Ida Millais, who have been continuously working their water sketch *Blackmail* for over two years, are being well booked with their new success, *The Merry Widower*. Owing to the huge volume of water used in *Blackmail*, Mr. Herne finds it impracticable to heat it, and the rescue from drowning sensation has to be performed winter and summer in cold—sometimes icy—water.

Mr. Alfred Lester, of the Gaiety Theatre, gave selections from his monologues on Sunday afternoon and evening at the Palace Pier, Brighton, where he was received with the greatest enthusiasm by large audiences.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR

ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.
MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns

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Half Year	13s. 0d.	16s.
One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.
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NO STAMPS.

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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON,
Nov. 16, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.,
Dec. 14, Jan. 18, March 8, 29, April 5, 12, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov. 16 (three nights),
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Feb. 22, March 8, 15, 22, April 5, 12, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 9, 16, March 22.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Sept. 21, Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Nov. 30, Feb. 1, 15, 22, March 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
Nov. 30, Xmas (seven nights), Feb. 22,
March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
Xmas (7 nights), March 15, 22 29, April 5, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, 11, 25, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Aug. 31, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 21, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Aug. 20, 31, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 12, on (3 nights only).
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Company, Theatre Royal, Canterbury, for Cricket Dates, Aug. 20, 31, 22, Musical preferred. E. G. Falcon, County T., Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only, THEATRE ROYAL, DUBLIN
Oct. 12, Nov. 2.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Sept. 21, Dec. 7.
OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS,
Sept. 7, 8, 9 (?), Sept. 14, 15, 16.
Apply, F. Mouillot,
1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, onwards,
and a few Autumn Dates.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Sept. 14 (3 nights), Nov. 16, 30, Dec, 7, onwards.
Entirely New Electric Installation on Stage.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
Sept. 21, 22, 23 (?), Nov. 9, onwards.
Apply for all above, Rowland, T., Folkestone.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Important Attractions,
Musical Attractions preferred, Sept. 28, Oct. 5.
Fredk. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.
WANTED, Pay-Box Successes,
May 3, various, onwards.
Open to arrange Stock, June and July, also Panto.
Coms., Arthur Jefferson.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for
Sept. 7. Vacant through transferring.
Apply. Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, SUNDERLAND.
Sole Proprietor, Richard Thornton.
WANTED, Companies, April 19, 26 (?), May 3, 17, June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 19, and 26.
Apply, Harry Esden, Empire, Sunderland.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
Sept. 21, Oct. 12.
Nov. 2, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, Thos. Swinton.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
Enormous Success of New Management.
WANTED, Dates for the Biggest Attractions.
Address,
Rollo Balmain.
Vacant Oct. 5, Xmas, for Panto.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, Wanted, First-class Attraction,
for Week of Sept. 7.
Must be Something Big.
Write or Wire,
W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, Oct. 26, Nov. 30; Musical or other Front Rank Companies, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, onward, with exceptions. Good Panto. Entertained for Feb. 15. Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

THE NORTHERN THEATRES CO., LTD.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, Sept. 7,
Rochdale and Halifax.
Address (no wires), Otto C. Culling, Bury.

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE, RAMSGATE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.
WANTED, in order to oblige Mr. Gaston Mayer, Strong Attraction for Sept. 21 week, to follow Moody-Manners Opera Co., and precede Mr. Lewis Waller's "Robin Hood" Co.
Apply, Herbert Jay, Wyndham's Theatre, W.C.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Sept. 14, 15, 16, and Sept. 24, 25, 26; other three nights of each week Vacant at Empire Theatre, Southend. Also Sept. 28 (3 nights), and Various Dates, October, onwards. Apply, G. Hayes, Pier, Eastbourne.

THEATRE ROYAL,
STOCKPORT.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Company, for Dec. 14.
Address, Charles Revill, Stockport.

OPERA HOUSE, JERSEY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for one or two remaining Autumn Dates.
Edward Marris, Opera House, Jersey.

WANTED, for Nov. 2, and possibly Sept. 7; really High-class and Strong Attractions. Silence a polite negative. Thos. Courtice,
Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Companies, Oct. 12 (Musical Comedy), 19th, Drama; also Vacant, Nov. 9 and 16. Apply, Sherwood and Co.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies.
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH,
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only entertained.
Vacant Aug. 31, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2,
onward with exceptions

All communications re dates,
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Sept. 14, Oct. 5, 12, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Sept. 21, Nov. 9, Dec. 21,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant Dec. 7, 21, 28, April 5,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant April 12, May 31,
onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 7,
onward, with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c.

Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attractions,
Vacant, Oct. 12, Nov. 2,
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and
Spring Dates.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, High-class Musical and other London Attractions,
Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, and later dates.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE,
No Vacant Dates.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Good-class Attractions, Aug. 31, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 9. Certainty if desired.
Also Wanted, Good Pantomimes.
Re Dates,
Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for
Aug. 31, Oct. 5 and 12, Nov. 2, on,
with exceptions.
Applications for dates to Hugh Robertson,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies,
NEW THEATRE ROYAL,
BLYTH-BY-SEA.
Vacant Dates:
1908, Dec. 14, only date this year.
1909, Feb. 22, onwards, with exceptions.
EDEN THEATRE, BISHOP AUCKLAND.
Vacant Dates:—
1908, Sept. 14 and 21, Oct. 26, and Nov. 16.
1909, April 5, onwards, with exceptions.
The above Theatres are now booked in conjunction.
First-class Companies, Musical and Dramatic, are invited to correspond with
A. C. Moody, Lessee and Manager, Blyth; or
J. Huntley, Manager, Bishop Auckland.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions, Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 10, holding capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c.
Address, J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

THEATRE ROYAL, RYDE.
WANTED, First class Attraction, Aug. 24 (three nights), one of best season dates, Musical Comedy preferred.
Apply to C. Constant, as above.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dramatic, Musical Comedies, or Combinations, Sept. 7, 21, and 28, Nov. 2, on, with few exceptions; Xmas Vacant. 7 nights (strong attraction). Particulars, dates, and terms, Tom Barger.

WANTED, Good Musical or Dramatic Attractions, Aug. 24, Sept. 14, onwards, with exceptions. R. S. Kendall, Queen's T., Keighley.

COURT THEATRE, GALWAY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Variety Combinations, Singing Pictures, or any Genuine Attractions, Sept., and onwards, with exceptions. Please wire, or address, O'Shaughnessy, Galway.

WANTED, Company, for Theatre Royal, Bilston, Monday next. Printing must be ready. Wire, Battersby, T. R., Bilston.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, good Companies. Sept. 3, 10, 17.
A. D. Vernon.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
WANTED, good Company, Sept. 14, unexpectedly vacant. Wire, Macdona.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Drama, Variety, Musical and Farcical Comedies, Aug. 17, Sept. 14, on. W. E. Potts, Opera House, Dunfermline.

THEATRE ROYAL, DEWSBURY.
WANTED, First-class Company, Aug. 24, suddenly Vacant to oblige a Manager.
Otto C. Culling, Theatre Royal, Bury.

WANTED, First-class Company, Perth Theatre, for Race Week and Autumn Holiday, Sept. 21, Musical or Light Comedy preferred. Address J. H. Savile, Paisley Theatre.

WANTED, good Companies, Oct. 5, 19, Bilston; Aug. 24 31, Wednesbury. Address, Harry Battersby, T. R., Bilston.

WANTED, Companies, now and on, Drama or Musical.
James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Dramatic Attraction, Aug. 24.
Harris Finebero,
Star, Liverpool.

NEW ROYAL THEATRE, KING'S LYNN.
Lessee and Manager, B. Pareezer.
WANTED, good Attraction, Sept. 7 or 10 (three nights), through transfer; also Oct. 1, 5, 12 (three nights).

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, BOLTON.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
Oct. 19, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, Jan. 25 (Panto),
Feb. 1, March 15, 29.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
for Sept. 14 and 21.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st S.W.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Musical Comedies, and High-class Plays.
Oct. 19, 26, Dec. 28,
Jan. 4, 10, Feb. 1. Apply to
James Kiernan, Owner and Manager.

GLOBE THEATRE, ROYAL MARINES, DEAL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
Nov. 5, on (last three nights of each week).
Apply, Manager.

WANTED, good Companies for Treherbert and Maesteg Theatres. Treherbert six nights, Sept. 14 and Oct. 12, Dec. 7 and 14; Maesteg three nights, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 29, Dec. 7 and 14. Applications to C. W. Poole, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Preston, First-class Attraction, for Sept. 14, only vacant date this year. Address, Stephen Pritt.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, Oct. 5, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, Feb. 1, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant Aug. 31, April 19, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant Nov. 16, March 22, April 5, 12, May 10, 17, and 24. Re opening, Sept. 28, extra strong Attractions Wanted, Musical Comedy preferred.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
Moss' Empires, Limited,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.
The leading Theatre of the town and district.
WANTED, Known, vacant through transfers, Sept. 7, 28, Oct. 5, and a few onward.
Future Bookings include: "The Thief," "A White Man," "Diana of Dobson's," "Jack Straw," "Mrs. Dot," "Lady Frederick," "Brewster's Millions," "With Edged Tools," and the leading Musical Comedies. Apply, Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., BARROW.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating Capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best equipped, and most handsome Theatres in the Provinces.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Nov. 16.
Will guarantee anything really big.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
Bookings include:—"The Merry Widow,"
No. 1 Moody-Manners Opera Company,
Mr. Martin Harvey,
Mrs. Brown Potter, "Lady Frederick,"
Mr. George Alexander, "The Thief."
"Merrie England," "A White Man,"
"Mrs. Ponderbury's Past," "The Sins of Society,"
J. F. Elliston's Grand Xmas Production,
"Humpty Dumpty," &c.
All communications, Jno. Ed. Jowsey,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet." Telephones, 413, 426, 500.

WATERLOO HALL THEATRE, WHITBY.
Lessee and Manager, Julian Bainbridge. Centrally situated; electric light throughout; second year of present management.
WANTED, Companies, Aug. 24 (Regatta week), Aug. 31, and various on.

BASINGSTOKE.—CORN HALL.
WANTED, Companies. Finest Hall in North Hampshire, now thoroughly restoring by Town Council, also decorating and re-seating, ready for re-opening, Aug. 31. Moderate rental or shares. S. Walford, Lessee.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, Feb. 8 (North).
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 5, 12, Jan. 4, 11.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 21, Jan. 18, 25.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Nov. 23, 30.
Fredk. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov. 2, 16, and Xmas.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatre, Sept. 21, Nov. 9, 23, and Xmas.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 14, 28, Jan. 4.
Douglas Bruce, Theatre Royal, Halifax.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 16, onwards.
Andrew Melville, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5, 26.
Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 11.
Charles Harrington,
Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, weeks of Sept. 21 and 28, to precede Theatre Royal, Dublin, for this Phenomenal Success, which, on its last visit to the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, played to £717 on the week.
A Powerful London Company, including the Celebrated Actress, Miss Laura Hansen, as Lady Isabel.
Wire or write immediately to
W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Oct. 5, 12, 26.
All communications, J. W. Cordiner,
Aug. 17, Fulham Theatre, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, South, for Nov. 2, "CHINESE HONEYMOON,"
and
"BELLE OF MAYFAIR," Oct. 26.
Apply, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9 16.
Xmas week, 7 nights also Spring, Farewell Tours. Address, 26, Southampton-street, Strand, London.

Mr. BRANDON THOMAS'S COMPANIES.
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Nov. 9 and 30,
Sept. 28, Nov. 9 and 30.
Address, Cecil Barth, Theatre Royal, Bradford.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9, 16.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 30.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Sept. 14, 21, Nov. 16, 23, 30.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 2, 9, 16, Dec. 7.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15 (?).
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

THE MONCKTON HOFFE COMEDY CO.,
in
"IRENE WYCHERLEY,"
"IRENE WYCHERLEY,"
"IRENE WYCHERLEY,"
"IRENE WYCHERLEY,"
by
Anthony P. Wharton.
By Arrangement with
Miss Lena Ashwell.

This famous Kingsway Theatre Success was witnessed by
His Majesty the King.
H.M. Queen of Norway.
Prince and Princess of Wales.
Princess Royal and Duke of Fife.
Duke and Duchess of Connaught.
Duchess of Albany.
Princess Louise of Schleswig-Holstein (twice).

The most complete production on Tour.
Miss Maude Henderson,
Mr. Charles Garry,
and a Special Company.
Mr. Hoffe has secured all the magnificent scenery that was used by Miss Ashwell. A special feature will be made made of the ladies' gowns, which will be of a most elaborate nature, and nothing, in fact, that money can buy will be omitted from this important production.
Pictorial Printing by Messrs. David Allen, John Waddington and Son, and Messrs. Eley and Starkey.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
For remaining Autumn Dates,
and upon all matters,
Address,
Monckton Hoffe,
4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Sept. 14 and 28.
"THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD,"
A Fine New Domestic Play, full of Human and Child Interest. Few Autumn Dates Vacant.
Aug. 17, T. R., Birkenhead.

MISS MARY NEIL and MR. GEORGE KIRK'S COMPANIES.
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, for either Play. Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 28. Now booking Spring, '09.
Coms., George Kirk,
Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Nov. 9, 16,
Dec. 21, 28,
Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25,
Feb. 1, 8, on.

Aug. 17, T. R., Barnsley.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 7, 21, Nov. 9 and 16, Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, 25, onwards for the above Attraction.
Address, Armadale and Warren,
Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 9, 30.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 19, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 25, Nov. 16.
Fred Bulmer, Theatre Royal, Blyth.

"IN THE RANKS."
Powerful Company.
New Plant of Printing by David Allen.
Entirely New Scenery and Effects.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Oct. 12, Xmas, and Spring.
Beresford Whitcomb, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

By Arrangement with
Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore.
"CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE."
WANTED, Sept. 14 (North), Sept. 24 (three nights, to follow Buxton), Sept. 28, Oct. 12 and 19 (three nights, to precede Harrogate).

Miss Nora Carton,
Grand, Hull; Monday, Shakespeare, Liverpool.

HARRY NICHOLLS
(Drury Lane, Adelphi, &c.),
with own Company and Entire Production, in Romantic Costume Play, entitled
"IF WE ONLY KNEW."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, Nov. 2.
Rupert Cottage, Bedford Park, W.

"FLORODORA."
"FLORODORA."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Oct. 5, Nov. 2.
"BLUEBEARD" PANTO.
Wanted, good Theatres, where good money can be taken, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 22, onwards.
"ALADDIN" PANTO.
Production at Theatre Royal, Bolton, Boxing Day and four following weeks. Wanted, big No. 1 Theatres only, Feb. 1, 8, to follow Bolton.
Re dates for above, apply to
C. Constant, Theatre Royal, Ryde.

"BEAU BROCADE."

The New Romantic Play by Baroness Orczy and Montague Barstow,
Authors of
"THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL."

WANTED, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, 23, 30.

First-class Theatres Only Entertained.

Apply, Augustus Bingham,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, London, S.W.

"MERELY MARY ANN."
From the Duke of York's Theatre.

WANTED, Sept. 21 and 28, Wanted.

H. Greville, Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

Mr. MONCKTON HOFFE'S COMPANY,
in
"IRENE WYCHERLEY"
(by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell).
Special Company in this Famous Kingsway Theatre Success.
Elaborate scenery carried.
WANTED, First-class Theatres Only, Sept. 28, and one or two later weeks.
Address, M. Hoffe, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi W.

"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."
Mr. LIONEL RIGNOLD and
ADA BLANCHE'S CO.
WANTED, Theatres, three nights, Sept. 3, 4, and 5th (Midlands), Oct. 26 (South).
Address, Lionel Rignold, Lyceum T., Edinburgh.

WANTED, for "Fraud," "The Youngest of Three," and "Sir George of Almacks," Aug. 27 (3), Oct. 22 (3), 26 (to precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 (to precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. Wyn Weaver, T. R., Preston.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.

"BABES IN THE WOOD."
The Record Breaker.
Vacant Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
WANTED, First-class Theatre,
Vacant Jan. 4, 11, 18.
"ALADDIN."
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1.
Managers Note.
These Productions are perfect in every detail. Beautifully Mounted and Dressed. Company of "Star" Artists, Specialities, Dancers, and Full Chorus.
Re Dates, FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."
WANTED, for this Elaborate Revival, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, and later.
Playing to Big Business everywhere.
Refer,
H. J. Curry, Esq., P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.
R. S. Elder, Esq., Metropole T., Gateshead.
Hugh Robertson, Esq., T. R., Jarrow.
H. Esden, Esq., Theatre Royal, Sunderland.
W. Forsdike, Esq., Alex. T., Sheffield.
Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff, Prince's T., Preston.
"THE BETTER LAND."
The Greatest Domestic Drama of the Day.
Produced at the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, July 22.
An Emphatic Success.
Wanted, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26, and later dates.
Every Scene and Property carried.
Company of Star Artists.
Re Dates,
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Good Theatres, Sept. 14 and 28, to Precede and Follow Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield (third visit), for the Acknowledged Success, "A GAMBLER'S DAUGHTER." Now in Fourth Year of Tour. Wire to-day, HILL and AYRTON, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow; or, write, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
Phenomenal Success at The Playhouse.
WANTED, Nov. 2, Dec. 26 (7 nights), Feb. 1, 15, various, onwards.
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS" and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, 28, near London; Nov. 9, 16, London or South Coast.
HORACE STANLEY, Metropole, Devonport.

"THE GENTLEMAN JOCKEY."
WANTED, Feb. 22 and one or two later dates, for above successful Musical Play.
EDWARD MARRIS, Opera House, Jersey.

Grand Production of "CONVICT 99."
WANTED, Autumn Dates, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 23 (North), 30, and on.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
The following Dates Vacant for this Enormous Success: Oct. 12 and onwards.
Apply, Manager, ALFRED H. GRAHAME, Aug. 17, Theatre Royal, Aston.

MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
"THE FLOWER GIRL."
The Musical Comedy success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical comedy at its brightest.
WANTED, all Oct., to precede return visits to Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and dates onward. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Theatre Royal, Rochdale. Letters to Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham. See Companies Column.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for "Mason" Chief Company, Sept. 14, 15, 16. Oct. 5, 12, 19. Nov. 2, 9, 16; "Popple" West End Production, Oct. 12 (?), 26 (?), Nov. 16, 23. CHAS. MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Really Good Theatres,
Sept. 7,
Oct. 5,
Oct. 26,
Dec. 28.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-Class Musical Attractions,
Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26,
Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26,
Vacant to oblige Mr. Macdona.
JAMES BELL.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Sept. 21, Oct. 5, and on.
Address, C. M. JULIAN, R. T., Morecambe.

WANTED, Nov. 2, 16, and Xmas, for Corri's "Dandy Fifth," up-to-date. Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11, 18. Feb. 8, March 15 and 29.
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

"A PRINCE OF ROGUES."
WANTED, Sept. 7, for this Success. SIDNEY DENCH, T. R., Ilkeston; next, T. R., Stockport.

"THE LOVE OF THE PRINCESS," by C. Watson-Mill.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19 (?), Feb. 1, '09.
Address, T. E. WARD, Star T., Swansea.

"SECOND TO NONE." by Walter Howard.
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 25 (?), Feb. 1, 8, and Easter. Add., T. E. WARD, Star T. Swansea.

A. CLIFTON ALDERSON and CO.
in
"THE COAL KING."
WANTED, Theatres. Only Vacant Dates, Oct. 26 and Xmas, 1908. March 22, April 5, 12, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, Dec. 13. One of the Best Combinations Touring. A Big Money-maker. Court Theatre, Wigan

TAYLOR PLATT and TREVOR LOWE'S CO., in Bernard Shaw's Great Comedy, "YOU NEVER CAN TELL."
WANTED, Oct. 22, 23, 24 (three nights), Nov. 4, 5, 6 (three nights).
Autumn Dates include Bath, Exeter, Swansea, Cheltenham, Newport, &c.
Address, TAYLOR PLATT, Prince's T., Llandudno.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Sept. 7 and 14, only dates till Xmas.
OSMOND, T. R., Wednesbury.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS." "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE," by Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Dates, "The Power of the Cross," Sept. 28 and Nov. 2 (Lancs. or Mid.); this, Aberdeen; next, Dundee. "A Fight for a Throne," Wanted, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 (to oblige Stanley Rogers), Sept. 28 and Oct. 5 (Lancs., Yorks., or North), this, P. O. W., Grimsby; next, Birmingham. Re dates, both Plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
Acknowledged the Best Domestic Drama.
WANTED, Oct. 12, 19, 26.
HARRY TILBURY, this, Auckland; next, Perth.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Nov. 16 and 30, to precede and follow West Bromwich.
DICKIE CLARE, Queen's, Farnworth (return).

EDWARD MARRIS' "DICK WHITTINGTON."
WANTED, to oblige a Manager, Jan. 18, for above First-class Production, including The Waldrons.
EDWARD MARRIS, Opera House, Jersey.

WANTED, for the Enormously Successful Musical Absurdity, "The Gay Deceivers." First-class Theatres Only, Sept. 28. Oct. 5. FRANK STANMORE, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Splendid cast engaged.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN" and "NANA," the Rage of Paris.
WANTED, Sept. 21 and Dec. 7, various Spring Dates.

Programme for Aug.
Aug. 3, T. R., Belfast, Re-opening (return).
Aug. 10, O. H., Perth, Re-opening.
Aug. 17, Paisley Theatre, Re-opening.
Aug. 24, Princess's T., Glasgow (return).
Aug. 31, T. R., Dumfries, Re-opening.
Sept. 3, New T., Hawick, Re-opening.

The Belfast Press.
Glows and scintillates with passionate sentiment. The mystic effects are worthy of extra attention, but we may safely say that every character in the play is finely portrayed.—News Letter, Aug. 4.

Admirably presented by Miss Loie Esmond's company, under the direction of Mr. Edward Neville. This fine actor plays the central figure of Prince Lucio Rimanez. He is at his best in the scene with Lady Sybil in the third act. Miss Rosie Neville makes a good deal out of a difficult and intense part. She, too, is best in the scene already referred to, in which she displays considerable force. . . . Miss Esmond as the American railroad magnate's daughter is refreshingly downright, and emphatic. . . . The piece is well staged and mounted.—Northern Whig, Aug. 4.

The Theatre Royal was reopened last night, when a large holiday audience was provided with one of the best plays ever staged. "The Sorrows of Satan," which is finely presented by Miss Esmond's company, has lost none of its charm. It is brimful of excitement, interspersed with glimpses of fun and humour, that adds greatly to the pleasure of the audience. The whole company is of all-round excellence, and they treat in a masterly manner a subject requiring much ability.—Echo, Aug. 4.

Upon the bookings the management must be heartily complimented. . . . Mr. Neville has a fine sense of satanic dignity and command, borne out by gesture and pose; he gives emphasis to the grim and grisly humour of Mephisto in evening dress, and his elocution makes every word audible and significant. Miss Rosie Neville gets right into the heart of Lady Sybil Elton.—Telegraph, Aug. 4.

LOIE ESMOND, Paisley T., Paisley.

"MAN TO MAN."
By arrangement with W. Bourne,
Under the direction of
Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.
WANTED, Sept. 14, Oct. 5, 12.
FRANK ADAIR, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S COMPANIES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
Vacant only Dec. 28, May 17, 31.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Thanks Messrs. Wm. Morton, G. W. Boughton, G. S. King, W. Coutts, G. Culeen, S. Spencer, D. C. Phelps, Sam Fredericks, &c., for Contracts.
Vacant Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 8.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
Vacant June 21, precede Bradford.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Gorgeous Revival; Co. of 15; Troupe of Dancers. Thanks Messrs. Wm. Morton, G. W. Boughton, Ch. Trenchard, Geo. S. King for Contracts.
WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 25. N.B.—Contracts in hand to be fulfilled for the above Attractions number 94. Wires, BYKER; letters, Royal, Sunderland.

WANTED, Theatre, Christmas, for Production of "Cinderella" Pantomime, beautiful scenery, gorgeous dresses, splendid company. Address, Box 6,857, "The Era."

WANTED, the very best Theatres, &c., for my Star Combination, eleven years of Tour and still on the top. ALONZO and ALBERTA ATHLETES, 3, Longley-street, Oldham.

WANTED, Good Theatres for Fabbio's Singing Pictures and Variety Co. Several vacant dates. Particulars, FRED HARTLEY, Borough T., Stratford, E.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"THE BETTER LAND."
WANTED, Artists: First-class Emotional Leading Lady, young, good appearance; Heavy Lady, Leading Man, Comedian, Chambermaid, and good Responsibles; also clever Boy Actor (over 14), rehearse Sept. 14. Address, with full particulars, references, photos., and, if possible, where can be seen playing, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool. N.B.—Mark envelopes "Better Land."

WANTED, good Leading Man, Heavy Man, Robust Comedian Utility, Juvenile Leading Lady, Chambermaid. Photographs, terms (touring), ANDREW MELVILLE, Metropole T., Birmingham.

WANTED, for the Elster-Grime Opera Co., Principal Tenor, Prima-donna, and Contralto, long engagement to suitable people. Send lowest terms, répertoire.
Box 6,861, "The Era" Office.

"WHEN OTHER LIPS."
WANTED, First-class Heavy Lady and Gentleman, also good Comedian. T. ARTHUR JONES, 32, Wightman-road, Finsbury Park, N.

NEVILLE AND CARNABY'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Leading Lady for Josephine part; also Responsibles capable of Lines; also Carpenter, good Baggage. Metropole, Abertillery.

WANTED, First-class Leading Lady, special fortnight; must have power, and capable of comedy. Full particulars, MILLAR ANDERSON, Theatre, Lincoln.

WANTED Juvenile Lady, Aristocratic Old Man, and Comedian. Sketches.
MACKAY, 26, Agate-road, W.

WANTED, experienced refined Juvenile Lady; tall, good figure, for several Special Weeks of West-End Comedies. Terms and fullest particulars to Box 6,868, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady for Small Part and Walk On; West End Play; good wardrobe and appearance essential. Terms, photos., Box 6,867, "The Era."

WANTED, tall Gentleman, to play Responsible Parts; also Lady and Gentleman to understudy and play small Parts, in Mr. N. V. Norman's Répertoire Company. Knightstone Pavilion, Weston super-Mare.

WANTED, a Juvenile Gentleman; must dress well. Photo., terms, experience, full particulars, or no notice taken. CHARLES HARRINGTON, Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

WANTED, Smart Young Actor, for Character, Musical Comedy.
LEVY, Pavilion, Chorlton, Manchester.

"A HEART'S DESIRE."
WANTED, small Light Comedian, for Boy's Part. Send lowest terms for long tour, age, height, and references (which will be applied for), to ELLIMAN, 2, Cross-street, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED for Shakespearean Répertoire, Comedian (Sir Toby, &c.), also Responsible Gentleman. Photo and lowest terms to Miss GLOSSOP-HARRIS, 9E, Hyde Park-mansions, W.

WANTED, Dutch Comedian, Musical Comedy. Will Harry Leander Write?
LEVY, Pavilion, Chorlton, Manchester.

WANTED, Child Actress, to play Boy in Sketch, age 14, must be small.
Apply,
32, Prince's street, Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED, Lady and Gent, for Small Parts and Understudy; lady's dresses found. Photos., refs., and full particulars, to GEORGE KIRK, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

WANTED, Gentleman and Two Ladies, Amateurs, for short tour of West End play, no premium. Small Salary. Particulars, &c., to Box 6,853, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, The Carl Rosa Opera Co has Vacancies for one First Bass Chorister and Second Bassoon (normal diapason). Apply (letters only), Mr. VAN NOORDEN, 14, Wrotham-road, Camden Town, N.W.

To Salomé Dancers.
WANTED, good Dancer, tall, graceful, and young, for tour. Full particulars, lowest salary, photo. (if any), to WILLIAMS, Lyceum, Sheffield, till Aug. 18; then, T. R., Manchester.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"THE PIXIES' REVEL."
Sole Owner, M. KYRIAN-DELLAR.
WANTED, immediately, experienced Child (about fourteen years of age), Ballet Dancer, to complete Quartette for Continental Tour.
Not over 4ft. 3in. Good Salary.
Certificated Nurse Travels as Matron.
Particulars, "PIXIES," Poste Restante, Dieppe.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GREN-FELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bbdford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription 6d. weekly; yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady, tall, smart, in Drama, Comedy (small part), or assist in Sketch (Musical). A., 9, Kenton-street, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement by Young Versatile Actress, in Sketch or good Troupe; many years Leading Lady with First-class London Company; Disengaged Aug. 17. Box 6,831, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Young Lady, trained at Academy of Dramatic Art (Gower-st.), would accept quite a small salary and part (not musical piece) for the sake of experience. Address, H. C., 4, Overcliff, Gravesend.

WANTED, Known, two Musicians (Ladies), Mandolinist, 'Cellist, Comediennes, Singers, Dancer, Entertainers, have two weeks free, from Aug. 22, for Seaside Concert Party, Orchestra, Hotels. 12, West Hill-road, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contralto, experienced; very large Répertoire; can play Piano. Address, MARJORIE IRVINE, c/o Mrs. Lavender, Brent-street, Hendon, N.W.

FANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, for various Pantomimes, Artists in all Lines. Send full particulars and where can be seen working, to FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Conductors, Comedian, for Pantomimes.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, for Panto., tall smart Ladies, for Chorus and Dancers. LOUIS DE REEDER'S Agency, 24, Buckingham-st., Strand.

WANTED, Choristers, for Panto., Birmingham and Liverpool.
Apply,
after 12 Wednesday next,
GUY JONES, 119, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, good Troupe of Dancers, also Chorus Ladies.
Send photo., height, age, references, and terms, CAVILL'S Agency,
108, Strand, London, W.C.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Nellie Cross, Dis. Panto., Principal Dancer, Ballet Mistress, and Troupe. Address, 8, Bishop-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, Bert Gordon, Patter Comedian, Vacant for Pantomime. This and next week, Catlin's Royal Pierrots, Walton-on-Naze.

WANTED, Known, Fred Sherger, now in ninth week of success at Pavilion, Portrush. Panto offers invited.

WANTED, Offers for Panto., Stuart and Evans, Refined Comedians.
This, Empire, York; next, Bedford and Standard.
3, Saltoun-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Denby and Dent, Comedians; thoroughly experienced.
Monday, Alhambra Theatre, Morecambe.

WANTED, Known, The Two Walonells, Eccentric Gymnasts, at Liberty for Panto., for Paris and Speciality. This week, Hip., Paisley; next week, Hip., Hamilton.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

Scenic Artist
WANTED First-class Man Required
Only those who are qualified by training to do the finest class of work need apply. Apply, Box 6,848, "The Era."

WANTED, Scenic Artist, for Permanent Position. Apply by letter, JOHN TILLER, 15, Lime-grove, Oxford-street, Manchester.

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Age, references, lowest terms,
L. J. BEARD, Grand Theatre, Luton.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for High-class, Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Contracts, Scenery, Properties, Pantomime, or Productions, good work. Reasonable prices. J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Known, for Effective Scenery, &c., at absolute lowest, write WM. B. BOSTOCK, Scenic Studio, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester. Established 1894.

WANTED, Engagement or Contract, by DAVIES MASSEY,
Scenic Artist,
4, Princess May-rd., Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, by L. Gleyde, First-class Scenic Artist, Engagement, or Contracts; Town or Provinces. 7, Esmond-road, Bedford Park, W.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, an Energetic Resident-Manager, for small Provincial Music Hall, Pictures, and Varieties, twice nightly; must be thoroughly experienced and competent; Vocalist, able to Lecture preferred; steady, educated man, good at bill matter, and pushing advertising. Reference required through guarantee society. Write fully, stating experience, age, salary, &c., Box 6,839, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Experienced Manager for Pavilion (Al Fresco), Highest References. State full particulars, LEVY, Victoria Hall, Withington, Manchester.

MISCELLANEOUS.

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Wanted, for above,
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General-Manager.
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Apply,
with full particulars
as to
qualifications
and salary required,
to
H. LEWIS, Theatre Royal, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Birmingham and Picture Tours, Active and Reliable Assistant-Managers; also young Gentleman, to act as Secretary; must give guarantee if required. Age, salary, references (which will be enquired into), and particulars of experience in first letter. No interviews except by appointment. Apply, WALLER JEFFS, Curzon Hall Offices, Birmingham.

WANTED, Practical Stage-Manager and Electrician, for Variety Theatre near Liverpool. State age, reference, wages required.
Box 6,841, "The Era."

WANTED, Gentleman, as Assistant Business-Manager; must be energetic and courteous, and find cash security. NORMAN V. NORMAN, Knightstone Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, for a Premier Fully-licensed Theatre, Gentleman as Secretary and Treasurer, £250 cash to be paid down by way of security.
All particulars,
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WANTED, an Electrician, for a Provincial Music Hall; must be thoroughly experienced as an Electrician, and also a good Cinematograph Operator. State full particulars of qualification and salary required to Box 6,847, "Era" Office.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, First-class Practical Carpenter, with own tools, to combine Baggage and play small parts; must be steady and good worker. Terms, references, MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, good Carpenter, combine Billing; also Scenic Artist, combine Carpenter; Property Man, combine Billing. Full particulars, last two references, lowest wages, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Assistant Carpenter; also Baggage and Property Man.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 415, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Billposter, one capable of taking charge of a branch if necessary. First-class references essential. Apply, ROCKLEY'S, LTD., Talbot-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, to Touring Manageress, Lady of Refinement and Education, good address, and with some years' Touring Experience, wishes Situation with Actress Touring Own Company. Useful any business capacity; secretarial; play parts, &c.
Address, No. K109, Keith and Co:, 43, George-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, as Acting or Resident-Manager; young, smart, energetic; thoroughly experienced Dramatic and Variety; expert Accountancy, Advertising, Bars, &c. Highest references. Box 6,863, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Young Gent. wants Permanent Situation in Music Hall Business; will pay good premium for good berth; 26 years; smart appearance. Apply, with full particulars, 2, Freehold-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Harry Hammond, Working Agent, at Liberty; a life's practical hustling show experience, uses brush, sticks, brains, and not afraid of work; just concluded eight comfortable months' Messrs. Andrews' Pictures. 58, Union-street, Stonehouse.

WANTED, Engagement as Agent for Ireland or England, or would go abroad. References of Capt. Frederick Lewis or Mr. James Doyle. A. WRINGBAK, c/o. Buff. Bill's Circus, Maryborough, Ireland.

WANTED, by Electrician, permanent Engagement, Theatrical and Workshop experience; competent. H. W. L., 12, Varden-st., New-rd., Whitechapel, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Property Master and Maker in the Provinces; 20 years' good reference, Theatre Royal, Brighton. E. BRIDGER, 9, Ashford-road, Preston Drove, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Bill-poster, young man, requires Situation as such; good refs. Apply, S. VERRELL, 2, Saxon-road, Bromley, Kent.

WANTED, Situation, as Billposter; thoroughly experienced; good reference. Write particulars to J. STEELE, 10, Beach-road, Gorleston.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, age 24, requires Situation; competent Dark-room hand, Operating, Printing, and Developing; 2 years' experience. CINEMATOGRAPH B., 31, Knowsley-road, Battersea.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

MUSICAL-DIRECTOR.
WANTED, to conduct big Music Hall Act, England and the Continent; must have excellent appearance and be good composer. I want a live man who can conduct with brilliancy and skill. Send photo if possible (will be returned), state lowest salary and references; open immediately. Address, SEARS, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

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WANTED, thoroughly competent Musical-Director, used to Variety, to commence Aug. 31. Lowest terms and references to C. W. POOLE, Palace, Gloucester.

WHITE STAR MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE.
WANTED, First-class Leader and Solo Violinist, Aug. 19 till Dec. 25; First-class Leader and Solo Violinist; also 'Cellist, Sept. 5 until end March or early April, 1909; vacancies for Violinists, Pianists, 'Cellists, and Contrabassists, for Cunard and White Star Lines Winter Services, Oct. to end of March next. Audition in London or Liverpool necessary before engagement. Applicants state age, experience, and give names and addresses of two references as to character to CHARLES WM. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Leader, for Cardiff Empire. Address, stating age, experience, and salary required, to ORCHESTRAL DEPT., Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class First Violinist and Clarionet, to open Monday; must be well up in Varieties. HARRY HINCHCLIFFE, Hippo., Darlington.

WANTED, for Theatre, Scarboro', for three weeks, beginning 23rd, inst., good Orchestral Violin, Viola, and Clarionet, view of Tour or Town Engagement. Apply, with references, to H., 36, Oxford-street, Scarborough.

WANTED, First Violin, to open Monday next; must be powerful, and thoroughly experienced. Permanency. Wire, GEO. CLOUGH, Conductor, Hippodrome, Coventry.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD.
LYCEUM, and T. R., EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Solo Cornet; good Violinists may also write in. State terms, references, age, &c., GEORGE BURNLEY, Musical-Director.

THEATRE ROYAL, MIDDLESBROUGH.
WANTED, a First-class Solo Cornet Player, To Open Monday, Aug. 24.
Lowest Terms and Last Two References to, J. CHAS. IMESON.

WANTED, good Cornet Player, to do Billing and be useful. Permanency. Open at once. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, for Town Band, Solo Cornet, Clarionet, and Drums. Terms, shares. Permanent for good men. GIFFORD, 4, Richmond-avenue, High-street, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, for Sedgwick Menagerie, Solo Cornet; join at once. Terms, 30s. per week. Cranbrook, Sat.; Hawkhurst, Mon.; Rye, Tues.; Sussex.

WANTED, at once, good Solo Cornet, for small Military Band, three weeks.
BELLERBY, Deneholme, Ilkley.

WANTED, to open at once, good reliable Solo Cornet, must be competent. Apply, with latest references, to MUS. DIR., H. M. T., Aberdeen.

WANTED, for Tour, Smart Young Cornet Player, Tall.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 415, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Deputy Clarionet, Variety, Bolton, from Aug. 24 or 31 until Sept. 12.; refs. and last engagement. 5, Richmond-grove, Douglas.

WANTED, Solo Clarionet and Flute Players, for The Palace, Reading, only First-class players entertained. Apply, AUGUSTUS GRECO, Musical-Director.

C. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, Bass, Flute, Cornet, and Drums, to open Luton, Aug. 31; wear evening dress, assist with fittings when travelling. MORRELL, Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

WANTED, Bass Player, to open Monday first, Aug. 17, Variety, twice nightly. Wire lowest terms, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Double Bass Player, join Aug. 17, at Drogheda; evening dress and assist; 30s. BESCOBY, H. and F. Poole's Myriorama, T. H., Dundalk.

WANTED, Trombone Player and Drummer with Effects, must be used to Variety business; two houses nightly; open next Monday. POOLE, Tivoli, Pentre, Rhondda Valley.

WANTED, First-class Trombone, for Variety. Send refs. and experience, McMILLAN, Hippo., Oldham.

WANTED, Harpist or Pianist, one willing to assist in Restaurant; good home at once. Apply, Dieudonne House, Kew Green, Kew.

EMPIRE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, to open at Once, must have first-class references, and be thoroughly used to Variety business. Apply, stating terms, to R. THORNTON.

ROYALTY THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, open Mon., Aug. 24; must have first-class refs. Lowest terms, HUGH ROBERTSON.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, Pianist, for above; must be used to Variety. Open Aug. 24. State lowest first letter. References and full particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Parade, Bridlington.

WANTED, for Palace, Kilmarnock, to commence Aug. 31, Pianist, First Violin, Bass, Cornet, Drums with Effects. Apply, with copy of last two references, to J. CUMMINGS, 97, Whitevale-street, Dennistoun, Glasgow.

WANTED, Pianist (Orchestral and Accompanist), Violin and Cornet, for Touring Entertainment; only experienced and sober men apply; long Tour. MANAGER, Japanese City, Victoria Hall, Campbeltown, Argyllshire.

WANTED, three Young Ladies, Pianist, Violin, 'Cello, for Sam Isaac's Fish Restaurant, King's Head Hotel, Margate. Write direct, terms, &c.

WANTED, for High-class Al-Fresco, First-class Pianist; used to MS. and one-line copies, to open Sunday, 23rd, for season. CROSS, The Park, Grays, Essex.

PALACE T. OF VARIETIES, GLOUCESTER.
WANTED, sound Pianist, used to Variety, to commence Aug. 31. Lowest terms to C. W. POOLE, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, Wanted, Double Drummer, for Opera House, Buxton, Aug. 17 to Oct. 3.
Wire, MUSICAL DIRECTOR.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Belfast, Drummer, with Effects, to Open immediately.
EDGAR HAINES, Conductor.

WANTED, Good Drummer, for Richmond Hippodrome. Commence at once. Apply, 52, Murray-road, South Ealing, W.

WANTED, Tenders for a Band of Eight Instrumentalists (including Conductor), by Committee Folkestone Amusements Association, to play in the Leas Shelter for six months, commencing Sept. 20 next. Tenders must state price per week for (a) one performance only (morning) and (b) two performances (morning and afternoon), daily (Sundays excepted), including the supply of music, musical instruments, and uniforms, proposed formation of Band, Conductor's references, and be addressed, FINN, Radnor-chambers, Folkestone, not later than Tuesday, Aug. 18. The Committee does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any Tender.

WANTED, Full Orchestra, good Musicians, evening dress, S.W. district. Concerts odd nights weekly during winter. Send terms per night, rép., permanent address, CONDUCTOR, 61, High-st., Collier's Wood, Merton, S.W. No callers.

WANTED, full Orchestra, for New Hippodrome, Devonport, to open Sept. 14; must be well up in Variety business. Apply, with age, terms, and references, to J. W. GLEGHORN, 5, Glenthorne-road, Roker, Sunderland.

WANTED, Band of Lady Musicians, to provide Concerts at an Exhibition to be held from Nov. 28 to Dec. 3. Apply, stating terms, to T. BARRASS, 13, Alfred-street, North-rd, Darlington.

WANTED, Musicians, Disengaged about September. Apply, J. MOODY, Musical-Director, Theatre Royal, Dublin.

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Wind Instrumentalists for a Fortnight at Clacton-on-Sea, commencing Sept. 18. Apply, stating salary, to Bandmaster, Weeley, R.S.O., Essex.

WANTED, for small Military Band, at Seaside, all instruments; must be good and thoroughly experienced in large journals.
Lowest terms and particulars.
Box 6,840, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, G. W. Schofield, Mus.-Dir. (Piano and Violin), at Liberty; experienced; good refs. Resident or Tour. Add., T. R., Glossop.

WANTED, Known, Bandmaster, abstainer, is open to teach String, Reed or Brass Bands, juvenile or adult. B. M., Ivydene, Chase Side, Enfield.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Conductor, Violinist, or Leader; 15 years' thorough experience; Opera, Dramatic, and Variety. Isaac Henderson, Oxford Palace, Middlesborough.

WANTED, immediate Engagement, as Conductor-Pianist or Pianist, Variety, Dramatic; excellent library; abstainer; highest references. 50, Algernon-street, Warrington.

WANTED, by Professional Musician, permanent Orchestral Engagement, Violin or Viola (preferably Viola), extensive répertoire of Orchestral Music. Address, J. W. Hird, 753, Bury-road, Breightmet, Bolton.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, as Leader or First Violin. Can open at once. Strictly sober and reliable. Box 6,851, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin; experienced player can Open at Once. Address, 11, Barclay-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, good Violin, combine Clarionet; splendid reference; sober and reliable; open any date. Apply, A. M., 23, Grant-road, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, Orchestral Engagement, as Second Violin; experienced, references; at Liberty. Apply, W. Jacobs, 32, Booth-street, London, E.

WANTED, by good Second Violinist, Re-engagement; good refs.; sober, reliable. E. W., 69, Culverden Park-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by good Violinist (First or Second). Refs., &c., Violinist, c/o Matimong, 110, Kensington Park-road, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, Theatre, Variety, and other experience; good references; age 30; abstainer; now Disengaged. Violinist, 3, Granville-street, Ipswich.

WANTED, by good Cornet, Engagement, any business; good refs. and reliable; at Liberty on the 15th. M. Harris, 24, Gill Bridge-avenue, Sunderland.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, Disengaged through cutting; reliable and experienced in all Lines; would finish Seaside Season. Clarinet, 21, Eversleigh-road, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, by Clarionet (Soloist), Engagement; permanent or otherwise; experienced in Variety and Operatic. W. Bond, 41, Lockhart-road, Preston.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, combine Viola; sober, steady, reliable, age 25; good testimonials. Geo. White, Ordnance Yard, Eastbourne.

WANTED by Clarionet, good and reliable Engagement, Theatre or otherwise; strictly sober; very good refs.; at Liberty. Box 6,850, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation as Clarionet, through disappointment, any business; would deputise. F. W. Butler, 117, Murray-road, South Ealing, London.

WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass, in or near London; would Deputise; well up in Variety, Theatres, Cafés, &c.; highest refs. Musician, 10, St. Andrew's-chambers, Wells-street, Oxford-street.

WANTED, Known, Bassoon, at Liberty through disappointment, any Business; good refs. Herring, 22, Nowell-parade, Harehills-lane, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Bass; long experience; Variety and Theatre; good references; open at once. J. Page, 70, Duncombe-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoon, thoroughly experienced; Variety business preferred.
Woods, 9, Leaf-street, Bolton.

WANTED, Engagement as Trombone, reliable, Variety business, Manchester preferred.
C. Bell, 77, Hallgate, Wigan.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombone.
Apply.
W. Smith, 116, Cemetery-road, Southport.

WANTED, Known, G Slide Trombone, Orchestral or Military; Open from September. Address, Dr Florac, c/o Mr. De Jong's Orchestra, Rhyl.

WANTED, Engagement, French Horn (Second), at Liberty about Sept. 15, in First-class Theatre, Concert Orchestra, or Military Band; wide experience and good testimonials; sober and reliable. Box 6,855, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Horn (French) disengaged Sept. 5, seeks re-engagement.
J. S., Band Stand, Littlehampton.

WANTED, Engagement, 'Cellist, thoroughly steady, reliable, excellent refs.; can open at once. Address, stating terms, F. Bardill, Palace Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, Violoncellist, Disengaged.
A. Flatau,
24, Linden-grove, Nunhead, S.E.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by good Viola Player, now at Lib.; varied experience. Refs., &c., J. R. Balfour, 47, Pembridge-road, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, Viola, to combine Bombardon, any business; young, experienced, and reliable; abstainer. Viola, 22, Wells-road, Bath.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Oboe; Disengaged Aug. 31; Theatre or Music Hall preferred. Wright, 16, Osborne-road, South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Oboe. Disengaged Aug. 22.
Webb, 50, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Aeneas Gibson, well-known Yorkshire Harpist and Pianist, at Liberty Sept. or Oct. Variety Company on Tour to Australia please write. Abroad preferred, or first-class steamship. Grecian or Gothic Harp. Gibson Bros., Music Sellers, Ilkley.

WANTED, Situation as Flute and Piccolo, Theatre, Hall, or Ball-room. Rayner, Central Pier, Morecambe. Perm. add., 78, South-st., Huddersfield.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement; experienced; abstainer; age 26; any distance. F. Pithers, 15, Parliament-st., Gloucester.

WANTED, Known, good Accompanist (Piano), at Liberty Aug., Sept., Gentleman. Only genuine offers. Address, M. S., 34, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Orchestral Engagement, by First-class Painist; experience all branches; lately touring abroad; £10 bonus for permanent position. Box 6,834, "The Era."

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, regular Engagement to Vocalist or First-class Concert Party; good references. Pianiste, Bushey Cottage, Hampton Hill.

WANTED, Engagement, by Smart Pianist; Picture and Variety experience. Apply, Twiss, 77, Fairfield-road, Buxton, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, through disappointment. Orch. or Self; exper. Var., Drama. N. R., 25, Main-street, Cadoxton, Barry.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, that
Madame Stockham's Ladies' Orchestra,
12 to 25 Solo Artists,
including
the Celebrated STOCKHAM HARP TRIO
and Vocalists, may be engaged for
Concerts, Exhibitions, Bazaars, &c.
Specially Engaged this week,
Crystal Palace, London.
Perm. add., The Grove, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, The Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, specially engaged Franco-British Exhibition. Good Cornet write in. Madame Wilton Davis, 42, Linton-street, London, N.

WANTED, Managers to Know that Herr Hintze's Roumanian Orchestra, now one of the Chief Attractions and Successes in Scarborough, is at Liberty on Sept. 13.
Apply to
Herr Hintze, New Hippo., Scarboro', Yorks.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WORLD'S FAIR, ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON. Open Dec. 24 till Feb. 6, 1909.
WANTED, for Above, Big Specialities, Combinations. Acrobatic Troupes, or any First-class Acts, suitable for Circus Ring. Apply, with full particulars and lowest terms, T. E. Read, as above. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, at Once, Circus People in all Lines, Comedy Acrobats, Boxer, and Knockabout Clowns, in fact any Comedy Acts. Write, state lowest terms, first letter, to Manager, 28, Clevedon-road, Balsall Heath, Birmingham. N.B.—Will purchase a Trampoline, 14ft. by 6ft., also Blondin Donkey.

WANTED, Useful People, also good Cinématograph, with change of Films. Very lowest terms. Stephenson's Circus, 53, The Rake, Bromborough, Cheshire.

WANTED, Young Man, able to do a few Tricks on Triple Bars and Knockabout. Terms, tricks, &c., Dick, Tivoli Theatre, Brierley Hill, Staffs.

WANTED, good Comedy Bar Performer; immediate work. State tricks, &c. Will Dick write? Box 6,843, "The Era."

WANTED, to join First-class Acrobats; good Bearer and Catcher. G. Graham, 11, Gatcombe-road, Tufnell Park, London.

WANTED, Cirque Pinder, France,
a few Good Grooms,
to commence at once.
Write or wire, Monday, Trouville;
Tuesday, Villars-sur-Mer;
Wed., Houlgate.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Sir Robert Fossett's Family of Equestrians are at Liberty to accept engagements for the Winter Season, together or separate. Recognised to be the Cleverest Family of Equestrian Riders in England, Comprises Single and Double Jockey Acts, Trick Acts, Haute Ecole, Scenic Acts (Ladies and Gentlemen), Performing Horses, Ponies, Elephants, Equilibrists, Clowns, &c.; in fact, everything in Circus profession. Can supply first-class circus entertainment of any number of artists. The finest talent procurable. All coms., Sir Robert Fossett, Fossett's Farm, Ravensthorpe, Northampton. N.B.—Nothing succeeds like success. The Fossett Family are a Sure Draw and a Success.

WANTED, Bumbles, the World's Musical Agouste, Talking Clown; good in Pantomime; an all-round Comedian; Liberty. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Bishop and Winkles, Clown and Agouste, Success, Hippodrome, Douglas, Isle of Man, with F. J. Connor, Esq. Business and Pleasure combined. All coms., Douglas Hippo., I.O.M., upon my word.

WANTED, Known, Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey, a Comic Act, Hippodrome, Aldershot. Complimented by Management: "You must come again." Vacant Aug. 17. Buer.

WANTED, Aug. 17 and 24, onwards, by Herman and Evelyn, Up-to-date Wire Act; also Cosselly, Acrobatic Tale Act. Apply to Franklin's Gardens, Northampton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
P'hone, 1626 Gerrard. Manager, Harry Lane. Representative, Corliss Claflin.
WANTED, Big Specialities and Variety Artists in all Lines.
Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys,
Principal Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts,
Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dancers.
All communications as above.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to Wm. Biggam, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

WANTED, Monday, Aug. 24, and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, any Line, except Vent.; good bottler. Open Aug. 24. State lowest. Le-Hurst, Pier, Colwyn Bay.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Pianist, for the 31st and on, new to Falkirk; twice nightly. Add., Silvester's Palace, Balbriggan, Ireland.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Sharing terms only. Alonzo and Alberta, Astonishing Athletes, 3, Longley-street, Oldham.

EMPIRE, YORK.
NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists. Nothing too big.
Apply, William Peacock, Theatre, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Aug. 24, and onwards. A. E. Pickard.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Variety Artists,
Variety Artists,
Big Specialities.
Big Specialities.
The Biggest
and Most Marvellous Acts in the Business,
for
Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Newcastle, Sheffield, Burnley, Oldham, Bolton, Barrow, Carlisle, Darlington, Middlesbrough, Dublin, Rotherham, Accrington, St. Helens, Aston, Derby, Attercliffe, Stoke, &c., &c., &c.
Send full list of bookings, lithos., and lowest terms, to
Will Sley,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, for immediate dates. North.
Big Acts for France; nothing too big.
Cliquot, 22, Union-street, Hyde.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists all Lines, big Specialities, Aug. 24, on. Lithos, Bookings, Lowest Terms in first letter. Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-st., Manchester. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone, 09261.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
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DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Manchester.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Telegrams:
DALTON'S AGENCY — Granbeste,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Withington-Lancs.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Telephone:
DALTON'S AGENCY — 193 Didsbury.
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WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, Co. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists, Sept. 14, and on, a good break going North. T. C. Rawes, Prop.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, for Sept. 28 and on; Tops and Bottoms, anything Big. George Battle, 2, King John-street, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Artists, Single and Double Turns, Freaks, Novelties, Aug. 17, 24, 31, onwards. Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott,
Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, all lines (Al Fresco), Concert Parties Entertained, Sept. 14, and on. Levy, Victoria Hall, Withington, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists, with Turns suitable for Picture show. Illustrated Songs, &c., &c., Monday next, and on, for Queen's T., Castleford. Beanland and Emerson, Parade, Bridlington.

VERNO'S AGENCY
(under the direction of L. Verno and H. Arnold),
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists in All Lines, Aug. 17, on. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076, Royal.

GAIETY MUSIC HALL, BLYTH.
WANTED.—Artists Required, Aug. 17, onwards. Lowest terms, Hall small. Address,
W. Yates Gregory, The Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, Artists, of all Descriptions, for Aug. 24, onwards. Write or call, with full particulars. J. W. Johnson, Variety and Pantomime Agent, 66, Waterloo-road.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, that can do Singles and Doubles, for the Londonderry Empire, Aug. 31 and later dates. To save time write lowest first letter, as Hall small. Good Artists can have two or three weeks. Would like to hear from good business manager, one that can produce plenty Sketches. Address, Sole Proprietor, W. Cody, Cavan Hotel, Bundoran, Ireland.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Aug. 24, on. 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

NEW PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, CHELTENHAM.
General-Manager, Mr. Edward B. Shenton.
Business-Manager, Mr. John Walters.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.
WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
Re-opening for the Season, Aug. 17.
WANTED, Agents desirous of doing Business, Artists desiring Engagements, also Combinations and Travelling Pantomimes, to please communicate with
Managing-Director.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for Immediate and Future Dates. Lithos, terms, and particulars to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Singing Turns, Speciality Acts, Sketch Companies, and Artists of every Description, for Aug. 24, onwards, on sharing terms, for
Dover,
Sandgate,
Leicester,
Sheffield.
Sole Bookings through
Fred Durham's Agency,
1a, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.
Telephone, 15 Brixton.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY.
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, for the 24th and on, Talent in every Line, Big and Small. Comedians, Double Acts, Sisters, Serios, and Specialities. I am on the Spot, and can Book you for all Towns North.

WANTED, Best of Talent Only.
in All Lines,
for Temperance Hall, Merthyr,
Aug. 24, onwards.
Full Particulars, and
Where Acts can be Seen,
Cadle, 105 and 106, Strand, London.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. Cummings.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, Aug. 31, onwards. Absolute lowest once nightly. J. Cummings, 97, Whitevale, Denniestown, Glasgow.

WANTED, Big Acts for immediate Dates. Artists holding Contracts for Grantham and Peterborough must in future send billing matter to me. Dan Noble's Agency, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, for Joseph Poole's Myriorama, big Speciality Act, for Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, and later dates; must be first-class Acts, with drawing powers. Lowest terms, particulars, and permanent address to Joseph Poole, Verona, Malmesbury.

WANTED, greatest Acts in the Profession. Send full Bookings, Terms, Lithos. William Ainsworth, Northern Amusement Bureau, 11, Baker-street, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Aug. 24, onwards, for Glasgow, North, S. Wales, Star Variety Speciality Acts. Lowest terms, full bookings imperative. Gannon, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, for New Palace, Ebbw Vale (Proprietors, A. Tilney and Sons), Star Acts for Aug. 31 and onward. Wire for Aug. 31, wire for Aug. 31 to Leo Fritz's Variety Agency, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton, S.W. Telegrams, "Evelyncia, London." 'Phone, 457 Brixton.

WANTED, for Aug. 24, onwards,
Star Acts in All Lines.
Star Acts in All Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
Cadle's Agency, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Refined and Clever Specialities and Artists in all Lines, Queen's Theatre, Dublin, Aug. 24, onwards. Carl Fredricks, Sydney-gardens, Bath.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY,
233, Kennington-road.
WANTED, Big Specialities,
First-class Comedians,
Ballad Vocalists,
for immediate and future dates.
Full particulars,
with open time, terms, &c.,
to above.

WANTED, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to Jas. Tyree, The Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, for September and onwards, Musical or other Speciality; not Acrobatic or Aerial. Suitable for High-class Entertainment. Lowest terms, first letter. No wires. Apply, Waller Jeffs' Pictures, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Wanted, Star Attractions, All Lines,
Aug. 24, 31, later.
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Pavilion, Abertillery (Proprietors, A. Tilney and Sons; Entertainment-Manager, Leo Fritz), the Greatest Attractions in all Lines for Aug. 24, onwards. Apply, with full particulars, to Leo Fritz's Variety Agency, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 457 Brixton. Telegrams, "Evelyncia, London."

WANTED, for Worthing, Select Concert Parties and Troupes, for approved pitches on beach, 50 per cent. share, stage, chairs, piano, electric light, and attendants provided. State number of troupe and fullest particulars, to M. W. Shanly, 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead; or Local Office, Winter Hall, Worthing.

WANTED, for Gala, Aug. 22, between Bristol and London, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Comedians, Novelties. Terms, lithos., bills, Wood, Caterer, Easton, Bristol.

WANTED, Smart Young Girls, Acrobatic Dancers, and Vocalists. Particulars, &c., first instance, to Box 6,852, "The Era."

WANTED, Two Girls, to Dance in New Sketch Production; must be First-class Artists. Apply by letter, with photo., to Secretary, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, Comedian, 5ft. 9½in., slim, also wife. Farcical Sketch. Rehearse now, Liverpool. Photo., particulars, terms, L., 76, Albany-road, Aintree.

WANTED, Vocalist or Cinematograph, to support, several fashionable Society Resorts. Exceptional opportunity for Amateur Vocalist. Invest £15. Share receipts. Society, Box 6,849, c/o "Era."

WANTED, a Young Woman, exceptionally Good in Humorous Songs and Ditties, to join High-class Concert Party. Autumn of 1909, for American Tour; must be young, refined, good appearance. Good chance for a beginner of ability to establish reputation in the States under responsible Management. Send full particulars, American Manager, Box 6,842, "The Era."

DEETICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone, 1269, Royal.
General-Manager, Wm. Lund.
WANTED, First-class Comedians, for immediate dates, always Vacancies for Good Novelties and Singing Acts. Full list of Bookings and Lowest Terms in first instance. Contract waiting for E. Hessletine, Musical Twelve.

WANTED, Comedians, Comediennes, and good Comedy Acts for the North. Send full bookings, &c., to Frank Lynne, Empire, Sheffield.

WANTED, Young Lady Trick Cyclist. Age, height, salary, photo., and particulars,
H. Hewitt, Post Office, Llanelly, South Wales.

WANTED, Conjurer, used to Al-fresco Business. Open at Once. Professor, 1, Duke-street, South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, a good Bioscope, for one or two weeks, Aug. 31, to give 1½ hours pictures nightly. State lowest inclusive terms, including gas, and state if have song slides. Fred Boulton, 9, Grosvenor-place, Cheltenham.

WANTED, at Once, Silhouettist, Cartoonist, and Caricaturist, salary or shares, for West-End Hall. Apply or write, F. Farrell, 94, Camden-road, N.W.

WANTED, Smart Young Man, to look after troupe of Russian Poodles, must be competent in clipping, grooming same. Apply, Fontainbleau, Chester Cottage, Rhyl.

WANTED, to Open September, three experienced Electrician-Operators, used to both currents; also Lime, and able to Fit-up; also to open immediately, Assistant-Operator, must have had experience. Age, salary, references, and full particulars in first letter, apply, Waller Jeffs, Curzon Hall Offices, Birmingham.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, one used to Motor Car preferred.
Box 6,860, "The Era."

WANTED.—Will Magnus and Thora send address to
C. Collette, care of "The Era."

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Victoria Cross, Laughing and Character Comedienne. Vac., Sept. 21 on; also Panto., Girl or Scotch Character. Offers, Pier Pav., St. Annes-on-Sea.

WANTED, by Little Dolly Brough, Refined Comedienne and Clog Dancer, Monday, Aug. 17. Wire for Smart Turn. Great Success, Palace, Warrington.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist; also Illustrated Songs, Dates after Sept. 13. Perm. Add., 32, North Side, Clapham Common.

WANTED, Monday next, by Miss Eva Reed, Character Comedienne and Top-boot Dancer; also Little Lilla, Dainty Song and Dance Artist. Wire, one or both. Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Aug. 31, on, by Ruby Hill, Indian Club Swinger and Refined Speciality Dancer. Address, C/o 47, Red Rock-street, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, in their Novel and Refined Drawing-room Act, with Piano, introducing Banjo Overture, Singing, Mimicry, Ragtime Dancing. Next, Hippo., Norwich. Vac. Aug. 31, Sept. 7.

WANTED, Known, Florence and Lillian (Artistic Musical Act). Disengaged Sept. 7 and 21. Add., London Pavilion, Piccadilly Circus.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Monday next. Wire, 23, St. George's-road, Southwark, S.E. A Sure Draw Anywhere. Wire at Once.

WANTED, Nov. 2, onwards, by Herr Schuler, World's Greatest Saxophonist. Terrific success, "Why do the Nations?" Bassetto Solo, only one in the World. Permanent address, 49, Peter-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Aug. 17 and 24, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina).
Return, Palace, Porth.

WANTED, Aug. 24 and 31, by Wyllie, the Tramp Musician, 10 Instruments and Stage Fit-up; also Miss Telka, Contralto Vocalist. Conclude to-night at Palace, Gloucester; next week, Palace, Porth.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, Comedian and Dancer. Success Greater than Ever, Hippo., Bury, nightly. Monday, 17th, Queen's Park Hippo. Liberty Sept. 7. Offers invited.

WANTED, Sept., onwards, exceptions, Dan Ashton. Lancashire Collier Comedian. Original Songs, Scenas, Jokes, &c. Will Sley; or perm. add., 26, Wood-street, Openshaw.

WANTED, by Frank Whiteley, Comedian and Dancer. Monday next, 17th. Wire,
Empire, Cleethorpes. Good turn.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Aug. 17, 24, 31, by Syd Herman, Hebrew Comedian. Wire, Alhambra, Belfast; after Saturday, 34, Warburton-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Lieut. Albini and his Lady, in Black. Huge Success on his Return after six weeks' absence, Victoria Pier Pavilion, Folkestone. Vacant 17th and 24th. Wire above.

WANTED, Aug. 24 and on, Reed, Lightning Painter, Smoke Picture Artist, and Conjurer, two Acts if required. Empire, Watford, Herts.

WANTED, Aug. 24, by Morimura, the Marvellous Japanese Illusionist. Always a Success. Concludes to-night, Alhambra, Morecambe; next week, Opera House, Northampton.

WANTED, Known, Durazcoe, Sensational Comedy Equilibrist, special Scenery and Effects. This, Queen's Theatre, Pembroke Dock, S. Wales, where wire.

WANTED, by the Mysterious Irvings, the Premier Second-sight Artists (bar none), Vac. Aug. 24, Sept. 7, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, before sailing for America. Only Vacant Dates this Year. Booked solid 1909. Wire or write, Pert and Cohen, 268, Claughton-road, Birkenhead.

WANTED, Monday next, Aug. 17, 24, wire Hip., Colchester, the Great Kyoto, Japanese Humorist, Contortionist, Conjurer, Comedy Juggler, and Dog; also May Geraldine, Dainty Comedienne, Dancer. After Sat., 15, Repton-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday on, Jack Sheppard, the World's Greatest Handcuff King and Prison Breaker; also Miss Ruby Vesta, in the Greatest Trunk Illusion on the Stage; Challenges. Big top, sure draw. Wire, Hippodrome, Maldon, Essex.

WANTED, by The Vollmers (Master Harry and Little Ruthie), Violinists and Dancers, Aug. 17, 24. This, Empire, South Shields. Permanent address, Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Oct. 5, on, Clark and Clare, "The Tramp and Girl," Comedy, Harmony, and Good Singing; two good singles if required. Address, 40, Eden-street, Saltburn.

WANTED, by Merry and Bright, Popular Comedians, Aug. 17, 24. Last week great success Islington Empire; this, Empire, Swindon. Laughing hit of the Programme; refer. After Sat., 106, Great Portland-street, W.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Monday next, 17th, also Sept. 14, 21. "The Dutch Lovers" is Novel. Wire, 5, Tynemouth-place, Tynemouth.

WANTED, Aug. 17, by Fern and Fawn, in Shriekingly Funny Episode, "The Conquerors," a hurricane of laughter; and Comedian Single. Wire, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Aug. 24, by Fred and Lillie Monckton. The Moncktons present a comedy act, "Two-in-a-Flat," which was an excellent item, and well merited the applause they received.—Liverpool Echo, Aug. 11, 1908. This, Pavilion, Liverpool. Aug 17, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Aug., Adele Levey and Charles Leverton, in Sketchette, "Find the Lady First." Success, E., Brixton, &c. Wire, 97, New Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5 and 12.
Stuart and Evans,
The Comedians,
3, Saltoun-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, by Douglas and Clarke, Refined Patter Comedians and Dancers, Sept. 7, 14. "Gem" Entertainers, Kinghorn.

WANTED, Known, Lack and Ford, Trio Comedy Acrobats; Miss Maie, Wire Act. Vacant Aug. 24 and 31. Monday, Palace, Pentre. Two Big Acts.

WANTED, by Doyle and Massey, Comedians, in Original Act, "Fighting Secretaries," Aug. 31, and onwards, North. This, Palace, Oldbury; next, Theatre Royal, Workington.

WANTED, Known, The Two Walonells, Great Eccentric Gymnasts, vacant Sept. 7 and 14. This, Hip., Paisley; next week, Hip., Hamilton.

WANTED, by Sword and Robb, Comedians, Dancers, Sept. 28, on, with exceptions; also vacant Panto. C/o Leeds Arms Hotel, Cleethorpes.

WANTED, Monday, by Chant and Chant, smart Vocal Comedy Duo. Hippodrome, Coventry, to follow. Wire, 87, Wollaton-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, the Musical Palmers, Open Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, Seaside Preferred, Grand Success, and Third Week, Curzon Hall, Birmingham. The Birmingham Press say, Better than ever.

WANTED, Aug. 17, onwards, by Herman and Evelyn, up-to-date Wire Act; also Cosselly, Acrobatic Table Act. Herman, Franklin's Gardens, Northampton.

WANTED, Monday next and Aug. 24, Volto, in his clever Comedy Gymnastic Act. Big success, wire, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, Alex and Jolly, Comedy Three-Bar Act; Miss Myria Lo-La, clever Stage Trapeze Act. 13, Westfield terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Aug. 24, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Post Office, Llanelly.

WANTED, Aug. 24, 31, by The Peps, Modern Comedy Gymnasts. Just the best. Agent, Tom Shaw. Monday, Temperance Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, Monday, for Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globella, Juggling Speciality.
Wire offers, Empire, Watford.

WANTED, by Bessie Travis, Queen of all Ventriloquists, Aug. 17, 24, 31. Starring for last four weeks with new Act, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract. Monday, 174, Ecclesall road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday next, Aug. 17, by Adkin, Ventriloquist, the Man and the Doll. Address, 93, Fitzwilliam-road, Rotherham, Yorks.

WANTED, between Morecambe and Portsmouth, Aug. 24, by Gillin, Ventriloquist.
Address, Gillin, 49, Regent-road, Morecambe.

WANTED, Known, Managers requiring a really First-class Turn should lose no time in booking George Gulliver, the Ventriloquist. Successes everywhere. Now taking a short holiday after a 66 weeks' run.
Address, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Monday, also Aug. 24, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Boxing Act Before the Public. Starring Palace, Dudley. Competitions nightly. Wire.

WANTED, Known. Who are the Miltons? Why, the World's Greatest Illusionists. Specially Engaged by Robert Forsyth, for the Season, at the Hippodrome, Folkestone.

WANTED, Known. The Miltons, Terrific Success in their Latest Production, can Top any Bill. The audience held spellbound. A Big Draw.

WANTED, The Miltons, Vacant Oct. 5, on, Great Illusionary Pot-Pourri Act, in Preparation, "The Master Mystery," Surpassing anything ever attempted. Address, as above.

WANTED, Known, The Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists; also Lillian Sivado, in a new and novel Trapeze Act; two distinct shows. Just concluded a successful season with Messrs. Wilders, Bros., re-engaged next year for all their principal Fêtes. We are now vacant Aug. 24, Sept. 14, and later. Monday, Bedford Music Hall, London.

WANTED, Monday next, also 24th, Swift Duo, Cycle Speciality. Wire, Queen's Theatre, Dublin. After Sat., 40, Sidney-street, All Saints', Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Alice Fontainbleau and her Marvellous Troupe of Canine Quadrupeds. Tremendous success. Fête and Gala, Trentham Park, Mansfield, and Old Hill. Return visit, and the talk of Rhyl: first vacant date Oct. Coms., Chester Cottage, Rhyl.

WANTED, Sept., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the biggest Novelty ever introduced with Troupe of Dogs. Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Novel Troupe of Dogs. Liberty Monday next owing to barring clause. Wire, 9, Lancaster-road, Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, Monday and 24th, Percy Victor's Dog Minstrels. The Drawing Card, Eddie Clay, Screaming Comedy Act. Wire, to-day, Bloxwich (Staffs.) Fêtes; after, 48, Bilston-street, Wolverhampton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Open for Monday, Aug. 17.
Open for Monday, Aug. 17.
Open for Monday, Aug. 17.
Only Vacant Date this Year.
Only Vacant Date this Year.
Only Vacant Date this Year.

D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.
D'ARC'S MARIONETTES.

This week,
Hippodrome, Putney.

Address, D'ARC, as above.
or G. and F. PEEL.

WANTED, Piers, &c., Harmon's Marionettes; also Royal Punch and Judy, Refined Entertainments, Just Concluded Two Weeks, Kursaal, Bexhill.
264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, boy, 16, height 5ft. 3in., with Marionettes; little experience or assist Juggler. J. HARRISON, Post Office, Merthyr, South Wales.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
"One of the Biggest Hits yet" best describes the enormous success of our latest marvel,
The Slot Diabolo,
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The Slot Diabolo,
an Automatic Amusement Machine,
in which the public love to place their money,
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Write for terms and particulars of 100 other "money magnets."—Vide testimonial.

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14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.
Owners and patentees of the famous
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WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars,
C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

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Sole Makers of the only Patent Cake Walk Riding Machine in the World.
Royal Letters Patent, No. 17,402, July 30, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 25,150, Nov. 13, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 2,649, Feb. 6, 1908.
REGISTERED TRADE MARK, "CAKE WALK."

WANTED, Known, users as well as makers who infringe will be proceeded against. In the Chancery Court, July 3, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady granted an injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402, 1907.

This machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for simplicity, lightness, and durability. Appreciated by the Public everywhere. Write, or call on the Sole Makers, Farncombe-street, and 94 and 98, Bermondsey-wall, Bermondsey, London, S.E.

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WANTED, Known, Stacey's, Showmen and Travellers' Stores, 510, Kingsland-road, London, late Settle's, Guns, Cartridges, Swing Ropes, Slot Machines, in fact everything for the Fair.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 350 miniatures to select from.
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14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

NORWICH AND EASTERN COUNTIES ARTS, CRAFTS, & INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, Agricultural Hall, Norwich, Oct. 10 to Nov. 7, 1908.
WANTED, for the Pastimes Annex to above, Side Shows, Games, Automatic Machines, Shooting Jungle, Novelty Stalls, &c., &c.
Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, all Kinds of Novelties, &c., for Large Shop, very best position, Brighton, Sussex. Big Business to be done. Share, or will Let same for four weeks. Will Bear Lady wire if disengaged, as my reply wire did not find her? Apply, 15, Kensington-gardens, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Good Freaks, Novelties, &c., can have eight, ten, or twelve weeks at my American Museum. Send fullest particulars, terms, photo., and samples of lithos.,
A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, a Midget Lady, can join at once. Send correct height and photo. to Mr. HENRY WHITE, Post Office, Bridgend, S. Wales. Long Engagement if required.

WANTED, a Man to take the full Management of my Circus for Fair and Private business. Mr. E. HODGES, SEN., 61, Cooksey-road, Small Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, a good Auctioneer, one who thoroughly understands Selling Swag; 10 per cent. Apply, 5, Lime-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, good Character Delineator. Apply, with fullest particulars, terms, references, and photo (which will be returned), A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Piers, for Aug., Harmon's Marionettes and Punch and Judy. Wire, Kursaal, Bexhill, Saturday; after, 264, Queen's-road, Battersea, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy and Dog Toby, great success at Mansfield (fourth engagement), still working Wilder's Galas. Bailey's have the longest run of Galas than any other Punch living. Address, Buxton, Derbyshire, The old firm. Chair up.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Mount, Lecturer or Door, at Liberty. Pictures a Speciality. Good delivery; dress well. 38, Thanet-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen and Roundabout Proprietors, that I have Ground to Let at the following places: Folkestone and Deal, Sept. Fairs, and Canterbury Great Michaelmas Pleasure Fair to follow. Good Variety Show, free; also Side Shows. Terms moderate. Ground Free. Applications to W. WAGHORNE, Agent to J. F. Macklin, Switchback Proprietor, Nelson House, Godington-road, Ashford, Kent.

WANTED, to Let, Space, large Automatic Saloon in important Naval and Military centre, for Phrenologist, Wire. Box 6,856, "The Era."

WANTED, to Let, Valuable Space, suitable for Photographers, &c. For terms, apply, PASTIMES, LTD., 53, Strand, W.C.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

Important Notice.
LONDON'S GREAT WORLD'S FAIR, 1908-9.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. E. READ.

WANTED, all Showmen, Roundabout Proprietors, and others, to Note. I intend making the coming season's World's Fair at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, N., positively the Greatest and Most Varied Aggregation of Combined Amusements ever Congregated in this Vast and Most Accessible Amusement Building throughout the whole of London, and have arranged among others with E. H. Bostock, Esq., for his superb Royal No. 1 Menagerie. The acknowledged Premier Zoological Collection in the World, including his most recent Additions of Marvellously Trained Animals, &c. Absolutely Second to None. The Arenic Arrangements have again been placed in the hands of Mr. E. Hanneford, whose great Canadian Circus will this Season be Greatly Augmented with the Newest and Up-to-date Continental Specialities and Artists. Absolutely the Best ever Introduced into this Country. The Aerial Acts, so great a Feature at the World's Fair, will be of a Unique, Novel, and Sensational Character. The Banvards are bringing an exceptionally Daring and Sensational Act which promises to be the Greatest ever Seen in London. Numerous Other Attractions are Arranged, and Pending, Full Particulars of which will be duly announced.—P.S.—Old Tenants desirous of Securing their Ground can now write in, I having already many New Applications.

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WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Stalls in the Bazaar Section of these Exhibitions.
Handkerchief, Postcard, Scent, Photo., or any Novelty.
Apply, FRANK TURNER, Royal Agricultural Hall, London, N.; or Telephone, 2758 North.

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All Persons
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JACOB STUDT,
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Address,
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WANTED, to Let, King's Hall, Grimsby, for Auctioneers, Bazaars, &c., Large Hall, Central. W. H. JACKSON and Co., 408, Victoria-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Distorting Mirrors to Let, on Hire or Share, Exhibitions, &c. Address, c/o Mrs. Hampshire, Church-lane, Outwood, Wakefield.

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WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to send for my new list, with over 2,000 illustrations of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Field Glasses, Bazaar and Fancy Goods; every line right for price. SIMONS, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, Known, that I have several large Walk-up Bioscope and other Shows, both Organ and Carved Wagon Fronts, all complete, and ready for showing, for Disposal, very cheap, and can be seen any time by appointment. Will those applicants who wrote before and not yet received a reply kindly write again to TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "Era" Office, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Established Exhibition Arcade, choice position, a fortune for the right party, going a bargain, under exceptional circumstances. Capital required, £300 to £750. Principals only address, Box 6,819, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, a magnificent Bioscope Show, with splendid carved lamp-rail, organ front, waggons, &c., all to pack on two loads and go by road; and a 6-horse compound Burrell Engine; also a splendid carved front Shooter, with waggon, guns, &c. Box 6,854, "The Era."

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NOTICE.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—
Odette Valerie, Walter Passmore and Co., Harry Grey, Carl Lynn, Hawthorn and Burt, Carlotta Kara, Andre Pelletier, Gipsy Woolf, Julius Tannen, Ida Bella, Will Cornish, Winifred Ward, Bioscope, Melville's Moto-Girl.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Fred Lindsay, Mayme Cannon, Eugene Brandt, Roze and Calvert, Camille Feo, Kloof and Ramsey, Pictures, Fieldman's Beau Ideals.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten, Will Brockton, Gwennie Yeo, Matthews and Cowper Co., J. H. Milburn, Musical Schaffers, Pictures, Harry Tate's Co. in "Motoring"

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
Chas. Carey's Co. in "The Top of the Bill," George Westland, Kitty Wager, Munro's Black and White Team, May Henderson, Three Laurels, Fred Poplar, Charles Norton, May Loftus, Bioscope, Belloni's Cockatoos.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Gothams, Dunedin Troupe, Johnson and Bert, Carl Howard, Wilson and Waring, Marie Empress, Harry Marte, Bioscope, Maud Rochez's Monkeys.

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Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Ten Ji Troupe, Marie Burnett, Spry and Monti, Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Fred Lincoln, Olive and Owen, Bioscope, Mendel.

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Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

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NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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Sung by Miss Ella Retford.

"WHEN I GET BACK AGAIN TAE BONNIE SCOTLAND" and "THE WEDDIN' O' SANDY MacNAB."
Written, composed, and sung by Harry Lauder.

"LET ME BUT HOPE."
(Percy Edgar and H. E. Pether),
Sung by Miss Ethel Hayden.

"IN THE TWI-TWI-TWILIGHT" (Wilmott and Darewski), "YOU'RE PROUD TO BE A SOLDIER" (Nairn and Mathews), "DEAR MR. ADMIRAL" (F. W. Leigh), and "HANG OUT THE FRONT-DOOR KEY" (B. H. Burt).
Sung with enormous success by George Lashwood.

"THE SIMPLE LITTLE MILLINER."
(Written and composed by Leslie Stiles).
Sung by Miss Millie Lindon.

"ALL DAY" and "LIMERICKS"
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Sung by Wilkie Bard.

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(Fred. Hastings).
Sung by Bernard Russell.

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(Lawrance, Mellor, and Gifford).
Sung by Miss May Mars.

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(Pelham and Rule),
Sung by Miss Gladys Mavius.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski).
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CALLS

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MONDAY, AUG. 17, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Lillie Soutter, Jim Cheetham, Millicent Freres, Glenroy Troupe, Gibbon and Bell, Alfonzo, Ferguson and Mack, George James, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Abdullah and La Superbe, Mabel La Blanche, Edwardes and Dacre, Annie Schuberth, Mdlle. Bartenelli, Jack Lane, Kelly and Agnas, Juggling Geraldos, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Carlton, Gold and Sterling, Chas. F. Best, Taree, Mathews and Brown, Nellie Lunelle, Alpho, Five Jolly Bakers, Mysterious Cross, "Rosie's Birthday Party," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Dave Samuels, Pearce and Ward, The Forsythe, Goggin and Davies, Rose Cabani, Tossing Austins, Larola, Virto, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Karno's "Dandy Thieves," Georgina Milton, Harry Milton, Flo Burnett, Irene and Morton, Billy French, Edie Reynolds, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, Maston, Leonard Mortimer and Co., The Almos, Sisters Northcote, The Menzies, Nora Noble.

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"The Girl Who Wrecked His Home."

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Grand Variety Company.

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"A Girl's Cross Roads."

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Picture Entertainment.

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PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Pichel Troupe, Chas. Resti, Sisters Edwardes, Jock Walker, Millie Howell, Ryder Slone, Harry Cotton, Lennie and Hast, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Niblo's Talking Birds, Madge Field, Chas. Banks and Dog, Ethel Sheffer, Harrigan and Holt, Marie Neilson, Sterling and Love, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock.
Herbert Clifton, The Varleys, Three Alskarnos, Gregson Comedy Trio, Keith and Merson, Harry Nelson, Kelly and Ashby, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Harry Weldon, Renee Grahame, Carr and Rose, Harry Simms, Baker and Balfe, Rosie Archer, Helen Martin, The Waldrons, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Cliffe Berzac's Seals, Billie Burford, Les Frasettis, Frank Leon, J. G. Brandon and Co., Ellis and Watts, Margit and Lener, Conway and Leland, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Helen Roberts, Thornbury, Marie Jones, Violet Nunn, Ben Jackson, Burns and Bentley, Corman's Juveniles, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Dora Lyric, Cullen, Carthy, and Cisley, Raymond, Adderley Howard and Co., Lisbon and Barker, Jenny Grey, Geo. Porter, Harry Lynx, Ernest and French, Violet Mills, Herbert Rule.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Raymond, Frank Seeley, Alice Maydue, Tokio, Della Sisters, Akbar, Bella Leaburn, Fred Maxwell and Co., Sisters Jonghmanns, Chas. Verner.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Ethel Arundell, G. Marriott and Co., Raymond, Sisters Belmoir, The Lannons, Sisters Darnton, Leo Dryden, Fields and Lewis, Stoll and Milton, Frederick Victor and Co.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
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In the small town of Catchit has been organised a lottery for the benefit of the victims of a great fire, the first prize being a South American animal. Old Peter being the winner, he walks about the town with his Peruvian Llama, which, struggling for freedom all the time, makes everybody run away in all directions. After various incidents the troublesome Llama lands at an important menagerie, where Old Peter makes up his mind to let him stay, for really it was too much in the way in his small cottage and town.

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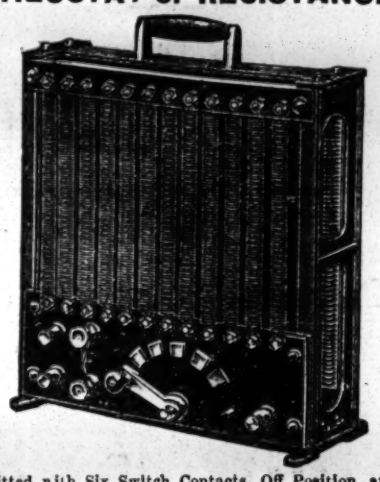

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Evening Standard, Jan. 20:—
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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—*The Old, Old Story* is this week presented by Miss Bonwin Carlton. Mr. Edward Surrey, in the character of William Grimshaw, a detective, is irresistible, his acting keeping the house in a constant state of merriment; Miss Bonwin Carlton capably portrays the part of Tilly, and Mr. Conwell Clark makes an excellent James Marlow; while Mr. Alvin Sanger makes a clever study of the part of Bobby Blossom; Sir John Humphrey Hazel is in the capable hands of Mr. H. J. Butler; an effective rendering of Jessie Hazel is presented by Miss Kitty Maynard; Miss Marie E. Dempster scores a success as Netty Hazel, and Miss Esther Lamont is seen to advantage as Janet Marlow; Mr. D. Bell is responsible for the rôle of John Hazel.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The exciting piece, *The Female Swindler*, draws large audiences to popular parts of the house this week. It is exceedingly well-played. Miss Violet Ellicott makes an admirable adventuress; Mr. John Hitchings, a man of many disguises, and Miss Mabel Moody are most amusing in their love-passages; Mr. Joseph Millane plays incisively as a detective; and Mr. S. Radcliffe is a vigorous and convincing villain. The minor parts are all capably represented.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Miss Kadie Furman acts a Dutch girl to perfection; her songs and patter are very amusing, and her clog-dancing calls forth the most enthusiastic plaudits. Miss Maude Hillman and Mr. Maurice Russell present a clever vocal comedy dialogue, *The Somnambulist*, which is most successful; the Two Bow Boys are heartily encored for their singing and dancing; *The Bride's Wedding*, a laughable sketch, is well acted by Mr. Tom Boyce and Miss Price; and the turns of Mr. Joe Humphreys, comedian, and Miss Daisy Morell, comedienne, are also appreciated.

BEACH PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—The Downes Family continue to increase in popularity, and the turn of Chester and Lee, with their marionettes, is very highly appreciated. The other members of a first-class combination are Miss Violet Davidson, soprano; Mr. David Thomson, humorist; Mr. Dan Williams, comedian, and Vulcaris, piano entertainer.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—The principal artists this week are Miss Rosie Bell, a piquant comedienne; Miss Amy Bathurst, who sings and dances most gracefully; and Belle and Bright, a pair of clever comedians, who appear successfully in an amusing sketch, *Down by the Sea*. Mr. Dave Paterson's Cinematograms include The Countess's Wedding, The Swashbuckler, The Ragpicker Caricaturist, and An Economical Overcoat.

ABERTILLERY.—THE PAVILION.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—The premier place on the programme here is held by Harry Roxbury's company in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, supported by the popular comedian Tubby Edlin, who, as P.C. Longfellow, of Scotland Yard, never fails to amuse. The Wambas appear in an instrumental entertainment introducing good bagpipe playing. The Gilberts have a clever acrobatic rope act. The Jackley Trio are smart as table experts. Bass and Guinness make a hit in their dancing. Some excellent pictures are depicted by the bioscope.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborne.—Mr. F. H. Neville's company had a good reception on Monday, when *Napoleon's Divorce* was presented in quite a realistic manner. The part of Napoleon is impersonated with ability by Mr. F. H. Neville. Joseph Bonaparte is most effectively rendered by Mr. John Soden; Colonel D'Arville has a clever representative in Mr. C. Moore; and Sergeant Baton is ably sustained by Mr. W. Ellythorn. Miss Garnet Vayne gives a natural rendition of Josephine, and Miss Veronica Clinton submits a capital interpretation of Marie Louise.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—A pleasing attraction here this week is Mr. Ronald Yorke's company in *The Old Home*. Mr. J. H. Clyndes gives a praiseworthy rendition of the part of Daddy Dean; Mr. David G. Noble portrays the part of the Rev. Eric Armstrong with manly expression; Mr. Ronald Yorke is responsible for a forceful exposition of the villain, Lord Avondale; Mr. Fred L. Connynghame provokes plenty of mirth as Sam Adams, and is ably assisted by Miss Mattie Crawford, who plays the part of Polly Popp in a most acceptable manner; Miss Laura Walker shows womanly charm and sympathy, and is decidedly successful as Hazle Dean, and Miss Mara Collings acts with real earnestness as Biddy Donoghan. The piece is very finely staged.

TOWN HALL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Sam Richard's Eight 'Varsity Girls hold the premier position here and are enthusiastically received; G. H. Keith, vocalist, is popular, and Cavilli is a ventriloquist of more than ordinary ability; Capt. Ellis and Son provide a capital musical turn which is loudly applauded, and some artistic, dramatic, and comic films are depicted on the Bioscope, including A Redman's Justice, the Young Protector, and Elixir of Life.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—One of the many good turns in the full programme presented at Aldershot this week is the famous Tintos in their comedy act, *African Gambols*, in which are seen marvellous acrobatic feats by these two clever artists; Astley's American Circus creates considerable interest, intelligent ponies, dogs, mules, and sheep showing wonderful training in the many acts in which they appear, and there is also a very funny clown; Les Sardous give a "mystic" performance with a tied lady behind a screen, who plays tambourines, &c.; the Sisters Delmore as vocalists and dancers are highly successful; Terry and Tate, in a duet and patter, are amusing; Marie Rivers sings illustrated songs; and Tom Carney does well in songs and dances. The Bioscope and band are also features of the programme that are much enjoyed.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Revill.—For the Wakes holidays Miss Ellen Snow and a company of capable artists are presenting here Mr. Walter Howard's stirring drama, *Why Men Love Women*. The part of Gerald Fielding, a young English artist, the hero, is assumed by Mr. Oliver Rogers, who invests the part with considerable show of vigour and manly courage. Mr. Lionel Godsden as Capt. Staniloff, of the Russian Army, is a villain of the sardonic type, and while giving due impress to the worst features of the character, nothing is over-emphasised. Mr. N. Carter Slaughter is full of vigour as Lieut. Fitzherbert. Impressive figure and good presence is found in Mr. Basil Horsfall as the Maharajah of Balore, a native Indian prince. Minor parts are suitably cast to Messrs. A. W. Norman, A. Radford, F. West, and Harwood Roberts, the last-named as Orlando Figgins, a comic actor. Miss Ellen Snow invests the part of the heroine, Violet Livingstone, with a charm of manner and a force and intensity of acting in the more trying situations of the play, which win her great applause. Miss Maud Court as Muriel Zoluski is all that can be wished as the Russian lady who is seeking to revenge a favourite brother's death. Miss Nita Owen and Miss Freda Vaughan do satisfactory work as members of Mr. Figgins' opera troupe, and Miss Roland Watts Phillips is good as Mrs. Figgins. The play is well mounted.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—A medley of popular airs by Mr. Robt. Peel's orchestra opens the programme at the Empire. For the holidays De Lil, illusionist, is a popular "turn." Very clever, indeed, are his sleight-of-hand performances. Gala and Norris give an artistic musical duologue entitled "Down South." The Camerons are really funny as well as smart in song and cross-talk. Leo D'Alvar introduces something of a novel character in gymnastic exercises, daring as well as ingenious. The Morander and Darius Trio are lighting simultaneous gymnasts dressed in white costume. A very interesting musicale is given by the performers called "The Garden of Melody," with elaborate scenic effects. Hilda De Grey is a smart burlesque lady and Tyrolean vocalist. Henry Vernon Harcourt gives some dramatic impersonations of operatic celebrities of a past period. Hulbert is a very skilled ventriloquist. The great feature of the programme, however, is a performance of musical comedy, *Duchess of Tooting*. Mr. Stephen Adeson as Fitz is the soul of fun. His grotesque pantomime creates immense laughter. He is well supported in song, dance, and attractive stage "business." Messrs. Marius Girard, Henry Latimer, Miss Violet Craveling as Peter, Miss Edith Barwell as the Duchess, and Miss Josie Farrington as Rosa Latour, and a smart chorus and troupe of dancers.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten.—The principal pictures here this week are In Memory of His Mother, Why Mary was Dismissed, In the Days of Richard III., The Hat Came Back, The Enchanted Cloak, and A Gipsy's Daughter.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—Miss Ada Fawn, the popular comedienne, is paying a return visit here and repeating her previous success; an exceptionally clever card and coin manipulator is Seima, who thoroughly mystifies the audience; Royston and Royce (lady and gentleman) are good in a comedy and burlesque scena; Willman, instrumentalist, makes a big hit; Lord, Murray, and Lord give a smart exhibition of ball-punching and boxing; Miss Ethel Donna is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; Mr. Ernest Clifford, comedian and expert dancer, meets with much favour, and the Attergraph pictures complete the programme.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Messrs. Skardon and Martin's company, in *The Way of the World*, started a six nights' engagement on Monday. Mr. J. P. McBryde gave a fine, manly portrayal of Cecil Hardy; Captain Fred Slade, as represented by Mr. Victor Gordon, made himself sincerely detested by the bulk of the audience, which is the best testimony to the skill of the performer; and in no less a degree was this hatred evinced towards his companion in evil, Lady Adela Hardy, played by Miss Marie Fontaine; Mr. Clarence Temple, as the circus proprietor, Mathew Malyon, was capital throughout. Humour was imparted by the clever by-play and smart acting of Mr. D'Arcy Kelway as Joe Sparrow, the clown, and Miss Violet Vivienne as Polly Bell, champion strong woman. A very sweet picture did Miss Nellie de Lacey present of Kate Montague, equestrienne. The other members of the company gave good support. The setting of the piece was elaborate.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—*A Merry Maid*, by Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Caldwell's company, is proving a strong attraction this week. Chorus and principals are well chosen. Mr. W. Shaw Hutchinson as Biddy, together with the diminutive Master Geo. Wood, are more than droll; Miss May Gibson is a charming Peggy, and her songs are encored.

HIS MAJESTY'S.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh are this week presenting *With Edged Tools* to good houses, and it is the first drama staged since re-opening. Mr. Campbell Goldsmid as Victor Durnovo holds the rapt attention of the house.

THE TIVOLI.—Mackinnon's Meisters are an attractive quartette, and receive much applause; Barrett and Knowles's garrulous turn is very funny, and Harry Vardon, ventriloquist, gives a clever exhibition of his art. The bill is a good one, and is filling both houses.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Continued success follows the efforts of this management. Large audiences nightly fill the house and will evidently continue to do so if the films exhibited maintain the present standard of interest. Miss May Sinclair ably supplies this week's variety turns.

BARRY DOCK. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—*Driven from Home* was presented here last night by Andrew Melville's company to a packed house. Mr. Percy Dawsone as Willy the Waif was a distinct success, and Miss Nancy Roberts adequately filled the parts of Laura and Walter. Mr. Felix Pitt as Antony Raybrook acted in good style, and Mr. Charles Burdon showed a sound conception of the rôle of the villainous Geoffrey Waring. Miss Kate Walfred as Fanny Jones effectively portrayed her part, and the same thing may be said of Mr. Geo. Beresford as Walter Hatherleigh. Others deserving of praise were Miss Edith Leslie and Mr. F. C. Imbert in their respective parts.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—A crowded and fashionable audience greeted The Follies, who made their initial appearance locally on Tuesday. The accomplished artists of the troupe all gave of their best, and great enthusiasm prevailed.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Several of the turns this week are old favourites, such as Lennie and Hast, who once again are seen in their fantasy, *The Sea Nymph*, with many up to date and local gags introduced; the Twin Sisters Edwardes, vocalists, dancers, and drummers, and Harry Cotton in his droll burlesque pensioner song, meet with good receptions; Ryder Slone strikes quite an original vein in his character songs, and is immensely popular; the Pichel Troupe of tumblers and risley acrobats execute difficult feats successfully; Millie Howell sings a couple of sentimental songs with clear enunciation; Chas. Resti is an exceedingly skilful sleight of hand artist, and the pawky humour of Jack Walker goes well. Raymond's Bio-tableaux as usual are worth witnessing.

BATLEY.—THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—The entertainment here this week is provided by Mr. Alex. C. Grant and company in *A Master of Millions*. Mr. Grant is responsible for some capital acting in the part of Alexander Daunt, an American millionaire; Mr. John L. Schofield successfully portrays Eric Gordon; Mr. Arthur L. Read makes a capital villain, being ably supported by Miss Gipsy Alexander as "The Vampire" and by Mr. Chas. Cameron as "The Smasher." Miss Isobel Edbrooke makes the most of her part as Marion Gordon, and Mr. W. Lester Norton as Isaacs, and Miss Minnie Ward as Jenny Hicks create considerable amusement.

BEDFORD. — ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*The Soldier's Wedding*, a vigorous and well-constructed drama, is being presented here this week by the company of Mr. Walter Melville, who is the author. The players have been well selected, and the scenery is especially good. Mr. Wingold Lawrence as Jack Brown, a Grenadier, is first favourite, his

acting being all that could be desired; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb is entirely successful as the dignified —not "peppery"—colonel; Mr. Gerald Jordan, as the villain, is all that the character demanded, and Mr. Johnny Chippendale and Little Albert as Tommy Spratt and Teddy Munroe respectively, create much amusement; Mr. Fred Yarnold, as the old farmer, appears in an excellent make-up, and gives a clever study; Miss Dorothy Richardson, as Nancy Lee, displays much grace and charm; Miss Marie McAulay gives an admirable rendering of Julie De Beauvais, and Miss Mabel Lowe creates an excellent impression as Peggy Munroe; Miss Mattie Everett is frequently applauded for her amusing interpretation of Lizzie Walker. The clever performance of Towser adds to the success of the piece.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. William Greet's chief company opened here on Monday with *The Sign of the Cross*. Marcus Superbus was played by Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee, an exceedingly clever actor, who furnished an admirable impersonation of the young Prefect. Mr. Lee was conspicuously successful, receiving an ovation at the close of each act. Honours were shared by Miss Constance Little, who as the gentle Mercia scored a triumph, her emotional acting being very impressive. A fine impersonation of the cruel tyrant Nero was submitted by Mr. C. Yorke; and a dignified representative of Poppæa, Empress of Rome, was found in Miss Beryl Hamilton. Mr. Charles Aldred as Tigellius deserves a special word of praise for his exceedingly capable impersonation, and Mr. J. Weatherall as Licinius must also be included for praise. Mr. Frank Wood as Glabrio was very humorous; the difficult rôle of Stephanus could scarcely be in better hands than those of Miss Edith Drayton. The two spies Servilius and Strabo were well filled by Messrs. H. Thurston Harris and G. W. Ruff, and Miss Lily Ward displayed some fine acting in her interpretation of Berenice. Mr. Walter Fleet as Favius spoke his lines with much effect, and Mr. Arthur Budd filled the rôle of Virturius admirably. Miss Cissie Carlton was all that could be desired as Dacia, and Miss Mary Newcombe and Messrs. Clifton Yates, Harry Jones, J. Newman, and H. Roose were adequate in their respective parts.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Mr. John Tiller's company tops the bill and produces with much success the successful comedy extravaganza *High Jinks*. Mr. Bob Selvidge is very funny as George Jesmond Deane, and Miss May Sharples is charming as Mrs. Jesmond Deane. Miss Madge Gray is a capital mimic, her imitations being quite realistic; Mr. E. S. Kempton is a clever American comedian and fine dancer; the Bros. Ford, vocalists and hurricane dancers, take well, and deservedly so, and the fine programme is completed by the Palace Pictures, which are always up to date.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The premier attraction here is the illusion performance of Von Etta, described as the lightning protean artist, whose feats are certainly marvellous; Miss Lilian Lea is the happy possessor of a fine voice, which she knows how to use, and a really wonderful performance has been submitted by Mr. Francis Gerard, whose feats of strength have not been excelled here. Mr. Pete and Miss Minnie Lee appear in their capital act *The Scotchman's Visit to London*, which has been accorded a hearty reception, and Blake and Amber, comedy duo, are most amusing. The Sisters Brooks are charming vocalists and dancers, and also appearing are Mac, Greg, and Mac in their melodious mixture, Mr. Fred Maitland, and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Mr. Fred Lindsay tops the bill, and his feats with the whip are admitted to be very clever; the Beau Ideal Troupe of Juveniles appear in their taking act, consisting of mimicry, songs, and dances; Kloof and Ramsey are a smart comedy duo, and the same may be said of Roze and Calvert, who are always welcome here. Mr. Eugene Brandt is a droll comedian with good songs, and Miss Mayme Cannon is aptly described as a refined comedienne. Also here are Camille Flo, dainty speciality artist, and the Bioscope, which exhibits a very droll picture, A Commissioner of Police.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Success continues to attend the enterprise of Mr. Will White. This week the following films, among others, have been exhibited:—Mandrill's Feats, The Dieppe Motor Races, 1908, The Hostage, Jack's Rival, and Shipwreckers. Miss Annie Casey, comedienne, appears with success, and a capital reception has been extended to Mr. Charles Chard, whose songs are very amusing.

BILSTON.—New Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—This week *Beneath the Stars* is being presented by Mr. Coleman Davies and his company. Mr. Terry Davies is very successful as Stephen Harcourt, the young farmer, and Mr. Harry Reynolds does well as Major Blonson. Mr. Coleman Davies is very amusing as Jemmy Hopblossom, a Lancashire lad, and Miss Eunice Udall is good as Becky Wiggins. Miss Gladys Vane plays with skill and feeling as Angel Marsden. Miss Cissie Winter also meets with success as Paulina Petrowski. For Friday *Jerry the Tramp* was announced.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—A return visit from Mr. Alfred B. Cross's company in *The Manxman* has aroused considerable interest. Mr. Cross repeats his very able and consistent rendering of Pete, bearing the burthen of the piece with commendable skill and effect; Miss Minnie Watersford (Mrs. Cross) wins general admiration by a powerful portrayal of Katie Cregeen, and Mr. Harold B. Lewis emerges successfully from a fine performance of the thankless rôle of Philip Christian; Mr. Fred Mace is an admirable Cæsar Cregeen; Miss Nancy Mitchell is an efficient Nancy, and Miss Blanche Lee is well placed as Miss Christian. Mr. Fred Charles is a good Ross Christian, and the welcome comedy relief is afforded by Mr. E. C. Howitt as Monty Missit and Mr. T. Lynton as Professor Mawley. The play is carefully staged.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Mr. Herbert Cottesmore's company in the petite drama, *Her Princely Betrayer*, is a prominent attraction here. Miss Sable Fern, a chic comedienne, is fulfilling one of many return engagements, and Miss Margaret Ashton, a talented American comedienne, is a general favourite; a really excellent combination also includes Farr and Farland, patterers and banjoists; Dave O'Toole, comedian; Haig and Novel, acrobatic comedians; Alec Kendall, patterer; the Whittakers, comedians; the Sisters Henderson, musical speciality artists; Harry Mattie, comedian, and Brown's Royal Bioscope. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical director.

Olympian Gardens, Rock Ferry.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—A thoroughly enjoyable performance is supported by Mr. Charles Harvey, the droll; Miss Edith Benson, soprano; Mr. Harrison Latimer, baritone; Mr. Jimmy Watson, comedian; Miss Edna Barrett, comedienne and dancer; and Mr. Arthur Braddock, accompanist. An entertaining sketch, entitled *The Broken Statue*, is also included with success.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Prodigal Son* is presented here by Mr. Wentworth Croke. Large houses are the rule, and sympathy has rightly gone out to Mr. Hugh Montgomery for his powerful portrayal of the noble and unselfish Magnus. Mr. Gordon Macintosh does everything possible to make the rôle of Oscar popular; Mr. Charles Cooper invests the character of Stephen with due dignity; Miss Barbara Gott as Anna avails herself of her brief opportunity well; Miss Marie Harcourt scores handsomely as Margaret; Miss Mildred Cottell exercises her blandishments as Helga very effectively; Miss Valerie Crespin acts with gentle grace and pathos as Thora, and is no less successful as the daughter Elin; while Mr. Philip Renouf, Mr. E. Christopher, Mr. Ernest Rivaz, Mr. Chas. A. Maynard, and others are of great assistance to the play, which is put on in a most picturesque style.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*The Flower Girl* is making a big success here on its first visit, with Mr. Chas. M. Bestic's company. That sterling comedian Mr. Martin Adeson is well remembered for his admirable work with another, *The Golden Girl* to wit, but that is all eclipsed, for here, as Joe Wheeler, he fairly excels himself, both in the quantity and the quality of his humour. Miss Dorothy Firman makes a very prepossessing Flower Girl, being well up in the triple accomplishments of singing, acting, and dancing; and Miss Florence Wilton as Lizette, Miss Jeannie Holmes as Miss Greenhill, Mr. Alfred Donohoe as Johnny Wheeler, Mr. Henry Adnes as Alphonse de Racquet, Mr. Norman Bowyer as Reginald Rackit, Mr. Robert H. Howard as Billy Greenhill, and numerous others, including a big chorus, make this production one of the best.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*The Girl With the Angel Face*, the newly-produced London success by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard, is bearing out all its promises on its production here this week. The plot is followed with avidity, the mounting is praised highly, and the acting brings out all the possibilities of the play. Miss Florrie Green as that fiend in angel's guise, Angel Leigh, fulfils all the exigencies of the rôle; Miss Phyllis Dailley interprets the good woman, Ena Wentworth, with delightful charm; Mr. H. Naylor Grimson skilfully doubles the rôles of Sir John and Thomas Wentworth; Mr. Austin Mortimer gives a clear and forcible impression of the villain, Stephen Arkwright; Mr. Fred G. Evison stands out finely as Jaspar Death, and the other rôles are played to advantage.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Love's Golden Dream* has been followed here with strong interest by large audiences, and Miss Frances Delaval as the sinning and also suffering Margery has received unmistakable proofs of her talents and her popularity. Mr. Harry Rutland's portrayal of Jack Darrell is based on excellent lines; Mr. Edmund Grogan brings much light to bear on the character of the Rev. Harold Tre-Wynne; Mr. W. Bradford cleverly enacts the part of the Italian, Gustave de Marconi; Miss Ethel Crauford is good as the sister, Vashti; Mr. Larry Stokes bears out the character of the "gallant soldier," Lieut. Tyrone; and Miss Kate Olive as Mrs. Tre-Wynne, Mr. L. W. Halfpenny as Covey, Miss Tiny Carry Johnson as Tommy Tittlemouse, and Master Johnny Johnson as Pete, shine among others.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*A Fight for a Throne* has furnished an exciting week's fare here, for which Mr. Lingford Carson's company have been much applauded. Mr. John S. Millward is cast well as Jack Fortesque; Mr. Gerald Byrne acts fittingly as the King of Saxovina; Mr. Chas. E. Linney is an admirable Prince Otto, and Mr. Tom Roydon as General Rodna acts up to him very well; Miss Dora Eastlake has all the grand air of the Princess Esmée, and elicits cordial admiration; Miss Margaretta Tueskie shows fine ability in the part of the Countess Valeska Lorenski; Miss Lilith Gabriel takes the rôle of Lady Pat very ably; Mr. George Beck is successful as Lieut. Paul Rodna; and Mr. Chas. H. Hughes is a highly diverting Ferrett. Other characters are played by Messrs. Patrick Evans, Stewart Quartermayne, &c.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. B. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*Sexton Blake* is on its first visit here, and is pulling big houses on the occasion. Mr. Horace Hunter makes an engrossing character of the title-rôle, encountering dangerous situations and emerging therefrom with a sangfroid that brings him thunders of applause; Mr. Billy Ross as his humorous but able assistant, Tinker, is very popular; Mr. William Felton is an able portrayer of Roger Blackburn; Mr. Charles East stamps the rôle of the murderer, Randolph Lovell, with much individuality; Mr. Jno. M. East scores well as Simon Faggas; Miss East-Robertson as Philadelphia Kate gives a vivid picture of the abandoned creature of sin; Miss Lily Hammersley affords a charming contrast with her sympathetic acting as Marjorie; and Miss Midge Clark is good as Euphemia.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Alone in London*, under the personal direction of Mr. J. F. Elliston, has proved tremendously successful here. Miss Theresa Osborne is entrusted with the part of the flower girl, Nan, which she plays with melting pathos; Mr. Percy Rhodes portrays her callous husband, the swell mobsman, Richard Redcliffe, with a keen eye for his opportunities; Messrs. Percy Bell and Frank Sutherland act capably as his disreputable allies, Jenkinson and Spriggins; Mr. W. S. Hartford makes a popular and well-moulded character of John Biddlecomb; Mr. Harry McClelland wins respect as Mr. Burnaby; Mr. Blundell Fenton has a highly pleasing style as the son Walter; Miss Rose Grey acts gracefully as his cousin Ruth Clifton; and others who are thoroughly good are Mr. Lonnen Meadows as Charley Johnson, Miss Mary Stafford Smith as Tom Chickweed, Miss Nelly Lauraine as Mrs. Maloney, Miss Elsie Clarke as Little Paul, Miss Gertie Douglas as Liz Jenkinson, and Mr. G. Clements as Jack Woods.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—There is an excellent bill here. The big turn of the evening is Alice Raymond and her company in the musical extravaganza *A Night in Egypt*, in which some capital musical selections are rendered. Whit Cunliffe has a big reception, his songs being loudly encored; Marie San Toy and her company have a bright scena, *A Japanese Tea Garden*; Big Ben Brown and Little George Le Clerq are exceedingly amusing; Lockhart's elephants, Harry Bedford, Grace Merton, Margaret Radcliffe, and Mason and Bart are all popular turns.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Phil Ray and Lil Hawthorne are the star turns here. Both these clever artists are exceedingly popular. George Newburn, mimic, comes in for a good share of applause; Elsie Robey is clever in her mimicry entertainment at the piano; and the Four Jumels, Dot Stephens, Kent and Keith, the Borellis, and Rich and Rich complete the bill.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—The Six Brothers Luck, in their pantomime absurdity *Lift 'Ems, Limited*, are the big attraction here; Ross and Grayson, well known in Birmingham, are a quaint couple; Shaun Glenville and company have an amusing turn, *The Art of Deception*; the Brilliants are xylophonists of a high order, and win loud applause; Marcel and Boris perform some clever equilibristic feats; other good turns are supplied by Flo Warner, George Antill, L. W. Harris, and the Permane Brothers.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles Owen.—Ben Hur, the patrician athlete, is the big turn here, his spectacular sketch, *Pompeii*, being watched with interest. Walker and May are good coon singers and dancers; the Brothers Weltman present some smart acrobatic dances; Maxey and Pete are expert trick cyclists; Vi Davis is a delightful turn and was well applauded. Other turns include the Davenports, Johnny Dewer, and Oakley and James.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—This week Mr. Harry Battersby's company is here in *The King of Crime*. Mr. F. B. Woulfe gives a pronounced rendering of Ronjarre. Mr. Wm. Melvyn is capable as Louis Mascolrot, and the house is kept fully alive by Mr. Sam Wilford as Mick Maloney. Miss Agnes D'Aragon has many admirers in her rendering of Mère Crochard; Miss Mildred Eversleigh sustains her part as Mathilde in a characteristic manner; and as Clarisse Miss Edith Loraine is also good. Miss Ethel Griffies is an ideal exponent of Henriette.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Forbes Robertson and company are welcomed with open arms here this week, and their appearance in Mr. Jerome's latest "idle fancy," entitled *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, is meeting with the success it so richly deserves. Every "character" is portrayed with telling effect. Mr. Robertson plays with consummate art, and it is safe to say that no bishop ever preached a finer sermon than is taught by his portrayal of A Friend. Miss Gertrude Elliott also acts remarkably well as "the slavey," but, as a matter of fact, criticism of such a play as this is altogether out of place. The subject of it is too sublime. Mr. Hendrie plays the bookmaker; Mr. Edward Sass, Jake Samuels, of the city; Miss Agnes Thomas, a landlady; Miss Haidee Wright, a painted lady; Mr. Marsh Allen, an artist; Miss Alice Crawford, a hussy; Mr. Ian Robertson, a bully; Miss Kate Carlyon, a shrew; Mr. Wilfred Foster, a cad; and Miss Kate Bishop, a snob. *Carrots* is played as a curtain raiser, with Miss Elliott in the title-rôle, and Mr. Robertson as Mr. Lepic.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is paying a very welcome return visit here with *The Merry Widow*. Several changes have taken place in the personnel of the company since the last visit. The title-rôle is played this week by Miss Sylvia May, who both in singing and acting justifies her selection; and Mr. Leonard Mackay is successful in every respect as Prince Danilo. Mr. Eric Thorne as Baron Popoff, Mr. W. Talleur Andrews as Vicomte Camille, and Mr. W. H. Rawlins as Nisch are old favourites, and their popularity is undiminished. Miss Ethel Cadman makes a capital Natalie, and Miss Eileen Orme gives a good account of Olga. Chorus, dresses, and scenery are alike excellent.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The popular George Robey tops a big bill here this week, and his reception at every performance is of the most cordial description. Lily Burnand, the burlesque actress, is also well received. Other good turns are Binns and Binns, in a comedy and musical act; J. W. Hall, a favourite comedian; Radford and Valentine, the jolly jugglers; Burley and Burley, a pair of very amusing comedians; Lilile Lassah, comedienne and dancer; Columbia Comedy Trio, and Cissie Walmer, a breezy comedienne.

Hippodrome.—Manageress, Mrs. Fioni.—Bennett and Stirling, a pair of very clever comedians, are the star turn here this week. Lillian O'Gorman, vocalist and dancer; J. H. Greener, the singing pit lad; Blarney and Kinnaird, comedians, together with the pictures, complete the programme.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. Bulmer has presented his excellent company in the successful play, *The Girl Who Went Astray*, and large audiences have been attracted. Miss Gwynne Warren, in the chief rôle of Madge Harvey, at once established herself a favourite.

Gaiety.—Lessee, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—At the head of the bill we have Barney Stewart, a versatile entertainer; Violet McNab, comedienne; George Langden and Connie Laurie, sketch artists; Sisters Fardy (Rosina and Belle), and the Arntes appear with much success.

Hippodrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Doyle and O'Connell.—The new arrivals include Mike and Lena, in comedy duologue, and the Great Sira, together with the usual pictures.

BOLTON. — Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. Fred Granville's No. 1 company is the attraction here this week, with the drama *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. The principal characters are ably taken by Mr. E. Howard Templeton as Tom Robinson, Mr. V. W. Carlyle as George Fielding, Mr. Charles F. Johnson as Rev. Francis Eden, Mr. Harry Cave as Peter Crawley, Miss Gertrude Entwistle as Susan Merton, and Miss Millie Wilton as the poor waif, Josephs.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—John Lemm, the champion wrestler, heads the bill here, and the following turns give good support to an excellent programme:—The Sisters Belmont, dancing stars; Zaro and Arno, in their original comedy bar act; the Rangers, Australia's trick cyclists; Marie Terry and J. S. Bentley, refined comedy artists; David Poole, ventriloquist, with his happy family; Georgino Leno, comedienne; the Great Albas, sensational wire performer; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — Muncaster Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Young.—The stock company is this week presenting the domestic drama *Waiting for the Verdict*. The principal characters are well represented by Messrs. Albert Sember, Stanley S. Gordon, Alfred D. Adams, Cyril Grier, Tom H. Solly, and Misses Nina Vaughton, Kathleen Magee, and Effie Macintosh.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—This week James Fawn is paying a return visit; the Westwoods provide a sensational cycling performance, the feats being executed with great dexterity; Devan and Earle are loudly applauded for their hurricane dancing; Josie Gallimore is successful in her dancing and singing; Johnny Fuller gives a clever display on the slack wire; Minnie Warner, described as the "Indiarubber Girl," is clever in her tambourine dance; and Zenora provides a remarkable balancing performance. The Hippo Pictures conclude.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—This week Mr. George Dance's company is playing here to crowded houses in *Miss Hook of Holland*. Mr. Tom Shale gives an original and humorous impersonation of Mr. Hook; Mr. Geo. Ide, as Captain Paap, plays with distinction, and has an excellent voice; the bandmaster is taken by Mr. Frank Crimp, who has a good appearance and renders his songs well; Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun., as Schnapps, makes the most of his part; Miss Alice Coverick makes a dainty Miss Hook; Miss Cissie Sephton scored a great and well-deserved success as Mina, her "petticoat" song being encored; and Mr. Tom Seymour makes a good Simon Slinks.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*Charley's Aunt*, produced by the author's company, is productive of roars of laughter here. Mr. G. A. Seager is funny as Lord Fancourt Babberley; Miss Vere Gerald very charmingly fills the part of Donna Lucia; Mr. Theo McCausland Stewart's Col. Sir Francis Chesney and Mr. Roy Byford's Stephen Spettigue are capital impersonations; and Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesney, Mr. Basil Lynton as Charley Wykeham, Miss Olivia Glynn as Kitty Verdun, Miss Grace Russell as Amy Spettigue, and Miss Evelyn Grey as Ela Delahay give excellent support. Mr. Brandon Thomas's excellent curtain-raiser, *The Lancashire Sailor*, precedes the comedy.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Very finely staged, and well represented by Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk's company on Monday, Mr. Charles Darrell's play, *From Shop Girl to Duchess*, was accorded a hearty reception. Miss Mary Neil, an actress of great emotional power, won the sympathy of her audience as the orphan girl, Sylvia Grey, in whom the chief interest of the play centres; and Mr. Douglas Cecil in a fairly convincing performance of Arnold Vyvian (her lover) supported her well. Mr. T. Lionel Ellis stood out prominently as Sir Morris Maitland; and a most effective effort was the Gilbert Spate (Sylvia's evil genius) of Mr. F. S. Strickland. Miss Beatrice Hudson played the part of the scheming Lady Ecleste Delamere well; Miss Florrie Groves was very bright and humorous as the outspoken Tilly Dobson; there was much humour in Miss Marie Clavering's acting as Lady Cinderella Portcullis and Mr. R. Cromwell's Tommy Tinkler; Miss Amy B. Ellis was good as the Duchess of St. Baynum, and all the other parts in the big cast were well filed.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Ernest Shand, the comedian, had a big reception here on Monday, and his excellent songs elicited hearty laughter. With a voice of fine quality and a dashing style Truly Shattuck won applause for her songs; Hans and Lux are amusing comedians; a delightfully humorous musical turn by the Two Anartos elicits hearty laughter; Cecilia Maude's excellent descriptive songs win marks of favour; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden amuse greatly with their bright little sketch; Tom Edwards gives a ventriloquial turn which is distinctly clever; there is humour and originality in the turn submitted by the Kirbys; Billy McClain and company are diverting in their broad Southern scena, *Parson Johnson*; and the fine pictures shown by the American Bioscope are up to date.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Lillie Soutter, the comedienne, is winning golden opinions here; and a clever equilibristic act by Alfonzo is amongst the good things on the programme. George James submits good comedy; in a pot-pourri of dancing and acrobatic feats Gibbon and Belle are clever; dancing of a well-varied type by the smart Glenroy Troupe wins marks of favour; as a whistler and mimic Jim Cheetham is good; Millicent Frères provide a skilful gymnastic entertainment; roars of laughter greet Ferguson and Mack in their absurdity *The Dimple Sisters*; and Raymond's Biotableaux prove very interesting.

BRIDLINGTON.—Royal Princes' Parade.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—The season at this fashionable resort is now at its height, and Mr. Palmer has provided a full bill of fare for his patrons, who nightly crowd the Floral Pavilion, and also the Grand Pavilion. In the former Mr. Norfolk Megone and his splendid municipal orchestra give some of the choicest programmes of music; Miss Annie Bartle, soprano, concluded a most successful engagement on Sunday evening, and this week Miss Palgrave Turner is using her fine soprano voice to good effect in some choice songs. Mr. H. Flockton-Foster and his entertainers gave a special prgramme on Monday in the Grand Pavilion, which was crowded. The special turn this week is Mr. Gandy, a very clever ventriloquist, and in conjunction with Miss Inglefield he gives a remarkable exhibition of "thought-reading," which is highly entertaining. The Loyal Dominion Company's animated pictures are always well received, Mr. Will H. Emmerson, the proprietor, keeping them well up to date. One of the latest is a Pathé film, The Jealous Foreman, which includes one of the most realistic fire scenes ever exhibited here.

New Spa and Gardens.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—The Lindon Vaudeville Entertainers continue to draw large audiences to their popular entertainments under the Glass Dome. Herr Simon Würm's Viennese Band give some good programmes at the promenade concerts, the vocalist this week being Mr. Alexander Tucker, whose bass songs are highly appreciated. The Spaograph animated pictures in the open air draw large crowds, who are highly delighted at this novel exhibition of animated photography, the pictures being so remarkably clear.

Spa Opera House.—Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—*The Belle of Mayfair* opened here on Monday night to a very full house. The company is Mr. J. Bannister Howard's, and is a most talented one. Mr. Stephen Hall was capital as the peppery Earl of Mount Highgate; Mr. Sidney Burt kept the house in constant mirth with his quaint humour and droll sayings; Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft was a smart Raymond Finchley; Mr. Michael Raven was admirable as Hugh; and Mr. D. Bathing was a most capable Comte de Perrier. Miss Nellie Barnwell was a charming little Julia Chaldicott, her dancing being very smart and cleverly executed; Miss Rosina Effingham was an excellent Princess; Miss Denny Fitzherbert fairly revelled in her well-acted part of Lady Chaldicott; Miss Dora Lyons gave a chic rendering of the part of Pincott; and Miss Grace Mackay was very effective as the Gibson Girl. The chorus and orchestra were very good, and the piece was handsomely staged and dressed. For the last half of the week we have Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in the amusing play *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*.

The Palace.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delma.—The Parisian animated pictures continue to be a source of great attraction, and Mr. Delmar is constantly adding new films for the entertainment of his patrons. The programmes include some capital variety turns, and the various side-shows and the spacious ballroom are a source of enjoyment to the visitors, who can thoroughly enjoy the many attractions of this place of variety.

Summer Gardens.—Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Denton; Manager, Mr. Chas. Beanland.—Novelty is the order of the day at this resort of the visitors, and the programmes include farces and interludes, as well as an occasional performance by the popular Waterloo Pierrots of the old-fashioned Christy Minstrel type, which is always heartily welcomed. Last Friday the popular and esteemed manager, Mr. Beanland, had his benefit, which was a "bumper." The smiling "Sam" was supported by a host of talent, including some charming songs by Miss Vera Dudley and Miss Rena Rees; some humorous contributions by Coda, Danton, and Bath; and a musical monologue by Mr. C. H. Gough, the talented pianist of the troupe; Mr. Will H. Emerson contributed a recitation; the Lindon Vaudeville Entertainers, from the Spa, gave some of their choice items; and the amusing sketch *The Suffragette* was admirably played by Mr. Geo. Hyam and Mrs. Pank-ake. Mr. Harry Tomlin sang some of his choicest items in a talented manner, and the beneficiare gave one of his most amusing comic ditties. The amusing sketch *Bundle's Blunders* concluded a big programme, and "Sam" was cheered on thanking his patrons for their appreciation of his catering for their amusement.

BRIGHTON. — Grand Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. Frederick Melville's drama, *Married to the Wrong Man*, occupies the boards here this week, and is attracting crowded and enthusiastic audiences. Miss Gertrude Boswell gives a very fine impersonation of Ruth; Mr. Oswald Cray makes an admirable Jack Gladwin; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff is highly effective as Captain Deering; Miss Maisie Hanbury is a graceful Rose O'Connor.

Alhambra.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. Jack Lorimer, "the Scotch breeder of smiles," is very amusing; Chris Richards is a clever and eccentric comedian; the Motramos are capital in the drawing-room sketch *Do You Reverse?* Kitts and Windrum are very entertaining in the sketch *The Cuckoo;* Lieut. Travis, ventriloquist, is cordially received; Beaty and Blanche are charming duettists and dancers; Stella Stahl sings and dances admirably; Walter King, "the doleful comedian," is diverting with song and patter; Bonnetti and Corrie contribute a good eccentric juggling act; and the Alhambrascope pictures are excellent.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. Lafayette, who met with such distinct success last week, is still here, and is mystifying and clever in the pantomimic sketch, *The Lion's Bride;* the Hadji Mohamed Troupe of tumblers are warmly applauded; Tom E. Hughes is a smart comedian; Kendrick and Laura appear in a dainty interlude; Ethel Walker is a pleasing entertainer at the piano; the Three Cunards are appreciated in their dancing act; the Three Sisters Sprightly are versatile artists; and B. Babington, vocal actress and comedienne, is well received, and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

West Pier.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. W. Norman.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here this week with *Peter's Mother*. Miss Lilias Earle submits a charming representation of Lady Mary; Mr. Eille Norwood's John Crewys is a masterly enactment; Mr. Vivian Gilbert gives a capital portrayal of Peter; Miss Hilda Sims makes a pleasing Sarah; Miss Mary Griffiths (Lady Belstone) and Miss Josephine Rae (Miss G. Crewys) are capitally suited; and others meriting commendation are Mr. Townsend Whiting (Sir Timothy), Mr. Walter Russell (Canon Burch), and Mr. Edward Jephson (Dr. Blundell).

Palace Pier Theatre.—Miss Annie Hughes and company, continuing their short season here, are repeating *The Mollusc* this week. Miss Hughes is delightful in the title-rôle; Mr. Athol Stewart is an excellent Tom Kemp; Miss Lilias Waldegrave displays finished acting as Miss Roberts; and Mr. Wylie A. Thompson is effective as the docile husband.

Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The animated pictures here continue to attract good houses at the three daily exhibitions. A Tale of Autumn Leaves is especially appreciated; The Reprieve submits a thrilling story; much amusement is afforded by The Stolen Duck; The Asphalter's Dilemma and An Interrupted Bath, The Spectre Portrayals (a capital story); and other excellent films include An Interrupted Idyll, The Baby's Playmate, and A Carnival at Nice.

BRISTOL.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Miss Lena Ashwell and her London company, direct from the Kingsway Theatre, are here for the week. On Monday evening *Diana of Dobson's* was performed, the house being a really good one in all parts. Miss Ashwell acted with her accustomed skill as Diana Massingberd; Miss Gertrude Scott presented a good study of Mrs. White Fraser; Mr. Dennis Eady hit off the peculiarities of Sir Jabez Grinlay, Bart., in capital style; Mr. C. M. Hallard made a good part of Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton; Miss Frances Ivor acted cleverly as the mercenary Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss Beryl Mercer displayed skill in her study of the old woman on the Thames Embankment, as also did Mr. Norman McKinnel as P.-C. Fellowes. The remaining small parts were all carefully taken by the Misses Nannie Bennett, Mary Barton, Muriel Vox, Doris Lytton, Ada Palmer, and Mr. W. Lemmon Warde. The comedy was staged effectively. The performance commenced with *The Likes o' Me*, which was nicely played by Miss Beryl Mercer, Master Philip Tonge, Miss Dorothy Brunt, Mr. W. Lemmon Warde, and Mr. T. A. Shannon. *Irene Wycherley* is billed for Friday evening.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*The Lancashire Lad*, well performed by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company, is the attraction here. Mr. Alec Alexander acts very effectively as David Elmore; Miss Stanley Burt is pleasing as Jessie Wincote; Mr. T. G. Vane displays considerable power as Max Carlton, as also does Miss Nell Oliver as Lorna Wincote; Mr. Percy Maitland acts in convincing style as Jem Wincote; and other important parts are carefully taken by Miss Molly Monoghan (Mother Wardle) and Mr. Bob Anderson (John Willie); the remainder of the cast being in good hands. The drama is excellently staged, and a variety entertainment in the third act adds considerably to the attractions.

Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls head the programme successfully. There are five boys and two girls, and they all sing and dance well; the Kurios present an amusing speciality, which includes trick scenery and lightning sketching; Alfred Wellesley and company score with a smart little sketch entitled *Uncle's Courtship;* Adeline Yohle and company have a pleasing musical interlude, Miss Yohle's song, "Sweet Memory" being much appreciated; the Tafanos display considerable musical skill as comic serenaders; Jimmie Laurie, patter comedian, is smart in his line; Bessie Knight is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; and interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

Empire. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—G. P. Trevor and company successfully present a dramatic sketch entitled *Her Country's Enemy*, which is well staged, and capitally played by Miss Mary Allestree, Mr. G. P. Trevor, Miss Mary Barton, Messrs. S. C. Henry, Charles White, and T. S. Crook. Dorothy Sephton is a pleasing comedienne; Elton and Edwin are expert banjoists; Haydn's Vaudeville Artists do a pleasing turn, and are exceptionally clever dancers; Johnny Johnston, instrumentalist and whistler, is successful; Chard's dogs are marvellously well trained; and Arthur Slater scores as a bird imitator, &c. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—The company under the control of Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes-Knowles is an all-round capable one, and a full house on Monday appeared to thoroughly enjoy the performance of the domestic drama, *Her Marriage Vow*, by Owen Davis.

tions have been made in the front of the house. Mr. Bartlett Garth, a powerful actor, plays the rôle of Jasper, and Mr. J. H. Twyford is distinguished as Neville Landless; Mr. G. Ridgway Thorne is good as Edwin Drood, and Mr. Richard Harris does well as Mr. Crisparkle; Mr. David Phillips is responsible for endless laughter as Durdles; and a characteristic rendition of Princess Puffer is given by Miss Adie Adair; Mrs. Morton Powell supplies a charming rendering of Rosa Bud, and Miss May Beatrice is pleasing as Helena Landless.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Crowded houses give a hearty welcome to each successive turn. The Lavails on the silver arch and revolving bars are worthy of high praise, and the Bob Hanlon troupe of gymnasts give a sensational performance of somersaults from horizontal bars; neat and clean hand and head balancing is done by the Nettig Janowsky Trio, and Jack Clark, Lancashire comedian, has a store of good jokes; W. H. Downs, Australian ballad vocalist, sings well, and Nellie Farrell, a sweet little Irish girl, is greatly appreciated; the Four Breens introduce fun into Indian club juggling; the Sisters Silcott, as vocalists and dancers, are good, and the picture by the Empire Theatroscope, Bewildered Bobbies, is most laughable.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The star turns here are decidedly novel. Mr. Cliff Berzac presents Woodward's seals and sea lions, and their performance is received with high approval; Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, are distinctly funny and clever, and Frank Leon, character comedian, sings well, and is responsible for the arrangement of a clog-dancing competition; Les Frasettis are a pair of clever musicians, who give selections on harp, violin, and xylophone; John G. Brandon and company appear in a dramatic sketch, *The Girl and the Tough*, which is well received; Ellis and Watts are clever dancers, and Billie Burford is a good comedienne, and Margit and Lenner are very peculiar acrobats and cause much mirth. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux shows a funny picture, A New Hair Remover.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company with *A Royal Divorce* occupy the stage this week. Mr. Keith Fraser (Napoleon) infuses into the rôle of that despotic autocrat a vein of tenderness, with occasional flashes of humour, which appeal irresistibly to the large audience. The acting of Miss Margaret Watson as dignified Empress, or broken-hearted woman, deserves nothing but unqualified approval, recalls being frequent and enthusiastic. Miss Maud Lacy's bright and charming personality is exactly suited to the part of Stephanie; her scenes with Mr. Walter T. Clifford (a capital Aughereau) create much amusement. The wily Talleyrand is skilfully played by Mr. Percy H. Vernon; while the traitorous De Beaumont has a clever representative in Mr. Stanley Harrison. Other characters are creditably undertaken by Miss E. Magna France, Miss Violet Hudson, Miss Ethel Love, Mr. Geo. Hudson (an amusing Grimaud), and Miss Winnie Tempest (Marie Louise).

BURY (Lancs).—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—An excellent programme here includes Jan Rudenyi, the celebrated Hungarian actor-violinist, in *The Power of Music*. He is well assisted by Miss Dora de Winton and Mr. John D. Saunders. The Three Arleys, acrobats; Mlle. Renee plays on various instruments; Mike Nono, comedian; the Martelloni Family, acrobats; Mr. John Donald, vocalist; Lina Leslie, vocalist; and Recco, burlesque acrobat.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A good series of pictures are provided here. They include The Great Marathon Race, A Tour to Copenhagen, Poor, but Honest, A Game of Hide and Seek, &c. The variety turns are Vaubert, an illusionist of ability, and Phyllis Seymour, singer and dancer.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons.—The turns include the original Szarvasi Ferencz Troupe of singers and dancers; Coverdale and Huxley's Bijou Juvenile Troupe; Picquo, a comedy gymnast; Fritz Kornan, whistler; Major Moss, baritone; Ethel Loftus, comedienne; and Martin Conway, comedian.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—Mr. F. W. Bolam's company is here in *The Sins of Society*. It is some considerable time since such a magnificent first-class drama has been presented here, and on Monday night a distinctly critical audience pronounced the piece to be well worth a visit. The cast is an unusually large one, but the name of Mr. Blake Adams stands out in prominence, this clever fun-maker being one of Cardiff's first favourites. His impersonation of James Hogg is a great success, and nothing funnier could be imagined than his portrayal of the would-be "sport." A huge victory is achieved by Miss Grace E. Leslie as Lady Marion Beaumont, her rendition being a perfect masterpiece. The bright and vivacious Lady Goldbury is more than successfully undertaken by Miss Pattie Browne; while Miss Dorothy Giles is a charming Lady Gwendolen Ashley. A faultless delineation of Mr. Noel Ferrers is presented by Mr. C. F. Collings, the society scoundrel being depicted with remarkable consummate ease. The representation of Sir Dorian March by Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan does him infinite credit, and Mr. Frederick Annerley as Mr. Morris is a decidedly clever piece of acting. The company all-round is an exceptionally strong one, while the scenery and effects are in no mean measure responsible for the well-deserved success of the production.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—At the head of a carefully-selected programme appears Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney, in a duologue entitled *The Dog Between*. Never before have Cardiffians had the opportunity of witnessing such a pleasing and simple sketch, and yet its charm is in its simplicity. The ease with which Augustus Mackenzie and Joan Craddock were depicted can be the outcome of only born histrionic abilities. Protean plays are always remarkable, but Herbert Shelley, in his thrilling episode *Dan the Outlaw*, presents a piece in which marvellous quick-changes are combined with first-class acting. A mimic with startling qualifications is Syd May, his famous wrestling skit being funny and well-contrived; while Cruikshank is an old favourite who gains tumultuous applause for smart sayings and clever ditties; Charlene and Charlene prove expert juggler and lady xylophonist, the union providing an exceptionally talented performance. In an amusing skit, *How to Treat a Burglar*, the Maples introduce wonderful trick dancing, which is accorded well-deserved approbation; Harry Barnes and company in the *School of Dancing*, which includes six charming and clever dancers; Bros. Redmond, exceptional acrobatic comedians, the Crown Trio, speciality vocalists, and a screaming absurdity on the Bioscope complete a good all-round bill.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Rollo Balmain.—*It's Never Too Late to Mend* is put forward in excellent style at the Theatre Royal this week. Mr. Edward Sullivan's company is responsible for the capital representation of this popular piece. Mr. George Delaforce appears in the rôle of George Fielding, submitting a really fine portrayal; Tom Robinson is rendered in first-rate style by Mr. Ronald Boyne; the villainies of Mr. Meadows are given just the necessary prominence by Mr. Geo. Dent; while Mr. G. Arundel certainly makes a capital bluff farmer. Miss Eirine Douglas achieves fair success as the heroine, Susan Merton, and other clever impersonations are those given by Mr. Alfred Willing (William Fielding), Mr. Gus Walsh (Isaac Levi), and Mr. J. W. Braithwaite (Peter Crawley).

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—A varied programme is headed by the gifted vocalist Herbert Clifton, who succeeds exceptionally well at the Palace; Keith and Merson appear in their hunting absurdity, with their customary popularity; Kelly and Ashby are another merry duo, who "go down" with much appreciation in Cardiff; Harry Nelson strikes an original skit, *My Wife's a Suffragette;* and the Varleys, harmonising vocalists; the Three Alskarnos, Risley comedians; and the Gregson Comedy Trio all appear in capital form to contribute their share in the excellent bill of fare.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. C. Watson Mills's company in the powerful drama *A Warning to Women* is drawing good houses here. The principal part, Dr. Marcus Dread, is splendidly enacted by Mr. Leonard Lawrence, whose study of a by-no-means pleasant or popular character meets with unqualified approval. Miss Lillian Herries, too, has a thankless part, which she treats with artistic skill and a fine appreciation of its many opportunities. A clever character sketch by Miss Marie Moore is a strong feature of the performance. Mr. William Vane as Shaun, Mr. Harry Douglas as Lord Eversleigh, Mr. Chas. O'Connor, and Mr. Henry Rutland give excellent performances. Mr. Oscar Power as the comedy Irishman, Mike M'Quade, is amusing and Miss Alice Findlayson and Miss Edith Rutland fill their parts with credit.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Pipifax and Paulo, who top the bill this week in their eccentric acrobatic act, entitled "Humpsti Bumpsti," contribute a distinctly novel, clever, and amusing turn; their knockabout business is something to be seen. Another novel act is given by Rozel, whose daring feats created amazement and enthusiastic applause. Amy Marden sings effectively, and E. Rutland is a comedian with a quaint and funny style which at once made him popular. A breezy and smartly-written little comedy, entitled *Elizabeth and the Baby*, was amusingly played by Benson and Rose. Harry and Elsie Mayville are on a return visit with their always-welcome Liliputian novelty act. A laughable scena, *The Fire Station*, by the Fenians, was not the least popular item of an interesting and enjoyable entertainment.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Sydney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas France; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—The Edison Picture Company continues to be a great attraction here. Black-eyed Susan is the special film this week. Rennie, the ventriloquist, is remarkably clever and funny, and has established himself a favourite.

CARMARTHEN.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—A crowded house welcomed the appearance of Mr. Arthur Roberts and his vaudeville company in their repertoire of sketches, entitled *Courtship and Marriage, Till Sunday, A Midnight Kiss*, and *The Importance of Being Another Man's Wife*. In the former sketch Mr. Roberts and Miss Ruby Celeste in their respective parts were really amusing. In *Till Sunday* Mr. Roberts was at his best, and kept the large audience in a continual roar of laughter. Miss Ida Furneaux as Mrs. St. Hilary was excellent. Biggs was excellently represented by Mr. Harry Huddleston; Mr. William Rokeby was really good as Mr. St. Hilary; Mr. Harry J. Worth as Ephraim was very effective; and Miss May Hallatt as Rose most capably represented her part.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman, J.P.—*The Nihilist* is being presented here by Messrs. O. Silverstone and Hy. Wright's company. Mr. Walter Bentley makes an excellent Ivan; and is well supported by Miss Edna Clare as Alexina Orloff; Mr. Leo R. Neilson, in the heavy part, makes a capital Prince Alexander; Miss Florrie Kelsey, as Princess Olga, and Little May Ediss, as Alexina's daughter, play their parts to perfection; and Mr. Hy. Wright and Miss Jessica Ford are amusing in their respective parts.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, James Travis.—The Loyal Dominion Co.'s pictures at the Queen's continue to maintain their high standard of excellence, and each week something new is added to interest their many patrons. This week's programme includes the great Marathon Race, that great dramatic picture The Motherless Child, Tour Through Savoy, Custom House Officer's Stick, Round the Table, Jack in the Letter Box, and numerous others interesting and educational, whilst Miss Lilian Neville, in illustrated songs, adds to the enjoyment of the evening's programme.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—G. Carlton Wallace's company occupies the boards here with *The Love that Women Desire*. Mr. J. O. Stewart is natural as Squire Abingdon, Mr. John Hignett makes a capable Dennis O'Rourke, Miss May Neilson is a lively Patty Swift, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson is drily humorous as P.C. Sowerburry, Miss Aimee Grattan Clyndes creates a decidedly favourable impression as Sybil Thorburn, and other parts are in good keeping.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Sam Mayo is once again starring here with his usual effect. Another leading attraction is Maurin's Fairy Fountains, by means of which some very pleasing effects are gained. The Bros. Dean dance together with great precision. Winnie Derson makes many friends and admirers. Lacey's Erascope has some excellent films. Others appearing are Will Brockton, vocalist; Nellie Chandos, serio; and the Lorrisons, fun-makers.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. E. G. Woodhouse.—Yukio Tani tops the bill here, and his nightly displays and contests arouse much interest and excitement. Roma and Romani, on a return visit, are again pleasing all with their skilful musical selections. Mollie Woolstenhulme's vocal contributions are quite appreciated. The Falcons perform acrobatic feats in a very clean manner. Gena Manon's songs go well. The Society Quartette dance to everyone's satisfaction. The Edisonograph has a smartly-worked trick film, entitled The Invisible Fluid. Cyril Carle, in dramatic scena, and the Katos, in their automatic theatre, complete the company.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—A welcome change is made this week in the form of a visit of Mr. Milton Bode's company in the successful musical comedy, *A Chinese Honeymoon*. The chief parts are in the capable hands of two Chester favourites, viz., Mr. Billy Harman, who plays as Mr. Pineapple, and Miss Veronica Brady, who appears as Mrs. Pineapple. Mr. Harman is successful in all he does, and was accorded a flattering reception at his first entrance on Monday; Miss Veronica Brady acts, sings, and dances to the evident satisfaction of the audience, and her work well justifies her popularity; Mr. Rudolph Kloss makes an imposing Emperor as Hang Chow; Mr. P. Allerton Turner submits an excellent character study as Chippie Chop, and also undertakes the duties of stage-manager; Mr. Harry Jennings is well to the fore as Tom Hatherton; Mrs. Brown has an efficient representative in Miss Maud Adams; Mr. Leonard May gains many laughs for his humorous impersonation of the Lord High Admiral Hi Lung, and is a great success; the Fi-Fi of the production is Miss Gwennie Harcourt, and her funny antics convulse the house, the applause after her song, "When I make my début," being enthusiastic. The chorus and augmented orchestra are under the able direction of Mr. Knight Pearce, and Mr. Alfred Monro is the business-manager for Mr. Bode. The production is tastefully dressed and well staged.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Day's company is here in *For Love of a Woman*. As Ned Merrick, Mr. Arthur Chisholm displays considerable talent; Mr. Fred Lloyd is an acceptable Guy Manor; Mr. Eustace Day cleverly renders Allan Paget; Mr. Fred Ramsdale is good as Sam Holland; Miss May Day capitally renders Nance Manor; Miss Eva St. Vincent depicts Jane Manor ably, and Miss Elsie Sheldon vivaciously undertakes Marjory Hulmes, Nell Paget being capably presented by Miss Dorothy Routh.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.—PALACE BY THE SEA.—Managing-Director, Mr. P. W. Willard. — Farley, Rernie and Farley are creating screams of laughter with their farce, *The Terrible Tailors;* and Harding and Preston are also extremely funny in *The Editor and the New Sub*; Miss Vera Patey, "The Summer Girl," is still a great attraction, her laughing song being particularly good; Lily Esplin is a charming comedienne, and wins hearty applause; Master Bernard Crook presents a very clever turn at the piano; Mr. Percy Maye's impersonations are enthusiastically received, and Henri Becker, the modern wonder-worker, certainly deserves his title; Mr. Fred Bronte, comedian-vocalist, gives a good account of himself. The Palascope shows some fine pictures.

WEST CLIFF GARDENS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Graham Russell and Bentley.—In addition to the stock company, Mr. Walter Montague, raconteur, Mr. Joseph Bull, operatic banjoist, and Miss Maggie Jarvis, soprano, are appearing here with success. The complimentary benefit to Mr. Bert Graham proved an immense success, and seats were at a great premium.

OPERETTA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. W. F. Jury; Business-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—This hall is still running with great success. The pictures shown are of the highest order, and fully merit the hearty applause they receive. Miss Clairetta Florence adds greatly to the enjoyment of the entertainment with her well-rendered humorous songs.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company in *The Dairymaids* opened a three-nights engagement here on Monday, and that very pleasing musical play was quite to the taste of the large and appreciative audience. Mr. Dan Agar, obviously a billiard enthusiast, was the hit of the piece, his evolutions and engaging personality as "Joe Mivens, A.B.," forming the nucleus of unbounded fun; Mr. Richard Telford, too, was exceedingly funny as Lieutenant Sam Brudenell, and the dancing of this comedian was loudly redemanded; Mr. Bernard Vaughan filled the rôle of Dr. O'Byrne, R.N., with very pleasing correctness, whilst Miss Carrie Lacey looked very smart as Lady Brudenell; Miss Empsie Bowman and Miss Vera Crichton as Peggy and Winnie respectively, were most charming; and an immense favourite was the Eliza of Miss Nellie Bowman. The very numerous subsidiary characters were splendidly shown, and the whole piece went with commendable smartness, many of the topical allusions being loudly applauded. On Thursday, for a matinée and one evening performance, The Besses o' the Barn Band paid a return visit, its previous one being an eminent success, adding to the interest manifested, though it was extremely unfortunate that all the troops in garrison are temporarily away on manœuvres.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Henry Herne and company are this week presenting the dramatic sketch, *Blackmail*. Edward Cranston and Mrs. Bennett's company appear in the comedietta, *Poor Master;* Wallan, the young juggler, pays a return visit, and shows marked improvement, for which he is deservedly applauded; Amy Elcock, comedienne and dancer, goes well; whilst Florrie St. Roy dances in clever style and shows much agility; Jack Binns shines as a vocal comedian; Tom Dunmore contributes to the bill; and the concluding item is the film, A Chauffeur's Dream, by the Charles Urban Company.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's principal company opened on Monday with *The Dairymaids*, which was seen for the first time here. The piece is well mounted and the scenery and dresses excellent. Miss Phyllis Dare appears in the part of Peggy, and proved herself a delightful actress, singing and dancing very gracefully. Her first appearance on Monday was greeted with enthusiastic applause. Another clever lady is Miss Gladys Ivery, who takes the part of Winifred. This artist possesses a pleasing and well-trained voice, and won much favour in the numbers allotted to her. Miss Lottie Serjeant as Eliza (maid-of-all-work) sings, dances, and acts admirably. As Lady Brudenell Miss Edith Blanche fills the part capably, and Mrs. Rose Edouin Lewis as Miss Pyechase gave good support. Miss Marjorie Manners as Helen and Miss Maisie Sinclair as Lady Hyde acquitted themselves admirably. Mr. E. Statham Staples as Lieut. Sam Brudenell was full of humour, and Mr. Harry Dent as Joe Mivens was irresistibly droll, and created much laughter. Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., as Lieut. Frank Meredith, R.N., also contributed towards the fun. In the part of Dr. O'Byrne Mr. Percy Marshall gave a breezy rendering. The Lieut. Brereton of Mr. Horace Percival was also a capital characterisation. The choruses were good. Some prettily-arranged exercises were given by the Sandow girls.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—An American comedy drama, entitled *A Millionaire Tramp*, is being produced at the above house this week with much success by Mr. Herbert Lloyd's company. Mr. W. W. Jones, as an hotel porter (Abraham Jones), is a clever comedian and dancer. In the title-rôle (Mr. Jay Pierpont), Mr. Joseph Lyle causes much amusement; Miss Sybil Carl Rosa is admirably suited to the part of Estella Hampton; Mr. Gilbert Clark (Arthur Edgerton) and Mr. Charles Weir (Dr. John Staley) act ably. A number of good songs are very well rendered, and a word of praise should be given to the excellent scenic effects.

THE HIPPODROME.—A varied and interesting programme is being well patronised this week. The star turn is given by Mr. Charles Worlands company in an historical playlet, *Cromwell and the King*, the chief characters being sustained by Mr. Ashley Page and Miss Marion Denvil; Nat Clifford is paying a welcome return visit, and is well received; the Three Merrils, cyclists, appear with some clever tricks; Dale and O'Mally are smart comedians; the Lynchs give some illustrated picture songs; other capable contributors being the Fitzroys, trapeze and rope gymnasts; the Westbrooks in a dancing scena, and Ethel Dunford, vocalist. The Hipposcope concludes the programme.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. George Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—Large audiences are attracted this week. The head of the bill is occupied by the Ten Loonies, or "mad musicians," who cause roars of loughter and win admiration for some well-concerted music. The New York Nippers, in their sand and long boot dancing are well worth witnessing; Blanche Vincent, who possesses a strong contralto, receives great applause; Sydney Lee shows the art of palming in a clever way; and other contributors to the programme are the Three Panamas in a pot-pourri act; Allis and Cassanti, comedians and dancers; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, and Nellie Martell, comedienne; the Bioscope pictures concluding.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—An excellent programme here is topped by the Royal Banzai Family, Japanese jugglers and contortionists, whose clever work is much appreciated; Stylo does marvellous feats with wooden hoops; Bennett and Martell, in *The Shipwrecked Mariners*, create amusement; Calile and Walker are refined entertainers; Beatrice Bonnie, comedienne, is a pronounced success; Frank F. Street, in "I won't keep you a minute," is good; Kate Eplett, comedienne and dancer, is above the average, and the Marathon Race on the Operascope proves interesting.

CROYDON.—HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Jackson Hayes; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice.—May and Barnes, in vocal scens, *The Dreamer*, are good; The Roslyns are capable vocalists and dancers; Lillie Lisle is a pleasing comedienne; Winnie Burgess, serio and dancer, is appreciated; Chas. Williams is a talented comedian; Albert Wyndham and Co. produce two excellent sketches, *Shylock* and *Prince Arthur;* Mr. Albert Wyndham and Miss Glorence Pateman are well adapted to their respective parts; and some fine animated pictures are shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PUBLIC HALL.—Messrs. Gale and Polden's animated pictures are being exhibited here to crowded houses. Special mention may be made of the pictures of the Indian Mutiny, Motor-car Racing on the Brooklands Track, the Army and Navy scenes, and the various humorous subjects.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—An attractive programme this week is headed by Boswell's stage circus, comprising some cleverly-trained ponies, dogs, and donkey; the animals go through their varied performance in a highly commendable manner. Frank E. Burdett's company appears to advantage in an exciting military sketch, entitled *Mutiny*, in which the various characters are very capably portrayed. Chas. Ronen, a spindle-legged comedian, has some funny songs, patter, and dances; the Sisters Selwyn, vocalists and dancers, are well received; Sandy and Carl, clever burlesque comedians, create roars of laughter; the Cecilias are pleasing lady instrumentalists; the Betsons, comedy cyclists, are both diverting and clever; and Tiny Arnold is a praiseworthy diminutive comedienne. The Bioscope depicts an interesting film of the Dieppe motor races.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. Horace Stanley's company is producing *Guilty Gold* at the Devonport playhouse, and appears to be doing remunerative business. Mr. J. A. Plummer creates a very favourable impression with his representation of Harold Elmore, the clergyman hero, while Mr. Fred Wilberforce, as Ralph Bartlett, the villain, seems to be the embodiment of everything that is bad. The company also includes the Misses Cora Linda, Amy Ellam, and Josephine, who work very hard in the several parts allocated to them.

DEWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—*The Prodigal Son*, staged by Mr. Geo. D. Day's company, has made a profound impression upon theatregoers here. Mr. Albert Ward impersonates the prodigal, Oscar Stephenson, with irresistible power and skill, which gain him great favour; Miss Pauline Emeric figures in the dual rôle of Thora and Elin with charm and delicacy; worthy of high praise is the well-marked exposition of Magnus Stephensson by Mr. H. J. Crane, who impresses one with his sincerity and earnestness in the part; Miss Pearla Gardner, as the "serpent in the garden of Eden," adequately represents the double-dealing sister Helga; the quaint human nature in Margaret Neilson, the spinster, is brought out fully and amusingly by Miss Kate Osborne, who revels in the rôle and makes it a huge success. As Anna Magnusson Miss Florence Lovell infuses sympathy and sincerity into her work; a very powerful presentment of the Governor, Stephen Magnusson is given by Mr. Chas. Herberte; and Mr. James English makes the utmost use of the opportunities afforded in the part of Oscar Neilson. Numerous subordinate characters are all capably handled.

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—An entertaining programme is supplied this week by W. Salmon, clever trick and musical cyclist; Happy Attwood, a good comedian; the Smarte Brothers, acrobatic eccentrics; the Bohemians, skilful instrumental and comedy artists; Mack Ollive, in his whistling scena, "The Candy Store," assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry; Harwood's Juveniles; Gertrude Moore, in a singing and dancing speciality act; and the Original Four Regals, as the Armourers, the latter being an especially popular turn.

DOUGLAS.—GRAND.—Chairman, Mr. Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—The first visit of Mr. George Dance's company with *The Girls of Gottenberg* has resulted in crowded audiences at the Grand. Mr. Bertie Wright as Max Moddelkopf was screamingly funny; Miss Laura Lyndsay was as pretty as a picture as Mitzi, and acted with spirit and sang with taste; Mr. Tom Shelford as Otto was excellent. It was to be regretted that Miss Ellaline Thorne, the leading lady of the company, was too ill to appear. Miss Susie Raymond as Lucille presented an up to date dance which caught on. The costumes, dresses, and scenery are artistic.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—The revised version of *The Christian* at this beautiful playhouse has created quite a furore. It is admirably acted by the players, who work under the banner of Mr. Wentworth Croke. Mr. Henry Renouf as John Storm is impressive, passionate, convincing; the Glory Quayle of Miss Doris Gilman has power and pathos; Mr. Oswald Marshall's Horatio Drake is well balanced; Mr. G. B. Montford as Lord Robert Ure is entirely in the picture; Mr. Edwin Long imparts dignity to the rôle of Father Lamplugh; the Archdeacon Wealthy of Mr. C. E. Turpin is clever; the Bert of Mr. W. S. Carter is a realistic study; Miss Sinna St. Clair's Mrs. Callender wins the audience by the quaint humour of the impersonation; Miss Margaret Brodie as Polly Love did not strain sentiment to the snapping point; Miss May Dudley as Black Meg was effective; and Miss Katherine Maude's Lady Robert Ure was of distinct value to the ensemble. The scenery is beautiful, and the play is effectively staged by Mr. Oswald Marshall.

PALACE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brittain.—Mr. Bransby Williams is this week causing a stir amongst not only the visitors but the residents in his theatric reproduction of Dickensian characters. His Bill Sikes, Micawber, and Pegotty have excited the warmest admiration. Other turns at the Palace are Sylvo, a clever comedy juggler; Helena Cecile, a sweet-toned vocalist; W. B. Raby, who is funny; Edie and Ramsden, smart musical comedy artists, and Maria and Lona, equilibrists, who do graceful work. In addition, there is dancing to the music provided by Mr. Harry Wood's orchestra. The attendances this week have beaten the record.

DERBY CASTLE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Kelly.—Mr. Fred Sinclair and Miss Gracie Whiteford are scoring heavily here this week with their sketch, *Getting Even;* little Agnes Tina, a child actress, has many admirers; Mr. Frank Hartley, a clever boy juggler, secures applause; and Mr. Charles Bignell repeats his success of last week. The great turn is Mr. Horace Wheatley, who must be tired of responding to encores; Miss Lillie Lonsdale sings ballads with taste and expression; the Four Delevines, and Vernon's Bioscope are also in the bill.

Other entertainments in Douglas are Mr. F. J. Connor's Hippodrome, where Mr. Walter Munroe is a great draw and Whimsical Walker still increases his popularity, and little Mona Connor is an established favourite; Buxton's pierrrots and tea village, Mr. Charles Dare at the Empire Theatre, and Messrs. Adeler and Sutton on Onchan Head.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor Mr. Sidney W. Winter.—The Eight Stello Girls, who are the star turn, are vocalists and dancers of exceptional merit; Tamamoto, the Japanese acrobat, gives a wonderful performance on the perpendicular rope; Mannish and Strand, speciality artists, contribute a most attractive turn; while Walter Wallis, a comedian of much humour, is entirely successful; some pleasing songs are rendered by Miss Mollie Doone, a charming comedienne; Ella Loraine has a magnificent voice, and sings with much expression; Charles Sloman introduces some very amusing ditties. The Hippodrome Pictures conclude a strong programme.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—A fine reception is accorded Ivor Harvey's troupe of American boys and girls on this, their first appearance, in Dover; a highly amusing comedy sketch, entitled *True Blue*, is presented by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard; and the Ives have a novel ball-punching act; the Sisters Thorne, duettists, Nellie Gannon, an attractive vocalist, Peggy Fame, comedienne, and Harry Wright, a smart extempore vocalist, with the Bioscope, complete the bill.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. H. B. Irving, Miss Dorothea Baird, and company occupy the boards here this week, and on Monday night *Hamlet* was presented, when the distinguished actor and his able supporters received a cordial reception from a large and fashionable audience. Mr. Irving's Hamlet was a great interpretation, perfect in elocution, and wanting in nothing to make the character ideal; Miss Dorothea Baird contributed a touching and effective reading as Ophelia; Mr. Stanley Howett gave a capital impersonation of Horatio; Miss Eily Malyon successfully filled the rôle of Gertrude, Queen of Denmark; Polonius had an able exponent in Mr. Tom Reynolds; Laertes was in the capable hands of Mr. Eric Maxon; Mr. Frank Tyars was most dignified as Claudius, King of Denmark; Mr. Charles Dodsworth was exceedingly good as the First Gravedigger; Mr. Frank Cochrane was eminently satisfactory as the Ghost. The remaining parts were well filled. On Tuesday night *The Lyons Mail*, preceded by the curtain-raiser, *The Sergeant of Hussars*, was presented, and was well received. Also billed are *The Bells* and *Louis XI*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—A hearty reception was accorded to Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks on their reappearance here for a short season with their latest success, *The Gay Gordons*, which was produced in an excellent manner. The honours of the night certainly rested with Miss Ellaline Terriss, who appeared as Peggy Quainton, with her pleasing and effective singing and dancing, for which she was richly applauded; Mr. Seymour Hicks gave a splendid representation of Angus Graeme, and also won appreciation; Mr. Johnny Danvers as the old showman, Nervy Nat, was particularly good, and he was ably assisted by Mr. George Carroll as Edmund Siddons, who was very quaint and amus-

About six weeks ago I was suffering with

PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE,

brought on probably by painting my face for my eccentric business. I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

VANISHED LIKE MAGIC,

and the scurf is entirely gone. I cannot tell you how thankful I am at having taken "Clarke's Blood Mixture," and I shall recommend it to everybody, as I think it only right that such a remedy should be known.—(Signed), JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnny," Llandudno's Popular Comedian, Thorndale, Llandudno, Feb. 24, 1908.

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE,

the World-famed Blood Purifier, is an invaluable Remedy for all Skin and Blood Diseases, such as Eczema, Scrofula, Scurvy, Bad Legs, Ulcers, Abscesses, Boils, Pimples, Sores and Eruptions of all kinds, Glandular Swellings, Blood Poison, Rheumatism, Gout, &c. It has over Forty Years' reputation, and thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it.

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnnie," Llandudno's Popular Comedian (from a photo.).

ing; Miss Dorothy Ward fulfilled the rôle of Victoria Siddons with excellent taste, and sang her songs in capital style; Mr. E. Lugg ably presented the character of Mr. Andrew Quainton, and Miss Sidney Fairbrother was most conspicuous as Mrs. Charlotte Siddons. The remaining parts, which are numerous, were most capitally played, and a word of praise is due for the excellent singing, which was a feature in itself, together with the gorgeous dresses.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The animated pictures, which continue to attract here, include:—The Workman's Honour, The Orphan Girl, Students' Jokes, Rival Cyclists, Will He Overtake Them? The Countess's Wedding, A Comedy of Errors, Diabolical Itching, Thief by Necessity, Toula's Dream, &c. The variety artists appearing are Mick and Mack, a smart pair of patter comedians; Fitz and Fitz, comedians and dancers; and the popular humorist and guide, Bob Pearson.

Empire. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Neil Kenyon, the popular Scotch comedian, provides the star turn here this week, and meets with an enthusiastic reception; the Herald Comedy Four in their singing and dancing act, *The Indians and the Sailor*, prove a decided attraction, and Boden and Bell score in a series of pretty duets and dances; the Norman and Leonard Trio in their musical sketch, *The Itinerant*, evoke hearty applause, and Bessie Benson is a dainty dancer as well as a pleasing vocalist; Little Ganty's humorous songs prove as popular as ever, and Zimpah displays displays marked ability as a mimic; Madge May is a vivacious comedienne, and has many admirers, and the Empire pictures portray the latest events.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A good bill of fare is attracting capital houses here. Mooney Holbein and company present an amusing sketch, entitled *Oysters, 1s. per Bucket*, which is much enjoyed; the Andos Japanese Troupe go through a clever and sensational acrobatic performance; the Three Chanters in a vocal comedy act are heartily received, and Wall Owen is an amusing comedian; the great Wieland is a wonderfully smart juggler, and Ivey Aberdare is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Fremel and Fremel, eccentric comedians, make a decided hit; in a refined musical act Mlle. Zelda merits applause; Percy Johnson, comedian, and the Bioscope, depicting Too Old for Work, complete.

Round Room, Rotunda.—The second week of the Irish Animated Photo Company has been attended with convincing proof in the shape of large audiences daily. The change of pictures, which are heartily enjoyed, include The Angel of the Village, Marathon Race, The Mountaineers' Son, The Dieppe Motor Circuit Tests, A Charmed Umbrella, Matrimonial Stages, Hide and Seek, &c., and the variety programme is also of a high order. Mr. Patrick O'Shea, an excellent tenor, is nightly encored for his capital rendering of "Love me and the world is mine"; Miss Daisy Buckley, soprano vocalist, is heard to advantage in some pleasing numbers; Miss Dorothy Hall in coon song and dance is warmly applauded; and Mr. W. A. Sheehan, baritone vocalist, is also successful. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Henry Peters, is deserving of mention.

Antient Concert Rooms.—During the week the well-known pugilist Gunner Moir has been giving sparring exhibitions here to full houses nightly. He is supported by a capital vaudeville company, in which the following artists appear:—Miss Belle White, favourite comedienne and dancer; Mr. Charles Bruton, celebrated vocalist; Miss Madge Reddin, in several pleasing ballads; and Mr. Ralph Goggin, character vocalist.

Pavilion (Kingstown).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—The Old Virginia Company, who are paying a return visit here, are delighting large audiences this week. Amongst the performers must be mentioned specially Miss Lilian Page, an accomplished soprano vocalist; Mr. Bert Errol, female impersonator; Miss Nellie Sheffield, a highly amusing comedienne; Leonard Russell, baritone vocalist; Mr. Kit Keen, a capital comedian; Mr. H. Buckland, Miss Joey Ellis, and Mr. William Pringle. Mr. W. H. Eveleigh ably assists at the piano.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The newcomers appearing here this week are:—Will Titman, comedian and lady impersonator; Fox and Fox, duettists and dancers; Will Rollason, baritone vocalist; Nellie McMerry, comedienne; Prof. Wallace, novelty ventriloquist; Harold Colin, comedian; and the Cinematograph.

DUNFERMLINE.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—The season opened here this week, when, for the first time in the history of the theatre, a series of Ibsen's plays was presented by Mr. Leigh Lovel, Miss Octavia Kenmore, and company. In *A Doll's House* on Monday Miss Octavia Kenmore, as Nora Helmer, gave one of the most able and finished performances seen here for a considerable time; Mr. Lovel as Torvald Helmer gave a very fine character study of the part; Mr. E. Stanley Yorke made a good Dr. Rank; Mr. Arthur McCulloch proved himself a capable Nils Krogstadt; Miss Katherine Maynard provides a meritorious Mrs. Linden. The week's répertoire includes *The Master Builder* and *Hedda Gabler*.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Wentworth Croke presented *The Bondman* on Monday and the two following evenings. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin's Jason was a remarkably fine portrayal of a most difficult rôle, and Mr. Lionel Atwill impersonated the part of Michael Sunlocks with gratifying success; Mr. W. H. Rotheram skilfully doubled the totally dissimilar Father Ferrati and Grandfather, and Mr. Oswald Lingard's study of Adam Fairbrother merits the very highest commendation; Mr. Alfred Fisher did not in the least minimise the very unpleasant attributes of Governor Lesba, and Mr. F. J. Waller's Dr. Boni was a very worthy companion picture; the important and difficult part of Greeba was entrusted most satisfactorily to Miss Georgina Wynter; Miss Madge Lanerton proved herself more than equal to the requirements of Mrs. Fairbrother; Miss Emilie Mayhew's Christian Ann was a well-placed assumption, and Miss Gertrude Helene and Master Walter Neville played pleasingly as Mona and Danny respectively. *The Merry Widow* is the week-end attraction.

The Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Clarice Mayne is the bright particular star, her songs and mimicry being in the highest degree excellent; she is cleverly assisted by a male accompanist, whose humorous work evokes the heartiest merriment; Goodfellow and Gregson bring down the house with their immensely funny patter and business; Wright and Ellor might well be styled the dancing acrobats; their act is as original as it is indisputably clever; W. T. Thompson and company submit the very amusing sketch *Watching the Chalk*, and Mabel Carr (a pleasing comedienne), Gene Selby (a clever coon artist, with a smart bone solo), and the Hippodrome pictures complete.

Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. G. Hayes.—Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company opened on Monday for a three nights stay with *Diana of Dobson's*, the name-part of Miss Diana Massingberd being entrusted to Miss Dorothy Green with eminently satisfactory results; Mr. H. Grendon Bentley was really excellent as Capt. the Hon. Victor Bretherton; Miss Mary Stuart was perfectly delightful as the match-making Mrs. Cantelupe; Mr. Alfred Harris contrived to be immensely amusing as the vulgar trader, Sir Jabez Grindley, Bart.; the host of minor principal parts were admirably undertaken by Misses Molly Tremaine, Kate Turner, Nannie Griffin (excellent alike as Miss Jay and Old Woman), Eva Leonard Boyne, Helen Vicary, Georgette de Serville, and Mr. Albert Wainwright. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* preceded. *Tom Jones* succeeded on Thursday.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—A return visit of *What the Butler Saw* has drawn good holiday houses during the current week, and this popular farcical comedy is brought quite down to date by well-timed allusions to suffragettes, old-age pensions, the Licensing Bill, and so forth. Mr. Lionel Bignold, in his old part of Pink the butler, acts with the typical style of drollery which never fails to amuse; and the pretended bachelor and widow, Mr. and Mrs. Burrington, are again excellent and lively impersonations in the hands of Mr. Charles Fawcett and Miss Ada Blanche; the long cast in other respects is well filled, the specimens of male and female inmates of a hydropathic establishment being duly differentiated by their respective representatives; Mr. Harry H. Rignold, Mr. George Ascot, and Mr. George Nelson Wallace are conspicuous as the wealthy Jew, the peppery general, and the fossil professor; with Mr. Raymond Dudley and Miss Christine Jensen in the rôles of Sir Charles Foden and his aunt; while Miss Mona Garland, as Mrs. Fleming-Symthe, Miss Julie St. George as Mrs. B. Hake, and Miss Rose Carew as Maria all give useful aid.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—*The Silver King* still holds its place among the most attractive of popular dramas, and the piece loses nothing of its power or fascination in the interpretation given here by Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company for the reopening of this theatre after the summer recess. Mr. Fred D. Daviss is convincing and artistic in his rendering of Wilfrid Denver; Miss Edyth Goodal is charmingly effective as Nellie; Cissy is very nicely played by Miss Flossie Hale Daviss; and Daniel Jakes finds a trusty and sympathetic representative in Mr. Edward J. George, who has delighted so many playgoers in this particular part; the fraternity of scoundrels is well portrayed, collectively and individually, by Mr. Stanton Sharp, Mr. George Belmore, and Mr. Arthur Wright, in their respective rôles of Captain Skinner, Henry Corket, and Elijah Coombe; and the many minor characters are all in capable hands.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Miss Louie Freear and company with the broadly farcical sketch *Snooks* have the premier place in this week's bill; and the success of the clever comedienne, in the congenial rôle of Jemima the slavey, is in every way complete; Ian Colquhoun gives great pleasure to his hearers by his fine rendering of Scottish songs; a young vocalist and dancer in the person of Gertie Gitana makes a very favourable impression; and Charles Harker's Six Æolians contribute an entertaining vocal and dancing act; another strong combination of singers and dancers is found in Seener and Fridkin's Imperial Russian Troupe of performers, whose gyrations are something to wonder at; and great volubility is displayed by Lee and Bentley, who carry through a racy comedy sketch in high-mettled style; Will Polnski, jun., puts a good deal of quaintness into his eccentric turn; Vanando is to be congratulated on the novelty he contrives to introduce into his ventriloquail act; the Bioscope pictures are of much interest; and well-merited honours fall to Mr. Hymack for his most ingenious and extraordinary chameleon-like changes of costume, which he accomplishes in a truly marvellous and inexplicable manner.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's company is here in *A White Man*. Mr. Frank E. Petley as Captain James Wynnegate, V.C., scores a success; Mr. Lewis Broughton presents the part of the Earl of Kerhill in an efficient manner; Mr. R. A. Brandon as Big Bill is excellent; Mr. A. C. Hardie as the bully, Cash Hawkins, is all that can be desired; and Mr. John Wilmer is good as Bud Hardy. Miss Rhoda Ray is pathetic, and Miss Eleanor May delightfully sympathetic.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—The entertainment this week is being provided by Mr. Edward Marris's company in *The Dandy Doctor*, and the piece has been well received. Mr. George Brentwood appears in the rôle of Melchisadek Brown (the tinned meat millionaire), and does well; Miss Mollie Wynne makes a charming Ivy, her singing being much enjoyed; Miss Florence Smithers as Jane is responsible for much of the fun, and with Mr. A. Leslie Martin as Bertie Bolingbroke (the locum tenens) she keeps the audiences in laughter. Mr. C. Burrunston Williams makes a manly Dr. Vandyke, and Mr. Herbert Pearce acts well as Colonel Pendred. The other parts are also well filled.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Mouillot's No. 1 company in *Tom Jones* occupied the boards the first three nights of the week. Mr. Cyril Thompson, in the title-rôle, gave a fine, manly impersonation, and his singing evoked loud applause; Miss Margaret Stonor as Sophia Western played in admirable style; Miss Florrie Saunders was a sprightly and charming Honour; Mr. George Elton caused much fun as Benjamin Partridge; Mr. Michael Dwyer, as Gregory, was responsible for much merriment; and Miss Olive Eltone's Lady Bellaston merited warm praise. For the last three days of the week Mr. George Alexander's company was billed in *The Thief*.

Leas Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—The Gipsies and their Jester are drawing crowded houses nightly; Mr. Will Gane and Mr. Walter Grigg are particularly pleasing in duet; Mr. Edgar Berte gives some exceedingly clever monologues; Miss Dorothy Francis and Miss Florence Crofts add to their reputation in several well-chosen songs; and Miss Inez du Buisson dances with much grace.

Victoria Pier.—Manager, Mr. Robert Forsyth.—Victoria Degmar, the Bohemian lady gymnast, gives a marvellous horizontal bar and rope display which is well worth seeing; Miss Belle Green is an admirable child mimic; Miss Florence Bostock has a good soprano voice; and Mr. James Singleton as the singing collier scores a genuine success; Kemp and Harris give a sketch, *Off to the Races*, which is very popular; Charles Kay and Harry Edwards are a couple of smart comedians; Mdlle Dory-Ta gives a display of Parisian dancing, and gains applause; and Whit Acre, boy comedian, retains his popularity.

GLASGOW.—King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—The attraction for the week at this house is Miss Violet Osmund's company in the successful musical play *The Belle of the Ball*. The piece affords an excellent comedy part for Mr. Johnnie Schofield, who as Timothy Timkins is responsible for most of the funny business. Mr. Robert Hyett sings and acts admirably as the handsome young squire, Sir Francis Lake; in the pleasing rôle of Poppy—the Cinderella of the story—Miss Gertrude Melville appears to great advantage; Mr. Charles Adeson gives a humorous touch to the character of Farmer Jones; and as the plotting steward, Foster, Mr. E. W. Chewd is good. The parts of Bobbie Fletcher and his sweetheart, Queenie Trevor, are agreeably filled by Mr. Llewellyn C. Hughes and Miss Florence Watson; Lucy is handsomely represented by Miss Vera Grafton; while Poppy's ugly sisters are played with a deal of quiet humour by Miss Ethel Bertram and Miss L'Estrange. The part of the Showman is characteristically filled by Mr. Frank Collins; and Mr. E. Osborne makes a good Footman.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—The Royal opened on Monday after the summer vacation, and a good audience welcomed back Mr. I. Zangwill's pleasant comedy, *Merely Mary Ann*. The company is that of Mr. Herbert Greville, and the play is well cast. Miss Jessica Solomon makes a charming and unaffected Mary Ann; and the musical genius, Lancelot, is exceedingly well acted by Mr. Martyn Roland. Mr. Stanley Logan is a brisk and cheery exponent of Peter, his friend; Miss Violet Greville is excellent as the landlady, Mrs. Leadbatter; and her affected daughter is amusingly portrayed by Miss Florence Radcliffe. Clever character-sketches are contributed by Mr. Robert Entwistle as the Vicar; Mr. Herbert Snale as the music publisher, Brahmson; Mr. Arthur Foster as O'Gorman, the journalist; and Mr. Harold Everard as Jim Blaydes. Various types of society people are neatly hit off by Miss Lester Stephen as the Chaperon, Mr. H. Montagu Lowe as Lord Tottenham, and Misses Ethel Carlyle, Stella Farmer, Grace Lovell, and Mary Colquhoun in other parts. The two music-hall sisters are cleverly played by Misses Enid Hall and Vera Lisle.

Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The production here this week is by Mr. Tom H. Taylor and company of the stirring drama *Is Life Worth Living?* which was presented on the opening night to a large audience. Mr. Ernest Owtrim as Lionel Roy and Mr. Herbert Hollister as Randolph Kerr give outstanding performances, and receive the able support of Messrs. Harry Belford, James E. Maning, Joe Bardsley, and Harry Bristow. Miss Jeannie Burgoyne, Miss Lillian Earle, and Miss Lottie Moss are also successful.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—The attraction here this week is supplied by Miss Winifred Maude and her company in the sensational drama *The Convict*. Mr. J. M. Olivert bears himself admirably in the part of Jack Britton; and a fine piece of acting is that of Miss Winifred Maude as Dora Renshawe. Mr. St. Clair Forbes displays sound ability as the villain, Captain Hurley; and the exacting rôle of Olga Brandon is cleverly taken by Mrs. Wingold Lawrence. In the dual rôle of Freddy Freckles and Alphonse Godin Mr. Victor Du Cane gives a good reading; Mike Larne is well sustained by Mr. Frank Dane; and the Nero of Mr. W. E. Simpson is a well-acted study. The Jennie Perkins of Miss Alice Leslie is a very attractive performance. Other parts are in good hands, and the drama is well staged.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—*In the Ranks* is presented by Mr. Beresford Whitcomb and his company, with Mr. Jerrold Heather and Miss Violet E. Lawson as Ned Drayton and Ruth Herrick. Both are of exceptional value in their respective parts. Messrs. Wilton Reed, Bert Lloyd, and Walter Thornton get through their various rôles acceptably; to Mr. Ern Carlton and Miss Eleanor Papera is left the humorous side of the story, and their unstinted efforts go far to please. The reception accorded the piece on its appearance in the Lyceum was very gratifying.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Mike S. Whallen is once again here, and in song, patter, and character-sketches he easily maintains the firm hold he has on the Glasgow public. A racing sketch, *The Outside Chance*, is a clever playlet, and serves to introduce Master Edward Garrett (of *Little Stranger* fame) as a jockey. Pip Powell and Katie Vesey give a clever comedy and dancing turn, founded on the old farce, *Perfection;* Rex Fox is a smart and daring artist on the wire; A. D. Robbins shows his skill as a cyclist; Harry Drew's songs take well; and three particularly good dancing turns are given by Hallen and Hayes, American comedians; Frances McNulty, a dainty comedienne; and Les Marbas, who combine acrobatic feats with their dances.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—At the top of the bill Joe Peterman's talented company, including Geo. Ricketts, appear in the musical comedy extravaganza *The Belle of the Orient*. The dresses and scenery are elaborate, and the company is well selected. Much appreciation is bestowed upon the Geni Family, whose Risley and acrobatic work is marvellous; Dallas and Vardon are responsible for a capital poetic fantasy, entitled *A Christmas Dream*, their singing and eccentric dancing being much above the average. The Sisters Terry's latest hit, *Auld Reekie*, catches on immensely; Ted Waite, comedian, proves a rare favourite; Flo Cecil is a clever dancer, and her most recent success, "Matilda," is well received. Almon, who is described as "the upside down marvel," does a lot of really clever balancing and jumping on his hands; George Rapley and Mark Henton, as comedians, also do well. The Bioscope, as usual, concludes.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Malcolm Scott tops the bill here, and in his Directoire dress and patter he keeps the audience on the grin, while his Salome dance is an exceedingly clever parody on the prevailing craze. John Le Hay and company take extremely well in their sketch, *Poor Beggar*, which contains lots of clever comedy and many fine old songs specially well sung. Jack Pleasants is another strong favourite, and relies mostly on "I'll be cross, Arabella" for his success. Marguerite Broadfoote contributes several well-rendered songs; Otto and Olga give an enjoyable musical turn; Vandinoff's lightning painting in oils is wonderfully good; and Austin and Cowan, in their vocal act, complete an attractive programme.

Palace.—Proprietors, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The piano monologue of Will H. Fox is the leading feature on the programme here, and proves as popular and acceptable as ever; some smart acrobatic cycling is done by that clever trio the Villions; and a well-acted sketch, entitled *Bluff*, is presented by Duncan and Brasque. Walter Emerson, a humorous and agile comedian, gets a good reception; the cross-talk of Harris and Worth is highly diverting; Nellie Lawrence displays wonderful power as a vocalist; Monie Emerald's song and dance turn is neat and pleasing; Scotch comedy is amusingly represented by Jack Easy; and several new and up-to-date pictures are shown on the Palacescope.

Coliseum.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—An interesting programme is submitted here this week. Chung Ling Soo, the accomplished conjurer, is the chief item, and his performance completely mystified the large audience. Walter Bellonini, renowned juggler, and Bert Woodward, steeplechasing cyclist, are a couple of turns marked out for especial approval. The other artists include Sidney Stern, in illustrated songs; Gwennie Hasto, the charming comedienne and dancer; Orpheus, a really accomplished musician; Five Olracs, acrobats; Tom Wootlwell, the favourite character-comedian, in some very clever songs; and the Bioscope, with amusing and interesting pictures.

Gaiety, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—During the week this comfortable little Anderston hall has been favoured with extremely good houses, the popular artist, Rose Elliott, being the chief attraction. An extra feature was a singing contest, in which the competitors had to sing a verse and chorus of any of Miss Elliott's songs. There was no lack of entries, and the talent was of a very fair class. Conan and Doyle, Irish comedians, give an entertainment of a most enjoyable description; Lena Brunton's impersonations of Vesta Tilley, Gertie Gitana, and Florrie Gallimore made a distinctly favourable impression; Rosy Dawn contributed a smart exhibition of skipping-rope dancing; the Prinellas, in their cornfield scena, *A Country Flirtation;* and Ingram and Irving, in a laughable sketch entitled *The New Office Boy*, in which they introduce a bit of first-class burlesque boxing; and the Bioscope are included in a well-selected programme.

Panopticon.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The Seymours display wonderful skill in their balancing feats; and Ashby and Rose contribute an excellent dancing turn. Lily Moore, a chic comedienne, is popular; P. M. Fraser, Scotch comedian; and the Bioscope, with pictures grave and gay, also form a strong attraction.

GLOUCESTER. — Palace. — Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.).—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Achmed Ibrahims troupe of Arab acrobats are a novelty and very clever; Mlle. Haydee presents a unique marionette show; the Three Lloyds give a very smart wire performance, and Kisbey, the call boy, patters in excellent style; Charlie Deane has the house with him in his chorus songs, and the Musical Keiths pay a return visit; Miss Adey Spencer plays the piano nicely, and adds singing and dancing to her turn; Miss Bessie Willow, actress and vocalist, sings two songs, and the Palacescope interests.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — Royal Aquarium —Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. George Edwardes's company in *The Merry Widow* is here this week. Miss Clara Evelyn is very captivating in the title-rôle, her singing and dancing being loudly applauded; Mr. Loinel Victor causes much merriment as Baron Popoff; Mr. Haigh Jackson's excellent voice is heard to advantage as Vicomte Camille de Jolidon; Mr. Tom Redmond is very funny as Nisch; Mr. Albert Kavanagh makes a pompous Marquis de Cascada; Miss Mary Grey is excellent as Natalie; Mr. Grafton Williams's excellent humour as General Novikovitch is much appreciated; Prince Danilo has a clever exponent in Mr. Basil S. Foster; Mr. Ernest Spalding gives a clever character sketch of the waiter at Maxim's; a clever dance is executed by Miss Dora Langham as Frou-Frou; the scenery and dresses are superb. The orchestra is directed by Mr. Harrison Trewin.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Crowded audiences are witnessing Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's*. Mr. Frank Woolfe as P.-C. Fellowes and Miss Emilie Polini as Diana display great ability. The play is preceded by a one-act piece entitled *The Bishop's Candlesticks*.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—An excellent programme is being presented here this week. Jackson and Maclaren are creating quite a sensation as the Australian woodcutters; Pasquali Bros. are extraordinarily clever acrobats; Max Gruber and Miss Adelina introduce a very cleverly trained elephant, horse, and pony; Natalia and Diana are very graceful gymnasts; the Debreans appear in a very picturesque Japanese entertainment; Addison introduces some cleverly trained dogs; Leicester Cooke is a daring equestrian; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud are a very pleasing turn; Doodles introduces absurdities throughout the evening; Ada Webb's troupe of lady swimmers perform new tricks; excellent pictures are exhibited on the Bioscope.

Britannia Pier Pavilion.—Managing Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Billie Barlow is the star here this week, and is proving a huge draw, having to sing three songs nightly; Harry Archer is an excellent comedian; Sisters Clare are pleasing comediennes and dancers; Maggie Strachan introduces new numbers at the piano; Bros. Hamilton are smart cross talkers and dancers; the Arleys appear in a very clever comedy cycling turn; Harry Carsdale is an expert in producing the voices of animals; the Garden Quintette are clever vocalists and dancers. Excellent pictures are exhibited on the Bioscope.

Wellington Pier Pavilion.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation; Manager, Mr. Arthur Cash.—Fanny Wentworth's sketches at the piano are very pleasing, and are loudly applauded; Addie Lennard is a charming comedienne; Chas. E. Nott is a very funny comedian; Irene Meldon has a very refined style; Frank Maura appears in an exceptionally clever equilibrist turn; Violet Ray contributes an excellent 'cello solo; Cissy Dryden is a very pleasing comedienne; Fred Cleland accomplishes wonderful feats as a juggler; Victor Travers is a smart dancer; Verdone and Chase gives an excellent exhibition of different styles of dancing.

Chappell's Promenade Concerts. — Proprietress, Mrs. S. Lawton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—The new-comers here are George Hyatt, an excellent juggler, and Les Blancs, clever horizontal bar artists.

The Gem.—Proprietors, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran.—A splendid set of pictures are being shown here, the "Salome Dance" being worthy of special note.

Minstrel Arena.—The Dandy Darkies are drawing large crowds daily.

GREENOCK. — Alexandra Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Hayman and Franklin top the bill, and appear with great success in their latest legal skit, *A Suit for Divorce;* Chinko is indeed a clever juggler; Minnie Kaufmann, cyclist, performs difficult tricks with wonderful accuracy and precision; the Brothers Webb as instrumentalists, give a pleasing show on various musical instruments; Dale and Vale, vocalists and dancers, do well, and Miss Mollie Seymour as a vocalist and violinist is well received. The Alexandroscope concludes the entertainment with some excellent pictures.

Empire.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—After being thoroughly cleaned and redecorated this popular place of amusement reopened for the season on Monday. Mysticus, with his quick-change act, in which he introduces several novelties, tops the bill with a capital turn; Fred Moule, E. D. Nicholls, and company, in a burlesque drama, entitled *That Dreadful Detective*, cause uproarious laughter; and other good turns are Lytton and Bland in *A Lesson in Love;* Cliff and Kean, in song and dance; the Three Coopers, speciality vocalists; and J. G. Aitken, Scottish comedian. The Prince Edward Bioscope throws some good films on the screen.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Under the name of the Hippodrome the building formerly known as the Theatre Royal, and latterly as the Pavilion, was opened on Monday as a variety hall by Mr. Skivington. The old drama house has been transformed into a palatial and tastefully-decorated hall. The stage has been lowered, and the orchestral accommodation sunk, giving those seated in the pit an uninterrupted view of the stage. New seating has been provided for all parts of the house, the dressing room arrangements have been modernised, and stage appliances of the latest type introduced. The electric lighting installation is practically all new, and the preventives against fire are of the most approved type. The performances on Monday were attended by enthusiastic audiences, who marvelled at the great change Mr. Skivington has made. Barton and Ashley top the bill, evoking the merriest laughter by their comedy; Gustave Fasola mystifies the audience with his wonderful tricks; the McConnell Trio score a success in their musical comedy sketch; Sibb and Sibb would be hard to beat on the double trapeze; Miss Frances Letty, coon singer and dancer, and Jack Nell, Scotch comedian, also earn the appreciation of the audience. The Hippodrome pictures are also an attraction.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The first three nights of this week were occupied by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company in the new romantic drama, *For Love and the King*. Mr. Mill, who is the author, himself appeared as the Englishman Jarval, giving a fine representation of an interesting character; Mr. John Burton supplied a clever study of the miser, Michael Obrenovic, and his scheming son Vladimir was well played by Mr. Henry Earlesmere; Mr. Frank Lyndon acted with dignity as the King; Mr. Alfred Hilliard was equally good as Prince Uros; Miss Rosalind Tate was well suited to the part of the Princess Athene, and Miss Joan Ellis acted with pleasing charm as Natila. Others taking prominent parts were Mr. Geoffrey Chate as Duke Fernand, Mr. Jim K. Wooda as Karl Oppenheim, Miss Marie Ault as Grazia, and Miss Francis Tierney Edith as Meredith. During the last three nights of the week a visit is being paid by Mr. Edward Compton and his comedy company in a répertoire of plays, including *Davy Garrick, The School for Scandal,* and *The Gentleman in Grey*.

The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—A pleasing speciality, which includes excellent singing, pretty dancing, and an amusing burlesque interview, is contributed by Edward Lauri and May Beatty; Gravetta and Parr, a versatile couple, are clever ventriloquists, and also display skill in clay modelling and impersonations; Saidie Seymour is a pleasing comedienne with good songs; the Ramlos give a smart gymnastic display on the triple bar; Pueblo and Cropp submit a bright turn with some excellent sand dancing; the Lyric Mummers sing duets with good effect; and the Olmar Trio give an interesting exhibition of strength and statuary business.

GUERNSEY. — Theatre St. Julians.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris.—On Monday Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama entered on its third week. The crowded houses nightly is convincing evidence how highly popular this class of entertainment is. The frequent change of programme, the new pictures, and latest films all combine to make the show thoroughly attractive and up-to-date.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company is at the Royal this week with *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Mr. Bruce has a fine all-round company; Mr. E. Maclean makes a manly, true-hearted cleric as the Rev. Robert Everton; Mr. S. Macartney is excellent as Jack England and Private Johnson; Mr. R. Ferris is a gentlemanly blackguard as Captain Caversham; Mr. G. H. Asquin gets a lot of good comedy out of the part of Dick Punch; the difficult part of James Sutton finds an excellent exponent in Mr. George Mitchell; and as Molly Vernon Miss Madge Morley displays histrionic ability, and acts with power and feeling. Miss Sybil Hare is a winning and lovable Rose Seymour; as Marian Franklyn Miss Lydia Mannington plays the unscrupulous adventuress true to life; Miss Mary Poulton has a good stage presence, and renders the rôle of Isabella Jones in clever comedy style; and the drama is elaborately dressed and mounted.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Taree, in a novel and accomplished musical act, meets with universal approval; Alpho is a successful ventriloquist; Carlton mystifies the audience in two separate turns—first as a card manipulator, and as a second turn introducing the mysterious cross; Charles F. Best as a burlesque mountebank gives a clever acrobatic display; Will Douglas's troupe of Five Jolly Bakers are smart tumblers and good Risley performers; and *Rosie's Birthday Party*, Nellie Lunell (comedienne), Matthews and Brown (coloured comedians), and Raymond's Bio-tableaux also contribute to an enjoyable programme.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—The management at this house are still relying on pictures as the principal attraction. There are several very good subjects thrown on the screen this week, the humorous ones predominating. Hurry up, Cabby! is a very laughable picture. Mr. R. Dunning contributes a clever ventriloquial turn, and Kahn and Kahn receive hearty applause for their illusions and second-sight act.

HAMILTON, N.B.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Miss Marie Loftus, the star turn here this week, justifies her reputation as a comedienne ever-popular; Bert Kemble is a comedian and raconteur with a style which is quite refreshing; *The Ragman in the Drawing Room*, a comedy act presented by Tony Iveson, assisted by David Hornby, is very amusing; Silvo gives pleasing selections on the silvochimes, and those on the musical glasses are specially appreciated; Carpos Brothers are equilibrists of considerable ability; the songs of Minnie D'Aubyn are sung in a manner which do not fail to please; May Morton is a charming and sprightly little comedienne; the Two Walonells are comedy acrobats and gymnasts. The Bioscope this week presents pictures of a most interesting nature.

HANLEY. — Royal. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*Woman and Wine* is proving a powerful magnet this week. Miss M. Austin and Mr. V. Edmond's company interpret the drama with decided distinction. The scenery and dresses are capital. Mr. Vivian Edmonds has the lion's share as Dick Seymour, but he acts the rôle perfectly; Mr. J. Milne Taylor as his father plays

Voice and Throat.

Mr. SIMS REEVES, the World-Famed Tenor, writing on "The Art of Singing," said:—"Condy's Fluid clears the Throat and braces up the uvula, which in some singers interrupts the pure emission of the Voice."

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with great skill a difficult part; Mr. Harry Harrop is a grand comedian as Sauter; Mr. Ashmore Vincent as Collins, an attorney, is decidedly clever; Miss C. St. Elmo has a strong part to play as Marcel, which she does effectively; Miss Ethel Vinroy as Janet is responsible for clever comedy; Miss Nellie Hayes as Perinet does well; Mr. W. Manning causes considerable hilarity as the Professor; Mr. Edwin T. Kisby is clever as Caliban; Miss Violet Sims plays Mary Andrews well; Miss Octavia de Noel as the demi-mondaine is very strong; and Lottie Stone's Whirlwind Dancers are introduced with splendid effect.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Business is splendid here, as is the programme submitted. The Three Meers, comedy wire artists, cause laughter and wonder by their act; the Daunton-Shaw troupe of trick cyclists verge on the miraculous; Arthur Reece and Daisy Dormer are billed, but do not appear, their places being filled by Victor Newman, a most talented mimic of our great actors, who makes a big hit; and the Macbanns, in a marvellous club-swinging and juggling act which brings the house down. Picitt and Lizette in a sketch *The Crazy Cook* are exceedingly smart and most original; Violet Englefield, comedienne, has a nice style; Curwen and Belle have a fine show, and the male makes masterly mimicry; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux shows Worthy the Name and Uncle's Rejected Present in splendid manner.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Kennedy and Moore; Manager and Operator, Captain F. Shaw.—Packed houses watch with keen interest the splendid series of pictures put on this week, which include The Brigands of Cababria, The Wreckers, It Served Him Right, The Irascible Father, The Slap in the Face, Sausage-fruit, Engaged all the same, Happy Bob as Servant, and The Paper-tearers. Miss Lila Vestas returns to the scene of her former triumphs and goes if possible better than ever.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of the week the Compton Comedy company occupied the theatre, and *School for Scandal* was in the bill for Monday. Mr. Edward Compton as Charles Surface repeated his well-known performance; Mr. Henry Crocker gave an excellent account of Sir Peter Teazle, and Mr. Henry Worrall was well placed as Joseph Surface. Miss Viola Compton was very good as Lady Teazle, and Miss Marie Hassell made a capital Mrs. Candour; Mr. Philip Gordon made the best of his opportunities as Sir Oliver, while Miss Constance Merton gave a meritorious portrayal of Maria. Smaller parts were well played. On Tuesday *Gentleman in Grey* was in the bill, and on Wednesday the ever-popular *David Garrick*. For the rest of the week Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company appear in *Lady Frederick*, with Mrs. Brown-Potter in the title-rôle.

THE KURSAAL.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—Harrogate is at the height of its season, and the above popular place of amusement has large and fashionable audiences twice a day. Among the attractions for this week are Miss Marguerite Cornille, singer and comedienne, and Miss Alice Mandeville, contralto. For Tuesday a special night was announced, when the McConnell-Wood Northumbrian Choir of forty voices would sing, and the Hon. Mrs. Julian Clifford would also appear. Mr. Hugh Peyton, tenor, the band of H.M. Coldstream Guards, an Miss Marie Hall, the eminent violinist, are also billed for various days of the week. Mr. Julian Clifford, the popular and clever conductor, is still unable to appear owing to his serious illness, but his place is taken by his able lieutenant, Mr. John Bridge.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Pictures continue to provide the programme here, and the series shown this week include some clever and interesting films. Those depicting A Tour in Scotland, The Fire-Fiend, and Branding the Colts are particularly enjoyed, and the song "Sweet Genevieve" is well rendered to capital illustrations.

PROMENADE AND MARKET HALL.—The Premier Pierrots are very popular here, and their performances are being well attended. Wednesday was set apart for a complimentary benefit to Mr. Rawson Buckley, who as pianist to the troupe has played himself into general favour. The large hall was well filled by an audience who thoroughly enjoyed the songs, dances, and monologues by May Thorne, Will Smith, George Derricke, and Fred Carrol of the troupe. The success of the evening was also considerably contributed to by Vesta Dawson, a clever little vocalist, Cissie Noble, and Wee Wullie, a capital little Scotch comedian.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr Charles E. Scutt.—On Monday Mr. George Alexander's company opened a three days' visit here with the first performance out of London of *The Thief*. The audience was large and friendly, and at the conclusion expressed its approbation of the play and the players. The rôle of Richard Chelford was played by Mr. Rupert Lister with much force and earnestness. Marise Chelford was enacted with impassioned fervour by Miss Mary Polini; the scene with her husband in the second act was entirely convincing. Very effective were Mr. Cyril Harcourt and Miss Jean Cadell as Raymond and Isabel Leyton and Mr. Owen Nares as Harry Leyton. The impersonation of Mr. Protheroe by Mr. Luke Forster was authoritative and able, and Mr. Bernard Stevens did well as the servant. The piece was preceded by *Too Happy by Half*. On Thursday Mr. Edward Terry and company were billed in a répertoire of plays, opening with *Liberty Hall*.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Norman.—Miss Daisy James is a charming vocalist comedienne, and receives great applause here. Miss Evie Temple opens the programme. Quite a variety of subjects are shown on the new Hipposcope. A good comic comedian is found in Harry Lawson; the accomplishments exhibited by a group of white parrots reflect the greatest credit on their trainers; the Misses Lily and Elsie Judge; a musical comedy, *In Ould Kildare*, in which some capital dancing and singing is introduced by George Kirk and Flo Kennedy, is warmly greeted; selected poems are recited by George Edwardes; and the Bouncing Dillons (Hilda and Willie) go through some novel gymnastic comedy on a bouncing spring-board.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—A pleasing variety entertainment is holding the boards here. Miss McCready is an accomplished soprano; some interesting films are shown on Payne's Bio-Photoscope; the Ladderites do a clever act of acrobatic climbing; Mr. Charles Coverdale's original patter is remarkable; Lauri Wylie's mimicking mannikins are always welcomed; Miss Florrie Bray is a pleasing singer; the Five Vernons are wonderfully expert on the xylophone; and the comedy bar act by the Three Zaracs is amazingly clever.

BEACH CONCERT PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Blackmore.—Miss Edith Blanchard is welcomed, and sustains all her former popularity; and Mr. Frank Wood proves a comedian entirely to the taste of his numerous audience. Miss Elsie English continues to charm all comers with her daintily-rendered songs and accompaniments. Favoured by the fine weather, the company draw large crowds to the Alexandra Park to their daily afternoon alfresco concerts under the auspices of the Borough Entertainments Association.

PUBLIC HALL.—The visit of the London Animated Picture Company concludes to-day. The attractiveness of the subjects exhibited is evidenced by the sustained interest they have commanded throughout the ten weeks they have been located here. The pictures this week are of a very high merit.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and company are making a welcome return in Shakespearean and Old English comedies. In *The Rivals* Mr. Ian Maclaren is excellent as Captain Absolute; Mr. Gordon Phillott is no less happy in the part of Sir Anthony; Mr. J. V. Bryant as Faulkland proves himself a sound actor; the Acres of Mr. Stafford Dawson is full of racy touches; Mr. Murray Hathorn deals with the character of Sir Lucius O'Trigger in no half-hearted fashion; Mr. George Relph is capital as Fag; and very good sketches of David and Thomas are given by Mr. Linson Wells and Mr. Brooke. Miss Gertrude Littlewood makes an ideal representative of Mrs. Malaprop; Miss Marguerite Cellier is charmingly natural as Lydia Languish; Miss Claire Townshend plays the part of Lucy with grace and finish. Other comedies during the week are *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Twelfth Night*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *David Garrick*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *The School for Scandal*.

HUDDERSFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—Mr. Frank Bertram's principal company is (by arrangement with Mr. Frank Harvey) playing *The Breed of the Treshams*. In the part of "the Rat" Mr. Sydney Bland appears to advantage, especially in those scenes calling for powerful handling. Batty is played with delightful swagger by Miss Grace Harlington; the stern Viscount Dorsington is impressively presented by Mr. Alfred Holles; Colonel Hungerford is cleverly portrayed by Mr. W. R. Winning, and Mr. Howard Brenan is an adequate Cornet Tresham. Miss Mildred Hodson displays grace and charm in the part of Margaret Hungerford.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The Riogoku Family of real Japanese in their brilliant feats of balancing head the bill. Other turns are Miss Emmie Ames, comedienne; the Mezettis, horizontal bar artists; Harry Bancroft, comedian; Miss Florence Somers, light comedy vocalist; Mount Stephens and Harry Rennior, comedians and dancers; Cecile Francois and company in a series of clever dances, and the Bioscope.

HULL. — GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, MORTON'S, LTD.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* is a play that has instantly caught the public taste, its rippling comedy, its naturalness, appealing alike to every part of the playhouse. Miss Gertrude Irving has just painted the picture of Mrs. Wiggs until one almost realises that she has slipped bodily out of the pages of the story. Miss Christine Rayner is a delightful Lovey Mary, whilst there is a charm and sense of freshness in Miss May Deverell's Miss Lucy. The bride of Miss Rita Carlyle just catches the audience's fancy, whilst Mr. Frederick Forrest is a very acceptable bridegroom. Mr. Walter Cameron is a pleasing Mr. Wiggs. In point of fact, the play is just the thing.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—*The Unhappy Pair*, pleasantly played by Miss Marian Brereton and Mr. Laurence Derrick, is an attractive playlet which, added to the pictures, makes a further attraction for the light entertainments.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Best of Her Sex* is now being presented at this house for the first time in Hull. Miss Dora Price fills a large place in the play with striking effect. The title-rôle is filled with good effect by Miss Alvina Mining, and Mr. Wm. Ovenden gives a good impression as the Rev. Stephen Maxwell, M.A. Mr. Henry Lloyd gives the heavy rôle proper emphasis. The comic relief is effectively presented by Mr. Dan Mining.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—Appearing here are Ginnett's *Rejected Remounts*; Fraser and Haley, who owing to their great success stay on a second week; the Keegans, in some funny cycling tricks; Lola Patey, an old favourite; Tom Lloyd, Fred Bamford, and Harry Taft.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Kingsby.—Atlas and Vulcana and Sisters Atlas make a welcome appearance at this hall; Allan Morgan and the Milfords are good in their dancing; Arthur Elvey makes himself popular. Other artists include Arthur Alexander and company and Queenie King.

THE CIRCUS.—Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—A constant change of animated pictures has created a regular weekly clientele.

ILKESTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company are appearing here in *The Face at the Window*, in which Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale as Le Loup makes his usual success. Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson as Marie de Brisson gives a pleasing performance, and Mr. Andrew Money as Lucian Cortier is well chosen for the part; Henri de Brisson is ably represented by Mr. Alfred Warne; Mr. Scott Leighton gives a clever impersonation of Paul Gouffet; Miss Louie Lonora as Babette and Mr. Henri Stewart as Peter are amusing. For Friday evening *The Sleigh Bells* was announced for presentation.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—The theatre is occupied this week by Mr. Charles Frohman's company, under the management of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey, in Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's play, *The Hypocrites*, and is drawing excellent houses. The part of the curate, the Rev. E. Linall, in the hands of Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton, is a fine piece of acting, and well merits the applause bestowed; the other characters are in the hands of Mr. Ernest Ruston, Mr. F. G. Thurston, Mr. Frederick Morland, Mr. John Dennys, and Mr. Fred Lake, and are well-sustained; Miss Laura Graves sustains a difficult part admirably, and is supported by Miss Muriel Pope, Miss Muriel Mason, Miss Sybil Brooke, Miss Eva Turnour, and Miss Mary Wincott.

IPSWICH HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Stead.—The Royal Tokio company of five Japanese gymnasts is the star turn this week, and at once evinced its popularity, some of their equilibristic feats are clever and cleanly performed; Irve Hayman and Marie Montagu appear in a sketch entitled *Christmas Eve*; Frank Elliston and company are paying a return visit with *Aunt Matilda*, which is as laughable as ever; Miss Rose Sartella is an American ballad singer of considerable merit; Miss Nora Stockell is a graceful dancer, and also contributes some songs; Simms and Simms are amusing in a musical sketch; Jack Rae is an eccentric gymnast; and George Acre has a baritone voice of some power; the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is paying a first visit with *Leah Kleschna*, which is well received. Miss Bessie Rignold displays great ability in the title-rôle, and Mr. William Clayton plays with skill the part of Leah's father; Mr. Hamilton Deane's performance of Paul Sylvaine is virile and vigorous; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks renders a good account of Raoul Berton; Mr. Charles Barrett looks the part of General Berton, and Mr. Gilbert Heron is well placed as Sehram. The mounting of the drama is excellent.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris.—There is a capital programme here this week, and Monday night's audience was most enthusiastic, and demanded numerous encores. Vestor is a good all-round artist, and after giving skilful cartoons of Bob Sievier and Dorando, winds up with a skit on the Salome dance; the Two McKays are particularly smart and sprightly comedians, one being heard to great advantage in "The dashing white sergeant," whilst both are good dancers; Wright and Elton provide the most amusing turn of the evening, the latter's dancing provoking tumultous applause; Clara Beck is an ambitious comedienne; Mlle. Rosina plays on several instruments; Lillie Stewart is an attractive singer and dancer; Amandus gives excellent impressions of a number of well-known statesmen, soldiers, and actors; Harry Maynard's "Under the golden laburnum tree" scores a big success with the "gods," and the performance is brought to a close by those clever gymnasts, Onda and Artell.

WEST PARK PAVILION AND TRIANGLE PARK.—The popular Æolians are paying a return visit. A monster programme was given on Thursday after the battle of flowers, followed by an illuminated fête, with fireworks by Messrs. Pain and Son, a battle of confetti, a torchlight tattoo, and a bal de nuit.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. R. Kendal; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Mr. Bebb's company in *A Lion's Heart* is the attraction this week. An excellent cast interprets the play, headed by the well-known actor, Mr. Henry Bedford, who appears as Rizardo; Mr. Stephen Scanlan's performance in the part of Jaspard Dobree is very clever; Mr. Leonard Booker scores as Dick Lorimore; another good character is Mr. Archie Helsby as the Colonel; Miss Ada Oakley is a capable Marian, and Miss F. Barnes deserves praise.

LANCASTER. — HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Mlle. Selma Braatz, lady juggler, is the star turn this week, and has a good reception; Clara Reid and John Power appear in an amusing sketch, *The Chambermaid*; and the Bros. Lawrence give a fine display of dancing; Arthur Gill, "a man with many voices," is paying a return visit; Bella Braham, illustrated songstress; A. G. Spry, comedian; Gertrude Martini, vocalist; and the Hippograph, with amusing pictures, complete.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Miss Horniman's company is here this week with a répertoire of plays, the opening piece on Monday being Shaw's *Widower's Houses*, which was presented in really capable style. Mr. Jules Shaw gives a clever character study of Sartorius, and on the same high plane of ability is Mr. B. Iden Payne's representation of Lickcheese. The young medico, Dr. French, is faithfully portrayed by Mr. Lewis Casson, and Cockane is a convincing conception by Mr. Charles Bibby; Miss Penelope Wheeler does admirably with the rôle of Blanche. The company is also to be warmly congratulated on their excellent presentations of *David Ballard* and *The Return of the Prodigal*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*A Girl's Cross Roads* is filling a return engagement here. Miss Hilda Beverley again demonstrates her ability with a telling personation of Barbara Wade; Mr. Jack Fortescue makes a manly Jack Livingstone, and John Meadows is portrayed in good style by Mr. Charles Franmore; Miss Nita Langford wins plaudits with a sympathetic conception of Nelly Meadows, and Mr. Fred Hodson and Miss Daisy Maynard are successful in broad comedy characters.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—There is no more popular comedian here than Mark Sheridan, and a rousing reception is this week accorded him by crowded houses. Another sound favourite, G. H. Elliott, again wins enthusiastic applause for his very tuneful singing and neat dancing; Stelling and Revell are to the fore with a capital vocal comedy sketch; Sanford and Lyons are doing a clever dancing speciality; Lady Mansel's Juveniles again provide a capital entertainment; the Twin Sisters Anderson evoke applause for their dancing; and Will Johnson, Daisy Martell, and Irene Rose each provide much-appreciated turns.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—At this popular suburban hall Haley's Juveniles head the bill with a capital singing and dancing entertainment which is well liked; Harry Claff and company present their amusing sketch, *The Demon and the Fairy*, in clever style; that smart comedian Josh Dixon is having a big week; the Haverleys are popular in a musical comedy speciality; Speedwell, the lightning painter, meets with the usual good success, and a pleasing musical act is subscribed by Lettie and Florence. Last but by no means least, Chummie La Mara delights with new vocal items.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Walter C. Kelly provides a deal of the fun this week, the vehicle for which is a sketch of a Virginian police-court, each character being depicted in clever style by this versatile artist. Bellman and Moore achieve success in a novel speciality; an acrobatic dancing speciality by the Berthos evokes unstinted applause; Tom Yorke scores as a coster comedian; Charlie Carr is a successful humorist on different lines; an expert gymnastic show is provided by Ajax and George; Beattie and Babbs are a pair of clever juveniles; and the Creo Bros. with smart song and dance complete.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Mabel Thorne is prominent at this hall, her clever turn being favourably received; Derenda and Green score in a neat speciality; the Raymond Trio are successful in a musical and dancing act; a smart and amusing turn is that subscribed by Drum and Major; Phil Bransby is a clever coster comedian; Andy Burns is another successful humorist, and Lambert and Hands also hit the popular taste.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart's company occupies the boards here this week with the thrilling play *Sherlock Holmes*, in which Mr. Hamilton Stewart is deserving of special praise for an exceptionally clever portrayal of the title-rôle. Others who render excellent assistance are Miss Betty Fairfax as Alice Faulkner, Miss Edith Vogne as Madge Larrabee, Mr. Robert Gilbert as Professor Moriarty, and Mr. Mark D. Draper as James Larrabee. The play is well mounted.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—We are being entertained with a first visit this week of Hardie and Von Leer's company in the play *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*. Miss Rosslyn Vane as Constance and Miss Alice Defoe as Nelly, the two lasses, are good; Miss Marguerite Trevosper is excellent as Bessie Edmunds; Miss Evelyn Shaw as Jane Adelaide Bloomfield does well; and as Lucy Miss Marie Corri deserves much praise; Mr. Herbert Pearson fills the part of John Edmunds in a manner leaving nothing to be desired; Mr. Chris. Mason makes a good impression as Samuel Hallett; Mr. E. Rayson-Cousens is a success as the Rev. Frank Selby; Mr. Fred Morgan is a capable Jonas Deane; and Mr. Harry V. Mann as Edward Langley is also to be praised.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton.—Heading another excellent and pleasing programme here this week is John Lawson in a repertoire of sketches, including *Pigs in Clover*, *The King's Minister*, *The Monkey's Paw*, and *Humanity*. The former was presented on Monday and Tuesday, and met with a splendid reception, Mr. Lawson as "the reformer" displaying his high histrionic abilities in a manner that evoked unstinted approbation. At the other end is Arthur Lennard, an immense favourite here, whose cleverly-rendered and acted songs delight all sections of the audience; Gladys Mavius makes a big hit with her delightful scena *Over the Garden Wall*; Ruth Lytton, who looks charming in her beautiful Scotch costumes, is another popular lady artist; Fred Curran keeps the house in continual merriment; Cavallotti Bros. render selections on various musical instruments in a clever style; C. J. Johnson, a coloured gentleman, evokes enthusiasm with his original cake-walk dancing; Spry and Austin are an entertaining and versatile couple; the Sisters St. Julian are excellent vocalists and smart dancers; and the Bioscope throws on the screen Snatched from a Terrible Death.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Mr. Leonard Mortimer and company are making a most successful first appearance here this week in the comedy-sensational sketch *The Kettledrum*, which is both well-staged and played. Mr. Mortimer makes a big hit as Capt. Owen Kettle, and Miss Edith Lewis as Dora Inez Thelestina, Miss Ida Clifford as Lady Edna, and Mr. Charles Ludlow as General Caranger should also be singled out for special commendation. The Menzies are most mirth-provoking and popular in their comedy act *The Suffragette*. The Sisters Northcote are excellent duettists; H. J. Merrylees is a Scotch comedian of ability; Maston mimics sounds, &c., in a manner that deserves the appreciation bestowed; the Almos give a quick, smart, and sensational equilibristic act that is well received; Nora Noble is a capital comedienne and dancer; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is a popular feature with Baby's Playmates and Troublesome Theft.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The chief films here this week include A Brother's Sacrifice, The Smuggler's Son, The Devil's Three Sins, Chamois Hunting, and The Lovelorn Goatherd, which are interspersed with acceptable turns by Ada Wood, male impersonator, and Ernie Francis, comedian. Singing competitions continue to be very popular at this hall, the ninth of the series of which is taking place this week, and is unearthing some capital local talent.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. Allan Wilkie and his company are appearing here throughout the week in a number of Shakespearean and old English plays, *The Merchant of Venice* being selected for Monday. Mr. Wilkie undertook the part of Shylock with great skill, achieving the success of the evening. Miss Carrie Baillie displayed exceptional ability in the trying rôle of Portia; Mr. Alexander Marsh as Bassanio acted the part to perfection; the Prince of Morocco of Mr. Sinclair Neill was well balanced and effective; Mr. John Paley was dignified and earnest as Antonio; Mr. Ian Fleming supplied much humour as Lancelot Gobbo; Miss Maud Gill gave satisfaction as Jessica, Miss Mildred Surrey was a successful Nerissa, and Mr. Frank Royde was an animated Gratiano. *Romeo and Juliet*, *Two Orphans of Paris*, *The Fool's Revenge*, *Julius Cæsar*, and *Othello* are also billed.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Walker's Sovereign Animated Picture Co. reopened at the above hall on Monday. The interior of the building has during the summer vacation been thoroughly redecorated, and now presents a very attractive appearance. This week's programme is a remarkably bright and up-to-date one, each film being very clear and steady. The illustrated song "Side by side," sung by Miss Doris Myddleton, received great applause. Other pictures produced were A Motherless Child, The Wreckers, and a very humorous one entitled Friday the 13th.

LIMERICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. George Victor Fogerty.—The Royal reopened the theatrical season with a strong variety company on August 17, and gave two performances before large audiences. The great attraction was Goliath, the herculean Eton boy, who gave several exhibitions of strength and physical endurance. The prepossessing comedienne Miss Winnie Loftus was very well received, and so were the speciality dancers Newham and Latimer, the Breetons in their novelty turns, and the sensational necromancer Imposticardo. The male impersonator Miss Lily Gaston was much appreciated; and Mr. James Franklin as eccentric comedian was very clever.

LINCOLN. — ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—*Sherlock Holmes*, presented by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart, proved a big score on its return visit. Mr. Stewart's work as Holmes being if possible more of a hit than before. It is in all respects a remarkably fine study.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—A strikingly interesting bird act is put forward by Victor Niblo, whose Indian parrakeet and parrot made a hit on Monday. Ethel Sheffer has an illustrated song number that effectively introduces an inexplicable illusion, the Faceograph, while Marie Nielson goes well as a dashing dancer; Charles Banks, with his dog Woof; Sterling and Love, in an instrumental act; Madge Field, comedienne; Harrigan and Holt, singers and dancers, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux also obtain much success.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—A company which did full justice to the merry *Belle of Mayfair* was sent here this week by Mr. Milton Bode. A lively and humorous Earl of Mount Highgate came from Mr. Percy Yorke, whose work found general favour; Mr. Harry Parker enjoyed the honours of the evening with his diverting Sir John; Miss Queenie Finnis played exquisitely as Julia Chaldicott; Miss Agnes Tandy charmed everybody with her singing in the part of the Princess; Miss Aurelie de Loriere as the leader of the Gibson Girls pleased immensely; Mr. Lawrence Wensley made an interesting Hugh Meredith, and sang with taste; Miss Blanche Astley proved an agreeable and sprightly Pincott; while worthy support emanated from Messrs. Edward Hugounet (Finchley) and Laurie Leslie (Perrier).

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—A fine production of *Captain Drew on Leave* delighted everybody at this house during the week, and all who witnessed Mr. Hubert Henry Davies's skilfully-constructed play were loud in their praise of it. Miss Cynthia Brooke, an accomplished artist with a charming style, and particularly musical voice, submitted a Mrs. Moxon that captivated her audience; Mr. Claude King dealt with Captain Drew in a manner which left not the slightest reason for complaint; Miss Nora Carlton, whose company it was, fitted the rôle of Miss Mills to a nicety, showing great tact; Mr. Gerald Venning did everything possible with the thankless part of Chester Hassell; Mr. Tom Mowbray made the most of the stolid Mr. Moxon; and Mr. Willox Cadogan deserved thanks for his humorous Ernest White. *Cut Off with a Shilling*, supported by Miss Lydia Hayward and Messrs. Gerald Venning and Tom Mowbray, was the curtain-raiser.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*The Power of the King* paid a first visit to this theatre during the week, being presented in admirable style by Messrs. Kimberley, Green, and Hinton's company. Mr. Travis Green assumed the leading part of Prince Oscar, which he played with much effect and power; Miss Leila Zillwood was prominent and telling in the rôle of Lady Annastasia; a character which found general acceptance was that of Captain Langrage, the people's friend, carefully handled by Mr. Gerald Blake; Mr. Charles Whitlock acted with credit as the King of Vallambrosa; Mr. John H. Firman made an excellent General Stenovie, the unfaithful officer; Mr. Wilton Drury as Fritz, and Miss Grace Barton as Marget proved exceedingly amusing, and Lady Glorina was in the capable hands of Miss Georgina V. France. The play lacked nothing in costumes and scenery.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*Love Rules the World* paid a welcome return visit here during the week, Mr. G. M. Copping's company staging it effectively. Miss Gertrude Sterroll as Maud Carruthers played in a manner that earned for her a most flattering reception; Miss Constance Medwyn undertook her original part of Flo Morton, in which she was seen to great advantage; Mr. Richard Vane proved highly successful as Harold Kingston; the, Jim Dimey of Mr. Sidney Rennef reflected credit upon that artist; Mr. Alex Wilson Wynne was well placed as Paul Carruthers; a carefully-presented character was that of Stephen Blight by Mr. Stephen Langton; and the comedy work of Mr. Walter Dale (Billy Binks) and Miss Kitty Russell (Kitty Snowdrop) met with general acceptance.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—A musical treat was provided here during the week by the Reano Band, which paid a first visit; Callahan and St. George delighted everybody with their musical duologue *The Old Neighbourhood*; May Mars had some pleasing illustrated songs; Charles Whittle proved as funny as ever; endless laughter followed the burlesques of Charles T. Aldrich; some capital dancing was performed by the Northern Troupe; and also in the list were Anthony Holt, with his illustrated chorus songs; Sados, who went through some clever juggling; and Little Keeno, boy comedian and dancer.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here throughout the week Mr. Percy Boucher's stock company, from the Roscommon, have held the boards with *The Shaughraun*, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, and *The Octoroon*.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Top of the bill here this week have been Lee Piccolinos, able midget acrobats, whose entertainment was greatly appreciated; the singing and eccentric dancing of Ritter and Foster met with general favour; a most amusing sketch, *The Substitute*, came from Sid Cotterell and company; Clarke's Nippers went through a smart speciality act; Woodhouse and Wells gave an excellent turn as patter comedians and dancers, introducing their chorus song "Is everybody happy here?"; an able pot-pourri turn was provided by the Three Pirmans; and others in the list were May de Rowse, comedienne and dancer, and Florence Deighton, vocalist.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Great laughter has been provoked here this week with *The Pawnbroker*, a funny sketch, brought by Joe Peterman and company; Wild, Willie, and West, the bounding navvies, proved as rich as ever, and created endless amusement; a neat comedy animal act was submitted by Clown Barker, assisted by Miss Rozsika; Miss Bayley and company had a cordially-approved dramatic sketch; Violet King showed high talents as a musician; Fyne and Hurley had a comical trifle, *The Dude and the Coster*; Carrie Laurie's miniature comedy company in *The Belles of the Kitchen* pleased immensely; Starr and Leslie were foremost with a smart American comedy act; and Lily Black, vocal comedienne, and the Harmony Four also appeared.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*The Vultures of London*, from the pen of Julian Rochefort, has been given here this week by the stock dramatic company. Mr. Harry Tresham played with effect as John Manners; Mr. Leo Montgomery acquitted himself in admirable style as Lord Almers and Convict D5; Mr. Sydney Grant was seen to advantage as the rascally Captain Dacre; Mr. Robb Wilton made an amusing Joseph Spudkins; Miss Lilian Radbourne pleased as Edith Manners; and other satisfactory parts were held by Messrs. E. D. Allen (Joshua Moses), Cecil Ravenswood (Governor Bright), R. Seath Innes (Dan Dawson), Miss Florence Cameron (Biddy Murphy), and Miss Emelie Erithwistle (Ruth Manners). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed some of the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the series of cinematograph pictures given here, the following artists appeared during the week:—Mabel Moss, comedienne, and Beau and Bell, operatic vocalists.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—The popu-

lar Hetty King headed the programme here this week, and had a rousing reception; also prominent were Ludwig Amann, the able impersonator, and George Formby, a most humorous comedian; Ouida Macdermott pleased greatly with her charming singing, including the popular number "Redwing"; Ritter von Renroff introduced his highly-trained dancing horse; Les Martinekx found favour with the novelty creation *The Rag Doll;* Gaumont's remarkable chronomegaphone was listened to with deep interest; the whirlwind dancing of the Four Molasso's caused surprise; and contributions likewise came from Bi-bo-bi, novelty musical act, and Cissie Curlette, comedienne.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Public patronage of this new place continues great. Heading a good working bill this week has been the funny pantomime *Hotel Grande* by the Six Brothers Luck, Ltd.; Scott, Scott, and company added to the merriment of the evening with their amusing *That Awful James;* Wyndham and Waters had a humorous drawing-room act *The Professor and His Pupil;* Louie Hurman sang several of her own copyright songs with taste; Frank Sley and his Nipper were refined comedians and speciality dancers; Rose and Wold, acrobatic bounding wire artists, gave their comedy sketch *The Sentry and the Maid;* and others who appeared were Jack Foley, comedian; Mary Blythe, comedienne; and Ikey Moe, Hebrew comedian.

LLANDUDNO.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. G. Pugh.—Mr. Martin Harvey and company appeared here for three nights in *The Breed of the Treshams* and *The Only Way.* Playing before an enormous audience on Monday night Mr. Harvey excelled himself in his original part of Lieut. Reresby, and was time after time called for by his admirers, who would not be appeased until he had thanked them in a short speech at the fall of the curtain. He was ably supported by a talented company, Miss N. de Silva evoking applause as Batty and Miss Madge Fabian faithfully portraying the Hon. Margaret Hungerford; Mr. Charles J. Cameron was excellent as Viscount Dorsington; Mr. Charles Glenney as Colonel the Hon. Clement Hungerford gave a good impersonation of a difficult part; Mr. Alfred Mansfield was commendable as Captain Rashleigh, and Mr. Leonard Craske was well placed as the Hon. Francis Tresham. The scenic effects were excellent. *The Thief* was announced for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. Leslie Faber's company occupy the above theatre this week with *The Liars* and *The Manœuvres of Jane.* On Monday *The Liars* was presented to a good audience, Mr. Leslie Faber being all that could be desired as Colonel Sir Christopher Deering; Mr. Lewis Willoughby as Edward Falkner does exceedingly well; Mr. Walner Gregory (Gilbert Nepean), Mr. Frank Bickley (George Nepean), and Mr. Richard Neville (Freddie Tatton) are all suitably placed. Mr. Jerrold Manville as Archibald Coke deserves mention. Miss Hilda Moore as Beatrice Ebernoe acts with feeling throughout, and Miss Ethelwyn Arthur-Jones as Lady Rosamond Tatton also plays skilfully. Miss Winifred Arthur-Jones as Lady Jessica Nepean is all that could be desired, her capricious moods being charmingly assumed.

PIER PAVILION.—Secretary, Mr. Sam Hughes.—The large orchestra, under Mr. A. W. Payne, F.R.C.M., continues to draw large audiences, the vocalists for Saturday being Miss Louise Dale and Mr. Herbert Brown. On Wednesday Backhaus, the famous pianist, and Mme. Ella Russell, the well-known prima donna, delighted a large audience.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. G. Callis.—The roller skating apparently is as popular as ever, hundreds attending at each session. A great deal of the attraction centres in the capital music rendered by an excellent military band under the conductorship of Mr. Ted Murray.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—This week the bright musical comedy, *The Honeymoon,* by Gilbert Payne, is being given here by Mr. Payne's own company, the author appearing with success as Nathaniel Noodles. Miss Rosie Kearnes is equally good as Mrs. Noodles; Mr. Leslie Earle as Jack Armstrong and Miss Celestine Brandon as Madge Armstrong also do exceedingly well; as Colonel Vandyke Browne Mr. Chris. Ainslie is good; Messrs. Fred. Fulton and Gus Tomlin as Archie Mashington and Victor Le Strange are highly capable; Mr. Fred Bentley and Mr. Bert Gray also do well; as Stella le Brun Miss Myra Douglas is excellent; and Miss Maggie Cronie is funny as Sarah Slab. The Four Godfrey Girls do excellent work as speciality dancers.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Continuing her successful tour in East Anglia, Miss Ellen Terry and company opened here on Monday with a clever representation of Bernard Shaw's well-known work, *Captain Brassbound's Conversion.* On this, her first appearance locally, the well-known actress secured a popular welcome, and was cordially received for a really artistic and well-thought study.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Considerably more than 3,000 persons witnessed the performance here on Monday, and hundreds had to be turned away. In addition to a new series of beautiful animated subjects shown by the British Biograph Company, the variety programme includes Haley's Garden of Girls, a pleasing turn in song and dance; the Czar's royal troupe of Russian dancers; Fred Horsfall, double-voiced comedian; Fanny Humber, instrumentalist and vocalist; and Friskey, a really fine comedy juggler, who is making a welcome return visit to Lowestoft.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Edmund Tearle has brought a very strong company to this theatre this week, opening on Monday night with *Othello.* Mr. Tearle gave a very strong personation of Othello, while Miss Vera George characterised Desdemona in a very marked and telling manner; the Iago of Mr. Bernhardt Turner was perfect; Cassio was characterised by Mr. Stuart Black, whilst Mr. A. W. Jones personated Montano. The other characters were very ably undertaken by Messrs. J. A. Keogh, Faucett H. Lomax, Herbert Tawse, and T. Price; Misses Madge Raper, Madge Newell, Helen Macrae, and Mary Campbell. On Tuesday and Wednesday the Adelphi drama *A Woman's Revenge* was enacted, when much better audiences were present. Mr. E. Tearle gave a very pleasing representation of the Barrister. A very stirring scene was the trial and verdict on Mary Lonsdale, undertaken by Miss Kate Clinton, the passionate appeal of the barrister to the jury being very effective.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager and Proprietor, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Edward Lloyd and Mr. Frank Adair's company is here in the sensational drama entitled *Man to Man.* Mr. Edward Lloyd gives a powerful presentation of George Gordan, and Mr. Frank Adair submits a finished performance of Richard Ellerton; Mr. Clifford Brown displays ability as Bill Burley; Miss Louis Adair gives an excellent portrayal of Ethel Maythorne; and Miss Adeline Lester capably characterises the part of Miss Lavinia Dove, Miss Evelyn Warde being seen to advantage as Gipsy Madge, and Miss Ada Martin making a pleasing Mary Mr. H. Holland as Mathew Ellerton and Mr. Alfred Val Shain as the Rev. Phillip Ormond are both good in their respective parts; and Miss Phyllis Oakley as Ned Doyle is highly successful.

MAIDENHEAD.—PAVILION PLEASURE GARDENS.—Proprietor, Mr. G. Gude.—The alfresco entertainments by the Pavilion Cadets are of the usual excellent character, Clown Garford's acrobatic educated dogs forming a novel and clever extra turn. In the well-known duet, "Excelsior," Mr. Colin Gent and Miss Adelaide Twort are heard to great advantage, and are vigorously encored; Mr. Will Harris causes much fun by his song, "Louisa brought him home last Sunday," and Mr. Leo Fallowfield, in his usual amusing style, renders among other songs, "The Earl and the Girl. Much appreciated is Mr. Jack Anders' song, "She came home in a taximeter cab," and the song-scena, *Pansy,* by Miss Florrie Delamere, is effective and pretty. Mr. Alec Tyson manipulates the piano in his usual clever style, and the concerted numbers are good. A very amusing sketch by the Cadets, *The Cook's Birthday,* concludes.

TOWN HALL.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—Miss Inez Howard's company, under the direction of Mr. Henry Chattell, drew a good house on Aug. 15, in the favourite drama, *Driven from Home.* Miss Winnie Donovan merits much praise for her pathetic representation of Laura Raybrook, and afterwards of Walter, the son; and Mr. George Claremont was excellent as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. W. Jeffery was very good as Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. H. Creagh Hunt ably represented Geoffrey Waring; Mr. C. Milley Doyle was admirable as Willie; Mr. H. C. Gilpin did well as Dick Saunders, and the part of Jabez Thomas was successfully taken by Mr. W. O. Billington. Mr. Albert B. Mann represented John Anderson capitally, and Miss May Rosine was a real favourite with her bright interpretation of Margaret Bailey. Other characters were ably sustained. The scenery, which includes a real circular steam saw and machinery in motion, was excellent.

MAIDSTONE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The leading line here is Miss Maidie Scott, one of the cleverest comediennes we have had here for many a day. Her singing is distinctly characteristically droll and fascinating, and she was recalled again and again; the Hayadas, champion acrobats, give a smart and skilful act; Geo. Campbell sings popular songs which "catch on"; Sylvia Du Barry presents a pretty scena with song, "In Andalusia"; Kathleen Kennedy is a refined comedienne and dancer; Zani mystifies with his clecer conjuring; Stevens and Brett do a cross-talk and song act; and Lynch dances to the admiration of all. The Biograph has some fine films.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—This theatre reopened on Monday with a performance of *The Lady of Ostend* by Mr. Lawrence Brough and his company. The piece is well known in Manchester, but it attracted a large house, and considerable laughter attended the efforts of Mr. Lawrence Brough (Baron de Longueville), Mr. William Spray (Dick Whortles), and Mr. Robert Boulder (Joseph Carbury)—to name no more—who succeeded in making the eccentricities of the story go with every appearance of freshness. All the subsidiary parts were capitally handled. *At the Rising of the Moon,* an Irish romance, preceded, and was well played by Miss Edith Adeson, Mr. E. Stanley Yorke, Mr. Harry Collier, and Mr. W. Macready.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—An excellent programme here this week is headed by Cumminger and Colonna, expert sand dancers; and Foy Bros. and company in an amusing sketch, entitled *Pat in China.* The Days, second-sight seers, give a smart and mystifying performance; Will Doran and company introduce a very funny sketch, *An Inventor's Troubles,* with complete success; and other good turns are Eldra, in a juggling and balancing act; Kirk and Saraski, ornamental swimmers; Dolly and Elsie, juvenile singers and dancers; Daleno and Stream, comedians and dancers; Victor and Louis, comedians and vocalists; and George Griffin, comedian.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Quite a number of remarkably good turns distinguish this week's programme here. Bert Wickham, the world's champion all-round athlete, gives a fine exhibition of strength in man v. motor tests; Ramsey and Cordova's sensational sketch, *The Organ Grinder,* is realistically presented; the Poluski Bros., the Bashful Bounders, continue their successful career; and R. H. Douglas (deputising for Carlotta Levey) provides an excellent turn in character comedy. Other clever and entertaining turns are Barlee and Smith, musical comedy artists; O'Malley and Brown, in a comic sketch; Harold Thorley, baritone vocalist; Mlle. Eldee, in a beautifully-illuminated posing performance; and Frank Couch, patter comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Mlle. Celia Galley, the clever Parisian chanteuse, is one of the star turns here this week, and meets with a good reception. Edward Clark and his Winning Widows are entertaining in a pleasing tabloid racing and musical comedy; and Oswald Williams, assisted by Winifred La Barte and company, is bewildering in a series of smart illusions. De Wynne Brothers, in a refined act, prove to be exceedingly neat and original athletes; Barry Lupino gives an extremely funny dance of the eccentric order, and is deservedly applauded; R. H. Douglas is a first-rate monologue artist; *Told in a Flat;* Bonnie Goodwin, assisted by Lily Vine and four Piccaninnies, gives a delightful dancing turn; and the Bastow and Franklyn Trio are good in an instrumental, vocal, and dancing speciality. Vocal items by the Choir and Bioscope pictures are also included.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—A strong attraction this week is *The Little Bread-winner,* played by J. A. Campbell's company. Little Winnie Crisp as Meg, the title-part, is a clever juvenile actress, and is quite sympathetically received; and strong parts are admirably rendered by Mr. Alf. Maurice as Joseph Prior and Mr. Sidney Lynn as Charles Prior. Many minor rôles are proportionately well rendered. The piece is given twice nightly, and is invariably well received, the scenery contributing much to the realistic effect.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Harry Randall, the popular comedian, is here this week, and makes a decided hit with his latest song, "I wonder where he gets his ideas." Frank Fenton is highly successful in *Only An Actor;* Graham's Juveniles, in a pretty scena, *A Concert on the Lawn,* are greatly enjoyed, their singing being exceedingly good; and Broughton's Electric Scena, with fourteen performers, including Elsie St. Clair, a splendid singer, and the Sisters Mawdsley, fine dancers, is particularly effective. Walton and Lester are excellent laughter-makers; Selby and Myers are capital dancers; and other smart turns are those of Evelyn Taylor, chorus comedienne; Harry Brown, a coloured comedienne; and Little Tichbourne, comedian and dancer. The Palace pictures are good as usual.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—*The Day of Reckoning,* a romantic costume play, by Stanley Houghton and Frank Nasmith, is the leading item here this week; it is well staged and played by Miss Elsie Vron, and Messrs. Bartlett Garth and Alan Mudie. The Maids of the Mill, a pretty *pot-pourri,* introduces some neat and effective dancing. Zarmo, an eccentric juggler, is deservedly well received; and the kaleidoscope dance by Effie White is extremely pretty. Others who offer good turns are Sylvene, equilibrist; Wheelan and D'Alcourt, in vocal scena; Davis and Deane, comedians and shadow dancers; and Lizzie Hands, comedienne. The pictures are good, as usual.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—*A Trip to Chinatown* is the chief item in this week's bill, and is presented by William Garland and Fred Douglas's capital company in a highly delightful and successful manner, the singing and dancing being greatly enjoyed. Caban's French Circus introduces very cleverly-trained animals; Langslow goes through a surprising sharp shooting act whilst balancing on a flexible rope; and Mlle. Edythe and Toto, in a contortionist and tumbling act, are quite out of the ordinary. Other smart turns are offered by the Farrows, capital sketch artists; Pat O'Connor, comedian and dancer; and Jessie Jukes, smart dancer. The Mysterious Parcel is shown on the Bioscope.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred. Day.—Florence Yaymen, the well-known singer of coon songs, tops the bill here this week, with great success. Henri Cazman, the "one-man music-hall," is particularly good in his clever act, *Le Café Chantant;* Rousby and Rene are seen to advantage in a comedy study of Lancashire life, *Fine Feathers;* Fame and Fortune are highly-amusing comedians with smart jokes; George Young plays well on the concertina, and is well received; Patrick Playfair and Vera Davis are marvellous papierographists; Victor Courtney scores as the "Boots" at the piano; the Four Netherlands are good dancers; Petro and Leon are clever in a comedy gymnastic act; Kingston Trollope, in his dramatic monologue, *Only a Dream,* does well; and Elliott and Warne appear with success in a novel scena. Pictures complete.

RUSHOLME PAVILION. — Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. Phillips.—An excellent all-round performance is given here this week to packed houses. Prominent and well-received turns are those of Harry Herbert, comedian; Elfie Vincent, comedienne and dancer; Lillian Barnes, contralto; and Maynard Dakin, humorist. Others who contribute enjoyable items are Aline Sudbury, soprano; Reginald H. Stephens, entertainer; and Sullivan Brooke, at the piano.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Capt. Cecil Clayton.—*Geoffrey Langdon's Wife,* presented by Mr. F. C. Somerfield's company, is the attraction here. Mr. Paul Beckett proved himself capable in the rôle of Felix Beverley; as Geoffrey Langdon, Mr. Wilson Summers is successful; Mr. Edward Louis is suited to the rôle of Jack Stirling; Colonel Miles is well played by Mr. William E. Passmore; Miss Cissie Bellamy plays with ability as Mary; the Hon. Mrs. Sands is in the capable hands of Miss Elsie Capell, and the comedy element is well supplied by Miss Kate Lever as Sweet Nancy and Mr. Percy Brown as Thomas.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Manager, Mr. Edward Michael; Resident-Manager, Mr. Charles Hardy.—Mr. Harry Bennett's company was here from Monday to Wednesday evenings with the musical play *Sergeant Brue.* Mr. Denis Lyndon filled the rôle of Sergeant Brue with complete success; Mr. Lister Morrah made a vigorous Michael Brue and sang well; Mr. Edwin Lancaster also did well as Mr. Crank. Mr. Frank Farant was bright and natural as Gerald Treherne; and Mr. F. Lionel did good work as Matthew Habbisham. Mr. Harry Benet was responsible for an excellent portrayal of Crookie Scrubbs; Miss Daisie Dale achieved distinction as Aurora Brue; Miss Stella Miller did well as Daisy; and Miss Ray Anderson made a dignified Lady Bickenhall. The chorus was a tuneful and well-balanced one, and all the minor parts were capably filled. On Thursday night the bill was changed for *Miss Hook of Holland.*

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Miss Kate Carney heads the programme this week with her company in the new scena, *The Yiddisher Boy,* which is a skit on Petticoat-lane of a Sunday morning. Miss Carney also gives her scena *Good-Morning, Mr. Postman* with equal success. Other contributors to a heavy programme include Leah Adell, operatic light comedy vocalist; Cissie Easdale, comedienne; Harry May Hemsley, caricaturist and impersonator; Hettie Oehms, lady juggler; Frederick Neiman, with his animated ventriloquial minstrels; and Archie Rover, eccentric tumbler.

HALL-BY-THE-SEA.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—The management have put on an attractive programme here this week, the contributors to which are Hughes and Carney, comedians and dancers; Daisy Hicks, comedienne; Guest and Newlyn, vocalists and eccentric dancers; Curtis Leo, who is assisted by Little Noblesse, in a conjuring entertainment; the Llewellyns, Australian operatic vocalists; and the Spanish Goldinis, acrobats and carpet spinners. The ball each evening after the concert has been well attended and much enjoyed, under the courteous management of Mr. W. Dennis, the M.C.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; —*The Prodigal Parson* presented by Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company is here. In the title-rôle Mr. Logan Darra is both earnest and convincing; Mr. Alfred Northway plays with distinct success the part of Enoch Jaggins; Miss Violet Hammersley plays with ability as Fern Godley; Mr. Charles Ashwell is effective as Ben Jaggins, and Mr. Owen Redmonde humorously acts Phil Drive; Miss Enid Edoni is an entertaining Gretchen; Miss Madge Gillard pathetically acts the child part of Myrtle Godley, and Miss Carlene Yorick scores as Fräulein.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Will Godwin and company head the bill here, and their scena, *Repentance,* is received with rounds of applause; the Peps are a smart pair of acrobats; Mlle. Yetta is exceedingly clever in her wire speciality act; Charles Field excels as a juggler, and other good turns are contributed by the Glancy Girls, Miss Godwynne West, Benno, and Harry Coates. The Biograph pictures are up to date and form a pleasing part of the entertainment.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—*The Convent Bell,* a comedy drama, is being played here. Mr. Howell Webb is very amusing in the character of Pickle Pods; Mr. B. Croucher as Philip Vautier plays ably; Messrs. C. E. Howell and H. C. Osborn are well placed as Col. Vautier and Henri Casella; Miss Fanny Williams, Miss Emily Huby, and Miss Amy Blanche act excellently as Christian Valgrave, the Mother Superior, and Margaret Courier. The remaining parts are in good hands.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is this week presenting the drama, *Her Nameless Child.* Mr. J. W. Evelyn appears to good advantage as the old blacksmith Anthony Ford; Mr. Arthur Pringle, as the villain, Lord Woodville, makes the character sufficiently despicable; Mr. Sidney C. Cranston plays cleverly as Arthur Ford; Mr. Larry Clements imparts a wealth of humour to the part of Tom Rivers, a would-be detective; Miss Pattie Hastings imparts grace and refinement to the character of Phyllis Ford; the thankless rôle of the adventuress, Lady Sybil Woodville, is skilfully enacted by Miss Mona Grey; Miss Renie Douglas is a piquant Bessie Brooks.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—This week's programme is an exceptionally good one and includes a film representation of the well-known Irish drama, *The Shaughraun.* Other pictures are: Forsaken, Tell-tale Cinematograph, Arabian Legend, Peggy's Portraits, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—*Brewster's Millions* was produced here on Monday before a large audience by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. P. Hutchison's company. The combination is a remarkably clever one, and the play proves very amusing. Mr. Percy Hutchison, who has the part of Monty Brewster, the unwilling inheritor of millions, provides any amount of delightful comedy, and from the beginning to the end of the play keeps the audience in a constant titter. He is ably seconded by Mr. Cyril Rawdon, who as Charlie Harrison is very effective. Miss Cicely Stuckey is a most entrancing Peggy, whose graceful acting won the hearts of all; Miss Mary Seton is very attractive in the rôle of Miss Baynton; and Miss Violet Ley as Mrs. Dan de Mille and Miss Francis Dovie as Jamie Armstrong give delightful impersonations of their respective parts. The piece is remarkable not only for clever acting but for the perfect triumph of stage-craft to be seen in the third act when the good ship Flitter comes upon the scene. It is one of the most sensational and realistic sets ever put on a stage.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. Herbert Lloyd's company occupies the boards here this week in a laughable musical comedy entitled *Happy Hooligans.* Catchy music, pretty dresses, and clever dances all play their part in an entertaining production. As Happy Hooligan Mr. William H. Lester is irresistable; while Mr. Jas. J. Sullivan as the Irishman and Mr. John R. Hawley as the Jew convulse the audience. Miss Lottie Wilson makes a capital Widow Johnson, and Miss Rose Lyndon is a vivacious comedienne. The piece is admirably staged.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—An attractive programme is provided here this week, and holiday crowds are the rule. Fred Karno's company in *London Suburbia* keeps the house in a constant roar of laughter; the "Enchanted Iona" is a charming stage effect, and a smart dancing turn is given by My Fancy; the Kimberley Boys are as amusing as ever; and other items are provided by Mackintosh and Royal, clog dancers; Ethel Dove, comedienne and dancer; Avrignys, Japanese jugglers; and Joe Archer, comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Signor R. Pepi; Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—On Monday night, in the presence of a large number of well-known ladies and gentlemen, the Mayor of Middlesbrough (Lieut.-Col. T. Gibson Poole) performed the opening ceremony in connection with this new music hall, to which reference is made in another column. The Three Royal Dreadnoughts gave the audience amazing evidence of the accuracy with which rifles can be used. Miss Florrie Forde scored a great success with her new song, "Antonio"; the Scotch comedian, Jock Whiteford, gave a capital impersonation of an enthusiast at a football match; and a smart turn was given by Carmos, herculean and novelty juggler. The Tallo-ho Trio were very good in their musical farce *The Three Buttercups;* Arthur Prince well maintained his claim to be the king of all ventriloquists; and other items were supplied by Cynthia, Athas and Collins, sketch artists, and the Pepiscope.

OXFORD PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—The Cinematograph plays the principal part in the programme here this week. A pleasant break in the picture exhibtion is provided by Adams and Ward, grotesque comedians.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Julian.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company in *I Defy the World,* have been doing good business here. Mr. Percy Ballard has sustained the rôle of Leon Darville with great success, and he has been supported by an excellent company, including Miss Blanche St. Albans, Miss Violet Crawford, Miss Maud Lilian, Messrs. J. Leicester Jackson, Charles Conway, C. M. Julian, D. J. Barber, and Newton Pearce.

ALHAMBRA PALACE.—Manager, Alderman John Gardner.—Carl and Mary Ohm's performing animals are drawing well, and the show is a bright one; Abel and Welsh are a most amusing couple of acrobatic comedians; Flake White sketches with lightning rapidity, and Chas. M. Daly and company have a neat sketch, *I Must Have It;* Johnson and Devere are capital on the tight wire with the cycle; Denby and Dent have a smart comedy act; the Lauri Bros. are capital acrobats, and Henriette and Selina are neat entertainers; the Monte Carlo Girls sing and dance effectively.

WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Atkinson.—The leading attraction here has been John Warren, with his act, *The Magic Carpet,* a mystical production which is splendidly worked by a capable company; the Hilgert-Arkas Troupe have introduced a wonderfully neat continental acrobatic act; very amusing are the four Maisanos, musical clowns; Tom Foy in his *Yorkshire Lad in London,* is as funny as ever, and Fred Land has some neat songs and clever antics; Tambo and Tambo are an excellent turn, and Ada Parker is a dainty comedienne; good and novel dancing is the forte of Will and Alice Vokes; Hurman manipulates the hoops smartly, and Wills and Mackenzie are a good singing couple.

CENTRAL PIER.—Manager, Mr. Emilius Hill.—In Miss Zona Vevey, with whom is Herr Max Erard, pianist-composer, Mr. Hill has secured a highly attractive turn. In a magnificent stage set of great beauty Miss Vevey sings several songs of an original character, and the effects are appropriate to each character. Altogether a most creditable production, which should draw money everywhere. The Rio Brothers are seen in clever gymnastic work; Madame Roma's six juggling girls are well trained; T. E. Johnstone is a capital character vocalist; the Erolls are good leapers and tumblers; Steve Bartle is a clever concertina soloist; the Edmonds have a well-conceived statuary act, and the Sisters Cora help in the general success of this show.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—The attraction here this week is *In Holy (!) Russia,* by Lilian Clare Cassidy. This drama is in the main sensational, but the dramatic tension is ably and pleasingly relieved by Mr. J. Rice Cassidy in the rôle of Micky Nolan, a witty Irish servant. His acting thoroughly merits the applause accorded. The part of Renee Rubinoff is by no means an easy one, but it is very cleverly sustained by Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy; Miss Roma Tremayne takes the part of Catska Lavotski, and the manner in which she enters into the spirit of the adventuress is worthy of much praise; Mr. Henry Compton as Colonel Richard Forrest, is well suited. The acting of Mr. Jerold E. Reed as Michael Natolski is praiseworthy.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—This place of entertainment was reopened after the summer vacation on Monday, when Mrs. Greenwood Croft's London company presented *Captain Swift,* with which and *The Idler* they have been on tour. The first night was marked by an entire innovation in theatres, invitations having been sent out to the leading ladies and gentlemen of the town, including members of the local corporation and their wives. In consequence the theatre was crowded by a very fashionable audience. At the close of the second act tea and coffee were served in the stalls and in the circle refreshment-room, the latter being daintily laid out with small tables. The kindness of the proprietress and Mr. Mudd, who received the guests, was greatly appreciated. An entirely new orchestra has been engaged, and their playing was a distinct success. The performance of *Captain Swift,* which is preceded by an amusing curtain-raiser, entitled *The Maniacs,* afforded the company every enjoyment. In the title-rôle Mr. Herbert Ford, who joined the company upon Mr. Philip Cunningham leaving to take up an important engagement in London, fulfilled his task in an eminently satisfactory manner. Gardiner found a most agreeable exponent in Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont; Mr. Richard Dalton gave suitable treatment to the character of Mr. Seabrook, his well-assumed short-sightedness provoking much merriment; whilst as Harry Seabrook, the petulant lover, Mr. A. E. Walker was quite at home. Mr. Wm. Attfield made a convincing Ryan, the detective, and Mr. Haldane Walton's characterisation of Marshall was all that could be desired; as Mrs. Seabrook Miss Elsepeth Dudgeon performed a difficult task with every ability; Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft made a charming Stella Darbisher, her fine acting and the general tone of her depiction winning unanimous approval. During the course of the play she was presented with a lovely bouquet of roses. Miss Geraldine Somerset made a vivacious Mabel Seabrook, whilst as Lady Staunton Miss Rita Trefell showed much histrionic ability. The dresses and scenery were beautiful. From Thursday night to Saturday *The Idler* was produced.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The return visit of Mr. Charles Macdona's company in the popular farce *Are You a Mason?* was accorded a hearty welcome here on Monday. Mr. W. H. Paterson in the part of Amos Bloodgood is both clever and amusing, while Mr. Francis J. Bithell as the son-in-law adds considerably to the gaiety of the entertainment; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce as George Fisher meets with hearty appreciation in his efforts to amuse; and Mr. Erskolme E. Clive deserves praise in the rôle of Mr. Hamilton Travers. Other leading rôles are ably played by Miss Adelaide Grace, Miss Rita Narcelli, and Miss Dulcie Verney. An interesting curtain-raiser, entitled *A Bad Penny,* precedes *Are You a Mason?* the characters being well played by Miss Dulcie Verney, and Messrs. Erskolme, E. Clive, G. P. Polson, and Wilton Ross.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Lingford Carson's No. 1 company is here this week in a repertoire of plays, *The Heart of a Hero* being presented on Monday before a large audience. Mr. Ernest J. Fare as Jem Resdale is a success; Miss Rosa Mervyn as Nell Resdale is equally good. Other prominent parts are in the hands of such capable artists as Mr. J. Borland, Mr. F. Rivers, Mr. F. Kellard, Miss Emma Rainbow, and Miss Amy McNeill. During the week *A Modern Adventuress* and *The Ticket-of-leave Man* will be staged.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—*The Great White Chief,* a play from the prolific pen of Mr. Lingford Carson, is the attraction here, and is meeting with hearty appreciation. The title-rôle is in the safe hands of Mr. Mansell Vane, and the author has an important part as Reindeer. Mr. Charles Ritland and Mr. George Torice are also conspicuous. The ladies in the cast are Miss Dollie Denville, Miss Dulcie Lawrence, and Miss Amy Ross Clyde, and all help to make the play a huge success.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—George Mozart is once more delighting Newcastle audiences in his own inimitable style, his turn proving as clever and amusing as ever. Addie Dorina, a clever protean actress, appears in a happy sketch, *Dr. Spot's Patient,* in which she plays six different characters with remarkable skill. Other artists contributing successfully to the programme are Marion Armitage, comedienne; Sisters Wingrove, Botello and Virginia, J. G. Scatter, May Brilliant, and a comedy sketch, *Astronomy,* by Messrs. W. Fulbrook and company, the Barrascope completing.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The Elliott Savonas in their elaborate musical scena are the chief attraction at the Empire this week. They never fail to give pleasure to North-country audiences, and they received the usual hearty reception. Their entertainment is unique and wholly enjoyable. The Donaldson Brothers in a fantastic sketch, *Sports in the Jungle,* prove extremely amusing, and evoke any amount of merriment; and Mr. Walter Wade, a comedian with a good voice, scores well in a monologue. A really pleasing turn is that of Stewart and Morgan, whose singing of old Irish melodies is quite delightful. Other smart turns are Howe and Ardie, gymnasts; Arabella Allen, "the Dickens Girl," in character representations; Howard and St. Clair in a comical sketch; the Proveanies, a troupe of lady cyclists; Jennie Johns in a song scena, "The Middy in the King's Navy"; and Nora Emerald, soubrette and dancer. The Dieppe Motor Race on the Bioscope completes an excellent programme.

NORTHAMPTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett.—The Avolas are scoring with their novel and exciting performances on a row of six vertical parallel bars; Amy Bellwood is a lively a piquant singer and dancer; Marion Fletcher is a charming and youthful ballad vocalist; Kellini is a clever and funny comedy juggler; Jules Kiarno, equilibrist; Morimura, magician, assisted by Miako; and Fred S. Peake and company in a dramatic sketch, *The Hypocrite,* also appear. The pictures presented this week are the motor races at Dieppe, including the Grand Prix and the Voiturettes Race.

THE NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Thos. A. Evans; Musical-Director, Walter Ashton.—Heading the programme is Mlle. Viviana and company in a dancing scena, *The Toy Shop,* which serves to display some very good dancing in various styles, both operatic and modern, and the three ladies and the two gentlemen are deservedly highly applauded. Yamamoto and Miss Koyoshi, undoubted Japs, give an unique equilibristic performance, which is duly rewarded; Violet Beatrice makes a pretty Irish boy, singing sweetly "Soon I'll be leaving Dublin town," and finishing with a smart dance; and Madge Bryce, a contralto comedienne with a good style and faultless presence; the Ronney Trio of knockabouts; Mike Asher, comedian and dancer; Alfred Grady, comedian; Matt Wilkinson and company in a comic sketch; and Percy Farrimond, the original Lancashire singing collier, also furnish acceptable items. The Palace pictures are the Dieppe Motor Races, 1908.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company with *The Gambler's Daughter* is playing a return visit here this week. In the dual rôle of Mildred and Miriam Grant Miss Hill submits an excellent performance, and Mr. Ayrton as Desmond O'Dare is worthy of much praise; Mr. Harry Ellison makes a capital Solomon Solomons; Mr. Richard Pitt acts well as John Grant; Mr. H. C. Robinson wins high praise as Stephen Brand, and Mr. Cedric Thornley creates a good impression as Tom, his son; Mr. Frank Wheatcroft figures creditably as Captain Stanhope; Mr. Basil Mitchell is well suited as Jack Grant, and Mr. Fred T. Ingleby makes the most of Ralph Gillman. As Auntie Zeb Miss Harriet Loydall makes quite a hit; Miss Maud St. John is much appreciated as Carmen Sancho; Miss

much approval; Mr. George Bernard, actor-vocalist, keeps adding to his popularity, and the Mouldoscope exhibits some capital pictures.

NORTHWICH.—THE PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Managing-Director, Mr. Henry S. Dacre.—The Serenaders (originally masked singers) are here this week, and a splendid entertainment they provide. The company consists of Miss Mabel Johnson, soprano; Miss Ellice Rayne, contralto; Mr. Alfred De Grey, tenor; Mr. Malcolm Cockerell, baritone; Mr. Sidney Hamilton, entertainer; and Mr. Leonard Burke, pianist, all of whom are artists of high-class ability. Their répertoire is a large and varied one, and whether it be solo, duet, trio, quartette, coon, or humorous song, all are rendered in such perfect style as to earn for each and every artist well-deserved rapturous applause. The costumes are splendid. The Leonas in their electrical illuminated musical acts give an exceedingly good performance and meet with a hearty reception.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, presented by Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux, in *The Walls of Jericho*, occupies the boards this week. Mr. Alfred Goddard is excellent as Jack Frobisher and Mr. Russell Barry is very good as Hankey Bannister. Mr. Ben Lewin is well placed as the Marquis Steventon, and Mr. A. W. Tyrer deserves praise at Harry Dallas. Miss Nancy Beresford cleverly acts the part of Lady Alethea Frobisher; Miss Elsie Ross is good as Lady Lucy; Miss Ormond Wynne is pleasing as Lady Westerby; and the other characters are ably filled. The piece is excellently staged.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Messrs. Arnold Richardson and A. Gordon Laws, with Miss Ethel Lonsdale, present a laughable sketch entitled *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, which creates convulsive laughter. Mr. Alec Hurley and company are heartily received in the sketch *The Costers' Friendly Lead;* the Scottish Belles give a pleasing musical turn; Shirley and Ransome are amusing in an episode, "'Arf a Quid"; Lawrence Barclay as a comedian is a favourite; Rubie and Elsie Redfern are appreciated; and Dolly Ross, comedienne and dancer, is very pleasing. The Hippo-Bio pictures are interesting.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company is presenting the evergreen comedy *The Private Secretary*. As the timid little curate Mr. Donald Price-Evans scores heavily, and few better representations of the part have been seen here. Mr. Cattermole is represented by Mr. W. Hargreaves, a fine comedy actor, who loses no opportunities; and Mr. Fredk. Tyrrell as Gibson is good. Mr. Frank Stanley is responsible for the part of Mr. Marsland, and acquits himself creditably; Mr. Andrew Wight enacts the character of young Marsland cleverly; Mr. Lawrence Grove is thoroughly at home in the rôle of Douglas Cattermole; and Mr. F. Dudley does well in a small part. Miss Florence Tressillian and Miss Dorthy Ripley look charming and act successfully as Edith and Eva respectively; and as the sedate Miss Ashford Mrs. Alfred Davis does good work. Miss Cicely Wade and Mr. John Macready complete the cast. The funny farce, *The Wild Man from Borneo*, precedes the comedy.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—For exciting drama one could not wish anything stronger than *Straight From the Shoulder*, produced this week by the company travelling under the auspices of Mr. R. A. Roberts. Mr. Matthew Boulton acts with vigour and determination in the dual rôle of Dr. Bedford and Harry Bletchley; and hard work is put into the representation of the double part of David Gleeson and Major Lucas by Mr. Leonard Clarke. Another double representation deserving of special mention is that of Mr. Fred Beck. Miss Beatrice Burdett successfully undertakes the representation of the heroine; Mr. Cuthbert Dennison and Mr. Franklin McAvoy both do good work; and Miss Beatrice Moore is a winsome Gladys Brittle. Messrs. Geo. H. Child as the Rev. John Armitage and George Fisher as Fred Stafford add no little to the success of the play; and Miss Edie Casson's mock dignity as the wealthy Miss Brittle is very amusing. The play is well written, staged, and produced, and attracts large and enthusiastic audiences nightly.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—At the top of the programme this week Miss Queenie Leighton attracts in her usual powerful manner, and her reception at every performance is most gratifying. Mr. Russell Wallett, in his unique turn *The Lady in Black*, convulse the house with laughter all the time he is on the stage; the Famous Craggs demonstrate once more to what a high point of perfection they have developed the acrobatic art, and the sketch in which Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas appear is a very pleasing and well-acted little comedy. Rhoda Paul sings in very good style a song in male attire; and the harmonised choruses and the solo singing of the King's College Boys are very pleasing. Jock Mills is one of the best of Scotch comedians, and his song, "The Suffragee," brought down the house. Rosa and Kitty Simms are song and dance artists of no mean ability; and Ralph and Nellie Howard have a capital turn in their comedy music mélange, *The Military Maid*. Bioscope pictures bring a good bill to a conclusion.

OLDBURY.—PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Tyrer.—The artists here this week include Fred Roman; the Sisters Holly, duettists; Miss Martin, an accomplished instrumentalist; Fred Crosbie, an excellent comedian; George Coll, a refined vocalist, and Miss Nancy Renshaw, who is encored nightly. The pictures conclude.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Eugene Stratton is attracting large audiences here on his first visit, and his songs and dances earn several recalls; Mastro and Mlle. Oretta in their equilibristic act are exceedingly smart and clever; the Arthur Lloyd trio (Arthur, Lillie, and Dulcie) are excellent in a drawing-room sketch, and cause much amusement; Wyndham and Kitty, in a capital wire act receive much applause; Alf. Holt is very good in mimicry, and Bert and Eddie Hughes are very amusing in football on cycles; the Elduns, in a vocal scena, provide some capital singing; Will 'E Stopit is a smart, eccentric comedian, as is Little Dando, and Fred Athalon is a good head balancer. The Bioscope shows some good pictures.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*A Woman Worth Winning* is here, played by Mr. Percy Norman's company, and they have had a capital reception. Miss Chrissie Dunbar as Roma Pauloff acts a trying part in her well-known style; Mr. Geo. E. Clive makes the character of Fergus Lovinsky a most manly hero, and the machinations of Mr. A. B. Mackay as General Borinsky are ably portrayed; Mr. Carthage Calcleugh is well known here and earns much applause for his able acting as Ivan Bardoff; Miss Ida Mackay impersonates Katerina Kloss in a most amusing manner; Mr. L. Newman as Bertie Scribbles causes much amusement, and Mr. Ernest Kendrick as Peter Popples is responsible for much hearty laughter by his clever comedy; Miss Trixie Leighton makes a capital Lola, and Mr. Jack Corlass makes a smart Col. Mashemoff; Mr. Gilbert Standing as Amos Pauloff is very good, and Mr. S. Barton does well as Czar Nicholas.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Carr Loates' company is fulfilling a week's engagement here with *At the World's Mercy*. Mr. Leo. Rodway is robust as Capt. Frank Manley; Mr. C. D. Knight is effective as Morris Goldstein, and Mr. Carr Loates makes the most of Jabez Barber. Mr. W. Griffin is a good ruffian as Slouching Sam, while Mr. Jess Boxer causes endless merriment as Charley Smart; Miss Molly Bee is sympathetic as Alice Lloyd, and Miss K. Saunders acquits herself admirably as Dot. Miss Cissie Milford undoubtedly scores easy honours in her dual rôle of Skittles and Kitty Knott; her impersonation of Skittles is exceedingly clever, whilst her singing and dancing make her a favourite.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—On the top of the bill here this week is Tarro Miyake, the champion ju-jitsu wrestler; the Ettenas, globe speciality artists, introduce a combination of marvellous balancing feats and genuine comedy; Theresa and May, in their quick-change act, are cordially received; beautiful songs, smart dances, and clever acrobatic feats are contributed by the Sisters Lee; May Fayre is heard to advantage in two good songs; a capital ventriloquial performance is contributed by Robert Grieve, and Kack and Ford, trio of comedy acrobats; Miss Maie, with a wire and rope posing act, and the Tivoliscope complete an excellent bill.

PETERBOROUGH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—An excellent programme here has succeeded in drawing a crowded house each night. Beatie Bloom is a comedienne with a good voice; George Phillips is a clever comedian and dancer; the Sisters Hampel are original cross-talk comediennes; Ted Saunders is a capital mimic; Jen Keppel, comedienne; Whisper is a tricky comedy juggler; the Two Bostons introduce the great bull fight, which causes roars of laughter; J. W. Foster is a very funny comedian, and Arthur Norton is the nine-stone Græco-Roman wrestler of the world.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Beloved Vagabond* is staged this week at the Royal. Mr. Arthur Royston portrays Gaston de Neroe, and is equally at home as the happy-go-lucky Bohemian or as the objectless tramp on the road, his acting being marked by brilliancy and finish; Mr. Warburton Gamble as the Comte de Verneuil is the evil angel of the piece, but performs his allotted task excellently, and one cannot but admire the close character study the part displays; Mr. Alfred Drayton has a comparatively small part as Lord Rushworth, but carries out his duty in a commendable fashion; while Mr. Ramsey Macbeth as Asticot admirably "plays up" to his leader Gaston. Miss Kathleen Harrington is particularly fascinating as Joanna Rushworth, and carefully treats a part requiring delicate handling to prevent any suggestion of its being overdone; and Miss Nita Faydon earns warm applause for her representation of the faithful Blanquette de Veau.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Coram is the most successful applause-earner at the Palace this week, his ventriloquial business being smart and up to date. Ernie Mayne catches on wonderfully, his patter and general style being original and genuinely funny, and Hayes and Merritt are a daring pair of trampolinists, and bring off some startling evolutions on the horizontal bars; Fred Karno's company in their musical extravaganza, *Saturday to Monday*, furnish some acceptable musical and comedy business; Mr. Gilbert Childs as John Willie Jaggs being very strong in the latter department; Clark and Hayden amuse with their comedy duologue, entitled *By Appointment*, and Harry Zetter has few equals as an eccentric dancer. Other contributions to a good bill are Les Zelovas, acrobatic equilibrists; and Madge Allan, comedienne.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—The standard of excellence is quite maintained in the programme submitted this week. Cliff Ryland heads the bill, and hugely pleases the popular taste with his quaint stories and funny ditties; Brady and Johnson and company prove that old farces bear revival when played as smartly as they do the sketch *Turning the Tables;* Miss Alexandra Royal sings impressively songs of a tender character, and Shrillo, unlike many a siffleur, whistles musically, his phrasing being particularly artistic; Les Currys go through a programme of instrumental music which, although ambitious, is well done; Silly Billy Elliott finds great favour; Patty Bella is a comedienne with infinite vim and go, whilst Patty Dancit is a smart and dainty dancer. The Alexandra Bioscope shows some capital pictures, notably the Dieppe motor race.

PORTH.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The star turn here is Ivan Tschernoff's animal act, which is greatly admired; Hampton and Bauman, in *Down in Kentucky*, are accorded a hearty reception; Wylie, the tramp musician, is very popular in his musical act; Titan, a fine athlete, is a marvellous weight lifter; Frank Coyle meets with great approval as the Continuous Comedian; Alfonso Silvano, equilibrist, is enthusiastically received; Telka, contralto, renders some fine songs; Vowles and Bryan in their refined scena are deserving of praise; and the Palascope, with its grand series of pictures, is greatly appreciated.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The farcical musical play, *The Dairymaids*, is being presented by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company. Mr. Johnny Osborne, with imperturbable humour plays the part of Joe Mivens, A.B., causing roars of laughter, and the rôle of Lieut. Sam Brudenell is well taken by Mr. Nelson Keys; Lieut. Frank Meredith is capitally presented by Mr. A. Wykes Ashdowne; the good-natured, genial Irishman, Dr. O'Byrne, has a good representative in Mr. J. A. Warden; Mr. Boris Bellew does excellently as Lieut. Brereton, and sings "Dreamland" in the last act with great success; Miss Mabel Younge as Lady Brudenell is well placed, playing with grace and style; Miss Clare Marsden makes a piquant and comely Peggy; Miss Clarice Lockstone is a delightful Winifred; Miss Gladys Silvani acts the maid-of-all-work Eliza in characteristic fashion; and Miss Madge Avery as the very proper Miss Penelope Pyechase, is also worthy of praise.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company in the romantic military drama, *Second to None*, is here for the week. The arduous rôle of Harry Wilding is played by Mr. Leonard Williams in a manly, convincing manner; Mr. Theo Balfour's impersonation of the old soldier, Sir Reginald Greystone, V.C., is a most capable one; the sinister and heartless captain Phillip Mannering is presented in first-rate style by Mr. Frederick F. Lloyd; Mr. Charles Halling sustained the part of Frank Wilding in a natural and vigorous manner; Mr. J. G. Maine makes the most of the rôle of Sergeant Jack Horseman; Lieut. Archie Ballater is amusingly depicted by Mr. Arthur D. Layland; Mr. Allan Carruthers is very diverting as Joe Ruggles, and Mr. Louis Edmonde as private Flutter; and Miss Clarrie Yandall as Norah are responsible for much laughter in their respective parts; the character of May Greystone is portrayed by Miss Mary Mallalieu with much success, and Miss Dorothy Clifton's impersonation of Nell Greystone is refined and very winsome.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Miss Marie Dainton, the charming musical comedy actress is winning golden opinions for her daintily presented series of imitations of well-known actors and actresses; Joe Mac, comedian, is highly entertaining, and gains much applause; the Complins, comedy duo, are quite up to date and very smart in their business; Mlle. Orthine, trapeze artist, is graceful and daring; Mr. Maurice H. Hoffman and company submit a dramatic adaptation in two scenes of Miss Corelli's novel, *The Sorrows of Satan*, in which Messrs. Hoffman, Wright, Fox, and Miss Ethel King appear to great advantage; Griff, the favourite festive juggler, with his quaint patter and clever work is also here; a pleasing novelty is furnished by Charles Prelle's bijou circus with wonderfully well-trained dogs; Miss Daisy Jerome, "the vital spark," in her intense vigorous style, carries the audience with her, and made a most successful first appearance here. Some excellent animated pictures by the Barrascope conclude.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Messrs. Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's company present in good style the interesting dramatic scena, *The Sundowner*. The efforts of Sadie Simpson, a pleasing and vivacious soubrette and danseuse are meritorious; Sisters Caselli are smart high kickers and duettists; Rappo and Ella, society gymnasts, submit a brisk and clever performance; Albert Le Fre in novel mélange, *That What You See on the Halls*, shows marked ability, and had gratifying recognition; Mulvay and Miriam, comedy entertainers furnish some amusing cross talk; Lade Henderson, character vocalist of the vigorous type, gains favour for his well-rendered songs; Payne's Biophotoscope with films of interesting subjects, and Cliffe Berzac's comedy animal act, in which much docility and careful training is evidenced, complete a capital programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—The Lew Lake combination is here for another week, this time in the petite comedy drama, *My Pal Jerry*, a sequel to last week's *Bloomsbury Burglars*. Miss Rosie Bartlett, vocal comedienne, has several pleasing numbers; Mr. Mark Leslie, the swell coon, also goes well; Ted Curtis and Pics. give an excellent turn; Miss Peggy Pryde, comedienne is in good form and is much appreciated; Austral trio in musical act proved able musicians and dancers; Mr. Leo Stormont, baritone, renders some descriptive numbers most tunefully. The Hippo. pictures conclude.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Executors of the late Mr. W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. H. F. Maltby's company is meeting with a hearty welcome this week in Mr. Maltby's new play, *Fraud*. In Mr. Robert Jones the author has a part which suits him admirably, and of which he makes much; as Ernestine Kershaw Miss Nora Maltby has a difficult rôle, to which she does every justice; Mr. Brember Wills as the Rev. Stanley Kershaw is excellent; Mr. Arthur Claremont gives a clever portrayal of Leslie Parkington; Mr. Wyn Weaver, under whose direction the play is produced, treats the audience to a neat bit of acting as Mr. Barnes; Mr. James Willoughby is capital as the clerk, Mr. Bramber, and Mr. S. Clegg is funny as Jackson; Miss Lizzie Maddocks is good as Mrs. Kershaw, and Miss Florence Wynn is admirably suited in the part of Miss Butler; Miss Kathleen St. George as Harper, and Mr. H. B. Dewhurst as the messenger complete the cast.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth* succeeds in attracting large audiences here this week. In the title-rôle Miss Beatrice Homer acts with much feeling, and is fully appreciated; Mr. Philip Darien is a manly Jack Merriman, and Mr. Leyton Cancelor is a sufficiently unprincipled Hubert Gold; Mr. Leonard Thackery as Antonio Luchesi ably supports him in his nefarious schemes; Mr. William de Brigord is capital as Tom Redvers, and Mr. Richard Jollyboat is a breezy Griffiths; Mr. Freddie Bently raises many a hearty laugh as Tubby Herrick, and is well supported by Miss Nellie Jackson as Aggie Brown; Miss Violet Macaree as the Italian girl Morita displays much versatility; Miss Gertrude Harrison is a powerful exponent of the scheming Rose Courteney; and other artists worthy of note are Messrs. W. Boyne, Harry Leyton, Gerald Nolan, Stuart Roberts, and Henry Williams. The play is well staged.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—At the top of the bill this week is *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, a side-splitting musical comedy sketch, in which Messrs. Arthur and Harry Watson, supported by a talented troupe of comedians and comediennes, including Miss Flo Stanley, succeed in keeping the house in merry mood. The dances of the Vera Troupe (principals Hettie and Stella) are also much appreciated. The Three Sisters Tree give a capital turn in their refined act *Hunting*. George Leavern is a comedian who pleases; Del, the necromancer, performs some capital conjuring feats; Florry Cooper sings some good songs and is much appreciated; Miss Fanny Robina, an old favourite here, scores heavily; the Five Juanitos are an exceedingly clever troupe of acrobats and tumblers, and are loudly applauded; Billie Bint sings a patriotic song, and, to use his own catch phrase, "Tries to please," and succeeds. The Gaieties of Divorce on the Bioscope concludes.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. J. F. Preston's company is presenting the sporting drama, *Rogues of the Turf*, and during the holidays the houses have been very large and appreciative. Miss M. F. Barlow plays well the notable and striking character of Marion, and Mr. W. H. Barlow effectively takes the character of Captain Clifton, her abettor; Mr. Preston has a character to suit him as Joe Flaxman, the trainer, and he acts capitally; Mr. Macro is also seen to advantage as Moses, a humorous Jew.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—The enterprise of Mr. Manager Richeux in securing thoroughly attractive and up-to-date shows for the thousands of visitors to Ramsgate during the season has been well rewarded of late, and our representative, on visiting the Victoria Theatre on Tuesday evening just prior to the time for the curtain to rise on the performance of *Miss Hook of Holland*, by Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company, was gratified to learn that "standing room only" was the order, and that there was not a seat to be had. May this run of success continue! Those who witnessed the production on the first three evenings of the week are unanimous in their praise concerning its excellence. Miss Amy Grey proved herself a charming actress in the rôle of Sally, otherwise Miss Hook of Holland. On Thursday Mr. Robert Macdonald's company commenced a welcome three nights' engagement with a return visit of *The Dairymaids*.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—The revised dramatic version of Hall Caine's great play *The Christian* has been produced every night of the past week at the above place of entertainment by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, and large and enthusiastic audiences have attended each performance. The acting of Mr. Roy Redgrave as John Storm and Miss Daisy Scudamore as Glory Quayle leaves absolutely nothing to be desired, and on every occasion has elicited outbursts of applause; Mr. Wilfrid Noy is good as Horatio Drake, and Mr. Herbert Hewetson ably plays Lord Robert Ure; the Father Lamplugh of Mr. F. Llewellyn is also a capital piece of work. Miss Cora Deane as Polly Love and Miss Molly Hayden as Mrs. Callender add considerably to the success of the production. The strong passages of the play, particularly that in the last act, are splendidly led up to and brought out, and curtain calls have been frequent. *The Christian* is admirably staged and mounted, and will rank as one of the successes of the present season.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—*At Duty's Call*, a story of Gordon and Khartoum, is being presented by a strong company this week under the direction of Mr. John Gerant, who gives a telling impersonation of the character of Harold Alison; Mr. Charles C. Calvert acts very effectively as the hero of the piece, Captain George Alison; Mr. Ernest St. John impersonates the gallant General Gordon with skill and soldierly bearing; Miss Beatrice Western plays the part of Dora Drummond (General Gordon's ward) in graceful style, and Miss Ada Roscoe is very successful as the slave Salena; Mr. J. Telly Dillson as Terry O'Halloran is highly amusing, and is well supported in the comedy scenes by Mr. Walter P. Carr and Miss Laura O'Neill.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—A sensational attraction is provided this week by the Three Röhrs, who go through a series of marvellous cycling feats. The manner in which they maintain their equilibrium while cycling round and round a large cylinder is really wonderful. The last feat, in which Mr. John Röhr "loops the loop" when the cylinder is turned on its axis, creates enthusiastic applause. Mr. J. L. Shine is a first-class comedian, and his original songs and patter are well appreciated; the Mahatma gives a clever thought-transference exhibition; Jack Crawley gives some clever instrumental imitations in the new act, *Lights Out;* Cull Pitt gives a capital show of "tricks, talk, travesty, and topics"; Charles Lilburn, comedian, and Lottie Rigg, comedienne and dancer, are well received; Horace Pollock and company produce an amusing comedietta, entitled *Hester's Mystery*, and some amusing scenes are shown on the Palace Bioscope.

THE Royal Pierrots, on the Thames Promenade, continue to attract large and appreciative audiences.

REDHILL.—MARKET HALL.—Proprietors, Market Hall Co.; Secretary, Mr. A. Simmonds.—Mr. G. W. Bowes opens the season at this house with the presentation of Wilson Barrett's great play, *The Sign of the Cross*. The scenery and costumes reflect credit upon the designers, being handsome in the extreme. Mr. Wallace G. Court as Marcus Superbus is well cast, his fine physique and clear enunciation well fitting him for the part; the Nero of Mr. Burton W. Yaldwyn is very good, as are also the Tigellinus of Mr. G. Osmond Tearle and the Licinius of Mr. Rupert Carlton; the Glabrio of Mr. Donald McAdam is a clever piece of comedy; the Poppæa of Miss Kathleen Day leaves nothing to be desired; whilst Miss Nora Craigie is a powerful Berenice; Miss Dorothy Lambert as Dacia is pert, piquant, and pleasing; Mr. W. Burton is a dignified Favius; Miss Effie Dane deserves credit for her impersonation of the boy Stephanus, which she imbues with real and touching pathos; Miss Vera Crichton has been admirably chosen for the character of Mercia, whose natural gifts add charm to a difficult part. Songs are well sung by Miss Florence Maber, and Miss May Romney dances gracefully. Miss Harriet Greet is the manageress of the company.

RHYL.—PAVILION.—A concert was given on Wednesday under the direction of Mr. E. De Jong. The artists included Mr. Charles Tree, Miss Laura Evans, Miss Frances Andrews, Mr. Davidson Wilson, and Mr. William Henley. Several musical selections were supplied by Mr. De Jong's excellent orchestra.

TOWN HALL.—Mr. Charles Constant's company opened here on Monday with *Florodora*. Miss Lillie Blythe pleased greatly as the vivacious Lady Holyrood; Miss Daisy Lake as Dolores made good use of her fine voice and acting abilities; Mr. Gus Danby was irresistibly funny as Anthony Tweedlepunch; Mr. Martin D. Pitt was heard to advantage as Frank Abercoed; Mr. Jack Parker was excellent as Cyrus Gilfain, and Mr. Stanley Bartram was well suited to the part of Capt. Donegal; as Angela Gilfain Miss Louie Danby was very good, and the remaining characters were well represented.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Eric Charlswood.—Wee Mona Vivian is an immense favourite here; the popularity of Mr. Tom Stuart, impersonator, is well evinced by his reception; Mr. Arthur Aldridge's vocal contributions are always appreciated; Mr. Eric Charlswood sings some catchy chorus songs in such a manner as to quickly persuade his audience to join in; Mr. Alf. Ripon, ventriloquist, Miss Edith Benson, comedienne, Mr. F. Gordon, and Mr. Stanley Holt, accompanist, are also in the programme.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*London with the Lid Off*, by Arthur Shirley, is a drama of the metropolis full of sensational incidents. Mr. William G. Marshall sustains the principal character of Grattan Gale, a blind burglar of great cunning; the heroine is well played by Miss Rubie Maude; Madge Rendall, a female detective, is in the capable hands of Miss Amy Ellam; Mr. Stanley Carlton as the Rev. Allen Gordon and Mr. Marshall Meade as Mr. Templeton give careful studies; comedy is well sustained by Mr. Alfred Deane as Cousin Peter, Miss Rose Morton as Mord Emily, Mr. Lancelot Usher as Percy Plunker, and Miss Emily Lewis as Dolly. Villainy is well represented by Mr. James Hart as Collini, Miss R. H. Balesco as Mrs. Glendale, and Miss C. E. Bellinger as Sarah Shafto.

ROBERT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Mr. E. H. Bostock's group of highly trained baboons, introduced by Captain Graham, give an enjoyable performance; Hanvarr and Lee, the Golfer and the Maid, are very smart jugglers; Sisters Herbert are a pair of dainty duettists and dancers. An excellent programme also includes smart turns by Amy Elvira, burlesque artist; Spencer and Marks, comedians; Bert and Dora, comedy artists; Sisters Lytton, duettists; the Florias, comedy wire act; Lily Watson, comedienne; and Charles Ridgwell, comedian.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; District-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Morny Cash, the Lancashire Lad, keeps the house in roars with his comic songs and business; Le Diabelo is a very clever and daring cyclist in "looping the devil's wheel"; much amusement is created by J. W. Gallagher with his songs and patter; "The Artist and the Monkey" is a smart acrobatic act by Les Rallis. Angelina, in smart juggling act; Moon and Morris, comedians and unique dancers; Les Trippellos, in novelty musical act; Geo. Edney, character vocalist; and Frances Hanlon, dainty comedienne and dancer, give interesting turns.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Astonishingly large houses twice nightly assemble here to witness and enjoy the animated pictures, which this week include The Haunted Castle, Debt of Gratitude, Stone Industry, The Spectre, Yacht Race, Holy City, Why He Signed the Pledge. Mr. T. S. Sherlock sings well the song (illustrated) "When you know you're not forgotten," and the audience enjoy joining in the chorus.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—*My Mimosa Maid* is attracting the holiday crowds here, with Miss Marie Studholme in the title-rôle. That lady is as pleasing and captivating as ever she was, and is repeatedly encored; Mr. Charles McNaughton as the Sweep has a part that fits him exactly, and right worthily does he discharge his multifarious duties; Mr. Chas. Paton as Max was delightful, and Master Archie McCraig as Bock contributed materially to the success of the programme.

SPA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Cliff Bridge Co.; Manager, Mr. Francis Goodricke.—Mr. James Welch's company in *When Knights Were Bold* is occupying the boards here. Mr. Welch, in the rôle of Sir Guy de Vere, keeps the fun at a high ptich during the whole of the play; to Miss Ertina Lascelles great praise is due for her clever impersonation of the part of Lady Rowena, and Mr. Wm. Lockhart as the Rev. Peter Pottlebury was all that could be desired. Mr. Welch is supported by a clever cast, and is playing to full houses.

THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. L. Holland.—The principal item on the programme this week is Leoni Clarke, who gives his first-class entertainment with a large number of cats, rats, mice, monkeys, and canaries, all the animals fraternising wonderfully. Wilfred Burnard presents his clever impersonations of well-known comedians; Ferris and May always have a good reception here with their comedy sketch; Bentley shows his whistling abilities in a wonderful way. A clever acrobatic exhibition is given by the Mayos, and Nickita is a clever lady contortionist. The programme also includes George Rae, Scotch comedian; the Lettas, comedians; the Austin Trio, concertinists; and Mons. Le Clair's Canine Picture Gallery. The other season's attractions are Mlle. Levantes' Ladies' Orchestra and Prof. Jones's troupe of lady swimmers.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Manager, Mr. C. Fielding Smith.—An excellent programme of varieties is arranged here this week, the popular music-hall artist Harriett Vernon being one of the principal attractions, her efforts winning great applause. Agnes Spadoni appears with three beautiful stallions, who display marvellous training and intelligence; the Bros. Etharien are very eccentric in their movements; Dan Thomas does his female impersonations well. Daisy Yates, comedienne; Leslie Race, vocalist; Amos Howard, coloured dancer; and the Rollos, knockabouts, are also included. Herr Hintze's clever Roumanian Orchestra is always well received.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—*The Idol of Paris*, with Mr. James Bell's company, is this week's attraction here. Miss Annie Bell as Flare Flare gives a fine delineation of the character. With Mr. Henry Hare as the husband she receives strong support, and Mr. Ellis Carlisle as Tatave made a good impression.

(*Continued on page* 16.)

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Drama, by Walter Melville, entitled

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."

The theatre this week has been visited by Mr. Walter Melville's company in the above-named play, in which Mr. Melville displays his usual ingenuity in catering for the more popular parts of the house. This drama, from Mr. Melville's prolific pen, contains innumerable incidents and situations, which are ably contrived, and have met with much enthusiasm from crowded audiences, who evidently appreciate the moral contained in the play. In the title-rôle, Sophie Coventry—the girl who took the wrong turning—Miss Jessie Belmore appears with notable distinction, and displays talent of no mean order in portraying, without offence, a rather difficult part. In the contrasting character of Lucy Coventry—the girl who took the right turning—Miss Zoe Davis is seen to much advantage. An excellent performance of Poppy Slater is given by Miss Marie Kildare, who keeps the audience in good humour, in which she is ably assisted by Mr. Fred Ingram as Johnnie Walker, their various scenes being received with shouts of laughter. Willie Mason, a British tar, receives a sound rendering at the hands of Mr. Ronald Adair, his appearance and impersonation being at once as breezy and natural as one could wish. Very creditable is the representation of Bill Slater by Mr. Sidney Sarl, an actor of real merit. Mr. Frank R. Robertson is a pleasant Jack Fenton. As Vesta Le Clere, the adventuress—without which no Melville drama is complete—Miss Nannie Meade is completely successful, thoroughly emphasising the viciousness of the character. Mr. Frank Denis plays Richard Fenton with much vigour. In James Harcourt, the villain, Mr. Raymond Wood revels in his schemes of betrayal and deceit, and quite earns the hisses which are lavished on him without stint by the audience. The parts of Graham, an old *roué*, and P.C. Sharpe are intelligently filled by Mr. Frank Barnard and Mr. Danell Greene. Various small characters are adequately sustained. The mounting and dressing are in keeping with the style and completeness always associated with Mr. Mulholland's enterprises.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Drama, by Fredk. Melville,

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."

Mr. Fredk. Melville's company forms the attraction here this week with *Her Road to Ruin*, and the performance on Monday proved highly interesting, and was received with enjoyment by all present. The company, which includes Miss Eva Moss and Mr. Henry Wolston, are very capable, and the whole performance runs smoothly. Mr. Dune Clark plays in a convincing and telling manner as the Bishop, and Mr. Henry Wolston as Frank Temple, the Curate, who is so persistently victimised by the villain, gives a clever interpretation of a part of more than ordinary scope. Mr. Heaton Grey submits a powerful and artistic portrayal of, at times, an exacting part, and Mr. Victor R. C. Moors plays effectively as the "ne'er-do-well," Charles Cholmondesley. There are no half measures about the villainy of Philip Hardy, an overbearing, impudent, heartless, yet withal gentlemanly, scoundrel, who finds a clever exponent in Mr. Alex. Bradley. Miss Eva Moss has a very arduous rôle to sustain in Jess Willoughby, but she acquits herself admirably, playing with much grace and power. Miss Alice Bowes as May Willoughby has a part which she is splendidly fitted to play, and quite wins the hearts of her audience. Miss Nellie Bonsor quickly gains the sympathies of an appreciative house as one of Philip Hardy's victims, Mary Dawson, and is to be highly commended. The comic element is in the hands of Miss Marie Wright as Jennie Crackling and Mr. Harry Talbot as Billy Boots. Although their humour is hardly of the quiet and dry order, it is, nevertheless, highly telling, and wins unbounded applause.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Drama, taken from Ouida's novel

"UNDER TWO FLAGS."

Edwin Elsner's dramatisation of Ouida's famous novel "Under Two Flags" is occupying the boards at Kennington Theatre this week, and as might be readily expected from a play of such powerful interest is attracting big business. The absorbing story of Bertie Royellieu's noble self-sacrifice in immolating himself in Algiers in order to save his brother's honour, and of Cigarette's heroic devotion in giving up her life that she might save that of the man she loves, is vividly portrayed by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's talented company. The play is magnificently mounted, and Cigarette's ride for life on a fine Arab steed up the picturesque mountain pass in the fourth act forms one of the most thrilling and realistic scenes that can be imagined. In the part of Bertie Royellieu, afterwards known as Louis Victor, Mr. Mark Blow scores a big triumph. His splendid presence and manly bearing make him an ideal soldier hero, and he interprets the rôle with great skill. Miss Agnes Verity is magnificent as Cigarette, the warm-hearted, courageous vivandiere acting throughout with great force and passion. She is the vivandiere to the life, and seems to have stepped right out of the pages of Ouida to fascinate the imagination of all who see her. Miss Verity was the recipient of a tremendous ovation at the close of the play on Monday, and she well deserved this popular tribute to her artistic genius. Mr. Dermot Fitz-Gibbon is well placed as Barklie Royellieu, the scapegrace brother, and Mr. Charles Brooke is a good Lord Royellieu. The Lord Rockingham of Mr. Austin Milroy is decidedly powerful, that artist giving a fine sketch of the generous-spirited English noble. Miss Sylvia Harrington is a stately Princess Venetia, and Miss Madge Stevens is charming and graceful as Lady Beatrice Guinevere. Mr. Arthur Elwyn is at home in the unenviable rôle of Colonel Chanteroy, which he enacts with much ability. The lighter side of the story is supplied by Mr. Harry Benson (Rake) and Miss Kitty Saville (Lavina). Mr. Benson is a rattling good comedian, and his songs and dances and quaint humour keep the house in roars whenever he is about.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the drama, adapted from Mrs. Henry Wood's novel,

"EAST LYNNE."

At the Coronet Theatre this week Mr. Robert Arthur has given all and sundry a chance of seeing the old-time emotional domestic drama and "tear compeller," founded on Mrs. Henry Wood's novel of world-wide fame, *East Lynne*, and, judging by its hearty reception on Monday, there are many yet left who "love to have a good cry" and indulge in the luxury of grief. Miss Margaret Murch comes out strongly with some fine emotional acting as the much-tempted and long-suffering heroine, Lady Isabel. Mr. E. Maule Cole is every inch a villain as that past master in the art of betrayal, Francis Levison by name; Miss Rosemary Rees shows character in her impersonation of Barbara Hare; and Miss Lucie Evelyn is clever and entirely commendable for her rendering of the character of Cornelia; Miss Gladys Hedgréve is deserving of special mention in the pathetic part of little Willie; Mr. Maitland Marler as Justice Hare brings down the house by his splendid service in the part, and no praise is too high for his excellent performance. Mr. Walter Gay does his best with the part of the flaccid, backboneless lawyer, Archibald Carlyle, whose mild benevolence is powerless to cope with jealousy and intrigue. Mr. Wilfrid Beckwith as Lord Mountsevern, Mr. Edgar Kent as young Richard Hare, Mrs. Henry Gascoigne as Joyce, and Miss Winifred Ryan doubling the rôles of Wilson and Suzanne, are quite satisfactory in small parts. Mr. Harry Cane is cast for the part of Mr. Dill. Mr. Wilfrid Beckwith stage-manages the production, and an innovation is the capital rendition of "When Other Lips" by Miss Rosemary Rees. The staging is good and the music excellent.

THE NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the drama, by Joseph Arthur, entitled

"THE STILL ALARM."

Suburban playgoers just now are having an opportunity for renewing acquaintance with the well-known American drama, *The Still Alarm*, and the enthusiasm of large audiences at the popular Hammersmith Lyric this week testifies that the many exciting situations and telling lines with which the piece abounds are as keenly enjoyed as ever. Particularly effective is the scene representing the interior of the Central Fire Station, New York, where the two highly-trained horses, Pegasus and Bucephalus, are rapidly harnessed to the engine and start off for the fire at Fordham's house, arriving just in time for Jack Manley to rescue his sweetheart, Elinor. The concluding episode, the fight with knives between Manley and the villain, Bird, also especially appeals to the occupants of the "top shelf," who demonstrate in no uncertain fashion their entire approval when Bird is finally vanquished. The company responsible for the production, Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's, is an admirable all-round one, Mr. Glenville giving a buoyant and breezy representation of the hero, Jack Manley, in the first act of the play, his acting in the other scenes being very impressive. A finished and convincing representative of the villainous John Bird was Mr. Gerald Kennedy, and Mr. Lewis Gordon contributed a careful and in all respects praiseworthy portrayal of Mr. Franklyn Fordham, the New York merchant, who is in the power of Bird. A droll portrait of the usually inebriated Doc Wilber was presented by Mr. Fred Osmond, particularly humorous being his scene with Bird, where he succeeds in extracting the incriminating letter from the latter's pocket; and Mr. Tom Beasley, as Willie Manley, also contributed largely to the merriment of the evening by his quietly humorous performance. The self-sacrificing Elinor Fordham was pathetically enacted by Miss Beatrice Shirley, especially telling being her acting in the scene where she decides to give up her lover in order to save her father from disgrace. Miss Mabel Veriton made a natural and lovable old lady of Mrs. Manley, who so dotes on her boys; and a vivacious and amusing portrayal of the kind-hearted serio, Carrie Wilber, was submitted by Miss Hettie Zillwood. Mention must be made of the firemen's pet, the well-trained greyhound, Laddie; and the Lyric Comedy Quartette also contributed to the enjoyment of the audience by their vocalism. Numerous minor parts were all well played, and the drama was excellently staged throughout.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Comedy, entitled

"LADY FREDERICK."

Good houses have rewarded the enterprise of Mr. Peter Davey, the managing-director, in bringing this delightful production to Kingston, and the cordial reception accorded to Mr. Percy and Miss Emma Hutchison's company by appreciative audiences showed that he was justified in his selection. It was *Lady Frederick's* début in the ancient borough, and it is safe to say that a return visit would be welcomed by all classes of playgoers. Miss Mabel Love, who is no stranger to Kingston audiences, appears in the title-rôle, and it is needless to say that she invests the part with the charm that characterises all her histrionic efforts. That this was the general verdict was shown by her recall at the end of each act on Monday night. Mr. Robert Minster appears as the matter-of-fact Mr. Paradise Fouldes, a part which he presents with considerable ability. Valuable assistance is rendered by Miss Eleanor Delaporte as Lady Mereston, Miss Lyne Fontanne as Rose, Mr. Patrick Quill as Sir Gerald, Captain Gerald Gambier as Admiral Carlisle, Mr. E. F. Meads as Lord Mereston, Mr. Edward Bonfield as Captain Montgomery, Miss Beatrice Grosvenor as Madame Claude, and Miss Rita Ward as Analique. The play is preceded by the comedietta *The Peacemaker*, in which the parts are taken by the Misses Delaporte, Fontanne, and Ward, and Messrs. Quill and Bonfield.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Drama, by Theo Kremer, entitled

"THE FATAL WEDDING."

This evergreen drama is meeting with unqualified appreciation here this week, and is drawing large audiences. It is well acted, especially by Mr. Cecil A. Melton, who gives a manly and vigorous impersonation of Howard Wilson; Mr. Frank Harrison is a clever and sufficiently villainous Robert Curtis; Mr. Charles Locke, an amusing Toto, has some splendid scenes with Bridget (capitally played by Miss Ethel Sarjient); Mr. Cyril Melton gives a clever performance of Peter Schwartz, and is also the capable stage-manager of the production; Mr. Frank Ashley is a capital Police Constable O'Reilly, and Mr. J. Newton a good Rev. Dr. Lanceford. Miss Ethel Kay is an attractive and sympathetic representative of Mabel Wilson; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh both looks and acts well as Cora Williams; Miss Lulu Wohlmann, a clever and interesting young actress, makes a delightful "Little Mother"; Miss Hilda Mahlert is excellent as little Frank; and there are numerous other clever children in the production, foremost among whom is Master Tom Grice, who is very good as Tim.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 17, for the First Time in London, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Madge Duckworth and Ridgewood Barrie, entitled

"THE CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE."

Herbert Granstone	Mr. Kenyon Musgrave
Cecil Bentley	Mr. Reginald Maurice
Sir Edward Mervin	Mr. Sam Courtney
Geoffry Granstone	Mr. Lawrence Stevenson
John Summers	Mr. Frank Ayerton
Horatio Winters	Mr. Walter Clarke
Old Jervis	Mr. Ford Edwards
Carter Ben	Mr. Tom Carter
Officer	Mr. Charles Benson
Mrs. Draycott	Miss Mona Dawlish
Ethel Vaughan	Miss Mabel Coleman
Mary Rostron	Miss Madge Seymour
Little Kitty	Miss Elsie Isaacs
Jessica Draycott	Miss Nellie Howitt

There seems no reason to suppose that the conscience of a judge should be any more sensitive than that of, say, a barrister or even a policeman. The mental perturbations of a justice of the peace nevertheless form the nucleus of the drama above named, which had its first London representation on Monday, having been originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Ton-y-pandy, on Dec. 23 last. The piece is reminiscent of other dramas—*East Lynne* in particular—which have gone before, but it plays upon the emotions with unerring effect, and a large audience received it with unbounded favour at the Elephant and Castle on Monday. Herbert Granstone, a barrister-at-law, is the name of the man thus afflicted. At the opening of the play he is found to have betrayed Jessica Draycott, a village maiden, and the first curtain descends upon her vow of vengeance. In the second act Granstone has become a judge and a widower, and having suffered years of remorse, seeks in vain for Jessica in order to make her his wife. His youthful error is known to the unscrupulous Sir Edward Mervin, who seizes upon it as a basis for blackmail. The judge is deaf to his threats until Mervin points out that the obloquy which would result from the exposition of his crime would fall upon the judge's son, and then he promises to pay the sum demanded. When, however, the villain demands in addition the hand of his ward Ethel, who is affianced to Geoffry, Granstone refuses, and dares him to do his worst. Mervin then appeals to Ethel, and by asserting that Geoffry's career is at stake induces her to break off the engagement in favour of himself.

The long-sought-for meeting between the Judge and Jessica is nearly effected in a London park, wherein she and her child, in a state of starvation, seek rest. While the mother has gone to try and procure food, the Judge appears, and drops his pocket-book, which is handed to him by little Kitty. Soon after the mother, returning from her fruitless errand, and apparently not recognising Granstone, while his back is turned, purloins his pocket-book from the coat which lies on a seat. The act has not escaped the vigilant eye of Mervin, who promptly charges Jessica with the theft, but his accusation is met by the appearance of Geoffry, who with no regard for veracity declares he gave the notes to the woman. Mervin nevertheless determines to prosecute the charge, and going to the Judge's house tells him of the incident, the truth of which the son is unable to deny. Meanwhile Jessica has obtained the hospitality of a worthy couple named Mr. and Mrs. Summers, who are in the employ of the Judge, and occupies rooms in their cottage, whither she is traced by Cecil Bentley, a faithful admirer and a detective. The child Kitty is in rapid consumption, and is fast sinking. After exacting from her mother a promise to return the stolen pocket-book she dies, leaving the heart-broken parent in a paroxysm of grief. It is just at this moment that the police-officers, led by Mervin and accompanied by the Judge and the detective, enter, and the Judge thus meets Jessica, and obtains the first view of his child in the body lying lifeless on the bed. The last act finds the Judge also dying of consumption. He is totally blind, and is being assiduously nursed by Jessica, of whose identity he is unaware. Jessica herself is in despair, and goes to a chemist's to purchase laudanum with which to commit suicide, but her attempt is frustrated by the ever-watchful Bentley, who thought she had obtained the drug in order to carry out her revenge on the Judge. His impression is strengthened when he finds Jessica administering poison to Granstone in what she considers is a humane attempt to end the sufferings of a dying man. The Judge, however, has already passed away. The reuniting of Geoffry and Ethel, and the betrothal of Jessica and Bentley, who secures the arrest of Mervin on a charge of a brutal murder, brings the somewhat morbid story to a close.

Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company has the production in hand. The rôle of the Judge, arduous and exacting, is played with artistic restraint by Mr. Kenyon Musgrave, whose well-modulated voice gives telling expression to the emotional lines which he has to deliver. An equally impressive sketch of the much-harassed Jessica Draycott is given by Miss Nellie Howitt. Her acting proclaims throughout the experienced actress, and the scene of the death of the child is portrayed with much feeling, followed by an outburst of dramatic force. Cecil Bentley is more conspicuously associated with the story than is the usual stage detective, and, in fact, savours much of the hero of melodrama. He is played in that strain by Mr. Reginald Maurice, who invests his performance with much agreeable sentiment. Mr. Lawrence Stevenson plays with vigour and manly force as the Judge's son Geoffry, going through some difficult scenes with credit; and the rôle of the niece, Ethel Vaughan, is enacted with refinement and grace by Miss Mabel Coleman, who wears some becoming dresses. Sir Edward Mervin is played in traditional style by Mr. Sam Courtney, who is a polished villain, but is perhaps over-liberal with his gestures. The child Kitty is represented with much charm by Elsie Isaacs, who speaks with commendable clearness, but should be taught to avoid pronouncing "back" as "buck," and similar affectations. Plentiful fun is supplied by Mr. Frank Ayrton, a well-experienced comedian of melodrama, and Miss Madge Seymour, who has been his associate in many a comedy character. They play the rôles of John and Mary, a chauffeur and a maid-servant respectively, and though the drollery of the scene in which the former essays to teach his wife to ride a bicycle is not very apparent, there are many incidents which are made comic and cause hearty laughter. Merriment is also provoked by Mr. Walter Clarke, who plays a seedy individual named Horatio and employs the methods of a well-known music hall comedian with hilarious effect. Other parts are ably represented. The play is well set with new scenery, and quite a stroke of humour is provided in the third act, when the comedian's garden, hitherto minus a flower of any sort, is found suddenly to have been turned into a mass of bloom.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Play, entitled

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."

A good, sound melodrama is that written by the popular lessee of this theatre, and presented to his numerous patrons this week. It is full of exciting incidents, admirable comic relief, and embellished with real motor-cars, horses, ponies, &c. Mr. H. Gomer May is seen to advantage in the part of Sir George Lancaster; Mr. Henry Lonsdale realises the heroic inventor to the life; Mr. Louis Hector is successful in depicting an unmitigated scoundrel as Charles Devereux; Mr. Leonard Maxwell makes a good Geoffrey Broughton; Mr. Fred de Vere is highly amusing as a jack of all trades and master of none; Miss Maude Merrick admirably assists Mr. de Vere as Polly Lovejoy, and is very diverting; Miss Grace Lester is to be congratulated on her capable acting as Lady Lucretia Lancaster; Miss Gertrude le Sage is a charming representative of Sir George's ward, Lucy. Miss Agnes Imlay realises to perfection the Mother Superior; the remainder of a strong company do justice to their respective rôles. The drama is handsomely mounted and staged.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Musical Comedy, entitled

"THE GAY GORDONS."

The attraction at the Dalston Theatre this week is the musical comedy *The Gay Gordons*, and it is proving a decided "draw." Mr. Frank Lincoln, who appears as Angus Graeme, makes an ideal lover. Miss Maie Ash as Peggy Quainton acts, sings, and dances in a way which can only be described as fascinating. On the spindle side she is the life and soul of the piece. Mr. Tom Graves as Nervy Nat, an old showman, is a source of amusement to the audience every time he is on the stage. He is a character-sketch of the cleverest type. Mr. Edward Nainby is mournfully humorous as Edmund Siddons. It falls to the lot of Mr. Norman Forrest, who plays the part of Corporal John Smith, to represent Angus Graeme at certain periods of the story, and he is specially good while posing as that interesting individual. Mr. J. Cranstoun Nevill is dignified as the Marquis of Dalesbury, and equally good is Mr. Harry Ulph as Viscount Belstairs. Mr. Arthur Bravo is Lord Elmington, and Mr. William Terriss Lord Merstham, while Mr. Herbert Cannon as Archibald Speedy and Mr. J. S. Woolley as Jack McPrisky make up the male cast. Others taking part in this most attractive entertainment include Miss Emily Mellon as Janet McLeod, Miss Nellie Connen as Victoria Siddons, Miss Ida Laurie as Charlotte Siddons, Miss Gladys Deane as Mary McLeod, Miss Katie Butler as Lady Millicent Graeme, and Miss Ida Mann as Lady Graeme.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Play in Four Acts, entitled

"SUNDAY."

This charming play was presented on Monday to an enthusiastic crowd at the Shakespeare, and was acclaimed a complete success. The interesting story was excellently interpreted by Mr. Louis Calvert's company. In the title-rôle Miss Marjorie Murray's acting was at all times agreeably spontaneous, and she gave to the part of the irresponsible Sunday a charm and gaiety of manner that quickly endeared her to all hearts. The pathos of the part was also artistically treated, and it was at these moments that Miss Murray's dramatic talent peeped forth most conspicuously. Mr. Walter Giffard invested the rôle of Colonel Brinthorpe with a tenderness that added impressiveness to the lines. Mr. Wilson Blake made the most of his opportunities as Arthur Brinthorpe, and Mr. T. Norman Walter played Tom Oxley with an ease that stamped him as an experienced actor. Mr. James Skea as Towzer and Mr. A. C. Holmes as Davy contributed excellent studies, and Mr. Alec Alves showed to advantage in the rôle of Jacky. Mr. James Hussey as Lively submitted a carefully considered rendering of this cleverly drawn character. Miss Helen G. Edwins was a dignified Mrs. Naresby, and Miss Lila Barclay created a good impression by her impersonation of a Nun. The play, which was admirably staged and mounted, was produced under the direction of Mr. T. Norman Walter.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Drama, adapted from Zola's work "L'Assommoir," entitled

"RUINED BY DRINK."

Some excellent work was done by the members of Mr. Harry Barford's company in Marylebone this week, and Mr. William Bailey is certainly most persistent in his efforts to put before his patrons weekly a long and strong bill of attractions. As Coupeau Mr. Brien McCullough was responsible for one of those clever character studies such as only an actor of his ripe experience and ability is able to portray; Mr. W. H. Perrette was well to the fore as Gouget; Mr. Charles Freeman did well as Lantier; and that old West London favourite Mr. Harry Barford made a distinct hit as M. Bottes. Miss Clarice Shirley enacted Marie with much feeling and expression; whilst the two sisters Gervaise and Virginie were well played by Miss Lena Flowerdew and Miss Beatrice May respectively. The play was followed by a display of animated pictures, and concluded with the laughable farce *Paddy Miles's Boy*, the title-rôle of which Mr. Harry Barford sustained in a broadly humorous way.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Aug. 10, the Drama, entitled

"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."

Mr. E. H. Knight's No. 1 company is appearing this week in an interesting play, which provides agreeable entertainment to the patrons of this house. Mr. Stanley Bedwell, possessing a keen sense of his responsibilities in the character of Tom Manly, a poor fisherman, acts with spirit and fervour, and offers a good representation. Mr. H. Wallace Curnock makes a favourable impression as William Farren. James Farren, his son, is ably sustained by Mr. Wilfred Mansfield, who carries out his villainies in a facile manner. Mr. Herbert Lewis submits a careful rendering of the part of David Morris. Sam Kidder, a stage-struck rustic, is humorously dealt with by Mr. Willie Reid, who, in conjunction with Miss Maggie Stewart, who makes a lively Ruth Manly, contributes a good deal of fun. Miss Hilda Baynton has a prepossessing appearance and maintains the part of Rose Prescott successfully. Little Nellie, a waif of the ocean, is very ably undertaken by Miss Ethel Lovett. Miss Francesca Stickland gives a capable rendering of Mrs. Manly. Mr. Charles Mackay and Mr. George Thompson also assist in minor rôles. An excellent selection of music is played by the orchestra during the evening, under the bâton of Mr. S. Callcutt.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 17, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Charles March, entitled

"THE GAMESTER OF METZ."

Mr. Charles March, after a long absence, is paying a welcome return visit with his capital play, *The Gamester of Metz*, in which the author-manager gives a capital rendition of the leading character, Paul Baldot. His many changes and disguises are warmly applauded. Mr. George W. Gregg as Captain Henry Badaire gives a skilful and impressive performance; Mr. Haviland Haworth is good as Louis Badaire; and Mr. Fitzroy Cooper is decidedly good as Lieutenant Herve. Mr. Fred Rolls makes a capital Goliath Gron; Mr. Charles Dockwray an excellent Ferdinand du Basson, Mr. Percy Windglass an impressive Curé d'Artois; Mr. A. Lockhart is good as the Executioner, and Mr. Henry Oakley is successful as Peter Runhild. Miss Lizzie Prescot acts with power and pathos the character of Gwendoline Pearson; Miss Una Lane is a capable Countess, and Miss Ellen Armour a pleasing Lucia Baldot. The drama is well mounted.

A series of short "Stage Stories" is at present appearing in the *Mint*, a new weekly magazine. The stories are written by Arthur Eckersley, who will be remembered as the author of several successful curtain-raisers, and deal, in the guise of fiction, with various themes of interest to members of the profession.

A confetti fête and carnival will be held at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, Sept. 9. Some magnificent prizes will be given. They are now on view in the centre transept facing the theatre. We would recommend visitors to the Palace, and particularly those young people being in the neighbourhood, to go and see these prizes. If they do they are bound to wish to enter the competition. Mr. C. H. Hyatt, the popular up-to-date amusement caterer, has presented what is undoubtedly the best of all the prizes. It is a beautiful canteen, full of knives and forks and spoons and everything calculated to make a dinner-table look delightful. This will be gained by the lady who shows the handsomest dress. Mr. A. Gibbs, of the Cambridge Hotel, and one of the directors of the football club are presenting a charming Princess tea set. There ought to be a very keen contest for this. The winner will be the lady who is attired in the most original costume. The other prizes include a toddy kettle, a stationery combination, a tantalus, a dinner gong, an egg combination, an afternoon tea set, a smoker's companion, a trinket set, a flower-stand, a case of silver brushes, a necklet in case, a watch, a lady's enamelled watch, cigar and cigarette combination, pipes and vesta-box in case, and a handsome pocket knife. Go and see them for yourselves.

For the first time at the Crystal Palace, Mr. W. D. Mackenzie will present an entirely new and musical entertainment entitled "Moments with the Masters." This company consists of twenty persons, all of whom are recognised as leaders in their various styles of music. Master E. Brockett, whose natural voice gives a phenomenal imitation, of the ocarina, will prove one of the features of the entertainment. This company will play at intervals each day during next week.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. AND MRS. F. H. GRAHAM.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred H. Graham, who recently returned to England from Australia by the R.M.S. Athenic, are touring the world on pleasure. Many of our readers will remember Mr. Graham as a well-established comedian, from the time when he played the late Fred Leslie's part in the Gaiety burlesque *Little Jack Sheppard* (Johnny Dallas, Frank Manning, and Ada Blanche being also in the cast). After a two years' tour he ran his own companies for seven years, playing drama, burlesque, and pantomime; then three tours, playing the Frenchman in Cissy Graham's *All Aboard*; then five tours, playing George Giddens's part in the Drury Lane play, *The Derby Winner*; then six tours, playing "Bobbie" Nainby and Fred Wright, jun.'s., parts in the Gaiety productions, *A Runaway Girl* and *The Messenger Boy*. During the latter run he was specially selected by J. A. E. Malone to play principal comedy for J. C. Williamson in Australia. He was originally engaged for six months only, but after playing one month he was immediately re-engaged by Mr. Williamson for three and a half years. During that time Mr. Graham produced the following musical comedies, in addition to playing principal comedy:—Li, *San Toy*; Flipper, *A Runaway Girl*; Bronson, *Belle of New York*; Captain Coddington, *In Town*; Biggs, *The Circus Girl*; Charles Brown, *The French Maid*; Tommy Bang, *The Messenger Boy*; Tweedlepunch, *Florodora*; Wun-hi, *The Geisha*; Dr. Brierley, *A Gaiety Girl*; the Gilbert and Sullivan operas; Mad Hatter, *Alice in Wonderland*; Mrs. Sinbad, *Sinbad* pantomime; &c. At the termination of his lengthy engagement Mr. Williamson presented him with a testimonial benefit, and has since then made Mr. Graham several tempting offers to return. Subsequently Mr. Graham and his wife (Miss Nellie Dent) were engaged by Mr. Harry Rickards to "star" in vaudeville, and they have during the last four years toured Australasia with their extensive répertoire of comedy plays, under the management of Mr. Harry Rickards and John Fuller and Sons of New Zealand. Mr. and Mrs. Graham have played continuously throughout Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand for the past seven and a half years without one week's break, so that their present holiday is well earned.

During the time Mr. Graham had charge of Mr. Williamson's musical comedy company, his wife was playing special parts with the Knight-Jeffries company, also under Mr. Williamson's management. Mr. and Mrs. Graham have received several offers to play seasons in America, but their future plans are far-ahead fixed in the colonies. They return to Sydney in January next to play their fourth engagement with Mr. Harry Rickards, having been re-engaged for a fifty-two consecutive weeks' season. Mr. Rickards also has a claim on their services for a much longer extension. This is a record engagement for the colonies for any artists engaged in the vaudeville profession. Mr. and Mrs. Graham speak in glowing terms of Australia and New Zealand. A more hospitable and generous set than the colonials it would be impossible to meet. "Life out there is one long round of sunshine—if you like to make it so," says Mr. Graham with great pride. Mr. and Mrs. Graham refer to the ninety-six weeks' season with John Fuller and Sons (who control six theatres in New Zealand) as a most happy experience. Their seven and a half years in the colonies, however, have not been without some exciting adventures. They were in two startling earthquakes in New Zealand; in a serious explosion on the French mail steamer Polynesien in mid-ocean; in the mishap to the steamship Paroo when she drifted helplessly for days in the South Pacific; in the tragic explosion at the Waverley Hotel, Melbourne, where they nearly lost their lives; and were nearly dashed to pieces on the rocks in Sydney Harbour during a fearful storm whilst holiday-making on their yacht, the Nona, one Sunday in October, 1902. Mr. Graham will be pleased to give advice to all and sundry who contemplate playing the colonies, and he is also prepared to treat with authors for recognised musical plays. His address is care of *The Era*.

MR. JOHN WILMER.

After leaving school Mr. John Wilmer first embarked on a walking tour through Normandy, and then joined the ranks of the commercial world in London and New York. He saw Mrs. Langtry play on her first visit to the latter city, and also patronised the Vokes family at Niblo's Garden. After having travelled for six months in South Africa, visiting Cape Town, Mossel Bay, Port Elizabeth, Port Alfred, and Grahamstown, Mr. Wilmer returned to England, and joined the good old school of the late Miss Sarah Thorne at the Theatre Royal, Margate, where he remained for a stock season, taking part in plays along with Mr. Malcolm Scott, Mr. Lennox Pawle, Mr. John Brabourne, and others. He subsequently went on a fit-up tour with Judge Nat, in which he played Bob Allen, and took small parts in Miss Thorne's pantomime, opening at Maidstone. By the kindness of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, Mr. Wilmer obtained an introduction to Mr. E. S. Willard, then playing at the Shaftesbury Theatre, who engaged him for two small parts on the tour of *The Middleman*, which lasted altogether about forty weeks, during a portion of which Mr. Wilmer assisted in the stage-management. His next move was to go out as acting-manager, and then business-manager, with *The Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith* company. Two short tours with Miss Fortescue followed, after which he was general business-manager for Miss Ada Blanche's *Telephone Girl* company. After a spell as acting-manager for Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's pantomime *Little Red Riding Hood*, Mr. Wilmer went out in advance with Mr. Penley's *Charley's Aunt* company, and acted in a similar capacity with *Little Miss Nobody*. After officiating as manager for Mrs. Lewis Waller's *The Three Musketeers*, Mr. Wilmer went to the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, as acting-manager for the run of the pantomime. Returning to Mrs. Lewis Waller, he opened at the Coronet Theatre, Notting-hill, with the late Mr. H. A. Kennedy's version of *Tess*. Next he was in advance with Mr. Mark Blow's companies *Lady Ursula* and *The Swashbuckler*, and was acting-manager for Mr. Bourchier and Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw's *Held Up* company, Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Charles Frohman's company *Quality Street*, with which he remained for three tours as general-manager, and fulfilled a similar position with these gentlemen's tours of *The Belle of Mayfair*.

"THE HEATHEN AND THE CHRISTIAN."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I note Mr. Joseph L. S. Moss has written to correct a statement in your issue of Aug. 8 *re* the production of my drama *The Heathen and the Christian*. He is quite right. I had the pleasure of producing *The Heathen and the Christian* at Mr. Moss's theatre; but that was for copyright purposes. I had no opportunity from then until last year of testing it as a commercial enterprise, and took it on a short tour in the summer of 1907, which started at the St. James's Theatre, Manchester, where it was successfully produced, as already stated, *for the tour arranged*. Other business, however, prevented my continuing the tour, and I have now let the play to Mr. Frank Adair, whose well-known ability both as a manager and an artist should ensure for it a long and prosperous career.

—Yours faithfully, FRED MAXWELL.

Aug. 18.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, JULY 14.—*The Red Lamp*, after years of absence, was relighted by Mr. Herbert Flemming at the Criterion on the 11th, and as the popular actor-manager himself was the Paul Demetrius and Miss Beatrice Day was the Princess Claudia Morakoff, a successful production was guaranteed. Mr. Flemming gives an entirely new reading of Demetrius's personality. He makes him a drowsy grand-paternal dreamer, cloaking a cunning and insight into human character which shines through his quasi-somnolence like flashes of light in the dark. Miss Day's Princess Claudia is graceful, winning, loving, and royal, even though helping the Nihilists' safety from love of her implicated brother. Her interview with General Morakoff, her husband, is finely acted. Mr. A. S. Homewood, in the somewhat small part of Prince Alexis, is sufficiently good, and Mr. Winter Hall makes the General stand prominently out. The sympathy-winning rôle of Allan Villiers is delicately Americanised by Mr. A. Mallalieu, and Miss Elise Clarens plays love scenes with him as Olga Morakoff in charming style. Mr. J. F. Forde makes Kertch very strong and picturesque—a valuable item in a good cast. Mr. H. W. Varna has Ivan Zazzulic in charge, and he gives a creditable result, besides doing the stage-management. Miss Nellie Mortyne, comely and always distinct, gives all possible prominence to Mme. Dannenberg, and Miss Guildford Quinn is a Felice good to behold. The play is capitally mounted, the ladies well frocked, and the whole produced under Mr. Herbert Flemming's personal supervision. Mr. Harry Whaite painted the two largely-applauded scenes.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE was crammed on the 11th to witness Mr. J. C. Williams' presentation of *The Red Mill*, which included a newcomer in the person of Mr. John Ford, an American actor and dancer. Mr. Ford proved to be worthy of all that has been said of him—a clever comedian and expert dancer of attractive character. He was the Con Kidder, whilst his mate, Kid Conner, had Mr. Fred Leslie as his counterpart. The latter is an immense favourite, and received a very hearty welcome back to the company. Mr. Chas. A. Loder, the only Dutchman in the cast—all Dutch rôles—who adopted an accent, played his new part, Willem, with acceptance. Mr. G. Whitehead and Mr. Edward Sherras, the baritones, were specially good as Captain Doris Van Damm and the Governor of Zeeland. Mr. Percy Denton adiposely represented the Burgomaster, and he was bulkily clad and made up *à la* Oom Paul Kruger. Miss Fanny Dango, sprightly and terpsichorean, made Tina very bright, and Miss Alice Barber was a dainty Gretchen. Handsome Olive Godwin was an attractive Bertha, and Miss Ada Stirling spoke the Countess de la Fere's lines in French, which, not being understood by the audience, excited some merriment. Mr. Pat Bathurst was the Sheriff, and Mr. A. Liseant Joshua Pennyfeather. A very fine chorus, trained by the conductor, Mr. Alfred Moulton, and full ballet from Miss Minnie Hooper's hands, with beautiful scenery by W. R. Coleman, deserve special mention.

"THE THIEF" is crowding the Theatre Royal, the very fine acting of Miss Margaret Anglin, together with her attractive personality and superb dressing, proving a loadstone to connoisseurs of superexcellence in matters Thespian. The lady has created a fashion to demand the best, and Mr. J. C. Williamson always attains to that standard. Mr. Henry Kolker and Mr. Titheradge, with Miss Susie Vaughan, make a trio hard to beat on any stage, and no note of change of bill has yet been sounded.

THE TIVOLI welcomed Regan and Ryan and Tod Lowen on Saturday, and received Fanny Powers back with open arms. The Desmond Sisters are prominent in Mr. Harry Rickards' bill, which holds a long list of prominent artists.

MESSRS MEYNELL AND GUNN produce *Miss Hook of Holland* at the Criterion on the 25th, with Miss Ruth Lincoln and Mr. Edwin Brett in leading parts.

MR. PHILLIP NEWBURY, Mme. Emily Spava, and Mr. Sydney Scott returned after a long and successful tour of Queensland, and gave a concert at the Town Hall on the 11th. Mr. Newbury was in magnificent voice, and enthused a large audience. In the fine programme were also Mr. Henri Staell, violinist, Mr. Laurance Philip, and Mr. J. Edward Sykes, pianist.

MR. DAN BARRY, well known as head of travelling dramatic companies, died on the 12th in Victoria.

MELBOURNE, JULY 13.—PRINCESS THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson.—*Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* has been playing to record houses since the opening night. The quaint humour of the piece is quite to the liking of Melbourne playgoers.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. E. J. Tait.—*The Merry Widow* still continues her successful career, and although the season is now in its ninth week there are no signs of falling off in the attendances. New musical numbers have been introduced into the production, which bids fair to establish a record in Melbourne as far as musical comedy is concerned. Mr. Williamson has made arrangements with the railway authorities to run cheap excursions from all the principal inland towns to enable our country cousins to witness this delightful production. The result is that the theatre is besieged nightly.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Meynell and Gunn; Business-Manager, Mr. Stanley W. Cherry.—The farewell performances of the musical comedy company appearing in *The Belle of Mayfair* are announced, the lengthy season terminating on Friday night next. The company immediately leave for Sydney, where they open in *Miss Hook of Holland*. During their stay in Melbourne the various members of this popular organisation have established themselves as genuine favourites, and their return will be looked forward to with pleasure.

OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon.—A startling new turn was presented on Saturday evening, when the Rigoletto Brothers (two) made their first appearance in Melbourne. Their performance is in every way unique. One of the feats performed by the Rigolettos consists of the brothers standing on each end of a ladder suspended in mid-air, from which decidedly shaky position they discourse some excellent music on the mandoline and guitar. The turn throughout was warmly applauded. Mr. J. P. Ling made his final appearance, and met with a tremendous reception. During his stay in Melbourne Mr. Ling has made hosts of friends, and his departure is regretted by all. The Meymotts are presenting a new sketch. Mr. Charles Mildare (mimic) is as popular as ever. Other artists appearing with success include Irving Sayles, Austin Rudd, Musical Ibsons, May Reid, Four Rosebuds, Ethel Preston, Les Warton, Marjorie Bray, Andy Roberts, and Eugénie Elliott.

BIJOU THEATRE.—Director, Mr. Henry Hayward.—Maskelyne and Devant's mysteries were presented here on Saturday evening in the presence of a large audience. The performance is largely composed of juggling, interspersed with music and comedy. Mr. Owen Clarke appeared in a series of illusions, his best being entitled "The Tub of Diogenes." Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Mr. Barclay Gammon for his clever and amusing performance on the piano. Mr. Gammon is a humorist of a high order.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Brennan.—Mr. Brennan is certainly keeping faith with the public as regards rapid changes of programme. Saturday night was no exception to the rule, for besides a complete change of programme by the members of the company a number of new artists made their appearance, foremost amongst these being Lyndon and Wren, comedy sketch artists, who presented a highly amusing turn. The Minapere Dartos are now established favourites; while excellent items are given by Jim Marion, James Craydon, Frank Yorke, Maggie Fraser, Bauvara Brothers, Lal Logie, Victor Meyers, Maxwell and Roberts, J. P. Knowles, and a host of others. The performance concludes with a series of interesting pictures shown by the Miorama.

WIRTH'S OLYMPIA.—Lessee, Mr. T. J. West.—A full house witnessed the "all new" series of pictures on Saturday night. Chief interest was centred on a pictorial illustration of the opening of the Franco-British Exhibition by the Prince of Wales. This study proved most realistic and lifelike. Another picture, The Brigands of Calabria, was highly sensational. During the performance West's full military band played a number of enjoyable selections.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, JULY 21.—STANDARD THEATRE.—Lessees, Leonard Rayne Dramatic Co.; Manager, Mr. Grant Fallowes.—The above company are presenting that evergreen masterpiece *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*. Good houses are the rule, and the performance is satisfactory. Mr. Norman Partriege is a superb Robert Brierly, and Mr. Chas. Howitt is admirably cast in the rôle of Hawkshaw. As Melter Moss Mr. Payne shows himself to be a versatile actor; Mr. Brough Pearce gives a fine rendering of Mr. Gibson; a clever representation of a difficult rôle is supplied by Miss Vera Morley as May Edwards; Emily St. Evremond is in the capable hands of Miss Dorrie Roberts, who misses none of the many points that go to make the part a success; Miss Dorrie Philipps as Sam Willoughby displays much talent; and Mrs. Willoughby is ably sustained by that experienced actress Mrs. Annie Leaf.

EMPIRE.—Patronage does not seem to fall off at this popular house, notwithstanding at this period of the year the Joburgians have all left for the respective seaside resorts. Alice Pierce in her impersonations of leading actresses met with prolonged applause; Miss Annie Heath sang and danced herself into popular favour; Willie Gardner, roller-skate dancer, is an acceptable turn, his dance on a small slab of slate being very clever. David and Maynard are talented operatic singers, their fine voices blending harmoniously; the Tamico Quartette are ideal musicians; Miss Jennie Belmore fairly brings down the house with her songs; the Kremo Family of acrobats execute some daring feats; Hunter and Mars are an amusing comedy duo; and others also here are Arthur Stacey and Fred Shepherd.

DURBAN, July 25.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sub-Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.—The Wheeler-Edwardes' New London Gaiety Company opened their season at the above theatre on the 17th, the play produced being *The Little Michus*. In the title-rôles Miss Chrissie Ralland and Miss Elsa Partiss were charming, their acting and singing being of a high standard. Mr. William Everard was successful as Gaston Rigaud, and Pierre Michu was capitally played by Mr. F. J. Blackman. Mr. Foster Courtenay is a first-class comedian, and his portrayal of the part of General Des Ifs was exceedingly amusing. He was ably seconded by Mr. Alfred Beers as Bagnolet, his servant. Miss Florence Vie as Mme. Michu gave an excellent performance of the part; Miss Nellie Lawrence danced neatly; and Mr. H. E. Pearce was a decided success as Aristide Vert. The chorus work was admirable, and the whole performance was received nightly with unqualified approval by packed houses.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, The Empire Theatre Co., South Africa, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. C. Hyman.—A new combination of artists occupy the above theatre, and crowded houses are the rule. The Kremo Family of acrobats are the chief attraction. Their daring feats keep the audience spellbound, and their "turn" can only be described as marvellous. The Kellaways, child vocalists, provide a very acceptable item, their singing being much enjoyed; the top-boot dancing and singing of Mr. Arthur Stacey is very clever; Mr. Fred Shephard, comedy vocalist, is encored; Miss Daisy Mayer, coon impersonator, and Mr. Guy Ryder, comedian and whistler, both members of the former company, are still welcome "turns"; Miss Jenny Belmore, comedienne, is very successful, and the clever dance she gives as an encore has to be repeated nightly; the burlesque entertainment of Hunter and Maris provides delightful fun throughout; and new scenes and songs by the Gaumont Chronomegaphone and new Bioscope pictures complete the excellent fare provided.

MR. H. F. PARKER, on behalf of the Sports Committee of the Printing and Allied Trades Society, has written a letter to the Lord Mayor stating that his committee represent 300 City firms, and saying:—"We sincerely trust that your efforts to secure assistance from the Government or the public authorities in the preservation of the Crystal Palace to the public as a permanent national possession will be crowned with success. For the past eight years we have held our sports at the Palace because it possesses the finest racing (and the safest) tracks and the best dressing-room accommodation in this country. The average number of competitors at each of our meetings have been well over 1,000. The running championships of the London Elementary Schools, representing the champion of 22,600 competitors, are also held in conjunction with these sports, because it is an ideal spot for children to assemble and ramble and yet be safe from any kind of danger, hence most of the London Schools athletic associations are now forsaking other athletic tracks so as to avail themselves of the Palace track.

"THE truth has leaked out, at the eleventh hour, that the Olympic Sports could have been held to better advantage at a mere fractional cost of the expenditure which has been made at the Stadium, whilst the much-vaunted track at this place is far from being anything nearly as good as the tracks at the Crystal Palace, the cycling track being particularly unsatisfactory and unsafe.

"ONE of the most urgent demands of the times is a rifle range (suitable for military and miniature rifle-shooting) for practice and for competitors near the Metropolis, and we venture to suggest that the site is available in the Crystal Palace grounds, so that the members of the rifle clubs may use the same at convenience. We have looked into this matter, and find that such a range could be built in absolute safety to the public and without destroying any of the beautiful Palace grounds. The expense incurred bars the Palace authorities in taking up the matter, despite the constant applications for such accommodation, and it was only after a great expense and trouble that the Palace Company were able to accommodate our Miniature Rifle Club Competitions (over 1,200 competitors) on Aug. 15 last. The same difficulty was experienced with our outdoor swimming gala, and here again we are indebted to the Palace Company."

COPY OF TESTIMONIAL.—From Madame Borelli, Empire Theatre, Birmingham, Aug. 18, '08. T. Harris, Esq. Dear Sir,—Have been very pleased indeed with the work done, and will send shortly other dresses to be cleaned.—Sincerely yours, ANITA BORELLI. [Advt.]

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The weekly meeting of the council of the Actors' Association was held at 409, Strand, on Tuesday, when there were present Mr. F. J. Arlton (in the chair), Mr. Henry W. Mote (Honorary Solicitor, Messrs. Robson Paige, Jackson Wilcox, Clive Currie, and Clarence Derwent, Miss Agnes Imlay, and Mr. Blount, Secretary. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The council debated at great length the question of new premises, several places being under discussion, and an offer was made for one.

The Secretary read a letter from a member on a private matter, and was instructed to write thanking the writer for her letter, and saying that the council noted the contents thereof. A letter was also read from Mr. Kenneth Blackmore *re* laws affecting the licensing of theatres and plays and the Censorship. The council instructed the Secretary in reply to Mr. Blackmore to the effect that they quite approved of same, and also to sign the paper sent by him. The Secretary also read a letter from a doctor applying for the vacant post of honorary medical officer of the Actors' Association caused by a recent retirement, and was instructed to inform the applicant that he had been duly elected. A letter from Mr. Brooking regarding the new premises was read, and the Secretary was instructed to write thanking Mr. Brooking for the suggestions contained therein.

The Hon. Solicitor reported that he had had interviews with two members and had had correspondence with another, and advised them.

The Finance Committee's report was read and accepted.

Ruby Celeste, proposed by Jessie Burgwitz, and seconded by Dora Levis, and Agnes Ray, proposed by R. Mayne Young, and seconded by Cecil Brooking, were elected members.

The Secretary informed the council as to his interview with Mr. Gerald Clifton Boyne as to his rejoining the Actors' Association, and was instructed to inform Mr. Boyne that the matter had been decided by a previous council, and could not be reopened, but that they would be very pleased to reinstate him as a member.

The council discussed at some length the question of a standard contract between managers and artists. A contract, it was stated, was accepted by the Touring Managers' Association some time ago, and last year an agreement was come to with regard to payment for rehearsals to members of the A.A. A contract drawn up by the A.A. and the A.U. is now being considered by the Touring Managers' Association. The Secretary received instructions to write to another association with regard to the acceptance of a standard contract.

The Secretary drew the council's attention to a letter from Mr. Kirk with reference to a bogus actor, and was instructed to write to Mr. Kirk and ask him for the name of the actor.

The Agency report was received and accepted, three engagements having been made during the week.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual weekly meeting of the committee of the Actors' Union was held on the 13th inst., when the following were present:—Messrs. Frank Gerald (in the chair), Edward Chester, Cecil G. Calvert, G. H. Child, E. Y. Rae, Orlando Barnett. Letters were received from the following committeemen during the week: Messrs. Frederick Loyd, Jerrold Heather, Henry Bedford, George P. Lester, H. Naylor Grimson, and J. Hastings Batson.

The case of a member who was in arrears with his subscriptions and had tendered his resignation was considered. Application had been made to the member for the payment of the amount due, and his attention called to Rule 7, Clause B, and no reply being received, it was decided to place the matter in the hands of the Hon. Solicitor.

A letter from a member exposing a bogus sketch manager and agent came under discussion, and it was decided that members should be requested when in doubt in such cases to apply to the Secretary for information.

The Secretary was authorised to forward a cheque to the Local Secretary at Manchester in settlement of the account rendered.

It was reported that the agency at Northampton had been transferred to the North-Western Hotel.

Two new members were elected.

Letters are waiting for the following at the A.U. office:—Mesdames H. Braithwaite, Ada Marius, Jessie Wynd, Bertha Woolcote, B. Webb; Messrs. Percy Baverstock, H. G. Brandon, Edwin Bennett, Percy Everard, J. E. Fraser, Beryl Mercer, Gordon Philpott, Leonard Stanton.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

A TERRIBLE accident occurred in the Alpine district on Tuesday, when the Polish actress Leontine Roman and the violin virtuoso Posselt, while ascending the Gorles Peak, fell over a precipice. The actress was killed instantly, and the violinist was much injured.

AT the Buxton Opera House on the first three nights of the week Mr. George Alexander's company opened with *The Thief*. The thrilling play was excellently acted by an exceptional company. Mr. Stephen Ewart, in the leading character was remarkably strong, and his fine work, coupled with the powerful acting of Miss May Congdon, fairly brought down the house in the famous second act. Mr. Gerald Ames as Raymond Leyton acted with admirable judgment, and Mr. Alfred Lugg played efficiently as Harry Leyton. Mr. Cyril Cattley did his work acceptably as Mr. Protheroe, and Mr. Frank Elton was satisfactory in the small servant's part. Miss May Congdon's Marise Chelford was a most artistic embodiment, and Isabel Leyton was excellently represented by Miss Mary Dibley. The staging of the play was in every way admirable. The chief piece was preceded by *Too Happy by Half*. Mr. Martin Harvey and company filled the remaining three nights.

GOETHE'S *Iphigenia in Tauris*, translated by the great Esperantist, Dr. Zamenhof, was to be given in Esperanto at the Royal Opera House, Dresden, on Wednesday.

IN his book "Sir Arthur Sullivan and His Operas," Mr. B. W. Findon, the accomplished musical critic, writes:—"We have not to note any of those stormy vicissitudes which dogged the footsteps of Mozart, and drove to the verge of distraction the impetuous Berlioz. We have not to linger regretfully over days of neglect, as in the case of Schubert, or sorrowfully recall to mind the misunderstanding which embittered the greater part of Wagner's career." From the time that he won, at the age of fourteen, the Mendelssohn scholarship, Sullivan never looked back. He at once found recognition, and it was not long before he was a prosperous man. He had simply to work to succeed.

STAGE CHILDREN AND TRUSTEES.

An application was made, at Marlborough-street, on behalf of Mr. McCabe, manager to Mr. Charles Manners, of the Moody-Manners Opera Company, to permit Ethel Maud Summers, a little girl of twelve, to take part in *Madame Butterfly* at the Lyric Theatre.

Mr. Henry W. Mote, solicitor, explained that the first performance was taking place on Wednesday, and the child would be required for two appearances, one being at a matinée. At the latest the performance would be over by 10.30 p.m., and the child lived with her mother at Lambeth. Previous licences had been granted.

Mr. Mead (the magistrate): It is half an hour to get home, and she would not be there until eleven.

Mr. Mote: But she is not performing every night.

Mr. Mead (reading the doctor's certificate relating to the child's health): "Reasonably sound constitution." That is very qualifying. (To the girl's mother): What does it mean?

Mrs. Summers: I don't know, sir.

Mr. Mead: "Reasonably sound constitution" looks as if there were something wrong.

The mother explained that there was no sign of anything being wrong with the child's health, and that she was well looked after and attended a "school for professional children."

In answer to further questions from the magistrate, it was stated that the girl would be paid £1 for each performance. The mother said that she put the money the child had previously earned in the bank for her, but her husband, a porter in regular work, fell ill, and she drew out the sum of £15 which had accumulated.

Mr. Mead: I do not see why you should live on your children.

Mrs. Summers: I do not, as a rule.

Mr. Mead: I think if you employ this girl, the money ought to be entirely saved for her, subject to, say, 10 per cent., for travelling expenses or something of that sort.

Mrs. Summers: It costs something travelling backwards and forwards.

Mr. Mead: A penny or twopence for the omnibus. There is a good deal of margin between £2 a week and that. I do not approve of parents living on their children. It is not natural, but a detriment to the child to act like this. You must appoint a trustee for this child, and the money must be paid to the trustee to be saved for her, subject to ten per cent. for expenses. (To the solicitor): You can draw up a short deed for that purpose. The best thing would be some independent gentleman.

The solicitor explained that that course raised difficulties, and expressed the opinion that it would prevent the opera company having the services of the child, who was experienced in playing by this time, as she had performed with Signor Caruso, Mme. Destinn, and others, and had been with *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*. Perhaps the magistrate would be satisfied with the word of honour of the mother that the money should be devoted entirely to the benefit of her child.

Mr. Mead remarked that he had had experience of promises of that kind.

Mrs. Summers said she would give such a promise, and there would be no temptation to spend the girl's savings.

Mr. Mead: There was temptation, and you yielded to the extent of £15.

Mrs. Summers: What is the little girl going to do? Does she not want money?

Mr. Mead: No; there is only ten per cent. for expenses. It is your duty to keep your children, and I think if a child is brought up to this kind of thing, which is in many ways unhealthy and detrimental to her—I don't say to a serious point, but in certain ways—it is taking something out of her. I am not a bit narrow-minded on the matter, but I think there ought to be something saved for the child. I do not believe in parents using children for supporting themselves. Parents have to keep their children at any rate up to fourteen or fifteen years of age. (To the mother): It is not as if you were in abject want, because your appearance denies that. It is all surplus money. It may be good for the child to be trained as an actress, but I think any money she earns ought to be reserved for her. I only want the money to be secured for her, and I think the whole dramatic profession will be with me in thinking that these children should not be exploited for the parents' gain.

After a short adjournment the parties to the application returned and expressed their agreement with the magistrate's views. A gentleman who offered to become trustee, as suggested, went into the witness-box, and was informed by the magistrate that money might be advanced by him at a later stage for the girl's benefit and education, but at present only ten per cent. of her earnings was to be expended for expenses.

Sub-divisional Inspector Mackay, representing the Commissioner of Police, offered no objection to the licence being allowed, and the magistrate granted it.

STAGE CHILDREN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I read in the papers the other day the remarks of Mr. Mead, the magistrate at the Marlborough-street Police Court, on the subject of the employment of children for stage purposes, and, I must say—speaking as a member of the lay public, and not as a theatrical personage—that I consider he struck a proper note in insisting that the greater portion of the earnings of the child in the case under review should be vested in a trustee for the future benefit of the child. Mr. Mead put the whole matter in a nutshell when he said that he thought the whole theatrical profession would be with him in thinking that children should not be exploited for the parents' gain, and insisted on only ten per cent. of the money paid as salary to the child being expended for the girl's personal necessities.

Personally, and as a somewhat old-fashioned individual, I do not like to see children upon the stage at all, but I willingly waive whatever sentimental objections I may have in that respect in face of the requirements of theatrical productions, and of, possibly, the advantages likely to accrue from such training to a child with suitable ability.

The law, as expressed by the 1904 Act, does not aim at the prevention of the employment of children on the stage. What it does aim at is that the children shall work under such conditions as shall not be hurtful to their health. Thus Clause 3 of the measure referred to enacts that a Petty Sessional Court in England, or the School Board in Scotland, may grant a licence for such time, or during such hours of the day, and subject to such restrictions and conditions as the Court or Board may think fit, for any child exceeding ten years of age to take part in any entertainment or series of entertainments to take place in premises licensed according to law for public entertainments, or in any circus, or other place of public amusement, if satisfied of the fitness of the child for the purpose, and if it is shown to their satisfaction that proper provision has been made to secure the health and kind treatment of the children taking part in the entertainment, or series of entertainments.

But the Act might have gone a little further, and it might have secured a portion of the earnings of the child for the future use of the child. Mr. Mead's demand at the Marlborough-street Police Court, that only ten per cent. of the little girl's wages should be allocated to her current expenses, is one that other magistrates might be well advised to insist upon.—Yours, &c.,

PLAYGOER.

MATTHEWS THE ELDER.

"Mathews the elder," says H. Barton Barker in his "History of the London Stage," "has had many imitators in this kind of entertainment, his own son among the number, but never an equal. To judge by the stories related by Mrs. Mathews, his powers of mimicry, or rather of transformation, must have been nothing less than marvellous, for without make-up, change of dress, or any stage trickery, he could so transform his personality as to deceive his most intimate friends. He was once expelled from behind the scenes of the Liverpool Theatre, where he was actually playing at the time, as an intrusive stranger; and the next moment, after simply allowing his features and figure to assume their normal appearance, passed through the stage-door again and was recognised as Mr. Mathews. In those days the *habitués* of the boxes had the *entrée* of the green-room of Drury Lane. Among those who availed themselves of the privilege was a curious old gentleman, who name, it was understood, was Pennyman, and whose behaviour was so eccentric that he soon became a notorious character. 'No one,' to use Mrs. Mathews's words, 'could tell how the gentleman got admittance, and therefore there was no mode of excluding him. Every night he attracted inconvenient numbers to the green-room; and on the nights when my husband performed it was a matter of much regret to the performers that Mathews always came to the theatre too early or too late to see a subject whom he, of all others, ought to see. It was really surprising that no suspicion of the truth arose. One night, in the midst of a greater excitement than was usually created by him, he suddenly revealed himself to the assembled crowd as Mr. Mathews.' When Godwin was writing 'Cloudesley,' he asked Mathews to furnish him with some hints upon the possibilities of disguise. Mathews invited him to dinner, and while his guest was conversing with Mrs. Mathews, slipped out of the room; almost immediately afterwards a servant entered to announce a Mr. Jenkins. Mrs. Mathews looked vexed, and had scarcely time to explain that it was a troublesome and eccentric neighbour when the new visitor entered. He was introduced to Mr. Godwin, and began to talk so incessantly about that gentleman's works, and made such impertinent inquiries concerning the forthcoming one, that the illustrious author, bored and annoyed, rose from his seat and went to the window, that opened on to the lawn. But Mr. Jenkins was not to be so easily evaded. He pushed before him, and officiously offered to unfasten the window; after fumbling a little he threw it open and turned round. Then to his astonishment Godwin saw another man—not Mr. Jenkins, but Charles Mathews. After this Mathews became a terror to judges and barristers whenever he was seen in Court. One day, while on a provincial tour, he strolled into the Sessions House at Shrewsbury during a trial. Presently an usher came to him with the judge's compliments to inquire if he would like a seat upon the Bench. Rather astonished, as he had no acquaintance with his lordship, Mathews followed his conductor, and was most effusively received. Relating the incident some years afterwards to a legal friend, he was commenting upon the politeness shown him, when the listener burst out laughing. 'I've heard the judge tell the story,' he said, 'and I remember him saying, "I was so frightened when I caught sight of that d——d Mathews in the Court with his eyes upon me that I couldn't fix my thoughts upon the case, for I believed he had come there for the purpose of taking me off on the stage that night, so I thought it was best to be as civil to him as possible."'

IN the Court of Bankruptcy on Wednesday the first statutory meeting of creditors was held, before the official receiver, in the case of Mr. Ellis Dagnall, who filed his own petition, describing himself as of Regent-street, W., late of the Shaftesbury Theatre, theatrical manager. From the debtor's statements it appeared that in April, 1907, he took a lease for 21 years of the Shaftesbury Theatre, and it was opened by the New Shaftesbury (Limited), to which company he granted a sub-lease. At the end of July the theatre was closed, and in the following September the debtor, with the company's consent, retook possession. He reopened the theatre in December, and ran it until July 1 last with various attractions. Being then in arrears with rent the landlord retook possession.

THE debtor attributed his insolvency to losses sustained in the working of the theatre. He stated that he had been associated in the enterprise with Mr. Norman John Norman, whose affairs were now in bankruptcy. The chairman said that a statement of affairs had been lodged showing liabilities £3,012, and assets of uncertain value. The debtor had been adjudged bankrupt, and the case would remain in the official receiver's hands.

THE Royal College of Music is contemplating the production in the near future of Hermann Goetz's *Francesca da Rimini*. This work, which has never yet been heard in England, was the second of Goetz's operas, and was produced at Mannheim in 1877 nine months after the composer's death. He had not lived to complete the score, but had left sketches which enabled his friend, Ernst Frank, to finish it. Goetz's *Taming of the Shrew*, which enjoyed considerable success throughout Germany, was performed in London at a matinée at Drury Lane in October, 1878, and two years later was revived at Her Majesty's by the Carl Rosa Company.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY" is paying a visit to the Fulham Theatre this week, and is being heartily welcomed. The piece carries with it the description of "a musical comedy novelty," and thoroughly bears out the phrase, its exciting scenes being varied throughout by songs, dances, and much humour. The members of Mr. Henry Swinerd's company do full justice to the various characters, high honours being won by Miss Dorothy Desmonde, to whom the title-rôle is entrusted.

A PERFORMANCE of *Sherlock Holmes* which was to have been given at the Casino at Bagnères on Tuesday evening, was abandoned under curious circumstances. At eight o'clock the building was full, but M. Gémier, who was to have played the title-rôle, was absent. Nine o'clock found the audience still waiting, and when, at ten o'clock, the actor, with some other members of the company, was still missing, the management gave up hope, and the spectators had their money returned. A search-party was then formed, and at three o'clock in the morning M. Gémier and his friends were found stranded on a mountain pass, at an altitude of 3,000 feet, and half dead from cold. Their machine had broken down far from human habitation, and overtaken by mountain fog and darkness they had settled themselves down to make the best of their situation.

THE Theatre Royal, Cardiff, presented an animated scene last Sunday evening, when a "full house" assembled at a mass meeting, with Miss Daisy Halling in the chair, to hear an address by the Rev. J. Stitt Wilson, M.A., in conclusion of his seven weeks' Socialist campaign in Cardiff. Mr. Wilson's resemblance in appearance and manner to the late Sir Henry Irving was the subject of frequent comment.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE has permitted peeps at the preparations for *Faust* which stimulate the already keen desire to see the piece materialise at His Majesty's on Sept. 5. "The authors of the new *Faust*," to use Mr. Tree's own words, "have made from Goethe's original a poetic drama, preserving, I think, all the philosophy and beauty of sentiment of the immortal story. All through the play the authors have kept before them Goethe's philosophy, 'I will the evil, I achieve the good.'" While the authors acknowledge their indebtedness to Goethe, they have fashioned a new *Faust;* but, on the whole, the presentation will be classically true to the original conception, or, rather, to Marlowe's conception, on which he grafted the magnificent love theme.

THE play is divided into four acts and a prologue; and the increased facilities afforded by the reconstructions lately effected on the stage reduce the pauses for scenic changes to the minimum. As with Goethe's poem, the drama starts with a Prologue in Heaven, and here the authors have pressed Shelley's sublime verses into their service. "I should like to say in this connection," said Mr. Tree, that "we have striven to preserve throughout an atmosphere of mystical simplicity rather than to obtain sensational scenic effects."

FROM the Prologue a quick transition is made to Faust's study, and the first act ends with the witches' kitchen, where a spectacle of weird and grim revelling is presented. The opening scene of the second act is the Platz in front of the cathedral, and thence the action passes to Margaret's chamber and subsequently to the garden. A change is then made to the forest, when Faust makes one last vain effort to free himself from the domination of the tempter, the act finishing with the traditional love scene between Faust and Margaret.

THE third act reveals the exterior of the church, and deals with the incidents of Valentine's return, of his duel with Faust, of his death, and his harsh condemnation of Margaret. The fourth comprises three scenes, the first on the Brocken, the second in Margaret's dungeon, and the third in Heaven, where the last word is spoken in an Epilogue revealing the final deliverance of Faust from his bondage.

OVER the beauties of the Brocken scene Mr. Tree grows eloquent. "It is treated," he said, "in a spirit of unalloyed beauty. In it Faust is invited by Mephistopheles to feast his eyes upon some of the most beautiful heroines in the world's history; upon those queens of love whose influence has served to make or unmake the destinies of nations. In a vision he sees before him Cleopatro, Helen of Troy, and the famous courtesan Messalina."

AT this juncture the authors make a special point, which, although suggested by Goethe in the scene of the witches' kitchen, was, oddly enough, never again referred to by him. In a concluding vision, they show Margaret, her dead child lying beside her, in prison. And it is this spectacle which, acting upon Faust's sensitive nature, compels him to seek her once more. This determination to flee from the temptations of Cleopatra's and of Helen's beauty it is that forces from Mephistopheles the words, "I have no scythe to shear a harebell down, Its weakness masters me."

MR. TREE'S character of Mephistopheles constitutes the one serious departure from the original. In the Prologue he appears in the guise rather of Milton's Fallen Angel than of that flippant personage who argues with the Almighty in the trivial and light-hearted fashion adopted by Goethe. When, however, he follows Faust to earth, he puts on the garb of common humanity, although looking down upon men and women from the more exalted platform of a spiritual entity.

MISS MARIE LOHR, the Margaret, is, in Mr. Tree's opinion, the very ideal of Goethe's heroine, and in that view he will have many supporters. The music to the song, "There was a King in Thule," which falls to Margaret, has been composed by Mr. Coleridge Taylor, who has written all the music with the exception of the entr'actes; and there can be no question that Miss Lohr's sweet and cultured voice will do it full justice. Mr. Tree will also indulge in vocalisation, and is hopeful of creating an unexpected effect with "The Ballad of the Flea," and in the famous Serenade.

THE cast of Stephen Phillips and J. Comyns Carr's version of Goethe's *Faust* at His Majesty's may here be added. Mr. Tree as Mephistopheles, Miss Marie Lohr as Margaret, and Mr. Henry Ainley as Faust will be supported by Messrs. Godfrey Tearle, Charles Quartermaine, G. W. Anson, Norman Page, W. Creighton, Cyril Sworder, P. Johnson, John Deverell, Henry Morrell, and Robert Atkins, and Misses Elizabeth Valentine, Isabel Merson, Muriel Alexander, Sylvia Buckley, Shelley Calton, V. Sinclair, Laura Cowie, Pauline Bredt, Ethel Hodgkins, Madge Titheradge, and Rosina Filippi.

MISS LENA ASHWELL has fixed upon Friday, Oct. 9. for the beginning of her autumn season at the Kingsway, and the occasion will be rendered further interesting by the fact that it will be the anniversary of the opening of the theatre. The season will start with the production of the new play by Mr. Wilfred T. Coleby, of which mention has already been made. A welcome addition to Miss Ashwell's company is that of Miss Kate Rorke, and Mr. Ernest Cosham and Mr. E. W. Garden have also been allotted important rôles.

THE novelty, for which a title has yet to be decided upon, will be rehearsed during Miss Ashwell's provincial tour, which finishes at Birmingham on Oct. 3, thus leaving almost a clear week for the final rehearsals in London. The box-office at the Kingsway Theatre will open on Monday, Sept. 21.

MR. LAURENCE IRVING has acquired the rights of a new drama by Walter Frith, founded on the remarkable career of Margaret Catchpole, that heroine in humble life who did such things in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth century as to make herself a name. The action is laid in the days when horse-stealing was a capital offence, and the story of the young woman who was tried for her life as the result of an escapade which had nothing more than high spirits and a lover's meeting for a motive is a romantic one. The chief part should admirably fit the talents of Miss Mabel Hackney, for whom her husband has bought the piece.

LADY IRVING, widow of the late Sir Henry Irving, arrived on Saturday in Dublin, where her son, Mr. H. B. Irving, is appearing this week at the Gaiety. Lady Irving was a Miss O'Callaghan, and is grand-daughter of Surgeon-General O'Callaghan, the author of the "History of the Irish Brigade."

MISS CECILIA LOFTUS will arrive from America next Tuesday. We should be glad to hear that this accomplished actress is about to make her reappearance on the London stage. One does not forget her delightful Peter Pan.

MESSRS. SMITH AND CARPENTER have the distinction of starting the autumn season, which begins on Saturday next with the production of *Pete* at the Lyceum. It has not been generally observed, by the way, that a version of *The Manxman* was produced at the Shaftesbury in the November of 1895, with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Waller in the parts of Philip Christian and Kate Cregeen. The version differed materially both from the book and from Wilson Barrett's dramatisation produced at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, the previous year.

THE Lyceum version has been conceived on lines quite apar tfrom either of those above alluded to. Mr. Hall Caine and his collaborator, Mr. Louis N. Parker, have dealt with two aspects of the ethics of sex, one of them consequent on the other. The first is: The sin of woman as compared with the sin of man. The second is: The attitude of society and the law towards the property of parents in their children—the man's right on the one hand, the woman's on the other. The first of these propositions is one of the main themes of both the original novel and of the play. In both it is taken that both the man and the woman were equally in fault, thus affording a common ground for the divergence of sex penalties.

THE other half of the problem of *Pete* presents more difficulties. Does the child born of a woman belong to her absolutely by right of motherhood, or are there conditions under which society and the law may quite properly take it out of her hands? The legal aspect of this particular case is, of course, complicated by the fact that Kate Cregeen's baby is not her husband's, but the result of an ante-nuptial misdoing with Philip Christian. The conclusions to which the authors arrive are set out with dramatic force, and are reached after a series of scenes as poignant as any that could be conceived.

MR. FORBES ROBERTSON will introduce *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* to London at the St. James's on Tuesday, Sept. 1, when, if report speaks truly, the distinguished actor will be seen in one of the noblest studies of his career. The play, which is by Jerome K. Jerome, was given a trial at Harrogate last week, and, as noted in our account of its production in another column, achieved an instantaneous success. It is fervently to be hoped that the provincial verdict will be confirmed by a London audience, and that Mr. Forbes Robertson's stay at the West End will be of long duration.

THE threatened clash of "first-nights" has been averted in one instance by the decision of Mr. Frank Curzon to hasten the appearance of *The Early Worm*, which he will accordingly bring out at Wyndham's on Monday, Aug. 31, instead of Sept. 1, the date originally selected. The chief character in Mr. Frederick Lonsdale's comedy is in the hands of that sterling comedian Mr. Weedon Grossmith, and the interest of the play is sure of being artistically maintained in the care of Messrs. A. E. Matthews, Alfred Bishop, Wilfred Draycott, H. Stephenson, A. W. Baskcomb, Forbes Dawson, and E. W. Laceby, and Miss Fanny Brough and Miss Muriel Beaumont.

MR. FRANK CURZON will thus have only two clear days between the production of *The Early Worm* and that of *The King of Cadonia*, also by Mr. Frederick Lonsdale, which he will stage at the Prince of Wales's on Sept. 3. The piece was first announced as *The Queen of Cadonia*, and afterwards as *Princess Marie*, but finally given the title above alluded to. Mr. Huntley Wright and Miss Isabel Jay are the chief attractions of the cast, the remainder of which consists of Messrs. Bertram Wallis, Roland Cunningham, F. Pope Stamper, Harold Deacon, Arthur Laceby, Akerman May, and George Barrett, Mme. Amy Martin, Miss Peggy Bethel, and Miss Gracie Leigh.

MR. LEWIS WALLER adheres to the date fixed upon for the new adaptation of *The Duke's Motto* at the Lyric, namely, Sept. 8, which is also to be the occasion of the production of *Paid in Full* at the Aldwych. Mr. Waller as Henry de la Gardere in the former piece will be supported by Miss Valli-Valli as Blanche de Nevers and Miss Sybil Carlisle as Gabrielle. The other ladies of the cast will be Miss Dorothy Minto, Miss Gwendolin Floyd, Miss Maud Digan, and Miss May Chenery. Other parts will be in the hands of Messrs. Tom Heslewood, Owen Roughwood, Franklin Dyall, A. E. George, and Shiel Barry.

THE origin of *The Duke's Motto* may be traced to a play by the French dramatist Paul Feval, called *Le Bossu*, written in 1862. An adaptation was produced by Fechter at the Lyceum in 1863, the adapter being John Brougham, a native of Dublin, who played Carrickfergus. A revival of the piece under the title of *The Duke's Device*, was made at the Olympic in the September of 1876, with Mr. Henry Neville as Lagardère.

AN attractive title has been found for the new Barrie play, which is to be produced at the Duke of York's Theatre on Sept. 3. It is to be called *What Every Woman Knows*, and is described as a comedy in four acts. The first and second are laid in Scotland, but for the third and fourth a descent is made to the Sassenach side of the Tweed. There are nine characters, all of which have an important bearing on the story. Mr. Gerald Du Maurier will be seen in the principal part, and the others will be entrusted to Mr. Henry Vibart, Mr. Sydney Valentine, Mr. Edmund Gwenn, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, Mr. Norman Forbes, Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, Miss Lillah McCarthy, and Miss Madge Murray.

MISS ELLEN TERRY and her husband (Mr. James Carew), who are touring with *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, are fulfilling a series of engagements in East Anglia. Aided by the irrepressible motor-car, they are visiting a number of rural spots, famed alike in history and art. Whilst at the Theatre Royal, Colchester, where, by-the-bye, Miss Terry was the recipient of bouquets of the famed Colchester roses, which have this year carried all before them at the principal shows, they motored over to Braintree, Bocking, and Coggeshall, and also paid a visit to that charming piece of scenery, immortalised by Constable, the Vale of Dedham. Everywhere the talented actress has been received with the greatest cordiality and delight.

MR. AND MRS. KENDAL will commence their autumn tour at Douglas, Isle of Man, on Aug. 31. The new play, *The Whirlpool*, has been selected to fill the bill for the whole week at this popular holiday resort. In succession to Douglas they are booked to visit Blackpool, Eastbourne, Folkestone, Holloway, Notting Hill-gate, Liverpool, Southport, Manchester, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Sheffield, Birmingham, Bradford, and Broadway Theatre, New Cross. The company supporting Mr. and Mrs. Kendal will be practically the same as that which has been associated with them for very many years.

MR. OSWALD BRAND, actor-dramatist, and formerly acting-manager at the Islington Grand, who has had a long and serious illness, has greatly improved in health since undergoing special treatment at the National Hospital, Queen's-square, and elsewhere. Though at present confined to his bed through a severe cold, he is actively engaged in writing new operas, plays, and poems. Her Majesty the Queen has just accepted an illustrated volume of poems from his versatile pen. From his sick bed Mr. Brand sends cheery greetings to his many professional and private friends, who will in return wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

VERY interesting to the singers of the lyric stage was the marriage of Mr. Michael Edmund Stephens (son of Mr. H. C. Stephens, M.P. for Hornsey, 1887-1900) with Miss Louise Kildreth Oudin (daughter of the late Mr. Eugene Oudin), which was solemnised at Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, on Tuesday afternoon. The bride, who was given away by her mother, wore a gown of white satin, with a half train arranged with old Mechlin lace, and a tulle veil over a tiara of orange blossoms. Miss Eugénie Oudin, sister of the bride, was the only bridesmaid. The best man was Mr. H. G. Rawlinson. The reception was given at 3a, Linden-gardens, and the honeymoon will be spent in motor trips on the Continent.

BOTH the parents of the bride, it is interesting to recall, were associated with the operatic stage. Her father, who was born in New York of French parents in 1858, for a time practised at the American bar. He afterwards adopted a musical career, and receiving an excellent training from Moderati in America, made his début on the stage at Wallack's Theatre, New York, on Aug. 30, 1866, with the McCaul Opéra Comique company as Montosol in an English version of Victor Roger's *Josephine vendue par ses sœurs*, his future wife, Miss Louise Parker, also making her début as Josephine. Both artists secured a considerable degree of success on that occasion, as well as during the run of the opera at New York and on tour. They were married at Detroit in the December of 1886.

MR. OUDIN made his first appearance on the English stage on Jan. 31, 1891, as Sir Brian de Bois Guilbert, the Templar, in Sullivan's *Ivanhoe* on the ocasion of the opening of the English Opera House (now the Palace Theatre). Among his chief successes were those of the hero of Tschaikowsky's *Eugen Onegin*, produced at the Olympic on Oct. 17, 1892; and Henri Quatre, in Lacome's *Ma Mie Rosette*, at the Globe, and later at the Prince of Wales's.

IN addition to his accomplishments as a vocalist, Mr. Oudin was a translator of many modern songs, of the lyrics of Messager's *Basoche*, and of Saint-Saëns' *Samson and Dalila*, wherein he sang on its production as a concert version under Cowen at the Covent Garden promenade concerts in 1893. In addition he composed a set of four songs, words, and music, but his best composition consisted of an "O Salutaris" for two voices. In 1893 and 1894 he repeated his successes in opera at St. Petersburg, singing the rôles of Wolfram, Telramund, the High Priest in *Samson and Dalila*, and Albert in *Werther*.

A SAD termination to Mr. Oudin's career was reached on Oct. 20, 1894, when he was struck down with apoplexy in the artists' room at Queen's Hall after a Richter concert. He never recovered from the stroke, and died on Nov. 4, to the universal regret of friends and the public, with whom he was in constant request. Mrs. Oudin, it may be added, left the stage soon after her marriage, and became a successful teacher of singing.

MR. MARTIN HARVEY, who commenced his special tour on Monday at the Grand Theatre, Llandudno, has now practically completed all his arrangements for the early days of his forthcoming London season, which, as we have already announced, commences at the Adelphi Theatre on Sept. 9 with *The Corsican Brothers*. Miss N. de Silva will not be in the opening cast, but will make her reappearance during the second week of the season, when she will figure in that striking one-act piece *The House of Pierre*, by Miss Julie Opp and Miss Kate Jordan, in which the accomplished actress recently obtained a conspicuous success. Mr. Harvey has also arranged for Miss de Silva to repeat her fine performance in another remarkable one-act play, *The Tragedy of Truth*, which will also be given during the run of *The Corsican Brothers*.

MISS FLORENCE SMITHSON, who has been winning deserved laurels in *The Dairymaids* at the Queen's, will be seen for the first time as Sophia in *Tom Jones*, with which Mr. Robert Courtneidge begins his second tour at the King's, Hammersmith, on Monday. Mr. Harry Welchman will play the title-rôle, Mr. Ambrose Manning will be seen again as Squire Western, and Mr. Dan Rolyat as Benjamin Partridge. New numbers by Mr. Edward German have been provided.

MR. PERCY HUTCHISON added to his fast-growing records by breaking all his former ones at Eastbourne and Hastings last week with *Brewster's Millions* in spite of the hot weather, the advance bookings totalling over £200. The success of the production is all the more remarkable when one considers that the Hutchison management has produced thirty-eight great London successes in both towns, but all have had to give place to *Brewster's Millions*. This week the company is at Middlesbrough, where intense enthusiasm is displayed every night at the end of the ship scene. In congratulating Mr. Hutchison, Mr. Imeson said: "The ship scene is marvellous; I have never seen anything like it during the whole of my forty years' experience."

MISS MAY PALFREY embarks upon an extended tour of Mrs. Dot at Cardiff on Sept. 14. Her company includes Mr. Kinsey Peile, Miss Aida Jenoure, Mrs. Kemmis, Miss Evelyn Beaumont, Miss Annie Hill, and Mr. H. C. Buckler, with Miss Palfrey, of course, in the part of the fascinating heroine.

MISS ALEXANDRA CARLISLE and Mr. Joseph Coyne had a hearty send-off when they left by the boat train for Liverpool en route for New York, where they are to appear under Mr. Frohman's management in *The Mollusc* in September. Miss Lily Elsie and Mr. George Graves and a party of gallery first-nighters were amongst the theatrical crowd on the platform. Miss Carlisle, who is delighted to get an opportunity of playing Miss Mary Moore's part, notes the remarkable coincidence that she appeared in comedy as Carlotta in *The Morals of Marcus* at the London Garrick on August 31 and is appearing in *The Mollusc* at the New York Garrick on the anniversary of the same date, August 31.

THE new King's Theatre, Melbourne, which has been erected by Mr. William Anderson at a cost of £32,000, was formally opened by the Premier, Sir Thomas Bent, on July 11. The structure is an imposing one, and boasts the largest stage of any theatre in Melbourne. Special care has been taken as regards the comfort of patrons in every part of the house, and altogether this handsome playhouse is a decided acquisition to Melbourne. The piece chosen for the initial performance was the evergreen melodrama *Man to Man*, in which Mr. William Anderson's company were all admirably placed. Miss Eugenie Duggan made her reappearance in the leading female part, after an absence of some twelve months.

AT a recent meeting of the Glasgow Distress Committee a letter was read from Mr. Arthur Jefferson, of the Metropole Theatre, offering fifty free seats per night for respectable, deserving men and their wives who were suffering from the effects of unemployment. A member of the committee said that their men had a very hard time, and it was a golden opportunity to them—something they could enjoy. The chairman said it was a very good offer, adding that all the clerk would have to do would be to distribute the tickets. The matter was remitted to the Executive Committee.

MR. AND MRS. F. R BENSON, with their Shakespearean company, will commence their autumn tour at the Spa Theatre, Scarborough, on Sept. 7. It will include Halifax, Hanley, Brighton, Fulham, the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, Bath, Cardiff, Bristol, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester, Bradford, and Leeds. Mr. Cuthbert Ricketts, who has been Mr. Benson's acting-manager on tour for some years, is now taking over the business management of the company.

MR. GRANVILLE BARKER will be among the lecturers during the next fortnight at the Fabian Summer School at Llanbedr, North Wales. Included in the speakers in September will be Mr. G. Bernard Shaw and Mr. W. Archer.

MISS CAMILLE CLIFFORD (the Hon. Mrs. Lyndhurst Bruce) experienced a mishap in a motor-car on Wednesday afternoon within a few yards of this office. As the car in which Mrs. Bruce and her husband were travelling cut through a short thoroughfare from Aldwych to Wellington-street, another car came down Wellington-street from the direction of Covent Garden. The front of the latter vehicle came in contact with the back of the Hon. Lyndhurst Bruce's car, but fortunately both cars maintained their balance. Mrs. Bruce and her husband received a violent shaking, but were otherwise unhurt. The back wheels of the "Gibson Girl's" car were slightly damaged and the front of the other car was badly twisted. Mr. Bruce telephoned for another car at his garage in York-road, Waterloo, and on its arrival he and his wife proceeded to their destination.

RIVAL English versions of Herr Molnar's *Der Teufel* were produced by Mr. Fiske and Mr. Savage respectively in New York on Tuesday night. Mr. Fiske's secret rehearsals and Mr. Savage's resolve to produce his work at thirty-six hours' notice on the same night as his rival manager lent additional zest to the productions, and both houses were crowded. According to the critics, there is ample room in New York for both "devils."

MR. PERCY HUTCHISON'S No. 1 company of *Lady Frederick* is this week repeating its success at the County Theatre, Kingston. Miss Mabel Love's entrance on Monday was the signal for a great and spontaneous ovation in all parts of the house, which was packed, many being turned away early in the evening, and the audience insisted upon her taking several calls at the fall of the curtain with Mr. Robert Minster, whose performance as Paradine Fouldes was also a triumph. The dresses worn by Miss Love and Miss Eleanor Delaporte are beautiful creations, and murmurs of praise could be heard from all parts of the house as one lovely gown succeeded another. A huge crowd waited outside the stage door to cheer Miss Love as she left the theatre.

MISS AGNES KNIGHTS (Mrs. E. W. Thomas) has rejoined Mr. Edward Terry for his autumn tour, supporting him for the fifth season in the widely differing rôles of Agatha Posket in *The Magistrate* and Ruth Rolt in *Sweet Lavender*.

MR. GEO. S. KING'S new emotional and domestic play, entitled *His Life for Her Love*, will be produced at the Metropole, Devonport, on Monday. A powerful company has been engaged, including Mr. Douglas C. Phelps, who will appear in the leading rôle and produce the piece. Mr. King will take his annual benefit on Friday next, when the performance will be attended by the Mayor and Mayoress of Devonport and several members of the Devonport Town Council.

PROVINCIAL audiences are delighted with Mr. Hubert Henry Davies' charming play *Captain Drew on Leave*, which is presented by Miss Cynthia Brooke, Mr. Claude King, and Miss Nora Carton's company. The principals are winning high praise in each town visited.

MISS GERTRUDE IRVING is gaining warm encomiums in the part of Mrs. Wiggs in Mr. Gaston Mayer's production of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* on tour, press and public being alike unanimous in their approval. Having lived for some time in Louisville, Kentucky, which is the scene of the now famous Cabbage Patch, Miss Irving is able to add many realistic touches to her portrayal of the delightful Mrs. Wiggs.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN will revive Anthony Hope's play *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* at the Marlborough on Monday. This play, which had such a long and successful run at the Duke of York's, has not been seen in London for some considerable time. Miss Beatrice Wilson will repeat her artistic performance of the Lady Ursula Barrington, a part in which she has won the greatest success in the suburbs and provinces, and Mr. Norman will reappear as Sir George Sylvester.

MR. HALL CAINE, who had an alarming experience with his runaway motor-car, and in consequence had a nervous breakdown, has sent a reassuring message to his anxious admirers. "I am quite unhurt and quite well," he wired, "and nothing is injured but the motor-car and a tree. I can give no explanation of the accident. The car broke away near the top of our steep carriage drive and ran down to a bend of the road, where it buried its bonnet in the stout trunk of a chestnut tree."

THE Earl of Shaftesbury, who has accepted the presidency of the newly-formed Dorset Choral Association, is keenly interested in movements that tend to promote the love of good music. Like the Earl of Kinnoull, his hobby is music, and, like his fellow peer also, he sings with a well-trained and sympathetic voice. As President of the Irish Folk Song Society of London, Lord Shaftesbury takes part in its annual concert, and invariably sings folk songs of Donegal. The folk music of that district of Ulster has a peculiar interest for him, as his mother was the daughter of a Marquis of Donegal, and it was to the Marchioness of Donegal, his great-grandmother, that Tom Moore dedicated his "Irish Melodies."

MR. H. G. DUDLEY BENNETT'S new acquisition, the Opera House, Crewe, has proved an enormous success, due primarily to the excellent bill of fare provided weekly by Mr. H. Percival Young, Mr. Bennett's sole booking representative for Crewe and Burton-on-Trent.

MRS. EDITH COLONA-CHALMERS, widow of Edgar Colona, the Shakespearian tragedian, is in sore need, and writes to say that she has parted with everything of value to support herself and her two boys. She appeals for aid through our columns to her friends in the profession, and would be grateful for any help, which should be sent to 60, Walworth-road, S.E.

MME. KATE FLINN, the finished teacher of singing, is resuming her lessons for the autumn at 11, Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square, and all who want to make as certain of success as may be should avail themselves of the opportunities thus afforded. Mme. Flinn has brought out several pupils this year, amongst them Miss Ruby Cobbett and Mlle. Sowinska. Studying under her now is a charming young soprano with a beautiful voice, of whom great things may be prophesied. Mme. Flinn's "At Homes" at Brighton, which she visits every Saturday, are very agreeable variations of her curriculum, and provide admirable opportunities for the exploitation of new talent.

MR. BANNISTER HOWARD'S arrangements for the autumn at the Crystal Palace Theatre make up an attractive series. The season will begin on Sept. 28 with *The Dairymaids*, followed on Oct. 5 by *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and a week later by *Beau Brocade*. On Oct. 19 Miss Annie Hughes and company will appear in *The Mollusc*; and *Are You a Mason? The Dandy Fifth*, *The Belle of Mayfair*, *Peter's Mother*, *The Beloved Vagabond*, and *The Merry Widow* are announced in regular succession.

MILTON'S Hellenian-Hebraic tragedy, *Samson Agonistes*, will be revived in London next December in connection with the poet's tercentenary celebration. This play was acted for the first time in April, 1900, when it was produced for the Elizabethan Stage Society, and was given in the lecture theatre of the Victoria and Albert Museum. The performance was under the direction of Mr. William Poel, who will be responsible again for the stage management. Representations of the tragedy will also be given in Oxford, Cambridge, Liverpool, and Manchester.

"BEAU BROCADE," the successful romantic play by the authors of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, opens its autumn tour at the Opera House, Southport, on Sept. 7. Mr. Reginald Dance and Miss Ruth Mackay will again play the principal parts, supported by a powerful company.

MR. CECIL A. COLLINS will commence his autumn tour of *Hands Across the Sea*, by the late Henry Pettitt, on Monday, at the Opera House, Weymouth. The cast includes Messrs. Clive Currie, Clifton Boyne, Adam Alexander, Frank Woodville, Patrick Fitzgerald, A. L. Burke, Forrester, Harvey, Edmond Beresford, and Cecil A. Collins, and Misses Marjorie Davenport, Lilla Nordon, Kersteen Graeme, and Beatrice Whitney. Mr. Frank Nelson is the business-manager for the company.

EXTENSIVE alterations have been made during the summer at the Victoria Opera House, Burnley, by Mr. Horner, the lessee and manager. Wide and spacious staircase entrances have been made to the circle and the pit, a new entrance has been made to the refreshment bar, and the stalls have been re-seated and upholstered. Tasteful decoration completes the work.

MR. SIDNEY BLAND, who is at present playing "the Rat" in Mr. Frank Bertram's company of *The Breed of the Treshams*, had the misfortune to break one of his ribs in the fight at the end of Act II. on Monday night. Nevertheless, with the aid of his doctor and at the earnest request of Mr. Gwyn Richardson, manager of the company, Mr. Bland pluckily continued playing the part, and thus maintained the business up to its usual high standard.

THE usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union was held on Tuesday afternoon at Hummums Hotel, Mr. Cecil G. Calvert presiding. Others present were Messrs. Walter Clarke, Frederick Jacques, D. Lewin-Mannering, E. Y. Rae, and W. T. Riley; and Mesdames Cecil E. Anson, Bessie Armytage, May Conrade, Florence Creagh, Maud Henley, Geraldine Montrose, Ella Setan, Elsie Sinclair, Millie Vere, and Laura Vernon. It was decided that the business of the meeting should be regarded as private to the members.

MISS ANNIE SAKER, who is this week playing Astrea (her original part) in *The Midnight Wedding* at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, leaves the cast this evening to rehearse Monica for Messrs. Paumier and Howard's suburban tour of *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*.

OWING to the success that Mr. Charles Hartley and Miss Ethel Gordon Paull met with on their spring tour in Madeira, Canary Islands, and the Riviera, they have made arrangements to pay another visit next spring, starting at Cairo at the end of January.

MISS MABEL MAYOR-COOKE, who has recently returned from San Sebastian after a sojourn there of some months, has been retained by Hardie and Von Leer for their *Two Little Vagabonds* company.

AN occasional correspondent writes:—"I see in the columns of your valuable paper that Miss Evelyn Millard is to go into management at the Garrick with the new play *Idols*, adapted by Roy Horniman from W. J. Locke's novel of the same name. I have a very pleasant recollection of Miss Millard when she was a pupil of Miss Sarah Thorne, of Margate. I had the good fortune to stroll one evening into the Town Hall, Folkestone, to see a performance of *Romeo and Juliet*, with Miss Millard as Shakespeare's loveliest heroine. One of my friends said at the time, 'That young actress who played Juliet will make her mark if I'm not mistaken.' It was a performance charged with spontaneity and freshness, and a more ideal Juliet has been rarely seen."

A NEW one-act play, entitled *The Proof*, by Miss Alice Clayton Greene, will be produced by Mr. Reginald Dance at the Opera House, Southport, on Monday, Sept. 7.

MR. M. RUSSELL ROSSE, who has happily recovered from his recent indisposition, will commence his autumn campaign at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, when he will present Sydney Grundy's comedy, *A Pair of Spectacles*. Mr. David James will resume his old part of Benjamin Goldfinch and Mr. Fred Dobell will be the Uncle Gregory.

MISS LOIE ESMOND, having enjoyed a six weeks' vacation at the seaside, commenced her autumn tour with *The Sorrows of Satan* and *Nana, the Rage of Paris*, on Aug. 3, at the Theatre Royal, Belfast, and there played to overwhelming business the whole week. On the date mentioned Miss Rosie Neville, who has been playing Lady Sybil Elton and Nana for the past fourteen months, reached the age of seventeen. She has been winning golden opinions from press, public, and local managers of the high-class theatres toured by the company.

THE late Bronson Howard, says the New York correspondent of the *Pall Mall*, languished long among the "Great Unacted," and play after play was rejected by the managers until the late Augustin Daly saw possibilities for his company in the piece produced under the title of *Saratoga*. The new note of bright amusing satire on the fashionable American watering-place struck the popular favour. A run of 101 nights was a record in those days, and laid the foundation of both Mr. Daly's and Mr. Howard's fortunes. The piece was taken to England and Anglicised.

IN forty years Bronson Howard averaged one play every two years. *Aristocracy*, produced in 1892, was a society play of the type he had made his own in *The Banker's Daughter* and *Young Mrs. Winthrop*, and was a good example of the playwright's technique in a series of effective dramatic situations. The late dramatist's prediction with regard to the future of the drama is interesting. "In all human probability," he prophesied, "the next great revival of literature in the English language will be in the theatre. The English-speaking world has been gasping for literary breath, and now we begin to feel a certain breeze. Let us hope the drama of this century will yet redeem our desert of general literature. The waters of our Nile are rising."

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

"Patent" Jealousy.

"SMALL as were the privileges accorded to the minor theatres," writes Mr. H. Barton Barker in his "History of the London Stage," "the managers of the patent houses endeavoured to curtail them by prolonging their own seasons further into the summer, and there were appeals to the public from one side and to the Lord Chamberlain from the other. There is a good story illustrative of this feud told in an unpublished letter of Peake's. Dr. Kitchener, who was a general friend of the theatrical people of the day, hit upon what he considered the splendid idea of inviting the four belligerent managers of the Haymarket, English Opera House, Covent Garden, and Drury Lane to a dinner, at which there should be no other guests. The arrangement was kept a close secret, and each arrived profoundly ignorant of the others' presence. Their combined astonishment may be imagined. But, after a little awkwardness, they could not withstand the ludicrousness of the situation, and, bursting out into a hearty laugh, shook hands and put a good face upon the matter. The doctor now tried hard to introduce the subject of their differences, but for a time they parried all his efforts, until at last Elliston, then lessee of Drury Lane, rose, and with an air of overwhelming hauteur, laid his hand upon Arnold's head and exclaimed, 'Minor manager, I will crush you!'"

A "Grave" Indiscretion.

"A CERTAIN well-known actor," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "had graduated at a Liverpool theatre, where he remained for some time, and by his cleverness was promoted to better parts as the season advanced. Eventually he became leading juvenile. Receiving a good offer from a London manager he accepted it, and made a big hit in town. After a time he was touring the provinces, and in the course of his travels he appeared in Liverpool as Hamlet. A comedian who had been at the theatre for a number of years playing the Gravedigger too had got on in his profession. Now, when Hamlet entered for his scene with the Gravedigger he espied his old friend the comedian in the grave, and said to him very quietly, 'How long have they made you First Gravedigger?' 'About as long,' returned the comedian, 'as they have made you Hamlet.' At the finish of the scene the Gravedigger, instead of getting out of the grave and making his exit from the stage, remained below and got to his dressing-room by the passages under the stage. After the burial of Ophelia a voice from the gallery shouted out, 'Did you see that, Harry? They've buried Ophelia on the top of the poor gravedigger.'"

A Lapsus Linguæ.

ON the subject of graves, Mr. Butler Stanhope mentions a little incident that happened at the Theatre Royal, Gravesend, during the stock season. The elections were on at the time. "Vote for So-and-So" posters were plastered all over the town, and excitement ran very high. *Romeo and Juliet* was the play. After the fight between Tybalt and Mercutio Mercutio receives his death-wound, and in his dying speech, instead of saying "Enquire for me to-morrow and you'll find me a grave man," said, "Enquire for me to-morrow, and you'll find me Member for Gravesend."

Saving the Pieces.

AN amusing unrehearsed incident occurred last Saturday at the St. Leonards Pier Theatre during the performance of the farce *Facing the Music*, which added to the general hilarity that prevailed in the audience. Mr. Arthur Dennis was playing the other Mr. Smith, and in the interview with "Uncle" Colonel Smith, played by Mr. Fred Castleman, leaned too heavily on the table spread for breakfast, and brought all the crockery, with a rattling smash, to the ground. The audience roared and clapped at the contretemps. Quickly recovering his composure, Mr. Dennis "saved the pieces," and jocularly called out, "Well, Uncle, you might help a fellow!" The sight of the "Colonel" picking up pieces of sugar and scraps of broken crockery proved excellent business.

George Alexander's Judgment.

"SINCE I commenced my management of the St. James's Theatre," says Mr. George Alexander in the *Royal Magazine* for September, "over sixteen years ago—on February 1st, 1891, to be precise—I have invariably relied upon my judgment of plays, which, happily, has seldom been at fault; but, naturally, one cannot always produce a good play. An actor-manager must be content with what he can get, for really fine plays, like *His House in Order* and *John Glayde's Honour*, to cite two recent successes, are rarities, so that one has, perforce, to do one's best with the material at hand.

The Human Note.

"To exemplify the manner in which even a rough outline of a play impresses one, I cannot, I think, do better than refer to *His House in Order*, which owes much of its popularity to the human note of sympathy it strikes and to the fact that it is true to life. To be sure, Mr. Pinero calls it a comedy, and so it is in the higher meaning of the word, since all life is either comedy or tragedy. But the author has been careful to keep the interest centred on the lighter side of the characters, while the real tragedy is over before the play begins. That is how this particular play struck me from the first moment Mr. Pinero told me his story, and as the play developed act by act I felt convinced it would be a success, so great is its fidelity to life.

The Call of the Stage.

"THE number of would-be theatrical stars who feel they have had 'a call' for the stage is appallingly large. Seemingly, there is glamour about acting; but it is the stage-struck public who see it, not the actor, to whom the theatre is a business, very real, very serious, and often very trying. But those in front of the house see everything going so smoothly that they are somewhat naturally induced to believe that acting is the easiest thing in the world; they forget that a long training is necessary; they overlook the imagination, the keen perception, the self-obliteration, so to speak, which are so essential to the making of a real artist."

The Tenor's Appreciation.

MME. FANNY MOODY had her chance as a singer on the lyric stage when the prima donna Mme. Julia Gaylord fell suddenly ill during the run of *Nordisa*, Mr. Frederick Corder's unsuccessful opera at Drury Lane, where it was produced by the late Carl Rosa. He excitedly asked, "Who is to replace my prima donna?" and when he was told the name of the fresh recruit, he expressed his doubts about her being able to study it. There was no need to do so. The young singer knew it already, and she appeared that evening, with great success, to the delight of everybody, including the tenor, who, in his enthusiasm, hugged the new singer so hard that she was at one moment unable to breathe, much less to sing, and Carl Rosa, from the wings, had to shout: "Look out! Don't kill the prima donna!"

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

"THE PASSING OF THE THIRD FLOOR BACK."

Play, in Three Acts, by Jerome K. Jerome, produced at the Grand Opera House, Harrogate, on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Joey Wright ..... MR. ERNEST HENDRIE
Christopher Penny .... MR. H. MARSH ALLEN
Major Tompkins ..... MR. IAN ROBERTSON
Mrs. Tompkins ..... MISS KATE CARLYON
Vivian ..... MISS ALICE CRAWFORD
Jape Samuels ..... MR. EDWARD SASS
Harry Larkcom ..... MR. WILFRED FORSTER
Miss Kite ..... MISS HAIDEE WRIGHT
Mrs. Percival de Hooley .... MISS KATE BISHOP
Stasia ..... MISS GERTRUDE ELLIOTT
Mrs. Sharpe ..... MISS AGNES THOMAS
The Third Floor Back .. MR. FORBES ROBERTSON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A beautiful idea dramatically treated is contained in the above new play, which was produced with every success by Mr. Forbes Robertson at Harrogate on Thursday, the 13th inst. The piece is described as "an idle fancy in a prologue, a play, and an epilogue." The scene is a Bloomsbury boarding-house, the roof of which covers a mixed collection. Variously described as a "cheat," a "slut," a "painted lady," a "shrew," a "snob," a "bully," a "hussy," a "satyr," a "coward," a "rogue," and a "cad," these people are living out their little lives, full of deceit, envy, hatred, and all uncharitableness. The cheat, the landlady, Mrs. Sharpe, and her slut, Stasia, are discovered pouring water into the milk-jug, and Mrs. Sharpe, having noticed the piano candles (only half burnt) have disappeared, is abusing Stasia in consequence. The various guests enter for tea. Major Tompkins, who drinks and bullies his wife; Jape Samuels, a "shark" from the City, and his cad of a friend, Harry Larkcom; Mrs. Percival de Hooley, who is cousin to Sir George Tweedle, Bart, and cannot get over the fact; Miss Kite, a lady of uncertain age, made up and dyed to appear twenty or thereabouts; Joey Wright, a retired bookmaker—retired owing to loss of voice; Christopher Penny, a young and struggling artist; and Vivian Tompkins, daughter to the Major, engaged to Wright, the rich bookmaker, but in love with Christopher Penny—this motley crowd make up the household. After tea Stasia inquires of Mrs. Sharpe if she intends to put up the card announcing "Apartments." Mrs. Sharpe replies in the negative. Stasia, inspired doubtless by cheap novelettes, replies that often noblemen in disguise turn up, and advises the card to be placed over the door. Mrs. Sharpe commands "No." When, however, she has made her exit to superintend dinner Stasia places the card in the fanlight over the door. Almost at once there is a knock, and the door opening admits the "passer-by." He asks for rooms, and Mrs. Sharpe, who interviews him, tells him her terms for the third floor back are £2 10s. per week, but she will reduce the amount for him to £2. The stranger does not desire such a reduction. He talks to her about many things, herself in particular—her past, her future. She tells him she made a mistake about the rooms; it should have been 30s. per week. He exercises an influence for good over all persons with whom he comes in contact.

In the play itself the new arrival interviews all the boarders separately, and each and several then and there make up their minds to lead better lives. Joey Wright gives up Vivian to her poor artist lover, on whom he has bestowed commissions for portraits of himself and others; the Major ceases to bully his wife, and they become a loving and exemplary couple; the Jewish shark, Jape Samuels, instead of trying to swindle people into taking shares in a silver mine, tells the landlady she has not charged him for a chop he has eaten; his jackal, Harry Larkcom, has gone on the stage, and takes a delight in giving pleasure to others instead of tempting Stasia from the paths of rectitude with imitation emerald earrings; and Miss Kite, the "painted lady," acting on the advice of the Third Floor Back, comes down to the room minus make-up and dressed as suits a maiden lady of mature years. Having accomplished all this good work the Third Floor Back takes his leave, privately, of each character, saying as he leaves, "I have other work to do." He goes out of the darkened room, but the sunlight pours in as it has never done before.

The "spirit of love and of our better selves" embodied in the Third Floor Back is played by that consummate artist, Mr. Forbes Robertson. The character is a "preachy" one, and everything is made the text for a sermon, but doubtless this phase of the character will be modified. Mr. Forbes Robertson's quiet dignity and magnificent voice were eminently suited to such a part, and he won throughout the highest admiration. Miss Gertrude Elliott was excellent as the slavey, Stasia, and is to be congratulated on a clever character study; Mr. Edward Sass, artist as he always is, proved his sterling qualities once again in the rôle of Jape Samuels; Miss Agnes Thomas as Mrs. Sharpe gave a typical picture of a certain class of boarding-house keeper; Mr. Ernest Hendrie was good as the retired bookmaker with no voice; Mr. Marsh Allen was a capital exponent of Christopher Penny; Miss Haidee Wright gave a wonderfully clever performance as Miss Kite, the made-up lady of uncertain age; and Miss Kate Bishop was admirable as the snobbish Mrs. Percival de Hooley. Mr. Ian Robertson combined the duties of stage-manager with the part of Major Tompkins, and in both capacities did very well. Miss Alice Crawford is to be congratulated on her comely appearance and finished performance as the daughter Vivian. Mr. Forbes Robertson was called and recalled after each act, and a vociferous demand was made for the author, who, however, did not respond.

"THE SCENE-PAINTER," wrote T. W. Robertson once in the *Illustrated Times*, "is usually one of the pleasantest men in the theatre. King in his snug painting-room high above the stage, he recks not of the whirl of passions and vanities below. It is a great power the theatrical Scene-painter holds between his pliant thumb and fingers. He copies Nature on a large scale. It must be high delight to look upon a broad, flat, white surface, and choose whether it shall be converted into an Emir's palace, all pillars, curtains, gold tassels, fringes, and polished-mirror marble floor, the hot sun shining on a fountain in the distance; or into an Alpine gorge, with blocks of snow-covered stone and funereal fir-trees, with plains of ice conducting to a frosty horizon; or into a magician's cavern, where the dark rocks, cut in fantastic forms, loom into sight in the shape of squatting demons, petrified giants, and ghostly vertebræ of huge and hideous reptiles; or into a sparkling, rippling sea, with but one white speck of sail between it and the clear dome of blue sky above it. These are great privileges. But the great charm of the Scene-painter's life is to take off his well-cut, well-brushed garments, and don his painting suit; then he revels in dirt and daubs and spots, that are of his clothes, and not of him. How? That very faultlessly got-up gentleman, who just now asked for letters in the hall; that exquisite in the black frock-coat, pearl-coloured trousers, fashionable hat, and perfect boots—can he be this canvassy creature in a wideawake which a thriving farmer would be ashamed to see upon his scarecrow? That dirty jacket, those grimy trousers! Is it a beggar who has made himself a suit out of old sail-cloth? No! It is an artistic gentleman, who owns a villa in the neighbourhood of Hampstead, who has choice wines in his cellar, and is a captain of Volunteers."

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"THE OLD FIRM."

Farce in Three Acts, by Edward and Harry Paulton, produced for the first time at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Monday, Aug. 17.

Daniel Hake ..... MR. RICHARD GOLDEN
Mr. Nichol ..... MR. JERROLD ROBERTSHAW
Harrison ..... MR. CLAYTON GREENE
Herbert Wardley ..... MR. FRANK TENNANT
Jabez Vennamy ..... MR. ERNEST A. DOUGLAS
Merrick ..... MR. GEORGE WEST
Deffner ..... MR. ATHELING FARRAR
Rosalie ..... MISS BEATRICE FERRAR
Lila Hake ..... MISS GLADYS MASON
Judy Hake ..... MISS ALICE BEET
Lucy Upton ..... MISS CONSTANCE HYEM
Fay Lofty ..... MISS FLORENCE LLOYD

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. William Greet and all concerned are to be heartily congratulated on the three-act farce which saw the light at Newcastle on Monday. The piece is well conceived and cleverly written, the dialogue crisp and sparkling, and a strong vein of rich humour runs throughout the play, broken here and there by touches of pathos, which serve to make the enjoyment complete. The action opens in the house of Daniel Hake, an old "New England" inventor, whose lack of business ability leads him into serious financial difficulties. He is hardly pressed by Jabez Vennamy, an unscrupulous agent, who is the chief creditor, and as a last resource he goes out to drown himself, but a shower of rain somewhat "damps his enthusiasm" with regard to that mode of self-extinction, and he returns home. A gentleman of the name of Nichol (of Messrs. Nichol and Nichol), who wishes to treat with Daniel for the purchase of his invention, arrives in the midst of the storm, making his entry through the window just as Daniel, in despair, is considering the possibilities of emulating Faust by calling up the devil to his assistance. Daniel imagines that his wish has been granted, and the deception is further strengthened by Mr. Nichol saying that amongst his intimates he is known as "Old Nick." A contract is signed whereby Daniel binds himself to his new ally, and everything that happens afterwards he ascribes to his association with the "evil one." Naturally, this state of affairs leads to many ludicrous situations. Daniel has an assistant, who is the son of Mr. Nichol, but is working under the assumed name of Harrison. He is in love with his master's daughter Lila, and in order to propitiate Daniel Hake before asking for Lila's hand refurnishes the house, and also places money to Daniel's account in the bank. Lila is bound to secrecy for the time being, and Daniel ascribes all these changes to his powerful master "Old Nick." The situations become more and more confusing to old Daniel until at last the usual explanations are made and everything ends satisfactorily, Jabez Vennamy is outwitted, and Daniel escapes from the persecution of a termagant of a second wife by the intervention of a lady member of the firm of Nichol and Nichol, who proves Mrs. Hake the second to be a bigamist and a thief.

The authors could not have secured a more suitable man for their leading rôle than Richard Golden, one of America's quaintest and most original comedians, who seems to exactly fit the part. Mr. Golden's Daniel Hake is a masterpiece of character acting, unmistakably American, his absolute originality and quaint mannerisms adding to the interest of a delightful performance. There is dramatic force in his violent scenes with his wife, and touching pathos when he finds himself ruined, but for the most part he is a quaint, simple-minded old man, with an immense fund of humour. The rest of the company consists of well-chosen, capable artists. Mr. Clayton Greene appears as Harrison, the lover of Lila, and gives a natural rendering of the part; whilst Lila Hake is charmingly portrayed by Miss Gladys Mason. Miss Beatrice Ferrar is a lively, boisterous maid of all work, with a dry sense of humour, and Miss Alice Beet is excellent in the part of the shewish second wife, Judy Hake. Her partner in mischief, Jabez Vennamy, is well played by Mr. Ernest A. Douglas, whilst Mr. Nichol ("Old Nick") is quietly and consistently played by Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw. Other leading rôles are ably portrayed by Miss Constance Hyem, Miss Florence Lloyd, and Mr. Frank Tennant.

The incidental music has been written by Mr. Percy E. Fletcher. At the fall of the curtain Mr. Golden, in response to enthusiastic applause, expressed thanks on behalf of the authors and himself at the kindly appreciation afforded to the production.

MORE "TERRITORIAL MANŒUVRES."

The Right Hon. Richard Burdon Haldane, Secretary of State for War, has sent the following letter to the directors of the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, concerning their arrangements for the Territorial Day there to-day (22nd inst.):—

"Cloan, Auchterarder, N.B.
"Aug. 19.

"Dear Sirs,—I am grateful to hear of the invitation which the directors of your company have given to the members of the Territorial Force to visit the Hungarian Exhibition on Saturday. This mark of appreciation and welcome is generous, and comes at a very appropriate moment.—Believe me, yours sincerely,

"(Signed) R. B. HALDANE."

Each "Terrier" has been also invited to bring a lady with him, and it is generally expected that the non-commissioned officers and men will wear full-dress uniform. The five British and Hungarian bands and orchestras, including H.M. 7th (Queen's Own) Hussars, conducted by Mr. James Slattery, and the Hungarian Cadets, will play throughout the day and evening patriotic and popular selections, while in the wonderfully successful Summer Ballroom the Earl's Court Quadrille Band will have on their programme the "British Empire" two-step, "Army and Navy" lancers, "Health to His Majesty" quadrilles, the "Territorial" two-step, &c., to delight lovers of terpsichore. Further, all soldiers and sailors in uniform of the regular forces will be admitted free. The invitation has been widely accepted by all the City of London regiments; all the County of London regiments; the Territorial Force Associations of the City of London, Surrey, Middlesex, Essex, and Kent, 1st City of London Yeomanry, 1st and 2nd City of London Horse Artillery (H.A.C.), 1st City of London Brigade Royal Field Artillery, Mounted Brigade Transport and Supply Column, 1st and 2nd London Field Ambulance R.A.M.C., King's Colonials, London R.G.A. Heavy Brigade, the London Scottish, Royal Engineers, 1st Territorial Division, Middlesex Territorial Division Army Service Corps, Electrical Engineers (London Division), West Kent Yeomanry, East Kent Yeomanry, 1st Home Counties (C.P.) Brigade R.F.A., Civil Service Cadet Corps, and other units.

MISS DAISY HALLING writes:—"Sir, In an article on 'A Minimum Wage for Actors' by the Hon. Chas. Lister and the undersigned, which appears in the August number of the *Socialist Review*, a reference is made to the 'Amateur Dramatic Association.' It should read 'Academy of Dramatic Art.' We shall esteem it a favour if you will insert this correction in *The Era* for the elucidation of perplexed readers of the article. Difficult though it may be to adduce evidence of the need for actors' organisation, it is not necessary to refer to the non-existent in support of it."

"THE HEAD OF THE FIRM."

A Comedy in Four Acts, adapted from the Danish of Hjalmar Bergstrom by Leslie Faber, produced at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Thursday, August 13.

John Lydford ..... MR. CHARLES V. FRANCE
Philip Lydford ..... MR. RICHARD NEVILLE
James Browne ..... MR. FREDERICK MORLAND
Edward Dalby ..... MR. EVELYN BEERBOHM
Butler ..... MR. ALBERT COE
George Heymann ..... MR. LESLIE FABER
Mrs. Dalby ..... MISS BEATRICE AINLEY
Helen Lydford ..... MISS ELIZABETH WATSON
Betty Lydford ..... MISS MURIEL POPE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The action takes place in Lydford's house, on the outskirts of a large Midland manufacturing town, at the present time, and lasts from the evening of one day until the afternoon of the next day. John Lydford has carried on a large iron foundry successfully, as also did his father and grandfather before him. In his employ as manager is George Heymann, of Jewish descent, who has risen to his present position from that of office boy. Heymann, with the approval of Lydford, has formulated a scheme for converting the business into a limited liability company, with himself as managing director. Mrs. Lydford and her son Philip are much opposed to Heymann and his scheme, they favouring a profit-sharing arrangement with the workmen, who are threatening to strike. Lydford has every confidence in Heymann, both with regard to his integrity and business capacity, Lydford himself being a somewhat easy-going man, who takes much interest in art in the way of collecting valuable pictures. The opposition of Mrs. Lydford and her son to the proposed scheme, and the hesitation of Lydford to sign the necessary papers, provokes Heymann to state that for some years he has been offered the post of manager to a powerful rival concern called the "Steel Trust," the appointment still being open. He states his intention of accepting the post, and, throwing on the table the proposed company papers, leaves the house in anger. Subsequently it transpires that Heymann had become engaged to Betty Lydford, and, as a strike occurs, the whole family is anxious to get Heymann back. The play ends very abruptly by Mrs. Lydford writing a letter to Heymann asking him to return. The letter is duly delivered to Heymann, and the butler enters to announce him. The curtain, however, falls before his appearance, so the assumption is that Heymann puts everything straight, marries Betty, and that they all live happily ever after. The play is smartly written, and it is decidedly interesting, but the conclusion might be improved by the entrance of Heymann and a general reconciliation, ending with the signing of the company papers.

Mr. Leslie Faber acts with much discretion and power as George Heymann; Mr. Charles V. France distinguishes himself as John Lydford; Miss Elizabeth Watson presents a clever study of Mrs. Lydford; Mr. Frederick Morland acts cleverly as the shrewd old schoolmaster, James Browne; Mr. Richard Neville makes the most of his part of Philip Lydford; Miss Beatrice Ainley is sufficiently humble as Mrs. Dalby, a pensioner of Mrs. Lydford; Mr. Evelyn Beerbohm does his best with the somewhat objectionable part of Edward Dalby; Miss Muriel Pope acts prettily as Betty Lydford; and Mr. Albert Coe completes the cast by a staid and careful impersonation of John Lydford's butler.

PROMENADE CONCERTS.

An enormous audience assembled at Queen's Hall on Saturday evening, the opening night of the fourteenth season of promenade concerts under the conductorship of Mr. Henry J. Wood. As several of the popular members of the orchestra entered they were greeted with enthusiastic applause, while a perfect ovation was awarded to Mr. Henry Wood. After the National Anthem had been sung and heartily cheered the concert commenced with Wagner's "Prelude" to *Lohengrin*, played with great delicacy and refinement by the fine orchestra. The chief item in the programme on Saturday was Sir Edward Elgar's suite, entitled "The Wand of Youth," an arrangement of six numbers composed for a juvenile play, and first heard at the Queen's Hall Symphony Concerts last year. The overture to the suite is fresh and youthful in its themes, while it is followed by a singularly graceful "Serenade." A quaint and charming "Minuet" and the skilfully-written "Sun-dance," with its waltz-like theme, are two very attractive numbers of the Suite. "The Fairy Pipers," a lullaby, and "Fairies and Giants" complete an interesting work, which was loudly applauded by the audience. Mr. Jacques Renard gave an excellent rendering of Max Bruch's "Kol-Nedrei," for violoncello and orchestra. Other successful performances by the orchestra were Weingartner's arrangement of Weber's "Invitation à la Valse," the suite "Karelia" (Sibelius), Tschaikovsky's fiery overture "1812," Dukas' scherzo, "L'Apprenti Sorcier," and Elgar's march, "Pomp and Circumstance," No. 4 in G. Miss Esta D'Argo, who sang Max Bruch's "Ave Maria," had two hearty recalls, and Mr. Lloyd Chandos was heard to great advantage in Lenski's Aria from Tschaikovsky's opera *Eugen Onegin*. The analytical notes in the programme this year are by Mrs. Rosa Newmarsh.

SHREWSBURY FLORAL FETE.

The colossal open-air fête annually held in the beautiful park at Shrewsbury known as the Quarry Grounds, took place on Wednesday and Thursday in this week, being the thirty-fourth of its kind, and, if possible, exceeding in attractiveness and success any previous gala. The variety and aerial performances given on specially-erected stages on both days were exceptionally fine, many of the leading artists of the day having been engaged. The Three Rubys gave a particularly good acrobatic act; the Warwick troupe of lady bicyclists contributed a remarkably graceful, rhythmic, and accomplished performance; the Lorch Family of nine acrobats were wonderfully smart and skilful; Aerian and Ostara, flying gymnasts, executed their daring leaps and somersaults in a manner which evoked plenty af applause; Brinn, the great Australian balancer of cannons and Maxim gun, gave a unique and well-nigh inconceivable performance; Cummin and Seaham provided heaps of fun in their comical and clever knockabout turn; Cole de Losse Duo merited high praise in an exceedingly smart comedy wire act; the performance of the Three Donalds on silver breakaway chains was novel and brilliant; those old favourite never-failing mirth-provokers, the Griffiths Bros., had something new and clever to entertain and amuse; Ella Zuila and Lu Lu executed a series of wonderfully graceful and sensational feats on the high cable, their final show, amid fireworks, being a magnificent feature; and the O'Briens were exceptionally smart and talented in their three-bar leaps and revolutions. Balloon ascents by the Spencer Bros., classical music by the high-class bands of H.M. Coldstream Guards, H.M. Artillery, and the King's Shropshire Artillery, and superb displays of fireworks by Messrs. W. and J. Wilder, of Birmingham, formed part of the great programme of amusements provided. Mr. Thos. James's orchestral band, of Wolverhampton, played appropriate airs during the stage performances. Mr. E. R. Hollier was in his accustomed place as stage-manager, and the general secretaries, Messrs. Adnott and Naunton, carried out with their accustomed efficiency the duties of general secretaries to the fête. Messrs. Anger and Bauer, London, were again agents for performers.

THE MOODY-MANNERS COMPANY.

Mr. Charles Manners and Mme. Fanny Moody were both happily placed in the opening performance on Monday of *Lohengrin* by their company at the Lyric Theatre, which was crowded with lovers of opera in Anglo-Saxon, who recognised the fine ensemble of the orchestra under the direction of Herr Eckhold, and had a warm welcome for the chief artists, especially for the gifted lady whose name is placed first in the title of the company whose high traditions she did so much to establish. *Lohengrin* was played by the following cast:—

Lohengrin ..... MR. PHILIP BROZEL
Frederick of Telramund ..... MR. LEWYS JAMES
King ..... MR. CHARLES MANNERS
Herald ..... MR. CHARLES MOORHOUSE
Ortrud ..... MISS MARIE LOUISE ROGER
Elsa ..... MME. FANNY MOODY

Mme. Fanny Moody's Elsa retains the romantic charm which has been always regarded as the chief attribute of her impersonation. The character is invested, too, with a dreamy significance, which adds appreciably to the beauty of the rendering, and the sincerity of her acting, especially in the later portions of the opera, assists to bring out the true dramatic power of the situations. The chivalrous knight-deliverer of the maiden of Brabant was Mr. Philip Brozel, who returns again to serve under the Moody-Manners banner. His Lohengrin is not lacking the romantic halo that one looks for naturally in the Knight of the Swan, and the entrance of Mr. Brozel on Monday night was impressively dramatic. Though in the main his rendering of the character might be termed robust, it was essentially sympathetic, with a fine suggestion, too, of predestined fate in the rendering of the music of the last act. Mr. Charles Manners played the King with sonorous dignity and with a lighter touch than is generally to be observed in renderings of the character. His fine breadth of phrasing and his round, full tone again made a great impression. Mr. Lewys James, who adds every season to his operatic répertoire, was seen once more as Telramund, the difficulties of which character can scarcely be over-estimated. The acting showed a considerable advance, and the singer's fine voice did complete justice to the rather trying music, especially in the second act in the long duet with Ortrud, a character that was played by a newcomer, Miss Marie Louise Roger, whose voice displays power and resonance, and who came through a high trial with much credit. Miss Roger is a most intelligent actress, and with the necessary experience should become a valuable member of the company. Mr. Charles Moorhouse made an excellent Herald. The chorus sang with their usual animation and freshness, and the production gave a great deal of pleasure.

On Tuesday, Aug. 18, *Faust* was given, with Miss Kate Anderson as Marguerite and Mr. Seth Hughes, the Welsh tenor, in the title-rôle, Mr. Chas. Manners being an incomparable Mephistopheles. *Il Trovatore* formed the attraction of Wednesday's matinée, Madame De Vere Sapio making her first appearance this season as Leonora, Mr. Charles Carter being the Manrico. Madame Fanny Moody repeated her success as Madame Butterfly on Wednesday evening, Miss Toni Seiter being the Suzuki and Mr. Seth Hughes the Pinkerton. *Aïda* was given on Thursday evening, and last evening Mr. Louis Laurier, a new tenor, was to make his first appearance as Tannhäuser.

"THE POSTERN GATE."

A One-Act Play, by B. Iden Payne, produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, on Thursday, Aug. 13.

Capt. Ambrose Underwood .. MR. LEWIS CASSON
Sir Thomas Ambergate .. MR. EDWARD LANDOR
Sophia Ambergate ..... MISS DORIS HORROCKS
Ensign Dermott Enderby .. MR. LEONARD MUDIE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Postern Gate is rather a good idea, written in a pretty Lyttonese vein. Three of the characters, the Captain, the Ensign, and Sophia, are "merely players," in the sense that they are playing parts to deceive Sir Thomas, Sophia's father, whom they fool to the top of his bent. Nor is the audience let into the secret till the end, when a flutter of laughter and surprise filled the theatre. The case is this: Sophia is beloved by the penniless Ensign, Dermott Enderby, and she loves him, and to confound the obdurate parent, Sir Thomas Ambergate, the pair are plotting to elope; in fact, are to meet for this purpose at night at the postern gate in Sir Thomas' garden. To frustrate this end, Captain Ambrose Underwood has brought Sir Thomas, and that from purely disinterested motives, he is careful to explain to the irate parent, who is amazed at his daughter's temerity, she having hitherto submitted herself to him in all things. Doubting the disinterestedness of the Captain, he wrings from him the interesting fact that his own hopes lie in that direction, and that he would fain win Sophia for himself by betraying his friend. Stifling his wrath at this daring avowal, the old man hies him to a sheltering tree, with the Captain, Mephistopheles-like, in attendance. He sees the lovers meet, and the Ensign conjuring his love to fly, for she has repented at the last moment, and will not go with him. Resisting all his entreaties, she pictures her dear father made desolate by her flight, the while he upbraids her for having "lit within his heart a flaming torch," and calls her "renegade." Distraught, she now consents to fly with him, when lo! the Ensign himself is seized with sudden remorse, and with surprising abnegation bids her stay with her father, while he—"he will go alone and desolate into the world." Whereon out rushes the visibly impressed parent, who, of course, has heard all, and unites the lovers for their "loyalty." Captain Ambrose is given "marching orders" for his "treachery," but the young Ensign magnanimously pleads for him, and he is forgiven, the old man calling his servants and bidding them prepare punch to be drunk in the house in honour of the occasion. The Ensign craving a few moments alone with his "false friend," the Captain, the old man departs with his daughter into the house, and the pair are left chuckling at the success of their scheme, which has been one to hoodwink the old man from start to finish. In short, the elopement and the "false friend's treachery," &c., was all a hoax.

The little play appeared to give much pleasure, the "love interest" caught well, and the "surprise" at the end undoubtedly scored. Mr. Lewis Casson as Captain Ambrose wore a merry mocking air and a buoyant gait that well became the part; Mr. Edward Landor as the "stern parent," Sir Thomas Ambergate, gave vent to his feelings in a perfectly natural manner, being explosive, credulous, and alert as the part in turns demanded; Miss Doris Horrocks dissimulated admirably as the daughter, Sophia, the perplexities of the girl under the stressful circumstances being portrayed sufficiently to deceive any father; while Mr. Leonard Mudie gave off his protestations of love with a fervour that would carry any girl by storm.

MR. A. CLIFTON ALDERSON, whose *Coal King* company is playing at Wigan, the scene of the great colliery disaster, received a visit from the Chief Constable, with a request that he would lend the rescue apparatus of the Fleuss-Davis pattern, with which the drama is equipped. It was found, however, that the machines were not required, as the rescue party was a strong one and came from all parts of Lancashire and Yorkshire with plenty of their own. The apparatus is causing a deal of curiosity in the towns visited, and Mr. Leslie Vyner, the manager of the company, has been kept busy explaining the working to numerous officials.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page* 11.)

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—*A Life for a Life*, presented by Mr. Charles H. Lester's company, is drawing capital houses here this week. As Don Leon Fernandez, alias Josh Harker, Mr. Lester displays marked ability; Mr. Richard Bosco as the evildoer, Pedro Li Calci, plays with excellent effect; Mr. Harry T. Wood supplies an efficient Kit Oswald; Mr. Horace Buckley creates diversion in the rôle of Tim McCarthy; and Mr. Charles Osborne is a capable John Evelyn. Miss Beatrice Anderson portrays Eulalie with skill; Kate Evelyn is tastefully played by Miss Dorothy Riddell; Miss Lydia Hart is a pleasing Nancy Dorn; and Little Irene's singing and dancing delight the audience.

SHEERNESS. — Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—At the head of a capital list of turns this week is Charcot with his "Automatic Man," a distinctly clever and mystifying performance, which aroused the enthusiasm of a packed house. Roars of laughter continue while Leonard Teel, the suffering dame, occupies the stage; Madge Daly, a dainty, smartly dressed comedienne, elicits unstinted praise; Cedar and Elgar, in the comedy act *Ye Knights of Olde*, are clever and amusing, and Ross, Elvio, and Ross, in the comedy sketch *Those Troublesome Slaveys*, keep the house in screams of laughter. Marie Goodwin, comedienne, meets with success, and Johnny Worman is an excellent character comedian. The Bioscope concludes with pictures of more than ordinary interest.

Co-Operative Hall.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—This week's selections of pictures is varied and interesting, the principal items being The Vengeance of Man, Japanese Butterflies, Hurrah for Bachelorhood, Across the Frontier, and The Singer and the Songs. There are good attendances nightly.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The amusing farce *Dear Old Charlie* was played on Monday under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Williams. In Mr. Hawtrey's part of Charlie Mr. George Lestocq kept the house in roars of laughter, and a capital foil was provided by the Thomas Dumple of Mr. S. Trelawney; Miss Leonora Braham looked stylish and acted vivaciously; a good character sketch was Mr. Duncan Young's Colonel Fishbourne; Miss Marjorie Chard was a graceful and attractive Agnes; and other brightly played characters were the Gabriel Peplôe of Mr. Douglas Cox and the Captain Carew of Mr. Cyril Vernon. The concluding piece was a dramatic and terpsichorean episode, *Salome*. Both pieces were staged with the usual Lyceum liberality.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The sensational drama of modern life, *The Woman Pays*, has proved quite to the taste of the Royal habitués this week. The characters are well represented by the members of Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company, and some artistic scenery is provided.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's popular company opened on Monday in the realistic drama *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss Florence M. Millett as Risca looked handsome in her beautiful dresses, and she acted with dramatic intensity; Mr. Eric Campbell was a powerful representative of the interesting character of Jim Murley; and excellently acted parts were Mr. Milner Noble's Pharosaphus, Mr. J. A. Wilson's Railton, Mr. Arthur Robinson's Guise Strange, Mr. Douglas Campbell's Reggie Verincourt, Mr. C. R. Lovell's Isaacs, Mr. Carruthers' Karnaphus, Mr. Harry Melton's Eric Melville, Mr. H. Mecres' Bransmere, Miss Gertrude Camp's Marion Isaacs, Miss Beatrice Reynolds' Vavasole, and Miss Gwendolyne Talbot's Doris Melville. The scenery was very effective.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Here, as elsewhere, the visit of Mr. Harry Lauder throws all other matters of public interest into the shade. The Seven Wulfrunas are seen in a novel act, and Mr. Frank Lynne, character comedian; Miss Aida Martine; Mr. Ed. E. Ford, "the Sundowner" humourist; Alexandre and Hughes, eccentric musical entertainers; Mr. Russell Brandrow; the Four Figaros, refined artists; and Miss Lena Verdi, burlesque actress, complete the bill.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The pièce de résistance here is a lively and well-mounted whimsicality, *The Capture of Venus*, cleverly played by Mr. J. C. Piddock and a capable company. Other artists giving pleasure to large audiences this week are the agile and graceful Parisian dancers Susie and Protti; Francini Olloms, in a quite unique entertainment; the Ringling Trio, diverting acrobatic eccentrics; Hall and Earle as "The Chinaman and the Tramp"; Miss Teddy Edmonds's company in *The Sportsman*; Miss Maud Prenton, serio comedienne; the Two Kays, in a comedy turn; and the celebrated Boller Brothers, intrepid and graceful cyclists. The Barrascope concludes a good all-round programme.

Grand Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Appearing here to good houses are Babs Lloyd, Mr. Harry Luck, Len Towers, Messrs. Wragg and Wragg, military athletes, Mr. Clanmore Jones, with illustrated songs, the Raymond Bio-Tableaux Co., with the latest animated pictures, and Mr. Leslie Bell, Miss Pearl, and company in a clever sketch, *The Red Letter*, with new scenery and effects.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company is scoring a success with *Her Love Against the World*. Mr. Fred Emery as the Earl of Strathmere gives a fine representation of the brave soldier; Miss Grace Heywood plays the part of Iris with a distinct charm of manner. The other parts are all well played, and the scenery and effects are excellent.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Fred Karno's company of comedians, headed by Mr. George Hestor as Sergt. Lightning, is appearing in *The Dandy Thieves*. Mr. Hestor's facile methods, many disguises, and infectious humour cause unbounded laughter; Sergt. Brennan excels as a diabolist; Edie Reynolds is a skilful violinist. Others appearing are Irene and Morton, comedy merchants; Billy French, dancer; Georgina Middleton, vocalist, and Harry Milton, comedian and dancer.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—The star turn is supplied by Mr. Jake Friedman and his company in the miniature musical medley *Happy Holland*, which goes with a bang from start to finish. The sketch is beautifully dressed and staged, and the members of the company sing and dance extremely well; Harry Russon, actor-comedian, brings down the house with his character studies; Harry Champion, the popular comedian, and Rosie Lloyd, comedienne, both prosper well; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor dance divinely; Gicardo, boy juggler, Constance Mori, comedienne, and Little Jenny Alexander, child mimic, all contribute to the successful entertainment.

Pier Pavilion.—Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Sait.—One of the best companies that has ever visited Southampton, the Nonentities, have this week made themselves popular favourites. This party are particularly strong in the humorous concerted pieces, which they have wisely made a feature of their programmes. Mr. Fred Evered excels as a lady impersonator, and wins golden opinions for his well-rendered songs; Miss Louie Counsell is dainty and fascinating in everything she does, her singing and dancing being charming. Mr. Oscar Mills is the life and soul of the party, his quips and cranks keeping the house rocking with laughter; Mr. Roland Foster (basso), Mr. Lavater F. Sumner (baritone), and Miss Madeline Stone (contralto) all contribute acceptable numbers; Mr. Oscar Mills is to be congratulated on the excellence of his concerts, the outstanding feature of which is refinement.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—The attraction for the first half of this week was presented by Mr. Mouillot's strong company in the musical comedy *The Girl Behind the Counter*, which proved a decided success. Dresses and scenery elicited admiration. Mr. W. D. J. Damant made an able musical-director, the choruses being rendered in tasteful and pleasing manner. Mr. H. B. Clark Chadwick, who impersonated General Sir Wilkie Willoughby in masterly style, was delightful in song and patter; Mr. S. Lockridge gave a successful characterisation of Charles Chetwyn; and Mr. Ferris Pounds did equally well with Viscount Cushington; Mr. A. M. Moore as the waiter caused much merriment; Miss Gracie Moore sang in good voice, and her interpretation of Winnie Willoughby was both intelligent and clever. Miss Irene Vere made a pleasing character of Millie Mostyn; Miss Irene Lavington as Susie proved a capable exponent; and Miss Winifred Knightly won honours for an able delineation of Lady Willoughby. For the latter half of this week attractive variety entertainment is being given by Mr. Geo. Dance's company.

The Kursaal.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—Good support is given both the daily entertainments in the theatre, and this week's programme of varieties proves very popular. The retention of Mr. J. Carter's clever troupe of Ten San-Tan Girls in their delightful portrayal of *An Eastern Slave*, a scena with pretty dances and good songs, is decidedly successful; Griffin and Ardel also make another pleasing appearance this week, their acrobatic feats being remarkable; the Misses Bella and Greta gain honours as harmonising vocalists and danseuses; the Milton Trio prove highly entertaining with paper manipulation, song, and speciality dances; Miss Marie Florence sings and dances with evident delight, as also does Mr. Sam Mitchello; and Mr. Will Norris contributes in good style as a coster comedian. Mr. Victor G. Carter directs the Concert Party for the Café Chantant entertainment, another attraction which gets well appreciated, and which has additional interest by the Bioscope pictures being depicted here, the four series of new films being very enjoyable. Special interest was shown in the Ladies' Beauty Show on Wednesday evening, this novel competition drawing a large number of entrants, far in excess of last year.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—Mr. Frank Weathersby entertains this week with the farcical comedy *Facing the Music*, and his company win unstinted applause for a talented characterisation. Mr. Dare Austin, in the rôle of the Rev. John Smith, works with success; while the other Mr. John Smith has a studious and masterly exponent in Mr. Arthur Dennis; Dick Desmond is creditably impersonated by Mr. Robert Noble; Colonel Duncan Smith is well represented by Mr. Fred Castleman; and Sergeant Duffell is well suited to Mr. Tom Tindall. Miss Ida Chapman as Mabel, the cleric's wife, displays talent in a marked degree, and Miss Helena Parsons gives a pleasing and dignified rendering of Nora, the other Mr. Smith's wife; Miss Lou Langley as Miss Fotheringay, and Miss Amy Lorraine as Mrs. Parting sustain their parts with credit. *His Wedding Morning*, a comedy duologue, precedes.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard is this week presenting Mr. George Musgrove's principal company in *The Belle of New York*, which has apparently lost none of its former attractiveness. Mr. Frank Lawton in his original part of Blinky Bill repeated his past successes; Miss Hebe Kneller depicted the title-rôle with charming artistic skill; Mamie Clancy had an excellent and vivacious representative in Miss Florence Hersee; Miss Dorothy Doria enacted the part of Fifi Fricot in a piquant and fascinating manner; Mr. Arthur Ricketts submitted an admirable and clever impersonation of Ichabod Bronson; Mr. James A. Watts did exceedingly well in the character of Harry Bronson; Mr. William Hartigan's Doc Snifkins and Mr. Alec Godfrey's Kenneth Mugg were both capital comedy sketches; Cora Angelique was cleverly and characteristically portrayed by Miss Winnie Browne, and the polite lunatic had a grotesque impersonator in Mr. Jos. R. Tate.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott's Répertoire company apeared her on Monday in *A Stolen Birthright*. Mr. Draycott makes the part of Stephano stand out vividly; Count Marco is powerfully depicted by Mr. George Arthur; Prince Michele and Prince Antonio are both well played by Mr. W. J. Short and Mr. Charles H. Herberte; Princess Miranda is powerfully impersonated by Mrs. Charles Draycott; Mr. Harry Scatchard and Miss Eva Norman are good in the comedy parts of Pedro and Nita.

Empire Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The head of the bill is Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten in a speciality, *A Model School*, and the efforts of the clever children are much appreciated; Harry Tate's company in *Motoring* also comes in for a good share of applause; J. H. Milburn, an old Shields favourite, has an excellent reception; Matthews and Cowper contribute a good comedy sketch, *When the Clock Went Wrong*. Other good items are those of Will Brockton, versatile artist; Musical Schaffers in a comedy act, *The Garden of Melody*; Gwennie Yeo, singer and dancer; and the Bioscope.

Tivoli, Laygate-lane. — Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—The Three Royal Temples, operatic vocalists, including Madame Louie Gilbert, soprano, are the chief attraction, and are warmly received. The Two Eltons are clever horizontal bar manipulators, and good pictures are shown by the Tivoloscope.

Cosy Corner, Sea Front.—The excellent character of Mr. George Burton's popular comedians is still maintained, the chief feature being their concerted numbers. On Monday a new tabloid version of *Cinderella* figured in the programme, special scenery and appointments being provided. The plot of the popular story is closely followed, and the sketch was amusingly depicted by the company.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. H. Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is the attraction at this house with *An Abandoned Woman*, and opened on Monday evening to a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Herbert M. King acts well as Captain Herbert Seaton; Mr. F. Hendry gives a good account of himself as Sir Marmaduke Seaton; as the gentleman-vagabond Robert Saunders, Mr. H. H. Young is excellent; and as the villain of the piece, Phillipe Malvoisin, Mr. W. Fraser Brunner is all that could be desired. As Ninon Malvoisin, Miss Ruth Zillwood, time after time, evokes rounds of applause for her clever acting; the Eleanor Deane of Miss N. Thorne-Hallam is commendable. The humorous portion of the piece is in the safe hands of Mr. Teddy Myles as Paddy Boyle and Miss Queenie Fraser Brunner as Sally Sloper, this pair keeping the audience in one continual titter. The scenery and effects are especially good.

STAFFORD. — Lyceum Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—*The Shadow of the Cross* is being reproduced here this week. The scenes of the drama (which deals with the struggle of the early Christians against the Pagan Kings of Mercia) are laid around Stafford. These local associations have created a big amount of interest, and on Monday a most cordial reception was accorded the play. As Wulfere, King of Mercia, Mr. William Calvert scored a distinct success, his acting throughout being powerful and telling. Mr. Edward Warden sustained the part of Edgbert with excellent effect; as St. Chad Mr. D'Arcy Salter gave an acceptable study; Edgar found a clever and manly exponent in Mr. Edwin Turner; Mr. Cecil Ash made a good Oswy; as Edelgitha Miss Maude Elliott was artistic; Miss May Warden and Little Minnie Brooklyn as Alfred and Rufus, the boy martyrs, played with rare ability; and as Ptolemy Mr. Johnny McElroy kept the house convulsed. The trials and sufferings of Ethelinda, Queen of Mercia, were represented in a truly heartbreaking manner by Miss Mabel Marte, and as Werebode Miss Florence Tyrrell played with grace and distinction.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company is producing *No Wedding Bells for Her* this week at this theatre. Miss Lizzie Montague (Mrs. Frank Bateman) takes the rôle of Lola Delaspierre, and makes the character a really convincing one; Mr. Stuart Lomath as Frank Hatherleigh is a truly robust clergyman, and the house fairly revels in his acting; Mr. Percy Shaw as Dick Delva happily blends the serious and the comical; Mr. G. Harvey is sufficiently dramatic as Montague Blair, the wronged husband; Miss C. Clutterbuck is acceptable in the part of Dorris Fane; and the other characters are excellently filled. Miss Montague played *Sapho* on Friday.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic. Carnall.—An attractive programme is placed here this week. The New Macs sing and dance well; Les Ados are responsible for a clever acrobatic display; Jolly Crissie Cross is captivating, and the Wakman Quintette are loudly encored for their vocalisation; the Sisters Dorrell dance gracefully, and Wally's juggling act is an exceptionally fine one.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun. *A Prince of Rogues* has formed a pleasing attraction here this week. Mr. Sidney Dorey depicts the character of Gilbert Kenry, a detective, with marked effect; Geoffrey Flint is portrayed with power and ability by Mr. Edwin Firth; Mr. Bert Dench is exceedingly funny as Josh Buggins; and Mr. Hardy Marco as Hiam Harwood and Mr. Newton Buckland as Richard Harwood fill their parts with satisfactory success. Miss Dora Dench acts the character of Winnie Harwood most charmingly; Polly Dibbs is pleasingly played by Miss Alice May, and Rita Congrieve is capably presented by Kate Norris.

Empire. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—J. Gar Kiddie and company are presenting a distinctly funny sketch, *The House of Tinn*, which provokes roars of laughter. A refined musical act is given by the Five Tritons; clever and amusing is Mike Cray in his comedy act with his dog Dooley; Sim Marce, boy contortionist, displays ability; Marie Kay is a pleasing vocalist and neat dancer; Reszki and Raszki are capable and amusing acrobats; and Kitty Marion, vocal comedienne, is received with much favour.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Castle Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. J. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Baron H. Harriss's company present here this week *The Prince of Pilsen*. Miss Sophie Harriss as the widow from New York wins great favour with the audience. Her dresses are magnificent. Mr. Harry Kilburn as the Cincinnati brewer proves himself to be a first-rate comedian, and never fails to elicit shrieks of laughter. Miss Nellie Lomas as Nellie Wagner is very dainty, receiving encores for her songs; as Carl Otto (the Prince of Pilsen) Mr. Leslie Owen sings and acts in rare style; Mr. Ernest Gifford as François, the waiter, and Miss Mabel Dent as Sidonie, the French maid, are very clever, their dancing being excellent. Miss Kitty Albert is a capital Gibson Girl.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Hill and Whitaker, instrumentalists and singers, head the bill here this week, their voices being of a very high standard, and are well received; the Catteano Troupe of acrobats are very clever, doing some very daring feats; Grahame and Harrington in a sketch entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure* are very good, W. G. Wesley, comedian, being heartily encored; Aidee Mellor, vocalist, sings well; Renson and Waite cause much merriment with their patter; the Wedburns, comedian and comedienne, take well; the Pictoscope concludes with a funny picture entitled Too Fat.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery presents here this week the Russian drama *A Beautiful Fiend*. There were crowded houses on Monday night, and it should prove a big attraction for the general holiday. Payne's Biophotoscope shows some excellent pictures.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—The Selbinis, expert trick cyclists, appear in a combination of other feats of a gymnastic nature which are neatly executed; the Calbas, comedy equilibrists in a billiard-room, are exceptional exponents in their line; the Milsted Bell Trio are funny in their singing and dancing comedietta; the coloured slides shown by the Lovelaces in their illustrated songs are especially worthy of mention; Elton and Elma, on the "bars," are smart; Tennis and Laune are a most taking couple of lady vocalists and dancers. The bill is completed by Mabel Le Roy, Archie Pitt, and the Bioscope showing some interesting films.

SUNDERLAND. — Theatre Royal.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Manager, Mr. Arthur Grieveson.—*Send Him Victorious* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Montague Beaudyn gives a commendable impersonation of Captain Frank Allison, and the Colonel Heinrich Kaufmann of Mr. G. M. Montanini could not well be improved upon; Mr. John Baxter makes the most of his opportunities as Major Carl Strauss; Mr. Frank Holyoake is well placed as the King of Ravonia; whilst Mr. James Archer gives a capital rendition of the prison governor; Miss Irene Munroe is a charming Ethel Hardinge, and Miss Cecilia Craneford plays Gretchen Holtz with chic and subtlety that makes her impersonation very charming. The difficult rôle of the Countess Kara von Mechlinberg is in the capable hands of Miss Marie Robson.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The Dunedin troupe of acrobatic cyclists perform many wonderful and daring feats, and are accorded a flattering reception; the Gothams, glee singers, contribute an acceptable turn; Marie Empress, comedienne, scores a huge success, her catchy songs causing much merriment; Maud Rochez introduces a novel turn with her well-trained monkeys; Wilson and Waring score in their comedy act, entitled *An Ugly Duckling*; Johnson and Bert, comedians; Harry Marte, vocalist and dancer; and Carl Howard, comedian, please in their various items. The entertainment winds up with a capital show of animated pictures.

SWANSEA.—The Grand.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—*In the Soup* is receiving an adequate rendition at the hands of Mr. Ernest Dare's company at the Grand this week. The central figure of the play is Horace Gillebrand, and the success of Mr. Louis Palgrave in the rôle is unbounded; Miss M. Lowes Dare plays Judith with great vivacity and freshness; Abernethy Ruppershaw is another excellent character, in which Mr. A. Field Fisher excels; Delphine is charmingly played by Miss Mabel Harley; Mr. Evelyn Beerbohm (Paul Hemming), Miss Vera Wallace (Madame Moppert), and Mr. W. Warde, jun. (Bates), could scarcely be bettered.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—This week's entertainment at the Star is provided by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company, who appear with success in *The Love of the Princess*. The part of the Princess Idalia is taken by Miss Ward, who plays with real artistic fervour; Mr. Wilson Coleman impersonates Prince Conrad Ramona throughout in princely style; whilst the villainy of Count Danillo is well brought out by Mr. Ernest E. Imeson.

Empires, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—A tip-top bill is headed by Joseph Hart's *Futurity Winner*, which must be classed among the most exciting sketches seen here; Gus Garrick presents music-hall tit-bits in his most approved style; the Narow Bros. are trick cyclists whose feats are daringly dexterous; Tennyson and Wallis have good patter, a good song, and get a good reception; Frank Bernard and company present an amusing sketch, and the Sisters Grovini are lady acrobats whose skill should make them go far; Maggie Rimmer sings and dances daintily; Jack Hayton puts everyone into a good humour; and an excellent Bioscope picture concludes.

SWINDON.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—The following artists are appearing here:—The Three Demons, daring cyclists; Gladys Wilton, serio; Rosslyn, original wizard, assisted by Miss Louisa D'Aubyn; Enid Erroll and company in a fantastic dancing act, "The Magic Vase"; Wallace, boy juggler; Will Sullivan, eccentric comedian; the Hiatts, in their musical mélange; and the Empire pictures.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company presented *Mrs. Dot* here on Monday and received a very hearty welcome. Miss Decima Moore appeared in the title-rôle and thoroughly delighted the audience with her captivating acting and piquant style, prolonged applause being bestowed upon the talented actress after each act; Miss Emma Hutchison very capably fills the part of Lady Sellenger, and that of her daughter, Nellie Sellenger, is in the hands of Miss Ethel Grahame, who gives a quaint and artistic exposition of the rôle; Miss Celia Gordon is seen to advantage as Miss Macgregor; James Blenkinsop is admirably enacted by Mr. Frank Lacy, and Mr. James Gelderd is good as Gerald Haldstane; Mr. Philip Leslie as the youthful Freddie Perkins was sufficiently smart and conceited for the character, and acted with skill and alertness. Minor parts were well sustained.

Princess Pier Concert Hall.—Proprietors, the Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T. Tremlett.—Mr. Leslie Harris and party are here this week, and although the prices are increased, crowded houses are present at every performance. Mr. Leslie Harris, as an entertainer at the piano provides some excellent amusement, his efforts being repeatedly encored; Miss Ida Kahn has a rich soprano voice of more than usual sweetness, and her singing is greatly appreciated; Miss A. Bachsheen Wood is a solo violinist of considerable ability, her numbers being very enjoyable; Mr. Cuthbert Allan, who completes the party, has a powerful but pleasing baritone voice. Mr. E. W. Goss acts efficiently as accompanist.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—Crowded houses have attended the opening of Mr. Edward Terry's autumn season by a visit to Tunbridge Wells this week, and this favourite comedian has been enthusiastically received in his old successes of Todman in *Liberty Hall* and Dick Phenyl in *Sweet Lavender*. Mr. Terry was in splendid form, and was ably supported by his company. In *Liberty Hall*, with which Mr. Terry opened his season on Monday, Mr. Edmund Hollick as Mr. Owen, Mr. Kenneth Brampton as Gerald Harringay, Mr. Wm. Dexter as Brigenshaw, and Mr. Poole Kirkwood as the solicitor all distinguished themselves; whilst among the ladies Miss Edith Coleman as Blanche Chilworth and Miss Evelyn Ormonde as her sister scored great successes; and Miss Sophie Lingwood as Crafer and Miss Gwendolen Wren as the shop boy played their parts with decided humour. In *Sweet Lavender* Mr. Terry resumed for we cannot say how many thousand times his old rôle, and he was well supported by Mr. E. Hollick as Horace Bream, Mr. Poole Kirkwood as Wedderburn, Mr. Kenneth Brampton as Clement Hall, Mr. W. Dexter as Dr. Delaney, Miss Coleman as Minnie, Miss Sophie Lingwood as Mrs. Graphan, and Miss Gwendolen Wren in the title-rôle.

TYLDESLEY. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, J. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley's company is proving a strong attraction here this week in *Two Little Drummer Boys*. Mr. Edward Bikker gives an admirable representation of General Kingsley; Mr. Harry Scott displays power and ability as Captain Carsdale; the part of Captain Darrel is adequately filled by Mr. Oswald Douglas; Mr. Alexander Knight cleverly impersonates Lieut. Allen Kingsley, and Mr. Frank Thorpe is a success as Major Kilkerrin; the Rev. John Rivers has a capital exponent in Mr. George Turner; whilst Messrs. E. A. Smith and Wilson Holmes are satisfactory in the parts of Jones, a warder, and Jim Barker, a deserter. Miss Mary Ainsle deserves great praise for her fine portrayal of Alma Kingsley; Miss Nesta Sandford submits an excellent performance as Margaret Rivers; Miss Maggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas make a favourable impression as the two little drummer boys. Mr. Charles Gallier and Mr. Will Percy cause great amusement as privates in the Warwicks; and Molly Meadows is humorously presented by Miss Patricia Connaughton. The piece is well staged, the handsome scenery and correct military uniforms being quite a feature of the production.

TYNEMOUTH.—Palace-by-the-Sea.—Proprietor and Director, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—Sydney James's Royal Strolling Players, under the direction of Mr. Gilbert Fernie, again prove most versatile and are thoroughly appreciated; Alexander Prince as an expert on the English concertina will be difficult to equal; Halina is entertaining in a clever juggling act, and the Three Moxons are acceptable in their pot-pourri act. The very latest films of an interesting and amusing type continue to be shown on the Bioscope, and the Palace Orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. W. A. Crosse, B.M., always find favour.

Spanish City (Whitley Bay).—Manager, Mr. Charles Elderton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Fred Steele.—The special extra feature this week is the farcical comedy, *His Lordship's Return*, in which Mr. Percy Wright submits a capital interpretation of Sir Ed. Hastings; Mr. Teddy Worth is excellent as Sammy Short, and Mr. J. Cameron is well suited as Henry; Mr. Sutton also renders yeoman service as Pippin. Miss Cusdin is equal to the demands of Bessie Russell, and Miss Nellie Stuart and Mrs. Gertie Gavagan ably accounts for Marie Green and Mary Ann respectively; whilst Miss Dora Woodhouse is excellent as Mattie. The Campers held a special night, when it was difficult to find even standing room. They paraded the streets en route to the rendezvous in costumes both rich and racy, with "make-ups" fearful and wonderful. They good naturedly joined in the programme in a forcible and hearty way, that made it difficult for the artists to follow their usual routine, but it was all taken good humouredly and in excellent spirit. It is not too much to say that the Toreadors have "taken on" this season in an unmistakable manner, and the management are to be congratulated upon their enterprise.

WAKEFIELD. — Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—An appreciative audience assembled on Monday night to witness Mr. Charles Frohman's company (under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey) in *The Hypocrites*. Mr. A. B. Imeson gives an excellent rendering as the Rev. Edgar Linnell); Mr. Alfred S. Barber is highly effective as Mr. Wilmore; Mr. Charles Harley gives a capital impersonation as Mr. Viveash, the lawyer; Mr. Cecil Brooking is well placed as the Rev. Everard Daubeney; Mr. King Fordham ably depicts the rôle of Lennard Wilmore, and Mr. Sydney Hamilton makes a dignified Sir John Plugenet; much praise is due to Miss Amy Ravenscroft for her artistic and polished portraiture as Mrs. Wilmore; Miss Gladys Harvey captivates the sympathy of the audience in her delightful portrayal as Rachel Neve; Miss Gladys Purnell is charming as Helen Plugenet; Miss Florence Steventon is humorous as Mrs. Blaney, and Miss Madge Severne is successful as Mrs. Linnell.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The Brothers Ashley, in a comical boxing act, top the bill this week and create much merriment; De Henau, the armless man, gives a wonderful performance; Miss Dora Barrington, assisted by Miss Lesley Gray, in a pretty vocal scena, is received with enthusiasm; Miss Lillian Rigby is clever in a musical turn; Mlle. Aladina and her performing cockatoos provide a capital item; Will Willis, comedian, and Miss Gwendoline Francis, comedienne, also do well.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Augustine Knight's company is here this week in *The Mysteries of the Thames*. Mr. Augustine Knight as Richard Brandon infuses much power into his acting; Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson as Captain James Denbigh scores a success; Mr. Edwin Jenner is a capable Jack Hammond, and a clever study of Bill Bosco, a cracksman, is given by Mr. E. E. Swinton; Mr. Tom J. Taylor is an amusing Peter Waggles; Miss Ella Vane in the dual rôle of Grace Rochdale and Helen Price displays versatility; a graceful Kate Brandon is Miss Eva Trelenna; and Miss Olive Lantz does well as Bertie Fitzgerald.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Some delightful pictures are shown here this week.

Palace and Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Mirth reigns supreme at this house this week, and Harry Weldon is happily styled the "swell entertainer." His songs are all good, and his patter and up-to-date business always has the house in the best of humours; the Waldrons, old favourites here, score a big success in the sketch *The Silly Burglar*, and the eccentricities of the cracksman at the safe are very amusing; Baker and Balfe are remarkable exponents on the xylophone, and Mr. Baker is a smart exponent of the terpsichorean art; Rosie Archer again wins many friends with her mimic turn at the piano; Reene Graham is a refined character vocalist, and Harry Sims sings his songs in smart style; Helen Martin has a charming voice and a choice selection of good songs; Ned Carr and Ada Rose sing selections from light operettas in good style, and the pictures are delightful.

WEST BROMWICH. — New Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—There is, as usual, a highly attractive programme at this popular place of amusement. Mlle. Pollo is a graceful gymnast; the Durington Family are well styled the sensational cyclists; the Five Fludyers are smart and clever; Julie Guilbert is a delightful comedienne; Sam Williams sings catchy songs; Ryan and Hall are clever patter comedians; and Stanley Carr is a ventriloquist of more than average ability. The Hippodrome pictures conclude.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—*The Worst Woman in London* is being presented by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company. Miss Sidney Crowe as Frances Vere is most successful; Mr. Herbert Skardon as Jack Felton is also good; as, too, are Mr. Geo. Garsford as Vincent Lyle, Mr. Cass as Fred Thornborough, Mr. F. Vernon Travers as James Milford, and Miss Dorothy Haigh as Ruth.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—To conclude his engagement here Mr. Norman V. Norman staged *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* on Monday and Tuesday, and *David Garrick* on Wednesday. In the former comedy Mr. Norman interpreted Sir George Sylvester, and quite surpassed himself, the character fitting him like a glove; Miss Beatrice Wilson impersonated Lady Ursula Barrington, and this charming actress has never appeared to better advantage; Mr. Alfred Gray was extremely good as the Earl of Hassenden; a clever artist is Mr. J. H. Lambe, who did excellent work as Mr. Dent; Mr. Norman Leslie's Mr. Castledon must be eulogised; the Rev. Mr. Blimboe was humorously portrayed by Mr. Sam Wilkinson; Mr. Casson Freer as Mr. Devereux, Mr. Cassells Cobb as Mr. Ward, Mr. J. C. Norrys as Sir Robert Clifford, and Mr. J. Sharp as Quilton were all commendable in their respective characters; Miss Sybil Ruskin acted with delightful bonhomie as Dorothy Fenton, and Miss M. Barnett was good as Mrs. Fenton Mills; and the footmen were well looked after by Mr. Cyril Percy and Mr. J. A. Snaith.

Grand Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The Æolian Singers are paying a welcome return visit here this week; Miss Rose Alderman is the possessor of a very fine voice which she used to the utmost advantage in Tosti's "Goodbye"; Miss Doris Langdon made quite a hit with her song, "Mr. Schneider"; Mr. Chas. E. Browne excels as a comedian, banjoist, and chapeaugraphist; Mr. H. Watts' spirited rendering of "The Trumpeter" elicited unstinted applause; a comedian of considerable ability is Mr. H. Connorton, whose humorous rendering of "My Valet," gained an encore. Some very pleasing pictures are shown nightly on the Bioscope.

Pier Kiosk.—The Happy Knacks continue to draw large audiences, and this week fresh talent is provided and an entire change of programme is given.

(*Continued on page* 23.)

**ANCHOR LIN

ON THE ROAD, AUG. 24.

An Abandoned Woman.—T. R., Consett.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Batley.
Ashwell's, Miss Lena.—Court T., Liverpool.
At Cripple Creek.—T. R., Bolton.
At Duty's Call.—Star T., Swansea.
At the World's Mercy.—Bordon Camp.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—T. R., Hanley.
Belle of Mayfair (Howard).—O. H., Buxton.
Belle of New York (Howard).—T. R., York.
Best of Her Sex.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Bondman, The (Croke).—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Breed of the Treshams.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Brewster's Millions.—T. R., Yarmouth.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., North Shields.
Captain Drew on Leave.—T. R., Glasgow.
Charley's Aunt.—Grand T., Leeds.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—Tenby and Brixham.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Prince's T., Manchester.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—T. R., Brighton.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Sandown and Bognor.
Coal King.—Royalty T., Barrow.
Compton Comedy Co.—Doncaster and Llandudno.
Convict's Daughter.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Country Girl in London.—T. R., Hyde.
Dairymaids, The (Courtneidge).—Eastbourne and Folkestone.
Dairymaids, The (Macdonald's, S.).—Ilfracombe.
Dairymaids, The (Macdonald's).—Cromer and Lowestoft.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—County T., Reading.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—West Kirby and Colwyn Bay.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—Grand T., Swansea.
Driven from Home.—New T., Bargoed.
East Lynne (Kelly).—Greenwich Theatre.
Eve of Her Wedding.—T. R., West Stanley.
Faber, Mr. Leslie.—O. H., Cork.
Fatal Wedding.—O. H., Wakefield.
Fight for a Throne.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Florodora (Howard).—New T., Cardiff.
Flower Girl.—Royalty, Morecambe.
For Love and the King.—T. R., Barnsley.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—Grand T., Walsall.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Girl With the Angel Face.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Great Awakening.—T. R., Darlington.
Greed of Gold.—T. R., Blyth.
Hands Across the Sea.—Weymouth, Weston-s.-M.
Heathen and the Christian.—E. Oxford T., Oxford.
Her Love Against the World.—Brixton Theatre.
Her Marriage Vow.—P. O. W., Mexboro'.
Her Nameless Child.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Honeymoon, The.—Llandudno and Aberystwyth.
Horniman's, Miss, Co.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Hughes, Annie.—Palace Pier, Brighton.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—Saltburn and Doncaster.
Knight in Armour.—Ilfracombe.
Lady Frederick.—Tunbridge Wells and Buxton.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—T. R., Bournemouth.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Bowhill and Dunfermline.
Lancashire Lad.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
Leah Kleschna.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Little Breadwinner.—Lyceum T., Newport.
London with the Lid Off.—Carlton T., Bir'gham.
Love of a Princess.—T. R., Bristol.
Love Rules the World.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Sunderland.
Love's Golden Dream.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Lucky Liza.—Royal Court T., Wigan.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Muirkirk and Ardrossan.
Manxman, The.—T. R., Halifax.
Man and Wife.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Maude's, Miss Winifred.—Gaiety T., Methil.
Merely Mary Ann.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Merry Widow.—O. H., Southport.
Midnight Mail.—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
Moody Manners Opera (A.).—Lyric Theatre, W.
Moody Manners Opera (B.).—Yarmouth.
Mother's Salvation, A.—Hippodrome, Sheerness.
Mrs. Dot.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—West Pier, Brighton.
My Mimosa Maid.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
Norman V. Norman.—Marlborough Theatre, N.
Old Folks at Home.—Metropole T., Manchester.
Power of the Cross.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Power of the King.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Prince of Pilsen.—T. R., South Shields.
Private Secretary.—H. M. T., Barrow
Prodigal Parson.—New T., Aberdare.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—Elephant and Castle T.
Prodigal Son (Day).—T. R., Stockton.
Prodigal Son (Western).—Bognor.
Royal Divorce.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
Second to None.—Grand T., Brighton.
Sexton Blake.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Sherlock Holmes.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Sign of the Cross.—Dundalk and Londonderry.
Silver King.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Silver King (Howard).—Deal and Canterbury.
Soldier of France.—T. R., Smethwick.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Woolwich.
Straight from the Shoulder.—Palace T., Bordesley.
Sunday.—County T., Kingston.
Terry, Edward.—Spa T., Scarborough.
Terry, Ellen.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
Thief, The (N.).—T. R., Huddersfield.
Thief, The (S.).—Margate and Eastbourne.
Thief, The.—King's T., Sunderland.
Tom Jones.—Southend and Worthing.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Grimsby.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—Grand T., Nelson.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—T. R., Stockport.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—Tunbridge Wells.
Tyrant, The.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Uncle Tom's Cabin (Harrington).—P. H., Blaina.
Village Blacksmith.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Way of the World.—T. R., Coatbridge
What the Butler Saw.—King's T., Glasgow.
When Knights Were Bold.—Cornwall.
When London Sleeps.—T. R., Aston.
White Man, A.—H. M. T., Blackpool.
Why Men Love Women.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Woman and Wine.—T. R., Rotherham.
Woman Pays.—Theatre Royal, Leigh.
Woman Worth Winning.—Court T., Warringon.
Worst Woman in London.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Wrecker of Men.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
£1,000 Reward.—Theatre Royal, Colne.

CRICKET.

"Way of the World" Co. v. Dr. Brown's XI.
Played at Falkirk on Thursday.

"Way of the World" Co.—First Innings: H. Sherwood Martin, c Palmer, b Nicol, 0; Darcy Kelway, run out, 0; R. Fyfe, c Brown, b Palmer, 2; J. P. McBride, c Stewart, b Palmer, 4; Pat Quinn, c Brown, b Nicol, 4; H. W. Ebbutt, c Palmer, b Nicol, 3; Scott, c Palmer, b Nicol, 2; Andrews, b Palmer, 6; Victor Gordon, c Brown, b Nicol, 0; Chalmers, not out, 4; C. Nicol, run out, 0; extras, 4; total, 29. Second Innings: H. Sherwood Martin, run out, 16; Darcy Kelway, b Brown, 6; R. Fyfe, b Nicol, 0; J. P. McBride, b Brown, 2; Pat Quinn, b Struthers, 2; Andrews, b Bactson, 20; Victor Gordon, b Nicol, 0; Chalmers, b Nicol, 0; C. Nicol, not out, 0; extras, 4; total 50.

Dr. Brown's XI.—First Innings: W. Brown, b Scott, 4; Stewart, b Sherwood Martin, 0; Nicol, b Sherwood Martin, 3; Struthers, b Scott, 0; W. Struthers lbw, b Scott, 21; Leake, b Sherwood Martin, 2; G. Brown, b Scott, 10; Beatson, b Sherwood Martin, 2; Ballantine, not out, 5; Harrison, b Scott, 2; Palmer, lbw, b Sherwood Martin, 8; extras, 3; total, 60. Second Innings: W. Brown, b Scott, 8; Stewart, c Andrews, b Scott, 8; Nicol, run out, 1; Struthers, b Scott 2; W. Struthers, b Sherwood Martin, 0; extras, 4; total (for five wickets), 23.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

Alfred Toots (Langham-street).—*A letter to you from our Berlin correspondent has been returned. She writes:—"The name of Herr Schwayer is not in the Directory, and the Berliner Theatre has changed hands several times since April, 1907; the books seem to have disappeared, and nobody there knows anything about* Die Sittennote. *The publishing firm who have all rights of that and other plays of Schwayer is: Verlag Austria, Schikaneder Gasse 11, Vienna. The manager's name is, as well as could be made out through the telephone, Herr Janschke, but even if not quite correct the rest of the address is all right."*

A. M.—*The title-rôle of* Peter's Mother *was played by Miss Marion Terry, and not by Miss Lena Ashwell.*

Senex.—*Your question concerning Marie Van Zandt is apparently a difficult one to answer. We have referred it to our Paris correspondent, whose inquiries have been hindered somewhat by the intervention of holidays; but we will make another effort to give you the information you require. Your appreciation is valued.*

Arthur Wray.—*The veteran stars are wisely reticent as to their age, and they would very properly resent as an impertinence any inquiries on the subject. We should be the last to pander to idle curiosity; but we should say that from the vivacity displayed by the comedian you mention he is not likely to grow old, although he may be a grandfather.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Adams.—Aug. 15, at 64, Roman-road, South Shields, Mrs. Emil Adams (Miss Gertie Gray), of a son.

Bridge.—Aug. 14, at 102, Delaval-road, Old Benwell, Newcastle-on-Tyne, the wife of Roland A. Bridge (Miss Amy Shaw), of a son.

Lawrance.—Aug. 14, at Hampstead, London, the wife of Dorset William Lawrance (Lawrance d'Orsay), of a son (stillborn).

Pitt.—Aug. 16, at Pontypool, Bessie Ellis, the wife of Geo. H. Pitt, lessee Theatre Royal, Pontypool, of a daughter.

Priestley.—Aug. 15, at 7, Frances street, Bracebridge, Lincoln, the wife of Mr. Priestley (Marie Lisle, late Nydia, fire dancer), of a boy.

MARRIAGES.

Thomas—Field.—Madge Field (daughter of the late Paul Courtney) to Frank Thomas, of Jersey, at Southampton, June 25.

DEATHS.

Hardyman.—On Aug. 10, 1908, at 33, Aliwal-road, Clapham Junction, Elizabeth Hardyman, the dearly-loved mother of Adela Harvey and G. E. Hall.

Newman.—Deeply regretted: the sudden death of Major A. A. Newman, late Major of the Royal Field Artillery; father of Primavesi.

Sullivan.—On the 16th inst., at her residence, 46 Albany-villas, Hove, Mary, widow of the late Barry Sullivan.

In Memoriam.

Harvey.—Eddie, who passed away Aug. 24, 1906.
He is gone but not forgotten,
Never shall his memory fade.
Thoughts shall ever linger
Round the spot where he is laid.
—Baby Eddie and R. M.

Swallow.—In loving memory of William Charles Swallow, who died Aug. 23, 1900. Never forgotten by his loving mother, sisters, and brothers.
Eight years have now passed since he left us in sorrow,
And sad was the shock we received on that day;
But some day we'll meet and enjoy him for ever
In the home of Our Saviour, who called him away.

Sheldon.—In affectionate remembrance of Lechmere Sheldon, who died Aug. 18, '07, aged 29. Deeply regretted by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Sheldon and family.

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Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

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No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Alexander, Mr. T. K.
Anthony, Mr. Henry
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Arnold, Miss T.
Ash, Miss Edna
Auton, Mr. W. Holmes
Bahadr, Singh
Baines, Miss F.
Baldwin, Mr. J.
Bale, Mr. Ed. Geo.
Beaute, Mons.
Bendons, The
Bernhardt, Mme. Sarah
Biddall, Mr. W.
Blunt, Mr. G.
Boggetti, Mr. E.
Boissett, Mr. Herbert
Brookes, Miss E.
Campbell, Mr. D.
Carle, Mr. Leo.
Carver, Mr. Geo.
Carver, Mr. Cecil A.
Carver, Mr. P.
Caselli, Miss Cora
Caselli, Mr. E.
Cash, Mr. Morny
Cecilians, The Four
Chard, Lieut.
Clark, Miss D. H.
Cliquot, Chevalier
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Cosnett, Mr. F.
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Cryer, Mr. Abraham
Cuthbert, Mr. Alfred
Dean, Miss Violet
Doody, Mrs. Sid
Doreen, Miss Lilian
Druce, Mr. Hubert
Duncan, Mr. Albert E.
Evans, Mr. Wash
Field, Mr. Penfold
Finglas, Mr. F. P.
Ford, Mr. Eddie
Franklyn, Miss Eugene
Ghalom, Miss Celia
Golden, Mr. Horace
Gordons, Mrs. Ada W.
Gordon, Mr. S.
Grenville, Miss Helen
Grey, Miss Minnie
Hall, Mr. E.
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Hanson, Mr. Geo.
Harcourt, Miss Enid
Harrison, Mr. W.
Healy, Mr. Robert
Hearn, Mr. James
Hemingway, Mr. Jack
Hesslewood, Mr. Tom
Hickey, Mr. L. D.
Hubbard, Miss Ida
Hyde, Mr. Arthur
Imray, Mr. Chas.
Jessett, Mr. Fred
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Johnson, Mr. Mike
Jones, Mr. Henry A.
Juliette, Mme.
King, Mr. Leo.
Lafayette, the Great
La Martine, Mrs. Clara
Lant, Mr. William
Lanty, Miss Olive
Le Breton, Mrs.
Levaine, Mr. Harry
Ling, Mr. T. P.
Lingard, Mr. G.
Linwood, Mr. Lance
Lloyd, Mr. Hugh
Lockart's Elephants.
Loftus, Mr. A.
Loftus, Miss K.
Lupino, Mr. George
Luxmore, Miss Mabel
Macdonald, Mr. Jack
Mack, Mr. Harry
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McCarthy, Mr. D.
McGlynn, Mr. George
McNab, Mr. Sandy
Mead, Mr. David
Michelena, Miss Vera
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Miniature Marie
Moore, Miss Mary
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New York Comedy Four
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Romer, Mr. Adrian
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Rose, Mr. Howard
Rubens, Mr. H.
Sachs, Mr. J. L.
Scott, Mr. Malcolm
Selkirk, Mr.
Seymour, Mr. Harry
Shine, Mr. John L.
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Smith and Beaumont
Stahl, Miss Rose
Staunton, Miss Cicely
Stratten, Mrs. Jack
St. Just, Mr. Hilton
Taft, Mrs. Gilbert
Temple, Mr. Fred
Thompson, Mr. C. W.
Thora, Miss
Tilbury, Mr. Walter
Ulrick, Mr. Chas.
Venus, Miss Mab
Walford, Mr. Archie
Walton, Mr. W. W.
Warren, Mr. Ross
White, Mr. Stanley
Willard, Miss Lena
Williams, Mr. Chas. H.
Willie Brothers
Yorke, Mr. Percy
York, Mr. Philip
Young, Mr. T. B.
Zanello, Mr. A.
Zerbinis, Mr. Victor
Zolas, The Four

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Adnam Sprange—Saturday, Aug. 22.
Willie Scott—Saturday, Aug. 22.
Clarice Reefern—Saturday, Aug. 22.
Joe Bracewell—Saturday, Aug. 22.
Calder O'Beirne—Saturday, Aug. 22.
W. J. Churchill—Saturday, Aug. 22.
Sir A. C. Mackenzie—Saturday, Aug. 22.
Dr. Cummings—Saturday, Aug. 22.
Violet Sims—Saturday, Aug. 22.
Wilfred R. Morgan—Saturday, Aug. 22.
Lonise Moodie—Sunday, Aug. 23.
Frank Beresford—Sunday, Aug. 23.
Charles J. Cameron—Sunday, Aug. 23.
Chas. E. Parlato—Monday, Aug. 24.
Beatrice Annersley—Monday, Aug. 24.
Max Beerbohm—Monday, Aug. 24.
Gus Hindell—Monday, Aug. 24.
Charles Whittle—Monday, Aug. 24.
Dulcie Roma—Monday, Aug. 24.
Marie Snelson—Tuesday, Aug. 25.
Alice de Winton—Tuesday, Aug. 25.
Mme. Alice Barth—Tuesday, Aug. 25.
Leonard Robson—Tuesday, Aug. 25.
Doris Trevelyan—Tuesday, Aug. 25.
(Miss) Santoi—Tuesday, Aug. 25.
Denise Orme—Wednesday, Aug. 26.
Helen Mathers—Wednesday, Aug. 26.
Daisy Morell—Wednesday, Aug. 26.
Dorothy Vicott—Wednesday, Aug 26.
J. L. Graydon—Wednesday, Aug. 26.
Fred Earle—Wednesday, Aug. 26.
Connie Leon—Thursday, Aug. 27.
Mara Collings—Thursday, Aug. 27.
Minnie Delevine—Thursday, Aug. 27.
Maurice de Frece—Thursday, Aug. 27.
Jack Pleasants—Thursday, Aug. 27.
Fred Keeton—Thursday, Aug. 27.
Walter Kenyon—Thursday, Aug. 27.
Nina Blake Adams—Friday, Aug. 28.
Nellie Christie—Friday, Aug. 28.
Lalla Selbini—Friday, Aug. 28.
James Doughty—Friday, Aug. 28.
Buckstone Clair—Friday, Aug. 28.
Charles H. Williams—Friday, Aug. 28.

On Thursday a bowling match was played on the green attached to the Bull Hotel, Peterborough, between the Two "Original" Bostons, Arthur Norton, Len Keppel, and G. W. Foster. Young Jack Boston was the victorious one, and an easy second came in Len Keppel. Jack Boston, sen., came third, with Arthur Norton and G. W. Foster at the finish. Wine flowed freely, and "Pa" Copley, the amiable landlord of the V.A.F. house, chatted and joked with the sports.

Presentation.—Mr. J. Langdon-Lee, manager of the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, on behalf of Mr. George Aubrey, press manager of the *Beloved Vagabond* company, on Aug. 15 presented Mr. A. E. Petherick, head of the Royal advertising department, with a handsome medallion suitably inscribed, in recognition of the good work he has done in the interests of the *Beloved Vagabond*.

"Mr. Editor,—Sir,—You were kind enough to give me a notice in last week's *Era* at the Bedford, mentioning my two successes, 'Stupid Mr. Cupid' and 'Every little bit.' You mentioned me as Florence Goodwin. My name is—Yours faithfully, Marie Goodwin (only daughter of Bonnie Goodwin). Hippodrome, Sheerness, Aug. 18.

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Artists are notified that they must send their full Bill Matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1 o'clock Mondays. All must attend. Artists not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at option of Management.

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Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Armstrong, Mr. Barney	Nov. 30, 1907
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Bentley, Mrs. Walter	July 20, 1907
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Bernard, Mr. Albert	Oct. 5, 1907
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Bolder, Mr. Robert	July 20, 1907
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
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Collins, Mr. Patrick Ross	March 16, 1907
Collins-Rolfe, Mr. Arthur	April 13, 1907
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Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Cooper, Miss Florry	Aug. 10, 1907
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
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Crawford, Miss Alice	Nov. 9, 1907
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
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Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Curry, Late Mr. H. J.	April 27, 1907
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Francis, Mr. Nelson	May 4, 1907
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Gregory, Late Mr. John	Dec. 28, 1907
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Hanlon, Late Mr. Bob	July 6, 1907
Hansard, Late Mr. J. B.	Feb. 8, 1908
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1908.

ACTORS' HOLIDAYS.

Our blushing contemporary the *Sporting Times* recently published a "summer number." One of its most attractive items was a collection of opinions as to what is an ideal holiday; and amongst the contributors to the collection were several well-known actors. Mr. G. P. HUNTLEY said his ideal would be to be pulled through the Isle of Wight in a trailer drawn by a genial gourmand and *littérateur* riding an ordinary bicycle. Miss MARIE LÖHR thought lawn-tennis and reading were her favourite holiday occupations, but music was her chief delight. Mr. CHARLES HAWTREY'S desire was temporary "Nirvana"—he preferred to sleep for a month. Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER elected for a complete rest after a long season spent in acting a fine part in a fine play, with the manuscript of another fine play in his pocket, among the mountains or by the sea, playing golf, and playing up to somebody else's form; "my own," added Mr. ALEXANDER, "is not satisfying." In Mr. LEWIS WALLER'S opinion, an ideal holiday would be to drive through Normandy and Brittany on his car with a pleasant companion, and to stop as long as he felt inclined at any place of interest *en route*. Miss ADA REEVE'S idea of an ideal summer holiday was, first of all, to have *perfect* weather, then to go to a *perfectly* beautiful seaside place, which is *perfectly* quiet, and which had *perfect* facilities for seabathing. These elements, coupled with the *perfect* absence of business worries, would, Miss REEVE considered, combine to make a *perfect* holiday. Miss MARIE LLOYD remarked that the kind of holiday she enjoyed best was to travel on the Continent and motor to all places of interest, leaving no address, so as not to be troubled with any business matters during that time. Mr. HARRY LAUDER'S choice was a quiet loch in September, with plenty of fish, and a good pal for companionship; a few hours on the loch in the forenoon, a rest and a "doze" in the afternoon, a motor run in the gloamin', and a wee bit crack at nicht. "An hour or two's shooting," he wrote, "is a delightful variance in such a holiday, and freedom from all restraint, correspondence, and worry makes it perfect." Miss EVIE GREENE'S ideal was to go to a little place on the Isle of Wight, and there live just a simple life. For breakfast to eat the fish she had caught herself, then play on the sands for an hour or so with her baby nephew, after that her swim, early lunch, and maybe a game of golf in the afternoon or a sail in her dinghy. When the tide is low, a scratch game of cricket on the sands. "After such a holiday," said Miss GREENE, I come back to town looking the picture of brown health." Miss NORAH KERIN chose a motor-ride round the coast of Antrim, exploring the Giant's Causeway, interviewing the Giant, and bringing back a bit of his Causeway—the Wishing Chair for choice.

The attitude of the artist towards a holiday is entirely different from that of the majority of persons. Nine people out of ten work, not because they want to, but because they are obliged to. If they were to leave off working, they would leave off earning; and that is the chief reason of their industry. It is true that, even in the world of business, there are a favoured few, the fanatics of money-making, who have the same feeling for business as the artist has for his work; but most people consider labour as a curse. This is proved by their eagerness to "retire" and cease working. It would be the greatest hardship for an artist to be compelled to leave off work at a certain age; and, as a matter of fact, they do go on painting, and writing, and acting as long, to use the colloquial phrase, "as they can blow a feather." The ordinary man works that he may make holiday; the artist rests that he may work. Nothing but illness or actual exhaustion will make an actor or actress take a real rest; by which we mean an entire abstention from all thought of their calling. To rest, it is not only requisite to sit on a beach and watch the waves; it is necessary that the mind shall not be at work on the beloved occupation. A recreation is necessary which, while exciting enough to divert the mind from its usual course, is yet not so strenuous as to exhaust and enervate. Two modern recreations—golf and motoring—come happily into this category, and are excellent holiday-making for the actor and actress. On the charms of motoring we need not expatiate. The delights of the fresh air and the rapid movement are obvious. Golf is just the recreation for an actor, because it can be played at the pitch that the player desires. He is not obliged to aspire to the mighty exploits of a VARDON, a BRAID, or a TAYLOR; he can often do as well by steady play and a strict attention to the gentle triumphs of putting and the approach. Golf is a deliberate game; it is played in the freshest air, and failures are not as painfully conspicuous as on the cricket-field. It is, above all, the game for those who want to reserve themselves—to make their "holiday" a recreation and not an exertion, and we are surprised that we have not yet heard of an actress's golf club.

We are somewhat sceptical of the possibility of long mental rest for the actor or actress. When thoroughly run down there is, for the first few days, a feeling of coma, which persuades the individual that he or she never wants to read a part or act one again. "The devil was sick, the devil a saint would be," says the proverb; "the devil was well, the devil a saint was he." With returning health come the old longings and the habitual desires. The painter, instead of sleeping on the beach, estimates "values" in the hollow of the waves; the sculptor models figures in the sand instead of helping his children to build castles; and the actor, like DEMOSTHENES, declaims his masterpiece to the roaring billows. The real artist's "rest" is a short one.

HENRY FISHER, thirty-nine, a contractor, of Thornhill-road, Leyton, was charged recently at West London with stealing and receiving during the past two months from the Franco-British Exhibition a quantity of building material and timber of the total value of £20, the property of the Franco-British Exhibition (Incorporated), and was remanded on bail. Mr. Oswald Hanson, who prosecuted, stated that Fisher appeared to be in partnership with a man named Salisbury, and traded as Salisbury and Co. They had a contract with a firm of exhibitors, called Boekbinder and Co., to clear away old sheds and firewood; but, from inquiries made by Detective-sergeant Burrell, it would seem that the accused had also taken away a quantity of the Exhibition Company's timber.

DETECTIVE-SERGEANT BURRELL stated that when he spoke to the accused about the timber he said, "It belongs to Mr. Salisbury. We are in partnership together. He finances the business. That wood was in the sheds when I pulled them down. I knew the company's marks were on some of the timber, and I was going to send them back." Mr. Ovenden, clerk of the works, who was with the witness, interposed with the remark, "Why, you put them in the auction and sold them." The accused replied, "I gave notice that they were not to be sold. Mr. Barr and Mr. Mortimer showed me the things in the sheds, and told me they were to go." After he was arrested Fisher said, "Mr. Salisbury didn't know what I was bringing away. He is not to blame."

THE Co-operative Exhibition, which opened at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, will conclude to-day with a grand Co-operative festival. The crowds of people who visited the Palace during the week were greatly interested in the various labour co-partnership workshops and the productive department of the Co-operative Wholesale Society, which occupied the whole of the north nave. To-day it is expected that Co-operators from all parts of the country will visit the Palace, and preparations have been made for the enjoyment of a great crowd. An interesting programme has been arranged. This will include two grand concerts, one with a choir of 4,000 singers, led by Mr. Allen Gill, F.R.A.M., and Mr. Frank Idle, A.R.A.M., will be at the organ. The second concert, in which 2,000 children will take part, will be conducted by Mr. Charles J. Jeapes. For the choral competitions thirty-four choirs have entered from four classes, and the adjudicator will be Mr. W. G. McNaught. There will also be a flower show, three dramatic performances, gymnastic displays, and athletic sports. The prizes for the sports include silver cups presented by the Earl of Rosebery and Mr. Leopold de Rothschild. A magnificent display of fireworks by Messrs. C. T. Brock will be given at night.

WE regret to record the death of Mrs. Barry Sullivan, widow of the late famous actor, which took place at her residence at Hove on Sunday last. Mrs. Sullivan nursed her husband devotedly through the long illness, extending to nearly three years, which followed a paralytic stroke, and terminated fatally on May 3, 1891.

MR. ALLAN WILKIE'S next addition to his répertoire will be an elaborate production of *Macbeth*, complete with appropriate scenery and costumes. This interesting revival may be looked for towards the end of September.

THE CENSORSHIP AGAIN.

Mr. W. L. Courtney airs a legitimate grievance against the Censor in the columns of the *Daily Telegraph*. He writes:—"Some time ago I wrote a letter in these columns on the defects (as they appeared to me) of the Dramatic Censorship. It was my object then to point out the mistakes, misunderstandings, and acts of positive injustice necessarily involved in the action of a Licenser of Plays, more or less irresponsible, and partaking of all the ordinary shortcomings of an individual human being. I am sorry to have to return to the subject again, partly because I have absolutely no personal quarrel with Mr. Redford, and partly because on this occasion I have to ventilate (selfishly enough) a grievance not of the public, but of my own.

"Under such circumstances, a mere recital of facts will be sufficient. A year ago I was asked by Mr. Martin Harvey to prepare for him an English version of Sophocles's great tragedy on Œdipus. When the scheme was tolerably complete I sent a full account of my proposed play to the Censor, pointing out that Jocasta—a figure which might conceivably give offence—was rigorously kept in the background and reduced to practical nullity; while other changes were made in order, as far as possible, to bring the ancient tragedy into relation with modern thought. Mr. Redford, whose courtesy to me in the matter I am glad to acknowledge, explained to me that the authorities refused to entertain the idea, and were unable to sanction the play.

"Now, sir, how does the case stand? Let me set it forth in tabular form:

"(1) Sophocles's *Œdipus* is one of the master tragedies of the world. Aristotle's opinion on the subject has been confirmed by all critics worth speaking about in all ages.

"(2) The play is read by every schoolboy who is on the classical side. It is also read, I understand, by all girls who work at Greek. The story, therefore, is absolutely familiar to the most tender intelligence, and no amount of censorial prohibition will prevent our young barbarians of both sexes from becoming acquainted with it.

"(3) A version of it was produced by Betterton. This version, produced in Restoration times, is not likely to have been particularly mealy-mouthed, I imagine. Probably it could be revived without the necessity of official sanction. But a modern version, produced for a twentieth-century audience, is prohibited.

"(4) *Œdipe Roi* has, of course, been played in France, and M. Mounet-Sully gave a magnificent performance in the part of the hero.

"I should like to add that, not being a Palais Royal farce or a musical comedy, the plot of the *Œdipus* is absolutely devoid of any sensual appeal. The play itself happens to be a tragic masterpiece—that is all. If only I could think that the refusal of the authorities was due to their fear that a splendid work of art might be injured by being tinkered by a modern hand I should have nothing to say. But since their prohibition seems to be based on other grounds, I confess that I am discontented with their verdict. And in this feeling, I understand, Mr. Martin Harvey also shares."

The version of Sophocles's tragedy referred to by Mr. Courtney was by John Dryden and Nathaniel Lee, and was produced by Betterton at the Dorset Garden Theatre in 1679. Dryden is said to have formed the general scheme and to have written the first and third acts. The remainder was Lee's, whose lines are full of rant and fustian. Dryden, too, was at his worst in the piece, which was exceedingly bad and disfigured in the fifth act by an objectionable scene between Œdipus and Jocasta. The former throws himself from a window, and the latter kills herself and her children. In Sophocles, as soon as Jocasta finds out that Œdipus is her son she puts an end to her life. Betterton played Œdipus, and Mrs. Betterton was the Jocasta. Downes says the play was admirably well acted, "especially by the Bettertons." It took prodigiously, being acted ten days together, according to Genest. The version was certainly not "mealy-mouthed," for Dryden's coarseness was not checked by the grandeur of the original.

It will be remembered that the Lord Chamberlain refused to license Shelley's play of *The Cenci*, and it was produced at a private performance organised by the Shelley Society at the Grand Theatre, Islington, on May 7, 1886, with Miss Alma Murray as Beatrice and Mr. Herman Vezin as the Count Francesco Cenci.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The correspondence in the *Daily Telegraph* headed "Dramatic Censorship Once More" provides interesting reading, but it certainly seems rather peculiar that some of the writers think it politic to attack musical comedies. One writer, in referring to dramatic censorship, goes so far as to say:

"It protects public morality by permitting the vicious rubbish, full of pornographic suggestion, that stimulates the senses at musical theatres."

Why should musical plays and light comedy opera be the target for people who do not happen to favour the fare? There can be not the slightest doubt that light musical plays are, and always will be, the favourite type of public entertainments. To say they are demoralising is utterly ridiculous; they are far less so than many of the so-called "high-class plays" which deal with many vexed sex problems.

I happen to be associated at the moment with one of the most charming musical entertainments of recent years, videlicet, *Butterflies*, at the Apollo Theatre. Recently a little classical dance which was introduced into the third act met with abuse from one conspicuous quarter, so that the management felt compelled to invite the whole of the Press to witness the dance as a sort of jury, and pronounce judgment, which judgment was decidedly in favour of the perfect good taste of the dance, and also of the entire play.

It is not a fact that musical plays essentially appeal to the basest instincts. A first-class work must necessarily commandeer some of the finest intellects in the course of its manufacture, and where a single individual can, and more often than not does, write and produce an ordinary play, it is a rarity for one person only to be responsible for more than one department of a musical play.

Anything that introduces the glorious art of music in its true form immediately serves a fine purpose, inasmuch as its beautiful influence considerably mitigates the monotonies of every-day existence.—Yours faithfully,

W. SCOTT PHIPP, Acting-Manager.

Apollo Theatre, W., Aug. 18.

Mr. Charles D. Leslie writes:—"The decision of the Lord Chamberlain is perfectly sound, and makes for the good of the stage. Suppose Mr. Courtney's adaptation of *Œdipus* were licensed and produced. This would admit the principle that incest may be treated on the stage, and sooner or later some third-rate scribbler, thirsting for a little cheap notoriety, would write a bestial drama, utterly devoid of literature, on the theme, and get some second-rate actor to produce it. The idea is unthinkable."

UNDER a receiving order made against Norman John Norman, theatrical manager and tourist agent, described as of Ridgmount-gardens, Gower-street, W.C., the first meeting of creditors was held in the Court of Bankruptcy on the 14th inst. before Mr. W. G. Williams, Official Receiver. The draft accounts showed liabilities £5,487, of which £4,182 is unsecured, and assets £3,601, the failure being attributed to want of capital and slackness of business. The case was left with the Official Receiver, as trustee.

MIDDLESBROUGH HIPPODROME OPENED.

Situated in Wilson-street, near the County Court buildings, the new Middlesbrough Hippodrome is of imposing appearance, and will doubtless be a substantial addition to the list of handsome edifices possessed by the town. Externally it is a building of brick, faced with buff terra-cotta, handsomely carved. The entrance is sheltered by a porch of glass. One great advantage possessed by the hall lies in the fact that waiting-rooms have been provided for gathering audiences for every part of the house. The benefit of this in wet weather is apparent, and at all times the rooms will tend to free the footpaths from obstruction. The seating accommodation in the hall is for, roughly speaking, 2,800, made up of 500 seats in the grand circle, 1,000 in the gallery, 900 in the pit, and about 350 in the stalls. The orchestra provides seats for 18 performers, who, by the way, are under Mr. Henry Hinchcliffe, L.R.A.M. One of the main impressions gathered by the visitor is the great width of the interior—an advantage because the audience are brought correspondingly nearer the stage. The performance can be witnessed in comfort from all over the house, as the building is constructed on the cantilever principle, there being no columns to block the view. The seats are comfortable and richly upholstered. The stage is large and roomy, the opening being 40ft. in width. The whole hall has a light and cheerful appearance, and general admiration is expressed at the effective plastic decorations which have been done in the style of Louis XV., in gold, white, and cream, relieved with grey and blue. The handsome dome is painted with a design of flowers, and the proscenium ceiling is richly ornamented. Mr. G. F. Ward, of Birmingham, is the architect, and the contractors are Messrs. J. Parkinson and Sons, Ltd., of London, Newcastle, and Blackpool. The decorations and upholstering have been carried out by Messrs. A. R. Dean and Sons, and the effective system of electric lighting by Messrs. Rook and Co., of Workington and Newcastle.

Amid the applause of a crowded audience the new house was formally opened to the public on Monday evening by the Mayor of Middlesbrough (Lieut.-Col. T. Gibson Poole). At seven o'clock the curtain rose, amid the plaudits of the audience, and revealed on the stage Mr. John Price, the chairman of the Hippodrome, Ltd., the Mayor and Mayoress of Middlesbrough (Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. T. Gibson Poole), Signor Pepi, the managing director, Mr. David G. Bliss, and Mr Wm. Sley, Manchester, directors of the company, and Mr. J. M. McIntosh, the secretary. Headed by the orchestra, the company stood and joined in the National Anthem, following which Mr. Price called upon the Mayor to declare the new hall open.

The Mayor expressed pleasure at being present, and said he had to admit he was greatly surprised, on viewing the building from that position, at its very handsome appearance. It had been criticised by many people in the town, but he was sure when they visited it they would change their minds regarding it. He might say that the hall had been built on the most up-to-date lines, and was a very fine one to have in the centre of the town. He thought the promoters deserved great credit for erecting it there. Middlesbrough was a growing town, and if it made the same strides during the next ten years as it had in the past he believed the new building would be successful financially, without affecting any of the other places of entertainment to which they had become used.

Signor Pepi, in a brief speech, recalled the time when he had the pleasure to appear before Middlesbrough audiences as a quick-change artiste, and the great reception they gave him. His last appearance, he said, on any stage, was at the Middlesbrough Empire. He would make them a promise. They would bring the best talent to Middlesbrough they could find in the market, and if they patronised them they should never regret it. Mr. Price then presented the Mayoress with a beautiful silver rose bowl, as a memento of the occasion.

The first "turn" given in the new hall was that of the "Three Dreadnoughts," who won enthusiastic applause by their smart exhibition of shooting. At the top of the bill was Arthur Prince, whose prowess as a ventriloquist quite took the audience by storm. Jock Whiteford gave an inimitable sketch of the antics of a football match enthusiast; and Florrie Forde had the whole house singing her chorus songs. The Carmos gave some clever juggling; and items were also contributed by Athas and Collins; "Cynthia"; and the Tally-ho Trio. The resident manager is Mr. A. E. Nicholls, who has been very successful in a similar capacity at Carlisle.

THE FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

A most agreeable afternoon was spent by the members of the Press at the White City recently, in response to the invitation of Mr. George Curnock, the Press representative. The programme entitled the visitors to "three thrills and a mystery," to say nothing of a delightful tea at Paillards, a dainty box of rose-leaf tipped cigarettes and a little packet of Nestlé's milk chocolate for the ladies. A start was made with a ride on the Scenic Railway, which proved a thrill of the most exciting kind. One has only to mention the fact that the "Scenic" has carried as many as 30,000 people in one day to show how popular this kind of amusement is. The remarkable thing about the "Scenic" is its length. It is not merely two falls and the finish; one travels round and round, up and down for quite a long time, finally rushing through a tunnel into a most artistically constructed cave, at the end of which one arrives at the starting-point. Afterwards the party made their way through the huge crowd to the Johnstown Flood. A drama pathetic and very human is the Johnstown Flood, for which Mr. Menchen is responsible. It describes two days in the life of Johnstown, during which the great flood took place. Delightful effects of dawn, sunset, and moonrise are obtained, then suddenly a terrible storm comes on. A cry is heard: "The dam has burst!" The water rushes on with irresistible force, carrying half the town with it, until it is checked to a certain extent by the railway. Then it suddenly becomes brighter, the day breaks and a rainbow appears.

A move was then made towards Paillards, where an enjoyable tea was partaken of and a little speech-making was made on behalf of the Press. Pharaoh's Daughter, the mystery, was the next show. Here the curtain rises on a vision of the Nile and its palm trees; in the centre stands an ancient tomb with its mummy-case, and below falls the waters of the Nile. Six beautiful maidens come to draw water, singing and moving in rhythmic dance. Meanwhile the mother of Moses silently appears and places her infant in a basket on the water. As the basket floats down the stream the features of the mummy slowly become animated, the daughter of Pharaoh descends from the tomb singing of her release, and then rescuing the babe from its perilous position she indicates to the black-robed mother that she is the right person. Again singing she returns to her tomb, where her features gradually resume their death-like pallor, and she has again become a mummy. The artistic and the mysterious are excellently blended in this illusion, which was enthusiastically received. A pleasant afternoon, greatly appreciated by all, was thus brought to a conclusion.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

NEW CUSTOMS REGULATIONS IN AMERICA.

A timely word of warning to artists about to fulfil engagements in the United States is offered by Mr. Paul Murray, the manager of the London branch of the William Morris Vaudeville Circuit, recently established in the Strand. Mr. Murray points out that the new Customs House regulations do not allow the performer's baggage to be examined on the pier, but cause it to be forwarded to the public stores for appraisal. It is a very long-winded method of passing the Customs, and practically means that four or five days will elapse before a performer can secure his material. He is allowed to bring ashore at New York an ordinary hand-bag after it has been examined in the usual way, but anybody with costumes, make-ups, &c., has to have them forwarded to the Public Stores, there to await appraisal by the Customs officers. One cannot be expected to conduct a tour of the States on a hand-bag, and the artist is therefore constrained to wait. It is thus rendered necessary that the performer should arrive in New York at least a week before the opening date if he is booked east of Chicago, and at least ten days before if he is going west of Chicago—to 'Frisco, for instance, to reach which four or five days are occupied in travelling. It is of course hopeless to expect that special exceptions may be made in the case of theatrical or music-hall performers, to whom the axiom "time is money" applies in an unusual degree. The officials of the States are very thorough, and the unsuspecting artist, thinking he is going to get off with his baggage after a few hours' delay as hitherto, finds himself rendered inactive for a period of several days while the authorities are making an exhaustive examination of his goods and chattels.

Grave hindrances and much vexatious waste of valuable time are involved in the operation of the new law, and a wholesale rearrangement of dates will be the consequence. Indeed, one well-known English artist, on reaching New York and learning of the enactment, saw the futility of trying to discharge his engagements, and returned to this country immediately. The law has been in operation two or three weeks, and Mr. Murray was obliged to advise his clients going out to America, thereby causing any number of cancellation of passages. The regulations apply of course to all passengers to America, and are not confined to New York, but are in force at every port. Mr. Murray thinks there must have been a great many breaches of the Customs regulations discovered by the officials to render the new conditions imperative. One cannot but fear that the innovation will act as a check upon the artist visiting America. To be forewarned, however, is to be forearmed, and Mr. Murray is to be thanked for thus directing attention in good time to the new imposition.

Mr. Murray, as we have said, is the manager for the well-known William Morris vaudeville Circuit in America, which has also an establishment in Chicago. The London branch was inaugurated last May, and occupies an elaborate suite of rooms on the first floor at 418, Strand. "Everything," says Mr. Murray, interrogated on the subject, "points to a prosperous vaudeville season in the States. One great point about the American public is that they will go where the shows are, and that is pretty well an answer to everything in this business. The Morris Circuit represents the opposition in America as against the Keith and United Offices. We are a new kind of opposition, because up to now opposition in America has always been conducted, as it were, with a brass band and much noise. The Morris Circuit will do its business in its own method and in a manner that ensures stability. In previous years there has been much high flying and consequent failure, but ours is really going to be an enthusiastic, well-conducted campaign.

"We receive," he continued, "a lot of communications from English artists asking for information with regard to the bona-fides of vaudeville firms offering contracts in America. In very many cases we have been able to put the applicants on their guard against accepting contracts with unsubstantial firms. The lower class of burlesque shows in America issue contracts so worded that artists on arrival have either to accept a cutting salary or relinquish the engagement."

Messrs. Morris do an extensive business with acts of foreign nationality. "There is always," says Mr. Murray, "an insatiable demand for comedy dumb acts on the Continent and especially in Germany. The Germans, as you will agree, have little humour in their composition, and a comic act in which dialogue is not necessary, whether it be from England or America, is bound to go." Mr. Murray, it may be added, is an Irishman, and has been chiefly located in London, but, as his accent betrays, he has mixed freely with Americans. For six years he was with Mr. Stoll at Cardiff before that gentleman came to London. Mr. Murray began in a humble capacity, but finished in a very trustworthy position. He bears witness to a very pleasant time in Mr. Stoll's employ, but opportunities came his way, and he seized upon them. Although established in the Strand, he makes frequent excursions across the Atlantic, as he considers it essential that an agent in England negotiating for turns to tour America should maintain a close association with the trend of the vaudeville industry in that country. His next journey to the States will be made in October, when he goes out with Mr. Harry Lauder and Mr. George Foster, who acts as the popular Scotch comedian's representative. Mr. Lauder is engaged for the opening by the Morris Circuit of the Lincoln-square Theatre in the course of that month.

AN interesting article which has just appeared in a German musical and theatrical paper contains the following statements: Beethoven never bargained in the ordinary way; his fees for a composition were demanded briefly and in decided manner, and he always pointed out when mentioning a price that he meant guineas and not sovereigns, or, rather, their equivalent in Austrian coin. In 1801 he wrote to a music firm at Leipzig: "Now the unpalatable business part is done with. I wish things could be managed differently in this world. There should be only one music publisher to whom the artist might take his work, knowing that he might ask a fee according to his requirements. As it is, he has to be partly a tradesman. Good heavens! how difficult and unpalatable this is!" But this pious wish was never fulfilled, and Beethoven had to remain "half a tradesman" to the end.

As a suggestion of how dedications are occasionally made, the following letter, which Beethoven wrote to a Leipzig publisher in 1802 from Vienna, is interesting: "The lady in question can have a Sonata, and I will do my best to carry out her æsthetic ideas. The price is five guineas (ducaten), and for this she may retain the Sonata for a year as her private property, but not for publication. At the end of the year the Sonata becomes my property—that is to say, I have the right to publish it, and if she thinks it an honour she may ask to have the work dedicated to her." A tempting offer, indeed! At least, so the art patroness of to-day would think if she had a chance of suggesting to a Beethoven the "æsthetic idea" for a sonata; to retain such a treasure in her own hands for a twelvemonth, and thereafter have it dedicated to her—and all for five guineas!

MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER, who since her return from Italy has been resting at her Kew cottage, will resume her tour for the autumn at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, on Monday.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Oswald Stoll has arranged to give a matinée at the Manchester Hippodrome on Thursday, Sept. 3, for the benefit of the widows and children of the men who lost their lives in the coalmine disaster at Wigan on Tuesday. The performance will be favoured by the patronage of the Lord Mayors of Manchester and Liverpool, and the Mayors of Wigan, Bolton, and Oldham.

Miss Marie Loftus has received letters from Miss Connie Ediss and Miss Lucy Weston asking for permission to use her songs and sketches. But it is just on the cards that the "Glesca Lassie" may be going to America herself. She has received a very tempting offer this week.

Mlle. Adeline Genée, the famous dancer, is engaged to a gentleman holding a high position whom she met during her recent tour in America. Mlle. Genée, who is now appearing in the ballet *Coppélia* at the Empire Theatre, was staying last week end at the Duchess of Newcastle's residence, Clumber Park, Worksop, Notts, and on being asked to give the name of the gentleman, said she would rather not do so, and did not want to say anything more about the subject at present. It is understood that the marriage will not take place for some considerable time..

Mrs. Egerton, who presides over the fortunes of the chief professional house in Liverpool, is to be honoured by the presentation of an illuminated address. The attitude of the profession towards "Ma" Egerton is one of affectionate solicitude, and it is hoped that there will be a large crowd at the Liverpool offices of the Variety Artists' Federation on Friday next, when the presentation will be made by Mr. Fred Herbert, the popular topical vocalist. The variety artist on tour cannot find a more gracious and kindly personality than Mrs. Egerton, and in honouring her he is honouring one of the staunchest friends of the music-hall profession.

In the course of a few days it is proposed to add a winter garden for the convenience of the Canterbury patrons. The programme on Monday next is particularly brilliant, and contains the following notabilities: Paul Cinquevalli, the famous juggler; George Leyton, in his military scena, *Lucknow*, assisted by twenty Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans, and Joe Elvin, in his funny sketch, *Deaf*.

Mr. George Robey, while motoring along Blackpool Promenade on Saturday afternoon, accidentally knocked down a little girl named Eliza Gomersall, aged nine, of Simpson-street, South Shore. She suddenly ran into the carriage drive, and the right front wheel of the car passed over her, injuring her right foot and elbow. Mr. Robey took the child home, where a doctor attended her. Mr. Robey again visited the house on Sunday, and found the girl progressing nicely.

The newest sensation invented by Mr. Frank Parker at the Hippodrome is due on the 31st inst. It is a gigantic wave which engulfs the villain, and the "effect" will be secured by specially ingenious machinery. The title is *The Sands of Dee*, founded on Charles Kingsley's poem by those experienced authors Alicia Ramsey and Rudolph de Cordova. Carl Keifert is responsible for the incidental music, and the celebrated scenic artist, Joseph Harker, will probably present his best work in an up-to-date seaside scene.

An important engagement for *The Sands of Dee* is that fine actor, Mr. J. H. Barnes, who, it is interesting to recall, first appeared at the old Lyceum as Irving's double in *The Bells*, and later, at the same house, supported Mary Anderson as Ingomar, some years after successful engagements at the old Strand in *Old Soldiers*. He is as well-known, too, in America as in London. Mr. Barnes is a great favourite at Drury Lane, and is an original member of the Green Room Club.

The cast for the production *The Sands o' Dee* is as follows:—Rube Stephens, J. H. Barnes; John Hooper, Norman Trevor; Bill Stephens, John Brabourne; Polly Stephens, Rosie Lee; Basil Dean, Lawson Butt; Mary Stephens, Ruth Maitland.

The spectacle opens with a representation of the sands of Dee, the sea, with its "cruel, hungry foam" being seen in the distance. Basil Dean, the village villain, as he cannot honestly win the love of Mary Stephens, determines to sell up the home of her old fisherman father, whose bond he holds for £100. The old man's grandson, on his arrival from America, offers to settle the financial difficulties of his family.

The evil-minded Basil persuades Mary to come on the sands of Dee in the hope of meeting John Hooper, her lover. When she arrives, he seizes her and binds her to the warning post, knowing that the treacherous tide will turn in ten minutes and sweep everything to destruction. But a tiny child gives warning of Mary's awful fate. She is not to find her grave beside the sea. Just in time, John gallops into the rapidly-rising waters and rescues her in sight of Basil, who in his madness falls over the edge of the cliff, and is lost in the trough of the sea.

Miss Loie Fuller, the inventor of the famous fire and serpentine dances, brings to the London Hippodrome on Monday nine dancers she has had in training for six years past at her dancing academy in Paris. These young ladies will be seen in a "Ballet of Light," which will be presented in scenic surroundings for which the Hippodrome has long been famous. It is just fifteen years ago since La Loie Fuller electrified the world at the Gaiety and the Shaftesbury. Her percentage of the takings in those days was seldom less than £1,000 a week. Undoubtedly no dancer of modern times has had such a tremendous artistic influence, for a perfect Loie Fuller craze spread over the country.

Miss Loie Fuller, who ran her own theatre within the Paris Exhibition grounds in 1900, will shortly take over the late Clement Scott's house in Woburn-square, and convert it into an academy for the acquirement of the best styles of dancing.

Mr. Cayley Calvert, the well-known lyric and sketch writer, has this week disposed of two songs (with music by Mr. Denham Harrison) to Mr. Leo Dryden, and a third to Mr. Edwin Boyde.

Mr. F. W. Purcell's company in *That Brute Simmons*, the successful comedietta by Arthur Morrison and Herbert C. Sargent, adapted for the halls from Mr. Morrison's "Tales of Mean Streets," commences a second tour of the Moss and Stoll Variety Theatres of thirty weeks' duration on Aug. 31. Mr. Purcell has engaged for this tour Mr. Julian Cross as Thomas Simmons, Mr. George Delaforce as Bob Ford, and Miss Oliph Webb as Mrs. Simmons.

Mr. Robert Forsyth, who has so successfully managed the Victoria Pier Hippodrome, Folkestone, for the past two seasons, is disengaged after Sept. 19. This gentleman has been congratulated on all sides on the success of his beauty shows, which he succeeded in getting boomed not only by the leading London and provincial dailies, weeklies, and illustrated papers, but also by the leading French journals. Mr. Forsyth is a first-class musical director, and can manage the house in all departments.

Mr. Charles Owen has relinquished the management of the Birmingham Gaiety, and leaves to-night (Saturday). Next week Mr. Owen will be taking a holiday on the Norfolk Broads.

Mr. Owen, whose resignation has been accepted with undoubted regret, was on Thursday presented with a pair of solid silver candlesticks and a silver salver. The presentation was made by Mr. Richard Swan, who was supported by Mr. Lester Collingwood and a host of friends, well-wishers of Mr. Owen. The staff and orchestra are also to the fore with a useful suit case, which is to be presented to Mr. Owen to-night (Saturday).

The Leicester Palace Theatre staff had another of their enjoyable annual outings on Sunday last. The happy party, to the number of ninety, left Leicester by the Great Central at 7.30, arriving at Cleethorpes at 11.30. At the Dolphin Hotel, the headquarters for the day, a four-course dinner and a three-course tea were admirably served, and done full justice to by the largest party that has ever left a Leicester place of amusement.

Mr. C. Finch-Hatton presided at the dinner, and referred to the hard work and the co-operation of the staff, the success of the Leicester Palace, and the promotion of Mr. Bertram G. Iles and Mr. Bertie Ralland to responsible positions in London. The party afterwards visited various places of interest, and were amused heartily on the return journey by the phrenology "act" of Mr. Finch-Hatton in the saloon. Leicester was safely reached at 11.30.

Mr. E. H. Bostock begs to return his sincere thanks to all those proprietors, managers, and artists who have sent him congratulatory letters and telegrams on his election as councillor for the Cowcaddens Ward in the Glasgow Town Council. He regrets that owing to the number of congratulations received it is impossible to reply personally to each, and he trusts they will kindly accept this public acknowledgment of his gratitude for their very good wishes.

The Glasgow *Bailie*, writing of Mr. E. H. Bostock, says:—"One of the men whom all Glasgow folk know, whose name is a familiar word in their mouths, is Mr. Bostock, of the Zoo-Hippodrome. The Bostock family have long had a leading place in the ranks of wild-beast tamers, of those who apply themselves to the work of forming zoological collections or establishing menageries. They are descended from the George Wombwell whose travelling menagerie was so popular, half a century ago, over the length and breadth of the land.

"Something like a dozen years back, or thereby, Mr. E. H. Bostock, who had already formed an intimate acquaintance with Glasgow, made up his mind to settle down in our midst. He leased the building known as Olympia, at the east end of the New City-road, converting it into a zoological museum, wherein he placed his extensive collection of beasts, birds, and reptiles, the largest private collection of its kind in the United Kingdom. The 'Zoo,' to give it the name by which everybody knew it, and everybody knows it to-day, was opened in 1897, and became, from the date of its opening, a place of general resort. Later on he added a variety theatre to his zoological establishment, and the theatre—its recognised title is 'The Hippodrome' is as popular as 'The Zoo.'"

The staff of the Pavilion Theatre, Newcastle, held their annual outing on Sunday. The party, numbering about ninety, left the Central Station in special saloons for Warkworth, arriving about 11.30. Brakes were waiting to convey the party to the Hermitage Hotel, where dinner was served. The party then proceeded to the golf links, where various sports were indulged in, after which a return was made to the Hermitage Hotel for tea. The Castle grounds and ruins of the Hermitage were visited, and there was boating on the river or a dip in the sea. The sports prizes were distributed by Mrs. F. C. Sutcliffe, to whom a hearty vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. Boardman. After a most enjoyable day the return journey was made, Newcastle being reached about nine o'clock.

Mr. H. Lyell-Taylor, who was appointed musical director of the Buxton Gardens Orchestra at the beginning of this year, has been so eminently successful in bringing the famous orchestra up to a state of almost perfection, that, at the meeting of the directors of the Buxton Gardens Company, Limited, held on Monday last, Mr. Lyell-Taylor was offered an engagement for three years, which he accepted. There is much enthusiasm over the band and music this season.

Mr. Herbert Taylor, who for the past five years has been the manager of the Palace Theatre, Derby, is to be the manager of the New Hippodrove at Devonport. Mr. Taylor is well known in "The Three Towns," having been the assistant manager at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, prior to his proceeding to Derby.

The Cardiff Empire staff and a number of friends had a merry outing on Sunday. The gathering was the biggest of the kind ever held. The place selected for the outing was the Leys, and the drive to and from along the beautiful road was keenly enjoyed. Dinner and tea were supplied at the Ocean House Hotel.

Mr. C. H. S. Dring, manager of the Cardiff Empire, presided, and among the visitors were his wife (Mme. Ina Hill), Mr. Albert E. Mitchell, district manager, Mr. and Mrs. Bijou (Bella and Bijou), Mr. Wallis (Tennyson and Wallis), Mr. Wallace Sydney (Swansea), Mr. and Mrs. Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. Dai Davies, Mr. Frank Chamberlain, &c.

After dinner Mr. Dring proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Stoll and Mrs. Adelaide Stoll. The toast was received with enthusiasm; and it was resolved to send a message to Mr. and Mrs. Stoll wishing them happiness, health, and prosperity. There were sports, the prizes including a gold medal given by Mr. Peter Bijou, and a lady's companion from Mrs. Bijou, and a silver matchbox, the gift of Mr. Syd May.

Mr. Oswald Stoll has kindly transferred Mr. W. S. Buccleuch (owing to ill-health) from the Empire, Glasgow, to the Palace, Leicester. Mr. George Manners, the acting-manager, on behalf of the staff presented Mr. Buccleuch before leaving with a double-snake gold ring, and Mrs. Buccleuch with a gold bracelet from friends and patrons of the Glasgow Empire.

The Harrogate Kursaal was the scene of an unusual incident on Tuesday, the place of Mr. Julian Clifford, the conductor of the Harrogate Municipal Orchestra, being taken by Mrs. Margaret Meredith, the daughter-in-law of Mr. George Meredith. The programme for the day included two new works by Mrs. Meredith—"Sursum Corda," for orchestra and choir, and "Requiem on the Death of Queen Victoria," the words being by Mr. Owen Seaman, editor of *Punch*.

On the morning of the performance Mr. Clifford informed Mrs. Meredith that he was too ill to conduct. Mrs. Meredith promptly took charge of the arrangements, conducted the final rehearsal on Tuesday morning, and in the afternoon and evening took Mr. Clifford's place at the conductor's desk.

Miss Florrie Gallimore resumes business on Monday next at the Hippodrome, Hull, having quite recovered from her operations.

Mr. Tom Pacey is staying at Wimereux, near Boulogne-sur-Mer, and writes: "This is a splendid place to come to for a holiday."

Miss Gipsy Woolf and her Merry Maids are displaying their gaiety and fascinations at the Coliseum, the charm of the turn being much enhanced by the dresses of Miss Lily Woolf.

Miss Claire Romaine, after last season's success in America, has been re-engaged by Mr. Percy Williams to star at his numerous theatres. She sails for New York per s.s. Baltic on Sept. 17.

Mr. Harry Tate's No. 1 company, booked for a twelve months' tour of the United States in *Motoring*, sailed from Liverpool on Wednesday per R.M.S. Carmania. Mr. "Bob" Tate, who goes in charge, has with him Messrs. Hy. Stephens, A. Rockhill, John Tweedley, and Hy. Wright.

Meier and Mora sailed on the s.s. Bremen from New York on July 23 to fulfil an eight months' tour on the Continent, commencing at the Central Theatre, Magdeburg, on Saturday last. After leaving England on April 2, they visited New York, Chicago, Seattle, Vancouver, Victoria, Tacoma, Portland, 'Frisco, Denver, and St. Louis. On arriving at Magdeburg they completed a journey of 14,000 miles.

Mr. John F. Preston will produce on Sept. 14, at the Hippodrome, Rotherhithe, an entirely new and original production, entitled *A Ride to Win*, which will be one of the most original and elaborate sketches that has been attempted on the variety stage. Among the three beautiful thoroughbreds introduced in the production will be a former runner for the Grand National.

Mr. Oswald Stoll has decided to "present" Wagner at the Coliseum in a very artistic setting. The arrangements are in the hands of Mr. Charles Wilson, a former producer of ballets at the Alhambra who has long been associated with grand opera. The scheme is to realise something of the romance of the great German's legends in the form of exquisite tableaux set in gigantic picture frames.

There will be four tableaux for *Lohengrin*, and five for *Tannhäuser*, and a short text will be thrown upon a curtain between each. The scenery is specially painted by Mr. Phillip Howden and Mr. William Telbin, and Alias will be responsible for the costumes.

At the termination of Mr. George Leyton's engagement at the Oxford, in *The Last Muster*, the popular actor-vocalist presented Mr. Orlando Powell with a handsome gold watch for his services rendered, both in the production, and afterwards as conductor, of the orchestra, during the run of this successful song-scena.

Miss Dolly Harmer has undergone a successful throat operation, which will mean absolute rest for about six weeks. She hopes to be in better form than ever when she returns to business.

Miss Sylvia Cavalho, whose sketch *Kitty* has been having a prosperous run on the halls, has secured the rights (through Mr. Hugh J. Didcott) of an entirely new and original sketch by Mr. Cayley Calvert, which she intends shortly to produce in the West End. The production will be considerably more elaborate than those with which Miss Cavalho has been hitherto identified in variety theatres.

That twentieth-century gallant, Joe Elvin, in an "open letter" addresses the ladies who assisted at the Benevolent Fund Sports as our "Brigade of Beauty." To each and all who in any way assisted towards the success of that event he and Mr. Albert Le Fre desire to publicly express their most cordial and sincere thanks for all the hard work and ungrudging energy with which that work was fulfilled. It was the first function of the kind held under the auspices of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, and had it not been for generous and kindly aid the successful result achieved could not have been obtained. Messrs. Elvin and De Fre add: "It is impossible to write to you all personally, therefore we trust you will accept, on behalf of the Sports Committee, this open letter as an individual note of thanks, heartfelt and true."

Mr. Blyth-Pratt, the Oxford manager, has gone to the North of France for a fortnight's holiday, and Mr. Joseph Wilson, of the Tivoli, to his country cottage in the neighbourhood of Chideock, Dorset. They will be back some time next week.

Mr. Ted E. Box, who is at the Chelsea Palace and Canterbury, where is is starring in his comic whistling song, has a full book till 1911.

Mr. Harry Liston has purchased the entire rights of a three-in-hand farcical sketch by Mr. Wilson Howard, in which Mr. Liston and Miss Lord Lumley have strong parts. The sketch will shortly be produced on the halls. Mr. Liston has also acquired the rights from Messrs. Francis, Day, and Co., Witmark and Sons, and other publishers, to feature some very catchy songs.

Mr. Harry Relph, "Little Tich," complained to Mr. Justice Eve, sitting in the Vacation Court on the 14th, that the London Animated Picture Company had "billed" him in such a way as to lead the public to believe that he was appearing personally at their entertainments given at various seaside resorts. Mr. Mathew, for the company, declared that nobody had been deceived except "Little Tich" himself. The performance was not accompanied by any histrionic display. If the Bank Holiday crowds had been misled they would have pulled the places down.

Mr. Justice Eve: A holiday crowd is generally good-natured and sometimes likes to be taken in. (Laughter.) I do not like the words "at enormous expense" and the large type in which the name "Little Tich" is given. Mr. Matthew said that the company had to pay enormous fees for the films. Mr. Justice Eve: People in a profession of this sort are naturally rather sensitive as to the places they are appearing at. On Wednesday the motion came on for trial, and an adjournment was made until next Wednesday, the plaintiff declining to accept an undertaking with no order as to costs.

A new spectacular act, entitled *Greater London*, was produced on Monday at the Hackney Empire by Mr. Rousby. The opening scene is London in 1543, a panoramic view, which, presented in the style of an engraving, is distinctly interesting. By way of a contrast, the next scene shows London in 1908, with the multitude of houses breaking through the fog, followed by changes depicting the City in the morning, noon, and night. This is by far the best scene of the series, and is worthy of much praise. The next, described as an "Incident," depicts the curious happenings in a dream to one of the visitors to the National Gallery. The final scene depicts the White City, which changes to one showing it during the progress of the evening illuminations. The beauty of the various scenes was considerably enhanced by some novel lighting effects, and a few ladies and gentlemen fill in the picture in the guise of French tourists. The act was warmly welcomed, and on the fall of the curtain there was considerable enthusiasm

The Metropolitan, which is to reopen on Monday on the two-houses-a-night plan, has undergone a scheme of embellishment and enlargement, and is now one of the most beautiful and spacious palaces of pleasure in London or anywhere else. The public-house bar that was retained as a last relic of the old coaching house, the White Lion—on the stableyard of which the hall was originally built—is no more, the space gained by its abolition being used in an enlarged vestibule and new exits. The plans have been designed by Mr. Frank Matcham, and the new house will be reopened with a revised scale of prices.

"The Met," as it will always be familiarly known, was opened on Tuesday, Dec. 23, 1862, as Turnham's Varieties, with Mr. Charles Greville as the musical director and manager. Mr. Chas. Sinclair became sole manager in 1864, and on Easter Monday of that year, under the auspices of a company, the hall first was known as the Metropolitan, Mr. Turnham, its founder, joining Mr. Sam Adams at the Philharmonic. In May, 1864, Mr. J. J. Poole, for many years associated with the South London and the father of Mrs. Will Evans and Mrs. Edmunds (Mr. Poole was associated with Mr. Speedy at the South London in 1878), was appointed musical-director, and later in the year became manager and musical-director. Vance made his first appearance there in August, 1864, and J. H. Stead, "the cure," on April 4, 1865.

The Metropolitan, in February, 1866, passed into the hands of Mr. J. Meacock, and in November of the same year Mr. E. Winder, for many years the proprietor of the Middlesex, purchased the hall. It was under Mr. E. Winder that the late Mr. J. H. Jennings (Uncle John), then advertised as the new buffo, made his first appearance at "the Met" as a singer. This was in January, 1868, and in the following February he became chairman.

Among his contemporaries was young Harry Rickards, then a promising comic singer, who was destined, like Mr. Jennings, to make his mark as an entrepreneur and music-hall manager. Mr. Jennings became musical-director of the Oxford on Aug. 9, 1869, and managed the hall for many years; and Mr. Rickards's successful career in Australia as a pioneer of variety is too well known to need any comment.

Mr. J. J. Poole, who had severed his connection with the Metropolitan, temporarily returned there as manager in August, 1868. Mr. George Speedy became the proprietor in 1870. In 1873 the hall passed into the possession of Gooch and Son, and in 1876 we again find the name of George Speedy as proprietor. In 1879 Mr. H. G. Lake, who, like Mr. E. Winder, had been proprietor of the Middlesex, bought "the Met."

In 1892 Mr. Henri Gros acquired the property, his first manager, the late Henri Clark, being succeeded by Mr. Jack Edgar, who retained his position when the new hall was opened under the auspices of a company with Mr. Henri Gros as managing-director in 1898.

Mr. Leonard Mortimer writes: "Before the five-mile auto cycle race at the recent sports was run, I raised an objection to the hired racing machines ridden by Mr. Harry Tate and Mr. Ted Cowan, expressing the opinion that the official handicapper, Mr. F. Straight, of the Auto Cycle Union, could not have known the former gentlemen were going to ride Mr. C. R. Collier's and Mr. Harry Martin's famous racing mounts, or he would never have allowed me to be so hopelessly handicapped out of the race. Mr. Tate was riding a Standard Triumph roadster, with all pedals, mudguards, &c., on.

"I also protested to Mr. Albert Le Fre at Mr. Harry Tate being allowed to go round the track two or three times to 'warm' his borrowed mount while the competitors were kept waiting on their marks. I have appealed to the Auto Cycle Union for a scrutiny of Messrs. Tate's and Cowan's entry forms. Mr. Cowan has expressed to me his opinion that the handicap was grossly unfair and utterly absurd."

Professor Alec Payne, the skater, though bordering on the fifties, is shortly to be married to a pretty brunette not yet out of her teens. The ceremony will take place at the White City Rink, Manchester, the wedding party wearing roller skates.

In the rapid erection of rinks all over the kingdom is to be recognised the reviving craze in this country for roller-skating, which is likely to become as great a vogue as it has been in the States. There should be no lack of engagements for the gracefully elaborate skating act which Professor Alec Payne has been preparing for over a year. In this four pretty girls, specially trained by the professor, will appear.

Bosanquet was engaged for the matinée on Wednesday in the episode entitled *The Human Violin; or, the Fiddler's Windfall*, but, on going to rehearsal on Monday he was secured for the week in the place of Mr. Will Evans. Unfortunately, on Tuesday evening Bosanquet, on closing the piano, jammed his right hand thumb. He had it strapped up, and though suffering considerable pain, went through his performance.

The latest quotations for music-hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ¾; Empire (15s. paid) 1¼, ditto (10s. paid) 1; London Pavilion Ordinary ⅜, ditto Preference 4½; Metropolitan, 10s.; Moss Empire 5, ditto 5 per cent. Preference 3⅜; Oxford, 6 1-16; Palace, 20s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5; Variety Consolidated Theatres, ½.

Miss Millie Hylton, equipped with several new numbers, is starting out on an extensive tour this week at the Empire, Camberwell, where she receives a hearty welcome. Her comedy gifts are well employed in a song in which she represents a lady who has emerged from a humble position to move in the society of Park-lane, "where the diamond mines come from." Much comic effect is made out of the snubs administered to the lady, who gives a vivid indication of the drastic measures she would have resorted to "if she hadn't been ladylike."

A more pretentious item is that of the song dealing with courtship "Under the Golden Dome," for which a special drop-curtain is provided. The scene depicts the palatial office of a popular morning ha'penny, which is erected in the Franco-British Exhibition, the illumination with fairy lamps being ingeniously suggested. The refrain has a fascinating lilt, and as the audience is assisted by a sheet on which the words are printed the chorus is taken up all over the house. So captivating did it prove on the evening of our visit that after the charming singer had been twice recalled the sheet had to be again revealed in order that the chorus might be repeated.

Large audiences are crowding the Camberwell Empire at both houses nightly, and Mr. Jesse Sparrow is to be congratulated on the success which is attending his administration. Among this week's company is Mr. Bob Hutt, who, with his confederates, is arousing screams of merriment with his sketch, *The Captain of the Boys*, which we noticed on its production recently under the title of *Now On*. During the absence on holiday of Mr. Percy Ford, the duties of acting-manager are being courteously discharged by a son of Mr. Sparrow, who is professionally known as Mr. Gus Danter

Miss Vesta Tilley, who is this week appearing at the Albert Hall, Southport, received quite an ovation from a crowded audience on Monday, and in response to the extraordinary appreciation extended to her, said: "Allow me to thank you for this magnificent reception. You do not know what a pleasure it is to me to come back to Southport and receive such an ovation, but as I have already done one performance before this evening I trust you will excuse my doing any more. Allow me always to remain your humble servant."

Mr. A. Ernest Darewski has been suffering from very dangerous blood-poisoning in the arm, and on Saturday last had to undergo an operation at Eastbourne, where he went to spend the week-end. It was successfully performed by that skilful surgeon, Dr. Wm. Forbes Ross, of Harley-street, who was, fortunately for Mr. Darewski, staying in the town. He is making rapid strides towards recovery, and on Tuesday last was able to resume his managerial duties for the International Variety Musical and Dramatic Company, Ltd., at their offices in King-street.

Mr. Albert Leigh, the managing-director, and Mr. A. Ernest Darewski, manager, of the International Variety Musical and Dramatic Company, Ltd., of 37, King-street, have been alternately leaving town on a voyage of discovery through the provinces, and have been successful in discovering several novel acts, which they will introduce to the public early next season.

Thirty "creations" of Louise, of Paris, were consigned to Miss Millie Hylton, at the Hotel Great Central on Monday last. Miss Hylton has ordered this number of really ravishing costumes to be gowned in whilst singing her new song, "Meet me under the Golden Dome," during her forthcoming London engagements, extending over the next five months. She likewise carries her own scene, a beautiful representation of the Franco-British Exhibition by day and by night, with lovely lighting effects.

At the shop of Mr. J. Hamlyn, naturalist, St. George's-street, down by the London Docks, in a large cage, were eight vultures from Jamaica, worth about 30s. each. On Sunday afternoon an attendant left the door of the cage unfastened, and they stepped forth, soon soaring aloft to the nearest trees in Wellclose-square. Three of the birds were recaptured, but one was so injured that it had to be destroyed.

Only one of the eight vultures which escaped is now at liberty. On Thursday night the bird was reported to have been seen perched disconsolately upon a high roof near the Haymarket. Five of the eight vultures were shot, but the two which were captured alive are to become heroes. They have been purchased by Mr. Frank Bostock, and will be exhibited, in the dignity of a special cage, in the Bostock arena and jungle at Earl's Court.

Tom E. Hughes, comedian, and Coley McGowan (Grant and Grant) are the latest to swell the ranks of the Terriers' Association. Mr. Albert Voyce, in the chair, performed the initiation ceremony on Sunday last.

Mr. John Lawson is paying his first visit to Margate next week with a répertoire of his popular sketches. He will return to town Sept. 14 for his London production of *Pigs in Clover*. In this episode Mr. Lawson intends to introduce a big Carnival scene, employing crowds of dancers, musicians, &c.

Miss Marie Lloyd is singing three songs of Mr. J. P. Harrington's every evening at the Tivoli and the Duchess, Balham, during the present week, viz., "Don't grumble at woman"; "Do they do those things in London?" and "The Directoire Girl." By-the-by, Mr. Harrington's partner (Mr. Orlando Powell), in addition to being the composer of the popular "Directoire" number, is also responsible for the music of Miss Lloyd's fourth song, "Rum, tiddly, rum, tum, tay."

Signor and Madame Borelli, after a brilliant and successful tour in the provinces, return to town on Monday next, opening at the Oxford, Hammersmith, Collins's, London, Standard, &c.

"Paris" will be the title of the Empire's new ballet, for the scenario of which Lieut.-Colonel Newnham-Davis stands responsible, while the music will be furnished by Mr. Cuthbert Clarke. In this production that admirable dancer, Mr. Fred Farren, will appear as a guide, Mlle. Zanfretta as a model, and Miss Elise Clerc as a tourist's wife. There will be four scenes, as follows: (1) Outside the Opera House, (2) In the Champs Elysées, (3) Exterior of the Moulin Rouge, (4) The Artists' Ball at the Moulin Rouge. Such a scheme should afford Mr. Wilhelm, the Empire's own costume designer, a great field for his fine taste, and he may be trusted to make the most of his opportunities.

The Dunlops, comedy cyclists, now making a success in town, have been well booked up.

A strange sea-angling incident is recorded from Eastbourne, and one which, did it emanate from a mere freshwater rod-wielder, would be discredited at once. It is averred that a day or two since Mr. Alf. Sommerlad, the accomplished musical-director of the Devonshire Park Theatre, came across Edgar Bateman with his rods, who informed him he was going to the Hippodrome to try and borrow a professional's dress-basket, as no creel was large enough for his average "catch." "I've heard about your prowess with the rod," said the musician, "and now I'm coming on the Pier with you, to see whether it is true."

Nothing abashed, the Cockney led the way to the staging under the Pier-head, which was deserted, and, dropping down a line, soon hooked a fine specimen of the edible crab. He was about to destroy the creature, when Mr. Sommerlad begged that its life might be spared, and it was then tossed back into the water, and at that moment an accidental kick sent the tin box containing the lug and rag worms after the crab, and all the bait was gone!

There being no other persons fishing from whom worms could be begged or borrowed, the disconsolate song-writer lowered the line again into the sea, as one solitary fragment of bait was adhering to the hook, and sadly led the way to the refreshment department, where some little time was spent discussing likely songs for the coming pantomime season, and, the time approaching for Mr. Sommerlad to get to the theatre, Bateman went to fetch his rod, having decided to walk with him on the way. Judge the twain's amazement on finding the basket they had left empty on the still deserted fishing-stage filled to overflowing with fine flounders, soles, rock-whiting, and plaice!

They rubbed their eyes with astonishment at what seemed a miracle, when of a sudden the explanation was forthcoming! Painfully making its way backward up the fishing-line, which, as has been stated, had been left in the water, came the creature whose life had been spared, bearing in its nippers a fine young conger, which it carefully placed with the other fish on the basket, and then it dropped back into the water, to return no more. Apparently by instinct, knowing he had lost his bait, the grateful crab had deposited 15½lb. of live fish in the song-writer's creel as a thankoffering for its life being spared!

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MR. JULIAN W. KANDT'S valse lente "Toujours à Toi," published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., has proved so successful as an instrumental piece that Mr. John P. Harrington has just written words to the tuneful melody, and the Berners-street firm are making the new song, which is entitled "Ever mine," No. 110 of their ever-increasing "Sixpenny Successes" series. Talbot and Pearce are producing the new number immediately at the Tivoli.

MISS ALICE LLOYD has just presented Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell with a handsome cheque apiece, as a token of her appreciation of their efforts on her behalf, both past and present, and as a pleasant souvenir of the success she achieved in America with their two great songs "Looking for the lovelight" and "I want to be among the boys." She has already accepted two new songs for her forthcoming Ziegfeld production from these popular writers, viz., "Simp-simp-simple" and "There's a difference," and they are writing her several others for the same piece.

MISS CARLOTTA LEVEY, who was so eminently successful at the Empire, Liverpool, last week with Messrs. Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule's chorus song "I mean to try my luck in London," has been just as enthusiastically received during the present week at the Ardwick Empire, Manchester, in her rendering of this Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "winner."

MR. FRED W. WYNDHAM, that *doyen* of pantomime producers, during a brief visit to London this week yet found time to visit the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., whose "placers" promptly proceeded to tickle the ears of the Glasgow entrepreneur with some of the tit-bits of their catalogue. Mr. Wyndham was specially charmed with "Cuban Girl," "Directoire Girl," "Valentine," "Poverty Street," "Leaving Monte Carlo," and those two principal girl's songs "Looking for the lovelight" and "I want to be among the boys."

MISS WINIFRED HARE has just completed a long tour of the Moss-Stoll halls, and so great has been her success that she has been re-booked until 1912. Miss Hare says she is willing to pay very heavily for a good song, but experiences the greatest difficulty in securing the right goods. In fact, during the last weeks of her tour she was compelled to revive two of her old successes: "One little lonely star" and "All sorts of songs have I." The title of the last might also refer to the fact that Miss Hare gets hundreds of songs submitted to her, but the majority are the poorest stuff conceivable.

LITTLE RHODA PAUL opened at Nottingham Empire on Monday last resplendent in the uniform of a Gordon Highlander. She sang a stirring song from the prolific pens of Chas. Wilmott and Hermann Darewski apropos of the make-up entitled "It's the Gay Gordons." Song and singer secured a hearty welcome.

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

THE Variety Artists' Federation will hold a general meeting on Sunday, Sept. 6, at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, Strand, to consider the position of the Variety Artists' Federation with respect to the rumoured managerial combine; to receive the report of the Agency sub-committee, and to decide on such steps as the circumstances render necessary; and to rescind Rule 30, which concerns loans.

THE latest concerning the German crisis is that during the earlier part of the week a more hopeful outlook prevailed in Berlin, on the announcement that the leading spirits of both the artists' and the managers' organisations were in conference with a view to an amicable arrangement. It is understood that the managers required certain hostile articles to cease, and the artists, on the other hand, required an undertaking that the managers would confer with them prior to drafting a form of contract.

THE following wire has been sent to Mr. Worswick, of Wigan, in response to a letter received by him asking permission for a matinée on Wednesday next at the Hippodrome, Wigan:—"Worswick, Wigan. The Variety Artists' Federation, deeply sympathising with the widows and orphans of the miners who perished in the Maypole Colliery Disaster, willingly grant permission for any of their members to appear at your proposed matinée for the relief of the sufferers, and they also forgo the usual percentage levied for their Benevolent Fund.—MONTE BAYLY, General Secretary, Variety Artists' Federation."

MISS MELINDA MAY, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., wishes to thank Mr. Hal Forde for gift of 10s. 6d., also a "Well-wisher" for £1 1s. (both through Mrs. Fred Ginnett), and £1 2s. 6d. from Mr. Harry Tate (through Mrs. Eugene Stratton), as well as a donation of 5s. from Mrs. Stratton, whose name, we are sorry to say, was unavoidably omitted as selling programmes at the V.A.B.F. Sports last week.

THE thanks of the Guild Committee are due to Mrs. Fred Ginnett, who by dint of hard work succeeded in gaining first prize for selling the most programmes.

THE ladies of the above Guild are having a dinner on Sunday evening, Sept. 6, at the Boulogne Restaurant, Gerrard-street. An excellent repast is promised in a private room for this occasion. Tickets, 5s. each, can be obtained from Miss Melinda May, 61, New Oxford-street. You are earnestly requested to attend and to bring as many friends as you can. Gentlemen especially invited. All are welcome to the receptions, which are held every Wednesday, three to five.

AT the first meeting on Wednesday after the summer recess of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. Mr. Fred Herbert presided. There were also present: Lieut. Fred Albini, J. Rich, — Gallimore, Sid Bandon, Hal Forde, C. C. Bertram, Arthur Rigby (hon. treasurer), and Harry Blake. The resignation from the Committee of Carlton was accepted. Mr. E. Bamber, of the Royal Hotel, Lancaster, and Mr. Jas. Sutcliffe, of the Anchor Hotel, Brighouse, were appointed agents for their respective towns.

THE weekly statement for the week ending August 1, showing thirty-three new members and a cash total of £39 15s., and for the weeks ending August 8 and 15 thirty and thirty-three new members and totals of £25 12s. and £47 4s. 6d. respectively.

MR. PETER ADAIR, the hero of the 1,000 miles walk from Land's End to John o' Groat's, does not appreciate the comments of a halfpenny morning contemporary, who stated that he (Mr. Adair) was the funniest turn of the afternoon of the 12th inst. at the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund Sports, and that he deserved the gold medal given to Bob Hutt as the chief fun-maker. Adair commenced walking at 11.30 and ceased at 5.5 p.m., doing 26½ miles in the time, his only refreshment being a tongue sandwich and a glass of beer. He was presented with gold and silver at the conclusion of his self-imposed task by his friends Fred Ginnett and George Gilbey.

PARIS VARIETY GOSSIP.

THE close season here is nearly at an end, and everybody is looking forward to Sept. 1. The principal event of that date will be the opening of the New Olympia, under the new direction of de Cottens and Marinelli. At least, it is the most interesting event from the standpoint of curiosity. Great alterations have been made in the seating capacity of the house. The programme is to be a strong one. It will be made up of a ballet, possibly by Mr. Tiller, a variety programme, and will finish with a revue by M. Boyer. In the latter we are to see the Vallis, Ida and Lulu, who will make their first appearance in Paris. Lulu will have several parts in the revue, and Ida will give her imitations of Mayol, Polin, Dranem, and other French stars.

IT is to be hoped that the new direction will abolish some of the old nuisances, the principal being the *ouvrière*, which makes theatre-going unwelcome. The doing away with this pest would be more appreciated by the public than all the coats of gold paint and new plush curtains the management may think fit to give them.

THE summer shows are dragging along, and the season has been a bad one for everybody. The Ambassadeurs have mounted a new revue, which is not a great advance on its predecessor. At the Alcazar Mayol is back again with a lot of good songs, which he sings in his own inimitable way. Tate and Tate are an excellent couple; the Dayton Family in *The Rendezvous* are good; and so also are the Jackleys.

PAUL RUEZ is once more united with the Parisina, and will try his fortune once more with this house. It will be remembered that M. Ruez was up till last year the director of the Folies-Bergères, Olympia, and Parisina, but he failed, and the halls in question came back into the hands of the Brothers Isola, who have again leased them, while their own particular attention is being taken up with the Gaité, where they are mounting the old-time but ever successful light operas. M. Ruez has for his star in his opening revue M. Max Dearly, so a success should be assured.

THE bright shining star of the Moulin Rouge is still Fred Wright, jun. His duet with Mlle. Mistingutte, "When you steal a kiss or two," and his funny burlesque English policeman, are the hits of the show. He gets about, too, does Fred, jun. The other day he appeared at the matinée given by M. Coquelin for the Actors' Home, and made a hit with his recitations and jokes in French. He wasn't quite sure if they were laughing at his jokes or his French. He may give himself the benefit of the doubt and put it down to the jokes. He is at present busy rehearsing for the coming Moulin show, and there are going to be some very merry moments up Montmartre way.

THE Folies-Marigny is still running its revue—sadly changed. As the season wears on the revue wears off and gives place to the big variety programme. The only redeeming features are Bert Coote's Marigny Girls and Miss Lawler in her boxing skit. The latter is missed by a lot of the audience as it is on so late. If it was on sooner it would go much better. On the variety part of the bill we have the great Tortajada in her Spanish songs and dances, and Lolla Selbini. Arrangements are being concluded by which La Tortajada will be seen in London before long in her new act, *Les Débuts de Dolorès*.

THE orchestra of the Moulin Rouge is coming quite into prominence since it has been taken in hand by Maître Maurice Jacobi, late of the London Coliseum. He is introducing a lot of good English and American numbers in the entr'actes, and the orchestral selection is looked forward to every evening instead of being the signal to invade the bar. For this little change from the usual French march and waltz you have our thanks, Maître Jacobi!

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

There is evidence that the improvements inaugurated here at the beginning of the season are much appreciated, and business continues good despite counter attractions, which, at this season, are many. The current programme opens with clever little Ruby Bijou, who proves herself a dancer of exceptional ability; a series of steps daintily executed won for her a perfect torrent of applause. Hughes and Elliott bring along a Transatlantic suggestion with their peculiarly smart song and dance; for alertness and quaintness generally Hughes and Elliott may rest on their laurels. The Beauty Show was excellently done, and the sand dances resulted in a furore of applause.

Harry Grattan's company get to work in real earnest in a domestic farcical incident, entitled *Man, The Brute*. It is the story of a henpecked benedict and a virago wife; and loud laughter accompanies its progress. Vocal humour is supplied by Dan Whitley, who demonstrates his ability as a low comedian of much merit; his chief success was a song entitled "It's for your sake." Dan promptly won a score of admirers, and was cheered to the echo at the finish of a really admirable turn. The art of balancing is exhibited to perfection by the Stowe Brothers, who get through a number of tricks, and who trifle with 56lb. weights to the manifest delight of the audience. The show is quite wonderful in its way, and there is a refreshing absence of "side" that adds to its success.

The Primrose Quartette vocalise harmoniously; a musical joke, *Fishing*, proved highly diverting, while more serious fare was provided by their fine performance of the Soldiers' Chorus from *Faust*. Miss Nellie Wallace, who is no stranger here, possesses a fine vein of humour, and extracts endless merriment from a refrain, "I wish I was young again." The little lady achieved one of the successes of the evening. *Man* v. *Motor* gives the Davis Gledhill Trio an opportunity to prove their skill as riders of endurance; feats of this description invariably secure a big following, and so it proved at Richmond. The management came liberally to the fore in this contest, and presented medals and a silver cup; considerable interest was manifested in all the heats contested. The Bioscope completes a capital bill. The front of the house is capably controlled by Mr. H. B. Harries.

OWING to the success of Frank Hardie and company in the exciting American episode, *Pedlar Sam*, last week at the King's Theatre, Southsea, Mr. Barrasford has rebooked him to appear there again next week in another of his extensive répertoire.

THIS week Frank Hardie and company are topping the bill at the Standard, Pimlico, in the exciting American sketch, *Pedlar Sam*, and are meeting with great success.

MR. EDWARD THANE, author of many popular dramas, is producing a new dramatic sketch, entitled *At England's Command*, at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday.

MR. LOUIS KERNO took his third annual benefit at the Bliss and Bliss Pierrot Pavilion, Abbey-road, Barrow-in-Furness, on Wednesday, and nearly doubled the previous year's receipts. Messrs. Barrett and Knowles came from the Tivoli, Barrow, and had a splendid reception. Mr. Kerno received many presents.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE OXFORD.

Mr. Charles Blyth Pratt will be cheered on his holiday to hear that business at the Oxford is simply phenomenal, and that summer records are being broken nightly. There is genuine entertainment every minute of the four hours devoted to the show, from the time Mr. Leon Bassett, the new conductor, lifts his bâton for the overture until the strains of the National Anthem are heard. Chorus songs form one of the features of the scheme, and in this connection Miss Victoria Monks is conspicuous with a sequel to "Moving Day," in which a slight dramatic idea is amusingly evolved. For swing of melody and interest of subject, however, there is nothing better in the way of refrain than Miss Kittee Rayburn's "Come to me in Canada." The recent visit of the Prince of Wales to the Dominion—the land of enterprise—to assist at the honour done to the heroes of Quebec, makes the number peculiarly apropos, and to hear the vast audience—many of them country visitors—take up the chorus, with its pretty accompaniment of bells and pizzicato passages, is a unique experience. Miss Rayburn is inspired with considerable feeling while singing the homely lyrics breathing love and faith. It could scarcely be otherwise with a song that not only haunts the ear, but touches a chord of sympathy between the Union Jack and the Maple Leaf. Miss Rayburn, who looks particularly smart in black and white, is deservedly encored, and her success is particularly gratifying.

Mr. Wilkie Bard is raising roars of laughter with his limerick competition; an ovation is measured out to Little Tich in his quaint and clever impersonations and his wonderful dancing. The one and only Cinquevalli retains the sang-froid and skill and nicety of judgment that make him an incomparable juggler, the turn being increased in its attractiveness by the amusing antics of an assistant with a sense of comedy. A new comer is Miss Gertie Reynolds, who has come from America to present her doll dance and her "Mexicano," a variant of the cachuca, in which she displays much chic and vivacity. A fine step-dancer is Mr. Herbert La Martine, who manipulates a bâton cleverly. Mr. Smiler Lee has a plentiful supply of jokes—by no means unfamiliar—and is blessed with a clear delivery and a good voice; Miss Madoline Rees has only to learn the value of "crystal clear" enunciation on the stage to make a good stride forward; Miss Amber Austa revives her "clam" song; and Miss Venie Clements provides us with some funny moments in her mimicry of a baby.

Mimicry, too, is Mr. Walter Stanton's strong point, and in his new act as the parrot (a wonderful make-up) he shows all the readiness of the tribe in reproducing sounds. The perkiness of the creature is not its least amusing qualification. As a gigantic rooster Mr. Stanton is attacked by as game a little bird as ever wore a spur, and the bout is made intensely amusing by its broad absurdity. Mr. Joe Elvin is positively great in his character impersonation in *The King of the Castle*. Mr. Harry Thurston, comedian; France and Stewart, in the racing sketch, *The Hundred to One Chance*; and Warsaw Brothers in comedy musical act, are other turns in a fine bill, which is completed by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope.

THE CANTERBURY.

Mr. Charles W. Adams, the new manager of the Canterbury, has during his fortnight's occupancy of that responsible position already made several improvements both in respect of the appointments for the convenience of the public and of the conduct of its control. He is having the place thoroughly redecorated, and evidence of his endeavours to make the hall as comfortable as possible is not lacking. The house has been cleaned in every part, and in the auditorium itself a pretty scheme of decoration in red, white, and gold has been carried out. Other improvements may be summed up briefly as concerning the brilliancy of the stage lighting and the rapidity with which the items on the programme are presented. But the most important new feature is the institution of the half-time system, that is, admission at 9.15 at half the usual prices. It must not be supposed that the latter half of the entertainment will contain a greater aggregate of star artists than the first half. Indeed, in the case of the Canterbury Mr. Adams is arranging the turns on a principle of relative values, and thus there will be no inducement to overcrowding in the second house. Of course, this plan will be welcomed as a concession to the late worker or the individual with a couple of hours to spare.

Interesting and varied is the list of attractions Mr. Adams is able to offer this week. The top of the bill is taken by Mr. Harry Tate and his company in the screaming absurdity *Fishing*. It is not necessary that we should deal at length with this sketch; its highly-entertaining qualities are so well known as not to need harping upon at this time. Then there is Mr. Joe Elvin in his exceedingly amusing comedy playlet, *The King of the Castle*. His chief gag in it is the phrase, delivered in his intensely droll cockney style, of "I've got no go in me, Ameliah!" Miss Ella Lane proves to be a most engaging comedienne, and King Leo, the ventriloquist with his "college boy," furnishes an admirable demonstration of the art of vocal illusion.

Miss Helene Forest submits an interesting dramatic sketch under the title of *A Woman of Paris*, which we have before praised in our columns. Miss Forest's characterisation of the fallen woman who is urged by the man whose mistress she is to murder her own son is marked by a tragic intensity which does not fail to appeal to the very soul of her audience. The playlet, in which the leading lady has able support from the other two members in the cast, wins the favour of the Canterbury habitués. Weird and even wonderful are the doings of the Three Delaries in their speciality act, *In the Demon Grotto*, and their trapeze and somersaulting feats evoke tremendous applause. Mr. Gilbert Girard distinguishes himself as a mimic of animals and musical instruments, his vocal representation of a dog fight being particularly realistic. A popular descriptive vocalist comes on the stage in Mr. Frank Harwood, whose clear, pleasing voice is heard to advantage in a *pot-pourri* of songs and patter, his rendering of the ditty, "Rowing to Hampton Court," being especially admired. Phillips and Merritt give a good account of themselves as society entertainers, and their show, which brings before us an up-to-date vaudeville performance in miniature, meets with the unqualified approval of the spectators. Mr. Paul Cinquevalli, the accomplished and world-famous juggler, once more appears on the Canterbury stage, to the great enjoyment of the visitors to this establishment. Mr. Ted E. Box is an eccentric comedian whose sterling merit is immediately recognised by those before whom he appears, and his policeman song, "I've got to put it down in my book," as well as his characterisation of a "copper," is most diverting. In his second song he shows us what a really clever whistler he is. Miss Cissie Lupino, the talented speciality and character dancer, engages in attractive Dutch, Scottish, and other dances, and Les Fleurs Sisters are accomplished duettists and dancers. Jordan and Harvey, the American-Hebrew dialect comedians, create huge merriment with their "cross-talk" patter, and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope pictures are most acceptable.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

The entertainment at the Holborn Empire is quite up to the usual high standard of excellence, both as regards quality and quantity, fourteen items—all good—rapidly succeeding each other in the smartly-staged programme. Early in the evening a decidedly favourable impression is made by a lady whom we do not remember to have seen before in the London halls—Miss Helen Trix, an accomplished entertainer at the piano. Her first contribution shows her to be a skilful siffleuse, he, whistling medley being much appreciated; and she next sings a funny ditty concerning a darky damsel, Mandy, who has some difficulty in digesting an apple dumpling—a number that owed not a little of its success to the droll manner in which it was rendered. Miss Trix is an excellent pianist, she has a good voice and can sing a song with point and humour, and being thus admirably equipped for the line of business she has chosen will undoubtedly soon become popular in London. Mr. Harry Webber, a quaint Hebrew comedian, tells many amusing Yiddisher stories, some new and a few familiar, and has a humorous parody on "Irish Molly," his turn being greatly enjoyed; and the College Ladies, eight versatile and comely lassies, sing and dance with much ability, one of them contributing a realistic imitation of Miss Victoria Monks, an impersonation that was much applauded.

Laughter was almost continuous during the representation of the humorous sketch *Three of a Kind*, smartly enacted by Miss Ethel Arden, Mr. George Abel, and their capital company; and the cultured vocalism of the favourite burlesque artist Miss Winifred Hare was loudly acclaimed, her contribution on the night of our visit—"All sorts of songs"—being a particularly tuneful one. Some fine cornet playing was submitted by Master Lloyd Shakespeare, a talented youngster; and Mr. Walter Stanley has a droll ditty in "Whack-fol-the-diddle." Chanti, the accomplished quick-change artist, presents some finished representations of a German, Chinaman, Russian, Spaniard, Italian, &c., each impersonation being concluded with a national dance. The changes were very rapidly executed, and the smartly-worked show, embellished with many ingenious devices, was accorded some of the loudest applause heard during the evening. Miss Irma Lorraine in her "Studies of Modern Pictorial Art" presents a "Salomé" impersonation and accompanying dance. The favourite vocalist and dancer Miss Ella Retford warbled blithely of "Mr. Grundy," who, much to his lady-love's disgust refrains from visiting her "on Sunday," her expert dancing being not the least enjoyable portion of her turn; and the Seven Xentrixs are responsible for an attractive singing and dancing interlude. Professor Duncan's collies still present one of the cleverest dog shows to be seen on the halls, the handsome and wonderfully intelligent creatures skipping, turning somersaults, playing "The bluebells of Scotland" on the harmonium, and doing many other difficult feats with marvellous skill and apparent ease and enjoyment. The Imperial Bioscope this week is showing a novel series of pictures, Doll Making; and Mr. George Gilbey is also in the bill.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Mr. Frederick Victor, whose name is so well known to the playgoing public in connection with his many performances of the part of Napoleon in *A Royal Divorce*, presents an interesting playlet, written by himself, at Sadler's Wells this week. It bears the title of *Meredith's Masterpiece*, and was first produced at the Bow Palace three weeks ago. The scene is an artist's studio, and into it the artist, Richard Meredith, has taken a tramp who has been injured by a motor-car in the roadway outside. The nurse whose services have been requisitioned is quickly identified by Meredith as his own wife, from whom he had been separated in consequence of the improper conduct of another man. On the easel in the studio is a partly-finished picture representing a husband taking revenge with a knife upon the destroyer of his wife's honour. In a curious fit of spleen Meredith suggests to the nurse that for the purposes of his painting he could take advantage of the unconscious tramp by stabbing him. This would be securing realism with a vengeance! By and by the tramp returns to a state of sensibility, and when informed of the artist's idea, actually assents to it. His agreeing to become a victim to art, however, is not entirely the outcome of his love for it. He is sick of life, and feels that in any case he has only a few months to live. Why not end the misery now? But before he dies he would like to confess that some years previously he ruined the happiness of a married couple whose name was Meredith. Will not the artist strike now and take his revenge! Meredith does raise the knife, but almost immediately afterwards relents, and forgiveness is the conclusion of the sketch. Mr. Victor acts with considerable dramatic force in the rôle of the artist, and he is well supported by Mr. H. P. Eversley as the tramp and Miss Elizabeth Walters as the nurse.

There is plenty to interest one in the rest of the programme. Mr. Leo Dryden takes the house by storm with his stirring rendering of "Good-bye, bachelors," "Lucy Manette," and "The White Man," to which we had occasion to refer in a eulogistic way last week. Miss Ethel Arundel is a refined young comedienne whose ditties, "See the ocean" and "As kind as you are," find great favour with her hearers. The Sisters Belmoir have a capital coon duet in "Good-night, Mr. Kangaroo," and their combined skipping-rope and step dances are exceedingly effective. Ballad vocalists of no mean order come along in the persons of the Sisters Darnton, whose songs, "Sweet Adeline" and "Sleep and forget," are most expressively rendered. Stoll and Milton submit an attractive triple-bar act; and Fields and Lewis are entertaining burlesque artists. Some smart pedestal dancing is done by the Lannons, who create a diversion with their verses concerning "The Broadway Belle." Mr. George M. Marriott's company appear in the dramatic episode, *Lady Audley's Secret*, in which Miss Edith Finlay distinguishes herself as the unhappy Lady Audley. Raymond's Bio-tableaux is responsible for two interesting films, The Accused Postman and Jimmy the Apprentice.

MR. DARE AUSTIN will present on Monday at the Olympia, Shoreditch, his comedy duologue *His Wedding Morning*, which he has played recently at Hammersmith Palace and Empress, Brixton, with such emphatic success.

FISH galore came last Thursday to the baits of Whit Cunliffe and Tom Moore (operator of the Grand, Hanley), who with special permit fished the preserved water of the Duke of Sutherland. Fifty-four roach and perch were brought home.

"THE ORGAN GRINDER," a new sketch by Alicia Ramsey and Rudolph de Cordova, the authors of so many of the Hippodrome successful sensational plays and of the next production at that popular house, will be seen for the first time in London at the New Cross Empire next week, after having been acted with marked success in Liverpool, Birmingham, and Manchester.

THE story deals with the kidnapping of the little daughter of an English baronet by an Italian organ grinder, the inspiring motive being revenge. In full view of the audience, the child's golden curls are cut off, and she is disguised out of all recognition. Eventually, of course, her identity is discovered in a dramatic manner, and she is restored to her father, who finds in the youth who has befriended her, his own son, who had been stolen by the Italian fifteen years previously. The production is made on a very complete scale, new scenery having been painted, and two new piano organs made for it, while a real Victoria and pair are introduced during the course of the play.

THE NEW METROPOLITAN.

"To keep up with the times it is necessary to spend £10,000." These were among the concluding words of Mr. Henri Gros when he spoke from the stage of the Metropolitan during the last week of the old hall. The magnificent pleasure palace for the people of Paddington that he has had erected under the direction of Mr. Frank Matcham (who built the hall in 1897) has, we should say, amply justified this expenditure, and on Thursday night Mr. Gros was warmly congratulated by a large number of friends and people prominent in the music hall world on the beautiful house that has had such vast developments since it came under his management.

During the four months of the closure very great alterations have been carried out. To obtain the necessary exits and to adapt the building for the use of two performances a night it has been necessary to acquire extra premises towards the Edgware-road. The fine Mansfield stone elevation has been extended, and now forms a most imposing façade—quite a feature of the neighbourhood. Artistic gold and coloured mosaics embellish this façade, the general scheme being blue and gold, which has been ably carried out by Rust's Vitreous Mosaics Co. For the renovation of the elegant internal decoration Messrs. F. de Jong and Co., London, are responsible. The pretty circle and balcony fronts and the beautifully painted ceiling have always been a feature of the house; indeed, some experts maintain that they are the most elaborate and artistic of any theatre in the Metropolis. Pains have been taken while re-embellishment has taken place to maintain the character as originated in 1897. The White Lion, the old-world tavern of the locality, situated in the centre of the block, has disappeared, and the space thereby gained has permitted the enlargement of the auditorium and extension of the frontage, thereby improving entrances and exits. The vestibule has been conveniently enlarged, and a fine new hexagon entrance leads by a white marble staircase through a large foyer to the grand circle, to which several rows of seats have been added. New exits and staircases are provided from all parts of the building, making the Metropolitan one of the grandest and safest buildings of its class in London. The theatre has been luxuriously upholstered; the proscenium is fitted with handsome tableau curtains and deep drapery in rich crimson velvet ornamented with satin appliqué embroidered in Italian Renaissance style. For the draperies and the seating Messrs. J. Lyon and Co., of High Holborn, are responsible. The fauteuils are comfortable and capacious, tip-up seats are fitted in the grand circle and pit, and even the gallery seats, for which only 3d. is charged, are upholstered. The carpets throughout and extending to the grand circle are of the finest Wilton pile velvet, rich in colour to match the *tout ensemble* of the scheme of colouring, and are supplied by the famous firm of Shoolbred and Co., London. The main entrance hall and stall lobby is of arabesque design, with rich and appropriate colouring, the saloons and foyer being treated in the Louis Seize style. An entirely new system of ventilation has been introduced, while a new installation of electric lighting has been perfected by Messrs. Sunderland and Co., Victoria-street, S.W. The sanitary part of the work has been entrusted to Messrs. Davis, Bennett and Co., London.

The new building will undoubtedly by its attractive exterior, to which a handsome shelter is to be added as soon as passed by the authorities, form a landmark in the Edgware-road. The modern demand of variety entertainment seems to require moderate charges of admission combined with all modern comfort and luxury. The charges of admission range from 3d. to 10s. 6d. A luxurious fauteuil can be secured for 1s. 6d., and an equally comfortable seat in the magnificent grand circle at 1s., with the modest addition of 3d. for the cost of booking. In his advertisements Mr. Henri Gros, who is chairman and managing-director of the company, boasts that "all the stars hold contracts," and we may be sure that the amusement-going public of Paddington can rely with complete confidence upon the carrying out of his promises.

Mr. Jack Edgar, who has been associated with the fortunes of the hall for many years, returns to his old position of manager, in which he has made himself very popular; and Mr. W. Leslie Gooch, son of Miss Fannie Leslie, replaces Mr. Leon Zeitlin as acting-manager. On the "view" night the charming house was admired by a large crowd, among whom we recognised Messrs. Henry Tozer, Burney, Richards, Will Collins, Jack Somers, Emmanuel Warner, Clement Ravenscroft, George Ridout, Frank de Jong, Frank Matcham, Laurie Cohen, A. E. Oliver, William Bailey, Lake, Leon Zeitlin, Harry Masters, and a number of others.

The opening programme of Monday next includes Fred Karno's latest creation entitled *The Bailiff*, with Fred Kitchen in possession; Arthur Slater, the whistler; Leoni Dixon; the Dardinis, American jugglers (their first appearance in England); Alec Thorne, Ruffell's Bioscope, Eleanora Lorraine, Jack Neil, Fanning and Fanning, and Winifred Hare, who will all appear at both houses. The performances commence at 6.45 and 9.10.

During the evening the Metropolitan orchestra, under the direction of Mr. D. M. Trytel, played the following selection of music on the stage:—March, "The Metropolitan," D. M. Trytel; medley overture, "The Pacer," O'Hare; valse, "Les Brunes," Ganne; intermezzo, "The Hyacinth," Hatch; characteristic novelty, "Teddy Bear's Picnic," Bratton; idyl, "The Glow-worm," Lincke; selection, "Tales of Hoffmann," Offenbach; medley, "The Best of All," W. Williams; valse, "The Jolly Fellows," Vollstedt; patrol, "The Rose, Shamrock, and Thistle," Sousa; fantasie, "Faust," Gounod; valse, "The Merry Widow," Léhar; march, "Franco-British," Max Darewski; and "God Save the King."

"THE AIRSHIP," a new American comedy act, is to be given at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday.

ANDREW KELSO, a Douglas barman, on the 14th swallowed his false teeth and plate. It is said he was making an exhibition of whole egg swallowing. He made his way to Noble's Hospital, where the Röntgen rays located the teeth, and an operation brought them out. He is now doing well, but will probably take no part in future in conjuring displays of this kind.

CAPITAL business still continues at the New Brighton Winter Gardens. Mlle. Ghita Corri has aroused great admiration by her excellent vocalism; the Three Behans, Mr. David McFarlane, and Miss Nellie Lawson in sketch; Mr. Bert Belton, comedian and mimic; and Mr. Max Hartree, vocalist, have all scored successes. Master W. Aubrey is a clever dancer, and Herr A. Spiegler plays violin solos effectively. The animated pictures are very fine.

AT the Ryde Pier Pavilion Miss Margaret Cooper last Monday gave two performances under the direction of Mr. H. Bernhardt, and received a most enthusiastic reception from two crowded houses, no fewer than twelve encores being freely responded to by this charming artist. The other artists in the programme during the week included Miss Nelly Ganthony, Mr. Lionel Brough, and Doris Wami. On Tuesday and Wednesday Mr. Arthur Roberts and his vaudeville party were the attraction, while The Magpies, The Serenaders, and The Kimoinos are among the bookings made by the enterprising lessee, Mr. Wishart.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead till the end of the month are:—Beeston, on the Great Northern; Bingham, on the Great Northern, and London and North-Western; First Lee Fair; Guiseley, on the Midland; Horsforth, on the North-Eastern; Pudsey, on the Great Northern; Yeadon, on the Midland; Credition, on the London and South-Western; Hooley Hill; Taxal or Whaley Bridge, on the London and North-Western; Bakewell, on the Midland; Hinckley, on the London and North-Western, and Midland; Irlams-o'-th'-Height, on the Cheshire Lines; Shaftesbury, on the London and South-Western; Shrewsbury, on the London and North-Western, Great Western, Cambrian, and Rhymney; Strood, on the London, Chatham, and Dover, and South-Eastern; Cleckheaton, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Romsey, on the London and South-Western; Bradford-on-Avon, on the Great Western; Eccles, on the London and North-Western; Eyam, on the Midland; Halton (Lancs.), on the Midland; Oldham, on the Great Central, London and North-Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Oldham, Ashton, and Guide Bridge, Great Northern, and Midland; St. John's Chapel, on the North-Eastern; West Haughton, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Farsley, on the Great Northern; Halton Feast (Leeds), on the North-Eastern; Hucknall with Huthwaite, on the Midland; and Watchet, on the Great Western Railways.

Great Harwood Wakes.

For the annual wakes at this Lancashire town were the following amusement caterers:—Messrs. East, Haworth, Holland, Starkie, Sharp, Smith, Taylor, Stanley, Bullough, Gallagher, and Ingham, who provided gallopers, steam horses big boats, swings, shooters, and throwing games.

Rochdale Wakes.

Rochdale Wakes and ancient Rushbearing Festival still maintains (under modern conditions) its celebrity as one of the most famous wakes or fairs of the Lancashire district.

For variety of entertainment, and for the up-to-date character of its many shows, machines, and fair-ground novelties, Rochdale Wakes, 1908, would be difficult to beat. George H. Kemp, with new and superb cinematograph theatre, "The Anglo-American Combine of Varieties and Living Pictures"; Colonel Clark, with equally perfect and modern show—two of the finest shows on the road—these two concerns were enough to draw all Rochdale. Then amongst the minor novelties and side shows were Barker's Midget Wonders, "The Atoms of Humanity"; and Pattison's Mechanical Promenade.

The high-class electric and steam driven machines were:—Motor-car tracks by Relph and Pedley, and Mitchell; galloping horse sets by Sharpe and Hunter; steam horses by Makins; ostriches by Mitchell; bicycle track by Helm; steam swings by Shaw and Sons; big boats by Mitchell; and park swings by Morley and Sharpe.

The other novelties included shooting ranges, bottle batteries, penalty frames, novelty stalls, and throwing games by Sharpe, Henshaw, Wilson, Hughes and Maston, Dearden, Forshaw, Ingham, Butterworth, Clegg, Lorenzo, Crick, Thomas, Black, and Newton.

South Elmsall Feast.

Under the direction of Messrs. Tuby and Sons, this excellent Yorkshire fixture attracted a first-class aggregation of good concerns. These included the big show and the motor-car set of Messrs. Tuby and Sons, T. Harniess and Sons (two sets), the switchback motors, and the gallopers, Wortley's show, the coal mine model, White's two shows, the miniature menagerie and the fine art gallery, Pullan's shooting range and swings, Silverwood's highfliers, and varieties in galore by Messrs. Johnson, Calver, Spencer, Shaw, Middlebrook, Tucker, Norman, and Griffiths.

Guild Subscriptions, 1908.

Mr. H. Thurston, £5; Mr. F. Gray, £1; Mrs. Heeson, 5s.; Mr. E. Shaw, 5s.; Mr. W. Harris, 5s.; Mr. C. Darwent, 5s.; Mr. J. Thorburn, 5s.; Mr. E. Harris, 5s.; Mr. J. Kefford, 5s.; Mr. Wm. Harris, 5s.; Mr. J. Harris, 5s.; Mr. H. Barnard, 5s.; and Mr. J. Silk (1907), 5s.

Paignton Regatta.

The popular fair held at the time of the Paignton Regatta afforded great delight to the crowds of eager sightseers. A splendid array of shows, machines, &c., was on view. These included the exhibits of W. C. and S. Hancock, the cinematograph theatre, the helter-skelter tower, the motor-car track, and the four-a-breast galloping horses; John Jones, with variety theatre and animated pictures; Prince and Princess Samouda, occultists; and Professor Birch's Royal Court Midgets. Juvenile roundabouts were provided by Haywood, Wilson, and A. Jones; maypole games by Powell, W. Jones, and Chapman; big wheel and swings by Chapman, Lock, and Ball; shooting ranges, football games, variety frames, and cokers by J. Jones, Rowland, Smith, Lock, H. Chapman, Harker, Oldridge, Hurford, and Whitelegge; and photo saloon by Cribb.

Ball and Son's Lyceum on Tour.

After the great triumph of Mitcham Fair Messrs. Ball and Son removed their huge concern to St. Mary Cray, Kent. The people of St. Mary Cray look forward with delight to the annual visit of this superb show. Special interest attached to the opening night at this delightful Kentish village, for Harry Banford, the comedian, made a welcome reappearance on the stage of the Lyceum after his recent somewhat serious accident. We heartily join with Mr. Banford's many friends in congratulating him on his complete recovery and speedy return to work.

Ashton Wakes.

Yet another famous Lancashire town keeps its wakes this week. Ashton-under-Lyne, in the centre of the great cotton belt, serves an enormous area for the wakes' outing week. The great show attraction was P. Collins, jun.'s wonderland No. 2, The Palace of Orpheus. The other amusements were John Collins' electric jumping horses, the Japanese airship, and the electric motors, Harrison's Alpine glissade, and other fairground novelties by Messrs. Mercer, Hurst, Dillon, Murphy, Geoghegan, Shaw, Cornwell, Wilson, Tomlinson, Davies, Humphreys, and others.

Sanger's Circus.

This famous circus and menagerie visited Aberdeen on Monday. Both performances were crowded with enthusiastic spectators. As is always the case, the splendid spectacular drama of *Dick Turpin's Ride to York* was followed with breathless interest. In the course of the present tour the circus will visit most of the important country towns in the North of Scotland.

A remarkable scene was witnessed at Ipswich on Thursday at the funeral of Anna Barber, a travelling showman's wife, who died on board a steamboat whilst travelling from Ipswich to Harwich. She was affectionately regarded as the mother of the caravan folk of East Anglia, and they came from all parts to pay the last tribute of respect. Eleven carriages followed the hearse. Hundreds of people assembled at the cemetery, and wreaths with touching inscriptions were sent from Daventry, Forest Gate, Croydon, Colchester, Norwich, Yarmouth, and many other places.

SOME ECHOES OF MITCHAM FAIR.

The showmen who dared to defy the prohibitory ukase of the Conservators of Mitcham Common, and did invade the fair green and did hold the fair, met with far different treatment than was meted out to the old tenants, who both in 1906 and 1907 were subjected to costly legal proceedings.

In our article last week dealing with the fair we ventured to express a hope that a change of policy on the part of the Conservators might afford an opening for the reconsideration of the whole question, and that the fair might be preserved to the people of Mitcham for ever. That hope was justified in the fact that, despite threatenings, there were no writs for trespass served upon the show people. We shall be extremely pleased to find that wiser and more liberal counsels are prevailing, and that the removal of the fair to a more commodious site, and its due regulation and control by the local authorities, will be the end of the agitation for preserving one of the most famous fairs in the metropolitan district.

The Local Press on the Fair.

The *Advertiser*, a weekly paper extensively read in the district of Mitcham, gives an interesting résumé of the fight for Mitcham Fair. The following extracts will interest our readers:—

"Last year, it may be remembered, public interest was worked up to a high pitch by a series of meetings held by both parties. The Fair Green was the scene of gatherings at which the rival sides breathed threatenings and slaughter against each other. Great things were going to happen, history was going to be made at Mitcham, but all that happened was that the fair was held as it has been held for scores of years past, and injunctions were obtained against a number of showmen. The whole thing now seems to have resolved itself into a fight between the Conservators and the Showmen's Guild, and it looks, though we are loath to say so, that the former are not having the best of it by any means.

Last Year and This.

"The excitement which characterised the opening of the fair last year was not so noticeable this week except on one day. That was Tuesday, just before the showmen went on to the green. The Conservators, who had held several secret meetings beforehand, were given the credit of having prepared all sorts of mysterious schemes to oust the showmen. But absolutely nothing was known except that Mr. H. Mallaby-Deeley, J.P., their chairman, had been to London to see the Home Secretary. The presumption, of course, was that he had been trying to get that officer of State to sign an order to do away with the fair. Mr. Gladstone no doubt listened with a sympathetic ear, but the much-needed order did not eventuate, as subsequent happenings proved, and now it is said that the Home Secretary, while listening with one ear to the woes of the Conservators, gave the other to the representative of the Showmen's Guild, who spoke effectively on behalf of his people. Nothing definite, however, was known on Tuesday, and the London papers came out with all sorts of fairy tales. About eleven o'clock in the morning caravans and traction engines which had been gathering rather ominously in the neighbourhood of the green for a day or two previous began to make a move. The police and ex-Sergeant Lawton, chief common keeper to the Conservators, were in attendance, and, of course, noted all that was going on.

"Three traction engines led the invaders, and just before twelve o'clock they puffed on to the disputed space dragging their chains of vehicles after them. There was great excitement when this happened, and it was just now that there was a likelihood of the rough element getting the upper hand. Fortunately the off-scourings of South London, who had anticipated a row, got no encouragement anywhere, and the remainder of the vans took possession without incident. But as soon as everybody had comfortably settled up came police officers with Mr. Lawton, having note-books and pencils ready, and they carefully took down the names and addresses of thirty-two van proprietors with a view to further use. The object was to serve writs upon them, and no doubt that has been done by this time. The sequel will appear later in the law courts, when injunctions will be applied for to restrain the defendants from using the green hereafter. Unless some genius can provide other means of stopping the show it will be some years before the Conservators have secured injunctions against all the members of the Showmen's Guild, for they number nearly 50,000. Most of the owners of the confiscated names and addresses came from a considerable distance—as far away as Cambridge and Colchester. They are strangers to the police of these parts. The majority of them knew what they were to expect, but, strange to say, there were a few who did not, and they were mightily surprised to find themselves coming in for so much attention from the constabulary. The business of setting up the booths, swings, roundabouts, cocoanut shies, boxing saloons, &c., was immediately in full swing, and on both sides of the London—and Croydon—roads.

Public Sympathy with the Old Tenants.

"Meanwhile many of those under the ban of the law had set up elsewhere. Mr. Alf. Ball, a vice-president of the Guild, had erected his 'New Lyceum' on a piece of ground a few yards above the green on the right-hand side, and Messrs. Thurston had installed themselves with a miscellaneous lot of show proprietors on a large area of waste land on the other side of the road. It is reached through a rather narrow passage, but is an ideal spot for a fair—so long as the neighbours do not object.

"These people, who are among the most prominent who come to Mitcham Fair, and without whom it would be a poor sort of turnout indeed, cannot be touched by the Conservators. They can defy those indignant gentlemen, and, so far as they are concerned, can hold a fair every year as so long as it pleases them. Wednesday was the 'great' day. All the morning various organs had been making mysterious noises, 'tuning up' it is called, and at noon they commenced a noise which was not to leave off until midnight was approaching.

"The real 'fun' began in the evening, when the crowds poured in from Croydon, Tooting, Sutton, Wimbledon, and every other place within a few miles' radius. The main roads were kept clear for an hour or two by the care of the police, but when it became dark they were absolutely impassable. Then the fair was to be seen in all its glaring glory.

"To see the fair at its best it was not necessary to stop on the green. Going up the London-road a few yards you came to a notice on a fence welcoming you to the 'White City' and the 'Royal fast-travelling mountain cars.' This was where Thurston, the man who knows the best way to draw the pence from the pockets of the unwilling, had pitched his tent. He is nothing if not up-to-date, and for the price of a 'brown' one could have a ride in a real motor-car. The tyres were really pneumatic, and the machines were fitted with head and tail lights, letters, numbers, and steering wheel. To get the fullest enjoyment out of a ride one had only to imagine that one was doing a reliability trial over the Scotch mountains. Near by was a 'helter-skelter,' where you paid one penny admission and brought your own mat, if you liked. Sober and dignified-looking matrons could be seen climbing to the top of the tower, each carrying a door-mat, upon which they sat down and slid with some velocity to the ground. One humorist, we were told, tried the descent sitting on his pocket-handkerchief, and he wished he hadn't afterwards.

"All the devices imaginable for spending money could be seen in the 'White City,' and the takings must have run into hundreds of pounds. Across the road was the exhibition of the one and only Alf. Ball. There was nothing niggardly about this show. The handsomely-carved and gilded front was lit with coloured electric light, and in the centre was a fine orchestraphone playing tunes from grand opera. Dancing women and funny men thronged the stage, and the admiring crowd almost forgot that it was their money that was wanted."

The London Press on the Fair.

The *Daily Telegraph* gave an account of the fair a column in length, and said: "The annual fair has been taking place this week at Mitcham, for in spite of rumours to the contrary, the showmen were allowed to take up positions on the green, and the most remarkable feature of the proceeding has been the curious contrast to last year. Then, days beforehand, the question whether the fair should, or should not, be held was debated with the greatest keenness, excited crowds surrounded the platform from whence Parish Councillors and other local celebrities competed with each other in denouncing or upholding the fair, and an interest was added by the presence of representatives of the Showmen's Guild, including the Chaplain (the Rev. Mr. Horne), who explained the views of the showmen.

"This year hardly a word has been said on the subject, the champions of the showmen have been conspicuous by their absence, and there was merely a mild interest taken in the prophesies which were made with regard to the attitude of the Board of Conservators on the subject. The movements of this body have been 'wropt' in mystery. They have taken the greatest possible care to exclude the Press and to conduct their deliberations in private in order that the showmen should not get wind of their policy, with the result that they led the public to believe that they were going to take some important step which would tend to the real abolition of the fair, the better class of residents having hoped that something definite would be done. But in this they have been greatly disappointed, for although visits to the Home Secretary have been hinted at, they have apparently got very little encouragement from that gentleman, and have been obliged to fall back upon their action of the last two years, viz., the issuing of writs to the showmen. As has been proved in previous years, the showmen are backed by a very powerful Guild, which leaves no stone unturned to defend the rights of its members. They threaten to continue the fight indefinitely and as quickly as the Conservators obtain injunctions against its members, will bring up fresh battalions to continue the struggle for what they look upon as their rights. With the thousands of members at its back, the Guild says it will be able to do this for ten years."

The *Morning Leader*, in a vigorous leading article, took the popular side: "The Fun of the Fair. So far the Conservators of Mitcham Common appear to have taken the challenge of the Showmen's Guild lying down, and Mitcham Fair has been held as usual this year—much as it has been any time, if tradition speaks truly, since the days of Elizabeth. Last year the Conservators obtained injunctions in the High Court against forty-eight showmen, forbidding them to occupy pitches on the fair green; these men have this year found refuge on other parts of the common, and their places on the green have been taken by others. It is much to be hoped that the quarrel (which never ought to have been begun) will rest at that. There is altogether too much disposition nowadays to harry and bully these old-time institutions at the bidding of enterprising house agents or a few cantankerous householders. This spirit is not confined to Mitcham, and it is high time that a stand should be made against it. The fun of the fair may not be the most exalted or subtle form of humour; it is for the most part exceedingly innocent: it brings great pleasure to hundreds whose lives are not too familiar with pleasure of any sort; and to suggest that one or even three days of it once a year really destroys the amenities of the most severely aristocratic of villas is nonsense."

The *Morning Post* gave the following interesting note on the fair: "In Domesday Book the Mitcham of to-day with its sweet scent of grateful lavender figures as Michelham, which, being interpreted, means 'great village.' Thus we know that hundreds of years ago Mitcham was a place of importance, and a portentous encyclopædia describes it in its modern guise as famous for market gardens and plantations of aromatic herbs for the manufacture of scents and essences. But Mitcham also claims pride of prominence for its ancient fair. Far back in the misty epochs of merry Mediæval England this fair was metaphorically 'opened' by a gorgeously-caparisoned official armed with a golden key. The official and the golden key have long since vanished, but Mitcham still keeps up its fair. It does so amidst many 'alarums and excursions,' and even braves conflict with the law itself. There has arisen a flinty-hearted generation of men who are entitled to call themselves the Conservators of Mitcham Common, and who seek to drive forth from their midst the showmen who cater for those who fain would indulge in the harmless fun of the fair. Last year the ponderous machinery of the High Court of Justice was brought into play in order to crush the showmen. The fearsome word 'injunction' prevailed, and they were placed under the ban of his Majesty's Judges. The showmen, however, have not lost their tenacity, and the places of those who were 'injuncted' have this year been taken by men who are ready to take all risks rather than surrender what they conceive to be an ancient right."

We wish to correct a false statement that has gained credence in the public mind aided by the Press. We are officially asked by the executive officers of the Showmen's Guild to deny that either this year or at any previous fair has action been taken by the society to organise or to invite showmen to attend Mitcham Fair and to draw on the fair green. The attendance of showmen has been without any request or whip of their trade organisation. Last year the Rev. T. Horne attended the fair green when the shows were drawing on. His object was to persuade possible newcomers against occupying the pitches of the old tenants. This he was able to secure, and so obtain a preference to the old tenants.

The proceedings in the High Court led to the injunction of all the old tenants of the fair green, with the result that this year the fair green was open to any enterprising showman without being charged with "jumping" or seizing another man's pitch. We want it to be clearly understood that the custom of Mitcham Fair has always been "first come, first served." It is, however, to the credit of showmen as a body that they recognise the prior claim of the old tenants.

The Alleged Deterioration of the Fair.

Like all other highly-specialised industries, the business of the fair ground is subjected to loss and injury by the guesswork of writers in the Press who are destitute of expert knowledge. Whilst on the whole the Press has dealt in a sympathetic manner towards the showmen, there has been seen in some of the Press notices a deplorable lack of knowledge of the real conditions of the fair ground industry, the ever-increasing importance of the people's fairs, and open-air amusements.

Pessimism Run Mad.

One writer uttered the following lament: "Nearing the End. Yet with all its outward semblance of gaiety a pall of gloom hung over Mitcham and its fair yesterday. The shadow of the law lies heavy on those who, greatly daring, have defied constituted authority by erecting a pitch on the fair ground. Their names and addresses have all been taken by the police 'for future reference.' The Showmen's Guild presents a brave face in the upholding of showmen's rights, but when at eleven o'clock last night the din of the fair was ended and the lights went out it was impossible to resist the conclusion that this ending of the night is tragically symbolic of the passing of the showman."

Another writer expresses the opinion "that, judging from appearances, as injunctions are gradually obtained against the better class of showmen, the fair will steadily deteriorate and die a natural death, for in spite of the attitude of their Guild, the showmen have not turned up in particularly good numbers this year."

The official communication from the executive officers of the Guild given above completely dissipates this extraordinary maze of guesswork and fiction. London and Provincial showmen simply and only as a matter of business gathered at Mitcham to keep the fair. The people of Mitcham and their neighbours enjoy the fair. The Home Secretary has refused to abolish the fair. Hence the fair was held as usual, and there is no conspiracy, no mysterious plot to bring up the busy battalions of showland year by year. Except on the fair green itself, there has been no change of the character of the amusements provided. The change was rather in the size of the concerns than in the quality. Of course, men with big shows cannot take possession of ground as expeditiously as men with stalls and throwing games.

The Greatest Fair Ever Held at Mitcham.

We speak with expert knowledge, and we claim that the fair of 1908 was in point of number of shows and other amusements, big and little, the largest ever known in Mitcham. Look at the list of shows in the front rank: three high-class electric cinematograph theatres—these three shows alone would have crowded out the fair green; four immense sets of steam and electric-driven roundabouts; and a huge helter-skelter tower. Where on the green could these have been situated? Then consider the shows and amusements in the second rank. Ridley's variety theatre, Le Neve and Norah Sullivan's physical culture pavilion, Bailey's fine art gallery, and some six or more minor side shows, and in addition four sets of gem roundabouts, three sets of swings, six shooting concerns, &c. "Deterioration," forsooth! "Passing of the showman," indeed! Why, the Showmen's Guild could, if the necessity arose, bring together shows and roundabouts to fill Mitcham Common lands all the way from the fair green to Croydon, and then have enough shows left for an overflow gathering on Figg's Marsh.

What the Guild Has Done.

It has used all possible and pacific means to induce the Conservators to cease their efforts to hinder or to extinguish the fair.

It has laid before the Conservators and the various public bodies concerned well-considered proposals for the removal of the fair to a better site on the common lands. It has done its best to mediate between the Conservators and the old tenants of the fair. It has offered all reasonable guarantees for the betterment and full control of the amusements to be exhibited at the fair.

What the Guild is Ready to Do.

It is ready and anxious to reopen the negotiations so abruptly brought to an end at the beginning of this year. A full statement of these overtures is now in circulation amongst the people of Mitcham. It is ready to let the whole question go to the vote of the people. The Guild has no secret methods; it only works on constitutional lines. It is a legitimate trade union, and works on lawful and proper lines. We again express the earnest hope that wise and liberal counsels will prevail, and that both the Conservators and the showmen will unite in the laudable public work of conserving and improving, for all time, the people's fair at Mitcham.

South Wales Echoes.

At Barry Island Mr. John Studt's new bioscope is the chief attraction, also his No. 1 zoological roundabout and juvenile set; Mathew's juvenile set and shooters, &c.; also Messrs. James Scott and Fosset's rifle saloons, cokers, &c., complete the list. At Porthcawl Messrs. Dooner have paid a successful visit with their up-to-date bioscope; Mr. Hy. Studt also had his new racing motors and zoological circus on the same ground, accompanied by Messrs. John and Wm. North; Danter, Freeman, and others, with shooting ranges, mollies, strikers, cokernuts, &c. Messrs. Wadbrooke continue a successful run in the Rhondda Valley with their electrograph exhibition. Mr. Wm. Haggar has been on tour in the Carmarthenshire districts with his No. 2 Royal Bioscope. Mr. John Johnson's Victoria Theatre has opened in Ferndale, and is meeting with great success. The genial proprietor, who believes in everything being up to date, has lately received a magnificent motor engine, so that the theatre will travel by road in future. His beautifully fitted up Pullman car living van is a work of art and provided with all the latest improvements. It is a veritable palace on wheels.

Crieff, N.B., Highland Gathering.

This old and famous gathering took place in the Market Park there on Saturday last, Aug. 15. It was attended by thousands of people from a wide district, and passed off very successfully for all concerned. The shows, machines, and fair-ground novelties were arranged in two long avenues to the east of the park. They were under the management of Mr. J. Evans, of Portobello, who is lessee of the grounds, and included his splendid electric roundabouts; Biddall's new picture concern, with its grand new organ, the coloured pictures of this show being well received; and Mander's No. 1 American Coliseum, with pictures. This show had some very smart turns outside, and local pictures shown drew big houses. Johnson's Circus of Varieties had also very smart work on the front and a grand show inside. Professor Monroe's National Sporting Pavilion of male and female artists was well supported by the sport-loving people of the town. Shooting ranges and saloons were much in evidence, and included, amongst others, Palmer's, A. Horne's, C. Horne's, H. Dawson's, W. Thompson's, T. Wright's, Hughes', Strand's, &c. Cocoanut stalls forward included Palmer's, Dawson's, Thompson's, and others. Aunt Sallies and Emmas, Horne-Strand's (5), Wright's, Thompson's, Knowles', and Campbell's; swings, Palmer's. Thompson's pipe-breakers, Gemmel's midget ponies, and the American Dodger were all doing big business in the west avenue; also football boards, bottle and cup shies, wheels of fortune, weight-lifting, strikers, and many others. There were a very large number of gipsy queens forward, and photo, sweet, and fruit stalls. The day being fine a large number of people from a distance visited the grounds both during the day and the evening, and a good day's business was the result. The townspeople of Crieff are loud in their praise of all concerned with the different concerns in the grounds during their stay, and hope they all may return for another year with their different amusements.

The Spangelettis, with their original animal hippodrome, are running the Eastham Gardens Circus, which has been a big success this summer.

Mr. Steel Parry's electric bioscope and Messrs. Haggar and Son's electric bioscope have during the week been doing good business at the Carmarthen Corporation Fair Ground. On Wednesday Messrs. Haggar and Sons gave special performances in the afternoon and evening, the proceeds being devoted to the charitable institutions of the town.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

16,375.—James Adam Stubbs, of Malton, Yorkshire. Stationary and disappearing target.

16,420.—Albert Arthur Lippold, of London. Improvements in automatic shutters for cinematographs.

16,611.—Jules Greenbaum, of London. Apparatus for synchronising kinematographs with talking-machines.

16,728.—Oscar Messter, of London. Improvements in the method of obtaining and reproduring speaking living pictures.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

18,053.—Sinclair (Welin). Automatic musical instruments.

25,150.—Taylor. Machines for public amusement.

27,160.—Richter. Talking machines.

28,704.—Gravity railways for recreation purposes.

1,238.—Hamley. Apparatus for performing an illusion or conjuring trick with a die or dice.

4,470.—Bontchev. Reproducing apparatus for talking machines.

12,549.—Opel. Needles for sound-reproducing machines.

SPECIFICATIONS OPEN TO INSPECTION.

16,272.—Belin. Apparatus for reproducing at a distance pictures or designs.

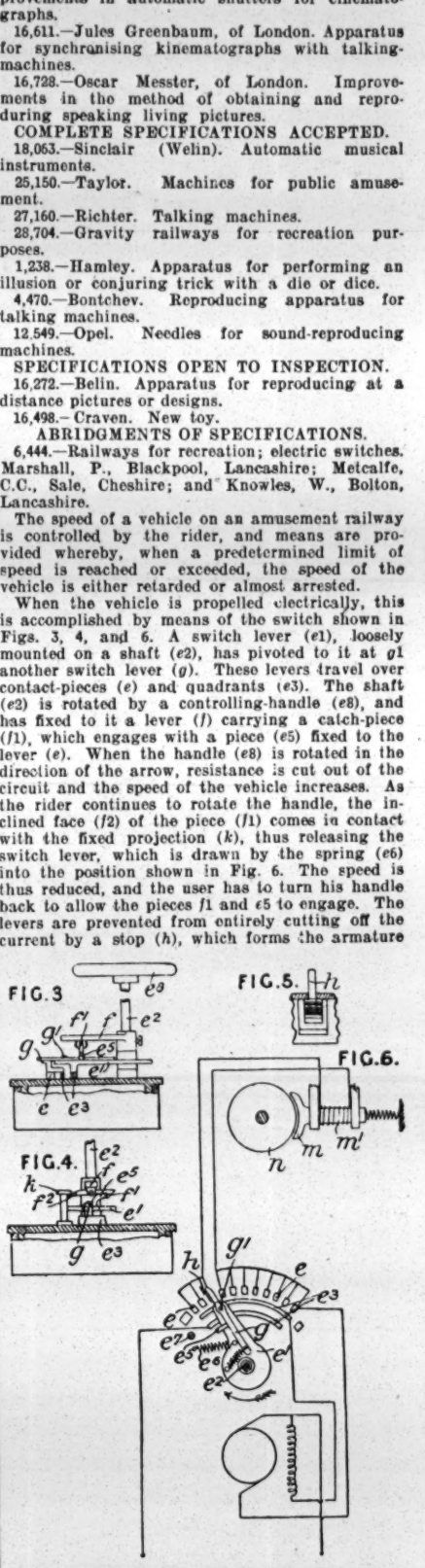
16,498.—Craven. New toy.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

6,444.—Railways for recreation; electric switches. Marshall, P., Blackpool, Lancashire; Metcalfe, C.C., Sale, Cheshire; and Knowles, W., Bolton, Lancashire.

The speed of a vehicle on an amusement railway is controlled by the rider, and means are provided whereby, when a predetermined limit of speed is reached or exceeded, the speed of the vehicle is either retarded or almost arrested.

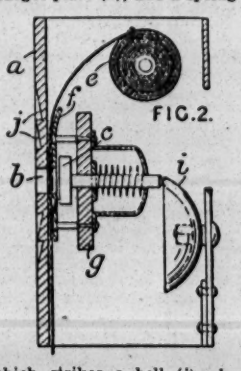
When the vehicle is propelled electrically, this is accomplished by means of the switch shown in Figs. 3, 4, and 6. A switch lever (*e*1), loosely mounted on a shaft (*e*2), has pivoted to it at *g*1 another switch lever (*g*). These levers travel over contact-pieces (*e*) and quadrants (*e*3). The shaft (*e*2) is rotated by a controlling-handle (*e*8), and has fixed to it a lever (*f*) carrying a catch-piece (*f*1), which engages with a piece (*e*5) fixed to the lever (*e*). When the handle (*e*8) is rotated in the direction of the arrow, resistance is cut out of the circuit and the speed of the vehicle increases. As the rider continues to rotate the handle, the inclined face (*f*2) of the piece (*f*1) comes in contact with the fixed projection (*k*), thus releasing the switch lever, which is drawn by the spring (*e*6) into the position shown in Fig. 6. The speed is thus reduced, and the user has to turn his handle back to allow the pieces *f*1 and *e*5 to engage. The levers are prevented from entirely cutting off the current by a stop (*h*), which forms the armature



of an electro-magnet (Fig. 5). When the current is cut off from the conductors by the main switches, the piece (*h*) descends and allows the lever (*e*1) to rest against the stop (*e*7). Further, when the lever (*e*1) is released by the piece (*k*), the current traverses the coil (*m*1) of an electrically-operated brake (*m*), which acts on the tyre of one of the wheels (*n*) of the vehicle. When the vehicles are made in the form of horses, the switch device may be operated by means of the reins. A portion of the track on which the vehicles run may be without conductor, or may be connected to separate switches, so that the riders cannot start until the attendants permit them. If steam is the motive power, a device may be used to cut off steam when a certain speed is reached. A similar device may also be used to control the time of firing of an explosion motor.

6,373.—Targets. Williams, J., and Lawrence, E., both of Swansea.

A recording-target for air-gun or miniature-rifle shooting consists of a roll (*e*) of paper or the like behind the target plate (*a*), and a spring-controlled



ram (*c*), which strikes a bell (*i*) when a bullet passes through the bulls-eye (*b*) and impinges on the head of the ram. The recording-strip is guided by a plate (*f*), having a hole in alinement with the hole (*b*), and supported by the bar (*g*), which also supports the ram. The target plate is sunk on the inside of the scoring rings (*j*), to prevent splashing of the bullets.

6,695.—Exhibitions, &c. Grave, T. H., of Nelson, Lancashire.

A cycle track is driven positively by machinery, such as an electric motor, while a motor-car or cycle is driven or ridden in either direction within the wheel. When the wheels of the vehicle are locked, it is carried round with the track.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

"THERE IS A SMELL OF SMOKE HERE."—Some comic scenes occur in this film. The doorkeeper is made anxious by a thick smoke coming forth from every window in the building. He is very much alarmed and sends for the fire brigade. Yet everything is in perfect order everywhere. On the first floor a married couple are having their dinner, and the steam of the soup just brought in goes out of the window. On the second floor a lady with a sore throat is having a fumigation. On the third floor a gentleman is having a bath. On the fourth floor a man and a woman are trying to kindle the fire in a small stove, and on the fifth floor a dauber is doing his own cooking. From every window the steam issues and seems to become thicker every minute, until a cold and unexpected jet of water comes and disturbs everybody. The firemen are performing their duty. They have been told to subdue the smoke and steam, and they mean to do it.

THE ASPIRATOR is also a humorous series. Two jokers having stolen a street-cleaning aspirator they saw in the street, put it up at the next corner, and the passers-by disappear one after another into its mouth. A well-dressed lady, a nurse and baby, a parcel of delicacies, pieces of furniture, and several policemen go the same way down the monster. At last the street-cleaners come back, and seeing at a glance what is happening, they send the jokers down the pipe. Then working the apparatus backwards, they make everybody and everything come to light again, somewhat bruised perhaps, but complete.

A FATHER'S FAULT.—A poor young woman had been foolish enough to believe in the false promises of a man whom she loved dearly; but when he tells her that they must part she gathers up her courage, and works hard to earn her living and that of her small son. Now she is looking after their humble home while her boy is out working for her and for himself. One day she meets accidentally the man who has wrecked her life and who is now richly married and the father of a lovely daughter. In spite of her now comparatively smooth life, all her former despair and grief has weakened the poor woman, and this last meeting proves too much for her. She dies shortly afterwards, after revealing to her son the secret of his birth. Jack will have his mother avenged, but Fate selects for him a way he had not dreamed of, for he saves his half-sister from drowning, and, after all, forgiveness is sweeter than revenge.

GLUE-MAKING.—Extremely interesting and instructive are the pictures of various phases of this industry. Thus we witness the various processes, including the selection of the raw material, opening the steaming-pan, boiling the glue in a cauldron, straining the glue, placing the remains of the bones in the oven, and from the oven to the pounding room, sacks of bone powder, the moulded glue taken to the drying room, the blocks of glue cut into sheets and placed on racks, and the drying and packing.

FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.—Messrs. Pathé Frères have just issued an attractive film descriptive of the White City. The scenes include the entrance to the Exhibition, the Court of Honour, a trip by water, the flip-flap, Pharaoh's Daughter, the scenic railway, the spider's web, Paillard's Restaurant, fire cascades, and the Pathé Pavilion.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

QUEBEC: THE TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION.—The Urban Company has secured a really magnificent series of pictures dealing with the visit of the Prince of Wales to Quebec. Many privileges and courtesies were extended to the operators of the company, and the result is that, from commanding positions, numerous photographs were taken. These afford fine views of the harbour at Quebec, the steaming in of H.M.S. Indomitable, the French and English warships, dressed rainbow fashion, firing a Royal salute, the landing of the Prince, inspection of the Guard of Honour, march of Canadian troops through the gaily-decorated streets, Champlain's ship, the Don de Dieu, fully manned, sailing down the harbour, a grand review of 20,000 troops by his Royal Highness on the Plains of Abraham, and the Wolfe-Montcalm procession. Altogether this film forms a brilliant production.

KING EDWARD AND THE GERMAN EMPEROR AT FRIEDRICHSCHOF.—These pictures, we are told, were taken through the granting of "Imperial favour," and the favour is one that the public will appreciate quite as much as the Urban Company. We are shown the Kaiser awaiting the arrival of our King, the meeting and greeting of the monarchs, introductions and salutations, a panorama of the prettily-decorated town and of Schloss Friedrichschof, the Royal party in the park, and their departure by motor for Homburg. It is an interesting and attractive series.

THE BLIND WOMAN'S DAUGHTER.—This pathetic drama of singular beauty, sympathetically treated and teeming with incident, will ensure to the exhibitor every mark of approval. A blind beggar woman is led to her pitch outside a public building by her daughter, who has excited the admiration of a gentleman of leisure. The girl listens to his protestations and allows herself to be led away by her admirer, leaving the helpless mother alone. Charitable passers-by give alms, and the satisfied beggar calls for her daughter to conduct her home. Receiving no response, she becomes alarmed and in groping about falls down. She is assisted by a kind-hearted lady, who tenderly cares for her in her rooms. Meanwhile the girl, torn between affection for her mother and love for her suitor, decides to stay in the luxurious quarters he has provided. Suitably attired, she accompanies him on a motor drive. The blind woman's grief is excessive, and after restlessly roaming about the room in which she has been left, she passes through an open window on to a balcony. The railings offer no protection, and she falls into the street below. Passers-by raise the old woman and a motor is summoned to convey her to a hospital. By a coincidence the car is the one in which her daughter is taking an airing. The scenes which follow are touching in their portrayal of the grief and remorse of the girl by the bedside of her mother, by the sympathy of her lover, and by the beautiful garden episode in which the convalescent old lady gives her blessing to the union of her daughter and the man of her choice.

THE EVER-LAUGHING GENTLEMAN.—Situations which usually cause chagrin, grief, anger, pity, or remorse, as they arise, only excite uncontrollable mirth in this exuberantly comic series. He makes endless mistakes, does much damage, tramples upon wounded feelings, injuring himself and others in the process, but always comes up smiling—nay, laughing—even when called upon to pay for breakages arising out of his own clumsiness.

AMATEUR BRIGANDS.—This is the amusing story of a love-smitten artist, and his ruse for securing the girl of his heart, after his suit had been scornfully rejected by her parents. Assembling his chums, he unfolds his plot, dresses them in conventional brigand costumes, and despatches the gang to waylay the girl's parents. This they do, holding up the old man's motor in a secluded forest glade. They are proceeding to bind their victims when the artist arrives and effects a rescue, scattering the brigands to right and left. The parents are so grateful that consent to the union is at once given, and a passing priest performs the ceremony. At subsequent family rejoicings to celebrate the nuptials the brigands appear as friends of the artist. They are recognised, and the angry father is only appeased after much feminine cajolery. The picturesque woodland scenery, the finished acting, and the general setting of this fascinating subject will commend themselves to every audience.

Jury's Imperial Pictures.

THE management of the Alhambra has entered into an arrangement for the exhibition nightly of Jury's Imperial Pictures. Nowadays so popular is the bioscope that great is the competition to obtain the latest and most up-to-date illustrations of incidents topical and otherwise, but the directors of the National Variety Theatre are confident that they will be able to give the public a constant change of interesting subjects gathered from every part of the world by means of Jury's Imperial Pictures.

Gaumont Company.

OUTWITTING THE ROBBER.—An amusing story is here told, the scene in which it is set being very beautiful and picturesque. An old man leaves a monastery to beg for alms. He is successful in his pleadings and collects a goodly sum. On the journey back he passes through exquisite woods and a fine view is seen of a river rushing along. He is stopped by a robber while in the wood, who relieves him of his money. He implores the robber to shoot bullets through his gown so that he can show he has been attacked and so get further alms. The robber, not seeing through the ruse, readily assents, and wastes all his bullets on the old man. Now comes the latter's opportunity. Springing on the robber, he half strangles him, and leaving him senseless, secures possession of the stolen money.

THE OLD SHEPHERD.—This is a very sensational and dramatic subject, and the views showing the old shepherd thrown over the cliffs by his would-be murderer, and the subsequent hazardous undertaking, which, happily, ends in his rescue by being hauled up the side of a precipice, cannot fail to thrill the spectator. Other capital Gaumont films are entitled PUT PA AMONGST THE GIRLS, THE LITTLE FLOWER SELLER, A SUPERINTENDENT'S NIGHT OUT, CHRIST AND THE WOMAN WHO SINNED, and THE APOSTLE OF LIBERTY.

ACCORDING to an American Consular report from Chemnitz, a German chemist has lately perfected a process which brings into competition with celluloid a new composition possessing similar plastic and elastic properties, but free from the easy and somewhat dangerous combustibility common to celluloid articles.

THE latest application, that with regard to cinematograph films, is amongst the most important. Its manifest superiority over celluloid for this purpose results from its non-combustibility. A film exposed for ten minutes to the concentrated light of an arc lamp does not exhibit the slightest alteration. A celluloid film, under the same conditions, bursts into flame after the lapse of only three seconds. The cinematograph has now entered so extensively into the category of popular entertainments that a film material will be most welcome which will obviate the serious danger thus far attendant upon the employment of the current mechanism, and already productive of several tragic catastrophes.

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A JUVENILE EQUESTRIENNE.

LITTLE MONA CONNOR.

The delightful little artist above named is the daughter of Mr. F. J. Connor, the proprietor of the Circus, Douglas, which he has controlled since July 20, 1895. Mr. F. J. Connor is one of the cleverest managers in England's far-reaching Empire, and his *dossier*, which appeared in a recent issue of *The Era*, determines it. But the accentuated talent of the clever young artist who is the subject of the present sketch comes from the mother as well. Her mother made her first appearance as a Risley performer at the age of four years with her uncle, Herbert Lenton, of the celebrated Lenton Family, at Berlin, and then toured the Continent with success. Afterwards, under the tutorship of Mr. Johnny D'Auban, she became the principal in the celebrated Dorothy Quartet of vocalists and dancers. Little Mona has appeared before the public in Manchester, London, and Glasgow, in conjunction with her

LITTLE MONA CONNOR.

brother as the tiny cake-walkers. "What is bred in the bone comes out in the flesh," and Little Mona took to riding on her own account. Her love for horses is a passion. The happiest moments are when she is practising on her pretty pony Shamrock, and the supreme exaltation happens at night, when audiences applaud her dashing hurdle act at her father's circus in Douglas. So great has been Little Mona's success that artists and the public have, in conjunction, presented her with an illuminated address and a gold medal. The address is signed by, amongst others, Mr. Tom Shaw, the well-known agent, and Mr. Chas. Fox, jun., the manager of the Palace, Derby Castle, and the Gaiety Theatre. A gratifying compliment to a clever little lady. It should be added that her brilliant progress as an equestrienne was to a great extent owing to the care and pains of her tutors, Mr. and Mrs. C. Ernest, of the Ernest Troupe of equestrians, who are at present engaged in Mr. Connor's company.

Humber's Waxwork.

The principal attraction at Humber's waxwork, Aberdeen, this week, is the appearance of the Mysterious Women of the East, who are expert mental telepathists. They thoroughly succeed in pleasing and mystifying the audiences.

THE Lancashire "Wakes" and holidays are sending trippers to New Brighton in numbers that make the Tower and grounds look like a perpetual picnic, and, consequently, every one of the many attractions in this popular park is doing exceptionally good business at present. The Cummins' Wild West Show has not enjoyed such popularity since the beginning of the season as it is now. The houses are constantly filled, and the performance really improves as the time goes on, and is altogether one of the best Wild West shows extant. The variety performance in the theatre has added very materially to the popularity of the park and to the financial gain of the management. For this week "Cestria," a comedy juggler and acrobatic waiter, is the principal feature, but he is forced to divide attention with such competent entertainers as Alma Curzon, singing comedienne and burlesque artiste, and Mr. Peter Lloyd, the mimetic comedian, with his marvellous imitations of birds, animals, and musical instruments. The Tower Bioscope naturally holds its own as a pleasing attraction.

FOR next week on the Bioscope the Marathon Race will be run over again for the special benefit of the patrons of the Tower, in addition to which Miss Rose Conroy, a most pleasing and pretty dancing and singing soubrette, will be the attraction, as will also the marvellous Days, in their second-sight readings, in which they are said to out the Danzics. In addition to these will be Monetta and Ford, comic knockabout artists. Every Thursday the management will provide dancing competitions, and the entire country in and about Liverpool is sending representatives to compete for the many prizes offered.

ON Aug. 31, for one week only, in the theatre, the Countess Romanoff will illustrate the perfection of poetry of motion in a series of classic dances, the principal of which will be the now famous dance of Salome before Herod, and in which she will introduce the famous head of John the Baptist scene. The Countess is a beautiful woman, highly finished in her art, and this engagement will be her only one for this season in or about Liverpool, as she leaves very shortly for a tour of Australia. On Sept. 19 the annual Eisteddfod will take place at New Brighton Tower, notwithstanding the fact that some interested party has started a rumour to the contrary. Already a larger number of entrances have been made than in years past, and everything indicates that a successful Eisteddfod will be held.

A HUMOROUS programme is presented this week at the Pier Pavilion, New Brighton, and business is satisfactory, the company including Mr. Fred Walmsley, Mr. Marriott Edgar, Messrs. Fielding and Hull, Miss Mildred Bryan, Miss Nell Emerald, and Miss Josey Leyton. Mr. Bernard Knox is a painstaking accompanist.

INDISPENSABLE! Rayne's Pocket Date Book. Price 1s. Contents: Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance. Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money-table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list of brougham proprietors, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c., &c. Send twelve stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page* 16.)

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Mr. Hamilton Baines is presenting H. Keates-Hales's No. 1 company in *His Lordship's Arrival*. The cast includes Mr. J. M. Stringer as Lord Francis Hurstbury; Mr. Arthur Lenville as William J. Binks; Mr. J. Herbert Willis as Hon. Algernon Fitzderry; Mr. Johnnie Schofield, jun., as Billy; Miss May Lind as Vivienne; Miss Mabel Gregory as Estelle, and Miss Gladys Harvey as Countess de St. Ives.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Houses packed in every available space is the result of the programme submitted this week. The premier turn is that contributed by Dave Samuels, the Hebrew comedian, whose song-parodies and patter keeps his audience in one continued roar of laughter; the Tossing Austins, comedy jugglers and dancers, evoke considerable applause; *The Tramp in the Nursery* is a conspicuous hit as performed by the Forsyths; Larola, "a clever man with funny ways, has a capital reception; for an all-round clever manipulator on a multitude of instruments, it would be difficult to beat Virto, whose performance was accorded rousing applause; other capital turns are provided by Rose Cabini, a captivating comedienne; Pearce and Ward, dancers and burlesque boxers; Goggin and Davies, acrobatic comedians, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company in the successful drama *Two Little Sailor Boys* is appearing here to crowded houses. A powerful company includes Mr. H. E. Herbert as Commander Noel Tregurthen and Miss Blanche Steele as Lola Grey. Miss Crawford and Miss Ivy Millars as the sailors boys are excellent.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. George C. Montrose.—This popular place of entertainment opened to a crowded house on Monday after the summer vacation. Topping the bill are Harland and Rollison, the musical marvels, in their refined acts. Also in the bill are Cora Corina, vocalist; the Three Lancashire Colliers, in a singing act; Brothers Lavelle, society acrobats; and Millie Nora, instrumentalist, the Vicoscope concluding a capital programme.

WEYMOUTH.—ROYAL JUBILEE HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Nobbs.—On Monday evening Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company appeared here in *The Dairymaids*, and met with a splendid reception. Miss Isa Bowman as Peggy received quite an ovation, and Mr. Edwin Dodds convulsed the house with his drollery as Joe Mivens; Miss Maud Lucy won rounds of applause as Eliza, and Dr. O'Byrne, as played by Mr. Frank Barclay, was in capable hands; Miss Dorothy Belmore was remarkably good as Lady Brudenell, and Winnie and Helen were charmingly represented by Miss Mora Hersee and Miss Connie Beaugarde; Sam Brudenell was capitally played by Mr. Sam Lysons, as also Lieut. Frank Meredith by Mr. Frank Manger, and Miss Kitty Kirwan was Miss Pyechase to the manner born; Mr. J. H. Bernard as Lieut. Brereton, Mr. Paul Smythe as Tim Capers, and Mr. E. L. Lawson as Todgers were all good in their respective parts. The Sandow Girls were encored again and again, and Peggy's song, "Put me into trousers," brought down the house.

WHITBY.—THE SPA THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Payne Seddon.—Miss Emma Hutchinson and Mr. Percy Hutchinson's company appeared here during the first three days of the week in *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*, and attracted splendid houses. Mr. George Mudie gives a fine rendering of Mr. Ponderbury, and Mr. Drew Mackintosh cleverly portrays the rôle of Mr. Mervyn Thorpe; Mr. Chas. A. Staite is clever in the part of Mr. Hyacinth Grayling, whilst Mr. Geo. Child is a capable Capt. John Rumford, R.N. Miss Annie Stalman is powerful in the rôle of Mrs. Ponderbury, and gains the frequent applause of the audience; Miss Florence Wix is remarkably good as Mme. Polaca Modgeski; and Miss Florence Wellesley as Ethel Penniston gives a fine interpretation of the rôle. Mr. Alfred Ibberson as Peter keeps the company in continuous merriment. The remaining parts are in capable hands. On Thursday Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company opened in *The Belle of Mayfair*.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDER THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiddie.—*A Country Girl in London* is being presented here by Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company. Mr. W. V. Garrod as Frank Gordon makes a fine hero; Mr. John B. Sheridan is sound as John Hamilton; Mr. G. Moreton-Williams makes the part of Godfrey Clinton fairly reek with villainy; Mr. Clifford Marle plays forcibly as Job Smithers; Mr. E. W. Avery draws a clever and amusing portrait of Heinrich Oppenheim, a German; Mr. Seymour Perry is also very humorous as Wilberforce Puddyphat. Miss Josephine Colona is a sweet Gwendoline Gordon; the Adelaide Puddyphat of Miss Lesley Adair is a good performance; and Miss Bertha Kingston in the title-rôle plays with sympathy.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—*The Coal King* is being accorded a splendid reception on the occasion of a return visit. Miss Winifred Love excels in her charming impersonation of Grace Shirley; Miss Joan Wellman as Mad Ann renders valuable assistance; Mr. A. C. Alderson is particularly successful in the rôle of Tom Roberts; and the character of the Coal King is in the capable hands of Mr. Ulick Burke. Mr. G. Banbury is a conspicuous success as Walter Hartford; Mr. F. Dalton is exceptionally good as Dick Shirley; and in his clever impersonation of Jim Williams, Mr. S. Roberts keeps the house convulsed with merriment.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Some excellent feats of head-balancing are displayed by the Willo Brothers; the Martines, trampolin acrobats, contribute a very acceptable number; Alfred Chester makes a decided hit with his song "The Duke"; Nash and Noel are patter comedians of much merit; Mabel Mavis is responsible for a novel musical speciality, and her glassophone selections are highly appreciated. Ward and Davies introduce some good comedy and original dancing, and Nellie Walton appears with success as a singing mill-girl. Little Rene is an expert juggler; Dunn and Reano are excellent comedians; Roy Beavis mystifies the audience with his tricks; and the dancing of the Sisters Barnes is loudly applauded.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Marco.—An excellent series of pictures is shown this week, including the following subjects:—Saved by St. Bernard's, The Bargee's Daughter, A Death-bed Marriage, together with many humorous films. A. L. Guthrie is a versatile comedian, who introduces singing, dancing, and a musical pot-pourri act, and Miss Julia Spencer, ballad vocalist, is also well received.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Wolverhampton Empire Palace Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company in *A Soldier of France* is proving a strong attraction here this week. Mr. Leonard Aardale does exceedingly well as Corporal Jean; Mr. Edward Hobart plays with sincerity and feeling as Capt. Louis Lorraine, and afterwards as Lieut. Louis. Judas Delara is skilfully interpreted by Mr. Albert Guyon. In the character of Duke D'Laval Mr. Milton C. Curtis shows marked ability; Miss Florence Zillwood, in the difficult part of Pauline Lorraine, gives an excellent performance; and Miss Dora Weber is very good as Rita. As Master Louis Lorraine Little Gertie Renaud shows cleverness. Mr. Freddie Edwards and Miss Jennie Clare cause plenty of amusement as Pollyputt Jollyboy and Margot respectively.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Wolverhampton Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—An excellent programme is presented here. The bill is headed by Fred Ginnett and company, in the popular sketch *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*; Mr. Ernest Rees is well received, and causes much laughter. That excellent comedian Sammy Shields proves a strong favourite with his up-to-date patter and his football song; Will Van Allen, the the musical tramp, is really good; Ara, Zebra, and Vora's acrobatic performance is clever; Godfrey James, the tenor collier, and Jessie Merrilees each sing tunefully, and earn well-merited applause. The Two Clares also do well.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. C. Wards.—Variety shows continue to find favour, and the high standard set by the esteemed lessee has been well maintained. This week the "star" turn is by Sears, described as "America's foremost illusionist," who successfully mystifies his audience by the ease with which he extricates himself from a closed cabinet, a strait waistcoat, and other impediments to freedom. Lozelle's gymnastic performance is wonderfully good; and the Lizette troupe of lady acrobats is most popular. The Grosvenor Trio of female voices finds considerable favour; Lomas, the manmonkey, does some clever feats on a rope and pole; and some clever tumbling by the Gentrys is a very welcome item. The Harrison Brothers as "the Golfing Johnnies" are very funny; and George Prince and Harry Bland contribute acceptable musical items.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. George Edwardes's company was here for the first three nights of the week presenting *The Merry Widow*. Mr. Edward D'Arcy as Baron Popoff puts in some effective work, his quaint mannerisms causing roars of laughter; Mr. Ripley Evans as Viscomte Camille de Jolidon possesses a fine tenor voice and uses it to perfection; Mr. Fred Fowler funnily impersonates the part of Nisch; Mr. William Allison as the Marquis de Cascada is very good; Mr. Frank Greene as Prince Danilo combines a fine presence with an excellent voice, and carried all before him; Miss Lucy Donati is droll as Prascovia; Miss Mysie Devine soon installed herself a favourite as Sonia, the rendering of her musical numbers being very fine. She also dances well. The remainder of the cast were efficient. The company as a whole is a strong one, and success gained was evidenced by unstinted applause from crowded houses. For the rest of the week Mr. Mouillot's company were billed with *The Girl Behind the Counter*.

WINTER HALL.—Manager, Mr. Shanley.—The pictures here are of a high standard as usual. Aunt Maria's Tight-Rope, Boulter's Lock, Chemist's Mistake, Fun at the Fair, Faked Blind Man, Harmless Bull Fight, Vanderbilt's Coaches at Olympia, &c., are amongst the best.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week Edmund Caselli, a clever banjoist, has made a hit; McCarthy, in his speciality *At the Bar*, introducing six characters, is very smart; Miss Edna Francis is a pleasing characteristic vocalist and dancer; and Lena Page, a burlesque actress, is good.

YORK.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is once more producing *Two Little Vagabonds* with great success. Miss Denise Zaleski and Miss Alice Leon are capital representatives of Dick and Wally; and the many telling situations have full justice done to them. As George Thornton Mr. R. A. Greene plays a trying rôle with much skill; Miss Florence Dalton acts powerfully as Marion Thornton; and Miss Marie Pritchard is sufficiently repulsive as Biddy.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—The La Faille Troupe head the bill, and give a very smart performance; the Garganis, too, prove a popular turn; Rich. Taylor is a clever and amusing ventriloquist; and Flora Lumière, "the Human Butterfly," scores a distinct success. As of yore, Agnes Molteno in her scena is warmly received; Hearne and Palmer give a clever acrobatic act; Lucy Coventry, dances to the delight of all; and the Sisters Benson find much favour.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL, BELFAST.

A new addition to the places of entertainment in the Ulster capital was made on Monday, when the above building opened with a success that augurs well for the future. Many years ago this hall was a popular resort, and it has now been reopened under the most auspicious circumstances. Entertainments, Ltd., an enterprising company, who secured the hall some months ago, has certainly not been idle during the period of closure. Under the direct supervision of Mr. Robert Wilson, the general-manager, formerly manager of Messrs. David Allen and Son's London establishment, the hall has been entirely renovated and beautifully decorated, a new stage has been built, and commodious dressing-rooms fitted. Numerous exits have been provided, and the entire audience can be let out in less than three minutes. The programmes to be submitted will consist for the main part of the finest animated pictures and high-class variety entertainments. The Filmograph used is of the most up-to-date kind, being enclosed in fireproof iron casing and driven by electric motor. By an ingenious method all the electric lights in the house are controlled from the operator's box, so that simultaneously with the withdrawal of the pictures from the screen the hall is briliantly illuminated. Messrs. Dean, of Birmingham, had charge of the seating arrangements.

The programme submitted on the reopening night was certainly one to please the most fastidious. Among the films exhibited were Tyrolean Manners and Customs, The Dieppe Motor Races, 1908, a most exciting series, His First Frock-coat, The Matinée Hat, Blue Beard, Peggy's Portrait, Jack's Rival, &c. Mr. Vernon Harcourt appeared during the evening, and recited "The Dream of Eugene Aram," and Mme. Vernon Harcourt played a number of musical instruments cleverly. Prince Sehaboo, Hindu basso, was also accorded a good reception. The orchestra was under the skilful direction of Mr. Fred G. Bathurst. It should be added that Mr. Fred Arthur was most indefatigable in his efforts to please the crowd of patrons who assembled at the initial performance.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special newspaper express services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—Rugby, 4.39 a.m.; Coventry, 4.54 a.m.; Birmingham, 5.20 a.m.; Crewe, 6.5 a.m.; Manchester, 6.50 a.m.; Liverpool, 7 a.m.; Chester, 9.3 a.m.; Doncaster, 6.10 a.m.; York, 7 a.m.; Hull, 8.20 a.m.; Darlington, 8.58 a.m.; Scarborough, 10.5 a.m.; Newcastle, 10.10 a.m.; Leeds (Central), 6.58 a.m.; Huddersfield, 7.37 a.m.; Bradford (Exchange), 7.47 a.m.; Harrogate, 7.50 a.m.; Halifax, 8.17 a.m.; Burnley, 9.28 a.m.; Leicester, 4.36 a.m.; Nottingham, 5.10 a.m.; Derby, 5.35 a.m.

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GARCIA AS A TEACHER.

"At the Academy weekly concerts," writes Mr. Sterling Mackinlay in "Garcia the Centenarian and His Times," "Garcia generally had a pupil singing, and would sit in front, nodding, waving his hand, and generally doing his best to establish telepathic communication with the vocalists, that he might inspire them with his spirit. At one of these Marie Tempest was due to sing with orchestra an air from 'Ernani,' which had been carefully studied under her master.

"The conductor waved his hand, and the aria was commenced. After a few bars Manuel Garcia began to fidget in his seat, then to frown, and to beat time with his feet. At last the veteran could stand it no longer. He rose from his seat, leapt on to the platform—approaching his eightieth year as he was,—and seized the bâton from the conductor's hand, exclaiming, 'Mon Dieu! you are ruining my pupil's song. I will conduct it myself.'

"Shortly after this episode Miss Tempest, as a member of the operatic class, took part in a mixed performance which included an act from *Carmen* and another from *The Mock Doctor*.

"Alberto Randegger was present at this, and came up to her afterwards, saying, 'Miss Etherington, you must undoubtedly go on the stage.'

"'After that,' said Miss Tempest, 'I seemed to be on the boards before I knew where I was.'

"'The first piece in which I appeared was *Boccacio*, at the Comedy Theatre; from that I went to the Opéra Comique for *Fay o' Fire*, and then came *Dorothy*, and—the rest.' What a record it has been, that series of triumphs in light opera, concert, and comedy, thus dismissed with a smile and a characteristic shrug of the shoulders as—'the rest'!

"Another pupil of Garcia at the Academy about this time was Mme. Agnes Larkcom.

"Arthur Oswald, now a professor at the Royal Academy of Music, tells me that at one of his lessons he was stopped by Señor Garcia with the word 'wrong!' He was surprised, because he felt sure that he had sung the right notes in time and tune, and with careful attention to the words and vocal phrasing. 'I will give you five minutes to find out,' said Garcia to the puzzled pupil when he asked to be told the fault. At the end of that time the master said, 'Voix blanche, voix ouverte, voix horrible.'

"Mr. Oswald recounted another episode which was very typical. His friend William Nicholl, after studying under various Continental and English masters, was anxious to have an interview with Garcia to make sure that he had assimilated correct ideas. A meeting was accordingly arranged, and he went up to 'Mon Abri,' expecting to be put through some sort of catechism as to the human voice and the principle of singing. Instead of this, Garcia, on learning his visitor wished to teach, motioned him to the piano-stool. 'Will you sit down, please? Merci. Now, you are the master, I am the pupil. I know absolutely nothing. Give me my first lesson.'

"Nicholl commenced to carry out this very practical test of his powers to the best of his ability. All went well till in an unlucky moment he mentioned the phrase 'voice-production,' which was the maestro's pet aversion. In an instant Garcia leapt to his feet and banged his fist on the piano. 'Mon Dieu! How can you *produce* a voice? Can you show it to me and say, "See, here it is. Examine it?" Non! Can you pour it out like molten lead into the sand? Non! There is no such thing as voice-production. Perhaps you mean voice-*emission*? You do? Eh, bien! Then say so, please.'

"'Through the good offices of a friend,' says another pupil, 'I found myself one day in Garcia's room at the London Academy of Music. He was just finishing a lesson, and I was struck at once by the extreme courtesy and patience with which he taught, the charm of his manner, the directness, the common-sense, and uncommon penetration of his remarks.

"'He welcomed me with a few graceful words, scrutinising me with a keen but friendly glance. Thus I sang to him with much confidence, losing all the nervousness with which I had looked forward to the examination by so famous a judge. He accompanied me gently, yet with firmness and rhythmical decision. When I had finished he looked straight at me, and to my utter astonishment remarked, "You are a philosopher, are you not?"

"'"Oh, I have studied philosophy to some extent," I replied.

"'"What do you think of your performance?"

"'"But I should like to know your opinion," I blurted out.

"'"No, no," he answered. "Tell me what you think of it?"

"'So I told him that I thought I had a voice and an ear, but I was afraid I did not succeed in making a strong appeal, and I was sure I did not know how to sing. He laughed. "Quite right, quite right; you do not sing," he said.'

"'Manuel Garcia's science and cleverness,' writes another, 'enabled him to know at once whether he had to deal with a pupil of promise or not; and unlikely aspirants were not allowed to waste his time and theirs.

"'I remember a notable case in point. A very rich lady offered the master any price if he would only teach her daughter. He refused, knowing well he could never obtain serious work from her; but as the mother persisted, he hit upon a compromise. He asked the ladies to be present during a lesson, and he undertook to teach her if the girl still wished to learn singing after hearing it taught. The lesson began. The pupil—who seemed to the listeners an already finished singer—had to repeat passage after passage of the most difficult exercises before the master was satisfied; he insisted upon the minutest attention to every detail of execution. Mother and daughter exchanged horrified glances, and looked on pityingly. The lesson was finished, the master bowed the ladies out, and in passing the pupil the young girl whispered to her, "It would kill me!" Señor Garcia, returning from the door, said contentedly, "They will not come again. Thank you, mon enfant, you sang well."

"'He was always careful to avoid making his pupils self-conscious by too many explanations. In one case he found a simple way of teaching chest-voice to a girl. "Do you know how a duck speaks?" Señor Garcia asked her. "Imitate it, please."

"'With much giggling, to which he listened patiently, she tried to obey: "Quack, quack."

"'"Good! Now turn this into a singing note; sing one tone lower in the same manner, and one more."'

"A simple enough device, which spared him and his pupil much vexation.

"His knowledge of the human voice and his power of detecting its faults were equally marvellous. He had a pupil who, by singing higher than her natural range, had strained her voice, and it was necessary that she should avoid singing anything in a high register. Once only she disobeyed him, and on entering his room the next day she was greatly surprised that the master's face was flushed with anger. At once he reproached her for having sung soprano. She pleaded guilty. 'But how did you know?'

"'I heard you speak, that is quite enough,' he said; and he told her that in ten years not a note would be left of her brilliant voice. However, on her promising not to disobey his instructions again, Garcia made up his mind to help the girl to come out under his auspices as an oratorio singer. 'But,' he told her, 'you will need one year's uninterrupted study before appearing in public.'

IBSEN'S IDIOSYNCRASIES.

Gregers Werle in *The Wild Duck*, writes Mr. William Archer in his preface to that play in Mr. Heinemann's fine edition, is unquestionably a piece of ironic self-portraiture. In his habit of "pestering people, in their poverty, with the claim of the ideal," the poet adumbrates his own conduct from *Brand* onwards, but especially in *Ghosts* and *An Enemy of the People*. Relling, again, is an embodiment of the mood which was dominant during the conception of the play—the mood of pitying contempt for that poor thing human nature, as embodied in Hialmar. An actor who, in playing the part of Relling, made up as Ibsen himself, has been blamed for having committed a fault not only of taste, but of interpretation, since Gregers (it is maintained) is the true Ibsen. But the fact is that both characters represent the poet. They embody the struggle in his mind between idealism and cynical despondency. There can be no doubt, however, that in some measure he consciously identified himself with Gregers. In a letter to Mr. Gosse, written in 1872, he had employed in his own person the very phrase, *den ideale fordring*—"the claim of the ideal"—which is Gregers' watchword. The use of this sufficiently obvious phrase, however, does not mean much. Far stronger evidence of identification is afforded by John Paulsen in some anecdotes he relates of Ibsen's habits of "self-help"—evidence which we may all the more safely accept, as Herr Paulsen seems to have been unconscious of its bearing upon the character of Gregers. "Ibsen," he says, "was always bent upon doing things himself, so as not to give trouble to servants. His ideal was 'the self-made man.' Thus, if a button came off one of his garments he would retire to his own room, lock the door, and, after many comical and unnecessary preliminaries, proceed to sew on the button himself, with the same care with which he wrote the fair copy of a new play. Such an important task he could not possibly entrust to anyone else, not even to his wife. One of his paradoxes was that 'a woman never knew how to sew on a button so that it would hold.' But if he himself sewed it on, it held to all eternity. Fru Ibsen smiled roguishly and subtly when the creator of Nora came out with such anti-feminist sentiments. Afterwards she told me in confidence, 'It is true that Ibsen himself sews on his vagrant buttons; but the fact that they hold so well is *my* doing, for, without his knowledge, I always "finish them off," which he forgets to do. But don't disturb his conviction; it makes him so happy.'"

"One winter day in Munich," Herr Paulsen continues, "Ibsen asked me with a serious and even anxious countenance, 'Tell me one thing, Paulsen—do you black your own boots every morning?' I was taken aback, and doubtless looked quite guilty as I answered, 'No.' I had a vaguely uncomfortable sense that I had failed in a duty to myself and to society. 'But you really ought to do so. It will make you feel a different man. One should never let others do what one can do oneself. If you begin with blacking your boots, you will get on to putting your room in order, laying the fire, &c. In this way you will at last find yourself an emancipated man, independent of Tom, Dick, or Harry.' I promised to follow his advice, but have unfortunately not kept my word." It is evident that Ibsen purposely transferred to Gregers this characteristic of his own; and the sentiments with which Gina regards it are probably not unlike those which Fru Ibsen may from time to time have manifested. We could scarcely demand clearer proof that in Gregers the poet was laughing at himself.

To Hedvig, Ibsen gave the name of his only sister, and in many respects she seems to have served as a model for the character. She was the poet's favourite among all his relatives. "You are certainly the best of us," he wrote to her in 1869. Björnstjerne Björnson said, after making her acquaintance, that he now understood what a large element of heredity there was in Ibsen's bent towards mysticism. We may be sure that Hedvig's researches among the books left by the old sea-captain, and her dislike for the frontispiece of Harrison's "History of London," are remembered traits from the home-life of the poet's childhood. It does not seem to be known who had the honour of "sitting for" the character of Hialmar. Probably he is a composite of many originals. Moreover, he is obviously a younger brother of Peer Gynt. Deprive Peer Gynt of his sense of humour, and clip the wings of his imagination, and you have Hialmar Ekdal.

I confess I do not know quite definitely what Ibsen had in mind when he spoke of *The Wild Duck* holding "a place apart" among his productions and exemplifying a technique (for he is evidently thinking of its technical development) "divergent" from that of its predecessors. I should rather say that it marked the continuation and consummation of the technical method which he had been elaborating from *Pillars of Society* onward. It is the first example of what we may term his retrospective method, in its full complexity. *Pillars of Society* and *A Doll's House* may be called semi-retrospective; something like half of the essential action takes place before the eyes of the audience. *Ghosts* is almost wholly retrospective; as soon as the past has been fully unravelled, the action is over, and only the catastrophe remains; but in this case the past to be unravelled is comparatively simple and easy of disentanglement. *An Enemy of the People* is scarcely retrospective at all; almost the whole of its action falls within the frame of the picture. In *The Wild Duck*, on the other hand, the unravelling of the past is a task of infinite subtlety and elaborate art. The execution of this task shows a marvellous and hitherto unexampled grasp of mind. Never before, certainly, had the poet displayed such an amazing power of fascinating and absorbing us by the gradual withdrawal of veil after veil from the past; and as every event was also a trait of character, it followed that never before had his dialogue been so saturated, as it were, with character-revelation. The development of the drama reminds one of the practice (in itself a very bad practice) of certain modern stage-managers, who are fond of raising their curtains on a dark scene, and then gradually lighting it up by a series of touches on the electric switchboard. First there comes a glimmer from the right, then a flash from the left; than the background is suffused with light, so that we see objects standing out against it in profile, but cannot as yet discern their details. Then comes a ray from this batten, a gleam from that; here a penetrating shaft of light, there a lambent glow; until at last the footlights are turned on at full, and every nook and cranny of the scene stands revealed in a blaze of luminosity. But Ibsen's switchboard is far more subtly subdivided than that of even the most modern theatre. At every touch upon it, some single, cunningly-placed, ingeniously-dissembled burner kindles, almost unnoticed save by the most watchful eye; so that the full light spreads over the scene as imperceptibly as dawn grows into day.

It seems to me, then, that *The Wild Duck* is a consummation rather than a new departure. Assuredly it marks the summit of the poet's achievement (in modern prose) up to that date. Its only possible rival is *Ghosts*; and who does not feel the greater richness, depth, suppleness, and variety of the later play? It gives us, in a word, a larger segment of life.

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MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON. Nov. 16, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on. DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E., Dec. 14, Jan. 18, March 8, 29, April 5, 12, on. COUNTY THEATRE, READING, Nov. 16 (three nights), Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on. OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, Feb. 22, March 8, 15, 22, April 5, 12, on. ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, Nov. 9, 16. GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, Sept. 21, Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, on THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, Nov. 30, Feb. 1, 15, 22, March 15, 22, on. OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, Nov. 30, Xmas (seven nights), Feb. 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5. THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, Xmas (7 nights), March 15, 22 29, April 5, on. THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, Oct. 5, Nov. 23, 30 Dec. 7, Jan. 4, 11, 25, on. Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9, onwards. GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, Aug. 31, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Dec. 14, 21, 28, onwards. THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, Aug. 31, Sept. 14, 21, 28 Oct. 12, 19, on (three nights only) Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford

WANTED, First-class Attractions Aug. 31. Wire, Falcon, Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only THEATRE ROYAL, DUBLIN Oct. 12, Nov. 2. OPERA HOUSE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS, Sept. 7, 8, 9 (?), Sept. 14, 15, 16. Apply, F. Mouillot, 1, King-street, Covent Garden, W.C.

BRIXTON THEATRE. WANTED, Important Attractions Musical Attractions preferred, Sept. 28, Oct. 5 Fredk. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd., WANTED, Pay-Box Attractions Autumn, 1909. Coms., Arthur Jefferson.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.

The flowing tide of prosperity would seem to have set in for the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, under the capable management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—Western Mail, Aug. 18, 1908.

WANTED, Dates, for Premier Attractions only. Share or Certainty. Address, Rollo Balmain, T. R., Cardiff.

WANTED, Known, Sept. 21, 28 vacant, T. R., Cardiff, for the Biggest Attractions only. Address, Rollo Balmain.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON. THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON. WANTED, First-class Musical Attractions, Oct. 5, 19, 26. Oct. 5, 19, 26. Vacant to oblige Mr. Macdona. James Bell.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for PAISLEY THEATRE, Oct. 5, Feb. 1, 15, March 8, 29. PERTH THEATRE, Sept. 28, 29, 30 (three nights), Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 Jan. 18, Feb. 8. Address, J. H. Savile, Theatre, Paisley.

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL. WANTED, for Comedy, Musical Pieces, or Melodrama, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, 9, and 16. Address, W. Morton.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER. WANTED, Attractions, Vacant Sept. 10, 11, 12 Sept. 28, Oct. 26; holding capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. Address, J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attraction, Oct. 19 (through transfer), Newcastle Autumn Race Week. Apply, T. W. Rowe.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES. WANTED, First-class Companies, for Oct. 12, Nov. 2. and onwards, with exceptions. Address, Thos. Swinton.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Sept. 21 (3), 28 (3 or 6), Oct. 12 (3), Nov. 2 (3 Dunfermline, 3 Paisley), 9 16, 23, 30. W. E. Potts, Opera House, Dunfermline.

IRVING THEATRE, SEACOMBE. WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Sept. 14, also Oct., one or two dates onward. Apply to Owner and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.

WANTED, Company, five nights, Nov. 2 (Wednesday, Theatre Let for Concert). Address, M. Loader, Opera House, St. Helens.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, good Companies. Sept. 3, 10, on. Wire, Vernon.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Sept. 7, Nov. 2, 16, 23, 30 Wire. Horner, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE, GREAT GRIMSBY. WANTED, Company, for Oct. 12, through transfer; only vacancy this year. J. H. Curry, as above.

HOWARD and WYNDHAM, LIMITED. WANTED, First-class Attraction, October 12, Glasgow. All communications, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies for present and future dates. James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies, ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH, Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth. High-class Attractions only entertained. Vacant Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, onward with exceptions

All communications re dates, Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E. Vacant Sept. 14, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 2, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER. Vacant Nov. 9, Dec. 21, Feb. 22, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY. Vacant Dec. 7, 21, 28, April 5, onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK. Vacant April 12, May 31, June 7, onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH. Vacant Aug. 24, 31, Sept. 7, onward, with exceptions. (First three nights best for Musical pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN," Jan. 25, 1909, onward. Pantomime, "CINDERELLA," Jan. 18, 1909, onward. Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD," Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c. Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED. Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL. WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Spring Dates. GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL. Wanted, First-class Musical and other London Attractions, Sept. 7, 21, 28, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30. THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE. Wanted, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2. GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL. Wanted, Good-class Attractions, Aug. 31 (wire), Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26. Re Dates, Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS. Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson. The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices. WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Oct. 5, 12, 26, on, with exceptions. Applications for dates to Hugh Robertson, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Wanted, Companies, NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA. No Vacant Dates this year. 1909, Feb. 22, onwards, with exceptions. EDEN THEATRE, BISHOP AUCKLAND. Vacant Dates:— 1908, Oct. 26 and Nov. 16. 1909, April 5, onwards, with exceptions. The above Theatres are now booked in conjunction. First-class Companies, Musical and Dramatic, are invited to correspond with A. C. Moody, Lessee and Manager, Blyth; or J. Huntley, Manager, Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, First-class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN. Sept. 17, 18, 19, and 28 (?). NEW THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH. Only Vacancies, Nov. 16 and Dec. 7 (last three days of week only). NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP. Opens Sept. 14; vacant Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, and on (last three days of week only). OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY. Vacant Aug. 31 and on. Wanted, Musical Attraction for Christmas. DUMFRIES AND HAWICK THEATRES. Vacant Oct. 12, 19, and 26, and New Year, for Musical Companies. SPA, WHITBY. All Engagements complete. W. Payne Seddon, Whitby.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH. WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Oct. 19, Dec. 21, 28, Feb. 1, March 15, April 5. Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK, SOUTH WALES. WANTED, Good Companies, Drama, Musical and Farcical Comedies (those playing two or three pieces weekly preferred), Sept. 7, 28, Nov., onwards with exceptions. Particulars, Tom Barger.

CENTRAL PIER, MORECAMBE. WANTED, good Musical or Farcical Comedies, for Sept. 7 and 14. The finest Pier Pavilion in the World. E. Hill, Manager.

BASINGSTOKE.—CORN HALL. WANTED, Companies. Finest Hall in North Hampshire, now thoroughly restoring by Town Council, also decorating and re-seating, ready for re-opening, Aug. 31. Moderate rental, or shares. S. Walford, Lessee.

WANTED, Known, No Vacant Dates until Feb. 22, March 8 and 29, April 19, and onwards, exceptions. First-class Manager to Produce his own Pantomime, 1909. J. Maurice Clement.

ALNWICK CORN EXCHANGE (Licensed). WANTED, a few early Autumn Bookings; rental only. Apply, Proprietor.

CARLTON THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM. WANTED, Dramatic Company, Aug. 31. Address, James Alexander.

WANTED, First-class Company, T. R., Wednesbury, Aug. 31, through disappointment. Wire, Harry Battersby, T. R., Bilston.

WANTED, Attractions, Oct. 26, Nov. 30, on, Chorley; also Oct. 5, 26, on, Grand, Radcliffe. Address, Sante, Radcliffe.

WANTED, Sound Attractions, Oct. 12 (Musical), 19, and Nov. 9. Apply, Sherwood and Co., Opera House, Wakefield.

LYCEUM, NEWPORT. WANTED, Special Attraction, for Jan. 18, (owing to transfer), Feb. 1 (?), 8 (?), and Autumn, 1909. Sidney Cooper.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO. WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 3, 7 (three nights each). Apply, J. Ritson, Lessee and Manager.

SPA OPERA HOUSE, BRIDLINGTON. WANTED, through disappointment, First-class Company, three nights, Sept. 7, Musical Comedy preferred. Apply, Harry Tunbridge, Manager.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED. BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE, GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM, BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS, and GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only. BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS. Vacant Dates, Oct. 5, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31. BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE. Vacant Dates, Nov. 23, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28. GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM. Vacant, Oct. 26, March 22, May 3, 10, 17. GRAND, GLASGOW. Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31, Re-opening Sept. 28, extra strong Attractions Wanted, Musical Comedy preferred. Address, with full particulars, terms, &c., where can be seen, to Moss' Empires, Limited, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C. Envelopes marked "Theatres."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS. Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge. The leading Theatre of the town and district. WANTED, Known, vacant through transfers, Oct. 19, Dec. 7 and 14, and a few onward. Future Bookings include: "The Thief," "A White Man," "Diana of Dobson's," "Jack Straw," "Mrs. Dot," "Lady Frederick," "Brewster's Millions," "With Edged Tools," and the leading Musical Comedies. Apply, Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., BARROW.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH. Seating Capacity 3,500. Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best equipped, and most handsome Theatres in the Provinces. The Premier and Central Theatre of the District. WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Nov. 15. Will guarantee anything really big. Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909. Autumn Bookings include:—"The Merry Widow," No 1 Moody-Manners Opera Company, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mrs. Brown Potter, "Lady Frederick," Mr. George Alexander, "The Thief," "Merrie England," "A White Man," "Mrs. Ponderbury's Past," "The Sins of Society," J. F. Elliston's Grand Xmas Production, "Humpty Dumpty," &c. All communications, Jno. Ed. Jowsey, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough. Telegrams, "Magnet." Telephones, 413, 426, 500.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION. WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 11. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME," By Walter Melville. WANTED, Nov. 23, Jan. 11. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING," By Walter Melville. WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING," By Walter Melville. WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, Feb. 22. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS," By Walter Melville. WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 26. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE." WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, Feb. 8 (North). Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH." WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 5, 12, Jan. 4, 11. Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN." WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 21, Jan. 18, 25. Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION. "MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN." WANTED, Sept. 28, Nov. 23, 30. Fredk. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON." WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov. 2, 16, and Xmas. Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?" WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2. Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER." WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, 23, Dec. 1, and Xmas. Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER." WANTED, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 14, 26 (Seven Nights). Douglas Bruce, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME." WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 16, onward. Andrew Melville, Mct. T., Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN." WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 11. Charles Harrington, Hall, Blaenavon.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE." WANTED, for this Phenomenal Success, weeks of Oct. 5 and 19. Wire or write, W. W. Kelly, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE." WANTED, weeks of Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, for this Remarkable Success, which, on its last visit to the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, played to £717 on the week. Wire or write immediately to W. W. Kelly, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY." WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Jan. 4, 18. Address, J. W. Cordiner, County Theatre, Reading.

HARRY NICHOLLS (Drury Lane, Adelphi, &c.), with own Company and Entire Production, in Romantic Costume Play, entitled "IF WE ONLY KNEW." WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, Nov. 2. Rupert Cottage, Bedford Park, W.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY." EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO. WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9 16, Xmas week, 7 nights, also Spring, Farewell Tours. Address, 26, Southampton-street, Strand.

Mr. BRANDON THOMAS'S COMPANIES. "CHARLEY'S AUNT." WANTED, Sept. 28, Nov. 9 and 30, Sept. 28, Nov. 9 and 30. Address, Cecil Barth, Grand Theatre, Leeds.

Mr. MONCKTON HOFFE'S COMPANY, "IRENE WYCHERLEY" (by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell). Special Company in this Famous Kingsway Theatre Success. Elaborate scenery carried. WANTED, First-class Theatres Only, Sept. 28, and one or two later weeks. Address, M. Hoffe, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 8, March 15 and 29. Frank M. Thorne, T. R., Leigh, Lancs.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
for this Gigantic Money-maker,
Oct. 5, Nov. 30, Dec. 7.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
for this still the Strongest Romantic Drama
Touring, Nov. 2, 9 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
for this Wonderful Drama.
Playing to Big Business Everywhere.
Sept. 21 (3 nights), Nov. 16, 23, 30.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE,"
by Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED Dates, "The Power of the Cross," Sept. 28 (between Gateshead and Wales). Extracts from Aberdeen Press, Aug. 11, 1908: "The Power of the Cross," presented for the first time in Aberdeen last night, was received with cordial approval, and Mr. Carson's Company are to be congratulated on a highly effective performance. There is not a dull moment from beginning to end, and of the elaborate and tasteful manner in which the play is staged it is almost impossible to speak too favourably. "The Power of the Cross" is a remarkable production which affords exceptional opportunities for enjoyment. The scenery, dresses, and stage-management are beyond reproach, and the acting drew forth much applause. "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE." Wanted, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, to oblige Stanley Rogers, Esq. (Lancs, Yorks, or North). This, Saltley; next, Alex., Hull. Re dates both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY, Her Majesty's T., Dundee; next, Metropole, Glasgow.

MISS MARY NEIL
begs to inform Managers that
her big Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS"
(by Charles Darrell)
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON"
(by Charles Darrell)
are now Booked for two consecutive weeks at each of the following towns: Bradford, Sheffield, Oldham, Burnley, Grimsby, South Shields, Newcastle, Hull, &c.
WANTED, Theatres. Only vacant dates for 1908 are: Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16 (?), 23, 30, Dec. 28 (?); also a few Spring Dates, 1909, vacant.
Communications to
GEORGE KIRK, Coach and Horses Hotel, Barnsley.

"BEAU BROCADE,"
The New Romantic Play by Baroness Orczy
and Montague Barstow,
Authors of
"The Scarlet Pimpernel."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Nov. 2 and 30.
First-class Theatres Only Entertained.
Apply, AUGUSTUS BINGHAM,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, London, S.W.

"MERELY MARY ANN,"
from the Duke of York's Theatre.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Vacant Sept. 28 (?), Oct. 5, Vacant.
H. GREVILLE, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

"IN THE RANKS."
Powerful Company.
New Plant of Printing by David Allen.
Entirely New Scenery and Effects.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Oct. 12,
Xmas, and Spring.
BERESFORD WHITCOMB, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

"FOR HER HUSBAND'S SAKE."
WANTED, Sept. 21, Oct. 5, and on, with exceptions. MULLAR ANDERSON, T.R., Castleford.

"LOVE RULES THE WORLD" CO.
WANTED, for Sidney Rennef's Co., Oct. 26, follow Junction, Manchester, Nov. 2 9, 16, 23, Christmas, and New Year. Strong cast, including Miss Gertrude Sterroll, Constance Medwyn, Kitty Russell, Annie Brunnette, Stephen Langton, Richard Vane, Walter Dale, A. Wilson Wynne, Matt Russell, and Mr. Sidney Rennef. Tour under the Personal Direction of G. M. COPPIN. Victoria T., Broughton (return).

By Arrangement with
Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM
and Miss MARY MOORE.
"CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, and Oct. 19 (3 nights), to precede Harrogate.
Miss NORA CARTON,
Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, near London, Nov. 9, 16, London or South.
HORACE STANLEY, Theatre Royal, Exeter.

"THE LOVE OF THE PRINCESS,"
by C. Watson Mill.
WANTED, Feb. 1, March 22, Aug. 2, '09. Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Bristol.

"SECOND TO NONE," by Walter Howard.
WANTED, Big Theatre, for Easter. Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Bristol.

"WAS SHE TO BLAME?"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
Production, Easter, Junction, Manchester.
WANTED Theatres. Write for Dates,
KIMBERLEY, GREEN, HINTON,
Vauxhall, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."
WANTED, for J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 Company, good Theatre (Midlands or South), for Oct. 25 and Nov. 9. Address, 15, Clifford's-inn, Fleet-street.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15; six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Splendid cast engaged.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"A PRINCE OF ROGUES."
WANTED, three nights, Sept. 10, 11, 12. Wires, SIDNEY DENCH, T. R., Stockport; next, Queen's, Fleetwood.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
Enormous success at Alexandra Theatre, Hull, this week. Please refer to William Morton, Esq.
WANTED, Sept. 7 (follow Stratford), Sept. 21, and onwards, with exceptions. Wire for Sept. 7. WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, to-day, Alexandra, Hull; next, T. R., Ilkeston.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Aug. 31 (to follow T. R., Newcastle) and Sept. 14 and 21 (between Dundee and Glasgow); extensive répertory of Modern Comedies by arrangement with S. French, Ltd. Next week "A Pair of Spectacles," David James as Benjamin Goldfinch. Wire, RUSSELL ROSSE, T. R., Newcastle.

MISS BONWIN CARLTON'S CO.
"THE OLD, OLD STORY."
WANTED, Sept. 21, 28, North, North, North.
EDWARD SURREY,
To-day, Theatre, Aberdare; next, Al., Stourbridge.

"MAN TO MAN,"
under the direction of
Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.
WANTED, Sept. 14, Oct. 5 and 12.
FRANK ADAIR, East Oxford Theatre, Oxford.

WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 7 and 14, for "A Gambler's Daughter."
Now in fourth year of Tour.
Wire,
HILL and AYRTON, T. R., North Shields.

J. W. TURNER'S ENGLISH OPERA COMPANY.
WANTED, Sept. 21 (North). TURNER, The Croft, Yardley, Worcestershire.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres
"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."
Elaborate Revival. Success everywhere.
Vacant Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12,
and onwards with exceptions.

"THE BETTER LAND."
The Greatest Domestic Drama of the Day.
An Emphatic Success.
Gorgeous Production.
Every Scene and Property Carried.

The finest Printing on the road, consisting of 1 24-sheet, 3 18-sheets, 3 12-sheets, 4 6-sheets, 6 D.C. Lithos. All four-colour stuff.
Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, and later.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Vacant Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 5.

Managers note.—These Pantomimes are perfect in every detail. Beautifully mounted and dressed. Company of Star Artists, Specialities, Dancers, and full Chorus.

Re dates, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Sept. 28 and Oct. 12,
"THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD,"
A Fine New Domestic Play, full of Human and Child Interest. Few Autumn Dates Vacant.
Aug. 24, T. R., Halifax.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Sept. 21, to follow Middlesbrough.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR,"
Oct. 26, Xmas, and New Year's Week.
"A SISTER'S SIN,"
Sept. 14, Sept. 14, Sept. 14.
These plays are all well known,
and known, too, to draw the money.
Wire for them to
KIMBERLEY, King's T., Longsight, Manchester.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Nov. 9, 16,
Dec. 21, 28,
Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25,
Feb. 1, 8, on.
Aug. 24, T. R., Colne.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 21, Nov. 9 and 16, Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, 25, onwards, for the above Attraction.
Add., ARMADALE and WARREN, Royalty T., Chester.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY,
"THE FLOWER GIRL."
The Musical Comedy Success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical comedy at its brightest.
WANTED, all October, to precede return visits to Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dates onward. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS,
Prince of Wales's T., Birmingham.
Letters, Royalty Theatre, Morecambe.
See Companies Column.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 9, 30.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 19, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 26, Nov. 16
FRED BULMER, T. R., North Shields.

MR. and MRS. EUSTACE DAY'S CO.
"FOR LOVE OF A WOMAN."
WANTED, Sept. 7, Sept. 7,
Refer T. Morton Powell.
Wire or write, EUSTACE DAY,
This, Grand T., Chorley; next, G. T., Radcliffe.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5, 26.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"LOVE'S GOLDEN DREAM."
Frances Delaval's
Daringly Original Play.
A triumph at the Metropole, Birmingham.
A Passionate Love Drama.
WANTED, Sept. 14, 28, Xmas.
Now Booking Xmas. To-day, Metropole, Birmingham; Monday, O. H., Kidderminster.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S COMPANIES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Nov. 9, to oblige West Bromwich. Wanted, Dec. 28.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
Gorgeous Revival, Co. of 15. Troupe of Dancers.
Vacant Nov. 2, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN,"
Vacant Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7, 28.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
Vacant July 12, 19, 26.
Wires, Sunderland. Letters, Spennymoor.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 7 (three nights, follow Leicester), Oct. 12, 19 (precede Sheffield), Nov. 2, 9, and Dec. 21.
HENRY L. OSMOND, T. R., Bilston.

The Thrilling Melodrama, "CONVICT 99."
WANTED, Autumn Dates, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 23 (North), 30, and on.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
Vacant for this Enormous Success: Oct. 12.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
Apply, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
Aug. 24, Grand Theatre, Newcastle.

"HANDS ACROSS THE SEA."
WANTED, Good Theatres for the above Important Revival, Oct. 5 (to oblige a manager), Nov. 30 (between South Wales and Aldershot), Dec. 26 Jan. 4, Feb. 22 (precede Hammersmith), March 23 and April 12. WILLIAM MARTIN, 415, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Theatres only, for the enormously successful Musical Absurdity, "The Gay Deceivers," Sept. 28 (follow Ramsgate, return), and Oct. 5 (precede Aldershot). FRANK STANMORE, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi.

WANTED Aug. 31, "Beneath the Stars" and Répertoire (if required); Strong Co., special scenery, magnificent pictorials. COLEMAN DAVIES, Theatre, Wednesbury (return).

Mr. H. F. MALTBY and HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Oct. 26 (to precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 (to precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. WYN WEAVER, "Kylemore," Railway Approach, Worthing.

WANTED, good Theatre, for Feb. 22, Bliss and Bliss's Pantomime, "Mother Goose," Feb. 22, Feb. 22, only week vacant, to complete Tour. All coms. to GEORGE and LEO BLISS, Majestic Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Theatres, for my Company, Ten Stars, Alonzo Trio (Athletes), Marvellous Mora's Bar Act, Fern and Fawn (great Sketch, "Conqueror"), Sinclair (Electric Marionettes), Fred Mayne (Comedian). 3, Longley-st., Oldham.

WANTED, Halls and Theatres, suitable for the Britannia Bioscope and Concert Party. Proprietor, Mr. C. ST. JOHN MEDLEY, 6, Bath-street, Saltburn. Vacant Sept. 7 and on; shares or rental. Bankers: N.P. Bank of England.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for Mlle. Lumiere and Strong Vaudeville Company, Sept. 7, 14, and 21. Wire or write this week, Empire, York. Monday, Palace, Burnley.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
By arrangement with Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree.
Specially re-written for the Provinces by Mr. H. Comyns Carr.
Mr. C. H. Croker-King as John Jasper.
Mr. Riddell Robinson as Edwin Drood.
Mr. Hy. Bute as Grewgious.
Mr. Lloyd Townrow as Durdles.
Mr. Chas. Bruce as Landless.
Mrs. Mallalieu, Miss Nita Charlton, Miss Eleanor Gilbart, Miss Irene Ross,
and Choir Boys from Nolan's Academy.
WANTED, Sept. 28 (South), owing to transfer.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, The Spa, Whitby.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Sept. 7,
Sept. 7,
Oct. 5, 26,
Oct. 5, 26.
A brilliant success everywhere.
Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare.
Supported by a Star Company.
Wire,
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

Enormous success everywhere.
Refer to Managers where played.
A Real Novelty.
THE JAMAICANS.
The most Successful, Artistic, Novel, and Smartest Combination now before the Public.
Twelve Coloured Ladies and Gentlemen.
Evening Dress, Native Costume, or Camp Dress.
Royalty delighted. The Public delighted.
Managers want Return Dates.
A most Extensive and Varied Répertoire.
Real Coon Singers and Dancers.
WANTED, Known, first vacant date Sept. 14, and onwards, with exceptions.
Full particulars, terms, and dates from Sole Managers, H. E. JONES and A. DOUGLASS, 21, Water-street, Liverpool.
'Phones 2449 and 5650 Central.
Wires, "Motherland, Liverpool."

ARTISTS WANTED.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, First-class Heavy Lead, for Blyth, Character Lead for Garth, Juvenile Lead for Jack Halyard, Comedian for Ned and Mike, Leading Lady for Lillian, and Artists in various other lines. MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, good responsible Actor, for Stambuloff, Chief of Police, and Stage-Management, must be robust actor, tall. Terms, references, MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co. has Vacancies for one First Tenor Chorister, must have a good répertoire; also a Second Bassoon (Continental Pitch). Apply (letters only), Mr. WALTER VAN NOORDEN, Ladbroke Hall, North Kensington, W.

WANTED, for the Elster Grime Opera Co., Prin. Tenor, Soprano, and Contralto, also Choristers, those able to play parts preferred, forward répertoire. Press opinions. Lowest terms, long tour to suitable people; also an experienced Fit-up Man, to assist with Baggage and generally useful. Box 6,874, "The Era."

WANTED, Artists to complete Cast, "Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace," one week, Sept. 7, Palace Pier, Brighton. Photos., full particulars, ELLIOTT, 64, Waterloo-street, Brighton.

IAN MACLAREN SHAKESPEAREAN OLD ENGLISH COMEDY COMPANY.
WANTED, Leading Lady, salary £4 to £6, must provide own wardrobe; rehearse Aug. 31. Photos., height, latest references imperative. J. HARRIS, Secretary, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

"WHEN OTHER LIPS."
WANTED, Heavy Lady, Comedian, Romantic Character, and Carpenter.
T. ARTHUR JONES, 32, Wightman-rd., Finsbury Park, N. Photos. absolutely imperative if unknown.

WANTED, Leading Lady, also Chambermaid. Address, with full particulars, and stamp for reply, MANAGER, 4, Alexandra-buildings, Pleasant-street, Swansea.

WANTED, Emotional Juvenile Lady, Special Week, Potteries. Photo., height,
RESVE, Tivoli, Brierley Hill, Staffs.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Gentleman, Aris., Old Man, and Responsible Lady, two weeks, probably longer.
Rehearse next week.
A. B. CROSS, R., Birkenhead; next, R., Halifax.

"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, good Heavy Gentleman. Send full references, photos., absolute lowest terms for long tour, F. G. KIMBERLEY, King's T., Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Clever Heavy Man; young, good appearance, sound experienced Artist; also Character Comedian, Open at Once, London. All particulars, photo., and terms, address in first instance, SEC., 87, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Tall Leading Gentleman, for "Cripple Creek." State height, references, photo, terms, parts played, MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, Regents Park, London.

WANTED, Rehearse West Bromwich, next week. Character Actor, Fiery Major; fares paid. Particulars, SIDNEY BEDFORD, 45, Bull-street, West Bromwich.

WANTED, good Leading Lady and Responsible Gentlemen. Age, refs., and photos. essential. Address lowest terms, NEVILLE, Opera House, Fernale, Wales.

WANTED, as Understudy, Boy 4ft. 8in. to 4ft. 10in., aged 12 to 14, to play part of Gentlemanly Schoolboy; must speak and look well; no girls. Apply by letter to E. K., Kingsway Theatre, London.

WANTED, Artists for Sketch, "Three of a Kind," open at once. Preference given to those who have played in it before. Apply, GEORGE ABEL, care Denton's Agency, Maiden-lane.

WANTED, immediately, Carpenter, to play small Comedy Jew part. Wire lowest terms, ALEX GRANT, Theatre, Batley.

WANTED, Tenor Chorister, also Young Gentleman for Philodemus, Tenor preferred. Terms, photo., BOWES, Rose Villa, Watford.

WANTED, good Smart All-round Dancers.
SYDNEY RUSSELL,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription, 6d. weekly, yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GREENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

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ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, an Actress of great experience, at present engaged in principal West End Theatre, gives private lessons in Acting and Elocution. Moderate terms. Address, Box 6,899, "The Era."

WANTED, by Lady, Engagement in West End Theatre, Drama, Comedy, to walk on, useful, tall, good figure, can dance and play piano; experienced in Touring Companies. B., 37, Rumford-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Harry Barlow, Principal Baritone, Troon, Scotland, also of Scarborough, Filey, Kingstown, Derby, Burton, Watford, Lichfield, Chorlton, and Leeds Pierrots; Valentine, Gounod's "Faust." At Liberty Aug. 28, onward; ten years' sound experience. Wire or write, address, 56, Temple-hill, Troon.

WANTED, Known, Young Versatile Elocutionist, desirous of entering Profession, offers his services for small remuneration to Shakespearean or Dramatic Company. Box 6,895, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Conductors, Comedian, for Pantomimes.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, in all Lines (including few Smart Chorus Ladies). All particulars, WILLIAM MARTIN, Darrell's Agency, 415, Strand, W.C.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, Vacant for Panto. Thanks for offers.
All coms., Empire, Newport.

WANTED, Known, Fred Hallam, at Liberty for Panto. Many thanks for Offers.
Monday next, Hippo., Margate.

WANTED, Known, Sue Brett, Principal Girl, George Hablem, Principal Comedian, in addition have big Musical Act for Specialité. For photos., particulars, for reference, to GEORGE HABLEM, 225, New Kent-road, London.

WANTED, Known, George Helm and Emmie Cozens, Ideal Principal Girl or Small Boy and Comedian. Address, Tivoli, Pentre.

WANTED, Known, Burdetti Brothers, Great Eccentric Acrobats, on Tour; Liberty for Panto., Parts and Speciality. All coms., 38, Merton-street, Burnley.

WANTED, by Rex and Ford, Eccentric Cross-talk Comedians, also Single Musical Speciality. Last season with J. Kiddie, Esq. Alexandra Hotel, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Denby and Dent, Comedians, thoroughly experienced.
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WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SCENIC ARTIST
WANTED First-class Man Required.
Only those who are qualified by training to do the finest class of work need apply.
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WANTED, good Scenic Artist, at once, for fortnight, probably longer. Leonard S. Hicks write. Lowest terms, NEVILLE, Opera House, Ferndale.

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WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

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WANTED, Contracts, Scenery, Properties, Pantomime, or Productions, good work. Reasonable prices. J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Contracts for all kinds of Scenery and Properties, new or secondhand. Models and Estimates free. C. SHARP, 272, St. James'-road, Old Kent-road, S.E. Tel. 497 Hop.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, First-class Scenic Artist. Arrangements temporarily complete. Liberty shortly for Autumn. Address, 29, Buckingham-street, York.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Stafford, Scenic Artist. Best references and best work. 24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Engagement or Contract, by DAVIES MASSEY, Scenic Artist.
4, Princess May-road, Stoke Newington, N.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Acting-Manager, about 35, conversant with Music Hall office routine, and able to book Artists if required; guarantee for £200 in approved office. No application entertained which does not state age, height, and salary. Enclose original testimonials, photo., and stamped addressed envelope for return. Address, J. A. EDWARDES, Temple House, Derby.

WANTED, an energetic Resident-Manager for small Music Hall, Pictures and Varieties, twice nightly, must be experienced and competent; smart, steady man only required; reference through guarantee society. Write fully, stating experience, age, salary required, &c., to CHARLES DARE, Proprietor, Empire Theatre, Douglas, Isle of Man.

WANTED, for a Premier Fully-licensed Theatre, Gentleman as Secretary and Treasurer £250 cash to be paid down by way of security.
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WANTED, steady, reliable Billposter; references. SHEFFIELD BILLPOSTING COMPANY, St. Mary's Gate, Chesterfield.

WANTED Known, Manager recently severed connection with large London Music Hall. Open to accept Offer, London or Provinces; aged 28; smart, comprehensive experience. Box 6,898, "The Era."

MISCELLANEOUS.

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the Organiser and Originator
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Folkestone Beauty Shows
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that have been boomed so much
by the
London Press,
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is at Liberty
after Sept. 19,
to accept
Good Engagement
Good Engagement
Good Engagement
to Manage
Large Place of Entertainment.
First-class Business Man
and Initiator of
Novel Shows and Competitions.
Novel Shows and Competitions.
Novel Shows and Competitions.
The very highest testimonials.
Refer, among others, to
the Mayor of Folkestone.
Willing to accept a moderate salary
and commission on results.
Victoria Pier Hippodrome, Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement as Manager or Acting-Manager, Resident or on Tour; nearly ten years Manager for Messrs. Polini and Melford's "Silver King" Co.; or good Advance Agency. Disengaged Aug. 29, or sooner if necessary.
Reference, G. M. Polini.
S. BURTON,
This week, T. R., Edinboro'.
Next week, Tyne, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Gentleman, Engagement as Resident Business or Assistant Business Manager or Secretary; energetic, courteous, and will find security if necessary. Bank and highest references. HARRY WALLIS, "Ixopo," Cranley-road, Westcliff-on-Sea.

WANTED, Wanted, Engagement, as Acting or Resident Manager, young, smart, energetic, thoroughly experienced Dramatic and Variety; expert Accountancy, Advertising, Bars, &c. Highest references. Box 6,897, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Manager Disengaged shortly, experienced back and front, Theatre or Variety; thorough knowledge of Variety booking, with up-to-date prices and quality. Highly recommended. MANAGER, 112, Canterbury-road, Kilburn, N.W.

WANTED, by Young Man, smart and energetic, Re-engagement as Acting-Manager in Music-Hall or Theatre; thoroughly trustworthy. Security given if required, or would invest a small amount in a genuine concern. Particulars, Box 6,894, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Gentleman as Assistant to Manager of Theatre or Music Hall; well educated, smart appearance; excellent references. Box 6,883, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, I can Run or Manage (smart), any Class of Show or Entertainment, or Lecture-Vocalist. HARRY DALE, 167, Knutsford-road, Warrington.

WANTED, Known Electrician desires Permanent Engagement; competent Mechanic, Theatre experience. H. W. L., 12, Varden-street, New-road, Whitechapel, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, Practical Carpenter and Joiner, Theatres or Halls; age 26, ten years' experience. KENN, 8, Aylesford-st., Leeds.

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WANTED, for Pavilion, Weymouth, commencing Dec. 21, 1908, week days 5½ hours, Sundays 1½ hours, good Leader, First Violin, Flute, Clarionet, Cornet, 'Cello, Basso, and Drums; must be good Musicians, and in applying state terms and also forward references as to character and ability and where at present engaged, to MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 105, Grandison-road, Clapham Common, London, S.W. Letters only.

WANTED, Musical-Director, to play Violin, to open Sept. 7, at Palace, Derby; used to Variety; evening dress. State age, salary, and references. T. A. EDWARDES, Temple House, Derby.

WANTED, at Once, two-five weeks, Leader, First Violin, Clarionet, Cornet, Trombone. State age, refs., and lowest terms, Box 6,891, "The Era."

WANTED, First Violin, good, age, references; also Bass Trombone and others, permanent. Write, SWINGLER, Mus.-Dir., Post Office, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, Violin, Clarionet, Drums with Effects, &c., for Pavilion, Kirkcaldy. Open 31st. Absolute steadiness essential. G. W. WALKER, Manager.

WANTED, immediately, First Violin, for Empress, Brixton.
Apply, ALLINGTON, 35, Antill-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, Violinist, Clarionet, Cornet, for one day, Aug. 24, four hours afternoon, evening, fares paid. Wire lowest, DELIKAT, Pier, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED Violin and Trombone, for short term, open Aug. 31. State references, age, and lowest salary, FORD, Band Offices, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Good Violins, commence at once. Terms, age, &c. High-class Concerts. RONALD, 23, Sea View-parade, West-End, Morecambe.

WANTED, First-class Violinist, to act as Conductor for Varieties; also Trombone and Cornet. Apply, C. B. FOUNTAIN, Royalty Theatre, Chester.

NEW HIPPODROME, DEVONPORT.
WANTED, Solo Cornet, to open Sept. 14. Apply, with terms and references, to GLENHORN, 5, Glenthorne-road, Roker, Sunderland.

WANTED, good Cornet.
Apply,
MANAGER, Prince's Theatre, Llandudno.

WANTED, good First Cornet, for Orchestral Band, to open Aug. 31 inst. State references, age, and lowest salary, FORD, Band Offices, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, First-class Solo Cornet, to open Aug. 31. State age and references to THOS. RICHARDSON, Conductor, Hippodrome, Rotherham.

JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S "ROYAL GIPSY" CO.
WANTED, for Tour, commence Sept. 7, good Cornet, and Flute and Piccolo (ladies preferred); used to Variety. J. H. TOMKINSON, 35, Albany-road, Kensington, Liverpool.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, good Clarionet, also Double Drummer, for Hippo., Darlington, Variety. Apply with terms, refs., to Wm. Dobing, Mus.-Dir

WANTED, Contra Bass, First Oboe, First Clarionet, and First Horn, for the Pump Room Orchestra, Bath, to commence Sept. 26. It is requested that only players who have continually been employed in Concert work will apply to Max Heymann, Musical-Director, Bath.

WANTED, Double Bass, to open Monday, Aug. 31. Apply, King's Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, for Sedgwick's Menagerie, Trombone, join at once. Terms, 30s. per week. Tonbridge, Saturday; Edenbridge, Mon.; Lingfield, Tues.; Horley, Wed.; Kent.

WANTED, Trombone and Drums, for Abertillery, join at once; also Flute and Piccolo and Drums, for Ebbw Vale, join Aug. 31. Terms and particulars. E. Pryce, Pavilion, Abertillery.

WANTED, 'Cellist, Violinist, Vocalist, join Adverticer, for Pitching, Sydney, Australia. Terms, Shares; little gold mine, proved. Further particulars, Box 6,873, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Lady 'Cellist, must be good, Musical Act, Halls. Particulars and lowest terms, Box 6,870, "The Era."

ROYALTY THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS. WANTED, Flute and Piccolo; must have first-class refs. Lowest terms, Hugh Robertson.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, first-class execution, able to sing (Contralto) preferred. Musical Act, Halls. Full particulars and terms, Box 6,871, "The Era."

WANTED, experienced Dramatic Pianist, sight reader; also Violinist; open Aug. 31; rehearse Belfast. Particulars, J. B. Carrickford, 22, Hamilton-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Instrumentalists (Ladies) for long Tour, commencing Sept. Full particulars and terms to Madame Levante, 15, Morgan-street, Scarborough.

WANTED, Wind Instrumentalists for a Fortnight at Clacton-on-Sea, commencing Sept. 18. Apply, stating salary, to Bandmaster, Weeley, R.S.O., Essex.

WANTED, Amateur Instrumentalists, Ladies, String, Wind, to Train under experienced Conductress for Professional Engagements. Letters, Madame, 75, Hollydale-road, Peckham.

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, J. Southworth, late Musical-Director Gaiety, Manchester, at Liberty Sept. 28, for First-class Theatre or Music Hall; highest references. Pier, Colwyn Bay.

WANTED, Known, Bandmaster, abstainer, is open to teach String, Reed or Brass Bands, juvenile or adult. B. M., Ivydene, Chase Side, Enfield.

WANTED, post, Repetiteur or First Violin, Variety or Drama, Manchester district preferred; could commence Wednesday next. Turnbull, Wigan-lane, Wigan.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Violinist and Pianist, Disengaged Sept. 12; abstainer, reader, transpose, memorise; experienced; highest references. Frank Nichols, 27, Plymouth-rd., Barry Island, S. Wales.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, any business, can open at once; reliable and strictly sober; good refs. Address, R. Shipman, 91a, St. Martin's-lane, London, W.C.

WANTED, by good Second Violin, Re-engagement; good refs.; sober, reliable. E. W., 69, Culverden Park-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Known, Jennie Murdoch, good First Violinist, Disengaged Sept. 21, completing three months' engagement. Conductress, The Pier, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, London Engagement, by thoroughly good First Violin; young, strictly steady; Open at Once. Violinist, 5, Friar's-lane, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, experience all Lines; steady, age 30. Refs. Distance no object for perm. H. Phipps, 62 Priory Park-road, Kilburn, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, First Violin, thoroughly experienced all Lines; sober and reliable; open now. Violinist, 11, Dunbar-road, Wood Green, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Cornet; experienced all Lines. Gwen Barbs, 70, Commercial-street, Aber Bargoed, South Wales.

WANTED, by Bass Clarionet Player, Engagement where work is found, Army experience, own instrument; total abstainer. 4, Badminton-street, Liverpool, South.

WANTED, by First-class Clarionet, sober, reliable, Permanent Engagement, Concert, Variety, or Theatre; willing for trial. Clarionet, 1, Oriel-st., Swindon.

WANTED, Engagement, for Clarionet. Address, W. E. Harrison, 14, Rockingham-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass; long experience in Theatre and Variety; good references; can open at once. J. Page, 70, Duncombe-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, by First-class Bass, Engagement, any business; first-class refs.; Variety or Theatre. Franks, Derby Castle, Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED, String Bass, Situation, any district. J. Reeves, 133, Burrage-road, Plumstead, Kent.

WANTED, Known, competent Trombone, also Bombardon, Disengaged Sept.; String or Military; Seaside only. Address, T. W., 72, Alexandra-road, Windsor, Berks.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombone, sober and reliable. Apply, Wm. Smith, 116, Cemetery-road, Southport.

WANTED, by First-class Trombone, Re-engagement, at Liberty Sept. 14; thoroughly experienced. Address, Charlie McCallaugh, 9, Salisbury-terrace, Bridlington.

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombonist; can "play" Tenor and Bass Trombones; Military or Orchestral; good references. Box 6,864, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombone or Euphonium; eleventh season L.C.C. Band; any business, good performer. Hector Smith, 88, Moray-road, Finsbury Park, N.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombonist; experienced and reliable, Theatre or Music Hall. Address, Fred Peel, Trombonist, Grand T., Halifax.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Euphonium Soloist, finishes season (shortly) at Rothesay; Military Band preferred. Wm. Maddock, sen., 26, Russell-street, Rothesay, N.B.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Sept. 7, good Euphonium, Trombone, two Horns, two Cornets, Flute and Piccolo, together or separate; any Business. For terms and refs., apply, Bandmaster, Season Band, Matlock Bath.

WANTED, Known, French Horn, at Liberty for Engagement about Sept. 15, for First-class Theatre, Concert Orchestra, or Military Band; experienced, good testimonials and reliable. Apply Box 6,890, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, in or near London; can Double Contra Bass. Address, W., 12, Heber-mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, Kensington, W.

WANTED, Engagement either as 'Cello or Clarionet; excellent refs. S. Irwin, 23, Chingford-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Engagement, Viola, to combine Bombardon, any business; young, experienced, and reliable; abstainer. Viola, 22, Wells-road, Bath.

WANTED, Known, Aeneas Gibson, Harpist and Pianist, Sept. or Oct., Variety Company on Tour to Australia please write. Abroad preferred, or first-class steamship. Grecian or Gothic Harp. Gibson Bros., Music Sellers, Ilkley.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, experienced, abstainer, age 26; any distance. F. Pithers, 130, May-street, Basingstoke.

WANTED, Known, shortly at Liberty, Flautist, experienced Theatre, Hall, and Ball Room. Rayner, Central Pier, Morecambe. Permanent address, Huddersfield.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, competent, reliable, Re-engagement; Disengaged Sept. 5; well up in Variety, &c. Alexander, 33, Wilmot-road, Ilkley.

WANTED, Known, good Flute Player, also Bassoon Player, at Liberty Sept. 13. C/o Taylor 19 Carlton-street, Bridlington.

WANTED, by Flautist, immediate Engagement, London or near preferred, fifteen years' London Variety experience. Fowler, 71, Fernbrook-road, Lee, Kent.

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, regular Engagement to Vocalist or First-class Concert Party; good references. Pianiste, Bushey Cottage, Hampton Hill.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist, Orch. or Self, exper. Var. and Drama business, steady, reliable; excel. refs. N. Robinson, 25, Main-street, Cadoxton, Barry.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianiste, experienced accompanist, excellent sight reader, day or evening, London only. C. R., 6, Cromwell-avenue, Ravenscourt Park, W.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Tympanist, &c., permanency, Theatre or Music Hall; at Lib. Sept. 14. Apply, Cryer, Alhambra Palace, Morecambe.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drummer, at Liberty Sept. 6. Cockrill, Central Pier, Morecambe.

WANTED, Known, the Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, now playing at Franco-British. Terms and vacant dates, Wilton Davis, Manager, 42, Linton-street, N.

WANTED, Known, Italian Lady Quartette, playing at "Pharaoh's Daughter" and "Johnstown Flood," Franco-British Exhibition. Open for Later Engagements, London, permanent preferred. Also Gentlemen's Band, at Liberty, evening work (Conductor, Signorina de Polo). 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Engagements, by The Fairlie String Quartette, brilliant Soloists and Comedy Vocalists, for Concerts, Exhibitions, &c.; splendid répertoire. Fairlie, 31, Moreton-place, Belgravia.

WANTED, Known, Small Ladies' Orchestra, Disengaged; experienced Players, Tubular Bells, &c. Madame Nellie Baker, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, Known, to Café and Hotel Proprietors, good Trio Orchestra shortly Disengaged, with good répertoire. Address, Conductor, 16, Willesden-lane, Kilburn, N.W.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Circus Artists, in all Lines, for Present and Future Dates. Address, H. Gilleno, Circus Caterer, Waterloo Theatre, Whitby.

WANTED, Experienced Contortionist (Girl), used to Ring work; must be good figure and good performer. Particulars to Box 6,872, "Era."

WANTED, a Young Girl, with knowledge of Acrobating, for Comedy Act. All particulars, Box 6,886, "The Era."

WANTED, a Smart Young Man, that can Tumble a little. Age, height, and salary to Box 6,887, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Neddy Yokes, World-known Musical Clown, New Act, Talking Knockabout Clown, Entrées Liberty. Address, 16, Moreton-st., Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Three Flying Arenuses (Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts), Crystal Palace Aug. 31; at Liberty Mon., Sept. 7. 24, Salisbury-street, New North-road, N.

WANTED, Known, Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, with High-class Acts. Sanger's Hippodrome Tour.

WANTED, Known, Young Man wishes to join Comedy Triple Bar Act. Address, P. Elliott, 17, Belgrave-street, Sandyford, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ada Webb's Water Wonders, the World's Greatest Aquatic Act. Eastern Daily News says: There is the repeat performance by Miss Ada Webb and her clever young swimmers. This number gains in popularity nightly, and as Miss Webb introduces new swimming acts from time to time there is always something worth seeing. Vacant for next season, also Continent. Terms, &c., Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot air Balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. Spencer Bros., Ltd., 45b, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

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HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to Wm. Biggam, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

EMPIRE, YORK.
NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists. Nothing too big. Apply, William Peacock, Theatre, Harrogate. Silence a polite negative.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C. Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London." P'hone, 1626 Gerrard. Manager, Harry Lane. Representative, Corliss Claflin.
WANTED, Big Specialities and Variety Artists in all Lines.
Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dancers.
All communications as above.

WANTED, Variety Artists and Specialities, with showy posters, new to Falkirk. Pianist write. Address, with lowest terms, R. Silvester, Wallsend.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Brilliant Lady Pianist and Vocalist, one used to sing to pictures; a competent Assistant-Manager also a good Operator, with own Films may write in. Terms must be low. Send references, photos., &c., to Medley, late Lessee "No Wedding Bells" Co. Old friends may write for long tour and trustworthy. Only experienced people write, please. 6, Bath-street, Saltburn.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Aug. 30 and onwards. A. E. Pickard.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, for immediate dates, North. Big Acts for France; nothing too big. Cliquot, 22, Union-street, Hyde.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Sentimentalists, Instrumentalists, and Comedians, to send vacant dates, terms, &c., to The Secretary, Dundee City Concerts, &c., Co., Ltd., 6, Panmure-street, Dundee.

WANTED, Monday Aug. 24, and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines to send in Vacant Dates, with lowest terms, from Sept. 7, onwards. Apply, Stanley Rogers.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, Co. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists, Sept. 14, and on, a good break going North. T. C. Rawes, Prop.

GAIETY MUSIC HALL, BLYTH.
WANTED.—Artists Required, Aug. 24, onwards. Lowest terms, Hall small. Address, W. Yates Gregory, The Tower, New Brighton.

STEPHENSON'S SUMMER CIRCUS.
WANTED, Artists all Lines (weekly) for finish of season up to end of Sept. Terms, Stephenson, 53, The Rake, Bromborough, Cheshire.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Aug. 31, onwards, for Manchester, Dewsbury, Lancaster, Oldham, Bolton, Rochdale, Burnley, Barnsley, Sheffield, Dublin, Bury, Northampton. Lowest terms in first letter, Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 9261. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester."

BEACH PAVILION, ABERDEEN.
Proprietor, David Thomson.

WANTED, Artists, from Aug. 31, onward. Must be clean, clever, and refined.

WANTED, Artists of all Description, for Aug. 31, onwards. Call or write, with full particulars, J. W. Johnson, Variety and Pantomime Agent, 66, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Artists of every description, Oct. 5, on. Keeble's Agency, 9, Silvester-st., Hull. Cliff Owen, Musical Palmers write in.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
(under the direction of L. Verno and H. Arnold), 16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Aug. 24, on. Tele., "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Aug. 31 on. 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists, suitable for Picture Show, Illustrated Songs, &c., &c., Monday, on. Lowest terms (once nightly, twice Saturday) for Queen's T., Castleford (small town). Beanland and Emerson, Parade, Bridlington.

NEW PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, CHELTENHAM.
General-Manager, Mr. Edward B. Shenton.
Business-Manager, Mr. John Walters.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
Re-opening for the Season, Aug. 17.
WANTED, Agents desirous of doing Business, Artists desiring Engagements, also Combinations and Travelling Pantomimes, to please communicate with Managing-Director.

WANTED, Big Stars and Big Specialities, for immediate dates and on; also High-class Turns for Seaside Towns. Send full list of bookings, with lithos., Barnard's Agency, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Picture Tour, good Turns, Doubles doing Singles, comfortable Tour to right people; week in a town. State all in first letter. Steadiness essential. Curtis, Town Hall, Thurles, co. Tipperary.

WANTED, Single and Double Turns, for Inverness, Refined Musical Novelties. Write, Collinson, 27, Bridge-street, Inverness.

WANTED, Smart Double Turn, Al Fresco, must be good Patterers and Dancers, able to do Singles, open Thursday Aug. 27. Lowest terms, Kelley, Southport Pierrots, Southport.

WANTED, Best of Talent Only. in All Lines, for Temperance Hall, Merthyr, Aug. 31, onwards. Full Particulars, and Where Acts can be Seen, Cadle, 105 and 106, Strand, London.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY.
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, Talent in every Line, Comedians, Double Acts, Sisters, Serios, and Specialities. I am on the Spot, and can Book you.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. Cummings.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, Aug. 31, onwards. Absolute lowest once nightly. J. Cummings, 97, Whitevale, Dennistown, Glasgow.

WANTED, Special Acts of all Kinds, Aug. 31, onward. Forward Bookings, &c., Martino's Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Variety Acts, all Lines, for Sept. 14 and on. Apply, J. Brown and Co., Variety Agency. Tel. No. 1098 City. 58, Chicksand-st., N.E. Appointments only.

WANTED, Big Acts, all Lines. Very lowest, with complete list of bookings first letter, Delmar's Agency, Central Pier, Morecambe. Nina Gordon write. Important.

WANTED, for Bristol, Glasgow, S. Wales, Midlands. Variety, and Speciality Acts. Full Bookings imperative. Gannon, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, April 12, May 31, 1909. Star Speciality Acts. Price no object if right Act. Lithos., permanent address, Gannon, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Greatest Acts in the Profession. Send full bookings, terms, lithos., William Ainsworth, Northern Amusement Bureau, 11, Baker-street, Middlesbrough

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Aug. 31, onwards. Star Acts in All Lines. Star Acts in All Lines. Full up for Smaller Items. Cadle's Agency, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

HIPPODROME, WEST BROMWICH.
WANTED, Top of Bill Specialities, for Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Oct. 5, onwards.
Apply, Sites Limited, 57, Chancery-lane, W.C.

HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY, 233, Kennington-road.
WANTED, Big Specialities, First-class Comedians, Ballad Vocalists, for immediate and future dates.
Full particulars, with open time, terms, &c., to above.

WANTED, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to Jas. Tyrer, The Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, for Paris, good Specialities. In first instance, lowest terms and permanent address (ladies must include photos.), Floria, Alhambra, Morecambe.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Wanted, Star Attractions, All Lines, Aug. 24, 31, later. James Fioni's Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, big Attractions, at once, for Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, but only very big. Guise, 25, Bonham-road, Brixton. Appointment only.

THE YARMOUTH and LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES, THE PALACE, GORLESTON-ON-SEA and NEW HIPPO. PALACE, EXETER.
WANTED, Aug. 31, on First-class Numbers of every Description for Yarmouth, Lowestoft, and Gorleston.
Wanted, Big Top Liners, for Exeter, from Oct., on.
State lowest terms and give full bookings.
Geo. Zalva's Agency, The Palace, Gorleston-on-Sea.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.

WANTED, immediately, Tops, Bottoms, all kinds of Acts.
Full particulars to Ernest Edelsten, 17, Green-street, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, for Worthing, Select Concert Parties and Troupes, for approved pitches on beach, 50 per cent. share, stage, chairs, piano, electric light, and attendants provided. State number of troupe and fullest particulars, to M. W. Shanly, 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead; or Local Office, Winter Hall, Worthing.

WANTED, for Immediate and Future Dates, High-class Concert Parties, Orchestras, Military Bands, Choirs, &c. Apply, Harry Esden, Empire, Sunderland.

GLOSSOP, DERBYSHIRE.
WANTED, for Gala, Sept. 5, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Comedians, Novelties, and First-class Outdoor Acts. Send terms, lithos., bills, and full particulars to Sydney Spenser, Proprietor, T. R., Glossop.

WANTED, Young Girls, good Coon Singers and Dancers, powerful voices, for renowned and respectable Troupe. Particulars to Box 6,896, "The Era."

WANTED, Comedians, Comediennes, and good Comedy Acts for the North. Send full bookings, &c., to Frank Lynne, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, by Harry Morris, Comedian and Mimic, &c., Aug. 24 and Sept. 7. Wire, 66, Dover-street, Crumpsall.

WANTED, a smart young Lady Mandolinist. Apply, by letter only, at once, with full particulars, Madame, 29, Holland-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, good Bioscope, for two hours' show, for small tour; sharing terms, Aug. 31. Apply, Rosair, 46, South Island-place, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Operators, accustomed to gas and electric light. State references and wages required. Bendon Trading Co., 75, Jamaica-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, First-class Operators. Letters only, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, 56, Great Queen-street, W.C.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Aug. 31 and following, by Marie Colmore, the New Star Comedienne. Conclude, Emp., Hull; Monday, Hippo., Wakefield.

Travelling with Atlas and Vulcana is a girl of 14, by name Marie Colmore, who displays remarkable precocity as a comedienne. She is doing an extra turn at the Empire this week, and astonishes everybody by her cleverness in presenting extravagant humour.—Hull Daily Mail, Aug. 20, '08.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Lumiere's Original Attraction unexpectedly Vacant, Sept. 7, 14. Wire or write, share or certainty, this, Empire, York. Aug. 24. Palace, Burnley.

WANTED, Monday next, also Sept. 7, by Zelda, the Novel Instrumental Lady, big Act; also Wal Owen, Novel Eccentric. Wire, The Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Monday next. Wire, 23, St. George's-road, Southwark. Many thanks to J. Russell for offer.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, in their New, Novel, and Refined Drawing room Piano Act, introducing Mimicry, Singing, Banjo Overture, Ragtime Dancing, &c. Vacant Aug. 31, Sept. 7, and 21. Hippo., Norwich; next, Hippo., Ipswich.

WANTED, Monday, and immediate Engagements, Dan Ashton, Lancashire Collier, in Original Up-to-date Collier's Song Scena, founded on fact, Wigan Colliery Explosion, Aug. 18, 1908. Interesting, Instructing, Entertaining, and Successful. Will Sley, or 26, Wood-street, Openshaw.

WANTED, Monday next, by Cambo, The Musical Monkey, big Act; can do two numbers if required. Wire, Tivoli, Barrow.

WANTED, by Walter Howard, Musical Comedian, Halls, Piers, Picture Tours, Sept. 28, on. Care of "The Era."

WANTED, Monday, also 31st, Sept. 7 (precede Belfast, Cork, &c.). Palette and Dog Max, in Artistic and Musical Pot-Pourri; also Grover, Eccentric Comedy Speciality; two people. Wire one or both. Empire, Grantham. Mon., 28, Amberley-street, Bradford.

WANTED, Aug. 31, by Ondra, the Juggling Gymnast. Monday, Hippodrome, Burslem.

WANTED, by Shavo, Juggler, Engagement, Aug. 31, Sept. 7. This, Mascots, Walsall; Monday, Mascots, Northampton. Wire.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, Volto, Man Monkey and Comedy Gymnast. Next week, Queen's Theatre, Dublin. Address all letters, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday on, Jack Sheppard, World's Greatest Handcuff King and Prison Breaker; also Miss Ruby Vesta, in the Greatest Trunk Illusion Challenges, &c. Wire, 108, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Aug. 24 and Sept. 7, on, The Original Kyoto, Japanese Humourist, Contortionist, Conjurer, and Dog; also May Geraldine, Comedienne, Dancer. Success, South Pier, South sea. Wire, after Sat., 16, Repton-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, Aug. 24, also 31, Sardous, Illusionists, Mystifiers; also Marie Riviers, Comedienne, Songs Illustrated. Wire, Hippo., Aldershot. Wire.

WANTED Aug. 24, 31, Charley Dixon, Comedian, Dancer, &c.; Kate Lvnd, Comedienne. Two Single Star Turns. Wire, 126, Lambeth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, The Knotellas (Harry and Rose), Flexible Acrobats and Dancers, &c., Liberty Aug. 31, onward. Coms., 208, Wandsworth Bridge-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Fox and Fox (Harold and Nellie), real Comedy Duettists; Singles if required. James, Exhibition, Dublin.

WANTED, Aug. 31, on, the Original Musical Mintos, Lady and Gentleman, Smart, Eccentric Musical Act. Wire, 36, Booth-street East, Manchester.

WANTED, next week and Sept. 7, Miss Myria Lo-La and Jake, First-class Smart and Comedy Three-bar Act. Wire immediate, Llanelly, Hospital Fête Ground.

WANTED, Monday next, by Ward and Davis (Howard and Louie), Com. Duo. Real Comedy, Original Dancing. Wire, sure hit, Hippo., Wigan (return). Mon., 105, Grant-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Fred and Lillie Monckton, in Screamingly Funny Farcical Episodes "Two in a Flat," "Are Wives Dummies?" "A Woman's Curiosity." Triple Bill if desired; 2 nights each. Wire, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, by Fred Wright, Comedian and Dancer, and Maud Garland, Comedienne, Monday next, Aug. 24 or 31. Address, 118, New North-road, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Vacant Aug., Adele Levey and Charles Leverton, in Sketchette, "Find the Lady First." Success, E., Brixton, &c. Wire, 97, New Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, by the Two Le Bruns (Edgar and Edie), the Juggling Prodigy and Vocal Gem. The Only Child Juggler. Add., People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Hall and Wilson, vacant Aug. 31, Sept. 7, in new Act, Motor Trick Cycling, big success. Wire or write, Hall, next, Palace, Lake-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Sword and Robb, "Captain and Idiotic Sailor," Comedians and Dancers, vac. Sept. 28, on; also Panto., best offers. Leeds Hotel, Cleethorpes.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Monday and 31st, Wills and Warlock, great Comedy and Dancing Act. Big Laughing Hit. Wire, Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Known, Blarney and Kennard, Comedians, Patterers, with Speciality, vacant Aug. 24 and 31. Hipp., Blackpool; Monday, 33, Stafford-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by The Original Two Walonells, Great Eccentric Gymnasts, Sept. 14 and 21. Add., Jack Walonells, this, Hip., Hamilton; next, Pavilion, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Merry and Bright, Popular Comedians, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, Laughing Hit of Programme, Empire, Swindon. Next week, Hippo., Croydon. Coms., 106, Great Portland-st., London, W.

WANTED, Known, Four Cecilians, what a draw. This, Hippodrome, Bromwich; next, Palace, Oldbury. Don't want the earth. Vacant Aug. 31.

WANTED, Known, Ringling Trio, Comedy Acrobatic Act on Stilts, &c., Vacant Monday next, also Aug. 31. Wire, Hippo., Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday and Later, Cameo Troupe, Screamingly Funny Act, "Rustics at Play," Lightning Tumbling, &c. 8, Fenwick-street, Manchester; or Stebbings.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon's Trio, Acrobatic Eccentrics, vacant Sept. 7 and 14, through Alhambra, Edinburgh, closing. This, Palace, Tynemouth; next, Empire, York.

WANTED, Known, Attilla Bros., Grecian Gladiators New to London, Lib. Aug. 24; Big Draw. Wire, 113, Richmond-road, Islington.

WANTED, Known, Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, Aerial Gymnasts. Sanger's Hippodrome, Tour.

WANTED, Aug. 24, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. 17, Marble Hall-road, Llanelly.

WANTED, Aug. 24, 31, by The Peps, Modern Comedy Gymnasts. Just the best. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Walker's Would-be Acrobats, Globella, Juggling Speciality, now Vacant. Wire offers, 9, Woodford-road, Watford.

WANTED, Aug. 24, 31, and Sept. 7, by Bessie Travis, Queen of Ventriloquists, Starring last four weeks. Top or Bottom Liner, Top or Bottom Liner. Thanks for numerous offers. Must have my price. A Novelty. A Novelty. A Novelty. Wire, 174, Ecclesall-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Tom Garland stands pre-eminent as an Original Ventriloquist, and has made a big hit this week Empire, Camberwell. Wanted, few dates.

WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, to precede Ireland, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Address, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Monday next, by Adkin, Ventriloquist, "The Man and Doll"; also Bioscope, any length of Show. Wire, 49, Regent-road, Morecambe.

WANTED, Known, Gillin, Ventriloquist, vacant Aug. 24, between Morecambe and Portsmouth. Letters and wires, care of "The Era."

MISS DOREEN O'HARA presents "THE MONEY-LENDER."
The entire production by arrangement with M. Kyburn-Dellar, Esq., as played by him in London for over 300 nights.
French Dramatic Episode in two Scenes. Period 1790. Two Gentlemen, one Lady, and Auxiliaries. Magnificent Costumes by Baruch; Wigs and Shoes by Clarkson; Photo-frames by Hana; Picture Posters by Allens and Stafford.
WANTED, Sept. 7, to follow Empress, Brixton. Miss Doreen O'Hara, 32, Acre-lane, Brixton, or Agents.

WANTED, Sept. 28 and on, by Moon's Merry Mascots, in their latest Musical Burlesque, "The Porter and the Girls." Coms., Variety Pavilion, Lofthouse Park, Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, The Selbinis, the Most Wonderful and Artistic Bicycle Pot-Pourri Act before the Public. At Liberty one week only, Sept. 14, Halls, Fêtes, or Galas. Communications to 193, Brixton-hill, London.

WANTED, Known, The Dunlops (Comedy Cyclists) and Sivado (Lady Gymnast); two distinct Acts, two distinct Acts. Big success this week, Bedford, Camden Town. Four calls each house. We have several dates vacant. Monday, Hippodrome, Colchester.

WANTED, Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, Swift Duo, Comic Cycle Speciality. Monday next, Pavilion, Lodge-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, Sept., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the biggest Novelty ever introduced with Troupe of Dogs. Aquarium, Scarborough.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, Chard's Dogs. Empire, Bristol; next week, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private Carl Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also Punch and Judy, with Toby. 264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars, C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROTHERS, AND CO. Sole Makers of the only Patent Cake Walk Riding Machine in the World.
Royal Letters Patent, No. 17,402, July 30, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 25,150, Nov. 13, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 2,649, Feb. 6, 1908.
REGISTERED TRADE MARK, "CAKE WALK."

WANTED, Known, users as well as makers who infringe will be proceeded against. In the Chancery Court, July 3, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady granted an injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402, 1907.

This machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for simplicity, lightness, and durability. Appreciated by the Public everywhere. Write, or call on the Sole Makers, Farncombe-street, and 94 and 98, Bermondsey-wall, Bermondsey, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 350 miniatures to select from.
MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

WANTED, Wanted, Known.
Houp-La.
Large Packets
Butterscotch and Chocolate Toffee,
12s. gross. Sample 3 stamps.
A. BUNN, 16, Dagnall-place,
Brady-street, Bethnal Green, London, E.

WANTED, Known, important notice, Stacey's Showmen Stores, removed to 510, Kingsland-road, London, late Settles-street. Specialities, Guns, Cartridges, Targets, Swing Ropes, &c.

WANTED, Known, Greatest Novelty and Money-getter, the Hindu Spirit Writer and Fortune Teller, sure living, price £8 10s. STACEY, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

NORWICH AND EASTERN COUNTIES ARTS, CRAFTS, & INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION. Agricultural Hall, Norwich, Oct 10 to Nov. 7, 1908.
WANTED, for the Pastimes Annex to above, Side Shows, Games, Automatic Machines, Shooting Jungle, Novelty Stalls, &c., &c.
Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, good Quick-showing Novelties, with Good Flash for Sept. 7 and onwards. Shares. NORTH, 150, Seven Sisters-road, London.

WANTED, Novelties, with good Flash, wire for Monday; also want to buy Tilt, 24ft. by 30ft. NICHOLAS, Exhibition, 47, Surrey-st., Croydon.

WANTED, good Quick-showing Novelty, for Ground Booth; join at once; good terms to good people. Address, BLAKEY, Fair Ground, Yeadon, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Attractions for Bazaar, Oct. 27, 28, 29 next. Applications to Hon. Secs., Incorporated Church of Ireland, Cork Young Men's Association, 52, South-mall, Cork.

WANTED, Lady Palmist. Apply by letter, stating experience, terms, refs., &c., and enclose photo., if possible, A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, a Man to take the full Management of my Circus for Fair and Private business. Mr. E. HODGES, SEN., 61, Cooksey-road, Small Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy, delighting the visitors daily at Buxton. The old firm. Chair up. Address, Buxton, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Known, to Exhibition-Managers requiring First-class Side-show, Meux's Marvellous Marionettes, at Liberty Aug. 31, on. Particulars, MEUX, Alexandra Palace.

WANTED, Known, at Lib. Sept., for Pictures, Trades Exhibits, or Shops, Elba's Mysterious Duchess, Human Spider, and Second Sight. Good money-taker. Write, 12, Row 60, M. P., Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, immediately, Male and Female Midgets, or any good Novelty for Ground Booth (shuttered), long and comfortable Engagement to suitable Exhibit. Apply, Exhibition, Allen Arms Yard, Lewes-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Mme. de Para, Disengaged end Sept., Palmistry and Character Reading. Thanks Mrs. Steve Cook, comfortable summer season. Peggotty's Hut, Quay, Gorleston-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagement, Miss L. Wainwright, at Fat Girl, at Liberty Monday next; can Join at Once; shares or salary; prefer wagon to live in. C/o Mrs. Marwood, 4, Infirmary-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Mount, Lecturer or Doorsman, at Lib. Can describe a picture as it should be. Dress well; fluent. 38, Thanet, London, W.C.

WANTED, Known, George Mason, at Liberty shortly, as Planksman, Handseller, and competent Pianist, Brilliant Soloist, Sight-reader, and Accompanist, well up in all Gags, Sketches; 10 years' refs. Auctioneer or good Picture Show wire or write. 13, Waldegrave-terrace, Radstock.

WANTED, a Face Reader, grand opportunity for one well up in the business; could commence at once; plenty of people, in good-established business. Send all particulars, Box 6,880, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Distorting Mirrors to Let, on Hire or Share, Exhibitions, &c. Add., MIRRORS, c/o Mrs. Hampshire, Church-lane, Outwood, Wakefield.

WANTED, Buy or Rent, few good Showy Athletic and other Slot Machines. Save time, send description, price, or terms, Box 6,882, "The Era."

WANTED, to Hire, for six months, a number of really First-class Slot Machines. Particulars, terms, &c., immediately, CALVERTO, Giffnock, Glasgow.

WANTED, to Rent or Lease, for First-class Slot Machine, Parlour, Shop, large, main thoroughfare, any large city. Send particulars. Box 6,807, "The Era."

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL.
BAKERS' EXHIBITION, Sept. 5 to 12, 1908.
GROCERS' EXHIBITION, Sept. 19 to 26, 1908.
BREWERS' EXHIBITION, Oct. 17 to 23, 1908.
WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Stalls in the Bazaar Section of these Exhibitions.
Handkerchief, Postcard, Scent, Photo., or any Novelty.
Apply, FRANK TURNER, Royal Agricultural Hall, London, N.; or Telephone, 2758 North.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, suit Auctioneer; main road; 40ft. front, 60ft. back; grand position.
Apply, E. MARTIN,
Fair Ground, Lake-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, now open, Kilburn White City, Spaces to Let, Side Shows, Stalls, Photos., &c. Apply,
MANAGER, 244 and 246, High-road, Kilburn.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
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Wanted, Wanted, Known,
Spaces to Let,
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
The Star, Jan. 16:—
Mr. Lennox Pawle's appearance in pantomime at Drury Lane gives point to some correspondence, now published by "The Era" Annual for the first time. As an example in brevity it should commend itself to managers and actors.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Daily Express:—
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List of Clubs.
Information about Stamping Contracts.
Foreign Money Table.
London Music Halls and Theatres.
Their Telephone Numbers.
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Chas. T. Aldrich, Sisters Grovini, Walker and Lake, Barry Lupino, Gus Garrick, Tennyson and Wallis, Maggie Rimmer, Bioscope, Russell Wallett.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Whit Cunliffe, Lizzie Glenroy, Marie Santoi and Co., George Newburn, "The Magic Carpet," Narow Bros., Les Marbas, Ray Maskell, Bioscope, Arthur Lennard.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Robey, Jock Mills, Ethel Hayden, Five Olracs, R. H. Douglass, Hans and Lux, Rhoda Paul, Hugh Barclay, Bioscope, Lockhart's Elephants.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Harry Randall, Harry May Hemsley, Barton and Franklyn Trio, Chronomegaphone, Billy McClain and Co., Mlle. Eldee, Cecilia Maude, Harry Marte, Bioscope, Sanford and Lyons.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
The Boissets, Carina Sisters, Edie King, Harold Thorley, Mabel Bardine and Co., Drew and Alders, Fred Elton, La Belle Nello, Chas. Stevens, Bioscope, George Bastow.

NOTICE.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

Odette Valerie, Horace Goldin, Cyril Clensy Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Joe Peterman's Co., in "Singing Servants," Automatos, Nita Jo, Hal Godfrey and Co., "An Outside Chance," Mollasso Quartette, Truly Shattuck, Tambo and Tambo, Rosalie Jacobi, Bioscope, Toft's Statuary.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Fred Lindsay, Camille Feo Eugene Brandt, Kloof and Ramsey, Mayme Cannon, Bros. Weltman, Will Brockton, Pictures, Fieldman's Beau Ideals.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Mike S. Whallen, Eily Adair, Harry Drew, Orpheus, McConnell Trio, Frances McNulty, Pictures, Daunton Shaw Troupe.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Gothams, Nellie Martell, Yorke Wilson, Arabella Allen, Jennie Johns, Johnson and Bert, Pictures, New York Nippers.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
Mrs. John Lawson and Co., in "The Devil's Sunday," George Brooks, Amy Marsden, Maud Beaumont, Bioscope, Mendel, Kitts and Windrum, Herbert La Martine, Edie Endon, Lizzie Daniels, Allis and Cassatti, Will Evans.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Ten Ji Troupe, Elsie Robey, Rich and Rich, Harry Rogers and Co., Seven Wulfrunas, Six Lancashire Lasses, Stewart and Morgan, Bioscope, Sammy Shields.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
The Ten Loonies, Fred Curran, De Wynne Bros., Little Zola, Kent and Keith, The Simms, Bioscope, Dot Stephens.

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INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

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NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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Sung by Miss Ella Retford.

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Written, composed, and sung by Harry Lauder.

"LET ME BUT HOPE."
(Percy Edgar and H. E. Pether),
Sung by Miss Ethel Hayden.

"IN THE TWI-TWI-TWILIGHT" (Wilmott and Darewski), "YOU'RE PROUD TO BE A SOLDIER" (Nairn and Mathews), "DEAR MR. ADMIRAL" (F. W. Leigh), and "HANG OUT THE FRONT-DOOR KEY" (B. H. Burt).
Sung with enormous success by George Lashwood.

"THE SIMPLE LITTLE MILLINER."
(Written and composed by Leslie Stiles).
Sung by Miss Millie Lindon.

"ALL DAY" and "LIMERICKS"
(F. Leo).
Sung by Wilkie Bard.

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(Lawrance, Mellor, and Gifford).
Sung by Miss May Mars.

"I NEVER REPLY"
(Pelham and Rule),
Sung by Miss Gladys Mavius.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY"
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CALLS

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Carlton, Alpho, Mysterious Cross, Sisters Cora, Taree, Chas. Banks and dog, Gold and Sterling, Hyde and Cody Trio, Dave Samuels, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Proveanies Troupe, Nellie Lunelle, Floradoras, Marie Jones, "The Girl and the Tough," Chas. F. Best, Baker and Baife, Kremka Bros., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Kelly and Agnas, Ethel Sheffer, Gravetta and Parr, Three Sisters Silcott, Margit and Lener, George James, Mlle. Bartenelli, Gibbon and Bell, Ferguson and Mack, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Lillie Soutter, Scottie's Waifs, Zeta Grey and Co., Edwards and Dacre, Victor Travers, "Whizzing the Whirl," Thornbury, Violet Nunn, The Vyponds, Raymond's Bio-Tabelaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Harry Roxbury and Co., Jessie Wilton, Harry Nelson, Mabel Thorne, Les Tafanos, Sisters Edwardes, Jessie Burnett, Niblo's Talking Birds, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Leonard Mortimer and Co., Babs Lloyd, Jacko, Pictures, Chas. Call, The Forsythes, Kitty Willis, The Roxbys.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"Woman and Wine."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"Mystery of Edwin Drood."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"A False Wife."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Orbasany's Cockatoos, Kelly and Ashby, The Lannons, Irene and Morton, Madge Allan, Les Belles Americaine, Madge Field, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Lennie and Hast, Three Alskarnos, Harry Cotton, Gregson Trio, Billy French, Georgina Middleton, Keith and Merson, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock.
Tom and Marie Motramo, Dolly and Elsie, Jock Walker, Ryder Slone, Billie Burford, Beaty and Blanche, Cullen and Carthy and Cluley, Raymond's Bio-Tableux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Conway and Leland, Rose Cabani, Deans and Wilton, Glenroy Troupe, W. G. Wesley, Larola, Norah Noble, Howard and St. Clair, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Harry Weldon, Phern and Phern, Renee Grahame, Carr and Rose, Tally Ho! Trio, Harry Sims, Mlle. Lumiere, Tom Hearne, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Lizette Troupe, Reno, Molly Augarde, Wallace Whitney, Roy Beavis, Belle Braham, Beaty Foster, Alfonzo, Tossing Austins, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
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FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
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SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Fred Maxwell and Co., The Bensons, Raymond, Allsopp and Beckwith, Florence Inman, Akbar, Bella Leaburn, Quennie West, Augustin and Hartley, Chas. Ashdown.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Raymond, Bouncing Dillons, Geo. Porter, Harry Tomps, Sisters Jonghmans, Josephine Crook, Lennie and Gibson, Billy Ross and Co., Hilda Mascott, Ivy Dene, The Gelders, Sid Penna.

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Code Word, "ENFANCE."

Lieutenant Muller having married according to his heart, without troubling about money, sees poverty entering his home after a little baby has been born to him, and the usurers having sent in their claim to the military authorities the young father is ordered to pay his debts. Luckily, the major of his regiment has pity on the lieutenant, and everything ends happily, in spite of a rich fellow-officer trying in vain to make the young wife forget her duties in order to gratify his hate of the husband.

676ft. The Subject, **£11 5s. 4d.**

OSCAR IS KIDNAPPED.

Code Word, "DOUANIER."

Oscar, a boy of sixteen, is spending his holidays at the house of his aunt. Madge, the maid, who has never seen so good-looking a boy, takes a fancy to him, and she looks at him tenderly. Then follows a series of comical incidents, in which their trunk and a tricycle play a great part, and the end of it is that two policemen having been sent after the fugitives, they capture them and put them in their right places again.

396ft. The Subject, **£6 12s. 0d.**

A FATHER'S FAULT.

Code Word, "EPARGNE."

This poor young woman has been foolish enough to believe in the false promises of the man she loved; but when he tells her that they must part she gathers up her courage, and works hard to earn her living and that of her small son. Now she is looking after their humble home, while her boy is out working for her and for himself.

One day she meets accidentally the man who has wrecked her life, and who is now richly married and the father of a lovely daughter.

In spite of her now comparatively smooth life, all her former despair and grief has weakened the poor woman, and this last meeting proves too much for her. She dies shortly afterwards, after discovering to her son the secret of his birth. Jack will have his mother avenged, but Fate selects for him a way he had not dreamed of, for he saves his half-sister from drowning, and, after all, forgiveness is sweeter than revenge.

595ft. The Subject, **£9 18s. 4d.** Toning, 18/-

OH! THE RED TAPISM.

Code Word, "EPAGNEUL."

This punctual gentleman arrives at his office every morning to the minute, but he does not mind leaving the public waiting for him outside. He very often indulges in a little nap, dreaming the while that he has won a reward from the Government for his good services. But one fine morning he is suddenly torn away from all these sweet things by the customers outside trying to break into his office, and it would not have fared well with him had not his chiefs come to his aid, ready to uphold the privileges of the Administration.

460ft. The Subject, **£7 13s. 4d.**

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Code word, "EPINE."

Two scamps, having stolen a street-cleaning apparatus, put it up at the next corner, and make all passers-by disappear into its mouth. A well-dressed lady, a nurse and baby, a parcel of delicacies, several policemen, &c., go the same way down the monster. Presently the street cleaners come back, and, seeing at a glance what has happened, they send the jokers down the pipe; then, working the apparatus backward, they make everybody and everything come to light again, somewhat bruised perhaps, but complete.

428ft. The Subject, **£7 2s. 8d.**

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Code Word, "EPAVE."

Puss-in-Boots (the hero and title of one of Perrault's tales) is a cat, which by his skill and craftiness makes the fortune of his master, the famous Mr. A. Miller. The lesson one can draw from this tale is that work and perseverance go very far in this world.

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Code Word "EPITRE."

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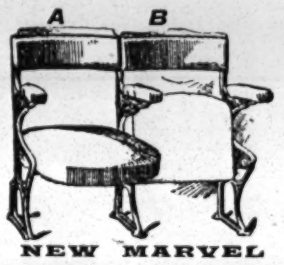

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's company is here this week with *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. L. Darra gives a very fine impersonation of the Rev. Tom Godley; Mr. Alfred Northway plays the part of the villainous Enoch Jaggins with marked ability; Mr. Charles Ashwell is successful as Ben Jaggins; while Mr. Owen Redmonde does excellent work as Phil Drive. Miss Enid Edoni was quite at home as Gretchen; Miss Violet Hammersley fulfils the part of Fern Godley in a most realistic manner; and Miss Madge Gillard is pretty and effective as Myrtle Godley.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—That interesting drama *The Village Blacksmith* is well received this week. The title-part is most realistically acted by Mr. Sam Livesey; Captain Leo, the athletic villain, is well played by Mr. Albert Sinclair; Miss Maggie Edwards most creditably represents the smith's wife; Miss Leicester is an excellent child actress; Mr. Fred Haming supplies most of the fun as Billy Twigg, the apprentice; and other characters are well presented by Mr. Thomas E. Marshall as Jeremiah Parkins, and Mrs. T. C. Livesey as Sal Parkins. The piece is admirably staged, and the scenic representation of the village smithy is particularly pretty. In the course of the music hall interlude Miss Cissie Le Grande contributes a song, which was greatly appreciated by the audience.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Fred Karno's sketch company is exceedingly popular this week. Indeed, the theatre has not been so crowded as it was on Monday for some time. The sketches played are *London Suburbia* and *The Mumming Birds*. The acting and staging of the pieces are alike admirable. Mr. Alfred Graham's Juveniles, in International and part songs, are heartily received; and Les Ruebens give a first-class vocal scena; Miss Daisy Watt, the champion lady piper of Scotland, is enthusiastically applauded; the Sisters Brand are successful as comediennes and dancers; and the Brothers Brooks appear in a clever comedy act.

BEACH PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—The Downes Family, who have been exceptionally popular, conclude their engagement this week; Miss Violet Davidson and Mr. Thomson delight the audience with their humorous duets; the Two Real Mackays dance with remarkable dexterity and grace; Vulcaris gives some amusing interludes on the piano; and Mr. Dan Williams is genuinely humorous as a comedian.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—The programme continues to attract large audiences. Principal among the artists are Miss Rosie Kell, a very clever and graceful comedienne; Mr. Albert Harper, coloured American comedian, who makes a hit with his singing and dancing; Miss Lottie Bell and Mr. Dick Bright, a pair of bright and resourceful comedy entertainers; and Mr. Dave Paterson, with his admirable cinematographic display.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborne.—Messrs. Travis Green and Hinton are presenting this week the popular "human drama" *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Arthur Hinton enacts the part of Stephen Armitage with considerable power and versatility; Mr. Fred G. Kay deserves praise for his portrayal of David Armitage, the father; and Mr. David Beattie as Lucas Lyle shows much dramatic power. Sybil Fay, a music-hall artist, is prettily played by Miss Laura Wright; Miss Lydia Audre is both engaging and dignified, and gives an effective rendering of Joan; little Josephine Melbourne is natural and realistic as Dora. Minor parts are in capable hands, and the mounting of the piece is decidedly good.

PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—The Musical Jees head the bill at this up-to-date house in their musical sketch *The Smithy*, in which they produce melody from the anvil, and never fail to amuse; Bert Bowen, a comedian, proves popular; Fraser and French are capable vocalists and expert dancers; and Harry Wedburn delights the house with good songs. Percival and Morley, comedy duologue artists, are highly applauded for their production of *The Turtle Doves*; Clarice Sefton is a good comedienne; Flo Banks is quite a success as a vaudeville artist; Alfonso Silvano mystifies the house in his wonderful balancing act; and the Bioscope again shows some interesting pictures.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—A cordial reception was given to Mr. Allan Wilkie and his company by a large and enthusiastic audience here on Monday, when *The Merchant of Venice* was the play presented. Mr. Wilkie gave an artistic and well-studied performance of Shylock; Miss Carrie Baillie as Portia showed much dramatic ability; Mr. Alexander Marsh played Bassanio with subdued power and repose; Mr. John Paley deserves praise for his capital portrayal of Antonio; and Mr. Frank Royde sustained the part of Gratiano creditably. As Lorenzo Mr. Ernest Digges played well, and Lancelot was made very amusing by Mr. Ian Fleming. Miss Maud Gill gave an exceedingly charming interpretation of Jessica, and Miss Mildred Surrey renders valuable assistance as Nerissa. For the remainder of the week *Hamlet, The Sleigh Bells, David Garrick, Julius Cæsar, She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Othello* are billed.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—The chief attraction at this house of amusement is the ju-jitsu exponent, Tarro Myaki, who is not without opponents this week, for Aldershot is the right place for a wrestler to find champions. The Smart Brothers are funny with their acrobatic feats; Chas. Wilson as a jumper excites considerable interest; Gene Selby, the negro bone soloist and delineator, is good; Ben Jackson plays the banjo in a skilful manner; and Minnie Wheaton and Gracie Dare entertain with capital songs and effective dances. The extra turn, who gives a burlesque of *The Misses' Party*, is a born artist, and deserves praise.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*The Midnight Mail* is being presented here for the week by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company. The vagaries of the drunken reprobate, Bill Brewer, are portrayed with skill by Mr. Chas. Carte; Mr. Geo. Harvard gives a bold interpretation of Harry Steyne; and the acting of Miss Trissie Humphreys as the engine-driver's wife, Mary Steyne, is wonderfully touching. Notable impersonations of character, too, are those of Leonard Boyle by Mr. Chas. H. Longden, Hassan Padisha by Mr. C. P. Wentworth, and minor parts by Messrs. Banks, Wilkinson, Mann, Warburton, Glenville, and others. Miss Jeannie Weston as Lady Phyllis Eustace, Miss Daisy Clifford as Nancy Brewer, Miss Marie Longden as Miss Mildmay, and Miss Prim and Miss Ethel North are also satisfactory exponents of character.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H Broadhead and Son.—Daleno and Stream have the premier position on the programme. They are capital singing comedians, dancers, and comic cross-talkers. George Young is a blind musician, the concertinist, who plays with artistic effect; Mme. Louise is his attendant. Victor Courtney is most amusing as "Boots at the Piano," and he is an expert executant of the instrument. Mlle. Edythe and Toto produce a "speciality"; she is unique as a lady posturer, and Toto is a modern Grimaldi. Harry Blake is a good singing comedian; Patrick Playfair, assisted by Miss Vera Davis, is a remarkable papierographist; some really remarkable and artistic specimens are manipulated by the fingers. A good comedy gymnast is seen in Picquo, and Rose and Wold are acrobatic bounding wire performers extraordinary. Cabon's French Circus brings to their arena built on the stage some really intelligent performing ponies, donkeys, goats, and dogs; they are a collection of highly-trained animals. The Bioscope shows some wonderful vagaries by a rebellious walking-stick.

ATTERCLIFFE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—The principal attraction here is Mr. Frank E. Burdett's company, in the dramatic military sketch *Mutiny*, the chief characters being well undertaken by Mr. George Dalper (Lieut. Manley), Mr. Villiers Stanley (Nebu Singh), Mr. Michael Madden (Terry O'Brien), Miss Marion Mayne (Kitty), and Miss Agnes Burdett (Ghuznah). The sketch, which is lavishly mounted, had a good reception on the opening night. Harrison Brothers, comedians and dancers, are once more proving their popularity; Miss Tiny Arnold, comedienne, gives an attractive turn; Kinnard introduces some clever tricks in his conjuring act; hearty applause greeted Miss Lauaine for her instrumental selections; Mr. Horace Jones is a good comedian; the efforts of the Sisters Selwyn, vocalists and dancers, met with hearty recognition; and the "Attergraph" pictures A Pirate's Honour completes the bill.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—This week the theatre is occupied by Mr. Beresford Whitcombe's company, in the military drama *In the Ranks*. Mr. Jerrold Heather and Miss Violet E. Lawson have the principal characters to portray, and they give admirable interpretations; Mr. Wilton Reed and Mr. T. Weldon Atherstone are the rascals of the piece, and they make the characters sufficiently hateful; Mr. Walter Thornton is an admirable "toff"; Mr. Ern Carlton introduces no end of humour into the part of Joe Buzzard; while the Mrs. Buzzard of Miss Eleanor Papera was made appropriately fussy. The Barbara of Miss Doris Whyte is lightsome and bright. The other members of the cast give good support. The piece is beautifully staged.

BARNSTAPLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—Mr. Bernard Shaw's farcical comedy *You Never Can Tell* was presented here on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. F. Cremlin showed ability as Fergus Crampton; Mr. Leslie Hamer sustained with effect the part of the prodigal Valentine; Mr. Trevor Lowe carefully embodied the family lawyer, Finch McComas; Mr. Donald Calthrop made the most of Philip Clandon; the eminent K.C. was admirably placed in Mr. George Howard's hands; and much unctuous humour was displayed by Mr. Chas. Daly as the waiter; successful in every way was Miss Katherine Stuart as Mrs. Clandon; Miss Gladys Morris's portrayal of Gloria Clandon showed care; and Miss Clare Earle made a vivacious Dolly Clandon.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stone.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company is here in *The Coal King*. Mr. Alderson is a capital and dignified Tom Roberts, and Mr. Ulick Burke a good Sir Reginald Harford, J.P.; Mr. George Hanbury is a sufficiently villainous Walter Harford, and Mr. Frank Dalton a capital Dick Sliveley; Mr. Sam Roberts is an amusing and humorous Jim Williams, and the difficult part of Mad Ann is safe with Miss Joan Wellman; Miss Winifred Love is a graceful and winning Grace Shirley, and Miss M. Hinton a bright and vivacious Araminta Green.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company is here with *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Donald Price Evans is humorous as the Rev. Robert Spalding, and Mr. W. Hargreaves is a vehemently irascible Mr. Cattermole; Mr. Frank Stanley is good as Mr. Marshland, M.F.H., and Mr. Andrew Wright is capital as Harry Marshland; Miss Florence Tresilian is a charming Edith Marshland, and Miss Dorothy Ripley, Miss Cecily Wade, and Mrs. Alfred Davis are successful in minor rôles, acting with much charm.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Edgar G. Laban.—Pat Rafferty is here this week at the top of the bill, and his songs are highly appreciated; Harry and Elsie Mayville, with their Lilliputian entertainment, have a capital reception; Nellie Lawrence is a pleasing vocalist and a dancer of very considerable merit; and the Fimans give a very humorous comedy scena, entitled *The Fire Station*. Dunningarto, sleight-of-hand performer, E. Rutland, comedian, and Two Clares, specialty artists, are turns worthy of praise. Vernon's Bioscope concludes.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.— Amost successful Hipposcope entertainment is being given here this week. The programme is very pleasantly interspersed with songs by Miss May Sinclair, and Henthall and Forster.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—On Monday the regular autumn season opened with *A White Man*, presented by Mr. Herbert Sleath's company. Mr. Frank E. Petley as Jim Carston takes hold of the audience in no uncertain manner by the firmness and ability with which he enacts the character; a prime favourite is Mr. R. A. Brandon as Big Bill, his companions, with their varied peculiarities, being faithfully portrayed by Mr. Thomas Swen, Mr. Henry Moss, and Mr. T. W. H. Sarll; Mr. Lewis Broughton tackles the rôle of the Earl of Kerhill with a proud and haughty demeanour; Taby-y-Wana, the Utah chief, and Bino White, the interpreter, are wonderfully well enacted by Mr. Eric Hudson and Mr. F. Thornton; Mr. John Wilmer is well cast as Bud Hardy; the pathetic figure of Nat-u-Ritch is admirably conveyed by Miss Rhoda Ray; Miss Gertrude Price sustains with womanly feeling the aristocratic anxiety of Dowager Lady Kerhill; the heaviest female rôle is that Diana Kerhill, and in the representation Miss Eleanor May scores an undoubted success.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schuberth.—Kelly and Ashby are in the forefront of this week's bill, and their speciality act, *Fun in a Billiard Saloon*, is meeting with the same favour and success here as elsewhere; Irma Orbasany is exhibiting her wonderful performing cockatoos; while the Laimons are renewing acquaintance with local audiences with their excellent pedestal and step-dancing; a quartette of agile dancers are Les Belles Americaine, who meet with a cordial reception; as do Irene and Morton in their comedy interlude, *The Hobo and the Maid*; Madge Allan is a comedienne who puts plenty of animation into her songs and dances; Madge Field, comedienne and dancer, also appears. Raymond's Biotableau include a big subject, entitled The Wreckers."

BEDFORD. — ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is this week presenting *Her Forbidden Marriage*. Mr. Henry Lonsdale is an ideal hero, and Miss Geraldine Le Sage tenderly portrays Lucy. Mr. Louis Hector is very clever in the sinister rôle of Charles Devereux; he finds a worthy partner in crime in the unscrupulous Lady Lucretia Lancaster, ably impersonated by Miss Grace Lester. Mr. Fred De Vere is extremely funny as Timothy Tuttutt, and Miss Maude Mer-

rick as Patty is vivacious and pretty. Mr. H. Gomer May is an excellent Sir George, and Miss Agnes Imlay is well fitted for the part of the Mother Superior.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird with their talented company opened here on Monday in *The Lyons Mail*. Mr. Irving appeared in the dual rôle of Joseph Lesurques and Dubosc with great success, the contrast in the two parts being very clearly and cleverly delineated, and the enthusiasm with which his acting was greeted was certainly deserved. Miss Dorothea Baird, a delightful actress, acted with rare charm as Janette; and a graceful impersonation of Julie was submitted by Miss Phyllis Embury. Mr. Frank Tyars deserves special commendation for his skilful impersonation of Jerome Lesurques; Mr. Eric Moxon was all that could possibly be desired as Courriol; and the rôle of Choppard was in the safe hands of Mr. C. Dodsworth. Mr. Tom Reynolds (who is also responsible for the arduous duties of stage-management) was excellent as Fouinard; and Mr. Frank Randell furnished a manly impersonation of Didier. Other rôles were represented by Miss E. Frances Davis and Messrs. C. Stephens, Frank Cochrane, B. R. Pittar, A. Curtis, Stanley Holwell, &c. *The Sergeant of Hussars* was an acceptable curtain-raiser. On Wednesday *The Bells* was the attraction, and in addition *King Rene's Daughter* was performed, in which Miss Dorothea Baird appeared as Iolanthe. During the week *Hamlet* and *Louis XI.* have also been performed, and to-night (Saturday) *The Lyons Mail* will be repeated. It should be added that the reception at the close of the performance on Monday was so enthusiastic that Mr. Irving was compelled to appear and make a speech.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Mr. John Tiller's company again occupies the chief position on the programme, and this week presents with every element of success *A Trip to Paris*. The leading rôles have been capitally filled by Miss May Sharples, Miss Marie Brian, Miss Lizzie Hay, and Messrs. Bob Selvidge, Barney Dixon, Teddy Gibbs, J. Whiteside, &c. Some remarkable feats have been performed by Morimura, described as a Japanese magician, and an unmistakable greeting has been extended to Miss Gladys Mavius, the Canadian girl, whose songs have been vociferously encored. The acrobatic feats of the Three Seabornes have created quite a sensation; and the programme is completed by the Palace Pictures, which are always up to date.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Herbert Cottesmore and company top the bill, and produce with great éclat the thrilling Sicilian drama, entitled *Her Princely Betrayer*. Mooney and Holbein return with their exceedingly funny sketch *Oysters*, and their capital act has been accorded a great reception. The Three Sisters Tree appear in their refined act, entitled *Hunting*, in which they exhibit their versatility; and the Five Juanitos appear to great advantage in their speciality act, which is certainly one of the features of the programme. Mr. Jack Hayworth is a droll Scotch comedian; and Miss Ivey Aberdare is a brisk comedian and clever sand dancer. The Delomes are exceedingly smart dancers; and a hit was made on Monday by Mr. Bert Terrell, Dutch comedian and vocalist. The Hipposcope completes the programme.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—A pleasing return visit is being paid to this theatre by that droll comedian, Mr. Mike S. Whallen, whose patter is always amusing, and he again has been very successful. The trick cycling feats of the Daunton-Shaw Troupe are certainly wonderful, and they are loudly recalled. The McConnell Trio, who are always welcome, produce one of their mirth-provoking sketches, in which their capital vocalism forms an important part; and Orpheus manipulates a number of musical instruments most skilfully. Miss Eily Adair is a fine dancer; and also appearing are Mr. Harry Drew, the famous Welch basso; Miss Florence McNulty, comedienne; and the Bioscope.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The phenomenal business at this hall continues, and this week, under the direction of Mr. Cecil Wilson, the following films have been exhibited: The Marathon Race, Motor Smugglers, The Music Teacher, A Bird of Freedom, Wrongly Accused, The Shrimper, The Pirate's Honour, &c. In addition, Denby and Dent, comedians, appear with much success; and Mr. Frank Boyce, a good vocalist.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson.—This week, under the direction of Mr. Hugh Beckett, a great variety of animated pictures are exhibited, including the Marathon Race from Start to Finish, The Legend of the Ghost, Apple of Discord, Physician of the Castle, The Rivals, The Determined Lover. A great treat is also afforded by the superb vocalism of Mme. Sims Reeves, who has been accorded a great reception; and the banjo selections of Mr. Edmund Casselli quite bring down the house.

BILSTON.—New Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Musical-Director, Mr. J. E. Machin.—Miss Winifred Chalmers and her capable company opened to a good house on Monday with *The Master Criminal*. Mr. Henry L. Osmond scores a most pronounced success as Telford Lestage, the master criminal; Mr. J. C. Carlyle also meets with general approval as Ben Beaudy of Scotland Yard; Miss Winifred Chalmers, with a fine stage presence and a clear voice, makes a capital Cecile, alias Lady Travennes; Mr. Harry Cooke is very amusing as Tommy Dale; and Miss Mabel Tremere gives able support as Peggy Perks. Mr. Edward Avinal is good as Philip Manners, and Miss Francis Carlyle does well as his wife. Mr. Chas. Tolcher introduces considerable humour into the character of Gentleman Jim. The piece is well staged and mounted. On Thursday and Friday *Oliver Twist* is to occupy the boards.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company in *With Edged Tools*, being an adaptation of Mr. Henry Seton Merriman's novel, presents an attractive entertainment. In the course of a fine performance Mr. William F. Grant attains great prominence by a really faultless rendering of Jack Meredith; Guy Oscard is carefully and effectively played by Mr. Henry Nunn; Mr. Campbell Goldsmid's highly interesting and thrilling impersonation of Victor Durnovo is impressive; and Mr. J. A. Rosier displays a thorough grasp of the important rôle of Sir John Meredith. Miss Phyllis Relph wins all hearts with an admirable portrayal of Jocelyn Gordon; Miss Marie Leonhard displays consummate ability as Millicent Chyne; and Miss Isabel Grey is a thoroughly efficient Lady Cantourne; Mr. Charles Hartopp is a good Maurice Gordon; Miss Frances Woolviston is a picturesque Marie; Miss Violet Thorold is successful as Lady Herries; and Mr. J. Pockett a capable Lieut. Conynghame. Subordinate parts are all ably filled, and the piece is elaborately staged.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Binns and Binns, exceptionally clever and versatile variety artists and a sure card at this hall, head an excellent company, which also includes Alcide Capitaine, a clever and graceful gymnast; Ted Karno and his amusing company in *The Merry Carpenters* are a prominent success; Miss Kitty Wager, a charming and accomplished comedienne, is an immense favourite; and Miss Minnie Cunningham is a winsome Irish comedienne. Other attractive turns are also given by Mr. Fred Poplar, comedian; Athas and Collins, clever acrobats and dancers; Mr. Harry Bedford, comedian; and Mr. Frank Hartley, an expert young juggler. Brown's Royal Bioscope is an acquisition.

Olympian Gardens, Rock Ferry.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—This week a delightful entertainment is contributed to by the Anglo-Indian Concert Party, which includes Mr. Harrison Brockbank, Miss Lillian Wesson, Miss Joan Maxse, Miss Kitty Kennedy Allen, Mr. Alf Johnson, Mr. H. Uzielli, Mr. F. Dillon, Mr. Kennedy Allen, Casa Crawford, Miss Ethel Bryant, and Mr. Jas. A. Lowe, accompanist.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Idols*, Miss Evelyn Millard's new play, is described in another column.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Sherlock Holmes* is exercising all its old fascination on its return this week. Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart as the redoubtable detective acts with refreshing coolness under the most trying circumstances, and carries the audience thrilled and enthusiastic to the end. Mr. Robert Gilbert as that "Napoleon of crime," Professor Moriarty, compels admiration for his cleverness and resource; Mr. Mark D. Draper as James Larabee and Miss Edith Vogne as Madge both play up strongly; Mr. Arthur Shelton is a sympathetic Dr. Watson; Miss Betty Fairfax as Alice Faulkner gives a portrayal of much merit; other clever characters being John Forman by Mr. Walter A. Chetham, Sydney Prince by Mr. Douglas Murray, and Billy by Master Thomas Russell.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Her Nameless Child* has been well received here this week with Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company. Mr J. W. Evelyn's acting as Anthony Ford calls for nothing but praise, being full of good points; Miss Pattie Hastings puts plenty of charm and ability into the character of Phyllis; Mr. Sidney C. Cranston acts finely as the younger Ford, Arthur; Mr. Arthur E. Pringle is an able impersonator of Lord Henry Woodville, whose catpaw, Mongrole, is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Frank Thompson; the Misses Mona Grey and Renie Douglas shine as Lady Sybil and Bessie Brookes respectively. Mr. Larry Clements could hardly be excelled for his humour as Tom Rivers; and Miss Geraldine makes an admirable maid.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*A Wrecker of Men* is pursuing its prosperous career in the neighbourhood of where it was first produced. Mr. Eric Campbell again proves a capital exponent of the rôle of Jim Murley; Miss Florence Melrose Millett has taken up the part of "the wrecker," Risca Mallison, with excellent results; Mr. Milner Noble is still associated with the character of the Egyptian, Pharosaphus, in which he excels; Mr. Arthur Robinson retains his successful rôle of Guise Strange; Mr. J. Ansdell is still a powerful force as the "silent witness," Railton; Miss Gwendoline Talbot is again a most sympathetic Doris Melville; and Messrs. Charles Lovell, Douglas Campbell, Thompson Carruthers, and Miss Beatrice Reynolds continue to shine in their respective rôles of Isaacs, Verincourt, Melville, and Slopper.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*London with the Lid Off* has proved particularly alluring, its presentation here so soon after its successful London production being undoubtedly much appreciated. Mr. Stanley Carlton's company have by this time got into their parts well. Miss Ruby Maude makes an engrossing rôle of Astra Bell, playing with a fine sympathetic touch; Miss Amy Ellam as the "good angel" of the piece, Madge Rendall, gets right to the heart of the audience; Mr. Stanley Carlton is convincing as the Rev. Allen Gordon; Mr. William G. Marshall is very comprehensive as the blind burglar; the Misses R. Hamilton Balesco and Charlotte B. Bellinger submit telling portrayals of Mrs. Glendale and Sarah Shafto respectively; and the others, to mention Mr. Lancelot Usher and Miss Emily Lewis specially, are in fine trim for their parts.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. B. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*When London Sleeps* is appearing here to the biggest business of the year. Mr. Lester Collingwood's company is very strong in every part, and the play has never gone better. Mr. Harry Wren scores as the sinister, evil-designing Captain Rodney Haynes; Mr. Edward E. Ashby gets full admiration for the good qualities of David Engleheart; Miss Mabel Scudamore is both intrepid and sympathetic as Queenie Carruthers; Miss Lilla Wilde dominates much of the play with her powerful acting as Hilda Carode; Mr. Harry Emmerson does well as the all-important Mark Blackwood; and full praise can be meted out to Mr. Frank Howard, Mr. Douglas Campbell, Mr. Ernest C. Edwards, Mr. F. E. Thomas, Mr. Fred Bernardo, Miss Mona Hall, Miss Bella Power, Miss Christine Middleton, Miss Ida Lovett, and Miss Helen Holmes.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Straight from the Shoulder* received a hearty welcome here, where the author, Mr. R. A. Roberts, is well known, and his name one to conjure with. Apart from Mr. Roberts's personal popularity, the play has undoubted merit, and catches the sympathy of the house instantly. Mr. Matthew Boulton as Bedford plays in a vigorous, earnest vein that arouses the utmost interest; Mr. Leonard Clarke acts powerfully as the villainous Gleeson; Miss Beatrice Burdett gives charm and pathos to the heroine's rôle (Millicent Grant); and the company, which is an excellent all-round one, includes Mr. G. H. Child as the Rev. John Armitage, Mr. Fred Beck as Jim Green, Miss Edie Casson as Miss Brittle, Miss Beatrice Moore as the romping niece, and Miss Frances Bruce as Mary Gleeson.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Bella and Bijou are paying a return visit, which has been looked forward to by many, their latest sketch, *The Suffragette*, taking the house by storm; Machnow, the Russian giant, attracts; the Two Anartos are humorous musicians, and create laughter. Other big turns include Frank L. Gregory's troupe of keep jugglers, Sados, Arthur Lloyd, Alice Maydue, Hilda Jacobsen, and Albert Lentine.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Ernest Shand, the star turn here, is more amusing than ever; Tom Edwards presents his clever ventriloquial turn; Sid May is a comedian and mimic of considerable skill; the Lukushimas in their Japanese entertainment; the Three Meers; Blanche Vincent; Munroe's Black and White Comedy Team; and the Lester Bros. complete the bill.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Francini, Ollams, and Page have a remarkable musical entertainment, which won loud applause; Clara Reid and John Power's sketch, *The Chambermaid*, is bright; and a dancing episode, *The Magic Vase*, is provided by Enid Errol and company. Sims and Sims, Dan Whitley, Lily Black, Tom E. Hughes, the Three Rubeys, and T. Edmonds and company in a sketch, *The Lady Jockey*, are all good turns.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, The Gaiety Co., Ltd.—The Maritana Operatic Co. is proving an attraction this week. Irve Hayman and Marie Montague present their sketch *Christmas Eve*; the Three Delaris, the Sisters St. Julian, Jack Lane, the Gentrys, Mr. Henderson, and the Corcoran Bros. complete an excellent programme.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley. — Miss Violet Osmund's company opened here to a crowded house in *The Belle of the Ball*. Mr. Johnny Schofield as Tibbs was once more cordially welcomed, and his drollery kept the house in screams of laughter. Mr. Robert Hyett was never found wanting as Sir Francis Lake; and every credit is due due to Mr. C. Hughes for his impersonation of Bobbie Fletcher. Another comedian who kept the fun alive was Mr. Chas. Adeson as Farmer Jones; Mr. E. W. Chewd (James Foster) and Mr. Frank Collins (Showman Jack) were capable; Miss Gertrude Melville, though suffering from a severe cold, gave a delightful rendition of the title-rôle; and as her step-sisters, Mary and Alice, Misses Ethel Bertram and L'Estrange were admirable. Miss Florence Watson was pleasing in her presentation of Queenie Trevor, her songs being well received; Missos Penryn and Cartwright as the Directoire Girls deserve mention; and the strong chorus is in the capable hands of Mr. Joseph D. Rogers.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*A White Man*, very cleverly enacted by Mr. Herbert Sleath and company, is meeting with a most favourable reception here this week. Mr. Sleath's impersonation of Jim Carston calls forth warm praise, whilst Miss Ellis Jeffreys contributes an excellent delineation of the Countess of Kerhill. Mr. George Fawcett appears with great success in his original part of Big Bill, and Miss Dorothy Dix repeats her admirable presentation of Nat-u-ritch, the Indian girl. Mr. Harold Weston as the Earl of Kerhill, Mr. A. G. Poulton as Sir John Applegate, and Miss Enid Sass as Lady Mabel Wynnegate also play their parts with unquestionable ability. The excellent staging adds no little to the success of the production.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is paying still another visit here this week with *The Girls of Gottenberg*. There are several important changes in the cast since the last visit of the company a few weeks ago. Max Moddlekoff is now played by Mr. Edmund Payne, and needless to say he carries all before him, whilst Mitzi is in the capable hands of Happy Fanny Fields, whose success was instantaneous. Miss Thelma Raye makes a charming Elsa, and Miss Maisie Gay plays Clementine with credit and distinction. Mr. Leslie Holland is well placed as Otto, and Mr. Fred Payne proves himself to be a clever comedian in the part of Brittlbottl. Mr. Jocelyn Hope as the General, and Mr. Fred Allendale as Albrecht, also merit commendation.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Vesta Tilley once again heads a big bill here, and the business is enormous. She sings half a dozen songs nightly and the audience clamours for more. Her popularity appears to increase at every visit, the streets leading from the theatre and her hotel being lined with her admirers every night after the show. Jock Whiteford, the clever Scotch comedian, is also a favourite turn, whilst round after round of applause is accorded to the Vernon Ladies' Quartette, whose vocal efforts are very fine indeed. Howard and Harris are seen to advantage in their clever sketch *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp*; Lillie Langtry sings in her well-known style; and the Lombards appear with success in their "gladiatorial act"; concertina playing is done to perfection by Alexander Prince; the Columbia Comedy Trio are capital vocalists; and Ted Waite is a good comedian.

Hippodrome.—Manageress, Mrs. Fioni.—The International Pictures is the turn that tops the bill here this week. Lisbon and Barker, comedians; the Monte Carlo Girls, singers and dancers; and Marie Elsie, comedienne, also make a successful appearance.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company has paid a successful visit with the evergreen drama *Greed of Gold*. In the leading rôle of Tom Welstead (otherwise the "dumb man") Mr. James Jarrett submits a powerful performance; Harry Hood is made sufficiently villainous in the hands of Mr. Walter H. Domoney; and the Arthur Errol of Mr. Charles Stafford gives satisfaction. Mr. Sidney Bryant as the "tipster" gives a good character rendition; Mr. J. P. Marsden is a humorous Conn Creamer; and Miss S. Bryant as Patty wins favour. The Dora of Miss Elma C. Turner is a charming figure of the play. The minor parts are well played throughout. The staging and scenic effects add much to the success of the production.

Gaiety.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baugh.—A most attractive programme has been submitted for the enjoyment of large numbers of patrons, the first item being supplied by Herr Listen, a Dutch warbler, who at once proved a success. R. C. Note rendered several good songs; the Musical Morrells had a hearty reception; Harl gave a good juggling act; Marvelle's cockatoos were very attractive; Mag Milbo was well received in coon song and dance, and the Bioscope strengthened the bill of fare.

Hippodrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Doyle and O'Connell; General-Manager, Mr. Tom Doyle.—The series of pictures, together with good varieties, maintain the popularity of the "Drome."

BOLTON. — Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Miss Ida Molesworth's and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here on a return visit with the American drama *At Cripple Creek*. Mr. Wernham Ryott gives a clever impersonation of the part of Joe Mayfield; Miss Daisy Carlton is highly successful as Maggie Mason; Mr. Will Hook makes a droll Reggie Harwood; Wahketah, the faithful Indian, receives excellent treatment at the hands of Mr. Reginald Harley West; Mr. Charles E. Johnson does well in the character of Martin Mason; and the same may be said of Mr. Roy Jackson as Manuel Alvarez. Miss Dorothy Lart is good in the part of Belle Gordon; the "Dynamite Ann" of Miss Marie Housley and Miss Norah Dillon's Sarah Lively merit praise, whilst other parts are ably filled.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The renowned Sears, America's foremost illusionist, is appearing here in a series of brilliant and bewildering illusions, assisted by Miss Edythe Vernon; and is supported by Monty Walker, laughing mimetic swell-comedian; Mount Stephens and Harry Rennior, comedians and eccentric rag-time dancers; the San Remo Girls, comediennes and speciality dancers; Dave O'Toole, comedian; Mabel Bright, novelty entertainer; Walter Wade, in his mimetic monologue *Patsy Burke*; Joe Conway, pocket comedian; Matthews and Cowper in their original comedy sketch, entitled *When the Clock Went Wrong*; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — Muncaster Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The stock company is this week playing the old mystic drama, *The Corsican Brothers*, the principal parts being capably presented by Messrs. Albert Sember, Stanley S. Gordon, Alfred D. Adams, Cyril Grier, Tom H. Solly, and Misses Nina Vaughton, Kathleen Magee, and Effie Macintosh.

BOSCOMBE. — Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—Peggy Pryde is heading the bill this week, and in her successful scena, entitled "Mr. Moon," is a great favourite. An excellent turn is provided by the Three Sisters Sprightly, the versatile trio; Lena Wylie, South American soprano, receives tremendous applause for the admirable rendering of her songs; little Jenny Alexander, child comedienne and mimic, is very successful; Gicardo, boy juggler, is exceedingly smart; Leo Stormont, baritone, is much appreciated; Wright and Elton, comedy artists, provide a pleasant turn; and the Hippo. pictures are up to date.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Herbert Dunbar.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is drawing crowded houses in *Lady Frederick*, with Mrs. Brown Potter in the title-rôle. The talented actress played the part admirably, and had a hearty reception. Mr. Philip Cuningham, with his fine appearance and good acting, was a great success as Paradine Fouldes; Lady Mereston was sustained in capable fashion by the clever actress Miss Audrey Campbell; Mr. Herbert Garthorne as Lord Mereston was an excellent and convincing lover; and Mr. Cecil Bevan did some good work as Capt. Montgomerie. Miss Phyllis Manners was good as the dressmaker, Madame Claude; and Miss E. Nolan O'Connor made a charming French maid. Among the cast were also Mr. R. Van Ramsey as Sir Gerald O'Mara; Mr. Shirley Lea as Admiral Carlisle; Miss Edith Deverell as Rose; and Mr. C. T. Roe as the waiter.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—A return visit is being paid this week by Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer in a repertory of plays, which includes *Mary Queen of Scots*, presented on Monday. Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, as the unhappy prisoner of Fotheringay, stirred the audience visibly; Mr. F. Skein's Earl of Leicester was a well studied and able effort; Miss Alice O'Dea played Elizabeth well; Miss Maud Garth was excellent as the lovable Hannah Kennedy; as Lord Burleigh Mr. Bernard Merefield stood out prominently, and the other parts were competently filled. *Sapho* was the play on Tuesday night; and Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer is billed to appear during the engagement as Hamlet, Leah, Nell Gwynne, and Jane Shore.

Prince's Theatre. — Lessee, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Walter Melville is this week presenting for the first time here *The Girl Who Wrecked his Home*. Its reception has been very cordial. In the part of Jack Marshall, the wronged husband of the story, Mr. J. W. Goddard is effective in his acting; with pathos and much distinction Miss Louise Hampton fills the part of his erring wife Bertha; Mr. P. B. Lewes as the scoundrel Leonard Kenyon, her betrayer, is distinctly forcible; his accomplice, Val Raymond, is cleverly represented by Miss George de Lara; Miss Lulu Bowes daintily fills the part of Winifred Marshall; and the other characters are all filled in a manner which serves well to maintain the keen interest in the play.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mark Sheridan, the comedian, irresistible as ever, is here on a return visit; Alexandre and Hughes are again vastly entertaining; Ada Martine submits a dainty turn as a comedienne; a smart skipping rope dance by the twin Sisters Anderson wins applause; the Four Figaros give a bright turn of "Ten minutes of Continental character impersonations and dancing"; Marjory Armstrong as *The Little Stowaway* is well supported in a well-staged dramatic sketch. Frank Cass gives an acceptable vocal comedy turn; Lena Verdi, comedienne, is eccentric in style; with clever dancing and originality, Russell Brandow wins hearty applause; and amusing pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Carlton, the clever comedy card manipulator, is again eliciting hearty laughter here; he also introduces his smart illusion, "The Mysterious Cross," and subsequently he greatly interests his audience by exposing the trick; Alpho gives a clever turn as a ventriloquist; the Sisters Cora win favour as smart duettists and dancers; with an auto-harp and a mouth organ, Taree submits an original and clever turn; in his own quaint style Dave Samuels, the Hebrew comedian, elicits much laughter; the Hyde and Cody Trio, in a novel and funny acrobatic turn, are smart; with his intelligent dog Woof and some smart patter, Charles Banks is amusing; *The Welsh Girl and the Artist* is a capital musical comedy scena submitted by Gold and Sterling; and the Raymond's Bio-Tableaux interest and amuse the audience greatly.

BRIDLINGTON.—Royal Prince's Parade. — Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—The Sunday evening concerts are very popular, and Mr. Norfolk Megone is frequently introducing new pieces for the enjoyment of his audiences. On Sunday "Victory and Thanksgiving," a fine descriptive scena composed by Partridge, was admirably rendered. The vocalist this week is Mr. Fowler Burton, a popular baritone, who possesses a rich voice of great range. On Wednesday the famous Black Dyke Band gave two performances in the Floral Pavilion. The special turn in the Grand Pavilion this week is Captain Devereux and his clever dogs. The Flockton-Foster Entertainers continue their capital programme of songs and sketches, and the Loyal Dominion Animated Pictures are always very fine.

New Spa Gardens. — General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge. — The new manager, who has so quickly made himself popular with both residents and visitors, was accorded his first complimentary benefit on Monday, when the large crowd who gathered in the various parts were regailed with plenty of entertainment. Under the glass dome the programme was contributed to by a host of talent, including the smart little company from the garden of a thousand lights, the Brownies, comprising Miss Maidie Field, Miss Maud Gardner, Miss Dorothy Webb, Mr. Crampton Bryant, and Mr. Charles Heslop. Mr. H. Flockton-Foster and his entertainers came over from the Parade and gave some of their choicest items. Mr. Surrie Lindon and his vaudevilles were very successful, Misses Olga Gray and Bertha Frey, and Messrs. Lindon, Bob White, and Percy Stanhope singing some of their most popular pieces; Miss Ethel Walker gave a clever turn at the piano; Mr. Alexander Tucker's song was very good; and Herr Simon Wurm and his Viennese band gave numerous items. In the theatre, which was packed, Mr. Gus Elen and his variety company contributed their share to the success of the benefit. In the grounds a successful confetti carnival took place, and was concluded by a fine display of fireworks by Messrs. Brock and Co. Mr. Harry Tunbridge received an ovation when he appeared on the stage to thank his patrons. He had, he said, given them the best of entertainments, and a proof of the popularity of what he had provided was the fact that on three occasions this season they had "broken the record" of attendance on the Spa. The theatre orchestra struck up "He's a jolly good fellow," and it was heartily taken up by the crowded house.

Spa Opera House.—Mr. Gus Elen and his talented variety company are here this week, and are giving some excellent programmes. The Elite Harmony Boys, five capital vocalists, present a high-class musical act; *Messmates Ashore*; George Phillips is a good vocalist and eccentric dancer; Miss Lilian Rigby gives a smart dancing act; and Mlle. Rossini introduces a well-trained troupe of performing dogs; Gus Hindell, as a comedian and teller of quaint stories, gains applause; and the Ernest Montefiore company represent *The Little Colonel* cleverly; Georgina Leno, daughter of the late famous comedian, proves herself a clever comedienne and dancer; the Westbrooks give a novelty dancing scena, *Two Little Maids from School*; and Sterling and Love in *A Domestic Musical Squabble*, combine melody and mirth effectively; Mr. Gus Elen sings some of his best songs to the great delight of the audience. "Wait till the work comes round" in particular being given with all those delicate touches of humour and effect to which Mr. Elen has accustomed us.

Summer Gardens.—Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Chas. Beanland.—Mr. Charles Danton had his annual benefit on Thursday, Aug. 20, when he had a full house, and presented a big programme, which was highly appreciated. Mr. Danton had the assistance of many of the artists who are appearing at the various places of amusement in the town, and "Charlie" introduced one of his choicest song and dance turns, to the delight of the great crowd which was present to testify to the popularity of this esteemed member of the trio who control the destinies of the popular Gardens.

BRIGHTON. — Grand Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. T. E. Ward's company is here this week with *Second to None*, and is attracting good houses. Mr. Theo. Balfour achieves great success as Col. Sir Reginald Greystone; Miss Dorothy Clifton gives an admirable portrayal of Nell Greystone; Miss Mary Mallalieu is a great favourite as May Greystone; Mr. Frederick F. Loyd is highly effective as Captain Philip Mannering; Mr. Arthur D. Layland's Lieut. Archer Ballater, Mr. F. G. Maine's Sergeant Jack Horseman and Mr. Charles Halling's Frank Wilding merit praise; and much amusement is afforded by Mr. Louis Edmonde (Private Flutter), Miss Clarrie Yandell (Norah), and Mr. Allan Carruthers (Joe Ruggles). The remaining characters are ably sustained.

Alhambra.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is a good company here this week. George Lashwood, comedian, is as popular and successful as ever; Lily Burnand charms the audience with her delightful songs; John Grün Mark, "a modern Hercules," is warmly received; Belle Green is highly effective with her songs and imitations at the piano; Cestina is a clever comedy juggler and acrobat; C. H. Charlton is a capital conjuror; Percy Hannon, American baritone, sings in good style; Dot Hardy is a pleasing character comedienne; and the Alhambrascope pictures are excellent.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. Walter C. Kelly (the Virginian Judge), the American raconteur, gives a very enjoyable turn; the Permane Brothers, eccentric clowns, introduce with success *Nightingales' Courtship*; Picitt and Lizette, illusionists and pantomimists, are warmly applauded in *The Crazy Cook*; the Brothers Martin are clever xylophone artists; the Three Donals, herculean gymnasts, submit a good turn; Arthur Croxon is a clever mimetic comedian; Susie and Protti are skilful Parisian dancers; Thomas and Taylor are capital in the quick-change scena, *Fun on the Midland*; George Antill is a pleasing comedian; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

West Pier.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here this week with *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*. Mr. George Mudie merits unstinted praise for his excellent impersonation of Mr. Ponderbury; Miss Annie Stalman submits a splendid character study as Mrs. Ponderbury; Miss Florence Wix is a dainty Stella; Mr. Alfred Ibberson is an admirable Peter; and Mr. Drew Mackintosh is highly successful as Mervyn Thorpe.

Palace Pier Theatre.—Continuing their engagement here, Miss Annie Hughes and company are repeating *Miss Tommy* this week. Miss Annie Hughes gives a charming representation of the title-rôle; Mr. J. E. Cowell is admirable as Peter Hope; and others meriting commendation include Mr. Alex. Chumley (Wm. Cloud), Mr. Wylie A. Thompson (Flipp), Mr. Athol Stewart (Dick Danvers), Miss Elinor Foster (Mr. Morison), and Miss Vera Pole (Honour).

Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The animated pictures here attract large houses. A highly dramatic story is conveyed in The Child's Prayer and the Prodigal's Return is intensely moving and sympathetic in character. Ascot Sunday on the Thames is very interesting, and other admirable films include *Useful Presents for a Child, Spot, the Dog Thief, The Music Master, Each in His Turn, The Cracksman*, and *A Kind-hearted Tramp*.

BRISTOL.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. F. W. Bolam's company is here with *The Sins of Society*, the play being staged elaborately. Miss Grace E. Leslie plays in a very effective manner as Lady Marion; Miss Pattie Browne is pleasingly vivacious as Lady Goldbury; Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan acts in good manly style as Sir Dorian March; Mr. C. F. Collings is sharp and consistent as Noel Ferrers; Miss Dorothy Giles is interesting as Lady Gwendolen Ashley; Mr. Frederick Annerley acts admirably as the gentlemanly pawnbroker, Mr. Morris; and Mr. Blake Adams presents an amusing exposition of James Hogg. All the remaining parts are in excellent hands.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*The Love of the Princess* is admirably staged here, the several heavy sets of interiors being most effective. The costumes and uniforms are all exceptionally good, the mounting generally is all that can be desired, and the play is both interesting and well performed. Miss Maud E. Ward and Mr. Wilson Coleman are both highly successful in their respective parts of the Princess Idalia and Prince Conrad Ramona; Miss Nellie Garside is pleasing as Lady Irene Ramona; Mr. Ernest E. Imeson is excellent as the traitor, Count Nicholas Danillo; Mr. W. F. Stirling is both dignified and impressive as the Prince Regent; Mr. George Antley is "too funny" as Duke Scarfe; Mr. Becket Bould and Mr. Graham Winsford do well as Lieut. Orlans and Zaroff; Miss Ellen Elmore is effective as Constantia; and Mr. E. H. Dobell is a little too demonstrative in the difficult part of the King of Illarnia.

Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Fred Karno's company is here with the musical pantomimical extravaganza in three scenes entitled *Saturday to Monday*, the sketch obtaining much applause. Coram, ventriloquist, does an effective turn; Hayes and Merritt, trampolinists, are expert in their line; Victor and Louis, speciality comedians, are appreciated; Harry Zetter, comedian and dancer, is successful; Henry Hilton is a smart conjurer; and Les Zelovas are decidedly clever as acrobatic equilibrists. The performance concludes with interesting animated pictures by Vernon's Bioscope.

Empire. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Hayman and Franklin, American Hebrew impersonators, amuse immensely with their farcical skit, *A Suit for Divorce*. Charles R. Whittle, comedian, is always a favourite here, his quaint style being very effective; Dick Kendall, comedian, obtains applause; Allen and Hall, cross-talk comedians and dancers, are appreciated; Lallie Brooke, comedienne, scores with her new scena, *Girls, Past and Present*; the Zampas, vaudeville artists and dancers, do an exceptionally smart turn; James Stewart is amusing as the "tramp at the piano"; and Ida Brophy is a pleasing

sustained by Mr. Walter Dale as Billy Binks and Miss Kitty Russell as Kitty Snowdrop; Harold Kingston, the victim of the villainous machinations of Stephen Blight, is admirably played by Mr. Richard Vane; and Stephen Blight is in the capable hands of Mr. Stephen Langton; the accomplice of Blight, Flo Morton, is a good presentation by Miss Constance Médwyn; Miss Gertrude Sterroll cleverly portrays the unfortunate Maud Carruthers; Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne as Paul Carruthers commands the full sympathy of the audience in his trials; Mr. Sidney Rennef as Jim Dixey and Miss Annie Brunnette as Mother Cable give good studies; and the small work of Mr. Matt Russell (Farmer Carruthers), Mr. G. H. Langley (Sir Edward Whybrow), and Mr. Fred Astley (Inspector Ferritt) is well done.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Hearty laughter is caused by the performance of Mr. John Leopold's company in *The New Frivolity* and *The Houseboat*. Mr. Watson Hume as Oliver Buckwheat is irresistible, and is capitally seconded by Mr. Willie Leopold as Sammy; Miss Amy Hall is very good as Lucy; and Daniel Teething is capably undertaken by Mr. John Leopold, jun. Jules Vermiglio is aptly portrayed by Mr. Chas. Goff; and other parts are in capable hands.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—An interesting feature of the programme here this week is a picture of the Burnley Flower Show being shown by the New Empire Theatroscope. The views were taken by the Empire operator, and are excellent work. The Bamboo Wille Brothers fully deserve their place at the head of the bill for their sensational hand and head balancing; on bicycles the Selbinis are perfectly at home, and perform novel and neat tricks; Martinett and Wallace thoroughly please with musical selections on Japanese bells, &c.; and the Greys (Adah and Lucien) delight the audience with operatic duets. Phyllis Seymore is a first-class dancer; Pete and Juno, coloured comedians, are very humorous; and Barney Noble sings songs with catchy choruses.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Mr. Harry Weldon's songs and patter quite convulse the audience; Tom Hearn, the laziest juggler on earth, maintains his reputation, and in addition keeps the audience laughing from start to finish; the Tally-Ho Trio, in a musical farce, *The Three Buttercups*, prove themselves a most pleasing harmonising trio; and Pheon and Pheon give selections on a variety of peculiar instruments. Mlle. Flora Lumière presents a turn of beautiful colour and clever dancing; and Renee Graham as a character-vocalist is well received, as also is Harry Sims, vocalist. Carr and Rose provide much amusement and good singing; Sladene, an aeronaut who made a parachute descent on Saturday last from the local flower show, gives a good turn on the trapeze. The Black Princess is shown by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Hamilton Hill, Australian baritone, the possessor of a splendid voice, meets with instant success, and is heartily applauded Mozzetto, assisted by Button, gives a marvellous jugglery turn; Ethel Yorke, comedienne and singer, also shines. A refined and pleasing show is presented by the Emerson Girls; and a screaming absurdity, entitled *The Tree of Truth*, in which Braine and Lloyd appear, convulses the house. Mr. W. P. Dempsey is screamingly funny; and Bennett and Martell as the "shipwrecked mariners" score heavily. The Operascope is in evidence with some of the latest films.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—For the first three nights this week Mr. Bannister Howard's company in *The Belle of Mayfair* occupied the Opera House stage. For the remainder of the week we had Miss Mabel Love in *Lady Frederick*.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is here in *Floradora*.—Mr. Fred Eastman is seen once more in the rôle of Anthony Tweedlepunch, and a more intensely humorous impersonation could not be desired. Mr. Stanley White as Cyrus W. Gilfain displays great ability; and Mr. Savill Foster sings with much spirit and energy as Frank Abercoed. Mr. Herbert St. John as Captain Arthur Donegal is thoroughly well suited; and the character of Leandro loses nothing in the hands of Mr. Edwin Oxlee. Miss Edith Housley as Lady Holyrood is exceptionally good, her charming manner combined with her catchy songs making her part most pleasing. Miss Maisie Ellinger as Dolores has a wonderful soprano voice. Miss Lily Guillie as Angela Gilfain is also worthy of mention. The chorus is well looked after, and the staging is effective.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—On Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, Mr. R. A. Roberts presented his stirring sketch, *Dick Turpin*, in which the five characters are cleverly undertaken by himself, and it is difficult to determine which is the most wonderful, the quick-changes are exceptionally fine acting. For the remaining nights, *Ringing the Changes*, is billed. Ella Shields is now quite a favourite here, her special style and quaint voice combining to make her rendering of Walking round the World most pleasing. A novel skit on the Aeroplane is introduced by Verno and Voyce, a couple who possess exceptionally fine voices; while the Cumberlands are marvels at trick cycling. Tom Parker is a merry comedian and expert dancer; a most mystifying turn is given by Fred Wilkinson, assisted by Miss Betty Wallar, their performance being extremely clever. The Leonards (Bob and Jennie) are smart in a comedy singing act; and Andy Fagan, comedian, gains much applause for his songs and able dancing. The Sisters Pine contribute a pleasant musical comedy act *The Golf Girl and the Caddie*. The bioscope as usual completes.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Rollo Balmain.—For the first time in Cardiff Mr. Hamilton Baines presents the stirring drama, *Dark Deeds of the Night*. The deep-scheming Dr. Mortimer Caine is impersonated by Mr. Frank Eaglesfield with assiduous care, the part being enacted with just the necessary intentness. As the mis-used Jack Brandon, Mr. Lewis De Burgh is capital and makes a manly hero. Mr. Fred Richards does well as Nicholas Pickles. A specially pleasing delineation of Dora Bardsley is submitted by Miss Hilda Merrilise, who imparts a gentle reading of the character. Miss Gwen Stewart is excellent as Ruth Maitland, and Mrs. Brandon is in the capable hands of Miss Jennie Bostock. Relieving comedy is supplied by Mr. Albert Hayzen (Tim O'Mallorey) and Miss Edith Bottomley (Polly Prince), the combination causing endless laughter.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Tom and Marie Montramo appear in a refined drawing-room sketch, *Do You Reverse*, and the pair are accorded a hearty reception. Ryder Slone gained much applause on his last visit for the rendering of his well-known song "Sing-Sing," and with new numbers his popularity is now greater than ever. Old favourites also are Cullen and Carthy and little Cluley, comedians who cause unbounded merriment. Jock Walker is a good Scottish comedian and expert whistler; while Beattie and Blanche are smart vocalists and dancers. Dolly and Elsie, duettists and dancers; Billie Burford, chic comedienne, and a screaming absurdity on the bioscope complete.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stowart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—For the tennis tournament week the enterprising manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice, has booked an attractive and highly-popular engagement in Miss Horniman's Répertoire Company. The company's previous appearance here in February last, when a flying matinée of *Candida* was given, proved a big success, and the remembrance of their fine performance has created intense interest in the present engagement. On Monday the house was packed in every part when Mr. Charles McEvoy's amusing comedy *David Ballard* was performed, and the excellent impersonations of the principal characters gave the greatest satisfaction to a delighted audience. In the title-rôle Mr. Iden Payne again proved himself an artist of unusual ability; his handling of this difficult and complex character left nothing to be desired, and he was warmly applauded. Miss Ada King was no less successful as Mrs. Ballard, her portrayal meeting with well-deserved approval. Mr. Charles Bibby's Percy Ballard was a careful and well-played study, and Mr. Lewis Casson and Mr. Jules Shaw contributed performances in which their sterling abilities were put to effective use. As Gladys Ballard Miss Penelope Wheeler scored an immediate success, and Miss Louise Holbrook as Louisa, and Miss Hilda Bruce Potter as Mercy, gave capital sketches of their respective characters. The piece was preceded by *The Subjection of Kezia*, in which Messrs. Charles Bibby and Lewis Casson and Miss Sybil Thorndike were seen to advantage. *Candida*, *Widowers' Houses*, and *The Return of the Prodigal* are also billed. A new comedy by Charles McEvoy, entitled *When the Devil Was Ill*, is also billed for production.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Miss Daisy Dormer had a most cordial reception on Monday, and her delightful style, excellent songs, and lively dancing soon made her a big favourite. Mr. J. W. Winton offers something novel in the way of ventriloquism, and well-deserved applause and roars of laughter greeted his efforts; Bert Woodward, the coon cyclist, Walter Emerson, the long comedian, and Barrett and Knowles, funny patterers and comedians, are all on return visits, and new songs and business make their turns more popular than ever. Wilman proves himself an expert and artistic performer on a variety of musical instruments, his cornet solos being perhaps the most appreciated. Yolande Noble, a charming singer of good songs, and some fine pictures by the Pepiscope complete the programme.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Sydney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas France; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—Capital fare is provided here this week by the Animated Picture Co. The Blind Woman arouses keen interest, and the reproduction of the Marathon Race elicits hearty applause. Mike and Lena, in their Dutch speciality act, are a clever and amusing couple, the dancing of Mike being greatly appreciated.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—Mr. Millar Anderson's company occupy the boards here this week with the drama *For Her Husband's Sake*. Mr. Robert Faulkner makes a capable Lieutenant Jack Seymour; Mr. Millar Anderson acts powerfully in the heavy part of Herbert Grey; in the part of Estelle Beaudet Miss Enid Ross leaves nothing to be desired. It is a good all-round company.

CHATHAM.—BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have Master Clark, billed as the pocket Vance, who sings clearly, and makes quite a hit; Bert and Dally give a duologue entitled *The Variety Agent*; Les Trippellos contribute an enjoyable musical entertainment; Miss Gladys Hooby and company present a sketch, *The Violin Girl*, which serves for the introduction of some melodious violin solos by Miss Hooby; Massona is a decidedly smart juggler; Sid Bandon scores with "I knew I was to blame"; Astley's American Circus is a complete little show, and roars of laughter are created by the equestrian efforts of the local lads; The Gentleman Burglar and There's a Smell of Smoke Here are admirably projected by means of Lacey's Erascope.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis.—Gwennie Yeo is a neat dancer; Percy Maye is to be commended for his smart female impersonations; Tom Kelso and company score with their absurdity entitled *The Yorkshire Servant*; Florence Preis is appreciated in "Angus Macdonald" and "The Lost Chord"; Walter King is always well worth hearing; William Garland and Fred Douglas's company of coloured ladies and gentlemen make plenty of fun in *A Trip to Coontown*; The Adventures of Dolly is an interesting film; and special mention must be made of the appearance of Max Gruber and Miss Adela with their cleverly-trained elephant, horse, and pony.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Another change in the bill of fare at this house is furnished by Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company, in F. Brooke Warren's sensational drama *The Face at the Window*. Owing to the illness of Mr. B. Hoggan-Armadale, the part of Le Loup was taken at short notice on Monday evening by Mr. Gilbert Hall, who is to be congratulated on his finished performance. Paul Gouffet has an admirable representative in Mr. Scott Leighton; Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson wins sympathy by her portrayal of Marie de Brisson. The comedy relief is safe in the hands of Mr. Henri Stewart as Peter Pottleberry, and Miss Louie Lonora as Babette.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Walter Melville's company, in *The Soldier's Wedding*, drew a very large house on Monday. Mr. Wingold Lawrence made a stalwart hero of Jack Brown; and Mr. Fredk. Biron very strongly presented the rôle of David Monroe. Mr. Beresford Whitcomb as Colonel Graham was both characteristic and clever; Mr. Johnny Chippendale as Tommy Spratt and Little Albert as Teddy Monroe introduced a touch of humour; a like remark applying to Miss Mattie Everett as Watchful Lizzie. Miss Marie McAulay gave a powerful portrayal of Julie de Beauvrais; and her accomplice in crime, Chas. Courteney, was capitally presented by Mr. Gerald Jordan. Miss Dorothy Richardson was a pleasing Nancy; Miss Mabel Lowe was true to life as Peggy; and Mr. Fred Yarnold made a nimble old Nat Lee.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—"Electra's Bower," an electrically illuminated spectacle by Abdullah and La Superbe, is an uncommon and delightfully-staged novelty; mysterious Mr. C. sings agreeably, and his patter is smart; Maud Courtney goes uncommonly well, and in the duet with Mr. C. (who stands in the circle) gets an ovation; Winnie Stanhope sings a couple of well-written songs; Lillian Sivado is a pronounced success as a gymnast; the Dunlops are capital trick cyclists; and W. A. Harvie completes the bill.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company, with *An Abandoned Woman*, is here. Mr. Herbert M. King and Mr. Frederick Hendry, as Captain Herbert Seaton and Sir Marmaduke Seaton, do full justice to their respective parts. Robert Saunders is well played by Mr. Herbert H. Young, and as Philip Malvoisin Mr. Wm. Fraser Brunner is all that can be desired. Mr. Freddy Myles as Paddy Boyle is excessively funny, keeping the house in roars of laughter. Miss Nellie Thorne Hallam is good as Eleanor Deane, and as Ninon Malvoisin Miss Ruth Zillwood is excellent.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Mr. Leslie Faber's company opened here on Monday in Mr. H. A. Jones's play, *The Liars*, which was well received by a large audience. The Lady Jessica of Miss Winifred Arthur-Jones, daughter of the distingnished author, was a study, instinct with freshness and charm. As Edward Falkner, Mr. Lewis Willoughby was very effective; Mr. Leslie Faber, as Col. Sir Christopher Deering, afforded one of the best characterisations in the play; Miss Ethelwyn Arthur-Jones filled the minor rôle of Lady Rosamond Tatton with grace and spirit; Miss May Saker, as Dolly Coke, was altogether acceptable; Mr. Frank Bickley was an appealing Gilbert Nepean, and Frank Lathom, as the French Waiter, acquitted himself creditably. The staging and setting were excellent. On Tuesday *The Manœuvres of Jane* was given. Miss Winifred Arthur-Jones, as Jane Nangle, excelled herself; Mr. Leslie Faber, as Lord Bapchild, was very droll; Mr. Richard Neville gave a good study of Jervis; Mr. Lewis Willoughby, as George Langton, filled the part with distinction; Mr. Nange was well taken by Mr. Victor Widdicombe; Miss Ethelwyne Arthur-Jones made a capital Constantia Gage; and Mrs. Beechiner was capably enacted by Miss Elizabeth Watson.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—A first visit of the musical comedy, *The New Girl*, is being paid to the above house. Miss Rosa Bennett gives a charming interpretation of the leading rôle, and is responsible for some pleasing musical numbers. Mr. Edgar McIntyre appears as Harry Harrow, and shows that he possesses a fine voice. Mr. Edward Colman gives a characteristic impersonation of Col. Buller, V.C.; and Miss Victoria Douglas is successful in the rôle of Martha Grimm. Humour, too, is not lacking in the impersonations of Mr. Ralph Lynn (Bertie Holbrook), Mr. Kenneth Black, jun. (Brown, a butler), and Miss Ivy Leighton (Cerise, a French girl).

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—Ischernoff presents an attractive act with a number of well-trained animals, including ponies, dogs, and pigeons, who perform the most astounding tricks. Another very good turn is presented by Fred Kitchin and Frank Lister's company, and introduces an episode of Australian life, entitled *The Sundowner*. An acceptable performance is given by Slippere, the blind entertainer; and other items are submitted by Arthur Gallimore Trio, Chant and Chant, Ross and Grayson, Minnie D'Aubyn, and May Martin.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. George Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—Mr. Fred Ginnett's company is again here with the well-known story of *Dick Turpin's Ride*, in which the marvellous performance of the horse Black Bess is displayed. Mitchell and Cain are comedians of a very entertaining order. The Four Jumels are very clever instrumental musicians. Mr. Fred Lincoln appears with his scena, *My Pal Jemmy*, with success. Other artistes who capably contribute are Mena Brae in a répertoire of songs; Charles Chard, comedian; Annie Casey, comedienne, the programme concluding with animated pictures.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Mr. Fred Karno's company in *His Majesty's Guests*, is drawing good houses here this week. Mr. George Hestor is the Sergt. Lightning, and his appearance was always the signal for an outburst of merriment; Mr. Rupert Stutfield makes a capital Lord Easem; Mr. Chas. Usher is suitably placed as Mr. Miffin; Mr. Sid Kearns is exceedingly funny as the Rev. Minks; and Mr. J. Richardson is good as Bunker. As Lady Maud Easem, Miss Aggie Morris establishes herself a favourite; and Miss Edith Ager is a dainty Dolly Miffin. Miss Kitty Brunton as Miss Manley is quite the regulation type of a new woman.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Wallace Davidson.—As a special attraction here this week Mr. W. Graham Arthurs and company occupy the boards with the drama, *Every Inch a Man*. As Dick Barnet, Mr. W. Graham Arthurs is excellent, and well merits the applause bestowed; Miss Mabel Liston is very pleasing as Vera Maxwell; Mr. Sylvester Stuart as Daniel Barnet makes a capital villain; whilst Alderman Barnet is capably represented by Mr. Ralph A. Armfield. The part of Teddy Edwards falls to Mr. Frank Masters, who carries it through with great humour; Miss Kate Raby Hughes is good as Mrs. Edwards.

CROYDON.—HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Joint-Managers, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice.—The programme here is above the average. Mr. J. Wright Aitken gives a vivid and capable rendering of the rôle of Victor Margo in the dramatic sketch *The Devil's Hand*, and is supported by an admirable company; the Sisters Harcourt are captivating duettists and dancers; Cissy Esdalle, comedienne, makes her songs go with a swing; Harry Bent is an entertaining comedian; Merry and Bright, comedians, submit a smart patter turn; the animated picture The Professor's Discovery is very amusing; and Winnie Scott, comedienne and dancer, is well received. The one-act drama *Beneath a Mask* affords scope for commendable acting by Mr. J. Wright Aitken as Gilbert Harrington; Mr. Herbert Claremont deserves praise as Jack Saunders; Miss Millie Silvestre as a lively servant, Jane; and Miss Uno Linlee scores in the dual rôle of Madge Harrington and May Saunders. Mr. Frank Bradsell is an able musical director.

PUBLIC HALL.—Messrs. Gale and Polden's fine series of animated pictures, exhibited here by Mr. Ernest Mansell, is greatly appreciated by large audiences. The pictures are exceptionally clear and steady, and the subjects are selected with care and judgment. Miss Maude Evelyn sings illustrated songs with excellent effect, and Miss Madge White proves herself a mimic of ability in her impersonations of Miss Zena Dare, Miss May Henderson, and Mr. Geo. D'Albert.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Miss Maud Hildyard and company are here with *The Great Awakening*. Miss Maud Hildyard, who appears at the above for the first time since her return from her Australian tour—and she is supported by a talented company—as Lola Selby alias Lady Merton, plays engagingly and with judgment; Mr. Wallis Clark as James Selby plays with power; Captain Harry Lambert is ably rendered by Mr. Dudley Wynton; Miss Fay Garnet-Vagulen as Molly Merton, distinguishes herself; Mr. Cecil Gray as Sir Henry Merton fill the rôle in able manner; Miss Cissie Podmore and Mr. J. Bancroft are both well to the front in their respective rôles of Selina Worts and Gibbs, added to whom are Mr. Herbert Robinson as Guy Rogan, Mr. Rule Pyott as Billy Brass.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The dominating element of this week's bill is furnished by Miss Florrie Forde, who has an enthusiastic reception; Adams and Ward, comedy acrobats, provide much mirth in their work; Harry Class, assisted by Miss Alice Tremayne, in their burlesque, *The Demon and the Fairy*, are an excellent turn; other attractions are Minnie Mace, comedienne and dancer; the Bohemians, instrumentalists and comedy artists; J. G. Aitkens, Scotch comedian; Spencer and Marks, comedians; and the Pepiscope with new series of pictures.

DARWEN.—PUBLIC HALL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Residential-Manager, Mr. J. B. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—This popular palace reopened on Saturday last, after alterations and renovations, with three benefit performances for the Darwen Football Club and Children's Christmas Treat, when, in addition to excellent pictures from the Bioscope, several well-known local amateurs gave their services. Monday evening and during the week capital turns have been given by Edie Camm and Will Andrews, American comedy artists; Joe Atkin, eccentric comedian; Ben Grey, banjoist; Gracie Hunt, chorus vocalist; and Tommy Vaughan, a clever clog dancer.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—An excellent programme here this week is headed by Tom Costello, whose well-rendered songs earn him unstinted applause; Ernest Charles Gittins' company present a condensed version of *The Daughter of the Regiment*, in which Mlle. Adele Prescott scores heavily, her singing being greatly admired; Duncan and Brasque appear to advantage in a neat little sketch, entitled *Bluff*; Laurie Bros. are responsible for a clever acrobatic turn; Lord, Murray and Lord give an amusing boxing and speciality act; the Lovelaces are agreeable American song illustrators; Sisters Florenci are pleasing duettists and dancers; and George Willard's marionettes are also entertaining. The Bioscope concludes with a dramatic picture, entitled "Driven by Hunger."

DONCASTER.—NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Mr. Edward Compton made his appearance here on Monday, when he and his company gave a representation of *The School for Scandal*. Mr. Compton himself enacted the rôle of Charles Surface (with his song, "Here's to the maiden," for the 1,023rd time), and his fine rendering and cultured enunciation enhanced the reputation the popular actor already enjoys; Mr. Henry Croker was warmly received as Sir Peter Teazle, and gave proof of rare acting abilities; Mr. Henry Worrall was quite equal to the demands of the rôle of Joseph Surface, and made a lasting impression; the assumption of Lady Sneerwell by Miss Kathleen Leigh was a triumph, and she, with Miss Marie Hassall as Mrs. Candour and Miss Constance Merton as Maria, constituted a trio of exceptional charm. Miss Viola Compton portrayed Lady Teazle with daintiness and delightful femininity. On Tuesday the company staged *The Gentleman in Grey*, and Wednesday *Davy Garrick*, the theatre being packed from floor to ceiling.

DOUGLAS.—THE GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Hemming; Business-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—Miss Ellen Terry has been welcomed this week by houses large and appreciative. The stage work of Mr. George Bernard Shaw read in the study would at first outlook appear caviare to the general, but illumined by Miss Terry's talent and experience, *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* has proved irresistible. It is an exquisite impact of comedy, pathos, humanity, and observation. Miss Terry's superb impersonation of Lady Cicely Waynfleete has charmed visitors and residents alike. The support given by her company is admirable. Mr. James Carew as Captain Brassbound has caught the author's whimsical intention exactly; the Rev. Leslie Rankin of Mr. Story Gofton is impressive; other characters are remarkably well enacted by Mr. George Fitzgerald, Mr. Max Montesole, Mr. Guy Addison, Mr. Herbert Lomas, Mr. David Hallam, Mr. Sydney Travers, and the members of the company. The scenery is entirely satisfying, and the stage-management of Mr. Frank Powell all that could be desired.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—The attraction here this week is *The Dairymaids*, played by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's principal company. Miss Phyllis Dare makes a great popular success, and she sings her numbers with vivacity; Miss Edith Blanche as Lady Brudenell is quite an up-to-date lady of fashion; Mr. F. Stalham Staple is all there as Sam Brudenell; Mr. Percy Marshall revels in the part of Dr. O'Byrne; and Mr. Harry Dent exhibits his qualities as a comedian in the character of Joe Mivens.

PALACE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brittain.—The attendances here this week have almost beaten the record. Mr. Bransby Williams, the Dickensian character-actor, has made a pronounced hit; Mr. Wilson Hallett's juvenile imitations are greatly appreciated; the Delavones have a quaint comedy act, *Flipp and Flopp*, in which they shine; Mr. Ernie Myers is a capital raconteur and patterer, his japes being funny without being vulgar. Other turns, and clever ones, are Ouida Macdermott, vocal actress; Lillie Lonsdale, ballad singer; and Selbo, a graceful juggler with Indian clubs. In the ball room, dancing, with an interval for animated pictures, is greatly appreciated. Mr. Harry Wood's orchestra and Deutschlanders entertainers give popular alfresco entertainments in the afternoon.

MISS HETTY KING is the great draw at Derby Castle, where she appears in the Ball Room to enthusiastic applause. In the Opera House also there is a strong programme. Miss Edi and Ramsden appear very successfully in a musical duologue, *Charley's Visit*; Burley and Burley are clever acrobatic fun-makers; the Violas puzzle the more serious-minded with their exhibition of the physical possibilities of mental telepathy; Mr. W. B. Raby is a laughter-maker who causes genuine hilarity by legitimate means; Miss Jennie Hartley is a soubrette who possesses *chic*; and Professor Norton is a dexterous slight-of-hand exploiter. There are dance competitions on Wednesday and Friday, and the well-laid-out gardens are specially illuminated.

OTHER amusements in Douglas are Mr. F. I. Connor's Hippodrome. Here Litle Mona Connor, equestrienne, and Whimsical Walker still add to their popularity. The programme also contains Josie Morney, character impersonator, animated pictures, clowns, jugglers, acrobats. Mr. Fred Buxton's Parrots and Tea Village; the programme is sustained by twenty artists, all of whom have distinct value. Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's Minstrels on Onchan Head draw crowded audiences to their refined and clever show. Mr. Charles Dare's variety programme and animated pictures and his Burnt Cork Comedians are on Douglas Head.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. G. Whitelock.—The top of the bill is taken by Miss Beaumont Collins and company, in the very dramatic sketch, *The House of Terror*; Mr. Leonard Teel is an eccentric comedian, who meets with due recognition; the Four Spanish Goldenis are warmly applauded for their effective electrical speciality act; Miss Marie Goodwin is a refined and pretty comedienne, who finds great favour; J. W. Young is an entertaining knock-about comedian; Dacey and Lewis contribute a combined vocal and acrobatic act; and the Denebos appear in a musical turn.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—A large and fashionable audience was present here on Monday night to welcome *The Merry Widow*, presented by Mr. George Edwardes' company, with Miss Lily Elsie in the title-rôle. The charming comedienne won the admiration of the audience by her charming and captivating portrayal of Sonia, and was loudly applauded. Mr. Leonard Mackey acted and sung with considerable skill as Prince Danilo; Vicomte Camille had a capital representative in Mr. W. Tailleur Andrews; and Miss Ethel Cadman was particularly good in the rôle of Natalie. Mr. Eric Thorne gave an exceedingly funny impersonation of Baron Popoff; and Olga was capitally portrayed by Miss Sylvia May. Mr. W. H. Rawlins gave a good account of himself as Nisch; as the Marquis De Cascada and General Novakovitch Messrs. Somers Bellamy and Theodore Leonard were both successful; and Miss Kathleen Courtney deserves credit as Sylvaine. The chorus, dresses, and scenery were excellent.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—*The Gay Gordons*, which entered on its second week here on Monday, is proving as strong an attraction as on the opening night, Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks adding materially to their laurels in the chief rôles. Mr. Johnny Danvers continues to amuse as Nervy Nat, and is well supported by Mr. George Carroll as Edmund Siddons. Mis Dorothy Ward is as engaging as ever as Victoria Siddons; Mr. E. Lugg is a capital Edward Quainton; and Miss Sydney Fairbrother makes an excellent Charlotte Siddons. The cast as a whole is a strong one, and the mounting of the piece elegant and picturesque.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—A change of pictures, which have caught on thoroughly, includes The Poisoner, Always Too Late, Tommy's Torch, The Interrupted Courtship, The Burglar and the Clock, The Pirates, and The Little Cripple. The turns presented by Melford and Mars, vocal comedy entertainers; Volta, comedy gymnast; and Bob Pearson, humorist and guide, are highly appreciated.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The chief attraction here this week is Mr. Fred Lindsay, whose remarkably clever feats with the whip are loudly applauded; the Beau Ideal Troupe of Juveniles, in a pretty garden scena combining mimicry, songs, and dances, score a decided success; Kloof and Ramsay, in a smart comedy act, keep the audience in excellent humour; Mayme Cannon, a refined comedienne, is an acknowledged favourite; and Camillo Feo, a dainty song and dance artist, meets with a warm reception. The Brothers Weltman present a smart acrobatic and dancing act, which is well received; Eugene Brandt, eccentric comedian, is an amusing turn; and the Empire pictures continue to add to the evening's enjoyment.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—At the head of a good all-round programme here is Vasco, "the mad musician," who scores an immense and well-deserved success; Blake and Amber are entertaining as burlesque artists; and Miss Helen Charles in her drawing-room act is well received. Pete and Minnie Lee cause great amusement in a musical-comedy act entitled *The Scotchman in London*; and some dainty dancing and pleasant singing come from the Sisters Brooke. Excellent also are Alexander and Bertie in a clever gymnastic display. Les Ados, Herculean marvels; Lozelle, in a novel speciality act; and the Bioscope depicting The Braggart.

ROUND ROOM.—The Irish Animated Photo Company have entered on their third week, and are doing excellent business. The pictures form a powerful attraction, and include the Franco-British Exhibition, London, Wild Birds at Home, The Marathon Race, Over the Sticks, and The Dieppe Motor Car Races. The vocal items contributed by Miss Daisy Buckley, Mr. Patrick O'Shea, Miss Dorothy Hall, and Mr. William Sheehan are also keenly appreciated.

ANTIENT CONCERT ROOMS.—Jack Johnson, "the boxing star," is appearing here and giving exhibitions of the noble art to full houses nightly. He is supported by a capital vaudeville company, including Lena Lewis, a charming sentimental vocalist; Gilroy and Gross, an amusing pair of comedians; James Dunne, in a smart musical comedy act; Rosie Young, a pleasing comedienne; and Will Yew and Ella Dear, comedy artists.

PAVILION (KINGSTOWN).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermot.—Mr. Malcolm Scott, in his refined and laughable entertainment, is paying a return visit here this week, and his reception has been very cordial. In addition there are Miss Lulu Gillespie, a charming soprano, who is accorded a hearty reception; Mr. Claude Gardiner, a capital vocal comedian; Mr. Albert Chapman, a baritone vocalist of more than ordinary merit; and Mr. Forshaw Kennedy, solo pianist.

TOWN HALL (KINGSTOWN).—Poole's Myriorama is here this week, and the varied and interesting entertainment is visited by large audiences nightly. Foremost amongst the variety artists appearing are George French's Troupe of acrobatic cyclists; Harry Dowsett, a diverting comedian; Learto and his dog "Babs" in a smart musical comedy act; Miss Phyllis St. Clare, a pleasing operatic

vocalist; and the Snow Family, eccentric knockabout skaters.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The programme here this week is a good one, and includes The Percys, speciality performers; W. H. Rollason, baritone vocalist; Harry Rose, comedian and dancer; Marion Blake, descriptive vocalist; Josephine McEvoy, serio and dancer; Will Sitman, versatile comedian; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—*Juno*, a three-act musical play, is creating excitement here. The principal work centres round the part of Timothy Twinkle, played by Mr. Charles Leverton, who is the life and soul of the piece; he is ably supported by Miss Kate Graham Beck, the possessor of a commanding figure and a good voice, who plays the title-rôle; Miss Marie Beresford is a vivacious and charming Priscilla Strong. Both of these ladies receive well-merited encores. Miss Lena Howard as Lottie Stimson proves to be a cultured little actress; Mr. Fred Carrington as Samuel Strong gives a good character study; Miss Fanny Morse is thoroughly at home as Mrs. Marie Strong; the continental dances of Les Papillions are well applauded.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—Crowded houses are patronising the excellent programme here this week. The head of the bill is occupied by Yamamoto and Miss Koyoshi, equilibrists, who are responsible for a performance that is clever, neat, and graceful; a welcome return visit is paid by the Watson Family in their clever and amusing vocal and musical mélange; Matt Wilkinson and Co. introduce good comedy in their sketch, *On the Flip Flap;* Violet Beatrice is a pleasing boy impersonator; Mike Asher, comedian and dancer, is one of the best; and Bert and Dora, favourite comedy artists, are much appreciated; Percy Parrimond, Lancashire singing collier, is also good. The Empire pictures are always up-to-date.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Mr. F. Mouillot's company began a three nights' stay on Monday with *The Girl Behind the Counter.* Miss Grace Moore looked the part of Winnie Willoughby to perfection, and her acting and singing left nothing to be desired; Mr. Sam Lockridge was an eminently suitable representative of Charles Chetwyn, his songs being much appreciated; Mr. Ferris Pounds was responsible for a particularly clever dude impersonation as Viscount Gushington; Mr. Clarke Chadwick was an immensely funny General Sir Wilkie Willoughby; Mons. Claude Dampier was capital as the volatile Monsieur Duval; Mr. Geoffery Allsop made an excellent Rudolph, and Mr. Frederick Park was an untiring worker as Adolphus Dodds; and Mr. A. M. Moore furnished a neat sketch of a waiter at the Baron's Court Exhibition; Miss Irene Vere was an especially charming Millie Mostyn; Miss Irene Lavington was seen to advantage as Susie; Miss Eileen Clanford did well the little allotted her as Ninette, and Miss Winifred Knightly was a sufficiently dignified Lady Willoughby. Zena Dare and Stanley Brett in *The Gay Gordons* provide the week-end attraction.

Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—This week's bill is headed by the Stella Girls, whose smart marches and dances, combined with their particularly attractive appearance, render their turn very popular; an Indian scena, *Black Eagle*, in which T. W. Watts, H. Scadden, and Agnes Tayler appear, provides an exciting quarter of an hour; Flo Challis is very popular with her songs and mimicry; Esmonde and Evelyn's comedy sketch, *The Express Baby*, evokes hearty laughter; Charles Gardiner's songs and patter are keenly enjoyed, and the entertainment further includes Harry Cook, comedian; the Nic-Knacks, in a comedy act including much clever dancing, and the Hippodrome pictures.

Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. G. Hayes.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's production of *The Dairymaids* commenced a three nights' engagement on Monday. Miss Clara Marsden's Peggy was a veritable tower of strength to the performance, her various vocal numbers being loudly applauded; Miss Clarice Lockstone's Winifred merits the highest commendation, her acting and singing being alike excellent; Messrs. Nelson Keys and A. Wykes Ashdowne were admirable representatives of Lieuts. Sam Brudenell and Frank Meredith respectively, the former's methods being especially mirth-provoking; a clever pair are Mr. Johnny Osborne (who never spared himself as Joe Mivens) and Miss Gladys Silvani (a particularly good Eliza)—their duet in the second act was one of the most popular features of the performance; Mr. J. A. Warden was in every respect excellent as the genial Dr. O'Byrne; Miss Mabel Younge's was a quite suitable portrayal of Lady Brudenell; and Mr. Harry Cottell as Tim Capus, Miss Madge Avery as Miss Penelopé Pyechase, and Miss Dorothy Laine as Helen were satisfactory. *The Thief* now holds the boards.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company, in *Merely Mary Anne*, give a successful interpretation of a difficult play. In the name-part, Miss Jessica Solomon shows aptitude and versatility, which obtain for her hearty recognition and appreciation all through the piece; Mrs. Leadbatter, the lodging-house keeper, and her daughter, Rosie, are typically presented by Miss Violet Greville and Miss Florence Radcliffe; and the aristocratic ladies who appear in the last act find suitable exponents in Miss Lester Stephen, Miss Ethel Carlyle, Miss Stella Farmer, Miss Grace Lovell, and Miss Mary Colquhoun. The leading male rôle of Lancelot is effectively rendered by Mr. Martin Roland, who is ably seconded by Mr. Stanley Logan, in the part of Peter; and both the Vicar and the music publisher are amusingly sketched by Mr. Robert Entwhistle and Mr. Herbert Smale; while the characteristics of various types of men and women are capably indicated by Mr. Arthur Foster as the journalist, Mr. Harold Everard as the medical student, Mr. H. Montagu Love as a member of the Automobile Club, and Miss Enid Hall and Miss Vera Lisle as a pair of music hall dancers.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Mr. Leigh Lovel's company, with a répertoire of Ibsen's plays, has afforded interesting opportunities for those who are curious about, or admirers of, the works of the famous dramatist. The series presented here during the week included *The Master Builder, A Doll's House, Hedda Gabler*, and *Rosmersholm*, in the interpretation of all of which a gratifying measure of success was attained. In the first-named piece Mr. Lovel's rendering of Halvard Solness was effective and praiseworthy, and the Hilda Wangel of Miss Octavia Kenmore was a charming and meritorious impersonation; while Miss Katherine Maynard as the master builder's wife, Miss Gladys Morris as the attractive clerkess, and Mr. Claud W. Sykes as the old architect, with Mr. E. Stanley Yorke as his son, were all satisfactory in their respective rôles. In *A Doll's House*, Miss Kenmore gave an artistic portrait of Nora Helmer; Mr. Lovel played Jervald Helmer with reserve and discretion; and careful study marked the acting of the rest of the players already mentioned. The same commendable characteristics were further indicated by all the performers in the production of *Hedda Gabler* and *Rosmersholm*.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Although no very prominent stars are engaged here this week, an exceedingly pleasant two hours' entertainment has been provided. Carrie Laurie's Juveniles, in *The Model School* speciality, contribute a very bright and enjoyable turn of songs and dances, the youthful comedian of the troupe affording much amusement. The racing and musical sketch submitted by Edward Clark and his six winning widows is made attractive by good singing and dancing, and some quaint philosophising. Spectators are instructed in the antics of remote ancestors in watching the interesting and clever performance of Maud Rochez and a theatrical company of monkeys; and Harry Tate's combination in *Motoring*, and Arthur Jefferson and company in *Home from the Honeymoon* produce sketches brimful of merriment. Bessie Butt is a lively soubrette and smart dancer; the Musical Schafers give a somewhat unusual but very melodious turn; Howe and Ardie show great skill in their gymnastic act; Dale and O'Malley are very amusing singers and patterers; and the Bioscope pictures are of the usual high standard of excellence.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Dr. E. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Horace Stanley and company, in *The 10.30 Down Express*, were welcomed on Monday evening on their return visit. Miss Cora Linda's personation of Bessie Leigh was most realistic, whilst the Jack O'Malley of Mr. T. Arthur Plummer appealed in a very forcible manner to the playgoers. Mr. F. W. Wilberforce as James Inderwick sustained the character of the villain to perfection. Both Mr. Chauncey Morris as Huntly Mason from Scotland Yard and Mr. A. Burton as Bessie's father were exceedingly good; Miss Kate Kilpack was very taking in the lighter part of the drama as Peggy Potts, and she was smartly supported by Mr. Horace Stanley as Sam Wagstaffe.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company is here with *In Holy (!) Russia.* Mr. J. Rice Cassidy appears in the rôle of Micky Nolan, the humorous servant, and he acts the part well; Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy gives a capable representation of Renée Rubinoff; the rôle of Colonel Richard Forrest is ably filled by Mr. Henry Compton, while Mr. Jerold E. Reed cleverly acts as Michael Natolski (captain of the Russian Guards); as Laurice Steragoff (a Nihilist leader) Mr. Carl Rovinelli does well.

FARNWORTH.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—This week Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company in *The Power of the King* is here. Mr. Travis Green is entrusted with the responsible part of the Crown Prince Oscar, and proves himself a finished actor; Mr. Charles Whitlock as the King of Vallambrosa gives a sound rendering of a by no means easy character; Captain Rupert Langrage has an excellent representative in Mr. Gerald Blake; Mr. J. H. Firman does all possible with the part of General Stenovie; Miss Lelia Zillwood as Lady Annastasia gives a capital and well-thought-out impersonation; whilst Miss Georgina V. France as Lady Glorina is to be complimented on her rendering of the part.

FLEETWOOD.—Queen's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—*Rich and Poor of London* is occupying the boards this week. Miss Dora Dench as May Braithwaite, a hospital nurse, is decidedly clever, and her scenes with Mr. T. Ronald (Dr. Leonard Morton) are very well done; Mr. S. Dench, who takes the part of Spider Jack, "a one-man band," is the life and soul of the piece.

Co-operative Hall.—The Loyal British Empire Animated Picture Co. are now in their fifteenth week. On Wednesday Mr. Thos. Robinson, the popular manager, took a well-earned benefit.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. George Edwardes's company in *The Merry Widow* drew large houses during the first three nights of the week. A very clever impersonation of Prince Danilo was given by Mr. Frank Greene, who sang and acted with great success; Miss Mysie Devine played the title-rôle most effectively; Miss Ada Thomas as Natalie was heard to advantage in her vocal efforts; Mr. Edward D'Arcy was responsible for a humorous rendering of Baron Popoff, and Mr. Fred Fowler as Nisch was all that could be desired. Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *The Dairymaids* were due the second half of the week.

Victoria Pier.—Manager, Mr. Robert Forsyth.—Taka, the champion Japanese wrestler, is paying a return visit here this week, and some very exciting bouts are gone through; Mr. Ernest E. Neale, tenor, renders some good songs; *Old Kildare* is a musical comedy sketch, in which Mr. George Kirk and Miss Flo Kennedy cause much amusement; Mr. Charles Leighton, at the piano, displays his ability as a comedian and entertainer; Salida and Vone, American Creole dancers, are exceedingly clever; Miss Eva Rosslyn is a chic comedienne; Miss Gertie Rothenbury, assisted by Mr. Charles Shildon, mystify the audience with their performance, entitled *The Master Mystery.*

GATESHEAD.—King's Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harold Arnold.—*The Mirthful Mariners*, a musical burlesque, by Will Probyne, Brooklyn, and company, is quite a refreshing act; McDonald and Huntingdon have a bright American speciality; the Wood-Bee Wonders present a clever acrobatic novelty; Lily Flexmore is an "extraordinary" girl; Cliff Ryland indulges in some quaint story-telling; and Maud Prenton, comedienne, Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian, and the usual pictures make up a good programme.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Lingford Carson's novelty drama *The Great White Chief* has pleased good audiences here this week. Notable features are the impersonations of Leo Stanley, Reindeer, and Latika by Mr. Mansell Fane, Mr. Carson, and Miss Pollie Denville respectively.

GLASGOW.—King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Considerable pleasure is being derived from the return visit of Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche and their company with *What the Butler Saw.* In the part of Pink Mr. Rignold gives an exceedingly clever and humorous portrayal, the various mirth-provoking scenes being carried out in fine style. Mrs. Barrington has an able exponent in Miss Ada Blanche, who wins applause for an admirable representation. Mr. Charles Fawcett has a good opportunity of displaying his abilities in the part of Jack Barrington. Abram Wiensten is ably handled by Mr. Harry H. Rignold, and the Sir Charles Foden of Mr. Raymond Dudley is a fine interpretation.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—A good audience on Monday heartily enjoyed the humour and sentiment of *Captain Drew on Leave* as presented by Miss Nora Carton's company. Mr. Claude King is excellent as Captain Drew, and gave a very fine performance throughout. Equally good is the Mrs. Moxon of Miss Cynthia Brooke, who was particularly strong in the striking scene which concludes the third act. Miss Nora Carton acted with much animation as the heiress, Miss Mills, and her somewhat dull fiancé was humorously played by Mr. Willox Cadogan. Mr. Gerald Venning as the scheming Chester Hassell, and Mr. Tom Mowbray as the staid husband, George Moxon, gave able support. Miss Lydia Hayward as the maid completed the cast. The comedy was preceded by the favourite old farce *Cut Off with a Shilling.*

Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Miss Lois Edmond and her company opened here on Monday with a good sound representation of their well-known play *The Sorrows of Satan.* Mr. Edward Neville as Prince Lucio is as strikingly effective as ever; Miss Edmond repeats her characteristic impersonation of the American girl Diana Chesney; the part of Geoffrey Tempest is still played by Mr. F. Douglas Howard with excellent results; as Mrs. Grimes Miss Cecil Byrne displays acute perception of character; in the part of Lady Sybil the bearing of Miss Rosie Neville is admirable; and a refined portrayal of Mavis Clare is given by Miss Hilary Burleigh. The play is preceded by the farcical sketch *The Green-Eyed Monster.* The Sarah Bernhardt play *Nana* was billed for Thursday and Friday evenings, along with a curtain-raiser, *Two Soft.*

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is here this week, presenting *The Power of the Cross*, in which the author, Mr. George A. De Gray, plays the weird character of Baron Wolfe Curzola. Miss Stella Carmichael gives a good rendering of the adventuress Rita, while the part of her accomplice is well presented by Mr. Francis Serle as Benjamin Hawke. Plentiful comedy is supplied by Miss Etta Turner as Dolly Gray and Mr. Tyrone Power as Timothy O'Dowd. Miss Annie Hylton gives an excellent impersonation of a much tried wife, the erring husband being ably played by Mr. Robert Hall. Mr. Alexander J. Haviland gives a natural rendering of Dr. Leslie Fairfax.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—This week the patrons have been served up with an entertainment to their taste by Tom H. Taylor's company in the sensational drama entitled *Is Life Worth Living?* in which Mr. Ernest Owttrim (Lionel Roy) sustains his rôle with dignity and manliness, Miss Lilian Earle (Madge Roxton) acts with refinement and sympathy, Miss Jeanne Burgoyne (Isabel Crosbie) does well in a trying part, and Mr. Herbert Hollister (Randolph Kerr) and Mr. Harry Belford (Roland Roxton) present convincing character studies.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Most prominent on the programme here is Reano with his band. Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies, assisted by Miss Lily Vine, are quite prime favourites; Seener and Fridkins' Russian troupe of vocalists and dancers provide an excellent turn; Mlle. Celia Galley is responsible for a clever show, her impersonation of Mme. Sarah Bernhardt perhaps being best; Will Poluski, jun., dances well; the Lavails as trapeze and ring performers are excellent; Ian Colquhoun, in his Scotch and other songs, has to respond to an encore; and Julius Tannen, the American monologue artist, is exceedingly witty; Marie Empress is a bright comedienne with good songs. The Bioscope films are also items of interest.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The star turn this week is that of Mr. Chas. Seymour's comic opera company in *The Queen of the Adriatic*, in which Miss Frances Drew sings pleasingly in the title-part, and a quartette of lady dancers disport gracefully. Gustavo Fasola, the Indian Fakir, performs several marvellous feats; Will Walton as a suffragette expresses contempt for mere men; Welda and Wynne present an amusing combination of juggling, dancing, and tumbling; Webb and Branston sing duets for baritone and soprano; J. H. M'Cann does several difficult feats of dancing on roller skates; Mysticus mystifies with his astonishing quick changes of gloves, ties, &c.; Sid Cotterell and company keep the fun going in *The Substitute;* Cliff and Kean provide a happy combination of comedy, song, and dance. The Bioscope fills up any interval.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Arthur Prince, the clever ventriloquist, is here; Jack and Evelyn, the clever comedy duo, are given a most enthusiastic recall for their varied pot pourri of song, dances, and patter; Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford again make a hit with their smart sketch *Getting Even;* Crissie Cross is a sweet singer and a neat dancer; Violet King gives an enjoyable turn at the piano, and is a violin player of special merit; Roze and Calvert contribute a lively comedy turn; the Two Walonells are amusing as comedy gymnasts; Woolmer Young's songs are well rendered; and Talberto and Douglas complete a varied bill.

Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Richard Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The principal item here is provided by W. Fullbrook and company in the comedy concoction *Astronomy. The Millionaire* is well portrayed by Johnny Holland and company. Other notable turns include Austin and Cowan, vocal artists; Janette Hall, lady baritone; Lillie Lassah, comedienne and dancer; Jack Chambers, negro entertainer; Johnson and Pelham, pot-pourri artists; Phil Bransby, coster comedian; and Will and Alice Vokes, comedy dancers.

Coliseum.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Oswald Williams tops the bill here, and his illusions are cleverly done and very mystifying; Gertie Gitana scores a big success in her song and dance act; Mr. Hymack, the chameleon comedian, again astonishes the audience with his clever turn; Lee and Bentley take well in the sporting sketch *A Sure Thing*, and later in the week gave *The King's Counsel;* Carl Howard, comic conjurer, is most amusing, and was heartily applauded; Les Martineks give an ingenious "doll" act, cleverly carried out; Sidney Stern in illustrated songs; Vanando, a first-rate ventriloquist; Charles Parker's Six Æolians in a song and dance turn; and the Bioscope pictures of the Dieppe Motor Circuit complete an excellent programme.

Gaiety, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Barney Armstrong, who is well known in this hall, meets with a capital reception. His "Why do they call me an extra turn?" evidently catches on. Chas. M. Daly and company are responsible for a capital farcical comedy, entitled *I Must Have It.* Bert Kemble is a comedian with smart patter; Grace Darling has a most pleasing voice; the Four Louberts are seen to advantage in their comedy act *Uninvited;* Lillie Hales, comedienne, dances well; and the Bioscope is amusing.

Panopticon.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Several new artists had a hearty reception on the opening night. J. H. Harvey, comedian and dancer, gave a capital display; Nellie Bly is an exponent of low comedy; and Milly Milton is a good singer with good songs. One of the most entertaining items is the Bioscope, with a fresh series of interesting and amusing pictures.

GLOUCESTER.—Palace.—Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Clement Trio, in a smart flying trapeze act, is at the head of affairs; Baby Vi Davis, a clever child performer, goes well, as does also Clarke and Glenney's evergreen sketch *The Haunted House.* Charles Grantley, comedian, amuses, and the Three Behans are applauded for a quick-change dancing performance. Maxey and Pete are a smart and clever pair of tricky cyclists, and Dolly Denton, soubrette, sings cleverly. Hampton and Baumann are an excellent pair of negro entertainers. The Palacescope, as usual, interests.

GRAVESEND.—New Public Hall and Theatre.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke.—On Friday and Saturday Mr. Harry Bennet's company, under the management of Mr. Wilfred Marshall, presented *Sergeant Brue* here. The title-rôle was well enacted by Mr. Denis Lyndon, the son and daughter of the Sergeant were in the hands of Mr. Lister Morrah and Miss Daisie Dale, Daisy the servant, Mabel Widget, and Vivienne Russell were most capably sustained by the Misses Stella Millar, Mabel Davis, and Kate Sabine; as Lena Dare Miss Sybil O'Brien did well, as Louisa Clare Miss Daisy May scored, whilst the Eva Graham of Miss Dora Rose and the Lady Bickenhall of Miss Ray Anderson were most effectively portrayed. Gerald Treherne was cleverly represented by Mr. Frank Farrant, and the Inspector skilfully handled by Mr. Langdon Guy. Mr. F. Lionel as Matthew Habisham was admirable, Mr. E. B. Davies as Mr. Lamb and Mr. Jones Spencer as Captain Bay worked well and happily. Mr. Edward Lancaster as Mr. Crank was extremely good, and Mr. Harry Bennet as Crookie Scrubbs was admirable.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—The patrons here have a musical treat this week in the return visit of the Moody-Manners Opera Company. *Faust* was chosen for the opening performance, and was witnessed by a large audience. Miss O'Farrell made a charming Marguerite, singing and acting in the most engaging style; Miss Victoria Siever's rendering of her songs was well received; Mr. John Child's excellent tenor voice was heard to great advantage; Mr. Marshall Vincent possesses a good voice; Mr. Anderson's fine bass voice was heard to advantage in "The Calf of Gold." A special word of praise is due to Mr. J. C. Hepher, the conductor.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchinson's company is appearing here this week in *Brewster's Millions.* Mr. Percy Hutchinson as Monty Brewster is the life of this delightful play, and keeps the audience in a continual roar. Miss Cicely Stuckey is charming as Margaret Grey; Charlie Harrison has an excellent exponent in Mr. Cyril Rawdon; Mr. A. P. Kaye gives a clever sketch of Monsieur Bargie.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—A fine spectacular scena is being presented here this week, entitled the *King's Garden Party*, in which 250 children appear. Miss Ada Webb and troupe of swimmers give an excellent aquatic display; Haley's Garden of Girls delight everyone with their clever songs and dances; Hinton and Wooton appear in a very effective football match on bicycles; the Russian troupe of whirlwind dancers give an attractive performance; Prilles' bijou circus of cleverly-trained dogs is very amusing. A series of beauty shows have been inaugurated each week and are proving a huge draw.

Britannia Pier Pavilion.—Managing Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—The Bros. Howard are mystifying everyone by their "Marconigraphy," and proving a big draw; Nat Travers is a favourite with his cockney songs; the Sisters Clare are very pleasing comediennes and dancers; Nelson Hardy is an exceptionally clever ventriloquist; Mlle Pollo gives a fine gymnastic display; Miss Maud Esmond is a clever artist, and the Garden Quintette appear in some interesting dances.

Wellington Pier Pavilion.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation; Manager, Mr. Arthur Cash.—A bright and sparkling programme is being presented here by The Gems; Mr. Kenna Lawson's topical songs and sketches are much appreciated; Mr. Wallace Kennedy's excellent tenor voice is heard to advantage; Miss Nessie Walker's songs are very pleasing; Miss Oliver Mortimer also has some good ditties; Mr. David Norton is a capital accompanist.

Chappell's Promenade Concerts.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Lawton; Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—An excellent programme is presented by the same artists as appeared last week.

The Gem.—Proprietors, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran.—A fine variety of films is presented here this week. A prize of £5 has been offered for the best essay on the film illustrating the "Salomé Dance."

Minstrel Arena.—The Dandy Darkies are doing good business with their refined minstrel show.

GREENOCK.—Alexandra Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The Harmony Four, who occupy chief place on the bill this week, are warmly welcomed and enthusiastically applauded; the Hopkins appear in a delightful musical scenic novelty, *The Maid and the Moon;* Lambeth and Robertson are much appreciated in their sketch, *Yae Hogmanay Nicht;* and good entertainment is also afforded by Alman Correze, assisted by Droll Keith, in a juggling act; the Ellimans, refined musical entertainers; and Miss Marguerite Broadfoote, burlesque actress. The Alexandrascope shows the latest pictures.

Empire.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The Cattaneo Troupe of acrobats receive much applause for their clever and daring performance; Jack Easy highly amuses with his funny songs; Silvo's selections on the musical glasses and the silvochimes are much appreciated; and other good turns are provided by Ingram and Irvine, in their absurdity, *The New Office Boy;* Phillips and Merritt, society entertainers; the Prinellas, in an amusing turn; and the Bioscope, with some excellent pictures.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Mr. Sidney Dooley and Mr. Charles Seymour's company, in *A King for a Day*, a complete musical comedy in thirty minutes, provide good entertainment, the leading rôles being ably sustained by Mr. Will Letters as Signor Carrara and Miss Polly Atherton as the Suffragette. Derenda and Green, juggling comedians, make a hit; Alice Golding renders vocal items in accomplished style; Les Valdons give a dexterous and daring display as cannon-ball manipulators; the Wedburns, a clever comedy couple; Jack Arnold, Scotch comedian; and the Dromoscope pictures, also add to the enjoyment of the audience.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The domestic drama, *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*, is being favourably received. Mr. Herbert Pearson plays John Edmunds very effectively; and Miss Marguerite Trevosper is equally good as Bessie Edmunds. The two sisters, Constance and Nelly, are capitally represented by Miss Rosslyn Vayne and Miss Alice Defoe; Mr. E. Rayson-Cousens is a popular figure as the Rev. Frank Selby; Mr. Fred Morgan is successful as Jonas Deane; Mr. Jack Miller realises the part of Jim Price admirably; Mr. Chris Mason as Sam Hallett and Miss Evelyn Shaw as Jane Adelaide Hallett provide an abundance of humour; and the part of the child, Lucy Edmunds, is pleasingly played by Miss Mary Corri.

The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—A cycle speciality of a decidedly novel character is presented by the Merrills, their performance being principally upon single wheels, upon which they display much skill; Hall and Earle, as the Chinaman and the tramp, accomplish smart acrobatic business, introducing several new feats; Chimes appears in an instrumental act, which combines excellent music with really good burlesque; Queenie Essex wins much favour, her impersonations and general vocal work being excellent; Olive and Owen appear in an amusing comedietta; Ethel Donna sings and dances pleasingly; and Master Clifford is a successful young comedian and dancer.

GUERNSEY.—Theatre St. Julians.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris.—This week the vaudeville entertainments are resumed, and the bill of fare provided includes Mina Green, burlesque comedian; Jack Roland, the happy cowboy; Idalia May, danseuse; Stuart and Stuart, comedy entertainers and dancers; Frank Leslie, vocal comedian; Mary Ambrose, the Scottish lassie; much interest was centred in the Franco Midgets, conjurers; a clever and artistic military episode, entitled *Sniped*, was vividly portrayed by Messrs. Nelson, Watts, Phillips, and James A. Story.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross's company is at the Royal this week with *The Manxman.* Mr. Cross takes the part of Pete, and acts the well-drawn character with rare feeling and effect; Miss Minnie Watersford as Kate Cregeen wins equal merit; Nancy finds an able exponent in Miss Nancy Mitchell; Mr. Harold B. Lewis does well as Philip Christian; Mr. Fred Mace's Cæsar Cregeen is a well-played study. The smaller parts are all in capable hands.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Ferguson and Mack, eccentric comedians, are scoring a big success at this house in a laughable absurdity, *The Dimple Sisters, Acrobatic Ballet Girls.* Gibbon and Bell meet with general approval for their clever acrobatic and dancing act; Margit and Lener are marvellous tumblers; Mlle. Bartenelli is a pretty and graceful contortionist, and does her work cleverly; Kelly and Agnas are responsible for a lot of hearty laughter in an acrobatic comedy turn; Gravetta and Garr, American novelty artists, are a versatile pair; Three Sisters Silcott are successful in song and dance; Ethel Sheffer, with illustrated songs, introduces a decided novelty, the "Faceograph." George James, comedian, and the Palace picutres complete.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Miss Maud Mortimer is creating unbounded enthusiasm at the Grand this week, singing four of her popular songs at each performance. Master Edmund Kershaw is a boy soprano with a pleasing voice of good range. Pictures fill up the bill.

HAMILTON, N.B.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—The star turn here this week is *The Kleptomaniacs*, a farcical sketch by Fred Edwards and company. This very amusing sketch, by reason of the clever acting of Mr. Edwards and that of the lady by whom he is assisted, is heartily applauded; Sinclair and Parr sing several Irish airs, and their voices blend harmoniously; Princess Pauline is a comedienne whose breezy style takes very well; the Sages, comedy and burlesque artists, are successful in their novel turn, *If You're Coming In I'm Going Out;* Maud Marshall, character vocalist, is appreciated; the songs of Larry Lewis are very quaint; Ruhart's performance is varied and amusing; the dancing of Violet Stockelle is very prettily executed; Avalo and Hurst appear in a comedy act. The pictures shown by the Bioscope this week are of a very amusing nature.

HANLEY.—Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*The Belle of Mayfair* pays a second visit this week in charge of Mr. Milton Bode's capital company. The principals have been well selected, and the chorus and scenery are excellent. Miss Queenie Finnis as Julia is charming both in acting and singing; Miss Blanche Astley is a most engaging Pincott; Miss Agnes Tandy as Princess Carl has a fine voice and acts vivaciously; Miss Nellie Cozens as Lady Chaldicott has a difficult rôle, which she plays with infinite skill; Miss Aurelia De Loriere as the Gibson Girl is well suited; Miss Nan Holmes and Miss Paula Fernau give clever renderings; Mr. Percy Yorke as Earl Highgate sings well, and looks the part, too; Mr. Harry Parker as Sir John causes fun to flow merrily; Mr. Lauri Lisle as De Perrier exhibits admirable qualities as a character comedian; Mr. G. McLoskie as the Bishop is good, and also undertakes the stage management; Mr. Lawrence Wensley sings with great success; and Mr. Edward Hugounet as Raymond is worthy of special commendation; Mr. Hugh Nolan is general manager, and Mr. Frank Seddon directs the enlarged orchestra.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Tony Black, a Scotch comedian, is enthusiastically recalled. L. B. Athol, actor-vocalist, has a clever and original song-scena; Edwin Barwick makes his usual hit; Effie White, with clever lantern effects, presents *The Spirit of the Cave;* the Brothers Martine return with their original act; the Villions have some clever tricks on cycles; the Three Pirmans have a novel gymnastic comedy act; the Five Vernons make a success with their xylophone playing; and a Raymond's Bio-tableaux displays the Quebec Pageant.

King's.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—Many are unable to gain admission to this theatre at every performance. Superb films are exhibited, the chief being Romeo and Juliet, Mysterious Barrels, The Counterfeiter, A Case for Sherlock Holmes, Married for Nothing, A Gipsy's Revenge, A Chase for a Bike, and Lost Pants. Mr. Harry Bent supplies the vaudeville item with clever impersonations of prominent artists, and also makes a hit as a comedian.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. F. Smith.—Mr. Martin Harvey and his company are here for the week, and on Monday night played *The Breed of the Treshams.* Mr. Martin Harvey as Rat Reresby repeated his clever performance to the usual thunders of applause. Mr. Charles Glenney was in his old part of Colonel Hungerford, and was as good as ever. Mr. Leonard Craske was excellent as Francis Tresham, and Miss Madge Fabian was all that could be desired as the Hon. Margaret Hungerford. Mr. Charles J. Cameron gave a dignified performance of Viscount Dorsington; Miss N. de Silva as Batty was an excellent performance. The smaller parts were in safe hands, and the play was mounted with Mr. Harvey's usual care. *A Cigarette-maker's Romance, Eugene Aram*, and *The Only Way* are also in the bill for the week.

The Kursaal.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—Miss Dorothy Watson is the entertainer, and Mr. Gwlym Wigley, tenor, is the vocalist. On Wednesday there is a special concert, when Mr. Clyde Twelvetrees will play the 'cello and Miss Maude Wilby will sing. There is a special rush of flying matinees, including Miss Denise Orme, the inimitable George Robey, and the one and only Arthur Roberts, the last named to appear in his well-known sketch *The Girl Who Took the Wrong (Towing) Path.*

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Admirers of good pictures are well catered for this week. A Broken Heart is the title of a film which is meeting with general approval; and others worthy of praise are The Hypnotised Policeman, Dieppe Motor Races, Grotesque Figures, Whaling, and Aladdin; and an illustrated song, "Daddy," is being considerably enjoyed.

Market Hall.—It was pleasing to see such a huge audience assemble at the complimentary benefit to Fred T. Carrol by his fellow Premier Pierrots on Wednesday night, when an excellent entertainment was provided and immensely enjoyed. The artists were May Thorne, Will Smith, Geo. Derricke, and Fred T. Carrol, of the Premier Pierrot troupe, and the entertainment was supplemented by Harold Mitschke, elocutionist, who was exceedingly popular; Robert Mallet, a capital instrumentalist; Harold Hudson, a clever young vocalist; and Mabel Eden, soprano. A special feature of the programme was a dramatic sketch, *A Traitor's Reward*, by Fred J.

Græme was an excellent impersonation by Mr. Stanley Brett. His scenes with Peggy were admirably played, and the pair came in for well deserved applause. Miss Ada Fraser was finely pathetic as Mary McLeod; Mr. Paul Plunkett as Corporal John Smith was responsible for an eccentric dance which was greatly enjoyed. There was much comedy in the performance of Mr. Edward Lewis as Nervy Nat and Miss Nellie Dade as Charlotte (his wife). Miss Madge Vincent as Victoria Siddons contributed a much appreciated song and dance, and Mr. Wilfrid Norman submitted a clever study as Edmund Siddons, the showman's assistant. The remainder of the cast distinguished themselves in lesser rôles. The dresses were smart and handsome, and the ladies of the chorus were attractive. The play was musically directed by Mr. Arthur Spittle, who secured an excellent ensemble, and Mr. Mervyn Dene stage-managed. For Thursday and remainder of the week Mr. George Edwardes' company (playing *The Merry Widow*) was announced.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—A strong programme is opened by the quaint comedian A. T. Bute; an interesting musical absurdity is enacted by Tracey and Roy; the Dieppe Motor Race and other subjects are effectively depicted on the Bioscope; an amusing sketch, entitled *A Clerical Complication*, is given by Edith and Hubert; in *Burlesque Moments* Probyn and Bates introduce some humorous characteristics; Miss Esme Gordon is a vocalist of marked ability; the well-known comedian, Alf Chester, is a special favourite, his songs and business being most amusing; Muir and Bartlett and company, in their tabloid comedy, *The Collar Stud*, create great laughter.

PIER PAVILION. — Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter. — Stuart Alexander's Entertainers indulge in a variety of songs, dances, and recitations, and gain great applause; Payne's Bioscope is as attractive as ever; Primavesi provides a remarkably clever turn as a juggler; a popular gymnastic performance is given by Craig, Rose, and Craig. Mr. Hunter's twenty-ninth annual benefit is announced for Tuesday next.

BEACH CONCERT PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Blackmore.—Entertaining turns are contributed by Messrs. Frank Wood and George Blackmore, and by Miss Marie Schultz, whose refined comedy songs find ready approval. Miss Edith Blanchard and Mr. H. V. Cropton's well rendered ballads are also greatly appreciated.

PUBLIC HALL.—The People's Picture Palace Company, under the management of Mr. F. R. Griffiths, opened here on Monday. A varied exhibition of cinematograph pictures of exciting and realistic events included stirring episodes of the American War of Independence.

ALEXANDRA PARK.—The illuminated Carnival and Fancy Dress Dance arranged by the Borough Entertainments Association to be held on Monday was, owing to the inclemency of the weather, postponed to Thursday. Among the attractions were an alfresco exhibition of Payne's Bio-Photoscope Animated Pictures, and Mr. Wallett Scott's Concert Party.

HORWICH.—NEW PRINCES'.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—After several alterations, the above theatre was re-opened under the new management on Monday night, the new staircase and entrance to gallery and the refreshment bar in the foyer proving an attraction to the audience. Miss Grace Warner provided the bill of fare, *The Scarlet Clue* proving a very acceptable and thrilling entertainment. The piece is admirably staged. Miss Grace Warner's portrayal of Sal Scarlet is a powerful portrayal. Mr. George Gordon, as the unscrupulous Michael Stanton, also acted well. Mr. Terence O'Brien plays the Twin Brothers, Jack and Harry Esmond, with great skill and feeling. Mr. A. B. Lyons as Edward Croker, Stanton's Catspaw, makes the most of a very unsavoury part. Mr. W. Black plays the part of Billy the Rotter with gusto, his singing and dancing being highly appreciated. Mr. J. E. Tomlinson's Crazy Jim, a waif, is a fine study, characteristic in its intensity, and very acceptable to the audience. Miss Phyllis Massey makes a very typical Reggie Carstairs, an Eton boy of lofty ideas. Miss E. Conway as Elsie Dane, a Sister of Mercy, is most sympathetic. Miss Ana Corri plays Miss Tabitha Esmond with much feeling. Little Norah Bretton, as Little Polly, gives promise of becoming a most talented actress, her singing and dancing being very smart. *East Lynne* is booked for Wednesday and Thursday.

HUDDERSFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—Nothing finer has been seen here for a long time than the acting in *The Thief*, as played by Mr. George Alexander's company. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart is the Richard Chelford, and his masterly acting, whether tender or passionate, holds the house enthralled; Miss May Congdon plays Marise Chelford with an irresistible power, the great scene in Act 2 fairly taking the house by storm; Mr. Gerald Ames as Raymond Leyton is easy and dignified; Miss Mary Dibley appears to advantage as Mrs. Leyton; Mr. Alfred Lugg plays with conspicuous ability the exacting part of Harry Leyton; and Mr. Cyril Cattley is the precise Mr. Protheroe to the life. *Too Happy by Half* acts as curtain-raiser. The complete and lavish mounting of the play is highly commendable.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The top of the bill is taken by Marcel and Boris, who give one of the finest acrobatic turns ever seen here. Others are Wilfred Burnand, clever character impersonator; Miss Ella Dean, an old favourite here; George Doughty and company in the amusing sketch *Captain Cupid;* Stanley Waller in his tricks at the piano; Ryde and Beeman, acrobats; and the old favourite J. W. Rowley, whose drolleries are fully appreciated. A fine steeplechasing film on the Bioscope completes an interesting programme.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, MORTON'S, LTD.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*The Old Firm*, which met with so favourable a reception on its first presentation in this country last week at Newcastle, has largely repeated that success in Hull. Mr. Richard Golden has made a very favourable impression as Rich Hake, the old inventor. He plays the part with softness and a reserve, and creates a clever character study. The lady commercial affords Miss Florence Lloyd her opportunity; whilst Miss Alice Beet plays the part of the inventor's wife with considerable skill; as the visitor from the nether land Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw just catches the author's idea, and is at one in carrying it through, which in less capable hands might fall to the ground; Miss Beatrice Ferrar is a very pleasing Rosalie; adequate and efficient support is given by Miss Gladys Mason (Lila) and Miss Constance Hyem (Lucy Upton). The play should reflect, when taken to London, the favourable reception it has received in the provinces.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—The present is the last week of the summer season, and the pictures give way next to the legitimate. A pleasant little sketch is effectively rendered by Miss M. Brereton and Mr. Lawrence Derrick. The programme is one that meets with public approval.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—A new play to the city is that this week presented by Mr. Lingford Carson's company, *A Fight for a Throne*, by Mr. Geo. A. de Grey. It is full of strong situations and is one that seems destined to a long and successful run. Mr. W. H. Burton is a figure that catches the audience, and his Lieut. Paul Rodna is one that stands out in the picture; the Capt. Fortesque of Mr. John Millward carries conviction; as the Princess Esmee Miss Dora Hammersley has a rôle that captures the goodwill and sympathy of the audience. The Countess Valeska and Miss Margaret Tueskie is a fine piece of work. On Thursday the Black Dike Band gave a very successful matinée concert at this house.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—The popular Florrie Gallimore brings a fresh répertoire of catchy songs, singing no less than eight nightly. The Mezettis, horizontal bar experts, are a very talented duo; Rosie Reval bids fair to become a star; Clack and Clack give a clever barrel jumping performance; Pick Tholl and Taylor make a big hit, and the violin solos of Louie Goodofsky are much appreciated; Joe Flynn completes a capital company.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Appearing here are the Whitworth Cycling Girls and Campkin, Gwen Francis, Harry Keeble, Yorkshire Mill Girls, Will Willis, Adee Melloc, Cynthia Carrington, and the Three Comedy Chanters.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are drawing crowded audiences.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Best of Her Sex* is played here this week. Mr. Percy Horton displays ability as Philip Faringdon, and Mr. Henry Lloyd and Miss Dora Price deserve mention as Leslie Verney and Vera Delorme. Miss Alvina Mining makes a pleasing Ruth Raeburn, and Mr. William A. Armour is successful. The heavy part of Jake Smith is in the capable hands of Mr. Herbert de Ville; the comedy of Messrs. J. W. Hooper and Dan Mining and Miss Alice Buckland is greatly to the liking of the audience; Miss Dorothy Love as Little Phil is much above the average.

IPSWICH. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Miss Lena Ashwell's company has been winning enthusiastic applause during the week with *Diana of Dobson's*. The name-part is sustained by Miss Emelie Polini, whose acting secures approval by reason of its effective contrasts. The plain-spoken shop girl who determines to have a month of glorious life on her £300 legacy is vividly portrayed, and the audiences have been delighted with Miss Polini's skilful transitions from gay to grave; Mr. E. C. Villiers has obtained abundance of applause as Capt. Victor Bretherton, and Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce has impersonated Sir Jabez Grinlay, bart., to the admiration of all. The part of Mrs. Cantelupe has been efficiently filled by Miss Gwynneth Galton; Miss Daisy England has been prominent as Dobson's forewoman; and the characters of Diana's fellow-shopgirls have been satisfactorily taken by Misses Violet Gould, Eva Lonsdale, Dorothy Garth, and Olga Esme; while Miss Clarissa Selwynne has appeared as Mrs. White-Fraser. The curtain-raiser is *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, which has been pleasantly presented.

THE HIPPODROME.—Mr. Alec Hurley is the principal turn at this popular place of resort, and his characteristic ditties afford satisfaction to good audiences. In combination with a small company of costers and their "donahs," he gives *The Coster's Friendly Lead*, the familiar songs which it introduces being highly acceptable. Shirley and Ransome present another coster episode; and a third sketch (*Ferdie's Ma-in-law*) is played by Mr. Arnold Richardson, Mr. Gordon Laws, and Miss Ethel Lonsdale. A drawing-room act by Rubie and Elsie Redfern proves acceptable; the Brothers Dean are good dancers and whistlers; Dolly Ross is a comedienne of considerable merit; and Lawrence Barclay contributes comic songs with acceptance.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is here with the late Wilson Barrett's play *Lucky Durham*, which is scoring a success. Mr. S. Herbert Humber gives a clever performance of John Durham, and Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood forcibly enacts the part of Lord Mountfallon. Mr. Arthur Leigh is seen to advantage as the Hon. Reginald Steighton, and Mr. William Heilbronn is equally praiseworthy as Mr. Vallerton. Miss A. E. Belmore is a charming exponent of Helen Vallerton, and Miss B. Sinclair gives an excellent rendering of Mrs. Durham. Miss Rosabel Dodd does full justice to the rôle of Lady Mountfallon, and her daughter is presented to perfection by Miss F. Dulhunty. The mounting is excellent.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris.—The star turn of this week's vaudeville is provided by the Franco Midget Conjurers, said to be the smallest conjurers in the world. Other turns include Mina Green, an engaging comedienne; Jack Roland as a typical cowboy; Idalia May, a speciality dancer; Frank Leslie, a vocal comedian; and Mary Ambrose as a Scotch lassie; whilst there is a smart military sketch, entitled *Sniped*, founded on a story by General Baden-Powell which appeared in the *Windsor Magazine*.

ODDFELLOWS' HALL.—That popular and hardy annual Poole's Myriorama opened here on Monday night, and includes some good variety turns. Funny Johnny O'Rourke is a mirth-provoking cicerone; the Tissots are amusing miniature marionettes; the pretty Sisters Eileen and Mayne appear in Dutch costume; the Seddons create much laughter; Loudon Cameron and Maude Dunham are effective mystifiers; and Miss Frederica introduces a clever pony and twenty terriers.

TRIANGLE PARK.—The Æolians conclude their visit here this week.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—The evergreen *Charley's Aunt* is once more provoking much merriment. Mr. Brandon Thomas's company includes Mr. G. A. Seager as Lord Fancourt Babberley, Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesney, and Mr. Basil Lynton as Charley Wykeham; and all will bear comparison with the best of their many predecessors. Mr. Roy Byford does excellent work as Spettigue; the part of Colonel Chesney is well played by Mr. T. M. Stewart; and Mr. Sydney Compton is clever as Brasset. Miss Vera Gerald, Miss Olivia Glynn, Miss Grace Russell, and Miss E. Gray are in the leading feminine parts, and very satisfactory.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—The melodrama *A False Wife* is in evidence at this theatre. Miss E. Florence gives evidence of much talent in her portrayal of Estelle de Lussan; Mr. Sanderson Moffat is a manly and heroic figure as Lieut. Mansfield; the adventurer Beraud is presented in really clever style by Mr. Reg. Kloop; and a pleasing conception of the heroine, Agnes Weyland, goes to the credit of Miss Phyllis Hamilton.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—The Elliott-Savonas provide the leading turn this week, their impressive musical act arousing vast enthusiasm. There is a warm welcome for that amusing pair the Poluski Bros.; a capital sketch, *The Boatswain's Mate*, is cleverly presented by Vaughan and Lawson's company; the Kirbys stand high in popular favour with a humorous speciality; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden repeat the success achieved on a previous visit; and of the rest, Gracie Grahame, Lottie Govell, Gus Le Clercq, and Robb Gilmore merit special mention.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Will Douglas's troupe, the Five Jolly Bakers, in a clever acrobatic speciality, are a feature of the week's programme here; popular Ada Fawn gets a great reception nightly; a pleasing vocal turn by the Three Royal Temples is as successful as anything in the bill; and the well-known Sisters Warwick are doing their expert trick-cycling speciality with success. Steve Bartlo scores with a musical novelty, and a coster sketch by Vaughan and Hyde goes extremely well.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—A "Tiller" speciality occupies a big place in the week's bill here, the theme being *Jolly Jack*, a nautical ballet; a new comedian, Shaun Glenville, takes extremely well, and popular Sam Mayo is also having a good week; Addie Dorina is exceedingly clever in a quick-change speciality; Rosie Elliott contributes a popular turn; Clown Barker again raises many laughs; whilst May Brilliant and Miss Rosika are also successful.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—That popular pair Ike and Will Scott head the list of entertainers here, and their clever turn is generously applauded; Gus Harris again presents his character sketch *Primrose Day* with good success; Bertha Winder scores heavily with a dancing speciality; the Whitakers, in a comedy sketch, get a good reception; and an ovation nightly greets Pearce and Ward, in dancing and burlesque boxing.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—A return visit is being paid of the successful play *The Walls of Jericho*, admirably enacted and staged by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's principal company, presented by Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and M. V. Leveaux. A pronounced and well-deserved success is scored by Mr. Alfred Goddard as Jack Frobisher and Miss Nancy Beresford as Lady Alethea Frobisher; Mr. Russell Barry plays exceedingly well as Hankey Bannister; Mr. Ben Lewin makes an excellent Marquis of Steventon; and Miss Elsie Ross as Lady Lucy Derenham; Miss Pauline Strauss as Miss Mornington; Miss Ormonde Wynne as Lady Westerby; Mr. A. W. Tyrer as Harry Dallas; Mr. George Percy as Bertram Hannaford; Miss Millie Emden as the Duchess of Skye; and Miss Gladys Meyrick as Lady Parchester, deserve praise for the capable manner in which they play their parts.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The boards are held this week by Mrs. Frank Bateman and Stuart Lomath's company in *No Wedding Bells for Her* and *Sapho*, the former being capitally presented on Monday. Miss Lizzie Montague displays her well-known ability with a clever performance as the actress, Lola Delasperre; and Mr. Stuart Lomath as Frank Hatherleigh is conspicuously successful; Mr. Percy Shaw is very good as Dick Delver; Miss Cicily Clutterbuck plays well as Doris Fane; Mr. Edward Vivian is capital as Dick Delver; Mr. Harry G. Momber is amusing as Simpkins, and renders two songs with much acceptance; Mr. G. Harvey deserves praise as Montague Blair; and Mr. George Herbert is a success as Horatio Fane. The play is well mounted. On Thursday and Friday *Sapho* was played, with Miss Lizzie Montague in the title-rôle.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—The American racing playlet *The Futurity Winner* is being presented here this week by Joseph Hart's company. The sketch is of a sensational and interesting character, and is well staged. Mr. Kingsley Benedict is eminently successful as Tom Chambers; and Miss Marion Ripley is also good as Miss Betty Shackleton. The other parts are in capable hands. Hunt and Thomas are very popular in their delightful comedy sketch *Her Birthday;* Phil W. and Nettie Peters, comedy entertainers, create plenty of merriment; Mason and Bart are particularly smart and humorous in their gymnastic act on the bars; Carlotta Levey repeats her usual success; the Cecilias are lady instrumentalists of marked ability; Barlee and Smith display much versatility as comedy duologue artists; J. W. Rickaby well maintains his popularity as a thoroughly mirth-provoking comedian. The Bioscope has a comic subject in The Runaway Ma-in-Law.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Owing to the success achieved last week Leonard Mortimer and company have been retained, and are presenting two sketches, viz., *A Secret of the State* and *Spectres*, which are both admirably staged, and are meeting with well-deserved success. The Forsyths, comedy duettists and sketch artists, are responsible for a most enjoyable turn; The Roxbys make a hit in their item, *The Old Man's Garden;* Babs Lloyd is a smart comedienne and dancer; Jacko gives an excellent performance as a monkey; and Kitty Willis, a refined comedienne, and Chas. Coll, a capital light comedian, are also entertaining. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope continues to be a successful feature with Tommy's Trip to Morocco.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The leading films in a good array of dramatic and comedy subjects this week include Quebec (the Tercentenary Celebrations), Saved by St. Bernards, The Bargee's Daughter, Bicycles Repaired, Schoolboy Jokes, Deathbed Marriage, and Madam Disagrees. Jack Monks, the popular tenor vocalist, with catchy songs, and Amandus and Rosina, in their entertaining facial mimic and musical specialty, also appear with success. The tenth singing competition is taking place, and Charles Beresford, the winner of the last contest, is rewarded with a week's salaried engagement.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company is occupying the boards here this week in the emotional play, *The Woman Pays*. Mr. Phil Warper makes a great impression as the hero, Sid Armstrong; as the scheming Roger Marchant, Mr. John Davidson gives a skilful presentation; Miss Maud Russell supplies a sympathetic rendering of Madge Armstrong, the wronged woman; Nell Morland is capably portrayed by Miss Kate Blair; Mr. Dunlop Steward vigorously interprets Luke Morland; Mr. Frank M. Thorne is highly amusing as Micky Maloney; Miss Anena Walton makes an excellent Polly Stokes; and George Butler played reputably as Cyrus Treadgold.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Miss Lena Ashwell and her own company paid a welcome visit here during the week, and were received with the utmost cordiality by large audiences. The stay opened with *Diana of Dobson's*, in which Miss Ashwell's rich histrionic gifts were seen to great advantage as the shop slave. She was compelled to respond to several "curtains." Miss Frances Lyor depicted the match-making Mrs. Cantelupe to the life; Mr. Dennis Eadie was delightfully amusing as the conceited Sir Jabez Grinley; and the somewhat heroic rôle of Captain Bretherton found in Mr. C. M. Hallard a worthy exponent. The minor characters were in excellent keeping, particularly those of the old woman on the Embankment (Miss Beryl Mercer) and P.-C. Fellowes (Mr. Norman McKinnell). *Irene Wycherley* was given later in the week; and each evening a neat little curtain-raiser, *The Likes o' Me*, found general favour, the parts being undertaken by Messrs. W. Lemmon Warde, T. A. Shannon, Master Philip Tonge, and the Misses Beryl Mercer and Dorothy Brunt.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Here this week we have had the new version of *The Christian*, presented in most artistic style by Mr. Wentworth Croke's capable company. Mr. Henry Renouf is to be congratulated upon his fine portrait of John Storm, a part he played with a feeling and force which impressed his audience very much; Miss Doris Gilham's Glory Quayle was characterised by a true artistic touch; Mr. Edwin Ling made a dignified Father Lamplugh; Mr. George R. Montford distinguished himself in the rôle of Lord Robert Ure; Miss Margaret Brodie did every justice to Polly Love; and Miss Sinna St. Clair was a humorous Mrs. Callender.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's companies are always welcome in Liverpool, and whichever of their plays is submitted, public appreciation is great. Such has been the case here this week, when *Leah Kleschna* was staged. Miss Bessie Rignold charmed everybody with her thoughful study of Leah; Mr. William Clayton made a powerful Kleschna; Mr. Hamilton Deane was again Paul Sylvaine; Raoul Berton was carefully held by Mr. Algernon J. Hicks; an able Schram came from Mr. Gilbert Heron; and the minor rôles were favourably presented by Messrs. Charles Barrett (General Berton), Bert Gunther (Anton Plaff), Miss Dorrie Turner (Sophie), and Miss Edith Summers (Charlotte).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*Moths*, given by Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's combination, did good business here during the week. Mr. Raynor handled the part of Lord Jura with distinction; Mr. Cecil Wynne earned honours as Prince Sergius; Mr. J. C. Lodge-Percy and Mr. Conrad Heywood were entirely acceptable as the Duke of Mull and Raphael de Correze; Miss Cecilia Dare proved a powerful Duchess de Sounay; Miss Henrietta Schrier afforded every satisfaction in the character of Fuchsia Leach; and good support also came from Miss Nellie Statham (Lady Dolly) and Dorothy West-Symes (Vere). The drama was well staged and handsomely dressed.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Harry Lauder topped the programme here this week; some remarkable cycling was executed by the famous Dunedin troupe, who were loudly applauded; Barton and Ashley caused endless laughter with their absurdity, *Adam the Second;* J. A. Wilson and his well-trained whistling dog, "Private Towser," had a funny trifle, *The Troubles of a Recruiting Sergeant;* an amusing duologue entitled *A Perfect Woman* was submitted by Pip Powell and Katie Vesey; George Ridgwell exhibited much skill as a cornet player; the Herald Comedy Four had a diverting comedy and dancing act, *The Indians and the Sailor;* and Cassie Walmer pleased with her singing and dancing.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here during the week Mr. Tom Taylor's company have played *The Worst Woman in London*, with Miss Sidney Crowe in the title-rôle.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Foremost here this week have been Mr. J. C. Piddock's company with the amusing musical fantasy, *The Capture of Venus*, Mr. Piddock being Mars, and Mr. Gus Oxley making a funny Jeremiah Jolliboy. Another big draw was the eccentric work of Humpsti and Bumpsti; Mike Cray and his dog caused great laughter with smart comedy juggling; Cavalli had a novel ventriloquial turn; the Kimberley boys proved as amusing as ever; a refined musical and dancing act was contributed by the Raymond Trio; an acceptable and diverting trifle, entitled *Mixtures*, was provided by Sivroni, assisted by Miss Gladys Hicks; and Ethel Dove sang and danced tastefully.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—A big attraction here this week has been Lafayette, an American entertainer, who introduced some really wonderful illusions and conjuring tricks. He certainly mystified his audiences in a remarkable degree. Beatie and Babs, a smart couple of juvenile entertainers, delighted everyone with their neat little trifle, *A Pavement Rehearsal;* Cummin and Seaham went through a very funny acrobatic novelty, *The Ragman and the Postman;* the Lyons Trio of pantomimists and dancers were received with satisfaction; some able work was done on the trapeze by Botello and Virginia; and the following comedians also amused greatly:—Tom Yorke, Fred Land, and L. W. Harris.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Good business continues to be done by the stock dramatic company here. This week *Fallen Amongst Thieves*, from the pen of W. R. Waldron, was given, the principal parts being in the hands of Messrs. Sydney Grant (Coningsby), E. D. Allen (Aaron), Harry Tresham (John Morgan), Robb Wilton (Nubbles), Cecil Ravenswood (Winthorp), Leo Montgomery (Danvers), and the Misses Lilian Radbourne, Florence Palmer, and Florence Cameron. Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed some excellent films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the Bioscope pictures shown here the following artists appeared during the week:—Helen Martin, vocalist; the Melroses, comedy duo.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Neil Kenyon has been topliner here this week, and had a hearty reception; another excellent turn was given by Alice Raymond and company, who were seen to advantage in a pretty musical act, *A Night in Egypt;* Marie Kendal brought her latest successes, including "The Taximeter Car"; Arthur Playfair and Eily Helene presented their merry racing sketch, *387, Finsbury;* O'Malley and Brown had an uproariously funny act, *You're Still a Friend of Mine;* Little Ganty proved as diverting as ever; Rex Fox went through a clever ventriloquial and musical act on the wire; and also in the list were Steve McCarthy, comedian and dancer; and Madge May, comedienne.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Crowded houses are the rule at this new place of amusement. This week the big attraction has been Harry Roxbury's No. 1 company in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, including the lively Tubby Edlin; some remarkable comedy tumbling and leaping was shown by the two Erolls; a clever gymnastic turn, with new features, was presented by the Zedoras; Ada Whitton, male impersonator, rendered some popular chorus songs; roars of laughter followed the work of Marcus Boyle, comedian; Rousby and Rene (Harry and Nell) had a taking character study of Lancashire life, entitled *Fine Feathers;* France and Francis proved a couple of amusing acrobatic comedians; and also in the list were George Griffin, comedian, and the Swift duo.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Mr. Gilbert Payne's company appeared in *The Honeymoon*. Mr. Payne as Nathaniel Noodle keeps the audience in good humour from start to finish, and he is capitally supported by Mr. Fred Fulton as Archie Mashington; Mr. Chris Ainslie (Col. Vandyke Brown) and Mr. Leslie Eric (Jack Armstrong) are well placed; Miss Celestine Brandon (Madge Armstrong), Miss Myra Douglas (Stella le Bruno), and Miss Rosie Kearns (Emeratta Noodle) perform creditably; whilst the Godfrey Girls contribute some good dances. The Compton Comedy Co. was announced for the remainder of the week.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. G. Pugh.—Mr. George Dance's company occupy the boards here in *The Girls of Gottenberg*. Mr. Bertie Wright as Max Moddelkopf is a good comedian and dancer, Mr. Tom Shelford as Otto being excellent in song and dance; Mr. Hugh Henson (Albrecht), Mr. Howard Cridland (Britti Bottl), and Mr. David Miller (Col. Finkhausen) all do well. Miss May Marshall as Clementine is above the ordinary, and Miss Gladys Guy as Elsa is dainty, and especially well-placed; Miss Ellaline Thorne as Mitzi is commendable, and Miss Susie Raymond as Lucille is a clever dancer.

PIER HEAD VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe.—The *Old Virginia* company is here for the week, and Messrs. Adeler and Sutton are to be congratulated upon providing a really good cast. Mr. H. Buckland as the Colonel is well received; Miss Lillian Page as Sadie finds favour; Miss Odeyne Spark as Mamie May dances capitally; Miss Joey Ellis as Lallie Potts is *chic;* Miss Nellie Sheffield is a typical Chloe; Mr. Kit Keen as Rastus scores heavily; Mr. Leonard Russell as Graham Rossiter has an excellent voice; Mr. Wm. Pringle as Hiram P. Dooley is smart with Yankee witticisms; and Mr. Bert Erroll is all that could be wished for as a lady impersonator.

PIER PAVILION.—Secretary, Mr. Sam Hughes.—Crowded audiences attend the orchestra nightly, under the conductorship of Mr. Arthur Payne, F.R.C.M. Mr. Herbert Brown is the vocalist for this week, and Mr. Ben Davies is announced for Saturday.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company occupy the boards for the first part of the week in *My Mimosa Maid*, in which Miss Marie Studholme as Paulette presents a really charming and delightful piece of acting. This lady had a very fine reception on this, her first appearance locally. Others deserving of special mention are Miss Ruby Gray, Mr. Chas. McNaughton, and Mr. John H. Goldsworthy.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland. This popular house was packed to overflowing on Monday, when another excellent variety bill was presented, including Leo and Roland, equilibrists; the De Breans, in their *World of Mystery;* Two Rivers, in pleasing vocal melodies; and Patty Yole, comedienne and dancer. The British Biograph company are again to the fore with some beautiful specimens of animated subjects, of which mention must be made of the highly-instructive and interesting picture Wild Birds at Home.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company, in *Robin Hood*, under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross, opened here to a good house on Monday. The play was received with the utmost enthusiasm. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards appeared in the title-rôle with conspicuous success; Mr. Ernest Gray did well as the obese Sheriff; and Mr. Elliot Ball well portrayed the oiliness of Prince John; Miss Lilian Stevens was absolutely charming as the high-born Lady Marian; Miss Flapper Flockton added another success to her list in the part of Adela; Mr. C. Bruce Winston gave a good all-round performance of Friar Tuck; Miss Gertie de Burgh made much of Alison; and Mr. Beguie was a fierce Tracy.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager and Proprietor, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company, under the direction of Mr. Frank Eden, is appearing here this week in the

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new play, *The Conscience of a Judge*. Mr. Kenyon Musgrave filled the part of Herbert Granstone in a manner that leaves nothing to be desired. As the heroine, Jessica Draycott, Miss Nellie Howitt gives a convincing conception of her rôle; Sir Edward Mervin is ably played by Mr. Sam Courtney, and a capital study of Cecil Bentley is given by Mr. Reginald Maurice; Mr. Walter Clarke acquits himself admirably as Geoffrey Granstone; Miss Mabel Coleman is a pleasing Ethel Vaughan; and as Mary Wilson, Miss Madge Seymour is very amusing. Miss Elsie Isaacs is excellent as the child Little Kitty; and Mr. Frank Ayrton as John Summers and Mr. Fred Graham as Horatio Winters are both well received.

MAIDENHEAD.—Pavilion Pleasure Gardens.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gude.—This week's bill contains benefit performances for Miss Adelaide Twort and Mr. Alec Tyson. Miss Twort makes a judicious selection of ballads, which she invariably sings with much taste and expression; of Mr. Alec Tyson's work at the piano it is impossible to speak too highly. His pianoforte solos are of a bright and popular character. Special engagements for these benefits include Carl Lento, who gives a clever and entertaining musical turn; and Robert Fitzgerald, who contributes a smart set of conjuring tricks.

MAIDSTONE.—Palace.—Proprietors, Maidstone Palace of Varieties, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—A good bill this week includes Devon and Earle, expert dancers; Edwardes and Espinosa, smart banjoists; Marjutti, contortionist in a novel scena, From Devon to Fairyland; George Camp, a favourite comedian; May Lilian Levey, who has some good songs and is as popular as ever; Clive Watts, comedian and dancer; Violet Leslie, comedienne; and the Palace pictures.

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Mr. Charles Hawtrey's company opened here on Monday in that well-known player's great London success, *Dear Old Charlie*, and were accorded a hearty reception. The play is distinctly amusing, and is admirably developed by the cast. Mr. George Lestocq plays Charlie with considerable success; Messrs. C. Douglas Cox and R. S. Trelawney render capital support as Peploe and Dumphie; Miss Marjorie Chard quite easily succeeds as Agnes; and Mr. Duncan Young plays the Colonel in excellent spirit. A trio of minor rôles are correspondingly well handled by Mr. Stanley Arthur, Mr. G. Smythe, and Miss Begbie. The piece was followed by a version of *Salome*, in which Miss Mabilla Daniell danced the title-part in distinguished style.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Mr. Milton Bode's company once more demonstrated here on Monday (when the theatre was reopened after the recess) that *A Chinese Honeymoon* has still the power to attract and entertain large audiences. The piece is in the hands of a capable combination, among whom Mr. Will Harman played Mr. Pineapple with remarkable comic ability, and especially hearty receptions were accorded to Miss Veronica Brady as Mrs. Pineapple, Miss Hilda Stewart as Mi-Mi, and Miss Elsie Skillings as Soo-Soo. Subsidiary parts are cleverly played by others in the cast, and the chorus and general staging are deserving of high praise.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company, in *The Old Folks at Home*, are here this week. Prominent in the cast are Mr. Aidan Lovett as Andrew Ross, Mr. Henry Nelson as Christopher Robin, Mr. Vernon Proctor as Hugh Lovell, and Miss Maud Warburton as Dorothy Robin (afterwards Lady Kenilworth); while the villainy is divided between Mr. Frank Liston as Lord Kenilworth and Miss Kate Froude as Patricia Bathurst. All these parts are vigorously played, and much enjoyable humour is added by Mr. Frank Caffery as Ben Jolly and Miss Nelly Hook as Susan Giles. The scenery is much above the average.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall. — The places of honour here this week are occupied by Arnold Bell and company (including Frances Campbell), in the sensational episode *Paul Kauvar*; and May Mars, the popular songstress, in several successful items. Will H. Fox takes the place of Spry and Austin (indisposed), and is well received; G. J. Johnson, the Black Diamond, sings and dances in typical coon style; the Brothers O'Brien provide a remarkably daring and successful bar act; Ludwig Amann, the living "Who's Who?" gives a series of lifelike impersonations; and other smart turns are added by Grace Merton, the original street singer; Bab Hamilton, Scotch comedian; and Bi-Bo-Bi, eccentric musical artist. The Bioscope is good, as usual.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—At the top of the bill here is Louie Freear, who is seen to advantage as Jemima, the slavey, in Soane Roby's farcical absurdity, *Snooks*; Callahan and St. George do well in a musical duologue, *The Old Neighbourhood*; and Will H. Fox is highly successful in his bright, comic act at the piano. Other pleasing turns are added by Monie Mina, dainty comedienne and dancer; the Great Northern Troupe of international dancers; the Eight College Girls, in *Schoolgirls at Play*; Cissie Curlette, mimetic vocalist; Ritter von Renroff and his wonderful dancing horse; and the choir, who give two nice selections; while the Bioscope shows a laughable subject in A Runaway Ma-in-Law.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company are here this week in *A Soldier's Honour*. The attraction is a potent one, already well tried in Manchester, and it is in the hands of a capable cast, headed by Mr. Jerrold Ord. It is played twice nightly with complete success.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—The well-known quaint comedian, George Mozart, is to the front here this week, and, as usual, is highly successful. Sidney Bacon's company, including Stephen Adeson as Fitz, is seen to advantage in that amusing sketch, *The Duchess of Tooting*; and Fred Earle, the popular eccentric comedian, makes his usual hit. Arthur Reece, a capital light comedian, is deservedly well received; Marie Blythe, vocal comedienne, has a strong voice, and knows how to use it; Ethel Whiteside and Piccaninnies provide an excellent turn; and other enjoyable items are A Ba Be's Picture Post-card Album; Marlo, a clever juggler; Texas Hattie, tight-rope artist; Tiger Lily, acrobatic dancer; and Amy Sullivan, comedienne. The Palace pictures are up to their usual high standard.

Tivoli. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Carrie Swain, soubrette and vocalist, is the chief attraction here this week, and is enthusiastically received; Mona Garrick, a clever young character actress, is also popular; H. V. Surrey and company introduce an amusing sketch, *Physical Culture*; Joad Heteb, wizard, is seen in new Egyptian mysteries; and other capital turns are Edie Coolville, vocalist and dancer; the Cameo Troupe of comedy acrobats; Florence Somers, picture post-card girl; Lily Maxwell, dainty soubrette; and Gus Brown, eccentric comedian. The pictures, Scenes in Holland, are entertaining.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Les Rallis, in *The Artist and His Monkey*, provide a fine top turn here this week; D'Artigan performs sensationally in the Devil's wheel; George Edney is a very popular character vocalist; and other smart turns are Fritz Kornau, siffleur; an unnamed deputy for Ida Barr; Edith St. Clare, comedienne; Moon and Morris, expert simultaneous dancers; De Lil, a clever illusionist; Hulbert, comedy ventriloquist; and the pictures, which show a wonderful series, Romeo and Juliet.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—At the top of the bill here the Six Brothers Luck are playing *The Hermit* with great success; and the Colonials are also popular in their musical comedy scena, *Unexpected Guests*. Burke, Andrus, and Frisco in *Trafalgar-square at 4 a.m.*, are very smart and funny; Gala and Norris, coon singers, are well received; and good turns are added by Henri Vernon Harcourt, protean actor; Frances Hanlon, dainty comedienne and dancer; George Leavern, comedian; Angelina, expert lady juggler; and the Bros. Ford, accomplished musical dancers.

Rusholme Pavilion.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Phillips.—A smart programme here is provided by Adeler and Sutton's entertainers, comprising Tommy Isherwood, a refined and successful comedian; Tom Stuart, an accomplished impersonator; Tom Evans, a cultured baritone vocalist; Josey Leyton, *chic* comedienne in popular numbers; Clifford Grey, raconteur; and Fred Thomson, solo pianist and accompanist.

MANSFIELD.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing Director, Capt. Cecil Clayton.—*The Rogues of the Turf*, presented by Mr. John F. Preston's company, is drawing good houses here this week; Miss Mabelle F. Barlow, as Lady Heathcote, proves herself an artist of first-rate ability; Miss Ethel Rainworth portrays the part of Nellie Flaxman with grace; Mr. F. Churchill is well placed as Sir Gerald Heathcote; as Arthur Somerton, Mr. Leslie Hawkins displays great ability; Mr. W. Howard Barlow in the rôle of Capt. Dudley Clifton, acts the villain to the life; and Mr. Hardy Macro is a typical Jew as Moses Solomon. Mr. John F. Preston gives a powerful rendition of the rôle of Joe Flaxman. The comedy element is in very capable hands, Miss Hettie Yale as Phyllis Wurzel and Mr. Horace Custens as Sammy Flaxman causing great merriment. The staging is praiseworthy.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward Michael; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. R. Hardy.—Mr. George Alexander's company, with *The Thief*, attracted good houses on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings. Richard Chelford was well played by Mr. Rupert Lister; Miss Marie Polini presenting the character of Marise Chelford with convincing force. Miss Jean Cadell was good as Isabel Leyton; Mr. Cyril Harcourt gave a capable presentment of Raymond Leyton; Mr. Owen Nares as Harry Leyton and Mr. Luke Forster as Detective Protheroe were satisfactory. The play was preceded each evening by the one-act play *Too Happy by Half*, in which the parts were taken by Miss Eileen Kerin and Messrs. Charles King, Owen Nares, and Bernard Stevens. The bill was changed on Thursday, for the remainder of the week, to *The Girl Behind the Counter*.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—John Lawson has been appearing with his company this week in his famous sketches, which have included, on Monday, *Pigs in Clover*, on Tuesday *The Monkey's Paw*, Wednesday and Thursday *The King's Minister*, to be followed on Friday night with a repetition of *Pigs in Clover*, and to conclude to-night with *Humanity*. Needless to say, the different little pieces have been well played. On the programme there are in addition Fred Hallam, comedian; Selby and Myers, comedians and intricate dancers; Rosie Lloyd, a versatile comedienne; the Westwoods, premier sensational cyclists, who are highly amusing and clever trick riders; Kitty Taylor, comedienne; and Charles Austin, eccentric comedian.

Hall-by-the-Sea.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—One of the most unique turns given at this place of entertainment for a long time is Maurin's Marvellous Fountains, which provide a constant series of beautiful kaleidoscopic and prismatic effects; Mlle. A. Loserno's performing cats make an interesting show; and Mlle. Rouletta, lady juggler, on the rolling globe; Smith and Johnson, coloured duettists; the Leonas, in their musical mélange; and E. J. Sheldon, a study in black and white, are also appreciated contributors to the programme.

METHIL.—Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—On Monday Miss Winifred Maude's company opened the week with *The Convict*. Mr. J. M. Olivert played in earnest, manly fashion as Jack Britton, his clear and crisp delivery being much appreciated; Mr. Arthur Denmead was excellent as the elderly Mr. Renshawe; the scheming Captain Hurley was depicted in repulsive colours by Mr. St. Clair Forbes; Mr. Victor Du Cane cleverly doubled the parts of Freddy Freckles and Alphonse Godin, his Frenchman being very funny; Harry Seaforth was well and carefully played by Mr. Rupert Talbot, a promising young actor; as the adventuress Olga Brandon, Mrs. Wingold Laurence presented a careful study of a woman callous until dormant sympathy is roused by the call of a sister in need; Miss Amy Maitland was a pert and lively Jenny Perkins, whose presence was always acceptable; and Miss Winifred Maude was eminently successful in the trying part of Dora Renshawe, the romance and pathos surrounding her appealing equally to the sympathies of the audience. Several smaller parts were in capable hands. The scenic effects were excellent. Mr. Tom Craven's *The Stowaway* was billed for the last three nights of the week by the same company. The Gaietyscope continues a popular feature of the evening's entertainment.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Ed. J. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles' company is this week presenting *Her Marriage Vow*. Mr. Chas. B. Bedells portrays in vigorous style the villainous Gilbert Carlton; his accomplice, Hester Norton, is powerfully delineated by Miss Nellie Shirley; Miss Helena Walbran submits an artistic and thoughtful rendering of the part of Kate Walters; Mr. J. Forbes Knowles plays exceptionally well as Ned Benton; Mr. Dan Ryan possesses an irresistible fund of humour as Larry Leary, and receives much assistance from Miss Winifred Barton as Maggie Clare, and Mr. Wilford Bailey as Eben Chubb. Mr. Edwin J. Collins give a fine character study as Daffy Dan.

New Picture Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—Leading items in a capital programme here this week are: Engulphed in the Quicksands (a fine military picture), Cossacks of the Don at Moscow; The Lady Barrister, The Little Flower Girl, Poisoned Pills, The Bewitched Boots, and a splendid picture illustrating life in Tangiers (Morocco).

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. Walter Melville's combination presents *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Miss Hilda Beverley takes the part of Barbara Wade, the heroine, and gives a capital rendition of it; Miss Nita Langford as Nellie Meadows, the farmer's daughter, has a rôle which suits her nicely; Miss Gibbons as Fay Dudley, Miss Nellie Noble as Gertie Seemton, and Miss Kate Walton as Jessie Wilson also give a good account of themselves. Mr. Charles Franmore as an old farmer, Mr. Jack Fortesque as "the man who married the wrong girl," Mr. Fred Hodson as "anything under the sun," and Mr. Edward Chester as "a queer card" all play their parts with marked ability.

Theatre Royal. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—*Why Men Love Women* is being presented here by Miss Ellen Snow and her company. Miss Snow is a clever actress, and gives a charming impersonation in the part of Violet Livingstone; Mr. Oliver Rogers is admirably suited to the rôle of Gerald Fielding; and Mr. Lionel Gadsden takes the character of Captain Staniloff in splendid style, Mr. N. Carter Slaughter as Lieut. Fitzherbert acting with vigour.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges. — The McBans provide the star turn here this week, and give an exceptionally smart display of juggling; while John Le Hay and company score a distinct success in a musical sketch entitled *Poor Beggar*. Viviana and company provide a delightful dancing scena; Madge Berresford is a charming vocalist; while some amusement is caused by Hearne and Palmer. Carl Lynn is a clever animal mimic; and other turns are given by Tom Lloyd, eccentric comedian; Florence Esdale, vocalist; and the Empirescope.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Signor R. Pepi; Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The chief attraction here this week is the wonderful Chinese illusionist, Chung Ling Soo. He is a master of the magic of the Orient. Clarke and Hayden score a success in a comedy duologue; and the Le Crens are clever burlesque artists and dancers. Farr and Farland are amusing; and a clever gymnastic performance is given by the Denano Bros. May Brilliant, comedienne; Cumminger and Colonna, in a singing and dancing act; and George Acre, comedian, also do well.

Oxford Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths. — Fred Bamford astounds all by his skill in whistling; Claude Ginnett and company's sketch, *Rejected Remounts*, is very amusing; and the Ganney Bros. provoke much laughter. Some excellent pictures, both of a dramatic and humorous nature, are shown.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales. — Mr. Edward Marris's company, in *The Dandy Doctor*, is appearing here this week. The part of Jane, the general, is taken by Miss Florence Smithers, and she is responsible for a great part of the fun; a good appearance is made by Miss Mollie Wynne as Ivy Pendred, the daughter of Colonel Pendred, whose part is well taken by Mr. Herbert Pearce; the part of Melchisadek Brown is in the capable hands of Mr. George Brentwood; smart and manly is Mr. C. Burrunston Williams as Arthur Vandyke, M.D.; the part of Bertie Bolingbroke is ably taken by Mr. A. Leslie Martin; a pleasing feature in the performance is the clever dancing, especially a charming Dutch dance.

NELSON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company in the military drama *Two Little Drummer Boys*. Mr. Edward Bikker makes an admirable General Kingsley; Captain Carsdale is well presented by Mr. Harry Scott; and Mr. O. Douglas displays powerful acting in portraying the machinations of Captain Darrell. Mr. A. Knight is a good Lieutenant Kingsley, and Mr. Will Percy and Mr. C. Gallier are very humorous in the respective characters of Quiney O'Quirk and Timothy Trimmer. As the two drummer boys, Miss Maggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas do justice to their respective parts; Miss Mary Ainslie is a charming and accomplished heroine; Miss Nesta Sandford gives a clever depiction of Drunken Meg; and Miss P. Connaughton proves a gay Molly Meadows. There have been capital houses during the week.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Jones and Douglass.—The crowds nightly assembling outside this popular place of amusement testify to the excellence of the programmes submitted by the management. The star turn this week is the Wakeman Quintette, who render medleys and solos in their humorous sketch; the Vanderbilts are excellent actors, and give a clever series of impersonations of character studies; M. Alfred Eugene proves himself a juggler and vaulter of ability; whilst the Milfords, comedians and dancers, and Mr. and Miss Lyndon, vocalists, give satisfaction. Herr A. Spiegler plays violin solos in first-class style, and conducts the capital band. The animated pictures deal chiefly with educational and travel subjects, and are beautiful in the extreme. Altogether a refined and sparkling programme.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton.—A return visit of *The Saucy Arethusa* company is very welcome, and good audiences have greatly enjoyed the performances. The company includes Mr. K. Scott Barrie, Mr. Dick Tubb, Mr. J. W. Hughes, Mr. Norman Osborne, Miss Mabel Danby, Miss Jennie Buckle, and Miss Elaine Reed.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Sydney Grundy's charming comedy *A Pair of Spectacles* is presented by Mr. Russell Rosse's company, with Mr. David James in the principal part. Mr. James is a comedian with qualities eminently suited to such a rôle as old Goldfinch. The company also includes Miss Ida Chapman, who finds scope for her ability as Mrs. Goldfinch; and Mr. Fred Dobell as Uncle Gregory is capital. Other parts are well filled by Miss Lilian Densmore (Lucy Lorimer), Mr. Robert Noble (Dick), Mr. George Marrott, jun. as Percy, and Mr. Robert Rivers as Lorimer. A racy little play, *His Last Legs*, follows the principal production, and Mr. David James in the part of an Irishman keeps the house in a state of merriment throughout the piece.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe. — This week we have Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company in *The Silver King*. In the part of Wilfred Denver Mr. Fred D. Daviss finds ample scope for his great abilities, and is well supported by Miss Edyth Goodall as Nellie Denver. Mr. Stanton Sharp as Captain Herbert Skinner proves a genuine stage villain, and earns unstinted appreciation; while Mr. Edward J. George, the veteran exponent of Daniel Jaikes, is as finely effective as ever. Mr. Arthur Wright does well as Elijah Coombe; Mr. E. Stidwell makes a good detective; and other rôles are ably played by Master Eric Dene, Mr. George Belmore, Miss Kathleen Maude, and Miss Flossie Hale Daviss.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company are presenting *The Nihilist*. Mr. Walter Bentley as Ivan Novasky sustains a very difficult character with skill and ease; while Mr. Leo R. Neilson as Prince Alexander gives an excellent impersonation. Good characterisations are also furnished by Miss Edna Clare, Miss Florrie Kelsey, Miss Jessica Ford, Miss May Ediss, Mr. J. Brunette Harvey, and Mr. Henry Wright.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—The detective drama *Sexton Blake* is presented this week for the first time in Newcastle. The work is admirably staged, and the cast includes many good artists. The rôle of the astute detective is splendidly portrayed by Mr. Horace Hunter, and he is ably supported by the other members of the company.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The usual hearty reception was accorded that versatile couple Whitaker and Hill on their appearance on Monday evening, and their turn is as pleasing as ever. Another excellent act is provided by the Piccolinos. Other artists contributing towards a night's enjoyment are Bellman and Moore, Ajax and George, Diana Hope and company, The Brilliants, Charlie Carr and Jack Rae, the Barrascope concluding.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mr. G. H. Elliott is the star turn, and delights everyone with his clever coon delineations, artistic dancing, and pleasing songs. *The Brigands of Tarragona*, by H. Darnley's company, affords a merry half-hour, including as it does some very smart comedy; Ralph and Nellie Howard prove very acceptable in a novel musical act, and evoke unstinted applause; whilst Lauri and Beatty score heavily in a musical comedy protean mélange, *In Her Boudoir*, which causes no end of amusement; Brown and Le Clerq, in *Black Justice*, still maintain their ability to amuse; and other capital turns are the Three Lloyds on "the bounding cables," who show some clever feats in rope-walking; Daisy Martell, comedienne; Will Johnson, the popular lively one; and Lady Mansell's Juveniles. Some splendid pictures on the Bioscope complete an interesting bill.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*The Little Breadwinner* is being played here this week. As Lord William Dorrington Mr. H. B. Peppin acts with quaint dignity; Mr. Reginald Brown's Richard Lawrence is a manly interpretation; and Mr. Sidney Lynn as Charles Prior combined humour and sympathy; while the Joseph Prior of Mr. Alfred Maurice was a little overdrawn. Mr. Wallace Carey and Mr. Edward Alderson do well in the small parts of Dr. Chadwick and Monty respectively; Miss May Richardson makes a sweet Margaret Dorntry, and Miss Clara Hunt's Bridget O'Flannagan is breezy and humorous. Miss Millie Lord and Miss Kitty Melville do capitally as the sisters Kate and Ruth Cherry; Miss Lissa Young is bright as Bobby Trott; and little Winnie Crisp is a winsome Little Breadwinner, Meg.

Empire.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallagher.—Chas. T. Aldrich leads the bill here with one of the most entertaining turns; Russell Wallett, in a wonderful make-up as a lady, causes much merriment; and Barry Lupina gives something new in dancing. The Sisters Grovini, drawing-room acrobats, provide an excellent turn; Gus Garrick gives a number of imitations in dancing that are both clever and amusing; and Walker and Lake, with their "extemporania," are exceedingly good; while Maggie Rimener, in song and dance, is well received. Tennyson and Wallis, a smart pair of patter comedians, and the Bioscope, showing a series of coloured pictures, complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett.—The Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese performers are the star turn this week, and their leading feature is the wonderful three-ladder act; Sergeant Brennan, a smart, well-set-up type of a military man, gives a novel and pretty entertainment with his gyroscopic spools, à la Diabolo; Siems provides some clever conjuring tricks; Dorma Morgan, refined American comedienne, sings with taste; Mint and Mart are a saucy pair of cross-patterers and paper-tearing manipulators; Dick Bradley is a comic tramp trick cyclist; and Jim E. James, "one-man-minstrel troupe," performs on the tambourine, banjo, and bones in turns; the Premier Imperial Pictures show the recent Marathon Race. The dramatic season commences on Monday next with the advent of Mr. Edmund Tearle and company.

The New Palace Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Thos. A. Evans; Musical Director, Mr. Walter Ashton.—The Great Albos, wire equilibrist, concludes his performance with a sensational descent on his head along a wire stretched from stage to balcony; Lee and Kingston present an American comedy, *A Resourceful Lover*, which is full of comic surprises; Dan Thomas, a favourite comedian here, is heartily welcomed; another return visitor is Mona Vivian, juvenile actress, vocalist, and dancer, who also is well received; Mueller and Coyne, comedy artists; Barle and Hylton, comedians, &c.; Margaret Payne, contralto vocalist; and Forest and King, in a dancing act, also find favour. The Palace Pictures provide a pathetic sketch, Will Grandfather Forgive?

NORTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The boards here this week are occupied by Mr. Bulmer's capable company with *The Girl Who Went Astray*, which has been cordially greeted by large audiences. As Madge Harvey Miss Twynne Warren furnishes a clever impersonation of the character, and Mr. John B. Shinton presents a finished performance of Captain Frank Julian. Mr. Alf. Stretton creates a favourable impression as Rupert Murdock; Mr. Evan Roland is good as Adolphus Boomer; and Mr. Edgar P. Melrose is an effective Sergeant John Harvey, V.C. Mr. Tod Squires is smart as James Yellowsocks, and Mr. Edwin Williams puts in some good work as Gussie Seymour. Violet Harvey finds an excellent exponent in Miss Ada M. Ryder, and Miss Sybil Haughton is well suited as Eleanor Merton. Miss Freda Fredericks is a pleasing Flo Fortesque, and Miss Mary Dalby as Molly Smart is deservedly applauded.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The star here is Shawlene, the Man Bird, who meets with a warm reception. The Three Peros, sketch artists, cause much hearty laughter, and Mr. Will Mitcham, comedian, who is a great local favourite, is as popular as ever. Miss Katie King, comedienne and dancer, makes a great hit; Messrs. Holles and Colings, with their sketch *The Workhouse Van*, are much appreciated; Mr. Fred Roman, character comedian, is well received; and the Mouldoscope is as much enjoyed as ever.

NORTHWICH.—Central Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss Golden.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juvenile company forms the reopening attraction, and are proving a big draw, the theatre being crowded. The first half of the programme is devoted to miscellaneous songs, duets, &c., and the second half to a comedy operetta, entitled *The Saucy Spree*. Wee Macgregor, with her quaint humour, delights the audience, and her dancing, singing, and clever acting has a charming freshness that wins all hearts; Miss Dolly Dodds, who has a captivating manner and good voice, submits a finished performance; Miss Olive Purcell, with an excellent voice, is distinctly good; Miss Daisy Wood is particularly charming and lively; Miss Jennie Hughes is the possessor of a pure and sweet soprano, which she uses to great advantage; Jack Harrison evokes the laughter of all with his clever and humorous songs; the Brothers Armstrong are decidedly good; and Messrs. Graham and Barron score heavily with their wonderfully clever dancing. The combination all round is of a high-class order.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' powerful company, in *The Gay Gordons*, is much appreciated here this week. Mr. Frank Lincoln gives an excellent representation of Angus Graeme; Mr. Tom Graves is humorous as Nervy Nat, and the same may be said of Mr. Edward Namby as Edmund Siddons. Mr. Edward Beecher as Andrew Quainton, Mr. Norman Forrest as Corporal John Smith, Mr. J. Cranstoun Nevill as Marquis of Dalesbury, Mr. W. Terris as Viscount Belstairs, and Mr. Arthur Bravo as Lord Merstham were all good in their respective parts; Mr. Herbert Cannon as Archibald Speedy made the most of a small part; Miss Maie Ash was irresistibly charming as Peggy Quainton, her acting, singing, and dancing being heartily applauded; Miss Nellie Lonnen as Victoria Siddons and Miss Ida Laurie as Charlotte Siddons were also much appreciated; Miss Gladys Deane as Mary McLoud was good; Miss Emily Mellon as Janet McLeod also deserves mention; Miss Katie Butler as Lady Millicent Graeme, and Miss Ida Mann as Lady Graeme were well received. The piece is excellently staged and the dresses effective.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—A rich treat is given by Jan Rudenyi, the Hungarian actor-violinist, in a musical romance entitled *The Power of Music*. His performance is unique. He is ably assisted in the romance by Mr. John D. Saunders and Miss Dora De Winton. The Five Whiteleys give their clever turn and obtain appreciation; Ritter and Foster are clever eccentric dancers; Jimson's Pets at Home, or the Burglar's Surprise, furnish a capital display of animal training. Other turns are given by Harry Taylor, versatile Hebrew vocalist; Charles Vincent, comedian; Ernest Rees, droll comedian; and Henry Curwen and Marie Belle in the sketch entitled *The International Club*. The Hippo-Bio's pictures make up a pleasing entertainment.

Thorpe Gardens.—This is an attractive outdoor entertainment. The artists comprising the pierrot troupe are Jack Cromo, comedian; Meg Hamilton, soubrette; Neville Delmar, comedian; Ruby Gwynne, mezzo-soprano; F. J. Clarke, solo pianist and accompanist; Evan Jones, bass vocalist; with Baildon's animated pictures. The gardens are most attractive, and, approached by river, rail, or road, form a centre of attraction.

NOTTINGHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Hypocrites* was presented here on Monday last. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton played with considerable power and restraint as the Rev. Edgar Linnell, and frequently evoked applause; Miss Laura Graves supplied an admirable portraiture of Mrs. Wilmore; Mr. Wilmore became a pugnacious, dictatorial bully in the hands of Mr. E. H. Rushton; while Mr. F. G. Thurstan well described the unctuous vicar. Miss Muriel Pope sustained the rôle of Rachel Neve with the requisite pathos, while Miss Muriel Mason made an attractive and thoughtful Helen Plugenet. The Leonard Wilmore of Mr. John Dennys was an entirely convincing embodiment, and Mr. Fredk. Morland capitally assumed the wily lawyer; Mr. Charles Tyrel made the most of his small opportunities as Sir John Plugenet, and Mr. F. Lake was good as the doctor. Much amusement followed the prying movements and shrewish tongue of Miss Sybil Brooke as Mrs. Blaney.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*The Assassin* makes welcome fare at this house, as played by Mr. Augustine Knight's company. As Prince Demetri, Mr. Knight shows dramatic power and skill; Miss Ella Vane acquits herself with credit in the trying rôle of Countess Wanda, being always realistic and convincing; Mr. H. B. Wilson enacts Ivan in commendable style; and Mr. Edwin Lever looks exactly the soldierly Duke Carl. Mr. Edward Swinton provides plenty of fun as the vivacious Alphonse, and Miss Hettie Senior also adds to the merriment by her capital representation of the American girl. Mr. Edwin Jenner quickly becomes a favourite as the kind-hearted Captain O'Neil; Miss Eva Trevenna acts with touching pathos as Nita; and Katrina is well sustained by Miss Marie Robertson.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Although suffering from a cold, Whit Cunliffe sang on Monday night with spirit, and roused the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm. As trick cyclists, the Narow Brothers are marvellous exponents, and the comedy element is smartly introduced; John Warren submits a dexterous and attractive item entitled *The Magic Carpet*, for which he is given a vigorous and well-merited reception. The character vocalism of Arthur Lennard is much appreciated, as also is the mimicry of George Newburn. Marie San Toi and her merry Japs sing themselves into favour, and Les Marbas prove entertaining humorists. Lizzie Glenroy and Ray Maskell are dancers of no mean order, and films by the American Bioscope complete a capital programme.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's.—Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company is drawing good houses with *A Girl Redeemed from Sin*. Mr. Phillippe Orr is well placed as Robert Danham; Will May finds a capital exponent in Mr. Jo. Monkhouse; Mr. Victor Knight infuses an amount of humour into the part of Jim Jakes; Mr. Gifforde Reynolds is good as Samuel Lee; Miss Ada Oxley gives an excellent interpretation of Peggy Gray; Miss Gertie Pawle is deserving of praise as Mrs. Mac; and Miss Olive Fulton is good as Nancy. The remaining parts are all capably filled.

OLDBURY.—Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Tyrer.—A programme of more than average merit is being supplied by the company of artists. The Four Cecilians are capital entertainers; the Sisters Clancy are remarkable dancers; Darwin, the man monkey, is a good performer on the trapeze; Miss Edie Greene has a good style; Miss May Paul sings and dances well; Sam Shipley, eccentric comedian, is very amusing; the Bioscope depicts scenes of the Hamstead Colliery disaster.

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. James Bell's company is here with *The Idol of Paris*. Miss Annie Bell appears as Flare Flare, and acts with success in the various moods of the variety artist; Miss Grace Noble is excellent as Olympe Sosage; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh as Mme. Sancterre does well as the bigoted philanthropist; Miss Annie Megson as Ann is delightful; and along with Mr. Ellis Carlyle as Latave are responsible for some good comedy; Miss Pharo Anderson is capital as Rachael Bernhardt; Mr. Chas. Stafford acts in a manly style as Victor Cashelle; and the man about town, Phillipe d'Esterre, is ably portrayed by Mr. Wilson Howard.

Colosseum Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*Man and Wife* is being played by Messrs. Van Biene and Trayner's company. Mr. John F. Trayner as Paul Revere acts forcibly with good effect, and his enemy, Capt. d'Esparre, is most despicable as played by Mr. E. M. Hamilton. Mr. George Overs was clever as Jean, a cripple; Miss Millie Doris is capital as Rosette; and the twins, Bimbo and Bambo, are played in a very amusing manner by Mr. E. Hall Eldon and Mr. G. Vinning; Miss Kate Hallam acts as Marcelle in a way which elicits hearty applause; Miss Violet Temple is capital as Ruth Revere; and Mr. George Rammell makes a capable Col. Latour; whilst Mr. Ambrose Horton is excellent as Sergt. Jacques.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kilsow.—Mr. H. O. Wills' songs cause hearty laughter; James Willard and company present with success *The Ace of Hearts*, a dramatic episode; the Lafaille Troupe give a clever gymnastic performance; and Mme. Roma's Six Juggling Girls are very smart in a dainty turn; the Three Orras receive much applause for their act on the silver rings; Mabel K

are smart comedians with cross-talk and dances; while Jimmy Laurie is a capital comedian. The Wreckers is depicted on the Dottoscope.

OXFORD.—East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Thompson.—Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair's company opened on Monday in *Man to Man*. As the hero, George Gordon, Mr. Edward Lloyd was inimitable, and met with a most enthusiastic reception, while Mr. Frank Adair, an experienced actor, gave a very powerful and robust rendering of the villain, Richard Ellerton. Mr. Clifford Bown was very droll and convincing as the convict, Bill Burkley, causing great amusement in the prison scene; Mr. A. Val Shane was seen to advantage as Rev. Philip Ormond; and Mr. H. Bruce Williams won favour as Samuel Plumtree. Mr. Bryce Methven was well placed as Turner. Miss Evelyn Warde gave a very praiseworthy interpretation of Gipsy Madge; Miss Ada Martin was very successful as Mary; and Miss Adeline Lester was a prime favourite with her humorous rendering of Miss Lavinia Dove. Miss Louie Adair may be congratulated on sustaining Ethel Maythorne with great charm and undoubted ability, while Miss Phyllis Oakley was very effective as Ned Doyle.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—In possession here this week is Mr. Harry Tilbury's company in *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. Victor Rae essays with conspicuous success the part of Frank Lindon; Mr. Horatio Sinclair as Lord Devant plays skilfully; a capital representative of Neil Locksley is Mr. Fred Owen; as Tom Redman Mr. Bernard Webb acquits himself well; Mr. Edward Brown as Geoffrey Harvey is praiseworthy; and Mr. Harry Tilbury is responsible for a vast amount of humour as Micky Doolan; Miss Belle Tilbury embodies with marked ability the part of Florence Lindon; Miss Arline T. George as Alice Harvey acts capably; as Mabel Lindon Miss Annie Newhall does creditably; Miss Etta Spalding humorously portrays the character of Araminta Dustpan; and as a child actress Little Phyllis is to be commended for her capable work.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. B. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas F. Bostock.—Joe Peterman's company in *The Belle of the Orient* has chief place on the programme this week, and this smart musical comedy sketch provides plenty of mirth; Walter Bellonini, juggler, wins enthusiastic applause for an undoubtedly clever performance; the Sisters Terry are warmly greeted for their singing, mimicry, and dancing; Flo Cecil is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Otta and Olga submit an excellent musical comedy entertainment; Mark Henton proves himself a very funny comedian; Dallas and Varden appear in an amusing poetic fantasy, entitled *The Heirloom; or, a Christmas Dream*, which is well received; George Rapley, comedian, scores with his songs and patter; a clever turn is that submitted by Almon in his hand-walking and hand-jumping feats; and the Bioscope is this week intensely interesting, The Great Motor Race at Dieppe, showing numerous accidents and many exciting adventures.

PENTRE.—Tivoli Palace and Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping the bill this week is the Derrington family in a marvellous cycling act, which is deservedly applauded; a refined, speciality comedy entitled *A Promising Pupil*, is contributed by Ben Harris and his nippers; Eva Lumley and Freda Ettrick's company is responsible for first-class comedy in *Jimmy All-of-a-Twist;* humour is prominent in the work of Helen and Cozens in *The Doctor and the Patient;* Louie Hurman, the Macdonald Trio, Jack Foley, Agnese and Arthur Lynch, together wtih the Tivoliscope add to an excellent bill of fare.

PENZANCE.—St. John's Hall.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's *When Knights were Bold* company appeared here on Monday and Tuesday evenings, playing to record houses. Mr. Howard's company fully realised all expectations. Mr. Bert Bestwick as Sir Guy de Vere worked hard and successfully; Miss Edith Anton Laing ably supported him as Lady Rowena, and the numerous other rôles were capably acted. The tour is under the direction of Mr. Arthur Howard, and the local arrangements were in the hands of Messrs. A. J. Rogers and Son, who have booked a number of first-class companies for the coming autumn and winter season.

PETERBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—This week we have Clarence C. Corri's company in *The Dandy Fifth*. The Colonel is admirably depicted by Mr. Percy Baverstock; Mr. J. Edward Fraser is successful as Dick Darville; Mr. George Beverley is a capital Sergt.-Major Milligan; Mr. Jack Crichton as Brown keeps the house in continuous laughter; Miss Pauline Hague as Kate Lorimer has a charming appearance and a rich, sweet-toned voice. Her songs are greatly appreciated. Miss Florence Spurgeon does well as Antoinette; and Miss Maud Nichols is well placed as Mrs. Von Blitzen. Other parts are ably taken by Miss Nora Morra, Miss Edie Burton, Miss Lois Stanton, Mr. Frank Haylett, Mr. Harry Edward Ray, and Mr. Phil Hart.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* is being presented here. In the title-rôle Miss Gertrude Irving is superb, her conception of the charitably-disposed, though somewhat simple, mother being splendid; Miss Rita Carlyle as Miss Hazy, the nervous bride, is indescribably funny, her matrimonial vicissitudes evoking roars of laughter; Miss Violet Vivian as Mrs. Shultz, a portly German, is immense in more ways than one; and Miss Mabel Durrant as Mrs. Eichorn adds an additional touch of comedy to a piece brimful of humour. Miss Christine Rayner is touchingly pathetic as Lovey Mary, and Miss Mary Deverell is smart as Miss Lucy. Mr. Fred Forrest as Stubbins furnishes a realistic impersonation of a slow, heavy American.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls form a strong attraction, and testify to the finished training they have evidently received. The Kurios have a very amusing sketch, the attractiveness of which is enhanced by some trick scenery; Irene Rose is a smart comedienne, and scores in the sketch *Her First Engagement;* and Lowenwirth and Cohan have something decidedly original in the patter line. The Austral Trio, in *A Musical Evening*, prove themselves instrumentalists of ability; and Alfred Wellesley is entertaining in his sketch *Uncle's Courtship*. Lade Henderson, vocalist, Tom Leo, comedian, and Vernon's Bioscope complete the bill.

PONTEFRACT.—Alexandra Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—This week Harwood's Juveniles head the bill in a dainty and quaintly-conceived scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve*. The children sing and dance well, and the whole performance carries an air of naturalness that is charming. Mlle. Ada Gatley is a daring slack wire walker and a clever equilibrist; whilst Major Arnold gets in some bewildering conjuring tricks. The Sisters Hula quickly danced into public favour, and seem likely to stop there; Harry Luck is properly styled a comedian, and kept the house decidedly alive with his really funny songs. Renson and Waite also contribute to the comedy element of the programme, and cause no end of mirth with their smart repartee and jokes; Harry Greener, the singing pit lad, sang a song, amongst others, introducing incidents connected with the recent Maypole pit disaster, and, as may be imagined, scored especially amongst the mining portion of the audience. The Alexandra Bioscope shows a series of new and excellent pictures.

PONTYPRIDD.—Royal Clarence Theatre.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—A very attractive programme this week includes the Trix Troupe, singers and dancers; Jack Henry and Will B. Tyler, in sensational cycling; Edward Caselli, banjo player; Charles Desmond, comedian; Queenie Dell, comedienne and dancer; Jack Jerome, comedian and dancer; Russell Carr, ventriloquist; and the Theatrescope.

PORTH.—The Palace, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping an excellent bill this week the Ibrahim Arab Troupe score an unbounded success in their marvellous acrobatic performance; Charlie Deane makes a big hit with his song "Follow the tramlines"; Murray, as the Roman gladiator, is a fine specimen of physical culture; Nancy Renshaw, laughing negro comedienne, gives entire satisfaction; the Musical Keiths, novelty instrumentalists, are big favourites; Staffo, the comedy juggling butcher boy, delights the audience with his comicalities; and Adey Spencer, "the girl from the hat shop," sings and plays well. A notable turn is that of Mlle. Haydées, who introduces a miniature vaudeville theatre and is greatly appreciated. The Palascope, with latest films, concludes.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*The Beloved Vagabond* is being presented here this week to highly-appreciative audiences by Mr. Fred Mouillot's No. 1 Company. Mr. Arthur Royston enacts the name-part, Gaston de Nerac, with consummate ease and resourcefulness. The part of Astlcot is extremely well taken by Mr. Ramsay Macbeth; Lord Rushworth is fittingly sustained by Mr. Alfred Drayton; Mr. Warburton Gamble distinguishes himself as the Comte de Verneuil; and the Curé is ably portrayed by Mr. Howard Leslie. Miss Kathleen Harrington enacts the trying rôle of Joanna Rushworth with becoming dignity and great histrionic finish; Miss Nita as Blanquette de Veau is excellent, the lights and shades of the part being strongly marked; Miss Edith Hunter makes a capital Lady Rushworth; Miss Ruby Wyndham as Madame La Blanc is successful; and Miss Hetty Kenyon is well suited as Louisette.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Frederick Melville's drama *Her Road to Ruin* is being played here this week by Miss Eva Moss, Mr. Henry Wolston, and company. Miss Moss as Jess Willoughby is forcefully dramatic and convincing; Miss Nellie Bonser in the triple rôle of Mary Dawson, Marie de Vaune, and 'Orrible Mary does good work. Miss Alice Bowes makes a winsome and charming May Willoughby; Miss Lottie Coleman as Sal Briggs and Miss Marie Wright as Jennie Crackling do very well indeed. Mr. Henry Wolston gives a vigorous and manly delineation of the curate, Frank Temple; Mr. Heaton Gray as the wronged journalist is capital; Mr. Alex Bradley plays with all the necessary brutal frankness in the rôle of Philip Hardy; Mr. Dane Clarke is a dignified Bishop; Mr. William Lynton does capable work as Mr. Derwent, the solicitor; Billy Boots is amusingly acted by Mr. Harry Talbot; and Messrs. Victor Moor (Charles Cholmondeley), Frank Powell (Sir John Lewis), and F. C. Brooke (Dicky Gerald) are well placed in their several parts.

King's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—This house is going strong since the adoption of the two-houses-a-night system. Nellie Wallace, the popular comedy artist, heads the bill for the week, submitting her most attractive numbers, and gaining much approval. Benson and Rose, in bright and brisk duologue, *Elizabeth and Baby*, are much liked; the Primrose Quartette of male vocalists warble most tunefully; Clotilda and Musto, with marvellous flock of performing cockatoos, furnish a pleasing entertainment; Gladys Huxley is a most capable and chic comedienne; Harry Lemore, American comedy juggler, submits a smart and clever turn, his wire-balancing being a notable feature; Brinn, in his expert and sensational act, *Pastimes on a Battleship*, is well received; Frank Hardie and company in *The Man in Possession* gain applause for a very sympathetic presentation; and the animated pictures by the Barrascope complete the programme.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—*The Mystery of the Red Web*, an Anarchist episode, is ably portrayed by Messrs. Percy Yorke, Cooper Willis, George Martin, and the Misses Elizabeth Crome and Florence Nelson. The Cheers, with the well-trained cats, give a well-appreciated performance; the Saletos are daring in their head-balancing feats; Bert Brantford, comedian, gets a good hearing for his two amusing efforts; the Smythsons, in their ludicrous and diverting sketch *Love Germs*, are much applauded; Robins and Collier score in the sketch *The Lady and the Porter;* Bert Danson, eccentric comedian, with up-to-date and quaint songs, proves most acceptable; Payne's Biograph, with very humorous pictures; and Agnes Asher, a praiseworthy soubrette, complete the bill.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—Mr. Jake Friedman, in an artistic Dutch operetta, *Happy Holland*, tops the programme here for the week. The Ladderites give a clever display of fancy balancing on moval ladders; Miss Jose Gallimore is a sprightly vocalist and dancer; the Three Zaracs are seen in a smart comedy bar act; Mr. Nat Clifford is highly entertaining as a comedian and capable as a dancer; Miss Clara Beck, comedienne, has an engaging style that secures for her an enthusiastic encore; Mr. Henry Champion contributes four capital songs; Mr. Leonard Gautier, in novel scena, *The Animated Toy Shop*, gives an admirable performance with his docile ponies and dogs. The Hippo Pictures conclude.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Executors of the late Mr. W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company are appearing here in their Irish musical play, *Rollicking Rory*. Mr. Chalmers Mackey displays much humour as the light-hearted Irishman; Mr. Fred W. Leonard as the unprincipled Stephen D'Arcy gives a careful presentation; Mr. Richard Hutton is a capable Captain Ashleigh; Mr. St. John Stuart portrays very effectively Shaun Brady; and Mr. Henry Sainsbury as Mr. Callagan is good; Miss Nana Flensberg is a bewitching Rosie Callagan; Miss Constance Bellamy is successful in the dual rôle of Peggy O'More and the Queen of the Fairies; Miss Adele Liddon and Nellie O'Mara as the Widow O'Donohoe and Mary Maloney are both good in their respective parts; and Little Dorothy is a clever little Rosaline; as Mrs. Ashleigh in Act I., and Rosaline in Acts II. and III. Mrs. Chalmers Mackey succeeds in winning well-deserved applause. There are capitally-rendered vocal numbers for which Madame Constance Bellamy, Miss Nana Flensberg, Mr. Charles Homer, and Mr. Chalmers Mackey are responsible.

Prince's Theatre. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Charles H. Lester's capable company, including Miss Beatrice Anderson, is paying a welcome return visit here in *A Life for a Life*. Mr. Charles H. Lester gives a powerful rendering of Josh Harker; Mr. Harry T. Wood is a manly Kit Oswald; as Pedro Li Celci Mr. Richard Bosco portrays the unscrupulous villain with power; Mr. Charles Osborne is capital as the Sheriff; Mr. Horace Buckley raises many a laugh as Tim McCarthy; and he receives excellent support from Miss Lydia Hart as Nancy Dorn, her laugh appearing to be contagious; Miss Dorothy Riddell is charmingly sweet as Kate Evelyn; and little Irene is decidedly clever as Venetta; Miss Beatrice Anderson as Aulalia has a heavy part to play, and succeeds in obtaining loud and prolonged applause for the really clever manner in which she enacts the part. The rest of the characters are all in able hands, who one and all work well to make the play the thorough success it undoubtedly is. The scenery is very realistic throughout.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Tom Foy and company in *The Yorkshire Lad in London* is as big a success as ever, and simply convulses the house with drolleries.; Hilda de Grey, burlesque actress and tyrolean vocalist, gives a pleasing turn; J. W. Gallagher is an eccentric comedian with a style decidedly his own, and proves a good turn; the Farrows (Harry and Louie) have a capital sketch which is decidedly well received; Kingstone Trollope gives a clever dramatic monologue, entitled *Only a Dream*, with much ability and effect; Leo D'Alvar has a very novel gymnastic act, which is highly appreciated; a most talented troupe are the Szarvasi Ferencz troupe of acrobats, with their songs and dances, and the audience are not slow in showing their appreciation of this clever and artistic turn; the old favourite, F. V. St. Clair, in his latest songs and local topical allusions, is as deservedly popular as ever, and is loudly encored; the Cameross have a clever duologue, which is funny and smart; Pat O'Connor is a comedian and dancer whose clog dancing is much above the ordinary; The Ship Wreckers, on the Bioscope, concludes a really excellent all-round show.

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Miss Nita Rae's drama *For Love of a Woman* is being played by Mr. Eustace Day's company. The story centres around a child of tender years, Nance Nanor, a part naturally but effectively taken by Miss May Day. Mr. Arthur Chisholm is successful as Ned Merrick, the hero, and Mr. F. Lloyd acts with the necessary power as the scheming husband, the villain of the piece. Mr. Day is good as the old grandfather, and Messrs. C. Ninian, L. S. Harrison, F. Ramsdale, and Miss E. Shelton do well in humorous parts.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Victoria Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—The well-known musical comedy *Sergeant Brue* has been staged at the above place of entertainment during the past week, and has attracted capital audiences. The show goes with a fine swing, and is as lively and fresh as when first produced. The production is by Mr. Harry Benet's company, and this gentleman gives a fine impersonation of Crookie Scrubbs, the criminal. Mr. Dennis Lyndon is seen to much advantage in the title-rôle; and Mr. Lister Morrah makes a good son, Michael Brue. Miss Daise Dale is capital as Aurora Brue; while Miss Ray Anderson is a great success as the smart Lady Bickenhall.

Marina Theatre.—This comfortable place of amusement is, under the supervision of Mr. F. C. Dew, being extensively patronised. The animated pictures exhibited are excellent, and the same description befits the variety turns which are given incidentally at the twice-nightly performances. Tiny and Mite, the clever child artists, continue to be great favourites. The construction of the new East Cliff lift near the Marina Theatre has made the building much more accessible from the eastern portion of Ramsgate.

Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—On the first three evenings of the week Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's clever company staged Somerset Maugham's three-act comedy *Mrs. Dot*. The whole of the production bore the hall-mark of excellence. Miss Decima Moore charmed audiences by the manner in which she sustained the part of Mrs. Worthley (Mrs. Dot); and Miss Emma Hutchison was also brilliantly successful in the character of Lady Sellinger. James Blenkinsop found a most capable exponent in Mr. Frank Lacey, who proved himself a thoroughly talented actor; and all the remaining parts were handled with distinct skill by those to whom their representation had been entrusted. On Thursday the famous Follies commenced a three nights' engagement with a fine programme, including *Pellissier's Potted Plays* and *Everybody's Benefit* (a burlesque of a benefit matinée).

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—This week sees the re-opening for the season of this charming theatre, which has during the vacation been repainted and decorated throughout. The attraction for the opening is a decided one, being Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company, in the new musical comedy burlesque *A Merry Maid*, which was received with great enthusiasm on Monday by a very good audience. Miss May Gibson as Peggy O'Hooligan proved herself a charming actress, her portrayal being artistic and her singing exceptionally good. Miss F. Adamson as Angelina Vere de Vere was also most successful, and she also scored well for her fine rendering of her musical numbers. Mr. W. Shaw Hutchinson made an exceptionally good Biddy O'Hooligan, and his songs were also well received; Mr Vivian Wakeman as Larry O'Hooligan was everything desirable in a character that suits him to the ground, and his contributions to the musical programme were greatly enjoyed; Mr. Neil Hardy gave a clever impersonation of the Hon. Cecil Taft; Wee George Wood again delighted his audience with his exposition of the part of Bertie Vere de Vere, and his songs were enthusiastically encored; Mr. Howard Lawrence was a successful Thadey Claney, his songs being well sung; Mr. Phil Goldie and Mr. Horace Hillerby were thoroughly capable as Von Swank and Scrivener; and Miss Ray Watson was an excellent Flossie Kixie. The chorus is exceptionally good, the music bright and sparkling, whilst the scenery and dresses are beautiful.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's No. 1 company is here this week with the popular musical comedy *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, which is put on the stage in capital style. Mr. Harry Ugar is exceedingly diverting as Silas Crump; Mr. Walter Ashley gives a good impersonation of the villain, Captain Fielding; Mr. Walter B. Ungent is effective as Captain Dudley; Miss Nellie Valentine appears to advantage as Ruth Montrose; Miss Dorothy Desmond acts with much chic and vivacity as Dorothy Montrose. All the other characters are satisfactorily sustained. The piece abounds with tuneful musical numbers, all of which are well rendered. Seven distinct turns are given in the grand variety scene in the last act, comprising specialities by Miss Dorothy Desmond, contralto, Miss Nellie Harcourt, American soubrette, Miss Nellie Valentine, soprano, Miss Florence Corrie and Miss Daisy Holbrook, dancers, and Mr. Harry Ugar, comedian. Mr. George Encyl Lewis is an efficient musical director.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Johnson and Devene, comedy cyclists, go through a clever and amusing performance; Graham, the human marionette, gives a novel turn, in which he gives clever imitations of popular music-hall celebrities, and also appears as a resuscitated prehistoric man; Maud and Sydney Wood give a very pleasing sketch, entitled *Tennis Courtship*, in which they introduce some graceful dancing; Harry Harris and Mona Williams give some good music-hall impersonations in their sketch *A Night at the Halls;* Clare and Postor appear to advantage in a comedy acrobatic and dancing act; Harry Marris is an entertaining comedian; May Fayre, comedienne, sings with ability; Joe Peterson's company of comedians produce a capital sketch, *The Pawnbroker;* and an amusing scene is depicted on the Bioscope.

The Royal Pierrots continue their popular al-fresco concerts on the Thames Promenade. Alf. Brooks and George Green, comedians, are great favourites. Miss Ethel Dunford is the special artist at the Sunday Sacred Concert.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* occupies the boards here this week. The play is well staged, and the scene in which the wronged girl smashes the furniture is intensely realistic, and is deservedly appreciated. Mr. Ed. McLean is admirable in his impersonation of the Rev. Robert Everton; the dual rôle of Jack England and Private Johnson is capably sustained by Mr. Harold Macartney; Mr. Richard Ferris cleverly portrays the unscrupulous Captain Caversham; and Mr. G. Mitchell is all that could be desired as James Sutton. The humorous element is in the excellent hands of Mr. Geo. H. Asquin as Dick Punch and Miss Amy Poulton as Isabella Jones; Miss Sybil Hare sweetly enacts the part of Rose Seymour; and Miss Madge Morley acts with distinction the title-rôle Molly Vernon.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—My Fancy, described as the queen of sand dancers, tops the bill here this week; her performance deserves the unstinted appreciation accorded. David Poole is a clever ventriloquist; there is not a dull moment during his stay on the boards. Spangles and Sawdust, in their comedy aerial act, are both clever and amusing; the Sisters Wingrove are smart and dashing vocalists and dancers; Will Musgrave, comedian; Alex. Loston, negro comedian; and the Empire Bioscope complete the bill of fare.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds' company are here this week with *Woman and Wine*. Miss C. St. Elmo gives a highly-finished portrayal of the part of Marcel Rigadout; and Miss Violet Sims is pleasing as Mary Andrews. Miss Ethel Vinroy scores as Janet Marlow; and Miss Octavia De Noel has a strong rôle as La Colombe. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds is seen to great advantage as Dick Seymour; and Mr. J. Milne Taylor is deserving of mention as Hugh Seymour. Mr. R. Foullis scores as Alphonse Beaudet; and Mr. W. Manning, a local favourite, gives a clever representation of Professor Sauter, F.R.G.S. Mr. Edwin T. Kisby as Pierre Cruoru and Mr. Ashmore Vincent as Phineas Collins are deserving of mention.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Lessee, Mr. Edwin J. Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Messrs. Elton and Elma give a finished triple bar act; and the Prince Milner Trio are deservedly applauded in their wire-walking display. Messrs. Conan and Doyle create much amusement with their patter and jokes; the Brothers Ashley are responsible for a very laughable sketch, *Next, Please;* the Two St. Johns give a musical turn and dance which is highly appreciated; Mr. J. G. Grahame and Miss Zerlina Harrington give a highly finished performance of the sketch *A Daughter of Pleasure*. The highly-trained baboons of Mr. E. H. Bostock, under the guidance of Captain Grahame, do some very clever things; the Sisters Lytton complete the bill with well-rendered duets. The orchestra, under Mr. T. Richardson, continues to give immense pleasure to the patrons.

RUNCORN.—Public Hall Theatre.—The Public Hall Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. E. S. Lea.—This place reopened for the season this week with the Royal Pierrot Troupe in a miscellaneous proogramme of sterling merit. The troupe consists of artists who possess fine voices for the songs, duets, and choruses rendered before the interval, and are ably seconded by the Three Sisters Johnson, smart vocalists and dancers; Eugene Maccabe, tuneful song artist; Smith and Travis, in a taking illustrated song-scena; La Belle Mars, in beautiful kaleidoscopic dancing; a sketch of a good rollicing nature; and up-to-date Bioscope and pictures which do not fail to interest.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*It's Never Too Late to Mend* is presented by Mr. Fred Granville's company, which had a good reception on Monday, when Tom Robinson was well represented by Mr. E. H. Templeton; Miss G. Entwistle was a charming Susan Merton; Mr. Lawrence Marshall makes a lot of fun as Jackey; George Fielding is well sustained by Mr. V. W. Carlyle; Mr. C. F. Johnson as Rev. Francis Eden, Mr. Harry Cave as Peter Crawley, Mr. Edwin Davies as Isaac Levi, Mr. W. R. Wilson as the Governor, and Miss M. Wilton as Josephs give adequate support in their various characters.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Chris Richards, eccentric comedian and dancer, causes much amusement with his antics; Harry Rogerson, the tired comedian, is a very clever tumbler, and his dramatic skit is most laughable; May Moore-Duprez, "the jolly Dutch girl," is full of fun, and gains much applause for her merry wit and dancing; the Two Kays give a very interesting vocal act. Other very satisfying turns are provided by Daley and Collins, comic patterers; Chummie La Mara, comedienne; Sadie Seymour, comedienne; the Balsamos, in comedy gymnastic act; and Adeline Yohle, charming songstress.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—*The Hypocrite* is an exciting episode, which is well performed by Fred S. Peake, Edwin Morton, and Dora Davis; Iky Moe is a clever little Hebrew singer and dancer; Fanny Robina has some pleasing songs; Martin Conway's business is very comical; Wyndham and Waters have an amusing sketch *The Professor and His Pupil*. The well-varied programme also includes Celest, wire-walker and baton juggler; Kendrick and Laura, in song and dance; Billie Bint; Florry Cooper, a pleasing vocalist; Petro and Leon (Hattie and Pete), comedy gymnasts; and Shavo, expert comedy juggler.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Wanted, a Son-in-Law is a screamingly comic picture, and twice nightly that and the following are shown to good houses: Two Savants, The Cabby Sweetheart, Free Pardon, Need of Gold, Paper-tearing, Craze of Microbes, Just My Luck, &c.

SALISBURY. — Victoria Park. — Director of Entertainments, Mr. F. D'Alton Tebby; Manageress, Miss Jessie D'Alton.—Miss Lilian Ramsdale dances in a highly attractive manner; Miss Beatrice Witham has a budget of good songs and secures rounds of applause nightly; Miss Edna Lyne has a capital voice, and is very successful; Mr. Albert Laurence delights everyone with his comic songs and patter; other members of the company acquit themselves creditably, and an amusing sketch concludes the programme.

SCARBOROUGH.—Londesborough Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is the attraction here. Marie Wilson, in the title-rôle, achieved considerable success; as Mina Miss Mabel Sealby received a most flattering reception, having to answer repeated encores; Mr. Fred Lyne as Simon Slinks kept the fun going throughout; Mr. Arthur Reynolds as Mr. Hook was good; and Mr. Powys Pinder as the bandmaster was decidedly good.

Spa Theatre.—Proprietors, Cliff Bridge Co.; Manager, Mr. Francis Goodricke.—On Monday Mr. Edward Terry and company opened their week's visit with *The Magistrate*. Mr. Terry, in the character of Mr. Posket, was the backbone of the whole performance. He had good support from Miss Agnes Knights as Agetha. During the week *Liberty Hall*, *Fiander's Widow*, and *Sweet Lavender* were also played.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred. P. Morgan.—Mr. W. Hallat's Company opened on Monday in *Two Little Drummer Boys*. As the hero, Mr. Herbert dealt most satisfactorily with his part; Miss Blanche Steele, as Lola Gray, did exceedingly well, and showed much ability; and Miss Effie O. Crawford and Miss Ivy Millais, as the two little drummer boys, were delightful.

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. Fielding Smith.—Maestro and Mdlle. Orstia contribute a wonderful juggling turn; the Solo Trio in the vocal efforts soon found favour with the audience; Daisy Jerome has many ways of pleasing the audience with her impersonations; Prof. Dubois and his baboon also appear; with Lucy Coventry, in coon songs, Decima Brooke, dancer, Richardson Taylor, silfleur, George French, comedian, and Garganes, clever acrobats.

The Aquarium.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. L. Holland.—Heading the bill here are the Scottish Maisters, who present an exceedingly good vocal turn; Kahn and Kahn are mystifying illusionists; the Brothers Babusio show considerable ability as acrobats; Sim Maree, contortionist, is well up in his business; the Brothers Curran create much fun in their comedy boxing act; Prof. Dunning, in a ventriloquial turn, is full of variety; Andy Burns, the Gasgoines (jugglers), and Gwllym Jones (Welsh tenor) also appear, with Mdlle. Marie Levante's orchestra of ladies.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiernan; Lessees, The Excelsior Animated Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. George Barry.—The films shown here fully maintain their high standard of excellence, in addition to which a capital variety company includes Ray Lester, in a smart selection of American illustrated songs; Tiny and Mite, the wonderful child vocalists and dancers, who pay a welcome return visit; The Dixie Boys, a trio of clever patterers and vocal comedians; and The Bijou Juveniles, in a refined and highly-appreciated musical scena, *Pussy's Birthday*.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The screamingly farcical comedy *The Lady of Ostend* has frequently amused large audiences here, and on Monday the house was filled with a delighted audience, when the favourite comedian Mr. Lawrence Brough and his excellent company began their farewell visit. The funny situations again caused roars of laughter, and all the artists were repeatedly applauded. The piece was luxuriously mounted.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Temptations of London* is being played to large houses, and proves to the taste of the Royal clientèle.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Millard's company opened to a crowded house on Monday in the new and original drama *The Girl with the Angel Face*. In the morally repulsive character of the beautiful young lady who gives the title to the play Miss Florrie Green cleverly depicted the conflicting emotions of a modern Delilah; Miss Mildred Carr made a delightfully vivacious Mollie Maitland; Mr. C. Mannering was good as the Rev. Gordon Cross; Mr. Naylor Grimshaw showed talent and versatility in the dual part of the Wentworths, père et fils; a fine character study was the Jasper Death of Mr. Fred G. Evison; and other characters were well played by Miss Winifred Delevanti as Nellie Bly, Miss Phyllis Bailley, Mr. Allen Charles, Mr. Forbes Leighton, and Mr. Austin Mortimer. The drama was staged in Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's usual perfect manner, and its reception was of a cordial nature.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The great comic star Mr. George Robey is the leading artist in the Empire programme this week; and other popular performers scheduled are Mr. Jock Mills, a pleasing Caledonian entertainer; the Five Olracs, in a smart and novel act; Miss Ethel Haydon, a pretty and accomplished comedienne; Hans and Lux, in a novel turn; Mr. Hugh Barclay; Mr. R. H. Douglas, in his clever and amusing mimetic and burlesque interlude; Miss Rhoda Paul, in a refined vocal and dramatic sketch; the Bioscope, with new films; and Lockhart's famous elephants, in diverting tricks.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—A first-class bill of fare is again provided here, and good business is the rule. The star of the week is the beautiful and elegant Mlle. Renée, in her unique entertainment; the Three Braggs are talented and graceful performers; and others who win deserved approbation are Starr and Leslie, comedy artists, &c.; Miss Nell Cotter; the Schiavonis, Continental experts; Miss Evelyn Taylor; Burns and Bentley, local favourites; Miss Henre, &c. Some artistic animated pictures are loudly applauded.

Grand Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, with the latest films by the most noted firms, and a smart variety company are drawing big houses to this cosy and well-conducted "down-town" theatre.

Central Theatre.—Lessees, The Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—The newcomers here on Monday were Mr. W. G. Webber, Li Chang-Hi, and Mr. J. H. Carroll. The Salome Dance and other films were well received.

(*Continued on page 16.*)

SALADS *are rendered very appetizing by the addition of*

LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE.

It much improves their flavour and enhances their "freshness."

By Royal Warrant to H.M. the King.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Aug. 24,
the Comic Opera, by R. Courtneidge and A. M. Thompson and Edward German, entitled
"TOM JONES."

Very welcome was the return visit to this theatre of *Tom Jones*, and the large audience present on Monday evening fully voiced its enthusiastic appreciation of the opera so admirably written by Messrs. Courtneidge and Thompson, with its music composed by Mr. Edward German. The latter has completely caught the spirit of the times of "Tom Jones" in his melodies, and undoubtedly the opera gains in strength by the assistance of Mr. German. The company organised by Mr. Robert Courtneidge is as attractive as could be desired, and a successful tour should result. Mr. Harry Welchman undertakes the title-rôle with much feeling, and his singing is of extremely good quality; as Mr. Allworthy Mr. John Morley acts well; and Mr. Deane Percival makes a characteristically unpleasant Blifil. Most of the fun is provided by Mr. Dan Rolyat, who as Benjamin Partridge keeps the audience in excellent humour by his very mirthful antics. In Squire Western Mr. Ambrose Manning is well fitted, and his picture of the bibulous old English gentleman is simply perfect; a most humorous exponent of Gregory is Mr. John T. Macmillan; while Grizzle and Dobbin are admirably rendered by Messrs. Walter L. Rignold and Lionel Braham. Miss Florence Smithson now essays the part of Sophia, and both in singing and acting there can be no hesitation in saying that the character could not be in better hands. Miss Western is worthily played by Miss Mary Southwell; a brilliant success is won by Miss Isabelle Dillon as Honour, whose sprightly acting is one of the gems of the production. Lady Bellaston is capitally portrayed by Miss Alice Oppitz; and Miss Cecilia Wilman acts capably as the hostess of the inn at Upton. The chorus is a particularly pretty and animated one; and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Thornton, ably perform their duties. The costumes and appointments are most elaborate and effective, and the scenery is a feast of artistic colouring.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Aug. 24, the Play, entitled
"THE ADVENTURE OF LADY URSULA."

Mr. Norman is this week presenting three popular plays, *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, *David Garrick*, and *Nell Gwynne*. The play under notice is the first named, and Mr. Norman V. Norman as Sir George Sylvester has a part which presents many opportunities, of which this artist makes the most. He is fortunate in having the co-operation of Miss Beatrice Wilson in the part of Lady Ursula. Miss Wilson showed excellently at the outset the lighter side of the character, and acted with feeling, passion, and intensity in the more important part of the play. Miss M. Barnett was properly austere as the old aristocrat Mrs. Fenton. Miss Sybil Ruskin has considerable talent, and she portrayed Dorothy Fenton exceedingly well. Mr. Alfred Gray acts with much spirit as the impetuous Earl of Hassenden, and Mr. Sam Wilkinson is in every way commendable as the Rev. Mr. Blimboe, being especially good in the last act. The eccentricities, one might say, of Mr. Dent were shown very consistently and without undue exaggeration by Mr. R. P. Lambe; and Mr. Norman Leslie, in addition to the arduous duties of stage-management, successfully portrayed the part of Mr. Castleton. Preceding the comedy an interesting novelty was quite unexpectedly prepared for the Marlborough patrons by the presentation of the Balcony Scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, with Miss Beatrice Wilson in the part of Romeo, as played by her at the Shakespearean Festival at Tunbridge Wells. In her treatment of the rôle Miss Wilson displayed her usual histrionic power. She has a thorough grasp of the part, which is admirably treated by her. Miss Sybil Ruskin gave an artistic representation of Juliet, and Mercutio and Benvolio receive efficient treatment at the hands of Messrs. Alfred Gray and Cyril Percy. In conjunction with Mr. H. Murray Herriott, resident-manager, Mr. Chas. Barstow, Mr. Norman's business-manager, was courteously solicitous for the comfort of the numerous patrons in front.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 24, the Play, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE BONDMAN."

Hall Caine's celebrated play *The Bondman* is this week attracting large audiences to welcome its return visit to the Kennington Theatre, where Mr. Wentworth Croke's talented company does full justice to the work of the author. The production is magnificently staged, the new and elaborate scenery by Ernest Howard being very fine indeed; while the Kennington orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Jullien H. Wilson, give an excellent rendering of the incidental music by J. M. Glover. The action of the play takes place about the middle of the nineteenth century, and as Adam Fairbrother, a prosperous farmer of that period, Mr. Oswald Lingard is seen to distinct advantage; Jason is undoubtedly the most difficult of all the male parts, but Mr. R. Scrope Quentin shows himself quite equal to his task, his masterly acting gaining him several curtain calls. The part of Michael Sunlocks, Jason's half-brother, is ably sustained by Mr. Lionel Atwill. A special word of praise must be said in favour of Mr. W. H. Rotheram, who fills the double rôle of Father Ferrati and Grandfather in splendid style. Messrs. Alfred Fisher as Governor Testa, F. J. Waller as Doctor Boni, and William Evans as Marshal of the Police are excellent in their respective parts. Miss Madge Lanerton's impersonation of Mrs. Fairbrother is decidedly good. The rôle of Greeba is filled by Miss Georgina Wynter, whose fine acting wins her the admiration and the applause of the entire audience. Miss Gertrude Helene as Mona and Master Walter Neville as Danny are juveniles of great promise. Misses Emilie Mayhew as Christian Anne, Bessie West as Marie, and Hilda Grey as Nattalina are all admirably suited to their different parts; while numerous minor characters leave nothing to be desired.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 24,
the Drama, adapted from Ouida's Novel,
"UNDER TWO FLAGS."

Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is appearing this week in Edwin Elsner's capital dramatisation of Ouida's celebrated novel, and very thrilling and exciting is this short story of intrigue, love, and passion, culminating in the tragic death of the *vivandière* in order to save the life of the man she loves. As the warm-hearted, hot-blooded, courageous little warrior Cigarette Miss Agnes Verity wins golden opinions, and nothing could be more convincing and heart-stirring than her frantic endeavour to gain a reprieve for the haughty aristocrat "Beauty." Miss Verity secures all the interest and engrossment which this splendid story of heroic self-sacrifice deserves. Mr. Mark Blow is a great favourite as the reserved and haughty aristocrat, Bertie Cecil Royellieu, who in order to save a woman's honour and a brother's good name goes into voluntary banishment with the chasseurs in Africa. His struggle against overwhelming odds of misfortune and persecution is keenly watched by the audience. Mr. Austen Milroy as his friend Rockingham imparts quite an air of distinction and significance to the rôle. Miss Minnie Grey as Princess Venetia Corona, "the silver pheasant," acts agreeably. Miss Elsa Anderson is a sprightly Lavinia, maid to the Princess, and in the duet and dance, "Belgravia," with Mr. Harry Benson, who is a devil of a fellow as the valet Rake, and keeps the ball of fun rolling throughout, great praise is due to the comic ability of both artists. Rake's song, "Come out, come out, come out," in Act II. is very drolly delivered. Mr. Arthur Elwyn makes a fittingly saturnine figure of Colonel Chanteroy, "the Black Hawk"; and Mr. A. Holmes is good in the small part of Captain Claude de Chanrellon. Other minor rôles are satisfactorily rendered. Mr. Johnny Leoni, besides doing good work as Ezry Baroni, a money-lender, is assistant stage-manager; and Mr. Wallace Stranack assists Mr. Eade Montefiore at the front of the house.

THE DALSTON.

On Monday, Aug. 24, for the first time in London,
the Romantic Venetian Drama, by
Fred C. Somerfield, entitled
"THE TYRANT."

Homodei	Mr. Fred C. Somerfield
Angelo, the Tyrant	Mr. Roy Fortescue
Rudolph	Mr. Edward E. Louis
Pan	Mr. T. Ashmore
Victor	Mr. Frank Etheridge
Nobbo	Mr. Willie Barrett
Lieut. Taska	Mr. James Sherwin
Arch Priest	Mr. Stanley Whyte
Doctor	Mr. Kurson Proctor
Rev. Dean of St. Anthony	Mr. Geo. Rathbone
Abrossi	Mr. Rowland Wade
Roderic	Mr. C. E. Geary
Usher	Mr. Sidney
First Night Watchman	Mr. Graham Bynge
Second Night Watchman	Mr. Cope Williams
Lady Katherine	Miss Margaret Frame
Eulie	Miss Cherry Vehenye
Daphne	Miss Vida Halsewood
Reginella	Miss Nellie Freeland
Tisbe	Miss Marie Dagmar

Founded on one of Victor Hugo's works, the romantic Venetian drama above alluded to was originally produced at the Osborne, Manchester, on Dec. 17, 1906, and found its way to London on Monday. The play forms one of those stage stories which enthrall those who have a relish for love, mystery, hate, and revenge. The interest is sustained to the end, for it is not until the piece is actually nearing completion that the true inwardness of the plot is revealed, the audience being thus kept in a state of expectancy the greater part of the time they are in the theatre. The personage of the title is Angelo, Governor of Padua, whose tyrannical rule includes the keeping of his wife, Lady Katherine, a prisoner within his palace. Therein, in due course, appears Tisbe, a famous actress, whose beauty has captivated the brutal Angelo. He yearns for her love, but she is deeply enamoured of the young Prince, Rudolph, who, in his turn, is infatuated with Lady Katherine, whom he has met before she was wedded to the tyrant. With the connivance of Homodei, described as "the avenger," the Prince is lured to the palace, but is enabled to escape by Tisbe, who discovers that Lady Katherine is the possessor of a cross belonging to her (Tisbe's) late mother, which proves that her ladyship, when a girl, had aided the woman long since deceased. Angelo proposes to kill his wife, and Tisbe suggests poison. This idea being acceded to by Angelo, Tisbe contrives to substitute a sleeping draught for the deadly mixture, with the result that while Lady Katherine is taken to Tisbe's house, where she ultimately recovers, Angelo is enticed to the home of Homodei, where the latter, in revenge for the tyrant having disgraced his sister, poisons him. Rudolph, believing Lady Katherine to have been done to death by Tisbe, repairs to the house of the latter with the object of killing her, but the discovery of her ladyship still alive, causes a happy ending, and Homodei arriving finally on the scene with his sister, the latter is taken under Tisbe's care, in view of the probable death of the brother for the part he has taken in despatching the tyrant.

The representation of the piece is in every way efficient. The author, Mr. Fred C. Somerfield, has allotted himself the part of Homodei, the avenger, and in sustaining that rôle he proves himself as capable an actor as he is an adaptor of a thrilling story. The character is by no means an easy one, but at the hands of Mr. Somerfield every trait is carefully elaborated. Angelo, the tyrant, is another rôle that bristles with difficulties. There are two sides to the character, and in the reproduction of both Mr. Roy Fortescue succeeds admirably. He cleverly throws up the despotic and cruel nature of the man, but when evincing fear that those whom he has oppressed so relentlessly, Mr. Fortescue displays sufficient apprehensiveness to show that the feeling of cowardice is strong within him. Miss Marie Dagmar scores a distinct success as Tisbe. To the actress, in this instance, falls the unthankful task of pretending to love when she really hates, and the illusion is made complete. By a clever assumption of a trying rôle, Miss Dagmar fully merits the hearty applause accorded her. Mr. E. E. Louis imparts a good deal of elegance to his representation of Rudolph. Mr. James Sherwin as Lieut. Taska makes an imposing officer, and Mr. T. Ashmore is alert as Pan, the faithful friend of Rudolph. Miss Margaret Frame is graceful and impressive as Lady Katherine, wife of Angelo, and Miss Cherry Vehenye acts cleverly as Eulie, Homodei's sister. Considerable merriment is caused by the humorous acting of Mr. Frank Etheridge as Victor, Mr. Willie Barrett as Nobbo, and Miss Nellie Freeland as Reginella.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Aug. 24, the Drama, in Four Acts, by
Frederick Melville,
"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."

Melville drama is highly popular here, and always draws good business. *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is proving that strong drama, well acted and well mounted, is as attractive as any other form of entertainment. Miss Beatrice Homer is an excellent actress, and makes the title-rôle very interesting; Miss Gertrude Harrison, always earnest and sympathetic, plays Rose Courtenay with all the necessary power and effect; Miss Violet Macaree as Marita is well suited to the character, and wins much sympathy; Miss Nellie Jackson is a bright and clever Aggie Brown; Mr. Philip Darian is a manly and earnest Jack Merryman; Mr. Leyton Cancellor is very good indeed as Herbert Gold; Mr. Leonard Thackeray is a picturesque Antonio Luchesi; Mr. William de Brigord is well suited to the part of Tom Redvers; and Mr. Freddie Bentley is a richly humorous Tubby Herrick. Other well-played parts are Griffiths (Mr. J. H. Dartley), Dr. Carr (Mr. Gerald Nolan), Raggles (Mr. Harry Leyton), Gendarme (Mr. Edgar Leeds), White (Mr. George Potter), Grab (Mr. Jack Edwards), Quick (Mr. Tom Sawyer), Bullock (Mr. Fred Newton), Green (Mr. George Burton), and Lameral, Paolo, and Fritz (Messrs. Wilton Boyne, Stuart Roberts, and Henry Williams). Mr. Leyton Cancellor is general-manager, Mr. Leonard Thackeray stage-manager, and Mr. Cecil de Lee acting-manager for Mr. Melville; while Mr. Bertram Iles looks well after the interests of the resident-management.

LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Aug. 24,
the Comedy, by Richard Ganthony, entitled
"A MESSAGE FROM MARS."

The members of Mr. F. Mouillot's company—or, rather, the majority of them—should surely be able to congratulate themselves on the fact that they have been together with *A Message from Mars* for nearly nine years on tour. That is a good record. The reception of the play and of the actors this week at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, has been everything that could be desired. In the leading rôle of Horace Parker Mr. Wallace Widdicombe was, we learn, seen for the first time in this country. Previously he had played it all over the States and Canada. And we can say, without unduly eulogising Mr. Widdecombe's portrayal, that it is distinguished by an easy naturalness of speech and demeanour that go far to stamp him as an actor who is considerably gifted. Whether as the selfish, niggardly commercial man of the first act, or as the victim of a dream in the second, in which he receives the lesson he needs, or as the ultra-generous individual in the third, he succeeds in bringing before us a characterisation that is convincing in every way. Mr. William H. Brougham furnishes a capital account of himself as the mysterious Messenger from Mars, and Mr. Norman Clark plays with fidelity to life the part of the tramp. Miss Flora Hastings gives an altogether charming study of Horace's aunt. She is as dignified and graceful a middle-aged lady as one could wish to meet. Miss Rose Helene is fresh, winsome, and engaging as Minnie Templer, and Mr. Harold M. Davidson is a capital Sir Roland Wright. Miss Peggy E. Yeoman is quite an attractive personage as Bella, and Mr. R. E. Bevans appropriately enacts the rôle of the American. Miss Mary Glenbrane as Mrs. Clarence, Mr. Eric Fowler as the solicitor, Mr. Eustace French as the astronomer, Mr. J. B. Sunderland as Dr. Chapman, Mr. Louis Cabaret as Mr. Shillingford, and Mr. J. H. McCarthy as a coster all submit able impersonations. The piece is extremely well staged, and the mysterious electrical illusions and effects are wonderfully well arranged and worked.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 24, the Drama, adapted from Mrs. Henry Wood's novel, and entitled
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."

The engagement of Mr. W. W. Kelly's *New East Lynne* company has proved a huge success, and it is evident that Greenwich playgoers are prepared to support really good entertainments. Miss Laura Hansen is a skilful actress, and one of the very best Lady Isabels of recent times. Her death scene was deeply impressive. Little Willie has a charming representative in Miss Doris Denville. Miss Nellie Lucas is an attractive Barbara Hare; Miss Sophy Shenton an amusing and characteristic Corney; and Miss Guinevere Shilton plays well as Afy and Joyce. Mr. Frederic Harker is a clever and manly Archibald Carlyle; Mr. W. H. Garbois plays Francis Levison on conventional lines; Mr. Richard Nugent is amusing as Murty O'Flynn; Mr. M. Talbot is a dignified Lord Mountsevern; Mr. William Lowe brings his ripe experience and proved ability to bear on Justice Hare with excellent effect; Mr. V. Barker is good as Otway Bethell; as is Mr. Cole Aspinall in the part of Richard Hare; and Mr. Byron Pedley is very good indeed as Lawyer Dill. Mr. Walter Manfree as George Hallijohn, Mr. W. Clarke as Farmer Joul, Mr. W. Long as Daddy Pinder, Mr. H. Dean as Luke Brown, Mr. E. Joist as Rueben Raeburn, Mr. R. Myrtle as Tom Rabbits, and Mr. R. Lane as Peter all do well, and add to the general excellence of the production.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Aug. 24, the Comedy, entitled
"SUNDAY."

Despite out-of-door attractions, there continue to be good houses nightly at the Kingston Theatre, where *Sunday* has been drawing many admirers during the week. It was the first visit of the play to Kingston, and the breezy story of life in the backwoods was received with genuine appreciation. Sunday, the heroine of the piece, is portrayed by Miss Marjorie Murray, who invests the part with a human interest that appeals to all parts of the house. Mr. T. Norman Walter plays Tom Oxley, and does ample justice to the task imposed upon him. The "boys" of the backwoods—Towzer, Jacky, Lively, and Davy—are excellently represented by Messrs. James Skea, Alec Alves, James Hussey, and A. C. Holmes, and a fine picture of Colonel Brinthorpe is drawn by Mr. Wm. Giffard. Others in the cast who deserve notice are Mr. Wilson Blake as Arthur Brinthorpe; Mr. Thos. Nixon as the valet; Mr. Harry Lenten as the manservant; Miss Helen G. Edwins as Mrs. Naresby; and Miss Lila Barclay as the nun. The play was admirably produced under the direction of Mr. T. Norman Walter.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Aug. 24,
the Drama in Four Acts, entitled
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."

The attraction here this week is the new drama, *Married to the Wrong Man*, a play that fulfils all the requirements of lovers of sensational melodrama. Written and produced by Mr. Frederick Melville, and enacted by a talented company, no fault could be found with the production, and a large audience on Monday evening expressed their emphatic satisfaction, the curtain falling amidst a scene of great enthusiasm. The cast was in all respects praiseworthy. Mr. O. Gray played the part of Jack Gladwin with manliness and ease, which, together with his effective delivery, made the character stand out prominently, and practically ensured the success of the piece. Mr. H. Lane Bayliff ruthlessly revealed the despicable qualities of the evil-minded Captain Deering, and his delineation was thoroughly satisfactory. A capital character sketch was that of Mr. Joe Livesey, who enacted Sergeant Manners with a resolute force that carried conviction. Mr. Charles Vivian capably sustained the rôle of the scheming Jasper Skinner, and quite realised the repulsive nature of the character. Mr. Paige Lawrence handled the part of Archie Bird with considerable tact and skill, and warm praise must be given to Mr. Syd Claydon, who kept the house in continuous good humour by his clever delineation of Timothy Clinker. Miss Gertrude Boswell made a deep impression by her pathetic impersonation of the dumb girl Ruth. Her pantomime in the last scene was one of the most telling incidents in the piece, and at its close she was accorded great applause. Miss Maisie Hanbury made a prepossessing Rose O'Connor, playing with confidence and skill throughout. An excellent exponent of comedy was found in Miss May Davis, whose impersonation of Dolly Fritter, a barmaid, was all that could be desired. As Mother Snaggs Miss Violet Vincent contributed a clever study of a drunken hag, and Miss Rosalie Notrelle made the most of her opportunities as Nurse Manners. The minor parts were all in safe hands, and the scenery and effects were excellent.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Aug. 24,
the Drama, entitled
"THE STILL ALARM."

This ever-popular American drama is making a welcome reappearance in this town, and, as usual, is attracting large audiences. The well-managed scene in Act 3, the Central Fire Station, New York, in which the two highly-trained horses Pegasus and Bucephalus appear, is the principal feature, and has a fascination of its own, and contributes in no small degree to the success of the play, which is accorded an enthusiastic reception from every part of the house. Mr. Mathew H. Glenville gives a powerful rendering of the part of the intrepid fireman Jack Manley which appeals to the audience, and is the recipient of flattering applause. Mr. Gerald Kennedy is entirely successful as the villain John Bird, and offers a good representation; Doc Wilber is most amusingly portrayed by Mr. Fred Osmond, who is a talented comedian; Mr. Tom Beasley as Willie Manley is also mirth-provoking, and lends valuable assistance; Mr. Lewis Gordon gives a good delineation of the part of Franklyn Fordham; Joe Jones is a quaintly-humorous individual in the capable hands of Mr. J. Sutton Pateman; Miss Beatrice Shirley as Elinor Fordham infuses sincerity and pathos into her characterisation; Miss Hettie Zillwood makes a piquant and attractive Carrie Wilber, and acts with ease and charm; Miss Mabel Veriton in the character of Mrs. Manley supplies a clever study of an old lady, which is naturally undertaken; the Lyric Comedy Four gain approval for their harmonious contributions.

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Aug. 24,
the Play entitled
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

Under the joint management of Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth, this handsomely-appointed theatre was reopened on Monday, when a hearty reception was accorded the play chosen for this auspicious occasion. *A Royal Divorce*, besides being excellently mounted and most capably presented by Mr. W. W. Kelly's efficient company, has stood the test of time, and has in no whit lost any of its former attractiveness, but still maintains its interesting features of human emotions and an impression of historical value. Mr. Keith Fraser gives a very clever impersonation of the self-willed and ambitious Napoleon, the character being boldly depicted; Miss Margaret Watson submits an excellent rendering of the part of the Empress Josephine, her acting being characterised by delicacy and feeling, obtains a hold on the audience, who accord her a flattering reception; Talleyrand is judiciously undertaken by Mr. Percy H. Vernon, who contributes an interesting study; Mr. Stanley Harrison as the Marquis de Beaumont delivers his lines with marked effect, and infuses dramatic power into his characterisation; Mr. Walter T. Clifford makes an acceptable General Augereau; and the same may be said for Mr. Harold S. Standing as Marshal Murat. An amusing interlude is supplied by Mr. Geo. Hudson as Grimaud, the drunken innkeeper of Genappe; Miss Maude Lacy shows aptness and command of comedy in the character of Stephanie de Beauharnais, and gains distinction; Marie Louise is carefully represented by Miss Winnie Tempest, Miss Ethel Love essays the part of the little King of Rome with much ability and charm.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 24, the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

A great attraction here this week has been Mr. Hall Caine's fine play *The Prodigal Son*, presented by Mr. Wentworth Croke's very adequate company. Mr. Charles Cooper gives a realistic impersonation of the sorely-tried father, Stephen Magnusson, and Miss Barbara Gott is consistent throughout as Anna, the wife. In the character of Magnus Stephensson Mr. Hugh Montgomery is very impressive, acting with much power, while the trying character of Oscar Stephensson is portrayed with much feeling by Mr. Gordon Macintosh. Mr. Philip Renouf is seen to advantage as the Factor, Oscar Neilson, and Miss Marie Harcourt gives a humorous impression of Margaret, his sister. In the unsympathetic rôle of Helga Neilson Miss Mildred Cottell acts with considerable force, and Miss Valerie Crespin gives a pathetic rendering of the suffering wife, Thora. This lady successfully doubles this character with that of Elin, her daughter, and in the latter character is responsible for a bright and taking performance. The many minor characters are all admirably placed, and the staging leaves nothing to be desired. The incidental music is supplied by the capable little orchestra under the direction of Mr. William Stephenson.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Aug. 24, the Drama, written and adapted by Dora Deane and Fred G. Brooke, entitled,
"TODD, FLEET STREET."

This sensational drama, in seven scenes, has afforded the West Londoners plenty of thrills, in which they revelled accordingly. As Sweeney Todd, the demon barber, Mr. Fred G. Brooke worked with grim determination and energy, the avaricious cupidity of the character being well emphasised; Mr. Dudman Bromwich looked every inch a soldier as Colonel Jeffery, in addition to which he gave his lines with particularly clear enunciation; Mr. George O'Brien proffered a life-like representation of the asylum keeper, Jonas Fogg; Mr. W. H. Perrette did the little he had to do as Mark Ingestre satisfactorily; and Mr. Harry Barford enacted Jimmy Jarvis with all his wonted force and tireless energy. Miss Clarice Shirley impersonated Toby Ragg in a telling and painstaking way; Miss Lena Flowerdew deserves every credit for her rendering of Mercy Ingestre; Miss Georgie White scored as Mrs. Lovitt; whilst Miss Beatrice May came in for a full share of applause for her bright and convincing rendering of Brenda Watson. The play was followed by a capital display of animated pictures, and concluded with a new drama-farce, written by Brien McCullough, entitled *The Tramps*, in which Mr. McCullough was well to the fore as Jerry Joskins.

CRICKET.

Played at Huddersfield, Aug. 19.

"The Breed of the Treshams" Team.—Winning, b Brook, 0; Rennior, c Parker, b Hurst, 17; Benjamin, b Hirst, 3; Eldred, b Brook, 5; Hill, b Brook, 7; Johnson, b Brook, 0; Walters, b Brook, 4; Brennan, b Hirst, 5; Dane, c Ewing, b Hirst, 3; Gunnell, c Ewing, b Hirst, 0; J. Walters, not out, 0; extras, 6; total, 50.

Huddersfield Wednesday.—Halstead, b Walters, 13; Parker, run out, 0; Hirst, b Walters, 2; Brook, c and b Benjamin, 2; Lee, c and b Benjamin, 0; Pilling, b Rennior, 4; Ranstage, c and b Benjamin, 17; Ewing, c and b Rennior, 11; Kaye, c Benjamin, b Rennior, 8; Bates, c Benjamin, b Rennior, 1; Moss, not out, 4; extras, 0; total, 62.

Played at Huddersfield, Aug. 20.

Hippodrome Artists.—H. J. Rennior, b Benjamin, 57; F. Eldred, c Benjamin, b Gunnell, 25; G. Kaye, run out, 2; F. Wilde, b Walters, 10; Bob Mezzetti, b Benjamin, 1; A. Saunders, b Benjamin, 4; A. Dyson, not out, 20; F. Carrell, b Benjamin, 0; extras, 5; total (for seven wickets, innings declared closed), 134.

"Breed of the Treshams Co.—Winning, c Eldred, b Rennior, 0; Walters, b Rennior, 9; Benjamin, b Rennior, 15; Moss, c and b Dyson, 16; Walters, b Dyson, 0; L. Gunnell, b Rennior, 6; Johnson, c Eldred, b Rennior, 6; Hill, b Dyson, 4; France, b Rennior, 0; Smith, not out, 0; extras, 16; total, 73.

"Way of the World" Co. v. Ayr.

Played at Ayr on Thursday last, the town team proving far too strong for the actors, and winning easily. Scores:—

"Way of the World" Co.—H. Sherwood Martin, b Cocrane, 2; Darcy Kelway, st Parkes, b Drinner, 2; Underwood, b Dewer, 8; Feggers, b Dewer, 0; Casey, b Drinner, 5; Sourbutts, c Parker, b Drinner, 0; Browse, c Drinner, b Stevens, 2; J. P. McBride, b Cocrane, 0; H. W. Day, not out, 14; Maybrain, c Drinner, b Montgomery, 21; Pat Quinn, b Drinner, 3; extras, 5; total, 69.

Ayr.—Parker, retired, 72; Dewer, c Feggers, b Sherwood Martin, 23; Montgomery, b Sherwood Martin, 4; Morton, retired, 58; J. E. Drinner, c Underwood, b Browse, 12; W. R. Drinner, b Browse, 6; J. W. Large, not out, 36; W. Stevens, b Browse, 0; Reid, b Sherwood Martin, 15; extras, 9; total, 235. R. G. Cocrane and Bramner did not bat.

Mr. Editor,—Sir, In last week's number of *The Era* it is stated that Miss Gertrude Le Sage took the part of Lucy in *Her Forbidden Marriage* at the Brixton Theatre. It should have been yours faithfully, Geraldine Le Sage, County Theatre, Bedford, Aug. 25, 1908.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"DARK DEEDS OF THE NIGHT."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Edward Thane, produced for the First Time at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, on Monday, Aug. 17.

Dr. Mortimer Caine	Mr. Frank Eaglesfield
Philip Bardsley	Mr. Victor Rowlands
Jack Brandon	Mr. Juan D'Alberti
Capt. Tom Cornish	Mr. Alfred Terris
Nicholas Pickles	Mr. Johnny MacIlroy
Joe Norton	Mr. W. Treloar
Tim O'Mallory	Mr. T. Conweigh
P.-C. Tom Norton	Mr. Cyril Havens
Mrs. Brandon	Miss Marie French
Ruth Maitland	Miss Gwen Stewart
Pollie Prince	Miss Gertie Reid
Dora Bardsley	Miss Corisande Hamilton

A visit to the Theatre Royal, Stratford, late last week found the audience deep in the enjoyment of the new piece with the above startling title. The play abounds with exciting situations, and is a story of mesmerism and crime, relieved here and there by the romantic element and real Irish humour, thus giving balance and brightness to the production.

The first scene shows the yacht of Philip Bardsley, a rich retired merchant, whose daughter, Dora, Dr. Mortimer Caine, a brain specialist, is determined to make his bride in order to secure her money, despite the fact that he is already married to a nurse named Ruth Maitland, whom he had cruelly deserted. Caine's purpose accomplished, he persuades Bardsley to make his will, making him (Caine) the sole trustee. This done, he murders Bardsley with a stiletto belonging to Jack Brandon, a young naval officer, and then proceeds to get his newly-found wife under his mesmeric influence. Dr. Caine tries to father the crime upon Jack Brandon, who had been Dora's accepted lover.

Jack seeks refuge in flight, and after many hardships next appears at Dr. Caine's London establishment in a destitute condition. Tim O'Mallory, his faithful friend, who has taken service with Dr. Caine to spy on him, assists him in masquerading as a keeper in Dr. Caine's private asylum for the insane. The doctor gets Ruth into his clutches, and does his utmost to render her hopelessly insane. In a scene which rouses the audience to the highest pitch of enthusiasm, Jack and Tim get the nurse safely away, and leave the doctor to "enjoy" a taste of his own torture. Driven to desperation, he murders his accomplice, and sets out for Miss Bardsley's yacht, now lying off Rotherhithe. Again he hypnotises his wife and suggests that she shall shoot Dora Bardsley at a given signal. At the critical moment Jack rushes forward and seizes the woman's hand. The revolver is fired, but the doctor receives the bullet he had intended for Dora Bardsley. There are other scenes, which are full of excitement, and the laughter at the comedy is almost continuous.

The piece received capable interpretation at the hands of Mr. H. Keates Hales' company, which is under the direction of Mr. C. Hamilton Baines. Dr. Caine's villainies were ruthlessly laid bare by Mr. Frank Eaglesfield, the actor coming through his difficult task with every credit. Mr. Juan D'Alberti made Jack Brandon an agreeably prominent figure of the cast, securing unbounded popularity by the breezy manner in which the part was taken. Mr. Victor Rowlands was good as Philip Bardsley, a retired merchant; Miss Corisande Hamilton played Dora Bardsley, the lass who loves a sailor, in winsome fashion and with dramatic skill; and her friend, Ruth Maitland, was adequately represented by Miss Gwen Stewart. Mr. Johnny MacIlroy contributed to the success of the piece as Nicholas Pickles; and Tim O'Mallory, in the hands of Mr. T. Conweigh and Polly Prince in those of Miss Gertie Reid proved amusing. The piece was admirably mounted, some of the sets being elaborately staged.

PROMENADE CONCERTS.

The first novelty of the season produced at the Promenade Concert at Queen's Hall on Thursday, Aug. 20, was M. Henri Duparc's aria "Phidyle." M. Duparc is a French composer of the modern school who has studied composition under César Franck. A symphonic poem, "Lénore," "Invitation au Voyage" and "Extase," two songs, are among his most important works. Owing to illness, "Phidyle" is the only composition produced by M. Duparc for many years, and although not particularly original in thought, the new aria contains pleasing melody, and is most ably scored for the orchestra. Miss Elyda Russell sang the solo part gracefully, and the new work had a favourable reception from the audience. Included also in the programme were Hadyn's early Symphony in D, Tschaikowsky's Symphonic Fantasia, "The Tempest," the charming overture to *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and the graceful "Rouet d'Omphale," by Saint-Saëns. Mr. Arthur Catterall gave an excellent account of Tschaikowsky's Violin Concerto in D, and in the vocal department Mr. Noel Fleming, in the air "Come, Margarita, come," from Sullivan's *Martyr of Antioch*, achieved distinct success.

The fine orchestral programme of the Promenade Concert given on Saturday, August 22, commenced with Rossini's *William Tell* overture, of which a most spirited account was given. The orchestra also were particularly happy in their interpretation of Mr. Coleridge-Taylor's Ballade in A Minor, Op. 33, first heard at the Gloucester Festival of 1898. Other excellent performances of the orchestra were in Haydn's Symphony in D No. 6 "Le Matin," the No. 4 in D of Elgar's march "Pomp and Circumstance," the Slavonic Dances No. 5 in A and No. 6 in D by Dvorák, and the concluding overture "Ruler of the Spirits" (Weber). Miss Caroline Hatchard sang "Ah! fors è lui," from *Traviata*, effectively, and Mr. Peter Dawson was heard to great advantage in Vulcan's air from Gounod's *Philemon et Baucis*. Mr. M. Wolthers gave a finished performance of Vieuxtemps' Violin Concerto in D Minor No. 4, and Mr. Wilfred James greatly pleased the audience with his bassoon solo "Humoresque," by E. Solomon.

The programme of Tuesday's Promenade Concert at Queen's Hall contained a large proportion of modern compositions. Sibelius's *En Aarga* was admirably interpreted by Mr. Wood's orchestra, and an excellent performance was also given on Strauss's extraordinary work, the *Symphonia Domestica*. The orchestra played Prelude to Act 3 of Wagner's *Die Meistersinger*, Weber's *Preciosa* overture, and gave a refined version of Gounod's *Hymne à Sainte Cécile*. In the "Wanderer Fantasia in C," for piano and orchestra, of Schubert, the brilliant playing of Miss Emily Suart in Liszt's difficult arrangement roused the audience to great enthusiasm. Miss Edith Clegg sang Mr. Granville Bantock's "Hymn to Aphrodite" with much expression, and Mr. Frank Dickinson gave an effective rendering of the once-popular song "I'm a Roamer," from Mendelssohn's *Son and Stranger*.

The dreams of Mr. F. Frankfort Moore, as described by himself in an article in the August *Pearson's Magazine*, are of a distinctly alarming character. He says: "I dream of being an actor, and going on in a play without knowing a word of my part; of being once more the editor of a daily newspaper, and seeing midnight arrive without having found a subject for my leader; of steering a yacht in a splendid breeze and finding it impossible to put the helm hard over to go about; of riding a horse that has taken the bit in his teeth; or of driving a motor that will not answer to the suggestion of the lever that retards the sparking, although a policeman with a gigantic stop-watch is plainly visible on the road."

STAGE CHILDREN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I am glad that "Playgoer," in his letter published in your journal last week on the subject of the salaries of stage children, confesses himself a "somewhat old-fashioned individual." His own designation, to my mind, places him out of court in a discussion as to the use to which the earnings of child performers should be put. Let me remind him—if, indeed, he is not already aware of the fact—that we have advanced considerably since the days when boys and girls of tender years were abducted by some wicked travelling mummer as they were returning home from school and made to assist in earning a livelihood for an itinerant rogue and vagabond! At that period, perchance, the only reward for the labours of the child was the bits of dry bread and the cuffs which formed his daily menu. Surely even "Playgoer" will admit that this is the age of the children—the age in which every exertion is put forth by the "grown-ups" to ensure their moral, physical, and educational welfare. New laws have been within recent years passed by Parliament to better the conditions of their upbringing and to make happier their school and home life. By the tone of "Playgoer's" letter I judge that he regards the children who perform on a stage as the modern successors of the Oliver Twists of Dickens' time!

The application which was brought before Mr. Mead at the Marlborough-street Police-court last week clearly demonstrated that the parents of the little actress for whom a licence was required had fully realised their duty towards their offspring. The girl had appeared in public on previous occasions, and had earned what I suppose would be described in professional language as "good money." Fifteen pounds of that money had been placed in a savings bank—we can doubt not for the future benefit of the child. But circumstances were overwhemingly against the parents. The father fell out of work. What was to be done? Was the family to starve on the ground of an exaggerated or absurd notion of honour? Such moral rectitude as this, and under these circumstances, becomes a wicked thing. The only sensible, the only right course that was open to the family in its poverty was to withdraw the savings of the child, and this is what the mother did. And we may be charitable enough to believe that she did it with the intention of returning the money at some future time if opportunity permitted.

In saying this I have not referred to the question of the expenses which we can well imagine the parents must have incurred in the theatrical training of the girl, not to mention her general education and upbringing. Whether the child earned money or not, the responsibility of the parents for the provision of a home and physical requirements, such as food, and medicine, and clothing, could not be neglected. And, surely, if the child did gain a few pounds by the employment of her talents, is there nothing to be said for the natural affection which in itself, and even assuming the coming of the wolf to the door of the parents, would under any circumstances be the very first consideration in the little home, at whatever sacrifice to the elders?

But what is the position of the acrobats whose children inherit a predilection for the profession their parents follow? What chance have they of becoming efficient in their work unless by partaking in actual exhibitions on a public stage? Even admitting that they contribute, by their efforts, to the earnings of those who have brought them into the world, the very fact that the latter are constantly at pains and expense to improve the training of the youngsters so as to place in their hands an honest and possibly lucrative means of livelihood is surely adequate return for whatever increment the children may bring to the family exchequer. And while this is going on the children have to be maintained in a perfect bodily condition.

No, I think that neither Mr. Mead nor "Playgoer" is justified in the demand that only ten per cent. of the stage child's wages should be handed to the parents. As to the appointment of a trustee to control these small earnings—this implies legal expenditure—that is a suggestion which is too ridiculous to merit serious consideration.—Yours faithfully,

COMMON SENSE.

SIR,—Everyone possessed of the faintest trace of common-sense must have read with a feeling of nausea the report of the maudlin sentimentalities indulged in by the Magistrate at Marlborough-street Police Court when hearing an application for permission for the appearance of a child of twelve years of age at two performances of *Madame Butterfly*. Magistrates administering law and justice in the Police Courts are generally supposed to be gifted with a considerable knowledge of the actualities of human life, especially among the lower classes; and, accordingly, the public, I feel sure, would rather peruse the elephantine pleasantries of another of our magistrates than tolerate the Pecksniffian platitudes of Mr. Mead.

It is really intolerable that a magistrate should avail himself of his position to inculcate such truisms as that "parents should support their children," &c. But the facts in this particular case should have acted as a deterrent to judicial ineptitudes. The permission to perform was to be for two performances only, one of them a matinée. The sum the child would earn was to be £2, and over this plethoric hoard the sapient oracle of Marlborough-street suggested to the solicitor appearing in the case the drawing up of a short deed of trust vesting the money in some independent person.

Solicitors are not, as a rule, philanthropists, and the most modest fee for such a transaction would about equal the whole sum involved. But there is a deeper issue involved in this matter. It suggests that the parents of a child should not act as the guardians of any moneys earned or accruing to children. Surely the magistrate must be cognisant of the immense sums of money lying in savings banks in parents' names for the benefit of children. And if at a time of necessity such sums could not be drawn upon for the upkeep of the household, wherein would the children benefit? As a matter of fact, they would be the greatest sufferers: If the wage-earner-in-chief should fall out of work, is it not better that any little money that the children may earn should be used for present needs than be hoarded at the discretion of some trustee for the future use of the children? As a matter of fact, in the present case such a contingency had occurred, and no suggestion was made that any misuse had been made of the child's earnings.

The sordid picture of the gin-soddened ghouls battening upon the hard-earned wages of their offspring may, perhaps, be still found in the pages of the trashy novelette, but its receiving the hallmark of judicial credence is no less than an outrage upon the respectability of the large class of parents whose children are able to earn money either in a pantomime or on the Queen's Hall platform. Into the general question of the appearance of such children I do not propose to go. Whether such experience is likely or not to be more or less baneful than their ordinary surroundings in our great cities is very much an open one. But certainly in this case the public has been treated to an exhibition of grandmotherly interference which would be ludicrous if it were not execrable in taste.—Yours, &c.

CITIZEN.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CHAT WITH MR. HARRY PHYDORA.

Mr. Harry Phydora, the well-known comedian, has just returned from a nineteen months' tour in Australia, and he has come back enamoured of our Antipodean colony. "Everything there seems to be going merrily," he says, "and I am going there again towards Christmas next year, probably for a long engagement. I only played two parts during the year and seven months I was in Australia and New Zealand—the title-rôle in the pantomime of *Mother Goose*, which we played under Mr. Williamson's management thirteen and a half weeks in Melbourne, and for eleven weeks in Sydney, and the rôle of Martha Dumpty in *Humpty Dumpty*. The playgoers out there demand the best of everything, and the productions, in order to secure any measure of success, have to be put on in the West-end style. Musical comedy seems to be the staple form of entertainment."

Mr. Phydora speaks of his various trips in Australasia from one part to another with all the enthusiasm of a schoolboy who has just returned from an enjoyable holiday. He possesses the power of description in no small degree. Take the following:—

"We had a lovely passage from Wellington to Lyttelton, and from there to Dunedin. The country simply unwrapped itself, and showed its wonderful variety. On one side it is practically Switzerland. A long range of mountains was covered with snow from peak to base—mountains, mind, not hills—and they looked so lovely and felt so cold, for if you opened the door an icy blast soon addressed itself to you. But until you reach what looks like the foot of these same mountains it is all grazing for cattle and under cultivation. On the other side of the carriage you look and see nothing but open sea and cliffs full of shrubbery, with an occasional quarry of beautiful white stone, from which some of the most modern and beautiful buildings in the South Island are being built. The stone has the property of hardening by exposure, so you may guess its value.

"One day I went about a hundred miles on a motor, 30 horse-power, and capable of sixty-five miles an hour, and she was tested occasionally. Again one can only say the scenery was lovely—up, up, over the hills, down to the sea, a run along the natural esplanade, and up again amongst the gorse and shadows, and down again. I shall never forget those mountains and views of the bays and sea, and tints of the shrubs, and the thousands of rabbits scurrying across the road to their burrows, frightened to death by the motor's announcement of its approach, which was not a

Photo by Wilson.

MR. HARRY PHYDORA.

horn, by the way, but a musical arrangement of three notes, gradually intensifying itself from a religious chant to a most unearthly shriek, if necessary." A travel book from Mr. Phydora would be fascinating reading.

The earlier years of Mr. Phydora's career were spent on the music-hall stage in various lines of business, but later he appeared on the "legitimate" boards in drama and burlesque. It was a fortunate evening for him when Messrs. J. T. Tanner and Herbert Blackmore came to the little theatre at Stratford, E., about seventeen years ago to see the principal girl in the pantomime. Mr. Phydora, playing a page part, was thus accidentally brought under their notice, and a three and a half years' contract with M. Van Biene was the result of the incident. It brought M. Phydora in touch with the class of work he considers himself most fitted for. He played the Doctor in *Ruy Blas*, the Sister in *Cinder-Ellen Up too Late*, and Lilias Pasta in *Carmen Up to Data*. This engagement seemed to pave the way for what followed. Mr. Phydora played Wun-Hi in *The Geisha*, at Daly's, at half an hour's notice. The management offered him the position of principal comedian for a South African musical comedy répertoire company, which he accepted, and "sailed away" on March 20, 1897, for the Cape. He had plenty of work, playing Biggs, in *Circus Girl*; Pompier, *The Gay Parisienne*; Wun-Hi, in *The Geisha*; Bertie White, in *The New Barmaid*; and Moses M'Gregor, in *My Girl*. How they yelled at this part in Johannesburg! Mr. Phydora returned, after fifteen months of most interesting travelling through Africa, over the battlefields up to Buluwayo (visiting the late Hon. C. Rhodes's tomb on the Matoppos), playing at such historical places as Worcester (the day peace was declared), De Aar, Beaufort West, Bloemfontein (where he was introduced to General Cronje on the platform), Mafeking (the hero of which, General Baden-Powell, painted a water-colour sketch of Mr. Phydora as Tweedlepunch, and personally presented it to him with two lines of appreciation and autograph, the same hanging in the place of honour in his Brixton flat), and Buluwayo. Another Johannesburg season followed, including all the large towns, Durban, Pietermaritzburg, Port Elizabeth, East London, finishing at the Cape again. After his first return from South Africa (November, 1897) Mr. Phydora was Geo. Edwardes's principal comedian in his No. 1 companies of *The Runaway Girl*, and played the part for two and a half years. Then Li, in *San Toy*, until he returned to Africa two months before the war finished to play Wun-Hi, *The Geisha*; Li, *San Toy*; Sammy Gigg, *The Toreador*, which he stage-managed and produced; Flipper, *A Runaway Girl*; Tweedlepunch, *Florodora*; and Endle S. Bounce, in *All at Sea*.

MR. CHAS. H. BOWMAKER, who for the past three and a half years has held the position as manager for Moss' Empires at Nottingham and Holloway, has booked a short seaside tour of *The Morals of Marcus* and a West End répertoire. The company has been organised by Mr. Ernest E. Norris, the well-known actor, who for some years ran the Elephant and Castle with much success. The tour opened in Herne Bay on Thursday.

THE MOODY-MANNERS COMPANY.

On Thursday last week was given the first performance this season of *Aïda*, the opera produced by order of the Viceroy at Cairo in 1871, and which was seen for the first time at Covent Garden under the Gye management on June 22, 1876, when Mme. Patti played the title-rôle, and her second husband, Signor Nicolini, appeared as Radamès—by no means a fortunate choice. The opera was supposed, in the day of its first production, to mark a new departure in the style of Verdi, but the veteran composer was to surprise his admirers with more modern tendencies in the score of *Othello*. In that of *Aïda* he was practically the same Verdi—with slight modifications—as had captured the ear of the musical world with the scores of *Il Trovatore* and *Rigoletto*. There is plenty of delightful melody in *Aïda*, and the Moody-Manners corps of artists did the opera full justice. Mr. Philip Brozel, by his impersonation of the impassioned warrior, Radamès, deepened the favourable impression he had made as Lohengrin, and his cultured voice and fervent style were heartily appreciated. Mme. De Vere Sapio's charm and sympathy were of great value in the part of Aïda, and she showed dramatic feeling throughout. Especially was this the case in the last act, when her acting realised completely the poignancy of the situation. Miss Toni Seiter repeated her successful impersonation of the Princess, and depicted the jealousy of the part with notable power. Mr. William Dever made a picturesque King of Ethiopia; Mr. Charles Magrath did well as the King of Egypt; and Mr. Charles Manners was a sonorous Ramphiz.

Tannhäuser was presented on Friday for the début of Mr. Louis Laurier. Mme. De Vere Sapio as Elizabeth, Mr. William Dever as Wolfram, and Mr. Charles Magrath as the King scored most unmistakably in these familiar parts; and the volume of tone produced by the Pilgrims showed the excellence of the chorus. The performance was under the direction of Herr Richard Eckhold, who secured a fine ensemble.

On Saturday afternoon Mme. Fanny Moody repeated her most interesting impersonation of Madame Butterfly in Puccini's opera, the new Pinkerton being Mr. Seth Hughes, who made an excellent impression. Miss Toni Seiter was again associated advantageously with the character of the faithful Suzuki.

An exceptionally fine performance of *Cavalleria Rusticana* was given on Saturday evening, when Mascagni's opera, with Leoncavallo's masterpiece, *Pagliacci*, filled the bill for the first time this season. Both works, dealing as they do with the elemental passions, are primitive but undeniably powerful; but it is strange that a better contrast is not secured by the presentation, with either of them, of Gounod's one-act opera, *Philémon et Baucis*, with its idyllic plot and fascinating music. The twin tragedies, however, were enthusiastically received, and it seemed, from the passion and power with which both were given, as if something of the spirit of the Sicilian players at the Shaftesbury had been imbibed by the performers. The casts were as follow:—

"CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA."

Turridu	MR. SETH HUGHES
Alfio	MR. LEWYS JAMES
Lucia	MISS M. BAKER
Lola	MISS M. RIGBY
Santuzza	MISS ENRIQUETA CRICHTON

"PAGLIACCI."

Canio	MR. PHILIP BROZEL
Tonio	MR. WILLIAM DEVER
Beppo	MR. DAVIS
Silvio	MR. LEWYS JAMES
Nedda	MISS KATE ANDERSON

Miss Enriqueta Crichton gave an intense individuality to the part of Santuzza, and her unrestrained acting imparted a powerful significance to the character; and Mr. Seth Hughes and Mr. Lewys James, in their passionate warmth and spirit, did not allow any of the tragic nature of the scenes to escape them, both singing finely. In the subsidiary parts of Lucia and Lola Miss M. Baker and Miss M. Rigby added much to the efficiency of the ensemble. The chorus sang exceedingly well, and Signor Romnaldo Sapio conducted *con amore*. In *Pagliacci* praise may be unreservedly bestowed upon Mr. Philip Brozel, whose Canio, if at times presented with too heavy a touch, was sincere and telling. He treated the monologue, "On with the motley," with an appealing dignity that went home. Mr. Lewys James makes great strides in his acting, and the young Welsh baritone made a fervent and emotional Silvio. Mr. William Dever was duly mercurial as Tonio, and sang the Prologue with much beauty of tone. Miss Kate Anderson cleverly realised the girlish frivolity and thoughtlessness of Nedda; and Mr. Davis was effective as Beppo. Signor Sapio again conducted. The house was packed and most enthusiastic.

The production of *Tristan and Isolda* on Tuesday marked the point of highest artistic achievement of the Moody-Manners' lyrical and orchestral forces. The wonderful skill, the dramatic feeling, and the creative power of Wagner were recognised by us when the opera was produced for the first time in England by a German company at Drury Lane in 1882, but our critic at the time expressed considerable doubt as to whether it would ever become popular. But the cult of Wagner has advanced by leaps and bounds since then, and the story of the box-office at Covent Garden last season is a proof that *Tristan and Isolda* grows in favour. Its interpretation bristles with difficulties for the principals, the tenor rôle especially being beset by them; and the passion and fervour of the love scenes demands greater acting abilities than are generally to be found in conjunction with the necessary vocal endowment. The audience, a sympathetic and cultured one, found much to admire in the rendering, and enthusiastically acclaimed the powerful and finished representation of the Irish heroine by Miss Enriqueta Crichton, whose artistic endowment and dramatic instinct enabled her to present a wholly satisfying realisation of Isolda's romantic temperament and passionate impulse. She found in Mr. Philip Brozel a coadjutor who in the great love duet of the second act rose to the occasion, and met every demand of the part, displaying considerable warmth. In Brangäne's scene with Isolda Miss Toni Seiter treated the vividly dramatic passages with the necessary breadth. Mr. Charles Magrath made an imposing and dramatic figure of King Mark; Mr. William Dever more than adequately sustained the musical and histrionic responsibilities of the rôle of Kurwenal; and Mr. T. C. Fairbairn was the Melot. The orchestra was under the direction of Herr Richard Eckhold, whose skill in controlling his forces cannot be too highly praised.

Gounod's *Faust* was given on Wednesday morning, and the same evening *Lohengrin* was repeated with a cast that differed almost entirely from that of the opening night. Mme. de Vere-Sapio's Elsa is well known, and the purity of the character and its dreamy self-absorption and devotion were again well emphasised, the beautiful music being also well sung. Mr. Charles Carter's Lohengrin is a considerable improvement on his Tannhäuser, and Mr. William Dever again showed his ability as an actor and his power as a singer in the exacting rôle of Tetramund. In the rôle of Ortrude Miss Roger did her abilities greater justice than was possible on the opening night, when she made her début in the character—a very trying ordeal. Mr. F. Cliffe was the Herald, and Herr Eckhald conducted.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

OUR MUSICAL DIRECTORS.

A CHAT WITH MR. DAN GODFREY.

(BY OUR ROVING COMMISSIONER.)

That stately queen of South-coast watering places, Bournemouth, tackled the problem of music for its visitors some fifteen years ago in a much more broad-minded fashion than might have been expected at a time when municipal enterprise was more or less in the clouds. These pioneers of music for those seeking health "by the sad sea waves" not only had initiative but patriotism; for to slightly alter the words of Sir William Schwenk Gilbert, "In spité of all temptations to choose from other nations, they chose an Englishman." They did not search the Conservatoires of Paris, Berlin, Leipzig, or Prague for a foreigner, but selected a former student of the Royal College of Music—none other than Dan Godfrey, jun., the clever son of a celebrated father, whose fame as a military bandmaster is not likely to be forgotten.

It was in 1893 that the Bournemouth Corporation decided to lease the Winter Gardens, and to engage Mr. Godfrey, whose natural gifts had been carefully fostered, and whose youthful enthusiasm for Continental composers did not obscure his appreciation of the beauties of the somewhat neglected orchestral works of his own countrymen. The names of Edward Elgar, A. C. Mackenzie, F. H. Cowen, Arthur Sullivan, Edward German, Charles V. Stanford, Sterndale Bennett, Hamilton Harty, W. H. Speer, Arthur Hervey (recently the musical critic of the *Morning Post*), and others figured in the list of composers for the Monday classical concerts commencing in October last year. At these Monday "Pops" at Bournemouth, indeed, much encouragement is given to *incogniti* among young English composers, who are often invited to conduct their own works. The representative works of the "moderns" of the Continental schools have also their proper place in the schemes of Mr. Godfrey. The "scarlet" and "purple" tonal effects of Richard Strauss, the weird imaginings of the Finnish composer, Jean Sibelius, and the unusual harmonic progressions of Claud Debussy (whose opera founded on Maeterlinck's *Pelléas et Mélisande*, was produced at the Opera-Comique, Paris, April 30, 1902) have all been heard and appreciated at Bournemouth, whose visitors and residents have excellent taste, if we may judge by the comprehensive scheme of last winter's concerts. At these the total number of works performed were 243. Of the new numbers, British composers supplied thirty-two, and the compositions, old and new, of British musicians totalled sixty-two. A musical contemporary, therefore, in speaking of Mr. Godfrey's work, is completely justified in saying that he "has done the most singularly remarkable work in musical England, in rapidly traversing the whole field of musical literature. Indomitable energy in seeking out new domains to conquer, and the will to make the best of small things and of difficulties, have brought about unique results."

[Photo by Miell and Miell.

MR. DAN GODFREY.

We have been writing of the more serious side of Mr. Godfrey as a musical pioneer. It must be remembered, however, that he is not only orchestral director, but general manager, and in this last capacity is responsible for all that concerns the business side of Bournemouth's municipal catering. He has a nice discrimination in his selection of "varieties," and the best concert parties of the country are heard not only in the Winter Gardens, but on the Pier and other popular rendezvous. In fact, the visitor to Bournemouth has music and entertainment wherever he or she goes; and the magnificent tram service brings visitors from Poole, Southbourne, and the rapidly-growing districts of Parkstone and Pokesdown, so that the responsibilties of such a post as that held by Mr. Godfrey are becoming more onerous every year.

Mr. Godfrey, whom we found busy rehearsing, is enthusiastic when he talks of music, but of himself he modestly says very little. We glean the following facts concerning his career from a local magazine. Born in 1868, he was educated at King's College, and afterwards pursued his studies in Germany. He studied the clarionet under Lazarus, and played this instrument as a student at the Royal College of Music, where he remained for three years.

He afterwards passed the examination of licentiate in bandmastership at the Royal Academy in 1890, and was nominated for the bandmastership of the First Life Guards by His Majesty (then Prince of Wales), but was unable to take up the appointment owing to the Kneller Hall regulations as to enlistment in the ranks and a long course of training at Kneller Hall, which Mr. Godfrey did not care to go through, as he had already important appointments securing a good income even at the age of twenty. Subsequently he became conductor of the London Military Band, but relinquished that after a short while to go to South Africa as director of an opera company.

On his return, as the result of negotiations with the Bournemouth Town Council in 1893, he undertook, as we have previously intimated, to provide a band for Bournemouth—of thirty artists in the summer and fourteen in the winter. Later the Council decided to make the winter band one of twenty-three instead of fourteen. Mr. Godfrey did not then give his whole time to Bournemouth, and, as a matter of fact, except during August and September, he conducted the band himself on two days a week only. But the value of his services was plainly evident, and in 1894 he was appointed by the Corporation resident musical director and adviser and entertainment manager. The band remained at the same strength during the summer of 1894, and numbered twenty-five during most of the winter months.

In the year 1895 the Bournemouth Winter Orchestra was increased to thirty-one, and with this small number, augmented as circumstances permitted by local musicians, Mr. Godfrey began his famous series of Symphony Concerts. In 1896 the Town Council, after much consideration, came to the important decision to themselves "engage and pay" the band, and to secure Mr. Godfrey as their adviser at a stated salary. And so Mr. Godfrey gave up his London connection, and became musical director to the corporation and conductor of the first and finest permanent municipal orchestra in the kingdom.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, AUG. 27.—I have the regret to announce the death of Louis Varney, who passed away at the age of sixty-four, after a short illness. Varney had his hour of glory when he brought out *Les Mousquetaires au Convent*, his chef d'œuvre, which is still being produced with great success. In one of his operettas, *L'Amour Mouillé*, which was given in London at the Lyric in 1898, Miss Evie Greene made a hit that immediately secured her a position as a London actress in musical comedy. Mr. W. Yardley adapted it for the English stage. Varney's music is very tuneful, but he stuck to the old methods, and was violently opposed to the new school. Fortunately for him, he had some strong backers, who, for the last few years, have monopolised many of our theatres, and as he formed part of their clique, it was always he who was entrusted with the task of supplying the necessary music. He was a kind-hearted, amiable man, who will be much regretted by his friends; but his death may open a new field for young composers, who hitherto have been kept in the background.

Israël is the title of the new piece, by M. Henry Bernstein, with which Mme. Réjane will inaugurate the new season. The rehearsals will begin the first days in September, and the première has been fixed for October 6. There will be only one woman's rôle. It will of course be played by Mme. Réjane, who, if we can believe rumours, will score a decided hit. Altogether, the cast will be exceptionally strong, and will comprise that excellent actor M. de Max, M. Armand Baur, M. Louis Gauthier, M. Signoret, M. Duquesne, and M. Tréville.

The new regulations as regards the Paris theatres—proposed by our eminent colleague, M. Henri Turot—will be put into force in the beginning of the coming season. The document, signed by M. Lépine, the Police Prefect, is too long to reproduce here, but I hereby give a few clauses that are particularly interesting. M. Turot having drawn the attention of the authorities to the fact that from an hygienic point of view the dressing-rooms of the "supers" are in a disgraceful condition, stringent orders are now given to put these in proper repair and to have them well ventilated. It is also specially stipulated that all costumes, wigs, &c., are to be cleaned and disinfected before they are worn by another person. All chandeliers to be suspended by two powerful chains, each of which strong enough to support ten times the weight of the chandelier.

An important clause in the new regulations is the one relating to the sale of tickets. Henceforth it is forbidden to sell these in the streets, and any person transgressing this rule will be severely punished. Nor will ticket sellers be allowed—as was hitherto the case—to accost people in the streets and take them to a neighbouring café to negotiate the sale. Clause 214 allows the authorities to close any establishment where a performance is given likely to injure public morality or lead to a breach of the peace.

Another clause that will be hailed with delight by artists in small provincial music-halls is the one prohibiting managers from compelling them to enter the hall in order to accept drinks from customers or offer tickets for sale, &c.

For years this disgraceful practice has been going on with impunity in small towns, a practice degrading in every way to the unfortunate artists. It is quite time that it should be stopped.

Clause 220 will rouse the ire of the fair sex. It deals with the terrible theatre hat. "Henceforth," says the clause, "it will be strictly prohibited to disturb systematically a performance or to prevent persons from 'seeing' or 'hearing' what goes on on the stage." And, for fear of being misunderstood, it is added that this prohibition specially refers to persons whose hats are a nuisance to those seated behind them. The former, therefore, are bound to remove their headgear at the first request, failing which they are liable to prosecution. In future, too, all performances—theatres or variety entertainments—must not last longer than midnight.

Some of the clauses will rouse protests on the part of managers, and it is not unlikely that a few of them will be slightly modified. On the whole, however, they are the outcome of common sense, and, as such, are likely to give general satisfaction.

One of our confrères has taken the trouble of drawing up a list to see whether those to whom first prizes were awarded at the Conservatoire afterwards became celebrated in their theatrical career. Until 1870 we find among them the names of Samson, the Brohans, Got, Delaunay, Prudhon, Coquelin cadet, Mlle. Reichemberg, and Mlle. Croizette; but it is curious to note that in 1868 Mme. Sarah Bernhardt and Coquelin aîné only received second prizes. M. Léautaud, who had a second prize in 1859, left the boards and became prompter. Next we have, in 1875, Mlle. Samary; in 1878 Mme. Sisos and M. Lucien Guitry; in 1879 M. Le Bargy; in 1880 M. de Féraudy; in 1881 M. Galipaux and Mme. Marguerite Durand, who afterwards founded the feminist journal *La Fronde*; in 1882 M. Raphaël Duflos; in 1883 Mlle. Brandès and M. Albert Lambert fils; in 1885 Mme. Segond-Weber; in 1886 Mlle. Du Minil, Mme. Panot (the mother of Mlle. Piérat, the youngest Sociétaire in the Comédie-Française); in 1887 M. Desjardins; in 1889 M. Tarride and M. Abel Deval, now manager of the Athénée; in 1890 Mlle. Moreno, Mme. Silvain, Mlle. Duluc, M. Fordyce; in 1893 Mlle. Grumbart and M. Fenoux; in 1894 M. Magnier; in 1895 MM. Siblot, Lara, and Coste; in 1896 M. Prince; in 1897 Mlle. Suzanne Desprès and Mlle. Henriot, the unfortunate actress who lost her life in the great fire at the Comédie-Francaise; in 1898 M. Talrick and Mlle. Parny; in 1899 Mlle. Marthe Regnier, M. Signoret, M. Séverin; in 1900 Mlle. Garrick, Mlle. Madeleine Aubry.

Those who received awards during the last seven years have hardly had time to distinguish themselves; but the foregoing list shows that the Paris Conservatoire has produced many splendid actors and actresses, although it is but fair to add that some great artists, like Antoine, Paul Mounet, Gémier, and Marie Leconte never passed through our great national school. But they are the exceptions.

AN International Theatrical Exhibition is to be held at Milan in 1913, on the initiative of the Società Esposizione Industriale Permanente, to celebrate the first centenary of the birth of Giuseppe Verdi. The exhibition will be divided into three chief sections:—(1) The theatre (buildings and representations); (2) Music (instruments and musical interpretations); (3) artists and theatrical literature (works of art, biographies, manuscripts, &c.).

MME. MELBA, in common with many other artists who visit America, has experienced much discomfort through the overheated state of her dressing-room. She has accordingly addressed an "ultimatum" to Mr. Hammerstein, proprietor of the Manhattan Opera, New York, where she is to open in December. After praising the entrepreneur for his skill and courage, the diva concludes: "If my dressing-room is too hot again, I'll run away and you will never catch me again."

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham, still in the enjoyment of his invigorating holiday at Ems, has secured a new play by Mr. Clyde Fitch, called *The Happy Marriage*, for production in the course of his London season. The play, it is stated, is to be produced this autumn in America.

First nights follow each other in regular succession from this evening onwards up to and including the 9th prox. The season begins to-night with *Pete* at the Lyceum, and *The Early Worm* will be brought out at Wyndham's on Monday. September starts on Tuesday with *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* at the St. James's, and *Idols* will be set up at the Garrick on Wednesday. Attention will be divided on Thursday between *The King of Cadonia* at the Prince of Wales's and *What Every Woman Knows* at the Duke of York's, a triple clash having been averted by postponing the production of *The Old Firm* at the Queen's from Thursday to the following evening.

A brilliant finish to the week will be given by Mr. Tree's production of *Faust* at His Majesty's on Saturday. The second week of the season will start with a suburban production, namely, that of *The Sailor's Wedding* at the Marlborough; but the West End will again exact attention on the following day, for which both *The Duke's Motto* at the Lyric and *Paid in Full* at the Aldwych are underlined. Wednesday will welcome Mr. Martin Harvey at the Adelphi, where he will revive his interesting production of *The Corsican Brothers*. After that there is a lull for a whole week.

Mr. H. B. Irving has secured a lease of the Shaftesbury, where he will begin a season in October with *The Lyons Mail*, which was so closely associated with the popularity of his distinguished father. The piece, it will be remembered, is the work of the late Charles Reade, and is an adaptation of *Le Courrier de Lyons*, brought out at the Gaîté, Paris, in 1850. It was first produced four years later under the title of *The Courier of Lyons* at the Princess's, with Charles Kean as Dubosc and Lesurques, Miss Caroline Heath as Jeanette, Miss Carlotta Leclercq as Julie, and Miss Kate Terry as Joliquette. Sir Henry Irving's production at the Lyceum was made on May 19, 1877, under the altered title of *The Lyons Mail*, when Miss Isabel Bateman played Jeanette.

Mr. Irving is appearing successfully on tour in the double rôle, Jeanette being embodied by Miss Dorothea Baird (Mrs. Irving). *The Lyons Mail* is intended to fill in the interval required for rehearsing Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy's new play, *Cæsar Borgia*, which has already won the approval of the provinces, and it is probable that Mr. Irving will revive Mr. W. G. Wills's historical drama, *Charles I.*, another of Sir Henry's triumphs.

The tour on which Mr. Irving is now engaged lasts till October 10. Great enthusiasm was aroused during his visit to the Gaiety, Dublin, last week. At the conclusion of Saturday's performance the popular actor had to make a speech, and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, I can very honestly say that I find it impossible to find words with which to adequately express my heartfelt thanks on my own behalf, and on behalf of my wife, for your generous appreciation of our work this week. It has been a week of arduous work, but I cannot tell you how it has been lightened by your sympathetic appreciation, and we look forward with sincere pleasure to the time when we shall again have the pleasure of appearing before a Dublin audience."

Miss Lottie Venne on Monday returned from a short holiday, and resumed her part of Mrs. Parker Jennings in *Jack Straw* at the Vaudeville Theatre. The comedy, which is now being represented by the original cast, will run right through the autumn and winter.

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton authorise us to state that there is no foundation whatever for the rumour that they are contemplating an engagement in connection with the new Millionaires' Theatre in New York. Their autumn plans have already been announced in this column, and if a suitable theatre is forthcoming their tour will be followed by the production of *Count Hannibal* in London, while, in addition, a late spring tour has been booked. There is a possibility of these gifted artists visiting the United States in the autumn of 1909 under the auspices of Mr. Frohman.

Mr. Courtice Pounds, who has been enjoying a very successful tour in the halls with his comedy and vocal sketch *Charles, His Friend*, will shortly be added to the cast of *Havana* at the Gaiety. The part designed for Mr. Pounds is being specially written up.

The fate of the matinée hat in Paris seems at length to have been sealed. The Prefect of Police has issued a stringent rule enacting that any person whose hat obstructs the view of members of the audience shall be required to comply with any request having for its object the cessation of the nuisance. If anyone therefore finds that a hat worn by someone in front interferes with his or her view of the performance, and if the wearer refuses to remove it, the person making the complaint can refer the matter to one of the policemen stationed in the theatre, when if the complaint is well founded the officer will insist on the hat being removed.

The regulations have aroused considerable interest on this side of the Channel. London managers can detect a slight abatement of the hat nuisance. They say that when a lady is asked to remove her hat the request is generally at once complied with.

Miss Lena Ashwell is very tactful. With a feminine insight into the sense of humour possessed by her sex, she has a notice printed on the curtain of the Kingsway Theatre thanking her lady patrons for having removed their hats and thus enabling everyone to see the play in comfort. The hint has had wonderful results. Mr. Tree would like to see it a universal practice for ladies to remove their hats in theatres; Mr. Frederick Harrison is of a similar opinion; and Mr. Cyril Maude says: "Voluntary reform on the subject, if introduced by the ladies, would be a splendid thing for audiences and managers."

Mr. Granville Barker will be the hon. examiner at the twenty-fourth annual examination recital in connection with the Polytechnic School of Elocution presided over by Mr. and Mrs. Hasluck, which will be held in the Great Hall, Regent-street, on Tuesday next at eight.

Mr. Charles Frohman's day is a busy one. From interesting details supplied it is found that on one eventful day in New York the enterprising manager reached his office at 8.30. After going through his correspondence, and conferring with his various managers, he proceeded at 10.30 to the Empire, where he started the rehearsal of a new play. The practice ended at one o'clock, and a quarter of an hour later found him directing the preparations for *Jack Straw*. At four o'clock he went to the Savoy Theatre to conduct *Diana of Dobson's*, and at 7.30 he was in the thick of rehearsals of *Fluffy Ruffles* at the Criterion. This task occupied him until 11.30 p.m., by which time it will hardly be disputed that, like the village blacksmith, he had earned a night's repose.

Mr. Seymour Hicks is lamenting the loss of another of the ladies of his company. He is playing in Dublin this week, and was meditating over the success of *The Gay Gordons* at the Theatre Royal, when his agreeable reflections were interrupted by the arrival of the following brief telegram:—"Shall not be back. So sorry. Am married." The message announced the wedding of Miss Elsie Kay, a member of the cast of *The Gay Gordons*, and one of the original "Gibson Girls." The bridegroom is Mr. Ronald McAndrew, a young man of about twenty-four, and the only son of Mr. McAndrew, a partner in the great shipbuilding firm of Laird and McAndrew, of Liverpool and Glasgow.

The story of the marriage is attended by the customary features. Miss Kay arrived in Dublin last Monday week with Mr. Seymour Hicks and his company to fulfil a fortnight's engagement. She had met Mr. Ronald McAndrew shortly before, and became engaged to him. When the lady left Liverpool for Dublin Mr. McAndrew travelled by the same boat. For a week he occupied each night a front seat in the stalls of the Theatre Royal. Last Monday Miss Kay obtained a day's leave from Mr. Seymour Hicks, and, with her fiancé set out for London, where the marriage took place the day after arrival.

Mr. Hicks takes a philosophic view of his loss. "I am awfully glad Miss Kay is happy," he said, "but it is a bit rough on me. Really, I don't see how I am going to come back to Dublin; I am always losing girls here. There was Miss Gates. She left me in Dublin, to marry Baron von Ditten. Then there was Miss Eva Carrington. It was in Dublin that she met Lord de Clifford, who promptly robbed us of her. Now there's Miss Kay. And was not Dublin responsible for Miss Rosie Boote's matrimonial fate? Seriously, I think it's due to the fact that our 'show girls,' as the stage phrase goes, are really nice people—ladies, you know. One hates the word for a description of nice women, but you know what I mean—and all these marriages have turned out really well."

Miss Ellis Jeffreys met with a painful mishap while travelling with Mr. Herbert Sleath to Blackpool, where they were to appear in *A White Man*. She was struck on the shoulder and badly bruised by a piece of coal from a passing express.

Mr. Percy Hutchison and company, in *Brewster's Millions*, have established another record, this time at Yarmouth. Mr. Nightingale's charming theatre has been crowded every evening, hundreds being turned away nightly. So great, indeed, has been the demand for seats that it was necessary to close the ordinary entrances and admit the crowds waiting for admission by early door only. Mr. Hutchison plays the young financier Monty Brewster whose efforts to rid himself of a cumbersome fortune prove so enthralling, and as his escapades form the pith and marrow of the play, the young actor has a formidable task in the discharge of which he becomes manifestly responsible for the success achieved.

The continued success that is attending *Lady Frederick* on tour, with Mrs. Brown-Potter in the title-rôle, is gratifying to the energetic Hutchison management, whose roll of records is increasing week by week. At Harrogate last week the performance was witnessed by H.R.H. Prince Francis of Teck, Lady Helen Vincent, Lady Julia Duff, Lady de Gray, and Mrs. Cornwallis West. This is the fifth occasion on which the Hutchison management have been honoured by the presence of Royalty at their various productions. Mrs. Brown-Potter is breaking records wherever she goes, and the advance booking is enormous. Next week Mrs. Potter will appear at Folkestone and Eastbourne, where the demand for seats has been so great that prices have been raised.

The servant question will be attacked by Mr. Jerome K. Jerome in a new comedy which he has designed for Miss Fannie Ward on her return from America in a few weeks' time. The piece is in four acts and has the title of *Fanny and the Servant Problem*. Miss Ward will appear in it at a West End theatre, for which arrangements are yet to be made.

Mr. Wentworth Croke has returned to London fit and well after a very health-giving and most interesting motor tour from London to John-o'-Groats. He is already busy making preparations for his coming winter season with established enterprises and new ventures.

We cordially congratulate Mr. Charles Boult, general manager for Mr. R. A. Roberts, on his forthcoming marriage with Miss Dora L. Hampson, third daughter of Mr. Charles G. Hampson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. The ceremony will take place at Leeds on Oct. 6 quite quietly owing to the recent death of Miss Hampson's brother. Our readers will, we are sure, join us in wishing Mr. Boult and his bride a long and prosperous married life.

St. Saviour's Church, St. George's-square, S.W., was the scene on Tuesday last of the wedding of Mr. W. Howard Ashley (Mr. Norman V. Norman's business-manager) and Miss Etta Hyslop, the niece of Mr. Walter Hyslop. The ceremony took place at noon, before a large number of guests. Mr. Ashley was the gratified recipient of a handsome engraved gold-mounted cigar-case from the company, an engraved silver cardcase from Mr. Norman, and an elegant writing-case, also engraved, from Miss Beatrice Wilson, Mr. Norman's leading lady. The bride and bridegroom left the same day for Southsea, where they stay a week, and afterwards depart for the New Forest for a month.

As Miss Julia Neilson is still recuperating, the leading parts with Mr. Fred Terry on his tour will be played by Miss Miriam Lewes, who has sustained similar responsibilities with much distinction in London and the provinces.

Mr. Kenneth Blackmore, general secretary of the Actors' Union, returns from his vacation on Monday. At the weekly meeting at the Hummums Hotel next Tuesday Miss Amy Coleman will take the chair.

Miss Rose Moncrieff will produce at the Globe Theatre, Deal, on Sept. 17 a new play entitled *The Bells of Old York*, by Rass Challis, with music by Frank Bradsell. Mr. Challis, it may be added, is the author of *The Curate*, which for so many years enjoyed a prosperous tour of the provinces.

The death took place on Saturday of the Rev. T. H. Simon, curate of Holy Trinity Church, Shaw, Lancashire, who will be remembered as an actor under the name of St. Bernard Wyntour. He entered the dramatic profession at the age of nineteen, and played leading parts for six years, creating amongst others the title-rôle in Mr. Alfred C. Calmour's play *Jevan the Prodigal*, produced at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, in the October of 1905. Mr. Simon, who was only twenty-seven, was ordained by the Bishop of Manchester last June.

Alluding to the death of the young cleric, Mr. Alfred C. Calmour, the author of *Jevan the Prodigal*, writes: "It was in consequence of the devotional aspect of the character in my play that the young actor turned his thoughts towards the Church. This is perhaps the only instance of a player being moved to take up the work of a priest from the character he nightly portrayed on the stage."

Mr. Martin Harvey will furnish an interesting variant during his season at the Adelphi, which commences on Wednesday, Sept. 9, with *The Corsican Brothers*. The play will fill the bill for four weeks; but it will be preceded each week by a different one-act piece, in all of which Mr. Harvey will himself appear. The first will be *The Conspiracy*; the second *The House of Pierre*, in which Miss N. de Silva will reappear; and the third *Ib and Little Christina*; the quartet being completed by *A Tragedy of Truth*.

All the playlets mentioned have already been seen either in London or the provinces. The last-named piece, with musical accompaniment, it will be remembered, created a very favourable impression when produced at the Adelphi in the summer of 1907. Mr. Harvey will play the part of Michael, which was previously sustained by Mr. Henry Ainley. Miss N. De Silva and Miss Kate Rorke will also be in the cast, and, in fact, the chief actor will be supported by the leading ladies and gentlemen of his company in all these one-act plays.

The popular actor is just finishing his short provincial tour, in the course of which he is visiting Llandudno, Buxton, Harrogate, and Middlesbrough. A conspicuous success has been won with the revival at Harrogate of *After All*, the play by Messrs. Freeman Wills and Langbridge, founded on Lord Lytton's novel "Eugene Aram." In the West Riding interest in the powerful story of Knaresborough is still vigorous, and Mr. Harvey's Eugene was accorded a great reception this week.

Miss Barbara Glyn, who is playing Dorothy in *The Lady from Ostend* at Sheffield this week, has found a congenial outlet for her talents, and gives a charmingly natural rendering of the young wife. It is a performance cast in a comedy mould rather than that of broad farce, but the amusing character of the part is by no means impaired by the artistic colouring which Miss Glyn gives to it.

Mr. C. H. Workman is now enjoying a well-earned holiday, and his place at the Savoy is being filled by Mr. Henry A. Lytton, who has been appearing as Dick Deadeye in *Pinafore*. Mr. Workman returns to the Savoy on Friday, Sept. 4.

"His House in Order" is to be brought out at the Paris Vaudeville in the course of the coming season. The French translation of Mr. Pinero's great play is to be entitled *La Maison est en Ordre*.

The run of *The Mollusc*, which, with Mr. Yorke Stephens in Sir Charles Wyndham's rôle, is nearing its 300th performance at the Criterion, will be continued until the production of the new play. The Saturday matinées will be resumed on Sept. 5.

Mr. J. A. Cave, the octogenarian actor, who is spending the evening of a busy life at the Charterhouse, has been suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism, which has kept him in bed for three weeks. Thanks to the kind treatment of the resident doctor and matron and their nurses, Mr. Cave is rapidly regaining his health.

Miss Fanny Moody, the popular prima-donna of the Moody-Manners company, has received from a Somerset schoolboy a rhymed request for her autograph. The lines are neatly turned, and run as follows:—

"Of autographs of those of fame
I've gathered not a few,
But one illustrious name I miss,
And, madam, that is you.

So kindly send one little line
A schoolboy's heart to cheer,
And make his autographic book
A thousand times more dear.

And as we cannot see what time
May have for us in store,
For I may be Lord Chancellor
(Or even something more);
When that event takes place I'll see
That you shall have a line from me."

In granting the request, Miss Moody also made a poetic but practical reply:—

"My friend, you make me feel quite shy,
You praise so very neatly.
To meet your wishes I will try,
But I must ask, discreetly,
That you will also grant my wish,
Now do not think you're dunned,
Just kindly send me half-a-crown
'Tis for the Actors' Fund."

An eminently suitable answer which might well be, and very often is, copied by members of the profession in so far as the fund is concerned.

The Moody-Manners Opera Company will next week bring their short but highly-successful season of Grand Opera in English to a close. The works selected are: Monday, *Tannhäuser*; Tuesday and Friday, *Madame Butterfly*; Wednesday afternoon, *Lohengrin*; Wednesday evening, *Faust*; Thursday, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, to be followed by *Pagliacci*; and Saturday afternoon, *Aïda*. In response to numerous and repeated requests Mr. Manners has decided to end the season by giving Benedict's beautiful opera, *The Lily of Killarney*. Before commencing their provincial tour the company will appear for a week at the Kennington Theatre, starting Sept. 7.

The latest embellishment to *Butterflies* at the Apollo is a new song for Mr. Louis Bradfield, entitled "Puck," written by Mr. Ralph Roberts and set to music by Mr. Harold Lonsdale. A casual remark by Mr. W. J. Locke gave the idea for the new lyric, which explains in humorous rhyme the attitude of Puck throughout the play.

Mr. Leonard Shepherd, who has been holiday-making in Wales and Devonshire, recalls for the States to-day, together with his wife, Miss Helena Head, by s.s. Grampian, Miss Head to resume her part of Florence Trenchard with Mr. E. H. Sothern in his revival of *Lord Dundreary*.

Mr. Norman Bowyer has been engaged to play the part of Reginald Racket in *The Flower Girl*. The new musical comedy is making a gratifying success in every town, the fine and elaborate scenery and beautiful dresses being particularly admired. The production is under the capable direction of Mr. F. Martin Morris.

The well-known operatic tenor Carl Burrian, who came specially from Bayreuth to sing before King Edward at Marienbad, was arrested under dramatic circumstances after the performance on Saturday night. Bailiffs entered the theatre to arrest Herr Burrian for a debt of £160 as he was preparing to go on the stage to sing Siegfried. It was pointed out to them that if they took the artist it was impossible to replace him, and that the opera was being given at the King's special request. The bailiffs agreed that the King's enjoyment should not be disturbed, and Herr Burrian was allowed to sing.

When the curtain fell the bailiffs stepped on the stage and arrested him. Herr Burrian contracted the debt as a penalty for failing to appear at Graetz when under engagement. He states that Herr Dippel, director of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, and Herr Weingartner, director of the Vienna Opera House, had promised to pay the amount for him.

"The Marriages of Mayfair" is the euphonistic and comprehensive title that has been finally decided upon for the new Drury Lane drama, the first performance of which is fixed for Thursday, Sept. 17. The principal members of the company are Messrs. Albert Chevalier, Lyn Harding, Basil Gill, Charles V. France, Vincent Clive, Oscar Adye, Fred Grove, Arthur Poole, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Marie George, Mrs. Lancaster Wallis, Miss Lucy Sibley, Miss M. Pera, Miss Muriel Langley, and Miss Olive Palmer.

A dozen different sets are employed in the working out of the piece, which opens at Rumpelmayer's, in St. James's, and then proceeds to Jermyn-street, with a third remove to Deerminster Chase. Act 2 is laid entirely at the Tower, of which Tower Green, Bloody Gate, Wakefield Tower, and Tower Wharf are depicted. Opportunities for picturesque display are further provided in Act 3, which includes in its scenes the Home Coverts, By the Lake, The Hospice, and The Pass; while in Act 4 a return is made to Deerminster and to Tower Green.

The first rehearsal on the new stage was conducted by Mr. Arthur Collins and Mr. Cecil Raleigh on Monday, when the improvements gained under the new conditions were made manifest. By pulling down a dividing wall the stage has been enlarged to almost double its original size, the distance from the footlights to the back wall being 80ft. as against 50ft. formerly. 80ft. also constitutes the width of the stage, which is thus made exactly square. There is a depth of 70ft. from the stage to the "grid," which will allow all the scenery to be drawn high into the flies without being rolled. These scenes will all be hung from wire ropes, and will be raised or lowered by means of counterweights.

Ten thousand superficial feet of teak have been used in rebuilding the flooring, which is a regular honeycomb of lifts and traps, so that it can be lifted, turned, and made to sink in sections. Another improvement is that of the glass roof, which will allow rehearsals to be conducted in the day time without the help of artificial light. The dynamos and the huge hydraulic and electric lifts below the stage fortunately escaped damage in the fire, and after being overhauled are as good as ever. Steel is everywhere—steel girders, steel galleries running round the flies—and fire-proof ropes, fire-proof woodwork, and fire-proof scenery will reduce the risk of another disaster to a minimum.

Mr. M. R. Morand, the well-known comedian, is about to take up the reins of management, and will, by arrangement with Mr. Robert Arthur, produce on Sept. 7 at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle, a new farce or tragic comedy by Mr. Eardley Turner entitled *Next Door*. A first-class company is engaged, and the author will play a part and assist Mr. Morand in the production. The comedy will be seen in London in the late autumn.

"Her Love Against the World" is this week paying a return visit to the Brixton Theatre, and is repeating its former triumphs. Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company is responsible for the production. Mr. Walter Howard himself plays the hero, and is supported by a capable company.

Sir Edward Elgar at Ostend last week conducted a musical festival entirely composed of his own works. The occasion was a conspicuous one for English musical art, as it was the first time in Belgium that an English musician had been thus honoured. Sir Edward, it is agreeable to note, is engaged upon the composition of an opera, and has returned to his home at Hereford for the purpose of setting seriously to work.

"The Belle of the Ball," which now seems to have settled down into a genuine financial success, will be seen for the first time in London at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, on Oct. 19. The tour is under the personal direction of Mr. Alexander Loftus.

Mr. Wellesley Draper has been re-engaged by Mr. and Mrs. Kendal for their autumn tour, commencing Monday next at the Grand Theatre, Douglas.

"The Melting Pot," a four-act drama by Israel Zangwill, was produced for copyright purposes at the Terminus Hall, Littlehampton, on the 21st inst. In place of the usual "Admission one guinea" on the announcement appeared the phrase "Free list entirely suspended."

His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness, under the management of Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge, started on a prosperous autumn season on August Bank Holiday. Last week Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's fine production of *With Edged Tools* met with such liberal support that the play has been rebooked to appear within a few months' time. The future bookings at His Majesty's include all the recent London successes, among others being Mr. Percy Hutchison's companies and those of Miss Lena Ashwell. *A White Man*, and Mr. George Alexander's company in *The Thief*, as well as his next St. James's Theatre production, are also secured. Such an attractive list speaks volumes for the success and enterprise of the management.

The Play Actors, who have indulged in a rest during the summer, will re-commence operations on Sunday, Sept. 27, at the Court, at which theatre they have arranged to give all their performances during the autumn season. The opening production will be a new comedy, entitled *The Success of Sentiment*, by Hugh Cranmer-Byng, a writer fresh to the dramatic arena, and further performances are announced for Oct. 18, Nov. 8 and 29, Dec. 20, and Jan. 10.

In the prosperity of their enterprise the Play Actors have discovered one cause for regret, and it lies in the fact that, owing to the increase in the number of subscribers, the committee are compelled to withdraw the offer of two seats in pit or upper circle for 10s. 6d. The subscription for the season will be £1 1s., entitling the holder to two seats for every performance in stalls, dress circle, or upper circle, to be allotted in turn; and 10s. 6d. for one seat under the same conditions. Miss Winifred Mayo is again the secretary.

The Todmorden Hippodrome, as the new theatre now nearing completion in that town is to be called, will be opened on Oct. 5 with *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*. The building is handsome and commodious, and is within three minutes' walk of the railway station. Everything has been admirably planned. In the stalls there are comfortable tip-up chairs, and tip-up seats in other parts of the area; and the best seats of the house will be specially upholstered. The upper part of the house is graded as circle, upper circle, and gallery, the whole having been so arranged that a perfect and uninterrupted view of the stage is commanded from every part. There are to be special ventilating and heating devices, with electric lighting throughout. Mr. Richard Dewhirst is the manager.

Mr. Norman V. Norman gave a special performance of *David Garrick* and the Balcony Scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, with Miss Beatrice Wilson in the part of Juliet, at the Marlborough Theatre on Thursday. The house was crowded, and the enthusiasm shown by the audience very great. Mr. Norman and Miss Wilson being called before the curtain no less than eighteen times.

Pete on the posters promises well for the popularity of the hero of Messrs. Hall Caine and Louis N. Parker's play, which is to be produced at the Lyceum this evening. The young fisherman makes a brave appearance in the picture, with his stalwart figure and his sunburnt face, surmounted by curly locks, while in his arms he fondles the infant around which the most dramatic incidents of the play revolve. As Pete Mr. Matheson Lang is bound to add to his conquests at the Lyceum.

Miss Helena Millais has been engaged to understudy the part of Kate Cregeen in *Pete* at the Lyceum.

The play by Hall Caine in which his son Derwent Hall Caine is to appear, is to be called *The Unwritten Law*, a title by the way that was used by Mr. John Lawson for one of his later sketches on the halls. The title suggests the subject with which it deals, and part of the action is laid at Sevenoaks, a district to which sad associations have during the last few days attached. The locale of the play, however, was decided upon some weeks ago. The second act takes place in Northern seas, thus giving opportunity for picturesque effect.

"Go to 53, South-street, and prevent the murder of ——" These words form the most striking feature of a poster which is this week adorning the hoardings of South London. They are chalked on the wall of a dingy-looking attic by a young lady evidently in a state of great agitation, while a colour-sergeant of the British Army points to the startling inscription with an expression of horror and astonishment. It is the great scene in Mr. Walter Melville's latest melodrama, *Married to the Wrong Man*, recently produced at the Elephant and Castle, and this week being played to absorbed audiences at the Shakespeare. The inditer of the fateful words is a dumb girl named Ruth, who adopts the device of writing on the wall in order to get Sergeant Manners to save her husband, whom the villain of the play has tried to decoy to an empty house.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beresford (Miss Dorothy Milne) have been engaged to play the leading parts in the forthcoming tour of *Convict 99*, starting on Sept. 14, Mr. Beresford appearing as Lawrence Gray (the title-rôle), and Miss Milne as Geraldine Lucas. Mr. Beresford, it will be remembered, created the title-rôle in the original production at the Crown Theatre, Peckham.

"The Fighting Hope," a play in three acts, by William J. Hurlbut, was produced for copyright purposes at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Wednesday morning.

Apropos of the coming season, Mr. James Wright, the theatrical traffic agent of the London and North-Western Railway, has given an *Evening News* representative some interesting particulars of the growth of theatrical touring in recent years. "In 1894," he said, "we carried over the whole system 1,192 companies, comprising 524 first-class and 39,632 third-class passengers, with 2,651 trucks of scenery. In 1907 we carried 4,397 companies, comprising 1,443 first-class and 83,847 third-class passengers."

One of the heaviest companies on the road, according to Mr. Wright, is *The Girls of Gottenberg*. The company travels ninety strong, with about twelve vans of scenery. Mr. Seymour Hicks's company of eighty, with a great weight of scenery, comes second in the list of those already started. Probably the heaviest will be the Moody-Manners company, which will start shortly with a company of about 130 and many trucks of luggage. Mr. Arthur Bourchier, who opens at Douglas, Isle of Man, on Sept. 7, has also a very large company.

To the late Sir Henry Irving is to be credited one of the most brilliant theatrical rushes on record. "It was," says Mr. Wright, "on his last great tour, when he went from Belfast to Sandringham by the King's command. Sir Henry and his company left Belfast immediately after the performance on Monday night. They crossed by special steamer to Liverpool, proceeded by the ordinary express to Rugby, and by special from thence to Sandringham, performing that night after the King's dinner. At one a.m. on Tuesday, immediately he had received his Majesty's congratulations, Sir Henry left with his company, and by means of special trains and special steamers was able to perform at Belfast the same evening."

At Old-street Police Court on Thursday, Morris Segelman, a shopman, of Turner-street, Commercial-road, was charged with wilful damage at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End-road, and further with assaulting and causing grievous bodily harm to Police-constable Betts (210 H) on the evening of the 13th inst. According to the evidence of two of the attendants of the theatre, the trouble began by the prisoner resisting an attendant who tried to prevent him from passing from one part of the theatre to the other. When prisoner was, after some struggling, put outside the doors into a passage of the theatre, he was alleged to have dashed his elbow and arm through a glass panel in the door.

He was then seized, and, in the course of a violent struggle that followed (in which he struck the attendants), the prisoner appeared to have been severely mauled, and a constable was violently kicked. The defence was that the prisoner found his wife being roughly used, and acted almost unconsciously. The magistrates accepted this view, and, dismissing the charge of wilful damage, fined the prisoner £10 and two guineas costs for the assault on the police-constable.

No novelties are included in the programmes of the Promenade Concerts for the forthcoming week, beginning on Monday. The one new work—a Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra by Mr. Percy H. Miles, which was down for Thursday, Sept. 3, has had to be withdrawn because the composer's departure for Australia has made it impossible to get the parts in order for performance this season. In its place Mr. Herbert Withers will play Dvorak's B minor Concerto for Violoncello.

There is no lack of interest, however, in the week's scheme. Monday presents the customary Wagner programme, with the added attraction of the popular tenor, Mr. Lloyd Chandos. The principal item on Tuesday evening will be Strauss's symphonic poem, *Ein Heldenleben*, the violin solo part being played by Mr. M. Wolters. On Wednesday Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony and Dvorak's Carnival Overture are included in the programme. The Russian master's graceful "Mozartiana" Suite, Haydn's Symphony No. 11, and Sibelius's tone-poem, *En Saga*, are the chief orchestral attractions for Thursday. On Friday the first part of the programme is devoted to Beethoven, and includes the "Eroica" Symphony.

A feature of next week's programmes is the number of first appearances among the soloists. On Tuesday the two vocalists, Miss Barwell-Holbrook and Mr. Philip Simons, will both be newcomers at these concerts. On Wednesday Miss Catherine Aulsebrook will be heard in Handel's "Lascia ch'io pianga," and the clever young pianiste, Miss Myra Hess, makes her début at the Promenades in Liszt's E flat Concerto. On Thursday Miss Mabel Nelson will sing Verdi's aria, "Pace, pace, mio Dio." The list of newcomers for the week closes with the first appearance of Mr. Vivian Hamilton, who will play Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto on Friday evening.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Name of Melba.

MME. MELBA owes her professional name to the happy inspiration of her Paris teacher, Mme. Marchesi. When the training of her beautiful voice was approaching completion a question arose as to the name under which the young Australian was to make her début, Miss Nellie Mitchell or Mrs. Armstrong (her maiden and married names) being obviously impossible for a prima donna. After various suggestions had been considered and dismissed, Mme. Marchesi exclaimed, "Why not pay a compliment to your native city of Melbourne by calling yourself after it? Melba would make a capital name." The proposal was adopted, and, as Mme. Melba, a most successful début was made in the part of Gilda (*Rigoletto*) at the Théâtre de la Monnaie, Brussels, on October 15, 1887. For this first engagement Mme. Melba received a salary of £240 per month. For the second engagement in Paris her salary was £400 per month, and—as the result of Parisian triumphs—she was soon receiving £2,000 a month in Madrid and Berlin.

Cowboy and Actor.

As one watches Mr. Oscar Asche on the stage it is difficult to imagine the popular actor earning a livelihood by rounding up cattle in the Australian bush. Yet two years of his life were spent on an Australian cattle station after leaving the Melbourne Grammar School, where he was educated. Afterwards Mr. Asche tried to settle down to the humdrum life of a clerk in a wine office in Sydney. Two weeks of this was sufficient, and it is probable that he would have gone back to the cowboy's saddle had not his mother, who was a Norwegian, allowed him to go to Norway to study for the stage under Hansen, the producer of Ibsen plays. From there Mr. Asche found his way into Mr. Benson's company, where he first met his charming wife, Miss Lily Brayton.

Church and Stage.

MR. MATHESON LANG, who is to play Pete in the latest adaptation of *The Manxman* at the Lyceum, is a son of the manse, as they say in Scotland. His father is the Rev. Gavin Lang, one of the most popular Presbyterian ministers in Inverness. He made his first professional appearance in 1897 at Wolverhampton with Mr. Louis Calvert's répertoire company, and afterwards joined Mr. F. R. Benson. When the Bensonians played in Inverness Mr. Matheson Lang, who was for some years a member of Mr. Benson's company, used to receive a Highland welcome from his own and his father's friends. He is a cousin of the Bishop of Stepney, Dr. Cosmo Gordon Lang, whose father is the Very Rev. Dr. Marshall Lang, the Principal of Aberdeen University.

Edward Terry's "Policy."

MANY amusing stories are recorded of Mr. Edward Terry, the eminent comedian. Mr. Terry, who has travelled widely, is a keen Alpine enthusiast. Once when climbing Mont Blanc he met trouble at a dangerous point, and, turning to another climber to whom he was roped, said, "Well, the only thing that troubles me is whether the insurance company will pay up if I get killed!" "What company are you in?" asked the other climber. Mr. Terry mentioned the name of a well-known insurance office. "I know the company will pay," said the other climber; "I'm the company's London agent, and your policy is in my safe." "Well, well," said Mr. Terry, "isn't the world small, after all? Fancy meeting you here!"

The Turn of the Tide.

THINGS were unusually bad with "Jimmy" Welch on one occasion in his early youth, and he was at his wits' end to furnish the wherewithal for the day's entertainment. The only course open to him was to pawn his watch. This he did, and, feeling reckless, at once made for a well-known restaurant, and, as he himself phrases it, "blued the lot" down to the last sixpence. "Now," said he, as he gave the ultimate coin to the waiter, and once more walked into the street, "something must turn up, for I am 'broke.'" At that moment he felt a touch on his shoulder, and, looking round, recognised a professional friend, who apologised, but explained that on seeing Welch he was reminded that a small part that would suit him was then going at the Olympic. Then and there the direction of the walk was changed, and half an hour later Mr. Welch was engaged by Mr. Wilson Barrett (who remembered his Perkins in *The Golden Ladder* at the Globe) at a salary of £3 a week, an engagement which led to continued good fortune.

Fanny Moody's Joke.

MRS. FANNY MOODY confesses to a weakness for practical joking. "One day," she says, "disguised in a wig and pair of spectacles, I applied to have my voice tried by the manager of our company—my own husband. Neither he nor the conductor had the faintest suspicion of my bonâ-fides when I pleaded that, my home being many miles away, they would hear me before a number of others who were waiting. I took the conductor's hand, and, imprinting upon it a devout kiss, called him 'The dear Master.' He did try my voice, and, as I indulged in the most excruciating shrieks ever heard as 'music,' he told me, gently but firmly, to go back to keeping cows, or any other occupation within my limited capacity. My husband confirmed this judgment, with much concern for my misapplied enthusiasm, when suddenly I threw off my disguise and revealed my real character."

A Bunch of Violets.

"WHEN I was playing in *The Prisoner of Zenda*," writes Mr. George Alexander in the September number of the *Royal Magazine*, "I was the recipient of a gift the remembrance of which I shall always cherish. During the interval I heard a quiet, nervous tap at my door, and a minute afterwards a little girl—she could not have been more than eleven or twelve—was shown in. She carried in her hand a small bunch of sweet-scented violets, which she laid on my dressing-table, remarking, as she shyly looked in my face, 'Please, sir, will you have these—do, please, have these, because I liked to hear you talk so gallantly on the stage of your mother.' Then, without another word, my strange little visitor ran away, leaving me quite in ignorance as to her identity."

A TELEGRAM announcing the intention of a party of Swedish scientists to explore the island of Juan Fernandez appears in a contemporary headed "Robinson Crusoe's Island." That Alexander Selkirk lived on Juan Fernandez for several years is now well established—many relics of his weary exile have of late years been discovered there, and by permission of the Chilian Government a tablet to his memory has been placed on the island; but, apart from the fact that the doings of Defoe's "Crusoe" bear little resemblance to Selkirk's account of his lonely life in the Pacific, the *local* of the former's island is in the Atlantic. Before the wreck "Crusoe's" vessel was near the mouth of the Orinoco, and Defoe's hero afterwards calculated the latitude of "this horrid island" to be 9deg. 22min. north. Robinson Crusoe's Island must, therefore, have been off the coast of Venezuela.

We shall be obliged if our readers will send us any amusing anecdotes they may hear, or accounts of any quaint incidents they may witness while acting or rehearsing.

"IDOLS."

A Play, in Four Acts, Adapted by Roy Horniman from the Novel by J. W. Locke, and produced at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on Monday, Aug. 24.

Irene Merriam	MISS EVELYN MILLARD
Minna Hart	MISS EDITH LATIMER
Mrs. Harroway	MISS AUGUSTA HAVILAND
Anna Josephs	MRS. HARRY CANE
Maid	MISS ETHEL INGRAM
Gerard Merriam	MR. HERBERT WARING
Saunders	MR. C. W. SOMERSET
Jacob Hart	MR. ALFRED BRYDONE
Counsel for the Prosecution	MR. CHARLES ROCK
Counsel for the Defence	MR. ARTHUR WONTNER
Mr. Harroway	MR. C. LEVESON-LANE
The Judge	MR. EVELYN VERNON
Dr. Fenwick	MR. HEATH HAVILAND
The Clerk of Assize	MR. GUY FLETCHER
An Usher	MR. FRANK DANBY
Police-constable Rivington	MR. ALBERT SIMS
Hugh Colman	MR. ALLAN AYNESWORTH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Miss Millard's popularity was the means of drawing a big house last Monday, when the play was produced for the first time, the spacious Theatre Royal being filled from floor to ceiling. In this adaptation of *Idols* the curtain rises at the home of the Merriams, where the Harroways are just making "a call." The servant having departed to notify her mistress of their presence, they fall to discussing their hostess, her projects, and her predilection for her husband's friend, Colman. Irene, who has just returned from her mission of rescue work among some "dreadful people" in the cottages close by, enters full upon their confabulation, and learns for the first time that Colman had years ago saved her husband's life in a mountaineering expedition. Why it has been kept secret is not made very clear, but it happened "many years ago," before the marriage of the Merriams, and here, it appears, Hugh Colman was a suitor for the hand of Irene, who, however, preferred his friend, Gerard Merriam. Being a paragon among wives, Irene, from no other reason than the best, sets herself to preserve the friendship between the two men, and in point of fact affects the singularity among women that no wife should seek to break her husband of his bachelordom friends. In this case she reckons without her host, or rather her husband, who, we notice, makes furtive demonstrations of disapproval at his wife's panegyrics on Colman's virtues; and when she, in the softest and sweetest manner, refers to the little incident of the life-saving—he flies into a perfect fury, excusing himself anon by saying that there are some things that men keep to themselves. But not in the slightest manner has she a suspicion of his jealousy, and Colman's appearance is hailed by her with sweet cordiality, while in the husband we see jealousy rampant. The arrival of Jacob Hart, the moneylender, with a cheque for five hundred pounds for Irene's pet project is effusively welcomed. It is here that the plot begins to quicken, for Hart is accompanied by his daughter, Minna; and from her lowering looks in Colman's direction it is easy to see that there is "something between them." Being left alone on the matter of the cheque, we learn that they are no less than married, she having attached herself to him on the strength of his prospects as his uncle's heir. These prospects have, however, vanished, in the arrival of a baby-heir, and nothing remains but to ask the moneylender for the hand of his already secretly-married daughter and go through the ceremony again *in propria forma*. This it is agreed he shall do at the Harts, where he is to dine that night, and on the return to the room of Hart himself with the Merriams, father and daughter take their leave. Colman, after being rallied, ever so gently, by his hostess on the life-saving incident, and mentioning a little trouble of his own, also takes his leave, and Gerrard Merriam, who is about to depart on a fishing expedition, is left with his wife. She has picked up a book of poems by Colman, and Merriam, taking it from her, is about to throw it on the floor, but thinking better of it, takes up his fishing creel. He bids her good-bye, and she is left murmuring, "Dear Hugh, he saved Gerrard's life!"

The next act takes place at the Harts', where Hugh Colman is at dinner, and in the drawing-room are Minna and Anna Josephs, Minna's confidante, and the only person who knows of the secret marriage. With flashing eye and impatient mien Minna is repenting her of her marriage, though she herself was the main and confessed cause of it, for motives of social advancement, for she is craving for "a bigger world." They are joined by the men, Hart and Colman, and anon retire, Minna having first required of Colman that he apprise her of the result of his suit at her chamber later, and where, it seems, as her husband, and in secret, he has the entrée. Colman, who is indebted to Hart for five thousand pounds—which the latter, on account of the fall in Colman's fortunes, handsomely excuses and forgoes—now asks his host for his daughter's hand, and is refused in a fury. Not that he objects to him personally; it is a question of religion, and the old Jew moneylender solemnly threatens to "curse his daughter after the manner of his people" if the suit be persisted in or consummated. Colman goes, and Hart, fetching papers, destroys one—Colman's debt, in fact; but Hart, hearing a noise, summons the eavesdropper forth. This proves to be Saunders, the butler, a former client of Hart's who is now obliged to take service under him. Drunken and moody, he has taken to spying, and in an altercation with his master, Hart, he blurts out the truth concerning Colman's visits to his daughter's chamber. The infuriated Hart takes him by the throat, and Saunders, to save himself, knocks him over the head with a heavy candlestick. The murderer leaving his victim prone, we next see Colman and Minna in the latter's chamber discussing the situation. Minna is furious and distracted at the unexpected refusal of her hand to Colman, and eventually proposes, as the only way out of the trouble, that Colman shall renounce her and keep their marriage secret for ever. This is in order to preserve her inheritance, which her father has threatened he will dispossess her of if she marries against his will. Colman agrees and departs, and Minna, bursting into wild, distraught laughter, calls on Anna Josephs to fetch brandy. The latter goes down, and so comes across the dead body of Hart in the drawing-room, and shrieks out the dreadful truth, Minna rushing from the scene to her father's dead body.

In the third act, at the Assizes, Colman is arraigned for the crime, and the counsel for the Prosecution is demolishing remorselessly the plea that the prisoner is sheltering a woman's name under his silence. "He was in no woman's arms," cries the counsel. "It's a lie! He was in mine," comes the startling and self-sacrificing avowal from the lips of the gentle and chaste Irene Merriam. The sensation was great, if not altogether unexpected. Irene's evidence being unshaken, the prisoner goes free, and the former is followed by the now firmly-convinced Gerrard home, where his feelings break out into uncontrollable wrath at his wife's "perfidy." He refuses to believe in his wife's plea that it was only to save "dear Hugh," and that she is guilty only of "heroic perjury." The appearance of Colman further incenses the infuriated Gerrard, who hurls his invectives at both. In the midst of his girdings a messenger arrives from the hitherto silent Minna (who was a witness at the trial, and scrupled not to hold her tongue on Colman's presence with her at the very time her father was murdered), allowing him to divulge the truth. Thus the three are reconciled. What becomes of the shuffling, despicable murderer himself we learn not.

The play is constructed in a clear and concise manner, there being nothing crude or cramped about the adaptation. Both adaptor and author were called for loudly at the conclusion, together with Miss Millard, with whom they acknowledged the ovation. Miss Millard herself gave a subtle and analytical study of a woman with a capacity for making ideals and idols, and in the trial scene held the audience transfixed with her rigid, tense acting under the fire of cross-examination. In the later scene, with her husband, she was superb and infinitely tender withal. Mr. Herbert Waring gave all the signs and tokens of the "idol" who is not up to his wife's making, his impatience of Irene's admiration for his friend and his utter tiredness of him being admirably shown; while in the last scene he made a very powerful display. Mr. Allan Aynesworth as the friend, Hugh Colman, was polished and nonchalant most times. Whether in monetary troubles, in his attitude towards his friend's wife, or under his own wife's overweening reproaches and invective, he preserved the fine manner of the chivalrous man of the world, only breaking out into passion, and that very effectively, under Merriam's accusations. A finely rendered part was Minna Hart, by Miss Edyth Latimer, who played the opportunist, disappointed woman and wife grandly. Mr. Alfred Brydone gave a finished piece of acting as the Jew moneylender, Jacob Hart, and provided one of the best things in the performance. Mr. C. W. Somerset as the butler, Saunders, was also very good. With shifty look, dull-eyed, and fearful under examination at the trial, he gave the fullest significance to the part. The Harroways were properly represented by Mr. C. Leveson-Lane and Miss Augusta Haviland; Mrs. Harry Cane was quite in touch with the rôle of Anna Josephs; and Messrs. Chas. Rock and Arthur Wontner spoke well as Prosecuting and Defending Counsel respectively.

"HIS LIFE FOR HER LOVE."

Play, in Four Acts, by George S. King, Produced at the Metropole Theatre, Devonport, on Monday, Aug. 24.

Jacob Trewitt	MR. DOUGLAS C. PHELPS
Seth Shaw	MR. FRANCIS ROBERTS
Abel Trewitt	MR. HERBERT LAWRENCE
Jimmy Newsome	MR. SYDNEY HUMPHREYS
Mattie Corncraike	MR. FRED WATSON
Rev. Stephen Addison	MR. GEO. GESSOP
Betty Crawley	MISS HAZEL HOOD
Dolly Newsome	MISS DOLLY GILROY
Ruth Tempt	MISS PHYLLIS GIBSON
Lena Shaw	MISS HELEN LOWTHER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The above new play, which saw the light on Monday, is the work of Mr. G. S. King, the manager of the Metropole Theatre. It is a play of an emotional type, and while it has few sensational episodes, it tells in a convincing manner the story of a passionate romance in humble life, and presents a series of engrossing situations, which won much applause. Lena Vaughan, a refined village girl, the daughter of a Quaker, is betrayed and deserted by Jimmy Newsome, and, returning to the neighbourhood of her old home, eventually marries Seth Shaw, on condition that he also gives her child a home. The match proves a very unhappy one, and the climax is reached when Shaw brings home his own wife's betrayer. Unable to endure the presence of the man, Lena, whose child has died, leaves him and her husband to sleep off the effects of a drinking bout, and seeks shelter from a raging storm at the cottage of Jacob Trewitt, a gardener. Jacob has loved Lena for years, but never had the courage to declare his affection when she was free to accept him. Learning how cruelly she has been treated, he visits her home, and finding Seth still under the influence of his debauch, stabs him to the heart. Newsome, who is left asleep by his side, is arrested for the murder and sentenced to death.

Then follows for Jacob a terrible struggle with himself. Lena discovers who really committed the terrible deed, and though she loves Jacob, prevails upon him to give himself up. As the result of a second trial he is sentenced to be hanged, but on the circumstances being brought to the notice of the Home Secretary the death sentence is commuted to penal servitude for life. Fifteen years later Jacob is released, and seeks the woman for love of whom he has suffered. Eventually Jacob and Lena are brought together again, and the curtain falls on the betrothal of Jacob and the woman for love of whom he has offered his life.

Allowing for the disadvantages of a "first night," the play went excellently on Monday, and ought to be very successful. To Mr. Douglas C. Phelps who impersonates Jacob Trewitt, is entrusted the lion's share of the work, and a better choice could scarcely have been made, this capable actor being quite at home in the many difficult situations incident to the part. Miss Helen Lowther as Lena gave a performance to which much praise is due. Mr. Francis Roberts's rendering of Seth Shaw was a vigorous and sound enactment, Mr. Herbert Lawrence gave a skilful characterisation of Abel, Jacob's younger brother, and Mr. Sydney Humphreys was grim and forcible as Newsome. Miss Phyllis Gibbon gave a touching rendering of Ruth Tempt, to whom Lena confides her child. As Dolly Newsome, to whom Abel makes love, Miss Dolly Gilroy acts with freshness and charm, Miss Hazel Hood is a vivacious Betty, and the other parts are in safe hands. Mr. King was accorded a well-earned benefit on Friday, when the Mayor and Mayoress of Devonport gave their patronage.

"THOUGH I doubt it will be a vain labour to offer you a just likeness of Mrs. Mountford's action," writes Colley Cibber in a fine example of laudatory description, "yet the fantastic impression is still so strong in my memory that I cannot help saying something, though fantastically, about it. The first ridiculous airs that break from her are upon a gallant never seen before, who delivers her a letter from her father, recommending him to her good graces, as an honourable lover. Here now, one would think, she might naturally show a little of the sex's decent reserve, though never so slightly covered. No, sir, not a tittle of it; modesty is the virtue of a poor-souled country gentlewoman; she is too much a court lady to be under so vulgar a confusion: she reads the letter therefore with a careless dropping lip, and an erected brow, humming it hastily over as if she were impatient to outgo her father's commands, by making a complete conquest of him at once; and that the latter might not embarrass her attack, crack! She scrambles it at once into her palm, and pours upon him her whole artillery of airs, eyes, and motion. Down goes her dainty diving body to the ground, as if she were sinking under the conscious load of her own attractions; then launches into a flood of fine language and compliment, still playing her chest forward in fifty falls and risings, like a swan upon waving water; and to complete her impertinence, she is so rapidly fond of her own wit, that she will not give her lover leave to praise it. Silent assenting bows and vain endeavours to speak are all the share of the conversation he is admitted to: which at last he is relieved from by her engagements to half a score visits, which she swims from him to make, with a promise to return in a twinkling."

THE CENSORSHIP AGAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—When stage plays are brought into controversy, it is a fact most pronounced that certain individuals take the opportunity of assailing musical comedy and light comic opera, merely, it would seem, because they have some fault to find with it, or they do not personally accept it in the same spirit as that in which it is put before the public.

For my own part, I can say that musical comedy appears to me to supply one important spoke in the wheel of civilisation, inasmuch as it is constructed primarily with the one object of temporarily relieving humanity from the monotonies of everyday worries. It is not my intention in this short letter to make any personal reference to my own work as an actress—I merely at all times try to do my best, and I perforce leave the appreciation—or the reverse—of my endeavours to my public, whose servant it is my lot in life to be.

That is, however, all beside the mark. The real point of the argument is, Why should certain prejudiced and self-constituted critics use such strenuous exertions to denounce a form of entertainment which the great majority of people favour?

In my most recent enterprise, *i.e.*, *Butterflies*, at the Apollo Theatre, I have used all my experience and best efforts to place before the public an entertainment with a moral tone and effect which should have some influence on those who witness it. Herein it is plainly set out that life should be accepted as it is, and that if one or the other of us have ideas warped and influenced by the surroundings in which Fate has cast us, we should at least consider that the world was not made for "Number One" only. The excellently-drawn characters of Christopher Podmore and his family in *Butterflies* typify the point of my argument in that this said Podmore makes the vital, but very human, mistake of shutting his eyes to the real blessings of life, and in his blind obstinacy expects everybody in his immediate sphere to do ditto.

In conclusion, I can only say—and I say it with the most implicit confidence—that light musical plays will always be affectionately received (providing, of course, they are properly placed on the stage) by the great British Public by reason of the exhilarating arts employed in the preparation and exploitation of such works.

Trusting you will be able to find space for this letter in justice to musical comedy, &c., and with a hope that it may to some extent nullify the many attacks which have recently been made upon this class of entertainment, I am, yours faithfully,

ADA REEVE.

Apollo Theatre, London, Aug. 21.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—It certainly seems strange that plays to be produced on the theatrical stage should have to pass a Censor, while shorter plays of—more or less—very similar construction in effect should be permitted production at the variety theatres without let or hindrance. To the lay mind this appears a comical state of affairs so far as the English laws and customs are concerned, which laws and customs seem to go on from one generation to another irrespective of progress in enterprise and education.

It would appear that the Censor is a most necessary person for maintaining wholesomeness on the British stage, and were it not for this public official many people—in the position to express an opinion—aver that the stage would not be quite so much above reproach as it is at the immediate moment, as, in the absence of the Censor, the *ad libitum* method would most likely become a general vogue.

Whatever may be said to the contrary, we at least know that to-day the theatres submit entertainments to which we can take young people with every confidence, and although some persons continually abuse the lighter form of theatrical fare, namely, musical comedy or light comic opera, I have never yet seen anything in either of them, from the Savoy operas downwards, to offend the most refined senses, and during the recent outcry against the Danse du Papillon in *Butterflies* I went to the Apollo Theatre to satisfy myself as to this and the whole entertainment, and must cordially endorse the verdict of the Press that this play is as clean and merry as any entertainment which has ever received the official licence of the Censor.

It is to be hoped that dramatic Censorship will never be discontinued, but at the same time it would seem that every sort of play, farce, sketch, or "trifle" written for theatre or music-hall should go through the Censor's hands.—Yours truly,

PLAYGOER.

London, E.C., Aug. 22.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I have read with some interest the various letters dealing with the prohibition of Mr. Courtney's version of *Œdipus*. May I express an opinion? To my way of thinking, the tragedy is in itself too great to give offence. There is a grandeur and impressiveness about it which raises it above criticism.

The theme is difficult of treatment, but delicately handled would not be objectionable, particularly with the rather painfully drawn character of Jocasta kept well in the background. It all depends on the handling of the subject. If the prohibition of the play is based upon the fear of tawdry imitations it is a different matter.—I am, sir, faithfully yours,

EDITH SLACK.

7, Craignish-avenue, Norbury, Aug. 25.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

DEAR SIR,—In a letter to the editor of the *Daily Telegraph* published on Wednesday last Mr. Cecil Raleigh would seem to desire the extinction of the Censor, but it would appear that "what is good cannot be bad," and the practical letter of "Playgoer" in the same paper on Tuesday covered the whole ground.

Mr. Raleigh deems it wise to argue that the Press, the poet, the preacher, &c., are free to air their opinions ad libitum, but this theory does not in any way touch the controversy. So far as the Press is concerned, would it not be safe to say that every newspaper has a most arbitrary censor in its own editor, whose wise control and blue pencil tend to inspire confidence in his readers and considerably to aid circulation?

Everybody admits that the theatre is—in the main, at least—a commercial pursuit, and, as such, must necessarily be dominated by some legislation. Up to the present our theatres seem to have prospered under the "terrible ban" of the Censor, whose chief "faults" (?) would appear to lie in the direction of saving the British stage and the British public from unsavoury details which really and truly do not constitute entertainment in the true sense of the word.

The public have always been, and always will be, the best judges of genuine entertainment, and the "doubtful numbers" have never yet been financial successes. Therefore, after all is said and done, there can be no possible doubt that the manager who first aims to pass the Censor and then to pass the public never goes very far wrong, and he can afford to ignore that which the excellent diction of the said Censor judges to be hazardous to the best interests of the community.

When we take the broad view of the situation we seem to be influenced—by those in a position to theorise—to the verdict that the Censor has always done his work conscientiously and well, and our occasional "rebellious" compatriots, who seek to strike new ground in their moral writings, are decidedly in the minority, and generally touch upon subjects which are wholly unsuited for exploitation in the theatres.—Yours faithfully,

W. SCOTT PHIPP,
Acting-Manager, *Butterflies*.

Apollo Theatre, W., Aug. 26.

Mr. Frederick Whelen writes:—"Our modern music-halls are not under the tyranny of Saint James's Palace, and they can produce plays—unlicensed plays—without the fear of the Lord Chamberlain's interdict. With their greater freedom they have not degenerated into licentiousness, as supporters of the Censor fear would be the case with theatres if they were equally free. The reverse is the case; the advance of the music-halls is upward, and not downward."

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The Council of the Actors' Association held their usual weekly meeting at 409, Strand, on Tuesday, when there were present: Mr. Robson Paige (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (Hon. Solicitor), Mr. Clarence Derwent, Mr. Sebastian Smith, and Mr. Hubert Blount (Secretary). The numbers in attendance being insufficient to form a quorum, those present constituted themselves into a committee and the work of the agenda was proceeded with.

The minutes of the previous meetings, held on Aug. 18 and 22, were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr. Vedrenne stating that the communication to him with reference to standard contract would be placed before the committee of the Society of West End Managers in September. A communication from Mr. Storey-Gofton with regard to a letter which appeared in the *Referee* of Aug. 16, signed "An Actor," was read, and the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Storey-Gofton referring him to last week's published minutes.

A letter was also read from Mr. Kenneth Blackmore saying that he had heard from the Secretary of the Touring Managers' Association with regard to the draft contract sent to them for approval, and which is to come up before them on Sept. 4. He further stated that the wife of a member of the Actors' Union had been with a company and had not received any salary, and that the manager was advertising for a fresh company. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Blackmore thanking him for placing the matter before the Council of the Actors' Association.

The Hon. Solicitor reported that he had written two letters to a member, and that he had had another interview with a lady member and had advised her. He also pointed out that several articles had appeared in the Press as to licensing stage children and the condition imposed by a magistrate of appointing a trustee before granting a licence. He thought this was a matter in which the voice of the Association might be heard.

The Secretary was instructed to put up a notice informing those members who are still in arrear with their subscriptions that if the money is not paid by the last day of September the Council will be compelled to post their names.

Miss Mignon Clifford, Miss Evelyn Cecil, Miss Valerie Salberg, and Mr. E. Comberbach were elected members.

ACTORS' UNION.

LONDON.

The weekly meeting of the Actors' Union was held on Tuesday at Hummum's Hotel, the chair being occupied by Mr. Rowson Buckley. Others present were Messrs. J. W. Braithwaite, A. J. May, M. E. MacCabe, E. Y. Rae, W. H. Vernon, and Edwin Wyl'e; and Mesdames Bessie Armytage, May C rade, Amy Coleman, Florence Creagh, Ma ret Densmore, Hylda Denison, Gladys ard, Maud Henley, Maud Kirwan, Geraldine Montrose, Kitty Marion, and Mildred Silvestre. The chairman mentioned the cases of two members of the Union who had just died, but whose subscriptions were unfortunately so much in arrear that a death levy would not be made. He also informed the meeting that the agency in Northampton had been transferred to the North-Western Hotel.

At the usual weekly meeting of the committee of the Actors' Union, held on the 20th inst., the following were present:—Messrs. Frank Gerald (chair), D. Lewin Mannering, Orlando Barnett, Cecil G. Calvert, and F. Rawson Buckley. Letters were received from the following committeemen:—Messrs. Frederick Loyd, J. Hastings Batson, Geo. H. Child, Geo. P. Lester, Jerrold Heather, Edwin J. Collins, and Edward Chester.

The Secretary reported the death of a member, Miss Rose Suell. He was instructed to write to Mrs. Suell expressing the sympathy of the committee in her recent bereavement, and regretting that she has no call on the death levy fund as her daughter was much out of benefit.

It was reported that letters had been received from the Actors' Association and the Sketch Managers' Association according their support to the resolution standing in the joint names of the Artists' Protection League and the Actors' Union at the forthcoming Trades Union Congress in favour of "Free Trade in Amusements." The N.A.T.E. had also notified their intention of supporting the resolution.

The Secretary read a letter from the Actors' Association asking if the Actors' Union had received any communication from the Touring Managers' Association with regard to the contract which had been drafted and submitted for their approval. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Actors' Association and state that a reply had been received from the Secretary of the Touring Managers' Association saying that the matter was under consideration and would be dealt with at their next committee meeting on Sept. 4.

It was decided to appoint Mr. Harry Dent, proprietor of the Wheatsheaf Hotel, Upperhead-row, Leeds, agent for the Union.

Three new members were elected.

The Secretary reported that seven engagements had been secured through the agency during the past week.

DRAMATIC AGENTS.

DEAR SIR,—May I be allowed to suggest an improvement in the prevailing methods of agents? At present you call, as at a registry office for servants, to inquire if there is "anything going." You are either kept waiting a considerable time whilst the gentleman is engaged, and then condescendingly allowed to reach his presence. This waiting is to many sensitive people a perfect nightmare. Why do not managers advertise their wants in *The Era* or other recognised organ of the profession, or the agents themselves advertise, and do away with this present system of undignified waste of time to all concerned?

Many a capable man, who lacks bold assurance, dreads this daily haunting the offices, and consequently rarely hears of positions his capacity and experience entitle him to occupy. The great problem is how to hear in a business-like manner of engagements likely to be made. No one begrudges the agent his fees, but let some improvement be made in the present method of acquainting clients of prospective work.—Yours very truly,

HENRY TWEEDIE.

4, St. James-place, Brighton.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page* 11.)

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—The programme for this week is supplied by Campbell's Royal Scottish Lads and Lasses, who had a warm reception on Monday. The first half of the entertainment is confined to song and dance, and each of the items are smartly and pleasingly rendered. In the other portion Mr. Bert Elmore, a very popular comedian, pleases immensely, and obtains encores; Archie Campbell, a pocket edition of Harry Lauder, sings Scotch humorous songs in a taking manner; Master Herbert Clark is a capable player of several musical instruments, and an excellent violin solo is given by Jack Terresfield; Jock Ramsay pleases with a capital dancing turn; Rita Evans is a sweet vocalist; and the Sisters Mais give a pretty parasol dance. A sketch, *Away on Tour*, by Elmore and Evans, concludes the entertainment.

SHEERNESS. — Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—*A Mother's Salvation* paid a first visit here during the week, being presented in admirable style by Miss Maud Western's company. Mr. Terence Nerrey as Leslie Mervyne is successful in depicting an unmitigated scoundrel; Mr. J. O. Stevenson is seen to advantage in the part of Reuben Smith; Mr. Carl Vallender is highly amusing as Bill Bumpkin; Miss Maud Western ably assists Mr. Vallender as Beckey, and is very diverting; Miss Ada Hender in the dual rôle of Naomi Lester and Miriam Mervyne displays exceptional histrionic ability; Miss Mabel Hall is to be congratulated on her capable acting as Little Paul; an excellent character study is given by Miss Kate Newton as Mother Turntail, and mention is due of Mr. T. Chapman, who ably delineates the part of Joe Turntail, the Old 'Un; and Mr. John Levey as Lynton Desmond, the detective, is successful. The drama is well mounted.

Co-operative Hall.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local Representative, Mr. Cyril Parks.—The animated pictures shown here are up to date and continue to be highly attractive. Worthy of special mention is Don Juan, a thrilling and dramatic film, and other subjects shown are An Abduction in the Reign of Louis XVI., Clog Making in Brittany, The Lazy Man, The Tempter, The Bond, and The Bank Note Forger.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. George Dance's company is giving a delightful rendering of *Miss Hook of Holland*, which is paying its first visit here. Miss Alice Coverick makes a decided hit in the title-rôle, singing and acting in excellent style; Miss Cissie Sephton is a most amusing Mina, and her songs "No wonder the Dutchman flew" and "The petticoat" ditty simply bring down the house; Mr. Tom A. Shale, with his quiet, unforced humour, makes himself a prime favourite as Mr. Hook, and scores all along the line; and Mr. Tom Seymour is a capital Simon Slinks. These two comedians keep the house in roars of laughter. Mr. Frank Crimp looks and sings well as the bandmaster, Mr. George Ide does well as Captain Paap, and Mr. George Mudie, jun., is a humorous Ludwig Schnapps.

Palace. — Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Harry Roxbury and company provide the star attraction in *The Cowboy Millionaire*, which is punctuated with frequent applause; Victor Niblo's Talking Birds are wonderful; Mabel Thorne sings a number of catchy chorus ditties; Harry Nelson excels as a comedian; Les Tafanos, speciality duettists and dancers; the Sisters Edwardes, vocalists, dancers, and drummers; Jessie Burnett and Jessie Wilton, a couple of comedy comediennes, also do well.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Mr. Fred Russell and his clever ventriloquial automatum Coster Joe tops the list here; Jack Lorimer, the versatile Scotchman, excels in song and dance; Kitty Colyer is a dainty singer and dancer; Ted Curtis and his pics are very smart; Edie Veno, character comedienne; Mark Leslie, swell coon; Onda and Artell, gymnasts; and Rosie Bartlett, comedienne, also win golden opinions.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—The three nights' performance of the comic opera *Tom Jones* has entertained large audiences. Costumes and dresses made an imposing combination, and a full chorus, under the direction of Mr. Ernest K. Irving, rendered their parts with credit. Mr. Cyril Thompson merited hearty appreciation for his delightful singing and masterly acting in the title-rôle. Miss Margaret Stonor possesses a strong voice well adapted to her songs, which were rendered with equal success, while her characterisation of Sophia was eminently satisfactory. Mr. George Elton provoked immense fun in his inimitable portrayal of Benjamin Partridge, his dancing being also remarkable. Miss Florrie Saunders, who dances well and has a sweet voice, made a pleasing, winsome character of Honour, Sophia's maid. Mr. A. J. Nicholls as Mr. Allworthy, Mr. Arthur Radcliffe as Blifil, Mr. Chas. McLagan as Squire Western, Mr. Michael Dwyer as Gregory, and Miss Clive Eltone as Lady Bellaston, were also worthy members of a strong cast. For the remainder of the week *My Mimosa Maid* officiated.

Kursaal.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—The Theatre programme, containing an excellent variety of enjoyable items, submitted twice daily, is received in encouraging manner by appreciative audiences, the management being well satisfied with the support accorded. A musical act by Messrs. Ford and Hanson provides a capital entertainment; Gilbert's cats and dogs give a pleasing performance and show careful training; Mr. Reginald Wishard, in his sensational escape from a great bottle and double box tricks, is decidedly interesting; Mr. W. H. Stevenson, baritone, is most successful in his renderings of first-class songs; Miss Madge Bryce is a comedienne who delights with her utilisation of a good voice; as also do the Misses Barrie as duettists and character vocalists; Mr. Harry Edwards is a pleasing comedian and dancer. The Bioscope shows six series of new pictures, as usual, most interesting and up-to-date. Another programme has good support in the Café Chantant, where the Kursaal Belles Concert Party meet with a favourable reception. The usual grand costume ball and carnival took place on Wednesday evening, Mr. Alec Cater being M.C. and Mr. Harry Read the musical director.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—The return visit of the London Animated Picture Company is a popular attraction this week, the two daily entertainments being very well supported. A large series of pictures is depicted with a steadiness that greatly enhances their enjoyment, and the beautifully-coloured views relating to the Arabian Nights give intense delight. Many humorous series also get heartily appreciated.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Baron H. Harris's company is appearing here to good houses in *The Prince of Pilsen*. Miss Sophie Harris as the American widow is as charming and entertaining as ever, and was recalled for many of her vocal efforts; Mr. Harry Kilburn is a host in himself, his mirth being contagious. The comedy is enhanced by Mr. Ernest Gifford and Miss Mabel Dent as François and Sidonie; Miss Dora Christian as Edith Adams and Miss Nellie Lomas as Nellie Wagner are both very successful; Carl Otto is well accounted for by Mr. L. Owen, and Mr. A. Geary is good as Tom Wagner. The dresses and mounting are magnificent.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The chief item is the Gothams, whose antics are curious; the New York Nippers are well received; Miss Jennie Johns, in a couple of good songs, is a neat and popular turn; Arabella Allen, in characters from Dickens, creates a favourable impression; Johnson and Bert contribute a novel act, *A Queer Customer;* and other good items are Nellie Martell, comedienne, Yorke Wilson, eccentric comedian, and the Bioscope.

Tivoli, Laygate-lane. — Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—A new scena is presented by Miss Agnes Molteno, the artists also including T. T. Edwards and Little Dolly; Sandy and Carl, comedians and acrobats, and the Tivoloscope.

Cosy Corner, Sea Front.—Mr. George Burton's lively comedians still continue to do good business. Pattie Burton and May Tudor sing interesting songs; laughable patter and comedy items are introduced by Ray and Ross and George Russell. A good sketch completes the entertainment.

STALYBRIDGE. — Hippodrome. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—The Peverils are an excellent quartette of vocalists, musicians, and dancers; the two Bostons, comedians, and George Prince, character vocalist, are fulfilling return engagements, and their antics and drolleries are extremely diverting; Terry and Bentley are very amusing; whilst Sill and Sillcott introduce a speciality act which has the merit of being original and laughable; Rhodes, the singing collier, has a warm greeting; and Lizzie Shaw, a local artist who has won some renown, is also fulfilling an engagement.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—A welcome visit is being paid this week by Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's excellent company in *The Midnight Wedding*, and well-filled houses nightly attest their appreciation of a really beautiful drama. Paul Valmer is played by Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes in a manner which gains for himself well-merited applause; Mr. John Nesbitt is most dignified as the Crown Prince; and Mr. Forbes Harrison gives a good portrait of the weak-willed Lieut. Eugene Von Strelsburg. Mr. Mayor Cooke as Capt. Rudolf Von Scarisbruck plays with a fine appreciation of the part; Miss Yvonne Orchardson, who appears as Princess Astrea Von Strelsburg, is sweet and womanly, and is to be congratulated upon a really fine impersonation. Much fun is occasioned by Messrs. James E. Page, Harry Richardson, and Algie Spalding as Sergt. Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobo; and as their sweetheart Kathie Miss Ada Champion is splendid. The other characters are equally well filled, and special mention should be made of the beautiful scenery and effects.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. A. Vic. Carnell.—The Six Brothers Luck, with a new and screamingly-funny sketch, top the bill this week; Silbon's novelty circus, introducing exceedingly clever animals, is highly enjoyed; Clarke's Nippers give a smart performance with the clubs and ball-punching; and Foy Brothers and company produce a most amusing sketch, *Pat in China*. Maudie Ford looks pretty and dances daintily; Woodhouse and Wells' patter gives occasion for laughter; the Haverleys are applauded for song and picture; and Nash and Noel sing and dance well.

ST. LEONARDS. — Pier Pavilion.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and his smart and clever company are securing good and appreciative audiences, and the principal characters achieve distinct success in Old English comedy and Shakespearean plays. In *The School for Scandal* Mr. Murray Hathorn gives a fine and well-studied performance of Sir Peter Teazle; as Sir Oliver Surface Mr. Gordon Philliott submits an impersonation of high merit; and the villainies of Joseph Surface are outlined by Mr. George Relph with a firm and decisive hand. The Charles Surface of Mr. Ian Maclaren is a capital sketch, finished in every phase; Mr. Dawson Mills represents Moses, the Jew, to perfection; Miss Claire Townshend makes the sweetest figure possible of Maria; Miss Marguerite Cellier gives a perfectly admirable sketch of Lady Teazle; the author's idea of Lady Sneerwell is truthfully realised by Miss Gertrude Littlewood; and a lively representative of Mrs. Candour is found in Miss Muriel Dole. Other plays announced for the week are *The Merchant of Venice, Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, She Stoops to Conquer, As You Like It, Othello, Taming of the Shrew*, and *The Rivals*.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Though quite familiar here, the popularity of the *Two Little Vagabonds* has been fully maintained, judged by the large audiences and the close interest displayed in the capital representations given by Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company. Humour and pathos are pleasingly exemplified by Miss Denise Pritchard as Dick, and Miss Alice Leon as Wally; Mr. Richard A. Green acts ably as George Thornton; Capt. Darville is effectively portrayed by Mr. Arthur E. Melborne; Mr. Martin Sands makes a capital Bill Mullins; Miss Florence Dalton gives a meritorious impersonation of Marion Thornton; Miss Marie Pritchard acts the part of Biddy Mullins with ability, and Miss Ida Drayton is charming as Sister Randall.

Empire. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —*The Enemy of Man*, by W. J. Mackey, is thoroughly interesting, and has had a gratifying reception; the Four Regals give a marvellous display of strength; the evergreen Sam Redfern, with his amusing patter, is pleasingly received; Fred Herbert's songs are appreciated; the Three Coopers, comedy and harmonising vocalists, are highly entertaining; King and Queen, comedy duo, are successful; the Varleys sing delightfully; whilst the statuary act of the Four Edmunds commands much applause.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Castle Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. George D. Day's company presents here *The Prodigal Son*. Mr. Albert Ward's clever rendering of the part of Oscar Stephensson is marked by real dramatic skill; Miss Pauline Emeric figures in the dual rôle of Thora and Elin with charm and delicacy; Mr. H. J. Crane as Magnus Stephensson, is an effort of subdued strength; Miss Pearla Gardner acts consistently and with power as Helga Neilsson; Mr. Jackson Hayes as Stephen Magnuason, is good; Mr. James English as Oscar Neilsson, Miss Violet Carrington as Mme. Pindhu, and Miss Florence Lovell as Anna Magnusson also contributed largely to the success.

Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Rosie's Birthday Party head the bill here this week in a scena entitled *A South American Cotton Plantation*, their singing and dancing being well received; J. W. Hall, comedian, on a return visit, is as popular as ever; the Ormesby Quartette sing well; Harris and Worth, comedians, have some good patter; Maston, the Yorkshire mimic, wins favour; and other amusing turns are Harland and Rollinson in a novel musical act, Ida Bell, comedienne, and Royston and Royce, comedy artists. The Bioscope concludes.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week a drama entitled *The Bellringer*. Mr. Fred Terris, in the title-rôle, acts with distinction, and is well assisted by Miss Lilian Beaumont.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—Miss Lydia Yeamans, assisted by Fred J. Titus, submits her well-known vocal selections and impersonations, and is accorded a pleasing reception; the Pasquali Brothers' equilibristic work is most smartly executed; Fraser and Haley are charming contralto vocalists, their rendering of "Love me and the world is mine" being excellent; and Natalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts, give a good exhibition. A sketch entitled *A Daughter of the Revolution* is played with much success; Miss Georgette Thierry, a capable actress, sustains the pricipal part forcibly, and is ably seconded by Mr. Bernard Liell. Also here are the Musical Lynnes, Chas. Rowen, and Dot Stanley. The Bioscope shows Over the Sticks, &c.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. James Wighton.—After being closed for some months this comparatively new theatre reopened on Monday under its new regime, having the additional honour of Mr. George Alexander's first visit to the Wearside borough. The piece chosen for representation was Mr. Cosmo Gordon Lennox's adaptation of M. Henry Bernstein's *The Thief*. Mr. Alexander's enaction of Richard Chelford was most thoroughly appreciated by the large audience. Mr. Alexander is supported by Miss Irene Vanbrugh, whose Marise Chelford captivated the whole house. Mr. Dawson Milward is fully adequate as Raymond Leyton; Mr. Reginald Owen as Harry Leyton comes in for a round of applause; Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds carefully portrays Mr. Protheral; and Mr. Montague Wigan is excellent as a servant. Miss Nina Sevening's rendition of Isabel Leyton is also highly commendable. The piece is dressed and staged with the usual elegance and splendour that always characterises the productions of the manager of the St. James's Theatre. The piece de resistance is preceded by the playlet *The Nursery Governess*, in which Mr. Ashton Pearse is seen to advantage as Mr. Simpson Brigge; and Mr. Harcourt Williams makes the most of his chance as Captain Trent. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay as Mrs. Trent and Miss Barbara Hannay as Wilson leave little to be desired. The interior of the theatre has been thoroughly cleaned and renovated, and the parterre seats have now been converted into pit accommodation, resulting in increased seating facilities. The new musical director is Mr. Frank Barnard.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Grierson.—*The Love that Women Desire* is being submitted here this week. Mr. J. O. Stewart appears as Squire Abingdon, and Mr. Morris Maud enacts the son Richard; Mr. Sidney Leyton is seen to advantage as Philip Carnaby; Mr. Gilbert Elvin is good as Dr. Brandeth; Mr. Sydney Rudge appears as Arnold Gathorne; and Mr. Hugh Wallace is responsible for Frank Hardy; whilst Mr. John Hignett enacts Dennis O'Rourke. Miss A. G. Clynde's impersonation of Sybil Thorburn is excellent, and Miss Jessie Elvin praiseworthily accounts for Madge Abingdon. Miss May Neilson as Patty Swift, Miss V. Young as Molly, and Miss D. Northmore as Marquisha are each adequate to the respective demands made upon them.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The Ten-Ji Troupe of mystical conjurors and tricksters, in their marvellous entertainment, head the programme. Other turns include Elsie Roby, the comedienne pianist, whose novel act *The Slavey* goes as well as ever; Richard Rich, comedian; Harry Rogers and company in the dramatic comedy *Told in a Flat;* the Seven Wulfrunas in their acrobatic creation *Fun in a Café;* the Six Lancashire Lasses, vocalists and dancers; Stewart and Morgan, vocalists; Cadwell and Verne, in *Early Closing Day* sketch; and an excellent show of Bioscope pictures.

SWANSEA.—The Grand.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company introduce *Diana of Dobson's* for the first time to a Swansea audience this week. In the title-rôle Miss Dorothy Green, by her sprightliness, makes a most fascinating Diana, and is excellently supported by Mr. H. Grendon Bentley, who, as Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton, plays with great success. Sir Jabez Grindley, Bart., receives careful attention from Mr. Alfred Harris. Miss Helen Vicary as Miss Pringle is good; Miss Mary Stewart is clever as Mrs. Cantelupe; and Mrs. Whyte Fraser is well portrayed by Miss Georgette de Serville. *Diana* is preceded by a dramatic sketch of merit, entitled *The Bishop's Candlestick*, in which Misses Vicary, and De Serville, and Messrs. Harris, Wainwright, and Pauncefoot are seen to advantage.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—*At Duty's Call* is being presented by Mr. John Gerant's company. Mr. Ernest St. John's portrayal of General Gordon is a particularly pleasing one, and Mr. John Gerant as Harold Alison could not be bettered; Miss Ada Roscoe plays feelingly as Salome; Messrs. T. Tilly Dillson and Walter P. Carr provide good humour.

Empires, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—A delightfully simple duologue *The Dog Between* gives Mr. Lawrence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney abundant opportunities for exercising their talents, which they make the fullest use of; Charlene and Charlene, who combine the businesses of jugglers and instrumentalists, give an original and highly pleasing turn; Herbert S. Kelly is a quick-change artist, and the clever manner in which he impersonated the different characters in *Dan the Outlaw* is astonishing; The Maples present very successfully a skit *How to Treat a Burglar;* and the Brothers Redmond, acrobatic comedians, are most entertaining; Tom Woottwell, in his vocal character studies, goes high; and the Crown Trio deserve the reception they get; Marion Scott sings daintily; and the Bioscope pictures maintain their excellence.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—After being closed for the regatta the theatre opened here on Thursday night with Mr. Bernard Shaw's famous play *You Never Can Tell* by Mr. Taylor Platt and Mr. Trevor Lowe's company, and an excellent performance was much appreciated.

Princess Pier Concert Hall.—An excellent attraction is being provided here for the regatta by The Nonentities, whose entertainment is both refined and amusing. Miss Louie Counsell has a pleasing and fascinating manner, and is frequently encored, and Miss Madeline Stone also does remarkably well; Mr. Fred Evered gives some clever lady impersonations, and Mr. Roland Foster renders some good songs acceptably; Mr. L. F. Sumner is a talented tenor, and Mr. Oscar Mills is much in evidence with his amusing patter.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—Miss Mabel Love, in the title-rôle of *Lady Frederick*, has had a most enthusiastic reception at Tunbridge Wells this week, the curtain being raised again and again. Her impersonation of the Irish temperament and delicious brogue were simply inimitable. She was well supported by Mr. Robert Minster as the blasé Paradine Fouldes, who is sent for to circumvent, but remains to wed, the charming but terribly embarrassed Irish heroine. Mr. E. F. Mead imitates to perfection the calf-love and disillusionment of Lord Mereston, whose angry sister is admirably portrayed by Miss Eleanor Delaporte; while the secondary love interest is well maintained by Mr. Patrick Quill and Miss Lynn Fontanne. Capt. Gerald Gambier is excellent as the bluff old Admiral; and Mr. Edward Bonfield as the scheming discounter of bills; while Miss Beatrice Grosvenor as Lady Frederick's dressmaker and Miss Rita Ward as Angelique are admirable bourgeoise studies. As a curtain-raiser *The Peacemaker* is excellently performed by Miss Delaporte, Miss Fontanne, Miss Rita Ward, Mr. Patrick Quill, and Mr. E. Bonfield.

TYLDESLEY. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Messrs. Elliman's capable company is presenting here *A Heart's Desire*. Mr. R. F. Stacey gives a powerful and effective portrayal of Lord St. Ives; Mr. Eddie Vane is seen to advantage as Eric May; Messrs. Edward Leroy and Charles King admirably sustain the parts of two gipsy outlaws; Mr. John Hames supplies a clever study of Coombes, the butler; Mr. Charles Clark is capital as Bardsley, the gamekeeper; and Mr. Arthur Jones is good as a gendarme. Miss Lily Prescott wins much favour by her rendering of Oiya, a native half-caste; Miss Gertrude Gilman is successful as Hon. Elsie Beresford; Miss Nora Malone is a lively Julie; and Mr. Julien Mitchell as Hon. Bertie and Miss Hilda May as Gwendoline Ross are responsible for much amusement.

TYNEMOUTH.— Palace-by-the-Sea. — Proprietor and Director, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—On Sunday the famous Black Dyke Band drew a couple of crowded houses. During the remainder of the week an excellent entertainment is being provided, including a high-class concert party, under the guidance of Mr. Leslie Harris, who is a warm favourite at this resort; Miss A. Backsheen Wood is a solo violinist who is quite a treat to listen to, her execution being exceptionally skilful and delightful; Miss Ida Kahn, soprano;Mr. Cuthbert Allan, a baritone artist who wins immediate favour; and Leslie Harris, whose items at the piano and efforts as a raconteur are highly amusing. Then, as a change, comes Albert le Fre, who submits his smart and diversified mélange *What One Sees at the Halls*, and whose bright and lively patter is heartily applauded. There is, as usual, an up-to-date show of pictures. On Wednesday an additional attraction was the visit of Mr. John McCormack, the well-known Irish tenor.

Spanish City (Whitley Bay).—Manager, Mr. Charles Elderton.—The Toreadors continue to hold full sway here, the enclosure being the evening rendezvous for the many visitors to the popular Newcastle-by-the-Sea resort.

WAKEFIELD. — Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Bert Coote's company in *The Fatal Wedding* occupies the stage this week. Mr. Cecil A. Melton contributes an earnest and manly presentment of Howard Wilson; Mr. Frank Harrison is effective as the villainous Mr. Curtis; Mr. Charles Locke is exceedingly comic as Toto; Mr. Cyril Melton is good as Peter Schwartz; Miss Ethel Kay is tender and sympathetic as Mabel Wilson; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh is excellent as Cora Williams; Bridget is amusingly portrayed by Miss Ethel Serjeant; and Miss Lulu Wohlmann is sweet and natural as Jessie. A capital entertainment of singing and dancing is provided in Act 3 by the juvenile members of the company, which receives well-earned applause.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Atlas and Vulcana, assisted by the Sisters Atlas, give a fine exhibition of strength, Miss Vulcana also appearing in artistic poses which merit appreciation; Arthur Alexander and company, sketch artists, prove very popular; the Brothers Durant, comedians, are amusing; Shrillo, whistler, delights; other interesting items are Wragg and Wragg, who perform clever feats of swordsmanship, Marie Colmore, comedienne, and Arthur Albert, vocal comedian.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Percy Norman's company is here this week in the Russian drama *A Woman Worth Winning*. The various settings are exceptionally good. Mr. A. B. Mackay, the author of the play, gives a realistic portrayal of the remorseless General Brobinski, and a manly interpretation of Fergus Lovinsky is that of Mr. Gilbert Standing. Mr. George Edwin Clive is good as Fergus Lovinsky; Mr. Sidney Barton is a dignified Czar Nicholas; a particularly clever sketch of Ivan Baroff is that of Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh; plenty of humour is extracted from the parts of Bertie Scribbles by Mr. Louis Newman, Peter Popples by Mr. Ernest Kendrick, and Katerina Kloss by Miss Ida Mackay. Miss Chrissie Dunbar enacts the part of Roma Pauloff faithfully, and in the dramatic phases she displays great histrionic ability. The minor parts are all well sustained.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—Princess Pocahontas scores with her charming singing, her rich soprano voice being of remarkable range; the Jackson also win favour with a musical act; the pictures are good, and include a Gentleman Burglar and Quebec to Magra.

Palace and Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Larola is a great favourite, and his versatility appears to have no limit; Conway and Leland are a clever pair of eccentrics; the Glenroy Troupe are highly applauded for their series of dancers, the tableau "Sons of Britannia's Empire" being very picturesque; Rose Cabini is an effective vocalist and chic comedienne; James Howard and Fanny St. Clair cause endless laughter with their sketch *Do You Want Any Coke?* W. G. Wesley sings his songs in a quaint way; Deans and Wilton are expert comedy acrobats; and Norah Noble a dainty comedienne. The pictures are good.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—Shrieks of laughter greet the performance of Mr. Charles Macdona's company in *Are You a Mason?* The company is an excellent one all round, but special praise should be accorded Mr. H. Langdon Bruce for his splendid character acting in the rôle of George Fisher and to Messrs. H. E. Paterson and Erskholm E. Clive for their excellent play as Amos Bloodgood and Hamilton Travers respectively. Eva has a splendid exponent in Miss Rita Narcelli; and considerable amusement is caused by the play of Miss Mary Kilpack as Lottie, the Irish servant; and others who were entirely satisfactory in their respective rôles were Miss Adelaide Grace as Mrs. Bloodgood, Misses Rita Johnson and Dulcey Verney as the sisters Annie and Lulu, Mr. Francis J. Bithell as Frank Perry, and Mr. Milton Rass as Ernest Morrison.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—The programme is headed by Lillie Soutter, comedienne, whose quaint style earns for her abundance of applause and persistent recalls; the Whizzing the Whirl competition is productive of shrieks of laughter; that clever artist in sand, smoke, and oil, Thornbury, has already popularised himself in this district; as also have Zeta Grey and Co. in their performance, *The Lancashire Lass*, and the reception accorded them is most gratifying; Violet Nunn's coon songs are much appreciated; Scottie's Operatic Waifs and Strays, in their "pathetic appeal," *The Cry of the Children*, are well appreciated; the comedy duologue *What a Life* is smart as done by Edwards and Dacre; and Victor Travers, comedian, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are attractions.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Ernest Dare's *In the Soup* company have been here for the first three nights of the week. Mr. Louis Palgrave was successful as Horace Gillibrand, while Mr. A. Field Fisher was a capital Abernethy Rappershaw; as Paul Hemming Mr. E. Beerbohm did well, as did Mr. James C. Taylor as Mons. Moppert. The clever acting of Mr. Willie Wardo, jun., made the part of Bates stand out conspicuously; Miss M. Lowe-Dare was vivacious as Judith Gillibrand; as Mme. Moppert Miss Vera Wallace was praiseworthy; Miss Mabel Harley was an excellent Delphine; and Mrs. Edgar Colona as Mrs. Bates was all that could be desired. Mr. Cecil A. Collins's company is here for the remainder of the week in *Hands across the Sea*.

Grand Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The Scarlet Mr. Es are proving very popular here, and on Monday provided a most attractive programme. Mr. Walter Dowling as the Jester is the life and soul of the entertainment, his very humorous songs being vociferously encored; Miss Teree sings most artistically "My Dear Soul"; and the four gentlemen whose names do not appear in the programme are all remarkably good in their respective items. A new set of pictures by Pathé Frères is shown on the Fioscope by Mr. John Lambert.

Assembly Rooms.—Manager, Mr. W. Forth.—Mr. Will Stone's Bioscope and Variety Company are doing big business here twice nightly. The pictures shown are of the finest, especially one entitled "The Sleeping Beauty," by Pathé Frères. Amongst the variety turns Mr. Antonio Medcalfe's song "Rose of the Desert" is entitled to special eulogy.

WEST STANLEY. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Manager, Mr. Mark H. Lindon.—Mr. Wilson Benge and company are here this week in *The Eve of Her Wedding*. Mr. Arthur Keand gives a fine rendering of the part of Squire Leverton; Mr. Harry Sanson does full justice to the part of Dick Leverton; Mr. Wilson Benge gives a most manly portrayal of the part of George Fremaine; while Mr. C. Digby causes amusement as Rudolph Earle. Mr. Wilson Campbell plays with force and skill the part of Dean Clifton; Miss Sadie Smith is charming in the part of Mavis Leverton; and Miss Daisy Cook handles Gwendoline Younger with skill.

Victoria Theatre. — Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes.—Topping the bill here is Agnes Spadoni and her highly-trained troupe of horses. Leo King, actor and vocalist; the Godfreys, musical comedietta artists; George Bernard, actor-vocalist, in "The Last of the Light Brigade"; Virto and Venita, in their clever musical show, with new and novel instruments, are others who appear; and the Vicoscope concludes a good programme.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Dickie Clare's Company of Comedians appear in the musical farcical absurdity *Lucky Liza*. Mr. Dickie Clare, in a three-part character of Silas Slim, &c., and Miss Madge Brownie, as Eliza Bird, or Lucky Liza, are the outstanding features of the piece. The play, on the whole, is well received.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Variety shows continue to find favour, and the high standard set by the management has been well maintained. John Lemm, champion wrestler, and his opponents, many of them local men, aroused the enthusiasm of a packed house on Monday; the Three Huxters, America's greatest leapers, are much appreciated; Josh Dixon is a popular comedian and dancer, and meets with a good reception; the Four McBreens are clever and entertaining jugglers; Mdlle. Sybil, lady baritone, sings with good effect; and Van Bern, peculiar patterer and mirthful mystifier, Fremel and Fremel, patter comedians, N. C. Bostock, the comic king, The Mackenzies, favourite vocalists, Tennis and Laune, in their original vocal scena, and the Hippodrome pictures, including scenes from the Maypole Pit disaster, conclude a very entertaining programme.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred. Marco.—Last week-end the three survivors of the Maypole Colliery disaster appeared on the stage and recounted their experiences in the mine on the day of the explosion. A fine series of pictures are shown to overflow audiences; and "Empress," the lady Houdini, "the only lady handcuff manipulator in the world," lends variety to the entertainment.

WORTHING.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company are here to good business for the first three nights, presenting *Miss Hook of Holland*. Mr. Edmund Russell, as Mr. Hook, is very fine, his droll treatment of the character meeting with the greatest approval; Mr. Fred. Dark, as Simon Slinks, causes roars of laughter; Mr. Adrian Burgon, as Bandmaster Van Vruft, possesses a fine voice, his songs being greatly admired; Mr. J. B. Fox is extremely good as Captain Adrian Paap; Miss Muff Carewe, as Mina, deserves unstinted praise, her singing and quaint mannerisms arousing the enthusiasm of the house; Miss Amy Grey, who takes the title-rôle, possesses a fine presence and sings to perfection. The chorus is under the able direction of Mr. Harry Richardson. On Thursday *Tom Jones* was presented. On Friday Marie Brema appeared at a special matinée.

YORK.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*The Belle of New York*, presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard, has lost none of its attractiveness, and has been the means of filling the theatre during the past week. In the title-rôle Miss Hebe Kneller could hardly be surpassed; her rendition is marked by much charm, and she sings tunefully. Mr. Frank Lawton is more popular than ever in his old part of Blinky Bill, his whistling being as usual a special feature; as the polite lunatic, Mr. Jos. R. Tate causes roars of laughter; and Mr. Arthur Ricketts is quaintly amusing as Bronson. One of the best-played parts is the Fifi Tricott of Miss Dorothy Doria; it is tasteful and winsome to a degree. Miss Florence Hersee dances herself into favour in the rôle of Mamy Clancy; Mr. J. A. Watts is particularly smart as Harry Bronson; and Miss Winnie Brown is an imposing Cora Angelique.

Opera House and Empire. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—For the Race Week a decidedly strong programme is being presented. Queenie Leighton, who is the principal attraction, is drawing crowded houses; the Fitzroys, society gymnasts, are clean, neat, and daring in their feats; Walton and Lester are a couple of clever comedians who cause roars of laughter; Will 'E Stop It? excels as a comedian and acrobat. A popular feature is the Waldrons in their laughable absurdity, entitled *The Silly Burglar*; Amos Howard is a clever dancer; the Ted Moxon Trio are seen to great advantage in their acrobatic turn; Macintosh and Royal, clog and big boot dancers, are a great success; Les Currys excel as musical specialists. The pictures shown by the Bioscope are up-to-date, bright, and cheerful,

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ON THE ROAD, AUG. 31.

AN ABANDONED WOMAN.—T. R., Jarrow.
AN UNWEDDED WIFE.—T. R., Batley.
ASHWELL'S, MISS LENA.—O. H., Southport.
AT CRIPPLE CREEK.—Star T., Liverpool.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
AT THE WORLD'S MERCY.—Victoria T., Cowes.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR (BODE).—T. R., Newcastle.
BELLE OF NEW YORK (HOWARD).—Prince's T., Manchester.
BEST OF HER SEX.—T. R., Stratford.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—T. R., Brighton.
BRED OF THE TRESHAMS.—T. R., Dewsbury.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—O. H., Harrogate.
BULMER, MR.—Grand T., Nottingham.
CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE.—T. R., Edinburgh.
CARL ROSA OPERA.—Broadway T., Deptford.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.—Court T., Warrington.
CHARLEY'S AUNT (No. 2.)—Paignton and Newton Abbot.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (BODE).—T. R., Birkenhead.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, N.).—Tyne T., Newcastle.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, S.).—Grand T., Southampton.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, No. 3).—Lewes and Sittingbourne.
CLAUDIAN.—Irving T., Seacombe.
COAL KING.—Queen's T., Manchester.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—O. H., Buxton and Seacombe.
CONVICT'S DAUGHTER.—County T., Bedford.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE).—Hastings and Tunbridge Wells.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD'S).—Ipswich.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—New T. R., Goole.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (N.).—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (M.).—Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (S.).—O. H., Cork.
DIVER'S LUCK.—Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.
DONOVAN, LYDIA.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—T. R., Batley.
EAST LYNNE (KELLY).—T. R., Norwich.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—Miners' T., Ashington.
FABER, MR. LESLIE.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
FATAL WEDDING.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
FIGHT FOR A THRONE.—T. R., Hyde.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—Lyceum T., Newport.
FLOWER GIRL.—T. R., Preston.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—T. R., Bristol
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—Grand T., Newcastle.
GIRL REDEEMED FROM SIN.—T. R., West Bromwich.
GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE.—Empire T., Oldham.
GREAT AWAKENING.—County T., Reading.
GREED OF GOLD.—New T., Consett.
HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.—T. R., Bath.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—Grand T., Croydon.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—T. R., Castleford.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—T. R., Smethwick.
HONEYMOON, THE.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
HORNIMAN'S, MISS, CO.—King's T., Glasgow.
HUGHES, ANNIE.—T. R., Great Yarmouth.
HYPOCRITES, THE (N.).—Spa T., Scarborough.
KNIGHT IN ARMOUR.—Metropole T., Devonport.
LADY FREDERICK.—T. R., Nottingham.
LADY FREDERICK (POTTER).—Eastbourne & Filkest'ne.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Dalkeith and Linlithgow.
LANCASHIRE LAD.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—Merthyr Tydvil.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—Ferndale and Pontycymmer.
LONDON WITH THE LID OFF.—Lyceum T., Govan.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—T. R., Stockport.
LOVE RULES THE WORLD.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
LOVE'S GOLDEN DREAM.—Bordon Camp.
LUCKY LIZA.—Pier, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
MANXMAN, THE (CLYDE).—Kilbirne & Cowdenbeath.
MANXMAN, THE.—T. R., Rochdale and Halifax.
MAN AND WIFE.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
MAUDE'S, MISS WINIFRED.—O. H., Perth.
MERELY MARY ANN.—T. R., Darlington.
MERRY WIDOW.—T. R., Belfast.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—P.O.W., Nuneaton.
MOODY-MANNERS OPERA (A.).—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
MOODY-MANNERS OPERA (B.).—T. R., Worthing.
MOTHER'S SALVATION, A.—Carlton T., Greenwich.
MRS. DOT.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
MRS. PONDERBURY'S PAST.—Ramsgate and Cromer.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD.—Grand T., Walsall.
NEW GIRL, THE.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
NORMAN V. NORMAN.—Marlboro' Theatre, N.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Hippodrome, Salford.
OLD HOME, THE.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
OLD, OLD STORY.—Avenue T., Kettering.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Opera House, Leicester.
POWER OF THE CROSS.—Gaiety T., Methil.
POWER OF THE KING.—King's T., Longsight.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—P.O.W., Birmingham.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—Mountain Ash and Ferndale.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—T. R., Margate.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—T. R., Morecambe.
PRODIGAL SON (WESTERN).—Carlton T., Greenwich.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., West Bromwich.
SECOND TO NONE.—Lyric T., Hammersmith, W.
SEXTON BLAKE.—Princess's T., Glasgow.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Grand T., Leeds.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—T. R., Glasgow.
SILVER KING.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
SOLDIER OF FRANCE.—T. R., Aston.
STILL ALARM.—Crown T., Peckham.
STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER.—T. R., West Stanley.
SUNDAY.—King's T., Hammersmith, W.
TERRY, EDWARD.—Lyceum T., Edinboro'.
THIEF, THE (N.).—T. R., Hanley.
THIEF, THE (S.).—T. R., Portsmouth.
THIEF, THE.—Grand T., Blackpool.
TOM JONES.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON.—P. T., Bradford.
TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS.—Grand T., Burnley.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS (N.).—T. R., Ashton.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS (S.).—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
TYRANT, THE.—T. R., Woolwich.
UNDER TWO FLAGS.—T. R., Bolton.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—H. M. T., Dundee.
WARNER, GRACE.—T. R., Tyldesley.
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW.—Llandudno and Kendal.
WHEN LONDON SLEEPS.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
WHITE MAN, A.—New Theatre, Cardiff.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN.—Victoria T., Burnley.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—T. R., Bolton.
WOMAN AND WINE.—T. R., Leeds.
WOMAN PAYS.—Victoria T., Broughton.
WOMAN WORTH WINNING.—T. R., Cardiff.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—Court T., Bacup.
WRECKER OF MEN.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
£1,000 REWARD.—Palace T., Newcastle.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

E. VORLEY.—*Born Feb. 12, 1870. See notice above.*

DOUGLAS BLAIR.—*Sir Squire Bancroft was knighted at Osborne on Aug. 18, 1902. Sir Henry Irving, May 25, 1895.*

SERGEANT BRUCE (Portsmouth).—*The number of turns appearing at the Tivoli during the first and second weeks in August was under twenty. The number mentioned by your friend must have been on a special occasion, such as an anniversary or charity matinée. See notice abpve.*

MRS. BARLOW (Wolverhampton).—*We believe Mr. F. R. Benson includes the comedy you mention in his repertoire. But you might set any doubt at rest by writing to the Benson Offices, 11, Henrietta-street, Covent Garden, W.C. See notice above.*

HARRY ELLIS.—*Much obliged for your letter. You do not quite realise our idea of what a correspondent should be.*

WILCOX-RHODES (Southend-on-Sea).—Dr. Nikola *was adapted from Guy Boothby's novel by Ben Landeck and Oswald Brand, and produced at the Princess's on March 29, 1902, with Mr. F. Joynsen-Powell in the title-rôle. That part on the first tour was played by Mr. C. Pitt-Jackson.*

ERIC ALBURY.—(1) Charley's Aunt *was first produced on February 29, 1892, at the Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds.* (2) *It first saw the London footlights at the Royalty on December 21, 1892, running there until January 30, 1893, when it was presented at the Globe. We have no record of any transference from that theatre.* (3) *The piece ran for four years—1460 times.* Our Boys, *the comedy with the next longest run, was played 1362 times.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Kate Santley—Saturday, Aug. 29.
Grace Henderson—Saturday, Aug. 29.
Charles Dalton—Saturday, Aug. 29.
Keith Fraser—Sunday, Aug. 30.
Frank Lawton—Sunday, Aug. 30.
Kitty Lofting—Monday, Aug. 31.
Harry Pleon—Monday, Aug. 31.
Walter Joyce—Tuesday, Sept. 1.
George P. Lester—Tuesday, Sept. 1.
Isa Bowman—Wednesday, Sept. 2.
Rose Nesbitt.—Wednesday, Sept. 2.
Edna May—Wednesday, Sept. 2.
George R. Sims—Wednesday, Sept. 2.
Vernon Bland—Thursday, Sept. 3.
Princess Pauline—Thursday, Sept. 3.
Mike S. Whallen—Thursday, Sept. 3.
B. W. Vaughan—Thursday, Sept. 3.
Rozel—Thursday, Sept. 3.
Ellis Carlyle—Thursday, Sept. 3.
Esmé Beringer—Friday, Sept. 4.
Kate Forster—Friday, Sept. 4.
Lester Collingwood—Friday, Sept. 4.
Harry Brayne—Friday, Sept. 4.
F. Bulmer—Friday, Sept. 4.

"THE name of the actress who played Desdemona under Killigrew's management in 1660 has," says Dutton Cook, "not been discovered. Who, then, was the first English actress, assuming that she was the Desdemona of the Vere-street Theatre? She must be looked for in Killigrew's company. His 'leading lady' was Mrs. Ann Marshall, of whom Pepys makes frequent mention, who is known to have obtained distinction alike in tragedy and in comedy, and to have personated such characters as the heroine of Beaumont and Fletcher's *Scornful Lady*, Roxana in *Alexander the Great*, Calphurnia in *Julius Cæsar*, Evadne in *The Maid's Tragedy*, and so on; there is no record, however, of her having appeared in the part of Desdemona. Indeed, this part is not invariably assumed by 'leading ladies'; it has occasionally devolved upon the *seconda donna* of the company. And in a representation of *Othello* on Feb. 6, 1669, at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane (to which establishment Killigrew and his troop had removed from Vere-street in April, 1663), it is certain, on the evidence of Downes's 'Roscius Anglicanus,' that a Mrs. Hughes played the part of Desdemona to the Othello of Burt, the Iago of Mohun, and the Cassio of Hart. Now, was this Mrs. Hughes, who had been a member of Killigrew's company from the first, the Desdemona on whose behalf, nine years before, Mr. Thomas Jordan wrote his apologetic prologue? It seems not unlikely. At the same time, it must be stated that there are other claimants to the distinction."

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Aldrich, Mrs. Chas.
Alexander, Mr. S. K.
Anthony, Mr. Harry
Anton, Mr. W. Holmes
Armitage, Mr. Harry
Arnold, Miss T.
Artois, Mr. J.
Barrett, Mr. Medley
Barry, Mr. Leonard
Bernhardt, Mme. Sarah
Bevan, Miss Flossie
Biddall, Mr. W.
Blakey, Mr. R.
Blunt, Mr. G.
Boggetti, Mr. E.
Boissett, Mr. Herbert
Bramley, Mr. Bee
Brookes, Miss E.
Burford, Mr. Watty
Campbell, Mr. D.
Carver, Mr. Geo.
Carver, Mr. Cecil A.
Carver, Mr. P.
Caselli, Miss Cora
Caselli, Mr. E.
Cash, Mr. Morny
Cecilians, The Four
Clark, Miss D. H.
Clark, Col. W.
Cliquot, Chevalier
Cochrane, Mr. Frank
Connor, Miss A.
Conynghame, Mr. F. L.
Coop, Mr. Colin
Coram,
Correze, Mrs
Corri, Mr. Clarence
Costello, Mr. Tom
Cottesmore, Mr. E.
Courtney, Miss Maud
Cuthbert, Mr. Alfred
Darrell, Mr. Chas.
Davis, Mr. Tom
Doody, Mrs. Sid
Doreen, Miss Lilian
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Franklyn, Miss Eugene
Franklin, Miss Jenny
Fyne, Mr. Fred
Ghalom, Miss Celia
Glennie, Mrs.
Golden, Mr. Horace
Gordon, Mr. S.
Graham, Mrs. N. D.
Grey, Miss Minnie
Grey, Miss Mona
Halna, Mrs.
Hamiltons, Messrs. W.
Harcourt, Miss Enid
Harrison, Mr. W.
Hartley, Mr. Chas.
Harwood, Mr. Frank
Hearn, Mr. James
Hemingway, Mr. Jack
Henson, Mr. J. W.
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Housley, Miss Marie
Hubbard, Miss Ida
Hyde, Mr. Arthur
Imray, Mr. Chas.
Ireland, Mr. Ian
Jessett, Mr. Fred
Johnson, Mr. Kid
Johnson, Mr. Mike
Jones, Mr. Henry A.
King, Mr. H.
King, Mr. Leo.
Lant, Mr. William
Latona, Mr. Frank
Le Breton, Mrs.
Leslie, Mr. Alfred
Levaine, Mr. Harry
Ling, Mr. T. P.
Linwood, Mr. Lance
Lockart's Elephants.
Loftus, Mr. A.
Loftus, Miss Cecilia
Loftus, Miss K.
Lorett, Mr. and Mrs.
Lupino, Mr. George
Macdonald, Mr. Jack
Mackay, Mr. W. J.
March, Miss T.
Mascard, Mr. A.
May, Miss Alice
McCarthy, Mr. D.
McCulloch, Mr. A.
McNab, Mr. Sandy
Michelena, Miss Vera
Mick, Little
Mildare, Mr. C.
Millian, Mr. Max
Miniature Marie
Mitchell, Mr. Geo.
Morison, Capt. R.
Neilson, Mr. H. V.
New York Comedy Four
Odell, Miss Maude
Oliver, Mr. J. C.
Pettigrove, Mr. Britton
Pitt, Mr. C. H.
Powell, Mr. Frank
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Rayburn, Miss Kittie
Reeves, Mr. George
Relph, Miss Mary
Rich and Rare
Rignold, Miss Bessie
Rivers, Miss Kate
Roscoe, Miss Ada
Rose, Mr. Howard
Rubens, Mr. H.
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Tilbury, Mr. Walter
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Valentine, Mr. H. E.
Venus, Miss Mab
Walford, Mr. Archie
Warren, Mr. Ross
Whittier, Mr. Robert
Williams, Mr. Chas. H.
Willie Brothers
Wood, Mr. Alf.
Yorke, Mr. Percy
York, Mr. Philip
Zerbinis, Mr. Victor
Zolas, The Four

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

LE BRUN.—On Aug. 21, at 21, Shirley-street, Hove, Mrs. Irene Le Brun (Brown), of a fine daughter. Both going on well.

OSBORNE.—On Saturday, Aug. 22, at 31, Ridgmount-gardens, Gower-street, Lottie Albert (comedienne), wife of Oscar Osborne, solicitor, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

PARKER—LANGLEY.—On Sunday, Aug. 23, at St. Michael's Church, Stockwell, Miss Grace Langley, comedienne, to Mr. T. E. Parker.

SAVERY—DEW.—On Aug. 24, at Trinity Church, Ramsgate, William Hubert Savery, of Exmouth, to Irene Constance Dew, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Dew, of Ramsgate, late of the Theatre Royal, Dover.

FORTHCOMING MARRIAGE.

BROCK—MOHR.—A marriage has been arranged, and will take place next spring, between Dorothy Brock (Doris Brookes), youngest daughter of George Frederick Brock, of Aintree, Liverpool, and Oliver Bernard Mohr (Richard Ferris), youngest son of Charles Mohr, of Birmingham.

DEATHS.

JARVIS.—On Aug. 21, at Colly Istra Cottages, Bedlinog, South Wales, of meningitis, Ernest Herbert Jarvis, aged 27, showman's manager, husband of Alice Gertrude Alexandra Jarvis, and eldest and beloved son of Frances and George Oscar Prosser Jarvis, of 113, Fairfield-street, East Park-road, Leicester, for many years the local correspondent of "The Era." Interred at Bedlinog, on Tuesday, Aug. 25.

O'FLYNN.—On Aug. 21, 1908, at his residence, 32, Houghton-place, Bradford, Michael O'Flynn, aged 60, father of Francis O'Flynn, banjoist. R.I.P.

SIMON.—Aug. 22, the Rev. T. H. Simon, curate of Holy Trinity Church, Shaw, Lancashire, formerly actor (St. Bernard Wyntour), aged 27.

PASTOR.—Aug. 27, at New York, of paralysis, Tony Pastor, American entrepreneur, in his 71st year.

IN MEMORIAM.

ALDRIDGE.—In loving memory of my darling beloved wife, Carrie Aldridge, who to our unutterable grief died Aug. 30, 1907. Only those who knew her can realise our terrible loss.—FRANK and WEE IVY PERTH.

DRESCHER.—In loving remembrance of our darling mother and loving wife, who departed this life Aug. 9, 1904, at Johannesburg, Transvaal, of enteric fever.
Gone and forgotten by many you may be;
But dear to our memory forever you'll be.
If the grave were to open, what changes you'd see,
But eternal rest is far better for thee.

MACDONA.—In loving memory of William Macdona, who passed away Aug. 31, 1892, father of Charles and F. Graham Macdona. Peace, perfect peace.

SAKER.—To the loved memory of Maria Saker, who passed away Sept. 1, 1902. Mama, beloved ever.

SQUIRE.—In memory of my dear daddy (R. Cowley Squire), Cowley Polhill, died Aug. 29, 1906.
Oh, for the touch of a vanished hand,
The sound of a voice that is still.
Never forgotten by his daughter EVE.

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Grand Opera in English (last week). Every evening at 8, Matinées, Wed. and Sat., at 2. Mon., "Tannhauser," Mdme. De Vere-Sapio, Mr. Louis Laurier; Tues., "Madame Butterfly," Mdme. Fanny Moody, Mr. Seth Hughes; Wed., Mat., "Lohengrin," Mdme. De Vere-Sapio, Mr. Philip Brozel; Wed., Eve., "Faust," Miss Kate Anderson, Mr. Seth Hughes; Thurs., "Cavalleria Rusticana," Miss Toni Seiter, Mr. Seth Hughes; and "Pagliacci," Miss Kate Anderson, Mr. Philip Brozel; Fri., "Madame Butterfly," Mdme. Fanny Moody, Mr. Louis Laurier; Sat., Mat., "Aida," Mdme. De Vere-Sapio, Mr. Philip Brozel; Sat., Eve., "The Lily of Killarney," Mdme. Fanny Moody, Messrs. John Child, Seth Hughes.

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'Phone 119 Hammersmith.
Owner and Resident-Manager, J. B. Mulholland.
Nightly at 8. Thursday Matinée at 2.30.
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KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH, W.

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Managing-Directors,
Mr. Ernest Stevens and Mr. R. C. Buchanan.
Aug. 31,
"THE SINS OF SOCIETY."
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Full Programmes for the Entire Season from the Queen's Hall Orchestra, Ltd., 320, Regent-street, W.
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HIGH-STREET, POPLAR. Tel. 714 East.
Proprietors, Messrs. F. and M. ABRAHAMS.
Joint Managers, M. Abrahams and C. Hector.
Twice Nightly, at 6.30 and 9.10. Matinée Thursday. W. Purcell's Co., in "That Brute Simmons," Ruby Bijou, Frank Cass, Leslie Lynn and Willro, Flo Schuberth, Ernie Myers, Lily Lonsdale, Onda and Artel, and Dutch Daly.
Bill matter must be sent in fourteen days before opening, in accordance with Clause 18; same to be sent to Manager, Queen's. Artists please note rehearsal must be attended Mondays, 1.0 o'clock, according to contract.

THE NEW BEDFORD
PALACE OF VARIETIES, LTD.
Twice Nightly, at 6.10 and 9.0.
Monday, Aug. 31.—The Book of Life, Grace Tree, James Stewart, Jack Crawley, Margaret Radcliffe, Maurice H. Hoffman and Co., in "The Martyrdom of Michael," Les Belles Americaines, the Bioscope, the Ramsey Trio, Calile and Walker, Jenny Lynn, Griffiin and Ardell.
Artists are notified that they must send their full Bill Matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1 o'clock Mondays. All must attend. Artists not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at option of Management.

LONDON MUSIC HALLS.

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MDLLE. LEONORA, in
"SAL, OH MY!" UP TO DATE.
THE MASTER MYSTERY, LIST'S BEARS, MLLE. BRESSINA, TOM NAWN and CO., THE THREE DONALS, MDLLE. POMPONNETTE, in "THE TWO FLAGS," &c.

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"AFTER THE OPERA,"
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Lydia Kyaksht, Ray Wallace, Velanche's Dogs, Warren and Brockway, Emma Francis, Les Souloffs, Battle of Salisbury on the Bioscope, &c. Every Evening at 8. Man., Mr. H. J. HITCHINS.

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Little Tich (10.30), Wilkie Bard (10), Victoria Monks (9.20), Joe Elvin (9), Cinquevalli, Jordan and Harvey, Chas. Fisher's Opera Co., Dan Crawley, Ernest Shand, Signor and Madame Borelli, The Whittakers, Daisy Jerome, Mr. and Mrs. Kemp in a Pictorial Novelty, "Tales of the Wild." (10.20), Ida Barr, Maidie Scott, Daisy Wood Phil Rees' Stable Lads, Rita Rhylle, Ruffell's Bioscope. Open 7.20, Saturday Matinées 2.15. Manager, Mr. BLYTH PRATT.

TIVOLI.
Marie Lloyd, R. G. Knowles, Wilkie Bard, Harry Tate and Co., The Bensons, Ernest Shand, Sam Mayo, Adrienne Augarde and Co., Millie Lindon, John Le Hay and Co., Leonard Barry, Margaret Ashton, Les Frasettis, Will Evans.
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Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
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SATURDAY, AUGUST 29, 1908.

NOVELS OF THE STAGE.

The Press has been pretty fertile of late in novels dealing with stage life—more fertile, indeed, than in the last generation. The novelists of that epoch usually elected to take a humorous view of the stage; though in Dickens's case this smiling contempt may be attributed to a sneaking kindness for the actor's career. Dickens, early in life, wanted to go on the stage, and solicited an engagement at Covent Garden Theatre, and for three years the future novelist went to a theatre every night to study acting, and practised in his own room or in the fields for five or six hours a day. There may have been a little of the "sour grapes" feeling in Dickens's trick of poking fun at the profession. The last epoch, however, produced a novel which treated the actor's career seriously. Pierce Egan's "Life of an Actor," published in 1834, is the epitome of a histrionic career of the period. The curious engraved and coloured frontispiece depicts a hill which is being stormed by parties of actors eager to mount the ladder of fame at the top. At the foot are the wastrels and unfortunates of the profession; higher up is a dark arch leading to Poverty; Content and Mediocrity are on the second story; and, at the summit of the picture, the "Actor's Climax" is shown—"Royalty witnessing the efforts of Genius." Two Beefeaters stand outside the Royal box, and Royalty glumly watches the efforts of a pair of armoured warriors who are engaged in deadly combat. Egan began with the aspirations of his hero, "Proteus," from a compositors' room to the stage, showed him "purchasing a private night at the Haymarket Theatre," and taking a benefit; going with Mr. Plausible Screw's company in the country; playing second to a London star at a fashionable watering-place; and finally, after "ups and downs" in the provinces, becoming a first-rate actor in London, and manager of one of the "Great Houses." Proteus is finally elected "Treasurer of the Theatrical Fund," and performs by command of His Majesty. The force of success in those days could no further go.

The merit of Pierce Egan's book was that it dealt with the career of an actor as the main point, disregarding minor details. Proteus does, indeed, at one point of his career, fall beneath the spell of an unprincipled enchantress, and runs into debt; but the incident is sketched in the background, not dwelt upon and elaborated. We have had a good many novels of the stage of late years, and the picture drawn by their authors collectively is a very painful and despairing one. Of course, it is merely a question of the point of view; and the talent displayed in developing the pessimistic thesis is admirable. Most of these books are written by ladies, who apparently have "gone through the mill" so thoroughly as to be completely disgusted with their experience. Mournful reflections on the base and sordid nature of the stage as a profession are enlivened by Chaucerian descriptions, not always of the most delicate nature. One-sided as they are, these novels do a great deal of good in one way in discouraging young ladies from "adopting the stage as a profession." No young woman of the upper middle-class is likely to take too rosy a view of the life after reading a modern novel of the stage.

What strikes one about these books is that they are mostly written for the point of view of the hopeless failure, and not from that of the ambitious artist. The personages seem to be in earnest about their love affairs, their combats with landladies, about everything, in short, except their business. Throughout the whole of the career of Pierce Egan's Mr. Proteus, the hero is a hero; that is to say, an unusual individual with a high aim who pursues it to the end. Of course, the middle-class outsider can have little sympathy with the actor and actress's view of life. The ordinary reader is best pleased to read of the distresses and humiliations of the stage. It raises him in his own estimation, and consoles him for the occasional "stodginess" of his own existence. There is only one instance in modern fiction of the writer taking the poetic and not the sordid view of the stage; and that is Mr. Davidson's remarkable poem "The Theatrocrat." It is an extraordinary mixture of free-thought philosophy, wild and daring imagination, and acute observation and understanding of the actor's career. It is a book that is neither widely read nor well known; but it is will repay perusal by any actor or actress of ambition and intelligence. It deals with the romance of great theatrical achievement. In some of its details it is absurd; but there is a force and conviction about its demonstrations which extorts respect. A great London actor-manager sees bankruptcy staring him in the face. All depends on his next grand production, which happens—rather strangely—to be *Troilus and Cressida*. It is difficult to imagine any manager redeeming his fortunes by a production of this unpopular play; but Mr. Davidson probably wished to select one of Shakespeare's dramas of which anything could be affirmed or denied. The "Theatrocrat," Sir Tristram Sumner, and his wife—who is also his leading lady—have resolved to commit suicide rather than face bankrupcty; and they keep poison for the purpose. Then the "Theatrocrat's" brother-in-law, an unbelieving Bishop, writes an atheistical play, and gets Sir Tristram to produce it. The indignant audience storm the stage, smash up the scenery, and kill the Bishop in the midst of his speech in response to calls for the author. Finally, a disappointed actor, a defeated rival of Sir Tristram's, who has taken to drink, stabs him dead. "The Theatrocrat" is crazy in conception, but remarkably shrewd in parts; and it does at least admit the possibility of "playing the great game" in matters theatrical, and raises the reader above the dull and somewhat dirty level of frowsy provincial lodgings and unhealthy dressing-rooms. Of course, however, one side of the picture is not complete without the other.

"The most ancient of the country or peasants' dances," says the *Musical Home Journal*, "was known as Sellinger's (or St. Leger's) Round. Queen Elizabeth was much enamoured of this dance, and was accustomed to play the melody on the virginal, a kind of primitive piano, which emitted a sound akin to the modern mandoline. Popular, too, was the Morris Dance, so great a feature of May Day festivities in bygone times. It seems to have travelled hither from Spain, its resemblance to the spirited Spanish fandango being striking, and the name, no doubt, is derived from Morisco, a Moor. The Gaillard was another lively and intricate movement in three-four time, and has been described by a contemporary author, of a Puritanical turn of mind, as 'an invention of the devil' and other uncomplimentary names."

One of the most interesting exhibitions held at the Crystal Palace during the year is the annual show of the Surrey Bee-keepers' Association. This will take place on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday next (Sept. 3, 4, and 5).

Mme. Bassano, the famous oratorio singer, who frequently sang before the late Queen Victoria at Windsor and Buckingham Palace, has just died at her residence in Upper Tooting.

MASONS AT WORK.

The Chelsea Lodge of Freemasons, No. 3098, held their regular meeting on Friday last at the Town Hall, Chelsea, when, although there was a good muster of the lay brethren, the regular officers, with the exception of the W.M. Mr. H. Coutts, J.W. Mr. H. Bawn, and J.D. Mr. G. H. Dyball, were conspicuous by their absence, in each case fulfilling engagements at too great a distance from London to enable them to return in time for their professional duties. The lodge was formed as follows:—Messrs. H. Coutts W.M., D. M. Trytel acting S.W., H. Bawn, J.W., G. H. Dyball S.D., Valazzi J.D., Douglas White I.G., Leo Tell organist, Wolfe S. Lyon treasurer, C. J. Doughty secretary, and J. Worth, A.G.P., I.P.M. After the lodge was opened a ballot was taken for Messrs. Harry Webber, Leon Zeitlin, Ernie Warsaw, and Sydney Chaplin, which proved unanimous. The W.M. completed the ceremony with Messrs. Joe Robins, Henry Crocker, and Ernie Foster, and then vacated the chair in favour of Mr. W. S. Lyon, who initiated Messrs. Webber, Zeitlin, Warsaw, and Chaplin into the mysteries and privileges of ancient Freemasonry, at the close of which Mr. J. Worth delivered the charge to those gentlemen in a most impressive manner. The W.M. then resumed the chair and advanced Messrs. Bowker Andrews and Paul Murray, and also, at the request of the W.M. of the Liverpool Dramatic Lodge, 1609, Mr. W. Agnew, and at the request of the W.M. of the Royal Jubilee Lodge, No. 72, Mr. Thomas D. Turnbull. The members present included Messrs. H. E. Nicklin, J. H. McNaughton, Dan Lipton, J. Grant, Douglas White, Paul Murray, Bowker Andrews, Ernie Foster, Valazzi, Ted E. Box, Fred Keeton, Frank Hardy, Spot, Geo. Grahame, Albert Christian, Clive Watts, Albert Felino, Geo. Gilbey, R. E. Wilding, Monte Bayly, and W. Gray Moseley.

As usual with this lodge, there was a considerable number of visitors, including Messrs. Alex. Warsaw, St. Elith, 1488; F. O. Bond, 1609; W. L. Murray, Ancient Dundee, 49; D. M. Trytel, Prince Frederick William, 763; W. Agnew, Dramatic, 609; H. J. Swan, Gatwick, 2502; Chas. Cohan, Star, Glasgow, 219; W. R. Cooper, Royal Jubilee, 72; T. D. Turnbull, Royal Jubilee, 72; J. Worth, A.G.P.; H. Acschlimann Fallet, Grand Lodge, Switzerland.

The members and visitors adjourned, as usual, to the Six Bells Hotel for refreshments, when, in response to the toast of "The Visitors," Mr. Worth expressed the great pleasure it always gave him to attend the Chelsea Lodge, and the additional pleasure, if possible, that he had that day derived from being permitted to participate in the active duties of the lodge. Mr. D. M. Trytel stated that it also afforded him great pleasure to be permitted to occupy an office in the lodge, and it was only in accordance with the teaching that he had received from their esteemed brother J. W. Mathews, the first Master of the Chelsea Lodge, in his capacity as preceptor to the Genesis Club of Instruction, that, when called upon to be of assistance, he readily complied. Mr. H. Acshlimann Fallet, through Mr. Felino, who acted as interpreter, said that although he could not, unfortunately, understand the words that had been used, still he had been deeply impressed with the manner in which the ceremonies had been performed and by the reception which the members had given him, which he took as a very great compliment to the Grand Lodge of Switzerland, of which he had the honour to be a member.

BATTERSEA EMPIRE.

Bouncing at Battersea is the current craze in South London, and it is being heartily enjoyed at the local Empire, which now forms part of the Macnaghten circuit. The pastime is provided by the Bouncing Dillons, who head the programme at the Empire with astounding feats on a spring board, by the aid of which the chief performer executes a number of tricks, including a difficult double somersault, while his lady partner varies the performance with some gymnastic evolutions on the trapeze. A competition is carried out in connection with the entertainment, cash prizes being offered by the management to the extent of 30s. The task set the competitors seemed simple enough, and consisted of jumping up and dropping in a sitting posture, and then leaping to the feet without holding. Lads of Battersea in all sorts and sizes have essayed the feat, and have cut the most ridiculous capers on the unstable surface to the untold delight of the audience. The final was reached on Thursday, when the excitement was redoubled, the following evening being reserved for lady competitors, to whom the same amount of prize money was offered.

The Hot Member serves for the introduction of a comedy boxing act, in which Mr. Billy Ross, the retired 9st champion of England, figures. He gives evidence of the possession of genuine comedy talent as an old Irishman who engages in a fistic encounter with his trainer, but afterwards he changes into approved pugilistic costume, and goes through a smart exhibition spar with Albert Ross. A comely maiden, who does a neat dance, acts as M.C. during the fight, and mounts guard over a number of silver cups, presumably the result of many a hard-won effort on the part of Mr. Ross, who is loudly cheered. A Hebrew comedian of a distinctly comic cast is found in Mr. George Porter, whose Yiddisher "wheezes" are the cause of loud and genuine laughter. Unbounded mirth is also aroused by Mr. Harry Tomps, a raconteur of much volubility. His patter is often fresh and amusing, if at times highly spiced.

Well-tried favourites are forthcoming in the Sisters Jonghmanns, the trio of ladies who were among the first to popularise concerted singing on the variety stage. Their rendering of "Honey Boy" is very exhilarating, but still more popular is the trio "A heart full of love," with which they bring the whole audience figuratively to their feet. Mr. Lew Towers affects a suit of brown of the most up-to-date cut in which to sing "Boys Without Girls." The song boasts a catchy chorus, which the comedian managed to impart so thoroughly to the house that they re-echoed it with pleasing unanimity. Miss Josephine Crook has a similar agreeable experience in her illustrated ballads, which are thoroughly enjoyed; the Gelders indulge in the "black art," and succeed completely in mystifying the audience; and contributions to the liberal programme are also made by Hilda Mascott, serio and dancer; Ivy Dene, comedienne; Sid Penna, musical eccentric; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux. Mr. James McCarthy, the resident manager, is adding to his popularity by the constant exercise of courtesy and tact.

On Saturday Earl's Court was visited by a large number of members of the Territorial Army, who were invited to the Hungarian Exhibition by the directors of London Exhibitions (Limited), to celebrate the first year of the force's existence. Units comprising nearly 30,000 men in London, Middlesex, Surrey, Essex, and Kent accepted the invitation, and 60,000 tickets were issued, each member of the force having the privilege of taking a lady.

The musical programme had a strong military and patriotic flavour, while the dances held in the summer ballroom included the "Territorial Two-Step" and other equally appropriate items. Mr. R. H. Brade, C.B., Assistant-Secretary to the War Office, attended to represent Mr. Haldane, who wrote regretting his inability to attend. Among other visitors were Colonel Oughterson, secretary of the London County Territorial Association, and Sir Hugh Gilzean Reid.

THE TOTTENHAM PALACE.

This beautiful new home of variety is situated in the High-road, Tottenham, about midway between Bruce Grove and High Cross. Its position is well chosen, as in addition to drawing its audiences from the rapidly increasing population of the surrounding district, it is within easy reach of Bruce Grove and Seven Sisters Stations on the Great Eastern, and St. Ann's-road and South Tottenham Stations on the Midland. Two excellent services of the Middlesex Council electric trams also pass the door, running from Finsbury Park and Stamford Hill to Edmonton and Waltham Cross. A special stopping-place for these cars has been arranged, and passengers will be set down and picked up immediately outside the theatre.

The building itself is of imposing proportions. The façade is principally of Bath stone with red brick relief, in the style of the Georgian Renaissance. On either side are two projecting bays, containing the staircases, the central portion of the front between being recessed at the first-floor level, and architecturally treated with Ionic columns and crowned with a bold pediment and balustrade. The lower part of the building is surrounded by an ornamental projecting glass shelter for the comfort of audiences entering and leaving on wet nights.

The main entrances to the house are in the High-road. The entrance hall is reached through a vestibule with domed ceiling, decorated in the French Renaissance style, in cream and gold, with Norwegian green marble pilasters, and a high panelled dado of polished oak. The floor is of white and inlaid green mother-of-pearl marble mosaic. On either side are the box-office and pay-box for stalls, balcony, and boxes, which are approached by wide staircases with dark red marble mosaic steps, the lower part of the walls being cream panels on a pink ground, with a new material closely resembling marble, the resulting effect being extremely rich. On the first floor is a large waiting-room, nicely decorated in cream and green, for the use of the early visitors. Adjoining this are the offices of the management.

Tottenham's Palace is a two-tier house with the sight-lines as near perfection as possible. It is 60ft. between the walls and nearly 50ft. from floor to ceiling. The seatings, floors, and roof are of fireproof construction throughout. It has been decorated in strict accord with architectural precepts, the details being of excellent Renaissance character. The ceiling, almost flat, is enriched with two large painted panels. The cove surmounting the proscenium is filled in with a painted panel *en suite* with those of the ceiling. Over the proscenium is a large shield displaying the Middlesex county arms, and on either side in an alcove is a finely modelled emblematical group carrying flambeaux. These groups were specially modelled by a prominent exhibitor at this year's Royal Academy. The sides of the auditorium and box fronts are divided into three bays with Ionic columns and interposed arches, the whole feature terminating in a large cove and elliptical arch.

The predominating colour scheme is cream and gold, enriched with shades of salmon pink and turquoise blue, with backgrounds of carmine to afford relief. The draperies of the boxes, of which there are four, and the tableau curtains are of dark crimson velvet, in strong contrast to the general colour scheme. The upper parts of the walls are covered with paper of a somewhat lighter and warmer shade, the lower parts being lined with "Marbella" dadoes of light red marble with cream panels. The seating and carpets are of dark crimson tones, the whole combining to give the interior an effect which is entirely comfortable and pleasing.

The ground floor, divided into stalls and pit, will accommodate nearly 1,000 persons, the whole of the pit being furnished with tip-up armchairs. There are five independent exits to this floor, there being also a refreshment saloon and the usual cloak-room provided.

The balcony will seat almost 500, and the gallery a good many more. The balcony is carpeted with the finest Wilton pile of dark red colours similar to the stalls. There are tip-up seats throughout, and at the back is an excellent saloon for light refreshments. The Biograph chamber on this tier has been specially constructed to safeguard the audience from any risk. There are three entirely separate exits from this part of the house. The gallery is similarly provided with three exits, each of them not less than 5ft. at any part. The seats to the gallery are upholstered, and the view of the stage perfect (matinée hats barred).

In addition to adopting fire-resisting construction wherever possible, two hydrants are fitted on each floor, each connected to two separate high-pressure mains of the Metropolitan Water Board. In the event of these failing, a large tank, some 10ft. by 20ft. and holding 3,000 gallons, has been erected on the roof. Pressure from the failing mains automatically supplies the hydrants from this source. The building is also in direct communication by private wire with the local Fire Brigade station.

The stage is capable of being completely shut off from the auditorium by a smoke and fire proof screen of the most approved type. The supply of electricity is on somewhat novel lines. There is a completely equipped sub-station within the building, where the pressure is reduced from 3,000 volts to a safe working voltage. Part of the current is used to drive a motor, which in turn works a dynamo, and the resulting current of low voltage is used for lighting purposes.

The building is thoroughly warmed by radiators heated on the low-pressure hot-water system. These are so arranged as to work in conjunction with the ventilation system, which is worked by electric fans. These are installed in different parts of the building, and draw off the vitiated air as required.

The stage, which is over 30ft. deep, 60ft. wide, and nearly 60ft. high to the grille, is fitted with everything that experience can suggest. It is entirely electrically-lighted, no gas being allowed. The numerous dressing-rooms are of ample size, and fitted with every convenience for the artists.

The staff of the Nottingham Empire held their annual outing on Sunday, and the excursion proved to be one of the best and happiest on record. The party left by the Midland Railway at 9.15 a.m., travelling in special Pullman cars, and arrived at Matlock about eleven o'clock. The guests included, among others, Mr. Howard Finney, of the Royal, Dr. Edwards, of the Nottingham Hospital (a great and valued professional friend), and Mr. Edgar O. Waller, of the King's. A pleasant walk brought the party to Matlock Bath, where, at the Temple Hotel, at 12.30, an excellent dinner was served and thoroughly enjoyed. At 1.45 a start was made in char-à-bancs for Bakewell.

A return was made to the Temple Hotel at 5.30, when an excellent tea was done justice to. At the finish of tea Mr. A. C. Duncan, the manager, expressed the entire staff's thanks to Mr. W. W. Austin, the assistant-manager, and Mr. J. Winfield, the advertising manager, for the work which had been so excellently carried out. The return train left at 7.45, and Nottingham was reached shortly before 10 p.m.

Mr. Charles B. Cochran, manager of the Gem, Marine Parade, Great Yarmouth, and his solicitor, Mr. J. A. H. Ferrier, attended on Tuesday to go through certain formalities in connection with the appeal against the recent conviction by the magistrates. The Chairman: Is there any suggestion of a compromise?—The Magistrates' Clerk: No, sir. Mr. Cochran was then formally bound over in the sum of £25, and gave security as to costs. The appeal will be heard at the next quarter sessions.

METROPOLITAN REOPENING.

Resplendent in its redecoration, the new Metropolitan presented a brilliant appearance on Monday evening, when it reopened after a closure of four months, during which the builders have been at work. An exhaustive description of the reconstruction and alterations was given in our last issue, and the eulogy of the new hall then expressed was heartily endorsed on Monday by the public, who were loud in admiration of the beauties of the interior. The embellishments do not stop at the auditorium, for the stage has been provided with entirely new scenery, a palatial garden set being conspicuous among a number of elegant cloths.

Mr. Henri Gros, who has for upwards of sixteen years directed the fortunes of the Metropolitan, has made a concession to the prevailing two-houses-a-night system, and it was under those conditions that the reopening was made on Monday. The popular parts of the house overflowed at the first entertainment, but the second audience must have overwhelmed every part of the house, for the queue extended far along the Edgware-road, seriously threatening the traffic in that spacious thoroughfare, while the opposite pavement was thronged with a huge crowd, who if they could not gain admittance were determined to support the enterprise by cheering outside.

The opening programme includes an elaborate production, taxing all the resources of the stage, in that of *The Bailiff*, played by Mr. Fred Karno's company with all their customary smartness. Mr. Fred Kitchen as the man-in-possession was in his drollest form, and uproarious laughter followed the progress of the sketch. Cordial welcome was given to Miss Winifred Hare, an artist high in favour in Marylebone. Clothed in a captivating costume, she told in a few musical phrases how much better than being a millionaire it was to have a loving wife, a sentiment that was heartily echoed by the audience. In her newest number, "All sorts of songs," Miss Hare's fresh and tuneful voice found agreeable exercise, the "shake" in a cadenza at the conclusion being exquisite. Mr. Cyrus Dare's child stories, realistically intoned, aroused merriment, which was greatly increased by his imitation of a couple of street-singers—less in the nature of a travesty than of a faithful copy of the originals. Though described as a comedienne, Miss Eleanor Lorraine is really a ballad vocalist of distinct merit. She has a cultured and melodious mezzo-soprano voice, and her rendering of "For All Eternity" was heartily cheered. A still more popular item was forthcoming in "Will you love me in December as you do in May?" which was rendered with a feeling that communicated itself to all parts of the house, who joined heartily in the refrain. Mr. Jack Neil is among the latest additions to the "Scotch brigade," and his eccentricities as a comedian and patterer won many laughs. A dainty and youthful singer is Miss Leonie Dixon, who added some skilful step-dancing to her songs, winning great favour. The Dardinis furnish an entertaining comedy-juggling act, the neat balancing feats of the chief performer and the funny antics of his nigger assistant being effective in an equal degree. The art of the sifleur is expertly practised by Mr. Arthur Slater, whose imitations of birds were greatly admired; Faning and Faning display varied eccentricity in "A little bit of everything"; and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope portrays a series of comic episodes.

Mr. Henri Gros was early in attendance to welcome his guests on Monday, aided by Mr. Jack Edgar, who has for such a long period acted as manager, and by Mr. W. Leslie Gooch, who has been appointed acting-manager. Mr. H. V. Garrick, the Press representative to the syndicate halls, was also in attendance. Mr. D. M. Trytel retains his position at the head of the orchestra, which both began and ended the programme with special selections.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

The current week's programme is full of good things, and public support is accordingly well up to the usual standard. Walter Passmore and company top the bill in the musical playlet entitled *The Constable and the Pictures*, which is meeting with great success. The plot is simple and quaint, and the music, by Miss Marjorie Slaughter, dainty and cleverly scored. Miss May Fraser as the Lady Lavinia Mostyn possesses both a very attractive stage presence and a good voice, and both these factors proved of great service in her altogether attractive performance. Mr. Charles Childerstone as Sir Roland Stone looked well and sang and acted excellently; Mr. Walter Passmore as the constable had of course much of the burden on his shoulders, and made light of the responsibility, his antics keeping the house in a roar. Needless to say, the reception at the end was very enthusiastic. Mr. Austin Boyd and Miss Trixie Gilfain submitted their well-known act, the gentleman's singing and the lady's manipulation of the bagpipes evoking hearty applause. La Danseuse, a youthful artist, in a scena entitled *Santa Claus*, gave an exhibition of her skill, her dances comprising a hornpipe, Scottish, and a sand dance, all of them gaining much applause. Alf Gibson, in a couple of songs, "Like a dream it passed away" and "Some of the old brigade," scored a hit, the effect of the former being heightened by an amusing piece of business with a pair of dummy arms. Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne, two artists from America who are making their first appearance on an English music-hall stage this week, give quite a remarkable turn. Their business, which comprises singing and dancing, is smart, more particularly the latter, which is of the "hurricane" order, and must rank as one of the best exhibitions ever seen at this hall. The audience speedily recognises the sterling merit of their performance, and they gained a big reception.

Theo Bouwmeester, the well-known protean actor, and company, are presenting *Who is Guilty?* a clever and effective little piece, written round a coroner's inquest. The tragic story proved interesting by reason of the great skill with which Mr. Bouwmeester impersonated the seven witnesses. He was capitally supported by Mr. J. Montague as the Coroner, and much applause greeted him at the fall of the curtain. The Chronomegaphone is here again, this time depicting George Robey and Victoria Monks in popular numbers, and it still remains a clever and entertaining item in the programme. Frank Couch, patter comedian, does very well; and the Bioscope is good. George Formby, comedian, is at the bottom of the bill, and has established himself a great favourite. He sang three songs, all of them quaint, and the audience were induced to let him depart with difficulty. Mr. Greco's capital orchestra gave a selection from *Carmen* as the overture, which was very warmly applauded. Mr. Percival, the acting-manager, is most attentive and courteous in the front of the house.

The staff of the Empire, Leicester—which has been reopened with so much success by the New Bioscope Trading Company of London, after being closed for so many years—had their first outing on Sunday, the rendezvous selected being Skegness, so easy of access from Leicester. The party, to the number of twenty, left Leicester at 8.25, arriving at their destination at eleven o'clock. The weather in the morning was not all that could be desired, but cleared up after dinner, and thus enabled the party to spend the rest of the day in yachting, &c. The party, who were accompanied by Mr. C. A. Hurley, the esteemed manager, and Mrs. Hurley, reached Leicester in safety at nine o'clock.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

THE new Tottenham Palace, the latest addition to that combination which is still known as the "Payne" circuit, will be opened on Monday next. Mr. Mayne, formerly connected with the Stoll suburban circuit as the resident-manager of the Stratford Empire, is to be the manager.

THE house is owned by the United Varieties Syndicate, Ltd., which also control the East Ham Palace, which since its opening last year has proved a great success. The latter hall was considered to be the last word in design and fitting, but the new house, with the various improvements that have been introduced, will compare favourably with it. The Palace entertainment will consist of two performances nightly, at 6.40 and 9.0. Popular prices will prevail. There will be a threepenny gallery, a sixpenny pit, a shilling balcony, and 1s. 6d. or 2s. will secure a luxurious stall.

A TELEGRAM from New York announces the death of Mr. Tony Pastor, the veteran vaudeville manager, whose serious illness was reported a few days ago. A native of New York, he opened the first music-hall there nearly fifty years ago. He first appeared on the stage with a minstrel troupe when he was only nine years old, and afterwards frequently acted as clown with various circus companies.

IN 1861 he commenced as a comic singer, and in 1865 started his most successful venture as a music-hall manager. After ten years in the Bowery district, he opened the Metropolitan Theatre, and there he remained until 1881. It was at this house that Lilian Russell, Nat Goodwin, Francis Wilson, May Irwin, and others made their first successes. From the Metropolitan he migrated to Tony Pastor's Theatre in Fourteenth-street, over the fortunes of which he presided at the time of his death. He was the pioneer of English variety artists in America, and introduced Jenny Hill to the New York public. His death will be sincerely regretted by many proprietors and artists on this side, especially by his old chum Pony Moore.

MLLE. ADELINA GENÉE'S present engagement at the Empire terminates in another fortnight. One learns with pleasure, however, that before leaving for America she is to be seen in a part that is, practically speaking, a new one. It was on the afternoon of March 26 last year that Mlle. Genée appeared at the Playhouse at a matinée, given by the Duchess of Somerset, in a pantomime play named *The Dryad*, by Miss Dora Bright (Mrs. Knatchbull), and the promise to revive the piece at the earliest possible moment is to be fulfilled on Monday, Sept. 8.

"THE DRYAD" is a dance play, in two tableaux. The story sets forth the love disappointment of a wood nymph. A certain Dryad who queens it beneath the slumbering moon, has subdued all mortals to her loveliness and the magic of her dancing, thus arousing the envy of the implacable Aphrodite, who causes her to be imprisoned in an oak tree, only granting her freedom to come forth once in every ten years, between sunset and sunrise, until she should find a mortal faithful to her during the allotted term. A shepherd passing through the wood on the night of her freedom sees her dancing beneath the moon, falls in love, and vows eternal constancy.

WHEN the dawn breaks she bids him farewell, and shuts herself from the world and love in the tree. After ten years she again comes forth to see the shepherd wandering with another maid in the wood. He has forgotten a passing fantasy, and the wood nymph's charms have faded from his memory. *The Dryad*, apart from its story, is quite a pastoral symphony in its way. Mr. Gordon Cleather will again play the shepherd and sing a pretty melody.

MME. LYDIA KYAKHT, the Russian dancer, who made a very successful first London appearance at the Empire on Monday, is to succeed Mlle. Genée. The new dancer possesses not only a complete knowledge of technique, but a real sense of the beauty of motion, and she should prove a distinct acquisition to the Empire.

MR. ALFRED BUTT has determined on the revival of the "Danse des Jambes en l'Air," which was first produced in this country at the Palace in 1905, and caused an immediate sensation. The dance is in two sections, and terminates with the octet of Palace Girls lying prone on the stage and keeping time with the orchestra with their feet in the air. New Parisian dresses and bright songs will also be distinctive features of this sparkling item.

MISS DAISY WOOD, another of the celebrated Lloyd family, sails for America with her husband, Mr. Donald Munro, on Sept. 12. Her sister, Miss Alice Lloyd, is also sailing shortly to appear in the musical comedy *The Bonnie Belles of Scotland*.

MISS AGNES MOLTENO, the fascinating operatic artist, scored a brilliant success on her first return to the York Empire last week. She is booking up well for 1909, having settled the Barrasford and Pepi tours and others. She comes to London for three weeks during September, then goes on tour right to the end of December.

GRIFF, accompanied by his son, left Waterloo at 11.40 yesterday for Southampton, en route for America per s.s. New York, to fulfil thirty-five weeks' engagement on the B. F. Keith circuit. The Terriers, of which society he has been a vice-president, rallied round to give him a good send-off. Their anthem was sung with gusto. There were present Miss Florence Raynor, Messrs. Joe Lawrence, Brothers Obo, J. Rich, G. Nyman, J. Brady, T. C. Callaghan, Horace Wheatley, S. N. Salter, C. May, H. Lester, Joe Burrett, C. Cornish, and H. Cory Woodrow. Mr. G. P. R. Burgess, the Terriers' solicitor, arrived just too late to add his farewell wishes.

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT, the chocolate-coloured coon, who has just finished a most successful London season, has been entertaining the Novocastrians at the Empire, in Newgate-street, where his pretty melodies, so tunefully given, and neat dancing have made him an immense favourite. Mr. Oswald Stoll has secured Mr. Elliott until the end of 1916. He goes at Christmas to Mr. John Hart for the fifth year.

MISS MINNIE PALMER, who sailed on Tuesday for the United States, where she will appear in her musical sketch by George Unwin, entitled *Little Miss Mischief*, which she produced so successfully here, has engaged Mr. Legal Robinson to support her and to manage for her on the other side. Mr. Robinson will sail from England on Sept. 12 by the s.s. Philadelphia.

THE case in which Mr. Harry Relph (Little Tich) asked for an injunction restraining the London Animated Picture Company from "billing" him in such a manner as to make it appear he was appearing personally at their entertainments at certain seaside resorts, again came before Mr. Justice Eve in the Vacation Court on Thursday. Mr. J. F. Carr, for plaintiff, said the posters were a fraud on the public, and reacted on the popularity and reputation of the plaintiff, by causing a feeling of resentment to grow in the minds of those who had gone to the entertainments. His Lordship ordered Little Tich to have his costs up to the date of his first application.

THE new Hippodrome, Devonport has been erected at a cost of £20,000, and will, it is hoped, be opened on Sept. 14. It is to be inspected on the 10th, and a mural tablet will be unveiled on the 12th, and the house will start on its public career two days later. The building, a two-tier house, is situated in the centre of the town, has a façade built of red brick, with terra-cotta facing, and is supplied with an abundance of exits. The handsome interior will accommodate 1,594 persons.

THE house has been designed by Mr. Bertie Crewe, who planned the new Lyceum, London, and Mr. Alfred Moul, chairman of the Alhambra, is the chairman of the proprietary, the Devonport Hippodrome, Ltd. Mr. J. Field, of the New Palace Theatre, Plymouth, will be the responsible manager and licensee, with Mr. B. Taylor as local manager.

THE Theatre Royal, Peterborough, will open as a variety house on Aug. 31, and the bookings have been placed in the hands of that enterprising variety agent, Dan Noble.

TO Mr. Lennox Barry, general-manager of the Hippodrome, Coventry, will be accorded a complimentary matinée at that hall to-day. It will be under the patronage of the Mayor of Coventry. Several of the artists from Birmingham, Walsall, Leicester, and Wolverhampton halls will contribute.

MR. GEORGE OWEN, late stage-manager at the Palace Theatre, Tottenham, also with John Lawson of *Humanity* fame, has been appointed stage-manager at the Royal Theatre of Varieties, Oldham. He commenced his new duties with the re-opening of the theatre after the vacation, in succession to Mr. Harry T. Crane, who has resigned.

AFTER being closed for seven weeks for renovation the Hippodrome, Oldham, opened on Monday, and the directorate are to be complimented on the results of their labours. The circle has been re-seated and upholstered in red leather, and electric light has been installed. New scenery has been painted by Mr. H. O. Richardson, and Mr. J. Taylor, the able stage-manager, is to be congratulated.

THE Peterborough Hippodrome is to be offered at auction at the Argyll Hotel, Peterborough, on Sept. 9, by Messrs. Wilder and Wilder, of High Holborn, W.C. The hall seats 809 persons, and has a ground rent of £100 per annum, the lease only having 8½ years to run. The company owning it has gone into voluntary liquidation.

MR. A. V. CARNELL, manager of the Hippodrome, St. Helens, has been appointed to the management of the new Hippodrome, Nottingham, due to the Barrasford enterprise, which was to have been opened on Sept. 14. The date will probably be in October.

THE freehold premises comprising 5,025 square yards, with a frontage of 206 feet, known as the Winter Gardens, Morecambe, were offered for sale on Tuesday, Mr. G. H. Petty being the auctioneer. It was stated that the building had cost £97,000, and had been considered good as security for a debenture issue of £55,000. The gross receipts from all sources during the past five years were stated to have been £44,000. There was no offer forthcoming, and the property was withdrawn. The sale was under an order of the Court of Chancery.

MR. WALTER MOULD, the late manager of the Hippodrome, Accrington, which was recently destroyed by fire, and who for the last few weeks has been running the Town Hall as a temporary variety house until the construction of a large new stone edifice on the site of the old one, has decided to abandon the idea, and has accepted the offer of Mr. Wilmott as resident-manager at the Hippodrome, St. Helens, and Mr. Vic Carnell is promoted to the position of manager to the Empire, Nottingham. We understand that the arrangements are only temporary, and that Mr. Mould will return to Accrington when the building now in course of erection is ready for opening.

THE first annual meeting of the Sunderland Empire Palace, Limited, was held at the theatre, Sunderland, on Thursday afternoon. Mr. Richard Thornton, managing-director, who presided, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and annual accounts, congratulated the shareholders on the successful year's working. Notwithstanding bad trade in Sunderland, the company had been able to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., to write off £979 13s. 1d. for depreciation, and £500 for preliminary expenses, carrying forward a respectable balance to next year's accounts. Referring to the future, the chairman intimated that he was most sanguine, as the attractions engaged were of an exceptional character. The report was seconded by Mr. Frank Allen and carried unanimously. The retiring directors, Messrs. F. Allen, T. Gillespie, and S. Stone, were re-elected.

AFTER the summer vacation the Palace, Cork, reopens on Monday next. There is an excellent programme provided. The theatre internally and externally has undergone a complete redecoration, and presents a very attractive appearance. The management seems to leave nothing undone for the comfort and amusement of their patrons, and spare no expense in providing high-class entertainment at popular prices. The manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien, who is back from a holiday in London and the Continent, has negotiated some good things, and bookings for the coming season are the best in the history of the establishment. A record season is expected.

FRESH from his triumphs at the Empire, Vasco, the mad musician, will open on Monday at the Palace Theatre, Cork. Though billed as a "human brainstorm in harmony," he will ask for no solution of physiological or psychological problems, but just minister to the pleasure of his Irish admirers. Vasco's entertainment is decidedly "phoney," for he plays the doublephone, the saxophone, and the sopranophone. Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien in securing him has retained a trump card for the opening night of the season.

MR. HERBERT TAYLOR is to be the manager of the New Hippodrome, Devonport. Mr. Taylor some years ago was identified with Mr. Chas. F. Williams in the management of the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, but for the last five years has been manager of the Palace Theatre, Derby, for Mr. T. Allan Edwards. He has had a wide experience in music-hall management, and a few weeks since was given a benefit performance at the Grand Theatre, Derby, one of Mr. Edwards' theatres. When Mr. Taylor was at Plymouth he made a host of friends, and the announcement of his return will be received with much satisfaction.

MR. LEONARD BARRY, who at the end of last year made such a decided success at the Tivoli, having returned from his Continental tour, will open at the same hall on Monday in his unique Anglo-French entertainment, in which he excels as a vocal comedian and entertainer in both languages. He will repeat his English and French dude impersonations in a song entitled "How do, little girlie," in English, and "Bon jour, chichinette," in French. In a new number, "The Hansom Cabby of London," he will contrast that interesting personage with the "Cocher de Paris." He will also give his imitation of that great French comedian Polin in his famous success, "La Petite Tonquinoise."

MR. HARRY RANDALL is engaged by Mr. Robert Arthur to appear at a West End theatre this Christmas.

MR. GEO. SCOTT'S three years' contract as manager of the Alhambra expires at the end of this month. Mr. Scott will probably be secured by an important West-end directorate.

MR. JOHN E. COYLE, whose illness is not so serious as at first supposed, for the next month will be recuperating at Church Hill House, Ventnor.

MESSRS. CHARLES BEECHAM AND WORLAND S. WHEELER, the new agents, are now both installed in their new offices at 12 and 13 Henrietta-street, Covent Garden.

MR. JOHN DONALD, on his return to town, has scored an unmistakable success at the Empress. Although engaged for one week, he was at once retained to continue with Mr. Walter Gibbons.

MR. JACK LOTTO, one of the original Water Rats, has joined with Mr. Charles Pratt, late of the Rodney, Westminster Bridge-road, and the two sports are now tenants of the Rose and Crown, Charing Cross-road, near the premises of the Vaudeville Club.

MR. HARRY PLEON will produce on Monday at the Camberwell Empire a new and original skit, entitled *Interviewing Napoleon*, with himself as Nap. Walter Macnamara will be the *Daily Mail* interviewer.

MR. LAUDERDALE MAITLAND, who has recently been playing Prince Olaf in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* at the Lyceum, will produce on Monday at the Hammersmith Palace his sketch *The Black Devil*, translated from the Italian.

MISS GRACE LANGLEY, comedienne, was married to Mr. T. E. Parker at St. Michael's Church, Stockwell, on Sunday. The bride was given away by Mr. Tom Pacey, and her niece, Miss Hilda Pacey, acted as bridesmaid. The happy couple immediately after the ceremony journeyed by motor to Margate, where the honeymoon is being spent.

ENZER, the soldier juggler, sword expert, &c., assisted by Mlle. Clarice, the lady ju-jitsu expert, is making his first visit to London on Monday next at the Empire, Camberwell.

MR. JOHN PERCIVAL HYATT, who will be remembered as the agent for Blondin and Barnum's great show, has retired, and now leads the life of a country gentleman at Bexley Heath. He occasionally runs up to town to shake hands with his old friends. The initials of his two front names suggest that he should be raised to the Bench.

THE new ballet at the Alhambra is due early in October. It will be romantic in character, with a stage setting of the seventeenth century or thereabouts. Mlle. Petersen, the new seventeen-year-old Danish prima ballerina, is to make her London début.

MISS BERTHA STUART, owing to loss of voice, has been compelled to relinquish her present engagement at the Tivoli and Clapham, and will not appear next week. She hopes, however, with a few days' rest at Blackpool, to return on Monday week in the best of health.

OWING to slight heart trouble, which we hope is temporary, Miss Freda Sharlotte has had to cease playing her sketch, *Kindred Ties*, owing to the sword fight taxing her strength, and she is presenting her comedy sketch, *Three in a Pickle*, for the remainder of the week at the Euston by kind permission of Mr. Collins and Mr. McEvoy.

MR. CHARLES COLLETTE will repeat his famous impersonation of *Micawber* in his dramatic sketch of that name at Bourne End to-night on the occasion of a benefit performance for a local charity. The programme will include other interesting items, and will be under the direction of Mr. Frank Jackson.

MR. FRANCIS O'FLYNN, the well known and popular banjoist, is receiving many messages of sympathy in the severe loss he has sustained in the death of his father, Mr. Michael O'Flynn, who for many years loomed large in local affairs as a Councillor and Alderman of Bradford. Mr. O'Flynn will postpone some immediate dates, and will be sure of the consideration of managers in so doing.

MR. JAMES WRIGHT, the theatrical traffic manager of the London and North-Western Railway, points out that the music-hall traffic has grown considerably of late years. In the year 1902, when the music halls began to "boom," they booked over their system 150 first-class and 6,753 third-class music-hall passengers. In 1907 they carried ninety-three first-class and 16,072 third-class passengers for the music halls. These figures refer only to the members of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, who are entitled to a rebate on the ordinary fare.

MR. GEORGE WOMACK, the popular stage-manager of the Oxford, was married on Wednesday to Miss Kitty Marsh (sister of the Harvey Boys) at St. Wilfred's Catholic Church, Lorrimore-road, Walworth. After the ceremony there was a reception at the house of Mr. and Mrs. Gold, 25, Faunce-street. Misses Marjory Womack and Minnie Glenn were the bridesmaids. Mr. George B. Richter acted as best man, the bride being given away by by Mr. Walter Keen.

AMONG the valuable presents were a beautiful marble clock and side pieces from the staff of the Oxford, a silver tea and coffee service from Mr. G. H. Elliott, silver forks and spoons from Mr. Blyth-Pratt, a case of silver salts from Little Tich, a manicure set and a set of waistcoat buttons from Joe Elvin, and a silver gong from Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Roberts. Mr. and Mrs. Womack left for Bournemouth in the afternoon for the honeymoon.

THE management of the Blackpool Hippodrome deserve the highest praise for their noble efforts in organising an immensely successful concert in aid of the families of the victims of the Abram Colliery disaster on Sunday, whereby a sum of over £55 will be handed over to the Mayor of Wigan for the relief fund. Excellent contributions to a capital programme were given by Madame Hirst, Misses Decima Troughton, B. Kenyon, and Blanche Vale, and Messrs. Dan Gill, Robert Parkinson, R. Lonsdale, J. Berry, Lomax, Percy Hodge, J. H. Greener, Charles Stafford, James Greene, and Master John Purdy. Mr. Harry Bowkett, a typical collier, who is employed at the mine where the catastrophe occurred, proved an interesting contributor to the programme. Mr. Clifford Higgin was an efficient accompanist.

AMONGST the persons present were the Mayor and Mayoress (Ald. and Mrs. Battersby). During the evening the Mayor sympathetically referred to the affliction caused by so terrible a disaster, and expressed his hearty appreciation of the generous support given. Mrs. Pioni, the lessee, who generously undertook to defray expenses, and Mr. Rosebery, the manager, are to be congratulated on a great success.

MR. JOHN LAWSON'S sketches have proved to be a great attraction this week at the Hippodrome, Margate, and excellent impressions were made with *Pigs in Clover* and *The Monkey's Paw*. Mr. W. W. Jacobs's story was listened to by especially crowded houses, all booked seats being sold out the day before.

ON his return to town, Mr. Lawson will produce *Pigs in Clover*, the feature of which will be the big Carnival scene. Mr. Lawson has two other productions in active rehearsal, which he hopes to produce before the end of the year. Both are by well-known authors, and quite away from Mr. Lawson's style.

MRS. JOHN LAWSON is making a second visit to the Palace, Camberwell, this week with *The Devil's Sunday*. Mrs. Lawson's impersonation of the pleasure-loving wife remains as vivid as ever. There is every possibility of Mr. and Mrs. Lawson appearing together in a new playlet, that is, if Mrs. Lawson's dates can be arranged.

ONE of the most pathetic "turns" ever witnessed on the stage of the London halls was the appearance on Monday of two of the three survivors of the recent colliery disaster at Wigan. For the purpose of raising money for the widows and children of the victims the colliers exhibited themselves at the Middlesex, at the Public Hall (Holloway), and at the Crown (Peckham).

THE two survivors were Wm. Doran and "Dick" Fairhurst. Edward Farrell was the other, but on account of his mental derangement Wm. Towyn, one of the rescue party, was substituted for him. Coatless and hatless, with bare arms and legs, and carrying their lanterns and picks, their faces still showing traces of their bitter experience, the miners bowed to the audience as Towyn, in the homely Lancashire dialect, described the ordeal through which they had passed to reach the survivors. "There were five others," they said, Towyn remarked, "but when we were searching for them a roof, 120 yards long, fell and buried them beneath it, and we had to leave them to their fate. We scoured the ruins, but failed to find another living soul." Bioscope pictures were then shown illustrating scenes at the pit-head, and subsequently two little children whose fathers were killed in the explosion took collection boxes round for the relief fund, which were generously patronised.

MR. GRAYDON, of the Middlesex, and Mr. Griffiths, of the New Bioscope Company, are defraying the travelling and hotel expenses of the miners, and all the money collected will be given wholly to the fund being raised for the widows and children.

THE executive committee of the Mayor of Wigan's relief fund has passed the following resolution: "That this committee strongly disapproves of the miners and children appearing at music-halls, and that the proprietors be respectfully asked not to allow the miners and children to appear again on the stage." The Mayor has wired to the London music-halls the terms of the resolution. The relief fund on Thursday amounted to £6928.

MR. JULIUS HAGEN, who for some years has been a member of the dramatic profession, and, among others, has been under the managements of Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry and Mr. Tom B. Davis, will for the present join the ranks of the variety stage. He purposes producing on Monday, at the Canterbury, a new historical dramatic episode, entitled *After Waterloo*, written by Mr. Walter Pearce. The action of the playlet takes place on the night of the famous battle. Napoleon will be played by Mr. Hagen himself, and Mr. Douglas Imbert, a member of Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, will represent a young English cavalry officer.

FOR the twelvemonth to July 26 the Palace directors report that the total receipts amounted to £105,305, and the total expenditure, including interest on mortgage, to £65,100, showing £40,204 profit. Extraordinary expenditure, &c., absorbed £5,077, leaving £35,126, to which is added the balance brought forward (after deducting additional remuneration to directors) of £15,250, giving £50,376 available balance. It is proposed to pay a final dividend of 15 per cent. (making in all 20 per cent. for the year), carrying £32,376 forward.

THE directors have charged against the profits for this year the sum of £5,077 in respect of the items which appeared in the last balance-sheet under the headings of furniture and fittings, production account and stock of plate, glass, &c., also the extraordinary expenditure in connection with the further London County Council requisitions, and the writing down of the company's investment in Consols.

THE Palace gallery is at present closed, in order to carry out the requisitions of the London County Council. The re-seating of this portion of the house, and that of the upper circle, will be carried through at an early date.

AT a little informal dinner given to Mr. Orlando Powell at one of the principal Bedford hotels last week, Mr. John P. Harrington presented his musical partner with a handsome gold watch-chain, to commemorate the first anniversary of their reunion as song-writers. Mr. Powell, after returning thanks in a few humorous phrases, "retaliated" by presenting Mr. Harrington with a magnificent cowhide travelling case, which, as the donor put it, "might come in useful" for the latter's projected journey to sunny Margate, where he purposes spending the next fortnight, accumulating ozone and new ideas. The proceedings terminated with a selection of Harrington and Powell's popular songs, rendered by a local string band of surpassing excellence.

"THOSE CULU'D PUSSONS," a new American act, made a most successful début at the Palace, Hammersmith, on Monday evening. A strong feature of the show is George Pearce, the counter tenor, who made such a hit in Chicago this spring with "Meet me, sweet Kathleen, in honeysuckle time." Tom Birchmore does some fine work as Uncle Zep, the darkey, and Basil Hart's fine bass is heard to great advantage. The music deserves special mention as being the last arranged by the late J. C. Shattuck, one of America's finest arrangers.

MR. HARRY EVANS, who was for many years manager of Gatti's halls of varieties, has met with two serious accidents, one immediately following upon the other, and his health is considerably shattered thereby. An opportunity occurs to him of settling down in Canada, and he appeals through our columns to the older members of the profession who knew him in his managerial days to assist him in defraying the expenses of the voyage out for himself and his wife. Mr. Joe Elvin has kindly promised to subscribe. Mr. Gus Elen has already done so. Mr. Evans's address is 38, Dalwood-street, Camberwell, S.E.

MR. FRED EVANS-TRICK (of Trick and Trixie) writes:—"We arrived at New York after a splendid voyage on Aug. 1. We gave a concert in the first and second-class saloons, and collected for the Seamen's Institute of Southampton and New York 150 dollars. We are busy rehearsing for the Rentz-Santley Co., which starts at Chicago on Aug. 29 with *The Married Widow* and *The Girl with the Golden Vest*. Beattie Trixie is playing principal boy in the first-named and second boy in the second piece. We do our musical speciality between the acts."

MR. GEORGE HELM, of Helm and Cozens, and "Mr. C.," raconteur, were initiated into the mysteries of the Terriers' Association on Sunday last. Mr. Albert Voyce, who was in the chair, performed the ceremony.

MR. HERBERT DARNLEY will present at the Hackney Empire on Monday a spectacular Spanish musical comedy entitled *The Brigands of Tarragona*. The sketch, which will be in four scenes, has been written by the producer, and special music has been composed by J. H. Cleve, Dudley Powell, and Herbert Darnley. Nearly forty performers will take part.

MR. TOM EDWARDS, the huntsman ventriloquist, who is on the same bill, on being asked if the use of his mimetic powers had ever led to comical situations, related the following incident: He was engaged at the Central Club, Corporation-street, and was proceeding to the Snow-hill Station with the intention of leaving his box containing his figure in the cloak-room. Turning into Colmore-row, he passed a group of ladies, and by way of a joke he imitated a baby as he passed them. The joke seemed to "bite," but, thinking no more of it, he made his way to the station and handed in his box at the cloak-room. As he was chatting to a friend on the platform he was somewhat astonished to see two policemen pass him at a double, followed by a crowd.

THEY went into the cloak-room, and to his surprise he saw one of the men in blue tinkering with his box. Alarmed for the safety of his figure, he made his way through the crowd, and shouted, "That's my box; be careful." The old cloak-room attendant having been told that they were in search of a person for child murder, pointing to Edwards, said, "That's him; I could tell him in a thousand." The moment the old gentleman recognised him the policeman darted out of the cloak-room, and took him in charge, demanding that he should open the box. Realising that this might be a chance for an advertisement, Tom "stubbornly" refused to do any such thing, and straightway commenced the baby business for all he was worth. The officers again demanded that he should unfasten the box, but he still declined.

EVENTUALLY, while one of the officers held him the other burst the lid open, only to see the idiotic face of his figure peering at him from the depths. The two policemen were afterwards in for a warm time. This little incident was indirectly the cause of his entering the music-hall profession, for the very next week he received an engagement for the Small Heath Theatre, since when he has had good engagements galore.

IT was in 1871 that the Alhambra, which reaches its jubilee this month, was converted from a music-hall into a theatre having previously undergone several transformations. When erected in 1854 it was called the Panopticon of Science and Art, and was opened as a joint-stock undertaking by certain enthusiasts who were desirous of imparting scientific truths in a popular and amusing form, after the old Polytechnic mode. After about three years it was closed, and in 1858 the ubiquitous E. T. Smith took it on lease, and renaming it the Alhambra from its Moorish style of architecture, opened it as a place of general entertainment for horse-riding, panoramas, athletics, &c. Both the exterior and the interior of the building remained unaltered.

"IN December, 1860," says Mr. Barton Baker in his account of The London Stage, "it underwent another change, a stage was erected, and it was converted into a regular music-hall. After a while it became noted for its ballets; but it did not excite very much attention until the Franco-German War, when the singing of the "Marseillaise" and the "Wacht am Rhein" on the same night roused the national rivalries, not only of the French and Germans, but of their English partisans as well, to fever heat. The Alhambra was crowded nightly by people who came to hiss and applaud, and by those who rushed to enjoy the fun.

IN 1871 Mr. John Baum, the then lessee, obtained a theatrical licence. With a good opera-bouffe company, ballets superbly mounted, and the best ballet dancers in London, which could always be procured by paying larger salaries than the theatres and giving permanent employment, with an excellent band far exceeding in number that of any one of the more legitimate houses, it might have been thought that the Alhambra would certainly pay; so it did for a time, but the *habitués* missed the lounge, the smoking and drinking, and its previous reputation caused the more prim portion of the public to look askance upon it. Several well-known opera-bouffes were produced here and very elaborately mounted, notably *Le Roi Carotte* and the *Black Crook*.

BURNED to the ground at the end of the year 1882, it was rebuilt and reopened as a theatre with a revival of Burnand's burlesque of *Black-Eyed Susan*, in December, 1883. So direful, however, was the failure of the dramatic entertainment this time that the proprietors closed the house, and in the next year, under the old licence for music and dancing, reopened it as a music-hall, with Mr. Arthur Roberts as the chief star.

AT the Wigan Hippodrome on Wednesday a tremendous audience assembled at a special matinée for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the men who lost their lives at the Maypole Colliery. Messrs. Worswick had given the use not only of the Hippodrome but of the theatre also, and both places were packed, over two hundred pounds being taken at the doors. Neil Kenyon had a good reception, so also had Marie Kendall. Mr. F. V. St. Clair (as expected) made special references in his songs to the willingness of music-hall artists to assist the noble cause of charity at all times, and brought down the house when he alluded to the bravery of Jim Fox and Morris, the miners who descended the pit and succeeded in rescuing two of their comrades from the pump-room.

OTHER contributors to the fine bill were David Poole, ventriloquist, Tom Foy and company, Florrie Cooper, Harry Blake, Bob Hamilton, Rousby and Rene, W. G. Wesley, Sisters Dixon, John Lemm, Wills and Mackenzie, N. C. Bostock, the Huxter Brothers, Josh Dixon, the Four McBreans, Van Bern, Mlle. Sybil, Tennis and Lorne, Fremel and Fremel, and Phil Herman (who ably managed the programme behind). The special band of the A.M.U. rendered noble service, the whole programme going with a swing and without a single hitch. The Mayor of Wigan personally thanked the artists individually for the good services rendered.

THE staff of the Stalybridge Hippodrome were favoured with glorious weather on the occasion of their annual outing to Chester and Wrexham on Sunday. A start was made at 8.25 a.m. per L. and N.W. saloon, and on arrival at Chester the party proceeded to the Bull and Stirrup Hotel, where a first-class breakfast was enjoyed. A drive through lovely country to Wrexham and back was one of the most enjoyable items in a well-arranged programme. Dinner was served at the Bull and Stirrup, the chairman being Mr. W. A. Jackson, manager of the Hippodrome. Leaving Chester at 6.55 p.m., the party arrived back at Stalybridge 9.18 p.m.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MESSRS. FRANCIS, DAY, AND HUNTER have secured yet another striking success in the song "I'm the idol of the girls," by F. Murray, C. Hilbury, and Kenneth Lyle, with which Miss Vesta Tilley made an instantaneous and emphatic hit on its production at the Palace, Isle of Man, and again at Blackpool this week. So successfully has this clever little lady, whose popularity seems an ever-increasing quantity, been fitted in this number, that it bids fair to achieve a place in her répertoire not even surpassed by "Algy." The famous Charing Cross-road house has already added the song to its Sixpenny Pop series.

NOTHING can, it appears, stem the tide of success of Miss Florrie Forde's Isle of Man anthem, "Oh! Oh! Antonio." Douglas's verdict has been fully endorsed and strengthened by the hold it has already achieved in the other towns on Miss Forde's tour, and in spite of the lady's absence from its first testing ground, "Mona's Isle," there it still remains supreme, and thousands of lungs are still chortling it daily, until the very air seems to hum with it. Mr. Hall Caine has not as yet expressed any opinion on the subject, but if we hear the strains of Messrs. Murphy and Lipton's latest success in the new Lyceum drama on Saturday evening no one will be surprised. But there is no question that the heart of Mr. "Sixpenny Pops" Smith is being gladdened daily by the orders rolling in for this now established addition to the Francis, Day, and Hunter catalogue.

MR. WILKIE BARD and Mr. Frank Leo are evidently in complete sympathy with each other, as is plainly evidenced by the many successes jointly achieved. A striking proof of this, if proof were needed, is afforded by the hit which the popular comedian is scoring nightly with his new "study in character," "All day," from Mr. Leo's prolific and clever pen, and which Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have had the acumen to secure. Though quite a novel departure for the comedian, the two "Bards" and the publishers are certainly to be congratulated, for the song will undoubtedly achieve a very wide popularity.

MISS CLAIRE ROMAINE, who sails on Sept. 17 on the Baltic for America, under contract to the famous American impresario, Mr. Percy Williams, intends featuring on the other side some of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's latest numbers. This clever and gifted little artist, whom we can ill spare, is evidently no stranger to the market where most of the best material is to be obtained.

MR. DAVE CARTER, the popular tenor, has certainly struck a vein of luck in the latest addition to his extensive répertoire, an ear-haunting number entitled "If they ask you what your name is." It is a particularly happy effort from the pens of that clever pair of writers, Harry Castling and Fred Godfrey, and was immediately secured by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter for publication. It possesses in a marked degree that direct "heart-touch" which is certain to justify its acquisition by both singer and publisher, and to enhance Mr. Carter's rapidly-rising reputation.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY'S music was very much to the fore on the occasion of the reopening of the Metropolitan. Hardly had the visitors' expressions of admiration and delight at the sumptuousness of the decoration died away, when Mr. D. M. Tryler's fine orchestra struck up Warwick Williams' grand selection of popular airs, entitled "Best of all," and the heartiness with which the two huge houses chimed in recalled Boxing Night at the National Theatre. Later came Miss Winifred Hare with her now famous song "It's better than being a Carnegie," a number which the charming artist a day or two since declared to be "undoubtedly one of the best songs I have had," and one which the Edgware-road audiences joined in as one man. Other songs published by the famous firm were in evidence during the evening, and the people were played out to the stirring strains of little Max Darewski's "Franco-British" March.

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT, the "chocolate-coloured coon," has been inoculating the provinces with the germs of "Sue, Sue, Sue, I'm very much in love with you," by Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski. At Christmas time this will undoubtedly be a "court card" in Messrs. Francis and Day's pack, a pack which will, as heretofore, be found to consist entirely of "trumps."

WHEN it was stated a fortnight since in these columns that a well-known Cockney song-writer had been observed in a small boat off Beachy Head writing a fishing experience and casting nervous glances backward as though fearful the mighty cliffs would fall on him and what he was scribbling, it was little thought that the story he was inditing would cause the sensation it did. Edgar Bateman's tale of the grateful crab which we printed last Saturday appeared the same night in the London evening papers, was given a prominent position in the Sunday sheets, and delighted countless thousands in the great dailies on Monday, and the entire Press of the country reproduced it and have acclaimed the "yarn" to be the record "fish" story since prehistoric times. It has since been translated into various languages, and has appeared in the leading Continental journals. In almost every case our contemporaries have courteously acknowledged the source of the tale. Bateman had a fine send-off on Friday, on the conclusion of his stay at Eastbourne, from the members of the various concert parties, and Mr. Harry Clifford, the well-known comedian, presented him with a cake inscribed "'Grateful Crab' A1. Edgar Bateman A2." The only solution of the latter part of the inscription—which looks like a torpedo boat's number—is that it stands for Ananias the Second!"

MISS JOSE COLLINS, at the Tivoli, is heard in her delightful rendering of Harrington and Powell's song, "Looking for the lovelight,' given by permission of Miss Alice Lloyd, who sang the number throughout her recent American engagement. As a second number, this young artist sings the favourite Spanish song, "My Cuban girl." Both numbers are published by the Monte Carlo Co.

MISS LOTTIE LENNOX has been achieving a success everywhere with her chorus song, "Look out, boys! There's a girl about," by Murray and Hilbery, and will make a special feature of this number at the Palace, Camberwell, next week and throughout the whole of the Moss and Stoll tour. This popular number is published by the Monte Carlo Co., and should be a great song for either principal boys or girls in the present year's pantomimes.

MESSRS. JOHN P. HARRINGTON AND ORLANDO POWELL have now supplied Miss Alice Lloyd with no less than four new numbers, all specially written for the piece *Bonnie Belles of Scotland*, in which she will shortly "star" in America. The titles of the new songs are "Simp-simp-simple," "Difference," "Here we are again!" and "In the morning." They have also written a special duet for Mr. Tom McNaughton and another of the principals in the same piece, entitled, "Oh, put me on the stage!" and are busily engaged in executing other commissions for the same Ziegfeld production.

MISS MILLIE HYLTON has scored heavily at the Chelsea Palace, as elsewhere, with Wilmott and Darewski's "Under the Golden Dome,' and Miss Madge Temple, on her opening shortly at the Tivoli, will essay a new number from the same pens.

FEDERATION AND FUNDS.

MISS MELINDA MAY, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., wishes to thank the following ladies and gentlemen:—Miss Freda Scharlotte for her kindness in collecting 10s.; "A Well-wisher," collecting in Glasgow, 2s. 6d.; the Three Rubys for parcel of stage clothing; a box of clothing, anonymous, from Birmingham; and beautiful dinner cards from Mr. Douglas Stuart.

THE ladies of the above Guild are having a dinner on Sunday evening, Sept. 6, at seven o'clock at the Boulogne Restaurant, Gerrard-street. An excellent repast is promised in a private room for this occasion. Tickets, 5s. each, can be obtained from Miss Melinda May, 61, New Oxford-street. All sympathisers with the work of the Guild are earnestly requested to attend and to bring as many friends as possible. Gentlemen are especially invited. All are welcome to the receptions, which are held every Wednesday, three to five.

The general meeting of the Music-hall Home will be held on Sept. 17 at the Camberwell Palace, at 3 p.m. The committee begs to thank Mr. Harry Blake for a parcel of men's clothes; also L. A. Smith (of Smith and Johnson) for a parcel of clothes. All such gifts are gladly accepted. The secretary would especially like to receive any old boots (or clothes) for the inmates of the M.H.H. His address is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E. The next committee meeting is on Thursday next at 12 noon. The president hopes that a large number of committeemen will be present.

The 573rd meeting of the committee of the M.H.A.R.A. Association was held on Wednesday. Mr. Fred Millis, vice-president, was in the chair, and there were also present Messrs. John Alexander, Arthur Rigby (hon treasurer), Jack Crawley, J. Tray, J. P. McNally, J. Rich, Lieut. Albini, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). It was resolved that Mr. McKay be instructed to register a telegraphic address for the Liverpool office. Mr. E. Leech, of the "Angel Hotel," Crewe, was appointed agent in that town. The weekly statement showed an increase of 33 new members, and receipts of £45 10s. 6d.

ARTISTS have supported the V.A.B.F. liberally, but on account of the distress among the rank-and-file of the profession the committee does not yet see its way to balancing the outgoings and the incomings. Roughly speaking, the weekly receipts are £5 less than the weekly payments. The aim of the recent sports was the provision of part of the further £250 needed—it has realised over £100 profit—and each year in future a sports meeting will be held and the profits, if any, placed to the account of the fund.

MR. EDWIN ADELER has been doing excellent work for the Fund, and his collections for it which he arranged at his various summer variety entertainments have amounted to £30, which he has supplemented with a cheque for five guineas. Mr. Charles Mildare, just back from Australia, brought £11 as his contribution to the exchequer of the Fund, the result of a concert and collection on board the Moldavia during his voyage home. Miss Alice Maydue has collected £2 6s. 6d., and the contents of Mr. W. Oscholinski's pillar-box amounted to £3 6s. 4d.

MISS CLARICE VANCE has specially commissioned Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell to write and compose her new répertoire for America, where she opens in two or three weeks time. The popular English writers have already succeeded in "fixing" Miss Vance with three specially-written numbers—to wit, "Salome, go home!" "Limericks," and "Mothers-in-Law."

MISS MILLIE LEGARDE has been making a great hit at the Holborn Empire with a number by Murphy and Lipton, whose "Oh! oh! Antonio!" is now the rage of Scotland as well as England, and she will be heard immediately in a new ditty by C. Wilmott and H. E. Darewski, jun.

THAT popular artist Miss Dora Lyric is about to produce a catchy comedy song, entitled "Winkles and Watercreeses," by Alf Ellerton, who has just signed a contract to provide T. E. Dunville's material for the next two years. Arthur Reece will shortly produce a number from the same pen, entitled "What was good for Solomon." The music of this number has been written by Alf Ellerton jun., who was also responsible for the melody of Miss Queenie Leighton's hit, "A little bit of parsley," one of Francis and Day's publications. This should be a fine number for pantomime dames.

ON the agenda of the forthcoming Trades Union Congress appears the following resolution, in the joint names of the Artists' Protection League and the Actors' Union: "That this congress instruct the Parliamentary Committee to take steps to bring about a revision of the laws affecting (a) the licensing of theatres and music-halls; (b) the licensing of plays; and (c) the censorship of plays." The resolution has the support of the Actors' Association, the Sketch Managers' Association, and the Theatrical Employees' Association.

SAILING for Australia yesterday (Friday) per the P. and O. steamer Mooltan were the Marconis, Goodfellow and Gregson, and the Sisters Reno. Charles Faning and his wife and child will be leaving on Friday next by the Orient steamer Oroya. These artists will entertain down under on the Harry Rickards circuit. Mr. Rickards has received the most enthusiastic reports from his managers in Australia with reference to the great success made by Abdullah's Arabs and Galetti's Monkeys and Mignonette Kokin, who opened with him on July 18. Business is very big indeed at Sydney owing to the visit of the American Fleet.

LES VALDOS, the eccentric motor-'bus men, are scoring heavily this week at the Ealing, Hippodrome, with their "Bang-crush 'bus," their clever ball-punching, and their funny acrobatics; they have splendid material for tickling the risibility of their audience, and a constant accompaniment of laughter proves the success of such excellent fooling.

MR. CHARLES GASCOIGNE, for many years acting-manager of the People's Palace, Bristol, is starting a tour at the Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, on Monday next. The company consists of four song and dance ladies, all good vocalists and clever dancers, and the turn will include coon song and dance, Lancashire lassies in song and dance, and speciality clog and other dancing. Mr. Frederick Fey, the musical-director of the People's Palace, Bristol, has arranged the music for the production, and the turn was much appreciated at the Palace, Bristol, on the occasion of its first performance at a recent matinée.

AT the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, under the management of Mr. D'Arcy Clayton, for the past three weeks "The Gipsies and their Jester" have been playing to packed houses. So great has been the success that the directors have re-engaged the party for seventeen weeks next summer, and are arranging to further extend the seating capacity of this fine pavilion.

CHAT WITH MISS ALICE LLOYD.

"Miss —— puts one in mind of a flamboyant flaring poster, while the little English girl, Alice Lloyd, reminds one more of the daintiest of hand-painted pastels."

This was the comment of a New York journal upon the performance respectively of an American artist and Miss Alice Lloyd, who returned to this country towards the end of last month, after a most successful twenty-four weeks' tour of the States. That Miss Lloyd made a strong impression upon our Transatlantic cousins is quite apparent from the comparison we have quoted. And if further proof were needed, it is afforded by the form which her engagements assumed in the Land of the Soaring Eagle. She opened at the Colonial Theatre, New York, for an engagement of six weeks. She was billed in very small type, and her time on the programme was to be limited to fifteen minutes. She opened as the fifth turn, and remained on the stage forty-five minutes, for the audience was not satisfied until she had rendered six songs. Mr. Percy Williams, the manager, told her that she had made the greatest hit he had ever known in his career. On the following day the outside of the theatre was decorated by enormous electric signs, bearing Miss Lloyd's name as that of the star of the company, and on the third day an appointment was made between her manager and Mr. Williams, who arranged a prolongation of the engagement at six times the original salary.

Miss Lloyd's biggest song successes were "Who're getting at, eh?" a Cockney ditty written and composed by Harrington and Powell; "The tourist and the maid," by George Arthurs and Orlando Powell; "Looking for the love-light in your eyes," which the Americans called "a veritable riot"; "Young men lodgers," "I want to be among the boys," "Three ages of woman" (also by Arthurs and Powell), and "Won't you come and splash me?" The last-mentioned was the only American song that Miss Lloyd sang. Most of the gifted artist's numbers are published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Company.

The subject of this sketch is now leaving the music halls, under contract for two years with Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger and Florentz Zeigfeld. Under their management she is to appear in a new musical comedy play entitled *Bonnie Bells of Scotland*. The play has been specially written with a view to making Miss Lloyd a central character, and the authors are Mr. J. J. McNally and Mr. George M. Cohan. It is to be produced at the New York Theatre on Nov. 2. Miss Lloyd's interpolated songs in the production have been written and composed for her by her English author and composer, Mr. J. P. Harrington and Mr. Orlando Powell.

[*Photo by Charles Russell.*

MR. TED COWAN.

The winner of the prize for the best all-round athlete at the recent V.A.F. Sports.

"THE LOCAL AMATEURS."

A Comedy Sketch,

Produced at the Richmond Hippodrome, Aug. 24.

The Stage-manager ..... MR. H. BRYAN
Joe Smiler ..... MR. G. HARGREAVES
Jules ..... MR. FRED RICHARDS
Seth Junket ..... MR. ED. ROYSTON
Molly ..... MISS FRANCES MIDGLEY

It is the vogue to poke fun—innocently or otherwise—at the amateur, and since the days of *A Pantomime Rehearsal* there has ever been a big audience ready to laugh at the vagaries and vapourings of *les amateurs*. The sketch produced here on Monday is but another instance of this peculiar form of entertainment. The scheme of *The Local Amateurs* consists in showing to perfection how a company of amateurs, under the guidance of a professional stage-manager, manage generally to mangle a drama innocent of plot, patter, or the picturesque. The play, performed with all the extravagances of burlesque, proved a droll sample of nonsense. The nautical villain of the play has returned from a voyage to find his fiancée the bride of another; then there is trouble—this is inevitable. "The Amateurs" generally revel in the fun of the thing; the stage-manager, the comedian, the conductor, and the chorus all get hopelessly embroiled in an argument, and a duel is one of the funniest things in the show. The success of the piece is greatly due to the energy and general ability of the company. As the Stage-manager Mr. Herbert Bryan is seriously comic; Mr. G. Hargreaves was quite excellent as Joe Smiler; and Mr. Fred Richards delighted the audience as a peripatetic chef d'orchestre. A good word goes to Mr. Ed. Royston as Seth; and Miss Frances Midgley was altogether charming as Molly. A quaint and peculiar comedian is Ted E. Box. As a peccant policeman—not altogether innocent of humour—he caused quite a lot of fun, and his contribution proved quite an acceptable effort.

ANOTHER HALL FOR MAIDSTONE.—A site is being acquired in the centre of High-street for the erection of a new house, to be called the Hippodrome. Plans are now being prepared, and will shortly be submitted to the Council for approval. The new house is to cost £18,000, and will be provided with a 40ft. ring, suitable for equestrians and the production of large spectacles. The management will be in the hands of T. M. Sylvester, managing-director of the Palace, Watford, who is busy forming a new company, with a capital of £250,000, for the purpose of building a group of corrugated iron houses in several towns where sites have been secured.

MR. FRED. H. GRAHAM has acquired the sole rights for Australasia of that laughter-making one-act comedy *The Power of the Idol*, by Laura Leycester.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE HIPPODROME.

The inventor of the "fire dance," Miss Loie Fuller, who came to the Globe Theatre many years since in the production of *Caprice*, is responsible for a most artistic Terpsichorean production at the Hippodrome. It is entitled *A Ballet of Light*. She has brought with her nine young ladies, who in their classic garments might very well represent the Nine Muses. They dance in Elysium, and represent very gracefully the passing of souls into that perfect dwelling-place spoken of by Homer. When the first scene opens a nymph is to be seen reclining on the earth, asleep. The spirit of the dawn moves her to dance. She rises, and salutes the sun, bathes in the sunlight, and gambols with joy as she sees and plucks a flower. This may be called the dance of Hope, which is instinct with charm and grace, and classic in character. We are wonderfully impressed by the beauty and vividness of the lighting arrangements and of a series of dissolving view effects, aided by a powerful magic-lantern, which is responsible for a series of cloud and water effects of a most fascinating character produced on a screen at the back of the stage; and by means of continuously rolling gauze, wonderfully weird and mystic scenes are produced. The sea caves, with stalactites and stalagmites, and with suggestions of coral formations precede the "Dance of Approaching Doom"—in which there is a very pretty magic-lantern effect of the souls passing "like thin flames"—and "The Dance of the Fires of Purification," in which the dancers appear to be literally aflame. Colours of every hue are thrown on the dancers from above and below, and the series of dances closes with a serpentine dance by Miss Loie Fuller herself in diaphanous skirts. The dancers have been excellently trained, and the pictures enhance the beauty of a ballet that is entirely novel, and without the crude melodrama that seems to have become the fashion lately. It is a distinct acquisition to Mr. Stoll's excellent programme at the Leicester-square house.

That delightful humorist, Mr. W. C. Fields, gives us many mirthful moments as an eccentric juggler, especially in his billiard-playing with tennis-balls. His act reaches the high-water mark of originality, ingenuity, and real smartness. He discards the dirty make-up and ragged garments of the tramp, and for this relief much thanks. Another practical joker whose irresponsible activity and eccentricity of movement are irresistible is to be found among the Vasilescu Troupe, and the funny man of Campbell and Barber, comedy trick cyclists, raises shouts of laughter by his admirable clowning. The favourite Fratellinis, in their comic entrée as burlesque elephant trainers, add much to the mirthful nature of the bill, the interest of which is much increased by Watson's performing fox-terriers, introduced by Ida Kessanly; the Athlones, gymnasts; by the doings of M. Georges; the fantasie musicale of the Jackson Family; the Iben Obed Troupe of Arabian equilibrists; the Picchianis; M. Gabriel, the French tandem high-school rider; and the amusing and interesting pictures on the Pathégraph, which is always up to date.

THE EMPRESS.

The youngest imitator at present on the stage is to be found this week at Brixton, where Little Gladys Francis made her début on Monday. The youthful artist, as may be surmised, is the daughter of Mr. Nelson Francis, the popular manager, who has already given a hostage to the fortune of the footlights in Maudie, now a favourite little comedienne. Gladys has before been seen at the Empress unprofessionally on the occasions of anniversaries, benefits, and such-like, but she has now arrived at the age at which the law allows a child to perform, and has taken to the art of mimicry—to use a homely phrase—as a duck takes to water. The little lady has quite caught the chic and vivacity of Miss Daisy James, and imitates the swelling tones of Miss Dora Lyric, the popular chorus comedienne, with equal realism. Miss Francis also includes a reproduction of the mannerisms of Miss Victoria Monks, which that lady is fain to admit is the best she has come across. Little Gladys concludes with a dainty dance, brief, but unquestionably clever for so youthful a performer. She was loudly recalled and presented with a handsome bouquet.

A notable item of the current bill is the production of the sketch, *The Christening*, in which Mr. Alick Lauder, a brother of the famous Scotch comedian, appears. The little piece makes for comedy, and deals with the tribulations of honest John Anderson, whose wife has just presented him with a youngster. John has crossed the Border some years before, and the Anderson household is now located in the purlieus of Piccadilly. The clergyman comes to christen the child, and much fun is made out of John's ignorance of the ceremony, the parson, in fact, being so disgusted with his want of knowledge that he refuses to perform the rite. John and his wife quarrel, but the clergyman is instrumental in conciliating the pair, and the piece ends with his promise to come another day to perform the christening. Mr. Lauder is no unskilful reflector of the family talent. He develops the part of the Scotsman on humorous lines, and with more individuality than might have been expected, and unlimited laughter was the result of his efforts. Mr. J. R. Spurling is to be commended for a refined and strikingly life-like performance of a clergyman, free from the canting tones usually adopted. The sketch is well mounted, realism being secured by the introduction in the outer scene of a chicken run with real fowls.

A highly appreciated contribution to the programme is that of Miss Topsy Sinden, who is following her successes in musical comedy, and later her triumphs as premier danseuse at the Empire, by a tour of the variety theatres. First she is a soldier lad in red, who sings a song to which some characteristic steps are added. The artist afterwards appears in a dazzling costume in which to render a "romp" song, supplemented by a dance, which entrance the audience. Such an exposition of daintiness and grace rarely comes the way of music-hall goers, and the audience cheered accordingly, so much so that after Miss Sinden had made repeated acknowledgments, the curtain had perforce to be lowered. Miss Alexandra Dagmar is another favourite of the evening; Arayma, a clever Japanese, does wonderful balancing feats; Violet Lorraine sings with taste and expression, and the programme also includes Naughton and Gold, comedians; Chas. Daly and Kitty O'Brien in the comedy, *Tanglefoot*; Margaret Ashton, comedienne; John Donald, in his vocal scena, *A Scottish Exile's Dream*; Chas. Worland's company in the dramatic sketch, *Black against White*; Ruffell's pictures. Mr. Francis Winchcombe, who has returned the picture of health from a recent holiday, officiates with his customary urbanity at the front of the house.

THE SURREY.

Mr. Roy Cochrane, the locum tenens here, is viewing with pride packed audiences at every performance. At the top and bottom of Mr. Frank Macnaghten's varied and carefully arranged programme are two exciting sketches. The first is a petite drama by Bernard Mervyn, entitled *Treachery*, which depicts an imaginary unpleasant incident of the late Boer War. Lieut. Ferrars, of H.M.S. Niobe, is accused of treason by his captain, and although it is proved at the court martial by a Boer spy that he is innocent, and that the villainous Captain Caversham is the guilty one, he is sentenced to be degraded and shot. The Boer is to be exchanged as a prisoner of war, and on the eve of the execution arranges with Ferrars to change uniforms with him, so that Ferrars may take his place and escape. At the very moment that Ferrars faces the firing party the Boers make another unsuccessful attack on Ladysmith, and in the confusion Ferrars gets away as well as his Boer friend. Captain Caversham rushes up the gorge after them, and receives the volley intended for his victim, and in his last moments confesses his treachery. Mr. Bernard Mervyn gives a bold and powerful impersonation of the falsely accused Ferrars; Miss Mamie Rendee is sweet and womanly as the sorely-tried Marion Kilrae, who is in love with the lieutenant; Mr. W. C. Blunt is the brusque colonel to the life; Mr. Bert Morley gives a fine character study of the Boer, although in the more exciting passages he loses the Dutch accent; Mr. H. C. Morton, in the comedy part of Sergeant Patterson, raises many a laugh; Mr. J. Cook-Hinton plays the rôle of the villain, Captain Caversham. The piece is capitally staged, especially the closing scene representing a redoubt outside Ladysmith.

Another episode in the adventurous life of that astute detective, Sexton Blake, entitled *The Red Triangle*, is presented by Carlotta De Yonson and her efficient company, including the dog detective, Pedro. The incident is familiar as the last scene in another great detective drama that claimed the attention of London playgoers only recently. Mr. Douglas Carlile, the author of the series of thrillers appearing in two weekly publications, appears in the character of the great detective, and demonstrates in no uncertain fashion that he can act as well as write. As the girl Leah Courcell Miss Carlotta De Yonson looks as pretty as a picture, and does the little she has to do thoroughly and well. Mr. Lee Gilbert as the boy Tinker is decidedly good. As the head of the "Triangle," Adams, Mr. Alf. Crook gives a finished performance, while as Bertie Faversham and Sir William Foster Messrs. J. Sandford and C. A. Carlile add their moiety to the general success.

The Della Sisters, gowned in most effective black, with waving plumes, give full effect to a patriotic song, "Our Empire," and in their second effort evoke the aid of the gods in the swinging chorus to their song, "Girls, say 'No.'" Crogan and Davis combine much fun with clever tumbling, which makes their turn highly acceptable. The Sisters Dainton reveal excellent vocal powers in their harmonising duets. Takio, the Jap mimic, is a capital turn, his farmyard and other imitations being lifelike. Frank Seeley creates plenty of merriment in his burlesque of *Cinderella*, and in a really funny ditty, "I'll never forget the day," set to an old familiar tune. Rosie Archer hits off in clever style the peculiarities in voice and inflection of such popular favourites as Vesta Victoria, Vesta Tilley, Victoria Monks, Marie Lloyd, and Harry Lauder. Miss Ethel Arundale is a gifted vocalist and clever dancer. Raymond's fine pictures depicting the American version of "The Silver King" and "The Story the Boots Told" are a fitting conclusion to a most enjoyable entertainment.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

Quite a budget of novelties form the programme this week, not the least interesting being the première of Mr. Dance's new sketch, *The Local Amateurs*. Hugo and Smit get through a number of astounding feats, winning, perhaps, more kicks than ha'pence; they work well together, and are evidently appreciated. Then Miss Mary Robertson takes the stage, and literally evokes thunders of applause by her really artistic and wonderful interpretation of Arditi's "Il Bacio." It is as a first-class shot that Mlle. Leonie de Lausanne wins favourable attention. Assisted by a clever company of clever people, Mlle. Lausanne succeeds in scoring some particularly wonderful shots. The clever little lady, too, is quite fair and above board in her "show," and guarantees the fairness of the entire programme. There is a thrill through the house as mademoiselle whisks from a young lady's head a piece of loaf sugar, and follows up the success by out-Telling Tell in reducing to atoms an ordinary marble. The invitation to the audience to participate in the entertainment and share the laurels in having a piece of sugar shot from the head met only a weak response. The final feat of the clever lady is to divest another of her sex of her dress by a series of wonderful shots. There are no two doubts about Mlle. Lausanne's skill. Quite an active dancer is Mr. Percy Dalton; he contributes a song with a "Good-bye" refrain that meets with approbation, but it is as a grotesque dancer that he scores his biggest success.

Originally produced here, *The Burglars' Ball* has been on its way rejoicing, and has much improved. Business, new songs, and dances have been added, the pruning-knife has been used judiciously, and the dialogue generally brightened up. As it stands, *The Burglars' Ball* is an amusing trifle that one should see to appreciate. Much of the success may be traced to the admirable fooling of the interpreters. Everybody works loyally, with the result that a capital all-round performance is assured. Miss Maud Dennis gives her performance of Salome; and the Bioscope adds to the interest of the bill. Mr. H. B. Harries is in "front of the house."

THE first annual outing of the Royal Hippodrome, Dover, staff took place on Sunday. Arrangements were made for the party to meet outside the Royal Hippodrome, Snargate-street, in readiness to start on their journey by ten o'clock, but owing to the rain it was decided to postpone the start for about half an hour; but Jupiter Pluvius was adamant, and at 10.30 the order "All aboard" was given, and the journey commenced. The party numbered about forty, and despite the heavy rain their spirits were in no way damped. The principals of the party included Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Winter, Miss Winter, Mr. Sidney Winter, jun., Mr. and Mrs. W. T. G. Whitelock, &c.

The journey was by way of High-street, Barton-road, and Whitfield Hill to Eastry, where the first halt was made at the Bell. Here Mr. Winter entertained the party to light refreshments. The rain continued to pour down when the brakes were again boarded, and the run to Saltpans was continued, the Red Lion being reached about 1.15. Here Mr. Winter's "family" sat down to a good substantial dinner, provided by Mr. James Lucas, whose catering was of the best. The menu having been gone through, Mr. Whitelock, who carried out the duties of vice-chairman, proposed the health of Mr. W. Winter. In returning thanks, Mr. Winter said it was a great pleasure for him to meet them that day. He could assure them that they were going to make the Royal Hippodrome, Dover, a big success. What they wanted was for all to pull together. Mr. Smith, the stage-manager, then proposed the health of Mrs. Winter, Miss Winter, and Mr. Sidney Winter, jun. This toast was also loyally received. Mr. Whitelock, in acknowledging the toast of his health, said that it always gave him great pleasure to organise such agreeable gatherings.

ROBERT STEIDL, who had never before appeared in England, has become so popular with the English public that he has remained at the Alhambra for two months. This is his last week, but only for the present, for the genial German humorist will be welcome on his next visit to the metropolis, which, it is to be hoped, will be as soon as his Continental engagements will permit. Owing also to their success the engagement of the Tomsons in *The Master Mystery* has been extended. On Monday Herr List will return with his wonderful performing bears, and Jury's Imperial Pictures will include a special and exclusive series by Oliver S. Pike, of St. Kilda, its people and bird life.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR SEPTEMBER.

ENGLAND.

1. Southgate (15,000)
2. Fakenham (200)
2. Woodley (246)
3. Leigh (Dorset) (400)
4. Aldborough (Yorks) (2,000)
4. Barnet (?,000)
4. Bicester (3,300)
4. Chorley (27,000)
4. Crewkerne (4,300)
4. Cheerwell (1,986)
4 Great Horton (33,000)
5. Hyde (23,000)
5. Gorton (48,000)
5. Killamarsh (3,211)
5. Meltham (1,200)
5. Pendlebury (13,672)
5. Wednesbury (26,500)
5. Wilmslow (6,683)
7. Alverthorpe (12,000)
7. Armley (22,000)
7. Farnley (3,600)
7. Oldbury (25,200)
7. Oxford (49,400)
7. Thorner (976)
7. Wortley (8,000)
8. Barnoldswick (7,400)
8. Exeter (47,000)
8. Wirksworth (4,263)
9. Blandford (3,500)
9. Broadway (Somerset) (500)
9. Chapel Town (7,100)
9. Lambert Castle
9. Morchard Bishop (1,100)
9. Openshaw (25,400)
9. Swinton and Pendlebury (19,000)
9. Tideswell (2,600)
9. Witton (1,659)
10. Congresbury (1,700)
10. Maldon (5,500)
10. Wareham (2,000)
12. Batley (20,000)
12. Blackheath (Staffs.) (9,553)
12. Brentford (15,200)
12. Buxton (4,787)
12. Cromford (1,056)
12. Matlock (7,300)
12. Woodthorpe (882)
14. Ardsley (6,000)
14. Barnstable (14,000)
14. Glastonbury (4,000)
14. Holbeck (23,000)
14. Sandal Feast (6,000)
15. Boston (15,700)
15. Ottery St. Mary (3,500)
15. Ware (5,900)
16. Alford (2,500)
16. Langwith (363)
17. Penn (Bucks) (400)
17. Second Lee Fair
18. Bury (60,000)
19. Amersham (3,000)
19. Atherstone (5,000)
19. Beaminster (2,000)
19. Hayfield (2,864)
19. Ilkley (7,500)
19. New Mills (5,509)
19. Northampton (87,000)
19. Pateley Bridge (3,200)
19. Ratcliffe (137)
19. Staines (6,700)
9. Worcester (43,966)
21. Backwell (1,000)
21. Farnworth (25,000)
21. Hemel Hempstead (11,300)
21. Lewes (11,300)
21. Longtown (300)
21. Newcastle (Staffs) (20,000)
21. Reading (60,000)
21. Rushden (12,500)
21. Sidmouth (4,000)
21. Uttoxeter (5,200)
22. Ashby-de-la-Zouch (4,700)
22. Bude (1,059)
22. Stevenage (3,365)
23. Bowdon (2,796)
23. Bugsworth (389)
23. Iron Acton (1,000)
23. March (7,600)
23. Over (Cheshire) (6,200)
23. Swindon (45,000)
24. Birmingham (522,182)
24. Bridgwater (15,200)
24. Brierley Hill (12,000)
24. Cambridge (38,400)
24. Hevford (800)
24. Todmorden (25,400)
24. Wootton-under-Edge 2,200
25. Eleven Lane Ends Feast
25. Haslemere (1,000)
25. Pickering (3,500)
26. Hartland (1,746)
26. Morton (982)
26. Spalding (9,400)
26. Tyldesley (16,000)
28. Chesham (7,300)
28. Dudley (49,000)
28. Dunstable (5,200)
28. High Wycombe (16,000)
28. Idle (7,500)
28. Long Stratton (600)
28. Studley (3,000)
28. Woodhouse (6,422)
29. Alton (5,590)
29. Ampthill (2,200)
29. Cranbrook (3,500)
29. Dorchester (9,500)
29. Kenilworth (4,500)
29. Uxbridge (8,600)
29. Wallingford (3,000)
30. Hanbury (900)
30. Hounslow (6,790)
30. Solihull (3,800)

SCOTLAND.

10. Ayr (27,531)
18. Johnstone (10,502)
18. Moss of Ballock (612)
19. Castle Douglas (3,018)
21. Aberdeen (153,108)
21. Edinburgh (208,069)
26. Hawick (17,803)
28. Dumfries (18,683)
30. Frazerburgh (8,998)
30. Haddington (3,992)
30. Sinclair Town

WALES.

7. Aberavon (7,000)
10. Neath (14,000)
12. Blaenavon (12,000)
18. Brynmawr (7,000)
19. Tredegar (18,000)
22. Llandudno (7,000)
25. Abergavenny (8,000)
26. Cowbridge (1,000)
26. Pontardawe (3,327)
26. Llanfyllin (2,000)
30. Llanelly (23,000)

Parliamentary Trade Defence Work.

The showman as a general rule is so absorbed in his own sphere of work that he has no time to give to any definite or connected study of outside affairs. He is prepared to give great credit and honour to the man who does know something of the great world of public affairs, but he finds the business of his show or of his special line of catering for the general public quite as much as he can manage.

This isolation of the showman, this necessary absorption in the cares of his own life, has made it easy for his enemies to steal a march on him and to use great powers of private Bill legislation to penalise the showman and his business in life.

The Tyranny of Local Bye-Laws.

The rapid growth of local government in the United Kingdom has brought the showman face to face with a real danger—the danger of extinction by the extraordinary powers obtained by corporations by Private Bill legislation. It is hardly ten years ago since showmen (by the work of their trade society) were roused to a consciousness of their danger—the real danger of being destroyed by Act of Parliament.

Since the year 1898 the Showmen's Guild has entered the Parliamentary arena, and has fought and won a number of costly battles in the Committee Rooms of the Houses of Parliament. Corporation after corporation have been beaten by the Showmen's Guild, until at last there came the welcome relief of the last sessions of Parliament and no Private Bill legislation to fight.

What is Private Bill Legislation?

Considering the fact we have referred to above, that the average showman is entirely absorbed in his own daily work and has no time to master the details of either Imperial or local government, it is no wonder that the executive officers of the Guild have found great difficulty in arousing and in maintaining interest in the highly technical work of trade defence in Parliament.

Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., on Parliament at Work.

We quote from a brilliant series of articles in *M.A.P.*, written by the world-famous journalist and Parliamentarian, Mr. T. P. O'Connor:—

"Within the vast spaces of that great building at Westminster there are several worlds; each day and each story have their own separate and independent life. I have told how, in the earlier hours of the day, there is the vast world of politicians who are interested in the Grand Committees. There is another and even a vaster world—that of the men who are interested in what is called Private Bill legislation, the legislation which is necessary if a new railroad, or a new tramway company, or a new canal has to be brought into being. This is a great world in itself. Its chief figures are, of course, the great barristers who practise at what is called the Parliamentary Bar. These are the giants of the profession. No men earn such gigantic incomes—even at the Bar. You hear of men having as much as £20,000 a year to their credit, and yet these men, as a rule, work only four months in the year. You know, of course, that no member of Parliament can practise at the Parliamentary Bar; the reason, of course, is that he may have to be a member of one of the Parliamentary Committees which try the case, and that thus he may be put in the irreconcilable positions of judge and advocate. Many Parliamentary barristers have had to give up a splendid income when they decided to enter Parliament.

"In addition to the great barristers, you see the solicitors—who swarm about the place. And there is a third—who sometimes are the same as the solicitors—namely, what are called Parliamentary agents—that is to say, they whose business it is to influence members of Parliament in favour of their Bills. This is a very lucrative branch of the legal profession, because, of course, as a rule, gigantic interests are involved in these Parliamentary conflicts, often millions of money. Sir Theodore Martin—still hale and hearty at upwards of ninety—was once a very prominent member of this body. His strong face, with fine, bright, prominent eyes, and his long hair, with his curious briskness, and all alive expression, were familiar in the Lobby of the House of Commons at such times as a great railway was asking a big concession. A curious and interesting and varied career this wonderful man has had; he was writing poetry as a youngster, when Professor Aytoun was his colleague, and he is old enough to have remembered and to have described Disraeli as 'devilish handsome Ben Disraeli'; and Disraeli died more than twenty-five years ago, and was nearer eighty than seventy when he died!

"You see this Private Bill world either lunching in the dining-rooms of the House of Commons or, more frequently, you see them having a standing-up and hurried meal at one of the two or three buffets, which are to be found at various points in the House of Commons.

"Altogether the House of Commons may be compared to a beehive; outside you see little, but inside it is full of abounding, of various, of multitudious life."

We have given the above pen-picture on the Private Bill activities of Parliament in order that showmen may realise the magnitude of the forces against them and the greatness of the enterprise in which the Guild engaged when it entered the Parliamentary arena to defend the rights and liberties of the men and women of the fair-ground.

Hospital Fête at Llanelly.

The hospital fête and gala, an annual function organised by Mr. Henry Studt and his family at Llanelly, took place on Friday and Saturday of last week, and, as usual, was a huge success. Mr. Studt had gathered on the ground a huge conglomeration of amusements, there being his own very large and elaborate motor-car track and his zoological roundabout, G. Roberts' great wheel, numerous shooters and Mollies, as well as the very big and handsome bioscope shows of Messrs. W. Haggar and Sons, with its magnificent carved and gilded front and its attractive troupe of young lady dancers, and that of Messrs. Wadbrook and Scard, with its wonderful array of outside parade talent, which includes Mlle. Melitia, a most charming and clever dancer; Miss Belle Rellie, Cyrus and Maud, &c. Mr. Steel Parry's bioscope also occupied a prominent position and did well.

The variety artists included the very clever and talented La Dor troupe of gentlemen and lady acrobats, who met with immense success; Capt. Tudor, with his well-trained and intelligent performing ponies—real beauties; Lo La and Jake, horizontal bar performers; Henry and Tyler, dashing trick cyclists; and the Clarkes on the rolling globe. There was also a fine display of fireworks.

At Kidwelly Mr. Felix Testo's very attractive and instructive marionette and bioscope show is meeting with much success just now. The Testos show some splendid pictures on the Bioscope; whilst the marionettes are most aptly worked.

Church Work at the Fairs.

Until quite recently the Showmen's Guild has not been able to go to fairs in the West of England and to carry on there its good work.

It is extremely gratifying to know, as we do, that good work has been carried on by the Church amongst West of England showpeople. For many years past the itinerant missioners of the Dioceses of Salisbury and Exeter (and, we believe, to a certain extent of Truro) have followed the fairs, organised day schools for the little ones, and Sunday services for showpeople.

We gladly chronicle the noble work of Mr. Geoffrey W. A. Norton, who started out at Exeter Fair last Easter with a perfectly-equipped school van, and has followed the Western fairs in order to educate the children.

Church Work at the Regatta Fairs.

We have received a most interesting report of work with a travelling school and church at the Devonshire Regatta Fairs. Writing to the Rev. T. Horne, chaplain to the Showmen's Guild, the Rev. A. G. Bayly, van chaplain, Exeter Diocesan and Parochial Mission, says:—

"Sir,—There are two great interests at a regatta—the races and the shows. The chaplain who follows the regattas in the mission van knows nothing of the various events on the water, because he and his staff are busy all the forenoon and afternoon in gathering and teaching the children who live in the vans. At night, however, he has a chance to see how the British public enjoy themselves, and also an opportunity to admire the extraordinary ability of the showman to provide attractions of a kind to bring grist to his mill.

"There is something alluring about the showman's life. Children are born in the vans, grow up in the vans, and end their lives in the vans. In recent years the Church has taken an increasing interest in these resourceful and enterprising examples of the strenuous life. And the day is not far distant when each diocese will send its van, with chaplain and teacher to minister to their wants. It has been for some years now a recognised part of the work of the Exeter Diocesan and Parochial Mission to send a priest and teacher to attend the Devonshire regattas. Most of the clergy seem interested, and without their co-operation it would be difficult to accomplish very much. A tent does not make an ideal schoolroom for the restless little ones under our care, and assembly rooms and pavilions are not really suited for the purpose. But they are the best available at present. We have on our register thirty-six children. It is important to remember that they are the showmen and show-women of the future. The public mind is demanding healthy and clean forms of amusement, and the showmen naturally expect the Church to take a sympathetic and helpful attitude.

"No serious attempt at organised and efficient religious and educational work has been as yet attempted. The magnitude of the opportunity for doing good ought to make it possible for the Church to provide a movable school chapel as well as a van and chaplain. The kindness shown to me by the Hancocks and others at the Devonshire regattas leads me to believe that such an effort would have a large measure of financial support from the showmen, and I feel sure very generous public recognition as well.

"Each Sunday I have been able to hold a service in the open for the showmen and their families. It would be well if all connected with the shows in any way would determine on the necessity of one service for all every Sunday at whatever inconvenience.

Augustus G. Bayly,
Van Chaplain.
Exeter Diocesan and Parochial Mission.

Guild Subscriptions, 1908.

Mrs. Bird, 10s.; W. Headon, 5s.; T. Tregenza, 5s.

GLASGOW'S OLDEST SHOWMAN.

A CHAT WITH MR. JAMES FRENCH.

"Thirty-nine years of show life! Yes, that's what I can look back upon. For thirty-nine years I have been connected in various capacities with almost all the travelling entertainments that have made their appearance in Glasgow. I have long concerned myself with the advertising and billing of such entertainments. I think I may fairly claim to be the oldest in this line of business in Scotland."

So said James French to a representative of *The Era* the other evening. French is one of the best-known men in Glasgow and the West, and in other parts of Scotland, among his own particular class. He is one of the few men who combine two very distinct businesses, as being one of the best advertising and billing agents in Glasgow, and also an expert conjurer and illusionist and "Punch and Judy" man.

"Yes," continued Mr. French, "I have been at the show business a pretty long time. I'm not a Scotsman, as you may have guessed. I was born in Cheshire, but passed my early life in Manchester. I began my connection with show life in 1869, when I travelled with Billy Manders's menagerie. With the menagerie I passed a short time on the road pleasantly enough. The show was in Glasgow in the early seventies, and stood for a fortnight in Dalhousie-street, opposite the present Zoo and Hippodrome, where the tramway stables are situated. Another fortnight was passed on a site in Bath-street. The celebrated Martino Maccomo a powerful negro, was the lion tamer of the menagerie at the time, and a sensational incident of the visit was the extraction of a lion's tooth by a Glasgow veterinary surgeon. Maccomo was the most fearless performer with wild beasts the world has ever known, the first man to 'break' tigers, and to combine in one performance lions and tigers.

"Yes, we had some awkward incidents on the road. At Derby some sensation was caused by the escape of over twenty monkeys from the menagerie. Strange to say, not one of the monkeys was ever recovered for the menagerie, and what can have become of them remains a mystery to this day. At Airdrie, on another occasion, a waggon filled with lions was overturned. It had been wet, and the wheels of the waggon sinking in the soft soil of a field, the weight of the four huge beasts inside overbalanced the waggon, causing no little commotion and excitement. Happily, little damage was done, and the waggon was righted without liberating the lions. A night's entertainment was lost, that was all, but the natives had the free entertainment of witnessing the catastrophe and the efforts necessary to remedy it, and the advertisement was a good one for the two days' showing which followed. A more tragic incident overshadowed the gaiety of the show at Bolton. Tom McCarthy, the genial Irish lion tamer, while performing with a circus in this town, had the misfortune to lose one of his arms. He left the circus, joined Manders's show, and travelled round with it, to Glasgow among other places. Time passed, and the menagerie was again at Bolton; the scene of Tom's accident. Here a tragic fate awaited the unlucky performer, for on the very same piece of ground where he had lost his arm McCarthy lost his life among the lions.

"After I left Manders's menagerie I joined the circus company of John and George Sanger, and had a place in the gorgeous procession which always startled and delighted the inhabitants of the towns and villages through which we passed. Coming to Perth on a Sunday, we had to face an order of the authorities forbidding us to pass through the town. We were permitted to stable the horses at an hotel, but must on no account draw our waggons through the streets on the Sabbath. We stood by the roadside all night. It was very pleasant on the road when the weather was good, seeing new sights and fresh faces in every town. I met all the famous performers and characters on the road in those days. I knew Old Malabar, the old showman juggler, very well. I met him first on Chester Racecourse about 1861. It was Malabar's boast that he had performed the cup-and-ball trick, a feat peculiarly his own, before King George IV. He was always anxious to visit the Balmoral district when Queen Victoria was in residence at the Castle. On one occasion he remarked to his pupil—now known as Professor Milleno—'Well, my boy, I wish that our Queen was at Balmoral just now. We would go up, and by all accounts I've heard she would be kind to us. I might be able to let her know that I've performed before King George IV. at Ascot Races. Ah! that meeting has fond recollections for me. It was there I balanced a donkey and a 10ft. ladder on my chin. It was a great feat, but I was a young one at the time. King George was sitting on a chair on the grand stand, and when he saw me doing this trick he threw me a piece of gold, and after that the money rained on me from all parts of the grand stand. Many gentlemen standing near me helped me to pick up the coins.' The story of this, the greatest triumph of his life, was one which poor Old Malabar never tired of telling, and the older he grew his memory of the incident acquired more and more importance to his mind."

"How long is it now since you settled permanently in Glasgow?"

"Thirty years ago. I found employment first with Mr. Rossburgh, of the old Britannia Music Hall in the Trongate. I was later on employed with 'Mother' Bayliss, of the Scotia Music Hall, in the Stockwell. Other theatres and music halls with which I have been connected were the Prince of Wales's, the Royal, Grand, Princess's, and Gaiety Theatres, and the Folly Music Hall. I have also many recollections of the old circuses and circus proprietors—handsome Charles Hengler, little Jamie Newsome, Fred Ginnet, W. Myers, John Swallow, and Lord George Sanger. I remember the Christy Minstrels who visited Glasgow—Bernard and Vestris', Matthews', C.C.C.'s, Haverley's, Sam Hague's, and Livermore Brothers' troupes. Hengler's old cirque in West Nile-street was the Glasgow home of the niggers, for invariably when they did pay Glasgow a visit they stayed for weeks. Many a night I've spent in Hengler's Circus with Fred Maccabe, Professor Anderson (the 'Wizard of the North'), Tom Thumb and Commodore Nutt, the Siamese Twins, and the Two-headed Nightingale. Contortionists, freaks, and sensation-makers of every description were in the old days to be found going round the country on their own account, but the rise of the music hall has concentrated weird talent of every description into its circuits. The palmy days of the individual show and the individual showman are gone for ever."

Mr. French is now sixty-seven years of age. With his "Punch and Judy" show and conjuring and shadowgraph entertainment Professor French has been accustomed to touring the neighbourhood, and is still available for drawing-room and school-room performances. I may also mention that his worthy lady takes a hand in many of his wonderful performances, and is accountable for a great part of the success.

Middleton Wakes.

This centre of the cotton trade, and within easy access of a dozen other large centres of industry, kept its annual wakes with great spirit.

The principal show was Col. W. Clark's new theatre of animated pictures, which, as usual, drew immense crowds. The other attractions were Wm. Mitchell's steam horses, Mrs. Holden's racing ostriches, T. Holden's haunted swing, John Sharpe's rifle gallery and park swings, Mrs. Jewell's bottle battery, and variety games by Shorrocks, Taylor, and Butterworth.

NOTES OF PAISLEY FAIR.

One of the great fairs of Scotland is held at Paisley. There is always a big crowd of show-folk, and the good people of Paisley town take a real interest in the travelling entertainers of the people. This kindly interest is shown in a number of meetings organised in active co-operation with show proprietors for temperance and other good works on the fair ground.

We are indebted to the *Paisley Daily Express* for the following interesting report of these gatherings:—

MEETINGS WITH SHOW FOLKS.

For many years past it has always been the custom of the ladies connected with the British Women's Temperance Association to arrange meetings for the travellers who occupy stances at the Clayholes, and again this year these were brought off, and proved of a very interesting nature.

TRAVELLERS' CONCERT.

On Friday night, after the business of the Fair was finished for the day, and all patrons had gone home to rest, the travellers assembled in M'Indoe's Show Tent, kindly lent by the proprietor, Mr. Arthur Henderson, when the annual concert was held. Mr. Peter Swallow occupied the chair, and he was accompanied on the platform by Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot, Mr. Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. Styles, and the Misses Wilmot, while the Women's Temperance Association was represented by Miss Bell, Miss Coats, Miss Carswell, and Mrs. Pollock. The entertainment which, as usual, was provided by the travellers themselves, was entered into with much enthusiasm, and heartily enjoyed by all present. The programme submitted was of a lively and varied character, and went far to show the versatility of those friends who visit us annually.

Those taking part in the evening's entertainment included the Misses S. E. and Carrie White, Miss Julian, Miss E. Clark, Miss L. Graham, and Miss Campbell; Messrs. G. Neilson, Neilson, R. Foster, A. Henderson, jun., Frank Dixon, Thomas Hawley, W. Quinn, George Watson, — Styles, M'Lachlan, Rankin, St. Clair Nelson, and Big Ted, and for their services the organisers of the concert return their sincere thanks.

During the course of the evening the usual collection was made on behalf of the work carried on by Miss Millington, the Travellers' Friend, and it is gratifying to be able to state that no less than £8 7s. 3½d. was raised at the concert on the grounds by Miss Helen Wilmot. Of that sum it was agreed that £2 2s. be given to the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, while the balance was sent on to Miss Millington, along with a sum of £1 15s., which was collected at a similar concert at Bridge-of-Allan.

CHILDREN'S MEETING.

The annual tea meeting for the travellers' children, which is one of the most interesting features of the Fair time, was held on Sunday evening in the B.W.T.A. tent, and was heartily enjoyed by the host of children who attended. Mr. Wilson Pollock was in charge of the meeting, and bright addresses were delivered by the Rev. Knowles Smith and Mrs. Barton of Glasgow. During the proceedings Misses Hutcheson and Wood sang a duet, and Miss Wood a solo, while the children joined heartily in the hymns. At the close of the meeting bouquets of lovely flowers, provided through the kindness of Mrs. R. K. Bell, Middle Park, were distributed to each little one, which added greatly to their delight. Several children joined the Travellers' Band of Hope after the meeting.

BRITISH WOMEN'S TEMPERANCE ASSOCIATION.

The usual tea meeting, under the auspices of the above Association, was held in Mr. M'Indoe's Show, kindly lent for the occasion, on Sunday evening last. Mrs. Allan Coats presided, and was supported on the platform by Mrs. Porteous, Mrs. M'Askill, Miss Bell, Miss Coats, Miss Carsewell, Mrs. Hill, Mrs. Barton, Glasgow; the Rev. Knowles Smith, Mr. John Slack, ex-Bailie Kent, Mr. and Mrs. Wilmot, sen., Mr. A. Henderson, and Mr. Styles. Mrs. Coats welcomed the travellers in her usual happy way, and interesting addresses were delivered by Mrs. Barton, Mr. Knowles Smith, Mr. John Slack, and Mr. Styles, one of the travellers. Mr. Arthur Henderson thanked the British Women's Temperance Association, on behalf of the travellers, for their kindness in entertaining and bringing them together, and expressed their obligations to them for doing so in various other parts of the country also.

Songs were given during the evening by Misses Wood and Hutcheson, and Mrs. Pollock presided at the piano.

At the close of the meeting each traveller was presented with a bouquet of flowers, kindly given by several ladies in town, and many signed the pledge.

Reading Fairs Safeguarded.

We notice with relief that the bye-law exempts the annual fair from its restrictive powers. It is the possible hindrance to private business that we object to. This is a retrograde step, for it places the Corporation at the mercy of any individual crank or faddist who thinks he has a mission to prevent the innocent enjoyment of his neighbours, and eagerly rushes into litigation to compel the Corporation to enforce his own narrow conceptions of what the bye-law means.

"Sealed Copy."

BOROUGH OF READING.

Bye-Law for the Good Rule and Government of the Borough.

Borough of Reading, in the County of Berks, to Wit.

We, the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Reading, in the County of Berks, acting by the Council of the said Borough pursuant to the provisions contained in Section 23 of the Municipal Corporations Act 82, do make the following bye-law for the good rule and government of the said Borough, that is to say:

No person shall in any public street or public place within the said Borough, or on any land adjoining or near to such street or place, use or play or cause to be used or played any steam organ or other musical instrument worked by mechanical means to the annoyance or disturbance of residents or passengers, or keep or manage or cause to be kept or managed a shooting gallery, swing, roundabout, or any other construction of a like character, so as to cause obstruction or danger to the traffic in such street or public place, provided always that this bye-law shall not apply to any fair lawfully held.

"PENALTY."

Any person who shall offend against this bye-law shall be liable to a penalty not exceeding £5 for every such offence.

Given under the common seal of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of the Borough of Reading, in the County of Berks, at a meeting of the Council of the said Borough, duly holden in the Council chamber of and within the said Borough on the 2nd day of July, 1908, at which meeting two-thirds of the whole Council were present.

W. M. Colebrook, Mayor.
W. Clutterbuck, Town Clerk.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

INVENTIONS.

APPLICATIONS.

16,977.—Lorenzo Dow Shaw, of Liverpool. Improvements in pleasure railways.

17,027.—William Laurence Parkinson, of Liverpool. Improvements in optical lanterns.

17,040.—Walter Clifford, of London. Improvements in and appertaining to apparatus for punching and delivering tickets.

17,110.—William Barningham, of Manchester. Improvements in apparatus for producing animated picture and like effects.

17,207.—Alexander Crutchley Beech, of Liverpool. Improvements in amusement devices.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

20,288.—Scheuble. Candle emitting a coloured light.

2,584.—Weinberg. Process and device for the production of living pictures in relief by means of the cinematograph.

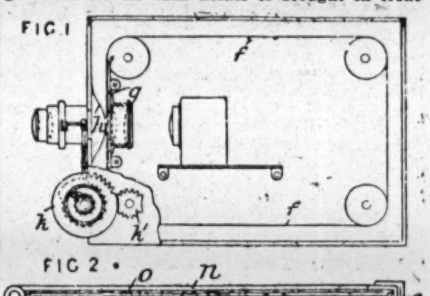
11,551.—Rossi. Driving mechanism particularly adapted for cinematograph apparatus.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

6,846.—Optical projection apparatus. J. C. Grassmann, of Berlin.

In automatic projection apparatus for picture throwing, advertising, and like purposes, the plate-holders (Fig. 2) are freely suspended from two lateral endless chains (*f*). The chains are intermittently moved over guide-rollers by means of a wheel (*k*), having teeth upon part of its periphery and gearing, with a wheel (*k1*) upon one of the guide-rollers. As each holder is brought in front

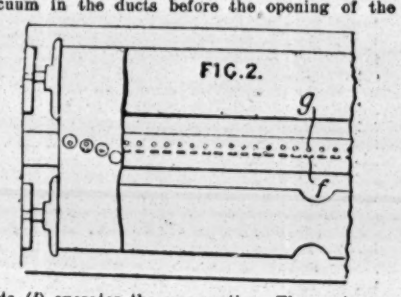
FIG. 1



of the condenser, it is pressed against a frame (*g*) by a spring (*h*). Each of the cross-rods carrying the holders serves as a hinge-bolt for the two parts (*q*, *n*) of a holder, which are closed by means of a catch (*s*) against the action of a spring (*o*). The wheel (*k*) is driven through ratchet-gear. The chains may be arranged to pass up and down over a number of rollers placed closely together.

6,453.—Musical instruments. F. Moritz, of Dortmund, Germany.

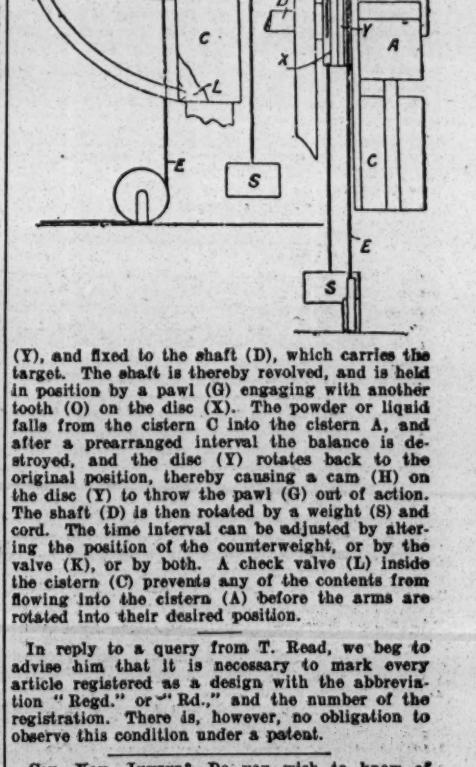
Automatic instruments.—The tracker bars of pneumatic players for keyboard instruments are formed with a double series of ports opening into a single series of ducts. The main ports (*f*) are made very narrow, while the auxiliary ports (*g*), in front of the main ports, serve to relieve the vacuum in the ducts before the opening of the



ports (*f*) operates the pneumatics. The ports are formed in a metal plate, which is placed over the ordinary tracker. The arrangement increases the rapidity of action, and diminishes the drag of the tune-sheet due to the suction.

6,869.—Targets. E. C. Burnup and M. Kirk, of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

A time controller for use with disappearing targets consists of a three-armed disc (Y), which is mounted loosely on a shaft (D), and carries two cisterns (A, C), connected together by flexible pipes for the flow of powder, sand, water, &c., from one to the other, and an adjustable counterweight (B). The disc (Y) is rotated through half a revolution into an operating position by a cord (E). A projection (F) on the disc (Y) engages a tooth (N) on a disc (X), situated behind the disc



(Y), and fixed to the shaft (D), which carries the target. The shaft is thereby revolved, and is held in position by a pawl (G) engaging with another tooth (O) on the disc (X). The powder or liquid falls from the cistern C into the cistern A, and after a prearranged interval the balance is destroyed, and the disc (Y) rotates back to the original position, thereby causing a cam (H) on the disc (Y) to throw the pawl (G) out of action. The shaft (D) is then rotated by a weight (S) and cord. The time interval can be adjusted by altering the position of the counterweight, or by the valve (K), or by both. A check valve (L) inside the cistern (C) prevents any of the contents from flowing into the cistern (A) before the arms are rotated into their desired position.

In reply to a query from T. Read, we beg to advise him that it is necessary to mark every article registered as a design with the abbreviation "Regd." or "Rd.," and the number of the registration. There is, however, no obligation to observe this condition under a patent.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, and £100? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd-George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which comes into operation to-day. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

THE BAD SPIRIT.—This story is that of a man addicted to drinking spirits, and of the effects of same on his brains, which it weakens so that all manliness soon leaves the poor wretch. At the public house, where he is wont to spend all his weekly earnings, while his son toils hard so that his poor, anxious mother can make both ends meet, the debased father picks a quarrel with one of his friends, and in his fury he throws a chair at the head of his opponent; he has become a madman, and on seeing his victim falling to the floor, he runs away and roams about the country aimlessly. His son, anxious about his prolonged absence, goes out and looks for him; but the man, still in a state of boundless rage, grasps him by the throat and strangles him. Presently he comes home, where the police come and put him into a strait jacket. The last picture shows an asylum in Nice, in a beautiful scenery which forms such a painful contrast to the house and its inmates.

A UNIQUE DISGUISE is a comical series.—"A £40 prize will be awarded to-night at the Bohemian ball to the person who wears the most freakish disguise." On reading this, a man out of employment and trying to make some money, bores a hole in a small kitchen sideboard, and gets into it, only leaving out of this unusual garment his head and feet. At the ball, where a long string of people are already passing before the jury for examination of their disguises, our man is greeted by a burst of laughter, and he is awarded at once the coveted prize, together with several bottles of champagne, sandwiches, and cakes, which he intends eating and drinking in peace in his garret; but this wish of his heart is only gratified after sundry and various incidents, which make this film a good comic.

I AM ABSORBED IN POLITICS.—Two friends are reading the election posters, but as their ideas are different, they have a discussion over same. The two buy the papers, fight again with arguments, push rudely a joiner, who turns round, and the plank he is carrying knocks the two down just as if they were puppets. In the heat of the discussion they forget to have lunch, pass under the wheels of a tramcar in spite of the desperate efforts of the driver; then they get up again and resume their arguing amongst a herd of cattle, which they try to convert to their opinions, without noticing what kind of listeners they have. They come home at last with a cigar in their mouths, and set fire to the house. The firemen coming on the spot, and soaking them through with water, put an end to their quarrel, and the two politicians, singed, wet, wounded, swear, rather late in the day, that they have had enough of it.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.—In the street a lady passes a gentleman, who stops short, looks at her, and seems to wake up suddenly from a dream in time to follow her, mutter softly to himself, "This girl, or none." With the complicity of the maid, he comes into her house disguised as the hairdresser, then as the plumber; but as he does not know anything about the different businesses, he is soon found out, and the various incidents which ensue are most comical. The maid is dismissed as a consequence of her duplicity, and the young lover succeeds in taking her place; but here he has to contend with all sorts of unexpected happenings, and the film ends with his being found out again, amongst very amusing circumstances.

MAGIC ALBUM.—A magician receives the visit of an old Marquis, who is anxious to know his tricks. He takes a large book, on which several people silhouette themselves; then they become alive and step out of the album, performing at the same time funny and amusing pantomimes, to the delight of the nobleman.

FISHING IN SHALLOW WATER IN SWEDEN.—Beautiful water-falls and landscapes, together with good photographic quality, make of this film an interesting subject.

AT A SELECT HOTEL.—Mr. Racuit, by some evil chance, misses the train that is to take him to distant parts. The next train not going until the morning, he decides to stay at the hotel. Racuit has a most disturbed night and tosses and kicks about, so much so in fact, that his feet come from under the bedclothes and go through the partition into the next apartment, and are used as pegs by the two occupants. One can imagine what follows. The lady in the next room is thrown out of the window, the gentleman sent flying, but everything finishes up all right in a general reconciliation.

UNCLE'S FORTUNE.—An uncle, on his return from America, where he has made his fortune as a planter, and anxious to make out his will in favour of the most worthy of his nephews, tells them he is poor. After being welcomed by some and repelled by others, he knows their feelings towards him sufficiently well to make his will in such a way that each of them receives his due.

A SCIENTIFIC demonstration of the extraction of the deadly poison from the venomous diamond-backed rattlesnake of Arizona was given in the Bostock Jungle at Earl's Court on Friday, Aug. 21, when Doctors Goodkin, Johnson, and Bass officiated at the operation. By special arrangement, Messrs. Pathé Frères, the great cinematograph manufacturers, were privileged to reproduce same to make a unique series of pictures, for which, we learn, a very handsome sum was paid. According to Dr. Goodkin, a rattlesnake's venom produces death in a human being in from two to twenty minutes. The fangs are used as a hyperdermic needle to puncture the skin, the venom flowing from the salival glands through fang to the puncture. The venom then takes action on the nervous system.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

SUNNY MADEIRA (Part I.).—It is evident from the title that this series of the Charles Urban Trading Company is to be published in sections. If so, and if the succeeding numbers prove as beautiful and interesting as the first instalment, the exhibitor need not pause before sending for a print of Sunny Madeira. The view of Madeira from the sea is said to be ample compensation for a bad crossing of the Bay of Biscay, and the present marvellous kinematographic results prove the accuracy of the statement. From the blue of Funchal and luxuriant Bella Vista, the audience is conducted by mountain cog railway to the high lands, picturesque and diversified. Actual experiences of the life, customs, and industries of Madeira are also projected—quaint methods of haulage through the surf by ox teams, passengers' luggage and freight drawn by the same means on sledges through the cobbled streets, market-day scenes, egg packing, diving for coins, and other views breathe the joy of living and the open-air life to such a degree that the veriest stay-at-home feels his pulse beat the faster as he gazes upon the pictured representation.

THE BARONET COWBOY.—Much has lately been read of the adventurous life of Sir G. C. Browne-Cave, and this film will serve further to whet the public appetite for the dexterous and the skilful. Exhibitions of horsemanship and expert manipulation of the lassoo or lariat furnish the elements of thrill and breath-holding suspense which every Urban operator is trained to introduce at the right moment. Methods of lassooing and throwing oxen for branding purposes are fully demonstrated, and human mastery over animal cunning and obstinacy is shown when a cowboy, without rope or other means, throws a bullock by mere strength of hand and arm. Buckjumping displays furnish excitement enough in a few minutes to last through an entire evening, and we predict for this film a wide demand.

COMIC and dramatic wants are also catered for this week in the large variety of excellent subjects published by Urban's. Space permits notice of a few only, but we are informed that full descriptive circulars of every production are periodically sent to any address upon written request.

THE HAND-CART RACE depicts many exceedingly comic incidents of a popular sporting event in France. Frantic efforts to win cause spills, locked wheels, bogged carts, and other accidents which rouse hilarity to a high and almost hysteric pitch, and the embarrassments of a harassed Mayor in presenting the prizes also lend their quota of amusement.

THE SWIMMING MASTER is another genuinely comic subject. A pupil of advancing age and considerable girth takes a swimming lesson from an amorous master. Love-making and swimming instruction cannot be indulged in at one and the same time, and the poor pupil is neglected. Complications arise, and the rescued and half-drowned pupil forcefully resents his master's lapse from duty. Further rescues from the watery element are necessary, and the swimming-master's difficulties increase and multiply, but he eventually lands his troubles safely on the bank of the river.

THE OLD VIOLIN provides beautiful scenery of high photographic quality, and an idyllic love-story at once romantic, artistic, and picturesque. Gratitude, love, rivalry, parental rejection, noble revenge, and the ultimate acceptance of a humble suitor's claims before those of a more wealthy admirer are admirably depicted.

A STERN FATHER BUT AN INDULGENT GRANDFATHER also presents a strong drama of thrilling and fascinating interest. A young man selects his own wife, but his father holds other views. Weak at first, the son yields for a moment; but the claims of love are strong, and, after saving his despairing sweetheart's life, he manfully approaches his father, and decides for poverty and happiness. He is disinherited, but encouraged by his beloved, works hard and makes his own way in the world. Three years afterwards family peace is restored through the instrumentality of the little son of the marriage, and the once stern parent is converted into a most indulgent grandsire.

THE SON'S CRIME furnishes a strong plot and plenty of incident amid the picturesque environment of racecourse and gold mining camp. Wild and ignorant betting on turf chances leads to the almost inevitable result, and the successive stages of crime, remorse, descent, uprising, and reparation are realistically depicted.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

LIFE'S A GAME OF CARDS.—One could scarcely wish for a more absorbingly interesting story than is told by this film, just issued by the Edison Manufacturing Company. The little drama under review—for a drama it is—opens with a reception at the home of the hero's sweetheart. There we see the four leading characters. The hero catches his rival cheating at cards, and exposes him. By so doing he incurs the displeasure of his host, the girl's father, who orders him out of the house, and forbids the young lady to see him again. But as love laughs at locksmiths, so the hero attempts to procure possession of his beloved by means of an elopement. But his rival overhears the plotting, and, with the aid of a sailor, he puts into operation a counter-scheme. On his way to the rendezvous, the hero is attacked, outnumbered, and overpowered, and taken to a boat, from which he is afterwards transferred to a ship and carried to sea. The heroine, of course, is in despair at his not keeping the appointment, and believes he has forsaken her. The hero, after having been beaten and forced to work in the vessel, eventually reaches South Africa. He starts for the goldfields, "strikes lucky," and determines to return home. The heroine, in the meantime, has been sadly depressed by his unaccountable disappearance, but she still remains true to him. The rival resumes his plotting to win the lady's hand and heart, gains the parents' favour, and a marriage between them is arranged. On the wedding day the hero appears on the scene, explains the villainous conduct of the prospective bridegroom, who is sent to the right-about, and there is a happy reunion of the real lovers. The film is of a beautiful quality, and perfect from the photographic point of view.

OTHER Edison films worthy of mention are entitled FLY-PAPER, LOVE WILL FIND A WAY, PIONEERS CROSSING THE PLAIN IN '49, THE LITTLE COXSWAIN OF THE 'VARSITY EIGHT, THE BOSTON TEA PARTY, THE FACE ON THE BAR-ROOM FLOOR, and A DUMB HERO.

MISS MABEL MAY has been touring the piers with Mr. Sidney Leighton's concert party, and had rather a long stay at Jersey, her songs and dances gaining unstinted applause.

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SID WHITE'S FUN FAIR AT TON-Y-PANDY.

In the De Winton Recreation Grounds, Ton-y-pandy, Mr. Sid White's great aggregation of show and machine novelties have had a most successful season.

The concerns under Mr. White's direction include the Royal Electric Coliseum and Palace of Varieties, the Great London Tower Chute, the Channel Tunnel Railway, the Aerial Navigation, and Park Swings. There were also the usual adjuncts of a well-ordered Fair—side shows, throwing games, and stalls.

Mazzoni, King of Manacles.

The star of the variety turns at White's Electric Coliseum was Mazzoni, the undefeated Handcuff King. Great excitement prevailed in Ton-y-pandy over the contest between Cass White, the local handcuff expert, and Mazzoni. The event took place on Thursday evening, August 20, before a crowded audience in the Coliseum, and it proved a veritable struggle between steel and muscle. The test was that Cass White should manacle Mazzoni in such a manner that he could not liberate himself. If Mazzoni failed to free himself from Cass White's manacles in fifteen minutes White was to receive one sovereign; if the manacles held Mazzoni prisoner thirty minutes White would win five pounds; and if Mazzoni failed to free himself from the irons in forty minutes the forfeit to Cass White would be ten pounds.

Mr. Cass White brought his own manacles. They were: One English neck iron, one pair of Belgian leg irons, one pair of Chinese shackles, and one pair of Italian transport handcuffs.

The manacling of Mazzoni by Cass White took fully fifteen minutes, and was done on the stage in full view of the audience. Hands and feet and the neck being thus shackled, Mazzoni was further hampered by being placed in the narrow limits of a barrel. Amidst the tense excitement and growing interest of the great audience, the Handcuff King began his work of liberation.

Minute after minute flew by with no sign of release—nothing but the sounds of the fierce struggle waging within the narrow confines of the barrel, the stern fight between steel and muscle. The fifteen-minute stage of the contest was reached, and the man who bound the prisoner was the recipient of the forfeited sovereign. Twenty minutes was reached; then at the call of "Twenty-three minutes" Mazzoni sprang out of the barrel free of every manacle, to be welcomed by thunders of applause, again and again repeated.

The detailed arrangements of the contest and the capital display of animated pictures and variety at White's Coliseum were under the able management of Mr. Alf. Shirley, vocalist and lecturer.

Irvine Fair.

THIS excellent Scotch fair had for its entertainment Bostock's menagerie, Buckley's trained animals, Paulo's circus, the cinematograph theatres of Geo. Green, Wingate and Paulo, Moore's boxers, and Chapman's birds.

THE machines were those of Messrs. Green and Baker and Sons; swings and big boats by Messrs. Lawrence and Stevenson. The other fair-ground amusements were provided by Messrs. Sheenan, Irvin, Smith, Stevenson, Lawrence, Ross, and others.

Salisbury.

MR. JAMES BARTLETT'S galloping horses and Fun City are located for a short time at the Swan Hotel Paddock, Harnham, and are doing good business. It is gratifying to find, after some time, suitable ground has at last been procured where roundabouts, &c., can take up their position. Will showmen visiting this district kindly note this? Good business has been done here in the past, but owing to building operations this class of entertainment was almost unable to find any place to pitch in, but at last this obstacle has been removed, and we trust those who visit the town will meet with good results.

New Bye-Laws at Reading.

WE regret to announce that the Corporation of Reading has determined to exercise its powers to formulate new bye-laws.

WE have hitherto looked upon Reading as one of the progressive towns where the authorities gave full facilities for shows to use its commodious market fair-ground in order to afford wholesome amusements for the people. We regret that this liberty is to be curtailed. Shows and other travelling amusements will in future be at the mercy of anyone who cares to play the dog-in-the-manger game and to object to the pleasures he cannot himself enjoy being allowed to others.

WE sincerely hope that the Corporation will, even at the last moment, withdraw the new bye-law, and leave it within the discretion of their own officials to regulate shows and amusements, and not tie their own hands by restrictive bye-laws.

MR. CARL FREDERICKS and his nine merrymakers, who have been so great an attraction at the Sydney Gardens, Bath, this season, fulfilled a special engagement at the Frome carnival lately, and their refined entertainment afforded the greatest pleasure to the crowds that attended. On Thursday this week Mr. Carl Fredericks was responsible for the entire programme in connection with a big Unionist fête held at the Sydney Gardens, Bath.

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THE LAW AFFECTING THE SAME.

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THE NEW EMPIRE, BOLTON.

A worthy addition to the public buildings in Bolton, henceforth to be known as "The Empire Theatre and Hippodrome," was opened on Monday to the public. Recently erected by Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, of Rochdale (himself the proprietor and builder), from plans and drawings prepared by Messrs. Butterworth and Duncan, architects, &c., the building has a handsome frontage to Deansgate (West) of 66ft. 6in. It is constructed partly of Yorkshire parpoints, with ashlar dressings, the remainder of the elevation being of brick and stone. Internally, the theatre is thoroughly up to date, being adapted in every way to the comfort and convenience of audiences. The absence of columns in the auditorium ensures a clear view of the stage from all parts, and a substantial rake in the pit level assures an uninterrupted sight line. The arched ceiling is divided into thirty-eight panels, in which are painted graceful figures typifying "The Seasons," and containing scroll-work with the names of musical composers wrought in gold, blue, and salmon tints.

The proscenium has been the object of elaborate decorative treatment. In dimensions it is 25ft. high and 30ft. wide, the effect being very striking. The upper part is clouded, relieved with hand-painted festoons, and surmounting the arch is a fine decorative device, introducing the classic lyre, with graceful sculptured figures on either side, and support is given by marble pillars below. To the extreme right and left are private boxes, also surmounted with figures and decorated in cream, blue, and gold.

The circle front is also relieved with the same tints, whilst the walls of the building generally are hung with art red paper and dado to match. The upholstering and other furnishing is in harmony with the general scheme of decoration, and in both the orchestral stalls and circle tip-up chairs are provided. The convenience of the artists has not been neglected, ample dressing-room accommodation has been furnished, and every precaution has been taken for the safety of an audience, numerous exits being provided from all parts of the house. A complete electric lighting installation has been laid, and the ventilation has received careful consideration. The principal entrance in Deansgate is through a large and handsome vestibule, decorated with Brescia and Genoa marble, and the floor laid with black and white marble tiles. Some pretty stained-glass windows are placed in the front of the building. A feature of the interior is the excellent view afforded of the stage, the balcony being carried by cantilevers, and the roof constructed with circular steel trusses. The whole of the fittings and furnishings are by the well-known firm of Goodalls, of Manchester, and the steel work by John Booth and Sons, of Bolton. The proprietor is Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, sen.; the general-manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; and the acting-manager Mr. A. R. Harrison.

The initial performance was given on Monday to a large audience, comprising a goodly number of the Town Council and prominent gentlemen in the town. The Towyn Thomas's Royal Welsh Entertainers sang the National Anthem. Other turns in a good programme were supplied by the Geni Family, a clever troupe of Continental risley acrobats, &c.; Jack Martin, actor vocalist; Lina Leslie, a dainty comedienne; Oliver Conroy, comedian; R. A. Speedwell, rapid portrait painter, &c.; Gladys and Alber, in a smart comedy tumbling act; Fred Neiman, ventriloquist; and Billy Richardson, stump orator, and the Bioscope.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"PRINCESS AURORA."

A Grand Opera Tabloid, in One Act, by R. M. Harvey and Tom S. Jones, Produced at the Tivoli on Saturday Afternoon, Aug. 22.

King Chalarise ..... MR. EDMUND SHARP
Prince Alfeo ..... MISS GALIA GAIRE
Duke of Saratezza ..... MR. JOHN M. HAY
Princess Aurora ..... MISS NETTA LYNDE

Opera in the "'alls" has certainly been heard of before the production on Saturday afternoon of *Princess Aurora*. Mr. Charles Turner presented a few years ago condensed versions of our better-known English operas at the South London Palace, and met with some degree of success. The musical playlet under review met with a satisfactory reception at the Strand music hall, but it was apparent that the audience regarded it as something to which they were not quite accustomed.

It is quite a fairy story that Messrs. Harvey and Jones give to us. The King of Drodadillo has offered half his kingdom to any nobleman who can win Princess Aurora's heart. The Princess is fearful that her heart is of stone, and will never melt, as she has had many passionate suitors, none of whom she could love. A minstrel serenades the Princess, and she commands him to sing before her, when he tells her that he will never love any woman, but that his heart shall always be free. The Princess is interested, as she has never before met a man who has not offered his life for her love. The Duke of Saratezza, a fop, arrives, and being quite confident of success, is given an audience. While he vows his love for the Princess she begins to learn that she really loves the minstrel. The Duke, seeing her blushes, which he thinks are caused by his eloquent pleading, is about to take her in his arms, when the Princess announces her heart is already given to one who will never love her—to a minstrel. The King vows he will turn this minstrel from the palace, but the minstrel throws off his disguise, declares himself to be Prince Alfeo, and as he has won Princess Aurora's heart he claims half the kingdom, to which King Charlarise willingly assents.

The piece, which was produced in efficient style by Mr. Alec Flood, was on the whole capably acted, while the vocalism showed considerable training and inherent talent. Mr. Edmund Sharp made a dignified King, Miss Galia Gaire was a charming Prince Alfeo, Miss Netta Lynde an engaging Princess, while Mr. John M. Hay submitted an appropriate characterisation of the foppish Duke of Saratezza.

Death of a Young Showman.

We regret to receive the sad news of the death of Bert Jarvis, a young showman of great ability and brilliant promise. He commenced his career with the celebrated Biddalls, and was afterwards with Jacob Studt, Hancocks, and Payne. His business acumen and keen grasp of modern conditions made him a capital manager, and in that capacity he fulfilled engagements with the firms mentioned above. His premature death at the threshold of a most promising career will be keenly felt, not only by his sorrowing family, but by a wide circle of friends in the showman world.

The Movable Dwellings Bill.

The Rev. T. Horne will explain at a joint committee of the Showmen's Guild and the Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union the work already done with regard to the Movable Dwellings Bill. The meeting will be at the Market Hotel, Oldham, at six o'clock in the evening, Wednesday next, Sept. 2.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 5d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

EDISON FILMS

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, U.S.A.

LIFE'S A GAME OF CARDS.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES.

PRELUDE.—Sir John Lubbock says "Life's a game" like the game of cards; Fate deals each hand, daily, face down. In life, "it is not always in holding a good hand, but in playing a bad hand well." Our hero starts handicapped with poverty, pride and ambition.

THE GAME OF CARDS.—Hero at swell reception—Home of woman he loves—Catches rival cheating at cards—Exposes him—Incurs host's censure—Father takes rival's part—Orders hero from house—Forbids heroine to see him again.

PLANNING AN ELOPEMENT.—Hero plays a "hand"—Meets heroine—Urges speedy marriage—They agree to elope—Overheard by rival—Part to prepare.

THE VILLAIN'S "HAND."—Rival plots with "Crimps," the sailor—Hero to be "shanghaied" to Africa and turned adrift—The bargain sealed.

"CLUBS ARE PLAYED."—Hero leaves home—To meet heroine — Waylaid by "Crimps"—The attack—Valiant defence—Numbers count—Overpowered—Taken to boat.

THE HEROINE WAITS.—At the rendezvous—Heroine becomes nervous—Alarmed—Conflicting emotions—Misjudges hero—Believes deserted—Rival appears—Wins again—Escorts heroine home.

"SHANGHAIED."—"Crimps" forces hero into boat—Taken to ship—Rough treatment resented—Hero beaten—Forced to work—Carried to sea.

IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Off the coast—The favourable moment—Hero leaves ship—Swims ashore—Reaches mining camp—Receives assistance—Miners give an outfit—Starts for Goldfields.

"SPADES ARE TRUMPS."—Hero reaches goldfields—Prospects—Stakes claim—Strikes it rich—Determines to return home.

"DIAMONDS ARE LED."—Home of heroine—No news—Heroine sad—Still true—Rival continues to plot—Presses suit—Gains parents' favour—Presents heroine diamond necklace—Heroine in despair—Abandons hope—Agrees to marry rival.

"HEARTS ARE TRUMPS."—The wedding day—Rival triumphant—Guests arrive—Heroine downcast—Banns are called—Hero appears on time—Stops wedding—Exposes rival—Rival turned out—Father welcomes hero—Happy reunion—"All's well that ends well."

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'THE ORGAN-GRINDER."

A Dramatic Sketch, in Three Scenes, by Alicia Ramsey and Rudolph de Cordova, Produced at the New Cross Empire on Monday, Aug. 24.

Sir Horace Wyndham, Bart., ... Mr. Francis Chamier
Antonio Sante ..... Mr. Harry Courtin
Jim ..... Mr. Knox-Orde
Arthur Thorne ..... Mr. Aylmer J. Williams
Sal ..... Miss Joan Pereira
Nelly ..... Miss Nonny Lock

The opening scene represents the exterior of the mansion of Sir Horace Wyndham in Park Lane, outside which an organ-grinder named Antonio takes up his stand with his partner Sal. We learn from their conversation that Antonio nourishes revengeful feelings towards the baronet, whom he suspects of having betrayed a girl whom he (Antonio) loved devotedly many years before, and the Italian determines to kidnap Sir Horace's little girl Nelly. The baronet takes all possible precautions to secure his child's safety, because fifteen years before his only son had been stolen and was never again heard of. While Antonio and Sal are waiting their opportunity to secure Nelly a policeman orders them to move on. They go very reluctantly, and another organ-grinder prepares to play before the house of Sir Horace. Police-constable Thorne orders him to move on, but the young man pleads to be allowed to play and sing one song for the little lady, who always gives him sixpence for himself. The tender-hearted constable relents, and disappears down the area steps to visit his friend the cook. Jim commences to play, and goes on to sing very pleasingly of "Sweetheart Days," which he calls his little lady's song. Nelly appears at the window and throws Jim his usual sixpence. When Jim has departed Antonio and Sal return, and on Nelly coming to the door Antonio throws a shawl over her head, lifts her into his organ—which is merely an empty case—and makes off with all haste. When Nelly is missed there is general distress. In the midst of this Sir Horace drives up, and on learning the alarming news departs to search for the child.

Scene 2 shows the organ-grinder's home. Jim enters with his organ, leaves his earnings on the table, and retires to bed. Antonio and Sal bring in the organ containing Nelly, and after threatening her with the whip, proceed to transform her into an Italian peasant. The disguise is complete and she is introduced to Jim as a niece of Antonio.

Sir Horace searches in vain for his child, and a reward of £5,000 is offered. Meanwhile Antonio and Sal quarrel, and the man turns her into the street. Sal thereupon determines to win the £5,000. Jim enters with Nelly asleep on the organ. Their takings have been small, as the child had not been well enough to dance, and Antonio gets his whip to thrash her. Jim defends the child. There is a struggle between them, and Jim is nearly overpowered, when Sal returns with the police and the baronet, who recognises his child and also discovers that Jim is the son whose loss he has mourned for fifteen years.

The little piece is vigorously and dramatically written, and was greeted with unstinted applause. It is well acted, and of course will improve with each performance. Mr. Chamier plays Sir Horace Wyndham with dignity and repose, and is altogether excellent; Mr. Knox-Orde gives a natural and pleasing performance of the lad Jim; Antonio is well acted by Mr. Harry Courtin, and if he modifies his vocal powers he will be a very picturesque figure in the play. Mr. Aylmer Williams gives a capital impersonation of the good-hearted policeman; Miss Joan Pereira plays Sal with power and consistency, and makes the part one of the best in the production; Miss Nonny Lock is a delightful Little Nelly, and wins all hearts by her charming performance.

The scenery is generally excellent, although in one scene flowers are seen blooming in the window-boxes with summer luxuriance, despite the fact that snow is falling heavily.

There are many other good turns on the bill, notably Ben Albert, who makes many friends by his quaint style and amusing rendering of "To See the Exhibition." The Eight Lancashire Lads score a decided success; Carney and Armstrong are very funny comedians; Duncan and Godfrey appear, with their usual success, in their interesting contribution, entitled *Me and 'Er*; Mr. Henry Coutts works hard, and his numerous and rapid changes of costume evoke considerable enthusiasm; he is ably assisted by Miss Dot Kemp; Leo Tell is a huge favourite with his many clever imitations; the Haytors appear with success in a smart little sketch; Miss Madge Osmond, male impersonator, is warmly applauded; and Cruikshank is immensely popular. New pictures on the American Bioscope complete an excellent bill.

It is stated that Count Charles Eulenberg, son of the old prince who was once the Kaiser's favourite, has married in London Fräulein Tilly Marx, daughter of a locksmith and a performer at a Munich music hall. The Count, who is twenty-three years old, attempted six months ago to obtain better terms for Fräulein Marx from the music-hall management. The latter communicated with the Prince, and the result of the family dispute which followed was that the Count took Fräulein Marx to London and there married her.

Miss Adele Roze, the well-known musical-comedy artist, made her début on the music-hall stage on Monday at the Palace, Stoke Newington, and scored an instantaneous success. Not only are her songs (by Harrington and Powell) good, but her dresses and general appearance are chic and charming.

At the Battersea Palace Mr. Lew Towers, although not billed for that house, is making a success with his new light comedy number, *Boys Without Girls*, by Harry Staunton and Harry Carlton. Mr. Towers is on his eighth week of the Macnaghten tour.

Mr. John Thomas, the harpist, has written a book, in which he points out that Jubal first played the "lyre," but makes no reference to the misdeeds of Ananias, nor does he "harp" on the terminological inexactitudes of the company promoter or the enthusiastic angler.

Mr. Reuben More and concert party, "The Artists and Models," are now in the nineteenth week of their most successful pier tour, having visited Torquay, Cleethorpes, Ventnor, Worthing, Broadstairs, &c. They are now at Cowes until Sept. 12, and from there they finish up the season at Bournemouth Pier, two weeks, terminating Sept. 26 (twenty-four weeks in all). On Sept. 28 Mr. More is producing a new act at the Hippodrome, Portsmouth (Metropolitan to follow) in conjunction with Mr. Sydney James.

Another popular turn at the same house on Monday evening was that of Mr. Dusty Rhodes, who has the happy knack of "getting home" with all that he says or does. His witty shafts seemed to find a home all over the house, and, had time permitted, more of such good fare would have been welcomed.

An interesting wedding took place in Carlisle on the 17th inst., when Mr. Percy Udin, acting-manager for Mr. Sydney Bacon at the New Public Hall, was married to Florence, youngest daughter of Admiral Lamont, R.N., of Whitstable, Kent. Mr. Udin, whose genial nature and never-failing courtesy have made him highly popular with the patrons of the hall, received many tokens of the regard in which he is held and hearty congratulations from his many private and professional friends.

QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

"I've just taken a new lease of life," said the veteran Mr. Michael Abrahams to us one evening this week when we had the pleasure of congratulating him on his seemingly rejuvenated appearance after over sixty years' active association with music-hall affairs. And his conduct of the Queen's is more and more to the satisfaction of his patrons every day. This week there is an attractive programme. In it a new sketch has found considerable favour. We refer to

"AT ENGLAND'S COMMAND,"
a Revolutionary Episode.

Sir Richard Byron ..... Mr. Leonard Robson
Darewski ..... Mr. Edward Thane
Vera Kuvalda ..... Miss Katherine Clarke

Dick Byron, of the English Secret Service, is at Warsaw, and to the hotel where he is staying comes one Vera Kuvalda, a Polish lady, with whom he is really in love. She warns him that she has heard that the Revolutionists have determined to bring about his death. The person to whom has been entrusted this high office is named Darewski. That gentleman finds his way to Byron's apartment in the hotel, and there he meets Vera. He informs the latter that he is to be the executioner of her lover, but he will consent not to discharge this "duty," and will permit the Englishman to depart in safety, if she will promise to become his wife. The lady will not agree to promise anything of the sort. In an attempt to hinder her passing from the room Darewski is confronted by Byron. The Pole threatens terrible things, and eventually produces a bomb, but as he is about to fling it to the ground he is killed by a shot fired over the balcony, and all ends happily with the announcement that the lovers are about to set sail for England, where, Byron's brother having died, the hero becomes a baronet, and can now find a comfortable home for the woman of his choice. Mr. Edward Thane gives us some good tragic acting in the rôle of Darewski, and Miss Katherine Clarke as Vera and Mr. Leonard Robson as Byron also furnish ample evidence of dramatic skill in their portrayals.

Miss May Henderson, the sprightly, lively "dusky queen," creates a high pitch of merriment with her songs, "I love you true" and "Any knives to grind?" Her dancing, too, is of the exhilarating order. Miss Winnie Brooker proves a most attractive and entertaining military coon on her first appearance, while on her second she treats the audience to a series of verses, "Why I'm so unhappy to-day," which appear to have some bearing on the drink question. A somewhat novel act is introduced by Mr. Fred Maitland. He begins by telling the house that, as he has been invited to become a candidate for the next Parliamentary election, he has been permitted by the management to address them with a view to securing their votes. Then he proceeds to speak on such subjects as the Old Age Pension, the Licensing Bill, and Women's Suffrage. He is constantly interrupted by a spectacled lady in one of the boxes, who "heckles" him in rather a burlesque fashion, and who is finally ordered and escorted out of the theatre. Of course the fun is highly appreciated, and Mr. Maitland is rewarded by loud applause. Another novelty in the bill is furnished by what is called The American Airship, around and inside which a couple of clowns indulge in a good deal of fooling. Mr. Harry Ford is as droll as ever, his songs "What do you want it for?" and "You mustn't do that" being a source of huge merriment. Spry and Monti have a most attractive and entertaining "happy mixture" of singing and dancing, and the Bartholomew Girls delight everybody with their pretty duets and dances. A Tragedy in the Alps is the title of the film that is displayed. Mr. Charles Hector attends in his usual capable manner to the management of the establishment—a work which he ordinarily shares with Mr. Morris Abrahams, who is now holidaying.

The following are the games fixed to be played by the Crystal Palace Football Club at the Crystal Palace:—Saturday, Sept. 5, Leyton (S.L.); Wednesday, 9th, Croydon (L.C.); Wednesday, 16th, Southampton (S.L.); Saturday, 19th, Brighton and Hove Albion (S.L.); Wednesday, 23rd, Leyton (W.L.); Wednesday, 30th, Norwich City (S.L.); Saturday, Oct. 10, Luton (S.L.); Wednesday, 21st, Queen's Park Rangers (S.L.); Saturday, 24th, Portsmouth (S.L.); Wednesday, 28th, Reading (W.L.); Saturday, November 7, Northampton (S.L.); Saturday, 21st, Millwall (S.L.); Wednesday, Dec. 2, Brighton and Hove Albion (W.L.); Wednesday, 9th, Luton (W.L.); Wednesday, 16 (Queen's Park Rangers (W.L.); Saturday, 19th, Watford (S.L.); Wednesday, 30th, Croydon (W.L.); Saturday, Jan. 9, 1909, West Ham (S.L.); Saturday, 30th, Plymouth Argyle (S.L.); Saturday, Feb. 6, Brentford (S.L.); Saturday, 20th, Swindon (S.L.); Saturday, March 6, Exeter (S.L.); Wednesday, 17th, Southend United (S.L.); Saturday, 20th, New Brompton (S.L.); Saturday, April 10, Coventry (S.L.); Monday, 12th, Reading (S.L.); Saturday 17th, Bristol Rovers (S.L.).

The games of the Crystal Palace (Football) Reserve Team at the Crystal Palace will be:—Sept. 12, against West Ham Reserves (S.E.); Sept. 26, Tunbridge Wells Rangers (S.E.); Oct. 3, Fulham Reserves (S.E.); 7th, Clapton Orient Reserves (S.E.); 17th, Swindon Reserves (S.E.); 31st, Chelsea Reserves (S.E.); Nov. 14, East Ham (F.); 28th, Southend United Reserves (S.E.); Dec. 5, Queen's Park Rangers Reserves (S.E.); 12th, Tottenham Hotspurs Reserves (S.E.); 26th, Norwich City Reserves (S.E.); Jan. 2, 1909, Leyton Reserves (S.E.); 6th, Woolwich Arsenal Reserves (S.E.); 16th, Hastings and St. Leonards Reserves (S.E.); 23rd, Brighton and Hove Reserves (S.E.); Feb. 13, Luton Reserves; 27th, Portsmouth Reserves (S.E.); March 3, Croydon Common (S.E.); 13th, Sittingbourne (S.E.); 27, Maidstone (S.E.).

For the week commencing Aug. 31 there will be a variety show in the centre transept of the Crystal Palace. Mlle. Leoville, the well-known artist on the tight wire will introduce many novel tricks. Messrs. Craig, Rose Craig and company, acrobats and athletes, will make their first appearance. The flying Orenius, two gentlemen and a lady, will perform phenomenal somersaults as they fly through mid air, and the children will be especially interested in the miniature menagerie of dogs, &c., and the smallest pony known, who will be introducted by his trainer, Mlle. Rosini.

A confetti fête and carnival will be held at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, Sept. 9. Some magnificent prizes will be given. They are now on view in the centre transept facing the theatre. Mr. C. H. Hyatt, the popular amusement caterer, has presented a beautiful canteen of dinner-table requisites, which may be won by the lady wearing the handsomest dress. Mr. A. Gibbs, of the Cambridge Hotel, and one of the directors of the football club, is presenting a charming Princess tea set for the lady attired in the most original costume.

All throughout the country active preparations are being made for the ninth annual National Brass Band Festival. This will be held on Saturday, Sept 26, at the Crystal Palace, under the direction of Mr. H. Iles. Over 150 bands will compete for the 1000 guineas cup presented by the Crystal Palace Company. A large number of other prizes will also be given, making the large total of £2000. There will be a great concert of the massed bands, and a contest will be held for concertina bands.

"Are You a Socialist?" an up-to-date one-act comedy by Laura Leycester, was produced last week at the Bedford by Mr. Colin Bryce and company with great success, and is fast booking up.

THE FORESTERS'.

A "bumper" programme is submitted to the patrons of this well-conducted establishment, and packed houses are the rule nightly to witness the many interesting items. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lucas, in the scene from Dickens, "The introduction of Dick Swiveller to the Marchioness," are delightful, the lady's make-up being most realistic. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas must have made a careful study of their many characters, and thoroughly deserve the hearty reception meted out to them by an attentive audience. Mr. Leo Dryden sang in brilliant style "The Sins of Society," his second item being his latest vocal playlet, "The White Man," which is excellently rendered, and being possessed of a tuneful melody, it gives the singer fine scope for his powerful voice, which is heard throughout the hall. Mr. Dryden is fortunate in adding another success to his big budget. Miss Dora Lyric, beautifully gowned and looking very handsome, gave in her well-known style a good number, "Kiss me, Georgie, do," and "I'm leaving Monte Carlo," the chorus of both being heartily taken up by the whole audience, the melody of both being irresistible.

Harrigan and Holt, comedians, indulge in humorous repartee which is distinctly good. They are also powerful singers and good dancers, their turn being greatly enjoyed. The Three Sisters Thurban are talented young ladies, for they give many well-played selections on several instruments, concluding with a number of popular songs well rendered on the cornet; Mr. Chas. Resti, conjurer and entertainer, deceives with many novel tricks, his last being particularly clever; Guest and Newlyn, comedy duo, supply an interesting few minutes with their smart business; Daisy Hurdle is a dainty comedienne and neat dancer, her efforts being warmly rewarded; the Dancing Gilberts, two lively young ladies, open with a tuneful coon song, and then give an exhibition of their dancing, which is a distinct feature, for in this they excel. Miss Jenny Gray is also a clever dancer.

Dolly Elsworthy and company are seen in the emotional sketch, *Nana*, which is capitally played. Miss Elsworthy is supported by a talented company, special mention being due to Mr. John Richter who plays Armand Duval with intense feeling. Excellent films are displayed by Raymond's Bio-tableaux, The Horrors of War being particularly good. Mr. Faithfull, as usual, extends his well-known courtesy.

Messrs. Vaughan and Cook, specialists in the lighting and heating of theatres, of Goswell-road, are just finishing work at the new Devonport Hippodrome, where they are providing the canopy, the fire curtain, the heating, and gas-lighting. At the Tottenham Palace they are responsible for the gas-lighting, heating, hydrants, and curtain; at the Ramsgate Hippodrome they have just finished an installation of gas-lighting; and have introduced new heating arrangements at the Islington Empire. They have also three of the new Electric Theatres in hand, viz., Rye-lane, Peckham, Wandsworth High-road, and Hammersmith, so they may regard themselves as exceptionally busy.

Mlle. Ghita Corri, who was "topping" at the Winter Gardens, New Brighton, last week, has just introduced into her successful song-scena, "Character Types," a dashing new patriotic song, written by Neville Lynn, and entitled "An Eastern Princess," in which the gifted singer wears a magnificent "Cleopatra" costume (realising her well-known six-sheet poster), and is absolutely covered with jewels. Five and six calls and an encore from the crammed houses welcome the song nightly, and Mr. Albert Douglass, the enterprising manager, immediately arranged return dates for January and July next, this making, for her, three engagements within a year for the Winter Gardens. Next Monday Mlle. Corri returns to Mr. Robert Forsyth at the Folkestone Hippodrome.

In our notice of the Palace, Aberdeen, last week the name of Mr. Roland Hill ("Ye Dame" and historical humorist) was inadvertently omitted. Mr. Hill did a twenty minutes' turn in each house, and was highly successful.

The startling feature of *The Sands of Dee*, to be produced at the Hippodrome on Monday, is a sweeping tidal wave, which is to engulf artists and "supers" alike. In the production of the wave itself five tons of water fall from the roof into the arena—a distance of seventy-eight feet. So carefully is the wave managed, however, that none of the audience will be so much as sprinkled with the spray. Some difficulty was encountered in securing a cast of artists who were willing to be soaked for the sake of the final effect. Owing to the construction of the play it was found impossible to substitute dummies for the real people, as is sometimes done.

The latest quotations for music-hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ½; Empire, (15s. paid) 1½, ditto (10s. paid) 1; London Pavilion Ordinary 3⅛, ditto Preference 4½; Metropolitan, 10s.; Moss Empire 4⅞, ditto 5 per cent. Preference 3⅞; Oxford 6 1-16; Palace, 20s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5; Variety Consolidated Theatres, ½.

A casual visit paid by Mr. Moody and Mr. A. Hind Smith to a Manchester music-hall in 1872 determined the career of the late Mr. Sankey. "After an evening meeting," writes Mr. Smith, Mr. Moody asked: 'Where do the people spend their evenings?' I replied that the music-hall was the chief place. 'Let's go to some of them,' said Mr. Moody. I took him first to a popular place in Deansgate, where we heard a girl singing. Mr. Moody, in his own quaint way, said: 'That lass has got hold of the audience. I see the people like to hear good singing.' From this place we went to the Oxford Music Hall, where the people were crowding in after the close of the theatres. . . . As we stood, Mr. Moody said something like this: 'I say, Hind Smith, I see the people will have good singing. I have a friend in America connected with the Y.M.C.A., who is a splendid singer; his name is Sankey; if I live to come over again I will bring him with me—see if I don't.'"

The first annual excursion of the staff of the Belfast Royal Hippodrome took place on Sunday to Portrush and the Giants' Causeway. The arrangements were duly carried out by Mr. Geo. Dobler, secretary, and Mr. Fred F. Wilby (the stage-manager) as hon. treasurer. Nearly one hundred made the journey, and amongst those present were Messrs. Harry T. Downs, general-manager, Messrs. Dobler and Wilby, Mr. Will White (popular manager of the Alhambra) and Mrs. White, Mr. Edgar L. Haines, and Mr. W. L. Richards, the musical conductor of the Hippodrome and Empire respectively; Mr. Bob Wilson, manager St. George's Hall, and Mr. F. Arthur, assistant-manager; also Messrs. W. Motherwell and R. Leach (David Allen and Sons, Ltd.), Mlle. Von Etta and the Sisters Brooke (2), Mr. A. Charles (Messrs. Charles and Russell), R. Donaldson, J. Butler, and many others. At the Station Café, Portrush, dinner was served on arrival, and tea on the return from the Giants' Causeway.

Goodfellow and Gregson left on Friday for Australia to fulfil a second engagement with Mr. Harry Rickards, made by Pacey's agency.

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WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 1, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E., Jan. 18, March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 3, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING, Nov. 16 (three nights), Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER, March 8, 15, 22, April 5, 12, 19, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER, Nov. 9, 16.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON, Sept. 21, Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD, Feb. 1, 15, 22, March 15, 22, 29, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON, Nov. 30, Xmas (seven nights), Feb. 22, March 1, 15, 22, 29, April 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER, Xmas (7 nights), March 15, 29, April 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, 11, 25, Feb. 1, 8.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, Dec. 7, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY, Sept. 28, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16 on (three nights only).
Address, E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, Sept. 14.
E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE, Sept. 28 Oct. 26, Nov. 9, onwards.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS, Sept. 14 (3 nights), Nov 16, 30, Dec. 7, onwards. Entirely New Electric Installation on Stage
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE, Sept. 21, 22, 23, Nov. 9, onwards.
Apply for all above, Rowland, T., Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.,
WANTED, Pay-Box Attractions, Autumn, 1909.
Coms., Arthur Jefferson.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Important Attractions, Musical Attractions preferred, Sept. 28, Oct. 5 and 12.
Fredk. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, First-class Musical and Dramatic Attractions, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 1 8, 29, April 5, 19, and all May; good Pantomime entertained for Feb. 15. Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, Important Attraction, Sept. 7. Sept. 7. Sept. 7. Wire, Wire, Wire.
Granville, Queen's, Liverpool.

OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, First-class Company, Sept. 21, Musical preferred.
Singleton.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
Those who visit the Cardiff Theatre Royal will be reminded of this favourite old house in its palmiest days, for the comfort of the patrons has been well thought out, and the flowing tide of prosperity would seem to have set in under the capable management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—Extract from Western Mail.
WANTED, Musical Attraction, Sept. 21.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Really First-class Attractions, Oct. 5. Oct. 19, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 30.
James Bell.

PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE, FOLKESTONE.
WANTED, First-class Company, Sept. 21, 22, 23.
Apply, Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, for Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, First-class Company, Sept. 14, 15, 16.
Apply, Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Company, Sept. 28, 29, 30 (?).
Apply, Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Oct. 12 (Musical preferred), Nov. 2, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, Thos. Swinton.

WANTED, Good Companies, Sept. 14 and Nov. 16. Wire,
Macdona, Theatre Royal, Colchester.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, Julian Malvern.
The only Theatre in the town.
WANTED, Companies, Oct. 5 and on. Address,
Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.
WANTED, for Sept. 17, 18, 19, and Oct. 1, 2, 3, Musical Shows or First-class Companies only.
Address, Geo. Conquest.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Oct. 5, 8, 15, 26, three nights each instance; also good Musical Comedy for Xmas. Write to Seebold, Worthing Theatre Royal.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Known, Vacant Oct. 19, Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, March 1, onwards. Apply, Sherwood and Co.

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WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

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Vacant Dates, Oct. 5, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, Nov. 23, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, Oct. 26, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31, Re-opening Sept. 28, extra strong Attractions Wanted, Musical Comedy preferred.

Address, with full particulars, terms, &c., where can be seen, to Moss' Empires, Limited, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C.
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HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.
The leading Theatre of the town and district.
WANTED, Known, vacant through transfers, Oct. 19, Dec. 7 and 14, and a few onward. Future Bookings include: "The Thief," "A White Man," "Diana of Dobson's," "Jack Straw," "Mrs. Dot," "Lady Frederick," "Brewster's Millions," "With Edged Tools," and the leading Musical Comedies. Apply, Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., BARROW.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Spring Dates.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, First-class Musical and other London Attractions, Sept. 7, 21, 28, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Good-class Attractions, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26.
Re Dates,
Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Oct. 5, 12, 26, on, with exceptions.
Applications for dates to Hugh Robertson, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Sept. 21, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 23, 30, Dec. 7 and 14.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

NEW GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Oct. 1 (3 nights), Nov. 23 (3 nights), Dec. 10 (3 nights), Dec. 14 (6 nights), and Big Musical Show for Dec. 26 (7 nights). Stanley Rogers, T. R., North Shields.

GRAND THEATRE, DOUGLAS, I.O.M.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Sept. 28 and Oct. 5.
Apply,
Jas. Buck, 30, Brown-street, Manchester.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, Oct. 19, through misunderstanding, Dec. 21, 28 (?), Jan. 4 (?).
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions, Vacant Sept. 10, 11, 12, Sept. 28, Oct. 26; holding capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

HIPPODROME, SHEERNESS.
WANTED, Good Attractions, Musical preferred, Sept. 21, 28, October, on, with exceptions; also good Pantomime. Lowest terms, share or certainty, to Manager.

PARDOE'S THEATRE, MIDDLETON, LANCS.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 19, on, with exceptions. Re business, refer to Draycott, Esq., this week, next week, fourth return visit, H. B. Levey's Juvenile Pantomime. Fullest particulars, W. Pardoe, Hipp., Bolton.

PAVILION AND SUMMER GARDENS, NORTHWICH. Full Theatrical Licence.
Enormous success of the opening of above. The prettiest, brightest, electric lit Hall in Cheshire.
WANTED, complete Companies, Sharing or Certainties only. Quote lowest, to include Sacred Concerts on Sunday. Good refined Artists may write. Address, Managing-Director.

THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Sept. 14 (three nights), through transferring to oblige Messrs. Sutton and Raynor, Sept. 28, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, each three nights; good Musical Comedy for Xmas. Apply, Auguste A. Peuleve, Gen.-Manager.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
Oct. 5, unexpectedly Vacant.
WANTED, Big Attraction.
E. H. Page.

PAISLEY THEATRE.
WANTED, Sound Attraction, for Sept. 7; unexpectedly Vacant through disappointment. Wire, J. H. Saville.

WANTED, Company, Oct. 12, Musical preferred, also Pantomime for Xmas. Waddington, Theatre Royal, York.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Company, Sept. 21, through transferring to oblige a manager.
Address, Gerald Harding.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Sept. 28, 29, 30; "Mr. Conquest," Oct. 1, 2, 3. Empire, Southend, 5th week, and various dates onward.
E. A., Pier Theatre, Eastbourne.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Sept. 21 (3), 28 (3 or 5), Oct. 12 (3), Nov. 2 (3 Dunfermline, 3 Paisley), 9 16, 23, 30. W, E. Potts, Opera House, Dunfermline.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK, SOUTH WALES.
Royal Dockyard, Military and Agricultural Town. Population Town and District 20,000.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic, Farcical, and Musical Comedies, Sept. 7, 28, Oct. 26, Nov., onwards. Xmas Vacant, Musical Attraction preferred. Tom Barker.

WANTED, Companies, for Theatre Royal, Coalville, Re-opening Sept. 7 under entirely New Management. Address, Lessee, Theatre Royal, Coalville.

WANTED, Known, Premier Theatre vacant Xmas, four or five weeks, for First-class Pantomime production. Panto, c/o Box 6,920, "The Era."

BOROUGH THEATRE, HEYWOOD.
WANTED, Good Companies, Oct. 19, 26, and Dec. 14. Albert Jones, Queen's T., Manchester.

ST. ALBANS COUNTY HALL.
WANTED good Companies, with own Scenery, 2 nights, Sept. 11, 12, 25, 26, Nov. 6, 7, onwards; good stage act drop, border, and footlights. Stage to girders, 20ft. 10in. Sharing terms only. Apply, A. Rowden.

ALNWICK CORN EXCHANGE (Licensed).
WANTED, a few early Autumn Bookings; rental only.
Apply, Proprietor.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 11.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Jan. 11.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, Feb. 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 26.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, between Scotland and London.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, Feb. 8 (North).
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 5, 12, Jan. 4, 11.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 21, Jan. 18, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Nov. 23, 30.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Sept. 28 (three nights), Oct. 12, Nov. 2, 16, Dec. 14, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9 23, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 14, 26 (seven nights), Jan. 4.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, London, W.C.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 26, Nov. 16, onward.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, Oct. 5, 26.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, for this Phenomenal Success, weeks of Oct. 5 and 19.
Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, weeks of Sept. 28 and Oct. 12, for this remarkable success, which, on its last visit to the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, played to £717 on the week. Wire or write immediately to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 11.

CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Ynyshir (3), Mountain Ash (3).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Oct. 5 (Midlands), Oct. 12, 26 (South), Jan. 4, 11, 18.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER, Theatre Royal, Goole (opening week).

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9 16, Xmas week, 7 nights, also Spring, Farewell Tours. Address, 26, Southampton-street, Strand

Mr. MONCKTON HOFFE'S COMPANY,
"IRENE WYCHERLEY"
(by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell).
Special Company in this Famous Kingsway Theatre Success.
Elaborate scenery carried.
WANTED, First-class Theatres Only Sept. 28, and one or two later weeks.
Address, M. HOFFE, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
WANTED, Nov. 2 (South or Midlands) for Mr. Cyril Maude's phenomenal success, which is being played eight times weekly at the Playhouse, London. Address, SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S COMPANIES.
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Nov. 9 and 30.
Address, CECIL BARTH, R. Court T., Warrington.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for "A Pair of Spectacles," or Repertory, Sept. 14. Wire,
Prince's Theatre, Llandudno.

By Arrangement with
Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM
and Miss MARY MOORE.
"CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 12, and Oct. 19 (3 nights), to precede Harrogate.
Miss NORA CARTON,
Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

MR. WILLIAM MOLLISON'S SHAKESPEAREAN COMPANY.
WANTED, Sept. 21, also a few Spring Dates. Apply.
WILLIAM MOLLISON, Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26 (precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 (precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. WYN WEAVER, Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, March 8, Aug. 9, on, with exceptions.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham; or BATEMAN and CONQUEST, Empire, Southend.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, near London Nov. 9 16, London or South.
HORACE STANLEY, Theatre Royal, Exeter (2 weeks).

"MAN TO MAN."
Under the direction of
Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.
WANTED, Sept. 14, Oct. 5 and 12,
FRANK ADAIR,
Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11 18, Feb. 8, March 15 and 29, and April 5.
FRANK M. THORNE, Victoria T., Broughton.

"THE BELLE OF THE BALL."
The Financial Success.
WANTED, Sept. 14 and 28, between Hull and Manchester.
ALEXANDER LOFTUS, King's Theatre, Sunderland.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, Xmas, for this Great Success. HENRY L. OSMOND, T. R., Leicester.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
WANTED, Sept. 21 (follow Alexandra, Birmingham), 28, and onwards, with exceptions. Wire for Sept. 21, WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, to-day, T. R., Ilkeston; next, T. R., Stratford.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates for
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
A Perfect Production.
A Strong Cast.
A Fine Play.
Vacant,
Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 5 Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 21.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 2, 9, 16 (?).
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 16, 23, 30.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 5, 12, 19.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, on.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 2, and few later.
New Special Scenery and Effects.
Success greater than ever.
Alfred B. Cross as Pete. Miss M. Watersford as Kate.
A few dates Vacant for "The Monarch of the World."
T. R., Rochdale, Aug. 31; R., Halifax, Sept. 3.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Nov. 9, 16,
Dec. 21, 28,
Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25,
Feb. 1, 8, on.

Aug. 31, Palace Theatre, Newcastle.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 21, Nov. 9, Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, 25, on, for the above attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Opera House, Dudley.

MISS MARY NEIL
begs to inform Managers that
her big Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS"
(by Charles Darrell)
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON"
(by Charles Darrell)
are now Booked for two consecutive weeks at each of the following towns: Bradford, Sheffield, Oldham, Burnley, Grimsby, South Shields, Newcastle, Hull, &c.

WANTED, Theatres. Only vacant dates for 1908 are: Oct. 26, Nov. 16 (?), 23, 30, New Year's week; also a few Spring Dates, 1909, vacant.
Communications to
GEORGE KIRK, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Theatres, vacant through transferring, Oct. 12, Nov. 2; vac. Jan. 11, 18, Aug. 2.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Gorgeous Revival on a Magnificent Scale.
Vacant Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, Xmas.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN,"
Vacant Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 28, Jan. 4.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
Touring Summer and Autumn, 1909.
Wires, Spennymoor; letters, T. R., North Shields.

"THE POWER OF THE KING," by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. The brilliantly-mounted and costumed Romantic Military Play. The biggest money-making Drama produced in recent years.
WANTED, Oct. 5 (follow Grand, Newcastle), Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 16, 30. Spring 1909 fully booked with one exception. Now rapidly booking Autumn, 1909. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, this, Queen's, Farnworth; next, King's, Longsight.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
by Chas. Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Sept. 10, 11, 12
(between Llandudno and Sheffield),
Oct. 5, 26.
Oct. 5, 26.
Wire, JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22.
A Grand Revival of a Great Success.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Dates, "The Power of the Cross," Sept. 28 (between Gateshead and Wales), also Nov. 2. Refer Arthur Jefferson, Esq. "A Fight for a Throne." Wanted, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Nov. 30 Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Nov. 30. Refer J. H. Curry, Esq., Grimsby, and William Morton, Esq., Alexandra, Hull. This, Alex., Hull; next, T. R., Hyde. All coms. both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY, this, Metropole, Glasgow; next, Gaiety Theatre, Methil (Fife).

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, November 16 (South), Vacant through obliging.
Add., J. EDWARD WHITTY, Theatre Royal, Batley.

MR. REGINALD DANCE'S COMPANY,
in the
Enormously Successful Play,
"RAFFLES."
WANTED, Sept. 28 and Oct. 26.
Apply,
AUGUSTUS BINGHAM,
10 and 11, Jermyn-st., London, S.W.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Oct. 12, 19. Nov. 9, 30.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Sept. 28. Oct. 5, 19. Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Sept. 14, 21. Oct. 26. Nov. 16
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

HARDIE AND VON LEBR'S CO'S.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Sept. 14, 21 (North).
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON,"
Sept 14 (London or near).
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI AND MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:—
Feb. 22, April 19, 28, May 10.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

MESSRS. DRUCE AND FERRIS'S COMPANY.
"THE CHEAT."
Preliminary Tour prior to London Production.
Full Cast, as will appear in the West-end.
WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 12,
Only Vacant Dates at Present.
No. 1 Theatres only.
G. UNWIN or H. DRUCE, Lyric Theatre, W.

Messrs. RENNEF and COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World" Co., Oct. 26, to follow Junction, Manchester. Nov. 2, 9, 16, preceding Sunderland. 30, Dec. 7. Xmas and New Year. Wanted for New Autumn Production, "HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN." Nov. 2 16, to precede and follow Victoria, Broughton. G. M. COPPING, Victoria, Broughton (return); next, Gateshead.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime,
"Aladdin." Splendid cast engaged.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"THE LOVE OF THE PRINCESS,"
by C. Watson Mill.
WANTED, Oct. 19 (3), Feb. 1, Aug. 2, '09.
Address, T. S, WARD, T. R., Stockport.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres.

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."
Elaborate Revival. Success everywhere.
Vacant Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12,
and onwards with exceptions.

"THE BETTER LAND."
The Greatest Domestic Drama of the Day.
An Emphatic Success.
Gorgeous Production.
Every Scene and Property Carried.

The finest Printing on the road, consisting of 1 24-sheet, 3 18-sheets, 3 12-sheets, 4 6-sheets, 6 D.C. Lithos. All four-colour stuff.
Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, and later.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Vacant Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 8.

Managers note.—These Pantomimes are perfect in every detail. Beautifully mounted and dressed. Company of Star Artists, Specialities, Dancers, and full Chorus.

Re dates, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR,"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
Wanted, Oct. 26 (to follow T. R., Sheffield), Xmas Week. The play to draw the money, refer; next week at Alex., Hull.
"A SISTER'S SIN,"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Three Nights, Sept. 17, S. Wales preferred; also Sept. 28. Refer Arthur Carlton re the play and business at Barry this week.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS,"
By Walter Howard.
Wanted, Sept. 21 (to follow Middlesbrough), Oct. 5 (to follow Stockport). Magnificent cast and band. See play next week at Burnley. Managers requiring Good Attractions, wire KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"BEAU BROCADE."
The New Romantic Play by Baroness Orczy and Montague Barstow,
Authors of
"The Scarlet Pimpernel."
WANTED, Oct. 5, South, Nov. 2, Midlands.

Mr. REGINALD DANCE
and
Miss RUTH MACKAY.
Supported by Full West-End Company.

Elaborate Scenery and Costumes.

Apply, AUGUSTUS BINGHAM,
10 and 11, Jermyn-street, London, S.W.

"IN THE RANKS."
Powerful Company.
New Plant of Printing by David Allen.
Entirely New Scenery and Effects.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Oct. 12, Xmas, and Spring.
BERESFORD WHITCOMB, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY,
"THE FLOWER GIRL."
The Musical Comedy Success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical comedy at its brightest.
WANTED, Oct. 5, 19, 26, to precede return visits to Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dates onward. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Royalty T., Morecambe.
Letters, Theatre Royal, Preston. See Co's. Column.

The Thrilling Melodrama, "CONVICT 99."
WANTED, Autumn Dates, Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 23 (North), and on.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
Vacant for this Enormous Success: Oct. 12.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
Apply, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
Aug. 31, P. T., Glasgow.

"SECOND TO NONE," by Walter Howard.
WANTED, good Theatre, Easter, '09.
Address, T. E. WARD, T. R., Stockport.

WANTED, Nov. 2, 16, and Xmas, for Corri's "Dandy Fifth Up-to-Date."
HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre Royal, Huddersfield

Enormous success everywhere.
Refer to Managers where played.
A Real Novelty.
THE JAMAICANS.
The most Successful, Artistic, Novel, and Smartest Combination now before the Public.
Twelve Coloured Ladies and Gentlemen.
Evening Dress, Native Costume, or Camp Dress.
Royalty delighted. The Public delighted.
Managers want Return Dates.
A most Extensive and Varied Répertoire.
Real Coon Singers and Dancers.
WANTED, Known, first vacant date Sept. 14, and onwards, with exceptions.
Full particulars, terms, and dates from Sole Managers, H. E. JONES and A. DOUGLASS, 21, Water-street, Liverpool.
'Phones 2449 and 5650 Central.
Wires, "Motherland, Liverpool."

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for the Elster Grime Opera Co., Prin. Tenor, Soprano, and Contralto, also Choristers, those able to play parts preferred, forward répertoire. Press opinions. Lowest terms, long tour to suitable people; also an experienced Fit-up Man, to assist with Baggage and generally useful. Box 6,874, "The Era."

E. OSWALD BROOKS'S CO., in
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
WANTED, Complete Company, to start Swansea, Jan. 4, 1909, Rehearse Dec. 21. Former members please write. Photo., addressed envelope for return, and absolutely lowest terms, to E. OSWALD BROOKS, Sole Lessee and Manager, G. T., Swansea.

"TYRANNY OF TEARS."
WANTED, Artists, all parts, Special week, St. Leonards, Sept. 7, Rehearse Tuesday. Terms, photos., references, IAN MACLAREN, Pier, St. Leonards.

WANTED for "A Maid of France," Romantic Juvenile Lead, Character Comedienne, Aristocratic Old Woman, Responsible, combine Baggage. Rehearse Sept. 14. Fullest particulars, photos, Miss PHILLIPS, Vicarage, Gorleston.

WELLESLEY AND DEVEYNE ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, for Sketch, Juvenile Gentleman, tall, young, good appearance and education; also Actress, intense, young, tall, good appearance, dark (Jewess preferred). Reply, with terms, age, height, photo., refs. (applied for).
SECRETARY, 18, Wandle-road, Croydon, Surrey.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S "FLORODORA" COMPANY.
WANTED, to open immediately, Lady, for Angela; absolutely essential to be petite, good-looking, and good Dancer.
Address, 15, Clifford's Inn, Fleet-street, E.C.

MORTON POWELL'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Light Chambermaid, for Gracie, in "When It Was Dark." Lowest terms and references to MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, for three nights, Sept. 3, Lady for Clarissa, "Our Boys." Wire lowest terms, HESKETH, Prince's T., Llandudno.

"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."
WANTED, Gentleman, for Heavy Lead; must be young, and good wardrobe indispensable. Send terms and last two references, also age, and height, and if playing where to be seen. Add., J. EDWARD WHITTY, Theatre Royal, Batley.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Man, Juvenile Leading Lady, Responsible Actor.
W. E. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Good Responsible Gents., must be tall, capable of character; also Good Chambermaid (young). Lowest terms, height, age, and photo., to NEVILLS and CARNABY, Queen's Theatre, Pembroke Dock.

WANTED, Young Gentleman, for small part, Monday next, near Manchester preferred.
FRANCES HARROLD, Empire, Stockport.

WANTED, next week, Troupe of Lady Dancers, with change of dress, to introduce Specialities and assist to Dress Stage. Wire lowest terms and particulars, JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady (tall), small part, Drama or Light Comedy; good reference. A., "Throwley," Muswell Hill-road, N.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen for London and Provincial Pantomimes. Apply Monday, between 11 and 4 o'clock, FRANK POSTLETHWAITE'S Agency, 25, Wellington-street, Strand.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Conductors, Comedian, for Pantomimes.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, for Jazon and Nightingale's Pantos., First-class Principal Boy (Prince in "Cinderella"), Principal Girls ("Aladdin" and "Cinderella"), Recognised Comedian (Baron in "Cinderella"), pair Comedians (Captain and Mate, "Whittington"), fifty Chorus Ladies, and two Musical-Directors (piano). Full particulars, EDWIN C. JAZON, T. R., West Bromwich.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys, Girls, Seconds, Comedians, and Knockabouts. Full particulars, VALENTINE, 8, Dean-st., Oxford-st., London.

WANTED, for Pantomime, Attractive Chorus, Show, and Utility Ladies, of good appearance. VALENTINE, 8, Dean-st., Oxford-st., London.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Panto., Boy, London, by Maud Esmond; last year, "Crusoe," Brixton. Aug. 31, Standard, 9.50. All coms., 1, Albert-palace, mansions, Battersea Park.

WANTED, Panto., Principal part; last year Dandini, Mouillot Co. Vacant 31st, Single Turn. VIOLET ROSENBERG, 16a, Lynn-street, Balham.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, vacant for Panto. Many Thanks for Offers.
All coms., Palace, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Doyle and Massey, two Real Live Comedians, at Liberty for Panto.; 8 years' Panto. experience. This, T. R., Workington; next, Standard, Whitehaven.

WANTED, Known, Ambrose and Alden, the Comedians with a Contrast, Open for Panto. 1906 and '07, Captain and Bo'sun, "Dick Whittington"; 1907 and '08, ditto. Pavilion, near Manchester.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Denby and Dent, Comedians and Dancers, thoroughly experienced. Monday, Tivoli Theatre, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, The Altons, Demon Contortionists, and Tella and Gardelle, Gymnasts, on Tour, Liberty Pantomime. 6, Victoria Park-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Burdette Brothers, Great Eccentric Acrobats, Liberty for Panto., Parts and Speciality. Next, Theatre Royal, Workington.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for High class, Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Contracts, Scenery, Properties, Pantomime, or Productions, good work. Reasonable prices. J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces. Refs. Add., 26, Elgin-terrace, Maida Vale, London. don.

WANTED, Short Engagement, by Davies Massey, Scenic Artist.
4, Princess May-road, Stoke Newington, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Paint-rooms, Th. or Hall, Bench Hand, Scenery, Props., Assist. Own Tools. CARPENTER, 32, Summerhill-road, Tottenham, N.

MISCELLANEOUS.

GRAND THEATRE, NELSON.
WANTED, through disappointment and cancelling, good reliable Management, to produce Pantomime, Dec. 24, nine nights and two matinées.
Apply, GEORGE B. MUDD, Business-Manager.

WANTED, immediately, Resident-Manager, Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.

Photos., references, terms,
DUCKWORTH, Woolwich.

WANTED, Stage-Manager, to travel, experienced, and having mechanical knowledge, speaking French and German preferred. State full particulars and lowest salary to Room 256, Savoy Hotel, W.C.

WANTED, Resident Acting-Manager. Knowledge of Bars essential.
Apply, with terms and references,
W. P. WRIGHT, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, smart young Assistant Manager, to play small part; Typist. Fullest particulars, A. B. CROSS, T. R., Rochdale.

WANTED Agent, experienced, energetic, conscientious, to book and bill Small Halls, Schools, &c., for Quick-running Show; must know the game, and do it. Lowest terms. Open at once. Mr. BROSCOPE, Crown, Hodge Bower, Ironbridge, Salop.

WANTED, by Peter Adair, a Business Manager; must be good cyclist, early riser, and worker. No teetotallers or beer-eaters need apply. To carry on bike Coleman's "Wincarnis," Gallaher's Tobaccos, and Park Drive Cigs., my books and photos., so he can't starve. Address, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, good smart Agent, used to Flyposting.
Address, WILL ONDA, Temperance Hall, Preston.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Leamington, good Electrician and to make himself generally useful. Apply, with terms and references, W. P. WRIGHT, County Theatre, Reading.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, steady, reliable Carpenter, for Drama Tour, to combine Baggage and speak few lines; abstainer preferred. State age, height, weight, and absolute lowest terms. Enclose recent photo. if possible, and give references.
Address, STEPHEN PRITT, Theatre Royal, Preston.

WANTED, Engagement.—Varsity Man, aged 30, with thorough business experience, speaking fluent French and German, is anxious to obtain position as business manager or front of house, in London or Suburbs, influential connection, nominal remuneration. Write, H., c/o GERRARD and Co., 32, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Engagement. Manager resigning position, important Midland Theatre, Dramatic and Variety; experienced back, front, including bars; can book variety; thorough knowledge latest turns, prices, &c. Highly recommended. L. W., 112, Canterbury-road, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Stage-Manager, Carpenter combined, own tools; good refs.; used two houses nightly. G. BUTLER, 7, East-terrace, Gravesend.

WANTED, Known, Percy H. Gallagher, late Manager Willesden Hippodrome, is Open to accept Offer, London or Provinces. Address, "Avondale," Lushington-road, Harlesden, N.W.

WANTED, Known, I can Run or Manage (smart), any Class of Show or Entertainment, or Lecture-Vocalist. HARRY DALE, 167, Knutsford-road, Warrington.

WANTED, by Electrician and Operator, permanent Engagement, competent mechanic. H. W. L., 37, Turner-st., Commercial-rd., London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, in the Provinces, as Property Master and Maker; 20 years' good reference, Theatre Royal, Brighton. E. BRIDGER, 9, Ashford-road, Preston-drove, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by H. Leeding, Carpenter, Baggage or Props; resident or tour; own tools; abstainer; refs. 20, Bannockburn-road, Plumstead.

WANTED, Engagement, J. Murton, Practical Carpenter, finish of tour Aug. 30; Mrs. J. Murton, Wardrobe Mistress; joint or single; good refs. 4, King James-street, Gateshead.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Master Carpenter, through change of management, thoroughly practical; 5½ years' reference from Mr. Cecil Beryl. Address, W. JANECK, 39, Vere-road, Brighton.

WANTED, by good Stage Carpenter, own tools, Music Hall, Theatre, or Tour; useful man. J. BOOTH, 31, Lower Ormond-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Carpenter, Good Bench Hand, Play Small Part. Refs., Photos., T. ARTHUR JONES, 32, Wightman-rd., Finsbury Park, N.

WANTED, Known, now at Liberty, George Bishop, Practical Bill Inspector, Bill Poster, &c., late Blackpool Winter Gardens, Thomas Barrasford, Esq., and Tower, New Brighton; Wife as Cleaner, Dresser, &c. 7, Union-st., Harrogate.

WANTED, Engagement, by Wardrobe Mistress, good needlewoman and packer; references; Touring Company preferred; abstainer; moderate salary. Miss THOMPSON, 19, Richmond-place, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, owing to unprincipled persons copying name and business, Reed and Lerne will in future be known as Foley and Francis.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

CITY OF LONDON POLICE BAND.
WANTED, for the above Band, a qualified Bandmaster.
Apply by letter to
A. W. ROBINSON, "Secretary,"
35, Gracechurch street, E.C.

WANTED, First-class Musical-Director (Violinist), accustomed to Variety Business. Apply, stating terms required, together with references, to WM. TRUSSELL, Manager, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, First-class Variety Leader. Apply, with terms and references, to WM. TRUSSELL, Manager, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, Conductor, for London Hall; must be young and energetic. Apply, stating experience and salary required, Box 6,921, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Conductor-Violinist (resident), also Cornet and Trombone, with experience of both Drama and Variety.
Apply, with terms and references,
W. P. WRIGHT, County Theatre, Reading.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
WANTED, for above, Pianist-Conductor, First Violin, Cornet, Double Bass, and Drums (Effects). Apply fully, stating terms, experience, &c., A. E. PICKARD, as above.

WHITE STAR MEDITERRANEAN SERVICE.
WANTED, First-class Leader and Solo Violinist, Aug. 19 till Dec. 26; First-class Leader and Solo Violinist; also 'Cellist, Sept. 5 until end March or early April, 1909; vacancies for Violinists, Pianists, 'Cellists, and Contrabassists, for Cunard and White Star Lines Winter Services, Oct. to end of March next. Audition in London or Liverpool necessary before engagement. Applicants state age, experience, and give names and addresses of two references as to character to CHARLES WM. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Leader and Solo Violin, White Star Line, Mediterranean, Sept. 10 till Dec. 26. Audition in Liverpool or London necessary before engagement. Applicants state age, experience, &c., to CHARLES WM. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for a London Music Hall, a First-class Leader, also Répétiteur; both must be thoroughly experienced. Apply with references to the MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Hippodrome, Islington, N.

WANTED, at Once, for Three Weeks, near Birmingham, Leader, First Violin, Cornet, Trombone; others write. Age, refs., and lowest terms, CONDUCTOR, 28, Victoria-rd., Margate.

WANTED, good Violins, commence at once. Terms, age, &c., CLARENCE WOOD,
23, Sea View-parade, West End, Morecambe.

WANTED, First Violin, Open Monday, Sept. 7, used to variety, evening dress. Lowest terms and refs., C. DENLEY, Grand Theatre, Derby.

WANTED, First Violin, experienced in Comedy and Dramatic; permanent position to good man; open Monday, Sept. 7. Terms and latest references to MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, T. R., Merthyr.

CRYSTAL PALACE BAND.
WANTED, a good Solo Cornet, £2 10s. a week; all the Mil. and Orch. Journals.
State age and experience, and how soon free.
HERBERT GODFREY, Crystal Palace, S.E.

SOUTHPORT CORPORATION MILITARY BAND.
WANTED, to commence at Once, First Cornet and Second Bassoon, also other Instruments, to complete a Large Band.
Address, BARTLE and RIMMER, Belmont-street.

WANTED, at Once, till Oct. 14, experienced Solo Cornet, for Small Orchestra, Hydro Bandstand, four shows daily (5½ hours), one Sunday show; sobriety and ability essential. Uniform found. Terms and refs. to A. E. DAVISON, Bandmaster, Llandrindod Wells.

WANTED, First Cornet, Flute, and 'Cello, Variety.
Apply, T. STEVENS, M.D., Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, good Solo Cornet Player; must be steady, and attentive to business. T. REYNOLDS, Bandmaster, Buff Bill's Circus and Menagerie, Birr, Ireland, Monday.

WANTED, First Clarionet, for String Band; must be good. State terms, age, and references.
Box 6,914, "The Era."

WANTED, Bassoon, well up in Variety Business; must be steady and reliable.
Apply, stating terms and experience, to CONDUCTOR, Empire, Edinburgh.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE, RAMSGATE.
WANTED, Bassoon, Second Cornet, 'Cello, for "Merry Widow," Sept. 3, 4, 5. Rehearsal 11 sharp, Thursday, one matinée. Lowest terms inclusive. BRINKWORTH, Musical-Director.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Bassoon Player, One Week, commencing Monday next.
Address, Sidney Cooper, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, First-class 'Cello, for Autumn Season; 10 weeks, commencing Sept. 21. Apply, Charles Godfrey, Musical-Director, Spa Orchestra, Scarborough.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, good 'Cellist and Leader; open Sept. 7. Apply, Sherwood and Co.

CASTLE THEATRE, STOCKTON-ON-TEES.
WANTED, a good Viola Player, to commence Monday, Sept. 7.
Terms and last two references to
J. Chas. Imeson, Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, for New Palace, Ebbw Vale, Flute and Piccolo, and Double Drums; also for Pavilion, Abertillery, Trombone and Drums. Com., Monday, 31st. Wire terms and particulars, E. Price, Pav., Abertillery.

WANTED, Smart Lady Pianist, 'Cello, Flute, Harpist, Hotel Orchestra. Terms, photo., stamped envelope return, Musical-Director, 100, Erdington-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, for Picture Tour, Young Pianist (lady or gentleman). Send photo., state age, salary required, &c., in first letter; steadiness essential. Apply, Curtis, Post Office, Mallow, Co. Cork.

WANTED, Lady Pianist and Vocalist, for select Smoke Room, young, good home. Apply, Wm. Hemmings, Old White Swan Hotel, York.

WANTED, Pianist, immediately, capable Turn preferred; experienced Variety; Sisters, capable Single, Theatres, Fit-ups. Wire, Eventio, P. O., Ballinasloe; after Monday a.m., Roscrea.

WANTED, Lady Pianist-Vocalist, Specialities, Serios, Operator, Smart Agent. Tour commences Sept. 21. Photos., ages, refs. essential Dr. Clark, Oddfellows' Hall, Falkirk.

WANTED, for Royal London Animated Picture Co., Pianist, three nights, open Sept. 3, Skelmersdale, probable permanency. Smalley, Manager, Market Hall, Skelmersdale, Ormskirk.

WANTED, Pianist, for Auction Mart; must be steady and reliable. State terms and references, and when at Liberty. Charles Barraclough please write. Chapman, Highfield-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Orchestral Drummer, for three nights and matinée, Monday, Aug. 31; for "Gay Gordons," Bass Drum found; rehearse Monday 1 o'clock. Wire inclusive terms, Macdona, T. R., Colchester.

WANTED, a First-class Drummer, with Effects, and First Violin, must be used to Variety, two houses nightly, open next Monday; and First-class Pianist, open Sept. 7. Apply, Poole, Tivoli, Pentre, Rhondda.

WANTED, for two or three weeks, commencing Sept. 7, a good reliable Drummer. Apply, Musical-Director, Opera House, Cheltenham.

NEW HIPPODROME, MIDDLESBROUGH.
WANTED, Drummer, with Tympanis and Full Effects; well up in Variety Business. State age, &c., Hinchcliffe, Mus.-Dir.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin and Viola. Not over thirty years of age, and single; none but competent players need apply. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 at the end of the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.
Apply to the Medical Superintendent.

WANTED, Full Band, for King's Theatre, Edinburgh, Sept. 7; must be used to Variety; steady and competent players. Apply to Jules Guitton, Mus.-Dir.

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
"Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET,'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Musical-Director (Violin) desires change; experienced Variety, reliable; at present M.-D. in High-class Variety Theatre; age 29. Box 6,907, "The Era."

WANTED, by Musical-Director, thoroughly experienced twice nightly Varieties, Engagement; steady and reliable. Address, Musical-Director, 100, Erdington-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor or Pianist, young, Liberty Aug. 31.
Fred Middleton, Churchbridge, Oldbury.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, any Business; Disengaged Sept. 12. Chas. Bacon, 7, Railway-terrace, Margate, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Nellie Mitchell, experienced Violinist, Leader, and brilliant Soloist; open after Oct. Olympian Quartette, Pier, Southwold, Suffolk.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violinist, experienced in Dramatic or Variety business; good refs. Apply, Violinist, St. John's Villa, St. John's-road, Lowestoft.

WANTED, by good Second Violinist, Re-engagement; good refs; Double on Viola; sober, reliable. E. W., 69, Culverden Park-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Engagement, Violin or Viola, thoroughly competent Variety or Drama; first-class references. T. McCririe, 53, Clifton-street, Lytham.

WANTED, Known, Cornet, at Lib. for Engagements on Sept. 7, for Theatre, Concerts, Orchestra or Military Band; experience; good testimonials. Apply, J. Lawrence, Spa Orchestra, Whitby, York.

WANTED, Engagement, as Cornet, in or near London; or would Deputise; good refs. J. Buckley, 24, Reporten-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Engagement, Cornet, any business, Liberty Sept. 12.
Long, Bandstand, Bognor.

WANTED, Known, Miss Hilda Kent (Cornet) and Miss Minnie Kent (Trombone), Disengaged Sept. 21. Pier Pavilion, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagement, Cornet or Violin; repetiteur, Dramatic, or Variety; experienced, efficient, reliable; good refs.; Disengaged end September. Jones, 20, Green-street, Old Town, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionet, Orchestral or Military; just finished fifteenth season as First Clarionet, L.C.C. Band. G. A. P., 6 Grosvenor-street, Camberwell.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet Player, at Liberty Sept. 6. Apply, Allen Walsh, Solo Clarionet, Municipal Orchestra, Ilkley, Yorkshire.

WANTED, Engagement, as Clarionet, any Business; 6 years Variety; would deputise. F. W. Butler, 257, Lynton-road, St. James's-road, Bermondsey, London.

WANTED, Known, good Clarionet vacant from Sept. 14, good references, North of England preferred. Edwards, Pavilion, Rhyl.

WANTED, by First-class Double Bass Engagement, any Business; 5 years West Pier, Brighton. Highest refs. Franks, Derby Castle, Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED, Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall, as Contra Bass or combine Bombardon, in Military Band. Dan Moxon, Central Pier, Morecambe.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass; long experience Theatre and Variety; references; open at once. J. Page, 70, Duncombe-st., Grimsby.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass; at Liberty Sept. 14. B. H., c/o Bateson's Orchestra, Lakeside, Windermere.

WANTED, Known, 4-string Bass Player, Disengaged Sept. 13, any business. Photo and testimonials sent if required. Address, F. G. Powell, Victoria Pier, Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement, by reliable Trombonist, Great Britain or Continent, at Liberty Sept. 5. Hugh Thompson, Promenade Orchestra, Hornsea, Yorkshire.

WANTED, by First-class Trombone, Engagement, any business, First-class references; attentive to business and reliable. V. Benson, care of Post Office, 101, Cannon-street, E.C.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombonist, Theatre or Music Hall; experienced and reliable; good references. Fred Peel, 20, Warley-street, Parkinson, Halifax.

WANTED, Known, First-class Solo Euphonium-ist and Cornet, Disengaged shortly; Military Band preferred. Wm. Maddock, sen., Municipal Band, Rothesay, N.B.

WANTED, Known, French Horn at Liberty for Engagement after Sept. 15, for Theatre, Concert, Orchestra, or Military Band; experienced in Opera, Symphony, Oratorio, &c.; First-class Testimonials; reliable. Box 6,913, "The Era."

WANTED, by French Horn, Disengaged on Sept. 6, Re-engagement. J. S., Bandstand, Littlehampton.

WANTED, Engagement, 'Cellist. Highest refs.
Fred Dent, 28, Colebrook-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Oboe Player, Theatre or Music Hall; termination of Seaside Engagement. Wraight, 16, Osbourne-rd. Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Aeneas Gibson, well-known Yorkshire Harpist and Pianist, Liberty Sept. or Oct. Variety Company on Tour to Australia please write. Abroad preferred, or first-class steamship. Grecian or Gothic Harp. Gibson Bros., Music Sellers, Ilkley.

WANTED, Engagement, as Harpist or Double Bass, circus or small theatre, steady, reliable. Address, J. F. Stewart, 2, Howden-terrace, Hyde Park, Leeds.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, competent, reliable, Re-engagement; Disengaged Sept. 5; well up in Variety, &c. Alexander, 33, Wilmot-road, Ilkley.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, used to Variety; excellent references. At Liberty Sept. 14. Woolman, Alhambra Palace, Morecambe.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute, Piccolo, and Cornet, together or separate, any business; experienced. Apply, Howard, 14, Portland-road, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, experienced Theatre and Orchestra; thoroughly reliable. J. Levy, 7, Westbourne Park-villas, Bayswater, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flautist, Sept. 7; experienced and reliable; finishing season Address, Victor Candler, Mr. Bateman's Orchestra, Hornsea Gardens, Hornsea.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo at Liberty Sept. 8; good refs. Flautist, Orchestra, Hengler's Circus, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Flute and Piccolo, at Liberty for Theatre, Music Hall, or Cirque. Geo. Barton, 19, Burnley-st., Failsworth, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Miss Winifred Fairlie, Accompanist, Comedy Vocalist, Humorous Sketches, and Imitations, Dis. Sept. 24, 1908. 31, Moreton-place, Belgravia, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by N. Robinson, Pianist, through disappointment, any business, good reader, refs., reliable; any distance. 25, Main-street, Cadoxton, Barry.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist-Conductor, experienced in all Lines; excellent refs. and testimonials. Collins, 6, Emlyn-grove, Rhyl.

WANTED, by Ted Vincent, Engagement as Pianist, any business (Sketches). Just concluded fourteen weeks with Arthur Prince's New Boys. 86, Morel-street, Barry Dock.

WANTED, Known, competent Pianist at Liberty, experienced, Auctioneers, Picture Shows, &c. 65, Delverton-road, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Cecil Bevan, brilliant Solo Pianist and Entertainer, Disengaged early in Sept. Fieldby Cottage, Port St. Mary.

WANTED, Sept. 7, by experienced Pianist; good references; any business; good sight reader; age 20. Willie Conaghan, Empire, Londonderry.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Double Drummer, with Effects, Dramatic, Variety, or good Town Band; excellent references. Musician, 10, Upton Church-road, Torquay.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Tympanist, &c., permanency, Theatre or Music Hall; at Liberty Sept. 14. Apply, Cryer, Alhambra Palace, Morecambe.

WANTED, by First-class Double Drummer, through disappointment, thoroughly experienced, reliable; good refs. Drums, 107, Graham-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, Wanted, Engagement, as Double Drummer.
Cockrill, Drummer, Central Pier, Morecambe.

ROYAL BLUE ORCHESTRA.
WANTED, Known, this well-known Combination of six or eight Instrumentalists terminates its Annual Summer Engagement (fourth season), middle Oct., 1908, and invites offers for the winter season; neat uniforms, splendid répertoire, perfect ensemble; highest testimonials. Address, A. E. Davison, Band Kiosk, Pump House, Llandrindod Wells.

WANTED, Known, The Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, specially engaged at Johnstown Flood, Franco-British Exhibition; good quartettes and trios disengaged. Terms, Wilton Davis, Manager, 42, Linton-street, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, successful engagement at P. P., Brighton; now playing Edinburgh Exhibition; open for engagements; smart costume; Soloists and Singers. Perm. address (tel. 1111 P.O.). Poppies, 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Italian Lady Quartette, playing at "Pharaoh's Daughter," Franco-British. Open for Later Engagements; also Lady Trio, at Liberty now, Hotels, &c. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, the Fairlie String Quartette, brilliant Soloists, Comedy Vocalists. Concerts, Exhibitions, Dis. Sept. 30. Fairlie, 31, Moreton-place, Belgravia.

WANTED, Offers, Bateson's Orchestra (small), Dis. Oct. 1, any bus. Musical-Directress, Miss Maude Trainer, Pavilion, Lakeside, near Ulverston.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Sydney Ross, Baritone Vocalist, at Liberty from Aug. 26, any business. All coms., 31, Moreton-place, Belgravia, S.W.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Royal Agricultural Hall Circus Season of 1908-9, the World's Greatest and most Brilliant Artists in the whole of the Circus Profession. Preference given to those artists who have not appeared in the Agricultural Hall Circus before. Everything that is good, clever, new, original, and first-class. Novel Animal Acts, Sensational Acrobats, Useful Family of Equestrians with own horses, may write at once. All coms. to Sir Edward Hanneford, 27, Third-avenue, Consbrook-avenue, Strandtown, Belfast.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines of Circus Business, to open immediately and later. Those doing more than one act preferred. Gilleno's Circus, Waterloo Theatre, Whitby.

WANTED, a Group of Liberty Horses, Several Equestrian Families, Troupes of Acrobats, and Attractions for Scandinavia from May. Guise, 25, Bonham-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Knockabout Ring and Trapeze Performer; permanent to suitable part; good amateur may write. Full particulars, Box 6,910, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, the Whole of the Circus Profession to Know that the Celebrated Hanneford Family of Past-masters in the Art of Equestrianism are not at Liberty, but are now on their fifth great triumphal tour of Ireland, with their collossal Canadian Circus and Menagerie; also that they are admitted by all to be the greatest riders of the present, or any other, century, in fact, the Beau Brummels of the circus profession. Every act thoroughly up to date, and enacted in a manner in which grace, agility, dexterity, and a complete mastery of the art of riding are easily noticeable by the most casual observer as being predominant. We also have the pleasure and honour of announcing that Hanneford's Canadian Circus is re-engaged for the coming season of 1908-9, at the World's Fair, Agricultural Hall, London, by Mr. T. E. Read, when they will endeavour to supersede the terrific and gratifying success they made last year. We are more than a draw. We guarantee to draw more audiences than all the other champion riders. All coms. to Sir Edward Hanneford, 27, Third-avenue, Consbrook-avenue, Strandtown, Belfast.

WANTED.—Neddy Vokes, World-known Musical Clown, talking Knockabout Clown, Liberty Oct. 12. Address, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, Classical Acts.
Sanger's Hippodrome Tour.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
P'hone, 1526 Gerrard. Manager, Harry Lane. Representative, Corliss Claflin.

WANTED, Big Specialities and Variety Artists in all Lines.
Pantomime Artists, Principal Boys,
Principal Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts,
Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and Dancers.
All communications as above.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to Wm. Biggam, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

EMPIRE, YORK.
NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists. Nothing too big.
Apply, William Peacock, Theatre, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Monday, Sept. 7, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Sept. 14, onwards. A. E. Pickard.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Sept. 14, onwards. A. E. Pickard.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, also Two Gentlemen for New Sketch; good Amateurs may apply. Graham's, 15a, Electric-avenue, Brixton.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, for immediate dates, North.
Big Acts for France; nothing too big.
Cliquot, 22, Union-street, Hyde.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Sept. 7, onwards, for Manchester, Dewsbury, Lancaster, Oldham, Bolton, Rochdale, Burnley, Barnsley, Sheffield, Dublin, Bury, Northampton. Lowest terms in first letter, Edgar Stebbings, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. 'Phone 9261. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester."

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, Co. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists, Sept. 14, and on, a good break going North. T. C. Rawes, Prop.

GAIETY MUSIC HALL, BLYTH.
WANTED.—Artists Required, Aug. 31, onwards. Lowest terms, Hall small. Address,
W. Yates Gregory, The Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, Artists, Oct. 10 to 15, two or three performances daily. Cheap Specialities write in. Manager, Old Corn Exchange, Hull.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns doing Singles, two weeks, Sept. 14, Oct. 5, 12, 19. Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

VERNO'S AGENCY
(under the direction of L. Verno and H. Arnold),
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Aug. 31, on. Tele., "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, for Pavilion, Northwich, immediate and future dates. Artists; only refined and capable. Lowest possible, as Hall small. No Acrobats, &c. Address, Manager.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Sept. 7, on. 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Sept., and on. Lowest small town, where acts can be seen. Selman, 52, Charlton-road, Blackheath, London.

WANTED, for Cody's New Empire, Londonderry, Artists, can do Singles and Doubles, all Lines. All coms., Proprietor, Empire, Londonderry, Ireland.

WANTED, Concert Artists for London Season, 1908-9; exceptional opportunity for beginners. Interviews by appointment only. Merganser Agency, 82, Stapleton-road, Upper Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, Stars, &c., all Lines, Best Halls, Piers. Geo. Aytoun, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E. Now on Tour. Charnleys wire address.

ALBERT T. BRIGHOUSE; Q. T., CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, good Turns, suitable for Animated Picture Show, at above, Sept. 7, 14, and 21. State absolute lowest first letter (small towns). Beanland and Emerson, Parade, Bridlington.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Artists for
DALTON'S AGENCY. Immediate Dates
DALTON'S AGENCY. and Dates onwards.
DALTON'S AGENCY.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY. and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY. (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY. and permanent addresses.
DALTON'S AGENCY. 29, Maudeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Telegrams:
DALTON'S AGENCY. Granbeste,
DALTON'S AGENCY. Withington-Lancs.
DALTON'S AGENCY. Telephone:
DALTON'S AGENCY. 193 Didsbury.
DALTON'S AGENCY.

NEW PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, CHELTENHAM.
General-Manager, Mr. Edward B. Shenton.
Business-Manager, Mr. John Walters.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.
WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.
WANTED, Agents desirous of doing Business, Artists desiring Engagements, also Combinations and Travelling Pantomimes, to please communicate with
Managing-Director.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent all Lines, Sept. 7, 14, 21, later.
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone 2347 Tron.
WANTED, Talent in every Line, Comedians, Double Acts, Sisters, Serios, and Specialities. I am on the Spot, and can Book you.

HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY.
233, KENNINGTON-ROAD.
WANTED, Big Specialities, Wanted, Big Specialities, Wanted, Big Specialities, Musical Acts, Animal Shows, &c.
Sample of lithos. and full particulars to above.

WANTED, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to Jas. Tyrer, The Palace, Oldbury.

BARNARD'S AGENCY, SHAW-ST., LIVERPOOL.
Tel. 2349 Royal.
WANTED, Big Specialities and Star Turns for immediate dates; also High-class Turns for Seaside Towns. Full list. List of bookings and Vacancies.

WANTED, for Sept. 7, onwards. Star Acts in All Lines. Star Acts in All Lines. Full up for Smaller Items.
Cadle's Agency, 106 and 105, Strand, W.C.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. Cummings.
WANTED, Star Acts, all Lines, Sept. 7, onwards. Absolute lowest once nightly. J. Cummings, 97, Whitevale, Dennistown, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Acts, all Lines, for Sept. 21 and on.
Apply, J. Brown and Co., Variety Agents, (Telephone No. 1098 City),
58, Chicksand-street, N.E. Appointments only.

WANTED, Big Acts of all Descriptions. Artists holding contracts for Grantham, Peterboro', and Nuneaton send billing matter to me. Dan Noble, c/o G. T., Doncaster.

WANTED, Greatest Acts in the Profession. Send full bookings, terms, lithos. Herr Fritz De Cone please write. William Ainsworth, Northern Amusement Bureau, 11, Baker-st., Middlesbrough.

VICTORIA PIER PAVILION, COWES.
WANTED, First-class Concert Party, Sept. 21 (one week), through releasing; good sharing terms to attractive party. Fullest particulars to Reuben More.

WANTED, Concert Parties.
Wanted, High-class Organised Concert Party, for Sept 3, 4, and 5 (three days only, twice daily, morning and afternoon), and certain weeks following. Full particulars,
The Manager, South Parade Pier, Southsea.

WANTED, First-class Full Complete Company, Minstrels, Choir, Diorama, or Variety, two weeks, Sept. 21, 28, share or salary. Write full particulars, Edward Emerson, Circus, Hull.

WANTED, a Young Lady Acrobatic Dancer, one that can Juggle a little preferred. All particulars, Box 6,918, "The Era."

WANTED, a Young Girl, with knowledge of Acrobating or Juggling, for Comedy Act. All particulars, Box 6,919, "The Era."

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool.
'Phone 1269 Royal. General-Manager, W. Lund.
WANTED, First-class Comedians and Specialities, for immediate dates; also vacancies for good Novelties and Singing Acts. Wanted, immediately, small refined Singing and Speciality Acts, for Ramsgate. Full list of bookings and lowest terms in first instance.

WANTED, Comedians, Comediennes, and good Comedy Acts for the North. Send full bookings, &c., to Frank Lynne, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, good Humorist, for Refined Concert Party (four weeks certain), commencing Sept. 14, three days previous rehearsals. Lowest terms and fullest particulars, Reuben More, Pier, Cowes.

WANTED, two First-class Young Comedy Gymnasts, smart patterers, rehearse new Music Hall Sketch. Apply, stating lowest terms, R. A. G., care "Stage."

WANTED, a Gentleman (young) with strong voice, to sing Comic Medley.
Apply by letter,
stating range of voice, to
J. Albert, 57, Camberwell-road, S.E.

WANTED, Young Fellow, for Comedy Act, on Continent; must do Splits, a Flip, and Tumble and Dance a Little. Postage 2½d. Ray Reed, 49, Rue de Malte, Paris.

WANTED, Boys with good voices, or Dancers, to write in for Engagement with Established Music Hall Troupe; must be aged 14, but small. All particulars to Stanley's Urchins, 18, Ackers-street, Manchester.

WANTED, a Smart Young Man, that can Tumble a little. Age, height, and salary to Box 6,917, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man, Smart Tumbler, Open Sept. 7, long engagement.
Particulars, W. Douglas, c/o "The Era" Office.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, smart Young Man, who can Tumble a little, as Assistant, for fixing up, cleaning, and looking after apparatus.
State tricks, and all particulars in first letter.
Address,
Mrs. Eugenie, No. 6, Athol-street, Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, used to both Currents and Limes.
Address, Onda, Temperance Hall, Preston.

WANTED, Proprietors, Artists, &c., to Note, the Original Rabey is Phil Rabey, Versatile Artist. Now Fourth Season, Fred Pullan's Pierrots, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist and Illustrated Songs, Dates in October. This week, West London Theatre; next, Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, by Miss Ethel Yorke, the Charming Comedienne, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, 14. For reliable turn, wire, Hippodrome, Burton-on-Trent.

WANTED, for Agnes Molteno's Beautiful Scena, "A Dolly and a Coach," Sept. 7, through hall closing. Aug. 31, Stockton Hippodrome. Sept. 14, East Ham; 21, E., Camberwell.

WANTED, Known, Refined Lady Gymnast and Contortionist, and Speciality Dance Artists, Magnificent Silver and Electric Apparatus. Instantaneous Success Everywhere. Still on tour. Address, 127, Upper Aughton-road, Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Ruble and Elsie Redfern, in their Novel Drawing-room Act, with Piano, introducing Mimicry, Banjo Overture, Ragtime Dancing, &c. Refined and Original. Finish to-night, Hippo., Ipswich; after, 60, Denmark-road, Manchester. Vacant Aug. 31 and Sept. 7.

DAWSON DEWICK,
DAWSON DEWICK,
DAWSON DEWICK,
DAWSON DEWICK,
DAWSON DEWICK,
DAWSON DEWICK,
DAWSON DEWICK,
Comedian,
and
Versatile Vocalist,
will return in Dec. from a two years' successful Tour in America.

Have been specially engaged to play my old part,
Soft Sammy, in "Babes in the Wood,"
by J. Gar Kiddie, Esq.,
in which I created such a success in Glasgow two years ago.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
Music Hall Dates, from April, 1909, and on.

Agents and Managers should see this turn.

Good Songs, Good Voice, Funny Patter.
Good Songs, Good Voice, Funny Patter.

Would like to hear from a First-class Agent, with view to handling my business.

Address,
Dawson Dewick, 321, West 44th-st., New York City.
Or Care J. Gar Kiddie, Esq., Widnes.

P.S.—Not the cleverest and best Act in the world, but a clean, funny, and reliable Act (front scene).

WANTED, by Walter Howard, Musical Comedian, Halls, Piers, Picture Tours, Sept. 28, on. Care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Will Euston, Coster Comedian, just finished sixteen weeks with F. J. Little, Esq., now touring Wales. This, Queen's Theatre, Pembroke Dock; next, P. Hall, Treharris.

WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, Harry Tullett, the Youthful Comedian concluding successful season with Scarlet Merrions. Wire, Scarlet Merrions, Llandudno. After Sunday, 145, St. Paul's-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Aug. 31 and Sept. 7, by Harry Morris, Comedian, &c. Hit of Bill this week, Palace, Reading.

WANTED, Known, Phil Rabey, Versatile Artist, has only a few Vacancies. Panto. settled. All communications to P. R., Fred Pullan's Pierrots, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Sept. 7, onwards, Frank Stanert, Laughing Musical Comedian.
2, Stroma-cottage, Carnoustie, N.B.

WANTED, Sept. 7, 21, on, Volto, Man-Monkey and Comedy Gymnast; close to-night, big success, Queen's T., Dublin. Add., 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, Comedian and Champion All-round Dancer. This Hip., Preston; Aug. 31, Hip., Hulme; Lib. Sept. 7. Wire, 7, Poplar-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, and Sept. 7, E. W. Selman, Comedian. Sure Attraction, in his Latest Hits. 52, Charlton road, Blackheath, London.

WANTED, by Chas. Grantley, the Unusual Comedian, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, and 19. Terrific success Gloucester. Monday, Palace, Porth.

WANTED, Sept. 7 and 14, Staffo, Novelty Comedy Juggler. I said "Juggler." Wire, to-day, Palace, Porth; Monday, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, Sept. 7, 14, and 21 (North) by Li Chang Hi, Chinese Conjurer. This, Central Hall, Sheffield; next, Grand Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Sept. 7, onward, The Great Kyoto, Japanese Humorist, Contortionist, Conjurer, and Comedy Juggler, and Oto, the Only Performing Pug Dog. A Sensational Laughing and Applauding Hit. Also Miss May Geraldine, a Dainty Comedienne and Dancer. A Sure Success. Aug. 31, Wellington Pier, Great Yarmouth. Wire, any distance.

WANTED, by The Monckton's (Fred, Lillie), Oct. 5, 12, onwards (exceptions), in their Screaming Farcical Episodes, "Two in a Flat," "A Woman's Curiosity." Enormous success, Empire, Barnsley. Aug. 31, Hippodrome, Preston (fourth return).

WANTED, Monday next, also Sept. 7, by Ray and Lingard, in Comedy Duologue, "The First of April." A Sure Success. Wire, Palace, Greenwich, London, S.E.

WANTED, Sept. 7 and 21, Lo-La and Jake, Clever and Comedy Three-Bar Act; First-class Act. 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday next, also Sept. 7, by the Two Le Bruns, Unique Vocal and Juggling Speciality. Thanks to A. Selwyn, also A. Ventor, for further contracts. Wire, People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, next week, by Fern and Fawn, in Shriekingly Funny Episode, "The Conqueror," and Comedian Single. People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Monday. The Rinders, Song Illustrators; carry everything required for good pictures; and Chas. Lestree, Juggler. Wire, Palace, New Brighton.

WANTED, by Merry and Bright, Popular Comedians, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, Laughing Hit of Programme. This week, Hippo., Croydon. Coms., 106, Gt. Portland-st., London, W. Distance no object.

WANTED, by Doyle and Massey, Comedians, Sept. 7, onwards, with a few exceptions; second week here; still drawing big houses. This, T. R., Workington; next, Standard, Whitehaven.

WANTED, by Brothers Lawrence, Aug. 31, Scotland's Representative Singing and Dancing Experts. Great success Hip., Lancaster. This, Topping, Queen's, Keighley. Wire.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Purnell Bros., Comedians and Dancers, Monday next and on. Just concluded fourteen weeks with Arthur Prince's New Boys, Barry Island. 86, Morel-street, Barry Dock.

WANTED, by Les Rallis, the Artist and His Monkey, Aug. 31.
Wire, E. Rallis, 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

WANTED, by the Original Walonells, Great Eccentric Gymnasts, Sept. 14. Address, Jack Walonell, this week, Pavilion, Glasgow; next, Hip., Carlisle.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Monday next, Screaming Comedy, Lightning Tumbling. Agent, Stebbings, 23, Egerton-st., Manchester. Tel. 09,251.

WANTED, by Ringling Trio, Acrobatic Comedy, on Stilts, &c., Original, Vac. Sept. 7, 14. Wire or write, 8, Chaucer-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Leoville, Tight Wire and Æolea Trapeze. Big Success Everywhere. Monday next, Crystal Palace. Liberty Sept. 7 and 14.

WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, by The Peps, Modern Comedy Gymnasts. Just the best. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Walker's Would-be Acrobats, Globella, Juggling Speciality, now Vacant. Wire offers, 9, Woodford-road, Watford.

WANTED, Aug. 31, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. 17, Marble Hall-road, Llanelly.

WANTED, Known, Florence Raymond, Leading Lady Ventriloquist, introducing the Crying Baby, Vac. Oct. 5, onwards, with exceptions. Albert Hall, Derby; next, Westminster, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Bessie Travis, Queen of Ventriloquists, Aug. 31, Sept. 7 and 14.
Coms., 174, Ecclesall-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist.
Wire, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, by the
Original Marvellous Pardoes,
and Miss Lottie Holland,
in their Great Comic Act,
"UNCLE AND THE CANNIBAL,"
Free for Engagement, Certainty or Shares,
with or without own company,
Sept. 7 and 14, '08.
Come and See for Yourselves
this Really Refined, Funny, and Talented Act.
New Hippodrome, Bolton.

WANTED, Aug. 31, Sept. 7, on, "The Parson's Dilemma," Farcical Comedy Sketch, four Artists. Wire or write, Cecil Renton, 34, Villa-place, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, for the enormously successful Musical Absurdity, "The Gay Deceivers," Sept. 23, Oct. 5. Frank Stanmore, 4, Duke-st., Adelphi.

WANTED, Monday, also Sept. 7, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Boxing Act before the Public. Starring, Palace, Battersea, London. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Happy Knacks Concert Varieties, enormous success Grand Pier, Weston-super-Mare, have four weeks vacant dates, Halls, Piers, Pavilions. Wire, Berti, Grand Pier, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, Known, Stevenette's Pierrots, Refined Humorists, Vocalists, and Instrumentalists; four to seven performers available; Garden Parties, Bazaars, Fêtes, &c. 5, Spring-gardens, Wilcox-road, South Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, Known, The Three Rohrs,
The Three Rohrs,
Looping the Loop in the Revolving Globe.
Looping the Loop in the Revolving Globe.
Vacant only Sept. 14 and 21.
Empire, Barnsley, packed out daily.
All coms. to Chas. Rohr, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, Known, Johnson and Devere, Comedy and Sensational Cycle Act, Originators of Another Success, Clog-Dancing on the Bicycle. Vacant Aug. 31, Sept. 7. Wire, Palace, Reading.

WANTED, Monday next, also Sept. 7, Swift Duo, Humorous Cyclists. Wire, Pavilion T., Liverpool; after Sat., 40, Sidney-st., All Saints, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, W. Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist, going strong, T. H., Merthyr; next, P., Northampton. Vac. Sept. 7 and 14.

WANTED, Sept., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the biggest Novelty ever introduced with Troupe of Dogs. Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, by Light Comedian, London Concert Engagements, refined songs, Club Secretaries and Promoters write. Arthur Rayment, 54, Mercers-road, N.

WANTED, Known, Knockabout Comedian would join First-class Troupe or Sketch; can open at once. Address, S. L., 5, Ely-terrace, Mile End-road, E.

WANTED, Berth, with Troupe, or Juggler; can do Ball Bouncing, Baton Spinning, Little Tumbling. H., 49, Green-lanes, Stoke Newington.

WANTED, Known, good Boxer and Wrestler wishes to join Company in any capacity; home or abroad; strong and good appearance. H., 95, Cornwall-road, Tottenham.

WANTED, Known, Young Man who can Tumble and work Comedy, would join Comedy Act, Sketch, or other; good worker, and been with well-known people. Address, Acrobat, Care 3, Upper Baker-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, can Tumble, wishes to join Comedy Act or other.
Address, Harry Deans, 10, Herbertson-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private Carl Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also Punch and Judy, with Toby. 264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD.

Important Meeting to consider united action against the Movable Dwellings Bill. All members of the Committee within easy access of Oldham are asked to attend Meeting at the Market Hotel, Oldham, at 6 p.m., Wednesday next, Sept. 2. The Rev. T. Horne will explain what has been done.
T. Hurst, Hon. Sec.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, Very Important, that the next Meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union will be held at the Market Hotel, Oldham, on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at 2.30 p.m. Business important.—Signed, T. Hurst, Secretary. On conclusion of above business a Special Committee Meeting will be held, a twhich the Rev. T. Horne, Guild Chaplain, will explain what action he has taken up to now re Movable Dwellings Bill, and also to consider Parliamentary Defence.—Signed, T. Hurst, Hon. Sec.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 350 miniatures to select from.
Minerva Automatic Co.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c, and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. Leete and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Wanted, Showmen,
Retailers, and Canvassers,
to apply for my Monthly List of Job Lines
in Films and Showmen's Sundries.
Sent post free for 9d., English stamps.
S. Kohn,
8, Obermainanlage, Frankfort-on-Main, Germany.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROTHERS, AND CO.
Sole Makers of the only Patent Cake Walk Riding Machine in the World.
Royal Letters Patent, No. 17,402, July 30, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 25,150, Nov. 13, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 2,649, Feb. 6, 1908.
REGISTERED TRADE MARK, "CAKE WALK."

WANTED, Known, users as well as makers who infringe will be proceeded against. In the Chancery Court, July 3, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady granted an injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402, 1907.

This machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for simplicity, lightness, and durability. Appreciated by the Public everywhere. Write, or call on the Sole Makers, Farncombe-street, and 94 and 98, Bermondsey-wall, Bermondsey, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, to Sell, Latest and Best Money-getter, The Hindu Spirit Writer and Fortune Teller. Price £6. Advance, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

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WANTED, for the Pastimes Annex to above, Side Shows, Games, Automatic Machines, Shooting Jungle, Novelty Stalls, &c., &c.
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WANTED, Immediately, Coloured Men, Women, and Children, together or separately; also Male and Female Midgets, and other Novelties, for Shuttered Booth; long and comfortable engagement. Wire, Showman, 43, Franklin-st., Brighton, Sussex.

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Apply, 5, Lime-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, a Man to take the full Management of my Circus for Fair and Private business. Mr. E. Hodges, sen., 61, Cooksey-road, Small Heath, Birmingham.

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Sept. 11,
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All applications for these Wakes
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TALBOT or HENDERSON.

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WANTED, Tom Hall to send address to
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Entries invited.
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EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Louie Freear and Co. in "Snooks," Brothers Huxter, Ernie Mayne, Celia Galley, Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies, Bioscope, Lola Patey, Conan and Doyle, Maud Laverne, Tom Foy and Co.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
La Milo and Cruikshank, Grace Merton, Alice Maydue, Proveanies, Griffiths Bros., O'Brien Bros., Eadie and Ramsden, Monie Mine, Bioscope, Will H. Fox.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"The Brigands of Tarragona," Kitty Clinton, Molasso Quartette, Harry Grey, Syd May, Warsaw Bros., Olive Armadale, Bioscope, Tom Edwards, Arthur Lennard.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Walter Passmore and Co., La Danseuse, The Clarkes, Hayes and Wynne, Theo Boumeester, Boyd and Gilfain, Frank Couch, Lyric Quartette, Bioscope, George Formby.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Laurence Irving, Mabel Hackney and Co., Hartley Wonders, George Rae, Ross and Lewis, Tom Woottwell, Cruikshank, Herr Rousby, Maggie Walsh, Maud Vera, Bioscope, Bros. Egbert.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Horace Goldin, Ben Albert, Eight Lancashire Lads, Carney and Armstrong, Duncan and Godfrey, Leo Tell, The Haytors, Madge Osmond, Bioscope, Henry Coutts and Co.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
R. A. Roberts, Sisters Pine, Cumberlands, Thorpe and Coe, Tom Parker, Jackley Trio, The Leonards, Bioscope, Ella Shields.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Whit Cunliffe, Mena Brae, Harry May Hemsley, Ethel Whiteside and Picks, Mabel Bardine and Co., The Maples, Ray Maskell, Andy Burns, Bioscope, Gittins's Opera Company.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
The Boissets in "The Bricklayers," La Belle Nello, Violet Ray, Edie King, Drew and Alders, Carina Sisters, Chas. Stevens, Bioscope, Truly Shattuck, Chas. R. Whittle.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.
Until Further Notice.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
B. Maddison, Hetty Hocking, Gwilym Naish, Rose Stuart, Bert Williams, Bioscope.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Fred Lindsay, Crown Trio, Fred Lincoln, Verno and Voyce Herbert Shelley, Bros. Redmond, Marion Scott, Bioscope, Charlene and Charlene.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
George Robey, Ethel Hayden, Mitchell and Cain, Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Kent and Keith, Russell Brandow, Kisbey, Adey Spencer, Bioscope, "The Bosun's Mate."

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Reano's Band, Northern Troupe, Nell Emerald, The Kirbys, May Mars, Nellie Coleman, Herald Comedy Four, Cecilia Maude, Bioscope, Poluski Bros.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Mark Sheridan, Barlee and Smith, Ruth Lytton, Little Zola, Ludwig Amann, Ed. E. Ford, Lena Verdi, Aida Martine, Bioscope, Alexandre and Hughes.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
George Gray and Co. in "The Fighting Parson," McCann's Irish Terriers, Pete and Minnie Lee, Fred Keeton, Olgar and Elgar, The Lumars, Three Cape Girls, Johnny Walker, Bioscope, Lil Hawthorne.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Mike S. Whallen, Eily Adair, Harry Drew, Clark's Nippers, Orpheus, McConnell Trio, Frances McNulty, Pictures, Daunton-Shaw Troupe.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Hymack, Will Poluski, jun., Vanando, Lee and Bentley, Ian Colquhoun, Bros. Weltman, Pictures, Imperial Russian Troupe.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
G. H. Elliott, Camille Feo, The Howards, Lady Mansel's Juveniles, Pat Rafferty, Mirsky, Pictures, Brown and Leclerq Co.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
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EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Tea Shop," Flo Esdaile, Will Johnson, Gertie Gitana, J. W. Rowley, De Wynne Bros., Daisy Martell, Bioscope, Laurie and Beatty.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Gustave Fasola, Four Jumels, Sados, Victor Travers, Harold Thorley, Tom Lloyd, Bioscope, Phil and Nettie Peters.

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Company as booked.

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Written, composed, and sung by Harry Lauder.

"LET ME BUT HOPE."
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Sung by Miss Ethel Hayden.

"IN THE TWI-TWI-TWILIGHT" (Wilmott and Darewski), "YOU'RE PROUD TO BE A SOLDIER" (Nairn and Mathews), "DEAR MR. ADMIRAL" (F. W. Leigh), and "HANG OUT THE FRONT-DOOR KEY" (B. H. Burt).
Sung with enormous success by George Lashwood.

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(Written and composed by Leslie Stiles).
Sung by Miss Millie Lindon.

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Sung by Wilkie Bard.

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Sung by Bernard Russell.

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Sung by Miss May Mars.

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(Pelham and Rule),
Sung by Miss Gladys Mavius.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski).
Sung by Miss Carlotta Levey and Miss Florrie Forde.

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"I WANT TO GO TO IDAHO"
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Tom Hearn, Three Alskarnos, Sisters Silcott, Lily Eyton, Mlle. Bartenelli, Wake and Dean, Margit and Lener, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Harry Milton.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.

The Piccolinos, Sisters Cora, Lawrence Barclay, Renée Grahame, Chas. Banks and Dog, Chris Richards, Gibbon and Bell, Shaun Glenville and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.

Florrie Gallimore, Ellis and Watts, Harry Cotton, Carr and Rose, Jack Lane, Belle Brahame, Cestria, Kremka Bros., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.

Howard and St. Clair, Jimmy Laurie, Gold and Sterling, Georgina Middleton, Five Bombays, Baker and Balfe, Three Gregsons, Keith and Merson, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.

"The Grip of Iron," Hanid Alexander, Smythsons, Kelly and Ashby, W. G. Wesley, The Lannons, Harry Weldon, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.

Pictures, Norah Stockelle, Scottie's Waifs, Whizzing the Whirl, Chas. F. Best, Ethel Scheffer, Four Cecellas, Lack and Ford Trio, La Belle Mail.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.

"No Wedding Bells for Her."

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"A False Wife."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.

"Women and Wine."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.

Picture Entertainment.

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PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.

The Vyponds, Billie Burford, Jock Walker, Sisters Edwardes, Estrella, The Forsyths, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, &c.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal 1 o'clock.

Carlton, Lew Towers, Taree, Kelly and Agnes, Mysterious Cross, Jessie Burnett, Gravetta and Parr, Pipifax and Panlo, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.

The Selbinis Troupe, Edwardes and Dacre, Violet Nunn, Harry Luck, Thornbury, Tossing Austins, George James, Annie Schuberth, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.

Radford and Valentine, Marie Jones, Mabelle May, The Simms, Sisters Brenton, Dave Samuels, Alfonzo, Abdullah and La Superbe, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.

Matinée Monday.

Tally Ho! Trio, Lily Arthur, The Miltons, Harry Simms, Millicent Frères, Fyne and Hurley, Halmo, Helen Martin, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.

Matinée every Monday.

The Bensons, Harry Zetter, Raymond, Allsop and Beckwith, Les Belles Américaines, Florence Inman, Akbar, Bella Leaburn, Bernard Mervyn and Co., Harry Bent, Lottie Lunn, Wm. Doland and Co., "Under Red Cross."

FORESTERS'.

Matinées Monday and Thursday.

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SADLER'S WELLS.

Matinée every Monday.

Raymond, Takio, Della Sisters, Stuart and Evans, Cissy Esdaile, Flo Burnett, Fred Maxwell's Heathen and Christian, Chas. Verner, Permane's, Bears, Three Sisters Jonghmanns.

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Rehearsal, Monday 12 o'clock.

Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.

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Code Word, "ESSAYAGE."

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Code Word "EMPIRE."

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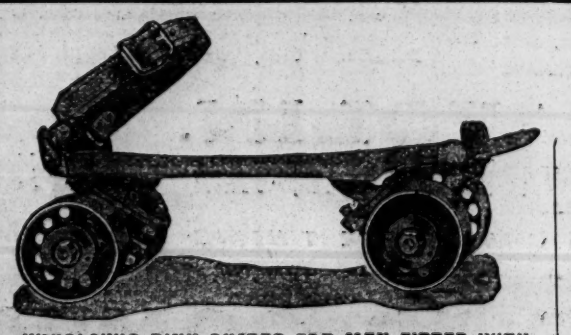

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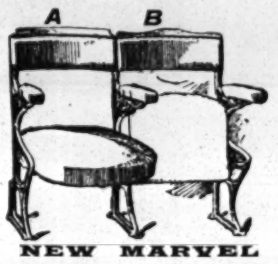

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Proprietors, The Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. Travis Green and Mr. Arthur Hinton's company is here in *East Lynne*. Mr. Fred G. Kay is effective as the suave and sinister Francis Leveson; Miss Lydia Audre adorns the part of Lady Isabel, acting with grace and emotion; Mr. D. Beattie as Archibald Carlyle is convincing; and the domineering nature of Cornelia is well indicated by Miss Laura Wright. Mr. Rupert Larry makes a dignified Justice Hare; Richard Hare and Mr. Dill are ably played by Messrs. V. G. Millard and W. Bailey; Miss Marie Lofting is a captivating Barbara Hare; Joyce is an excellent impersonation by Miss Lottie Upton; Mr. Frank Brunell as Chopps is an amiable policeman; Mr. P. Blake is seen to advantage as Lord Mount Severn; and Little Willie is excellently played by Miss Elsie Melrose.

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Girls of Gottenberg* proves immensely popular this week. Mr. Edmund Payne plays with his customary brilliance in the part of Max; and Happy Fanny Fields delights the audiences with her representation of Mitzi. Among the other artists who appear with conspicuous success are Miss Thelma Raye (Elsa), Miss Maisie Cay (Clementine), Mr. Leslie Holland (Otto), Mr. Fred Allandale (Albrecht), Mr. Fred Payne (Britti Botti), Mr. Douglas Munro (the Burgomaster), Mr. Louis Denver (Adolf, the Town-Clerk), and Mr. Jocelyn Hope (General, the Margrave). The piece is played with remarkable verve, and is delightfully staged.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The delightful spectacular extravaganza, *High Jinks*, is cleverly presented by Mr. John Tiller's company and proves to be one of the most laughable sketches seen here. Mr. Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, is as popular as ever Mr. Will Harvey and Miss Hettie Walsh, duo artists, give a very clever turn; and Mr. Webb and Miss Edna Branston appear with the utmost success as operatic duettists.

Beach Pavilion.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—All the turns here this week are of superior merit. Miss Topsy Johnson, contralto, is enthusiastically received; the two "Real Mackeys" appear in new dances, which they execute with much grace and skill; Vulcaris contributes some clever eccentricities on the piano; and some fine cinematograms are shown by the Safety Bioscope Company.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—A turn of some duration is given this week by those talented artists, Mr Jack Millar, Miss Stella Ormonde, and Mr. Willie Mac, who are successful alike as instrumentalists, vocalists, and comedians. Mr. Dove Paterson's cinematograms are as interesting as ever. Saturday matinées at a reduced figure are being given during the autumn and winter season. The first, which was very largely attended, took place on Saturday.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborne. — The popular drama, *Wedded to Crime*, which is excellently staged by Mr. Ernest Chesney's company, commanded a good house at the opening performance this week. Perdinand Crayle is admirably portrayed by Mr. Ernest Chesney; Mr. Edward Paull is clever as Harry Goodluck; Miss Maud Arnold as Kate Goodluck is responsible for a brilliant character impersonation; Harold Harper, by Mr. Terene Nerrey is performed with entire satisfaction; while Miss Florence Halton as Lizzie Medwin adds strength to the performance. Mr. Vivian Thomas is a capital Johnny Dyce Morris; and Miss Bessie Chetwyn was very effective as Linda, a blind girl. Comedy is provided in a pleasing fashion by Mr. Harry Edlin, who as Tommy Jinks is very successful.

The Pavilion.—Miss Emmie Ames is the bright particular star here this week, and creates endless amusement in her latest success, *Emmie's Christmas Tree;* the Seven Perezoffs give a neat and clever turn in their comical pantomime novelty, *An Animated Supper, Maxim's;* Harry Desmond is a quaint comedian, and takes well in his quietly humorous songs; Harry Bancroft uses his voice to advantage as an actor vocalist; Speedwell, lightning painter, is highly cheered for his paintings of well-known personalities; Miss Maidie Hailie is a good comedienne; the Five Jolly Bakers give a smart acrobatic turn; and a series of entertaining pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Walter Melville's company occupies the stage here with *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*. Mr. Fred Goddard impressively portrays the character of Jack Marshall; Mr. Paul Barry Lewers acts admirably as Leonard Kenyon; Mr. Herbert Goddard gives a clever reading of Henry Stevenson; and Mr. Norman B. Cannon is seen to advantage as William. Mr. Francis Hope is responsible for laughter as Tommy Biffin, and is ably assisted by Miss Alys Eden as Lottie Primrose. Miss Louise Hampton wins the sympathy of the house as Bertha Marshall; Miss Georgie De Lara is an excellent Val Raymond; and Miss Lulu Bowes a graceful and winsome Winifred.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—Notwithstanding a necessary curtailment to fit the two-houses order of things and previous visits, *Sergeant Brue* is drawing crowded houses at every performance. Mr. Harry Benet's company certainly deserves praise for the smart performance. Mr. Denis Lyndon's fine impersonation of the ubiquitous sergeant is one of the successes of the "show"; and Crooky Scrubbs is to the manner born as played by Mr. Harry Benet, whose fund of natural humour is found everywhere; Mr. Lister Morrah is capital as Michael; Miss Stella Millar's is a chic portrayal of Daisy; and Miss Ray Anderson, both in personal charm and neat acting, is highly successful. Miss Daisie Dale is good as Aurora. Many others help materially to the success; and the orchestra, under Mr. Wolfe, renders the music with effect.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE. — Theatre Royal. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*Two Little Vagabonds* is being reproduced here this week by Hardie and Von Leer's company. Miss Denise Zaleski and Miss Alice Leon are the two little waifs, and as Dick and Wally play with delightful naturalness, winning abundance of sympathy; Miss Marie Pritchard as Biddy Mullins acts with undoubted skill and realism; and her partner, Bill Mullins, "the gaffer," finds in Mr. Martin Sands a suitably brutal blusterer. Miss Florence Dalton does justice to the part of Marion Thornton, the wronged wife and mother; Mr. Richard A. Greene impersonates Geo. Thornton with ability; and the same commendation can be bestowed on Mr. A. E. Melbourne as Captain Darville and Mr. J. Brandon as John Sarth. Notable humorists are Bunce and Coughdrop, by Messrs. Field and Archer; and Mr. B. Dubosc is a skilful combination of stupidity, deafness, and imbecility as the sexton, Gargoyle. Miss Marion Fawcett, Miss Ida Drayton, and Miss Dorothy Hart are capable interpreters of minor characters.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—Heading the bill here for the week is Fanny Robina, a charming serio-comic; Kingstone Trollope gives a striking dramatic monologue in *Only a Dream;* Richard Finbey is good in character studies from popular plays; Rowland Hill is droll as "Ye Dame"; Miss Rose Atherton's unique comedy sketch, *Murphy's Affinity*, is most effective; Florence Cooper is a favourite in song and dance; Randolph King is an effective comic singing turn; and Billy Bint is an equally good fun-maker. D'Artigan, who "loops the devil's wheel," does a daring and clever piece of business; the Bioscope illustrates The Baron's Crime.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—The pictures presented here this week are drawing crowded houses. The series include The Perjurer, Her First Adventure, The New Maid, Weird Symphony, Crazy Jim, Phantom Games, Jack in the Letter-Box, and An Old Actor. The services of Mr. Glanmore Jones are still retained as vocalist.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—A bright and attractive programme submitted here this week is meeting with good support. Mr. Harry Roxbury's company, under the direction of Mr. Edward M. Heanley, present a sensational dramatic playlet, entitled *What Women Do;* a hearty reception was accorded to Segt. Mumford, the "Soldier in the Air," in an artistic performance on the wire; Mr. Whimsical Walker is once more delighting all with *Captain Hamilton, V.C.*, a pleasing sketch in which humour and pathos are nicely blended; a turn full of dash and versatility is that of the Milsted Bell Trio, in a comedietta, *Three Sharps in a Flat;* the Lovelaces (lady and gentleman), American song illustrators, are excellent; Miss Ray Ford, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Archie Pitt, quaint comedian; and Mr. Clayton's Attergraph pictures, illustrating An Escape from a Harem, prove highly interesting.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—This week the theatre is occupied by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company in *The Female Swindler*. The Lu Valroy of Miss Violet Ellicott is an admirable piece of acting; Mr. Joseph Millane as Jack Coulson is most effective; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe as Captain Stanton makes a good impression; Mr. Kenyon, as the retired merchant, is excellent; Miss Mabel Rose as May Andrews and Mr. Guy Ellis as Harold Travers are both delightful; and the humour of Billy Binks and Mary Ann Mee is highly appreciated.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company are here this week with *The Worst Woman in London*. Miss Sidney Crowe in the title-rôle has much of the burden of the play resting on her, but she comes through the ordeal excellently, playing with convincing earnestness. Miss Dorothy Haigh as Ruth Milford invests the part with a nice unassuming style; Miss P. Marsh as Matilda contributes much of the humour by her performance of the matrimonially-inclined lady; as Jane Nogood, Miss Mysie Monte is responsible for some broad humour; Mr. Herbert Skardon as Jack Felton deserves commendation for an earnest reading; Mr. George Gaisford as Vincent Lyle plays with the necessary callous air; Mr. F. V. Travers as Mr. Milford is successful; Mr. Willie Scott as Bob Goldfinch is responsible for much laughter; and Mr. H. Wa Monte as Hugh Drayton submits a character study of merit. As Philip Armstrong, Mr. Frank Litchfield gives a fine performance; Mr. Walter Tracey is good as the detective; and Mr. Fred Smith as Jerry (a sweep) makes the most of a small part.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Bridge Trust; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's talented company presented *The Dairymaids* to crowded audiences on Monday and Tuesday. As Peggy Miss Isa Bowman's acting was universally approved, and her vocal efforts were most pleasing; Lady Brudenell was charmingly undertaken by Miss Dorothy Belmore; Miss Kitty Kirwan is an old favourite here, and her impersonation of the severe Miss Pyechase proved an immense hit; Miss Maud Lucy, too, contributed in no small degree to the general success; Miss Mora Hersee and Miss Connie Beaugarde made a pair of delightfully coquettish dairymaids; Mr. Edwin Dodds is a host in himself, and proved a great success as Joe Mivens, his peculiar mannerisms and clever dancing securing unstinted applause; Mr. Sam Lysons excelled in the rôle of Sam Brudenell; and Mr. Frank Barclay as Dr. O'Byrne and Mr. Frank Manger as Lieut. Meredith, added to the excellent effect of the performances.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Lawrence Brough's company is here, playing *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr. William Spray cleverly portrays unlucky Dick Whortles; and Mr. Robert Boulder is a jovial Joseph Carbury. Mr. Lawrence Brough is quite unique as Le Baron de Longueville; and Miss Barbara Glyn is an artistic Dorothy Whortles. Mr. Wm. Macready gives a capital characterisation of Toby Knockitt; and Miss Kitty Develin is a vivacious heroine in the title-rôle; while Miss Alice Leigh makes a graceful Millie Grace. *Saucy Sally* is also billed.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Hamilton Baine's company, in *His Lordship's Arrival*, is here. Mr. J. Mansell Stringer as Lord Francis Hurstbury is very good; and Mr. J. Heribert Willis plays the Hon. Algernon Fitzderry in a humorous manner. Billy in the hands of Mr. Johnnie Schofield, jun., and James in those of Mr. Chas. Theel are very amusing. Miss May Yates is an excellent Estelle; and Miss Gladys Harvey a capital Countess de St. Tyres. Miss Esther Arden as Lady Hursebury, and Miss May Lind as Vivienne are both successful.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Charles Parker's Six Æolians occupy the premier position here this week. They are very fine singers, and their dancing is smart. The Brothers Babusio perform some really marvellous feats; J. H. Ellis delights the house with his laughable songs; Minnie Mace, comedienne, is a most attractive dancer; Oakdene, ventriloquist, is quaint and humorous; Zeta Russell is a very pleasing singer. Some excellent pictures are exhibited by Vernon's Bioscope.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—A monster programme of Pictures, of a very excellent character, is being shown here this week to capital houses. Miss Lillie Hales, comedienne and dancer, adds considerably to the pleasure of the audience.

BARRY DOCK.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—*The Conscience of a Judge* has been presented here by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company. In the chief rôle Mr. Kenyon Musgrave was excellent, as was also Miss Nellie Howitt in the part of Jessica Draycott; Mr. Sam Courtney capably portrayed Sir Edward Mervin; Mr. Walter Clarke did well as Geof. Cranstone; and Mr. Reginald Maurice made a clever detective. Humour was excellently supplied by Mr. Frank Ayrton as John Summers; and other characters were admirably sustained by Messrs. F. W. Graham and Ford Edwards and Misses Mona Dawlish, Mabel Coleman, Madge Seymour, and Elsie Isaacs. The scenery and other effects were effective.

BATH.—Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The management have put on an excellent bill for the Show week, including the Motramos, who are clever and highly entertaining; Billy French, the wooden shoe dancer, meets with a rousing reception; Harry Nelson is a comedienne who provokes mirth; Cullen and Carthy, assisted by Little Cluley, creates the utmost hilarity; Alpho, with his puppet, "the Farmer Boy," gives a capital ventriloquial interlude; Dolly and Elsie are captivating singers and dancers; as are also Beaty and Blanche in their duets and dances. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are a great attraction.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—For the Horse Show week a revival of *Hands Across the Sea* is the attraction. Mr. Cecil A. Collins, whose company it is, apears as Jack Dudley, a character that fits him well; as Lilian Melford Miss Beatrice Whitney is excellent; the Stillwoods, father and son, are capably presented by Mr. Guy Smethurst and Mr. G. Clifton Boyne; Tom Bassett has a popular representative in Mr. Patrick W. Fitzgerald; Mr. Clive Currie gives a graphic character sketch of Jean de Lussac; Mr. Frank Woodville enacts Dick Melford upon sound and popular lines; Miss Lilla Nordon makes an acceptable Lucy Nettleford; Miss Marjorie Davenporte portrays Mme. Valerie with the necessary colouring; and Polly is amusingly played by Miss Kirston Graeme.

BATLEY.—Theatre.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—The attraction here this week is *Driven from Home*, presented by Mr. Andrew Melville's company.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*The Convict's Daughter*, a powerful domestic drama, from the pen of Gordon Holmes, was produced on Monday night for the first time in Bedford, the company being that of Mr. Frank Bertram, who himself gives a remarkable impersonation of Michael Grahame, otherwise Convict 89, or Weary Willie, a part he has played over two thousand times. Mr. Escott Robson's impersonation of the villain Jasper Thorne is very clever, and he is soundly hissed. Mr. H. Loye-Staples has a presence worthy of the character he represents—Inspector Harper; and Mr. Walter Graham is all that can be desired as Harold Trevalyan. Miss Lillian Dean gives an excellent rendering of the part of the convict's daughter; and Mr. Willie Black as P.C. Patrick O'Laragan and Miss Amy Randolph as Betty Hyne, a maid-servant, are responsible for much hilarity. The piece was well received by a good house on Monday.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. George Edwardes's company opened here on Monday with *The Merry Widow*, before a packed audience. The rôle of Sonia, the merry widow, was played with a rare spirit of gaiety by Miss Constance Drever, whose charm and grace immediately won all hearts; her vocalism and dancing, too, gained immense favour. The rôle of the diplomat, Baron Popoff, was inimitably portrayed by Mr. Eric Thorne, the audience being kept in fits of merriment; and Mr. W. H. Rawlins was responsible for the rôle of Nisch, which he invested with quaint drollery. Natalie was played by Miss Ethel Cadman, whose singing won much praise; and the rôle of Vicomte Camille de Jolidon was effectively portrayed by Mr. W. Talleur Andrews, his singing being also a treat. The part of Prince Danilo was in the excellent hands of Mr. Leonard Mackay, whose songs afforded much pleasure; and Mr. Theodore Leonard was genuinely funny as General Novakovitch. The rôle of Olga was captivatingly sustained by Miss Sylvia May; and other parts were cleverly interpreted by Miss Kathleen Courtney, and Messrs. Somers Bellamy, Norman Greene, Robert Whitehouse, &c. The staging of the piece was most elaborate, and the augmented orchestra was under the skilful direction of Mr. A. McCunn.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The Japanese wrestler, Yukio Tani, tops the bill, and his exhibition has been accorded a good reception; Chanti, the marvellous quick-change artist, has been most successful; and the musical comedy act by the Six Albyns has afforded the utmost pleasure. Athas and Collins, the popular comedy duo, are always welcome; and Dale and O'Malley, comedians, are very funny. Walton and Lester, comedians, Miss Dot Hardy, comedienne, Little Tichborne, comedian and dancer, and the Palace Pictures complete.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Miss Helen Robberts heads the bill, and received a gratifying reception on Monday for her graceful dances, including those of Salome and Mendelssohn's "Spring Song"; Paul Vandy's juggling feats, smartly performed, have been accorded a terrific reception; and S. Bedford and company create roars of laughter with their farcical comedy, *The Second Mrs. Chester*. Miss Marguerite Broadfoote, the charming comedienne, has made a hit; and the La Faille Troupe appear in their amazing gymnastic and equilibristic performance. Miss Helen Charles is a clever pianist and vocalist; and Mr. Walter Buxton's baritone songs have been applauded to the echo. Also appearing are Mr. Phil Bransby, coster comedian; Captain Ellis and Son, expert musicians; and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Hymack is the star here, and his remarkable performance gains him a great reception; the Imperial Russian Troupe of vocalists and expert dancers have been deservedly encored; and Lee and Bentley appear to advantage in their capital sketch, *A Sure Thing*. Ian Colquhoun, the popular baritone, upholds his reputation, his vocalism being first class; and Mr. Will Poluski, jun., is a capable comedian and dancer. The Bros. Weltman are exceedingly smart whirlwind dancers and acrobats; and also here are Vanando, a ventriloquist with novel ideas; and the Bioscope, with film, The Rivals.

New Alhambra Theatre. — General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Under the direction of Mr. Cecil Wilson, the following films have been exhibited:—A Pretty Girl Farmer, Rival Cyclists, Uncle's Will, Colonel's Canary, Motor Highwayman, In Memory of His Mother, A Pressing Letter, &c. Also appearing are Farrell and Dunn, in their refined and clever comedy act; and Mr. Harry Hutin, a capable comedian.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—In order to suit modern requirements this hall has adopted the two-houses-a-night system with reduced prices. Under the direction of Mr. Hugh Beckett, a fine series of pictures has been exhibited, including Storm and Sunshine, The Countess's Wedding Day, Arctic Hunting, A Sensational Duel, Northern Venice, and In the Days of King Richard. Miss Mabel Robarts appears in her illustrated songs, which have given much pleasure; and Mr. Edward Mortimer also appears in his amusing interlude, *Charcoal and Comedy*.

BILSTON.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—Mr. H. Keates Hale's company, under the direction of Mr. Hamilton Baines, is here with the *Dark Deeds of the Night*. Doctor Caine is vividly portrayed by Mr. Frank Eaglefield; Miss Hilda Merriles succeeds in making Dora Bardsley a prominent and pleasing character; Mr. Lewis De Burgh is capable as Jack Brandon; and Mr. Alfred Terris scores as Joe Norton. Tim is well played by Mr. Albert Hayzen; and Miss Edith Bottomley is an amusing Pollie.

BIRKENHEAD. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Milton Bode's company is deservedly doing big business in *The Chinese Honeymoon*, a spirited and able performance of that interesting comedy meeting with an enthusiastic reception. Premier honours are secured by Miss Gwennie Harcourt for a clever and vivacious rendering of Fi-Fi, and by Mr. Will Harman, who, in the rôle of Mr. Pineapple, displays an amount of humour which is worthy of the highest commendation; Tom Hatherton is well impersonated by Mr. Harry Jennings; Miss Elsie Skillings is a bewitching Soo-Soo, singing her various numbers with skill; Miss Veronica Brady plays Mrs. Pineapple with admirable chic and success; and Miss Maud Adams is a capital Mrs. Brown. Mr. Rudolph Kloss scores heavily as the Emperor; Mr. P. Allerton Turner is a good Lord Chancellor; and High Lung is represented with much humour by Mr. Leonard May. Miss Ada Booth as Sing-Sing, Miss Kathleen Ronayne as Yen-Yen, and Miss Hilda Stewart as Mi-Mi, are efficient; and the four bridesmaids are well enacted by Miss Dorothy Radcliffe, Miss Phyllis Grosvenor, Miss Mary Gray, and Miss Cecilia Leslie.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties. — Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Miss Kate Carney, the popular comedienne, who has a large following in this town, is repeating her success; Jack and Evelyn, the clever vaudeville artists, are also on a welcome return visit; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, in their entertaining sketch *Settled Out of Court*, are renewing previous triumphs; and Mr. Arthur Reece, comedian, is again a leading attraction. A fine company also includes Mr. Ted Curtis and his piccaninnies, coon vocalists and dancers; Watson and Naylor, good knockabouts and patterers; Miss Ethel Thomas, a talented local soprano vocalist; Miss Amy Sullivan, comedienne; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

Olympian Gardens, Rock Ferry.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—The amusing little comedy *In Old Virginia* is renewing previous successes. The various characters are ably represented by Mr. Kit Keene (coon vocalist), Miss Lillian Page (soprano), Miss Odcyne Sparke (soubrette), Mr. H. Buckland (tenor), Mr. Bert Errol (female impersonator), Miss Joey Ellis (comedienne), Miss Nellie Sheffield (comedienne), Mr. Leonard (baritone), and Mr. W. Pringle (comedian). Mr. W. H. Eveleigh is musical director.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr Philip Rodway.—*The Duke's Motto*, produced here last Monday by Mr. Lewis Waller, is described in another column.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston. — *The Private Secretary*, with Mr. J. F. Graham, the estimable as well as esteemed manager here, in the rôle, is in high favour this week. As the unfortunate Spalding, Mr. Graham shows us a rare example of comic acting. His expression of pained surprise, his longing for "a Bath bun," and his anxiety over his "goods and chattels" is fine, and the house roars at him. The comedy is presented by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford, with Mr. W. Hargreaves in his always welcome character of the choleric and self-willed Cattermole; Mr. Frederick Tyrrell supplies a clever presentment of the tailor, Gibson; Mr. Frank Stanley acts firmly as Mr. Marsland, Mr. Andrew Wight being decidedly successful as his nephew, Harry; Mr. Lawrence Grove making a capital Douglas. Miss Edith M. Savery gives grace and humour to the character of Edith; and Mrs. Alfred Davis, Miss Cecily Wade, and Miss Dorothy Ripley are successful in the cast.

Alexandra Theatre. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*A Fight for Life*, by Miss Ada Frank's company, is keeping up the popularity of this prosperous theatre. Miss Ada Frank herself is seen with great pleasure and to excellent advantage in the comedy rôle, Suzanne, Mr. Geo. Scully doing very well in the companion rôle, Dan Murphy. Mr. Courtney Robinson enacts a wealthy nobleman, Count Adrian, with much skill; Mr. Clifton Earl is the hero, Jean Bardell, and is deserving of every praise; Mr. William Matthews does every credit to the villain's rôle, Carlos Cardell; Mr. Templar Ellis makes the part of the miser, Ferrand, stand out well; Miss Chrissie Bickerstaffe acts very pathetically as the blind girl, Marie; Miss Violet Lesborough gives a clever and strenuous portrayal of the "tigress," La Cardell; Miss Rose Woodhall as Adell, Mr. Frank Charles as Antonio, and Mr. Charles Higgins as Pierre completing the cast.

Metropole Theatre. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Diver's Luck*, Mr. Andrew Melville's revival, is reported in another column.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Tramp* and other plays are being presented here by Mr. Coleman Davies and his company. In *The Tramp*, on Monday, Mr. Hugh Macdonald was much liked as the hero, Jack Elsworth; Mr. Terry Davies counterfeited the villain, Harry Travers, very successfully; Miss Gladys Vane proved very acceptable as Nana Leigh; Miss Eunice Udall was capable as Rosie Rapid; and Mr. Coleman Davies, in the titular rôle, Jerry Weston, made himself a great favourite. On Wednesday and Thursday *Beneath the Stars* was played, while last night *Sherlock Holmes* was the attraction.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*A Soldier of France* has met with a popular reception here, with Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company. Miss Florence Zillwood has an onerous part as Pauline Lorraine, but she comes out of it full of honours; Mr. Leonard Aardale acts in an exceedingly fine spirit as Corporal Jean; Mr. Albert Guyon shows a capital grasp of character as Judas Delara; Mr. Edward Hobart doubles the rôles of Captain Louis Lorraine and Lieut. Louis in a perfectly capable manner; Miss Dora Weber shows to advantage as Rita; Miss Gertie Renaud shows good signs as Master Louis; and the comedy scenes are well looked after by Mr. Freddy Edwards as Pollyput Jollyboy and Miss Jennie Clare as Margot.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* is the latest attraction here, with Mr. Walter Melville's company. Miss Jessie Belmore invests the character of the erring girl, Sophie Coventry, with a pathos that makes her errors very forgivable; Miss Zoe Davis in the other rôle, Lucy, is very successful; Miss Nannie Meade gives the character of Vesta Le Clere an alluring charm; Mr. Sidney Sarl acts up carefully to the character of the man with a past, Bill Slater; Mr. Frank R. Robertson is a popular character as Jack Fenton; Mr. F. Ronald Adair imparts an air of constancy and integrity to the rôle of the tar, Willie Mason, which is very pleasing; Miss Marie Kildare acts with sparkling verve as Poppy Slater; and others very good are Mr. Fred Ingram, Mr. Frank Denis, Mr. Raymond Wood, and Mr. F. Barnard.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—This tremendous theatre was packed at both houses on Monday, the big attraction being Harry Lauder, who was enthusiastically received; Iben Obed is one of the smartest Arabian equilibrists we have seen; Reichen presents his trained dogs; and C. H. Johnson, coloured comedian; Venie Clements, comedienne; Marguerite Arnold, vocalist; Will Cornish, and Tennyson and Wallis complete the programme.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The Jackson Family, in their refined musical entertainment, were loudly applauded; *Paul Kauver*, a dramatic episode of the French Revolution, was presented by Arnold Bell and Frances Campbell's company; Sandford and Lyons were loudly applauded for their dancing; Wood, Wells, and Wilkins have a sketch, *What About My Change?* the Sisters Grovini and Rhoda Paul win loud applause; and the Chronomegaphone gives selections by Geo. Robey and Victoria Monks. Gus Garrick and the Brothers Diamond were also in the bill.

Hippodrome.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Walter C. Kelly, who is styled "America's greatest raconteur," is the star turn here; the Brothers Ashley have a smart boxing sketch, *Next; Please;* J. C. Piddock and company present a musical fantasy, *The Capture of Venus*, which is elaborately staged; Maud and Gill are well applauded for their turn.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, Birmingham Gaiety Theatre Co., Ltd.—Harry Champion is always an attraction, his popular songs being loudly encored; Bins and Bins, "the vagabonds," have a humorous musical sketch, which is appreciated; Bert Wickham performs feats with motor-cars; Carl Lynn is an exceedingly clever animal mimic; and Morny Cash and Cassie Walmer are prominent turns.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Bert Coote's company, under the direction of Mr. Percy Williams, opened here to a crowded house in *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. Cecil A. Melton as Howard Wilson was capable; Mr. Frank Harrison as Robert Curtis gave a good account of himself; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh's rendition of Cora Williams, an adventuress, was very clever; Mabel Wilson was effectively played by Miss Ethel Kay. Toto (Mr. Charles Locke), Bridget (Miss Ethel Sarjient), and O'Relley (Mr. Frank Ashley) made the audience scream with laughter. Miss Lulu Wohlmann represented Jessie ("the Little Mother") in delightful style. The children's scene in Act 3 is worthy of commendation. The play is well staged.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Fred Terry and Co. are paying their annual visit here this week, and meeting with their usual warm greeting. *The Scarlet Pimpernel* drew a big house on Monday, when Mr. Terry repeated his masterly impersonation of Sir Percy Blakeney, and Mr. Horace Hodges played with his well-known cleverness the part of Chauvelin. Mr. A. G. Anson made an admirable Prince of Wales, and Mr. Malcolm Cherry's delineation of Lord Anthony Dewhurst was also a good piece of work. Mr. Alfred Kendrick as Sir Andrew Ffoulkes, and Mr. D. J. Williams as Jellyband were also good. Miss Miriam Lewes, who on this occasion essayed the rôle of Lady Blakeney, amply justified her fitness for the part. Other characters were also in experienced hands. *Matt of Merrymount* was played on Tuesday, with Mr. Terry in the title-rôle and Miss Miriam Lewes as Diantha Frothingham. Both plays have been repeated during the week.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. George Alexander is always sure of a cordial welcome in Blackpool, and the engagement of himself and his excellent company here this week in *The Thief* has been eagerly anticipated. As Richard Chelford Mr. Alexander has a part to which he is admirably fitted, his acting in the bedroom scene being exceptionally fine. Equally good is Miss Irene Vanbrugh's assumption of Marie Chelford. Mr. Dawson Milward plays Raymond Leyton with perfect naturalness, and Harry Leyton has a capable exponent in Mr. Reginald Owen. Miss Nina Sevening as Isabel Leyton and Mr. G. Vivian Reynolds as Mr. Protheroe also play their parts with credit and distinction. *The Nursery Governess*, with Miss Jean Sterling MacKinlay in the title-rôle, is a pleasing curtain-raiser.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Walker.—Vesta Tilley is retained here to top the bill; second week, and her efforts meet with thunders of applause at every performance; Lillie Langtry, one of the most vivacious of comediennes, is also re-engaged because of her success last week; and for the same reason Howard and Harris still figure in the programme. Fred Russell, the ventriloquial humourist, contributes an excellent turn, and Jamie Piper justifies his title as the youthful instrument marvel. Rex Fox, in a musical act on the wire, La Martine, a clever dancer and vocalist, the Westbrooks, in a dancing scena, and Mlle. Marjutti, contortionist, are also well received.

Hippodrome. — Manageress, Mrs. Fioni.—Mlle. Rita James, vocalist, Spry and Monti, comedians, and the St. Johns, instrumentalists and dancers, together with the International Pictures, complete the programme here this week.

Winter Gardens Pavilion.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The spectacular ballet extravaganza, entitled *The Belle of Andalusia*, is still being produced here twice daily. Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, the great illusionists, are the principal artists in the variety entertainment this week.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company has met with a hearty reception here with the drama entitled *The Great White Chief*. Mr. Mansell Fane, in the name-rôle, plays well in a conspicuous part; and the acting of Mr. Lingford Carson as Reindeer, the dumb chief, elicits loud applause. Miss Pollie Denville as Latika, afterwards known as Nell Ellingham, wins much favour; and the other parts are in capable hands.

Gaiety.—Lessee, Mr. Wm. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—At the top of a capital bill of fare are the Four Louberts in a clever sketch entitled *Uninvited*. Warren Doyle and C. Fenwick render an interesting turn; A. Wass proves a charming comedienne; Chester and Lee's marionettes are heartily received; the Godfreys, in their diverting sketch, *The Slave and the Coon*, win applause; J. S. Scatter, an old favourite in song and dance, has a hearty reception; and the Bioscope displays several pleasing pictures.

The Hippodrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Doyle and O'Connell; General-Manager, Mr. Tom Doyle.—Shawlene, the man bird, is undoubtedly the star turn here, his imitations of the feathered tribe being marvellous. The Three Neros also appear in a comic pantomime, and the series of pictures shown are up to date.

BOLTON. — Theatre Royal, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—The eminent tragedian, Mr. Allan Wilkie, and a powerful company, is here in a round of Shakespearean plays. On Monday evening *Hamlet* was staged, when Mr. Wilkie gave a scholarly interpretation of the part of the melancholy Dane, being admirably supported by Miss Carrie

week with *Lady Godiva*. The principal characters are well represented by Messrs. Albert Sember, Stanley S. Gordon, Alfred D. Adams, Tom Solly, and Cyril Grier, and Misses Nina Vaughton, Kathleen Magee, and Effie Macintosh.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THE SHAFTESBURY HALL.—West's Pictures, sixteenth season, is in full swing, and drawing large and enthusiastic houses. This week the feature is a very realistic series, illustrating the recent Wigan Colliery disaster. A fine panorama of the principal cities of Australia, taken personally by T. J. West, is also shown. Those talented ladies, the Misses Annette and Jean Coutts, known as "The Scottish Troubadours," provide a most delightful vocal and instrumental interlude, which meets with the heartiest appreciation. The whole is under the able direction of Mr. T. W. Kingston.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—There was a closely-packed audience on Monday for the return visit of *The Gay Goraons*, with MISS Elialine Terris and Mr. Seymour Hicks in the principal rôles, and nearly laughter and applause again greeted the representation of the sparkling comedy. With her usual charm and grace Miss Terris quite carried away her audience as the daughter of the American millionaire, Peggy Quainton; Mr. Hicks was delightfully breezy and humorous as the energetic Angus Graeme, her soldier sweetheart; Nervy Nat, the old showman, was a capital study by Mr. Johnny Danvers; and Mr. G. Carrol, Mr. Sydney Farebrother, and Miss Dorothy Ward, as members of the Siddons family, contributed largely to the humour of the piece, which is gorgeously staged.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidlaw; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company are interesting big audiences here this week with *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*. Its reception has been very hearty, and Miss Rosslyn Vayne and Miss Alice Defoe as the two erring girls, around whom the interest centres, arouse much sympathy with their emotional acting; as their brother and "guardian angel" (Samuel Hallett) Mr. Chris. Mason is strong and breezy; Mr. E. Rayson Cousens assumes the part of the Rev. Frank Selby well; as the two scoundrels responsible for the downfall of the two girls, Mr. Fred Morgan and Mr. Jack Miller are particularly strong and effective in their assumption of brutality; and Mr. Herbert Pearson well realises the part of an unfortunate inventor. The play is well staged.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Fred Ginnett's company, with an equestrian sketch, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, aided considerably by the Bioscope, occupies a prominent place in the programme here. As deputy on Tuesday evening for Carlotta Levey, who is indisposed, Charles Coverdale elicited roars of laughter with his patter; Richer's Imperial Comedy Quintette furnish an acceptable turn; Hugh Barclay's fine voice is heard to advantage in illustrated song; the "rag-time" acrobatic feats performed by the Five Oiracs are distinctly clever and amusing; Bi-Bo-Bi, on instruments of a novel description, gives a very clever and original entertainment; Cissie Curlette, in a daintily-rendered mimetic song, achieves success; in monologue, R. H. Douglass is particularly smart and highly diverting; and the Bioscope provides some very sensational and intercsting pictures.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Tom Hearn, Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Tom Hearn, the quaintest of quaint jugglers, is responsible for much hearty laughter; Harry Milton, Dutch comedian, submits clever clog and sabot dancing; Mlle. Bartenelli's novel work as a contortionist is gracefully performed; a dashing turn by the Three Sisters Silcott, vocalists and dancers, wins favour; clever acrobatic work and eccentricity in the smart turn by Margit and Lener win applause; in a dainty comedienne song and Chinese character sketch Lily Eyton wins approval; Wake and Dean are droll comedians; fun is a feature of the clever Risley performance given by the Three Alskarnos; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are very interesting.

BRIDLINGTON.—ROYAL PRINCE'S PARADE.—Manager for the Corporation, Mr. Charles Palmer.—The manager of this fashionable resort, who has done so much to increase the popularity of the Parade, took his annual complimentary benefit on Friday, the 28th ult., and was honoured with a very large audience in the Grand Pavilion. Mr Palmer had provided a capital programme, which included some of the choicest items of Mr. Norfolk Megone's Municipal Orchestra; a very fine turn by Mr. Flockton-Foster and his comedy company; Mr. Fowler Burton, the popular baritone; Mme. Naomi Odlie Bell, a charming soprano; and Captain Devereux and his clever performing dogs. Mr. Ernest Hastings, that refined society entertainer, was recalled again and again. Little Dolly Palmer, in song and dance, showed careful training, and joined in a duet with Mrs. Palmer; Mr. Palmer treated the audience to one of his amusing songs; and Mr. Charles Beanland was recalled twice for his. The Loyal Dominion Animated Picture Company showed some of their best films. Mr. Palmer had a warm reception on coming to the front to thank his patrons.

In the Floral Pavilion this week the vocalist at Mr. Norfolk Megone's Promenade Concerts is Miss Carrie Siviter, a sweet soprano. Wednesday night was a grand gala night, with fireworks by Messrs. Pain and Sons. In the Floral Pavilion the extra turn at the Flockton-Foster entertainments is Wishart, a clever entertainer, with his magic bottle.

NEW SPA AND GARDENS.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—Herr Simon Wurm, whose Viennese band has been a great attraction during the season, had a complimentary benefit on Monday evening. Herr Wurm had secured a big array of talent, including that remarkable man, Datas; Dr. Byrd Page, a clever entertainer; Miss Alice Greasley, a fine operatic soprano; Lindon's Vaudeville Entertainers, in one of their best programmes of song and mirth; and a host of other talent. The outside show, which was to include a balloon race and confetti carnival, was entirely spoilt by the storm which prevailed all the evening. The vocalist at the Promenade Concerts this week is Miss Mabel Manson, a capital soprano. Thursday night was a grand gala and fancy dress carnival, with a battle of confetti and fireworks by Messrs. Brock and Co.

SPA OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—Messrs. Dauncey and Leveaux opened here on Monday night with Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company in that fine play, *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. Alfred Goddard's exposition of the part of Jack Frobisher was excellent; Mr. Russell Barry was a good Hankey Bannister; the part of the Marquis was capitally played by Mr. Ben Lewin; and Mr. A. W. Tryer was a very fine Harry Dallas. Miss Nancy Beresford shone in the part of Frobisher's wife; Miss Elsie Ross was effective as Lady Lucy; and Miss Ormonde Wynne gave an excellent rendering of Lady Westerby. The play was well mounted and dressed. For the second half of the week we have Baron Harriss's company in *The Prince of Pilsen*.

SUMMER GARDENS.—Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Charles Beanland.—Mr. George Hyam, the clever comedian of the Waterloo Pierrots, had his benefit on Friday last, and was rewarded with a "bumper" house. There was a capital programme, the "genial George" having the assistance of a host of brother and sister artists, the whole entertainment being highly enjoyed by the large audience. This week, in addition to the usual programme, that amusing turn, *Hamleton's Diorama*, is being given by the company.

BRIGHTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is attracting crowded houses here this week with *Her Road to Ruin*. Mr. Henry Wolston gives an admirable portrayal of the curate of Brandon; Miss Eva Moss submits an excellent impersonation of Jess Willoughby; Miss Nellie Bonser as the girl from Lancashire is highly successful; Miss Alice Bowes makes a charming May Willoughby; Mr. Alex. Bradley displays able acting as Philip Hardy; Mr. Heaton as the poor journalist is effective; and Mr. Darke Clarke is impressive as the bishop. The drama is capitally staged and mounted.

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is an excellent company here this week. Herbert Clifton, a clever impressionist and burlesque artist, wins very hearty applause; Clarice Mayne is a charming and accomplished mimic and comedienne; Captain Max Gruber and Miss Adelina introduce their highly-trained performing animals with great success; the Three Dixons submit an excellent vocal and instrumental turn; the Fordyces are refined comedy singers and dancers; Daisy Hicks is a dainty comedienne; Emil and Ediss are clever banjoists; Alf. Chester gives a capital selection of songs; Hallam and Stanton are well received in the musical-comedy sketch, *A Broken Journey*; and the Alhambrascope pictures are excellent.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. The Two Anartos are droll comedians and amusing patterers; Leonard Gautiers introduces a number of wonderfully-trained ponies and dogs; *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, a laughable sketch, is admirably presented by a capital company; Lowenwirth and Cohan's quaint sayings and original songs are well received; Lawson and Namon give a good ball-punching and cycling turn; Enid Erroll and company are entertaining in the fantastic dancing episode, *The Magic Vase*; Hilda Jacobson, vocalist, and Lily Black, vocal comedienne, win cordial applause.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Walter Maxwell's company is here this week with *The Lion and the Mouse*. Mr. Leslie Carter achieves great success as the "lion"—John Burkett Ryder; Miss Christine Silver is delightful as the "mouse"—Shirley Roesmore—Mr. Harold West as Jefferson Ryder merits praise; Mr. Arthur Burne's Hon. Fitzroy Bagley is admirably played; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon's Mrs. John Burkett Ryder and Mr. E. W. Thomas's Stott are ably presented.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company is here this week with *Robin Hood*. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards acquits himself admirably in the title-rôle; Miss Lilian Stennis is highly successful in her impersonation of Lady Marion de Vaux; and Mr. H. Elliott Ball gives a capital portrayal of Prince John; while Mr. Clive Ross as Little John and Mr. C. Bruce Winston as Friar Tuck render excellent support.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—Crowded houses are attracted here by the admirable exhibition of animated Pictures. The Dancing Girl conveys an interesting drama, and A Free Pardon is a powerful picture. The Seamstress's Romance, The Hypnotic Policeman, Bobby on the Spree, On Bad Terms with the House Porter, and Paper-Tearing are also capital films. Mr. Percy Leonard contributes illustrated songs.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. William Mollison, Miss Evelyn McNay, and company are here for the week. On Monday evening *Macbeth* was staged in good style, the performance being followed most attentively. Mr. Mollison presented a fine and imposing exposition of Macbeth. He evinced much scholarly excellence in his interpretation, his fine voice enabling him to do full justice to the blank verse. Miss McNay gave an admirable study of Lady Macbeth, her sleep-walking scene being exceptionally clever. Mr. William Calvert did full justice to Macduff, looking the part perfectly, and delivering his lines most effectively; Mr. W. A. Mackeray made a kindly and dignified King Duncan; Mr. Harry Deas and Mr. Leslie Newton did well as Malcolm and Donaldbain; Mr. Harry Neville played Banquo in dignified and effective style; and other important parts were carefully taken by Miss Gladys Brandon Gower, Miss Edith Blair Staples, Miss Josephine Woodward, Miss Freda Allwright, Miss Hermina Black, and Mr. Leslie Lingham. *Merchant of Venice, Richard III., The Bonnie Brier Bush*, and *Hamlet* are also billed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*For Love and the King* is the attraction here this week, the play being well performed by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company, that gentleman being also the author of the drama, which is decidedly interesting. Mr. C. Watson Mill presents a fine exposition of the daring and reckless soldier of fortune, Jarval; Miss Rosalind Tate is charmingly sympathetic as Princess Athene; Miss Joan Ellis makes a very taking and convincing part of the beggar-maid, Natila; Mr. Alfred Hilliard is effective as Prince Uros Dragomir; Mr. J. Burton, Mr. H. Earlsmere, and Mr. Godfrey Chate do well in their respective parts of Michael Obrenovic, Vladimer Obrenovic, and Duke Fernand Dragomir; Miss Marie Ault is pleasingly vivacious as Grazia; Mr. Frank Lyndar is dignified as the king; Miss Tierney is well placed as Edith Meredith; and Mr. Jim K. Woods is amusing in the comic part of Carl Oppenheim. The mounting of the play is in every way liberal and effective.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Mr. Joe Peterman's company is successfully appearing here in the dramatic sketch, in two scenes, *The Pawnbroker*; the Austral Trio present a pleasing speciality, comprising songs, harp selections, and dancing, entitled *A Musical Evening*; Irene Rose has a pretty vocal scena; Hampton and Bauman entertain with vocal and instrumental music; Lade Henderson, vocalist, is appreciated; Gladys Huxley is a pleasing comedienne; Tom Leo, comedian, amuses with song, patter, and dance; and Travis, the ventriloquist with many voices, obtains considerable appreciation. The performance concludes with interesting animated Pictures.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Jack Johnson, heavy-weight champion of the world, is here for the week, his ball-punching and boxing matches with well-known men obtaining much applause. There are also exhibited on the screen coloured pictures of famous pugilists for the past twenty years, and animated photographs illustrative of Johnson's methods of training, and his exhibition bouts with other boxers. Florence Creagh and company successfully present their dramatic sketch, entitled *Daddy's Boy*; Conn and Conrad amuse with their speciality, *Fun on a Barber's Pole*; the Lorrisons score with their smart speciality; Ella Lorraine, Scotch vocalist, sings ballads in pleasing style; Leah Adell also scores with her Irish songs; Le Gros entertains with songs, &c., at the piano; Charles Gardner, comedian, obtains applause; Daley and O'Brien do an acceptable dancing turn; and Marie Goodwin is a pleasing comedienne. The performance concludes with up-to-date animated Pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company, in the human play, *The Woman Pays*, pleased a full house on Monday. Mr. Frank M. Thorne (the author) is a very amusing Micky Maloney; and Miss Anena Watton is an excellent Polly Stokes, giving much pleasure with her singing. Sid Armstrong makes a good impression in the hands of Mr. Phil Harper; Miss Maud Russell obtains much sympathy for Madge Armstrong; Mr. John Davidson gives a skilful performance as the scheming Roger Marchant; Nellie Morland is capably sustained by Miss Kate Blair; and Mr. George Butler as Cyrus Treadgold and Mr. Dunlop Stewart as Luke Morland give vigorous representations. Scenery and staging are good.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*Why Men Love Women* is the title of the excellent production here this week, presented by Miss Ellen Snow and company. Miss Snow gives a clever interpretation of Violet Livingstone; and Gerald Fielden is admirably represented by Mr. Oliver Rogers. Mr. Lionel Gadsen as Captain Staniloff proves a capital villain; and Mr. H. Carter Slaughter pleases as Tommy Fitzherbert. Mr. Harwood Roberts as Orlando Figgins, Miss Nita Owen as Birdie, and Miss Freda Vaughan as Baby are responsible for the humour of the play.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Excellent pantomime and satire is amusing the audiences here under the name of *The Demon and the Fairy*, performed by Harry Claff; Atlas and Vulcana, with the Sisters Atlas, are again welcomed in their weight-lifting and posing; Les Ardos are a pair of smart gymnasts; Lily Hayes is a clever comedienne and dancer; Kerr and Koe create much mirth with their patter; and Bertha Winder is loudly applauded for neat clog-dancing. John Wills and Bessie Mackenzie are extremely pleasing in song; and the Empire Theatroscope shows the Marathon Race and Hurry Up, Please.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Radford and Valentine, in burlesque and real juggling, provide a large amount of fun; *A Dream of Fairyland* is an electric spectacle produced by Abdullah and La Superbe, in which the lady dances bewitchingly; *The Way to Win a Bet* is a quick-change novelty, with humour and pathos, presented by Marie Jones and Ernest Munro; and the Rio Bros. give an acrobatic performance of good quality. Alfonzo gives a good turn in manipulating giant sugar-stick and barrel; and the Simms sing and dance prettily. Mabelle May, comedienne, is well received; the Sisters Brendon, in Dutch dances, are good; and Black-Eyed Susan is a good dramatic picture by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—*The New Girl*, played by Cooper Smith and Douglas Payne's company, is drawing good houses here this week. Miss Rosa Bennett in the title-rôle sings, dances, and acts in capital style, as does also Miss Ivy Leighton, a chic Corise. Miss Beatrice Sutherland is very droll as Jane; and the grim schoolmistress has a capable representative in Miss Victoria Douglas. The amorous Colonel Bullet is played with dash and finish by Mr. Edward W. Colman; Mr. Ralph Lynn's original and quaint presentation of Bertie is irresistibly funny; Mr. Edgar McIntyre, who possesses a good voice, is well placed as Harry Harrow; and the idiosyncrasies of Brown, cleverly portrayed by Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., creates intense amusement. The play abounds in bright songs and dances.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—At the head of the bill here is Van Biene, the celebrated 'cellist, who is appearing in a one-act play, entitled *The Master Musician*, which gives him ample scope for displaying his talent. Other good turns are the Hyde and Cody Trio of tipplers, &c.; Stanley Waller, as "Buttons at the Piano"; Terry and Bentley, comedy artists; Dan Hendy, comedian; Lloyd Morgan, vocal comedian; Gertie Lewis, male impersonator; and Burns and Bentley, simultaneous dancers.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Several good pictures are here this week, including Downfall of Baylass Trust, A Useful Umbrella, Hurrah for Freedom, and The Flower Seller. The variety turns consist of Jack Wood, baritone, and Marie Neilson, vocalist and dancer.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons.—The chief turns this week are the Colonials, in a musical comedy scena, entitled *Unexpected Guests*; Dunningarto, a sleight-of-hand expert; Patrick Playfair, who works out some pretty designs in paper; Ada Whitton, male impersonator; the Sisters Lotus, juvenile operatic duettists; Lavelle Bros., acrobats; Fred Athalan, balancer; Moon and Morris, comedians; and the Sisters Valli, musicians and dancers.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Buxton Gardens Company, Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—Mr. Edward Compton is always welcome in Buxton. On Monday evening Mr. Compton delighted the audience with his impersonation of Davy Garrick, and received admirable support from his company. Mr. Henry Crocker as Alderman Gresham played with all his accustomed force, and Henry Worrale was most commendable as the Hon. Tom Talleyhaut. Mr. Philip Gordon's Rumbelow was full of humour, and Mr. E. W. Johnson was a capital Sowerberry, and Simpkins was satisfactorily portrayed by Mr. Ivan Leslie. Mrs. Rumbelow was brightly represented by Miss Marie Hassell, and Miss Constance Merton acted capably as the simpering Selina. Miss Kathleen Leigh won well-merited applause for her acting as Violet Gresham. The main piece was preceded by *The Desperate Lover*, in which the principal parts are exceptionally well acted by Mr. Henry Worrale as Harry Waintree, and Miss Viola Compton as Mistress Prue. Included in the three nights' attractions were *School for Scandal* and *The Gentleman in Grey*, with a matinée of *The Rivals* on Wednesday. For the remainder of the week Mr. Oscar Asche, Miss Lily Brayton, and Co., are billed.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—The visit to the New Theatre this week of *A White Man* has been thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Herbert Sleath's company is responsible for the excellent rendering of this successful play, and a more satisfactory portrayal could not be desired. Mr. Frank E. Petley, in the rôle of Captain James Wynnegate, submits a delineation that stamps him as an actor of ripe experience; Miss Eleanor May's interpretation of Lady Kerhill is a particularly charming and graceful one; Miss Rhoda Ray has a character in Nat-u-Ritch which nobody but a painstaking actress could impersonate, but the gifted little lady never fails in her undertaking. Mr. R. A. Brandon (Big Bill), Mr. Thomas Swem (Shorty), Mr. T. W. H. Sarll (Grouchy), and Mr. Martin Henry (Andy) are all to be congratulated upon remarkable renditions of their respective characters. Mr. Eric Hudson's interpretation of the Indian Chief is a genuine piece of character acting; and Mr. A. C. Hardie's portrayal of Cash Hawkins deserves the greatest praise. Mr. John Wilmer as the Sheriff, Mr. Lewis Broughton as Lord Kerhill, and Miss Rosina White as Little Hall all do well.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Heading the bill here this week are the Boisset Troupe in their screamingly funny sketch *The Bricklayers*; Drew and Alders make a welcome appearance in a new act entitled *The Coastguards*; a successful turn is provided by Charles Whittle; a delightful artist is Truly Shattuck; the Carina Sisters well deserve the hearty applause accorded their musical entertainment; and another pleasing number is provided by Violet Ray, 'cello player and soprano vocalist; Charles Stevens, character comedian, La Belle Nello, described as the queen of equipose, and Edie King, comedienne and dancer, are the other contributors to the entertaining programme, which is completed by a capital series of Bioscopic pictures.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—The attraction at the Royal this week is *A Woman Worth Winning*, presented by Mr. Percy Norman's No. 1 company. The emotional and trying part of Roma Pauloff is exceptionally well undertaken by Miss Chrissie Dunbar; the arduous rôle of Ivan Bardoff is played by Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh in a very convincing manner; and Mr. A. B. Mackay as General Borinski depicts with infinite care the heartless cruelties of the Russian General. Mr. George E. Clive (Fergus Lovinsky) makes a fine, dashing hero; while Mr. Gilbert Standing (Amos Pauloff) and Mr. Sidney Barton (Czar Nicholas) are distinctly good. Miss Ida Mackay as Katerina Kloss is very amusing, and the comedy business between Mr. Louis Newman (Bertie Scribbles) and Mr. Ernest Kendrick (Peter Popples) proves very diverting. Miss Trixie Leighton plays feelingly as Lola Kalnovky. The piece is well staged, and the costumes and uniforms are handsome.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Carlton is the principal attraction, his "Mysterious Cross" being a clever invention and wonderfully contrived; Pipifax and Paulo present a mélange of smart comedy entitled *Humpsti-Bumpsti*; Lew Towers is a smart light comedian and actor vocalist; Gravetta and Parr are unparalleled as novelty acrobats; and Kelly and Agnas are an exceptionally talented comedy duo. Other contributors are Tarree, in a novel musical act, Jessie Burnett, comedienne, and Raymond's Bioscope.

CARLISLE.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—A return visit of Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company with *In Holy Russia* is again drawing good houses. Mr. Henry Compton gives a capital performance as Colonel Forrest; and Mr. George H. Doyle as Sir Harry Beresford is no less successful. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy is again responsible for the bulk of the comedy, and his bright, breezy impersonation of Micky Nolan never fails to amuse and delight. The heroine is in the safe hands of Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy, a versatile and accomplished actress, who makes the very most of her opportunities; Messrs. Robert Cockcroft, Rolf Leslie, Carl Rivinelli, Jerold E. Reed, and Joe Cuthbertson do full justice to their respective parts; and Misses Alice Holland, Agnes Durham, Vara Herne, and Roma Tremayne contribute impersonations which add much to the success of the performance.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Charles Kitts and Rhoda Windrum, who head the bill this week in their laughable comedy, *The Cuckoo*, are paying their first visit here, and their bright little sketch went with a swing from start to finish; another very popular turn is Ted E. Box, a comedian full of humour, and a wonderfully fine whistler; the Le Greus are smart and skilful dancers; and Flake White's lightning sketches are notable for their originality and clever execution. The Two Walonells contribute an amusing knockabout gymnastic act; J. H. Greener, the singing pit lad, and Nellie Lawrence, double-voiced vocalist, are applauded for their excellent singing; and some fine pictures by the Pepiscope completes.

PUBLIC HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Sidney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas France; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—The Edison Pictures this week appeal in a great measure to lovers of Shakespeare, the principal film being an excellent reproduction of Romeo and Juliet, while those who delight in adventure and excitement find themselves well catered for with Treasure Island. There are other fine films exhibited, interspersed with a capital variety programme.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman, J.P.—Messrs. Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles's company is here in *Her Marriage Vow*. J. Forbes Knowles in the part of Ned Benton is excellent; Miss Helena Walbrun as Kate plays in a careful and painstaking manner; Mr. Chas. B. Bedells makes a designing villain of Gilbert Carlton, being ably supported by Miss Nellie Shirley, a capable Hester Norton; as Larry Leary Mr. Dan Ryan is diverting; Miss Winifred Barton makes a vivacious Maggie Clare; Mr. John W. Ryder does good service as William Walters, and the Daffy Dan of Mr. Edwin C. Collins is natural; Mr. Walford Bailey and Miss Grace Ryder cause much amusement.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Travis.—Animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. are still running very strong here. Mr. Lawrence Derrick has made an excellent impression with hi sillustrated songs, which he sings with great skill and expression.

CHATHAM.—BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Fred Earle, who tops the bill here, creates great amusement with his songs; Nan Farren is a neat dancer; Billy and Johnny are a smart pair of juvenile coloured acrobats; Joe Banks patters quaintly; Mersano gives several samples of skilful palming; Metz and Metz score with cross-talk and dancing; Miss Beaumont Collins and company enact in a powerful and realistic manner a playlet entitled *The House of Terror*; and Lacey's Erascope has an entire change of films.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis.—Fred Dice opens the ball here with song and dance; Reed and Stevens are renewing their acquaintance with local music-hall frequenters; Amy Allnutt's low comedy business is appreciated; the Itrams submit a capital potpourri act; Miss Winifred Ward is a decided success as a male impersonator; and one of the hits of the programme is the clever and up-to-date entertainment contributed by Graham, the human marionette. The Edisonograph makes a good finish to a well-varied show.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—*Dear Old Charlie*, introduced by Mr. C. H. Williams' company, re-opens the autumn season here this week. The central part of Charles Ingleton is cleverly studied by Mr. George Lestocq; Mr. C. Douglas Cox as Gabriel Peploe, and Mr. R. S. Trelawney as Thos. Dumphie, do satisfactory work; Miss Leonora Braham gives a clever sketch of the conventional mother-in-law, Mrs. Fishbourne, whose irritating spouse is neatly interpreted by Mr. Duncan Young. Miss Stella Hawleigh acts pleasingly as the amorous young wife, and Mr. Stanley Arthur is smart and alert as a "gentleman's gentleman." *The Cause*, in which Miss Braham and Mr. Cyril Vernon act with force and distinction, precedes the comedy.

MONTPELLIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. Alfred W. Newton.—The "Middies and the Maids" visit Cheltenham for the first time this week. An excellent programme is contributed by Messrs. Bryan O'Sullivan, baritone and humorist, Bert Williams, comedian, Arthur Randall, humorist, Penyston Mills, tenor and accompanist, and Misses Bertha Zander and Ethel Dunbar.

CHESTER.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The Marvellous Merrils, comedy cyclists, are repeating their success here; Tom Moore, character comedian, is a vocalist of ability; Sawdust and Spangles, a quartette composed of two ladies and two gentlemen, appear in a comedy ariel act with much success; the Dambas appear as comedy musicians and in a graceful trapeze act; Stanley and Vandyke appear in an absurdity entitled *A Broken Promise*, in which the low-comedy work of the lady is excellent; the Premier Imperial Bioscope projects up-to-date subjects, both grave and gay; La Belle Sylvia, juvenile comedian and dancer, and Annie Cohen, soubrette, also appear.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hemingway.—Mr. Julian Graham's capable company is here in the excellent musical play, *The Gay Goddess*. As Juno, the Gay Goddess, Miss Graham Beck gives an exceptionally bright performance; Miss Fanny Morse capitally undertakes Mrs. Mary Strong; Priscilla Strong is charmingly rendered by Miss Marie Beresford; Mr. Charles Leverton gives a particularly humorous interpretation of Timothy Twinkle; Mr. Fred Carrington is good as Samuel Strong; as is also Mr. Richard Leasdale as Sherlock Blake; Anthony Somers being in the capable hands of Mr. George Walker; and Les Papillions appear in speciality Continental dances, and prove exceptionally smart and clever.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company, in that humorous musical play, *The Gay Gordons*, opened here on Monday for three nights and a matinée. Despite the torrential downpour of rain and hurricane accompaniment, a good house assembled, and ere the piece had long proceeded continuous laughter and applause was the general order. Mr. Frank Lincoln, physically a capital Angus Græme, was irresistible alike in fun or pathos; he was loyally supported by Miss Maie Ash, who made of Peggy Quainton a fascinating picture; Mr. Tom Graves as Nervy Nat was really funny whilst as his son Edmund Mr. Edward Nainby proved himself a droll comedian. Miss Nellie Lonnen was a charming and agile Victoria Siddons, and Miss Ida Laurie, who's make-up as Charlotte was really fine, caused unbounded merriment; Miss Emily Mellon gave quite a dramatic touch to the part of Janet McLeod, whilst the singing of Miss Gladys Deane as the daughter Mary was vociferously applauded. Mr. Edward Beecher's portrayal of Andrew Quainton was nicely characteristic, and Mr. Norman Forrest as the burly Gordon non-com. John Smith cut quite a martial figure. The other characters were very creditably shown, and the powerful chorus was heard to great advantage. The latter half of the week is apportioned to Mr. Charles Frohman's company in *The Hypocrites*.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The main item this week is supplied by Jake Friedman and company in the Dutch operetta *Happy Holland*, the feature of which is its sweet harmony. Pictures loom largely on the bill, some really good and diversified films being shown. Vestor, comedy musician and "winning poster," is a droll turn; Walter Wallis sings old and new songs, and Laurie Wallace, in a quintet of character dances, is appreciated.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Morton Powell's company in *Greed of Gold* is here this week. Mr. Walter H. Domney plays the part of Harry Hood in a capable manner, and as Arthur Erroll Mr. Wilson Gunning is excellent; Mr. James Jarrett gives a fine performance of Tom Wilstead, the dumb man. Mr. Sidney Bryant is funny as Cully Snig, and the same may be said of Mr. J. Marsden as Con Creamer; Miss Elma C. Turner makes an attractive Dora, and Miss Jennie Douglas Hicks gives entire satisfaction as Mrs. Maxwell. The other parts are also well filled.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. John Horgan.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company opened a week's engagement here on Monday in the comedy *Diana of Dobson's*. The play was well received by a large audience. The company is an all-round excellent one. Miss Dorothy Green as Diana Massingberd gave a vigorous and skilful representation; Mr. H. Grendon Bently as Bretherton (the young guardsman) supplied a finished and interesting performance; as Sir Jabez Grindlay, Bart., Mr. Alfred Harris fills the part well; and Miss Mary Stuart makes a capital Mrs. Cantelupe. The minor characters were well filled. The play is preceded by *The Bishop's Candlesticks*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The programme provided here for the re-opening week is of a high order. Vasco, the "mad musician," is an instrumentalist of great ability, and is also witty and humorous. He performed on numerous instruments, and was encored over and over again. Mlle. Alexander and Mons. Bertie give a clever and entertaining performance on a steel ladder and trapeze; the Wartana Trio (three girls) give a juggling turn of great merit; the Van Host Trio are acrobats, who perform skilful and daring feats; John McAuley, vocalist, contributes some capital songs; Brady, Johnson and company give a farce, which provokes much laughter; the Sisters Hulla, dancers and vocalists, win applause; Mamie Fenton, Scotch comedienne, contributes sentimental songs and a monologue; Ivey Aberdare, comedienne and dancer, also pleases; and the Palascope shows the Marathon Race and some amusing films.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. Charles H. Lester's company is here in *A Life for a Life*, a drama of considerable interest. A good deal of the success achieved is due to the charming acting of Little Irene as Venetta, her singing, acting, and dancing evoking much applause. Mr. Charles H. Lester gives a highly-finished rendering of Don Leon Fernandez; Miss Beatrice Anderson is responsible for some fine acting as Eulalie Harker; Mr. Richard Bosco enacts the heavy character Pedro Li Calei forcibly; Mr. Harry T. Wood as Kit Oswald and Miss Dorothy Riddell as Kate Evelyn do ample justice to their parts; Mr. Horace Buckley is a humorous Tim McCarthy.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. S. T. Newsome.—The top turn here this week is furnished by the Achmed-Ibrahim troupe of ten Bedouin Arabs, who are exceedingly clever and do some remarkable feats; L'Incognita, the masked singer, charms every one; Mr. Harry Nuttall's company present a fine, mirth-provoking sketch, entitled *The Ghost of Jenny Bundler*; Joe Archer is a quaint comedian; Carl Rosini provides a skilful entertainment, and other artists are Wee Mona Vivian, vocalist and dancer, and Oakley and James, who give a tit-bit of everything; a good set of pictures wind up the evening.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—Mr. Geo. Baston again heads the bill and repeats his success as a humorist and impersonator; the Lukushimas, acrobats and equilibrists, are responsible for some very clever feats; Mr. Fred Elton, in his entertaining scena *On Board an Ocean Liner*, is well received; Tom E. Finglass is a clever coon impersonator; Fred Curran is responsible for some catchy parodies of popular songs; Gracie Graham is a capable comedienne; the Locking Comedy Four and David Stewart, vocalist, contribute capably to the programme; the Bioscope pictures concluding.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G.

PUBLIC HALL.—Mr. Ernest Mansell's (Gale and Polden) Animated King's Service Pictures are in their third week, and are still drawing crowded houses.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company is appearing here this week in the comedy, *Merely Mary Ann*. There was a very large audience on the opening night, and the comedy was capitally played, applause being frequent. The part of Lancelot is in the hands of Mr. Martyn Roland, who is seen to advantage; Mr. Stanley Logan as Peter is good; Mr. Robert Enlwistle as Rev. Samuel Smedge is amusing; Mr. H. Montagu Love gives a skilful portrayal of Herr Brahmson; Miss Jessica Solomon as Mary Ann plays the heroine with power and ability; Miss Ethel Carlyle as Lady Gladys Tottenham is praiseworthy. The other parts are in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur Foster, Miss Violet, Greville, Miss Florence Radcliffe, Miss Mary Colquhoun, and Miss Grace Lovell.

NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—In a capital company the Elite Harmony Boys occupy a prominent position, their high-class vocal act, entitled "Messmates Ashore," being a great treat; Daisy Dormer is a talented singer; Bert Woodward, the coon cyclist, is heartily welcomed; the programme also includes the Bros. Maddison, comedy boxers; Barrett and Knowles, versatile comedians; Derenda and Green, comedy jugglers; and Walter Emerson, comedian; and interesting pictures are shown by the Pepiscope.

DARWEN.—PUBLIC HALL, PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Lewers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thompson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Excellent pictures are shown here this week. In addition, Arthur Astill, the ploughboy whistler and mimic, scores heavily; the Four Scoreys contribute a capital turn in the form of a musical mélange; and Messrs. Hill and Lane, comedy artists, also appear.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Langley Wyatt.—An interesting programme this week is headed by the Musical Twelve, including Mlle. Louise Van Dalle, T. H. Wood, and C. H. St. Just, whose singing is of a high order of merit. It may be mentionec that six of the troupe accompany the vocalists on six pianos. E. H. Bostock's group of cleverly-trained baboons, under the direction of Captain Graham, have a unique turn, and are well received; Blanche and Powell, society entertainers, are exceedngly good vocalists and pianists; Edna Reeve and company score all through in a dramatic playlet, entitled *Her Shattered Idol*; the Gentrys are very amusing in the speciality, *Bits*; Morimura is a smart Japanese illusionist; Eugene Brant, a droll comedian, provokes much amusement; and Marie Clifton is a charming comedienne and pleasing dancer. The Bioscope is to the fore with a racing film. This week concludes the variety season at this house of entertainment.

DEVONPORT.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—There was a very good house at the Metropole on Monday to witness Mr. F. J. Webb's company in *The Hour of Her Triumph*. Mr. Webb personally takes the part of Eugene Harberry; the villain, and forcibly appeals tohis audience; Mr. Max Coutts is very popular as the hero Jack Vernon; Miss Isabel Stevenson elicits much sympathy as Nellie Clavering, a flower-girl; and Mr. Hyland O'Shea is responcible for spontaneous merriment as Roscius Montmorency, an out-at-end actor.

DOUGLAS.—GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Hemming; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—The Kendals have proved a powerful draw at the Grand Theatre this week. The play, *The Whirlpool*, evoked laughter, and excited interest. Mrs. Kendal as Constance Livingstone gave a perfect embodiment, artistic both in pathos and humour; the Elijah D. Tillottson of Mr. W. H. Kendal was admirable. He is an actor who looks the character, and plays it. The Bertram Livingstone of Mr. Bassett Roe, in an impersonation which was dead against public sympathy, was impressive; Mr. Edmund Gurney as Ephraim Johnstone gave a performance admirably conceived and executed; Mrs. A. B. Tapping was pleasing as Gretchen; and Miss Ethel Dane did all that was possible as Gertrude.

GAIETY.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—*The Merry Widow* has been an overpowering success, the theatre being crowded to its fullest capacity. Miss Clara Evelyn's presentment of the Merry Widow is quite fascinating; Mr. Basil Foster is clever as Prince Dandilo; the Baron Popoff of Mr. Lionel Victor shows an adroit combination of humour and perception; Mr. Tom Raymond plays the Nisch for all the character is worth; Miss Marie Grey as Madame Popoff displays the possession of a fine soprano voice. The other parts are clevely undertaken. The scenery is adequate, and the stage-management brilliant.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brillain.—This place of amusement has, during the current week, been crowded. Miss Dot Stephens, happily once more on the boards after her severe catastrophe, is quite successful; the Violas exploit the hidden secrets of telepathy and mystify a wondering crowd; Selbo, described as the world's greatest club juggler, commands attention; Horace Wheatley is quainter than ever, with his impersonations of Irish character, and dances as neatly as ever; Ouida McDermott, as a vocal actress, scores; Wilson Hallett, as a mimic of children, is clever; M. Rapoli gives a marvellous turn in juggling; the Vernon Quartette are charming lady vocalists; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco create great fun with their spectacular absurdity. In the Grand Pavilion there is an artistic presentment of animated pictures. Harry Woods' orchestra invites all and sundry to dance. On Tuesday evening occurred the manager's benefit, and a crowded house must be chronicled. Mr. Charles Fox, jun., has been manager and secretary of the Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd. (who also control the Gaiety Theatre, Douglas), for sixteen years. The benefit was a great success.

DERBY CASTLE.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alfred Kelly.—Audiences here have been very large. At the other places of amusement Burton's Pierrots and Tea Village, Mr. F. T. Connor's Circus and Hippodrome, Mr. Charles Dare's Minstrels, also his Empire Theatre show, have been crowded.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. G. Whitelock.—Dorothy Gould, a comedienne with a powerful voice, tops the bill here; the excellent acting of Esmond and Evelyn, in *The Express Baby*, make it a notable little sketch; Chas. Austin is a comedian with a seemingly inexhaustible fund of humour; the magnificent physique of Oscardo and Albert "Atilla," and their fine poses are heartily applauded; Lambert and Butler, as a schoolmaster and boy, find many opportunities for smart repartee; creditable speciality dancing is contributed by the Knick Knacks; Mabel Carr warbles pleasingly of "Peggy, the pride of the mill"; and Onda and Artell, sensational gymnasts, are billed, but failed to appear on Monday.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Fred Holt.—A tremendous success is obtained by Fred Moule, E. D. Nicholls and Co., in *That Dreadful Detective*; the Desmonds, American song illustrators, sing in good taste; Frank F. Street, described as a comedian and story-teller, has a funny way with him; Sid Penna is an amusing musical comedian; the duets of the Sister Rivers are heartily applauded; as are the songs of Will Barton. Jennie Venton, a popular comedienne, and some interesting pictures conclude the programme.

TOWN HALL.—The announcement that a fine film of the Dover Pageant would be the most important item of Mr. W. F. Jury's Imperial Picture Entertainment has naturally drawn a crowded house nightly. The films are of a high standard of excellence.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Leslie Faber and company occupy the boards here this week, and on Monday night *The Liars* was presented to a full house, and met with a cordial reception. As Sir Christopher Deeling, Mr. Leslie Faber acts throughout in an accomplished manner; a capital performance of Edward Falkner is given by Mr. Lewis Willoughby, and Miss Hilda Moore is highly successful as Beatrice Ebernoe. Mr. Walner Gregory as Gilbert Nepean and Mr. Frank Bickley as George Nepean are both excellent in their respective parts; and Miss Winifred Arthur Jones gives a clever delineation of Lady Jessica Nepean. Mr. Richard Neville and Mr. Victor Widdicombe as Freddie Tatton and Archibald Coke contribute amusing studies; and Miss Ethelwyn Arthur Jones submits a good enactment of Lady Rosamund Tatton; and Miss May Saker does full justice to the rôle of Dolly Coke. On Tuesday evening *The Manœuvres of Jane* was produced, and was well received.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—A large audience on Monday heartily greeted Mr. James Welch in *When Knights Were Bold*, Mr. Welch, in the rôle of Sir Guy de Vere evoking continual laughter. Miss Audrey Ford is conspicuously successful as Lady Rowena Eggington; the part of Isaac Isaacson is ably sustained by Mr. Arthur Grenville; and as his daughter, Sarah, Miss Daisy Cordell is all that could be desired; Mr. Guy Lane as the Rev. Peter Pottlebury, is admirably well suited to the part; Mr. George Desmond gives an amusing impersonation of the Hon. Charles Widdicombe; Miss Helen Palgrave is most impressive as Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave; Mr. Cecil Kinnard plays with credit the rôle of Sir Owen Gwynneth; and the Ladies Millicent and Marjory Eggington, and Kate Pottleberry are capitally portrayed by Misses Mary O'Hea, Gwendoline Rayne, and Annie Turrell. Wittle and Barker have careful exponents in Messrs. George F. Tully and Gordon Thomas; and Miss Annie Chippendale is pleasing as Alice Barker.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The pictures here this week include, The Despatch Bearer, In the Days of King Richard, and The Squatter's Daughter, in addition to several amusing films. The variety artists appearing are Ida Cash, a charming operatic and character vocalist; Melford and Mars, in a vocal comedy act, *The Postman and the Maid*; and Bob Pearson, vocalist and guide. Good houses are the rule.

EMPIRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—On top of the programme here we have Mike S. Whallen, who scores a success with his mirth-provoking songs and patter; in a daring and sensational cycle act, the Daunton Shaw Troupe are deservedly applauded; Clark's Nippers give a clever and much appreciated turn; Eily Adair is a dainty comedienne and dancer; the McConnell Trio create great hilarity in their vocal comedy act; as a character terpischorean artist, Frances McNulty meets with a flattering reception; Orpheus, in a musical scena, entitled "The Deputy," is nightly recalled; Harry Drew, who is the possessor of a fine bass voice, has a good reception; and the Empire pictures complete the bill.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Five Juanitos, in a remarkably clever acrobatic turn, top the bill here, and evoke loud applause; a good ballad vocalist, who gains plenty of admirers, is Yvonne Valois; and Peter Bermingham, Scotch comedian, scores with his song and patter. Nightingale and Stigant, in their doulogue, *Two Sides of a Wall*, contribute a mirth-provoking turn; in her imitations of music-hall artists, Ruth Molloy makes a decided hit; Derby and Dent, comedians, are a great success; Mlle. Sara is seen to advantage in several artistic poses; the Eltons, in a comedy gymnastic act, are highly amusing; Nellie Nora, in a pleasing musical performance, is well received; and the Bioscope, depicting His First Frock Coat, concludes.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—The constant change of programme here continues to attract large audiences daily. Several new pictures are shown, which are both interesting and amusing, and are heartily enjoyed. In addition, the artists who take part in the variety entertainment include Mr. Patrick O'Shea (tenor), Miss Daisy Buckley (contralto), Mr. William Sheehan (baritone), and Mr. Will Mordaunt (humorist and guide).

PAVILION, KINGSTOWN.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—Mr. J. F. McCormack appeared here before a large audience on Monday, when the famous tenor sang "The snowy-breasted pearl" in exquisite style, and was loudly encored. He was ably supported by Miss Bertie Scholefield, Mr. Charles Reita, and Miss Maud Wright, all of whom were a pronounced success. On Tuesday evening Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's vaudeville company opened to a good house, and were well received. Mr. Chapman, baritone, was heard to advantage in several popular numbers; Mr. Arthur Aldridge, an excellent tenor, was warmly appreciated; Frank Hook, comedian, kept the audience in the best of humour; Martin and Browner are a capital pair of duologue artists; Clifford Grey is a good patter comedian; and Mr. Forshaw Kershaw, solo pianist and accompanist, is also deserving of mention.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—The Percys, duettists and dancers; Marion Blake, descriptive vocalist; Harry Rose, comedian and dancer; Edie Greene, soprano vocalist; Tom Casey, comedian and whistler; and Nellie and Billy, harmonising duettists; the Cinematograph also doing duty.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company, in the sensational drama, *The Face at the Window*, opened to a grand house on Monday. Plenty of good fun is infused into the parts of Peter Pottlebury and Babette, rendered respectively by Mr. Henri Stewart and Miss Louie Lonora.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—Albos, wire equilibrist, is proving a strong attraction; Lee and Kingston, in their sketch, *A Resourceful Lover*, make the house ring with laughter; the Zano Brothers are responsible for a clever and amusing horizontal bar act; Earl and Hylton, comedians and whistlers, are well received; two clever artists are Mueller and Coyne, in a comedy act; George Donn is a lively comedian and dancer; and the Bonanzas, staircase equilibrists, are an enjoyable turn.

DUMFRIES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—This house reopened on Monday with Miss Loie Esmond's company in *The Sorrows of Satan*. Miss Edward Neville as Prince Lucia was well-nigh perfect; and Mr. F. D. Howard as Geoffrey Tempest was also excellent. Miss Rosie Neville as Lady Sybil Elton was all that could be desired; and the rest of the company lent good support.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—The Great Serpentello and an all-star vaudeville company are providing the bill of fare here. Serpentello gives a clever, and, at the same time, sensational contortionist turn; Miss Rosie Bell, a dainty comedienne, takes well; Abalo and Hurst contribute a smart pantomimic comedy act; Ruhart, assisted by La Belle Rosalind, in a novel burlesque on vaudeville, deservedly comes in for appreciation; Bello and Bright, comedy artists, are very good; the farcical sketch, *Outwitted*, is highly entertaining; and Princess Pauline contributes one of the most enjoyable and successful items of the bill. Young Sharkey gives a clever demonstration of wrestling.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company commenced a three nights' engagement with *My Mimosa Maid* before a crowded audience on Monday. Miss Marie Studholme, pretty and fascinating, acts brightly and sings very tastefully as Paulette; Miss Ruby Gray, possessed of a charming voice, does excellent duty as Marcelle; Miss May Garstang is a handsome, effective Mme. de Pilaine; and Miss Mabel Hirst is an active, enlivening Popitte. Mr. Charles McNaughton is a great success, and both as sweep and millionaire, Victor, he keeps the fun humming; Mr. Charles E. Paton, too, is an invaluable help as Max in causing laughter; Master Archie McCaig, small, smart, and funny, is a favourite as Bock; Mr. Percy Carr sings, acts, and looks well as Emile Gerrard; Mr. Arthur Jackson contributes very commendable work as the waiter, Groue; Mr. E. Skinner is a happy broker, Boss; and Mr. John Goldsworthy and Mr. L. Winter share much praise due to them as officers of the Zouaves. *Amasis* is billed for the latter half of the week. On Tuesday afternoon the Clifford Essex Pierrots gave their successful entertainment. Messrs. Arthur and Mills's Pierrots continue their attractive performances in the Pier bandstand, and the new artists include Miss Sybil St. Elmo, whose fine soprano voice is much appreciated, Mr. Dolf Wheeler, who reaches the audience with his cleverly-rendered songs, and Mr. Harry King, an effective comedian.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE. — Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company are appearing here this week in *Lady Frederick*. Mr. Philip Cunningham contributes some conspicuously fine and virile work as Paradine Fouldes; Mr. Herbert Garthorne is excellent as Lord Mereston; Mr. Van Ranney is a happy and effective Sir Gerald; Mr. Cecil Bevan does admirably as Captain Montgomery; and Mr. Shirley Lea is a bluff, lively Admiral Carlisle. Mrs. Brown-Potter looks well in her beautiful gowns, and plays with particularly fine results as Lady Frederick Berrolles; Miss Audrey Campbell displays much talent in the part of Lady Mereston; Miss Edith Doverell is a pretty, girlish, and attractive Rose; Miss Phyllis Manners a capital Mme. Claude; and Miss E. Nolan O'Connor a pert and vivacious Angelique. The play is preceded by *The Peacemaker*, capitally acted all round. *The Prodigal Son* was announced for the end of the week.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—The top-liners here this week are the Eight 'Varsity Girls, whose songs and dances are very cleverly given; the Brothers Dean are exceptionally fine dancers, and their whistling is an added feature; Thomas and Taylor, in their smart, clever quick-change sketch, score one of the successes of the evening; the Zampas dance well, sing, and swing bâtons ably; Clifton and Gibson are a couple of funny comedians; Miss Dorothy Sephton is a pretty and pleasing vocalist; and new pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

ECCLES. — CROWN THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. G. F Slatter.—An excellent performance, which is fully appreciated, is given by the Six Brothers Luck in *The Demon of the Cellar*, *The Hermit*, and *Hotel Grande*. The programme is concluded by amusing pictures on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr Wm. M. Downie.—For the opening night of his autumn visit Mr. Edward Terry presented the new comedy, *Fiander's Widow*, in which the part of Isaac Sharpe provides the distinguished comedian with another addition to his long gallery of admirable character-studies. He was well supported by Miss Edith Coleman as the young widow, and by Mr. Edmund Hollick in the rôle of Richard Marshall; and of some half-dozen rustics who figure in the cast, Miss Sophie Lingwood and Mr. Kenneth Brampton as Mrs. Belbin and her son Sam deserve special mention. The stage setting of the Dorsetshire farm and cornfield made very pretty pictures. During the week Mr. Terry has repeated his finely pathetic delineation of the old bookseller in *Liberty Hall*; and of the faithful old servant in *Kerry*, besides reappearing in his inimitable impersonation of Dick Phenyl and Mr. Posket in *Sweet Lavender* and *The Magistrate*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Miss Nora Carton's company presented Mr. H. H. Davis's *Captain Drew on Leave* to a large and appreciative audience at this house last Monday evening. The comedy was delightfully acted. Miss Cynthia Brooke's charm of presence and manner, and her power of emotional expression were admirably suited to the part of Mrs. Moxon; Miss Nora Carton gave a clever study of the coquettish Miss Mills, whose heart is full of kindness; Mr. Claude King as Captain Drew made a marked impression by his bright, easy acting, as well as by the force and pathos of which he showed a command; and Mr. Tom Mowbray sustained the part of the phlegmatic Mr. George Moxon with really admirable art. Mr. Willon Cadogan as Ernest White and Mr. Gerald Venning as Mr. Chester Hassell were both excellent. The comedy, which was preceded by *Cut Off with a Shilling*, was received with enthusiasm by the audience, the players having to respond to numerous curtain-calls.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Crowded houses twice every night this week have been attracted mainly by Mr. Arthur Roberts, who appears with Miss Ruby Celeste and other capable performers in the new farcical sketch, *Till Sunday*. Another entertaining turn is provided by the Donaldson Brothers and their company, including Fred Weedon and Fred Hunter, with a somewhat novel burlesque sketch entitled *Sports in the Jungle*; and Sammy Shields creates great enthusiasm by his songs and patter. Stewart and Morgan render several Irish songs with much artistic feeling and effect; Johnson and Bert are extremely successful in the business of a duologue without many words; Arabella Allen gives very realistic impersonations of Shakespeare and Dickens characters; Jennie Johns takes the audience quite by storm in her musical scena; and lively comedian and comedienne turns are supplied by George French and by Marie Empress.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—The management have reverted to vaudeville entertainment (two houses a night) this week, and, with a strong company, the cosy little house has been filled nightly. The New Macs, comedians, dancers, and patterers, are the star line, and give general satisfaction by their original and novel entertainment. The Sisters Dobell, a pair of dainty comediennes, sing and dance to the highest appreciation of the audience; Cynthia, described as "the smallest lady star artiste in the world," fairly captivates her hearers by her clever imitations of popular artists; Les Valdons, an exceptionally smart pair of jugglers; Miss Amy Bathurst, a chic and attractive sand-dancer; and Florence Lambeth and Robert Robertson, Scotch sketch artists, complete a very fine programme. Bioscope pictures, including an excellent film of the great Marathon Race, were shown at intervals.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr T. Morton Powell.—This week we are having a visit from Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company, in the drama *A Country Girl in London*. Mr. W. V. Garrod gives a manly impersonation of the part of Frank Gordon; as the German Mr. F W. Avery is responsible for a lot of fun; Mr. J. B. Sheridan as Laurie is to be commended for a capital performance; Mr. G. Norton Williams as the adventurer is thorough and convincing; and Miss Bertha Kingston in the name-part proves herself a capable actress.

GAINSBOROUGH. — KING'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Mr. F. R. Duberley's company of entertainers, entitled "The March Hares," appeared here on the first three nights of the week. The company consists of Mr. Maurice Harvey, Mr. Bernard Russell, Mr. Dereck Knowles, Miss Maud Jay, Miss Kathleen Severn, and Miss Florence Foster. They give a very pleasing entertainment, consisting of songs, duets, imitations, &c., and concluding with a screaming burlesque of the "modern soul-stirring melodrama." The accompaniments are tastefully played by Mr. Theo. Ward.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Miss Horniman's Repertory company opened here on Monday to a large audience, in the new play by Mr. Charles McEvoy, *When the Devil Was Ill*. The humour and satire of the play, with its quiet hits at enervated and anæmic authors, and at the devotees of "the simple life," were heartily enjoyed. Mr. B. Iden Payne was extremely good as the author Godfrey Rawlings, who leaves the literary world and goes "back to the land"—temporarily. Mr. Charles Bibby was equally well placed as the secretary who is forced into sharing the delights and discomforts of caravan life. Miss Penelope Wheeler made a most picturesque amateur gipsy as Isobel; and her mother, Lady Mendle-Parish, was amusingly played by Miss Ada King. Mr. Jules Shaw as the Welsh schoolmaster Owen Davis; Mr. Basil Dean as the gruff gamekeeper; and Mr. Leonard Mudie and Miss Doris Horrocks in other parts, gave able support. The comedy was preceded by a play in one act, *Woman's Rights*, in which Miss Hilda Bruce Potter made an excellent impression. Later in the week Mr. Bernard Shaw's *Widowers' Homes* was played, and also *David Ballard*, *The Return of the Prodigal*, and other plays of the company's repertory.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—A strong attraction is offered this week in Mr. William Greet's elaborate production of *The Sign of the Cross*. It is the principal company, and is headed by Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee, who as Marcus Superbus, presents a picture of considerable power and dignity. Miss Constance Little, the Mercia, worthily upholds the traditions of the part; Mr. C. Yorke is highly successful as the despicable Nero, whose consort Poppoea is handsomely portrayed by Miss Beryl Hamilton. The part of Stephanos is filled with touching pathos by Miss Edith Drayman; and the two elderly christians, Favius and Titus, are played in admirable style by Mr. Walter Fleet and Mr. Clifton Yates. As Berenice, Miss Lily Ward acts with strong emotional effect, the gay Dacia of Miss Cissie Carlton making a suitable contrast; another attractive figure being the Ancaria of Miss Mary Newcombe. Mr. Charles Aldred gives due weight to the character of Tigellinus; and Glabrio is treated in humorous fashion by Mr. Frank Wood. The rôles of Licinius and Philodemus are well filled by Mr. J. Wetherall and Mr. Harry Jones; and the two spies are invested with much dramatic intensity by Messrs. H. T. Harris and G. W. Ruff.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The exciting drama called *Sexton Blake, Detective*, is here this week, being for the first time in this city, and is drawing crowded houses. Mr. Horace Hunter enacts the part of the detective with great acceptance, and leads on to the stage the sagacious bloodhound Pedro, which figures in the cast as his assistant. A fine character, played with great spirit by Mr. Brian Daly, is that of Farmer Blackburn, the heroic Roger being ably presented by Mr. William Felton. The stern Squire Lovell is well impersonated by Mr. Stephen Nicholls; the villainy of Randolph Lovell is powerfully rendered by Mr. Charles East; Mr. John M. East as the burglar, Simon Fagas, looks and acts the character to the life; Miss Lily Hammersley as Marjorie Lovell makes a charming heroine; and Miss Ruth Woodhous as Mrs. Blackburn is very pleasing. The fun of the play is kept brickly going by Mr. Billy Rose as Tinker and Miss Lena Delphine as Euphemia Pattacake. Miss East Robertson is a characteristic Philadelphia Kate; the Rev. Edward Gray is naturally acted by Mr. Algernon Syms; and Police-inspector Widgeon is well played by Mr. Herbert Ravenscroft.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—*The Way of the World* is being presented here by Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company. Cecil Hardy is admirably interpreted by Mr. J. P. McBride; Miss Nellie de Lacy makes a winsome heroine; Miss Doris Brooks brings the selfish part of Lady Adela Hardy into due prominence; and a powerful performance comes from Mr. Victor Gordon as Captain Fred Slade. Mr. Clarence Temple gives power to the part of Matthew Malyon; Mr. Pat Quinn does well as Sir John Hardy; and Joe Sparrow is made most amusing by Mr. D'Arcy Kelway, assisted by Miss Violet Vivienne as Polly Bell.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Stanley Carlton's company is here in Arthur Shirley's *London with the Lid Off*. To Mr. William G. Marshall is entrusted the part of the blind burglar, and he and Miss C. E. Ballinger as Sarah Shafto are all that can be desired; Miss Amy Ellam as the Lady Detective is very popular; Miss Rubie Maude (Astra Bell) and Mr. Stanley Carlton (Rev. Allen Gordon) make the love story interesting; and the humorous parts are well looked after by Miss Emily Lewis (Dolly) and Mr Lancelot Usher (Percy Plunker).

EMPIRE. — District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager Mr. George Manners.—The star turn here is provided by Mme. Hanako, the Japanese actress, and her company, in the tragic little play, *Otake*, which is followed with great interest. An amusing sketch is provided by Arthur Jefferson's company in *Home from the Honeymoon*, and roars of laughter are continuous throughout. Alice Raymond's spectacular and musical scena, *A Night in Egypt*, is an excellent turn, and the operatic items given are most enjoyable. Howe and Ardie are a smart couple of knockabout gymnasts; Marie Nilsson's illustrated songs take well; Lester Bros. are neat step-dancers; and O'Malley and Brown are very amusing cross-talkers. The turn provided by Carrie Laurie's Juveniles is very good, and repeatedly encored. The bioscope shows the Olympic races and Henley; and Leslie Harris contributes musical imitations at the piano.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Barton and Ashley top the bill here; and Will Godwin, assisted by Mrs. Godwin and their little daughter, are responsible for a nice little scena, entitled, *The Little Peacemaker*. An animal circus is cleverly conducted by Carl and Mary Ohm; Gladys Godwynne is a juvenile vocalist and dancer; Phillips and Merritt are clever society entertainers; Chummie La Mara is a great favourite in her latest success, "Harrigan"; Lan Denos are expert dancers; the Five X Rays, described as mad athletes, are extremely funny; and George d'Albert is also in the bill. The bioscope projects some excellent films.

PAVILION, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—George Leyton's new scena, *The Last Muster*, proves as popular as its predecessors, and the enthusiasm evoked at the sight of the crowd of old veterans on the stage is very great. Jock Whiteford gets a hearty reception from old friends now he comes as a star, and he is provided with lots of clever songs; Gladys Mavius again proves herself a coon singer with a good style and an exceedingly neat dancer; Belman and Moore contribute a clever American comedy turn, introducing smart burlesque and impersonations; Farr and Farrland are amusing comedians and excellent banjo players; the Ellimans give an enjoyable musical turn; Albert Richmond, a new Scotch baritone, is well received in various songs; Florence Somers sings a ditty about picture post-cards with acceptance.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Miss May Moore Duprez is excellently received here; the Sisters Petram are responsible for a wonderful exhibition of fantoches; Irve Hayman and Little Marie Montague appear in *Xmas Eve*; Lillie Soutter has catchy songs; Ted Karno and company are producing with success a farcical sketch, *Dinner Hour*; the Millfords are smart comedians and dancers; Winton, ventriloquist, is responsible for mirth; Percy Farrimond, singing collier from Lancashire, has a good voice. The bioscope terminates the programme.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The Gothams are an amusing quartette; Maud Rochez presents a variety theatre entirely controlled by monkeys, an entertainment that is thoroughly enjoyed. Another item of interest is "Makers of History," an artistic display of living statuary, designed by Albert Toft. Other notable turns include Harry Tate's company in *Motoring*; Bessie Butt, comedienne and dancer; Albert Letine, in character impersonations; the Three Meers, comedy wire performers; Six Lancashire Lasses, vocalists and dancers; the Schafers, in an original musical act; and the bioscope, with a series of interesting pictures.

GAIETY, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The top of the bill here is most deservedly occupied by Sydney Dooley and Charles Seymour's company, in a musical comedy in thirty minutes, by George Sheldon, entitled *King for a Day*. The cast included Messrs. James Newlands, Sidney Dooley, Albert Clegg, and Misses Ethel Watkins and Maidie Berker. Will Letters (as Signor Carrara) kept the fun going throughout. The staging of the piece was also worthy of mention, being quite a feature. The remainder of the programme was well sustained by The Wallys, in an eccentric juggling performance; R. C. Note, a singer of popular chorus songs; and Renson and Waite. An interesting display of Canadian scenery by the bioscope concludes.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard. — Moncta and Ford are very entertaining in their speciality act; and Jack Ramsay is deservedly popular; Bella Ray receives hearty appluuse for her songs; Johnnie Osborne is a clever Scotch comedian; and the bioscope is a strong item.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Morland's Transformations, a musical and electrical quick-change performance, are very pleasing; Alfred Wellesley and Co. have a laughing hit in their sketch, *Uncle's Courtship*; Minnie d'Aubyn, with a capital song-scena, is greatly assisted by the audience in the refrain; Matt Wilkinson and Co are laughter-makers in the comedy sketch, *On the Flip-Flap*; Staffo, the juggling butcher, is expert; and Andy Fagan, comedian, successfully reappears. Haverley and Homer patter, dance, and sing neatly; and Nancy Renshaw, the laughing negress, also pays a return visit. Violet Beatrice, boy impersonator, sings two songs; and the Palacescope is interesting.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—A crowded audience greeted the first performance of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's principal company in *Mrs. Dot*. In the title-rôle Miss Decima Moore gives an artistic interpretation that quite captivates the audience; the gowns worn by Miss Moore are greatly admired. Mr. Frank Lacy as James Blenkinsop hits off cleverly the "man about town"; Mr. James Geldred makes a good Gerald Halstane; Mr. Philip Leslie is excellent as Freddie Perkins; Miss Ethel Grahame is charming as Nellie Sellinger; and Miss Celia Gordon gives a clever portrayal of Lady Sellinger.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—*The Mollusc* is here this week. Miss Annie Hughes is charming as Mrs. Baxter, giving delicacy and point to the character; Mr. Athol Stewart gives an excellent portrayal of Tom Kemp; Mr. Wylie A. Thompson is good as Mr. Kemp; and Miss Lilias Waldegrave displayed great ability as Miss Roberts. The comedy is preceded by *A Bit of Old Chelsea*.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—The Kremo Family appear in a marvellous acrobatic performance; the Two Pherns are very pleasing; the Royal Japanese Troupe introduces some remarkably clever tricks; Leo and Ronald are expert gymnasts; Charlton is delighting everyone with his performance with the magic kettle; Addison's Terriers are well trained; Doodles and Poodles are creating a lot of fun; Ada Webb and her troupe of swimmers are very skilful; and the Bioscope displays some excellent pictures.

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—The Howard Brothers are repeating their great success of last week; Witty Wattie Walton, who has no equal in his special style, is a big favourite; Rosa Loader is a big hit as the "the slavey at the piano"; Tom Garland is a clever ventriloquist; Dancit executes some smart dances; Kate Gourlay does well as the Scotch lassie; Bert Anderson is a versatile conjurer; and the Bioscope display is as good as ever.

WELLINGTON PIER PAVILION.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation; Manager, Mr. Arthur Cash.—Charles Kay is a smart swell comedian, and is thrice encored for his song; Beattie Bloom sings some excellent songs; May Geraldine is a pleasing comedienne; Wisper, the comedy juggler, exhibits some ingenious tricks; Kyoto is a clever contortionist; Addie Comet is very pleasing; Beatrice Willey sings some good ballads; May Fayre is a charming comedienne; Emma Don appears in some character songs; Patty Yolo is a clever dancer; the Two Rubies present a very smart turn; and excellent pictures are exhibited on the Bioscope.

CHAPPELL'S PROMENADE CONCERT. — Proprietress, Mrs. Sarah Lawton; General Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—The new turn here this week is Will and Roz, clever comedy jugglers.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran.—Excellent films are being displayed here this week, more especially the one illustrating Fun City at Olympia.

MINSTREL AREA.—The Dandy

nick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Alfred Graham's Juveniles, a clever set of precocious youngsters, give a finished and acceptable performance; Chas. M. Daly and company make a hit in an amusing sketch, *I Must Have It*; the Fitzroys submit an exceptionally clever gymnastic performance; excellent hand-balancing by Almond is cleverly accomplished; Hilda and Beatrice, in a refined musical act, and Harry Leaton, vocalist, come in for a good share of applause. The Prince Edward Bioscope shows some interesting pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Public appreciation of this latest addition to the list of places of amusement has proved great. This week Fred Karno's company provide the leading turns, and cause continuous laughter with their well-known pantomime sketches, *London Suburbia* and *The Mumming Birds*; an expert and humorous acrobatic act by the Brothers Bradshaw is much enjoyed; the Sisters Terry, vocalists, have been accorded a capital reception; Frank Boyce, actor vocalist, Joe Humphreys, comedian, and the Pictures make up a good bill.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The charming comic opera, *Tom Jones*, is having a very successful week here. Mr. Cyril Thompson admirably realises Fielding's hero, Tom Jones, and accomplishes excellent vocal work; Miss Margaret Stonor is altogether charming as Sophia, her singing being greatly admired; Miss Florrie Saunders makes a captivating Honour, and her vivacious style and graceful dancing are especially pleasing; Mr. George Elton gives a droll impersonation of the eccentric barber, Benjamin Partridge, which creates much laughter; Mr. Charles McLogan also gives a capital character study of the jolly old Squire Western; Mr. Michael Dwyer acts and sings well as Gregory; Miss Olive Eltono is thoroughly successful as Lady Bellaston; and others who may be mentioned are Mr. Arthur Radcliffe as Blifil and Mr. A. J. Nichols as Mr. Allworthy.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Mr. Harry Roxbury's company is presenting the laughable musical comedies, *The Prince of Monte Carlo* and *The Cowboy Millionaire*. Each is an extremely laughable production, and the music is tuneful and admirably rendered by the company. Mr. Tubby Edlin plays the leading comedy parts. Adams and Ward appear in a smart acrobatic turn, combined with good comedy; Marguerite Ismay and her quartette of white coons give a capital vocal and dancing speciality; Ivy Proudfoot sings excellent songs in pleasing fashion; Shirley and Ransome prove capital coster impersonators in their episode, *'Arf a Quid*; Lilian Rigby gives a clever instrumental act; and Hubert Davies is a successful comedian and dancer.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. William Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Miss Ellen Terry and Mr. James Carew's company were at the Royal the first three nights of this week with *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, played to crowded houses. Miss Terry imbues the part of Lady Cicely Waynflete with all the naturalness and charm of manner that she possesses in a unique degree: Mr. James Carew's Captain Brassbound is an artistic performance; Mr. George Fitzgerald is a dignified and impressive Sir Howard Hallam; Mr. Story Gofton is good as the Scotch missionary, the Rev. Leslie Rankin; Mr. Max Montesole's Felix Drinkwater is an admirable character study; and all the other parts are exceedingly well played. *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* was followed by *Variations*, an interlude which gives Miss Terry and Mr. Carew ample scope to show the versatility of their histrionic powers.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Harry Cotton is an eccentric comedian; Belle Graham receives applause for her "Picturosities" and "Songs and Singers"; Ellis and Watts are capable comedians and dancers; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire Rustic, is deservedly popular; Cestria is a comedy juggler and a marvellous tumbler; the Kremka Brothers are astonishing acrobats and balancers; Florrie Gallimore is as charming as ever and gains enthusiastic applause; and Carr and Rose, two capable singers, appear in a successful operatic sketch.

GRAND, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are still attracting large audiences at this house. Colonel Smyth gives a neat conjuring turn, and, in conjunction with Miss Julie Wesson, a very clever exhibition of marksmanship with rifles, revolvers, and pistols.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Managing-Director, Mr. René Clayton.—The star turn here this week is Mr. Joe Peterman's company in *The Belle of the Orient*. The juggling of Walter Bellonini is smartly and artistically performed; Otto and Olga give a pleasing musical entertainment; George Rapley, a comedian, pleases; while Mark Hinton is on the stage the audience is kept in a ripple of laughter; the turn of Harry Rogerson takes especially well on account of its novelty; Flo Cecil scores with her song "Matilda"; Edgar Forrest's company is successful in the sketch *A Great Surprise*; and Dallas and Varden appear in a "poetic fantasy."

HANLEY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Large and appreciative audiences are being attracted this week by Mr. George Alexander's company in *The Thief*. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart as Richard is a finished actor, with a fine presence and elocutionary powers; Miss May Congdon plays Marise Chelford with ability; Mr. Gerald Ames as Raymond is sincere and telling; Miss Mary Dibley plays Isabel with distincton; and the Harry Leyton of Mr. Alfred Lugg is effective. Mr. Cyril Cattley is decidedly clever as a detective. *Too Happy by Half* precedes *The Thief*.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Miss Maude Mortimer made herself such a firm favourite during the pantomime that her enthusiastic welcome on Monday was not to be wondered at. She sang four songs at each house. H. O. Wills, in his eccentric effusions; The Floradoras, in their fine dancing and vocalisation; the Marcelloni Troupe, acrobats; Johnny Holland and company, in the successful sketch *The Millionaire*; Florence and Lilian, in their clever musical act; Chas. Wilson, jumper; and Arthur Croxon, mimetic comedian are other attractions. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux shows a good film of the Wigan disaster.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. Geo. Dance's company appeared in *Miss Hook of Holland*. Miss Alice Coverick, who is remembered here, was greatly to be praised for her performance as Sally—Miss Hook; Mr. T. A. Shale, excellently placed as Mr. Hook, was rewarded with roars of laughter; Mr. Frank Crimp did well as Van Vuyt; Mr. Tom Seymour was an amusing Simon Slinks; and Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun., gave a good account of himself as Schnapps. Mr. Len Neville was an amusing Van Eck; and Miss Tattie Leonard a handsome Gretchen. For the last three nights of the week Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company appeared in *Brewster's Millions*.

THE KURSAAL. — General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—For this week Miss Fanny Wentworth, the well-known entertainer, and Mr. Joseph Lycett are engaged.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Pictures still continue to delight the audiences here. The list this week contains some exceptionally interesting films, among which may be mentioned those portraying A Sister's Revenge and Saved from the Wreck; and amusement is caused by Youthful Hackenschmidts and Washing Day. The Do-as-you-please competitions still continue to be popular.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company presented *The Dairymaids* to a crowded house on Monday. Peggy was admirably impersonated by Miss Clare Marsden, whose singing is excellent; Miss Clarice Lockstone was a pleasing Winifred; and Miss Mabel Younge acted with refinement as Lady Brudenell. Mr. Nelson Keys as Lieut. Brudenell and Mr. A. Wykes Ashdown as Lieut. Frank Meredith gained distinction; Mr. Johnny Osborne as Joe Mivens was very entertaining, and was associated with Miss Gladys Silvani as Eliza in a plethora of comic business; Miss Madge Avery made a good farcical Miss Penelope Pyechase; and Mr. J. A. Warden was a genial Dr. O'Byrne. The piece was finely staged. For Thursday Mr. George Dance's *The Girls of Gottenberg* company was announced.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—An attractive programme is opened by the Sisters Du Cane, duettists and dancers. The bioscope depicts some exciting scenes. W. P. Dempsey is a good comic; the dancing and singing of Baker and De Sales is very amusing; Harry Bland, the eccentric comedian, gains applause; some classical dances are given by Mlle. Sahara, who, as Cleopatra, introduces a live snake; Dora Healey is warmly greeted as a character comedienne; and Rita and Roma are versatile entertainers.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—A variety entertainment is attracting good audiences this week. Interesting pictures exhibited by Payne's Bio-photoscope are a pleasing feature; Miss Cissie Dryden is a graceful comedienne; Madame Amy Atkins is a local soprano vocalist; the Korries introduce a drawing-room musical sketch; Miss Nellie Ganthony gives some delightful sketches at the piano; Mr. Harry Edeson exhibits wonderfully trained dogs; the five trick lady cyclists do a clever and successful turn. On Tuesday, at Mr. J. D. Hunter's Twenty-ninth Annual Benefit, extra artists volunteered their services. These included Mr. Haydn Coffin, Doroswami (the Indian Kubelik), Mr. George Blackmore, Miss Marie Schulz, and Miss Margaret Cooper. At both performances the pavilion was crowded.

BEACH CONCERT PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. George Blackmore.—A well-deserved benefit was taken on Monday by Mr. Blackmore, and good results were secured. Miss Marie Schultz is a clever comedienne, and Edith Blanchard renders her songs in excellent style.

PUBLIC HALL.—Capital support is accorded the People's Picture Palace Company, under the management of Mr. F. R. Griffiths, whose selection of animated pictures has included the great Marathon Race.

ALEXANDRA PARK.—The Borough Entertainments Association gave another illuminated fête on Wednesday with a disply of fireworks by Messrs. James Pain and Sons. Other attractions were dancing on the lawn, and alfresco concert, and Payne's Bio-Photoscope.

HORWICH.—NEW PRINCE'S.—Lessees, the Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. M. White.—Mr. Campbell-Kenny's company is here in the thrilling drama *A Gamble with Life*. Miss Nana Cameron as Freda Haslett sustained the part capitally; Mr. George Porteous as the villain was seen to advantage; Mr. Campbell-Kenny as the hero sustained the character well, and, together with Miss Blanche Hill as the heroine, frequently brought down the house by clever acting. Mr. Fred Weston as Toby Tiffen, Mr. Tom Robertson as Kit Armstrong, and Miss Florence Spencer as Sally Tiffen capably sustained their parts.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—The comic opera entitled *The Dandy Fifth* is being played here this week by Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company. Miss Pauline Hague sings tastefully as Kate Lorrimer; Mr. Percy Baverstock makes a peppery old Colonel; and Mr. J. Edward Fraser is smart as Dick Darville. Mr. Jack Crichton works hard as Trooper Brown, and Miss Nora Morra is bright as Polly, Brown's sweetheart. There is some good part-singing by the Blue Moon Quartette, and a clever dance by Miss Sadie Thomson. The piece is well mounted and excellently dressed.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the top of the bill are the famous Elliott-Savonas, in their brilliant musical performance; also apearing are: Miss Florence, in illustrated songs; Señorita Eloine, gymnast; Forest and King, acrobatic dancers; St. Ruth and Conyers, duettists; and Miss Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas, in their bright little musical farce *Her Birthday*. An amusing film is shown on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Under arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell the Monckton-Hoffe company presented *Irene Wycherley* at this theatre on Monday. In the title-rôle Miss Maud Henderson proved her possession of excellent emotional powers; Mr. Chas. Garry gave an intensely realistic reading of the rôle of Philip; the Muriel of Miss P. Stuckey was very well conceived; Miss Olive Warne played the heavy part with success; in the unsatisfactory rôle of Chesterton Mr. Dudley Stuart did all that was required; the Sir Peter of Mr. Ralph Hutton was a conscientious effort; Miss Muriel Carmel did fairly as Linda; and adequate support was given by Mr. Chas. Haviland, Misses Grace Illingworth, and Evelyn Cecil. *The Lady and the Scamp* was the curtain-raiser.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—The dramatic season at this house opened on Monday with Karno's *His Majesty's Guests*, the Sergeant Lightning being Mr. Geo. Hestor, who causes unlimited laughter. Miss Aggie Morris continues to make the most of her part. The entertainment runs as briskly as ever it did.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's striking play *A Soldier's Honour* is fetching the people to the Alexandra this week, as it possesses all those elements which are beloved by the patrons of this playhouse. As Doreen Miss E. Barton plays the part with considerable skill; Miss Carlotta Anson is a capital Cora Lee, and realises to the full all her opportunities. The Captain Deane of Mr. Jerrold Ord is a striking piece of work; Mr. J. Ellis is a fine Captain Temple; and Miss Ellie Macklin is a talented comedienne.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*It's Never Too Late to Mend* is the attraction this week, the players being the company of Mr. Fred Granville. Mr. E. Howard Templeton as Tom Robinson presents a capital performance; Mr. V. W. Carlyle as George Fielding exhibits ability; Mr. Charles F. Johnson's Rev. Francis Eden meets with marked approbation; Messrs. Harry Cave (Peter Crawley), W. R. Wilson (Mr. Hawes), and Henry C. Ward (Mr. Meadows) are quite at home in their respective spheres; Mr. Leonard Marshall gives a quaint reading of Jackey; and Miss Gertrude Entwistle wins high opinions for her representation of Susan Merton.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Burgess.—Mr. and Mrs. Durward Lely and company began a three-nights engagement here on Monday in *The Bonnie Brier Bush*. Mr. Durward Lely gave an effective representation of the Rev. John Carmichael; Mr. George Hunter dramatically played the part of the Highland sheep farmer; Mrs. Durward Lely was a charming Kate Carnegie; the part of Flora was in the capable hands of Miss Georgina P. Clifford; and Mr. Clive Wood did well as Lord Hay. The Village Doctor was admirably depicted by Mr. Lowe Mackenzie; and Posty, the letter carrier, was well acted by Mr. Harry Egan.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, in *The Dairymaids*, paid a return visit for the first three nights of this week. Mr. H. F. Maltby and company occupied the house for the last three nights.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Stead.—The chief item in the bill this week is a romantic musical sketch, in which the Hungarian actor-vocalist, Jan Rudenyi, appears; the Five Whiteleys are popular in their acrobatic performance; Ernest Rees is amusing in his patter songs; and Henry Curwen and Marie Bell are clever burlesque performers. Ritter and Foster are eccentric dancers of considerable talent; "Jimson's Pets at Home" show the effect of careful training; Harry Taylor and Charles Vincent are amusing comedians; and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here with a powerful drama, entitled *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Ruth Zillwood gives an excellent rendering of the part of Ninon Malvoisin; and Mr. W. Fraser Brunner plays that of Phillipe Malvoisin with force. Mr. Herbert M. King gives a manly portrayal of Captain Herbert Seaton; and Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam is well-nigh perfect in the rôle of Eleanor Deane. Miss Fraser Brunner is very good as Sally Sloper; Mr. T. Myles makes an ideal Paddy Boyle; and Sammy Sharpe is in the capable hands of Mr. V. Garnet Vayne.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Zaro and Arno are proving a great attraction here this week; they are highly entertaining, and their performance on the double horizontal bars could not easily be surpassed. Great Scott gives a marvellous equilibristic act whilst juggling on an unsupported ladder; of the ladies, Jenny Gray is a most attractive and daintily gowned acrobatic dancer; and Bella Harcourt is a *chic* comedienne. Other turns are Alf. Drinkwater, comedian; Morelli and Moore, in a speciality act; Jack Binks, vocal comedian; Sam Stern, instrumentalist; and Jack Hamilton, patterer and dancer.

ODDFELLOWS' HALL.—Poole's Myriorama, under the management of Mr. J. Wolseley Poole, continues to draw crowded houses here.

TRIANGLE PARK.—The Æolians remain another week. The band of the 1st East Surreys is also an attraction.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Kendal; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair are this week presenting the old favourite drama *Man to Man*. It is excellently staged and played, and is proving a strong attraction, judging by the crowded audiences. Mr. Edward Lloyd gives a highly finished impersonation of George Gordon; Mr. Frank Adair is one of the coolest villains imaginable, and his Richard Ellerton is capitally played; Mr. Clifford Bown succeeds in making the part of Bill Burkely prominent, and creates roars of laughter; Mr. A. Val Shame sustains the part of the mad parson in an effective manner; a humorous performance of Samuel Plumtree is given by Mr. Bruce Williams; Matthew Ellerton is well played by Mr. H. Holland; Miss Phyllis Oakley is seen to advantage as Ned Doyle; Miss Adeline Lester scores as Miss Lavinia Dove; Miss Louie Adair is a great favourite, and her Ethel Maythorne is attractive and clever.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Miss Bonwin Carlton's company is here in *The Old, Old Story*. Mr. Edward Surrey gives a fine rendering of the character of Grimshaw; and Mr. J. P. Drydan is successful as James Marlow. The excellent comedy of Mr. C. Wilson as Bobby Blossom is much appreciated; as is also the charming acting of Miss Carlton as Tilly. *Jo* and *The Plucky Nipper* are billed for the end of the week.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—The Hippodrome has reopened for the season under new management. Mr. Walker, the enterprising manager of the local Pavilion, having taken over this house. A full house greeted the opening on Monday night. At the head of an excellent bill are Mr. Emlyn Jones and the Daughters of Britain, who render in good style and harmony many popular airs; next place is held by the Avrignys, who in their clever juggling act have a great reception; first favourite is Mr. Jack Hayworth, comedian, his song "Toronto" making a huge success; the Boccaccios are responsible for a smart musical turn, particularly noticeable being Signor Francia, with the mandoline; the Ten Dixie Girls present a very pretty turn; and Mr. James Lover is a successful mimic. Some effective pictures are shown by the bioscope.

ADAM SMITH HALL.—Proprietors, The Kirkcaldy Corporation. — Messrs. Walker and Co., of cinematograph fame, are occupying the hall, and are giving a fine display of pictures. Smart turns are also given by the Musical Bentleys (instrumentalists), the Merry Mannikins (marionettes), and Mr. Duffton Scott (Scotch humorist).

LANCASTER.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The Toreadors, burlesque bull fighters, supply the star turn, and are well received; Les Trois Delaries are clever trapeze artists; the Raymond Trio supply a pleasing musical act; Walter Wade, in "Patsy Burke," causes roars of laughter; and Les Uniques electric ladder performers, are very good; James Lowrey, singing furnaceman; Mollie Seymour, comedienne; and the Hippograph complete the bill.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*Sherlock Holmes* is making a welcome return visit. Mr. Hamilton Stewart's company is a most capable one—Mr. Stewart himself playing the strenuous name-part in a masterly and convincing manner. The villainous Moriarty is depicted in clever style by Mr. Robert Gilbert; Mr. Mark D. Draper is very effective as the scoundrelly Larrabee; whilst his female partner in crime is a very satisfactory effort by Miss Edith Vogne; and Miss Elsie Goulding is to be complimented on a sympathetic conception of the rôle of Alice Faulkner.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—That very popular melodrama, *Woman and Wine*, is once more delighting full houses at this theatre. Miss Cissie St. Elmo evinces considerable ability and versatility in the central part of Marcel Rigadout; the victim of her wiles, Dick Seymour, is a capital portrayal by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds; whilst as the heroine, Mary Andrews, Miss Violet Sims contributes a sympathetic character-study. A portrayal of much merit is also that of Mr. J. Milne Taylor, who appears as Hugh Seymour, Dick's blind father.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—The Russian giant Machnow is on show here, and his appearance arouses vast interest; that clever comedian Phil Ray is again immensely and deservedly popular; some acceptable vocal and musical comedy by Callahan and St. George is particularly well received; Mlle. Eldee poses very successfully; Will English again scores with a grotesque comedy turn; the Barton and Franklin Trio are doing a neat musical act; and Harry Rogers and company please with a novel speciality. A successful appearance is also made by the Eight College Girls, Hans and Lux, and the Seven Wulfrunas.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The Four Regals are the leaders here, their amazing feats of strength in a well-conceived speciality eliciting much applause; Claude Feldman's Juveniles score in song and dance; Wright and Lawson are well to the fore with acceptable comedy; Texas Hattie performs clever feats on the tight-rope; Beau Ideal makes a successful appearance; and the Three Brothers Curran have an amusing boxing act. The programme also includes good turns by Dan Robans, the Sages, Arthur Andrews, and Tiger Lily.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Edward Clark presents his Winning Widows in a clever speciality, which is well received; *The Lady Jockey* is also an entertaining musical speciality; whilst Ernest Montefiore and company again achieve success with that effective playlet, *The Little Colonel*. Starr and Leslie are again high in popular favour; a lively turn by the Riotous Trio goes well; and Schiavoni's acrobats are also a prominent line. The Brilliants present a clever xylophone speciality, and of the remainder Jack Rae and Maud Prenton are particularly good.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Ferguson and Mack are a strong attraction here, their hilarious specialty being well received; J. W. Hall leads the comedians in great style; Woolmer Young is also having a good week; Maxwell and Francis, a pleasing vocal comedy pair, repeat previous successes; and Henderson, the musician, nightly gets a rousing reception.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's excellent company is paying a welcome return visit with the delightful comedy *Peter's Mother*, which is both staged and played in a manner deserving of special commendation. Miss Lilias Earle is conspicuous with a fine appreciation of the part of Lady Mary Crewys, and as John Crewys Mr. Eille Norwood leaves nothing to be desired; Mr. Vivian Gilbert is very good as Peter; and Mr. Townsend Whitling as Timothy Crewys, Miss Mary Griffiths as Lady Belstone, Miss Josephine Rae as Miss G. Crewys, Mr. Walter Russell as Canon Birch, Mr. Joseph Jephson as Dr. Blundell, and Miss Hilda Sims as Sarah are others who portray their respective parts most successfully. The one-act farce *Turtle Doves* precedes. Mr. Henry Tweedie is the business-manager for the company.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The boards are held this week by Miss Winifred Chalmers' company with the drama *The Master Criminal*. In the title-rôle Mr. Henry Osmond plays with his well-known ability; and Miss Winifred Chalmers as Cecile is also deserving of high eulogium; Mr. J. C. Carlyle is most successful as Ben Beaudy; Mr. Edward Avinal is excellent as Philip Manners; and Miss Violet Lytton is also good as Mabel Manners. Miss Frances Trevelyan plays and sings capitally as Wilfred Manners; Miss Mabel Tremere is vivacious as Peggy Perks; and both Mr. Charles Tolcher as Gentleman Jim and Mr. Harry Cooke as Tommy Dale create much laughter, and render their songs with much acceptance. For Friday *Oliver Twist* was presented.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Whit Cunliffe, a first-class light comedian, well maintains his great popularity on a return visit with new and old favourite songs; Ernest Ch. Gittins presents with great success his delightful military sketch *The Daughter of the Regiment*, in which Mdlle. Adele Prescott as Marie is seen and heard to considerable advantage; Mabel Bardine and Co. are extremely good in their thoroughly interesting dramatic playlet *Nell of the Halls*, in which Miss Bardine shines as Nell, an actress; the Maples create plenty of merriment in their comedy skit *How to Treat a Burglar*; Harry May Hemsley is clever and versatile as a caricaturist and child impersontor; Andie Burns scores a success in song, story, and dancing extraordinary; Ethel Whiteside and "those piccaninnies," Mena Brae, vocal comedienne, and Ray Maskell, comedienne and dancer, are also entertaining. The Bioscope is a feature with a magnificent view of the Franco-British Exhibition.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The principal attraction this week is Scottie's Operatic Waifs and Strays in their pathetic appeal *The Cry of the Children*; Whizzing the Whirl, the roley-poley pillow fight, is introduced by Dana Royal, in connection with which a competition is being held; La Belle Maie gives a graceful and clever performance on the wire; the Four Sonatas score a well-deserved success in music, song, and terpsichore; Chas. F. Best gives a clever and amusing contortionist act; Lack and Ford are capital comedy acrobats; Maud Stockelle is a capital comedienne and dancer; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, as usual, is a special feature with the Tramp's Daughter and An Attractive Catch; and Josephine Crook sings a couple of illustrated songs.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company: Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The principal pictures in an amusing and instructive entertainment here include The Physician of the Castle, The Ringmaster's Wife, The Woodcutter, Fire Fighters, Poor Aunt Matilda, A Comedy Error, and Thief by Necessity, which are interspersed with turns by Ernie Francis, a popular vocal comedian, and John Naylor, vocalist. The eleventh singing competition is taking place this week.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. James Bell's company is paying a visit here this week in *The Idol of Paris*. Mr. Charles Stafford submits a clever and finished portrayal of Victor Cashelle; Miss Annie Bell furnishes a charming and touching portraiture of Flare-Flare; Mr. Wilson Howard makes an accomplished and persuasive villain of Phillipi d'Esterre; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh is very successful as Mme. Sancterre; and Mr. Gordon Robey ably enacts the rôle of Prince Sergius Zoresky. The remaining parts are all well filled.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Lessees, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Walker; Manager, Mr. J. Frank Walker.—The Sovereign Animated Picture Co., replete with dramatic, instructive, sensational, and comedy subjects still draw crowded houses. The special film depicts scenes from the local colliery disaster at Abram.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope.—Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company, presenting *A Girl Redeemed from Sin*, paid a very successful three nights' visit, opening on Monday. Miss Olive Fulton gained the entire interest of the audience as Nancy Lee, and Mr. Clinton Baddeley's villain was a strong impersonation. Miss Ada Oxley, in a North Country dialect part, was extremely amusing. *The Girl Behind the Counter* (Mr. F. Mouillot's company) is billed for the remainder of the week.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—Mr. Sydney Mason, Miss Theresa Moore, and their company present a powerful miniature melodrama, *The Usurer*; the Vyponds, with music and song, score well; and the Forsyths have an attractive novelty in *The Tramp in the Nursery*. Estrella's dances are specially smart; Jock Walker is a taking Scotch comedian; the Sisters Edwardes are successful as singers, dancers, and drummers; Billie Burford is a taking comedian; and Raymond's Bio Tableux again furnish a much-appreciated selection of pictures.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Here this week we have had *Miss Hook of Holland* on a return visit, the company sent by Mr. George Dance being an excellent one. Mr. Arthur Reynolds proved a most amusing Hook, speaking his lines with a mock gravity that provoked continuous laughter; Mr. Fred Hobbs looked well as Captain Paap, and, possessed of a capital voice, sang "Soldiers of the Netherlands" with plenty of "go"; Mr. Powis Pinder did every justice to the part of the bandmaster; as Schnapps Mr. Percy Davidson proved satisfactory; in the keeping of Mr. Fred Lyne the rôle of Simon Slinks was handled to the utmost advantage; Miss Mabel Sealby extracted a deal of fun out of Nina, and won encores for her "petticoat" song; and Miss Marie Wilson acted gracefully as Miss Hook, her vocal efforts being cordially appreciated. The comedy was charmingly mounted, and went with a swing that was altogether refreshing.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*Happy Hooligan*, an American production, made its first appearance here this week. The company sent by Mr. Herbert Lloyd is a large one, and is advertised as consisting of forty people, mostly girls. All the characters are humorous.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company has been here during the week with *A Warning to Women*. Miss Lillian Herries showed high talents in the important part of Moira Kennion, and carried her audience with her; Mr. Leonard Lawrence made a powerful Dr. Marcus Dread; Mr. William Vane as Shaun earned distinction; and other well-held rôles were those of Fergus McNaughton (Mr. Charles O'Connor), Squire Kennion (Mr. Henry Rutland), Mike McQuade (Mr. Oscar Power), Molly O'Moore (Miss Edith Rutland), and Shelia Kennion (Miss Winifred Rutland).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company have held the boards here this week with *At Cripple Creek*. Mr. Wernham Ryott made an able Joe Mayfield; Miss Constance Elgin gave a satisfactory representation of Dynamite Ann; Mr. Will Hook was a humorous Reggie Harwood; Mr. Reginald Harley-West, in the rôle of Wahketah, showed ability; and other well-drawn characters were those of Martin Mason by Mr. Charles E. Johnson, Manuel Alveray by Mr. Roy Jackson, Ben White by Mr. Charles A. Preece, Maggie Mason by Miss Daisy Carlton, and Sarah Lively by Miss Norah Dillon.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Heading the bill here this week is Miss Louie Freear, who, supported by a company, delighted everybody with the merry farce, *Snooks*; Tom Foy and company were also responsible for endless laughter in the absurdity, *The Yorkshire Lad in London*; Mlle. Celia Galley, a vivacious and humorous artist, pleased with several vocal parodies; Ernie Mayne had a hearty reception for his oddities; Conan and Doyle, comedians and dancers, were as diverting as ever; Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies gave a smart dancing act; and others in the list were Maud Laverne, burlesque actress; Lola Patey, comedienne; and the Three Brothers Huxter, leapers.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Fred Karno's extravaganza, *Saturday to Monday*, has been here this week.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Topping the bill here we have had the Six Brothers Luck with the screamingly funny pantomime, *Lift-ems, Ltd.*, which delighted everybody; a particularly smart couple of youngsters, named Beattie and Babs, gave a song and dance scena, entitled *A Pavement Rehearsal*; Lozelle had an elegant and novel speciality act; Sidney Dooley's Monte Carlo Girls showed talent as vocalists and dancers; Oliver Conroy proved a quaint patter comedian; some clever and bewildering second-sight work was gone through by the Days; Bert Terrill had several funny Dutch songs; and Alice Maude pleased as a juvenile male impersonator.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—So great has proved the success of Lafayette, the American illusionist and conjurer, that he has been retained for another week. On Monday he presented for the first time in Europe a pantomime spectacle, entitled *A Lion's Bride*, an exciting episode. He also amused greatly with his burlesque impersonation of famous band conductors. Rosie Elliott obtained a very cordial reception for her popular songs; Addie Dorina had a smart protean act, *Dr. Spot's Patients*, during which she made several quick changes; Diana Hope and company pleased with their society episode, *Her Good Name*; Tom E. Hughes amused greatly; a clever gymnastic act was presented by Ajax and George; and the Three Rubys, speciality artists, also appeared.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*Sons of the Sea* has been played here by the stock dramatic company, the principal rôles being in the keeping of Messrs. D. G. Noble, Cecil Ravenswood, Sydney Grant, E. D. Allen, Leo Montgomery, Robb Wilton, and the Misses Florence Cameron, Florence Palmer, and Lilian Radbourne. Mr. Anthony Brown's bioscope had the latest pictures.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Here this week Stacy and Williams, a capable pair of comedians, have appeared, in addition to the excellent cinematograph pictures.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—La Milo and Cruickshank have headed the programme here this week. Will H. Fox brought his latest lumps of fun; the droll Bros. Griffiths made their audience scream with laughter; James Edie and Cissie Ramsden submitted a neat musical duo, *Charlie's Visit*; some remarkable work was gone through on the horizontal bar by the Brothers O'Brien; pretty and clever was the turn done by the Proveanies, lady trick cyclists; Alice Maydue delighted her audience with her witticisms; and also in the list were Grace Merton, vocalist, and Monie Mine, vocalist and dancer.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Madge Grey, a dainty comedienne and raconteuse, was foremost here this week, and afforded general satisfaction; A. Payen showed himself to be a remarkable gymnast; a smart farce, *The Sleep Walker*, came from Walter Ellis and company; Fred S. Peake and company, subm

Cecil Toft, Mr. Neil Hardy kept the audience in a constant state of hilarity. Messrs. Howard Lawrence, Horace Hillerby, and W. Shaw Hutchinson contribute to the general mirth. Miss May Gibson sings sweetly as Peggy, and gives a very natural performance; Miss Ray Watson is vivacious as Flossie Kixie; and as Angelina, Miss F. Adameon meets all requirements. The large chorus is elegantly dressed and exceptionally well trained.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—This week Mr. Mouillot's company are presenting for the first time locally *The Girl Behind the Counter*. The various characters are ably portrayed, and mention should be made of the fine work of the Misses Gracie Moore (Winnie Willoughby), Irene Vere (Millie Mostyn), Irene Lavington (Susie), Winifred Knightley (Lady Willoughby), and Eileen Clanford (Ninette). Messrs. Clark Chadwick (General Willoughby), Fredk. Park (the office boy), Geoffrey Allsopp (Rudolph), Sam Lockridge (Chas. Chelwyn), and Ferris Pounds (Viscount Cushington) also add to the general success.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—A packed audience (about 3,500) witnessed a capital variety programme here on Monday, the general excellence of this popular house of entertainment being thoroughly maintained. The British Biograph Co. are nothing if not up to date, and a very fine film by Gaumont depicting the recent successful Gorleston pageant aroused the greatest interest, in addition to which we have another instructive pictorial subject, A Tour Through Rome, which is submitted with remarkable clearness and effect. The variety portion of the somewhat lengthy programme includes Henri Cazman, who is exceedingly clever in his Le Café Chantant act; Florence Gayman, in coon song and dance; Marlow and Manton, in a funny sketch, *Other People's Babies*; and Lily and Elsie Judge, with their wonderful performing cockatoos, which make up a pleasing and delightful entertainment. The British Biograph Co., as usual, is under the experienced eye of Mr. Fred Gilbert.

LUTON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Hallatt has brought his romantic drama *Two Little Sailor Boys*, which, to judge by its reception on Monday, is very successful. Mr. Herbert is admirable as Commander Tregarthen, R.N., D.S.O.; and Miss Blanche Steele, as Lola Grey, is all that can be desired. The scenery and effects are adequate.

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Day and company are presenting here *For Love of a Woman* in a manner deserving of much praise. Miss May Day acted with grace and distinction as Nance; Ned Merrick finds a clever exponent in Mr. Arthur Chisholm; and the rascally Guy Manor is faithfully drawn by Mr. Fred Lloyd. Miss Elsie Shelton enacts the part of Marjory Hulme to perfection; Miss Dorothy Routh wins admiration for her sympathetic interpretation of Nell Paget; Miss Eva St. Vincent powerfully delineates Jane Manor; Allen Paget is played by Mr. Eustace Day in a dignified manner; and the comic element is well supplied by Mr. Chas. Ninian as Major Hulme and Mr. Leonard Harrison as Albert St. Everamond, ably assisted by Mr. Fred Ramsdale as Sam Holland.

MAIDENHEAD.—Town Hall.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—On Monday and Tuesday, Miss Maggie Morton's company played *The Old Folks at Home*, a drama full of human interest. As Andrew Ross, Mr. Ernest Duval, by his straightforward and manly style, quickly gained the sympathies of the audience; Miss Clare O'Sullivan was well suited as Dorothy; and Mr. W. E. White was successful as Hugh Lovell. Mr. Fred Lilywhite and Miss Beatrice Annersley made a typical farmer and his wife; Mr. Charles Coleman and Miss Frances May cleverly depicted the scoundrel and adventuress; and Mr. F. M. Wright as Ben Jolly and Miss Marie Angus were responsible for the comedy. Miss Inez Howard's company, with *Her Love Against the World*, was billed for Friday.

MAIDSTONE. — Palace. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—A good programme is headed by Miss Nellie Wallace, a comedienne with original methods, whose humour appeals to the risible faculties of her audience in no uncertain manner; the Brothers Bright, clever athletes, on a return visit, are as popular as ever; Miss Lilian gives a clever cycling act; Haig and Novel are smart comedy tumblers; and others appearing are Miss Ethel Donna, comedienne; Jack Neil, Scotch comedian, with a stock of funny tales; Miss Sylvie Lonsdale, entertainer at the piano; and Ernest Clifford, a clever dancer.

MANCHESTER. — Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard this week presents Mr. George Musgrove's chief company in *The Belle of New York*, which seems to have lost little or none of its power to attract and entertain. Mr. Frank Lawton, in his original part of Blinky Bill, is still a conspicuous member of the cast, and his whistling performance in the second act is considerably appreciated. Miss Hebe Kneller plays Violet Gray quite charmingly; Mr. Arthur Ricketts as Ichabod Bronson shows a fine sense of humour; Mr. James A. Watts is well placed as Harry Bronson, and Miss Dorothy Doria gives a sympathetic reading of Fifi; Mr. Joe. R. Tate as the Polite Lunatic, Mr. Alec Godfrey as Kenneth Mugg, Miss Minnie Brown as Cora Angelique, Mr. William Hartigan as Doc Saifkins, and Miss Florence Hersee as Mamie Clancy all contribute much to the admirable effect achieved by this clever company.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A powerful attraction is provided here by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *The Dairymaids*. The cast includes Miss Phyllis Dare, who repeats the success gained on her previous visit in the part of Peggy; while a welcome re-appearance is made also by Mr. E. Statham Staples as Lieut. Sam Brudenell and Mr. Fred Leslie, junr., as Lieut. Frank Meredith; Mr. Percy Marshall plays Dr. O'Bryne in a natural and humorous style, and Mr. Harry Dent as Joe Mivens fulfils all the comic requirements of that exacting rôle in the manner of a genuine comedian. Miss Lottie Sargeant adds a smart piece of character comedy as Eliza, and clever and pleasing impersonations of Winifred and Lady Brudenell are given by Miss Gladys Ivery and Miss Edith Blanche. All the remaining parts are neatly and brightly handled, and the whole forms one of the most delightful of musical comedy entertainments.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—This theatre was re-opened on Monday with a return visit of Mr. Morton Powell's company in *When It Was Dark*. The chief successes in a powerful cast are Miss Ethel Griffies as Gertrude Hunt and Mr. Wilfred Lindon as the Rev. Basil Gortre, both of these playing with remarkable effect; but very good work is done also by Mr. Haldane Dalton as Constantine Schwabe and Mr. Charles Brandon as Sir Robert Llewellyn; while great credit is due to Mr. John R. Rogers as the Rev. Mr. Byars, Miss Marie Barrett as Helena Byars, and Mr. A. Collingham as Harold Spence. The scenery is excellent.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt. — Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company are here this week, for the first time out of London, in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, which was enthusiastically received by a full house on Monday night. The acting of Mr. Ernest Cox as Prince Olaf and of Miss Ethel Bracewell as Monica was alone sufficiently excellent to ensure success; but their admirable efforts were finely supplemented by others, notably Mr. Alfred Brandon as the villainous Prince Hildred, Mr. Melville Bulford as Prince Michael, Mr. W. Staine Mills as Captain Hector, Mr. Reginald Payne as Lieut. Karl, and Misses Gertrude Branscombe and Jessica Black as Camiola (the Beggar Maid) and Viola. The dresses and scenery are exceptionally pretty.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Martin Conway, the popular comedian, is the chief attraction here this week, and is as funny as ever; the Szarvaci Ferencz Troupe are accomplished singers and acrobats; Princess Pocahuntas possesses a sweet voice and is well received; and great praise is due to the Three Royal Temples, including Madame Louie Gilbert, operatic vocalists; George Young, blind musician, takes well; whilst Rousby and Rene, sketch artists, the Four Bruns, clever jugglers, Angelina, in mat juggling act, the Camerons, in an amusing duologue, Frances Harlow, comedienne and dancer, and Elliott and Warner, in novel duo scena, all contribute to an excellent all-round programme.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Holt.—Top of the bill here this week is Niel Kenyon, whose success seems to increase with every re-appearance, and Marie Kendall, the popular comedienne, occupies the second place of honour with her usual vivacious "go." Little Ganty is distinctly funny, as usual; Les Martinelis give a wonderful novelty act, *The Rag Doll*; and other pleasing turns are Madge May, comedienne; the Three Lloyds, marvellous cable acrobats; J. A. Wilson and Private Towser; Kate Trail, in refined songs at the piano; and Steve McCarthy, comedian and expert dancer.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—A tabloid version of *Davy Garrick*, excellently presented by Hubert Carter (in the title-rôle) and a good company, is one of the attractions here this week. In this Mrs. Calhaem is specially successful as Araminta; George Gilbey as Spouty, the goal-keeper, is highly amusing; and a graceful cycling act of great merit is gone through by the Dunedin Troupe. Other excellent items are offered by May Henderson, the well-known coon artist; Pip Powell and Katie Vasey in neat duologue, *A Perfect Woman*; Norman and Leonard Trio in a musical incident, *The Itinerant;* Gus Le Clerq, comedian and dancer; and Lottie Govelle, comedienne and dancer. Two enjoyable vocal items are given by the Choir, and the Bioscope pictures are up to their usual standard.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton's company are here this week in their romantic military play, *The Power of the King*. Leading parts are in the capable hands of Mr. Gerald Blake, Mr. Travis Green, Miss Leila Zillwood, Miss Georgina V. France, Mr. Wilton Drury, Mr. John Campling, and others, and the piece, which is given twice nightly before large houses, is entirely effective and capitally staged.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Freece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—A trio of prominent attractions here this week are Malcolm Scott, in "The Directoire Girl" and "Salome"; the Bros. Horne in their comedy boxing sketch; and Charlotte Parry in her wonderful protean performance, *The Comstock Mystery;* Lockhart's Elephants are entertaining; Gargany's Trio of Gentlemen Acrobats are expert and diverting; and other smart turns are Horace and Olga's cats and dogs; Arthur Boyne, comedian; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, in a comedy dancing act; and Stevens and Rennior, comedians and dancers.

Tivoli.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—*The Singing Servants*, an operatic burlesque, presented here this week by Joe Peterman, is bright, brisk, and tuneful, and is well received; Dainty Daisy Irving, the musical comedy girl, makes her first vaudeville appearance and sings charmingly, and meets with a good reception; the Sisters Draycott sing delightfully, and are deservedly well received; the Davenports are successful in sleight of hand; Mdlle. Jeanne Florval, French comedienne, is a pleasing singer; Prince Kuroki, Japanese magician, has some exceedingly clever tricks; May Marton is a charming comedienne; and Bert Castle is a good vocal comedian. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope Pictures are good, as usual; Dan Filmer, comedian, did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—*A Broken Heart*, an interesting drama of human interest, is presented here this week by Mr. Harry Foxwell's company. The acting throughout is of a high order, particularly that of Miss Sheila Walsh as Mary Barnard and Mr. Frank Beresford as John Barnard. The sinister parts of Stephen Rayltон and Gash Gills are well brought out by Messrs. Geo. M. Newall and Harry Foxwell respectively, and the minor parts are successfully played by Messrs. Geo. Addison, Tom Armitage, P. M. Wright, and the Misses Dorothy Ward, Margaret Thorne, Elsie Dean, and the juvenile Daisy Rochford—the latter as Little May is altogether charmingly. The scenery is good and the piece is excellently presented.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Day.—E. Bosanquet (the famous violinist) and company are to the front here in a musical episode, *The Fiddler's Windfall*, a delightful turn; Caban's French Circus of performing animals is a great show; Morander and Darius Trio are exceedingly smart simultaneous gymnasts; Yeager and Da Costa are deservedly well received for their American coonisms; Charles Rowen, comedian, causes much laughter and takes well; Hilda de Grey, Tyrolean vocalist, has a good voice; and other capital turns are those of Fritz Kornau, whistler; Picquo, comedy gymnast; the Farrows, sketch artists; and Pat O'Connor, comedian and dancer. A big hit was made by a deputy for David Poole, the well-known ventriloquist, who did not appear on the occasion of our visit.

Rusholme Pavilion.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. Phillips.—Harry Leslie's Comedy Cadets are the attraction here this week, and, as usual, are highly successful; Vernon Noble is a capital light comedian; Annie Coxen is a good contralto; Rene Steadman, comedienne, is very pleasing; Nellie Moore scores as an actress and impersonator; George Curzon sings well; Jim Pullin, a great favourite, makes his usual hit; Harry Leslie is well to the front as a humorist and ventriloquist; and Fred Shepherd entertains at the piano.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Kenne.—The attraction here has been Hall Caine's fine play *The Prodigal Son*, presented on Monday and the two following nights by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Stephen Magnusson, the sorely-tried father, was realistically impersonated by Mr. Charles Cooper; and Miss Barbara Gott was consistent throughout as his wife Anna. Mr. Hugh Montgomery was impressive in the rôle of Magnus Stephensson; Mr. Gordon Macintosh was also exceedingly good in the trying part of Oscar Stephensson, a character he portrayed with much feeling; Mr. Philip Renouf was seen to advantage as the Factor, Helga Neilson; and Miss Marie Harcourt was amusing as the sister, Margaret Neilson. Miss Mildred Cottell played Helga Neilson sympathetically; Miss Valerie Crespin gave a pathetic rendering of the rôle of the suffering wife, Thora, with which she doubled the part of Elin with great success. The numerous other characters were admirably placed, whilst the staging was all that could be wished. From Thursday to Saturday *You Never Can Tell* was billed, and a flying visit by The Follies was announced for Friday afternoon.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Mr. George Dance's company is here this week in the laughable sketches, *The Local Amateurs* and *The Burglars' Ball*, both of which have created uproarious merriment. Miss Maud Dennis has been giving her dance "Salomé," and the universal favourite, G. H. Chirgwin, has had a most enthusiastic reception. Other contributors to an all-round enjoyable programme include Miss Madge Robertson, ballad vocalist and singer of illustrated songs; and Percy Dalton, the singing and dancing comedian.

Hall-by-the-Sea.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans. — This week's programme is contributed to by the Cecilias, instrumentalists, whose playing on various instruments, both wind and string, is above the average; L. B. Athol, vocal comedian; Miss Sybil Montague, ballad vocalist; Clapham and Riskit, novelty parallel bar performers; the Sisters Allen, duettists and speciality dancers; and the Marsumas, comedy cyclists, in their sketch, *The Nawvies' Rest*.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*Leah Kleschna*, played by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, is making its second visit to Merthyr. As Kleschna, Mr. William Clayton gives a fine piece of character study, and is well supported by Miss Bessie Rignold, who sustains the part of Leah with artistic ability. Mr. Hamilton Deane displays a manly dignity well suited to the part of Paul Sylvaine; and Messrs. Algernon Hicks and Gilbert Heron ably undertake the parts of Raoul Berton and Schram respectively.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Heading the bill here is John Grun Marx, in an exhibition of heavy-weight lifting; Tudor's ponies are exceedingly well trained; Bros. Echairien are a quaint comedy couple, and create hearty laughter; and George Prince, the crazy comedian; the Yorkshire Mill Lasses, vocalists; Harry Keeble, ventriloquist; Chas. H. Gould and company, in an amusing sketch, *A Matchless Match*; and the biograph pictures also furnish agreeable items.

METHIL.—Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—*The Power of the Cross*, capably presented by Mr. Lingford Carson's company, proved a powerful attraction on Monday. Mr. George de Gray gave a striking portrayal of the horribly weird vampire man, Baron Curzola; Messrs. Robert Hall and Alexander A. Haviland were eminently successful as General Fairfax and Dr. Leslie Fairfax respectively; Benjamin Hawke was well played by Mr. Francis Serle; David Kingsley had a capable exponent in Mr. Gilson Brooke; Miss Stella Carmichael played with much spirit as Rita Lascelles, the adventuress; Miss Annie Hylton, as Margaret Seaton, appealed successfully to the sympathies of the audience; and Miss Phyllis Vaughan was capital as Blanche Kingsley, the Baron's victim. Mr. Tyrone Power and Miss Etta Turner as Timothy O'Dowd and Dolly Gray were responsible for some excellent comedy. Several smaller parts were in safe hands. The pictures shown on the Gaietyscope continue popular.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre. —Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton. — Mr. Roland Yorke's company is appearing here this week in *The Old Home*. Mr. John H. Clyndes gives a fine portraiture of Daddy Dean; Mr. Ellerslie Pyne is an impressive Rev. Eric Armstrong; Mr. Roland Yorke cleverly typifies the character of Dr. Warburton; a fine study of Lord Avondale is given by Mr. Clavering Craig; Mr. Fred L. Conynghame (Sam Adams), Mr. Jas. L. Air (Timothy Twaddle), and Mr. Walter Osmond (Jack Warren) sustain their respective rôles with infinite credit. Miss Grace Jones plays with emotional power and dramatic force as Hazel Dean; Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite is an interesting Bridget Donoghan; and Miss Mattie Crawford a sprightly Pollie.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Opera House. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—The visits of Mr. Martin Harvey to Middlesbrough are always looked forward to with great enthusiasm by Teeside playgoers, and a large audience gathered on Monday to witness *The Breed of the Treshams*. The romantic career of Reresby the Rat is told with a touch of genius, and the varying moods of the devil-may-care soldier are all portrayed in a manner nearly approaching perfection. Miss Madge Fabian gave a flawless portrayal of the Hon. Margaret Hungerford, her expressive voice and exquisite charm of manner fitting her admirably for the part. Miss N. de Silva was as artistic as ever in the rôle of Batty, and Mr. Leonard Craske acted with great distinction as Cornet Tresham. On Tuesday evening *A Cigarette Maker's Romance* was produced, and the visit concluded on Wednesday with a matinée and evening performance of *The Breed of the Treshams*.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company occupies the boards here this week in the play *The Lancashire Lad*. The play is well equipped with scenery. Miss Stanley Burt acts with great distinction as Jessie Wincote, and the rôle of Lorna Wincote is admirably played by Miss Nell Oliver; Mr. Alec Alexander makes a capital David Elmore, and Mr. T. G. Vane fills the part of Max Carlton to perfection. The humorous side of the play is well upheld by Miss Jennie Hallworth as Jane Alice Clitheroe, and Mr. Bob Anderson as Willie Wardle. In the third act a variety programme is introduced.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—The famous Craggs top the bill here this week in their latest acrobatic comedy sketch, *Billy*, in which some clever acrobatic tricks are introduced; a delightful musical turn is provided by Diamond and Beatrice, and Dusty Rhodes maintains his reputation as a great comedian; William and Warden are exceedingly good in their act, *Mr. Dooley;* and Cosgrove and Burns score a success in their comedy drawing-room act; Guy Ryder, comedian and whistler, and Mina Green, comedienne, also do well.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Nicholls.—Vesta Victoria, the famous comedienne, scores a great success in her latest songs, and Yolande Noble is a favourite comedian; some delightful music is given by Willman; a wonderful exhibition is provided by Silbon's cats; Dunn and Reano are clever comedy gymnasts; and the Fimans in a musical comedy scena are exceedingly funny; May Newall, vocalists, and Harry and Elsie Mayville, lilliputian comedy artists, also do well.

Oxford Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—Tate's Juveniles make their first appearance in Middlesbrough this week, and their flower scena is much appreciated; Little Fritz is a clever Dutch song and dance artist, and a competition amongst amateurs for the best act of any kind arouses great interest.

MORECAMBE.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. C. M. Julian.—Mr. George D. Day's company has been appearing with great success in Hall Caine's successful play *The Prodigal Son*, with Mr. Albert Ward in the rôle of Oscar. Mr. H. Crane has been the Magnus, a character which he sustains with power. The parts of Stephen Magnusson and Oscar Neilson are respectively in the capable hands of Messrs. Jackson Hayes and James English. Miss Pauline Emeric doubles Thora and Elin with success; and Miss Pearla Gardner is well suited in style and voice to the part of Helga, the temptress. The mounting and effects generally are very good.

Alhambra Palace. — Manager, Alderman John Gardner.—The Waldrons have joked and laughed their way right to the hearts of the people in their new absurdity, *Sammy*, and the audience at every house have yelled for more. The Reays have been doing some wonderful equilibristic and "strong" business on the silver chains; Captain Devereux and his dogs are as popular as ever; Beattie Foster is a pleasing comedienne; and Wallace Whitney causes a great deal of fun. The Richard Trio are highly amusing acrobats; and the Bros. Miller cause considerable diversion. Olive Vane is a nice dancer and serio.

Winter Gardens.—Manager, Mr. Tom Atkinson. —The Geni Family of Risley acrobats are proving a big attraction here, and La Pia in her dancing delights all. The Soho Trio are capital in their smart entertainment; Josie Gallimore is neat in song and dance; Melia and Mozarabar, the Oriental equilibrists, introduce in their act some pigeons and trained ravens; Rich Taylor and Ted Waite are also in the bill. The Arthur Lloyd Trio are great in their comedy sketch, *The Twin Sisters;* La Tostia is a most accomplished ventriloquist.

Central Pier.—Manager, Mr. Emilius Hill. — There has been a very acceptable bill here, including Fritz, in his latest illusions; Stylo, with hoop manipulation right up to date; A. D. Robbins, the wonderful cyclist, in startling things; Penstone, conjurer; Nina Gordon, in her clever imitations; Geo. Waite, shadowgraphy; and others. On Wednesday Mr. Hill took his benefit, and there was big business recorded, and an extension until one o'clock on Thursday morning was granted. It was a very merry evening, and amongst the "extras" was a beauty show.

MOTHERWELL. — New Century Theatre.— Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is appearing in the melodrama *Is Life Worth Living?* The part of the hero, Lionel Roy, is cleverly sustained by Mr. Ernest Owttrim; Madge Roxton, Lionel's sweetheart, is played with feeling by Miss Lilian Earles; Mr. Herbert Holder is successful as the villainous Randolph Kerr, and Miss Jeanie Burgoyne's presentation of the trying part of Isabel Coreble is heartily applauded.

MUSSELBURGH. — Gaiety Theatre. — Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. M. Richardson.—The management here are to be complimented on their programme this week. The first part consists entirely of cinematograph pictures, films of note being The Sailor's Wedding and the coloured pantomime, Aladdin. In the second part, Fanning's Royal Court Mannikins are introduced for the first time locally, and create much laughter. Miss May Royal at the piano also contributes to a pleasant entertainment.

NELSON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—A return visit is paid to the town this week by Mr. Frank Lindo and company, in *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Lindo is a powerful Stephen Armitage; David Armitage is ably treated by Mr. Laurence Doyle; whilst Mr. Archer Brown makes a dignified Duke of Ancaster. The character of Lucas Lyle is well brought out by Mr. H. Wright; Mr. N. Shields makes an admirable Percy; Mr. Rogers is eminently successful in depicting the always tired Lord Silvermore; as is also Mr. R. Walsh in his treatment of Dick Redmayne. Miss Marion Wadeford presents the character of Joan with much grace; Miss Maude Leslie-Cudd displays talent in the rôle of Sybil Fay; and Miss Dolly Webb makes a winsome little Dora.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Jones and Douglass.—Another bright and sparkling programme is submitted this week. The Scarleteers are an excellent company of artists, versatile and up-to-date. Their reception nightly has been enthusiastic by crowded houses. The company includes Mr. Charles Hinchliff, Mr. Alex. B. Gilbert, Mr. Sydney Leon, Miss Lilian Saunders, Miss Rosa Mellish, and Miss Daisy May. A very humorous sketch, *The Woman Who ——?* is produced by that clever comedian Mr. Van Bern, assisted by Miss Sybil Lister, and is received with much laughter. Miss Lister also sings well. Herr Spiegler charms the audience with his violin solos, and the animated pictures are beautiful in the extreme.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parker.—*The Gay River* company is paying a return visit, and good business is being done. The company includes Mr. Frank Dunlop, Mr. Bert Byrne, Mr. Francis Rayne, Mr. Charles North, Miss Harriet Fawn, Miss Nora Walker, Miss Nellie Crawford, and Miss Harriett Greene. The music is bright and the acting and singing worthy of high commendation.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Theatre Royal.— Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Milton Bode's principal company, in *The Belle of Mayfair*, is here. Mr. Harry Parker as Sir John Chaldicott infuses any amount of capital fun into his delineation of the "nouveau riche" character; and Miss Queenie Finnis's Julia is a charming study, her sweet singing and graceful dancing being greatly appreciated. Mr. Lawrence Wensley as Hugh Meredith plays with refreshing energy, and renders his various songs in capital style; whilst other leading rôles are ably played by Miss Aurelie De Loriere, Miss Nellie Cozens, Miss Blanche Astley, Miss Agnes Tandy, Mr. Percy Yorke, Mr. Edward Hugonnet, Mr. Lauri Leslie, and Mr. G. MacCloskie.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—This week Mr. Wentworth Croke presents his company in a new version of *The Christian*. It is well staged and capably performed, and is proving a great success. The John Storm of Mr. Henry Renouf is as incisive and effective as ever; whilst Miss Doris Gilham as Glory Quayle gives a most charming and natural portrayal of that character. Mr. Geo. R. Montford is a prominent figure as Lord Robert Ure, and gives a spirited representation of the part; and Mr. Edwin Ling wins favour as Father Lamplugh. Other leading rôles are well sustained by Mr. Oswald Marshall as Horatio Drake, Mr. C. T. Turpin as Archdeacon Wealthy, Mr. E. R. Holley and Mr. Arthur E. Merkell as Lord Storm and Parson Quayle respectively, and Miss Margaret Brodie as Polly Love.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Frank G. Pitt's company is here in *£1,000 Reward*. Miss Kathryne Eckart acquits herself in a manner worthy of the highest praise; Mr. Frank J. Pitt as Vincent Ransworth gives a fine impersonation of a detective; and Mr. J. Wilton excels as Gilbert Lisle. Mr. Frank Dallas makes Inspector Gilbert popular; Miss Marjorie Seymour delights the audience by her sweetly-rendered songs; and the comedy parts of Dick Springthorpe and Kitty Springthorpe are capitally sustained by Mr. Joe English and Miss Minnie Goepel.

Grand Theatre. — Sole Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—At this popular house the entertainment is provided by Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company, in *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Miss Cissy Bellamy, in the name-part, acts with that womanly sympathy which is quickly recognised and appreciated by lovers of the drama. Other characters are ably played by Mr. Paul Becket, Mr. Wilson Summers, Mr. Wilford Cheetham, Mr. W. E. Passmore, Mr. Percy Brown, Miss Elsie Capell, and Miss Katie Lever.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Nothing more hilariously satirical on the "suffragette" movement has been seen here than Bella and Bijou's sketch, which is the star turn here this week, and which is proving a great success. George Newburn is as smart as ever in his clever imitations of leading artists; whilst the Narow Brothers, trick cyclists, are astonishingly clever, as well as amusing. A breezy turn is that of Miss Elsie Robey, a mimetic comedienne; and the Ten Ji Troupe of Japanese conjurers and mystery mongers, provide an excellent turn. Rich and Rich, comedians of the cross-talk variety, are vastly amusing; and another acceptable turn is that of Mason and Bart, gymnasts. Other artists appearing are Nellie Martell, comedienne, and the New York Nippers.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—At the head of an excellent bill here this week is Miss Ada Coley, the well-known vocalist, who is making a decided hit in her beautifully-rendered songs; Mr. Sidney Bacon's company, in *The Duchess of Tooting*, also provides capital entertainment; whilst other numbers are contributed by Lillie Lassah, Beatie and Babs, Mons. Gerard, Dan Thomas, Zeta Grey and Co., Dan Whitley, and Harris and Worth.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company, in *The Gay Gordons*, are being accorded good houses here this week. Mr. Stanley Brett's Angus Graeme is a fine piece of acting, with a natural gift of easy humour, and great charm of manner; and Miss Zena Dare's Peggy Quainton is light, graceful, and attractive, winning admiration with her buoyant humour. Mr. Edward Lewis as Nervy Nat is clever and amusing, and Miss Nellie Dade as Charlotte Siddons gives a fine character study. Mr. Wilfred Norman's Edmund Siddons is all that could be desired; Miss Madge Vincent as Victoria Siddons is bright and vivacious; and Mr. Ernest Torrance makes a dignified Andrew Quainton. Mr. J. Hobson (Corporal Smith), Mr. Buchanan Wake (Archibald Speedy), Messrs. H. Audeau, E. Leith, A. Wooley, and J. Carlisle, as members of the Peerage, and Miss Ada Fraser as Mary McLeod do exceedingly well. The music is pretty and the chorus, a strong one, are all that could be desired.

Empire.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallagher.—Heading the bill here is Mr. Fred Lindsay (the Whip Wonder), who nightly delights big houses with his interesting preformance; Herbert Shelley, in a thrilling episode in the reign of George III., *Dan, the Outlaw*, in which he sustains five distinctive parts, wins applause; Vernon and Voyce, in the skit *The Fly-Far-Man*, are amusing; and Charlene and Charlene are excellent jugglers. The Bros. Redmond are good acrobatic comedians; the Crown Trio sing sweetly; and Fred Lincoln, in his successful scena, *My Pal Jimmy*, Marion Scott, comedienne, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. E. Barnett.—The dramatic season was opened on Monday, when Mr. Edmund Tearle and company appeared in *Othello*. Mr. Tearle, in the title-rôle, was well supported by Miss Vera George, as Desdemona. On Tuesday *A Woman's Revenge* was played, when Miss Kate Clinton (Mrs. Edmund Tearle) appeared with success as Mary Lonsdale; Mr. Tearle as Frank Drummond was well suited, his declamatory powers in the last act gaining him a torrent of applause; Miss Mary Campbell acts with fervour and tact as the adventuress, Mabel Wentworth. *Jeanie Deans*, *Richard III.*, and *It's Never Too Late to Mend* are in the week's répertoire.

The New Palace Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—The star turn this week is provided by Arthur Watson, Flo. Stanley, and their troupe of comedians and dancers, in a sketch, entitled *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, which is full of fun and merriment; Salmon, the wonderful trick and musical cyclist, next on the list, finds great favour; Devon and Earl are clever exponents of simultaneous dancing; the Stowe Brothers are smart and able young equilibrists; the Palace pictures, showing scenes at the Franco-British Exhibition, are of the very best; and Nellie Chandos, comedienne and dancer, Allen and Hall, cross-talk comedians, M. Clivetto, dancing juggler, Chas. Auto, in a comedy musical speciality, and Bert and Dora, comedy artists, complete a long programme.

NORTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—*Send Him Victorious* has been presented here this week, by Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company, and has been very warmly greeted. As Colonel Neinrich Kaufmann Mr. G. M. Montanini gives an excellent impersonation; Mr. John Baxter is responsible for a capital portrayal of Major Carl Strauss; Mr. George Derricke displays ability as Captain Frank Allison; Mr. Frank Holyoake makes the most of the King of Ravonia; and Mr. Arthur Tomlin wins applause as Geordie Walker. As Countess Kara von Mechlinberg Miss Marie Robson gives a fine exhibition of acting; Miss Cecilia Crawford proves a smart Gretchen Holtz; and Miss Metta Mitchell a pleasing Ethel Hardinge.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—The bill here is headed by the Clavers, who present a clever act, which gains them much applause; the Bohemians, comedy artists and instrumentalists, are well received; and Mr. James Shields, comedian and one-legged dancer, is a great favourite. The Three Singing Colliers are much appreciated; Miss Connie Gilbert, comedienne and dancer, is very pleasing; Messrs. Spencer and Marks, speciality comedians, cause much laughter; and Mr. Leo. King, actor-vocalist, scores a success. The Mouldoscope displays some capital pinctures.

NORTHWICH.—The Pavilion.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Henry S. Dacre.—The Entertainers are a strong feature here this week, in their programme of mirth, melody, songs, and dances. Another attraction is Mlle. Lumière, serpentine butterfly and fire danseuse, in her representation of She.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is here this week in *The New East Lynne*. Mr. Henry Harker plays Archibald Carlyle with much force; Miss Laura Hanson is most effective in the dual characters of Lady Isabel and Mme. Vine; Miss Nellie Lucas deserves every praise as Barbara Hare, and Miss Sophy Shipton admirably acts the part of Cornelia Carlyle. Mr. W. H. Garbois appears to advantage as Francis Levison, Mr. William Love is very good as Justin Hare, and the same compliment is due to Mr. Byron Pedley as Mr. Dill; as O'Flynn Mr. Richard Nugent creates amusement, and the other characters are admirably filled.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fit

Brooke are dainty vocalists and dancers; and Dick Bradley is very good as a tramp trick cyclist. The Dottoscope concludes.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Thompson.—Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company is here with *The Outcast of the Family* and *The Conscript*. In the former play, Mr. F. C. Leighton enacts the hero, Harry Thorne, very successfully; Mr. C. H. Coleman does well as the villain, Richard Martin; and Mr. Watler Steele is powerful as Stephen Barry. Mr. Bert Atherton works very hard, and is a great success as Joe Bushell; while Mr. E. W. Cudd adequately sustains Abram Wasper, and Mr. Miles Platting plays Sir Henry Thorne. Miss Vera Neville is full of life as Nancy Bray; Little Dorothy is good as Little Bob; and Miss Lilian Ross makes the most of Grace Redburn. Miss Gertrude Morella gives a very sympathetic rendering of Ruth.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Messrs. Charles H. Phelps and Ernest Vaughan's company is presenting here *Man or Beast?* Mr. Charles D. Pitt gives an admirable representation of the Hon. Jack Newton; the character of Sir Richard Tremere is powerfully portrayed by Mr. Ernest Vaughan; Mr. Frank Hertie is highly successful in his interpretation of Col. Bruce Anderson; Mr. Charles H. Phelps as Capt. Donald Macdonald plays excellently; and as Pat O'Brien Mr. Fred Gresham is humorous. Miss Irene Carrington is to be commended for her ability in the rôle of Bella; a bright and clever embodiment of Rosie is submitted by Miss Madge Douglas; Miss Florence M. Daly assumes with considerable success the part of Annitta; and Miss Cissie Clark makes a dainty Marie.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas F. Bostock.—The principal turn this week is Charles Seymour's comic opera company in *Queen of the Adriatic*, in which there is abundant scope for excellent singing and clever work by the comedians; Cliff and Kean give an interesting comedy, singing, and dancing act; Carl Howard, wizard delights everyone in a neat concoction of comedy and magic; Sid Cotterell and company introduce *The Substitute*, which provokes plenty of mirth; a capital musical entertainment is provided by Simms and Simms; Roze and Calvert are a couple of clever comedy artists; Will Wilton, comedian, causes hearty laughter; Bert Welda and Dorothy Wynne submit an attractive juggling, dancing, and tumbling act; J. H. M'Cann, acrobatic roller skater, is popular; and the bioscope concludes.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—On the top of an interesting bill is Billie Barlow, the clever comedienne, in songs and patter; the various intricacies of jugglery are cleverly demonstrated by Mazetto, assisted by Buttons; the Corcoran Brothers, in their musical speciality, meet with success; Probyn and Bates are well received in their eccentric dancing; Grahame and Harrington do well in their interpretation of Parisian life; and Johnny Fuller displays clever balancing powers in his feats on the wire. Frank Coyle contributes capital comedy numbers; Harry Wenburn is also heard to advantage; and Flo Banks, vaudeville artist, and the Tivoliscope conclude.

PENZANCE.—ST. JOHN'S HALL.—Messrs. Joseph Poole and Son's Myriorama and Variety Combination, under the management of Mr. Fred Mayer, opened here on Monday for a season of twelve nights. The magnitude and excellence of the programme submitted is drawing huge crowds nightly. The pictures are up-to-date and full of interest, whilst the Myriograph, among other fine films, projects an elaborate panoramic representation of the White City. The variety combination includes Morritt, in his marvellous illusions and mysteries; and Mme. Beulah in a remarkable exposition of mental telepathy. Lieut. Chard's canine hippodrome arouses the audience to a high pitch of enthusiasm. The Veronas, lady dancers and vocalists, give a neat and pretty turn; and Miss Alicia May, in song scena, carries the audience with her in telling choruses. Vela, the tramp on the wire, is a clever equilibrist; the Cedrics are smart in their juggling act; Fil Gerrard's impersonations of "People we know" fully merits the hearty applause he secures as a quick change artist; Silly Selby, aptly described as the eccentric musical Momus, creates much amusement; Mr. Nat Abbott is an entertaining guide; and Mr. Charles Thorne ably directs the fine orchestra.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Tom Jones* was presented on Monday. Mr. Harry Welchman is Tom, and rises to the part excellently; Miss Florence Smithson as Sophia did exceedingly well; Mr. Frank Henry, understudy for Mr. Ambrose Manning, most capably filled the part of Squire Weston; at short notice; and Miss Isabel Dillon was a charmingly piquant Honour. Mr. Dan Rolyat is Benjamin Partridge, and the theatre patrons, reminiscent of this actor's powers as a humorist in *The Dairymaids*, expected something really good. In this they were not disappointed. Mr. J. T. Macmillan as Gregory is also an entertainer of ability; and Miss Alice Oppitz in the part of Lady Bellaston is also noticeable.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Harry Ford being present is naturally "starred," and came in for a magnificent reception, his new gags and songs taking on well, but the old favourite, "When she smiles," was as popular as ever; the Three Sisters Sprightly also received a warm welcome on a return visit, the golfing parody being a very ingenious piece of work; Miss Yvonne Lamor, a coming comedienne, splendidly burlesques Miss Maud Allan in the Salome dance; and Henry Hilton mystifies the audience with some wonderful conjuring. Sim Maree, well described as the "human coil," is a wonderful contortionist; and Victor and Louis have an amusing duologue, entitled *The Golfer and The Caddie*. Horace Jones, Anglo-Welsh comedian, also supplies an entertaining number.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—At the head of an excellent bill this week are Spring and Spring, Continental barrel-jumpers, who do some sensational feats, one of which consists of jumping over a horse; Lizzie Rounds is a skilful male impersonator; Dora and Dorma, in a song scena illustrate the reform of a drunken husband by a long-suffering wife; Fremel and Fremel are nimble, breezy, and rollicking patterers and tumblers; whilst as a comedian Little Dando may be justly termed "multum in parvo." Iva Mona sings prettily and is a smart dancer; Bert Bowden makes more fun; and Amos Howard, a coloured gentleman, uses his feet to excellent purpose, his sand-dancing being much appreciated. The Sisters Hampel work cleverly a contrast in style between a high-bred lady and a coster's "donah"; the Alexandra Bioscope is, as usual, good, and a feature of the week is the exhibition of snapshots taken promiscuously in the town and neighbourhood each day, the person recognising him or herself geting 5s.

PORTH.—THE PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping the bill here we have the Clement Trio, in their novel comedy trapeze act; Maston makes a hit as the Yorkshire mimic; Chas. Grantley is decidedly popular as the erratic entertainer; Baby Vi Davis is a big favourite; Maxey and Pete score in their performance as trick and comedy cyclists; Dollie Denton, comedienne, deserves a word of praise; Clarke and Glenny are responsible for excellent amusement; Adeline Yohle presents a musical interlude; the Three Behans are smart in their quick-change act; and the Palascope winds up a capital bill.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—The strong and successful play *The Thief* is staged here this week, being interpreted by Mr. George Alexander's excellent company. Mr. Rupert Lister in the rôle of Richard Chelford had a part that fitted him well, and in the strong scene in the second act he acted with most convincing force and earnestness; Miss Marie Polini, a charming Marise Chelford, showed powerful intensity; the part of Isabel Leyton was effectively filled by Miss Jean Cadell; Raymond Leyton was played by Mr. Cyril Harcourt with dignity and seriousness befitting the part; Harry Leyton was cleverly acted by Mr. Owen Nares; the Detective, Mr. Prothero, being characteristically sustained by Mr. Luke Foster. Mr. Bernard Stevens did well as the Servant.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company, under the direction of Mr. Thompson Carruthers, is here in the author-manager's popular drama *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss Florence Millett, in the trying part of Risca Mallison, plays with marked skill; Jim Murley is undertaken by Mr. Eric Campbell with complete success; Mr. J. Ansdell Wilson is excellent as Railton; Mr. Milner Noble does clever and convincing work as Pharosaphus, an Egyptian; the hero, Guise Strange, is taken by Mr. Arthur Robinson with resolute vigour, commanding success; Mr. Thompson Carruthers plays Eric Melville with telling effect; the Hon. Reggie Verincourt and Ezekiel Isaacs find capable representatives in Messrs. Millar Wilson and Charles Lovell respectively; Miss Gwendoline Talbot acts gracefully as Doris Melville; and Miss Beatrice Reynolds is most diverting in her impersonation of Vavasole Slopper, a nondescript.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Harry Roxbury and company, in the merry musical mélange entitled *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, take pride of place here; Elton and Emma on the triple bar give an extremely clever knockabout act; W. E. Gillin, a ventriloquist of ability, pleases with his amusing figures; the Marbas are a supple and elastic pair of dancers; Haley's Juveniles in an interesting carnival scena display evidence of considerable training; Hughes and Elliott in a speciality act do well; Conway and Leland, American monopedists, are smart and brisk; Nevill Graham and company, in the dramatic episode *The Man in the Street*, are entitled to great praise for their artistic presentation; and animated pictures by the Barrascope complete a bright programme.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Capt. Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Bob Hutt and company, with an original production entitled *The Captain of the Boys*, head the programme here; Stella Stahl, comedienne and danseuse, is praiseworthy and pleasing; Fancourt and Rubie, in an up-to-date comedy act, *The Huntsman and the Waiter*, are encored for some clever work; Gena Manon, vocalist and soubrette, submits some tuneful numbers; and Albert Wyndham and company, in the Shakespearean episode *Prince Arthur; or, The Days of King John* present the sketch with ability. Roma and Romani prove most versatile in their musical mélange; Billy Hobbs, coon comedian and dancer, supplies a highly effective turn; Jack Lorimer is a versatile Scotch comedian; and Payne's Bio portrays some amusing incidents.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Councillor Roberts.—The most popular turn here for the week is Tarro Miyake, the champion Japanese wrestler in Ju-Jitsu style; Miss Lena Wylie is a vocalist of much power and sweetness; the Gallimore Trio in pantomimical comedy act prove most attractive; Mr. Harry Leybourne submits an able act of imitations; Miss Mabel Green is a dainty musical comedy artist; Mr. Tom Leamore, comedian and dancer, is very diverting; Donovan and Arnold, American comedy duo, are smart and up to date; Mr. Harry Brown, coloured eccentric dancer, and the Hippo pictures are other attractions.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company, under the direction of F. Martin Morris, is here this week with the new musical comedy *The Flower Girl*. The piece is meeting with a most enthusiastic reception, as it well deserves, for not only is the libretto smart, the songs catchy, and the dances breezy, but the voices of the principals and chorus are all good. In the title-rôle Miss Dorothy Firmin, who possesses an excellent voice, soon becomes a firm favourite, and encores are numerous; as Joe Wheeler Mr. Martin Adeson is the life and soul of the piece, and fairly brings down the house with his inimitable patter and topical allusions; as Reginald Rackit Mr. Norman Bowyer is a most amusing Dude; Mr. Robert H. Howard, who is heard to advantage in several numbers, is good as the Hon. Billy Greenhill; as Alphonse de Racquet and Lizette de Racquet Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Florence Wilton create roars of laughter; Miss Jeanne Holmes is praiseworthy as Miss Greenhill, a Suffragette; and the same may be said of Miss Townley Laurence as Maisie Flirtington. The remaining characters are most ably presented by the Misses Cassie and Alice King, Phillis Leslie, Kitty Hyde, and Messrs. L. Stanislaus, Arthur Carter, and F. Williams. The chorus and the augmented orchestra are under the direction of the composer, Mr. William T. Gliddon, and the play is produced by Mr. Louis Stanislaus.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Harry Battersby's company in *The King of Crime* is this week's attraction. Mr. F. B. Woulfe gives a powerful portrayal of Ronjarre (the King of Crime), and wins loud applause; as his blind wife, Henrietta, Miss Mildred Eversleigh gives a most sympathetic rendering of the part; Mr. William Miller is capital as the miser, Gaudelu, as is also Mr. Claude Aymond as Simon (his son). Mr. William Melvyn makes a manly Louis Mascorot; Mr. Sam Wilford sustains the comedy element of the play as Mick Maloney, and receives capital support from Miss Edith Loraine, who is a vivacious and sprightly Clarisse; Mr. Leslie K. Manton is good as Tabaret; and the trio of scheming scoundrels, Tote Chupin, Bordogue, and Baptiste, are cleverly portrayed by Messrs. Walter Hilton, E. Morris, and Cecil Stuart. Miss Agnes D'Aragon as Mère Crouchard and Miss Nancy Battersby as Mathilde Haudrey are both good; Miss Grace Evelyn is deserving of much praise for her rendering of the part of Minnie Patenlair; and Miss Lillie Laurence is excellent as Mme. Mourivet. The mounting of the piece is good.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—The Five Musical Taitons give a fine scena with electrical effects; the Monckton (Fred and Lillie) have a capital comedy, *A Woman's Curiosity*, which evokes much laughter; Edith St. Clare is a pleasing comedienne; George Griffin and Harry Blake, comedians, are also successful in their particular turns; Ikey Moe is a precocious youngster with some good patter and dances; Langslow, the balancing wonder, performs some wonderful feats; Gala and Norris give a capital musical duologue entitled "Down South"; the Four Netherlands, character singers and dancers, are also a good turn; the Denaro Brothers are a very clever duo of juvenile acrobatic performers; Kirk and Saraski have a novel aquatic acrobatic act in their electrical aquarium; Wyndham and Waters present a clever musical comedy sketch in *The Professor and His Pupil*; and The Rebellious Walking Stick on the Bioscope concludes an attractive programme.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company presented *The Heart of a Hero* on Monday. The unscrupulous schemer, Wilfred Marl, has an effective exponent in Mr. Fred Rivers; and Mr. Ernest J. Fare gives a good rendering of Jem Resdale. The detective, David Pritchard, is well taken by Mr. James Fox; and Mr. J. Harold is satisfactory as Henry Barker, Chief of police. Mr. David Donaldson as the Miser deserves a word of praise; Mr. Will White as the comical Timothy Heighno keeps the house in good humour; and is ably assisted by Miss Frances Feima as Susie Slack. Miss May McNeill's rendering of May Ryder is all that can be desired; and Miss Rosa Mervyn deserves unstinted praise as Nell Resdale. *A Modern Adventuress* and *The Octoroon* are also billed.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—This week Mr. Norman V. Norman and company have been paying a welcome return visit in a répertoire of costume plays, all produced in a manner which speaks well for the talent of the actors and actresses engaged. In *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, Mr. Norman made a fine study of Sir George Silvester; and Miss Beatrice Wilson was a fascinating Lady Ursula. On Wednesday *David Garrick* was staged. Mr. Norman excels as the immortal David; and, as is well known, Miss Wilson gives a splendid impersonation in the leading lady's part. For Friday and Saturday the bill contained the pretty play, *Nell Gwyn of Drury Lane*.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—A double bill has again been presented at the above theatre during the week past. On the opening three nights Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's well-found company occupied the boards, producing Sir F. C. Burnand's well-known farce, *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*. Mr. George Mudie proved himself to be a great comedian in the rôle of Mr. Ponderbury; and the strong-minded wife was finely portrayed by Miss Annie Stalman. Mr. Drew Mackintosh did excellently as Mervyn Thorpe, an artist; and Mr. Alfred Ibbetson made the most of his chances as Peter, the butler. Miss Florence Wix was charming in her representation of Mme. Poloco Modjeski—some time Stella, a music hall artist; and Miss Florence Wellesley was a winsome Ethel Pennilton, the desired of the artist. The other members of the cast did fine work, and the show went with a good swing right through. *His Landlady*, by Mr. G. Mudie, formed an amusing little curtain-raiser, well played. On Thursday Mr. George Edwardes's company commenced a three nights' engagement in the new play with music, *The Merry Widow*.

THE MARINA THEATRE.—Large and appreciative audiences assemble nightly at the Marina to witness popular performances. Leon and Leoni, in their novelty musical act, have contributed considerably to the enjoyment during the week of attendants at the local "Picturedrome."

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—A variety company occupies the boards here this week, and gives a most enjoyable programme. The bill is headed by Earl and Morgan, cyclists of surprising skill and nerve; Miss Maude Clifton is successful in her songs and dances; G. H. Keith earns considerable applause for his catchy songs; France and Frances, in their eccentric comedy act, prove very entertaining; and Arnott and Watson, in a singing and dancing act, win loud applause; the Vanderbilts submit a most enjoyable turn; Les Trippellos, in a musical act, perform with no mean skill on novel instruments. A Bioscope exhibition includes many amusing films.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Miss Maud Hildyard is making her first appearance here since her return from Australia, in the thrilling drama, *The Great Awakening*, of which she is author, in conjunction with Mr. Russell Vaun. Miss Hildyard plays the part of the unscrupulous adventuress, Lola Selby, in artistic and powerful manner; the heroine, Molly Merton, is sympathetically impersonated by Miss Fay Garnet-Vayne; Mr. Wallis Clark as James Selby acts with marked ability; Mr. Cecil Gray enacts the dual rôle of Sir Henry Merton and his son, Jack Merton, in good style; Mr. Herbert Robinson as Guy Rogan and Mr. Dudley Wynton as Captain Lambert act well; and the comic element is agreeably sustained by Mr. Rule Pyott as Billy Brass and Miss Cissie Podmore as Selina Worts. The play is produced in excellent style, with entirely new scenery and elaborate dresses and uniforms.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The Three Laurels do some clever acrobatic work in their original speciality table act; the Sisters Morgan sing and dance pleasingly; the Three Phydoras present a good eccentric musical act; the Bandurrias give some excellent selections on the mandoline and guitar; Arthur Blount is an amusing comedian; Merton and Rydon are a pair of capital vocal comedy artists; Rosie Gaston, comedienne, is well received; Master Edward Garrett and company score a great success in their sketch, *An Outside Chance*; and a good Bioscope show completes an attractive programme.

REDDITCH.—PUBLIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. T. B. Field.—Mr. Albany Ward's Imperial Electric Pictures, including Ye Old Englishe Pageantes, under the direction of Messrs. Baring Brothers, gave performances here on the 27th, 28th, and 29th, the Gloucester Historical Pageant being a prominent feature in the programme. *The Midnight Wedding* is billed for yesterday and to-day.

RHYL.—PAVILION.—Mme. Albani appeared here on Tuesday, and was welcomed by a large and appreciative audience. The flute solos contributed by Mr. De Jong afforded great pleasure.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Eric Charlswood.—An attractive programme is supplied by the Anglo-Indian Concert Party. The company includes Mr. Harrison Brockbank, Mr. Kennedy Allen, Miss Lillian Wesson, Miss Kitty Kennedy Allen, Miss Joan Maxse, Mr. Alf. Johnson, Miss Edna Barrett, Mr. H. Uzielli, Mr. F. Dillon, and Mr. Jas. A. Lowe (accompanist). On Thursday evening a complimentary benefit was accorded Mr. Eric Charlswood, the week's programme being supplemented by Mr. W. G. Sutton, Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe, Mr. Charley Harvey, Miss Ida Stanley, Mr. Howard Innis, Master Charlie Bray, and Mr. Bert Beattie.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*The Manxman* is attracting good houses here. Mr. Alfred B. Cross again impersonates the part of Pete with stirring effect; Mr. Fred Mace makes an efficient Cæsar Cregeen; and Mr. Harold B. Lewis portrays the part of Philip Christian to advantage. Miss Blanche Lee speaks her lines as Miss Christian with careful study; Miss Nancy Mitchell is effective as Nancy; and Miss Minnie Watersford acts with distinction in the rôle of Katie Cregeen.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Ivan Tschernoff's performing ponies and dogs are highly intelligent and entertaining; Gladys and Alber contribute a very acceptable turn of dancing, singing, and tumbling; Ada Parker is aptly described as a merry and bright comedienne and dancer; and the Sisters Walton, harmonising duettists; A. E. Clifford, vocalist; Mike Crag, comedy juggler; and the Empire Bioscope Pictures, complete an attractive programme.

ROTHERHAM.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Lessee, Mr. Edwin J. Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—The Andos Troupe of Japanese equilibrists and jugglers give a really sensational turn; Messrs. Davis and Dean are deservedly applauded for their clever dancing; Miss Flo Deighton is a pleasing double-voiced vocalist; and Messrs. Baine and Reed create much amusement as eccentric acrobats. Miss Mollie Doon is a clever vocalist and dancer; Messrs. W. T. Thompson and company are responsible for a screamingly funny sketch, *Watching the Clock*; and Baddow, the ventriloquist, gives a delightful turn. The Orchids are also deserving of mention in the vocal comedy duo.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Messrs. Frank Bateman and Stuart Lomath's company is this week presenting a drama dealing with theatrical life, entitled *No Wedding Bells for Her*. Mr. Stuart Lomath is seen to great advantage as the Rev. Frank Hatherleigh, a "muscular Christian"; and Miss Lizzie Montague gives a realistic and emotional portrayal of the rôle of Lola Delaspierre, being very ably supported by the other members of the company.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr Harold Goulden.—The sensational play *Mysteries of the Thames* presented by Mr. Augustine Knight's company had a good house on Monday, when Mr. Knight skilfully played the hero, Richard Brandon. The villain, Captain Denbigh, had an able exponent in Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson; much comic business was introduced, and Mr. Edward E. Swinton as Bill Bosco, Mr. Tom J. Taylor as Peter Waggles, and Miss Ella Vane as Flash Nell, were responsible for a great part of it. Miss Eva Trevenna was a charming Kate Brandon; and little Elsie Jones made a pleasing Little Doris.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Josh Dixon heads an excellent programme with his clever comic songs and dancing; Ryder Slone, character comedian, gets much applause; Mabel Thorne has some songs which take very well; Radie Furman, "the jolly Dutch girl," gives a very smart performance; Mr. C. is an amusing patterer, and sings in two voices; and Maud Courtney, "the American girl," does well. The bill also includes turns by the Sisters St. Julian, harmonising duettists and dancers; Steve Bartle, concertinist, in musical scena; Fame and Fortune, comedians and comedy boxers; Archie Glen, clever young story teller, vocalist, and dancer; and Vera Mayne, chorus comedienne.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; District-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—A change from variety to drama is this week made by Mr. J. A. Campbell's company appearing (twice nightly) in the well-known play, *The Old Folks at Home*. Mr. Frank Liston makes an impression as Lord Howard Kenilworth; and as Dorothy Robin Miss Maud Warburton gives an artistic impersonation. The old folks, Christopher Robin and Martha, are well played by Mr. Henry Nelson and Miss Clara Santley; comedy is effectively presented by Mr. Frank Caffery as Ben Jolly and Miss Nellie Hook as Susan Giles. The plantation scene is very pretty, and there is some good singing.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The chief films this week include a powerful domestic drama, Father's Fault. Beauty and the Beast, Smell of Smoke, Gipey's Love Story, and Acrobatic Pills. The illustrated song, "As long as the world rolls on," is very popular.

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—A house packed to its utmost limits welcomed Mr. E. Graham-Falcon's company in *The Private Secretary*. In the title-rôle Mr. Cyril Price-Evans gives an exceedingly humorous portrayal; Mr. W. Fane as Douglas Cattermole and Mr. Ben Barnett as Harry Marsland supply admirable representations; as Mr. Cattermole Mr. Chas. Sims makes the most of his amusing part; Mr. Chas. Clayton is good as Mr. Gibson; and the same should be said of Mr. Taylor-Vinson as Mr. Marsland. Miss Camilla Norrys is highly amusing as Mrs. Stead; Miss Sybil Chester plays pleasingly as Miss Ashford; as Edith Marsland and Eva Webster the Misses Josephine Richards and Winifred Williamson act in a bright and winning way.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—Mr. H. B. Irving is paying a return visit here in company with Miss Dorothy Baird. On Monday *The Lyons Mail* was staged. Mr. Irving in the dual parts of Joseph Leserques and Dubosc, found favour with an appreciative audience. Miss Dorothy Baird as Janette gave a finished interpretation. During the week *Louis XI.* and *The Bells* were given to crowded houses.

SPA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Cliff Bridge Co.; Manager, Mr. Francis Goodricke.—Mr. H. A. Jones's delightful play, *The Hypocrites*, is presented by Mr. Chas. Frohman's company this week. As the curate, Mr. A. B. Imeson gave a masterly portrayal; the Lord of the Manor was in the able hands of Mr. A. S. Barber; as Leonard Wilmore Mr. King Froham displayed equal ability. All the other characters were capably handled.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company, with *Who is She?* is here. Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson is quite at home as Prince Bora; Mr. Graham Wood shows much ability as King Vladmis; and Miss Violet Carlyle as Who is She? was a great success throughout.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fielding Smith.—That popular artist Bransby Williams is the chief attraction here, with his well-known representation of Dickens's characters. Tina Clementa presents a novel sporting act, introducing dogs and horses well trained; Albert Le Frere appears in a clever mélange; the Mezzettis are fine gymnasts; a good comic acrobatic turn is provided by Burg, Haud, and Wise; Miss Margaret Watson sings pleasing songs at the piano; Will 'E Stop It is a favourite comedian; and Le Currys present a novel musical speciality. Special matinées have been held—one by Harry Lauder and the other by George Robey.

THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. Holland.—*Rosie's Birthday Party* is the chief attraction here, given by ten young ladies who have had a good musical training, and introduce many novelties; the Three Orrs are masters of the rings and fine athletes; the Primrose Quartette sings decidedly well; as a clever turn the Three Moxons stand high; the Saagoines contribute comedy in the way of juggling; Coke Cliffe, humorist, has a good supply of funny stories; the Rangers have reached perfection in their tricks on cycles; Rose and Wold give a good exhibition on the wire. Other attractions include the Troupe of Lady Swimmers, Mlle. Levante's Ladies' Orchestra, and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope, which draw large crowds.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—The dramatic season was opened here on Thursday by Mr. Edward Compton and company. Amongst the well-known pieces receiving prominence are *Davy Garrick*, *The Rivals*, and *The School for Scandal*. Crowded houses have testified to Mr. Compton's popularity.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—Mr. Millar Anderson and company are here with *For Her Husband's Sake*. A vigorous Lieut. Seymour is supplied by Mr. Robert Faulkner; as the rascally Herbert Grey, Mr. Millar Anderson plays with distinction; Joseph Dene is effectively sketched by Mr. Fred Elvin; Terry O'Neill proves a part admirably suited to Mr. Fian Doyle's abilities; Abraham K. Silas is capably drawn by Mr. Albert Rogers; Pietro is successfully presented by Mr. Walter Long; Alphonse is well played by Mr. C. Williams; Miss Enid Ross is delightful in the rôle of Estelle; Marie Dene is played in meritorious style by Miss Maud Townsend; and Eileen is cleverly sketched by Miss Doris Laine.

SHEERNESS.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—Marie Santol and company head the bill here in a delightful Japanese scena, *The Princess's Birthday*. The act is admirably put on, the dressing and stage effects being worthy of all praise. The Gladys Hooley Trio present a dramatic sketch, *The Violin Girl*, in which Miss Hooley, in the title-rôle, introduces some melodious violin solos; the living marionette show, presented by the Katos, gets the applause due to clever work; some capital dancing is contributed by Lucy Coventry; Maude Beaumont's songs are well rendered; Cyril Curle, actor-vocalist, is seen to advantage in Charles Godfrey's scena, "Dreams"; and Maud and Sydney Wood, vaudeville artists, are popular. The Bioscope concludes.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—Admirers of good pictures are well catered for this week. Amongst the series shown, the following are deserving of special mention: The Physician of the Castle, a very dramatic film, Summertime in Northern Europe, The Great Drama, Beatrice Cenci, A Romance of the Slums, and Animated Snowballs.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—A large audience on Monday welcomed Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company in *The Silver King*, which carefully acted and mounted appealed with its old potency to the best feelings of the spectators. The popular impersonator of Jaikes, Mr. Edward George, repeated his amusing reading of the true-hearted servitor. Mr. Fred. D. Daviss as Wilfred Denver handled a beautiful and fascinating rôle with loving care and sympathetic expression. Mr. Stanton Sharpe was an excellent representative of the dashing Spider, and the part of the canting old rogue, Eliah Coome, was well played by Mr. Arthur Wright. Miss Edith Goodall as the noble, long-suffering Nellie Denver fully realised the gracious dignity and womanly charm of the character. Mr. George Belmore repeated his diverting sketch of the cockney thief, Harry Corkett; Mr. E. Slidwell was the cool and self-contained detective Baxter; and all the other characters were carefully represented.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*Her Luck in London* began a return visit on Monday under the direction of Mr. George Kirk. Miss Mary Neil, a great favourite in Sheffield with lovers of emotional drama, appeared with great success, and again demonstrated her dramatic power and charm of personality as the fair heroine. Mr. George Kirk's company gave loyal support, and the performance was an all-round success.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. Allan C. W. Ramsay.—*Man and Wife*, a drama written in Mr. Walter Howard's characteristic vein, is being performed here. Mr. John F. Trayner acts with force and discretion as the gallant fisherman, Paul Revere; and commendable impersonations are Mr. Edward Hamilton's Captain D'Esparre, Mr. George Rammell's Col. Latour, and Mr. Ambrose Horton's Sergeant Jacques. Mr. George Overs wins

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The "DAILY MAIL" of Sept. 6, 1907, page 3, col. 7, states: "It is estimated that nearly 50,000 people attended the performance of the Ex-British Guards Band in Hyde Park last Sunday evening, this being the record attendance of the year.

sympathy as the cripple Jean; Miss Kate Hallam makes a pretty French fisher-lass as Marcelle, and displays considerable emotional ability; Miss Millie Doris is a vivacious Rosette, and her seriocomic pair of suitors, Bimbo and Bambo, are amusingly represented by Messrs. Hall Eldon and George Vinning; others taking part in Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's picturesque production are Miss Violet Temple, Mr. Edward Leslie, Mr. Angus Phillips, Mr. F. Best, and Mr. Harcourt Ralph.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, the Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—A well-arranged bill of fare has been placed before the patrons of this theatre during the week, the principal items being Reano's celebrated military band in popular selections; the Herald Comedy Four, in a lively interlude; Miss Nellie Coleman, the lively and diverting male impersonator and character comic vocalist; the Bros. Polnski (Will and Sam), the favourite comedy eccentrics; Miss Cecilia Marsh, vocalist; Miss May Mars, in a pleasing vocal entertainment; Miss Nell Emerald, the delightful vocal comedy artist; the expert Great Northern Troupe of international dancers; the two Kirbys, in a clever concoction of music, vocalism, and extravaganza, and the American Bioscope, with the latest pictures of topical events and laughable incidents.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The pièce-de-résistance on Monday was the brilliantly-staged spectacular absurdity, *The Queen of Monte Carlo*, presented under the direction of Mr. John Tiller; Clown Barker and his clever dogs, donkeys, and monkeys was very successful; those smart pantomimists, Les Trois Lyons, in their screaming restaurant sketch, kept the large audience in roars of laughter, and were loudly applauded; Whitaker and Hill, in plantation ditties, with harp and banjo accompaniments, were well received; the graceful and talented Mdlle. Yetta, in her wire performance, was deservedly cheered; and other artists were Mr. L. W. Harris, light comedian; Satsuma, Japanese magician; and the Sisters Fluers; The Rivals, an artistic coloured dramatic film of the Charles II. period, was a fine example of up to date photography.

Grand Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—The Lloyd Phillips company in a sketch, *A Soldier's Dishonour;* Irene and Morton, comedy entertainers; Miss Kitty Willis, comedienne; the Roxbys, speciality artists; Miss Nelly Lunelle, vocalist and dancer; the Sisters Varley, duettists; and Jacko, the man-monkey, together with the popular Raymond Bio-tableaux are included in the current week's generous programme.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Miss Lena Ashwell's talented company was here on the first three nights of the week, with *Diana of Dobson's*. As Diana Massingberd, Miss Violet Vorley acted with vivacity and ability; Mr. Philip Sanders merited high praise for his natural interpretation of Capt. the Hon. Victor Bretherton; Miss Hilda Franks, as Mrs. Cantelupe, filled her part creditably; Miss Pamela Hope made a capital Mrs. Whyte Fraser; Mr. Philip Sanders did well as Sir Jabez; Miss Constance Hibberd, as the ogress of Dobson's emporium, was amusingly severe; Miss Margery Bland made a picturesque old outcast; Mr. John Appleby was smart and capable as P.C. Fellowes; and the Nurses, Violet Joice, Dorothy Bell, Cicely Oates, and Margaret Dudley, were a bevy of lively and successful assistants. The diverting one-act comedietta, *A Fire of Straw*, was capitally played as a curtain-raiser

SOUTHAMPTON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is this week presenting the new version of *The Christian* with conspicuous success. Mr. Roy Redgrave gives an earnest portrayal of the Hon. John Storm; and Miss Daisy Scudamore is a bright and forceful Glory Quayle. Mr. Wilfred Noy is successful as Horatio Drake; and Lord Robert Ure is played in polished style by Mr. Herbert Hewetson.

Palace.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—This week Mr. Fred. Powell is appearing as Simmonet, the strangler, in a tabloid version of *The Grip of Iron*, which is thrilling from start to finish; Harry Weldon is a very smart comedian; the Lannons excel as pedestal dancers; Kelly and Ashby's act, *Fun in a Billiard Saloon*, is very entertaining; the Smythson's sketch, *Love Germs*, produces hearty laughter; and others who entertain are W. G. Wesley, comedian, and Hanid Alexander, pianist.

Hippodrome.—General-Managers, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold P. Howell.—John Lawson and company are appearing this week in a series of sketches, including *Pigs in Clover*, *The Monkey's Paw*, *The King's Minister*, and *Humanity*, and in each Mr. Lawson scores his usual big success. Nat Clifford, with his comicalities; Walker and Lake, smart patterers; Leo Stormont, vocalist; Selby and Myers, who dance remarkably well; the Ladderites, clever equilibrists; Peggy Pryde, a big favourite; and the Zaracs, horizontal bar performers, also contribute.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. — Empire Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham-Power.—The first attraction for this week was provided by Mr. James Welch's company in *When Knights Were Bold*, and a full house on Monday was kept in continual laughter. Mr. Henry J. Ford, who impersonated the difficult rôle of Sir Guy De Vere, displayed talent of a remarkable character; Mr. Talbot Homewood made a joyous exponent of Wittle; Mr. Vernon Sansbury as Isaac Isaacson was well suited, and Mr. Cecil Clayton as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe was also seen in a suitable rôle; Mr. William Lockhart gave a pleasing characterisation of the Rev. Peter Pottleberry, D.D.; Mr. George Rowlands as Sir Brian Ballymote was a capital interpreter, and Mr. Reginald Hunter worked successfully as Barker. Miss Bruce-Joy won well-deserved recognition for a talented delineation of Lady Rowena Eggington, and Miss Ethel Royale was decidedly good as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave. The Misses Phyllis Back, Violet Graham, Gretchen Yates, Adrienne Yates, and Bessie Walters, with Mr. Herbert Ranson, completed a capital cast. On Thursday *The Gay Gordons* commenced a three nights' engagement.

The Kursaal.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—The theatre programme for this week is of unusual length and as diversified as it is enjoyable, the whole winning entire approval from large audiences. Miss Helena Sleath and Mr. Charles Aldin, in their operatic scena, entitled *The Knight of the Heath*, meet with an excellent reception; Miss Dorothy Dryden illustrates high-class musical compositions with clever and refined dances; Elmo and Rego, eccentric acrobats, and the Browning-Wally Trio, expert gymnasts, win popularity for smart performances; Mons. Cento is entertaining with cycling tricks of a novel character; Mr. St. George Sylvesta and Miss Vera de Courtney as illusionists arouse keen curiosity; and Mr. Robert Percival is well received. An exclusive bioscope attraction, showing how the *Football Star* is produced, makes a pleasing addition to the café chantant entertainment, where the Kursaal Belles still merit good support with enjoyable programmes.

Pier Pavilion.—Sole Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—A most successful concert was given on Tuesday evening by Miss Marie Hall, whose talented violin playing was listened to with evident pleasure. Mr. C. Stuart Edwards, baritone, and Miss Louie Basche, pianist, also assisted in admirable manner. The London Animated Picture Co. again entertain twice daily this week with excellent pictures, including a capital series of the pantomime *Cinderella*.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House.—Proprietors, the Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens, Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—A crowded house on Monday heartily welcomed Miss Lena Ashwell and her company in *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Ashwell portrayed the changing fortunes of Diana in her usual finished style, her performance being replete with rare dramatic touches; Mr. C. M. Hallard played the part of Captain Brotherton with due restrain; Mr. Dennis Eadie was properly self-important as Sir Jabez Grinley; Miss Frances Ivor and Miss Gertrude Scott were effective as Miss Cantelupe and Mrs. White Fraser respectively; clever character-studies were presented by Mr. Norman McKinnel as P.C. Fellowes and Miss Beryl Mercer as an old woman; the assistants at Dobson's were well represented by Missis Nannie Bennett, Mary Barton, Muriel Vox, and Doris Lytton; and Miss Pringle by Miss Ada Palmer. *Irene Wycherley* was to be played on Friday. A cleverly-written curtain-raiser, *The Likes o' Me*, affords smart character-work by Master Philip Tonge and Miss Beryl Mercer.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, in *With Edged Tools*, is appearing here with great success. Mr. Wm. F. Grant as Jack Merelith handles the part with considerable skill; Sir John Meredith is ably accounted for by Mr. J. A. Rosier; Victor Durnovo, the villain, is cleverly depicted by Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; and Mr. Henry Nunn as Guy Oscard is all that can be desired. Jocelyn Gordon is naturally and intelligently portrayed by Miss Phyllis Relph; Miss Marie Leonhard as Millicent Chyne gives an excellent reading of the part. The piece is well mounted.

Empire Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—G. H. Elliott, the chocolate-coloured coon, has an enormous reception; Lady Mansell's Juveniles, in *A Concert Rehearsal*, are seen to advantage; Mirsky, the Polish boy vocalist, sings well; Brown and Le Clerq contribute their evergreen *Black Justice;* Ralph and Nellie Howard appear in a musical sketch, *Military Mad;* and Pat Rafferty, Camille Feo, comedienne, and the Bioscope, complete a good bill.

Tivoli (Layoate Lane).—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Lisbon and Barker, well-known comedians, appear in an original sketch, entitled *Extemporising;* Marion and Mabel contribute an excellent musical item; and the Tivoliscope furnishes the remaining part of the programme.

Cosy Corner.—Mr. George Burton's comedians are upholding the reputation they have made this season.

SPINNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—*The Love that Women Desire*, excellently played by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company, is being thoroughly appreciated here this week. Mr. Sydney Layton's Philip supplies a clear testimony of this actor's abilities; Miss Aimee Grattan Clyndes as Sybil displays artistic talents; Mr. J. O. Stewart makes an admirable Squire Abingdon; Mr. Morris Maud portrays the mean hound, Dick Abingdon, with great virility; whilst as Frank Hardy Mr. Hugh Wallace is equally successful. Miss Jessie Elvin is excellent as Madge Abingdon. The humorous portions of the piece lack nothing in the hands of such clever people as Mr J. W. Wilkinson as P.C. Sowerberry, Mr. John Hignett as Dennis, and Miss May Neilson as Patty. The scenery is excellent.

STAFFORD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—A very acceptable production of *Nell Gwynne* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Edward Warden gives a vigorous and kingly delineation of Charles II.; Mr. Edwin Turner acts with the necessary power as the scheming Lord Rochester; Mr. Cecil Ash as Sir Richard Allandale shows talent and versatility; the Timothy Twitt of Mr. Johnny McElroy is brimful of humour; as the Duchess of Portsmouth Miss Mabel Marle enacts the rôle with dignity and histrionic finish; Miss May Warden plays effectively as Lettice Fairfax; Miss Dora Moorhouse makes a capital Abigail; and as Nell Gwynne Miss Florence Tyrrell enacts the part with emotion and pathos.

ST. ANNES-ON-SEA.—Pier Pavilion.—This theatre was occupied for the first half of the week by Dickie Clare's company of comedians, in the musical farcical absurdity *Lucky Liza*, which has been enjoyed by good houses. Miss Madge Brownie is capital as Eliza Bird, and Mr. Dickie Clare is very successful in the parts of Silas Slim, the Judge, and the French waiter.

ST. HELENS. — Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—This week a return visit is paid by Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company in *Rollicking Rory*. Mr. Chalmers Mackey in the part of the rollicking hero is in great form; a good word must be said for Mr. Fred W. Leonard as Stephen D'Arcy; and a capital sketch of Shaun Brady is given by Mr. S. John Stuart. Captain Ashleigh has a capable exponent in Mr. Richard Hutton; and Mr. Charles Homer presents a fine portrait of Desmond Fitzgerald. As Rosie O'Donohue Miss Nana Flensberg is a charming colleen; and one of the features of the play is the singing of Miss Constance Bellamy, who appears in the double part of Peggy O'More and the queen of the fairies. Mrs. Chalmers Mackey as Mrs. Ashleigh again scores a big success.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The dramatic episode *The Ace of Hearts*, which heads the bill here, is thrilling and exciting to a degree, and the three characters are finely presented by James Willard and company; the Pasquali Brothers are smart and clever equilibrists; Edith Chantler, a sweet singer, is loudly encored; Gus Harris has a great reception in his "Primrose Day"; and the Melroses raise a good laugh. The duets of Beau and Bella are appreciated; and Natalia and Diana are original and graceful gymnasts. The Three San Remo Girls give entire satisfaction; and a very interesting picture of the Maypole colliery disaster is given on the Barrascope.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—The T. Edward Ward company is an exceptionally capable one, and has given much pleasure and enjoyment to large audiences here this week by its excellent representations of *The Love of the Princess*, a romantic drama, seen here for the first time. Mr. Wilson Coleman acts with power and feeling as Prince Conrad; Mr. Ernest E. Imeson as Count Nicholas Danillo makes an effective villain; marked ability is displayed by Mr. E. H. Dobell in his portrayal of Josef, King of Ilarnia; Mr. W. F. Sterling has a commanding presence, and acts well as Prince Regent; Duke Scarfe, by Mr. George Antley, Boris, by Mr. Edgar Morgan, and Lieut. Orlans, by Mr. Beckett Bould, are pleasing characters excellently impersonated; Miss Ward most charmingly acts the part of Princess Idalia; Miss Nellie Garside is delightful as Lady Irene; and Miss Helen Elmar gives a satisfactory impersonation of Constantia, a sister of mercy.

Empire. — Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The Cattaneos, acrobats, combine genuine fun with their marvellously-clever feats, and achieve a gratifying success; among others appearing are the Frances Harrold company of comedians, in a very amusing sketch, *My Son's Wife;* Zellini, a comical juggler; Adah Payne, a delightful vocalist; Harry Taft, comedian, in mirth-provoking song and story; George Westland, a Scotch comedian of merit; whilst the Sisters Florence, duettists and dancers; Barney Noble, comedian; and Ethel Loftus, the comedy girl, give excellent support to a capital programme.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — Castle Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Messrs H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is here with the late Wilson Barrett's play *Lucky Durham*. Mr. S. Herbert Humber gives a clever rendering of John Durham; Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood furnishes a capital impersonation of the part of Lord Mountfallon; Mr. Arthur Leigh causes much laughter as the Hon. Reginald Steighton; Mr. William Heilbronn as Mr. Vallerton is excellent; as is also Mr. J. H Gerald as Arthur Walcombe. Miss Alice Belmore is a charming exponent of Helen Vallerton; Miss Rosabel Dodd gives a good rendering of Lady Mountfallon; and her daughter Margaret is agreeably presented by Miss Florence Dulhunty. Miss Beatrice Sinclair as Mrs. Durham gives a portrayal of much merit.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Charles Majilton's company head the bill in a sketch entitled *Round the Clock*, and cause shrieks of laughter; Miss Agnes Molteno and company, in a scena entitled *An Old-Time Story*, receive a hearty welcome, her singing being of a high standard; Coram, ventriloquist, is clever; Cumminger and Colonna, sand-dancers, are very good; Sibb and Sibb are graceful trapeze artists; Carlos Menard, trick violinist, shows great skill; Fred Herbert, vocalist, sings well; and the Bioscope is up to its usual standard.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here the stirring drama *The Lightning's Flash*. The leading characters are well sustained by Messrs. Ernest Wingfield, Fred Terris, H. Hesslegrave, A. Byron, and the Misses Lilian Beaumont, Daisy Norman, and Lena Nazeby. Payne's Bio-Photoscope shows up-to-date pictures.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—Astley's American Circus provides a remarkable exhibition of animal-training, and much amusement is caused by the attempts of boys who try to ride pony or mule round the ring; Frank Burdett's company pay a return visit in the thrilling military sketch, *The Mutiny*, which is well staged and acted; Dolly Ross renders her two songs charmingly, and makes many friends; the Brothers Harrison are very popular; Dick Kendall as the dancing convict is very eccentric; Gatley, in a pot-pourri act; the Sisters Selwyn; and A Pirate's Honour on the Bioscope are also to be noted. Thursday next is to be set apart by the management for a performance in aid of the sufferers in the recent colliery disaster.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford.—Miss Violet Osmund's *The Belle of the Ball* company opened here on Monday. The light musical comedy was fully noticed in our issue of the 8th ult., when it was produced at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Grieveson.—The attraction here is Messrs. Silverstone and Wright's company in the Russian drama *The Nihilist*. Mr. Walter Bentley interprets the part of Ivan Nowasky with power; Mr. Geo. R. Neilson imbues the heavier rôle of Prince Alexander with truculence, earning the execrations of the gods; Mr. O. Silvertree is successful as the Russian officer, Piertree Petoff; a good study of Father Gourko is submitted by Mr. J. B. Harvey; and an excellent performance of Karl Orloff is due to Mr. Cowel Clarke. Mr. Morgan Dale as the stolid Sergeant Markoff is commendable; Miss Edna Clare shows ability in her portrayal of the persecuted Alexina Orloff; Miss Florrie Kelsey as the Princess Olga proves meritorious. Light comedy is infused by Mr. Henry Wright (Bobbie Stuart) and the sprightly Miss Jessica Ford (Katrina Zindoff).

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The leading position on this week's bill is given to Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait, and company, in the musical absurdity, *The Tea Shop; or, Tiger's, Limited*, a sketch that gives ample opportunity for the exhibition of the vagaries of Mr. Cooper, excellent assistance being rendered by Mabel Lait as Julia, the head waitress; Edward Lauri and May Beatty have a smart sketch, entitled *In Her Boudoir*, that occasions roars of laughter. Mr. Lauri's impersonation of a prima donna, amongst others, being excruciatingly funny. May Beattie as the prima donna and a young male interviewer is also excellent. Miss Emelie Hervé assists as the maid Helene. Gertie Gitana, a young artist of originality and ability, and an expert dancer, gains a well-deserved encore and is heartily applauded; the De Wynnes are a really clever couple of acrobatic balancers; J. W. Rowley still manages to keep in excellent touch with his audiences; Florence Esdaile, ballad vocalist, gives pleasing excerpts from the popular operas; and the programme also includes Will Johnson, comedian; Daisy Martell, comedienne; and the Bioscope pictures.

SWANSEA.—The Grand.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company met with a fine reception in *Florodora* at the Grand this week. Mr. Fred Eastman's Tweedlepunch is too funny for words. Possessing a charming presence and delightful voice, Miss Maisie Ellinger makes a most captivating Dolores. Frank Abercoed is played by Mr. Savill Foster, who uses a fine voice to advantage; Miss Edith Housely's impersonation of Lady Holyrood is a charming one; Mr. Herbert St. John is seen at his best as Capt. Donegal, and Mr. Stanley White as Mr. Gilflain is no less successful.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. Fredk. Melvill's company is here in the stirring melodrama *Married to the Wrong Man*. As Ruth Miss Gertrude Boswell is realistic; Miss Mary Pemberton as Rosie O'Connor gives a most artistic impersonation; exceptionally successful are Mr. Oswald Cray as Jack Gladwin and Mr. H. Lane Bailiff as Capt. Deering; Jasper Skinner is capitally played by Mr. Charles Vivian, and Mr. Syd Claydon is a humorous Timothy.

Empires, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Mr. R. A. Roberts heads the bill here with *Dick Turpin* and *Ringing the Changes*, and in the former piece the well-known protean actor astounds full houses with the rapidity of his changes and the excellence of his acting; Ella Shields has good songs, and sings them in an inimitable way; Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe present a funny sketch, *My Burglar;* The Cumberlands give an interesting display of trick cycle riding, and Tom Parker is a comedian of talent; the Jackley Trio give their amusing acrobatic act, and the Sisters Pine, in "The Golf Girl and the Caddie," sing pleasantly. The Bioscope concludes.

SWINDON.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Troba is at the top of the bill this week, and does some smart juggling; Harry Walker, comedian and raconteur, takes well; a very amusing and clever turn is that of the Werds, grotesque acrobats; appreciation is bestowed upon Musical Silvo, who exhibits his skill on the musical glasses and Silvo chimes; Walter Stanley, eccentric comedian, scores a success; Dare Austin ably presents a novel comedy duologue, in *His Wedding Morning;* Madge Ainsley, vocalist and danseuse, is favourably received; and great interest is taken in Davis and Gledhill Trio, roller cyclists, who give an exhibition of racing on their patent track. In connection with this act an amateur cycling competition is being held.

TON-Y-PANDY.—Royal.—Lesssees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—Forming a strong current attraction here, we have Mr. Geo. Cremen's No. 1 company, presented by Mr. Gerald Moir, in *The World's Verdict*. Mr. W. Forde is well cast as Sir Geoffrey Woodleigh; and as Geo. Ashford, his adopted son, Mr. W. G. Gregory scores heavily. Mr. H. Carlisle makes the most of the villainous Jasper Woodleigh, and is ably seconded by Miss M. St. George as Cora Castlis. Miss M. Blundell does well as Florence Woodleigh. The comedy element is capably provided by Miss M. Waugh, as Sally Jenkins, and Mr. A. Selwood, as Sammy Carrott.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Harper.—After a short vacation for renovating purposes, this popular place is again proving attractive. Tamamato is clever in his rope and wire climbing feats; Dan Feeley is vociferously encored for his comic songs; Hooper and Shave, the local comedians, again do well; as do also the Lancashire Mill Lasses. Excellent pictures are shown, the leading films being Her Great Mistake, and Shooting at Bisley.

TORQUAY. — Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company is here in *The Beloved Vagabond*. The rôle of Gascon de Nerac (Paragot) is entrusted to Mr. Arthur Rolston, who makes it a capital study; he is well assisted by Miss Nita Faydon, in the part of Blanquette; and Miss Kathleen Harrington, whose Joanna Rushworth deserves the highest praise. Mr. Warburton Gamble, as the heartless Comte de Verneuil, is admirable; and Mr. Ramsay Macbeth was equally successful as Asticot. As Lisette Miss Marie Rodgers is charming; and mention should be made of Miss Hetty Kenyon as Louisette.

Princess Pier Concert Hall.—Proprietors, the Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T. Tremlett.—A return visit is being paid by Stockham's Unique company this week, and good business is being done. Madame Minnie Stockham renders some good selections on the harp; Miss Gladys Stockham is also a capable harpist; Miss Della Stockham is a singer of considerable charm; and Mr. H. W. Stockham's violin solos are also much appreciated. Mr. Griffith Humphreys is the humorist of the party; and Mr. J. Wellesley Lynn completes the entertainment with a conjuring interlude, his mystifying performance evoking repeated applause.

TREHERBERT. — Opera House. — Proprietors, Messrs. Poole's, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. N. Stephens.—Mrs. Fred J. Kirke's company opened here on Monday to a crowded house, with *Our Sailor Lad*. Mr. Leslie Austin acts with vigour, and in his musical numbers shows his excellent voice to advantage in the part of Jack Maitland; Mr. Franklyn Daly, as Slippery Bill proves himself a talented comedian; Mr. Charles Burns is to be complimented upon his portrayal of Jonathan Lindsay. Mr. G. H. Holloway gives a fine reading of William Fenton, the deep-dyed villain; Mr. Walt. T. Hybert is responsible for the dual part of Detective Searchley and Alphonso de Briton; Miss Edith Claris plays the part of Jim the Waif in a pleasing manner; Miss Lily Seymour, in the part of Mrs. Loveman, also proves herself a capable actress; Miss Gladys Glancy makes a good Sarah Ann; Miss Theodora Henries, as Rita Valois, plays in a striking and capable manner; and Miss Florrie Jackson makes the most of her opportunities as Nell Lyndsey. For the remainder of the week, *The Naval Detective* and *In Old Madrid* are announced.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—*The Merry Widow* is fully maintaining her record-breaking reputation at Tunbridge Wells, where the theatre has been simply packed this week to welcome Mr. George Edwardes' company, with Miss Mysie Devine in the title-rôle. It is needless to say that Miss Devine thoroughly carried the house with her. Mr. Frank Greene gave an admirable study of Prince Danilo; while Mr. Edward D'Arcy was admirable as Baron Popoff, and Mr. Ripley Evans as the Vicomte; and the other male parts were equally well sustained by Mr. Fred Fowler, Mr. W. Allison, Mr. F. Pedgrift, Mr. Clifford Seyler, Mr. R. Needham, and Mr. Bert Edwards. Miss Ada Thomas played the part of Natalie with great success; and Miss Daphne Glenne as Olga, Miss Violet Hobson as Sylvanie, and Miss Lucie Donati as Prascovia also distinguish themselves in their respective parts. It should be added that the girls at Maxim's have charming representatives in the Misses K. May, W. Bailey, M. Seymour, M. Villis, P. Bevan, and G. Dene. The tour is under the able direction of Mr. J. A. E. Malone. For the week-end Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is appearing in *The Dairymaids*.

TYLDESLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Miss Grace Warner and company were well received here on Monday night in *The Scarlet Clue*. Scarlet Sal, the central figure of the drama, is successfully impersonated by Miss Grace Warner; Mr. George Gordon gives a finished performance of Michael Stanton; Mr. Terence O'Brien is natural and sincere in the double part of the twin brothers, Jack Esmond and Harry Esmond; Mr. Roy Rhind presents an accurate portrait of Crazy Jim; Edward Croker has a capital representative in Mr. A. B. Lyons; and Mr. J. Clarence lends good support as the duped Sir Desmond Lisle. Miss Evie Conway makes a sweet and attractive Elsie Dane; Tabitha Evans receives careful attention at the hands of Miss A. Corri; whilst Miss K. Cranston does well as Mother Scrooge; little Norah Bretton makes a charming figure as Sal's child. Mr. W. Black is very humorous as Billy the Rotter; and Miss Phyllis Massey (Reggie Carstairs) and Miss E. Dean (Musette) are bright and diverting. *East Lynne* was billed for Thursday.

TYNEMOUTH. — Palace-by-the-Sea.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers. Varieties here include the Arthur Bedini trio in a pantomimic act of the broad order; Sylvene and Florence, equilibrists; the Ottaway Cowboys; the Belsons, in a smart cycling act, entitled *A Tramp's Holiday;* Cora Carina, dialect comedienne; Henry Gwiney, Anglo-American tenor vocalist; and an interesting and amusing display of bioscope pictures make up the bill for the week.

WAKEFIELD. — Opera House. — Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company opened here on Monday with the drama *Her Forbidden Marriage*. The heroic part of George Madison is well played by Mr. Henry Lonsdale; Mr. Henry Heston is seen to advantage as the villainous Charles Devereux; Mr. W. Davidson acquits himself well as Geoffrey Broughton; Mr. H. Gomer May is successful as Sir George Lancaster; and Mr. Conrad E. Stratford is well placed as Rev. Mr. Dean. Mr. Geraldine Le Sage gives an able portrayal of Lucy; Miss Grace Lester is admirable as Lady Lancaster; and Miss Agnes Imlay makes the Mother Superior agreeably prominent by her artistic acting.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The principal attraction here this week is provided by Mr. J. Gar Kiddie and his company, including Mr. J. W. Groves, a popular favourite, and Miss Lizzie Payne, in the farcical sketch, *The House of Tinn*, which causes much amusement; the Three Comedy Charters, vocalists, have a good reception; the Hatherleys, song illustrators, give a pleasing turn; Rene, girl juggler, is smart; Roy Bevis, conjurer, and Madge Allen, comedienne, also merit favour.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—There is as yet no sign of *Charley's Aunt* waning in popularity, for a crowded house on Monday night gave the evergreen an enthusiastic reception. Mr. Brandon Thomas's company is an exceptionally strong one, and Mr. G. A. Seager as Lord Fancourt Babberley submits a clever impersonation; Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesney, and Mr. Basil Lynton as Charley Wykeham, are alike excellent; Mr. Theo. McCausland Stewart imparted into the part of Col. Chesney a natural bearing; and as Spettigue Mr. Roy Byford does well. Mr. Sydney Compton is a capable Brasset; Miss Olivia Glynn as Kitty Verdun, and Miss Grace Russell as Amy Spettigue are charming; Miss Vera Gerald is a stately Donna Lucia; and Miss Evelyn Gray a capable Ela Delahay. A pretty curtain-raiser, *A Lancashire Sailor*, is much enjoyed.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Good business is done here again this week, and the entertainment is a thoroughly versatile one. Annie Schuberth wins favour with her song-scena, "The Deputy"; the Tossing Austins are capital jugglers and dancers; and the sketch by Edwards and Dacre, entitled *What is Life?* is responsible for laughter. George James sings in good style; and Harry Luck is applauded for good work; Shirley Liggins and company score a big success for their quartettes; Thornbury, the artist in sand, oil, and smoke, supplies an acceptable turn; and Violet Nunn sings a series of coon songs in taking style. The Bio-Tableaux show The Artful Dodger and Jack Johnson's Fight for the Championship.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. John Leopold's company, in the farcical musical absurdity entitled *New Frivolity*, is being played here this week with remarkable success. The piece, which is invented and produced by Mr. John Leopold, is teeming with humour and interest throughout. The entertaining part of John Buckwheat is ably impersonated by Mr. Watson Hume; as Daniel Teething, an English student, Mr. John Leopold, jun., submits a clever rendering; Mr. Chas. Goff as Jules Vermiglio and Mr. Willie Leopold as Samuel Vermiglio keep the house in continuous laughter. Warm appreciation is accorded to Mr. Tom Leopold in his excellent portrayal of Professor Fumble; and the characteristic parts of Tickle (the page) and Mick Fumble are humorously displayed by Mr. Tom Leopold and Mr. Ernest Leopold respectively. Miss Violet Keand makes up well as Nite Gordon, the schoolgirl; and as Mananette, the French waitress, Miss Queenie leaves little to be desired. Madame Cobweb is effectively portrayed by Miss Kathleen Kavanagh; Miss Amy Hall makes a fine study of the part of Lucy Buckwheat. Excellent work is done by Miss Gertie Winter as Vinnie Moare and Miss Gladys Somers as Maud. The part of Savory, the French detective, is cleverly enacted by Mr. John Kelly.

WEST BROMWICH.—New Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—Among a number of attractive turns at this place of amusement this week, first place must be given to May B. Brilliant, smart comedienne and dancer; the Ten Loonies are a host in themselves, and their musical sketch, *Dotty*, is exceedingly clever; Sid Bandon appears in a pleasant song scena; Morris and Richards are smart acrobats; the Sprees give an amusing turn, *Twickenham Ferry;* and Ena Soutar sings very effectively some well-illustrated songs. The Woodwards provide a novel cycle balancing feat; and the pictures are as good as ever.

Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is here in *The Royal Divorce*. Miss Margaret Watson is a most effective Josephine; and Mr. Keith Fraser is an admirable Napoleon. They are surrounded by a first-rate company, Miss Winnie Tempest being excellent as Marie Louise; and Mr. Percy H. Vernon capital as Talleyrand.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand. — Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—*Raffles* is presented by Mr. Reginald Dance's company in admirable style. The principal rôle is smartly played by Mr. Lewis Edgard; Curtis Bedford has a capital exponent in Mr. C. Keane; Harry Manders, Crawshay, Lord Amerstith, and Lord Crawley are well delineated by Mr. Arthur Bell, Mr. Oswald Griffiths, Mr. Alexander, and Mr. Rivers Bertram respectively; Miss Brenda Gibson makes a decided hit in the trying character of Mrs. Vidal; a success is scored by Miss Eva Bevington in the rôle of Marie, and Miss Ethel Stalman as Lady Melrose and Miss Beatrice Marsdene as Gwendoline Couron are effective.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Prominence is successfully claimed by Howard and St. Clair, who in their comedy sketch *Do You Want to Buy Any Coke?* elicit roars of laughter; Keith and Merson are distinctly pleasing in their hunting absurdity *The Meet;* Baker and Baile are expert xylophone manipulators, and in eccentric dancing Mr. Geo. M. Baker excels; Gold and Sterling, in a speciality and musical scena *The Welsh Girl and the Artist*, are successful; the Five Bombays, singers and dancers, Jimmy Laurie, the Gregson Comedy Trio, in a comedy act *The Dummy*, and Raymond's Biotableaux are also in the list.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Edward Graham Falcon's company is paying a visit here this week in *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Cyril Price-Evans makes an excellent Rev. Robert Spalding; Mr. Chas. Sims is humorous as Mr. Cattermole, and Mr. T. Taylor Vinson is praiseworthy as Mr. Marsland; Mr. Ben Barnett is decidedly good as Harry Marsland, and so too is Mr. Wentworth Fane as Douglas Cattermole; Mr. Clayton gives a fine impersonation of Mr. Gibson; Miss Josephine Richards and Miss Winifred Williamson are both charming as Edith Marsland and Eva Webster, and Miss Camilla Norrys makes the most of Mr

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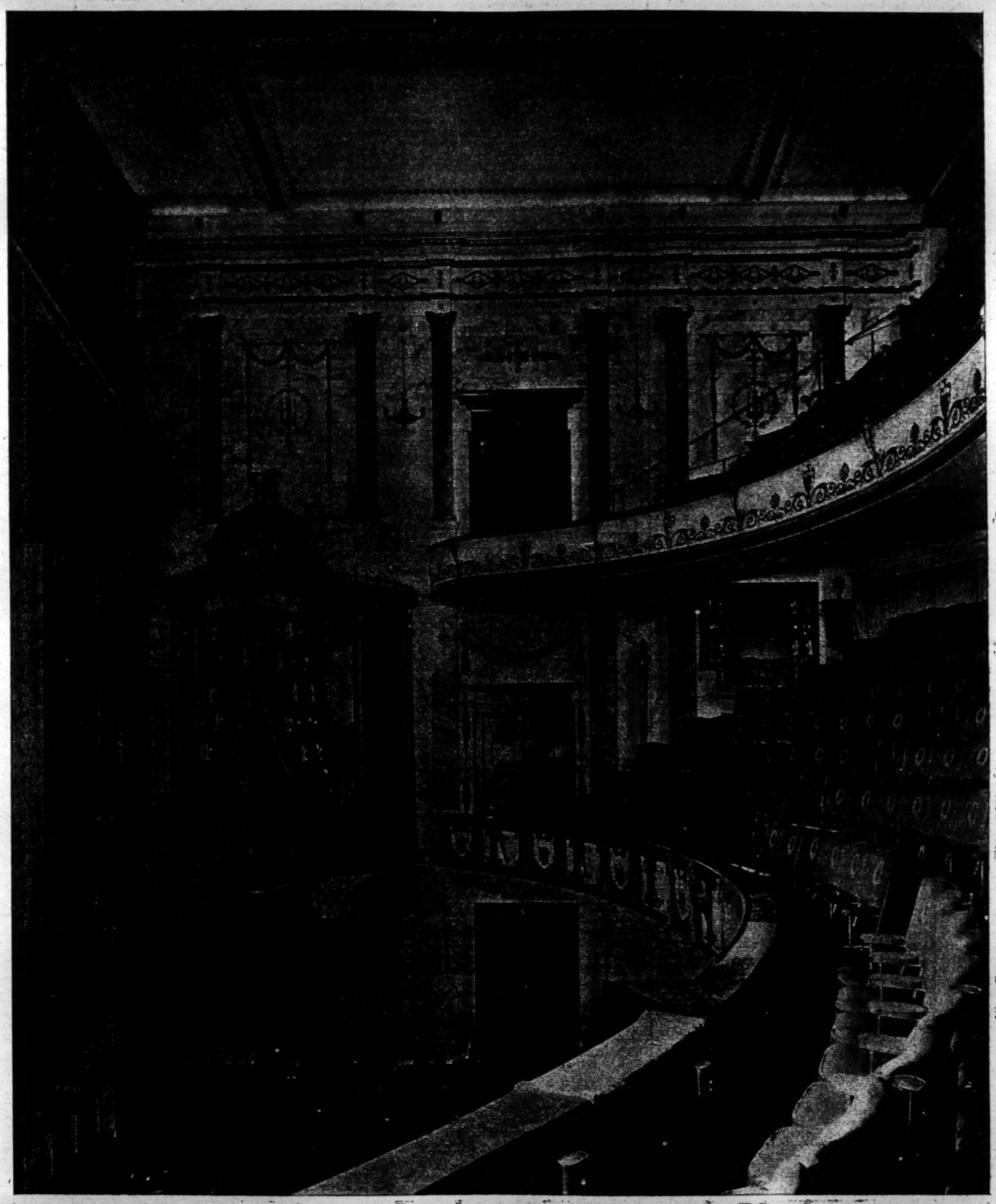

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Aug. 31, 1908, the Play by Thomas Raceward, entitled
"SUNDAY."

The production of *Sunday* at the King's this week has been attended with marked success, the audiences having been numerous and enthusiastic. That the success is due to the constructive merits of the play cannot be questioned. Written as it is by three well-known actors who desire to hide their identity under the nom-de-plume of "Thomas Raceward," it naturally follows that the play should be so constructed as to give every facility for the performers to make the most of the characters. In several instances the artists do not appear to take full advantage of their opportunities, and effect is sometimes lost. In the title-rôle Miss Marjorie Murray is at times exceedingly effective, and always handsome, but she is hardly experienced enough for such an arduous part. Mr. William Giffard is to be commended for a fine performance of Colonel Brinthorpe, acting with great skill and tact. Arthur Brinthorpe is powerfully played by Mr. Wilson Blake, and made one regret that after the first act he is seen no more. Mr. J. Norman Walter makes a cheerful and pleasant Tom Oxley. A vigorous and backwoods-like impersonation of Towzer is rendered by Mr. James Skea; while Mr. A. Cotton Holmes is a capable Davy. Lively is amusingly depicted by Mr. James Hussey, and Mr. Alec Alves is an earnest and clever Jacky. Miss Helen G. Edwins enacts Mrs. Naresby agreeably, and Miss Lila Barclay's acting as a Nun meets with much approval. The scenery by Mr. R. Douglas and Mr. H. Freemantle deserves high praise.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Drama, by Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton, entitled
"THE SINS OF SOCIETY."

The management of the Marlborough is providing its many patrons this week with one of Drury Lane's greatest successes, *The Sins of Society*. Little wonder, then, that crowded houses have been attracted to this popular establishment, the large attendance of course being accounted for to a great extent by the fact that the play is being presented by Mr. F. W. Bolam's company, which includes Miss Grace Leslie, Miss Pattie Brown, and Mr. Blake Adams, and Mr. C. F. Collings. The idea of printing the names of the cast in the order in which they speak is an excellent one, and is much to be commended. Miss Mabel Murray is to be complimented on her assumption of Mrs. Murgatroyd; Miss Dorothy Giles invests the character of Lady Gwendolin Ashley with a deal of charm; Miss Pattie Brown as Lady Goldbury sustains her high reputation as an actress; as Caroline, Duchess of Danebury, Miss Janet Hodson undertakes the rôle most capably; Miss Grace E. Leslie proves herself a sterling actress as Lady Marion Beaumont, the difficult rôle being most praiseworthily treated. Mr. C. F. Collings as Noel Ferrers has an opportunity of displaying unique powers as a polished villain, and he delineates the part most successfully. The portrayal is one of the "hits" of the play. Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan plays Sir Dorian March in just the right key. His acting is full of quiet strength, and the almost bewildering joy when his innocence is revealed in the last act is vividly represented. The pivot of the comic element is Mr. Blake Adams, and it is safe to say no more genuine comedian could be seen in the part of James Hogg; a very natural performance is given by Mr. Fred Annerley as Mr. Morris; Mr. Arthur Ranson keeps the audience vastly amused during his short appearance as Constable Bates; the old family retainer is faithfully portrayed by Mr. Edward P. Gee, and one would like to see more of him; Mr. Edwin Palmer is successful as the Rev. Martin Hope; and the numerous other characters are ably performed. The play is staged and mounted with much care and taste, and Mr. James Percy must be commended for his smart work as stage-manager.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Drama entitled
"A WHITE MAN."

Mr. Edwin Milton Royle's romance of the wild West, *A White Man*, as expounded by Mr. Herbert Sleath and Miss Ellis Jeffrey's clever company of English and American artists from the Lyric Theatre, is finding great favour at Notting Hill Gate, and Mr. Eade Montefiore is kept busy accommodating the patrons of the Coronet Theatre. This story of altruism and heroic self-abnegation is most dramatically set forth. It is a piece to bring a lump into the throat, and certainly on Monday night the use of handkerchiefs was pretty general during the progress of the piece. The scenery in the last two acts, especially the lighting effects of dawn rising on the foothills of the snow-capped Uinta Peaks, is very weird and effective, and the scene of the fracas in "The Long Horn" Saloon at Maverick, in Wyoming, is exceedingly well managed, and throughout Mr. Herbert Plumpton does his work well as stage manager under the direct supervision of the author and Mr. Herbert Sleath. Miss Ellis Jeffreys brings all her pleasing gifts of charm and intense human nature to bear upon the part of Diana, Countess of Kerhill, and touches all hearts by her superb rendition of the rôle. Mr. Herbert Sleath acts with great force and impressiveness, and sounds the depths of human passion and woe as Jim Carston, the ex-army officer, who has given up all he values in life for the sake of a woman and in order to save her husband's good name. Miss Dorothy Dix deserves high praise for her thrilling performance of Nat-u-ritch, a rôle to which she imparts a pulsing vitality by means of a few deft characteristic touches. Mr. George Fawcett is entirely excellent as the bluff big-hearted cowboy foreman, Big Bill. Mr. Minifer Johnstone displays great capacity for commanding attention as the handsome but fiery, hot-blooded, and profligate desperado Cash Hawkins. Mr. A. G. Poulton as Sir John Applegate, Messrs. Cecil Yapp, S. J. Warmington, R. F. Symons, A. Plumpton, A. S. Aspland, and E. Plumpton are good. Miss Emma Gwynne supplies an effective character sketch as the doting mother, the Dowager Lady Kerhill, and other small parts are efficiently rendered.

THE NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Drama entitled
"SECOND TO NONE."

The dramatic work of Mr. W. H. Howard has attained a gratifying celebrity, and the name of the prolific author is now seldom absent from a London or suburban bill. Scarcely has it disappeared from the programme of the Lyceum than it reappears at another theatre further West, namely, Mr. Wentworth Croke's handsome and well-appointed Lyric Theatre at Hammersmith, where Mr. Howard is represented by one of his most workmanlike dramas, and crowded audiences have been alternately thrilled and amused by the exciting incidents it contains and the funny situations that are evolved. *Second to None* was first introduced to London a year ago at a theatre not far distant from the present scene of action, but the cast is almost entirely changed. The company is that of Mr. T. Edward Ward, who has made a happy selection of the cast. The leading rôle of Harry Wilding is entrusted to Mr. Leonard Williams, who has all the attributes which are expected of the hero of melodrama. As the intrepid young Army student who dons the King's uniform as a private rather than receive the charity of a relative Mr. Williams has some stirring deeds to enact, and the house resounds frequently with cheers at the vigour and virility he displays. An effective appeal to the sympathies of the house is made in the part of Nell Greystone by Miss Dorothy Clifton, whose moments of tenderness are agreeably affecting and whose emotion is strikingly expressed. The unscrupulous Captain Mannering, whose every sentence is either a sneer or a snarl, is realistically embodied by Mr. Fredrick Loyd, who speaks his lines in a hard and inflexible voice well in keeping with the adamant nature of the character. A neat piece of character is that presented by Mr. J. G. Maine, who makes up effectively as the indigent old soldier Edward Horseman, the paralysed arm and hand being presented with ghastly realism. Mr. Maine, too, delivers his lines with well-studied emphasis. Mr. Allan Carruthers still appears in the rôle of Joe Ruggles, from which he extracts abundant material for laughter. Another comic part is that of Private Flutter, to which Mr. Louis Edmonde does adequate justice, and an aid to the hilarity is furnished by Miss Clarrie Yandell, who makes a pleasingly refined parlourmaid of Norah. Mr. Reginald Balfour lends the requisite dignity and military precision to the part of Sir Reginald Greystone; Frank Wilding is a favourite throughout, so agreeably is he presented by Mr. Chas. Halling, who is frank and outspoken; and Lieut. Archie Ballater is suitably presented by Mr. Arthur D. Layland. May Greystone has a powerfully dramatic exponent in Miss Mary Mallalieu, and both Mr. Frank Austen and Mr. Eric Wilde in their former rôles of Police Inspector and Private Bertie do useful work. The scenery is pretty and elaborate, and no pains are spared to render the production attractive.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Drama, entitled
"ALONE IN LONDON."

An excellent attraction is found this week in *Alone in London*, the strong and interesting drama by Robert Buchanan and Harriet Jay, and well-filled houses have heartily applauded the many striking episodes that occur in the play. Mr. W. S. Hartford as John Biddlecomb is a typical country farmer; and as Richard Redcliffe, an adventurer, Mr. Percy Rhodes is the villain to perfection. Miss Mary Stafford Smith gives a clever and pathetic rendering of Gipsy Tom; Miss Theresa Osborne is equally good in the trying part of Annie Meadows; Mr. Percy Bell as Jenkinson is decidedly effective, his impersonation of a clergyman being distinctly funny; the rôle of Mr. Burnaby, a rich banker, is ably sustained by Mr. Harry McClelland; and as Walter Burnaby, his son, Mr. Blundell Fenton is a marked success. Miss Rose Grey is admirably suited to the part of Ruth Clifton, an heiress, and cousin to Walter Burnaby; and Miss Elsie Clarke makes a "hit" as Little Paul. Messrs. Lonnen Meadows as Charley Johnson, Frank Sutherland as Spriggins, G. Clements as Jack Meadows, and Misses Gertie Douglas as Liz Jenkinson and Nellie Lauraine as Mrs. Maloncy are excellent in their different parts.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Play entitled
"UNDER TWO FLAGS."

The Molesworth-Blow company are again visiting Fulham in their excellent representation of a dramatised version of Ouida's famous novel. Mr. Mark Blow repeats his well-studied performance as the quixotic hero, in which he is so thoroughly at home. Mr. Dermot FitzGibbon is satisfactory in the thankless part of his brother, Barklie, as are also Mr. Austen Milroy as Lord Rockingham and Mr. Charles Brooke as Lord Royallieu. Mr. Arthur Elwyn plays vigorously as the sinister Colonel Chateauroy, and is well supported by Mr. A. Holmes as Captain de Chanrellon and Mr. R. Huntworth as the Marshal. The part of the valet, Rake, is in the hands of Mr. Harry Benson, who is by way of being a capable comedian. He made the most of the opportunities of the part, delighting the house with his representation of a typical Cockney, and he and Miss Elsa Anderson, as the maid Lavinia, provided much amusement with song and dance. Miss Minnie Grey makes an impressive figure as the Princess Venetia, playing with much charm and dignity. The part of Cigarette, so long associated with Miss Ida Molesworth, finds a capable representative in Miss Agnes Verity, who is very successful in portraying the child of nature in all her varying moods. It is a clever study of the character, and Miss Verity showed by more than one artistic touch that she has the true dramatic instinct. The minor characters are ably embodied, and the piece is well staged.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Drama in Four Acts, by Nita Rae, entitled
"A MOTHER'S SALVATION."

Miss Maude Western and company are appearing here this week in two dramas, *A Mother's Salvation* on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and *The Prodigal Son* on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. In the first-named Miss Maude Western appears as Becky, and causes much amusement by her capital impersonation. Miss Ada Hender wins all hearts by her sympathetic and charming performance of Naomi Lester and Miriam Merveyne. Miss Sophie Riess is good as Daisy Delaval, and Miss Kate Newton proves herself an excellent character actress by her impersonation of Mother Turntail. Mr. J. O. Stevenson is very good indeed as Reuben Smith; Mr. Terence Nerry is a clever Leslie Merveyne; Mr. John Levey is a capital Lynton Desmond; Mr. T. Chapman does well as Jo Turntail; Mr. Carl Vallender is a humorous Billy Bumpkin; Miss Mabel Hall plays Little Paul prettily; Mr. Geo. Tranter is good as Marmaduke Danby, as is Mr. T. Maxwell as Dan Potter. The remaining characters are well acted by Mr. Harry Oggier (Guard), Mr. J. Ballard (Sergeant Colville), and Mr. Fred Daring as Gus Darant.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Drama in Four Acts, entitled
"A DESPERATE MARRIAGE."

Notwithstanding the fact that there has been a long sequence of dramas at the Shakespeare Theatre, their popularity with local playgoers has in no wise diminished, and this week large crowds have welcomed Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company in the successful play, *A Desperate Marriage*. A capable company has been engaged, and the interpretation of the piece leaves little to be desired. Mr. Caspar Middleton as Dick Strang acquits himself with credit. The villainous Clarence Woolmer, a long and important part, is convincingly enacted by Mr. E. W. Maule Cole, an actor of decided ability; Mr. Houghton Goddard is to be commended for his painstaking impersonation of Dr. Frank Buxter; Mr. Walter Roasby is an amusing Tom Stripe; and Mr. Herbert Lloyd scores a decided success by his impersonation of the repentant rogue, Elijah Boggs, a very popular personage with the audience. The character, mainly a humorous one, has its pathetic moments, and throughout Mr. Lloyd has a thorough grip of his audience. Audrey Howard is invested with gentleness and grace by Miss Winifred Whyte, whose acting, especially in the stronger passages, reaches a high plane of excellence. The baneful influence of the adventuress, Miriam Elton, is celeverly suggested by Miss Gertrude Gilbert, and Miss Helen Anderson is successful in her portrayal of the vivacious Betty Mackenzie. Miss Nellie Roasby cleverly assumes the part of Bertha Onions. The other characters are ably enacted, and the scenery and general effects are satisfactory.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Aug. 31,
the Melodrama, in Four Acts, entitled
"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."

Mr. Walter Melville, whose play, produced at Kingston a fortnight ago, was so well received, has been equally successful with the drama which is occupying the boards at the riverside playhouse this week. There is much in the drama that stimulates interest, and it was presented by a company capable in every way of doing full justice to it. Chief honours are due to Miss Edith Blande for a masterly exposition of the most difficult part of Dora Gray. She played with consummate ability. Mr. Arthur Cross as Dora's accomplice in villainy, Guy Brand, played the part with all the polish necessary; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves gave a manly exposition of the hero, Jack Carlton; and a favourable impression was created by Miss May Dallas as the heroine. Mr. Otto Minster appeared in his original part, Captain Jasper Norman, with success; and as Tom good work was put in by Mr. John Hood. The low-comedy business was in the capable hands of Miss Lena Nelson as Kitty Rosebud and Mr. Newman Maurice as Teddy Butterfly, the latter being a great favourite with Kingston audiences.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Drama, entitled
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."

Mr. Walter Melville's company is here this week in the above-named drama, and provides a great attraction. Mr. Wingold Lawrence gives a bright and manly impersonation of the character of Jack Brown, and acts with much earnestness throughout, creating great enthusiasm. Mr. Beresford Whitcomb is responsible for a smart performance as the kind-hearted Colonel James Graham; Mr. Gerald Jordan infuses into the character of Charles Courteney an ample amount of villainy, in which he receives ablo assistance from Miss Marie McAulay as Julie de Beauvrais; Miss Mabel Lowe makes the most of the showy little character of Peggy Munroe; and Mr. F. Yarnold is to be commended upon an admirable character-study as the old farmer, Nathaniel Lee. Miss Dorothy Richardson gives a meritorious performance as his granddaughter, Nancy Lee, eliciting much applause for her sympathetic acting. An excellent comedy character is that of Teddy Munroe, and Little Albert takes full advantage of the many opportunities offered him. All the minor characters are in safe hands, and the drama is well staged. Special mention must be made of the scene representing Nat Lee's Farm, the introduction of livestock giving a most realistic effect. The orchestra here has wonderfully improved under the direction of Mr. William Stephenson, and the bioscope entertainment after the performance is an attraction.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Play entitled
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS."

Hardie and Von Leer's company are presenting the play by Geo. R. Sims and Arthur Shirley, entitled *Two Little Vagabonds*, at the Dalston Theatre this week to interested and delighted audiences. The piece is remarkably well presented. Mr. George Denham is a thoroughly gentlemanly George Thornton, having a true appreciation of his part; Mr. Herbert Standing, jun., as Captain Darville, also figures prominently in the piece; Mr. Harry Reynolds is decidedly good as Jim Scarth; the part of Bill Mullins is faithfully filled by Mr. Herbert Russell, who, despite his disreputable career, becomes quite a popular character with the audience; Dido Bunce, his confederate, has a striking representative in Mr. F. Litchfield; the "Cough Drop" is sketched with skill by Mr. Hal Charlton; and Leeson, the soldier-servant, becomes quite a distinctive personage as played by Mr. G. Valentine. Miss Dora Frank Harvey, as Marion Thornton, plays a womanly part, which directly touches the audience and secures her full sympathy, and the difficult rôle of Barbara Scarth is well portrayed by Miss Leonora Castelle. Miss Ethel Lodge provides an excellent character sketch of Biddy Mullins. The two little vagabonds are represented by Miss Chrissie Francess as Dick and Miss Ethel Frances Greene as Wally, and it is not too much to say that they make themselves the pets of the audience. This play is familiar to Dalston audiences, but that it is as popular as ever is demonstrated by the hearty applause heard at each performance.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Drama entitled
"THE STILL ALARM."

An excellent audience assembled here on Monday to welcome a return visit from Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company in the above exciting piece, with which the popular manager, Mr. Cecil Paget, commences the autumn dramatic season. The drama has pathos and comedy in abundance, and a special feature is the elaborate Central Fire Station, New York, scene in the third act, and the marvellously quick departure of the engine for the scene of the fire. Mr. Matthew H. Glenville makes a spirited hero as the young fireman Jack Manley; Mr. Fred Osmond gives a capital character sketch as the eccentric Dr. Wilber; Miss Beatrice Shirley acts with emotion and charm as Elinor Fordham; Miss Hetty Zillwood is an attractive Carrie Wilber, her bickerings with her sweetheart, Willie Manley, a character well played by Mr. Tom Beasley, proving much to the taste of the audience. Mr. Gerald Kennedy is very well placed as the villain, John Bird; Mr. J. Sutton Pateman does excellently as Joe Jones; Miss Mabel Veriton makes a kindly Mrs. Manley; while Mr. Lewis Gordon is well in the picture as Franklyn Fordham. The singing of the Lyric Comedy Four also enhances the pleasure of the audience.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Drama, by Frederick Melville,
"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."

For the third week in succession the Brothers Melville have been responsible for the dramatic fare at the Stratford Borough Theatre, this week's attraction being *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. The company is a highly capable one, and the piece is very appropriately staged. In the name-part, Miss Beatrice Homer plays with much histrionic ability. The handicap of being veiled until the close of the story detracts not one whit from the strong sympathetic interest taken in the character as portrayed by Miss Homer, and there is general satisfaction when the "Ugliest Woman" regains her wonted beauty. Mr. Philip Darian looks and acts the part of Jack Merriman admirably, his buoyant and virile performance meeting with general commendation. Mr. Leyton Cancellor submits a very sound performance as the rascally Hubert Gold, who is thus an object of extreme aversion to the more susceptible among the audience. Mr. Leonard Thackeray contributes a cleverly-drawn sketch of Antonio Luchesi; Mr. William de Brigord is an outspoken Tom Redvers; Mr. Gerald Nolan makes an impressive Dr. Carr; and a well-defined characterisation of Raggles comes from Mr. Harry Leyton. Miss Gertrude Harrison plays with considerable power and feeling as the vindictive Rose Courtenay, and Miss Violet Macaree is responsible for a graphic portrayal of the Italian girl, Morita. The plentiful "comic relief" is supplied by the exuberances of Tubby Herrick and his fiancée, Aggie Brown. Mr. Freddie Bentley as Tubby is delightfully droll, and fully maintains the high opinion we have hitherto held of this clever young comedian, who should soon find his way into high-class comedy. Miss Nellie Jackson is a bright and prepossessing Aggie. Minor parts are all in capable hands. Mr. Cecil De Lee is the courteous acting-manager for Mr. Frederick Melville.

In our report of the Marlborough Theatre last week, through programme error the name of Mr. Chas. Barstow was given as Mr. Norman V. Norman's manager. It should have been Mr. H. B. Hampton.

"The Law of Copyright," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE BEST OF HER SEX."

A Drama, in four acts, by William A. Armour and Robert Cheval, produced for the first time in London at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, on Monday, Aug. 31.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Stanton Faringdon, J.P. — Mr. Herbert J. Walton
Philip Faringdon — Mr. Percy Horton
Leslie Verney — Mr. Henry Lloyd
Vera Delorme — Miss Dora Price
Ruth Raeburn — Miss Alvina Mining
Rev. Stephen Maxwell, M.A. — Mr. William A. Armour
Jake Smith — Mr. Herbert De Ville
P.C. Peter Jorkins — Mr. J. W. Hooper
Holy Joe — Mr. Dan Mining
Polly Perkins — Miss Alice Buckland
Simon Downy — Mr. Hume Fergus
Warder of Coombeminster Gaol — Mr. H. Ashton
Little Phil — Miss Dorothy Love
Detective Grey — Mr. Vincent Hales
Drunken Man — Mr. James Morgan

The Best of Her Sex is a drama of real sterling merit. It was originally produced on May 13, 1907, at the Colosseum, Oldham, and was voted an immediate success. The dramatic part of its story is not only extremely interesting, but is extremely well told, while the very plentiful humour which is introduced into it is of a most exhilarating order. Messrs. Armour and Cheval's play is, indeed, one of the best and strongest dramas on the road.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir Stanton Faringdon has three grandchildren—Philip Faringdon, Leslie Verney, and Vera Delorme. Philip is his nearest-of-kin, and, of course, the heir to his estates of Coombe. And Philip, we may say at once, is the hero of the play. He marries Sir Stanton's ward, Ruth Raeburn. The other two grandchildren, Leslie Verney and Vera Delorme, are the evil geniuses of the family. It is the former's desire to become possessed of the old man's property, and one way of accomplishing this is to murder Sir Stanton and get the responsibility for the crime placed upon the shoulders of Philip. This Verney succeeds in doing. Philip is charged with the commission of the awful deed, is sentenced to death—a punishment that is afterwards commuted to penal servitude for life. In the meantime, Ruth gives birth to a son, and thus, in the event of the death of her husband, a heir of line is assured to the Faringdon family. But for the present Ruth, in her troubles and her poverty, is being taken care of by the kind-hearted Rector of Coombe, the Rev. Stephen Maxwell. To the Vicarage comes Leslie Verney, who has the audacity to make affectionate advances to Ruth, although he has already promised to marry Vera. Ruth, of course, repels him, and he assaults her. A protector comes on the scene in the person of the Rector, who fells Leslie to the ground, and the latter feigns unconsciousness. Leslie overhears the Rector telling Ruth that she can meet her husband at an old bridge at night. Philip's escape from the penal settlement is due to the machinations of Vera and Leslie, the latter of whom has bribed a warder to let the convict escape so that they can shoot him. This plot fails owing to the friendly services of Joe, a reformed poacher, and Philip eventually escapes to South America. Ten years elapse, and we are taken to Joe's shop in the East End of London. Here are living Ruth and her son, the former making a somewhat exiguous livelihood as a nurse. Into the shop there enters a grey-haired, but still handsome, stranger. He is none other than Philip Faringdon, who, having made a fortune out of the discovery and exploitation of an oil well, has now returned to England to clear himself of the stigma attaching to his name, and to prove the identity of the real murderer of his grandfather. He meets with Leslie, whose latest plot is to kill Philip's little boy—a scheme which meets with the failure that characterised his previous evil designs in regard to the father. Philip, who has not yet been recognised by Leslie and his wife, is invited to their house to play cards. In a violent scene between husband and wife, the latter, in her rage at the ill-treatment she has suffered at the hands of her spouse, charges him with the murder of Sir Stanton Faringdon. Leslie is arrested, and thereby the play ends happily for our hero and heroine.

There is some capital acting. Mr. Percy Horton acts with vigour and virility in the rôle of Philip Faringdon, and gives us a fine study. Not less so does Mr. William A. Armour, who has some arduous work, which he accomplishes remarkably well, in the rôle of the Rev. Stephen Maxwell. Miss Alvina Mining wins everyone's sympathy for her charming and womanly portrayal of Ruth; and in Mr. Herbert J. Walton there is a dignified representative of Sir Stanton Faringdon. Mr. Henry Lloyd as Leslie Verney introduces a strong-minded villain, who is prepared to "go the whole hog"; while his companion in crime, Vera Delorme, is exceedingly well portrayed by Miss Dora Price. Mr. J. W. Hooper as Peter Jorkins is an extremely entertaining personage, and so also are the Joe of Mr. Dan Mining and the Simon Downey of Mr. Hume Fergus. Mr. James Morgan furnishes a vivid bit of characterisation in the fourth act, in which we see him in a delirium caused by drink. Miss Dorothy Love is quite engaging as the little son of Philip and Ruth; and Mr. Herbert de Ville as a footman and Mr. H. Ashton as a Warder, submit able impersonations. *The Best of Her Sex* is capitally mounted.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Aug. 31, the Opera by Gounod entitled
"FAUST."

The engagement of the Carl Rosa Opera Company is always one of the most interesting events of the theatrical season here, and this week the attendance is very large. The operas selected for representation this week include *Faust*, which was played on Monday. In this favourite opera Miss Elizabeth Burgess made an instant and unqualified success as Marguerite, her singing of the well-known numbers being delightful. Miss Christine Ritz looked, acted, and sang well as Siebel. Miss Douglas Wilson was an excellent Martha. Faust received admirable treatment at the hands of Mr. Walter Wheatley, whose vocalism was warmly applauded. Mr. Arthur Winckworth is one of our best Mephistopheles, and played and sang splendidly. Mr. Hebden Foster was very good indeed as Valentine; and Mr. Alexander Richards' Wagner was excellent. On Tuesday *Tannhäuser* was rendered with all-round success, but Mme. Kalna's Elizabeth calls for special praise. The Tannhäuser of Mr. Hanns Robert was a masterly performance, as was the Wolfram of Mr. Charles Victor. As the Landgrave Mr. Arthur Winckworth again distinguished himself. The other characters all received admirable treatment from Miss Beatrice Miranda (Venus), Miss Annie Walker (Shepherd Boy), Mr. A. Richard, Mr. Charles Brierley, Mr. Albert Felton, and Mr. William O'Connor.

"Mrs. Dot," at the Comedy, reached its 150th performance last evening.

The Three Choirs celebration at Worcester starts the provincial festivals this year on Sept. 6. The novelties to be given are a second "Wand of Youth" suite by Elgar, an orchestral poem, "Pierrot," by Granville Bantock, a setting by Dr. Brewer of Henley's "England, my England," and Parry's "Beyond these voices there is peace," and a "Festival Monologue" for organ by Mr. W. Wolstenholme. "The Kingdom" and "Gerontius," and Stanford's "Stabat Mater" are the chief modern choral works in the remaining list.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

The weekly meeting of the Actors' Association Council was held at 409, Strand, on Tuesday, when there were present: Mr. Robson Paige (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (Hon. Solicitor), Messrs. Clarence Derwent, C. F. Collings, Sebastian Smith, F. Annerley, and Hubert Blount (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

The Secretary read a letter from a member with regard to the state of some of the dressing-rooms at a provincial theatre, and was instructed to write to the manager to the effect that the Council's attention had been called to the bad ventilation in some of the dressing-rooms and the open sinks in the basement in three of the rooms under the stage and stating that they were sure that they had only to call his attention to the matter for it to be put right. The Secretary was instructed to put this matter on the agenda each week until an answer had been received. The Secretary also read letters re new premises.

A letter was also read from the Actors' Union asking that representatives of the Actors' Association might be appointed to meet representatives of the Sketch Artists' Society and the N.A.T.E. on Wednesday, Sept. 2, at the Actors' Union offices to discuss the arguments to be raised in support of the motions to be put before the Trades Union Congress next week. Mr. Derwent and Mr. Paige were chosen to attend the meeting.

The Hon. Solicitor reported that he had had an interview with a member and had advised her, that he had written to a member advising him, and that he had written two letters to a manager on behalf of a member in accordance with instructions.

Four members promised assistance to the staff during the present month.

The Secretary reported two engagements made since the last meeting of the Council.

"AN AGENT ON AGENTS."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—The letter signed by Mr. Herbert Blackmore and recently published in a contemporary was full of plain and honest truth, and Mr. Blackmore is quite correct when he states that the profession is "overcrowded with useless people" who seem to take no note of the fact that the entertainment business necessitates real hard work.

There can be no doubt that if aspirants to stage honours made up their minds to fall in with the dictum continually propounded by Mr. Charles Manners—namely, to start at the bottom of the ladder and exert themselves to climb the said ladder by sheer force of merit—the stage would benefit hugely all round, as it is a *sine qua non* that the public have a peculiar aptitude for following earnest artists and encouraging them to make further efforts in their laudable efforts to entertain. *En passant*, let it be remembered that the secret of the success of the variety stage is individual effort.

We have only to take a casual view of the theatrical profession, and there is no difficulty in placing the workers who have reached the pinnacle of fame, and who labour, not only from a pecuniary motive, but also because they instinctively feel that their mission in life is to add a quota towards providing relaxation in the form of wholesome entertainment to their fellows, which mission is an important one, and not entirely useless in the proper workings of the sphere of civilisation.

Stage aspirants should first of all make up their minds to assiduously study and practise for all they are worth, to avoid alluring advertisements mentioned by Mr. Blackmore, and to bear in mind the fact that "hard work kills no man," and that those artists who help themselves can never fail to be pushed forward by both agents and managers, for the simple reason that their own energies bring them into the full glare of the footlights, as is evidenced by the brilliant careers of our leading actors and actresses.

Mr. Henry Tweedie, too, strikes, the correct note in his letter published in your last issue *re* the "waiting game" in an agent's office, and it would appear possible to make improvements herein. Mr. Tweedie is right when he says that many sensitive temperaments have a distinct horror of this peculiar *modus operandi*, and perhaps miss opportunities in consequence thereof.—Yours faithfully,

W. SCOTT PHIPP,
Acting-Manager, *Butterflies*.

Apollo Theatre, W., Sept. 1.

The Devonport Watch Committee had before them on Monday an application from Mr. George S. King, the manager of the Metropole Theatre, for a renewal of the stage-play licence. Mr. King asked for the removal of the clause which specified that the pit bar should not be used for the sale of intoxicating liquors. The results of the insertion of the clause, he assured them, would be disastrous. There were only three bars at the Metropole—the gallery floor bar, the circle bar, and the ground floor bar, which had to serve the pit and the stalls. When exceptional attractions were provided, such as the production of Hall Caine's *The Christian* or the Moody-Manners' Opera Company, the numbers were very large. During the period the Moody-Manners' Company was at the theatre the average nightly attendance on the ground floor was 700. The company itself numbered eighty, and so there were practically 800 persons deprived of getting any refreshment whatever. The time during which drink was served in the theatre, he urged, did not amount on the whole to more than an hour during the evening. The committee consulted in private, and announced that the matter had been referred to the theatrical sub-committee, who would visit the theatre and report to the full committee on the 10th inst.

"The Mollusc" received its American production on Monday, when it was staged at the Garrick Theatre, New York. Mr. Joseph Coyne and Miss Alexandra Carlisle, in the principal parts, met with an enthusiastic reception.

The Sheffield Festival begins on Oct. 5. The only actual new work is Delius' "Sea Drift." César Franck's "Beatitudes," Dr. Walford Davies' "Everyman," Debussy's "L'Enfant Prodigue," Verdi's Requiem, the Matthew Passion, the Choral Symphony, and Kinsky-Karakov's "Christmas Eve" suite make up the bulk of the programme, which Mr. Henry Wood is conducting.

The Bristol Festival begins on Oct. 14. Stanford's "Ode on the Death of the Duke of Wellington," and Mr. Cyril Rodham's "Andromeda" are the novelties, and a symphony by Kallinikov and Felix Woyssch's Passion Music are other interesting items. At the Norwich Festival, which starts on Oct. 28, Hugo Wolf's "Christmas Night" will be performed in England for the first time, and Mr. Julius Harrison's prize cantata, "Cleopatra," will be produced. Debussy's "Blessed Damozel" and Dvorak's "Stabat Mater" will also be given.

St. Albans has produced a musical prodigy in a boy born sightless, who at the age of nine years exhibits such extraordinary talent that the local Board of Guardians have decided to pay the scholarship examination fees for him at the Royal College of Music. When he was little more than a baby his mother taught him notes, and soon afterwards he was able to reproduce popular airs and extemporise his own accompaniments. At Thursday's meeting of the guardians he rendered several classical selections with brilliant technique and expression, and also played a number of his own compositions.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Sept. 3.—MM. Porel and Peter Carin, managers of the Vaudeville, announce that they intend to bring out the following novelties in the course of next season:—*La Patronne*, five-act comedy by M. Maurice Donnay; *Maître Cupidon*, four-act comedy by M. Michel Provins; *Le Lys*, four acts, by MM. Pierre Wolff and Gaston Leroux; *Sa maison en ordre*, by Mr. Pinero, adapted by MM. Bienstock and Balzagette; *La Meilleure des Femmes*, four-act comedy by MM. Paul Bilhaud and Maurice Hennequin; *La Route d'Emeraude*, drama in five acts, in verse, by M. Richepin; *L'Expert*, four-act comedy by M. Bourget; a four-act comedy by M. Alfred Capus; and two revivals, *Patachon* and *Mariage d'Etoile*. Mmes. Jeanne Granier, Marthe Brandès, Marthe Regnier, Jeanne Rolly, Cécile Caron, and MM. Tarride, Lérand, Décori, Noblet, and Lévesque are among the "stars" of the company.

THE Ambigu will start its season with a revival of *Roger-la-honte*, a work that always remains popular with the frequenters of that house. The principal rôles will be interpreted by MM. Séverin-Mars, Rosny, Dieudonné, and Mmes. Gabrielle Fleury, Cécile Barré, Doriane, and Louise Roger. The first new piece to be brought out there will be *L'Agence Legris*, a drama by M. Jacques Roullet, for which Mlle. Paule Andral, of the Vaudeville, has been specially engaged. We are also promised another drama, *Mon Ami l'Assassin*, five acts and six tableaux, by MM. Serge Basset and Antoine Yvan.

SEVERAL papers having announced that MM. Robert de Flers and A. de Caillavet intend bringing out an operette at the Parisiana, these gentlemen write to say that there is not a word of truth in this statement. But why do they assume an indignant tone?

I HAVE to announce the death of M. Campo-Casso, who passed away at the Maison Dubois after a long and painful illness. M. Campo-Casso's name will be familiar to many Englishmen, considering that at one time he was one of the managers of the Paris Opéra. It was he who brought out two of the greatest successes of the répertoire, *Salammbô* and *Samson et Dalila*. The latter work was his favourite, and, curiously enough, was given at the Opéra on the very night he breathed his last. After his departure from the Opéra, M. Campo-Casso became manager of the Lyons Municipal theatre, and for a time was also connected with the Grand Theatre in Marseilles and the Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels.

MM. MESSAGER AND BROUSSAN, managers of the Opéra, have issued a ukase that will be received with dismay by the frequenters of that house. During the performances of the *Crépuscule des Dieux* nobody will be allowed to enter or leave the house. Late comers will have to wait till the act is finished, and those who would like to get away before the others will have to remain seated. Lovers of music will applaud the management's decision, but they are in the minority. The fashionable portion of the audience—the same, I fear, applies to London and other big cities—do not care a jot about music. I do not mean to say that everybody is like my old Scotch friend who loathes music, but has a box at opera because it is the only place where he can sleep. The stalls, dress circle, and boxes here are filled with people who come to see, to be seen, and especially to hear the latest scandal. Oh, these *couloirs* in our opera! More people's reputations are taken away there than in the remainder of the capital. If only they dared, our *mondains* and *mondaines* would continue to walk up and down the lobbies all night and not show themselves in the house. Were this allowed, the takings would no doubt increase considerably. But the hateful bell gives the signal that the *entr'acte* has come to an end, and the pleasant conversation is brought to an abrupt close. No, not abrupt. The ladies want to hear the end of the story about the young Vicomte's intrigue with the banker's wife, and the curtain has risen fully five minutes when we still hear a banging of doors and stamping of feet, that effectually drown the performance. There are, it is true, people in the house, in the cheap places, who have paid to listen to the work. Their limited means do not often allow them such a treat, and they inwardly curse the well-dressed crowd who wantonly mar their pleasure. But neither curses nor remonstrances have any effect on that category of people; and MM. Messager and Broussan have understood this so well that instead of a gentle appeal to their sense of politeness (?), they have brutally forbidden them to turn the house into a bear garden during the performance of Wagner's great work.

APROPOS of a theatrical lawsuit wherein an actress, jealous of the *jeune premier's* success, purposely trod on his corn whilst he delivered his pathetic tirade, one of our witty confrères tells an amusing story of a young tenor, a beginner, who had aroused the anger of the prima donna. The latter, having accidentally discovered that the youth had a horror of strong scents, pinned some strong-smelling orange blossom to her dress. The singer turned pale, and sang so badly that the public murmured. But the tenor was equal to the occasion. On the following night, in the great love scene, whilst he clasped the lady in his arms, he not only breathed words of love, but also sent a whiff of garlic into her face, at which she uttered a shriek. The next night the soprano wore imitation flowers, and her companion had omitted the garlic.

THE CENSORSHIP AGAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Would you very kindly allow me to point out that it is quite useless for us dramatic authors to attack Mr. Redford personally, as some appear to be doing, indirectly. Mr Redford is a very estimable gentleman, and socially and privately "one of the best," but he does not pose as a judge of a play, *i.e.*, being either a work of art or even as a work of intelligence. He has, as he once told me in an interview I had with him, to carry out certain rules as a paid servant of the State, and that if we dramatic authors objected to such rules we should agitate to get them altered. He sympathised with me in the rejection he made for two licences I applied for at the time, an adaptation of Milton's "Paradise Lost" and Count Leo Tolstoy's great story of the early Christian martyrs, viz., "Work while ye have the light," which I also adapted for our stage, with special permission by Count Tolstoy, the grounds for the rejection being that they were "Scriptural and against the Lord Chamberlain's rules." He praised my humble work, and stated also he had shown it to the Lord Chamberlain, who had also spoken highly of it; but he was very sorry to refuse such licences. We cannot, however, as a craft, but look upon such primitive rules as wholly unwarrantable, and of a stultifying, restrictive character, which is not justified in these enlightened days. I keenly sympathise with Mr. Courtney, but he must be aware that, whilst to aim high in playwriting is theatrical bad shooting, to strive to place on our stage a subject which the Lord Chamberlain's rules clearly forbid is futile. We can all read the story he has, I feel sure, so ably dramatised; but, with others, he must find consolation in the fact that he is the victim of antiquated rules which are an anachronism, and which we, as dramatic authors, must agitate to alter if the English stage is to be free from those malignant growths, in the shape of slushy plays and so-called musical comedies, which are at present undermining its very existence.—Yours faithfully,

WALTER STEPHENS.

London, W. Aug. 30.

THE MERRY WIDOW.

MISS GEORGIE CORLASS.

BANDMANN OPERA CO.

To-night Miss Georgie Corlass, the leading lady of the Bandmann Opera Company, will take her farewell benefit at the Theatre Royal, when that most attractive piece *The Merry Widow* will be staged, with Miss Corlass in the title-rôle.

In June, 1905, Miss Corlass made her first bow before a Calcutta audience, and was at once installed prime favourite, a place she has since held consistently. Of her it may be truly said: "Age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety." By this we do not mean to imply that Calcutta's "only Georgie" is "aged." It is rather in a Pickwickian sense, if we "may say so" (Nisch in *The Merry Widow*); for her appearance on the stage every night is always the occasion for enthusiastic applause. She is equally popular with the boxes, dress stalls, gallery, and pit. This being so, a few facts about this popular stage favourite may be of interest to our readers.

Miss Georgie Corlass was, like Max Adeler, born "at an exceedingly early age." Our "Own," who tried to get a few particulars from Georgie's own lips, failed to arrive at the precise Anno Domini when she burst upon an astonished world. But she admits having been "a mere girl" when she first appeared before the footlights in Battersby's Juvenile Opera Company. She was among the chorus, "somewhere in the back row." Mr. Bandmann remembers seeing her in a children's pantomime in Newcastle, and we have it on his authority that that was the most successful "panto" that Newcastle ever saw. It ran for twenty weeks, and the coal-miners and others engaged in digging up that necessary article of domestic use forgot all about their business; they even lost sight of—for at least nineteen weeks—the old adage about "carrying coals to Newcastle." It was at this time that Mr. Bandmann's discriminating eye first took note of Georgie, and when he was making up his great mind about bringing out an opera company to the East he, like Captain Cuttle, "overhauled the book" and looked up that "note" he made at Newcastle. This is the true history of how Georgie

[*Photo by Farsari.*

MISS GEORGIE CORLASS.

Corlass came to be a member of the Bandmann Opera Company.

Since then Miss Corlass has taken no fewer than fifty principal parts, and has learnt and sung no less than 200 songs, a feat which must be regarded as wonderful in one so young. Indeed, this is regarded as a quite unique record, and it is doubtful if there are many on the stage who can claim to have done anything like this performance. She is as successful in comedy and drama as she has proved herself in musical comedy. She was not quite a year with Mr. Bandmann when she came out to the East, and has travelled all over the world—China, Japan, Straits, Java, Canada, West Indies, Bermuda, British Guiana, the Mediterranean ports, and Cairo; and of course India, Burma, and Ceylon. Mr. Bandmann has given her a farewell benefit in every town she has played in, the house on every such occasion being packed to the doors.

Miss Corlass says she likes Calcutta and Calcutta audiences. She has enjoyed herself exceedingly in our city, where she has been the recipient of much kindness. She really loves her profession, and though she has to work hard, it is made up to her in the pleasant time she has had. She had heard that Calcutta audiences were very fickle, but her experience has been a direct contradiction to this libel. Her favourite character is the Merry Widow, in which, as we all know, she has scored such a decided success in Calcutta; and as she will for the last time appear in that rôle to-night, she feels certain—and so do we—that the house will be packed.

She leaves Calcutta on Wednesday next by the Simla, and goes straight home to rest and recoup after her arduous labours. She is doubtful about coming out again to India. But there is no knowing, and the glamour of the East may attract her again. We therefore wish her *bon voyage* and a right good time in the old country. Of course, Calcutta will miss her greatly, and we hope will show its appreciation of this gifted actress by gathering in its hundreds.—*Englishman*, July 20, 1908.

The Theatre Royal was packed last night in every part, and the enthusiasm of the audience was unbounded. The occasion was Miss Georgie Corlass's farewell benefit performance before leaving for Europe. No public performer has a warmer place in the hearts of the Calcutta public than Miss Corlass, and the real affection with which she is regarded was notably demonstrated last night when she first came on the stage, when in the second act she was the recipient of a number of magnificent floral tributes—the cheering of the audience lasted for about ten minutes on this occasion—at the close of the performance, and a dozen other times during the evening. And Miss Corlass deserves it all. Her vivacity and charm, her ready humour, her ingenuous larkiness, and her facility and quickness in establishing a spirit of good-fellowship with her audiences will be sadly missed until she comes back, as everyone hopes she will. We may have other popular artists in the future, but we shall never have another who will be quite the same to us as "Georgie," as the people in the pit like to call her. The occasion should have been one for tears, but Miss Corlass gave us no time to think of the sadness of the occasion. She played the part of the Merry Widow with all her customary buoyancy, and the company generously aided her efforts to make the evening one of enjoyment without thought of the sad blank that is to follow.—*Statesman*, July 21, 1908.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK" REVIVED.

Rewritten up to date by Andrew Melville, the above Play was Reproduced at the Metropole Theatre, Birmingham, on Monday, Aug. 31.

Martin Faber	MR. HARRY CULLENFORD
Barney Bawn	MR. FRED A. MARSTON
Tom Hall	MR. WILLIAM J. MILLER
Maurice Wyngate	MR. FREDK. SCRAFH
Pedro	MR. KENDREW MILSON
Captain Halton	MR. LYONS JOHNSON
Snowball	MR. JOE ROWLAND
Tracy	MR. ARTHUR BARNETT
Track	MR. FREDK. PARKER
Finch	MR. WILBY BROOKS
Hathaway	MR. ANGUS GORING
Bolter	MR. G. H. FULFORD
Lieut. Turner	MR. PERCY BRAITHWAITE
Dr. Shurton	MR. ARTHUR PICKERING
Winnie Hall	MISS HALLIE HASLEWOOD
P.C. Whopping	MR. JAMES SAXBY
Peggy Mahoney	MISS DORIS DALLIMORE
Solomon Isaacs	MR. ARNOLD WINTERS
Helen Wyngate	MISS MAMIE STANTON

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

This truly exciting drama came originally from the pens of Mr. Fred Cooke and Mr. W. R. Waldron, and was first produced at the Theatre Royal, Jarrow, on May 30, 1887. Mr. Cooke ran the piece for a long period through London and the provinces. It was also secured by the late Andrew Melville, who played it many times at the Standard Theatre, London, and other theatres; and now his son, the present Mr. Andrew Melville, has taken the play in hand and, having rewritten and brought it up to date, is taking it on tour. At the revival on Monday it was at once evident that Mr. Melville had attacked the work of resuscitation in no half-hearted fashion, he having equipped the play with new scenery, by Mr. Alfred Whyatt.

The play opens at the penal settlement at Borneo, where we see Maurice Wyngate, who has a fortune in diamonds, located with his daughter Helen. A suitor for Helen's hand is Martin Faber, the diver, who, having finished his diving operations, is about to depart for England with his servant, Barney Bawn. Faber has just ere this succoured a convict escaped from the penal settlement named Tom Hall, alias Cranston. Faber, on his leave-taking with Helen, is telling her the story, which it seems was one of forgery, never dreaming that her father was implicated. Hall, discovering that Wyngate has the diamonds, essays with an Italian, Pedro, to get away with them, but is surprised through the watchfulness of a comic negro servant, Snowball, who retails the plot to Barney. Hall, in a struggle with Barney, falls into the hands of the police, who are seeking him, and he is taken back to the settlement. We are next on board the good ship Lucy, bound for England, with the Wyngates, Faber, and Barney and Snowball. The crew being down with fever, the captain is obliged to take up a foreign crew, which includes the Italian, Pedro, and no less a person than Tom Hall, who has escaped again. To get the Wyngates and Faber into their power, this precious pair scuttle all the boats save one, which they fill with provisions, and conceal a keg of gunpowder to blow up the ship, at the same time inciting the crew to mutiny. The faithful Snowball is again the happy means of saving the situation by discovering the plot and disclosing the news to Faber, who commands the captain to call the crew on deck. They refuse to acknowledge him, and Hall and his confederate Pedro demand the lives of Wyngate and Faber, when Barney comes to the rescue with the keg of gunpowder, which he has discovered, and threatens, unless the crew submit, to blow the ship up. This was one of the dramatic moments of the play and evoked thunders of applause for the faithful Barney. The crew capitulate for a time, but Hall succeeds at last, and the ship is scuttled and sinks, and a passing steamer picks up all the crew and passengers, with the exception of Wyngate, who goes down with his fortune. We next find ourselves at the docks at England, some few years later, at the time that the cable was being laid from England to America, the operations being conducted from the Great Eastern, then the largest ship afloat. Martin Faber is bidding his sweetheart good-bye. More divers being required, we find Tom Hall among the successful applicants. The ship reaches mid-ocean and is found above the very spot where the Lucy and Wyngate, with his diamonds, went down, and Martin decides to descend. Next Martin Faber and Tom Hall are seen working at the bed of the ocean, where lies the wrecked ship Lucy. Martin is seen fighting his way through the wreckage followed by Hall, when the former comes across the casket containing the diamonds that belong to the drowned man. Wyngate. He has grasped the prize, when Hall, creeping up, severs the air-tube, releases the weights, and takes off the boots, letting the body float to the surface, first having secured his booty, the casket of diamonds. The crime has not been unseen, for the faithful Barney was present on the ladder, yet unable to assist. He ascends the ladder, with Hall, just as the attendants are removing Faber's helmet, and on Hall suggesting that his victim has been accidentally drowned, Barney ejaculates "No! not drowned, but murdered!"

In the last act we are landed at the great city of London in mid-winter. Hall, having become blind and dipsomaniacal, is dependent on his daughter to lead him about from place to place, and to appease his craving for drink he compels her to pledge one of the stolen diamonds. The pawnbroker suspecting it to be stolen, the girl Winnie is arrested, and thus the sins of the father are visited on the daughter. Helen Wyngate, by a fortunate circumstance, happening on the spot and promising to take the girl from her evil surroundings, she is set free. Helen, on eliciting the name of the girl she has befriended, finds of course she is none other than the daughter of the man who has despoiled her of her fortune, and at once proceeds with her protegée to the villain's lodging in the slums, where in his delirium we see him going through the awful act of his crime. Pedro, who is on the scene and has all along urged Hall to his destruction, is waiting for an opportune moment to get away with the diamonds, and Hall, in one of his paroxysms, dying, he grasps them and with an accomplice, Bolter, turns to fly, to be confronted with the indignant Helen. A fierce but unequal struggle ensues, when, behold! Martin Faber appears, miraculously recovered, with his faithful henchman, Barney, and the situation and the diamonds are saved. The two culprits are placed in the hands of the police, the diamonds are proved to belong to Helen, who presents them, together with herself, to Martin.

Mr. Harry Cullenford, as the intrepid diver, Martin Faber, acted very finely throughout, gaining breathless attention "under water" and stentorian cheers at the finish. Mr. William J. Miller acted with all the low cunning and vindictiveness of the utterly callous and unscrupulous convict, Tom Hall, while the delirium described above kept the audience riveted. Mr. Kendrew Milson as the Italian scoundrel, Pedro, was very good; Mr. Fredk. Scrafh showed excellent ability as Maurice Wyngate, while as his daughter, Helen, Miss Mamie Stanton acted with a charm and sympathy that held the audience quite enraptured; Mr. Fred A. Marston renewed his popularity with a stirring and breezy impersonation of Barney Bawn, his obvious sincerity and rich flow of humour being in complete accord with the part, and his sweetheart, Peggy Mahoney, was vivaciously represented by Miss Doris Dallimore; Miss Hallie Haslewood acted as Winnie with melting pathos, and won great compassion for the unhappy and persecuted girl. Mr. Joe Rowland was much cheered for his good services as the loyal Snowball, and Mr. G. H. Fulford as Bolter and the remainder of the cast did well.

WENTWORTH CROKE—AN IMPRESSION.

There was a time, and not so many years ago—it was the period when Marie Wilton, as she then was—she is now Lady Bancroft—converted what was called "The Dust Hole" in the Tottenham Court-road into the Prince of Wales's Theatre, when the theatrical manager was a modified edition of Dickens's "Crummles." He was loud of voice and blatant of manner. Alcohol persuaded him, and he smoked the cheap cigar which poor dead and gone Phil May called "managerial fourpennys." "Nous avons changé tout cela." To-day the exploiter of theatrical enterprise who at present lives is an entirely different product. Mr. Wentworth Croke has arrived. He has got there. He controls six touring companies, besides being the managing-director of the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, and the proprietor of the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith. Mr. Wentworth Croke was educated at Evesham Grammar School, then graduated at Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and afterwards had a commercial training in a big railway company—the G.W.R. His first connection with the stage was as business-manager for *Florodora*, with Mr. Tom B. Davies, who pulls the strings which are important to many London and provincial theatres. He afterwards, seeing the possibilities, bought the rights outside London of *Florodora*, and toured it for several years. Then, to increase his experience, he was manager for Miss Kate Vaughan; also, he exploited Miss Minnie Palmer for a period. This tour he made a success, and it was a scarlet feather in his cap. His next venture was with Clyde Meynell, when he produced *Three of a Suit*, written by Forbes Dawson. It was the late Lord Beaconsfield who said, "Adventures come to the adventurous." This is true; but luck also comes to those who are born under the star felicitous. Mr. Wentworth Croke must have been born under that star. Ten years ago he foregathered with Hall Caine, before the Manx author reached his present position, and he secured the first version of *The Christian*, which he toured for nine years. To-day Mr. Wentworth Croke is touring the new version of *The Christian*, *The Bondman*, and *The Prodigal Son*.

A comparatively young man with a fine future

[*Photo by Draycott Galleries.*

MR. WENTWORTH CROKE.

before him, if he chooses to pursue the profession in which he has embarked, Mr. Wentworth Croke has such clean-cut ideas. He has assimilated the old rhyme-writer's opinion as exemplified in the couplet:—

"The drama's laws the drama's patrons give,
And he who lives to please must please to live."

As is well known in Liverpool, Mr. Croke has taken hold of the management of the Shakespeare Theatre with no uncertain hand, and intends to have everything of the best. He has entered into an arrangement with Mr. Tom B. Davis by which the two will jointly run the pantomime season at that house for the coming Christmas, and for two or three seasons to follow. Mr. Croke and Mr. Davis have been jointly interested before in musical comedy ventures, so that it is only in accordance with the fitness of things that they should combine in the exploitation of pantomime. For the coming season the subject is *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and it is now an open secret that the Liverpool public can look forward to seeing Miss Ada Reeve as Jack. The book is being written specially by Mr. James Hewson—so well known to all local playgoers—with a view to fitting Miss Reeve with a part worthy of her great talents. The mounting is receiving the personal attention of Mr. Davis. Some important scenes will be supplied by the resident artist at the Shakespeare, Mr. T. Holmes; and the stage will be under the direction of Mr. E. T. Steyne, who has been responsible for some of the most successful pantomimes produced in Liverpool. Special music is being written by Mr. Guy Jones, whose successful début as a composer in London with the production of *The Gay Gordons* at the Aldwych has proved him to be a worthy member of the family that has given us Mr. Sydney Jones, whose name will be for ever famous as the composer of *The Geisha*.

Of course, there will be the usual popular songs of the day, not only for Miss Reeve, who will also introduce some songs specially written for her, but there will also be on hand with some good songs with tuneful choruses Mr. Fred Allendale, who made such a distinct success in *Aladdin* at the same house. A most important engagement is that of Mr. Lauri de Frece, a name most familiar to all who are interested in the entertainment world in Liverpool. Other engagements include Mr. Dan Crawley as the Dame and the Brothers Griffiths.

AT the King's Theatre, Gateshead, the Xentrix present a delightful act, *The Garden of Terpsichore*, this week; Bennett and Martell prove grotesquely funny in *The Shipwrecked Mariners*; Maud Hillman and Maurice Russell are seen to advantage in a high-class vocal duologue; Alex. Prince, concertina soloist, is warmly praised for his excellent work; Geo. Bernard is an entertaining actor-vocalist; Sandy and Carl are an amusing and clever pair; Hicks and Hunter, skating dancers, are entertaining; and the bill is completed by Vernon's Pictures.

At the Theatre Royal, Smethwick, Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company, in a new domestic drama, *Her Nameless Child*, has been well received. Mr. J. W. Evelyn as Anthony Ford is worthy of special mention; Miss Pattie Hastings enlists sympathy for Phyllis Ford; Mr. Sydney C. Cranston is successful as Arthur Ford; Mr. Arthur E. Pringle is an able Lord Henry Woodville, whose cat's paw, Mongrole, is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Frank Thompson; Miss Mona Grey is a powerful Lady Woodville; and Mr. Larry Clements a droll Tom Rivers. Miss Geraldine Verner makes an admirable lady's maid.

"THE DUKE'S MOTTO."

A Melodrama, in Four Acts, by Justin McCarthy, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on Monday, Aug. 31.

Louis XIII.	MR. TOM HESSLEWOOD
Louis de Nevers	MR. OWEN ROUGHWOOD
Louis de Gonzague	MR. FRANKLIN DYALL
Cocardasse	MR. HERBERT JARMAN
Passepoil	MR. ALEC THOMPSON
Peyrolles	MR. HUBERT DRUCE
Æsop	MR. A. E. GEORGE
Staupitz	MR. J. H. IRVINE
Faenza	MR. CATON WOODVILLE
Saldagno	MR. REGINALD DANE
Pepe	MR. FRANK RIDLEY
Pinto	MR. CRONIN WILSON
Hoel	MR. GEOFFREY SAVILLE
Chavernais	MR. SHIEL BARRY
Tavannes	MR. J. V. HENRY
Navailles	MR. GEORGE HARRINGTON
Noce	MR. JAMES HARRISON
Oriol	MR. PATRICK DIGAN
Berichen	MASTER HARRY DUFF
Bonnivet	MR. D. BARTUN
Landlord of Inn	MR. CHARLES CECIL
Grieveau	MR. PAUL SUTCLIFFE
Henri de Lagardere	MR. LEWIS WALLER
Blanche de Nevers	MISS VALLI VALLI
Gabrielle de Gonzague	MISS SYBIL CARLISLE
Flora	MISS DOROTHY MINTO
Cidalis	MISS GWENDOLIN FLOYD
Martine	MISS MAUDE DIGAN
Brigitte	MISS MAUDE CHENERY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The original of *The Duke's Motto—Le Bossu*, as it was called in the French—was first produced at the Porte St. Martin, Paris, in September, 1862, thus anticipating Mr. Lewis Waller's production by just forty-six years.

The story has been made familiar to playgoers since 1863 by successive adaptations into English; and the main outlines of the plot are as well remembered by many old playgoers as those of *The Colleen Bawn* or *Green Bushes*. The central character, which has been impersonated successively by Fechter, Henry Neville, Edmund Tearle, and J. H. Clyndes, is Henri de la Gardère, a romantic swashbuckler, whose motto is "I am here!" and who is "on the spot" when wanted for the many emergencies of an elaborate and intricate plot, which we do not propose to weary our readers by describing in detail. Let it suffice to state that Louis de Nevers, a French noble, is attacked in a forest by a gang of ruffians hired by his cousin, Louis de Gonzague. Henri, unable to save the life of Louis, rescues from the assassins his baby daughter, Blanche. Seventeen years elapse. De Gonzague has married de Nevers' widow, and Blanche has been brought up in ignorance of her parentage. De Gonzague tries to pass off upon his wife a gipsy girl named Flora as the missing daughter, and in the palace of Gonzague we see Flora, in her new state, fearful of her reception by her "mother," the Princess, who, prompted by Lagardere, disguised still as the defunct Æsop, repudiates the relation. Lagardere, in his new guise, carries on the functions of Æsop as Gonzague's confidant, and by reason of it has gained an interview with the Princess, having assured her, without disclosing his real identity, that that night her daughter shall be restored to her. It is at the King's ball in the gardens of the Palais Royal that Lagardere proposes to restore the daughter and denounce the murderer; and Blanche, guarded by the faithful Cocardasse and Passepoil, is moving among the dancers, when Gonzague, lighting upon her, gets the assistance of his creatures to hustle the trio, and substitutes another lady in a similar rose-coloured domino in her place. On Lagardere failing to produce the girl to the King, Gonzague denounces him for his own crime. The King waxes impatient, but being reminded by Lagardere of his promise of safe conduct holds to his word, and Lagardere disappears, vowing yet to produce the girl. Relapsing once more into his Æsopian guise, Lagardere instructs his fellows, Cocardasse and Passepoil, to repair to Gonzague's palace, whither the girl has haply been borne. Here we see Gonzague making merry with his creatures at the exploit, when "Æsop" appears and propounds a scheme to him, by which he proposes to marry the girl, and so spare Gonzague the trouble of putting her away. Gonzague laughingly assents, incredulous of the girl's consent; but it so happens that she loves the gallant soldier who has ever watched over her, so when he, unknown to the others, reveals himself to her, she agrees joyfully, and the marriage contract is drawn up and signed by all but the disguised Lagardere, who promises them a little surprise when he does so. He does eventually sign, and great is the amazement and confusion when Gonzague, coming to look, cries aghast, "What! Lagardere?" "Yes!" he cries; and, throwing off his disguise and drawing the devoted girl to his side, he stands defiant before them just as the doors are being hammered loudly and a voice exclaims, "Open in the King's name!" The King enters, wroth at finding the doors barred, when Lagardere rings out his denunciation of the real assassin of Louis de Nevers, and dares him to produce the packet, wherein he declares will be found the assassin's name, which the dying man traced with his fingers, dipped in his own blood, and which Gonzague secured from the abducted girl. This packet Gonzague essays to destroy—a damning proof of his fear of the contents, and likewise his guilt. The Princess is restored a daughter of whose *bond fides* there is no possible doubt, with a handsome, gallant son-in-law to boot, while her knavish husband, Gonzague, meets his proper end.

Mr. Waller has a fine character in Henri de Lagardere, which just suits his romantic, ornate style. His graceful actions, strong personality, and physique, his virility, and above all his splendid gift of raillery, which pervades the play, are exactly in tone with the rôle, and no wonder the audience rang out its enthusiasm in such volumes. Miss Valli Valli, though familiar to Birmingham playgoers, has never appeared to such advantage as in her present part, Blanche de Nevers, her acting of which was a pleasant surprise to all. She drew much sympathy for the orphaned child, and in her confession of love for her saviour and guardian gave an impression of devotion which well became the character. Miss Sybil Carlisle as the wife and mother bereft of her all showed the dignity and resignation expected of the character. Miss Dorothy Minto as Flora, the girl they would foist on the unhappy mother for her own, realised the character fully, the child's anxiety to please and be loved being very naturally portrayed. Mr. Tom Hesslewood played well as the King, Louis XIII.; Mr. Owen Roughwood did his brief portion as Louis de Nevers perfectly well; Mr. Franklin Dyall was suave and dissimulating to a degree as the cowardly assassin, Louis de Gonzague, and completely realised the rôle; Messrs. Herbert Jarman and Alec Thompson as Cocardasse and Passepoil were very good and amusing with their dissimilar styles and statures; Mr. Herbert Druce was rotund, oily, and sleek, as became his part of Peyrolles; Mr. A. E. George's study of Æsop commanded attention at all times with its sinister influence; and Mr. Shiel Barry gave a light and humorous touch to the part of Chavernais, a foppish gallant, who, taking a lesson in manners and morals from the hero, adheres to it ever after. The scenery also is very excellent, calling forth applause in every instance; the dresses, which are designed by Mr. Hesslewood, are very correct; the music is specially composed by Mr. Frederick Rosse; and the fights are arranged by Mr. Felix Bertrand and the dances by Mr. John D'Auban.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree's production of *Faust* this evening will be a revelation in stage setting, even for His Majesty's. Almost from front to back the whole floor of the stage will open up to allow of the elaborate working of a weird spectacular effect. In response to Faust's challenge to Mephistopheles to give some evidence of his supernatural powers, Faust sees a hill rent asunder at the command of the fiend, and a vision of the historical queens of beauty passes before him, the long procession being ended by Margaret, with her dead child at her feet.

Amongst the distinguished audience at the Duke of York's Theatre for the first representation of Mr. Barrie's new play, *What Every Woman Knows*, were: H.H. Prince Francis of Teck, Sir Edward Russell, Mr. Winston Churchill, Lady Maud Warrender, Lady Leslie, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. E. S. Willard, Miss Marion Terry, Miss Maud Adams, Mr. Comyns Carr, Mr. and Mrs. Lewisohn (Miss Edna May), Mr. Haddon Chambers, Mr. Bernard Shaw, and Mr. Israel Zangwill.

Mr. George Alexander, who gave the reopening of the newly-decorated King's Theatre, Sunderland, such a brilliant send-off last week, was the object of an enthusiastic demonstration each evening. At the concluding performance of *The Thief* on Saturday night repeated demands for a speech were made, and Mr. Alexander appeared before the curtain and said: "Ladies and gentlemen, it has been a great delight to me to reopen this beautiful theatre. I hope that this season will be a successful one, as it deserves to be. The theatre is one of the most charming I have ever had the honour of acting in, and I only wish I had one like it in London. I wish to thank you most sincerely for the kindly manner in which you have received Miss Vanbrugh, my company, and myself. Just recently the proprietor of this theatre asked me if I was satisfied with my visit. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I am so satisfied that I hope to come to you again some time in the near future. Until then I wish you farewell, and thank you from the bottom of my heart for your sympathy and goodwill."

The fruits of long and arduous endeavour are evidently in store for Mr. Roy Horniman, whose success with *Idols* at the Duke of York's follows closely upon that of *The Education of Elizabeth*. The same agreeable results, we trust, await the gifted author's *Bellamy the Magnificent*, which Sir Charles Wyndham has underlined for production. Those who have followed the clever author's career will admit that success has seldom been better deserved or earned with more persistent intelligence. For years past he has been storming the Temple of Fame with novels, plays, adaptations, and what not.

Mr. Horniman has meanwhile been content to lay the lowliest duties upon himself as an actor. In the original performance of *Florodora*, in the November of 1899, Mr. Horniman was amongst those who raised their hats upon the Lyric stage to the tune of "Tell me, pretty maiden, are there any more at home like you?" He rejoiced in the name of Tennyson Sims, a cognomen that has proved to be of happy augury.

Mr. Martin Harvey has perfected his plans for his forthcoming campaign at the Adelphi, and will give a lengthy season of répertoire, supported by his company. Mr. Harvey has spent many years of hard work gathering around him a company trained to work together and thoroughly in sympathy with each other's technical methods, and though his visits to the Metropolis have not during the past few years been of lengthy duration, he showed last summer in a month's season at the Adelphi of what he and his company were capable in a series of plays, staged with a completeness of detail which would be expected from one of the sincerest disciples of the old Lyceum.

The season opens with a revival of *The Corsican Brothers*, and the fine old ghost story will come as a most interesting novelty to the younger generation of playgoers. It will still be fresh in the memory that His Majesty the King graciously commanded a special performance to be given by Mr. Harvey last year at the Adelphi during the run of *The Only Way*. *The Corsican Brothers* will only be played for the first month—strictly speaking, up to Oct. 3, and, as we noted in our last issue, it will be preceded by a different first piece each week.

The chief novelty of the season will be given on Oct. 5, when *The Last Heir*—the adaptation of Scott's "Bride of Lammermoor" by Mr. Stephen Phillips—will be produced. Mr. Harvey will of course appear as Ravenswood, and Miss de Silva will impersonate Lucy Ashton. The play has been most enthusiastically received wherever performed in the provinces, and will be a welcome addition to the dramatised list of classical novels. Elaborate scenery has been prepared by Mr. W. Telbin and Mr. Geo. Dodson, and special music of an ambitious type has been composed by Mr. Norman O'Neill, who has introduced the bagpipe. On Nov. 9 is promised a revival for two weeks of that stirring cavalier drama *The Breed of the Treshams*, and the concluding fortnight, starting on Nov. 23, will be devoted to the evergreen *The Only Way*. It is also intended to give special matinées during the last half of the season (which finally closes on Dec. 5) of *A Cigarette-maker's Romance*.

Allusion has been made to the Lyceum traditions with which Mr. Martin Harvey is so thoroughly imbued. It is pleasing to add that he still has the assistance of Mr. H. J. Loveday, who was associated with Sir Henry Irving's productions for some thirty years. It can also be recalled that many of the company who will appear at the Adelphi Theatre served under Sir Henry's banner. Among those we may mention Miss de Silva, Miss Mary Rorke, Miss Coleridge, Mr. Charles Glenney, and Mr. Vincent Sternroyd.

Garrick House, in Southampton-street, Strand, W.C., from 1750 to 1772 the residence of David Garrick, has recently been redecorated, and is now to be let as offices.

"Paid in Full," by Eugene Walter, which will be produced at the Aldwych on Tuesday, is another small-cast play. The dramatis personæ consist of seven characters, who will be embodied by Mr. H. V. Esmond, Miss Hilda Antony, Mr. Paul Arthur, Mr. Louis Calvert, Miss Kate Serjeantson, Miss Daisy Markham, and Mr. A. B. Tapping. The same evening will witness the London production of Mr. Lewis Waller's *The Duke's Motto* at the Lyric. *The Early Worm* at Wyndham's has been postponed from last Monday to next, and the busy nature of the week will be emphasised by the starting of Mr. Martin Harvey's season at the Adelphi on Wednesday.

To celebrate the opening of the autumn season at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, a new act-drop has been painted by Mr. T. Holmes, and has been much admired. This theatre, under the management of Mr. Wentworth Croke, is now in the flood-tide of success. He has a remarkable list of bookings for the autumn and a brilliant pantomime cast in store for Christmas.

"Marriages are Made in Heaven," a short episode in one act by Mr. Basil Dean dealing with West Country life, will be produced by Miss Horniman's company at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on the occasion of the reopening of that theatre on Monday.

Mr. Percy Hutchison took advantage of a three days' vacancy with his *Brewster's Millions* company this week to see the performance by his companies of Mr. Somerset Maughan's brilliant plays, *Lady Frederick* and *Mrs. Dot*. On Monday Mr. Hutchison, accompanied by the Vicar of Gorleston, whose interest in the drama has been proved by the writing of more than one play, found a crowded house at the Aquarium Theatre, Yarmouth, enjoying the delightful acting of Miss Decima Moore as Mrs. Dot. The audience was intensely enthusiastic. On Tuesday, in company with Lady Wyndham, Mr. Hutchison paid a visit to the popular Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, where a record house had assembled to greet Mrs. Brown Potter as Lady Frederick.

On Wednesday afternoon he accomplished a flying visit to his *Peter's Mother* company at Leicester, and the same evening he reached Nottingham, where Miss Mabel Love and company claimed his attention. A remarkably good house gave Miss Love an enthusiastic reception, and the appreciation of this clever comedienne was demonstrated by no less than fourteen calls.

Mr. Hutchison finished his travels on Thursday at Harrogate, where he opened to one of the biggest houses of the season with *Brewster's Millions*. The promoters of the enterprise and the provincial public are equally to be congratulated on the prosperity which is attending all the various companies associated with the Hutchison management. Each popular play is accompanied by a London star of no little magnitude, a combination which ensures the best business, but it is to the strict attention to detail and constant supervision of the productions that no small measure of the overwhelming success is due.

At the invitation of the Artists' Protection League and the Actors' Union, representatives of those bodies and of the Actors' Association, Sketch Managers' Association, and National Association of Theatrical Employees met on Wednesday to discuss the arguments to be advanced at the Trade Union Congress at Nottingham next week in support of the resolution asking for a revision of the laws applying to the licences of theatres and music halls. The resolution will be moved by Mr. Frank Gerald, General Secretary of the Artists' Protection League, and seconded by Mr. Blackmore, Secretary of the Actors' Union The co-operation and support of every kindred body has been invited.

The ranks of the peerage have been once again recruited from the stage by the marriage of Earl Poulett with Miss Sylvia Lilian Storey, only daughter of the well-known comedian, which happy event took place at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, on Wednesday afternoon. The impending wedding had been kept a profound secret, and only six persons were present at the ceremony. These were the bride and bridegroom; Mrs. Storey, the bride's mother; Lady Violet Wingfield, the Earl's sister; Mr. John Richards, the Earl's solicitor, who acted as best man; and Mr. Dan Nithorn, who gave the bride away. There were no bridesmaids. After the ceremony the Earl and Countess left for Folkestone en route for Paris, where the honeymoon is being spent.

Lady Poulett is only eighteen years of age, and has been on the stage ever since she was a child. Her first appearance was at Kennington, about twelve years ago, when her father produced *Rip Van Winkle*, in which she took the part of Rip's daughter. Later she appeared at Brighton in *Gurder in Fairydom*, playing the name-part, and afterwards was engaged in *The Beauty of Bath*, in which she figured as Romilly's Lady Hamilton, one of the picture-girls. Her next rôle was in *The Gay Gordons*, and then she went to the Gaiety Theatre, where she appeared in *Havana* until last Saturday, acting also as understudy to Miss Olive May, whose part she played for a fortnight during that lady's absence.

The bridegroom is the seventh Earl Poulett, and his full name is William John Lydston Poulett. His lordship, who is twenty-five on Friday next, will be remembered in connection with the curious law-suit in which a person known as the organ-grinding "Viscount" made an unsuccessful claim to the title and estates. The claimant was well known in the London streets, where he was frequently to be seen playing a piano-organ, the front of which bore an announcement of his claim. The organ and its player also figured in a sketch which was produced at the Canterbury Music Hall some years ago, but enjoyed only a brief career.

Hard upon the above announcement comes that of the engagement of Miss Enid Leonhardt, who has been appearing as Consuelo, the leading rôle in *Havana*, to Mr. David Wellesley Bell. Mr. Bell, who came of age last April, is of independent means, and since he left Cambridge two years ago has spent much of his time travelling and hunting in distant countries. Miss Leonhardt has played small parts in *The Spring Chicken*, *The New Aladdin*, and *The Girls of Gottenberg*, and in the latter took up Miss Gertie Millar's part for a considerable time. The wedding is announced to take place on Sept. 15.

Mr. Wentworth Croke will put on a pantomime this Christmas at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, and has arranged with Mr. G. Brydon-Phillips to produce the same. Mr. Phillips will also produce an "annual" at Chester, by arrangement with Mr. Milton Bode, this making the former gentleman's fifth production in the city mentioned.

Miss Marion Turner is playing Nancy Sykes, a part in which she has made a big success in Ivan Berlyn's thrilling sketch *Fagin*, at the Palace, Walthamstow, next week.

The second annual series of performances by the British Empire Shakespeare Society will be given at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, on the afternoons of Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 and in the evenings of Oct. 1 and 3, when *Twelfth Night* will be staged, with scenery and costumes, in co-operation with the Governors of the Memorial. The performers will be drawn from members of the Society all over the kingdom, and the cast employed on the last two days will be different from that engaged on the first. Mrs. A. D. Flower, who played Portia in *The Merchant of Venice* last year, will be the Viola in the one cast, Miss Ruth Anderson (of London) sustaining the same rôle in the other. Mr. P. L. Eyre, who won the first prize (amateurs) in the Society's annual elocution competition this year at the Playhouse, will be one of the Malvolios, the other being Mr. Geo. H. Holloway (of Bristol). The Bristol centre will be further represented by Mr. H. E. Brown as one of the Fabians.

The Stratford-on-Avon centre will have several members included in the casts, amongst them being Mr. A. D. Flower (chairman of the Memorial Committee) as one of the Antonios; the other Antonio falls to Captain O'Grady (of Dublin). The two Olivias are Mrs. Douglas Barlow (of Wolverhampton) and Miss Enid Rose, who has hitherto distinguished herself in London chiefly as reader of the stage directions, and now gets an opportunity well deserved. The Sir Tobys will be Mr. H. Urwick (Worcestershire) and Mr. W. H. Slyde (Birmingham). Mr. C. H. Humphreys and Mr. W. C. Blakeway, both of Worcestershire, will be the Orsino and Sir Andrew respectively. The Sheffield, Leamington, and Ainwick centres will also be represented. The railway companies are arranging for reduced rates for the occasion.

Mr. Wentworth Croke will present at the Fulham Theatre on Monday for the first time in the suburbs the new version of Hall Caine's play *The Christian*, direct from the Lyceum and Shaftesbury Theatres, with all the original dresses and effects. Mr. Roy Redgrave has been engaged to play John Storm, Miss Daisy Scudamore will be the Glory Quayle, and Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn will play his original part of Father Lamplugh.

The attraction at the Brixton Theatre next week will be Mr. Wentworth Croke's No. 1 Company of *The Prodigal Son*, which has been touring the provinces with such enduring success. Brixton playgoers will thus have the opportunity of seeing Mr. Hugh Montgomery's fine performance of Magnus Stephensson. Mr. Croke's pretty Lyric Opera House will next week be occupied by Hardie and Von Leer's powerful drama, *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*.

Mr. Fred Heming, who was for several years advance manager for Mr. William Greet's company, and previous to that resident at the Coronet and Camden Theatres, has been compelled to resign his appointment at the King's Theatre, Edinburgh, owing to complete breakdown in health, consumption of the throat and lungs having set in, making him a chronic invalid almost wholly confined to his bed. Such a condition, we regret to say, makes it quite impossible for him ever to work again. Mr. Heming's address is care of Charles B. Allen, 211, Maida-vale.

Mr. John F. Preston will play the principal part of Tom Trueman, the bookmaker, in his forthcoming new production *A Ride to Win*. Tom's wife, Belle Trueman, will be played by Miss Mabelle F. Barlow. It may be recalled that a play with a similar title, namely, *Riding to Win*, by Ernest Leicester and Walter Howard, was produced at the Broadway, New Cross, in the July of 1900.

Mr. John Clyde, "Scotland's favourite Rob Roy," is, by arrangement with Mr. A. B. Cross, touring the Wilson Barrett version of Hall Caine's novel *The Manxman* through Scotland, and playing to packed houses. He is supported by Miss Lena Levenston as Kate Cregeen, and a powerful company includes Miss Jeanie Macintosh, Miss Denise Huntly, Mr. H. Macaulay, Mr. Eugene Wellesley, Mr. David Blair, and Mr. Steve De Winton. According to all reports Mr. Clyde has reason to feel proud of the excellence of the production. Mr. Stewart D. Wright (lately with Geo. Dance and J. Bannister Howard) is Mr. Clyde's right-hand man in front.

"Filby the Faker," a dramatic comedy adapted by Leon M. Lion from Tom Gallon's story, is to be presented in front of *The Early Worm* at Wyndham's Theatre on Monday evening. Mr. Ben Nathan will appear in the title-rôle. The playlet was originally produced under the title of *The Fairy Uncle* at the New last November, when Mr. Lion played a season at that theatre with a revival of *The New Boy*. The piece was later produced under its altered title in the provinces.

The Theatre Royal, Goole, which has been recently acquired by Mr. Fred Greaves, of the Royal Hotel, was reopened on Monday after renovations and improvements. Mr. Henry Swinerd's *Dare-Devil Dorothy* company is the attraction for the week. The piece is well staged, and the many and various musical numbers introduced by Mr. Harry Ugar are a feature of the production.

Mr. W. J. Locke's musical play *Butterflies* is achieving one of the biggest successes ever scored at the Apollo, and last week it broke all records for the final week of August since the theatre was built. Despite various unfounded rumours to the contrary, the piece will occupy the Apollo boards until 1909 certain, and probably until 1910. Mr. Lauri de Frece, who has been out of the bill for seven nights, in consequence of twisting his ankle during a performance and badly wrenching a tendon, resumed his part in *Butterflies* on Wednesday.

Mr. Max Jerome, who was acting-manager for Miss Florence Glossop-Harris on her initial tour, has been re-engaged by Miss Harris as business-manager.

Mr. Allan Wilkie's production of *Macbeth* has been definitely fixed for Thursday, Oct. 1, at the Theatre Royal, York. A most interesting performance may with confidence be expected.

Miss Hilda Beverley has taken over from Mr. James Hare the entire rights of the successful drama *A Destroyer of Men*, and will tour the same in the autumn of 1909 with fine scenery, handsome uniforms and costumes, and a carefully chosen company, Miss Beverley herself playing the Countess Olga, otherwise known as "the Destroyer of Men." She is at present touring as Barbara Wade, with Mr. Walter Melville's drama *A Girl's Cross Roads*, and her forthcoming enterprise will be the first venture of her own.

A determined attitude towards the matinée hat is being adopted at the new Gaiety Theatre, New York, which opened on Monday. The management has arranged a ticket system, by which every lady purchasing admission into the Gaiety enters into an agreement to remove not only her hat, but even flowers from her head the moment she reaches her seat.

Mr. Reginald Kenneth, who has just returned from Australia after a year with J. C. Williamson's Musical Comedy Company, gives a glowing account of the sunny country. He has played in all the States, and travelled through New Zealand and Tasmania, finding the audiences very enthusiastic and the people most hospitable. Being a keen golfer, he made hosts of friends, and played over nearly all the courses, which, he says, compare favourably with the home links. Mr. Kenneth is so charmed with the country that he does not think it will be long before he returns. At the conclusion of his trip home on the Moldavia he was presented by the passengers with a gold watch-chain and matchbox "as a souvenir from a few friends to whom he had given such pleasure by his singing." This is only one of many souvenirs Mr. Kenneth brings with him.

The Stratford Theatre Royal Cricket Club, who are bringing to a close a highly successful season, played their return match with the Hackney Empire C.C. on Sunday at the Elms, Walthamstow, and decisively turned the tables on their opponents, the respective scores being:—Theatre Royal, 62; Hackney Empire, 19. Mr. Sam Fredericks is the popular president of the T.R.C.C., which is in a very flourishing condition, and is enabled to offer annually fine prizes for the best averages amongst its members.

Although the Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, is already lighted outside by six powerful arc lamps, the proprietors, in their determination to make their theatre one of the best properties in the provinces, have added four artistic wrought-steel columns bearing powerful arcs. These are placed on the outside line of the large stretch of pavement attached to the theatre, and the Opera House, which is situated in the main thoroughfare of the town, when lighted up presents a most brilliant appearance. Mr. Martin Harvey has just completed an exceedingly successful engagement at this theatre, and Mr. George Alexander's company in *The Thief*, Mrs. Brown-Potter in *Lady Frederick*, and Mr. George Edwardes' *The Merry Widow* complete a quartette of pleasing engagements for the month.

Mr. H. B. Irving and his company will on Monday next pay their second visit within six months to the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, where Murray King and Clark continue their agreeable pursuit of breaking records. A remarkable list of bookings has commanded the largest and most enthusiastic audiences ever seen at the Park Theatre, and the "House full" boards have been in constant requisition. Over £1,000 was taken in one week alone, thus, it may be assumed, establishing a theatrical record for Eastbourne.

Remarkable enthusiasm was displayed at the Marlborough Theatre on the evening of the 28th ult., when Mr. Norman V. Norman gave a performance of *David Garrick*, Mr. Norman and Miss Wilson being called before the curtain no less than twenty-four times. At the conclusion of the play the audience rose and cheered vociferously, and in response to numerous calls Mr. Norman spoke a few words of thanks. After the performance a crowd collected outside the stage-door and cheered Mr. Norman as he left the theatre.

"The Swanboat" is the, to us, inexplicable title chosen for the new play by Wilfred T. Coleby with which Miss Lena Ashwell will make her reappearance at the Kingsway Theatre on Friday, Oct. 9. The cast, which is now complete, includes Miss Kate Rorke, Miss Frances Ivor, Mr. C. M. Hallard, Mr. Dennis Eadie, Mr. E. W. Garden, Mr. Ernest Cosham, Master Philip Tonge, and Mr. Norman McKinnel.

Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison, who now control the majority of London successes in the provinces, presented *Lady Frederick* for the first time in Nottingham on Monday. The wonderful popularity of *Lady Frederick* had preceded her visit to the great lace centre, and a crowded house warmly applauded Miss Mabel Love on her appearance in the name-part. As the play proceeded the enthusiasm became more and more pronounced, and at the final fall of the curtain the theatre rang with repeated rounds of applause. Amongst the fashionable audience were Lady Rollaston, Captain Rollaston, Lady McCraith, Captain Teffrock, Sir T. Birkin, and Lady Haslam.

The first tour of *The Flag Lieutenant*, under the direction of Mr. Lyn Harding and Mr. Sidney Cooper, will start on Oct. 5 at the County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames. The cast will include Messrs. Langhorne Burton, George Mallett, Montague Love, W. S. Stevenson, John Wheatman, W. J. Yeldham, Hugh Wakefield, Lyonel Watts, Fredk. Leister, Harry Haste, and Gordon Hamilton, and Misses Marjorie Chard, Viva Birkett, Stella Leigh, Evelyn Robson, and Florence Jackson. A full-dress rehearsal will take place at the Playhouse on Oct. 2. Mr. Cyril Maude, it may be added, is taking the keenest interest in the rehearsals.

Mr. Lyn Harding, who is busy at Drury Lane preparing for the autumn drama, in which he has a very powerful part, is, as may be surmised, kept well employed. The association of this artist with the very finest work should be a guarantee that *The Flag Lieutenant* company will be composed of the best talent obtainable. The suburban tour of the play starts next August Bank Holiday.

We regret to announce the death, at the age of seventy-two, of Mr. Louis M. Chapuy, who passed away at his residence, 3, Great Ormond-street, W.C., on Tuesday. Mr. Chapuy was for fifteen years one of the professors of elocution at the Guildhall School of Music, and was greatly esteemed both by the principal, Dr. Cummings, and his pupils. He will be interred at Abney Park Cemetery to-day (Saturday) at three o'clock.

The Girls of Gottenberg" was produced on Wednesday evening last at the Knickerbocker Theatre, New York, by Mr. J. A. E. Malone for Mr. Charles Frohman, and scored an unqualified success. The cast includes Miss Gertie Millar, who plays her original part. An interpolated number was entitled "Aint it awful, Mabel?"—New York's latest catch phrase.

Miss Fannie Ward has returned from America having completed arrangements relative to her reappearance in London. As we have stated, Miss Ward will be seen in the course of the season in a new comedy entitled *Fanny and the Servant Problem*, by Jerome K. Jerome. The heroine of the play is a variety artist who marries an English Earl, and on returning from the honeymoon finds herself confronted with the managerial responsibilities of a staff of twenty-three servants. The theatre at which Miss Ward will make her reappearance has not yet been definitely settled.

The F. R. Benson Shakespearean company (North) opens its autumn campaign on Monday at the Theatre Royal, Worthing, having been specially engaged to appear on Wednesday in *Twelfth Night* and *The School for Scandal*, for Mr. C. Adolf Seebold's fourth annual benefit. The company, established by Mr. Benson just five years ago, was intended to be simply an experiment, but it has been doing better and better year by year, until now it is a firm favourite in the provinces, and the public look forward eagerly to the "Shakespeare week."

The F. R. Benson companies are among the few now on the road that can properly be described as "répertoire companies," carrying, as they do, over a dozen plays, which are continually kept in rehearsal. Playing at the Theatre Royal, Ryde, the first three days of this week, the South Company had the honour of giving their performances under the patronage of H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg.

"The Belle of Brittany" is the latest musical-comedy maiden to invade our shores. The play is written by Mr. Leedham Bantock, part author of *The White Chrysanthemum*, and Mr. Percy J. Barrow. The lyrics are by Mr. Percy Greenbank and the music by Mr. Howard Talbot and Miss Marie Horne. The piece will be produced under the management of Mr. Tom B. Davis at a West-End theatre yet to be announced. The principal parts are assigned to Mr. George Graves and Miss Ruth Vincent.

Messrs. Hubert Druce and Edward Ferris' production of the new modern military play, *The Cheat*, written by Mr. Ferris and B. P. Matthews, will be made at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton, on Sept. 21. A short tour will precede its introduction to London. An exceptional cast will be headed by that sterling actor Mr. Frank Cooper, who will be supported, among others, by Messrs. Edward O'Neill, Royston Keith, Charles Goodhart, Windham Guise, Charles Crawford, Max Leeds, E. F. Rae, Duncan Druce, Miss Eugenie Francklyn, Miss Helen Russell, Miss Daisy Atherton, and Mr. Edward Ferris himself.

Mr. George Unwin, who is specially engaged as general-manager for the new production *The Cheat*, has found his hands so full with this and other arrangements that he has been compelled to abandon the direction of all Mr. Ernest Chesney's tours for the present.

Miss Phyllis Dare, the charming and popular young actress, who is this week playing at Manchester in *The Dairymaids*, appeared in a new rôle on Monday last, when she paid a special visit to Sheffield to perform the opening ceremony of the Wadsley Floral Society's first show.

Mr. M. Sterling MacKinlay, the late Mme. Antoinette Sterling's eldest son and brother to Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay, is to be married to Miss Dagny Hansen, daughter of Captain Hansen, of Christiania. The ceremony will take place at St. Andrew's Church, Stoke-in-Teignhead, on Sept. 29.

A handbag containing all her valuable jewels was stolen from Fraulein Flaischinger, of the Berlin Royal Opera, on her way to Munich, where she is to sing Brunnhilde at the gala performances. The night train was about to leave Berlin, and the handbag containing the gems lay on the artist's bed in the sleeping car. During a few moments' absence of the owner it was stolen. Among the many jewels and valuable souvenirs thus lost are the diamond brooch presented to Fräulein Flaischinger by the Kaiser after the first performance of *Oberon*.

In the Court of Bankruptcy on the 28th ult. a meeting of creditors was held under a receiving order made against Arthur Hugh Hare, at present residing at Folkestone. The debtor states that he is an actor, and has been proprietor and manager of touring companies. He estimates his liabilities at about £500, and attributes his present position to losses on theatrical enterprises and on the Stock Exchange, also to extravagance in living. He states that he has a reversionary interest under the will of his father, the late Admiral the Hon. Richard Hare, and also an interest under his parents' marriage settlement. The meeting was adjourned for three weeks, it being stated that the debtor hoped to pay the creditors in full.

The "Theatre de la Nature" has been inaugurated at Dinard with *La Fille de Roland*, played by Mounet (the great Mounet-Sully's brother), and other sociétaires of the Comédie Française. The performance, which took place in exquisite surroundings on the shores of the River Rance, was arranged by M. Rateau, a member of the Dramatic Commission of the Ministry of Fine Arts, and the theatre, which, though in the open air, is of a very permanent character, was provided at a cost of 9,000fr. by the municipality of Dinard.

Mr. Edwin F. Fysher has been lying in the Clayton Ward, County Hospital, Lincoln, for the past few weeks, having had to undergo three operations on his left foot, as the result of a fall with a hunter in a jumping competition at a Lincolnshire agricultural show. He expects to be ready for work again in about a fortnight.

Intense enthusiasm was shown at the final performance given by Mr. Martin Harvey at the Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough. At the conclusion of the performance of *The Breed of the Treshams* the curtain had repeatedly to be raised, but the audience would not disperse until, in response to a perfect avalanche of applause, Mr. Harvey came forward and, in a graceful speech, thanked the patrons of this palatial house for the warm reception they had extended to him.

Mr. Andrew Emm presented his new production of *The Diver's Luck* on Monday at the Metropole Theatre, Birmingham. Fresh scenery has been painted by Mr. Alfred Whyatt, and the new plant of printing, consisting of 300 sheets of pictorials without a repeat, is by David Allen and Sons. Although the bookings did not commence before June, there are but few dates vacant this side of Whit week.

Three novelties, all by British composers, will be introduced at the Promenade Concerts during the week. On Tuesday Mr. York Bowen will play his new Concerto No. 3 in G minor for pianoforte and orchestra. On Wednesday a work which is typically English in character will be given for the first time—"A Village Suite," from the pen of Mr. Luard Selby, the organist of Rochester Cathedral. The third novelty comes into Thursday night's programme, when Miss Clara Butterworth makes her first appearance at these concerts with a new song (with orchestra) entitled "Fidelity," by Mr. Montague Phillips.

The usual Wagner programme on Monday night will be varied by the inclusion of Liszt's symphonic poem, "Orpheus." On Tuesday, in addition to the novelty mentioned above, a special feature of the programme will be the début of a new member of the Queen's Hall Orchestra, Mr. Aimé Kling, who will play Saint-Säens' A minor Concerto for 'cello, transcribed for viola by Réné Pollain. Wednesday's programme includes Bach's beautiful aria "Gelobetsei der Herr mein Gott," sung by Mrs. Harriet Foster (with oboe d'amore obbligato by Mr. Henri de Busscher), and Brahms' Third Symphony. On Thursday the orchestral items offer an interesting contrast. Strauss's "Don Quixote" will be repeated, followed by Tchaikovsky's fantasia "Francesca da Rimini" and Schumann's "Spring" Symphony No. 1.

Friday is the "Beethoven night," and the attractions for that evening include the complete music to "Egmont," the G minor Piano Concerto No. 1, played by Mr. Charlton Keith, and the sunny Fourth Symphony. On Saturday, Sept. 12, there are fourteen numbers down for performance, among them such varied items as Svendsen's "Carneval de Paris," Mackenzie's humoresque, "Under the Clock," Haydn's Symphony No. 8, "Le Soir et la Tempesta," and Sibelius's tone-poem "Finlandia." On this occasion a new lady 'cellist, Miss Jean Marcel, will be heard in the A minor Concerto of Saint-Säens.

Mlle. Berge, who was playing the part of Lycas in *Polipheme* at the Comédie Française, Paris, seriously sprained her ankle while stepping from the trap-door to the stage. She pluckily went on with her part, though in great pain, and at the conclusion of the play was removed home to rest for at least a fortnight.

Mr. Kinsey Peile, who has been known of late years as a playwright rather than an actor, is returning to the stage, and is playing James Blenkinsop—Mr. Fred Kerr's part—in Miss May Palfrey's *Mrs. Dot* company. Mr. Kinsey Peile's first appearance was made under Mr. George Edwardes's management. He then joined Mr. George Alexander's company, playing in *The Masqueraders*, *Liberty Hall*, and the original production of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Among Mr. Kinsey Peile's most recent dramatic efforts may be mentioned the one-act piece, *The Door Upon the Latch*, dramatised from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Le Sire de Maletroit*, and produced at His Majesty's on June 14, 1907. Another little piece from his pen was *The Stratagem*, adapted from the German of Emil Pohl, which found its way to the footlights at the Court on July 2 of the same year. Mr. Kinsey Peile does not intend altogether to give up playwriting for playacting, as he is now at work on a new four-act play based on Bagot's "Temptation."

In the Court of Bankruptcy on Monday the creditors met under a receiving order made against Mr. Beresford W. Whitcomb. The debtor stated that he has been on the stage for twenty-one years, and was then producing the play *In the Ranks* at Govan, N.B. He added that the play was paying its way, but that he was unable at present to discharge accounts incurred for printing, &c. He returned his liabilities at £204, against available assets £7, and attributed his present position to the failure of his theatrical productions owing to bad seasons. The case remained in the hands of the Official Receiver as trustee.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Gladstone as Audience.

"One of the best 'audiences' that actor or actress could wish for was Mr. Gladstone," writes Miss Terry in *McClure's Magazine*. "The G.O.M. used often to attend the Lyceum performances, occupying a little seat in the O.P. entrance. One night Miss Terry thought he would catch cold, and she lent him a white scarf. He was, she says, one of the most comfortable people to talk to that she has ever met. Lord Randolph Churchill was another visitor to the Lyceum, being a great admirer of Irving:

"'He confessed to me once (Miss Terry tells) that he had never read a play of Shakespeare's in his life, but that after seeing Henry act he thought it was time to begin. A very few days later he astonished us with his complete and masterly knowledge of at least half a dozen of the plays.'

Miss Terry regarded Lord Randolph as a perfect person to meet at dinner or supper—'brilliantly entertaining and queerly simple.'"

Didn't Mean It.

CONCERNING the American habit of chewing gum, Miss Terry writes:—"In *Faust* we 'carried' about six leading devils for the Brocken scene and recruited the forty others from local talent in the different towns that we visited. Their general instructions were to throw up their arms and look fierce at certain music cues. One night I noticed a girl going through the most terrible contortions with her jaw, and thought I must say something. 'That's right, dear. Very good, but don't exaggerate.' 'How?' was all the answer that I got; and the girl continued to make faces as before. I was contemplating a second attempt, when Templeton, the limelight man, who had heard me speak to her, touched me gently on the shoulder. 'Beg pardon, miss, she don't mean it. She's only *chewing gum*.'"

"And" or "But"?

"MR. J. M. BARRIE," says the *Mirror*, "had gone to the theatre with a friend, and was sitting, very silent, in the stalls, surveying his programme. It was a long piece, and it had a long list of performers. You read all down the list, and then came to the last character and the last performer, a well-known actor, whose name was preceded by an 'and.' Mr. So-and-So was to appear, as well as Miss Somebody, 'and' Mr. X. Mr. Barrie surveyed the monosyllable, then turned, in his thoughtful, melancholy way, to his friend, and said: 'I think I could improve on this "and." It wants revision. It ought to be "but." Mr. So-and-So, Miss Somebody, *but* Mr. X. That would be more like.' Mr. X was a bad actor, and 'but' would, indeed, have been better!"

Rival Lotharios.

"THE 'leading juveniles' of twenty years ago," writes Mr. Charles Brookfield in his "Reminiscences," "were a wonderful study. We once had two in the Haymarket company at the same time. Mr. Lancelot had been a 'juvenile' for a good many years—about fifteen, perhaps—whereas Mr. Beaumains had only recently left one of the learned professions to adorn the stage. Accordingly he watched every action of Mr. Lancelot, even off the stage, in order to learn how to comport himself as a leading romantic West End actor should. If Mr. Lancelot chanced to exhibit a peeress's card amongst the invitations which proclaimed his social popularity from the frame of his dressing-glass, Mr. Beaumains would follow suit to the best of his ability by displaying in the margin of his mirror a request for his company from, say, the lady of a City knight. . . . One night we were all in Lancelot's dressing-room, when his dresser appeared.

"'Could I speak to you a moment, sir?'

"'Well?'

"'It's—it's a private message, sir.'

"'Never mind, you idiot! What is it?'

"'Mrs. Overvie-Tracy's compliments, sir, and her brougham will be waiting for you at the corner of Suffolk-street at a quarter-past eleven.'

"'You infernal fool!' cried Lancelot. 'How *dare* you blurt out a private ——! Get out!' Then, turning to us: 'I shall have to sack that scoundrel. Conceive his coming and bellowing out a poor devil of a woman's name like that!'

"One of the comedians slipped out of the room for a minute, and then came back. Presently *his* dresser put in his head.

"'Could I 'ave 'alf a word with you, sir, on a private matter?'

"'Nonsense, you infernal rascal! Never mind these gentlemen. Out with it at once!' cried his master, rakishly cocking his three-cornered hat.

"'The Duchess of Redcliffe's compliments, sir, and I was to remind you that the last Putney 'bus leaves Piccadilly Circus at ten minutes to twelve.'

"Lancelot 'smiled at the wit, but never forgave the satire.'"

Pitiful Cats and Crying.

WE have had fish stories and dog stories galore; and now Miss Phyllis Cecil sends a cat story of the first water from the Actors' Association. "The other day," she says, "my oldest cat caught a sparrow on the window-sill, and took it in her mouth—with glee—to her daughter and her grand-daughter. Having tried in vain to cure them of bird-catching, I determined to try another plan. I did not scold them, and I did not smack them, but I took the bird—then dead—in my hand, stroked its feathers, kissed it, and pretended to cry. Nothing on earth upsets my cats so much as to see me cry; they rush to me at once, and Nonie, the second one, begins to howl, almost like a dog. Having thoroughly impressed upon them my deep sorrow at the death of the sparrow, I laid it upon the floor before them, and left it entirely to their own feelings as to whether they would eat it or not. They sat in a row and watched it, occasionally smacking their lips and sticking out little red tongues. After about two hours of their suspense they filed out of the room in mournful and pathetic silence, never again attempting to touch the sparrow, although I purposely left the door open and left the bird lying there."

The New Faust.

MR. COMYNS CARR, interviewed by Mr. Raymond Blathwayt for *Black and White*, says, with regard to *Faust*, which is to be produced at His Majesty's this evening:—"We keep very closely to Goethe's splendid drama, and we wish to emphasise our inevitable and overpowering indebtedness to his beautiful conception, but at the same time we both of us claim entire independence in our handling of the drama for the English stage. Our version is based in its new developments on a full understanding of the general trend of modern thought. The central line of thought suggested by Goethe, and upon which we choose to dwell, is that amid all the rich feast of sensuality which the devil offered to Faust he chose to kill a flower, and that flower saved him. He ruined the purest thing on earth, and the ruin rescued him. Shakespeare says:

"'How with this rage shall beauty hold a plea,
Whose action is no stronger than a flower?'

"Now, the ethical point is that a man is saved by what he destroys, if what he destroys is innocent enough to save him. The ultimate perception of the innocence is his salvation. That is the whole point of our play. And beneath everything is that idea which formed the basis of all the old Greek tragedies—we cannot escape Nemesis."

"IDOLS."

Drama, in Four Acts, adapted by Roy Horniman from the novel by W. J. Locke, played for the first time in London at the Garrick Theatre, on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Irene Merriam	MISS EVELYN MILLARD
Minna Hart	MISS EDITH LATIMER
Mrs. Harroway	MISS AUGUSTA HAVILAND
Anna Josephs	MRS. HARRY CANE
Maid to the Merriams	MISS ETHEL INGRAM
Gerard Merriam	MR. HERBERT WARING
Saunders	MR. C. W. SOMERSET
Jacob Hart	MR. ALFRED BRYDONE
Counsel for the Prosecution	MR. CHAS. ROCK
Gardiner	MR. ARTHUR WONTNER
Mr. Harroway	MR. C. LEVESON-LANE
The Judge	MR. HOWARD STURGE
Dr. Fenwick	MR. HEATH HAVILAND
The Clerk of Assize	MR. GUY FLETCHER
An Usher	MR. FRANK DANBY
Police-constable Rivington	MR. ALBERT SIMS
Hugh Colman	MR. ALLAN AYNESWORTH

Miss Evelyn Millard opened her season at the Garrick Theatreon Wednesday in one of thestrongest domestic dramas that have been put on the stage of late. Mr. Locke's novel bears adaptation thoroughly well. A trial is essentially a dramatic incident; and when a court of justice is put on the stage with such remarkable realism as was the case at the Garrick on Wednesday, and when the issue is one of life or death, the breathless interest of an audience is easily accounted for. Never for a moment from the rising of the curtain did the interest in *Idols* flag or diminish. At the start we were anxious and uncertain as to the result of the relations between the three leading personages of the play. Irene Merriam has married, and truly loves, her husband, Gerard Merriam. But she has a tender remembrance of her rejected lover, Hugh Colman, who has saved her husband's life in an Alpine accident by risking, and nearly making a sacrifice of, his own. Let it not be imagined that Irene has the least idea of forming one of those *ménages à trois* so common on the Continent. She is true, heart and soul, to her wifely duty; but she is touched by the nobility of Hugh's sacrifice when he severed the rope which bound him to Gerrard in order to give the latter a chance of escape. Merriam is one of those dry and rather selfish husbands who are always inclined to be jealous; and he is fond of going away fishing, leaving his wife too much alone. He is starting off on one of his expeditions when the action opens. It seems that Hugh Colman has yielded to the pressing fascinations of a young Jewess, Minna Hart, the daughter of a rich moneylender. Jacob Hart has made his fortune by charging 60 per cent. for cash, and he is a stern and fanatical adherent to the rule that Jews should only wed amongst their own race. In the heat of passionate impulse Hugh and Minna have been secretly married, and they now heartily regret the step they have taken. Colman, who has borrowed heavily of Jacob, learns that the elderly relative from whom he had expectations has become a father, so that the security on which Hart advanced the money is valueless. Hugh tells the moneylender of the altered condition of affairs, and at the same time asks him for his daughter's hand. Jacob is very indignant at the very suggestion; but, as he likes Colman, he destroys the document relating to the loan. Then a drunken butler, named Saunders, whom Hart ruined in time past by his usurious exactions, informs his master that an intrigue is going on between Minna and Colman; whereupon Hart flies into a passion, and handles Saunders so roughly that, in self-defence, the butler strikes him with a heavy candlestick, and kills him on the spot. The scene then changes to Minna's bedroom, where she and Colman are discussing their position. Minna, who is hard, mercenary, and selfish, is disgusted with the idea of losing her father's money, and proposes to Hugh that they shall swear mutually to keep their marriage a secret. He assents, and they take the oath. Then the murder is discovered, and suspicion falls on Hugh.

In the next act we are shown an Assize Court, every detail of which is very carefully reproduced. Colman is in the dock on the charge of murdering Hart. He can only clear himself by proving an *alibi*, and stating that at the time the crime was committed he was in Minna's bedroom, and this would involve an exposure of their marriage and the breaking of his oath to her. The butler is put in the witness-box, and of course does all he can to establish Colman's guilt. Minna, who is also examined, perjures herself very calmly, and adds another link to the chain of evidence against Hugh. At this point we see germinating in Irene's mind the idea of sacrifice. She has only to swear that Colman was with *her* at the time that the murder was committed in order to save his life. The counsel for the prosecution derides the idea that at the hour of the crime the prisoner was in the arms of some woman. Then Irene rises in Court and cries out, "He was in mine!" She is put into the witness-box, and repeats her statement with corroborative details which establish Hugh's innocence of murder and her own guilt of adultery. And so, with the anguish of Gerard Merriam, who shrinks from his wife's touch, and against the protestations of Colman, he is saved from the rope. In the last act he is released by Minna from his oath to keep her secret, and, after some harrowing scenes between Merriam and his wife, he is convinced of her innocence.

A play as strong as *Idols* is gives every opportunity to the principal performer, and Miss Evelyn Millard rose to the occasion admirably. Her chief opportunities were in the third and fourth acts, and she took advantage of them with all the practised skill and cultured power that she has so often before displayed. In the trial scene one could see, long before the outburst, the desperate resolve working in the woman's mind, and her demeanour in the witness-box was deeply and intensely thrilling. Miss Millard realised to the full the noble, if misguided, devotion of Irene, and made possible and probable the heroic sacrifice of her reputation to save the life of her friend. A striking, powerful, and very notable performance was given by Miss Edyth Latimer, who expressed with strength and skill the savage and unruly force of the character of Minna Hart. Miss Latimer was quite equal to the demands of the part, and her treatment of her share in the scene between Hugh and Minna in the second act was in every way vigorous, emphatic, and effective. Miss Latimer added greatly to her reputation by her very fine performance. A highly-finished and entirely artistic embodiment of the butler, Saunders, was supplied by Mr. C. W. Somerset. His make-up was very graphic, and the ravages of intemperance were shown in every speech and action of the wretched drunkard. When Saunders was in the witness-box his struggle to "pull himself together" and to save his neck by careful perjury was most adroitly depicted, the effort by which he suppressed his agitation being suggested with rare skill and ability. Altogether Mr. Somerset may be congratulated on a remarkable impersonation of what, on the face of it, was a subordinate part. Mr. Alfred Brydone was exactly suited to the representation of the stern and unbending Israelite, Jacob Hart. Without overdoing the Jewish characteristics, he contrived to sufficiently suggest the nationality of the man, and the dignity and weight of his rendering were undeniable. Mr. Allan Aynesworth, so often seen in light and comic characters, showed his versatility and a fuller range of power as Hugh Colman, the sharpness and self-restraint of his acting in the scene in Minna's bedroom being worthy of warm praise. As usual, he was the pink of perfection in style and "grooming." Mr. Charles Rock as the counsel for the prosecution had an important share in the success, his excellent elocution and the impressive manner in which he delivered the speech to the jury keeping the interest of the scene up to a high pitch. Mr. C. Leveson-Lane and Miss Augusta Haviland were unimpeachably efficient in two secondary rôles, and Mr. Arthur Wontner gave a careful and solid performance of the part of the counsel for the defence. Mr. Howard Sturge was an excellent Judge; Mr. Heath-Haviland was seen to much advantage as Dr. Fenwick; and Mr. Guy Fletcher and Mr. Frank Danby were commendable as the Clerk of Assize and the Usher respectively Mr. Albert Sims being natural and emphatic as Police-constable Rivington. Mr. A. L. Schmiz's scenery was realistic, and Mr. Roy Horniman deserves praise for the first-rate manner in which the piece was stage-managed—praise in which Mr. Frank Hardy, the stage-manager, and his assistant, Mr. Claude Edmonds, should share. *Idols*, which had a trial trip at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on the 24th ult., was listened to with intense interest, and the applause at the conclusion was long and loud.

"WHAT EVERY WOMAN KNOWS."

Comedy, in Four Acts, by J. M. Barrie, produced at the Duke of York's Theatre on Thursday, Sept. 3.

John Shand	MR. GERALD DU MAURIER
Alick Wylie	MR. HENRY VIBART
David Wylie	MR. SYDNEY VALENTINE
James Wylie	MR. EDMUND GWENN
Maggie Wylie	MISS HILDA TREVELYAN
Mr. Venables	MR. NORMAN FORBES
Comtesse de la Brière	MRS. TREE
Lady Sybil Lazenby	MISS LILLAH MCCARTHY
Maid	MISS MADGE MURRAY

The spell of Mr. J. M. Barrie is as irresistible as ever. *What Every Woman Knows* is essentially, delightfully Barrie-an, and when we have said that we have inferred that it is rich in playful wit and gentle satire and exquisite humour, with a special flavour of its own. Who but Mr. Barrie could have conceived the notion of a poor and ambitious young Scotchman committing a night burglary on a house well supplied with books in order that he may study for his examination at Glasgow University? And this is how John Shand, the hero of the piece which Mr. Charles Frohman presented last Thursday, is introduced to the audience. The Wylies, two sons and a father, are proprietors of a granite quarry near a Scottish town. They are uneducated men, with a vast respect for learning and education; and when they surprise Shand studying at midnight the books which they only keep for show, they conceive the idea of investing in him as a speculation. They will provide the cost of his education for five years, he in return contracting to give Maggie Wylie, the daughter of the house, the refusal of his hand at the expiration of that period. After much hesitation, Shand strikes the bargain; and, in the second act, after an imaginary interval, we find him returned as Member of Parliament for a Glasgow district. His elevation brings him into contact with two fine ladies, the Comtesse de la Brière and her niece, Lady Sybil Lazenby, and his head is perhaps a little turned; but when Maggie, in an access of generosity, tears up the document which binds him to her he refuses to accept the sacrifice, and publicly proclaims their engagement.

The Shands go to London, and John becomes a successful speaker in the House of Commons, thanks to the wit of his wife, who, while carefully concealing the fact from him, makes his speeches notable by the insertion of humorous sentences which win the name of "Shandisms." He succumbs to the languid fascinations of Lady Sybil, and there comes the moment when he boldly proclaims that he cannot live without her, and that he and Maggie must part. Though deeply hurt by this treatment, Maggie conceals her feelings under a mask of indifference, and arranges that her husband and Lady Sybil shall be invited to stay for a fortnight at the Countess's cottage in the country, at which we arrive in the last act. But before the fortnight is out Shand is thoroughly sick of Lady Sybil, and finds besides that he cannot, unaided, get on with a certain great speech which he is to deliver at Leeds. So when Maggie comes down to the cottage and quietly announces her intention of going to her people in Scotland, adding that John and Lady Sybil will find the London house all right as she has "had the vacuum-cleaners in," the persons addressed recoil from the prospect before them, and refuse to carry out their plan. John realises that the best things in his speeches were inserted by his wife; and she even induces him, though it is his boast that he has "never laughed in his life," to roar at a not very new or striking witticism about Adam's rib and a "funnybone." John's cure is obviously complete; and on this happy ending the curtain descends.

The triumph of the evening was won by Miss Hilda Trevelyan, who played Maggie Wylie with wonderful repose, lightness of touch, and cleverness. There was a quaint originality about Miss Trevelyan's conception which was intensely piquant, and the sweetness of Maggie's character—only slightly obscured by her will-power and acuteness—her capacity for passion, and her wistful sense of her lack of "charm" formed a combination which proved irresistible to the audience at the Duke of York's on Thursday. Miss Trevelyan fully realised all expectations, and her success was immediate and complete. Mr. Gerald du Maurier was very happily selected to sustain the rôle of John Shand. He looked exactly the strong, raw-boned, resolute young Scotchman suggested by the text; and the strong self-esteem, the dense conceit, and the unfailing energy of the man were shown by Mr. du Maurier in the most dryly humorous and convincing way. Mr. Henry Vibart gave a most agreeable and natural impersonation of the genial and shrewd old Scotchman, Alick Wylie; and Mr. Sydney Valentine had an easy task, for him, in the representation of the intelligent, though uneducated, David, the more stupid brother, James, having an admirable exponent in Mr. Edmund Gwenn, who admirably indicated the rustic bluntness and rough energy of the creature. Mr. Norman Forbes supplied a highly-finished portraiture of an elderly member of the Cabinet—crisp, clear, and polished; and Mrs. Tree enacted the faded but frivolous Comtesse de la Brière with the skill and facility which she has acquired by her wide and long experience of the stage. Miss Lillah McCarthy treated the colourless rôle of Lady Sybil Lazenby with artistic self-restraint, subduing her strength to the depiction of an almost negative personage—a task not so easy as it appears to an actress of genius, power, and scope. Miss Madge Murray was a smart and well-attired maid. Messrs. Hana and Sons' scenery was excellent, especially the sunny garden of the last scene; and Mr. Dion Boucicault's "production" of the play resulted in a performance of extreme smoothness. Mr. Barrie was loudly called for at the conclusion, but was not in the house. Mr. Charles Frohman may be warmly congratulated on the success of his latest presentation at the Duke of York's.

"PETE" AT THE LYCEUM.

Drama, in Four Acts, adapted by Hall Caine and Louis N. Parker from the former's novel, "The Manxman," Produced on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Pete Quilliam	MR. MATHESON LANG
Philip Christian	MR. ERIC MAYNE
Ross Christian	MR. WILFRED E. PAYNE
Cæsar Cregeen	MR. FREDERICK ROSS
Black Tom	MR. S. MAJOR JONES
Jonaique Jelly	MR. CHAS. L. LUDLOW
Postman Kelly	MR. H. K. AYLIFF
William	MR. SIDNEY YOUNG
Constable Niplightly	MR. JOSEPH O'BRIEN
Dr. Mylechreest	MR. SIDNEY VAUTIER
The Lieut. Governor	MR. HENRY BROOKS
Adam Quirk	MR. ERNEST CRESFAN
Johnny Dumbell	MR. CHARLES TERRIC
Clerk of the Court	MR. HENRY ARMSTRONG
Nancy	MISS RITA TOMKINS
Mary	MISS LILLIAN DIGGES
Grannie	MISS BLANCHE STANLEY
Meg	MISS DORA CLEMENTS
Sarah	MISS LILLIAN TWEED
Kate Cregeen	MISS HUTIN BRITTON

When melodrama was said to be moribund at the West-end Messrs. Smith and Carpenter, with characteristic enterprise, hoisted the flag of the popular play at the Lyceum, and giving their patrons splendid entertainment at prices within reach of the humblest pleasure-seeker's purse, have gone from triumph to triumph, and have reaped the rich reward of enterprise happily conceived, ably thought out, and admirably carried through. Their production of *The Christian* last year was so enormous a success that it was only in accordance with the fitness of things that the services of Mr. Hall Caine should again be requisitioned. The famous author had ready to hand in "The Manxman" a story replete with strong interest and tearing at the heartstrings, and though Londoners have already seen two stage versions of it, it is certain that the latest fashioned by the author, with the very able assistance of Mr. Louis N. Parker, will hold the field, in London at any rate, for months to come, if the attitude of the packed and good-humoured house on Saturday night, when Messrs. Smith and Carpenter commenced their autumn campaign with only a couple of days intervening between that and the summer season.

A thousand voices proclaimed the triumph of *Pete* long before the play had reached the final stage. For four solid hours a wave of sympathy swept the house. The mothers wept with "Kirry" during the great scene with the baby, and the fathers laughed with delight at Pete—unsophisticated, big-hearted Pete—when he dandled the little one in his arms, and apostrophised him as "Emperor." The play is written on popular lines, and though in the advance notices much stress has been laid on the polemics of Mr. Hall Caine regarding the inequality and injustice of the matrimonial law as affecting woman, the success will not be due to subtlety of argument, but to the stress of human emotion that grips the attention of lovers of melodrama and holds it till the curtain falls on the final happiness of the two chief characters. It may be said that Kate should never have married Pete. In the words of the novelist, she is "the slave of the sweetest, the tenderest, most spiritual, and pathetic of all human fallacies—the fallacy that by giving herself to the man she loves she attaches him to herself for ever." But finding—too late—"that men betray," the temptation to shelter her reputation under the name of the man who offered her such unselfish devotion was too strong, and Kate was only human—and it is humanity that we want in melodrama—in concealing her fall from honour by marriage.

Before the curtain rises, Pete, the simple-minded, slow-witted Manxman, has gone to the diamond fields at Kimberley, leaving his betrothed, Kate Cregeen—at the time of his departure little more than a child—in the care of his friend Philip Christian. During the first act a circumstantial account of Pete's death is read from a letter by one of the characters, but the news had already reached Kate and Philip, with the result that both give rein to unfettered passion. At the opening of the play, therefore, there is only one honourable course open to Philip, and that is to marry the girl whose honour he had promised to protect. But Philip listens to the promptings of ambition. His family has held the position of deemster or chief magistrate of the island, and the office is within his grasp. Were he to marry Kate his worldly career would be ruined. In a brief interview he tells her that marriage is impossible, and the tragedy of the situation is realised by both when they learn that Pete, who is not only alive and well, but comfortably off, has turned up again, and is home. When the hero breaks in upon the assembly in the parlour of the Manx Fairy—the scene of the first act—he takes the shuddering Kate to his arms, and presses warmly the hand of Philip—his friend, his "more than brother," who shrinks from the manly and affectionate greeting of the honest-hearted Pete, whose betrothal to Kate is celebrated in mugs of ale by the jubilant villagers.

In the second act, at Pete's cottage, the guests are returning from the christening of little Phil, idolised by Pete, whose only anxiety is the serious depression of the young mother, a somewhat listless participator in the rejoicings over the new born. Old William, the oldest man in the island, keeps up the ancient Manx custom of putting salt in the baby's hand, and croons "Whether good or ill befall, here's salt that seasons all." Old Sarah brings a bent thimble for baby, which "brings luck to him as bears it, and joy to her who wears it"; and the maids fetch their spindles, while one of them sings. The pathetic note is touched more deeply, however, when the tender-hearted Pete, full of happiness, fervently utters, "Keep his heart as pure as his mother's, I beseech Thee, O Lord!" Kate buries her face in her hands; for the love of the man who believes in her truth and faith is torture to her.

At this juncture Philip calls with a christening present, and learns for the first time that he is the father of the child. He asks that she shall live on in her shame and anguish, and trust to time. But, like a stricken deer, poor Kate flies from the man whose every caress is a reproach to her. In a touching scene over the cradle she cries from her heart, "Oh, baby, baby, we must go, we're strangers in the house"; but baby is left behind, and she departs. Great, blundering, big-hearted Pete reels under the blow; but he is determined to do all in his power to keep the breath of scandal from touching his Kate, and to hide from the neighbours any suspicion of a separation from her. Kate had been seen to enter the same train as the trifler and waster, Ross Christian, a cousin of Philip's; but the busy gossips are silenced when Pete tells them that Kate has gone to visit an uncle at Liverpool for a few days.

The unhappy woman has gone for advice to the father of her child. Philip is being sworn in as Deemster of the island, and she arrives, an abject figure of remorse, to listen to the final words of the solemn oath taken by him. In an impassioned interview Kate points out that the child is robbing her husband of his love, his faith, his confidence, and that she must take it away. The new Deemster tries to dissuade her from her purpose by explaining that her child belongs to her husband; that if she steals it she will suffer shame and imprisonment; and that it will be his duty to commit her to prison—

KATE: For stealing my own child?

PHILIP: I couldn't help myself.

KATE: My own child and——

PHILIP: Sh! For God's sake!

KATE: You who came to me—wooed me—won me—then left me when the world called to you—you the judge on the bench and I the prisoner in the cell! Is this justice? Is there one woman in all the world who will say this is justice? No; it is not justice! It is the law made by man, not the law made by God, and if you commit me to prison and tear my child away from me you must take the consequences.

PHILIP: Woman, what do you mean?

KATE: I will tell the Court that my husband is not the father of my child.

PHILIP: You will never do that, Kate?

KATE: I will!

PHILIP: The Court will not believe you. It will want proof—and what witnesses can you bring? None!

KATE: Yes, one—my judge!

PHILIP: Me?

KATE: You! Oh, I see it all as plainly as you see these walls. The crowded court, the prying eyes. The clerk crying, "Rise, all; rise for the Deemster Christian!" Then myself, a poor, degraded wretch, in the dock, with my baby, my poor, innocent baby at my breast—and then my husband in the witness-box witnessing against me. "She has stolen my child—take it away from her!" "It is *not* your child!" "You are his wife," says the judge. "Woman, where is the witness to what you say?" And then I point to the judge himself and cry, "The witness is *there!*"

Pete, poor fellow, half distracted, quite unknowingly follows Kate to Castle Rushen, and interviews the Deemster, to whom he gives to read a letter alleged to be from the unhappy wife—a letter written by himself. The Deemster is persuaded to write a reply by the sorely-stricken husband, who goes back to his lonely cottage, and notices a look on little Phil's face that reminds him of someone. Kate returns, and is about to take away the baby, when she is stopped by Pete, who, for the first time, learns of the little one's paternity. Spending the night alone, in the morning Pete is starting in quest of the "other man," whom he believes to be Ross Christian. But the end comes swiftly. Philip, humbled and contrite, confesses, and Pete, knowing that he is sure of the love of Kate, takes her back, and on a scene of reconciliation the curtain falls.

Mr. Matheson Lang, a young actor whose Lyceum reputation is already worthy of the great traditions of a famous house, makes a sturdy, vigorous, and mercurial Pete in the first act. The Manx hero's boyish delight at his return to his home and sweetheart is expressed in a way that immediately establishes a sympathy with the character, a sympathy that completely enchains the audience until the final scene of the piece. Pete is a character that has no subtlety; but that there are depths of feeling in it was made quite clear on Saturday night by Mr. Lang, whose acting in the cottage when Pete discovers his wife's desertion is not likely to be soon forgotten. An even greater triumph for the young actor is the letter scene, in which the heart-broken hero, stemming the tide of sorrow for the moment, jestingly dictates loving messages to the woman whose desertion has filled his soul with blank despair—messages that are written by the hand of the man who has wronged them both. Miss Hutin Britton, who makes her first appearance in the West-End in an important part, plays the character of Kate Cregeen with charm, simplicity, and whole-hearted sincerity. In the first act we get a bright gleam of comedy in Kate's interview with that howling cad, Ross Christian; but thenceforward the path of the heroine is full of unavailing regret. Poor Kate has to sit with tear-stained cheek and heavy heart listening to the congratulations of her neighbours over the christening. The mute anguish of the character is well expressed; but the note of despair is sounded in her interview with the newly-made Deemster in the third act with an intensity and conviction that thrill the house. As a heroine of melodrama Miss Britton has certainly made her mark. Mr. Eric Mayne, a great favourite with Lyceum audiences, had a gratifying reception on Saturday night on his entrance as Philip Christian, a part somewhat out of his usual line, and one that is beset with difficulties. The Deemster has been spoken of as a villain. Rather is he the victim of a moral cowardice that is easily understandable in this workaday world. The actor suggests cleverly in the first act the coldness and selfishness of the man, but at the same time is not oblivious of the fact that happiness does not come to Philip with the realisation of his ambition, as we learn in the third act from the silent sorrow of the Deemster, whose remorse is quickened by the reproaches of her whom he has wronged. It was in the scene at Rushen Castle that Mr. Mayne scored his greatest success! The Cæsar Cregeen of Mr. Frederick Ross was a rugged realisation of the dour religionist, whose creed is entirely concerned with Divine punishment. The character belongs solely to the little Bethels of remote country villages, and none of its significance escapes us as treated by Mr. Ross. Mr. Wilfred E. Payne as Ross Christian was responsible for a bit of welcome comedy, and played remarkably well. Miss Rita Tomkins won the goodwill of the house on her entrance as Nancy, and it was specially confirmed during the faithful girl's interview with Cæsar Cregeen. Miss Blanche Stanley made a lovable Grannie; and Miss Lillian Tweed was a characteristic old Sarah. Mr. S. Major Jones, the stage-manager, contented himself with the comparatively small character of Black Tom, of which he gave an excellent rendering; Mr. H. K. Ayliff may be complimented on a clever bit of character-acting as Postman Kelly; Mr. Sidney Young was effective as William; Mr. Joseph O'Brien was adequate as the constable; Mr. Sidney Vautier did well as Dr. Mylechreest; Mr. Henry Brooks made a soldierly and dignified governor; Mr. Ernest Cresfan distinguished himself in the short part of Adam Quirk; and other parts were capably sustained by Mr. Charles Terric, Mr. Henry Armstrong, Miss Lillian Digges, and Miss Dora Clements. The production of the piece was in the hands of Mr. Ernest Carpenter, whose labours have been rewarded by a magnificent success. The scenery, painted by Mr. R. C. Nicholls, is specially worthy of praise; and Herr Raimund Pechtotsch's incidental music adds much to the dramatic significance of the chief scenes of the play.

In conclusion we may say that *Pete* is a drama not only for London and the provinces, but for the English-speaking world. It palpitates with life; it is intensely dramatic; and its rugged humanity and heart interest must make as powerful an appeal beyond the seas as in the Motherland.

"Colleen" Quips.

"DURING a stay at Blackburn," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "we were playing *The Colleen Bawn*, and in the Water Cave scene a curious thing happened. Danny Mann had just thrown the poor Colleen into the water. Now Myles Na Coppaleen should shoot Danny, but his gun missed fire. They had no double ready in the wings on this night, so Myles was at a loss what to do, for Danny had to be knocked into the lake somehow, so he suddenly took off his hat and threw it at Danny, who immediately tumbled in, Myles exclaiming, 'Bedad, that was a mighty fine shot! My old cawbeen came in very handy that time, anyhow.' He then took his sensational dive and saved the poor Colleen Bawn from a watery grave."

ACTORS' UNION.

LONDON.

The weekly meeting of the Actors' Union was held on Tuesday afternoon at Hummums Hotel, Miss Amy Coleman presiding. Among others present were Messrs. F. Rawson Buckley, Cecil G. Calvert, Frank Gerald, Charles Halling, Percy Horton, Frederick F. Loyd, J. G. Maine, D. Lewin-Mannering, and E. Y. Rae; and Mesdames Jamieson, Walter Bentley, May Conrade, Hylda Denison, Gladys Everard, Kitty Marian, Geraldine Monrose, Mildred Silvestré, Elsie Sinclair, Laura Vernon, and Jessie Yadman.

Mr. Charles Halling having referred to the difficulty of procuring new members in consequence of the doubt that seemed to exist in some minds as to the personal benefit to be derived, Mr. Cecil G. Calvert pointed out that the Union was formed for the collective good of the members, and the individual's rights were thereby protected. Actors should not ask, "What can I get out of it?" but should consider the matter from the standpoint of the whole profession. Many engagements had been made through the Union, and only last week one manager came to them and engaged a company through their agency.

Mr. Fredk. F. Loyd remarked that unless actors and actresses organised they would find that within ten years, if not within five, a trust would come along which would crush them under its heel. They ought to try to make the average actor understand what was in front of him.

Mrs. Walter Bentley expressed the opinion that whatever might have been the difficulties which had confronted them in the past, she could foresee a far harder fight coming. Mr. J. G. Maine and Mr. Frank Gerald also spoke.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

At the usual weekly meeting of the committee of the Actors' Union last Thursday the following were present:—Messrs. F. Rawson Buckley (chair), E. Y. Rae, J. W. Braithwaite, Orlando Barnett, and H. Tripp-Edgar. Letters were received from Messrs. J. Hastings Batson, Geo. P. Lester, Frederick F. Loyd, Geo. H. Child, Jerrold Heather, Frank Gerald, and Frank Strickland.

The Secretary was instructed to write to all the agents and request them to send in their books of stamps for examination. He was also instructed to write to a certain dentist and to ask him if he would be willing to act as honorary dentist to the Union.

The Honorary Solicitor was instructed to proceed with a case on behalf of a member.

A letter was read from Mr. J. Hastings Batson stating that as he was going away in the provinces for some time he wished to resign from the committee. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Batson and say that he would still be able to carry on the good work for the Union which he had been doing in the past, although he was away from town, and to ask him to reconsider his decision.

A lengthy discussion took place on the subject of the proposed Club, and the matter was again referred back.

The Secretary reported that four engagements had been settled during the past week through the Agency. One new member was elected.

At the usual weekly meetings held at Hummums Hotel Mrs. Walter Bentley will take the chair on the 8th and Mr. Frank Gerald on the 15th of this month.

BIRMINGHAM.

A meeting took place on Friday, the 28th ult., at the White Lion Hotel, Birmingham, but there was not a large attendance. Mr. George H. Child presided, and amongst those present were Messrs. F. Beck, M. Boulton, G. Fisher, R. Gilbert, Miss B. Moore, and Miss E. Casson. The Chairman, opening the proceedings, said considering the short time the Union had been in existence they were progressing favourably. The profession was in a very precarious position, and it wanted uplifting, but the few were doing what the many could do by mere acclamation. The profession was being swamped by people who came into it as a last resource, and something ought to be done to keep these people out. Music halls grew up as the outcome of bad melodrama, badly played, and the middle classes were glad to go to a clean, bright place of entertainment. If plays had been better music halls would not have been in their present position. More than two hundred situations above the £2 a week minimum had been obtained by the Union, and at no cost to the members engaged. They did not want to fight managers. It was only the worst class of small-salary-paying managers who objected to the Union.

The Chairman called the attention of members to the necessity of keeping in touch with the General Secretary when out of engagements. Two managers had applied that week at the head office for artists, and could not be supplied, as the secretary had not the necessary information at hand. Application forms could be obtained, filled in, and returned with photographs, and kept for reference by the Secretary. There was no commission charged. The artists, he continued, did not want 80 per cent. of the good things in their contracts, but a fair 50 per cent. They ought to be in a position to dictate to managers when necessary, and get their wrongs redressed. They had got the nucleus of a small old age pension fund.

Mr. Robert Gilbert criticised the payment of the subscription by stamps. There were a good many people who did not care to ask the landlord of a public-house for a stamp for the Actors' Union. Turning to the subject of a minimum wage, he said he did not think they would ever get it so long as the theatres were controlled by commercial men. He suggested that the Union should lease a suburban or provincial theatre and run stock companies composed of members of the Union. It could be done if they could find a sufficient number of actors and actresses who would take out shares, and let the dividends take care of themselves for a time. The same scheme might be applied to touring some London success. The stage and business managers and those playing would be elected by the committee, fair salaries paid, and the profits would go to the Union. This would make the Union wealthy, and without money they would not go far. He did not think they would meet with any discouragement from the average local manager. For the sake of the public they could run it under the name of a well-known actor or else invent a name. It would be understood it was a more or less self-sacrificing movement on the part of those who took up shares.

The Chairman, replying, said he personally had been against the sale of stamps in public houses from the start, but it had been the only feasible project brought forward. He promised to bring Mr. Gilbert's suggestion before the committee.

Mr. Boulton said he was in agreement with the objects of the Union except the £2 a week minimum, which he did not think was practicable. He approved Mr. Gilbert's suggestion, for there was a great field in the provinces for productions on the scale of the Queen's, Manchester. The actor should be his own manager; the capitalist should not have control of genius and ability. He would be pleased to join the Union at the conclusion of the meeting.

The Chairman said they must have a rock bottom, and agree not to work below it. The actor was always the last to be considered, and they must work out their own salvation.

Mr. Gilbert said the tendency was for big syndicates to come in. He did not think there were enough good actors to go round, and there would always be some parts badly played. There seemed to be no remedy for this but to return to the old stock plays. The actors of the old school were better trained than the actors of to-day.

The Chairman said each responsible manager would be allowed one or two apprentices, but they wanted to check the unlimited supply of incompetents. They could find good actors if they would pay them. Many an actor at present hanging on the outskirts of West End managements would in preference return to the provinces if salaries were better, and thereby help to raise the standard of acting, which in its turn would entice better returns all round.

SCENE AT DALY'S.

Described as a merchant, of 70, Lancaster-gate, W., Henry Miller, 28, was charged, before Mr. Marsham, at Bow-street, with using insulting words and behaviour whereby a breach of the peace might have been occasioned.

Mr. Sanders (Wontner and Sons) prosecuted on behalf of the Commissioner of Police; Mr. Henry Moore appeared for the defence.

Mr. Sanders stated that on Saturday night a constable on special duty at Daly's was called to the pit by an attendant, who complained of people standing in the gangway. He saw the defendant and two other gentlemen there, and explained to them the County Council regulations that the gangways should be kept clear. Eventually, after making some complaint to the management, they went into the street and started shouting, causing a crowd to assemble. When requested to go away two of them did so, but the defendant refused, and he was therefore taken into custody.

Police-constable 438, giving evidence in support of this statement, said the gentlemen complained of the way in which they had been spoken to by an attendant, and he suggested that they should see the manager. When they left the theatre the defendant shouted, and refused to go away. He said to witness, "You are only the cat's-paw of these theatre people. I will see about this. I am not going to move along, and as for that thing downstairs, he is no better than you are. I should like to give him something." A considerable crowd assembled in consequence.

In cross-examination, witness said people were not allowed to stand in the gangway at Daly's Theatre. There was no one else there at the time besides the defendant and his friends.

Asked whether the attendent was insolent, the constable said that perhaps he was not as polite as he might have been.

Inspector Cogswell said that when the charge was taken Mr. Miller said, "I don't understand what you mean." Witness considered that the defendant and his friends had had more drink than was good for them, and the defendant was very excited.

Mr. Moore said he was prepared with independent evidence that the official in the theatre exceeded his authority, and that there was no crowd outside.

The Magistrate: I don't think it is necessary. It is not a case in which I should convict. I think defendant should have gone away. You will be discharged.

Mr. Moore said that Dr. Allen, one of his witnesses, felt very much aggrieved by the allegation made against him. He was a doctor at one of the leading hospitals, and he felt that the allegation was very atrocious.

The Magistrate: There is no charge against him. I don't think he need take it to heart.

Dr. Allen: I consider it a most scandalous thing that, without any evidence, the inspector alleges that I had had too much to drink. My standing in my profession is seriously affected.

The Magistrate: I have no reason to suppose for a moment that you had had too much to drink.

Mr. Stephen Fiske writes from New York, Aug. 22, 1908:—"Klaw and Erlanger are pushing things for their double openings here and in Chicago. Minnette Barrett is engaged for Polly in *The Round Up*, which will be revived at the Academy of Music on the 31st inst., and Maclyn Arbuckle has left the barn on his St. Lawrence River farm unfinished to attend the rehearsals. Henry Reuterdahl is designing the scenery for the new naval drama, *In Time of Peace*. *The Right of Way* is to open in Brooklyn and take a Southern tour. Gillette's new play, *Ticey*, is booked to reopen the Chicago Opera House, with Mary Regan as the heroine. Albertine Benson has been selected for the Fairy Queen in *Little Nemo*. Lillian Russell's racing play, *Wildfire*, and her new gowns—no sheaths—will be tried on at Asbury Park, before coming to the Liberty Theatre.

"'The Fighting Hope,' with which Belasco will reopen the Stuyvesant Theatre, is by William J. Hurlbut, a new dramatist. It has only five characters, and Belasco has given parts to Miss Blanche Bates, Miss Loretta Wells, Mr. John W. Cope, and Mr. Charles Richman. He says:—'The reason why I have sidetracked my own new play for Miss Bates is that Mr. Hurlbut's drama, because of its vital and immediate interest, cannot be delayed. It is a play of to-day. The idea and the characters are of the present moment.' This statement has excited much curiosity. Is *The Fighting Hope* an election play? Is President Roosevelt or Governor Hughes to be staged in it? Or does it mean The Fighting Chance of Bryan?"

THE NEW GAIETY, MANCHESTER.

The well-known provincial theatre above named, which has been acquired by Miss Horniman, has been closed for some months, and shortly reopens under very different auspices. Since its closure the theatre has undergone almost entire reconstruction under the direction of Messrs. Frank Matcham and Co., the well-known theatrical architects. The defects of the old building have all been swept away, and a complete reconstruction of the auditorium carried out on modern lines. The gallery and upper circle have been pulled completely out and two new tiers constructed on the cantilever system, the fronts of these tiers having been set back considerably from the curtain-line. The dress circle has been much improved and enlarged, as have also the stalls and pit. The large heavy columns that supported the dress circle have been removed and the ceiling slightly raised, giving much improved sight-lines to this part of the house. The result of the altered galleries can be imagined when it is considered that the back of the gallery is no less than 8ft. below the original level, and this has enabled the architects to reduce the number of steps of the staircases by fifteen, thus bringing the occupants much nearer the level of the street. The upper circle has also been reduced in height in proportion.

The whole of the theatre will be reseated. The upper circle is furnished with comfortable tip-up seats, the dress circle and stalls will be reseated with handsome polished wood-framed seats upholstered in satin-faced goat hair cloth, and tip-up chairs are also provided in the pit stalls and pit. All the seats from the gallery upwards are numbered, and will be bookable in advance. The old private boxes have been removed and an entirely new arrangement and design of box façades introduced, there now being six luxurious boxes in lieu of the four originally existing. New box staircases have also been built.

The old Moresque plaster-work has been taken down and a completely new scheme of decoration carried out. The new fibrous plaster-work illustrates a fine example of Greek architecture, very severe in treatment, but of noble proportions, fine fluted columns with Greek scrolled caps and arches supporting heavy cornices and entablatures. The proscenium and the gallery fronts are designed on similar lines. The box façades are somewhat unique in theatre design. The lower boxes are draped, but the top boxes are open, with curved shaped walls panelled, in the centre a handsome draped opening giving access to the seats. The main cornice is carried round this covered box, terminating with coffered panelled arch over, having concealed lights, shedding a soft ray of illumination over the whole decoration. The old ceiling has undergone the same Greek treatment.

The proscenium-opening is formed with a border of rich "skyros" Scaglolia marble and surrounded with a green bronzed laurel enrichment. Over the proscenium is a large panel with an artistic low-relief modelled representation of ancient Greek vessels, the whole surmounted with a boldly-moulded pediment. Skyros marble columns with bronzed caps are also introduced at the sides of the stalls supporting the box façades over. The whole of this finely-modelled work is finished in enamelled white, no gold or colour beyond the marble and bronze being introduced. The necessary warmth in the colour of the theatre is obtained in the wall-paper, floor-coverings, seats, and upholstery, which are all of one rich shade of red. The scheme of green bronze is carried into the electric light fittings in the ceiling, the fronts of boxes, and elsewhere.

The stage has been improved by the formation of a large scene-dock at one side which will enable fine effects to be introduced. The old dressing-rooms have been cleared away and thirteen large well-lighted and ventilated dressing-rooms, heated with radiators and supplied with hot and cold water and lighted with electric light, have been erected. There are also managerial offices, bill-rooms, large rehearsal room, property room and green-room, and everything necessary for an up-to-date theatre. Another great improvement will be found in a large lift, that will enable carriages or horses to be taken from the street on to the stage or persons and baskets up to the dressing-rooms.

The entrance vestibule, which was very confined in space, has been considerably enlarged, and the walls have been lined with white statuary and green marble and the ceiling beautifully decorated. The whole of the woodwork here is of highly-polished mahogany. The exits and entrances have all been improved and the cloak-room of the dress circle much enlarged. New ladies' rooms for the pit and stalls have been added, and extra and improved lavatories for men provided in all parts. The heating has been extended and increased and the fire risk reduced considerably, and a complete new installation of electric light has been carried out. The exterior of the theatre has been cleaned down and the general appearance much improved, and is brilliantly illuminated with electric light. When the building is completed Miss Horniman may certainly be congratulated on possessing one of the finest and most novel theatres in the kingdom.

"WHEN THE DEVIL WAS ILL."

A New Comedy, in Four Acts, by Charles McEvoy, produced at His Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, on Saturday, Aug. 29.

Godfrey Rawlings ..... Mr. B. Iden Payne
Martin Leatherhead ..... Mr. Charles Bibby
Mrs. Rawlings ..... Miss Sybil Thorndike
Walter King ..... Mr. Basil Dean
Owen Davis ..... Mr. Jules Shaw
Isobel ..... Miss Penelope Wheeler
Lady Mendle-Parrish ..... Miss Ada King
Chauffeur ..... Mr. Leonard Mudie
Fanny Goldstone ..... Miss Louise Holbrook
The Earwig ..... Forficula Auricularia

(From our own correspondent.)

"When the Devil was ill, the Devil a saint would be;
When the Devil was well, the devil a saint was he"

is the couplet from which Mr. Charles McEvoy has derived the title for his comedy, which satirises in no uncertain manner the enthusiast of the "Simple Life." The opening of the first act is distinctly novel. On a dark stage a lively earwig is seen disporting on a screen in Godfrey Rawlings' study. Rawlings, a popular and successful author, is dictating to his secretary, Martin Leatherhead, a description of an encounter, in which the insect is engaged. As a writer on the beauties of Nature and the "Simple Life," Rawlings has gained notoriety, though his inspiration has been derived from the study of other authors on the subjects, aided by a strong and fanciful imagination. He suffers from "nerves" and "cigarettes," and at the finish of his dictation gets into a highly-excitable state, and irritably declares his intention of giving up his artificial life and occupation, and going back to "Nature" and the "Simple Life," of which he has written so much and knows so little.

In the second act Rawlings and his faithful secretary, Leatherhead, are established in a caravan in a chalk pit near Cheddar, Somerset, living the simple life, and existing on a strictly vegetarian diet. Earwigs don't prove so interesting now, and both Rawlings and Leatherhead are heartily sick of the inconveniences attached to the "Simple Life," and are longing for the blessings of civilisation. Hero Walter King, gamekeeper, and Owen Davis, the village schoolmaster, appear, and gossip about some strange gipsies who have been seen in the neighbourhood. The caravan is pitched on land owned by Lady Mendle-Parrish, an out-and-out society "Simple Lifer," who pays "Mr. Scarrett" (the name assumed by Rawlings) a visit, as she has a shrewd idea that he is the author of the books which converted her to her present views; her daughter, Isobel, also appears, disguised as a gipsy, in the hope that Rawlings, with whom she is deeply in love, will fail to recognise her. Mutual recognition, however, takes place, though both keep up the pretence of being strangers. In the meantime, Leatherhead, sick of the whole business, has got hopelessly drunk, and in an interview with Owen Davis exposes Rawlings, and sends off a telegram to his mother to come down and take her son home, as from the conversation he has heard between Rawlings and Isobel he suspects an elopement. Lady Mendle-Parrish, who had been assured by Rawlings that she was mistaken in thinking him the author of her favourite books, had, in the meantime, ordered him to leave—suggesting the rubbish ground as a suitable place for his encampment. The interviews between Rawlings and Isobel have deepened their attachment to each other, and an elopement has been arranged. Isobel enters the quarry, and hides in the caravan. Rawlings appears, and is ordered to depart, according to Lady Mendle-Parrish's instructions, but he declines to go. The mothers arrive on the scene, and satisfactory explanations follow. The affianced pair declare themselves thoroughly sick of "Nature" and the "Simple Life," and depart for Lady Mendle-Parrish's residence in the motor-car which had been provided for the elopement.

Mr. B. Iden Payne worked hard throughout as Rawlings, the nervousness of the overstrung author in the first act being a particularly fine piece of acting. Mr. Charles Bibby as the secretary, and Mr. Jules Shaw as the Schoolmaster had some humorous passages, which they treated with a full appreciation of their drollery. Miss Ada King's opportunities as Lady Mendle-Parrish were few, but she made artistic use of them. Isobel was cleverly impersonated by Miss Penelope Wheeler, who made a charming figure as the gipsy. The minor characters were well and carefully played.

One of the most popular attractions at the International Rubber Exhibition, which opens at Olympia on Monday, the 14th, will prove to be a mono-rail light railway, which is being especially constructed and on which a speed of 200 miles per hour can be obtained. This is one of the greatest inventions of the time, constructed on all the wonderful principles of the gyroscope, and its simplicity should claim the special attention of the delegates of the twenty-six Governments that are being represented. This is the first time the mono-rail railway has been seen in London.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"STAATSANWALT ALEXANDER,"
Play, in Four Acts, by Carl Schneler,
Produced at the Luisen Theatre, Aug. 29.

Dr. Alexander ..... Herr Trebore
Otto ..... Herr Schneeweiss
Wehner ..... Herr Bach
Behling ..... Herr Rohde
Schneller ..... Herr Pauli
Frau Wild ..... Fräulein Hupfel
Lisbeth ..... Fräulein Umanka
Caspar ..... Herr Stuenkel
Mizi Schmidt ..... Fräulein Kahlenberg
Wenderot ..... Herr Blumenreich

(From our own correspondent.)

BERLIN, Thursday, Sept. 3.—This is not a new play, and was at the time of its first production fully detailed in your columns. It came, however, quite in the light of a novelty to the audience of this high-class little East-end theatre, and was received with enthusiasm. The piece is not without its faults, but it is admirably developed, and is built round a tragic theme particularly appealing to German audiences. Alexander, the public prosecutor with hyper-rigid justice untempered with any trace of mercy, lives to see in his own son the greatest delinquent of all, and is forced to execute justice upon him. The plot, though at times strained, is very interesting, and *Staatsanwalt Alexander* has made its mark upon many provincial stages. The acting was good throughout, particular commendation being due to Herr Trebore, Herr Schneeweiss, and Fräulein Kahlenberg.

All our theatres have reopened, but as yet there is little doing in the way of new pieces, the season being in its infancy. The Royal Schauspielhaus announces a short list of novelties, none of which will, however, be produced much before November. They include a couple of historical tragedies by Otto Ludwig and C. D. Grabbe respectively, and a comedy by the well-known author Heinrich Lee, entitled *Der Schlagbaum*.

The Royal Opera, which reopened after a two months' vacation last week, has been giving Wagner and other *pièces de résistance*. The great event of the early season will be the production of the new ballet, *Sardanapal*, this week, by "Imperial command." His Majesty the Emperor has taken keen interest in all arrangements for this stupendous work, which is to break the record in splendour—from all accounts—as well as being accurately historical. The Opera House closes two nights in order to prepare for this undertaking—an almost unprecedented occurrence.

In October Caruso comes for a short season at the Royal Opera, and demands for tickets have already begun. During September Mozart's *Figaro's Hochzeit* will be revived with the original recitatives; the principal rôles will be in the hands of Fräuleins Destinn and Hempel, Herren Berger and Knüpfer. *La Bohème* will next be given, with Miss Farrar as Mimi. Some changes will be made shortly in the Royal Opera Company. Fräulein Hiedler, Frau Liebau, Fräulein Weiss, and others are leaving, while new artists engaged are Mesdames Dennera (Wiesbaden), Salvatin (Paris), Fabry (Augsburg), and MM. Bischof and Bronsgeest, of Hanover and Hamburg respectively.

The Hebbel Theatre, which reopened with the big draw of last season, *Mrs. Warren's Gewerbe*, promises a number of new comedies, including *Der Liebhaber*, by Shaw; *Totentanz*, by Strindberg; and *Revolutions-Hochzeit*, by Michaelis.

At the Thalia a three-act burlesque by MM. Kreu and Lippschitz, entitled *Das Mitternachtsmädchen*, was produced about the middle of last month. It is full of wild mirth and was well acted, and served to amuse the hosts of country and foreign visitors that throng our city in August. The chief feature, as usual, was the topical couplet, which is inevitable to the success of the modern burlesque.

As Fräulein Plaischinger, one of the prima donnas of the Royal Opera, was about to leave in the night train for Munich—where she is to sing Brünnhilde in the *festspiele*—she was robbed of a bag containing all her jewels. Turning away from the seat where the bag lay for a moment, it disappeared, and in the bustle of starting could not be traced. Besides the actual value of the jewels, which amounts to several hundred pounds, there are gifts from the Emperor and other Royal persons which are irreparable.

The Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham has during the summer vacation been entirely redecorated. The old ornate style has been forsaken, and instead one finds a restful and dignified scheme of decoration carried out in rich browns and subdued greens. The entrance to the theatre now presents a pleasing appearance. The vestibule looks charmingly bright in its rich treatment of Rose du Barri coloured panels, with a dark green dado and painted ceiling. The crush-room carries a pretty ivory and green wallpaper, while the ceiling has been tastefully decorated in the French style in the time of Louis XVI.

The staircases and corridors leading to the auditorium are handsomely carpeted, the walls are of green and white, with a copper-coloured dado, and the arches are relieved by hangings of Utrecht velvet ornamented with embroidered palmets. The dress circle is papered in cream and gold, with a blue dado, the colours harmonising with the tints of the carpet, and an artistic shade of green has been employed in the decoration of the upper circle. The proscenium has been entirely remodelled, the fronts of the circles and gallery are effectively treated in a tan-colouring, edged with gold, and the boxes are hung with rich brown curtains embroidered with French palmets. The brightness of the decoration is materially enhanced by the improvement which has been made in the lighting arrangements.

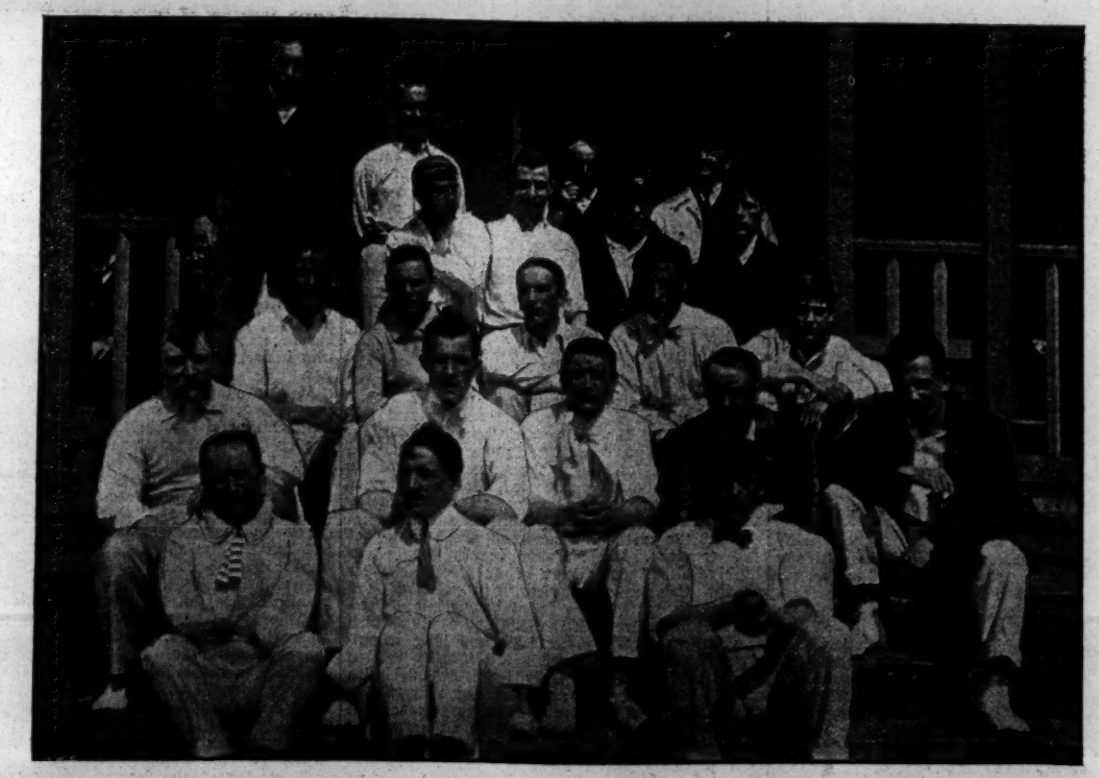
In the Coroner's Court on Wednesday an inquiry was held concerning the death of Charles Shaw, a gas-fitter, who sustained a fatal injury at Drury Lane Theatre on the 7th ult. Evidence showed that the deceased, who was employed by Messrs. Pinching and Walton, contractors, was working with another man at the Theatre on some gas fittings, when a brick fell from the top of the staging, causing a severe cut on the head. The injured man was taken to King's College Hospital, where he was attended to. Later he returned home, complaining that his head was so painful.

A workman who gave evidence said that he and deceased were working in the well of the stage, and that there was a wood sheeting over them. It appeared that the brick fell through a hole in the sheeting and caught the deceased on the head. Medical evidence deposed that the man was a healthy man, but on Aug. 17 he had nine epileptic fits of a very severe nature, and on Aug. 24 he had another fit of the same description. He was then taken to St. George's Hospital, where he died on Aug. 29. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

The approaching visit of Mr. George Edwardes's *Merry Widow* company to the Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, is being looked forward to eagerly by the patrons of this palatial building, and many substantial wagers have been made that the receipts for the eight performances will reach, if not exceed, those of any other theatre visited; in fact, one well-known manager has made a wager of £100 to that effect.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"THE MERRY WIDOW" AND CHARITY.



[*Photo by W. Rees.*

Members of "The Merry Widow" company appearing at Southport, which included Mr. Basil S. Foster, one of the well-known cricketing family of Worcestershire, played a Southport and Birkdale team on Aug. 27. The proceeds were in aid of the fund for the sufferers of the Wigan colliery disaster, and totalled £16. Mr. Foster made 48 out of the theatrical total of 81. Mr. Walter Sugg, the ex-Derbyshire cricketer, was responsible for 69 out of the 176 made by Southport and Birkdale.

ON THE ROAD, SEPT. 7.

AMASIS.—Grand T., Croydon.
AN ABANDONED WOMAN.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
ASCHE, OSCAR.—Grand T., Derby.
ASHWELL'S, MISS LENA.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
AT CRIPPLE CREEK.—T. R., Barnsley.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Metropole T., Devonport.
AUSTIN, MARY.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
BEAU BROCADE.—O. H., Southport.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR (BODE).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR (HOWARD).—Lowestoft.
BELLE OF NEW YORK (HOWARD).—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—Spa T., Scarborough.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R. (N.).—Worthing and Weymouth.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R. (S.).—Romsey and Dorchester.
BEST OF HER SEX.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—Palace T., Ramsgate.
BREED OF THE TRESHAMS.—O. H., Wakefield.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Buxton and Llandudno.
BULMER, MR.—Grand T., Nelson.
CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE.—O. H., Dumfries.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.—O. H., Barnley.
CHARLEY'S AUNT (No. 2).—Tiverton and Ilfracombe.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (BODE).—T. R., Bolton.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, N.),—T. R., Glasgow.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, S.).—Grand T., Fulham.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, No. 3).—Whitstable and Devizes.
CLAUDIAN.—Irving Theatre, Seacombe.
COAL KING.—Queen's T., Keighley.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Grand T., Douglas.
CONVICT'S DAUGHTER.—Elephant and Castle T.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—Rawtenstall.
DAIRYMAIDS (COURTNEIDGE).—Court T., Liverpool.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE) (S.).—Dalston T., N.E.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD'S).—Margate and Canterbury.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
DEAR OLD CHARLEY.—T. R., Bath.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (N.).—Artillery T., Woolwich.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (M.).—Newton and Malvern.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (S.).—T. R., Plymouth.
DIVER'S LUCK.—T. R., Wednesbury.
DONOVAN, LYDIA.—T. R., Lincoln.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—T. R., Hyde.
EAST LYNNE (KELLY).—T. R., Dublin.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—T. R., Smethwick.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—Shakespeare, Clapham.
FALSE WIFE.—T. R., Rotherham.
FATAL WEDDING.—T. R., West Stanley.
FIGHT FOR A LIFE.—Paisley T., Paisley.
FIGHT FOR A THRONE.—T. R., Sutton.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—Lyceum T., Newport.
FLORODORA (HOWARD).—Grand T., Hull.
FLOWER GIRL.—O. H., Cheltenham.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Star T., Swansea.
GEOFFREY LANGDON'S WIFE.—T. R., Sunderland.
GIRL BEHIND THE COUNTER.—Grand T., Doncaster.
GIRL REDEEMED FROM SIN.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—T. R., Dewsbury.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG.—Pier T., Eastbourne.
GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE.—P.O.W., Grimsby.
GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY.—Grand T., Nelson.
GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME.—A. T., Hull.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Carlton T., Greenwich.
GREED OF GOLD.—T. R., Hebburn.
HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—T.R., Scarborough.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—T. R., Blyth.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—Crown T., Eccles.
HONEYMOON, THE.—Prince's T., Horwich.
HORNIMAN'S, MISS.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
HUGHES, ANNIE.—Coronet Theatre, W.
HYPOCRITES, THE (N.).—T. R., York.
IRENE WYCHERLEY.—County T., Bedford.
KNIGHT IN ARMOUR.—Ferndale and Pontycymmer.
LADY FREDERICK.—Grand T., Hull.
LADY FREDERICK (POTTER).—King's T., Glasgow.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Cowdenbeath and Musselburgh.
LANCASHIRE LAD.—Palace T., Newcastle.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—Grand T., Swansea.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
LONDON WITH THE LID OFF.—Princess's T., Glasgow.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—Grand T., Luton.
LOVE RULES THE WORLD.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—P. O. W., Salford.
LOVE'S GOLDEN DREAM.—Ryde and Ventnor.
LUCKY LIZA.—Pavilion, Abertillery.
MANXMAN, THE (CLYDE).—Musselburgh.
MANXMAN, THE.—T. R., Goole.
MAN AND WIFE.—T. R., Stratford, E.
MAUDE'S, MISS WINIFRED.—H.M.T., Carlisle.
MERELY MARY ANN.—T. R., Preston.
MERRY WIDOW.—O. H., Harrogate.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—Carlton T., Saltley.
MOLLISON, WILLIAM.—T. R., Nottingham.
MOODY-MANNERS OPERA (A.)—Kennington T., S.E.
MOODY-MANNERS OPERA (B.).—Empire T., Southend
MOORE, MISS DECIMA.—Stockton-on-Tees.
MRS. PONDERBURY'S PAST.—Llandudno and Buxton.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD.—Lyceum T., Newport.
NEW GIRL, THE.—Grand T., Walsall.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Colosseum, Oldham.
OLD HOME, THE.—T. R., Batley.
OLD, OLD STORY.—Public Hall, Redditch.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Lytham and Llandudno.
POWER OF THE CROSS.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
POWER OF THE KING.—Prince's T., Accrington.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—T R., Exeter.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—New Hall, Bargoed.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—King's T., Southsea.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—T. R., Huddersfield.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., Ashton.
SAILOR'S WEDDING.—Marlboro' Theatre, N.
SECOND TO NONE.—Queen's T., Longton.
SEXTON BLAKE.—Lyceum T., Govan.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—T. R., Edinburgh.
SILVER KING.—T. R., Leeds.
SILVER KING (HOWARD).—Taunton and Bridgwater.
SISTER'S SIN, A.—Mountain Ash.
SOLDIER OF FRANCE.—O. H., Dudley.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—Prince's T., Preston.
STILL ALARM.—T. R., Ilkeston.
STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER.—Spennymoor.
SUNDAY.—Bury St. Edmund's and Lowestoft.
TERRY, EDWARD.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
THIEF, THE (N.).—O. H., Leicester.
THIEF, THE (S.).—County T., Kingston.
THIEF, THE.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
TOM JONES.—Whitley and Bridlington.
TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON.—Hammersmith, W.
TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS.—Alex. T., Widnes.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS (N.).—King's T., Sunderland.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS (S.).—T. R., Leicester.
TYRANT, THE.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—Maesteg and Treherbert.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Grand T., Falkirk.
WARNER, GRACE.—Queen's T., Fleetwood.
WARNING TO WOMEN.—Prince's T., Bradford.
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW.—Morecambe.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—Yeovil.
WHEN LONDON SLEEPS.—T. R., Stockport.
WHITE MAN, A. (N.).—T. R., Manchester.
WHITE MAN, A (S.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
WHO IS SHE?—T. R., Middlesbrough.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN.—T. R., Rochdale.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—T. R., South Shields.
WOMAN AND WINE.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
WOMAN PAYS.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
WOMAN WORTH WINNING.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—Court T., Warrington.
YOU NEVER CAN TELL.—T. R., Brighton.
YOUNGEST OF THREE.—Pier, Southend.
£1,000 REWARD.—O. H., St. Helens.

MR. FRED H. GRAHAM and his wife sailed for New York on Saturday.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

JERROLD ROBERTSHAW.—*In order to protect a sketch both the copyright itself and the performing rights should be registered at Stationers' Hall, E.C. The necessary forms will be supplied on application. The licence of the Lord Chamberlain should be obtained. The subject is fully explained in Strong's "Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," published at this office, price 3s. 6d. See notice above.*

C. B. BURNETT.—*Mr. Ben Webster became proprietor of the old Adelphi Theatre in September, 1844, at the same time continuing his lesseeship of the Haymarket. His first production at the Strand house was* Old Heads and Young Hearts, *on Nov. 18, 1844. This comedy, by Dion Boucicault, was played by a notable cast, which included Webster, Buckstone, the elder Farren, Charles Mathews, and Mme. Vestris.*

L. BENJAMIN.—*The Danites was produced at Sadler's Wells on April 26, 1880. We have no record of any representation at the Garrick, Leman-street, Whitechapel. See notice above.*

FRANCIS HAWLEY.—*Secrets of the Police was produced at the Surrey by Mr. George Conquest on Nov. 27, 1886. The names of the male characters are:—William Jarman, Mr. C. Cruikshanks; George Jarman, Mr. T. F. Nye; Inspector Downing, Mr. T. Hyde; Sergeant Doon, Mr. E. Granville; Frank Grey, Mr. H. J. Hillier; Osmond Hare, Mr. E. S. Vincent; and Rev. Mr. Garland, Mr. R. Leslie. We have added for your information the members of the old Surrey stock company playing the parts. Mrs. Bennett was the Rosa and Miss Annie Conway the Mrs. Grey.*

ALICE.—*Try Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.*

B. T. (Barley Mow).—*We have no record of the exact year. The Press agent at Earl's Court or the management of Olympia could probably tell you.*

JAMES ANDERSON.—*James Taylor, of* Simple Simon *and* Sarah Walker *fame, died on Jan. 17, 1904, at the age of sixty-seven.*

J. B. TEMPLETON.—*Sorry we cannot help you. Try a sporting paper or an old Stockton Directory. See notice above.*

O. C. F. H.—*You should obtain permission both from authors and publishers. It is very necessary.*

JOE.—*We have not heard of the actor and singer you mention for some time. We should say he is alive.* The Rose of Auvergne *is by Offenbach. We do not know the other work you mention as a musical play. There was a drama of that name produced at the Britannia, Hoxton, in 1876.*

O'KANE (Londonderry).—*Yes. A letter addressed to the offices of this paper would reach her.*

R. M. C.—*Sorry that we have no record of the Niagara Falls or Rapids feat that you mention. Your other question is not theatrical. Try "Haydn's Dictionary of Dates."*

TUT TUT.—*As the play was produced at the Adelphi in 1854 we should say that there is no doubt about it being free.*

B. B. (Chester).—*We are always willing to rely upon your statements, but not upon your prophecies. You could not know on the Wednesday what was going to happen on the Friday, and should have phrased your announcement differently.*

CONTRACT.—*(1) There is no custom to the effect mentioned by you, but there is often a clause inserted in contracts to that effect. We think you are entitled to damages, but should advise you to consult a solicitor, as your cause of action depends upon the terms of the contract, which we have not seen. (2) A manager can claim damages if he does not have proper notice of the determination of his contract. It does not in any way affect his rights if he has been offered another position with a lower salary.*

MR. ROBERT STEIDL, in consequence of Continental contracts, was unable to accept Mr. Arthur Collins's offer for next Christmas, but will be seen at Old Drury during the run of the Christmas production 1909-10. Mr. Steidl will go to the Lane by permission of Mr. Alfred Moul, who has engaged the German comedian for a term of years.

IN the nineties the new entertainer at the piano, Mr. Eustace Ponsonby, would have gravitated towards St. George's Hall; but he will follow the example of Miss Margaret Cooper, and find a place in the programme of a West-End hall. His professional name is to be Le Gros. Mr. Ponsonby has written lyrics for musical comedy songs, several of them being sung by the Follies and Mr. Harry Fragson.

ON Saturday, Aug. 29, a special picture matinée was held at the Hippodrome, Stalybridge, by kind permission of Mr. James Fioni, the lessee, in aid of the Mayor of Stalybridge's Fund for the relief of the bereaved in the recent Wigan Colliery disaster. The Mayor and Mayoress were present, along with the gentry of the borough. The gross receipts, £14 5s. 1d., were handed over to his Worship the Mayor by the resident-manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson, amid tremendous applause. Mr. Fioni defrayed all costs of printing and advertising.

MR. J. L. SACHS, representative of the Alhambra Syndicate, Johannesburg, sailed last Saturday on the Kildonan Castle. He is going back to Johannesburg to commence operations for the building of the house, and hopes to return to London by the end of the year. He also desires to convey through us hearty thanks to the managers of the London and suburban halls for the courtesy that has been shown him during his stay here. All communications *re* the Alhambra, Johannesburg, may be directed to 1, Winchester-house, Loveday-street, Johannesburg.

MR. AND MRS. EDWARD KEMP, who are at the Oxford, are well known as explorers and lecturers, and made four painful journeys across a dreary desert to obtain moving pictures of the Hopi Indians' snake dance. There are about 7,000 Hopis in Arizona, and they attract the greatest interest because of their peculiar religious ceremony known as the Rattlesnake Dance. This dance, which is held every year, is entirely a religious ceremony; it is in effect a prayer for rain. The Hopis are unwarlike, industrious, intensely religious, virtuous, clever, and persistent in trading, and given to agriculture. Mr. Kemp has made the dances of the various Indian tribes a study for a number of years.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

Aldrich, Mrs. Chas.
Anthony, Mr. Harry
Anton, Mr. W. Holmes
Barnes, Mr. J. H.
Barrett, Mr. Medley
Barrow, Miss E. M.
Barry, Mr. Leonard
Bentley, Mr. W. E.
Bevan, Miss Flossie
Biddall, Mr. W.
Blunt, Mr. G.
Boggetti, Mr. E.
Boissett, Mr. Herbert
Branscombe, Mr. Arthur
Bull, Mr. A. W.
Burns and Danvers
Campbell, Mr. D.
Cash, Mr. Morny
Cecilians, The Four
Celeste, Miss Blanche
Chapman, Miss Stella
Clark, Miss D. H.
Clark, Col. W.
Comber, Mr. R. S.
Congdon, Miss May
Conover, Mr. T. E.
Coop, Mr. Colin
Coram,
Correze, Mrs
Corri, Mr. Clarence
Costello, Mr. Tom
Cotter, Miss Nell
Cottesmore, Mr. E.
Courtley, Mr. Thos. T.
Courtney, Miss Maud
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Cumberland, Mr. E. G.
Davis, Mr. Tom
Dodd, Mons. Harry
Druce, Mr. Hubert
Duncan, Mr. W. O.
Eastbury, Mrs. S.
Elliott, Miss Beth
Elliott, Miss Violet
Emerson, Mr. Eddie
English, Mr. J.
Evans, Mr. Wash
Field, Mr. Penfold
Forsitt, Mr. H.
Foulis, Mr. W. Robertson
Fox, Mr. Bob
Fox, Mr. G.
Francis, Mr. C.
Franklin, Miss Eugene
Fyne, Mr. Fred
Gates, Mr. Bob
Golden, Mr. Horace
Graham, Mrs. N. D.
Grey, Miss Minnie
Grey, Miss Mona
Griffies, Miss Ethel
Hall, Mr. G. E.
Halna, Mrs.
Hamiltons, Messrs. W.
Harcourt, Miss Enid
Hare, Miss W.
Hartley, Mr. Chas.
Harwood, Mr. Frank
Hazel, Mr. W. Ernest
Healy, Mr. Robert
Hearn, Mr. James
Hemingway, Mr. Jack
Henson, Mr. J. W.
Hesslewood, Mr. Tom
Hubbard, Miss Ida
Imray, Mr. Chas.
Ireland, Mr. Ian
Joel, Miss Elsa
Jones, Mr. Henry A.
King, Miss Hetty
King, Mr. H.
Kyasyas, Les
Lake-Grange, Miss Vera
Latona, Mr. Frank
Laurie, Mr. J.
Lawrence, Mr. W.
Le Breton, Mrs.
Leslie, Mr. Alfred
Levaine, Mr. Harry
Ling, Mr. T. P.
Linwood, Mr. Lance
Lockart's Elephants.
Loftus, Mr. A.
Loftus, Miss Cecilia
Lupino, Mr. George
Mac, Mr. Joe
MacIntosh, Mr. J. G.
Mackay, Mr. W. J.
March, Miss T.
Mascard, Mr. A.
Maude, Miss H.
McCarthy, Mr. D.
McCulloch, Mr. A.
Mead, Mr. David
Melrose, Miss Alma
Mick, Little
Mildare, Mr. C.
Movatts, The Five
Mulvey, Mr. Fred
Naveed, Mlle.
Neilson, Mr. H. V.
New York Comedy Four
Odell, Miss Maude
Oliver, Mr. J. C.
Panamas, The Three
Petersen, Mr. Edmund
Pettigrove, Mr. Britton
Phydora, Mr. Harry
Pitt, Mr. C. H.
Powell, Mr. Frank
Raie, Miss Lydia
Ray, Miss G.
Ray, Miss M. L.
Rayburn, Miss Kittie
Rayleigh, Mrs. Cecil
Reeves, Mr. George
Relph, Miss Mary
Ricardo, Mr. Dan
Rich and Rare
Rich, Mr. O.
Rignold, Miss Bessie
Rivers, Miss Kate
Rose, Mr. Howard
Sachs, Mr. J. L.
Samuelson, Mr. L. M.
Saxon, Mr. Arthur
Schofield, Mr. Edwin
Scott, Mr. Malcolm
Searelle, Mrs. L.
Serony, Mrs.
Shine, Mr. John L.
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Slater, Mr. H. R.
Spencer, Mr. Austin
Sprightly, Sisters
Stoker, Mr. Bram
Thora, Miss
Valentine, Mr. H. E.
Venus, Miss Mab
Walonell, Mr. Jack
Warden, Mr. A. H.
Warren, Mr. Ross
Whyte, Mr. Carl
Williams, Mr. Chas. H.
Willie Brothers
York, Mr. Philip
Zerbinis, Mr. Victor
Zolas, The Four

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

MILSOM.—Aug. 25, at Verona, Malmesbury, the wife of Percy B. Milsom, née (Ada Violet) Poole (Poole's Myriorama), of a son.

MARRIAGES.

LOWE—FITZMAURICE.—Miss M E. Fitzmaurice (Peggy Primrose), on Sept. 2, at the Registrar's Office, Westminster, to Aubrey C. Lowe, second son of the late Col. Arthur Lowe, of Gosfield Hall, Essex.

WOMACK—MARSH.—Aug. 26, at St. Wilfred's Catholic Church, Lorrimore-road, Walworth, George Womack, stage-manager at the Oxford, to Kitty Marsh, sister of the Harvey Boys.

DEATHS.

BAGLEY.—On Aug. 27, 1908, at Grey Mare Hotel, Openshaw, Manchester, Caroline, wife of Edgar Bagley.

CHAPUY.—Louis Frederick Chapuy, at his residence, 3, Great Ormond-street, W.C., on Sept. 1, at the age of 72, professor of elocution at the Guildhall School of Music. He will be interred at Abney Park Cemetery, Saturday, Sept. 5, at 3 o'clock.

FELIX.—On Aug. 31, Adeline Mary Felix, the beloved wife of Tony Felix, 21, Borough-road, Birkenhead. No cards. R.I.P.

MILSOM.—Aug. 25, at Verona, Malmesbury, infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Percy B. Milsom.

IN MEMORIAM.

BURNELL.—In fond memory of Harry, who died Sept. 8, 1906. Always remembered by his brother and sister, JOE and POLLIE BURNELL.

CROWSON.—In loving memory of Will Crowson, who died Sept. 3, 1905, the beloved husband of Cissie Conyers.

MONTAGUE.—In loving memory of Herbert J. Montague, who died Sept. 6, 1907.

SEYMOUR.—In loving memory of Katie Seymour, who died Sept. 7 1903, leaving her mother, sister, and brother to mourn her loss.

SEYMOUR.—In loving memory of Katie Seymour, who died Sept. 7, 1903. Not forgotten by her friend, FLORRIE ROBINA.

TEARLE.—In affectionate remembrance of George Osmond Tearle.—E. T.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Anena Walton—Saturday, Sept. 5.
Marjorie Murray—Sunday, Sept. 6.
Victorien Sardou—Monday, Sept. 7.
Mary Moody—Tuesday, Sept. 8.
Kitty Clayton—Tuesday, Sept. 8.
Caroline Barrett—Wednesday, Sept. 9.
Jessie Elvin—Wednesday, Sept. 9.
Winifred Stuart—Wednesday, Sept. 9.
Hal Charlton, Wednesday, Sept. 9.
Winnie Donovan—Thursday, Sept. 10.
Bassett Roe—Thursday, Sept. 10.
Marie Studholme—Thursday, Sept. 10.
George Appleby—Thursday, Sept. 10.
(Miss) M. Silverthorne—Thursday, Sept. 10.
Fred Donaldson—Friday, Sept. 11.
Fred Sinclair—Friday, Sept. 11.
Marie Weston—Friday, Sept. 11.

MR. ARTHUR ELVY, "the Up-to-Date Tipster," who opens at the Empire, Hull, on Monday next, after only two weeks' absence, wishes to inform proprietors and managers that he has placed his business in the capable hands of "Lord" Geo. Aytoun.

BUREAU DE CHANGE

SPECIALLY RECOMMENDED. HANDS and CO., 16, STRAND, CHARING-CROSS RAILWAY STATION, LONDON, W.C.

"I'll swear upon that bottle."—TEMPEST, Act ii.; Scene ii.

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maintain their popularity because they are brought into condition by **MATURING IN BOTTLE;** the **Natural** method, without the aid of carbonating or other artificial process.

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(Telephone No. 366 North. Telegraphic Address, "Bearseller, London.")

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BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES.

For Sustaining the Voice.
Invaluable for ACTORS and SINGERS.
Indispensable for PUBLIC SPEAKERS

GENTLEMEN,—For sudden affections of the Bronchial Organs I use and most cheerfully recommend "Brown's Troches." They are regarded as most eligible, convenient, and indispensable by numerous artists of my acquaintance, BOTH IN EUROPE AND AMERICA. They seem to act specially on the organs of the voice, and produce a clear enunciation.—Yours truly (Signed), MARIE ROZE MAPLESON.

SOLD EVERYWHERE AT 1/1½ PER BOX.

DINNEFORD'S MAGNESIA.

The Best Remedy for Acidity of the Stomach, Heartburn, Headache, Gout, and Indigestion. A Safe and most effective Aperient for regular use.

INDIGESTION

Is the primary cause of most of the ills to which we are subject. WHELPTON'S VEGETABLE PURIFYING PILLS arouse the stomach to action. Headache flies away, Biliousness, Kidney Disorders, and Skin Complaints disappear.

ASK FOR WHELPTON'S PURIFYING PILLS,

And remember there is NO PILL "JUST AS GOOD." 1s. 1½d. of all Chemists.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT
FOR
ACTOR AND COMPOSER.
BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his textbook on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chace Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

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"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.
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Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1908.

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF "FAUST."

It is astonishing how easily an erroneous idea may be promulgated and how long the error will continue to exist. For instance, for many years it was stated in treatises on swimming that the eyes should always be opened before diving, because "the weight of the water prevented this being done after entering it." The falsity of this statement could easily have been discovered by simply placing the face in a basin of water; but it never occurred to any of the copyists to try the experiment. In like manner, a general notion has prevailed that the "Faust" of GOETHE was a deep psychological work, and that the dramatic versions of GOETHE'S poem were desecrations to common uses of an abstruse and recondite poem. Many of those who adopted this theory were, we may presume, unacquainted with the "Faust" of GOETHE—we refer, of course, to the "first part," on which all the modern "Faust" plays are based. No one who has read this first part can overlook the definite *pronunciamento* made by the author as to his intention—in this case to write, before all things, an acting play. GOETHE made this proclamation in the "preface" in the shape of a somewhat cynical conversation between a Poet and a Theatrical Manager. The Poet is an impossible man of genius, a sort of German JOHN DAVIDSON, whose ideas are astonishingly vast and superb. He is characteristically unpractical, and may have been intended to suggest the dreamy side of GOETHE'S own nature. The Theatrical Manager, aware both of the Poet's talent and of his weakness, applies a cold douche of common-sense to his extravagant aspirations. Consider, he says to him, the intellectual calibre of the average member of your audience, and the frame of mind in which he comes to the theatre. What is the use of writing over his head? Be as high-flown and intellectual as you please—in parts; but remember that to please the general public you must have plenty of incident and an abundance of action, human interest, and variety. An active scenario and not too much reasoning is the Manager's prescription for a successful play. The Poet is highly indignant at these gross and simple requirements; nevertheless he does not throw up the contract, but sets to work, and at the Manager's urgent request writes the piece.

And how did GOETHE deal with his originals, the Faustus of MARLOWE and the Book of Job? He popularised and theatricalised them vigorously. He adorned the Englishman's rugged granite with an abundance of flowers. MARLOWE wrote for an age which really believed in a personal devil with horns and tail; GOETHE'S Mephistopheles is ironical, polished, and occasionally—as when he flies into a passion about the loss of the jewels—almost contemptible. MARLOWE is Titanic; GOETHE is theatric. For all the "psychology" it contains, the story of the seduction of Marguerite by Faust, with the aid of Mephistopheles, might be an effective but ordinary drama; for the devil does nothing that might not be accomplished by any ordinary elderly rake advising and assisting a young and hot-headed pupil. The soliloquy of Faust in his study is a fine piece of poetry; but, after all, his aspirations are not very elevated. He complains that he "lives a dog's life"; that he has nothing of the enjoyments of the average sensual man. He is not troubled with any noble yearnings for superior knowledge, or extended philanthropy, or even worldly power. He merely wants enjoyment—what the Americans call to "have a good time"; and he sells his soul for it. And Mephistopheles responds to the demand. He first gives Faust an aphrodisiacal drink, and then shows him a pretty young woman. What is there "psychological" in this? It is admirably effective on the stage, because it exactly carries out the precepts of the theatrical manager in the preface. The real merit of the work consists not, as in the case of GOETHE'S *Tasso*, in an intellectual problem reflectively worked out, but in the spirited action, the constant change of scene, and the everyday interest of the characters and the story. The play moves briskly, with its condensed dialogue and plenitude of incident. The innocent maid seduced, the brother coming back from the wars to meet his death by the sword of the seducer, the accidental poisoning of the mother by the daughter, the infanticide committed by the latter in a state of temporary insanity, the attempted escape foiled by the fear of the victim, and the "heavenly voice" proclaiming that Gretchen is forgiven—all are essentially, soundly, and effectively theatrical. The psychology of GOETHE'S "Faust" is illogical; its merit as an entertainment of the stage is undeniable, and has been proved by its success at all times as a drama, as a libretto, and as a ballet. For instance, the prologue between God and the Devil is the initial idea of the Book of Job unsatisfactorily adapted. God's model man is a dissatisfied German student with a regret for his youth. Gretchen is the typical *ingénue*, only redeemed from insipidity by GOETHE'S rare poetic touch. And it is rather unfair of Faust, after enjoying himself as he did in the garden, to complain that Mephistopheles has not carried out his contract and given him a single happy moment. The play is a model of fortunate and fertile invention, of weird and fantastic fancy, of quaint humour and essential humanity. The "psychology" on which it is based will not bear examination, and, indeed, has little or nothing to do with the success of the work. Those who enjoy Mr. STEPHEN PHILLIPS and Mr. COMYNS CARR'S adaptation at His Majesty's this evening may do so without shame or scruple. If they want to atone for their "irreverence" they may do penance by reading, or re-reading, the "second part" of "Faust"—one of the most extraordinary aberrations of genius that was ever admired by false and fanatical adorers.

PROMENADE CONCERTS.

The most important item in the programme of Thursday evening, Aug. 27, was the new Symphony in E flat by Mr. Gardiner, an English composer. The new work, originally written some three years ago, without being a great composition, is thoroughly characteristic of all that is best in the modern English school. An impressive introduction leads to a poetical and melodious andante, in which Mr. Gardiner displays great musicianly talent. The various themes are well contrasted and contain much charming melody, while the finale, with its rich, full tone and striking effects, is an imposing feature of the new symphony. Admirably interpreted by the fine orchestra, Mr. Balfour Gardiner's composition was cordially received, and the young composer was recalled several times to the platform. Also in the programme on Thursday was a new aria, "Le Nil," by M. Leroux, a French composer who received the Prix de Rome in 1887. Mrs. Harriett Foster sang the vocal portion with great charm, and was beautifully accompanied by the orchestra. Miss Mathilde Verne was warmly applauded for her fine playing of Mozart's Pianoforte Concerto, No. 21, in C; and Mr. Frederic Austin favourably impressed the audience by his singing of Henschel's ballad "Young Dieterich." The orchestra gave an excellent performance of Beethoven's *Coriolan* overture, the "Wedding March" from *Lohengrin*, and Debussy's prelude *L'Après-Midi d'un Faune*.

There was a large audience at Queen's Hall on Tuesday evening, when Richard Strauss's much-debated Symphonic Poem "Ein Heldenleben" was included in an interesting programme. Strauss's remarkable work is certainly a formidable task, even for such a splendid orchestra as that under Mr. Henry Wood's direction. An excellent performance was secured, the distinguished conductor endeavouring to give all that was best in the composition while subduing the cruder portions of the battle music. Mr. M. Wolters played the violin solo admirably, and the close of the symphonic poem was followed by warm applause from the audience. The orchestra was also heard in fine performances of the *Tannhäuser* Overture, Lalo's delightful "Norwegian Rhapsody," Liszt's "Hungarian Rhapsody No. 2," the suite from Bizet's *Carmen*, and Mozart's overture *Il Seraglio*. Miss Barwell-Holbrook and Mr. Philip Simmons, who were the vocalists on Tuesday, contributed "Vesti la giubba," from Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, and "The soldier, tired of war's alarm," by Arne.

THE Duke and Duchess of Connaught witnessed the performance of *Jack Straw* at the Vaudeville on the 28th ult.

MESSRS. DIPPEL AND CASAZZA, of the Metropolitan Opera House, New York, so we are informed by Mr. Stephen Fiske, "are arranging for a league of Opera Clubs to cover the whole country. This plan is to induce local musical societies to study operas instead of oratorios, and then send them such vocalists and instrumentalists as may be necessary for a complete performance. This would make the Metropolitan the centre of a grand operatic national movement, transforming America into what Italy is supposed to be. Incidentally, an available American chorus would be created. The plan has been successful in the University Extension, and why should it not be in opera?"

"THE PASSING OF THE THIRD FLOOR BACK."

An Idle Fancy in a Prologue, a Play, and an Epilogue, by Jerome K. Jerome, played for the first time in London at the St. James's Theatre on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

THE PROLOGUE.

A Cheat	Miss AGNES THOMAS
A Slut	Miss GERTRUDE ELLIOTT
A Painted Lady	Miss HAIDEE WRIGHT
A Shrew	Miss KATE CARLYON
A Snob	Miss KATE BISHOP
A Bully	Mr. IAN ROBERTSON
A Hussy	Miss ALICE CRAWFORD
A Satyr	Mr. ERNEST HENDRIE
A Coward	Mr. H. MARSH ALLEN
A Rogue	Mr. EDWARD SASS
A Cad	Mr. WILFRED FORSTER
A Passer-by	Mr. FORBES-ROBERTSON

THE PLAY.

Joey Knight	Mr. ERNEST HENDRIE
Christopher Penny	Mr. H. MARSH ALLEN
Major Tompkins	Mr. IAN ROBERTSON
Mrs. Tompkins	Miss KATE CARLYON
Vivian	Miss ALICE CRAWFORD
Jake Samuels	Mr. EDWARD SASS
Harry Larkcom	Mr. WILFRED FORSTER
Miss Kite	Miss HAIDEE WRIGHT
Mrs. Percival de Hooley	Miss KATE BISHOP
Stasia	Miss GERTRUDE ELLIOTT
Mrs. Sharpe	Miss AGNES THOMAS
The Third Floor Back	Mr. FORBES-ROBERTSON

THE EPILOGUE.

An Old Bachelor	Mr. ERNEST HENDRIE
Two Lovers	Mr. H. MARSH ALLEN and Miss ALICE CRAWFORD
A Husband and Wife	Mr. IAN ROBERTSON and Miss KATE CARLYON
A Jew	Mr. EDWARD SASS
An Entertaining Person	Mr. WILFRED FORSTER
A Maiden Lady	Miss HAIDEE WRIGHT
A Rich Aunt	Miss KATE BISHOP
The Servant	Miss GERTRUDE ELLIOTT
The Lady of the House	Miss AGNES THOMAS
A Friend	Mr. FORBES-ROBERTSON

In our issue of Aug. 22 we gave an exhaustive analysis of the plot of Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's new play, after its production at the Grand Opera House, Harrogate, and our readers hardly need to be reminded that the scene of the piece—with which Mr. Forbes-Robertson opened his season at the St. James's on Tuesday—is a boarding-house in Bloomsbury, the lodgers at which are described as a "cheat," a "slut," a "painted lady," a "shrew," a "snob," a "bully," a "hussy," a "satyr," a "coward," a "rogue," and a "cad." The landlady is Mrs. Sharpe, and her slavey is called Stasia. Mrs. Sharpe, having noticed the piano candles (only half burnt) have disappeared, abuses Stasia in consequence, though they have really been exchanged for shorter ones by Miss Kite, the "painted lady," a much-bepowdered person with a mincing and affected air. Amongst the queer collection of unpleasing curiosities at this boarding-house are Major Tompkins, who drinks and bullies his wife; Jake Samuels, a "shark" from the City, and his cad of a friend, Harry Larkcom; Mrs. Percival de Hooley, who is cousin to Sir George Tweedle, Bart; Joey Wright, a retired bookmaker—retired owing to loss of voice; Christopher Penny, a young and struggling artist, who hesitates between high art and painting indecent pictures for cash; and Vivian Tompkins, the Major's daughter, who is engaged to Wright, the rich bookmaker, but in love with Christopher. The third floor back is taken by a "Passer-by"—a mysterious personage with a courtly manner and a gentle and caressing style—who interviews all the boarders separately, and so influences them that they make up their minds to lead better lives. Joey Wright gives up Vivian to her poor artist lover, on whom he has bestowed commissions for portraits of himself and others; the Major ceases to bully his wife, and they become a loving and exemplary couple; the Jewish shark, Jake Samuels, instead of trying to swindle people into taking shares in a silver mine, tells the landlady she has not charged him for a chop he has eaten; his jackal, Harry Larkcom, has gone on the stage, and takes a delight in giving pleasure to others instead of tempting Stasia from the paths of rectitude with imitation emerald ear-rings, which, under the "Passer-by's" influence, she scornfully flings on the floor; and Miss Kite, the "painted lady," comes down minus "make-up" and dressed as befits a maiden lady of mature years. Having done all this good, the Third Floor Back takes his leave, privately, of each character, saying as he leaves, "I have other work to do."

Mr. Jerome has given us a play with a high and pure motive, and with an admirable moral. The suggestion in the second act that the "Passer-by" was our Saviour on a visit to earth seemed to us irreverent; though it must be stated in fairness that it did not appear to shock the audience at the St. James's in the least, the incident having a very enthusiastic reception. The piece is admirably written in parts, the sentences in which the "Passer-by" works on the feelings of the different boarders being very smoothly and neatly turned; and the doctrine that people may be led to rise to higher things by giving them credit for their better natures is preached with real, if at times scenic, eloquence. The acting was excellent all round.

Nothing could have been more insidiously urbane and effectively authoritative than Mr. Forbes-Robertson's "Passer-by." He looked picturesquely dignified in his sober and stately costume, and delivered the appeals to the better natures of the boarders in most melodious tones. Mr. Ernest Hendrie's Satyr was a striking study, engrossing in its base repulsiveness, the gleams of generosity in the breast of the vulgar brute being depicted with artistic skill; and Miss Haidee Wright hit off the affectations and pretences of Miss Kite very cleverly, depicting the painful repentance of the "painted lady" with natural and intense pathos. Mr. Ian Robertson's mean and selfish Major was as shark-like and unsympathetic as could be expected, the varnish of soldierly "style" being very faithfully supplied; and Mr. Edward Sass's sordid little Jew was a character-impersonation which deserves very warm praise for its effectiveness and freedom from caricature. Mr. Wilfred Forster gave to his impersonation of Harry Larkcom just the right shade of vulgarity and exactly the required amount of good feeling, and dealt very successfully with a really difficult task. Mr. H. Marsh Allen, always competent and engaging, was thoroughly satisfactory as the despairing artist; and Miss Kate Carlyon's Mrs. Tompkins was a genuine performance of real merit, the little touches of sentiment being very naturally introduced. Miss Alice Crawford looked very attractive as the girl Vivian, who is so sorely tempted to sell herself to the Satyr, and acted with great earnestness and intensity in the second division of the play; and Miss Kate Bishop showed the value of thorough training and long experience as an ex-factory girl who, risen in the world, has only thought for Royalty and aristocracy. Miss Gertrude Elliott, though not absolutely at ease in her Cockney accent, played the "slavey," Stasia, with great charm and sly and gentle humour; and Miss Agnes Thomas was the "very image" of a lady by birth and education whose heart has been hardened by the struggle for existence. The single scene, painted by Mr. Walter Hann, was real and appropriate, a novelty being introduced in the placing of a fender and fireirons in the middle of the stage close down to the footlights. *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* had a very hearty reception; and the intrinsic beauty of the idea and the admirable performance of the play by Mr. Forbes-Robertson's company deserve our warmest appreciation.

THE MOODY-MANNERS COMPANY.

On Saturday, Aug. 29, revival at the Lyric Theatre of the Opera (in English), by Jacques François Fromental Elias Halévy, entitled "THE JEWESS" ("La Juive").

The Jew	Mr. PHILIP BROZEL
Cardinal Brogni	Mr. CHARLES MANNERS
Prince Leopold	Mr. SETH HUGHES
Ruggero	Mr. C. MOPPETT
Alberto	Mr. R. CARTER
Herald	Mr. ALEXANDER
Princess Eudossia	Miss KATE ANDERSON
Rachel	Mme. DE VERE-SAPIO

Halévy's great work, *La Juive*, with libretto by Scribe, and Amazonian ballet by Taglioni, drew its first breath of stage life at the old Opera House, Paris, Feb. 23, 1835, under the directorship of Dr. Véron, the principal parts being entrusted to Nourrit as Eléazar, Levasseur was the Cardinal, Mme. Dorus-Gras Eudoxie (Eudossia), and Mlle. Falcon Rachel. The brilliant fame of the opera was not attached to the composer only. Ivy-like, it attached itself to Mlle. Falcon, who quickly followed her triumph in it by her extraordinary rendering of Valentine in *Les Huguenots*. The bringing out of the opera is reported to have cost the management £15,000, it having been the first time that real armour was ever used on the French stage. When Scribe's libretto was accepted the ending was to have been the burning of Rachel at the stake; but at the last rehearsal Dr. Véron rearranged the situation to her being hurled into a cauldron of boiling oil. Halévy wrote twenty-five operas, but none of them are heard except *La Juive*.

It should be mentioned that the late Mr. Carl Rosa admired the work very much, and produced it at Belfast in 1888, with Mr. Barton McGuckin as the Jew, Mr. Charles Manners as the Cardinal, and Miss Fanny Moody as Rachel; but he altered the tragic conclusion in deference to the supposed desire of the audience for a happy ending.

When the late Sir Augustus Harris revived *La Juive* at Drury Lane in April, 1893, more than forty years had elapsed since the masterpiece of Halévy had been heard in London. It had the advantage at Covent Garden in 1860, when it was produced under the title of *L'Ebrea*, of the exquisite singing of Signor Mario and Mme. Viardot-Garcia, the original Fidès in *Le Prophète*, who taught singing to Antoinette Sterling. It was first played in London at Drury Lane by a Brussels troupe in 1846. Its career in this country was not fortunate, for only a few performances were given between 1846 and the destruction by fire of Covent Garden Theatre in 1856. In 1904 the Moody-Manners company followed the precedent of Sir Augustus Harris, and revived it at Drury Lane during their spring season.

The period of the opera is 1414, when a Christian who loved a Jewess, or a Jewess who loved a Christian, was doomed to death of the most cruel description. The Jewess, Rachel, loves the son of the Emperor, Prince Leopold, who is already married to the Princess Eudossia. The Prince, pretending to be of her own faith, has wooed her under the name of Samuel, but when the heroine discovers his rank she refuses to sacrifice her faith. The Cardinal, who, years before, had lost his daughter, has a suspicion that the Jew, Eleazar, knows something of her fate. But the Hebrew makes no sign, not even when his beloved Rachel is condemned to die. It is only when she is cast into the cauldron that the fierce and implacable Jew reveals the secret that Rachel was really the daughter of the Cardinal. Then Eleazar prepares calmly for the doom that awaits him.

The revival was extremely successful, the dramatic character of the music being fully appreciated. Considerable elaboration characterised the procession of the Emperor, and the stage pictures were excellent. The representative of the Jew was Mr. Philip Brozel, who displayed power and pathos as an actor, while his singing was unusually effective and artistic. He was heard to considerable advantage in the aria known in the original French as "O, ma fille chérie!" Mr. Charles Manners as the Cardinal, a familiar character to him, made a striking and impressive figure, and his fine delivery of the air in the first act must be highly commended. Mme. De Vere-Sapio's passion and pathos in the rôle of Rachel were conspicuous, and the purity of her voice enabled her to give a completely satisfying rendering of the numbers allotted to the unhappy Jewess. In the great scene between the two women she had excellent assistance from Miss Kate Anderson, who justified her selection for the rôle of the Princess by her careful and conscientious work, and especially by her execution of the florid music. Mr. Seth Hughes made an acceptable Prince Leopold; and other characters were capably handled by Mr. C. Moppett, Mr. R. Carter, and Mr. Alexander.

THE MOODY-MANNERS COMPANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In your kind reference to our company in this week's *Era* you say ours is probably the largest company travelling. The following are the exact requirements we want from the railway companies:—Three 45ft. trucks (equal to six ordinary trucks) and one 21ft. truck (these are for the scenery), and six trucks for clothes. There are 16 principals, 14 staff, 8 ballet, 31 orchestra, and 63 in the chorus, making in round numbers 132 people. Of course we always have to send on scenery and baggage in advance during the week, as it could not be carried by one train. The above numbers are every one of them paid salaries, and they do not include some ten or twenty people who travel with us in the shape of wives, children, sisters, maids, &c.

As I have for some time heard various conjectures and opinions about how many we do travel and how many we don't, I would like to place on record exactly what happens, and I will be perfectly willing to forfeit £500 to anyone if the above statement is not the absolute fact.

By the way, these numbers do not include two scenic artists, an assistant, and bench carpenter working at the stores at Hendon.

While on the subject, I notice that a number of the provincial Press think that we have at our Lyric season this year two of my companies together. As a matter of fact, the company playing at the Lyric is exactly the same in numbers, artists, scenery, and costumes as will visit the whole of the towns throughout the whole of the provincial A Company tour. Indeed, there will be an addition, because Miss Zelie de Lussan joins next week. She would be with us for this season at the Lyric only that the Covent Garden Syndicate will not allow me, amongst other operas, to play *Carmen* in the West End.—Yours faithfully, CHARLES MANNERS.

Lyric Theatre, London, W., Aug. 31.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In reference to my wedding of the 17th, which you very kindly mentioned, my name was spelt Nain instead of Naen.—Yours faithfully, PERCY NAEN, Public Hall, Carlisle.

OF the few side attractions at the Franco-British Exhibition which can be enjoyed without extra payment the performances given daily by the "All British Orchestra" in the French Wine Bar are certainly worth a visit. This orchestra, which, as its name implies, is composed entirely of native musicians, is under the sole direction of Mr. Henry J. Spindler, who was for ten years the violoncellist of the Alexandra Theatre at Stoke Newington, and the programme he provides daily, both by the excellence of its execution and the variety of its selections, has added much to the popularity of this already popular bar. In fact, it makes it the nearest approach to the typical Continental café to be found in the exhibition.

"KING OF CADONIA."

A Musical Play in Two Acts, by Frederick Lonsdale, lyrics by Adrian Ross, music by Sidney Jones. Produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Thursday, Sept. 3.

The Duke of Alasia	Mr. HUNTLEY WRIGHT
Alexis	Mr. BERTRAM WALLIS
General Bonski	Mr. ROLAND CUNNINGHAM
Captain Laski	Mr. F. POPE STAMPER
Lieutenant Jules	Mr. HAROLD DEACON
Lieutenant Saloff	Mr. CAMERON CARR
Panix	Mr. ARTHUR LACEBY
Laborde	Mr. AKERMAN MAY
Bran	Mr. GEORGE BARRETT
Militza	Miss GRACIE LEIGH
Stephanie	Miss PEGGY BETHEL
Natine	Miss QUENNIE MERRALL
Wanda	Miss GLADYS BEECH
Ottaline	Miss CLAIRE LYNCH
Fridoline	Miss GLADYS ANDERSON
Duchess of Alasia	Mme. AMY MARTIN
Princess Marie	Miss ISABEL JAY

Cadonia is a kingdom in which the reigning monarch has anything but a happy time of it. He has to be carefully guarded for fear of being assassinated by his subjects, who seem to have a liking for a frequent change as regards the occupant of the throne. Alexis, the reigning King, has become very tired of being immured in his palace like a prisoner who has committed a crime, and so, with the assistance of his trusty friends and loyal subject Captain Laski, he disappears for three days. According to the story told by the Lieutenant the King has been captured by a band of anti-monarchists, led by one Laborde, who has obtained an engagement as gardener to the Duke of Alasia. The Duke, aware of the fate which has befallen so many of the Kings of Cadonia, is by no means anxious to succeed to the throne, of which he is the heir-presumptive, and even as regent he is always planning some means of escape. The Government has decided that the King shall marry the Duke of Alasia's daughter, the Princess Marie, but when she first meets her future husband she does not know who he is. They, however, fall in love with each other at first sight. The King joins the Anti-King League, and, being captured, is in danger of being shot, but the Princess interposes, and his life is spared for the time being on condition that he produces the King alive. Of course he is able to do this in due course, and the disloyal Laborde is won over to his side, as Alexis shows that he is a King who will take a real interest in his people and their concerns. Once more has Mr. Sidney Jones triumphed as a composer of bright and attractive music, which maintains its level of excellence throughout, and again has Mr. Adrian Ross proved himself an adept as a writer of smart lyrics. Credit is also due to the scenic artist, Mr. Hawes Craven; while the dresses and appointments are all that could be wished.

An admirable and hard-working company has been secured. Very marked was the success achieved by Mr. Bertram Wallis in the title-rôle. He looked every inch a king, and the natural grace and dignity of his bearing were quite in keeping with the character. His portrayal of the part was excellent in every respect. As a vocalist Mr. Wallis also won distinction; his first song, in which the monarch, compelled to live in the seclusion of his palace, complains of the restrictions imposed on royalty, was admirably rendered. But one of the gems of the piece was a song in the second act, "There's a King in the land to-day," which was splendidly given by Mr. Wallis, who was enthusiastically encored. He also received his full share of the applause for a duet, "A Castle in the Air," sung with Miss Isabel Jay. This charming young actress and singer was seen at her best in the rôle of the Princess Marie, whose love for the unknown stranger who proves to be the King himself supplies a strong romantic flavour to the piece. The graceful, winsome Princess could have had no more attractive representative than Miss Jay, who, too, was in excellent voice. Greatly appreciated was her delightful rendering of "The man I mean to marry," and a love song in the second act was given with telling expression. Another of her successful vocal contributions was "I met a man," during the singing of which she sketches the portrait of her lover. Mr. Huntley Wright, as the Duke of Alasia, the heir-presumptive to the throne of Cadonia, exerted himself with the happiest results, and his assistance was invaluable. Never was there seen—even in comic opera—a more timorous creature than the Duke, and his nervous apprehension at the prospect of becoming the King of Cadonia was most comically depicted. When the Duke is made regent, he distributes medals and money with a generous hand, his object being to secure support in case of need. Mr. Wright, as the timid ruler and henpecked married man, quite revelled in the opportunities which the part offered him, and has never done better work. He made a great hit with a ditty, "Don't hesitate to shoot," for which he was deservedly recalled two or three times. He received able support from Miss Gracie Leigh as Militza, maid to the Princess Marie. Her delightfully humorous portrayal of the part deserves special mention; and quite late in the evening she and Mr. Huntley Wright were loudly applauded for a duet in which they gave exceedingly clever burlesque imitations of a couple of Indian musical performers with the tomtom, Scotch duettists, and the Italian players who recently visited London. Miss Leigh also evoked the warm applause of the audience by her clever, piquant rendering of "Well, that don't sound like you," "I am mistress of the robes," and "I had to seek another situation," the last-mentioned being an especially effective number. Mr. Roland Cunningham was an appropriately brusque General Bonski, and Mr. F. Pope Stamper was a handsome and soldierly Captain Laski. He also sang well. Mr. Arthur Laceby was good as Panix, secretary to the Duke; and Mr. Akerman May made a picturesque leader of the Anti-King League, giving to the part a most effective melodramatic touch. Mr. George Barrett was exceedingly funny as Bran, Captain Laski's servant and Militza's sweetheart. He added greatly to the merriment of the evening by his genuine humour and drollery. Miss Peggy Bethel was pleasing as Stephanie, first lady in waiting to the Princess, and sang in charming style. The Duchess of Alasia had a capital exponent in Mme. Amy Martin, whose contempt for her husband's cowardice was amusingly expressed. The Misses Queenie Merrall, Gladys Beech, Claire Lynch, and Gladys Anderson were most attractive ladies-in-waiting to the Princess; and Messrs. Harold Deacon and Cameron Carr did well as a couple of officers in the Cadonian army.

At the conclusion there was a scene of much enthusiasm, all the principals being called, together with the author, the composer, and the producers, Messrs. Frank Curzon and Sydney Ellison, to whom every credit is due for the thoroughly artistic and effective way in which the new piece has been staged. Mr. I. A. de Orellana is the musical conductor, and Mr. Sidney Watson stage manager. On the first night the orchestra was conducted by the composer, Mr. Sidney Jones.

AT the Metropole Theatre, Gateshead, Messrs. Rennef and Copping's company in *Love Rules the World* have drawn good audiences during the week.

MR. AND MRS. BENSON are now at Scarborough hard at work rehearsing for the opening of their autumn tour there on Monday. In addition to Mr. and Mrs. Benson, the company includes Mr. George R. Weir, Mr. Edward A. Warburton, Mr. H. O. Nicholson, Mr. Baliol Holloway, Mr. Murray Carrington, Miss Elinor Aickin, Miss Helen Haye, and Miss Corisande Hamilton.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Branscby Williams has been spending a most agreeable time in Manxland, where he has been enjoying the society of Mr. Hall Caine at Greeba Castle. With the famous author's permission the young actor may present some of his characters on the variety stage. Mr. Williams also has had an interesting chat with Miss Ellen Terry. He will revisit Douglas next year if his dates can be rearranged.

The sad death from misadventure of Mr. George Anthony Ware, the music-hall agent, reminds us that his father, Mr. George Ware, transacted Miss Marie Lloyd's business until the day of his death, and that accomplished artist would be the first to admit that his advice and guidance were very valuable to her during her early years on the variety stage. George Ware was never tired of foretelling the future success of his young protegée, and he lived to see her obtain a very high position. He recognised her talent from the first, and we remember very well a speech that he made from the Oxford stage, in which he prophesied a three-figure salary for Marie.

Miss Ruth Maitland, now playing the heroine's part in Mr. Frank Parker's production, *The Sands o' Dee*, at the Hippodrome, was specially selected by Sir John Hare for a leading part in his farewell performances of *The Gay Lord Quex*. Miss Maitland is a crack shot, a good horsewoman, and an excellent swimmer, as she is proving nightly in the aquatic melodrama in which she is extricated from a position of stage peril twice a day.

Miss Alice Lloyd and Tom McNaughton will sail for America on the s.s. Mauretania on Saturday next to rehearse for Ziegfeld's new production, *Bonnie Bells of Scotland*, which will contain several special songs written for the popular Alice.

Miss Daisy Wood, another member of the famous Lloyd family, and her husband, Donald Munro, are due to sail per s.s. Etruria for New York on Wednesday next. Miss Wood is the fourth of the family to visit America this year.

Mr. George Scott, on the 28th ult., at the board meeting of the Alhambra Company, with Mr. Alfred Moul, the chairman and managing director, presiding, was presented with a handsome gold stop watch, bearing on the outer case the monogram "G. S.," and on the inner side "Presented to George Scott, Esq., by the Alhambra Company, Limited." The presentation was accompanied by the hearty good wishes of the directors, and suitably acknowledged by the recipient. After a brief holiday Mr. Scott will be found again in harness "in the West."

It has been suggested that Mr. Alfred Moul, the managing-director, should in future take a more active part in the management of the Alhambra. This is hardly possible, considering that for the last two years or so he has been the sole director of the policy of the house. From early morn to late at night he is at his post superintending rehearsals, discussing with Signor Curti the scenario of a forthcoming ballet, or suggesting alike to the musical-director or the costumier improvements in a coming production.

When off the stage his office has an "open door" to the countless people ready with suggestions as to the management of a variety theatre, while in his spare moments he often composes musical numbers as anonymous contributions to Mr. Byng's score. Then for a change he scours the Continent—Paris, Berlin, Vienna, and Copenhagen—in search of novelties, often seeing a dozen different shows in a week. Mr. Moul will endeavour not to add to his already responsible duties, and to that end is reorganising several departments in a way that will probably relieve him of much of the detail of his work.

Mlle. Adelina Genée finishes her present engagement at the Empire on Saturday, the 12th, leaving London almost immediately for New York to fulfil a number of contracts. The date of her actual departure is Sept. 23, but she is to have ten days' holiday prior to boarding the steamer.

Mlle. Lydia Kyasht takes Mlle. Genée's place as Swanilda on the 14th. The new dancer has already distinguished herself on the Continent in *Coppélia*, so that the part is quite familiar to her, and Empire audiences have, during the last fortnight, had an opportunity of judging her skill in a number of selections from grand ballet. She is pretty and accomplished, and learnt her art at the Imperial Theatre, St. Petersburg.

Mlle. Genée opens at the Grand Opera House, New York, on Oct. 5, for three weeks, in *The Soul Kiss*. Thirty-five weeks will be given to touring. Chicago claims her for ten weks, and in Boston and Philadelphia she stays for four. At the end of her American tour Mlle. Genée returns to England and to the Empire in a new ballet, which will be specially written for her by Lieut.-Col. Newnham-Davis, in which she will appear as a famous historical figure. When she again revisits New York she will appear in *Coppélia*, which has been secured for her by Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger.

"Paris," the new ballet by Lieut.-Col. Newnham-Davis, is to be produced at the Empire early in October. It has for its principal scene a representation of a students' ball in Paris. It is now being actively rehearsed.

Mr. Alfred Dove has secured the performing rights for variety theatres of Mascagni's masterpiece *Cavalleria Rusticana*, an opera that most unmistakably suits the halls. Mrs. Arthur Rousby (the Moody-Manners' prima donna) is the Santuzza, Mr. Charles Le Sueur (of the Carl Rosa company) is the Turiddu, Mr. John T. MacCallum the Alfio, and Miss Daisy Nunn (contralto) the Lola. Mr. Dove himself conducts. The production has made a hit this week at the Richmond Hippodrome. The new scenery has been painted by Mr. W. T. Hemsley, and the costumes are provided by Hyman.

The announcement of the marriage of Miss Sylvia Lilian Storey, a daughter of Mr. Fred Storey, to William John Lydston Poulett, seventh Earl Poulett, has caused considerable sensation in theatrical and variety circles. Mr. Fred Storey, who will one day, we hope, be the grandfather of a peer, is well known on the variety stage as a comedian, a pantomimist, and a dancer. He made a big reputation at the Alhambra as Rip, in his own production of *Rip Van Winkle*, and his impersonation of the schnapps-loving hero of the Kaatskills is worthy to rank with any of the century. Mr. Storey's versatility is not confined to acting or dancing on the stage; he can furnish it with excellent scenery.

At the invitation of the Artists' Protection League and the Actors' Union, representatives of those bodies and of the Actors' Association, Sketch Managers' Association, and National Association of Theatrical Employees met on Wednesday to discuss the arguments to be advanced at the Trade Union Congress at Nottingham next week in support of the resolution asking for a revision of the laws applying to the licences of theatres and music halls. The resolution will be moved by Mr. Frank Gerald, General Secretary of the Artists' Protection League, and seconded by Mr. Blackmore, Secretary of the Actors' Union. The co-operation and support of every kindred body has been invited.

Several Liverpool places of entertainment are to come under the hammer of Mr. Peter Davies in that city on the 24th inst. They include the Tivoli Theatre, the Park Palace, and the Paddington Palace.

A successful year's working was reported at the first annual meeting of the Sunderland Empire Palace, Ltd., held at the theatre, Sunderland, on Thursday, the 27th ult., under the presidency of Mr. Richard Thornton, managing-director.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the directors' report and annual accounts, congratulated the shareholders on the fact that notwithstanding the bad trade in Sunderland the company had been able to pay a dividend of 5 per cent., to write off £980 for depreciation, and to write off £500 from preliminary expenses, carrying forward a respectable balance to next year's account. The report was seconded by Mr. Frank Allen and carried unanimously. The retiring directors, Messrs. F. Allen, T. Gillespie, and S. Stone, were re-elected.

The many friends of Mr. Joseph Potter, colessee of the Warrington Royal Court and Royal Theatre of Varieties, will be sorry to hear that he is lying dangerously ill at his residence at Warrington. A slight improvement has been maintained since Tuesday.

Miss Adela Crispin, the principal character in the Blackpool Winter Gardens ballet, who celebrated her nineteenth birthday on Saturday, was the recipient of one or two pleasing presentations at the evening performance. Mr. and Mrs. John Tiller presented "The Belle of Andalusia" with a beautiful bouquet, and the Twelve Little Forget-Me-Nots gave her an exquisite case of scent. Other presents included a beautiful old paste brooch set in silver, a Marquise ring, a travelling clock, a purse in grey morocco, sprays of flowers, a gold golliwog charm, and several large boxes of chocolate.

"The Children's Dream of Toyland," which Mlle. Pauline Rivers has produced at the Palace, Blackpool, has been one of the season's successes, and eager sightseers crowd the ballroom nightly. On Thursday of last week a very beautiful basket of fruit and flowers was presented to the young ladies who form the Pauline Sextette, and whose dancing is one of the features of the show.

Since the death of "Wee Macgreegor" visitors to the Scottish Zoo, Glasgow, have been deprived of perhaps the most interesting of all the exhibits in the collection, for the amusing antics of the little fellow, and the almost human-like expression of his countenance, never failed to draw an admiring crowd.

On his demise Councillor Bostock cabled his West African agent to spare neither trouble nor expense to secure another chimpanzee to take the place of "Wee Macgreegor." The result is that a splendid specimen, recently captured in the Congo forest, was forwarded to the Scottish Zoo, where it arrived a few days ago.

The new "Missing Link," which, by the way, is a female, seems none the worse for her long sea voyage, is apparently in excellent health, and seems to feel quite at home already in her new surroundings. In her appearance and general deportment she displays the utmost intelligence, and is unquestionably one of the best illustrations of the Darwinian theory.

Mr. James Doughty, England's oldest living theatre clown and animal trainer, celebrated his ninetieth birthday at the West Pier, Brighton, on Friday, the 28th ult. Between 300 and 400 people braved the inclement weather to wish "Many happy returns" to the veteran, who added to the special interest of the anniversary by once again donning his clown's dress and paint as at Old Drury. He was assisted in his entertainment by Miss Lauri. The old clown has been giving his dog shows on the Brighton West Pier for thirty years.

About a year ago Mr. G. W. Walker engaged from the Town Council of Kirkcaldy for a period of three months an old hall then known as the Corn Exchange Hall. His success with a variety entertainment was so phenomenal that he leased the building for a term of five years, and has now found it necessary to make alterations, and during the vacation the building has been entirely gutted, and improvements of a very extensive nature have been carried out.

In addition to renewing the whole interior of the building a new gallery has been put in; everything is being done to make the Pavilion an up-to-date music-hall. Not only is Mr. Walker doing all this in connection with the Pavilion, but he has also arranged with Mr. E. H. Bostock, lessee of the Hippodrome, to take over that house as well. Mr. Walker promises to present the best available talent, and already such artists as Marie Lloyd, Margaret Cooper, Mrs. Lewis Waller, Dr. Bodie, Geo. Lashwood, Auguste van Biene, and many other stars have been engaged.

Wrexham, with a population of over 70,000 inhabitants within a radius of five miles of its post-office, is at last to be provided with an up-to-date amusement house. The site chosen for the new Palace Theatre is in Regent-street, the main street leading from the Great Western Railway Station to the town, and only three minutes' walk from the Central Railway Station. Electric trams from the outlying districts pass the doors every few minutes. The building itself will be French Renaissance, with red-facing brick and Carrara dressings, the base being in granite. The main entrance to the circle and stalls, in the centre of the building, will open up into a grand foyer, decorated with marble panels. A spacious staircase on the left leads to the crush-rooms, circle, and lounge, and on the right a passage leads to the stalls. A subway is also provided under the stage to feed both sides of the stalls.

The auditorium is divided into stalls, circle, pit, and gallery, with four private boxes to grace the house, which has a total seating capacity of 1,640. The architect has been most careful in getting the various lines of sight so perfect that everyone in the house can see without any interruption. The exits have been well planned, and the stage, with a 30ft. opening, is to be 30ft. high, 35ft. deep, and nearly 60ft. to the grille, with a width of 64ft., fitted in the most approved methods, so that the largest productions can be staged.

Mr. Thomas Price, 77, Lord-street, Liverpool, the architect, is pushing the work along at a great rate, and Mr. W. Yates Gregory, managing-director, hopes to have all complete for opening early in the spring of 1909, for which he is inviting correspondence from first-class touring companies. The plans have been approved by the Wrexham Town Council and magistrates.

The examination in bankruptcy was held on Tuesday of Alfred Wood, who presented his own petition, describing himself as of Brixton-road, S.W. It was stated that the debtor during the past fifteen years had occasionally appeared on the stage, had produced music hall sketches, and had written several songs. He attributed his insolvency to the failure of a musical comedy called *The Terrible Tomboy*, produced by him about five years ago. Only one debt, £102 for printing, was scheduled, the creditor holding security valued at £80. No assets were disclosed. The examination was concluded.

Miss Florrie Robina opens at the Empress, Brixton, on Monday next, Sept. 7, after an absence of four years.

Victor Niblo, with his polyglot parrot and conversational cockatoo, sailed for the States by s.s. Majestic on Wednesday. His long tour on the other side will commence on Sept. 14 at New York.

"He Missed the Boat," a specially-written musical comedietta, written by John P. Harrington and composed by Orlando Powell, is to be produced on Monday by Miss Ida Dorrie and Miss Susie Beavan at the Empress, Brixton. The situations are of an extremely diverting and novel character.

Mr. John P. Harrington, who is on a fortnight's holiday at Cliftonville, has been apparently having something in the nature of a business holiday, inasmuch as he has been devoting considerable attention to the requirements of the several troupes of seaside entertainers not only at this favourite resort but also at adjacent Ramsgate, Broadstairs, Herne Bay, Dover, and Folkestone, with the gratifying result that a greater number than ever of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s popular songs are now being exploited by the Kent coast pierrots.

Mr. Harry Lauder has been freed from his Glasgow pantomime engagements to allow him to appear in America. He will open in New York on Oct. 12, and will play there for six weeks, afterwards making a tour of the principal cities in the United States. He has paid a large sum as indemnity to be released from his Glasgow engagement.

That fine hostelry the Rose and Crown, in Charing Cross-road, has been acquired by the genial Jack Lotto, and its close proximity to the hub of the music-publishing world and to the Vaudeville Club has already constituted it a sort of chapel of ease to the almost countless frequenters of Messrs. Francis and Day's establishment and the members of the select and palatial club which numbers amongst its members all that is brightest and best in the world of variety. Mr. Charlie Pratt, late of the Rodney's Head, is installed as manager.

Mr. Kyburn Dellar is appearing this week at the Empress in his original character in *The Moneylender*, a French episode of the period of the Terror. The actor has played the part some 300 times, and his powerful portrayal does much for the success of the production.

An agreeable little reception was held at the Covent Garden Hotel on Thursday afternoon, when Mr. J. L. Shine sang a new song, which has been written by his son, Mr. Fred Shine, with music by Dr. F. Osmond Carr. The title of the song is "Good Ould Irish," and the opening verse is as follows:

"I have sacked my secret-ary for he would sing
'Highland Mary,'
And that blessed song is driving me insane;
So attention, please, O brother, and I'll sing to you another
Which hasn't got a Whiskey-esque refrain.
It is not an 'Ode to Bacchus'; but whene'er the 'blues' attack us,
As a tonic it is never known to fail;
It is simple in construction—needs no special introduction,
And it is called 'The Simple Life on Ginger Ale!'

Chorus:

So, hail! hail! Ross's *Belfast* Ginger Ale!
You can drink it by the tumbler or the bottle or the pail;
Oh, for glorious elation and superb exhilaration
Just give me half a pint of Ross's Ginger Ale!"

Mr. W. E. Imeson is responsible for the following lines as a tribute to Mr. Harry Liston:—

A Birthday Card.
(Sept. 3, 1908.)

Time's played old Harry with old-time "stars,"
But he spares one Harry still,
Whose health on this, his natal day,
We drink with right good will.
Since "London's Lions" in chorus roared
For "Nobody's Child" so bland
There's been no better "Man at the wheel"
Than "The Captain in the Tin-Pot Band."

Mr. Geo. Robey has been amusing us intensely as "Shakespeare," but he should find an excellent vehicle for his comedy in his latest impersonation of a "lion tamer," with which song he will return to town in a fortnight.

Miss Adele Levey and Frank Lilliput gave a trial performance of their sketch at the Palace, Camberwell, on Friday, the 28th ult. The title of the sketch is *Find the Lady First; or, the Long and the Short of It*. So successful was the first performance that they have been secured for a week at the Palace, Camberwell, commencing Sept. 7.

Miss Harriet Vernon, whose success at the Empire, Camberwell, has been pronounced with *Sunshine and Shadow*, will produce on Monday, at Broadhead's Hippodrome, Manchester, a novel scena, by Mr. Will Letters and Mr. Syd Silvester, entitled *A Yuletide Story*. Mr. Leslie Race, who produced *Sunshine and Shadow*, has the new production in hand.

Mr. Frank Glenister, manager of the London Pavilion, who has been holiday-making on the South Coast, returned on Monday; Mr. Joseph Wilson looks fit and well after his holiday in Dorsetshire; Mr. Charles Blyth Pratt has happy reminiscences of his stay in the north of France; and Mr. Fred Trussell's quiet holiday in an old-world village in Surrey has been an excellent preparation for the autumn campaign at the Hippodrome.

The much-talked-of Directoire dress worn by Miss Marie Lloyd and the queen of comedy's picture gowns were made exclusively by Mme. Hina, of 30, Alexandra-road, St. John's Wood, near Swiss Cottage. The same lady has also designed and turned out some chic and handsome costumes worn by other members of the Lloyd family. Another star who appreciates the taste and style of Mme. Hina is Miss Marie Loftus.

The numerous friends of Mr. John Neat, the well-known composer, will be sorry to learn he is confined to his bed through a nasty bicycle spill, caused through colliding with his pace-maker at the Crystal Palace. He has been greatly cheered by the receipt of the news of the great hit made by Miss Grace Rosaire at the Irish Village concerts at the Franco-British Exhibition with his song "Paddy's love-letter," the graceful lyric of which is in Arthur du Soir's best style, and which Messrs. Ascherberg have issued. This fine artist is exploiting a number from the same pens entitled "The little piggy's tail."

Mr. T. E. Polden, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts of the Palace Theatre on Thursday, said that the net profit of £40,000 was a record one for the company. The receipts had increased by £26,000, and the gross profit was over £43,000. A dividend of 20 per cent. and a carrying forward to the next account of £32,376 are solid reasons for congratulating the shareholders. Mr. Eugene Cremetti, who seconded the resolution, was re-elected a director, and Sir H. Goldsworthy moved a vote of thanks to the directors, referring in his speech to the success of Miss Maud Allan, whom he had not seen.

Miss Cissie Loftus is to appear at the London Coliseum on Oct. 12. Her last appearance in London was at the house opposite—the Duke of York's—as Peter Pan.

Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie will present a new scena entitled *Cleopatra* at the Empire, Belfast, on Monday, Sept. 14. Elaborate preparations in the way of scenery and dresses have been made. The words of the songs are by Mr. Charles Wilmott and the music by Mr. Harry Wellman. This is another Witmark publication.

A newcomer to London was found at the Empress, Brixton, this week in Mr. "Biff" Hall, who calls himself "the melancholy Jew." The hard-luck stories of Mr. Hall are certainly entertaining and amusing, and the hearty laughter of the Brixtonians leads us to believe that before long Mr. Hall's name will be in evidence on West End programmes.

Eadie and Ramsden, whose recent success at the Palace a few weeks ago was so much talked about, are repeating their triumph at Liverpool. Their eccentric coon song "You've worn your welcome out" meets with enthusiastic approval.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lucas have worked a most successful four weeks in London, and by the courtesy of the different managers who have arranged their times they have been enabled to live at their bungalow at Laleham-on-Thames.

An American turn new to London is to be found this week at the Holborn Empire in Bradley and Barnes, who make an enormous success with their beautifully harmonised singing. The musical gem of their performance is a pretty ballad entitled "There's nothing new to say."

Miss Marie Empress, who is always exquisitely gowned, is increasing her reputation on the Stoll tour, and nightly adding to her legion of admirers by her singing of "Where are all the girls?" and "Take me down to hear the band play." Miss Empress will continue touring until December, when she will play principal boy in pantomime for Mr. Robert Arthur, who has secured her for five years.

At the Canterbury on Friday evening, Aug. 28, Mr. Geo. Leyton's great veterans' night took place. The following letter from Lord Roberts was received:—"Englemere, Ascot, Berks, Aug. 27, 1908. Dear Sir,—Many thanks for your letter of the 26th inst. with cheque for £21 in aid of the Veterans' Relief Fund. You have indeed done well for the Crimean and Indian Mutiny Veterans, assisting them as you have to the extent of £3,121 14s. A receipt for £21 will be sent to you by Lloyds' Bank.—Believe me, yours very truly, Roberts, F.M."

As already announced in these columns, Mr. Oswald Stoll on Monday will present a novel and original series of "operatic studies" at the Coliseum. The idea is to present, as rapidly as the poses can be changed, a number of statue pictures from famous operas, illustrating the chief incidents in the story. They will be accompanied by appropriate selections of music played by the orchestra. A strong company of artists has been engaged, and the pictures for the first week will be taken from *Lohengrin* and *Tannhäuser*. These two favourite and romantic lyric works by Wagner offer a rich choice of subjects.

At a time when the enterprise of music hall managers is inducing many of the leading dramatic artists to exploit their talents in the variety world, it is not surprising to find that the "legitimate" producers are turning their attention to this large and varied scope for their abilities. Amongst the latest recruits is Mr. Frederick Stanhope, well known in theatredom as a manager and successful producer of pantomimes, and who was also associated with Mr. Louis Calvert in the successful production of *Amasis* at the New Theatre.

Mr. Stanhope has arranged to present at the Euston on Monday and during the week an entirely new and original romantic costume play entitled *A Fighting Chance*, by Barry Williams. This gentleman's work in costume drama is well and favourably known. A special effort has been made to secure a good representation, and the inclusion of such well-known artists as Mr. Leonard Robson, Mr. Lionel d'Aragon, and Miss Rosemary Rees in the cast augurs well for its successful production.

Mr. George Gregory, principal comedian of Mr. George Edwardes's company, has purchased from H. M. Vernon, author of *The Tea Shop*, *The Three Thieves*, *The Ten o'Clock Squad*, &c., the entire rights of the original tabloid musical comedy, *Little Johnny Jones*. In producing the above Mr. Gregory will be assisted by a company of fifteen.

Mr. Harry Lauder will appear at the Tivoli on Monday for a period of four weeks, prior to his journey to America. His engagement at the Tivoli will be celebrated by his introduction of a new song, entitled "He was very, very kind to me."

The Musical Palmers conclude to-night five weeks' successful engagement with Mr. Walter Jeffs at the Curzon Hall, Birmingham, where they have made many friends. They have presented to the Birmingham audiences a living chronomegaphone, having played "The Lost Chord," "The White Squall," and, this week, "The Village Blacksmith," with illustrated and animated effects, the organ in the last-named song being well played by Miss Minnie Palmer.

Miss Winifred Hare writes:—"I am exceedingly obliged to you for inserting the notice in your last issue stating that I am prepared to pay £100 for a good song. I had no idea when I made the offer through your columns of its far-reaching effects. During the present week every post has brought me MSS., and nearly always accompanied by a letter to the effect that a cheque for £100 by return would be welcomed. Now my table here is piled up with songs, and the outlook is far from bright—for me. I have waded through thirty-seven of the compositions up to the time of writing, and 110 more yet await a trial. I should like to return the first thirty-seven with thanks and regrets, and will, of course, do so at my own expense.

"Of course, I don't mind paying the postage, but it is a labour of love to also have to address the return envelopes. And may I ask you, as you have been so good to me in the matter, to intimate to all whom it may concern, as well as the foregoing, that the song I require must be suitable for me as principal boy in pantomime this coming Christmas. Ballads, patriotic songs, coon melodies, coster refrains, and dialect lyrics are absolutely taboo. Yet all such have reached me, even a song of the 'Champagne Charlie' order, and one which, judging from the state of the MS., has travelled at least three times round the world.

"One word more, please, and I am finished. Please say that stamped addressed envelopes for return of unsuitable MSS. will be esteemed; that my decision as to the song I require must be regarded as final, and no correspondence will be entered into on the subject; and that a cheque for £100 will be posted to the successful author and composer on Dec. 26 next, which will be the first day on which I shall sing the song I shall have searched for so long."

Mr. Harry Lauder has bought the Highland estate of Airds, Appin, Argyllshire, formerly the property of Colonel William Macfie. Airds is a fine old country house, with 4,000 acres of well-wooded grounds. In taking over Airds, Lauder becomes a laird. He commenced life as a pit-boy, and as late as 1892 was still a collier earning 15s. a week.

Miss Topsy Johnson, a contralto singer, who is now engaged at Mr. David Thomson's Beach Pavilion, Aberdeen, achieved the remarkable feat last Monday of swimming from Dee to Don, a distance of two miles, in fifty minutes. This was only seven minutes more than that taken by Mr. James Mearns, the Channel aspirant, the last time he took the swim. What makes Miss Johnson's achievement the more noteworthy, is that the water was very rough and cold on Monday. She is only nineteen years of age, and belongs to Manchester.

Mr. Ormiston Smith, the well-known English climber, who has for years been associated with the Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd., with four Grindelwald guides, according to a telegram from Geneva of Aug. 28, ascended the Jungfrau in order to secure a further Urban series of pictures. On approaching the summit he was astonished to find four young German Alpinists, including two women, in holes dug in the ice. They were greatly exhausted and frozen, their hands and feet being like blocks of ice. The Germans explained that, having lost their way in a fog, they had been stranded, without food, for forty-eight hours.

Though a young man, Mr. Ormiston Smith is an expert and an authority by virtue of his experiences in securing previous popular Urban pictures on the Wetterhorn, Jungfrau, the Matterhorn, the Dolomites, and other heights, and knew exactly what to do under the circumstances. After giving the victims the contents of his haversack, he and his guides rubbed them to restore circulation, and assisted the party to the Concordia hut, where they received attention. Two days later they were able to descend to Grindelwald, when a doctor stated that a few hours more of exposure would have proved fatal to all. They are still under treatment.

Mr. Leon A. Bassett, late musical-director of Camberwell Palace, and now of the Oxford, was presented on Friday, Aug. 28, by Mr. P. A. Lennon, manager of the house on Camberwell Green, with a handsome illuminated address, also a cheque on behalf of the directors, the staff, members of the orchestra, and numerous artists and friends, as a token of esteem and good wishes.

The members of the Coliseum orchestra had their first annual outing on Sunday, when they went down to Brighton. Mr. Louis La Rondelle, the conductor, took the chair at the dinner, held at the Marlborough Hotel, and a most enjoyable time was spent.

Mr. Ashley Richards, late of the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, has been appointed musical director of the Islington Hippodrome. Mr. Richards was one of the violins at the Canterbury nineteen years ago, playing side by side with Mr. Leon Bassett and Mr. Victor Opperman under Edmond Bosanquet. It is interesting to note that they are all now musical directors in London.

At the Empire, New Cross, Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney are to appear next week in a sketch, entitled *The Dog Between*.

Mr. James Glover writes:—"The much-debated cause of Sunday music for the people is to have an important development in the near future. In the main the scheme is benevolent, and it has three objects—(*a*) a large Musicians' Benevolent Fund; (*b*) the greater employment of professional civilian musicians as against the suggested unfair competition of the Service bands; and (*c*), incidentally, the encouragement of a 'conductors' school, providing opportunities for the younger generation of rising 'chefs d'orchestres.'

"The successful issue of this idea is in the hands of Mr. Oswald Stoll and the Amalgamated Musicians' Union. Mr. Stoll and this society have arranged that from Sept. 27 Sunday evening concerts shall be given in the beautiful Charing Cross house by an orchestra of not less than 100 musicians, and each alternate concert shall be by brass and stringed bands. The opening concert on Sunday, Sept. 27, will be devoted entirely to the brass and reed band combination, and that on the following Sunday to a stringed orchestra. The whole profits are to be handed over for the benefit of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union Benevolent Fund."

The Bandurria Quartette, in their artistic banjo and mandoline selections, are adding to their high musical reputation at the Palace, Reading, this week.

Mr. Harry Bedford is exploiting a new skit on the Salome dance at the Holborn Empire and South London next week, and is touching an up-to-date subject in his "Old-Age Pension" number, which is published by Francis, Day, and Hunter. Mr. Bedford, when fulfilling a re-engagement, follows an excellent plan by always bringing a new number with him. His newest song "The sheep's head and a tin-tack" has made a hit in the provinces. Its original title suggests fun, and so clever a burlesque artist as Mr. Bedford may be trusted to extract from it every ounce of humour.

Mr. Alf J. Lawrance (of Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, the popular songwriters) returns to town on Sept. 14 after a successful alfresco season at Prestwick, Ayrshire, with his own company, so much so in fact that the Town Council unanimously agreed to grant him a three years' lease of the beach for alfresco entertaining. Four of the most popular songs there this season have been "Mandy's wedding," "Another girl like Mary," "On the cliffs of Normandy," and "Oh, Antonio," the three first-named being from Mr. Lawrance's prolific pen, in conjunction with his partners, and the last-named by Messrs. Murphy and Lipton.

We are pleased, indeed, to put on record the emphatic and instantaneous success achieved by Mr. Chas. Fisher's Pocket Opera Company at the Oxford, which bears out the truth of our statement that there was a demand and an audience in our variety theatres for high-class music. Six years ago at the South London Mr. Fisher's excellent work in opera was listened to and applauded, and that there is a great scope for condensed opera on the variety stage has been proved up to the hilt by the enthusiasm of packed houses at the Oxford.

Four animals have been born in the Bostock Jungle at the Earl's Court Exhibition during the past month. The interesting youngsters are an alligator baby, a lion cub, a sea-lion calf, and a sloth pup, and in honour of their arrival Mr. Frank C. Bostock decided upon a public "christening." This took place in the Jungle on Thursday afternoon. Miss Winifred Hare "christened" the alligator Mabel, champagne being sprinkled over the youngster's head. Miss Millie Hylton called the lion Tit-bits, Miss Madge Temple named the sea-lion Flip-flap, and Esau suggests that the sloth christened by Miss Annie Braddan will become a wanderer.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

So many songs! So few real successes! This is the everlasting lament of artists in search of new material. But song singers who have the power of discrimination never go unsatisfied away when sampling the small but select catalogue issued by the Star Music Co. of 9, Charing Cross-road. This new and rapidly-rising firm has, from the start, adopted the principle of rigidly refusing to issue anything but the very best. The result has been to secure a reputation such as many firms labour years to obtain.

APROPOS of the above, it may not be out of place to mention just a few of the Star Music Co.'s songs at present being featured with more than usual success by various artists. Charles Whittle is a name to conjure with; a keen judge of a song, he saw the possibilities and secured the prior rights of the coming pantomime song-craze, "I don't care if there's a girl there." This number has already been secured by every important pantomime town in the three kingdoms. Other numbers which are destined to become public property are A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott's irresistibly catchy waltz-chorus song, "Oh, George! tell them to stop the flip flap," the raging seaside success, "Carolina Brown of Chinatown," "Have you got another girl like Mary?" "Won't you waltz the Merry Widow waltz with me?" "Ayesha, my sweet Egyptian," and many others.

THOSE artists, and they are many, who added to their popularity by featuring the Star Music Co.'s enormously successful motto song, "We all came in the world with nothing," will be glad to know the same firm has a worthy successor "out of the same stable" entitled "Don't put your umbrella up before it starts to rain." This number is being specially featured by Miss Marie Blythe, who pronounces it the best "instantaneous hit" she ever had. A very limited number of permits will be granted for the halls, but the song will be free for pantomime.

MISS MARIE SANTOI has been making things hum all round the Stoll tour with Cecil Johnson and Maurice Scott's Oriental chorus number, entitled "Ayesha, my sweet Egyptian." Pantomime artists should secure this number at once. It is published by the Star Music Co.

MISS FANNY ROBINA has arranged with M. Witmark and Sons for the singing rights of a pretty number entitled "Just because you were an old sweetheart of mine."

MISS MEREDITH MEREDRO, who was a conspicuous figure in the last Drury Lane pantomime, is charming the patrons of the Empire, Holborn, with her rendition of "Faded rose" and "Star of my life," both popular Witmark publications.

FEW composers who score with a universal song success are fortunate in following it with compositions equally successful. Ernest R. Ball, the writer of the omnipresent "Love me and the world is mine," is a happy exception to the general rule. At the present time several of his compositions are being sung with great success by talented artists. Miss Truly Shattuck, who is to be a feature in the coming Drury Lane pantomime, is singing "As long as the world rolls on." Miss Edith Courtney is making a hit at the Coliseum with "Some day you'll come back to me," and Mr. Dave Carter, the original singer of "Love me and the world is mine," is again scoring with "I'd live or I would die for you."

MISS LIL HAWTHORNE has found in the American song success, "Just some one," the chorus song of the year. This number was originally sung in an American musical comedy, and in consequence of its simplicity and homely sentiment immediately caught the "man in the street," who is ever ready to enjoy a dash of sentiment combined with an infectious melody. As Miss Hawthorne is identified with some of the greatest "chorus" successes, it is a point in the song's favour that it should have been selected by her.

M. WITMARK AND SONS, the popular American publishers, have been specially fortunate during the summer in having their publications exploited by all the leading seaside entertainers. Mr. Charles Warren informs us that the present summer season, when everything from a commercial point of view is very dull, has been the greatest in the history of the London branch of the firm. He attributes this largely to the fact that he has maintained the price of music and has not descended to cheap editions. The outlook for the coming season is most promising, and already the principal pantomime managers are calling at the Witmark Building for the plums for the coming Christmas feast.

THE BENSONS, after repeated endeavours to secure a suitable ballad, have at last obtained from Geo. A. Stevens a number entitled "Danny Away."

MISS ROSE HAMILTON is producing next week a new song of Geo. A. Stevens entitled "Do you think I've just coom oop by the down-train, eh?"

MISS LOTTIE LENNOX purchased a "Peace" song on Monday from Geo. A. Stevens and Gilbert Wells, and produced it on Wednesday at the Camberwell Palace.

MR. GEORGE A. STEVENS (in the name of Colin Kaye) is producing a new act at the Middlesex next week entitled *Old Songs and Old Singers*, reviving some of the old successes of Charles Godfrey, Herbert Campbell, the Great Macdermott, &c.

MISS GRACIE GRAHAME has purchased the sole rights of "Come for a sail in my airship," the big chorus number written and composed by Sydney Howard. Miss Grahame's song "Studying the stars," written and composed by Gilbert Wells, is destined to be a really big number. It is a most original song, with a fine melody.

THE Sisters Terry have just secured for immediate production a great chorus number, entitled "In Bonnie Dundee," from the joint pen of Andrew N. Allen and Harry Marlow. The same writers have recently placed with B. Feldman and Co. a novelty in songs, illustrative of Canadian life, entitled "Lumbering," which both publishers and writers are hoping to be a big pantomime number, blessed, at it is, with a pretty and catchy chorus.

MISS LIL HAWTHORNE has just purchased a new song composed by Maurice Scott, entitled "Boys and Girls, Girls and Boys," which she intends to produce almost immediately.

MISS DAISY WOOD, whose welcome reappearance on the variety stage has given delight to many thousands, will be leaving England on Wednesday next per s.s. Etruria for a short American season. Miss Wood is an artist to her finger tips, and should take the hearts of New York citizens by storm, or they must indeed be hard to please. During the past two weeks this dainty actress has been the bright particular star at the Oxford, Tivoli, South London, and Chelsea and Hammersmith Palaces. To hear and see her in the song "Oh, George, tell them to stop the flip-flap!" is to realise what a real artist can do with "just a chorus song." She will feature no less than five of the Star Company's songs on "the other side," and will return to England in time to play an important rôle in Mr. Chute's Bristol pantomime.

ALICE LLOYD'S IMPRESSIONS OF AMERICA.

Speaking further of her highly-successful American tour, Miss Alice Lloyd has some interesting remarks to make. "I had a good omen to start with," she says, "for, travelling by the same boat, the Oceanic, from Liverpool, was Mr. Bryce, the British Ambassador at Washington, who was returning to the States. A large number of people had come down to the quay to see him off, while at the other end of the boat was a little crowd of my friends, who had come to wish me bon voyage. Of course, you know what they are—our people—up to all sorts of fun. They were hurrahing and singing the choruses of my songs, and after a few minutes nearly all of Mr. Bryce's friends had wandered down to our corner—a flagrant desertion of the State for the stage, eh?"

One of the hundreds of notes Miss Lloyd got in New York was from a little boy who said he was only twelve years of age as yet, but he was getting old very rapidly, and if Miss Lloyd would wait until he grew up he would be pleased to marry her. Unfortunately for the aspirant to marital honours, Miss Lloyd is already married, and her husband, Mr. Tom Macnaughton, accompanied her as manager.

Until this recent visit Miss Lloyd had never been to the States before. "When it became known that I had an engagement there," she says, "some of the 'pros.' said to me: 'America's all right for money, but, oh Lud! the food!' They told me that it was simply impossible to get anything good to eat over there, that Americans didn't know what good food was, that the cooking was atrocious, and that I would come home emaciated and dyspeptic. I was so terrified by their stories that when we got to our hotel in New York and ordered luncheon I was prepared for something just a trifle worse than army rations on the field of battle. Well, our order came, and the results of it looked very tempting. With great suspicion I tasted the first dish. 'Why!' I exclaimed, 'that's as good as anything I ever ate in England.' Then I tried the next dish, and the next, ejaculating with surprise each time as I discovered everything to be not only eatable, but extremely palatable. When will we get the bad food?' I asked my husband. 'I don't know,' he replied, 'but I suppose we will come to it after a while!' Well, we didn't come to it, after all. The Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, where we stayed in New York, is much more comfortable than many in this country. Here our finest hotels, with perhaps two exceptions, never have separate rooms with baths. Oh, yes, I have been most agreeably surprised with America. Of course, I love my dear old England, and our

[*Photo by White.*

MISS ALICE LLOYD.

little home in Hampstead best, but I don't think I could ever get tired of the States, and I want to see more of them."

Miss Lloyd has a high opinion of American wit and discernment. "They have the most wonderful audiences there," she continued. "In London we must make our points broad—the broader the better—but in America our hearers seem to know what we're going to say before we say it. The defter and more delicate a point is, and the harder to catch, the more sure the Americans are to catch it, and the better they like it. In fact, they like to depend upon themselves for at least half of the humour in a song, and it must be put to them in such a way that they can pick it out for themselves instead of having it 'handed to them,' as they term it."

One rather strange experience Miss Lloyd entertains her friends by relating. She was engaged to sing at a private dinner party, given by a millionaire at one of the biggest hotels in New York. "'Where's the stage?' I asked when I got there. 'S'sh' warned the man who was directing affairs, 'You just stand on the mat inside this door and sing into the room.' Then the door was opened, and I stepped in. I never felt so silly in my life. I expected to find a big room full of people. There were just eight of them, taking dessert, and there I had to stand and sing five songs—and on the mat, to eight people! I felt like little Alice showing off!"

When she returned to New York after visiting other cities, a farewell gala night was given at the Roof Gardens, and four thousand people were there. Miss Lloyd again, as on her previous appearance, had to sing seven songs—a record for the place. No lady artist, it appears, had ever been asked for so many songs before at the Roof Gardens, and the greatest success of them all was "Splash me." That night Miss Lloyd's friends and admirers presented her with a silver tea service valued at £160. During her stay in New York a competition was started as to who was the most popular artist of the day, and 14,000 votes proclaimed Miss Lloyd the winner.

THE BANZAI FAMILY AT WEST BROMWICH.

Never before at the Hippodrome has such a clever troupe of jugglers and equilibrists as the Banzai Family been seen. During their performance the stage is beautifully set in Japanese scenery, presenting Japan's famous temple of Nikko, which is a most gorgeous spectacle. The youngest member of the family performs in a most daring manner on the four ladders, balanced by lady member, while his other feats are no less clever. At the conclusion of their performance they were recalled again and again.—West Bromwich Free Press, Aug. 28, 1908.

THE Gipsies and their Jester at the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, last week broke all their previous records at this pavilion, and on many nights the house was packed from floor to ceiling ten minutes before the commencement of the performance, hundreds being turned away.

PRESENTATION TO MRS. EGERTON.

Mrs. Egerton, of the Egerton Hotel, Lime-street, Liverpool, who is known to the whole of the variety profession, was deservedly honoured last week, when, at a crowded meeting held in the offices of the M.H.A.R.A., Houghton-street, she was presented with a charmingly illuminated address, neatly mounted and embellished with a mahogany frame. For a number of years Mrs. Egerton has at Liverpool ungrudgingly represented the Association, and there are many working artists who will recall with pleasure the innumerable kindnesses they have received at her hands during a long period. Recently the

MRS. EGERTON, OF LIVERPOOL.

M.H.A.R.A. decided to open an office, under the direction of a manager, and, accordingly, the services of Mrs. Egerton were no longer required. Mr. Fred Herbert presided at the presentation, and among the crowded assembly were Marie Kendall, Amy Russell, Kitty Wager, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Kenyon, Barton and Ashley, Harry Blake (who came specially from Manchester), Mrs. Dunedin and family (the Dunedin Troupe), &c., &c. Harry Lauder sent an expression of regret that owing to engagements he was unable to be present. In the course of the proceedings a number of complimentary speeches were made, all expressing in the warmest terms the esteem in which Mrs. Egerton was held, the chairman explaining that owing to the tremendous growth of the M.H.A.R.A. they had to obtain larger offices. Still he hoped that the profession would never forget their dear old friend, who had voluntarily worked for them during many years.

The address was as follows: "To. Mrs. M. Egerton.—Dear Madam,—We, the undernamed officers and committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, desire on our own behalf, as on that of the variety world, to ask your acceptance of this address as being expressive of the sincere feelings of respect and esteem we, and the profession generally, entertain for you. During the many years in which you have officiated as the agent of our Association in Liverpool, namely, from its formation in 1897, you have, by the careful and unremitting attention you devoted to your duties, and by your habitual courtesy and genial disposition, greatly endeared yourself to us, and we think that we cannot allow the pleasant relations so long subsisting between us to be severed without wording our high appreciation of your many social and business-like qualifications, and tendering you our warmest thanks for your past valuable services. With our best wishes for your future health, happiness, and prosperity, we remain, dear madam, yours very faithfully, W. H. Clemart (President), Albert Le Fre and Fred W. Millis (Vice-Presidents), J. W. Cragg, Joe Elvin, and Paul Martinetti (Honorary Trustees), Arthur Rigby (Honorary Treasurer), C. Douglas Stuart (Secretary), and the whole of the committee. London, August, 1908."

A letter, addressed to the chairman, was also read from the V.A.F., in which the general secretary (Mr. Monte Bayly), said: "Please convey to Mrs. Egerton the united thanks of the members of the Variety Artists' Federation in general, and the executive committee in particular, for her greatly appreciated work on behalf of the Variety Artists' Federation since its formation. We were perfectly content to remain as her guests every Friday and hold our meetings at her establishment, but, like every other organisation, we have grown and grown, and our business now is so large that it is an absolute necessity that we have to establish local offices in the big centres; but you can assure her that our parting, as regards the conducting of our business, was one of necessity only, and we can assure her that the fellowship and esteem of our members towards her will be none the less on this account. As long as Liverpool exists as a vaudeville centre, so long also will Mrs. Egerton's name be associated with the town, and also with kind memories of herself. I shall be glad if you will kindly read this letter to Mrs. Egerton at the meeting, and assure her that the sentiments contained are a faint echo of all the thoughts of the members throughout the country, and, in fact, throughout the amusement providing world."

The address was afterwards placed in a prominent position in the Egerton Hotel by Mr. Neill Kenyon and Miss Marie Kendall.

ADAIR'S 1,305-MILE WALK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I shall be pleased if you will give this appeal a space in your valuable columns. Thousands are aware that Peter Adair, over a month ago, announced in the Press his intention to try to make a record walk from Land's End to John-o'-Groats, nearly a thousand miles, and beating his own record of 27½ days for the same journey in 1904. Rather a plucky undertaking four years later in life. However, Peter is determined on the task. Considering the journey will cost him over £25 (as he pays a cyclist to accompany him) in expenses, I think a little purse might be got to defray some of the cost amongst the members of the variety and circus professions.

Peter is absolutely the oldest working artist in the variety world, having seen sixty-six summers. Signor Dorando, the Italian, recently received over £500 and a Gold Cup from our good Queen Alexandra for running twenty-six miles in the Marathon Race. Peter Adair, on quite as hot a day as the Marathon Race day, for the benefit of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund Sports, walked 105 laps round the Herne-hill race track, equalling over twenty-six miles, in five successive hours, finishing as fresh as a daisy.

Anyone desirous of subscribing a little towards Peter's expenses please address donations to—

FREDERICK GINNETT.

141, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

N.B.—Adair leaves London for Land's End on Wednesday next, Sept. 9.

MR. FRED MILLER'S TESTIMONIAL.

The excellent qualities of Mr. Fred Miller, as a man, as a sportsman, and as a manager, are generally recognised by all branches of the profession, and no artist or proprietor who has ever come into contact with him has failed to recognise his sterling honesty of purpose, or to be impressed by his unobtrusive courtesy and consideration to everyone working with him. For fifteen years Mr. Miller has been associated with the halls, and though the sphere of his activity for most of that time has been restricted to the South and East of London, his connection with the Syndicate has brought him much popularity up West. Several of his friends, taking into consideration his long and honourable career, feel that the present time is very opportune for presenting him with a testimonial, which it is intended shall take the shape of a purse of gold. Mr. W. H. Armstrong, the well-known professional solicitor, of 1, Renfrew-road, Lambeth, is interesting himself in the project, and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, manager of *The Era*, who has consented to become the hon. treasurer of the fund, will be pleased to receive subscriptions. A strong and influential committee is being formed.

It was at Lechlade, Gloucestershire, that Mr. Fred Miller first saw the light. His father, an influential grazing farmer, was an enthusiastic rider to hounds, and from the age of twelve young Fred followed his father in the field, and in many an eventful run was in the first flight. At the age of seventeen he accepted an offer from an uncle in the cattle trade, and settled down with him at Wormholt Farm, Shepherd's Bush, where he gained considerable experience and became a good business man. The death of his uncle brought about a change in his fortunes, and he accepted a situation as travelling secretary with Captain Macdonald. Again his employer died, and he had to try fresh fields and pastures new. Through the instrumentality of the late Mr. Harry Lundy, distantly related to him through marriage, Mr. Miller was introduced to Mr. George Adney Payne, who gave him the position of secretary to Mr. Arthur Tressidder, then manager of the Paragon. On Mr. Tressidder's departure on a voyage in search of health Mr. Miller was transferred to Mr. Will Lennon, the successor of Mr. Tressidder at the Paragon. At his death Mr. G. A. Payne chose Mr. Miller for the managership of the house in the Mile End-road, and on the resignation of Mr. Fred Holden of his position at the Canterbury Mr. Miller was installed as manager of both the Canterbury and the Paragon.

The jubilee of the Canterbury in November, 1902, when Charles Morton paid his last visit to a house that was indelibly associated with his

MR. FRED MILLER.

career, owed its interest and its success to the organising powers of Mr. Miller, who placed before the patrons of the historic house a novel realisation of the present and past in music-hall entertainment. The portraits of favourites of the 'sixties, the 'seventies, and the 'eighties were thrown upon a screen, and many of the famous old songs were sung by new favourites. It was a great night. Though Mr. Miller has severed his connection with the Canterbury, it is to be hoped that he will be placed in a position commensurate with his abilities and experience at another hall. His many friends anticipate that it will be in London.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Harry Lauder	1	1	0
Foreman and Fannan	1	1	0
Frost Smith	1	1	0
Little Tich	1	1	0
Henri Gros	1	1	0
George Mozart	1	1	0
Mark Melford	1	1	0

"THE BRIGANDS OF TARRAGONA."

Farcical Playlet, produced by Herbert Darnley's Comedy Company at the Hackney Empire, on Monday, Aug. 31.

Pepo	MR. CHAS. H. BELL
Nipo	MR. H. SNOWDON
Banano	MR. LOWRY LESLIE
Caraneta	MISS ANNETTE SELLENS
Colonel Montano	MR. WALLACE BOSCO
Clarissa	MISS CLARA BELL

This new production made its first appearance on the London stage on Monday at the above house, where it is at the bottom of the bill. The plot is very slight, and centres round the attempt of the brigands to abduct the daughter of Colonel Montano, in which they fail, the two leaders of the band being captured and consenting to lead the military to their stronghold, in the hope of being able to lead them into an ambuscade and so secure their freedom. The final result of this scheme is never very apparent, and as the progress of the playlet proceeds on purely farcical lines it is not a matter of much importance. The sketch abounds in knockabout business, very smartly done by Messrs. C. H. Bell, H. Snowdon, and another gentleman. Mr. Lowry Leslie looks picturesque and acts well as the brigand; Mr. Wallace Bosco is commendable as the Colonel; Miss Annette Sellens looks well as Caraneta, and sings a couple of songs in attractive style. The Tarragona troupe of dancing girls acquit themselves satisfactorily. Four scenes are utilised in the production, of which the last may be singled out for special mention. The music is appropriate, and the whole show was greeted very cordially by the audience on Monday.

MISS FLORRIE GALLIMORE has made a hit at the Palace, Halifax, with a new song by Murphy and Lipton, entitled "My girl's a Yorkshire girl." Messrs. Francis and Day have acquired the number for publication.

MISS MARIE LLOYD'S latest creation, "I can't make my eyes be good," is from the pens of Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell. The number bids fair to outrival the popularity of the "Directoire Girl" song.

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

THE monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at four o'clock on Wednesday next at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the V.A.F. will be held to-morrow (Sunday) at 6.30 p.m. at the Bedford Head Hotel, Mr. Joe O'Gorman in the chair. On Monday Messrs. O'Gorman and Monte Bayly go to Nottingham to represent the V.A.F. at the Trade Union Congress.

THE V.A.F. Agency Sub-Committee met a body of representative agents, including Messrs. Somers and Warner, Napoli, Wieland, S. Hyman, Tom Shaw, Geo. Foster, H. Millburn, S. L. Bury, Anger and Baner, Papa Brown, Ernest Edelsten, Fortune and Granville, Fred Peel, Harry Cadle, Dave Cohen, and Fred Reeves, at the V.A.F. offices last week. The V.A.F. representatives were Messrs. J. O'Gorman, W. H. Clemart, Geo. D'Albert, Monte Bayly, and C. C. Bartram. A form of office copy was drafted, and unanimously agreed to; and it will be submitted for confirmation to the meeting on Sunday night.

AT the 574th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, held at the offices on Wednesday, Mr. Harry Wright in the chair, was supported by Messrs. Alfred Albini, J. Alexander, Ben Obo, Arthur Rigby (hon. treasurer), J. Rich, Fred W. Millis, Walter Munroe, J. Tray, Jack Crawley, A. Borelli, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). New agents were appointed as follows: Mr. Johnson, the Alhambra, Sandgate; Mr. W. C. Ritchie, Commercial Bar, Kirkcaldy; E. J. Udall, the Heol-y-Mwyn Hotel, Ebbw Vale.

MISS MELINDA MAY, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., wishes to thank the following for their great kindness:—Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Irving, for gift of £3 3s.; Mrs. Frank Cumminger, for kindly collecting 14s. 6d.; Mrs. Joe Elvin, for gift of 10s.; The Three Rubys, 4s.; Mrs. Ellen Hewett, Reading, donation 5s.; Miss Alice Conway, donation 2s.; Mrs. Rex Honnest (Redditch), for parcel of clothing; Mrs. Campbell, for clothing.

THE ladies of the above Guild are having a dinner to-morrow (Sunday) at seven o'clock at the Boulogne Restaurant, Gerrard-street. An excellent repast is promised in a private room for this occasion. Tickets, 5s. each, can be obtained from Miss Melinda May, 61, New Oxford-street. All sympathisers with the work of the Guild are earnestly requested to attend and bring as many friends as possible. Gentlemen are especially invited. All are welcome to the receptions, which are held every Wednesday, 3 to 5 p.m.

THE meeting of the members of the Association of International Variety Theatre Managers took place last week at the Central Hotel in Berlin. The meeting, representative of sixty-two managements, sent the following resolution to the Press: "In consideration of the insulting attitude adopted by the International Artists' Lodge, the I.V.V.D. (the Managers' Association) will have no further dealings with the present Executive officers of the I.A.L." The I.A.L. have replied that repeatedly and with documentary proof they have shown that all their published statements with respect to the Managers' Association are true, and they submit that none of them have been insulting.

"THE BLACK DEVIL."

Sicilian Episode, translated from the Italian, produced for the first time at the Hammersmith Palace on Monday, Aug. 31.

Toto	MR. LAUDERDALE MAITLAND
Don Luigi	MR HERBERT DANSEY
Police Officer	MR. A. THOMPSON
Teresa	MISS JANET ALEXANDER

Inspired probably by the sensational success obtained by the visit of Signor Grasso and his company to London in the early part of the year, Mr. Lauderdale Maitland, the well-known actor, has essayed to furnish the music halls with a sketch on similar lines, translated from the Italian. The resemblance is preserved in so far as the piece is peopled with Sicilian characters, the story deals with love and revenge, and the plot is of the most primitive description; but it cannot be said that the playlet possesses those electrifying qualities to which the native actors treated us at the Shaftesbury. The "Black Devil" is by no means so dark as he is painted. The sobriquet has been bestowed upon a Sicilian peasant named Toto by the police, who regard him as a menace to the peace, because he preaches reformation of the law. He has given hospitality to a young girl named Teresa, who had been betrayed and cast off by a heartless scamp, known as Don Luigi. For some years Toto and Teresa have lived together as brother and sister, though the former is hopelessly in love with her. Don Luigi is induced to pay Teresa a farewell visit, the girl thinking that he may be moved to make reparation. The Don, however, turns a deaf ear to her entreaties to make her his wife, declaring he is about to marry a lady of rank. Rejecting his proffered money with scorn, Teresa asserts that if he will not marry her, neither shall he wed the high-born lady, and, clutching him by the arm, shrieks for help. No further inducement is needed by Toto, who rushes from an adjoining room and shoots the Don dead, while the girl, whose affection for Luigi has turned to hatred, accepts the love of her devoted Toto.

Mr. Lauderdale Maitland played with vehemence, and artistically-restrained passion as Toto, and Miss Janet Alexander, in the arduous part of Teresa, spoke and acted in her usually accomplished style, without, however, realising many of the racial characteristics of the rôle. Mr. Herbert Dansey was a burly and brutally cynical Don Luigi, and affected the mannerisms of the Sicilian actor with success. The piece was favourably received by a crowded house on the night of our visit, but would doubtless have obtained a better reception had not the gun missed fire at the crucial moment, the villain falling dead without any apparent cause.

ARTHUR GALLIMORE and company return to town after fulfilling two successful weeks at Coventry and Portsmouth.

ABEL AND WELSH, with their new act, entitled *Hello, Archibald!* have left for the Continent, and will be away until Christmas.

LITTLE GLADYS FRANCIS, who made such a successful début at the Empress last week as a mimic and dancer, has been secured by Mr. Ernest Lepard, of the Alhambra, Brighton.

THE latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. pd), 1½; Empire (10s. pd), 1; London Pavilion Ord., 3⅜; London Pavilion Pref., 4½; Metropolitan, 10s. 6d.; Moss Empire, 4½; Moss Empire 5 per cent. Pref., 3⅜; Oxford, 6 1-16; Palace, 20s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 7-16.

MR. H. S. HART has just booked with Mr. Stoll the Royal Cambodge Troupe. This troupe consists of Buddhist entertainers to King Sisowath of Cambodia. This is the first time that the Buddhist entertainers have appeared on the variety stage. Through Mr. Hart also Mr. Maurice Farkoa will open at the Holborn Empire in October.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

LONDON PAVILION.

Mr. Frank Glenister, who has just returned from a holiday—a part of which had to be devoted to the business of the popular house in Piccadilly-circus—is making generous provision for the large number of patrons that seek the portals of the Pavilion for an hour or two's *désœuvrement* during the autumnal nights that have been lately prevalent. From first to last the bill is interesting. A very bright and chatty little interlude opens the proceedings. The scene is the dressing-room of a burlesque actress, who is subject to the unwelcome attentions of a bold intruder; but as he joins her in song and dance of a very lively kind, and, furthermore, exploits a duologue that is carried on by a clever use of the titles of plays ancient and modern, his presence is exceedingly welcome. The energy and brightness of the turn are remarkable, and Fred and Lulu Camplin should be in great demand. Mr. Harry Zetter, an excellent dancer, returns to prove that he has advanced as a comedian; and there is decided humour in the patter of Mr. Joe Mac, whose Irishisms keep the house laughing, his success being emphasised by a droll dance. Mr. George Ross (of Ross and Grayson), in the absence of his partner, Miss Ella Grayson, has been permitted by the kindness of Mr. Glenister, to appear *solus*, and his success as a humorous trick pianist and dancer is unquestionable. Mr. Ross is resourceful, and his geniality and bonhomie get right over the footlights.

The Collaborators is a gay trifle that brings into play the excellent comedy of Miss Violet Fulton and Mr. Percy Clifton. The planning of the scenes of a melodrama by the lady with the satirical comments of the mere man is made exceedingly amusing, and when the lady is asked to "collaborate" in matrimony and leave stage-writing to those who understand it, the end is reached of a very bright little duologue, which is admirably played by both Miss Fulton and Mr. Clifton. Mr. Tom Costello has a most interesting scena in "Auld lang syne." As a "prospector" on New Year's Eve who sings of the friends far away, the artist has a character after his own heart, and though the voice is scarcely that of the singer of "Comrades" and "The ship I love," it has the note of pathos that gives the sympathetic touch, and makes the tuneful melody go home. Mr. Tom Dunville finds a wealth of humour in his song concerning the postman, and he is exceedingly funny in the number "Actions speak louder than words." Miss Doris Dean, a pretty girl and an attractive dancer, looks well as the statue come to life. The song she sings is really well written, and she should get more from the same mint instead of giving a dance in the ordinary dress of the ballerina, which does not suit her nearly so well as the more classical costume.

Miss Bessie Slaughter has a fine contralto voice, and if she would get rid of a slight inclination to throatiness her position as a ballad vocalist should become assured. She is very successful in her rendering of "The Lost Chord." Miss Marie Dainton is popular in her mimicry of the comic lady stars singing well-known serious numbers; Susie and Protti have a dancing act that has lost none of its energy or grace; Mr. Percy Honri's concertina playing is always worth listening to; and Mr. Edwin Boyde's quaintness in song is a precious remembrance with Pavilion frequenters. Mr. John Terry and Miss Mabel Lambert present English types as seen through American eyes, and the comedy realisations include such differing characters as a dude, a cabby, a smart American girl, and a lady of the "smart set." The series is rounded up by a melodramatic finale—a very effective interlude, and one showing considerable versatility on the part of the clever American pair. The Hiatts, in comedy and music, are very successful; and the bill has other contributors in the Three Prestons, who are effective in their absurdity *The Liftman's Rise*; and the Pavilion Girls. Mr. William Cobbett is a zealous assistant-manager here, and Mr. Bond-Sayers directs a capital orchestra.

THE PARAGON.

Mr. Chas. Marte, the new manager of the above establishment, has made several excellent improvements in this capitally conducted house, the most important being a great reduction of prices in all parts. It is still run on the one house a night system, but special half-time prices are billed, and we feel certain the directors will be satisfied to continue this arrangement, of which their patrons have taken full advantage. No refreshments are now served at the side bars in the promenade, an arrangement that makes it much better for both the artists and visitors, excellent order being maintained throughout.

Mrs. Cissie Lawson is appearing in what is termed a "surprise," *The Woman and the Apple*. It certainly bears out its description, for it is full of unexpected situations, humorous, pathetic, and mysterious. Mrs. Lawson is the "Woman," and the "Apple" is a diamond. The story relates mostly to the stealing of the latter and the arresting of the guilty party. Many clever properties are used in the production, together with smart effects, which help to make the sketch a complete success. Mrs. Lawson plays the chief character perfectly, and is ably assisted by a clever company, whose names are not given. Talbot and Pearce, in a Japanese musical duologue, *Yo San*, are quite delightful, some good singing and acting being given by both. The scene is beautifully staged, and the couple are heartily received. Mr. Chas. Norton, in a mimetic monologue, "Pros at the Races," is responsible for some wonderful impersonations of various comedians. The little skit is well arranged. Mr. Harry Tate in *Motoring* is even funnier than ever, for several new gags are added, the whole audience being convulsed with laughter. Poole and Maguire give a novel show, the gentleman being seated in the audience, and when the lady starts singing the chorus of her song, "If a boy like you loved a girl like me," he joins in, much to her disgust, and after an altercation, in which he is invited on to the stage, the interrupter renders "Eileen Allanah" with a powerful and well-trained voice. The ruse is greatly enjoyed. Mr. Ernest Shand has two good numbers in "The last pub" and "What would the Vicar think?" the latter being rendered in clerical character. Miss Amy Marsden, the comedy girl, in a droll make-up, sings "Come, Birdie, come," and Miss Ivy Leaf gives a couple of good songs, viz., "Ivy," and "I'd be happy in a wigwam with you," concluding with a well-executed step-dance.

Mr. Fred Shephard, comedian, displays plenty of go in his songs, "I don't care a button if it snows" and "Oh, lor lummy, look at that!" the latter being especially good. Miss Freda Sharlotte and company in the sketch, *Three in a Pickle*, cause hearty laughter with the many complications that arise. Mr. L. Ernest as the cabman and Mr. A. Beaumont as the husband play their characters well throughout, the former being a good study. Miss Alexandra Dagmar is interesting in her impersonations of Continental and English singers, her voice being quite remarkable. Jordan and Harvey, Hebrew comedians, and Ruffell's up-to-date Bioscope conclude a most enjoyable programme, to which Mr. Wilkie Bard's company—without Mr. Wilkie Bard—contributed on the night of our visit.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

Much interest has been evinced by Mr. Jesse Sparrow's patrons here this week in Mr. Harry Pleon's production of a caricature skit entitled *Interviewing Napoleon*, in which this eccentric comedian gives a life-like impersonation of the great little General during an interview on modern events by a reporter. With all the ready wit and humour so long associated with all this clever little comedian attempts, the audience are kept in a merry mood by his answers to the smart ancient and up-to-date interrogations of the reporter on subjects that range from Napoleon's opinion of his consort Josephine to his ideas of Hall Caine's latest version of "The Manxman," *Pete*, at the Lyceum. Mr. Harry Pleon's style gives his gags a flavour that makes them highly palatable, and his confrère, Mr. Walter Macnamara, as the interviewer, is a decidedly sharp, smart, and clever actor. Mr. Harry Pleon also patters merrily on "Men, Women, and Things," and keeps his audience roaring with laughter.

Harriet Vernon, so long beloved by variety theatre habitués, sings in fine style a patriotic song, "John Bull," the swinging chorus being heartily taken up by the audience. In a charming old garden scene and an old-world costume Miss Vernon's contribution "Sunshine and Shadow" wins her and her colleague a series of curtains, enthusiastic and well-earned. Mack Olive and Daisy Baldry appear in a pretty electrically lighted scene of "The Candy Store," from *The Belle of New York*, the former giving excellent effect to his whistling solos, his fair confrère meanwhile making a dainty candy store girl and showing herself to be no mean performer on the drum. Mr. Tatten Hall and Miss Pauline Hall, in an original burlesque entitled *Bertie and the Barmaid*, are smart and clever, their medley song and amusing cross-talk winning marked favour.

Messrs. Tray and Rich have a rich fund of humour, and their heated discussion on the benefits of life assurance is brimful of mirth. The audience is very reluctant to part with this amusing couple. Enzer, the sword expert, assisted by Miss Clarice, provides a series of exciting thrills by his marvellous skill with his long and keen sword. The pluck of his young and pretty assistant is undeniable, for without the least hesitation she allows apples and potatoes to be neatly sliced by Enzer on her delicate throat, neck, and head. Afterwards, in their demonstrations of the useful art of Ju-Jitsu, she easily places her male assailant hors-de-combat in every kind of attack he uses against her. This really excellent turn also includes some smart ball-punching and jugglery, all of which is enthusiastically rewarded.

Early in the programme Fields and Lewis put the audience in the best of humour by their merry cross-talking, their acting of a mock melodrama being killingly funny and laughable. Arthur Harris renders his two descriptive songs, "Judge not" and "Conscience," with point and expression. Molly Maguire, a typical colleen in a pretty costume, sings Irish songs admirably. Ryde and Beeman, as the Hebrew and Gentile, are skilful acrobats and contortionists; and the Saletos are two very youthful exponents of the same art. Jeapes' Graphic series of pictures is a fitting conclusion to nearly three hours' endless enjoyment. Mr. Percy Ford, the acting-manager, is back from his recent vacation to welcome his many friends.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

O tempora! O mores! Grand opera at a variety entertainment! The late Charles Morton was wont to assert that, give the public good music, the audience would follow, and, later, he proved his argument. At Richmond Mr. George Dance has followed an excellent example, and this week we have selections from *Cavalleria Rusticana* splendidly given by the La Scala Operatic Company. The experiment proved a bold one, but its success was instantaneous. And surely no one can complain of the company. Here are Mrs. Arthur Rousbey, from the Moody Manners Company, Mr. Le Sueur, tenor from the Carl Rosa Company, Mr. MacCullum, and Miss Daisy Nunn. Mrs. Rousbey was in superb voice, and gave a wonderful interpretation of Mascagni's beautiful music. Mrs. Rousbey had magnificent support from Mr. Le Sueur and the other members of the company. At the fall of the curtain there were no two opinions. The excerpt from *Cavalleria Rusticana* proved a complete legitimate triumph.

As a whistler Mr. Arthur Slater did excellently, and whistled with his accustomed skill and was heartily applauded. His imitations of birds are not the least interesting contributions from his répertoire. "Nerve twitching" is an innocent sort of malady in itself, but when depicted on Vernon's Bioscope it proves an irresistibly contagious thing, and plays havoc with everybody from the bride to the bugle major. Ventriloquial eccentricity is demonstrated with a good deal of skill by Bert Williams, whose precocious "boy" causes quite a lot of fun and wins favour as a vocalist of uncertain quality. Mr. Williams's patter song is a capital musical joke.

For those who like their dramatic fare highly seasoned no complaint can be made of the wonderfully dramatic little sketch *The Devil's Mate*. Of course, it is somewhat hard on Mephistopheles to offer his victim another chance for his eternal soul, and to lose by the last move of his opponent on an electrically illuminated chessboard; but e'en he of the cloven hoof has his disappointments. Mr. E. Vincent Stenroyd was dramatically effective as the gambler—a poor creature, by the way; and honours go to Mr. Joynsen Powell, who made, paradoxically, quite a nice devil. He was altogether refreshing.

There is no end to the drolleries and really clever business of Mr. Harry Lemore, who hails from "the other side"; his methods are excellent, and much of his business is refreshingly original. Without doubt his turn—of its kind—is one of the best ever seen at Richmond. Apart from his ingenuity, he demonstrates himself to be a comedian of no inconsiderable merit. The house literally shrieks at him in his burlesque imitation of a wire walker. Mr. Lemore is thrice welcome. Fresh from her Empire triumphs, dainty Topsy Sinden danced herself into the good graces of the audience with amazing quickness. As a dashing militaire the little lady was cheered to the echo. Her second contribution, in which she assumed the rôle of the ingénue, proved to be clever, the refrain being taken up by the audience, who whistled and chortled it to their hearts' content. Miss Sinden was "called" four times. Hinton and Wooton replay the Cup final on wheels; on the evening of our visit Newcastle had all its own way and scored four goals. Mr. A. B. Harries has the direction of things in front and wins favour by his courtesy.

Miss Millie Hylton, whose song "If I hadn't been ladylike," by John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, has many amusing malapropisms, has just placed a commission for new numbers with the same successful writers. It is considerably over a decade and a half since these gentlemen wrote and composed the same singer's then famous songs "Toddle away" and "The Ladies' School."

Miss Daisy Wood, who sails for America on the 9th inst., under engagement with Mr. William Morris, takes with her a fine budget of songs, and Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell are, as usual, well to the fore as song-suppliers for her projected American invasion. Miss Wood's three principal songs, "Of course I told my Gollywog," "When the golden corn is waving," and "Valentine," are all from their prolific pens; while another of Mr. John P. Harrington's songs, "Hop it," with music composed by the late Mr. George le Brunn, will be a special feature of Miss Wood's répertoire.

By the time the season is closed on Oct. 3 the Cummins's Wild West Show will have given 230 performances at New Brighton, which will constitute a record for any part of England out of London for any one show. Colonel Cummins is now negotiating for some place to play during the winter, and will make an early announcement of negotiations.

MUSIC HALL CELEBRITIES.

MR. LEONARD MORTIMER.

Twenty years ago Mr. Leonard Mortimer produced his first sketch in London—*The Gipsy Girl*—and since then he has produced many others. It may be news to many who may be inclined to resent the advent of sketches in "the halls" to know that Mr. Mortimer is essentially a variety performer, never having played a theatrical engagement throughout his career. He says he was born to worry for others, and at the early age of seventeen he accepted the responsibility of a full-blown company—the Leonard Mortimer Trio.

His first London engagement was at the Marylebone Music Hall with the late Robert Botting, followed by engagements at Southampton and Portsmouth, where he met Maccabe and McNally, who, quickly realising there was some "ginger" in the enterprising youth, booked him several engagements in the north. A brief return to London convinced young Mortimer something more elaborate than the little three-handed sketch was required in town, so away he went to the north again until he could return with the right article. His brother, Mr. F. G. Brooke, became a partner in the firm during 1889, and together they embarked on a tour in the delightful seaside resorts of Lancashire and Yorkshire. Mr. Mortimer smiles when he recalls a few of the many adventures the pushful brothers had. Their luck was not good, as sketches in the north were not then a very marketable article, and the crisis was reached when Miss Cora Stuart was prosecuted at the Palace, Manchester, for performing *The Fair Equestrienne* in a variety theatre not licensed for that purpose. They had their entire bookings cancelled by the timid proprietors of the surrounding towns, and then they quickly realised that London must be their destination.

Mr. Teddy Mosedale met them in London, and immediately booked them at the Washington, Hammersmith, and many other halls in town. The Barnard Brothers evidently quickly appreciated their value, as the company was continually appearing and reappearing at their halls at Woolwich and Chatham.

Mr. Gus Leach offered them a year's engagement at Harwood's, followed by six months with Mr. George English at the Sebright; then their seven years' partnership came to an end. In those days at the Queen's, Poplar, sketches ran three, four, and five weeks, the management producing the sketch for the artist in a most elaborate manner. Suddenly the late Mr. James Chappell decided to have a weekly change of sketch, and Mr. Mortimer immediately saw his chance. He reasoned that no management would

[Photo by J. N. Willis.

MR. LEONARD MORTIMER.

produce a sketch with elaborate scenery for one week only, paying the initial cost of the production, so he quickly realised that the sketch proprietor who carried a complete production, with all scenery, dresses, and supers provided, would soon be in demand. *The Bells of Vernavale* was the result, and his position in London was assured.

Mr. Mortimer points with considerable pride to the fact that he has had a sixteen years' continuous run in London with practically only his holiday weeks vacant. His many successes include *The Final Scene*, *A Secret of the State*, *Passing of Paul*, *Spectres*, *The Undesired*, *The Mischief-Makers*, and his Captain Kettle production. His record contract was one with Mr. Frederic Baugh for his No. 1 and No. 2 Companies. This engagement was made direct and settled by the contracting parties in less than ten minutes.

Asked if he has any intention of returning to the field of music hall politics, he wisely shakes his head, and quotes a line from his own sketch *A Secret of the State*: "We do not appreciate the wisdom of the wise until we have known the follies of the fool." He claims that he became a member of the Federation with the sincere desire of doing his humble best for the welfare of all branches of the profession, but under existing circumstances it was impossible for him to remain. He asks us to deny that he is a member of any society except the Sketch Managers' Association. He regrets he has received no answer or redress from the Benevolent Fund Sports' Committee over the Five-mile Auto-cycle Race at Herne Hill.

His future Federation is his show and his badge a sovereign—so long as he has one—and if any prejudice does still exist against him for the part he played during the exciting events of last year he hopes to break it down by producing his sketches on an even more elaborate scale than before, knowing music hall proprietors are commercial men who, after all, will readily book a marketable article. Our portrait represents Mr. Mortimer as Prince Eric in *The Mischief-makers*, now playing at the East Ham Palace.

Miss Alexandra Dagmar, who is about to produce Messrs. John P. Harrington and Julian W. Kändt's vocal waltz "Ever thine" (also "featured" by Talbot and Pearce), has just accepted from Messrs. Harrington and Powell a satirical song entitled "Fads and Fancies," in which the author "shoots folly as it flies."

TOTTENHAM PALACE OPENING.

Apart from the importance of Monday being the opening night, the programme presented at the New Palace at Tottenham thoroughly justified the splendid attendances at each of the two shows, the house being packed from floor to ceiling, with scarcely standing room anywhere. The remark we overheard on leaving the building sums up in a word the general impression—"A splendid show in a splendid house."

A full description of this latest addition to the variety halls of suburbia appeared in our last issue. No expense has been spared in making it one of the most luxurious and up-to-date houses of entertainment, every class of patron, from boxes and stalls to gallery, being well catered for. The initial performance opened with the National Anthem, followed by Suppé's overture "Light Cavalry." Special mention must be made of the orchestra, which did excellent work under the able conductorship of Mr. William Burgess. One of the star turns is Mr. Fred Karno's famous troupe of pantomimists in their new burlesque, *The Casuals*, which is played with much spirit and creates endless amusement. Another great attraction is provided by Alan Holt's company with a dramatic episode in the life of *A Society Woman*. It is a sensational type of playlet, introducing a most realistic fight between a man and woman, *à la* John Lawson in *Humanity*. The company throw themselves heartily into their work, and evoke rounds of applause. Still another important engagement which met with hearty approval is found in Ben Hur, the patrician athlete. The ease with which he manipulates heavy bell-bars and weighty men fully demonstrates his marvellous strength. The turn is loudly applauded.

Miss Kitty Colyer must be accounted one of the hits of the programme. Her clever acrobatic dancing meets with a good reception and wins much favour. The well-known child mimic, Cyrus Dare, "catches on," and the Sisters McCalla prove themselves good all-round entertainers. Frank Lynne, entertaining as always, is well received; the Zaid Trio provide an excellent change in the programme, introducing some exceedingly clever rifle work and a performance on suspended rings which has never been excelled; a comedy gymnastic mélange by Lord, Murray, and Lord, in which some remarkably clever ball-punching is exhibited, is highly successful; and Miss Kathleen Cogan, a juvenile comedienne and dancer of ability, is loudly applauded. Some interesting pictures are shown by Ruffell's Bioscope, the series depicting the Parisian Fire Brigade at a conflagration being especially good. Mr. T. S. Mayne is the energetic and very courteous manager, and he has a very able lieutenant in Mr. Harry Nuttall. Both these gentlemen have had experience in the variety world, and we venture to predict not only personal popularity but the prosperity of the hall under their management. We must not omit to mention the admirable stage-management of Mr. G. Laurence.

"THE SANDS OF DEE."

A sensational dramatic sketch, suggested by Charles Kingsley's poem, and written by Alicia Ramsay and Rudolph de Cordova, the incidental music by Carl Kiefert, produced on Monday, Aug. 31, under the direction of Frank Parker at the London Hippodrome.

Rube Stephens ..... Mr. J. H. Barnes
John Hooper ..... Mr. Norman Trevor
Bill Stephens ..... Mr. Fred Wallace
Polly Stephens ..... Miss Rosie Lee
Basil Dean ..... Mr. Lawson Butt
Mary Stephens ..... Miss Ruth Maitland

A great success was scored at the Hippodrome on Monday by the sensational aquatic hippodrama from the pens of Alicia Ramsay and Rudolph de Cordova, and produced by Frank Parker. This original and ingenious stage director has staged with thrilling realism the bursting forth of the hidden fires of a volcano; he has awed London amusement seekers with "the rising world of waters dark and deep" in *The Flood*; and now compels them to enthusiastic admiration of his unfailing powers of invention by the rush of the racing tide in *The Sands of Dee*. Not only are spectacular requirements powerfully carried through by Mr. Parker, but there is much to be said for the interesting story as told by the Hippodrome's own authors, Alicia Ramsay and Rudolph de Cordova, who have based an ingenious plot on the episode so graphically and simply described by Charles Kingsley in his poem bearing the same title as the piece.

The opening scene at the seaside in the height of the season is brightened with the bustle and business of a popular watering-place. There are hucksters, there are pierrots, goat carts, donkey riders, and fun on the sands such as is seen at Blackpool or Douglas. But we soon get into the kernel of the story when we learn from the lips of Rube Stephens that he owes £100 to the villain Basil Dean, who holds a bill of sale on the old man's cottage and his boat, and threatens to sell him up. Basil's enmity is prompted by the scorn and indifference of Mary, Rube's pretty granddaughter, a lass who loves the sailor, John Hooper. There is somebody at hand to help, when Bill Stephens, a relative who has done well in America, offers to redeem the property; but not holding the "ready," his offer to redeem "those papers" is refused. Basil pursues his scheme of vengeance by gagging Mary and tying her to the post that gives warning of the advancing tide, which outstrips in speed the fleetest racehorse. The distressed girl in her anguish fancies she sees in a vision the original Mary of Kingsley's poem overwhelmed by the surging tide as she had been forty years before, when "calling the cattle home." Her little niece drags the gag from her mouth, but cannot free her hands. Then we hear the noise of the advancing tide, and a gigantic wave swirls its way over the rocks and submerges Mary, who gradually sinks beneath the angry surge. But gallant John Hooper gallops to her rescue, and she is borne to safety on the back of a gallant steed, while the mocking villain meets with the fate he had prepared for her.

Mr. J. H. Barnes, who is specially engaged, plays the old boatman Rube Stephens with rugged power and pathos, every word of the dialogue being heard in all parts of the vast house. Mr. Lawson Butt is an out-and-out villain; Mr. Norman Trevor a manly lover; and Mr. Fred Wallace lightens the scenes by his excellent humour as the Anglo-American Bill Stephens. Miss Ruth Maitland puts her heart into her work, and so thorough is she in her delineation that she does not avoid the drenching which is the lot of the heroine in the trying situation at the end of the piece. Miss Maitland's distress moves the audience considerably, and her rescue evokes thunders of applause. The excitement is intense, and the stress of the situation as the tremendous volume of water fills the arena makes a strong appeal. The enthusiastic cheers on Monday evening brought on Mr. Parker, whose latest success should draw all London to the Hippodrome.

Mr. George A. Stevens has this week written a song entitled "Won't you come and kiss your little Clara?" for Miss Daisy Wood.

Miss Florrie Gallimore and Miss Margaret Radcliffe are making a hit with Messrs. A. J. Mills and Maurice Scott's pretty chorus number, "Ida from Devonshire," which bids fair to become one of the favourites for this year's pantomime. The Star Co. are having repeat applications for this number.

"AFTER WATERLOO."

Dramatic Episode, by Walter Pearce, Produced for the first time at the Canterbury Theatre of Varieties on Monday, Aug. 31.

Napoleon I. ..... Mr. Julius Hagen
Captain John Hardy.... Mr. Douglas Imbert
Pierre Roche ..... Mr. H. Louis Wilson
Zuretti ..... Miss Ada S. Hatchnoell

A never-failing source of dramatic inspiration has been drawn upon in the above little sketch, and the latest stage episode in the life of Napoleon will bear comparison for interest and force with many that have gone before. It makes the requisite appeal to British patriotism and also commends itself to those who encourage the "entente cordiale." As the title indicates, the piece deals with the last great effort of Napoleon Bonaparte, who is introduced just after his final reverse on the plains of Waterloo. The French army is in retreat and the Emperor a fugitive. He reaches an inn, where he finds a wounded English officer asleep in a chair. While Napoleon is waiting for his escort the Englishman awakes, and, recognising the Emperor, covers him with a revolver, declaring him his prisoner. The Englishman puts his captive under parole, and a discussion on strategic warfare ensues. During the conversation a peasant approaches the captain from behind, and is about to stab him, when the Emperor sternly bids the assassin drop his knife. The young officer is overwhelmed with gratitude, so much so that when the English arrive he forfeits the opportunity of his career, and, going to the door, sends his compatriots on to the next village, leaving Napoleon free to await his escort. The playlet won the complete approval of the audience, the ending being greatly appreciated. Mr. Julius Hagen plays the Emperor Napoleon with that mixture of brusqueness and kindliness that have come to be regarded as among his predominant qualities. The chivalrous young English officer is invested with agreeable enthusiasm by Mr. Douglas Imbert, who makes an imposing dragoon, and delivers his lines smartly. Mr. H. Louis Wilson's peasant presents a duly forbidding appearance, and a comely contrast is furnished by Miss Ada S. Hatchnoell, who looks and speaks well as the innkeeper's daughter.

A second novelty in the Canterbury programme is found in a musical comedy sketch, with music and lyrics by Joseph Tabrar, entitled

"HAVING A DIP."

Lottie ..... Miss Marie Collins
Mrs. Major ..... Miss Ada Terry
Fitz Barry ..... Mr. W. Meaton
Adolphus ..... Master Glenroy
The Major ..... Mr. Willie Phillips

Well-known artists of the variety theatres have combined in the above musical farcelet, which has been designed to introduce Miss Marie Collins in a seaside song and to allow Mr. Willie Phillips and Miss Ada Terry to appear in a couple of comedy characters. A bright and attractive scene shows the beach of a popular watering-place, with a practicable breakwater and a number of bathing machines. Here a certain Major has come ostensibly to effect a cure for his gout, but actually to indulge in a flirtation with the designing Lottie, who has already dispossessed the Major of several valuable diamonds, and is only waiting to extract further presents ere she weds herself to her devoted sweetheart, Fitz Barry. The Major arrives with a number of other invalids, each in charge of a nurse; but his flirtations are observed by his wife, who has disguised herself as a nurse, and promptly goes into hysterics when she sees her most valued necklace passing into the hands of the unscrupulous Lottie. Subsequently Lottie and her companions prepare to indulge in a dip, and the opportunity is taken by Lottie to sing a song of "Bobbing up and down," she and her surrounding syrens all clad in the airy raiment familiar to frequenters of the beach in the "season." They then enter the water, but Lottie is soon seen to be in difficulties, and the Major goes in to the rescue at the earnest entreaties of his wife, who is more concerned for the diamonds which adorn the young lady's neck than for the safety of the girl herself. The Major brings the dripping damsel to the shore, and his act of heroism apparently rehabilitates him in the eyes of his wife. Miss Marie Collins makes a fetching appearance in a costume and picture hat of what we believe is described as the "Army blue," and plays in her usual dashing style, singing her bathing song with much vivacity. The opportunities of making fun afforded by the part of the Major are fully seized by Mr. Willie Phillips, who is successful in creating laughter as the pretended valetudinarian, who, however, has some real twinges of gout; and Miss Ada Terry makes the most of her chances, which unhappily are not numerous, as the injured wife. The rôle of the Major's son, who assists in his discomfiture, is played with a sense of humour by Master Glenroy, and Mr. W. Meaton is a bright and buoyant representative of Lottie's sweetheart, also singing a song of "The motor fiend." Mr. Tabrar's music is tuneful and often elaborate, and one of the most pleasing features of the sketch is the invalids' chorus, with a sneezing refrain, which might well be enlarged.

Miss Victoria Wright, eldest daughter of Harry Wright and Nellie Gannon, arrived at New York Aug. 29 to fulfil a forty-two weeks' tour with Karno's *Mumming Birds*.

Mr. George Gulliver, ventriloquist, starts work again on Monday next, after a most comfortable month's holiday at home (Northampton), where he has had a glorious time—fishing, boating, bowls. Unfortunately, the fishing wasn't very brilliant, his heaviest basket being 4lb. 11oz. Mr. Gulliver's bookings extend into 1911.

Miss Dora Lyons (the niece of Mr. Harry Lyons, manager, Hippodrome, Birmingham) is now fulfilling her second engagement as Pincott in *The Belle of Mayfair*. Miss Lyons is only sixteen years of age, but is in great request by many astute managers, and with her recognised ability will be certain to forge ahead.

Mr. Albert Bushell, who but a few months ago was relieved of the management of the Birmingham Gaiety, has been restored to his position, and will enter into office on Monday next. We congratulate him, and wish him a long and honourable tenure. Mr. Bushell's former "administration" extended over eleven years, and being peculiarly and exceptionally suited in every way for the position, his deposal caused considerable surprise.

A rather amusing incident befell little Dot Moss while motoring in Ireland. She had been staying with friends in the neighbourhood of Cork for some months, and one morning set out from that city to explore the wonderful scenery of Killarney. All went well during the 60-mile run to Glengariff, and from thence to Kenmare, but after leaving that town some seven miles behind on the way to Killarney the motor struck work, and after a thorough investigation lasting a couple of hours it was found that the fault could not be remedied outside the workshop. The breakdown occurred right in the heart of the mountains, miles away from any habitation. After scouring the vicinity a colleen was discovered driving a small donkey, and she consented to lend the animal for a consideration. It was tackled on to the motor, and, with the rest of the party valiantly shoving behind, the weary journey was commenced back to Kenmare. It took exactly three hours to reach the town, where the populace turned out *en masse* to witness the novel sight, and escorted the weary passengers amid cheers and laughter to their hotel.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

SYDNEY, JULY 28.—Miss Margaret Anglin is filling Mr. J. C. Williamson's Her Majesty's Theatre, in spite of tramway and railway strike and very wet weather. The latest production is *Zira*, a new version of *The New Magdalen*, and in it Miss Anglin has taken Sydney by storm. The actress plays Hester Trent, who takes the place of Ruth Wilding—supposed to be dead—and imposes on the aristocratic family of Clavering. Her acting all through is very fine, her struggles under betrayal and ill-usage, her determination to succeed, her defiance when detected, and her sweet repentance being all wrought out with marvellous success. Next comes the Ruth Wilding of Miss Eugenie Besserer, irate at being falsely impersonated; and the Lady Clavering of Miss Susie Vaughan will long be remembered as the presentation of a true aristocrat. Mr. Henry Kolker is a manly Rev. Gordon Clavering; Mr. G. S. Titheradge makes Sir Frederick Knowles a typical army surgeon; and Mr. Cyril Mackay as Captain Arnold Sylvester and Mr. Sydney Stirling as Mark Trent, the brutal father of Hester, complete a very fine cast. Mr. Williamson has mounted the play perfectly, and the first night's audience applauded John Coleman's beautiful scenery to the echo.

THE CRITERION is now in the possession of Messrs. Clarke, Wren, Meynell, and Gunn, who staged *Miss Hook of Holland* on the 25th with distinct success—new principals, new scenery, new music, and new chorus, all of the very best. The comedians are Edwin Brett, William Cromwell, F. Morris, and Tom Payne, and the singers are Roland Bottomley and Arthur Appleby. These need no praise from my pen. Miss Ruth Lincoln, Miss Emmeline Orford, and Miss Essie Perrin are the ladies, and all these became established favourites "from the jump." Mr. E. Vaughan painted superb and topographical scenery; while Mr. Victor Champion conducted and Mr. Charles Wenman directed the production.

"THE RED MILL" still grinds grist for Mr. J. C. Williamson at the Theatre Royal, and the strong cast of comedians, Ford, Leslie, Loder, and Denton, with Whitehead and Sherras as singers, Olive Godwin, Fanny Dango, and Alma Barber as song and dance interpreters, keep large audiences amused.

THE TIVOLI welcomed a very clever American sketch artist, Mlle. Mignonette Kokin, whose Scotch and Dutch impersonations are delightful. The Miles-Stavordale Quintette is back, to the utter enjoyment of all lovers of sweet sounds. Mr. Richard Cecil is a new and acceptable baritone; Galetti's dogs and Gibbon baboons are clever; Miss Fanny Powers has added new imitations of prominent performers, all well done. Tod Lowen, Fred Bluett, and Baby Watson are also in Mr. Harry Rickards' bill.

MISS BEATRICE DAY gave an "Au Revoir Party" on the Criterion stage at the close of the Herbert Flemming season. Leading actors and actresses, judges, politicians, and leaders of society and journalism were present. Music, refreshments, flowers, and general enjoyment passed several hours away.

THE PALACE, STOKE NEWINGTON.

The bright particular star of this week's bill at the Palace, Stoke Newington, is Miss Marie Lloyd, and it is almost needless to record that her appearance at this popular theatre of variety results in crowded houses at every performance. Miss Lloyd is described on the programme as "Queen of Comediennes," a title that none will feel inclined to dispute, for whether as an aristocratic dame in a "Directoire" gown or a work-girl out for a "beano," she is equally at home, and the three songs she sings are all too few for the satisfaction of the audience, which would gladly listen to her as long as she was willing to entertain them.

Collette and Gordon present a sketch entitled *A Queen of Music*, by S. and L. V. Gordon, of which the plot is briefly as follows: Jim Stockton, a burglar, breaks into the house of Miss Margaret Hamilton, and, having scared her into giving him all her jewels, discovers by the aid of a photograph in the jewel case she has handed over to him that she is his long-lost daughter. He then shoots himself in a spirit of repentance and self-sacrifice, in order that no disgrace may rest upon her, and that the way may be smooth for her marriage with Captain Burlington, although the same result might be achieved by his leaving her and never molesting her again. The sketch is noticeable for the artistic and skilful violin-playing of Miss Estelle Collette, and the acting of Mr. Leo V. Gordon as the burglar. Mr. T. M. Bradley appears as Captain Burlington. Messrs. Ike and Will Scott contribute a turn that finds considerable favour with the audience, and their dancing is particularly neat and finished. Alec Kendal contrives to keep the house thoroughly amused by the many funny things to which he gives utterance. It is a clever performance, consisting as it does entirely of patter, and Mr. Kendal is no doubt the best judge of the taste of the audience as to the jokes he puts before them for their amusement. The Cavallotti Brothers in a musical act prove themselves experts on many and divers musical instruments, and the Tintos work very hard in the scene, *African Gambols*.

Extraordinary tumbling is executed by Mr. Archie Royer in his eccentric act, "Watch him fall," and the applause with which he is rewarded is well deserved. Mr. Fred Cary is a comedian whose description as "the quaint one" is not ill-chosen, for he has an original style, which is only marred by a tendency to excess of "mugging." The programme is completed by Jules Kiaro, equilibrist, Daisy Stratton, Charles Lilburn, and the Palace Pictures.

AMUSEMENTS IN NEW ZEALAND.

WELLINGTON, JULY 4.—OPERA HOUSE, Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson.—Mr. H. R. Roberts, an Australian actor, is appearing here in *The Prince Chap*, an American comedy-drama, supported by an American-Australian company, chief amongst which, in addition to Mr. Roberts, is Mr. A. E. Greenaway, well known in English provincial theatres. Mr. Roberts is one of those managers who believe in touring the Colonies with one piece. It is spirited enterprise and deserves its meed of success.

TOWN HALL, July 11.—Messrs. Macmahon are here with a new stock of moving pictures, the continued desire for which seems by no means to be exhausted. The programme further contains songs by Miss Louie Tinsley.

OPERA HOUSE.—A short season given by Mr. Frank Thornton with *When Knights Were Bold* has proved very attractive. Mr. Thornton is practically never off the stage the whole time, and has been most warmly received. Mr. Thornton is supported by Messrs. Harry Ashford, Douglas Hamilton, and Charles Stone. The ladies' parts are played by the Misses Donaldson, Olive Dudley, and Harriet Trench. The whole is supervised by Mr. Charles Windermere, who produces a very charming picture in the second act. The piece is preceded by *That Brute Simmons*, which is a gem in its way. The season will witness the revival of those "fadeless flowers" *Charley's Aunt* and *The Private Secretary*. On the departure of the Thornton company Messrs. Meynall and Gunn will occupy the theatre with *Her Love Against the World*.

KINEMATOGRAPH regulations respecting the use of the kinematograph in theatres and halls, also the regulations respecting the use of limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the kinematograph or limelight should possess a copy of these regulations.

THE GERMAN MUSIC-HALL WAR.

HOW BRITISH ARTISTS ARE AFFECTED.

The latest move on the part of the managers in the German music hall war is of great importance to British and American artists. It will be remembered that both the V.A.F. and the White Rats are supporting the present agitation on the part of the International Artists' Lodge, which includes a boycott of eight halls in the Rhine province. The Lodge's demand for official recognition has met with a curt refusal on the part of the managers, whose union is very adroitly attempting to take the wind out of the I.A.L.'s sails by issuing a revised contract, which concedes even more than the Lodge demanded as fair, and which the members of the Directors' Union are pledged to use from Sept. 1, 1908.

The following is a translation of the document in question:—

INTERNATIONAL VARIETY THEATRES' DIRECTORS' UNION.

CONTRACT.

made between the management of ..... (hereinafter called Party I.) and ..... (hereinafter called Party II.).

Section 1.

The management engages for their hall Party II., including his troupe, composed of ..... as ..... for the period of ..... from ..... till ..... both days inclusive.

Section 2.

Party II. undertakes—

(*a*) To arrive on ..... in ..... in good time and to notify his arrival immediately to the management, in order to be present at and take part in the rehearsals fixed for that day;

(*b*) to use his best endeavours at every performance, whether one or two a day, to improve his show and to adhere to police or managerial regulations with regard to text and *mise-en-scène*; while the management reserves the right to shorten or alter the performance;

(*c*) to keep this contract secret until the commencement of the engagement;

(*d*) not to appear in (town of engagement) either in public or in private before any audience other than indicated by the management;

(*e*) to provide all the necessary band parts for an orchestra of .... musicians as well as dresses, scenery, or any other necessary apparatus in perfect condition and in accordance with the requirements of the authorities (fireproof, &c.);

(*f*) to own the rights of the production, including those of the orchestral accompaniment, and to indemnify the management against any claims on the part of authors, composers, or publishers;

(*g*) to notify to the management per registered letter thirty days prior to the commencement of the engagement that he will arrive punctually, giving his present address and enclosing in duplicate the text of any recitations or songs, adding translations of any foreign matter, also in duplicate.

Should Party II. fail to fulfil punctually the foregoing clauses the management, without forfeiting any of their rights, is entitled to annul this contract, Party II. losing all claims with regard to the contract.

Section 3.

The management pays Party II. a ..... salary of ....., after deducting ..... Payments are made on the 15th and on the last day of each month, and at the end of the engagement, immediately after the last performance, in the office of the management.

Section 4.

If in consequence of fire, war, national mourning, local strikes, political disturbances, epidemics, or regulations of the authorities the performances are stopped, salaries are decreased proportionately. Should such interruption last for more than five days, both parties are entitled to rescind the contract.

Section 5.

Should Party II. or his troupe, through accident, illness, or change of members be placed in such a position that his performance has materially depreciated since the date of the signing of the contract, the management is entitled to cancel the contract during the first three days. Should such depreciation take place during the course of the engagement and show no improvement within three days, the management is also entitled to annul the contract.

Section 6.

Party II., on behalf of himself and of the members of his troupe, undertakes to conform with the rules and regulations of the management, a copy of which is affixed. He is therefore responsible that the members of his company conform with the clauses of this contract and with the rules and regulations of the management, and is as liable for any of their transgressions as for his own.

Section 7.

Either party to this contract culpably infringing any clause has to pay a fine of .... for each infringement, without prejudice to any subsequent action for damages. Apart from the fine, the fulfilment of the contract may be enforced, or, if convenient, the contract may be immediately annulled. Fines or damages due by Party II. may be deducted by the management without further explanations. Differences over payments constitute no claim for fines.

Section 8.

Money claims under this contract are not transferable.

Section 9.

In case of any dispute both parties recognise the jurisdiction of the Court in (town of engagement). Party II. furthermore recognises the jurisdiction of the Court in his permanent or temporary domicile. The appointment of arbitrators is reserved for special agreement.

Section 10.

The stamp duties of this contract are defrayed by both parties equally. The management is entitled to deduct from the salary of Party II. his proportion of the stamp duty or any other local tax which may have been advanced by the management without the production of explanatory accounts.

SPECIAL CLAUSES.

.....

.....

The text of this contract is known to both parties in their mother tongue; the document is prepared in duplicate, read, approved, sealed, and signed.

Signature.....

Date.....

The last sentence of the contract, that each party has full knowledge of the context, is printed in German, English, and French. To each contract must be affixed the rules and regulations of the hall in question, whilst the special clauses must contain nothing in contradiction of the contract as drafted by the Directors' Union.

Across the margin of the contract is printed an extract from the rules of the Union which points out that "no member of the Directors' Union may engage anyone who has broken his contract with another member of the Union." This embargo may be removed by order of the Union's executive on payment of the delinquent's fine.

SOME interesting Morocco pictures have been added to the Empire Bioscope. They show the deposed Sultan going to the great sheep feast and receiving the homage of the tribes. There are also some interesting scenes outside the gates of Fez and in the streets of Stattin.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON, the charming American soprano, elicits great applause and laughter at the Tivoli by her delightful rendering of the song, "Wouldn't you like to learn to love me?" which has achieved an immense success, both in the provinces and in London.

MR. FRED SOLO took his third annual benefit on Tuesday on Redcar pier, and was congratulated by the pier directors on his success and management of the entertainments, being presented with a gold ring, pin, and pocket-book as tokens of appreciation and esteem. Several artists came from Middlesbrough to give their services, and a pantomime sketch, *Dick Whittington Up to Date*, written and produced by the beneficiaire, was a great success.

SUNDAY CONCERTS.

AMALGAMATED MUSICIANS' UNION SCHEME

It will be of great interest to the public in general, and to the musical profession in particular, to learn that the official body which represents the musicians in this country is about to inaugurate a series of concerts for the winter and spring. It has too long been a matter of complaint that the public is not provided with reasonable entertainment on the seventh day of the week. Too long have our Sundays been the dreariest days in the year. The London County Council and the National Sunday League have done much to remove this reproach on Metropolitan life, and it is now pleasant news that we get from Mr. Jesson, L.C.C., the London secretary of the A.M.U., to the effect that the efforts of the two bodies mentioned are to be augmented by the musicians employed in our London places of amusement.

We propose to let Mr. Jesson speak for himself.

"We recognise," says he, "first of all that the question of Sunday entertainments is bound to develop in public and official consideration, and we want to so regulate it in its practical aspect that we do not get the introduction of the seven days a week in our own winter business the same as we have in our summer business. Another point that has influenced us in this matter is that we see all the Army bands—the Line bands as well as the Guards' bands—are being brought into competition with the civilian musicians more and more in all directions. We have come to the conclusion that, as Heaven helps those who help themselves, we must, before we get snuffed out, do something in the interests of our own self-preservation. We have now organised two very fine bands, each one hundred strong, from our own members. These bands include some of the very best musicians that are to be found in the London

MR. C. JESSON.

profession. It would be impossible to get such bands together except on Sunday evenings, for the simple reason that the majority of the principals are employed every night in the week in the chief London orchestras.

"An outstanding feature of our scheme will lie in the fact that it will be conducted on a co-operative basis. We have given an undertaking—and quite rightly too—to the London County Council that all profits, after paying professional fees, will be devoted to our benevolent fund. The seaside places have so educated the public up to Sunday amusements in the winter that we take this step really in the interests of our own members, and to prevent them being compelled to work seven days a week. Now they do it voluntarily, for they need not play on Sundays unless they like. We have been running Sunday concerts in connection with the Macnaghten halls in London since last February, and these have been highly successful. Indeed, I will go further and say that they have served a useful purpose in attracting to these halls a class of people who might, had they not been otherwise employed, have proved a source of some trouble. The police have spoken very highly of our efforts in this direction. There is, of course, an educational as well as a social side to this question, which should not be overlooked.

"We are going to give performances at the Coliseum, by arrangement with Mr. Oswald Stoll, starting on Sept. 27, and continuing every Sunday until next summer. The concerts will open at 7 p.m., and will conclude about 9.30. We shall endeavour to make a feature of the band; but, in addition to that, we intend to have high-class vocalists.

"At the present time there are very few opportunities for British musicians who aspire to make a name for themselves as conductors of big orchestras or bands. The largest of our orchestras or bands are not composed of more than thirty or forty instrumentalists. We propose to offer to recognised musicians facilities for conducting a band of one hundred picked musicians, both military and orchestral.

"Another new feature will be the giving to British composers an opportunity of hearing their works performed by a large orchestra, so that they may, by practical experience, find out precisely how they stand. In this connection we have arranged with Mr. Ernest Bucalossi, the well-known composer and conductor, to produce some of his latest works at one of our concerts, including his 'Cæsar" march, which was written for the late Chelsea Pageant. In addition to him and Mr J. M. Glover, we shall have the able assistance of Mr. W. Davin, the stage bandmaster of the Royal Opera, and Mr. J. Skuse, the deputy conductor of Drury Lane Theatre, in the military and orchestral bands respectively. All these are gentlemen of the very highest experience and ability, and they will prove of valuable assistance to our great undertaking. We do not intend to cater solely for those who prefer severely classical music, as, in my opinion, they do not number more than 25 per cent. of any audience. But, naturally, a musician always aspires to the very best, which is a sufficient guarantee that the popular items will not be overdone. And here we have, of course, every faith in the sound advice of Mr. J. M. Glover.

"Yes; the scheme is my own. I have been steadily maturing it for years, and my great desire is to provide the poor old worn-out musician, who has helped during his life to brighten the lives of thousands, with an old-age pension, which will be slightly assisted by the one provided by the Government. I believe we shall be able to do this from the proceeds of these concerts. But, apart from that consideration, it is a valuable lesson to the musician in the management of his own affairs, and I believe it will lead to a better understanding between himself and his employers. We hope to extend our present concerts to all parts of the metropolis during the coming winter.

"Do the musicians appreciate my efforts? Well, yes, I think they do. You see ours is a precarious business. We are not like the ordinary tradesman who is employed all the year round. It is no uncommon thing for some of our people to be out of employment for several months every year. To these an occasional concert is very useful, if only to pay the rent. Many of our members have been very grateful for the concerts we have already given, and now that we are going to extend the field of our enterprise I have no reason to suppose they will be dissatisfied.

"The highly successful concert which was held at the Coliseum on May 2 in aid of our Benevolent Fund will be still within the recollection of your readers. And in this connection I have to express our gratitude to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, who was the honorary treasurer for the concert, and who used his influence and employed his energies in many directions to ensure the success of the undertaking. The experience gained at that concert enabled us to show what we could do in the direction of organising concerts on a larger scale, and this particular performance has been a strong argument in favour of our present enterprise in respect of the forthcoming Sunday concerts.

"With two exceptionally fine bands, and bright, sparkling music, not forgetting a few humorous items, good vocalists and soloists, and other attractions, we hope all London will visit us at Mr. Stoll's handsome Coliseum every Sunday evening from Sept. 27 onwards."

MUSIC-HALL AGENT'S DEATH.

At the St. Giles's Coroner's Court on the 28th ult. Dr. Danford Thomas held an inquiry as to the death of George Anthony Ware, aged 54, late of Clovelly-mansions, Gray's Inn-road, which occurred on Tuesday, the 25th ult.

Mary Jane Ware, the widow, said she and the deceased had been married twenty-eight years. He was a music-hall agent. The deceased was in the habit of taking Epsom salts and carbonate of soda, and thought that they would do him good. On Tuesday afternoon he came home. He was not quite sober, but cheerful. He went to bed, and a little later asked the witness for some hot water, which she thought was to mix some salts. At 6.30 he awoke and complained of pains in his stomach. He vomited and suffered from diarrhœa. He said his inside was burning, and kept asking for water. Dr. Brooke was called in, but on his arrival the man was dead. Near the deceased was a jug and a glass, and a packet, the contents of which she did not know. There was a sediment as of crystals in the bottom of the glass and some water in the jug.

The Coroner—Do you know any reason why he should commit suicide?—No.

Since the death have you heard anything about any trouble?—No.

Was there any outside trouble?—Well, his business had failed.

Been getting worse lately?—Yes, very bad.

Had he been in distress for want of money?—Oh, yes.

Have you since found any packet or anything in writing?—No.

Police-sergeant Wilson, who was called to the house, said he found no trace of oxalic acid except in the tumbler.

Dr. Thomas Brooke, of Mecklenburg-square, saw the deceased about eight p.m., when he had been dead about an hour. On making a post-mortem examination he found the stomach contracted and containing a dark fluid mixed with blood, showing that the walls had been injured. The sediments in the glass produced answered to all the tests for oxalic acid, and there was a mixture of that and bicarbonate of soda. The water in the jug contained oxalic acid.

The Coroner said it looked like an intentional act, but the deceased might have supposed he was simply mixing salts with the soda.

Dr. Brooke, continuing, said the deceased was in a bad state of health, and was evidently a chronic dipsomaniac.

Marie Adams, a married daughter, said that when the deceased came home he had a small packet in his hand, but she did not see any label on it. He asked for hot water, and made a mixture in the jug, which he took to his bedroom. When the deceased came home he was as happy as anything. During his spasms of pain the deceased said, "I'm poisoned." He might have bought the acid to clean an old brass plate and taken it in mistake for salts.

The Coroner said it was just possible the chemist might have made a mistake. It did not look like a deliberate act of suicide.

After further evidence the jury returned a verdict of "Death by misadventure."

MR. JUDD-GREEN sends us the following: "The Bateman fish story has gone the rounds and served its purpose exceeding well. But here is one which is absolutely true. 'My word, if I catch you——' Edwin Boyde and I were on Southampton Pier one blazing June day, and we wandered down the steps underneath the pier to watch the proceedings of a greasy individual, who was standing with a long pole poised in the air and gazing intently into the depths beneath. All of a sudden he plumped the pole, which was attached to his wrist by a line, into the water, and, hastily hauling it up again, brought to the surface the largest bass seen around those waters for a long time, speared as cleanly as ever a fish was in this world.

"We were greatly interested as the fish wriggled and squirmed upon the spear. Just then George Short, long known as one of the chief stewards of the Isle of Wight line (now a prosperous publican), came down the steps with his small Yorkshire terrier. The canine pet began to jump and bark at the fish, and in its excitement fell into the water and was with some difficulty rescued, as the tide runs at a rapid rate when leaving Southampton Water. George Short purchased the fish from the fisherman, who turned out to be the Scotch engineer of the Solent Queen, and Boyde and I bore the catch in triumph, placing a walking-stick through its gills, and letting the fish hang down between us as we each held the stick.

"THE dog barked at the fish all the time as we mounted to the upper part of the pier, where a large crowd of people awaited us. 'What a splendid fish!' said one. 'How did you catch it?' said another. Then the Boyde youth asserted himself. "We didn't catch it at all. The dog jumped in and caught it. Look at the teeth marks.' And, amid exclamations of surprise and wonderment at the dog's sagacity, we went up the gangway of George Short's boat, the Duchess of York, and hid ourselves in the steward's cosy cabin. But the worthy Edwin's words were not breathed upon desert air, because in the evening local papers there appeared, in all the glory of a large type heading, "Mr. George Short's Dog Catches a Fish," and proceeded to give *full particulars of how it was caught by the clever animal*."

MR. JULIAN CLIFFORD, the popular manager of the Harrogate Kursaal, who is, we regret to say, still seriously ill, takes his annual benefit to-day, when a host of talent is announced, including Mme. Alice Gomez, the Hon. Mrs. Julian Clifford, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Joseph Lycett, Miss Fanny Wentworth, Auguste Van Biene, the famous Black Dike Band, and Datas, the whole to conclude with a display of fireworks.

"THE SILVER CRUCIFIX."

Sketch, by Arthur Shirley, produced at the Middlesex Music Hall, on Monday, Aug. 31.

No. 99 .....MR. FRANK STONE
Bishop Myriel .....MR. H. MONKHOUSE
Sergeant of Gendarmes
MR. J. ELMORE BREWERTON.
Tuzon .....MISS MAY HUNDALL.

The criminal classes have frequently been favoured in Mr. Arthur Shirley's numerous plays, and in the sketch above-named, which is designed for the music halls, their regeneration is again happily dealt with. *The Silver Crucifix* is obviously based upon an incident in Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables," which has been twice utilised on the theatrical stage within the past twelve months, but the prolific author has introduced some effective dialogue, in which the necessity of cultivating the softer side of the convict nature is insisted upon. The individual in this instance is Pierre Valjéan, a discharged convict from Toulon Prison, but the lines in which Mr. Shirley urges more humane treatment for the criminal when he comes out of prison might well be adapted for home use, and the Middlesex patrons, realising the application, cheered whenever a plea was put in for the gaol-bird. Jean Valjéan, known as No. 99 in the present version, has just received his discharge after undergoing seven years' imprisonment, and is being hounded from pillar to post, unable to obtain food or work. He enters the cottage of Bishop Myriel, the village priest, where he is entertained right royally by the estimable cleric, who does not fear to allow his silver plate to be used on the supper table. The valuables excite the cupidity of the refugee, who determines to possess himself of them. While the Bishop, seated on the sofa, sleeps peacefully, he extracts the key of the cupboard from his pocket, clutching a gleaming knife meanwhile, fully determined to take the old man's life should he awake. He gains the coveted silver and escapes with his booty, only to be captured and brought back to the cottage. The Bishop, bent upon Jean's redemption, declares he gave the articles to the man. Left alone with his benefactor, Jean falls on his knees, while the Bishop hangs his silver crucifix upon the breast of the convict, now thoroughly converted, and commends him to a life of repentance.

The sketch is acted by Mr. J. Elmore Brewerton's company, and as we have hinted, its appeal to the house was intense. Mr. Frank Stone gave a vivid exposition of the Convict, both acting and delivery being commendable. Mr. H. Monkhouse made an ascetic priest, and spoke in well-measured tones, and Mr. Brewerton was a smart Sergeant of Gendarmes.

"THE MARTYRDOM OF MICHAEL."

A New Episode, produced at the Bedford, Aug. 31.

Michael Vesney .....MR. MAURICE H. HOFFMAN
Robson Macowan .....MR. HUBERT LEE
Neville Potter .....MR. E. POWARD
Pepeto Domingo .....MR. SAM LEROY
Olive Kingsley .....MISS EDITH COWAN
Ruth Macowan .....MISS ETHEL KING
The Ordinary Gentleman .....

This new sketch, which had its first production on Monday, is undoubtedly a striking one, and it is excellently played by Mr. Maurice Hoffman and Miss Ethel King's company. Michael Vesney, an inventor, is in love with Macowan's daughter, whose father has robbed Vesney of a clever invention, and made a fortune out of it. Vesney follows the Macowans to Spain, where he is falsely imprisoned for six years on the charge of conspiracy. At this point the story opens, and in the first scene we find Michael in prison, doomed to die on the following day. A nun from a neighbouring convent gains admission to his cell and brings him means of escape. Michael then discovers that his deliverer is Ruth, who has been silently watching over him during his incarceration, having joined the convent in order to be near him. Three months elapse before the next scene, which is laid in Macowan's mansion in London. Here we find Macowan beset by remorse and worried by an unknown blackmailer whom he suspects to be Michael. In reality he is Neville Potter, his secretary, and a man known as the ordinary gentleman, who was once his clerk. Macowan gains entrance to the room by means of the window, and the ordinary gentleman comes in, and mistaking him for Macowan, tells him how he was wronged, and that he helped to rob him of his invention. Potter finding things getting too warm for himself, advises Macowan to flee the country, but the old man prefers suicide. His body is found and Potter accuses Michael of murder. However, Michael easily clears himself of the charge, and Potter finds himself arrested on the charge of blackmail. Michael and Ruth meet at last, and here the play finishes. It is well written, and after a few minor alterations should make a success. It was well received. Mr. Maurice Hoffman gives a strong portrayal of Michael and Miss Ethel King is good as Ruth Macowan. A clever character is that of the Ordinary Gentleman, and was excellently depicted by an actor whose name the programme omitted to give. Mr. Hubert Lee acts well as Robson Macowan, and Mr. E. Poward does well as Potter.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER holds "that the chief variety theatres afford fine chances for the one-act plays that have no place in the regular theatres, because there the patrons would think the chief piece was weak and needed bolstering. Such opportunities ought to be hailed with gratitude by actors and dramatists—especially dramatists—as it would be impossible to give their best playlets a star turn in a dramatic house."

THE annual excursion of the Palace Theatre staff, Lincoln, took place on Sunday, Cleethorpes being the place selected. A party, numbering over fifty, consisting of the staff and invited friends and patrons of the theatre, left Lincoln by special train, and on reaching Cleethorpes made their way to the Dolphin Hotel, where was prepared a sumptuous repast, to which full justice was done. The manager (Mr. R. R. Black) presided, and proposed the loyal toast of "The King," followed by that of "Mr. Frank Macnaghten" and "Success to the Palace, Lincoln," which was received with the greatest enthusiasm. Mr. Baker, the oldest member of the staff, responded on behalf of Mr. Macnaghten.

THE examination in bankruptcy before Mr. Registrar Hope was concluded on Tuesday of Charles Arthur Rollason, of Beacondale-road, Gipsy Hill. The accounts showed liabilities amounting to £2,266, and assets nil. The debtor, it was stated, was a mechanical engineer, and had for the past eight years been engaged in constructing and working outdoor amusements, such as water chutes, &c. He had been associated with the Compass Trading Company (Limited), which had been dissolved, the Chutes and Amusements Company (Limited), of which he was a director at £50 per annum, the Weston-super-Mare Water Chute (Limited), and the Rollason Amusements Syndicate (Limited).

A COLLECTION made for the London Hospital last week at Hengler's Circus, by permission of Mr. Austin Fryers, realised a sum of £23 7s. 3d.

MR. ERNEST CH. GITTINS, who has resigned his position as the Carl Rosa Co.'s acting-manager to produce condensed operas on the halls, was compelled on Monday to make his reappearance on the stage, after an absence of ten years. One of the members of the company (*The Daughter of the Regiment*) was unable to appear, and at very short notice Mr. Gittins appeared at both houses as Tony.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are Alversthorpe, on the Great Northern; Armley, on the Great Northern, Midland, and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Farnley, on the London and North-Western; Oldbury, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Oxford, on the London and North-Western, Great Western, Midland, and Metropolitan District; Thorner, on the North-Eastern; Wortley, on the London and North-Western and Great Northern; Barnoldswick, on the Midland; Exeter, on the London and South-Western and Great Western; Wirksworth, on the Midland; Blandford, on the Midland and South-Western; Broadway (Somerset), on the Great Western; Chapel Town, on the Great Central; Lambert Castle; Morchard Bishop, on the London and South-Western; Openshaw, on the Great Central; Swinton and Pendlebury, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Tideswell, on the Midland; Witton, on the London and North-Western and Cheshire Lines; Congresbury, on the Great Western; Maldon, on the Great Eastern; Wareham, on the London and South Western; Batley, on the London and North-Western and Great Northern; Blackheath (Staffs.), on the Great Western; Brentford, on the London and South-Western; Buxton, on the London and North-Western and Midland; Cromford, on the Midland; Matlock, on the Midland; Woodthorpe, on the Midland; Ayr, on the Glasgow and South-Western; Aberavon, on the Rhondda and South Brecon; Neath, on the Great Western, and Neath and Brecon; and Blaenavon, on the London and North-Western and Great Western railways.

Strolling Players.

What is a theatre and what are stage plays was argued at the Reigate Borough Court last week. A. J. Baiden, the owner of a portable structure, known as the Royal Pavilion, Redhill, was summoned for causing to be acted and presented parts in stage plays in an unlicensed theatre.

Inspector Lee paid a visit to the defendant's theatre, and saw staged *Convict No. 99*. During his stay in the theatre he saw a person dressed as a convict, with a wheelbarrow, and another as a warder with a gun. When asked for his licence defendant said one was not necessary as they were strolling players.

For the defence it was contended that when defendant and his company entered the town they were referred by the Town Clerk to the County Council officials at Kingston if thy required a licence.

Defendant said he saw the officials at Kingston, who informed him a licence was not necessary for a portable theatre, as they were strolling players. It was also argued that the portable structure, having no foundations, was not a theatre, and that stage plays were not performed there. In other parts of the county which were under the jurisdiction of the County Council there were "gaffs," and no licences were issued. The authorities did not interfere so long as they were properly conducted and were not a nuisance.

Mr. Charles Elliston, who stated that he had had twenty-six years' experience in the profession, and was the defendant's stage-manager, described himself and the company as strolling players. *Convict No. 99* was not a stage play, but was *Simon Lee, the Poacher's Doom* boiled down into a sketch.

The Bench held that the structure was a theatre, and that stage plays had been performed.

It was pointed out to the defendant by Mr. Brooks, one of the magistrates, that strolling players with a portable theatre did not require a licence when attending recognised fairs, but they could not erect their theatre in a town and stay an indefinite time without obtaining a licence.

A fine of £1 and costs was imposed.

Shows and Portable Theatres.

We have repeatedly pointed out the importance of maintaining the rights and liberties of travelling showmen. Shows have an acknowledged right to be held exempt from all building bye-laws whilst following the fairs. This is a valuable liberty. This exemption does not apply (as a matter of right) when shows locate themselves for any serious length of time for private business. With regard to portable theatres the matter is still further complicated by the question of obtaining a licence for stage plays.

It is high time that some steps were taken to abolish the antiquated machinery of the licensing Act with regard to stage plays.

There are scores of towns and village centres where only theatres of a portable type can possibly pay. The life of the workers in these deadly dull places would be all the better and sweeter for the strolling players and the advent of the portable theatre for a short season. It is straining the law to make it an instrument to deprive the people of necessary and wholesome amusement.

The Movable Dwellings Bill.

When Parliament reassembles in October the first measure before the House of Lords will be the Children's Bill. This being a Government Bill, and of the highest value and importance to the child-life of the nation, it will occupy the House of Lords a considerable time. Showmen earnestly support the Children's Bill. Its consideration by the Lords is (in point of time) of deep interest to the whole body of van-dwellers, because the Movable Dwellings Bill will be considered at the same time.

When Lord Clifford of Chudleigh obtained a second reading for his Bill, it was understood that some of its clauses, especially with reference to the education of children (either living in vans or travelling the country with their parents), might be covered by the Government measure, and so would be dropped from Lord Clifford's Bill.

Sanitary Laws Ample for Show Van Life.

If the educational clauses, with which showmen have no quarrel, are dropped out of the Movable Dwellings Bill, there will only remain the question of sanitation, and our contention is that the public health and the health of van-dwellers themselves are fully secured by already existing law. We have repeatedly said in these columns that every known law applicable to houses and dwellings in towns is equally applicable to movable dwellings, vans, and tents. It will be of use and value to our readers who use vans and tents if we quote the various Acts of Parliament affecting van and show life.

In the year 1875 the Public Health Act [38 and 39, Victoria, Ch. 55] set up all over England local sanitary authorities to look after the health conditions of the people. It was a consolidation Act as well as setting up a perfect network of administrative machinery for preservation of health and the prevention of all dangers to the health of the nation.

Section 91 of that Act is of great importance to our argument, for in a later Act—the Housing of the Working Classes Act [48 and 49, Ch. 72]—mention is made of tents and vans, and the penalties for van-dwellers not fulfilling the law are the same as those imposed upon all house-dwellers by Section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875. The Housing of the Working Classes Act specifically and clearly states in Section 9 that "(1) A tent, van, shed, or similar structure used for human habitation, which is in such a state as to be a nuisance or injurious to health, or which is so overcrowded as to be injurious to the health of the inmates, whether or not members of the same family, shall be deemed to be a nuisance within the meaning of Section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875. (2) A sanitary authority may make bye-laws for promoting cleanliness in, and the habitable condition of tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation, and for preventing the spread of infectious disease by persons inhabiting the same, and generally for the prevention of nuisances in connection with the same."

Other clauses in the same section provide for the properly authorised sanitary officer having the right of inspection of vans and tents used for living purposes.

Here we have enough law in all fairness for the possible demands of public health and security for the showman and his family life.

Still More Legislation.

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act, 1889 [52 and 53, Victoria, Ch. 72], Section 13 (1) provides that the Act applies to "Every tent, van, shed, or similar structure used for human habitation, in like manner, as nearly as may be, as if it were a building."

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Extension Act, 1899 [62 and 63, Victoria, Ch. 8] makes the Act of 1889 operative all over the country by extending its operation to all sanitary districts that had not voluntarily adopted it.

Some General Conclusions.

Every living van is a house for all health and sanitary purposes. It is as much under the rule and government of the sanitary and health authorities as any other building, permanent or temporary, used for human habitation. There is just the same law and just the same liberty for the van-dweller's home on wheels as the town-dweller's home of wood and stone. In the matter of all necessary safeguards for public health the law as it is is all-sufficient. It is just, because all must obey it. To endeavour to fix special and clearly invidious rules upon the showman that do not apply to householders in permanent homes is an insult and an invasion of his rights and liberties that every showman is bound to resist with all the vigour at his command. He is fully justified in using all lawful and constitutional means to oppose such mistaken and such drastic proposals as those embodied in the Movable Dwellings Bill.

We anticipate that the educational clauses of the Bill will be met by the provisions of the Children's Bill, and we have fully shown that the other parts of the Movable Dwellings Bill that deal with public health are already covered by existing law.

Much as we dislike attributing ulterior motives to the promoters of the Bill, we fear that their real object is not seen in the vague wording of the measure; their real object, we fear, is to get drastic powers by a peculiarly objectionable form of class legislation to penalise and harass van-dwellers of all kinds.

We read of showmen, but seldom of showwomen or show ladies. Anyone who has been familiar with the Show or Bazaar Department of the Alexandra Palace cannot fail to have noticed a nice-looking, agreeable lady superintending a bazaar counter from year to year. No matter who have been lessees this lady has been there with her wares for sale, and so well has she become known that it has been more than once asserted that she was built with the place. The remark has not been altogether uncalled for, because, as a matter of fact, Mrs. Ann Wales (the lady's name) was one of the last exhibitors to leave the burning building on June 9, 1873, to save some of her goods from being destroyed by the fiery element. The late Mr. Thomas Dixon, the first secretary of the Alexandra Palace Company, who died on April 1 this year, used to extol her bravery. In August, 1873, she was a recipient from the Distribution Committee of the Alexandra Palace Stall Holders' Relief Fund, of which the Lord Mayor of London was chairman. A short biographical sketch may be submitted as follows of this show lady, the half of whose life has been spent in the Alexandra Palace, and she candidly tells you that she has been working since she was fifteen years of age and at the present time is not worth sixpence.

Many of our sporting readers may remember when Fred Archer, the jockey, came into notice in 1877 by winning the Derby on Silvio another personage also became prominent, viz., James Wales, "the plunger," who made a fortune (but afterwards lost it) by backing the mounts of the popular jockey, whose fame continued for a matter of ten years. Wales, "the plunger," had an older brother, Richard, who had fallen in love with pretty Ann May, and on Aug. 7, 1870, married her. It may be ungallant to state this fact, that the subject of our memoir was born Feb. 10, 1840. So well does she bear her age and troubles that she looks twenty years younger, and her pleasant conversation has beguiled many a weary hour.

Flower Shows in Somerset.

Cole Brothers, with their well-known combination of show and machine novelties, have been doing good business on the Somerset Round, notably at Wells Flower Show and at Radstock. The helter-skelter tower and steam horses were great sources of delight to the many patrons of the fair. Henry Jennings, with roundabouts and other fairground attractions, was the chief provider of the fun of the fair at both Beckington and Frome Flower Shows.

Notes from the West.

Dartmouth Regatta Fair, under the banner of Messrs. Anderton and Rowland, attracted the majority of the concerns at the great Regatta. The lessees, Messrs. Anderton and Rowland, exhibited their big show and fine set of roundabouts. The other shows included John Jones, with Bioscope and Empire Variety Theatre, Prince Samonda's Temple of Eastern Magic, Birch's two ground booths with freak exhibits, and Valleta, physical culture expert. Amongst the machine exhibits were Messrs. Marshall and Ernest Hill's switchback, F. Haywood's juvenile motor cars, J. Wilson's gem roundabouts, Chapman's overboats, and swings (three sets) by Messrs. Smith, Charles, and Priddle.

Shooting ranges, hoop-la circles, novelty frames, variety stalls, and throwing games by Messrs. Rowland, J. Jones, Oldridge, Hurford, J. Jones, T. Connolly, A. Jones, W. Jones, and Mrs. Lock.

Newton Heath Wakes.

For the entertainment of this great industrial suburb of Manchester for the annual wakes were found T. Crighton's Palace of Life, with high class range of up-to-date pictures and variety programme, Prof. F. Vallus' second eight show, Capt. Leonard Harris with two ground booths, the miniature jungle and the freak exhibit, John Whiting's electric switchback, the Japanese cars, Wm. Mitchell's racing birds, shooting ranges, and other minor attractions by Sedgwick, Vallus, Wilson, Cooper, Toogood, Thompson, Murphy, and others.

Showmen in Council.

The important committee meeting of the Showmen's Guild at Oldham, on Wednesday evening, Sept. 2, was attended by a representative gathering of all the interests in the showman world. The object of the gathering was to receive a report of the work already done by the Guild Executive officials, with reference to the Movable Dwellings Bill, and to determine the line of action in opposition to the measure in the future.

Owing to the great pressure on our space, we are compelled to hold over a full report until next week.

Briefly stated, it was unanimously determined to oppose the Movable Dwellings Bill at every stage, and a resolution to that effect was carried.

Barnsley Feast.

The cinematograph theatres at this fair were Tuby and Son's Coliseum and Hobson's Empire. The other show was the pavilion of Sol. Hague, with black and white boxers and athletes. Tuby's two machines, the motor cars and the four-abreast, Charles Marshall's switchback, Corrigan's steam yachts, and Amos's steam swings were mechanical novelties present. Shooting concerns, throwing games, and all the fun of the fair were provided by Messrs. Rutter, Brennan, Gledhill, Hague, Doubtfire, Westys, Hunt, Black, Corrigan, and numerous local caterers. T. Morley's set of bicycles is at Dodsworth on this round.

Bakewell Feast.

The amusemnts at this Derbyshire fair were provided by Messrs. A. Twigdon, S. Ashby, and S. Pett, who exhibited steam and electric roundabouts, park swings, throwing games, and novelty stalls.

An Interesting Personal Note.

Many showmen are asking Who is Lord Clifford of Chudleigh? The following interesting notice of him appeared in the *Daily Chronicle* a week ago. We reproduce it for the information of our readers:—"Lord Clifford of Chudleigh is head of one of the oldest English Roman Catholic families, and married a daughter of the ancient house of Towneley of Towneley, now extinct in the male line. A veteran Volunteer and an aide-de-camp to the King, Lord Clifford is also a keen sportsman, and is a familiar figure on the golf links and in the hunting field. Amateur acting is one of his hobbies, and he has often played to applauding audiences in the pretty private theatre attached to his Devonshire seat. Lord Clifford is a Count of the Holy Roman Empire and a B.A. of London University. One of his sisters is married to Lord Denbigh, and two others are nuns.

In the negotiations carried on by the Guild with Lord Clifford his lordship has shown a ready disposition to meet the wishes of showmen. In fact, he is ready to accept amendments that largely mitigate the Bill so far as it touches show life. The important committee meeting at Oldham this week was to submit these suggested amendments and to formulate the next steps in the showmen's opposition to the Bill. The Rev. T. Horne, in whose hands mainly the work has lain, testifies with pleasure to the extremely courteous and conciliatory way Lord Clifford carried out his share of the conference. The Guild Chaplain was glad to meet his lordship and to be the means of correcting many erroneous impressions with regard to show life that obtain in the highest circles of public life.

Barnet Old Charter Fair.

Speaking in anticipation of the ancient Fair which opens to-day (Saturday), the *Morning Leader* has the following interesting paragraph:—"Barnet Fair, which is by many held to mark the end of summer and the beginning of the pork season, opens next Friday, and for three days the usually quiet town will be full of the noises which go to make up this annual blending of business and pleasure. One of the prime movers in the organisation of the fair is known locally as 'Young Joe Berryman,' who is lessee of the fair grounds, and who is responsible for checking and housing the cattle, and making the sellers, dealers, van dwellers, and travelling showmen comfortable. 'Young Joe' is so called, not because he is sixty-three years of age, but to distinguish him from his father, who in his day held the position the son now holds. Another well-known figure at the fair is Joe Stevens, the caterer, whom most visitors to Epsom, Ascot, and Brighton races must have seen. The horses and other stock, for the sale of which the fair was originated, now arrive for the most part by train. Although as a business fair Barnet is gradually losing ground, in respectability it has risen considerably."

The Reading Bye-law.

The following letter has been sent to the Town Clerk of Reading with reference to the new bye-law noticed in our issue of last week:—

"To the Town Clerk of Reading.

"Dear Sir,—Your proposed new bye-law, relating to mechanically-played music on shows and roundabouts, and to the erection of suchlike amusements, has been sent to our committee by Mr. Jacob Studt, a member and vice-president of the Guild. I am asked to make the following observations:—(1) We note with satisfaction that your fairs are all exempted from its powers. (2) With regard to shows exhibiting at other times than your annual fairs, we beg to point out that the Corporation has already ample powers of reasonable control in the conditions they may impose before letting sites on the market or fairground. Showmen feel strongly that large powers of discretion should be in the hands of the local authority, and to the exercise of such discretionary powers they always render loyal obedience. (3) The new bye-law will remove the control from the local authority and will place it in the hands of individual residents or passengers to harass and penalise our trade and business. We know many instances where the local authority has been forced to take action by extremists whose objection was to shows as such, and not with any view to regulating the music or safeguarding the public. Under cover of bye-laws similar to yours a crusade has been waged by narrow-minded fanatics against the open-air amusements of the people. We most respectfully ask the Mayor and Corporation to keep the discretion and power of regulating in their own hands, not to give power to a single complainant to force them into taking a narrow view and to injure the trade and business of an honourable and industrious body of people. (4) Mr. Jacob Studt informs us that he has visited Reading with his show and other amusements, and has always given satisfaction, and has always been welcomed by the people. Your bye-law would put him at the mercy of anyone passing his show. He has always used the Corporation ground, and has been careful to observe all the conditions of tenancy imposed by the authorities.

"This organisation speaks for the whole body of showpeople. There are 70,000 persons concerned in the show business. We beg, in their name, your most serious consideration of the points we have given above against the confirmation of the new bye-law.—For the Executive Committee,

"T. HORNE,

"Chaplain and Organiser, the Showmen's Guild.

"5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., Sept. 1."

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

OLDHAM WAKES.

Oldham Wakes is pre-eminently the people's annual fair and the town holidays. All the people cease work; the town, as regards ordinary trade and business, puts up its shutters, shuts down its mills and workshops, and all the people go out to play. The casual visitor to Oldham, or the busy man who rushes through its hilly and tortuous main thoroughfares, will most probably bring away an extremely bad impression.

Its principal street suggests a town that is in the backwash of the great stream of progress that has swept over industrial England. To judge Oldham and its marvellous advance amongst the great centres of industry by casual or by hurried observation would be an error of the first magnitude—to judge it by the same standard you would apply to Manchester, Birmingham, or Leeds, or to gauge its progress by the visible signs of widened thoroughfares and palatial public buildings, as you do other towns, is to misjudge Oldham and to fail to do its people justice.

Read the Living Documents.

To know Oldham you must read the living documents, not mere bricks and mortar. Oldham makes things, and sends them off to Manchester and Liverpool to distribute them all over the world. To know Oldham and to measure its true life you must rise early in the morning and listen to the clank of the wooden shoon; you must watch its vast industrial army—men, women, and children—tramping off to the cotton mills and to the machine shops. These are the real palaces of Oldham.

The true standard of the people's progress is shown in the better and happier life of the workers, and that, after all, is better than straight-cut boulevards and palatial buildings.

As regards the real and the lasting things of life, Oldham is a generation or two ahead of more pretentious cities.

Judged by the general level of comfort of life and means to enjoy it; judged by the real tests of industrial progress—thrift, co-operation, and combination—to uplift human life, Oldham takes a proud position amongst the great towns of the Empire.

Some Historic Notes About the Wakes.

Writing 100 years ago about the wakes at Oldham, "Rowbotham," the local historian, says in his "Annals":—

"August 26th. — Being Oldham Rushbearing Saturday, and a fine day, was very fully attended, and owing to the briskness of the Fustian business there were 8 Rush Carts.

"On Sunday, a fine day, and very throng, and Five Rush Carts, which was a thing uncommon, there was plenty of brewing with Familys which a short time since where very poor, besides notwithstanding the exhorbitant price of Butchers meat there was plenty of Beef and Cabbage, and joy appeared in every countenance."

Our memory of the fair goes back forty-eight years, and we, too, remember the rushbearing carts and the Merrie Morris dancers. We have witnessed the tremendous changes in the life of the people that the last fifty years of national progress have brought about.

The rush cart and the Morris Dancers still survive in certain of the more archaic corners of "Cotton Land," and at all "May Day Festivals" on the grand scale, such as May Day at Knutsford, the rushbearers and the Morris Dancers shod in "their wooden shoon" form an interesting feature.

Oldham has moved ahead since the days of the rush cart, and is to-day the pioneer city of the adventurous cheap tripper. Oldham has made more than one "City of Pleasure and perpetual Fair by the Sea." Oldham is the creator of Blackpool, and the chief benefactor of Douglas, Morecambe, Southport, Llandudno, Rhyl, and a dozen other seaside resorts. When Oldham sends forth its strenuous sons and daughters at the "resting-time of the wakes," the hungry souls of a score of pleasure resorts at the sea, inland, and abroad, rejoice and are glad, for the day of their long expectation has come, and all is well with the company, housekeeper, and the caterers of amusement and recreation at the sea.

Some Economic Facts.

This year, despite the depression in the cotton trade and its allied industries, nearly half a million of money has been drawn out of thrift banks, going-off clubs, co-operative societies, and trade societies—not to be wasted, as the cheap-and-nasty critic imagines, in an orgy of pleasure and sensual excess, but to be well and wisely used for the worker. In the first place, for necessary rest and recuperation after fifty full weeks of grinding and exhausting toil; and in the second place for the replenishing of clothing and the necessities of home life.

Think of it, ye carping critics of the people's life! What a sum it looks to the jaundiced eye of the penny wise and pound foolish economist. Half a million of money! Yet, divide it amongst a million and more of people who have the spending and the enjoyment of it, and it remains still a marvel of economic fact and thrifty management.

Well, the heart and centre of "the going-off club movement" is Oldham. But for the savings clubs, which are the very essence of thrift, many of them would not be able to secure that change of air and scenery so very necessary to rehabilitate a system enervated by a year's strenuous toil. Various calls would swallow up the small weekly contributions which are made to the funds, and at holiday time many would find themselves without the necessary facilities for a respite. All logical reasoning is opposed to the argument that people who exhibit sufficient thrift to save the whole year round would, in the course of a week, dissipate the fruits of this self-denial. A very cursory examination on the spot would soon dispel the fallacies. Tradesmen can speak of the few days preceding the holiday, when the funds are distributed, as among the most prosperous of the year, for with some of the money distributed articles of personal comfort are purchased or some desire for the improvement of the home gratified. Much of the money, too, is reinvested.

Holiday Railway Traffic.

The augmented staff of railway porters who have been drawn from other towns stare open-eyed, and wonder when the exodus is going to cease. The railway companies, dealing as they do with over 100,000 excursionists, have to make their strongest effort to cope with it. Naturally they make big returns during Wakes week, and it is to their advantage to compete with each other for business. Keen rivalry exists amongst them, and their special facilities for travelling are billed all over the town. Such demands on railways have inevitably cut the cost of travelling down to a minimum with the maximum of comfort. There is no other town in England perhaps where the population makes such a sudden and tremendous exit as in Oldham. Other towns and cities with larger populations seem to take their holidays at their leisure and go away at various periods during the season; but there are few places that approach Oldham in the number of people who leave on one day. To cope with such a gigantic task is herculean work on the part of the railway companies, but experience of previous years shows that they do their work well, and all is got over in the best possible way.

But the Wakes holiday in Oldham is not confined entirely to the mill operative class, as outsiders so frequently imagine. People from the highest point of the social ladder to the lowest rung will pursue the hunt for pleasure; and perhaps at Blackpool, the Isle of Man, or some other pleasure spot an alderman, magistrate, or councillor will jog elbows with the humblest ratepayer and mill operative. The great leveller has been at work, and class distinctions at the seaside are at a discount.

Some Social Facts.

The Lancashire lass, with the throwing off of her shawl and clogs, has forgotten that she hails from "Owdham." Many a hard-earned penny has gone in the laying in of a costume with which to appear smart at the seaside. Of course, she has a perfect right to spend her savings as she desires, and one can trust her that none will be really wasted. Much may go in vain frivolities, and in satisfying idle wishes; but this, it must be remembered, is the only time when she gets her full share of the world's pleasures. It all has an end and a purpose, and contributes to make the holiday a complete success. As a matter of fact, much can be learned by others from the way in which the Lancashire mill operative conducts herself on holiday.

Altogether Lancashire working people on holiday are a delightful crowd. They can never be described as "downhearted," and though merry and full of the gaiety which means so much in favour of a holiday, they are always orderly, and gain the respect and admiration of everyone.

But, separate and apart from the million who travel, over a million toilers remain who cannot, manage to save or afford to go to the sea. For this vast mass of human life the itinerant showman and novelty caterer provides, and the old historic fair-ground known as Tommyfield (the playground of Oldham lads and lassies from time immemorial) is the theatre of their effort.

On the eve of the fair, as we neared the main street and noted the trend of human life in the busy thoroughfares of the town, we were especially interested in the outward and visible signs of a whole town and people bent on taking a holiday.

The heart of a toil-worn people seeking rest—seeking not only rest from toil, but change, recreation, amusement, and some little joy of life.

The Enduring Power of the Wakes.

To the stay-at-home people Tommyfield, even on the eve of the fair, was the "Mecca" of their pilgrimage.

On Saturday, however, the main fair day, you would have been puzzled to realise that any exodus had taken place at all. From every railway station thousands came in to the town, for it must be ever remembered that Oldham is easy of access to dozens of busy centres of life, and that "Owdham Wakes" is dear to the heart of Lancashire. To visit Tommyfield is a local duty as well as a never-failing delight.

By five o'clock the streets looked very lively, and as time wore on crowds continued to arrive by trams and trains till nearly eight o'clock. Then, indeed, Oldham presented an animated picture. Nothing was dull or monotonous, and the amount of business done must have been enormous. Of course, it was in Tommyfield the principal portion of the amusement was centred. There the usual fair was again held, its attractions this year being more novel and pleasing than we have seen for a good while. Variety was almost endless as far as progress was concerned, but the old-time amusements which so delighted our ancestors seem to have been entirely lost sight of. There were gay charioteers after the Oriental fashion there in galore, but where was the rushcart and all its memorable associations? We know that old people would have very much preferred to see one there; it would have conjured up old thoughts; it would have brought them back to the past; but is the modern idea of recreation turned in another direction? It seems to be, and to meet the requirements of fashion modern inventions were requisitioned.

From seven o'clock till after eleven Tommyfield was packed to the extreme, standing space being at a premium, while at times it was rendered difficult to retain a position owing to the crushing of the human surging mass which pressed on and on from one variety to another till all taking part in it had seen the different displays. And no sooner had they made the way clear than they were succeeded by an equally numerous throng, walking along speechless, all eyes on the alert and all minds centred on the attractions around. The effect was quite panoramic, and one standing at the end of any of the long unoccupied passages which marked the boundary between one set of amusements and another, and from there surveying the multitude of faces, could witness a scene to delight the eye. With the brilliant light of the electric arcade lamps, and the glowing flames of the more modest gas, and the pleasing countenances of the throng, everything seemed in harmony and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

Shows, Machines, and Novelties.

Col. Clark's Palace of Animated Photography, Capt. Tom Payne's New Electric Coliseum, P. Collins and Sons' Wonderland II., the Palace of Orpheus, and the same firm's set of Gordon-Bennett motor-cars, Westwood's Colonial giant boy and girl exhibition, Leyland's Empire pictures and varieties, Pattison's Dime Museum, and several interesting side-shows.

The Mitchell family exhibited their excellent machine sets—the motor-cars, the steam yachts, and the racing birds; and Messrs. John Green, John Collins, Wm. Holmes, Helm, and J. H. Geoghegan exhibited big machines—motors, gallopers, and steam horses; gem horses by S. Mercer, and S. Mallor, and swings by Platt.

Shooting Ranges and Novelty Frames.

As far as the fair-ground could accommodate them—and, in fact, the ground was overcrowded—minor novelties were displayed. These were in the capable hands (amongst many others) of Messrs. George Cornwell, R. Ingham, Martin, Hughes, Ormrod, Harrington, Platt, Matheson, Harrison Bros., and local caterers.

Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union.

Following the important meeting at Oldham this week, the executive of the Union summon a meeting at Armley Feast at 2.30, on Tuesday next, Sept. 8. See advertisement for other particulars.

The Showman and the Snake.

Great excitement prevailed in a Berlin restaurant last week in account of the vagaries of a huge snake. It was dinner time, and the restaurant was crowded, when suddenly a mottled monster some 6ft. long dropped quietly, apparently from nowhere, into the centre of one of the largest tables. The scene was indescribable; ladies screamed, men uttered "donnerwetters," and chairs were overturned by the flying crowds. The snake alone remained unmoved, lying perfectly oblivious of the commotion which it had created. Finally a waiter bolder than the rest approached cautiously, others followed, and soon it was evident that the reptile was sound asleep. It seems that the reptile belonged to a showman who had a room on the floor above. It had escaped through a hole, and curled itself around the chandelier of the restaurant. The smoke of so many German cigars stupefied it, with the aforesaid result. The snake was captured without being awakened and restored to the showman.

Kinematograph Copyright. The law affecting the same. By William Jago, F.I.O., F.C.S., barrister-at-law. Price 6d. Address, The Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

17,257.—Marion McAllister Paterson, of London. Improvements in targets.

17,307.—Moritz Lieske, of Hull. Improved merry-go-round.

17,326.—David Henderson Waddell, of London. Improved exit doors.

17,411.—James Francis Kendal, of London. Improvements in or connected with apparatus for exhibiting animated pictures.

17,473.—Edward Joshua Blackburn Scratton, of Glasgow. Improvements in and relating to gramophones and such-like instruments or talking machines.

17,487.—Hans Prieber, of London. Improvements in roundabouts.

17,645.—John Alexander Kennedy-McGregor and Edward William Bonson, of Knowle, Warwickshire. Improvements in toboggans, switchbacks, and the like.

17,678.—Alfred Hames, of London. Improvements in roundabouts for recreative purposes.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

18,638.—Mitchell. Target practice apparatus.

18,645.—Wertheim. Apparatus for exhibiting pictures or advertisements.

18,879.—Mitchell. Target practice apparatus.

23,818.—Robson. Optical lanterns and the regulation and control of light-producing agents, electric arcs, limelights, or the like, used in connection therewith, and apparatus therefor.

3,510.—Ross. Targets.

7,514.—Christensen. Apparatus for taking and representing living pictures on the multiple-colour method.

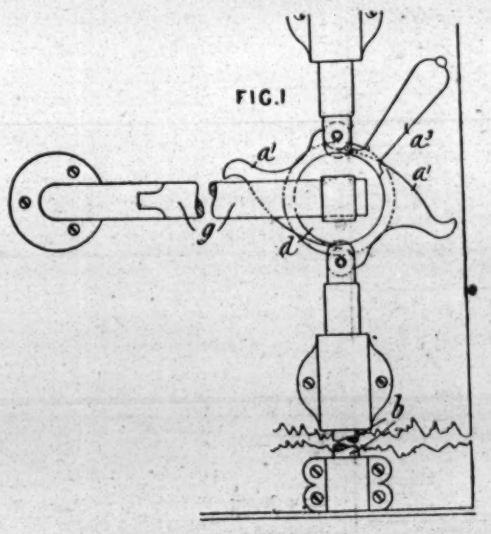
SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

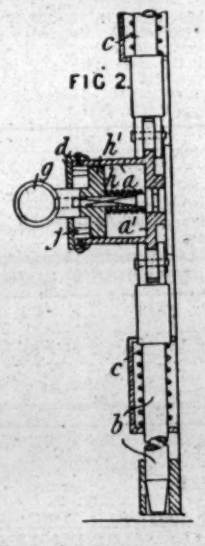
14,409.—Sallé. Means for producing theatrical effects.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

9,665.—Emergency exit fasteners. Galley, J. G., of Leytonstone, Essex.

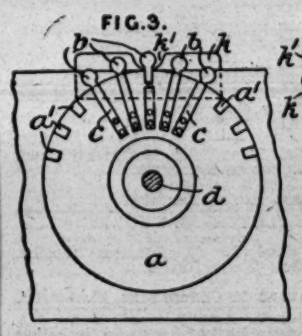
Single or double doors, for the emergency exits of theatres or other places, or for private houses, are fastened by a pair of spring-controlled bolts (*b*), which are shot by the cam (*a*1), rotated by the handle (*a*3), and locked by projections (*j*) engaging recesses (*h*1) in a sliding spring-controlled disk (*h*) connected to a push-bar (*g*). On operation of the push-bar (*g*), the bolts are withdrawn by the springs (*c*). The projections (*j*) are preferably formed on the cap (*d*) of a cylinder (*a*) integral with the cam (*a*1). The push-bar (*g*) may be replaced by a knob or button, and the handle (*a*3) by a ring with a milled edge.

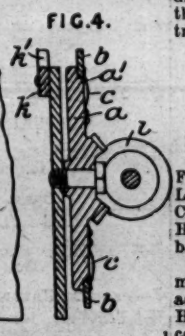




9,770.—Targets. Phillips, H., of Plaistow, London.

A disk or wheel (*a*) is formed with recesses (*a*1) for receiving the shanks of targets (*b*) of pipeclay, glass, or other brittle material, and is rotated by a shaft (*d*) or otherwise from the firing position to bring one target at a time into view from behind a protecting plate (*k*), formed with a recess (*k*1). The targets are retained in position by springs (*c*) and can be readily replaced. Two or more wheels carrying targets may be driven simultaneously by a cross-shaft and bevel gearing (*i*). The shaft (*d*) may be mounted loosely on roller bearings and retained in position by U-shaped yokes.





9,801.—Games. Johnson, A., of Leeds.

A device to be used in playing the game consists of a representation of a kicking donkey. The figure is made of a number of parts suitably jointed, and it is fixed to a base (A) by a stay (S) at its back. It is retained in the standing position by a circular block (I) attached to a spring (J) engaged in a notch in the legs (H). A second spring, which is attached to the base (A) and a clip, draws the donkey's head downwards when the block (I) is caused to release the legs (H) by being struck by a pellet fired at it from a spring pistol by a player. On the back of the figure is mounted a boy (M) with one or more baskets in which are placed balls (B). When the block (I) is struck and the donkey kicks, the boy (M) is projected into a box (T), marked out into numbered squares. The score is counted by the numbers of the squares on which the balls come to rest.

CAN YOU INVENT?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, and £100? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd-George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

URBANORA 420 WEEKS' RUN AT THE ALHAMBRA.

AN EXPLANATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Notwithstanding the prominence given by the general trade and professional Press to the fact that Urbanora was withdrawn from the Alhambra Theatre by the Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd., after a record run of 420 weeks, the impression seems to prevail in the trade generally, both at home and abroad, that the renewal of contract was declined by the Alhambra management. As this false impression is calculated to injure the reputation and business of the Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd., the fact that the initiative was taken by this company cannot be too strongly put forward. Shortly before the expiration of contract a letter was sent to the Alhambra management stating that this company would not renew the agreement for a further period.

The Alhambra management, in giving publicity to the change of arrangement for filling the gap, made the statement that an open market of the world's animated picture productions is preferred by them to the monopoly they have enjoyed during the term of the Urbanora agreement.

Urbanora for eight years held its own as one of the chief drawing powers of Alhambra audiences.

Competition for attractive general items in a variety entertainment is just as keen as is that for the provision of motion pictures of a sufficiently drawing nature, yet the Alhambra management has for years given a practical monopoly of supply to one firm of agents! Even were the case otherwise, success in the motion-picture exhibit depends entirely upon the nature of the display. Urbanora has, from first to last, provided subjects which, on the unanimous vote of Press and public, have furnished the most attractive half-hour of the whole performance, not only drawing the audience, but keeping the seats well filled until the last picture left the screen. Greater Press publicity has also been accorded to the Alhambra by the very fact that the constant change of topical and other pictures secures constant journalistic notice of the theatre at which they were first and exclusively produced.

The Palace management, realising that better returns are possible by the inclusion of Urbanora in its bill than by any other known motion-picture method, have, as aforesaid, departed from the practice with which the Alhambra are now satisfied.

We are reluctantly compelled to make the above facts known, inasmuch as our trade competitors are endeavouring to make capital of the withdrawal by insinuating that we had no option in the matter, which is quite the reverse of the truth.

C. URBAN.

Urbanora House, Wardour-street, London, W.
Sept. 4, 1908.

A SHOWMAN'S CLAIM.

Captain Lovelace, owner of the airship at the Franco-British Exhibition, was summoned at West London before Mr. Garrett, at the instance of Charles Mortlake Bentley, of 15, Sulgrave-road, Hammersmith, who claimed a sum of £6 6s. 8½., balance of wages due.

Complainant, who described himself as a showman, said he was engaged by Captain Lovelace as assistant mechanic at a weekly salary of £2 10s. He worked down to the 15th, when all work ceased, and he was only paid £2.

James Hamilton, manager to Captain Lovelace, stated that the complainant was engaged as an "outside" man at the show, and was told that the limit of wages was £2 a week, but that if he did extra work in connection with the show he would be paid accordingly. He did a little odd work, such as putting screws in, &c.

Complainant, recalled, denied that his wages were only £2 a week. When they told him that the limit of wages was £2 he said he was engaged at another show, viz., "Pharaoh's Daughter," at £2 10s., and he could not take less money. As regards the mechanical work he did, he made stays for the airship and assisted with the others in filling the balloon.

Mr. Menchen, manager of "Pharaoh's Daughter," was called, and denied that he ever engaged Bentley.

The magistrate made an order on the defendant to pay £4, with 2s. costs.

Captain Lovelace: I should like to say, sir, that after the disaster occurred to the airship I called all my men together, and I said, "Boys, I have £30 in the bank, and I am willing to divide it amongst you." I paid them each £2, and I should have paid them more later, but the insurance company will not pay until after the inquest, which has been adjourned to Sept. 7.

The Magistrate: That showed good feeling on the part of your men, and of course everyone sympathises with you; but legally this complainant is entitled to the money.

MR. HORACE SHELDON, son of Mr. Sheldon, of Aberdeen and Dundee, who has been the musical conductor at the Willesden Hippodrome since the opening, has been deputising at the Holborn for Mr. Sales, who has been on a holiday, and has now gone to the Canterbury.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

THE GOLD PROSPECTOR is a film which reveals to us a thrilling drama, teeming with exciting situations and full of incident, realistically enacted amidst most picturesque scenery of mining camp and forest. The photographic quality is perfect, remarkable stereoscopic effects being presented. The story, which enthralls and holds the audience breathless from the opening scene to the denouement, is one of exceptional interest, relating to the receipt of good news by a miner, a rich legacy, a rival's usurpation of his character and personality, a foul attempt at murder, sympathetic treatment of the wounded man by rude but kindly hands, and remorse of the usurper, unhappy in his illegal prosperity. Restored to health, the real legatee follows the villain, and a powerful and dramatic scene of denunciation, confession, and restitution concludes the series.

WITH THE TERRITORIALS ON SALISBURY PLAIN.—In this we are given the British Home Army in pictures, including remarkable representations of life in camp. Citizen soldiers and regular troops arrive, pitch their tents, retire, and emerge newly awakened by the *réveillé* bugle. In vigorous manly, and martial exercises troops of every arm of the service enjoy to the full the health-giving, pleasant, and profitable fortnight recently spent on Salisbury Plain. Part I. of this series deals with infantry. In it we see the camp of the South Midland Division at Netheravon, a Surrey battalion on the march, 23rd Battalion County of London erecting tents, the Inns of Court, after kit inspection, returning kits to the tents, guard-tent of the East Surrey Battalion sentry-go, *réveillé*, and the early morning ablutions. The series is interesting, amusing, and instructive.

EXTRACTION OF POISON FROM A VENOMOUS SNAKE.—The other day a private experiment was carried out at the studios of the Charles Urban Trading Co. Osca, the snake-handler, produced a four-foot spreading adder in very angry mood, and pictures were taken at close quarters of the deadly reptile. Securely held, the creature expanded its head and "struck," ejecting its poisonous fluid into a receptacle held in readiness. The fact that the greatest care is necessary in handling venomous snakes, even by experts, was proved by Osca, who held out for inspection a scarce-healed forefinger which had been struck by the same adder a few days previously. Osca, immediately he felt the puncture, bit a piece out of his own finger and sucked the wound. "Otherwise," he remarked, "I should have been a dead man in a quarter of an hour." This ejection of deadly venom by a poisonous reptile forms one of a series of fascinating snake subjects secured by the Charles Urban Trading Co. which will be published immediately.

URBANORA AT THE PALACE THEATRE.—There has just been included in the Urbanora exhibit at the Palace Theatre an exclusive and stirring series of animated pictures of the operations of the Territorial Army on Salisbury Plain. A cable from Geneva, by the way, states that Mr. Ormiston Smith, the climbing cinematographer of the Urban Co., ascending the Jungfrau last week with four Grindelwald guides to take animated pictures for Urbanora at this theatre, encountered near the summit four young German Alpinists, including two women, crouching in holes in the ice and half dead from exposure and exhaustion. With great difficulty the operator and his guides got the Germans to the Concordia hut, where, after three days' medical treatment, they were sufficiently restored to be removed to Grindelwald. But for the timely arrival of the Bioscopists the doctor who still has the case in hand states that the tourists would certainly have perished from the cold. These should be scenes to evoke enthusiasm in Palace audiences in the near future.

Pathé Frères.

WONDERFUL FERTILIZER.—Here we are treated to an intensely comical Pathé production. The story is as follows:—A scientist has just discovered a lotion possessed of the power of transforming sap into spontaneous and luxuriant vegetation. In his rapture he tells his house-porter of his great discovery, and in order to test the new invention, he besprinkles the worthy man's nose with the liquid, and pimples grow on it, to the amazement of the porter. The scientist goes out, followed by quite a crowd of people eager to hear of and test the virtue of the stuff. A drunkard coming home with a small rose tree he has just bought for his wife's birthday stops short in front of the bottle, which he appropriates; but as he drinks it the hair immediately covers his face, while the puny rose tree of a while ago, which has received a few drops of the wonderful lotion, assumes the proportions of a tree. The drunkard's wife is less flattered by this cumbersome present than cross at sight of her shaggy husband, to whom she shows by blows what she thinks of him. The scientist, having been able to secure the bottle again, pours out a few drops of its contents into the hand of a woman, and lo! there she sees a big cabbage, and inside, a small baby.

A ROMAN IDYLL is of the dramatic and realistic order. Saphora, the proud and beautiful daughter of one of the most ancient and noble families of Rome, has fallen in love with a plebeian, Marcus Petrus, who is renowned for his strength and beauty. But Marcus Petrus is engaged to Lydie, a girl of his own class, and Saphora cannot make him love her. As she learns the secret of her failure, she thinks she can still bring Marcus to her feet. One day Lydie, with a pitcher on her shapely shoulder, is going to fetch water among the beautiful scenery of the country around Rome when Saphora has her taken by her slaves and thrown into a dark dungeon, where the poor girl thinks with despair that she is going to die slowly. A kindly slave has pity on her, and Marcus, having been informed by him of the whereabouts of his sweetheart, comes and sets her free, after which he inflicts on Saphora the very same treatment she had been so near imposing on her young victim. She is thrown alive into the horrible dungeon, and the story does not say whether she ever escaped her dismal fate.

DONKEY-SKIN.—Thus may this fairy-tale be told. Once upon a time there was a king so beloved of his people and so charming in every way that it was not too much to say he was absolutely the greatest favourite of living monarchs. But as the vicissitudes of life do not respect kings more than their subjects, trouble came at last to this household. The queen was seized with a very serious illness, so terrible and so grave that science could do no good whatever. When she died there was general desolation throughout the Court and kingdom. The king could do nothing but bemoan his fate. But even great sorrows cannot last for ever. At length the Ministers of State gathered round the king and told him he must re-marry, as a prince was necessary to quiet the nation and finally set matters right. The king promised to think it over and see if he could please them. Unhappily, however, he took into his head that not only was his daughter, the Infanta, very beautiful and intelligent, but even more charming and delightful than her mother had been; and he went to her and told her he had made up his mind that she must marry him. The young princess, virtuous and modest, was much concerned when she heard the news, and ran to her godmother, the fairy of the Lilacs. This fairy advised her to ask her impossible lover to get her a dress as bright as the sun, or otherwise she would not listen to him. The king, on hearing this, summoned the cleverest workmen of the time, and told them what he wanted, and that within twenty-four hours. Seeing this was likely to be accomplished, the young girl ran again to her good fairy, who told her this time to ask for the skin of a donkey whose stable every morning was covered in gold sufficient to supply the needs of the whole royal household. Alas! though the king was much surprised, this, even, was not impossible; and the young princess, in desperation, decided to run away in the donkey-skin, which disguised her entirely. She ran ever so far away, and was found by a farmer's wife, who was looking for just such a girl as she to wash the dishes and help with the pigs and poultry. On a certain fête day, having put on her bright sun-coloured coat, a prince saw her, fell in love with her, and went direct to his father's palace. He was so much in love, indeed, that he was rendered quite ill. He asked his mother, who begged him to tell her the cause of his sudden illness, to let him have a cake made by Donkey-skin. Inside the cake he found a tiny ring that the Infanta had dropped, and he declared he would marry none other than the girl whose finger would fit the ring, whoever she might be. The princess was the last to be called, and the ring slipped on her finger quite easily. The marriage took place with great rejoicing.

THE SAILOR'S DOG.—The fisherman's faithful dog is running to the beach, sniffing the wind the while—this dreadful wind, which brings on its wings death to the head of the small family whose little cottage can be seen in the distance. The dog's instinct has not played him false, for after a short time he discovers the body of his master, thrown there by the tide and half hidden by the sand and seaweed. He takes his master's cap in his mouth and comes back to the little cottage, thus imparting to the widow the horrible tidings of her bereavement.

Gaumont Company.

THE DOG'S REVENGE.—A mother and child alight from a light cart drawn by a large dog and enter their house. They leave the cart in the street, where it is quickly espied by a rough-looking man dragging a heavy barrow. This individual hastens to transfer the dog to the shafts of his own vehicle, in which he seats himself and forces the dog to pull him up-hill. The animal resents the ill-treatment meted out to him, and resolutely tries to bring about a disaster, and the tramp has a series of narrow escapes, finally finding himself before the house of the dog's mistress once more in a highly exhausted state, where he receives corporal punishment from the real owners of the animal.

THE TRAITOR.—The soldier son of a poor couple, living in the country, is seen leaving home for barracks. On the way he falls in with two men who ply him with drink, and obtain a promise that he will secure some valuable plans of government fortifications for them. This the soldier is seen doing in subsequent scenes, and with his booty deserts and makes his way to the frontier, stopping at his own house on the way to obtain some of his possessions. Here he is followed by his old father, who manages to get the plans from him. But a sentry who sees them fires at the younger man with fatal effect.

OUR INDIAN EMPIRE.—This is a most attractive series, dealing as it does in interesting fashion with the people, the place, the life, and the principal features of the great cities in our Eastern Dependency.

Nordisk Films Co.

BEAR-HUNTING is the title of a film which introduces scenes of exciting incidents. We see the party's progress through the forest, the loading of their guns, and the dividing into two companies for the purpose of reconnoitring the district. The first bear is soon sighted. It stands peacefully enjoying the sunshine on an enormous granite block. With a well-directed shot the mighty fellow is felled to the ground. The peasants cover the booty with branches, mark the place, and go away. Both hunting parties have splendid results to show after an exciting hunt. In all five powerful animals have been killed. The third one comes into view so suddenly and so close to the hunter that he has no time to make use of his gun, but is obliged to attack with his spear. Mortally wounded by terrible stabs, the bear darts hither and thither between the rocks and the trees, where he finally falls to the ground, hit by a well-aimed shot through the head. On lath-sledges, which are made on the spot, the powerful animals are now dragged to the camp, where the hunters indulge in a luxurious lunch.

THE Corporation of Wimbledon have granted Mr. Alfred H. Botwright the use of the Baths Hall, Latimer-road, every Saturday night for eighteen weeks, from Nov. 14, for the purpose of running popular entertainments, at which the Walturdaw World's Bioscope will be the leading feature.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

TALES THE SEARCHLIGHT TOLD.—Leaving out of the question the comedy and picture value, the panoramic bird's-eye view and illumination at night make this film unique. It gives us a picture of Coney Island—that great pleasure-ground of the New Yorker—and places before us the experiences of the farmer on a round of sight-seeing. We are introduced during the daylight to the numerous diversions operated to draw the money from the pleasure-seeker, and, as darkness descends, the process of lighting up. Now from the port of observation our farmer friend follows the searchlight, and, being humoured by the operator, cuts some funny antics as a result of his observations. As a result the unexpected happens, and the observation tower is invaded by indignant visitors. These mob the searchlight operator, and punish him by dipping him repeatedly in the sea, where he is discovered by his whilom friend, the farmer, who tries his hand at operating the light.

THE Sheffield Photo Co. are taking a special and exclusive film of the race for the St. Leger. It should be eagerly featured by all showmen.

The White City, Old Trafford.

ALTHOUGH the weather has been more like April than August, there are times when large crowds seek amusement in this beautiful park. The splendid ballroom receives much patronage from people fond of dancing, and the fancy-dress carnival this week drew a "full house." The skating rink, under the superintendence of Prof. Alec Payne, a well-known champion skater, is also very popular. Princess Trixie, the wonderfully educated mare, draws full houses at every performance. The Phillipine natives—Bontoc Igorrotes—continue to gain in popularity. Professor Sergeant, with his clever illusion exhibition by Cleopatra, the Egyptian wonder, completely mystifies the crowded houses; and the scenic railway, figure 8 railway, Hale's tours of the world, the Katzenjammer Castle, and the many other amusements are often taxed to their utmost capacity.

EDISON FILMS

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, U.S.A.

TALES THE SEARCHLIGHT TOLD.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES.

THE FARMER'S VISIT.—"Si" Slocum visits Coney—Mounts the Observation Tower at Dreamland—Hires a spy glass—Running comments create amusement—He sees it all—And a few things—Rare sights.

PANORAMA OF CONEY ISLAND.—Perfect bird's-eye view—Taking in the entire Island from the top of the tower—Inland and Ocean front—Bathers—Life-savers—Boats—Throngs on Surf Avenue.

WHAT "SI" SEES FIRST.—Into range comes the giant swing—Visitors riding the camels—Indian girl shooting at glass balls—Shooting the Chutes—With long water glide—Diving horses—Diving horse and rider—The Great Divide—Looping the Loop—Virginia Reel—(This is a laugh-maker)—The immense Ferris wheel—"Si" spots a young couple in mid-air indulging in a Soul Kiss—"Where Ignorance is Bliss, 'Tis Folly to be Wise."

CONEY ISLAND ILLUMINATED.—Darkness gradually descends—Daylight fades—One by one the lights come out—A beautiful effect—Like a real Fairyland—One blaze of moving light—Like festoons of glittering diamonds.

"WHAT ARE THE WILD WAVES SAYING?"—"Si" now follows the Searchlight—Operator humors him—"Si" nearly topples off the Tower—Such is his delight.

IN THE SURF.—Two little tots come into view—Clothes tucked up—Hand in hand—Wading in the Ocean—No "kick" from them, though.

TEACHING HER TO FLOAT.—"Si" picks up a couple—Gent teaching the timid creature to swim—How she clings to him—How he "kicks" when the searchlight finds him—Starts for Operator—Next a lovely lone lady, built like a model, fills the lens—"How 'Si' lingers"—But she objects and starts for the Tower.

THE "SANDMAN"—A big fellow is next discovered buried by his girl in the sand—Hates to be disturbed—Motions Operator to turn off the "Light"—No use—Another mad couple go for the Operator.

ON THE OCEAN'S WAVE.—"Si" almost paralysed—(An old man and young maid)—United in one long "Soul Kiss"—"Si's" mouth waters—They catch on—Break away—Start for Tower—And so from scene to scene.

OPERATOR "GETS HIS."—Up on Tower—Sudden invasion—"Si" dumbfounded—Crowd rush Operator—"Husky one" carries him off bodily—Rest follow—"Si" sees him taken to beach—Out in deep water—Soused repeatedly.

SUSPENDED ANIMATION.—Last scene of all that ends "Si's" strange experience—Turns the searchlight himself and discovers his erstwhile friend hanging to a spile in the deepest water—Kicking like a crab and no help, while on the beach his victims stand and "Laugh Last."

No. 6369. Code, "Velocipede." Length 995ft.

LATEST SUBJECTS:

No. 6361. **Love Will Find a Way.**
6362. **Pioneers Crossing the Plain in '49.**
6363. **The Little Coxswain of the 'Varsity Eight.**
6364. **The Boston Tea Party.**
6366. **The Face on the Bar-room Floor.**
6367. **A Dumb Hero.**
6368. **Life's a Game of Cards.**

EDISON KINETOSCOPES.

UNDERWRITER'S MODEL (One Pin Movement), **price £36 15s.**
REDUCES FLICKER 50 PER CENT.
Includes, among other improvements, a New Automatic Shutter, Improved Lamphouse, Upper and Lower Film Magazines, New Style Rheostat, New Enclosed Switch, Improved Take-up Device, New Revolving Shutter, and Asbestos-covered Cord Connection.

EDISON IMPROVED EXHIBITION MODEL (One Pin Movement), **price £32 11s.**

EDISON UNIVERSAL MODEL, price £15 15s.

EDISON MANUFACTURING CO., Ltd.,

Edison Works, 200, Victoria Rd., Willesden, London, N.W.

ELEPHANTS' WATER CHUTE.

MR. GUSTAVE HAGENBECK, the proprietor of the elephants which "chute the chute" in the Indian Arena at the White City, has received the following letter from Mr. Hew Dalrymple-Clark, who is described as a well-known authority on the elephants of India:—

Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your letter of Aug. 24 regarding the elephants "chuting the chute" at the Franco-British Exhibition, and asking me if, in my opinion, there is anything unnatural in such a performance, or if it is an act which necessitates any cruelty in its production. "Verbum sat sapienti." Your elephants are in magnificent condition, and no amount of feeding would produce such condition if cruelty were used to them.

To make or induce an elephant to slide down an inclined plane into water is making or inducing it to do nothing that it does not frequently do of its own free will in its natural and wild state. I have frequently seen whole herds of wild elephants slide down steep places in hills and down cliff banks of rivers into water.

In my opinion it may be less useful but it is no more cruel to make or persuade an elephant to "chute the chute" than it is to make a donkey go in harness. The amount of persuasion I have seen used at your performance is as cruel as touching a horse with a whip.—Yours faithfully, HEW DALRYMPLE-CLARK.

P.S.—Perhaps I had better add that neither you nor any of your people knew when I was present watching your elephants, with the exception of my visit yesterday.—H. D.-C.

A "PORTABLE" CONSUMED.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you kindly insert an appeal in your paper on behalf of Mr. William Kelso, portable theatre proprietor, whose theatre was burnt down yesterday, Sept. 1, damage being done to the extent of £200, and who is now not only ruined but lying on a bed of sickness, having been severely burnt about the face and hands in his heroic endeavours to save his property. It will be some considerable time before he is able to use his hands again.

Mr. William Kelso is an old performer, and well known to the profession, and I feel sure that his brother and sister artists and managers will rally round him, and do their best to put him on his feet again. He has now lost all and cannot help himself, being laid upon a bed of sickness and unable to move, and he has a wife and three children depending upon him.

Trusting you will allow subscriptions to be sent to your office, and thanking you for your kindness.—Faithfully yours,

J. B. SOMERSET.

Kelso's Portable Theatre,
Catcliffe, near Rotherham,
Sept. 2, 1908.

Dumbarton Fair.

A SHOWMAN correspondent sends us the following interesting report of Dumbarton and its fair:—"The dominating feature of Dumbarton is its historic Castle, dating back to the fifth century. At one time it held the famous Wallace sword, but by order of the War Office the sword was sent to its present resting-place, the Castle of Sterling. The ancient burgh is also famous in more modern times as the builder of Shamrocks (not limericks), built to the order of Sir Thomas Lipton, with the intention of winning the America Cup. It is to be hoped that the next Shamrock from Dumbarton toon will bring back the Cup. Now for the fair. Present were Henderson's up-to-date Scottish cinematograph, Clark's ghost illusion, Biddall's circus, Wingate's cinematograph, Chipperfield's menagerie, Johnson's circus, Newton's varieties, Montana Bill's Wild West. Machines were worthily represented by Mr. John Wilmot's Scottish steeplechase, also his splendid motors and tunnel railway, Howard's steam yachts, Wingate's bicycles, juvenile horses by John Wilmot, jun., and Talbot. Stalls and varieties were represented by Henry Strand, John MacKindre, Matchett Wright, Wilmot, jun., Mackintosh, Caddick, Steen, Mrs. A. Strand, James Day, George Brockley, H. Knowles, J. Anderson, Moores, Knight, and Graham. On Thursday evening of the fair a concert was held, by kind permission of Mr. Henderson, in his cinematograph exhibition, towards the funds for opposing the Movable Dwellings Bill. The concert was organised and carried out successfully by daughters of the fair, Miss Ellen and Miss Elizabeth Wilmot, in conjunction with Miss Amelia Strand. It says something for the rising generation when the ladies take up the cause of Trade Defence. In spite of drastic legislation, there is a future for the showman. What a galaxy of talent, twenty artists, and every song well rendered! The following artists appeared:—Sandy McQuade, Scotch comedian; Misses Amelia, Martha, May, and Clara Strand, Miss Emily Clarke and Miss Rebecca Henderson, Messrs. McLoughlin, Henderson, Glover, Dixon, Stringer, Docherty, Ross, Mackie Russell, and our own inimitable Irish comedian Dan Kelly. The proceeds amounted to £1 16s., which has been forwarded to our chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne, for the Defence Fund. Hoping to hear of more concerts and better results is the earnest wish of 'A Showman.'"

Animals Named by Actresses.

FOUR charming actresses chose names for four of the strangest "babies" imaginable at Bostock's animal arena, Earl's Court, on Thursday, Sept. 3. Attired in a pretty robe, a baby alligator, which Miss Winifred Hare decided to call "Mabel," did not appreciate the ceremony, and struggled hard to escape from the arms of its sponsor. The baby lion, thoughtfully provided with a feeding-bottle, on the contrary, behaved exceedingly well and showed obvious delight when Miss Millie Hylton informed it that its name was to be "Carnegie." The sea-lion calf, to which Miss Madge Temple gave the name of "Flip Flap," was in a bad temper and was glad to get back to its aquatic nursery, while a hairy young sloth was not sufficiently interested in its name, which Miss Annie Braddon decided should be "Esau," to wake up during the ceremony.

A GRAND fancy dress carnival and confetti fête will be held at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday next, commencing at 7 p.m., and some handsome prizes will be given. An entirely new variety show will be given twice daily during next week, the programme including Astley's American Circus. For the week commencing Sept. 14 Mr. W. D. Mackenzie and company will pay a return visit with their popular entertainment *Moments with the Masters*.

FOR the annual outing of the employees of the New Brighton Tower an excursion will be made to Blackpool on the Monday following the closing of the Park on Saturday, Oct. 3. The employees have had a savings club for several weeks, and without exception every person engaged at the Park has been a member; not only the employees of the Park but practically all the concessioners and their employees have joined in, and the excursion and picnic to Blackpool will be perhaps the most successful ever given from this end of the peninsula.

MR. W. MOULD, of the Central Palace, North Shields, has had 5,000 copies printed of the "Old Collier's Story," a song sung by Jimmy Shields, and from the pen of J. W. Hall. The song is being sold at one penny each, and the whole of the proceeds will be devoted to the Wigan fund.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS. MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns

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One Quarter	6s. 6d.	8s.
Half Year	13s. 0d.	16s.
One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

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NO STAMPS.

Advertisers and subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions, crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to "The Era," Limited, and addressed,

THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publisher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING. Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.,
Jan. 18, March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 3, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov. 16 (three nights),
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 3, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 9, 16.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Oct. 26, Feb. 1, 15, 22, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON
Nov. 30, Xmas (seven nights), Feb. 22,
March 1, 15, 29, April 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
March 29, April 12, 19, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, 11, 25, Feb. 1, 8.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, Dec. 7, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Oct. 19, 26, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Sept. 14, Oct. 5, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, on (3 nights only).
Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attraction,
Sept. 21.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 2 (3 nights), 9, onwards.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Sept. 14 (3 nights), Nov 16, 30, Dec. 7, onwards.
Entirely New Electric Installation on Stage
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Sept. 21, 22, 23, Nov. 9, onwards.
Apply for all above, ROWLAND, T., Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.,

WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, Dec. 7, 21 (to oblige Managers); nothing else vacant till Autumn, 1909. Can arrange First-class Panto. 1909 and 1910 (one worthy the "Second City.")
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

WANTED, First-class Attractions,
for Sept. 21,
Oct. 19 and 26.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR,
244, Regent-street, S.W.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, through Cancelling, Powerful Attraction, Oct. 5, Princess's; Oct. 12, Lyceum, Govan.
Add., RICH. WALDON, Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT.
THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic or Operatic Companies, for Ashton, Nov. 9, and Stockport, Nov. 16. Address, CHARLES REVILL, Stockport.

OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
First-class Company.
Sept. 21, Musical preferred.
SINGLETON.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.

WANTED, Really First-class Attractions,
Oct. 19,
Nov. 9 (?),
16 (?), 30.
JAMES BELL.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.

WANTED, Attractions, Vacant Sept. 10, 11, 12, Sept. 28, Oct. 26; holding capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

WANTED, First-class Company, for Oct. 12, through transferring.
Wire, RICHARD FLANAGAN.

THEATRE ROYAL, YORK.

WANTED, First-class Musical Company, for Oct. 12. Apply, WADDINGTON and SONS, Stonegate, York.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.

WANTED, First-class Musical and Dramatic Attractions, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 29, April 5, 19, and all May; good Pantomime entertained for Feb. 15. Add, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

GRAND THEATRE, DOUGLAS, I.O.M.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Sept. 28 and Oct. 5.
Apply,
JAS. BUCK, 30, Brown-street, Manchester.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
Oct. 12, Nov. 2,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.

WANTED, good Companies, Oct. 12, 19, 26 (three nights Llandudno, three nights Rhyl). Apply, J. BITSON, Prince's Theatre, Llandudno.

WORTHING THEATRE ROYAL.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Three Nights, Oct. 5, 8, 15; 22, 26, 29; also Good Panto. or Musical Comedy, for Xmas. All communications to C. ADOLF SEEBOLD, as above.

PALACE PIER THEATRE, BRIGHTON.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Comedies and Musical Pieces preferred, Sept. 21, onwards. Good Pantomime write in. Letters and full particulars to J. E. COWELL.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

WANTED, for Sept. 17, 18, 19,
Musical Show or First-class Company.
Address, GEO. CONQUEST.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE, RAMSGATE.

WANTED, Good Companies,
Sept. 14 (three nights),
Oct. 1 (three nights).
Address, DAN FORREST.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only entertained.
Vacant Oct. 5, 19, 26,
onward with exceptions

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, onward, with exceptions

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 1,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant Dec. 7, 21, 28, April 5,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Dec. 21, April 12, 19,
onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Sept. 7, 17, 24, Oct. 5,
onward, with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c.

ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

Seating Capacity, 3,500.

Acknowledged to be one of the most handsome, largest, and best-equipped Theatres in Great Britain.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only,
Spring and Autumn, 1909.

Will guarantee anything really big up to £1,000 stg.

All Communications,
JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet."
Telephones, 413, 426, 500.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS,
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The leading Theatre of the town and district.
WANTED, Known, vacant through transfers Nov. 9, Dec. 7, March 1, and a few onward. Future Bookings include: "The Thief," "A White Man," "Diana of Dobson's," "Jack Straw," "Mrs. Dot," "Lady Frederick," "Brewster's Millions," "With Edged Tools," and the leading Musical Comedies. Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE H. M. T., BARROW.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN,
Sept. 17, 18, 19, and Nov. 23.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP.
Vacant Oct. 19, Nov. 2, and on
(last three days of week only).

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY,
Wanted, Musical Attraction for Christmas.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK THEATRES,
Vacant Oct. 19, and New Year, for Musical Companies.

W. PAYNE SEDDON,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions,
Oct. 19, Dec. 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Good Company, three or six nights, Sept. 14; also Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 9, 16, onwards, with exceptions. FRANK PAYNE, Avenue Theatre, Kettering.

NEW GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Nov. 26 (three nights), Dec. 10 (three nights), Dec. 14, and Big Attraction for Dec. 26 (seven nights).
STANLEY ROGERS, Athenæum Hotel, Lancaster.

KING'S THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, Known, Nov. 23, Vacant through Transfer. Address, ALEXANDER TELFORD.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, good Companies, Sept. 10, 21, 28.
A. D. VERNON.

WANTED, Attractions, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 21. Grand, Chorley; Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 2, on, Radcliffe. SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

THE PALACE THEATRE,
WREXHAM.
Building at a cost of £15,000. Stage opening 30ft. by 30ft., 35ft. deep, 64ft. wall to wall.
WANTED, Known, the Management are now Prepared to Negotiate for First-class Companies (only entertained), for Musical Comedies, Pantomimes, Dramas, and Society Plays, for the Spring, 1909. Wrexham has a population of over 70,000 within a radius of 4½ miles of the Theatre, and well served by the G.W.Ry., Central Ry., Motor Railway Cars, and Electric Trams. All communications to be addressed to the Managing-Director, W. YATES GREGORY.

PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
WANTED, First-class Company,
Sept. 21, 22, 23.
Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, for Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, First-class Company,
Sept. 14, 15, 16.
Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Company,
Sept. 28, 29, 30 (?).
Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
WANTED, good Company, Sept. 14 (three nights), vacant through obliging; also vacant Nov. 2 (?), 16, Dec. 7 (each three nights), good Musical Comedy for Xmas. A. A. PRULEVE, General-Manager.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Sept. 21 (3), 28 (3 or 6), Oct. 12 (3), Nov. 2 (3 Dunfermline, 3 Paisley), 9 16, 23, 30. W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Smart Pantomime for Glasgow, Xmas and New Year weeks, Share or Certainty, twice nightly. LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angel-road, Brixton, S.W.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for
Sept. 28, Nov. 2 on.
Good Business with Good Shows.
Address, TOM BARGER.

COLISEUM, ABERYSWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Sept. 17, 18, 19; 21, 22, 23; and 28, onwards. Apply, PHILLIPS.

BOROUGH THEATRE, HEYWOOD.
WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25; also Feb. Dates required. JONES, Queen's, Manchester.

ALNWICK CORN EXCHANGE (Licensed).
WANTED, a few early Autumn Bookings; rental only.
Apply, PROPRIETOR.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, Oct. 5, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, Nov. 23, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, Oct. 26, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31, Re-opening Sept. 28, extra strong Attractions Wanted, Musical Comedy preferred.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.,
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, Mr. FRED GRANVILLE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Spring Dates.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, First-class Musical and other London Attractions, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Good-class Attractions,
Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 19, 26,
Wire for Sept. 21.
Re Dates.
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for
Oct. 5, 26, 30,
with exceptions.
Applications for dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.

Those who visit the Cardiff Theatre Royal will be reminded of this favourite old house in its palmiest days, for the comfort of the patrons has been well thought out, and the flowing tide of prosperity would seem to have set in under the capable management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—Extract from Western Mail.
WANTED, Premier Attraction, Oct. 19, Nov. 30 Dec. 21 (three nights).

WATERLOO HALL THEATRE, WHITBY.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. JULIAN RAINBRIDGE.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Sept. 28 Oct. 5, 12, 19 (3 nights each), also good Panto., Xmas. Few Spring Dates Vac. for Good Attractions.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 11
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Jan. 11
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, Feb. 22
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 26
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, between Scotland and London.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, Feb. 8 (North).
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Oct. 5, 12, Jan. 4, 11.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Sept. 21, Jan. 18, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Nov. 23, 30
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9 23, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Nov. 2,
Dec. 14, 26 (seven nights), Jan. 4.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Grand Theatre, Brighton

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, Nov. 16, 23, onwards.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Oct. 5, 26, Dec. 14, 21.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH."
And Répertoire of recent West End Successes.
Mr. Ernest E. Norris and Company.
WANTED, Sept. 21, Oct. 12, and onwards.
C. H. BOWMAKER, King's Hall, Skegness.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, for this Phenomenal Success, weeks of Oct. 19 and 26. Wire or write,
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, weeks of Sept. 28 and Oct. 12, for this remarkable Success, which, on its last on the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, played to £717 on the week and on a recent Saturday at Manchester closed to £108 14s. 9d. Wire or write immediately to W. W. KELLY, (New T. R., Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 11.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Theatre, Maesteg (3), Treherbert (3).

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Oct. 5 (Midlands)
Oct. 12, 26 (South).
All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
P. O. W. Theatre, Nuneaton (third visit).

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Sept. 21 (three nights only), Oct. 12 (three nights only), 19, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, Xmas week (seven nights), also Spring, Farewell Tour. Address, 26, Southampton-street, Strand.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD,"
A High-class Money-making Attraction.
A Perfect Production.
A Perfect Cast.
Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9 (?), 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Dates for
this Marvellous Money-maker.
Stands alone.
Brilliant Reception in Manchester.
Played in the City at four Theatres.
And Booked Again.
Draws all Classes.
Oct. 5, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 (?).
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 2, 9, Dec. 14.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Dates for
this Wonderful Money-maker.
Playing to Big Business everywhere.
Nov. 16, 23, 30.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

HARRY NICHOLLS
(Drury Lane, Adelphi, &c.),
with own Company and Entire Production, in Romantic Costume Play, entitled
"IF WE ONLY KNEW"
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, Nov. 2.
Rupert Cottage, Bedford Park, W.

HARDIE AND VON LEER'S CO'S.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Sept. 14, 21 (North).
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON,"
Sept 14 (London or near).
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard.

"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
By arrangement with Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree.
Specially re-written for the Provinces by
Mr. H. Comyns Carr.

Mr. C. H. Croker-King as John Jasper.
Mr. Riddell Robinson as Edwin Drood.
Mr. Hy. Bute as Grewgious.
Mr. Lloyd Townrow as Durdles.
Mr. Chas. Bruce as Landless.
Mrs. Mallalieu, Miss Nita Charlton, Miss Eleanor Gilbart, Miss Irene Ross, and Choir Boys from Nolan's Academy.

WANTED, Oct. 5 owing to transfer,
Suburbs or near London.
W. PAYNE SEDDON,
Managers' Club.

Mr. WILLIAM MOLLISON'S SHAKESPEAREAN CO.
WANTED, Sept. 21,
also a few Spring Dates.
Address, WILLIAM MOLLISON,
Theatre Royal, Nottingham;
or SIDNEY COOPER,
Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Nov. 9 (Midlands), Jan. 11, 18, Aug. 2
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Gorgeous Revival on a Magnificent Scale.
Vacant Oct. 26, Dec. 21, 28.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Vacant Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 28, Jan. 4.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND,"
Touring Summer and Autumn, 1909.
Wires, T. R., North Shields; Letters, Macclesfield.

Mr. MONCKTON HOFFE'S COMPANY,
"IRENE WYCHERLEY"
(by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell).
Special Company in this Famous Kingsway Theatre Success.
Elaborate scenery carried.
WANTED, First-class Theatres Only, Oct. 12 and Nov. 23. Address, to-day, Grand, Hull; next week, County, Bedford.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S COMPANIES.
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."
WANTED, owing to Transfer,
Sept. 28,
also Nov. 9 and 30.
Address,
CECIL BARTH, Victoria Opera House, Burnley.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI AND MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:—
Feb. 22, April 19, 26, May 10.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

MISS DOREEN O'HARA presents
"THE MONEYLENDER."
The entire production by arrangement with M. Kyburn-Dellar, Esq., as played by him in London for over 300 nights. French Dramatic Episode, in two Scenes; period 1790. Two Gentlemen, one Lady, and Auxiliaries. Special Scenery, Magnificent Costumes by Baruch; Wigs and Shoes by Clarkson; Photo Frames by Hana; Picture Posters by Allen and Stafford.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates.
Wire, Empress, Brixton.

WANTED, Nov. 16,
for
ALLAN WILKIE,
and Company of Thirty-five Artists, in Shakespearean and Standard Plays.
Address, ALBERT CAVANAH,
Sept. 7, Theatre Royal, South Shields.

By Arrangement with Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore.
"CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE."

WANTED, Oct. 12 and Oct. 19 (three nights), to precede Harrogate.
Miss NORA CARTON,
Opera House, Dumfries.

"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

WANTED, Good No. 1 Theatres (South), Oct. 26 and Nov. 9.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD, 15, Clifford's-inn, Fleet-street.

WANTED, for M. Russell Rosse's Tours, "A Pair of Spectacles," or Repertory, including "Our Boys," "Caste," &c., Sept. 14 and 21. Wire to-day, Prince's T., Llandudno. Monday, H. M. T., Dundee.

"THE LOVE OF THE PRINCESS," by C. Watson Mill. Enormous Success.
WANTED, Feb. 1, Aug. 2, '09. Big Theatres only. Address, T. E. WARD, Q. T., Longton.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26 (precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 (precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. WYN WEAVER, Pier, Southend.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Dec. 7, between Birmingham and South Wales, only vacant date this year, for this great success.
DICKIE CLARE, Pavilion, Abertillery, Mon.

"MERELY MARY ANN,"
From the Duke of York's Theatre.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Oct. 5 and 19,
Oct. 5 and 19.
Production Carried. First-class Company.
Address, H. GRENVILLE, Theatre Royal, Preston.

Pantomime.
WANTED, Dates, for "Cinderella" (production complete) or "Babes in the Wood" (production complete), both specially adapted for two houses nightly, good cast guaranteed. Address, VICTOR STEVENS, Grosmont, Wilton Gardens, Weston-super-Mare.

"A PRINCE OF ROGUES."
WANTED, transfer, to oblige, Sept. 21, also Oct. 12 19, Nov. 9 (North). SIDNEY DENCH, C., Northwich; next, R., Glossop.

WANTED, Easter, and few Autumn Dates, for "Second to None," by Walter Howard.
Address, T. E. WARD, Queen's Theatre, Longton.

18th SEASON, PANTOMIME, 18th SEASON.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 1909, only vacant date, Powerful Company, including Miss Kittee Rayburn, whose latest song, "Won't you come to me in Canada?" has become so popular.
Address, BRYDON PHILLIPS,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, London.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

WANTED, First-Class Theatres.

"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."
Elaborate Revival. Success everywhere.
Vacant Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12,
and onwards with exceptions.
Wire for Sept. 21.

"THE BETTER LAND."
The Greatest Domestic Drama of the Day.
An Emphatic Success.
Gorgeous Production.
Every Scene and Property Carried.
The finest Printing on the road, consisting of
1 24-sheet, 3 18-sheets, 3 12-sheets, 4 6-sheets,
6 D.C. Lithos. All four-colour stuff.
Vacant Oct. 12, 19, and later.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Vacant Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1.

"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18.

"ALADDIN,"
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 5.

Managers note.—These Pantomimes are perfect in every detail. Beautifully mounted and dressed. Company of Star Artists, Specialities, Dancers, and full Chorus.

Re dates, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.

WANTED, Wanted Dates,
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS,"
Sept. 28, Sept. 28, Sept. 28,
Nov. 2, Nov. 2, Nov. 2.

Enthusiastic reception from a crowded house at the Metropole, Glasgow. Friday better than Monday; Saturday packed. Refer Arthur Jefferson, Esq., as to the drawing powers of this play. Verb. sap. "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE." Wanted, Sept. 28, 29, 30 (3 nights), Nov. 23. Refer W. Morton, Esq. The entire Hull Press unanimous in praise. Daily News says:—Stirring incident, dramatic situations, passionate love, brilliant display, and all the elements which go to make up a play to fire the imagination and quicken the impulse. All com., GEO. A. DE GRAY, this, Gaiety T., Methil; next, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."

WANTED, Sept. 21, Sept. 21, Sept. 21,
Oct. 5, Oct. 5, Oct. 5.

Refer G. T. Nelson re business last week, crowded houses. Magnificent Uniforms, Excellent Cast, and Band to parade.

"A SISTER'S SIN."
"A SISTER'S SIN."

Wanted, Sept. 17 (3 nights), Sept. 17;
Sept. 28, Sept. 28, Sept. 28.

One of the strongest Domestic Plays on the road. Picturesque dresses, new scenery, &c. Managers needing Two Good Attractions will not do better than wire for these.
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

Messrs. S. RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.

WANTED, for "LOVE RULES THE WORLD," Oct. 26, following Junction, Manchester, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30 (North), Dec. 7, Xmas, and New Year. Rebooked Broughton for Race Week, Nov. 22, 1909 (third visit). "HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN," Vacant Nov. 2, 16, to precede and follow Broughton; also Dec. 21, Jan. 4, to precede and follow Grand, Newcastle. Strong Casts, complete productions. G. M. COPPING, Metropole, Glasgow.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY,
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."

Enormous Success at T. R., Stratford, this week. Refer to Sam Fredericks, Esq.

WANTED, Sept. 21 (follow Alexandra, Birmingham), Oct. 5, and onwards, with exceptions. Wire for Sept. 21, WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, to-day, T. R., Stratford; next, Metropole, Abertillery.

"MAN TO MAN."
Under the direction of
Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, Nov. 2.
FRANK ADAIR, Theatre R., Seaham Harbour.

Mr. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY,
"THE FLOWER GIRL."
The Musical Comedy Success of the Provinces.
The Edinburgh Dispatch says:—
Musical comedy at its brightest.

WANTED, Oct. 19, 26, to precede return visits to Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dates onward. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Lotters, Opera House, Cheltenham. See "Companies" Column.

MISS BONWIN CARLTON'S CO.
"THE OLD, OLD STORY."

WANTED, Sept. 21, 28.
Wire to-day, Avenue, Kettering;
Next, Public Hall, Redditch.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. FRANK BATEMAN and
GEO. CONQUEST'S COMPANY.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, Aug. 9, on, with exceptions.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.
Or BATEMAN and CONQUEST, Empire, Southend.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Splendid cast engaged.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

Messrs. DRUCE and FERRIS' CO.
"THE CHEAT."
Preliminary Tour prior to London Production.
Full Cast as will appear in the West-End, including Mr. Frank Cooper.
WANTED, Sept. 28 (?). Only Vacant Date at present; No. 1 Theatres only.
GEORGE UNWIN or HUBERT DRUCE,
Lyric Theatre, W.

The Thrilling Melodrama, "CONVICT 99."

WANTED, Autumn Dates, Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 23 (North), Dec. 7, and on, 1909.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
Vacant for this Enormous Success.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

Apply, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
Sept. 7, Lyceum T., Govan.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."

WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, and Xmas (seven nights).
MAUD HILDYARD, Carlton Theatre, Greenwich.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."

WANTED, Theatres.—Vacant Oct. 19, 26.
HARRY TILBURY, Gaiety T., Methil, N.B.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."

WANTED, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, near London, Nov. 9, 16, London or South.
HORACE STANLEY. To-day, Exeter; next, R., Cardiff.

"A HEART'S DESIRE" CO.

WANTED, Known, unexpectedly vacant, Sept. 14. Wire, ELLIMAN, T. R., Colne; write, Central T., Altrincham.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 8, March 15, 29, April 5.
FRANK M. THORNE, Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.

COLLINS'S PANTOMIME PRODUCTION,
"PUSS-IN-BOOTS UP TO DATE."
Cast of over Forty Performers,
including Miss Ethel Beech (late of
Mr. George Edwardes' Company,
Booked by Oswald Stoll, Esq., for three years),
Specialities by Lancashire Lasses
and Collins' Juveniles.
Complete in eight scenes.
Costume by Alias, London.

WANTED, Jan. 18 and Feb. 8.
8, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS MARY NEIL
begs to inform Managers that
her big Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS"
(by Charles Darrell)
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON"
(by Charles Darrell)
are now Booked for two consecutive weeks at each of the following towns: Bradford, Sheffield, Oldham, Burnley, Grimsby, South Shields, Newcastle, Hull, &c.

WANTED, Theatres. Only vacant dates for 1908 are: Oct. 26, Nov. 16 (?), 30, New Year's week; also a few Spring Dates, 1909, vacant. Communications to
GEORGE KIRK, Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

ALFRED E. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."

By the late Wilson Barrett, from Hall Caine's novel.

WANTED, Sept. 14 (three nights), also Sept. 28, Oct. 12, &c.
Seventh year of tour, and business bigger than ever.
Mr. Cross as Pete, over 2,000 performances.
Mrs. Cross (Miss Waterford) as Kate, over 1,500.
Supported by Company of First-class Artists, New Special Scenery and Effects. A Unique Production.
To-day, T. R., Halifax; Sept. 7, T. R., Goole.
"THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD," a New Domestic Drama, full of human and child interest. Dates Vacant.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 9, 30.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 19, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."

WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, Oct. 26, Nov. 16.
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY,
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."

WANTED, Nov. 9, Dec. 21,
Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25,
Feb. 8, 22,
March 1, on.

Sept. 7, O. H., St. Helens.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
No Vacant Dates this Year.

WANTED, Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 1, 8, 15 (Lancs. or Yorks.), March 1, 8, 15 (Mid. and South).

O. H., St. Helens; next, Gaiety, Ayr, N.B.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."

WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 8, on, for the above Attraction.
Address, ARMADALE and WARREN,
Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, London.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.

WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Oct. 5,
Oct. 26,
Dec. 26 (seven nights).
The Biggest Dramatic Success Touring.
Record Business everywhere. Refer.
Wire for Oct. 5, 26, Wire.
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, good Theatres for "The Crimes of Paris."
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, for the Enormously Successful Musical Comedy, "The Gay Deceivers," Oct. 5 (South), Oct. 19, only dates this year. FRANK STANMORE, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi.

Enormous Success Everywhere.
Refer to Managers where played.
A Real Novelty.
THE JAMAICANS.
The most Successful, Artistic, Novel, and Smartest Combination now before the Public.
Twelve Coloured Ladies and Gentlemen.
Evening Dress, Native Costume, or Camp Dress.
Royalty delighted. The Public delighted.
Managers want Return Dates.
A most Extensive and Varied Répertoire.
Real Coon Singers and Dancers.

WANTED, Known, first vacant date Sept. 14, and onwards, with exceptions.
Full particulars, terms, and dates from
Sole Managers, H. E. JONES and A. DOUGLASS,
21, Water-street, Liverpool.
'Phones 2449 and 5650 Central.
Wires, "Motherland, Liverpool."

FABBRO'S SINGING PICTURES, BIOSCOPE, and VARIETIES.

WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 12 and 19, Nov. 9 and 16. FRED HARTLEY, Grand T., Rawtenstall.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Fit-up Tour, various vacancies; clever Child for Eva, Coloured Singers, Pianist, Working Agent; all must rehearse Sept. 16, open 19th. Absolute lowest terms, JOSH. HYBERT, c/o Creber, Printer, Plymouth.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S COMPANIES.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, to complete various Casts, Autumn Tours; good Leading Lady write. Full particulars, latest references, three weeks' addresses. BEAUDYN, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.

WANTED, to Augment Stock, Rehearse Tuesday, Open Sept. 12, Leading Gent. and Responsibles. Terms, JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum T., Stafford.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY and MR. W. V. GARROD'S CO., "THE PRODIGAL PARSON."

WANTED, Lady for Gretchen (Juv. Light Comedy), rehearse Llanelly Sept. 15. Photo., references, and full particulars to A. NORTHWAY, New Hall, Bargoed, S. Wales.

WANTED, for Stock, Leading Lady and Gent; rehearse Tuesday, open Monday, Sept. 14. Terms, references, JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Lady, good Responsible Parts for few weeks.
NORMAN V. NORMAN, Pavilion, Ramsgate.

"CLAUDIAN" CO.

WANTED, Young Actor, for Responsibles. Age, height, photos., references, lowest terms, WILLIAM MACLAREN, 41, Mainwaring-road, Seacombe, Cheshire.

WANTED, for "A Maid of France," Strong Leading Man, Character Comedian; both tall, used to costume. Rehearse Sept. 10. Fullest particulars, photos. (stamp), Miss PHILLIPS, Vicarage, Gorleston.

WANTED, Aristocratic Old Man, to double Captain and Stage-Manage (tall); rehearse Tuesday at Burnley. Full particulars, F. M. THORNE, to-day, Broughton; then G. T., Burnley.

WANTED, Versatile Character Actor, of medium height, for Ibsen's Plays; accurate and reliable study; with qualifications for High-class Repertory work. LEIGH LOVEL, T. R., King's Lynn.

WANTED, for Trial Turn, tall, intense Lead (man), Juvenile or Heavy Woman, medium height, latter capable of dagger fight. Lowest terms, &c., Box 6,968, "The Era."

WANTED, Artist, for Boy's Part, Special Fortnight, Manchester District preferred; must be intelligent and refined. Apply, Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Young Gentlemanly Tenors and Baritones for Chorus.
Apply 11 o'clock Saturday morning at
Messrs. BLACKMORE'S, 11, Garrick-street, W.C.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, Beginners for Chorus and Music Halls. Call 11 to 6. MANAGER, 39, Grafton-street, Tottenham Court-road.

AMATEURS.

WANTED, Amateurs and Beginners, Ladies and Gentlemen, for Music Hall and Dramatic Profession. Advice gratis. Call or write. Hours 10 to 8 p.m. GILBERT, 69, Wiltshire-rd., Brixton.

ARTISTS WANTED.

SOMERVILLE SPICER'S DRAMATIC AGENCY.
24, Westborough, Scarborough.
Telephone 370 Scarborough.
Telegraphic address, "Shares, Scarborough."

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, beginners or otherwise, Variety, Dramatic, or Musical Comedy.
Send particulars, photo., songs, salary required.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription, 6d. weekly, yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Winifred Fairlie, Humorous Entertainer and Accompanist. Thanks Paul Mill, Esq., for season; returning Sept. 24. 31, Moreton-place, Belgravia.

WANTED, by Professional Lady, High-class Original Recitations and Monologues.
Address, Box 6,940, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Picture or Concert Tour, brilliant pianist, baritone and entertainer at piano (three turns in one); also Dainty Comedienne; joint terms. LONGSTAFFE, 16, Oxford-street, Douglas, I.O.M.

FANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone, 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists in all Lines, including Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, Principal Boy for Ganem, must sing and dance; Knockabouts, Comedians.

All communications as above.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, First-class Artists for Pantomime, Principals only are invited to communicate at once, with full particulars, SINCLAIR'S Agency, 118, Kennington-road, S.E. First-class all-round Dancers, young, smart appearance, and handsome Chorus Ladies, with good voices, please call any day, 11 to 4.
Miss Alice Lorette, Dog Act, write at once.

WANTED, for Pantomime, next Xmas, Twelve Chorus Ladies, 5ft. 8in. in height. Photos., experience, references, &c., to E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, for Provincial Pantomime, height not less than 5ft. 8in., bring song and photo. (essential). Call 12 o'clock Tuesday, Sept. 8, Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, W. FRANK POSTLETHWAITE'S Agency.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Panto., Principal Girl, by Ethel Yorke; last year Polly, in "Crusoe," Brixton Theatre. Coms., 33, Marsala-road, Lewisham, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Gertrude Martini, at Liberty Panto., Second Boy or Fairy Queen; powerful voice. Agent, EDGAR STEBBINGS, or direct, 24, Acker-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known May De Rowse, Liberty for Panto., Principal or Second Girl. Thanks VERNO'S Agency for Barrasford Tour. 180, Brownlow-hill, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Miss Louie Hurman, at Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Boy. Sept. 7, Theatre, Jersey, two weeks.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, at Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Boy. Offers invited. An Actress and a Vocalist. Opera House, Crewe.

WANTED, Panto., Principal Part; last year, Dandini, Mouillot Co., single turn. VIOLET ROSENBERG, 16A, Lynn-street, Balham, London.

WANTED, Known, Harry Lonsdale, Coon Singer and Expert Dancer, Liberty Panto., small Part, own Speciality. Apply, Rose Hill-terrace, Guide, Blackburn.

WANTED, Panto., by Edgar Driver, Eccentric Comedy or Cat Impersonator. Big hit Pier, Redcar, refer. Fred Solo's Drolls and Demures Company.

WANTED, Known, Fred Hallam, at Liberty for Pantomime. Many thanks for offers. Sept. 7, Hippodrome, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, Carson Hicks, the Shirt waist Boy, Singer, Bâton Swinger and Eccentric Rag-time Dancer, at Liberty for Panto., Man Friday or Black Part preferred. Address, Pavilion, Whitley Bay.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Denby and Dent, Comedians and Dancers; thoroughly experienced. Monday, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, by First-class Male Voice Quartette, Pantomime Engagement; now touring Provinces; Straight and Comedy. Full particulars, FOUR, 59, Hotham-road, Putney, S.W.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Loete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LOETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, good reputable Scenic Artist, to repaint Stock Scenery in First-class Theatre; must be good figure painter. Apply, stating experience, references, and lowest terms,
Box 6,936, "The Era."

WANTED, Scenic Artist, to combine Carpenter. Full particulars, names and addresses last two references, lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, to paint several Pantomime Sets; part payment with contract, balance after opening week. Dates and particulars on application. Box 6,967, "The Era."

WANTED, Large or Small Contracts, first-class work. Estimates free. Address,
West Riding Scenic Studio, Castleford.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for High class, Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Stafford, Scenic Artist; best work and best references. 24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, Scenery and Properties, new or secondhand, models and estimates free, Profile 33in. wide, 12ft. long, 10s. 6d. per sheet, in quantities 9s. 6d. per sheet; Throw Line Cleats, 1s. 6d. per dozen. CHARLES SHARP, 272, St. James's-road, Old Kent-road. Tel. 497 Hop.

WANTED, Known, Theatrical Framing and Properties Made. Estimates free. JOHN TILLER, Scenic Stores, Heald Grove, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces. Refs. Add., 26, Elgin-terrace, Maida Vale, London.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Acting-Manager for the Theatre Royal, Jarrow, must be first-class bookkeeper, and have some knowledge of bars; strictest sobriety indispensable. Application, with copies of recent references (which will be applied for), stating age, lowest salary, and full particulars, to HUGH ROBERTSON, as above.

WANTED, for the Bostock Tour, an Assistant-Manager, thoroughly sober and capable; also Stage-Manager and Carpenter. Address with terms, and state previous experience,
E. H. BOSTOCK, Zoo, Glasgow.
N.B.—Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Gentleman, take Charge of Company, combine Business, Stage Management. Terms, height, recent refs., MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, London.

WANTED, Acting-Manager, for Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy able to type. References, terms, first letter, SAM DUCKWORTH, Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Variety Agent who can book solidly Summer Dates, 1909, long established and powerful Musical Attraction, for Piers, &c. Liberal terms to good Agent.
Address,
INTERNATIONAL, 36, Catherine-street, Liverpool.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.

WANTED, Smart Young Man, to assist Advance Agent; must be able to use Brush and Sticks. State age and lowest terms, J. W. POOLE, Oddfellows' Hall, Jersey.

WANTED, Good Practical Electrician and Scenic Artist combined, able to work Bioscope, permanency. Terms, refs., JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Good Practical Carpenter, thoroughly used to Fit-ups.
Will James Bracey please communicate?

J. B. HOWARD,
15, Clifford's-inn, Fleet-street.

WANTED, Bill Inspector; must be sober, painstaking, smart window biller. State age, references, experience, and lowest terms, to J. H. OAKDEN, Lyceum Theatre, Govan, Glasgow.

WANTED, Typist, or Good Writer, Lady or Gent., copy parts and play responsibles. Terms, refs., JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Typist, Young Lady, for a few hours weekly; small salary; must be accurate and of very good appearance. Box 6,949, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, as General-Manager or Acting-Manager of First-class Hall or Theatre, thoroughly experienced, reliable, and highly recommended. HENRY HAGUE, Entertainments Manager, Corporation, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagement, as Acting-Manager, energetic, thoroughly experienced dramatic and variety, accountant, bars, advertising. Disengaged Sept. 12. Excellent refs. LANGLEY WYATT, 40, Wilmot-street, Derby.

WANTED, by Acting-Manager, Engagement, Tour or Resident, Dramatic or Variety; exceptional Departmental experience; highly recommended. WYATT, Grand Theatre, Derby.

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman is seeking Re-engagement as Acting or Assistant Manager in Music Hall, &c.; trustworthy, smart, and energetic, can give security if required, or would invest a small amount. Particulars, Box 6,953, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, I can Run or Manage (smart), any Class of Show or Entertainment, or Lecture-Vocalist. HARRY DALE, 167, Knutsford-road, Warrington.

WANTED, Known, Electrician seeks permanent Engagement, Theatre and Plant experience, competent mechanic. H. W. L., 12, Vardens-street, New-road, Whitechapel, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Practical Carpenter and Property Master, open; experienced; Tour or Resident; together or separate. Apply, Grand Theatre, Llandudno.

WANTED, Engagement, as Property Master and Maker, in the Provinces; twenty years' good reference, Theatre Royal, Brighton. E. BRIDGER, 9, Ashford-road, Preston-drove, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, Assistant to Entertainer, Illusionist, Sketch, &c.; 25, smart, 6ft.; good references, experienced. H., 48, Commercial-road, Pimlico, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, owing to persons copying name, &c., and to avoid confusion, Reed and Lerne will in future be known as Folay and Francis.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, for Metropole T., Gateshead, Pianist-Conductor, must be able to play another instrument; also full Orchestra, for Sept. 21. None but capable and steady men need apply. Refs. to WM. DENHAM, Musical-Director, Grand T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Conductor, High-class, Twice Nightly. London M. H., young, smart, attentive, open Monday. Apply, with refs., MANAGER, Hippodrome, Balham, S.W.

ISLINGTON HIPPODROME.

WANTED, at once, Leader, Viola, 'Cello, and Clarionet. Recent Variety references essential, permanency. Apply to-day to ASHLEY RICHARDS, 243, Munster-road, S.W.

WANTED, Leader (First Violin), to find own incidental music, Cornet, Double Bass, Flute, and Clarionet, for small band, to open Sept. 19, assist in billing, evening dress. Age, GEORGE H. PITT, T. R., Pontypool.

WANTED, Cornet Soloist, reliable, to enlist in a good Regiment
serving abroad until 1910.
good bonus and a course of instruction,
so as to enable entry to Kneller Hall
for position of Bandmaster in the Army.
Wanted to sail this coming Trooping Season.

Apply S. W. B.,
Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, London, W.

WANTED, for Alexandra's Circus, to commence at once, Solo Cornet, Second Cornet, Horn, Euphonium, Bombardon, and Drums. Terms Solo Cornet, 32s. 6d.; others, 30s. Wire, ALEXANDRA, Circus, Boston, Saturday; Skegness, Monday; Spilsby, Tuesday.

WANTED, a good Cornet Player, also two Trombones, must be good players. Apply J. V. CAINE, Edinburgh Skating Rink, Russell-rd., Edinburgh.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.

WANTED, Double Bass, Flute and Piccolo, and Trombone; wear evening dress, and assist with fittings; sobriety indispensable. Terms and refs., J. W. POOLE, Oddfellows' Hall, Jersey.

THE PALACE, BLACKPOOL.

WANTED, Bassoon and Drums.
Terms and references to
F. H. JUPSON, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Bass Euphonium, or Bombardon, to finish tenting season. Lowest terms to L. WALTERS, c/o Post Office, Eastry, Kent. Will Walter Howard write?

WANTED, Trombone and Drums. Join at Once. Terms and particulars.
E. PRICE, Pavilion, Abertillery.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, immediately, First-class Tenor Trombone for Brighton Municipal Orchestra. Apply, JOSEPH SAINTON, Musical-Dir., Brighton.

WANTED, Good 'Cello Player; must be experienced in Grand and Comic Opera. Terms, age, and references, to J. R. BINGLEY, Musical Director, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, at Once, good 'Cello; permanent. Apply, with age, terms, and refs., to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

WANTED, Good Lady 'Cellist, Sept. 26 to Oct. 7; also Pianist, for tour. Lowest terms, CONDUCTRESS, Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, good 'Cellist, to open Sept. 14, must be steady and reliable; Variety and all bus. ANDERSON, Conductor, Palace Theatre, Burnley.

WANTED, Musician Attendant (Solo Flute and Piccolo), single, aged 25 to 35 years, salary £29 a year for first six months, then, if satisfactory, rising to £31 a year, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; after twelve months service (from date of confirmation) the wages rise by £1 a year to £40 a year; Band money amounts to about £3 10s. per annum. Weekly leave, one whole day and one half day per week; annual leave, for first fifteen months from date of entering service, six days; the following twelve months, twelve days; each successive twelve months, fourteen days. Forms of application can be obtained from the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, Colney Hatch Asylum, New Southgate, N.

WANTED, an Efficient Pianist, Sept. 14, for two weeks, Wallis Arthur's Pierrots, Pier, Eastbourne. Apply, PAUL MILL, Olympian Gardens, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Pianist, one week, commencing Monday next, Isle of Wight.
LOATES, Victoria Hall, Cowes.

WANTED, Immediately, for the Provinces, Lady Pianist and Gentleman Humorist, also Soubrette Lady. Call, SOUTHWELL, 15, Walhamgrove, Fulham.

WANTED, Pianist, used to Cinematograph, for Poole's Picturedrome, Gloucester, commence Sept. 14. Lowest terms and experience to POOLE, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, a Lady or Gentleman, Piano Player, who can sing to Illustrated Slides, opening new places; also Artists, comfortable shop. Apply, World in Motion, Central Hall, Leigh.

WANTED, Immediately, Accompanist, Good Sight Reader, two or three weeks; if suitable, might arrange next season. Photos. and lowest terms, HERBERT DICKSON, 5, Hatherleigh-terrace, Exmouth.

GRAND CIRQUE AND HIPPODROME
A. PINDER, FRANCE.

WANTED, good and sober Double Drummer, with Effects, for Tenting. Terms, 45fr. weekly. Address, CHARLES KETTERING, Bandmaster, Grand Cirque Pinder, Sunday, St. Brieux; Monday, Guingamp; Tuesday, Launion; Wednesday, Morlaix; France-Bretagne.

WANTED, for the R.M.S. Ortona, sailing Sept. 17 for Australia, Violin, Piano, Cornet, and Clarionet. Yates apply. Light Duties only. References for character and ability indispensable.
Apply to
F. C. CANE (Bandmaster),
28, Nelson-street, East Ham, Essex.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.

WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin and Viola, not over thirty years of age, and single; none but competent players need apply. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 at the end of the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.
Apply to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WEST RIDING ASYLUM, SCALEBOR PARK, BURLEY-IN-WHARFEDALE.

WANTED, Musician Attendants, Clarionet and Flute and Piccolo Players. Salary commences at £33 per annum, with board and lodging.
Applications to the
CLERK and STEWARD.

WANTED, all Instruments, Concert and Theatre Business; first-class players only, and previous members of our Bohemian Bands preferred. WILHELM RUSSELL, Grand T., Llandudno.

WANTED, 10 Ladies and 10 Gentlemen, good Instrumentalists, for Madame Voorzanger's Orchestra. 61, Warwick-avenue, Maida Vale, London, W.

WANTED, Musicians to keep away from Munich, owing to dispute there.—A. SEITZ, Secretary International Confederation of Musicians, J. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED, Known, the next Meeting of the London Branch of the A.M.U. will be Held in the Club Room at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10. Important business.

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

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"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

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MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Musical-Director (Piano and Violin), at Liberty, Tour or Resident (Tour preferred); good refs.; well experienced. Address, Box 6,933, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mr. Mozart Wilson, Conductor, is open to Engagement at Christmas in Good Theatre, now Managing own Company, ninth year of tour; composer and arranger. Address, c/o Miss WARNHAM, 14, Vowler-street, Walworth, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by reliable Conductor, Violin, in good-class Music Hall. No wires. MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Morriston House, Morriston, Swansea.

WANTED, by Pianist-Conductor, Immediate Engagement; experienced; excellent refs. and testimonials. COLLINGS, 6, Emlyn-grove, Rhyl.

WANTED, Engagement, as Repetiteur or Viola, thoroughly competent, Variety or Drama. First-class refs. T. HALLMAN, 58, Albert-rd., Widnes.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, any Business; Disengaged Sept. 12. CHAS. BACON, 7, Railway-terrace, Margate, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class all-round Violinist (combine Piano). Recent engagements include First Violin and Accompanist (Concerts), Leader (Theatre), &c. MILLS, Victoria Pier, Folkestone.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement; can also take Second Clarionet in Military Band if required; good references; abstainer and reliable; Army and Orchestral experience; distance no object if permanency assured. WILLMOTT, 161, Hither Green-lane, Lewisham, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Edythe Reeve (Violinist), concluding 11 weeks; Disengaged Sept. 21, London preferred, any business. The Pier, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Orchestral Engagement, as Second Violin; References; experienced, and at Liberty. Apply, W. JACOBS, 32, Booth-st., London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Retired Pensioner from H.M. Service, in which having been Leading Violinist and French Horn, would like a place as either First or Second Violin; references exemplary; age 32 years. Box 6,927, "The Era."

WANTED, by good Second Violin, Re-engagement; good refs.; sober, competent. E. W., 77, Sugden-road, Lavender Hill, London, S.W.

WANTED, London Engagement, by experienced Violin and Viola; late Leader, Theatre; young strictly steady. B., 39, Marian-square, London, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Violinist and 'Cellist (Sisters), Disengaged Sept. 8. Add., MATTHEWS, 230, Croxted-rd., Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, First Violin, London preferred; experienced Variety Theatre, &c.; sober and reliable; can open at once. Box 6,944, "The Era."

WANTED Engagement, First-class Violinist; experienced all Lines; steady and reliable. Open at once. State terms. Address, VIOLINIST, 13, Anerley-grove, Upper Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, by Leader Blue Hungarians, Engagements, Solo Playing, &c., Cafés. Letters, Grand Central Hotel, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornettist, any business; would deputise; sober and reliable; just finishing season. CORNETTIST, 24, Peabody's cottages, Lordship-lane, Tottenham.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Cornet, well up in Varieties; excellent references; at Liberty Sept. 14. FRANKS, Alhambra Palace, Morecambe.

WANTED, Engagement, Cornet or Violin; repetiteur, Dramatic or Variety, experienced, efficient; refs.; Dis. end Sept. JONES, 20, Green-street, Old Town, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Cornet, take First when required; also Class Tympanist, any Business; excellent references. MOTT, Cornet, Theatre, Carlisle.

WANTED, Engagements, by Clarionet and Violin, Clarionet and Bass, Drums and Tymps; all reliable and steady men; good refs. Apply, Box 6926 "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Clarionet, used Variety, Liberty Sept. 14. THRESPLETON, Alhambra Palace, Morecambe.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, at Liberty, Theatre or Variety, good refs., and reliable. CLARIONET, 19, Market-street, Torquay.

WANTED, by First-class Clarionet, sober and reliable, permanent Engagement; Concert, Variety, or Theatre. Willing for trial. Box 6,943, "Era."

WANTED, Known, Disengaged after Sept. 20, Miss Maud Jones, Double Bass, Pier, Clacton. Permanent address, 44, Cranmer-road, North Brixton.

WANTED, Known, 4-string Bass Player, Disengaged Sept. 13, any business. Photo and testimonials sent if required. Address, F. G. POWELL, Victoria Pier, Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Bass, Seaside preferred; last engagement 4 years. Address, BASSO, 8, Rostella-road, Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Double Bass or Violin, at Liberty after Sept. 12. WILSON, Leader, Empire Theatre, Douglas.

WANTED, by good Double Bass and Viola, Shop; experienced any business, steady; Vacant Sept. 16. W. HORNSEY, 24, Hester-street, Northampton.

WANTED, by First-class Double Bass Player. Engagement, best refs. given, in any class of work. FRED BROOK, Rossmount, Crigglestone, Wakefield.

WANTED, Situation, by String Bass, any District, used to Variety. J. REEVES, 133, Burrage-road, Woolwich.

WANTED, by good Bassoonist, with 13 years' Military experience, Employment in Orchestra or Band; exemplary character. Apply, Mr. J. SPOONER, 1, Market-street, Benjonson-road, Stepney.

WANTED, by First-class Trombone, permanent Engagement; thoroughly experienced, all Lines of Musical Profession. CHAS. MCCALLAUGH, 9, Salisbury-terrace, Bridlington.

WANTED, by good Trombone, Engagement at Variety Hall or Theatre; good refs.; thoroughly experienced. Box 6,935, "The Era."

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, any business; experienced all lines; good refs. CHAS. TAYLOR, 4, Claude-vale, Oldfield Park, Bath.

WANTED, Known, good Trombone, Open for Engagement, finishing Summer Season, Palace Varieties, Winter Gardens, Southport. SMITH, Trombone, Albert Hall, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombonist, Theatre or Music Hall; experienced and reliable; good references. FRED PEEL, 20, Warley-street, Parkinson-lane, Halifax.

WANTED by First-class Trombone, any Business; strictly attentive to business, and reliable. BANWELL, Hippodrome, Poplar, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Orchestral Euphonium and Concert Soloist. Disengaged Oct. 3. HOWARTH, 5, Barnet-villas, Keyroad, Clacton.

WANTED, Engagement, Solo Euphonium, can combine Viola or Second Violin; thoroughly reliable and trustworthy. Address, MUNSON, Municipal Band, Bognor.

WANTED, Known, BB Flat Bombardon, open, just finished season's engagement; any business. P. HARMAN, 22, Fraser-street, Bedminster, Bristol.

WANTED, by First and Second French Horns, Engagement, together or separate, Theatre, Panto., &c. Conductors requiring sober, reliable men apply Box 6,945, "The Era."

WANTED, by 'Cellist, Engagement; steady and reliable; excellent refs.; can open Sept. 14. Address, F. BARDILL, Pier Orchestra, Cleethorpes.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady 'Cellist, Disengaged Sept. 19. L. HINE, 3, The Parade, Felixstowe.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ethel Litolff, 'Cellist, Dis. Sept. 21, concluding three months' Engt. Address, Pier Pavilion, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Aeneas Gibson, well-known Yorkshire Harpist and Pianist, Liberty Sept. or Oct. Variety Company on Tour to Australia please write. Abroad preferred, or first-class steamship. Grecian or Gothic Harp. GIBSON BROS., Music Sellers, Ilkley.

WANTED, Engagement, as Harpist or Double Bass, Circus or Theatre; would join Violinist; steady and reliable. Address, STEWART, 2, Howden-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flautist, now Disengaged; 12 years Army Soloist; total abstainer; good references; permanent preferred. Stating wages, write FLAUTIST, 11, Guy-place East, Leamington.

WANTED, Engagement, or Deputising, by experienced Flautist, Theatre, Hotel, or Concert Business. MILLARS, 46, Gresham-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, any bus.; all-round London experience; testimonials; finishing season. H. CRAVEN, Band, South Pier, Lowestoft.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Miss Dora Henderson, Flute and Piccolo, any Business; at Liberty Oct. 5. Address 139, Park-road, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, finish to-night Hornsea Gardens. Address after Sunday, VIC. CANDLER, 6, Oxford-terrace, Harrogate.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, Disengaged Sept. 10; good refs. from Varieties, &c. FLAUTIST, 15, Treherne-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, used to Variety; excellent references; at Liberty Sept. 14. WOOLMAN, Alhambra Palace, Morecambe.

WANTED, Engagement, as Flautist, thoroughly experienced, first-class references. W. TOOGOOD, 2, Bellotts-road, Twerton, Bath.

WANTED, by Experienced Flautist, Engagement, thoroughly reliable, would finish a season, at Lib. Sept. 7. H. ALLEN, Pier Orchestra, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, Known, Flute and Piccolo, just Disengaged; competent, reliable, Variety, &c. ALEXANDER, Leicester-terrace, Peterboro'.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo Soloist, Engagement; competent of any Business; reliable; excellent references. THOS. HURN, Bandstand, Bognor, Sussex.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist; sober and reliable; good references; combine Clarionet. PIANIST, Bouverie-mews, Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement, as Flute and Piccolo, any business, experienced, good refs., permanency preferred. HOWARD, 5, North-rd., Aberystwith.

WANTED, by Lady Accompanist, Engagement; great experience, Quartettes, Trios, or Orchestra. Duet Practice. Terms moderate. C., 3, Lebanon Park-mansions, Twickenham.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Sept. 12, Good Pianist (combine Violin), also Flautist. Refs. BARDSLEY, New Spa Gardens, Bridlington.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Cecil Bevan, Brilliant and Popular Solo Pianist and Entertainer, invites offers for 14th inst. Fieldby Cottage, Port St. Mary, I.O.M.

WANTED, Known, Book-keeper, 28, ordered change, desires Pianist position (Composer, Vocalist), well up music, Harmonise, Improvise; Seaside preferred; commence fair salary. Reply to F. A. HEYWOOD, 115, Bury New-road, Heywood.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, by steady, reliable Double Drummer and Effects; experienced; any business. JELFS, 47, Crowndale-road, Camden Town, London.

WANTED, by First-class Double Drummer, any business; thoroughly experienced, reliable; good refs. DRUMS, 66, St. Ives-road, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer, experienced, permanency or deputising in London, W. or S.W. preferred. DRUMS, 132, Kingsley-road, Hounslow.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Tympanist, &c.; permanency, Theatre or Music Hall. At Liberty Sept. 14. Apply, CRYER, Alhambra Palace, Morecambe.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, &c., Engagement; reliable and thoroughly experienced. DRUMS, 38 Draycott-avenue, Fulham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Offers, Bateson's Orchestra (small), Dis. Oct. 1, any bus. Musical-Directress, Miss MAUDE TRAINER, Pavilion, Lakeside, near Ulverston.

WANTED, Known, Madam Wilton Davis' Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra, Specially Engaged Franco-British. Quartettes, Trios, Dis. for Hotels, &c. 42, Linton-street, N.

WANTED, Known, Lady Trio or Quartette, at Liberty now, Restaurant, &c.; the Italian Lady Quartette playing now at "Pharaoh's Daughter," Franco-British; open for later engagements. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Trio, now playing at Mansion Hotel, Roundhay, Leeds, fourth season; experienced Hotel and Café Yorkshire preferred. FRED YATES, Pudsey, Yorks

WANTED, Known, Lady Musicians, Disengaged Sept. 28, Bass, Violin, Flute, Piccolo. Apply, HAUT, Canal House, Warwick-avenue, London.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Two Special Weeks, Sept. 14 and 21, by W. C. and S. Hancock's New Coliseum, two Lady Cyclists or two Lady Ring Performers, also Foot Equilibrist, lady or gent., stage 20ft. wide, 20ft. high; also Pianist, to open Monday, permanent if suitable. Write full particulars to Poor Ground, East-street, Taunton, Somerset, till Monday; after, Fair Ground, Tiverton, Devon.

WANTED, First-class Lady Juggler, must be young, also willing to practise Novelty Balancing with Partner; good opportunity. Apply, 1 to 4, SHERRY and BRADY, 17, Lisle-st., W.

WANTED, Girl, good performer on Rings or Trapeze, with good Trick for finish, and good figure. Particulars to Box 6,922, "The Era."

WANTED, Young Man, good Tumbler and Catcher, immediately. Personal calls 5 o'clock. 233, Kennington-road.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Buff Bill's Circus, at Liberty for the Winter Season, Buff Bill's American Circus, consisting of Lady and Gentleman Bare-back Riders, Gymnasts, Acrobats, and Clowns, and Performing Horses, including three Dens of Performing Animals, viz., Pack of Wolves, and Lions, and Lady Lion Tamer. For terms and particulars apply, MANAGER, Buff Bill's American Circus, c/o The Boat Tavern, Moriedge, Derby.

WANTED, Oct. 12, by Neddy Vokes, World-known Musical Clown, talking Knockabout Clown, Entrées. Address, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Bishop and Winkles, Knockabout Comedians, Great Success with F. Connor, Esq., Hippo., Douglas, after a most comfortable Season will shortly be at Liberty for Winter. Hippodrome, Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Leoville, Tight-wire and Æolia Trapeze. Big Success, Crystal Palace. Next Monday, Hall-by-Sea, Margate. Liberty Sept. 14.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air Balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 45a, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, Variety Artists suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to WM. BIGGAM, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

EMPIRE, YORK.
NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists. Nothing too big. Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Theatre, Harrogate. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Monday, Sept. 14, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Sept. 21, onwards. A. E. PICKARD.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Sept. 21, onwards. A. E. PICKARD.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Immediate Dates for Midlands and North. Nothing too Big. CLIQUOT, 22, Union-street, Hyde.

FRED BOULTON'S ENTERPRISES.

WANTED good Variety Artists, for South Wales, Sept. 9 and 16. Lowest Combination terms to FRED BOULTON, Grosvenor-place, Cheltenham. Those known to me write.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.

WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

GAIETY MUSIC HALL, BLYTH.

WANTED.—Artists Required, Aug. 31, onwards, Lowest terms, Hall small. Address, W. YATES GREGORY, The Tower, New Brighton.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY.
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone 2345 Tron.

WANTED, Artists, in every Line, for Monday and on. The ma non the spot can book you.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns doing Singles, two weeks, Sept. 21, Oct. 5, 12, 19. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Sept. 14, onwards. Terms, &c., EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Star Artists, Immediate and Future Dates, good break going North. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

BARNARD'S AGENCY, SHAW-ST., LIVERPOOL.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Big Star Acts, nothing too big, salaries no object for right attractions. 'Phone, 2349.

GAIETY THEATRE, BLYTH.

WANTED, Artists of Note, Sept. 14, onward. Will Entertain any Act at a Price. Hall Small. Apply, W. YATES GREGORY, The Tower, New Brighton.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Sept. 14, on. 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

EMPIRE, GREENOCK.

WANTED, Agents desirous of doing Business. Artists desiring Engagements, also Combinations and Travelling Pantomimes, to please communicate with MANAGING-DIRECTOR.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, THE PALACE, CLACTON-ON-SEA, closes after Sept. 12. Artists holding dates please re-arrange with Mr. DAVID HART, W. Baynton (Sec.), Palace, Ltd.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates, to communicate terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

C. W. POOLE'S 1908 MYRIORAMA.

WANTED, for Sept. 14 and 21, Speciality Turns; must be refined, and suitable for Myriorama audiences. J. R. POOLE, Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME

WANTED, Talent all Lines, Sept. 14, 28, Oct. 5, later. JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

EMPIRE PALACE, BARNSLEY, LTD.
Managing-Director, Mr. WILL SMITHSON.

WANTED, Good Attractions, Star Comedians, Speciality Acts (not Sketches). All coms., WILL SMITHSON, Barnsley. The Empire Palace, Barnsley, is one of the Best Halls in England, good full Professional Band, plenty of Light, and Comfort.

WANTED, for Sept. 21 week, at Theatre, Limerick big Specialities (except Dancing), also useful Turns; can arrange suitable Acts Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, also at Waterford and Londonderry Theatres, and probable English Tour later. Absolute lowest, lithos., and vacancies, MLLE. SAHARA, Empire, Belfast.

WANTED, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to JAS. TYRER, The Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, for Sept. 14, onwards, Star Acts in All Lines. Star Acts in All Lines. Full up for Smaller Items. CADLE'S Agency, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for France, Novel Speciality Acts. Money no object for good shows. Vacant Dates and permanent address. FLORIA, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Big Acts of all Descriptions. Artists holding contracts for Grantham, Peterboro', and Nuneaton send billing matter to me. DAN NOBLE, c/o G. T., Doncaster.

WANTED, good Speciality Acts, Sept. 14, on. Absolute lowest, lithos., permanent address, &c., MELLOR'S Variety Agency, 13, Wellclose-road, Leeds.

GLASGOW and GREENOCK.

WANTED, for Immediate and Future Dates, Greatest Acts in the World. Money no object for the Right Goods. Star Artists coming North write. Apply, TAYLOR, Jennings Hotel, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
VERNO'S Star Artists, AGENCY.
VERNO'S Big Novelties AGENCY.
VERNO'S and Specialities, AGENCY.
VERNO'S with Odd Weeks, AGENCY.
VERNO'S to Communicate AGENCY.
VERNO'S at once. AGENCY.
VERNO'S Also Artists in all Lines, AGENCY.
VERNO'S Sept. 7, on. AGENCY.
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,676 Royal.

WANTED, Monday next and onwards, big Nivelties for London, also Artists all Lines, for Leo Fritz's Welsh Enterprises. Price no object to the right stuff. MAURICE FRITZ, General-Manager, Albemarle Variety Syndicate, 157, Strand. 'Phone 4957 Gerrard. Telegrams "Templify, London."

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BURRAU CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool.
'Phone 1269 Royal. Gen.-Man., W. LUND.

WANTED, Big Tops, for immediate dates; also First-class Specialities and Comedians. Full list of bookings and lowest terms. Small refined Singing and Speciality Acts Wanted for Ramsgate. Photos. and printing.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Tops, Bottoms, Middles, and Smaller Items, Sept. 28, on. Bookings and lowest to KEEBLE'S Agency, 281, King-street, Hammersmith.

WANTED, for Palace, Porthcawl, Good Small Variety Companies, accommodate 200, Shares or Rental. Apply, PAYNE, Pontycymmer.

WANTED, First-class Numbers in all Lines, for Irish Variety Halls, 14th, onwards. Terms, lithos., &c., CALVERTO, Giffnock, Glasgow.

WANTED, Boys with good voices, also Dancers (in or near Manchester preferred), for immediate Engagement; must be aged 14, but small. STANLEY'S Urchins, 18, Ackers-street, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Winter Tour of Riviera, Mediterranean, and India, with Costume Party of repute, really good Comedienne (good breeding and refinement absolutely essential), experienced in Musical Comedy. Duets, Concerteds, and take top line in Vocal Quartettes, also Dance a little (not solo). Send répertoire, where working, and previous engagements, and state if dark or fair. All fares paid, return passage guaranteed; banker's reference. Delightful holiday tour. Address, Box 6,941, "The Era."

WANTED, two Character Vocalists (Ladies), for High-class Music Hall Turn; must be very smart in figure and appearance, and good dancers; height about 5ft. 6in. Box 6,947, "Era" Office.

WANTED by Music Hall Manager, Young Lady for Principal Part in First-class Sketch; must be young, very attractive, and able to Sing and Dance well; invest £50 and take share in profits of tour. Box 6,948, "Era" Office.

WANTED, for old-established Musical Speciality Act, a refined Young Lady. Small premium; tuition free. Salary from commencement. Full particulars to MANAGER, 29, Ouseley-road, Balham.

WANTED, Young Lady, 18 to 20, for well-known Troupe; one that can Tumble preferred. Particulars, W. W., Post Office, Barnsley.

WANTED, immediately, for Sketch, Light Comedian, able to play Cornet, one used to Pantomimic Shows preferred. Letters only, stating experience, to MAX. EDGAR, 42, Marney-road, Clapham.

WANTED, rehearse at once, a good Tumbling Pantomimist; must do Somersaults. Full particulars and terms to C. and F. RENAD, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Hand Balancer and Tumbler, for Comedy Act. Send particulars, &c., to W. WEST, 2, Chorley-lane, Park-lane, Leeds.

WANTED, for Picture and Variety Show (portable) Useful Young Ladies and Lads, long tour. Particulars, photos., lowest terms, live in, MANAGER, Hippo., Middle-street, Yeovil, Somerset.

WANTED, Conjurer and Illusionist, immediately; if suitable means long Engagement. Apply 12 to 2 o'clock, Tuesday or Wednesday next, to KARL F. HOOPER, 44, Cranbourn-street, Leicester-square, London, W.C.

C. W. POOLE'S 1908 MYRIORAMA.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, thoroughly experienced gas and electric, must assist with fittings, billing, &c. State age, refs., and experience, to J. R. POOLE, Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operator, for Electric and Lime; abstainer preferred; permanency. Full particulars, photo. if possible (which will be returned), in first letter. A. CHERRHAM, Silvograph Pictures, Rhyl.

WANTED, competent Operator, for Electric, complete outfit, with or without Films; also Lady, Illus. Songs. G. H. HOLLAND, 7, Shaw-st., Dukinfield, Cheshire.

WANTED, Operator, Experienced, both Currents and Lime. Age, lowest terms, permanent tour, references enquired into, EDWARDS, 56, Albert-st., Rochdale.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operator, for Poole's Picturedrome, Gloucester, commence Sept. 14. Lowest terms and experience to POOLE, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Artists, Proprietors,
Artists, Proprietors,
and all concerned,
to Know
I no longer represent
I no longer represent
Miss Millie Payne.
Signed, WILL OLIVER.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Lolo and May, Refined Lady Gymnasts and Teeth Speciality; also Miss May, Graceful Contortionist and Acrobatic Dancer; magnificent silver and electric apparatus; Liberty Dec. 14. Address, 127, Upper Aughton-rd., Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Known, by Gertrude Martini, Monday next and 14th, Halls or High-class Pier Pavilions, Descriptive Vocalist. Wire, 24, Acker-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, 7th and 14th, by Marie Colmore, the Coming "Star" Comedienne. The Funny One. Wire, Emp., Burnley.

WANTED, Known, Annie Bamford, Vocalist and Dancer, Disengaged Sept. 14, onwards. Just finished, Tivoli, Nelson; this week, Palace of Varieties, Long Eaton, where address all communications.

WANTED, Monday next, by Zelda, the Novel Instrumental Lady, Big Act; also Wal Owen, Novel Eccentric; two successes. Wire, Mechanics' Hall, Keighley.

WANTED, by Nellie Nora, Dainty Instrumental Act, Sept. 14, 21, through halls not opening this, Tivoli, Dublin; next, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Known, Lavinia Rose, Descriptive Vocalist, Sept. 14, and on; also Panto., second girl. Add., 127, Saville-road, Castleford, Yorks.

WANTED, by Rosaline Thorne, Descriptive Vocalist and Illustrated Songs, Dates in Oct. This week, Pavilion, Ramsgate; next week, Pier Pavilion, Folkestone.

WANTED, Known, Babs Lloyd, Star Artist, Nellie Van, Comedy Artist, Big Hit, Hippodrome, Crewe; next, 6, Great Clyde-street, Glasgow (c/o Anderson). Vacant Sept.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, New and Novel Drawing-room Act, piano, mimicry, singing, banjo, dancing, &c., Vac. Sept. 21, 28. Next, Free Trade Hall, Manchester, POOLE'S.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Terry, Comediennes, Mimics, and Dancers, at Liberty Sept. 14, 21, 28. Communicate, Winter Gardens, Morecambe.

WANTED, Known, The Original Will Owen, Dame Comedian and Comedy Dutch Vocalist, Vacant Sept. 7 and 14. This week, Tivoli, Manchester. Vacant Panto. Perm. address, 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by Walter Howard, Musical Comedian, Halls, Piers, Picture Tours, Sept. 28, on. Care of "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Gene Selby, Coffee-Coloured Coon, and Champion Bone Soloist, from the London Pavilion, Vacant Sept. 21, and on. Sept. 7, Maidstone Palace; 14th, Tivoli, Pentre, Wales.

WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, on, or good Tour, by George Ritter Speciality Musical Patter Comedian; am also a good Pianist. Just finishing season here Pier, Bangor; next, T. R., Deal.

WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, 28, by Harold Carlyle, Scotch Comedian (in the Kilt). Big success this and next, Pavilion Promenade, Tynemouth.

WANTED, Monday, also Sept. 14, by Harry Tullett, the Youthful Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Wire, 145, St. Paul's-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Dates, by Wilmot Hastings, Vocal Comedian, Raconteur, and Musical Speciality Artist; tremendous hit with Arthur Prince's Serenaders. Address, 7, Summerland-terrace, Barnstaple, Devon.

WANTED, Monday next, and 14th, on, by Wyllie, the Tramp Musician, ten instruments, good Fit-up; also Miss Telka, Contralto Vocalist. WILLIS, O. H., Workington.

WANTED, Sept. 7, 14, Ba-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina). Theatre, Brynmawr.

WANTED, by Eugene Brant, Versatile Singing Eccentric and Grotesque Dancer, Sept. 14 and 21, through misunderstanding. Success anywhere. Add., Grand, Derby.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, George Casey received an ovation on his reappearance at T. R., Waterford, as Dame. What a reception! Refer, Manager Collins. Lib. now, also Panto. Wire, CASEY, Waterford.

WANTED, Known, Phil Rabey, Versatile Artist; that all-round fellow. Vacant Sept. 21 and 28. Fred Pullan's Pierrots, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Monday next, also Sept. 14, by Bob Gates, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Wire, The Tower, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Monday, onwards, Dan Ashton, Lancashire Collier, in original scena, founded on paris Wigan Colliery Disaster. 26, Wood-street, Openshaw.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, Comedian and Champion All-round Dancer, Hulme Hippo. nightly, Lib. Sept. 7, one week. Coms., 7, Poplar-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Kail Stern, Vacant Sept. 14 and 21, Coon Comedian and Acrobatic Dancer. A sure success. Pier, Llandudno

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, by Herbert Madden, Light Comedian. Wire, 5, Cocker-hill, Stalybridge.

WANTED, Monday next, also Sept. 14, to precede Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy, by George Grenville, the Popular Comedian. Wire, Bohemians, Fleetwood.

WANTED, Monday next and Sept. 21, 28, Volto, Comedy Gymnast and Man Monkey. Enormous Success at Queen's Theatre, Dublin. Wire to-day, Fête Grounds, Glossop; after, 33, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Charles Buller is open to join good Touring Varieties or Pictures, with his Quick-change and Musical Act. Accept reasonable terms. Address, Hippodrome, Boscombe.

WANTED, by Harry Wilson, the Refined Funny Comedian and Chorus Vocalist, Eng. Sept. 21, on, with Picture Show or Variety, any Bus.; extensive rép.; two distinct turns; open for Panto., Demon King, Old Man of the Sea, Emperor. White Coons, Clacton.

WANTED, Mon., Sept. 7 and 14, by Mr. Yettmah, Artist in Japanese Magic; gorgeous costumes, setting, and effects. Wire, YETTMAH, G.P.O., Manchester.

WANTED, Sept. 7. Wire, Wellington Pier, Yarmouth. The Great Kyoto, Japanese Humorist, Contortionist, Conjurer, Comedy Juggler, and the only Performing Pug Dog. An enormous sensational laughing and applauding hit. Also Miss May Geraldine, a Dainty Comedienne and Dancer. Another successful artistic turn. Many thanks for offers. Small Pavilions and Halls save stamps and wires. First-class Hippodromes, Halls, Theatres only entertained. Wire for Sept. 7, also Sept. 21, onward. After Saturday, 16, Repton-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, on, exceptions, The Monckton's (Fred-Lillie) present their Screamingly Funny Farcical Episodes, "A Woman's Curiosity," "Two-in-a-Flat." Enormous Success upon this, our fourth visit, Hippodrome, Preston. Sept. 7, Gaiety, Glasgow (third return).

WANTED, Known, The Knotellas (Harry and Rose), Flexible Acrobats and Dancers, &c. Liberty Sept. 21 onward. Monday, 7th, Hippodrome, Hastings.

WANTED, Offer for week Sept. 14 (through Hall closing), Mr. Harry Liston and Miss Lumley's Duos, &c. W. Gardens, New Brighton.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Comedy Duologue, "The Dutch Lovers," Novelty Singing, Dancing and Patter, Sept. 14, 26. Empire, York; next, Hip., Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Adele Levey and Frank Lilliput, in Sketch, "Find the Lady First," vacant Sept. 14. Wire, Palace, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, by Fred Wright, Comedian and Dancer; and Maud Garland, Comedienne, Monday next. This week, Hippo., Croydon. Wire, 118, New North-road, London, N.

WANTED, Monday, also 14th, by Lesley and Pine, Vocal Comedians, any business; Singles if required. Wire, 49, Victoria-road, Maldon. Sunday, 1a, Wooler-street, Walworth.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Novel Comedy Act, Sept. 14, onwards. This, G., Gravesend; Sept. 7, Palace, Gloucester. Wire or write.

WANTED, Sept. 14 and 21, by Harlin and Hanlon, Comedians and Patterers, to precede Glasgow. Coms., Bohemian Entertainers, Fleetwood, Lancs.

WANTED, by Fields and Lewis, Great Comedy Act, vacant Sept. 14. This, Empire, Camberwell (third return). Wire, 40, Coldharbour-lane, London.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Screaming Act, "Rustics at Play," Sept. 14. Monday next, Opera House, Burton. Agent, STEBBINGS, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, the Musical Palmers conclude to-night five weeks Curzon Hall, Birmingham, Brass Instrumentalists of the Highest Quality, Campanologists unexcelled on the Variety Stage. First Vacancy, Nov. 16.

WANTED, Known, Albini, the Flag Lieutenant and his Lady in Black Wonder, going extra strong since Folkestone Beauty Show. Monday, Hippodrome, Aldershot, mystifying and making them laugh. Agent, TOM SHAW.

WANTED, Monday, by the Great Chikó, Marvellous Equilibristic Contortionist. Wire, WILL SLEY, Variety, Manchester.

WANTED, by Lo-La and Jake, the Beautiful and Marvellous Lady Three-bar Expert, assisted by Jake, the Great Gymnastic Comedian, Monday next, one week, and Sept. 21. Wire, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, 14th (one week), by Atlas-Vulcana Troupe (five), the Society Athletes, including the most wonderful Lady Athlete of all time, introducing the only really Classic Posing Extant. Conclude Emp., Burnley; Monday, Queen's Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globella, Juggling Speciality; vacant Sept. 14 and 21. Address, Tivoli Theatre, Dublin.

WANTED, Sept. 7, 14, by The Pops, Modern Comedy Gymnasts. Just the best. 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Sept. 21, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Lofthouse Park, Wakefield.

WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, and 28, by BESSIE TRAVIS, Queen of Ventriloquists. Top Liner. Monday, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, Known, Florence Raymond, Leading Lady Ventriloquist, introducing the Crying Baby. Vacant Oct. 5, onwards, with exceptions. Westminster; Liverpool; next, People's H., Denton.

WANTED, Sept. 14, 21, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Monday, Pier, Southsea.

WANTED, Monday and 14th, Gillin, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist. Wire for Monday, King's Theatre, Southsea; after, 93, Fitzwilliam-road, Rotherham.

WANTED, Sept. 21, Matt Wilkinson's Screamer, "On the Flip-Flap"; and Violet Beatrice, Boy Impersonator. Wire, P., Gloucester; next, Perth.

WANTED, Sept. 14, between Middlesbrough and Gateshead, by Tom Kelso and Co., Screaming Absurdity, "The Silly Servant." Next, Oxford, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Oct., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery. The Biggest Novelty ever Introduced with Troupe of Dogs. Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Sept. 7 and 14, Swift Duo, Funny Cycling Speciality. Wire or write, 15, Newstead-road, Smithdown-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, by good Baritone, Singing Part in good Sketch Company; first-class Soloist; good voice. J. WILLIAMS, Theatre, Arbroath, N.B.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, to join for Comedy Bar Act, by good Knockabout Grotesque; all-round experience; reliable. Box 6,934, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Pierre or Private Carl Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also Punch and Judy, with Toby. 264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park.

WANTED, Known, competent Operator, vacant Monday, gas, lime or electric, any make machine; good refs. Wire, KARDOC, 51, Staines-road, Hounslow.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, Important, that the Next Meeting of the British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union will be Held at Armley (Members to Meet on the Fair Ground), on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 2.30 p.m.

Signed, T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars.
O. G. CLICHES, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 350 miniatures to select from.
MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROTHERS, AND CO. Sole Makers of the only Patent Cake Walk Riding Machine in the World.
Royal Letters Patent, No. 17,402, July 30, 1907.
Improvements protected, No. 25,150, Nov. 13, 1907
Improvements protected, No. 2,649, Feb. 6, 1908.
REGISTERED TRADE MARK, "CAKE WALK."

WANTED, Known, users as well as makers who infringe will be proceeded against. In the Chancery Court, July 3, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady granted an injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402, 1907.

This machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for simplicity, lightness, and durability. Appreciated by the Public everywhere. Write, or call on the Sole Makers, Farncombe-street, and 94 and 98, Bermondsey-wall, Bermondsey, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Stacey's Showman's Stores, New Address, 510, Kingsland-road, London. All goods same as supplied for sixty years.

NORWICH AND EASTERN COUNTIES ARTS, CRAFTS, & INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, Agricultural Hall, Norwich, Oct 10 to Nov. 7, 1908.
WANTED, for the Pastimes Annex to above, Side Shows, Games, Automatic Machines, Shooting Jungle, Novelty Stalls, &c., &c.
Address, MANAGER.

WANTED, for Barron's Exhibition, Lowestoft, Fishing Season, Oct., Nov., and Dec., some Good Novelties, with Flash, on sharing terms (50 per cent.), to open on Oct. 3, and onwards; two weeks certain, one week at Lowestoft, and one week at Yarmouth. Will Aden and Hero write, and a Dahomey Troupe, to BARRON, Sea View Exhibition, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Good Freaks, Novelties, &c., can have 8, 10, or 12 weeks' Engagement at my American Museum. Send Fullest Particulars, Terms, Photos., and Samples of Lithos.
A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Quick-showing Novelties, or anything good, for Payne's Varieties, Pontycymmer, Shares or Rental.

WANTED, Open 14th, Lady Palmist, Pianist, Vocalist, Sugar Boiler. Side Show, Photographer, Bioscope. Touring Exhibition. MANAGER, 23, Duke-street, Whitley Bay.

WANTED, Immediately, Coloured Men, Women, and Children, together or separately; also Male and Female Midgets, and other Novelties, for Shuttered Booth; long and comfortable engagement. Wire, SHOWMAN, 43, Franklin-st., Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, for Barron's Exhibition, Lowestoft (during the Fishing Season), a good Tattoo Artist, on sharing terms, from Oct. 3, for eight weeks. Good money can be earned here to the right man. Apply, BARRON, Sea View Exhibition, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, a Giant, for advertising purposes.
HUMBER'S Waxwork,
George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, First-class Planksman and Comedian; must be sober, and not afraid of work; good shop, good wage. Box 6,925, "The Era."

WANTED, Handseller and Pianist combined, for Auction Mart; must be experienced and steady; permanent situation. GREENWOOD, Everton-road, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Bioscope and experienced Operator, for Greenwood's Auction Mart; good wages, permanent situation. Address, 157, Everton-road, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, experienced Operator for Flying Lady Show, only sober and reliable men apply, and state previous experience; permanency. MANAGER, Japanese City, St. Andrew's Hall, Stranraer, N.B.

WANTED, Good Bottler, for Punch Frame, on Tour, five to six weeks; third share given to sober man.
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WANTED, Known, Milton's Marionettes will be free to accept Engagements at First-class Exhibitions. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, the Hungarian Fat Boy (Monsieur Pook), now at Paris and Marseilles.

WANTED, by J. Johnson, Situation on an Auction Mart, Practical Watchmaker and Entertainer; thoroughly understands the business. 18, Oxford-street, Old Trafford, Manchester.

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WANTED, Known, Distorting Mirrors to Let, on Hire or Share, Exhibitions, &c. Address, MIRRORS, c/o Mrs. Hampshire, Church-lane, Outwood, Wakefield.

WANTED, Wanted, Showmen and other Travellers to Know that I have Ground to Let at Newcastle, Staffs, Wakes, Sept. 11, in the Main Street.
All applications for these Wakes must be made direct to me.
Also Ground to Let at Willenhall, Blackheath, Atherstone Statutes, Birmingham Great Onion Fair, Tamworth, Leicester Oct. Fair, and numerous other places.
P. COLLINS,
Gondola Works,
Walsall.
Telegrams, "Gondola, Walsall."
'Phone, No. 80, Walsall.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a complete COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS, FOR SEPTEMBER.

ENGLAND.

5. Hyde (23,000)
5. Gorton (48,000)
5. Killamarsh (3,211)
5. Meltham (1,200)
5. Pendlebury (13,672)
5. Wednesbury (26,500)
5. Wilmslow (6,683)
7. Alverthorpe (12,000)
7. Armley (22,000)
7. Farnley (3,500)
7. Oldbury (25,200)
7. Oxford (49,400)
7. Thorner (976)
7. Wortley (8,000)
8. Barnoldswick (7,400)
8. Exeter (47,000)
8. Wirksworth (4,263)
9. Blandford (3,600)
9. Broadway (Somerset) (500)
9. Chapel Town (7,100)
9. Lambert Castle
9. Morchard Bishop (1,100)
9. Openshaw (25,400)
9. Swinton and Pendlebury (19,000)
9. Tideswell (2,500)
9. Witton (1,659)
10. Congresbury (1,700)
10. Maldon (5,500)
10. Wareham (2,000)
12. Batley (20,000)
12. Blackheath (Staffs.) (9,553)
12. Brentford (15,200)
12. Buxton (4,787)
12. Cromford (1,056)
12. Matlock (7,300)
12. Woodthorpe (882)
14. Ardsley (6,000)
14. Barnstaple (14,000)
14. Glastonbury (4,000)
14. Holbeck (23,000)
14. Sandal Feast (6,000)
15. Boston (15,700)
15. Ottery St. Mary (3,500)
15. Ware (5,900)
16. Alford (2,500)
16. Langwith (363)
17. Penn (Bucks) (400)
17. Second Lee Fair
18. Bury (60,000)
19. Amersham (3,000)
19. Atherstone (5,000)
19. Beaminster (2,000)
19. Hayfield (2,864)
19. Ilkley (7,500)
19. New Mills (5,509)
19. Northampton (87,000)
19. Pateley Bridge (3,200)
19. Ratcliffe (137)
19. Staines (6,700)
19. Worcester (43,965)
21. Backwell (1,000)
21. Farnworth (25,000)
21. Hemel Hempstead (11,300)
21. Lewes (11,300)
21. Longtown (300)
21. Newcastle (Staffs) (20,000)
21. Reading (60,000)
21. Rushden (12,500)
21. Sidmouth (4,000)
21. Uttoxeter (5,200)
22. Ashby-de-la-Zouch (4,700)
22. Bude (1,059)
22. Stevenage (3,365)
23. Bowdon (2,796)
23. Bugsworth (389)
23. Iron Acton (1,000)
23. March (7,500)
23. Over (Cheshire) (6,200)
23. Swindon (45,000)
24. Birmingham (522,182)
24. Bridgwater (15,200)
24. Brierley Hill (12,000)
24. Cambridge (38,400)
24. Heyford (800)
24. Todmorden (25,400)
24. Wootton-under-Edge 2,200
25. Eleven Lane Ends Feast
25. Haslemere (1,000)
25. Pickering (3,500)
26. Hartland (1,746)
26. Morton (982)
26. Spalding (9,400)
26. Tyldesley (16,000)
28. Chesham (7,300)
28. Dudley (49,000)
28. Dunstable (5,200)
28. High Wycombe (16,000)
28. Idle (7,500)
28. Long Stratton (600)
28. Studley (3,000)
28. Woodhouse (6,422)
29. Alton (5,590)
29. Ampthill (2,200)
29. Cranbrook (3,500)
29. Dorchester (9,500)
29. Kenilworth (4,500)
29. Uxbridge (8,600)
29. Wallingford (3,000)
30. Hanbury (900)
30. Hounslow (6,790)
30. Solihull (3,800)

SCOTLAND.

10. Ayr (27,531)
18. Johnstone (10,502)
18. Moss of Ballock (612)
19. Castle Douglas (3,018)
21. Aberdeen (153,108)
21. Edinburgh (208,069)
26. Hawick (17,803)
28. Dumfries (18,683)
30. Frazerburgh (8,998)
30. Haddington (3,992)
30. Sinclair Town

WALES.

7. Aberavon (7,000)
10. Neath (14,000)
12. Blaenavon (12,000)
18. Brynmawr (7,000)
19. Tredegar (18,000)
22. Llandudno (7,000)
25. Abergavenny (8,000)
26. Cowbridge (1,000)
26. Pontardawe (3,327)
26. Llanfyllin (2,000)
30. Llanelly (23,000)

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WANTED, to Sell, Dynamo and Engine, in thorough working order, on rubber-tyred wheels, would suit travelling Cinematograph. Apply, MARTIN and Co., Electrical Engineers, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, to Sell, a Bargain, or exchange for Up-to-date Rail Living Carriage, massive carved Two-wagon Front, by Orton; good living accommodation; suitable for Cinematograph. Apply, 43, Franklin-street, Brighton, Sussex.

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M. B., 120, Lower Kennington-lane, London, S.E.

WANTED, to Sell, as now standing, splendid Silver Maze, consisting of twenty-six Mirrors, 7ft. by 3ft. 6in.; well suited for Public Gardens or Exhibition, covering space of 18ft. square. Splendid money-taker.
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WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, New and Second-hand, Card Delivery, Mother Shiptons, marvellous money-takers, enormous profits. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

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WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines, Punch-ball, £8 10s.; Electric Phonographs, £5; Pleezail (Pictures) 45s.; Postcard, 25s.; Electric, Loops, &c. ADVANCE, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

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WANTED to Sell, Waxwork Exhibition, Automatic Machines, &c., as it stands. A going concern. Lease can be taken over if required. HOLT, Waxworks, Southend-on-Sea.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Cake-Walk Machine,
Cake-Walk Machine,
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Katzenjammer Castle,
Miniature Railways,
Miniature Railways,
Helter-Skelter Towers,
Helter-Skelter Towers,
and other Novel Side Shows,
and other Novel Side Shows.
Must be cheap.

Send fullest particulars and illustrations to Box 6,942, "The Era."

WANTED, to Buy, a Rail Living Van, with door in the end preferred. Reply, price and particulars, to THOMAS RELPH, Showman, The Park, Spennymoor, co. Durham.

WANTED, to Buy, Pullman Living Van, road or rail. Particulars to NEWELL, Pavilion, Denbigh, North Wales.

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WANTED, to Buy, a Complete Set of Punch and Judy Figures; must be in good condition. Lowest, DURHAM, New Hall, Bargoed, S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, Advertiser having Massive Carved Two-wagon Front (road or rail), opens out 44ft., requires person at once to finance him to a small amount, or join him with Cinematograph Show. Advertiser is a Practical Showman. This is genuine. Apply, 43, Franklin-st., Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, experienced Traction Driver, one that understands Electric Light, can do own repairs; can join at once. COTTRELL, Show Ground, Haswell, co. Durham.

WANTED, every Showman who uses the railway to send to "The Era" for a copy of the article on the new Railway Rates. This will be sent on application, free of charge, to any Showman in the United Kingdom.

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WANTED, to Sell, that splendidly fitted Variety House known as VICTORIA HALL, MATLOCK. Beautifully situated in large garden; area 15,000 square yards. Part purchase-money can remain as mortgage. Apply, Box 6,901, "The Era."

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WANTED, to Sell, a splendid well-trained young Collie Dog, does cards, adds sums, second sight, &c., cheap. LINDUS, 9, Pavilion-terrace, Wormwood Scrubbs.

WANTED, to Sell, Handsome New Proscenium, 14ft. high, 26ft. wide, 15ft. opening, beautifully painted, never used, very light, and hinged to fold in small space for travelling. ARTIST, 17, Siward-road, Lordship-lane, Tottenham, N.

WANTED, to Sell, large quantity of Panto. Dresses of every description, all in First-class condition. State requirements.
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Sell, Large Production of "Dick Whittington."
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, to Dispose of new Original Musical Comedy, full band score, parts, and ladies' costumes.
No reasonable offer refused.
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WANTED, to Sell Performing Dog, 14 months, will work him Stage, Ring, or Field if expenses paid. Chard write. HUNT, Jumper, Warrington.

WANTED, to Sell, Large Persian Cat, weight 16½lb., 38in. from tip of his nose to end of tail; also Painting and Booth. Photo of cat if wanted. Would sell separate. E. GARVEY, 7, Little Cross-street, Upper-street, Islington, N.

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WANTED, to Sell, Typed Stock Dramas, Duos, Comedy, and Dramatic Sketches; Plays Rewritten and Produced. HAL COLLIER, Opera House, Workington.

To Actresses.

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AYESHA, MY SWEET EGYPTIAN.
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"YOU'VE WORN YOUR WELCOME OUT." Sung by EADIE AND RAMSDEN.
"I'D LIVE OR I WOULD DIE FOR YOU." Sung by Mr. DAVE CARTER.
"WAY DOWN IN COLON TOWN." Sung by Mr. ANDIE CAINE.
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CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, SEPT. 7, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Barzac's Ponies, Leo and Roland, Jock Walker, Bertha Winder, Goggin and Davis, Three Broadway Girls, Burns and Bentley, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, J. H. Ellis.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Tom Hearn, Helen Martin, Wake and Dean, Tennis and Laune, Kelly and Ashby, Four Figaros, Gold and Sterling, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, &c.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Pender Troupe, Minnie D'Aubyn, Three Alakarnos, Georgina Middleton, Chas. Banks, Jimmy Laurie, The Izons, Gregson Comedy Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
"House of Tinn," Sisters Edwardes, Mabelle May, Margit and Lener, George James, Ellis and Watts, Gibbon and Bell, Ryder Slone, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Mlle. Vonetta, Gladys and Alber, Gracie Hunt, Alpho, Bowman and Morton, Tossing Austins, Gravetta and Parr, Kelly and Agnas, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, Irene and Morton, Guest and Newlyn, The Miltons, Leslie Bell and Co., Evie Lois, E. W. Selman.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"A False Wife."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"When It Was Dark."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"The Silver King."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Harry Weldon, Les Zelovas, Norah Stockelle, The Smythsons, Josephine Crooke, Jessie Burnett, Hayes and Merritt, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Walter Stanton, Chas. Tuppen, Carr and Rose, Harry Nelson, Thornbury, Jacko, Violet Nunn, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Minnie Warner.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock.
Gunner Moir, Chas. F. Best, Floradoras, W. G. Wesley, Browning and Wally, Munroe's Comedy Team, Dave Samuels, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Gus Harris, Harry Cotton, Marie Jones, Sisters Brenton, Lily Eyton, Little Dando, Alfonzo, Denwarts Troupe, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Ada Colley, Jim Cheetham, Billy French, Edwards and Dacre, Emma Don, Lawrence Barclay, Jack Lane, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Howard and Collinson.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
The Waldrons, Hicks and Hunter, Harry Milton, Kremka Bros., Massona, Mlle. Bartenelli, Sisters Hampel, Annie Schuberth, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Raymond, Takio, Sisters Delle, Lambert and Hans, Leslie Claro and Co., Lily Black, House of Terror, Carl Colyer, The Sanpietros, Permane's Bears.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Stidder and Dunbar, Gallimore Trio, Raymond, Sisters Brookes, Lily Arthur, Baker and De Sales, Queenie West, Corman's Juveniles, Birnard Mervyn.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Raymond, Dancing Gilberts, Harrigan and Holt, Sisters Varley, The Almas, Adderley Howard and Co., Jessica Brookes, Geo. Porter, The Strattons, Four Kellys, Milsted Boys.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Rich and Radford, Raymond, Fields and Lewis, Josh Dixon, Sisters Condor, Ethel Arundell, Lilie Lane, Balasco Trio, Geo. Marriott and Co., Jas. Albert, Hughes and Carney.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Harry Zetter, Raymond's, Three Prestons, Stuart and Evans, Rose Pink, Clever Mr. Tugg, Dot Moss, Frederick Victor and Co., Sisters Thorne, "The World's Desire," F. G. Brooks and Co., Colin Bryce.

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THE LATEST CRAZE.

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Miss ELLA RETFORD is creating a Furore nightly with this Song.

"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."

Sung by Miss HETTY KING and R. G. KNOWLES.

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Miss ALICE LLOYD'S AMERICAN CHORUS HIT.

"WHO SAID HE DON'T LIKE GIRLS?"

Sung by HARRY SIMMS.

"FIFTY LONG YEARS AGO."

Sung by HARRY BANCROFT.

"ESAU, TAKE ME ON THE SEE-SAW."

Miss MADGE TEMPLE'S GREAT CHORUS HIT.

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Rehearsal, Monday, 12.30. Brooklyn Comedy Four, in "Mirthful Mariners," Madge Pollard, The Three De Venas, Frank F. Street, New Operascope, Austin Lenton and Agnes Lane, Katie Eplett, Cameo Troupe.

CREWE HIPPODROME. Vaudeville Season.
Monday, Sept. 7,
Walton and Lester, The Three Grosvenors, De Ora, Ted Young, Beatrice Elstree, New Operascope, Hamilton Hill, and the Glenroy Troupe.
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DONKEY-SKIN.

Code Word, "EMBARDEE."

Once upon a time there was a king who, being a widower, was made to think about marrying again in order that there should be an heir to the throne. Unhappily, he took it into his head that his daughter, who was so beautiful and charming, should marry him. But she ran to her god-mother, who was a fairy, and the latter advised her to ask her impossible lover for a dress as bright as the sun, or otherwise she would not listen to him. Seeing that her wish was likely to be granted, she went back to the good fairy, and this time she was advised to ask for the skin of a donkey whose stable every morning was covered in gold sufficient to supply the needs of the whole royal household. As this second wish of hers was also complied with, the young princess, in desperation decided to run away in the donkey-skin, which disguised her entirely. She ran ever so far, and was found by a farmer's wife, and was made to wash the dishes and help with the pigs and poultry. On a certain fête day, having put on her bright sun-coloured coat, a prince saw her, and was so much in love with her that he was rendered quite ill. Having asked for a cake made by donkey-skin, he found in it a tiny ring that the princess had dropped, and he declared that he would marry none other than the girl whose finger would fit the ring. The princess was the last called, and as the ring slipped on her finger quite easily, the marriage took place with great rejoicings, which lasted three months.

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Titles of pictures: Let go!—The Place de la Concorde—Alexandre III. Bridge—The Champ de Mars—Eiffel Tower—The River Seine at the Point du Jour—The cycle track at the Parc des Princes—Landing.

445ft. The Subject, **£7 8s. 4d.**

THE SAILOR'S DOG.

Code Word, "ESTHETE."

The fisherman's faithful dog is running to the beach, sniffing the wind the while. His instinct has not played him false, for after a short time he discovers the body of his master, thrown there by the tide, and half-hidden by the sand and sea-weed. He takes in his mouth his master's cap, and comes back to the little cottage to impart to the widow the horrible tidings of her bereavement.

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Code Word, "ENSEIGNE."

Young Noodle, the son of an unknown magician, is so much in love with the king's daughter that he must propose for her hand. The king, furious, shows the impertinent the door. But he had reckoned without the magician's power, which can be felt from a distance, and which takes the form of a daily flogging, at all and any hour of the day. Life is not worth living for the king, with such a punishment always threatening him, and he at last gives his consent to his daughter marrying the more than tiresome young man.

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A ROMAN IDYLL.

Code Word, "ESPRIT."

Saphora, a proud and beautiful Roman patrician, is in love with the plebeian Marcus Petrus; but as Marcus is engaged to Lydie, a girl of his own class, Saphora has no chance of bringing him to her feet. One day Lydie, with a pitcher on her shapely shoulders is going to fetch water, when Saphora has her taken by her slaves, and thrown into a dark dungeon, where the poor girl thinks with despair that she is going to die slowly. Yet a kindly slave has pity on the prisoner, and he informs Marcus of her whereabouts. After setting her free, Marcus inflicts on Saphora the very same treatment she had planned for her young victim. She is thrown alive into the horrible dungeon, and the story does not say whether she ever escaped.

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Code Word, "EPISODE."

A scientist has just discovered a lotion possessed of a wonderful quality, that of transforming sap into spontaneous and luxuriant vegetation. He tries his stuff on several people, with the most comical results. Here it is a man whose top hat becomes about a yard higher, there it is a lady who grows a beard, or a drunkard, whose rose-tree just bought for his wife's birthday becomes as high as a big cherry-tree, &c., &c. Very amusing.

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Code Word, "EPINGLE."

Gendarme Quid is the friend of all the poor in his village; the peasants love him, and "have" him, too, for he is very indulgent to the high road tramp, as well as to the old woman gathering twigs for the coming winter. It is also with a merry twinkle in his eyes that he looks at boys and girls going out on a fine day; but good old Gendarme Quid is also fearless, and he does not hesitate to throw himself between the hooligan and his victim when needs be.

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Code word, "ESSAIM."

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Code Word, "EPREUVE."

An uncle, on his return from America, where he has made his fortune as a planter, and anxious to make out his will in favour of the most worthy of his nephews, tells them he is poor. After being welcomed by some and repelled by others, he knows their feelings towards him sufficiently well to make his will in such a way that each of them receives his due.

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HURRAH FOR FREEDOM!

Code Word, "ESSAYAGE."

A gentleman, after delivering a speech on the topic of liberty and freedom, lets loose dogs, and pigeons, and rabbits, captive balloons, &c. He also sets a motor-car in motion, and releases the drunkards which are being marched off between two policemen. But the result of all his well-meant actions is for him a series of blows and a small cell at the police station, where he has plenty of time and a good opportunity for shouting: "Hurrah for freedom!"

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Code Word, "ESCAPADE."

A magician receives the visit of an old marquis who is anxious to know his tricks. He takes a large book, on which several people silhouette themselves; then they become alive and step out of the album, performing at the same time funny and amusing pantomime, to the delight of the nobleman.

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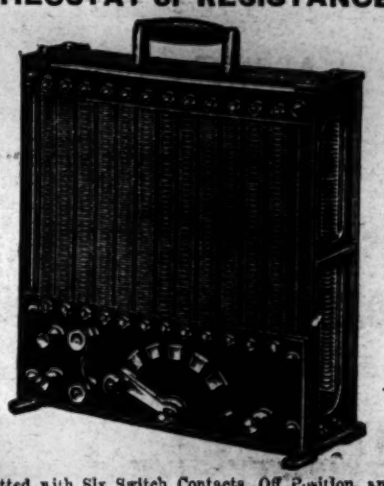

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Evening Standard, Jan. 20:—
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The Star, Jan. 15:—
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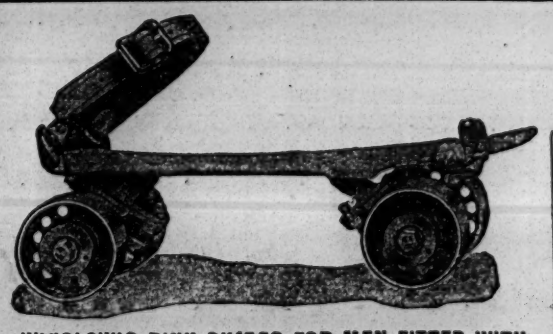

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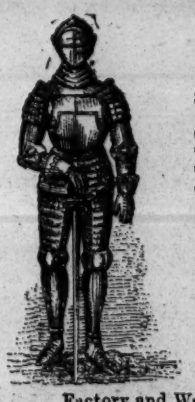

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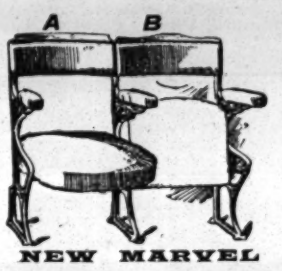

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—Mr. Milton Bode's company met with much success in *The Belle of Mayfair*. Mr. Harry Parker revels in the part of Sir John Chaldicott, and Miss Florence Imeson makes a delightful Julia; both in singing and dancing she charms the house; Mr. Percy Yorke plays the part of Lord Mount Highgate with quaint effectiveness; Mr. Lawrence Wensley acts with much spirit and energy; Mr. Edward Hugonnel is successful in a heroic rôle, and Mr. Lauri Lisle gives an admirable representation of the Count. Miss Blanche Astley plays a maid's part with much vivacity; and the Misses Tandy and De Lorriere are greatly admired as the Princess and the principal Gibson girl. Mr. Frank Seddon conducts the orchestra with the utmost skill.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Ten-ji Troupe of Japanese magicians give a very striking and highly original performance, which is applauded to the echo by the enthralled audiences; Mme. Carrie Laurie's Juveniles play with exceptional brightness a delightfully humorous sketch, *The Kindergarten*; Miss Lily Flexmore is a capital comedienne who dances cleverly; Sandy and Carl are most amusing as burlesque boxers; McDonald and Huntingdon smartly imitate various American characters; Mr. Jimmy Shields, the dancer, is as much a favourite as ever; Mr. George Bernard is deservedly popular as an actor-vocalist, and Talberto and Douglas contribute a highly interesting acrobatic comedy act.

Beach Pavilion.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—Principal among the artists this week are the Le Bruns, exceedingly clever jugglers, with little Miss Edie Le Brun, who varies her part of the business with one or two piquant songs; Miss Topsy Johnson, an excellent contralto, and Vulcaris, the society entertainer, are excellent. A first-class display of cinematograms is given by the London Safety Bioscope Company.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—Mr. Jack Brindall, comedian, sings with skill and dances very cleverly, and a capital entertainment is provided by the versatile trio Miller, Ormonde, and Mac, who are equally successful as instrumentalists, vocalists, and comedians. The house now provides its own cinematograph. The films shown are highly creditable to the taste of the selector and the skill of the operator. The Saturday matinées, which were recently started, have proved a great success.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton's company are presenting here *The Power of the King* in a manner deserving of much praise. Mr. Charles Whitlock plays with fervour and dramatic power as the King of Vallambrosa; Mr. Gerald Blake is manly and convincing as Captain Rupert Landgrave; Mr. Travis Green as the rascally Prince Oscar acts with distinction; Mr. P. Morton Wright ably sustains the part of General Stenovie, and Mr. John Campling makes an efficient Alberto. Miss Leila Zillwood's Lady Annastasia is a praiseworthy effort; Miss Georgina France as Lady Florina shows ability; Miss Iza Lyndon does well as Phillipe, and Miss Grace Barton displays vivacity and charm as Margot. The dresses and scenery are exceptionally pretty.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—A capital programme for the wind-up of this season's variety is presented this week. Mr. Arthur Rigby and company, in a smartly played Eastern episode, *The Isle of Ooma*, tops the bill. Mr. Rigby is well received for his song, assisted by a dozen damsels daintily attired in Eastern costume. Lieut. Albini and a Lady in Black (tied to a chair) go through a mysterious performance, which finds favour; Les Marsumas are clever trick and knockabout cyclists, their daring riding and tumbles causing one to marvel how they escape injury; Johnny Fuller repeats former successes with his wonderful cat imitations and wire walking; Letty Lingard sings; and Will Crackles, as an eccentric comedian, is well received. The Bioscope pictures are also greatly appreciated.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's London company is still touring the historical play *A Royal Divorce*. Mr. Keith Fraser's rendering of the "Man of Destiny" is capable; Miss Margaret Watson brings out prominently the fine traits of Josephine's character; Miss Maude Lacy makes a charming Stephanie, and Miss E. Magna France and Miss Violet Hudson ably interpret the parts of Blanche and Angelique. As Marie Louise Miss Winnie Tempest wins applause; Miss Ethel Love as the Little King of Prussia and Miss Loyal Frere as the Gouvermante are most efficient. A prainstaking study of Talleyrand is given by Mr. Percy H. Vernon, and a powerful rendering of the Marquis de Beaumont is presented by Mr. Stanley Harrison.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—We greet old favourites here in Wyndham and Waters in their laughable drawing-room act. Edith St. Clare is a good singing comedienne; the little Hebrew artist, Ikey Moe, is a wonder in précocious talent; variety is furnished in a laughable playlet *The Sleep-Walker*, by Walter Ellis and Co. The Sisters Lotus, juvenile operatic duettists, give a good turn; David Poole is an accomplished ventriloquist; his entertainment is of a finished character; the Musical Morrellis furnish an entertainment of music and humour original of its kind and highly pleasing; Jessie Jukes has admirers of her speciality in song and dance; the troupe known as Szarvasi Ferencz is an acrobatic turn extraordinary; the Sisters Valli give their mixture of expert and graceful stepping to unique musical performances on the banjo.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—A dramatic playlet, entitled *A Daughter of the Revolution*, is presented by Miss Georgette Thierry's company, and meets with a hearty reception; Morimura, Japanese illusionist, deftly performs a number of tricks, most of which are new; Mr. G. H. Keith, character vocalist, is popular with his taking songs; Morrisey receives well-deserved recognition for a novel and unique equilibristic musical act; Miss Dolly Ross is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; the Three Behans are on a welcome return visit in a quick-change comedy act; Mr. Sam Redfern stimulates the audience to laughter by his "philosophy"; and the Attergraph pictures are, as usual, interesting.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—*Rollicking Rory* was presented here on Monday by Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey and company. Mr. Mackey appears himself in the title-rôle, and the character fits him admirably; Mrs. Mackey takes a double part, and acts each perfectly; Miss Nana Flensberg is a delightful colleen, and Mme. Constance Bellamy charms the audience with her singing of "The Minstrel Boy" and "Kathleen Mavourneen."

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Long Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon's company appeared here on Monday and Tuesday with *The Private Secretary*. Much fun was created by the absurd characteristics of the Rev. Robert Spalding, undertaken by Mr. C. Price-Evans. Mr. Tom Tailor-Vinson as Mr. Marsland supplied a diverting interpretation of a "gay old dog"; Mr. Charles Sims was eminently successful as the gruff old uncle, Mr. Cattermole; and Mr. Ben Barnett, Mr. Wentworth Fane, and Mr. Charles Clayton fulfilled their respective parts with distinction. Miss Camilla Norrys displayed quite a fund of humour as the obstreperous landlady; and Miss Josephine Richards and Miss Sybil Chester did well as Eva Webster and Miss Ashford.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company in *A Broken Heart* is here. Mr. Stanley Bedwell is a capable John Barnard, sustaining the interest admirably; and Mr. Geo. M. Newall gives full effect to the villainies of Stephen Rayton; Mr. Edward Rawlinson is a capital Gash Gills and Mr. Harry Foxwell a typical Rev. Mr. Staunton; Mr. George Addison as Skrimp and Mr. Harrison Tate as John Strong both do well; Miss Marguerite Thorne is a motherly Mrs. Barnard and Miss Sheila Walsh a capital Mary Barnard.

His Majesty's.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Fred Karno's company of comedians in *His Majesty's Guests* is here. Miss Edith Ager sings sweetly, as also do Miss Aggie Morris and Mr. Hesto, who as Sergeant Lightning is the life and soul of the play. Mr. Charles Usher is a capable Mr. Miffin, and Mr. Robert Strutfield ably sustains the part of Lord Essem.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Charles Kitts, Rhoda Windrum, and company are the premier turn here this week, and their exceedingly amusing performance was most favourably received. Ted E. Box is a capital comedian and sifteur; Bert Williams is an uncommonly good ventriloquist; Frank Leon proves himself a very clever dancer; Lizzie Kirk is a very pleasing comedienne; the Two Walonells, knockabout ragtime gymnasts, provide a very good turn; Wolmer Young quite took on with his topical songs; a good show by Vernon's Bioscope brings the entertainment to a close.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—A host of pleasing and entertaining pictures are presented here this week to capital houses. Miss Lily Garrick contributes very considerably to the entertainment with some pleasing songs and dances.

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Director, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—*The Lighthouse Robbery*, by Mr. E. H. Knight's company, is presented here with great success. The forcible acting of Mr. Wallace Curnock is much appreciated; in the part of Rose Prescott, Miss Hilda Baynton is exceptionally good; William Farren and James Hammond are adequately sustained by Messrs. Wm. Annesley and Percy Beresford; Mr. Sammy Foster is very successful as Sam Kidder; and the other characters were well sustained by Messrs. Herbert Lewis, Chas. Mackay, and Geo. Thompson, and Misses Alice Oliver, Maggie Stewart, and Ethel Lovett. The piece is well staged.

BATH.—Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Great interest is centred around the Biograph this week, as it unfolds a series of views of the Bath Horse Show secured by the local operator of Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, in adition to which is shown the esteemed manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth, arriving at the Palace in his 24 h.p. Napier car. The turn that arouses the most enthusiasm is undoubtedly that of Hayes and Merritt, whose feats upon the bounding trampoline are simply marvellous. Another act of skill and muscle is that of Les Zeloves, who are likewise most cordially received. Hilarity reigns while Harry Weldon holds the stage with his humorous ditties and banter; the Smythsons cause great laughter in their sketch, *Love Germs*; Josephine Crook, in illustrated songs, is a favourite; as is Norah Stockelle, comedienne and dancer. Jessie Burnett secures approbation with her songs.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*Dear Old Charlie* is admirably presented by a smart little company, in which Mr. George Lestocq carries off the honours as Charles Ingleton. Two parts that require a sense of humour to portray are Gabriel Peploe and Thomas Dumphie, and in the hands of Mr. C. Douglas and Mr. R. S. Trelawny respectively these are exceedingly well enacted. Mr. Stanley Arthur makes much of Purkitt, his facial expression being clever to watch; Colonel Fishbourne and his wife are undertaken by Mr. Duncan Young and Miss Leonora Braham, and these experienced artists sustain their reputation for good work; Miss Marjorie Chard is a charming Agnes in both presence and demeanour; Miss Molly Stanton does all that is required of her as Reeve. *The Cause*, a domestic dramatic episode of Russian life, precedes the comedy, and is well played by Miss Leonora Braham and Mr. Cyril Vernon as Mother and Son.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham-Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—The Monckton Hoffe Comedy Company, by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell, is presenting *Irene Wycherley*. Miss Maude Henderson as Irene plays with a passion and verve; Miss Grace Illingworth and Miss Evelyn Cecil as Carrie Hardinge and Hilda Preston respectively display elegance and charm; Miss Muriel Carmel is quite refreshing as Linda Hetheridge; Miss Beatrice Mervyn is a stately and dignified Lady Wycherley; Mr. Ralph Hutton, an old Bedford schoolboy, submits a carefully studied rendering of the part of Sir Peter Wycherley; the unpleasant and difficult part of Philip Wycherley is in the able hands of Mr. Charles Garry; and Mr. Edward Sorley is extremely natural as Harry Chesterton; Miss Phyllis Stuckey is a vivacious Muriel; and Miss Olive Warne acts with grace and distinction as Lily Summers. Mr. Claude Haviland as Chas. Summers is forcible and emphatic.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. James Welch returned to this city after a lengthy absence on Monday, and with his talented company produced *When Knights Were Bold*. In the rôle of Sir Guy De Vere Mr. Welch was simply irresistible, keeping the audience in shrieks of merriment. The popular comedian achieved a great success on Monday, being recalled at the close of each act again and again. Miss Audrey Ford, a delightful actress, must also be included in the honours, as she furnished an exceedingly clever impersonation of Lady Rowena Eggington. It would be difficult to equal Mr. Arthur Grenville's impersonation of the Jew, Isaac Isaacson, which was a perfect delineation; and praise is due to Mr. George Desmond for his capital impersonation of the Hon. Charles Widdicombe; Miss Helen Palgrave furnished a dignified portrayal of the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave; and the rôle of Sir Owen Gwynneth was in the safe hands of Mr. Cecil Kinnaird, who made the most of his opportunities; Mr. Guy Lane was good as the Rev Peter Pottlebury, D.D.; and the rôles of Lady Millicent Eggington, Lady Marjorie Eggington, and Kate Pottleberry were charmingly sustained by Miss Gwendoline Rayne, Miss Annie Furrell, and Miss Annie Chippendale; Miss Daisy Cordell as Miss Sarah Isaacson aquitted herself creditably; and other rôles were filled by Miss Lalo O'Hea, and Messrs. Geo. F. Tully and Gordon Tomkins. *The Changeling* formed a capital curtain-raiser, being capably presented by Miss Helen Palgrave, and Messrs. J. H. Carson and Geo. Tully.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The leading feature of the bill here is provided by Mr. Joe Peterman's Singing Servants; the Andos Troupe perform some remarkable feats with ease; and the vaudeville act by Donovan and Arnold is certainly very smart; the acrobatic performance of the Garganys Trio is amazing, and the sweet tenor vocalism of Mr. Godfrey James has been loudly applauded; Miss Nita Clem is a charming comedienne with good songs; and also in the programme are Conan and Doyle, comedians; Cambo, the musical man-monkey; Nat Watkins, comedian, and the Palace Pictures.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Miss May Moore Duprez tops the bill, and this accomplished comedienne has been most successful; the comedy bar act by the Brothers Artois is one of the big features of the programme; and the marvellous performance of Carl Rosine, who is assisted by Mlle. Margaret, gains the utmost approval; the mimicry of Miss Ruth Molloy is really remarkable, and Nightingale and Stigant create much merriment with their comedy duologue *Two Sides of a Wall*; Miss Alma Gray appears to great advantage in her songscena; and others here are Daleno and Stream, singing comedians, Les Rallis, and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Mlle. Sahara, who is aptly described as the young and graceful dancer, tops the bill and affords infinite pleasure with her several dances, including the well-known Salome dance and Cleopatra; a welcome return visit is being paid by Harry Tate's company, who produce in *Motoring* one of the funniest sketches in existence; Mackintosh and Royal exhibit the acme of perfection in their dancing act; and Miss Bessie Butt is a clever comedienne and dancer; Clarke's Nippers, a decidedly smart combination, appear to great advantage in their speciality act; and also in the bill are Mr. Albert Sharp, a clever coon delineator; Howe and Ardie, comedy gymnasts, and the Bioscope.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Good business at this hall continues. This week the following films have been exhibited: Brigands of Calabria, Burglar and Midnight Surprise, An Indian's Friendship, A Fish Story, Father's Quiet Sunday, Don Juan, Thieves and Tree Trunk, and Elixir of Strength. Popular turns are also supplied by Miss Alice Ferndale, a charming illustrated songstress, and Mr. James H. Bowman, Irish comedian, whose dancing is remarkably smart.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Described as "the masterpiece of animated photography," The Silver King is being exhibited here, in addition to the following films:—Clockmaker's Secret, The Mesmerist, Forest to Fireside, An Unpleasant Legacy, Miss Pimpernel's Gown, The Picker's Dream, &c. Miss Joan Deering, a good vocalist, and Mr. George Ambler, whistling mimic, also appear.

BILSTON.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby.—Our popular lessee and manager has his own company here this week with *The King of Crime*, and a large audience on Monday gave both play and company a most enthusiastic reception. As Ronjarre Mr. F. B. Woulfe scored a decided success; the blind wife of Ronjarre, Henriette, is affectingly and sympathetically portrayed by Miss Mildred Eversleigh; Miss Nance Battersby makes a graceful and charming Mathilde; Miss Edith Loraine and Mr. Sam Willford prove highly entertaining as Clarisse and Louis Muscovot, and Mr. William Miller gives an admirable character sketch of Gandelu the Miser. The scenery and effects are really good. For Thursday a special programme was announced for the complimentary farewell benefit to Mr. Battersby.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Walter Melville's *Her Second Time on Earth* company opened to an excellent house on Monday. Miss Edith Blande gives a finished and effective rendering of Lola Grey; Mr. Otto Minster is admirably suited as Captain Norman; Mr. Robert Purdie is a manly Jack Carlton; Mr. Ellis J. Preston makes the most of Guy Brand; Mr. A. Fellows Bassett is effective as Beppo; and Mr. Ernest G. Batley is a good Tom Norman. Miss May Dallas is an admirable Laura Norman; Elizabeth Burke is carefully represented by Miss Emily Stevens; and the necessary comedy element is abundantly supplied by Mr. Jack Bigwood as Teddy Butterfly and by Miss Gladys Newcombe as Kitty Rosebud. The staging is on a liberal scale.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—A thoroughly enjoyable entertainment is supported by Mr. Harry Ford, who is enthusiastically received, and Mooncy and Holbein's amusing comedy sketch, *Oysters, One Shilling a Bucket*, which goes with a swing. Mr. C., double-voiced vocalist and raconteur, is a decided acquisition; Miss Maud Courtney (the talkative American) furnishes a most agreeable turn; and the Pasquali Brothers, clever equilibrists and acrobats, execute some astounding feats. Spry and Austin, entertaining comedy artists, are on a welcome return visit; as also is Miss Lily Langtry, a most animated comedienne. Natalia and Diana are accomplished and graceful lady gymnasts; Mr. Frank Boyce is a good character comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope is an interesting feature.

Olympian Gardens, Rock Ferry.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—Mr. Malcolm Scott, a great favourite here, heads an excellent company, which also includes Mr. Albert Chapman (baritone), Mr. Herbert Franklyn (light comedian), Miss Edith Benson (comedienne) Miss Gwladys Roma (comedienne), Mr. Tom Stuart (comedian), and Mr. Forshaw Kershaw (accompanist).

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Tom Jones* is being played by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company. Mr. Dan Rolyat's performance as the "tonsorial" hero Partridge causes the audience to positively ache with laughter; Mr. Ambrose Manning represents the irascible Squire in his own admirable manner; Mr. Harry Welchman is excellent as Tom Jones, both in voice and presence; Mr. J. T. Macmillan is a most apt Gregory; and Messrs. John Morley, Deane Percival, and others lend valuable support. Miss Florence Smithson's success as Sophia is very pronounced, her pretty looks and exquisite singing and acting sending the audience into raptures; Miss Isabelle Dillon shines as Honour, the maid; Miss Alice Oppitz is noticeable as Lady Bellaston; Miss Mary Southwell is successful as Miss Western; and Miss Cecilia Wilman is an excellent hostess.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnson.—*The Thief*, with Mr. George Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh, has filled the theatre every night. Mr. Alexander in the part of Richard Chelford receives a great reception; Miss Vanbrugh is winsome and impassioned in turn as the erring wife; Miss Nina Sevening is distinguished as Isabel Leyton; Mr. Dawson Millward suits the rôle of Raymond Leyton, as does Mr. Reginald Owen that of his son Harry; and Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds is conspicuous as Mr. Protheroe. *The Nursery Governess* is put on first, with Mr. Ashton Pearse, Mr. Harcourt Williams, Miss Jean Sterling MacKinlay, and Miss Barbara Hanway in parts.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Florodora*, with Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, is a great hit here, the advance bookings alone having filled the theatre each night. Mr. Fred Eastman as the versatile and volatile Tweedlepunch has come in for a big reception, his success being great; Mr. Stanley White as Gilfain is quite master of the part; Mr. Savill Foster is manful and melodious as Frank Abercoed; Mr. Herbert St. John is well up in the rôle of Captain Arthur Donegal; Mr. Edwin Oxlee is duly forbidding and sinister as the overbearing overseer Leandro; Miss Edith Housley is distingué and frank and charming as Lady Holyrood; Miss Lily Gullick acts prettily as Angela; Miss Maisie Ellinger as Dolores shows both vocal and histrionic ability; and the maid Valeda and the typewriter are in good hands, with Miss M. Van Dieman and Miss B. Middleton respectively.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Woman and Wine* fills the bill here, with Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds's company, who are playing to good houses. Miss Cissie St. Elmo gives full vent to the character of the wilesome Marcel, and her prey, Dick Seymour, is presented to the best possible advantage by Mr. St. Edmonds; the heroine, Mary Andrews, is made a very charming and sympathetic rôle by Miss Violet Sims; Mr. J. Milne Taylor elicits much sympathy in the rôle of the "hero's" father, Hugh Seymour; and others exceedingly good are Mr. R. Foulis as Beaudet, Mr. Edwin T. Kisby as "Caliban," Mr. W. Manning as the Professor, Miss Octavia De Noel as "La Colombe," and Miss Ethel Vinroy as Janet Marlow.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Midnight Mail* is playing to enthralled audiences here, with Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company. Mr. George Harvard gives a stirring portrayal of Harry Steyne, the engine-driver, and the wife, Mary, is tenderly enacted by Miss Trissie Humphreys; Mr. Charles Carte displays much skill in his presentment of the drunken stoker, Billy Brewer; Mr. Charles H. Longden shows judgment in his treatment of the character of Leonard Royle; Mr. C. P. Wentworth acts well as the adventurer, Hassan Padisha; and other rôles well played are those by Mr. G. Wilkinson, Mr. J. Mann, Mr. J. Wilkinson, Miss Daisy Clifford, Miss Jeannie Weston, and Miss Ethel North.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*Home, Sweet Home* is being played by Mr. Frank Lindo's company. Mr. Lindo's frank, manly acting and engaging presence have told well in the part of the hero, Stephen Armitage; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle enacts the father, David, with much force; Mr. Archer Brown acts with dignity as the Duke of Ancaster; and the insincerities of the secretary, Lyle, are brought out cleverly by Mr. Helsby Wright; the Hon. Percy is safe in the hands of Mr. Norton Shields; Mr. R. Walsh gives due emphasis to the rôle of Dick Redmayne; Miss Maud Leslie-Cudd is successful as Sybil Fay; and Miss Marion Wakeford delivers a very interesting study of the foster-daughter, Joan.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is here in *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. As the unhappy veiled heroine Miss Beatrice Homer acts with commanding dignity, and with grace and tact; Mr. Philip Darien makes a very acceptable Jack Merriman; Mr. Leyton Cancellor is a determined and resourceful Hubert Gold; Mr. Leonard Thackeray is clever as Luchesi; Miss Violet Macaree makes an interesting character of Morita, the Italian girl; Miss Gertrude Harrison is successful as Rose Courtenay; and Mr. Freddie Bentley as Tubby and Miss Nellie Jackson as Aggie Brown create much diversion during the play.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—*The Dog Between*, a bright and pleasant sketch, is being presented here this week by Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney. It is splendidly acted throughout, and is highly appreciated. A remarkable gymnastic display is given by the Bellclair Brothers; Maud Rochez's monkey variety theatre is exceedingly amusing; James Eadie and Cissie Ramsden have a smart musical comedy duo; the lightning sketching of Rossi Ashton is clever; Fred Lincoln and Dion Wade keep the audience in laughter with songs and patter; Les Martineks' act, *The Rag Doll*, is decidedly clever; and Sinclair and Parr render some Irish ballads humorously.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The bill here is headed by Harry Randall, whose amusing songs and witty patter keep the audience convulsed with laughter. The juggling and musical entertainment of Charlene and Charlene is excellent; Herbert Shelley has an Irish play, *Dan the Outlaw*, in which he sustains all the characters; and the Maples have an original skit, *How to Treat a Burglar*. Other popular artists here are the Crown Trio, Phil and Nettie Peters, Ike and Will Scott, and the Jackley Trio.

Hippodrome.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—The great Lafayette is at the head of the bill here, his mystifying, quick-change, and juggling entertainment being very fine; Willette Whitaker and F. Wilbur Hill are loudly applauded for their classical act; and the Lyons Trio are clever pantomimists and dancers.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—An excellent bill is presented here under the direction of Mr. Albert Bushell. Yukio Tani, Japanese wrestler, offers prizes to professionals and amateurs; the Norman and Leonard Trio have a musical sketch which is above the average; Dora Lyric is loudly applauded for her song "All that glitters is not gold"; Lotto, Lillo, and Otto do some clever trick cycling; and Kurkamp and Terry and Bentley, in their comedy act, complete the company.

King's Hall.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—This building reopened Monday, after having been elaborately decorated. There is an excellent programme, the pictures being highly interesting; while J. P. Johnson and Darwin, the man monkey, are most prominent.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is here this week in *The Power of the Cross*. Mr. George A. de Grey again gives great satisfaction in the part of Baron Woulfe Curzola; Mr. Robert Hall is all that can be desired as Jerald Fairfax, and the same can be said of Mr. A. J. Haviland for his portrayal of Dr. Leslie Fairfax; Mr. Francis Serle is very good as Benjamin Hawke; Mr. Tyrone Power keeps the house full of merriment as Tim O'Dowd, and is wonderfully well assisted by Miss Etta Turner as Dolly Gray; Miss Annie Hylton is greatly admired as Margaret Seaton, and Miss Phyllis Vaughan is a delightful Blanche Kingsley; and Miss Stella Carmichael gives a painstaking and finished rendering of Rita Lascelles.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal are playing *The Whirlpool* here this week with great success. In the part of Elijah D. Tillottson Mr. Kendal contributes a fine piece of acting; and Mr. Bassett Roe proves his sterling qualities as Rertram Livingstone. Another excellent characterisation is presented by Mr. Edmund Gurney, whose Ephraim Johnstone is a great study; whilst Mr. Metcalfe Wood makes the best of Chappin. Mr. Wellesley Draper as Cunningham Cutter and Mr. T. Holding as Reginald Killiegrew also do their work very well indeed. Mrs. Kendal's assumption of Constance Livingstone is quite up to her own high standard; and small parts are creditably played by Mrs. Tapping and Miss Ethel Dane.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—After a brief interval, Mr. Seymour Hicks and company are here again with *The Gay Gordons*. That the re-engagement is fully warranted is proved by the nightly tightly-packed houses. The only alteration in the cast is the substitution of Miss Ellaline Terriss for Miss Zena Dare in the part of Peggy. Needless to say, Miss Terriss is fully equal to all demands. Mr. Hicks is a great favourite as Angus Graeme; whilst the topical songs of Mr. Johnny Danvers are rapturously applauded.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Mons. Auguste Van Biene tops this week's bill, and appears with considerable success in a playlet, entitled *The Mad Musician*. Fred Russell, a capital ventriloquist, also contributes a good sketch; whilst Arthur Aldridge charms everyone with his fine tenor voice. F. A. Martell is a wonderful equilibrist; and Mlle. Naveeda gives a clever illusory act. The Ellimans, musical entertainers; Paul Vandy, juggler; Maud Prenton, comedienne; and Ethel Whiteside, with her piccaninnies, are also well received.

Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mrs. Fioni.—The International pictures top the bill here this week. Other turns are provided by Hess and Lisbon, scientific skaters; the Neilson troupe of vocalists and dancers; and Lillia Fair, a charming descriptive vocalist. Two performances are given daily.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Messrs. Garside and Knowle's company has once more presented the sensational drama entitled *Her Marriage Vow*.

Gaiety.—Lessee, Mr. Wm. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—The Boston Twins, speciality comedians, top the bill and are well received; Lesbia, juggler; Nance Harden, comedienne; Rodin, in acrobatic cycle act; McAskell, comic conjurer; Bob Pueblo and Katie Cropp, trick sand dancers; Leo King, vocalist, and the usual pictorials make up a most attractive programme.

The Hippodrome.—Lessees, Doyle and O'Connell; General-Manager, Mr. Tom Doyle.—The pictorial display shown on the Bioscope continues to prove attractive, and the variety portion of the programme, as supplied by the Fordycis and Young Franki, has a hearty and enthusiastic reception.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Lyd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—*A Chinese Honeymoon* was staged here on Monday by Mr. Milton Bode's principal company. Mr. Rudolf Kloss was clever and humorous as Hang Chow and Mr. P. Allerton Turner was good as Chippie Chop. Mr. Leonard May's embodiment of Hi Lung proved very acceptable; Tom Hatherton was capably dealt with by Mr. Harry Jennings; the Mr. and Mrs. Pineapple of Mr. Will Harman and Miss Veronica Brady respectively were both careful readings; Misses Dorothy Radcliffe, Phyllis Grosvenor, Mary Gray, and Cecilia Leslie were prepossessing bridesmaids; Miss Ada Booth and Miss Kathleen Ronayne as Soo-Soo's maids of honour were well placed; Miss Hilda Stewart was successful as Mi-Mi; and the Mrs. Brown of Miss Maud Adams gained deserved appreciation. The part of Soo-Soo was pleasingly played by Miss Elsie Skillings; and Miss Gwennie Harcourt was admirable as Fi-Fi.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Foremost here this week are the Five Juanitos, in their marvellous speciality act. Other turns are Rosa Loader, the merry musical mimic, in "The happy slavey at the piano"; J. C. Scatter, comedian and dancer; Hans and Lux, the argumentative college chums; Les Uniques, in their gymnastic pot-pourri on perpendicular ladders; Peter Bermingham, Scotch patter comedian; Mark Merry, comedian; Miss Maude Mortimer, comedienne; Miss Madge Grey, Lancashire comedienne; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

Empire Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, sen.; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—Bert Wickham, a champion all-round athlete, heads the bill here, with his extraordinary feats of physical strength, and is capably supported by Harrison Bros., comedians, patterers, and dancers; Vardon, ventriloquist; Jenny Sydney, vocalist and dancer; Wartans Trio of jugglers, &c.; the Bros. Obo, laughing comedians and comedy duologue artists; the Boccaccios, Italian singers and instrumentalists, including Signor Franclo, mandolinist; Cyclumina, a wonderful electric cycle, produced by H. Adams; and the Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE.—Hippodrome, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—The top of the bill this week is occupied by Cissie Lawson and company in *The Devil's Sunday*. Mrs. Lawson's acting of Fay Faber is much appreciated. Jessie Merrilees, as "La Cigale," is another excellent turn; Ted Cowan, quaint comedian, has a good reception for his humorous songs; Zara and Arno are extremely funny in their comedy horizontal bar performance; Jules Kiaro, a clever equilibrist, receives loud applause; and other turns are Morelli and Moore in their comedy act; and Millie Howell, vocal comedienne. The Hippo. pictures are quite up to date.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's company, in *A White Man*, had an enthusiastic welcome here on Monday. Mr. Frank E. Petley is at his best in the rôle of Jim Carston, which he plays in an easy and manly fashion, and receives strong support from Mr. R. A. Brandon by his effective rendering of the foreman, Bill; Mr. Eric Hudson's Tab-y-wana is excellent; so is the Shortly of Mr. Thomas Swem. Mr. Lewis Broughton as the Earl and Mr. H. W. Peal as Sir John Applegate are both good; and a capital rendering of the Sheriff is given by Mr. John Wilmer. Miss Norah Wadeley's performance of Lady Mabel is charming; and Miss Rhoda Ray gives a clever sketch as Nat-u-Ritch, whose son Hal is prettily played by Miss Rosina White.

Shaftesbury Hall.—T. J. West's exhibition of animated pictures is still doing excellent business in this, the seventh week of their sixteenth season. The keynote of this week's programme is travel at home and abroad, and includes Russia and Her People, Country Life in France, The Southern Andes, and Beautiful Bournemouth, the latter being taken especially for West's pictures. Romantic stories are told in Love's Sacrifice and The Outlaw. The comedy element is provided by such farcical subjects as Invisible Fluid, The Hypnotic Policeman, and The Apostle of Liberty.

ing acrobatic turn; Nellie Wallace wins enthusiastic applause with her quaint songs; George Dance's company provide much amusement in the musical sketch *The Burglar's Ball*; B. Troba gives a good juggling turn; the Three Braggs are clever acrobats; Tom Yorke is a capital character and coster comedian; Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas are well received in the comedy duologue *Her Birthday*; the Brothers Dean are good dancers; Violet Lorraine contributes dainty songs; and the Barrascope pictures are excellent.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Messrs. Taylor Platt and Trevor Lowe's company opened here on Monday with *You Never Can Tell*. Mr. Trevor Lowe was delightfully effective as the old waiter; Mr. Leslie Hamer as Valentine was admirable; Miss Katherine Stuart submitted a good portrayal of Mrs. Clandon; Miss Gwladys Morris as the "advanced" young lady, and Mr. J. Edwards Pearce as the quick-tempered father were well suited; Mr. Athol Forde as the lawyer was very effective; and able support was given by Mr. Donald Calthrop and Mr. George Howard.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Miss Olive Wilton, Mr. Langhorne Burton, and company are here this week with *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*. Miss Olive Wilton acts with charming vivacity as Mrs. Gorringe; Mr. Langhorne Burton makes an admirable Captain Mowbray; Mr. R. Henderson is well placed as David Cairn; Miss Kathleen Russell gives a delightful impersonation of Isabel Kirke; Miss Elsie Keith Lytton is entertaining as Mrs. Jardine; Mr. Arthur Hare is capital as the fussy Colonel Jardine; and able support is given by Mr. Gilbert Clark and Miss Eileen Terence.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—There is an excellent series of animated pictures here this week. A capital story is conveyed by The Memory of His Mother, A Breeze from the West is realistic, and others meriting notice include The Pirates, The Inquisitive Professor, True Till Death, and A Chase for a 'Bike. Mr. James Harvey contributes tenor songs in very artistic style; and warm praise must be accorded to Mr. Arthur W. Briggs for his admirably descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to the pictures.

BRISTOL.—**PRINCE'S THEATRE**.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute. — Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker's company is here with *Man and Superman*. The play was both well staged and well acted, Mr. Granville Barker presenting a fine embodiment of John Tanner. Miss Frances Dillon acted cleverly as Ann Whitefield; Mr. Michael Sherbrooke supplied a good character study of Roebuck Ramsden; Mr. David Powell was sufficiently sentimental as Octavius Robinson; Mr. Richard Haigh was smart and dryly humorous as Henry Straker; the Two Malones were capitally taken by Mr. Frederick Lloyd and Mr. James Hearn; Violet Robinson was cleverly played by Miss Auriol Lee; Miss Helen Rous was well placed as Mrs. Whitefield; Miss Frances Wetherall was sufficiently severe as Miss Ramsden; and Miss Maud Burton made a trim parlourmaid. There was a large attendance in all parts of the house. *Arms and the Man* is also billed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*The Midnight Wedding* is being well played here by Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company. Mr. Paumier presents a fine exposition of Paul Valmar; Miss Yvonne Orchardson displays much skill in her sympathetic performance of Princess Astrea; Mr. Mayor-Cooke supplies a good study of Captain Rudolph; Mr. John Nesbitt is dignified and impressive as the Crown Prince Leopold; Mr. Winnington Barnes is well placed as Lieut. Eugene von Strelsburg; and the comic parts of Kathie, Sergt. Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobo are capitally taken by Miss Ada Champion, Mr. James E. Page, Mr. Harry Richardson, and Mr. Algie Spalding. The drama is admirably staged, both in the way of scenery, dresses, and uniforms.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Leonard Gautier's Animated Toyshop, introducing highly-trained ponies and performing dogs, heads the programme successfully; Florrie Forde, comedienne, is highly appreciated; Tom Bryce and Miss Price entertain with their musical sketch, *The Dude's Wooing*; Russell Brandon, coloured dancing comedian, obtains applause; Yvonne Lamor is a pleasing comedienne; Steeley and Dowton amuse as burlesque artists; Sim Maree, "the human coil," does a good act; and the performance concludes with The Illustrated Picture Postcard Artist, by Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Carlton, comedian and card manipulator, heads the bill, his turn obtaining appreciation; the Sisters Eugenie do a daring and graceful act on the trapeze; Clifton and Burton, comedians and patterers, obtain applause; Esmond and Evelyn amuse with their sketch, *The Express Baby*; Lanoe and Montes provide a good tumbling act, &c.; Daisy Hicks is a pleasing comedienne; Herbert Rule, eccentric comedian, has a good reception; and Les Belles Americaines are pleasing vocalists and expert acrobatic dancers. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Ralph Pringle's animated pictures are attracting good houses. The pictures are all very good, but special mention may be made of A Wife's Devotion, A Trip to Savoy, and The Legend of the Ghost. There is a good band, and also a capable variety company.

BROUGHTON. — **VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD**.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*His Lordship's Arrival*, written by William Trevor, with music by William Devin, is this week presented by H. Keate-Hale's company, under the management of Hamilton Baines. The full chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of the composer, do very well. Miss May Yates as Estelle cleverly sings and works well into the good graces of the audience; Mr. Arthur Lenville is an amusing William J. Binks; Billy (the buttons) is a comical character by Mr. Johnnie Schofield, jun., a clever young comedian; Lord Francis Hurstbury is well sustained by Mr. J. Mansell Stringer; and Mr. J. Herbert Willis is very funny as the dude, the Hon. Algernon. Miss May Lind as Vivienne works hard and wins much approval; Lady Hurstbury and the Countess de St. Vyres are respectively well represented by Miss Ethel Arden and Miss Gladys Harvey. The scenery and dresses are very pretty.

BURNLEY.—**VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE**.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The holiday fare provided here is Mr. Brandon Thomas's company in *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. Hastings Llynn as Jack Chesney is natural and pleasing; Mr. Basil Lynton as Charlie Wickenham and Mr. G. A. Seager as Lord Babberley and the impostor "Aunt" are seen at their best, the laughter created being continuous; Mr. Theo McCausland Stewart as Sir Francis Chesney plays a difficult rôle to perfection, and Mr. Roy Byford adds a touch of the ridiculous to the part of Stephen Spettigue. Brassett is capitally performed by Mr. Sydney Compton; and the young ladies, Kitty and Amy, are charmingly represented by Miss Olivia Glynn and Miss Grace Russell; Miss Evelyn Gray is also pretty in her part, and the real aunt is well performed by Miss Vere Gerald. The comedy is preceded by *The Lancashire Sailor*, a playlet in which pathos and humour are intermixed, and in which the acting is very good.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Miss Alice Raymond, cornettist, and a quartette of instrumentalists, in *A Night in Egypt*, are responsible for a high-class musical treat. The Payen auto pierrot gymnasto illusioniste, presented by Miss Lucie, is a novel mechanical doll turn; and Karr and Kooney are clever comedians with good songs. W. B. Raby is encored for a parody on "Put me among the girls"; Walter Aubrey is a good coon vocalist and dancer; and the Milfords, comedians and dancers, take well. The Empire Theatroscope pleases with up-to-date films.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Considerable enterprise is displayed in the programme given here. A great attraction is Miss Ada Colley, soprano vocalist, who is possessed of a magnificent voice of wide range. Her music though difficult is rendered to perfection. A funny couple are Howard and Collinson, who present a comedy acrobatic sketch, *A Bit of Dresden China*, with good acrobatic feats and irresistible humour; Lawrence Barclay, comedian, proves a success with his songs; and *What a Life* is the title of a comedy duo provided by Edwards and Dacre. "A Yorkshire Rustic at the Piano," by Jack Lane, is a turn full of fun; and Jim Cheetham, siffleur, is a real treat in bird imitations; Emma Don, character comedienne, sings in pleasing fashion; Billy French does smart wooden shoe dancing, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are good.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — **OPERA HOUSE**.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. de Hague Body.—An excellent variety programme is being presented here this week. The Cameo Troupe give a comical acrobatic turn; the Three De Venas contribute a fine exhibition of juggling and club-swinging; Mr. Austin Lenton and Miss Agnes Lane, capital comedy artists, win much applause; Mr. Frank F. Street, the story teller, is popular; and other turns which do well are Miss Katie Epiett, comedienne; Miss Madge Pollard, vocalist and dancer; and the Brooklyn Comedy Four.

BURY (LANCS.).—**THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE, LTD**.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The star turn is Ivan Tschernoff, the animal trainer, in *Entertainment in a Sporting Yard*. Other items include the Hilgert-Arkas company of acrobats; Jack Martin, baritono vocalist; Speedwell, the wizard painter; the Tivoli Girls, dancers; Lisbon and Barker, comedians; Calile and Walker, comedy artists; and Percy Johnson, humorist. The pictures include some very good views of the Abram colliery disaster, and on Monday Mr. Culling handed over two-thirds of the gross receipts to the sufferers.

THE CIRCUS.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Animated pictures form the fare here. The films are all good, and include Features of the Wood Industry in Morvan, Daily Life in Naples, The Legend of a Ghost, Gipsy Model, Uncle's Picnic, Smuggling by Motor-car, Walter, the Rural Postman, and The Amateur Acrobat.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons.—The performances here this week are being very much appreciated. In the bill are the Royal Welsh Entertainers; Gala and Norris, in a musical duologue; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, and their clever horse; Cara Magda, gymnast; Wal Robbins, in a musical comedy turn; Lily Hayes, comedienne and dancer; George Edney, character comedian; and George Griffin, comedian.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. — **THEATRE ROYAL**.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—This theatre opened its autumn season on Monday with Mr. Louis Calvert's production of *Sunday*. Mr. William Giffard handles the rôle of Colonel Brinthorpe with dignity and manliness; Mr. T. Norman Walter plays Tom Oxley with unqualified success; Mr. Wilson Blake gives just the right touch of villainy to Arthur Brinthorpe; and Mr. James Shea (Towzer), Mr. A. C. Holmes (Davy), Mr. James Hursey (Lively), and Mr. Alec Alves (Jacky) submit character sketches of the "boys," each perfect in its way. Miss Marjorie Murray in the title-rôle is admirable in her mingling of girlish sweetness and deeper feeling; Miss Helen Edwins appears as Mrs. Naresby with distinction. The play, which is faultlessly staged, met with an overwhelming reception from a crowded house.

BUXTON.—**OPERA HOUSE**.—Proprietors, Buxton Gardens Company, Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—*Brewster's Millions* drew good houses on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday evenings this week, and was well patronised at the matinée on Wednesday. Experience has taught us to trust in the Hutchison management, and again we were not disappointed. The title-rôle of Monty Brewster is played by Mr. Percy Hutchison with admirable tact, and he kept the audiences in roars of laughter. Mr. Hutchison is well supported by Mr. Cyril Rawdon as Charlie Harrison, Mr. Robert Forsyth as Mr. Grant, Mr. A. Andrews as Colonel Drew, Mr. Henry Hampson as Archie Golding, Mr. Aubrey Mather as Joseph MacLeod, Mr. Charles Esdale as Frank Bragden, Mr. Douglas Greet as Tommy Smith, and Mr. Frank Hill as the butler, Rawles. Miss Violet Ley had all too small a part as Mrs. Dan de Mille; and Miss Frances Davie was entirely satisfactory as Miss Janice Armstrong. Miss Eva Stuart was a dainty Barbara Drew; and Miss Sybil Walsh a taking Trixie Clayton. The piece is beautifully mounted, and the yacht scene a marvellous piece of stage mechanism. *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* fills in the remaining three nights.

CARDIFF. — **NEW THEATRE**. — Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—After a short absence we have a return visit of the popular musical comedy *The Merry Widow*, played by Mr. George Edwardes' company. Mr. Leonard Mackay as Prince Danilo is excellent in every way; Miss Constance Drever's appearance as Sonia evoked unusual enthusiasm by her vocal powers and bewitching manner; Mr. Eric Thorne, as Baron Popoff, was absolutely too funny for words; Mr. W. H. Rawlins, as Nisch, was entirely at home; Mr. Theodore Leonard deserves praise for his General Novakovitch; and as Count de Jolidon Mr. W. Talleur Andrews was able to give full scope to his fine voice. Miss Ethel Cadman was particularly charming as Natalie.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Reano and his favourite band of thirty instrumentalists give a fine performance of high-class selections. An unusual protean sketch is presented by Mr. Henry Coutts and company, entitled *Outflanked*, in which Mr. Coutts himself is responsible for some smart quick changes; the Three Laurels are exceptionally talented acrobats; a high-class turn is provided by Fred Elton, who sings and plays in pleasing style; the Great Lumars introduce sensational acrobatic items; Albert Christian "goes down" with his well-sung numbers; and the Three Cape Girls prove expert long-boot dancers. Kate Cohen sings her numbers with much effect; and a pathetic picture on the American Bioscope completes a fine programme.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—After a long absence, Mr. Horace Stanley and company are paying a welcome return visit in the sensational melodrama *The 10.30 Down Express*. Mr. Horace Stanley is still seen in the amusing rôle of Sam Wagstaff, and his representation fully sustains his reputation; as Jack O'Malley, Mr. T. Arthur Plummer gives an excellent rendering of the part; Mr. Fred Wilberforce depicts the villainous character of James Inderwick with ability; and Mr. William Hayward capitally acts the broken-down gamekeeper Seth Coombes. Miss Cora Linda is seen to advantage as Bessie Leigh; and Miss Kate Kilpack is exceptionally humorous as Peggy Potts. The Train scene in Act 3 is a marvel of stage effects.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Gunner Moir and Bioscope pictures of the Moir *v.* Burns fight are prominent attractions here. Other excellent turns are provided, however. Dave Samuels, a Hebrew comedian, is amusing; the Florodoras prove entertaining in a musical sketch; Munroe's Black and White Team "go down" well with their vocal and humorous items; W. G. Wesley as a comedian is decidedly above the average; and Browning and Wally, acrobats and dental athletes, and Charles F. Best complete the bill of fare.

CARLISLE.—**HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE**.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Victor Du Cane's company, in *The Stowaway*, is enjoying a full share of patronage. In the title-rôle Mr. Du Cane scores a success, his singing being a feature of the performance; in the heavy part Mr. St. Clair Forbes's powerful and impressive acting made the character conspicuous throughout; the hero is impersonated by Mr. J. M. Oliver, who filled the part to everyone's satisfaction; Miss Winifred Maude's charming presence, backed up by some clever and effective work, made her an ideal heroine, and as a vocalist, too, her success was immediate; Miss Amy Maitland as Chucky soon became a favourite; Messrs. Maurice Jones, Rupert Talbot, Arthur Denmead, and Mrs. Wingold Laurence have good parts, which they fill with credit.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Crowded houses are the rule here this week. Miss Minnie Mace has a dainty presence and a nice voice, which she uses with excellent effect, and her dancing, too, is graceful; Oakdene's ventriloquial act is sufficiently novel to command unstinted applause; a comedian with a really funny style is Arthur Stacey, who as a laughter-maker scores heavily; the Elite Harmony Boys top the bill, and give a smart and enjoyable performance, their concerted numbers being cleverly rendered; Drenda and Green are popular juggling comedians; and Silbon's cats, a comedy animal act, arouse enthusiasm.

CASTLEFORD.—**ROYAL**.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—On Monday *The Ticket of Leave Man* was presented by Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Draycott and company. Mr. Charles Draycott's Bob Brierley is frank and engaging; Mr. Harry Scatchard is an amusing Melter Moss; Mr. George Steel, who plays Hawkshaw, is an actor of good presence and possesses a rich and cultivated voice; as Dalton, alias The Tiger, Mr. G. Arthur's work has clever touches; Mr. Chas. H. Herberte supplies an excellent little picture of Mr. Gibson; Mr. Wilfred J. Short makes his points as Green Jones; May Edwards is given a pathetic and intelligent portrayal by Mrs. Chas. Draycott; and Miss Louise Millward is a most entertaining Mrs. Willoughby. Miss Issa Steel's acting does full justice to the rôle of Emily St. Evremond; and Miss Eva Norman is the precocious Sam Willoughby.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Travis. — The Loyal Dominion Co.'s animated pictures are still drawing large audiences. By way of variety, Kerr and Shaws manipulate many musical instruments skilfully.

CHATHAM. — **THEATRE ROYAL**. — Proprietors, C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—This week *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* is paying her first visit to Chatham, Mrs. Madge Carr Cooke's delightful interpretation of the title-rôle being thoroughly appreciated by all. Miss Rita Carlyle is eminently successful as Miss Hazy; the Misses Mable Durrant and Violet Vivian are admirably suited as Mrs. Eichorn and Mrs. Schultz respectively; Miss Christine Rayner makes a sweet little Lovey Mary; Miss Mary Deverell is natural as Miss Lucy; while the juvenile members of the company fairly revel in their various parts. Mr. Frederick Forrest's Mr. Stubbins is a good bit of work; and Mr. Walker Cameron does well as Mr. Wigge.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Haley's Garden of Girls tops the bill here, and are much admired for their singing and dancing; Phillips and Terry make a welcome reappearance in *Taming the Lion*; another old favourite is Mabel Thorne, whose choruses are rapidly picked up by the gallery boys; the Donatos, one-legged clowns, surprise all by their dexterous acrobatic feats; Flo Challis, in neat imitations, the Bright Trio, comedy entertainers, and Alf Davis, vocalist, complete the variety turns; while Immaterial Man is a smartly-manipulated film, presented by Lacey's Erascope.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis.—A long and strong bill is attracting splendid audiences here. It includes Lily Esplin, Fred Bronte, Marie Grof (a well-liked serio), Johnny Holland and Co. (who continue to create unbounded merriment in *The Boat-Builder*), Jack Lorimer (whose turn is one of the leading items), Stella Stahl (comedienne), Blanche Vincent (with a very popular number, "My Cuban Belle"), and Alec Hurley (who makes the hit of the evening with "Liz" and "I ain't nobody in particular," afterwards appearing with his company in *The Coster's Friendly Lead*). The Edisonograph supplies fresh pictures to interest and amuse.

CHELTENHAM.—**OPERA HOUSE**. — General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—On Monday evening Mr. Chas. M. Bestic's company is introducing *The Flower Girl*. Miss Dorothy Firmin does well in the title-rôle; Mr. Martin Adeson, a tower of strength as Joe Wheeler, scores in his songs; Mr. Alfred Donahoe does good work as Johnny Wheeler; Mr. Robert Howard is an acceptable stage lover as Hon. Billy Greenhill; Mr. Norman Bowyer is indefatigable as the dude; Miss Jeannie Holmes acts cleverly as a pronounced suffragette; and Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Florence Wilton as the couple from gay "Parce" introduce some amusing business.

MONTPELLIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. Alfred W. Newton.—This week "The Dandies" pay a return visit, and add to their reputation; Mr. H. J. Corner is irresistible; Mr. Stephen Fitzgerald scores a distinct success; Miss Josephine Gordon and Miss Rhoda Gordon sing and dance in a charming manner; Mr. Edward Whitehall accompanies.

CHESTER. — **ROYALTY THEATRE**. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Good audiences are being attracted here. Topping the bill are the Xentrix, in *The Garden of Terpsichore*, which proves highly successful; J. C. Edwards, baritone, ably renders "The deathless army"; the Saletos, in their head and hand balancing act, are repeating the hit they made on a former visit; Burg, Hand, and Wise are as entertaining as ever in their funny pantomime sketch, *Ye Brown Cow Inn*; Ted Waite, eccentric comedian, is quite a favourite; Marie Kay is a smart juvenile, her songs being distinctly sung, and her dancing neat; Fred Mulvey and Minnie Miriam are again scoring heavily with their duologue "The Reporter"; the Premier Imperial Pictures are better than ever.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.—**THE PALACE**.—Managing-Director, Mr. P. W. Willard.—A strong company here this week, is headed by Kay and Calden in refined comedy and eccentric dancing; Eugenie Boland has a fine contralto voice; the Two Sprees are clever in the scena "Twickenham Ferrry"; the Three Sisters Thurban are delightful vocalists, dancers, and instrumentalists; Miss Vera Patey is still a great attraction as the Summer Girl; Johnny Fuller, the animal impersonator, is very funny; and Pablo is an able comedian. The Palascope presents some fine films.

WEST CLIFF GARDENS. — Proprietors, Messrs. Graham Russell and Bentley.—Here, in addition to the genial proprietors, we find Mr. Walter Montagu, the raconteur and musical crank; Miss Ethel Grimes, a soprano of considerable ability; and Mr. Harry Barratt, a favourite baritone.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Harold Montague; Business-Manager, Mr. G. Ivor Sparke.—Harold Montague and his Vagabonds continue to receive their full share of patronage from large and appreciative audiences. The performances are of the usual sparkling order, every number being well received.

OPERETTA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Jury; Business-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Crowded houses are the order here, and the films shown are of the usual high standard. They include Travel Scenes in Morocco, Black Princess, Wanted, a Son-in-Law, and John Gilpin. Miss Clairetta Florence, vocalist, is a great favourite.

COLCHESTER.—**THEATRE ROYAL**.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Miss Maude Western's company, in the drama *A Mother's Salvation*, opened a week's engagement here on Monday, with Miss Western herself as Becky. Mr. J. O. Stevenson successfully appeared in the rôle of Reuben Smith; Miss Ada Hender was well placed in the dual characters of Naomi and Miriam; Mr. Terence Nerry capably undertook the villainous part of The Owl; and Mr. J. Chapman represented his confederate The Old 'Un. Mr. Carl Vallender elicited laughter as Billy Bumpkin; and Miss Kate Newton made a good Mother Turntail. Mr. John Levey made the most of Lynton Desmond.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Moullot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—At the top of the bill is Mr. Sidney Bacon's company in the musical comedy sketch *The Duchess of Tooting*, of which Mr. Stephen Adeson ensures success; the Duchess troupe of dancers execute a series of attractive items; Peggy Pryde meets with an ovation as a result of her "Mr. Moon," her hold on the locals being stronger than ever; Leah Adell, who possesses a cultured voice, is pleasing in a sweet chorus song; the Three Ascots appear in a comedy act; and the bill is completed by Wally Scott, comedian and dancer.

CONSETT.—**NEW THEATRE**.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Millar Anderson is paying a visit here this week with the drama *For Her Husband's Sake*. Mr. Robert Faulkner is an able Lieut. Jack Seymour, and as Herbert Grey Mr. Millar Anderson is exceptionally good; Mr. Fred Elvin does well as Joseph Dene, and Mr. Albert Rogers as Abraham K. Silas and Mr. Walter Long as Pietro acquit themselves creditably. Mr. Finn Doyle is very funny as Terry O'Neill. Miss Mabel Mannering gives a highly talented impersonation of the part of Estelle Beaudet, and Miss Maude Townsend is interesting as Maria Dene; Miss Doris Laine is excellent as Eileen Silas, and as the child Vi Gem Lloyd is really clever.

CORK.—**PALACE THEATRE**.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The principal star here this week is Marie Loftus. Her songs and sketches secure great applause. She is quite inimitable, and scores a tremendous success. Tom Lloyd, a clever comedian, contributes some capital parodies; Denby and Dent are a pair of comedians; Lydia Rale plays solos on the mandoline and banjo in a pleasing manner; Dunn and Reano, gymnasts, give a smart performance on the rings; Lilian Neville possesses a soprano voice of good quality; Nellie Nora contributes a violin selection; the Sisters Ely, duettists, sing well-arranged duets; and the Palascope shows a series of pictures of the Franco-British Exhibition.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Manager, Mr. Alexander McEwan.—Messrs. Harry and Fred Poole's Myriorama opened a week's engagement here this week with a first-class entertainment. The views and scenery shown are very beautiful. There is an all-round clever lot of vaudeville and other artists with the company. The entertainment is drawing good houses.

COVENTRY.—**HIPPODROME THEATRE**.—General-Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. Wright.—A fine programme this week. The first to head the list is Mr. Harry Roxbury, in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*. Mr. Roxbury takes the part of P.C. Longfellow (of Scotland Yard) himself, and keeps the whole house in roars of laughter. Miss Florrie Galimore, a great favourite with Coventry audiences, sings three songs with great success; Mr. Fred Earle, the eccentric comedian, is inimitable in his contributions; Tray and Rich tell some quaint stories; Clive Watts is a clever dancer; the Bohemians are attractive in their refined entertainment; Miss Edith Chantler has a good voice; and cinematograph pictures conclude.

CREWE.—**OPERA HOUSE**.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—A capital all-round programme is headed by Walton and Lester, "the world's worst wizards," who are well received; the Glenroy Troupe are clever dancers; Ted Young, comedian, has some good songs; the Three Sisters Grosvenor sing in capital style; De Ora, acrobat, gives a thrilling performance; Hamilton Hill, Australian baritone, is a favourite; Beatrice Elstree, comedienne and dancer, is a clever artiste; and on the Operascope the latest films are shown.

CROOK.—**THEATRE ROYAL**.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Wallace Davidson.—Hill and Ayrton's repertoire is here in *The Woman from Russia*. As Frank Haldane, Mr. Robert Ayrton is a great success; and Miss Adria Hill is very clever as Wanda. Mr. G. Mortimer Hancock submits a clever impersonation of Ezra, and Mr. Basil Mitchell is good as the Hon. Reginald Fitzgerald. Mr. Fred G. Ingleby makes a capital Captain Alexis; Miss Maggie Hobart is a charming Edith; and the humour is supplied by Miss Maud St. John as Mary Ann and Mr. Frank Wheatcroft as Jerry.

CROYDON.—**GRAND THEATRE**.—Manager, Mr Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—The Egyptian comic opera, *Amasis*, is causing much amusement and entertainment here. The dresses, scenery, and chorus are all that could be wished, and Messrs. Jose and Young have carefully selected the talented company. Miss Winifred O'Connor captivates all with her charming rendering of Princess Amasis; Miss Mabel Burnege is a pleasing Natis; and Misses Mabel Lovett, Gladys Carlisle, Annette Voile, Lilian Lane, and Doris Cameron are enchanting as the wives. Mr. W. H. Denny makes a palpable hit in the rôle of Pharaoh; Mr. Edward McKeown is well placed as Prince Auhotep; Mr. Arthur Stroud deserves praise as Cheiro; Mr. Fred Hudson is capital as Nebenchari; Mr. Frank Attree is good in the character of Ptolemy Theopompous-Allakama; Mr. W. D. Brodie is satisfactory as Sebak; Mr. Frank Wood ably sustains the rôle of Psamtik; and minor parts are carefully played.

HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice.—Mr. Ronald Bayne and Miss Evelyn Hope present a fine sketch, *Only a Dream*, also a farcical comedy, entitled *The Love Cure*. In both pieces Mr. Ronald Bayne and Miss Evelyn Hope exhibit great talent. Bert and Dora are good comedy artists; the Hamiltons prove themselves excellent comedians and dancers; Lottie Bray's skipping-rope dancing is applauded; Harry Wright is a capable vocalist; Nellie Gannon, descriptive vocalist, gives a praiseworthy turn; and some interesting animated pictures are shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PUBLIC HALL.—Messrs. Gale and Polden's King's Service Animated Pictures are now the sole property of Mr. Ernest Mansell, who is showing them in Croydon with marked success, the Public Hall being crowded each evening. The series is full of interest. Miss Maude Evelyn introduces illustrated songs.

DARLINGTON.—**THEATRE ROYAL**.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company is here with *I Defy the World*. Mr. Percy Ballard as Leon Darville is excellent; Mr. Charles Conway in the dual parts of Laroche and General Delaporte is convincing; Mr. J. Leicester Jackson as Count de Beaulieu realises his responsibilities; Miss Violet Crauford as Blanche Darville gives an effective rendering; Miss Laura Marshall is a clever child artist; Miss Blanche St. Albans as Pauline Delaporte plays with feeling; Mr. Frank Wheatley as Andre is well fitted to the part; and Mr. Charles M. Julian and Miss Maud Lillian are responsible for the humour.

NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The leading feature in the current week's bill here is Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian; Miss Lydia Yeamans, assisted by the popular pianist Mr. Fred J. Titus, is a popular mimic; the Fimans are very funny in their scena, *The Fire Station*; and other numbers include Wilman, instrumentalist; Le Crens, eccentric dancers; Sisters St. Julian, duettists and dancers; Florence Esdaile, the Australian nightingale; and the Pepiscope.

DARWEN.—**PUBLIC HALL, PALACE OF VARIETIES**.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Residential-Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—The Living Pictures are still of the best, and a good variety programme is provided by Marie Neilson, a charming comedienne and dancer; Edwin Austin, who excels on the concertina; and Earle and Hylton, patter comedians and whistlers.

DERBY.—**GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE**.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—This popular house reopened its doors to the legitimate on Monday night after a successful variety season. The attraction was Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton's Shakespearean company, the initial play being *The Taming of the Shrew*. As Petruchio and Katharina respectively the distinguished artists repeated their everywhere acknowledged success, and obtained an enthusiastic reception. Mr. Asche also appeared with distinction as Christopher Sly in the Induction. Bianca was capably portrayed by Miss Muriel Ashwynne, whose reading was delightfully fresh and pleasing; Mr. Herbert Grimwood was a capital Baptista; and Vincentio was ably accounted for by Mr. J. Fritz Russell, who also appeared with advantage in the Induction as a Lord. Lucentio was well impersonated by Mr. Kay Souper; and as Grumio and Hortensio, Mr. Caleb Porter and Mr. Reginald Ian Penny did themselves great credit. On Tuesday night *The Two Pins* was played. *Othello* is also in the bill. The orchestra is under the clever bâton of Mr. Christopher Wilson.

PALACE. — Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The variety season reopened here this week with an excellent programme, headed by a clever illusion, entitled *The Magic Carpet*, presented by John Warren and company. Dorothy L. Clarke is possessed of a pleasing voice, and contributes several cleverly rendered songs; Bert Terrell is a successful Dutch comedian; Ada Gatley appears to advantage in a pot-pourri speciality of juggling and slack wire balancing; Zellini, comedy juggler, is both diverting and clever; Whimsical Walker and company present a bright and sparkling little sketch, entitled *Captain Hamilton, V.C.*; and Kendrick and Laura are praiseworthy singers and dancers. The Bioscope concludes with an amusing film.

DEVONPORT.—**METROPOLE THEATRE**.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*At Duty's Call*, a stirring drama, is on view here. Mr. John Gerant as Harold Alison, an Anglo-Egyptian, acts the villain to perfection, and Mr. Charles C. Calvert is equally successful as the hero; as Salema, a slave, Miss Ada Roscoe acts powerfully, and Miss Beatrice Western as Dora Drummond is very dignified. Naturally, the play, being a Service one, is well received.

DOUGLAS.—**GRAND, LTD**.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Hemming; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. E. Wood.—Mr. Edward Compton, one of the most popular of actor-managers, is playing to crowded audiences here. On Monday evening *David Garrick* was staged, and Mr. Compton delighted all and sundry with his excellent presentment of the great tragedian; the Alderman Tresham of Mr. Henry Crocker displayed striking characteristics; Mr. Henry Worrall was excellent as the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut; the Rumbelow of Mr. Philip Gordon was humorous; Mr. E. W. Johnson was an effective Sowerby; Simpkins lost nothing in the hands of Mr. Ivan Leslie; Miss Marie Hasseli acted with a just perception of comedy as Mrs. Rumbelow; Miss Kathleen Lugh was dainty and pathetic as Violet Tresham. The other comedies billed were *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Gentleman in Grey*, *The School for Scandal*, *A Reformed Rake*, and *The Rivals*. The *pièce de résistance* was preceded by a smart little curtain-raiser, *The Desperate Lover*, delightfully presented by Miss Viola Compton as Mistress Prue and Mr. Henry Worrall as Harry.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—*John Glayde's Honour*, with Miss Violet Vanbrugh and Mr. Arthur Bourchier, has proved a great success at this house. Miss Violet Vanbrugh is an actress of infinite resource, and her Muriel Glayde is not the least considerable of her stage creations. Mr. Arthur Bourchier's John Glayde has quality: he is the American gentleman *sans peur et sans reproche*.

THE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd.; Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brittain.—Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas, in Scenes from Dickens; the Misses Florence and Rose Showell, charming duettists; Mona Vivian, vocalist and dancer; Messrs. Hinton and Wootton, in a novel and daring act, *A Football Match on Cycles*; Mr. Wilson Hallett, entertainer, a specialist in the idiosyncrasies of infancy; A-Ba-Bee's Picture Postcard Album, a pretty setting of picturesque tableaux viv

William Lee and Helen Bentley and company, in a smart and amusing racing sketch, entitled *A Sure Thing*, get a flattering reception; Will Poluski, jun., is an original dancer and capable comedian; C. I. Johnson, the Black Diamond, is responsible for much merriment; as a ventriloquist Verando makes a decided hit; and Harry Hutin, comedian and dancer, also contributes successfully. The Empire pictures are interesting.

TIVOLI.—General Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The principal item here this week is furnished by Hayman and Franklin, whose amusing sketch, *A Matrimonial Agency*, gains for them enthusiastic applause; Marguerite Broadfoote, a charming comedienne, achieves much success for her songs; Eva Lumley and company are highly diverting in their original comedy skit, *Jimmy All of a Twist*; Harry Taft is an entertaining whistling comedian; Comical Walker and his Nippers provide a capital turn, as does also Walter Buxton, baritone vocalist; Charles M. Daly and company are laughable in their farcical comedy, *I Must Have It*; Phil Bransby is a good coster comedian; Globella, a clever rolling globe performer, and the Bioscope concludes.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—The Irish Animated Photo Company, which has entered on its fifth week here, is still drawing full houses, both at afternoon and evening performances. The new series of pictures includes: The Dublin Horse Show, Tour through Venice, Irish Cottage Industries, Motor Boat Races, Paris to the Sea, The Enchanted Mantle, A Gendarme's Tribulation, A Timid Lover, The Sorceress's Daughter, Three Maids and a Bull, A Pierrette's Talisman, &c. The musical programme, in which Miss Agnes Meehan (contralto), Mr. William Sheehan (baritone), and Mr. Patrick O'Shea (tenor) contribute, is much appreciated.

PAVILION, KINGSTOWN.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—Miss Marjory Moore, an engaging comedienne, has proved a big attraction; Mr. Fred Walmsley, a capital entertainer, is warmly received; Mr. Marriott Edgar, a lively comedian, elicits applause; Mr. Clifford Morgan, baritone, sings his songs in good style; Paddy Dupres is an amusing comedian; Mr. Bernard Knox, solo pianist, is well received; and Mr. Jack Macdermott is going as strong as ever.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The programme here includes: Nellie and Billy, harmonising duettists; Edie Greene, soprano vocalist; Harry Rose, comedian and dancer; Marion Blake, descriptive vocalist; Tom Casey, comedian and dancer; the Percys, duettists and dancers; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—*A Soldier of France*, a good, rousing military drama, presented by Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company, met with a good reception here. Mr. Leonard Aardale in the rôle of Father Jean acted in bold and manly fashion, and Mr. Albert Guyon was sufficiently villainous as Juras Delara; Mr. Edward Hobart in the dual rôle of Captain Loraine, afterwards Lieut. Lois, proved himself an actor of ability; Miss Florence Zillwood in the difficult part of Pauline Loraine acted with dignity and power; Miss Jennie Clare was decidedly chic and vivacious as Margot, and she ably assisted Mr. Freddie Edwards in his humorous portrayal of Pollyput Jollyboy; Mr. Milton C. Curtis gave a dignified rendering of Duke D'Laval. The piece was well staged.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—The management again provide excellent talent for the patrons here. Matthews and Brown, coloured eccentrics, occupy the top of the bill; the Breton Troupe are clever and amusing in *The Tramps' Picnic*; the Milsted Bell Trio infuse plenty of "go" into their sketch *Threee Sharps in a Flat*; and the Sisters Wingrove are winsome Military Maids; Johnny Dwyer, favourite comedian, with good songs, is in great request, as usual, and Forrest and King give an enjoyable dancing act; Harry Bland is a good comedian.

DUMFRIES.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Payne Seddon.—We are favoured this week with a visit of Miss Nora Carton's company in *Captain Drew on Leave*. Mr. Claude King is a marked success in the rôle of Captain Drew; Mr. Tom Mowbray as Mr. George Moxon plays his part in a capable manner; Mr. Gerald Venning is good as Mr. Chester Hassell; Miss Cynthia Brooke as Mrs. Moxon is charming; Miss Nora Carton is very smart as Miss Mills.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. E. Marris's company, in *The Dandy Doctor*, appeared here the first three nights of the week, opening to a good house. Mr. George Brentwood as Melchisadek Brown proved highly amusing; a good deal of the success of the piece was due to Miss Florence Smithers as Jane; Mr. Herbert Pearce as Colonel Pendred was also highly successful; Mr. C. Burronston Williams as Arthur Vandyke made an excellent lover; and Mr. A. Leslie Martin as Bertie Bolingbroke was very entertaining. Miss Mollie Wynne as Ivy Pendred admirably filled her part. Specialities by Miss Lottie Stone's Empire Girls and Little Dutch Girls were cordially received. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company, in *The Way of the World*, was billed for the last three nights of the week.

EASTBOURNE.—PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. George Dance's company, appearing in *The Girls of Gottenberg*, is proving powerfully attractive. Mr. Bertie Wright as Max has a part in which he fairly revels, and on Monday evening the crowded house roared with laughter at his clever and funny work. Mr. Tom Shelford achieved a big success as Otto, and his songs were given in very effective style; Mr. Howard Cridland, sharp and smart, makes a good deal of the rôle of Brittl-Bottl; Mr. David Miller is an excellently brusque and military Finkhausen; Mr. Tom Squire gives a fine picture of the weak, sentimental Adolph; Mr. Hugh Hensen is a capital Albrech; and Mr. Martin Rickards does duty creditably as the Burgomaster. To Miss Ellaline Thorne must be given a generous meed of praise for her brightly attractive and musically pleasing performance as Mitzi. Miss May Marshall repeats her highly commendable success as the simple Clementine; Miss Gladys Guy is a pretty Elsa; and Miss Susie Beardon a pleasing Katrina. Mr. Otto Manns is the conductor, and Mr. G. E. Draco the manager for the company. Mr. Harry Lauder appeared here on Tuesday afternoon, and a vast audience filled the building from floor to ceiling to hear the celebrated Scotch comedian.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. H. B. Irving and his company are appearing with great success here in *The Lyons Mail*, *Charles I.*, *Louis XI.*, and *The Bells*. Mr. H. B. Irving as Matthias in the last-mentioned play gave a very powerful exhibition of dramatic ability. In the last act he reached a depth of tragic acting which held the audience in tense attention, and on the fall of the curtain he was recalled several times. Mr. Eric Maxon was a handsome manly Christian; Mr. Charles Dodsworth as Father Walter contributes quite a little masterpiece of acting; Mr. Tom Reynolds was a jovial Hans; and Mr. Frank Tyars was an impressive President of the Court. Miss Elly Malyon used her exceptional ability to make the part of Christine a conspicuous success; Miss Phyllis Embury was a girlish and pleasing Annette; and Miss May Holland a capital Lozel. *King Rene's Daughter* preceded, and in this Miss Dorothea Baird presented very poetically the sweet, tender, maidenly charms of the blind Iolanthe; Mr. Frank Tyars was a kingly, dignified Rene; Mr. Eric Maxon was an earnest, romantic Tristan; and Mr. Arthur Curtis a particularly praiseworthy Count Geoffrey.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the head of the bill are Charcot and his automatic man, and the original show of mesmerism proves popular; the Goldinis are clever and skilful carpet spinners, and they present their show very attractively; Fyne and Hurley are a couple of capable comedians; Mr. George Melvin is a Scotch comedian of decided ability, both as singer and dancer; Miss Phœbe Mercer and company have an effective sketch; and Mr. Leonard Teel and the Denebos, and Miss Margaret Rudcliffe, burlesque artist, complete the bill.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. F. Slatter.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's drama *Her Nameless Child* is here. Miss Pattie Hastings takes the character of Phyllis Ford in a most capable manner; Lady Sybil Woodville is cleverly depicted by Miss Mona Grey; Miss Geraldine Verner is a good Crayont, Lady Sybil's maid; the acting of Mr. J. W. Evelyn as Anthony Ford leaves nothing to be desired; Mr. Arthur Pringle, as Lord Henry Woodville, gives a good account of himself; and Mr. Frank Thompson fits the part of Mongrole admirably.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE, LTD.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minahull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is drawing large houses here with *The Girls of Gottenberg*. Additional interest is imported to the performances by the inclusion of Mr. Edmund Payne in the cast. The quaint comedian is at his best in the character of Max Moddelkopf, and by his droll acting and his clever singing and dancing he calls forth repeated applause. Happy Fanny Fields plays with irrepressible vivacity as Mitzi, and is frequently encored. A very charming Elsa is found in Miss Thelma Raye, whose graceful acting and cultured singing is especially noteworthy; Miss Maisie Gay is a dashing Clementine; while the numerous girls of Gottenberg are admirably represented by various fair maidens. Mr. Leslie Holland acts with marked neatness and dances with much skill; Mr. Fred Payne's Brittlbottl is an entertaining piece of work; and Mr. Louis Denver's make-up as Adolf is appropriately quaint. Capital sketches are contributed by Mr. Fred Allandale as Albrecht, Mr. A. Chentrens as Kannenbier, and Mr. Arnold Lucy as Colonel Finkhausen. The choruses are sung with precision and effect, and the mise-en-scene is beautiful.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—*The Sign of the Cross* is very effectively produced by Mr. William Greet's chief company, now in the eleventh year of their phenomenally successful tour. Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee's striking personality and dramatic qualifications find fitting opportunity in the rôle of Marcus Superbus, which is acted with great power. The Emperor Nero and his councillor Tigellinus are well portrayed by Mr. C. Yorke and Mr. Charles Aldred; Mr. J. Weatherall is a satisfactory Licinius; and the character of Glabrio is amusingly embodied by Mr. Frank Wood. The leading feminine Pagans are aptly represented by Miss Beryl Hamilton as Poppœa, Miss Lily Ward as Berenice, and Miss Cissie Carlton as Dacia; Miss Constance Little's impersonation of the Christian Mercia is full of pathetic feeling and gentleness; and the part of Stephanos finds fitting interpretation at the hands of Miss Edith Drayson.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Edinburgh Construction Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Amand Muscard.—For the re-opening of this fine house an entertaining and attractive programme has been provided, and enthusiastic audiences have crowded the huge building throughout the week. The versatile musician Vasco heads the bill with his famous mad scena, in which he plays well upon almost every known instrument, celestial, terrestrial, and infernal, infusing also a spice of humour into his performance, much to the enjoyment of his hearers; another manifold instrumentalist appears in the person of Herr Karoly Czynski, the Hungarian musical expert, whose great speciality is drum solo playing, wherein he produced very weird and wonderful effects. The turn contributed by the Seven Perezoffs is quite unique in its way, their juggling with table lamps, decanters, billiard balls, articles of furniture, and so forth being as bewildering as it is marvellous; the Three Comerfords supply a clever acrobatic and tumbling act; very ingenious and admirable trapeze balancing feats are gracefully performed by Mdlle. Alexandra and Mons. Bertie; Farr and Farrland entertain with patter and banjo playing; while good single-handed turns are given by Miss Betty Green, juvenile comedienne and dancer, and by Jack Chambers in his "Neogratic" entertainment and dance; and some very excellent films are exhibited by the Bioscope.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Mr. Edward Lauri and company provide a very entertaining sketch, entitled *In Her Boudoir*, in which several clever quick changes and some admirable singing and dancing are accomplished; Mr. Daley Cooper and Miss Mabel Lait and Co. are seen in a farcical piece, *The Tea Shop*, Mr. Cooper's fooling as Hungry Joe being extremely amusing; Big Ben Brown and George Le Clerq are, as usual, very funny in *Black Justice*; and Lady Mansel presents a company of smart children in a musical sketch called *A Concert Rehearsal*; Mr. G. H. Elliott receives enthusiastic applause for his masterly rendering of coon songs; Mr. J. P. Ling gives a successful travesty of a country concert; Miss Ouida Macdermott shows proof of versatility and power in her sketches; the Gothams blend tuneful singing and diverting business in their quartettes; Ralph and Nelly Howard are responsible for an excellent musical piece, *The Military Maid*; and the Bioscope displays effective films.

ERDINGTON (near Birmingham).—PUBLIC HALL.—The Gustave Roselle's Merry Zingaras are here for six nights. Mrs. Roselle appears in her interesting clairvoyant seance, and sings several high-class songs. The programme also includes Mr. Gustave Roselle, in his ventriloquial entertainment; Miss Vera Winston, soprano; Miss N. Lewis, character vocalist; Miss V. Nana, singer and dancer; Miss M. Rogers, comedienne and dancer; Miss A. Andrews, song and dance artist; Mr. R. J. Goldston, comedian and vocalist; Three Merry Pierrots; and Mr. G. Roselle, violinist. Animated pictures also interest.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Eugene C. Stafford is presenting *The Private Secretary* before large and appreciative houses. Mr. Donald Price Evans makes a delightfully limp Rev. Robert Spalding; Mr. W. Hargreave's Mr. Cattermole is a clever representation of that humorous, pugnacious, and lively gentleman; Mr. Frederick Tyrrell is excellent as Gibson, the tailor; Mr. Frank Stanley is good as Mr. Marsland; and Mr. Andrew Wight and Mr. Lawrence Grove are all that could be desired as the two nephews. Miss Dorothy Ripley and Miss Edith M. Savery are respectively charming as Eva Webster and Edith Marsland. *The Wild Man from Borneo* is the curtain-raiser.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Horace W. Ebbutt.—This week Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is appearing in *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey, who takes the part of the blacksmith, acts throughout with great power and effect; as Kate Strong, the wife of the hero, Miss Maggie Edwards, acquits herself with conspicuous ability. The other notable characters in a piece which is well staged and capitally played are those of Captain Leo (Mr. Albert Sinclair), Billy Twigg (Mr. Fred Haming), Ruth Parkins (Miss Cassie Le Grande), and Martha Mopps (Miss Edith Giddens).

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Here this week are MacKinnon's Scottish Meisters, who do a delightful "turn"; Dusty Rhodes never fails to create laughter; Ernest Montefiore's dainty sketch, *The Little Colonel*, is popular; the Claymores are clever dancers; Hunter and Maris supply an original comedy act; Zenora does some wonderful acrobatic feats; Mirsky, the Polish boy vocalist; Harry Bold, comedian; and pictures by Vernon's bioscope make up a good programme.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. Hamilton Baines is presenting *Dark Deeds of the Night* here. The principal figure is that of Dr. Mortimer Caine ably portrayed by Mr. Frank Eaglesfield; Mr. Lewis de Burgh makes an almost ideal Jack Brandon; Mr. Alfred Terris is a breezy Joe Norton; Tim O'Mallory is capitally depicted by Mr. Albert Hayzen; Miss Hilda Merrilese is a dignified Dora Bardsley; Miss Gwen Stewart shows uncommon histrionic ability in the part of Ruth Maitland; Miss Jennie Bostock looks well after the part of Mrs. Brandon and Miss Edith Bottomley is a lively Polly Prince.

GLASGOW.—ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—The new version of *The Christian*, as presented by Mr. Wentworth Croke's excellent company, is appealing powerfully to patrons here with its bountiful setting and well-selected cast. Mr. Henry Renouf's fine stage presence and quiet, dignified method befit him admirably as the heroic and severely-tried John Storm. Miss Doris Gilman exhibits great ability in her reading of Glory Quayle, investing the more strenuous scenes with much power; Mr. Edwin Ling plays Father Lamplugh with care and finish; Horatio Drake is effectively sustained by Mr. Oswald Marshall, and Mr. E. R. Hollway does commendable work as Lord Storm; Miss Sinna St. Clair acts cleverly as Mrs. Callender, and Polly Love is played with quiet pathos by Miss Margaret Brodie.

KING'S LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison present this week *Lady Frederick* for the first time in Glasgow. The cast includes Mrs. Brown-Potter, who gives a fascinating representation of the wayward Lady Frederick, and Mr. Philip Cuningham, whose Paradine Fouldes is a fine study of a good-natured bachelor. Mr. Shirley Lee as Admiral Carlisle supplies a breezy picture of an irritable old gentleman and Miss Edith Deverell as his daughter Rose acts charmingly; Mr. Cecil Bevan as Captain Montgomerie enacts a villain of unusual mildness, who excites no resentment in the upper regions of the house; the Mme. Claude of Miss Phyllis Manners is a clever exposition; Sir Gerald O'Mara is pleasingly portrayed by Mr. Reginald Van Ranney and Miss Audrey Campbell makes an equally agreeable Lady Mereston; Mr. Herbert Garthorne amusingly depicts the embarrassments of Lord Mereston.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—The reopening of the Royalty and the reappearance here of Mr. Edward Terry drew a large house on Monday. The popular comedian opened in the new play *Flander's Widow*, and his portrayal of the good-hearted old farmer with an aversion to matrimony was exceedingly good; Miss Edith Coleman made a charming widow, and acted the varying moods of the character with fine effect; Mr. Edmund Hollick was a picturesque lover as Richard; Miss Sophie Lingwood contributed a most amusing sketch of character as Mrs. Belbin, and her son Sam was equally well acted by Mr. Kenneth Brampton. The other types of villagers were cleverly played by Messrs. William Dexter, Penn Hamilton, and C. Macmanus and Misses Evelyn Ormonde and Ella Dixon. Boucicault's one-act play *Kerry* was given in front, with Mr. Edward Terry in his clever performance of the old Irish servant. On later evenings of the week *Liberty Hall*, *The Magistrate*, and *Sweet Lavender* were played.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*London With the Lid Off* is played here. The self-sacrificing young clergyman, the Rev. Allen Gordon, is admirably played by Mr. Stanley Carlton; Mr. Wm. Marshall as the blind burglar is especially good. As the brave lady detective, Madge Randall, Miss Amy Allen shows great talent. The comic element is well sustained by Mr. Lancelot Usher as Percy Plunker and Dolly, the lady typist, by Miss Emily Lewis; Miss Rubie Maude as Astra Bell, the friendless orphan, proves herself a pleasing actress; Miss R. H. Belexo as Mrs. Glendale and Miss Amy Ellam as Sarah Shafto, of the "Diamond Gang," are also worthy of mention. Large appreciative audiences have given sufficient evidence that the piece is a success.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Messrs. Sidney Rennef and G. M. Copping's company is this week giving a thoroughly good performance of *Love Rules the World*. The part of the hero, Harold Kingston, is played in romantic fashion by Mr. Richard Vane, and a sweet and winning Maud Carruthers is seen in Miss Gertrude Sterroll. The villainy of Stephen Blight is delineated in firm and effective style by Mr. Stephen Langton; in the rôle of the adventuress, Flo Morton, Miss Constance Medwyn acts and dresses well; as Tim Dixey, a reformed burglar, Mr. Sidney Rennef does good work; and in Mr. Walter Dale (Binks) the company possesses an excellent comedian. Miss Annie Brunette makes a characteristic Mother Grimble; Kitty Snowdrop is pertly represented by Miss Kitty Russell; Mr. Matt Russell is good as Farmer Carruthers, and the other parts are well filled by Messrs. Alex. Wilson Wynne, G. H. Langley, and Fred Astley.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Following a successful week at the Royal Princess's, the detective drama *Sexton Blake* was introduced to Govan theatre-goers for the first time. Mr. Horace Hunter in the title-rôle gives a finished performance. Mr. Brian Daly as Farmer Blackburn, Mr. William Felton as the farmer's son, Mr. Stephen Nicolls as Squire Lovell, Mr. Charles East as Randolph Lovell, Mr. John M. East as Faggas, the burglar, Miss East Robertson as Philadelphia Kate, and Mr. Algernon Syms as the Rev. Edward Gray all do excellent work. Acceptable humour is introduced by Mr. Billy Ross as Tinker and Miss Lena Delphine as Euphemia Pattacake.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Arthur Roberts heads an excellent bill here, and the volatile one is seen to much advantage in the sketch *Till Sunday*, ably assisted by Miss Ruby Celeste and the members of his company. The Poluski Bros. are as funny as ever in their cross-talk business; Arabella Allen again shows her versatility in scenes from Shakespeare and Dickens; Jennie Johns is a coming favourite, and her new scena, *A Middy in the King's Navy*, should go far towards her success; Johnson and Bert contribute a smart and original comedy and knockabout turn; Rosa and Kitty Simms are neat dancers; Daras gives a varied turn as a conjurer, dancer, and impersonator of famous composers; Will Cornish's musical entertainment is much enjoyed; Harold Thorley sings well; and the Bioscope pictures of Niagara Falls, &c., are particularly good.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The top turn this week is that of Fred Karno's comedy company in their uproariously funny sketch *London Suburbia*. Maud Hillman and Maurice Russell give a pleasing musical sketch called *The Somnambulist*; Harry Claff and Alice Tremayne present an excellent travesty of a pantomime demon and fairy, the former having a fine bass voice and the latter a sweet soprano; Harry Marlow and May Manton enact a comical sketch called *Winning a Wife*; the Dorrington Family do some amazing feats on bicycles and unicycles; Eileen Barnard sings Irish songs with a good voice and a refreshing brogue; Daisie Morell is a powerful singer of coon songs; Willie Stopit is an eccentric and versatile comedian; and the Bioscope rounds off a good entertainment.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—G. W. Hunter is starring here, and in song and story keeps the audience in the best of humour; Sammy Shields is as great a favourite as ever; George Leyton remains another week, and is presenting his scena *Lucknow*, in which he introduces a dozen fine old veterans of the Indian Mutiny; Curtis Leo is a smart conjurer; Harry Rogerson is a great favourite in his burlesque drama; an ingenious acrobatic and dancing act is given by the Maids of the Mill in a novel setting; Oakley and James in a varied turn take well; Bessie Herbert gives a descriptive song; and Mario, juggler, completes a good bill.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—The bill here drew good houses on the opening night. La Pia, "the enchantress," indulges in art dances, which are truly described as dazzling and artistic; Harry Conlin, comedian, has a cordial reception; other notable turns include Wal Croft, the favourite Scotch comedian; the Coes, musicians and vocalists; Coram, a clever and expert ventriloquist; Barrett and Knowles, smart comedians and dancers; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, vocal trio; Alfred Graham's Premier Juveniles, vocalists; and the Bioscope, with interesting pictures.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—A condensed version of the sensational drama *Paul Kauvar* is given here by Arnold Bell and company, and proves very exciting. John Humphries and company present an amusing sketch, *Ancient Britons*, which goes well. The Donaldson Bros. are very funny in their *Sports in the Jungle*; Charles Coborn receives the welcome of an old favourite for several of his clever songs; Nellie Coleman's male impersonations are smart and humorous; Stewart and Morgan sing well in their *Leaving Ireland* scena; Nora Emerald is a smart soubrette and dancer; Luis Hardt shines as a strong man; Mary Dundas's illustrated songs prove popular, and the Bioscope pictures are up to date.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The Toreadors have the top of the bill, and are responsible for a lively ten minutes with their Spanish bull-fight, in which they introduce their well trained donkey; Fred and Lillie Monckton present a farcical sketch, *Two in a Flat*, which takes very well; Carlton is amusing as a comedian; as acrobatic grotesques the Bros. Bradshaw are admirable; Eunson and Kempton are clever comedians and dance neatly; the Sisters Poole-Pelham do exceedingly well in the same line of business; and the Bioscope, as usual, proves interesting. Capital attendances are the rule.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The Bioscope provides a good part of the entertainment, and the pictures are original and interesting. Betty Starr, who possesses a capital voice; Will Titman, character vocal comedian; Nellie Vann, comedienne and dancer; and W. H. Rollason, favourite baritone, are also in the programme.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Ten Loonies, with excellent fooling, combine in some good music, and Bert Danson makes a hit; the Columbia Trio are humorous and tuneful; Maston is a clever mimic, and Wright and Elton sing, dance, and tumble in an entertaining manner; Stan Aubrey has a good reception for his legmania business; the Two Rays are applauded for their scena *The Nightingale*; the Onyx Duo introduce a quick-change singing and dancing speciality, and the Palacescope puts on a good film.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—*The Manxman* is being presented here by Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company. The piece is attractively mounted and the company work well together. In the rôle of Pete Mr. Alfred B. Cross captivated the whole house by his clever portrayal; Miss Minnie Watersford submits a most impressive and artistic portrayal of Kate Cregeen; Mr. Harold B. Lewis plays Philip Christian with marked success; Cæsar Cregeen is admirably depicted by Mr. Fred Mace; Mr. Fred Charles ably presents Ross Christian; Miss Blanche Lee makes a stately and dignified Miss Christian; Miss Nancy Mitchell is highly successful as Nancy, and Miss Maude Aldred is a pleasing Bella Kelley. The minor parts are in capable hands.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company produced *The Gay Gordons* on Monday for the first time in Yarmouth. Miss Maie Ash is a captivating Peggy, sharing chief honours with Mr. Frank Lincoln, an exhilarating Angus; Tom Graves is a funny Nervy Nat; Edward Nainby an excellent Edmond Siddons; Nellie Lonnen a delightful Victoria Siddons, her dancing being very graceful; and Ida Laurie a quaint Charlotte Siddons. Andrew Quainton is well played by Mr. Edward Beecher; and Mr. Norman Forrest is good as Corporal John Smith. The orchestra is ably directed by Leonard Leslie.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Charles Frohman's excellent company is presenting *The Hypocrites* here. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton gives an admirable impersonation of the Rev. Mr. Linnell; Mr. John Denny is excellent as Leonard Wilmore; Miss Laura Graves gives a fine portrayal of Miss Wilmore; Miss Muriel Mason is a charming Helen; Mr. Frederick Morland an ideal family lawyer; Miss Muriel Pope cleverly plays Rachel Neve; and the Vicar of Weybury is well acted by Mr. F. G. Thurstans, good work being also done by Mr. E. H. Ruston.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—An excellent programme is being presented here this week. The Lizzettes troupe of lady acrobats astonish everyone by their marvellous feats; A. D. Robbins performs exceptionally clever tricks on the bicycle; Alexander Prince is an expert concertina soloist; Leicester Cooke appears in a clever equestrian act; John Watson is funny as Lady Godiva; the Sisters Judge introduce some cleverly trained birds; the Four Dorians present a smart gymnastic act; Rochez's ponies and dogs are very entertaining; Ada Webb and her water nymphs are still very popular; and Doodles, assisted by Poodles, adds much to the merriment.

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray. Wittie Wattie Walton is repeating his success of last week; Mabel Green is very popular; Sidney Lee is a clever conjurer; the Keiths present a novel musical turn; Fred Herbert is an up-to-date topical vocalist; Maud Welton and Marie Welton are very pleasing; La Petite Corlera delights everyone with her clever dancing; and Amos Howard is a smart dancing comedian.

WELLINGTON PIER PAVILION.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation; Manager, Mr. Arthur Cash.—An excellent programme is presented here this week. Alix Lukos shows ability in a scena entitled "The Language of Fate"; Maggie Rimmer, attired in picturesque costume, sings excellent songs; Robert Dunning is a first-rate ventriloquist; Daisy Reed a clever speciality dancer; Chas. Craston a funny comedian; Nancy St. John, beautifully gowned, sings a catchy song; George Robins gives clever imitations of music hall artists; Emily Hayes is a good soprano vocalist; and Chris Van Bern, comedian, and Kahn and Kahn, clever necromancers, are also in the bill.

CHAPPELL'S PROMENADE CONCERTS.—Proprietress, Mrs. Sarah Lawton; General Manager, Mr. Harry Barker.—The new turn here this week is George D'Alvar, a clever gymnast.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, the Gt. Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran.—Excellent films are being shown at this popular establishment.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The Ohms present their performing ponies, bears, dogs, and monkeys, the animals giving evidence of careful and patient training; an amusing sketch entitled *Home from the Honeymoon* is cleverly acted by Mr. Arthur Jefferson's company; Cynthia is a juvenile artist of much promise; Simms and Simms please immensely with a musical speciality; Drum and Major are no less entertaining as duologue artists; Flo Cecil and Daisy Dashwood are both successful comediennes, and the Alexandroscope pictures are the latest.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, The Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The Enchanted Iona, a comedy illusion by Charles Frazer and company, is proving a big attraction; Lloyd's Gondolier Glee Singers are greatly appreciated; Edgar Forrest and company submit with success a comedy sketch, *Sunshine After Rain*; little Baby Sophie, who appears as an extra turn, gains applause for her vocal items; and we are further entertained by Lillie Hales, a charming comedienne, and Arthur Wallis, descriptive vocalist. The Prince Edward pictures are again a capital collection.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The top of the bill is a delightful musical extravaganza entitled *The Belle of the Orient*, by Mr. Joe Peterman's company; Les Piccolinos score a well-deserved hit with their clever and unique turn; *The Dinner Hour* is the title of a pantomime absurdity, which is responsible for much hilarity; Charles Rose, comedian and dancer; Lena Leslie, comedienne; and Frank Lester, vocalist, also give good turns. The Dramascope pictures are excellent.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. North.—*The Girl with the Angel Face* is here this week, under the direction of Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard. In the singular character of Angel Leigh Miss Florrie Green does excellent work, representing the strange temperament of the girl with admirable force; Mr. H. Naylor Grimson, in the somewhat mysterious personality of Sir John Wentworth, is excellent; Mr. Fred G. Evison is responsible for good character acting as the aged Jasper Death; Miss Phyllis Dailley is equal to all requirements as Ena Wentworth; Miss Mildred Carr gives a vivacious impersonation of Mollie Maitland; Mr. Cecil Mannering is good as the Rev. Gordon Cross; Mr. Allen Charles acts well as the Hon. Percy Paget; the same may be said of Mr. Austin Mortimer as Stephen Arkwright; whilst Mr. Dicky Bird is amusing as Jim Bates; and the part of the child, Nellie, is nicely played by Miss Winifred Delevanti.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Van Allen is an accomplished musician, contributing excellent 'cello and banjo solos, and has also a fund of droll stories; Claude Feldman's Beau-Ideal Juveniles are a clever troupe, introducing a variety of pretty songs, dances, &c.; the Mayvilles, human marionettes, are distinctly amusing; the three Sisters Tree repeat their former successes, their hunting scena being popular; Joe Archer scores as a comedian; Chummie La Mara is a pleasing comedienne; and Kenneth and Kane appear in a capitl comedy sketch.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris.—A return to vaudeville entertainment this week drew an appreciative audience. Great Scott delighted all by his performances on a perpendicular unsupported ladder; Alf Drinkwater, a comedian; Bella Harcourt, vocal comedienne; Jack Binns, in a similar line of business; and Jack Hamilton, patterer and dancer, are all good; Morelli and Moore, in their all-sorts speciality act, and Zara and Arno, gymnastic comedians on bars, complete the programme.

CANDIE GARDENS.—The Sabots, a costume concert party, are here. Although somewhat handicapped by the weather, business is good.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's répertoire company is at the Royal this week with *Moths*, *Camille*, and *Harvest*. *Moths* was played on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Cecil Wynne did full justice to the part of Prince Zouroff; Mr. Raynor made himself popular as the cynical Lord Jura; Mr. C. Lodge-Percy (Duke of Mull), Mr. Conrad Heywood (Raphael de Correze), Mr. C. R. Bickell (Boris), Miss Nellie Statham (Lady Dolly Vanderdecken), and Miss H. Schrier (Fuchsia Leach) are well placed. Miss Dorothy West-Symes was accorded a good reception for her rendering of Vere Herbert; Miss Cecilia Dare gave a fine interpretation of the part of the Duchess.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—W. E. Gillin, now on a second visit to the Palace, has charmed audiences with his clever ventriloquial entertainment and smart patter; the Bob Pender troupe cause considerable amusement in *The Long and the Short of It*; Georgina Middleton sings with effect; and Minnie D'Aubyn, chorus vocalist; Chas. Banks and his clever dog, "Woof"; the Three Alskarnos, Risley comedians; the Three Gregsons, in *The Dummy*; and Jimmy Laurel, patter comedian, also appear. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are popular.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Acting-Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*Lucky Durham* pays another visit to the Potteries, and is attracting large and enthusiastic audiences. Mr. S. Herbert Humber as John Durham is exceptionally brilliant; the humorous rôle played by Mr. Arthur Leigh could scarcely be improved upon; Mr. T. R. Lockw

Nisch; and Mr. Albert Kavanagh was well-placed as Marquis de Cascade. Mr. Basil S. Foster made an excellent Prince Danilo, and soon made himself a favourite. Miss Mary Grey made a dignified and passionate Baroness Popoff; Miss Dora Langham danced her way into the hearts of all as Frou Frou; and Miss Clara Evelyn was most excellent as Sonia. The celebrated valse scene, with Mr. Basil Foster, was encored again and again. The *Merry Widow* was mounted and dressed in lavish style, and all the small parts were well filled, the chorus being excellent. The orchestra is under the bâton of Mr. Harrison Frewin, and Mr. Douglas Miller is general-manager.

THE KURSAAL. — General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—For this week the Hollanders, entertainers, are announced; together with special matinée and evening on Tuesday with Mr. Bransby Williams in his Dickens and other well-known impersonations. Mr. Julian Clifford is still too unwell to officiate, but his place is taken by his able leader in the orchestra, Mr. John Bridge.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Pictures continue to be the principal attraction here. Variety is introduced by Brown and Polson, two clever comedy acrobats, and an illustrated song, "Anchored," capitally rendered by Mr. Charlie Ferrier.

MARKET HALL.—The Premier Pierrots continue to do well here. Will Smith on Wednesday was the recipient of a complimentary benefit. The regular programme was supplemented by a neat exhibition of comedy conjuring by Marvello, some well-rendered tenor songs by Mr. Harry Townsend, coon songs by Miss Josephine Noble, baritone songs by Mr. Cotterell, and violin solos by Mr. Bert Donald.

HASTINGS. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company was here on Monday for a three days' visit in *My Mimosa Maid*. Miss Marie Studholme as Paulette acted very pleasingly. Mr. Charles McNaughton gave a good impersonation of Victor Guilbert; Mr. Charles E. Payton was a humorous Max Guilbert; and Master Archie McCaig attracted considerable notice as Bock. Mr. Percy Carr, as M. Emile Gerrard, has some excellent songs; and Mr. John H. Goldsworthy created a good impression as Captain Louis de Laurier. Miss May Garstang was an effective Mme. de Pilaine; and Miss Mabel Hirst a vivacious Popitte. Mr. Arthur Jackson played quaintly as Grone.

HIPPODROME. — General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman. —The programme here is interesting, and opens with the dainty comedienne, Miss Lizzie Daniels; a good turn is given by the acrobats, Harry and Rose Knotella; some up-to-date subjects are effectively pictured on the new Hipposcope; the Celtics (Leslie, Lyn, and Willie) introduce plenty of laughable material in their music, mirth, and melody. The patter comedian Arthur Blount is greeted with encouraging applause; a novel and clever musical phantasy is illustrated by Chimes, the "crazy butcher"; Geo. Brooks, an excellent comedian, is another welcome addition to the programme; and Cadwall and Verne (Fred and Daisy) appear in a delightful comedy scena, entitled *Early Closing Day*.

PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Miss Annie Vestris Grew, an accomplished contralto, sings with much sweetness and expression; a series of new pictures are shown by Payne's Bio-Photoscope; the dancing and musical abilities of Miss Lilian Rigby, are greatly applauded; the Five Sisters Warwick, trick cyclists, are always warmly welcomed; highly amusing and clever is Mr. Ernest Hastings, the society entertainer; and some skilful acrobatic feats are exhibited by the Five X-Rays, who style themselves the "mad athletes."

ST. LEONARDS PIER.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Ian Maclaren is presenting *The Tyranny of Tears*. Mr. E. Rigby plays the part of the novelist, Clement Parbury, with great judgment and unfailing ability; Mr. Linson Wells as George Gunning is admirable in every respect; Mr. A. B. Douglas takes the small part of Col. Armitage; Miss Doris Digby plays with exquisite grace and finish as Mrs. Parbury; Miss Marguerite Cellier is charmingly natural in the part of Hyacinth Woodward, and her comedy is excellent.

HORWICH.—NEW PRINCE'S.—Lessees, the Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. Gilbert Payne's *The Honeyman*, very aptly described as a musical comedy oddity, is the holiday attraction this week, and a packed house on Monday followed the various situations for three hours, with continuous roars of laughter. Mr. Payne as Nathaniel Noodle is irresistible; Mr. H. F. Housden is excellent as the irascible Col. Vandyke Brown; Jack Armstrong receives full justice at the hands of Mr. Leslie Erle; Mr. Edward Ray as Archie plays the part on accepted conventional lines; Mr. Gus Tomlin as Victor L'Estrange is a typical Frenchman; and Policeman X.O. has a capital exponent in Mr. Joseph Wallace. Miss Hetty Lind is a charming Madge; Miss Connie Meadows's dancing and singing are much applauded; Miss Clara Mascotte as Stella plays capably.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—Mr. George D. Day's company is here with *The Prodigal Son*. In the leading part of Oscar Stephenson Mr. Albert Ward repeats a performance which has gained breadth with closer study; Miss Pauline Emeric in the parts of Thora and Elin show much cleverness in the two characters; Mr. H. J. Crane is thoroughly sound as the dour Magnus; Mr. Jackson Hayes has a full appreciation of the possibilities of his part as Stephen Magnusson; Miss Pearla Gardner is fascinatingly passionate as Helga Neilson; Mr. J. E. Savery makes a dignified Doctor Olsen; and Miss Florence Lovell is satisfactory as Anna Magnusson.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the top of the bill is Mr. Horace Pollock and company in *Hester's Mystery*. Also appearing are Miss Clarissa Talbot and Albert Pearce in the pretty musical duologue, *Yo-San*; Ward and Davis, in their sketch, *Wanted, a Typist*; Russell Wallett, comedian; Miss Jane Eyre, a vocal comedienne, with delicacy of style; Alf. Holt, a highly skilled mimic; the Four Jumels, in a musical turn, and a dramatic film on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—For the first time Mr. Somerset Maugham's work is now being seen in Hull, and *Lady Frederick* will make us wish for more. The title-rôle is delightfully filled by Miss Mabel Love. Her brogue is cleverly assumed, and the striking pathos of the play finds its outlet in this lady's fine acting. Mr. Robt. Minster achieves success in the rôle of Paradine Fouldes; the Lord Mereston of Mr. E. F. Meads is sufficiently convincing; Mr. E. Bondfield's Capt. Montgomery is a pleasant conception of the part. Miss Love has excellent support all round. A suitable curtain-raiser is found in *The Peacemaker*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—*The Belle of the Ball*, a modern Cinderella story, furnishes Mr. Johnnie Schofield with opportunities for mirth, and Mr. Chas. Adeson likewise gives vent to his comicalities. Miss Gertrude Melville is a pleasing Cinderella; Miss C. Lestrange and Miss Ethel Bertram play the parts of the sisters with some success. The miniature brougham, with its four tiny horses, is one of the most striking features in this show.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—For Mr. Walter Melville's play, *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*, there is much to be said in commendation. Miss Louise Hampton makes the principal rôle striking and strong, and gives every evidence of dramatic power; Mr. Fred W. Goddard is a fine hero; Miss Ida Thompson works well as Winnie Marshall; and Miss Georgie de Lara shows hereditary talent as Val Raymond. Mr. Francis Hope effectively introduces the comic relief necessary.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company, in *The Still Alarm*, is quite an attraction. Miss Beatrice Shirley gives a pleasing impersonation of Elinor Fordham; Mr. Matthew H. Glenville's capital illustration of Jack Manley deserves praise; Miss Mabel Veriton is an excellent Mrs. Manley; and Mr. Tom Beasley as Willie Manley makes the most of his opportunities. Miss Hettie Zillwood is a smart Carrie Wilber; and Mr. Fred Osmond an amusing Doc Wilber.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's excellent company occupies the house for the week with old English comedy, opening on Monday with *The School for Scandal*. Mr. Ian Maclaren played Charles Surface, Mr. George Relph Joseph Surface, and Sir Peter Teazle was in the hands of Mr. Murray Hathorn. It would be scarcely possible to have better exponents of these well-known characters. Miss Violet Sterne was Lady Teazle, and Miss Muriel Dole played Mrs. Candour. The remaining parts were well filled. The performance well deserved the enthusiastic plaudits with which it was received.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Stead.—The Wakeman Quintette established themselves as popular favourites on Monday by the excellent quality of their singing; Blake and Amber, mock operatic singers, are amusing; Minnie Olive and Bob Owen have a realistic scena, entitled *The Roadside Tinkers*; Wild Willie and West are smart acrobats; the Three Arleys, trick cyclists, have some cleverly trained terriers; George Helm and Emmie Cozens give a sketch entitled *The Doctor and the Patient*; Bert Kemble, comedian, and Kathleen and Carter Pickford in a comedy duologue complete an excellent bill.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy and company are paying a return visit with *In Holy Russia*, and drawing good houses. Mr. Henry Compton gives a capital account of Colonel Forrest; and Mr. Frank Copeland is seen to advantage as Sir Harry Beresford. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy is responsible for the comedy in the part of Mickey Nolan; Mr. Joe Cuthbertson is very powerful as Baron Von Pleve; Mr. Jerold B. Reed does full justice to the rôle of Michael Natolski; Mr. Rolf Leslie looks and plays Count Gregori Petrolski to perfection; and Mr. George H. Doyle is well placed as Laurice Sterrgoff. Misses Alice Holland, Agnes Durham, and Roma Tremayne contribute impersonations which add much to the success of the performance; and Mrs. J. R. Cassidy, a most accomplished actress, scores a pronounced success.

JERSEY. — OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—This week's turns include D. W. Watson, the one-armed instrumentalist; Hilda Mascot, comedienne and dancer; Jack Foley, character comedian; and Will Farrell, an agile comedian, who tells some racy yarns; whilst the palm falls to the effective singing of Miss Louis Harman. A new feature in the programme is the introduction of Miss Carlotta De Yonson's company in a couple of tabloid melodramas, entitled *Crime and the Criminal* and *Sexton Blake*. Animated pictures close the performance. On Thursday four handsome prizes were given for the best turns by local amateurs.

ODDFELLOWS' HALL.—Poole's Myriorama continues with unabated success. Eileen and Mayne, the Dutch musical dancing sisters, receive a nightly ovation.

TRIANGLE PARK.—The Dutch Serenaders, being unable to reach Jersey in time to appear here on Monday night, their place was taken by the Morlez, who provided a delightful evening's entertainment.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. R. Kendal; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Much interest is centred on the visit of *The Coal King*, owing to the recent Wigan disaster. Mr. Clifton's Alderson's company is a well-selected one, and the play is realistically staged. Mr. Alderson is to be complimented on the manner in which he portrays the part of Tom Roberts, manager of the mine; Mr. George Hanbury is a typical crafty designing villain; Mr. Sam Roberts as Jim Williams has plenty of work to do, and there is not a dull moment whilst he is on the stage; Mr. Frank Dalton acts with distinction as Dick Shirley; Mr. Ulick Burke scores as Sir Reginald. Grace Shirley has a sweetly sympathetic exponent in Miss Winifred Love.

KETTERING. — AVENUE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—The attraction this week is Mr. J. F. Preston's company with *Rogues of the Turf*. Mr. Preston presents a talented rendering of the character of Joe Flaxman; Mr. Howard Barlow as Captain Clifton is excellent; Mr. Howard Macroy is immensely funny as Moses Solomons; and Mr. Leslie Hawkins scores as Arthur Somerton. Miss Mabelle Barlow contributes an artistic performance as Lady Heathcote, and Miss Ethel Rainworth is deserving of praise as Nellie Flaxman.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Mr. Chas. Constant's company paid a visit the first part of the week with *Florodora*. As Anthony Tweedlepunch Mr. Gus Danby excels himself; Mr. Jack Packer is an excellent Cyrus W. Gilfain; and Mr. Martin D. Pitt an able exponent of Frank Abercoed. Dolores is charmingly enacted by Miss Daisy Lake; and Miss Lillie Blythe gives a sweet impersonation of Lady Holyrood. The play is beautifully mounted.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—Bob Hutt and company are topping the bill with *Captain of the Boys*, and are causing no end of laughter; Spencers and Marks, comedians and dancers, come next with a very smart contribution. A popular turn is that of the Real Mackays juvenile singers and dancers, who are undoubtedly clever; Miss May Lillian Levey, chorus singer, has a warm reception; and equally successful are Miss Connie Gilbert and Miss Vi-Adele, comediennes. The pictures again form an important part of the programme.

LANCASTER.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson. —A good all-round programme is again arranged here, with the Carmos, in a clever juggling act, at the top; Fred Spry and B. S. Monti have a good reception; and Harris and Worth, comedians, have some good patter. Beau and Belle sing well together; Charles Russell, vocal comedian, is acceptable; Beatrice Willey, in a melody of old flower songs, is pleasing; and Ivy Aberdare dances exceedingly well. The Hippograph still proves an attraction.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—An enthusiastic welcome was here accorded that popular player, Mr. Fred Terry, on Monday evening, when he presented *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Mr. Terry has on this occasion Miss Miriam Lewes for his leading lady, and her conception of the heavy rôle of Lady Blakeney is of all round excellence, and won general recognition from a crowded audience. Mr. Terry's portrayal of Sir Percy Blakeney was as usual masterly and artistic in every phase. Later in the week, the new piece, *Matt of Merrymount*, was promised.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston. —That famous play, *The Silver King*, is paying another visit to this theatre, a capable company by Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austen Melford being in evidence. Mr. Fred D. Davis's presentation of the part of Wilfred Denver will bear comparison with many successful predecessors, whilst in the rôle of the Spider Mr. Stanton Sharp is especially good. Miss Edyth Goodall is to be congratulated on a capital effort as Nellie Denver; Miss Flossie Davis ably realises the part of Cissy; and the remaining prominent rôles are in good hands.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—That amazing and amusing trio, Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, are the leading turn this week, and with an unparalleled conjuring turn, prove an irresistible attraction; Alexandre and Hughes, always strong favourites here, enhance their reputation with a bright contribution; Jack Pleasants continues a very popular humorist; and the Five Olracs are high in favour with a clever and amusing acrobatic speciality. Other strong turns are supplied by Aida Martine, Lester Brothers, Cecilia Maude, Lena Verdi, and Little Keeno.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Harry Roxbury and company are here, showing a sensational new sketch, *What Women Do*, to the accompaniment of general applause; Lee and Kingston provide a good share of the fun with a laughter-provoking sketch; Winifred Ward is very successful as a male impersonator; and Mlle. Yetta again demonstrates her wonderful abilities on the high wire. Of the rest, Kerr and Koe are particularly well received.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford. —Popular Jake Friedman presents his bright entertainment, *Happy Holland*, and meets with an enthusiastic and well-deserved reception; that clever pair, Tom and Marie Motrams, again prove vastly amusing; Tom E. Hughes scores heavily in a comic character effort; an expert and graceful gymnastic speciality by the Three Rubys is a successful item; and Zeta Grey and Co. secure much applause for their sketch novelty. Another favourite pair are Beaty and Blanche; Bains and Reed are to the fore with a neat acrobatic show; and Hayes and Watson also make a successful appearance.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—An amusing sketch, cleverly presented by Mathews and Cowper, is the leading item here, securing generous applause; Cassie Walmer proves very successful with various coon delineations; a novel musical show, by the Musical Markies, goes extremely well; as also does a very neat comedy act by the Orchids; Haig and Novel are prominent with a capital turn.

LEICESTER. — ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—We are being entertained this week with a first visit of Mr. George Alexander's company, in *The Thief*, which is preceded by the one-act curtain-raiser, *Too Happy by Half*. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart, an actor of undoubted ability, scores a conspicuous success as Richard Chelford; and Miss May Congdon as Marise Chelford is responsible for a performance of exceptional merit. Mr. Gerald Ames deserves high eulogium as Raymond Leyton; and Mr. Alfred Lugg as Harry Leyton. Mr. Cyril Cattley as Mr. Protheroe, and Miss Mary Dibley as Isabel Leyton, also do full justice to their parts. The play is well mounted.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—A cordial welcome awaited Hardie and Von Leer's company here on Monday, when they commenced a return visit in *Two Little Vagabonds*. In the title-rôles, Miss Chrissie Francess, as Dick, and Miss Ethel Frances Greene, as Wally, are very popular; Miss Dora Frank Harvey plays sympathetically and with good effect as Marion Thornton; and Mr. George Denham as Richard Thornton is also good. Mr. Herbert Standing, jun. is capital as Captain Darville; and Mr. Herbert Russell as Bill Mullins, and Miss Ethel Lodge as Biddy Mullins are both successful. Miss Leonora Castelle is deserving of much praise as Barbara Scarth; and Mr. F. Litchfield, jun., as Dido Bunce, Mr. Hal Charlton as the Coughdrop and Mr. Harry Reynolds as Jim Scarth, are others in the cast calling for praise.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—At the head of affairs this week is the inimitable George Robey, who, it is needless to say, is again scoring an immense success; Alec Keith, who is making his first professional appearance in his native town, and Julia Kent, create roars of merriment in their really funny comedy duologue; Bonnie Goodwin's four Apollo Piccaninnies, assisted by Miss Lily Vipe, give an extremely clever and popular exhibition of dancing; Ethel Haydon charms all with her delightful vocalism; Frank L. Gregory Troupe score a well-deserved success in a marvellous exhibition of hoop-rolling and juggling; Olga and Elgar are cordially received in their refined vocal and musical act; Fred Wilkinson, assisted by Miss Betty Wallar, gives a neat and well-worked illusionist act; and Adey Spencer, "the girl from the hat shop," and Kisbey, the call boy, are also entertaining. The Bioscope is a feature, with Napoleon and the English Sailor.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Large audiences are giving a hearty greeting to Mr. H. Leslie Bell's company on a return visit, in the dramatic incident, *The Blackmailer*, and the New York society episode, *The Red Letter*, both of which are staged and played in a manner calling for special commendation. The variety portion of the programme is contributed to by the Ives, in a fine exhibition of ball-punching; the Wiltons, in a mirth-provoking skating act; E. W. Selman, a comedian, who raises plenty of merriment; and Irene and Morton, in an entertaining comedy and smart dancing act, *The Tramp and the Maid*. Guest and Newlyn, in song, story, and dancing, are very good; Eva Lois is a capable burlesque artist and acrobatic dancer; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope retains its popularity with A Sailor's Romance and The Unseizable Pickpocket.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company: Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley. —The principal moving pictures this week include The Black Princess, The Wigan Colliery Disaster, A Husband's Revenge, The Gipsy's Daughter, Man and His Bottle, For a Crown, Adventures of an Ardent Lover, The Pneumatic Policeman, Child's Prayer, The Colonel's Story, and A Young Lady Would Marry. Entertainment is also provided by Bessie Cookson, vocalist, and Jim Meeson. The twelfth singing tournament is taking place this week.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company is here this week, with *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss F. Melrose Millett acquits herself with ability as Risca Mallison; Miss Gwendoline Talbot as Doris Melville, plays with considerable feeling; Mr. Eric Campbell submits an excellent impersonation of Jim Murley; Mr. Arthur Robinson gives full effect to the rôle of Guise Strange; Mr. J. Ansdell Wilson is a successful Railton; Mr. Milner Noble skilfully interprets the character of Pharosaphus; and Miss Beatrice Reynolds causes amusement in the rôle of Vavasole Slopper. Mr. Thompson Carruthers creditably portrays Eric Melville.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope.—Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company is presenting *The Dandy Fifth* with much success. Mr. Percy Baverstock scores heavily as the fiery Colonel; and Mr. J. E. Fraser sings finely as Dick Darvill; whilst Miss Pauline Hague is a charming Kate Lorrimer. Mr. Jack Crichton as Trooper Brown, Mr. George Beverley as the Sergt.-Major, and Miss Hora Morra as Polly, help to keep the fun going. Mr. Clarence C. Corri conducts in person. On Thursday Miss Lydia Donovan and her company were to commence a three nights' visit with *East Lynne*.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—Walter Stanton, with his giant cockatoo and cockerel impersonations, is here, and his work is accounted wonderfully clever. Thornbury's pictures in smoke and oil, are smart; Harry Nelson's Suffragette song goes with a roar; and Minnie Warner, Jacko, Carr and Rose, Violet Nunn, Charles Tuppen, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux help to make an effective show.

LIVERPOOL. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—A capital all-round production of *The Dairymaids*, sent by Mr. Robert Courtneidge, has drawn large audiences here throughout the week. Miss Phyllis Dare was again the Peggy, and it was generally remarked that that bright little artist had considerably improved, both in voice and movement, since her previous visit to Liverpool; a most flattering reception was accorded her. Mr. Percy Marshall as the ship's doctor proved highly amusing; Mr. Harry Dent sent his audience into convulsions of laughter with his Joe Mivens; Mr. E. Statham Staples added greatly to the fun as Sam Brudenell; Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., infused plenty of spirit into the rôle of Lieut. Meredith; the accomplished Miss Edith Blanche proved an elegant and winsome Lady Brudenell; Miss Gladys Ivery in the rôle of Winifred sang several numbers in particularly tasteful manner; Miss Lottie Serjeant made a funny Eliza; and Miss Rose Edouin Lewis satisfactorily undertook the part of the academy mistress. The staging and dresses were excellent.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*Are You a Mason?* paid still another visit here this week, Mr. Charles Macdona sending his chief company. As the exceedingly humorous Amos Bloodgood Mr. E. H. Paterson made his audience shake with laughter; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce helped greatly with his George Fisher, his versatility being of a high order; Miss Adelaide Grace did everything necessary as the imperious Mrs. Bloodgood; and worthy support also emanated from Messrs. Francis J. Bithell (Frank Perry), Erskholme E. Clive (Hamilton Travers), Wilton Ross (Ernest Morrison), and Miss Ploensgaius (Franchon). The curtain-raiser was *A Bad Penny*.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here this week *A Lion's Heart* has attracted good audiences. Mr. Joseph Bebb's company was a most capable one, included in it being Messrs. Henry Bedford, whose Rizardo met with general favour; Stephen Scanlon, of "Traitor" fame, who made a powerful Gaspard; Edward Lowrie, a most humorous Puggs; Leonard Booker, who played Dick Lorimore with earnestness; Archie Helsby (Villefort), Edward J. Coyne (Jack Bealey), Miss Madge Beresford (Bessie), and Miss Ada Oakley (Louise).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's stirring dramas have always proved popular in Liverpool, and during the week one of his best, *The Assassin*, again found acceptance here. Mr. Augustine Knight, who brought a well-balanced all-round company, undertook the rôle of Prince Demetri with his well-known dramatic skill; Miss Ella Vane distinguished herself as Countess Wanda, a difficult part; Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson made a most convincing Ivan Ipanoff; Mr. Edwin Lever did credit to the character of Duke Carl; excellent comedy was provided by Mr. Edward Swinton (Baron Alphonse) and Miss Hettie Senior (Connie Jonathan); the generous-hearted Captain O'Neill found in Mr. Edwin Jenner a capable exponent; and commendable work also came from Miss Marie E. Robertson (Katrina) and Miss Eva Trevanne (a pathetic Nita). The play was staged and costumed in excellent style.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—The able and favourite R. A. Roberts topped the bill here throughout the week with his sketches, *Dick Turpin and Ringing the Changes*; Queenie Leighton had a cordial reception for her popular songs; Mabel Bardin, assisted by Hugh Ardale and Leila Russell, gave a neat little playlet, entitled *Nell of the Halls*, which was much enjoyed; Rhoda Paul brought her latest songs, including "It's the Gay Gordons," for which she was loudly applauded; Rauschile's impersonations of famous men were clever and quickly executed; Tom Woottwell proved as acceptable as ever; Les Marbas went through some funny acrobatic dancing; and also in the list was Alice Blandford, vocalist.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart's company has been here this week with *Sherlock Holmes*.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Foremost here this week has been John Lawson, with his répertoire of four sketches, all of which commanded much patronage; H. O. Wills found great favour by reason of his humorous songs; Maxford and O'Neil proved a couple of exceedingly funny cross-talk comedians; some daring work on the trapeze was performed by the Fitzroys; a smart vocal and instrumental turn came from the Three Comedy Chanters; the Four Regals, blacksmiths, gave a remarkable exhibition of strength; Alf Ripon had an interesting ventriloquial turn; and others who appeared were Ruby Bijou, comedienne and dancer, and Lucy Coventry, comedienne and eccentric dancer.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan. —The popular and lively Kate Carney was top of the programme here during the week. She and her company caused shouts of laughter with *The Yiddisher Boy* and *Good Morning, Mr. Postman*. The merry Dale and O'Malley were also well to the fore with their racy songs and patter; a clever act on the silver rings was gone through by the Three Orros; Horace and Olga pleased greatly with their troupe of dogs and cats; the Brothers Ashley kept their audience in excellent humour with the boxing sketch, *Next, Please*; Picitt and Lizette earned loud applause for a clever magical turn, *The Crazy Cook*; some surprising whirling on the wire was gone through by the Riotous Trio; and contributions also came from Lillie Lassah, comedienne and dancer, and the Brilliants, xylophonists.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole. —Capital business continues to be done at this popular house, where a capable stock company present favourite pieces twice nightly. *A Beautiful Fiend* was the attraction during the week, the principal rôles in which were apportioned to Messrs. David G. Noble (Ivan), Sydney Grant (Count Fedor), Leo Montgomery (Sergius), Robb Wilton (a funny Crackles), Cecil Ravenswood (Nicholi), Miss Florence Palmer (Nadine), and Miss Lilian Radbourne (Wanda). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—The Bioscope pictures are still here. During the week the following artists provided turns, in addition:—Lily Davis, comedienne, and Arthur Woodville, vocalist and eccentric dancer.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Mme. Hanako and company were foremost here this week with the clever dramatic Japanese play *Otake*, which was followed with keen interest; the Three Meers went through an astounding wire act; an uproariously funny trifle, *What About my Change?* was given by Wood, Wells, and Wilkins; T. B. Vaughan and John Lawson's company presented a smart sketch, *The Boatswain's Mate*; as jugglers and equilibrists the Avrignye showed great skill; Will English delighted with his coon songs; an acceptable turn was provided by the Six Lancashire Lasses, vocalists and expert clog-dancers; Harry Drew, possessed of a rich bass voice, rendered several popular songs; and Orpheus, instrumentalist, also appeared.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—This latest addition to local places of amusement has become a mightily popular resort. Top of the bill during the week was a capital production of the funny *Bank Clerks*, given by Charles Baldwin and company; Martin Conway "walk-round Martin," had a rousing reception; Radie Furman pleased immensely with her character songs; Angelina proved herself a particularly clever lady juggler; some astonishing conjuring was done by Ormonde Penstone; George Westland, a very able Scotch comedian, brought his latest London hits, including the chorus song "Mary"; as speciality comedians Fame and Fortune were capital; Celest, the American gymnast, submitted a sensational wire act; and the list also contained the names of Picquo, comedy gymnast; Elliott and Warne, with a novel duo scena; and Frances Haulon, comedienne and dancer.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. James Bell's company appeared here for three nights on Monday in *The Idol of Paris*. Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare, a variety star, does justice to an unusually complex part; Prince Sergius is capitally portrayed by Mr. Gordon Robey; Phillipe D'Esterre is in the safe hands of Mr. Wilson Howard; Mr. Charles Stafford does excellently as Victor Cashelle; and Mr. Ellis Carlyle is suited as Tatava; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh is commendable as Mme. Sancterre, and Miss Annie Megson is well placed as Ann. *Peter's Mother* was announced for the remainder of the week.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. G. Pugh.—*Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* was presented here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Mr. George Mudie gave a most comic impersonation of Mr. Ponderbury; Mr. Alfred Ibberson did well as Peter; Miss Florence Wix was quite at home as Mme. Polaca Modjeski; and Miss Annie Stalman was duly acidulated and sarcastic as Mrs. Ponderbury. *Brewster's Millions* was announced for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—For the first part of the present week Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company appeared in *The Belle of Mayfair*, in which Mr. Sidney Burt undertakes the principal part of Sir John Caldicott, Bart., in a most successful manner. Miss Denny Fitzherbert (Lady Caldicott) and Miss Grace Mackay as "the Gibson Girl," are also suitably placed; while mention should also be made of the good work submitted by Mr. Stephen Hall, Michael Raven, Tom Lyle, and Stanley Ravenscroft.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Capital business continues here. The British Biograph Company is showing some highly attractive pictorial subjects, of which special mention should be made of A Tour through Russia, The Stone Industry of Sweden, and the Paris Fire Brigade. The variety turns include the Three Scottish Belles in vocal and instrumental selections; Jim Jimson and company, in *The Burglar's Surprise*; Frank Coyle, comedian; and Campkin, tramp cyclist.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. T. Edward Ward has sent a strong company to this theatre this week in *The Love of the Princess*. Miss Ward perfectly impersonates the Princess Idalia, with whom everybody falls in love, from the King of Ilarnia, Josef, admirably portrayed by E. H. Dobell, down to Lieut. Orlana, of the King's Guards, performed by Mr. Beckett Bould. Mr. Wilson Coleman's Prince Conrad is an ideal hero; Mr. E. E. Imeson's Count Danillo is a capital villain; and his accomplice, Count Scarfe, is equally good. The Prince Regent of Mr. W. F. Stirling is a well-rendered character; Miss Nellie Garside gives a pretty and pleasing performance of Lady Irene Ramona; and Boris, servant to Prince Conrad, is in the capable hands of Mr. Edgar Morgan. Lieut. Zaroff is ably performed by Mr. Graham Winsford; as Constantina Miss Helen Elmar is impressive. The dresses are elegant, and the scenery new and bright.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company, in the military drama *Send Him Victorious*, commands extensive patronage. Mr. G. M. Montanini gives a powerful and engrossing study of Col. Heinrich Kauffmann; the part of the hero, Captain Frank Allison, is cleverly sustained by Mr. George Derrick; Mr. Arthur Tomlin is exceedingly good as Georgie Walker; as the King of Ravonia Mr. Frank Holy

Miss ANNIE SAKER

who will open on Monday at the

BORO' THEATRE, STRATFORD,

in the leading part in Messrs. PAUMIER & HOWARD'S Suburban Tour of

"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

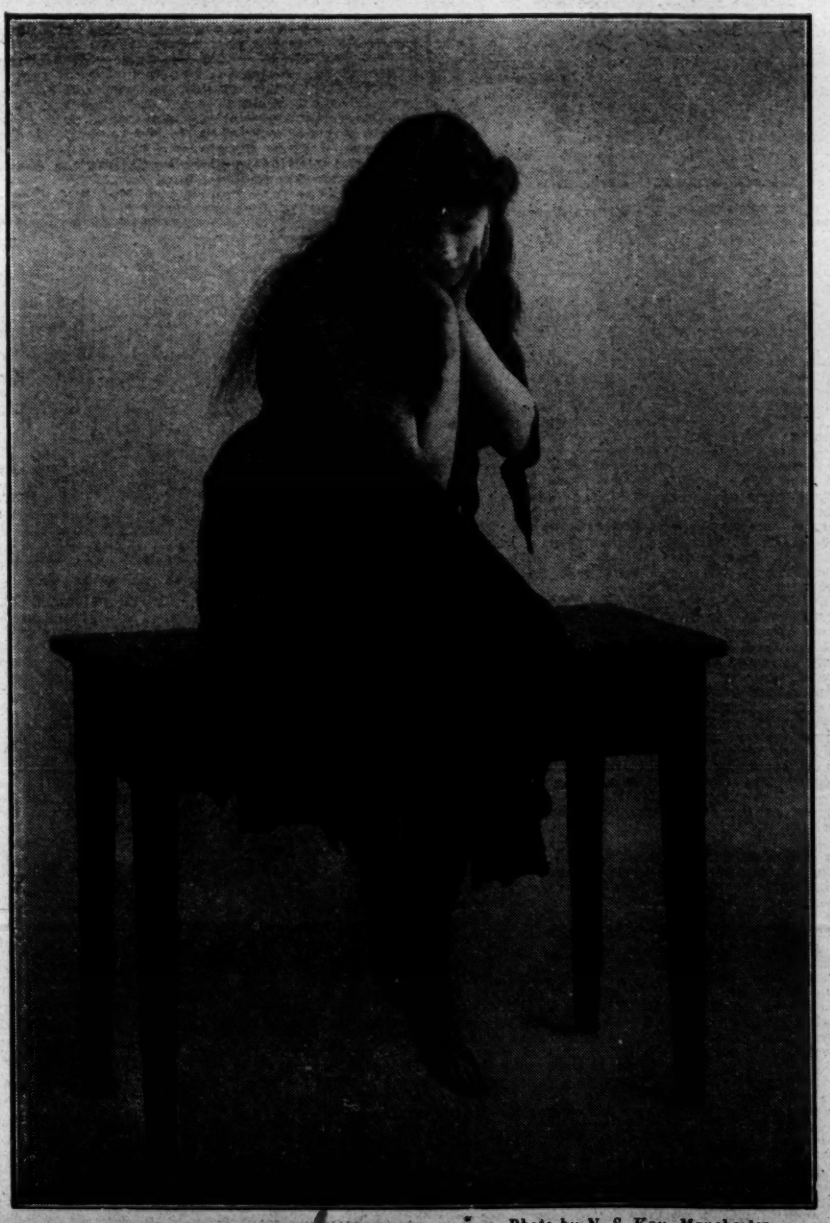

Photo by N. S. Kay, Manchester.

cake supplies a fine rendering; and Mr. J. Baxter, as Major Carl Straus, and Mr. James Burt as Sergeant Max, both do well. Miss Marie Robson as the political adventuress Countess Kara von Mechlinberg, acts with great dramatic skill and power; Miss Cecilia Crawford scores a success as the sprightly Gretchen Holtz; and Miss Netta Mitchell invests the character of Ethel Harding with grace and charm. The piece is capitally mounted.

DRILL HALL.—Proprietress, Miss Fan Francis.—The Canadian Animated Picture Company opened here on Monady with a fine assortment of moving pictures. Some excellent films are produced, including The Red Man's Child, A Sailor's Heart, The Woman Who Wasn't, Troubles of a Flirt, Irascible Father, and The Bank-note Forger.

MAIDENHEAD.—PAVILION PLEASURE GARDENS.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gude.—The concerted numbers by the Cadets are particularly well prepared, and gain much applause; Miss Florrie Delamere, who takes a well-deserved benefit this week, sings and dances well; Miss Adelaide Twort displays the possession of a cultivated voice; Mr. Colin Gent's vocal efforts are re-demanded; Mr. Jack Anders scores with comedy; Mr. Leo Fallowfield has undeniable encores in similar items; and Mr. Will Harris is as funny as never.

TOWN HALL.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—Professor Anderson on Tuesday night gave a most interesting entertainment, consisting of conjuring, illusions, and clairvoyance.

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The bill is headed by Miss Alexandra Dagmar, a comedienne with a large stock of funny tales and smart songs; Gene Selby is a smart coon singer and bone player; the Davis and Gledhill Trio gave a cycling act on their patent track which rouses enthusiasm; and Claude Gardner is a popular vocalist. Lilian French, comedienne, and the pictures complete the programme.

MANCHESTER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—A great reception was accorded to the recent Lyric Theatre success, *A White Man*, which was played here on Monday by Mr. Herbert Sleath, Miss Ellis Jeffreys, and the Lyric Theatre company. Mr. Herbert Sleath's performance as Captain James Wynnegate was a triumph of heroic impersonation, evoking such enthusiasm that at the close he was called upon for a speech. Miss Ellis Jeffreys, as the Countess of Kerhill also came in for a large share of approbation. The play is not loudly melodramatic; it has features of novelty and realism distinctly unusual, imparted by characters who are apparently native to the scenes depicted. Mr. George Fawcett as Big Bill, the foreman cow-puncher, stands out, and so does Mr. Menifee Johnstone as Cash Hawkins, among many striking figures. The performance was an unqualified success.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Mr. George Dance's company is here this week in *Miss Hook of Holland*. Miss Marie Wilson fills the title-rôle in a manner recalling the charm and excellence of Miss Isabel Jay; and Mr. Arthur Reynolds shows himself capable of exploiting effectively the humorous possibilities of Mr. Hook. Miss Mabel Sealby as Mina and Mr. Percy Davidson as Ludwig Schnapps contribute much to the amusement; Mr. Fred Lyne retains his rôle of Simon Slinks, the loafer, to advantage; and Messrs. Fredrick Hobbs and Powis Pinder figure well as the rival artillerymen. Other parts are admirably played, and the chorus and orchestra leave nothing to be desired.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company are appearing here this week in *No Wedding Bells for Her*. As Lola Delaspierre Miss Lizzie Montague shows herself to be an actress of exceptional ability, and she has a capable assistant in Mr. Edward Vivian as Abney Stone; Mr. Stuart Lomath presents a fine study of the Rev. Frank Hatherleigh; Mr. Percy Shaw submits a clever outline of Dick Delvor; and Mr. George Herbert adds a smart character study of Horatio Fane; Miss Cecily Clutterbuck is seen to advantage as Doris Fane, and some acceptable comedy is supplied by Mr. Harry C. Momber as Simpkins and Miss Ellen Owen as Marie Flail.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* remains here another week.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—The re-opening of this theatre on Monday, after alteration and re-decoration, was marked by a large attendance of playgoers interested in the enterprise and objects of Miss Horniman and her company. The programme opened with a performance of Mr. Basil Dean's new playlet, *Marriages are Made in Heaven*, a notice of which appears elsewhere. Then came Mr. Charles McEvoy's *When the Devil Was Ill*, a four-act comedy noticed at length last week. This amusing piece amounts to a readjustment of common notions upon "the simple life," which is ridiculed through comedy, and subordinated to the usual demands of drama in any form by the introduction of a not very credible or interesting love episode. The feature of the whole performance was the fine acting of Mr. Charles Bibby as Leatherhead, though pleasing work was put in by Mr. Iden Payne as the jaded novelist, Mr. Jules Shaw as Owen Davis, Miss Penelope Wheeler as Isopel, and Miss Ada King as Lady Mendle-Parrish. Mr. Hugh Fremantle's scenery is picturesque and natural, and added much to the realistic effect.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Mr. William Holles and Miss Nannie Goldman's company are here in a domestic drama entitled *The Stepmother*. Mr. William Holles as Bob Bristow and Miss Dorothy Duncan as Amy Bristow are particularly well suited; while as Bob's son Miss Nannie Goldman plays with considerable cleverness and sympathy; Mr. Wilton Reed is good as the tramp, and Miss Eve Mansell as Annie Vickers (the Stepmother) is worthy of special praise.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The programme here this week is headed by St. Alban and Moore's company in a condensed version of *Les Cloches de Corneville*, in one scene. The piece is vocally acceptable and well put on. The droll Griffiths Brothers share the honours, with their comic patter and inimitable wrestling match. Other good turns are Elly Adair, comedienne; Venie Clements, clever mimic and comedienne; Sados, a smart juggler; the McConnell Trio, comedians (replaced, through indisposition on Tuesday, by Ernie Mayne); J. W. Hall, comedian; Ed. E. Ford, the Australian Sundowner; and the three Brothers Huxter, marvellous somersault jumpers.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Joseph Hart's exciting racing playlet entitled *Futurity Winner*, is well presented here this week. Tom Foy causes roars of laughter with his well-known absurdity, *The Yorkshire Lad in London*; the Jackson Family give a delightful and high-class musical turn; the Proveanies are a wonderfully clever troupe of lady trick cyclists, and are well received; Larola, a clever man with funny ways, makes a big hit; Rose Cabani, a refined comedienne, sings pleasingly; Ernie Mayne is a capital comedian; and Iben-Obed is a wonderful Arab equilibrist in a surprising turn; Miss Gertrude Howarth, of the choir, is a beautiful singer, her rendering of "Angus Macdonald" being excellent.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—The Onlaw Trio, in a wonderfully clever wire act, top the bill here this week. Fanny Robina, a favourite burlesque artist, makes her usual hit; Florrie Cooper sings nicely; the Brothers Ford are exceptionally good dancers; the Carney Brothers sing well in a vocal scena; Dunningarto is smart at sleight-of-hand; Rowland Hill and Billie Bint, both well-known artists, are as good as ever; and Will Doran and company cause laughter in a sketch, *An Inventor's Troubles*; acting as deputy for the Denaro Brothers, juvenile acrobats, the Merrions of local fame, provided an enjoyable turn. Pictures complete.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Freece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Lew Lake and company top the bill here this week in *The Bloomsbury Burglars*; and Haley's Juveniles are also prominent in a very pleasing carnival scena; Clarice Mayne adds a charming comedy mimetic act; Nat Clifford is seen in humorous songs; and other entertaining items are provided by Dot Hardy, character comedienne; the Six Albyns, in a musical comedy act; Lloyd Morgan, vocal comedian; the Pichel Troupe of risley acrobats and tumblers; and Bradley and Barns, the American vocal duo.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—The Armanis are to the front here this week in a delightful instrumental and song scena, *A Night in Naples*. Daisy James, the charming comedienne, meets with a good reception; Violet King entertains at the piano, and plays the violin exceedingly well; Henry Curwen and Marie Belle give a smart versatile act; Maud Esmond, burlesque artist, has some good songs, and sings nicely; Edith Muir and Hubert Bartlett are amusing in sketch, *The Collar Stud*; Ivy Proudfoot sings dainty songs in a very pleasing manner; and Fred Smarte is a comedian of the light order. Ruffell's Pictures complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Morny Cash, the popular Lancashire comedian, causes much laughter here this week, and is a great success; Atlas and Vulcana, society athletes, assisted by the Sisters Atlas, give a graceful weight-lifting and physical posing act in good style; Percy Curry, comedian, has a good reception; Henri Vernon Harcourt is a smart protean artist, mimic, and singer; Rousby and Rene present a pleasing sketch of Lancashire life; Ada Jenner, ably assisted, scores in an amusing sketch, *The Lady Barber*, including a capital dance; Kirk and Saraski give a clever exhibition in natation art; and Charles Rowen, comedian, takes well. The Shipwreckers, shown on the Bioscope, is a realistic film.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Day.—Harriett Vernon, a favourite burlesque artist, scores a big success here this week in a new and original song-scena, *A Yule-Tide Story*, presented in excellent style; Tubby Edlin is highly amusing in *The Cowboy Millionaire*, a mixture of mirth and melody, well presented by Harry Roxbury's company; L. W. Harris, a capital light comedian, takes well; Herbert and Linden, comedians, are very good dancers; Baddow scores as a ventriloquist; D'Artigan loops the devil's wheel successfully; Larry Lewis, comedain, is good; and Leslie Race, comedian, is popular. The Organ-Grinder's Daughter on the Bioscope is interesting.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. Phillips.—The programme here is excellent, and includes the following turns:—Cecil Warwick, tenor vocalist; Bertram Noel, comedian; Elaine Reed, vocalist; Margaret Cathcart, comedienne; Jessie Buckle, comedienne; Kemsley Scott-Barrie, vocalist; Jack W. Hughes, vocalist; Willmott Fowler, at the piano; and Dick Tubb, a capital comedian.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Capt. Cecil Clayton.—Mr. John Leopold's company has provided most amusing and entertaining fare here in *New Frivolity* and *The Houseboat*.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Edward Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene; Manager, Mr. Chas. R. Hardy.—A three nights' visit of the musical comedy *The Dairymaids*, from Monday to Wednesday inclusive, met with considerable success. It was adequately staged and admirably played by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, with Miss Empsie Bowman in the role of Peggy, a part she sustained delightfully. As Joe Mivens Mr. Dan Agar was inimitable and his humour irresistible. A charming interpretation of Winifred was given by Miss Vera Crichton; and Miss Carrie Lacey deserves praise for her clever impersonation of Lady Brudenell. Miss Doris Dickens was good as Helen; and a capital impersonation of the stern schoolmistress, Miss Penelope Pychase, was given by Miss Lucy Edwin. A diverting rendering of the part of Sam Brudenell was furnished by Mr. Richard Telford; and Miss Nellie Bowman, an accomplished comedienne, was exceedingly droll as the maid-of-all-work, Eliza. Mr. J. Scott Melville appeared to advantage as Lieut. Meredith; Mr. Bernard Vaughan was admirable as Dr. O'Bryne; and the remaining characters were all in capable hands. The chorus was an efficient one. For the remainder of the week *The Beloved Vagabond* was billed.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Marie Kendall, in her popular songs, has been a great attraction this week; and another entertaining contribution has been the performance of the Cavalotti Bros., clever instrumentalists. Jose Collins, comedienne, has rendered her songs effectively; T. E. Finglass, delineator of negro songs, has met with a good deal of appreciation; and others on the programme include Dorothy Sephton ("The White Girl"), James Fawn, comedian, and Steve McCarthy, comedian and dancer. The Marathon Race was shown on the Bioscope this week.

HALL-BY-THE-SEA.—Sole Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; General-Manager, Mr. Charles Evans.—The varied programme at this place of amusement this week has been liberally appreciated. Miss Fifi Gordon and her talented troupe of girls, in the song scena, "My tiny firefly" and the Dutch operetta *New Sabots*, have scored a great success; Harry Edson and his cleverly-trained dogs, Doc and Tige, elicit well-deserved applause; and Dora Poole and Fred Maguire are smart comedy duettists; Arthur J. Hill, with his liliputians, George Kenway, mimic, Leoville, lady wirewalker, Mostol, in a musical entertainment, and Aeolia, who appears in a high trapeze act, are all good. The after-concert ball each evening attracts good numbers.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*Married to the Wrong Man* is presented by Mr. Fred Melville's company. Miss Gertrude Boswell presents an able performance of the dumb girl, Ruth; Mr. Oswald Cray displays ability as Jack, and afterwards as Captain Gladwyn; Mr. H. Lane Bayhff is successful as Captain Deering; Mr. Chas. Vivian is capitally suited as Jasper Skinner; Mr. Joe Livesey is convincing in the part of Sergent Manners; Mr. Paige Lawrence acts well as Archie Bird; and Mr. Syd Claydon is a humorous Timothy Clinker. Miss Mery Pemberton is pleasing as Rose O'Connor and an effective impersonation of Mother Snaggs is rendered by Miss Violet Vincent.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Stanley Liggin's company of coloured vocalists please with their singing; Emmie Ames is popular in "Emmie's Christmas Tree"; Franco's Midgets are smart illusionists; Harry Bancroft scores with his vocal items; and other popular turns are provided by the Scoreys, in a musical mélange, Chas. Grantley, Ariel and Astarte, and Sinclair, juggler. The Biograph still furnishes an important part of the entertainment.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—Mr. Harry Tilbury's company appeared on Monday in his own drama *His Dishonoured Wife*. Mr. Victor Rae was an excellent Frank Lindon; Mr. Horatio Sinclair played with success as Lord Devant; Messrs. Bernard Webb and Edward Brown were well placed as Tom Redman and Geoffrey Harvey respectively; Mr. Harry Tilbury and Miss Etta Spalding made Mickey Doolan and Araminta Dustpan a very amusing pair; Miss Belle Tilbury shone in the part of Florence Lindon; Miss Arline T. George was capital as Alice Harvey; Miss Phyllis Spalding was very successful as Mabel Lindon in Acts 1, 2, and 3; and Miss Annie Newall equally so in the same character, Act 4.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Edmund Tearle, supported by Miss Kate Clinton and an excellent company, is here this week in a number of Shakesperean and other plays. On Monday *Othello* was presented, Mr. Edmund Tearle giving a studied and artistic rendering of the title-rôle. Miss Vera George played with dramatic instinct and intelligence the part of Desdemona. Other artists of merit were Miss Mary Campbell, Miss Helen Macrae, Mr. Bernhardt Turner, Mr. Stuart Black, Mr A. W. Jones, and Mr. Fawcett Lomax. On Tuesday, *Richard III.* was presented; Wednesday and Saturday, *It's Never Too Late to Mend*; Thursday, *Jennie Deans*, with Miss Kate Clinton in the title rôle; and Friday, *East Lynne*. Miss Madge Raper, Miss Ethel Storey, Miss Leah Fabri, Mr. Vernon C. Crabtree, Mr. Thos. Price, Mr. Herbert Tawse, &c., are also in the cast.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Will Hunter.—Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—A picture representation of the late Wilson Barrett's great drama, *The Silver King*, is the leading feature of the bill this week. Fatherhood and Drunkenness, The Changing of Souls, The Incendiary Foreman, The Charmed Sword, and A Cruel Joke, are among other good films.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and his company are this week producing the romantic play *Who Is She?* Mr. Mitchelson, the writer of the play, in the rôle of Prince Bora, gives a capital account of himself; into the title-rôle Miss Violet Carlyle infuses some power; Mr. Graham Woods is a success as the King; Mr. Sinclair Holden is excellent as Captain Gower; and of the part of Sergeant Metroff Mr. Arthur McCullough is a capital exponent.

OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* is being presented here by Mr. Walter Melville's company. Mr. F. Ronald Adair as Willie Mason gives a fine impersonation; Miss Jessie Belmore, as Sophie Coventry plays the rôle of the erring girl with marked ability; Mr. Raymond Wood is convincing as James Harcourt; as Vesta le Clere, Miss Nannie Meade gives a strong reading; Mr. Frank R. Robertson is good as Jack Fenton; and Miss Zoe Davies does well as Lucy Coventry.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—*A King For a Day* is the title of an entertaining musical sketch, which is being presented here this week by Mr. S. Dooley and Mr. C. Seymour's company. Gertie Gitana is accorded a hearty reception, her singing and dancing being very clever; a smart acrobatic display is given by the De Wynne Bros.; and Letine is a capable character impersonator. Stacy and Williams, comedy artists, are good; and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden do well in a sketch. George D'Albert is also in the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. A. B. Nicholls.—The star turn here this week is provided by the original Humpsti Bumsti, a clever comic tumbling act; a charming turn is given by the Ten Dixie Girls; the Bros. Babusio are clever head to head acrobats; and J. A. Wilson is very good in a sketch. Other items are given by Walter Emerson, comedian, Rosie Archer, Pat Rafferty, and May Marton.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—Tom Kelso and company provide an exceedingly funny sketch, entitled *Yorkshire Srevant*; and Almon, the upside-down marvel, does well. The Pictures are popular.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. M. Julian.—That highly amusing farcical comedy *What the Butler Saw* has met with great success, as presented by Miss Ada Blanche and Mr. Lionel Rignold's company. Miss Ada Blanche is completely successful as Mrs. Barrington, and as the butler, Pink, Mr. Rignold secures constant laughter. Both artists attain a brilliant and popular success, which is thoroughly deserved. Much credit is due to Mr. Charles Fawcett for his Jack Barrington, and he hits off the rollicking Irish gentleman to the life; Mr. Harry Rignold is excellent as Wienstein; and other characters are well sustained by Messrs. Raymond Dudley, Geo. Ascot, G. Nelson Wallace, Howard D. Tracy, Louis Lingard, and Hornby Warburton. Misses Christine Jenson, Rose Carew (capital as Maria), Mona Garland, Lilian Rose, Babs Stuart, Gladys Lloyd, Julie St. George, Beatrice Egerton, and Agnes Ewing are well cast. The production is well mounted.

ALHAMBRA PALACE. — Manager, Alderman John Gardner.—The bill here is headed by Bosanquet and company, in *The Fiddler's Windfall*, an episode with musical effects, which goes well; Caban's Circus is doing well, and the ponies are exceedingly well trained; Satsuma's Japanese conjuring is most effective; really clever contortionist work is presented by Ada Marjutti, in a dazzling setting; Nabac's Dogs are interesting; the Brontes are seen in a new statuesque duologue, *Stoney Broke*; Will Owen has a number of well written songs, and his Dutch imitations are good. The coloured comedienne Nancy Renshaw, who is also an expert bone soloist, has proved an attraction.

WINTER GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Atkinson.—This week's programme has included Tom Joy, with quaint songs; the Olmars, in their Roman statuary acrobatic business; the Ramlos, with a smart comedy triple bar act; the two St. Johns, musicians, dancers, and clever campanologists; the Debreans, Japanese juggling and effective shadowgraphy; Ted Curtis, with his black and white piccaninnies, in lively song and dance; the Sisters Terry, bright and charming in Irish and Scotch songs and baby mimicry; Lola Patey, in Dutch and Irish numbers, with catchy melodies; and the Five Musical Tritons, in a new spectacular musical act, which goes well at each performance.

CENTRAL PIER.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Emilius Hill.—Mr. Bert H. Delmar's band of artists, the Comets, have entered upon a short season here.

WEST END PIER.—Secretary, Mr. J. Bastow.—Mr. Sydney James's Royal Strolling Players are filling a pleasant week's engagement here, and possess a very varied répertoire.

MOTHERWELL. — NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—The attraction here is *The House That Jack Built*. The company, that of H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell, is composed chiefly of juveniles. The staging is satisfactory and the singing and dancing throughout are creditably performed by the young artists. Graham and Barron, comedians, are duly appreciated, and Jimmie Watson as Aunt Purdy is responsible for much laughter. The parts of Jack and Jill are capably sustained by Miss Daisy Wood and Miss Dolly Dodds respectively.

MUSSELBURGH.—TOWN HALL.—The late Wilson Barrett's version of Hall Caine's novel, *The Manxman*, was presented here on Monday. The company was that of Mr. John Clyde, and a packed house gave him and his company a very hearty reception. Mr. Clyde's portrayal of the simple, honest, but stout-hearted Pete was most impressive. He was supported by a powerful company, including Miss Lena Levenston as Kate Cregeen, Mr. Eugene Wellesley as Philip, Mr. H. Macaulay as the canting Cæsar Cregeen; and Mr. David Blair as Ross Christian. Other parts were in the capable hands of Misses Denise Huntley and Jeanie Mackintosh, and Messrs. James Gibb and Leonard Graham. Excellent scenery is provided.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Jones and Douglass.—Crowded houses are the rule. A turn of great merit is presented by Mr. Fred Maitland, who poses as a Parliamentary candidate and touches upon topical questions, and proves extremely funny; the well-known Mr. Harry Liston, assisted by Miss Lord Lumley, are enthusiastically received for their clever and refined sketches, &c.; Wragg and Wragg give tit-bits from the tournament, and score heavily; Miss Cissie Trent, the quick-change dancer, gains loud applause; and Herr A. Spiegler plays two violin solos with skill and technique. The animated pictures are really beautiful.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parker.—A good programme is found here in the production of a musical sketch entitled *Old Virginia*, which lends itself to the introduction of items, versatile and funny, besides admirable vocalism. The parts are undertaken by Mr. H. Buckland, Mr. Leonard Russell, Mr. Kit Keen, Mr. W. Pringle, Mr. Bert Erroll, Miss Nellie Sheffield, Miss Mildred Bryan, Miss Odeyne Spark, and Miss J. Ellis. All work well together, and the result is satisfactory.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Miss Lena Ashwell and her London company are here this week in *Diana of Dobson's*. This is Miss Ashwell's first appearance in Newcastle since she launched into management. Her Diana is a charming piece of acting. Mr. C. M. Hallard as Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton is likewise a success, and receives hearty appreciation; in the part of Sir Jabez Grinley, Bart., Mr. Dennis Eadie finds ample scope for his abilities; and Miss Frances Ivor as Mrs. Canteloupe is seen to advantage. A powerful dramatic study is that of Miss Beryl Mercer as the Old Woman. Other leading rôles are ably played by Miss Gertrude Scott, Miss Ada Palmer, Miss Doris Lytton, Miss Muriel Vox, Miss Mary Barton, Miss Nannie Bennett, Mr. W. Lemmon Warde, and Mr. Norman McKinnel. It is preceded each evening by an episode by Wilfred T. Coleby, entitled *The Likes o' Me*, in which Miss Beryl Mercer and Master Philip Tonge deserve great praise. *Irene Wycherley* was to be presented on Friday evening.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Carlton Wallace's company, in *The Love that Women Desire*, under the management of Mr. Hugh Wallace, is the attraction here. Mr. Sydney Leyton distinguishes himself as Philip Carnaby; Miss Aimee Gratton Clyndes, in the rôle of Sybil Thorburn, is responsible for a natural, womanly rendering; Miss Jessie Elvin is a powerful Madge Abingdon; Mr. Hugh Wallace does excellent work as Frank Hardy; Mr. J. O. Stewart is at home in the part of the stern Squire Abingdon; Mr. Morris Maud as the villainous Richard Abingdon acts cleverly; and Miss May Neilson, Mr. John Hignett, and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson all do well in their respective characters.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—Alfred Sutro's great play *The Walls of Jericho* is presented here this week by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company, and is proving a great success. Mr. Alfred Goddard as Jack Frobisher gives a manly portrayal; and Miss Nancy Beresford as Lady Alethea makes the most of a difficult rôle. The other leading characters are all capably played.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—At the head of an excellent bill this week is Mark Sheridan, "the genial one." He is in great form, and his typical and up-to-date patter goes down immensely with his many admirers, and crowded houses each night are greeting him. A capital turn is given by the famous Craggs in their sketch, *Billy*, and they share, as they deserve, the honours of the evening; a most artistic turn is the living statuary troupe, in *Makers of History*; J. W. Rowley still maintains his great reputation as a comedian, and never fails to amuse; whilst Gus Le Clerq contributes a clever dancing turn. Other good artists appearing are Harry May Helmsley, child impersonator; Lottie Govell, comedienne and dancer; Harry Rogers and company, in a sketch, *Told in a Flat*; and Marie Empress, dainty soubrette; the Bioscope completing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Charles Prelle's wonderful troupe of performing dogs heads an entertaining bill here this week; Lowenwirth and Cohan, Hebrew comedians, prove vastly amusing; Sibb and Sibb give a daring trapeze turn; whilst the Schiavonis, a troupe of acrobats, are decidedly funny. Other artists appearing are Lillie Soutter, Mlle. Renee, Mark Henton, Percy Farrimond, and Carrie Laurie's Juveniles. the Barrascope completing.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is producing here *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. As Edwin Drood Mr. George Ridgway Thorn does capitally, and Mr. J. Henry Twyford as Neville Landless and Mr. Datchery is all that could be desired; and Mrs. Morton Powell as Rosa Bud is a decided success; Mr. Richard Harris makes the best of the part of Mr. Septimus Crisparkle, while Miss May Beatrice as Helena Landless and Miss Addie Adair as Princess Puffer display marked ability; Mr. John Bartlett as John Jasper gives a striking interpretation of the character, in which the audience is moved, Durdles (Mr. David Phillips) introduces comic business that is acceptable, and Deputy, capitally played by Miss Jennie Risley, is worthy of praise. The piece is well mounted, and the whole production enjoyable.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Major Gallagher.—A strong bill is provided here this week. Geo. Gilbey hits the taste of audiences here as Spouty (the goal-keeper); the Bros. Egbert keep the house in roars with their clever knockabout turn; May Edouin presents a turn novel in conception, and her quick changes and charming variety of costumes are much appreciated. The Leonards (Bob and Jennie) are very successful; Happy Tom Parker with his jokes and patter meets with approval; the Sisters Pine give a pleasing performance, as do Ella Shields and Margaret Arnoldi. Dave Austin's duologue, *His Wedding Morn*, is also here.

NORTHAMPTON.—THE NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—The Eight Olympians head the bill here, and their demonstration of the Japanese methods of self-defence, known as ju-jitsu, is highly appreciated. The gentlemen also engage in a series of wrestling competitions with local athletes. The Maisanos present a clever eccentric musical act, which gains great applause; the Four Monte Carlo Girls, vocalists and speciality dancers, give a brilliant display; Harry Carsdale finds favour as a rustic comedian and animal mimic; the Bros. St. Clair appear in a comic knockabout act, in which they show great cleverness; Geo. Langdon and company furnish scenes from famous plays; George Don, "the quaint oddity," justifies his title by his odd appearance and methods; Rosie Morris, comedienne, is cordially received; and Gena Manon is a dainty soubrette. Interesting and amusing Palace Pictures complete the programme.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Reginald Dance's company, with *Raffles*, is proving an attraction here this week, and has drawn large and delighted audiences. As Raffles Mr. Lewis Edgard gives an excellent portrayal of the part; and Mr. C. Kean furnishes a capital impersonation of Curtis Bedford. Mr Arthur Bell successfully sustains the rôle of Harry Manders; Mr. Oswald Griffiths is admirably suited as Crawshay; Mr. P. Alexander achieves distinct success as Lord Amersteth; and Mr. Rivers Bertram proves a capable Lord Crowley. Miss Brenda Gibson is clever as Mrs. Vidal; Miss Eva Bevington makes a smart Marie; Miss Ethel Stalman is effective as Lady Melrose; Miss Beatrice Marsdene creates a good impression as Gwendoline; and Miss Frances Titheradge makes the most of Lady Ethel. *Jerry and the Sunbeam* is introduced as a curtain-raiser.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. William Mould.—The bill here is headed by the Three Zedicas, who introduce a smart and very funny act, for which they are loudly applauded; Corneza, electrical entertainer, is also very clever; and Mr. J. G. Cutken, Scotch comedian, has made a great hit. Miss Amy Letters, comedienne; Messrs. Brays and Doon, comedians; the Blakes, speciality artists; and the Mouldoscope also contribute successfully to the programme.

NORTHWICH. — THE PAVILION. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Henry S. Dacre.—Stockham's unique company of harpists and entertainers, in a varied humorous and vocal entertainment, are a big attraction this week. Another great attraction is Wishart, illusionist, conjurer, &c., and his escape, although handcuffed, from the locked iron giant bottle into the double box is a most sensational feat.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Mr. Campbell-Kelly's company is here in *The Gamble with Life*. Mr. Campbell-Kelly gives a powerful portrayal of the triple parts of Sidney Marsden, Jack Blont, and Old Waring; Mr. George Porteous is decidedly effective as Neville Marsden, and Mr. Henry P. Kenn does good work as Sir James Marsden; Miss Kathleen Payne is an excellent Chris Armstrong, and Miss Nana Cameron plays with delicacy and pathos as Freda Hazlett. The comedy element is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred Weston and Miss Florence Spencer.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Fred Granville's company, in *It's Never Too Late To Mend*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. V. W. Carlyle is successful as George Fielding; and Mr. Chas. F. Johnson is appreciated as the Rev. Francis Eden. Mr. E. Howard Templeton as Tom Robinson receives marks of approbation; Mr. Harry Cave is excellent as Peter Crawley; Mr. Henry C. Ward as Mr. Meadows and Mr. W. R. Wilson as Mr. Hawes ably assist; Miss Gertrude Entwistle charmingly portrays the character of Susan Merton and Miss Millie Wilson is good as Josephs. Mr. Leonard Marshall does well as Jackey.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Arthur Watson, Miss Flo Stanley, and company, in *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, please both in humour and dancing; the Lombards as athletes display marvellous strength; the Cheers in some scenes from *Dick Whittington* introduce their performing cats, which show skilled training; Walter and Lake are amusing in their cross-patter; the Lyric Mummers are much appreciated for their vocal duets; the Strads, in a musical sketch, are much appreciated; Harry Simons is good as a comedian; and Madeline is a pleasing comedienne. The Hippo. Bioscope pictures are interesting.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. William Mollison and company are here this week in a répertoire of plays, including *Macbeth*, *As You Like It*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*, *Richard III.*, and *The Bonnie Brier Bush*. As Macbeth, Mr. Mollison gave on Monday a strong and impressive study; Miss Evelyn McNay as Lady Macbeth was natural and intelligent; Mr. William Calvert played Macduff with earnestness and dramatic force; the Banquo of Mr. Harold Neville was well conceived; and Mr. W. A. Mackersy made an excellent Duncan. Mr. Henry Deas doubled the parts of Malcolm and Donaldbain; Misses Edith Blair-Staples, Josephine Woodward, and Gladys Gower were the weird sisters.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Laughter reigns supreme while the company of Fred Karno exploits the extravaganza *Saturday to Monday*. As the Bridegroom, Mr. Gilbert Childs makes an altogether eccentric figure, and his passages with the Bride (Miss Julia Bassett) provoke irresistible mirth. Miss Bassett invests her part with delightful naïvete; Mr. Harry Fischer is alert as Mr. Potts; and Mr. C. Allendale interprets the Frenchman with unusual vivacity. Miss Ada Maskell assumes the spinster sister, Belinda, in highly diverting fashion.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The visit of Neil Kenyon has aroused the greatest interest, and the clever and popular comedian demonstrates his versatility and smartness both in song and patter; an item that proves attractive is the sketch, *Kleptomaniacs*, presented by Miss Bertha Northam and Messrs. Fred Edwards and W. Myles; the expert feats of Reichen's Dogs evoke appreciative applause; and to the Lukushimas, headed by Otara San, is given a warm reception. The acrobatic work of the Bros. Raymond is deserving of praise; also the cross-talking and dancing of Tennyson and Wallis. A popular note is struck by David Stewart, in his illustrated songs; and the "tit-bits" of Gus Garrick meet with due reward. The programme is further enlivened by Marion Scott, comedienne, and the American Bioscope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE AND ENTERTAINMENTS CO., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Mr. Henry Swinerd

demonstrate, and, be it Theresa or May, the one of the two who imitates various popular music-hall stars scores points; Tom Garland, ventriloquist, catches the public fancy from gallery to stalls, and is decidedly out of the common; Jack Monks has a powerful and sympathetic voice; Ida Bell, a comedienne, enlists the goodwill of the audience from the start; Zimpa imitates anything, from a gramophone to a heifer and calf; G. W. Webber sings some sound bass songs, and has a wonderful voice, especially in the lower register; the Reays, silver chain acrobats, are graceful and agile; Bert Anderson does what he will with cards and coins; Rose and Wold combine daring with humour in their sketch, *The Sentry and the Maid*; and the Alexandra Bioscope have some new and good pictures.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard. — The attraction this week is Mr. Percy Norman's company, in *A Woman Worth Winning*. Mr. A. B. Mackay cleverly impersonates General Borinski; Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh vividly represents Ivan Bardoff; Miss Chrissie Dunbar is a prime favourite as Roma Pauloff; Bertie Scribbles is admirably delineated by Mr. Louis Newman; Peter Popples is ably presented by Mr. Ernest Kendrick; Lola Kalnovky is well played by Miss Trixie Leighton; and Miss Ida Mackay is effective as Katrina.

PORTH.—PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Capital houses are the order of the week. R. Victor Morgan's electrical musical transformations delight the audience; Violet Beatrice is a clever boy impersonator; Haverley and Homer are droll comedians who create no end of amusement; the Three Lloyds acquit themselves creditably in their double bounding cable act; the Sisters Ford, character comedy duettists, sing well; Kloof and Ramsey deserve credit for their admirable burlesque musical act; Matt Wilkinson and Co. are responsible for roars of laughter in their funny comedy act *On the Flip Flap*; the centre of attraction, is John Marx the modern Hercules, who lifts twenty-five full-grown men at one time; the Palascope has some fine pictures.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Miss Zena Dare, Mr. Stanley Brett, and an excellent company are presenting here *The Gay Gordons*. Mr. Brett, a soldierly Angus Graeme, plays with unflagging energy and gaiety; Miss Dare is a delightfully winsome Peggy Quainton; Nervy Nat Siddons finds an unctuous exponent in Mr. Edward Lewis; Miss Nellie Dade is a capable Charlotte Siddons; Mr. Wilfred Norman plays Edmund Siddons in amusing fashion; and Andrew Quainton is well taken by Mr. Ernest Torrence. Victoria Siddons is charmingly portrayed by Miss Madge Vincent; and Miss Eugenie Vernie impersonates Janet McLeod with sincerity.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield and a capital company are here for the week in *The Tyrant*, Miss Dagmar taking with distinction her original character Tisbe, in which her great histrionic gifts are manifest. Mr. Fred Somerfield as the avenger, Homodei, his original part, submits a powerful delineation; Mr. Percy Fortesque also doing excellent work as the sinister Angelo. As Rudolph Mr. Edward E. Louis acts with manly impressiveness; Mr. James Sherwin depicts Lieut. Taska with ability; Miss Margaret Frame plays the long-suffering wife with much success; and Miss Emmie Burns impersonates Daphne cleverly.

KING'S THEATRE. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—An attractive programme is offered here for the week. Miss Topsy Sinden, with her dainty terpsichorean art and charming manner, is captivating all hearts; Elmo and Rego, comedy acrobats, are diverting; Will Sullivan, comedian, does well; Maud and Gill, in an eccentric acrobatic act, are smart; Cedar and Elgar, comedians, have an original comedy act, *Ye Days of Olde*; Francini Olloms, with his Page, is responsible for an interesting act; George Blunt and E. H. Knight's company, in *The Grip of Iron*, are powerfully dramatic; Ritter and Foster, eccentric comedians and dancers, are a capable pair; J. C. Piddock and company, in musical fantasy, *The Capture of Venus*, are most entertaining; and animated pictures by the Barrascope are of an exciting character.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Capt. Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Mr. Fred Lindsey, the famous Australian whip wonder, is heading the programme here. Florence Schuberth is a pleasing burlesque actress; George Antill, eccentric comedian, dances well; the Three Sisters Dixon, banjoists and dancers, are heartily welcomed; Mr. Frank Elliston and company, in *My Lady Betty*, score well; Albert St. Clair submits a strong vocal turn; Richard Fineberg gives character studies from famous plays; Lottie Lennox, the favourite comedienne, in her latest song-scena. "Jack and Jill," is most popular; and Payne's Bio depicts an excellent series of scenes of Australian Bush Life.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Colonel F. W. Roberts, V.D.—Miss Vesta Victoria is prime favourite here this week, submitting many of her most popular numbers and gaining much applause; Mr. Chas. Penrose, comedian, gains approval for his contribution; Sidney and Partner, comedy cyclists, for a smart and daring act of trick-riding are vociferously applauded; Miss Edie Veno, a comely and brisk comedienne, with dashing style, has a warm welcome; Mr. Phil Ree's Stable Lads are clever; Selby and Myers, comedians and dancers, are a capable pair; Alfonso Silvano, equilibrist, presents a marvellous hand-balancing act; and Miss Amy Augarde is here in *Carmencita*.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company is this week presenting I. Zangwill's comedy, *Merely Mary Ann*. Mr. Martyn Roland gives a powerful impersonation of Lancelot; Mr. Stanley Logan is a breezy Peter (his friend); as the Rev. Samuel Smedge Mr. Robt. Entwistle is quite at home; Messrs. Herbert Smale, Arthur Foster, and Harold Everard are equally good in their respective parts of Herr Brahmson, O'Goman, and Jim Blades; while Mr. H. Montague Love as Lord Tottenham and Mr. Jas. R. Smith as Howard are both successful. In the title-rôle Miss Jessica Soloman is a great success; and Miss Violet Greville as Mrs. Leadbatter is most refreshing. Miss Florence Radcliffe is excellent as Rosie; and Misses Enid Hall and Vera Lisle are capital as the Sisters Trippett; Miss Lester Stephen as Lady Chelmer and Miss Ethel Carlyle as Countess of Foxwell give a good account of themselves; and Miss Stella Farmer as Lady Gladys Tottenham, Miss Grace Lovell as Rowena, and Miss Mary Colquhoun as Lady Glynn complete a most excellent and capable cast. The comedy, which is well staged, was greatly enjoyed by good audiences.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G Kimberley's special company are this week meeting with a capital reception with the military drama, *A Solder's Honour*. Mr. Jerold Ord gives a manly rendering of the part of Captain Deane, and is ably supported by Mr. T. A. Ellis, who, as Captain Gerard Temple, is an ideal soldier; Mr. C. Stirling shows sufficient villainy as Henry Thornton; Mr. H. Elmore Frith is good as General Rochester; and Mr. Harry Lyndon is a really capital Second Lieutenant Percy Brattle. Mr. A. Anderson is a subtle old Holly, a hypocrite; and Messrs. Vernon Cooper as Burly Bill, Fred Mewburn as Smarty, G. Franklin as Joe Philpots, Alfred Thompson as P.C. Wilson, and O. Myth as Alphonsus, are each good in their respective parts. Miss Carlotta Anson as Cora Lee (a notorious thief) enacts the part in a very realistic manner, and deserves much praise; while Miss E. Barton as the heroine, Doreen Illingworth, wins the sympathy of the audience, and soon establishes herself as a firm favourite. Miss Edith Trapnell is a clever child actress, and is excellent as Queenie Deane; Miss E. Macklin causes much laughter as Jemima Eliza; Miss Lily Bales is a capital Gwendoline Temple; and Miss Sylvia Vickers makes an excellent Florence Deane; the part of Fanchette is also very ably portrayed by Miss Norah Bedford. The drama is excellently staged, and is under the direction of Mr. Harry Lyndon.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Bardett.—The Six Brothers Luck present a very amusing sketch, *The Hermit*, and, needless to say, succeed in creating plenty of laughter, and meet with a capital reception. Marcus Boyle is a comedian who serves up some old songs in quite new versions; Edythe and Toto, contortion ists, give a capital turn, and win much applause; Fred Athalan gives some clever feats of head-balancing; Moon and Morris are clever dancers, and fully deserve the applause they receive; the Colonials (including Lillie Kennion, James Grant, R. Orlish, and Fanny Rowe) present a capital musical comedy scena in *Unexpected Guests*; Ada Whitton, male impersonator, gives some really good songs, and is well received; Petro and Leon (Hattie and Pete) give a remarkable exhibition on the double trapeze and flying rings; Too Old to Work, a pathetic story on the Bioscope, concludes another capital programme.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—We are favoured this week with an up-to-date musical play, rendered in a most efficient way by Mr. Julian Graham's company, and entitled *The Gay Goddess*. Mr. Charles Leverton personates Timothy Twinkle in excellent style; Miss Kate Graham Beck, as Juno, displays the possession of a rich voice, and her acting is graceful; Mr. Fred Carrington, Mr. Richard Teasdale, Miss Fannie Morce, and Miss Marie Beresford gain favour in their respective parts; and the Salome dance by Miss Dolly Shaw is exceedingly clever. The Les Papillions also give speciality dances which are well received.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, M. Jules Richeux.—A vast amount of amusement has been caused among big audiences here this week by the performance of Charles Marlowe's desperately funny farce, *When Knights Were Bold*. The play is staged in first-rate style by Mr. James Welch's company, which includes Mr. Henry J. Ford in the part of Sir Guy de Vere. The impersonation is a distinctly clever piece of acting, and it has been greatly appreciated. Miss Bruce Joy is admirable as romantic Lady Rowena; Miss Phyllis Back plays with effect as Miss Isaacson; Miss Ethel Royale is a stately Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave; and other parts are sustained with skill by Miss Violet Grahame (Lady Millicent), Miss Gretchen Yates (Lady Marjorie), Miss Bessie Walters (Alice), and Miss Adrienne Yates (Kate Pottlebury). Mr. George Rowlands successfully interprets the character of Sir Bryan Ballymote; Mr. William Lockhart is a delightful Dean Pottlebury; Mr. Cecil Clayton contributes to the success of the piece as the somewhat vacuous Widdicombe; Mr. Vernon Sansbury is an excellent Isaac Isaacson; and the parts of the faithful servitors, Wittle and Barker, are capably undertaken by Mr. Talbot Homewood and Mr. Reginald Hunter respectively. A curtain-raiser, *The Wrong Side of the Road*, precedes *When Knights Were Bold*.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—Hall Caine's famous play, *The Bondman* is admirably presented by Mr. Wentworth Croke's powerful company, and the audiences have been capital in point of numbers. The play contains some thrilling situations, and particularly effective is the representation of an explosion in the sulphur mines in the third act. Miss Georgina Wynter appeared as Greeba, the heroine, and quickly enlisted the sympathies of her auditors; Mr. Lionel Attwill finely portrayed Michael Sunlocks; while the manner in which Mr. R. Scrope Quentin sustained the part of Jason left nothing to be desired. Mr. W. H. Rotherham contributed a fine piece of character acting in the dual rôle of Grandfather and Father Ferrati; whilst Mr. Oswald Lingard played Adam Fairbrother, father of Greeba, in manly and attractive style. The remaining members of a very heavy cast all did excellent work in the respective duties assigned to them. The scenery and general mounting of the play was of a high standard.

MARINA THEATRE.—This place of amusement has again been well attended. The films shown at the two performances each evening are of the highest class; the one entitled A Crazy Quilt is a laughter-maker of the first water. Mr. Bert Belton, comedian and mimic, had been advertised to appear nightly with his excellent entertainment, but on Monday Mr. W. J. Attack, the courteous manager, announced that Mr. Belton had unfortunately been obliged to cancel the engagement on account of sudden illness. In his place the Sisters Bronson, duettists and dancers, had been secured, and their contribution to the programme was received with approval.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—A crowded house awaited the presentation of *A Country Girl in London* at this theatre on Monday by Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's capable company. As Frank Gordon, Mr. W. V. Garrod gives a manly interpretation; and Mr. J. B. Sheridan is excellent as the Squire of Langdale. Mr. E. W. Avery is an exceedingly clever Heinrich Oppenheim; and Mr. Seymour Perry is also everything desirable as Puddyphat. Mr. Morton Williams gives a fine impersonation of Godfrey Clinton; and Mr. Clifford Earle is good as Joe Smithers. Miss Bertha Kingston, as Marjorie Hamilton, gives a most artistic portrayal; and Miss Josephine Colona and Miss Leslie Adair, as Gwendoline Gordon and Adelaide Puddyphat, are clever exponents of their respective parts. The staging is good and the dresses and scenery charming.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton. —Mr. Lewis Waller's company is appearing here this week, under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross, in *Robin Hood*. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards enacts the title-rôle with conspicuous ability; Miss Lilian Stennis is very successful as Lady Marion; Mr. H. E. Hall is good as the crafty Prince John; Mr. J. N. Briant acts with dignity as King Richard; Mr. Richard Fielding is effective as Hugo de Longespee; Miss Laura Flockton is sympathetic as Adela, Lady Marion's attendant; Miss Irene Malvesyn appears to advantage as the Queen Dowager; Mr. Spencer Lloyd acts and sings well as Allan A'Dale; Mr. Lawrence Tessier and Mr. F. Clive Ross create great amusement by their humorous acting as Friar Tuck and Little John.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco. —The Bob Hanson Troupe perform some exceedingly clever gymnastic feats; Roma and Romani are accomplished musicians, and perform on a variety of instruments; the Ten San Tan Girls appear in a gorgeous vocal and terpsichorean scena entitled *An Eastern Slave*, with great success; Walter King is a very droll comedian; J. F. Elliston's company produce a sketch, *The Art of Deception*, which affords Shaun Glanville scope for displaying his ability as an acrobatic comedian in the character of a tramp; Wisper shows his dexterity as a comedy juggler; Beattie Bloom, comedienne, is well received; Miss Carrie Joy gives a clever impersonation of a coster girl; and some excellent Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

ROCHDALE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague. —*Why Men Love Women* is the attraction here. Mr. Oliver Rogers portrays with vigour the part of Gerald Fielding; Mr. Lionel Gadsden cleverly acts the part of Captain Staniloff; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter is well placed as Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert; and Mr. Basil Horsfall makes a typical Maharajah of Balore. Much amusement is created by Mr. Harwood Roberts as Orlando Figgins and Miss Hogarth Beresford-Glynn as Mrs. Figgins. Miss Maud Court enacts the part of Muriel Zoluski with skill; and Miss Ellen Snow gains distinction as Violet Livingstone.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves. — The Daunton-Shaw Troupe of trick cyclists top the bill here this week with clever and daring cycling tricks; Fred Curran is amusing in his parody songs; other artists include Montague Biggs, the male Marie Lloyd; Victor Courtney musical comedian and mimic; the Two Errols, in a tumbling and leaping act; Charles Santon, double-voiced vocalist; Fraser and Haley, vocalists; and the Empire Bioscope pictures.

ROTHERHAM.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Lessee, Mr. Edwin J. Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shaylor.—Les Fleurs Sisters, duettists and dancers, are highly pleasing; Herbert La Martine is deservedly applauded for his eccentric dancing; Miss Ada Fawn scores with her latest success; Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford, refined comedy artists, are highly appreciated; Fred Horsefall, double-voiced comedian, receives unstinted applause; the Great Carpos Brothers supply acrobatic novelties; Stephens and Rennier, a couple of funny comedians, create great hilarity; and a laughable sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, is admirably presented by Mr. Arnold Richardson, Mr. A. Gordon Laws, and Miss Ethel Lonsdale.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company had a good reception on Monday, when they presented the play *The Lancashire Lad*. David Elmore is acted very effectively by Mr. A. Alexander; Miss Stanley Burt is a charming Jessie Wincote; Mr. T. G. Vane powerfully portray Max Carlton; Miss N. Oliver cleverly plays the part of Lorna Wincote; Mr. Percy Maitland acts well the part of Jem Wincote; John Willie Wardle is a good study by Mr. Bob Anderson, and much fun is made by Mr. George Watson as Tim-o'-th'-swilltub; Mr. Will Brereton as Professor Napoleon Boulanger, and the other members give good support. The variety entertainment on the pier, Blackpool, in the third act is well sustained.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Ever ready to help those in distress, the management of this theatre followed out their custom by devoting a matinée on Saturday, the 5th inst., in aid of the fund for the sufferers by the terrible colliery explosion near Wigan, and a large number of artists from other theatres appeared, resulting in a welcome contribution to the fund. This week an excellent programme is headed by Chanti in his excellent quick-change act; W. Fullbrook and company are very amusing in the sketch *Astronomy*; Sivroni, assisted by Gladys Hicks, keeps the house in roars with *Mixtures*; Rappo and Ella give a very smart gymnastic performance. Other good turns are given by Rose Re Val, comedy and dialect artist; Lill Elfreda, vocalist and mimic of popular artists; the Westbrooks, in novelty dancing scena; Belmoir Sisters, comediennes and dancers; Ernest Rees, the droll; Yolande Noble, comedienne; and Cyril Carle in dramatic scena, "Dreams."

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—The Ramsey Trio in *Birdie's Welcome* head an attractive programme this week; the sketch, *The Tale of the Stockings*, by the Four Netherlands, provides an enjoyable turn; Patrick Playfair, assisted by Vera Davis, presents a papiergraphic speciality; George Young is a skilful concertinist; Ethel Loftus keeps the house in excellent humour; Eva Chadwick, soprano vocalist; Morander and Darius Trio in *The Garden of Melody*; Camerons, in funny and smart duologue; Major Moss, singer of old songs; and The Farrows (Harry and Louie), sketch artists, also give much pleasure.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Mr. Tom S. Sherlock's singing of the illustrated song, "The Green Isle of Erin," goes well. The pictures include the Wigan Colliery Disaster, a sensational drama, Maria Martin, Vengeance is Mine, Flower Girl's Life Story, John Gilpin, and the comic pictures Lazy Man, Select Hotel, and Love at First Sight.

SALISBURY. — COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Full houses have welcomed Miss Inez Howard's company in the romantic play *Her Love Against the World*. Mr. Leonard Yorke as Eric acted in manly fashion; Miss Josie Beltram as Lionel was a great favourite; Mr. Henry C. Cooper was good as Prince Ulric; and the same may be said of Mr. H. G. Ingram as Prince Othmar. As Princess Iris Miss Margaret Savill acted in a most charming way.

VICTORIA PARK.—Director of Entertainments, Mr. F. D'Alton Tebby; Manageress, Miss Jessie D'Alton.—Miss Lilian Ramsdale is as bright and winning as ever; Miss Beatrice Witham is called upon to give encores nightly; Miss Edna Lynne, ballad vocalist, sings in a most successful manner; Mr. Albert Laurence's female impersonations are clever; Mr. Bert Earle deserves special mention for his comic songs and patter; Mr. Wal Kent works hard and successfully; Mr. Clifford Harrold is an unusually capable pianist.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—Baron H. Harriss's company in *The Prince of Pilsen* is here. Miss Sophie Harriss as Mrs. Maddison Crocker did well; Mr. Harry Kilburn as Hans Wagner created plenty of fun; and Mr. Arthur Geary undertook the part of the Naval Lieutenant successfully.

SPA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Cliff Bridge Co.; Manager, Mr. Francis Goodricke.—This week Mr. F. R. Benson and his Shakespearean company provide the bill of fare. On Monday *The Taming of the Shrew* was performed, with Mr. Benson as Petruchio and Mrs. Benson as Katharine.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—Walter Howard's company in *Her Love against the World* is here. Mr. Fred Emery in the rôle of Eric gave a clever interpretation; Miss Grace Haywood as Princess of Idalia took her part gracefully; Mr. Lewis Gilbert as Ulric was exceedingly good; and Mr. W. H. Hallatt did well as Prince Othmar.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Manager, Mr. Fielding Smith.—The star turn here is Miss Helen Roberts, who appears in classical dances and the famous Salome performance. She is an artist of refinement and grace. John D. Brandon and company appear in a sketch, *The Girl and the Tough*; Victor Widdicombe and company also submit a sketch entitled *Her Devonshire Lad*; the Three Rohrs give a sensational cycling turn; the Cecilians are able lady instrumentalists; and Mike and Lean and Hyram Travers, comedians, also appear.

THE AQUARIUM. — Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. Holland.—Miss Annie Hall sings well; Texas Hattie on the tight rope is clever; as a dialect comedian Will Douglas is pleasing; Maxwell and Francis, vocalists, are an acceptable turn; the Tiger Lily is a neat dancer; Fritz Von Liston gives good imitations of animals; and the Henres and the Sentrys also appear.

THE SPA BAND.—Conductor Mr. Charles Godfrey, jun.—A fine programme of music has been submitted during the past week by a company of forty artists. This year the band has been more popular than ever under Mr. Godfrey's conductorship.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. William MacLaren's company is here this week with *Claudian*. The fine presence of Mr. William MacLaren eminently fits him for the title-part, which he plays with delightful ease and power; the declamatory passages of the Holy Clement are well delivered by Mr. Ernest Lodge; Theorus receiving earnest interpretation from Mr. G. Edward Dunstan, and Serena being well portrayed by Miss Amy Hardcastle. Mr. Bernard Elliott depicts the craft and cunning of Thariogalus with commendable skill and Mr. Chas. T. Chaloner causes much amusement by his humorous rendering of Belos. Agazil is vigorously enacted by Mr. Douglas Earle and Alcares is in the able hands of Mr. Weston Hubbard. As Rhamantes Mr. Cecil Maynard is excellent and as Edessa Miss Ruth Trafford acts in good style. The Almida of Miss Lily C. Bandmann is full of dramatic power.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—The popularity of *Man to Man* was demonstrated by a crowded house on Monday, when the drama was presented by Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair's company. George Gordon is powerfully depicted by Mr. Ed. Lloyd; the villainy of Richard Ellerton is vividly shown by Mr. Frank Adair; Mr. A. Val Shane is capable as the Rev. Philip Ormond; Mr. Clifford Brown as Bill Burkley and Mr. H. Brun Williams as Samuel creditably supply the lighter vein; Mr. H. Holland as Matthew Ellerton is very good; Miss Louie Adair wins warm praise for her Ethel Maythorne; Miss Phyllis Oakley is smart as Ned Doyle; Miss Adeline Lester is a satisfactory Miss Livinia Dove; and as Gipsy Madge Miss Evelyn Warde is acceptable.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, the Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—A powerful attraction is provided here by Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company in *Sapho*, adapted from Daudet's celebrated novel by Miss Ada G. Abbott. In the title-rôle Miss Ada Abbott displays ability of a high order; Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's fine impersonation of Jean Gaussin is one of the successes of the play; and Uncle Césaire, as played by Mr. Frank Stephens, keeps the audience vastly amused. Mr. C. Doughlas plays Flamant in just the right key, his acting being full of quiet strength; Mr. Herbert Morgan as old Legrand, a cabman, supplies an effective character sketch; Henri Dechelette is well played by Mr. W. Grant; Miss Lillian Morgan as Aunt Divonne is effective; and Miss Florence North is a bright and prepossessing Lucy.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—An attractive array of pictures are being shown here this week, and good houses nightly are the result.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—That *The Belle of New York* has lost none of its charm for lovers of melody and spectacular display was again evidenced on Monday. Mr. Arthur Ricketts revelled in the amusing part of Mr. Bronson; and the son, Harry, was brightly represented by Mr. James A. Watts; Mr. Frank Lawton as Blinky Bill acted, danced, and whistled with his well-known verve and cleverness; Mr. J. R. Tate's impersonation of the Polite Lunatic was good; Mr. William Hartigan submitted a humorous sketch of the old-time American touring manager as Doc' Snifkins; and the burlesque business of the comical actor, Kenneth Mugg, was well done by Mr. Alex Godfrey. The delightful part of Violet Grey was charmingly interpreted by Miss Hebe Kneller; Miss Winnie Browne repeated her dashing performance of the handsome "Queen of Comic Opera"; Miss Dorothy Doria looked well and sang her pretty songs effectively as Fifi, and the other characters were played with spirit by other members of Mr. Bannister Howard's company.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. George Kirk's excellent company began a second week's sojourn at the classic Royal on Monday, appearing to a good house in the realistic drama *From Shop-Girl to Duchess*. Miss Mary Neil in the part of the persecuted but ultimately triumphant heroine acted with great sincerity; and the humour of Miss Florrie Groves was much enjoyed.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Splendid scenery, fashionable clothes, and good acting can always be depended upon when the name of Melville figures on the bill, and therefore there was a big and enthusiastic audience here on Monday, when *Her Forbidden Marriage*, by Frederick of that ilk, was again performed; Mr. Henry Lonsdale was again seen at his best as George Maddison; and the villain Devereaux was represented with force and polished craft by Mr. Louis Hector. Miss Geraldine Le Sage was a pleasing and sympathetic Lucy Lancaster; Miss Grace Lester displayed her Paris confections to advantage as the beautiful but scheming Lady Lucretia; Miss Maude Merrick was a comely and lively Pattie Jenkins; and other characters were well acted by Miss Agnes Imlay, Little Lucy, Messrs. C. Davidson, Henry Milton, Conrad Stratford, James Raymond, W. Brookes, Vincent Loraine, Fred de Vere, Geo. Elsworthy, H. Gomer-May, and Leslie Rutter.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dumbar.—The "extra special" star this week is the original "London idol," Miss Vesta Tilley, with new songs and old and loudly-demanded favourites. The current programme is also contributed to by the pretty, graceful, and accomplished vocalist and dancer Miss Eila Retford; the smart Dunedin Troupe of bicyclists, in an elegant act of daring and skill; Mlle. Eldée a charming poseuse; Mr. W. Wade, vocalist; Barlee and Smith, musical comedy artists; the Auxeto Gramophone, and the Musical Schaffers in a pleasing and refined entertainment. There is also the Bioscope, with new pictures.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne. — Mr. John Tiller's effectively-staged spectacular burlesque *Jolly Jack; or, the Lass That Loved a Sailor*, with a strong company of comedians, a well-balanced chorus, and a graceful corps de ballet, is delighting large audiences nightly. An original and pleasing strong-man act is given by Mons. Gerard, who is deservedly applauded; and other capable performers engaged this week are Radford and Valentine, comic jugglers and fun-makers; Jack Rae and his intelligent little performing dog; the agile and mirth-provoking Hyde and Cody Trio in a diverting interlude; Mr. Ernest Rees, comedian; Driscoll and Felino, comic entertainers; Miss Rose Elliott, with chorus songs, and the Barrascope, with an artistic picture comedy of the "square cut" period, the Pretty Flower-Girl.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Mr. Watts-Phillips, the popular dramatic artist, is appearing here in a one-act play, *Her Just Reward*, supported by the Lloyd Phillips' company. The bill of fare also includes the Northcotes, comedy artists; Les Frères Millicent, acrobats; Happy Attwood, comic; Mr. Leslie Mitchell, as "The Miser"; a comic sketch by the Phillips' comedy company, and some first-rate moving photographs by the Raymond Bio-tableaux company.

ALBERT HALL.—Manager, Mr. J. Peace.—Mr. Joshua Dyson's Diorama, Bioscope, and Swiss Choir opened here for a two-weeks season on Monday. There was a large and evidently well-pleased audience.

THE PAVILION.—Thoroughly cleaned and redecorated, this hall (late Wonderland) has reopened for the season as a picture theatre, with the latest dramatic, topical, local, fantastic, and humorous films.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's energetic company is here this week with the light and amusing fare *A Merry Maid*. Mr. Vivian Wakeman is thoroughly successful as Larry O'Hooligan, and his novel musical turn and mimicry are clever; Mr. Neil Hardy is most amusing as the Hon. Cecil Taft; Mr. Howard Lawrence sings effectively and acts capably as Thady Clancy; Mr. H. Tracey is exceedingly droll and hard-working as the Dutchman Von Swank; Mr. C. W. James plays satisfactorily the part of Lawyer Scrivener; Miss F. Adamson merits praise as Angela Vere de Vere; Wee George Wood, a juvenile pantomime favourite, sings with plenty of life and ability, and acts capitally; Mr. W. S. Hutchinson takes the part of Biddy O'Hooligan in a praiseworthy fashion; Miss Ray Watson is bright and pleasing as Flossy Kixie; Mr. B. Moore and Mr. R. Richardson are an able pair of conductors from Cookson's and Deanson's; and Miss May Gibson makes a bright and pretty Peggy O'Hooligan, her songs and dances being effective.

SMETHWICK.—ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Mr. Wilson Benge and company are paying a welcome return visit with *The Eve of Her Wedding*. Mr. Benge is very effective in the rôle of George Tremain; Mr. Arthur Keand gives a fine rendering of Squire Leverton and also of Bill Groggins; Mr. Henry Danson does full justice to the part of Dick Laverton; Rudolph Earle has a clever and amusing exponent in Chas. Digby; Mr. Fred Rivers is well placed as Giovanni; Mr. Wallace Campbell plays with force and skill the part of Dean Clifton; Mr. Chas. Groves, jun., successfully doubles the rôles of Paul Cairshaw and Hyram P. Younger; and Mr. Arthur E. Holland gives a faithful representation of Jack Herne, a cripple. Miss Effie Bartlett merits praise for a well studied and skilful delineation of Rene de Telle, an adventuress; Miss Daisie Cook handles the character of Gwendoline Younger with skill; Miss Sadie Smith is a charming Mavis Leverton, investing the part with pathetic interest. The scenery is excellent. The American Bioscope shows a new series of up-to-date pictures.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Proprietor, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—*The Merry Widow* is being presented here for the first time, and packed houses give the merry little lady a hearty welcome. The title-rôle of Sonia was played with a rare spirit of gaiety by Miss Mysie Devine, whose charm won all hearts; Baron Popoff was inimitably played by Mr. Edward D'Arcy, who kept the house in roars of laughter; Mr. Fred Fowler invested the part of Nisch with quaint drollery; Natalie was admirably played by Miss Ada Thomas, her singing being excellent; and the rôle of Vicomte de Jolidon was well portrayed by Mr. Ripley Evans, another fine vocalist. The difficult part of Prince Danilo was in the capable hands of Mr. Fred Greene, whose singing, acting, and dancing gave great pleasure. Miss Katie May (Frou Frou) proved herself a dainty dancer; and others who did well were Mr. Clifford Seyler (General Navakovitch), Mr. F. Pedgrift (M. de St. Brioche), Mr. William Allison (Marquis de Cascada), and Miss Daphne Glenne (Olga), &c. The staging was superb, and the augmented orchestra did well under the baton of Mr. E. Vousden.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Mlle. Vonetta gives an astonishing exhibition of jugglery, and her illusions are very smart. Bowman and Morton's comedy duologue, *She loved a Policeman*, keeps the house rocking with laughter; the Tossing Austins are clever jugglers and dancers; Gravetta and Parr excel in a dancing speciality; Kelly and Agnas are a smart couple; and others who entertain are Alpho, ventriloquist, and Gracie Hunt, comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold P. Howell.—Howard and Harris are a wonderful couple, their turn being exceptionally clever from start to finish; the Delevines are popular in their clever act, *Flipp and Flopp*, with their up-to-date scarecrows, causing roars of laughter; Tom Leamore is a quaint comedian; and the Three Sisters Sprightly score all along the line. Harry Brown (coloured comedian), Fred Hallam (comedian), Harry Leybourne (female impersonator), Lena Wylie (soprano vocalist), and Lennie and Hast, in *A Sea Nymph*, also appear with success.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. — EMPIRE THEATRE CO., LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Conquest; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Lovers of opera are excellently entertained here by the Moody-Manners Company. The company is a large one, including a well-trained chorus of thirty-five voices and a talented corps de ballet, the orchestra being augmented by fifteen musicians. *Carmen*, the initial attraction, proved immensely enjoyable. Mr. John Child, who was seen in a good impersonation of Don Jose, shared singing honours with Miss Rosina Beynon, in the title-rôle; Miss Rosa O'Farrell as Michaela and Mr. Marshall Vincent as Escamillo were also very successful. *Tannhäuser*, *Faust*, *Rigoletto*, *Lohengrin*, *Maritana*, and *Madame Butterfly* are also in the répertoire.

THE

Florence Wynn; Miss Kathleen St. George sustained Jane, their servant, with credit. *Sir George of Almack's* was billed for the remainder of the week.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House.—Proprietors, the Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—*Beau Brocade* was presented to a large and appreciative audience on Monday by Mr. Reginald Dance's well-selected company. The rôle of the dashing and debonair highwayman, Captain Jack Bathurst, was admirably portrayed by Mr. Reginald Dance; Miss Ruth Mackay enacted the part of Lady Patience Gascoyne with artistic effect; the Earl of Stretton was well played by Mr. Frank Darch; the villainous Sir Humphrey had an excellent representative in Mr. Frank Powell; Mr. Dalziel Heron's impersonation of John Stich was one of the best character sketches; Mr. Asheton Tonge was highly amusing as the parish beadle, Jeremiah Inch; Jock Miggs was characteristically and cleverly depicted by Mr. Edward Irwin; Miss May Brook proved an admirable exponent of Betty (the maid); and the minor parts were well represented by Mr. A. E. Mayne as Squire West, Mr. J. W. Brighten as the Sergeant, Mr. R. Hayes as the Duke of Cumberland, and Mr. Stanley Lathbury as Mr. Mittachip, the lawyer. The piece was preceded by a new one-act play, entitled *The Proof*, a notice of which appears in another column.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Allan Wilkie's Répertoire company opened here with *Richard III.* on Monday. Mr Wilkie in the titular rôle brought out the salient features of this sinister character in bold relief. The histrionic abilities of Miss Carrie Baillie were seen to advantage as Lady Anne; Miss Mildred Surrey as Elizabeth and Miss Agnes Geoghegan as the Duchess of York were all that could be desired; Mr. Alexander Marsh submitted a careful and convincing study of Clarence; the Buckingham of Mr. John Paley was a good performance; Richmond was in the able hands of Mr. Frank Royde. During the week *The Merchant of Venice, She Stoops to Conquer, Julius Cæsar, Garrick, Sleigh Bells*, and *The Two Orphans* were to be performed.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Bella and Bijou are excellently received in *The Suffragette*, in which sketch good comedy and singing are introduced with effect; George Newburn gives his inimitable impersonations; Mlle. Pocahuntas wins favour by her pleasing singing; a clever musical exponent is Thelma De Waal; and Will Johnson, comedian; Beale and Broadway, in a dancing act; Daisy Martell, comedienne and dancer; and the Bioscope complete a good bill.

SPALDING.—Corn Exchange.—Mr. George Grossmith appeared here on the 3rd inst. in musical humorous sketches. Mr. Grossmith was at his best, and delighted the audience with his excellent performance.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Mr. R. A. Roberts's company in *Straight form the Shoulder* (under the direction of Mr. Chas. Boult) is the attraction at this house, and "House full" has been the cry during the week. The caste is of exceptional strength. Full justice is done to the rôle of Millicent Grant by Miss Beatrice Burdett; Mr. Matthew Boulton's assumption of Harry Bletchley is artistic; Major Lucas is in the capable hands of Mr. Leonard Clarke; highly commendable are Messrs. George H. Child (as Rev. John Armitage), Mr. Fred Beck (as Jim Green), Mr. George Fisher (as Fred Stafford), Miss Edie Casson (as Miss Brittle), and Miss Beatrice Moore (as Gladys Brittle). The scenery and effects are alike admirable.

STALYBRIDGE. — Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—Another programme of exceptional excellence is presented, Horace Wheatley taking precedence after an absence of some years. He is brimming over with Irish witticisms, and also sounds a deeper note when singing a pathetic ballad. Shirley and Ransome depict a touching episode in coster life, *'Arf a Quid*; Lilly Lurgine, an instrumental specialist, performs with ease and grace; Donna Morgan is a comedienne who has reason to pride herself on her voice; the Sisters Lee are a trio of acrobats, vocalists, and dancers; the Maitlands, the vaudeville couple, are amusing as Weary Willie and Tired Tim; and Kinnard, the merry magician, performs some clever tricks.

ST. HELENS. — Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company in *£1,000 Reward* is on a return visit. Mr. J. Wilton assumes the rôle of Gilbert Lisle in an acceptable manner; Mr. Edward de Vere and Mr. William Gibson are good in their respective parts; Mr. Frank J. Pitt as Vincent Rainsworth and Mr. Frank Dallas as Inspector Gilbert are both capital; Meg is nicely taken by Miss Marjorie Seymour; and Miss Minnie Goepel as Kitty is full of life. Miss Kathryne Eckart shows power in the character of Mme. Sanson.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—*Bonnie Scotland* heads the bill this week, and the 100 or so local children shew much evidence of careful training by the famous Selkirk Family. Mike Cray and his dog are very amusing; F. V. St. Clair receives much applause; Percival performs excellently on the piano; the Delomes are fine dancers; and other acceptable turns are given by Smart Bros. (acrobats) and Oliver Conroy (comedian).

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—*When London Sleeps*, with its many sensational incidents, is as popular as ever here this week. Mr. Harry Wren as the villain, Captain Rodney Haynes, acts with skill and ability; Mr. Edward E. Ashby gives an able impersonation of David Engleheart; Sammy Blythe and the Hon. Bertie Broomhead are amusing characters, admirably portrayed by Mr. Douglas Campbell and Mr. Frank Howard respectively; and Mr. Harry Emerson makes a capable Mark Blackwood. As Queenie Carruthers, Miss Mabel Scudamore acts with delightful charm; Hilda Carode is effectively played by Miss Lilla Wilde; whilst Miss Mona Hall as Carrie Jones, Miss Christine Middleton as Maudie Frere, and Miss Bella Power as Signorina Robertio Jonesio, are in every way excellent.

Empire. — Proprietors, the Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —At the head of a strong array of talent are the Cumberlands, acrobatic cyclists, who display marvellous ability; Hampton and Bauman, in *Down in Kentucky*, depict typical characters in pleasing style; Allis and Cassati are mirth-provoking entertainers; the Three Romas are a trio of talented strong men; Williams and Warden, patterers, are genuinely amusing; Cecile and François, acrobatic dancers, are highly successful; Phillips and Merritt are society entertainers of ability; and Gracie Lawn is a pleasing comedienne.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES. — Castle Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company presented *Mrs. Dot* here on Monday. Miss Decima Moore in the title-rôle thoroughly fascinated the audience with her excellent impersonation of Mrs. Dot; Miss Emma Hutchison as Lady Sellinger was also warmly received. As Nellie Sellinger Miss Ethel Grahame acted with ability; James Blenkinsop is admirably presented by Mr. Frank Lacy; Mr. Philip Leslie as Freddie Perkins was well suited for the character; Mr. James Gelderd as Gerald Halstane deserves much praise; and Miss Celia Gordon is seen to advantage as Miss McGregor. A very amusing curtain-raiser preceded, entitled *Her Dearest Friend*.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Charles Majilton's company of comedians presents here a funny sketch entitled *The Trippers*, and creates much merriment; the Gilberts, in a tight-wire act, show great skill; Wallace Whitney, the comedian, makes a hit with his song "Tubby, the Footballer"; Bert Woodward does a daring cycling act; and other amusing turns come from Beattie Foster, comedienne; Doyle and Gibson, comedians and dancers; Les Tafanos, in a novel musical act; and Billie Burford, comedienne.

Grand Theatre. — Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's company presents an exciting drama entitled *Send Him Victorious*. Mr. Ernest Wingfield gives a commendable impersonation of Captain Frank Allison; Colonel Heinrich Kauffman is in the able hands of Mr. Fred Terris; Mr. Leslie Nolan as Major Strauss acts well; Miss Lilian Beaumont as Ethel Hardinge gives a capital rendering; and Miss Lina Naseby as Countess Kara von Mechlinberg gives a forcible expression. Payne's Bio-photoscope concludes with an excellent picture, Tragedy of Japan.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—The much-talked of "Salome" dance is presented successfully here by the Countess Romano; Duncan and Brasque appear in a smart little skit entitled *Bluff*; the Narow Brothers, as comedy cyclists, are clever and amusing; Sterling and Love introduce vocal and instrumental selections; Alex. Lofton, coloured comedian, is quaint; and also appearing are Ethel Dove, Sergeant Mumford (on the wire), and Horace Jones.

STOURBRIDGE.—Alhambra Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps.—A return visit is being paid of the renowned opera company under the direction of Mr. J. W. Turner. A good audience welcomed the veteran artist, who received quite an ovation. The opera for the first night was the old favourite, *Maritana*, in which Mr. Turner appeared in the well-known rôle of Don Cæsar de Bazan, and acquitted himself admirably, his rendering of the song "Let me like a soldier fall" reminding one of his palmiest days. The title-rôle was undertaken by Miss Christine Gomez, who sang delightfully; Mr. Sidney Clifford was in good voice, and made a pleasing Charles II.; Mr. Tom Griffiths acquitted himself admirably as Don Jose; and Miss Jessie Dennis as Lazarillo found much favour for her singing of "Alas! those chimes." Chorus and orchestra are deserving of praise.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. A. Telford.—Hardie and Von Leer's company are appearing here in the well-worn play *Two Little Vagabonds*.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Grieveson.—The attraction here is Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* company, Mr. Paul Beckett successfully portraying Felix Beverley. Mr. Wilson Summers is fully adequate to the part of Jack Stirling; Mr. Wilford Cheetham submits an exceptionally good rendition of Geoffrey Langdon; Miss Cissie Bellamy's enactment of Mary Langdon is full of histrionic power and ability; Miss Elsie Capell is excellent as the Hon. Mrs. Sands; Miss Katie Lever makes a capital Sweet Nancy; and Mr. A. Lowry as Arthur Bellairs is also good.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The chief position on this week's bill is held by Fred Ginnett's company in an improved edition of *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, an item that never fails to please; Charles Parker's Six Æolians prove exceptionally smart and versatile in their clever vocal and dancing act; Stelling and Revell are an amusing couple; the New York Nippers are as entertaining as ever; Nellie Martell, comedienne, Jock Mills, Scotch comedian, Naughton and Gold, Scotland's premier comedians, and the Bioscope pictures complete the bill.

SWANSEA.—The Grand.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is here in *Leah Kleschna*. Mr. William Clayton, who again appears as Kleschna, gives a masterly reading of the part; Bessie Rignold, too, reappears as Leah, and her portrayal of the character shows the polished actress; as Paul Sylvaine, Mr. Hamilton Dean is impressive; Mr. Gilbert Heron is an unqualified success as Schram; as is also Mr. Algeron J. Hicks as Raoul Berton. Mr. Charles Barrett and Miss Violet Thorold provide excellent comedy as Valentine and Sophie.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. J. Powell.—*For Love and the King* is the attraction this week, presented by Mr. C. Watson Mill and company. Mr. C. Watson Mill as Jarval gave a noteworthy performance; Mr. John Burton, as Michael Obrenovic being also good; Miss Rosalind Tate made a delightful Princess Athene; Miss Joan Ellis (Natila) and Miss Marie Ault (Grazia Obrenovic) were also excellent.

The Empires, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The Boissets present *The Bricklayers* here this week; Charles Whittle's songs go well; Drew and Alders present a humorous sketch, *The Coastguards*; and La Belle Nello deservedly owns the title of "The Queen of Equipoise"; a distinctly refined and clever musical act is given by the Carina Sisters; Violet Ray is a soprano vocalist of ability; and Edie King dances and sings well. Charles Stevens, character comedian, and the Bioscope concludes.

SWINDON.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—An excellent programme here this week includes Freddie French and company in the farcical sketch entitled *Suffragettes, or Votes, Votes, Votes*. E. H. Allen, comedian and patterer, is good; and Walter Pearce, descriptive vocalist, is well received. The Two Lillies are seen to advantage in their mirror dance; a clever whistling turn is that of Arthur Slater, whose bird imitations are very realistic; much fun is derived from the songs and patter of Nash and Noel, comedians and dancers; a great reception is accorded Dan Whitley, eccentric comedian; and the Great La Faile Troupe give a clever gymnastic performance. The Empire Pictures include one of the Marathon Race.

TON-Y-PANDY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Ventom.—This week good business is being done owing to the striking success of Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company in *The Conscience of a Judge*. As the judge Mr. Kenyon Musgrave fully upholds his reputation; Mr. Reg. Maurice is well suited as Cecil Bentley; Mr. Sam Courtney scores heavily as Sir E. Mervyn; and Mr. W. Clarke makes the most of Geoffrey Granstone. Messrs. Frank Ayrton and F. W. Graham create plenty of humour as John Summers and Horatio Winter respectively; Miss Nellie Howitt fits the part of Jessica Draycott to perfection; and as Ethel Vaughan Miss M. Coleman is responsible for a sympathetic rendering. Miss Madge Seymour makes a vivacious Mary Wilson.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar Harper.—An excellent programme is again provided here, with good results. The Yorkshire Mill Girls, in harmony and song, make a hit; Grey and Welford are smart boxing comedians; and the Kenmors are well received in their acrobatic sketch. Lew Towers, comedian, Harry Keeble, ventriloquist, and Millie Hayden, chorus singer, add to the evening's success.

TORQUAY. — Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is being presented here this week by Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company. Miss Amy Grey is particularly pleasing in the title-rôle, and her vocal talents are much appreciated; as Mina Miss Muff Carewe is very vivacious, and causes plenty of fun; Mr. Edmund Russell is exceedingly droll as Mr. Hook, and evokes continuous laughter; whilst Mr. J. B. Fox does excellently as Captain Paap, and Mr. Adrian Burgon is seen to advantage as the Bandmaster; Mr. Fred Dark makes the most of his opportunities as Simon Slinks, and Mr. Robert Corray plays admirably as Schnappe.

Princess Pier Concert Hall.—Proprietors, the Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T. Tremlett.—Mr. Stuart Alexander's company, The So-and-So's, are paying a return visit here this week, and were accorded a warm reception on Monday. Miss Maude Davis has a soprano voice of considerable talent, which was much appreciated, and Miss Maud Phillips is a good contralto; whilst Miss Lilian Leoffeler renders some clever step-dances. Mr. Stuart Alexander is a tenor of particular ability, and Mr. George Sharratt is a light comedian of much acceptance; Mr. Harry Quinnborough is a great favourite, and is repeatedly encored for his songs and character sketches, whilst the style in which the concerted numbers is rendered is deserving of mention.

TYLDESLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is drawing good houses here in a répertoire of plays, including *A Modern Adventuress, The Octoroon*, and *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*. In *A Modern Adventuress* Miss Amy McNiell is most convincing as the wicked Maud Delby; Wallace Dauton is played with considerable skill by Mr. Thomas Jardine; Mr. E. J. Fare achieves success by his portrayal of Pietro Donelli; Mr. Rob Borlande is well placed as Mr. Delby, and Harry Delby has a capital exponent in Mr. Frank Kelland; Mr. D. Donaldson is well suited as the detective. William Beal; Mr. C. Taylor is impressive as Steve Meredith; Mr. Will White makes a quaint John Crompton; Miss Mervyn a sympathetic Vivetta, and Miss F. Ferina a lively Sally.

TYNEMOUTH. — Palace-by-the-Sea.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—The programme here includes a full variety entertainment by the versatile combination, the Smart Set (under the direction of Walter George), who are deservedly popular. They have plenty of new business, and encores are frequent. Other interesting turns are those of Primaversa, a smart cue and ball manipulator; and the Bioscope pictures. Wednesday, the 10th instant, is set apart for a complimentary benent to the manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.

WALSALL. — Her Majesty's Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—A great sensation is created here this week by the Elliott-Savonas, in *The Palace of Orpheus*, who give selections from the greatest composers, including the storm scene from the overture of *William Tell*; the Sisters Grovini prove themselves graceful and clever acrobats; J. P. Carrot is a skilful tambourine manipulator; Mitchell and Cain give a capital turn; Barry Lupino provides a very enjoyable item; the Chronomegaphone gives engrossing selections; Jeannie Mackay, soprano vocalist, is good; and the American Bioscope has again some interesting pictures.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is reappearing here this week in Walter Melville's drama *The Worst Woman in London*, and crowded houses have been attracted. Miss Sidney Crowe is once more seen to advantage with a realistic portrayal of the remorseless adventuress, Frances Vere, and recalls were numerous. A charming portrayal of Ruth Milford is that submitted by Miss Dorothy Haigh; and in the lighter rôle of Matilda Parker Miss Polly Parker scores a big success. Mr. Hubert Shardon is a manly Jack Felton; and in the heavy rôle of Vincent Legh Mr. George Gaisford is especially good. Mr. F. Vernon Travers is a dignified banker, and much amusement is extracted from the part of Bob Goldfinch by Mr. Willie Scott. Clever character sketches of Hugh Drayton and Philip Armstrong are submitted by Messrs. H. W. Monte and Frank Litchfield respectively. The long list of minor parts are all well sustained, and the staging is very effective.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Patty Yole has captured all hearts here this week with her delightful singing and dancing; and the smart work of Cavalli, ventriloquist is much admired. The pictures, especially those showing an episode of Over the Sticks and Views of Central France, are gems of the photographic art.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D Bradbury.—Gus Harris has scored yet another success here this week, his song "'Tis Primrose Day" being especially good; the Denwartz Troupe of juvenile lady acrobats are exceptionally smart; Harry Cotton's songs, notably that concerning "The Veteran Soldier," are excellently rendered; Lily Eyton is a charming comedienne; Marie Jones, who is assisted by Mr. Ernest Murgo, is a clever artist, and in the quick-change duologue *The Way to Win a Bet* she displays much versatility; The Sisters Brenton are a clever pair of comediennes and dancers; Alfonso is a smart equilibrist; and Little Dando is a really eccentric comedian. The pictures are good.

Wednesbury.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner. —On Monday Mr. Andrew Emm, with his company, presented *The Diver's Luck*. A clever delineation of Martin Faber is submitted by Mr. Harry Cullenford; Mr. Fred A. Marston's representation of Barney Bawn meets with approval; an excellent interpretation of Tom Hall, *alias* Cranston, is given by Mr. William J. Miller; Mr. Fred Scarth acquits himself admirably in the rôle of Maurice Wyngate; and as Pedro Mr. K. Milson does full justice to the part. As Helen Wyngate Miss Mamie Stanton leaves little to be desired; Mr. Arnold Wintens submits an interesting portrayal of Solomon Isaacs; and the impersonation of Peggy Maloney is humorously handled by Miss Doris Dallimore.

West Bromwich.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Mr. Walter Melville's play, *The Female Swindler*, is being presented by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company. The Swindler is a charming person, as presented by Miss Violet Ellicott; Mr. Joseph Millain takes the part of John Coulson, the criminal investigator, with success; while Mr. D. Winston as Detective Dixon is also clever.

New Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—There is much to please all classes of people at this popular house this week, one of the great attractions being Yangar, the South African wonder-worker, who performs some clever tricks. La Belle Duchess introduces her fighting horses and trained ponies; Clark and Glenny appear in *The Haunted House*; Merrie Elsie is a capable comedienne; Mozzetto gives a striking jugglery turn; Alec Thomas has some smart negro songs; and Jack North is a comedian of much ability. The Hippodrome pictures conclude.

WEST HARTLEPOOL. — Grand. — Mr. Ernest Dare presents his company in the farcical comedy *In the Soup*, in which Mr. Louis Palgrave gives a lively and amusing portrayal of Horace Gillibrand, and Miss M. Lowe-Dare does capital work as Mrs. Gillibrand.

Palace.—Proprietor Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—*The House of Tinn*, as played here by J. Gar Kiddie and company, keeps the audience in uproarious laughter; the Twin Sisters Edwardes, vocalists and drummers, and Ryder Slone, comedian, are also old favourites; Gibbon and Bell shine in an acrobatic and dancing speciality; Marget and Lener are also clever comedy acrobats; George James, comedian; Ellis and Watts, in dancing and cross patter; and Mabelle Ray, comedienne, are also in the programme.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Miss Inez Howard's company is here this week in *Driven from Home*. Mr. Walter Jeffery gives a masterly impersonation of Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. H. Creagh Hunt is sufficiently villainous as Geoffrey Waring; Mr. Geo. Claremont is excellent as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. C. M. Doyle is responsible for a fine character sketch as Willie; Mr. Albert E. Mann is extremely humorous as John Anderson; Laura Raybrook is pathetically portrayed by Miss Francis Olgar; Miss May Rosine is a very facetious Margaret Bailey, and Miss Doris Kelvey is praiseworthy as Barbara Ashdown.

Grand Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The Gems made their first appearance here on Monday, and were given quite an ovation. Mr. Kenna Lawson is a comedian far above the average, his humorous songs and sketches being greatly enjoyed; Mr. Wallace Kennedy possesses a sweet tenor, which he used to advantage; "My little pal" was artistically rendered by Mr. Ernest Attwell; Mr. D. Norton's pianoforte solo was finely executed; Miss Nessie Walker's singing was warmly applauded, and Miss Olive Mortimer was highly successful; Mr. John Lambert showed some very fine pictures by Pathé Frères on the Bioscope.

WEST STANLEY. — Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Lt.; Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Mr. Bert Coote's company, under the direction of Mr. Percy Williams, opened here on Monday in *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. Cecil A. Melton as Howard Wilson is all that can be desired; Mr. Frank Harrison gives a good account of himself as Robert Curtis; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh's rendering of the adventuress, Cora Williams, is clever; Mabel Wilson is cleverly played by Miss Ethel Kay; Zoto is ably presented by Mr. Charles Locke; and Bridget (Miss Ethel Sargent) is quaint. Miss Lulu Wohlmann represents Cissie, the little mother, with much ability.

Victoria Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. G. W. Montrose.—Will Godwin, the famous author and composer, assisted by his wife and daughter, head a good bill here in their sketches *The Adopted Child, Saved*, and *Repentance*. Mr. Godwin sings nightly some of his own compositions. Shawlene, whistler, scores with his famous act; France and Francis, comedians; Mi Narom, in her latest comedy successes; Shamus and Kelly, Irish jig and reel dancers; Gladys Godwin, the lively little girl, in song and dance; and the Vicoscope complete a good programme.

WHITBY.—Spa Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. W. Payne Seddon; Manager, Mr. R. Mitchell.—Mr. Mouillot's No. 1 comapny appeared the first three nights of the week in the comic opera *Tom Jones*, and attracted crowded houses. Mr. Cyril Thompson gives a clever interpretation of the title-rôle; and Mr. A. J. Nicholls as the Somerset magistrate is well received. Mr. Arthur Radcliffe as Blifil is thoroughly conversant with the part; and Mr. Geo. Elton as Benjamin Partridge arouses considerable merriment. Mr. Fred Seymour is a good Squire Western; Miss Margaret Stoner's embodiment of Sophia is very pleasing; Miss Olive Eitone gives a clever rendering of Lady Bellaston; and Miss F. McEvoy is successful as Miss Western. Miss Florrie Saunders portrays the part of Honor with distinct success. The opera was well staged.

Whitehaven.—Market Hall.—Lessees, the Edison Picture Co.; General-Manager, Mr. Victor Branford; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Urwin.—The pictures are exceptionally good this week, and include Still Worthy of the Name, Walter the Rural Postman, The Little Savoyard, In a Submarine, The Old Composer and the Prima Donna, Follow Your Leader, An Expensive Duck, Tit for Tat, Catch Me If You Can, and Mr. Creepy is Startled. Silly Billy Elliott's popularity here is strongly marked by repeated encores.

Whitley Bay. — The Spanish City, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. Elderton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Steele.—Large audiences continue to be drawn here nightly. The Toreadors, a large troupe of male and female artists, are deservedly popular.

Widnes.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is presenting *Two Little Drummer Boys* here after the lapse of several years. Mr. Edward Bikker is capital in his original part of General Kingsley; Mr. Harry Scott is a manly Captain Frank Carsdale; Mr. Oswald Douglas lends dignity to the character of Captain Geo. Darrell; Mr. Alexander Knight is responsible for a sound study of Lieutenant Kingsley; the Major Kilkerrin of Mr. Frank Cope is thoroughly sound; Mr. Will Percy as O'Quirke and Mr. Chas. Gallier as Timothy Trimmer are very humorous; Mr. Wilson Holmes plays forcibly as Jim Barker; Mr. Geo. Turner is well suited with the part of the Rev. John Rivers; the "drummer boys" are Miss Maggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas, who do thoroughly good work; Miss Patricia Connaughton acts brightly as Molly Meadows; and Miss Mary Ainslie wins all hearts by her performance as Alma Kingsley.

Wigan.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. Herbert Lloyd's company occupy the boards this week in a laughable musical comedy entitled *Happy Hooligan*, in which catchy music, pretty dresses, and clever dances are contained. As the happy hooligan Mr. W. H. Lester is irresistible; while Mr. J. Sullivan as Macgregor and Mr. J. R. Hawley as the Jew convulse the audience. Miss Lottie Wilson makes a capital Widow Johnson; and Miss Rose Lyndon is a vivacious comedienne. The piece is admirably staged.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—An exceptionally fine display is given by the Kremo Family, their tricks being both neat and bewildering; an excellent ventriloquial entertainment is given by J. W. Winton; and for his touching song, entitled "Down the Maypole Mine," J. H. Greener is encored nightly. Mlle. Haydee presents an interesting miniature vaudeville theatre, where the marionettes perform very creditably; Adah Payne is the possessor of a charming contralto voice, which she uses with considerable success; and another vocal number is given by the Three Coopers. The harmonising vocalists Pete and Juno introduce some good comedy and dancing; and Delafiore appears with success as the musical marvel; while J. P. Boston and J. W. Gallagher are excellent comedians.

Empire.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Marco.—Wallace, ventriloquist, and Fred Walters, comedian and vocalist, provide excellent variety turns this week, and are extremely well received. The pictures include The Dog Outwits the Kidnapper, The American Cowboy (a stirring tale of the West), Abduction in the Reign of Louis XVI., The Sign from Heaven, and many other interesting films.

Worcester.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—After a lengthy season of variety shows, the legitimate drama has resumed its place here, and Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is presenting a dramatised version of Henry Seton Merriman's work, *With Edged Tools*. The principal figure, Victor Durnovo, is ably presented by Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; Mr. W. F. Grant's Jack Meredith is a well-ustained effort; and he is admirably supported by Mr. H. Nunn as Guy Oscard. Mr. J. A. Rosier is well suited as Sir John Meredith, and Mr. Cnas. Hartopp is excellent as Maurice Gordon. Miss Marie Leonard is responsible for a clever and convincing impersonation of Millicent Chyne; and Miss Phyllis Ralph is very delightful as Jocelyn Gordon. Miss Isabel Grey imparts the requisite dignity to the part of Lady Cantourne; and Miss Frances Wolviston and Miss Violet Thorold are seen to advantage in small parts. The play is handsomely dressed and staged.

Worthing.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold. — Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company was here for the first three nights. On Monday *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was presented, with Mr. Henry Herbert as a jocund Falstaff; as Fenton, Mr. Patrick Lewis left nothing to be desired; Mr. Arthur Fayne put in some admirable work as Dr. Caius; Miss Jean Græne was excellent as Robin; and Messrs. Hodgkins, Gerald, and Bisshopp were good as Bardolf, Pistol, and Nym respectively. Miss Violet Farebrother was a fascinating Mrs. Page; and Miss May De Launey did well as Mrs. Quickly.

Wrexham.—Empire Music Hall.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—The attractions here this week consist of Sidney Dolf, in a clever and amusing act, entitled *What Others Do*; Palette, with his smart dog Max, in *A Busy Time in the Studio*; Miss May Paul, a coon vocalist; and the Clancey Girls, singers and acrobatic dancers. The pictures also afford the usual entertainment.

York.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*The Hypocrites* is, without doubt, a great play, and the fact that it commands attention is evinced by the large audiences who have witnessed it nightly during the past week. As the Rev. Edgar Linnell Mr. A. B. Imeson delivers the many telling lines with rare declamatory force, and throughout is eminently successful in a difficult though popular rôle. Miss Gladys Harvey is sympathetic and natural as Rachel Neve, and Miss Gladys Purnell looks handsome and acts naturally as Helen Plugenet. As Mr. Wilmore Mr. A. S. Barber enacts a difficult rôle with much skill; Mr. Charles Harley gives a clever reading of Mr. Viveash; as the unctuous Rev. Edward Daubeney Mr. Cecil Brooking is well placed; and Leonard Wilmot has an excellent representative in Mr. King Fordham. A large share of work falls on Miss Amy Ravenscroft, who invests the part of Mrs. Wilmore with much grace.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—Lovers of the mysterious are well catered for this week, the doings of the Four Indian Fakirs and Roy Beavis having caused much enjoyment. Perrette and Mona present a neat sketch, *Teasing the General*, which goes well; Harry Briggs is a clever vocalist; and the doings of the Mezzettis on the horizontal bar causes wonderment. The witticisms and funny business of Albert le Fre are a source of much amusement; A. E. Clifford is a particularly clever vocalist; J. W. Purcell's company in *That Brute Simmons* is popular; and Renée is a neat juggler.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special Newspaper Express Services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MELBOURNE, Aug. 4.—Princess's Theatre (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. Henry Bracey).—A big audience attended here on Saturday evening, when *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* entered upon its last week. The season throughout has been highly successful.

Her Majesty's Theatre (Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. E. J. Tait).—*The Merry Widow* finished a phenomenally successful season of eleven weeks on Friday evening, in the presence of a crowded house. Saturday evening saw a revival (for six nights) of *The Dairymaids*. Miss Carrie Moore filled her original part of Peggy. Miss Moore made a most vivacious Peggy, and was accorded several encores. Miss Florence Young again won her way completely with her charming singing. The comic element was contributed by Mr. Percy (Joe Mivens). His acting was never overdone. The scene showing the interior of Miss Pyechase's academy called forth special applause.

Theatre Royal (Lessees, Messrs. Meynell and Gunn; Business-Manager, Mr. Stanley W. Cherry). —After a short, though successful, season of two weeks, *The Fatal Wedding* was withdrawn on Friday evening in favour of *Two Little Sailor Boys*, which was produced on Saturday evening for the first time in Melbourne. Miss Lillian Meyer's Lola Grey was most effective; Miss Louise Carbasse as one of the little sailor boys was soon installed a favourite; Miss Maisie Maxwell as the other laddie lent able support; the management is fortunate in having Miss Maud Chetwynd as the dainty little parlour-maid; Miss Esme Harlesdene as the stepdaughter does well; Mr. Conway Wingfield as the Lieutenant in certain scenes called forth loud applause.

King's Theatre (Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. Julius Grant).—*The Squatter's Daughter* was revived on Saturday. Miss Eugenie Duggan presents the bush heroine in a manner compelling admiration; Mr. George Cross as the hero, Tom Bathurst, has a part which suits him admirably; and the humorous element is ably represented by Mr. Bert Bailey in the character of Archie McPherson. Miss Ada Guildford,

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"SOZIAL-ARISTOKRATEN."

Comedy, in Five Acts, by Arno Hols, Produced at the Deutsches (Chamber Plays), Sept. 4.

Fiebig .....HERR WASSMANN
Frau Fiebig.....FRAULEIN MULLER
Anna .....FRAULEIN KUHNBERG
Hahn .....HERR BENDOW
Dr. Gehrke .....HERR BIENSFELDT
Werner .....HERR DIEGELMANN
Von Styczinski .....HERR GOTTOWT
Bellermann .....HERR BLUMMER
Sprodowsky .....HERR PEZZEY
Amtsvorsteher .....HERR TIEDTKE
Schwabe .....HERR KARCHOW
Dr. Naphtali .....HERR GROSSMANN
Meischen.....FRAULEIN KURZ

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Sept. 10.—A quick run of novelties followed last week's dearth, and Herr Holz's piece is the most entertaining of all. It must be allowed, however, that the success would have been smaller had the cast been other than the picked artists of the Deutsches Chamber Plays. Plot there is little or none; the strength of the piece lies in the characters—which are all more or less caricatures—and the amusing dialogue. The action, such as it is, passes in literary and journalistic circles. Dr. Gehrke, a gentleman of bombastic phrases, is selected as editor of a weekly journal entitled the *Social Aristocrat*, which he and his staff contrive to bring to an untimely end after three or four weeks. In addition to this, Gehrke and two of his colleagues are condemned to detention in the local prison for writing democratic articles. Thanks to the good nature of the magistrate the arrest is made not only easy, but jovial, and in the end Gehrke—through the efforts of an impossible reporter—puts up for a seat in the Reichstag and is actually elected. His troubles are thus over, for in Parliament he will be allowed to speak his mind.

MR. BERNARD SHAW'S comedy *Der Liebhaber* has been produced with a good deal of apparent success at the Hebbel, the theatre at which *Frau Warren's Gewerbe* has enjoyed so long a run. Although some fourteen years old, the piece was new to Berlin, and being very brightly acted was much applauded.

THE grand Assyrian ballet *Sardanapalus*, at the Royal Opera—commonly known as the "Kaiser's pantomime," on account of its being produced by His Majesty's initiative—was not the unqualified success that was anticipated. It has occupied the close attention of the most famous professors and Assyrian scientists all the summer, and neither pains nor expense were spared in any particular. Costumes were historically and painfully accurate; the scenery, too, was especially prepared under guidance of suitable artists, and each tableau unfolded a pageant of splendour seldom witnessed. The several characters were admirably depicted; and yet truth compels the verdict that the majority of the audience were bored. Perhaps the only one in the crowded house who was entirely satisfied was the Emperor himself. His Majesty was present, with his family and guests, at two successive performances, and had looked in at a number of rehearsals. The production of *Sardanapalus* is an event in our theatrical annals, but it will never become popular.

TOLSTOI'S tragic drama *Die Macht der Finsternis* (The Powers of Darkness) has been revived at the Lessing, in connection with the author's approaching eightieth birthday. The painful impression always produced by this work was enhanced by the masterly and terribly realistic interpretation.

AT the Metropol a new burlesque "review" has made its appearance with the customary absurdity in the way of title—*Donnerwetter, tadellos*. The author is again Herr Julius Freund, and the music is by Paul Lincke. It is a series of well-arranged pictures, which, like the amusing couplets, are topical. The cast is capital, and no doubt the piece will attract for some time.

"MARRIAGES ARE MADE IN HEAVEN."

An Episode, in One Act, by Basil Dean, produced at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, Sept. 7.

John Abel .....MR. LEWIS CASSON
Mrs. Hannah Abel ....MISS LOUISE HOLBROOK
Bessie Taylor .....MISS SYBIL THORNDIKE
Samuel Carter .....MR. EDWARD LANDOR

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Basil Dean's idea in his one-act play *Marriages Are Made in Heaven* is not conspicuously well worked out. We are introduced, in the first place, to John Abel and his mother, between whom the prospect of the former's marriage to Bessie Taylor is discussed in the West Country vernacular and a homely cottager style. A visit of Bessie to John is imminent, and as his mother has a call to make, he is left alone to enjoy that delectable event. But instead of Bessie, Samuel Carter turns up, burning, after long years, to revenge himself for a "good basting" bestowed upon him by John when they were Sunday-school boys together and Sam had cast eyes upon Bessie as a prospective wife. Sam is now in possession of a document which shows Bessie to be John's half-sister—a state of affairs which, of course, puts an end to John's pretensions, and leaves Sam, with John's tacit acquiescence, to make the best of his own opportunity. When Bessie comes, John's attitude is, to her, incomprehensible; but she loves him, and rather than entertain the thought of orthodox obstacles, would give herself to him without the ceremony of marriage. John, however, stunned by the knowledge of his father's secret offence and what it now involves, remains obdurate, and Bessie's love changes to pique. She goes—to Sam Carter; and we are left to speculate upon the rest. The only tolerable inference is that Bessie marries Carter, and that the story of her paternity is a lie. This lugubrious conception is, nevertheless, relieved by a certain cleverness in the dialogue, and the acting made it acceptable to an audience prepared to be indulgent of the theme. Miss Sybil Thorndike played Bessie admirably; Mr. Lewis Casson was manly and restrained as John; Miss Louise Holbrook was particularly natural as Mrs. Abel; and as Samuel Carter Mr. Edward Landor was easy and effective.

NEW THEATRE FOR WREXHAM.

The Palace Theatre, Wrexham, which we alluded to last week, will be essentially a drama and theatrical house, and Mr. W. Yates Gregory, the managing-director, is advertising for theatrical companies. It will be interesting to all travelling managers to know that a first-class theatre is being built in a town that has, to a certain extent, been forgotten theatrically. Wrexham has a population of over 70,000 inhabitants within a radius of five miles of its post-office. The site chosen for the new Palace Theatre is in Regent-street, the main street leading from the Great Western Railway Station to the town, and only three minutes' walk from the Central Railway Station. Electric trams from the outlying districts pass the doors every few minutes. The building itself will be a handsome one, with a seating capacity of 1,640. The stage, with a 30ft. opening, will be 30ft. high, 35ft. deep, and nearly 60ft. to the grille, with a width of 64ft., and fitted with the most approved methods. Mr. W. Yates Gregory, managing-director, hopes to have all complete for opening early in the spring of 1909.

Her King, a romantic play in four acts, dramatised by Harold Whyte from the novel, "The Trampling of the Lilies," was produced for copyright purposes at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, on Wednesday.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Sept. 10.—Our theatres are slowly opening their doors. Very slowly, for most of the good Parisians—of the theatre-going sort—are still "en villégiature," which means that at some seaside resort they spend the best part of the day and the whole evening in the Casino playing "petits chevaux," a splendid game at which to lose both one's money and one's temper. And the result is that our Parisian has not at all benefited from his stay in Hole-on-Sea, but returns to the capital more grumpy than ever and prepared to find fault with everything. Psychologists have for years tried to solve the problem why Paris audiences show themselves so intractable at the commencement of the season. All kinds of reasons have been assigned for this, but nobody yet thought of the "petits chevaux," the cause of all the mischief. It is, therefore, not surprising that M. Debrenne, manager of the Folies-Dramatiques, has not yet had the courage to launch his novelty *Mam'selle Trompette*, the première of which was to have been given a week ago.

IT is announced that Mlle. Lucienne Malty will soon make her reappearance on a Paris music-hall stage. If so, she will receive an ovation such as has never fallen to the share of any comedienne. Not that she is so wonderfully talented. In last year's revue she had a rôle in the revue at the Moulin-Rouge and performed her task in a creditable manner. But she had a misadventure in Hamburg for which the Parisians want to compensate her by giving her a tremendous welcome. It is well known that the German official is a bully of the worst kind, and the manner in which he carries out his instructions is brutal in the extreme. But Mlle. Malty's case is indeed scandalous. Last month, whilst playing at the Hansa Theatre in Hamburg, she was arrested at her hotel and locked up in a cell the whole night without the officials even informing her of the charge brought against her. It was only in the morning that she learned, to her surprise, that she had been placed under arrest at the request of the manager of the Mellini Theatre, who considered that the young artist had committed a breach of contract. At the indignant request of the French Consul she was at once released; but the affair has created an unpleasant impression in theatrical circles here.

LAST week we buried Mlle. Subra, the delightful dancer. To-day the Opéra corps de ballet has sustained another loss by the death of Mlle. Suzanne de Maulde, who succumbed to an attack of typhoid fever after a few days' illness. The poor young girl, who was only twenty, had risen very rapidly, and before long would have ranked first among the "stars."

I HEAR that Mme. Litvinne is busy studying her rôle in *Vlasta*, an opera by M. Henri Lutz, which, we are further told, will be produced in Paris—but where?

IT is now pretty well decided that *L'Emigré* will be brought out at the Renaissance towards the middle of next month. The title-rôle will of course be undertaken by M. Lucien Guitry, and the two principal women's rôles have been entrusted to Mlle. Dorziat and Mlle. Juliette Darcourt.

ABOUT the 20th M. Broussan will return from his honeymoon trip, when he will busy himself at once with the staging of *Le Crépuscule des Dieux*. It may be incidentally remarked that M. Broussan, whilst manager of the Lyons Municipal Theatre, produced several of Wagner's works there with immense success.

THE public at the Opéra is proverbially very cold and undemonstrative. On the nights, however, that Mlle. Mary Garden appears things are different, for the members of the American colony and the Americans passing through Paris make it a point to applaud their talented countrywoman. A proof of this was afforded last week when Mlle. Garden appeared in *Faust*, and showed herself a delightful Marguerite. The hall was filled with enthusiastic Anglo-Saxons, and the prima-donna had no reason to complain of the reception that was accorded to her. Opinions may differ in regard to Mlle. Garden's vocal powers, but there can be no question that she acts the rôle to perfection. M. Altchewsky, too, the new tenor, received a well-deserved ovation.

THE Théâtre des Arts will start the season with a revival of *Le Grand Soir*, after which we are promised *L'Eveil du Printemps*, by M. Frank Wedekind, adapted by M. d'Humières. The work, it seems, had a long run in Germany. Apropos of the Théâtre des Arts, this popular little house is now managed by Miss Andrews, an American lady well known in the London theatrical world.

AT Cluny, *L'Homme de la Montagne* will disappear from the bill to make room for a revival of *Major Ipéca*, by MM. Mouëzy-Eon and Joullot.

A FEW months ago Paris was very excited over a scandal that took place in a family in the Latin quarter. Somebody had dramatised the story, and the work was to have been produced in one of our suburban theatres. A few days ago, however, the police commissary of that district received a letter, signed by several friends of the before-mentioned family, wherein that gentleman was informed that on the first night they intended to go to the theatre armed with big sticks and break the bones of the author, the manager, and every actor engaged in the piece. What they intended to do to the actresses they did not say; but the police commissary considered it prudent, under the circumstances, to prohibit the production of the piece.

I HAVE informed you already that in accordance with the wishes of the majority of the Paris theatrical managers the so-called free list will be suspended on and after Oct. 1. In other words, there will be no longer any "entrées de faveur," and everybody will have to pay for his seat, with the exception of the theatrical journalists and those directly or indirectly connected with the house. All this sounds very pretty, but, on the principle that a man is master in his own house, four managers of important theatres have refused to obey this ukase. These four managers are M. Antoine, of the Odéon; Mme. Réjane; Mme. Sarah Bernhardt; and MM. Hertz and Coquelin, of the Porte Saint Martin. Mme. Bernhardt has expressed her opinion very freely on the matter. "My theatre," she said, "is my house, where I can invite whom I please, and I do not admit that anyone has the right to tell me what I have to do in that respect. This prohibition may possibly suit small theatres, who cannot well afford to dispose of too many gratis seats. Not so with the big houses, where it may often suit the management to issue invitations. I therefore intend to remain mistress in my theatre."

M. BERNSTEIN has read his new play, *Israël*, to the artists of the Théâtre Réjane. One of our confrères having related the plot, M. Bernstein has taken that gentleman severely to task, assuring him at the same time that the story he told was nothing but a "fake." In order, however, to prevent any further indiscretions, M. Bernstein has implored the artists not to divulge a word about the plot. The latter have sworn to remain silent, and we must now wait patiently until *Israël* makes its appearance.

AT the Grand Theatre, Bolton, on Friday, the 4th inst., two performances were given by the management in aid of the fund to alleviate the distress and suffering occasioned by the recent terrible colliery disaster at Abram, near Wigan. As a result the sum of £58 16s. 5d. has been remitted to the Mayor of Wigan's fund.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN.

Beginning her career at the age of eleven in pantomime at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, under the management of Mr. Isaac Cohen, Miss Dorothy Firmin afterwards played child parts with Mr. Austin Melford in *The Silver King*, and with Mr. Henry Dundas in *East Lynne*. She created the part of Marjory Wingate in *A Mother's Love*, under the management of Mr. F. L. Connyngham, and played it for nearly two years, with great success. Then came the characters of Stella, the blind girl, in *When the Lights are Low*, and Lord Arthur Selwood in *The Woman of Pleasure*. Miss Firmin was next engaged for the title-rôle of *Alice in Wonderland* at Brighton, under the management of Mr. Trevor Lowe. Subsequently she appeared at the London halls in Shakespearean sketches, playing Prince Arthur, King John, and Portia from the *Merchant of Venice* with great distinction. She was then engaged by Mr. J. H. Leigh to play Ariel in his production of *The Tempest* at the Court Theatre, London, an impersonation for which she gained great praise. A re-engagement by Mr. Trevor Lowe to play the part of Tom in *The Water Babes* followed, and then she was retained by Mr. Robert Arthur to play Red Riding Hood at the Coronet Theatre,

Photo by Hana.

MISS DOROTHY FIRMIN.

Notting Hill. Afterwards she went on tour with Mr. George Dance's *Girl from Kay's*, playing Ellen, and Lady Violet in *The Orchid*. The following Christmas she was the Mavis in *The Babes in the Wood* at the Camden Theatre, and for the spring and autumn she was re-engaged by Mr. George Dance for her old part of Lady Violet. Returning to the Coronet Theatre, she played Zebara in *The Forty Thieves*, and last Christmas found her in the title-rôle of *Cinderella* at the Kennington Theatre. She is now sustaining with gratifying success the title-rôle in *The Flower Girl* on tour.

MR. HENRY WORRALL.

A native of Manchester, Mr. Henry Worrall studied elocution in that town under Mr. Ryder Boys, with whom he afterwards played as an amateur many important parts in Shakespeare and old English comedy. Mr. Worrall's first professional appearance was in Mr. Robert Courtneidge's revival of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, walking on, and later he played a small part in the revival of *As You Like It*. Shortly after he was engaged by Mr. Oswald Brand as juvenile lead for his Dickens répertoire. Then followed a very pleasant pastoral tour with Mr. Harcourt Williams, playing a variety of parts. His next engagement was with Mr. Richard Flanagan, at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester, for the production of *Jevan, the Prodigal Son*. Immediately following this, Mr. Worrall was retained by Messrs.

Photo by Kay.

MR. HENRY WORRALL.

Durward Lely and William Mollison to play Silvius in their revival of *As You Like It* at the St. James's Theatre, London; also to understudy Orlando. He then joined Mr. H. B. Irving, and toured with him in England and America, playing, among other parts, Didier, in *The Lyons Mail*. Returning from America, he was at once re-engaged by Mr. William Mollison for juvenile lead in his Shakespearean répertoire, the parts including Orlando and Bassanio. He also played with Mr. Mollison the King (*Hamlet*), Banquo (*Macbeth*), Buckingham (*Richard III.*), and Montano. At the conclusion of Mr. Mollison's spring tour Mr. Worrall returned to his old part in *Jevan, the Prodigal Son*, which was produced at the Scala under the title of *The Judgment of Pharaoh*. He rejoined Mr. Mollison for his autumn tour (this making his third engagement with that gentleman), and sustained his old parts. Fencing is one of Mr. Worrall's hobbies; but, apart from practising the art for pleasure, he considers it a necessary part of an actor's training. He is very keen about it, and fences whenever he has the opportunity. Mr. Worrall is also fond of the violin, to the study of which he has devoted some years.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, SEPT. 2.—*The Devil*, adapted from a play called *Der Teufel*, by Franz Molnar, has been produced by Mr. Henry W. Savage at the Gardens Theatre and by Mr. Harrson Grey Fiske at the Belasco Theatre. Mr. Fiske sprang a complete surprise on the public one fine morning when he announced that he would produce the play on the following evening, with Mr. George Arliss in the title-rôle. It was known that Mr. Savage was going to make it his opening attraction at the Garden Theatre in a week or two, but nobody had even an inkling of Mr. Fiske's intention. Not to be outdone, Mr. Savage assembled his company in double-quick time, turned on the lights, and gave a performance of the play at the Garden Theatre on the same evening as it was done at the Belasco. Mr. Edwin Stevens represents his satanic majesty in the version prepared by Mr. Oliver Herford for Mr. Savage, and his interpretation of the rôle is most effective. His characterisation has more humour and less subtlety than Mr. Arliss's. It was hardly thought that Mr. Arliss would be able to make us forget his splendid impersonation of Zakkuri in *The Darling of the Gods* for the time being by giving us something better, but he has certainly done so in appearing as the devil, and his performance has earned the highest praise. The story is substantially the same in both versions, the characters being differently named.

An artist has agreed to paint the portrait of the wife of a rich banker. Years before, when both the lady and the artist were poor, they fell in love with each other; but with their first kiss burning on their lips they were forced to part. The lady has married the banker and become a society queen. She has been a faithful wife, and when she meets the artist she feels secure in the knowledge of her own honour and virtue. For six years the two meet, each secretly loving the other but giving no sign. Then the banker decides that the artist shall paint a picture of his wife, and he takes her to the studio and leaves them alone together. It is the first time that this has happened, and before they are aware of it they are treading on dangerous ground, talking of the dear dead days when they first loved each other. With an effort they dismiss the forbidden topic, and the artist leaves the room that the lady may prepare herself for the sitting. To do this she is about to remove her bodice and drape a gauzy scarf about her shoulders. As she steps to the mirror she starts back in surprise at a figure that rises from a high-backed chair. A man, with the features of Mephistopheles, tall, slender, immaculately dressed, stands before her. He begins by telling her of her love for the artist and describing the tumultuous emotions that rage in her breast. Then the artist comes in, and the stranger shows him his soul as in a mirror, with all his longings and desires made plain. In affright, they demand the stranger's name, and he tells them they may call him "Dr. Nicholas." Then his subtle scheme of temptation is unfolded. He laughs at the scruples that keep them apart, depicts the joys of love, and finally maddens them with jealousy. When the banker calls for his wife she clings to him as if for protection against herself. That night the banker and his wife are to give a ball, chiefly to bring about the engagement of the artist to a rich young girl whom the banker's wife has chosen for him, believing that she will feel safer if he is married. "Dr. Nicholas" attends the ball, and works upon the feelings of the artist and the woman he loves until they are almost beside themselves. Finally, he persuades the lady to write a letter in which she virtually gives up the struggle and surrenders. For a moment she repents of her folly and weakness, but it is too late, and in the very act of taking back the unread letter from her lover she throws herself into his arms, and on the face of "Dr. Nicholas" there is a mocking smile. Both productions are drawing crowded houses.

"THE MAN FROM HOME," a comedy in four acts, by Booth Tarkington and Harry Leon Wilson, has started the season auspiciously at the Astor Theatre, where it was lately produced by Messrs. Liebler and Co., after a prosperous career in the West, and where it is likely to remain for several months to come. Once more we have the old familiar theme of the title to be exchanged for a fortune, the contracting parties being English and American, and once more does "honest worth" with a goodly pile of American dollars thrown in, prove to be a very superior article to the rank that, according to Burns, is but the "guinea stamp." But the situations have the necessary touch of originality, and the characters are cleverly drawn. Moreover, the majority of playgoers prefer old themes to new problems.

The scenes are laid at Sorrento, in Italy, and the action of the play occurs within a period of twenty-four hours. Ethel Granger-Simpson and her brother Horace, from Kokomo, Indiana, are staying there with some English friends, among whom are the Earl of Hawcastle and his son, the Hon. Almeric St. Aubyn, and his sister-in-law, Lady Creech. Another member of the party is the Comtesse de Champigny. Ethel and Horace dearly love a title, and the Earl is trying to arrange a match between the American girl and his son Almeric, while the Comtesse regards Horace with a favouring eye. The young Americans have a guardian, one Daniel Voorhees Pike, a lawyer, who arrives on the scene in the automobile of a chance acquaintance, who appears to be a German. Pike has heard of Ethel's prospective engagement, and he sets about preventing the marriage. He is not favourably impressed with the Hon. Almeric, and refuses to agree to the "settlement" which the Earl of Hawcastle demands. The latter is evidently carrying on an intimacy with the Comtesse. Pike receives a letter from the American Vice-Consul in London concerning the Earl, who, it seems, has lived in Russia under an assumed name. Whilst he is repairing the automobile, Pike helps a man who is trying to escape from the police. This man turns out to be a Russian political fugitive, named Ivanhoff, who has been sent to Siberia for the embezzlement of Government funds. It appears that his wife ran away with his best friend after giving information to the police about Ivanhoff's guilt. Lady Creech, who is watching from an upper window, tells the Earl, and the latter threatens Pike with arrest for harbouring a criminal if he refuses to agree to the settlement. Pike remains firm, however, and during a conversation with Lady Creech, he learns that the Earl was Ivanhoff's "best friend." In the presence of Ethel he discloses to Hawcastle the information he has gained, and Ivanhoff recognises the Comtesse as his wife. The "German" proves to be the Grand Duke Vasili Vasilivitch, of Russia, and Ivanhoff is pardoned. Ethel, in spite of the disgrace that has fallen upon the Earl and his family, decides that she must keep her promise to Almeric, and in the last act Pike gives his consent to the marriage and the settlement. But when she learns that Almeric does not feel particularly disgraced, she comes to the conclusion that he wishes to marry her solely for her money, and breaks the engagement, the final situation being that she is going back to Indiana to become Mrs. Pike.

Mr. William T. Hodge, who "made his mark" long ago in low comedy, appears as Daniel Voorhees Pike, and his characterisation of the shrewd Indiana lawyer is lifelike and clever. Miss Olive Wyndham as Ethel is charming; and Miss Alice Johnson gives an effective portrayal of the Comtesse. Miss Ida Vernon's Lady Creech is an admirable performance; Mr. John Glendinning as the Earl fulfils all the requirements of the rôle; and Mr. Echlin P. Gayer as the Hon. Almeric represents an Englishman of the "silly ass" type. Mr. Henry Jewett's impersonation of the Grand Duke stands out well; and Mr. Henry Harmon's Ivanoff is an excellent piece of acting. Mr. Hassard Short as Horace Granger-Simpson also does well.

"ALL FOR A GIRL," a farce comedy in four acts, by Rupert Hughes, has made a hit at the Bijou Theatre. Mr. Douglas Fairbanks, who has made himself popular in several successful comedies produced during the last year or two, made his début as a star in this piece. He played a part that fitted him well, and his success was emphatic. Mr. Hughes has written a delightful little comedy, the dialogue being so spontaneous and witty that one enjoys the amusing situations and forgets that the story is timeworn.

Antoinette Hoadley, a very rich girl with numerous suitors, wants to be loved for herself alone, so she goes away to a farm and poses as a typist. Her companion, Mrs. Clara Van Espen, has a nephew, Harold Jepson, and thinks that Antoinette would be just the right sort of wife for him. So she lets him into the secret, and tells him to happen along and win the heiress in disguise. Harold is loath to take such a mean advantage of the girl, and decides to go on an ocean trip instead. He informs his aunt, and she immediately becomes tired of country life, and returns to the city. In the meantime, however, Harold finds he cannot raise enough money for the ocean trip, and decides to accept his aunt's invitation. He arrives at the farm just in time to see her depart with a lady whom he takes to be Miss Hoadley. But Antoinette is still there, and a match-making cow runs after her, so that just as Harold comes in she faints in his arms without being properly introduced to him. After that, of course, the inevitable occurs, and as Harold loves her as a poor typist her plan proves successful.

As Harold Jepson Mr. Fairbanks depicts the freshness and vivacity of a youthful lover in a skilful and diverting manner; Miss Adelaide Manola as Antoinette Hoadley makes a very good impression; and the other parts are well played. Produced by Messrs. W. A. Brady and Joseph Grismer, the piece has proved highly successful.

DRESSES AT THE PLAY.

FASHION has received an impetus with the coming of the dramatic season, the theatrical productions of last week revealing many striking creations of the costumière. *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* at the St. James's, the first of the week's novelties, introduced some simple but artistic dresses. Several frocks worn by Miss Alice Crawford are Paquin toilettes, exquisitely cut, and with a studious lack of ornamentation. One is made of cream cloth, and another is a grey gown trimmed with buttons from the throat to the hem, and finished with the daintiest and most unostentatious little white chemisettes.

"IDOLS," at the Garrick, presents Miss Evelyn Millard first in an evening toilette, which owes much of its charm to the exquisite mixture of colouring that it presents. Canary-coloured silk posed upon mauve chiffon forms the staple scheme of the tunic, which is finished with sleeves and a chemisette of tulle and silver embroidery. An additional touch of prettiness is given to the robe by insertions of yellow lace at the sides of the skirt which emphasise the tunic, and an embroidered gold waistband completes the design.

MISS MILLARD is also seen in a dress made of Nattier blue crêpe de Chine, trimmed with sable. Draped in order to show a tunic, which is edged with silk fringe, this elegant design is made still more handsome by the addition of a big blue velvet mantle and a toque en suite, plumed with blue feathers and bordered with sable.

OF the three gowns worn by Miss Edyth Latimer, one is an evening toilette composed of brick-coloured chiffon, embellished by means of gold paste embroidery, gold ball fringe, and a gold waistband. The underskirt is draped, and the long train is beautifully embroidered. Black is effectively used in the form of a sash on a cerise cloth gown worn by Miss Latimer. A handsome addition to the brightness of the dress is the gold net chemisette, with its turn-over collar that appertains to the design. Braid and buttons appear on this one, and the toilette is worn with a velvet hat plumed with cerise feathers. There is distinction also in a gown of black cloth and crêpe, worn by Miss Latimer. The toilette comprises a long coat, conspicuously trimmed with buttons, which appear upon macarons of crêpe, and a skirt decorated to match. Another costume is the grey cloth one in which Miss Haviland appears, salient features of which are a silk coat, piped with velvet, and a big grey hat, plumed with grey.

"WHAT EVERY WOMAN KNOWS," at the Duke of York's, is extensively concerned with the art of dressing. A very beautiful day dress is worn by Mrs. Beerbohm Tree. The indescribable colourings of this gown, called aurore, are brought about by a mélange of fawn chiffon posed upon an underskirt of pink satin, with a couple of layers of chiffon sandwiched between beautiful fringes of a glorious pale and dark cerise colour. The corsage is draped from the left side to the right, and is trimmed with gold embroidery and galon to match. It is posed over a deep V-shaped chemisette of gold-embroidered tulle, and the sleeves, which are very prettily draped, are outlined with gold galon and just reveal little elbow-cuffs of cerise chiffon. An attractive mingling of materials is also secured in a black chiffon gown posed upon a sheath of oyster-white taffetas, the softly shimmering folds of which the black veiling partially reveals. Very splendid is an evening toilette of coral-coloured brocade patterned with gold and embellished with handsome gold embroidery and ornamentation.

MISS LILLAH MCCARTHY wears a little morning frock of pink and white striped voile, simply decorated with coarse guipure about the elbow-sleeves and as a turnover collar beneath the throat. A black waistbelt is clasped by a large and very handsome old-silver buckle. Pale-blue chiffon composes the evening dress worn by Miss McCarthy, which is gracefully made *en tunique*, and trimmed with silver lace and fringe. The fringe makes a handsome appearance as an edging to the tunic, and the silver lace is used in the form of two broad bands at the back of the skirt, over which the tunic is carried from the front and tied in a bow. The décolletage is rimmed with a modestie of flesh-coloured tulle, and the tiny puffed sleeves are of the same material. Tucked into the dress is a bouquet of salmon-coloured poppies, a most effective introduction of colour with the blue and silver.

MR. C. A. G. BROWNE'S Advertising Agency is removed from Wych-street to "Wych-street House," 20, Wellington-street, Strand. The new offices are replete with the latest modern equipment, and there is no change in the telephone numbers or the telegraphic address.

AN interviewer in the *Daily Chronicle*, in reproducing Mr. Manners' remarks on the difficulties of securing English vocalists for his operatic enterprise, makes him say: "Even Siebel, in *Lohengrin* (*sic*), was too undistinguished a part for one budding contralto, who wanted at once to be Ortruda!" Perhaps the *Daily Chronicle* interviewer in future will allow the disconsolate lover of Gretchen to remain an unobtrusive character in Gounod's masterpiece, *Faust*, and not associate him with Wagner.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Play, by Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton, entitled
"THE SINS OF SOCIETY."

There was a tremendous audience—always a pleasing sight—at the King's on Monday evening to witness the latest of Drury Lane's successes, and the applause bestowed gave good cause for believing that the week's business would be on a highly satisfactory scale. To produce such a play must necessarily create some little anxiety in a theatre with a less capacious stage than Drury Lane, but it is a boast of Mr. Mulholland that even a heavy production like this can be managed at the King's—of which Hammersmith is reasonably proud—with satisfaction to everybody concerned, and it is safe to say that Messrs. Raleigh and Hamilton's drama never went better. The cast (a very lengthy one) was in most capable hands, and the scenery and appointments deserved the highest of praise. As Sir Dorian March Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan put in some excellent work, and made a vastly favourable impression; Mr. C. F. Collings displayed sterling ability as the scoundrelly Noel Ferrers; in the part of James Hogg Mr. Blake Adams, a popular comedian well-liked in the district, added to an already famous reputation; Mr. Frederick Annerley gave an exceedingly capable representation of Mr. Morris; and Captain Carruthers was ably played by Mr. James Percy. Parker was inimitably rendered by Mr. Edward P. Gee; Mr. George A. Brandram was satisfactory as Sergeant Wrangham; Colonel Gretton was capitally acted by Mr. Walter Shomberg; Mr. Victor Bogetti gave Captain Mason in a pleasant manner; and as the Rev. Martin Hope Mr. Edwin Palmer was very good. Nothing but praise is due to Miss Pattie Brown for her highly-finished and excellent portrayal of Lady Goldbury, and she quite won the hearts of her audience; Miss Grace E. Leslie, with her handsome presence and in many elaborate costumes, succeeded in enlisting general sympathy by her earnest acting as Lady Muriel Beaumont; Miss Dorothy Giles delighted everyone by her intelligent and pleasing rendering of Lady Gwendoline Ashley; the stinging remarks of Caroline Duchess of Danebury were pointedly delivered by Miss Janet Hodson; and Miss Mabel Murray made a smart Hon. Mrs. Murgatroyd. The scenery was a triumph of the painter's art, and Mr. Bruce Smith deserves every praise therefor, the two sensation scenes, "The Weir" and "The s.s. Beachy Head" inducing great applause.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Play, entitled
"THE MOLLUSC."

Miss Annie Hughes and her clever company are touring in Mr. Hubert Henry Davies' *multum in parvo*, *The Mollusc*, and are appearing at the Coronet this week, much to the delight of its patrons. This drawing-room dissertation on the ethics of society has the smallest cast possible in the shape of four people, the sexes being equally represented. Moreover, the action all takes place in one set, the scene being a sitting-room in the Baxters' house. Miss Annie Hughes is a most charming and entertaining species of the genus mollusc, and keeps the audience in roars of laughter by her clever and good-humoured exposition of the character of the pretty, healthy little woman, Dulcie Baxter, who poses as an invalid and what not in order to escape the necessity for action or serious thought. It is a most illuminative impersonation. Mr. Athol Stewart is an excellent foil to Dulcie's frivolity as her energetic, enterprising, serious, and alert brother, Tom Kemp, who undertakes to stir up this limpit of modern civilisation. Miss Lilias Waldegrave presents a touching and girlish rendering of Miss Roberts, and is a very sweet and winsome personality. Mr. Wylie A. Thompson as Mr. Dick Baxter completes the cast, and gives a quaint, droll, and diverting exposition of the weak and flabby husband. *A Bit of Old Chelsea*, which precedes the chief item on the bill, once more exhibits Miss Annie Hughes' wonderful versatility and grasp of character in her notable impersonation of "Saucers," alias Alexandre Victoria Belchamber. Mr. Alick Chumley contributes a capital, easy-going, polished performance as the chivalrous young sculptor, Jack Hillier. Mr. Wylie A. Thompson, who enacts the small part of Phil M'Donnell, also stage-manages the show, and Mr. Frank Yearsley is general manager.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Drama, entitled
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."

Mr. Frank Bertram and company have been presenting the above exciting drama here this week. Mr. William Burgess gives a successful impersonation of the banker, Frederick Neville; Mr. Walter Graham does well with the part of Harold Trevelyan; the rascally character of Jasper Thorne is portrayed with effect by Mr. Escott Robson; and Mr. Willie Black furnishes quite a refreshing embodiment of the humorous Irish "member of the force," Patrick O'Laragan. Miss Nellie Waddington fills the part of Marion Thorne; and Miss Amy Randolph makes a vivacious domestic as Betty Hyne. A really good study is supplied by Miss Lilian Dean in the part of Edith. She infuses much pathos into some exciting scenes, and in the lighter vein is distinctly fascinating. Weary Willie, Convict 89, is played with much realism by Mr. Frank Bertram, he, having played this part over two thousand times (vide programme), leaves no detail unstudied. The minor characters are in safe keeping, and the drama is well staged.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE DAIRYMAIDS."

The deservedly-popular musical comedy *The Dairymaids* is drawing enthusiastic audiences to the Dalston Theatre, where the entertaining piece is being admirably performed. One of the main attractions in the piece here, as elsewhere, is the vivacious and fascinating Peggy, who may be described as the chief dairymaid. Miss Clare Marsden, who takes this character, sings several songs, which quite take the fancy of the audience, and one of the most popular ditties is evidently that which refers to "A long, long lane," for which several encores are obtained. "The Sandow Girl" song is also a decided success. Miss Mabel Younge's rendering of Lady Brudenell is a well-studied piece of work, and her scenes with Dr. O'Byrne, R.N. (Mr. J. A. Warden), are among the most interesting in the piece. Mr. Nelson Keys as Lieut. Sam Brudenell, R.N., and Mr. A. Wykes Ashdowne as Lieut. Frank Meredith, R.N., are decidedly effective, and the little scene they go through as poachers, together with the accompanying song, is an item to be remembered. Roars of laughter are created by Mr. Johnny Osborne as the volatile Joe Mivens; Miss Clarice Lockstone is pleasing as Winifred (Peggy's sister); and some good character acting is presented by Miss Madge Avery as Miss Penelope Pyechase, and Miss Gladys Silvani as Eliza, her maid of all work. Others helping materially towards the general success of the representation include Mr. Harry Cottell as Tim Capus, Mr. Boris Bellew as Lieut. Brereton, R.N., Mr. Fred Foster as Togers, and Miss Gay Silvani as Helen.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Comedy, entitled
"THE THIEF."

A more flattering reception could scarcely be given to any play than that which was accorded to this intensely interesting production when it made its first appearance at the Royal County Theatre on Monday evening, a crowded house showing their appreciation by recalling the actors and actresses at the close of each act. Chief honours were earned by Miss Marie Polini and Mr. Rupert Lester, who appeared in the respective rôles of Marise and Richard Chelford. Both gave a most convincing portrayal of the part allotted to them, especially in the bedroom scene, in which they were seen at their best. Mr. Cyril Harcourt was also very good in the part of Raymond Leyton; whilst that of his son Harry was capably rendered by Mr. Owen Nares. Mr. Luke Foster acquitted himself well as the detective; and the part of Isabel Leyton was well placed in the hands of Miss Jean Cadell. Habitués of the theatre were grateful to Mr. Peter Davey, the managing-director, for bringing such an excellent production to their doors. It was preceded by the comedietta *Too Happy by Half*, which was capably acted by Miss Eileen Kerin and Messrs. Charles King and Owen Nares.

THE BRITANNIA.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Drama entitled
"MAN AND WIFE."

This well-known and popular house of drama was re-opened on Monday last under the direction of Mr. M. Montgomery, of Liverpool, who proposes to give a season of drama under the two-houses-a-night system, and if this week's sample is a specimen of the entertainment, there is no doubt that the venture will be a success. For the initial performance Walter Howard's *Man and Wife* was selected, and a really excellent company of artists engaged to interpret it. A brave and manly Paul Revere was found in Mr. Harry Tresham, his representation of the hero being very good. The cunning and despicable Captain d'Esparre was ably played by Mr. H. Ryland Leigh, being duly execrated by the audience for his misdeeds. An ideal representative of the Church was given by Mr. F. Newman as Father Compe, his defence of the hero and heroine being well received by the audience. Miss Ethyle Murray as Marcelle played in a most agreeable and charming manner the much-wronged heroine, and quickly won her way to the hearts of the audience; as Ruth Revere, Paul's mother, Miss Edna Lester gave a very pathetic and realistic portrait of the poor old widowed lady; and Miss Lalla Stanhope presented a fine performance of the poor deformed boy, Jean. The humorous part of the drama was ably sustained by Miss Florrie Barnes as Risette, Mr. Herbert Young as Bambo, and Mr. H. G. Brandon as Bimbo, this trio causing incessant amusement. Mr. Brandon is also stage-manager and producer for the stock company. The remaining characters were well depicted, and special mention must be made of Mr. W. S. Clerk as Colonel Latour, Mr. E. Alan Hineson as Sergeant Jacques, Mr. Edward James as Captain d'Arville, and Mr. Arthur Melrose as Captain Daral. The drama was well mounted and smartly dressed. A fitting close to a good entertainment was given by some very fine pictures thrown on the screen by the Barrascope. Mr. F. A. Fowler is Mr. Montgomery's energetic and courteous manager.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Drama entitled
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."

Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is meeting with great success at the Shakespeare Theatre this week in Mr. F. Brook Warren's drama *The Face at the Window*. There is a full measure of sensational incidents in the play, which goes strongly from start to finish, the interest of the audience being fully sustained throughout. Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale distinguishes himself by a carefully thought-out rendering of the Chevalier Lucio Delgado, otherwise the Wolf. Acting throughout with coolness and resource, he gives a striking picture of the man who conceals a fiendish nature beneath a polished and dignified manner. A bold and unflinching Paul Gouffet is found in Mr. Scott Leighton, who looks the part of the detective to perfection, and acts throughout with earnestness and vigour. Mr. Alfred Warne renders good service as Henry de Brisson, and Mr. Arthur Beverley as Lucio Cortier makes the most of his opportunities. Mr. Gilbert Hall handles the part of Jean Barbelon in an effective manner; Mr. R. L. Ward does well as a gendarme; Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson makes a charming Marie de Brisson, and sustains the rôle with such pathos and feeling that she soon becomes a decided favourite; the comic relief usual to these plays falls on the shoulders of Mr. Henri Stewart as Peter Pottlebury and Miss Louie Lonora as Babette, and their combined efforts keep the audience well amused. The other characters are well portrayed, and the play fully deserves the applause it receives. The scenery and general effects are very effective. The comfort of the audience is well looked after by Mr. H. Percival Young, the acting-manager for Messrs. Bennett and Bennett.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Play, in Four Acts, entitled
"THE CHRISTIAN."

Mr. Wentworth Croke has organised an excellent company for touring the revised version of *The Christian*, which is drawing good houses at Fulham. The play affords added scope for good acting, and the company are quite up to their work all round. The rôle of John Storm is well played by Mr. Roy Redgrave, who has the necessary force and physique to carry through an exacting part. He looks well and plays with great charm and sincerity, fully deserving the applause he wins. Mr. Wilfred Noy must be highly commended upon his work as Drake; it is a very clever study and a straightforward, powerful exposition of that rather disappointing character. Mr. Herbert Hewetson is well placed as Lord Robert Ure, and acts the part with excellent point and precision. The two opposite types of Churchmen, Father Lamplugh and Archdeacon Wealthy, are well played by Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn and Mr. John Hooker, the former investing a sympathetic part with personal charm. Mr. Royce Milton is appropriately dictatorial as Lord Storm; and Mr. Bruce Lindley is good as Parson Quayle. Mr. Fred Goodyer gives a good study of the truculent Bert; and Mr. John Blake is earnest and sincere as Paul. The honours of the evening among the ladies go mainly to Miss Daisy Scudamore and Miss Cora Deane. Miss Scudamore as Glory Quayle is thoroughly at home in the part, and proves her ability as an actress quite capable of interpreting the complex character. Miss Deane has a difficult and trying part as Polly Love, and emerges exceedingly well from the ordeal—some of her acting is very good indeed. Miss Florence Hunt as Black Meg and Mrs. Harriet Russell as Mother Kent are responsible for good work in their respective parts; and the representatives of the other demi-mondaines are equal to the occasion. Miss Molly Hayden plays well as Mrs. Callender; and Miss Kitty Symons is praiseworthy as Lady Robert Ure. No pains have been spared with the scenery and dresses, and the production is on the stupendous scale associated with Mr. Croke's name.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Drama, entitled
"A DESPERATE MARRIAGE."

Good audiences are being attracted to this popular South London house to witness Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company in the above exciting piece. Mr. Caspar Middleton makes the most of the rôle of the vacillating hero, Dick Strang. The most effective part in the play, that of the old tramp, Elijah Boggs, is excellently enacted by Mr. Herbert Lloyd, and his death scene is most artistically rendered. Miss Winifred Whyte makes a very pleasing heroine as Audrey Howard, the flower girl, her voice having the true ring of pathos; and Miss Helen Anderson is a vivacious Betty Mackenzie. Mr. E. W. Maule Cole does well as the gentlemanly scoundrel, Clarence Woolmer; and Mr. Walter Rousby is amusing as Tom Stripe. Miss Nellie Rousby makes a pert parlourmaid as Bertha Onions; and Miss Gertrude Gilbert ably illustrates the vindictive nature of the demi-mondaine, Miriam Elton. Mr. Houghton Goddard as Dr. Frank Baxter and Mr. J. B. Sunderland as the manager of the Night Hawks' Club ably complete the cast. The scenery and effects are quite adequate.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Russian Drama, in Four Acts, by O. Silverstone and Montgomery, entitled
"THE NIHILIST."

The English autumn dramatic season opened on Monday at this handsomely appointed theatre, with the special engagement of Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company, in the exciting drama, *The Nihilist*. Although there is nothing particularly novel in the play, yet the story is one that strongly appeals to the patrons of the theatre, a large proportion of which are voluntary exiles from Russia. Mr. Walter Bentley displays great energy and acts with virile force as Ivan Nowasky, his scene in the third act when he regains his sight being exceptionally well rendered. The Princess Olga is portrayed by Miss Florrie Kelsey; and little May Ediss does all that is necessary as Little Alexina. Mr. Leo R. Nelson works hard as Prince Alexander, and gains the execrations of the audience; and Mr. O. Silverstone, as a member of the secret police, Piertree Petroff, succeeds in securing the attention of the house. An excellent character sketch of the persecuted Father Gourko is presented by Mr. J. Brunelle Harvey, who is seen to advantage in the final scene; and Mr. Cowel Clarke does well as Karl Orloff. Mr. Henry Wright is an amusing Bobbie Smart, being well aided in his humorous efforts by Miss Jessica Ford as Katrina. Miss Edna Clare, an emotional actress of ability, acts with fervour as Alexina Orloff; and the remaining parts are in the hands of Messrs. Morgan Dale, S. G. Eugene, Edward Dowds, and James Hamilton. The scenery is in the best possible taste, and the incidental music is well played by the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. V. Vorzanger.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Musical Comedy, in Four Acts, by Paul Rubens,
"MR. POPPLE (OF IPPLETON)."

Mr. Charles Macdona is appearing here this week as Freddy Popple, and is enormously successful in the character. The company supporting Mr. Macdona is excellent in every respect. The well-known numbers were done full justice to, and were warmly applauded. Miss Nellie Hodson was delightful as La Bolero; Miss May Hart made a clever and attractive Louise; Miss Marie Moss was a dainty Violet Brinton; Miss Amy Singleton as Mrs. Doring and Miss Lilian Lait as Mrs. Hennay were very amusing. Miss M. Kelly (Gladys), Miss Gwen Yates (Rosie), Miss Helen Vane (Catherine), Miss Mabel Sarl (Marie), Miss Marie Wyse (Clytie), and Miss Dolly Marsden (Mabel) all added to the general success. Mr. Leo Sinclair was very good indeed as Norman Popple; Mr. Nap Barry gave a capital impersonation of George Hennay; Mr. James Stevenson was a clever Mr. Doring; Mr. Eric Barrington was a warm favourite as Jacques Kenyon; Mr. Percy Latimer, Mr. C. H. Johnson, and Mr. F. H. May were successful in their respective parts; Mr. J. Buckstone as Maurice and Mr. J. Orchill as John were well placed; Mr. R. Graham was an efficient William; Mr. Tom May was good as Platt; and Mr. Sydney Grata was a smart Messenger Boy. The chorus was exceptionally good, and included many excellent singers of attractive appearance. The orchestra, increased for this engagement, was under the able direction of Pleons Gains.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Drama, by Miss Maud Hildyard and Mr. Russell Vaun, entitled
"THE GREAT AWAKENING."

Miss Maud Hildyard and her company are here in the above successful drama. Miss Hildyard as Lota Selby brings her remarkable ability and attractive personality to bear on the part, and creates absorbing interest. From her first appearance in the hut on the African coast till the last scene of the play her performance was followed with keen enjoyment. Mr. Wallis Clare was an excellent Selby; Mr. Cecil Grey in the dual rôle of Sir Henry Merton and Jack was very successful; Mr. Herbert Robinson was clever as Guy Rogers; Mr. Dudley Winton was a gentlemanly and pleasing Captain Harry Lambert; Mr. Rule Pyott an amusing Billy Brass; Mr. David Curtis played Richard Wilson with considerable power; Mr. Tracy Barron made a hit as Antoine; Mr. Eric Dane was good as Sergeant Brue, as was Mr. Godfrey Sheldon as Doctor Lane. Mr. T. Bancroft was a competent Gibbs; and Mr. Edwin Gordon did well as the newsboy. Miss Fay Garnet Vane was a sympathetic Molly Merton; and Miss Cissie Podmore as Selina Worts was clever and amusing. Miss Hildyard's many handsome dresses were greatly admired, and the scenery and appointments of the play were costly and appropriate.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Drama, by Walter Melville, entitled
"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."

Melvillean melodrama is, for the fourth successive week, the attraction at the Stratford Borough Theatre, and on Monday night the popular parts of this spacious suburban playhouse were liberally patronised. Mr. Wingold Lawrence as Jack Brown, the soldier, cuts a gallant figure and acts in manly and buoyant style. Mr. Beresford Whitcomb looks a typical military officer as Colonel James Graham, and is always very convincing in the rôle. As the scoundrelly Charles Courtney Mr. Gerald Jordan is responsible for a sound performance; and Mr. Frederick Biron does exceedingly well as David Munroe. Mr. Fred Yarnold supplies a clever sketch of the old farmer, Nathaniel Lee; and Mr. Johnny Chippendale is a very droll and amusing Tommy Spratt. Miss Marie McAulay contributes a fluent and well-defined characterisation of the adventuress, Julie de Beauvrais; and Miss Dorothy Richardson looks very charming as Nancy Lee. Miss Mabel Lowe plays with tact and sympathy as Peggy Munroe; and Miss Mattie Everett is a bright and entertaining Lizzie Walker. The remaining parts are all very capably played, and the piece is embellished with some fine scenery and effects.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Sept, 7, the Drama, by Walter Howard,
"MAN AND WIFE."

Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company in *Man and Wife* is proving a strong attraction at the Stratford Theatre Royal this week. The story, which is laid in the Napoleonic period, lends itself to much artistic treatment in the way of dressing and mounting, of which full advantage has been taken, and the cast is an exceptionally good one. Mr. John F. Traynor is admirably suited in the rôle of the fearless fisherman, Paul Revere, possessing the necessary physical attributes and acting with refreshing vigour and virility. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton in the unthankful part of Captain d'Esparre acts with such ease, fluency, and incisiveness that the captain's turpitude seems further enhanced, and he is an object of particular abhorrence to the "gods." Mr. Geo. Overs submits a graphic sketch of the cripple, Jean; Mr. Ambrose Horton is a soldierly and alert Sergeant Jacques; Mr. George Rammell makes a dignified Colonel Latour; and Mr. Edward Leslie is an impressive Father Compé. Miss Kate Hallam in the important rôle of Marcella makes a very comely fisher maiden, and she acts throughout with much sympathy and admirable restraint. The plentiful supply of comedy business is in the hands of Mr. E. Hall Eldon and Mr. George Vinning as the twins, Bimbo and Bambo, and the quaint doings and sayings of the twain cause much mirth. They are ably assisted in the funmaking by Miss Millie Dorris, a pretty and sprightly Rosette. The part of the blind Mrs. Revere is well played by Miss Violet Temple, while minor parts receive careful treatment.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 7,
the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

A prodigious production at Brixton this week has resulted in equally large houses, and a visit to the handsome theatre in the middle of the week found every seat occupied. Mr. Wentworth Croke's company gives full value to the stirring scenes of Hall Caine's enthralling play. The exacting rôle of Oscar Stephensson is essayed confidently and well by Mr. Gordon Macintosh, whose excellent elocution and resourceful acting are of the utmost value. Mr. Hugh Montgomery is the Magnus, and gives a fine exposition of the part, his resonant voice and vigorous style combining to make the rôle impressive throughout. An excellent performance is also that of the factor, Oscar Neilsson, in which Mr. Philip Renouf is very intense. A telling rendition of Helga is given by Miss Mildred Cotteil, who displays both passion and subtlety in her depiction of the beautiful but unscrupulous woman. Miss Valerie Crespin doubles the parts of Thora and her daughter Elin, looking very attractive in both characters and acting artistically. A sound and studied impersonation of Stephen Magnusson comes from Mr. Charles Cooper, who delivers his lines with deep feeling; and a lovable and motherly performance of his wife Anna is furnished by Miss Barbara Gott. Dr. Olsen has a genial interpreter in Mr. Ernest Rivarz; and the evil nature of Neils Finsen is skilfully emphasised by Mr. Charles A. Maynard. Miss Marie Harcourt plays the Factor's sister with every credit; the Pastor is invested with dignity by Mr. George W. Hewetson; and the Sheriff of Mr. E. Christopher is praiseworthy. Realism is contributed to the events in the Casino by Mr. G. Dickson Kenwin, who gives a characteristic rendition of the Director; by Mr. Arthur Hall, who makes a striking figure of Eric Arnasson; and by Mr. Fred Ritchie as a croupier. The other parts are consistently played. The scenery is on an elaborate scale, and is all carried by the company.

GRAND OPERA AT KENNINGTON.

The Moody-Manners combination received a great welcome at Kennington this week, when they opened their suburban tour with *Lohengrin*, a production which proved an immediate artistic success. The house was crowded in every part, and the appreciation of the audience was manifested at the termination of each act by repeated calls for the principals. The opera was presented with all the magnificence of staging for which Mr. Charles Manners is famous, and full justice was done by the powerful chorus and well-balanced orchestra to Wagner's grand and impressive music. To lovers of Wagner the performance was a treat not often to be had, and the wonderful chorus effects appealed to them with irresistible force. In the title-rôle Mr. Philip Brozel was splendid. His stately mien and handsome presence made him an ideal Knight of the Swan, and his robust tenor voice was heard to great effect in the various numbers. Mme. De Vere Sapio found ample opportunity for the exercise of her sweet and flexible voice and of her charming histrionic gifts as Elsa of Brabant. She acted with great force in the scene with Lohengrin in the Bridal Chamber, and was also seen to great advantage in her meeting with Ortrud in the Castle courtyard. Mr. Lewys James gave a striking impersonation of Frederick of Telramund, and his vocalisation was excellent, while Mr. R. Cliffe gave a careful study of the part of the Herald. Miss Marie Roger found ample scope for her talents as Ortrud, both singing and acting well, while Mr. Charles Magrath made a majestic figure as the King. The orchestra was under the able direction of Herr Richard Eckhold. On Tuesday and Thursday *Madame Butterfly*, in which Mme. Fanny Moody took the principal part with her accustomed distinction, was staged.

NATIONAL OPERA.

Mr. Charles Manners renewed, in slightly varied terms, his generous offer made in the interests of National Opera at the conclusion of his satisfactory season at the Lyric Theatre on Saturday evening. Mr. Manners said:—"Ladies and gentlemen—I always preface my remarks on National Opera by saying that I want everyone to most clearly understand that what I say is not as a private individual, or for a private speculation of a private kind of entertainment that is here to-day and gone to-morrow, but as one of the representatives of the highest form of art, and being in a certain measure responsible at present for its success or non-success.

"This season we have made money—not, however, if you reckoned any charge for the services of my wife and myself, and the wear and tear of my costumes and my scenery. But we are only too thankful to get through like this when we look back at the past four or five seasons in London. The question is, Shall we be again successful if we give another autumn season? And that is where the difficulty comes in of giving Grand Opera. The last thing I ever wish to see in Great Britain is subsidised opera, or opera in which State committees, departments, or politics have anything to say. When in due course anyone in authority would like to know how opera can be given without State aid I shall be pleased to furnish them with a plan that I think would be successful in this country. The few advantages that are obtained by subsidising opera on the Continent are swamped over and over again by the disadvantages, and let me distinctly impress on everyone present that National Opera is not necessarily subsidised opera.

"In addition to our annual autumn season, which I hope to do next year, I want to produce three or four operas by English composers about the end of this tour—that is to say, about the beginning of June. The possible operas would be *The Wreckers*, by Miss Smythe, an opera by Mr. Coleridge Taylor, one by Mr. Nicholas Gatty, and another small one by yet another English composer. These two latter would be performed on the same evening. I would like to give at least half a dozen performances of each of these operas, and I propose doing so in the following way:—

"I to take a theatre, provide free the costumes, scenery, and my services, and to take £5 worth of tickets. This offer I shall send round to every individual member of my National Opera Union (numbering about 2,500 members at present), the Lyceum Club, and various other musical societies interested in the furtherance of English opera, asking them at the same time what seats and how many they will take. The prices to be from 1s. in the gallery to 6s. in the stalls. There will be a chorus of 100, an orchestra of eighty, and the principals will be the best English-speaking artists to be obtained. I think it will be interesting to see how the well-wishers of opera help us. I don't mind in the least whether they only take a 1s. seat in the gallery: it will be something. I hope to announce further developments of this plan in the near future."

"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."

Drama, in Five Acts, by H. Brinsley Hill, Produced at the Marlborough Theatre, N., on Monday, Sept. 7.

Gordon Drake	Mr. C. W. Standing
Sir Victor Lascelles	Mr. Cecil Klein
Count Bellini	Mr. Frank Stone
Giovanni Ferici	Mr. Hodgson Taylor
Giacomo of the Evil Eye	Mr. F. Finch Smiles
Jack Hawkins	Mr. Walter Pemberton
Bill Burns	Mr. Huntly Gifford
Father Gianelli	Mr. Frederic Jacques
Luigi Polti	Mr. Walter Emsdale
Manservant	Mr. Chas. Childs
Countess Bellini	Miss Maud Linden
Mary	Miss Dulcie Greatwich
Lenore de Grésac	Miss Winifred Pearson
Ninette	Miss Celestine Bertram
Polly Clarke	Miss Belle Travers

Judging from the cordiality of its reception on its first production at the Marlborough Theatre on Monday, *The Sailor's Wedding*, the "new romantic drama of life and love in Sunny Italy," should have a long career of prosperity before it. Mr. H. Brinsley Hill has written an exciting and interesting play, and the latest venture of the well-known firm of Hardie and Von Leer contains all the ingredients that go to make for popularity in dramas of this description. Its hero is Gordon Drake, First Lieutenant of H.M.S. Fearnought, and we make his acquaintance at the Bunch of Grapes, an inn near Naples. He has received a letter making an appointment with the Countess Bellini, an old friend of his father's. The lady is in great distress, her husband, the Count, after many years of married happiness, finding her a hindrance if he is to occupy the throne of San Marco, of which he is heir apparent. The reigning monarch is dangerously ill, and Bellini's advisers, chief of whom is the villainous Giovanni Ferici, endeavour to get him to divorce his faithful partner, as it is necessary that the wife of the king shall be someone of nobler station than the Countess. The lady explains that even her life is in danger, and of course the gallant lieutenant promises to do all in his power to befriend her and her pretty daughter Mary, to whose charms he has quickly capitulated. He is not long in incurring the enmity of Giovanni Ferici, who has determined that Mary shall be his wife, and a quarrel between the two leads up to a duel, in which the lieutenant is wounded in the eye and rendered blind. He decides that it will be best for Mary that he shall leave the Villa Bellini, where he is staying as the guest of her father, at once, as he can now have no prospect of ever marrying her; and the Count, who has promised Ferici that she shall wed him, also thinks it wise that he (Drake) shall take his departure immediately. Mary, however, is loyal to her sailor lover, and when the couple learn that it is arranged that Mary and Ferici are to be married on the morrow they speedily decide on "a midnight wedding." Lenore de Grésac, an adventuress in league with Ferici, overhears their plan, and as she has conceived a violent passion for the young Englishman, determines to frustrate it. Mary is waylaid, gagged, and taken prisoner, and the sightless Drake would be wedded to Lenore, but her lawful husband, Giacomo of the Evil Eye, whom she has betrayed and dishonoured, and who lives only for revenge, makes his appearance. The life of the Countess is attempted in the next act by a hired assassin of Ferici's, but Gordon Drake recovers his sight in time to stay the knife of the would-be murderer, and he then receives a letter, apparently from Mary, disclosing her whereabouts. His friend, Sir Victor Lascelles, who throughout has proved a real "chum," cautions him not to go to the place mentioned, but Gordon, thinking the girl is in danger, decides to risk being trapped. It is the adventuress who has sent the letter, and in the next act we see her in her boudoir awaiting the arrival of Drake. When he comes she again declares her passion for him, but the lieutenant is proof against all her blandishments, and demands to know the whereabouts of Mary. Lenore manages, however, to chloroform him, and it is here that perhaps the most thrilling episode in the drama occurs. The "evil-eyed" one has been in hiding behind a curtain, and he now comes forth, fatally stabbing the woman who has so cruelly wronged him. Ere she expires Lenore accuses the now conscious Gordon of the crime, but Sir Victor Lascelles again comes to his assistance. In the concluding act Count Bellini, deciding to relinquish all claim to the throne of San Marco, asks his wife's forgiveness, which is readily given; and their happiness is completed when their daughter is restored to them. Ferici is, of course, given his congé, and the way is made clear for the wedding of Drake and Mary.

As one would expect in a production for which Hardie and Von Leer are responsible, the representation was excellent throughout. Mr. C. W. Standing was a natural and manly Gordon Drake, his acting in the scenes where is blind, and also in the exciting incident in the fourth act, being particularly praiseworthy. Mr. Cecil Klein made a very popular personage of the good-natured friend, Sir Victor Lascelles, his portrayal throughout being excellent. The ambitious Count Bellini was carefully and capably enacted by Mr. Frank Stone, especially convincing being his acting in the scene of his reconciliation with his wife; and the callous and cunning Giovanni Ferici was forcibly enacted by Mr. Hodgson Taylor, who was complimented in the usual fashion by the justly indignant occupants of the upper circle. Mr. F. Finch Smiles was responsible for an impressive rendition of the half-crazy Giacomo of the Evil Eye, particularly thrilling being his enactment of the murder scene. Miss Maud Linden made the most of her opportunities as the unhappy Countess Bellini, her quiet and refined style being exactly suited to the part; the loyal and lovable Mary had a charming representative in Miss Dulcie Greatwich, who is to be congratulated on her natural and intelligent handling of the part throughout; and Miss Winifred Pearson skilfully suggested the passion of Lenore de Grésac for Drake, her depiction of terror when confronted with her husband being also vividly shown. There is plenty of welcome comic relief in the drama, a couple of jovial bluejackets, Jack Hawkins and Bill Burns, humorously undertaken by Mr. Walter Pemberton and Mr. Huntley Gifford, largely contributing to the hilarity so frequently created. Particularly mirth-provoking were the love-scenes of Jack Hawkins—whose "illustrated chest" brings about his speedy marriage—and his sweetheart Polly Clarke, a knowing young waitress, smartly enacted by Miss Belle Travers; and Miss Celestine Bertram also aided in the comic scenes by her humorous portrayal of Lenore's French maid, Ninette. The minor parts were all ably undertaken; and the many charming stage pictures from the Hardie and Von Leer studios came in for much admiration.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company appeared at Trowbridge on Monday in *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. Bert Beswick worked hard and with success as Sir Guy de Vere; Miss Edith Anton Laing was a fascinating and romantic Lady Rowena; Miss Nora Kingsley did well as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave; and Messrs. Charles Benson, Algernon Lee, Colin Johnston, and Humphrey Warden as Isaac Isaacson, the Hon. Charles Widdicombe, Dean Pottlebury, and Sir Brian Ballymote respectively, made the most of their parts. The popular farce was well received.

"PAID IN FULL."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Eugene Walter, Produced at the Aldwych Theatre on Tuesday, Sept. 8.

Joseph Brooks .....MR. ROBERT LORAINE
Emma Brooks .....MISS HILDA ANTONY
James Smith .....MR. PAUL ARTHUR
Captain Williams .....MR. LOUIS CALVERT
Mrs. Harris .....MISS KATE SERJEANTSON
Beth Harris .....MISS DAISY MARKHAM
Sato .....MR. JOHN ARTHUR

A season of successes would certainly have been supplemented on Tuesday night at the Aldwych but for a fatal last act. *Paid in Full* has enjoyed a large measure of prosperity in America, but English audiences have a prejudice against an inconclusive ending, and though approval complete and unqualified accompanied three parts of the play, and the recalls increased at every curtain, interest languished at the close. The play is always exciting and at times painfully intense, but the supreme moment is reached in the third act, and when it arrived on Tuesday the progress of the play was interrupted while the audience cheered. The grip held upon the audience throughout the first three acts, however, was weakened in the last. It leaves the principal characters, one a noble and lovable woman and the other a weak, cowardly, and selfish creature, each in a position of utter hopelessness. The latter is Joseph Brooks, a collector in an American steamship company, and the former is Emma, his wife. Joseph has Socialistic tendencies, born of disappointment in the matter of salary, and is jealous of his fellow employee, James Smith, who was a suitor for Emma's hand before she married, and who is, by her, affectionately called "Jimsy." The Brookses are obliged to practise a rigorous economy in a four-roomed flat in New York, with few comforts and no luxuries. Mrs. Brooks never complains, but her mother and her sister do, much to Joe's disgust. His employer, Capt. Williams, was associated in business with Emma's lamented father, and, being a friend of the family, finds his way to Joe's flat. The customary remarks concerning his poverty are indulged in until Joe, driven to desperation, hurls invective at the captain, who had formerly been a South Pacific trader, declaring that the foundations of his fortune were laid on the blood of the slaves in which he had trafficked, and that his present employees are treated in the same fashion. The captain is only prevented from wreaking summary vengeance on Joe by the intervention of Emma, and Joe's situation is saved. Presently an invitation comes for the Brookses to go to the theatre, but Emma says she cannot go, as she has no dress. Then "Jimsy" offers to take them; but Joe declares he will not be an object of charity. He tells his wife he himself will take her to a theatre, and in order to do so appropriates the money of his firm.

Comparative luxury surrounds the couple in the second act, for Joe has taken advantage of the absence of his principal to embezzle further sums. He attributes his sudden accession of means to a rise in salary, with arrears, consequent upon more responsible duties. Discovery of the thefts soon comes, and "Jimsy" is the first to acquaint Joe of his danger. "Jimsy" offers to assist, and counsels Joe to keep his wife in ignorance; but Joe loses his nerve and blurts out the truth. With the gaol looming before him, and thinking only of his own skin, Joe conceives an infamous plan. It is that Emma, for whom he knows the captain has some admiration, shall visit him and bargain in any way she may choose for her husband's liberty. Emma is appalled at the suggestion; but when Joe threatens that he will lay the blame of his imprisonment at her door she consents to use all her efforts to obtain his release, and Joe exultantly rings up the captain to make the appointment.

True to his promise, Smith visits the captain and offers to pay up Joe's defalcations; but Williams has received Joe's message, and tells "Jimsy" that he is going to arrange the matter with Mrs. Brooks herself. Jim talks ominously of a six-shooter that he has prepared should he find Emma's honour has been sullied, and gives way to Mrs. Brooks. The lady tries by fair means to obtain remission of her husband's fault, but in vain, until Williams suggests an awful price for the favour she asks. Then Emma's purity asserts itself, and she reviles him and invites him to kill her. That is just what the captain is waiting for. The number of good women he has met is small, but Emma has proved herself one of them, and he hands to her a written statement fully releasing Joe from any obligation.

There the piece might well have ended; but the fourth act is added further to emphasize Joe's evil disposition. When Emma returns to the flat and hands Joe the paper he is elated; but his wife, with the memory of his vile proposal strong upon her, expresses her determination to part from him. Joe demands an account of what happened at the captain's flat, but Emma refuses. He will not allow her to leave the room except for one reason, and that to fulfil her compact with Williams. Thus the depths of Joe's nature are revealed, and Emma tells him all that happened at the captain's flat, finally passing out of the room, leaving Joe seated in a chair the picture of abject misery.

The production afforded the means of the return to the West End of several favourite artists, and each principal was accorded a hearty welcome. The piece is rich in types of character, and Mr. Louis Calvert had a most impressive one in Captain Williams. He made a truly ferocious personage of the retired buccaneer—rough in manner, uncouth in speech, and terrible in his wrath. There was a wealth of expression in every gesture, and a fine "fruity" voice which Mr. Calvert had acquired for the occasion lent realism to the impersonation. With infinite care Mr. Calvert concealed the goodness of heart under the rough exterior of the retired buccaneer, and throughout his impersonation was one that will add lustre to a distinguished career. The part of Joe Brooks exacted all the ability of Mr. Robert Loraine, who appeared in the rôle originally assigned to Mr. H. V. Esmond, indisposed. The part is drawn on lines by no means well defined, and it is a tribute to Mr. Loraine's skill that he was equal to its effective representation. The sullenness, the rancour, the feverish outbursts of temper, and the fitful gleams of good humour were cleverly assumed, while the pitiable figure cut by Joe after he realises that he is found out was artistically conceived. Miss Hilda Antony made a comely, refined, and sweet Emma Brooks. Her cultured tones gave melody to the lines in the earlier portions of the play, and in the later her impassioned defiance of Captain Williams, until, realising his worth, she falls sobbing on his shoulder, was superb. James Smith, who constitutes himself Emma's guardian angel and never deserts his post, was played in his lightest and brightest vein by Mr. Paul Arthur, whose delivery secured full appreciation for every telling line. Miss Kate Serjeantson gave an impersonation of Mrs. Harris which was effective in every respect; and a charming and graceful exposition of the daughter, Beth, was furnished by Miss Daisy Markham, who wore some exquisite dresses becomingly. A subtly amusing sketch of the Japanese valet, Sato, was given by Mr. John Arthur, whose stage direction was also very creditable. A feature of the setting was the apartment of Captain Williams, with its ship's furniture and numberless curiosities collected during his marauding expeditions. The applause which accompanied each act was rather faintly renewed at the close, and, in answer to calls for the author, Mr. Calvert appeared, but made no speech.

AN ACTOR ON "FAUST."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I read with great interest your article on "The Psychology of 'Faust'" in the last issue of *The Era*, and should like to address a few remarks to you on this subject. As I have acted on both the German and the English stage, and have taken part in *Faust* productions (both parts) at the Frankfurt Theatre, and, furthermore, have made a special study of the "Faust" subject, I venture to presume that these few words of mine will not be uninteresting to your readers.

Firstly, I must remind your leader-writer that the first and second parts of Goethe's "Faust" are a continuous story. Of course, Mephistopheles' last words, "Her zu mir" ("Here to me") are capable of misrepresentation, being accepted by the British public as meaning "You belong to me now" instead of merely "Come away, or we'll be caught by the prison officials."

Messrs. Phillips and Carr have evidently wished to correct the wrong notion of Faust's damnation, and have therefore made Faust refer to the bet, and say that the conditions of the same are not fulfilled; that he has not enoyed a single moment of happiness. But they are still in error themselves, for Mephistopheles has no right to order Faust down to Hell, and there is no suggestion—in Goethe, at least—of his doing so. The conditions of the wager between Faust and Mephistopheles are that, if ever Faust should be induced to wish to recall a single moment of existence, or, rather, that if he is so satisfied with any single moment that he could wish the clock to stand still, then he would belong to Mephistopheles body and soul.

"Werd 'ich zum Augenblicke sagen
Verweile doch! du bist so schön
Dann magst du mich in Fesseln schlagen
Dann will ich gern zu Grunde gehen."

As he has never uttered such a wish up to the end of the first part, any suggestion of damnation by Mephistopheles would be a breach of contract, for, however happy Faust may have been with Margaret, he has not been happy enough to wish to bid the clock stand still.

Faust is certainly no student, regretting his lost youth, as your leader-writer would have us suppose, but a "world-tired philosopher." In the whole of the first act I can find no regrets for a lost youth, but only dissatisfaction with his present mode of life and a yearning for knowledge hitherto unattainable by man.

It is in the course of Mephistopheles' second visit that the devil, not Faust, proposes that a compact should be made, and Faust scornfully tells him that even his hellish powers will not avail to make Faust satisfied with the ordinary life on earth; in fact, he is willing to wager his soul on the result. And so the bet is made. The devil is to be at Faust's beck and call day and night, ready to gratify any wish that may be uttered, and to have Faust's soul if he can get it; that is to say, if he can induce Faust to wish the clock to stand still. The philosopher, conscious of his own state of feeling and his higher desires, measures himself confidently against the devil. Now, if Goethe had wished to write a "sound acting drama," as your leader-writer puts it, he would have cut out all that first act, with its endless monologues describing the philosopher's yearnings and strivings, and just let him summon the devil to his presence, as Gounod and Irving make him do.

It is noteworthy, too, that in Goethe Faust does not desire pure unalloyed pleasure, or that happiness which Messrs. Phillips and Carr impute as his desire. Rather does he demand from him to be allowed to experience from him every sort of feeling that man can experience. No sort of pain is to be allowed to be a stranger to him—hate, disappointment, jealousy, all these he is to know; and finally, as Goethe puts it, to take the sorrows of the whole world to himself, and feel it within his bosom. Goethe's philosopher knows that unadulterated happiness would soon cloy, and rejects it without further discussion.

Now we come to the Margaret episode, for, considering the length of the play when both parts are put together, Margaret is a mere episode. There I grant your leader-writer to be correct; it is the seduction of an ordinary drama. Mephistopheles cannot take Faust, who is an old man, travelling about the world as comfortably as he could a younger man, and so decides to make him young by magic means. The witches' draught has its effect, and Faust regains his lost youth, and with it youthful desires. Mephistopheles' last words in this scene are—

"Thou'lt find, this drink thy blood compelling,
Every woman fair as Helen."

And so it happens. Goethe has no vision of Faust rejecting the fairest in the world for the sake of a peasant maiden; but his Faust, being made young, behaves as a young man would and falls in love quite naturally with the first pretty girl he meets—a regular calf-love; but with Mephistopheles at hand, ready to lend his magic aid, events take their course very quickly, with terrible consequences for poor Margaret. Faust gets over this love-sickness, goes off to amuse himself on the Brocken, and only thinks of Gretchen again when he learns of her terrible fate. Then, being a good-hearted man, he is naturally alarmed, and does his best to rescue her. The first part of Goethe's play ends with his failure to achieve this. Of Faust's subsequent adventures at the court of the Emperor Maximilian, his conjuration of Helen of Troy, the classical Walpurgnisnacht, Faust's marriage with Helen, and his subsequent good deeds, there is neither time nor place to speak of now. Sufficient to say that Helen, Faust's true mate, arouses every good feeling that is latent within him, and that he decides to use his own and Mephistopheles' powers for the benefit of the human race. Many years later, when he contemplates the good he has done, he utters the wish for the clock to stand still; his moment of satisfaction has arrived.—Yours faithfully,

CLAUD W. SYKES.

Sept. 9, 1908.

EX-BRITISH GUARDS' BAND.

CHAT WITH MR. A. HOLMES-DALLIMORE

The performances by Mr. Holmes-Dallimore's Ex-British Guards' Band in Hyde Park and the other Royal parks have now become one of the most pleasing features of London's summer season. Nothing could exceed the enthusiasm of the audiences who assemble around his bandstand as they listen to the interpretation of the various items on the programme. And Mr. Dallimore is not only bandmaster of the combination to which we have referred, and which, by reason of its constitution and the good work it has done, will soon be looked upon as a national institution, he is also musical director of His Majesty's Royal parks and bandmaster to the Stadium at the Franco-British Exhibition, playing there with another band since the opening of the sports and fireworks. Mr. Dallimore had two extensions this season in the Royal parks, and has been specially engaged with his band of forty-five for all the Sundays this month as well. The reputation of his band reached Scotland some time ago, and last year the promoters of the Scottish National Exhibition felt that they ought to secure its services if it were possible to do so. An official therefore came up from Edinburgh and saw and heard it, and it was engaged as the premier private military band in London to play at the Exhibition in Edinburgh from Sept. 28 to Oct. 10. The management of the Franco-British Exhibition also stepped in, and booked it from the 21st to 26th—the only available week the band had before going North. Mr. Dallimore tells us that he has been retained as musical-director for the Royal parks for several years.

[*Photo by Auden.*

MR. A. HOLMES-DALLIMORE.

As a band organiser and conductor Mr. A. Holmes-Dallimore's advancement has been rapid, and his latest efforts have now given him the lead in free or private military bands. He is both a theoretical and a practical musician, and as a student his studies, lectures, and examinations brought him several first-class passes, senior honours, special prizes, and other awards.

For a young man he has performed notable service in the formation of bands of musicians. His greatest achievement in this direction, of course, is the "Ex-British Guards'" Band, the members of which consist of picked soloists recently retired from the various celebrated Guards' bands, and include many of the best-known instrumentalists in London. This military orchestra, founded seven years ago, is one hundred strong, and yet Mr. Dallimore tells us that the work of conducting his big company comes comparatively easy to him. We suppose one reason is that Mr. Dallimore is so thorough and painstaking in everything he does, and a second reason may be found in the fact that his men have the utmost confidence in him and he has the utmost confidence in them. Another thing, to be a performer under Mr. Dallimore is in itself a high-class recommendation, for he will not take any but skilled musicians. In reply to a question as to whether he was bound by any military rules, Mr. Holmes-Dallimore stated that his band was absolutely free from all Army restrictions, officers' orders, and disabilities as to licences.

"It occurred to me," he says, "that such a band was wanted to represent the country should the necessity arise, and, after all, the Guards' Bands provide the best training for wind instrumentalists. We are the largest and finest military band in Great Britain. All the men are experts in the use of their particular instruments, and the regiments that are represented by this body are the Grenadiers, the Coldstreams, the Scots, the Irish, the Royal Horse, and the Life Guards."

Mr. Holmes-Dallimore's band library numbers several thousand pieces, and consists of works from various symphonies, selections from grand and light opera, the standard overtures, reminiscences of the great composers, national and other songs, fantasias, solos, duets, valses and dances of all kinds, humorous sketches, marches, and descriptive pieces.

The subject of this interview is not merely the organiser of one band. In 1893 he founded the West London Military Band, and with it opened the Fire Exhibition at Earl's Court, in 1903 again taking the place of the regular Guards' band. In the following year (1894) he brought into existence the West London Orchestral Band, and in 1896 organised the Strolling Players' Orchestra. Thirteen years ago he started the West London Academy of Music in Hammersmith, and his work in that borough as a conductor and organiser has received public, private, and official appreciation. Mr. Holmes-Dallimore made a close study of band instrumentation. He is responsible for a good many admirable compositions, writing both words and music. One of these, entitled "Men of Britain," brought congratulatory letters from her late Majesty Queen Victoria, the present King and Queen when Prince and Princess of Wales, the late Marquis of Salisbury, the late Lord Randolph Churchill, Miss Balfour, and many other men and women of high standing. Another, called "Britain's Might: a Song of Empire," was dedicated to the Duke and Duchess of York; and still another, "The Chorister's Dream," to his friend the Countess of Cardigan and Lancaster.

But undoubtedly Mr Holmes-Dallimore's most successful composition was his "Vive l'Entente Cordiale" march, which was written specially for the naval spectacle at Earl's Court three years ago, and became exceedingly popular with the public. In fact, it was played nightly during July, August, and part of September at the Alhambra, Leicester-square, in 1905, and formed a notable feature of the programme at that house on the occasion of the visits of the French and English naval officers. It was also played amidst immense enthusiasm by the Irish Guards' Band during their Canadian tour, as well as at the Franco-British Exhibition this year. Another march of his, "John and Jonathan," proved a great favourite with American visitors at Earl's Court, and was frequently asked for.

Speaking of his municipal work, it is interesting to record that Mr. Holmes-Dallimore was the originator of the London County Council library of music. Mr. Holmes-Dallimore was the first librarian to the Council, a position he retained for three years. He has more than once massed all the professional bands of the L.C.C., and has conducted a goodly number at Queen's Hall. Presentations have been made to him in many towns, where his skill as a conductor and the effective performances of his band assisted to strengthen and improve the local musical life.

"THE PROOF."

A Play, in One Act, by Alice Clayton Greene, Produced, for the first time, at the Opera House, Southport, on Monday, Sept. 7.

Jim Patterson .....MR. DALZIEL HERON
Sydney Ross .....MR. A. E. MAYNE
Elizabeth K. Binns .....MISS MILDRED ORME
Brenda .....MISS MAY BROOKE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The story unfolded in this interesting playlet deals with the bravery and devotion of a woman for the man she loves. The action takes place at Jim Patterson's house, situated a few miles from a remote American town. He has recently married a lady who is superior to the surroundings, and thereby incurs the jealousy of the neighbours who do not visit her. Jim, who is the owner of the works at the town, receives a telephone message to the effect that his attendance is required immediately at the works, as there is trouble amongst the men. His wife is anxious for his safety, and persuades him to take his revolver. Subsequent conversation arouses Jim's suspicion as to Brenda's reasons for her marriage with him, and she eventually confesses that she had been previously wed, but left the man on discovering that he was already married. On hearing this, Jim doubts her love for him and leaves her in distress. After his departure there enters a man of tramp-like appearance, who turns out to be Sydney Ross, the man who deceived Brenda. He threatens to attack Jim unless Brenda consents to marry him—his own wife having died a few days after Brenda left him. She declines to have anything to do with him, and, drawing a revolver, he proceeds to search the house for Jim. On returning he discovers Brenda at the telephone, where she has given the alarm at the works. Ross then gives her two minutes to decide whether she will depart with him, failing which he will kill her and Jim afterwards. As the time-limit is expiring, Brenda, in her despair, dashes the lamp from the table, and rushes to the telephone. Jim, who has received the first alarm, then appears with a lantern, and covers Ross with his revolver. Ross then tells Jim of his wife's bravery, in risking her life in order to give the alarm to save his, and the proof of her affection is thus established. The dialogue and dramatic situations appeal strongly to the sympathy of the audience, and the play, which was very well received, will probably prove a successful curtain-raiser. Generally speaking, the acting was somewhat stiff and restrained, but having regard to the difficulties of a first production, the characters were on the whole acceptably impersonated. Mr. Dalziel Heron acted with earnestness and dramatic effect in the part of Jim Patterson; Miss May Brooke depicted the rôle of Brenda very satisfactorily, especially in the later scenes; Miss Mildred Orme was sufficiently austere and caustic, and played very well as the sour-faced and prying Elizabeth K. Binns; and Mr. A. E. Mayne sustained the character of Sydney Ross very creditably.

An Open Answer.

"THERE are times," writes Mr. Judd Green, "when one is lost for words to reply to a simple statement, and such a time came to me some years ago in Bristol. I was waiting on Temple Mead Station, one bitterly cold winter's day, for some of my company to arrive from London, who were going to appear that night at the Tivoli. Of all the miserable stations I have ever struck commend me to this one. A porter came along wheeling a truck-load of luggage and stopped in front of me. 'I should think this is the most draughty station in the world,' I said to him, quite pleasantly. 'Yes, you're right, governor,' he replied. 'We're obliged to keep it open both ends to let the trains come through.' He then moved on with his truck, and left me thinking."

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the meeting of the council, held at 409, Strand, on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Present: Mr. Robson Paige (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (honorary solicitor), Messrs. Fewlass Llewellyn, J. Sebastian Smith, F. Annerley, C. F. Collings, Jackson Wilcox, Chris Walker, Miss Marion Lind, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The chairman read a letter from Mr. Clarence Derwent regretting he was unable to attend the meeting. The chairman read a letter from a member stating he was unable to pay his subscription, and tendering his resignation, which the council accepted with deep regret.

The secretary read a letter from Mr. Mote stating that he had heard from a member to the effect that as the result of a letter written by him to a lady her play had been returned. The secretary also read a letter from a provincial manager with regard to the insanitary condition of some of the dressing-rooms, and stated that he was looking into the matter. He also read a letter requesting that Dr. Wordsworth, of Mansfield, be appointed honorary medical officer to the A.A., and received instructions to write to Dr. Wordsworth asking whether he would be willing to serve. Two letters were read from the Actors' Union, one pointing out the case of a bogus actor, to which the secretary was instructed to reply, thanking Mr. Blackmore for informing them of the matter, and the other enclosing a copy of the resolutions put before the Trades Union Congress at Nottingham on Monday.

The hon. solicitor reported that as the result of issuing execution, he had obtained a sum of money in two instances.

The council discussed the question of new premises, and several members adjourned and inspected the rooms of No. 1, Coventry-street, only to find that one of the rooms had already been let. The council then reassembled, and the matter was again discussed, after which they proceeded to inspect the rooms belonging to the Cabins, Ltd., in the Strand. Instructions were then given to the secretary to write to the Cabin to the effect that the A.A. are prepared to take the rooms of 353, Strand, for one year from Sept. 29 next at the rental agreed upon, including all rates and taxes, and payable quarterly in advance and on the understanding that the premises are put in tenantable repair.

ACTORS' UNION.

At the usual weekly meeting of the committee of the Actors' Union, on the 3rd inst., the following were present:—Mr. J. W. Braithwaite (chair), Mr. Cecil G. Calvert, Mr. Frank Gerald, Mr. D. Lewin Mannering, Mr. Frederick F. Loyd, and Mr F. Rawson Buckley. Letters were received from Messrs. Geo. H. Child, J. Hastings Batson, Royce Milton, Henry Bedford, James English, Jerrold Heather, Fred D. Daviss, and Oswald Marshall.

A letter was read from Mr. Harry C. Momber asking for certain information, and the secretary was instructed to send a suitable reply.

A letter was read from a member with reference to an Actors' Union stock company. The secretary was instructed to write and inform him that the committee would be willing to consider his scheme, but that they had already discussed the practicability of such schemes and found that they could not be carried out.

The secretary was instructed to write to two of the committeemen and state that their attendance at committee meetings would be welcomed, as so many of the members were on tour that there was sometimes a difficulty in forming a quorum.

It was announced that Mr. Mitchell having given up the Abbotsford Bar, Mr. Pryde, the new proprietor, would act as the agent for the Union in Edinburgh.

A suggestion was made by Mr. Frederick F. Loyd that the committee should consider the advisability of including fifty-two spaces for Benevolent Fund stamps (which would be voluntary) in the membership cards for 1909 when the matter comes up for consideration

The name of a bogus actor was laid before the committee, and the secretary was instructed to place his name on the "Black Book."

It was decided that hon. members should be admitted to the Union at a subscription of 10s. 6d. per annum.

The secretary was instructed to write to Mrs. Jamieson and thank her for her letter with reference to a boarding-house for young actresses, and inform her that the committee were entirely in favour of such a scheme, but unfortunately the A.U. had no funds available for the purpose. They would, however, use their best endeavours in her behalf.

The general secretary was instructed to proceed to Nottingham to represent the Actors' Union at the Trades Union Congress.

Nine new members were elected, and one application was refused.

The secretary reported that two engagements had been settled through the Agency during the week.

Mrs. Walter Bentley presided at the usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union, held at Hummum's Hotel on Tuesday afternoon. There were present Messrs. J. W. Braithwaite, G. Beresford Innes, Alfred J. May, D. Lewin-Mannering, and Leslie Hall; and Mesdames Amy Coleman, Dorothy Barrington, Bessie Armytage, Kitty Marion, Lorna Treherne, Florence Creagh, Mildred Silvestre, Millie Vere, Nancie Blair, and Shiela Dawn. The Chairwoman addressed the meeting at some length on the subject of trades unionism in its general application as well as in its particular application to the theatrical profession. She also expressed her desire to see an amalgamation between the Union and the Actors' Association. There were no other speakers, and the meeting assumed a private character.

HARD LUCK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—My daughter (aged 17½), who has taken prizes everywhere for Shakespearean recitations, and elocution generally, passed through every examination, concluding with the Senior Cambridge, with honours, was appointed as teacher, and commenced her duties at school last week. The medical gentlemen of the L.C.C. have, however, suspended her for a month, saying that she requires an absolute change. Their instructions are, that she must go to Brighton or Hastings, live upon the best of nourishing food, a pint and a half of milk a day, plenty of port wine, and pocket money. Sleep with the window open, and do nothing but sit on the beach and look "fetching." The two last items of course are at command, but when I tell you that I am an old actor (twenty-five years), holding the highest credentials, but, unfortunately, through illness, been out of an engagement for many months, her mother earns but a few shillings by plain needlework, my son two shillings as programme boy at theatre, and her other two sisters at present only on in the banquet scenes, you will see that her chance of improvement as to health is remote. The future for her seemed bright, and I know there are many kindly hearts in the profession who would spare ever so small a trifle towards assisting such a cause, and for which we all should indeed be grateful. For after years of study, day and night, it seems a pity that such a career should be ended for the sake of a few shillings. Any contributions would be thankfully received by the Rev. Ronald Bayne, Holy Trinity Vicarage, Blackheath-hill, Greenwich, or her mother, Mrs. Hanscomb, 83, Milton Court-road, New Cross, S.E. —Yours faithfully,

FATHER.

THE HOUSE OF WHITBREAD (BRUSSELS).

AN actor says that in touring the greatest trouble the actor or music-hall artist has to endure is the eating and drinking problem. How frequently is heard the wail of the pro., "bad food and worse liquor!" No wonder we all strive to get a shop near home. And as this happy consummation is reserved for the favoured few, the great majority, who have to be constantly on the wing, must be truly thankful when they can feel assured of the quality of what they have to eat and drink. It is a very poor appetite that cannot make a meal off the homely loaf and cheese (which no landlady can spoil in the cooking) when it is accompanied by good, wholesome English beer; and, thanks to the enterprise of "Whitbread's," this is not only possible throughout the whole of Great Britain and Ireland, but also in many places on the Continent, as witness the fine establishment at Brussels depicted in the illustration above. These spacious premises were inaugurated in June this year, and cover several acres of ground. There is a stud of some thirty horses constantly at work, and a stock of beer at all times (kept in perfect condition by natural process only) of not less than 500,000 bottles! Think of that, ye poor, weary travellers when arriving in Belgium's capital city to fulfil a "Barrasford" engagement; and with thankfulness give your little order for Whitbread's bottled stout or ale to go with "votre pain et fromage."

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

MR. BERBOHM TREE has achieved one of the successes of his career, both as actor and producer, by his presentation of *Faust*. A distinguished gathering at His Majesty's on Saturday welcomed him with affectionate warmth, and cheered at every opportunity. The enduring nature of the attraction may be estimated by the fact that before ten o'clock on Monday morning hundreds of people were waiting outside the doors, and throughout the morning and afternoon the theatre vestibule was blocked by those desiring to book seats, which were, indeed, purchased for nights far into November

INCLUDED in the distinguished audience on Saturday were Sir William and Lady Gilbert, Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. E. S. Willard, Mrs. Langtry, Miss Viola Tree, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Henry Hamilton, Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy, Mr. John Galsworthy, Mr. John Maesfield, Mr. Frederick Fenn, Mr. Cosmo Hamilton, Miss Marion Terry, Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Constance Collier, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Harvey, Mr. J. D. Beveridge, Mr. J. E. Vedrenne, Mr. Paul Arthur, Mr. Robert Loraine, Miss Geraldine Ulmar, Miss Suzanne Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Webster, Mr. Kennerley Rumford and Miss Clara Butt, Mr. W. Lestocq, Lady Paget, and Sir Alma Tadema.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER has acquired a dramatised version of Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's popular novel, *Deborah of Tod's*, and has had it duly copyrighted. The play, which has been adapted from the novel by the authoress herself, is in a prologue, three acts, and an epilogue, and its action takes place in Devonshire, London, and Cumberland. Mr. Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh, who are now on their autumn tour, will produce the new play at Manchester next month, prior to their return to the Metropolis.

MISS LENA ASHWELL, who began her prosperous régime at the Kingsway just a year ago, has arranged with Mr. Penley for the transference to her of his entire interest in the theatre. Although Miss Ashwell had the house extensively altered and redecorated when she began her occupation, additional improvements are now being effected in the building with a view to the added comfort of the audience. Miss Ashwell, as we have before stated, will reopen the Kingsway on Oct. 9 with Mr. Wilfred T. Coleby's piece, *The Swayboat*. On that occasion a one-act play by a new author will also be produced.

WE regret to record the death on the 31st ult. of Mr. Benjamin H. Wheeler, the well-known South African manager. Mr. Wheeler was an American by birth, and for some time toured the United States. He then went to Cape Town with a small stock company, and with his son Frank gradually extended his enterprises over South Africa, where they became famous. The Messrs. Wheeler were the proprietors of the Good Hope Theatre, Cape Town, and of the Opera House in that city. They built His Majesty's Theatre, Johannesburg, and occupied it after its erection, and they also owned the White Horse Hotel, Cape Town. Mr. Wheeler received all the best English companies visiting South Africa, including Mr. George Edwardes's Gaiety companies, which were such a success there.

THE secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund gratefully acknowledges a further sum of £1 8s. 6d. from Mr. C. Herbert Workman, which he has collected for the fund by means of his autograph. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland has also forwarded to the fund a postal order for 13s. 4d., being the result of a penny tax for autographs during the latter part of the run of *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* at the Lyceum. Mr. Tree is daily sending postal orders which he is receiving in exchange for his autograph.

MR. TREE, who is one of the most industrious collectors of the autograph tax for the Fund, sends the following in reply to all requests for his "sign manual":—"Dear Sir or Madam,—In reply to your letter, Mr. Tree desires me to say that in consequence of the frequent demands for his autograph, he has for some time past charged the sum of 2s. 6d. for the same. This amount he devotes to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, one of the most useful and best-conducted charities in connection with the dramatic profession. Mr. Tree feels that those who would like his signature will not grudge this trifling sum to help the needy and unfortunate members of his calling. If you will therefore enclose a postal order for 2s. 6d. and a stamped envelope to C. I. Coltson, Esq., the Actors' Benevolent Fund, 8, Adam-street, Adelphi, the desired autograph, with a receipt for your donation, will be forwarded to you."

NEWS comes from America of the death in that country recently of Miss Fanny Edwards, at one time a member of the D'Oyly Carte companies, and widow of the once-popular comedian, Harry Clifton, the singer of "Paddle your own canoe" and "Pulling hard against the stream." The deceased lady was a native of Burnley, and in her early days she worked at the mill. On one of Harry Clifton's professional tours he stopped with Miss Edwards's aunt, and was so struck with Fanny's contralto voice that he had her trained. Later, they were married, and toured as vocal entertainers. After her husband's death, about thirty years ago, Mrs. Clifton joined the D'Oyly Carte company as principal and coach, and achieved considerable success on tour in *Patience*, *Princess Ida*, and other Gilbert-Sullivan works.

MR. GEORGE EDWARDES has returned to town from Carlsbad, to find his Gaiety and Daly's Theatres in the full flush of prosperity. He is turning his attention to the production at a theatre not yet named of *The Dollar Princess*, which has been adapted into English by Captain Basil Hood. Mr. Edwardes also contemplates bringing over from the States the well-known actor Mr. David Warfield in *The Music Master*. Of Mr. Warfield Mr. Edwardes speaks in the highest terms. "He is," he declares, "the biggest attraction and the best actor I have ever seen."

MR. MARTIN HARVEY'S experiment of trying a different one-act play each week during the run of *The Corsican Brothers* has aroused great interest. *The House of Pierre* will be presented in front of *The Corsican Brothers* on Monday, when Miss N. de Silva will make her first appearance of the season. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Charles Glenney will also appear in this play, which, it will be remembered, is the work of the well-known actress Miss Julie Opp. It is particularly requested that patrons of the theatre will take their seats before the rising of the curtain.

A MUNIFICENT bequest to the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre has been made by the late Mrs. Sarah Flower, of Avon Bank, Stratford-on-Avon, who left estate valued at £84,881 gross, of which £67,719 is net personalty. The legacies to the Association consist of a picture of Battersea by Whistler, a picture by Halswell, and all pictures not otherwise disposed of; £12,000 for the general purposes of the Association; £300 for the library; her house, Avon Bank, and grounds (about three acres), and landing-place, to be used as an adjunct to the memorial grounds, declaring that it was her late husband's wish and her own that a path should be for use by the public along the Avon from the memorial grounds to the churchyard, with a bridge over the Wash. Several hospitals also benefit to the extent of £500 each.

WE deeply regret to record the sudden death of the well-known actor, Mr. G. R. Peach, who passed away at Richmond on the 4th inst., at the age of fifty-two. He played for many years with the late Wilson Barrett and Miss Isabel Bateman. He was also associated with *The Sign of the Cross* and *Message from Mars* companies. The deceased actor was a cultured scholar, a good linguist, and an ardent student of English literature. Chronic asthma compelled his recent retirement from the stage, and he settled down in Richmond to be near his friend and schoolfellow, Mr. Henry Tweedie, who, with a host of other old aquaintances, deeply mourns his loss.

VISCOUNT HAWARDEN, who died recently, at his seat, White Hill Chase, Greatham, Hants, was related to Mr. Cyril Maude. The first Viscount had a family of six sons, from the two youngest of whom descend Colonel F. S. Maude, C.M.G., and the popular manager of the Playhouse.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS has written a new musical play, with the striking title, *The Dashing Little Duke*. Miss Ellaline Terriss will have the name-part in the novelty, which is to be produced at the end of Mr. Hicks' present tour. The theatre at which the piece will be produced is not yet decided upon.

SIR SQUIRE BANCROFT showed his interest in the game of golf by offering two prizes—one for a lady and the other for a gentleman—at the recent golf competitions at Marienbad.

MISS ENID LEONHARDT, the charming Gaiety actress, was married to Mr. David Wellesley Bell on Monday, a few days prior to the original announcement. The ceremony took place in the Poland-street Registry Office, and was by ordinary license. Both bride and bridegroom are twenty-one years of age. The latter is described as a bachelor, of independent means, his father being the late David Wellesley Bell, merchant. The bride's real name was Lilian Enid Adleshaw Borrows, and she is the daughter of Mr. Arthur Borrows, described as of independent means. After the marriage the small party drove to a Regent-street restaurant for the wedding breakfast.

MISS LEONHARDT has acted as understudy to Miss Evie Greene, and has played in *The Spring Chicken* and *The New Aladdin*, in which latter comedy she sustained Miss Gertie Millar's part for some time. She also had an important part in *The Girls of Gottenberg*. She is now playing Consuelo in *Havana* at the Gaiety, and will remain in the rôle until the arrival of Miss May de Sousa, who takes up the character on Monday.

MR. LOUIS MERCANTON has been released by Mr. Gaston Mayer for four months to enable him to accept an offer from Mme. Sarah Bernhardt for the position of general stage-manager during her Continental tour. The tour commences on Tuesday next, and will include Belgium, Germany, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Odessa, Roumania, Bulgaria, Constantinople, and Italy, finishing at the Riviera in January.

REMARKABLE enthusiasm was displayed last week at Merthyr, when the return visit of H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's *Leah Kleschna* company was paid. The theatre was crowded nightly from floor to ceiling, and chairs had to be borrowed to find seats, while hundreds were turned away. *Leah Kleschna*, which already held the record at Merthyr for dramatic business, succeeded in beating that of their previous visit.

THE new Grand Theatre, Oldham, now in course of erection, will, it is fully anticipated, be ready for opening next Christmas. It already bears a very handsome appearance, and the public are awaiting with the utmost confidence the fulfilment of the promise that Oldham will be able to boast one of the finest theatres in the provinces. No expense is being spared to make it such, one important department which has the careful eye of that experienced manager Mr. Ernest Dottridge being the stage and dressing-rooms. The former will be found large enough to produce the biggest attractions sent on tour, while the latter will have every comfort for the artists, hot-water pipes being carried around the stage as well as the other portions of the auditorium. The house will be run on first-class lines.

THE Covent Garden balls will be resumed on Friday, the 25th inst. Since the close of the grand season at Covent Garden the Opera House has been in the hands of the builders, and certain rearrangements of the interior of the house have been effected with the object of securing added comfort for the occupants of the pit and grand-tier boxes. By means of an alteration of the slope of the partitions, the "cant" of the dividing wall is so arranged that the stage will be almost as easily overlooked from the back as from the front of the reconstructed boxes.

THERE will be no autumn season of opera at Covent Garden, but about the middle of January four weeks of opera in English will be given under the auspices of the Grand Opera Syndicate. Three complete cycles of Wagner's "Der Ring des Nibelungen" will be given under Dr. Hans Richter, and the first performance is announced of Dr. Naylor's prize opera *The Angelus*. Mr. Neil Forsyth, the manager, returns from his holiday on Monday.

SIR CHARLES SANTLEY will reappear this evening on the scene of his former triumphs, not, however, as a vocalist, but as a speaker. He will address the men's meeting at the Albert Hall held in connection with the Catholic Congress, at which Cardinal Vannutelli, the Pope's Legate, will be present. Sir Charles is an ardent Catholic, and his speech at the meeting in opposition to Mr. Birrell's Education Bill a couple of years ago at the same hall thrilled the vast audience by its strength and simplicity.

MISS MAY DE SOUSA, returned from Paris, will take up the part of Consuelo in *Havana* at the Gaiety on Monday, thus replacing Miss Enid Leonhardt, whose wedding is noted in this column. Mr. Courtice Pounds takes up Mr. O'Neill's character of Diego. The lighter side of the part has been developed for Miss Sousa. "There's the moon" is the title of a new duet which she will share with Mr. Pounds.

THE new, and as yet unnamed, play by Mr. Charles Hannan which Mr. Fred Terry recently accepted, will probably be produced during Mr. Terry's autumn tour. The play is in four acts, and is a modern piece containing strongly emotional parts for both Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. Fred Terry.

MISS CORA DEANE, after a long absence, has returned to the stage, and is now appearing as Polly Love with Mr. Wentworth Croke's South company in *The Christian*.

MR. WILLIAM MOLLISON commenced his autumn tour at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, last week with his Shakespearian company, and played to crowded houses nightly. It speaks volumes for the popularity of this gifted actor that he should return to Bristol after only four months' absence and draw such large houses. After repeated calls each evening the audience would not let Mr. Mollison retire without a speech, and he was compelled to make one after each performance. During his present tour Mr. Mollison will visit the principal cities, including Nottingham, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Belfast, Dublin, and other dramatic centres.

FOR five consecutive years the Hutchison season during the month of August at the West Pier, Brighton, has been one of the theatrical events of the year. This year over 45,000 people paid for admission during the four weeks, in spite of the fact that the prices were raised, and the sight of a vacant seat at any performance was rare. The praise earned by the companies has been unanimous on all sides. Mr. Hutchison himself visits the Royal in November with *Brewster's Millions*, and in October Miss Decima Moore appears at the same theatre in *Mrs. Dot*. This makes the sixth visit of the Hutchison companies to Brighton in three months. The season is not a stock season, but it is coming very near to a revival of the old custom, with the exception that the staging is akin to that of the West End, and often consists of the actual production. Mr. Hutchison, who is well qualified to express an opinion, is convinced that a season of good plays will always be a sure thing in the provinces.

BY a strange coincidence Mr. and Mrs. Percy Hutchison (Miss Lilas Earle) play in opposition to one another at Llandudno this week in *Brewster's Millions* and *Peter's Mother*, and will continue to do so at the Grand and Gaiety Theatres, Douglas, next week. The companies, numbering nearly fifty people, travel to Douglas by special boat on Sunday, taking with them twenty-eight tons of scenery and effects, the original London productions, in fact, of *Brewster's Millions* and *Peter's Mother*.

MRS. BROWN POTTER'S success as Lady Frederick is enormous. Again at Eastbourne and Folkestone the eminent actress succeeded in breaking all previous Hutchison records. In an interview at Bournemouth Mrs. Potter speaks of Mr. Hutchison in words of the warmest appreciation, referring to him as "an actor-manager of tireless energy and most capable administration." *Lady Frederick*, which is making its first visit to the principal cities, has been received with the greatest enthusiasm at the King's, Glasgow, this week.

MISS MABEL LOVE'S reception in *Lady Frederick* at the Grand Theatre, Hull, during this week has been exceptionally hearty. Miss Love, who travels under the phenomenally successful management of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison, again attracted an enormous audience on the opening night, the "House full" boards being put out not long after the early doors had been opened. The élite of Hull society have monopolised the boxes, dress circle, and stalls during this visit. The advance booking at the Spa Theatre, Scarborough, which will be the next town visited, is eclipsing all previous records.

MME. HELEN TOWNSHEND has resumed her lessons in voice production and singing at her studio at 126, Oxford-street. She is forming classes, limited to twelve in each, for the study of breathing and voice production, an art in which the accomplished teacher has won wide renown. The excellence of her methods may be judged by the large number of pupils occupying prominent positions in West End theatres, a list of which Mme. Townshend will readily supply on application.

MR. EDWIN O. SACHS, F.R.S.Ed., the eminent architect, whose works on the art of stage setting have proved so valuable, has been accorded the Russian Gold Medal for Merit (on the ribbon of St. Andrew). In transmitting the distinction to Mr. Sachs, Sir Edward Grey has intimated that the King has been graciously pleased to grant permission for its acceptance.

MR. C. ADOLF SEEBOLD, the manager of the Theatre Royal, Worthing, has again this year had his theatre redecorated, and every comfort is now provided. His benefit on Wednesday was under distinguished patronage.

MISS FLORENCE GLOSSOP-HARRIS will start her fourth tour on Monday at St. Leonards. *David Garrick*, *School for Scandal*, and *She Stoops to Conquer* have been added to the répertoire, which now comprises fourteen complete productions. Mr. Frank Cellier will again be the stage-director, and the company also includes Messrs. Arthur Goodsall, Percival Madgewick, Horace Sinclair, Murray Kinnell, Francis Roberts, Laurence Toole, Frank Borer, Walter Carr, Leslie Gordon, and Maurice Ingram, and Misses Gertrude Tate, Janet Warden, Mary Goulden, Madge Courtney, Iris Vandeleur, and Rosamund Thompson.

AT the Theatre St. Julian's, Guernsey, on Tuesday, Mrs. Rousby, the widow of the late Mr. Wybert Rousby, organised a special dramatic performance in aid of charity. The occasion was honoured by the presence of the Lieutenant-Governor and a fashionable gathering. The pieces chosen were *Barbara* and *The Ladies' Battle*, and the artists assisting were Miss Daisy Rousby, Miss Amy F. Millar, Mr. Olaf H. Hylton, and Mr. Frank Pennison.

MR. R. J. BELL takes over the management of the Cork Opera House from this week, in succession to Mr. John Horgan. Mr. Bell was for many years secretary and assistant-manager of the Theatre Royal, Dublin. He opens next week with Mr. James Welch's Company in *When Knights Were Bold*, and intends securing for the public of Cork the best theatrical companies touring.

MR. FRANK STANMORE'S company in the new musical comedy, *The Gay Deceivers*, will open its autumn tour at the Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate, on Monday, Sept. 21. A strong company has been engaged, including Miss Kate Chard, the well-known Savoyard; Miss Pauline Primm, Miss Dora Lane, Miss Dorothy Chard, and Messrs. Arthur Dennis, Leslie Hawkins, Douglas Phillips, and Mark Lester. A powerful chorus will be seen in irectoire costumes, and the music will be under the direction of Mr. Ernest Ramsey.

MISS FLORRIE ROBERTS arrived in England on Saturday from South Africa, where for the last two years she has been with Mr. Leonard Rayne playing such parts as Carlotta in *Morals of Marcus*, Gwen in *Raffles*, and Maid Marion in *Robin Hood*. She has been engaged by Mr. Hubert Carter for Ada Ingot in his well-known version of *David Garrick*, starting on Monday next.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY and Mr. W. V. Garrod are having a particularly prosperous season with their touring companies, and their new play, *A Country Girl in London*, is the biggest success they have yet enjoyed. With *The Prodigal Parson* they have made a remarkable achievement, having toured the piece 136 weeks without intermission. Another drama by Mr. Frank Price will be produced by the same management in 1909.

MR. J. CHAS. IMESON is to be congratulated on the great success of his handsome Castle Theatre, Stockton. Since the theatre opened on Aug. 3 with Mr. George Edwardes's principal company with *The Merry Widow*, business has been phenomenal, a fact that is easily explained when it is considered that the bookings have included such invincible attractions as Mr. Edward Terry, Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Marie Studholme, Mr. James Welch and principal company in *When Knights Were Bold*, H. B. Irving and company, *The Dairymaids*, *Brewster's Millions*, *The Gay Gordons*, *Peter's Mother*, *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*, *The Flag Lieutenant*, *Dick Whittington*, *The New Christian*, *Mrs. Dot*, *Lucky Durham*, *The Walls of Jericho*, William Mollison, and the great Apollo success, *Butterflies*.

A MEETING of the committee of the Managers' Club was held at Savoy-mansions, Strand, on the 4th inst. Present: Mr. Leveaux in the chair, Mr. Lockwood, Mr. Weathersby, and Mr. Martin (secretary). The following gentlemen were duly elected members of the Club: Mr. Harold Nuttall, Mr. Cecil Klein, Mr. William H. Savery, Mr. William Giffard, Mr. George Scott, and Mr. Monckton Hoffe.

THE committee of the Touring Managers' Association held a meeting at the Managers' Club on the same day. Present: Mr. E. Lockwood in the chair, Mr. Weathersby, Mr. Bannister Howard, Mr. Leslie Moreton, Mr. Brydon Phillips, Mr. Leveaux, and Mr. Martin (secretary). The approved new contract between the London Suburban theatres and touring managers having been finally agreed upon, was received from the Theatres Alliance, and it was decided that copies might be obtained on application to the secretary of either Association at the rate of 5s. per 100.

THE committee of the Association instructed the secretary to write to the Theatres Alliance to thank their committee for their kind co-operation in having brought this valuable contract into being. It was admitted that both the Associations are to be congratulated on having mutually taken such steps towards removing a deplorable friction that so often occurred over the settlement of the details of contracts between the resident and touring managers. A copy of the contract was directed to be sent to members of the Association.

SEVERAL letters were received from the Actors' Union, and the secretary was requested to send suitable replies. The following gentlemen were duly elected members of the Association: Mr. Cecil Klein, Mr. William H. Savery, Mr. William Giffard, and Mr. Monckton Hoffe.

THE Theatre Royal, Goole, after being closed since the early part of the year, re-opened last week, when it was found that it had undergone many changes. Mr. Fred Greaves, landlord of the Royal Hotel, is now sole proprietor, having secured the lease from Mr. James Bentley, and he is to be congratulated on the improvements he has made to the building. Bright and clean, and adorned with elaborate upholstery, the interior, which is lighted by a new Thorpe-Stott gas fixture, presents a brilliant appearance.

GREAT improvements have also been made in the dressing-rooms, three in number, which have been placed on one floor. The roof above the stage has been strengthened by iron girders, and a safety curtain has also been fixed. All the doors are fitted with panic bolts, and the whole building is heated with gas radiators. The orchestra, too, has been enlarged, and many minor details have been attended to. The theatre was re-opened on hte 31st ult., when a large audience witnessed an excellent reproduction of the musical comedy novelty *Dare-devil Dorothy*, under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner.

A VARIATION is to be noted in the arrangements of the Promenade Concerts for next week. On Tuesday evening the concert will be conducted by M. Edouard Colonne, Mr. Henry J. Wood being absent at a rehearsal for the Sheffield Festival. The programme will contain one or two interesting works by French composers. M. Saint-Saëns will be represented by the "Suite Algérienne" and the "Le Rouet d'Omphale," and admirers of Berlioz will have a chance of enjoying the "Scherzo," "Scène d'Amour," and "Fête des Capulets" from the master's *Romeo and Juliet* Symphony.

VOCAL items from Bach's cantatas and oratorios form a special feature of this season's concerts, and on Wednesday evening Miss Edith J. Miller will sing that gem from the Christmas Oratorio, "Schlafe, mein Liebster" (the Virgin's cradle-song), with obbligato for "Oboe d'amore" and "Oboi da caccia." The symphony will be Dvorak's "From the New World." On Thursday, the 17th, Brahms's seldom-heard Fourth Symphony will be the *pièce de résistance*, and Mr. Herman Sandby will play D'Albert's Concerto in C for violoncello and orchestra. On Friday—the usual Beethoven night—the symphony will be the No. 5 in C minor, and a feature of unusual interest will be Brahms's Double Concerto (violin, 'cello, and orchestra), interpreted by Mr. Arthur Beckwith and Mr. C. Warwick Evans, both of the Queen's Hall Orchestra.

SATURDAY'S programme provides a gargantuan musical feast, including two works by Richard Strauss—"Till Eulenspiegel's Merry Pranks" and "Don Juan"—and the Ninth of the early Haydn Symphonies, the evergreen "1812," and the Liszt-Busoni "Rhapsodie Espagnole" for pianoforte and orchestra, the soloist being Mr. Arthur Cooke. In addition, Mrs. Henry J. Wood will sing Joan of Arc's song from Tchaikovsky's opera *The Maid of Orleans*.

THE death has occurred of Mr. George Horton, late professor on the oboe at the Royal Academy of Music, who passed away at Bonham-road, Brixton, on Monday, at the ripe age of 83. The funeral took place at Brompton on Thursday.

BARON HARRISS'S *Prince of Pilsen* company, which was the attraction at the Londesborough Theatre, Scarborough, for the Cricket Carnival this week, was honoured with the presence and patronage of Lord Londesborough's eleven and A. O. Jones's Australian eleven on Monday. Miss Sophie Harriss was the recipient of numerous floral tributes.

AN amusing incident, but one very flattering to the person chiefly concerned, occurred at the Theatre Royal, Sheffield, on Monday. A few minutes after the close of the performance of *From Shop-girl to Duchess* the Superintendent of Police sent a message to Miss Mary Neil, the representative of the title-rôle, who was in her dressing-room, requesting her to come to her brougham as soon as possible, as the crowd at the stage-door waiting to see her come out was obstructing the thoroughfare. When Miss Neils appeared she was greeted by the loud cheering of a large assemblage, amidst which the carriage with some difficulty drove away.

THAT most successful comedy, *Lady Frederick*, will reach its three hundred and sixty-fifth performance at the Haymarket Theatre this evening, the 365 performances having been given in six weeks under the year. The piece has been performed continuously eight times a week since its production last October, and during the whole time Miss Ethel Irving has not once been out of the bill. The success of the comedy is without doubt due as much to her cleverness and charm, and to the admirable way in which it is acted all round, as to the genuine merit of the play.

MR. H. R. SMITH, who has for some time past been engaged in negotiations for a suitable theatre in which to elaborate his scheme for high-class musical comedy at popular prices, has at length settled upon the Waldorf, a lease of which he has obtained for twenty-one years. There are certain restrictions with regard to prices of admission connected with the original lease, but Mr. Smith is hopeful of overcoming them and of continuing at the Waldorf the policy which has proved so successful at the Lyceum under his and Mr. Carpenter's régime. The management will be entirely in the hands of Mr. Smith, who will open his season early in November with a musical comedy. Meanwhile, the Waldorf will undergo extensive redecoration.

MR. BANDMANN'S new theatre at Bombay is rapidly approaching completion, and will be opened on Sept. 25 by his newly-organised comedy company with Mr. J. M. Barrie's clever play, *The Little Minister*. The theatre, which is situated in the very heart of Bombay, will be capable of seating 1,000 people, and hold at ordinary prices about £250. This theatre will be run in conjunction with Mr. Bandmann's other theatres, and as regards attractions is already booked up until Christmas next. The theatre will be called Bandmann's Theatre, and will be entirely under English management and run on English lines. It will have its own resident band and staff, also resident scenic artist, and will be replete in every respect with all necessary and modern requirements.

THE Crown, Peckham, will have a powerful attraction next week in Van Biene and Traynor's company in *Man and Wife*. Mr. Van Biene is the son of Auguste Van Biene, of *Broken Melody* fame, and Mr. Traynor has recently concluded upwards of seven years' engagement with the *Two Little Vagabonds* company. The leading lady of the company, Miss Kate Hallam, for three years occupied a similar position with *The Broken Melody* company. As, moreover, the author of the piece is Mr. Walter Howard, one of the most successful dramatists of the day, it will be admitted that much more than usual interest attaches to the engagement.

A PLEASING little ceremony took place at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, when, on Saturday, the members of *Her Road to Ruin* company presented Miss Eva Moss with a handsomely fitted bag, together with an address signed by all the company expressing the greatest regret at her leaving, and assuring her of their esteem and friendship. The proceedings came as a great surprise to Miss Moss, who had no inkling that anything of the kind was in store for her. She has played her orignial part of Jess for forty-four weeks, and is extremely gratified to find that she has gained such goodwill.

A SOUVENIR programme will be a feature of the matinée to be held at the end of October at the St. James's Theatre on behalf of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital. Contributions to the souvenir have been promised by Mrs. W. K. Clifford, Miss Marie Corelli, Mr. C. J. Cutcliffe-Hyne, Mr. Bernard Partridge, Mr. Lewis Baumer, Mr. John Hassall, and Sir A. C. Mackenzie.

MESSRS. DOTTRIDGE, LONGDEN, AND WILLARD'S company with *The Midnight Mail* is now in its sixth year of continuous tour, and drawing better than ever. A remarkable fact about their present tour is that during four successive weeks in August they beat their own records at each town visited. Bookings for autumn, 1909, are now being made.

MR. WILLIAM GREET has secured a one-act comedy by Mr. Keble Howard entitled *Handling Papa*. The little piece will shortly be put on in front of *The Old Firm* at the Queen's.

MANAGERS who are alive to their own interests—and, regretfully, we must admit that many are not—should see to it that they get their proper share of the reduction in the fire insurance rates that the tariff offices are now allowing to approved theatres. The general allowance is 20 per cent. in London and 10 per cent. in the provinces. This makes an average reduction of over 40 per cent. since the Theatres Mutual Insurance Co. came into existence. Still there are managers who do not issure in their own company.

MR. H. BRINSLEY HILL, who has achieved a considerable success with his romantic drama *The Sailor's Wedding*, which was produced by Hardie and Von Leer on Monday at the Marlborough Theatre, has written, in collaboration with Mr. J. H. Darnley (the author of *Facing the Music* and other successful plays), a three-act farcical comedy, at present called *The Lost Lion*. It was produced for copyright purposes at the Lyric, Hammersmith, on Friday.

To the names in the really excellent cast engaged for Messrs. Druce and Ferris' production of *The Cheat*, mentioned in our last issue, we must now add those of Mr. Charles Langley and Mr. Littledale Power. The scenery will be by Messrs. Harker, Helmsley, and Fred Storey, and the production will be the same as that which will be seen later in the West End. Mr. George Unwin, who is the general-manager, will work on American lines, and will look after the advance arrangements as well.

As long ago as April, 1848, there was a picture exhibited in the Egyptian Hall, in Piccadilly, which caused a sensation in London. This same picture is now to be seen in the Chinese Court of the Crystal Palace looking as fresh and bright as when first shown. It is the late James M. Burbank's masterpiece representing the Angel delivering Daniel from the Lion's Den, and is said to be the largest water-colour painting in the world, covering 240 square feet of canvas.

A TERRIBLE shooting accident resulted on Saturday in the death of Mr. W. A. Upton, head of the well-known firm of theatrical printers at Birmingham. Mr. Upton had invited a number of guests over to shoot across his estate, but in the afternoon said he felt rather tired, and would go in and order tea. He got over the stile leading towards the hall, and shortly afterwards a loud report was heard, and Mr. Upton was found lying dead on the steps with gun wounds in his head. It is supposed that he stumbled over the mat when entering the hall, and that the gun went off. At the inquest subsequently held a verdict of accidental death was returned.

MR. UPTON, who was only forty-eight years of age, was the son of the late Mr. James Upton, of the Baskerville Printing Works, which business was founded in 1852 in small works in Great Charles Street, but in subsequent years developed into a very large concern, dealing specially with theatrical printing. He leaves a widow, three daughters, and one son. The funeral took place on Wednesday.

THE National Brass Band Festival will take place at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, Sept. 26. This gathering always brings a monster crowd to Sydenham, and it is likely this year that the attendance will be greater than ever. The number of entries is 173, including thirty-two Lancashire bands. Yorkshire sends thirty-four; but while nine Lancashire bands are in the first class which is fighting for the 1,000 guinea trophy, only four Yorkshire bands are in that grade. Wales is sending thirteen, the Midlands thirty-one, London and District thirty, and the Southern District twelve. The playing is said to have greatly improved, so it is probable that the competition will be keener than ever.

AFTER an absence of some years, Black Dike (winners in 1902) returns as a competitor, and Wingates, the holder of the trophy for the past two years, Denton Original (winners in 1900), Irwell Springs (1905), and Rushden Temperance, which on more than one occasion has been second on the list, will all be heard. The selected test piece for the 1,000 guineas will be the Grand Selection from "Rienzi" (Wagner), arranged by S. Cope. Twelve of the best brass bands in the kingdom will give a great concert in the evening. The items will include another interesting work by Mr. Cope entitled "A Rural Wedding." The railway companies are arranging excursions from all parts of the country.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Doing It on His Head.

"When Mr. Arthur Roberts was making all London ring with a certain wildly comical song of his," write Messrs. E. A. Morton and Chance Newton, in their "Life of Charles Morton," "he was tempted by the offer of a princely salary to make his first appearance in the provincial music halls. It so happened that his opening date in this connection was at a large Lancashire town, where the audiences were inclined to be ebullient, to put it mildly. On the Monday morning, the smiling Arthur turned up for a band rehearsal, giving, of course, among his numbers, this comic song, which had helped to solidify his fame, and to fill his pockets. On coming to this number, however, the manager stopped him, and in the broadest possible form of the local accent, told Roberts that he musta't sing that song at any price. The comedian, flabbergastedly, inquired the reason. 'Oh,' said the manager, 'So-and-So sang it here last week.' 'But,' retorted Roberts, 'that song is my property, and no one has any right to sing it but myself!' 'Can't help that,' replied the manager, 'I say he sung it here last week, and that if *you* sing it, they'll guy you off the stage.' 'But *why?*' asked the astounded Arthur. 'Because,' answered the manager, 'that there cove sang your song *on his head*, and *you* carn't do *that!*' The manager's statement was perfectly true, and the singer who gave this wonderful upside-down turn was the well-known nigger singer and dancer, Mr. Joe Lawrence, father of Miss Vesta Victoria."

A Lost Influence.

"I incline to the opinion," says Mr. Forbes Robertson in a *Daily Chronicle* interview, "that the drama has not now the influence it once had. In earlier times, the Elizabethan and Jacobean ages, for instance, people had nothing but the stage as a platform for the public expression of ideas and theories, of satire and criticism. To-day the Press fulfils that office, and so there has grown a tendency to regard the theatre as a mere place of entertainment. The Press fulfils an important office with reference to the stage, and it is certain that had the Press, as we know it now, been in existence when the censorship of plays was instituted, such person as the censor would not have been invented."

Not a Pulpit.

"I do not care to speak of the stage as a pulpit," remarks Mr. Forbes Robertson. "It seems priggish in a man to make too high a claim for his profession. But, of course, I recognise that the spoken word has great power, and that the stage must have an influence of some kind on the public; therefore I am with you in pleading for a sense of responsibility in the artist. To use the words which Mr. Jerome puts in my mouth in this play: 'It is the business of Art to reveal the beauty underlying all things.' So if we succeed in creating an appreciation of what is true, and noble, and beautiful, we ought to be happy."

The Wrath of Mephistopheles.

"It would be something more than superfluous to go into criticism of Wills's extremely effective adaptation of *Faust*," writes Mr. Walter Herries Pollock in his "Impressions of Henry Irving," "but one fault, as many good judges thought it, may be mentioned, as in connection with it there was an instance of a quality which was among Irving's distinguishing characteristics. The passage in question was that wherein Faust announced to Mephistopheles his intention of marrying Gretchen. Thereon Mephistopheles, after a cold menacing delivery of the words 'That is your intention?' dropped completely the mask of cynical humorous banter, became a fiend unbridled and storming, and let loose upon Faust a flood of vituperation containing threats of the direst physical torment and annihilation. The momentary impression of the change, aided by those effects of light which the manager thoroughly understood, was startling enough; but a very little consideration was needed to show its complete incongruity with the positions of Faust and Mephistopheles as conceived by Goethe and adopted throughout the rest of the play by Wills.

"In a play avowedly following Goethe's ideas, and in many passages well translated from the German, one is bound to regard Mephistopheles as identical with Lucifer, and as 'the prince of darkness is a gentleman,' it is quite out of the question that he should resort to vulgar threats not unlike those put into the mouth of the fiend absurdly called Lucifer by Mr. G. Lewis at the end of *The Monk*. This is surely enough, without the further consideration that the Mephistopheles of Goethe, and, save for this passage, of Wills, would never have flouted all the rules of the game by going so grossly outside and against his agreement with Faust. I believe that Wills founded the scene on some idea found in some version of the Faustus legend, though where it is not easy to imagine, since, of course, there is no hint of it in the German puppet plays. These, which may have come originally from England, served as a point of departure for Goethe, to whose genius the Gretchen episode, which became for theatre purposes the play, is entirely due. However the scene came into Wills's scheme, he no doubt was captivated, as was Irving, by its mere theatrical effectiveness, and so it was thrust into the midst of circumstances with which it was wholly at variance."

Fatally Tickled.

Miss May de Sousa, who recently appeared with Mr. Max Dearly at the Comédie Française on the occasion of M. Baillet's "retreat," was much struck with the silence "behind" the curtain. "There they were doing parts they had played for years," she said, yet each actor had to be at the wing—silent as the grave—for fifteen minutes before taking his cue. One gentleman, who had played his part for twenty-five years, came into the green-room and hit us all between the eyes with his love scene, gestured and shifted his hat as though he'd just got his scrip. I was tickled to death."

Up in a Balloon.

"Whenever Mr. Arthur Collins has any doubt about the safety of a sensation," says Mr. Cecil Raleigh, in an interview in the *Mail*, "he invariably tries it himself. The security of the almost invisible wires upon which the balloon in *The Great Ruby* was suspended having been called into question by a nervous actor, he expressed a determination to make the first ascent himself. The scene was set, the car bumped on the stage, the great balloon swung above us, and Mr. Collins, calling me over to him, asked me whether I would go up inside or outside the balloon. He did not seem to contemplate the possibility of my not going up at all, and I did not like to express any desire in that direction in the presence of the assembled company, so I said airily I thought we had better toss for it. We did. I won, and promptly elected to stand inside the basket car, while Mr. Collins, representing the villain, clung on outside. Then the signal was given. Down went the lifts into the bowels of the cellar and up went the balloon, when all of a sudden the thread-like wires 'drew'—that is to say, they pulled out taut as all wires will when first a heavy weight is applied to them. Just for about three seconds it felt exactly as if the whole concern was going down with a run, and just for those three seconds I realised that Mr. Collins might have some sort of a chance if he fell clear into the net below us, but that if I fell in the car and with the mimic balloon on top of me I might have rather an ugly time of it. However, nothing happened, and presently we came down. Nobody could very well refuse to do what we had done. *But I did not go up again.*"

"FAUST" AT HIS MAJESTY'S

On Saturday, Sept. 5, a New Version, by Stephen Phillips and J. Comyns Carr, of Goethe's Poem of "Faust."

Mephistopheles	Mr. Tree
Faust	Mr. Henry Ainley
Valentine	Mr. Godfrey Tearle
The Witch	Mr. Charles Quartermaine
Altmayer	Mr. G. W. Anson
Hans	Mr. Norman Page
Fritz	Mr. W. Creighton
Siebel	Mr. Cyril Sworder
Frosch	Mr. Compton Coutts
Albrecht	Mr. J. Cowley Wright
Brander	Mr. John Deverell
Adolf	Mr. Henry Morrell
Burgomaster	Mr. Robert Atkins
A Heavenly Messenger	Miss Elizabeth Valentine
Raphael	Miss Isabel Merson
Gabriel	Miss Muriel Alexander
Michael	Miss Sylvia Buckley
Anna	Miss Shelley Calton
Hedwig	Miss V. Sinclair
Laine	Miss Laura Cowie
Elsa	Miss Pauline Bredt
Lisbeth	Miss Ethel Hodgkins
Magda	Miss Juliet Hardinge
A Witch	Miss Maud Leslie
Lisa	Miss Madge Titheradge
Martha	Miss Rosina Filippi
Margaret	Miss Marie Löhr

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has done all that was possible with *Faust*. He has entrusted the preparation of the dramatic version to two skilled poets; he has cast and mounted the result with his usual liberality; he has commissioned a composer of genius to supply accompaniment; and he has himself undertaken the rôle of Mephistopheles. The result is a superb and stupendous production which will draw all London to His Majesty's for many months to come.

It is impossible, without having a copy of the play before one, to do full justice to the remarkable work of Messrs. Stephen Phillips and Comyns Carr; but their difficulties are easily understood. When *Faust* was first performed in Germany in 1829, it played for four hours and a half, and this with the primitive and quickly-worked changes of scene by flats and cloths which were in use at the period. The "time limit" of the modern play being three hours, nearly a third of the text is doomed to extinction. A good deal of time is taken up not only by entr'actes—which we may suppose to have existed in 1829—but in the changes from scene to scene; so we may calculate that the Phillips-Carr translation had to be quite a third less in length than the original. In these conditions the adaptors, it must be admitted, have done their task thoroughly well. Verse-translations of *Faust* have hitherto been unsatisfactory. The play is a poem, and no poem can be adequately translated from one language to another; either the meaning is distorted, or the music of rhyme and accent is absent. Messrs. Phillips and Carr have supplied a free, appreciative, judicious, and artistic version. For the "Prologue in Heaven," with its chat between God and Mephistopheles—who afterwards jauntily alludes to the Almighty as "the old fellow," and says he likes to have a chat with him occasionally—is substituted a more reverent reading, in which the decision of the Creator is conveyed to Mephistopheles by an important Angel. In the original there are two scenes in Faust's study; one in which he is prevented from taking the poison by hearing the Easter hymn, and the other in which he receives Mephistopheles. Between these there are certain rustic rejoicings, at which, in his character of medical benefactor, Faust "assists," noticing on his return home a black dog, in which shape Mephistopheles has obtained admission to Faust's study, being prevented from leaving by a magic sign on the threshold. In the version at His Majesty's the attempted suicide is followed by the entry of Mephistopheles, and the compact signed in blood. The conversations between Faust and Marguerite are so true and human that much of them is wisely retained, though we could wish that even more of these parts of the play, so beautiful and so simple, could have been found room for. To the sacrifice of most of the nonsensical stuff in the Walpurgis Night episode we can easily reconcile ourselves; and the duel scenes, the prison scene, and Marguerite's grief and remorse in the Cathedral, are indispensable to any version, however contracted, of *Faust*. The great difficulty, of course, was the conclusion. Goethe's logic in respect to the bargain between Faust and Mephistopheles was "foggy," but, at any rate, it was arranged that the devil was to "have" him on the other side of the grave in return for services rendered on this. In the First Part Faust's fate is left undecided. It would hardly have done for a modern audience to have been shown Faust taken down below in the manner of the operatic Don Juan, so the adaptors have invented a way in which Mephistopheles may be outwitted. Faust is condemned not to hell, but to a long term of philanthropic purgatory, followed by ultimate redemption. As he puts it:—

"Weary and stale the life
Thou gavest me, from pleasure hurled to pleasure,
Yet evermore satiety and hate.
But bound through countless ages to thy side,
Still I foresee a purgatorial path
That shall restore me to those arms at last,
A straightway of repentance: thus my soul
May through long labour for mankind be purged,
Losing it thus I find it evermore.
May it be mine to watch the couch of pain,
To smooth the sleepless pillow, and to draw
Slumber upon the labourer returned,
To him that faints in cities to bring dew,
To drain the marshland, circumscribe the sea,
To build and shelter from the tyrannous sky,
And warring peoples to persuade to peace.
Up then, and on! My eyes behold the end,
Still I fight upward, battle to the stars,
The hope of her hath sped me on this flight.
I shall go past thee, Mephistopheles,
Up! ever upward, to the woman-soul!
But, ah! how long the toil that shall redeem."

Even in the distraction of the first view of the magnificent production at His Majesty's on Saturday it was evident that the version was far above the average in poesy and culture, and the text of the new *Faust*, as will be seen by the extract above, often rises to noble poetry. In the Prologue the Archangel Gabriel says:—

"Swift, beyond understanding quite,
Circles the earth in glorious guise,
Now plunged into profoundest night,
Now sparkling into Paradise.
The ocean foams up from the deep,
And over rocks and crags is hurled,
And crags and ocean onward sweep—
On with the rapid spheres are whirled."

Mephistopheles' invocation to Chaos is another "purple" passage:—

"Never! Until that hour when the Usurper,
Who wrested from my mother Night her reign,
And fevered Chaos with his blistering stars,
Shall be himself deposed, consent, and cease.
For this same light but lives by what it breeds,
A carrion offspring suckled by the sun.
And never will I cease this war with Heaven
Till the bound elements shall mutiny,
And the imprisoned thunder shall be freed,
And old tremendous blasts shall fly abroad,
And all His millions of rash fires be quenched;
And space shall be again as once it was
Ere He disturbed us with His fiery brain,
Timeless and tideless, limitless and dark!
Mother! Still crouching on the bounds of light,
With face of sea and hair of tempest, still
Huddled in huge and immemorial hate,
Behold thy son, and some dark aid extend!
So, Faust, to win this wager and thy soul,
Pass we from Heaven across the Earth to Hell."

Great expectations had been formed of the mounting of the play; and they were not disappointed. The spaciousness of the stage of His Majesty's Theatre was taken full advantage of by Mr. Joseph Harker, and some of the sets were superb in their grandeur and extent. Especially to be admired was the scene of the Prologue, in which the feeling of vast and mysterious space was created in a manner which has seldom been equalled on our stage. Pile upon pile of clouds led the eye away into infinite distances; and the Angels were no mere lay figures, but beautiful and impressive personalities. The effect created by this magnificent scene was deep and reverent. Another striking picture was that in the Witches' Kitchen. The awesomeness of the cavern was greatly assisted, it is true, by the weird and hideous figures of the witch and her simian suite, but Mr. Harker deserves warm praise for his paintwork. A third achievement of this imaginative artist which cannot be forgotten in connection with this production of *Faust* was the Brocken. There was an Alpine greatness about this surprising picture, with its gulfs and cliffs, its flying witches, and its marvellous mechanical effects. To give Faust an idea of his power Mephistopheles lets loose the elements, with the result of a terrific avalanche, which hurls the granite peaks into the abysses. Here the technical skill shown in the contrivance of the mechanism was worthy of warm praise. In the prettier and more domestic scenes Mr. Harker had, of course, been anticipated in previous *Faust* productions; but they were all very real and beautiful. The back cloth in the Platz in the second act might have been—and very likely was—founded on an Albert Dürer engraving; and Margaret's Garden was a dream of quiet calm and sweet seclusion. Telling by its very simplicity was Margaret's Bedchamber, with its antique German clothes-press; and the lighting in the Prison Cell was very adroitly managed. Effects of lighting played, indeed, an important part in the *tout ensemble*. The entry of Mephistopheles into Faust's study, and all the minor ingenuities which add to the supernatural effect, were supplied with complete success, and the management of the illumination in the Cathedral scene was excellent, the scene itself being a very fine example of architectural painting and building-up. Altogether, the mounting of *Faust* at His Majesty's is a memorable achievement, which can hardly be too highly praised.

The music by Mr. S. Coleridge Taylor bears the stamp of original genius. It is, indeed, so good of its kind that one would like to hear it with one's attention undistracted by the drama to which it serves as an accompaniment. It is difficult to exaggerate the assistance to the impression which is given by music such as this. Its underlying influence is incalculable. Now and then a phrase or an air—notably the exquisite setting of the "King of Thule" song in the second act—caught the ear and charmed it with witching melody. Besides the music incidental to the action, Mr. Taylor has contributed a Prelude and two entr'actes which will bear to be heard again and again.

Interest in the acting centres, of course, in Mr. Beerbohm Tree's Mephistopheles. Mr. Tree has, to a great extent, modified the stock theatrical idea of the character. His Mephistopheles has a great deal of the mocking irony of the reading to which we are accustomed; but there is in it something of the grim and gloomy grandeur of Milton's Satan. The Mephistopheles capable of thinking the great thoughts expressed in the speech in the Prologue is something more than a cynical comedian. The conception of the character on these lines involves alterations in attire and make-up, the "Apollyon" tone of the creation being hinted at in the scaly suit in which Mr. Tree appears in the last scene of the concluding act. He carries out these ideas in the most artistic and convincing manner, delivering the finely-written speech to which we have alluded with impressive power and fine tonal effect. The key-note of the creation is its dignity. Mr. Tree's presence fills the stage grandly and thoroughly; and, to a certain extent, the impersonation dwarfs all the others in the piece. A Mephistopheles built on these lines inevitably belittles the poor humanities of the play; and the very breadth and weight of Mr. Tree's superbly imaginative creation puts the other performances in the shade. The rest of the cast at His Majesty's labour under another disadvantage. The characters in *Faust* are undeniably hackneyed. They have been so well-worn in drama, in opera, and in ballet that they suffer from a sort of staleness; and, in their cases, it is not possible to innovate. We cannot invent a new reading of Faust, of Valentine, or of Margaret; and the most that their representatives can do is to give sound and strong renderings of the rôles entrusted to them. Mr. Henry Ainley delivers the philosophical soliloquy of Faust in his study with excellent elocution and emphasis, and puts all the needed passion into his performance of the rejuvenated student. Mr. Godfrey Tearle has a better chance as Valentine, a soundly dramatic character that repays vigorous and forcible acting; and he is at his best in the dying scene, which he sustains with striking earnestness and power. Mr. Charles Quartermaine plays the Witch with grotesque and forcible cleverness; and Mr. G. W. Anson's ripe experience and quaint humour are valuably employed in the depiction of the "beery" Altmayer. The bevy of topers have excellent representatives in Messrs. Norman Page, W. Creighton, J. Cowley Wright, John Deverell, and Henry Morell; and Mr. Robert Atkins sustains with steadiness the rôle of the Burgomaster. Mr. Compton Coutts supplying a highly original and very characteristic reading of the rôle of the simple student, Frosch. Miss Elizabeth Valentine deserves warm praise for her delicate and distinct enunciation of the speeches allotted to the Heavenly Messenger; and Miss Isobel Merson, Miss Muriel Alexander, and Miss Sylvia Buckley utter the lines given to the Angels with commendable care and conscientiousness. Margaret's companions are effectively embodied by Miss Shelley Calton, Miss V. Sinclair, Miss Laura Cowie, Miss Pauline Bredt, Miss Ethel Hodgkins, and Miss Juliet Hardinge; and Miss Maude Leslie and Miss Madge Titheradge gave praiseworthy performances as a Witch and Lisa respectively. Miss Rosina Filippi's Martha is a delightfully droll and humorous impersonation, and of great value as a contrast to the prevailing seriousness; and Miss Marie Löhr's plaintive ingenuousness and winning simplicity are shown with good success in the rôle of Margaret, which she makes more than usually girlish and innocent, her appearance being touchingly slight and juvenile. The designs for the dresses were by Mr. Dion Clayton Calthorp, who has done his work well. The production of *Faust* was rapturously received, and Mr. Tree briefly thanked the audience at its conclusion.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"THE OLD FIRM."

Eccentric Comedy, in Three Acts, by Harry and Edward Paulton, Played for the First Time in London at the Queen's Theatre, on Friday, Sept. 4.

Daniel Hake	Mr. Richard Golden
Mr. Nichol	Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw
Harrison	Mr. Clayton Greene
Herbert Wardley	Mr. Frank Tennant
Jabez Vennamy	Mr. Ernest A. Douglas
Deffner	Mr. George West
Merrick	Mr. Atheling Farrar
Rosalie	Miss Beatrice Ferrar
Lila Hake	Miss Gladys Mason
Judy Hake	Miss Alice Beet
Lucy Upton	Miss Constance Hyem
Fay Lofty	Miss Florence Lloyd

The authors of *The Old Firm*, Messrs. Harry and Edward Paulton, have labelled their joint production as an "eccentric comedy." The description might well arouse discussion as to what constitutes the difference between comedy and farce. If a comedy, to remain such, consist of incidents which are within the bounds of possibility of ordinary life, then the description is inaccurate, although qualified by the adjective "eccentric," for the piece teems with the extravagant absurdities which we are wont to associate with farce. On the other hand, it is so free from any touches of "knockabout humour" or "broad" fun, so genuinely quaint in its characterisation, and full of bright touches of wit in the dialogue, that one is tempted to take it at its authors' valuation and give it a place among light comedy.

At all events, we can be unreservedly grateful to the Messrs. Paulton for our introduction to such a delightful character as Daniel Hake, one of the most lovable old men who has been seen on the stage for some time. The authors owe an enormous debt to the actor, Mr. Richard Golden, who invests the character with the simple charm and quaint lovableness of the old New Englanders, with which the novels of the American Winston Churchill and Irving Batchelor have made us familiar enough in literature, but which is an original figure on our London stage. Daniel Hake is an inventor, and as is not infrequently the case, he is very unbusinesslike and exceedingly simple in all other matters than those relating to his inventions. This is evident early in the play by the appearance of a remarkably bad-tempered and unprepossessing lady, to whom we learn Daniel has been married some six years—six years of misery for poor old Daniel and his charming daughter Lila, the child of his first marriage. Others have discovered that there is money in Daniel Hake's inventions, and two rival firms are trying to get the sole right of sale. Of this Daniel himself is entirely ignorant, as all letters and communications have been carefully kept from him by two persons who are actuated by entirely different reasons—Rosalie, the maid-of-all-work, a simple but kindly soul, who thinks she can save her master from worry by putting his correspondence on the fire; and Judy Hake, his second wife, who is working in conjunction with a particularly villainous villain, whose object is to get Daniel into his own clutches that he may batten, vampire-like, upon his brains. Poor old Daniel is in very sorry straits indeed; he fears poverty and disgrace not for his own sake, but for the sake of pretty, tender Lila; and the simple old man, at his wits' end, invokes the aid of the Devil. At this precise moment a gentleman of Mephistophelean cast of countenance enters somewhat unceremoniously through the window, as a violent storm is raging. He has made an appointment with Daniel by letter, which has been destroyed by Rosalie. The poor old man imagines that his incantations have been successful, and when the other produces the contract, he signs it under the impression that it is his own soul he is bargaining away.

In the meantime pretty Lila has engaged herself secretly to a young man who has posed for some weeks as Daniel Hake's assistant, but who turns out to be a son of the firm who have bought Hake's invention. For no very adequate reason, except that the play would be thereby brought to a premature end, the young man insists upon the engagement being kept a profound secret; but, anxious to relieve his prospective father-in-law's necessities, he refurnishes the old man's study before he is down the next morning and places £1,000 to his credit in the bank that he may meet the bills which the villain, Jabez Vennamy, is holding over him. Daniel ascribes his sudden access to prosperity to the contract which he thinks he has made with the devil, and many amusing complications arise. Eventually, of course, Daniel discovers that his soul is still his own, and he is relieved of the obnoxious presence of Judy by the discovery that that lady has a previous husband who is still alive.

As we have said before, the success of the play will be largely due to the delightful acting of Mr. Richard Golden as Daniel Hake. He makes the old man a refreshingly natural character, quietly humorous, and eminently lovable in his simplicity and helplessness. The other characters are all more or less lay figures, serving their purpose as background to old Daniel. It is greatly to the credit of the performers that they manage to infuse a certain amount of character into their parts. This is srikingly so in the case of clever Miss Beatrice Ferrar, who with very few opportunities at her disposal as Rosalie, a stupid maidservant, yet contrives to leave an impression, clear-cut and distinctive, true to art, and without a single touch of forced humour. Miss Alice Beet is wasted in the unsympathetic part of Judy Hake. Miss Florence Lloyd brings all the charm of her sweet and sane personality to the part of Fay Lofty, a commercial traveller, who shows Judy in her true colours, and whom the old man takes to be an emissary of the evil one, chiefly, it appears, because she is becomingly gowned in vivid scarlet. Miss Gladys Mason as Lila and Miss Constance Hyem as her friend, both as pretty as pictures, are responsible for the love interest of the play; and their respective "young men," as played by Mr. Clayton Greene and Mr. Frank Tennant, make love to their charming sweethearts with sufficient zeal. As the supposed Mephistopheles Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw, in appearance and manner, was very successful, and he gave to the part the touch of urbanity which befits a gentleman who usually gets his own way. Mr. George West, as a workman of the Elite Furnishing Company, worked with a deftness and behaved with a courtesy for which one yearns in vain in real life; and Mr. Atheling Farrar was an efficient Police-inspector. The character of Jabez Vennamy (Mr. Ernest Douglas) wants to be considerably toned down; at present it is absurdly overdrawn. The play may attract by its very unpretentiousness, and its production comes at a timely moment, when the supernatural is figuring so largely on the London stage.

A meeting of the shareholders of the New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr, Ltd., was announced for yesterday (Friday). The debentures, which were intended to relieve the guarantors to the bank not having been taken up, a resolution was to be submitted, to the effect "that the business and property of the company shall be sold, and that the directors be empowered to expose the said business and property for sale by public roup at a price of not less than £5000."

MARTIN HARVEY AT THE ADELPHI.

On Wednesday, Sept. 9, for the first time in London, a Play, in One Act, by Robert Barr and Sidney Lewis-Ransom, entitled "THE CONSPIRACY."

King Konrad of Polavia	Mr. Martin Harvey
Baron Brunfels	Mr. Charles Glenney
Count Staumn	Mr. Albert E. Raynor
Herr Von Steinmetz	Mr. Alfred Mansfield

It was a pity that the continued irritating disturbances caused by late arrivals to the stalls—in spite of Mr. Martin Harvey's urgent requests placarded in the corridors—should have marred, even in a minor degree, the first performance in London of *The Conspiracy*, which was produced at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, in November last. It is decidedly superior, both in idea and treatment, to the average "first piece," and deserved to have been treated with more respect. The success of *The Conspiracy* was not, however, seriously impaired, either by these ill-bred interruptions, or by an unlucky accident by which the bolt of the door in the scenery became jammed, so that Mr. Harvey's entrance was delayed for several minutes. The scene of the play is an imaginary kingdom of Polavia. The young King, Konrad, has tried to do his duty by his people, and has thus incurred the hatred of the aristocracy, the leaders of which are assembled in a hunting châlet near the frontier to discuss whether he shall be assassinated. As they are throwing dice to settle Konrad's fate, the young King enters, and tells them that there has been a traitor in their ranks, and that the house is surrounded by his soldiers. He then makes them cast the dice to decide who amongst them shall be shot for treason; and his ex-Chancellor, Steinmetz, is one of the unlucky ones. The Chancellor begs abjectly for his life; and Baron Brunfels, a blunt soldier, offers to be shot in Steinmetz's stead, if the King will allow him Brunfels to speak his mind for once. The Baron then tells the King that he is a fool for all his pains, as he is hated by both people and aristocracy. The King then informs the astonished conspirators that his statement about the soldiers outside was mere "bluff." There has been an *émeute* in the capital, and the King, deposed and outlawed, is in flight from his rebellious subjects. The conspirators are so touched by the news that they rally round their monarch, and Brunfels offers to lead certain troops which are at his disposal to an attack on the insurgents. The piece ends with a picture of the nobles crossing their swords over the King's head with loyal cries and cheers.

The four characters of importance in the piece were thoroughly well played. Mr. Martin Harvey's King Konrad, with its gentle firmness and quiet, incisive superiority, was in every way admirable; and his artistic performance made one regret the brevity of the part and the play. One would like to have seen more of Konrad in circumstances of more complicated interest. Mr. Charles Glenney gave a strong, sturdy rendering of the Baron Brunfels, his delivery of the speech to the King being thoroughly forcible and emphatic; Mr. Albert E. Raynor's Count Staumn was a polished piece of acting, calm, effective, and unobtrusive; and Mr. Alfred Mansfield gave a graphic depiction of abject terror as Von Steinmetz. The nobles were impersonated by the principal members of Mr. Martin Harvey's company, who, if anything, rather overdid the restless dumb show and chorussed ejaculations of the conspirators. The interior of the châlet was prettily painted, and the piece held the attention of the audience throughout, and was warmly applauded at its conclusion.

The performance of *The Corsican Brothers* which followed was, with very slight alteration, the same as that which we noticed at the Adelphi last June. The only important exception was the substitution of Miss Mary Rorke for Miss Maud Milton as the Countess dei Franchi. Miss Rorke makes a delightfully amiable and handsome old lady, and supplies the necessary touch of gentle *hauteur*. Mr. Harvey's representation of the brothers has been improved by repetition, the atmosphere of mystery being very cleverly created, and the ease and grace of his bearing being even more noticeable, especially in the first act. His acting in the stronger and deeper passages is as earnest and intense as ever. Mr. Vincent Sternroyd repeats his fine performance as Château-Renaud; and Mr. Alfred Mansfield is again good as Meynard, Mr. Albert E Raynor doing good work as Montgiron, and Mr. George Cooke being efficient as Marielli. Mr. Fred Wright, sen., and Mr. J. Barber still make mirth by their picturesque performances as the two vendettists; and Miss Coleridge makes the most of the difficult character of Emilie de Lesparre. The minor rôles are all well represented; and the scenery by Mr. George J. Dodson may again be warmly praised for its effectiveness and beauty.

SEYMOUR HICKS'S CHARITY CRICKET.

Mr. Seymour Hicks, Miss Eilaline Terriss, and *The Gay Gordons* company, who are appearing at Blackpool this week, along with the St. Anne's-on-Sea Cricket Club, arranged a cricket match and sports, which took place on Wednesday at St. Anne's-on-Sea, in aid of the widows and orphans of the Wigan pit disaster, the St. Anne's Cottage Hospital, and the St. Anne's Sick-Aid Society.

Miss Terriss bowled the first ball—or rather the first two, for her first was a wide; but, however the popular lady's second attempt was "on the wicket." *The Gordons* only fared moderately, however, and suffered defeat by 62 runs:—

St. Anne's.—Nuttall, E., c Chester b Alexander, 4; Taylor, b Metcalfe, 19; Foldys, b Metcalfe, 13; Nuttall, F., b Alexander, 0; Wrigley, b Chester, 19; Openshaw, G., st Robinson b Nordblum, 16; Duckworth, b Jenner, 12; Openshaw, B., b Metcalfe, 12; Malmsley, c Jenner b Nordblum, 10; Wilkinson, c Sennatt b Metcalfe, 1; Wade, not out, 1; extras, 9. Total 116.

Seymour Hicks's Co.—Sennatt, run out, 9; Metcalfe, c Wade b Nuttall, 3; Deane, b Taylor, 14; Jenner, b Nuttall, 5; Chester, b Taylor, 5; Alexander, c Wilkinson b Taylor, 0; Emmett, st Openshaw b Foldys, 1; Nordblum, not out, 7; Kottman, c Wrigley b Taylor, 1; Foster, b Taylor, 6; Robinson, c Openshaw b Taylor, 9; extras, 2. Total, 54.

The sports took place between the innings, and resulted as follows:—

100 yards (silver cigarette case, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Hicks).—1, Gill; 2, Mayes.

220 yards.—1, Mayes, 2, Ingham.

440 yards.—1, Lofthouse; 2, Nightingale.

1 mile Cycle.—1, Ashworth; 2, Robinson.

½ mile Cycle.—1, Grimshaw; 2, Aky.

Schoolboys (under sixteen).—1, Lingpond; 2, Elhaft.

A matinée will in future be given at the Elephant and Castle Theatre every Thursday, and Mr. Sydney Barnard, the manager, wishes to extend, through our columns, an invitation to any professional friends who may care to be present on these occasions.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE BEDFORD.

A visit to this cosy little hall this week found it packed to its utmost capacity with an audience that was vastly entertained by the varied programme which Mr. B. Pearce Lucas had provided for its delectation. Early in the evening the Sisters Dunbar appear, and soon become popular with their singing and dancing; their Dutch costumes are most picturesque, and they provide a very pretty turn. Lord, Murray, and Lord present their sketch *Fun in the Gymnasia*, which is well received; their exhibition of ball-punching is most clever. Charles Gardiner is always welcome, and he keeps the house thoroughly amused with his song "I'm a lady," into which he introduces much diverting patter and causes endless hilarity. The Brothers Attilla give a fine exhibition of strength tests; the feat of lifting nine men is indeed a marvellous piece of work. They also present a series of poses on a revolving platform, first giving some representing gladiatorial fights, and after of wrestling. It is undoubtedly a novel display, and was greatly applauded. Another very clever turn is that of the Four Mexican lariat-throwers, whose skill is wonderful; while their lassooing is also very clever, especially considering the small space that a music hall stage offers. The lady of the troupe is deserving of great praise for her work, which caused much admiration. Will Dacey and Nellie Lewis are a very amusing couple. Will Dacey as the lazy messenger boy is most laughable with his various antics, and he is also an acrobat of distinction, while his partner sings and dances in a charming manner.

Mr. and Mrs. Shelley present their duologue *Black and White*, which is of the raciest description and goes with a bang. Mrs. Shelley is capital as the wife "who never gets excited," while Mr. Shelley as the husband of the same description keeps the fun going at a terrific pace, and there is not a moment without a laugh the whole time they hold the stage. There are few smarter comediennes than Nelly Neil, whose rendering of "Drummer Boy" met with full appreciation, and she finished up with a neatly-executed dance, and her audience gave her a welcome which must have been gratifying.

A new and original musical burletta, by Paul Knox, entitled *The Phonograph Belle*, in which Arthur Dandoe and company appear, is also being staged, and a very merry and bright concoction it is. The production is in three scenes and has a sort of story round which it revolves. The libretto is smartly written, and the whole thing goes with a swing. It will certainly do well with working up, and there is excellent material to work on. Some catchy numbers are introduced, and more might be put into the first scene. The names of the performers are not given, but the comedian who plays the part of the gasfitter was screamingly funny, and his song "Captain Percy" made a great hit. The actor who plays a leading character is also deserving of praise; his rendering of the song in the second scene was most artistic and was much admired. The production is splendidly mounted, and its success was never for a moment in doubt. Johnny Val is a comedian of merit and a clever dancer; Mr. Arthur Rose and company appear in a dramatic episode, *Sweet Liberty*; and Mr. Fred Reed, comedian, is also on the bill.

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

The vagaries of the weather have evidently little effect on the attendances at the Palace at Camberwell, as overwhelming houses last week, when the days were dull, have been followed this week by audiences almost as large. The programme is one that well warrants the support secured. Mr. George Mozart "tops the bill" and gives his hearers many minutes of mirth with his imitations of personalities "On and Off the Stage," and with his diverting series of "walks." A prominent line in the list is occupied by the sketch *The Usurer*, which tells how an unscrupulous moneylender, working under a fictitious name, receives an application for a loan from his wife's lover. The bill is backed by the moneylender's own name, forged by the wife, who is called upon to verify the signature. There is a strenuous scene between the outraged husband and his wife, for love of whom the usurer had embarked upon his mercenary practices. He begs her to give up her paramour and return to him, but she refuses, and he is prevented from shooting her by an old school friend, who induces him to let the erring woman go as unworthy of any further thought. The little piece has much dramatic strength, and is capably acted. Mr. Sydney Mason puts unbounded intensity into his rendition of the title-rôle, but would be well advised to modify some peculiarities of pronunciation. Miss Theresa Moore gives a remarkable display of passion in the part of the erring wife; and Mr. H. Russell as a friend in need and Mr. Sid Leslie as an adventurer also add to the effectiveness of the sketch, which won much approbation.

A novelty is forthcoming in the duologue *Find the Lady First*, which tells in droll fashion the story of a diminutive man who has arranged to find a lady performer at a high-class entertainment, but finds that she cannot go. His disappointment is mitigated by the appearance of a lady of tall proportions, who volunteers to take the place of the former fair maiden. The newcomer shows herself to be an adept at fencing, and is able to join her partner in a mock melodrama. By this time the little man has come to the conclusion that the lady will suit, and they go off rejoicing. The little piece is smartly played by Miss Adele Levey, who gives a pleasing specimen of her fencing accomplishments, and by Mr. F. Lilliput, a droll comedian. Miss Gracie Grahame makes a charming appearance in an academic robe to sing "Twinkle, little star," in the course of which sad havoc is played with the hearts of the audience. Miss Grahame has a telescope with which she "focuses" the boy in the gallery or the swell in the stalls, and both are fain to fall victims to her fascinations.

Dickens is presented in alluring fashion by Miss Eva Hope and Mr. Jack Wayho, whose excerpts from the pages of the famous novelist are staged with wonderful completeness. Mr. Billy Williams gets his good spirits over the footlights and exhilarates the house with his excellent humour in a couple of songs; Woodhouse and Wells sing and dance to the delight of all; Mr. J. W. Rickaby cuts a comical figure as "a Soldier of the Queen," and gains further laughter by a comic song-recitation; Dutch Daly, with patter and concertina-playing, again wins approval; the part-singing of the Two Gordons, handsomely attired, is loudly acclaimed; Mabel Bright, the "novelty entertainer," sings lively songs at the piano and while astride a rocking-horse, besides dancing very expertly; and Vernon's Bioscope proves always interesting. Mr. Harry Barnard never wearies of his work as a director, and the control of the house is safe in the hands of Mr. Philip A. Lennon, the esteemed manager. The new musical-director is Mr. Josiah Law, lately the first violin, who has found merited promotion.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

Mr. B. P. Morgan, the courteous acting-manager at this popular hall, who lately came to London from the Manchester Hippodrome, has capital entertainment to offer his patrons during the present week. At the head of the bill we have that famous and world-renowned illusionist, Mr. Horace Goldin, who, together with Miss Jeanne Fransioli and company, provides a turn which it would be worth while going a very long way to see. Mr. Goldin achieves all his usual success, and the interest with which his business is followed, and the rounds of applause which he time after time draws forth, bear striking testimony to his value as an entertainer. Ben Albert, the logician, "as dry as an old stick," achieves very considerable success, quickly becoming popular with his audience; and Madge Osmond, "the immaculate dandy," also does very well.

La Poldini and Yevette are responsible for a pleasant few minutes, the former being an excellent vocalist and the latter a precocious little pianist. The Eight Lancashire Lads, always a most popular turn, dance and sing with their usual energy and ability, and are rewarded with enthusiastic applause. A dainty little comedienne and dancer, Miss May B. Brilliant, sings a couple of songs, one, "If you'll take a little walk with me," the other, "Come down and kiss me, honey mine," and dances very cleverly.

Duncan and Godfrey, in their Cockney comedy *Me and 'Er*, merit the highest praise. They give a couple of really genuine character-studies; the little play is extremely well written, and altogether a most legitimate success is achieved—a very talented couple. Leo Tell as Mepho, in his "equine conversations and imitations of instruments," is remarkable for the excellence of his mimicry and also for the humorous manner in which he gives his show; some of his imitations, particularly that of a horse neighing, are wonderfully good. Carney and Armstrong, a very entertaining pair, sing, dance, and whistle in capital fashion.

L'Incognita, the wonderful soprano, who recently caused so much sensation with her singing at the Alhambra, sings a couple of items from Italian opera, providing a most delightful turn. The programme is completed by the American Bioscope, which this week shows a series of highly-amusing pictures, entitled A Chase for a Bike. The excellent orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Henry W. May, is well worthy of a word of praise. This week it is playing "Hang out the front-door key," a medley march founded on Mr George Lashwood's popular song.

WAGNER IN PICTURES.

In presenting tableaux illustrative of Wagner's two most popular lyric works, Mr. Stoll may be said to be bringing his patrons to the threshold of the production of the opera of the great German, and the exact truth of this contention is emphasised by the Coliseum orchestra, which plays with considerable charm the principal *motivs* and melodies of *Lohengrin* and *Tannhäuser* while a series of artistic and beautiful living pictures is unfolded in a large frame. These have been invented by, and staged under the direction of, Mr. Charles Wilson, late of the Empire and the Alhambra, for many years associated with operatic enterprise, whose accomplishments as a *metteur-en-scène* have been recognised in the two hemispheres, the backgrounds being the artistic brushwork of Mr. Philip Howden and Mr. Wm. Telbin. The arrival of the "Knight of the Swan" is a most effective opening tableau of *Lohengrin*. Elsa is kneeling to her deliverer. The figure of the King, Henry the Fowler, is also in an attitude of reverence, the crouching form of Telramund suggesting the defeat of that usurper's scheme of self-aggrandisement at the expense of the Brabant princess. The subject is musically accompanied by the playing in the orchestra of the *motiv* of the hero and the melody of Elsa's dream. The second illustration shows the banishment of Telramund and Ortrud in the scene preceding the nuptials of Elsa and Lohengrin, who are found together in the third tableau, which, strange to say, has no echo of the famous Bridal Chorus, one of the most beautiful "numbers"—if we may use such a word in association with Wagner—in the opera. The final picture shows the approaching departure of Lohengrin and the return of the reincarnated Gottfried, brother of Elsa. *Tannhäuser* opens with the picture of the minstrel knight under the enchantment of Venus, and the infatuation of the erring lover of Elizabeth finds its fit illustration in the Venusberg music. In the second scene—accompanied by the Shepherd's song and the chant of the Pilgrims—Tannhäuser seeks religious consolation at the foot of the shrine; but in the hall of the minstrels breaks away from his fealty to the saintly Elizabeth by singing in praise of Venus. Again is the theme most appropriately treated by the orchestra, as is the fourth scene, in which we see the solitary Wolfram, whose adoration of Elizabeth finds expression in the plaintive playing of the well-known melody "O Star of Eve," a solo that every baritone aspires to sing. In the fifth tableau Tannhäuser is again in the Court of Venus, a group of nymphs dressed in diaphanous raiment of "classic" scantiness. This final picture possesses an ingenuity and a beauty that are not easily forgotten. The Wagner pictures are worthy of the romantic themes they illustrate and of the genius who made those themes immortal. Higher praise could not be.

"A FIGHTING CHANCE."

A Romantic Costume Sketch, by Barry Williams, produced at the Euston on Monday, Sept. 7.

Lord Rickwell .....MR. MURRAY YORKE
Lionel Glayde .....MR. LEONARD ROBSON
Ralph Blacklaw .....MR. LIONEL D'ARAGON
Jake Gettleton .....MR. SYDNEY C. KEARNS
Rebecca Blacklaw .....MISS ROSEMARY REES
Miriam Glayde .....MISS GLADYS WHYTE

The reign of King George III. furnishes the period of Mr. Barry Williams's interesting playlet, *A Fighting Chance*. The hero of it is a gallant soldier, Lionel Glayde, and the heroine is his wife, Miriam, the heiress of an aged peer, Lord Rickwell. The latter is murdered by his ex-steward, Ralph Blacklaw, who hopes by scheming to get the crime fixed upon Lionel, to secure the execution of the soldier, and later to inveigle Miriam to marry him, and so become possessed of her fortune. In his dark designs Ralph Blacklaw has an able coadjutor in his sister, Rebecca, who has acted as housekeeper to Lord Rickwell. Charged with the dastardly crime, Lionel decides upon instant flight to escape arrest until he has found a means to prove his innocence. He realises too well that his capture would mean death to him. He is pursued by Blacklaw and Jake Gettleton, the dead lord's jockey, who pretends to sympathise with Blacklaw. There is an encounter in a forest, but Lionel manages to make another escape. Subsequently, he turns up disguised as Jake, and in a seemingly drunken condition. In the meantime, Rebecca Blacklaw has not been idle, and she, in conjunction with her blackguardly brother, has arranged to compromise Miriam by inducing her to meet him under the pretext that she will learn the news concerning her husband. Miriam falls into the trap, is told that her husband is dead, and is requested by Ralph to enter his private apartment. This she refuses to do. The sketch ends with the discovery that the drunken man is no other than Lionel Glayde disguised, and ample evidence is furnished as to his accuser's guilt. The playlet is well acted and prettily mounted, while the costumes and dresses are appropriate to the period. Mr. Leonard Robson as Lionel Glayde is a dashing soldier and a loverlike husband, and Miss Gladys Whyte is a charming and sympathetic representative of Miriam Glayde. Mr. Lionel D'Aragon furnishes some vigorous villainy in the rôle of Ralph Blacklaw, that worthy's sister and accomplice being capitally portrayed by Miss Rosemary Rees. Mr. Murray Yorke gives us a dignified old nobleman as Lord Rickwell; and Mr. Sydney C. Kearns submits a capital characterisation of Jake.

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PARIS VARIETY GOSSIP.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SEPT. 1 was a very busy day for Paris playgoers, as this was the date fixed for the opening of nearly all the halls which have been closed during the summer. The chief attraction was the Olympia, which restarted under the new direction of M. Victor de Cottens, who will be remembered as the author of the Coliseum revue, and H. B. Marnelli. No sweeping changes have been effected during the closure, the principal innovations being two extra bars on the roof, two lifts to carry you there, and a new carpet. White paint has been lavished on all the furniture, and the lighting arrangements are splendid.

THE new direction evidently intends to have no grumbling on the score of the quantity of the entertainment. From 8.30 till 1.45 the audience was regaled with variety shows, ballet, and a revue. The turns were mostly new to Paris, and all were excellent. Miss Bailey and her dog pantomimists is an act that should be snapped up for London without loss of time. The spectacle of an enormous bulldog in evening dress leading the orchestra is too funny for words. Guyer and Crispi, from the States, are very good. The young lady's sweet voice is heard to advantage in a little song which might, however, be changed for something a little livelier. Both she and her partner are eccentric dancers of the first rank.

THE famous Agoust Family are making their first appearance together again is their act *The Animated Restaurant*, which has lost nothing of its vim. Green and Wood are old favourites in Paris, and their act is certainly the laughter-maker of the programme. It must be Mr. Wood who finds it impossible to retain his equilibrium, for it seems almost impossible that anyone who was not "wood" or indiarubber could take some of the falls he does and not meet with a serious accident.

THE ballet *Paris-Vacances* is not by any means all that one could wish for, and although Mr. John Tiller's name appears as the inventor, he has had very little hand in the staging. Indeed, Mr. Tiller's ballets here are in a different class to the present offering at the Olympia.

THE story of *Paris-Vacances* is slight, the opening scene is the drawing-room of a mansion in the Bois, where the servants are following the old adage that "While the cat's away the mice will play," and are enjoying a little party on their own during the absence of the Duke and Duchess at a ball. Suddenly the bell is heard. The Duchess arrives, having left the ball on the pretext of a headache, but in reality to follow the movements of the Duke, whom she suspects of flirting. They quarrel, and decide to leave Paris immediately, the one going to Trouville, the other to Chamounix. At Trouville the Duke endeavours to drown his sorrow by mixing with the gay crowd, but he is called away by a telegram from an unknown friend telling him that he is not being missed by his wife at Chamounix.

THE last tableau takes us to the snowy heights of Switzerland, where we see the winter sports and dances of the shepherds and the village belles. Suddenly a storm arises, in the midst of which the Duke arrives, as one might say, looking for trouble. He discovers that the unknown writer of the telegram was his own wife. Explanations are made to the accompaniment of dances by the villagers. The one redeeming feature of the ballet was the work of Mr. Tiller's troupe of dancers.

THE principal purpose of the *Revue en Bateau* was to present to the Parisian public the Vallis (Ida and Lulu). These ladies tickled the audience right away. Ida, with her imitations of Mayol, Dranem, and other French stars, in which she shows wonderful mimetic power; and Lulu, in her several parts of Fluffy Ruffles, a little Dutch girl who receives petticoats in plenty from her many admirers, a Channel swimmer in a little black bathing costume, and lastly in the hypnotic waltz, in which she is assisted by Mr. Ned Nye. The Vallis will soon be firmly established as Parisian favourites.

THE rest of the revue is very much like all such entertainments, which, by the way, the French people themselves are getting just a little tired of. It has several striking scenes, the principal of which is the Roof Garden of the Hôtel Maurice, from which we are shown Paris at twilight. Another pretty scene is the Court of Honour at the Franco-British Exhibition.

IT is possible that after the run of this revue the Olympia will mount a French adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz*, by Frank Baum and Paul Tietjens, a fairy play which has had an enormous success in the States. Mr. de Cottens has read the book, and if arrangements can be made the piece will be put on possibly about the end of November.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special newspaper express services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—Rugby, 4.30 a.m.; Coventry, 4.54 a.m.; Birmingham, 5.20 a.m.; Crewe, 6.5 a.m.; Manchester, 6.50 a.m.; Liverpool, 7 a.m.; Chester, 9.3 a.m.; Doncaster, 6.10 a.m.; York, 7 a.m.; Hull, 8.20 a.m.; Darlington, 8.58 a.m.; Scarborough, 10.5 a.m.; Newcastle, 10.10 a.m.; Leeds (Central), 6.58 a.m.; Huddersfield, 7.37 a.m.; Bradford (Exchange), 7.47 a.m.; Harrogate, 7.50 a.m.; Halifax, 8.17 a.m.; Burnley, 9.28 a.m.; Leicester, 4.36 a.m.; Nottingham, 5.10 a.m.; Derby, 5.35 a.m.

AT the Guildhall Police Court on Monday, before Alderman Sir Walter Wilkin, William Cecil Watson, aged 25, *alias* F. J. Benson, who described himself as a dramatist, of no fixed abode, was charged, on a warrant, with having, on or about Oct. 15, 1907, unlawfully carried on a theatrical employment agency without having registered his name, address, and other particulars required by Sections 45 and 48 of the London County Council (General Powers) Act, 1905.

THE warrant, it was stated, was issued upon an information laid on Jan. 13 by Frederick Fenton, a barman, of the Royal Hotel, Mile End-road. Fenton deposed that on Sept. 25 last he replied to an advertisement, and received a letter, in consequence of which he went to Broad-street House. In an office there he saw a person calling himself F. J. Benson, who said he was forming a company to produce a play entitled *East Lynne*, and offered him a part on condition that he paid a fee of 2 guineas for "stage tuition." Fenton handed him the money, and was given a part to learn. On Oct. 16 he paid "Benson" £5 further, receiving a guarantee of employment. Benson never, in fact, procured him employment, but returned £3 15s. by cheque.

EVIDENCE was given that Benson was not registered at the Town Clerk's office as a person carrying on a theatrical employment agency in the City of London. In January, it was added, a summons was served personally on the accused, but he did not appear on the return day. The prisoner, who asserted that he did not carry on an agency, but was the employer direct, was remanded in custody.

NEW PALACE OF VARIETIES, EBBW VALE.

The history of the old Central Hall, Ebbw Vale, has been an exceedingly eventful one, and its career crowded with vicissitudes. It was originally built by a limited company at a cost of anywhere between £7,000 and £8,000, and was looked upon as one of the finest structures of its kind in Monmouthshire. It was intended as a hall for concerts, theatrical performances, lectures, religious services, and kindred public functions, but it was found to be a financial failure. It was eventually run as a theatre under the title of the Coronet Theatre, and did fairly good business during the couple of years of its existence. It was again rechristened, as the King's Theatre, under different management, but did not survive long under its new designation.

Some time ago Messrs. Tilney Bros., Abertillery, proprietors of the Pavilion, Abertillery, with their usual commendable enterprise, purchased the hall, with the object of reconstructing it upon the Empire principle. How well this has been accomplished was seen by a visit to the hall on Monday night, when a really first-class combination of artists opened to two crowded houses. Although the building had not long been in the hands of the decorators, the transformation effected has been wonderful, and the name "Palace" is the correct description. The stage, with all improvements and effects, has been considerably enlarged, which will not only provide additional room for the "turns," but will also curtail the hall space, giving it a more snug appearance, and will add considerably to the comfort of the patrons. The general feature of the decorations of the entire building is on the principle of making the interior as bright and light as possible. This has been so well carried out as to give it a tone of striking brilliancy. It is entirely fitted out with electricity, and those who have had experience of gas effects and electric light effects, especially on the stage, will know what an enormous advantage it is in favour of the newer luminary. The better-class seats have been placed on the gallery. These have been luxuriantly upholstered, and every comfort of the public studied. The same thing applies to the front seats on the ground floor, which have also been elaborately upholstered in red plush. Due regard has been paid to ventilation, and a strong feature has been made of the heating arrangements for the coming winter. As far as the usual offices are concerned, nothing has been omitted—cloakrooms, dressing-rooms, lavatories, refreshment- and waiting-rooms, and accommodation for the storage of bicycles are among the many conveniences. The theatre is kept scrupulously clean, and order is maintained by a large staff of uniformed officials. The intention of the management is to provide only the best artists, such as appear in all the principal Empires of our big towns, and by this means they will supply a long-craved-for form of public amusement.

It was encouraging on Monday night to see two crowded audiences. When the curtain rose, there was an appreciative cheer as a compliment to the Messrs. Tilney and those who assisted them in the work. A full and well-balanced orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. George Stephens, played a very fine opening overture. By the way, Ebbw Valians especially will recognise in the conductor one of Ebbw Vale's most famous and accomplished instrumentalists. His very name at one time was one to conjure with, and his admirers will extend to him a most hearty welcome.

Mr. Pryce (formerly of Messrs. Poole's), Messrs. Tilney's general manager, is in charge of the arrangements, and under his experienced eye few details have been left out. Messrs. Tilney and all those concerned are to be heartily congratulated upon the achievement, and it is the sincere wish of the townspeople that it is an institution that has come to stay; and liberal patronage on the part of the townspeople is the only means of success. Next week, we are informed, a programme of exceptional merit has been arranged for.

"THE DRYAD" AT THE EMPIRE.

Genée, the incomparable, has never sounded the gamut of her wonderful art as she is doing this week at the Empire in the idyllic little play *The Dryad*, by Dora Bright (Mrs. Knatchbull), which, it will be remembered, was originally produced at a matinée at the Playhouse in the March of last year. *The Dryad* is a dance play in two tableaux. The story sets forth the love disappointment of a wood nymph. A certain Dryad who queens it beneath the slumbering moon, has subdued all mortals to her loveliness and the magic of her dancing, thus arousing the envy of the implacable Aphrodite, who causes her to be imprisoned in an oak tree, only granting her permission to come forth once in every ten years, between sunset and sunrise, until she should find a mortal faithful to her during the allotted term. A shepherd passing through the wood on the night of her freedom sees her dancing beneath the moon, falls in love, serenades her, and vows eternal constancy.

When the dawn breaks she bids him farewell and shuts herself from the world and love in the tree. After ten years she again comes forth to see the shepherd wandering in the wood with another maid, to whom he sings the same song. He has forgotten a passing fantasy and the wood nymph's charms have faded from his memory. *The Dryad*, apart from its story, is quite a pastoral symphony in its way. It has genuine interest, but Adeline Genée endows it with pathos and tenderness illimitable. She portrays the ecstasy of love, the joy of anticipation, and the deep despair of the wood nymph; and never has a more eloquent command of the resources of gesture play been seen on the Empire stage. It is a delightful revelation of Genée's genius, and Mr. Hitchins, by introducing it to the public, has done a distinct service to dramatic art. Mr. Gordon Cleather sings with warmth and richness of tone, and has been very properly sharing the triumphs of his delightful partner.

In the ballet *Coppelia*, Mdlle. Genée is again a sprightly and mischief-loving Swanilda, and the opening waltz inspires her by its strains to a remarkable exhibition of her powers. Mdlle. Zanfretta now plays the lover with considerable dramatic force, and Mr. Fred Farren repeats his success as the old doll-maker. Mdlle. Lydia Kyaksht, who will play the part of Swanilda next week, gives selections from her répertoire early in the evening, and a turn that is as novel as it is original is supplied by Velanche's football dogs, who play a "soccer" match with an enthusiasm that is almost human. It is very evident that they enjoy the game as much as the audience, and that is saying a good deal.

The powerful dramatta *After the Opera* is still thrilling Empire patrons nightly. Miss Evelyn D'Alroy's acting as the frivolous wife, who meets with such an unfoward fate at the hands of a burglar, submits an impersonation of rare intensity. Mr. Robert Pateman as the wronged husband depicts with considerable power the passion and hate of the final scene; and Mr. Vernon Steel distinguishes himself by a clever bit of work as the lover. Other items in the programme are Warren and Brockway, Emma Francis, Vernon Davidson, and the Bioscope.

MR. EDITOR,—Sir,—I should be very greatly obliged if you would call attention in next issue to the mis-spelling of my name in criticism of production sketch, *After Waterloo*, due to an error in the programme. It should be Ada D. Hatchwell instead of A. S. Hatchwell.—Yours faithfully, ADA D. HATCHWELL.

PROMENADE CONCERTS.

The chief feature of Tuesday's concert at Queen's Hall was the first performance of Mr. E. York Bowen's Pianoforte Concerto, No. 3, in G minor. Mr. York Bowen, although only twenty-four years old, has been for many years a gifted student and distinguished composer of the Royal Academy of Music. When only a boy he won the Erard Scholarship of that institution, and his first pianoforte concerto was in 1904 performed at Queen's Hall. A performance of Mr. Bowen's "Symphonic Fantasia" was given two years ago by the London Symphony Orchestra under Dr. Hans Richter, and in the spring of this year his viola concerto was played at a concert of the Philharmonic Society. The pianoforte concerto produced on Tuesday evening is a characteristic and clever work of the young composer, partaking somewhat of the fantasia form. Instead of the usual slow movement there is a short intermezzo, full of graceful and plaintive melody; but with the exception of this movement Mr. Bowen's concerto is a strong and brilliant work, abounding in sparkling and showy passages, while, unlike so many modern compositions, the clever finale, perhaps the finest portion of the concerto, contains much effective music for the soloist. Mr. Bowen, who played the solo instrument in his own composition admirably, well deserved the hearty cheers with which he was greeted at the close of his talented composition; while the orchestra, under Mr. Wood's skilful direction, gave the composer most able support. Tuesday's programme included the Prelude to Wagner's "Meistersinger," Debussy's Prelude, "L'Après-Midi d'un Faune," Mozart's Symphony, No. 35, in D (*Haffner*), and Gounod's Overture to the *Mock Doctor*. Mr. Aimé Kling gave a skilful performance of Saint-Saëns's violoncello concerto, transcribed for the viola by Réné Pallain; Miss Gwladys Roberts sang Elgar's "Where Corals Lie" and "Sabbath Morning at Sea"; and Mr. Noel Fleming was heard in "O Vision Entrancing," from Goring Thomas's *Esmeralda*.

STAGE CHILDREN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—With only a few years' experience of the theatrical profession one is surprised to find the number of plays depending for their success on characters for clever children. As a looker-on I can say with confidence that of late years the uncertainty of obtaining a licence (particularly in the provinces) for juveniles under, say, ten years of age, has prevented many managers from speculating in works where the interest centres in a child performer, and quite recently an application for a child's licence drew from the magistrate a suggestion that "a portion of salary earned should be invested for the child's benefit in future years." Those conversant with "behind the scenes" are well aware that stage children, as a rule, are well cared for and their comfort studied in every way possible; but to many outside the profession the opinion prevails that "the employment of children on the stage is a serious offence and should be forbidden by law."

The advocates of prohibition are likely to receive many fresh supporters by the precedent created in licensing a baby in arms for a London theatre. And I would ask upon what grounds the licence was obtained. Most certainly a child of such tender days should have regular hours and plenty of sleep; and how can its health be consulted when it is bound to be kept awake to perform every night on the stage? The baby's maternal relative no doubt will say, "It sleeps during the day time." That may be true. But can any mother guarantee her baby will be awake every weekday from 8 to 11 p.m. and matinées 3 to 6 as well? If this particular baby is awakened at any time to be taken on the stage, what becomes of the usual questions magistrates ask as to "the hours the child is required," and the anxiety lest a child should lose its natural rest by being employed in a theatre late in the evening?—every evening, not one evening only. Why should almost a newly-born baby be licensed and a child of six or seven years of age be refused, notwithstanding she is in the best of health, well clothed, and can answer simple questions herself? It stands to reason, that now a baby six weeks old has been licensed there will be some difficulty in refusing touring managers licences for young children of as many years as the Lyceum baby's weeks. To make such exceptions would be most unjust, each case being determined on its merits. Or are managers to understand that "babies in arms only" have contracted out of the Act? I enclose my card, and beg to subscribe myself—Yours faithfully,

CURIOSITY

SINCE the last information was published regarding the Handel-Mendelssohn Festival, which is to be held at the Crystal Palace in June next, some alterations in the dates have taken place. The grand rehearsal will be on Saturday, June 19. The "Messiah" or "Elijah" will be given on Tuesday, June 22, selections from "Israel" and Mendelssohn choral and orchestral works on Thursday, June 24, and the "Messiah" or "Elijah" on Saturday, June 26.

THE fifty-third annual series of Saturday Afternoon Concerts before Christmas, and under the direction of Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock, will be given on Oct. 31, with a concert by Mme. Liza Lehmann (under the direction of Mr. Peter Dawson). She will be assisted by Miss Caroline Hatchard, Miss Polgrave Turner, Mr. John Bardsley, and Mr. Peter Dawson, who have all achieved success at Queen's Hall and Royal Albert Hall Ballad Concerts. Mme. Lehmann will conduct a programme of her own composition, including the popular song-cycle "In a Persian Garden," a new cycle "The Nonsense Songs" (*Alice in Wonderland*), and selections from the opera *The Vicar of Wakefield*. On Nov. 7 there will be a pianoforte and vocal recital by Miss Fanny Davies and Mr. Gervase Elwes; on Nov. 14 a violin recital by Kubelik, assisted by eminent artists; on Nov. 28 a concert by Miss Alys Bateman, aided by Miss Ethel Hook, a sister of Mme. Clara Butt, Mr. Henry Beaumont, and Mr. Albert Archdeacon, the violin soloist being Miss Ruth Clarkson and the solo pianist M. Eduard Parlovitz; and on Dec. 5 a violin recital by Miss Marie Hall, assisted by many well-known artists.

THE Crystal Palace Orchestral Society, the conductor of which is Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock, have arranged for a series of Saturday afternoon concerts. On Saturday, Nov. 28, will probably be heard a concert performance of Sullivan's opera *The Yeoman of the Guard*; on Saturday, Feb. 13, Elgar's "King Olaf" will be given; and on Saturday, May 1, a miscellaneous concert will include "Suite Algerienne" (Saint-Saëns), "Welsh Rhapsody" (Ed. German), &c. The Crystal Palace Choir will assist at each concert.

MR. ARTHUR FAGGE, the conductor of the Dulwich Philharmonic Society, has decided on the following programme for his thirteenth season of concerts at the Crystal Palace:—Oct. 3, "Golden Legend" (Sullivan); Dec. 5, "Carmen" (Bizet); Jan. 30, "Elijah" (Mendelssohn); Feb. 27, "Hiawatha" (Part 3 Coleridge Taylor) and orchestral selections; and March 27, "Redemption" (Gounod).

THE AWARDS.—The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, K.C., the official arbitrator appointed to the music hall dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at *The Era* Offices. Copy, including postage, three-halfpence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ON THE ROAD, SEPT. 14.

AMABIS.—Royal Court T., Wigan.
AN ABANDONED WOMAN.—Queen's T., Fleetwood.
ASCHE, OSCAR.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
ASHWELL'S, MISS LENA.—T. R., Glasgow.
AT CRIPPLE CREEK.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Carlton T., Greenwich.
AT THE WORLD'S MERCY.—T. R., Stratford.
BEAU BROCADE.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
BEAUTIFUL FIEND.—Court T., Bacup.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR (BODE).—H.M.T., Dundee.
BELLE OF NEW YORK (HOWARD).—T. R., Huddersfield.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—T. R., Halifax.
BENSON, THE F. R. (N.).—T. R., Plymouth.
BENSON, THE F. R. (S.).—Bridport and Crewkerne.
BEST OF HER SEX.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—Shakespeare T., Liverpol.
BREED OF THE TRESHAMS.—T. R., Blyth.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Gaiety T., Douglas.
CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE.—Grand T., W. Hartlepool.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—T. R., Chatham.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.—Empire T., Oldham.
CHARLEY'S AUNT (No. 2).—Barnstaple & Newquay.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (BODE).—T. R., Bradford.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, N.).—T. R., Edinburgh.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, S.).—Coronet T., W.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, No. 3).—T. R., Bath.
CLAUDIAN.—Grand Theatre, Nelson.
COAL KING.—Alexandra T., Hull.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—O. H., Leicester.
CONVICT'S DAUGHTER.—T. R., Bristol.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—O. H., Radcliffe.
DAIRYMAIDS (COURTNEIDGE) (N.).—T. R., Nottingham.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (COURTNEIDGE) (S.). — O. H., Coventry.
DAIRYMAIDS, THE (MACDONALD'S).—Swansea.
DANDY FIFTH.—Theatre, Loughborough.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Aberystwyth and Hereford.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (N.).—Folkestone and Hastings.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (M.).—Weston-s.-M. & Paignton.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (S.).—O. H., Cheltenham.
DIVER'S LUCK.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
DONOVAN, LYDIA.—Gainsborough.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—O. H., St. Helens.
EAST LYNNE (KELLY).—T. R., Belfast.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—T. R., Aston.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—T. R., Leigh.
FATAL WEDDING.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
FIGHT FOR LIFE.—T. R., Macclesfield.
FIGHT FOR A THRONE.—Grand T., Mansfield.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—Lyceum T., Newport.
FLOWER GIRL.—Victoria T., Broughton.
FOR HER HUSBAND'S SAKE.—Spennymoor.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Queen's T., Keighley.
FROM CONVENT TO THRONE.—T. R., Grantham.
GAY GORDONS (MISS ASH).—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
GAY GORDONS (MISS DARE).—T. R., Bournemouth.
GAY GORDONS (TERRISS AND HICKS).—Court, L'pool.
GIRL BEHIND THE COUNTER.—King's T., Sunderland.
GIRL REDEEMED FROM SIN.—T. R., West Bromwich.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—T. R., Rotherham.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG.—King's T., Glasgow.
GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE.—T. R., Barnsley.
GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY.—Maestag.
GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME.—Princess's T., Glasgow.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS MISS F.—Pav., St. Leonards.
GREAT AWAKENING.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
GREED OF GOLD.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.—O. H., Northampton.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—T. R., Bolton.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—T. R., South Shields.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—T. R., Castleford.
HER ROAD TO RUIN.—Colosseum, Oldham.
HIS DISHONOURED WIFE.—Century T., Motherwell.
HONEYMOON, THE.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
HORNIMAN'S, MISS.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
HUGHES, ANNIE.—Fulham Theatre, S.W.
HYPOCRITES, THE (N.).—Royal Court T., Warrington.
IRENE WYCHERLEY.—Lincoln and King's Lynn.
KENDAL, MR. AND MRS.—Eastbourne and Folkestone.
KNIGHT IN ARMOUR.—Queen's T., Pembroke.
LADY FREDERICK.—Spa T., Scarborough.
LADY FREDERICK (POTTER).—T. R., Newcastle.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Tranent and Leven.
LANCASHIRE LAD.—T. R., West Stanley.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—T. R., Worcester.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—New T., Aberdare.
LONDON WITH THE LID OFF.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—Elephant and Castle T.
LOVE RULES THE WORLD.—Century T., Motherwell.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—T. R., Batley.
LUCKY LIZA.—P.O.W., Mexborough.
MANXMAN, THE (CLYDE).—Helensburg and Saltcoats.
MANXMAN, THE.—Bury St. Edmunds and Peterboro'.
MAN AND WIFE.—Crown T., Peckham.
MERELY MARY ANN.—H. M. T., Barrow.
MERRY WIDOW (S.).—Londesboro' T., Scarboro'.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—P. O. W., Salford.
MOLLISON, WILLIAM.—O. H., Southport.
MOTHER'S SALVATION, A.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
MOODY-MANNERS OPERA (A.).—T. R., Birmingham.
MOODY-MANNERS OPERA (B.).—Ramsgate.
MOORE, MISS DECIMA.—Morecambe and Llandudno.
MRS. PONDERBURY'S PAST.—O. H., Harrogate.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Grand T., Blackpool.
MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD.—Hippo., Barry Dock.
NEW GIRL, THE.—Grand T., Llandudno.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—T. R., Scarborough.
OLD, OLD STORY.—Lyceum T., Govan.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Grand T., Douglas.
POWER OF THE CROSS.—T. R., North Shields.
POWER OF THE KING.—Miners' T., Ashington.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—T. R., Cardiff.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—Marina T., Lowestoft.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—T. R., York.
PRODIGAL SON (WESTERN).—Palace T., Ebbw Vale.
ROLLICKING ROBY.—O. H., Dunfermline.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—T. R., Birkenhead.
SAILOR'S WEDDING.—Broadway T., Deptford.
SECOND TO NONE.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
SEXTON BLAKE.—O. H. Perth.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—O. H., Burnley.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Paisley T., Paisley.
SILVER KING.—T. R., Dewsbury.
SOLDIER OF FRANCE.—Grand T., Chorley.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
STEPMOTHER, THE.—Hippodrome, Salford.
STILL ALARM.—Theatre Royal, Leeds.
STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER.—T. R., Crook.
SUNDAY.—Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.
TERRY, EDWARD.—Stirling and Buxton.
TEARLE, EDMUND.—T. R., Norwich.
THIEF, THE.—T. R., Manchester.
THIEF, THE (N.).—Grand T., Middlesbrough.
THIEF, THE (S.).—Grand T., Croydon.
TOM JONES.—Buxton and Harrogate.
TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON.—Hastings.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS (N.).—Royalty T., Glasgow.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS (S.).—Grand T., Luton.
TYRANT, THE.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—Plymouth.
VEDRENNE-BARKER.—Grand T., Leeds.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
WALLS OF JERICHO.—Castle T., Stockton.
WARNER, GRACE.—Central T., Altrincham.
WARNING TO WOMEN.—Prince's T., Preston.
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW.—T. R., Ashton.
WHEN IT WAS DARK.—Queen's T., Longton.
WHEN LONDON SLEEPS.—T. R., Chesterfield.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—Carlton T., Saltley.
WHITE MAN, A (N.).—T. R., Dublin.
WHITE MAN, A (S.).—Grand T., Southampton.
WHO IS SHE?—Grand T., Newcastle.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN.—Brixton Theatre.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
WOMAN AND WINE.—T. R., Leicester.
WOMAN PAYS.—T. R., Stockport.
WOMAN WORTH WINNING.—New Hall, Bargoed.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—T. R., Wednesbury.
WRECKER OF MEN.—Star T., Liverpool.
YOUNGEST OF THREE.—Pier T., Southend.
£1,000 REWARD.—T. R., Bilston.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

DOUGLAS BLAIR.—*The cast of* Dr. Wake's Patient *on its original production at the Adelphi on Sept. 5, 1905, was as follows:—The Earl of St. Olbyn, Mr. Alfred Brydone; Duff Wynterden, Mr. W. Gayer Mackay (one of the authors); Bishop of Selby, Mr. Adam Alexander; Dr. Forrester Wake, Mr. C. M. Hallard; Andrew Wake, Mr. Charles Rock; Mr. Murdoch, Mr. Herbert Grimwood; Rev. J. Brown, Mr. John Cabourn; Prescott, Mr. Lewis Willoughby; Antony, Mr. Gerald Jerome; Waiter, Mr. J. R. Gillespie; Countess of St. Olbyn, Miss Hilda Thorpe; Lady Gerania Wyn-Charteret, Miss Lilian Braithwaite; Harriet Bronson, Miss Edith Ostlere; Mrs. Wake, Mrs. E. H. Brooke; Mrs. Murdoch, Miss Elsie Chester; Janifer, Miss Pamela Hope; H. Gipsy, Miss Ina Pelly.*

NOVICE.—*We do not recommend; but you will find in our advertising columns the names of reliable agents*

H. W. JONES.—*Mr. Charles Groves was the original Uncle Gregory, "the man from Sheffield," on the production of* A Pair of Spectacles *at the Garrick on Feb. 22, 1890, and he played the character during the recent revival by Mr. John Hare of that comedy at the same house.*

C. P.—*An actor is a comedian, and a comedian an actor. The term "comedian" decidedly applies to the actor in question, but he is also an excellent pantomimist.*

H. J. N.—*Miss Marie Lloyd played the part of Princess Kristina in the production of* The Magic Dragon o' the Demon Dell *at the Britannia, Hoxton, on Boxing Day, 1888.*

BACON.—*We do not know the gentleman referred to, and his parentage does not interest us. As you know his address, why not write to him and ask him?*

C. HILL.—*It is advisable at first to sell the singing rights only. If the song is a success, then negotiations with a publisher should procure you a share of the profits. The pantomime rights of a successful song are especially valuable. It is all a matter of arrangement, and depends on the status of the singer and the writer. The successful song-writer is sometimes in a position to dictate terms. When you have sold a song and it is being sung, write to Francis, Day, and Hunter to send a representative to hear it. They will secure it if there is likely to be a vogue for it.*

BECKET.—*The Archbishop of Canterbury in the reign of Henry II. figures in a tolerably long list of English dramas. The first of which there is any record is by Bishop Bale, who is the accredited author of the piece known as* Of the Impostures of Thomas Becket. *The character is found in the play by W. H. Ireland entitled* Henry the Second; *then we have the* Thomas à Becket *of Douglas Jerrold, performed in 1829;* Becket: A Historical Tragedy, *by R. Cattermole, printed in 1832;* Thomas à Becket *of George Darley, published in 1840;* King Henry the Second *of Sir Arthur Helps, printed in 1843;* Henry the Second *of George Wightwick, published in 1851; the* King Henry the Second *of Dr. Charles Grindrod, printed in 1885; the* St. Thomas of Canterbury *of Aubrey de Vere, published in 1876; and the* Becket *of Lord Tennyson, brought out on Feb. 6, 1893, at the Lyceum by Henry Irving. Tennyson's* Becket *and other plays are published in a volume of the library edition, price 5s. Try Denny's, bookseller, Strand, W.C.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer—Saturday, Sept. 12.
Alfred Holles—Saturday, Sept. 12.
Carmencita Caicedo—Sunday, Sept. 13.
Charles Vincent—Sunday, Sept. 13.
Wallace Stranack—Sunday, Sept. 13.
Jack Wayho—Monday, Sept. 14.
Jock Preston—Monday, Sept. 14.
Eric Albury—Monday, Sept. 14.
Lily Langtry—Tuesday, Sept. 15.
Mme. Katti Lanner—Tuesday, Sept. 15.
R. Jerrold Ord—Tuesday, Sept. 15.
Lucy Coventry—Wednesday, Sept. 16.
Leonard Aardale—Wednesday, Sept. 16.
Chas. Allan—Wednesday, Sept. 16.
Arthur Haytor—Thursday, Sept. 17.
Queenie Fraser-Brunner—Thursday, Sept. 17.
Edgar Granville—Thursday, Sept. 17.
Katie Lawrence—Thursday, Sept. 17.
Evelyn Millard—Friday, Sept. 18.
Charles B. Vaughan—Friday, Sept. 18.
Harry Burns—Friday, Sept. 18.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Achurch, Miss J.
Adair, Miss Louie
Anderson, Miss Ella
Anthony, Mr. Harry
Arden and Abel
Armstrong, Mr. Barney
Bale, Mrs.
Barker, Mr. A.
Barnes, Mr. J. H.
Barrett, Mr. Medley
Barry, Mr. Leonard
Bentley, Mr. W. E.
Bevan, Miss Flossie
Bosanquet, Mr. E.
Bowman, Miss Isa
Brammall, Mr. Ellis
Bransby, Mr. Phil
Branscombe, Mr. Arthur
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Burnetti
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Conover, Mr. T. E.
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Corri, Mr. Clarence
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Cottesmore, Mr. E.
Courtley, Mr. Thos. T.
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Cumberland, Mr. E. G.
Cunliffe, Mr. Whit
Davis, Mr. Tom
Davis, Mr. R. Wade
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Dodd, Mons. Harry
Douglas, Mr. W.
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Dunlops, The
Eager, Mr. Edward
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Edouin, Miss Rose
Edson, Mr. Harry
Elliott, Miss Beth
Elliott, Miss Violet
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Elton, Mr. Stansfield
Emerson, Mr. Eddie
Evans, Mr. Wash
Ferris, Mr. Edward
Field, Mr. Penfold
Forsey, Mr. A.
Forsitt, Mr. H.
Foulis, Mr. W. Robertson
Fox, Mr. George
Fox, Mr. W. H.
Francis, Mr. C.
Franklin, Miss Eugene
Friedman, Mr. Jake
Fyne, Mr. Fred
Girard, Mr. Gilbert
Golden, Mr. Horace
Graham, Mrs. N. D.
Grey, Miss Mona
Halna, Mrs.
Hamiltons, Messrs. W.
Hartley, Mr. Chas.
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Hazel, Mr. W. Ernest
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Honeybone, Miss Lily
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Hunter, Mr. Harry
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Yelding, Mr. R.
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York, Mr. Philip
Zerbinis, Mr. Victor
Zolas, The Four

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

BAKER.—Aug. 24, Miss Lily Barley Clarke (Mrs. A. E. Baker), of a son.

RANIER.—July 21, the wife of Edward Ranier (*née* Maud Haywood), of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

LOWE—FITZMAURICE.—Sept. 2, at the Registrar's Office, Westminster, Miss M. E. Fitzmaurice (Peggy Primrose) to Aubrey C. Lowe, second son of the late Colonel Arthur Lowe, of Gosfield Hall, Essex.

RICE—GIBBON.—On Saturday, Sept. 5, 1908, at St. Augustine's, Plymouth, by the Rev. J. H. Shaw, George Eugene Rice to Phyllis Gibbon.

DEATHS.

BAGLEY.—Aug. 27, at Grey Mare Hotel, Openshaw, Manchester, Caroline, wife of Edgar Bagley.

BOND-SAYERS.—Sept. 8 (suddenly), at Rutland House Nursing Home, Dorothy (Dollie), the dearly-beloved wife of Arthur Bond Sayers, 98, Ridgmount-gardens, Bedford-square, London, W.C., musical director London Pavilion. Interred at Kensal Green, Sept. 11.

CHADWICK.—Sept. 3, at his residence, Accrington, Thomas, the dearly-loved father of Mrs. Edward Valentine.

ELCOCK.—On Sept. 9, 1908, Mary Elcock, 44, Rostrevor-avenue, Stamford Hill, N., widow of the late Charles Elcock, and dearly-beloved mother of Charles, the Sisters Elcock, and Florrie St. Roy, aged 53.

HORTON.—Sept. 7, at 17, Bonham-road, Brixton, George, the beloved husband of Henrietta Horton, aged 83. Late professor on the oboe at the Royal Academy of Music.

O'LEARY ("D. J.").—Aug. 28, at Champion Hill Infirmary, Dulwich. R.I.P. (South African papers please copy.)

PEACH.—On Sept. 4, at Richmond, George Robert Peach, aged 52 years.

TOWNSEND.—Sept. 10, at 5, Bishopton-road, Barewood, Smethwick, the dearly-beloved wife of Mr. E. Townsend, and mother of Mlle. Lucretia and Josephine Townsend, after great suffering. Beloved by all. R.I.P.

UPTON.—Sept. 12, at Birmingham, accidentally, W. A. Upton, head of the firm of James Upton, theatrical printers.

IN MEMORIAM.

BURNELL.—In loving memory of my dear brother (Harry Burnell), who died Sept. 8, 1906. Never forgotten by his brother, ALBERT JEE EGBERT. Rest, perfect rest.

BURNELL.—In loving memory of brother Harry, who died Sept. 8, 1906. Never forgotten by his brother Bert.

JEE.—In loving memory of my dear wife Katie, who entered into rest Sept. 13 '06. Never to be forgotten by her husband, Albert Jee (Egbert). "To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die."

TEARLE.—In affectionate memory of George Osmond Tearle, who died Sept. 7, 1901.—R. C.

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Sept. 14,
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Bill matter must be sent in fourteen days before opening, in accordance with Clause 18, same to be sent to Manager, Queen's. Artists please note rehearsal must be attended Mondays, 1.0 o'clock, according to contract.

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At 6.40 and 9.10.
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1908.

THE FAUST CONTRACT.

We are pleased to draw the attention of our readers to the very able and earnest letter from Mr. CLAUD W. SYKES, which we print elsewhere in this paper. Mr. SYKES was formerly connected with the Vereinigter Stadttheater at Frankfort, and is at present a member of Mr. LEIGH LOVEL'S company. So thoughtful a letter demands respectful and sober examination.

In the first place, we cannot accept Mr. SYKES'S contention that the first and second parts of "Faust" are a "continuous story." To do so would be to charge GOETHE, if not with imbecility, at least with intermittent mania. The first part of "Faust," in spite of certain exuberances and divergencies, is a complete and concrete drama. The second is mere Midsummer madness to which only respect for genius in decay prevents our giving a harsher name. No one whose perceptions are not warped by the influence of the GOETHE fetish can see anything in this second part but the product of senility, in which the habit of poesy and the craving for composition—GOETHE finished it in extreme old age when prostrated with grief at the death of his son—are curiously mingled. No better summing-up of the situation has been made than that by ABRAHAM HAYWARD when he wrote: "Another set have censured me for my sceptical and superficial notions of the plot of this Second Part, which is said to hide a host of meanings. My only answer is that I cannot see them, and have never yet met with anyone who could, though I studied the poem under circumstances peculiarly favourable to the discovery. None of the German critics, to the best of my information, have yet dived deeper than myself." Space does not, of course, allow of our quoting sufficiently from the second part, to which we must refer Mr. SYKES and those who doubt the accuracy of our estimate of the work.

Mr. SYKES says that in the whole of the first act—there are no "acts," by the bye, in GOETHE'S poem—he can find no regrets for a lost youth, and that the Devil, not Faust, proposes that a contract shall be made. We can best correct Mr. SYKES by quotations. It is in Faust's mind that the idea of a compact arises. He says to Mephistopheles: "Hell itself has its laws? I am glad of it; in that case a *contract* may be made with you gentlemen?" To which Mephistopheles answers: "What is promised thou shall enjoy to the letter." As to Faust not regretting the pleasures of youth, he says in his complaint: "Then I have neither land, nor money, nor honour, and rank in the world. No dog would like to live so any longer." . . . "Far better would it be for me to have squandered away the little I possess than to be sweating here under the burden of that little. To possess what thou hast inherited from thy sires, enjoy it."

The proposal that Faust shall dress fashionably and go with Mephistopheles to see life is made by the Devil; it is Faust who insists on having a distinct arrangement. He says: "What am I to do for you in return?" Mephistopheles answers: "For that you have still a long day of grace"; but Faust wants something more definite. He says: "Speak the condition plainly out."

And now comes the contract. These are the words: "I will bind myself to your service *here*, and never sleep nor slumber at your call. When we meet on the other side"—of the grave, obviously—"you shall do as much for me." The offer to Mephistopheles that if he can ever make Faust enjoy himself for a moment he may do what he likes with Faust's soul is merely a verbal one; the contract already prepared by Mephistopheles, and subsequently signed in blood, would naturally be worded in the Devil's terms and not in those of his dupe and victim. The "passing moment" proposition is described in the text as a "wager." Mephistopheles is, of course, aware that a gambling debt cannot be sued for; and, though he may accept Faust's "sporting offer" in the spirit in which it is made, he relies on the *litera scripta* to enforce payment.

Mr. SYKES says: "In GOETHE, Faust does not contract for pure unalloyed pleasure or happiness, but to be allowed to experience every sort of experience that man can experience." There is no warrant for this in the text. Faust describes himself in most eloquent terms as so wretched in his present condition that he is ready to pay anything for a narcotic. "My joys," he says, "flow from this earth, and this sun shines upon my sufferings." He defies Mephistopheles to "cheat him with enjoyment." How thoroughly Mephistopheles *does* cheat him is shown by the super-sensual raptures of Faust after possessing Margaret. Mephistopheles has won his wager. For observe Faust does not ask for a lasting pleasure. All he stipulates for on his side is a "passing moment" of delight; and, by the evidence of his own lips, Mephistopheles provides him with more than one such experience. There is no statement in the text to the effect that Mephistopheles should be a sort of supernatural COOK, and conduct Faust on a tour through the universe; but there *is* the following proposal from Faust's own lips: "Let us quench our glowing passions in the depths of sensuality!" It is true that Faust, still agitated by his wretchedness, talks wildly about "heaping the weal and woe of the race upon his breast"; but a few words of cool contempt from Mephistopheles soon bring him to reason. He yields at once to the Devil's remarkably frank praise of the joys of this world; and says eagerly: "How shall we set about it?" And off they go together.

Mr. SYKES'S idea that, in the second part of "Faust," "Helen, Faust's true mate, arouses every good feeling that is latent within him," is not warranted by the text. Helen, indeed, is hardly the kind of character whose acquaintance makes for regeneration; nor is it so stated by GOETHE. As the chorus say, in describing their amorous raptures:

Closer and closer already they sit,
On one another reclined,
Shoulder to shoulder, knee to knee,
They rock themselves hand in hand.

Even these not too elevating love-passages are not lasting. On Paris behaving with something like rudeness to Helen, Faust becomes jealous and interferes. An explosion is heard, the spirits ascend in vapour, and Faust, stunned and senseless, is borne off by Mephistopheles. "He whom Helen paralyses," says the Devil, "comes not easily to his senses again." This can hardly be called regeneration.

The conclusion of the Second Part to which Mr. SYKES refers with so much complacency is a glaring example of sophistical trickery. It is quite true that Mephistopheles has no right to drag Faust down to hell before he is dead. But, having carried out his part of the contract, Mephistopheles has a right to exact similar honesty on the part of Faust. What happens in the second part is this. Faust is on the point of death, and Mephistopheles is ready with his bond to claim the soul. Possibly from past experience, he has his doubts of the result. He says:

Yet now so many means, alas! are understood
Souls from the Devil to filch.

When the time comes for him to seize the soul of Faust, the Devil has an attack of unmentionable vice. The angels crowd round him, and Faust's soul is whisked away to heaven before the Devil can collect himself. The moral of this is as bad as it can be. The idea that a contract with a person of bad character can be repudiated at will, and the claimant deprived of his dues by trickery while in a condition of intoxication, either amorous or alcoholic, is calculated to sap all the foundations of business honesty. The fact of Faust when at the point of death indulging a belated dream of philanthropic engineering is beside the question altogether, and does not affect the conditions of the contract. Death-bed repentances are decidedly out of date.

The authors of the version of "Faust" at present being performed at His Majesty's had to deal with an original with an illogical plot and an unsatisfactory *dénouement*. That they have done so well as they have done with the materials at their disposal speaks much for the talent and judgment of Mr. STEPHEN PHILLIPS and Mr. COMYNS CARR.

"NEXT DOOR."

Tragic Farce, in Three Acts, by Eardley Turner, Produced on Monday evening, Sept. 7, at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Mr. Thackray Jellyby ..... MR. M. R. MORAND
Hector Pennicuick ..... MR. ARTHUR SOAMES
Reuben Quilten ..... MR. FRANK G. BAYLY
Mr. Minnikin ..... MR. ARTHUR DENNIS
Andrew Kinch ..... MR. DENNIS BRYAN
Bill Yarrow ..... MR. EARDLEY TURNER
The "Man Next Door" .. MR. ROBERT D. TAYLOR
Sergeant of Police .... MR. A. MORRICE SEATON
Mrs. Jellyby ..... MISS LILIAN DUNDAS
Kitty Maygrove ..... MISS DOROTHY RUNDELL
Ann ..... MISS KATIE JOHNSON
The "Woman Next Door" MISS ALICE AYNSLEY COOK

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A new and original "tragic-farce," entitled *Next Door*, was presented here on Monday by Mr. M. R. Morand and a specially-selected company. The play is by Eardley Turner, and the apparent contradiction in the description—a "tragic farce"—set everyone wondering as to the meaning. The explanation is that the piece is a quaint, whimsical rigmarole founded on an imaginary tragedy, which gives rise to many amusing situations and misunderstandings. The action of the play opens in the study of a Mr. Thackray Jellyby, an eccentric old "would-be author," who, after many vain attempts to "get into print," has at last succeeded in achieving his heart's desire. He has written a descriptive article on a century-old murder for a local paper, and the editor, in writing to accept it, says he has not time to attend to the "murder" at once, but "it shall be done next week." At the same time Mr. Jellyby is much annoyed and interrupted in his literary work by the dog next door, and as a last resource makes an appointment with one Bill Yarrow, a notorious dog-stealer whom he intends to pay for the dog's extermination.

The dog-stealer calls while Mr. Jellyby is away, and refuses to state his business. Mrs. Jellyby's curiosity is naturally aroused, and she wonders what business her husband could have with such a disreputable character; and, strangely enough, she happens to read the letter referring to the "murder" at the same time. This combination of circumstances leads her to the conclusion that a horrible tragedy is contemplated, and, as Mr. Jellyby has of late been rather irritable with her, she thinks that she is to be the victim. Upon this misapprehension the whole of the succeeding story turns. Further complications arise through Mrs. Jellyby finding out that the victim is not herself but the woman next door, and tries to shield her husband from paying the penalty of his crime. However, after endless complications, irony, and humour, and police summonses, everything is explained, with the usual happy ending.

The characters are all capitally drawn and not too exaggerated, that of Mr. Jellyby being particularly good. Mr. M. R. Morand in the above-mentioned rôle proves himself an actor of the very highest class. His study of the would-be author is quite natural, and he infuses any amount of quaint, dry humour into his interpretation. The love interest in the piece is introduced by two young men, Hector Pennicuick and Reuben Quilten, who are both in love with Kitty Maygrove, Mr. Jellyby's ward. They are admirably impersonated by Mr. Arthur Soames, Mr. Frank G. Bayley, and Miss Dorothy Rundell. Mr. Arthur Dennis is excellent as Mr. Jellyby's secretary. Mr. Dennis Bryan as a private inquiry agent, Mr. Robert D. Taylor as the "Man Next Door," and Mr. A. Morris Seaton as a sergeant of police are all capital studies. Mr. Eardley Turner, the author, makes the most of Bill Yarrow, the dog-stealer—a typical East End rough. Miss Lilian Dundas as Mrs. Jellyby finds ample scope for her histrionic abilities, and acquits herself well in a difficult rôle; and Miss Katie Johnson and Miss Alice Aynsley Cook in the other ladies' parts complete an excellent cast.

The play was favourably received, and may be written down as having at the outset achieved a distinct success.

"MALIGNANT GROWTHS!" (?)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Mr. Walter Stephens writes a very able letter in your last issue, but it seems a pity that he should spoil the effect of it by adding another discordant note against musical comedy. It is well for us all connected with the entertainment professions to bear in mind the important fact that every class of play carries out a certain mission, and that managers do their best in their respective lines of business. Surely, therefore, the game of throwing mud at any successful work which the public fully approve, and in the case of musical comedy, nearly always yields respectable profits, is not "good cricket." We all have our ideals in regard to the amusement of the public, but what is the use of such ideals if the said public differ? All of us are here essentially to please the public, and this done, what more can be said?

If the theatrical profession is to regain and maintain strength as a lucrative industry it is quite a certainty that "mud-throwing" will not assist the worker, whatever it may do for those who do not really depend upon their labours for the wherewithal of existence. And let it be noted that many thousands of earnest people do wholly and solely depend upon the theatrical business for a livelihood, and this, at least, should be considered when we enter into public controversy.

It appears indiscreet to find fault with this or that play which does not happen to be in the department favoured by the writer. Presumably, however, it is the "old story" that success is always opposed by the few.—Yours faithfully,

W. SCOTT PHIPP.

Apollo Theatre, W., Sept. 9, '08.

"THE DUKE'S MOTTO."

Melodrama, in Four Acts, adapted by Justin Huntly McCarthy from the French of Paul Feval, Played for the First Time in London at the Lyric Theatre, on Tuesday, Sept. 8

Louis XIII. ..... MR. TOM HESLEWOOD
Louis de Nevers ..... MR. OWEN ROUGHWOOD
Louis de Gonzague ..... MR. FRANKLIN DYALL
Marquis de Chavernay ..... MR. SHIEL BARRY
Comte de Tavannes ..... MR. J. V. HENRY
M. de Navailles ..... MR. GEOFFREY SAVILLE
M. de Nocé ..... MR. JAMES HARRISON
M. Oriol ..... MR. PATRICK DIGAN
Cocardasse ..... MR. HERBERT JARMAN
Passepoil ..... MR. ALEC F. THOMPSON
Æsop ..... MR. A. E. GEORGE
Peyrolles ..... MR. HUBERT DRUCE
Staupitz ..... MR. J. H. IRVINE
Faenza ..... MR. CATON WOODVILLE
Saldagno ..... MR. REGINALD DANE
Pepe ..... MR. FRANK RIDLEY
Pinto ..... MR. CRONIN WILSON
Hoel ..... MR. GEORGE HARRINGTON
Berichon ..... MASTER HARRY DUFF
Bonnivet ..... MR. D. BARTUN
Landlord of Inn ..... MR. CHARLES CECIL
Henri de Lagardere ..... MR. LEWIS WALLER
Princess Gabrielle de Gonzague MISS SYBIL CARLISLE
Blanche de Nevers ..... MISS VALLI VALLI
Cidalise ..... MISS GWENDOLIN FLOYD
Martine ..... MISS MAUDE DIGAN
Brigitte ..... MISS MAY CHENERY
Flora ..... MISS DOROTHY MINTO

Mr. Lewis Waller is never seen to such advantage as in parts of the romantic swashbuckler class; and Henri de Lagardere, in the new version of *The Duke's Motto*, suits him exactly. The piece, which had a trial trip at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on the 31st ult., has all the virtues of the old school of French melodrama—a strong, well-constructed plot, a poetic atmosphere, and a plentiful supply of vigorous and exciting action.

The action opens in a tavern, where a gang of bravoes have assembled to accomplish the assassination of Louis de Nevers, a popular noble, and one of the first swordsmen in France. De Nevers has secretly married Blanche de Caylus, who is confined by her father in the Castle of Caylus; and it is in the moat of this castle that De Nevers, on the very evening on which his assassination has been arranged, has appointed to fight a duel with Henri de Lagadere, a picturesque adventurer, who, once a strolling player, has become a captain of the Guards of Louis XIII. Expelled from the regiment for a duel in which he has killed his man, Henri has raised a party of reckless fellows, and is about to lead them to seek their fortunes in Spain. He calls at the inn, and recognises in the bravoes old friends and teachers of fence. But when he learns that they are about to assassinate Louis de Nevers he repudiates their acquaintance. They depart, locking him in to prevent his interference. Henri, however, ties his girdle to the window and drops into the moat. It must here be mentioned that the assassination of De Nevers has been organised by a certain Louis de Gonzague, who wants him put out of the way so that he may marry Blanche himself. She, expecting her husband, hands to Henri from a window opening on the moat her baby girl, believing that she is entrusting it to De Nevers, who arrives to fight the duel. Henri warns him of his danger from the assassins, and sends off a page to bring his—Henri's—companions to the rescue. He and De Nevers "put up" a splendid combat with the would-be assassins; but De Nevers is stabbed in the back by the treacherous Gonzague, and De Lagardere is only saved by the timely arrival of his regiment.

Seventeen years elapse. In the interval, Henri has killed off, one by one, the gang of ruffians all but three—a hunchback named Æsop and two others, Cocardasse and Passepoil, who would not join in the attack on Henri in the moat. He has been travelling in Spain with Blanche de Nevers, who has grown up into a charming young woman. Æsop meets Henri outside an inn near Paris, and is killed by him in a duel, the victor assuming the speech and appearance of the dead man at pleasure. De Lagardere's object is to denounce De Gonzague as the murderer of De Nevers, and to put Blanche into possession of her inheritance. The plan of De Gonzague is to present a gipsy named Flora as the missing heiress to the De Nevers estates, and afterwards effect her death, so that De Gonzague may inherit that important property. In the third act De Lagardere brings Blanche to the gardens of the Palais Royal in order to present her to the King and convict De Gonzague of his crime. But Blanche is spirited away by the latter's agents; and when Henri tells his story to the King he cannot produce the girl, and is therefore disbelieved, and given forty-eight hours to leave France. In this scene Henri makes frequent use of the Æsop disguise; and he assumes it in the last act, when, as the hunchback, he proposes to De Gonzague to marry Blanche, and put her out of the way quietly. Blanche, who loves Lagardere, and is aware of his identity, agrees to this, and he throws off his disguise, and signs the contract in his own name. At this critical moment the King arrives on the scene, and Henri, by producing a packet on which the dying De Nevers wrote the name of his assassin in blood, convicts the villain, and establishes Blanche's identity.

Mr. Lewis Waller played Henri de Lagardere with just the right amount of *braggadocio*, and with a virile energy and self-restraint which raised the rôle above that of a mere swaggerer. His treatment of the explanatory passages in the first act was an admirable example of free, natural, and buoyant delivery, and he carried the whole thing through with a dash and freedom which quite won the hearts of the audience. There could be no doubt of the absolute success of the embodiment, which was brisk, masterly, and artistic. Mr. Tom Heslewood's Louis XIII. had all the necessary dignity and semi-sarcastic repose, besides being a fine physical representation of the stern and stately monarch. Mr. Owen Roughwood bore himself well in his brief career as De Nevers; and Mr. Franklin Dyall's Louis de Gonzague was keen, incisive, and effective. Mr. Shiel Barry's Marquis de Chavernay was a pleasing and well-balanced depiction of a dandy of the period; and Mr. Herbert Jarman's tall figure and firm and bold method were well suited to the portrayal of the genial adventurer, Cocardasse, Mr. Alec F. Thompson supplying a comical contrast as the little bravo Passepoil. Mr. A. E. George was grimly malevolent as the hunchback, Æsop; and Mr. Hubert Druce contributed a convincing and plausible depiction of De Gonzague's unscrupulous instrument, Peyrolles. Miss Sybil Carlisle looked and acted the Princess Gabrielle de Gonzague unimpeachably, her appearance in the masquerade scene being handsome and aristocratic; and Miss Valli Valli was a charmingly ingenuous and impulsive representative of Blanche de Nevers, the freshness and innocence of the girl being very sweetly suggested. Miss Valli Valli's performance was a most winsome and natural one. Miss Gwendolin Floyd hit off cleverly the little character of Cidalise; and Miss Dorothy Minto made a bright and alert Flora, doing a Spanish dance with bare feet in the second act with grace, activity, and spirit. All the accessory characters had conscientious and careful exponents; and the mounting was excellent. Mr. McClery's practised skill had been well employed in the scenery for the first and second acts, the moonlit moat being a fine example of building-up and painting; and Mr. Hann's Palace set did that clever artist great credit, Mr. Hicks's Garden scene being capitally painted, planned, and lighted. In the task of production Mr. Waller had the valuable assistance of Mr. Herbert Jarman, the result being a performance of perfect smoothness; and the costumes designed by Mr. Tom Heslewood were picturesque and appropriate. Mr. Frederick Rosse's music assisted the effect of the situations; and with M. Felix Bertrand to arrange the fights and Mr. John D'Auban to attend to the dancing the completeness of the *tout ensemble* was well ensured. *The Duke's Motto* was received with enthusiastic acclamations; and Mr. Lewis Waller's admirers will flock to the Lyric to see him in a part which brings out some of his strongest points, and shows him to the greatest advantage.

"THE EARLY WORM."

An Original Farce, in Three Acts, by Frederick Lonsdale, produced at Wyndham's Theatre on Monday, Sept. 7.

George, Duke of Tadcaster MR. A. E. MATTHEWS
Lord Steyne ..... MR. ALFRED BISHOP
Sir William Mayton .... MR. WILFRED DRAYCOTT
Allan Marchmont ..... MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH
Captain Baxter ..... MR. HENRY STEPHENSON
Tom ..... MR. A. W. BASKCOMB
Boatman ..... MR. E. W. LACEY
Sailor ..... MR. GERALD MALVERN
Naylor ..... MR. EDGAR B. PAYNE
Sybil Annesley ..... MISS MURIEL BEAUMONT
Lady Steyne ..... MISS FANNY BROUGH

Mr. Frederick Lonsdale came into the arena of the theatre as a playwright as the author of the book of *The King of Cadonia*, and he added further to the honours gained by him as a writer for the stage on Monday, when Mr. Frank Curzon produced the new farce from his pen entitled *The Early Worm* at Wyndham's as a successor to *When Knights Were Bold*, which has been filling the house for a year. The new author has managed, with familiar characters, to create a number of farcical situations without resorting to buffoonery. In its place we have witty lines, occasionally satire that is biting, and the exhilaration of real fun. The imbroglio is all so simple and direct that one wonders at the ingenuity by which the interest of the farce is sustained and the attention of the audience gripped for three acts. In writing of the plot, we may repeat the well-known lines of Sir Walter Scott:

"O, what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practise to deceive!"

When George Duke of Tadcaster starts on a motor ride to Southampton with his elderly friend Lord Steyne and completes the *parti carré* at the dinner-table at an hotel by inviting two ladies of dubious reputation, he did not foresee that the little bounder Allan Marchmont, of whose company he had rid himself on the road, would get back in time to tell the Duke's sweetheart, Sybil Annesley, and the peer's wife the destination of the motor and the name of the hotel. The telephone is set to work; the escapade of the wanderers is revealed in all its awkwardness; and the ready lies of both the Duke and Lord Steyne only emphasise the gravity of the situation. At least, it would be grave were not Sybil a sensible girl. She is far too fond of George to marry anyone else; but, just for the sake of making him jealous, she arranges a pretty little scheme whereby she advances to Allan Marchmont (alias "the worm") out of her ample income of £50,000 a year a sum of £20,000 to buy George's yacht the Firefly. The purchase is managed for £16,000. The bargain having been concluded, Marchmont invites Sybil and Lady Steyne on board as his guests, and in the second act, in the cabin of the yacht, everybody arrives. The fun is kept going by the rivals—the "worm" and the Duke—making endeavours to secure the favour of the heiress. The repentant Duke bribes the steward to fall overboard, and permit himself to be rescued; but the "worm" has been a little previous with a precisely similar ruse, and it is he that wins the coveted reputation for bravery by plunging in and saving the well-paid victim. The Duke, who has been so neatly foiled, has no scruples about locking his rival in the yacht cabin and leaving him to his fate; but the "worm" dives through a porthole, and turns up to dinner in the last act with a remarkable tale of his adventures at sea. As a matter of fact, he has been picked up by a boatman after an immersion of two minutes. Of course, Sybil refuses him and forgives the Duke, and Lord Steyne makes his peace with his better half, not by any more subterfuge, but by blurting out the plain, unvarnished truth.

The farce does a great service to the lovers of laughter by enabling them to see Mr. Weedon Grossmith in the title-rôle, a character that fits his methods exactly. As the ridiculous little bounder Allan Marchmont, he is refreshingly funny always; but he has several supreme moments. One of them is the negotiation for the purchase of the yacht; another is his advent on board; and there is almost a touch of pathos in his cry, "Who cares for me?" The rendering of the character is a mixture of unabashed impudence and invincible cheerfulness; and the comedian's attitudes and "business" are admirably illustrative of the character to which he gives life and truth. Mr. A. E. Matthews is irreproachable as the Duke of Tadcaster, whose agreeable flippancy and mercurial temperament he so exactly and cleverly suggests. Mr. Alfred Bishop has no great chances as Lord Steyne, but that the character is presented in a finished manner may be readily guessed by those who know the work of this favourite delineator of the old men of comedy. Sir William Mayton, who is as ready to give advice as he is to laugh at the foibles of his guests, is genially played by Mr. Wilfred Draycott, whose buoyancy and gaiety are infectious. Miss Muriel Beaumont, a pretty picture of English womanhood as Sybil Annesley, wears some beautiful gowns, and is sweetly natural and dainty. The farcical elements of the second act are materially helped by the quietly quaint and droll acting of Mr. A. W. Baskcomb as Tom, the cabin-boy, whose ambition to become a steward is ignored by his superiors. Melancholy has marked Tom for its own, and his woe-begone appearance and unhappy experiences evoke some of the loudest laughter heard during the evening. To Miss Fanny Brough, who completes the cast of principals as Lady Steyne, is given speeches of biting satire, and the scorn with which she withers the backsliding Lord Steyne is as effective as it is amusing. Mr. Henry Stephenson does exceedingly well as the Captain of the yacht, and the parts of Naylor and the boatman are adequately presented by Mr. E. W. Laceby and Mr. Edgar B. Payne. *The Early Worm* should be providing hilarious evenings at Wyndham's for many nights to come. It is cleverly written and cleverly played.

The curtain-raiser, adapted from a story by Tom Gallon by Leon M. Lion, is entitled

"FILBY THE FAKER."

John Griffin ..... MR. W. BRANDON
Lucy Winwood ..... MISS MARY LESLIE
Dr. Arthur Wakefield ..... MR. FORBES DAWSON
Timothy Filby ..... MR. BEN NATHAN

This piece, originally known as *The Fairy Uncle* when it was produced at the New Theatre on Nov. 28 last year, brings back to the London stage Mr. Ben Nathan, who as Filby, the self-sacrificing convict, makes a hit by a capital piece of character acting. He is well supported by Mr. Forbes Dawson as Dr. Wakefield, Miss Mary Leslie as Lucy Winwood, and Mr. W. Brandon as John Griffin.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

In a chat with a *Daily Telegraph* representative on Thursday Mr. Stoll said: "I have the firmest belief that the regulations of the proposed scheme will be conformed to by practically every music hall and variety theatre in the land. I am now in negotiations, already far advanced, for the inclusion of the houses controlled by Mr. Walter de Frece."

Miss Marie Lloyd has been recently offered the whole of the box office receipts to appear this season in America; but English proprietors are much too enterprising to allow the queen of variety comediennes to depart from these shores, and will not release her from engagements long since signed for. Marie Lloyd's comment is: "'Tis true 'tis pity, and pity 'tis 'tis true."

"We are to have Mlle. Genée at the Empire for another week," so Mr. Hitchins informed our representative on Wednesday, and there will therefore be further opportunities of seeing the brilliant dancer in *The Dryad*, Dora Bright's charming little pantomime play. Her place in *Coppélia* will, however, be taken by Mlle. Lydia Kyaksht.

To succeed Mlle. Genée at the Empire is a task sufficient to tax the resources of the most experienced dancer. But Mlle. Kyaksht has made a beginning, which leaves no sort of doubt of her success. Her dances with M. Adolf Bolm have been received each evening with fervour and enthusiasm, and there can be no doubt that the Empire patrons have vindicated the judgment of the directors.

Mr. Harry Lauder on Thursday gave a special "command" performance before the King at Rufford Abbey. Mr. Lauder travelled in full Highland costume, and there was an enthusiastic crowd of his admirers at King's Cross to see him off. His place at the Tivoli was taken by his brother, Mr. Alick Lauder.

Miss Daisy Wood, who sailed on Wednesday by the Cunarder Etruria to fulfil an engagement in America, with Mr. William Morris, had enthusiastic receptions on Saturday at her farewell appearances at the Chelsea Palace, Hammersmith Palace, and the Oxford. Miss Wood is returning early in December to take up the part of principal girl in Mr. Chute's forthcoming pantomime of *Aladdin* at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol.

Miss Nellie Wallace relates the following funny incident. She had just made her appearance on a provincial stage after some performing seals. No sooner had she commenced her song when one of the amphibians reappeared, "and raised an unearthly howl as soon as I had got my first note out. He continued to howl all the time, and refused to budge. Of course, I soon stopped, but finding that he stopped too, I went on again, only to find the annoyance repeated. The audience were in roars. At last a man rushed on, and together we hauled the brute off the stage. But it was some time before I recovered my composure, and my performance was quite spoint by the incident."

Mr. Will Bennett, the popular Hippodrome Press agent, has been presented by Mr. Frank Bostock, of the Earl's Court Jungle, with a baby lion. When Mr. Bennett arrived at his offices in Cranbourn-street on Tuesday the young cub, with a steel chain round its neck, had taken possession of the firegrate. The Press agent spent several hours last night in trying to find a suitable name for Mr. Bostock's present, but he was unsuccessful, and the public are invited to send in suggestions.

Mr. Bert Wickham, the well-known athlete, his manager, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Ben de Frece, manager of the Hippodrome, Colchester, had an exciting experience in the recent fire at the Market Hotel, Birmingham. On receiving the alarm from Mr. Rowland, the proprietor, the three gentlemen named made their way to the ground floor.

Mr. Wickham then got on to the roof and attempted to keep back the flames by means of buckets of water handed to him through one of the hotel windows. Eventually a hose-pipe was got to work, and, standing upon a sloping roof four storeys high, Mr. Wickham, despite the peril of his position, played upon the flames. Mr. De Frece took up his position on an adjoining flat roof, where Mr. Wickham eventually joined him. The pair continued to assist the firemen by playing steadily upon the flames.

Alec Hurley and company will appear at the Hackney Empire next week in the successful comedy-scena *The Costers' Beano*. The story has local colouring, and teems with life. Its bustle, its pathetic touches, its excitement, and, more than all, the admirable singing of the coster's "love" song by Alec Hurley, make it a production to be remembered.

Miss Madge Temple, one of the few musical comedy stars who have scored genuine and deserved success on the variety stage, has in preparation a most elaborate scena, shortly to be produced at the London Coliseum. For one week prior to her appearance in London Miss Temple will fulfill a starring engagement at Southsea, commencing next Monday.

The tabloid version of *Il Trovatore*, given so excellently at the Oxford by Mr. Charles Fisher's Pocket Opera Company, has been listened to with great delight by packed houses at the Oxford this week. "The Tempest of the Heart," the Miserere music, and other popular numbers have elicited loud applause, and the enthusiasm of music-lovers has resulted in curtain calls. The Oxford revives its ancient operatic traditions under newer and more artistic conditions, and this is a fact on which the management may be congratulated.

Miss Katie Lawrence, one of our brightest comediennes, has been secured for London, Collins's, and Camberwell, and will start work almost immediately. The improvement in the serious condition of Mr. George Fuller, upon whom she has been in constant attendance for four months, has enabled her to resume business.

A party of Americans were being shown round the East End by Mr. Tom MacNaughton and Miss Alice Lloyd. Among them were Mr. George Leventhrit, a New York lawyer, and Mr. Jack Goodson, a music hall agent. While walking down Middlesex-street they heard a beautiful voice singing the simple ballad—"Why do they ask you if I love you?"

Miss Ruth Davenport, whose singing did so much for the popularity of *Gretna Green* and other delightful productions at the Alhambra, is to take the title-rôle in a reproduction of *Dorothy* on the 28th inst. at the Grand, Glasgow. This will be under the stage direction of Mr. Charles Wilson, Mr. Oswald Stoll's producer, and it is interesting to learn that Mr. Arthur Williams and Mr. Hayden Coffin will play their original parts of Lurcher and Harry Sherwood. The Geoffrey Wilder will be Mr. John Coates, who will be remembered at the Alhambra as the singer of the late Sir Arthur Sullivan's last song, "The Absent-minded Beggar," in 1899. Mr. Coates has done some excellent operatic work since. The opera will be toured in the provinces and suburbs.

The New Hippodrome, Peterborough, was sold on Wednesday by Messrs. Willder and Willder, of 240, High Holborn, for £1,540. The property is held on lease direct from the Corporation of the town for a term of ten years from March 25, 1907, at a ground rent of £100. It seats 800.

The proprietors of the new Hippodrome erected at Devonport are a small syndicate, under the chairmanship of Mr. Alfred Moul, the house, in its management, being allied to the United County Theatres, which controls the Palace Theatre, Plymouth.

On Friday, the 4th, the new house was granted a full licence by the Devonport Watch Committee, and to-day a commemoration tablet will be unveiled by the Mayor of Devonport, Mr. Richard Smerdon, in the presence of about 150 of the leading officials and citizens of the town. Subsequently all those present will be entertained at luncheon on the stage, Mr. Moul presiding.

The work of the construction of this beautiful house of entertainment has proceeded most expeditiously under the guidance of Mr. Bertie Crewe, the architect, and the contractors, Messrs. Parkinson, of Blackpool. After Wednesday's inspection by the Watch Committee, the theatre was found to be fully equipped and practically ready for immediate opening. The first performance takes place on Monday evening next, when a strong programme has been provided. The theatre will fill a much-needed want in Devonport, and the enterprise of the proprietors in erecting a variety house of such excellence has caused lively satisfaction.

The King's Theatre, Southsea, which had to close its doors to dramatic business, is now under the management of Mr. Claude Marner, who is acting for Messrs. Barrasford and company, and is doing excellent business on the two-houses-a-night plan.

The Empire, George-street, Aberdeen, will be reopened for the season on Monday, under the management of those skilled entertainers, Messrs Robert Calder and James Montagu, who conducted the place with so much success last year.

A new house, the Gaiety, which is run by the Aberdeen Cinematograph Bureau, with Mr. Dave Paterson, the popular entertainer and lantern expert, as sale-manager, was opened in Ship-row on Monday. Bailie Alex. Wilkie, J.P., presided at the opening function. Mr. Paterson gave a splendid display of cinematograms and he was ably assisted in the work by his son, Mr. Leo Paterson. Two shows are given nightly. The audiences are gratifyingly large.

Mr. John Stephen, who was lessee of the Alhambra, Aberdeen, from fifteen to twenty years ago, died on Monday. The deceased, who was about fifty-four years of age, had a host of friends in the profession. For many years he occupied the extensive wine and spirit vaults in Guild-street. This in its day was a noted "variety house."

Subsequently Mr. Stephen was proprietor of the Gordon Arms Hotel at Culter on Deeside. Latterly he acted as traveller to an important firm of Aberdeen wine merchants and whiskey blenders. As the deceased gentleman was one of the most generous and lavishly hospitable of men as well as a fine sportsman, his death will be sincerely regretted by all who knew him.

Mr. William Coutts, the manager of the Star, Swansea, on Sunday gave another proof of his charitable instincts by arranging two Sunday concerts at the Star and Palace, the total proceeds of which were given to the widows and children of the sailors who lost their lives by the wreck of the Amazon, near Swansea. Mr. Coutts's efforts resulted in over £40 being raised.

Mr. Reg. H. Foster is having a complimentary benefit at the Palace Theatre, Halifax, by kind permission of Mr. Frank Macnaghten, on Thursday next, Sept. 17. The strong bill on that occasion will include the popular Yorkshire favourite Jack Pleasants, and the company for the matinée, it is hoped, will be augmented by well-known performers from adjacent towns. Mr. Foster, who has been at Halifax for nearly two years, was formerly manager of the Palace, Bradford.

The benefit given to Mr. Chas. Fox, jun., at the Palace, Douglas, on Tuesday was a grand and convincing testimony of public favour. Everyone seemed determined to make the occasion a brilliant success, and they succeeded to the top of their bent. Lord and Lady Raglan and a considerable party from Government House witnessed the brilliant scene in the ballroom, and during the evening Lord Raglan, from a box in the Opera House, had an opportunity of witnessing some of the best turns in the comprehensive and varied programme.

The list is as follows:—Professor Norton, sleight-of-hand expert; Dot Stephens, refined comedienne; Selbo, wonderful club juggler; Wilson Hallett, mimic of children; the Violas, mental telepathists; Frank Leon, dancing expert; Vernon Quartette of Lady vocalists; Rapoli, sensational juggler; Horace Wheatley, Irish comedian and dancer; Burley and Burley, acrobatic comedians; Ouida Macdermott, vocal actress; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in absurdity; and the Royal Comedy Entertainers.

The varieties were not altogether confined to the Opera House. In the ballroom there was a Veleta competition for generous prizes, which resulted in some twenty couples entering the ring; and a special display of films. The grounds were beautifully illuminated.

The annual outing of the Bristol Palace Theatre staff took place on Sunday, the favoured spot being Weston-super-Mare. The weather was all that could be desired, and as the journey was made viâ Brockley Coombe, the drive was greatly enjoyed. At this delightful spot luncheon was taken, and after about three-quarters of an hour's break the journey was resumed. Weston was reached in time for a capital dinner.

There was a short toast-list. Mr. F. J. V. Welchman, in proposing the health of Mr. Horace Livermore (resident-manager), referred in felicitous terms to the excellent feeling that existed between that gentleman and the staff. The party, numbering about sixty, were conveyed by a motor char-à-banc and a two-in-hand. Home was reached at 9.45.

Mr. Bert Dent, the well-known and popular manager of the Palace of Varieties, Greenwich, for the last six years, has severed his connection with that house, at one time known as the Parthenon.

At the close of the Scottish National Exhibition, Edinburgh, 1908, on Oct. 31, the following attractions are for sale:—The great Canadian water chute, with double electric lift and twelve boats; and the flying machine, an entirely new model, with eight cars; the Spider's Web Maze, covering 1¼ miles of intricate passages; the Moulin Rouge, a helter-skelter windmill, the highest ever built; four Venetian gondolas from Venice, almost new; and the Hall of Laughter, with distorting mirrors, jumping floor, and other mechanical effects. The Director, Popular Amusements, Ltd., Scottish National Exhibition, Edinburgh, will give all necessary information.

The production of *A Ride to Win* takes place on Monday at the Empire Palace, Croydon (in lieu of Rotherhithe). The play, which deals with the Turf, is by Mr. John F. Preston.

Mirzka Gynt, a poor Polish lad recently singing in the streets of Whitechapel, is to appear at the American Theatre, New York, for £50 a week. This Ghetto ballad-singer's swift rise from poverty to wealth is due to a lucky chance.

Harry Randall, Herbert Shelley, and Dan Rolyat have been spending an enjoyable week's holiday on the Harbourne golf links. We have no record of any gags cracked on the green, and even the rollicking Rolyat's remarks when his approach shot was "bunkered" have not reached us.

"It sounds like Caruso," said Miss Lloyd. "Let's wait and hear the finish." When the unseen singer had ended his song they walked on, and presently the same voice started again. As they turned the corner they saw a poor lad, with his foot in the half-opened door of a public-house, singing to those inside in the hope of getting pennies. Calling the singer to them, they asked him to come to the Monte Carlo offices in Berners-street. Mirzka Gynt is now being taught to read music, while Messrs. Orlando Powell and J. P. Harrington are writing a series of new ballads for him.

We regret to hear that Miss Gwennie Hasto is seriously ill at Darlington with acute pleurisy, and has had to cancel all her engagements indefinitely.

The Meymotts (Jack and Ada) are having an exciting time in Australia. On their arrival in Melbourne they were on the bill in "invisible type." Their success, however, was such that the next issue of posters found them at the top, in type that was very much seen. They have established some sort of a record in their popular sketch of *Semi-Detached*.

Mr. Ben Nathan is making his return to the theatrical stage this week at Wyndham's in the character of Filby the Faker, in the play of that name. He will be remembered also as a clever mimic and comedian on the variety stage, and those accustomed to regard Ben only as a smart business man would be surprised at his rare versatility. Those who visit Wyndham's will discover in him, at any rate, a character-actor of remarkable merit.

Mr. Maurice Farkoa contradicts emphatically the statement made on the authority of Mr Henry S. Hart that the latter has booked him at the Holborn Empire.

To Mr. Alec Johnstone, the manager of Messrs. Arthur and Mills' troupe at Eastbourne, a complimentary benefit was given on Friday of last week. A very large audience filled the Pier Pavilion, and when Mr. Johnstone appeared he was greeted with a reception which left no doubt as to his popularity and success. A handsome umbrella was also given to him by the boys and girls of the troupe.

Mrs. Harry Bawn (My Fancy) on Wednesday at 2 p.m. will lay the foundation stone of the new Empire, Edmonton. The new house will be adjacent to Lower Edmonton Station (G.E.R.). Mr. Harry Bawn, the chairman of the board of directors, will have the support and experience of Mr. Jesse Sparrow, Mr. Henry Bolding, and Mr. E. B. Marshall Frost in the control of the latest amusement house in London beyond the border. The house will open Christmas week.

The success of Mr. Biff Hall at the Empress, Brixton, last week has resulted in a series of engagements with a West End syndicate. London is always ready to receive a new turn, and Mr. Hall has certainly meet with the approval of the public and the managers.

Miss Haidee Vorzanger, the child violinist, secured the praise of Mr. Dan Godfrey, the conductor of the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, where she played with his excellent orchestra, the Mendelssohn Concerto and various other difficult solos. At Buxton she played under the baton of Mr. Lyell Taylor; and at Harrogate, under the conductorship of Julian Clifford. Miss Vorzanger will play at a recital in London at the end of October at the Bechstein Hall, under the direction of Carl Yongermann.

Miss Doris Dean, who makes such an attractive figure of "The statue come to life" at the London Pavilion, writes to say that the song was written for her by Mr. Percy Greenbank, the music being by Mr. Herbert E. Haines. Miss Dean has been engaged for Christmas at Newcastle, making her sixth pantomime with Mr. Robert Arthur.

Mrs. Stanislaus Calhaem is showing the value of ripe experience and the real histrionic gift by her clever impersonation at the Holloway Empire this week. Araminta, in *Davy Garrick* (the playlet presented by Mr. Hubert Carter), has comic responsibilities, and Mrs. Calhaem, by her breadth of style and command of drollery, extracts every ounce of humour from the part.

A judgment of prime importance to trade unionists and labour leaders was given in Paris by M. Henriquez, the *juge de paix* of the 10th Ward on Thursday. It had reference to the strike of electricians, which, though it lasted only two hours, had disastrous results to the cafés and theatres. When the electric light failed performances in some theatres and music halls had to be stopped, café-keepers had to resort to candles and Chinese lanterns, but these improvised illuminants did not prevent their takings from being seriously affected.

Neither the managers of theatres nor the proprietors of cafés thought of taking action against the person who had caused this serious loss and inconvenience. It remained for the music-hall artist to take this step. They had lost their pay for the night, and they took acion for damages agains M. Pataud, the secretary of the Electricians' Union. They have won their case, M. Pataud being called upon to pay each his night's salary and the costs of the action.

All the scenes and incidents relative to the launch of His Majesty's ship St. Vincent were shown on the Urbanora Bioscope on Thursday evening at the Palace Theatre. Several photographing machines were requisitioned, and not only has the actual launch been taken, but also a unique series depicting the preparations made prior to the event.

Little Zola returns to London on Oct. 12, to Walham Green, after a successful Stoll tour. Mr. Stoll has secured his services until 1912. He is, however, vacant for Christmas. During thirteen pantomime engagements Little Zola has never been absent from a single performance. This constitutes a record.

Master Max Darewski, the famous boy composer, conductor, and pianist, had indeed a royal reception on Tuesday, when he made his reappearance at the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, before crowded houses both afternoon and evening. His rendering of the most difficult piano solos by the great masters was astounding, and the thorough and masterful way he conducted the band was amazing. We can only endorse the words of Mmes. Patti and Melba and M. Paderewski, "The child is a genius of the highest magnitude."

Miss Harriett Vernon produced her new and original scena, entitled *A Yule-Tide Story*, at the Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester. It proved at once another sensational success, the audience being unanimous in their appreciation. The beautiful setting is by Mr. F. le Maitre, Manchester.

There will be an interesting ceremony at the Church of the Ascension, Lavender-hill, on Sunday, when Miss Grace Grahame will be godmother at the christening of Miss Marjorie Grace Georgina, the newest arrival in the family of Gilbert Wells, the popular song-writer. Mr. George Beard, the well-known sport and friend of the profession, is the male sponsor on this occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas have been rebooked by Mr. Oswald Stoll into 1911 at a big increase of salary, after he had personally seen their act, and also by Mr. Walter Gibbons, Mr. Bostock, and Mr. Dan Godfrey on the same conditions. This week they are at the top of the bill at the Palace, Douglas, where their success has brought them offers for next season at the popular seaside resort in Manxland.

Mr. Harry Bedford is a comedian of distinct individuality, and at the South London this week he is singing a couple of songs in which his quaintness takes a new turn. It was not to be expected that the Old Age Pensions would long remain without treatment on the music hall stage, and Mr. Bedford's latest song takes a comic view of the subject. He impersonates a shabby individual who keenly looks forward to "sweet seventy," when he will take his princely pension and be eligible again for matrimony. In addition to its humorous rhyme the song boasts a tuneful refrain, which was taken up with unanimity.

"The Salome Dance," which has been burlesqued from many standpoints, is also travestied by Mr. Bedford, who, as a harassed husband, tells how his wife has caught the "Salome" craze, and walks around at all hours of the night bearing a plate on which a sheep's head reposes. Mr. Bedford accompanies his songs with the oddest antics and quaintest steps, and gains much laughter. The chorus of his second effusion has a rhythmical lilt which cannot be resisted, and the refrain will probably become as popular with the multitude as did the comedian's former song, "A little bit off the top."

The blind boy, Albert Marsh, for whom the St. Albans Board of Guardians has arranged special musical tuition to enable him to sit for the examination of the Royal College of Music, recently gave the members of the Board a demonstration of his musical abilities. Marsh is not ten years old, and has been blind from birth, but he executed upon the pianoforte intricate compositions of a classical character with accuracy, brilliant technique, and excellent expression. Pieces of his own composition which he also played disclosed talent.

Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's *House of Tinn* is one of the liveliest absurdities imaginable, and such a fruitful source of honest laughter is naturally fully booked this year, its first vacant date being May 31, 1909. Its success is well deserved.

Mr. F. A. Fullagar has resigned his directorship of Walter Tyler, Ltd., and has opened offices under the name of F. A. Fullagar and Co., at 10, Cecil-court, Charing Cross-road, W.C. His specialities will be cinematographs, films, song slides, and posters. Artists would do well to pay him a visit.

Miss Cressie Leonard, the charming comedienne who made such a hit in the Kennington pantomime last Christmas, opens at the Tivoli and Brixton Empress on Monday next with new Irish songs and dances. Miss Leonard, who has been taking a holiday in her native land, will be principal boy in the forthcoming Nottingham pantomime.

Mr. Fred Boulton, who is engaged by Mr. Chas. Elderton to play the part of Will Atkins in his forthcoming pantomime, has purchased the pantomime rights of John E. Coyle's famous song, "Don't you think he ought to see a doctor?" which has been one of his biggest successes at his alfresco entertainments at Cheltenham this season.

Mr. George Zalva, the popular proprietor and caterer, leaves England on Wednesday for a trip abroad, visiting Berlin, Vienna, Frankfort, and returning by way of Paris and London, in search of novelties for Hengler's Cirque, Glasgow; the Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hippodromes, New Palaces at Exeter and Gorleston, and other ventures in which he is interested.

Mr. Vernon Pierson, the famous flute and piccolo soloist, will shortly make his first appearance on the halls, in a new comedy sketch, written for him by Neville Lynn, entitled *An Alpine Adventure*, which deals with the experiences of a merry Swiss goat-herd and a dashing young English lady, both stranded in a mountain hut for the night through the fall of a glacier. Mr. Pierson, who is largely known in the profession as the "Paderewski of the Piccolo," introduces both flute and piccolo solos in the sketch, and also, very appropriately, some of Rossini's magnificent *Guillaume Tell* music.

Mr. Charles Evans, the popular general-manager of the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, took his annual complimentary benefit on Wednesday evening, when every inch of the floor-space in the commodious concert-room was filled. Among those who gave Mr. Evans their patronage were the Mayor (Mr. D. T. Evans), Mr. Harry Rickards, theatrical proprietor, of Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Perth, Australia (who is staying at Chapel Hill, Margate, whilst on vacation in Europe), and most of the prominent residents in the district.

The programme, a long and varied one, was much enjoyed. Æolia opened with his sensational act on the high trapeze, followed by Charles Williams, vocal comedian, Leoville, the lady wire-walker, and Mostol, musical entertainer, who elicited applause. Miss Fifi Gordon and her talented girls gave their picturesque song scena, *My Tiny Firefly*, and the Dutch operetta, *New Sabots*. Allsopp and Bekwith, vaudeville entertainers, were extremely good, and George Kenway, a clever mimic and entertainer, was vociferously encored. Harry Edson and his dog evoked enthusiasm; Miss Sybil Montague, ballad vocalist, sang with good effect; Arthur J. Hill, in his Lilliputian act, came in for popular favour; and Mr. Eric Williams recited with good effect "The Surgeon's Child." Poole and Maguire, in their duet, took the house by storm, and a capital finish was put upon an enjoyable entertainment by Billy Hobbs, the coon delineator, whose amusing songs and neat dancing roused the audience to enthusiasm.

Following the concert there were some fireworks, and the evening concluded with a grand ball. The floor of the magnificent ballroom was inconveniently crowded, but dancing under the direction of Mr. W. Dennis, the courteous M.C., was kept up to midnight, to which time an extension had been granted by the magistrates. During the evening Mr. Evans was made the recipient of a walking-stick, handsomely mounted in silver, by the members of the male staff. The presentation was made by Mr. C. Hunter, one of the oldest members of the staff, in a few appropriate words expressive of their regard and esteem, and the gift was gratefully acknowledged.

It is with much regret that we announce the death of Mrs. Bond Sayers, wife of the London Pavilion musical director, who passed away on Tuesday at Rutland House nursing home, after an operation for tumour. The operation was quite successful, but pneumonia set in, and from this there was no possibility of recovery. Mrs. Bond-Sayers during her short professional life was known as Dollie Morell, under which name she played several engagements at the London and provincial halls. She met Mr. Bond-Sayers at Hastings, and they were married there nine years ago.

The amiable qualities of the deceased lady endeared her to a large circle, and in her flat at Ridgmount-gardens she entertained largely. The sympathy shown by the profession to Mr. Bond-Sayers, who is known to his many friends as "Patsy," has been widespread, and he finds it impossible to reply individually to the number of telegrams and letters that have been sent. He desires, however, to convey through our columns his grateful thanks to the senders, and to say how much he has been touched by them in his deep sorrow.

The funeral took place on Friday, the interment being at Kensal Green. The polished oak casket bore the inscription,

Dorothy Bond-Sayers,
Died Sept. 8, 1908,
Aged 37 years.

On the lid was placed a large heart in white asters, with the simple inscription in heliotrope flowers, "From Patsy." This was the tribute of the bereaved husband. A cross from Mother and Eva, and a harp from Sister Millie and George were also placed on the coffin. Among the flowers sent by private friends were a large white cushion with the word "Dollie" in heliotrope bloom from Mr. and Mrs. David Levy, and other flower memorials were sent by Phœbe Yuta, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hopkins, Dr. Sandford Arnott, Mr. Rosenfeld, Mrs. Nanson, Talbot. and Nora, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hopkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. Addlestone, and from the coachman, personal maid, and domestics.

The impressive cortège consisted of an open car (drawn by four horses), which conveyed the massive oak coffin, an open landau laden with flowers, and some dozen carriages, with the mourners and friends. The Rev. T. Richardson officiated, both in the chapel and at the grave, which was choicely lined and banked with white chrysanthemums and evergreens. Messrs. Maxwell Bros., of Brixton-road and Streatham, satisfactorily carried out the funeral arrangements.

Among the mourners were the husband and his mother, Mrs. Bond-Sayers, and Mr. and Mrs. McCormick (sister and brother-in-law). In the second carriage were Miss Eva Sayers, Mrs. John Nanson, Mr. Talbot Nanson, Miss Norah Nanson. Miss Marie Lloyd followed in the third carriage, with Mrs. Bathurst, Miss Trissie Bathurst, and Miss Bella Burge. In the other carriages were Mr. and Mrs. de Reeder, Mr. Cyril Smith, Mr. B. Friedberg, Miss Lay, Miss Marriott, Miss Carter, Miss Shephard, Miss Callcutt, Mrs. David Levy, and Mrs. David Carpenter. Others present at the graveside included Mr. Frank Glenister, Mr. Will Sampson, Mr. Fred MacAvoy, Dr. Sandford Arnott, Mr. Harry H. Marks, Captain L. Bell, Mr. J. H. Montague, Mr. G. Dyball, Mr. S. Bartlett, Mr. T. Perry, Mrs. Alfred Harris, Miss Millie Hylton, Mrs. Bannister Howard, and Mrs. Arthur Ansell.

Many and beautiful were the floral tokens of sympathy sent by friends and brother and sister artists. From Miss Marie Lloyd came a lovely wreath of mauve orchids and Scotch heather. Others of the Lloyd family who sent flowers in sweet remembrance were Rosie Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. H. Aylin (Little Marie), Miss Ella Lane, Mr. Alec Hurley, and Mr. and Mrs. Tom McNaughton (Alice Lloyd). Other wreaths came from Mr. and Mrs. E. Romaine, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Elen, Mr. and Mrs. G. Mozart, Mr. and Mrs. Louis de Reeder, Mr. and Mrs. Marie Dainton, Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Stuart, Mr. and Mrs. Percy Honri, Miss Millie Hylton, Miss Queenie Lawrence, the Directors and Managers of the London Pavilion, the Orchestra there, Mr. and Mrs. Bannister Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Harris, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Levy, Mr. Lay, Ellen, and Lottie, the London Pavilion Stage Staff, Mr. and Mrs. Whit Cunliffe, Mr. and Mrs. J. Harris (Clifton Gardens), Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Flateau and family, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ansell, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ansell, Mlle. Lodora, Mr. F. G. Rodger, the Thames Valley Yacht Club, Mr. J. L. Symon, Mr. Fred W. McAvoy, Mr. and Mrs. J. Nathan, Mr. Hugo Lustig, the company at the London Pavilion, Mr. and Mrs. Wilkie Bard, Miss "Trissie" Bathurst, Captain and Mrs. Bathurst, Mr. and Mrs. Neil Kenyon, Mr. and Mrs. Bartlett, Miss May Henderson, Miss Jennie Hartley, Mr. Edwin Boyde, Master Cyril Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Whelan, Mr. J. Lowman, Frank and Lydia Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Cross, Frank Adee, and Charlie Parker.

Mr. Chas. C. Ommanney is appearing, with his company, at the Empress, Brixton, next week in a military dramatic scena entitled *The Last Shot*. This piece is written by Mr. Sydney Bowkett, and Mr. Ommanney is well supported in his representation of it by a strong cast, which includes Mr. Sidney Kearns, Mr. J. Gillespie, and Miss Maggie Byron. The piece represents an incident in the American Civil War.

Miss Carrie Swain, whose recent success at the Coliseum is well remembered, has just completed an engagement at the Tivoli, Manchester. Miss Swain, whose name is a household word in both America and Australia, has spent several years in Paris under the tutelage of Mme. Mathilde Marchesi, who has every reason to be proud of her brilliant pupil. Miss Swain returns to the United States under the management of Mr. J. Duff, and will be seen in comic opera, playing leading rôles.

Miss Annie Charnley, of The Charnleys, is now working a single turn under the name of Nellie Neil, and meeting with big success in her dainty songs and dances. She is appearing this week at the Bedford, and is getting well booked ahead.

Mr. Maurice H. Hoffman's latest production, *The Martyrdom of Michael*, the notice of which appeared in our last issue, has been secured for the Syndicate halls through the agency of Mr. Harry Day. It is written by the successful author, Mr. Leonard Mortimer.

The Gipsies and their Jester, on their return to the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, on Monday, had a most enthusiastic reception from a crowded house. Their performance is extremely smart and always up to date.

The annual picnic of the staff of the Middlesbrough Empire on Sunday last was enjoyed by a party of nearly fifty, who were accommodated in special saloons on the rail journey to Darlington, where brakes were in readiness to convey them, viâ Staindrop and Raby Castle, to Barnard Castle. The lunch at the King's Head Hotel, Barnard Castle, was fully appreciated, and the afternoon was spent in a quiet ramble through the woods, tea being provided immediately before the return journey. The drive home viâ Gainford was most enjoyable. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Charles Rembges, the popular manager.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

THIS is an age of combines, and the interesting news that reaches us from America of the amalgamation in New York of two great music-publishing concerns—to wit, Messrs. T. B. Harms and Co. and Messrs. Francis and Day—has caused some little surprise across the "pond," but it is the most natural thing in the world when the ties which have existed between the two firms for many years are considered. Long before the advent in New York of the English house as an independent concern the firm of Messrs. T. B. Harms and Co. acted as Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter's agents, and even when the latter firm started for themselves Mr. Louis Dreyfus, of the American firm, continued the association as their travelling representative. In this way the common interests of the two business concerns were more closely bound together, and their amalgamation as one house should effect a considerable saving so far as actual expense is concerned.

BOTH Mr. Fred Day and Mr. Max Dreyfus—a gentleman to whose executive ability the past success of the T. B. Harms Co. (since the death of the founders of the firm) is due—have been overwhelmed with messages of congratulation and good wishes from the Press, the publishers, and the music trade. The future policy of the new firm comprises extensive and ambitious projects which will have far-reaching effects on the musical education of Young America, and to that end arrangements have been concluded to obtain the American rights of the high-class catalogues of music-teaching pieces of the Berlin houses of Simrock and Bote and Bock and the London firm of Larway.

UNDER the name of T. B. Harms and Francis, Day, and Hunter, the concern has been incorporated at Albany with a nominal capital of 25,000 dols. The business of Messrs. Francis and Day is likely to remove in the near future to 1431, Broadway, where already an entire enormous floor has been acquired. Mr. Max Dreyfus will be president of the new concern, Mr. Fred Day treasurer, whilst Mr. Louis Dreyfus (secretary), who accompanied Mr. Fred Day on his recent visit to England, will, as in the past, take charge of the retail trade branch, assisted by Mr. John Abbott, who will shortly start on a tour of the West in the interests of the amalgamated concern.

MR. JEROME D. KERN, the popular young composer, will give his attention to the composition of comic operas and high-class numbers for interpolation. Whilst every attention will be paid to Messrs. Francis and Day's Charing Cross-road novelties, the new combine will not in future interest themselves in what is known as "popular music," but comic operas, high-class production numbers, and ballads will find a prominent place in its catalogue.

FATHER CHRISTMAS will soon have to be thinking about his annual novelties, for already Messrs. Francis and Day's portentious list of dance music, suitable for the festive season, is attracting the attention of the trade, and the votaries of terpsichore will have a bewildering number of plums to tire themselves out to when the Christmas party and ball season arrives. Among the acquisitions of the famous house may be mentioned "Lamora," the round dance which was awarded first honours by the British Association of Teachers of Dancing, and which is by W. M. Primrose and Walter Jennings; "The Wilton" square dance (also a first prize in its class), by G. F. Childs and Celian Kottaun; "The Alma," by Mrs. Tom Walton and Luke Cavendish Everett; "The Boston" (two step), by Tom Walton and Luke Cavendish Everett; "The Territorial" (two step), awarded first prize by the United Kingdom Association of Teachers of Dancing, by Arthur Morris; "The Elmaida" (round dance), by H. R. Johnson and Clement Harris; "The Sefton" (waltz), by J. B. McEwen and Luke Cavendish Everett; "The Excelsior" (waltz), by J. Finnigan and J. G. Hahn; "Valse Belvedere," awarded first prize by the Southern Association of Teachers of Dancing, by Charles Gardner and F. Brockett; "Halcyon Days" (waltz), by Henry Coates; "Cecelia" (waltz), by Henry E. Pether; and "Glasgow Belles" (dance), by Alfred Carpenter.

AMONG the songs just acquired by Messrs. Francis and Day are "Won't you come for a sail in my yacht?" by Stanley Damerell and Harry Lane; "Spring cleaning" (sung by Miss Amber Austa), by George Arthurs and C. W. Murphy; "When they ask you what your name is," by Castling and Godfrey; "Would you harmonise with me?" by Geo. Arthurs and C. W. Murphy; "I could get along so nicely with you," by George Arthurs and C. W. Murphy; "Wouldn't you like to be the bridegroom?" by Murphy and Lipton; "Goo-goo land," by F. W. Leigh and C. W. Murphy; "K-I-double T-Y," by Murphy and Lipton; "There's a pair of bright blue eyes" and "Come with me in my caravan," by T. W. Connor; "Oh what an exhibition!" (Ben Albert), by F. W. Leigh; "I'm happy" and "Nothing from nothing leaves me" (Miss Daisy Mayer), by Paul Knox; "Always smile" (Billy Bint), by J. H. Brownson and Orlando Powell; and "The land of promise."

MISS VESTA TILLEY'S newest purchase in the song line is entitled "No girl's a fairy," and is by Fred Leigh and Kenneth Lyle. Messrs. Francis and Day have secured it, and also another great star's recent acquisition, that is, Wilkie Bard's "She sells sea shells," by Terry Sullivan and Harry Gifford.

MR. R. G. KNOWLES, who has long been noted for his happy knack of acquiring only the best humorous songs, has at Richmond made a great hit with Charles Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski's new number, "L S D," which the artist declares to be one of the very finest songs he has ever sung. It is in the press, and will be issued immediately by Messrs. Francis and Day. Mr. Knowles will shortly produce a ditty, entitled "The Daylight Bill; or, Altering the Clock," written by Edgar Bateman and T. M. Down, and composed by H. E. Darewski. This also will be issued by Mr. David Day's firm.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON, at the Tivoli, has riveted the attention of the huge houses during the week with two of Messrs. Francis and Day's publications, "Honey boy," by Jack Norworth and Albert von Tilzer, and "Wouldn't you like to learn to love me?" by Fred Day.

MR. HARRY LAUDER'S new chorus song "He was very, very kind to me," a humorous number, the words and music of which are both from his own pen, was not only the cause of some of the heartiest laughter at the Tivoli on Monday, but provoked one of the most rousing choruses from his huge crowd of admirers ever heard. It has already been issued by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MISS CRESSIE LEONARD will, on her return to the Tivoli on Monday, introduce Murphy and Lipton's pretty number, "Who's the lucky boy?" This is the song with which Miss Millie Legarde made such a pronounced hit on a recent visit to the Holborn Empire.

MR. BILLY WILLIAMS has during the week been scoring heavily with the same writers' "We don't want more daylight." Both the above songs have been secured by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, who, by the way, also publish Murphy and Lipton's "Oh! Oh! Antonio," so successfully exploited by Miss Florrie Forde.

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

THE elected committees of the Trades Union Congress struck off the list on Monday the Artists' Protection League, which sits in Mitre-court, Strand, on the ground that it is not a bona-fide trade union.

THIS action of the Congress has prevented the resolution concerning the licensing laws as they affect artists, variety and legitimate theatres, and the actor, which was down in the agenda in the names of the A.P.L. and the A.U., coming before the delegates to be voted upon. The resolution was framed on such broad lines that it covered all the grievances and absurdities of the present laws regulating theatres and halls—anomalies that have been pointed out in these columns again and again. The resolution put forward by the V.A.F. was withdrawn.

THE musicians, through their secretary, Mr. J. B. Williams, carried two resolutions condemning the action of the Government in allowing Army and Navy bandsmen and police bandsmen to enter into unfair competition with civilian musicians. The resolutions were seconded by Mr. Will Johnson, secretary of the N.A.T.E.

As reported in the daily papers of yesterday, the position of the Artists' Protection League at the Trades Union Congress came up again on Thursday. The President of the Congress, Mr. David Shackleton, M.P., informed the Congress that the Parliamentary Committee considered that the action of the General Purposes Committee was wrong and the attitude adopted unfair to the defendant organisation. Questions like these should be dealt with by the Joint Board, which was formed for that purpose. The inquiry will be held early in October.

AT the committee meeting of the Music Hall Home at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday, Sept. 3, Mr. Percy Ford was in the chair. There were also present James Traynor (of Tray and Rich), C. C. Cornish, Joe Lawrence, P. A. Lennon, Ben Obo, Jim Obo, and Benj. Woodger (secretary). There are ten inmates at present, and the funds were reported to be running very low. The committee would be pleased to receive the contents of any boxes which are in the hands of many managers and workers. They thank Mr. E. E. Giles for collection of £2 1s. 6d., and appreciate the parcels of clothes sent by Harry Blake and L. A. Smith (of Smith and Johnson), a packet of cake tobacco from Mr. Hopter (the "pro.'s" frame maker, Oakley-street, Westminster), and a large quantity of fruit from Harold Hough per James Traynor.

THE general meeting of the Music Hall Home will be held at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday next, at 3 p.m., Mr. Harry Barnard being in the chair. All interested in the Home are asked to attend. The following gentlemen have been added to the list of committeemen:—James Elmo, Ted E. Box, George Pearson, Bert Chapman, Harold Hough, P. A. Lennon, Ben Obo, Jim Obo, and Harry Wright. The next committee meeting will be Oct. 1.

MRS. FRED GINNETT begs to tender her most sincere thanks to the ladies of the executive committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, who, on the occasion of the inauguration dinner at the Boulogne Restaurant on Sunday last, presented to her a magnificent gold curb chain bracelet, with padlock attachment, inscribed as follows:—"From the Committee to their President, Sept. 6, '08." Also for their artistic address and an elaborate basket of flowers, measuring 4ft. in height. The thanks, though simple, are very profound, no one being more surprised than the recipient. With such enthusiastic co-workers success to the Ladies' Guild seems assured; and Mrs. Ginnett will redouble her efforts.

THE usual monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road. In the unavoidable absence of the president (Mr. Fred Karno) the chair was taken by Mr. W. J. Wainratta, and there were also present Messrs. F. Heath, Geo. Fredericks, Fred D. Harris, Tom Carney, W. Brisco, H. E. High, T. B. Brydge, and R. T. Baines (secretary). Six new members were elected, and it was stated that this old-established society was now making most satisfactory progress. The next meeting will be held at the Crown Hotel (to which all communications should be sent) on the second Wednesday in October, at 4 p.m.

MISS EDITH CRUIKSHANKS, so long associated with musical comedy, is producing a sketch entitled *Peter's Picture* at the Bedford on Monday. The scene is laid in the picture gallery of a well-known collector, and is said to be extremely effective.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Harry Jones, stage-manager at the Pavilion, Abertillery, was presented with a watch and chain on the occasion of his leaving the Pavilion to take up a similar position at Messrs. Tilney's Palace at Ebbw Vale. Mr. E. Pryce, manager, made the presentation.

MR. W. S. CROSS has taken over on lease the whole of the Winter Gardens, Southport, with the exception of the Opera House, and the motor garage that exists on the site of the old Hippodrome. The directors will adapt certain portions of the buildings for the purposes of a menagerie. At the same time they will erect others for the same purpose. Mr. Cross will also provide high-class variety entertainments in the Albert Hall, dancing and skating in the Conservatory, and has under consideration the provision of high-class concerts, &c., for the winter months. He hopes to open about Christmas.

MR. JULIAN CLIFFORD, the popular manager and musical-director of the Harrogate Kursaal, took his annual benefit on Saturday afternoon and evening. He had a host of well-known names on the bill, including Mme. Ella Russell, Mme. Alice Gomez, Mr. Ben Davies, Datas, Mr. Joseph Lycett, and Miss Fanny Wentworth. Master Herbert Julian Clifford, aged four, conducted the Harrogate Municipal Orchestra in Sousa's "Invincible Eagle" march, and the Hon. Mrs. Julian Clifford also sang. Master Clifford was presented with a handsome baton. The function was a great success, both from an artistic and financial point of view. After the performance Mr. Julian Clifford entertained the members of the orchestra to supper in the Spa Rooms.

MLLE. BRITTA PETERSEN, the young Danish dancer, who will probably be announced as Mlle. Britta, will make her début in the new romantic ballet due at the Alhambra early next month. The forthcoming production has for its subject old Spain, with a very picturesque setting closely associated with the Moorish occupation. The scenario is by Signor Curti, with music by Mr. George Byng. It will be in three scenes, and every opportunity will be given to the costumier and scenic artist to revel in the riot of colour the locality demands. On the production of the new ballet the *Sal, Oh My!* travesty will be withdrawn, to enable Mlle. Leonora to take a much-needed rest prior to her return to London to rehearse for an important production at the Alhambra early next year.

MUSIC HALL LADIES' GUILD DINNER.

The impulse given of late to charitable effort in its own behalf has been seen in the establishment on a sound basis of societies representative of both sexes in the variety profession. Of these, the Music Hall Ladies' Guild is some few months older than the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, and each institution is making strenuous efforts to cope with the distress which unhappily exists in the ranks of the profession. The good work of the first-named society was partially revealed at their first annual dinner, which took place at the Boulogne Restaurant, Gerrard-street, on Sunday, when Mrs. FRED GINNETT, the president, occupied the chair. There were also present:—Mrs. Eugene Stratton (vice-president), Miss Belle Elmore (treasurer), Miss Melinda May (secretary), the Rev. Donald Hole (hon. secretary of the Actors' Church Union), and Mrs. Hole, Mr. C. Douglas Stuart (hon. secretary of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund), Mr. Fred Ginnett, Miss Constance Moxon, Miss Alice and Miss Elsie Chapin, Miss Freda Sharlotte, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Max, Mrs. Herbert Shelley and Miss Shelley, Miss Millie Payne, Miss Rae, Mrs. Crowther, Miss Vivie, Miss Louie Davis, Mrs. Lockhart, Mrs. Mayer, Mrs. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. S. Aarons, Mrs. Pettitt, Mr. Harry Thurston, Mr. and Mrs. Honnest-Redlich, Miss Silvie, Mr. C. P. Richards, Mr. C. Mitchell, Miss Georgie Corlass, Mr. W. Skinner, Mr. and Mrs. Hitchings, Mr. Edgar White, Mr. A. Coles Armstrong, Dr. Crippen, Mr. Joe Clements, and Mr. Wm. Manning.

The men were in the minority, due no doubt to the meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation, which took place at the same time; but the cosy room was quite full, forty-five siting down to an excellent repast, and the enjoyment derived from the evening was such as to induce the generally-expressed hope that the function would become an annual one. The Theatrical Ladies' Guild, which has taken its sister society so cordially by the hand, was not represented in force, as many of the executive were at the time on vacation.

Mr. DOUGLAS STUART volunteered to act as "toastmaster," and under his direction the proceedings went very well. The secretary read telegrams from various sympathisers, regretting inability to be present, and also gave the following list of amounts subscribed:—Sir Edward and Lady Moss, 1 guinea; Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Irving, £3 3s.; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Chevalier, £2 2s.; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Passmore, £1 1s.; Mr. Walter De Frece and Miss Vesta Tilley, £1; Miss Marie Loftus, £1 1s.; La Milo, £1 1s.; Miss Queenie Leighton, £1 1s.; Little Tich, 15s.; Cinquevalli, £1 1s.; R. A. Roberts, 5s.; T. E. Dunville, £1 1s.; Harry Lauder, £1 1s.; Miss Millie Hylton, £1 1s.; Mr. Hibbert, £1 1s.; Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, £2 2s.; and Mrs. Herbert Shelley, 10s.; Miss Topsy Sinden, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. Smith, 10s.; and 19s. kindly collected by Miss Louie Davis.

The PRESIDENT, who was very cordially received, proposed "The Guild and its Officers." As president of the Guild, she said she was very happy to say a few words regarding it. The Guild was founded on Sept. 5, 1906, just two years ago. She was the founder of the Guild, which started with the modest amount of 2s. 6d., but now they had a great deal more at their back. The cases they had helped ran into considerably over three hundred, but that estimate did not include the children, who averaged six to every case, and the poorer the family the more children there were. For their maternity cases they had a medical practitioner, who gave his services free, and a few hospital nurses also acted gratuitously. They thus had their doctor and nurses, and it remained for the Guild to supply milk and other nutritious food. When the baby arrived they supplied clothes, which were to be returned at the end of two months, if convenient; if it was not convenient, then they would forego the articles. If the patient was an artist the Guild endeavoured to find work. They asked managers to give her a chance, and it was gratifying to state that never once had they been refused. (Applause.) Sometimes they got gratitude for their work, sometimes indifference, but the former overbalanced the latter, and that was what made their work so pleasant. Mrs. Ginnett read a letter from a former recipient, full of gratitude for the assistance given by the Guild, by means of which an ailing child had been preserved from consumption. The speaker added she would not mention the writer of the letter, as it is one of the strongest and most stringent rules of the Guild never to disclose the names of their cases.

Mrs. EUGENE STRATTON announced that Miss Belle Elmore had something to say about their president, who, she said, had taken up the work most enthusiastically.

Miss ELMORE said she had a tribute to pay to their president. It was only the ladies of the committee who realised Mrs. Ginnett's generosity towards the Guild. She was always coming forward with assistance in every way, especially in finding material for their entertainments. She always said she "would see Fred about it," and "Fred" always saw it through, obtaining many influential performers. Words really failed her to express the gratitude they owed their president, and they had accordingly prepared a little surprise for that night to convey to her an earnest of their appreciation. Miss Elmore then presented to Mrs. Ginnett a monumental basket of flowers, in which was deposited a massive gold bangle. Accompanying the gift was an address on parchment in a silver frame, which read:—"To Mrs. Fred Ginnett, President of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild. We, the undersigned, your friends and associates of the committee, tender you with every respect and esteem this little token in the form of a golden bangle in appreciation of all the good works you have done for the Guild. All good-luck and prosperity." Here follow the signatures of the members of the executive.

Mrs. Ginnett was also presented with a pretty steel matinée bag by Miss May, the secretary.

Mrs. GINNETT confessed herself overwhelmed at the kindness thus shown her. Her first speech had not been half so difficult as the present, as she had been up in her room having a cut at it for hours during the day. Now, however, she had been taken completely by surprise. She was more than pleased by the presentation; she was honoured. She would never forget the kind words of the address, which went right to her heart. She had a little girl who would treasure the token after her, and might possibly act in the same capacity in years to come. She hoped that if, in the past, she had not done all that was expected of her, she certainly would do so in the few more months that she held that office. (Cheers.)

Miss MELINDA MAY, in proposing the toast of "The Visitors," said they were delighted to see everyone of them there that night, and trusted they had thoroughly enjoyed themselves, whilst assisting as well to help the funds. Perhaps there were some present who might not yet have been enlisted in their sacred cause, the highest cause in the whole world—charity. Had time permitted, she could have told some facts so distressing, and yet alas so true, that had come before her notice during the short time she had been with the Guild, investigating and searching to find the deserving cases, and to separate the sheep from the goats, to render immediate aid to those who are weak and ailing, and stricken with that awful disease which doctors cannot cure—poverty. They had heard a little of the work, and sincerely did she trust they might be granted grace and a pitying heart to render a helping hand in the great work they were striving to fulfil—namely, to help, succour, and comfort those of their comrades in the music hall profession whose bright stars had fallen, who unwillingly had to go and beg a crust of bread for their little ones through no fault of their own, merely through bad luck. "Help us," concluded Miss May, "and I promise that for every shilling you hand us, which will be wisely spent, you shall receive the best reward that can be possible—the prayers of the poor and the blessings of the beloved of the Almighty." Miss May coupled with the toast the names of the Rev. Donald Hole and Mr. Fred Ginnett.

The former gentleman said it was not the most convenient day for a parson to attend a dinner, but he felt so strongly the excellent work that was being done by the Music Hall Ladies' Guild that he felt he must show his appreciation of that work by coming down that night. As they knew, he fulfilled the humble duties of hon. sec. to the Actors' Church Union, and his presence that night showed something of the friendliness which they all felt existed between those two great professions, the Church and the Stage.

MRS. F. GINNETT. [*Photo by Hana.*

Mr. FRED GINNETT, who was received with much applause, said:—Ladies and gentlemen,—I think our friend, the Rev. Mr. Hole, has told you all I wanted to tell you. I thank you very much for all you have said about me. (Laughter.) You did not say much (laughter), but perhaps you will say more when I have finished. (Laughter.) Thank you very much.

Mr. DOUGLAS STUART, called upon for a speech, said he could bear testimony from the inside as to the working of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild. His own Variety Benevolent Fund and the Guild worked hand in hand, and together they were able to assist many cases by granting relief. The Benevolent Fund advanced the money to pay the rent, and the Ladies' Guild assisted in the matter of food and clothing. Mr. Stuart told of an artist who had once been in a good position, but who had come to absolute starvation. He had gone to investigate the case, and found the artist living with his wife and four little ones in one room, with no bed. So impressed was the friend who accompanied him that he handed the unfortunate man a substantial sum out of his own pocket. It was very difficult to discriminate in many cases, and the Ladies' Guild were of the utmost assistance in their work.

THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

It will be seen by the balance-sheet for the past year that the Music Hall Home is still in a flourishing position, and to those ladies and gentlemen who have so generously contributed towards its support the committee begs to tender its most sincere thanks, especially to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift for again placing the columns of *The Era* at its disposal for the New Year appeal, which had such a very satisfactory result. To the M.H.A.R.A for their donations, to the committee of the Liverpool Theatre Gala, to Mr. Joe Elvin, to My Fancy, to Dr. Walford Bodie, to Mr. Arthur R. Welchman, the hon. auditors, and to all other ladies and gentlemen who have generously assisted the fund, the chairman (Mr. Harry Barnard) and the committee of management tender their heartiest acknowledgments. The balance-sheet is appended:—

MUSIC HALL HOME.

Summary, May 1, 1907, to April 30, 1908.

RECEIPTS.

Dr.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To cash at bank	273 0 6	
„ cash in hand	17 18 2	
„ balance from *The Era* Fund, 1906-7	122 15 6	
		413 14 2
„ "Griff"	7 10 0	
„ M.H.A.R.A.	50 0 0	
„ My Fancy	5 0 0	
„ H. Barnard	3 3 0	
„ H. Gage	1 1 0	
„ Raynes, Date Book	2 18 11	
„ E. H. Bostock, Zoo and Hippo., Glasgow	1 0 0	
„ P. A. Lennon, Palace, Camberwell	0 10 0	
„ Box collections, as per detailed list	68 12 9	
„ Boardman, Pavilion, Newcastle	2 5 0	
„ Liverpool Theatre Gala, per W. W. Kelly	30 0 0	
„ Carlton, collection on ss. Macedonia	12 10 0	
„ Raynes, Date Book	5 0 0	
„ Empire, Camberwell	0 10 0	
„ The Royal Dreadnoughts	2 7 8	
„ Mrs. O'Brien, Rule's, Maiden Lane	1 10 6	
„ *The Era* Fund, on a/c	25 0 0	
		228 18 10
„ Interest Bank Deposit a/c, Dec. 31, 1907	0 8 9	
„ Interest Bank Deposit a/c, March 31, 1908	1 6 0	
		1 14 9
		£624 7 9

PAYMENTS.

Cr.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Housekeeping and Secretary		337 11 6
„ Advertising, &c.	33 3 6	
„ Printing and stationery	3 19 0	
„ Postages, &c.	4 10 0	
„ Travelling and Miscellaneous expenses	3 10 6	
„ Collecting boxes	3 0 0	
„ Linen, &c.	7 8 2	
„ Insurance	0 10 11	
„ Bank cheques	0 8 4	
„ „ commission	0 0 6	
„ Balance at bank	5 11 7	
„ „ in hand	24 13 9	
„ „ at bank on deposit	200 0 0	
		286 15 3
		£624 7 9

I have examined the above receipts and payments account with the books and vouchers of the Home, and certify the same to show the true and correct position at the above date.

ARTHUR R. WELCHMAN, A.C.A.,
Chartered Accountant,
9, Old Jewry-chambers, E.C.

July 24, 1908.

MR. GUS ELEN, who opens at the Coliseum on Monday, hooked and landed 22lb. of codling at Deal on the 7th inst.

MR. J. WELLESLEY LYNN, the entertaining conjurer, unfortunately met with a serious bicycle accident on Sunday, the 30th ult., and has had to cancel all contracts.

MISS VERITA VIVIEN, a new recruit to the variety stage, will recite at the Brighton Alhambra, on Monday next, a scena, entitled "Motherhood," that is thoroughly human in character. Miss Vivien bears an extraordinary resemblance to Miss Ellen Terry.

THE latest quotations of music-hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ¼; Empire, 15s. paid 1½, 10s. paid 1; London Pavilion, Ordinary ¾, Preference 4½; Metropolitan, 10s. 6d.; Moss' Empire, 4¾, 5 per cent. Preference 3½; Oxford, 6½; Palace, 19s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 7-16.

MLLE. LYDIA KYASHT, the successor of Adeline Genée, who will play Swanilda in *Coppélia* at the Empire on Monday, began her professional career at sixteen, being now twenty-two. She studied her art in the school attached to the Imperial Theatre, St. Petersburg, where she made her début.

THE Lava Roller Skating Rink, at Denmark Hill, reopened on Saturday. The rink has been redecorated, and the asphalt floor renovated. The managing-director, Mr. Bert Chapman, who looks forward to a good season, does everything possible for the skaters' comfort. Arrangements are in progress by Mr. Benj. Woodger to make this rink the headquarters of the Association of Professional Skaters of Great Britain. Among those present on Saturday were C. G. Fuller (secretary of the Amateur Skating Association), C. B. Phillips, H. Bussey, Tommy Dando, Percy Power, Arthur West, L. Brown, jun., Mr. and Mrs. Thacker, Miss Marie Gould, Miss Mabel Wyatt, and Miss Maud Shack. The band is conducted by Mr. A. Allen Knight. The membership is increasing daily.

VARIETY ARTISTS' FEDERATION.

A general meeting of members of the V.A.F., under the chairmanship of Mr. Joe O'Gorman, was held on Sunday evening at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, to consider various proposals and other matters affecting the interests of music hall artists. There was an excellent attendance of members of the Federation, which afforded striking testimony of the unity that exists in that body.

The first item for discussion was thus described on the agenda paper:—"To consider the position of the Variety Artists' Federation with respect to the rumoured managerial combine."

The Chairman, speaking as to this, said, in the course of his opening statement: I have come to the conclusion now that the aim of the managers is to endeavour to sow dissension and strife amongst our members. Within the last few days they have been telling Miss Marie Lloyd that I have been hawking her contracts about all over the place, showing the salary to everyone. I have written to Miss Lloyd saying I was surprised she had ever entertained such a suggestion, and telling her that her contracts have never left the safe of the Variety Artists' Federation. We hear again on all sides that Mr. Stoll and Mr. Tozer, and the rest of them, have spied out our camp at our executive committee meetings. They have done nothing of the kind. They know less about our affairs than we know about theirs. I am not here to-night to hide myself or anybody else; if anybody in this movement, whether on the side of the managers or on the side of the artists, commits himself, however insidiously, I for one am on all occasions going to expose him and mention his name. Mr. Collins has gone out of his way to tell two of our members—Miss Lloyd and Mr. Hurley—that during the strike a committeeman who carried information to Mr. Stoll was Mr. Fred Ginnett. As a matter of fact, Mr. Fred Ginnett was not a committeeman until long after the strike. You now see where they are aiming. By fair fighting they could not break us up; now they are trying to bring about that internecine strife which, if allowed to go its way, will break any organisation up, no matter how strong. I warn the managers that two can play at this game. Mr. Stoll has favoured us to-day with a long interview in the *Referee*. Mr. Stoll says "the managers will never be the aggressors." I have, as you know, the greatest admiration for Mr. Stoll and his business capabilities; but he forgets that the managers up to now have been the aggressors, and not the artists. When we held our preliminary meetings of the Conference which brought into existence this great organisation, Mr. Stoll, the late Mr. Payne, Mr. Barrasford, Mr. Gibbons, and all the rest of them were memorialised. We sent out a memorial which, I think, was one of the most brilliant efforts that has ever been put forward by any trade union in this country. Mr. Payne ignored us altogether—never answered us. We sent a letter, saying that it was customary when one gentleman or body of gentlemen addressed a letter to another gentleman, that the gentleman so addressed should condescend to answer. We got our answer from the late Mr. Payne. He said: "Gentlemen, I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th inst.—Yours, George Adney Payne." Mr. Stoll, on the other hand, offered us an argument, and a very strong argument. But with this exception we were treated with the utmost contumely. You are all aware that I was most strenuously opposed to the calling of the late strike, but out of evil cometh good, and I am here to-night to state that had that strike not happened our position at the present moment would have been positively intolerable. At the conclusion of the strike we went to arbitration, we got an Award, and Mr. Stoll says that the managers are going to abide by that Award. They accepted the Award. So did we. Now, as to this combine, which we are told has come into existence. It has not come into existence at all! How can a combine be possible when we have Messrs. Macnaghten, Barrasford, and Gibbons outside refusing to have anything whatever to do with it? Mr. De Frece has gone in with Mr. Stoll. We have a list in the *Referee* to-day of those who have joined this pseudo combine. I hope those flies who have gone into the spider's parlour will have their interests looked after better than they were during the arbitration. During the arbitration the little proprietors, or the independent managers, got nothing. They were never considered for one moment; and serve them right. They should have come with us as they promised to do when we started this Federation. What will happen? The little men can have the crumbs which fall from the big men's tables. On the charity matinée question Mr. Stoll says: "We had no interference at the Manchester Hippodrome on Thursday last, which shows that the spirit of reasonableness is gaining ground in the deliberations of the executive committee." Now, as you are probably aware, I am the one who was wholly and solely responsible for withdrawing all the formalities in connection with the Wigan mine disaster, which my committee have endorsed. Let me assure Mr. Stoll that my committee, even in connection with these charity matinées, wish to do nothing unreasonable, and are still prepared to accept any reasonable solution which preserves to us the right of collective bargaining. Some time ago we accepted an invitation from Mr. Askwith to meet Mr. Stoll, with a view to settling the matinée dispute. Mr. Clemart, Mr. Pink, Mr. Bayly and myself, together with Mr. Pete Curran and Mr. Appleton, accordingly met Mr. Stoll, under the friendly chairmanship of Mr. Askwith. At the conclusion we agreed that Mr. Stoll or his representative should write a letter to the executive committee saying that he purposed giving a charity matinée. We were to inquire as to whether it was a genuine charity matinée or not, and then grant or withhold our permission accordingly. On the question of the 2½ per cent. we, representing the artists, were to forego the 2½ per cent., Mr. Stoll promising to give an adequate donation annually to the V.A.B.F. Was ever anything more reasonable put before a sane body of business men? Were there any intimidations or threats? There was nothing of the kind. Mr. Stoll accepted the conditions, subject to the confirmation of his brother managers. Mr. Stoll was very pleased at the arrangement. Mr. Stoll went away; and later on we had a letter from Mr. Askwith saying that Mr. Stoll had conferred with his colleagues, and they had arrived at the conclusion that the charity matinée question was a question between the artists and the managers, and that the Federation had no right whatever to interfere in the matter. We immediately resumed our old position, with the result that these charity matinées are not occurring with such singular regularity. I notice, however, one announced presently for Leeds. But we have not had any of those anniversaries whereat we all had to turn up, whether we liked it or not. Another point that may have missed some of you: they have opened several halls since this rule has come into operation, but opened them with the regular companies. Mr. Stoll says: "With such influences at work the manager may, and one would consider prudently, quite prudently, render himself powerful to resist an organised attack." Now there is no organised attack contemplated. Mr. Stoll says the managers want to abide by the Award. And in Mr. Stoll's own words, the artists have been abiding by the Award most loyally. But have the managers? Is Mr. Stoll going to stand forth as the mouthpiece of people who descend to such paltry tricks to evade the Award as Mr. Tozer did recently in the case of Mr. Harry Tate, Miss Marie Lloyd, and several others? Is he going to be the mouthpiece of Mr. Tom Richards, who has gone in with his arrangement, and who has absolutely refused to abide by the Arbitrator's Award? Is he going to uphold Walter de Frece? The latter engages artists on the understanding that those matinées will be paid for. When they get there, thinking that their salaries are going to be a certain price, they are left out of two or three matinées. I don't think for a moment that Mr. Stoll would condone anything so despicable, or be a party to anything so questionable. We have a long list of these cases against Mr. De Frece. So we decided that we should try a test case with Mr. De Frece. The Arbitrator having failed to show that gentleman the right way, we tried His Majesty's Courts. Mr. De Frece paid the amount and costs into court. The matter is not ended with one case. Mr. De Frece must pay into Court for all of them, big and little. The managers say they are going to encourage the making of stars—Lloyds, Elvins, Lenos, Lauders, and all the rest. How are they going to do it? Surely they are not under the impression that geniuses grow on grape vines. I contend also that there are quite a lot of excellent artists who have everything in them that is necessary to the making of stars. If one of these artists, as has happened in hundreds of cases, displeases one of the powers that be, he is a gone coon. Your leaders are considering a scheme of mine which, when it has crystallised, will be sufficiently strong to adequately render nugatory the evil of any combine. Supposing that the combine fizzles out, as did the one which was in 1882 heralded with just as loud a flourish of trumpets as this. On that occasion I met Johnny Hart. He had just come away from the meeting of the managers which had arranged a 33 per cent. reduction of all our salaries. The first thing that Hart said in answer to my question as to how they got along was that he had never heard of such a farce in his life. He said: "They have settled all the salaries, and I have got to pay the same in my little place as they have to pay at the Alhambra." The great MacDermott, who was not then an agent or a manager, was approached by the late Mr. Villiers the same night. Mr. Villiers was the chairman of the amalgamation. He said: "George, they have put you down as a £12 turn." MacDermott said: "I will go to the legitimate!" Mr. Villiers said: "You will do nothing of the kind; come into the office!" MacDermott was getting £20 a turn at the time at the London Pavilion, which was a fairly good salary in those days. He came out with a contract for as long as he liked to stay in London at £25 a week. He was to give a week's notice when he wanted to leave, and a week's notice when he wanted to return. Our question is now, as Mr. Stoll informs us that there is no intention of cutting down salaries. Why has the combine been formed? What is there to gain? It is either to cut down salaries or to intimidate our members. It is rather belated now for anybody to try and use their power and authority, and turn our members away from the path which they have already decided is a just and proper one to follow. On looking over the books on Saturday I find we have 4,000 fully-paid-up members of our organisation, and we are making at the rate of from fifteen to sixteen members weekly. We have again been buying Consols, and we hope in another week or two to buy some more. While our members remain as loyal as they have been all will be well. I may tell you, ladies and gentlemen, without throwing any unnecessary compliments to you, that the V.A.F. is the talk of the trade union world. There has never been such loyalty known. The working men cannot understand how a man getting £100 a week can fraternise with and fight the battles of a man getting 30s. with such a fine spirit. With your leaders fully determined not to allow anything to happen to divert them from the line they have laid down for themselves, I think the success of the V.A.F. is assured. Let me say that all I desire is the prosperity and protection of my brother and sister artists and the industry by which we earn our livelihood. I want it distinctly understood that threats of victimisation and boycott have no terrors for me, whether they emanate from Durham House or elsewhere.

An important item on the agenda paper had reference to the business relations carried on between artists and agents. A draft of a new commission note had been drawn up by the executive committee, and was submitted to the meeting. This document read as follows:—

"Draft of suggested commission note for engagement to be fulfilled in Great Britain and Ireland:

"In consideration of .....having procured for me (us).....the following engagement .....

.....I (we) hereby agree to pay to the said.....or to his (or their) heirs, a commission of.....per cent. (not to exceed TEN per cent.) on the above-mentioned engagement, and also on any continuous prolongation thereof, and a like percentage on the first re-engagement, if made *direct* with the management within THREE months of the expiration of the said engagement. This commission to be deducted by the management from my (or our) salary should the agents so desire. This commission is not to be payable when the engagement is not fulfilled through the illness of the artist or default of the proprietor, or any other circumstances over which the artist has no control.

"Should a dispute arise between the parties the matter may be referred to a board of arbitration consisting of three agents, three members of the executive committee of the V.A.F., and an independent chairman agreed to by the said board of arbitration.

"Signed .....

"Date .....

"It is understood that the agent is not responsible for any breach of this contract on the part of either proprietor or artist through whatsoever cause arising."

After Mr. Monte Bayly, the general secretary, had read this draft,

The Chairman, in speaking upon it, said that a plebiscite vote of the members of the V.A.F. had decided that this form of agreement should go out. If an agent had got an engagement for an artist he should be honourably paid his commission. At a meeting before the agents a few days ago, when the question arose as to the great amount of money owing by artists to agents, he (the chairman) claimed that the greater proportion of it was due on re-engagements—which the artists thought unreasonable—and on commission on direct contracts made in cases where the artists came to England for a few weeks, and on finishing went back to their own country, and left the agents with a bad debt. The committee had drawn up this commission note after a great deal of consideration, and had placed it before the agents. The latter took a vote upon the matter, and they voted unanimously in favour of it. The committee of the Federation, however, reserved to themselves the right to have the arrangement ratified by the general meeting of the members. It was distinctly understood between them and the agents that the commission should not exceed ten per cent. Since this agreement was arrived at, Mr. Granville, of Fortune and Granville, who was at the meeting, had had an interview with him (Mr. O'Gorman), and the latter had received a letter confirming what passed at the interview, wherein Mr. Granville withdrew from the arrangement previously entered into. It was on the point of the re-engagements that he objected. Mr. Granville considered that he had earned twenty per cent. when he had got an engagement for an artist. He was the first of the agents to break away from the agreement. The other agents, who were prepared to accept what had been laid before them, had asked what we were going to do with the agents who withheld from the arrangement. They were told that the Federation would do its utmost to endeavour to bring these refractory gentlemen into line with their brethren; otherwise the artists would be withdrawn from their books and put on the books of the agents who were prepared to accept a reasonable amount of money. When an agent sent his own office copy to an artist to be signed, all the artist need do was to put it aside, and return to him the V.A.F. agreement form, and see if it would be refused. The commission on transatlantic engagements was five per cent to the American agent and five per cent. to the agent here, and he (the speaker) agreed with their American brothers that any possibility of a commission exceeding ten per cent. would not be right.

Mr. Walter Hast stated that the agents, instead of working for the benefit of the artists, seemed to be exerting themselves on behalf of the managers. Then, they had never had a receipt for an office copy taken from the agent. When they put a date in their date-book they did not know that the engagement to which it referred was legitimately secured by a certain agent. He would move as an addition to the commission note that an artist sending an office copy to the agent should receive from the latter a coupon showing what the artist had signed. He would also move as an amendment that the "three months" mentioned in the proposed form of agreement be set down as "one month."

Mr W. H. Clemart explained that the clause in question meant that the agents had agreed that the old re-engagement clause should be buried. It signified that if an agent got an engagement, the artist must not go to the manager for a return engagement within three months, or else a commission on such engagement would be payable to the agent who obtained the original booking. But he (Mr. Clemart) thought that this clause did not give that incentive to the agent to look after the artist's interests which, in his opinion, should be afforded. He himself had found that Mr. Tom Shaw had not been examining the blanks in his engagement book, so he secured bookings through Mr Wilmott. Mr. Clemart then read a letter addressed to Howard and Sinclair, from Mr. Ernest Edelsten, who claimed commission on a re-engagement made four years ago. Mr. Clemart emphasised the fact that this letter had been sent after the agreement had been made with the agents.

Mr. "Dutch" Daly expressed the opinion that the agents who attended the meeting referred to, and who had agreed to the commission note, were not a responsible or representative body. Neither Mr. Warner nor Mr. Oliver was present. He was further of opinion that the clause they had been discussing did not eliminate the old trouble as to re-engagement, but only made the matter a little more difficult to comprehend. His own contention was that, if an agent had got work for an artist, immediately that work was done the agent's commission was due. No greater incentive could be given to an agent than to make him understand clearly that he only got paid for work that he actually did.

The Chairman disagreed with Mr. Daly in the view the latter had taken as to the agents mentioned not constituting a representative body. Mr. Warner was away, but he suggested sending Mr. Chapman to represent him. Mr. O'Gorman and Mr. Clemart agreed that they only wanted to deal with principals in so important a matter, and Mr. Warner's proposal as to sending Mr. Chapman was not, therefore, accepted. Mr. Oliver was away at Margate, but wrote a letter stating that he would be satisfied with anything the meeting agreed to provided he got ten per cent. Mr. Harry Day also agreed. Mr. Hugh J. Didcot, through a clerical error, was not invited, and a letter of apology was forwarded to him for the neglect.

Mr. Daly stated that in some of the managerial offices it was customary to charge 2½ per cent. for office expenses. Why should one place charge 2½ per cent. and another 5 per cent.? These charges, as well, sometimes, as the commission, were deducted from the salaries of artists. He thought that they should come to some arrangement whereby such commission should be or should not be so deducted. He proposed that the words "And a like percentage on the first re-engagement if made direct with the management within three months of the expiration of the said engagement" be deleted.

Mr. Hal Forde seconded.

Mr. Clemart remarked that neither Mr. Stoll nor Mr. Barrasford deducted commission. The artists were therefore placed in a rather difficult position. He thought it would be better to allow it to remain as it was.

Miss Lorraine thought that they should do away with "office copies." What were they for? She had always paid her 10 per cent to her agent, and on the Continent she had never signed "office copies."

The Chairman pointed out that while some prominent artists might be able to do without an office copy, the smaller members of the profession could not.

Mr. Joe Elvin stated that it was a long time since he had an agent. He considered that the clause was fair and just. When they signed a contract they paid the agent, and there the matter was ended. When the agent brought another contract, the artist signed it and paid his account. If another agent came along he would be paid for what he did, and the other fellow would be left out. The artists should remember that they, and not the agents, were masters of the situation.

The resolution as to the clause was then put to the meeting, and declared carried with one dissentient.

Mr. Watson proposed that the words "For engagements to be fulfilled in Great Britain and Ireland" be deleted.

This was seconded by Mr. Walter Hast and carried unanimously.

Mr. James Howard proposed, and Mr. George Sanford seconded, that the clause "This commission to be deducted by the management from my (or our) salary should the agent so desire" be passed. This was also carried unanimously, as well as another reading: "This commission not to be payable when the engagement is not fulfilled through the illness of the artist or default of the proprietor, or any other circumstances over which the artist has no control."

After other clauses had been discussed, the amended commission note, as passed by the meeting (proposed by Mr. Jack Bland and seconded by Mr. Barney Armstrong) stood as follows:—

"In consideration of .....having procured for me (us).....the following engagement, ...

.....I (we) hereby agree to pay to the said .....or to his (or their) heirs, a commission of.....per cent. (not to exceed TEN per cent.) on the above-mentioned engagement, and also on the continuous prolongation thereof. This commission to be deducted by the management from my (or our) salary should the agent so desire. This commission is not to be payable when the engagement is not fulfilled through the illness of the artist or default of the proprietor, or any other circumstances over which the artist has no control.

"Should a dispute arise between the parties the matter may be referred to a board of arbitration consisting of three agents, three members of the executive committee of the V.A.F., and an independent chairman agreed to by the said board of arbitration.

"Signed.....

"Date .....

"It is understood that the agent is not responsible for any breach of this contract on the part of either proprietor or artist through whatsoever cause arising.

"This commission note to be issued in duplicate.

"This commission note to come into operation on Oct. 1, 1908, and to continue until July 14, 1912.

Mr. Clemart moved a resolution to rescind Rule 30, which reads as follows:—

"At the discretion of the executive committee, a loan may be granted to a member in full benefit for the purpose of travelling to an engagement, on the presentation of contract for said engagement; a receipt must be given in the form of a promissory note, agreeing to repay the amount out of the salary of said engagement. At the discretion of the committee all expenses involved in granting of such loans, and collecting of same, must be defrayed by the member receiving such loan. On no account shall more than three pounds per member be granted."

Speaking to his motion, Mr. Clemart stated that when he first put it on the agenda paper he thought that the amount of money outstanding on loans represented a worst condition of things than it actually did. He had since obtained the full figures from Mr. McCarthy. There had been 481 loans granted, amounting to £808 15s. 11d., 377 had repaid a total of £623 1s., and 104 were outstanding, with amounts totalling £185 14s. 11d. He would suggest that they make a rule that those members who do not honestly pay their loan back should be forthwith expelled from the Federation and sued for the balance.

The Chairman pointed out that it should be necessary to prove that an artist was in a position to repay a loan. Of course, if an artist were in a position to pay he would be compelled to do so. One member in particular owed them several pounds, and every inducement was tried to make him reimburse the Federation. A county court judgment was obtained, but as that proved ineffective a warrant was executed for his arrest, and then the debt was settled. He thought that they could not make a hard-and-fast rule on the matter, and was of opinion that things were working satisfactorily as they stood.

Mr. Clemart then withdrew his resolution.

The Chairman brought the speech-making to a conclusion by stating that he and Mr. Bayly were going to Nottingham the following morning in order to register a protest at the Trades Union Congress to compel the withdrawal of the Artists' Protection League from that Congress. It was quite impossible for a recognised association like the Federation to permit Mr. Frank Gerald to form himself into an association and claim a right to speak for the profession.

ESSEX C.C. MUSIC LICENCES.

The annual meeting of the Metropolitan Committee of the Essex County Council, under the presidency of Mr. W. Langman, was held at the Court House, Stratford, on the 4th inst., to receive applications for music and dancing licences.

Mr. R. O. Lane applied for the renewal of a music licence on behalf of Mr. Samuel George Beal, the licensee of the George Hotel, South Woodford. The renewal was objected to by Mr T. Humphreys on behalf of Mr. Richard Durell, of Grove Lodge, a house close to the hotel. Mr. Humphreys said that the house had been in existence for many years, but recently it had been used in such a manner by Mr. Beal that it had become, he alleged, an intolerable nuisance to his neighbours. In the garden of the hotel it had been the practice to hold concerts, and when this was objected to Mr. Beal expressed a hope that a music hall would soon occupy the site of the garden. On four evenings a week in the summer a troupe of pierrots gave concerts, which he (Mr. Humphreys) contended were given to attract people to the hotel. A piano and violin, and occasionally a cornet, were played, and the result was that Mr. Durell, who was the father of eleven young children, had been unable to use his lawn-tennis court, croquet lawn, billiard or dining-rooms.

The licensee declared that a very high-class business was carried on at the hotel, which had been licensed for music since 1885. In his opinion the licence was absolutely necessary to enable the hotel to be carried on successfully.

Mr. Lane said that a harrowing tale of suffering had been told, but it was obvious that the concerts were a great source of pleasure to hundreds of people. He contended that the objection would not justify the committee interfering with the licence The committee adjourned the application until Sept. 18.

Mr. W. Daybell applied, on behalf of Richard Frederick Bywater, the licensee of the George and Dragon, High-street, Wanstead, for a music and dancing licence, and mentioned that the premises were built at a cost of thousands of pounds, and there was no other similar licence in the neighbourhood. Mr. F. A. S. Stern appeared on behalf of an overseer and a number of residents in the parish, and said that a petition had been signed by 750 persons, including the clergy, doctors, and members of the urban district council, against the licence. The application was adjourned.

The Rev. C. Cavell applied for a music and dancing licence in respect of All Saints' Church Hall, Woodford Green, and the chairman said that it was at his suggestion that the application was made. The application was adjourned.

Mr F. A. S. Stern, for Mr. William Cahill, the licensee of the Green Man, Plashet-grove, East Ham, applied for a dancing licence, and mentioned that the Harmonic Hall, adjoining the premises, had been licensed for music for about six years, and during that time over £2,000, part of the proceeds of the concerts, had been given to charity. This was also adjourned.

The Rev. H. W. Maloney applied for a music and dancing licence in respect of the Cecil Hall, Ilford. Several tradesmen opposed the granting of the licence on the grounds that since the opening of the hall in February last concerts, dancing, and marriage parties had been a source of great annoyance to the inhabitants. The huge windows had proved to be splendid sounding-boards, and as a result of the noises property had depreciated in value. The application was adjourned.

LA MILO AT THE OLYMPIA.

Last evening crowds of people flocked to see La Milo, the inimitable, and it must be confessed that for a beautiful, artistic entertainment La Milo's cannot be surpassed. We notice on the programme that La Milo has received the approbation of some thirty-three watch committees throughout the kingdom. This is nothing to wonder at, for there is absolutely nothing to take exception to. The subjects represented were "The Tambourine Girl," "The Greek Slave," "La Cigale," "Venus di Milo," "Harvest," "Una and the Lion," "Omnia Vanitas," and "Lady Godiva." Of these one cannot help admiring most of all "Venus di Milo," but all are magnificent, and representations of art—true art.—Excerpt from *Liverpool Echo*, Sept. 1, 1908.

We learn that the Corn Exchange, Wakefield, has been taken for a season by an animated picture syndicate. Electric light is being installed throughout the building and arc lamps fitted outside.

MUSIC-HALL CO-OPERATION.

It has been no secret that for months past negotiations have been carried on between the directors and managers of the London music halls with a view of effecting some combination which would secure better working arrangements in the running of the various theatres of variety. The negotiations took a practical aspect early this week when the following initial and official announcement was made:—

"Co-operative working arrangements are now concluded whereby the 'Syndicate Halls,' which comprise the Oxford, Tivoli, Metropolitan, Canterbury, Paragon, the Euston, South London, Chelsea, Walthamstow, East Ham, and Tottenham Palaces, have become associated in mutual bookings of artists, &c., with the London Pavilion, Collins's (now Islington Empire), the London (now Shoreditch Empire), the Hammersmith Palace, and the Crouch End Hippodrome. In connection therewith other arrangements of an equally important character are also pending.

Mr. Henry Tozer, the chairman of most of the Syndicate Halls, was seen by our interviewer on Tuesday morning, and made the following statement:—

"The question as to some form of co-operation has been in the mind of every manager for a long time, and this association of the halls named in the bookings of artists is perhaps the first practical step towards a more general arrangement, which will probably embrace the whole of the music halls in London and the provinces.

"The chief feature of the announcement that has just been made is that the London Pavilion rejoins, to a certain extent, the Tivoli and Oxford. Although the board of the Pavilion is at present dissimilar from the boards of the Tivoli and Oxford, yet the exchange of business facilities will be of a most thorough character, and will be advantageous to all concerned. Whilst the solid position of the Tivoli and Oxford will not be affected, there is no doubt that that of the London Pavilion will be materially improved and strengthened. Each hall will preserve its own individuality to a considerable degree, and the new partnership will be of benefit to the artists inasmuch as their present long runs will be shortened with advantage to them, thus giving the public a more frequent change of programme, which is the modern trend of music-hall entertainments.

"Undoubtedly the Tivoli, Oxford, and Pavilion (the initials of which are curiously suggestive) constitute a goal for the best artists to reach. Whilst the outside halls help to sustain the reputation of the star artists the Tivoli, Oxford, or Pavilion—being the recognised central variety halls—are considered by the star artists as their rightful home, for there they have, as a rule, created their positions.

"We are not combining with the object of securing the reduction of salaries of the artists, but it must be obvious that business necessities demand that all expenses connected with the running of our music halls, which have been advancing very considerably for some time past, should be most carefully controlled and kept within reasonable limits in order to maintain financial prosperity. Our new scheme of co-operation will enlarge the opportunities for the newer artists in the variety profession, and I have no doubt that the combination just formed will be for the ultimate good of all concerned."

In the course of an interview on the same subject, Mr. Oswald Stoll said: "The artists have organised themselves for the benefit of artists, both individually and generally. The managers must do likewise. But, in the case of the managers, the public will be taken carefully into account in every phase of our procedure, for we recognise that on the public the success of every factor in the music hall industry absolutely depends. Our scheme is not designed towards the formation of a trust, but to apply the principle of organisation to many individual businesses which may—nay, *must*—maintain their individuality, and yet have the benefit of order as distinct from chaos in respect of procedure affecting the common interests that are inevitable to concerns in a similar category. We want a sort of Clearing House, to procure, not the employment of a minimum of cash, such as is the useful purpose served by the Bankers' Clearing House, but rather to procure the employment of the minimum of time, trouble, and competition.

"As an instance, you may assume that an artist can play for only one of three managers in respect of a particular date, and, notwithstanding this, offers from three different managers have been made to him for that date, whilst there are at least three different artists, one of which would suit each of those managers for such date. Time and trouble are wasted, and unconscious competition between interests that do not really conflict is created by the three managerial spiders unconsciously pursuing the one poor fly. This unconscious competition and wastage will be eliminated by one manager being enabled to ascertain that another has made an offer to a particular artist for a particular date, and he will himself select another artist for his own vacancy. The machinery by which our aims will be attained is still under discussion. But it contemplates attacks upon nobody, though it may not lack means of defence against attacks upon the interests that are entrusted to our care. It will be simple, practical, and effective, as our aims involve nothing visionary. The fact that the public demand entertainments of increasing merit and novelty is recognised.

"The fact that real talent is rare and must be paid well, both to retain what we have, and encourage the development of more, is deeply implanted in our minds. I do not know any manager of repute who does not consider an artist at £150 per week who draws the money into the house cheaper than another at £5 per week who keeps the public away. So long as we get value for the money we pay, and are thus able to give the public value for the money *they* pay, the amount that we are willing to pay artists is only limited by what will leave sufficient margin for a fair return to shareholders and financial stability of the owning company. But we are not content to accept any criterion but ability to entertain the public as indicating the right to the name of artist. With closer communion between managers the thorny path of a beginner with talent can be made very smooth. With friendlier communion between managers, artists of talent who have signed one or two houses with one firm, and are greatly prejudiced with others by having done so, will not then be so prejudiced.

"In our establishment of a sort of central chamber of commerce, with a recognition of the interests of all its members, affording guidance and help towards their prosperity, we shall not forget that the public must have a good entertainment, ever rising in the scale of attractiveness; that clever artists can only be tempted to their best by ample opportunity and handsome remuneration; that well-equipped houses must have a public capable of supporting them in a manner that will allow of this expenditure; that the prosperity of the music halls must mean the prosperity of both owner and artist, to say nothing for the moment of the general staff; and that unregulated competition after a brief spurt means the prosperity of neither."

THE LATE TONY PASTOR.

The following record of Tony Pastor's career has been contributed to the *New York Tribune* by Mr. William Winter:—"The career of Tony Pastor has been long, active, and strangely diversified. When only six years old he was singing ducts with Christian B. Woodruff, in after life State Senator, at meetings of the Hand-to-Hand Temperance Society. His father, a musician, disapproved of his apparent inclination to become a public performer, and therefore sent him into the country, to dwell with a friend of his who was a farmer. There the lad turned the haystack into a stage and allured the farm labourers from their work, so that it became necessary to send him home.

"His inclination for the stage proved irrepressible. He was permitted to make his professional appearance as 'an infant prodigy,' and as such he came out at Barnum's Museum, where his good vocalism made a distinctly favourable impression. In April, 1844, when eight years old (he was born in 1836), he joined Raymond and Waring's Menagerie, appearing with a black face and playing the tambourine in a minstrel band. A little later he served as an apprentice to John J. Nathan and was trained for the circus. In the autumn of 1847 he appeared at Welch's National Amphitheatre, Philadelphia, playing juvenile parts, tumblers, &c., in the afterpieces that were then used in the circus. In the summer of 1848 he joined the travelling circus of Welsh, Delavan, and Nathan, and, as no performances were given by it at night, he composed a concert company and performed in schoolhouses till his enterprise was suppressed by his displeased managers.

"He went then to the old Federal-street Theatre, Boston, where he remained for some time. The death of a ring-master opened the way for him to be installed in that office, in 1851. He also had to sing, and he played the Countryman in *Peter Jenkins*, and he danced in *Lucy Long*. In the autumn of 1852 he was ring-master at the Bowery Amphitheatre, New York, and he also acted there, in plays. In the spring of 1853 he joined Franconi's Travelling Hippodrome, but in the winter of that year he appeared in New York as Bones, in a minstrel company. In 1854 he joined Mabie's Circus as singing clown, and a little later he appeared as clown in the pantomime at the Old Bowery Theatre, where, later, George L. Fox began his career, in which ultimately he became so widely and highly distinguished as clown: it was not till Fox came to the theatre which had been Laura Keene's that he made his mark in *Humpty Dumpty*—the name selected by Clifton W. Tayleure for the pantomime. In 1855 Tony Pastor was associated, as ring-master and general performer, with Levi North's Circus, and he went with North to Chicago and appeared there in North's Amphitheatre. Later he appeared at the Broadway Music Hall, New York, and from 1861 to 1865 he was established at No. 444, Broadway—a resort that became exceedingly popular. On one occasion there, the time being war time, he aroused tremendous enthusiasm by appearing on his stage with the Flag of the Republic in his hand and asking the audience to join in singing 'The Star-Spangled Banner.' That was repeated on many nights.

"At about that time, 1865, Mr. Pastor determined to devote himself to the vaudeville stage and to improve it. Smoking and the sale of liquors had always been allowed in the variety music halls. He determined to abolish these customs, and in association with Sam Sharpley he leased the Vokes Garden, No. 201, Bowery, and turned it into a neat, handsome little theatre. He had already tried the experiment of clean vaudeville at Paterson, N.J., and he felt confident of success in attracting the better elements of the community. His plan succeeded, and he has ever since persisted in the policy and method then adopted.

"In October, 1875, he opened his theatre at No. 585, Broadway, where, from time to time, he introduced performers, some from abroad, other of native origin, who have since become distinguished. 'Nat' Goodwin appeared there on Feb. 5, 1876. Lillian Russell appeared there in the prime of her beauty. Among others who appeared there were May Irwin and her sister 'Flo,' the performer calling herself Sapho, the Hansel Troupe, Tyrolese warblers, Florence Bindley, 'Gus' Williams, Richard Carroll, Francis Wilson (then a song and dance performer, now a leading comedian in comic opera); Denman Thompson, Nov. 2, 1876, as Joshua Whitcomb; 'Old Hoss' Hoey and Charles Evans, 'Billy' Barry, William J. Scanlan, the Irish comedian; Jennie Yeamans, Harry and John Kernell, and 'Pat' Rooney.

"There Mr. Pastor introduced comic opera in condensed form, presenting *Pinafore*, and setting an example which has been extensively followed by many persons and with much profit to themselves—whatever detriment may have befallen the plays and the music. In 1881 Mr. Pastor established his theatre where it now is, in the Tammany Building, in East 14th-street, and there he has maintained a high standard of vaudeville performance and met with abundant and richly-deserved success. Among the distinguished performers from abroad whom he has there introduced to the American public mention may be made of Jenny Hill, Vesta Tilley, Bessie Bonehill, Bessie Bellwood, and Vesta Victoria."

AGENTS AND AUTHOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In view of the prominence which the vexed question of agents and their ways is arousing, you may be good enough to allow me to treat of this subject in relationship to authors?

I am the writer of a certain sketch which a firm of repute have leased from me, and which was produced with marked success at a suburban hall a month ago. I believe a free trial-week was arranged, but notwithstanding personal and written applications, few or no agents came to see it, although you and your contemporaries (both daily and weekly) spoke in terms of high praise of the production. Various agents made excuses that the hall was too far away, and promised to see it if a more central hall was obtained. Reluctantly the firm consented to give another trial show, and again the agents failed to keep the promises they made.

The most extraordinary part of the affair is this, that managers of the halls in which this sketch has been played, as well as other "star" turns, have pronounced the sketch great. Yet this firm are unable to get a fair hearing. In conversation with a "star" the other day I learnt that in all probability the secret of this non-booking is owing to my clients not having put their hands in their pockets and sent round to the agent a little present, such as a case of champagne or a motor-car! "Do this, my boy," he said, "and your sketch will run for years."

I may be a very young and very green dramatic author; but if this sort of thing is prevalent at the music halls then the sooner the Corrupt Practices Act applies to agents and artists the better for the British public—Yours faithfully,

LOUIS DAGMAR.

HARRY WRIGHT and Nellie Gannon leave London on Sunday for a well-booked provincial tour, returning to town April, 1909.

MR. HARRY TRESHAM, the popular leading juvenile gentleman of the stock dramatic company at the Theatre Royal, Liverpool, has been presented by his fellow artists with a fine gold watch on his transference to the stock company at Hoxton (London), which is now under the management of his employer, Mr. Montgomery. His successor at Liverpool is Mr. David G. Noble, who has already become a favourite.

OPERA AT THE HALLS.

CHAT WITH MR. CHARLES FISHER.

Mr. Charles Fisher, whose miniature operas at the Oxford are attracting so much interest just now, has something to say on his experiences:—

"This is," he says, "my twenty-fifth year on the boards, and I have had exceptional experience as manager and artist. I have been to India, China, Japan, and twice to Africa, performing professionally. I have sang solidly for thirty-two years, starting as a choir boy in St. Peter's Church, Wolverhampton, where I was born forty-six years ago. I never had any liking or romantic ideas of the stage. I drifted on to it, for I had a voice.

"Level-headed business men cannot understand an artistic temperament; if they did, they would probably cease to be business men. It is an absolute curse to be born an artist in my opinion, with all its attenuating diagnoses, such as nerves, the feeling that when you appear on the stage, 'Suppose I fail? I know I've got a cold. Still, I must do it; it's my bread and butter.' I take off my hat to all the stars who are reigning supreme at our halls, for I, as an artist and a manager, know that they have gained their position by climbing over mountains of trouble and adversities.

"I have been a member of the D'Oyly Carte, Carl Rosa, J. W. Turner, and Arthur Rousbey opera companies, and others too numerous to mention. In 1888 I was in China and Japan with the Willard and John F. Sheridan company, and as I carry my memory back to that tour, what a wonderfully versatile company we had. Here's a fortnight's productions. We only played three nights a week, as we played to practically the same audiences at each performance. The pieces we presented and the "business" we did included *Faust*, *Jack Sheppard*, burlesque, comic songs and dances, *Nanki Poo*, *Mikado*, *Hummingtop*, *Arabian Nights*, *The Shaughraun*, *Geoffrey Wilder*, *Dorothy*, *Dick Dauntless*, *Ruddigore*, with the sailors' hornpipe, then *Manrico*, *Il Trovatore*, and so on. I think we played a répertoire of forty different pieces. There's an experience for you! All loyal and true artists working for one end—the success of the enterprise; and so I have continued. Our parts were given to us, and we had to 'create,' not 'parrot.'

"Opera in the halls? Ah, that was evidently a bright idea, and so thought the late Frank Weeks, of the South London. Shall I ever forget the scratch rehearsal in our everyday clothes we gave to him, as the audience. How eagerly he followed the plot of *Maritana*, and his blunt, soldierly way of expressing his approval at the finish. Shall I ever forget the first night how the gallery boys followed the plot? and their expressions!

"Being engaged for a month at the Oxford, I asked Mr. Collins to let me revive the operas. I can now proudly state without boast that I have repeated the success I made at the South London before a West-End audience. I am the fortunate possessor of a wife who has a marvellous range of voice, and who can double the contralto parts with

MR. CHARLES FISHER.

the prima donna. Without my wife, I could never have succeeded, because I should have had to engage two artists to do her work.

"Now, as I have had experiences of both the theatres and halls, I should like here to answer several questions often put to me by theatrical brothers and sisters, simply with the idea that, if my experience is of any use to them they are welcome to it. In my opinion, the variety and the legitimate are two distinct professions. What one learns in the theatres is possibly a barrier to the music-halls. In the theatres one is engaged for a cetrain part in a piece, and taught how to play that part, and to keep in the picture, or asked to give a slavish imitation of somebody else. Consequently, the more experienced artists are engaged in theatrical work, and the more difficult it becomes for them to make a success on the halls for the simple reason that they have lost their self-reliance of individuality.

"My experience has been that one must forget nearly all one has learnt in the theatre. Watch a successful star and study his style, but do not imitate him. Use your own inventive powers. There is undoubtedly a colossal field in our variety theatres for workers and originality; but, unfortunately, one gets little encouragement to speak of. It has taken me nearly six years to reach the Oxford, and I'll give you my word I have not been asleep. How to account for my difficulty is a mystery to me. I read the other day that managers were going to encourage and foster new talent. There is plenty of room for improvement in this direction, especially if they would give the English artists a chance. I am absolutely certain that we can well hold our own with the foreigners. We are a slow nation, and we get behindhand for the want of a little encouragement. Originality is a very scarce commodity on the halls, and is becoming more so daily. Who can wonder at it? Bitter experiences are closing up the channels of originality. I myself have seen sound drawing acts with empty date books; others strangled at their birth. On the other hand, I have known acts which were bad imitations of others, booked for years ahead. Truly, there must be something rotten in the state of Denmark."

MR. ARTHUR BLOUNT concludes his successful summer tour at the Hippodrome, Hastings, to-night, and will be in town till April next, with new songs and patter.

MR. HAYDN REANO will conduct his famous band at the London Hippodrome on Monday next. He is a great believer in English musicians, and has toured his organisation all over the world. A brawny Sheffielder once described to an acquaintance the band's playing of "1812." "Fust," said the son of Vulcan, "he shakes his fist at t' fellers on one side, then he wayes his hand to t' fellers on t' other.' Then he cusses at t' chaps in t' middle, and in t' finish he sets fire to t' whole dashed lot of 'em."

MR. FRED MILLER'S TESTIMONIAL.

The excellent qualities of Mr. Fred Miller, as a man, as a sportsman, and as a manager, are generally recognised by all branches of the profession, and no artist or proprietor who has ever come into contact with him has failed to recognise his sterling honesty of purpose, or to be impressed by his unobtrusive courtesy and consideration to everyone working with him. For fifteen years Mr. Miller has been associated with the halls, and though the sphere of his activity for most of that time has been restricted to the South and East of London, his connection with the Syndicate has brought him much popularity up West. Several of his friends, taking into consideration his long and honourable career, feel that the present time is very opportune for presenting him with a testimonial, which it is intended shall take the shape of a purse of gold. Mr. W. H. Armstrong, the well-known professional solicitor, of 1, Renfrew-road, Lambeth, is interesting himself in the project, and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, manager of *The Era*, who has consented to become

MR. FRED MILLER.

the hon. treasurer of the fund, will be pleased to receive subscriptions. A strong and influential committee is being formed.

It was at Lechlade, Gloucestershire, that Mr. Fred Miller first saw the light. His father, an influential grazing farmer, was an enthusiastic rider to hounds, and from the age of twelve young Fred followed his father in the field, and in many an eventful run was in the first flight. At the age of seventeen he accepted an offer from an uncle in the cattle trade, and settled down with him at Wormholt Farm, Shepherd's Bush, where he gained considerable experience and became a good business man. The death of his uncle brought about a change in his fortunes, and he accepted a situation as travelling secretary with Captain Macdonald. Again his employer died, and he had to try fresh fields and pastures new. Through the instrumentality of the late Mr. Harry Lundy, distantly related to him through marriage, Mr. Miller was introduced to Mr. George Adney Payne, who gave him the position of secretary to Mr. Arthur Tressidder, then manager of the Paragon. On Mr. Tressidder's departure on a voyage in search of health Mr. Miller was transferred to Mr. Will Lennon, the successor of Mr. Tressidder at the Paragon. At his death Mr. G. A. Payne chose Mr. Miller for the managership of the house in the Mile End-road, and on the resignation of Mr. Fred Holden of his position at the Canterbury Mr. Miller was installed as manager of both the Canterbury and the Paragon.

The jubilee of the Canterbury in November, 1902, when Charles Morton paid his last visit to a house that was indelibly associated with his career, owed its interest and its success to the organising powers of Mr. Miller, who placed before the patrons of the historic house a novel realisation of the present and past in music-hall entertainment. The portraits of favourites of the 'sixties, the 'seventies, and the 'eighties were thrown upon a screen, and many of the famous old songs were sung by new favourites. It was a great night. Though Mr. Miller has severed his connection with the Canterbury, it is to be hoped that he will be placed in a position commensurate with his abilities and experience at another hall. His many friends anticipate that it will be in London.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Harry Lauder	1	1	0
Foreman and Fannan	1	1	0
Frost Smith	1	1	0
Little Tich	1	1	0
Henri Gros	1	1	0
George Mozart	1	1	0
Mark Melford	1	1	0
W. T. Helmsley	1	1	0
Henry Kemble	1	1	0
Bertha Stuart	1	1	0
Tom Shaw	1	1	0
J. Leopold	1	1	0
Kendall Robinson	1	1	0
Gilbert Girard	1	1	0
Dave Carter	1	1	0
John Nathan	1	1	0

Mr. Kendall Robinson, a staunch friend of Mr. Fred Miller, in sending a contribution to this Fund, testifies as follows:—"I have much pleasure in enclosing cheque for one guinea for the Miller Testimonial. I have known Mr. Miller for many years. Uniformly warm-hearted and open-handed, his kindnesses and 'good turns' to large numbers of those who were brought in contact with him at the Paragon and Canterbury can only have been limited by his physical capacity for doing them."

MR. J. B. WILLIAMS, on behalf of the Musicians' Amalgamated Union, moved a resolution on Tuesday at the Trades Union Congress instructing the Parliamentary Committee to aid the Union in putting an end to the competition of Army and Naval bandsmen with civilian musicians. He stated that a man in the band of the 7th Hussars, which had played at the Franco-British Exhibition, received 24s. for one week, although the arbitrator appointed by the Board of Trade in the recent music-hall dispute had decided that the payment should be 30s. for playing in the evening only, and 50s. when there were afternoon performances as well. The soldier had no personal voice in the matter. He had to take what he could get, and he believed the only share of some of the youngsters was often a bun.

DURING this season five or six seaside resorts had dispensed with civilian bands and introduced military bands. At Clacton the soldiers fired volleys from a hotel window, but whether to give effect to the music or to drown it he could not say. Owing to this competition dozens of civilian musicians had complained to the Union that they could not get work. Mr. W. Johnson, of the Theatrical Employés' Society, seconded, and the resolution was unanimously adopted. A similar resolution, dealing with the competition of police bandsmen, was also carried.

A CHAT ABOUT CONSUL.

Mr. Frank C. Bostock's intelligent chimpanzee, Consul, now being exhibited in the Bostock Jungle and Arena at Earl's Court, has been a centre of interest since the opening of the Hungarian Exhibition. During his captivity the little animal has been trained to a really remarkable degree of intelligence, as will be understood from what here follows.

Consul, who belongs to the anthropoid ape species, and is a native of equatorial Africa, is in his seventh year, having been born towards the close of 1901.

"The first thing that we have to do with chimpanzees," said Mr. Harold Hilliard, the cicerone of the Bostock Jungle and Arena at Earl's Court, in conversation with our interviewer the other day, "if you wish to make them become public performers, is to humanise them in every way possible, and to do that it is necessary that they should be placed to live with some human family. The chimpanzee is immediately clothed and goes through the ordinary every-day life of a little child, sleeping at night in a child's cot, wearing either pyjamas or a night-shirt, rising at seven o'clock each morning, tubbing as an ordinary man or woman, and, after being assisted to dress, taking his place at the breakfast table, properly seated with the rest of the family. He very soon acquires a taste for ordinary human food, drinking a cup of tea, to which he will add his own sugar and milk, according to his own particular liking, eating bread and butter and an egg—the latter quite in etiquette, with a spoon—and usually finishing his meal with some fruit. Just as from observation and admonition a child learns to be cleanly at its meals, so does your chimpanzee soon learn the use of a serviette and the general advantages accruing from good behaviour at the table. Speaking of Consul himself, after breakfast he usually enjoys his first cigarette, and then indulges in a game of romp with his keeper, whom, in quite affectionate language, he addresses as 'Papa.' He plays with such toys as a rocking-horse, a ball, bricks, and picture books. Though not performing the operation too well, he is able to mend his own underclothing, always insisting on threading his needles himself. Owing to the defect of the thumb in the chimpanzee he certainly has to be assisted in dressing, but he is able to button up all his own clothing, such as his braces, shirt-collar, waistcoat, and so on, and to carefully put on and lace up his own boots."

Perhaps the best way to gather an exact idea of what Consul is capable of doing is to attend one of his receptions. At a given signal Consul enters his reception-rooms from his apartments behind, holding the hand of his keeper just as a child might hold its parent's. Garbed in a natty little dress suit, he proceeds to the umbrella-stand, carefully places his cane in it, and hanging up his small tall hat, he divests himself of his gloves, which he carefully folds and puts

BOSTOCK'S CONSUL. "ALMOST MAN."

in his pocket. He then clambers up into his chair, placed at the head of his dining-table, and ringing a bell which is by his side, is served with his soup. Having eaten this with evident gusto, he again rings his bell, and for a second course is supplied with an egg and some bread and butter. Carefully picking the shell from the top of the egg, he proceeds to eat it with a spoon in quite the genteel manner, taking a mouthful of bread and butter after each spoonful of egg. This course finished, he demolishes with relish some fruit and cream. This completes the solid portion of the meal. He is then supplied with a bottle of wine and a glass. Carefully pouring out a glassful of wine, he drinks it, meanwhile firmly holding the bottle in his left hand, as though fearful that it may be taken from him before he has had time to gulp down its contents. His wine enjoyed to the last drop, he again rings his bell, and is on this occasion provided with a box of cigarettes, a cigarette-holder, and a box of matches. Selecting a fag, which he punctiliously places in the holder, he strikes a match and lights his cigarette. Throwing himself back in his chair, he then thoroughly enjoys his after-meal smoke, contemplatively watching the rings of smoke as they issue from his lips and disappear into space. The operation with the weed concluded, by a sort of inverse sense of reasoning he performs his toilet, washing his hands and face and drying the same on an ordinary towel. He then brushes his hair, and, being handed a looking-glass, surveys his features with evident satisfaction. After having with a small clothes brush removed all crumbs from the sleeves and lappels of his coat, he indicates his desire that the table should be cleared. This done, he takes his stand upon the table, and to the amusement of his audience begins to undress, carefully divesting his body of each garment, which one by one he passes to his trainer. With only his shirt on now, he whispers something in his companion's ear, which causes that individual to give him a candle and box of matches. Lighting the former he jumps from the table, candle in hand, and proceeds to his bedroom, which adjoins the dining-room, and forthwith lies down to repose. Having blown out his candle and kissed the attendant "Good-night," he would, one might presume, go to sleep in the ordinary course of affairs. But, ever mindful of a watchful concourse of spectators, he jumps out of bed and makes vigorous use of a Sandow developer attached to the bedpost. Afterwards he brings forward his bicycle, which is standing in the corner of the bedroom, and, mounting it, rides back into the dining-room, where he pauses for a moment, and by a gentle clapping of his own hands indicates to his audience that he hopes he has deserved their applause. His hint being heartily responded to, he quickly pedals off into the sanctity of his private apartments.

Consul has had the honour of being presented to Royalty. On the 23rd of last July, on the occasion of the King's visit to the Hungarian Exhibition, Consul was driving through the Hungarian street in his smart little dogcart, handling the reins in quite an able manner, with, of course, his indispensable cigarette between his lips. Catching sight of His Majesty standing in the doorway of one of the Hungarian cottages, Consul promptly pulled up and gravely saluted the King. His Majesty seemed intensely amused, and, turning to a gentleman by his side, said, "I see he has a cigarette in his mouth, but it does not appear to be lit." Consul promptly drew a box of matches from his pocket, and, striking one, proceeded to light the cigarette. "Wonderful!" exclaimed His Majesty. "I declare he is positively human." On the afternoon of the same day on which Consul had the honour of appearing before the King the little animal motored down to the Duke of York's School at Chelsea to be present at the annual distribution of prizes to the boys prior to their breaking up for the holidays. There he had the honour of appearing before the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, before whom he went through an entire performance as given at one of his receptions. Consul has also appeared before the Presidents of the United States and the French Republic.

Undoubtedly Consul is quite one of the principal attractions in the Jungle at Earl's Court. Mr. Bostock purposes sending him on tour through the provinces at the close of the Hungarian Exhibition, and we doubt not that he will be engaged to appear in most of the provincial halls.

AMALGAMATED MUSICIANS' UNION.

At the meeting of the Trades Union Congress, at the Mechanics' Hall, Nottingham, on Tuesday, Mr. J. B. Williams (Amalgamated Musicians' Union, Leeds) introduced a resolution, asking the Congress to reaffirm the condemnation of the action of the Government in allowing Army and Navy bandsmen to compete with civilian musicians, and to instruct the Parliamentary Committee to render every assistance to the Musicians' Union to put an end to the competition of Army and Navy bandsmen against civilian musicians, a great many of whom through that competition were thrown out of employment and deprived of their means of livelihood. He mentioned that though on the occasion of the music hall dispute the Board of Trade arbitrator fixed the minimum wage for playing in the evening at 30s., the 7th Hussars' Band had recently been playing twice daily at the Franco-British Exhibition, and he had it on the authority of the bandmaster that one man received only 24s. for that special week. In some instances bands had received the magnificent sum of £5 for playing at garden parties, and some of the youngsters got a bun for their share. None of the members of his Union were, unfortunately, able to exist merely on buns, and were, therefore, cut out entirely by that unfair competition from Army men. Some years ago Mr. Brodrick declared that the men were allowed to accept engagements so long as they did not interfere with their duties as soldiers. A number of seaside resorts this season dispensed with civilian bands and engaged them from the Army. At Clacton-on-Sea men from the regiment were allowed to fire volleys from the Grand Hotel, either to give effect to the music or drown it. As indicating the feeling on the subject, it was interesting to point out that the whole of the National Unions were fighting it, and in America a law had actually been passed forbidding enlisted men from competing with the civilian musicians. The British Government should be asked to do the same. The payment of a small wage to Army bandsmen, and allowing them to supplement it by taking engagements at the seaside, was merely bolstering up the payment of a sweating rate. They were paid as soldiers instead of musicians.

Mr. W. Johnson (Theatrical Employees, London) seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously.

The A.M.U., as the result of a concert recently given by the Southport Branch in aid of sufferers in the great disaster at Wigan Colliery, had the pleasure of handing over to the Mayor's Fund the sum of £28 1s. 5d.

On Wednesday, Mr. J. Sexton (Dock Labourers' National Union, Liverpool) moved a resolution expressing deep censure upon those Britishers who had thought proper to engage themselves to cosmopolitan syndicates to interfere in foreign labour disputes, believing that such action was purposely adopted by unscrupulous capitalist combinations to generate and foster bad feeling between the workers of different countries, and suggesting that the Government should seek to apply the principles of the Foreign Enlistments Act to such as organise these blackleg expeditions to other States.

Mr. Williams (Musicians, Manchester), in seconding, said that hitherto it had been the proud boast of the British musicians that they did nothing of this kind, and they had to complain of Continental blacklegs coming over here, but now, in consequence of a dispute at Munich, they were trying, through a British agent to get British musicians.

MR. HAROLD MONTAGUE, late of Olympia, Shoreditch, and other halls, is now managing the Putney Hippodrome, in succession to Mr. Harry Long.

AT the Palace, Islington, on Monday, the day of the marriage of Mr. Fred Gough (leader), a very handsome marble clock was presented to him by Mr. Edward P. Delevanti, the musical director, on behalf of the manager, Mr. W. Hardy, and the members of the orchestra, with their very best wishes for a happy and prosperous future.

VISITORS to the Crystal Palace will have another opportunity next week of hearing Mr. W. D. Mackenzie and company in their extremely interesting entertainment, entitled *Moments with the Masters*. Three performances will be given daily in the Concert Hall.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are—Ardsley, on the Great Northern; Barstaple, on the London and South-Western and Great Western; Glastonbury, on the Midland and South-Western; Holbeck, on the Great Northern, North-Eastern, Midland, and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Sandal Feast, on the Great Northern; Boston, on the Great Northern; Ottery St. Mary, on the London and South-Western; Ware, on the Great Eastern; Alford, on the Great Northern; Langwith, on the Midland; Penn (Bucks.), on the Great Western; Second Lee Fair; Bury, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Amersham, on the Metropolitan; Atherstone, on the London and North-Western; Beminster, on the Great Western; Hayfield, on the Great Central; Ilkley, on the Midland and North-Eastern; New Mills, on the London and North-Western, Midland, and Great Central; Northampton, on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, and Midland; Pateley Bridge, on the North-Eastern; Ratcliffe, on the Midland; Staines, on the Great Western and London and South-Western; Worcester, on the Great Western and Midland; Johnstone (N.B.), on the Glasgow and South-Western; Moss of Balloch, on the North British; Brynmawr, on the Great Western and London and North-Western; and Tredegar, on the London and North-Western Railways.

Notes from Wales.

White's electric coliseum paid a successful visit to Maesteg, and gave immense satisfaction to the people of the district. A special item of local interest was the animated picture of the Wreck of the Amazon on Port Talbot Sands. The last portion of the picture gave fine portraits of the four survivors, one of whom has since succumbed to his injuries. A much-appreciated item on the variety programme was Walter Gibbons, baritone vocalist and song illustrator, his song-scena *A Pal of Mine* giving immense delight to hundreds of people nightly.

The Showmen's Guild at the Fairs.

Owing to the unfortunate clash of dates this year, the Rev. T. Horne, Guild Chaplain, will not be able to visit Ayr. Holbeck Feast and Ayr being on the same dates, the Guild Chaplain is obliged (owing to long-standing arrangements with the local clergy) to give Holbeck the preference. There will be meetings of the Showmen's Guild on Holbeck Moor both afternoon and evening. As Holbeck Feast is the great gathering-ground of Yorkshire showmen before the break-up of the Yorkshire Round for the back-end fairs, it is confidently anticipated that there will be a big rally to the Trade Defence Movement at the Holbeck meetings. At Ayr Fair the Scotch showmen, led by Messrs. George Green and John Wilmot, have generously promised to give a benefit for the Guild Funds.

We also understand that a big effort will be made at Hull Fair to replenish the society's exchequer. A suggestion made at the Oldham meeting last week to give a benefit at Hull Fair was warmly taken up.

Mr. John Collins, the lessee of the fairground at Rotherham Statutes, has also promised to give a benefit for the Guild Funds at that fair.

Neath Fair.

Neath great September Fair provided a great variety of amusements for the tremendous crowds this year. Mr. James Dooner had a capital array of talent, and some excellent pictures, one of the features being the Wreck of the Amazon on Margam Sands. Messrs. Wadbrooke also had a fine specimen of the wreck, also a fine selection of films and variety turns. Messrs. Wm. Haggar and Sons had their No. 1 and 2 Bioscope shows, with a good picture of the wreck, along with other good subjects of an attractive character. Mr. John Studt had a good reception with his new Bioscope, and had a very nice lot of pictures of a pleasing kind. Mr. E. Danter has some very fine pictures and varieties. Mr. Dixon Fisher, ventriloquist, made a hit. Messrs. Crecraft completes the list of a good variety of picture exhibitions, some fine pictures being shown nightly. Princess and Prince Samouda in their occult mysteries were, as usual, a big success.

In the machine list are Mr. John Studt's Royal motors and No. 1 zoological sets, Messrs. Hy. Studt and Son's motors, zoological, and gondolas, E. Danter's gondolas, S. White's tunnel railway and helter-skelter.

In the noble art of self-defence we have Frank Goss and J. Scarrot; Reader's smallest woman exhibition and menagerie, Leons, male and female athletes, Blower's tattooed man, Roberts's spotted lady, and Gipsy Smith, and the Lee Family of society palmists found many admirers.

Juvenile sets were catered for by Messrs. Wm. North, Mathews and Butlin; Emmas, swings, shooters, cokernuts, rifle saloons, &c., were provided by the following:—Messrs. D. Boswell, John North, Wm. North, Chas. North, James Day, Blower, Scott, Freeman, Winsper, Oadley, Scheldon, Sheen, Chadwick, Fossett, Powell, Buthin, Case Danter; photos by Fossets and Oulson; big wheel, Roberts. By the kindness of the leading showmen the various charitable institutions are enjoying the fun of the fair on Saturday afternoon, further particulars of which will be reported next week.

Guild Funds, 1908.

Henry Castle, jun., £1; Pablo Fanque, 5s.

Barnet Old Fair.

This increasingly popular London suburban fair was attended by a larger gathering of showmen than we have noticed in recent years. The whole of the available fairground, stretching for nearly a quarter of a mile alongside the high road, was filled with shows, roundabouts, throwing games, and stalls. The opening day of the fair was spoilt by the rain, and but little business was done. The Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday were blessed with fine weather. Great crowds of people went out from London by special train and great crowds came in from the neighbouring towns, now linked with Barnet by electric tramways. The principal shows were those of Biddall Bros., H. and W. Thurston, J. Purchase, J. Chittock, and E. Elliott. Motor-car sets, galloping horses, and riding machines were provided by Messrs. Thurston, Jacob Studt, J. Manders, F. Gray, J. Harris, and Forrest Bros. There were also gem motors, horses, and swings by S. Mayne and other caterers. Throwing games, shooting galleries, hoop-la! circles, coker sheets, variety frames, and stalls in great array by Messrs. Harris, Mayne, Shaw, Kefford, S. Jones, C. Bailey, Matthews, the Harris family, the Bond family, and a great number of local caterers.

The White City, Old Trafford.

The weekly Wednesday evening carnivals and dancing competitions in the magnificent ballroom are a great success, and on the other evenings the room is also crowded with people passionately fond of dancing. Another popular resort is the skating rink, with Professor Alec Payne as the leading genial spirit. Professor Frank Burley continues his sensational bicycle ride down the water-chute and his 60ft. dive enveloped in fire. Hale's tours of the world continue to prove popular, and the ten hours' round of entertainments, including the Igorrote Village, Old Plantation Show, and Drake's Pierrots, keep visitors busy.

Mr. Norton's School-van at the Western Fairs.

Mr. Geoffrey Norton, whose keen interest in van-life and earnest championship of showpeople we have often chronicled in the Showman World, sends us the following deeply-interesting letter:—

"Dear Mr. Horne,—I was just about to write you to inform you of my temporary retirement from the Western Fair fields when I saw your kind reference to me in last Saturday's *Era*. Your remarks were undeserved, I fear. I have been following the fairs for the last five months, and I cannot point to anything like success; but I 'did my durnd'est.' On arrival at Newton Abbot prior to attending Paignton Regatta, I heard of the Exeter Mission-van at work, and having regard to the fact that the missioners were two and could carry on during the back-end fairs (which I was uncertain of being able to attend myself), I thought it best, for the children's sake, to leave the field to the new arrivals.

"The Exeter Diocesan Mission last year omitted to send out a wagon to follow the regattas, which is the reason why I took the road myself. I also wrote the Canon Missioner of Exeter last winter asking him to help me with a man during the whole of the fair season, but could get no help from him. It was scarcely sportsmanlike of the Exeter Mission to send out a wagon with a priest and a layman to conduct a school for the travellers' children without a word to me, seeing that I had already been on the road for that very purpose for five months. I do not wish to seem ungenerous in criticising a mission and school which is our ideal of the Showmen's Guild, but the drawback of a Diocesan Mission is that the van cannot go outside the particular diocese, and consequently must lessen its practical utility.

"No one is more pleased than I to see such a mission of help on the fairgrounds; but I should like to suggest to those responsible for the expenses of the van and its agents that they consider the advisability of following the fairs right through next year, taking the snow and the mud with the showmen as well as the sunshine.

"My memories of kindnesses received from my friends in Showland are grateful and enduring: they have been to me good comrades all. If I have been of any use to any of them the knowledge of that will more than repay me. And I am ready to again take the road at very slight provocation should I see a need that I think I can fill. "Geoffrey W. A. Norton.

"Beachfield Hotel, Penzance, Sept. 1."

We are entirely in sympathy with Mr. Norton and think with him that the work he set out to do ought to have met with greater encouragement. The Exeter Diocesan Mission, whose work we noticed in *The Era* a fortnight ago, would have been all the more successful if the Mission had co-operated with Mr. Norton's school-van scheme. As Mr. Norton points out, the work ought to be so linked up by the Bishops that the children would have the same school from Easter to the end of the show season on the Western fair-fields. There were possibilities about Mr. Norton's scheme that would have secured a school even in the showmen's winter quarters, say at Bristol. We sincerely hope that, in the light of this year's experiment, an effort will be made to link up the diocesan machinery with Mr. Norton's more practical scheme, and that next Easter a school-van will follow the Western Circuit right through.

We are confident that Mr. Norton has with him the best wishes and the gratitude of the Western showpeople, and that he will ultimately secure the desire of his heart—the education and uplifting of "the kiddies of the fairground" he so dearly loves.

Tenders are invited by the Town Council of Ludlow for the ground used for the old-established pleasure fair, held on May 1, sufficient space being reserved for the local stall-holders. Full information can be obtained from the Clerk of the Markets. Tenders are to be sent in before five o'clock on Thursday, Oct. 8, to Mr. John Herbert Williams, the Town Clerk.

"The Law of Copyright," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

AN INTERESTING WEDDING IN SHOWLAND.

On Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Tottenham, a wedding of great interest took place. The happy pair were Mr. Joseph Alport (son of Joseph Alport, of Birmingham, and for five years manager of one of P. Collins' roundabouts), and Miss Eliza Matthews (daughter of Mrs. Amy Matthews, widow, well known in the London district as travelling with shooting galleries and other fairground novelties). Both the bride and bridegroom are well known and highly esteemed by the show colony at the Alexandra Palace. After the marriage ceremony they received quite an ovation from their friends at the Palace, being welcomed on the fair-ground by a salute of ten guns. The reception took place in a beautifully-decorated marquee on the Alexandra Palace fair-ground. The bride and bridegroom were enthusiastically toasted by their numerous friends, and after their departure the wedding festivities were vigorously kept up, and concluded with dancing and music till the wee hours of the morning.

The presents were numerous and costly, and included very handsome sets of electro-silver plate, the gift of Mrs. Alport, sen.; a full complement of household goods from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson and family. Other useful and attractive presents came from Mrs. R. Matthews, Miss Matthews, and G. Upchurch; Mr. and Mrs. J. Collinson, Mr. and Mrs. Upchurch, Miss Hetty Green, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Mayne, Mr. and Mrs. Bramhall, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wood, Mrs. Wales, Mrs. Harry Prentice, Mr. W. Wilson, Miss Florrie Parvey, Mr. and Mrs. W. Alport (of Birmingham), Mr. and Mrs. John Hamilton, Captain Henry, Mr. A. B. O'Shie, Mr. Edwin Wheatley, Messrs. Shearsmith, Pickering, Madlow, Mott, Cordell, Hill, and Davies, Charley and Martha Andrews, the Misses Stanton, Fitzgerald, and Fossett, Mr. and Miss Skeats, the men at the machines at the Palace fair-ground, and the members of Alexandra Palace staff. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a gold watch and chain. We join our congratulations with those of the numerous friends of the happy couple.

MR. JOSEPH ALPORT AND MISS ELIZA MATTHEWS.

SHOWMEN, TRACTION ENGINES, AND THE ELECTRIC LIGHT.

TO THE EDITOR, SHOWMAN WORLD.

Sir,—Owing to frequent inquiries at various periods *re* the above question, I do not think it can be generally known, notwithstanding it has been stated on all my biographies and memos. for some years, that the late Randall Williams was the first showman in this country to travel with a traction engine and adopt the electric light, and the next one was—Yours faithfully,

TOM NORMAN (Silver King).

Auction Dept., *Era* Office.

The Fair at Doncaster.

For the famous Leger Week at Doncaster there is always a big fair, for where a crowd is there the itinerant entertainers gather together. The local showman Councillor G. T. Tuby hath honour in his own town and amongst his own people, the principal attractions being supplied by Councillor Tuby, who exhibited the superb coliseum of varieties and living pictures, the fine set of Gordon-Bennett motor cars, the three-abreast galloping horses, the racing birds, shooting ranges, and park swings. The other entertainers present were Farrar and Tyler, with electric palace of animated pictures and varieties, and Messrs. Graham, Pattison, Warwick, and Buff Bill with side shows, Richards with Brooklyn cake-walk machine, Pullen with shooting range and swings, and shooters, throwing games, and variety stalls by Messrs. Rutter, Lever, Brennan, Walser, Colver, Webber, Doubtfire, Ling, Farran, Barraclough, Ramsden, Holt, Richardson, Illingworth, Frampton, Smith, Fisher, Wills, Black, and others.

Kinematograph Copyright. The law affecting the same. By William Jago, F.I.O., F.C.S., barrister-at-law. Price 6d. Address, The Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C.

DETERMINED OPPOSITION TO THE MOVABLE DWELLINGS BILL.

As briefly chronicled last week, a highly important and representative gathering of showmen was held at Oldham Wakes to determine what further steps shall be taken in opposition to the Movable Dwellings Bill. Although every showman present was a member of the old society, the Showmen's Guild, there were present members of the other active trade organisations dealing with the business of the fair ground, representatives being present of both the Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union and the Stallholders' Federation. This union of all the trade societies under the banner of the Guild was an indication of the great spirit of unity which prevails in the showman world, and the strong determination to oppose all legislation having for its object the curtailment of the trade rights and liberties, and the domestic peace and security, of travelling showpeople. Mr. P. Collins occupied the chair, and supporting him were the Rev. T. Horne (Guild chaplain), Mr. T. Hurst (hon. secretary the Showmen's Guild and secretary of the Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union), Mr. Wm. Gibson (member of the executive committee of the Guild, and secretary of the Stallholders' Federation), Mr. R. Ingham (member of the Guild committee and of the Stallholders' Federation), vice-presidents John Collins and George Cornwell of the Showmen's Guild, Mr. Wm. Mitchell and Mr. B. Mitchell (trustees of the Guild), and Messrs. H. Hibbert, E. Geoghegan, W. Holmes, F. Mellor, T. Geoghegan, P. R. Collins, and others.

Work already Done in Opposition to the Bill.

Mr. P. Collins, in opening the conference, very forcibly indicated the serious nature of the dangers threatening the show business if such measures as Lord Clifford's Bill passed Parliament. He warned the conference that it would be the death blow to their business, and the destruction of the privacy of their homes and family life. It was to him a constant source of amazement that gentlemen like Lord Clifford and those who stood behind the Movable Dwellings Bill could not be brought to recognise that, in their effort to deal with the problem of gipsy life, they were inflicting a terrible injury upon a hard-working and deserving class, that outnumbered the gipsies more than twenty to one, and whose interests were more than a hundred times greater than any possible advantage that could come to the nation even by the total suppression of gipsy life. They were gathered together, he said, to hear from the executive officers of the Guild all the measures that had been taken up to that time to bring the claims of showmen before the promoters of the Bill.

The Failure of Negotiations with the Promoters of the Bill.

They would hear from the Guild chaplain, who would address them presently, how far they had been able to enter into negotiations with a view to amendments of the Bill, and they would have to consider and determine whether there was any further hope of securing for show people justice from the promoters of the measure. He had followed very keenly every stage of the negotiations, and he was obliged to confess that the results had been very unsatisfactory. He would say no more at that juncture. It was for them, as the committee speaking for the whole body of showmen, to determine upon a working policy, and he would now call upon the Rev. T. Horne to open the discussion.

The Guild Chaplain's Report.

As they were well aware, he said, efforts had been made to effect a working understanding with the promoters of the Movable Dwellings Bill. It was now his duty to report in full with regard to those efforts of peaceful settlement, and also to lay before that committee the prospects of successful opposition to the measure. First of all, he would endeavour to show them what had been tentatively agreed upon as a possible basis of compromise—in other words, how far Lord Clifford had agreed to go in modification of his Bill, so that it would injure the show business less than it would have done if passed in its original form.

They would remember that the machinery of the Bill set up every county as a registration authority, with power of compulsory registration of all vans used for human habitation. This licensing of vans would have been a direct invasion of the domestic liberty of show people. The only modification Lord Clifford was willing to accept was that registration in any given county should be effective for the whole of the country. This certainly modified the irksomeness of registration. With reference to Clause 5 in the Bill, which gave power to county authorities to prohibit fairs, Lord Clifford was willing to accept an amendment—that the Act, if passed, should not apply to recognised fair grounds. But even with that reservation it would still leave the extremely important privilege hitherto enjoyed by showmen of carrying on their business upon private land, and at other times than the time of the fair or local feast. He had been particularly insistent in putting before Lord Clifford and the promoters of the Bill the important fact that showmen strongly denied that any fresh legislation was necessary with regard to the sanitation of their movable dwellings, and, before he was done with this part of the subject before them, he would refresh their minds by quoting from the Public Health Act and subsequent measures with regard to the health of the general community, that showmen were fully justified in their opposition to further legislation. Whatever might be necessary for gipsy encampments, it was a libel on the healthy life of the travelling showmen to say that his life, admittedly superior in all its forms, and totally different in every respect to that of the gipsy, needs more law than at present existed.

Essential Points of Difference.

By the Public Health Act of 1875, in every district of the United Kingdom a sanitary authority was set up, with full power of control over all buildings and erections used for human habitation. In a further Act dealing with the health of the people, the Housing of the Working Classes Act, movable dwellings of all kinds, vans, tents, and sheds, were brought under the control and inspection of the sanitary authority. In every Act of Parliament dealing with public health it is clearly set forth that living vans, tents, or movable dwellings of all kinds are just as much under the authority of the sanitary officer as permanent dwellings. That being so, the question arises—what do the promoters of the Bill hope to gain by passing it? First of all, a tremendous change will be made in the administration of the law, and an invidious distinction would be drawn between house-dwellers and van-dwellers. As the law now stands, it is the sanitary authority that has the power of control of all dwellings in the interest of public health; but under Lord Clifford's Bill the administration would be entirely in the hands of the county police. They would at once see the invidious stigma placed upon van-dwellers. Not the sanitary officer, but the county policeman would come to their door in order to be satisfied as to the sanitary conditions of their movable dwellings. He had pointed this out to the promoters of the Bill, but they refused to see the injustice that such a tremendous change in the administration of the law of public health would inflict upon showmen as a class.

Another important difference with the promoters of the Bill arose out of the fact that they refused to accept an exemption clause, and also refused to call their Bill by its true name—a Gipsy Encampment Bill.

The Line of Future Action.

There were two possible lines of future action that the organised showmen could take. The first was to accept the amendments already discussed between them and the promoters of the Bill—that is, the concession of one registration, and one only, for all living-vans, and the second, the exemption clause that the prohibition powers should not apply to recognised fair grounds. He had no doubt that an extension of these concessions might be obtained, but yet there would remain the important restrictions upon their business and domestic life, indicated by compulsory registration in some form, and by the administration of the sanitary law by the county police, when applied to movable dwellings.

The second line of united action would be to determine to oppose the Bill at every stage of its progress. He could assure them that the showmen had many friends in both Houses of Parliament, and that their case as against the Bill was so strong that there would be no doubt that their many friends in Parliament would vigorously oppose the Bill, and, even if they failed to defeat it, would obtain for them more practical amendments and greater concessions than the promoters of the Bill were willing to accept at the present time. He asked them to carefully consider both lines of action, and to determine, after the fullest discussion, the policy of united action with regard to the Bill.

The Rally of Showmen to Trade Defence.

He had already addressed at various centres, both in England and in Scotland, great gatherings of showmen, united in opposition to the Movable Dwellings Bill. Petitions had been signed extensively against the measure, and resolutions condemning it had been unanimously passed. The whole showman world, it was no exaggeration to state, condemned the Bill as an invasion of their home life, and also as a danger to their trade and business. It was now for the committee to settle its policy. Parliament would re-assemble next month, and the consideration of the Bill would be among the very first things that the House of Lords would consider. As far as he had been able to gauge the strength of public opinion, he had every confidence that they would be supported by the vast body of justice-loving people. If the promoters of this Bill refused to see, and steadily refused to recognise, that showmen deserve better treatment than gipsy squatters, he was confident that the people of this country would bring such pressure to bear upon Parliament that justice would be done to the travelling showman.

Other Speeches.

Mr. Wm. Gibson critically analysed the provisions of the Bill. He condemned it for its refusal to provide for the just rights and liberties of showmen in contradistinction to gipsies and the squatters on common lands. He felt sure that every means of peaceful conciliation and compromise had been used by the Guild chaplain in his conference with Lord Clifford. He regretted that the promoters of the Bill took so unreasonable a line as to refuse a clause exempting showmen from the provisions of the Bill. He considered Clause 5 was the most dangerous element in the measure, and he, for one, would not be satisfied with anything short of the dropping of that clause. Clause 5, according to his reading of it, gave them over, bound hand and foot, into the hands of the county authority. The value of Lord Clifford's suggested amendment to exempt recognised fair grounds was more apparent than real. They would all remember the growth of new fairs in recent years in the great centres of industry, and if the Bill, even with the amendment, had to become law, they would have constant trouble in the settlement of the highly disputable question—What is a recognised fair? He strongly condemned the exclusion of the sanitary officer by the policeman, and he thoroughly agreed with the Guild chaplain as to the insufferable nature of the injustice that this alone would impose upon showmen and their business in life. He stood for opposition to the measure at every stage.

Mr. T. Hurst's Resolution.

Mr. Hurst, in rising to propose a resolution, expressed his strong conviction that the Bill was beyond remedy, and that the refusal of its promoters to call it by its proper name, "The Gipsy Encampment Bill," coupled with the insult levelled at showmen as a class, by turning them over from the sanitary authority to the police, was so serious a matter that showmen could not be expected to submit without a struggle. He was for fighting the Bill. He therefore submitted the following resolution:—"That this meeting of showmen, held at Oldham Wakes, Sept. 2, 1908, and consisting of members of the united trade societies in the showman world, emphatically protests against the Movable Dwellings Bill, introduced by Lord Clifford. Further, we wish to state that the law of the land as it stands to-day is quite ample for all sanitary and health purposes, and it gives local authorities full power to deal with movable dwellings and fair grounds. We are convinced that Lord Clifford's Bill is quite unnecessary as regards travelling showmen, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to Lord Clifford.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. W. Gibson and supported by Mr. John Collins, Mr. Wm Mitchell, and Mr. R. Ingham.

Before putting the motion to the meeting, Mr. P. Collins invited further discussion, and very important contributions to the subject before the meeting were made by Messrs. Frank Mellor, J Collins, B. Mitchell, G. Cornwell, Wm. Holmes, and others.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously.

A vote of thanks was most cordially given to the Rev. T. Horne, and a similar compliment was paid to the chairman.

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FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

MARY STUART.—Under this title Messrs. Pathé have published an interesting pictorial romance associated with Scottish history. Mary Stuart, the daughter of James V. of Scotland and Mary of Guise, was married to François II., King of France. After the death of her husband, in 1560, Mary Stuart left France on account of the persecutions of Catherine of Medicis, and, weeping profusely, she came back to Scotland. Her father having died, the throne was hers. She was barely nineteen years of age, and her youth as well as her great beauty and charm of manners won for her the hearts of the Scots. To those qualities were added a great generosity and a deep attachment to the Roman Catholic Faith. When Mary Stuart arrived in Scotland she found it in the hands of the Protestants, who gave their young Queen much trouble, and at last revolted against her and put her into prison. She escaped to England, and asked her cousin, Elizabeth, for protection, but the latter betrayed her, and had her imprisoned during nineteen years, after which she had her beheaded. This film deals with the sad story of the Queen of Scots.

THE MILLER, HIS SON, AND HIS DONKEY.—This is a representation of La Fontaine's fable. A miller and his son, on the way to the fair, where they intend selling their donkey, carry the poor animal in order that he should be better-looking and easier to sell. The passers-by laugh at them, and the miller, somewhat abashed, causes his son to ride on the donkey's back, while he walks behind. Three tradesmen pass remarks as they pass the trio. "Oh, there, oh, get down you young fellow and let the old man ride." In order to satisfy them the miller makes his son dismount and he rides in his place. Three maidens laugh at them in their turn; they have never seen an old man riding thus like a bishop, while the poor young fellow comes hobbling behind. Both then ride on the donkey's back, and rather too late the old miller comes to the wise conclusion that in future he will do what he thinks best, without trying to please everybody, for he knows now that it would be impossible.

THE FRENCH MILITARY AIRSHIPS.—In this open-air series we witness the airship Ville-de-Paris, the Patrie on her last trip, the shed at Moissan, first trip of the airship République, the balloon Soude's return, the Airship's Evolutions, her landing and bringing back to the shed, concluding with portraits of Messrs. Julliot and Juchmès, the République's engineer and pilot.

A TRAGIC CORSO.—An old captain refuses his consent to his son's marriage with a young girl of humble origin, and her brothers resolve to avenge her. At the Carnival in Nice, the brothers, accompanied by their sister, all disguised, follow the young man, who is enjoying himself with some friends. The young girl, masked, goes up to the captain's son, calls him aside, and delivers him into her brothers' hands, when they promptly stab him. Not content with this, they drag him to his old father's house and tell him that his son is only drunk; he thanks them for bringing him home, and offers them wine, which they drink. It is only when they have gone that he discovers the trick played on him, and, sobbing, he throws himself on the silent form of his son.

A NOBLEMAN'S PLEASURE.—Nothing is easier for a powerful and rich man than to make a peasant woman forget her duties provided she is a bit of a flirt. The nobleman in this picture uses a stratagem in order to make her come to the court, where she is received with smiles and honeyed words. But as her husband discovers the plot, thanks to a servant, he goes to the palace, and he is recognised the moment he thinks he is going to have his revenge, and put into prison. His wife comes to him and asks for pardon, untying with her own hands the ropes which encircle his wrists. Yet, in spite of her entreaties, he makes her atone in a terrible manner for her foolishness.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

SUNNY MADEIRA, PART I., introduces the spectator to the life, customs, and industries of an Atlantic winter resort, with a deeply-interesting and beautiful environment, still untrodden by the ordinary tourist. The series is never wanting in vivacity, and the scenes are all depicted with a satisfying fulness of detail in absolutely perfect photographic sequence. We get views of Madeira from the Sea, the Bay of Funchal, boats awaiting the steamer, diving boys of Madeira skilfully securing from the depths coins thrown overboard by the passengers, barge load of labourers on their way to coal the steamer, bullock teams hitched to the boats hauling luggage ashore and up the steep beach, sledges laden with baggage drawn over the loose stones to the Customs House, examination of baggage at the Customs House, the Market-place, Funchal, Portuguese children laden with produce going to market, the Mountain Railway, departure of train, panorama from the engine as the track rises 2,000 feet in two miles, the Fish Market, Funchal, and the arrival at Funchal of the Duke of Connaught.

THE WICKER CHAIR INDUSTRY OF MADEIRA.—This is an industry peculiar to this almost tropic island, which supplies the world with wicker easy-chairs and couches of every conceivable type. Steamer and house chairs, garden lounges and verandah seats, ornate and simple in design and appearance, are manufactured in great numbers at Funchal, and every facility was afforded to the Urban operators for illustrating the various processes of the industry.

OVER THE STUBAITHAL RAILWAY BY MOONLIGHT.—Here we are treated to a wonderful journey through one of the most remarkable and picturesque districts of the Southern Tyrol—lovely, peaceful, pastoral, rustic, majestic, and sublime; indeed, a combination of scenic qualities seldom seen in one and the same picture. The pictures include the departure of the train from Wiften-Stubai, panorama from the train, close panorama of the Dolomites and Earth Pyramids, great railway curve over a mountain torrent, descent by the Stubaithal train of one car, and beautiful effects as the last panorama gradually recedes, giving place to more detailed loveliness.

THE LAKE OF GARDA, ITALY, is another attractive series which presents a steamboat panorama of the largest and most eastern of the great lakes of Northern Italy, enclosed by Alpine ridges on both sides, and dividing the Austrian Tyrol from the old Italian provinces of Venetia and Lombardy. The lake at its greatest depth is about 1,000 feet. The lemon-tree ripens its fruit on the banks of this lake, though the trees require to be carefully covered, and even artificially warmed during frost. The number of trees in cultivation is over 20,000, each producing about 1,000 lemons. The scenery on Lake Garda, its islands and promontory, is remarkable for the luxuriance of its vegetation, for its island castle ruins, its sublime mountain peaks, and for the picturesque towns and villages on its banks.

THE BEAR PITS OF BERNE, SWITZERLAND.—Inquisitive, beseeching, playful, and athletic by turns, the bears greatly enjoy the State-provided semi-freedom of their quarters and surroundings. A cold bath is blissfully appreciated; human admirers minister to their needs by throwing a plentiful supply of buns, which are deftly caught. Their keeper joins them in a game of hide-and-seek, and their gymnastic proclivities are encouraged by a convenient pine-tree, cut to afford foothold until the higher branches are reached, amongst which they disport.

CLOSED ON SUNDAYS.—The scenes in this production show the comical experiences of a family arriving from the country to spend a pleasant Sunday in town. By municipal order, however, every shop, restaurant, and hotel is closed. The sherbet venders in the park, the cabmen, the very policemen joyfully take a day's rest, and the visitors are refused accommodation everywhere, save at the public drinking-fountain. In despair, they seek repose amongst the river barges, but are rudely disturbed by a gang of roughs—the only working men in the city—who steal all their belongings, and the stripped and stricken family sadly retrace their steps homewards.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

WHEN RUBEN COMES TO TOWN.—In this film we are introduced to Farmer Green on the occasion of his leaving home for a holiday. His good wife, before saying "good-bye," gives him some good advice on the necessity of taking care of himself in town. Having arrived, he sets out to find a lodging, and succeeds in getting someone "to take him in." The landlord's welcome is nice; but his anxiety for payment in advance is evidently brought about by past experiences. However, our weary friend now seeks to woo the goddess of sleep, but he reckons without the other boarders, so has to put up a fight with an intruder ere he gets to sleep. He is not allowed to enjoy this trip to the land of dreams for long, as, after a scout has reconnoitred the position, the enemy attack in correct military fashion, and our hero is obliged to take cover in an old trunk. After getting nicely off again he is woke up by another terror—burglars—and he sees his clothes overhauled and his watch and wallet appropriated. Not content with money and valuables, the burglars unknowingly lock the poor farmer in the trunk and move off with it. The trunk getting heavy, a halt is called, but the motion has evidently set poor Ruben dreaming, and the trunk sets off on its own account. We are treated to many experiences until the burglars discover the trunk and fall out over the spoil, and upon opening the box to take the contents, our farmer friend is taken for a ghost. In the confusion the farmer escapes, and is obliged to make his way home dressed elegantly in a barrel, and after getting through a row with his better half, vows "Never again."

AEROPLANE FLIGHTS BY HENRY FARMAN, CONEY ISLAND, N.Y., U.S.A.—In this progressive age, when there is so much talk of flying machines, it is pleasing to be able to see how the great aeroplanists are overcoming the difficulties of flying. This film shows clearly in detail the exhibition of Mr. Henry Farman and his aeroplane, and the perfect handling of this airship by the French aviator.

Nordisk Films Co.

THE ALCHEMIST'S DAUGHTER, an attractive, dramatic subject, and AT THE MUSIC HALL, a comical novelty, are being issued by the Nordisk Films Co., and will be described next week.

THE SNAKE FILM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—My attention has been called to an article in your issue of Saturday, Sept. 5, in the column devoted to "Film Gossip," under the heading of "Extraction of Poison from a Venomous Snake."

Osca, the famous snake handler, is under contract with me, and has never appeared (since his arrival in this country) in any such demonstration as your article would suggest, excepting for the firm of Messrs. Pathé Frères.

As Messrs. Pathé Frères have paid me a very handsome sum for the privilege of reproducing for cinematograph purposes the pictures of the scientific demonstration which took place in my Jungle at Earl's Court on Friday, Aug. 21, I feel it my duty to ask you to kindly publish this letter.—Yours truly,

F. C. BOSTOCK.

Earl's Court, London.
Sept. 7, 1908.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In *The Era* of Sept. 5 you published an article concerning a film by the Urban Co. of a ruff adder, and state that the snake was handled by Osca.

It was owing to a mistake that the name was used. All snakes recently photographed by the Urban Co. are owned by me, and have only been handled by me.

I trust that you will publish this correction, and give me the credit for a dangerous work that very few would undertake. Thanking you in anticipation,—I am, yours faithfully,

WM. A. BEVAN.

50, Greek-street, Soho, W.
Sept. 7, 1908.

MISS JEAN MACDUFF, the lady Scotch comedian in kilts, appeared last week at the Victoria Pier Pavilion, Blackpool, where she scored an immediate success in her latest hit, "I'm getting married in the morning."

MR. DAN ASHTON, the Lancashire collier, will appear at the Palace, Manchester, on Sept. 21, with a new, original, and up-to-date item founded on the facts of the Wigan colliery disaster, for the benefit of the widows and orphans.

FERRISS AND MAY, the musical comedy couple, are being rapidly booked up by Tom Pacey on the Stoll, Barrasford, and Gibbons tours. This week they are scoring a most gratifying success at Walham Green.

MISS LILY LONSDALE deputised at the London, Shoreditch, on Tuesday, and made a hit with her new character-song, "My little Deutcher girl," the audience immediately joining in the catchy chorus.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

17,761.—William Frederic Butcher, of London. Improved box for holding lantern slides and the like.

17,765.—Alfred Wrench and William Engelke, of London. Improved means for effecting the synchronous running of gramophones and the like, and cinematographic apparatus.

17,786.—William Henry Halstead, of London. Improvements in combined roundabouts and swing or fly boats.

17,920.—Thomas Ernest Raymond Phillips, of Liverpool. Improvements in or connected with acousto-cinematographic apparatus.

17,994.—Ernest Joseph Woodhouse and Jonathan Page, both of Stapleford, Notts. New set of steam roundabouts, jumping and galloping horses.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION ACCEPTED.

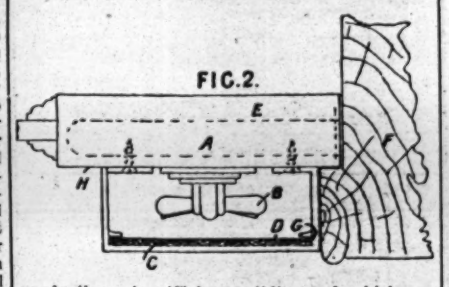
563.—Lertourné. Shutters for cinematographs.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

10,000.—Emergency-exit locks. A. Pordage, of Edinburgh.

The casing (C) for the handle (B) of an emergency-exit lock for factories, hotels, theatres, music halls, &c., has a slot (G), through which the glass front (D) may be withdrawn only when the door (E) is opened sufficiently to clear the jamb (F). In a modification for doors opening in-

FIG.2.

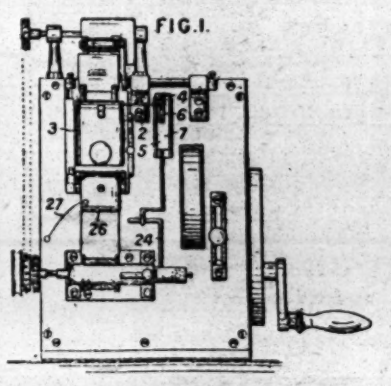


wards, the casing (C) has a sliding end, which can be moved to release the glass front (D) only when the door is opened. If the use of a pass key is desired, the bolt casing (A) is extended beyond the casing (C), and a keyhole (H) is provided in this extension.

10,078.—Kinematographs. E. G. Homes and J. O. Guidert, of Vienna.

Kinematographs are fitted with appliances for preventing ignition of the film, and, in the case of the film tearing, for turning on the illuminating

FIG.1.



devices in the room where the instrument is in use, and for stopping the machine. A flap (3, Fig. 1) is placed over the usual door in the place where the amount of light is greatest. The flap is mounted on a shaft (2), carrying a toothed wheel (4), gearing with a rack (6), mounted on a plate (7), which slides between guides (5). This plate is attached to one arm of a bell-crank lever (17, Fig. 2), the other arm of which is joined by a bar (16) to a rod (15), constrained to move vertically. The lower end of this rod rests on one end of a lever (14, Fig. 4), which is controlled by clockwork (A). When this clockwork is started, a pin (12) on one of the wheels depresses the other end of the lever, and thus the rod (15) moves up, the rack is withdrawn from the wheel, and the flap falls. When the machine is started, the flap rises owing to a downward motion of the rack, caused by a centrifugal regulator, consisting of three springs

FIG.2.

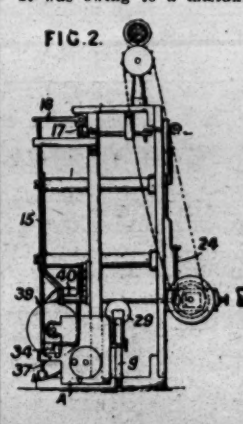


FIG.3.

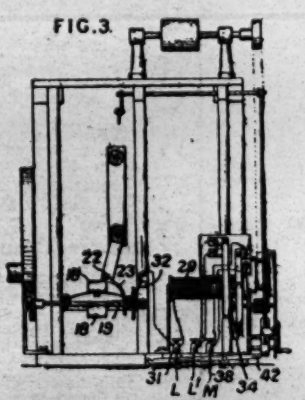
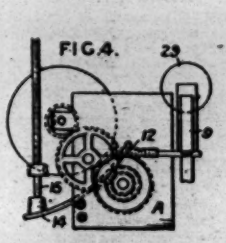


FIG.4.



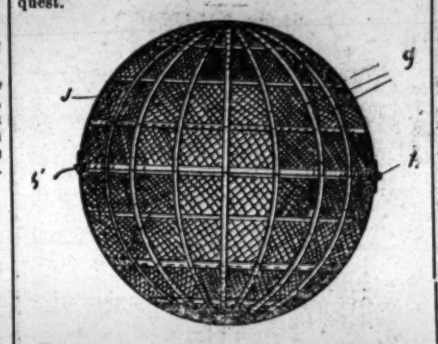
with weights (18) on them, one end being attached to a fixed sleeve on a shaft worked from the main shaft, and the other to a sliding sleeve (19), which, when the speed reaches a certain value, makes contact with the lever (23), pivoted on a shaft (22), and carrying a lever (24), which is connected to the rack. The flap is only completely raised when the speed of the film is such that it is in no danger of being ignited. Beneath the flap (3) is a rotary plate (26), the shaft of which is insulated from the machine, and the plate kept in contact with the film or front of the machine. A wire (27) connects the plate to one terminal of a circuit, the other terminal of which is connected to the machine by a wire wound round a magnet (29), in front of which is an armature (9) controlling the clockwork. While the film is intact, the plate (26) is insulated from the apparatus. Should the film break, however, the circuit is completed, and by the attraction of the armature the clockwork sets in action the various levers and the flap (3) falls. The terminal (31) is connected to a spring contact (32), which makes contact with the sliding sleeve when the machine is not working. The wire (L1) is connected to a contact-piece (34), which, when the clockwork runs down, is connected to the terminal (M); when the clockwork is wound up, no connection is effected. The circuit (L), &c., is broken when the centrifugal regulator comes into operation; when the film tears, the operation of the clockwork closes the circuit through the contact (34), and also the lamp circuit (L, L1), before the sleeve (19) comes in contact with the spring contact (32). The motor circuit, which may run from L to M in parallel with the lamps, runs from the contact (38) to the contacts (39, 40, Fig. 3), which are only connected through the plate (37) when the clockwork is wound up. If the exhibiting room is lit by incandescent gas mantles, the gas may be turned on by the action of the pivoted lever (42), of which one end rests on the lever (14), and the other end is connected to the igniting device.

INFORMATION REQUIRED.—Will the owner of the English patent for the Katzenjammer Castle Amusement Structure please communicate with the Manager of *The Era*.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, and £100? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd-George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

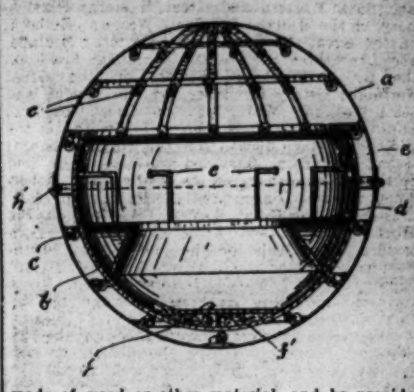
AN AMUSEMENT DEVICE.

When Mr. Robert Perris turns his attention to inventing he apparently seeks to devise the twin-acme of excitement and digestion, and in his latest form of amusement apparatus he appears rightly to lay claim to the realisation of his quest.



The invention relates to improvements in amusement devices of the type in which passengers are carried in a ball revolving along a track, and consists in the construction of the hollow spherical casing or frame containing the seats, and which is adapted to revolve on any surface, level or elevated, and is made in two halves capable of being opened and closed. The frame is provided on its inner surface with swivel casters, upon which rolls a semi-spherical car equipped with seats for passengers. The car carries a ballast whereby it will always tend to remain at the bottom of the inner surface of the spherical frame while the latter revolves.

To illustrate the invention we show an elevation of the spherical frame, as also a vertical section thereof, and of the semi-spherical car contained therein. *a* denotes a hollow spherical frame or casing, and *b* the semi-spherical car adapted to roll in said spherical frame upon swivel ball-bearing casters (*c*). The semi-spherical car is provided with seats (*d*) and railings (*e*), and at the bottom with a floor (*f*), below which a ballast (*f1*) is contained, whereby the semi-spherical car will always tend to remain at the bottom of the inner surface of the spherical frame. The frame may be constructed of strips or ribs (*g*) of wood or metal covered with wire netting (*g1*). The same is made in two sections, which at one point are hinged together as at *h*, and which opposite thereto are provided with a suitable spring lock (*h1*) for locking the halves when closed. The entrance to the inner semi-spherical car is obtained by opening the sections of the spherical casing. The car may be made of wood or metal, and may be covered on the even surface with rubber. The outer casing or frame may, instead of the above-mentioned construction, be solid, and may be



made of wood or other material, and be provided with a number of apertures for ventilation or glass windows.

Mr. Perris, under another name, is a talented comedian with a répertoire of quaint character folk-lore ditties, and we trust his semi-spherical car is mercifully padded if in oscillation it rivals his side-splitting "patter."

CRYSTAL PALACE VARIETY.

The Crystal Palace company has done a wise thing in assembling the bright little band of variety artists who appear twice daily at the Sydenham pleasure house, and as a very moderate charge is made for admission there is generally a good attendance, especially of the younger generation, for whom the first part of the programme has been arranged. This consists of Astley's American Circus, with a miniature ring, a very droll clown of the Auguste order, and a large number of well-trained animals, such as ponies, a donkey, a mule, a sheep, and dogs, all of which are put through a series of performances, mostly of the comic order. The efforts of a number of lads to retain their equilibrium on a rapidly-turning table causes much hilarity.

Mr. Salmon, an able exponent of trick cycle-riding, both on the old-fashioned "ordinary" wheel and the more modern "safety" cycle, gives examples of some skill on the violin during the execution of some of his feats. The Itram family, three in number, give a graceful exhibition of difficult trapeze and bar work, the bar or trapeze being supported by the lady of the party, who succeeds in balancing them and it during their evolutions in the air.

Enzer is a turn which took on at once, for, in addition to some very neat and finished juggling with battle-axes, cannon-balls, and other similar trifles, he gives a most convincing exposition of ju-jitsu, in conjunction with a seemingly fragile lady, Miss Clarice. Habited as a ruffianly tramp, Mr. Enzer attacks her with every form of violence, only to be collared summarily or hurled violently to the mat, in a manner which leaves no doubt as to the genuineness of his intentions. These artists freely admit that occasionally Enzer will "get home" with one of his blows, with quite unpleasant consequences, if Miss Clarice happens to be in the slightest degree remiss in her defence

MISS MARIE LOVELACE is at present lying ill at Attercliffe, under the care of Dr. Bennett.

EDISON FILMS

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, U.S.A.

WHEN RUBEN COMES TO TOWN.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES.

THE EVENTFUL DAY ARRIVES—Farmer Green's Holiday—Dressed in store clothes—Off to Town—Wifey primps him up—Warns him against bunco men—In the rig—Wifey waves "Good-bye."

IN TOWN—Arrival of Ruben—The Landlord's welcome—Shown to his room—Payment in advance—Ruben turns in on a downy (?) couch—A midnight prowler—A giant bed bug crawls down the wall—Into the bed—Takes a nip at Ruben—"Murder!"—"Watch!"—Ruben finds the intruder—Knocks him out—Back to bed—"Sweet slumber."

"REVENGE"—A bed bug scout—Reconnoitring—Off for reinforcements—Bed bugs galore enter from everywhere—From behind pictures, through the door and from the walls and ceiling they march in military order—Charging the bed—Ruben and bed clothes dragged to the floor—Ruben makes a bed in an old trunk—Safe at last—A peaceful smile—Asleep again.

"NO REST FOR THE WEARY"—Faces at the window—Burglars!—Going through Ruben's clothes—Good-bye to watch and wallet—Discovering the trunk—It is locked—Off with the trunk—Through the window—Down the porch—A safe "get away"—On the road—Trunk gets heavy—A needed rest—Fast asleep.

AN ANIMATED TRUNK—Trunk suddenly starts rolling along the road—Discover loss—A hot foot chase—Down the hill—Hitting only the high places—Burglars in second place—Into the river—Down the stream.

TWO HOBOES—Enjoying a rest on a river bank—Discover the trunk—Plunge into the stream and recover it—Arrival of burglars—A wordy war—Equal shares—Breaking the lock—Out pops Ruben in night shirt—Taken for a ghost—The chase—Ruben escapes.

HOME, SWEET HOME—Anxious wife—Looking down the road—An apparition—Ruben dressed in a barrel—Horrified wife—Wifey wins a lively scrap—Into the house by the car—"Never again."

No. 6371. Code, "Velocity." Length 800ft.

AEROPLANE FLIGHTS BY HENRY FARMAN, CONEY ISLAND, N.Y., U.S.A.

This film shows clearly and in detail the exhibition of Henry Farman and his Aeroplane. The perfect handling of this airship by the French aviator. Also a close view of the mechanical arrangements.

No. 6372. Code, "Velonera." Length 200ft.

LATEST SUBJECTS:

No. 6362. **Pioneers Crossing the Plain in '49.**
6363. **The Little Coxswain of the 'Varsity Eight.**
6364. **The Boston Tea Party.**
6366. **The Face on the Bar-room Floor.**
6367. **A Dumb Hero.**
6368. **Life's a Game of Cards.**
6369. **Tales the Searchlight Told.**

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UNDERWRITER'S MODEL (One Pin Movement), **price £36 15s.**
REDUCES FLICKER 50 PER CENT.
Includes, among other improvements, a New Automatic Shutter, Improved Lamphouse, Upper and Lower Film Magazines, New Style Rheostat, New Enclosed Switch, Improved Take-up Device, New Revolving Shutter, and Asbestos-covered Cord Connections.

EDISON IMPROVED EXHIBITION MODEL (One Pin Movement), **price £32 11s.**

EDISON UNIVERSAL MODEL, price £15 15s.

EDISON MANUFACTURING CO., Ltd.,

Edison Works, 200, Victoria Rd., Willesden, London, N.W.

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ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS.
MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns

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One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

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WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.
Jan. 18, March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 3, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov. 16 (three nights),
Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 3, 10, 17, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 9, 16.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Oct. 26, Feb. 1, 15, 22, March 15, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
Nov. 30, Xmas (seven nights).
March 15, 29, April 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
April 12, 19, 26, May 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, Good Drama, for Sept. 28,
Theatre Royal, Leicester.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Sept. 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, Dec. 7, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Oct. 19, 26, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Oct. 5, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, on (three nights only).
Address,
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Sept. 28.
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
Sept. 28 (3 nights), Nov. 2 (3 nights), 9 (3 nights).
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Nov. 12, onwards.
Apply for all above, ROWLAND, T., Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.,

WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, Dec. 7, 21 (to oblige Managers); nothing else vacant till Autumn, 1909. Can arrange First-class Panto. 1909 and 1910 (one worthy the "Second City.")
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

F. W. BOLAM'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD,
Dec. 14. Wire.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE,
New Year's Week (?).
Address, R. G. ELDER, Gen-Manager,
Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Oct. 19 and 26.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
Oct. 5.
Oct. 5.
WANTED, Strong Attraction.
Address, W. W. KERNE.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions, Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 26.
Holding Capacity £100.
Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.
WANTED, good No. 1 Company, Nov. 2, also a few good Spring dates.
Address, J. BANNISTER HOWARD,
15, Clifford's Inn, Fleet-street, E.C.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Oct. 12 26, and on.
Address CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

O. H., JERSEY AND GUERNSEY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Nov. 2 and 9, also Spring and Season 1909.
EDWARD MARRIS, c/o David Allen's, Leicester-st., W.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies, for Vacant Dates.
Address,
ROLLO BALMAIN.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Front-rank Attractions, for Dec. 14, Feb. 15, March 8 29 April 19 May 3, onwards. Good Panto entertained for Feb. 15.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Oct. 12
Nov. 9 and onwards with exceptions.
Add., THOS. SWINTON, 19, Trafalgar-rd., Blackpool.

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE, RAMSGATE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. JULES RICHEUX.
WANTED, good Companies, Oct. 5, 12, onwards, with exceptions; guarantees given if desired for First-class Attractions. HERBERT JAY, 10, Jermyn-street, London.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Company, Sept. 28, 29, 30,
Eastbourne Croquet Week.
Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Oct. 5, 26, Nov. 9, 16, 30, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, good Companies, Oct. 1 and 12 (three nights). A. D. VERNON.

NEW AMPHITHEATRE AND BIJOU PAVILION, RHYL.
WANTED, First-class Musical or Variety Attractions, for Sept. 21 and onwards. WARBURST, Proprietor.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH,
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only entertained.
Vacant Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 2,
onward with exceptions

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Dec. 21, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 22,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant Dec. 7, 21, 28, April 5, 12,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant April 12, 19, June 7, 14,
onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Sept. 24, Oct. 1, 5,
onward, with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c.

ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, Oct. 5, April 26, May 10, May 17 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, Nov. 23, April 5, May 24, June 7 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, Oct. 26, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31, Re-opening Sept. 28, extra strong Attractions Wanted, Musical Comedy preferred.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices
WANTED, really First-class London Successes for
Oct. 5, 26, (?),
with exceptions.
Applications for dates to HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, Mr. FRED GRANVILLE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, March 1, 8, and onwards. Certainty or guarantee if desired.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, First-class Musical and other London Attractions, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Good-class Attractions, Oct. 5, 19, 26, Nov. 9, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14.
Re dates,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions. Oct. 19 (through transfer), Nov. 23 (through Co. going off the road), Dec. 21, Dec. 28, Jan. 4
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Smart Pantomime for Glasgow Xmas and New Year weeks, Share or Certainty, twice nightly. LYNNE'S Agency, Alhambra, Brighton.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Sept. 21 (3) 28 (3 or 6), Oct. 12 (3), Nov. 2 (3 Dunfermline, 3 Paisley), 9 16, 23, 30. W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

O. H., JERSEY AND GUERNSEY.
WANTED, First-class Attractions. Nov. 2 and 9 also Spring and Season 1909.
EDWARD MARRIS, c/o David Allen's, Leicester-st., W.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK, SOUTH WALES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Nov. 2 (?). 9 (?), 16, 23 (?), on. Companies Touring Wales write in. Address, TOM BARGER.

ALNWICK CORN EXCHANGE (Licensed).
WANTED, a few early Autumn Bookings rental only.
Apply, PROPRIETOR.

COUNTY HALL, ST. ALBANS.
WANTED, good Companies, with own Scenery, two nights. Sept. 25 and 26 and Nov. 6 and 7, only vacant dates this year; permanent Proscenium, Act Drop, Foot and Top Lights, good Stage. Sharing terms. A. ROWDEN.

WANTED, Strong Attractive Drama, Sept. 21 week, twice nightly. State full particulars, printing, &c, SWEET, Empire, Watford.

WANTED, for Sept. 18, 19, 25, 26, First-class Fit-up Companies.
J. SYKES, Victoria Hall, Abercarne, Mon.

TOWN HALL, HERNE BAY.
WANTED, good Company, Musical preferred, Sept. 14, 15, 16; 21, 22, 23. WATSON, Herne Bay.

WANTED, refined Concert Parties or good Bioscope, with Speciality; Shares; Sept. 20 and 27. Full particulars, WISHART, Pier, Ryde.

THEATRE ROYAL, HEBBURN.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Musical Attractions preferred, Sept. 28, Nov. 23, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, March 1 and 8, 29, April 5 and 12. Holds £80. Eight large dressing-rooms; electric and gas Third year of successful management. Reply, Spanish City Theatre, Whitley Bay.
CHAS. ELDERTON.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Sept. 21, 22, 23, 28, 29, 30 Oct. 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28. Wire, PHILLIPS.

THE PALACE THEATRE, WREXHAM.
Building at a cost of £15,000. Stage opening 30ft. by 30ft., 35ft. deep, 64ft. wall to wall.
WANTED, Known, the Management are now Prepared to Negotiate for First-class Companies (only entertained), for Musical Comedies, Pantomimes, Dramas, and Society Plays, for the Spring, 1909. A population over 70,000. Central Ry., Motor Railway Cars, and Electric Trams. All communications to the Managing-Director, W. YATES GREGORY.

COMPANIES WANTED.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating Capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the Largest, Most Handsome, and Best Equipped Theatres in Great Britain.

The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only. Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909. Will guarantee Really Big Attractions up to £1,000.

Next week, Mr. George Alexander's "The Thief." Sept. 21, Mrs. Brown-Potter, in "Lady Frederick." Sept. 28, George Edwardes's "The Merry Widow."
All communications JOHN ED. JOWSEY.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Telegrams, "Magnet." Telephones, 413, 426, 500.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessees and Managers,
Mr. and Mrs. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE.
The leading Theatre of the town and district.
WANTED, Known, vacant through transfers. Nov. 9, Dec. 7, March 1, and a few onward. Future Bookings include: "The Thief," "A White Man," "Diana of Dobson's," "Jack Straw," "Mrs. Dot," "Lady Frederick," "Brewster's Millions," "With Edged Tools," and the leading Musical Comedies. Apply, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE H. M. T., BARROW.

WANTED, First-class Companies, THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN,
Sept. 17, 18, 19.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP,
Vacant Oct. 12, Nov. 2, and on.
(last three days of week only).

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY,
Wanted, Musical Attraction for Christmas.
Vacant Oct. 5 and Nov. 2, on.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK THEATRES,
Vacant New Year, for Musical Company.

W. PAYNE SEDDON,
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 11.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Jan. 11.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, Feb. 22
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 26
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, between Scotland and London.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, Feb. 8 (North).
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres Oct. 5, 12, Jan. 4, 11.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres Sept. 21, Jan. 18, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Nov. 23, 30
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted. Theatres Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9 23, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Nov. 2
Dec. 14, 26 (7 nights), Jan. 4.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, Nov. 16, 23, onward.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."

WANTED, Oct. 5, 26, Dec. 14, 21, 28
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH."
And Répertoire of recent West End Successes.
Mr. Ernest E. Norris and Company.
WANTED, Sept. 21, Oct. 5, and onwards
C. H. BOWMAKER, Theatre, Lynn.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, weeks of Sept. 28 and Oct. 12, for this remarkable success, which, on its last visit to the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, played to £717 on the week; on Monday last T. R., Dublin, to £94 1s. 6d.; Tuesday, £110 10s. 6d.; and Wednesday £117 19s. 9d. Wire or write to W. W. KELLY, New T. R., Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, for this Phenomenal Success, Weeks of
Nov. 2 and Dec. 14.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23 Dec. 7, Jan. 11.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Tredegar.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, Oct. 5 (Midlands)
Oct. 12, 26 (South).
All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
C., Aberystwyth (3), G. T., Hereford (3).

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Sept. 21 (three nights only), Oct. 12 (three nights only), 19, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, Xmas week (seven nights), also Spring, Farewell Tour. Address, Bishopsdale Farm, Benenden, Kent.

Mr. MONCKTON HOFFE'S COMPANY,
"IRENE WYCHERLEY"
(by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell).
Special Company in this Famous Kingsway Theatre Success.
Elaborate scenery carried.
WANTED, First-class Theatres Only Oct. 12 and Nov. 23. Address, to-day, County, Bedford; next week, Lincoln and King's Lynn.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S COMPANIES.
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."
WANTED, owing to Transfer, Sept. 28,
also Nov. 9 and 30.
Address,
CECIL BARTH, Empire Theatre, Oldham.

EDWARD MARRIS' PANTOS.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (follow Leeds), "Dick Whittington," including The Waldrons (once or twice nightly). Production Court, Wigan. MARRIS, c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, North, for Oct. 19 (precede third visit Barnsley).
EDWARD MARRIS,
c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
The Artistic and Financial Success,
Oct. 12, 26, Nov. 9, 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Brilliant Reception
in
Manchester.
House
Packed to Overflowing.
The same everywhere.
Vacant
Nov. 30 (?), Dec. 7, 28, Jan. 18, Feb. 1.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Dates, for this
Strong Romantic Drama.
The Play to Please.
The Play to Draw.
Nov. 2, 9 Dec. 14 (?), Jan. 4, 11, 18.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Dates, for this
Managers' Gold Mine.
Managers' Gold Mine.
always
does well.
Vacant
Nov. 16, 23, 30, &c. 2? Jan. 4, 11.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates, for this, still the First of
Domestic Dramas
Entire New Production.
Strong Cast
Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

WANTED, Dates, for
New Play,
by
Mrs. Morton Powell.
Production shortly.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

MESSRS. S. RENNEF AND G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS. "LOVE RULES THE WORLD."
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 30, Dec. 7 Xmas, and New Year, onward. Rebooked T. R., Sheffield; Star, Liverpool; Broughton (three visits). Bookings also include Grand, Newcastle; Gateshead; T. R., Middlesbrough; Osborn and Junction, Manchester; Prince's, Portsmouth; Accrington; Royalty, Barrow; Hartlepool; Swansea; Metropole, Glasgow. "HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN," Nov. 16, follow Broughton. Splendid Productions, Casts. G. M. COPPING, Met., Glasgow; Mon., Century, Motherwell.

WANTED, Nov. 16.
for
ALLAN WILKIE.
and Company of Thirty-five Artists, in Shakespearean and Standard Plays.
Address, ALBERT CAVANAH,
Sept. 14, Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

H. HAMILTON STEWART'S CO'S.
SHERLOCK HOLMES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Oct. 26 (North). Only Vacant Date this year. Fast Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909. Address, WALTER J. BAYLISS, Victoria Theatre, Burnley.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, North, for Oct. 19 (precede third visit Barnsley).
EDWARD MARRIS,
c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, good Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, and Xmas (seven nights).
MAUD HILDYARD, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
WANTED, Oct. 19, 26
HARRY TILBURY, Central Theatre, Amble.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED First-class Theatre, North, for Oct. 19 (precede third visit Barnsley).
EDWARD MARRIS,
c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 8, March 15, 29, April 5.
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

"SILVER KING,"
POLINI AND MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:—
Feb. 22, April 19, 28, May 10.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

"MAN AND WIFE" (Walter Howard).
WANTED, Oct. 19, through Theatre closing; must be good Theatre, for Only Vacant Date till Easter. Refer Mr. Abrahams, T. R., Stratford, who saw one act Wednesday evening, and handed contract for return date Oct, 1909, on Thursday morning Address, VAN BIENE and TRAYNOR, Crown Theatre, Peckham. Managers cordially invited to witness performance. With one exception, return dates have been offered at Every Theatre Visited this Tour.

WANTED, Nov. 2, 16, Xmas, Jan. 4, for Corri's "Dandy Fifth," up-to-date.
Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre, Loughboro'.

WANTED, Theatres, for "Second to None," by Walter Howard. Enormous business everywhere. Easter, also Xmas Vacant. Address, T. E. WARD, Elephant and Castle, S.E.

WANTED, Theatres, for "The Love of the Princess, by C. Watson Mill. Xmas, May 3, onwards. Address, T. E. WARD, Elephant and Castle, S.E.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 15, 22, Good Theatres, for "The Crimes of Paris."
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOURS.
"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS,"
WANTED, Nov. 30.
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER,"
Only Vacant Dates Oct. 19, Nov. 9, 16.
Address,
EUGENE BERTRAM, Adelphi Theatre, W.C.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Oct. 5, North.
Address, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Easter.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 2, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Sept. 21, Oct. 26, Nov. 16.
FRED BULMER, Town Hall Theatre, Maesteg.

EDWARD MARRIS' PANTOS.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (follow Leeds), "Dick Whittington," including The Waldrons (once or twice nightly). Production Court, Wigan. MARRIS, c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

"FOR HER HUSBAND'S SAKE"
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Oct. 12, 19, and 26, Midlands or London. Address,
MILLAR ANDERSON, Cambridge T., Spennymoor.

"MERELY MARY ANN,"
from the Duke of York's Theatre.
WANTED, Vacant Oct. 5 and 19. Vacant.
Vacant Oct. 5 and 19. Vacant.
H. GREVILLE, H. M. Theatre, Barrow.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE CURATE" and "THE BELLS OF OLD YORK," By Rass Challis.
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, Oct. 12 (three nights), Nov. 16, and New Year's week (Scotland). Address, MAURICE, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

"MAN TO MAN,"
Under the Direction of
Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.

WANTED, Oct. 5 and 12.
FRANK ADAIR, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, Managers having open dates for First-class Pantomimes should communicate with J. F. Elliston, Bolton Theatre; capable of holding good money can only be treated with.

THEATRES WANTED.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
Vacant Oct. 26, Oct. 26, and Xmas, Xmas.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Vacant Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 2, 9. This Piece is doing Marvellous Business. Refer, this week, Widnes; Next, MIDDLESBROUGH.
"A SISTER'S SIN."
Vacant Sept. 28, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Oct. 5.
Always been a Success, but this Tour Greater Success than Ever.
Excellent Cast. Beautiful Scenery.
Wire for these powerful attractions, guaranteed successes, to KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton; next, C. T., PONTYPRIDD.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS,"
Sept. 28, Sept. 28, Sept. 28,
Nov. 2, Nov. 2, Nov. 2.
All Dramatic records broken at Methil last week. Again, Friday night considerably better than Monday. Money refused at all parts at ten past seven on Saturday night. Hundreds turned away. Many thanks to Mr. Arnold for a happy week and choice of return dates. "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE." Wanted, Sept. 28, 29, 30 (three nights), Nov. 23. Refer W. Morton, Esq. Hyde Reporter, Sept. 5, says: "A Fight for a Throne" is, without exaggeration, one of the best things seen in the district for a long time. It is always maintained at a high level. The diction is smart, the incidents skilfully worked, the Ordeal by Touch scene being especially effective and clever, giving the whole play a tone and force which melodrama too frequently lacks. The staging is a triumph, and the scenery really fine. The dresses and uniforms, too, are splendid. Perhaps the most pleasing feature is that the cast is a strong one. Throughout the acting is clever and unconventional, the leading parts being in particularly good hands. In fact, in "A Fight for a Throne" there is not an uninteresting moment. All coms., GEORGE A. DE GRAY, this, Eden T., Bishop Auckland; next, T. R., North Shields.

EDWARD MARRIS' PANTOS.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (follow Leeds), "Dick Whittington," including The Waldrons (once or twice nightly). Production Court, Wigan. MARRIS, c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

ALFRED B. CROSS' TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
by the late Wilson Barrett, from Hall Caine's novel.
WANTED, Oct. 1 (three nights, Midlands), Oct. 19, Nov. 2, and few later.
Mr. Cross as Pete over 2,000 times.
Miss Watersford (Mrs. Cross) as Kate over 1,500 times.
Entirely New Scenery and Effects.
A Unique Production.
Sept. 14, R., Bury St. Edmund's, and R., Peterborough (3 each).

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Nov. 9, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb. 8.
March 1, 8, on.

Sept. 14, T. R., Bilston.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
This Year Fully Booked.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 1 (Lancs. and Yorks.), 29 (Mid.).
Gaiety Theatre, Ayr;
next, O. H., Dunfermline, N.B.

MESSRS. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, 16, Xmas, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, on for the above Attraction.
Address,
ARMADALE and WARREN,
Theatre Royal, Bedford, Leigh.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Nov. 9 (Midlands), Jan. 18, Aug. 2.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Gorgeous Revival on a Magnificent Scale.
Vacant Oct. 26, Dec. 21, 28.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Vacant Nov. 16, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
Touring Summer and Autumn, 1909.
Wires, T. R., Macclesfield; letters, C. T., Bacup.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
Messrs. Armour and Cheval's play is indeed one of the best and strongest dramas on the road.—Extract from London production notice in last week's "Era."
WANTED, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, and onwards, with exceptions. Wire for Sept. 21, WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, to-day, Metropole, Abertillery; next, Alexandra, Birmingham.

Messrs. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON'S.
"WAS SHE TO BLAME,"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, few Dates, 1909. Production, Easter, Junction, Manchester. Apply for date, VAUXHALL, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"LOVE'S GOLDEN DREAM."
Frances Delaval's Daringly Original Play.
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28.
Address, 66, Douglas-road, Herne Bay.

Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company, in the New and Original Musical Comedy, "THE FLOWER GIRL"
WANTED, Nov. 23, to follow Theatre Royal, Glasgow, and dates onward. Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS. Letters, Victoria Theatre, Broughton. See Companies column.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Sept. 21 and 28 (to oblige Messrs. Howard and Wyndham), also Oct. 5, for "A Pair of Spectacles," or Repertory. Wire, M. RUSSELL ROSSE, H. M. Theatre, Dundee.

The Thrilling Melodrama, "CONVICT 99."

WANTED, Autumn Dates, Oct. 5, 26, Dec. 7, and on, 1909.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
Vacant for this Enormous Success.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

Apply, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
Opera House, Perth, N.B.

"THE CONVICT."
"THE STOWAWAY."
WANTED, Sept. 14 and 21. Wire, VICTOR DU CANE, Her Majesty's T., Carlisle.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Large Theatres, Nov. 16, 23.
Everything carried.
Sixty People on the Stage.
E. VIVIAN EDMONDS,
Theatre Royal, Leicester.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED First-class Theatre, North, for Oct. 19 (precede third visit Barnsley).
EDWARD MARRIS,
c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, Aug. 9, on, with exceptions.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.
Or BATEMAN and CONQUEST, Empire, Southend.

By Arrangement with Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore.
MISS NORA CARTON'S CO.
"CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE."
Miss Cynthia Brooke as Mrs. Moxon.
WANTED, Theatres, vacant Oct. 12.
C. B. VAUGHAN,
Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.

EDWARD MARRIS' PANTOS.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (follow Leeds), "Dick Whittington," including The Waldrons (once or twice nightly). Production Court, Wigan. MARRIS, c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, North, for Oct. 19 (precede third visit Barnsley).
EDWARD MARRIS,
c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

THEATRES WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.

"THE BETTER LAND,"

The Greatest Domestic Drama of the Day.

Produced at the Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, June 22.

An Emphatic Success.

Gorgeous Production.

Every Scene and Property Carried. The finest plant of printing on the road, consisting of one 24 sheet, three 18 sheets, three 12 sheets, four 6 sheets, and six D.C lithos.

Managers looking for Something New and Novel, and a real winner, should secure the above at once.

Already booked: Liverpool (Rotunda), Leeds, Newcastle, Stratford, Sunderland, Gateshead, Accrington, Preston, Swansea, St. Helens, Hartlepool, Rotherham, Chesterfield.

WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 28.

Re dates, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

MISS MARY NEIL begs to inform Managers that her big Successes, "FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS" (by Charles Darrell) and "HER LUCK IN LONDON" (by Charles Darrell) are now Booked for two consecutive weeks at each of the following towns: Bradford, Sheffield, Oldham, Burnley, Grimsby, South Shields, Newcastle, Hull, &c.

WANTED, Theatres. Only vacant dates for 1908 are: Oct. 26, Nov. 16 (?), 30, New Year's week; also a few Spring Dates, 1909, vacant. Communications to GEORGE KIRK, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD." By arrangement with Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree. Specially re-written for the Provinces by Mr. H. Comyns Carr.

Mr. C. H. Croker-King as John Jasper. Mr. Riddell Robinson as Edwin Drood. Mr. Edward Thirlby as Grewgious. Mr. Lloyd Townrow as Durdles. Mr. Chas. Bruce as Landless. Mrs. Mallalieu, Miss Nita Charlton, Miss Eleanor Gilbart, Miss Irene Ross, and Choir Boys from Nolan's Academy.

WANTED, Oct. 5, owing to transfer, Suburbs or near London. W. PAYNE SEDDON, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

WANTED, Good Theatres, South or Midlands preferred, for Magnificent Production of "MOTHER GOOSE." "MOTHER GOOSE." "MOTHER GOOSE." 10 Sets of Scenery. 4 Complete Changes of Dress. Everything New and Specially Designed for this First-class Production. Star Cast of 15 Principals. London Ballet of 30. Over 50 in Company, with Specialities. Vacant Jan. 4, 11, 18, and Feb. 1. AUSTIN, Pavilion, Pitchcroft, Worcester.

MISS HILDA BEVERLEY in "A DESTROYER OF MEN." MISS HILDA BEVERLEY will Tour the above Successful Romantic Drama, commencing August, 1909. Every Scene will be Carried, and the Costumes and Uniforms will be Most Elaborate. Fine Plant of Pictorial Printing by David Allen and Sons and Moody Brothers. MISS HILDA BEVERLEY as the COUNTESS Supported by a Company of Carefully-selected Artists.

WANTED, Dates Autumn, 1909, and Spring, 1910. Managers Wanting a Sterling Attraction, please apply, MISS HILDA BEVERLEY, "A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS" and "GUILTY GOLD."

WANTED, Sept. 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12, near London, Nov. 16, South. HORACE STANLEY, to-day, Royal, Cardiff; next, Shakespeare, Clapham.

COLLINS'S PANTOMIME PRODUCTION, "PUSS-IN-BOOTS UP TO DATE." Cast of over Forty Performers, including Miss Ethel Beech (late of Mr. George Edwardes' Company), Booked by Oswald Stoll, Esq., for three years), Specialities by Lancashire Lasses and Collins' Juveniles. Complete in eight scenes. Costume by Alias, London.

WANTED, Jan. 18 and Feb. 8. 8, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."

WANTED, Dec. 7, between Birmingham and South Wales, Dec. 28, Jan. 25, Wales. DICKIE CLARE, this Pavilion, Abertillery; next, P. O W. Theatre, Mexborough.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND HIS PLAYS.

WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26 (precede O. H., Blackpool). Nov. 16 (precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. WYN WEAVER, Pier, Southend.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Splendid cast engaged. Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

EDWARD MARRIS' PANTOS.

WANTED, Jan. 18 (follow Leeds), "Dick Whittington," including The Waldrons (once or twice nightly). Production Court, Wigan. MARRIS, c/o David Allen's, Leicester-street, W.

WANTED, Theatres, for Fabbro's Electric Singing Pictures, Bioscope, and Varieties, Oct. 19, Nov. 9 and 16, and Xmas week. FRED HARTLEY, Grand Theatre, Nottingham.

ARTISTS WANTED.

STOCK SEASON, CHANNEL ISLANDS.

WANTED, for Month (probably longer), rehearsal Sept. 24, open Oct. 2, Full Company, including competent S.M., to Produce Walter Melville, Esq.'s, Plays, &c. Return fares paid. Terms, photos., &c. (no interviews), to EDWARD MARRIS, c/o David Allen, Leicester-st., W.

WANTED, Artists and Chorus for Musical Comedy Tour, commencing Xmas. Write full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, strong Emotional Actress, for Lead in grand new production on the Music Halls, good salary, small sum down.

Write in first instance to MANAGER, R. B., 52, Aristotle-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, to Open at Once, young experienced Leading Lady, for good Portable Theatre; four or five pieces weekly; must be up in the usual stock pieces and have good wardrobe; Pianist to read at sight; also Responsible Gent. Age, height, and last two references (applied for), by letter only, to MANAGER, c/o Mrs. Heyward, 9, Netherford-road, Clapham, S.W

WANTED, to open Monday, Aristocratic O'' Women, capable Comedy; also Child Actress. Wire, CHESNEY, 34, Mary-street, Treharris, S. Wales.

ARTISTS WANTED.

BANDMANN'S INDIA and FAR EASTERN TOURS.

WANTED, Principal Soubrette, for Long Tour Abroad. Apply, by letter only (with photo.), A. DORE, 28, Gerrard-street.

WANTED, "For Her Husband's Sake," First-class Emotional Actress, for Maria. Terms, photos., &c. MILLAR ANDERSON, Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor.

WANTED, for Sketch, to rehearse Liverpool, Thursday, open Monday Bury, Heavy Lady, must be dark, Juvenile Lady, Intense Actor for detective, also good Responsible Man for Drama. Lowest terms for special week, possible tour to follow, to THOMPSON CARRUTHERS, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Four Weeks, Stock (likely longer), two plays a week, at Theatre, Spanish City, Whitley Bay, Northumberland, rehearse Monday, Sept. 14, open 28th, Gentleman, for heavy leads, and capable of character parts; Gentleman, for old men, juvenile, and assistant S.M.; Carpenter, able to touch up scenery, make props, and play small parts. CHARLES ELDERTON, Spanish City Theatre, Whitley Bay.

J. RICE CASSIDY'S COMPANY.

WANTED, through Releasing, Character Actor, for small part and stage-management; also Heavy Lady, tall. Photos., refs., and lowest terms, to J. RICE CASSIDY, this, T. R., Jarrow; next, T. R., Sunderland.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.

WANTED, to Open Sept. 28, a really good young Responsible Actor; must be tall. All particulars to Theatre Royal, Norwich.

WANTED, Character Actor, for Jacob Engstrand, in Ibsen's "Ghosts," two weeks, Sept. 28. Full particulars, A. C. BUTE, Albert Hall, Leeds.

"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."

WANTED, Juvenile Gentleman for Allen Kingsley, double Major. Send references, lowest terms, height, age, &c., to ED. BIKKER, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

WANTED, for Fit-up Tour, Young Actor, for Heavies Child Actress for Eva, &c. State lowest. HYBERT, c/o Creber, Printer, Plymouth.

WANTED, Gentleman to play Responsible Parts; must be tall; also Lady. NORMAN V. NORMAN, Globe Theatre, Deal.

WANTED, Good Leading Man, Drama, also Character Part, and Lady, rehearse next week. Full particulars, Box 6,982, "The Era."

WANTED, Solo Dancers, for the Continent, good Engagement. Apply immediately to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED Leading Gentleman, for Stock, rehearse Wednesday, open Monday, Sept. 21. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, good useful Gentleman, for Old Men and Character; also Responsible Lady, good Pianist. Pars., CHARLES WEIGHT, Victoria-rd., Diss, Norfolk.

WANTED, for Refined Sketch, Actor for Strong Wyndham part. Apply by letter, E. R., 34, Birchington-road, Kilburn, N.W.

NORTH LONDON ENTERTAINMENT SOCIETY. Headquarters, George Hotel, 57, Liverpool-road, Islington, N.

WANTED, First-class Lady and Gentlemen Amateurs to join the above Society; every advantage given to its members, which cannot be had of any other Society. Competitions, Concerts, Monthly, for valuable prizes. Engagements found for Advance Members. Terms for the season, 5s. Special Opening Concert, Monday, Sept. 28, 1908. Hoping to see all Old and New Members. Prospectus and all particulars to Secretary, W. WILLIAMS.

WANTED, immediately, Young Lady and Gentleman Amateur, for small parts in London Success; now touring. Apply, with full particulars to Box 6,991, "The Era."

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, an Actress of great experience, at present engaged in principal West End Theatre, gives private lessons in Acting and Elocution. Moderate terms. Address, Box 6,899, "The Era."

WANTED, by Professional Lady, High-class Original Recitations and Monologues. Address, Box 6,940, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Lady, age 20, R.A.M. and R.C.M. (Soprano), Vocalist-Pianist, to join Sketch, Concert Party, or First-class Turn. MADEMOISELLE, 57, Camp-hill, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, to join Select Concert Party or Musical Comedy Chorus, Operatic Soprano, able to accompany, also Light Comedy Baritone; concluded 14 weeks Al Fresco. E. R., 76, York-road, Waterloo.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY, 4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C. Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London." 'Phone, 1626 Gerrard. Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists in all Lines, including Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, Principal Boy for Ganem, must sing and dance; Knockabouts, Comedians.

Will Claude Trevalyan please write?

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, for Pantomime, next Xmas, Twelve Chorus Ladies, 5ft. 8in. in height. Photos., experience, references, &c., to E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists in all Lines, including Young, Pretty Chorus Ladies, with good voices. Full particulars and lowest terms to WILLIAM MARTIN, Darrell's Agency, 415, Strand.

WANTED, Twenty Young Lady Dancers, for Long Pantomime Engagement in Berlin. Apply, 17, Lisle-street, Leicester-square.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers to Know that Mlle. Clari is at Liberty for Arranging Ballets for Christmas productions. 24, Lincroft-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, at Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Boy. Offers invited. An Actress and a Vocalist. Queen's Varieties, Poplar, E.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, Vacant for Panto. Many thanks for offers. All coms., Hippo., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Eccentric Cycling Novelty, Les Caros, Silver Frame Gymnasts, Vacant Dec., Panto. or Tour. Three consecutive years with J. P. Moore, Esq., Birmingham. Animal or knockabout parts. Thanks Waller, Esq., Pier, Folkestone, for offer of tour. Address, PAULETTI, 5, North-st., Romford, Essex.

WANTED, Known Harry Lonsdale, Coon Singer, Expert Dancer, Liberty for Panto, Offers invited. Apply, 6, Rose Hill-terrace, Guide, Blackburn.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Denby and Dent, Comedians and Dancers; thoroughly experienced. Monday, Hippodrome, Rotherham.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, own brushes, to touch up scenery on tour. Apply, to-day, MOODY-MANNERS, Kennington Theatre, London; next week, T. R., Birmingham.

WANTED, Good Scenic Artists, in or around Glasgow, to make and paint Scenery for Sketch. Address, KENNEDY, 7, Leslie-street, Pollokshields, Glasgow.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Known, Theatrical Framing and Properties Made. Estimates free. JOHN TILLER, Scenic Stores, Heald Grove, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery and Properties, Pantomimes, or Production; good effective work, cheap J. JACKS, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, Town or Provinces. Refs. Add., 26, Elgin-terrace, Maida Vale, London.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Assistant-Secretary; must be used to Music Hall and Variety Business; knowledge of Shorthand and Typewriting essential. State age, experience, references, and salary required, A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced smart Up-to-date Resident-Manager. Apply by letter only, lowest terms, FOSTER, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, A.M. and Treasurer, for important fully licensed Theatre. Cash Deposit for fidelity required. Address, with all particulars, Box 6,992 "The Era."

WANTED, First-class Agent, to open at once, must be used to Fit-ups and thoroughly experienced; High Window-biller and hard worker. Apply, WALTER JEFFS, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, to Hear from a Reliable Agent, with a view to Handling Business Arrangements of Pongorila and the Beautiful Zaida. Address, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, Advertisement Manager, for West-end Suburban Theatre. Apply, with references, and state age, experience, and salary required, to Mr. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Palace, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, smart young Bill-poster, care horse and trap, travel Ireland with Circus Agent. FRED LEWIS, 39, Earl-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Useful Men, for Abertillery and Ebbw Vale, able to use brush and sticks; must be workers. State terms and particulars, or no notice taken. E. PRYCE, Pavilion, Abertillery.

WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress, for Tour; must have good references. Wages, £1 10s. per week.

Apply, Box 6,993, "The Era."

WANTED, Capable Wardrobe Mistress, also Child, to play Willie Carlyle, &c. All particulars, with lowest terms, Box 6,990, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Manager, for Sixpenny-halfpenny Bazaar business, must be good Stock-keeper and used to handling Staff. State age, experience, salary. Box 6,976, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, to Directors, &c. Advertiser, aged 36, energetic, temperate, possessing shrewd ideas, is Open to Accept Offers for General Management; capable of controlling, organising, and working a large Theatre with strict economy, cleanliness, and efficiency on advanced Vaudeville lines; thoroughly conversant with every detail back and front; personally known to all Leading Acts; clever advertiser, good accountant; Society bond; popular with patrons; highest references; good appearance. Disengaged shortly. Only First-class Establishments entertained. Letters to Box 6,983, c/o "Era."

WANTED, by Resident-Manager, Re-engagement, late of Peterborough Hippodrome, 12 years' experience; highest references; Disengaged any time. THOMAS, Empire, Peterborough.

WANTED, Known, I can Run or Manage (smart), any Class of Show or Entertainment, or Lecture-Vocalist. HARRY DALE, 167, Knutsford-road, Warrington.

WANTED Known, J. Alexander, Stage-Manager and Carpenter, for many years at the Paragon, Mile End, at Liberty. Address, 96, Bromley-street, Stepney, E.

WANTED, Known, Gentleman wishing to learn Music Hall Management offers premium for suitable post. Letters, ELLIS, 35, Herongate-road, South Wanstead, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman seeks Re-engagement as Acting-Manager in Music Hall, &c.; trustworthy, smart, and energetic; can give security if required. Peveritt, Hippo., Peterborough.

WANTED, by Shorthand-Typist, lady, expert, Re-engagement, perm.; thoroughly conversant with Theatre work, &c.; highest refs.; speeds 120, 80. F. H., 37, Earl Howe-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, Agent in Advance, or other capacity; hard-working and energetic; well recommended by Albert Chevalier, Esq., and others. G. L., 68, Philip-lane, Tottenham, London.

WANTED, by J. Parker, Electrician, with thorough practical experience, Appointment in First-class Theatre or any large Establishment, previous engagements being with the late Sir Henry Irving, London Coliseum, Liverpool. 70, Ling-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Carpenter, 12 years' refs., seeks Perm. Eng., Bill Inspector, Properties, and Make, or any position of trust; young, reliable; £2 offered anyone securing me same; London preferred. Box 6,973, c/o "The Era" (forwarded).

WANTED, Engagement, by Stage-Carpenter; all-round practical Bench hand; assist; own tools. 64, Dongola-rd., Philip-lane, London, N.

WANTED, good experienced Stage Hands, Limelight Men, Door-keepers, and Attendants. Wire lowest terms, FOSTER, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell. Open Monday, Hippo., Peterborough.

WANTED, Known, Amy Samwells, First-class Wardrobe Mistress, Disengaged; cut, make, and renovate; good references. 8A, Electric-avenue Brixton, London.

WANTED, by Young Lady, Post as Companion to Actress; good Needlewoman, Clever Designer, domesticated. Apply, T. W., Box 6,964, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation, as useful Maid to Professional Lady; good references; willing; age 26. KENWAY, 28, Josephine-avenue, Brixton-hill, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Matron, Juvenile Troupe, Needlewoman, introduce two smart girls. MARIES, 4, Prima-road, Brixton.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Conductor, experienced in Varieties, Leader, 'Cello, Trombone, Bass, Drums, Open about Sept. 28. Age, terms, refs., to CONDUCTOR, Alexandra Theatre, Greenock.

WANTED, Musical-Director, experienced in Variety; must have good Répertoire. Wire lowest terms, references. T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Violin Conductor, Trombone, Clarionet and Drums and Effects; must be steady and reliable. BATTS, 2, King John-st., Spennymoor.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, experienced Pianist-Conductor, Open Monday, Sept. 14, Hippodrome, Peterborough. Wire lowest terms, FOSTER, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

ISLINGTON HIPPODROME.

WANTED, at Once, Leader. First-class Variety references essential. Apply, 243, Munster-road, S.W.

WANTED, Reliable Leader, to open Sept. 21, Princess's Theatre, Glasgow. Apply, H. VOLLMER, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Leader, for Broadway Theatre, to open Sept. 14. Permanency to suitable man. Terms and references to Orchestral Dept., Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, good First Violin, also Double Bass, for Opera House, Treherbert, and Town Hall Theatre, Maesteg. Lowest terms. POOLE, O. H., Treherbert.

WANTED, Second Violin, for Cardiff Empire. Apply, stating age, experience, and salary required, to Orchestral Dept., Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, First Violin, and Double Drummer, with Effects; used to Variety Business, for the Hippodrome, Peterborough, to open Monday, Sept. 14. Wire, lowest terms, POWELL, c/o Karno, Camberwell, London.

WANTED, at once, Second Violin. Recent Variety references essential. JOHN A. WALKER, Empire Theatre, Belfast.

WANTED, First Violin, Firm Player, able to Lead, Flute, Bass, and Trombone. CONDUCTOR, Havelock Hotel, Great Yarmouth.

ANDREWS' PICTORIAL ENTERPRISES.

WANTED, to Open, Monday next, First-class Violin, used to Pictures. Terms, refs., &c., by early letter to ANDREWS, Victoria Hall, Southsea, Hants. Good Cornet may write in.

WANTED, good Solo Cornet, for two weeks or more, 2½ hours, Military and Theatre, evening, commence Monday, Sept. 14. Wire lowest terms, 11, Strawberry-dale, Harrogate.

JOHN H. TOMKINSON'S ROYAL GIPSY CO.

WANTED, good Cornet and Flute and Piccolo, Ladies or Gentlemen, open at once. JOHN H. TOMKINSON, Assembly Rooms, Tamworth.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, accustomed to Variety twice nightly, open Sept. 21. Apply, MANAGER, Metropole Theatre, Manchester.

NEW BORO' BAND.

WANTED, Clarionets, Flute, Piccolo, Cornets, French or Tenor Cor, Trombone, Euphonium, Bombardon, Double Drums, pitching, Shares; prospects good. Silence negative. BANDMASTER, 25, Effra-road, Wimbledon.

CRYSTAL PALACE BAND.

WANTED, Good Solo Clarionet (£2 10s.) and Good First Horn (£2 5s.). State age and experience, and how soon free. HERBERT GODFREY, Crystal Palace, S.E.

WANTED, Double Bass, experienced Theatre and Hall, any line for permanency; best credentials. F. W. W., Times, Formby, Liverpool.

C. W POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.

WANTED, Double Bass, to open Wellingborough, Monday; to wear evening dress, and assist with fittings. MORRELL, Corn Exchange, Bedford.

WANTED, a First-class Trombone Player, for a Provincial Music Hall. Age, terms, and reference to Box 6,968, "The Era."

WANTED, good Bombardon, Trombone, and Solo Cornet, for Buff Bill's American Circus and Menagerie. T. REYNOLDS, Mus.-Dir., Enniskillon, Monday; Trillock, Tuesday; Co. Fermanagh, Ireland.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, LIVERPOOL. Managing-Director, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.

WANTED, First Horn Player, to commence Monday, Sept. 21, 1908. Apply, with references, to J. O. SHEPHERD, Musical Director.

WANTED, Good 'Cello Player; must be experienced in Grand and Comic Opera. Terms, age, and references, to J. R. BINGLEY, Musical Director, P. O. W. Theatre, Grimsby.

WANTED, at once, for Hancock's Coliseum, a good Pianist, permanent situation if suitable. Apply, W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Fair Field, Tiverton, until Sat.; Barnstaple, Mon.

WANTED, Pianist. Terms, photo., &c. Forty weeks if suitable. WILL KNOTT, Union Hall, Cupar, Fife.

WANTED, Drums, to open Monday with Timps. preferred; also Flute and Piccolo, to open Sept. 21; both must be thoroughly accustomed to Variety. Apply, with terms, age, and references, CONDUCTOR, Palace, Carlisle. Other instruments may write in.

WANTED, Full Orchestra, four Firsts, two Seconds, Viola, 'Cello, Bass, Flute, Oboe, Clarionet, Bassoon, two Cornets, Trombone, and Tympani, for Hippodrome, Nottingham, to open Sept. 28. Apply through branch secretary, to Jos. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary, Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

LONDON COUNTY ASYLUM, HANWELL, W.

WANTED, Musician Attendants (male), Violin or Violoncello. Wages, £29 a year, rising, after six months, if satisfactory, to £31, and thence by £1 annually, to £40, with extra pay for band duty, and board, lodging, washing, and uniform. Previous asylum experience not necessary. Daily leave 8 to 10 p.m. Weekly leave 1½ days. Annual leave (after completion of probation), first 15 months six days next 12 months twelve days, each successive 12 months fourteen days. Candidates must not be more than 35 years of age. First-class Attendants, at wages rising to £50 a year, are appointed by promotion from second-class attendants. Apply to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, London County Asylum, Hanwell, W.

WANTED, Musicians, all Lines; must be thoroughly experienced and smart Performers, well up in Variety Business. Open Monday, Sept. 14, Hippodrome, Peterborough. Wire lowest terms, FOSTER, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Musicians to keep away from Munich, owing to dispute there.—A. SEITZ, Secretary International Confederation of Musicians, J. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—

To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. "Re Advertisement "'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.' "Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion. "Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER:—

"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.' "Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer. "Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WEST RIDING ASYLUM, SCALEBOR PARK, BURLEY-IN-WHARFEDALE.

WANTED, Musician Attendants, Clarionet and Flute and Piccolo Players. Salary commences at £33 per annum, with board and lodging. Applications to the CLERK and STEWARD.

WANTED, experienced Orchestral Musicians, for S. Africa and India; 12 months, sailing November. Apply letters, lowest reference, DELKAT, 92, West End-lane.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Musical Director (Violin), desires a change, life abstainer, age 31, energetic, and thoroughly experienced in variety, &c., at present (fifth year) M.D. in good theatre. Box 6,984, "The Era."

WANTED, Position as Conductor or Pianist, by thoroughly experienced man; also Composer and Arranger; excellent refs. Photo sent. Box 6,972, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Musical-Director (Piano and Violin), at Liberty, Tour or Resident (Tour preferred); good refs.; well experienced. Address, Box 6,933, "The Era."

WANTED, by Smart Pianist-Conductor, immediate Re-engagement, thoroughly experienced variety and dramatic, young, reliable. Refer Messrs. Percy Broadhead and John Tiller. CAMPBELL, 64, Lord Roberts-st., Walney, Barrow.

WANTED, Known, Rowland Clark, Conductor, Pianist, and Double Bass, at Liberty. 23, Lebanon-road, Croydon. 'Phone, Post Croydon 835.

WANTED, by Musical-Director, also First-class Orchestra; now performing in London; at Liberty Theatre, Varieties, &c. Box 6,994, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin; experienced, any Business. CHAS. BACON, 7 Railway-terrace, Margate, Kent.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, Repetiteur, Variety or Theatre, young, sober, and reliable, highest refs., can open at once. Box 6,985, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, thoroughly experienced any business; sober and steady; good reference. MCMAHON, 53, Worcester-street, Gloucester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, or Viola; just concluding 7 years Leader (Theatre). PRITCHARD, 81, Norwich-rd, Lowestoft.

WANTED, by Leader Blue Hungarians, Engagements, Solo Playing, &c., Cafés. Letters, Grand Central Hotel, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, experienced Lady Violinist, Leader, Disengaged, Sept. 20; also experienced 'Cellist. Apply, Box 6,970, "The Era."

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, Open Monday; experienced all Lines; age 30; abstainer; distance no object. VIOLINIST, c/o Price, Westcroft-street, Droitwich.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Violinist and Pianist, abstainer, transpose, memorise; experienced; Disengaged Sept. 21. FRANK NICHOLS, 27, Plymouth-road, Barry Island, Glamorgan.

WANTED, by Violinist-Trombone, Engagement, thoroughly experienced. Wire or write, WM. QUINN, 73, Frederick-place, Woolwich, London.

WANTED, Engagement, as First Violin, to combine Pianist; experienced Accompanist and Composer. M. K., 17, College-street, Kemp Town, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement as Violin or Viola, young, experienced, references, at Liberty Sept. 28, MUSICIAN, 27, Fixby-avenue, Pye Nest, Halifax.

WANTED, Re-engagement, in good Theatre or Music Hall, as Second Violin; fully experienced; just completed season, Riviere's Orchestra, Colwyn Bay. W. JACOBS, 32, Booth-street, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Nellie Mitchell, experienced Violinist, Leader and Soloist; open after Oct. 31. Olympian Quartette, Southwold.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class All-round Violinist (combine piano). Recent engagements include first violin and accompanist (concerts), leader (theatre), &c. MILLS, Pier Pavilion, Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Violinist and Cellist (ladies); can open Monday. MATTHEWS, 230, Croxted-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, by Girl Violinist, Experienced, Evening Engagements, Solo or Orchestra, London preferred. Letters only. M. BAMBERG, 23, Greville-road, Kilburn, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornettist, experienced, any business, Midlands preferred. Address, Box 6,977, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement by Solo Cornet, well up in Variety; excellent references; at Liberty Sept. 14. FRANKS, 56, Fountain-street, Accrington.

WANTED, by Cornet and Trombone, Euphonium combined, Engagement, any business; sober, reliable; good refs. EDWIN WILLIAMS, 27, Haulybryn-road, Pontypridd.

WANTED, by good reliable Cornet, age 26, abstainer, Engagement, any business. Refs., &c., apply H. A. TIMMS, 5, Vaughan-street, Pontypridd.

WANTED, Engagement as Solo Cornet, well experienced in Variety business, Liberty Oct. 5. T. ANDERSON, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, First or Second Cornet, 16 years' experience Solo Cornet in First-class Theatres, Halls. CORNET, 147, Lewes-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Cornet; thoroughly experienced; Theatre or Music Hall. Liberty Sept. 21. ISAIAH PERRY, Hippo., Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED, Known, J. Long, Cornet, First or Second seeks re-engagement, any Business; experienced. Address, 28, Green-lanes, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged after Sept. 20, Miss Maud Jones, Double Bass, Pier, Clacton. Permanent address, 44, Cranmer-road, North Brixton.

WANTED, Known, 4-string Bass Player, Disengaged Sept. 19, any business. Photo and testimonials sent if required. Address, F. G. POWELL, Victoria Pier, Folkestone.

WANTED, by good Trombonist, Engagement, Concert, Band, Theatre, or Music Hall; experienced, young, and reliable; first-class refs. ALBERT MATTHEWS, Municipal Orchestra, Town Hall, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, Mr. E. Holland highly recommends Trombone and Euphonium, abstainer, Disengaged Oct. 1. Winter Gardens, Gt. Yarmouth.

WANTED, by good Trombone, Engagement; thoroughly experienced Variety or otherwise; sober and reliable. Address, SMITH, Trombone, Albert Hall, Southport.

WANTED, by experienced Trombonist, position in Orchestra, Theatre or Music Hall; permanency; best of references. J. L., 54, Mall-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Known, Miss Minnie Kent (Trombone), Disengaged Sept 21. Perm. address, 23, Moring-road, Tooting S.W. Pier, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Orchestral Euphonium and Concert Soloist, Disengaged Oct. 3. HOWARTH, 5, Earnest villas, Key-road, Clacton.

WANTED, Known, good Euphonium and Bombardon Players at Liberty; just finishing Saltburn, Sept. 13; any business. J. STEPHENSON, 44, Durham-road, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, Known, BB Flat Bombardon, open, just finished season's engagement; any business. P. HARMAN, 22, Fraser-street, Redminster, Bristol.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced French Horn Player; Disengaged Sept. 14. P. GENET, 116, Faraday-road, Wimbledon.

WANTED, by good Horn Player, Theatre, Music Hall, or Concert Work. Dis. Sept. 20. 53, Beechville-avenue, Dean-road, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, French Horn, reliable player, Disengaged; willing to finish seaside Engagement. C/o C. George, 7, Little Drummond-street, London, N.W.

WANTED, by French Horn, Engagement, Military or String; good references. Apply, FRENCH HORN, 22, Clipstone-street, Great Portland-street, London, W.

WANTED, Known, 'Cellist, double-handed, well experienced, would like to join Staff Band, or would accept permanent Engagement. Box 6,979, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cello; good refs.; would deputise.
'CELLO, 4, Godman-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ethel Sitolff, 'Cellist, Disengaged Sept. 21, concluding 3 months' engagement. Address, Pier Pavilion, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, in or near London; can Double Contra Bass; excellent refs., &c.; any Business. Address, 12, Heber-mans., Queen's Club-gdns., Kensington.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cellist, excellent refs.
F. DENT, 28, Colebrook-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cellist; experienced English and Continental Concert, Theatre, Variety; smart, 30; Dis. Sept. 14; excellent refs. DELK, 92, West End-lane.

WANTED, Known, Viola, Disengaged from voyage, Sept. 12, seeks Engagement.
Address, Box 6,963, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, experienced Oboe, disengaged for next two weeks, requires Engagement or Deputising; excellent refs., &c. WRAIGHT, 3, Mount Sion, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Engagement as Oboe, well up in any business; excellent references. State terms. OBOIST, 221, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Engagements, by Æneas Gibson, First-class All-round Harpist (combine Piano); Gibson Bros., Trio, Harp, Violin, Clarionet. Variety Company Touring to Australia write, or Trio Erard Harp; hotel or first-class steamship; separately.
Genuine musicians, young.

Music Sellers, Ilkley.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, any Business; well experienced in Theatre and Music Hall Business; first-class references. Box 6,969, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, good reliable Flute and Piccolo, at Lib. Sept. 13, or Deputising, London or Suburbs. FLAUTIST, 30, Gainsford-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Engagement, as Flute and Piccolo, experienced, good refs, any business, permanency preferred. Howard, 5, North-road, Aberystwith

WANTED, Engagement, as Flautist; reliable and competent; Theatre preferred; just concluding five months' engagement. A. SMITH, Flautist, Palace, Carlisle.

WANTED, Engagement, in Orchestra or Concert Party, by Miss Maud Hummerston, Pianist and Accompanist, good sight reader, MS., &c. 75, Links-road, Tooting Junction, S.W.

WANTED, by Pianist (Lady), Re-engagement; experience Orch., Accompanist, Dances, good Sight-reader. H., 26, Birdhurst-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, experienced Pianist, any business, Lib. after 19th, London or near preferred; excellent refs. F. ROGERS, Pianist, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist; fine Accompanist and Sight-reader; or join Ladies' Orchestra; well recommended. M. SCULLEY, 12, Stockwell Park-road.

WANTED, Known, George Howard, Pianist, Tenor Vocalist, concluding brilliant successful season as Vocalist and Pianist here; at Liberty Oct. 1 onwards, any business. 8, Hope-street, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist; sober and reliable; good references; combine Clarionet. PIANIST, Bouverie-mews, Folkestone.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Tympanist, &c., permanency, any business; good references; abstainer. Apply, CRYER, 36, Yorkshire-street, Morecambe, W.E.

WANTED, Re-engagement, Double Drums and Effects; good references; total abstainer; Disengaged at Margate, 12th. R. MURPHY, 14, Cowper-road, Margate.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Double Drummer with Effects, Dramatic, Variety; excellent references. JELFS, 47, Crowndale-road, Camden Town, N.W.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, an Engagement; thoroughly experienced or deputise. DRUMS, 38, Draycott-avenue, Fulham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Offers, Bateson's Orchestra (small), Dis. Oct. 1, any bus. Musical-Directress, Miss MAUDE TRAINER, Pavilion, Lakeside, near Ulverston.

WANTED, Re-engagement, Café Hotel, &c., Phipps' Bijou Orchestra, concluding highly Successful Season at Leading Hotel. Address, Fort Anne Hotel, Douglas

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Lady Trio or Quartette at Liberty, small Orchestra; take engagements for one evening, cheap; Italian Quartette, now Franco-British; open for later engagements. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Engagement, Continental Circus, Fife and Drum Band, for Parade; Clarts., Piccolo, and Drums, inside show. BANDMASTER, Edenderry, King's Co.

WANTED, Proprietors, Managers, and Directors of Music requiring efficient and reliable Conductors and Instrumentalists, to apply for same to the National Federation of Professional Musicians, Trade Union, Reg. No. 1398. Eligible Musicians earnestly invited to join. Benefits: Sick, Burial, and Victimisation Pay, Fire Insurance Business Protection, &c., &c. Write at once for propaganda to Hon. Sec., J. BALL, 19, Grange-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

HENGLER'S CIRQUE,
GLASGOW.

WANTED, during the Winter Season, First-class Specialities, Big Acrobatic Troupes, Performing Animals of every Description.

If unknown, say where can be seen during the next few weeks.

On Demande, Attractions de Première Ordre.

Gesucht, Schaunummer ersten ranges.

All must say when and where in Glasgow before.

Apply, with lowest terms and fullest particulars,
GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
The Palace,
Gorleston,
By Yarmouth.

WANTED, for John Scott's Royal Circus, Smart Ground Acts;
those who wrote before write again.
State lowest terms in first letter.
Monday, Grantham;
Tuesday, Bottesford, near Nottingham;
After 12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, at once, Girl, used to Rings or Trapeze work. Write, or apply from 2 to 5, Temperance Hall, Cambridge-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, a Lad about fifteen, for well-known Acrobatic and Juggling Act; must have knowledge of came. Write immediate, with particulars, Box 6,981, "The Era."

WANTED, Two Lads, who can Juggle. Apply,
KARL HAAPER, 44, Cranbourn-st., Leicester-square.

WANTED, Smart Tumbler, Sept. 21.
DOUGLAS,
20, Eagle-st., West End, Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

Look Out. Look Out. Look Out.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Circus Proprietors, Hippodrome Managers, and Agents to Note that the Greatest Act before the Public of the World will shortly return to England.
The Royal Ohmys,
The Royal Ohmys,
The Royal Ohmys,
Greatest of all Acrobatic Equestrians, on Three, Four, and Five Bare-back Horses. The only act of the kind ever seen in a Circus Ring. The talk of every town in Denmark. Just had the great honour of appearing by command before H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Denmark and Royal Family. Complimented by H.R.H. and crowd of 3,000 people. Read what the Denmark paper says:—The Royal Ohmys' appearance before the Crown Prince has caused a sensation in Aarhus, and so delighted H.R.H. that, after their wonderful performance on three bare-backed horses, they were commanded to return before him to receive Royal congratulations. The Royal Ohmys return to England end of October, after fulfilling a six months' engagement with Bech. Olsen's Great Circus, Denmark. The Royal Ohmys have been the talk of every town visited by this great circus, and the Royal Ohmys are now the talk of Denmark. Bech. Olsen, Director, says:—Mr. Ohmy, your family are the finest performers I have ever seen. They have raised my circus above all the others in this country. They must come back to me next season, whatever the cost may be. This should prove to Proprietors and Managers what these Acts are like. Will be at liberty for the winter season end of October, with six good numbers. The most up-to-date acts before the public. For list of acts, &c., address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Bech Olsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

WANTED, Engagement, for Winter Season, for Buff Bill's Circus and Menagerie, with a full Circus Company; also Troupe of Performing Wolves, Lions, &c., whose performance caused the Greatest Sensation last winter in Liverpool. Enniskillen, Monday; Trillick, Tuesday.

WANTED, Frank Anderson, Talking and Knockabout Clown and Entrées, and his Comedy Knockabout Seizing Donkey, at Liberty for a few weeks. Perm., 3, Leopold-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Walonell, the Greatest of all Comedy Bar Acts, Vacant Monday, also 21st. Address, 123, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Monday, also 28th. Wire. Original Walonells and Dog. Address,
3, Station-terrace, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, by Catcher. Engagement, in Throwing Act. Address letters,
H. M., 63, Loampit-vale, Lewisham, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ada Webb's Water Wonders, the World's Greatest Aquatic Artists. Continued Success, Hippo., Great Yarmouth. Offers invited.

WANTED, by Wild Animal and Elephant Trainer (German), employed by First-class Firms only, well accustomed to arrange different groups, Engagement. MAX DETTMERS, c/o Hagenbeck's Indian Arena, Franco-British Exhibition, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

EMPIRE, YORK.
NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists. Nothing too big.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Theatre, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Monday, Sept. 21, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

PAL, BOSTON. Lessees, HOLLOWAY and FOUNTAIN.

WANTED, Sept. 28, for re-opening, and onwards, Variety Artists all Lines, or good Combination.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Sept. 28, and onwards. A. E. PICKARD, as above.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Sept. 28 and onwards. Address, MANAGER, as above.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, for Sept. 21, onwards, small town, once nightly (twice Saturdays). State lowest first letter.
BEANLAND and EMERSON, Parade, Bridlington.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.

WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Star Artists, Immediate and Future Dates, good break going North. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, Single Turns doing Double, two weeks, Oct. 12, 19, 26, on.
CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, also Dancers and Chorus Ladies.
SINCLAIR'S Agency, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Sept. 21, on. 1A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

WANTED, A1 Fresco Artists all Lines, on Shares, rehearse 8 sept. 22, open Sept. 28. Good Amateurs write to VICTORIA, Field Lodge, Walton-on-Naze.

WANTED, for two Fit-up Pantomime Tours, Artists all Lines, several Agents. Rehearse Dec. 18. HARMSWORTH MAYNARD, P. O., Heanor.

CHELTENHAM
NEW PALACE
THEATRE OF VARIETIES.

Architect, Mr. WINSTANLEY, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

GAIETY THEATRE, BLYTH.

WANTED, Artists of Note, Sept. 14, onward.
Will Entertain any Act at a Price.
Hall Small.
Apply,
W. YATES GREGORY, The Tower, New Brighton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Freaks, &c., for my new Pastimes and Exhibition; best position in Folkestone; opening Sat., Sept. 19. MILTON, Pier, Folkestone.

WANTED, for Cardiff Exhibition, Cathays Park, Saturday, Sept. 19, to Oct. 10, Fairy Fountain for above dates. Address, with full particulars, MANAGER, Maritime Exhibition, Cathays Park, Cardiff.

WANTED, Lady Palmist. Apply by letter, stating experience, terms, &c., and enclose photo. where possible, A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, at Once, for Hancock's Coliseum, two Lady Paraders, to Sing and Dance inside and Parade outside, Sisters preferred; also two Comedians, and a good Acrobatic Troupe, Trapeze Act, or Bicycle Troupe. Write to W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Fair Field, Tiverton, until Sat.; then Barnstaple, Mon.

WANTED, one or two Knockabout Clowns or Comedians, accustomed to Fair Business preferred, and a couple of Acts. Write or wire, Mrs. E. PINDER, Royal Circus, Stranraer.

WANTED, a thorough good Comedian, also good Descriptive Vocalist, to travel with Auction Mart; men up to date, with plenty of gags, &c. Apply, Box 6,971, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, Coloured Men, Women, and Children, together or separate, for Savage Show; also Male or Female Midgets, and other good Novelties, to travel with Exhibition. Wire, SHOWMAN, 43, Franklin-st., Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, smart Marionette Figure Worker, for Trades Exhibition Side Show (Touring), open near London. SAUNDERS, 25, Ranelagh-road, Weymouth.

WANTED, Shops, Halls, &c., in good positions, for Tom Norman's New Troupe of Dahomey Amazon Warriors, nine men, women, and children. Will rent or share. Christmas settled. Apply, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Madame Eugenie Leslie, Phrenologist, Society Palmist, smart, up-to-date, brilliant success here, at Liberty Oct. 1 onwards. 8, Hope-street, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Known, Auctioneer, Disengaged; lifelong experience; understands ins and outs; all classes of stock; steady worker. Pay own fare for trial. Box 6,987, "The Era."

WANTED, by Giant, Engagement as Door Attendant, Advertising Manager, or Advertising Giant. C. DAY, 56, Saville-street, Leeds.

WORLD'S FAIR,
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON.
Sole Lessee and Manager, T. E. READ.

WANTED, Known, this mammoth aggregation will open for the thirtieth consecutive year on Dec. 24, 1908, till Feb. 6, 1909, with a hitherto unprecedented programme of the most astounding and phenomenal Attractions conceivable, a Programme teeming with marvellous features, forming an inconceivable assemblage of the world's greatest Shows. Sir Edward Hanneford's "Great Canadian Circus," with an entirely new Company of Equestrians, absolutely new to England, amalgamating with leading Music Hall Star Artists, for the weekly changes, while the Aerial Shows are incomparable and of the most unique and thrilling character ever seen in this Home of Aerial Shows. Councillor Bostock's new and up-to-date Zoological Collection has many new additions; the Grand Free Ball-room, so great a feature last season, will be on a more lavish style this year, while the various Shows, Games, &c., will be on the most extensive and up-to-date scale possible. Notwithstanding the enormous variety of Attractions the admission will still remain the ever-popular Sixpence, of which I am the Pioneer.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.
The Lessee is now prepared to Let Space for Johnstown Floods, Hale's Tours, Submarines, Swimming, Skating, Ground Booths, Dog and Monkey, &c., and Automatic Machines, Sole Right, or any First-class Show.

WANTED, Wanted, Showmen,
and other
Travellers
to know
that I have
Ground to Let
at
Birmingham
Onion Fair,
Sept. 24 to 26,
and at
Leicester
October Fair,
Oct. 8 to 13.
Special Attractions
will be provided
to make this
a Record Fair
for Business.
Write in at Once
to make sure of Ground.
Numerous other Fairs and Wakes
to Follow.
P. COLLINS,
Gondola Works, Walsall.
Telegrams: "Gondola, Walsall."
Telephone: No. 80, Walsall.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

To Showmen and Others.
WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Side-shows, Sports, Darts, &c., for Winter Season; also Wanted to Hire, Good Set Distorting Mirrors. SAVAGE, Pleasure Land, Brixton Station, S.W.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, for Side-shows, near Canning Town Station. The Old Show Ground. Apply, ELLEN SKETCHLEY, 3, Bidder-street, Canning Town, E.

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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.
Rehearsal at 1.30 for:—
Bella and Bijou, New York Nippers, the Simms, George Newburn, Bioscope, Narow Bros., J. W. Rowley, Nellie Martell, Harry Rogers and Co., "Makers of History."

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Clark and Hamilton, G. H. Elliott, the Howards, Barry Lupino, Dubois' Baboon, "The Tea Shop," Mavis Clare, Illustrated Song, Bioscope, Ten Ji Troupe.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," George Ridgwell, Avrignys, Lady Mansel and Juveniles, Laurie and Beatty, Rossi Ashton, Walter Curtis, Illustrated Song, Bioscope, Brown and Le Clerq Co.

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Formby, Jackley Trio, Six Lancashire Lassies, Nell Emerald, Mabel Bardine and Co., Ted and May Hopkins, Nellie Coleman, Harry Drew, Bioscope, John Humphries and Co. in "Ancient Britons."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Mme. Hanako, May Edouin, Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Fred Edwards and Co., Little Zola, Three Meers, Canty's Grotto, Illustrated Song, Bioscope, L'Incognita.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Barton and Ashley, Griffiths Bros., Little Ganty, Bellonini, Carlotta Levey, R. H. Douglass, Cissie Curlette, Madge May, Bioscope, Jackson Family.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Robey, Illustrated Song, Three Huxter Bros., Verno and Voyce, Ethel Hayden, Spry and Austin, Kathleen Gray, Bioscope, "No. 99."

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Ernest R. Abbott's company in "Sapho."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
George Gray and Co. in "The Fighting Parson," Sydney Lee, Rezeretis, Happy Tom Parker, Olgar and Elgar, Agnes Tina, O'Malley and Brown, Jack Hayton, Bioscope, Ella Shields.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Hymack, Will English, Rhoda Paul, Seven Wulfrunas, Ruth Lytton, Mlle. Eldee, Musical Schaffers, Walter Wade, Bioscope, Dunedin Troupe.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Les Cloches de Corneville," Venie Clements, Imperial Russian Troupe, Three Merrils, Beleclair Bros., Will Poluski, jun., Chas. Santon, Carl Howard, Bioscope, Leslie Harris.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Alec Hurley, Lily Langtry, Les Martineks, Naughton and Gold, Foreman and Fannan, Garganys, Olive and Owen, Alf Chester, Bioscope, Nellie Wallace.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
W. C. Fields, Chas. Vincent, Cussac Talma, Thorpe and Coe, Terry and Lambert, Ray Wallace, Leonie Dixon, Bioscope, Callahan and St. George.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Herbert Darnley's "Brigands of Tarragona," Olive Armadale, Molasso Quartette, Harry Grey, Syd May, Warsaw Bros., Kitty Clinton, Bioscope, Tom Edwards, Arthur Lennard.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Hardie and Von. Leer's Co. in "The Sailor's Wedding."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Walter Passmore and Co., Frank Couch, La Dansouse, Hayes and Wynne, Theo Boumeester and Co., Lyric Quartette, Boyd and Gilfain, Bioscope, George Bastow.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Dutch Daly, George Gilbey, Three Cape Girls, Albert Christian, Fred Elton, Kate Cohen, Johnny Walker, Bioscope, Henry Coutts and Co.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Vesta Tilley, Bi Bo Bi, De Wynne Bros., Ernie Mayne, Bros. Redmond, Lena Verdi, Marion Scott, Bioscope, Arnold Bell and Co. in "Paul Kauvar."

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Horace Goldin, Eight Lancashire Lads, Fred Keeton, Duncan and Godfrey, Ben Albert, Leo Tell, Madge Osmond, Bioscope, Lydia Yeamans.

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EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
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The Boissets in "The Bricklayers," Hal Hughman, Violet Ray, Edie King, Drew and Alders, Carina Sisters, Bioscope, Chas. Whittle.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Joseph Hart's "Futurity Winner," the Leonards, Hans and Lux, the Maples, Herbert Shelley, Sisters Pine, Fred Lincoln, Bioscope, Illustrated Song, Charlene and Charlene.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Harry Randall, Lola Patey, Sados, Barton and Franklyn Trio, Proveanies, Eight Stella Girls, Takio, Nettie Starr, Bioscope, Tom Foy and Co.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Hetty King, Herald Comedy Four, Orpheus, Dion Wade, May Mars, the Kirbys, Five Ofracs, Great Northern Troupe, Bioscope, Ella Retford.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Eugene Stratton, Hartley Wonders, Ross and Lewis, Rousby's "Greater London," Maggie Walsh, George Rae, Maud Vera, Bioscope, Egbert Bros., Cruikshank.

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Odette Valerie, "Visions of Wagner," Mezzettis, Jules Charmettes, Alberto Troupe, Celia Galley, Dumond Trio, Four Regals, Chas. Wilson, Eight of Hearts, Bioscope, George Augur and Co., Gus Elen.

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Mlle. Sahara, Beale and Broadway, Maud Laverne, Mackintosh and Royal, Bessie Butt, Howe and Ardie, the McIleaveys, Pictures, Harry Herbert.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Ethel Ra Leslie and Co., Bob Hamilton, C. J. Johnson, Stewart and Morgan, Arabella Allen, Johnson and Bert, Pictures, Jennie Johns.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies, Daunton-Shaw Troupe, Crown Trio, La Belle Nello, Ed. E. Ford, Chas. Stevens, Bioscope, Reichen's Dogs.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Prof. Morton, P. W. Duke, Harry Lewis, Frank Edwards, Animated Pictures.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
R. A. Roberts, Bioscope, Beatrice Bonnie, Howard and St. Clair, Dan Conroy, Gladys Mavius, Stylo, the Bohemians, Queenie Dell, Fred Earle, Bros. Horne.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Craggs, Harold Thorley, Harry May Hemsley, Mitchell and Cain, the Bensons, Mason and Bart, J. P. Carroll, Bioscope, Mendel.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Mark Sheridan, Aida Martine, Gus Le Clerq, Lottie Govell, Phil and Nettie Peters, Marie Empress, Eugene and Willie, Pictures, J. P. Ling.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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Sung by Miss Ella Retford.

"HE WAS VERY, VERY GOOD TO ME," "WHEN I GET BACK AGAIN TAE BONNIE SCOTLAND" and "THE WEDDIN' O' SANDY MacNAB."
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Norworth and A. Von Tilzer),
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"ALL DAY" and "LIMERICKS"
(F. Leo).
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(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski).
Sung by Miss Carlotta Levey and Miss Florrie Forde.

"SUE, SUE SUE, I'M VERY MUCH IN LOVE WITH YOU"
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In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.
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CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, SEPT. 14, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Harry Weldon, Charles Tuppen, Paulasto Troupe, Gregson Trio, Minnie D'Aubyn, Dolly and Elsie, Jack Neil, Cullen and Carthy, Annie Schuberth, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Bransby Williams, Sisters Edwardes, Thornbury, Jock Walker, Violet Nunn, Denwartz Troupe, Jay W. Winton, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Jack Pleasants, Elmo and Rigo, Larola, Harry Milton, Bertha Winder, Rose Cabani, Alfonzo, Leo and Roland, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Sisters Brenton.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Hyde and Cody Trio, Sisters Cora, Burns and Bentley, Chas. Banks and Dog, Five Vernons, Helen Martin, Three Arleys, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Grand Beauty Show, Josh Dixon, Ethel Sheffer, Bros. St. Clair, Chas. F. Best, Albert Letine, Arthur Norton, Madge Grey, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Raymond, Fred Moule and Co., Millicent Freres, Wallace Whitney, Beattie Foster, Alskarno Trio, Dora Daly.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"Girl's Cross Roads."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"When London Sleeps."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"The Still Alarm."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
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PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Florrie Forde, W. G. Wesley, Carr and Rose, Gracie Hunt, the Miltons, Sisters Darnton, Dave Samuels, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
"Mumming Birds," Gold and Sterling, Alpho, Three Sisters Silcott, Marie Jones, "London Suburbia," Edwards and Dacre, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal 1 o'clock.
Wright, Aitken, and Co., Emma Don, Gladys and Alber, Norah Stockelle, Tossing Austins, Margit and Lener, Hayes and Merritt, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Ten Loonies, Jimmy Laurie, Mabelle May, Gibbon and Bell, Laurence Barclay, Georgina Middleton, Jack Lane, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Cliffe Berzac's Ponies, Les Zelovas, Clark and Hayden, Five Broadway Girls, Harry Cotton, Kelly and Ashby, the Waldrens, Herbert Clifton, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Ten Dixie Girls, Cissie Thompson, Keen and Weston, Happy Attwood, Goggin and Davis, Tennis and Laune, Bayne and Hope, Two Rubies, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Mayvilles, Raymond, Dancing Gilberts, Harrigan and Holt, Woodhouse and Wells, Sisters Varley, Elroy, The Strattons, Ted Waite, Geo. Marriott and Co.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Lena Wylie, Raymond, Stuart and Evans, Gravetta and Parr, Marion Armitage, The Almas, Dot Moss, Dorris Gilbert, Geo. Porter, Browning and Wally, Olga Andre and Co., "Clever Mr. Tugg."

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée every Monday.
Harry Zetter, Raymond, Cedar and Elgar, Three Prestons, Floradora Girls, Rose Pink, Hughes and Carney, Henney and Blanche, "London Suburbia," Carl Colyer.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
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Code Word, "FEMINISTE."

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MARY STUART.

Code Word "ESTIME."

Mary Stuart, the daughter of Jacques V. and Mary of Guise, was married to François II. King of France. After the death of her husband in 1560, Mary Stuart left France on account of the persecutions of Catherine of Medicis, and, weeping bitterly, she came back to Scotland. Her father having died, the throne was hers. She was barely nineteen years of age, and her youth, as well as her great beauty and charm of manners, won for her the hearts of the Scots. To those qualities were added a great generosity and a deep attachment to the Roman Catholic Faith. When Mary arrived in Scotland she found it in the hands of the Protestants, who gave their young Queen much trouble, and at last revolted against her and put her into prison. She escaped to England, and asked her cousin, Elizabeth, for protection, but the latter betrayed her, and had her imprisoned during nineteen years, after which she had her beheaded. This film, although put on the market last Tuesday morning only, has proved such a success that we have already sold all the copies we received from Paris. But we are expecting a fresh supply to-day in order to cope with the demand.

840ft. The Subject, **£14.** Colouring and Toning, **£9 5s.**

THE BEE AND THE ROSE.

Code Word, "ETABLE."

The Bee Queen in her wanderings meets the Queen of the Roses in a flower-bed, and kisses the living flower. Suddenly the latter returns to its former state, the bee drinks in its perfume, and falls asleep. A spider, seeing its opportunity, wraps the bee into its cobwebs; but the Queen is released by a swarm of bees coming to the rescue, and the film ends with a delightful ballet, composed of bees and roses.

346ft. The Subject, **£5 15s. 4d.** Colouring, **£3 12s.**

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Code Word, "EPITAPHE."

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Code Word, "FACHEUX."

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510ft. The Subject, **£8 10s.**

A NOBLEMAN'S PLEASURE.

Code Word, "FAUTE."

Nothing is easier for a rich man than to make a peasant woman forget her duties, provided she is a bit of a flirt. The nobleman in this film uses a stratagem in order to make her come to the Court. But as her husband has his suspicions he goes to the palace, and being recognised the moment he thinks he is going to have his revenge, he is put into prison. His wife comes to him and asks for pardon. Yet, in spite of her entreaties, he makes her atone in a terrible manner for her lekieness.

595ft. The Subject, **£9 18s. 4d.**

A TRAGIC CORSO.

Code Word, "ENDROIT."

Old Captain Le Kerden has refused his consent to his son's marriage with a young girl of humble origin, and her brothers resolve to avenge her. At the carnival in Nice, the brothers, accompanied by their sister, and all disguised, follow the young man, who is enjoying himself with some friends. The girl calls him aside, and delivers him into her brothers' hands, when they promptly stab him. Not content with this, they drag him to his old father's house, and tell him that he is only drunk. He thanks them, and offers them wine, which they drink. It is only when they have gone that he discovers the trick played on him, and, sobbing, he throws himself on the silent form of his son.

790ft. The Subject, **£13 3s. 4d.** Toning, **£1 10s.**

THE MILLER, HIS SON AND HIS DONKEY. (La Fontaine's Fable).

Code Word, "ESCARGOT."

A miller and his son, on the way to the fair where they intend selling their donkey, carry the poor animal in order that it should be better looking and easier to sell. The passers-by laugh at them, and the miller tries to please each of them in turn; but at last, laughed at, and tired of the experiment, the old miller comes to the conclusion that in future he will do what he thinks best, without trying to please everybody.

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Code Word, "ENSEIGNE."

Young Noodle, the son of an unknown magician, is so much in love with the king's daughter that he must propose for her hand. The king, furious, shows the impertinent the door. But he had reckoned without the magician's power, which can be felt from a distance, and which takes the form of a daily flogging, at all and any hour of the day. Life is not worth living for the king, with such a punishment always threatening him, and he at last gives his consent to his daughter marrying the more than tiresome young man.

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Code Word, "ESPRIT."

Saphora, a proud and beautiful Roman patrician, is in love with the plebeian Marcus Petrus; but as Marcus is engaged to Lydia, a girl of his own class, Saphora has no chance of bringing him to her feet. One day Lydia, with a pitcher on her shapely shoulders is going to fetch water, when Saphora has her taken by her slaves and thrown into a dark dungeon, where the poor girl thinks with despair that she is going to die slowly. Yet a kindly slave has pity on the prisoner, and he informs Marcus of her whereabouts. After setting her free, Marcus inflicts on Saphora the very same treatment she had planned for her young victim. She is thrown alive into the horrible dungeon, and the story does not say whether she ever escaped.

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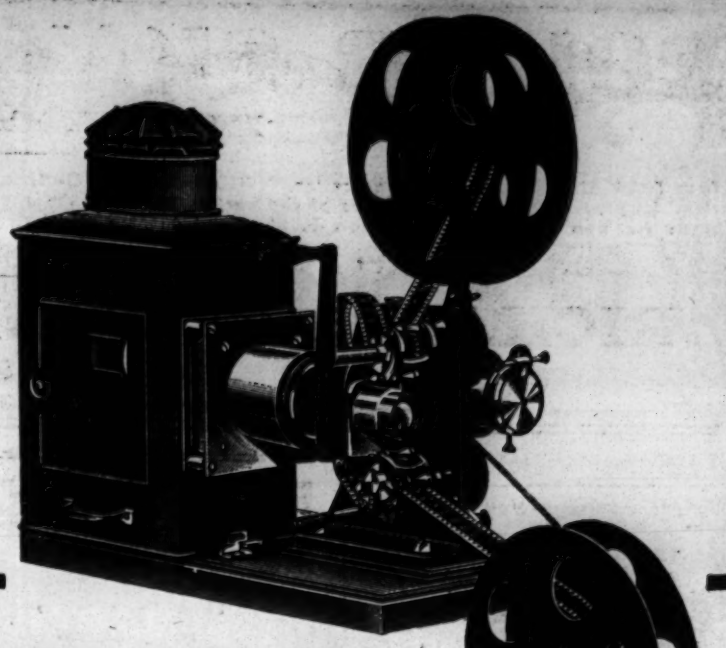

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Morning Advertiser, Jan. 20:—
That very useful, one might with truth add indispensable, publication, "The Era" Annual, has once again made its welcome appearance, and once again it is crowded with information concerning the theatrical doings of the past year. Those who purchase it (it is sold at the modest price of 1s.) will have in their possession a complete and succinct history of the year's drama in this country, and a record of the plays produced in Paris and Berlin. As an appetising hors d'œuvre to the solid information, the book contains a number of interesting short stories and amusing anecdotes by well-known actors and theatrical managers.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Daily Express:—
An interesting illustration of the proverb, "Brevity is the soul of wit," is given in some correspondence between Mr. Robert Arthur, the theatrical manager, and Mr. Lennox Pawle, published by the latter in "The Era" Annual for 1908.

THEATRE ROYAL, WHITEHAVEN.
FOR SALE.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
by MESSRS. JACKSON and MURRAY, at their MART, WHITEHAVEN,
on THURSDAY, the 17th of SEPTEMBER,
at 3·0 p.m.,
The Freehold Property known as
THE THEATRE ROYAL,

Situate in Roper-street, Whitehaven, lately occupied by Mr. Joseph Clark, Lessee thereof, with frontage to Roper-street 65ft. 6in. and extending backwards 70ft., together with the yard behind the same, and also all the Furniture, Fixtures, Fittings, Scenery, Stage Accessories, Stock Properties, and other effects of the Vendors therein.

The Theatre is a substantial stone structure, with ornamental porch, and it contains spacious Auditorium, Stage, Dressing-rooms, Property-rooms, Refreshment Bars, Offices, &c. The Auditorium affords seating accommodation for 600, and comprises Stalls, Pit, Private Boxes, Dress Circle, Upper Circle, and Gallery. The Stage is in depth 26ft., in width 43ft. 10in., and in height 20ft. 4in. to the "flies," and 33ft. 5in. to the "gridiron." There are five Dressing-rooms, two Property-rooms, and two Refreshment Bars.

The Premises are conveniently situated, and have been successfully used as a Theatre for many years past, and the rent paid by the outgoing Lessee was £200 per annum. Certain alterations required by the Corporation of Whitehaven as to additional Exits, &c., can be carried out at a moderate cost.

There being no other Theatre in Whitehaven, or in the wide district between Workington, on the North, and Barrow-in-Furness, on the South, the present sale affords an exceptional opportunity for enterprising theatrical managers.

Immediate possession can be given. Mr. John Tyson, 11A, King-street, Whitehaven, House Agent, will show the property. For Conditions of Sale and further particulars apply to
MUSGRAVE AND McKELVIE,
Solicitors, Whitehaven;
or to
BROWN, AULD, AND BROWN,
Solicitors, Whitehaven.

FREEHOLD MUSIC HALL (old-established), situate in main street of densely-populated neighbourhood, important South Coast town; commodious, well-fitted premises, seating 1200; two houses nightly. Excellent business now being done, but capable of great extension under more up-to-date management. Proprietor retiring. Will leave large proportion of purchase-money on mortgage.—FREDK. C. BRIDGES, 76, Commercial-road, Portsmouth.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL EXHIBITION, EDINBURGH, 1908

At the close of the above Exhibition on Oct. 31, the following attractions are for sale:—

GREAT CANADIAN WATER CHUTE,
65ft. high, 280ft. run, with double electric lift for passengers (by Waygoods); twelve boats, each holding eight people.

FLYING MACHINE,
Entirely new model, with eight cars, each holding four passengers, including electric plant, a 17 h.p. motor, and 500 lights.

SPIDER'S WEB MAZE,
Covering 1¼ miles of intricate passages; entirely new idea; including electrical fittings and 380 lamps.

MOULIN ROUGE,
Most novel sensational Helter-Skelter Windmill, the highest ever built—60ft. to the top—including motor for windmill and a large quantity of lamps.

4 VENETIAN GONDOLAS
in splendid condition, gorgeous fittings, straight from Venice, almost new.

HALL OF LAUGHTER,
Entirely new device for drawing crowds, including eleven full-sized distorting mirrors, jumping-floor, and other mechanical effects.

The above Entertainments can now be seen working, and can either be bought as they stand or re-erected in any part of Great Britain.

All further information to be had on application to DIRECTOR, Popular Amusements, Ltd., Scottish National Exhibition, Edinburgh.

THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE and ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES, WARRINGTON, LANCASHIRE.
DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
by MR. W. H. ROBINSON, at the ALBION HOTEL, PICCADILLY, MANCHESTER, on TUESDAY, the 15th Day of SEPTEMBER, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon prompt, subject to Conditions of Sale to be then and there produced.

LOT 1.
THE ROYAL COURT THEATRE,
Situate in Rylands-street, Warrington, Lancashire.
The site contains 965 square yards, or thereabouts, with a frontage of about 33 yards to Rylands-street.
This Lot is leasehold, and held for the residue of a term of 999 years from the 2nd day of July, 1860, subject to the payment of the yearly ground rent of £15 6s. 7d.
The property occupies a most central position in Warrington, which is a town of 70,000 inhabitants.
The Theatre is absolutely up to date, having been rebuilt last year from plans prepared by Mr. F. Bennett Smith, F.R.I.B.A. It is thoroughly equipped for the most elaborate dramatic and stage representations, is fully licensed, and contains, besides the usual Auditorium, with Circle and Gallery, two Bars, 10 splendid Dressing-rooms (heated), three property-rooms, engine-room (containing gas engine (National, 1907) and complete electrical plant), and four extra rooms under stage. The Theatre is beautifully decorated, is brilliantly lighted by electricity generated on the premises, duplicated by a complete system of gas lighting throughout, and is heated by hot water, well ventilated, and capable of accommodating 1,800 persons.
The purchaser shall take over all the Bookings from the date of the completion of the purchase, a list whereof can be inspected at the Offices of the undermentioned Manchester Solicitors 14 days prior to the date of the sale, and shall also take over the wet stock and cigars which shall be upon this Lot at the time of the completion of the purchase at a valuation, as provided by the Conditions of Sale.

LOT 2.
THE ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES
(previously known as the "Theatre Royal"), situate in Scotland-road, Warrington.
This Lot is freehold of inheritance and free from chief rent.
This Theatre has a dramatic licence. It was built in 1883, re-seated and decorated in 1907 by Messrs. Dean, of Birmingham, and contains Pit and Pit Stalls, Centre Circle, and Side Circles. During the past 4½ years it has been run with great success on the two-houses-a-night system. The existing Bookings do not extend beyond the date to be fixed for completion of the purchase.
The purchaser of each Lot shall take over the scenery, loose furniture, and trade utensils, chattels, and effects in and upon the premises included in the Inventory thereof signed by the Auctioneer, at a Valuation to be declared at the time of Sale. The Inventories may be inspected 14 days prior to the date of sale at the Offices of the undermentioned Manchester Solicitors, from whom, also, orders to view the Theatres can be obtained.
For further particulars apply to the Auctioneer, Cromwell Buildings, 11, Blackfriars-street, Manchester; Messrs. Henry Greenall and Co., Solicitors, Warrington; Messrs. Nasmith, Coutts, and Co., Chartered Accountants, 40, Brazennose-street, Manchester; or to
MESSRS. LAWSON, COPPOCK, AND HART,
Solicitors.
18, Tib-lane, Cross-street, Manchester.

BOROUGH OF LUDLOW.
The TOWN COUNCIL is prepared to
RECEIVE TENDERS
for the use and occupation, for show purposes, of the GROUND used for the old-established PLEASURE FAIR, held on the 1st of May, sufficient space being reserved for the local Stall-holders.
Full information can be obtained from the Clerk of the Markets.
Tenders in sealed envelopes, clearly stating whether for the whole available space or for individual lots, to be sent in to the undersigned before five o'clock in the afternoon of THURSDAY, the 8th day of Oct. next.
The Town Council does not bind itself to accept any tender.
By Order,
JOHN HERBERT WILLIAMS,
Town Clerk.
Town Clerk's Office, Ludlow. Sept. 3, 1908.

SPENCER BROS., Ltd.,
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1908. Letter L. No. 679.
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (CHANCERY DIVISION), LIVERPOOL DISTRICT REGISTRY.
Mr. Justice Joyce.
In the Matter of the LIVERPOOL THEATRES OF VARIETIES, LIMITED (Kiernan v. The Liverpool Theatres of Varieties, Limited, and Others).

Particulars of Important and Valuable Licensed THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS in the City of Liverpool,
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION
(Pursuant to an order dated the 11th day of July, 1908, made in the above action) by
MR. PETER DAVIES, F.A.I.
(the person appointed by Mr. Justice Joyce to sell the same),
On Thursday, the 24th day of September, 1908, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon prompt, at the Law Association Rooms, 14, Cook-street, Liverpool (subject to conditions of sale to be then and there produced).

PARTICULARS:—
Firstly, all that building licensed for use as a Theatre and Music Hall, known as
THE TIVOLI THEATRE,
situate on the south-west side of Lime-street, in the city of Liverpool, together with the scenery, stage effects, loose furniture, trade utensils, and other loose articles used in connection therewith or belonging thereto, but save and excepting therefrom the electric lighting installation in and upon the premises which is not included in the sale. The building has an entire frontage of 115ft. and 5in. or thereabouts to Lime-street, and the site thereof is held for the unexpired residue of a term of seventy-five years from the 4th day of November, 1882, created by an indenture of lease dated the 24th day of February, 1884, and made between the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of Liverpool of the one part and The Liverpool Real Property Company, Limited, of the other part, and will be sold subject to a peppercorn rent and to the covenants and conditions contained in the said indenture of lease.
SECONDLY, all that building licensed for use as a Theatre and Music Hall, known as
THE PARK PALACE,
situate on the east side of Mill-street, in the city of Liverpool, having a frontage to such street of 82ft. 4in. or thereabouts, together with the scenery, stage effects, loose furniture, trade utensils, and other loose articles used in connection therewith or belonging thereto, but save and excepting therefrom the electric lighting installation in and upon the premises, which is not included in the sale. This property is subject to restrictive covenants referred to in Condition 9 of the Conditions of Sale. The site, which contains 722 5-9 superficial square yards or thereabouts, is freehold and free from chief rent.
THIRDLY, all that building licensed for use as a Theatre and Music Hall, known as
PADDINGTON PALACE,
with the FOUR SHOPS forming part of such building, situate on the northerly side of Paddington and easterly side of Upper Mason-street, in the city of Liverpool, and having a frontage to Paddington of 102ft. 6in. or thereabouts, and to Upper Mason-street of 55ft. 6in. or thereabouts, together with the loose scenery, furniture, trade utensils, and other loose articles used in connection therewith or belonging thereto. The site is freehold and free from chief rent, but is subject to restrictive covenants referred to in Condition 9 of the Conditions of Sale. The said four shops are let at a total annual rental amounting to £88 8s. gross.
These well-known and established properties will be offered in one lot.
They are especially adapted for music halls, and are situate in very desirable positions in the city of Liverpool, the Tivoli, in Lime-street, being in the centre of the city, and the Park and Paddington being situated in the densely-populated districts of Toxteth Park and Edge Hill.
Particulars and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from, and the schedule of furniture fittings, scenery, and stage effects in the premises may be seen, at the Offices of the Auctioneer,
Mr. PETER DAVIES, 8, Cook-street, Liverpool;
Messrs. G. E. HOLT and SONS, Chartered Accountants, 8, Cook-street, Liverpool;
Messrs. OLIVER JONES, BILLSON, and CO., Solicitors, 5, Cook-street, Liverpool; or
Messrs. GRUNDY, KERSHAW, SAMSON, and CO., Solicitors, 31, Booth-street, Manchester, and 89, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

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ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
By ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

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AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, SEPT. 9.—*The Regeneration*, a drama in four acts and five scenes, in which Mr. Arnold Daly has won new laurels in a sort of Bill Sikes rôle at Wallack's Theatre, is a dramatisation of a story entitled *My Mamie Rose*, part of which tells of incidents in the life of Owen Kildare, its author, who collaborated with Walter Hackett in writing the play. The scenes are laid in the slums of New York, and the purport of the story is that a union between a man of low instincts and a woman of the better class would tend to degrade her rather than elevate him.

The first act begins in "Chicory Hall," a resort on the Bowery which is the home of a gang of toughs and thieves, of which Owen Conway, played by Mr. Daly, is the leader. This is one of the show places for "slumming parties," and one of these parties visits the resort for the purpose of witnessing a prize-fight. The party is conducted by Arthur Ames, and the gang has arranged among themselves to relieve the members of the party of their money and valuables. After the first round Ames is attacked, and the "thugs" are about to go through his pockets, when Marie Deering, a settlement worker, hearing the noise, enters the place from the street and orders the men to stop. They pay no attention to her, but she insists, and turns to Conway, repeating her peremptory command. Through some peculiar influence she appears to have she is successful, and Ames is allowed to depart. She then turns her attention to Conway as a subject for reformation, and makes an impression upon him by attacking his courage. Before she leaves he promises to come to her home on the following evening to take his first lesson. True to his promise, Conway arrives there in the second act, and meets Ames, who has been making love to Miss Deering. She tells Conway of the possibilities in life when one is good, and succeeds in making him offer up his first prayer. He returns to "Chicory Hall," and in a strong scene with Nellie, his sweetheart, renounces his associates and tells them he means to reform.

The third act apens a year later, with Miss Deering and Ames discussing the progress made by Conway. The latter comes in and goes through his paces, which arouses Ames to the fact that Miss Deering no longer looks on Conway merely as a pupil, but that she has fallen in love with him and that both are in danger of the consequences. Ames takes advantage of Miss Deering's absence from the room to explain the situation to Conway, who finally agrees with Ames. He is told that he can only drag Miss Deering down, and that the only way for him to succeed is to do it alone. He has an opportunity of showing his mettle when one of his old associates is brought into the room, a fugitive from justice, followed closely by the police. He hides his former pal and lies to Miss Deering, and for the moment she is so disappointed in him that she refuses to listen to any explanation. But the love in her heart for Conway prompts her to return and beg his forgiveness, and it is then that the full light comes to Conway, and in a dramatic manner he tries to kill her love for him. He renounces her, and pretends to renounce all the good things he has learned from her, and starts off avowedly to join his old associates. There he is surrounded by his friends, and the police arrest him for complicity in the crime committed by the pal he has shielded. Miss Deering declares that she was the guilty one, and shows her love in every possible way; but realising that Ames was right and that caste counts, Conway refuses to let her sacrifice herself and is marched off to prison.

Mr. Daly's Conway is a striking portrayal. Remembering that this actor has hitherto been identified with light comedy or eccentric rôles, his embodiment of the Bowery "thug" is a remarkable exhibition of versatility and power. Miss Helen Ware is conspicuously successful as Conway's sweetheart, Nellie, a Bowery concert-hall singer; and Miss Jessie Izett as the settlement worker, Marie Deering, acts the part in a sympathetic and appealing manner; Mr. Edwin Arden is excellent as Arthur Ames; Mr. John Harrington plays a detective well; and several "East Side" characters are cleverly represented by Messrs. William Harrigan, Roy Fairchild, Edward Heron, George Leach, and Charles Haynes. The play holds the interest of the spectator from start to finish, and is likely to have a long run.

"THE MOLLUSC," by Hubert Henry Davies, which opened the season at the Garrick Theatre on the 1st inst., was received with frequent laughter and applause by a full house. Miss Alexandra Carlisle made her American début on this occasion, appearing as Mrs. Baxter, otherwise known as "the mollusc." Miss Carlisle's attractive and pleasing personality made an agreeable impression at the outset, and she depicted the unconscious selfishness and whimsicality of the central character in such a graceful and charming manner that she was firmly established in the good graces of the audience before the performance was half over. Mr. Joseph Coyne, an old favourite, who made his reappearance on the local stage after a lengthy absence, as Tom Kemp, received a hearty welcome and his performance gave evident satisfaction to his numerous friends. Miss Beatrice Forbes-Robertson as the subservient and affectionate, governess, Miss Roberts, gave a faithful and finished portrayal; and Mr. Forrest Robinson was capital as Mr. Baxter. There was a curtain-raiser, *The Likes o' Me*, called "an episode," and written by Mr. Wilfred T. Coleby, in which Miss Doris Keane cleverly impersonated a Cockney waif named Billy. Master George Clarke was natural as an eleven-year-old youngster; and other parts were acceptably played by Miss Maud S. Love, Mr. W. H. Gilmore, and Mr. Dudley Digges.

MISS GERTIE MILLAR and Mr. James Blakeley are chiefly responsible for the unequivocal success of *The Girls of Gottenberg* at the Knickerbocker Theatre. Miss Millar was recognised immediately as a charming artist, and before she leaves these shores she will have completely conquered those parts of America which she has deigned to visit. There are so many taking numbers that it is hard to say which is the first favourite; but Miss Millar's song about "Mr. Schneider" and the dance that accompanied it certainly brought down the house, and "Sausages," in which number she was joined by Mr. Blakeley, was enjoyed immensely. The company, part English and part American, includes Messrs. Lionel Mackinder, John E. Hazzard, Warwick Wellington, Edward Garvie, and Misses Louise Dresser, May Naudain, and Mabel Hollins, each of whom contributed to the general success. Miss Edith Kelley's dance was a popular feature.

THE new Gaiety Theatre, at the corner of Forty-sixth street and Broadway, was opened on the 31st ult., the initial attraction being George M. Cohan's musical play *The Yankee Prince*, with the author in the title-rôle. The new playhouse seats 935 persons. It has a handsome entrance on Broadway and another on Forty-sixth-street. The architecture and decorations are in the Louis Quinze style. There are no posts or pillows to obstruct the view of the stage from any part of the auditorium. One of the proscenium boxes has an adjoining room for the reception and entertainment of box parties. The dressing-rooms are large and airy, and supplied with hot and cold water and full-length mirrors. The "star" dressing-room has a bath-room adjoining. The curtain is of steel, five inches thick, and can be lowered in a flash. Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger, George M. Cohan, and Sam H. Harris are the lessees and managers of the new theatre.

MISS ISADORA DUNCAN has fulfilled a very successful engagement at the Criterion Theatre. Her classic dances were witnessed by large and appreciative audiences.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

AUG. 3. *London With the Lid Off*, drama, in four acts, by Arthur Shirley—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
,, 3. *The Girl With the Angel Face*, play, in five acts, by James Willard—Shakespeare, Clapham.
,, 3. *Married to the Wrong Man*, drama, in four acts, by Frederick Melville—Elephant and Castle.
,, 4. *The Philosopher's Diamond*, a comedy of marvels, by Nevil Maskelyne—St. George's Hall.
,, 17. *The Conscience of a Judge*, drama, in four acts, by Madge Duckworth and Ridgewood Barrie (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Ton-y-Pandy, Dec. 23, 1907)—Elephant and Castle.
,, 17. *Dark Deeds of the Night*, drama, in four acts, by Edward Thane—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
,, 24. *The Tyrant*, romantic Venetian drama, by Fred C. Somerfield (originally produced at the Osborne Theatre, Manchester, on Dec. 17, 1906)—The Dalston.
,, 29. *Pete*, drama, in four acts, adapted by Hall Caine and Louis N. Parker from the former's novel, "The Manxman"—Lyceum.
,, 31. *The Best of Her Sex*, drama, in four acts, by William A. Armour—Theatre Royal, Stratford.

PROVINCES.

AUG. 1. *A Country Girl in London*, drama, in four acts, by Frank Price—Theatre Royal, Macclesfield.
,, 3. *Admiral Peters*, play, in one act, adaptation from W. W. Jacobs's story of that name, by the author and Horace Mills—Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
,, 3. *The Gutter of Time*, duologue, by Alfred Sutro—Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
,, 3. *The Way Out*, incident, in one act, by George Unwin—Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
,, 3. *A Merry Maid*, musical comedy burlesque—Grand Theatre, Chorley.
,, 3. *Straight from the Shoulder*, drama, in four acts, by R. A. Roberts—Grand Theatre, Brighton.
,, 6. *The Man on the Box*, light comedy, in three acts, by Grace Livingstone Furniss, founded on Harold McGrath's novel of the same name—Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.
,, 10. *For Love of a Woman*, drama, in four acts, by Nita Rae—Theatre Royal, Tyldesley.
,, 13. *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, play, in three acts, by Jerome K. Jerome—Grand Opera House, Harrogate.
,, 13. *The Head of the Firm*, comedy, in four acts, adapted by Leslie Faber from the Danish of Hjalmar Bergström—Prince's Theatre, Bristol.
,, 13. *The Postern Gate*, play, in one act, by B. Iden Payne—Prince of Wales's, Birmingham.
,, 17. *The Old Firm*, farce, in three acts, by Edward and Harry Paulton—Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
,, 24. *Idols*, play, in four acts, adapted by Roy Horniman from the novel by W. J. Locke—Theatre Royal, Birmingham.
,, 24. *His Life for Her Love*, play, in four acts, by George S. King—Metropole Theatre, Devonport.
,, 29. *When the Devil Was Ill*, comedy, in four acts, by Charles McEvoy—His Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle.
,, 31. *The Duke's Motto*, melodrama, in four acts, by Justin McCarthy—Theatre Royal, Birmingham.
,, 31. *The Diver's Luck*, rewritten up to date by Andrew Melville (originally written by Fred Cooke and W. R. Waldron, and produced at Theatre Royal, Jarrow, May 30, 1887)—Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

REVIVAL.

AUG. 10. *The Girls of Gottenberg*, musical comedy, by George Grossmith, jun., lyrics by Adrian Ross, music by Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton (originally produced at the Gaiety on May 15, 1907)—Adelphi.

BERLIN.

AUG. 10. *Suse*, three-act play, by G. Albert—Luisen.
,, 12. *Das Mitternachts-Mädchen*, three-act farce, by MM. Kren and Lippschitz—Thalia.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, AUG. 11.—Miss Margaret Anglin, by far the cleverest actress whom America has ever sent us, changed her bill on the 8th from *Zira* to a comedy by Clyde Fitch called *The Truth*. Miss Anglin as Becky Warder enchains her hearers by her winsome innocence. A very handsome presence, purity of English diction, and elaborate dressing help Miss Anglin to success, but she is, above all, a consummate comedienne. Mr. George S. Titheradge was the ruined "sport" father, Stephen Roland, and a better character-portrait has never been painted by the talented and popular actor; Mr. Henry Kolker was the bewildered, loving husband. The scenes between husband and wife were most artistically acted, and so were those where Miss Susie Vaughan as the landlady seeks to marry Stephen Roland; and Mr. Cyril Mackay played the would-be roué, Lindon. A pleasant surprise was the admirable work done by Miss Alma Vaughan as Mrs. Lindon; and Miss Eileen Warren (Miss Anglin's sister) gave additional value to a very strong cast by her acting as Laura Fraser. Mr. Harry Overton did yeoman service as the footman, necessary and important. Mr. J. C. Williamson mounted the comedy in superb style, and the advance booking will make the end of the Margaret Anglin season a veritable "boom."

MR. WILLIAMSON'S other venture, *The Red Mill*, at the Theatre Royal, shows no abatement in attraction or attendance, but it must make way for *Peter Pan*, in which Miss Tittell Brune will return to Sydney.

"MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND" has drawn enormous houses at the Criterion, in spite of the tramway strike and weeks of pouring rain. Last night their Excellencies the departing Governor-General and Lady Northcote and the Governor, Sir Harry Rawson, and Miss Rawson, with their respective suites, were present.

THE TIVOLI keeps its end up with the succession of new artists sent out by Mr. Harry Rickards, now in London. The bill now includes a long list of prominent vaudevillians, amongst them being Miss Mignonette Kokin, the Miles-Stavordale Quintette, Austin Rudd, Fanny Powers (the Australian mimic), Baby Watson, Clarence Tidsdale, Naomi Tanner, Harry Linden, Regan and Ryan, George Bentley, the Gibson Girls, Maude Florence and Belle Permane.

MUCH excitement was caused on the Palace Pier at Brighton, on Wednesday, owing to a remarkable catch by an angler. Mr. R. F. Bedford, of the Hippodrome Orchestra, was fishing with lob worms when he felt a terrible tug at his line. Another angler ran for a large landing-net, and Mr. Bedford found he had captured an octopus, whose efforts to escape from the net were very interesting to watch. The octopus was transferred with great difficulty from the net to a tank in the Royal Aquarium. It weighs about ten pounds. Mr. Bedford has presented it to the Aquarium.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Proprietors, the Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company, in *The Little Breadwinner*, is appearing here this week. Miss Winnie Crisp's depiction of Meg is sympathetic; Mr. H. B. Peppin is quaint and dignified as Lord William Dorrington; Mr. Reginald Brown presents a capital study of Richard Lawrence; Mr. Alfred Maurice as Joseph Prior effectively carries out the author's intentions; and Mr. Sidney Lynn as Charles Prior keeps the fun going. Mr. Wallace Carey and Mr. E. Thomas are good as Dr. Chadwick and Monty respectively; Miss Lissa Young gives an effective rendering of Bobby Trott; Miss May Richardson plays Margaret Daventry in pleasing style; Miss Millie Ford and Miss Kitty Melville do good work as the sisters, Kate and Ruth Cherry; and Miss Clara Hunt is seen to advantage as Bridget.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The sensational drama, *Her Second Time on Earth*, is presented this week. Miss Edith Blande plays with much dramatic fervour as Dora Grey; Miss Emily Stevens is highly effective as the drunken mother; and the parts of Captain Jasper, Guy Brand, Tom Norman, Reppo, and Jack Carlton are most capably filled by Messrs. Otto Minster, Ellis Preston, Ernest Batley, Fellows Basset, and Robert Purdie. The piece is elaborately staged.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The principal parts in the delightful musical comedy, *A King for a Day*, are taken by Messrs. Will Letters, James Newlands, Sidney Dooley, Alfred Clegg, and Misses Ethel Watkins and Maidie Berker. All play very cleverly. Mr. Fred Poplar, comedian, is enthusiastically received; Mr. Sid Cotterell and his company are most successful in their mirthful sketch, *The Substitute*; Hunter and Maris appear in a novel comedy act, in which they introduce some marvellous acrobatic effects; Mr. Charlie Carr, comedian, dances very smartly; Miss Kitty Wager is a sprightly comedienne; Mr. Steve Bartley shows exceptional talent as an instrumentalist; and Miss Minnie Fenton is appreciated as a Scotch comedienne.

Beach Pavilion.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—The wonderful Howards give a really remarkable display of telepathy; and Mr. Thomson reappears with a number of capital humorous Scotch songs. Les Bruns are heartily encored, both in their vocal and juggling turns; and a series of admirable cinematograms are shown by the London Safety Bioscope Company.

Alhambra Music Hall. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—Among this week's artists are Mr. George Millard and Miss Ada Brogden, highly sucessful humorous duettists; Miss Ethel Osbourne, a charming young soprano; Mr. Jack Brindall, who is popular as a comedian and dancer; and Mr. Dan Fraser, the noted Scotch comedian.

Empire Music Hall.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—There is a very good company here this week, including Mr. G. W. Fyvie comedian; Mr. Arthur Bright, comedian and musical expert; Miss Jessie Bunting, vocalist and dancer; Mr. James Grant, tenor; and Mr. James Montague, entertainer. All the artists are cordially encored. The cinematograph is directed by Mr. W. Calder.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*The Silver King*, staged by a powerful company, has been warmly welcomed here this week. Mr. Sydney T. Pease handled the difficult character of Wilfred Denver with entire satisfaction; and Miss Gladys Hastings Walton found great favour as Nellie Denver. Mr. Tom Paulton was a capital Captain Herbert Skinner, the "Spider"; Mr. Harry Colbeck did justice to Henry Corket; and Mr. Claude Gravely played Geoffrey Ware with tact and considerable effect. A creditable Cissie Denver came from Miss Dorothy Love. The play was well staged. The same company is playing *The Prodigal Son* and *A Mother's Salvation* during the week.

Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—The Geni Troupe of acrobats top the bill in their clever acrobatic feats; the Sisters Herbert, juvenile artists, give excellent renderings of pretty songs and dance skilfully; Geo. Antill is a droll comedian; the Markies are prominent in their musical sketch, *From Pavement to Stage;* another pleasing sketch, entitled *Married or Photographed*, by Reed and Stevens; Ida Brophy is an attractive comedienne and dancer; and excellent pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. B. Barnes.—The attraction here this week is the return visit of Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company, in *Her Luck in London*. Mr. Douglas Cecil impersonates the part of Fitzgerald O'Connor with marked ability; the unscrupulous Richard Lenowen is strikingly depicted by Mr. Frank Strickland; the Rev. Lionel Strong finds a manly exponent in Mr. Douglas Tremayne; Mr. Lionel T. Ellis is very successful as Stephen Harbourne; and a popular Jerry Gotobed is supplied by Mr. Henri Gerald. As Nellie Harbourne Miss Mary Neil acts with dramatic power; Miss Beatrice Hudson is admirable as Lilian Harbourne; and Miss Marie Clavering is praiseworthy as Mme. Gaberielle. Maud Gladys Shovepenny is pleasingly drawn by Miss Florrie Groves; and Angelina Plantagenet is carefully sustained by Miss Amy B. Ellis.

ALDERSHOT. — Fred Karno's *Saturday to Monday* has met with great success at the Aldershot Hippodrome. The "week-end" is brimful of excitement and adventure. All the fun centres round the marriage of John Willie Jaggs (Mr. Gilbert Childs) and Clorinda Dobbs (Miss Julia Bassett), one of two "beautiful creatures" whose fascinations are certainly novel. Miss Bassett sang "Matilda Drew" excellently; and Miss Mary Young, as the handsome cousin, rendered "Love me and the world is mine." The railway scene is about the best of the three, as it affords Mr. John Willie Jaggs, senior, full scope for his humour, his assumption of nurse for the time being sending the house into roars of laughter. Spinks, as played by Mr. J. Fletcher, makes a quaint old butler; and Mr. Harry Fischer personates the avaricious guardian to a T.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—This week's programme is headed by the Davis and Gledhill Trio, in a motor and cycling act, in connection with which an "amateur cycling competition," for valuable prizes given by the management, has been held each evening. Other contributors to the bill are the Wambas (lady and gentleman), in a clever and graceful trapeze act; the Milfords, comedians and dancers; Mr. Charles Gardener, the versatile eccentric comedian; the Two Zampas, vocalists, dancers, and bâton swingers; Miss Violet Gibson's Coons, vocalists and dancers; La Belle Lily and Albert, in a highly-appreciated turn as instrumentalists; and the Attergraph pictures.

Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—An excellent selection of pictures is shown here this week.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—This "the race week" in Ayr the theatre is occupied by Mr. Gilbert Payne and his company, in the musical farcical play from his own pen, entitled *The Honeymoon*. Mr. Payne takes the leading part of Nathaniel Noodle, and infuses into it no end of fun. He is supported by an accomplished company, who are untiring in their efforts to create fun. The piece is completely staged.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company opened here on Monday with *Send Him Victorious*. Mr. George Derricke as Captain Frank Allison played the part of the hero with marked ability, and was ably backed up by Mr. James Burt as Sergeant Max. Mr. Arthur Tomlin as Geordie Walker and Miss Cecilia Crawford as Gretchen Holtz evoked much laughter; Mr. John Baxter as Major Carl Strauss portrayed the character cleverly; Miss Marie Robson as Countess Kara von Mechlinberg presented a powerful study; Miss Netta Mitchell as Ethel Hardinge sustained her part well; and Mr. Frank Holyoake was effective as the King of Ravonia.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer's répertoire company is here. *Mary, Queen of Scots* opened. She herself in the title-rôle was as eminently successful as heretofore; and Mr. Howard Rose acted most ably as Sir Edward Mortimer. Mr. F. Skein was a skilful Earl of Leicester; and Mr. Bern Merifield looked the born diplomat as Lord Burleigh. Mr. F. Owen Chambers was a good Sir Amias Paulet; and Mrs. Alice O'Dea a queenly Elizabeth. *East Lynne, Hamlet, Leah, Nell Gwynn, Jane Shore*, and *Robert Macaire* are also billed.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company, in *Merely Mary Ann*, is here. The part of Mary Ann is admirably done by Miss Jessica Solomon; and Mr. Paul Lovett is a most interesting Lancelot; Miss Florence Radcliffe makes an entertaining Rosie; and Miss Violet Greville a capital Mrs. Leadbatter. Mr. Stanley Logan is a good Peter.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. G. Laban.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—Jock Whiteford, Harry Gerard, Derenda and Grau, Colonna and Cumminger, Welman, Cara-Maga, and Sisters Melba. Vernon's Bioscope also contributes acceptably.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Some interesting and up-to-date pictures are being shown here to capital houses. The vaudeville turns are excellent.

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Mr. Morton Powell's company in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* was well received here on Monday. As John Jasper Mr. Bartlett Garth deserves special praise; Mr. Y. Ridgway Thorne was very successful as Edwin Drood; Mr. David Philips as Durdles was entertaining; Neville Landless in the hands of Mr. Hy. Tywford left nothing to be desired; Mrs. Morton Powell scored a success as Rosa Bud; and the Helena Landless of Miss May Beatrice was interesting.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Often as *The Christian* has been presented locally, yet another visit is being fulfilled this week with the new version, which has proved much to the taste of good audiences. Mr. Wentworth Croke can always be relied upon to stage and cast the popular play in excellent style, and the present production is no exception to the rule. Mr. P. Gedge Twyman looks and acts the leading rôle of John Storm to the life; as Glory, Miss Margaret Fane fulfils with ability her task of depicting the ambitious Manx girl; Mr. J. Hastings Batson and Mr. William Mallalieu impersonate cleverly and deliver well the "sermonettes" of the author, as Father Lamplugh and Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. Edward Ouston and Mr. G. Montague Lane enact Horatio Drake and Lord Robert Ure with point and firmness; Polly Love is undertaken by Miss Gladys Vernon with becoming modesty; in the character-sketch of Meg Miss Grace Baring deserves praise; as the tender-hearted Mrs. Callender Miss Alice Maude is well placed.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The bright, particular star in this week's bill is Florrie Forde, whose periodical visits are always hailed with acclamation from her numerous admirers. Her latest song, "Oh! oh! Antonio," is a great hit; W. G. Wesley, with his amusing patter, goes well; the Sisters Dainton sing pretty duets; Carr and Rose, in a vocal domestic squabble, create much hilarity; Gracie Hunt, comedienne, gains admirers; Dave Samuels succeeds with his burlesque Hebrew creations and eccentric dancing; the Miltons, in their roller-skating exhibition, win applause; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are showing local subjects.

BATLEY.—Theatre.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—"One of the best all-round shows we have had here for some time" was the general verdict of a full house on Monday night, after seeing *The Love that Women Desire*, presented by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company. The scenery and stage effects are elaborate and effective. Miss Aimee Grattan Clyndes is greatly admired as Sybil Thornbury, a part she plays with conspicuous success; Mr. Sydney Leighton effectively portrays the character of Philip Carnaby, her lover; and the wicked devices and actions of Squire Abingdon, Richard Abingdon, and Madge Abingdon are capably represented by Mr. J. O. Stewart, Mr. Morris Maud, and Miss Jessie Elvin respectively. The rôle of P.C. Sowerberry is extremely well played by Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, who infuses the true spirit of humour into the part; and Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke and Miss May Nelson as Patty Swift create considerable amusement.

BEDFORD. — Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson. — *The Lion's Heart* is this week being presented by Mr. Joseph Bebb's company. The part of Rigardo, the lion-tamer, is impersonated by Mr. Henry Bedford with undoubted power and spirit; Mr. Stephen Scanlan is exceedingly clever as the villain, Gaspard Dobré; and Mr. Archie Helsby is good as Colonel Robert de Villifort. Miss Ada Oakley, who doubles the parts of Rigardo's wife, Louise, and his child, Marion, acts with much passion and fervour; Miss Madge Beresford is a charming and vivacious Bessie Lorrimore; and Mr. Edward J. Coyne's dry humour as Jack Bealey, a young barrister, is much appreciated. The numerous other parts are skilfully handled, and the scenery is beyond reproach.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann. — Mr. W. W. Kelly's company opened here on Monday with *The New East Lynne*, which had a capital reception. In the dual rôle of Lady Isabel and Mme. Vine Miss Beth Elliott, a clever emotional actress was decidedly successful; and honours were also achieved by Mr. Frederick Harker, whose impersonation of Archibald Carlyle it would certainly be difficult to excel; Mr. W. H. Garbois's acting as Francis Levison, alias Captain Thorne, reflected much credit on him, and the rôle of Justice Hare was in the safe hands of Mr. Wm. Lowe; Mr. M. Talbot was dignified as Lord Mountsevern; and Mr. W. T. Ellonby deserves praise for his able impersonation of Richard Hare; the rôles of Cornelia Carlyle and Barbara Hare were done full justice to by Miss Sophy Shenton and Miss Josephine Gwynne; and Miss Doris Denville exhibited much skill as Willie Carlyle; humour was extracted from the character of Murty O'Flynn by the talented comedian Mr. Richard Nugent; and other parts were capably sustained by Miss Guinevere Shilton and Messrs. Byron Pedley, Cole Aspinall, W. Clarke, W. Long, &c.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Miss Marie Loftus is the star here this week, and the accomplished comedienne, who is always welcome, again achieved a great success; Mr. Arthur Reece, who is no stranger to Belfast, has been accorded a terrific reception for his capital rendering of several songs; and Mr. Nat Clifford's comic songs have been hugely enjoyed; and the juggling feats of Ernesto are quite amazing; Henry and Tyler, comedy cyclists, gain much approval for their clever act; and Miss Amy Sullivan is a charming comedienne with good songs. Also here are Souplessi, L. B. Athol, character comedian; and the Palace Pictures.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Mr. George Leyton, the clever actor-vocalist, is the star here, and has aroused much enthusiasm with his act, "Boys of the Chelsea School"; much amusement has been created with the comedy sketch, *Jemmy All-of-a-Twist*, presented by Eva Lumley and Freda Ettrick's company; the grand illuminated spectacle, *Electra's Dream*, presented by Abdullah and La Superba, has been much admired; and a hit has been made by Mr. Tony Iveson with his clever performance at the piano; Coverdale and Huxley's Bijou Juvenile Troupe appear to advantage in their musical scena entitled *Pansy's Birthday;* and others on the programme are Miss Edith Chantler, aptly described as a wonderful child soprano; Kirkham, the original singing conductor; and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—On Monday the clever comedienne, Miss Ethel Ra-Leslie and capable company presented a new scena entitled *The Voice of the Nile*. It is beautifully staged and mounted, while Miss Ra-Leslie's voice is heard to much advantage in her several numbers. Miss Jennie Johns, who has come rapidly to the front, is gaining the highest encomiums for her delightful rendering of several songs; the humorous Scotch songs of Mr. Bob Hamilton have been applauded to the echo; and Messrs. Stewart and Morgan, in their vocal act "Leaving Ireland," have been loudly and deservedly encored; Miss Arabella Allen, "the Dickens Girl," deserves high praise for her realistic impersonations; and also appearing are Mr. C. J. Johnston, the "Black Diamond," and Johnson and Bert, comedians.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—An attractive programme is again provided here. The following films have been exhibited:—Legend of the Ghost, the Salome Dance, Trouble of the Twins, the Mad Heroine, Remember the Fifth of November, &c. Also appearing are Mr. George Edney, vocalist; and Bishop and Vale, comedians and acrobatic dancers.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The introduction of the two-houses-per-night system has caught on here, the result being good houses at each performance. This week the latest pictures have been exhibited, including 'Twixt Love and Duty, Unknown Brazil, Our Flat, &c. In addition Miss Ailsa Douglas, soprano vocalist, appears with much success; and Palette introduces his extraordinary dog Max, whose feats are quite amazing.

BETWEEN THE SHOWS.

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BILSTON.—NEW ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby.—The detective drama, *£1,000 Reward*, is being presented here this week by Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company. Mr. J. Wilton is very successful as Gilbert Lisle; Miss Kathryne Eckart as Mme. Sansom acts with marked skill; Mr. Arthur Merton gives a boisterous character-sketch as Uncle Jeppa, "once the pride of the ring"; and other parts are well sustained. The staging is satisfactory.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—A return visit from one of the lessee's companies in *A Royal Divorce* is an interesting and attractive event. On Monday a large and fashionable audience greeted the re-appearance of Miss Edith Cole (Mrs. W. W. Kelly), and her charming and effective performance of the exacting rôle of the Empress Josephine was received with keen enjoyment. Admirable support was accorded by Mr. Keith Fraser, who, as Napoleon, acquitted himself with distinction; the wily old diplomat, Talleyrand, was cleverly represented by Mr. Percy H. Vernon; the Marquis de Beaumont was effectively enacted by Mr. Stanley Harrison; General Angereau was carefully played by Mr. Walter T. Clifford; and Mr. Harold S. Standing was commendable as Marshal Murat. Marie Louise was faultlessly embodied by Miss Winnie Tempest; Miss Maude Lacy was a bewitching Stephanie; Mr. George Hudson gave a humorous rendering of Grimaud; and Mr. W. Robbins, Mr. Rex Lowrey, Miss Nellie Lucas, Miss Violet Hudson, Miss Loyale Frere, and Miss Ethel Love were conspicuous in the cast. The band of the 5th Battalion The King's Liverpool Regiment was introduced with excellent effect.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Zona Vevey, a vocalist of undoubted ability, gives a delightful entertainment, in which she is assisted by Herr Max Erard as accompanist. Among the return visitors are included Miss Gertie Gitana, a clever vocalist and dancer, and always a sure card here; Park's Eton Boys and Girls, with an excellent répertoire of songs and dances; Mr. Pat Rafferty; O'Connor and Brady, comedians of resource; Miss Nan Farren, a talented comedienne and dancer; Wright and Lawson, in a good acrobatic show; Leo Trainer, comedian and patterer; L. W. Harris, a smart comedian; and Sandall and Somers, the simultaneous dancers, also contribute. Brown's Royal Bioscope is an acquisition.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS, ROCK FERRY.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—A capital combination includes Mr. Julian Mack, comedian; Miss Audrey Esmonde, comedienne; Mr. Tom Evans, baritone; Mr. Frank Hook, comedian; Mr. Colin Mail, light comedian; Fielding and Hull, sketch artists; and Miss Theresa Foote, accompanist.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Carmen* drew a fine house on Monday, when the Moody-Manners company started another popular engagement here, with Mlle. Zelie de Lussan once more available for the part. Every mood of love, passion, and hate was expressed by this accomplished artist, facially and vocally, and her reception after her absence from the company must have highly gratified her. The Don José of Mr. Philip Brozel was a stirring assumption; Mr. Lewys James again came in for honours as Escamillo; and the Michaela of Miss Kate Anderson was, as ever, a beautifully pathetic and vocally perfect performance. The opera was excellently mounted, the chorus was superb, and the orchestra, under Herr Richard Eckhold, played in great style. The subsidiary parts deserve mention for the admirable work of the Misses M. Rigby and Penville, and Messrs. B. King, C. Moppett, R. Carter, and G. King. *Madame Butterfly, Lohengrin, Faust, Tannhäuser, Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *Pagliacci*, are in the bill.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Miss Hook of Holland* figures here with Mr. George Dance's company. Miss Marie Wilson, in the title-rôle, commands plenty of applause with her vivacious acting, singing, and dancing; Miss Mabel Sealby makes a hit with the maid's part, Mina; Miss Queenie Preston and the Misses Amy Preston and Mandy Jennings are popular, respectively, as Gretchen and Freda, and Clara Voos; Mr. Arthur Reynolds makes a very comical Mr. Hook; the Captain, Lieutenant, and Bandmaster are made the most of by Messrs. Fredk. Hobbs, Lionel Scott, and Powis Pinder; and Messrs. Percy Davidson, Fred Lyne, P. Murray, and H. Smith, &c., assist greatly with their comedy powers. A capital chorus and an augmented orchestra support.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*The Best of Her Sex* is popular here, with Mr. William A. Armour's company. Miss Dora Price is starred as Vera Delorme, which she makes an exceedingly strong part; Mr. Henry Lloyd does his part well as Leslie Verney; Mr. Percy Horton carries the audiences with him as Philip Faringdon; the rôle of Sir Stanton is rendered dignified by Mr. Herbert J. Walton; Mr. William A. Armour puts in some excellent work as Stephen Maxwell; Miss Alvina Mining elicits full approval as Ruth; and the comedy rôles are well acted by Mr. J. W. Hooper as Jorkins, Mr. Dan Mining as "Holy Joe," and Mr. Hume Fergus as Simon Downey.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Second to None* was received with great favour on its appearance here with Mr. T. Edward Ward's company. Mr. Leonard Williams stirs the audience into enthusiastic cheers with his dashing portrayal of Harry Wilding; the softer attributes of Nell Greystone are feelingly portrayed by Miss Dorothy Clifton; the evil passions of Philip Mannering find full vent in the portrayal of Mr. Fredk. F. Loyd; Miss Mary Mallalieu gives a dramatic ring to the part of May Greystone; Mr. Theo. Balfour is soldierly as Sir Reginald (Colonel) Greystone; Mr. Chas. Halling acts with engaging frankness as Frank Wilding; Mr. Arthur D. Layland does justice to the lieutenant's character, Arthur Ballater; Mr. G. G. Maine gives full significance to the rôle of Sergeant Horseman; and Messrs. Allan Carruthers, Louis Edmonds, and Miss Clarrie Yandell create welcome diversion in the humorous parts.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*When Other Lips* made a successful appearance here on Monday, with Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company. Mr. Jones, besides being the author of the play, is the actor of the hero, and in both cases his work is very well done; Mr. Juan D'Alberti shows power and resource as Basil Cunningham; Miss Marie Daventry makes an excellent Ruth Lingley; Mr. Albert M. Clarke is successful as Robert Lingley; and Mr. Cecil H. Raymond wins hearty laughter as Tommy Neccles.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*The Eve of Her Wedding* has gone very well here, with Mr. Wilson Benge, in the rôle of Tremain, to which he gives fine effect. Mr. Arthur Keand does well in two rôles, the Squire and Groggins, to wit; Mr. Henry Danson puts all his energies into the part of Dick Leverton; Miss Sadie Smith presents herself as Mavis with much art and charm; Miss Effie Bartlett plays well as Renie de Tella; Mr. Arthur E. Holland gives a realistic portrayal of the cripple Jack Hearne; Mr. Fred Rivers finds plenty of scope as Giovanni; Mr. Wallace Campbell acts with skill as Dean Clifton; Mr. Chas. Groves, jun., as Paul Cairshaw and Hyram P. Younger is good; and Mr. Chas. Digby and Miss Daisy Cook shine well in the lighter rôles.

PALACE THEATRE, BOURNEMOUTH.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Sapho* was received well here on Monday, with Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company. Mr. Abbott's acting of Jean was brimful of ability; Miss Ada Abbott made an enthralling Sapho, and commanded rapt attention throughout; Mr. W. H. Morgan's Dechelette was very good; Mr. Chas. Tring played Flamant's rôle ably; Mr. Frank Stephens gave a fine zest to the character of Cessaire; Mr. Walter Rosier gave a clever characterisation of Legrand; Miss Louise Morley was suited well as Aunt Divonne; and the Misses B. Gertrude Jones and Florence North were also good.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The principal item this week is provided by Mr. George Gray and his company, in *The Fighting Parson;* Ella Shields delights her audience with some smart coon songs, which she renders in excellent style; Olga and Edgar are responsible for a refined and clever musical entertainment; as a mimic of well-known artists Agnes Tina is decidedly talented; the Rizarelis are lady gymnasts of exceptional ability; O'Malley and Brown have an amusing skit. Jack Hayton, Happy Tom Parker, and Sydney Lee are in the bill.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—With George Robey at the head of affairs, packed houses are the order here. Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister have an excellent sketch in *No. 99;* Ethel Haydon sings some delightful songs; Verno and Voyce are applauded for their aeroplane skit; and other popular turns are those of Spry and Austin, Kathleen Gray, David Steward, and the Three Brothers Huxter.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—The Great Lafayette, who has scored greatly, has been retained for this week; the Three Sisters Sprightly are always popular; Rosie Elliott sings sweetly; the Three Braggs are seen in a clever acrobatic act, their "living bridge" trick being daring; and Hayes and Watson and the Aners complete the programme.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Chris. Richards is the big turn here, his eccentric dances and songs being loudly applauded; Ferguson and Mack come in for a big share of applause; Talberto and Douglas are clever knockabouts; Eily Adair is a dainty comedienne. Other turns include Broome and Broome, the Velter Bros., the Padhas, and Robins and Collier, and the McConnell Trio, in a smart comedy act.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—This new hall was opened on Monday with animated pictures, and secured great success.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company opened to a capital house on Monday in *The Greed of Gold*. Mr. Walter H. Domoney gives a fine portrayal of Harry Hood; and as Arthur Erroll, Mr. Wilson Gunning as admirable. Mr. Sydney Bryant makes a real good "tipster" as Cully Snig; Mr. Victor C. Rolfe and Mr. J. P. Marsden, in the respective parts of Mr. Brightstone and Conn Creamer, are deserving of every praise; Mr. James Jarrett is all that can be desired as Tom Welstead; and as Mee Chow, Mr. J. Field is excellent. Miss Elma C. Turner is a worthy exponent of the part of Dora; and the same can be said of Miss Jennie Douglas Hick for her representation of Mrs. Maxwell. Miss May Watts-Knight, Miss Beatrice Maud Hughes, Mr. Ernest, Mr. C. R. Eglington, Mr. D. Carr, Mr. C. Williams, and Mr. W. Launder all sustain their respective parts in a praiseworthy manner.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier and company have received a warm welcome on this their first visit to Blackpool this week, and their productoin of *John Glayde's Honour* has met with the entire approbation of packed houses. Mr. Bourchier's impersonation of John Glayde is a grand piece of acting and rivets attention from start to finish, whilst Miss Violet Vanbrugh's admirable portrayal of Muriel Glayde is equally effective. Christopher Branley is played by Mr. Arthur Whitby in an exceedingly able manner; Mr. Chas. Bryant, who represents Trevor Lerode, also proves himself to be an actor of no mean order; and Mr. Bertram Forsyth as Howard Collingham and Mr. Leon Quartermaine as Michael Shurmur likewise merit favourable notice. The Princess de Castagnary finds exactly the right exponent in Miss Henrietta Watson, who may be always relied on for sterling work. The staging and dresses are a special feature.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*My Mimosa Maid*, played by Mr. Frank Curzon and company, is drawing tremendous houses here this week. The title-rôle is assumed by Miss Marie Studholme, who is a great favourite in Blackpool. Mr. Charles McNaughton scores a success as Victor Guilbert, and Master Archie McCaig has established himself a great favourite as Bock. Mr. Charles E. Paton as Max Guilbert, Mr. Percy Carr as M. Gerrard, and Mr. Arthur Jackson as Grove also contribute in no small degree to the success of the production. A fine chorus is under the direction of Mr. Leonard Horney.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Arthur Roberts tops this week's bill, and appears with great success in a farcical sketch entitled *Till Sunday*, in which he is assisted by Miss Ruby Celeste. Arthur Aldridge, the "golden-voiced tenor," is retained, and his success is as great as last week. Frank Seeley, an able and eccentric comedian; Parr and Parland, the "aristocratic comedians"; the Brothers Wright in a clever athletic exposition; Winifred Ward, the boy impersonator; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, in a sketch; Barlee and Smith, musical comedians; and Pipifax and Paulo in their mélange of eccentricity, *Humpti-Bumpsti*, are included in the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mrs. Fioni.—The latest pictures are shown here twice daily, and capital variety turns are supplied by Harry Bland, comedian; the Orchids, speciality artists; and Mueller and Coyne, the American comedy duo.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—A strong attraction is provided here by Messrs. Hallett and Howard's principal company in *Her Love Against the World*. Miss Grace Heywood gives a fine rendering of the part of Iris; Mr. Fred Emery acts in a manly fashion as Eric; Mr. Lewis Gilbert is forcible as the scheming Prince Ulric; Mr. W. H. Hallett acts well as Prince Othmar; and Mr. Victor Rowland makes a capital Prince Maurice; Miss Nellie Fletcher is excellent as Shulah, Countess of Rasselyn; and Miss Julie De Esco is good as Corona, an Austrian dancer. Miss Rossie St. John plays in good style as Nello. Misses Gertie Reid, as Katinka, and Hettie Ferguson as Gretchen, with the assistance of Messrs. Henry B. Lewis and John Mill, are responsible for some excellent comedy. Mr. Charles R. Hann makes a good General Gessler; and Mr. John Chesson as Colonel Esterhazy and Mr. A. B. Cushman as Colonel Lindorf give able assistance.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Miss Ada Colley, prima donna (the Australian nightingale), is a great attraction here this week, as the principal turn. Other artists appearing in a strong programme are Natalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts, with a clever performance on the trapeze; Miss Madge Allan, comedienne and dancer; the Edmonds, in their statuary act, called *Golden Deeds in South Africa;* Nellie Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre; Mollie Woolstenhulme, operatic vocalist; Kid Johnson and Maisie Pelham, in their comedy pot-pourri act; Pasquali Brothers, speciality equilibrists and tumblers; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—Appearing here are the Kurios, in a comical concoction of comicalities, introducing pantomime, art, and mystery; Victor Courtney, as Boots at the piano; Flo. Chevalier, vocalist and comedienne; Fred Lyndo, eccentric comedian; the Two Erolls, comedy tumblers and leapers; Almon, the upside-down marvel; Mabel Robarts, vocalist in illustrated songs; Percy Farrimond, the original Lancashire singing collier; the Three Orros on the silver chains; and the Bioscope.

BOOTLE.—MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The stock company is this week giving an excellent performance of the historical drama, *A Fatal Crown*, by Brandon Ellis. All the principal characters are well sustained by Messrs. Stanley S. Gordon, Albert Sember, Alfred D. Adams, Tom H. Solly, Cyril Grier, and Alfred Grenville; also Miss Nina Vaughton; Kathleen Magee, Effie Macintosh, and Louie Heathfield.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—Howard and Harris, in their sketch, entitled *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp*, are very successful here; the Delevines, in *Flipp and Flopp*, keep the house in roars of laughter; a smart acrobatic comedy act, entitled *African Gambols*, is performed by the Tintos; Rose Hamilton, the popular versatile comedienne, is a great favourite; Julian Ross is heard to advantage as a vocal comedian; and other turns worthy of mention are Kitty Taylor, comedienne, and W. A. Hardie.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Aubert Dunbar.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company in *The Gay Gordons* had an enthusiastic reception here on Monday. Miss Zena Dare as the fascinating Peggy Quainton played in a manner which quickly established her in favour; the Angus Graeme of Mr. Stanley Brett was particularly excellent; and mention should be made of Mr. Edward Lewis as Nervy Nat, of Mr. Wilfred Norman as Edmund Siddons, of Mr. Ernest Torrance as Andrew Quainton, of Miss Nellie Dade as Charlotte Siddons, and of Miss Doris Stocker, a charming Mary McLeod. Valuable services were rendered by Mr. Arthur Spittle, the musical director.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. Milton Bode's company is paying a return visit in *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Monday night's audience was a large one, and very appreciative. Miss Gwennie Harcourt scored in a clever and humorous performance of Fi-Fi; as Mr. Pineapple Mr. Will Harman was very funny; and charmingly and with much brightness Miss Veronica Brady played Mrs. Pineapple. Miss Maud Adams was much in evidence as Mrs. Brown; Miss Elsie Skillings was an attractive Soo-Soo; Mr. Harry Jennings was good as Tom Hatherton; and Mr. Rudolph Kloss as Hang Chow, Mr. P. Allerton Turner as Chippie Chop, and Mr. Leonard May as High Lung, made a diverting trio. The music in the comedy was brightly rendered, and the costumes and scenic effects won admiration.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Married to the Wrong Man* is presented here this week, and the representation is in the hands of an all-round capable company, excellent scenic effects adding to the thrilling interest in the piece, which is well sustained throughout. As Ruth, the sorely-tried heroine of the story, Miss Gertrude Boswell is convincing and effective; Mr. Charles Vivian as her foster-father is forcible; and as his villainous son Mr. H. Lane Bayliff is excellent. Mr. Oswald Cray admirably fills the part of Captain Gladwin; and the other characters are in able hands.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—That remarkably expert "chameleon comedian," Mr. Hymack, is again mystifying the audience; and those clever trick cyclists, the Dunedin Troupe, are once more eliciting applause for their intrepid feats. Mlle. Eldee presents a charming series of effective poses; Will English is a very funny coloured comedian; there is originality and good comedy in the musical act, *The Garden of Melody*, given by the Schaffers; Rhoda Paul is very smart in male impersonations; the Seven Wulfrunas do some funny and smart acrobatic work in *Fun in a Café;* Ruth Lytton, Scotch comedienne; and Walter Wade, comedian, supply very acceptable turns; and there are some fine pictures shown by the American Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Miss Annie Schuberth, the popular and gifted soprano vocalist, receives great applause; Harry Weldon's eccentricities are again a source of uncontrollable laughter; Dolly and Elsie are acceptable vocalists and dancers; in a clever absurdity, *The Dummy*, the Gregson Comedy Trio are very good; Charles Tuppen's performance as a horn blower is clever; excellent contributions to the programme are supplied by Cullen and Carthy, comedians; Jack Neil, Scotch comedian; the smart Paulaston troupe of comedy acrobats; Minnie D'Aubyn, vocalist; and Raymond's interesting Bio-tableaux.

BRIDLINGTON.—SPA OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—We are enjoying a visit from Mr. Mouillot's No. 1 company, in *Tom Jones*. Mr. Cyril Thompson makes a fine hero, his vocalism being a great treat; Mr. Fred Seymour is a great success as Squire Western; and the Partridge of Mr. Geo. Elton is most amusing. Miss Margaret Stonor sings admirably as Sophia; Miss Florrie Saunders gives delight by her portrayal of Honour; and Miss Olive Elton makes an admirable Lady Bellaston.

NEW SPA GARDENS.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—Herr Simon Wurm and his Imperial Viennese Band are giving their last performances of the season this week, and on Monday night a capital programme was presented.

ROYAL PRINCE'S PARADE.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Mr. H. Flockton-Foster, whose costume comedy company has been such a success in the Grand Pavilion during the season, and Mr. Will H. Emmerson, proprietor of the popular Loyal Dominion Animated Picture Company, were accorded a complimentary benefit on Friday last, when they were rewarded with a crowded house. A monster programme was presented. The Flockton-Foster's burlesque scena, *The Stage-Struck Company*, was an excellent turn; and Mr. Will Emmerson showed some of his choicest animated pictures.

SUMMER GARDENS.—Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Chas. Beanland.—The Waterloo Pierrots are giving some good programmes this week, including the laughable sketch, *Lady Samuell's At Home*. Mr. Harry Tomlin had a well-earned benefit on Friday.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company are here this week with *The Midnight Wedding*. Mr. Alfred Paumier gives a masterly enactment of Paul Valmar; Miss Yvonne Orchardson submits a charming impersonation of Princess Astrea von Streisburg; Mr. Mayor-Cooke's Captain Rudolf, Mr. A. E. Winnington-Barnes' Lieut. Eugene von Streisburg, and Mr. John Nesbitt's Crown Prince Leopold are admirably played. The comic element was capitally presented, much laughter being afforded by Miss Ida Champion (Kathie), Mr. Jas. B. Page (Sergeant Max), Mr. Harry Richardson (Corporal Otto), and Mr. Aigle Spalding (Private Bobo). The scenery, uniforms, and costumes are excellent, and the performances are attracting crowded houses.

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. Phil Ray is delightfully entertaining with his songs and patter; Viretta Vivien wins enthusiastic applause with her recitations; Harvey's American Boys and Girls give a capital turn; Driscoll and Felino introduce some very praiseworthy comedy business; Albert Le Fre is well received in a smart mélange; Lizzie Glenroy is a pleasing Scotch comedienne and dancer; the Two Jagos are pleasing in comedy and dancing; Frances Letty is a versatile singer; Frank Lynn, comedian, is highly successful; Jack Hamilton, a popular patter comedian, affords much fun; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur R. Hollands.—There is a capital company here this week. Harry Ford wins warm applause for his humorous songs; Albert Bellman and Lottie Moore, American comedy artists, are very entertaining; Addie Dorina is a clever protean actress; Richard Taylor, whistling ventriloquist, achieves much success; John Tiller's company are well received in their musical absurdity, *The Queen of Monte Carlo;* Norah Desmond is a pleasing pictorial songstress; F. Cull-Pitt, a droll deceptionist, assisted by Mlle. Adele, is cordially received; Gladys Huxley is a dainty comedienne; the Lyons Trio are good pantomimists and dancers; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment Manager, Mr. A. D. Norman.—Mr. Lionel Glenister and Mr. Wood-Ingram's company, including Miss Florence St. John, opened here on Monday with *Jack Straw*. Miss Florence St. John, who was cordially received, gave a very clever character-study as the rich and vulgar Mrs. Parker-Jennings; Mr. Lionel Glenister was highly effective as Jack Straw; Mr. A. T. Gullifer's Parker-Jennings merits praise; Mr. Frederick Moyes made an admirable Ambrose Holland; Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson was a typical lover; Miss Edie Graham as Lady Wanley was well placed; and others who rendered able support included Miss Lucie Milner, Miss Estelle Despa, and Mr. Ernest Graham.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Miss Olive Wilton, Mr. Arthur Hare, and company are here this week with *A Pair of Spectacles*. Mr. Arthur Hare submits an excellent representation of Mr. Benjamin Goldsmith; Mr. Milroy Cooper achieves great success as Uncle Gregory; Mr. R. Henderson Bland's Dick and Mr. Cyril Scott's Percy merit warm commendation; Miss Olive Wilton is a graceful and pleasing Mrs. Goldfinch; Miss Eilleen Terence makes an admirable Lucy Lorimer; and Mr. Charles Irwen is a capital Lorimer.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—Excellent business marks the admirable exhibition of animated pictures this week. The Race for the St. Leger is highly interesting; The Battle of Salisbury is an attractive film; The Wreckers, The Adventuress, and A Never-Forgotten Melody, convey dramatic stories; A Tour Through Zambesi to Central Africa is picturesque; and much humour is afforded by The Charmed Umbrella, A Troublesome Thief, and Phantom Games.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—*The Merry Widow* is drawing packed houses here, the musical play being well performed by Mr. George Edwardes's company. The piece is elaborately mounted and beautifully dressed, the chorus is strong and tuneful, and the increased orchestra, under the direction of Mr. A. MacCunn, does full justice to Franz Lehar's pretty music. Miss Constance Drever acts in charming style as Sonia, her excellent singing and dancing obtaining the utmost appreciation; Mr. Leonard Mackay is well placed as Prince Danilo, he also acting, singing, and dancing most effectively. Mr. Haigh Jackson scores as the Vicomte Camille de Jolidon. He has a nice tenor voice, and uses it artistically. Miss Ethel Cadman makes a dainty Natalie, and sings her songs well; Miss Sylvia May is pleasing as Olga; Mr. Eric Thorne presents a good comic study of Baron Popoff; Mr. W. H. Rawlins makes the most of Nisch; and the remaining parts are all carefully played.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Mr. Frank Bertram and company are here with *The Convict's Daughter*, the drama being staged well. Mr. Bertram acts admirably as Michael Grahame, being successful both in the humorous and serious phases of the character; Miss Lillian Dene is both convincing and interesting as Edith; Mr. William Burgess displays kindliness and dignity as Frederick Neville; Mr. Walter Graham acts in manly style as Harold Trevalyan; Mr. Escott Robson is consistent in the heavy part of Jasper Thorne; and the comic parts of Betty Hyne and Patrick O'Laragan are capitally taken by Miss Amy Randolph and Mr. Willie Black.

PALACE — Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Charles Majilton and company score with their amusing sketch, in three scenes, *The Trippers;* Albertus the First and Jessie Millar, eccentric comedian and lady cornetist, amuse with their speciality *A Scene at the Fair Ground;* the Haytors have a smart speciality, *The Plumber;* George Prince, comedian, obtains applause; Fred Dunstone, comedian, is also successful; Bowman and Morton, comedy duo, do well; and Marie Collins is a pleasing comedienne. The performance concludes with Too Old for Work, by Vernon's Bioscope.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—George Lashwood, comedian, successfully heads the programme; John Beauchamp and company amuse with their comic sketch *The Schoolmaster's Mistake;* the Eight 'Varsity Girls are pleasing vocalists and dancers; Mr. and Mrs. Shelley have a funny sketch, *Miss Sommerson's Baby;* Edith Fink, burlesque actress, presents a pleasing turn; Stevens and Rennoir, comedians and dancers, are appreciated; Johnny Val, comedian, obtains applause; Violet Herbert is a capable vocalist; and Margaret Radcliffe, comedienne, is highly successful. The performance concludes with a good selection of animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Ralph Pringle's animated pictures are still attracting good houses, the leading item this week being a magnificent set of coloured pictures, depicting the Biblical story of Samson and Delilah. There is a good band, and a competent variety company.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson. — Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company, under the stage-management of Mr. Louis Stanislaus, is providing a bright entertainment in the interesting, pleasing musical comedy, *The Flower Girl*, the book, lyrics, and music being by Mr. Wm. T. Gliddon, who personally directs the orchestra and chorusses. The picturesque scenery and pretty dresses add much to the enjoyment, and on Monday a good house gave unstinted approval of the singing, dancing, and acting throughout, the audience requiring many repetitions of the principal numbers. Miss Dorothy Firmin as Lily is very effective, and makes a good impression with her singing; Mr. Martin Adeson is irresistibly funny and clever as Joe Wheeler; Mr. Alfred Donohoe skilfully plays Johnny Wheeler; Mr. Norman Bowyer is also decidedly funny as Reginald Rackit; Mr. Robert H. Howard sings and acts well as the hero, the Hon. Billy Greenhill; a most comical French couple are presented by Mr. Henry Adnes (Alphonse) and Miss Florence Wilton (Lizette). Miss Jeannie Holmes as Miss Greenhill gives an excellent study of a pretty Suffragette. The singing and manœuvres of the chorusses showed excellent training.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart's company is here presenting *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr. Stewart is a clever exponent of the title-rôle, and is heartily applauded; Mr. Robert Gilbert is a clever exponent of Professor Moriarty; and like praise is due to Mr. Arthur Shelton as Dr. Watson. Charming, too, is the Alice Faulkner of Miss Betty Fairfax. Another prominent figure is Billy, in the hands of Master Thomas Russell; and James Larrabee is capitally rendered by Mr. M. D. Draper. Miss Edith Vogue is good as Madge Larrabee; and Mr. W. A. Cheetham ably represents John Forman.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Packed houses are the rule here this week. The Kremo Family, rider acrobats, perform a series of sensational feats with neatness; smart and sparkling is Miss Florrie Gallimore, who pleases greatly with her catchy chorus songs; H. O. Wills keeps the house in roars of laughter; and Chicko is a smart equilibristic contortionist. Josie Delaine, comedienne, is a neat exponent of national dances; and Nellie Moore is good in a selection from *Les Cloches de Corneville*. J. S. James is clever with banjo and tambourine; and the Empire Theatroscope presents a capital picture.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Berzac's Comedy Animals provide an interesting and funny turn, which is fully appreciated; Herbert Clifton gives several songs, and also creates laughter with a burlesque on the Gibson Girl. A distinctly funny turn is given by Clark and Hayden, entitled *By Appointment;* and the Waldrons, in *The Silly Burglar*, provide a laughable sketch. *Fun in a Billiard Room* introduces smart somersaults by Kelly and Ashby; and Les Zelovas display great strength in acrobatic feats. Harry Cotton is a good comedian; and the Five Broadway Girls prove themselves good vocalists and dancers. Raymond's Bio-tableaux shows a realistic film, Baby's Playmate.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body. — Mr. Fred Karno's company is paying a return visit with *His Majesty's Guests*. Mr. Geo. Hestor appears with much success as Sergeant Lightning, and is responsible for most of the fun; Mr. Rupert Strutfield and Mr. Chas. Usher also do well as Lord Easum and Mr. Miffin respectively.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A score of Indian Mutiny and Crimean veterans occupied seats in the stalls on Monday at the invitation of Mr. Culling, whose little speech of welcome was received with great cheers. At the head of the bill is Maurice de Riaz, the Swiss champion wrestler, who challenges all comers up to 11st. 6lb. Other very clever items are contributed by the Troupe Lafaille, balancers; Mena Brae, vocalist and dancer; Napier Trio, eccentric jugglers; Billy Downes, comedian; Muir, Bartlett and company, in a novelty, entitled *The Collar Stud;* and Craig, Roze, and Craig, gymnasts.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—A capital series of pictures is given on the Ottograph this week. The best are Manners and Customs of Australia, Funny Fisheries, Chieftain's Revenge, Tramp's Daughter, Waiter, the Rural Postman, and Miss Pimpernel's Gown.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons.—Caban's French Circus of ponies, dogs, donkeys, and goats are highly trained, and give a very novel show. Other items of the bill are Fanny Robina, comedienne; Florry Cooper, vocalist; Major Arnold, in a magical scena; Les Zeldas, acrobats; Arthur Albert, comedian; Braund and Davies, comedians and dancers; and Edith St. Clair, vocalist.

About six weeks ago I was suffering with

PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE,

brought on probably by painting my face for my eccentric business. I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

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and the scurf is entirely gone. I cannot tell you how thankful I am at having taken "Clarke's Blood Mixture," and I shall recommend it to everybody, as I think it only right that such a remedy should be known.—(Signed) JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnny," Llandudno's Popular Comedian, Thorndale, Llandudno, Feb. 24, 1908.

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnnie," Llandudno's Popular Comedian (from a photo.).

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross's company, in *The Manxman*, opened a three nights' engagement on Monday. Mr. Cross himself was responsible for a fine interpretation of the title-rôle; Mr. Fred Mace made a satisfactory Cæsar Cregeen; the part of Philip Christian was entrusted to Mr. Harold B. Lewis; and that of Ross Christian found a capable exponent in Mr. Fred Charles. Miss Minnie Waterford as Kate acquitted herself well; Miss Nancy Mitchell was successful as Nancy; and Miss Blanche Lee (Miss Christian) fulfilled all requirements of the part. A word of praise is due to the mounting of the piece.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—Mr. Mouillot's company in *Tom Jones* made a name for itself here during the first three nights of this week. Mr. Cyril Thompson as the hero is a fine singer and a good actor, and Miss Margaret Stonor is a particularly gifted vocalist, and played artistically as Sophia. Miss Florrie Saunders as Honora was chic and dainty, and quite captivated the audience; Mr. A. J. Nicholls was the Mr. Allworthy; and Blifil was satisfactorily filled by Mr. Alfred H. Majilton. Mr. George Elton kept the house quite merry as Partridge, and Mr. Fred Seymour scored heavily as the rollicking Squire Western. Mr. Michael Dwyer was amusing as the servant Gregory; and Miss Olive Elton was admirably cast as Lady Bellaston. The choruses were tunefully sung, and the opera finely staged. Mr. Edward Terry and company fill in the remainder of the week.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robt. Redford.—A welcome visit is being paid here this week by Miss May Palfrey and company in the successful comedy *Mrs. Dot*. Miss May Palfrey gives a representation of the title-rôle which pleases all, the sprightly Mrs. Dot being depicted in a most vivacious manner. Miss Palfrey is supported by a small but powerful company, prominent amongst which appears Mr. Hugh C. Buckler as Gerald Halstane, this character being portrayed in a distinctly able manner. As James Bienkinsop Mr. F. Kinsey Peile is a great success; and special praise is due to Mr. Basil Hallam for his clever impersonation of the "silly" Freddie Perkins. Miss Evelyn Beaumont makes a pleasing Nellie Sellenger; and Miss Ida Jerome is good as Lady Sellenger; while Mrs. Kemmis undertakes with care the part of Miss Eliza Macgregor. A notable feature of the production is the exceptionally fine setting to the three acts. The piece is preceded by a laughable sketch, *A Lively Dinner*, in which Mr. Frank H. Denton appears with effect as Mr. Crawford.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Packed houses have ruled here at every performance. Horace Goldin heads the bill, and is more bewildering and more entertaining than ever; the charming Miss Jeanne Fransioli still assists the "King's illusionist," as Mr. Goldin is described. A delightful item is that provided by Duncan and Godfrey, who appear in a capitally-acted coster sketch, *Me and 'Er*; Lydia Yeamans takes exceedingly well, particularly in her baby impersonations; Leo Tell earns flattering applause for his remarkably clever mimetic performance; Ben Albert and Fred Keeton, comedians, provide a couple of individual turns that are much appreciated; the smart step-dancing and clever drill of the Eight Lancashire Lads are accorded outbursts of applause; Madge Osmond opens the programme in a pleasing little character-song; and the Bioscope concludes with interesting local views.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Rollo Balmain.—*The Private Secretary* is excellently produced by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company. Mr. Donald Price-Evans undertakes the difficult rôle of the Rev. Mr. Spalding, and a really capital rendition he submits; Mr. W. Hargreaves as Mr. Cattermole plays the part to perfection; and Mr. Frederick Tyrrell as Gibson affects the peculiarities of the character exceedingly well. Messrs. Andrew Wight (Harry Marsland) and Lawrence Grove (Douglas Cattermole) are the right men for their parts; and Mr. Frank Stanley makes the most of the rôle of Mr. Marsland. Miss Edith Savery (Eva) and Miss Violet Darling (Edith Marsland) impersonate their characters with delightful vivacity; and Mrs. Alfred Davis as Miss Ashford and Miss Cecily Wade as Mrs. Stead are praiseworthy.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Pride of place is occupied this week by J. Wright Aitken and company in a domestic sketch entitled *The Battle of Life*. Mr. J. Wright Aitken makes a great impression as John Melville; and the other characters are in capable hands. Emma Don, character comedienne, is vigorously encored; Hayes and Merrit appear in a novel turn, and well deserve the title of champion bounding trampolinists; Tossing Austins, American comedy jugglers and expert dancers, cause laughter and applause; Margit and Lener are exceptionally smart comedy acrobats; Norah Stockelle, chic comedienne and dancer; Gladys and Alber, comedy artists; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are also included in the programme.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—*The Dandy Doctor* again fills the bill here after a lengthy absence. Mr. Edward Marris, who is responsible for the production, has brought an excellent company. Miss Florence Smithers as Jane has a part exactly suited to her eccentric humour; Miss Molly Wynne makes a dainty Ivy Pendred; as the tinned-meat millionaire, Mr. George Brentwood works hard and successfully throughout; Mr. Herbert Pearce has a nice voice and acts with finished effect. In the title-rôle Mr. C. Burrunston Williams is amusing, and sings well.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Charles Parkers, æolians, renew acquaintance here this week with a most attractive and artistic act. Especially bright and vivacious is the dancing of the younger members of the troupe. Bert Williams is a ventriloquist *par excellence;* Nightingale and Stigant are immensely amusing in a comedy duologue, *Two Sides of a Wall;* Ernest Rees does exceedingly well; Frank Leon shines in song and dance; Woolmer Young, vocal comedian, meets with appreciation; and Lizzie Kirk is a bright comedienne. The Pepiscope completes.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—A cordial reception was given to Mrs. Sam Duckworth's clever company on Monday on their first visit here in *Her Nameless Child*. The drama is excellently staged. Mr. J. W. Evelyn portrays Anthony Ford, a blacksmith, consistently and well; Miss Pattie Hastings supplies an artistic delineation of Phillis Ford; Mr. Sidney C. Cranston has an easy and natural method and is successful in the rôle of Arthur Ford; as Lord Woodville Mr. Arthur E. Pringle makes a thorough-going villain; and as the subsidiary scoundrel Mongrole Mr. Frank Thompson plays efficiently. As Lady Sibil Miss Mona Grey proves herself an actress of considerable ability. The lighter side of the play is well sustained by Mr. Larry Clements as Tom Rivers and Miss Renie Douglas as Bessie Brooke, both of whom keep the house in continuous laughter. The part of Crayont is carefully handled by Miss Geraldine Verner.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Travis.—This popular place of amusement continues to be well patronised. Capner and Steele are decidedly clever as character duettists, and their turn is fully appreciated; Claude H. Howell is an elocutionist of no mean order, his recitations illustrated by lantern slides eliciting loud applause; the Loyal Dominion Co.'s animated pictures are still running strong. Large audiences nightly witness the two hours performance.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—This week marks the annual visit of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, who opened here on Monday to a full house with *Carmen*. The performance was up to the Carl Rosa high standard of excellence, and in the title-rôle Miss Doris Woodall scored a triumphant success. The programme for the remainder of the week consisted of *Faust, Il Trovatore, Tannhäuser, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci,* and *The Bohemian Girl*.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Phillips and Terry are in their second week here with another of their popular duologues, *The Revolt of Man*. The Six Brothers Lucks' company are again causing plenty of fun in *The Demon of the Cellar;* Fred Cary makes quite a hit with songs and patter; Tamamoto surprises all with his dexterity on the perpendicular rope; Evelyn Taylor is back again with new chorus songs; Lacey's Erascope contributes a goodly share towards the evening's entertainment; and the Sisters Du Cane, duettists and dancers, and Lucy Coventry, comedienne, also appear.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis.—Charles Austin's songs and patter are meeting with their customary success here; the Della Sisters, in Directoire costume, sing a patriotic ballad; James Dale and Cissie Vale sing and dance together, the latter's dancing being particularly smart; Luici Salvino, the boy instrumentalist, gets a flattering reception; the entertainment given by the King's College Boys, under the style of *The Students' Concert*, affords much satisfaction; the Four Aces are comedy acrobats with some unique feats; Rosa Filley goes well; and the Edisonograph has an entire change of films.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—*Diana of Dobson's* is this week introduced here by Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company. Miss Dorothy Green in the title-rôle is delightful; Mr. H. Grendon Bentley's study of Captain Bretherton is distinctly clever; Miss Mary Stuart is capital as Mrs. Cantelupe; Mr. Alfred Harris neatly hits off the vulgarity and bounce of Sir Jabez Grindlay, Bart.; Miss Georgette de Serville acts pleasingly as Mrs. Whyte Fraser; and various types of shop girls are cleverly portrayed by Messrs. Molly Tremaine, Kate Turner, Nannie Griffin, and Eva Leonard Boyne. Mr. Albert Wainwright presents a clever study of Police-constable Fellows; and Miss Nannie Griffin as an old woman is good. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* precedes.

MONTPELLIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Newton.—The Dandies on Saturday last concluded an excellent all-round season, and on Wednesday Mr. Newton, the popular manager, takes a well-earned benefit, having secured the magnificent band of the Royal Irish Guards, who will give two performances in the gardens of the beautiful summer resort.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The Brothers O'Brien, in their first-class horizontal bar act, are topping the bill; Adah Payne, a melodious soprano, is well applauded; Chas. Lestree, juggler, is an able manipulator of billiard balls, plates, &c.; Allis and Cassati, in a funny few minutes, introduce song, comedy, and dancing. Dot Stephens is back again, and the applause which greeted her first entrance on Monday evening speaks volumes for the place she holds in the favour of Cestrians. Her turn goes as well as ever, and she is recalled again and again. May and Arthur are a juvenile couple who indulge in song, dance, and cross patter, which is much to the liking of the audience. Other contributors to the programme are Eric Johns, tenor vocalist; the Brady and Johnson sketch combination; and the Premier Imperial pictures. Mr. Herbert Stone entered upon his duties as musical-director here last week.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Messrs. M. H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is paying a welcome return visit here with *A Soldier of France*. As Corporal (Father Jean) Mr. Leonard Aardale gives an exceptionally strong and effective rendering; Mr. Edward Hobart is distinctly successful as Capt. Louis Loraine; Mr. Albert Guyon capitally undertakes Judas Delaria; Mr. Milton C. Curtis cleverly portrays the Duke d'Laval; and Mr. Freddie Edwards is good as Pollyput Jollyboy. Miss Florence Zillwood's charmingly sympathetic rendering of Pauline is much appreciated; Miss Dora Weber is capital as Rita; Miss Phœbe Jones cleverly enacts Lippi; and Miss Jennie Claire is a vivacious Margot.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.—WEST CLIFF GARDENS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Graham, Russell, and Bentley.—Although the season is rapidly drawing to a close, the audiences at these popular gardens are well maintained. Miss Emily Foxcroft, soprano, is popular. Mr. P. Gorton Young, basso, makes a great hit with his song, "The windmill." He also contributes silver handbell solos, which are well received. Mr. Sidney Locklynne's farmyard imitations are a great attraction; Mr. Bert Graham gives a clever rendering of the monologue, "The Centenarian," and his clever manipulation of living marionettes gains him an enthusiastic encore; Mr. Bernard Russell's humorous items create roars of laughter, and Mr. Will Bentley also contributes laughable items.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. Harold Montague; Business-Manager, Mr. G. Ivor Sparke.—The Vagabonds are still a great attraction here. Harold Montague gives a sketch at the piano in his usual humorous style; Leslie Burgess sings "Jonathan Jones" and "A soldier's toast" with spirit; Arthur Thomas is extremely clever with his eccentric musical items; Olive Sparke appears to advantage, with Harold Montague, in the duet, "Dancing dolls"; Leslie Lulu is exceptionally good in her song, "Dolly's lullaby"; and Marie Longmore charmingly renders "Little blue flower." Mr. Claude Russell's pianoforte solos are a pleasing feature. Mention should also be made of the concerted numbers by the company.

OPERETTA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. W. F. Jury; Business-Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Excellent films are being exhibited here to large audiences, and Miss Clairette Florence's illustrated songs are still one of the most attractive features.

COLCHESTER. — HIPPODROME.—Joint-Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The principal item on this week's programme is supplied by Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company in the dramatic playlet *The Orange Girl*. Miss Elsworthy as Nell Gwynn has a rôle in which she is admirably suited, and is capably assisted by Mr. J. Richter, Mr. A. Lancaster, Mr. A. Howard, Miss M. Kumersley, and Miss Steele. Ted Cowan sings a couple of droll songs in his quaint style. Layern, the mystic, gives a versatile demonstration; Rosie Bartlett, charmingly attired in male hunting costume, sings in a very pleasing manner; Nellie Ridgway vocalises on the wire with effect; Flo Inman contributes much that is popular; and capital films by the Gaumont Company complete.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Ernest Dare's company in the farcical comedy *In the Soup* opened a week's engagement here on Monday. Miss Vera Wallace, with a charming stage presence, is delightfully natural as Mme. Moppert, and as her husband Mr. James Taylor is effective. Mr. L. Palgrave is irresistibly funny as Horace Gillibrand, and Miss M. Lowe-Dare works hard as Judith Gillibrand. Mr. A. Field Fisher presents Uncle Ruppershaw, and Mr. Evelyn Beerbohm is nicely placed as Paul. The piece was preceded by a short play, entitled *The Glow of the Ember*, founded on a poem of Ian Anderson's.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Mr. James Welch and company appeared here this week in *When Knights Were Bold*. The farce was finely acted, and the house rang with laughter from the rise to the fall of the curtain. Mr. Welch as Sir Guy De Vere was the central figure, and created all the fun of the piece. Miss Audrey Ford as Lady Rowen Eggington acts with much grace and effect; Mr. Arthur Grenville as Isaac Isaacson gives an extremely clever performance; Mr. George Desmond as the Hon. Chas. Widdicombe is capital; Mr. Guy Lane as the Rev. Peter Pottlebury supplies an excellent study; as Sir Owen Gwynneth Mr. Cecil Kinnaird is very good; and Miss Daisy Cordell as Miss Isaacson fills the part admirably. The Wittle of Mr. George F. Tully, the Barker of Mr. George Tompkins, and the Lady Millicent of Miss Maev O'Hea are other parts of much merit.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The Aramis, in *A Night in Naples*, render vocal selections capitally; Mlle. Ada Gatley does juggling and balancing on a slack wire with much grace and skill; Ryan and Hall, comic wrestlers and acrobats, are a very clever and amusing pair; Harris and Gibbs are an admirable pair of comedians; Les Voces, lady and gentleman, contribute selections from several operas in a pleasing manner; Sam Walsh is a clever conjurer and card manipulator; Molly Seymour is a good vocalist, and plays with skill on the violin; Charles M. Daly and his company, in *I Must Have It*, arouse continuous laughter; and the Palacescope shows some good pictures.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—*The Dairymaids* is paying a return visit. Miss Mabel Younge capitally portrays the character of Lady Brudenell; Mr. J. A. Warden is seen to advantage as Dr. O'Byrne, R.N.; Mr. Johnny Osborne is a humorous Joe Mivens, being ably assisted by Miss Gladys Silvani as Eliza.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. S. T. Newsome; General-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—Hallam and Stanton appear in a musical comedy sketch, entitled *A Broken Journey*, which causes endless mirth; Harry Champion is a great success with his comic songs; Jack and Evelyn are wonderfully smart in their turn, *Cigarette Papers;* the Society Quartette are good characteristic singers and clever dancers; Ford and Barras introduce a novel act, entitled *The Boys in White and Gold;* Bicknelle adds much to the evening's enjoyment with his comedy modelling act; Arthur Elvy and May Fayre are both very good; and the Bioscope pictures are up to date.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. George Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The chief item in this week's programme is John Warren, an illusionist of "magic carpet fame," assisted by Miss Mollie Wynter, Mr. F. G. Penn, Frank Morton, and H. J. Collis. This week he presents an entirely new sketch, which teems with illusions, and is well received; an admirable turn is presented by Billy McClain and company, a coloured company in a sketch, *Parson Johnson*, in which some good dancing is witnessed; Kent and Keith make a welcome reappearance. Other artists who capably assist are the Three Sisters Grovini, acrobats; Harry Anderson, comedian; Little Keeno, boy comedian; and Gaumont's patent Chronomegaphone, the Bioscope pictures concluding.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Messrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company in *A Merry Maid* opened here to a crowded house on Monday. Miss May Gibson acted with grace and charm as Peggy O'Hooligan; Miss F. Adamson ably sustained the rôle of Angelina Vere de Vere; Miss Ray Watson was good as Flossie Nixie; Mr. Vivian Wakeman was very successful as Larry O'Hooligan; Mr. W. S. Hutchinson, an old favourite here, was responsible for most of the fun; Mr. Neil Hardy was suitably placed as the Hon. Cecil Toft; Mr. Howard Lawrence made a capital Thady Clancy; Mr. Harry Tracey as the Dutch servant, Von Swank, was amusing; Mr. C. W. James as Sharpe Scrivener was a typical lawyer; and Wee George Wood, another Crewe favourite, as Bertie Vere de Vere, gave a remarkably clever performance.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson. Ltd.; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Wallace Davidson.—Mr. R. A. Roberts' company in *Straight from the Shoulder* is having an excellent reception here. Mr. Matthew Boulton in the dual rôle of Dr. Bedford and Harry Bletchley is exceptionally good; Millicent Grant is well portrayed by Miss Beatrice Burdett; Mr. Leonard Clarke makes a capital Major Lucas; Jim Green is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred Beck; Mr. Cuthbert Dennison is good as Donald MacGregor; and Mr. Bertram Carlton makes an excellent Sergeant Bright. Mr. George H. Child is an able Rev. John Armitage; Miss Edie Casson as Miss Brittle and her niece Gladys (Miss Beatrice Moore) are both above the average.

CROYDON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Mr. George Alexander's company is submitting admirable renderings of *The Thief* and *Too Happy by Half* here this week. In the first-named Mr. Rupert Lister touches the right note as Richard Chelford; Mr. Cyril Harcourt is quite up to the mark as Raymond Leyton; Mr. Owen Nares is capital in the rôle of Harry Leyton; Mr. Luke Forster is good as Mr. Protheroe; Mr. Bernard Stevens is suitable as a servant; Miss Marie Polini gives an accomplished performance in the character of Marise Chelford; and Miss Jean Cadell is appropriately suited as Isabel Leyton. In the one-act play Mr. Charles King is seen to advantage as Eric Verner; Mr. Owen Nares is satisfactory as Jack Fortescue; Miss Eileen Kerin makes a pleasing Mary Verner; and Mr. Bernard Stevens completes the cast as James.

HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Samuel James and Newman Maurice.—Two very fine sketches, entitled *The Guilty Man* and *Acting Mad*, are submitted by Mr. John Hare, who is ably supported by Miss Irene Clifford. Powers and Bardle, comedians, give a smart turn; Lily Rae is an excellent serio and dancer; Will Farrell creates much merriment; Lily Stewart is a capable comedienne; Gordan and Bell, in musical-comedy duo, earn well-deserved applause; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux pictures conclude a good programme.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. George Dance's company is paying a return visit here this week with *Miss Hook of Holland*, and crowded houses are ruling. Mr. T. A. Shale is a striking figure as Mr. Hook, and is in every way a thoroughly good representative of the part; Mr. Tom Seymour as Simon Slinks proves himself a comedian of considerable versatility; the Mina of Miss Cissie Sephton is a mirth-provoking depiction, and she is also a vocalist of distinct ability; the name-part is very charmingly impersonated by Miss Alice Coverick, who sings the songs allotted to her in a sweet and tuneful manner; Bandmaster Von Vuyt, a pleasing figure in the play, is satisfactorily accounted for by Mr. Frank Crimp; and Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun., appears with great acceptation as Ludwig Schnappe, and has plenty of scope for his excellent voice in the two duets in which he takes part. The other characters are done full justice to by Mr. George Ide, Mr. James Davies, Mr. W. Ogle, Mr. G. Foley, and Mr. Len Neville, Misses Isabel Vivian, Mary Allen, Tattie Leonard, May Leslie, and Maud Leonard, and a large chorus, whose efforts were most effective. The orchestra, specially augmented for the occasion, did well under the conductorship of Mr. Albert Vernon.

PALACE. — Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Harry Roxbury's company, in a sensational episode, entitled *What Women Do;* the Tennessee Guards perform a series of lightning drills, and scale walls, in a highly commendable manner; Sterling and Love, vocalists and instrumentalists, are responsible for a pleasing entertainment; Harry Luck, comedian, provokes much hearty laughter; Bros. Lawrence are agreeable vocalists and dancers; Sergt. Mumford gives a neat turn on the slack wire; and Nancy Renshaw, negro comedienne and bone soloist, is praiseworthy. The Bioscope, with interesting films, concludes the entertainment.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—The Russian drama *The Nihilist* is produced here by Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's powerful company. Mr. Walter Bentley appears as Ivan Mousky, the village blacksmith, and deservedly wins applause; the character of Princess Olga is undertaken in an admirable manner by Miss Florrie Kelsey, and Miss Edna Clare as Alexina Orloff and Mr. Leo R. Neilson as Prince Alexander win distinction. The comic interludes are introduced successfully by Mr. Henry Wright as Bobbie Smart, and the other parts are in capable hands.

DONCASTER. — NEW GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—A variety combination holds the boards this week. *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, billed "the greatest of all comedy sketches," was well received. Mr. Laws as Ferdie was humorous; and Miss Ethel Lonsdale was *au fait* as the ma-in-law; and Mr. Arnold Richardson did well as pa-in-law. Munroe's Comedy Team convulsed the house; the Brothers Corcoran, in their musical speciality act, won admiration; Edna Latonne, male impersonator, renewed pleasant impressions in Doncaster; the Reays, silver-chain acrobats, are clever; and Dan Noble, comedian, the Sisters Hampel, cross-talk comediennes, and Walter Bishop, comedian, were greeted with rounds of applause.

DOUGLAS.—GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Hemming; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—*Peter's Mother* is admirably portrayed by the clever members of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. The Lady Mary Crewys of Miss Lilias Earle was an artistic impersonation; as John Crewys Mr. Eille Norwood was thoroughly effective; the Peter of Mr. Vivian Gilbert was a clever portrayal; Miss Mary Griffiths as Lady Belstone, Miss Josephine Ray as Miss Crewys, and Miss Hilda Sims as Sarah all played in finished style. The Timothy Crewys of Mr. Townsend Whitling was well in evidence; Mr. Walter Beech as Canon Birch, and Mr. Joseph Jephson as Dr. Blundell enacted their characters successfully. The one-act farce *Turtle Doves* preceded.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Gray.—*Brewster's Millions* has caught on in Douglas. The Monty Brewster of Mr. Percy Hutchison is debonnaire and interesting; Mr. Cyril Rawdon is quite excellent as Charlie Harrison; Miss Cicely Stuckey makes a charming Peggy; and all the characters are excellently portrayed. The entire original production of Mr. Charles Frohman. The Yacht scene has caused much talk. Miss Violet Ley sings the ballad in the second act charmingly.

PALACE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brittain.—Miss Lil Hawthorne, with her new and popular songs, has made a great success; Messrs. Hinton and Wootton cause excitement in a new and daring act, *A Football Match on Cycles;* A-Ba-Bee's picture postcard album, which presents up-to-date tableaux vivants, is much appreciated; the Cromwells are expert jugglers; Vernon's Bioscope still remains a prime favourite; Mr. Edward H. Lucas shows dramatic capacity and artistic intention in his scenes from Dickens.

MR. F. J. CONNOR closes up at the Hippodrome this week-end, and benefits have been in evidence. Monday was devoted to Mr. W. R. Albino, the popular ringmaster; Tuesday to Whimsical Walker, the Royal clown; Wednesday to Willie Rickards, an eccentric comedian; Thursday to Bishop and Winkles, comical mimes; Friday to the advertising staff; and to-night will be celebrated the benefit of the proprietor of the Douglas Hippodrome.

MR. CHARLES DARE will continue running the Empire with two shows nightly throughout the winter.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. T. C. Whitlock.—Much wonder and admiration is aroused by the marvellous feats of Carlton, card manipulator, who also presents a sensational illusion entitled *The Mysterious Cross*. The musical abilities of Taree, the Australian bushman, are excellently displayed during his interesting performance; Miss Phœbe Mercer and company, who appear in the farcical sketch *Mistakes will Happen*, have a most enthusiastic reception; and Fyne and Burley are entertaining in their *Coster and Dude* scena. Alf Davies, a quaint comedian; the Bright Trio, in refined vocal and instrumental specialities; and the Eugenies, graceful and daring gymnasts, with the Hippodrome pictures, conclude a strong bill.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Reginald Dance and his excellent company are appearing here this week in the new romantic play, *Beau Brocade*, and drawing crowded houses. In the title-rôle Mr. Reginald Dance acts with judgment and excellent effect; and Miss Ruth Mackay distinguishes herself in the rôle of Lady Patience. The Duke of Cumberland has a capital exponent in Mr. R. Hayes; Mr. Frank Powell is seen to advantage as Sir Humphrey Challoner; the part of Betty is admirably enacted by Miss May Brooke; Mr. Dalziel Heron gives a clever performance as John Stitch; Mr. Frank Darch is well placed as the Earl of Stretton; Squire West is ably sustained by Mr. A. E. Mayne; and Mr. Mittachip is well played by Mr. Stanley Lathbury; and the parts of Jock Miggs, Jeremiah Inch, and Master Duffy are satisfactorily filled by Messrs. Edward Irwin, H. Asheton Tonge, and Albert Thomas respectively.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—*A White Man*, by Edwin Milton Royale, produced here for the first time on Monday, met with a cordial reception. As Captain James Wynnegate, V.C., Mr. Herbert Sleath achieves a decided success, and is ably supported by Miss Ellis Jeffreys as the Countess of Kerhill. The Earl of Kerhill has a capital representative in Mr. Harold Weston; and much credit is due to Miss Dorothy Dix for her excellent portrayal of Nat-u-ritch. Mr. Menifee Johnstone as Cash Hawkins is highly successful; and the rôle of Lady Mabel Wynnegate is ably undertaken by Miss Enid Sass. Mr. George Fawcett is particularly good as Big Bill; as the Dowager Lady Kerhill Miss Emma Gwynne makes a favourable impression; Mr. A. G. Poulton does well in the part of Sir John Applegate; Mr. Norman Yates does full justice to the part of Mr. Chiswick; and as Mrs. Hiram Doolitte and Little Hall the Misses Helen Castle and Victoria Harris are also good.

QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The pictures, which are attracting large audiences here this week, include The Kelly Gang, The Yellow Peril, The Washerwoman's Wedding, Thompson's Night Out, &c. Interesting turns are provided by Will Beanland, female impersonator; Harlin and Hanlon, comedians; and Bob Pearson, the popular humorist and guide.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The big attraction here this week is Mlle. Sahara, in a series of classical dances, which merit to the full the hearty approval with which they are received. Beale and Broadway, in a comedy and dancing act, are clever and entertaining; and Miss Bessie Butt is an attractive soubrette and dancer. Howe and Ardie, in their gymnastic act, provide a turn of excellence; and Clarice Sefton's songs are much enjoyed. Some smart feats of jumping are performed by the McAleany's; and Miss Bella White sings several catchy numbers. Harry Herbert, comedian, scores successfully; Mackintosh and Royal provide a capital dancing turn; Tom Casey, vocalist and whistler, is well received; and Films, Ltd., depicting The Eucharistic Congress, concludes.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Miss May Mooro Duprez is the star turn here this week, and the enthusiastic reception accorded her is in every way merited. Cosgrove and Burns, in their drawing-room scena, give another well-appreciated turn; the Brothers Artois are clever and amusing in their triple bar act; the Sisters Allen, duettists and dancers, are lively; Bernard and Weston are good patterers; a successful turn is given by Carl Rosine, magician; Miss Alma Gray speedily gains favour for her pleasing song scena; Frazer and French, in their clog dancing, are exceedingly smart; and the Bioscope is, as usual, entertaining.

PAVILION (KINGSTOWN).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—A really good all-round show is delighting the patrons here this week. Mr. Tom Stuart, a clever mimic and character impersonator, scores a decided success; Miss Lilian Barnes possesses a rich contralto voice, and sings brilliantly; Maynard Dakin, the pierrot Mephisto, contributes an enjoyable turn; Elfie Vincent, comedienne and dancer, obtains a good reception; and other excellent turns are furnished by Mr. Jack Macdermott, comedian, and Mr. Forshaw Kershaw, solo pianist.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—A bright and varied programme her includes Foster and West, comedy duo; Sadie Yost, comedienne and double-voiced vocalist; Harry Monkhouse, comedian; Allan Morgan, London's dancing messenger; Bert Osborne, actor-vocalist and banjoist; and the cinematograph.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company had a hearty welcome on the return visit on Monday, when the new Irish play, *Rollicking Rory*, was submitted. As Rory O'Donohoe Mr. Mackey gives a delightfully entertaining representation; Mr. Charles Homer is well placed as Desmond Fitzgerald; Mr. Fred W. Leonard makes a good impression as Stephen D'Arcy; Mr. St. John Stuart assumes Shaun Brady with credit; Mr. Richard Hutton makes an admirable General Ashleigh; Miss Nana Flensberg scores a success as Rosie O'Donohoe; Miss Adele Liddon gives a good account of herself as Widow Callagan; Mme. Constance Bellamy as Queen of the Fairies achieves a distinct success, her singing being of a high order; and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey as Rosaleen Ashleigh is very charming.

EASTBOURNE.—NEW PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—During the early part of the week Mr. Fred Mouillot's company was appearing here in *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Wallace Widdicombe as Horace Parker worked very hard; Mr. Norman Clark as the Tramp gave a genuinely clever and effective performance; Mr. William H. Brougham was an impressive Messenger; Mr. Robert Grey a sincere Arthur Dicey; and Mr. Eric Ward as Dr. Chapman, Mr. Eustace French as Sir E. Vivian, and Mr. Eric Fowler as Mr. Fergusson did their duty ably in smaller parts, Mr. Walter Selby being an appropriate Policeman. Miss Rose Helene made a girlish and sympathetic Minnie Templer, Miss Flora Hastings a characteristic Miss Parker, and Miss Mary Glanbrane a handsome Mrs. Clarence. Mr. Charles Frohman's company supplied the entertainment on Thursday in *The Hypocrites*.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clarke.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal are here for three evening performances, and are producing for the first time locally *The Whirlpool*. In the part of Miss Livingstone, Mrs. Kendal is admirably suited; Mrs. A. B. Tapping was a delightfully dignified Miss Gretchen; Miss Ethel Dare proved a brightly attractive and vivacious Miss Van Stuyler; and Miss Sara de Groot was a voluble Elise. Mr. Kendal quite captivated the house with his fine work as the good-hearted, generous Elijah D. Tillottson; Mr. Bassett Roe, in the difficult part of Bertram Livingstone, gave us the refined work of an accomplished actor; Mr. Wellesley Draper, too, was finely realistic in the rôle of Cutter; Mr. Edmund Gurney contributed one of the brilliant successes of the evening as Ephraim Johnstone; Mr. T. Holding was a very pleasing Killiegrew, Mr. Metcalfe Wood an excellent Chappin, and Mr. W. M. Rutherford a dignified Parker. *The Beloved Vagabond*, played by Mr. F. Mouillot's company, was billed for the last three nights.

THE ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—The Rio Brothers head the bill here this week, and their gymnastic show is nicely staged and smartly worked; Bromley and Fontein, a lady and gentleman, appear in a successful and novel sketch, *The Man Behind the Music Stand;* Mr. James Stewart, the clever tramp musician, pays a welcome return visit; the San Remo Girls are smart acrobatic dancers; Mr. Jack Crawley is particularly successful in his imitations; the Kimberley Boys are capable duettists and comedians; and Miss Daisy Hicks and Miss Marie Goodwin are pleasing comediennes who complete the bill.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mrs. Patrick Campbell and company began their tour with *The Thunderbolt* here last Monday evening under the most favourable auspices. The

Every Pretty Girl

SHOULD ENTER THE

ALL BRITAIN BEAUTY CONTEST

PROMOTED BY

PEARSON'S WEEKLY.

First Prize, £250. Total Prize Money, £350.

PEARSON'S WEEKLY, with its usual enterprise, has just inaugurated what is going to be

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MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THESE ISLES.

In Beauty Competitions as a rule the judging is left in the hands of one or two individuals whose taste may differ from that of the majority and whose decisions therefore seldom, if ever, give satisfaction.

In the PEARSON'S WEEKLY Competition this difficulty will be avoided entirely by leaving

THE JUDGING IN THE HANDS OF THE READERS.

Voting coupons are published each week in PEARSON'S WEEKLY, and at the close of the Competition the lady who has secured the largest number of votes will be awarded the

FIRST PRIZE OF TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS.

To facilitate the adjudication the British Isles are being divided into ten sections. The lady in each division who is credited with the largest number of votes will be awarded a special prize of

TEN POUNDS

so that the total sum awarded will be

THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY POUNDS.

Full details of the scheme and voting coupons appear in this week's

PEARSON'S WEEKLY.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—The presentation of the new version of *The Christian* by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is notable for the general excellence of the performers in the matter of character acting. Very admirable studies of the many varied types included in the cast of the play are contributed by their respective representatives, from the Horatio Drake and Lord Robert Ure of Mr. Oswald Marshall and Mr. Geo. R. Montford or the Father Lamplugh and Archdeacon Wealthy of Mr. Edwin Ling and Mr. C. P. Turpin to the Mrs. Callender and Polly Love of Miss Sinna St. Clair and Miss Margaret Brodie and the Black Meg and Liza of Miss May Dudley and Miss Alice Leigh, and even down to those very shady persons, the Bert and Mother Kent of Mr. W. S. Carter and Miss Mina Renouf. Lord Storm, Parson Quayle, and Lady Robert Ure are effectively portrayed by Mr. F. R. Holloway, Mr. Arthur E. Mascall, and Miss Katherine Maude; and all the minor parts are carefully filled. In his former rôle of John Storm Mr. Henry Renouf once more does sterling work, which is duly recognised at the close of each act; and associated with him in the success of the production is the promising actress Miss Doris Gilham, whose rendering of the difficult part of Glory Quayle shows her ability for strong emotional and convincing work.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—The place of honour on the programme here is held by Mr. George D'Albert, a comedian with a bright, taking style, who is at home both in serious and humorous work; Mr. Fred Sinclair and Miss Gracie Whiteford prove vastly entertaining in their sketch, *Getting Even;* while Drum and Major, and Sandy and Carl evoke peals of laughter by their funny business and clever patter; Bert Welda and Dorothy Wynne provide a smart juggling and tumbling act, and Marlo's sleight-of-hand tricks are admirably done; Miss Radie Furman, "the jolly Dutch Girl," sings and dances herself into the favour of the audience; Cynthia, an intelligent youthful vocalist, sings with ability, and the Bioscope shows a capital series of up-to-date films.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—The double turn provided by Bella and Bijou at the head of this week's bill has been received with infinite relish by well-filled houses. In their latest success, *The Suffragette,* these popular entertainers are at their best, and the sketch creates considerable diversion. The New York Nippers appear in a dancing act which is carried through with much vigour; the Simms, Rosa and Kitty, are a lively pair of young artists, whose *From School to Stage* scena is greatly enjoyed; George Newburn gives smart imitations of sundry music-hall celebrities; Nellie Martell shows vivacity as a comedienne; and J. W. Rowley submits a pleasant turn as a sound comedian of the old type; great force and energy mark the efforts of Harry Rogers, Miss Newcomb, and John Roberts in the melodramatic episode *Told in a Flat;* and the Narrow Brothers display some broad effects in their acrobatic trick cycling; under the title "Makers of History" an interesting representation of living statuary is exhibited, the series including figures of distinguished statesmen, warriors, poets, actors, and philanthropists; and the American Bioscope shows a fine set of films depicting the processes involved in the production of *The Scotsman* newspaper.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford. — *You Never Can Tell,* Bernard Shaw's farcical comedy, is being staged here. Miss Catherine Stewart as Miss Clandon, in a difficult part, is excellent; the same may be said of Mr. J. Edward Pearce as Fergus Crampton; Miss Gwladys Morris as Gloria Clandon is quite charming; Mr. Leslie Hamer makes a clever Valentine; and Miss Clara Earle as Dolly Clandon and Mr. Donald Calthrop as Philip Clandon are smart. Mr. Trevor Lowe's study of the waiter is worth seeing; Mr. Charles Daly is at home as Finch McComas; and Mr. George Howard is a masterful Bohun, K.C.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, —Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is this week presenting the late F. A. Scudamore's play, *Is Life Worth Living?* As the hero of a spirited play, Lionel Roy, Mr. Ernest Owtrim has a part which suits him well, and he gives an earnest and well-conceived impersonation of the character; Mr. Herbert Hollister, who takes the part of the hated Randolph Kerr, is well up to the business, and plays with appropriate dash and daring; Miss Jeannie Burgoyne has a really difficult rôle to fill in that of Isabel Corsbie, and gives a powerful interpretation of the pitiable plight af a fallen woman. Miss Lilian Earle as Madge Roxton, the heroine, acts with brightness and naturalness. The other parts are all well filled, notably those by Mr. Harry Bristow and Miss Lottie Moss.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry J. Snelson.—*An Abandoned Woman* is paying a welcome return visit this week. Miss Marion West, in the title-rôle, gives a rendering of the part full of dramatic fire; Mr. Herbert M. King as Capt. Seaton is robust and manly, and quickly gains favour; Mr. Teddy Myles is a typical Paddy Boyle, and has the audience in continual laughter; Mr. F. Healey as Sir Marmaduke Seaton and Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam as Eleanor Deane prove decidedly clever; Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner adds largely to the comedy element as Sally Sloper. The piece is exceptionally well staged.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Thos. Robinson.—The Loyal British Empire Animated Picture Co. are now in their eighteenth week, and are drawing larger houses than ever. A Pirate's Honour is a dramatic picture of thrilling interest, while 2,000 Miles Without a Dollar is well received. Several other dramatic and humorous films go to complete an excellent evening's entertainment. Mr. Reg. Jeeks contributes several songs in his usual finished manner.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—For the first three nights of the week Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company appeared in the romantic comedy, *Diana of Dobson's,* which was thoroughly appreciated by a large audience. Miss Emelie Polini is a gifted actress, and was seen to great advantage in the title-rôle; Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton was played in a natural manner by Mr. E. C. Villiers, who possesses quite the voice and appearance of an officer of the Guards; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce submitted a careful study of the prosperous, self-made Sir Jabez Grindlay; special mention should be made of Miss Gwynneth Galton for the clever way in which she depicted the matchmaking Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss Daisy England was a complete success as the martinet forewoman at Dobson's; and Miss Clarissa Selwynne looked and acted the part of the aristocratic Mrs. White Fraser. A word of praise must be given to Misses Violet Gould, Eva Lonsdale, Dorothy Garth, and Olga Esme, who, as shop girls at Dobson's, assist in the cause of merriment. The play was preceded nightly by the powerful little drama, *The Bishop's Candlesticks,* in which the characters were ably sustained by Misses Daisy England and Olga Esme, and Messrs. W. Kingsford Pearce, Frank Woolfe, and Stewart Dawson.

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—At this fashionable and popular entertainment place the Gipsies and their Jester are received with the utmost enthusiasm by crowded houses, and the admirable programmes they are giving fully merit the remarkable success they are achieving.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Miss Lydia Donovan's company appeared here on Monday in *Niobe.* Miss Donovan gave a pleasing representation of Niobe, and she was supported by Mr. Quinton Fulford as Peter Amos Dunn. Mr. Frank Lennard, Mr. Alfred G. Raymond, Mr. J. Croudace, Miss Ray Fairfax, Miss Louie Walton, &c. *My Soldier Boy* was produced on Tuesday, and each evening *Nan* concluded the performance.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—A crowded audience welcomed Miss Lena Ashwell on Monday evening in *Irene Wycherley,* which proved of enthralling interest. Miss Ashwell's performance as the sorely-tried Irene is a particularly strong one throughout, and recalls were frequent. Mr. Norman McKinnell gave a striking performance as Philip Wycherley; Mr. C. M. Hallard was excellent as Harry Chesterton; an exceedingly clever character sketch was the Sir Peter Wycherley of Mr. Dennis Eadie, and Miss Frances Ivor impersonated his dignified Lady with grim humour. Miss Doris Lytton was a bright and lively Muriel; Mr. T. A. Shannon made a strong part of Charles Summers; and various society ladies were well acted by Misses Gertrude Scott, Margaret Murray, Nannie Bennett, and Mary Barton. The clever little play *The Likes o' Me* was given in front, with Miss Beryl Mercer and Master Philip Tonge in the principal parts.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane. —This house is favoured with a second visit of Mr. George Edwardes's company in that highly entertaining production, *The Girls of Gottenberg.* The outstanding feature of the present visit is the appearance of Mr. Edmund Payne, whose drollery as Max Moddelkopf is keenly relished. A large share of the honours also fall to Happy Fanny Fields, whose versatile talent and merry laugh as Mitzi add much to the general gaiety of the piece. Mr. Leslie Holland is the Prince Otto, and looks and acts the part capitally; and as the Captain of Dragoons the bearing of Mr. Fred Allandale is all that could be wished. Brittlbotti is portrayed with genuine humour by Mr. Fred Payne; Mr. Jocelyn Hope makes an admirable General; the Colonel of Hussars is well delineated by Mr. Arnold Lucy, and the other officers by Messrs. Ernest Arundel, Arthur Whitehead, Lawrence Robbins, and Ellis Holland. Distinctive character is given the rôles of Burgomaster, Innkeeper, and Town Clerk by Messrs. Douglas Munro, A. Chentrens, and Louis Denver respectively. Miss Maisie Gay fills the part of Clementine, and sings her numbers in good style. Elsa is attractively represented by Miss Thelma Raye; and a sprightly Lucille is found in Miss Florence Phillips.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Enthusiastic followers of Mr. J. W. Turner have not been slow this week to offer him their warmest support. *Maritana* occupied the stage on Monday, and was enthusiastically received. In the title-rôle Miss Christine Gomez was seen and heard to excellent advantage. Her voice is charming, while her acting is carefully studied and delightful. Mr. Turner appeared with his accustomed success as Don Cæsar de Bazan, his rendering of "Let me like a soldier fall" evoking the heartiest applause. As Lazarillo Miss Jessie Dennis appealed powerfully to her hearers. Her voice is capital, and her delivery of "Alas, those chimes" was quite a feature of the opera. Mr. Tom Griffiths was an admirable Don Jose, his songs being rendered in a delightful manner; as Charles II. Mr. S. Clifford lacked nothing vocally; as the Marquis de Montifiore and Marchioness Mr. R. Cummings and Miss Maud Esdale proved highly amusing. The chorus is nicely balanced, and sings well under the able leadership of Mr. Lawton. *Il Trovatore* and *The Bohemian Girl* are also included in the week's bill.

PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Mr. Walter Melville's stirring drama, *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home,* has appealed strongly to the public taste. The part of Jack Marshall is entrusted to Mr. Fred Goddard, who brings his experience to bear on the impersonation. Miss Louise Hampton draws a strong and pathetic picture of Bertha Marshall. The villainies of Leonard Kenyon are convincingly depicted by Mr. Paul Barry Lewers; the character of the scheming adventuress Val Raymond is well brought out by Miss Georgie de Lara. Mr. W. L. Clement plays Josh Crockett in powerful fashion; Mr. Norman B. Cannon presents William Stevenson in fine style, and Winifred Marshall finds a good exponent in Miss Lulu Bowes. Most of the humorous element is supplied by Mr. Francis Hope, who causes a good deal of mirth as Tommy Biffon, being laudably aided by Miss Alys Eden as Lottie Primrose.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here presenting *The Village Blacksmith,* with Mr. Sam Livesey in the title-part, of which he gives a powerful representation. Miss Maggie Edwards is excellent as the blacksmith's wife; and Miss Lily Leicester gives a pleasing portrayal of their boy Harry. Mr. Albert Sinclair as Captain Leo makes an effective villain, while his sometime accomplice finds a good interpreter in Mr. Edwin Maydew as Lucas Marler. Mr. Thomas E. Marshall as an itinerant tinker, and Mrs. T. C. Livesey as his wife are amusing presentations. Mr. Fred Harning as Billy Twigg supplies plenty of fun, assisted by Miss Edith Giddens as Martha Mopps. Ruth Parkins, one of the villain's victims, is pathetically played by Miss Cassie le Grande. The last act is located on the stage of a music-hall, on which some good turns are given.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—A return visit here of Miss Bonwin Carlton's company in two plays is attracting good houses. On Monday *The Plucky Nipper* was given, and as Polly Hithard Miss Carlton makes a most entertaining nipper, and carried the sympathies of the audience with her. Mr. Edward Surrey as Bill Burgess gives a good study of low life; Mr. W. Lowther acts well as the old Colonel; Mr. A. P. Lee made a dashing Captain Leslie; Miss Esther Lamart gives a good rendering of the part of Ida Fenwick, and the blind girl, Daisy, is played with quiet pathos by Miss Kitty Maynard. Mr. T. Hadlin as Henry Paget, Mr. Frank Dalem as the Detective, and Mr. J. P. Dryden as Richard Vanborough lend able support. On three evenings *The Old, Old Story* was given.

EMPIRE, LTD.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Clark and Hamilton are starring here, and in song, dance, and comedy business again prove their strong hold on the Glasgow public. G. H. Elliott shares the top of the bill, and the chocolate-coloured songster is a prime favourite; Daley Cooper and Mabel Lait present a lively tea-room sketch, *Tigers, Ltd.,* which is very amusing. The Ten-ji Troupe of Japanese conjurers show new and wonderful tricks; Ralph and Nellie Howard give a smart musical turn; Mary Dundas and Mavis Clare are clever vocalists; Prof. Dubois' educated baboon is a marvel, and the Bioscope shows the latest films.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock. —The principal item in this week's bill is the lively sketch *The House of Tinn,* in which Mr. J. Gar Kiddie is intensely funny as Jinks, the waiter. Mr. J. W. Groves as Arabella, Mr. Douglas B. Watson as Augustus, and Miss Lizzie Payne as Molly give excellent support. Charles Russell, assisted by several veterans, gives a striking military scena entitled *1854,* which goes well; Ernest Montefiore's company, in the pathetic sketch *The Little Colonel,* is another good turn. Wilson Hallett's imitations of children are very clever; the Three Phydoras give a smart speciality item; and clever turns are also contributed by Charles Rose, Les Rallis, Little Baby Sophie, and the Three Gartis.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Harry Tate, in *Motoring,* is responsible for roars of laughter all the time he is on. Radford and Valentine, in a comedy and juggling act, are most entertaining. The Motramos (Tom and Marie) gain hearty applause for their eccentric musical act; Lily Burnand sings several songs in her own dashing style, and takes well; Macdonald and Huntington are a smart couple of duettists; Simms and Simms shine as musical comedians; Baby Betty Green is always a favourite here; Kelly and Agnes get a hearty reception for their eccentric comedy act; Beatty and Blanche are attractive duettists and dancers; and Brothers Ashley, in their boxing sketch, complete a lengthy programme.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Harry Grattan and company are responsible for the top item, *Man, the Brute,* which creates great merriment; J. A. Wilson, the "black oracle," with the assistance of his well-trained dog, wins success. Other notable turns include those of Maud Prenton, comedienne, Howard and Collinson, speciality artists; Sam Vincent, acrobatic expert; Rosie Reval, comedy artist; the Lannons, expert dancers; J. W. Gallagher, comedian; and Karoly Czynski, a clever instrumentalist.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The principal item of this week's bill is supplied by Fred Ginnett and Co. in the romantic equestrian spectacle *Dick Turpin's Ride to York,* which was thoroughly enjoyed; the ever-popular *Black Justice,* by Ben Brown and George Le Clerq, creates considerable amusement. The other artists include Edward Lauri and May Beatty and company, in a musical mélange; George Ridgwell, vocalist and cornet soloist; the Avrignys, Japanese jugglers; Lady Mansel's Juveniles, comedy specialists; Rossi Ashton in his speciality, "song sketching"; Walter Curtis, comedian; Walter Ray, vocalist; and the Bioscope, with a series of novel pictures.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Good houses have been the rule here this week. A singing contest never fails to draw at this house, and entries were numerous. The regular company includes Miss Maude Clifton, a tasteful vocalist; Dusty Rhodes, in his inimitable patter and vocalism; the Scotch humorist, Bob Alexander; the Gondolier Glee Singerse, in some fine quartettes; and Hurmann, in a juggling performance and clever show of hoop-manipulation; and the Bioscope contributes agreeably to the entertainment.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Harvey and Holt do well with a military song, and the Brothers Bellis are mirth-provoking eccentrics; Lily Arden is happy in song and dance; Phil Lee contributes capital songs; and the Bioscope, with a series of interesting pictures, A Rustic Heroine, The Robber's Daughter, Troubles of a Cine-Taker, and The Unemployed Demonstration in Glasgow, makes up a capital entertainment.

GLOUCESTER.—Palace.—Proprietors, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—This week we have the modern Hercules, John Mark, topping a good bill. May Lilian Levey speedily finds favour with her original songs; a welcome return visit is made by Carl Lynn, a very fine animal mimic, who is enthusiastically recalled; Kloof and Ramsey present a novel and interesting musical act; Ben Harris's Nippers do well in *The Visitors and the Page;* a turn that meets with approbation is given by the Forsyths, musical eccentrics; Dan Thomas is especially good in "dame" songs; and a juggling equilibristic performance by the Seymons meets with a good reception.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Miss Loie Esmond's company, under the direction of Mr. Edward Neville, presented on Monday *The Sorrows of Satan.* Mr. Edward Neville scored a distinct success as Prince Lucio; Geoffrey Tempest had an admirable exponent in Mr. F. Douglas Howard; the part of the Earl of Elton was well sustained by Mr. J. Le Fleming; Mr. Edwin Ramsdale is a very amusing Morris; Mr. F. Holland Day ably presented Amiel; Miss Rosie Neville proved herself to be an accomplished actress as Lady Sybil; Miss Loie Esmond played with charming effect the rôle of Diana Chesney; Miss Hilary Burleigh made a sympathetic Mavis Clare; and Miss Cecil Byrne was a clever Mrs. Grimes. *Nana* was announced for the latter part of the week.

GRAVESEND.—Grand Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—Mr. E., the man of mysteries, causes endless fun here; Will Burton, comedian and dancer, is a capital turn; the Evales, in their jocular juggling, are voted admirable; Blanche Vincent, burlesque artist, is smart and taking; MacAdam, in a mining scena, is good; and Johnny Holland and company, in *The Boatbuilder,* contribute largely to the amusement. The Brothers O'Gorman also appear.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — Royal Aquarium —Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—A first-rate company is appearing here in *The Girls of Gottenberg.* Mr. Bertie Wright is irresistibly funny as Captain Max; Miss May Marshall is excellent as Clementine; Miss Susie Raymond executes an exceptionally clever solo dance; Miss Elaine Thorne is a charming Mitzi; and Mr. Tom Shelford a big favourite as Prince Otto.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is presenting *The Belle of Mayfair* for the Race Week. Mr. Sidney Bart makes a fine Sir John Caldicott; Mr. Harley Ravenscroft appears to advantage as Raymond Finchley; Mr. Stephen Hall is a good Earl of Mount Highgate; Miss Nellie Barnwell a capital Julia; Miss Doris Lyons a lively Pincott; and Miss Denny Fitzherbert appears to advantage as Lady Caldicott. The orchestra was conducted by Mr. W. Brightwell.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—An excellent attraction has been secured for the Race Week in the Colibri Midgets, in their unique and clever entertainment; the Scotch Belles present a smart musical act; Addison introduces cleverly-trained dogs; the Dorians are clever gymnasts; and Alexander Prince repeats his success of last week. Chuting the Chute is still very popular.

Britannia Pier Pavilion.—Managing Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—The Yo-San Imperial Troupe are giving a fine exhibition of Eastern tricks; Mr. A. G. Spry is a big favourite; Miss Dorothy Sefton scores as the "White Girl"; Mlle. Lucretia is an excellent dancer; Margaret Ogilvie a pleasing comedienne; and Ray and Calden appear in a clever comedy act. Excellent pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

Wellington Pier Pavilion.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Corporation; Manager, Mr. Arthur Cash.—A capital programme is presented here. Mr. Arthur Rigby and company have scored a big success in *The Isle of Ooma;* Lieut. Albini is mystifying everyone with his clever entertainment; Letty Lingard is a clever dancer; Will Crackles a big favourite; and Frank Boyce a smart comedian.

GREENOCK. — Alexandra Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Vasco, "the mad musician," is the star attraction here, and his clever turn is a big success. The delightful condensed operas *The Daughter of the Regiment* and *The Last Rose,* presented by Mr. Ernest Charles Gittins, are very welcome in that they feature Mlle. Adele Prescott, whose very charming work in the principal rôles is enthusiastically received. Alexandra and Bertie, in their refined aerial act, are very clever; Chummie La Mara, comedienne, Will Sergeant, vocal comedian, Frances Drew, burlesque actress, and George Beeves, comedian, also appear with success. The Alexandroscope pictures are good.

Empire.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Probyn's Brooklyn Comedy Four head the bill here this week, evoking the merriest laughter with their comedy; the musical entertainment provided by the Four Jumels is artistic; an acceptable number is presented by W. H. Downs, a coloured vocalist; and good turns are also given by Keith and Merson, comedy sketch artists; Willie and Johnnie, head and hand balancers; and Tom and Neil Thompson, in their club-swinging, boxing, and wrestling act. The Prince Edward pictures are also an attraction.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The Five Sisters Warwick give a wonderfully smart, neat, and daring display of cycling feats; the Four Watsons present a charming and distinctly novel musical speciality; Luis Hardt is greeted with applause in a classical and athletic sketch, *Flights of Imagination;* those adept jugglers the Wallys are as entertaining as ever; and others who do well are Oakley and James, comedy artists; J. H. McCann, comedian and acrobatic skate dancer; and Miss Mary Glen, vocalist. The Dromscope shows an amusing series of pictures.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—*The Prince of Pilsen* is proving as attractive as on its former visit. Mr. Harry Kilburn again appears as the eccentric brewer Hans Wagner, and gives a very droll impersonation of the character; Miss Sophie Harriss fills the part of Mrs. Maddison Crocker with success; Mr. Leslie Owen acts and sings well as the Prince; the same may be said of Mr. Arthur Geary as Tom Wagner; Miss Nellie Lomas charmingly represents Nellie Wagner, and her singing is admired; Miss Mabel Dent is pleasingly vivacious as Sidonie, and dances prettily; Mr. Charles Rogers is amusing as the Earl of Shrimpton; whilst Miss Dora Christian as Edith Adams and Mr. Ernest Gifford as François are also responsible for good work.

The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—The Elliott-Savonas are repeating their former successes here. Their grand musical speciality, including the performance of Rossini's overture to *William Tell,* is greeted with the utmost enthusiasm. A dramatic episode, *The Red Letter,* is presented by Mr. H. Bell, Miss Lilly Pearl, Mr. G. Harrison, and others, and proves highly interesting; W. T. Thompson and company appear in an amusing comedy act *Watch the Chalk,* which introduces many laughable incidents; Captain Kettle is a clever illusionist; Ouida Macdermott is a pleasing vocal actress; and Lilian Lowe is also a success as a vocalist.

GUERNSEY. — Theatre St. Julians.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Vaudeville entertainments here are highly popular. Hilda Mascot, expert dancer; Jack Foley, comic singer; and Louie Hurman, chorus vocalist, are all successful in their respective numbers. H. D. Watson is a clever one-armed instrumentalist; Will Farrell is rightly termed a smart comedian; a special attraction is the introduction of Miss Carlotta de Yonson and company (including Mr. C. Douglass Carlile), with two stirring dramettes, entitled *Crime and the Criminal* and *Sexton Blake.*

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their Shakespearean company opened here on Monday with *The Merchant of Venice.* The company all round is exceptionally strong in elocution. Mr. H. O. Nicholson was well placed as the Duke of Venice; Mr. Edward A. Warburton was manly and effective as the Prince of Morocco; Mr. Murray Carrington gave a scholarly interpretation of Antonio; Mr. Baliol Holloway was an ideal Bassanio; Mr. T. G. Worlock won universal approval as Lorenzo; Mr. F. R. Benson's Shylock was a clever performance, revealing much scholarly intuition; Tubal, Gratiano, Salanio, and Salarino were well played by Mr. J. P. Wilson, Mr. G. H. Clark, Mr. J. M. Johnston, and Mr. G. B. Rathbone; Mr. George R. Weir's Gobbo was genuine Shakespearean comedy; Mrs. Benson's Portia was praiseworthy in every way; Miss Helen Haye was an excellent Nerissa; and Miss Coris Hamilton's Jessica was a meritorious performance. *Twelfth Night, Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth, School for Scandal, Hamlet,* and *King Henry V.* are also in the week's bill, Mr. and Mrs. Benson taking part in every performance.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—A good series of pictures is being shown at this house, notably A Trip Through Savoy, The Hypnotic Policeman, and Call Me at Seven o'clock. Miss Maud Melton, soprano, meets with a good reception; and Marie Terry and J. S. Bentley introduce some smart patter. The lady is a clever dancer, and Mr. Bentley is a good all-round acrobat.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H Foster.—Rose Cabani is a successful comedienne, and meets with approval; Larola is a clever and quaint artist; Leo and Roland give a smart exhibition of hand balancing; Bertha Winder is a graceful and skilful step-dancer; Jack Pleasants creates roars of laughter; Alfonzo, tranka performer, gives a unique and entertaining turn; the Sisters Brenton are clever skipping-rope dancers; Harry Milton is good as a Dutch comedian and dancer; and Elmo and Rego provide a capital turn as comedy acrobats.

HAMILTON, N.B.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Mr. John Tiller's company is appearing here this week in the musical farce *Down the Water.* Mr. Bob Selvidge takes the part of George Jesmond Dene, and proves himself a comedian of marked ability; Inspector Smart, a detective, is played by Mr. Teddy Gibbs; and his assistant, Wm. Glum, by Mr. Barney Dixon. Both are very funny, and are responsible for much laughter. A feature of the performance is the smart work done by the chorus, and the dancing items are cleverly performed.

HANLEY.—Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—This week a right royal welcome is being accorded to Miss Ellen Terry, who is here in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion.* A finer interpretation than Lady Cicely has never been seen in the Potteries. Mr. James Carew is perfectly at his ease as the Captain; Mr. George Fitzgerald plays Sir Howard creditably; Mr. Story-Gofton as the missionary is responsible for a fine character part; Mr. Max Montesole as Felix Drinkwater is good; and Mr. Frank Powell looks and plays the part of Captain Hamlin capitally. The play is followed by *Variations,* a clever interlude, played by Miss Ellen Terry and Mr. James Carew.

Grand, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Kelly and Gillette, comedy acrobats, cause much laughter by their funny and clever act; the Gothams, comedians and vocalists, are a great success; Bessie Ford has a charming voice, which she uses with great skill; the Brothers Martin are loudly recalled for their musical efforts; Tom Woottwell, comedian, returns, and again makes a hit; Ray Maskell is a charming singer and dancer; the Robertys, equilibrists, win favour with their clever performance; Harry Russon, an actor-comedian, is highly commendable; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are also attractive.

King's.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—Another fine series of pictures are shown here this week.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week the Hutchison company appeared in *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.* Mr. George Mudie was very funny and quaint as Mr. Ponderbury; Miss Florence Wix was well placed as Mme. Polacca Modjeski; Miss Annie Stalman was an excellent Mrs. Ponderbury; Mr. Drew Macintosh a good Mervyn Thorpe; and Miss Florence Wellesley was pretty and pleasing as Ethel Peniston. Mr. Mouillot and company appeared in *Tom Jones* on Thursday.

The Kursaal.—General-Manager and Musical Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—The Munograph, with new films, heads the bill here this week, and Mr. A. W. Peterkin is the vocalist. For the latter half of the week Mme. Alice Esty is announced to appear. The Zee Party of Dutch Serenaders appear in the Spa Café.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—Pictures continue to provide the evening's entertainment here. The films shown this week are exceptionally clear and interesting, The Dumb Man of Manchester particularly so. The funniest picture that could be imagined is that of The Plumber and the Lunatic. A number of other pictures are shown, and an illustrated song is capitally rendered by Mr. C. Ferrier.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—The boards were occupied on Monday by Hardie and Von Leer's company with *Two Lancashire Lasses in London.* The rôle of John Edmunds, an inventor, was effectively presented by Mr. Herbert Pearson; Bessie was an amusing assumption of character by Miss Marguerite Trevosper; and Miss Marie Corri played pleasingly the rôle of their child Lucy. Constance and Nellie had excellent representatives in Miss Rosslyn Vane and Miss Alice Defoe, whose emotional acting aroused sympathy. Mr. Fred Morgan as the swindling Jonas Deane and Mr. Jack Miller as the loafing ruffian, Jim Price, were characteristic; Mr. Chris. Mason as Samuel Hallett was a refreshing character contrast; and plenty of humour was provided by Miss Evelyn Shaw as Jane Adelaide. Mr. E. Rayson Cousens was a success as the Rev. Frank Selby. Miss Lena Ashwell's company was billed for Thursday in the comedy, *Diana of Dobson's.*

Hastings Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—An excellent programme is opened by an attractive comedienne, Miss Winnie Wentworth. The Three Westbrooks engage in a pretty dancing scena; the eccentric comedian Keane Harker imports some genuine humour into his songs; Eileen Desmond in "merry moments at the piano" is accorded a hearty reception; and a clever little company introduces a comedy episode, entitled *Hester's Mystery,* by A. W. Pinero. The artists include Messrs. Horace Pollock, Lionel Thompson, Edmund Pollock, Miss Pattie Groves, and Miss N. Nibloe. Alf Aubyn is a long-approved favourite here; and Virto, a clever musician, is assisted by his daughter Venita in a pleasing drawing-room act.

Hastings Pier Pavilion.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—In a variety entertainment some pretty and graceful dances are given by the Misses Lettie and Florence; Espinosa and Edwards engage in a clever musical act; Miss Margaret Lewys, a Welsh soprano, sings pleasing songs; the amusing drawing-room sketches by Miss Ada Ward are much applauded; and Payne's Bio-photoscope depicts some interesting pictures. On Monday Harry Lauder at a flying matinée gave selections from his Scotch répertoire of songs. He was listened to by a very crowded audience.

Beach Concert Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. George Blackmore.—Good-humoured audiences are secured here by the vivacious character-songs rendered by Miss Marie Schultz and Messrs. Frank Wood and George Blackmore, and the well-sung ballads of Miss Edith Blanchard and Mr. H. V. Crofton, Miss Elsie English proving an excellent accompanist.

Public Hall.—The People's Picture Palace Company, managed by Mr. F. R. Griffiths, continues its attractive exhibition of animated pictures, which secure good audiences. Variety is introduced by Miss Beverley and Dean and Dover.

HORWICH.—New Princes'.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Miss Emma Litchfield's company, in *A London Actress,* provides the attraction this week under the direction of Mr. Stuart Cleveland. Miss Litchfield's impersonation of Hilda Mannering, the unscrupulous adventuress, is most artistic; Miss Mabel Durham gives a sympathetic rendering of Phyllis; Biddy Maloney has a capital exponent in Miss Helene Thomson; and Miss Nancy Blackwood as Mrs. Skinner is amusing. Miss Alice Granville plays Rosie Blythe in good style. Mr. Stuart Cleveland's Sergeant-major Clive Crawford is a typical study; Mr. Alfred Stretton plays Lieutenant Kingston, R.N., with vigour; Moses Mendoza has a fine exponent in Mr. Geo. Wallace; and Mr. Willie Reid fairly revels in the part of Pat Maloney.

HULL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue. — Mr. Ian MacLaren pays a very pleasant return visit, and the impression formed of his work on the last occasion is strengthened by the fine talent now displayed. On Monday night he struck a fine note in his reading of Shylock, and this, added to the recollection of his striking performance of Hamlet on the last visit, stamps him at once as one of the great Shakespeareans. He has adequate support from his company, and Miss Violet Sterne, whom we remember in other productions, retains the hold she has on the Hull audiences. Mr. F. Stafford Dawson was a fine Prince of Morocco; and Mr. T. V. Bryant was a good Graham. *Henry of Lancaster* and *The School for Scandal* have also been included in the programme.

Alexandra Theatre.—Morton's, Ltd; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Coal King,* presented by Clifton Alderson's company, has caught on here. Miss Winifred Love carries the house with her; she has the histrionic gift to a large degree. Mr. Clifton Alderson has a part that fits him well, and his acting is much appreciated; Mr. Sam Roberts introduces the comic relief effectively, his humour appearing so spontaneous.

Grand Theatre.—Morton's, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*Florodora* still flourishes as a paying production, and again on Monday the patrons assembled in strong force to listen to Leslie Smart's pretty melodies, and welcome Mr. Fred Eastman as Tweedlepunch. Miss Maisie Ellinger is all that Dolores should be, and carries the house with the excellence of her vocal effort; Lady Holyrood is once more in the hands of Miss Edith Houseley, who repeats her former successes; Mr Fraser gave the "Palm" song with proper emphasis; the Angela of Miss Lily Gullick is invested with no small charm by that talented little lady. The chorus is strong and effective.

Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—*The Girl and the Tough* is a dramatic incident presented by Jno. C. Brandon and Company; the Sages are a lively duo in songs and dances; Tray and Rich are very popular; Ted Saunders imitates some of the popular stars; and other turns include Charles Ulrick, Mark Heaton, and the Three Eldorados.

The Empire.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—The company includes Bros. Devant, Marie Rivers, Les Sardous, Fred Tenby, the Yokels, Pearce and Halma.

The Circus.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are a big draw here.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Miss Kate Graham-Beck's company, under the management of Mr. Julian Graham, is here in *The Gay Goddess.* The title-rôle is taken by Miss Graham-Beck, who wins warm approval; Mr. Charles Leverton as Timothy Twinkle is a capital representative of a heavy part; and Miss Marie Beresford is highly successful as Priscilla. The Sherlock Blake of Mr. Richard Teasdale is a meritorious performance; Miss Fanny Morse is suitably placed as Mrs. Marie Strong; and Mr. Fred Carrington as Samuel Strong is an acquisition to the cast. Miss Lena Howard as Lottie is successful; and Les Papillions give a smart exhibition of dancing.

IPSWICH.—Lyceum.—*The Gay Gordons,* with its blending of pathos and humour, occupies the theatre during the present week. Miss Maie Ashe as Peggy Quainton, and Mr. Frank Lincoln as Angus Graeme, are excellent. Mr. Tom Graves is the old showman and Edward Nainby his dolorous son, Mr. Edward Brecher being the millionaire, Andrew Quainton. Miss Ida Mann is good as Janet McLeod; and the other characters are in capable hands.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Stead.—In an excellent all-round bill the chief item is the nautical sketch, in three scenes, entitled *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory.* This is a return visit, but the merry comedy is as popular and pleasing as ever. The Two Lombards submit an extraordinary exhibition of strength and skill; a very clever show is that of the Cheers with their performing cats, whose training is admirable; the Strads give various impersonations of Kubelik, Van Biene, and others; Walker and Lake are clever extemporisers; the Lyric Mummers sing delightfully, as also does Miss Madeline Rees. Mr. Harry Simms also sings in excellent style.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company with *A Life for a Life.* Mr. Lester proves himself a capable actor as Don Leon; Mr. Harry T. Wood makes a manly Kit Oswald; and Mr. Richard Bosco plays Pedro with force and skill. Mr. C. Osborne is well placed as John Evelyn; and Miss Dorothy Riddell is effective in the part of Kate Evelyn. Miss Beatrice Anderson does well as Eulalie; Mr. Horace Buckley is droll as Tim, being ably assisted by Miss Lydia Hart as Nancy.

JERSEY.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—There were packed houses here nightly this week, numbers being turned away. Amongst new turns are the Menzies, in a comedy duologue entitled *The Suffragette;* the Woodwards give an inimitable cycle performance, the lady going through a number of sensational acrobatic feats; Stidder and Dunbar are a smart pair; and Winona and King give a marvellous rifle-shooting turn. Jack Foley and Louie Hurman are still here, and Carlotta de Yonson's company appears in a fresh tabloid melodrama entitled *The Case of Coiners.*

Oddfellows' Hall.—Poole's Myriorama completes a most successful visit here this week.

Triangle Park.—The Serenaders opened here on Tuesday night.

KEIGHLEY.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Kendal; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Mr. G. Watson Mill's company in *For Love and the King,* handsomely staged and dressed, is proving a strong attraction. Mr. Watson Mill appears as Jarval, a young English soldier, and gives a very fine performance; Mr. Henry Earlsmere displays much ability as Vladimir; Mr. Geoffrey Chatel, Mr. Alfred Hilliard, Mr. John Burton, Mr. J. K. Woods, Mr. Frank Lyndon, and Miss Rosalind Tate are seen to advantage in their respective parts.

KETTERING. — Victoria Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Bailey and Co.—The Walturdaw Bioscope Co. is fulfilling an engagement here with an up-to-date programme of pictures. Mr. Leo McWalker assists with several well-rendered comic songs.

KIDDERMINSTER. — New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here with *The Female Swindler.* Mr. Joseph Millane as Jack Coulson, the detective, is well placed; Mr. Fred Rignold ably portrays the character of Abraham Mikestein; Miss Violet Bilicott as Lu Valroy, the female swindler, is artistic and realistic. The play is well staged.

KIRKCALDY.—Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The premier place here is held by the Cumberlands, with a particularly clever display of trick cycling; Mackinnon's Scottish Meisters occupy the bottom position, and are having a big reception; Li Chang Hi is a smart illusionist and a fine musical turn is given by the Sisters Redfern. Madge Field is a dainty comedienne; and Williams and Warden, American comedians, make a hit in "Mr. Dooley." The programme concludes with some capital pictures.

LANCASTER. — Grand Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—The Grand—until February last known as the Athenæum—opened on Monday evening with Mr. Reginald Dance's company, in *Raffles,* which proved a very big attraction. The theatre was well filled, and the play was followed throughout with keen interest. Mr. Lewis Edgard gave striking proof of his capabilities as the "amateur cracksman," Mr. A. J. Raffles; Mr. C. Kean supplied a vigorous impersonation of Curtis Bedford, the detective; Mr. Arthur Bell gave a creditable portrayal of Harry Manders; and Mr. Oswald Griffiths ably took the part of Crawshay. Messrs. P. Alexander and Rivers Bertram were worthy exponents of Lord Amersteth and Lord Crowley respectively; Miss Ethel Stalman was well suited as Lady Melrose; the rôle of Gwendoline Conron was acted by Miss Beatrice Marsdene with marked ability; Mrs. Vidal had an able exponent in Miss Brenda Gibson; and Miss Frances Titheradge played capitally the part of Lady Ethel. Miss Eva Bevington, Mr. Chas. Baker, Mr. D. Grogson, and Mr. M. L. Willing all worked hard. The dresses and scenery are worthy of special mention. As a curtain-raiser, *Jerry and a Sunbeam* is exceedingly well presented by Mr. Arthur Bell and Miss Francis Titheradge. Altogether the opening was a distinct success.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Two big houses assembled here on Monday to enjoy the excellent bill of fare provided. Je Vente Coram, a very smart ventriloquist, is paying a return visit, and has a great reception; the Five Juanitos are a clever troupe; and Four Figaros, in a series of dances, are fine. Phern and Phern supply a pleasing musical turn; Fred Maitland, with his suffragette lecture, causes roars of laughter; Dolly Ross, comedienne, and Florrie Bray, comedienne, together with the Hippograph, depicting On Bad Terms with his Housekeeper, and Piracy in the Days of Nelson, complete.

LEAMINGTON. — Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. Walter P. Wright.—The Theatre Royal reopened its doors this week after the summer vacation with a good variety entertainment. The Saxonias are topping the bill in their musical entertainment with the saxophone—a really fine turn; Mr. L. Murray appears with conspicuous success as the Roman gladiator in an athletic speciality act; the Three Tivoli Girls, vocalists and dancers, prove exceedingly popular; and other items include Zellini, a clever comedy juggler; Hilda Cross, a good soprano vocalist; Carlo Bianci, a remarkable foot equilibrist; Vanbert, in his American illusionary act; and Master May, a refined boy vocalist. The Premier Imperial pictures add interest to the programme.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. G. Bernard Shaw's *Man and Superman* was presented here on Monday to a full house by a Vedrenne-Barker company. Mr. Granville Barker is in his original part of John Tanner, and his fine work aroused much enthusiasm. A skilful effort is that of Ann Whitefield by Miss Frances Dillon; the Octavius Robinson of Mr. David Powell is very satisfactory; and the Roebuck Ramsden of Mr. Michael Sherbrooke, and Malone as presented by Mr. James Hearn are both capable studies. Miss Auriol Lee does much good work as Violet Robinson, and Miss Helen Rous, Miss Frances Wetherall, Miss Maud Burton, Mr. Richard Haigh, and Mr. Frederick Lloyd in other parts all merit high praise. Two evenings this week are devoted to another of Mr. Shaw's plays, *Arms and the Man.*

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—That popular drama *The Still Alarm* pays another visit to this theatre this week, and again proves a big attraction. On this occasion Mr. Matthew H. Glenville enacts the heroic part of Jack Manley in fine style, his acting being effective and convincing. Miss Beatrice Shirley makes a charming and sympathetic heroine; and the remaining parts are cleverly represented by a capable all-round company.

Empire Palace.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Barton and Ashley lead here with a neat comedy sketch, which is very cordially received. The Jackson Family achieve big success with a musical entertainment; the Griffiths Bros. are doing their well-known wrestling burlesque; R. H. Douglass is making a big name for himself as a raconteur and character actor; Little Gantz, a popular humorist, comes in for the usual big reception; Cissy Curlette is having a most successful week; Carlotta Levey and Madge May are rewarded with lavish applause for their clever turns. There were many expressions of regret on Monday evening at the non-appearance of Bellonini, the popular juggler.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—J. C. Piddock and company are doing their clever sketch *Capture of Venus* to crowded houses and enthusiastic applause. Other successful turns are subscribed by the Fitzroys, Harry Conlin, Sinclair and Parr, and Martelloni.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—That famous drama *The Grip of Iron* is presented here in condensed form, and the presence of Mr. Fred Powell in his old part of Simmonet ensures a favourable reception. Charles Prelle scores a prominent success with his bijou circus; Lillie Soutter, with a batch of new songs, is vastly popular; an entertaining speciality is submitted by Picitt and Lizette; and the efforts of Sibb and Sibb on the trapeze constitute a successful turn. Herbert La Martine again gets a good reception for his novelty dancing; Leonie de Lausanne arouses much enthusiasm by her remarkable shooting feats; and there are also capital turns by Mons. Gerard, a wonderful weight-lifter, and Violet Lorraine.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—A very pleasing sketch, *Christmas Eve,* is cleverly enacted here by Hayman and Montague, and evokes the appreciative applause of full houses. Curwen and Belle are to the fore with a clever novelty; Stacey and Williams continue very popular; and of the rest Dunn and Reano, burlesque gymnasts, Ryde and Beeman, comedy specialists, Maston, a clever mimic, and Maud Esmond, burlesque artist, are particularly prominent.

LEICESTER.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—It is always a pleasure to record a visit of Mr. Edward Compton and his celebrated company to the Opera House, of which place he is one of the proprietors. The répertoire for the week is of a character that should satisfy everyone, including as it does such sterling plays as *David Garrick, She Stoops to Conquer, The Gentleman in Grey, The School for Scandal, A Reformed Rake,* and *The Rivals.* The engagement opened with the first-named comedy, in which Mr. Compton scored a success as David Garrick, his whole performance displaying histrionic talent of the highest order. He also met with a most cordial reception. Miss Kathleen Leigh plays charmingly as Violet; Mr. Henry Crocker is very good as Alderman Gresham; and Mr. Henry Worrall as the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut is capital. Others worthy of special praise are Miss Constance Morton as Selina, Miss Marie Hassell as Mrs. Rumbelow, Mr. Philip Gordon as Rumbelow, Mr. G. W. Johnston as Snowberry, and Mr. Ivan Leslie as Simpkins. The one-act comedy, *The Desperate Lover,* in which Miss Viola Compton as Mistress Prue made a conspicuous success, preceded. The plays are mounted and dressed in a manner for which this company is renowned.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The well-known and elaborate play, *Woman and Wine,* is the attraction this week, being especially well presented by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds' company. Miss C. St. Elmo is seen to considerable advantage as Marcel Ragadout, and Mr. Edmonds is very good as Dick Seymour; Miss Violet Sims plays sympathetically and well as Mary Andrews; Mr. J. Milne Taylor is excellent as Hugh Seymour; Miss Ethel Vinroy is good as Janet Marlow, and sings a couple of songs acceptably; Mr. R. Foulis (the manager of the company) is a success as the bully Alphonse Beaudet; Mr. Harry Harrop sings and acts with effect as Charles Sauter; and Mr. W. Manning as Professor Sauter, Mr. Ashmore Vincent as Phineas Collins, Mr. Edwin T. Kirby as Pierre Cruoru,

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and Miss Octavia De Noel as La Colombe are also to be commended. The Lottie Stone troupe of whirlwind dancers elicit applause for their cleverly executed dances. The play is most effectively staged.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Bucclench.—The appearance of Vesta Tilley here is the signal for rounds of applause. This gifted and charming impersonator of male characters is as brisk and artistic as ever, and she renders her four songs in a manner that delights the crowded auditorium. A remarkably smart display of hand-balancing is submitted by the De Wynne Brothers; Ernie Mayne keeps the audience in a continued roar of merriment; Arnold Bell and company are seen to considerable advantage in the sensational episode *Paul Kauvar*, in which Miss Frances Campbell as Diane de Beaumont and Mr. Arnold Bell as Paul Kauvar are conspicuous with excellent embodiments; Bi-Bo-Bi is popular in a thoroughly clever and amusing musical act; the Brothers Redmond are acrobatic comedians who raise plenty of laughter; Marion Scott is a capital comedienne; and Sydney Stern, in an illustrated song, deputises with success for Lena Verdi. The Bioscope depicts a beautiful film, Quebec to Niagara.

PAVILION THEATRE. — Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The following company contribute to a capital entertainment here: Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholl's company in the dramatic sketch *A Sailor's Star* and the comedy sketch *Princess Hercules;* the Alskarno Trio of risley comedians; Millie Denham, comedienne; Edgar Budden, bone soloist and skate dancer; Dora Daly, burlesque artist; the Freres, in a trapeze performance; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, with the St. Leger, The Policeman's Whistle, and The Motherless Child.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The leading moving pictures in a big programme this week are The Dog Outwits the Kidnapper, The Sign from Heaven, Abduction in the Reign of Louis XVI., Mary is Dismissed, The American Cowboy, and March Winds, which are interspersed with turns by Professor Holt, F.O.S., a most amusing ventriloquist, and Ephraim Clarke, vocalist.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. George Stanyon.—Mr. Walter Jeffs, with his New Century Pictures, opened their season here on a return visit on Monday. The selection of films is, as usual, a good one, including Sports at the Stadium, A Trip Through Bonnie Scotland, The Theatrical Garden Party at Regent's Park, The Marathon Race, The Despatch Bearer, A Fisherman's Revenge, Chased by a Bull, Bobby's Dream, Happy Jim, The Laundrymaid's Joke, Hurry Up, Please, A Day's Holiday on a Tandem, and a goodly number of others. The Musical Palmers, including Miss Daisy Palmer, delight all with their clever and entertaining musical mélange; and Miss Dora Kingsley, contralto, and Mr. Fred Field, baritone, are also successful with well-rendered songs. Mr. Fred Jeffrey is the courteous manager for Mr. Jeffs. The balcony is now furnished with tip-up seats.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company in the sensational drama *The Face at the Window* was accorded a hearty reception from a full house on Monday. Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale contributes a well-thought-out embodiment of the scheming and knavish Lucio Delgado, *alias* Le Loup. Mr. Scott Leighton is responsible for a sound performance of the fearless Paul Gouffet; Mr. Arthur Beverley supplies an effective rendering of Lucian Cortier; Mr. Gilbert Hall is an acceptable Jean Barbelon; Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson is equal to the trying rôle of Marie de Brisson; and Miss Louie Lonora as Babette and Mr. Henri Stewart as Peter Pottlebury keep up the humour throughout. *The Sleigh Bells* was announced as a special attraction for Friday.

LIMERICK. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. George Victor Fogerty.—The Royal opened on Monday with the Brothers Poole's Myriorama, which attracted crowded houses. The panoramic and dioramic effects have been further enhanced by the Bioscopic shows of the most up-to-date character. In addition there is a capital variety company. Mr. Harry Dowsett as a comic singer is much appreciated, and the French troupe of cycle experts are very clever; Learto, in his musical eccentricities, is very popular; as is also his well-trained dog Bobo. The Snow Family of clever figure-skaters win well-deserved applause; Mr. Bert Gates is an admirable guide.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Performances of *The Gay Gordons*, in every way admirable, have been given here during the week to crowded and delighted audiences. Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Ellaline Terriss, who are prime favourites in the Mersey city, brought a first-class company, who did full justice to this bright and cheerful musical comedy. The reception extended to both artists was of a most flattering character. As the gay and lively Angus, Mr. Hicks exhibited to the full that buoyancy of spirit and "go" so characteristic of him, and his little quips and jokes were richly amusing. Miss Terriss captivated everybody with her sweet depiction of the merry American girl, and several encores of her songs were demanded; the popular Johnny Danvers proved a pillar of strength in the matter of creating fun, his showman being particularly funny; thanks were certainly due to Miss Maud Milton for her entirely acceptable impersonation of Janet McLeod; Miss Sydney Fairbrother's Charlotte Siddons was brimful of excellent humour; Mr. George Carroll made a smart Edmund Siddons; in the part of Corporal John Smith Mr. Lawrence Caird distinguished himself; and other worthy supporters were Messrs. J. C. Buckstone (Archibald Speedy), Will Bishop (Jack McPhrisky), and the Misses Dorothy Ward (Victoria Siddons), Rosie Chesney (Lady Graeme), and Nell Carter (Mary McLeod).

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney. — *The Bondman* was given here throughout the week by an able company, under the control of Mr. Wentworth Croke. As Greeba, Miss Georgina Wynter found much favour, and soon gained the sympathies of her audience; Mr. Lionel Atwill did every justice to the part of Michael Sunlocks; in the double rôle of Father Ferrati and Grandfather, Mr. W. Rotherham earned every credit; a manly Adam Fairbrother came from Mr. Oswald Lingard; and Mr. R. Scrope Quentin proved a powerful Jason. Excellent work was also done by the other members of a numerous cast, while the scenery and costumes were on a high and complete scale.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery—*Convict 99* has proved a strong attraction here this week. The sensational incidents of the play have been loudly applauded, and full houses have warmly testified to its success. Mr. Frank Beresford made an admirable Lawrence Grey; as James Stinchcombe Mr. Edward Kipling afforded the utmost satisfaction; Mr. Benson North successfully impersonated Ralph Vickers; Miss Dorothy Milne submitted a sympathetic Geraldine Lucas; and valuable assistance also came from Messrs. J. Warris Lindon (Christopher Lucas), P. L. Julian (Jim Lacy), Miss Woolgar Mellon (Mrs. Smedley), and Miss Jennie Richards (Maggie Mason).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Here this week we have had Mr. C. Watson Mill's company with *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss Florence Melrose Millett was the Risca Mallinson, depicting the adventuress with considerable dramatic power; Mr. Eric Campbell submitted a telling impersonation of Jim Murley; Miss Gwendoline Talbot made a creditable Doris Melville; an amusing Vavasole was presented by Miss Beatrice Reynolds; and valuable work also came from Messrs. Milner Noble (Pharosaphus), J. Ansdell Wilson (Railton), Arthur Robinson (Guise Strange), and Thompson Carruthers (Eric Melville). The orchestra of the Star Theatre has been augmented, and is now conducted by Mr. Tom Shaw.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Foremost here during the week was the St. Alban and Moore comic opera company, with *Les Cloches de Corneville*, which was much enjoyed. Included in the cast were Kitty Brownless (Serpolette), E. St. Alban (Gaspard), Marian Ayling (Germaine), Conrad Kingsley (the Marquis), Campbell Bishop (the Baillie), and Walter Cranbourne (Grenicheux). Leslie Harris, well known in Liverpool, had a gratifying reception for his songs and stories at the piano; the Bellclair Bros. went through a clever gymnastic performance; Will Poluski, jun., eccentric comedian and dancer, was a good turn; and others in the list were Venie Clements, comedienne and dancer; Seener and Fridkin's Russian troupe of vocalists and dancers; Charles Sauton, vocalist; and Carl Howard, comedian.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville. — Miss Maud Hildyard and company have been here during the week with *The Great Awakening*.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Hill and Whitaker have topped the bill this week, and pleased greatly with their neat musical act; the funny Mr. C. proved exceedingly enjoyable; Maude Courtenay had some merry patter, which highly amused; a fine exhibition of rifle shooting was gone through by the expert Three Dreadnoughts; Robert Dhou showed himself an accomplished society athlete; Percival's piano playing, &c., was richly enjoyed; the Sisters Julian danced and sang tastefully; and also in the list were George Acre, comedian, and the Royal Delomes.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barraford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—The programme here this week was remarkable for the large array of comedians, among these being Edwin Boyde, Sammy Shields, Hal Forde, Lowenwirth and Cohan, and Harris and Worth. Accordingly, there was plently of laughter. Some excellent juggling came from B. Troba; Zeta Grey and company presented a neat musical comedy act; Blanche and Powell were seen to advantage as society entertainers; and a cordial reception was extended to Rosie Lloyd.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*At Bay*, from the pen of Ina Leon Cassilis, has, during the week, been given here by the stock dramatic company, the cast including Messrs. Sydney Grant, David G. Noble, Leo. Montgomery, Robb Wilton, Cecil Ravenswood, R. Seath Innes, Misses Lilian Radbourne, Florence Palmer, Florence Cameron, and Helen Richmond. The latest films were shown by Mr. A. Brown's Bioscope.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Welsker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the cinematograph pictures here, the following artists appeared during the week:—Janette Hall, lady baritone; and Daleno and Stream, comedians and dancers.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton. — Miss Adrienne Augarde, assisted by Mr. Fred Penley, gave a clever trifle, entitled *Dick's Sister*, which found general favour; Will and Sam Poluski gave their latest "pictures"; an amusing animal novelty, embracing trained monkeys, was brought by Maud Rochez; the Lumars went through a clever acrobatic act; Lee and Bentley submitted a humorous sketch, *A Sure Thing;* Vanando gave his latest ventriloquial novelty, "A Park Pest"; and contributions also came from Victor Travers, comedian and dancer; Will Cornish, with musical bell act; Venie Clements, child mimic and dancer.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Top of the programme here this week were the smart Szarvaci Ferencz Troupe of acrobats; a cordial reception was given to Leo Dryden, who deputised for the Idara Quartette; Rose Atherton's sketch company gave a funny trifle, *Murphy's Affinity;* the Colonials, including James Grant, had a pleasing scena, *Unexpected Guests;* Pat O'Connor afforded satisfaction with his songs and dances; Edythe and Toto had a smart speciality; the Ramsey Trio caused endless laughter with *Birdie's Welcome;* Arthur Bearle sang several funny songs, including "I think I'll be going home now"; and the list also contained the names of Gena Manon, vocalist; Hilda de Grey, vocalist; and the Farrows, sketch artists.

LONG EATON.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—This theatre was reopened on Monday, after undergoing internal alterations, with Mr. Granville's *It's Never Too Late to Mend* company. The piece is nicely staged, the scene at the goldfield being admirable. Mr. V. W. Carlyle is effective as George Fielding; Mr. E. Howard Templeton does well as Tom Robinson; the chaplain is well played by Mr. C. F. Johnson, while Mr. Leonard Marshall takes the part of Jacky very naturally. Miss M. Ashton is Mary, and Susan is well taken by Miss Gertrude Entwistle.

THE PALACE.—Mr. Alf H. Smith is an enterprising business-manager. The picture show is a big attraction, and the Empress Lady Hondini is again specially engaged. Dr. Crisford Garton gives his remarkable performance as a hypnotist.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. B. Reed.—This theatre, which has been closed for the summer recess, reopened its doors to Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company (under the direction of Mr. Haldane Crichton) in the popular military comic opera *The Dandy Fifth*. Mr. Jack Crichton as Brown played with great spirit, his efforts being well received; Mr. Percy Baverstock makes a capital Colonel; Sergt.-Major Milligan was in the capable hands of Mr. George Beverley, who did the part full justice; and Mr. J. Edward Fraser as Dick Darville played the rôle in an artistic manner, his singing being most successful. Miss Pauline Hague as Kate Lorrimer was the success of the piece, her fine voice being heard to great advantage in the various songs which fell to her; Miss Norah Morra as Polly delighted the house by a charming and piquant performance; and Miss Maude Nichols as Mrs. Von Blitzen infused a deal of genuine humour into her acting. The rest of the large cast did well, their concerted pieces being given excellently. The Blue Moon Quartette sang several items, and were repeatedly encored. The opera is well mounted, and the dresses elaborate.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Harle and Von Leer's company in *Two Little Vagabonds* is occupying this theatre this week, and although the piece has been here before, it is more appreciated than ever. Dick and Wally, the two vagabonds, are splendidly portrayed by Miss Chrissie Francess and Miss Ethel Frances Greene respectively. Miss Dora Frank Harvey and Miss Leonora Castelle successfully impersonate Marion Thornton and Barbara Scarth. Mr. Geo. Denham as Geo. Thornton is exceptionally good, and Mr. Herbert Standing, jun., as Captain Darville plays his part perfectly.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager and Proprietor, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Miss Ada Frank's company is this week presenting a *Fight for Life*. Mr. Courtenay Robinson represents Count Adrian effectively; Miss Carrie Henderson as La Cardell is exceptionally good; Mr. George Scully causes much amusement as Dan Murphy; Mr. W. Matthews shows great skill in the part of Carlos Cardell; Marie is well presented by Miss Edna Earl; Miss Ada Frank displays much humorous ability as Susanne; and Mr. Templar Ellis is a clever exponent of Miser Fenard.

MAIDENHEAD.—PAVILION PLEASURE GARDENS.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gude.—The entertainments by the Cadets are of the usual varied and interesting character, and are well patronised. Miss Florrie Delamere gains much applause with "My birthday party"; and Miss Twort is much appreciated for her rendering of "Pretty Redwing." Mr. Colin Gent gains a vociferous encore for his spirited singing of the "The Skipper"; and Mr. Jack Anders as light comedian is applauded at every appearance; while Mr. Leo Fallowfield keeps the house alive with his humour. Mr. Will Harris took his benefit on Wednesday, when his admirers rallied round him in good number. The speciality for his benefit night was Witty Willis, who, as instrumentalist and raconteur, delighted the audience.

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Among the artists appearing here are Frank Bernard and company, in sketch *Hello!* Vestor, instrumentalist and cartoonist; Marie Nestle, ballad vocalist; Jack Jones, comedian; Leonard Gorney, dancer, and the Ten Union Jack Boys, singers and dancers.

MANCHESTER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee, Mr. John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Mr. George Alexander is here with *The Thief*. Miss Irene Vanbrugh plays Marise Chelford with wonderful skill and spirit; Mr. Alexander's Richard Chelford is a very fine performance; Miss Nina Sevening enacts Isabel Leyton with exquisite grace and refinement; the Harry Leyton of Mr. Reginald Owen merits warm praise; and Mr. Dawson Milward as Raymond Leyton does himself great credit. Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds as Protheroe supplies a well-considered rendering. The first piece, *The Nursery Governess*, is well performed by Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay as Mrs. Trent, Mr. Harcourt-Williams as Captain Trent, Mr. Ashton Pearse as Simpson Briggs, and Miss Barbara Hannay as Wilson.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee, Mr. John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's *Tom Jones* company is here. Miss Florence Smithson sings capitally as Sophia; Mr. Harry Welchman as Tom Jones acts and vocalises in excellent style; and as Mr. Allworthy Mr. John Morley is seen to great advantage. Mr. Ambrose Manning as Squire Western acts and sings with skill and spirit, and Mr. Dan Rolyat as Partridge is as irresistibly humorous as ever. Messrs. Macmillan, Rignold, and Braham are satisfactory in smaller parts, and Miss Isabelle Dillon wins favour as Honour. Miss Mary Southwell as Miss Western and Miss Alice Oppitz as Lady Bellaston work carefully and well. Mr. Deane Percival's Blifil is a performance of genuine merit.

ROYAL OSBORNE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* is doing good business here.

JUNCTION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company are here with *No Wedding Bells for Her*, which is again very successful.

GAIETY.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; General-Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—*When the Devil Was Ill* is in its second week here, and is going better than ever; and the first piece, *Marriages Are Made in Heaven*, is acted with even greater care and smartness.

QUEEN'S.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Flanagan; Business and Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert Jones.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is here in *With Edged Tools*. Mr. Wm. F. Grant as Jack Meredith does decidedly creditable work; Mr. Henry Nunn as Guy Oscard deserves warm praise; and as Victor Duruvo Mr. Campbell Goldsmid is seen to real advantage. Mr. J. A. Rosier as Sir John Meredith is quite characteristic, and a charming Joselyn Gordon is Miss Phyllis Relph; Miss Marie Leonhard makes a good Millicent Chyne; and Miss Isabel Grey as Lady Canbourne is very commendable. As Lady Herries Miss Violet Thorold deserves favourable mention.

METROPOLE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Harriett Vernon is a great success here with some new songs; the Brothers Ford are as popular as ever; and Ada Whitton, male impersonator, has many admirers. Langslow's sharp shooting is clever; and Leslie Race; Henri Vernon Harcourt, dramatic mimic; Jenny Maninco, juggler; Chas. Rowen, and Marcus Boyle are all successful in their several lines.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. G. F. Reynolds.—L'Incognita, a masked vocalist, sings capitally here; and a Japanese play by Mme. Hanako and company goes remarkably well; De Ganty's Water Grotto is much admired; the Three Meers's wire act and comedy business are keenly appreciated; and some pleasing part songs are sung by the Hippo. Choir. Fred Edwards and company are quite comical in *Kleptomaniacs*. May Edouin, a smart comedienne; Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, in a vocal comedy act; and Little Zola, comedian, complete an excellent company.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. K. Trippett.—Mr. Harry Roxbury's *Cowboy Millionaire* company is doing well here; Rousby and Rene supply some smart Lancashire studies; Wyndham and Waters, comedy vocalists, contribute amusing items; Benson and Rose are funny in a sketch; Ikey Moe is an astonishing juvenile; and Petro and Leon, comedy gymnasts, George Young, blind musician, and Eldra, with his dog "Prince," complete a capital company.

GRAND.—Lessees, Messrs. Jasper Redfern and Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Jas. Rolmaz.—The Carpos Brothers are expert acrobats; Johnson and De Vere's cyclo on a wire rope is clever and daring; Syd Herman is good in Jewish characters; and Tom Joy, comedian, wins much favour. A series of pictures depicting the Manchester Lifeboat Saturday Procession is exhibited.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Secretary, Mr. Peter Watson; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton.—Fred Russell's ventriloquial sketch is received here with laughter and applause; Lew Lake and company, in *My Pal Jerry*, do remarkably well; smart cycling is contributed by the Westwoods; Les Sousloffs are neat and spirited dancers; Donovan and Arnold, in patter and song, are popular; and Athas and Collins supply an amusing turn.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Mysticus, human chameleon, creates astonishment here; Grant and Grant, in song and dance, delight all; Dickson Moffatt and his partner are effective in "He and She"; Zena Pana sings and dances well; and Mlle. A. Laserno's performing cats are well trained. Rita and Roma's vaudeville entertainment is warmly applauded.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Meek.—David Poole's ventriloquial sketch creates much merriment; the Three Merrions, vocal, instrumental, and musical artists, win success; Eva Chadwick, soprano, is favourably received; and Larry Lewis is decidedly comical. The Four Netherlands are neat dancers, and vocalise ably; Ricquo is an expert gymnast; as comedians Hearne and Palmer are clever; and Kendrick and Laura's dainty interlude is effective.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley.—Joe Peterman's operatic burlesque, *The Singing Servants*, is winning applause here; Kirk and Saraski are smart acrobats; and Ada Parker is good in song and dance. Walter Ellis and company in *The Sleep Walker* are successful; and Alfred Graham's Juveniles are intelligent and amusing. Geo. Westland's songs are well received and popular; Ghita Corri sings in a superior manner, and wins warm favour; A. E. Clifford succeeds; and Celest's wire act makes a sensation.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harry Leslie; Secretary and Acting-Manager, Mr. George Phillips.—In the cast of *The Anglo-Indians*, which is being performed here, are Harrison Brockbank, Lillian Wesson, Kitty Kennedy Allen, Alf. Johnson, Edna Barrett, and Kennedy Allen, each of whom works hard and well for the general success.

ARDWICK EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—George Formby, an eccentric comedian, makes a hit here; Nell Emerald is a lively comedienne; Harry Drew uses his bass voice ably; the Jackley Trio are excellent acrobats; and John Humphreys and company, in *Ancient Britons*, create much laughter. *Nell of the Halls* is spiritedly acted by Mabel Bardino and company; and Nellie Coleman, male impersonator, wins many friends. Ted and May Hopkins take well, and so do the Six Lancashire Lasses. New pictures on the Urban Bioscope are admired.

WHITE CITY.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Calvin Brown; Manager, Mr. J. E. Maddocks.—Countess Romanoff dances with ease and grace, and the White City Military Band perform each afternoon and evening.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Capt. Cecil Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company, in *A Fight for a Throne*, is the attraction here. Mr. John S. Millward plays the part of Capt. Jack Fortesque satisfactorily; Mr. Gerald Byrne is well placed as Nicholai I.; Prince Otto is capably portrayed by Mr. Charles E. Linney; Mr. Patrick Evans acts Lieut. Fitzmaurice effectively; Mr. John Worth is at home in the rôle of Paul Rodna; Miss Madge Clayton is an artistic Sister Ayatha; Lady Pat is admirably portrayed by Miss Lilith Gabriel; and Miss Margaretta Tueski fills the rôle of Countess Lorenski with credit. Princess Esmée is in the capable hands of Miss Dora Hammersley.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—Mr. James Welch's company gave a successful presentation of *When Knights Were Bold* on Monday, when a crowded house testified to the popularity of the piece. Mr. Henry Ford gave a humorous presentment of the rôle of Sir Guy de Vere, and was ably supported by Miss Bruce-Joy, who capably enacted the part of Lady Rowena Eggington; Miss Phyllis Back was delightful as Miss Sarah Isaacson. Every character in the cast was efficiently handled by the respective members of the company, among them Messrs. W. Lockhart, George Rowlands, Talbot Homewood, Reginald Hunter, V. Sansbury, C. Clayton, and the Misses Violet Graham, Gretchen Yates, Bessie Walters, Ethel Royale, and others. On Thursday, and for the rest of the week, *The Message from Mars* was played by Mr. F. Monillot's company.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Owing to a severe cold, Peggy Pryde, who headed the bill this week, and appeared on Monday, was unable to continue her engagement on Tuesday and Wednesday. Kitty Colyer, American comedienne and dancer, has secured a most enthusiastic reception; James Fawn, the evergreen humorist, has been fulfilling a second week's engagement with conspicuous success; and Will Van Allen, the tramp musician, was received with great favour. Other contributors to the programme include Phil Bransby, coster comedian; Jules Kiaro, novelty equilibrist; and Les Itrams, in a startling balancing and gymnastic act. The pictures this week are amusing.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*The Conscience of a Judge*, presented by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company, is here. Mr. Kenyon Musgrave as Herbert Granstone displays great ability; Jessica Draycott is admirably played by Miss Nellie Howett; Miss Mabel Coleman ably accounts for the part of Ethel Vaughan; and Miss Madge Seymour makes a versatile Mary Wilson. As the scheming Sir Edwin Mervin Mr. Sam Courtney is in every way successful; and Mr. Reginald Maurice capably represents Cecil Bentley.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The Three Van Dammes, comedy acrobats and tumblers, give a fine performance, and win much applause; the Kangers, Australian trick cyclists, provide a clever turn; Bros. Lang, eccentric knockabout comedians, are responsible for much humour; and Abkar excels on the silver rings. Bella Leaburn, comedienne; Golden and Grey; Orros and George Robbins; Sharon, street musician; Fred Pollard, Hebrew comedian; and the Biograph are also well appreciated.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—*The Way of the World*, capably presented by Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company, has been here this week. Mr. Clarence Temple as Matthew Malyon makes a decided hit; Mr. J. P. McBride is very popular as Cecil Hardy; treacherous Captain Slade is well played by Mr. Victor Gordon; and a hearty welcome greets Mr. D'Arcy Kelway (Joe Sparrow) and Mr. W. Gibson (Tiny Green). Kate Montague, equestrienne, was well played by Miss Nelly de Lacy; Miss Doris Brooks was good as Lady Adela Hardy; Miss Marie Marah made a very jolly little Eric Malyon; and Miss Violet Vivienne was very amusing as the strong woman, Polly Bell. Several smaller parts were in safe hands.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Dickie Clare's company is this week presenting the musical farce *Lucky 'Liza*. Miss Madge Brownie is a vivacious and captivating Eliza Bird (Lucky 'Liza); Miss Vesta Brownie is a *petite* and entertaining Virginia Blatherwick; Miss Evelyn Wood sings and acts capitally as Sadie Potts; a pleasing Marie is found in Miss Helen Douglas; Mr. Dickie Clare shows up prominently in a triple impersonation as Silas Slim, the Judge, and the French waiter; Mr. Norman H. Lee plays cleverly as Paul Petti-

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The "DAILY MAIL" of Sept. 6, 1907, page 3, col. 7, states: "It is estimated that nearly 50,000 people attended the performance of the Ex-British Guards Band in Hyde Park last Sunday evening, this being the record attendance of the year.

toe; the rival barristers, Peter Pettitoe and Barnaby Blatherwick have capable exponents in Mr. T. W. Benson and Mr. Harry George; a droll Biffins is found in Mr. J. W. Forrest; Miss Vesta Brownie gives Scotch dances, and the La Belle Trio are skilful exponents of the art of terpsichore.

New Picture Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—Mr. Will Hunter's Royal Court Pierrots are here this week. The artists include Harold Carlyle, Scotch character comedian; Miss Florrie D'Alton, vocalist; Charlie Orme, comedian; Ernie Graham, Yorkshire comedian; Miss Edie Green, soprano vocalist; Will Hunter, singing ventriloquist and humorist; and J. Leslie Tyrrell, pianist and vocalist.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*The Thief* is being presented here this week by Mr. Geo. Alexander's company, and on Monday night there was a crowded house. Miss May Congdon gave a flawless portrayal of the part of Marise Chelford, and was at all times perfectly natural and womanly; Mr. Stephen Ewart has become a favourite with Tees-side playgoers, and in his hands the part of Richard Chelford became a skilled interpretation; Mr. Gerald Ames acted with distinction as Raymond Leyton, and Miss May Dibley as Isabel Leyton was charming. Mr. Alfred Lugg was responsible for a good rendition of the rôle of Harry Leyton, and Mr. Cyril Cuttley was good as Mr. Protheroe. The play was preceded by *Too Happy by Half*, in which Mr. Percy Marmount and Miss Irene Leonard caused much amusement.

Theatre Royal. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley's No. 1 company occupies the boards here this week with *Two Little Drummer Boys*. Into the leading part of General Kingsley, V.C., Mr. Edward Bikker infuses a large amount of skilful acting, and the rôle of Capt. Geo. Darrell, the villain, finds a capable exponent in Mr. Oswald Douglas; Mr. Harry Scott ably fills the part of Capt. Carsdale, and Mr. Alexander Knight as Lieut. Kingsley and Mr. Geo. Turner as Rev. John Rivers are also good. The Two Little Drummer Boys are admirably portrayed by Miss Maggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas; Miss A. Atheley is conspicuous as Margaret Rivers, and Miss Mary Ainslee is good as Alma Kingsley. The piece is well staged.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. G. Rembges.—Neil Kenyon provides the star turn here this week, and his Scottish character studies are received with the heartiest applause; Jordan and Harvey, Hebrew comedians, are also most amusing; the Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats give a clever display, and a smart turn is provided by Rappo and Ellis; Molly Augarde is a delightful vocalist, and Little Tichbourne and Forest and King complete the programme.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Signor R. Pepi; Manager, Mr. A. J. Nicholls.—An amusing musical comedy sketch entitled *Belle of the Orient* is presented here this week by Mr. J. Peterman's company, and another laughable sketch is provided by Chas. Kitts and Rhoda Windrum. Some excellent singing and dancing is given by Cissie Walmer and Minnie Mace; a clever trick-cycling turn is done by Bert Woodward, and the Elite Harmony Boys maintain their reputation. Other turns are given by Blake and Amber and Alec Kendall.

Oxford Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—Animated pictures again form the programme here this week.

MIDDLETON.—Pardoe's Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. and J. Pardoe.—That evergreen melodrama *The King of Crime* is being played to good houses this week. Mr. F. B. Woulfe is a powerful and incisive actor; Miss Mildred Eversleigh touches both the sympathetic and the tragic note most effectively in her portrayal of Henriette; Mr. William Miller gives a good conception of the Miser. The scene "The Masquerade Ball" is capitally put on and enacted.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—The company of Sidney Rennef and G. M. Copping are appearing here this week in the melodrama *Love Rules the World*. Mr. Richard Vane's interpretation of Harold Kingston is a smart and manly one; and the villainous Stephen Blight is acceptably rendered by Mr. Stephen Langton. Miss Constance Medwyn as Flo Morton enters cleverly into the spirit of the adventuress. The comedy element in the play is sustained by Mr. Walter Dale as Billy Binks.

MUSSELBURGH.—Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. M. Richardson.—The dramatic season at this house opened on the 11th inst. with the annual visit of La Comédie Anglaise Co., including Mr. William L. Dobell. The play was the time-honoured *East Lynne*, the Wilson Barrett-Heath version of Mrs. Henry Wood's famous novel. Mr. Dobell made a manly, good-looking Archibald Carlyle, and acted throughout in an earnest and convincing manner; Justice Hare was taken by Mr. W. H. Pointon, and Mr. Thompson Whiett produced the desirable effect as the villainous Levison. In the dual characters of Lady Isabel and Madame Vine, Miss Marion Carter displayed considerable ability; Miss Madge Merryweather as Cornelia was a source of much amusement; as Lord Mountsevern, Mr. Vincent Wardle made the most of a small part, and also played Lawyer Dill very creditably. Other performances worthy of notice were those of Mr. Horace Morton Wright as P.C. Bullock; Miss Alice Ayle as Joyce the maid-servant; and Miss Anita Palazzo as Barbara Hare. The piece was suitably mounted, and drew a large house. On the Saturday, *Lured to London* was presented by the same company. This week Mr. Howell Webb and company are appearing in *Convent Bells* and *A Life of Pleasure*.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—Packed houses still continue. The Six St. Albyns present a bright and artistic vocal sketch, *The Squire's Hunting Party*; Mr. Barney Stuart scores in his versatile humorous entertainment; the Kebbles, two graceful young ladies, make a pronounced success, especially with their dancing; Mr. Fearon Fallows is a singer of descriptive songs, and possesses a really good voice; Zimpa evokes laughter and applause with his numerous imitations; Herr Spiegler's orchestra plays special selections in artistic style; and a remarkably clever young solo violinist is found in Mr. E. Parsons. Of special interest are the animated pictures.

Pier Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parker.—A humorous and versatile entertainment is given this week by the well-known Pierrots. Mr. C. D. Reekie is a good singer and excellent comedian; Mr. Donal McDougal causes roars of laughter; and a lady of much humour is found in Miss Edith Heron-Brown. A favourite with New Brighton audiences is Miss Emilie Tait, who is a finished vocalist; Mr. Harold Brown, baritone, and Mr. J. A. Tunbridge, accompanist, complete a first-rate company. The popular manager, Mr. Sutton, takes his benefit on Oct. 3.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Crowded and enthusiastic audiences greeted the first appearance in Newcastle of *Lady Frederick*, which was presented on Monday evening by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's principal company. The cast is exceptionally strong, and includes Mrs. Brown-Potter and Mr. Philip Cunningham. In the title-rôle Mrs. Brown-Potter is seen to great advantage, her masterly handling of this difficult and complex character winning unstinted applause; whilst Mr. Philip Cunningham's portrayal of Paradine Fouldes is undoubtedly as fine a study of a "man of the world" as one could desire. Lady Mereston as played by Miss Audrey Campbell is a thoroughly artistic study; and Mr. Reginald Van Ranney ably sustains his part as Sir Gerald O'Mara. Other leading characters are capably played by Mr. Cecil Bevan as Captain Montgomerie, Mr. Shirley Lea as Admiral Carlisle, Mr. Herbert Garthorne as Lord Mereston, Miss Phyllis Manners, and Miss Edith Deverell. *The Peacemaker*, in which Miss Audrey Campbell, Miss Edith Deverell, Miss Phyllis Manners, Mr. Cecil Bevan, and Mr. Van Ranney appear, precedes the principal piece.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton's company is here in a répertoire of favourite plays. *Othello* was presented on Monday evening before a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Oscar Asche's portrayal of the Moor is an artistic study, and proves one of the finest Othello's we have seen; a no less finished personation is Miss Brayton's Desdemona, her graceful presence and charming style proving very effective; Mr. Herbert Grimwood makes a complete success of the detestable character Iago; and the wife of Iago has a capable exponent in Miss Constance Robertson; whilst other rôles are well filled, Mr. R. Ian Penny as Cassio, Mr. George Sidden as Ludovico, and Mr. G. Kay Souper as Roderigo, being well worthy of mention. *The Taming of the Shrew* and *The Two Pins* were presented during the week.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company in *A Broken Heart* is drawing good houses this week. Miss Sheila Walsh wins chief honours as Mary Barnard, which part she plays in her usual excellent manner; Mr. Stanley Bedwell gives a fine performance as John Barnard; Mr. Edward Rawlinson acts with considerable skill as Gash Gills; Mr. George M. Newall does well as Stephen Royton; whilst the character of Little May is ably impersonated by Miss Daisy Rocheford; and the other characters are all well played.

Grand Theatre.—Sole Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—*Rogues and Vagabonds* is presented here this week by Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company, and is proving a great attraction. Mr. Hill-Mitchelson himself is playing a principal part; and the other members of the company work hard for the success of the play. Mention may be made of the work of Mr. Graham Woods, Mr. Arthur McCulloch, Mr. Sinclair Holden, Miss Alice Barber, and Miss Mary Collier.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The chief attraction of a strong and interesting programme this week is Whit Cunliffe, who is proving a splendid draw. His songs, rendered in his own inimitable style, being heartily applauded. An extremely amusing turn is that of Tennyson and Wallis, comedians; and Gus Garrick, in "Music-hall tit-bits," makes a decided hit. The Lukushima troupe of Japanese acrobats present a clever and interesting act; Hubert Carter and company, in a condensed version of *Davy Garrick*, prove quite successful; whilst other good turns are provided by the Frank L. Gregory troupe in a marvellous exhibition of hoop-rolling and juggling; Kisbey, the call boy; Jock Mills, Scotch comedian; and Adey Spencer, "the girl from the hat shop." The Bioscope completes.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Pride of place is this week accorded to Mr. Walter G. Kelly, American comedian, whose turn proves a huge success; Jan Rudyeni, violin virtuoso and actor, in a musical romance, *The Power of Music*, is heartily applauded; while other capital items are presented by Tom E. Hughes, the Three Sisters Tree, Bostock's baboons, the Three Rubys, and Ted Karno and company; the Barrascope completing with a series of pictures of the Launch of the Brazilian Battleship on the Tyne.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Miss Winifred Maude's company played *The Convict* here for the first three nights of the week. Mr. St. Clair Forbes (Capt. Hurley) made a capital villain; Mr. J. M. Olivert (Jack Britton) a manly hero; Miss Winifred Maude a charming and captivating heroine; and as Jenny Perkins Miss Amy Maitland, assisted by Freddy Freckles (Mr. Victor du Cane) and Nero (Mr. W. E. Simpson) supplied the fun. *The Stowaway* was billed for the last three nights of the week.

Empire.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; Manager, Major Gallagher. — The Boisset Troupe, in *The Bricklayers*, prove amusing, throwing new light and other things on the Labour question. Chas. Whittle is a comedian with a good style; the Carina Sisters are a couple of artistic musicians; Drew and Alders show ability in *The Coastguards*; Hal Hughman is one of the most successful imitators of his class; and Violet Roy, 'cello soloist, presents a pleasing turn. Edie King, comedienne and dancer, and the American Bioscope complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—The New Palace Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Thos. A. Evans.—Prominent in this week's programme is the sketch entitled *The Money-lender*, which has created much excitement, as represented by Mr. Sidney Mason, Mr. H. Russell, Mr. Sid Leslie, Mr. H. Arnold, and Miss Theresa Moore. The Sisters Draycott charm with their harmonised vocalism; the Belmoire Sisters (Bertha and Kitty) gain great applause for their dancing; George Rapley is an amusing comedian. Mathews and Brown, American duo; Connie Mascot, comedienne and dancer; and the Breton Troupe of six comedians furnish good turns; and the Palace Pictures still hold their own.

NORTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company, with *The Power of the Cross*, has been heartily greeted here by good houses this week. In the part of Baron Woulfe Curzola, Mr. George A. de Gray achieves much success; and Mr. Robert Hall is effective as Gerald Fairfax. Mr. Alexander J. Haviland presents a studied rendering of Doctor Leslie Fairfax; Mr. Francis Serle as Benjamin Hawke acts with distinction; Mr. Gilson Brooke makes the most of David Kingsley; and Mr. Tyrone Power as Timothy O'Dowd creates much hearty laughter. As Margaret Seaton Miss Annie Hylton submits a capital portrayal of the character; Miss Phyllis Vaughan makes an excellent Blanche Kingsley; Miss Stella Carmichael proves an admirable Rita Lascelles; and Miss Etta Turner displays much ability as Dolly Gray.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The programme provided here is attracting large audiences, the principal item being the Kramers, who appear in a smart gymnastic act. The Sisters Terry, duettists and mimics, keep adding to their popularity; Messrs. Wragg and Wragg, military athletes, are worthy of the praise bestowed upon them; the performance of Mr. Bob Pueblo and Miss Katie Cropp, creole artists, is greatly enjoyed; Indiana, the flexible Venus, is clever; Mr. Bert Crosbie, comedian and dancer, has many admirers; and the Pictures displayed by the Mouldoscope are well up to date.

NORTHWICH.—Pavilion.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. H. S. Dacre.—The Stockham Unique Troupe of harpists and entertainers have been re-engaged for this week, and their popularity is as great as ever. Mr. Willis C. Crisford is the cause of many a hearty laugh. The Ruffell's Bioscope is the other attraction, and the pictures shown are extremely good.

NORWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Edmund Tearle's excellent company is here this week, and on Monday opened with *Othello*, Mr. Tearle himself, in a masterly manner, appearing in the title-rôle. Mr. Bernhardt Turner was equally good as Iago; Mr. Fawcett Lomax was excellent as Brabantio; while Mr. Stewart Black did well as Cassio, Mr. Vernon Crabtree as Roderigo, Mr. A. W. Jones as Montano, Mr. Neal Fitzwilliam as the Duke of Venice, Mr. Herbert Tawse as Lodovico, and Mr. Thomas Price as Gratiano deserve praise. Miss Vera George won commendation for her acting as Desdemona, and Miss Madge Raper as Julia, Miss Madge Newell as Messenger, Miss Helen Macrae as Antonio, and Miss Mary Campbell as Emilia must be complimented on. *Richard III. Jennie Deans, The Three Musketeers*, and *A Woman's Revenge* are also billed.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—A capital programme this week includes Miss Clarice Mayne, comedienne and mimic, who wins hearty applause; Miss Dora Lyric, with her catchy choruses, is a great success; F. Mozzetto exhibits some clever juggling; the Donatos go through their marvellous one-legged performance with much ability; Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd create laughter in their absurdity *The Tree of Truth*; Dan Whitley, eccentric, Bert Weston, comedian, and Dorothy Dundas, vocalist, are all highly appreciated. The Hippo-Bio is also good.

The Franco-British Bioscope Co. opened at the Bank Plain Assembly Rooms, a new place of entertainment, on Monday evening, when some very interesting scenes were thrown upon the screen. The company intends staying for a season, with a change of programme weekly.

NOTTINGHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The return visit of Miss Phyllis Dare and *The Dairymaids* drew a crowded house on Monday. Miss Dare, a winsome and attractive Peggy, sings her various songs with charming effect; Mr. E. Statham Staples possesses a good voice, and admirably uses it in the music of Sam Brudenell; Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., ably supports him in the part of Frank Meredith; and the fun waxes fast and furious when they enter the ladies' school. In Mr. Percy Marshall is found a droll Dr. O'Byrne; Miss Edith Blanche shows excellent comedy talent as Lady Brudenell; and Miss Rose Lewis embodies Miss Pyechase in amusing manner. The work of Mr. Harry Dent (Joe) and Miss Lottie Sargent (Eliza) is worthy of all praise; whether singing or dancing, they are always in the picture, and uproarious applause greets their every appearance. The chorus parts are splendidly given, and minor rôles are well sustained by Misses Gladys Ivery, Dorothy Laine, Edythe Burnand, and Mr. Horace Percival.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Miss H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is presenting *Lucky Durham* this week. Mr. S. Herbert Humber thoroughly grasps the dramatic possibilities of his rôle of John Durham; Mr. Arthur Leigh plays Reginald Steighton with subtlety and force; and Lord Mountfallen is intelligently portrayed by Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood. Miss Alice E. Belmore imparts dignity to the rôle of Helen Vallerton; and Miss Beatrice Sinclair makes a charming picture of Mrs. Durham; Mr. William Heilbronn as Mr. Vallerton and Mr. J. H. Gerald as Arthur Walcombe add to the success; and Miss Florence Dulhunty plays Margaret Steighton with thoughtfulness and care. Other parts are admirably filled by Misses Elsie Mayne, Rosabel Dodd, and Mr. W. F. Clitherow.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Joseph Hart's *Futurity Winner* is a smart playlet, the mechanical effects showing the race being igeniously contrived, and eliciting hearty commendation. Charlene and Charlene contribute an excellent entertainment of jugglery and xylophone music; an artistic protean item, entitled *Dan the Outlaw*, is given by Herbert Shelley, the assumption of different characters being well carried out; Hans and Lux keep the fun rolling by their comic cross-talk. A comedy act, *How to Treat a Burglar*, makes for laughter, as presented by the Maples; a comedy singing act by the Leonards is good; and the humorous musical item of the Sisters Pine receives reward. Fred Lincoln introduces his scena, *My Pal, Jenny*; Valerie de Lacy gives a pleasing rendering of illustrated songs; and the Bioscope shows diverting films.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's.—Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company is proving a strong attraction here with *The Tyrant*. Mr. Somerfield submits a praiseworthy study of Homodei; Angelo finds a capable representative in Mr. Roy Fortescue; Mr. Edward E. Lewis is a good Rudolph; Mr. T. Ashmore is successful as Pau; Miss Margaret Frame is well placed as Lady Katherine; Miss Cherry Veheyne does well in the part of Eulle; Mr. Willie Barrett and Miss Nellie Freeland as Nobbo and Reginella are responsible for an amount of fun; and a thoroughly capable Tisbe comes from Miss Marie Dagmar. The piece is well staged and dressed.

OLDBURY.—Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—This week's programme includes the Incemores, living marionettes; Chas. Clifford, harpist; Eric Walmore, comedian; Dolly Vince, comedienne; Chas. Huntley, comedian; the Mays; and the Bioscope.

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's capable company in the evergreen *Charley's Aunt* had a good reception here on Monday. In the character of Lord Babberley Mr. G. A. Seager impersonates the old lady in a clever manner. He receives able assistance from Messrs. Hastings Lynn and Basil Lynton as Jack Chesney and Charley Wykeham. Miss Vere Gerald as Donna Lucia has an imposing personality; and Miss Olivia Glynn as Kitty Verdan and Miss Grace Russell as Amy Spettigue are capital. Miss Evelyn Gray also does well as Ela Delahay. Mr. Roy Byford is good as the pompous Mr. Spettigue; and Mr. Theo McCauseland Stewart as Sir Francis is smart; and Mr. Sydney Compton as Brasset is capital. *The Lancashire Sailor* precedes.

Colosseum Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company in *Her Road to Ruin* is here. Miss Beatrice Edwards appears as Jess Willoughby, and she does so with great success. Miss N. Bonser impersonates a trio of characters in a clever manner; Miss Alice Bowes makes a dainty May Willoughby; Mr. Henry Wolsten a manly Frank Temple; Mr. Heaton Grey a capable Tom Wells; and Mr. A. Bradley acts well as the villainous Philip Hardy. Mr. Dane Clarke as the Bishop presents a capital study. Some excellent comedy comes from Miss Marie Wright as Jennie Crackling and Mr. Harry Talbot as Billy Boots.

Royal Theatre of Varieties. — General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kilrow.—At the head of the bill here stands May Henderson, the dusky comedy queen, with clever songs and dances; and Maude Mortimer, who sings delightfully. Stelling and Revell are smart on the horizontal bars; the Brothers Webb in musical selections are well received; J. G. Scatter causes hearty laughter with smart patter; and Allan Shaw is clever in coin manipulation. Lee and Kingston are droll in their comedy act; and the Brothers Madison, comedians, deputise for Barrett and Knowles and do well.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Fred Curran is well received for his quaint songs; the Pichel troupe of acrobats successfully perform daring feats; the Great Morimura introduces novel illusions; Pete and Minnie Lee are excellent in a clever sketch; the Gentrys also cause much amusement in *Bits*; Vardon is smart in his ventriloquism; and Fame and Fortune are versatile. The Dottoscope concludes.

OXFORD.—East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Thompson.—A good all-round variety company is holding these boards this week. Some excellent and up to date animated pictures, shown at frequent intervals, are in great favour. Lytton and Bland are very good in their dialect and dancing speciality; Sam Voss causes amusement; and Cosselly does some marvellous jumping, and also, with Evelyn, a clever wire act. Bob Gates does well as eccentric comedian; and Harry Carsdale, rustic comedian, secures unbounded applause for his clever imitations of various animals.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. William Greet's company, under the managership of Mr. W. A. McNeill, is drawing large houses here with *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee distinguishes himself by a striking embodiment of Marcus, and a telling rendition of Mercia is given by Miss Constance Little, who acts with much sweetness and charm. Mr. C. Yorke submits a carefully-studied and artistic rendering of the part of Nero; as Tigellinus and Licinius Mr. Charles Aldred and Mr. J. Weatherall perform excellently; Glabrio is admirably impersonated by Mr. Frank Wood; Mr. Harry Jones makes a capable Philodemus; Viturius is ably accounted for by Mr. Arthur Rudd; and as Servilius and Strabo Mr. H. Thurston Harris and Mr. G. W. Ruff do themselves great credit. Miss Lily Ward is admirably suited as Berenice, giving an effective and convincing embodiment of the part; Miss Cissie Carlton acts with a just perception of comedy in the rôle of Dacio; the Poppœa of Miss Beryl Hamilton is entirely satisfactory; and as Ancaria Miss Mary Newcombe submits a talented impersonation. Mr. Walter Fleet as Favius and Mr. Clifton Yates as Titus acquit themselves creditably; Mr. R. Chapman as Melos is praiseworthy and Stephanus is affectingly and sympathetically portrayed by Miss Edith Drayson.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas F. Bostock.—*Home from the Honeymoon*, a farcical comedy sketch, presented by Mr. Arthur Jefferson, is the leading attraction here this week, and provides fun in abundance. The Derrington Family of acrobatic trick cyclists perform in a wonderfully clever and daring manner; Walter Emerson scores with his quaint songs; Maud Hillman and Maurice Russell submit an entertaining and original vocal comedy duologue, *The Somnambulist*; Will'e Stopit is very funny and amusing in his acrobatic comedy and dancing turn; Harry Marlow and May Manton are highly successful in their comedy sketch *Winning a Wife*; Alf. Holt as an American mimic and sifteur has a flattering reception; Harry Claff, assisted by Alice Tremayne, is well received in his burlesque on pantomime, *The Demon and the Fairy*; and the Bioscope shows some excellent pictures.

Town Hall.—Proprietors, Magistrates and Council.—W. F. Frame, "the man you know," paid a visit with his company on Saturday evening. The well-known Scotch comedian was in his happiest vein, and kept his large audience delighted. The company otherwise was good, and included Maud de Velin, vocalist; A. F. Hands, top-boot and sand dancer and club swinger; Burnetti, instrumentalist; George Belrose, baritone vocalist; Brull and Hemsley, comedians; and Mons. Argo, animal mimic.

PENZANCE.—St. John's Hall.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's *Dairymaids* company appeared here for two nights this week, and record houses gave the talented company, which included Miss Isa Bowman as Peggy, an enthusiastic reception. Messrs. A. J. Rogers and Son are to be congratulated on bringing such good things so far west, and there is every evidence of their enterprise being encouraged.

PETERBOROUGH. — Empire.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—Captain Devereux, with his dog sensation, *The Canine Streets of London*, forms the principal attraction here. Ivy Dene is a capital comedienne and dancer, Will Owen a silent jester, Mlle. Zelda a novel instrumental lady, and Percy Johnson an eccentric comedian. The Emson Girls are expert dancers, the Gelders magicians and entertainers, and Bennett and Martell funny in *The Shipwrecked Mariners*.

New Hippodrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—The Hippodrome reopened on Monday evening under entirely different management, a capital programme being provided. Astley's American Circus, introducing the great riding machine, created roars of laughter; Ivy Proudfoot is a dainty comedienne; and Captain Ellis and Son, instrumentalists, singers, and dancers; Chas. Sloman, comedian; Eadie and Ramsden, in their musical comedy duo; and Cliff Ryland, who correctly describes himself as "the essence of quaintness," are all very clever. Frank R. Burdett's company in the military sketch *Muting*, and the Hippodrome pictures complete.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. F. R. Benson's company occupies the boards here this week, and on Monday *Hamlet* was presented, and received a very scholarly representation. In the title-rôle Mr. Henry Herbert was particularly successful, and the young actor had a grand reception; as Claudius Mr. James Berry was extremely good, particularly during the progress of the murder play; as the loquacious old Chamberlain, Polonius, Mr. Arthur Fayne did well, and also essayed the rôle of First Gravedigger with success; Mr. Everard Vanderlip lent distinction to the part of Horatio, and Mr. Bernard Limpus dramatically portrayed Laertes. As Ophelia Miss Gladys Vanderzee was seen to advantage, particularly in her mad scene; and Miss Violet Farebrother as Hamlet's mother did extremely well. The other plays submitted during the week were *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richard III.*, *Twelfth Night*, *The School for Scandal*, and *The Merchant of Venice*.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Mr. Leonard Gautier's animated toyshop, in which he introduces highly-trained ponies and performing dogs, is highly appreciated. The Harvey Boys as District Messengers excel with amusing dialogue and comedy boxing; John F. Burke and company are successful in the musical comedy *Leave It To Me*; Tom Bryce, assisted by Miss Bryce, presents a musical sketch, in which the fine voice of the lady is heard to advantage; Steeley and Dowton, burlesque artists, and Harry Taylor, Hebrew comedian, score well; and the juvenile Decima Brooke and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope complete a capital programme.

PONTEFRACT.—Alexandra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—"Excellent" may be written as to the bill this week. Imprimis are the Milsted-Bell Trio, in a comprehensive sketch, *Three Sharps in a Flat*, the individual members being each smart in their respective parts. Harding and Preston create real humour over the engagement of a "sub" by an editor; Marjutti undulates in most graceful postures; La Belle Tosca juggles on a rolling ball as easily as on terra firma; Hilder and Beatrice give some really good music; Harley and Hardon cause uproarious laughter with their jokes and antics; Neville Delmar is a refined comedian; and Mlle. Vanda is elegant and daring on the silver wire; Tom Moore, who provides further comedy, is an actor of ability, with a voice that an operatic singer might envy. The Bioscope continues to give every satisfaction.

PORTH.—Palace.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The Hilgert Arkas company top the bill here, and deserve special mention for their equilibristic performance. The two Kays, in their scena, are most entertaining; Vickey Delmar, drum and bugle soloist, is a capital turn; Lily Lonsdale, comedienne, scores a success; the Columbia Comedy Trio evoke roars of laughter; Ernie Myers is a capital comedian; the Onox Duo of quick-change artists, Bert Danson, patter comedian, and the Palascope are other attractions in a capital programme.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—This week we have the Follies, with new ideas, including Pelissier's Potted Plays, concluding with a burlesque of a benefit matinée, entitled *Everybody's Benefit*.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company is staging here for the week the successful drama *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Miss Violet Eunice Lawson, in the name-part, Molly Vernon, is excellent. Mr. Harold Macartney, as Jack England, is an able and effective soldier hero; Mr. Edward McLean sustains the part of the Rev. Robert Everton with ability; the unscrupulous ruffian, Captain Geoffrey Caversham is impersonated in a frankly brutal fashion by Mr. Richard Ferris, who is well supported by Miss Lydia Mannington as Marian Franklyn, the adventuress; James Sutton finds a satisfactory exponent in Mr. George Mitchell; Miss Sybil Hare as Rose Seymour plays with care; Miss Mary Poulton as Isabella Jones, and Mr. George H. Asquin in the part of Dick Punch fill the lighter side of the drama most admirably.

King's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas

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Barrasford.—A programme of more than usual excellence is arranged for the week here. Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco, in *Visions of Dreamland*, submitted a particularly clever entertainment, full of mystic surprises; Reid and Power, in brisk comedy sketch, *The Chambermaid*, are smart; Adams and Ward, acrobatic comedians, are entirely satisfactory in their novel and lively turn; Lloyd Morgan, light comedian, had a flattering reception for his vocal effort; Miss Thierry's company, in ably mounted scena, *A Daughter of the Revolution*, gave an excellent and powerfully presented sketch of the period, and met with deserved success; Madge Temple, musical comedy queen, a very smart and up-to-date artist, contributed a meritorious vocal item; Heeley and Meeley, in their original scena, *Two Lucky Tramps*, were enthusiastically recalled; Violet Halls, a dashing comedienne, of capable vocal power, did well, and had a warm greeting. The animated pictures by the Barrascope give great pleasure by their amusing character.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Leigh; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A capital programme is offered here for the week. Macolm Scott, in his latest success, "The woman who knows," "The Directoire girl," and burlesque on Miss Allan's dance, "Salome," is most popular and scores heavily; an attractive turn is submitted by Teresa Da Silva, whose sympathetic and tuneful voice is heard to advantage; Cromo and Hamilton, in novelty burlesque, *Artful Aladdin*, are smart; Harry Bancroft is a capable actor-vocalist; Emmie Ames, star comedienne, with her Christmas tree ditty, gains favour; Frank Elliston and company, in *Aunt Matilda*, are most successful; Effie White, kaleidoscopic danseuse, in *Spirit of the Cave*, submits an interesting and pretty entertainment; Colonel Smythe and Miss Julie Wesson, exponents of rapid and accurate shooting, have a most effective exhibition. Payne's Bio. with new pictures portrays popular events.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Colonel Roberts, V.D.—Mr. George Dance's company heads the bill here in a musical comedy sketch of much merit, entitled *The Burglar's Ball*. Mr. Billy Stephens and the Misses Madge Soutter and Florence Hylton appear with success. Mr. Fred Hallam is an eccentric comedian of the approved style; Elton and Edwin, banjo duo, are a smart and capable pair; Miss Jennie Alexander, child comedienne and mimic, shows cleverness in her impersonations; Miss Peggy Lennie and Walter Hast have a poetic phantasy, *A Sea Nymph*; Miss Jessie Merrilees, in two pleasing vocal numbers, does well; the Flying Hanlons, in an aerial stage act, are to be highly commended for some brisk work; Mr. Fred Hastings is amusing in his monologue, *Love, Courtship, and Marriage*; and the Hippo. Pictures conclude.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Executors of the late Mr. W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Messrs. Sutton and Rayner's company, in a répertoire of plays, opened on Monday with *Moths*. Mr. Cecil Wynne gave a characteristic rendering of Zouroff; Mr. Raynor was excellently cynical as Lord Jura, and Mr. C. Lodge Percy gave a good account of himself as the Duke of Mull. Mr. Conrad Heywood sustained the part of Corrèze in a convincing manner, and Mr. Chas. Bickell was a capable Boris; Miss Nellie Statham gave a capital and careful rendition of the by-no-means easy part of Lady Dolly; while Miss Dorothy West-Symes as Vere won the sympathies of the audience by a really natural portrayal. Miss Cecilia Dare also is to be complimented on her clever rendering of the Duchess; Miss Henrietta Schrier as Fuschia Leach was excellent, though her accent was at times a little too pronounced for the true American. The play was capitally staged and well received. During the week the company will present *Camille* and *Harvest*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. C. Watson Mills' company, including Miss Lillian Herries, is here for the first time in *A Warning to Women*. Mr. Leonard Lawrence gives a weird and powerful portrayal of Dr. Marcus Dread; Mr. William Vane is a very pleasing Shaun; Mr. C. O'Connor as Fergus McNaughton is manly and natural; Mr. Harry Douglas is most amusing as Lord Eversleigh, and raises many a laugh; Mr. Henry Rutland is a dignified Squire Kennion; Mr. Alec Finlayson is a typical Rev. Emmanuel Wallace; Mr. Oscar Power has plenty of scope for his Irish witticisms in the part of Mike McQuade, of which he takes full advantage. Miss Edith Rutland plays the part of Myles O'Moore, a cripple, very sympathetically; Miss Winifred Rutland is a most winsome Sheila Kennion; Miss Ellen Beverley has a part in Molly O'Moore which suits her admirably, and Miss Lillian Herries as Moira Kennion displays considerable power, and wins much applause for her excellent rendition of the part. The rest of the characters in a lengthy cast are all in good hands, who work hard, and the play is admirably mounted.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—An excellent performance is given by the Onlaw Trio in their Parisian novelty wire act, which includes some wonderful feats; Ada Jenner has a capital sketch, *The Lady Barber*; Jessie Jukes is a juvenile vocalist and dancer of much promise; another talented duo of juveniles are the Sisters Lotus, both of whom possess good voices. Rowland Hill gives a couple of his well-known songs, and some patter which strikes the right note; the Sisters Valli, in their unique musical and dancing act, prove themselves accomplished in a big-boot dance; Percy Curry, the original comedy man, is a favourite; Morny Cash, the Lancashire lad, is another clever comedian; Phil Herman, comedian and story-teller, succeeds in his efforts to amuse; and When the Cat's Away on the Bioscope concludes.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—*A Country Girl in London* is played in first-rate style by Messrs. A. Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's company. Mr. W. V. Garrod as Frank Gordon submits a distinctly clever piece of acting; the villain, Godfrey Clinton, is presented by Mr. G. Moreton Williams in forcible and finished style; the character of Mr. John Hamilton, by Mr. John S. Sheridan, and that of Job Smithers, by Mr. Clifford Marle, are well and ably sustained; and Heinrich Oppenheim is realistically portrayed by Mr. E. W. Avery. Miss Josephine Colona deserves unstinted praise for her rendering of Gwendoline Gordon; and Miss B. Kingston displays great dramatic skill in the part of Marjorie Hamilton. Mr. S. Perry and Miss Lesley Adair deserve commendation as Mr. and Mrs. Puddyphat.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—The latest attraction here is Mr. Walter Melville's company, in *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*, and a most successful opening was made on Monday evening to another excellent house. Miss Jessie Belmore renders the title-rôle in a charming manner, and proves herself a clever young actress; Miss Nannie Meade is also very effective as the villainess, Vesta Le Clare, her impersonation being artistic; as Lucy Miss Zoe Davis gives an excellent portrayal; and as Poppy Slater Miss Marie Kildare supplies a sparkling impersonation. As Jack Fenton Mr. Frank R. Robertson gives an artistic delineation; Mr. Sidney Sarl is a clever Bill Slater; and Mr. F. Ronald Adair impersonates Will Mason in a fine, manly style, giving the part a breezy and at the same time, sympathetic air. As Johnny Walker, Mr. Fred Ingham evokes roars of laughter; Mr. Frank Denis as James Fenton gives a clever study; and as James Harcourt Mr. Raymond Wood is artistic. The scenery and dresses are elaborate.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—The visit of the Moody-Manners Opera Company, in a fine répertoire, has proved an unqualified success. *Faust* was given on Monday evening, with Mr. John Child in the chief male part. His singing and acting, like that of Miss Rose O'Farrell as Marguerite, were keenly enjoyed, and the other members of the company contributed most creditably to the general excellence of the production. On Tuesday *Madame Butterfly* filled the bill, with Mr. Charles Carter playing brilliantly as the American Lieutenant. His vocalism is of a very high standard of musical merit. Miss Enriquita Crichton proved herself an operatic artist of marked talent as the Japanese girl, and the *tout ensemble* was first-class, recalls being frequent. On Wednesday a matinée performance of *Il Trovatore* was given, while *Maritana* filled the evening bill. The remainder of the répertoire consisted of *Tannhäuser*, *Carmen*, *Rigoletto*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—Venus, the late Lord Leighton's model, was the chief attraction in a programme of varieties put on on the first three evenings of the week, a number of studies being artistically carried out. Other names in the programme were those of Mlle. Daphne Dobson (danseuse), the Sisters Sligo (quartette), Lynn (the original singing newsboy), Dorothy, Joan, and Pic (step-dancers), Ærolia (on the silver wire), Coombes and Webb (banjoists), Leoville (trapeze artist), and W. H. Blackman (character impersonations). On Thursday Mr. Herbert Ralland's company commenced a three nights' engagement with Mr. Pinero's play, *His House in Order*—a really fine show.

MARINA THEATRE.—The popular picture shows here have been continued successfully, with entertaining variety turns interspersed. Thursday was set apart as a complimentary benefit to Mr. W. J. Attack, the courteous manager, who has done so much during this season to enhance the good name of the Marina and increase its popularity with the public.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. Geo. Edwardes' company is doing excellent business this week with *The Merry Widow*, which is drawing crowded houses. The play is sumptuously mounted and the dresses are superb. Miss Mysie Devine makes a most fascinating Merry Widow; Mr. Frank Greene is a stalwart representative of Prince Danilo, and sustains the part with conspicuous ability; Mr. Edward D'Arcy as Baron Popoff and Mr. Fred Fowler as Nisch are highly diverting; Mr. Ripley Evans uses a good voice to the best advantage in the character of the Viscount Camille de Jolidon; Mr. William Allison as the Marquis de Cascada, Mr. F. Pedgrift as M. de St. Brioche, and Mr. Robert Needham as M. Khadja all act well as the Merry Widow's admirers. Mr. Clifford Seyler is amusing as the jealous General Novikovitch; and Mr. Bert Edwards is very droll as the waiter at Maxim's. Miss Ada Thomas plays with much vivacity as Natalie; Miss Daphne Glenne as Olga, Miss Violet Hobson as Sylvanie, and Miss Lucie Donati as Prascovia take their parts well. The Girls at Maxim's are impersonated by a charming bevy of artists, and a powerful chorus and augmented orchestra do full justice to the melodious music of the play, under the efficient direction of the conductor, Mr. Ernest Vousden.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The Four Maisanos, French musical clowns, provide an excellent and amusing turn. Some pretty illuminated effects are produced in Broughton's electric scena, in which Elsie St. Clair and the Sisters May appear. Madison and Webb are very diverting; Dolly Denton is a dainty comedienne; the Monte Carlo Girls dance with vivacity; Sam Mitchello is an amusing comedian and efficient step dancer; George C. Doughty and company appear in a capital sketch, entitled *Captain Cupid*; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden create much amusement in their sketch, *A Desperate Remedy*; and the Palace Bioscope completes an excellent programme.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Alone in London* occupies the boards here this week. The play finds favour with the patrons of the popular parts of the house. Mr. Harry McCleland makes a dignified Mr. Burnaby; Mr. Blundell Fenton is heard to advantage as Walter Burnaby; Mr. Percy Rhodes very cleverly impersonates the polished villain, Richard Redcliffe; and Mr. Percy Bell sustains with marked effect the pious fraud, Jenkinson. Miss Mary Stafford Smith is pathetic as Tom Chickweed; Miss Rose Grey acts well the part of Ruth Clifton; and Miss Theresa Osborne wins all hearts by her womanly acting in the part of Nan. Mr. Lonnen Meadows as Charley Johnson infuses a welcome element of humour.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves. — A good all-round programme is presented to the patrons here this week. Les Ados submit a refined display of muscular skill and strength; Brothers Obo are highly amusing with their patter and laughing song; and Carlos Menard is a violinist of no mean order, his tricks on the violin being both clever and amusing. The Legienes Troupe of acrobats; Bros. Harrison, comedians, &c.; Beau and Belle, in a vocal scena; W. B Roby, comedian; and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete the bill of fare.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is making a welcome return visit here with a *Girl's Cross Roads*, and is receiving well-deserved support. Miss Hilda Beverley as Barbara Wade is the central figure of the plot and to her clever acting the success attained is chiefly due. The mounting and scenery are of an elaborate character.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Mr. Shaun Glenville heads the bill, and, supported by Miss Ada Tilley and Mr. Augustus Symonds, causes much amusement with a clever sketch, *The Art of Deception*. Miss Lilian Travellie is a pleasing ballad vocalist; and Messrs. Denby and Dent are smart comedians. An amusing musical comedy sketch, *His Worship the Mayor*, is introduced with great success, the title rôle being cleverly taken by Mr. Maitland Marler. Mr. Sidney Kearns being very smart as Jack Harcourt. Miss Marie Clayton is responsible for some pretty musical numbers, and Mr. Cayri B. Storrs is deserving of mention as Monty Fitz-Herbert. Miss Lalie Brooke has a pretty scena in *Girls Past and Present*, and Mr. T. C. Jaques is well received; Les Marbas are deservedly applauded for their humorous acrobatic turn; the Florias are seen to great advantage in a comedy wire act; and Mr. Sam Dalton is also deserving of mention.

RYDE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Constant.—A welcome re-visit has been received this week from Mr. Norman V. Norman and his talented company. *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* was given on Monday. Mr. Norman in the part of Sir George Sylvester and Miss Beatrice Wilson as Lady Ursula Barrington both performed in delightful fashion. Mr. Norman Leslie as Mr. Castleton was also seen to advantage. The week's programme also included *Nell Gwynn of Drury Lane*, *Still Waters Run Deep*, and *David Garrick*

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. B. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company is appearing this week in *The Midnight Mail*, which continues to draw good houses. Mr. George Harvard wins hearty applause as Harry Steyne; Billy Brewer (the drunken stoker) is a capital study by Mr. Charles Carte; Mr. C. A. Wentworth as the unscrupulous Hassan Padisha makes a great impression; and Mr. J. Mann as Gerald Eustace does well. Mary Steyne is ably sustained by Miss T. Humphreys; Miss Daisy Clifford is an excellent Nancy Brewer; Lady Phyllis Eustace is charmingly portrayed by Miss Jeannie Weston; and Mr. C. H. Longden as Leonard Boyle and Mr. J. Wilkinson as Sergeant O'Flynn deserve much praise. The staging is good throughout.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The electrical musical transformation act by Victor Morgan's company is a pretty and smart performance; Mme. Sims Reeves sings well a couple of her late husband's songs; a comical sketch is given by Mooney and Holbein, their patter and songs being very good; and the Katos Komikal Kidgets in their miniature theatre; Mario Wilton, comedienne and dancer; Webb and Branston, pleasing operatic duettists; Peter Bermingham, patter Scotch comedian; Daisy Martell, comedienne and dancer; Will Johnson, comedian; and Three Seebornes, clever acrobats, also give acceptable turns. The sacred concert on Sunday in aid of the local Lifeboat Fund was an immense success.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—Twice nightly *The Stepmother*, by Arthur Shirley, proves very acceptable as presented by William Holles and Nannie Goldman's company. Mr. William Holles represents Bob Bristow in a masterly manner; Danny is cleverly played by Miss Nannie Goldman; the title-rôle is well filled by Miss Eve Mansell; Miss Dorothy Duncan is a charming Amy Bristow; Mr. Eric Hudson makes a realistic detective as David Blake; and Miss Ida Taylor is good as Clara (the child). Miss Violet Agnew as Johanna Jones and Mr. Fred Dark as Timothy Yapp cause much laughter; and good studies are provided by Mr. Arthur Rodney as Abraham Wiggins and Mr. Wilton Reed as Luke Trixel.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—My Wife's Dog, A Drama of Country Life, Puss in Boots, Reveller's Dream, Doctor's Experiment, The Magic Wand, and Sandwich Women are among the pictures this week. The illustrated song, "While life shall last," is well rendered by Mr. Tom S. Sherlock.

SALISBURY. — VICTORIA PARK. — Director of Entertainments, Mr. F. D'Alton Tebby; Manageress, Miss Jessie D'Alton.—Several thousands assembled to show their appreciation of these high-class entertainments when Mr. and Mrs. D'Alton Tebby (Miss Jessie D'Alton) took their third annual benefit. A long and varied programme was given. Miss Jessie D'Alton created quite a furore with her singing and illuminated serpentine dances. Miss Lilian Ramsdale's vivacious manner and dainty dancing made her success assured; Miss Beatrice Witham possesses a good voice, which was displayed in some suitable songs; Miss Edna Lynne also has a tuneful voice and a charming manner. Mr. Albert Laurence maintained his popularity in female impersonations; Mr. Bert Earle sang excellently; Mr. Wal Kent proved an amusing comedian; and Mr. Cliff Harrold performed the duties of pianist effectively.

COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T Brinsmead.—A packed house welcomed Miss Inez Howard's company in *The Soldier's Wedding*. Mr. Roy Gordon as Jack, the hero, acted in manly fashion; and Mr. W. Carriden filled the rôle of Colonel Graham in a talented style. As Tommy Spratt, Mr. G. Berwick was highly amusing; Mr. David Urquhart played Charles Courtney realistically; Master Harry Thorpe as Teddy Munro filled his part cleverly; Miss Jean Wigney was charming as Nancy Lee, Miss Lena Gordon submitted a fine piece of acting as Julie de Beauvrais; Miss Evelyn Marrable as Lizzie Walker amused everyone, and as Peggy Munroe Miss Rita Rosslyn played with sincerity.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. John Lawson and company are proving a strong attraction here this week with *The King's Minister*, *The Monkey's Paw*, and *Humanity*. The versatility of Mr. Lawson has full scope in the varying styles of the three pieces, and he acquits himself well in each case. The other members of the company, including Miss Lucille Sidney, Miss Buena Bent, Miss L. Bernhardt, Mr. P. Bioletti, Mr. S. Harde, Mr. St. Lawrence, Mr. G. P. Howell, Mr. Newman Cohen, Mr. G. Horton Tree, and Mr. G. Lubinoff, prove themselves highly capable in their respective parts. The interludes are filled by the Glenroy Troupe, in a clever speciality dancing act; Miss May de Rouse, comedienne; and the Bioscope.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Harry D. Lyle.—Mr. Julian Malvern's company, under the direction of Mr. Chas. M. Julian, is here this week, with *I Defy the World*. Mr. Percy Ballard impersonates the exacting part of Leon Darville in a thoroughly able manner; his impersonations are especially good. As the Count de Beaulieu, Mr. J. Leicester Jackson plays with excellent effect; Mr Frank Wheatley is a capable Andre; and Laroche is realistically drawn by Mr. Charles Conway. The humorous part of Samuel Wozzle is in the capable hands of Mr. Chas. M. Julian. Other good comedy parts are those of Najack and Bonchon, rendered by Mr. Dalton J. Bosher and Mr. Newton Pearce. As Pauline Delaport, Miss Blanche St. Albans is a delightful exponent of the part; Blanche Darville is skilfully impersonated by Miss Violet Craufurd; Miss Maud Lillian is a capital Maria Wozzle; and as Fanchette little Laura Marshall wins great praise.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—The chief attraction here this week is *The Book of Life*, a clever and amusing act, which is proving successful; Les Belles Americaines are expert acrobatic dancers; Lozelle, comedy gymnast, provides an interesting turn; John Parrot is amusing in song and patter; and Lord, Murray, and Lord, in *Fun in a Gymnasium*, are accorded a hearty reception. Nellie Neil is an expert bâton manipulator; and Madge Bryce, comedienne, completes.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—There is an excellent series of animated pictures here this week. Worthy of special mention are The Nihilists, The Emigrants, In the Days of Rebellion, Mashing the Master, and The Music Teacher.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont. — Mr. Fred Terry and his company are appearing to crowded houses this week in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Idol of Paris* was played to a big audience on Monday by Mr. Jas. Beel's company. The scenery was effective and the costumes brilliant. Miss Annie Bell, in the title-rôle, sounded the entire gamut of feminine passion; Mr. Wilson Howard played with force and distinction the part of Phillipe d'Esterre; and other characters were well acted by Mr. Gordon Robey, Mr. Pringle Roberts, Mr. C. Roberts, Mr. Charles Stafford, Mr. Ellis Carlyle, Mr. R. Neill, Mr. R. H. Hamer, Miss Pharo Anderson, Miss Grace Noble, Miss Fitzhugh, and Miss Megonn

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*The Fatal Wedding* is a favourite play with local theatre-goers, and Mr. Bert Cootes' talented company were cordially welcomed by a crowded house on Monday. Mr. Cyril Melton made a quaint and genial janitor as Peter Schwartz; Mr. Frank Harrison was a typical New York "fast man" as Robert Curtis; Miss Ethel Kay acted with strong emotional ability as Mabel Wilson; and Mr. Cecil Melton was again the dignified millionaire, Howard Wilson. The "Little Mother" was cleverly represented by Miss Lulu Wohlmann; and Mr. Frank Ashley made a humorous officer, O'Reilly. The lively concert in the third act was contributed to by the Misses Sarah Rich, Marie Wilson, Edith Dews, Violet Dupré, Hilda Mahlert, Doreen Aberdare, Dorothy Payne, Dot Jeffries, and a chorus of well-trained vocalists. The Indian scena, "Caraboo," was loudly applauded.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The comic stars of the variety world follow each other in rapid succession, the latest arrival at the palatial Charles-street theatre being that old Sheffield favourite, the popular and mirth-provoking character comedian, Mr. Harry Randall, in new songs and old favourites. Mr. Tom Foy and his company caused great merriment in the comic skit, *A Yorkshire Lad in London*; the well-known Proveanis do a smart and graceful cycling act; and other successful performers this week are the Sados, novelty artists; Miss Lola Patey, vocalist; the Barton and Franklyn Trio, musical and comedy entertainers; the pretty and lively Stella Girls; Takio, the clever Jap; and Miss Netta Starr, comedienne. Some good animated pictures are also presented.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The *pièce de résistance* on Monday was the delightful operatic absurdity, *Happy Holland*, which is well staged and admirably performed by Mr. Jake Friedman and a first-rate company; Beatie and Babs are two talented juvenile singers and dancers; the Two Falcons, comic tumblers, are repeatedly applauded; the Carmos are first-rate jugglers; the Saletos do a smart balancing act; and other pleasing turns are those of Messrs. Ingram and Irvine, comic boxers; Messrs. Nash and Noel, patterers; Miss Lillie Lassah, a vivacious serio-comic; and the Barrascope, with a pathetic dramatic film story, Too Old to Work.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—In addition to the artistic animated pictures by the Raymond Bio-tableaux firm, the company includes Mr. Frank Street, a comical jokist; Wake and Dean, variety entertainers; Guest and Newlyn, comic duettists and dancers; Mr. C. Jones, with heart-stirring illustrated Celtic ditties; and Mlle. Bartenelli, in a novel speciality act. Good business continues the rule at this cosy theatre.

ALBERT HALL.—Manager, Mr. J. Peace.—Mr. Joshua Dyson, with his pleasing costume concert company, diorama, and artistic animated pictures, and Swiss choir, is doing good business nightly.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, The Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—Good pictures and a small, but talented, variety company are pleasing large audiences at this favourite resort.

THE PAVILION.—This renovated hall appears to have entered on a successful career as a well-conducted picture theatre.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Messrs. Neville and Carnaby's hard-working and capable company is here this week with the romantic piece, *Napoleon's Divorce*, which proves a popular attraction. Mr. F. H. Neville makes a powerful Napoleon Bonaparte; Mr. John Loden as Joseph Bonaparte acts with ability; Mr. W. Ellythorne makes a capable Colonel D'Arville; Mr. C. Moore acts successfully as Duke St. Everard; Mr. J. Holt is an amusing Sergt. Baton; Mr. E. Shaw infuses plenty of life and fun into the part of Jules; Mr. F. H. Fortescue makes a good Pierre; Miss Veronica Clinton acts creditably as Marie Louise; and Miss Kate Randolph is a graceful and effective Josephine.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—*Home, Sweet Home*, is being played by Mr. Frank Lindo's company. As Stephen Armitage, Mr. Frank Lindo gives a manly interpretation; as David Armitage, Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle is excellent; Mr. Archer Brown is everything desirable as the Duke of Ancaster; and Mr. Helsby Wright is clever as Lucas Lyle. Mr. Norton Shields gives a capable impersonation of the Hon. Percy; and Mr. R. Walsh is good as Dick Redmayne. Miss Marion Wakeford as Joan is artistic; and Miss Maud Leslie Cudd is a clever exponent of Sybil Fay. Mr. Tom E. Lewis as Solomon Keary supplies an amusing diversion with his "bones" speciality. On Wednesday, *David Garrick* was played, with Mr. Frank Lindo as Garrick and Miss Marion Wakeford as Laura, supported by the full company.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company (under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey) gave on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday successful portrayals of *The Hypocrites*, which drew capital support. Mr. H. Laurence Leyton impersonated the Rev. Edgar Linnell, and gained well-deserved honours; Mr. Ernest H. Ruston made a good exponent of Mr. Wilmore, and his son Leonard was creditably portrayed by Mr. John Dennys; Mr. Charles Tyrel as Sir John Plunget, Bart., was well suited; as also were Mr. Frederick Morland as Mr. Niveash, lawyer, and Mr. F. G. Thurstons as the Rev. Everard Daubeney, vicar. Miss Laura Graves used her abilities to advantage in the rôle of Mrs. Wilmore; Miss Muriel Pope sustained the character of Rachel Neve in successful manner; and Miss Muriel Mason as Helen Plugenet gave every satisfaction. *The Idler* was billed for Thursday and the rest of the week.

THE KURSAAL. — Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—This week's theatre programme, submitted twice daily, is of the usual excellent diversified character, which draws good support and gives entire satisfaction. The contributors include the Prince Milner Trio in pleasing displays of novel acrobatic hoop manipulating and wire walking; Miss Nellie Giles, operatic vocalist; the Two Dominoes, who provide much fun; the Walonells, two smart comedy gymnasts; Miss Daisy Reed, in song and dance; Mr. Arthur Stacey, top boot dancer; Miss Lottie Stone's Royal Troupe of vocalists and dancers; Bioscope pictures and the Café Chantant entertainments also add to the enjoyment. The Dahomey Warriors give a life-like description of the manners and customs of their country.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—Mr. H. F. Maltby provides the attraction, and his clever company add greatly to the success they achieved the previous week by an admirable portrayal of *Fraud*, a play in four acts strikingly representing the adventures of a lady typist, which was thoroughly enjoyed on Monday and heartily received. Mr. H. F. Maltby gains much applause for his able characterisation of Robert Jones; Miss Mara Maltby is no less successful in her clever impersonation of Ernestine; Mr. Arthur Claremont is an able exponent of Leslie Parkington; Mr. Wyn Weaver makes a prominent character of Mr. Barnes; and Messrs. Brember Wills and Norman H. Tracey give good interpretations of the Rev. Stanley Kershaw, B.A., and Tommy. Miss Florence Wynn is well suited as Miss Butler.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. William Mollison's répertoire company, including Miss Evelyn McNay, opened here on Monday with a capital all-round performance of *The Merchant of Venice*. In his conception of Shylock Mr. Mollison scored a notable success, all the phases of the character being depicted with admirable effect; Miss Evelyn McNay presented a graceful, clever, and well-studied impersonation of Portia; Antonio was exceedingly well played by Mr. William Calvert; Mr. Archie W. Chappell assumed the part of Bassanio with great credit; Mr. Henry Deas did full justice to the rôle of Gratiano; Miss Gladys Brandon Gower was a highly commendable and piquant representative of Nerissa; Miss Edith Blair-Staples skilfully portrayed the character of Jessica; Mr. Murray Graham was well placed as Lorenzo, and other good impersonations were submitted by Mr. Whitford Kane as the Prince of Morocco, Mr. Leslie Lingham and Mr. H. Owen Taylor as Solanio and Salarino respectively, Mr. R. B. Drysdale as Lancelot Gobbo, and Mr. Harold Neville as Old Gobbo. *Hamlet*, *As You Like It*, *The Bonnie Briar Bush*, and *David Garrick* are also billed.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles' company is here in *Her Marriage Vow*. Mr. E. J. Collins gives a fine character-study of Daffy Daw; Mr. Charles B. Bedells powerfully portrays the villain, Gilbert Carlton; Ned Benton is ably depicted by Mr. J. Forbes Knowles; Miss Helena Walbran makes a charming Kate Walters; Hester Norton is pleasingly interpreted by Miss Nellie Shirley; Mr. Dan Ryan as Larry Leary and Miss Winifred Barton as Maggie Clare provide abundance of comedy, being ably seconded by Mr. Wilford Bailey as Eben Chubb and Miss Grace Ryder as Almira. Mr. John W. Ryder and Mr. W. Wilby are good as William Walters and Jim Burke; and the same may be said of Mr. W. Brooks as Jenks.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Mark Sheridan, who has lost none of

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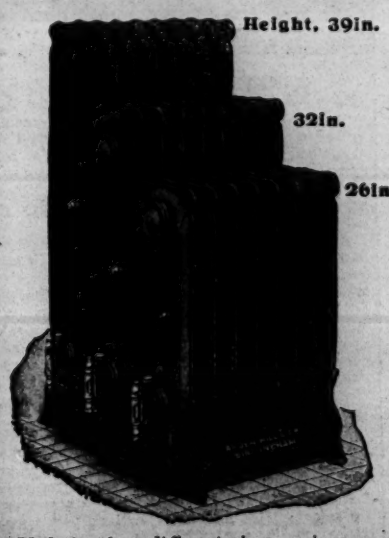

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his characteristic originality, is awarded a warm welcome; J. P. Ling, a clever comedian and mimic, wins applause; Phil and Nettie Peters contribute a good comedy item; some first-class dancing is displayed by Aide Martine and Lottie Govell; Eugene and Willie provide a smart acrobatic musical turn; Marie Empress is a smart burlesque artist; Gus Le Clerq, a successful comedian; and the Bioscope completes.

Tivoli.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Some excellent music is rendered by the Les Tafanos; the Fordyces contribute a refined comedy and dancing turn; and the Tivoliscope shows excellent films.

Cosy Corner.—Burton's comedians still maintain their popularity. Many new concerted items have been put on, and a new comedy, especially written by the prolific and versatile author-composer and proprietor Mr. Geo. Burton, entitled *Muddled, Mixed, and Married*. Mr. Burton has fairly caught the popular taste here.

STALYBRIDGE.—Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—Mr. G. Webber, basso, possesses a voice of remarkable range and quality, and delights the audience; Alf. Gibson is a quaint comedian; Lena Page, burlesque actress; Bennett and Stirling, American comedy duo; the St. Johns, instrumentalists and dancers; and Edna Francis, vocalist and dancer, acquit themselves with credit; and D. J. M'Carthy appears in his monologue, "The Coastguard."

ST. HELENS.—Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—*Driven from Home* is being played here by Mr. Andrew Melville's company. Mr. Felix Pitt, the Anthony Raybrook, plays with considerable power; Walter Hatherleigh is in the capable hands of Mr. P. George Beresford; and Mr. Charles Burdon makes an acceptable villain in the part of Geoffrey Waring. A good character sketch of Willie is given by Mr. Percy Dawsone; and Mr. Harry Cornwall also is successful as Jabez. A good deal of fun is provided by Mr. Fred C. Imbert as John Anderson and by Miss Edith Leslie as Margaret. Miss Nancy Roberts doubles the parts of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh, jun., and enlists the sympathies of the audience in both.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould. A capital programme is provided this week. Clown Barker and Miss Rozsika present a highly-attractive show with their well-trained animals; as novel and eccentric dancers, Moon and Morris excite well-earned applause; the Raymond Trio, excellent dancers, play well on various instruments; Alf Ripon as a ventriloquist is one of the best; Florence and Lillian, who perform in their solos and duets upon the post-horn and violin, are loudly cheered; Ruby Bijou dances daintily in character; Alice Maude is a capital child mimic; and Martin Conway a favourite comedian.

ST. LEONARDS.—Pier Pavilion.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—*Angela* is being presented here by Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and a specially-selected company. The wilful and wayward disposition of Angela is delightfully depicted by Miss Glossop-Harris; Miss Janet Warden plays the part of Mary Rembridge with a light and effective touch; Mr. Arthur Goodsall is clever in the character of Christopher Keswick; a clearly-drawn sketch of John Evesham is furnished by Mr. Cassels Cobb; and as Richard Evesham Mr. Frank Cellier is excellent.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—There is plenty to interest and amuse in *The Woman Pays*, which is being presented here this week for the first time. Mr. John Davidson's impersonation of the villain, Roger Marchant, is excellent; Mr. Phil Harper acts in manly style as Sidney Armstrong; Micky Maloney is amusingly played by the author, Mr. Frank M. Thorne; Cyrus Treadgold has a capital representative in Mr. George Butler; Mr. Dunlop Stewart acts with much ability as Luke Morland; and Mr. Claremont Gaskell is genuinely funny as Nathan Moss. Madge Armstrong is charmingly impersonated by Miss Maud Russell; Miss Kate Blair acts with power and effect as Nell Morland; and Polly Stokes is pleasingly portrayed by Miss Anna Walton.

Empire.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.—Diamond and Beatrice, in their pleasing musical entertainment, are starring here this week with marked success; comical and clever is Harry Friskey, juggler; Lambeth and Robertson present an interesting sketch, *Scots Folk's Wooing*; smart acrobatic dancers are the Four Amarnths; Gus Harris, Hebrew delineator, commands applause; Karr and Kooney are mirth-provoking comedians; and Johnny Dwyer, comedian, Charlton, conjurer, and Shrillo, operatic whistler, contribute ably to the programme.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Castle Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Alfred Sutro's great play, *The Walls of Jericho*, is presented here this week by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company. Mr. Alfred Goddard plays with power Mr. Bourchier's part of Jack Frobisher, and the part of Lady Alethea is in the able hands of Miss Nancy Beresford.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Mr. Sydney Bacon's company makes a return visit in the bright musical comedy entitled *The Duchess of Tooting*; The Schiavonys, acrobats, do some daring feats; Edgar Forrest and company appear in a humorous sketch entitled *Sunshine and Rain*; and other attractive turns come from Mlle. Renée, instrumentalist; Nancy St. John, comedienne; and Alix Lukos, in a protean scena. The pictures, as usual, are very good.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week a romantic drama entitled *Sapho*. It is well staged.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—The Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—Kennedy's Kiddies are seen in a most entertaining vocal and terpsichorean scena; Bert Terrell, smartly tailored, renders his Dutch songs in good style; the Eeduns appear in a picturesque vocal scena, *The Spider*, with success; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco present their spectacular absurdity; the Behans' quick-change act is good; some wonderfully trained ravens are introduced by Melia and Mozarabar; and Sam Redfern, Matt Wilkinson and Co. in *On the Flip-Flap*, and the Bioscope, are also in the bill.

STOURBRIDGE.—Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps.—We are receiving a visit from Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company with *Home, Sweet Home*. Miss Lydia Audre as Joan has an important part in the success of the drama; Mr. Arthur Hinton as Stephen Armitage plays capably. Little Hilda Vokes as Dora speaks her lines intelligently; Mr. Fred G. Ray as David Armitage, Mr. Charles Clifford as Duke of Ancaster, Mr. David Beatiee as Lucas Lyle, Mr. Rupert Larry as Lord Silvermore, and Miss Laura Wright as Sybil Fay, add in a great measure to the success of the performance.

STROUD.—Subscription Rooms.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Twitchett.—Miss Inez Howard's company, under the direction of Mr. Henry Chattell, was here on Saturday, with *The Soldier's Wedding*. Mr. Roy Gordon was a natural and manly Jack Brown; Mr. W. Carridens (Colonel J. Graham) was a well-sustained effort; Master Harry Thorpe was excellent as the Saucy Nipper; Nathaniel Lee was effectively played by Mr. Willis Collins; and Mr. David Urquhart as the villain acted with skill and ability. Miss Jean Wigney was a sympathetic Nancy Lee and Miss Lena Gordon gave a clever impersonation of Julie de Beauvrais. Mr. Geoffrey Berwick as Tommy Spratt and Miss Evelyn Marrable as Lizzie Walker created plenty of amusement.

SWANSEA.—The Grand.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—*The Dairymaids* was introduced to a Swansea audience this week by Mr. Robert McDonald's company. Possessing a delightful personality, Miss Empsie Bowman is a most winsome Peggy, her singing, too, being excellent. Winifred is in the hands of Miss Vera Crichton, whose voice is agreeably mellow and sweet; Lieutenant Sam Brudennel is finely impersonated by Mr. R. Telford, whose dancing is remarkable; Mr. J. Scott Melville's Lieutenant Meredith is a capital performance; Miss Nellie Bowman as Eliza, and Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens, not only dance inimitably, but score heavily in their duet. Miss Carrie Lacey greatly distinguishes herself as Lady Brudenall, and Mr. Bernard Vaughan's conception of Dr. O'Byrne, R.N., is exceedingly good.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is attracting well this week. In the title-rôle Miss Beatrice Homer's acting reaches a high standard; Jack Merriman is excellently played by Mr. Philip Darien; and Mr. Leyton Cancellor achieves great success as the villainous Hubert Gold, as does also Mr. Leonard Thackeray as Antonio Luchese. Miss Gertrude Harrision gives a telling portrayal of Rose Courtenay; Mr. Freddie Bensley (Tubby Herrica) and Miss Nellie Jackson (Aggie Brown) excel with their humour.

Empires, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—George Gilbey, who shares the place of honour here this week with Dutch Daly, scores in the rôle of Spouty, the goalkeeper, a skit whose humour is really excellent; Dutch Daly's concertina solos are as usual great, and jokes are also well told; Henry Coutts is seen to distinct advantage in his protean sketch, *Outflanked*; Albert Christian's fine baritone retains all its old power, his songs being much enjoyed; Fred Elton introduces a musical speciality, *On Board an Ocean Liner*, which brings out his talents fully; Kate Cohen, in Tosti's "Good-bye," is something to remember; and the Three Cape Girls' dancing is particularly good. Johnny Walker is an agreeable humorist, and the Bioscope, as usual, is up to the mark.

SWINDON.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—An interesting programme here this week includes Billy, a marvellously educated horse; Alice Maydue, comedienne, is received with loud applause; Three Donals present some clever feats on the silver chains; Reel and Butt, comedians, are good; the Calcotts, musical comedy duo, execute some banjo selections with marked ability; Miss Billie Burford, comedienne, is pleasing; a clever turn is that of Maud and Gill, who introduce their acrobatic dogs in an eccentric mélange act. The Empire pictures are amusing.

TON-Y-PANDY.—Royal.—Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Watson.—Mr. E. H. Knight's company is presenting *The Lighthouse Robbery* here. Mr. H. Herne gives a creditable rendering of Tom Manly; Mr. W. Annesley rouses the ire of the "gods" as William Farren; Mr. H. Lewis submits a capable study of Uncle Davie; as James Hammond Mr. P. Beresford is well placed; Mr. S. Foster is highly diverting as Sam Kidder; Miss Hilda Baynton interprets the part of Ruth Prescott in a winning manner; and as Tom Manly's mother Miss Ida Millais merits praise.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Good programmes and business still obtain here. Fancourt and Rubie are well applauded for their sketch; Martino is a clever contortionist; the Deroneys, comedy artists, provide an acceptable turn; Chas. Gayne scores heavily; Whyman, on the roller skates, and Tom Russell, quaint comedian, also appear.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—The well-known farcical comedy *The Lady of Ostend* is being presented here this week by Mr. Lionel Brough and company. The amusing character of Dick Whortles is admirably taken by Mr. William Spray, whose representation of the unfortunate young merchant is thoroughly appreciated; no less successful is Mr. Robert Bolder, who introduced some genuine humour into the part of Joseph Carbury; Mr. Lionel Brough takes the rôle of the Baron, and his performance is excellent in every respect; Mr. William Macready does well as Toby Krockitt; and the parts of Dorothy Whortles and the Lady of Ostend respectively are well filled by Miss Barbara Glyn and Miss Kitty Develin.

Princess Pier Concert Hall.—Proprietors, The Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T Tremlett.—Packed houses are attracted here nightly by the Gaieties, under the direction of Mr. Wilson James. Miss Gertrude Hart has a soprano voice of much charm, and her fresh and dainty manner win her repeated encores; Miss Ruby Wilson is a fascinating comedienne, who at once becomes popular; Mr. Percy Watson is an excellent tenor, and is frequently applauded; Mr. Alan Stainer contributes some clever ventriloquial and humorous sketches, which evoke hearty laughter; Mr. Harry Collman does well at the piano; and Mr. Wilson James thoroughly delights the audience with his amusing songs and character-sketches.

TREHERBERT.—Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. Poole's, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. N. Stephens.—Miss Winifred Chalmers's company opened here on Monday with *The Master Criminal*. Mr. Henry L. Osmond as Telford Lestage proved himself to be a capable and talented character actor; Mr. Ed. Avinal as Philip Manners is to be complimented upon his rendering of this difficult part; Mr. J. C. Carlyle made a capital Ben Beaudy; Mr. Chas. Tolcher as Gentleman Jim was also good; Mr. Harry Cooke caused roars of laughter in the part of Tommy Dale; Miss Winifred Chalmers as Cecile did well; Miss Frances Carlyle played effectively the part of Mrs. Manners; Miss Mabel Tremaine gained applause in the part of Pegg Perks; and Miss Violet Lytton as Mabel Manners proved herself worthy of the part.

TYLDESLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—For the second week in succession Mr. Lingford Carson's company occupies the boards here. On Monday *The Heart of a Hero* was presented to a large and enthusiastic house. The members of the company enhance the reputation which they gained last week.

WAKEFIELD.—Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. John Leopold and company are appearing here this week in the pantomimical absurdities, *New Frivolity* and *The Houseboat*, which create much merriment. Mr. Watson Hume is excellent as Oliver Buckwheat; Mr. Willie Leopold is irresistibly funny as Sammy; Mr. John Leopold is good as Daniel Teething; and Mr. Charles Goff is seen to advantage as Jules Vermiglio. Miss Amy Hall is capital as Lucy, and the remaining parts are well filled.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Miss Alice Raymond and her players present a delightful musical scena, entitled *A Night in Egypt*; the Eltenas give a clever performance on the rolling globes; the Princellas, in a comedy act, are smart; Mint and Mart, artistic paper manipulators, merit applause; the Camerons, comedy artists, are popular; and Miss Amy Bellwood is a dashing comedienne. Mr. Dick Bradley, tramp trick cyclist, completes a good programme.

WARRINGTON.—Royal Court.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Charles Frohman's company in *The Hypocrites* is here, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey. Mr. A. B. Imeson as the Rev. Edgar Linnell gave a natural and impressive impersonation, and his passionate outburst at the close of the third act was a dramatic triumph. Mr. A. S. Barber made a convincing Mr. Welmore; and as Leonard Mr. King Fordham admirably filled the part. Mr. Charles Hurley was successful as Mr. Nocash; and the Rev. Everard Daubenay was cleverly acted by Mr. Cecil Brooking. Mr. Sidney Hamilton was a dignified Sir John Plugenet; and Messrs. Hanworth Browning and Douglas Jeffries were well placed as Blaney and Goodyer respectively. Miss Amy Ravenscroft as Mrs. Wilmore submitted a fine portrayal; Miss Gladys Harvey was distinctly successful as Rachel; and Miss Gladys Pumell made a sweet and lovable John Plugenet. The inquisitive Mrs. Blaney was capably impersonated by Miss Florence Stanton; as Mrs. Linnell Miss Madge Severne met with approval; and Miss Violet Hurley was good as Patty.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—Some excellent films are shown here this week. The Macdermotts are seen to advantage in a speciality turn, their singing and dancing being much admired.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Good business is again the order here. The Ten Loonies head the bill in their musical sketch *Dotty*; Lawrence Barclay is a capital comedian, and his songs are all well received; Jack Lane's eccentricities at the piano are decidedly good; Georgina Middleton has a soprano voice of excellent range; Mabelle May is a dainty comedienne; Jimmy Laurie has plenty of good patter; Gibbon and Belle are seen to advantage in an acrobatic pot-pourri and dancing speciality act; and the pictures are again of a high-class quality.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Kuner.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is here in *The Worst Woman in London*. Frances Vere is effectively enacted by Miss Sidney Crowe; Miss Polly Marsh infuses all her ability and energy into the part of Matida Parker; Mr. Herbert Skardon as Jack Felton evokes hearty applause; Mr. George Gaisford does full justice to the part of Vincent Lyle; and as James Millford Mr. F. Vernon Travers gives an able impersonation. Remarkable success is achieved by Miss Dorothy Haigh in her representation of Ruth Milford.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—Corn Exchange.—"Not a dull moment" is the verdict of the many who are visiting Mr. C. W. Poole's Myriorama this week. A very fine variety turn is given by the Royal Banzais; and the magic of Amasis is of a finished order. Sydney Bach as the Welsh landlady at the piano is extremely funny; the Eight Bramusas give a musical performance that gets a good reception; and Harry Raymond's dances are worth seeing.

WEST BROMWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company is drawing good houses with the drama entitled *A Girl Redeemed from Sin*. Mr. J. Monkhouse portrays the character of Will May in masterly style; Mr. Clinton Baddeley is all that could be desired as Ernest Sylveston; and the same remark applies to Mr. Victor Knight in the character of Jim Jaikes. Mr. Phillippe Orr displays great talent as Robert Denham; Mr. Gifforde Reynolds presents a clever character-part in that of Samuel Lee; Miss Olive Fulton does herself great credit as Nancy Lee; Mrs. Mac is well played by Miss Gertie Pawle; and Miss Ada Oxley is good as Peggy Grey.

New Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Player.—The Norman and Leonard Trio head the bill here this week, and present a clever and interesting entertainment; Will and Roze submit a smart comedy acrobatic turn; Ernest Heathcote is a droll comedian; roars of laughter greet Harry Rogerson's clever impersonation of actors; Griffin and Ardell entertain with some novel eccentricities; Bessie Herbert is good with her descriptive songs; Spry and Monti create roars of laughter; Will Vay's Juveniles quite catch on with their comedy and pathetic scena, *Life in the Slums*; and some very interesting pictures are shown.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—The visit of Miss Nora Carton and her company in *Captain Drew on Leave* is a welcome one. Miss Cynthia Brookes' portrayal of the rôle of Mrs. Moxon is a triumph; Miss Nora Carton endows the character of Miss Mills with charming grace; Mr. C. B. Vaughan's acting of the part of Captain Drew is excellence itself; a capable rendition of the character of Mr. Moxon is presented by Mr. Tom Mowbray; and success is achieved by Mr. Gerald Venning as Chester Hasell and Mr. Wilcox Cadogan as Ernest White.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr A. E. Dobney.—A musical treat is provided by the Five Fernons, expert xylophonists; in a refined pot-pourri the Three Arleys perform some clever cycling feats, in which they introduce trick-cycling dogs possessed of marvellous intelligence; Helen Martin sings some pretty ballads with engaging sweetness; Hyde and Cody perform some remarkable eccentric feats with bewildering rapidity; the simultaneous dancing of Burns and Bentley is clever; the Sisters Cora are loudly applauded for their dancing; Charles Banks is an amusing entertainer and introduces a clever performing dog, Woof; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux conclude the programme with some capital films.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company is an exceptionally strong one, and was given a most enthusiastic reception on Monday in *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Violet Vorley looked very attractive, and gave an interpretation of Miss Diana Massingberd which was replete with artistic touches; Miss Hilda Francks was extremely good as Mrs. Cantelupe; and another very sound performance was that given by Miss Pamela Hope as Mrs. Whyte Fraser. Miss Cicely Oates showed exceptional talent in doubling the characters of Miss Jay and the old woman; Miss Violet Joyce (Miss Smithers), Miss Dorothy Bell (Miss Kitty Brant), Miss Margaret Dudley (Miss Morton), and Miss Constance Hibberd (Miss Pringle) gave fine portrayals of their respective characters. Praise must be given Mr. Briscoe Owen for his Victor Bretherton; and Mr. Phillip Sanders' Sir Jabez Grinley was worthy of high encomiums. Mr. John Appleby's Constable Fellowes deserves eulogy; and Mr. William Hays did well as the waiter. The piece was preceded by a pretty curtain-raiser, entitled *A Fire of Straw*. Mr. H. Benet's company in *Sergeant Brue* is billed for the last three nights of the week.

Grand Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The Strolling Players were vociferously received here on Monday. Mr. Gilbert Fernie made the hit of the evening with his song, "The Mountains o' Mourne"; Mr. Hugh Lloyd sang in masterly style "Thora," and nothing could be cleverer than his ventriloquial interlude. Mr. E. Stuart James was warmly encored for his singing of "At the piano"; Miss Maidie Harrison, a dainty little lady, received an ovation for her rendering of "Lindy Loo" and her terpsichorean efforts; Miss Marie Magnus sang exceptionally well; and Miss M. Gerrard, a talented comedienne, excelled in her humorous songs and sketches. The Pathé Frère's pictures are loudly applauded.

WEST STANLEY.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company had a good reception on Monday, when they presented *The Lancashire Lad*. David Elmore is acted very effectively by Mr. A. Alexander; Miss Stanley Burt is an ideal Jessie Wincote; Mr. T. G. Vane portrays Max Carlton to perfection; Miss N. Oliver cleverly plays the part of Lorna Wincote; Mr. Percy Maitland acts well as Jen Wincote; John Willie Wardle is a good study by Mr. Rob Anderson; and Mr. George Watson creates roars of laughter as Tim-o'-the-swilltub. The variety entertainment on the Pier, Blackpool, in the third act, is well sustained. The play is capitally staged.

Victoria Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. George W. Montrose.—The Wakeman Quintette, song harmonisers and sketch artists, head the bill here in a very good turn; Oakdene, comedy ventriloquist, has a cordial reception; Mlle. Omega is a tuneful vocalist; the Moxon Trio, acrobats, are clever in their unique act; Clarke's Nippers do a smart club-swinging act; Doyle and Fenwick, vocalist and champion clog dancer, submit a smart and refined show; Master Fenwick is an expert clog dancer. The Vicoscope concludes a very fine show. Crowded houses on Monday greeted this fine company.

WHITEHAVEN.—Market Hall.—Lessees, The Edison Picture Co.; General-Manager, Mr. Victor Branford; Resident-Manager, T. Urwin.—Another strong programme of pictures is provided here this week, including Don Juan, Olympic Games, His Only Friend, Put Pa amongst the Girls, Invisible Fluid, The Shirt of a Happy Man, The Mummy, Mysterious Flames, and A Game of Hide-and-Seek. Also appearing here is Mons. Cavalli, ventriloquist.

WHITSTABLE.—Theatre and Assembly Rooms.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. B. Reeves.—Mr. Jack Rowland gave his first annual popular concert here on Wednesday evening, there being a crowded house. Mr. Chas. Kay, a popular comedian, sang "A muddled melody" and several other of his own songs; Miss Enid Earle was a complete success with "Bobby, dear" and "Isn't it like a man?" Her charming manner and clever accompaniments on the piano have materially assisted her in gaining the popularity she has enjoyed here this season. One of the best turns was Mr. Jack Rowland's clever character impersonation of Chevalier's "Fallen Star," for which an encore was demanded, "The old bachelor" being substituted. Mr. Rowland has scored heavily, both as an artist and as manager of the New Pavilion, Tankerton. Miss Hedda Hirleman's "Il Bacio" was a real musical treat. Mr. Edwin L. Britnell was the accompanist. Items were contributed by Miss Norma Russell, Mr. Ernest G. Cox, L.R.A.M., Mr. Edward Thorpe, and Mrs. Charles Dodsworth.

WIDNES.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—The new drama, *The Old Home*, is here this week, the company being that of the author, Mr. Roland Yorke. Quite the outstanding feature of the performance is the Daddy Dean of Mr. J. H. Clyndes of *Royal Divorce* fame. It is a really fine piece of character acting; Miss Grace Jones is a charming heroine, playing with dignity and a true conception of the character; Mr. Ellerslie Pyne is fairly convincing as the Parson, the Rev. Eric Armstrong; Mr. Roland Yorke is polished and debonair as the scoundrelly Lord Avondale; Mr. Fred L. Connynhame as Sammy created much hearty laughter; another fine piece of character acting comes from Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite, as Bridget Donoghue. Elaborate scenery is carried by the company, and some charming set pieces are seen.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—A capital all-round production of *Amasis* is attracting large audiences here. Miss Winifred O'Connor excels in her charming impersonation of the Princess; Miss Burnege as Natis, by her charming manner and sweet singing captivates the audience; Mr. W. H. Denny, a humorist of the most entertaining description, is a big success as Pharaoh; Mr. Brodie, who appears in the rôle of Sebak, is "a fellow of infinte jest"; Mr E. McKeown as Prince Anhotep is responsible for a brilliant impersonation, his singing being exceptionally good; Mr. Frank Attree as the Court embalmer makes the most of his opportunities; Mr. A. Stroud (Cheiro) and Mr. F. Wood (Captain of the Guard) also appear with success.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Harry Roxbury, the well-known comedian, makes a welcome reappearance in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*; Oswald Williams is an original illusionist; the Sisters Henderson are excellent musical speciality artists; and a very acceptable equilibristic performance is given by Sylvene and Florence. Ted E. Box is an excellent comedian, his whistling being highly appreciated; J. H. Greener remains a week longer, and his song, "Down the Maypole Mine," is again a huge success; Sadie Simpson, comedienne; Morander and Darius, and a special display of animated pictures complete an interesting programme.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Harold Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Marco.—The pictures this week include Poverty and Honesty, The Lazy Man, A Man in a Thousand, Good Medicine, &c. Lonzo Brown, coloured comedian and sand dancer, meets with a cordial reception.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, in *At Cripple Creek*, is proving a strong attraction here this week. Mr. Henry Hare's fine stage presence and elocutionary powers are admirably suited to the part of Joe Mayfield, which he plays in a very able manner; Mr. C. E. Johnson is sufficiently villainous as Martin Mason, as also is Mr. Roy Jackson as Manuel Alvarez; whilst Mr. Reginald Harley-West as Wahketah gives a good character-sketch of a Red Indian. Mr. C. E. Preece as Ben White (a nigger) and Mr. Will Hook as Reggie Harwood, are responsible for a large portion of the comedy element. Miss Constance Elgin as Dynamite Ann is both impressive and effective; Miss Daisy Carlton plays quietly, but none the less effectively, as Belle Gordon; Miss Norah Dillon works hard as Sarah Lively; and little Rosie Hopkins makes a charming Little Tatto. The play is well mounted.

Empire Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—The Donaldson Brothers head the bill here this week in *Sports in the Jungle*, which is very effectively staged and highly amusing. One of the best turns is that of the Three Laurels, who are responsible for an acrobatic speciality act as clever as it is original; Ike and Will Scott keep the audience in good humour with their songs and clever patter; Harry Brown is a clever coloured comedian and eccentric dancer; Harry Leybourne as a lady impersonator submits an acceptable turn; Nita Clem gives some impersonations; and Selby and Myers, comedians, complete the bill. An entirely new series of pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

WORCESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Warde.—Worcester theatre patrons are fortunate in having provided for them thus early a return visit of Mr. Chas. Frohman's company in that greatest of dramatic successes, *Leah Kleschna*. A work of intensely human interest, it appeals in the fullest sense for the sympathy of an audience. The characters are drawn with masterly skill, and though the incidents presented are of a thrilling character, the extremes of melodrama are never reached. Miss Bessie Rignold is as capable an exponent of the part of Leah as ever; her natural impersonation is enhanced by a singular charm of manner, and she exercises a restraint in the more impassioned scenes which serves only to deepen the impression of her powers. Mr. Wm. Clayton is an inimitable Kleschna; and Mr. Gilbert Heron as the faithful Schram is responsible for a clever character-study. Mr. Hamilton Deane is a distinguished Paul Sylvaine; and in strong contrast is the Raoul of Mr. Algernon Hicks, an unsympathetic part in which he does well. The small part of General Berton is entrusted to Mr. Chas. Barrett; and those of Mme. Berton and her daughter Clare are in the capable hands of Miss Ethel Russell and Miss Emmie Wallace respectively. Mr. Barrett doubles the part of the French journalist, Valentine Favre, very successfully; and Miss Dorrie Turner is delightful as Sophie. The play is elegantly staged and dressed, and is not likely to lose its charm by repetition.

WORTHING.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—On Monday Mr. Fred Mouillot's company presented *The Beloved Vagabond*. Mr. Arthur Royston gives a manly impersonation of Parogot; Mr. Ramsay Macbeth does well as Asticot; Mr. Alfred Drayton capably portrays the part of Lord Rushworth; Mr. Warburton Gamble capitally presents the Comte de Verneine; and Miss Nita Faydon makes Blanquette a living character study. On Thursday Mr. Payne Seddon's company presented *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*.

YORK.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. S. Dacre.—Mr. George D. Day's company has drawn large audiences this week with *The Prodigal Son*. The doings of Magnus and Oscar Stephensson thoroughly arouse the interest of the audience; as Oscar Mr. Albert Ward gives a most polished rendering, acting throughout with much force and skill; and Mr. H. J. Crane presents a rugged impersonation of Magnus. In the dual rôles of Thora and Elin Miss Pauline Emeric is well placed; the disagreeable part of Helga finds an able exponent in Miss Pearla Gardener; Mr. Jackson Hayes gives a capital character study of Stephen Magnusson; and Miss Kate Osborne makes Aunt Margaret an amusing personage.

Opera House and Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—A programme of all round excellence is presented this week. Messrs. Bellew and Stock's company head the bill with a capital sketch, entitled *An Outside Chance*. Every detail of the piece is followed with the keenest interest, and is enthusiastically received; Miss Dorothy Watson, a host in herself, scores tremendously with her songs; Walter Aubrey, coon vocalist and dancer, is well received; the Cecilias are lady instrumentalists of unusual merit; Miss Mi Narom is loudly applauded for her catchy and up-to-date songs; Walter Buxton uses his fine baritone voice to advantage; another good turn is the Merry Vagabonds, in their gipsy encampment. Kerr and Koe, patter comedians and dancers, create roars of laughter; and Datas, the human almanack, is repeatedly applauded for his prompt answers to the numerous questions which are asked from all parts of the house. Rita Rhylle, a clever dancer and comedienne, completes the programme.

"THE CALL OF THE NORTH."

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

The Call of the North, a play in four acts, by George Broadhurst, recently produced at the Hudson Theatre, New York, is founded on a story by Stewart Edward White, entitled "Conjurers' House." The dramatist has retained the principal characters of the novel, and has condensed the central episode so that the action consumes but a couple of days, while the comedy element has been "elaborated." The play deals with life in the Hudson Bay country. Ned Trent (Mr. Robert Edeson), a young free trader and trapper, who has been caught trespassing for the third time, is brought into a station of the Hudson Bay Company. Galen Albret, the factor of the post, is a hard, unfeeling man, who enforces his authority by sending to certain death any man who is caught poaching on his preserves. This is effected by turning the culprit adrift in the trackless forest without a gun. Failing death by starvation and exposure, Men-En-Gan, a trusty Indian, will give him his quietus in some remote spot. Trent is sentenced to start upon "la longue traverse," as the punishment is called. But he plays upon the susceptibilities of Virginia Albret, the factor's daughter, and makes her believe he is in love with her in order to obtain a rifle. But he is playing with edged tools. In making believe he realy falls in love with the girl, though hating her father, and when he is captured again in the third act and the rifle is found in his possession, the question arises who has been a traitor—who gave him the gun? This is more important than Trent's escape and his defiance of the factor's power. The latter offers Trent his life and liberty if he will tell who provided him with the rifle. As for the traitor, he will be hanged at the gibbet, and Trent will meet with a similar fate if he refuses to tell. He is granted a respite of one minute, and at the end of that time he has nothing to say. The last act represents the council chamber where the investigation is proceeding. Who betrayed the company? Trent remains silent, and he is about to pay dearly for his loyalty to the girl he loves when she confesses that it was she who furnished him with the rifle. The factor is about to send her on "la longue traverse" with Trent when it comes out that Trent's father was sent to a similar death on a trumped-up charge. It was to avenge his father that the young trapper came into this territory and defied the company. In view of this disclosure, and for the sake of his daughter, the factor relents, while Trent's desire for revenge is forgotten in the joy of possessing his sweetheart. Mr. Robert Edeson's Ned Trent is an earnest and forceful embodiment of a manly and optimistic young American; and the various characters of the story are ably portrayed, Miss Beatrice Prentice being particularly praiseworthy in the rôle of the French-Canadian girl, Julie Bagneau. Mr. Robert Peyton Carter and Mr. David Torrence as an amusing pair of Scotchmen, and Mr. Burke Clarke as the taciturn Indian Men-En-Gan, also deserve special mention. The critics discovered a number of faults in this "book-play," and its success seems to depend almost entirely upon Mr. Edeson's personal popularity.

Miss Maude Western has let the English fit-up rights of the original *Prodigal Son* to Mr. J. A. Hybert, who has booked a long tour until next Easter. The Scotch fit-up rights are held by Mr. F. Luard.

A confetti fête and fancy dress carnival will be given at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, Oct. 14. The success of the last fête was all that could be desired, and it is to be hoped that the next one will be even more largely attended.

It is gratifying to learn that the Crystal Palace management have decided to give some more concerts, in which the great organ and the band will be combined. Arrangements have been made for the next concerts to take place on Thursday, Sept. 24, Thursday, October 1, and Saturday, Oct. 3.

The Great National Brass Band Festival will take place at the Crystal Palace on Saturday next, for which a monster and extremely interesting programme has been arranged. Mr. Henry J. Iles is again directing this wonderful gathering of musicians from all parts of the country. Eight years ago, when the first festival took place, twenty bands entered. This year as many as 150 bands will be heard, and the value of the prizes is £2000. Besides a concert of massed bands in the Centre Transept, concertina bands will be heard in the theatre. In addition to the 1000-guinea cup, presented by the Crystal Palace Company, numerous other prizes are being provided.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Sept. 14,
MR. H. B. IRVING AND COMPANY.

Much interest was created by the first appearance in Western London of Mr. H. B. Irving in a round of the plays in which the late Sir Henry Irving had made himself so conspicuously famous. The nightly receptions of Mr. Irving have been most enthusiastic, and must have been gratifying to him, and go to show that he is destined in the near future to step into the place of his revered father, and become the head of the stage, to which, indeed, his undoubted talent will entitle him. The audiences have been large and highly critical. On Monday evening *Hamlet* was given, with Mr. Irving in the title-rôle and Miss Dorothea Baird as Ophelia. For Tuesday night *The Bells* was announced, and with the very vivid recollection possessed by many of those present in the audience of the Lyceum and earlier performances, it was most interesting to watch Mr. Irving's interpretation of a part in which he challenged so much criticism, for Mathias, the Burgomaster, was a character which Sir Henry Irving had made entirely his own. It will suffice to say that the audience was perfectly satisfied on the point, and vouchsafed the young actor every encouragement. The curtain had to be raised time after time in response to repeated calls, and at the termination of the performance the loudest of cheers proclaimed his distinct triumph. Leopold Lewis's very grim and weird play consists of Mathias, and Mathias only, all the other characters being very subsidiary. Mr. Eric Maxon made a bright and manly Christian; and Dr. Zimmer found a capable representative in Mr. B. A. Pittar. Mr. Charles Dodsworth was excellent as Father Walter; and Mr. Tom Reynolds an amusing Hans. The Notary and Fritz were well played by Mr. C. Stevens and Mr. Frank Randell. The President of the Court was admirably undertaken by that experienced actor, Mr. Frank Tyars. Mr. J. Patrick Curwen was good as the Clerk of the Court; and Mr. Arthur Curtis gave the necessary element of mystery to the part of the mesmerist. Miss Eily Malyon made a gratifying success as Catherine; Sozel was cheerily represented by Miss May Holland; and Miss Phyllis Embury made an engaging Annette. On the same evening, *King Rene's Daughter* was given. In it Miss Dorothea Baird played Iolanthe in a charmingly pathetic manner, and showed that her talents, too, are beyond question. Mr. Frank Tyars gave tone and dignity to King Rene; Mr. Eric Maxon displayed unquestionable ability as the impassioned Tristan; as Count Geoffrey, Mr. Arthur Curtis was effective; and Mr. Frank Randell a satisfactory Sir Almeric. The scenery and appointments were quite adequate. On Wednesday night *Louis XI.* was played; *Charles I.* was performed at the Thursday matinée; and on Friday night and on Thursday evening and to-night *The Bells* and *King Rene's Daughter* were billed for repetition.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Comedy, by Mrs. Musgrave, entitled
"OUR FLAT."

Our Flat seems to enjoy an undying popularity with certain sections of the play-going public. That the return visit here has been a welcome one has been nightly evinced by the splendid attendances throughout the week. Mr. Wilfred Shine still most amusingly impersonates Nathaniel Glover, the eccentric theatrical manager, playing throughout in a purely farcical spirit and scoring an emphatic success. Miss Louie Tinsley also is an excellent representative of the comic slavey, and very humorously enacts the part, sharing with Mr. Shine the principal honours of the play. The praiseworthy and unexaggerated delineation of the precocious Clara Pryout by Miss Effie Byrne merits a particularly high commendatory tribute. Mr. Chas. Steuart is good as Reginald Sylvester; and as Clarence Vane Mr. Cecil Newton contributes an excellent impersonation. Miss Daisy Atherton invests her portrayal of Margery Sylvester with sweetness and charm; and Miss Sylvia Morris is effective as Lucy McCullum. Miss Florence Tyrrell sustains the part of Mme. Volant, the fashionable dressmaker, in an able manner; and Mr. Fred Knight's Mr. McCullum is played with a full appreciation of the possibilities of the part. Messrs. J. Carl Lyle (Dairyman), S. B. Mayne (from the furniture stores), and John Morris (Hall Porter) complete an excellent cast. The rollicking farce is preceded by a tale of the French Revolution, entitled *Citizen Morot*, which is suitably interpreted by Messrs. Henry Doughty, Cecil Newton, Fred Knight, and S. B. Mayne, the only lady in the cast being Miss Florence Tyrrell.

THE BRITANNIA.

On Monday, Sept. 7, the Drama, by Lewis Gilbert, entitled
"MYSTERIES OF LONDON."

Another successful production is to be recorded to the credit of Mr. Montgomery and his capable company who are playing the well-known drama *Mysteries of London*. Mr. Harry Tresham claims first honours for his very fine impersonation of the clergyman Philip Conway, who is an excellent specimen of muscular Christianity. It would be indeed difficult to obtain a better representative of Victor Levigne than that presented by Mr. H. Ryland Leigh, who gives an excellent portrait of the evil-disposed Frenchman, and his broken English is very good. He has an able confederate in Mr. C. Alan Himeson as William Rawson, who acquits himself well in an uncongenial character. Mr. Ivan P. Gore as Reuben North, Mr. W. S. Clerke as Muller, and Mr. Herbert Young as Robert Best make the most of their opportunities in smaller parts. Of the ladies, too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Miss Ethyle Murray for her conception of the adventuress Sybil Grey alias La Zaleska, whose better nature asserts itself at the end. A charming and petite Lina North is found in Miss Lalla Stanhope, who acts pathetically the much-persecuted heroine. The lighter vein of the drama is again in the capable hands of Miss Florrie Barnes as Liza and Mr. H. G. Brandon as Dick Copping. These two artists work remarkably well together, and are the cause of many a hearty laugh. The drama is elaborately mounted, and great credit is due to the resident scenic artist for some excellent cloths. The programme is brought to a close with some good pictures shown by the Barrascope. Last week we mentioned Mr. Fred A. Fowler as Mr. Montgomery's manager. This gentleman is representing Mr. Barrasford's interests in this theatre.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Drama, in Five Acts, entitled
"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."

An excellent company, under the direction of Mr. Horace Stanley, is holding the boards at the Shakespeare Theatre this week with *The 10.30 Down Express*, an exciting play which appeals strongly to lovers of popular drama. The plot is interesting, and the piece teems with exciting incidents interwoven with amusing episodes. The acting, too, is worthy of warm praise, and the scenic effects are admirable. Mr. Horace Stanley takes full advantage of his many opportunities in the rôle of the true-hearted bluejacket Sam Wagstaff, and his clever drollery keeps the audience in continuous merriment whenever he is on the stage. He is well supported by Miss Kate Kilpack, whose excellent delineation of Peggy Potts adds materially to the humour. A sound performance of the rascally James Inderwick is given by Mr. F. Wilberforce, who acts with convincing force throughout. Mr. T. Arthur Plummer is a manly and straightforward Jack O'Malley; and Mr. William Hayward as Seth Coomes gives a capital character-study of a broken-down gamekeeper. Mr. Chauncey Morris is efficient as Huntley Mason, a detective; and Mr. Alaric Burton as Cuthbert Leigh is sufficiently stern and dignified. Mr. Arthur E. Francis is amusing as Bletherley Baggs, a bailiff's man; Miss Cora Linda, a prepossessing Bessie Leigh, acts pleasantly throughout; Miss Evelyn M. Walton in the part of Letitia Leigh shows the true comedy spirit; and Miss Josephine Lee is satisfactory as Olive Coomes.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Sept. 14, for the first time in London, the Drama, in Four Acts, by C. Watson Mill, entitled
"THE LOVE OF THE PRINCESS."

Prince Conrad Ramona..MR. WILSON COLEMAN
Count Nicholas Danillo..MR. ERNEST E. IMESON
Josef, King of Ilarnia .....MR. E. H. DOBELL
Lieut. Orians .....MR. BECKETT BOULD
Lieut. Zaroff .....MR. GRAHAM WINSFORD
Prince Regent of Narava ..MR. W. F. STIRLING
Duke Scarfe .....MR. GEORGE ANTLEY
Boris .....MR. EDGAR MORGAN
Stephen .....MR. ERIC WILDE
Carlos .....MR. JAMES AUSTIN
Lady Irene Ramona .....MISS NELLIE GARSIDE
Constantia .....MISS ELLEN ELMAR
Princess Idalia .....MISS WARD

Exalted personages again figure in the above play, which was introduced to London on Monday, having been originally produced at the Grand Theatre, Nelson, on April 13 last. In it are to be found kings, princes, dukes, and countesses; but it is to a princess that most importance attaches. Idalia, Princess of Narava, has a quartette of lovers, all inspired by more or less estimable motives. One is the King of Ilarnia, a monarch of evil disposition and repute, who wishes to marry her, and thus gain the adjoining principality of Narava; another is Lieut. Zaroff, an officer whose parentage is unknown, who idolises the Princess from afar; and the third is Count Nicholas Danillo, who wishes to possess himself of the lady and the throne to which she is heiress. It is, however, upon Prince Conrad Ramona that the lady's choice falls. Conrad has lost his fortune at gambling, and resigns his commission as commandant in the King's Guards. He is about to seek extinction in suicide, when the Princess intervenes, and Conrad is thus added to the total of her admirers.

A marriage has been arranged between the Princess and the King of Ilarnia, who comes to claim his bride. She recoils from him, but under his threat to declare war upon her country in the event of her refusal the Princess consents to accept the betrothal ring. The bells announcing the event reach the ears of Conrad, who had been in hiding, and he comes to save his love from her impending fate. There is a scene of sentiment akin to that of the balcony in *Romeo and Juliet*, and Conrad and the Princess are clasped in a fond embrace when they are discovered by the King, whose steps have been directed thither by the unscrupulous Danillo. Conrad is immediately thrust into prison to await torture. Meanwhile, the King has discovered in a nun from a neighbouring convent the wife with whom he contracted a marriage some years before and deserted, leaving her with an only son. He gives orders that Conrad's eyes shall be burned out, but the Princess begs the devoted Zaroff to save her betrothed, and he resolves to do so by taking Conrad's place, lending the latter his cloak in which to escape. Presently an ear-piercing shriek is heard from the torture-room, and Zaroff emerges, his forehead seared with the burning irons, but not too much disfigured to prevent the King recognising him as the son whom he had deserted.

The persecution of the Princess is continued in the last act by Danillo, who, having disposed of the King, breaks into the Palace, and thrusts his unwelcome attentions upon her; but a timely appearance is made by Conrad, who soon despatches his enemy. Finally Zaroff, less injured by the heated irons than might be imagined, pairs off with Conrad's sister, and Conrad takes his place by the Princess's side on the throne of Narava.

Thrilling scenes are numerous in the piece, which aroused the audience to the greatest enthusiasm. The military character of the play lends itself to elaborate costuming, and the uniforms of the various principals were very striking. No expense had evidently been spared in staging the work, and the admiration it gained was proportionately great. Mr. T. Edward Ward's company, to whom the piece is entrusted, is a strong and capable one. Miss Ward made a fragile and picturesque figure of the Princess, and appeared in some elegant dresses. She acted with extreme delicacy and impressiveness, but occasionally allowed her emotion to overpower her voice, with the result that some of the lines were lost. Mr. Wilson Coleman had the exacting rôle of Conrad, and did it complete justice. He has a commanding figure, an open countenance, and vigorous methods, which combined to win admiration throughout the house. The Count Danillo of Mr. Ernest E. Imeson was replete with sinister touches. He made a particularly impressive appearance in his uniform as Commandant of the King's Guards, and his craven attributes were thus made all the more apparent. The profligate King of Ilarnia was skilfully represented by Mr. E. H. Dobell, who made up realistically as the debauched monarch weakened by disease, and his acting throughout was very intense. Mr. Beckett Bould revealed decided dramatic ability in the part of a cheery Lieutenant of the King's Guards. He has a telling voice, and his elocution is particularly to be praised. Complete sympathy for Lieut. Zaroff was won by Mr. Graham Winsford, who infused much expression into his delivery; and the Prince Regent of Mr. W. F. Stirling was an artistic piece of work, sound in every detail. The Lady Irene of Miss Nellie Garside was a well-conceived assumption, agreeably varied by some light comedy business; and Miss Ellen Elmar bore herself with dignity and declaimed her lines effectively as the Sister of Charity. The fun of the piece flows through channels unusual to melodrama. It is chiefly entrusted to a Duke Scarfe, an accomplice of the villain, who helps with marked cards to cheat the hero out of his estates. The part was played on fantastic lines by Mr. George Antley, whose antics and eccentricities as the foppish nobleman created unbounded laughter. Brightness was also infused into the play by the acting of Mr. Edgar Morgan, who made Conrad's servant a great favourite. The reception accorded by a large audience to *The Love of the Princess* was unmistakably favourable.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Howard,
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

The booking of Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* for the opening week of its suburban tour is a feather in the managerial cap at this fine playhouse. The original scenery is being carried, the uniforms are brilliant, the dresses lovely, and as with the strong cast engaged the performance loses nothing by comparison, it is safe to predict that the success of the piece at the Lyceum will be repeated on tour. Chief acting honours may be awarded to Miss Annie Saker as Princess Monica; her engaging presence, fluent diction, and sympathetic acting endearing the character to the audience from start to finish. Another prime favourite is Mr. Hubert Ford as Prince Olaf. Handsome of appearance, and possessing a most agreeable delivery, he suits the part splendidly. Mr. Graeme Campbell makes the part of the crippled Prince Michael outstanding by his graphic impersonation, the career of the unlucky Prince being followed with deep interest. Mr. Ivan Cleveland makes a commanding figure of the scheming Prince Hildred, and is responsible for a powerful and incisive performance. Mr. D. Lewin Mannering is altogether admirable as Captain Hector, and Mr. Reginald Payne plays Lieut. Karl Stromberg with much ability. Mr. Edmund Lea is a soldierly and convincing Colonel Wellenberg; Mr. Francis Hawley is an impressive Bishop of Illyria; and Nathan, the dumb servant, is well played by Mr. J. E. Gardner. Miss Dido Drake shows the possession of much histrionic skill in her performance as Camiola, and though, in our opinion, she is much prettier in skirts than as the beggar boy, she is always a dainty and winsome personality. Miss Isla Vayne is a charming and girlish exponent of Viola; while other parts are all in quite capable hands.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Drama entitled
"THE SINS OF SOCIETY."

The seating capacity of the Kennington Theatre has this week been tested to the utmost, and at every performance the curtain has risen upon a full house. The attraction is the Drury Lane drama *The Sins of Society*, by Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton, and seldom before has so magnificent a production been offered to Mr. Robert Arthur's Kennington patrons. As Noel Ferrers Mr. C. F. Collings proves himself an actor of sterling merit, and deserves high praise. All commendation must be given to Mr. Vassall Vaughan, who plays Sir Dorian March in effective style. The part of Mr. Morris finds a worthy exponent in Mr. Frederick Annerley; Mr. Blake Adams as James Hogg is excellent in every way, his ineffectual attempts to become an athlete in order to win the hand of Lady Goldbury being humorous in the extreme. The rôle of Lady Goldbury is admirably sustained by Miss Pattie Brown; Miss Grace E. Leslie gives a clever rendering of the part of Lady Marion Beaumont; Miss Dorothy Giles wins the suffrages of all by her charming impersonation of Lady Gwendolen Ashley; Miss Mabel Murray as the Hon. Mrs. Murgatroyd, Miss Janet Hodson as the Duchess of Danebury, Mr. Arthur Ransom as Mr. Thesiger, Mr. James Percy as Captain Carruthers, Mr. George E. Brandram as Bates, Mr. Edward P. Gee as Parker, Mr. George A. Brandram as Sergeant Wraugham, and Mr. Edwin Palmer as Rev. Martin Hope advanced appreciably the interests of the piece.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Comedy, in Three Acts, by Hubert Henry Davies, entitled
"THE MOLLUSC."

Miss Annie Hughes is delighting Fulham playgoers with a capital representation of H. H. Davies' sparkling and ingenious comedy. Miss Hughes herself plays the part of Mrs. Baxter, "the mollusc," and gives a delightful representation of that perplexing personage. Mr. Athol Stewart is well suited in the part of Tom Kemp, playing with freshness and vigour, insomuch that he had won all hearts before the play was half over. Mr. Wylie A. Thompson as Mr. Baxter acted well as a counterfoil to his robust brother-in-law. Miss Lilias Waldegrave, who played the governess, Miss Roberts, is the fortunate possessor of a charming personality, and her acting is characterised by uncommon grace and sincerity; she makes the most of a very attractive part. Altogether, the clever little play was capitally staged and acted, and delighted most appreciative houses. *The Mollusc* was preceded by the evergreen *Bit of Old Chelsea*, in which Miss Annie Hughes repeats her well-known success as the flower-girl—a part which she has made peculiarly her own, for it gives full scope for her original turn of comedy. She is well supported by Mr. Alick Chumley as Jack Hillier.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Romantic Play, by Ben Landeck and J. Wilson, entitled,
"FROM SLAVE TO PRINCESS."

Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is this week at the Dalston Theatre, in the play entitled *From Slave to Princess*, which keeps the audience interested from start to finish. Mr. Reginald Huntworth is dignified as King Adrian. Mr. Austen Milroy as Prince Julian (in love with Vera, the slave, afterwards a Princess) goes through the various exciting scenes which fall to the share of the hero of the piece in a way which makes him not only the observed, but the admired of all observers, and he has to acknowledge many a hearty round of applause. Miss Dorothy Hart plays Vera, and shares with Mr. Milroy the enthusiasm of the audience. Miss Agnes Verity as Princess Claudia, plays the jealous and vindictive woman to the life, bringing at times a considerable amount of power to bear upon her acting. The humorous touches in the play are given by Mr. Harry Benson as Patrick O'Brien, "from Ould Ireland," and Miss Kitty Sinclair as Amelia (maid to Princess Claudia). Miss Sinclair and Mr. Benson take part in a song and dance, "Sambo," which is decidedly to the taste of the spectators, who are not at all backward in "asking for more." Mr. Arthur Elwyn is impressive as Michael Bordoni, a chief of police (also a spy and traitor), and Mr. Dermont Fitzgibbon makes a dashing Lieut. Alexis. Others in the cast include Mr. Fred Killiard, Mr. Fred Clifford, Mr. J. Leoni, Mr. C. Brooke, and Mr. F. Curtiss.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Drama, entitled
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."

This popular play of Mr. Walter Howard's met with a favourable reception from Brixtonians on its presentation this week at the pretty theatre of Mr. Fred Melville's. Miss Ellen Snow's talented company is responsible for a capital production, and well merits the applause so lavishly bestowed by playgoers. Miss Snow gives a clever and spirited interpretation of the character of Violet Livingstone; Mr. Oliver Rogers lends distinction to the important part of Gerald Fielden; the villainy of Captain Staniloff is forcibly shown by Mr. Lionel Gadsden; Mr. H. Carter Slaughter stands out prominently for his pleasant acting as Tommy Fitzherbert; Mr. Weldon Atherstone is a dignified and impressive Maharajah; Mr. Harwood Roberts does excellent work as Orlando Figgins; Miss Nita Owen is deserving of praise for her acting as Birdie; and Miss Freda Vaughan is delightfully funny as Baby. Both these ladies provide plenty of humour. Miss Maud Court, in the rôle of Muriel Zoluski, played with grace and feeling. Miss Beresford-Glynn is entertaining as Mrs. Figgins. *Why Men Love Women* is nicely staged. Mr. Will T. Taylor is ever to the fore as Mr. Fred. Melville's urbane acting-manager.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Two-act Drama, entitled
"A LOST WOMAN."

This concise little two-act drama met with every success in Marylebone this week. As the Rev. Harry Tracy, Mr. Harry Barford played in his usual free-and-easy style; Mr. Harry Hiller enacted Felix Lascelles in a convincing and vigorous way; Mr. Frank Kingsley scored as Louis Cordelle; Mr. Fred Boustead powerfully portrayed Philip Gray; Mr. Brien McCullough was responsible for a most artistic and impressive delineation of the miser, Emile Lousaine; and Mr. Fred G. Brooke deserves every credit for his realistic and pleasing portrayal of Pierre Cousset. Miss Beatrice May impersonated Phyllis Gray with every distinction; Miss Clarice Shirley did well as Celestine; Miss Georgie White was successful as Phœbe; whilst Miss Dora Deane displayed plenty of go and energy as the designing Mme. Satan. The piece was followed by some capital animated pictures; two tastefully-rendered illustrated songs by Miss Jean Theobald; and a clever little playlet, entitled *The Scapegrace*, in which some good work was done by Mr. Fred G. Brooke as Dick Crawford, Mr. Harry Hiller as Bernard Conway, Mr. Fred Boustead as Stuart Henderson, Mr. Frank Kingsley as Dr. Prescott, Miss Beatrice May as Alice Chester, and Miss Dora Deane as the adventuress, Sybil Austin.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Drama entitled
"MAN AND WIFE."

Mr. Walter Howard's successful dramas at the Lyceum Theatre have prepared the Peckham public for further successes from his pen, and certainly *Man and Wife* is a worthy successor to his other excellent work seen at this theatre. Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company exploit the piece to the best advantage. Mr. John F. Traynor, who has much physical advantage in his favour, is a manly representative of the fisherman hero, Paul Revere. Mr. Edward M. Hamilton gives a capital rendering of the rôle of the black-hearted and passionate villain, Captain D'Esparre; the twins, Bambo and Bimbo, are amusingly enacted by Messrs. E. Hall-Eldon and George Vining, but both gentlemen are at times somewhat inclined to overdo the humour of their parts. Mr. Ambrose Horton makes a tall and soldierly Sergeant Jacques; and Mr. George Rammell is excellent as the upright Colonel Latour. Miss Kate Hallam acts with sincerity and feeling as the sorely-tried young wife, Marcelle Revere; while Miss Millie Doris is a pretty and piquant village maiden as Rosette. The blind mother, Ruth Revere, is well enacted by Miss Violet Temple; and the difficult rôle of the self-sacrificing cripple Jean is done full justice to by Mr. George Overs. Mr. Edward Leslie is good as the Priest. The piece is mounted with care, and the whole production is received with much favour by enthusiastic audiences.

THE NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Drama entitled
"TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS."

This interesting drama is meeting with much success at the above house. Mr. H. E. Herbert gives an excellent rendering of the part of Commander Tregarthen; in the unpleasant character of Lieut. Redstone Mr. Horace Booth does well; Mr. C. W. Spencer appears to advantage as Admiral Grey, and Mr. H. M. Clifford is good as Capt. Tom Yorke; Miss Blanche Steele in the heavy part of Lola Grey does capable work; Miss Muriel Dean is a charming Mildred Grey, and Miss Effie Crawford and Miss Ivy Millais as Cyril Grey and Tom Yorke, the two little sailor boys, both display much ability. Mr. Sydney Fiennes gives a clever character-study of Jim Royston, a burglar. Plenty of fun is infused into the characters of Ben Baxter and Jack Jolly by Mr. Tom Sinclair and Mr. Fred Acton respectively. The play is well mounted, and the uniforms and ladies' dresses are excellent throughout. Success will no doubt continue to follow Mr. Hallatt whilst his productions are so satisfactorily toured.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Musical Comedy entitled
"FLORODORA."

A large and enthusiastic audience welcomed the first visit to the Pavilion of the ever-popular *Florodora*, which, with its sparkling music and merry quips, passes the evening pleasantly along. Mr. Charles Constant, who is responsible for the performance, has brought together an excellent company, who one and all work with a vigour and goodwill, while the scenery and mounting are in admirable taste, and the dresses handsome. A strong chorus render the music with good effect under the direction of Mr. R. Hartman, and the general-manager for Mr. Constant is Mr. Johnny Clegg, whose smartness and urbanity is recognised by all. As the ubiquitous Anthony Tweedlepunch Mr. Gus Danby is the life and soul of the piece, and there is never a dull moment when he is on the stage; Mr. Jack Parker makes a capital Cyrus Gilfain, acting with vigour and dancing with much neatness. The Dolores of Miss Daisy Lake is a portrayal of great artistic merit, and her numbers are rendered with faultless taste. Miss Lillie Blythe presents a portrayal of Lady Holyrood that is replete with piquancy, and deservedly meets with great commendation. Mr. Martin D. Pitt acts Frank Abercoed with animation, and soon becomes a great favourite; and Miss Louie Danby is a sweet and charming Angela, singing and dancing with much daintiness. Mr. Stanley Bartram is heard to advantage in "A military man"; Mr. Emlyn Davis does all that is possible as Leandro; and Miss May Phillips is pleasing as Valleda. The number "Tell me pretty maiden" gains rapturous applause, and is repeatedly encored. The enterprising management of the theatre are to be congratulated on obtaining this valuable engagement, and good business is the result.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Play entitled
"THE CHRISTIAN."

Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is presenting the new version of Hall Caine's celebrated work *The Christian*, with new and elaborate scenery, at Notting Hill Gate this week. Miss Daisy Scudamore is a charming and lively exponent of the complex character of Glory Quayle, and enters thoroughly into the spirit of the part which she becomes so well. Mr. Roy Redgrave as John Storm acts with much latent strength. His suppressed excitement betokens the tumult that rages within his breast, and his fierce struggle against the world, the flesh, and the devil is graphically and realistically portrayed. Mr. Wilfred Noy does very well as the impetuous and self-willed but right-hearted Horatio Drake; and Mr. Herbert Hewetson is duly sinister and sarcastic as his friend and coadjutor, the polished profligate Lord Robert Ure. Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn acts with fervour, and is singularly eloquent as Father Lamplugh. Miss Molly Hayden is excellent as the kind-hearted, big-souled Mrs. Callender; Miss Cora Deane contributes a very pretty and touching impersonation of Polly Love, whose childlike faith and innocence are so foully abused, and her performance wins her much commendation. Mr. John J. Hooker is very well cast as the worldly-wise and hypocritical time-server Archdeacon Wealthy; Miss Florence Hunt is good as Black Meg; and Mrs. Harriet Russell as Mother Kent, Mr. Fred Goodyear as Bert, Miss Kitty Symons as Lady Robert Ure, and others are well in the picture. Mr. Jack Parson is business-manager for Mr. Wentworth Croke.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Sept. 14, the Drama, in Three Acts, entitled
"HAND AND GLOVE."

This stirring old Surrey drama is the principal attraction at the Kingston playhouse this week, and has been attracting crowded houses nightly. Miss Maude Stewart Drewry makes a successful appearance in the trying rôle of Lady Lexboro', and Mr. J. J. Bartlett also scores heavily as the villain of the piece, Colonel Raven. The low comedy business is well sustained by Mr. Arthur Williams and by Mr. Buckstone Clair in the respective parts of Timothy Hand and Titus Glove, their drolleries causing no end of merriment. Excellent work is also put in by Miss Jessie Duncan as Judith Maxwell, by Mr. Charles Carey as Dr. Pullman, and by Miss Alice Mosley, the latter of whom gives a charming impersonation of the child Lucy. The play is followed by the comedietta, *The Simple Life*, originally produced at the Royal County Theatre, in which the parts were admirably portrayed by Mr. E. Dagnell, Miss Molly Pearson, and Miss Drewry. Both plays were admirably staged.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"AT THE WORLD'S MERCY."

A Musical Comedy-Drama, in Four Acts, by Carr Loates, presented for the first time in London at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, on Monday, Sept. 14.

Captain Frank Manley .....MR. LEO RODWAY
Jabez Barber .....MR. CARR LOATES
Morris Goldstein .....MR. G. D. KNIGHT
Charley Smart .....MR. JESS BOXER
Slouching Sam .....MR. WILL GRIFFIN
Dan .....MR. W. LEONARD
Alice Lloyd .....MISS MOLLY BEE
Skittles ..... } MISS CISSIE MILFORD
Kitty Knott ..... }
Mrs. Rouke ..... MISS CLARA HALL
Dot .....MISS KATHLEEN SAUNDERS
Rosie .....MISS ALICE HUNTER

It seems rather late in the day to give a special notice to this piece, in view of the fact that it has had a highly-successful continuous run for three-and-a-half years, without, we understand, a week out. But there is some justification for the manner in which *At the World's Mercy* has been so well received by provincial audiences, for the story the author, Mr. Carr Loates, tells us, is absorbingly interesting, and it has the further advantage of being extremely well told by that gentleman's able company and under his supervision. Moreover, the mounting of the play and the general scenery give evidence of the fact that the producer has spared no money to procure for his production a most artistic series of stage settings. Mr. Loates treats us to a well-laid plot in a drama which is replete with many stirring, humorous, and pathetic scenes and incidents. It deals with the trials of Alice Lloyd, the heiress to a fortune, who suffers much misery and discomfort—being finally blinded—at the hands of Jabez Barber, an unscrupulous solicitor, who stops at nothing in his endeavours to obtain certain documents which shall give him possession of the money. He fails in his object, however, his evil plans being invariably thwarted by Captain Frank Manley, of the ss. Duttnor Castle, to whom Alice is betrothed. The principal interest lies, however, in the characters of Skittles and Dot, two of those homeless children in London, who are thrown on "the world's mercy." Skittles, whom we first meet as a stowaway on a vessel at sea, ragged and grimy, utters sage comments on the treatment of his class. His pathetic appeal for kindness and sympathy, and education as to right and wrong, instead of the harsh measures meted out by prisons and reformatories, meets with warm appreciation from the audience, who evidently share his sentiments on the matter. His introduction into the piece creates a very pleasant diversion in the story. Miss Cissie Milford undertakes with distinct success the dual rôle of Skittles and Kitty Knott, as the former submitting a remarkably vivid characterisation of the poor stowaway, and as the music-hall artist furnishing quite an attractive "turn." Mr. Leo Rodway is a manly hero; and Mr. Carr Loates acts with convincing forcefulness in the part of Jabez Barber. Miss Mollie Bee is an engaging personality as Alice Lloyd, and portrays the part with quiet sincerity. Mr. G. K. Knight as a scheming Hebrew, Mr. Jess Boxer and Mr. Will Griffin as Charley Smart and Slouching Sam respectively, and Mr. W. Leonard as Dan, all render a good account of themselves. Miss Kathleen Saunders as the child "Dot" proves herself to be a juvenile actress of considerable talent, and other female rôles are capably undertaken by the Misses Clara Hall and Alice Hunter.

PROMENADE CONCERTS.

On Wednesday evening, Sept. 9, another work by an English composer was produced by Mr. Henry Wood. Mr. B. Luard-Selby, the author of "A Village Suite," is a Kentish man, having been born at Ightham in 1853. In 1881 Mr. Luard-Selby was organist at Salisbury Cathedral, and afterwards organist at Rochester Cathedral. There are four movements in "The Village Suite," "The Village Festival" containing peaceful and gentle harmonies, while in "In the Water Meadows" some attempt is made to give the effect of spring coming after the sombre winter. This movement, although far too long, is melodious and ably scored for the orchestra. "God's Acre," the third section of the suite, contains solemn and appropriate music; and the lively finale, "At the Smithy," gives a good idea of a busy time at a country blacksmith's, with, as the great Wagner has it, a clever forge motive for the orchestra. At the conclusion of the suite Mr. Luard-Selby was well received, and twice recalled to the platform. The programme of Wednesday's concert also included Weber's "Euryanthe" Overture, Brahms's Symphony, No. 3, in F, Overture "Leonora," No. 3 (Beethoven), and Tschaikovsky's March, "Slave." Mr. M. Wolters was the solo violinist, and Mrs. Harriett Foster and Mr. Lloyd Chandos the vocalists.

At the Queen's Hall on Thursday, Sept. 10, the programme included Richard Strauss's "Don Quixote," a work thoroughly characteristic of this strange composer. In spite of much that is fantastic, weird, and harsh in "Don Quixote," there is at times music of a charming and harmonious feeling, in marked contrast to the other portions, and Mr. Wood most skilfully brought out all that was best in this remarkable composition. The violoncello solo was admirably played by Mr. Jacques Renard. A new song, with orchestra, by Mr. Montague Phillips, was also given on Thursday evening, entitled "Fidelity," which proved to be a well-written and attractive work. It was finely sung by Miss Clara Butterworth, the fortunate possessor of a beautiful mezzo-soprano voice. Both composer and vocalist were recalled several times to the platform. The other vocalist was Mr. Cynlais Gibbs; and on Thursday the orchestra were heard in Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro" overture, the symphonic fantasia, "Francesca da Rimini," of Tschaikovsky, Schumann's Symphony, No. 1, in B flat, Humperdinck's overture to "Hansel und Gretel," and Wagner's overture to "Tannhäuser."

Mr. Colonne conducted the Tuesday evening Promenade Concert at Queen's Hall, and a most hearty reception was given to the famous French conductor. Mr. Colonne will conduct at Queen's Hall on Tuesdays, Sept. 22 and 29, while Mr. Wood is directing the rehearsals for the Sheffield Festival, and the New Symphony Orchestra will be under the charge of the French conductor from Oct. 5 to Oct. 9. On Tuesday evening an excellent performance of Wagner's *Rienzi* overture was given, followed by Saint-Saëns' "Suite Algerienne," in the three movements of which the composer gives impressions of a "Journey to Algiers," an effective "Moorish Rhapsody," and the "Reverie at Evening." The suite was admirably played, and the conductor twice recalled to the platform. Delightful also was the orchestral rendering of Saint-Saëns' symphonic poem, "Le Rouet d'Omphale," Berlioz's scherzo, "Scène d'Amour," and "Fêtes des Capulets," from *Romeo et Juliette*, Lalo's "Norwegian Rhapsody," and the overture to Auber's *Crown Diamonds*. Two flute solos, "Pastorale" and Concert-Etude, "The Bee," written by Mr. Fransella, were most skilfully executed by the composer; and the vocalists, Miss Edith Kirkwood and Mr. Peter Dawson, were much applauded in Verdi's aria, "Caro Nome," from *Rigoletto*, and "She alone charmeth my sadness" (*Irene*), Gounod.

"BUTTERFLIES," at the Apollo Theatre, reached its 150th performance on Wednesday evening amid much enthusiasm. The swing and verve of this merry musical play is quite remarkable, and it is no matter for surprise that it is one of the few spring productions to survive the "dog" days.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM returned to town early in the week, and has been busily superintending preparations for the production at the New Theatre of Mr. Roy Horniman's new comedy, *Bellamy the Magnificent*, the first performance of which is announced for Oct. 1. Rehearsals of Mr. Hubert Henry Davies's new piece, *Lady Epping's Lawsuit*, in which Miss Mary Moore reappears at the Criterion, are in active progress.

MRS. D'OYLY CARTE has given general satisfaction by the announcement of her intention to replace *Iolanthe* in her répertoire of Gilbert and Sullivan operas at the Savoy. The revival will be made on Monday, Oct. 19, and the cast will include Mr. Rutland Barrington, in his original part of Lord Mount Ararat, Mr. C. H. Workman, Mr. Henry A. Lytton, Miss Clara Dow, Miss Jessie Rose, and Miss Louie Réné. Until October 19 *The Mikado* and *H.M.S. Pinafore* will be played. Later in the season Mrs. Carte will revive one of the other Savoy operas.

MR. ARTHUR COLLINS found that difficulties attendant on the reconstruction of the stage at Drury Lane would prevent the adequate representation of *The Marriages of Mayfair* on Thursday, and accordingly postponed the production until Monday next. Seats already booked for this weeks' performances will be exchanged on application at the box-office.

AMONG the novelties secured by Mr. Collins for the production were half-a-dozen ravens, which were to fly about the spacious stage; but other counsels have prevailed, and the feathered tribe will be represented by pheasants and partridges, which will be utilised in the scene of the Home Coverts. The superstitious would consider that the raven is rightly banned from the stage, and history contains several records that maintain that these are birds of ill-omen. According to Macaulay Cicero was forewarned of his death by a raven which entered his room on the day of his murder and pulled the clothes off his bed Shakespeare, too, had no love for ravens, judging by his frequent uncomplimentary references to the ebony-hued bird.

MRS. BEERBOHM TREE was among the notable assembly at the wedding of Mr. Winston Churchill and Miss Hozier at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Saturday. Included in the long list of presents to the bride are a set of hairpins joined by jewelled chain from Mr. and Mrs. Beerbohm Tree and Miss Viola Tree.

MISS LENA ASHWELL, it is generally admitted, studies the comfort of the humblest of her patrons. When she reopens the charming little Kingsway Theatre three weeks hence with Mr. Wilfred Coleby's new play, *The Swayboat*, it will be found that one of the chief of many structural alterations that have been made during the summer recess has been the conversion of the hitherto uncomfortable gallery, with its narrow knifeboard seating, into a convenient and commodious upper circle. Miss Ahwell has decided slightly to increase the price of admission to this section of the house, being fully convinced that her regular supporters in the upper tier, from whom she has throughout her whole career experienced so much kindness and encouragement, would receive more than compensation in the better accommodation provided.

THE Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, has been bought by the Dublin Theatre Co., the Chairman of which is Mr. David Telford. Negotiations, which have been carried on for a considerable time with the lessees of the Gaiety, have resulted in the sale, for a sum, it is said, of £40,000. Possession will not be handed over until May 1 next. The intention of the Theatre Royal Company is to carry on the house as heretofore, with occasional seasons of hippodrome. One result of the sale will be to prevent in future the appearance in both houses simultaneously of stars of the first magnitude. Mr. Frederick Mouillot will be the managing-director of the Gaiety.

MRS. MICHAEL GUNN, who has for so long a period been associated with the fortunes of the Gaiety, will have no interest in the new theatre, and will retire from active participation in theatrical affairs in Dublin. The Gaiety, it may be recalled, was opened on Nov. 27, 1871, when Mrs. Scott-Siddons spoke a dedication. The piece was *She Stoops to Conquer*, with Mr. Lionel Brough as Tony Lumpkin, followed by the burletta *La Belle Sauvage*, in which Mrs. John Wood appeared. The theatre was in the hands of Mr. John Gunn, who had Mr. Edwin Hamilton for coadjutor, and the foremost attractions of the day were provided, the Carl Rosa Opera Company being a leading feature.

MR. JOHN GUNN died in April, 1877, and for ten years the control of the Gaiety remained in the hands of his brother Michael. In 1896, when Michael's health first began to fail, the management of the Gaiety devolved upon his nephew, John Gunn, and after the death of Michael in 1901 the control of the house passed for a time into the hands of the Associated Managers of the United Kingdom. Some time afterwards, however, Mrs. Gunn was appointed manageress.

MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH has mislaid a motor—not, we hasten to say, the ubiquitous automobile, but a property boiler, which he has utilised effectively in many a "screaming" production. The boiler is not an article easy to overlook, as it is 5ft. high, and has a whistle a foot and a half long. Accompanying it, tied up as it were in the same parcel, were a life-size oil-painting of Mr. Grossmith in the character of Jack Sheppard, signed by himself; and a black and white drawing of the comedian smoking, signed by the artist, Mr. Jule Goodman. Anyone who gives information as to the whereabouts of the articles will be rewarded.

A CIRCUMSTANTIAL account of the discovery and the loss of the boiler is given by Mr. Grossmith. "I picked it up," he said, "at Sheffield some years ago, a bargain, for £20. The whistle is a real locomotive whistle and was in good screeching order when I last saw the boiler. It imitated a locomotive beautifully, and was an effective member of my company when I was touring in the provinces with my own play, *The Cure*, in which Mrs. John Wood had a part. We got the boiler to work up to 200lb. pressure and it blew off steam across the stage in imitation of a locomotive, and then in the last scene it shook down a jerry-built house.

"THE boiler was particularly wanted for a scene with a steamboat in *The Early Worm* at Wyndham's. I told Mr. Curzon," said Mr. Grossmith, "that I had the very thing; but, when I came to look for it, I could not find it. The fact, of course, is that I have had no use for it for about three years, and it has been stored somewhere. Nobody seems to know where, and when I caused inquiries to be made at the Midland Railway, the answer was that, about two years ago, someone called in my name and took it away."

MR. AND MRS KENDAL will make one of their only too rare appearances in London next week, during which they will appear at the Marlborough. On Monday they will introduce to the Metropolis Mr. Herbert Swears' play, *The Whirlpool*. Wednesday and Friday evenings will be devoted to *The Elder Miss Blossom*, which was produced at Cardiff on Feb. 22 last.

MR. J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S autumn season at the Crystal Palace opens on Monday, the 28th inst., with *The Dairymaids*, played by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company. The combination, which has been specially rehearsed by Mr. Robert Courtneidge, is of exceptional strength, having in the cast such well-known names as Miss Empsie Bowman as Peggy, Miss Nellie Bowman as Eliza, Miss Carrie Lacey as Lady Brudenell, Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens, and Mr. Richard Telford as Lieut. Sam Brudenell. The dresses are from the original designs by M. Wilhelm, and all the scenery and properties are exactly the same as at the Queen's.

DURING the vacation Mr. Howard has had the stage and theatre thoroughly overhauled. He has had new scenery painted, and an improvement which his patrons will appreciate very much is the new installation of heating apparatus throughout the theatre. A new cloakroom, too, has been added. In view of the Franco-British Exhibition Mr. Howard decided some time ago that it would be wiser to commence his forthcoming season rather later than usual. Mr. Howard's bookings for the Crystal Palace Theatre include *Beau Brocade*, Miss Annie Hughes in *The Mollusc*, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, *The Belle of Mayfair*, *Peter's Mother*, *The Beloved Vagabond*, and *The Merry Widow*.

MR. HOWARD'S pantomime at the Crystal Palace at Christmas will be entitled *Robinson Crusoe*, and for it he has again engaged Miss Lillie Lassah as Dick and Miss Venie Clements as Polly Perkins. In addition to this, he is producing two other pantomimes during the forthcoming season—namely, *Cinderella* at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, and last year's Crystal Palace "annual," *The Forty Thieves*, which will start a season at Cheltenham and then be transferred to Bath.

MR. HOWARD'S three years' lease of the Crystal Palace Theatre expires next February; but so satisfied have all parties been with the successful conduct of affairs in that direction in the past, that the company has just granted him a fresh lease.

MISS NETTIE WARE, the well-known actress, has sustained a severe shock by the death, owing to a lamentable accident, of her husband, Mr. William Austin Hibbert Ware, which occurred at Richmond on Monday morning. Mr. Ware, who was a barrister, was walking home on Saturday night, accompanied by his favourite wolfhound, on a lead. By some means the dog twisted the lead round its master, and brought him to the ground. How long he lay there unconscious is not known, but when some passers-by came up to render assistance, the dog snarled and growled, and would not let them approach his recumbent master. An urgent message was sent to Mrs. Ware, who came at once, and called the dog off. The unfortunate gentleman was taken home, where it was found that he was suffering from concussion of the brain, from which he died.

AT the inquest held on Wednesday, Mrs. Ware said that after dinner on Saturday Mr. Ware and a friend went up to the Star and Garter Hotel, where the dog was kept in the stables, and took it out for a run. The next she knew was when she was called to Friars-lane to find her husband on the edge of the pavement in a pool of blood, with the dog standing by. He was taken home, gradually got worse, and died early on Monday. The medical evidence showed that death was due to rupture of a blood-vessel on the brain, and a verdict of accidental death was returned. The jury also expressed sympathy with the widow.

THE funeral took place yesterday morning at Mortlake. A Requiem Mass was celebrated at St. Elizabeth's, Vineyard Park, Richmond, by Father FitzGibbon. Many people connected with the legal and theatrical professions were to be seen in the church. Subsequently, the funeral cortège, consisting of a hearse covered with beautiful wreaths, and five or six carriages, wended its way to Mortlake, where, in the Roman Catholic Cemetery adjoining the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, the remains of the deceased were interred.

THE principal mourners were Mrs. Nettie Ware (widow), Mrs. Wm. H. Ware (mother), Mr. Rust (cousin), Mrs. Hincheliffe (mother-in-law), Miss Stewart (cousin), Mr. H. C. Bateman, and Mr. Walter Williams. The two last-mentioned were old friends of the deceased.

FATHER FITZGIBBON officiated at the graveside service, in which he was assisted by Canon Hogan, of St. Mary Magdalene's. The coffin bore the inscription:—

WILLIAM HIBBERT WARE,
the loved husband of Nettie Ware,
who passed away September 14, 1908,
aged 36.

THE floral tributes were both numerous and beautiful. That from the widow was a broken harp made of white flowers, and it bore the message, "Gone from sight, but never out of memory. From his broken-hearted wife." Other wreaths were sent by Mrs. Ware (mother of the deceased), "Edith, Alice, Carol, and Maud" (cousins), Mrs. Hinchcliffe, Mr. Walter Williams, Mr. William Bates, Mr. Jack Cleverley, Mr. J. Wertheim, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, Mr. Forsyth, and the Star and Garter hostelry, Richmond. One from a lifelong friend (Mr. H. C. Bateman) was sent "in ever loving remembrance of our dear Bill from Mux."

MR. MARTIN HARVEY'S revival of *The Corsican Brothers* is proving powerfully attractive at the Adelphi, where it might well run much longer than originally announced. Mr. Harvey, however, does not wish to alter his plans, and so Saturday, Oct. 3, will be its last performance there for the present, the following Monday being the date chosen for the production of Mr. Stephen Phillips' version of Scott's "The Bride of Lammermoor," entitled *The Last Heir*.

"THE CORSICAN BROTHERS" will next week be preceded by *Ib and Little Christina*. The playlet, which is in three panels, is by Basil Hood, with incidental music by A. Bruhns, and was first produced at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in 1900 with Mr. Martin Harvey as Ib, Miss Eva Moore as Christina, and Miss Phyllis Dare as the child. In Monday's revival the parts will be played by Miss Mary Rorke, Miss Coleridge, Master Bobbie Andrews, and Miss Rita Redhead, with Mr. Harvey in his original part of Ib.

MISS DECIMA MOORE, who has contributed so conspicuously to the brilliant success achieved in the provinces by *Mrs. Dot*, under Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's management, roused the house to such enthusiasm at the beautiful new theatre at Stockton that she was compelled to respond to the cry of "speech." "I want to thank you all," said Miss Moore, "in Miss Emma Hutchison's and our own behalf, for the wonderful reception you have given us this week. We think you have all liked *Mrs. Dot*—(cheers)—and you will be glad to hear that you will shortly see other companies of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's in *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*, *Lady Frederick*, by same author as *Mrs. Dot*, and *Brewster's Millions*, with its wonderful ship scene, in which Mr. Percy Hutchison will himself appear. I now want to thank Mr. Imeson for the great courtesy he has shown us in his magnificent new theatre, of which Stockton is so justly proud."

MR. CHARLES MANNERS has received an abundance of encouragement at Birmingham this week in his laudable efforts to establish grand opera at popular prices. On Monday, the Theatre Royal overflowed with patronage, and Herr Eckhold, the principals, chorus, and orchestra were each and all singled out for ovations in turn. Mlle. Zelie de Lussan as Carmencita was specially greeted after her absence from the company. Mme. Fanny Moody drew another enthusiastic house on Tuesday as Madame Butterfly, this being indeed a portrayal of striking beauty and a joy to the audience.

WE regret to announce the death of Mr. Thomas Ballard, scenic artist, which took place on Sunday, the 13th inst. He first gave Mr. W. Hann valued aid by painting some beautiful figures upon a balcony in a palace scene for *Babil and Bijou* at Covent Garden in 1872. He had before this painted many beautiful ceilings and pictures over the prosceniums of the new theatres then building in London and the provinces. Whenever Mr. Hann had pictorial act-drops, which now seem to have gone out of fashion, or interiors requiring figure decoration of a high order, to do, he always, if possible, availed himself of Mr. Ballard's valuable services, and he is much indebted to his great taste and refined work for the general effect of some of his (Mr. Hann's) best scenes. His kind and gentle disposition endeared him to all who knew him.

THE wedding of a popular English actress and vocalist took place in Brussels on Wednesday, when Miss Tita Brand was married to M. Emile Cammaerts, a Belgian writer, and author of a new version of *Tristan and Yseult*. In addition to being a highly-esteemed tragedienne, the bride has the distinction of being the daughter of the famous prima donna Mme. Marie Brema. She accompanied her mother to Bayreuth in 1894, 1896, and 1897; and, while Mme. Brema was singing Kundry in *Parsifal*, Ortrud, and Fricka, acquired a dramatic education by attending all the rehearsals, both at the house of Mme. Wagner and in the Festspielhaus.

MISS BRAND made her début as Olivia in *Twelfth Night* with Ben Greet's Pastoral Players at the Botanic Gardens, Regent's Park, on June 11, 1901, and subsequently played many Shakespearean rôles under Mr. Greet's management. An important step in her career was made in 1903, when she toured with Mr. George Alexander as Huguette in *If I Were King*. At Christmas of that year she played the Fairy Queen in *Water Babes* at the Garrick, and afterwards fulfilled several engagements at the West End, including that of Gloria in Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell* at the Court. In the spring of 1906 she went on tour with Mr. F. R. Benson, and since then has given numerous recitals in England and on the Continent. We join with our readers in wishing the newly-married pair health and happiness.

MR. HARRY NICHOLLS will produce, and appear in, the new romantic costume drama, entitled *If We Only Knew*, written by himself and Mr. Chas. Ross, at the Fulham Theatre on Monday, Sept. 28. It is scarcely necessary to recall the many triumphs achieved by Mr. Harry Nicholls during his long engagement with the late Sir Augustus Harris at Old Drury. His Horatio Spofkins, the lawyer's clerk, in *Human Nature*, his convict in *Youth*, his Captain Danby in *A Life of Pleasure* will be enjoyably remembered. As a pantomime actor he was equally successful, perhaps his most brilliant creation in that direction being that of Cissy, the little girl in *The Babes in the Wood*, when his lifelong friend, the late Herbert Campbell, was the boy Babe. His name is also identified with many successes at the Adelphi, notably as Private Jupp, the Cockney Scotchman, in *One of the Best*, and as Burgess in *The Fatal Card*.

MR. NICHOLLS has done valuable work, too, as a pantomime and song writer, and is part author of the popular farcical comedy *Jane*, and of the Gaiety successes *A Runaway Girl* and *The Toreador*. With such a record Mr. Nicholls may confidently anticipate a favourable reception of his new play, for which the music has been specially written by Mr. John Crook (composer of *Peter Pan*, &c.), the scenery specially painted by Mr. E. G. Banks, and the costumes supplied by Messrs. Angel and Son. The piece itself is of an intensely dramatic nature, with a strong love-story, and an excellent comedy part for Mr. Nicholls.

THE Waldorf Theatre, which has been taken over for a lease of twenty-one years by Mr. Henry R. Smith, was let through the medium of Mr. F. J. Ronald, estate agent and auctioneer, of Belgravia-chambers, Victoria-street. Mr. Smith will open the theatre early in November with a new musical play, entitled *Miss Blossom of Brittany*.

THE series of surprises in the matter of theatrical marriages has been supplemented by the announcement of the wedding of Miss Marie Studholme, the popular musical comedy actress, and Mr. Harold Giles Borrett, which took place at the Marylebone Registry Office on the 4th inst. The wedding was a very quiet one, only a few friends being present. Miss Studholme was appearing last week in *My Mimosa Maid* at the Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone, where she had an enthusiastic reception.

THE bride was born at Eccleshill, Yorkshire, and did not come to London until she was fifteen. She went on the stage at the age of seventeen, and for a year played small parts with Charles Wyndham at the Criterion. Later she devoted herself almost entirely to musical comedy, in which she first appeared at the Gaiety. In 1899 she toured in the title-rôle of *San Toy*, and on returning to London was given leading parts at the Gaiety and other theatres under Mr. George Edwardes' management. One of her most recent creations was that of the title-rôle of *My Darling*, produced by Mr. Seymour Hicks. The bridegroom is one of the five sons of Major-General H. C. Borrett, of Lancaster Lodge, Bath-road, Reading, and has also played minor parts in musical comedy.

AT the last council meeting of the Theatrical Managers' Association, Mr. H. Cecil Beryl, late of the Theatre Royal, Brighton, was unanimously elected an honorary member. Mr. Beryl was one of the original members of the Association, and in its earlier days was its honorary secretary.

MISS EVELYN MILLARD has achieved so substantial a success with *Idols* that it will assuredly adorn the Garrick stage till the end of the popular actress's season, which extends right through January. Another theatre will then, in all probability, be secured to continue the run. Meanwhile Miss Millard has acquired a new comedy by Mr. Robert Hitchins, the author of "The Green Carnation," "The Call of the Blood," &c., which she will produce in the spring. The piece is modern in character, and provides a smart society part for Miss Millard.

"A CIGARETTE MAKER'S ROMANCE" has just been produced at the Standard Theatre, Johannesburg, with conspicuous success, by Mr. Leonard Rayne's company, and has been witnessed by crowded audiences. Mr. Norman Partriege in Mr. Martin Harvey's part of Count Skariatine, Miss Godart in Miss de Silva's original rôle of Viera, and Miss Annie Leaf and Mr. Charles Howitt as Akulina and Dumnoff, are especially praised for their performances in Mr. Charles Hannan's play.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER will produce his new play, *An Outsider*, by "Mayne Lindsay" and Captain Robert Marshall, at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Oct. 15. In addition to Mr. Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh the cast will include Messrs. Charles Bryant, Arthur Whitby, and L. Quartermaine, Miss Henrietta Watson, and Miss Pamela Gaythorne.

THE Actors' Association have found new premises at 353, Strand, which have lately been occupied by some enterprising ladies who figured in a recent popular case, and opened a restaurant under the picturesque title of "Ken's Cabin." The place is admirably situated, and is only a few doors distant from the Association's present habitation. The removal will take place on the 29th inst.

THE performance of *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, by Mr. Norman V. Norman's company at the Theatre Royal, Ryde, on Monday was honoured by the presence of Princess Henry of Battenberg and her son Prince Alexander and suite, who occupied front seats in the dress circle. Her Royal Highness stayed until the close of the performance, when through her equerry she expressed to the management the gratification the entertainment had afforded her.

MR. ERNEST G. BATLEY, who is playing Tom Norman in *Her Second Time on Earth*, has been re-engaged by Mr. Walter Melville for his new production. Miss Ethyle Murray, who is sustaining the heavy leads at the Britannia, will in future be known as Ethyle Gordon Murray.

MISS FLORRIE GREEN, who was especially engaged by Mr. James Willard for the title-rôle in his new drama, *The Girl with the Angel Face*, has scored a success at every theatre visited. Miss Green is only seventeen, and must assuredly enjoy the distinction of being the youngest leading lady at present appearing before the British public.

THE charge of having carried on a theatrical employment agency without registering it, which was brought against William Cecil Watson, described as a dramatist, at the Guildhall Police-court last week, and remanded, was on Wednesday withdrawn. The defendant was accordingly discharged.

MISS EMMA AND MR. PERCY HUTCHISON'S *Lady Frederick* company continue their triumphant tour, and on Monday opened at the Spa Theatre, Scarborough, to a brilliant assemblage of well-known people at present staying at this beautiful Spa. Miss Mabel Love's reception in the name-part was gratifying in the extreme, and many calls were awarded her at the termination of each act.

MR. HALL CAINE'S biography is to be published jointly by Mr. Heinemann and Messrs. Collier and Co., on Oct. 1, under the title of "My Story." As a record of success achieved under adverse circumstances, the work will have the moral value of an incentive to youth, and as a picture gallery of notable literary men of the past generation it possesses the importance and the charm which attach to the well-told tale of one who has been in personal contact with those who figure in the narrative.

MR. H. LOUIS WILSON has been appointed acting-manager at the Castle Theatre, Richmond.

MR. AND MRS. HOWARD L. TRACY (Miss Babs Stuart), who are at present playing Sidney Clifford and Clarissa in *What the Butler Saw*, have been engaged by Mr. Oswald Brooks for the spring tour of *The New Housemaid*, playing Bertie and Dulcie (lead). They open at the Grand Theatre, Swansea, in New Year's week.

THE Dramatic Debaters have extended the date of the closing of their play competition from the 21st to the 30th inst. Only one-act plays written by members, it should be remembered, can be considered. "Costume" plays can be admitted, provided the competitor undertakes, in the event of success, to provide the dresses. A reading fee of 5s. for each play submitted is required.

MR. C. ADOLF SEEBOLD, one of our most enterprising South Coast managers, took his annual benefit on the 9th inst. at the Theatre Royal, Worthing. The prices for admission had been raised; but, notwithstanding, packed houses were to be found both afternoon and evening. The Benson company occupied the boards, and *Twelfth Night* and *The School for Scandal* were the plays selected. The admirable way in which they were presented was attested by prolonged applause. At the closing performance Mr. Seebold was the recipient of gratifying proofs of his popularity. Numerous presents were received from his staff, and habitués seemed to vie with each other in enthusiasm. Mr. Seebold has raised to a high standard the dramatic entertainments of Worthing, and his genial manner at all times has earned him many lasting friendships.

AT Penge Petty Sessions on Tuesday an application was made for the transfer of the full-licence for the Crystal Palace, held by Jesse H. Cozens, to George Oscar Starr, the general manager of the company. The solicitor stated that Mr. Cozens had ceased to be the secretary of the Crystal Palace Company, and the directors desired that all the licences should be held by Mr. Starr, who held the stage play, music, and dancing licences, and was now permanently engaged as manager to the Crystal Palace Company. A police inspector said there was no objection to the transfer, and the application was granted.

MESSRS. HERBERT SKARDON AND H. SHERWOOD MARTIN have been meeting with wonderful success with their production of *The Way of the World*, which commenced on May 4, and has toured continually since. It is booked up, with very few exceptions, till 1910.

THEY are asking in Jersey whether the author of *The King of Cadonia* and *The Early Worm* is the young Jerseyman who first took the name of Keith Lonsdale and then dropped the Keith for Frederick, his real name being Frederick Leonard. The brilliant success which is attending the gifted young dramatist's work in the metropolis well justifies the curiosity exhibited.

A FEW days ago the following appeared in the Personal columns of the *Daily Mail*:—"Mr. Martin Harvey begs to thank 'Dusty Rhodes' and 'Weary Willie' for very kindly returning his pocket book." While motoring through Newmarket Mr. Harvey had the misfortune to lose his pocket book, containing several valuable papers and a number of postal orders, amounting to a considerable sum, which had been received, in return for his autograph, for theatrical charities, together with a number of postage stamps. "The Corsican Brothers" who found it took everything that could be turned into money except the pocket book, to pay their expenses, as they expressed it, for a bad day at the races, and yet they were kind enough to return the remnants, with the request for an acknowledgment in the paper mentioned.

"THE GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG" made an immediate success on its production in New York, Miss Gertie Millar securing chief honours as Mitzi. Mr. James Blakeley and Mr. Lionel Mackinder also won high encomiums.

RAPID progress is being made in the reconstruction of the New Theatre, Oxford, and in order that it may be completed early in October, night gangs have been put on. The circle and gallery are nearly finished, and the building is in the hands of the decorators. The plans were designed by the eminent architect, Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, and the theatre when reopened will have seating accommodation for another 300 people.

MR. C. C. DORRILL, the managing-director, has filled all dates this year, and doubtless excellent business will be the result, since the bookings include Mr. James Welch in *When Knights Were Bold*, Messrs. Glenister and Ingram's company in *Jack Straw*, Mr. Edward Terry, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, *Miss Hook of Holland*, Mr. Percy Hutchison's companies of *Brewster's Millions* and *Lady Frederick*, Mr. Edward Compton, Mr. Leonard Boyne in *Raffles*, the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company, *The Thief*, *Charley's Aunt*, *Tom Jones*, *The Beloved Vagabond*, and *Dear Old Charlie*.

THE Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, was offered for sale at auction by Mr. W. H. Robinson, at the Albion Hotel, Piccadilly, Manchester, on Tuesday afternoon. The attendance included Mr. William Johnson (one of the proprietors of the theatre), Mr. Frank Macnaghten (managing director of the Warrington Palace and Hippodrome), Mr. Bradbury (resident manager), and Mr. McLeod Loader, resident manager of the St. Helens Theatre. The auctioneer said the reason for selling the theatre was owing to the serious illness of one of the partners (Mr. Joseph Potter), who wanted to realise the property. The bidding started at £10,000, and the subsequent offers were £11,000, £11,500, £12,000, £13,000, and £13,250, at which figure it was knocked down to Mr. Joseph Beecham, of St. Helens, who, it was stated, is interested in the St. Helens Opera House. The purchaser has to take over all the bookings from the date of the completion of the purchase.

MISS MOUILLOT, the hon. secretary of the Amateur Players' Association, is about to broaden the scope of her work by the production of plays by unknown authors. With this view she is establishing a "Dramatic Productions Club," which will present at the Court Theatre at least six new pieces during the season of 1908-9. Performances are to take place on the first Sunday (evening) and Monday (afternoon) of each month, commencing Dec. 6 and 7. Sunday evening performances will be open to members alone; but on Monday the public will be admitted.

MR. CECIL A. COLLINS and his company will next week present the late Henry Pettitt's famous drama *Hands Across the Sea* at the Dalston Theatre. It is twelve years since the thrilling play was revived, and it should appeal with renewed force to all lovers of sound melodrama.

THE new version of *The Christian*, by Hall Caine, which was recently produced at the Lyceum Theatre, will visit the Kennington Theatre next week. The success of *The Christian* in the past has been quite equalled by the new version, the business done both in the provinces and suburbs being remarkable.

MISS VIOLET LEY, the Mrs. Dan of *Brewster's Millions*, was called upon at short notice last Tuesday to take up her old part of Lady Mary Crewys in *Peter's Mother* at the Grand Theatre, Douglas. Mr. Hutchison's two companies being in "opposition" to each other in the town, the gentleman was fortunately able to avail himself of her services.

FOR the eighth time in succession Mr. Percy Hutchison has succeeded in breaking all the Hutchison records. The event was achieved this week at Douglas, where holiday people have nightly packed one of the largest theatres in the kingdom. On Wednesday the performance was witnessed by Lady Raglan and the Lord Lieutenant, who at the conclusion of the performance expressed his great approval to Mr. Chas. Fox and Mr. George Clarkson. The famous ship scene has caused quite a sensation. Next week the company start their first visit to the large cities, commencing at Dublin.

ALL rights possessed by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh in the Bullock version of *East Lynne* have been relinquished by the gentlemen mentioned. They have been acquired by arrangement with Mr. Pitt Hardacre by Mr. Tom Watt, who will tour the play under the direction of Mr. Cecil Elgar.

MR. G. P. HUNTLEY has engaged Mr. Wallace Stranack to look after his interests at the Hicks Theatre. Mr. Stranack will enter upon his duties as business manager on Thursday next.

THE Bandmann company, playing *Amasis*, *Miss Hook of Holland*, and *The Merry Widow*, has been enjoying record business at Bombay. For the performance of the last-mentioned piece, rows of 2s. seats were sold at 5s.; standing room went at 3s.; and seats in the passage fetched 10s.

NUMEROUS congratulations have been received by Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Dudley Bennett, to whom a son was born on Thursday. Both mother and child, we are glad to say, are doing well.

MR. HARRY BATTERSBY, for so long lessee of the Theatre Royal, Bilston, in which he has now parted with his rights, took his farewell benefit on the 10th inst. An enthusiastic committee of local gentlemen, working under the auspices of Sir Henry Norman, M.P., and Sir Alfred Hickman, had ensured the success of the undertaking, and the theatre was packed in every part. A long programme was gone through, the principal items being Mr. F. B. Woulfe's company in *Robin Hood*, the production of a dramatic episode, entitled *Who is Guilty?* by William Melvyn and William Miller, and a quantity of "turns" supplied by the variety profession. Mr. John Male, C.C., in a feeling little speech, voiced the regret of the Bilston public in losing Mr. Battersby, and then proceeded to present the beneficiaire with a number of tokens of regard from various bodies in the town.

WE regret to record the death of Mr. Edmund Cuthbert, which took place on Sunday last, at Sunderland, after only a few days' illness. Mr. Cuthbert was for several years past connected with the Hardie and Von Leer's *Two Little Vagabonds* company, among the members of which he was held in high esteem. The funeral took place at Bishop Wearmouth Cemetery on Tuesday.

"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH," presented by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company, met with a most enthusiastic welcome on its first visit to Falkirk last week. The Grand Theatre was crowded to its utmost extent on Monday, Friday, and Saturday, thus breaking all drama records for these three nights. *The Village Blacksmith* is in its fifth year of continued success.

THE football season has begun, and ardent followers of the sport, of which there are many in the profession, will soon be in keen pursuit of the ball. For those who like to look on an exciting contest is sure to be provided at Fulham to-day, when Fulham and Birmingham will compete. The kick-off is at 3.30. The home team consists of Skene, Lindsay, Charlton, Collins, Parsonage, Suart, Threlfall, Dalrymple, Harrison, Brown, and Lipsham.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Alexander Explains.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER, in a letter to the *Weekly Dispatch* contradicting the rumour that he is retiring from the stage this season, says: "There is no reason because I take an active part in the government of the County of London and may seek parliamentary honours in the future that I am giving up my life's work. I have no wish to become a professional politician, and the combination of actor and member of Parliament only means working more hours in the day, more weeks in the month, and more months in the year, and taking less sleep and indulging in less pleasure."

Late for Lunch.

"I KNEW that Marie was going to be married to Mr. Borrett," said Miss Studholme's mother to a *Daily Chronicle* representative last week, "but I certainly did not know the ceremony was going to take place when it did. In fact I am sure no one excepting themselves were aware of it. That morning I had an appointment, and as I was leaving the house rather hurriedly to keep it I casually asked my daughter—she is my only child—'Will you be back to lunch, dear?' She said she would not."

Adding an Act.

"DURING the time that I was manager of a Liverpool theatre, worked on the two-houses-a-night system," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "a well-known actor, who was formerly the lessee of this theatre, came to 'star' in a weird and romantic drama entitled *The Three Red Men*. On the Monday morning when I saw it rehearsed, I mentioned that I thought it would not play long enough for the time required. 'Oh!' he said, 'with all my business, &c., it will be quite long enough.' At night the drama concluded at a quarter past eight o'clock, and the 'star' repaired to his dressing-room, so we had half an hour to fill out somehow. It was a costume play, and there was a lady condemned to death in it, so I told the ladies and gentlemen I should add another act on it. I fixed on the last act of *Esmeralda*; and we arranged it to fit in by altering the names, &c. We started with the performance. The star actor dressed in a room looking on to the stage, that had a small window. When the star heard the performance going on, he popped his head out through the window. I shall never forget the look on his face as he said, 'What in the name of goodness is the matter? The play is over.' 'Oh,' I said, 'it's all right; we were over too soon, and we're playing another act.' 'But,' he exclaimed, 'you've ruined my drama; you do wonderful things in this two-houses-a-night theatre'; but the last act went on all right, and there was a special call, and the star ran down the stairs, and in a half-undressed state took a call in front of the curtain."

Mr. Phillips's Appearance.

"PEOPLE who persist in expecting poets to look like maniacs with hair unkempt are usually disappointed," says the *Mirror* "when they first set eyes upon Mr. Phillips. I heard of a man who attended a dress rehearsal of *Ulysses*, and when Mr. Phillips, tall, short-haired, clad in a sporting tweed, was pointed out to him, he naively exclaimed: 'That a poet! Why, he looks quite a gentleman.' One thing poetical, however, there is about Mr. Phillips, and that is carelessness. He writes poetry on scraps of paper which he crams anyhow into his pockets and very often loses."

An Author on the Bench.

"A FEW years ago, at the revival of *La Tosca*," writes our Paris Correspondent, "a curious surprise awaited us. In the last tableau, when Mme. Sarah Bernhardt throws herself upon the dead body of Mario, we recognised in that gentleman one of our colleagues of the theatrical Press. I forget what prompted him to impersonate the corpse, but the affair at the time created much amusement. Something similar has again occurred. The other night, at the Ambigu, in the scene in the criminal court in *Roger la honte*, we saw on the Bench, among the assistant judges, a tall, good-looking young man, whose face seemed familiar to us. And then the rumour went through the house that this distinguished super was M. Serge Basset, of the *Figaro*, a well-known playwright and author. In reply to questions, M. Basset informed us that he is writing a work on matters connected with the stage, and that he intends to act the super in several theatres to collect the material he requires."

Not an Easy Life.

"THE idea that a girl has only to be pretty to attain success in the histrionic art is utterly false," writes Mr. Seymour Hicks in an article on "The Hardest-worked Profession" in *Cassell's Saturday Journal*. "If she had the face and figure of a Venus she would never gain popularity unless she had the gift of acting as well. The fact that many of our leading actresses are beautiful women does not at all disprove this. It merely serves to show that, in addition to physical charms, they possess dramatic ability to a large degree. The furthest a pretty girl can reach on the merit of her good looks is the front rank of the chorus. What is really more important than good looks on the stage is a sound constitution, as it is most essential that an actor or actress should keep themselves in uniformly good health. There can be little doubt that to those who seriously intend doing their best to rise to the top of the profession, and who possess some talent, the first few years are the hardest ones of their careers. This period is usually spent on tour, and it is during this apprenticeship, when one sees the seamy side of stage life, that the good are sifted out from the bad. In conclusion, I should like to remark that before entering the ranks of the most overcrowded profession on earth, be sure you possess the necessary ability and are fitted for the career, and give up all idea of an easy life."

The Corsican Brothers.

MM. GRANGE AND MONTEPIN'S *Frères Corses*, which Mr. Martin Harvey has selected for the opening attraction of his present season, is a play of which many versions have been seen in this country. The earliest was one made by Dion Boucicault, and produced at the Princess's Theatre in 1852, with Charles Kean as the two brothers. This proved so popular that no fewer than six other adaptations were staged at various other London theatres during the same year. They all, however, achieved only brief runs. In December, 1860, Charles Fechter put up a fresh version at the Princess's. This was revived in 1864, and a couple of years later Fechter transferred it to the Lyceum. In 1876 the Princess's audience saw the play for the third time. Boucicault's old version was revised for the Lyceum in 1880. Eleven years later Irving put the piece in the bill again.

Some Burlesque Versions.

"THE CORSICAN BROTHERS" has been the subject of numerous travesties and burlesques. Among the earliest of these attempts was one entitled *O Gemini; or, the Brothers of Co(u)rse*, from the joint pens of Gilbert à Beckett and Mark Lemon, produced in 1852. A second, called *The Troublesome Twins*, by Henry J. Byron, was performed at the Globe Theatre in 1869; and a third, written in collaboration by Sir F. C. Burnand and H. P. Stephens, *The Corsican Brothers and Co., Limited*, formed the Gaiety attraction of 1880. Other musical comedy librettists who have travestied the play are Mr. George R. Sims and Mr. Cecil Raleigh.

"THE HOUSE OF PIERRE."

Piece, in One Act, by Julie Opp Faversham and Kate Jordan, played for the first time in London at the Adelphi Theatre on Monday, Sept. 14.

Pierre ..... MR. MARTIN HARVEY
M. Crapeau ..... MR. CHARLES GLENNEY
Jaques ..... MR. ALFRED MANSFIELD
Cora ..... MISS MAUD RIVERS
Blanche ..... MISS BESSIE ELDER
Lizette ..... MISS N. DE SILVA

The House of Pierre is a strong and rather harrowing little play, the unpleasantness of which is only slightly atoned for by a *dénouement* which comes in the nature of a surprise. It is, however, full of dramatic power, and gives opportunity for some excellent acting. The scene of the piece, which was first performed at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, in June last, is a peasant's cottage near Marseilles. Pierre, a poor quarryman, has met with an accident which has made him blind, and he and his wife Lizette have been in danger of starvation. She has tried in vain to support him and herself by lace-making, and has latterly procured money by less respectable means. When the curtain rises, Lizette enters in a carnival dress, and, with every appearance of guilt and mystery, changes it for her ordinary attire, first depositing a considerable sum of money beneath the hearthstone. She is evidently oppressed with a sense of shame; and when the blind Pierre enters she unfolds to him a plan for their emigration. To this he almosts consents; but a band of carnival revellers in costume, with a rich debauchee, named Crapeau, at their head, enter to demand the money which Lizette has obtained from the latter. There is a very painful scene, in which Pierre struggles for a while against belief in his wife's guilt, and almost strangles Crapeau in indignation. Lizette returns Crapeau his money, and he is induced to depart, leaving the husband and wife together. Lizette pleads her case eloquently, and it is evident that Pierre could forgive her anything except adultery. When she cries, "Not that! No, not that!" he clasps her to his bosom, and the curtain descends on a note of interrogation. The piece would have been more entirely effective in its appeal had the audience been earlier apprised of the comparative innocence of the heroine. Up to the close, all the sympathy of the audience was with the supposedly-injured husband, and there was a strong feeling against the apparently dissolute wife, which might have been different if the audience had been taken into the confidence of the authoresses from the first.

The House of Pierre was played with great skill and power. Mr. Martin Harvey gave to the part of Pierre just the right touch of manly pathos, and his onslaught on Crapeau was very strong and passionate. The part could hardly have been better played. Miss N. de Silva treated the difficult rôle of Lizette with real dramatic strength and vivid energy, her pleading to Pierre being full of emotional expression, and her acting throughout being keen, spirited, and sensitive, and full of bitter indignation. Mr. Charles Glenney's Crapeau was the ideal of gross and selfish materialism, the make-up and attire of the "respectable citizen of Marseilles" being admirable in their well-calculated effect. Mr. Alfred Mansfield, Miss Maud Rivers, and Miss Bessie Elder played the masquers with alertness and attention, and every detail of the dressing and mounting was supplied with commendable care. Mr. Harvey is doing excellent and artistic work in the presentation of these one-act pieces. By acting in them himself, and allotting parts in them to able and experienced members of his company, he is proving that the *lever de rideau* may be made a valuable and important part of an evening's entertainment, instead of a mere "stop-gap" or inconsidered prelude to "play the people in" with. We were glad to see that the audience were all in their places when the curtain rose on *The House of Pierre* on Monday.

"MALIGNANT GROWTHS!" (?)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Would you very kindly allow me to assure Mr. Scott Phipp that I certainly did not have the highly artistic and successful musical comedy now running at the Apollo Theatre in my mind when I wrote you my previous letter. There are several kinds of musical comedy, and I was referring more especially (or, rather, intended to convey) to that class of play which is a disgrace to dramatic art, an insult to our intelligence, and harmful in every degree to the English stage. It may interest Mr. Scott Phipp to learn that I was present at the initial production of *Butterflies*, and I experienced much that was highly pleasurable, whilst it was sheer unalloyed delight to witness the incomparable performance of our leading comedienne, Miss Ada Reeve, who, like a true artist, always adorns and elevates every play she may be acting in. I am sure nothing can be said against this excellent production whatever, and as a humble dramatic author I trust we may see many more of its genre, and by the same talented company who now occupy the Apollo Theatre and its very capable and highly artistic management. Two friends of mine from the country visited this theatre only last week, and I quote their words from a letter I have just received, and which is now beside me. "We were charmed and delighted with the piece, and we certainly mean to recommend all our friends in the country to see it when visiting London, for we feel sure they will be satisfied, and also fall in love with Miss Ada Reeve, as we did because of her absolutely sweet and highly artistic performance." I have not had the pleasure of seeing the recent addition to the cast of Miss Monkman in her dances, but I feel sure they must be artistic and delightful to witness. I have read, however, of the adverse criticisms as regards her dancing; but when I read them I was at once reminded of that story which is told of the great Dr. Samuel Johnson, who, on being interrogated by a certain ill-conditioned person—presumably a prude on the prowl—if he did not think a certain great work of art then being exhibited in London, and which was creating a great sensation, was not indecent. "No, sir," thundered out the great man and hater of all Puritanical hypocrites and shams, "but your question is."

I trust Mr. Scott Phipp will therefore now rest assured that I do not decry musical comedy of such a high-class character as is being presented at the Apollo Theatre, and that I am the very last person to write a word which would cause the loss of employment to anyone in the dramatic profession; but that in legitimately criticising the slushy plays and the mongrel and degrading musical comedies that have been produced, such malignant growths should be instantly cut down, and he who advocates such, I respectfully contend, has the best and highest interests of the theatre at heart and also the great dramatic profession to which I have the honour to belong.—Yours faithfully

WALTER STEPHENS.

London, W., Sept. 14, 1908.

"JACK STRAW"—SECOND CENTURY.

To the study of the pessimistic utterances that are being continually poured out in the Press by the superior critics when writing of the condition of the stage in this country, the most pleasant antidote may be found in *Jack Straw*, a particularly clean, clever, bright farce from the pen of Mr. Somerset Maugham, who, notwithstanding the wicked and unappreciative actor-manager and the forces that are supposed to keep young writers for the stage outside the charmed ring, finds his name billed in connection with three great London successes. *Jack Straw* is a lesson in cheeriness, and while as exhilarating as champagne, it is devoid of buffoonery or the slightest suspicion of *double entendre*. Its 200th performance was celebrated on Wednesday evening, when a large audience, refreshed and invigorated by its breeziness and brio, testified by their attitude of frank enjoyment to the wholesome humour of the comedy. How delightful is the *naïveté* of Mr. Charles Hawtrey in the title-rôle. He has such a way with him has Charles—a way that has made his advancement to popularity as easy as his acting. Mr. Hawtrey is a monument of unruffled calm, and he makes us feel that the grand duke masquerading as a waiter has laid to heart the maxim that gives such power to the ruler of men—"be self-possessed." His sway is irresistible, and that we should feel it to be so on the other side of the footlights is a strong testimony to the strength of his individuality in a part that exactly fits it. There are many happy moments in the course of the performance, but the greatest fun is to be derived from the actor's complete enjoyment of the dilemma in which his hosts are placed in the final act.

Miss Lottie Venne, during a long career devoted to Thalia, has progressed from soubrette parts to the middle-aged ladies of comedy. As Mrs. Parker-Jennings she brings out the droll significance of every line of her part, and the affectation of haughtiness (without the "h") on the part of the *nouvelle riche* is exceedingly rich and unctuous. Genuinely droll are her trepidation and uneasiness in the last act, when Mrs. Parker-Jennings learns that her guest has been waiting on her at the Grand Babylon Hotel.

Parvenus on the stage generally show more gaucherie and bad form than they do in real life; but the manner of Mr. Parker-Jennings and his "'orrid 'abit" of pricing his cigars to his friends are quite familiar in real life; and it is the duty of Mr. R. Whyte, jun.—a young actor who has made his mark in low comedy—to make the solecisms of the character extremely laughable, and he quite succeeds.

Mr. Percy Goodyer is also able to suggest the fact that young Vincent Parker-Jennings, notwithstanding his University training, has failed to grasp the essentials of good form, and is still an unlicked cub who never quite realises when he is snubbed. The character is not an easy one to play, and the young actor does exceedingly well.

Mr. Louis Goodrich, too, is surprisingly good as the Marquis of Serlo, the young peer, who in spite of appearances to the contrary, is quite altruistic in his ideas.

Mr. E. Holman Clark's Ambrose Holland, the confidant and friend of Jack Straw, is always agreeable and amusing, making an excellent foil, and being especially valuable in the more boisterous humour of the last act.

Miss Vane Featherston is always pleasant in characters that require presence and breeding, and her Lady Wanley supplies an excellent background in its ease and complete composure to the fussiness and precipitancy of the Parker-Jennings family; and the character receives an excellent interpretation. Miss Maud Cressell quite realises the description of "pretty girl" applied to Ethel Parker-Jennings by Jack Straw, and in the interviews with that gentleman shows considerable power and ability. Miss Mona Harrison makes the most of her one chance as Mrs. Rosie Abbott; Mr. Charles Troode is irreproachable as the Rev. Lewis Abbott; Mr. H. R. Hignett as His Excellency Count Adrian von Bremer has all the weight and dignity that becomes the rôle of an ambassador; Miss Joy Chatwin is quite effective in the part of Mrs. Withers; and Mr. Vincent Erne as a waiter and Mr. Norman Wrighton as the servant complete the adequacy of the cast. Mr. Walter Hann and Son are responsible for the two admirable sets of the three acts. The chief piece is preceded by *Breaking it Gently*, chiefly remarkable for the excellent impersonation of an unsophisticated and honest work girl by Miss Mona Harrison, who displays conspicuous ability. Mr. Herbert Clark, the cheery and courteous manager here, may be congratulated not only on a great success, but on one that sustains completely the high traditions of comedy that have always obtained at the little theatre in the Strand.

Riches and the Drama.

THE London theatres, says the *Mail*, are at present holding up the mirror to reflect the doings of the well-to-do and powerful. In the following table the principal characters at fourteen theatres are described:—

Haymarket.—Wealthy bachelor and baronet's widow.
Garrick.—All the characters are rich.
Adelphi.—All are in good positions in life.
Gaiety.—Wealthy Englishman and rich Cuban girl.
Daly's.—A prince, ambassador, and millionairess.
Criterion.—People of means.
Wyndham's.—Man about town, duke, and millionairess.
Vaudeville.—Archduke and millionaire's family.
Savoy.—Two plays; one has a country's ruler, the other a First Lord of the Admiralty.
Prince of Wales's.—A king, duke, and princess.
Lyric.—A cavalier, duke, king, and princess.
Apollo.—Wealthy Bohemians.
Comedy.—Very rich widow and her aristocratic friends.
The Playhouse.—A naval and military set.

MR. EDWIN DREW has sent us a little book called "Grandmother's Wedding Bonnet, and Other Pieces." He gives the following account of the conditions under which the principal poem was written:—"It was a beautiful autumn day, and I was spending a few hours with a beloved relative, now in eternal rest, when I was taken into an old room, semi-dark through the ivy clinging in and over the window. Some old things were shown me, all telling of lost friends, and then a quaint antique chest was opened to show me, in excellent preservation, my dear 'Grandmother's Wedding Bonnet.' This ballad was written the same evening, and simply claims expression of natural feeling from a heart touched by the past while I spent a few hours in the pretty village of Ovington, Hampshire, where grandmother's things were kept by a loving daughter." Other items, all suited for recitation by the author himself and others, are "The Puzzled Priest," a comic piece, "Aunt Dorothy's Fan," "Life's Contradictions," and "Christmas in the Cradle."

"LADY DOLLY AND THE DECALOGUE."

Play, in Three Acts, produced at the Pier Pavilion, Paignton, on Thursday, Sept. 17.

Sir John Markham .... MR. PENNINGTON-GUSH
Lord Deveril ..... MR. CHAS. SEWELL
Hamilton Dereham, LL.D..... MR. ROBIN SHIELS
The Hon. Reginald Anstey
MR. FRANK MEDHURST
Captain Stacey ..... MR. MARTIN B. PEDLAR
Malmaison ..... MR. F. BARNES
Rogers ..... MR. EDGAR STANLEY
The Hon. Margaret Anstey
MISS FLORENCE MITCHELL
Mrs. Audrey Braun ..... MISS SARA DUDLEY
Fanchette ..... MISS EILEEN CONSTANCE
Dolly, Lady Markham ..... MISS ELSIE ROBERTS
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Lady Dolly and the Decalogue, by "Joseph Fletcher" and "Marcus Ellis," might be considered a problem play. The story centres in the town life of Lady Dolly Markham, a young married Society lady, who is led away by many admirers, and who leads the fast life which is now so often looked upon as being characteristic of Society. The scene of the first act is laid in the drawing-room of Lady Dolly, it being her "At Home" day. In this act we are introduced to Mrs. Audrey Braun and her neice, the Hon. Margaret Anstey, a rich heiress, whose younger brother, the Hon. Reginald Anstey, is much petted by Lady Dolly. Lord Deveril, who is passionately in love with her, and Capt. Stacey have been gambling with her for high stakes at her favourite game of Bridge. Sir John Markham receives an intimation, through Dr. Dereham, of his (Sir John's) appointment as a Cabinet Minister. Sir John Markham is left alone with his wife, and asks her seriously to give up the life she has been living, and, above all, to break off her connection with Lord Deveril. This she promises to do, and shortly afterwards feigns illness, and thus succeeds in obtaining permission to go to the country for a rest, she having previously arranged with the Hon. Reg. Anstey to go with him to his sister's country house for a holiday.

The scene of the next act is the country house. Lady Dolly and the Hon. Reginald are visited by his sister Margaret, who stays at the house. After all is locked up for the night, Lady Dolly being unable to sleep, is sitting up reading. Lord Deveril breaks into the house, implores her to elope with him, and tries to tempt her by offering her a pendant similar to one which she has much admired. She refuses, and he seizes her in a passionate embrace. Sir John Markham is heard at the door, and he sees Lord Deveril trying to make his escape through the garden. An emotional scene between Sir John and his wife follows. Eventually she calls for assistance, and Margaret Anstey comes in, thus surprising Sir John, who was not aware of her presence in the house.

In the third act, we are taken back to Lady Markham's town house. The Hon. Margaret tries to persuade her to remain with her husband, who has made arrangements to take his wife abroad and give up all prospects of a brilliant career. Lord Deveril calls and asks for a private interview with Lady Dolly, but this Margaret will not permit. It transpires that Lady Dolly is in his debt for a considerable sum, lost to him in gambling, and Margaret gives him a cheque for the amount, and bids him go. Lady Dolly repents, and Sir John, acknowledging the love he has always felt for her, promises to do all in his power to restore her to her position in Society.

The character of Sir John Markham was excellently acted by Mr. Pennington-Gush, who exhibits much energy and vigour; he deserves high praise for his performance. Miss Elsie Roberts's rendering of Lady Dolly was exceedingly good. She certainly showed considerable ability, and her tactful handling of the part won unstinted applause. Her pronunciation was also clear, and her attractive manner made her in every way suitable for the part. Miss Florence Mitchell appeared in the rôle of the Hon. Margaret Anstey, and made it a capital study, her performance in the last act, where she is seen as the peacemaker between man and wife, being particularly good. Mr. Chas. Sewell did well in the unthankful character of Lord Deveril; and Mr. Martin B. Pedlar was a typical Capt. Stacey. Mr. Robin Shiels supplied a clever study of Dr. Dereham; and Mrs. Audrey Braun was admirably represented by Miss Sara Dudley, who made the most of her opportunities. At the conclusion of the performance Mr. Pennington-Gush and Miss Elsie Roberts had quite an ovation, and there were calls for Mr. John A. Thomson, and the authors, all of whom bowed their acknowledgments.

"ALGERIA."

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

Algeria, a musical play in two acts, recently produced at the Broadway Theatre, New York, is beautifully staged, and Victor Herbert was evidently in a most tuneful mood when he composed the music, for the score is rich in melody. Four numbers deserve particular mention, namely, "Rose of the world," "Twilight in Barakeesh," a bewitching waltz called "Ask her when the band is playing," and a dreamy refrain, "Love is like a cigarette," in which half a dozen girls are suddenly transformed into illuminated smoking tables. Above each girl's head an incandescent light sheds a soft, mellow glow, and on the tables, invitingly displayed, are circlets of liqueur glasses. Another number, richly costumed, introduces a stageful of girls in bird of paradise dresses, the display of colours being most beautiful and artistic. Zoradie, Sultana of the Barakeesh, a powerful tribe of the desert, is in love with a mysterious poet who eventually turns out to be a French army officer. The humour of the piece arises from the mistakes made by the Sultana's retainers in trying to discover the identity of the author whose verses have so charmed the Sultana. Three French army deserters fall under suspicion, and each aspires to the happiness of becoming Zoradie's sweetheart. The action takes place in the Sahara Desert and at an old palace outside the walls of the city of Algiers. The first act closes with a realistic sirocco that evokes enthusiastic applause, and a Mardi Gras festival in the second act affords opportunity for some very dainty and pretty effects. Miss Sophie Brandt as Zoradie, Miss Harriet Burt as Millicent Madison, M.D., and Miss Florence Nash as Mrs. Billings F. Coolings carry off the chief vocal honours. Mr. George Leon Moore sings a tenor rôle admirably; and Mr. William Pruette is very popular as the Governor-General of Algiers. The humorous situations are provided by Messrs. George Marion, Ernest Lambart, and William Cameron. The first pretentious musical play of the season by native authors, *Algeria* has made a distinct hit. The book was written by Glen MacDonough.

THE Brighton Sacred Harmonic Society has unanimously decided to accept the invitation of the Corporation to unite with the municipal orchestra at a musical festival to be held in the Dome, Royal Pavilion, in January next. It is proposed to open with Sir Edward Elgar's "Dream of Gerontius," which the composer himself will conduct. It is also intended to perform "Elijah," the third act of *Tannhäuser*, the second act of *The Flying Dutchman*, and the third act of *Lohengrin*. The municipal orchestra will be increased from forty to sixty.

AT the Metropole Theatre, Gateshead, Allan Wilkie's accomplished company appears in a répertoire which includes *Richard III.*, *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Sleighbells*, *David Garrick*, and *Othello*.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council, held at 409, Strand, on Tuesday, Sept. 15. Present: Mr. Robson Paige (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Franklyn Walford, Chris Walker, Clarence Derwent, C. F. Collings, Misses Agnes Imlay, Marion F. Lind, Rose Mathews, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The secretary read a letter from an applicant for membership, and also a letter from an actor with reference to an alleged bogus manager. He was instructed to acknowledge the receipt of the letter and inform the writer that the Council were unable to take any steps in the matter as the applicant was not a member. He was also instructed to ask him whether there was any member of the company belonging to the A.A., and if so to ask him or her to send full particulars. The secretary read a letter from Messrs. Davies and Tait, stating that instructions had been given to the solicitors of the Cabins, Ltd., and that a draft of the agreement had been sent to Messrs. Mote and Sons. The hon. solicitor read the draft agreement, and the Council instructed the solicitor to make several alterations in it before they could accept same.

The following were elected members: Miss Marjorie Richardson and Miss Edith Churchill.

The secretary reported eleven engagements made since the last meeting of the Council.

The secretary informed the Council that he had not received any further communication from the provincial manager as to the insanitary state of some of the dressing-rooms, and he was instructed to write to the manager pointing out to him that he had not answered their letter.

The secretary was instructed to place a notice in the room to the effect that the A.A. are leaving the present premises on Sept. 29, and, subject to the agreement being approved, will move into the rooms at 353, Strand.

The Council instructed the secretary to place the bogus actor's name (which was furnished them by the Actors' Union), in the Bogus Actors' Book.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union took place on the 10th inst., when the following were present:—Messrs. Mannering (in the chair), E. Y. Rae, F. Rawson Buckley, Royce Milton, and J. W. Braithwaite. Letters were received from the following:—Messrs. Fred F. Loyd, Jerrold Heather, J. Hastings Batson, George P. Lester, James English, Cecil G. Calvert, Francis Chamier, Paul Lovett, and Maitland Stapley.

Letters and telegrams were read from the General Secretary, who was attending the Congress at Nottingham, and it was proposed to leave the matters contained in them over until his return. In reply to a letter from Mr. Harry C. Momber the Secretary was instructed to inform him that the executive committee could not move from the standpoint they had taken up.

Mr. Frank Gerald presided at the usual weekly meeting of the Actor's Union held at Hummum's Hotel on Tuesday afternoon. There were present Messrs. J. W. Braithwaite, Sydney N. Hallows, A. W. Norman, Alfred Terris, Edwin Wilde, J. T. Dilsen, W. H. Vernon, C. Calvert, Robt. M. Taylor, Leslie Hall, Harwood Roberts, and Albert Hayzen, and Mesdames Bessie Armytage, Dorothy Barrington, Walter Bentley, Mary Bessle, Amy Coleman, Florence Creagh, Gladys Everard, Molly Haydon, Kitty Marion, Ellen M. Sanders, Emma Stockley, and Gwen Stuart.

The chairman, after dealing in the accustomed manner with the rules and objects of the Union, referred briefly to the proceedings at the Trades Union Congress last week, at which it was decided not to recognise the Artists' Protection League as a trade union. He stated that the visit of himself and the secretary of the A.U. to the Congress at Nottingham had proved abortive. On that subject he should allow no discussion in the open meeting. He considered that the matter was one which should be dealt with at the private meeting. For whatever had or had not been done he was freely prepared to answer at the proper time, as well as in regard to his conduct in all respects. The meeting then assumed a private character.

NEW AGENCIES.

Mr. Gordon Wilson, 16, Nile-street, Preston, was appointed agent. Mr. Gregson, Commercial Hotel, Accrington, was appointed agent for that town. The Liverpool Agency, which has been closed for some time, will be reopened on the 28th inst. The address will appear in next week's issue of *The Era*.

A letter was read from a member stating that her manager had not paid her salary, and the Secretary was instructed to place the matter in the hands of the Union Solicitor.

A member was advanced the sum of 20s. from the benevolent fund to enable him to join a company.

A member of the executive committee who sent in his resignation from the committee was written to and asked to reconsider his decision.

One new member was elected, and four resignations were accepted with regret.

The Secretary reported two engagements made during the week.

Miss Collier's Hat.

THE hat, says an *Express* interviewer, was the size of a small cartwheel. It hid the top of the Sheraton table in Miss Constance Collier's drawing-room. It was large and black, and trimmed with electric blue ribbon. Miss Collier looked at it despairingly. "It won't go anywhere," she said to the *Express* representative, who had called to ask her about her plans for America, whither she sailed on Saturday last.

"I SHOULD have had a trunk specially built for it," she mused. "Excited? Oh, very. I've never been to America before, though Mr. Frohman has asked me again and again to go. (I wonder if that hat would go in the big brown trunk.) I'm going to play with William Gillette in *Samson*, Henri Bernstein's play. I play the part of the wife, an excellent part, with fine opportunities. (I can't very well leave it at home; it suits me so much.)

"OH, yes, about America. I hope to play some Shakespeare parts. Anyhow, I'm taking with me costumes for Viola, Beatrice, Juliet, and Cleopatra. (I might put a strap round it and carry it in my hand as a hold-all.) This luggage is a terrible business. I intended taking one trunk and a coat and skirt, but look over there," said Miss Collier, grimly. "That's my hand luggage." This is what the representative saw:—One hand-basket, one tea-basket, golf clubs, two cloaks, one carpet bag, one hold-all, one jewel-box, one fur coat. "In the other room," Miss Collier said, in an awed voice, "are ten trunks of clothes and one big trunkful of hats."

"AND that?" asked the *Express* representative, pointing to the mammoth hat that would go nowhere. Miss Collier threw up her hands in despair. "It's a tragedy! It's the hat that suits me best, and I can't put it in anywhere." "Why not wear it?" the *Express* representative suggested reverently. She gave a little cry of joy. "What an excellent idea! I'd never thought of it."

SKATING has become a very popular pastime in Rhyl, the attendance at the Rink being very satisfactory. On Wednesday evening a successful bicycle and skating carnival was held, at which several valuable prizes were given.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE PALACE.

The holding capacity of the beautiful building in Cambridge-circus is insufficient to meet the demands made at the box office, and for several months now Mr. Alfred Butt has been giving two matinées per week in view of the tremendous business that is being done. That the crowded houses are drawn by the unique entertainment presented by Miss Maud Allan there cannot be the shadow of a doubt, and though it is easy enough to be wise after the event one must give credit to Mr. Butt for the judgment and perspicacity that led him to make such a successful engagement—the most successful in the history of the Palace. Miss Allan does not flash and glide about the stage in a whirlwind of colour, or regulate her movements, her steps, or her gestures according to the teaching of the schools. In fact, her attitudes are entirely opposed to the elementary rules of the art of the ballerina; and untrammelled by conventionality, she gives rein to a poetic instinct, a natural grace, and, more than all, perhaps, to an innate comprehension and a soulful interpretation of the rhythmic spirit of the music which she elects to illustrate. Her dancing to the strains of Mendelssohn's "Spring song" realised the joy of a nymph of Arcadia in the awakening of Nature; but there is something more fantastic in Miss Allan's interpretation of the "dance of the sugar-plum fairy" and "the reed-pipe dance" from Tschaikowsky's "Casse Noisette" suite. In its fanciful figuration and bold rhythm the music evidently appeals to her, and the result is another delightful exhibition of her dancing, which is exquisitely accompanied by the orchestra under the direction of Mr. Herman Finck.

A new entertainer at the piano is found in Miss Beatrice Lindley, a comedienne whose excellent work on the stage gives a cachet to her songs, which she interprets with much sprightliness and humour. We like, too, the archness of her interpretation of the song, "Simple Wisdom," by Montague Ring, which is the concluding item given by Miss Lindley, and which brings about her recall to the stage. Miss Gladys Marsden, who is making her first appearance this week at the Palace Theatre, presents a series of impressions of well-known actresses. These impressions will be much truer to the originals when Miss Marsden conquers her nervousness and becomes distinct. Like most imitators, the new-comer lays great stress on certain details of the mannerisms of her models—details that seem to be mechanical when used at the will of another, with merely an echo of the voice of the original, and minus the passion of the scene which vivifies gesture. The "impression" of Miss Edna May was decidedly the best. The Palace Girls "helter-skelter" down on to the stage on a specially-arranged slope, and dressed in pretty pink dresses they sing of the joys of mountaineering. Later, in a topsy-turvey mood, they accomplish the "danse des jambes en l'air," an aerial movement that is executed with much precision.

Early in the evening Mr. Carter Livesey and Miss Lilian Rosebery present the skit, *Would-be Actors*, with comical results that elicit much laughter. The success of the trifle is as conspicuous as on its first visit to the house. Nipper Lupino Lane dances well; and the practical fun of Spissell Brothers and Mack, in an acrobatic act, *Scene in a Café*, is quite refreshing. Mlle. Juliette's seals do wonderful things in balancing balls, and appear to enjoy their performance as much as the audience. Mr. Arthur Prince is repeating the success of former engagements here; and Miss Dorothy Gould also entertains.

Included in the new series of "Urbanora" animated pictures at the Palace Theatre is a film which has quite a little history of its own. Mr. Charles Urban was photographing some microscopical objects for a new Natural History set, when a "common or garden" bluebottle, the familiar disease-carrier unbeloved of Sir James Crichton Browne, became transfixed by its wings to a sticky fly-paper which was on the table. The vigorous leg-work of the big fly instantly suggested humorous possibilities to our leading cinematographer, and, as a result, a much-magnified "Balancing Bluebottle" is seen on the screen juggling with a ropewalker's pole (which is a wisp from a coat broom), a large circus ball (a pilule of bread), and a monstrous dumb-bell (made of two bread pills and a small splinter).

THE TIVOLI.

With his blushing honours thick upon him, Mr. Harry Lauder may be said to be entertaining right royally at the Tivoli—a house that has made him such an enormous favourite that standing-room to hear his songs is at a premium. His latest song, "He was very, very good to me," does not stand on the same category as "The saftest o' the family," "Stop yer tickling, Jock," or "I love a lassie," with which he wound up his turn at the cosy Strand house on the night of our visit. The Tivoli must be regarded as a popular sphere for the stars to shine in, for there is no stint of them in the programme. Early in the evening Mr. Will Evans burlesques in his own broad style the Salome dance, causing prolonged laughter by his antics. Soon after we encounter Mr. John Le Hay, in his diverting creation, *Poor Beggar!* a character-sketch that enables him to show his genuine comedy powers to much advantage. We remember Mr. Le Hay as a ventriloquist, and a very delightful one, too; but in his latest essay he makes us understand the excellent stuff of which good comedians are made.

A precisely similar remark applies to Ernest Shand, who returns to one of his favourite strongholds to find himself most heartily welcomed in his genuinely comic sketch of the working-man who abuses roundly the chief provisions of the Licensing Bill, and succeeds in being funny all the time he is doing it. Mr. Shand has another song in which the quiet effects of his comedy are enjoyed. It is entitled "What will the vicar think?" Mr. Wilkie Bard, a humourist of the very first water, has found another song that offers excellent scope for his drollery. It is called "I'm here if I'm wanted." Herein the one and only Bard burlesques a policeman, whose belief in the "rest cure" is not to be disturbed by alarums and incursions on the part of burglars or any other "fearful wildfowl." Some hilarious moments may be enjoyed, too, when Mr. Bard sings "Not in these trousers," a specially well-written number.

Daisy Dormer, that winsome and dainty little artist, wins all hearts with "Carolina Brown" and "Anywhere will do," her success being completed by a wonderful dance; and much charm distinguishes Miss Margaret Ashton in her two songs—one of which makes a special appeal to those in front. There is nothing very remarkable about the entertainment of Mr. William Dillon; but the musical speciality act of Roma and Romani gives one pause, their genuine talent being discovered in the excellent way they present artistic instrumental selections without any resort to the trickery of the buffoon. Mr. Leonard Barry has returned with his artistic Franco-British entertainment, in which he compares character types of London to those of *la ville lumière*. Thus he enables us to judge of the peculiarities of our own hansom cabby and those of the Paris *cocher*. The two have one thing in common—an ever-present desire to secure just a *leetle* more than their proper due, either by an additional *pourboire* or an extra sixpence. Human nature is very much alike in London and Paris. Mr. Barry is particularly clever in his interlude, which is quite away from the ordinary music hall groove. Other turns in the long programme directed by the popular Mr. Joe Wilson, are Sam Mayo, the immobile comedian; the Two Anartos, musical comedians; Miss Maidie Scott, a fascinating character comedienne; Miss Cressie Leonard, burlesque artist; and Les Frasettis, who play the violin, the xylophone, and the harp with much taste and skill.

CHELSEA PALACE.

The scenic resources of the Chelsea Palace have been supplemented by a handsome drop-cloth, which is provided with curtains through which the artists may take a call. It has been in frequent use this week, for all the contributors to the bill have deservedly won recalls. The greatest enthusiasm has prevailed during the occupancy of the stage by Mr. Joe Elvin in the sketch *Deaf*. As the cheery boy-in-buttons who abuses his deaf master until he learns that he has suddenly recovered his hearing the king of Cockney comedians has a part in which his humour is fully developed, and roar upon roar of laughter has resounded throughout the house during his presence on the stage. Mr. Elvin is well supported by his company in a performance of a most exhilarating character. The art of dancing is presented in agreeable form by the Royal Delomes, a comely maiden daintily attired and a gentleman in evening dress, who indulge in some expert stepping marked by much regularity and neatness. Their speciality is found in "The Phantom Clogs," which are displayed on a darkened stage and appear to be a couple of pairs of boots dancing in space, until they are eventually found to belong to the artists just mentioned. The illusion is an ingenious one, and is skilfully carried out.

One of the newest and cleverest of low comedy artists is found in Miss Millie Payne, who has received a warm welcome back to Chelsea. She strikes an original vein of humour in her song, in which the refrain "So early in the morning" is used with effect, and her satire on "The Directoire Girl" is broadened into quite a humorous study. Mr. Walter King sends the audience into convulsions of laughter with his quaint exposition of woe in the character of a henpecked husband; and Witty Wattie Walton also receives evidences of his mirth-creating powers in his patter as a page-boy, which he succeeds by some cleverly-conceived impersonations of Scotch, Irish, and French character.

An item welcome to the variety stage is presented by Miss Ethel Newman in the monologue "Our Wedding Day." It is a sketch which has done excellent duty at the concert hall and at charity matinées, and the success with which Miss Newman meets well justifies her selection. She renders the piece with much animation and variety of expression, and its humorous effect on the audience is unbounded. Miss Marie Blythe lets her powerful voice ring in a couple of chorus songs which win the ear of the audience, one having the refrain "Don't put your umbrella up before it rains" being particularly enjoyed. Mr. Will Driscoll, who first extols "The Bachelors' Paradise," gives afterwards a powerfully effective rendering of the descriptive ballad "His one redeeming feature," for which he is deservedly encored. Vocal eccentricities are indulged in by Leslie, Lyn, and Willro, who vary their comicalities with some harmonious trios. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is now the medium of the moving picture at Chelsea, and much interest is excited by a waterfall scene in winter, which is followed by a humorously conceived scene in a barber's shop. Mr. J. Norman Berlin, the esteemed manager, has now an able coadjutor in Mr. George B. Andrews, who has taken up the position of acting-manager.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

Last week's programme at this popular hall fully sustained the high standard that characterises its amusement catering, and the seating capacity was severely taxed as a consequence. Tom Edwards, with his companion Curly, was at the bottom of bill, and he submitted a remarkably clever ventriloquial act that very fully deserved the flattering reception accorded him at the end. Arthur Lennard was one of the two items at the top, and did well in two songs, the latter (in the guise of an old Guardsman) being the more effective. Mr. Hubert Carter and company presented a tabloid version by Mr. Louis Cohen of *Davy Garrick*. Mr. Cohen has utilised Robertson's play with considerable skill, and presents smoothly and speedily all the better known episodes of the original, including the famous dinner scene. Mr. Carter himself as Garrick gave an entirely acceptable performance, and well earned the lavish applause that greeted his efforts. The gentleman (not billed) who enacted Ingot also gave a capital character-study, and Chivvy and Ada also found capable exponents. Mrs. Stanislaus Calhaem, who played Araminta, was excellent, and her performance was quite up to that high standard that is associated locally with her acting. Altogether the item must be described as a great success.

Miss Olive Armisole did well in a song, as did Miss Kitty Clinton. The Warsaw Bros. in a comedy musical act were responsible for a great deal of laughter, and proved themselves to be good instrumentalists. Harry Grey made a hit in an anti-Suffragist song, and for his second item gave his well-known burlesque on the lady making her first appearance in public to sing "Sweet Chiming Bells"; he gains an immense reception at the close. Syd May, the mimic, does altogether admirable studies of Chirgwin, Robey, and Lauder, and for an encore presented his burlesque skit on Hackenschmidt. The Molasso Quartette gave a singularly clever display of cyclonic dances, all the members of the troupe being equally clever and agile. The Bioscope was very good, and Mr. Camp's fine orchestra gave invaluable assistance during the evening.

THE EMPRESS.

A place for the musical comedietta is always found by Mr. Nelson Francis, and many are the novelties that have first gained the ear of the public at Brixton. Among his latest introductions is the farcical operetta entitled *Old Knockles*, which used to be a feature of the German Reed entertainments at the old St. George's Hall as long ago as 1884. It was written by Mr. Arthur Law long ere he established his reputation as a humorist by the writing of *The New Boy*, and the music is from the melodious pen of Alfred J. Caldicott. In the hands of Mr. Edmond Faber and company the piece gets effective representation, Mr. Faber excelling most in the part of an old fisherman, in whose cottage the action passes. Mr. Faber is a particularly fine baritone, and his singing of the fine old ballad "Hearts of Oak" was greatly enjoyed. Miss Rose Meers played charmingly as a novelist in search of material, who induces a collector of china to pay old Knockles £50 for a dish of no value. Miss Meers has an excellent voice, but, probably through nervousness, her intonation was at fault, and the delivery of her dialogue was by no means as distinct as could be desired. A similar fault attached to the rendering of Bellworthy, the collector referred to, represented by Mr. Henry Edmunds; but he was of assistance in the trio which concludes the piece. There is also a mocking duet for Old Knockles and the novelist which is very agreeable.

Mr. Chas. C. Ommanney and company are seen in a reproduction of the sketch *The Last Shot* which deals in dramatic fashion with an episode of the American Civil War. It shows how a captain in the Northern Army finds in an escaped prisoner whom he is hunting the betrothed husband of the lady with whom he is himself in love. The captain surprises the pair exchanging vows of fidelity, and decides to allow the Southerner to escape. The prisoner will not permit his rival to make such a sacrifice, but the captain is determined, and going to the door of the house in which the piece passes receives a fatal shot from the oncoming enemy. Mr. Ommanney makes a striking figure of the captain, and acts with fire and energy. Mr. Sidney Kearns is a gallant and manly Southern officer, a little too emphatic, perhaps, in his actions; and Miss Maggie Byrons gives a sympathetic rendering of the girl. Another sketch of dramatic worth is that of *The Light in the Window*, which is admirably played by Mr. Fred Winn and a highly competent company.

A favourite of the bill is Miss Millie Hylton, who changes from low comedy to refined burlesque in her songs, "If I wasn't a perfect lady" and "Meet me under the golden dome." The latter has an irresistible refrain, and the desire of the audience to hang on to it was seen in several encores and numberless repetitions after the artist had left the stage. Miss Cressie Leonard is a captivating comedienne, and secures much favour with "Who's the lucky boy?" and another taking lyric; Miss Daisy Jerome repeats her former success, quite an ovation being accorded "Do-re-mi-fah"; and Miss Esme Gordon, comedienne, is also popular. A variety début is made with agreeable results by Miss Kate Walbran, the well-known actress, who makes a captivating appearance in an elegant principal boy's costume, and renders "Only a Boy" with excellent effect. Mr. Tom Costello, who receives a hearty welcome, is provided with a couple of widely-contrasted numbers, appearing as a much-married man with a well-stocked household and in the scena "Homeland, Good-bye," the refrain of which is enthusiastically re-echoed. A striking item of the bill is furnished by the introduction of Jack Johnson, the coloured pugilist, who claims to be the heavy-weight champion of the world. He is of massive proportions with an enormous reach, and it is difficult to imagine an ordinary man standing up to him for any length of time. His sparring exhibitions create great enthusiasm. The programme also includes Vasey and Ramsey, in *The German and His Butler*, Oliver Martyn, comedian, and Ruffell's pictures.

CROUCH END HIPPODROME.

An extremely well-filled house was the order of the evening upon the occasion of our visit to this cosy hall on Monday. Foremost in a long programme was the incomparable king of jugglers Paul Cinquevalli, with his marvellous exhibition of skill. The usual monotony of juggling turns is, with Paul Cinquevalli, entirely dispensed with, for he has a jewel in the shape of an assistant, whose clever by-play creates roars of laughter. Among the many interesting numbers in the current bill we may single out for special commendation Harry Tate's company, in *Fishing*. It is a very energetic company, that sends its audience into roars of laughter. It is a highly diverting turn, and is one of the hits of the evening. Mr. Arthur King received his well-earned share of applause for his contributions, "You know" and "Who's the lucky boy?"; Devon and Earle meet with a tremendous reception for their wonderful dancing exhibition; Miss Lena Brunton is well to the front in popular favour with her song, "Old pal," after which she gives some capital imitations of well-known music hall artists. Haig and Novel provide a welcome diversion with a comedy act. Their dancing is clever, and the extraordinary acrobatic movements of Tom Haig bring down the house. Jock Campbell is making a decided hit here. The son and two daughters of the late celebrated Arthur Lloyd are appearing in a drawing-room sketch, entitled *Little Charlie; or, The Twin Sisters*, with great success. Another notable success is Tom Yorke, a refined coster and character comedian, his second contribution, "It isn't always money that brings you harmony," being most favourably received. The juvenile Sisters Marion charmingly render "Our dear old home" to the tune of Chirgwin's "Blind Boy," and "Alice, where art thou?" and are well received.

A comedian with a style quite his own is Barney Armstrong. His first song, about the "Cuckoo," is provocative of much hilarity, and he is ably assisted by a diminutive comical assistant. In the second song, "Something's gone wrong with my band parts," he has an altercation with the conductor, and finally with the whole of the orchestra, who eventually pelt him with his band parts. The turn altogether is novel, and gets a tremendous reception. Miss Lilian Lea also earns merited applause for her singing of "Colombo" and "Queen of Old Samara," and the entertainment is brought to a close by the Imperial Bioscope with some up-to-date films. Since the reopening after the summer recess, the orchestra, now under the very able direction of Mr. Archie Howells, has been considerably augmented, and gives entire satisfaction to audiences and artists alike.

STRATFORD EMPIRE.

A visitor to any performance at this comfortable variety theatre usually sees a full house, and this is particularly encouraging to the energetic and courteous manager, Mr. E. J. Macdermott. Heading a well contrasted bill this week is Mr. Walter Passmore and his company in *The Constable and the Pictures*, an exhiliarating and amusing trifle in opera bouffe form which admirably serves as a vehicle for the volatile humour of Mr. Passmore as a Village Constable, in which rôle he works unflaggingly, and his efforts to amuse are hugely appreciated. Miss Mary Fraser successfully appears in the part previously played by Miss Agnes Fraser, and valuable support is rendered by Mr. Charles Childerstone.

Mr. George Bastow is cordially received in his first item, "They won't know I come from the country," one of the cleverest of this comedian's bucolic characterisations, and plenty of applause is bestowed upon his second song, "The oldest inhabitant," a ditty in similar vein. That old favourite "The Galloping Major" is his concluding number, and at the conclusion of his turn Mr. Bastow has many times to bow his acknowledgments. Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne are clever and original duettists and dancers, their prowess in the latter being very evident, and their turn is responsible for some of the heartiest applause heard during the evening. The Lyric Quartette are very tuneful vocalists, and their unaccompanied part-singing affords great pleasure, while the very fine pictures which illustrate their songs is a novel and agreeable acquisition.

Mr. Theo. Bouwmeester successfully presents a pathetic little playlet of strong interest, entitled *Who is Guilty?* in which seven of the nine characters are played by himself. Each is a distinct characterisation, and Mr. Boumeester displays marked skill as a protean actor. Austin Boyd and Trixie Gilfain are an entertaining comedy duo, who provide a pleasing turn, which tells of a couple touring in Switzerland. Their motor breaks down, but, not discomfited, the lady seeks out some character costumes they have brought, and then and there give imitations of various nationalities, while the gentleman goes off and returns as a brigand. Miss Gilfain's impersonations and bagpipe display are exceedingly clever, and Mr. Boyd's tenor singing is a vocal treat. A very agreeable act is that contributed by a young lady who elects to be known as La Danseuse, who displays much terpsichorean ability in a series of dances suggested by a number of dolls left her by a fairy visitant in Santa Claus. Mr. Frank Couch has his hearers on the best of terms in some racy topical patter, and his singing and well-groomed appearance win general commendation. The Bioscope pictures are, as usual, an enjoyable feature of the programme, this week's series including The Unlucky Winner, an amusing farce. Early comers are regaled by the orchestral selection, which is rendered with much expression under the able bâton of Mr. Albert Whipp, Mus.Bac.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

AMUSEMENTS IN ROTTERDAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ROTTERDAM, SEPT. 14.—The fall and winter theatrical season has begun in earnest. At the Grand Theatre Manager Van Eysden put on *Simone*, from the French of Brieux, for the opening programme. The setting and details of the original production in Paris were closely followed, and the play carefully cast, so that a satisfactory result was obtained. Your Parisian correspondent gave a full account of the play on the occasion of its production in the French capital. The plot, as *The Era's* readers therefore know, deals with the question as to whether a husband has the right or not to kill his faithless wife. Eduard de Sergeac thinks he has, and avails himself of it, but conceals the fact from his only child, a daughter, who grows up thinking her mother died from a fall from a horse, and not by her father's hand. The two leading, and, indeed, almost the exclusive rôles, are those of the father and daughter, Simone, and they were interpreted respectively by Mr. and Mrs. Tartaud. The latter was very painstaking, and in some scenes effective, as the sensitive and rather high-strung young creature, but the part can scarcely be considered one of this fine actress's best efforts. Mr. Tartaud scored a success, and a well-deserved one, as Sergeac, acting with vigour, sentiment, and power. Messrs. de Jong, Melsert, and Faassen are also entitled to kindly mention.

BESIDES the already established companies, and besides the foreign stars and combinations that are to compete for public favour during the present season, a number of new companies, dramatic and musical, have just been organised. Foremost among these is the dramatic company, "The Stage," under the joint-management of Messrs. Willem Royaards and Willem Stumpff, jun. The names of these gentlemen are so well known and so popular here that they offer sufficient guarantee for the stability and worth of the new organisation. Willem Royaards is the leading actor, stage and artistic manager; whilst the business interests are to be handled by Mr. Stumpff. The headquarters of "The Stage" will be Amsterdam, but performances are to take place weekly in this city on the "off-nights" at the Grand or Tivoli. The initial performance occurred at the Grand last week, when the classical tragedy, *Adam in ballingschap* ("Adam in exile") was given. This work is one of the many tragedies written by Joost van den Vondel (1587-1679), the great classic poet of the Dutch stage, or, say, the Shakespeare of the Netherlands. The second performance of "The Stage" was at the Tivoli Theatre, the programme consisting of Bernard Shaw's *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, translated into Dutch by Mrs. Simons-Mees. *Mevrouw Warren's Bedryf* was a notably interesting performance, as it presented the double attraction of the reappearance, after a year's absence, of Mrs. Van Kerchhoven, Rotterdam's favourite emotional actress. The occasion was taken advantage of by her friends and admirers to tender Mrs. Van Kerckhoven a veritable ovation. A triumphal climax was reached after the strong final scene of the third act, when the array of flowers literally filled the space before the footlights. Mrs. Van Kerckhoven's conception of Mrs. Warren was a most forcible one, meriting unstinted praise. Willem Royaards was the Sir George Crofts of the cast, his interpretation of the character being completely well-balanced, finished, and telling. Miss Staas enacted Vivie with great care, but was unable to cope with the difficulties of this complex personality. Mr. Arnoldi as Frank was boyish and vivacious, a trifle too much so, indeed. The entire performance ran smoothly, the play creating impression as a good dramatic work, but by no means as a convincing argument of the theories brought forward.

ALBERT VOGEL, the reader and elocutionist, has returned after a tip-top successful tour in the Dutch East Indies. He has added several new numbers to his répertoire, and will commence his series of entertainments ere long.

A NEW Dutch opera and comic opera company has also entered the field of competition, and bids fair to capture public approbation. The managers are Messrs. Pamvels and Kreeft, the first being a popular tenor, and the second, the comedian *par excellence* for comic opera. This new company will be giving a series of performances in this city at the end of the month.

PERFORMANCES are also announced by the French Opera Company from the Hague, special engagements having been made for extra evenings with Mesdames Sigrid Arnoldson and Gemma Bellincioni.

LOUIS BOUWMEESTER has decided not to return to the Dutch East Indies as yet, and meanwhile will be seen as "star" throughout the country, playing a round of his famed impersonations, supported by Messrs. Van Lier's dramatic company.

"WHIZZING THE WHIRL," which caused such a sensation at the Middlesex recently, is now in the sole hands of Fred J. Little, who is booking it in conjunction with Dana Royal, the world's champion, who has secured the patent rights for Great Britain.

NUMEROUS requests from influential quarters, emphasising the success of the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, have decided the directorate of the London Exhibitions, Ltd., to postpone the closing date until Saturday, Oct. 3. Important scientific, educational, and business institutions all over the kingdom have combined to induce the management to comply with the demand.

MR. HARRY LAUDER, during his forthcoming tour in America, will be advertised in a novel and distinctly attractive manner. The advertisements, which consist of life-size figures of Mr. Lauder in most of his popular characters, are the invention and have been made by Mr. J. W. Askew, stage manager of the Palace Theatre, Carlisle. They are fine pieces of workmanship, and beautifully coloured. A large consignment has been dispatched this week in advance of Mr. Lauder, and there is no doubt they will prove a very effective boom.

THE other evening Mme. Gense, a music hall singer engaged at the Paris Olympia, behaved in so extraordinary a way on the stage that she was asked to leave the theatre. Without changing her stage dress, and without putting a hat on, she jumped into a motor-car, and drove to the Châtelet Theatre, where she sought out the manager, and cried to him, "You must lend me fifty francs. As you see, I have not even clothes to my back." Then, before he even had time to answer, she was off again in her motor to another theatre, the Nouveautés. Not being received there, she went home, refused all food, and wrote strange letters by the dozen to everyone she knew. She has now been placed in a private asylum. It is believed that her dementia is due to heavy financial losses.

THE Clydebank New Gaiety Theatre has during the vacation been endowed with all the most up-to-date methods, and was opened on Monday as a music-hall by that enterprising manager Mr. A. E. Pickard, of the Glasgow Panopticon, on the two-houses-a-night system. Both houses on Monday night were packed. The top-liner, Mr. Barney Vox, ventriloquist, kept the audience in good fettle while he occupied the stage; Miss Lillie Hayles excels as a dancer; the Three Neros in a speciality act caused much laughter; Mr. Arthur Bentley's whistling was especially good; and Mr. Pickard's celebrated American Bioscope was much appreciated. Mr. A. E. Pickard at each house came before the footlights, and in a brief speech thanked the audience for their support.

ON THE ROAD, SEPT. 21.

AMASIS.—T. R., Bolton.
AN ABANDONED WOMAN.—Grand T., Chorley.
AN UNWEDDED WIFE.—King's T., Manchester.
ASCHE, OSCAR.—King's T. Glasgow.
ASHWELL'S, MISS LENA.—T. R., Dublin.
AT CRIPPLE CREEK.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
AT THE WORLD'S MERCY.—Empire T., Cradley Heath.
BANDMANN-PALMER, MRS.—Carlton T., Birmingham.
BEAU BROCADE.—Opera House, Cork.
BEAUTIFUL FIEND.—Tyldesley.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR (BODE).—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
BELLE OF MAYFAIR (HOWARD).—Southend.
BELLE OF NEW YORK (HOWARD).—K. T., Sunderland.
BENEATH THE STARS.—O. H., Dunfermline.
BENSON, THE F. R. (N.).—Ilfracombe & Barnstaple.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—T. R., Hanley.
BENSON, THE F. R. (S.).—Teignmouth and Paignton.
BEST OF HER SEX.—T. R., Croydon.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—O. H., Cheltenham.
BOYNE, LEONARD, MR.—O. H., Leicester.
BREED OF THE TRESHAMS.—T. R., South Shields.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE.—O. H., Buxton.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—Grand T., Croydon.
CHARLEY'S AUNT.—Grand T., Swansea.
CHARLEY'S AUNT (No. 2).—Camborne & Weston-s.-M.
CHINESE HONEYMOON (BODE).—T. R., Huddersfield.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, N.).—W. G., Blackpool.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, S.).—Kennington Theatre.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, No. 3).—Weston-s.-M. and Newtown.
CLAUDIAN.—Theatre Royal, Sheffield.
COAL KING.—Opera House, Wakefield.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
CONVICT'S DAUGHTER.—Queen's T., Longton.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—Crown T., Eccles.
CURATE, THE.—Castle T., Richmond.
DAIRYMAIDS (COURTNEIDGE) (N.).—T. R., Bradford.
DAIRYMAIDS (COURTNEIDGE) (S.).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
DAIRYMAIDS (MACDONALD'S).—Kiddermister and Swindon.
DANDY FIFTH.—Hebburn.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—T. R., Rochdale.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (N.).—T. R., Margate, and Tunbridge Wells.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (M.).—Bridport and Bideford.
DIANA OF DOBSON'S (S.).—New T., Cardiff.
DIVER'S LUCK.—Grand T., Southampton.
DONOVAN, LYDIA.—Aberystwyth.
DRAYCOTT REPT.—T. R., Leigh.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—Grand T., Mansfield.
EAST LYNNE (KELLY).—T. R., Glasgow.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—T. R., Colne.
FATAL WEDDING.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
FIGHT FOR LIFE.—Standard T., Hetton.
FIGHT FOR A THRONE.—T. R., Castleford.
FOR HER HUSBAND'S SAKE.—T. R., South Shields.
FLORODORA (HOWARD).—T. R., Belfast.
FLOWER GIRL.—T. R., Dewsbury.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—T. R., West Bromwich.
FROM CONVENT TO THRONE.—T. R., Grantham.
GAY DECEIVERS, THE.—Victoria T., Ramsgate.
GAY GORDONS (MISS ASH).—Londesboro' T., Scarborough.
GAY GORDONS (MISS DARE).—O. H., Harrogate.
GAY GORDONS (TERRISS AND HICKS).—Prince's T., Manchester.
GIRL BEHIND THE COUNTER.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
GIRL REDEEMED FROM SIN.—T. R., Ilkeston.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG.—T. R., Newcastle.
GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE.—Palace T., Newcastle.
GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY.—O. H., Treherbert.
GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME.—Lyceum T., Govan.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS, MISS F.—T. R., Canterbury.
GREED OF GOLD.—Llandudno and Maesteg.
HANDS ACROSS THE SEA.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
HER LUCK IN LONDON.—Victoria T., Broughton.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—T. R., Woolwich.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—Miners' T., Ashington.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—T. R., Aston.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER (RALLAND).—P. T., Manchester.
HIS HOUSE IN ORDER.—Southend and Eastbourne.
HIS DISHONOURED WIFE.—Middleton.
HIS WIFE NO LONGER.—T. R. Preston.
HONEYMOON, THE.—Falkirk and Coatbridge.
HORNIMAN'S, MISS.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
HUGHES, ANNIE.—Grand T., Hull.
HYPOCRITES, THE (N.).—Grand T., Derby.
IDOL OF PARIS.—T. R., Darlington.
IRENE WYCHERLEY.—T. R., Colchester.
JACK STRAW.—Grand T., Douglas.
KENDAL, MR. AND MRS.—Marlborough Theatre, N.
LADY FREDERICK.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
LADY FREDERICK (POTTER).—G. T., Middlesbrough.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Kilsyth and Renton.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—T. R., Cardiff.
LITTLE BREADWINNER.—Star T., Swansea.
LONDON WITH THE LID OFF.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
LOVE'S GOLDEN DREAM.—Palace T., Ramsgate.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—Lyric T., Hammersmith, W.
LOVE RULES THE WORLD.—Coatbridge and Falkirk.
LOVE THAT WOMEN DESIRE.—T. R., Blyth.
LUCKY 'LIZA.—Goole and Yeadon.
MANXMAN, THE (CLYDE).—Cartnie and Kelty.
MANMAN, THE.—T. R., Stratford.
MAN TO MAN.—Paisley T., Paisley.
MAN AND WIFE.—Metropole T., Devonport.
MASTER CRIMINAL.—Royalty, Llanelly.
MERELY MARY ANN.—O. H., Perth.
MERRY WIDOW (S.).—Theatre Royal, York.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—T. R., Glossop.
MIDNIGHT WEDDING.—Grand T., Brighton.
MOTHER'S SALVATION, A.—New T., Aberdare.
MOODY-MANNERS OPERA (A).—Vic. Hall, Halifax.
MOODY-MANNERS OPERA (B.).—T. R., Norwich.
MOORE, MISS DECIMA.—Folkestone and Hastings.
MONARCH OF THE WORLD (CROSS).—T. R., Stratford.
MRS. PONDERBURY'S PAST.—H. M. T., Barrow.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Grand T., Leeds.
MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
NEW GIRL, THE.—Royalty T., Morecambe.
NIHILIST, THE.—Elephant and Castle Theatre
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Alexandra T., Hull.
OLD HOME, THE.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
PETER'S MOTHER.—O. H., Ayr.
POWER OF THE CROSS.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
POWER OF THE KING.—T. R., Darlington.
PRINCE OF PILSEN.—T. R., Lincoln.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—O. H., Buxton.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—T. R., Pontypool.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE).—T. R., Brighton.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—Queen's T., Keighley.
ROLLICKING RORY.—Century T., Motherwell.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Borough Theatre, Stratford, E.
SAILOR'S WEDDING.—T. R., Chatham.
SECOND TO NONE.—Prince's T., Bradford.
SEXTON BLAKE.—Grand T., Lancaster.
SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Court T., Wigan.
SIGN OF THE CROSS.—Princess's T., Glasgow.
SILVER KING.—T. R., Halifax.
SILVER KING (HOWARD).—Tenby and Neath.
SOLDIER OF FRANCE.—Junction T., Manchester.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—T. R., Tony-y-pandy.
STILL ALARM.—T. R., Chesterfield.
STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER.—Grand T., Newcastle.
SUNDAY.—Broadway Theatre, New Cross, S.E.
SUNSHINE AND SHADOW.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
TERRY, EDWARD.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
THIEF, THE.—Court T., Liverpool.
THIEF, THE (N.).—Spa T., Scarborough.
THIEF, THE (S.).—T. R., Torquay.
TOM JONES.—Stockport.
TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON.—Pavilion T.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS (N.).—O. H., Southport.
TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS (S.).—T. R., Bilston.
TYRANT, THE.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—T. R., Plymouth.
VEDRENNE-BARKER.—T. R., Manchester.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—T. R., West Stanley.
WARNER, GRACE.—East Oxford T., Oxford.
WHAT THE BUTLER SAW.—T. R., Birkenhead.
WHEN IT WAS DARK.—T. R., Macclesfield.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD (HOWARD).—Guilford.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—D. P. T., Eastbourne, and Worthing.
WHEN LONDON SLEEPS.—T. R., Ashton.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—T. R., Smethwick.
WHITE MAN, A (N.).—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
WHITE MAN, A (S.).—T. R., Aldershot.
WHO IS SHE?—Castle T., Stockton.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN.—T. R., Bristol.
WILKIE, ALLAN, AND CO.—T. R., Jarrow.
WITH EDGED TOOLS.—Queen's T., Manchester.
WOMAN FROM RUSSIA.—Sheffield.
WOMAN AND WINE.—O. H., Coventry.
WOMAN PAYS, THE.—T. R., Leicester.
WOMAN WORTH WINNING.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—T. R., Leeds.
WRECKER OF MEN.—Gainsboro' and Loughboro'.
YOU NEVER CAN TELL.—T. R., Bath.
£1,000 REWARD.—T. R., Wednesbury.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"KETTENGLIEDER,"

Play, in Four Acts, by Hermann Heijermans, Produced at the Deutsches, Sept. 9.

Pancras Duif .....HERR SCHILDKRAUT
Jan .....HERR VON WINTERSTEIN
Henk .....HERR DUMONT
Toon .....HERR BIENSFELDT
Coba .....FRAULEIN KONSTANTIN
Dirk .....HERR HARTAU
Margriet .....FRAULEIN KUPFER
Elsje .....FRAULEIN ROTH
Hein .....HERR TIEDTKE
Gerrietje .....FRAULEIN KURZ
Marianne .....FRAULEIN RABITOW
Dr. van Ryn .....HERR VON JACOBI
Duik .....HERR GOTTOWT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Sept. 17.—This remarkable work of the famous Dutch dramatist was produced some four years ago at the same theatre, under Dr. Lindau's management, but disappeared from the bill after only a few performances. It is remarkable for two reasons—the caustic dialogue and the brutal depravity of nearly all the characters. Again and again one is tempted to ask the object of the production of such plays, in which there is scarcely one redeeming point. Pancras Duif, an old smith, who has saved a considerable fortune by hard work, has been a widower for twenty years, during which time he had no opportunity to consider the practicability of a second marriage. Now, however, he is resting on his well-earned laurels, and feels the need of a partner for the remainder of his days. His choice falls upon his housekeeper, Marianne, a worthy soul who would make him happy if Fate permitted. Duif's family, nevertheless—his children and their husbands and wives; in short, all the relatives he is blessed with—range themselves against poor Marianne with all the brutality they are capable of. It transpires she is not a widow, as she said, and her child was not born in wedlock, which knowledge the family make use of to hound her from the house. Poor Duif is even more to be pitied than she, for to secure themselves his fortune his thankless kindred endeavour to prove him insane. The gloomy piece was well acted, but a long run will certainly not be accorded to it.

THE New Schauspielhaus is giving its usual good and varied programme—something for all tastes. A revival of Goethe's *Faust* was attended with excellent results, the Gretchen of Fräulein Maren, one of the most sympathetic young actresses we have, being quite above the average impersonation of this grateful rôle. The scenery, too, was highly commendable, the roomy stage with its modern improvements lending itself to plays of this description better than the older theatres.

AT popular prices, this theatre gave last week two very entertaining little comedies—Wilhelm Jordan's *Durch's Ohr* and the one-act piece, *Blau*, by Herr Max Bernstein, the clever Munich barter who defended Maximilian Harden in the recent famous trial, and whose pen is as facile as his tongue. *Blau* is not new, nor can it be ranked among the author's best works, but it serves to pass an hour very pleasantly. A young painter, light of heart and with a pretty wit, who has just returned from Italy, pays a visit to a lawyer friend. The latter is not at home. The merry man of the brush is taken for the lawyer by a new client, and plays the rôle to such advantage that he ultimately wins for himself a charming bride and a wealthy father-in-law. The acting was bright, and the audience applauded warmly.

ERICH SCHLAIKJER'S new three-act play *Ausserhalb der Gesellschaft* (outside society) was produced on Tuesday at the Neues with a strong cast. It is the story of Harald, a struggling young actor, who falls in love with Jadwiga, a Russian queen of the half-world, whose toy he becomes for a spell. She pours out her ill-gotten wealth upon him until he learns her utter baseness, when he leaves her to begin his struggles again, a sadder and a wiser man. The play met with a cordial reception, the manager returning thanks on behalf of the absent author.

GUSTAV WIED'S amusing farce *Zweimal Zwei ist Fünf* has passed its 200th performance at the Kleines.

IN the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday the case of Norman J. Norman, theatrical manager, came before the Court at a sitting for public examination. The accounts showed liabilities £5,487, of which £4,162 was expected to rank, and assets £3,602. The debtor said that he was an American, and came to England in 1898. In 1901 he commenced business as a tourist agent and theatrical manager at 33, Haymarket, S.W., but later discontinued the theatrical business owing to the growth of the tourist agency. In January, 1906, he removed to 23, Haymarket, and continued business as "Normans" down to December, 1907. He then sold his connection to a company in consideration of £250 in cash and a commission on all business derived from his customers.

EARLY in 1907 he joined another person, who had taken a lease of the Shaftesbury Theatre, and agreed to work with him and share the profits equally. In April, 1907, the "New Shaftesbury Ltd.," was registered, with a nominal capital of £14,000, to take over the lease, &c., he (debtor) being appointed business manager at a salary of £10 a week, but the company only ran for a short period. From December, 1907, to July, 1908, he acted as manager of the theatre, and was to receive a half-share of the profits and £5 per week for expenses, but the business was not a success. He attributed his failure to want of capital, heavy expenses of the premises, 23, Haymarket, and slackness of trade. The examination was closed.

THE meeting of shareholders of the Ayr New Gaiety Theatre was held on the 11th inst., and after considerable discussion the motion was carried "that the business and property of the company shall be sold, and that the directors be empowered to expose the said business and property for sale by public roup at a price of not less than £5,000." It was pointed out that, as the theatre was paying well, and the prospects for the future were bright, it would be a pity to sell immediately, as there would be nothing left for the shareholders after the guarantors had been paid. It was accordingly resolved that in the meantime £5 debentures be issued bearing interest at 5 per cent., and that also an effort be made to raise a bond on the property of £4,000 or so. Before the meeting broke up some £1,600 was intimated as against debentures.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Six Months	0 13 0	Six Months	0 16 0
Three Months	0 6 6	Three Months	0 8 0

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Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We do not answer inquiries by post. In all letters the names and addresses of inquirers must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the answers if so desired.]

HARRY STEYNE.—My Sweetheart *has never been played at the theatre named.*

THOMAS ASKHAM.—*The point is discussed on page 57 of Mr. Strong's book. Without a stage-play licence you could not legally give sketches. There has been arrived at, we believe, an understanding that sketches not exceeding thirty minutes can be given. But while the law remains as it is they are still clearly illegal, though it must be admitted that the law is often contravened on this question.*

W. T. (Brighton).—*The name of the lady who played the part of Leah in* Leah the Forsaken *(produced on Oct. 1, 1863, at the Adelphi) was Miss Kate Bateman, who afterwards became Mrs. Crowe. You will find that her name is placed first on the front page of "The Era."*

J. C. G.—Peep o' Day *was first acted at Drury Lane Theatre on Easter Monday, 1863, after having been represented for 346 nights previously at the Lyceum. Mr. Hermann Vezin played Harry Kavanagh at the Lyceum, and the late Henry Loraine was the representative of the part when the piece was transferred to Old Drury.*

PETER HIGGINS (Portobello).—Arrah-na-Pogue *was produced in 1864, and therefore is presumably free. Consult Strong's book on copyright published at this office, price 3s. 6d.*

J. B. TEMPLETON.—*We have already answered your query in our issue of Sept. 5, when we expressed our regret that we were unable to give you the information you desired.*

R. TAIT.—A Greek Slave *was produced at Daly's on June 8, 1898;* The Geisha *at the same house on April 25, 1896. See notice above.*

MISS LORD LUMLEY.—*You may get all necessary particulars by writing to Mr. Douglas Stuart, secretary to the M.H.A.R.A., and enclosing addressed envelope for reply.*

E. DENNETT.—*Tom Ward, the clog-dancer, won the champion belt on June 11, 1881. He came out at the old Oxford Music Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne, as a pupil of Tony Handford. He commenced his professional career at the age of fourteen, and appeared later at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, in* The Yellow Dwarf *pantomime, and at Birmingham in* The Ice Witch. *His last appearance was on the stage of the Newcastle Gaiety Theatre. He was at one time a member of the Moore and Burgess Minstrels.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

George Robey—Saturday, Sept. 19.
Mary Dalby—Saturday, Sept. 19.
Dorrie Hercat—Saturday, Sept. 19.
Will Sergeant—Saturday, Sept. 19.
Mrs. Fred Bulmer—Saturday, Sept. 19.
Hettie Chattell—Sunday, Sept. 20.
Mme. Constance Bellamy—Sunday, Sept. 20.
Maggie Duggan—Sunday, Sept. 20.
Frank Seeley—Sunday, Sept. 20.
Charles Hawtrey—Monday, Sept. 21.
Arthur Roberts—Monday, Sept. 21.
Val Gully—Monday, Sept. 21.
Clara Jecks—Tuesday, Sept. 22.
Lillah McCarthy—Tuesday, Sept. 22.
Dickie Clare—Tuesday, Sept. 22.
William Archer—Wednesday, Sept. 23.
Sylvia Morris—Wednesday, Sept. 23.
Adria Hill—Thursday, Sept. 24.
Gertrude Kingston—Thursday, Sept. 24.
(Miss) Leslie Warner—Thursday, Sept. 24.
G. M. Montanini—Thursday, Sept. 24.

THE "skating" season opened at the Roller Skating Rink, Exhibition Buildings, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Saturday last, and there seems every prospect of the "rink" becoming more popular than ever. Mr. C. P. Crawford is doing all possible to ensure the comfort and pleasure of the patrons of this most pleasurable form of amusement, and everything points to a successful season.

At the King's Theatre, Gateshead, Bob Hutt and company (who "top" here this week with *The Captain of the Boys*), are great mirth-provokers; Marguerite Ismay and her troupe of white coons present a dainty vocal and dancing scena; the Moncktons score once more in *Two in a Flat*; Arthur Boyne is a genuinely funny comedian; an entertaining comedienne is Yvonne Lamor; Baines and Reed present a comedy acrobatic act; Little Vi Adele, comedienne and dancer, and pictures by Vernon's Bioscope are also on the list.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Achurch, Miss J.
Anthony, Mr. Harry
Ardell, Mr. Tom
Armstrong, Mr. Barney
Artois, Mr. John
Augustin, Mr. Jas.
Bacchul, Mr. R.
Baker, Mr. Chris
Barker, Mr. J.
Barnes, Mr. J. H.
Barrett, Mr. Medley
Barry, Miss Elaine
Barry, Mr. Leonard
Barton, Mr. Tom
Beaufort, Mr. Louis
Beltram, Miss
Biddall, Bros.
Boston Twins
Bowman, Miss Isa
Boyce, Mr. Frank
Brammall, Mr. Ellis
Branscombe, Mr. Arthur
Bristow, Mr. H.
Brockbank, Mr. Harrison
Bull, Mr. A. W.
Burnetti
Burns, Messrs. D.
Burns and Danvers
Caddick, Mr. B.
Caine, Miss L. Hall
Callan, Mr. John
Capper, Mr. Alfred
Carew, Mr. Guy
Carse, Mr. W. R.
Cartwright, Mr. Chas.
Caselle, Mr. Edmund
Chaplin, Mr. Sydney
Chapter, Mr. Hal
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Clare, Mr. Leslie
Clark, Col. W.
Cliffe, Mr. H. C.
Clinton, Mr. Byron
Coleman, Miss Fanny
Comber, Mr. R. S.
Conover, Mr. T. E.
Conway, Miss Alma
Coram,
Costello, Mr. Tom
Cottesmore, Mr. E.
Courtley, Mr. Thos. T.
Cranford, Mr. J. F.
Crompton, Mr. R.
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Cunliffe, Mr. Whit
Darrell, Mr. Chas.
Davis, Mr. Tom
Davis, Mr. R. Wade
Dawson, Mr. Forbes
Dean, Mr. Harry
De Banzie, Mr. E. T.
Desmond, Miss Maud
De Vere, Mr. Walter
Dodd, Mons. Harry
Dudges, Miss
Eager, Mr. Edward
Eckert, Miss K.
Edouin, Miss Rose
Edson, Mr. Harry
Elliott, Miss Beth
Elliott, Miss Violet
Ellis, Mr. J. H.
Elton, Mr. Stansfield
Emerson, Mr. Eddie
Erskine, Miss Ella
Evans, Mr. Wash
Fellows-Bassett, Mr. A.
Ferris, Mr. E.
Ferris, Mr. Edward
Fisher, Mr. Harry
Forsey, Mr. A.
Forsitt, Mr. H.
Foulis, Mr. W. Robertson
Fox, Mr. George
Fox, Mr. W. H.
Francis, Mr. C.
Friedman, Mr. Jake
Fyne, Mr. Fred
Girard, Mr. Gilbert
Glenny, Mr. Chas. H.
Godwin, Mr. Will
Graham, Mrs. N. D.
Greville, Mrs. Herbert
Grey, Miss Mona
Hales, Mrs. Frank
Hall, Mr. G. E.
Halna, Mrs.
Hamiltons, Messrs. W.
Hardy, Mr. J.
Hare, Miss Winifred
Harris, Mr. Gus
Hartley, Mr. Chas.
Harris, Mr. W. T.
Haviland, Mr. Claude
Hazel, Mr. W. Ernest
Henderson, Miss May
Henson, Mr. J. W.
Honeybone, Miss Lily
Howard, Mr. Walter
Imray, Mr. Chas.
Ireland, Mr. Ian
Jensen, Mme.
Kay, Miss Elsie
King, Mr. H.
Knight, Mr. A.
Kyasyas, Les
Lake-Grange, Miss Vera
Lamb, Mr. J. F.
Land, Mr. Fred
Latona, Mr. Frank
Leslie, Mr. Alfred
Lessing, Miss Madge
Lindo, Mr. Frank
Linsay, Mr. M.
Linwood, Mr. Lance
Lowell, Miss M.
MacIntosh, Mr. J. G.
Mackie, Miss Julie
March, Miss T.
Maree, Mr. S.
Marx, Mr. John
Martyn, Mr. M.
Mascard, Mr. A.
Melrose, Miss
Melrose, Mr. James
Michal, Brothers
Mick, Little
Miller, Mr. Wm. J.
Montefiore, Mr. Edie
Moore, Mr. Marshall
Movatts, The Five
Murray, Mr. Thomas E
Murray, Mr. Will
Natalia, Madame
Nation, Mr. J.
Naveed, Mlle.
Neill, Mr. Sinclair
Neville, Mr. Y.
New York Comedy Four
Obo Brothers
Odell, Miss Maude
Oliver, Mr. J. C.
Pakay, Mr. Jean
Parker, Mr. A. H.
Patty, Miss Lola
Petersen, Mr. Edmund
Pink, Mr. Wal
Pitt, Mr. Felix W.
Pitt, Mr. C. H.
Powell, Duchess
Preston, Miss Jessy
Rayleigh, Mrs. Cecil
Reeves, Mr. George
Revy, Mme. A.
Ricardo, Mr. Dan
Rich and Rare
Richards, Mrs. F.
Rivers, Miss Kate
Roadnight, Mr. Chas.
Romaine, Mr. Edgar
Ross, Mr. Wilton
Rousby and Rene
Samuelson, Mr. L. M.
Saxon, Mr. Arthur
Shields, Miss Ella
Shine, Mr. John L.
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Slater, Mr. H. R.
Spencer, Mr. Austin
Stewart, Mr. Harry
Stoker, Mr. Bram
Storey, Mr. Fred
Terry, Mr. Herbert
Thomas, Mr. A. D.
Thorne, Miss Kitty
Transfield, Mr. Tom
Trillo, Mr. A.
Twigdon, Mrs. A.
Valentine, Mr. H. E.
Volta, Mr. R.
Wallace, Miss N.
Walmer, Miss Cassie
Watts-Phillips, Mr. N.
Welch, Mr. C. J.
Whallen, Mr. Mike S.
Willard, Mr. James
Wyville, Miss Amber

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

WARREN.—Sept 12, the wife of Charles Warren (Rachel Lowe) of a son. Mother and son doing well.

MARRIAGES.

CAMMAERTS—BRAND—On Sept. 16, at Christ Church, Brussels, Emile Cammaerts to Tita Brand, daughter of Marie Brema, of 17, Launceston-place, Kensington, W.

OLIVER—THEURER.—Sept. 19, 1908, by special licence, Will Oliver (Spot) to Katie Theurer (widow).

WATSON—PEARL.—On Sept. 14, at St. Barnabas, Homerton, by the Rev. A. C. Ross, Harry Watson and Katie Pearl, of "H.M.S. Victory" Co.

WOOD—ELPHINSTONE.—Sept. 2, at Trent Vale Church, Stoke-on-Trent, by the Rev. E. H Rogers, M.A., William Harold, son of Mr. A. R. Wood, of Porthill, to Ellen May, only daughter of Mr. Charles G. Elphinstone, managing-director of the Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.

DEATHS.

BALLARD.—Sept. 13, Thomas Ballard, scenic artist.

CUTHBERT.—Sept. 13, at Sunderland, after a short illness, Edmund Cuthbert, late of the Hardie and Von Leer company.

WARE.—Sept. 14, as the result of an accident at Richmond, William Hibbert Ware, husband of Miss Nettie Ware, aged 36.

IN MEMORIAM.

LAKE.—In loving memory of Charles Lake, who passed away Sept. 18, 1905. From his sister, LIL.
So He giveth His beloved sleep.

LEYBOURNE. — In loving memory of my dearly-loved husband, George Leybourne, who died Sept. 15, 1884. Never forgotten by his loving wife, Annie Leybourne.

LEYBOURNE.—In loving memory of George Leybourne, who died Sept. 15, 1884. Never forgotten by his devoted daughter, Florrie (Mrs. Albert Chevalier). R.I.P.

TRAVIS.—In loving memory of my dear mother, Madeline Rosa, who died Sept. 19, 1907. Never forgotten by her loving daughter, Bessie Travis.

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Bill matter must be sent in fourteen days before opening, in accordance with Clause 18, same to be sent to Manager, Queen's. Artists please note rehearsal must be attended Mondays, 1.0 o'clock, according to contract.

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Harry Lauder, the famous Scotch Comedian, Hinton and Wooton, the Five Lentons, Dorothy Gould, The Brothers Poluski, in "Haven't We?" Cromo and Hamilton, in "Artful Aladdin," Edw. Frisby, Daisy Hurdle, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, and King and Benson, "The Lady and the Messenger."

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Harry Lauder, Little Tich, Wilkie Bard, Geo. Robey, William Dillon, Daisy Dormer, The Two Anartos, Ernest Shand, Sam Mayo, Maidie Scott, John Le Hay and Co., Cressie Leonard, Roma and Romani, Will Evans, Bioscope, &c.
Open 7.30; Saturday Matinées, 2.15.

MIDDLESEX.
Sept. 21, Henry Irslinger (the Middleweight Champion Wrestler of Austria), Gracie Grahame, Barrett and Knowles, Lyons Trio, Dorothy Gould, Sid Bandon, Blake and Granby, Minnie Kirby, Mostol, Ethel Cox, Ellis and Watts, Terry and Tate, Corona and Cromer, Deans and Clarke, and Graydon's Lightning Picture Programme. Rehearsal 2 o'clock. Doors Open at 6.45; Saturday and Bank Holiday One Hour Earlier. A Change Every Week.

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Artists are notified that they must send their full Bill Matter in two clear weeks before opening. Rehearsal, 1 o'clock Mondays. All must attend. Artists not complying with the above rules are subject to having their contracts cancelled at option of Management.

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Managing-Director, JESSE SPARROW.
Manager, PERCY FORD.
Acting-Manager, GUS. DANTER.
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R. Cameron Matthews, and Co., in New Production, "Coward or Hero?" Evelyn Taylor, The Two Signals, Kitty Alma, Ellis and Watts, Madge Daly, Henny and Blanche, Ernest Ball, Jeapes' Animated Graphic, Claude Gardener, Sydney Lee and Edward Crosslands, "Melody Makers," in "The Burglar's Dream."

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT
FOR
ACTOR AND COMPOSER.
BY ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B.

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his textbook on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1908.

SHAW AND IRVING.

It will be remembered that, soon after the death of Sir HENRY IRVING, Mr. BERNARD SHAW published in the *Neue Freie Presse* an article on the deceased actor which contained several serious errors, created a great deal of indignation, and gave Mr. SHAW excellent advertisement. In this article the writer stated that IRVING "compelled the Court to knight him by publicly and explicitly demanding that he, as the head of the London stage, should be treated as the peer of the President of the Royal Academy of Arts, who is always knighted in London as a matter of course." These statements were a most unfair and ungenerous perversion of ten lines in a speech made by the late Sir HENRY IRVING at the Royal Institution. Mr. SHAW, in depreciating the dead actor, described him as a lad with his head full of nothing but romances, pitchforked into a City office, and leaving it to go on the stage as a member of the stock company in a provincial town where the theatre was abhorred as the gate of hell, and playing the piano on Sunday considered an unpardonable crime by most of the respectable citizens. "Imagine him"—went on Mr. SHAW—"after picking up his profession technically in this way, wandering about for a few years, buying the Burgtheater"—this of course, was an imaginary parallel to IRVING'S taking the Lyceum—"and becoming its absolute and sole director and proprietor, with romantic millionairesses placing large sums at his disposal for costly productions, and you will get some idea of IRVING'S position in London."

As we remarked at the time, Mr. SHAW appeared to be absolutely careless and indifferent as to the accuracy of any statement that he makes in print, so long as the person about whom it is made was dead and could neither contradict him nor resent his attack. We were unable to believe that a love of truth was the only influence which dictated this attack; and we remarked in a leading article: "We should like to know if Mr. SHAW ever gave Sir HENRY the offer of any of his—Mr. SHAW'S—plays. If he did so offer them, and they were refused, the fact may account for the animus of the article, though it cannot excuse its inaccuracies."

In the following week, Mr. SHAW wrote to us a letter in which, gratifying our desire for information whether he had ever offered one of his plays to Sir HENRY, he said: "I did not. Far from refusing any play of mine, Sir HENRY IRVING embarrassed me very considerably by spontaneously proposing to produce *The Man of Destiny* at the Lyceum Theatre. I, of course, showed my sense of the compliment, and of what was due to Sir HENRY'S position, by placing the piece at his disposal; but the project was never carried out."

We accepted Mr. SHAW'S statement at the time in good faith; but a new light has been cast on the question by the publication by Messrs. HUTCHINSON and Co. of the admirable autobiography of Miss ELLEN TERRY, entitled "The Story of My Life." In Chapter XIV., which is headed "Last Days at the Lyceum," Miss TERRY writes as follows:

In Mr. Shaw's *A Man of Destiny* there were two good parts, and Henry, at my request, considered it, although it was always difficult to fit a one-act play into the Lyceum bill. For reasons of his own Henry never produced Mr. Shaw's play, and there was a good deal of fuss made about it at the time (1897). But ten years ago Mr. Shaw was not so well known as he is now, and the so-called "rejection" was probably of use to him as an advertisement!

A Man of Destiny has been produced since, but without any great success. I wonder if Henry and I could have done more with it!

At this time Mr. Shaw and I frequently corresponded. It began by my writing to ask him, as musical critic of the *Saturday Review*, to tell me frankly what he thought of the chances of a composer-singer friend of mine. He answered "characteristically," and we developed a perfect fury for writing to each other! Sometimes the letters were on business, sometimes they were not, but always his were entertaining, and mine were, I suppose, "good copy," as he drew the character of Lady Cecily Waynflete in *Brassbound* entirely from my letters. He never met me until after the play was written. In 1902 he sent me this ultimatum:—

"April 3, 1902.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw's compliments to Miss Ellen Terry.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw has been approached by Mrs. Langtry with a view to the immediate and splendid production of *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw, with the last flash of a trampled-out love, has repulsed Mrs. Langtry with a petulance bordering on brutality.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw has been actuated in this ungentlemanly and unbusinesslike course by an angry desire to seize Miss Ellen Terry by the hair and make her play Lady Cecily.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw would be glad to know whether Miss Ellen Terry wishes to play Martha at the Lyceum instead.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw will go to the length of keeping a minor part open for Sir Henry Irving when *Faust* fails, if Miss Ellen Terry desires it.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw lives in daily fear of Mrs. Langtry's recovering sufficiently from her natural resentment of his ill-manners to reopen the subject.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw begs Miss Ellen Terry to answer this letter.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw is looking for a new cottage or house in the country, and wants advice on the subject.

"Mr. Bernard Shaw craves for the sight of Miss Ellen Terry's once familiar handwriting."

The first time he came to my house I was not present, but a young American lady who had long adored him from the other side of the Atlantic took my place as hostess (I was at the theatre, as usual); and I took great pains to have everything looking nice! I spent a long time putting out my best blue china, and ordered a splendid dinner, quite forgetting the honoured guest generally dined off a Plasmon biscuit and a bean!

Mr. Shaw read *Arms and the Man* to my young American friend (Miss Satty Fairchild) without even going into the dining-room where the blue china was spread out to delight his eye. My daughter Edy was present at the reading, and appeared so much absorbed in some embroidery, and paid the reader so few compliments about his play, that he expressed the opinion that she behaved as if she had been married to him for twenty years!

The first time I ever saw Mr. Shaw in the flesh—I hope he will pardon me such an anti-vegetarian expression—was when he took his call after the first production of *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* by the Stage Society. He was quite unlike what I had imagined from his letters.

When at last I was able to play in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, I found Bernard Shaw wonderfully patient at rehearsal. I look upon him as a good, kind, gentle creature whose "brainstorms" are just due to the Irishman's love of a fight; they never spring from malice or anger. It doesn't answer to take Bernard Shaw seriously. He is not a man of convictions.

It will be noticed that the two accounts of *The Man of Destiny* incident differ considerably. Mr. SHAW, on the one hand, represented himself as a much-sought-after author, "embarrassed" by the proposition spontaneously made by the leading actor of his day to produce one of Mr. SHAW'S plays at the Lyceum. Miss TERRY'S account of the matter is that Sir HENRY IRVING considered Mr. SHAW'S piece at her intercession, and found that for certain reasons it would not do. We leave to our readers to choose which account they will accept of an incident which would be absolutely unimportant except for its connection with HENRY IRVING'S career. From the passages which we have quoted it seems that, however greatly Mr. SHAW was "embarrassed" by a proposition to produce one of his plays in 1897, he was "pushing" them pretty spiritedly in 1902.

STAGE CHILDREN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Your correspondent "Curiosity" can easily be satisfied. No "relaxation of rule" has taken place as regards the Lyceum. The magistrates, if applied to, are not empowered to grant a licence to any child under six to perform upon the stage, either in London or the provinces. It would be useless to ask for a licence for Pete's baby. Of course, any management allowing an infant to appear is most properly liable to punishment under the ordinary law for cruelty (providing the cruelty is proved); but it is pretty certain that in this instance those in authority are well prepared to rebut such a charge, were it made, by the strongest medical evidence, that there was no cruelty.

It may be taken for granted that the police do not interfere when they know they have no real cause, as such a proceeding would be utterly unnecessary, and, moreover, doomed to failure beforehand.—Yours faithfully, SPECTATOR.

ELLEN TERRY AND THE KEANS.

"The Charles Keans, from whom I received my first engagement," says Miss Ellen Terry, in "The Story of My Life," now published in book form by Hutchinson and Co., "were both remarkable people, and at the Princess's Theatre were doing very remarkable work. Kean the younger had not the fire and genius of his wonderful father, Edmund, and but for the inherited splendour of his name it is not likely that he would ever have attained great eminence as an actor. His Wolsey and his Richard (the Second, not the Third) were his best parts, perhaps because in them his beautiful diction had full scope and his limitations were not noticeable. But it is more as a stage reformer than as an actor that he will be remembered. The old happy-go-lucky way of staging plays, with its sublime indifference to correctness of detail and its utter disregard of archæology, had received its first blow from Kemble and Macready, but Charles Kean gave it much harder knocks and went further than either of them in the good work.

"It is an old story and a true one that when Edmund Kean made his first great success as Shylock, after a long and miserable struggle as a strolling player, he came home to his wife and said: 'You shall ride in your carriage,' and then, catching up his little son, added, 'and Charley shall go to Eton!' Well, Charley did go to Eton, and if Eton did not make him a great actor, it opened his eyes to the absurd anachronisms in costumes and accessories which prevailed on the stage at that period, and when he undertook the management of the Princess's Theatre, he turned his classical education to account. In addition to scholarly knowledge, he had a naturally refined taste and the power of selecting the right men to help him. Planché, the great authority on historical costume, was one of his ablest coadjutors, and Mr. Bradshaw designed all the properties. It has been said lately that I began my career on an unfurnished stage, when the play was the thing, and spectacle was considered of small importance. I take this opportunity of contradicting that statement most emphatically. Neither when I began nor yet later in my career have I ever played under a management where infinite pains were not given to every detail. I think that far from hampering the acting, a beautiful and congruous background and harmonious costumes, representing accurately the spirit of the time in which the play is supposed to move, ought to help and inspire the actor.

"Such thoughts as these did not trouble my head when I acted with the Keans, but, child as I was, the beauty of the productions at the Princess's Theatre made a great impression on me, and my memory of them is quite clear enough, even if there were not plenty of other evidence, for me to assert that in some respects they were even more elaborate than those of the present day. I know that the bath-buns of one's childhood always seem in memory much bigger and better than the buns sold nowadays, but even allowing for the natural glamour which the years throw over buns and rooms, places and plays alike, I am quite certain that Charles Kean's productions of Shakespeare would astonish the modern critic who regards the period of my first appearance as a sort of dark-age in the scenic art of the theatre.

"I have alluded to the beauty of Charles Kean's diction. His voice was also of a wonderful quality—soft and low, yet distinct and clear as a bell. When he played Richard II. the magical charm of this organ was alone enough to keep the house spell-bound. His vivid personality made a strong impression on me. Yet others only remember that he called his wife 'Delly,' though she was Nelly, and always spoke as if he had a cold in his head. How strange! If I did not understand what suggested impressions so different from my own, they would make me more indignant.

"'Now who shall arbitrate?
Ten men love what I hate,
Shun what I follow, slight what I receive.
Ten who in ears and eyes
Match me; they all surmise,
They this thing, and I that;
Whom shall my soul believe?'

"What he owed to Mrs. Kean he would have been the first to confess. In many ways she was the leading spirit in the theatre; at the least, a joint ruler, not a queen-consort. During the rehearsals Mr. Kean used to sit in the stalls with a loud-voiced dinner-bell by his side, and when anything went wrong on the stage, he would ring it ferociously, and everything would come to a stop, until Mrs. Kean, who always sat on the stage, had set right what was wrong. She was more formidable than beautiful to look at, but her wonderful fire and genius were none the less impressive because she wore a white handkerchief round her head and had a very beaky nose! How I admired and loved and feared her! Later on the fear was replaced by gratitude, for no woman ever gave herself more trouble to train a young actress than did Mrs. Kean. The love and admiration, I am glad to say, remained and grew. It is rare that it falls to the lot of anyone to have such an accomplished teacher. Her patience and industry were splendid.

"It was Mrs. Kean who chose me out of five or six other children to play my first part. We were all tried in it, and when we had finished, she said the same thing to us all: 'That's very nice! Thank you, my dear. That will do.'

"We none of us knew at the time which of us had pleased her most.

"At this time we were living in the upper part of a house in the Gower-street region. That first home in London I remember chiefly by its fine brass knocker, which mother kept beautifully bright, and by its being the place to which was sent my first part! Bound in green American cloth, it looked to me more marvellous than the most priceless book has ever looked since! I was so proud and pleased and delighted that I danced a hornpipe for joy!

"Why was I chosen, and not one of the other children, for the part of Mamilius? some one may ask. It was not mere luck, I think. Perhaps I was a born actress, but that would have served me little if I had not been able to *speak!* It must be remembered that both my sister Kate and I had been trained almost from our birth for the stage, and particularly in the important branch of clear articulation. Father, as I have already said, was a very charming elocutionist, and my mother read Shakespeare beautifully. They were both very fond of us and saw our faults with the eyes of love, though they were unsparing in their corrections. In these early days they had need of all their patience, for I was a most troublesome, wayward pupil. However, 'the labour we delight in physics pain,' and I hope, too, that my more staid sister made it up to them!

"The rehearsals for *A Winter's Tale* were a lesson in fortitude. They taught me once and for all that an actress's life (even when the actress is only eight) is not all beer and skittles, or cakes and ale, or fame and glory. I was cast for the part of Mamilius in the way I have described, and my heart swelled with pride when I was told what I had to do, when I realised that I had a real Shakespeare part—a possession that father had taught me to consider the pride of life!"

MME. META ILLING has obtained the rights of *The Chinese Lantern*, by Laurence Housman, and of *Mr. Hopkinson*, by R. C. Carton, for the English Theatre in Berlin.

"LOVE WATCHES."

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

Love Watches, a comedy in four acts, by MM. R. de Flers and G. Caillavet, adapted by Miss Gladys Unger, made an instantaneous hit at the Lyceum Theatre, New York, on the 27th ult., and Miss Billie Burke scored a personal success of the first magnitude. The play derives its title from the remark that a woman can be safeguarded only by love, and that love watches over the heroine, Jacqueline, continually. M. Carteret and the Marquise de Juvigny have adjoining country houses at Dieppe. The former has a beautiful young daughter, Jacqueline, who is impulsive, spoiled, but altogether charming; while the latter has a nephew, Count André de Juvigny. Jacqueline is in love with André, who knows nothing, however, of her sentiments. This is the situation when the Marquise, after a consultation with M. Carteret, in whose daughter she has taken a motherly interest, declares that it is time for Jacqueline to marry, and announces that she has selected a husband for the girl. The man of her choice is Ernest Augarde, a scholarly and somewhat bashful young gentleman who appears to be better adapted for companionship with books than with the fair sex. The Marquise has arranged everything to her own satisfaction without consulting Jacqueline and Count André, but these two suddenly engage themselves to each other when Jacqueline, in her simple, frank, and impulsive way, tells André that she is in love with him. Knowledge of their engagement is extended to others when Ernest Augarde, who has nerved himself up to the point of proposing to Jacqueline, approaches her for that purpose, and learns that she has promised herself to André. The young people marry, and they are settled down very happily after their honeymoon in Paris when Jacqueline hears for the first time that her André has had a little affair with her cousin, Lucie de Morfontaine, a young widow, whose pet name for André was "Snoodles." When André returns after a brief absence, Jacqueline greets him hysterically by this same pet name, and makes him promise never to see Lucie again. He has hardly made the promise, however, when Lucie calls on him, faints in his arms, and compels him to see her home. The moment that Jacqueline hears of this from a servant, she proceeds to carry out the threat she has made that if she ever finds her husband disloyal to her she will get even with him within the hour by giving herself to another. So she writes notes to the several members of her family, advising them that she has left her husband and gone to find solace with another man. Jacqueline hastens to the humble flat of Ernest Augarde, where she surprises this timid and erudite gentleman and whither she is pursued by her father and others. Ernest is an old friend of the family, and is quite harmless, in spite of his secret love for Jacqueline. Her coming puts him in a flutter, and he is beginning to feel that at last he is engaged in a real love affair when the arrival of the various relatives sends her into hiding and upsets all his hopes. Augarde's condition of mind and his eccentricities are both humorous and pathetic, and Mr. Ernest Lawford's excellent portrayal of this character is an important factor in the success of the play. After the relatives have departed in ignorance of her whereabouts, Jacqueline decides that she is in love with her husband after all, and goes home. First, however, she promises Ernest that she will never mention having been at his house, and he promises to win back her husband for her. Upon reaching home, however, she blurts out where she has been and the name of the man with whom she has been experimenting in revenge. The family regard the whole thing as a joke. Ernest arrives to find that André is the only one who does not know. So when the husband returns, Ernest sets about making good his promise to Jacqueline. He tells André that his wife has found out about Lucie, and shows him one of the notes in which Jacqueline announced her intention of going away. Moreover, he declares, she has spent the entire afternoon with another man. André is heartbroken at the revelation, whereupon Jacqueline bursts into the room and denounces Ernest for his cruelty to her husband. Ignoring her promise, she informs André that the man she has visited stands before him. Whereupon it is the husband's turn to laugh, with Ernest standing disconsolately by. However, the latter presently consoles himself with a typist who has long been devoted to him, and whom he decides to marry.

In addition to Miss Burke and Mr. Lawford, who score heavily, the cast includes several other good players. Mr. Cyril Keightley, from London, appears as Count André de Juvigny, and his sincere and manly bearing makes a distinctly favourable impression. Mr. Stanley Dark, Mr. W. H. Crompton, Miss Kate Meek, and Miss Louise Drew also acquit themselves well in important rôles.

"THE TRAVELLING SALESMAN."

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

The Travelling Salesman, a comedy in four acts, by James Forbes, has been well received at the Liberty Theatre, New York. Mr. Forbes wrote that phenomenally successful comedy *The Chorus Lady*, and now he has turned out another entertaining play that bids fair to enjoy a long term of popularity. The scenes are laid in a small Indiana town at Christmas time. Beth Elliott, a young woman employed at the railway station selling tickets and sending telegrams, has a small piece of property that is about to be sold for taxes. Franklin Royce and his employer, Martin Drury, mean to buy it when the sale takes place, because they know that the railway company will want it by-and-by for a new branch line. Bob Blake, a commercial traveller, or "drummer," who sells ladies' suits, alights from a train without his trunks, his belongings having been put off at another station. Beth becomes acquainted with him, and in the course of conversation tells him all about her little property. At the Elite Hotel in the second act, Blake and his friends start a poker game, and are joined by Franklin Royce, who is jealous of Blake's friendship with Beth, and who takes too much to drink. When he begins to talk about his plan to buy Beth's property Blake makes him helplessly drunk and hurries away to attend the sale. In the next act Royce and Drury make it appear that Blake has merely played with the girl's affections in order to obtain possession of her property. Beth is told that she can buy it back within six months and is offered a cheque for the necessary amount with a large sum added if she will sell to Drury. She consents to do this, and refuses to listen to Blake when he tries to speak with her. He contrives, however, to checkmate the pair of schemers, and in the end Beth and he come to a happy understanding. Blake is at the telephone as the curtain falls, ordering the hotel people to "send up one minister and two witnesses." The play is brimful of humour of the slangy, colloquial kind, and the characters are most divertingly drawn. Mr. Frank J. McIntyre as Bob Blake and Miss Gertrude Coghlan as Beth Elliott play their parts cleverly; and the other rôles are in capable hands.

MR. MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S tour of *A Traitor Prince* will commence on Oct. 5, and is already booked far ahead. The entire production will be new, and a powerful cast and clever troupe of dancers have been secured. The same manager's play, *The Power of a Wicked Woman*, will commence its tour on Nov. 2.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"MAM'ZELLE TROMPETTE."

Operetta, in Three Acts, by MM. Desvaillères and Monconsin; music by M. Hirleman; produced at the Folies-Dramatiques on Sept. 15.

Paillette	MLLE. MARISE FAIRY
La Môme Carabine	MLLE. JANE DYT
La Baronne	MLLE. DE LUZA
Rosalie	MLLE. JANE ARELIE
Le Capitaine Duruchard	M. JORDANIS
Martignol	M. CHADAL
Canasson	M. FERNAL
La Citanguette	M. FODOT
Briguard	M. BARLAY
Le Colonel	M. MONTY
Lamirette	M. MOREAUX

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Sept. 17.—M. Debrenne, the manager of the Folies-Dramatiques, brought out *Mam'zelle Trompette*, a harmless operetta, by MM. Desvaillères and Monconsin, for which M. Hirleman wrote the music. The plot is of the simplest description. Martignol, a pupil at the Saumur Military Academy, has, whilst on a visit to Paris, met Mlle. Paillette, a little actress, and has fallen violently in love with her. But the young lady, although she has lost her heart to the handsome youth, has resisted his advances. Why? Because she has not yet completed her twentieth year. For it is an unwritten law among the ladies of Paillette's family that they are to remain virtuous until they have attained that age. Paillette's grandmother "succumbed" on her twentieth birthday. Her mother did the same; and Paillette wants to remain true to the family traditions. But three hundred and sixty-four days having elapsed since she was nineteen, she unexpectedly calls on Martignol at Saumur, and makes an appointment with him at the Château de la Citanguette, in the neighbourhood, where she is engaged to take part in a fête. Martignol, although under arrest for a slight breach of discipline, escapes over the walls of the college, and mixes with the guests at La Citanguette, followed by Canesson, a trumpeter, who has an intrigue with Rosalie, one of the maids at the château, where, to his terror, Martignol also meets Captain Duruchard, the director of the Saumur College. Duruchard, supposed to be a woman-hater, is a great admirer of the fair sex, and has come to the fête to have some fun. Fortunately, the terrible captain recognises neither Martignol nor Canasson, both in plain clothes, and mistakes the former for an operatic singer, and the latter for an eccentric young nobleman. This, of course, leads to all sorts of incidents, too numerous to describe. Paillette dons Cabasson's uniform to return with Martignol to Saumur, but is caught by the captain, who orders the pseudo-trumpeter under arrest. The captain, furious at having been bamboozled, is on the point of meting out severe punishment to Martignol and Cabasson when Paillette intercedes on their behalf and cajoles the irate warrior into forgiving them their pranks. The music is rather colourless, but melodious in some parts. The work was well acted, especially by Mlle. Marise Fairy, who proved herself a first-rate operetta diva. M. Jordanis gave a droll sketch of the amorous captain; and the other rôles were also well sustained.

THE London Press has already fully reported on the fearful drama at the Ambigu when M. Jules Stein shot M. Freygefond, the manager. The latter is still in a critical condition, but we hope he will recover. In the theatrical world, however, where M. Stein is well known and very much respected, the greatest commiseration is felt for him and his young wife. Nobody, of course, thinks of excusing M. Stein for having attempted the manager's life; but there can be no doubt that he was driven to despair by the treatment he received at the hands of the Ambigu management. It is a distressing story. M. Stein lived in Tourcoing (near Lille), where he was established in a small way of business. A year ago he made the acquaintance of M. Freygefond, who offered him the post of secretary at the Ambigu. M. Stein, who had been writing several plays without ever hoping of seeing them produced, blinded by this vista of glory, accepted the post, and at once settled in Paris. He then bought 20,000 francs worth of shares in the Ambigu. After a while, M. Grisier, the manager-in-chief, resigned his post, but M. Freygefond retained his position. M. Stein, feeling himself quite secure, advanced another 2,700 francs to M. Freygefond, when, to his horror, the latter informed him that his services as secretary were no longer required. In vain did Stein plead that the money he had sunk in the concern was all he possessed, and that all he had to live upon was the scanty salary paid him by the theatre. M. Freygefond expressed his deep regret, but added that there was no chance of the Ambigu management altering their decision. Two well-known journalists, to whom Stein told his melancholy story, promised to interfere on his behalf, and, noticing that he was labouring under terrible excitement, made him promise to keep quiet until he heard from them. Unfortunately, Stein did not follow that advice. On that same day, towards midnight, he went to the theatre, when a fearful scene took place between him and M. Freygefond, ending in the fatal revolver shots. When Stein will come up for trial these and other facts will be brought forward.

PARISIANS are taking a thorough liking to English songs, especially if accompanied by an appropriate dance. English girls, therefore, are frequently crossing the Channel to try their luck in the French capital. Among the latest arrivals is Miss Prissie Herold, a sprightly young comedienne, who sings capitally and is an accomplished dancer. Miss Herold, who appeared quite recently in the revue at the Bouffes, now performs at the Moulin Rouge, where she meets with a well-deserved success.

VICTOR MASSE'S sentimental opera, *Paul et Virginie*, has been revived at the Gaieté (Lyrique Municipal). It was brought out in 1876 at the Opéra-Comique, with Capoul and Mlle. Ritter, and had a long run. To-day the public is less sentimentally inclined, and it remains to be seen whether they still feel interested in the fate of the two lovers.

CONTRARY to what has been reported, the Variétés will not open its doors next week. Whilst the rehearsals of the new piece are in progress, *Le Roi*, last season's success, will again be given.

DUMB-SHOW PLAYS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I have had my attention called to an answer to a correspondent in the columns of one of your contemporaries as to the necessity for obtaining the licence of the Lord Chamberlain for the performance of dumb-show plays.

The journal in question informs the correspondent that there is no need to obtain the Lord Chamberlain's licence.

This is quite an error, as under Section 23 of the Act of Parliament 6 and 7 Vict. Cap. 68, "pantomime," which includes dumb-show plays, is expressly enumerated as being a stage-play within the meaning of the Act, and requiring the Lord Chamberlain's licence.

It seems that in the case of dumb-show plays it is usual to submit a full scenario and description of the situation, stage business, &c.

I apologise for troubling you, but I think such a misunderstanding should not be allowed to go uncorrected.—Yours faithfully,

ALBERT A. STRONG.

London, E.C., Sept. 14, 1908.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

As a counter move to the agents' action in refusing to meet the artists in respect to a revised form of percentage contract, the Variety Artists' Federation executive has issued an order to its members not to pay any commission to agents until the present dispute is settled.

This ultimatum is the outcome of the action of the agents, who were invited to meet the Federation Executive on Thursday—an invitation that the majority accepted. But none of them turned up, and the sub-committee appointed to meet them learned that they had met overnight and signed a resolution to take no notice of the V.A.F., and to treat them with contempt.

The following letter was then sent by the Federation to the agents:—"Sir,—After the deliberate insult you, in combination with your brother agents, have offered to the Variety Artists' Federation this day by wilfully absenting yourself from the arranged meeting, we wish you to clearly understand that you must be prepared to bear the consequences of the drastic methods which have now been put in force against you throughout London and the country. It may not be long before you realise your mistake in daring to set at defiance representatives of 4,000 earnest and determined workers of the music-hall profession.—Yours, &c., MONTE BAYLY."

The Federation have drawn up a form—in reality a charter, to be signed by performer and agent—which allows the agent a commission not exceeding 10 per cent. on an engagement, and on any continuous prolongation of the same, but not on any subsequent engagement that the performer may get through his own or another agent's efforts.

That the artist does change his agent is well known, and, as has been pointed out by Mr. Walter de Frece, "after a man has been found a chance by one agent and proves a success, along comes another who offers him better terms. Surely it isn't fair that the first agent should have the fruits of his work taken from him in this way."

MR. HUGH J. DIDCOTT, who in the early days of the Syndicate pioneered the artists to salaries commensurate with the rapidly-growing taste among the middle classes for variety entertainments, expresses, on his own behalf, the opinion that the "instructions" issued by the Federation are in restraint of trade.

MR. JOE O'GORMAN is reported to have said that "No manager will engage an unknown artist until he has seen that artist perform." This is not a fact. A manager will often engage a Continental turn on the report of a reputable agent.

"COPPELIA" at the Empire will be replaced about the middle of October by the new ballet, now actively in preparation, which is to bear the title of *Paris*. To Colonel Newnham-Davis is due the credit of the original idea. The music will be by Mr. Cuthbert Clarke, and the arrangement of the dances by Mr. Fred Farren.

The first scene represents the exterior of the Grand Opera; the second the "Place," which forms the starting-point of the Champs-Elysées, and from which a glimpse can be caught across the Seine of the Invalides; the third takes us into the regions of Montmartre; and the fourth reveals the liveliness, the colour, the brilliancy, and brio of an artists' ball in the Moulin Rouge. In this M. Wilhelm's inventiveness will have full scope, and 120 dancers will crowd the stage, dressed in colour designs, for which Wilhelm has long been famous.

The apotheosis of the great Napoleon in the second scene suggests the creation of the "Spirit of Glory," impersonated by Mlle. Kyaksht, who will be the central figure in the new production. It lends itself admirably to the introduction of a military review, wherein a battalion of St. Cyr cadets figure prominently.

The foundation of the scenario is based generally upon the desire of a millionaire Britisher to see something of the more uncommon sights of la ville lumière. He puts himself and his family under the guidance of a student played by Mr. Fred Farren, and it is under his production that the Smith family are inducted into the mysteries of the Café de Néant, of L'Enfer, and other similar resorts in Montmartre.

MR. FRED FARREN will be responsible for the actual production, and other established favourites who will appear will include Mlle. Zanfretta, Miss Elise Clerc, Miss Phyllis Bedell, Mr. T. Walls, and Mr. Jameson. The exact date of the production has not been fixed.

While leaving the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the new variety house at Edmonton on Wednesday, Mr. Edward W. Mackney, the celebrated comedian of a generation ago, who is over eighty years of age, was knocked down by a bicycle and severely injured.

The reconstruction of the amphitheatre of the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, which was put in hand six weeks ago, has now been completed, and on Monday next it will be again open to the public. It will now be possible for a perfect view to be obtained from every seat. This part of the house has been entirely redecorated and fitted. The price of admission will remain as before, 1s.

MRS. JOHN LAWSON has been paying a return visit to the Hippodrome, Rotherhithe, this week with *The Devil's Sunday*, and the holding capacity of this hall has been severely tested during this week. Mrs. Lawson will produce shortly a new sketch, from the pen of Mr. J. J. Spencer Sutcliffe. The title is very novel, and it promises to be one of the best things ever done by this talented lady.

MISS MAIDIE SCOTT is finding London work no sinecure. Last week she worked the Tivoli, Oxford, and Paragon, and deputised for the top of the bill at the London Pavilion. This week she appears at the Tivoli, Oxford, and Tottenham.

MR. LENNOX BARRY has secured an important post with one of the leading American vaudeville syndicates, and sails for New York shortly in order to take over the management of one of the largest halls in that city. Mr. Barry's many friends in this country are tendering him their sincere wishes for his success.

The New York *Times* says:—"We are having a Salome epidemic. Half-dressed women in all the variety theatres are doing the dance of seven veils and joyfully receiving a human head (in papier-maché) on a platter. The cartoonists have taken up the daughter of Herodias. What we most object to in this Salome epidemic is the shockingly bad taste of it all. It is rampant vulgarity."

Several revivals of *Macbeth* are promised during the coming season, and the eerie nature of the manifestations of the weird sisters appeal strongly to Mr. J. N. Maskelyne, who is busily engaged upon the witches scenes for his own stage at St. George's Hall. He will introduce some novel effects of a necromantic and mysterious character. It will be interesting to compare the work of the famous illusionist with that of the scenic artist and stage-carpenter.

The opening performances at Devonport Hippodrome were in every respect a complete success, and if the standard set on Monday is maintained, the theatre is assured a prosperous history. The majority of the members of the Borough Council demonstrated their goodwill by their presence at the second "house."

MR. ALFRED MOUL (chairman of directors), on behalf of his colleagues, the directors of Hippodrome (Devonport), Limited, and himself, spoke from the footlights, and said it was his duty and his pleasure to thank all who by their presence had assisted at their first performance, to give them the heartiest possible welcome, and to express their satisfaction at knowing that those who were responsible for the erection of that theatre had met what he was quite sure, from those who had told him and knew, was a long-felt want in the borough.

The Palace, Clacton-on-Sea, is now closed, but will open again shortly.

The Tynemouth Palace is to be sold by auction on Wednesday, Sept. 30, at the Station Hotel, Newcastle-on-Tyne, at 3 p.m.

MISS COSSIE NOEL, who used to delight us by her performance with the Leopolds in *Frivolity*, is now Mrs. De Silva, and takes up the management of the Villiers Hotel, Elliott-street, Liverpool, on Monday week.

MR. H. H. WATSON, late of the Bordesley Palace, Birmingham, assumed on Monday the duties of acting-manager at the Theatre Royal, Ton-y-pandy.

MISS LETTY LINGARD, the new burlesque actress, charming songstress, and dancer, who has been scoring all along the line in the provinces, returns on Monday to the Hippodrome, Hastings.

The Grand Theatre, Glasgow, will re-open on Monday next under the proprietorship of Moss' Empires, Ltd. The house, which was built in 1867, has been thoroughly renovated, and will open with a revival of Alfred Cellier's *Dorothy*, with Messrs. Hayden Coffin and Arthur Williams in their original parts.

The magistrates at Gainsborough on Tuesday last held a special meeting to consider the application for a full stage-play and variety licence for the Empire Hippodrome, which they granted, with permission to allow smoking in all parts. The hall is a very handsome one, and will fill a much-needed want in Gainsborough.

ADELER AND SUTTON (RHYL), LTD., has been registered as a company, with a capital of £5,000, in £1 shares (2,000 Preference). Its objects are "to acquire the business carried on at Rhyl by A. L. Lewis (professionally known as Edwin Adeler) and W. G. Sutton, to take over the premises known as Adeler and Sutton's Pavilion and Grounds, and to carry on the business of theatre and hall proprietors, &c."

The New Hippodrome, Peterborough, which was sold last week, was reopened on Monday under the control of Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards with a capital variety programme. Messrs. Karno and Edwards were the debenture holders and the principal creditors of the vendors. Originally known as Sylvester's Hippodrome, the place was closed in consequence of the Sylvester Hippodromes Syndicate going into liquidation.

The King's Theatre and Hippodrome, Dundee, which is being erected in Cowgate and St. Andrew's-street, Dundee, has been leased by the King's Theatre and Hippodrome, Dundee, Ltd., to the United County Theatres, London, Ltd., of whom Mr. Alfred Moul, of the Alhambra, London, is the chairman. The latter company being the proprietors of a large combination of theatres, can ensure the very best theatrical companies being brought to Dundee to the new house, which will be one of the handsomest and most comfortable in Scotland. The King's Theatre is to be opened in December.

The report of the directors of the Star Theatre of Varieties, Ltd., Dublin, presented to the shareholders at the fifteenth ordinary general meeting of the company on Friday, states that the profits for the year, inclusive of interest on investments and transfer fees, after the payment of all working expenses, and writing off £1,234 8s. 1d. to the reserve fund, amount to £2,253 12s. 3d. Deducting from this amount the interest on debenture stock and income stock, there remains, with the £682 2s. 8d. brought forward from the previous account, a sum of £1,626, which it is proposed to allocate as follows:—The payment of one and a half year's dividend at 6 per cent. on 10,000 Cumulative Preference shares, less income-tax, £854, leaving to be carried forward to the next account £772.

The Royal Theatre of Varieties, Warrington, a freehold property, was offered for sale at auction by Mr. W. H. Robinson at the Albion Hotel, Manchester, on Tuesday. The theatre, which has a dramatic licence, was built in 1883, re-seated and decorated in 1907 by Messrs. Dean, of Birmingham, and contains pit and pit stalls, centre circle and side circles. During the past four and a half years it has been run on the two-houses-a-night system. The first bid was £1,500 and the last £2,000, and the auctioneer announced that the lot would be withdrawn. We understand that the property was subsequently sold by private treaty to Mr. Harry Carver, of Eccles.

MR. ARTHUR WILLIAMS this week has been appearing at the County Theatre, Kingston, as Timothy Hand in Paul Meritt and George Conquest's melodrama *Hand and Glove*, a part that he played in the original production of that piece at the Grecian Theatre on May 25, 1874. On that occasion the late Mr. George Conquest was the Titus Glove, and the two characters reminded our critic of the time of Tricoche and Cacolet in the famous French farce of that name.

During the fire at the Winter Gardens, Morecambe, on Tuesday night last, Miss Lord Lumley (Mr. Harry Liston's colleague) in her hurry to escape, with some of her valuable gowns in her arms, was met on the back staircase by some unknown person, who asked: "Where are you going, Miss?" "To take these gowns into the street," replied Miss Lumley. "But do you know you have no gown on?" said the stranger. It was true. Miss Lumley, in the moment of general panic was rusning out of the burning building with simply her skirts on. Fortunately the fire was extinguished very quickly, and before she had time to return to her dressing-room to take out two trunks of wardrobe.

The staff of the Empire Palace, Wolverhampton, together with their friends, had their annual outing on Sunday last, and journeyed to Bridgnorth in brakes. On arrival an adjournment was made to the Falcon Hotel, where an excellent dinner was served, some sixty ladies and gentlemen sitting down. After the loyal toast had been disposed of Mr. Frank Weston, resident manager, proposed "The Directors," coupling with it the name of Mr. Walter de Frece, who had expressed his regret at being unable to be with them, a feeling that was shared by everyone present. Mr. Ferguson, after replying for "The Visitors," proposed the health of Mr. and Mrs. Weston. After dinner an enjoyable trip was made down the Severn and back to Bridgnorth. A pleasant drive back to Wolverhampton concluded a happy day.

MISS MARIE LOFTUS will go to America in January under contract to Mr. William Morris.

MRS. CHARLES WARREN (Miss Rachel Lowe) presented her husband, the energetic hustler and manager for Witmark and Son, in Shaftesbury-avenue, with a fine baby boy on Saturday last.

Many congratulations and good wishes will be showered upon Mr. Will Oliver, who will be married this morning by special licence to Mrs. Katie Theurer, who has been "Spot's" manageress since the dissolution of partnership between him and his old-time friend Tom Holmes, who journeyed on Thursday night from Dundee expressly to be best man to his old partner.

In former years Mrs. Theurer has been manageress of Ye Old Royal, the Crown Hotel, and Cross Keys, all in Birmingham; the Swan Hotel, Bedford; and later the Old White Horse, Brixton. With Mr. Theurer, her late husband, she shared the responsibilities of the proprietorship of the Masons' Hall Tavern, E.C. Immediately after the ceremony Mr. and Mrs. Will Oliver will travel to Brighton, where they will stay at the York Hotel for a holiday, that will, of necessity, be brief, as business compels an almost immediate return to Spot Lodge. To the evergreen Will and his wife we wish many happy years.

A COPYRIGHT performance of *The Willow Pattern Plate*, a Chinese musical romance in four tableaux, composed, written, and arranged by Eugenie Magnus, was given at the Empire, Camberwell, on Wednesday. The piece will very shortly be seen at a West End hall with Mr. Crauford Kent as principal tenor.

MR. DUNDAS SLATER, the manager of the Coliseum, has instituted a series of pianola recitals of the great masters interpreted by such performers as Emil Sauer, Backhaus, Edvard Grieg, &c., in the beautiful terrace tea-room. These recitals take place daily one hour before the performance commences and during the interval, and are free to patrons visiting the theatre. Next week Mme. Yvette Guilbert commences a short season at the Coliseum.

MISS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE, the little New Zealand girl, who made her first appearance at a Canterbury anniversary a year and a half ago, has been achieving a series of triumphs on tour, and comes to the Euston on Monday with her novel act. Miss Maude has appeared in more theatres and halls than most young artists of her age, and though she came quite unknown to these shores it looks as if her future contracts, which are many and important, will keep her in this tight little island for some considerable time. She is producing as a scena the poem "Lasca," by Frank Desprez.

MR. GEO. ROBEY is a disciple of philately, being the owner of a very fine collection of postage stamps. He has promised to exhibit his collection at the Hulme Town Hall, Manchester, on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, Feb. 18, 19, and 20, during the Philatelic Congress, which is to be held in conjunction with the Manchester Exhibition in 1909.

MME. YVETTE GUILBERT has selected Monday next as the date of her appearance at the Coliseum. To Mr. Oswald Stoll she has announced the fact in a characteristic letter. She writes:—"After having spent a few weeks in lovely Folkestone and a few weeks in Bagnolles de l'Orme, in our beautiful Normandy, nothing more than a souvenir remains of the serious illness which befel me during my last stay in London, and which frightened me so much. But it remains also the very agreeable obligation to fulfil my engagement at the Coliseum, which we had to postpone owing to that illness. I am ready, my dear Mr. Stoll, to begin my performances at the date you suggested, that is, on Sept. 21. Please will you make it known to the London public, otherwise I might risk to be reproached that I am abusing the kind hospitality of the London public by coming too often!"

The Camden Theatre, now the Camden Hippodrome, was opened on Monday by the London Theatres of Varieties, Limited, with a programme of biograph pictures. A large audience filled the auditorium to watch a varied selection of pictures. The management is in the hands of Mr. Harry N. Wentworth. Sunday performances are also to be given.

MR. HARRY J. BRETT, who was for many years acting-manager of the Crown Theatre, Peckham, has been appointed manager of Mr. Geo. Dance's handsome Richmond Hippodrome and Theatre.

MISS MILLIE HYLTON has now returned to the London variety stage with some capital songs and thirty new frocks, by Louise, of Paris. She is noted for her exquisite taste in dress. Recently, however, whilst playing in the French capital, her pride in this direction received a decided shock. The papers had duly praised her songs and dresses, and the usual shoal of congratulatory letters came by each post from admirers in front. Then one day a parcel came by special messenger, who, after getting a signature for it, vanished.

On opening the parcel, Miss Hylton found it to contain a dozen pairs of very dainty gloves of one colour, and a note, which ran as follows:—"Charming madame, you, who are so exquisitely dressed, will pardon the writer in pointing out one defect in an otherwise perfect *ensemble*. The colour of the gloves you wear is out of keeping with your costume, if you will permit me to say so. They are just one slight shade too brilliant. Let me, in pointing out this defect, remedy it. Please accept the enclosed box with every assurance of my esteem and regard, and, believe me, any orders that come through your recommendation, I shall have pleasure in allowing you 25 per cent. commission on!" Then followed the enterprising Frenchman's business card. On second thoughts Miss Hylton has worn all those gloves.

MISS GLADYS MARSDEN, who is now making her first appearance at the Palace Theatre, made her first professional appearance on the regular stage at the Hicks Theatre, where she gave a number of impressions of popular players. She has since played with Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, and Mr. H. B. Irving.

MISS MADGE TEMPLE will be appearing shortly in a novel song-scena at the London Coliseum. The song itself is entitled "Come and see my rainbow," and is from the pens of Charles Wilmott and Hermann Darewski. A special scene is being painted for Miss Temple, and one can easily imagine that with Mr. Bertie Shelton responsible for lighting effects something remarkable as well as pretty will result.

Thick and fast arrive the MSS. of songs that people in all parts of the country are writing for Miss Winifred Hare to sing in pantomime next Christmas. Miss Hare devotes two and sometimes three hours daily, to wading through the fresh arrivals, and then reposts those that are absolutely unsuitable. Up to the moment of writing she has kept back five, and of these, one written by a young lady of seventeen, hailing from Mayfield, Sussex, is at present favourite. It is called "I am so glad to meet you," and, besides being tuneful, is smartly written and humorous. On Dec. 15 Miss Hare will make her final decision respecting the award of the £100.

The general meeting of the Tivoli Football Club took place on Aug. 22, when Messrs. E. Price and A. S. Beavon were elected captain and vice-captain respectively. The Tivoli expects to have a very busy season, which opens with a match against Mr. Hedge's XI. on Sunday, Sept. 20.

Music hall and theatrical football will be much stimulated by the formation of the Music Hall and Theatrical Football League, the first meeting of which took place on Sept. 13, when it was announced that Mr. Harry Tate, always a good sportsman, had generously promised to present a very fine silver cup, to be competed for. Some ten clubs have already promised to join, but there are still a few vacancies, and clubs wishing to come in are requested to apply as early as possible to the Secretary, Tivoli Football Club, Tivoli Theatre, Strand, W.C.

Next week the variety show in the centre transept of the Crystal Palace will be given twice daily, and will include the Three Röhrs, in daring and novel feats on a revolving globe. Mr. Charles Röhr offers £50 to any man who will perform his last trick. Tom Alvantee, the king of the sliding wire, will also be seen in his sensational "Slide for Life."

The directors of the Empire and Mr. Harry Hitchins have been inspired by an unusually happy idea. A "farewell Genée" matinée" will be given at the Empire on Tuesday, when, as a graceful compliment to the departing artist, the directors are issuing invitations to a number of leading actors and actresses who, by reason of their evening engagements, have been denied the privilege of witnessing Mlle. Genée's delightful performance in Miss Dora Bright's pantomime play, *The Dryad*.

The programme will consist of the second act of *Coppelia*, with Mlle. Kyaksht in the title-rôle, followed by Mr. Arthur Croxon in his mimetic entertainment. *After the Opera* will be presented by Mr. Robert Pateman, Mr. Vernon Steel, and Miss Evelyn D'Alroy. Subsequently in *The Dryad* Mlle. Genée will take farewell of her friends for something like a twelvemonth at least.

In the Vacation Court on Tuesday morning, Mr. Bischoff applied, *ex parte*, on behalf of the Alhambra Theatre Company for leave to serve Miss Cissie Loftus with notice of motion for an injunction to restrain her from appearing at the Coliseum, or any other theatre in London, in alleged breach of her contract with the plaintiff company. The learned counsel also asked for an interim injunction over next Wednesday, restraining Miss Loftus in the terms of the notice of motion.

Counsel stated that the defendant, in May, 1898, entered into a contract with the plaintiff company for an engagement for twelve weeks, and for a further engagement for a period of four weeks, at the option of the plaintiffs, the defendant's engagement to commence on May 15, 1899. Her salary was to be £85 a week, and her performances were to consist of her well-known imitations. Before the date of the performance of the contract Miss Loftus had a good offer to go to America, and applied to the plaintiffs to be released in some way from the contract. After some correspondence the plaintiffs agreed to the defendant going to America on condition that she performed her contract when she returned before appearing at rival establishments in London.

The defendant returned to England in 1902, and appeared with the late Sir Henry Irving in *Faust*. The subject of the old contract was again revived, and there was an interview between the defendant and the plaintiffs' manager. It was arranged that the question of the old contract should remain in abeyance because the defendant intended to go again to America. It was also arranged that if she returned to the music-hall stage she should fulfil her engagement with the plaintiffs.

MISS CISSIE LOFTUS had since come back to England, and had entered into a contract with the Coliseum Company at a salary of £250 a week. The plaintiffs accordingly asked for the injunction. Counsel said he was told that there was a possibility of the defendant appearing at the Coliseum next Monday. Mr. Justice Coleridge gave leave to serve the notice of motion, but refused the injunction.

AUSTIN LENTON and Agnes Lane, after a most successful trial trip in the provinces with their new musical comedy act, *Unconsidered Trifles* (a novelty being played in a front scene), will be seen on Monday next at the Standard, Pimlico. The piece is writen by the well-known pantomime author, Harry McClelland, the music being by Fred G. Leake.

LITTLE Mirzka Gynt, to whom we referred last week, is the son of a minister of the Jewish religion—a Pole—driven by persecution from his home in Warsaw, and almost in destitution in London. He was really discovered by Miss Alice Lloyd and her husband, Mr. Tom Macnaughton, who were pioneering through the East End Mr. Morris, the American variety agent, Mr. Leventhart, an American attorney, and Mr. Krandt, a director of the Monte Carlo Company.

The party were struck by the boy's voice in the ballad "Why do I ask you if you love me?" and Mr. Kandt telephoned to Mr. Goodson, variety agent, and advanced the boy some money to keep him off the streets. He has since been in the provinces for a week, and has charmed everyone. On Wednesday he sailed with his father to New York, where he appears for the first of twenty weeks in America at a salary of £40 a week. Mr. Stoll has booked him for his forty-eight-week tour in England at the end of his American trip, subject to the boy's right to renew his American contract if he desires it.

MR. WEBB, who has been stage-manager under Mr. Richard Wake and Mr. T. S. Dickie at the Standard, Pimlico, has been appointed by Mr. Henri Gros to a similar post at the Chelsea Palace.

A GREAT success has been made during the week by Mr. Bernard Mervyn and his company in the sketch *Treachery* at the Battersea Palace. The plot deals with the selling of the British plans to the enemy, and the endeavour to fasten the crime on a fellow soldier, who is court-martialled, but of course is cleared in the final scene, by the confession of the real culprit. The sketch is played in three scenes, placed in Ladysmith, the last scene being a very realistic set representing outside Ladysmith.

MR. WILLIAM EYRE, of Messrs. Francis and Day's staff, and a prominent member of the Stockwell Angling Society, fishing at Chertsey a few days back, caught a fine Thames trout of 4lb. It being three days over the season for trout-catching, the fish was carefully returned to the river.

On the occasion of Mr. Harry Lauder's flying visit to Southsea on Wednesday of last week, when the great comedian appeared at a special matinée at the South Parade Pier, the band was conducted during Mr. Lauder's items by Mr. Walter Johnson, the *chef d'orchestre* of the London Tivoli, who journeyed specially down for the purpose, and who was personally congratulated by the Mayor of Portsmouth on the verve and fire he infused into the orchestra.

MR. HARRY BAWN, the managing director of the new Edmonton Variety House, has taken offices at 18, Adam-street, Strand, W.C.

MISS ALEXANDRA DAGMAR is leaving town for a special week's engagement at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, at the conclusion of which she returns to London.

"THE STEPMOTHER," a sketch of great drawing power, has been rebooked by Mr. Henri Gros and Mr. W. Gibbons. The sketch is played by those well-known and talented artists Mr. W. Holles and Miss Nannie Goldman.

MISS ADELE LEVEY is engaged to play the part of Prince in the production of the *Cinderella* pantomime at the Pavilion Theatre, Mile End, at Christmas. Miss Levey, with Mr. Frank Lilliput, has been scoring a success with the sketch *Find the Lady First* at the Empire, Hackney.

ROMA AND ROMANI have at last reached the goal of their ambition, and are presenting their refined classical musical act at a leading West End hall—the Tivoli to wit—where they remain for five weeks. All lovers of good music have a rare treat in store. They are also at Euston next week.

MISS ESTHER PALLISER, who played the Lady Rowena in Arthur Sullivan's *Ivanhoe* when that opera was produced at the English Opera House in 1891, will make her first appearance on the variety stage at the Empire, Holborn, on Monday evening.

The snake charmer, Osca, engaged with Bostock's Jungle at Earl's Court, who was bitten by a rattlesnake on Tuesday evening, has had a remarkable recovery. The manager of the Jungle stated on Thursday that the crisis was now passed, and the man's life no longer remained in danger.

DR. WALFORD BODIE, after a few weeks' rest at his Highland home, the Manor House, Macduff, has resumed work again, opening at the Palace, Kilmarnock, where he is breaking all records to packed houses, the Palace being filled at early-door prices. Mr. Cumming has offered him two return dates at £200 per week for his own act alone. Owing to his enormous success, a special matinée is being arranged.

DR. BODIE, before leaving Macduff, made an offer to the Town Council of Banff and Macduff to take over Duff House, late the home of the Duke of Fife; also the land, comprising many acres. The Laird of Macduff has also opened in the town his marine baths and hydro, which have been largely patronised by visitors from all parts of the country.

The staff of the Palace Theatre, Bow, held their annual outing on Sunday, when a most enjoyable day was spent at Broxbourne. The dinner was under the chairmanship of Mr. Frederic Baugh (general manager). Amongst the numerous visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Hyman, Mr. and Mrs. F. Durham, Mr. Edelsten, Mr. Herbert, Mr. C. Relf, Mr. Judge, Mr. Cohen, and Mr. Jones. The arrangements were carried out by Mr. J. R. Warren, honorary secretary.

M. CLEMENCEAU'S well-meaning circular abolishing the humiliating practice for artists of passing a saucer round among French music hall audiences for pennies after each "turn" has safeguarded their dignity but thrown many of them out of work. Owing to the new measure, 300 managers of provincial cafés-concerts, rather than pay their companies higher wages, shut up shop, and about 2,500 men and women singers were deprived of employment.

As a result of the increasing excess of the demand over the supply, wages went down. "Artists" formerly making £2 or £3 a week were cut down to £1, and thousands of unfortunate so-called divettes are offered 1s. 6d. a night. The cause of the unhappy smaller fry is being taken up by the heads of the profession, chiefly by Dranem, who is working hard at meetings and by canvassing for help to come to the rescue of his humbler colleagues.

These are often compelled to sign iniquitous contracts, by which they may frequently be discharged without notice and cannot ask for their pay before at least a fortnight of their engagement has run. The system of fines, too, is oppressive and tyrannically carried out.

Owing to the great popularity of Loie Fuller's "Ballet of Light" at the London Hippodrome, this beautiful number will be retained in the programme during next week. La Loie Fuller will shortly produce her long-talked-of "Garden of Eden" ballet, with Signorina Teresa Cerutti as principal dancer. The Gaudsmidts and Marstro and Oretto join the Hippodrome bill next week.

LITTLE BABY SOPHIE, the new child star, who is appearing with such enormous success at the Zoo, Glasgow, this week, has placed all her business, so her manager, J. E. Wildash, informs us, in the hands of H. Skivington, of Brisbane-street, Greenock. Sophie is fast booking ahead.

MR. W. D. MACKENZIE and company in their novel and interesting entertainment, *Moments with the Masters*, were at the Concert Hall of the Crystal Palace last week. The entertainers include Misses Maidie Taylor, May Brockett, Messrs. Septimus Munday, Charles Thomason, and Master Charles Oldfield. Master E. Brockett, who is described as the "human ocarina," is a remarkable prodigy, and an excellent répertoire of gems from the operas was given with a chorus of fifteen voices, the company being completed by Mr. Frank E. Knight, the organist, Miss Constance Simmons, the pianist, and Mr. Sydney F. Simmons, the manager and musical director. A really excellent entertainment.

The latest quotations of music-hall shares are as follow: Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ½; Empire, 15s. paid, 1½; Empire, 10s. paid, 1; London Pavilion Ordinary, 3½; London Pavilion Preference, 4½; Metropolitan, 11s.; Moss' Empire, 4¾; Moss' Empire, 5 per cent. Preference, 3¾; Oxford, 6; Palace, 18s.; Tivoli, 5; and Variety Consolidated Theatres, 7-16.

MISS MAUD ESMOND has settled to play the title-rôle Dick Whittington in Newman Maurice's forthcoming pantomime at the Brixton Theatre. Miss Esmond is a great favourite in this part of London, having played in pantomime at the same theatre last season. She is at present touring the variety theatres and reaping applause everywhere for her charming rendering of the popular songs "Oh, Johnny, there's a locket in your pocket" and "Don't put your umbrella up before it starts to rain," which she will specially feature in pantomime. Both are issued by the Star Music Co.

WILLIAM CLEGG, eighteen, a newsvendor, was remanded at Bow-street on Wednesday charged with stealing two sovereigns, a diamond ring, and two watches, valued at £51, the property of Mr. Van Cleif, an American actor. The prosecutor said the property was taken from his dressing-room at the Coliseum on Sept. 5. The prisoner was temporarily engaged by him. When arrested the accused said he did not take the diamond ring, but he took the other property because Mr. Cleif refused to pay his wages. In reply to the magistrate Mr. Cleif said the prisoner was regularly paid for each performance, and there was nothing due to him.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

AMONG the notable numbers just acquired by Messrs. Francis and Day for publication are three songs written, composed, and sung by Mr. James Moran, the Scottish comedian who made so great a hit a short time since at the London Coliseum, and was retained there for a second week. The titles of the songs are "Maggie Brown," "The Duke of Invertartan," and "Coal."

THE taking number which that charming artist Miss Millie Hylton has been singing so successfully and which, with the title of "Meet me under the Golden Dome," was written by Charles Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski, has been issued by Messrs. Francis and Day. Another song from the same pens, entitled "In the Vineyards of Italy," will shortly see the light in sheet music form.

MR. WILKIE BARD'S truly humorous song, "I'm here—if I'm wanted," a number which bears on every line the unmistakable hall-mark of Frank Leo, will shortly be issued by Mr. David Day's firm, who have also secured Mr. Tom Costello's laughable item, "I got married to a widow," by Joe Burley and Maurice Scott.

To the growing catalogue of dance novelties which Messrs. Francis and Day are bringing out the following have been added during the past few days:—"Dolce Dream" (waltz), by Arthur Morris; "La Gitana" (waltz), by T. Almond and Luke Cavendish Everett; and "On Parade" (military two-step), by Luke Cavendish Everett.

AMONG novelties in the song line just being published by Messrs. Francis and Day are: "Bombardier," a splendid march song, by R. F. Westbarr and H. E. Darewski, jun.; "If you mallee me," a Chinese love song, written, composed, and sung by Miss Helen Trix; "I always think of someone," also by Miss Helen Trix; "Under the silvery moon with my ballooning girl" (sung by Billy Williams), by Terry Sullivan and Harry Gifford; and a fine chorus number, written and composed by Herbert Darnley and Will Godwin, and sung by the latter, entitled "When you've turned the corner."

MR. GUS ELEN'S song "The coster's pony," by H. E. Pether, is among the latest additions to Messrs. Francis and Day's series of "Sixpenny Pops."

MR. CHARLES COLLINS has been responsible for many fine songs, but has surpassed himself in the pretty number which was issued a few days since by Messrs. Francis and Day with the title of "Give me your blessing, dear mother." The number tells in simplest language a semi-pathetic story with a happy ending, and has a singularly taking single chorus.

MIRZKA GYNT, the wonderful Polish "boy busker," who was recently discovered by Alice Lloyd and Tom McNaughton, and through their instrumentality engaged by Mr. William Morris for his American vaudeville houses, has just sailed to the States, where he will specially "feature" two of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s publications, "Why do I ask you if you love me?" by Pelham and Rule; and "Ever Thine," by John P. Harrington and Julian W. Kandt.

MISS MARIE LLOYD, who is achieving such distinction at the Oxford and Empire, Islington, nightly, with Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell's popular song, "The Directoire Girl," has also scored a signal success with the same writers' latest number, "I can't make my eyes be good." Messrs. Harrington and Powell have several other commissions in hand for the same gifted artist.

"FROM POVERTY STREET TO GOLDEN SQUARE" is being eagerly snapped up for pantomime exploitation, and is still going "great guns" with Miss Kate Carney, who sings it at all her "turns" nightly. The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. are to be congratulated on the possession of so pronounced a success.

MISS ALICE LLOYD, who sailed for America on the Mauretania last Saturday, took with her yet another song from the facile pens of Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, entitled "Which end?" which she purposes introducing into the Ziegfeld piece specially written round her, *The Bonnie Belles of Scotland*. This makes the fifth consecutive number which these popular authors have written for the English star's American exploitation in the same piece.

MISS CLARICE VANCE, who sailed for America this week, took with her—in addition to the three songs which Harrington and Powell have specially written and composed for her, viz., "Mother-in-law," "Limericks," and "Salome, go home!"—two other numbers, entitled "The baby calls her ma" and "Everything's an 'extra' in the season," both of which latter are published by the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.

MISS JOSE COLLINS, who made a most pronounced success at the Hippodrome, Margate, when she opened at that popular house with Mr. John P. Harrington's "My Cuban girl" and "Looking for the lovelight," on Monday night, was somewhat astonished, on turning her "searchlight" on to one of the male occupants of the stalls whom she was addressing in endearing terms, to discover that that gentleman was none other than the author of "Lovelight" himself. Mr. Harrington, mightily amused, "played up" to the fair artist in no half-hearted manner, to the intense enjoyment of the overflowing audience.

MISS FIFI GORDON and her troupe of girls have achieved success at the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, with the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s song, "My tiny firefly," by Macdonald and Meher. Mr. John P. Harrington, the Berners-street firm's popular "placer," has been busy this week "fixing" Miss Fifi Gordon with other tuneful numbers for immediate exploitation.

MR. JOHN P. HARRINGTON, while holiday-making in Cliftonville, has yet allowed no grass to grow under his feet, for not only has he fixed Miss Alice Lloyd up with two more numbers for her American campaign, with melodies by Mr. Orlando Powell, but he has also, assisted by the latter gentleman, commenced writing an entirely new répertoire of comedy songs for Mr. Reg. Beauchamp, who will open in London immediately on the completion of his Margate engagements.

MISS EDIE ANDERSON will specially "feature" Messrs. John P. Harrington and Joseph Tabrar's comedy coon song, so successfully sung by Miss Bijou Russell, entitled "I must trouble you to pack your trunk to-night," one of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s most striking publications.

MISS YVONNE LAMOR, who has been winning golden opinions everywhere with the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s eccentric coon song "The coon's conscience," by Barnes and Weston, is about to exploit a second Monte Carlo coon song, "Come an' make a fuss o' me," by Tom McNaughton and Joseph Kandt, of which report speaks most highly.

MISS MAUDE MORTIMER, who has been appearing with great success at the Royal Theatre, Oldham, has introduced a new song, "A Little Seed of Love," written by B. McDonald and Jas. Tate, and published by Feldman and Co. The song has proved a big hit.

FEDERATIONS AND FUNDS.

THE Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. met on Wednesday. Mr. Fred Herbert (Vice-Chairman) presided. Messrs. Harry Blake, John McNally, and Arthur Gallimore were also present. Mr. Bray acted as Secretary pro tem. in the absence of Mr. Douglas Stuart, now on his holiday in Manxland. The action of the Liverpool representative in registering the telegraphic address for that office as "Amusement, Liverpool," was confirmed. It was proposed by Mr. Harry Blake that a line be added to the application forms, making it compulsory for members to keep the office posted with a permanent address where letters would always reach them.

MISS MELINDA MAY, Secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., begs to thank Mrs. Harry Smith for gift of very handsome cushion (through the sale of same it is hoped to swell the funds of the Guild); also Miss E. G. Clarke, A.C.U., for parcel of clothing, and an anonymous donor for clothing from Harrogate. Miss May would be grateful for further gifts of clothing from ladies and gentlemen. Through so much help being given lately it is urgently needed. All are welcome to the receptions, which are held every Wednesday at the above address from three to five o'clock.

"LIFT-EM'S, LIMITED."

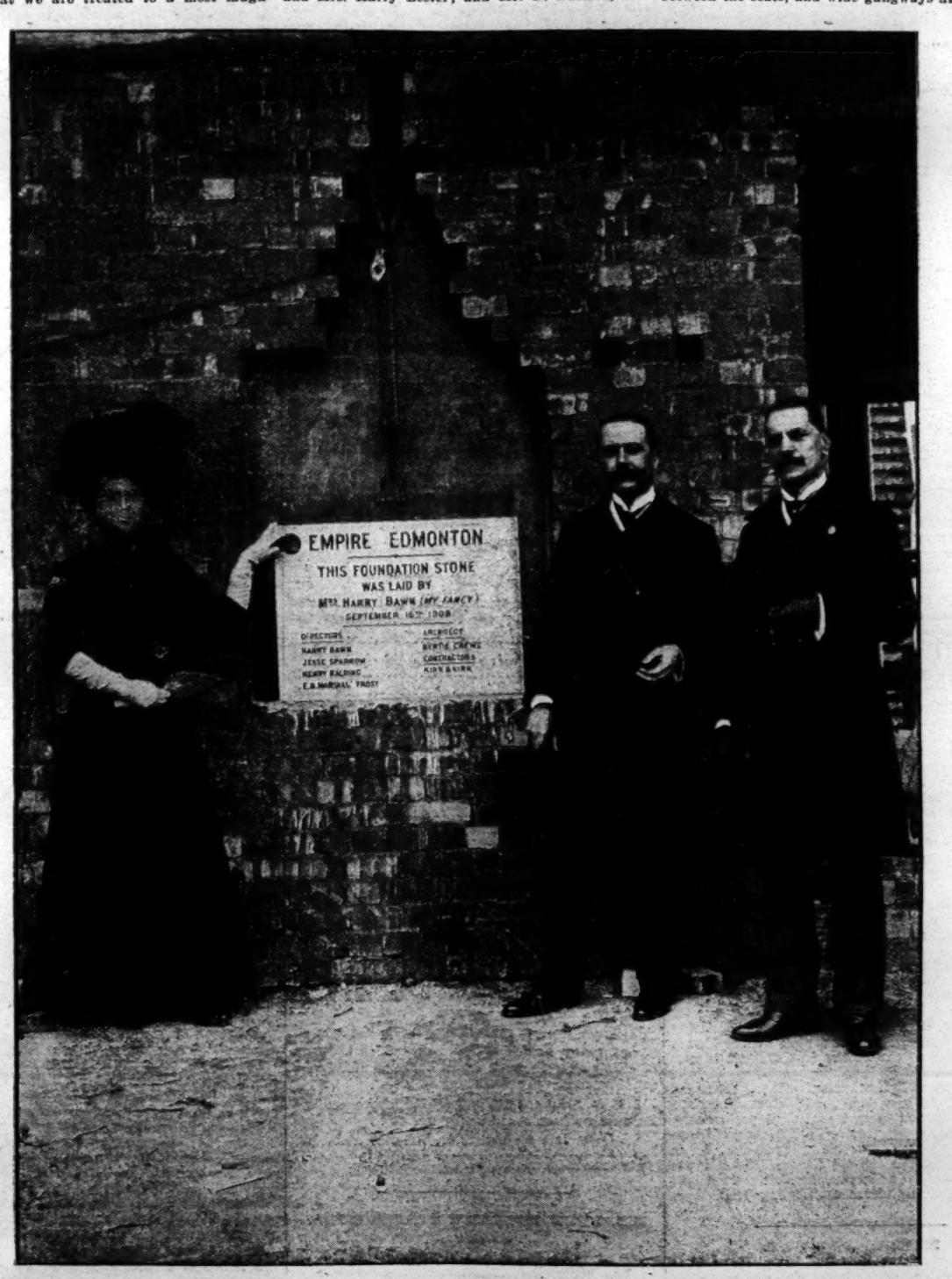
A Pantomimical Absurdity, by Chris. Davis, produced at the Holborn Empire on Monday, Sept. 14.

That versatile sketch writer, Mr. Christopher Davis, the widely-read and entertaining "Chris" of our contemporary, the *People*, has given the music-hall-going public many hours of delightful recreation. He is in his most irresponsible mood in *Lift-Em's, Limited*, and the result of his trifling is that we are treated to a most laughable playlet. Mr. Snipe, the manager of Lift-Em's, Limited, a modern grocery and provision establishment, overhears the assistants making rather rude remarks upon himself, and he peremptorily dismisses them all. As they are going there enters the shop a Piccadilly Johnny, who tells one of the countermen that he has found it necessary, in order to conform with the wishes of an uncle, to go into business. Therefore he will pay the sum of £50 if he may be allowed to stay in the shop and pretend to be managing it as his uncle enters. He is expecting the latter any moment, and instructs the assistant, who poses for the time being as Snipe, to shout "Uncle!" when that relative arrives. Many ludicrous scenes occur, and the Johnny's way of serving the customers is diverting, to say the least. Various people come and go, and it would be difficult to describe the antics of some of them. Anyhow, the whole sketch is hugely enjoyed by all who witness it, the fun going merrily from beginning to end. The Six Brothers Luck may be congratulated not only on having secured a "winner" from Mr. Davis's pen, but on their production of it, and the general liveliness and merriment they infuse into their actions.

TOM COSTELLO is at present featuring with exceptional success a new Irish emigrant song-scena, by A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott, entitled "Homeland, good-bye." During the past week patrons of the Empress, Brixton, and Duchess, Balham, Theatres have testified to their appreciation of Tom and his popular songs by according him a warm welcome. "Homeland, Good-bye," is published by the Star Music Co.

THE NEW EMPIRE, EDMONTON.

An interesting ceremony took place at Lower Edmonton on Wednesday, when the foundation stone of the new Empire was laid by Mrs. Harry Bawn ("My Fancy"), in the presence of an assembly which included Mr. Harry Bawn, Mr. J. Sparrow, Mr. and Mrs. Balding, Mr. E. B. Marshall Frost, Mr. F. Alexander, Mr. A. Bernstein, Mr. Ben Kirk, sen., Mr. Ben Kirk, jun., Mr. S. Kirk, Mr. E. Giles, Mr. F. F. W. Oldfield, Mr. S. Presburg, Mr. A. Macey, Mr. Percy Ford, Mr. Gus Sparrow, Mr. A. J. Barclay, Mr. Fred Neiman, Mr. Leo Fritz, Mr. A. Appleyard, Mr. Hamilton Hill, Walton and Lester, Mr. Leon Bassett, Mr. Fred Millis, Mr. C. Lilburn, Mr. and Mrs. Nutt, Mrs. and Cissie Dryden, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, Mr. A. J. Ainsley, Mr. Fred Villars, Mr. J. Healey, Mr. E. W. Mackney, Mr. T. Finney, Miss Montague, Mr. Victor Leon, Mr. F. E. Stafford, Mr. and Mrs. Childs, Mrs. W. Wolfenden, Mrs. England, Mr. Joe Lawrence, Miss Gladys Hawthorne, Mr. G. Holle, Mr. T. Green, Miss Jenny Milles, Mr. Arthur Haines, Mr. Thacker, Mr. Redfern, Miss Vona Clifford, Mrs. Brown, Mr. Fred Durban, Mr. Geo. Brown, Mr. C. Maddin, Mr. and Mrs. Dann, Mr. J. Neilson Enfield, Mr. and Mrs. Jones, Mr D. Weston, Mr. Masey, Mr. Fred G. Brooks, Mr. Wilfred Howard, Mr. Tom Vaughan, Mr. E. Carhart, Mr. L. Gustave, Mr. J. Munro, Mr. Ardwick, Mr. Mathews, Mr. Maidment, Mr. G. Crump, Mr. Wal Briscoe, Mr. F. Kohler, Mr. L. Kitchen, Miss C. B. Pepi, Mr. and Mrs. Giles, Mr. Bowden, Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mr. S. Bartlett, Mr. and Mrs. Gautley, Mr. and Mrs. Postlethwaite, Miss Mason, Mr. Giles, Mr. Hand, Mr. Lee, Mr. Arnold, Mr. G. Aytoun, Mr. and Mrs. F. Hardie, Mr. Angelo Asher, Mr. and Mrs. G. Marriott, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Montague, Mr. H. V. Tovey, Miss Kelsey, Mr. B. Smith, Miss Rose Tooley, Mrs. Tooley, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lester; and Mr. B. Ballard, Mr. B. Woodger, Mr. C. Shedden, Mr. R. Jewell, and Mr. R. Arnold, of the Empire Staff.



"MY FANCY," [*Photo by Victor Leon*

The Lady Mason, who well and truly laid the Foundation Stone of the Edmonton Empire, Wednesday, Sept. 16, 1908.

The Empire is within a stone's throw of the Lower Edmonton Station of the Great Eastern Railway; and the company, which is called the Empire, Edmonton, Ltd., has for its managing-directors Mr. Harry Bawn (chairman), Mr. Jesse Sparrow, Mr. Henry Balding, and Mr. E. B. Marshall Frost. Though only thirty-five days have been spent on the work of erection, the walls are more than half finished, and a good idea can be gained of the plan and dimensions of the new building.

This new variety theatre is situated in the best possible position in New-road. The building is being erected from the designs of Mr. Bertie Crewe, the well-known architect, who has specialised in this particular class of building, and who has now done considerably over forty theatres and music-halls. Messrs. Kirk and Kirk, of Westminster, are the contractors, a firm who have probably built more theatres than any other, and have amply demonstrated the fact that they thoroughly understand the work by the quick progress they have made with the building, having had, up till Wednesday last, only thirty-five working days. The opening is now assured to take place some two or three weeks before Christmas. The site is admirably adapted for the purposes of a music-hall, being open to public ways on three sides, thus allowing exits to be provided on all sides of the auditorium. The elevation is very simple, but effective, being carried out in English Rennaisance style and constructed in Bath stone and dark red bricks. The principal features of the elevation will be the entrances to the stalls and circle, and another unusual feature is the roof. This will be continued in a straight line from end to end of the building, thus doing away with the usual ugly high roof over the stage and back of gallery. An ornamental iron and glass verandah will also be fixed right along this main front, and with this lit up at night, and with numerous arc lamps on the heads of the pilasters, the effect will be most attractive. The entrance to the stalls will be in the centre, down two flights of marble mosaic stairs. The circle entrance is at the right-hand corner, up a staircase partly constructed of marble and the rest carpeted; and the pit entrance will be at the back, under a covered right of way. Extra early door entrances will also be provided to each part of the house. There will be no gallery here, the directors considering that the house would be amply large enough without this, thus enabling Mr. Crewe to design a flat ceiling over the whole of the auditorium, a quite unique feature in a theatre.

The decoration of the interior will be in Empire style, in colours of cream, white, and gold. The proscenium opening will be square, with a decorated cornice over, the same cornice being carried round the side walls over the boxes. The side walls will be divided up into three bays by decorated pilasters and columns, those nearest the proscenium being the private boxes, of which there are two, the two farther bays, which match these, being the entrance to the boxes; the centre bays on the stalls level will be the exits, filled in with paintings over. The ceiling, as mentioned, will be flat, and hexagonal in shape, divided by decorated ribs into panels, and filled in with paintings. The tableau curtains and draperies to boxes will be in shades of crimson plush, specially designed to be in keeping with the scheme of decoration, and the chairs will also be crimson in colour. All the carpets and floor coverings will be in shades of blue. Tip-up armchairs will be provided in the stalls and circle, and the seating in the pit will be upholstered, with padded backs. In all parts of the house plenty of knee room will be allowed between the seats, and wide gangways at the sides and down the centre will be provided. There will be eleven rows of stalls and pit stalls, fourteen rows of both pit and circle, with spacious promenades at back. The circle is constructed on the latest suspensory system, two thin columns in the pit only being used to support it. Large saloons will be provided for each part of the house, also ample retiring-rooms and lavatories; a suite of offices is also provided for the management in the front of the house, from which all parts of the theatre are accessible. The stage is of ample dimensions to take any sketch or combination on the road. The dressing-rooms are in a separate block at the back, and are seven in number, all well furnished and lighted, and installed with hot and cold water. The proscenium will be fitted with an iron and asbestos fireproof curtain, with a water-sprinkler over, and four hydrants will be erected on the stage and four more in the auditorium. The lighting will all be by electricity, with a standing service of gas in case of failure. The ventilation will be by means of electric fans and air ducts, and so arranged that the air in the auditorium can be cleared six times an hour.

The seating is as follows:—Stalls and pit stalls, 395; pit, 650; circle, 480; boxes, 10; 1,535 in all, and with ample standing-room for 500 or 600 more. The following are the dimensions of the house:—Auditorium, 67ft. wide by 80ft. deep; stage, 26ft. deep by 68ft. wide, with a height to the gridiron of 45ft.

Great praise is due to the energy and judgment of the builders, Messrs. Kirk and Kirk, whose names are famous for their connection with the Duke of York's and Daly's Theatres, the Euston, and places of amusement at Bath, Bristol, and Colchester.

Mrs. Bawn, whose appearance in the company of her husband was the signal for an outburst of applause, was introduced by Mr. Jesse Sparrow, who said he hoped the new Empire would be as great a success in its sphere as "My Fancy" had been in hers. Mr. Kirk then handed Mrs. Bawn the trowel with which she was to lay the stone, the inscription on which was as follows:—

EMPIRE, EDMONTON.
THIS FOUNDATION STONE
WAS LAID BY
MRS. HARRY BAWN ("MY FANCY"),
SEPT. 16, 1908.

Mrs. Bawn, amidst humorous remarks from her friends, spread the mortar with great deliberation and *aplomb*, giving the regulation taps with the mallet, and declaring the stone "well and truly laid" in a clear and audible voice. Mr. Sparrow then thanked Mrs. Bawn for laying the stone, and hoped that the Edmonton Empire would now go ahead and prosper. Mr. Harry Bawn thanked those present for assembling in such numbers, and also expressed his gratitude to Mr. Bertie Crewe, Messrs. Kirk and Kirk, and the British workman, remarking that the transformation in thirty-five days of a dirty grass plot into what they saw before them was a "record." Mr. Kirk, sen., in responding, said he hoped to have the place ready to open in Christmas week, and Mr. Munro, Mr. Bertie Crewe's representative, apologised for that gentleman's unavoidable absence. The proceedings were viewed with great interest by the workmen who had been engaged on the building, and who occupied a "coign of vantage" on the top of one of the walls. The trowel was presented to Mrs. Bawn by Messrs. Kirk and Kirk, and the mallet, the gift of Mr. Bertie Crewe, was handed to her by Mr. Munro. A beautiful bouquet was also presented to Mrs. Bawn by the directors.

MUSIC HALL HOME.

The general meeting of the friends and supporters of this charity took place at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday. The chair was taken by Mr. G. P. R. Burgess, in the absence of Mr. Harry Barnard. Among others present were Messrs. Leon A. Bassett, W. S. Bassett, C. C. Cornish, Percy Ford, Joe Lawrence, A. E. Chapman, H. Thacker, and Benj. Woodger (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed, and the chairman also read the report and balance-sheet, which were adopted, on the proposal of Mr. Percy Ford, seconded by Mr. Leon Bassett.

Mr. Thos. Barrasford was re-elected president, and a similar honour was accorded to the vice-presidents. Mr. Barrasford sent a note of regret that he was not able to be present. A telegram was received from Mr. Jimmy Traynor, which ran as follows:—"Sorry not able to be present. Hope for successful meeting." Messrs. Douglas White and Ted E. Box also sent wires. Mr. Harry Barnard was re-elected treasurer after a hearty vote of thanks had been passed to him for his services during the past; and a vote of thanks to all ladies and gentlemen for past help, proposed by Mr. Joe Lawrence and seconded by Mr. Bert Chapman, was unanimously carried, as was a special resolution of thanks, proposed and seconded by the same gentlemen, regarding the M.H.A.R.A. donation. Mr. Percy Ford proposed and Mr. H. Thacker seconded the appointment of the secretary (Mr. Ben Woodger), who has been conducting the duties of his office to the entire satisfaction of the executive and friends of the Fund. Mr. Woodger briefly returned thanks. Thanks were also given to Mrs. Fruin for her able services as matron of the Home, to the auditors, Mr. Arthur R. Welchman, chartered accountant, of 9, Old Jewry-chambers, and to Mr. P. A. Lennon, and the directors of the Camberwell Palace for the use of their hall for the meetings. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

A letter was read from Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, manager of *The Era*, who wrote:—"You have my assurance that I will do all I can to make the New Year (1908-9) Fund a great success." The balance-sheet and report have already been inserted in our columns.

MISS MAIDIE SCOTT has no vacant dates left for the next three years. Her pantomime engagement this Christmas has been fixed up at the Marlborough, Holloway, where she is to appear as principal girl.

MR. DAN ASHTON, the Lancashire collier, will appear at the Palace of Varieties, Manchester, with a new, original, and up-to-date Sunday scena, founded on the facts of the Wigan colliery disaster, in aid of the widows and orphans.

LORD LEIGHTON'S Venus, after a lengthy stay in Paris, opened out at the Royal Palace, Ramsgate, last Monday, Sept. 14, in the new sensation, written by her manager, Mr. L. Austin Millais, *Salome Revelations*.

MISS DAISIE MORELL has just produced three original numbers of which she holds the sole rights, viz., "Is that a Man?" by G. Stevens, "An Old-fashioned Chimney Corner," by Alfred Glover, and "Just Push Yourself Along," by Glover-Kind.

MR. HARRY LAUDER has accepted another song that's going to be a winner from his old friend Frank Folloy, entitled "Am courting Leezie Lindsay noo." The stirring music is enough to make the audience get up and dance the Hielan' fling. Mr. Folloy also wrote and composed for Mr. Lauder "Rob Roy Macintosh" and the famous "Stop yer ticklin', Jock."

AN excellent programme has been arranged for the variety entertainment which is being given at the Holborn Town Hall on the 25th inst. in aid of the St. Marylebone Hostel, which provides a temporary home for domestic servants who are ill or out of work. Among other artists who are generously giving their services are Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss Sybil Arundale, Miss Grace Arundale, Miss Marie Gros, Miss Ella Lane, Miss Ada Martine, Miss Russell, and Mr. Alec Hurley. Full particulars may be obtained of Miss Edith Higgens, 98, Crawford-street.

BY suddenly becoming insane whilst watching a variety entertainment at the Hippodrome, Blackpool, late on Tuesday night, Joseph Binns, a middle-aged visitor from Bradford, caused an excited rush to the doors. Frederick Drabble, police officer, who was in the theatre, informed the Blackpool magistrates on Wednesday, when Binns was charged with being of unsound mind, that people were first alarmed by him shouting, "They're killing me; they're cutting my head off." During the rush to the doors witness ran up to the gallery, where he found several men holding Binns down. Dr. Vintner having spoken as to the deranged state of his mind, Binns was detained, and later handed over to his wife.

MR. LINDON TRAVERS' benefit at the Tynemouth Palace, announced for Wednesday last, was under the patronage of the Mayor and Mayoress of Tynemouth. The special programme included the Wellesley Band, by permission of Captain Baynham; H. G. Amers and the Band of the Northumberland Hussars, by permission of Col. Bates; concerted items by Mr. F. R. Duberley's company; Miss Maud Jay, from the Seymour Hicks *Dress Rehearsal* company; Mr. Morris Harvey, Miss Kathleen Severn, Mr. Bernard Russell, Miss Florence Foster, Mr. Derick Knowles, Fred Vallance (magician), Messrs. Harland and Rollinson, with eccentric musical act; the Brothers Bradshaw, Master Prince Simpson, and others.

THE PROTEST OF HENRI GROS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Since leaving London I have read the warning to artists on page 13 of *The Performer* of Aug. 27. While reserving any right I may possess against this mode of procedure, I desire without prejudice to stigmatise this notice as a deplorable interference with the ordinary methods of doing business in the establishments over which I hold control, viz., the Euston, East Ham, Metropolitan, Chelsea, South London, Walthamstow, and Tottenham. For many years I have lived on good terms with the artists whom it is my business to engage, and only in two flagrant breaches of contract have I had to take proceedings, and then have done so in the mildest form. To be now publicly told that artists have to be careful when coming to business terms with me is prejudicial to the establishments where I am entrusted with the interests of my shareholders, and I look upon it as an unwarrantable proceeding meant to prejudice my business evidently in favour of some rival company. The mountain of prejudice which the Federation endeavours to create is founded upon presumption.

When some few weeks ago the Federation went before the Arbitrator with one of my colleagues on a contract to which a rival company objected, the Federation interfered to protect the latter, and they found out their mistake. Just before that period a full-page advertisement had appeared in some of the professional papers, and the result thereof was that one of the artists on the point of signing contracts for 1913-14-15 in a fright went with his contracts to the Federation. The latter, without his sanction or his presence, and without giving me notice, produced these contracts on this occasion, although it had nothing to do with the dispute in question. The words that appeared in the margin stated "exclusive contract in conjunction with the Oxford and Tivoli." These words were put in at my instigation, while in the same margin appeared the names of the halls where the artist was allowed to appear, being "the only ones" he stipulated for. Now, sir, the terms asked by this same artist were conceded to him at his own request, and formed the basis of negotiation with which he was perfectly satisfied, and as he was to appear repeatedly under these contracts within the eight months' bar at our establishments, he was naturally prevented from appearing in the barred area at other establishments.

When making his terms he distinctly stated that he wanted to play nowhere else. The prejudicial interference of the Federation before the Arbitrator made Mr. Askwith observe to my colleague that if I liked to discuss the matter with him and the interested party he would be willing to hear me, but until then he stated that the matter written in the margin had better be left out. When my colleague called my attention to this observation, I immediately agreed to strike it out, declining to waste time on a matter that was, after all, of secondary importance. Although I have strong doubts that I was within my rights, taking into consideration the reading of B. and C. under the Arbitrator's Award as to future contracts (barring clauses), I challenge the Federation to bring forward one single marginal clause in any of my contracts prejudicial to artists' interests, or contrary to the award, except it be permission given them to perform at an earlier period than that laid down by the Arbitrator at rival establishments within the barred area.

During the strike I strenuously opposed arbitration; as President of the Entertainments Association I naturally was ruled by the majority and gave way, and after giving my evidence before Mr. Askwith in plain unvarnished language towards of the end of the proceedings, when his award was given I immediately complied with it by having my contracts altered. I now challenge the V.A.F. to produce a single contract signed by me which justifies interference with my business.

Let me state that the V.A.F. officials are particularly prone to point out for the benefit of artists any imaginary departure from the Award. This I do not quarrel with. It means their existence, and unless they played the game in this direction they could not hold their own. There is not a week passes that artists do not trespass upon the Award. They either do not send their bill matter (and it has now been legally decided on appeal that bill matter must be sent by every artist, for it does not mean so much the matter of advertisement as that it means the artist remembers his engagement and will be there to fulfil his contract), or they send their bill matter, are billed, and do not appear. Against the Award they continuously ask to change their time after the Friday, some as late as the Monday rehearsal, or even in the evening before the doors open, at the risk of upsetting the entire programme. Ninety per cent. persistently refuse to send their songs in, hence the vulgarity of some artists is not discovered until their songs are sung upon the stage, which may for nights escape the vigilance of the manager, and when they have done irretrievable injury to the establishment.

Vulgarity is still rife amongst modern comic singers. Some of them take the hint given in a proper manner, and profit thereby; others look upon it is an insult, and persist in airing their vulgarity. One notable instance is particularly in my mind. They persistently break the Award by declining to comply with Rule 7 of the regulations laid down in the contract by the Arbitrator: "Singers shall if required sing three songs." Frequently they strike the option clause 16 out of their contracts. In the majority of cases clause 12, which compels the artist to disclose engagements which interfere with the contract he signs, is ignored. He takes French leave, and appears within a few weeks of the fulfilment of his contract within the barred area, waxes indignant when called to account, and puts the manager to any amount of trouble, relying upon good nature or business pressure not to be prosecuted, or else innocently pleads ignorance.

What does the Federation do to curb these ladies and gentlemen, to bring them to the scratch, and make them fulfil their portion of the Award? Facts are stubborn things, and it will be a good thing for the profession in general when the V.A.F. take the beam out of their own eyes instead of hampering business and unwarrantably interfering with it, to the detriment of managers and artists alike.—Yours faithfully,

HENRI GROS.

Bad Nauheim.
Sept. 12, 1908.

ON Monday evening a large audience testified their appreciation of Mr. De Jong's efforts as musical-director at the Rhyl Pavilion during the season, the occasion being his benefit concert. The following artists were billed to appear: Madame Sadler-Fogg, Madame Dews, Mr. Howard Innes, Mr. Denbigh Cooper, and Mr. Watkin Hughes, Miss Louie James, soprano, and Mr. Howard Innes, entertainer, appear each evening during the week.

MESSRS. Adeler and Sutton's company is paying a welcome return visit to the Olympian Gardens, Rhyl, in an original yachting episode, entitled *The Saucy Arethusa*. Messrs. Jack W. Hughes, Bertram Noel, Kemsley Scott-Barrie, Dick Tubb, Norman Osborne, Cecil Warwick, Willmott Fowler; Misses Jessie Buckle, Margaret Cathcart, and Elaine Reed, all do well in their respective parts.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

HENGLER'S CIRCUS.

Under the able management of Mr. Austin Fryers, Hengler's Circus is now prospering exceedingly; and long queues of people may be seen gathering in Argyll-street before the commencement of the afternoon and evening performances. Hengler's is the paradise of children, and it is well worth a visit to the circus to hear their musical laughter and to witness their intense delight with the entertainment so judiciously arranged and provided. There is no want of capital clowning, and the comedians of the company not only work hard, but with genuine humour and real drollery. All the old familiar feats of the circus are done, and done really well at Hengler's. The educated pony, who refuses to obey the ringmaster but hearkens to the voice of the clown, amuses the audience exceedingly; and Mr. Frank Stephenson does the jockey business very neatly and with great dash and spirit, his somersaulting being excellent. The Brothers Austin have some fine fun with piled-up chairs; and Mlle. Montero, a skilled and graceful haute-école rider, puts her beautiful horse through various paces of the manège, making him knock down chairs and set them up again and do a very clever dance to music. Spangneletti's dogs are experts at walking on their hind and fore legs and doing jumps while in the erect or inverted position, and they repeat their difficult feats on a rapidly-revolving table amidst the applause of the audience. The dog who "dives" from the top of a long ladder into a cloth held beneath receives quite an ovation. Those wonderfully-trained and quaintly comical creatures, Permane's bears, are viewed by the juveniles with a mixture of awe and rapture, and their amusing tricks are immensely admired. Mr. C. Austin keeps up cylinders and barrels on his feet in a perplexing and extraordinary way, and Miss Florence Transfield, standing on the back of a steadily-cantering steed, changes from one national costume to another as it careers round the circle. Mr. Tony Spring does some remarkable jumping in and out of barrels and over chairs, and an important item of the entertainment is a dramatic scena called *The Despatch Bearer*. Also on the programme are the names of those daring and expert flying gymnasts, Aerian and Ostara; and Mr. J. Evans, with his illustrated songs and a judicious selection of animated pictures, completes the entertainment. The management at Hengler's are proving that there is an opening in London for a circus conducted on the good old lines, which pleases the present generation old lines, which please the present generation tive to both young and old. Mr. Arthur Coomber is the courteous acting-manager of the show, and performs his duties with geniality and firmness.

"A RIDE TO WIN."

A Racing Episode, by Max Goldberg, Produced at the Empire, Croydon, on Monday, Sept. 14.

Tom Trueman ..... MR. JOHN F. PRESTON
Captain Denton ..... MR. W. H. BARLOW
Lieut. Smythe ..... MR. HORACE CUSTINS
Alf Blake ..... MR. F. C. BAILEY
Belle Trueman ..... MISS MABELLE F. BARLOW
Tilda Trueman ..... MISS ETHEL RAINFORTH

This stirring and dramatic play, in three scenes, was received on its first production with marked success, Mr. John F. Preston having done full justice to the drama by selecting an excellent company and providing capital scenery. The action of the play opens at the White City, is continued at a bookmaker's office, and concludes with a realistic scene at Sandown Races at which thoroughbred horses are introduced. The principal characters are Tom Trueman, a bookmaker; his wife, Belle; daughter by a former marriage, Tilda; Captain Denton, who is carrying on an intrigue with Trueman's wife; Lieut. Smythe, in love with Tilda; and Alf Blake, the bookmaker's clerk. Belle has committed bigamy in marrying Trueman, as she is the wife of Alf Blake. The secret is known to Capt. Denton, who uses the knowledge to force Belle to listen to his overtures. He also keeps a hold upon Blake, as the latter is liable to penal servitude for forgery, and Denton nas the cheque which would give Blake away. Trueman has a horse named Lightning in the Grand Steeplechase at Sandown Park, which is expected to win, and Denton, knowing this, has backed the horse for all he is worth. Trueman, overhearing a conversation between Belle and Denton, learns that his wife is playing him false, and in revenge scratches his horse Lightning from the race and ruins Denton. Trueman also heavily backs a horse called The Chief, which is owned and will be ridden by Lieut. Smythe, who is betrothed to Tilda. Before the race Denton hands Smythe a cheque in settlement of a debt, but by mistake hands over the cheque which would send Blake to penal servitude. The cheque is passed to Blake, and the latter, being now free, confesses that he is the husband of Belle, whose marriage with Trueman is therefore illegal. Belle is arrested for bigamy, and in an exciting race for the Grand Steeplechase The Chief, admirably ridden by Smythe, wins in a canter, Denton having come to grief at one of the hurdles. All is now clear for the future happiness of Lieut. Smythe and his promised bride, Tilda Trueman. Mr. John F. Preston made a fine robust Tom Trueman; Mr. W. H. Barlow gave a consistent performance as Capt. Denton; Mr. Horace Custins enacted Lieut. Smythe in the best possible manner; Mr. F. C. Bailey was forcible as Alf Blake; Miss Mabelle F. Barlow made a fascinating Belle Trueman; and Miss Ethel Rainforth a charming Tilda Trueman.

MASONS AT WORK.

On Thursday last Earl's Court Lodge, No. 3,098, held its first meeting of the session at the Trocadero, under the presidency of Mr. T. Leete, W.M.; Mr. S. W. Keene, S.W.; Mr. A. J. Taylor, J. W.; Mr. J. J. Gilbeart, S.D.; Mr. Oliver Sanders, J.D.; Mr. Harry Cox, I.G.; Mr. H. Hickok, Organist; Mr. W. S. Lyon, D.C.; Mr. Shiel Mussell, Secretary; and Mr. John Worth, Treasurer. The W.M. did a remarkable afternoon's work, having the whole of the ceremonies to perform, and subsequently installing Mr. S. W. Keene as his successor for the ensuing year, who invested the following gentlemen as his officers to assist him in managing the Lodge: Mr. T. Leete as I.P.M., to whom was presented a very handsome token of appreciation of his services during his year of office; Mr. Arthur Taylor, S.W.; Mr. J. J. Gilbeart, J.W.; Mr. John Worth, P.A.G.P. Treasurer; Mr. Shiel Mussell, P.M. Secretary; Mr. Oliver Sanders, S.D.; Mr. Harry Cox, J.B.; Mr. W. James, I.G.; Mr. Wolfe S. Lyon, L.R.D.C.; Mr. W. Hickok, Organist; and Messrs. Storold, Taylor, and Smethurst, Stewards.

During the evening opportunity was taken by Lieut.-Col. G. E. Blunt, P.G., Swordbearer England, P.S.S.G.W. Middlesex, the first Master of the Lodge, to present Dr. J. J. Orr with the regalia appertaining to the London rank, which had been unanimously voted by the members of the Lodge. At the banquet which followed, the W.M. expressed the great pleasure it had afforded the brethren and himself to see the way in which the duties of the S.D., in the absence of the appointed officer, had been performed by Mr. Harry Bawn, who had been initiated in that Lodge, and, he believed, held an important office in the Chelsea Lodge, to which many of their members had the privilege of being founders.

THOSE successful comedians Messrs. Harley and Melton have been re-engaged by Mr. Arthur Carlton for two years, making five years with that gentleman. Fred Higham is fast booking them up.

V.A.F. AND THE AGENTS.

The following resolutions in support of the Executive Committee's actions of Thursday in instructing the members of the Variety Artists' Federation not to pay any commissions to agents until the present dispute is settled, and to further not accept engagements from agents except on the V.A.F. Model Office copy, was carried unanimously at a meeting of between four and five hundred Federationists at the Bedford Head Hotel yesterday afternoon. The passing of the resolution was greeted with loud cheers and applause.

"That this meeting unanimously instructs the Executive Committee to enforce the Office Copy as submitted to us, as from Monday next, Sept. 21, 1908, and we hereby agree to loyally abide by and support its enforcement, and further pledge ourselves not to accept engagements from agents except on the V.A.F. Model Office Copy."

Proposed by W. H. Clemart, seconded by R. G. Knowles:—"That if by twelve noon, Friday, Sept. 25, 1908, the agents have not accepted this form of 'commission note,' the 10 per cent. be reduced to 5 per cent. and the clause authorising the managers to deduct the commission for the agent be deleted, and that every agent be notified to this effect." (Carried with one dissentient.)

V.A.F. MODEL OFFICE COPY OF COMMISSION NOTE.

This part to be retained by the Agent.

COMMISSION NOTE.

In consideration of .....having procured for me (us) ..... the following engagements—

....Week....at.....at.....per week
....Week....at.....at.....per week
....Week....at.....at.....per week
....Week....at.....at.....per week
....Week....at.....at.....per week
....Week....at.....at.....per week

I (we) hereby agree to pay to the said ....a commission of ..... per cent. (not to exceed TEN per cent.) on the above-mentioned Engagements, and also on any continuous prolongation thereof. This commission to be deducted by the Management from my (or our) salary should the Agent so desire. This commission is not to be payable when the Engagement is not fulfilled through the illness of the Artist or default of the Proprietor, or any other circumstances over which the Artist has no control.

Should a dispute arise between the parties the matter may be referred to a Board of Arbitration consisting of three Agents, three Members of the Executive Committee of the V.A.F., and an independent Chairman agreed to by the said Board of Arbitration.

Signed .....

Date .....

It is understood that the Agent is not responsible for any breach of this Contract on the part of either Proprietor or Artist through whatsoever cause arising.

V.A.F. MODEL OFFICE COPY OF COMMISSION NOTE.

This part to be signed by the Agent and retained by the Artist.

COMMISSION NOTE.

In consideration of my (our) having procured for .....the following engagements—

.....Week....at.....at.....per week
.....Week....at.....at.....per week
.....Week....at.....at.....per week
.....Week....at.....at.....per week
.....Week....at.....at.....per week
.....Week....at.....at.....per week

I (we) hereby agree to accept from the said..... .....a commission of ..... per cent. (not to exceed TEN per cent.) on the above-mentioned Engagements, and also on any continuous prolongation thereof. This commission to be deducted by the Management from the above salary should I (we) so desire. This commission is not to be payable when the Engagement is not fulfilled through the illness of the Artist or default of the Proprietor, or any other circumstances over which the Artist has no control.

Should a dispute arise between the parties the matter may be referred to a Board of Arbitration consisting of three Agents, three Members of the Executive Committee of the V.A.F., and an independent Chairman agreed to by the said Board of Arbitration.

It is understood that the Agent is not responsible for any breach of this Contract on the part of either Proprietor or Artist through whatsoever cause arising.

I (we) hereby certify that the above engagements have been arranged by me (us).

Signed.....

Date.....

MR. FRED MILLER'S TESTIMONIAL.

	£	s.	d.
Dr. Bodie	2	2	0
Harry Lauder	1	1	0
Foreman and Fannan	1	1	0
Frost Smith	1	1	0
Little Tich	1	1	0
Henri Gros	1	1	0
George Mozart	1	1	0
Mark Melford	1	1	0
W. T. Helmsley	1	1	0
Henry Kemble	1	1	0
Bertha Stuart	1	1	0
Tom Shaw	1	1	0
J. Leopold	1	1	0
Kendall Robinson	1	1	0
Gilbert Girard	1	1	0
Dave Carter	1	1	0
John Nathan	1	1	0
Paul Cinquevalli	1	1	0
S. G. Goodwin	1	1	0
George Loader	1	1	0
J. Collins	1	1	0
Will Evans	1	1	0
W. F. Frame (Hooch Aye)		10	6
A. E. Abrahams		10	6
E. Bosanquet		5	0

Mr. Kendall Robinson, a staunch friend of Mr. Fred Miller, in sending a contribution to this Fund, testifies as follows:—"I have much pleasure in enclosing cheque for one guinea for the Miller Testimonial. I have known Mr. Miller for many years. Uniformly warm-hearted and open-handed, his kindnesses and 'good turns' to large numbers of those who were brought in contact with him at the Paragon and Canterbury can only have been limited by his physical capacity for doing them."

KINEMATOGRAPH regulations respecting the use of the kinematograph in theatres and halls, also the regulations respecting the use of limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the kinematograph or limelight should possess a copy of these regulations.

NEW DEVONPORT HIPPODROME.

The United County Theatres (Ltd.) have at length provided for a long-felt want in erecting a magnificent building in the chief naval arsenal of the British Empire. For years the only regular amusement has been provided by a theatre, but now the townsfolk will be enabled to patronise a first-class music hall. The site is very central, being situate in Prince's-street, a street which runs parallel with Fore-street, the latter of which leads direct to the Royal Dockyard. The building, which has been erected in an incredibly short period, is a very handsome structure, and fills every requirement of an up-to-date theatre of varieties. All the latest improvements have been introduced for the convenience and comfort of the patrons, and, in addition, it is easily accessible to all parts of the town. The exterior is a very pretty one, the front elevation being of terra cotta brick with Portland stone facings. There are stained glass windows, and a glass verandah extending the whole length of the front, while the approaches to the principal parts of the house are from this quarter.

The beautiful building is lighted throughout with electricity, electroliers being fitted in the roof and around the various balconies. Around the walls also are incandescent gas burners, which will be used only in the event of the failure of the electric current. The ground floor slopes gently from back to front, and there are three divisions, viz., orchestra stalls, stalls, and pit. The floor is covered with a heavy red carpet, and the seats, which are exceedingly well arranged, are all cushioned, the more expensive being, of course, more elaborately upholstered. There are three exits from the stalls and three from the pit, and the ground floor can be emptied in an expeditious manner. The circle is upholstered in a similar fashion to the orchestra stalls, and although there is plenty of stairway, this part will accommodate 500 people. Here, again, the exits are numerous, this part of the house being little above the level of the street. The gallery is a very commodious one, and the exits and entrances lead to a street at the side of the building. Altogether there is accommodation in the building for over 1,500 people.

Refreshment buffets are provided in each part of the house, and in addition two large waiting-rooms are provided. The Hippodrome is furnished with modern heating apparatus, and in all parts of the house there are electric fans. The wall decoration is red with a white dado, while the fronts of the balcony and stage are beautifully carved and gilded. Two large boxes at the side of the stage are magnificently furnished. The stage is 58ft. by 32ft., with a 26ft. proscenium, and it is provided with a fire screen and sprinkling apparatus, whilst all the doors leading to the stage are fireproof and self-closing.

The building has been constructed by Messrs. J. Parkinson and Sons, of Blackpool, while Mr. Bertie Crewe, of London, was the architect. Mr. H. Leigh has been resident-manager for the builder, and the general arrangements have been supervised by Mr. John Field, manager of the Palace Theatre, Plymouth, assisted by Mr. Angel Dodd in the stage work. Although the licensee and responsible manager of the new theatre, Mr. John Field, will still remain at the Palace Theatre, Mr. Herbert Taylor, acting-manager, will practically be in sole command. Mr. Taylor, who is thirty-three years of age and a native of Liverpool, is no stranger to Plymouth. He served for some time as secretary to Mr. C. F. Williams at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, and afterwards became acting-manager. Since leaving Plymouth he has held other theatrical appointments, and he resigned from the managership of the Palace Theatre, Derby, to come to Devonport.

THE OPENING CEREMONY.

The finishing touches had been almost completed on Saturday last when, at the invitation of the directors of the Hippodrome Company, the Mayor of Devonport (Mr. R. Smerdon) attended to unveil the commemoration stone. Accompanying the Mayor were the majority of the members of the Corporation, together with the officials, and in addition there was a distinguished gathering of guests. The company first assembled at the back of the circle, where, at the call of Mr. Alfred Moul (chairman of directors), the Mayor, wearing his chain of office, took up his place near the veiled tablet. Mr. Moul thanked the Mayor in the name of the directors, and presented him with a silver trowel (suitably inscribed) and an ebony mallet. Amidst loud applause, the Mayor pulled a cord, and the tablet was exposed to view, and then, after employing the tools with which he had been presented, he declared the stone "well and truly laid."

The stone, which is of pink marble, bears the following inscription:—

"The Hippodrome, Devonport. Chairman of Directors: Alfred Moul, Esq. This stone was laid on Sept. 12, 1908, by R. Smerdon, Esq., Mayor of Devonport. Architect: Bertie Crewe, London; Contractors: Parkinson and Sons, Ltd., Blackpool."

The Mayor, in a tasteful little speech, said that the duties of the Chief Magistrate were multifarious, but nothing during his term of office had given him more pleasure than the present function. He wished the venture every possible prosperity.

After thanking the Mayor, Mr. Moul invited the company to lunch on the stage, where a recherché meal was partaken of. Mr. Alfred Moul presided, and he was supported by a distinguished company, including the Mayor, Messrs. F. Paul (Chairman of Watch Committee), Aldermen Whittleton, W. J. Waycott, C. Goodman; R. J. Fittall (Town Clerk), R. Littleton (Chairman of the Board of Guardians), S. J. Page (Plymouth Town Council), Isaac Pearse (Chairman of Stone house Council), and others.

After the loyal toasts had been heartily received, the chairman proposed "Prosperity to the Borough of Devonport." It was a town which possessed time-honoured associations and a worthy corporation, and its worthy Mayor would uphold the traditions of those who had been Chief Magistrate before him. He (the chairman) thanked them for the honour they had conferred upon the directors by placing the official mark of approval upon the work. A couple of years ago it did not seem necessary to provide additional entertainment for the people of Devonport, but he could now see that this variety theatre was not erected too soon. The company would see that the entertainment provided was clean, wholesome, and amusing, and he hoped there was a prosperous future both for the town and the newly-erected theatre. (Loud applause.)

The Mayor, in response, first returned his sincere thanks for the souvenir the directors had presented to him. They all wished the new venture every success, and all were agreed that the building was most gorgeous, being a credit to the architect and contractors. Previously the people of Devonport had had to go to Plymouth for their variety entertainments, but now such a thing would be no longer necessary. It was the duty of the Chief Magistrate to see to the town's varied interests, and as the representative of that important borough he was determined to see to all the interests that affected the welfare and commercial prosperity of the town. As a member of the Watch Committee he had inspected the building, and in his opinion nothing had been overlooked that would tend to the comfort of the patrons. He was sure, from Mr. Moul's remarks, that the theatre would be carried on in a clean manner, and would not lower the moral tone of the inhabitants of the town. (Applause.)

Mr. F. Paul, in submitting "Success to the Hippodrome," said that protests had been received from certain well-meaning people, but the Watch Committee had to study the larger interests of the town, and it was shown that the time had arrived when such a place was needed by the members of the community. A sum of £20,000 had been spent upon the venture, and all they could do now was to wish it every possible success. Mr. J. C. Tozer, who seconded, said it was strange that these people who protested against such a building in their own town were among the first to patronise the class of entertainment when away from home. (Loud laughter.) There was no reason why the Hippodrome should not become a flourishing concern and a great advantage to the town.

Other toasts included "His Majesty's Imperial Forces" and "The Architect and Builders," both of which were well received. During the lunch some excellent selections were played by the orchestra under Mr. J. W. Gleghorn, who will supervise the musical portion of the entertainment.

The opening performances attracted enormous crowds, and the second "house" on Monday night was patronised by upwards of fifty members of the Town Council. During the interval, Mr. Alfred Moul (chairman of directors) made a speech, and thanked the people for their extensive patronage. The Albert and Edmonds Comedy Troupe head the bill with a pantomime absurdity entitled *Neighbours*, and it evokes roars of laughter. Corman's clever juveniles prove a great attraction; while an excellent turn is provided by Jack Lorimer, a Scotch comedian, Conn and Conrad perform some clever feats on the "Barber's Pole," and Stella Stahl sings a couple of songs with good taste and expression. Russell Brandon proves a very clever dancing comedian, and Lily Flexmore executes some startling contortions. Altogether the new variety theatre has had an excellent send-off.

FOUR TIMES DEAD.

An interesting controversy is exciting the minds of many people in Glasgow at present, viz., whether or not James Taylor, the music-hall comedian of days gone by, is still alive. Taylor is remembered for two songs in particular, "Simple Simon" and "Sarah Walker," and prided himself on the fact that he was the only comedian ever put up at auction. The origin of the controversy took place a week or two ago, when an elderly gentleman entered a well-known theatrical resort in Bridge-street, Glasgow, attracted by the old theatrical portraits displayed in the windows, and after ordering a refreshment intimated that he was an old professional himself; in fact, none other than James Taylor, the "champion comic" of a generation ago, and said that, although four times reported dead, he was still to the fore. In conversation with the proprietor, Mr. Taylor referred to his first appearance in Glasgow at the old Scotia in the early 'sixties, and was astonished to hear that, as a boy, the proprietor had been present on that occasion, and still remembered the choruses of his two best songs, which he sang over, while the tears trickled down the cheeks of the old comedian.

In further conversation, Mr. Taylor freely mentioned many names associated with the Scotia in those days, such as Baylis, the proprietor of the hall, his wife, their daughter Jessie, her husband Colquhoun, and also a clever amateur comedian in Glasgow at that time, James Anderson, with whom Taylor was always very friendly, despite the fact that when the "champion comic's" services were sold by auction at the Mart, Glasgow, in 1866, and the Scotia was outbid by the Whitebait, it was James Anderson whom Baylis secured to run as a rival to his former star. A copy of the bill of this auction sale is still to be seen in the office of the auctioneers at Glasgow.

The impression created on the listeners to the old professional was such that no one doubted his *bond fides*; but the following day who should visit the Hampden but Mr. James Anderson, now a variety agent in Glasgow, and when he heard that James Taylor had been in there, and asking for him, ejaculated, "Impossible! the man is dead years ago," and later in the week brought Mr. Barney Armstrong to confirm this statement. Armstrong's contribution to the dispute was that he remembered the sale of Taylor's effects, including a wonderful fur coat, which was bought by someone and afterwards made into souvenir tobacco pouches, &c. The Glasgow correspondent of *The Era* was appealed to, and from the "Era Almanack" for 1896 he was able to give the date of Taylor's death as July 24, 1895. Then James Anderson wrote direct to *The Era*, and was given (in error) another date, Jan. 17, 1904, which refers to the death of a different man altogether—James G. Taylor, the Shakespearean comedian, of Mary Anderson's and other companies. Last week Mr. Charles Coborn was appealed to, and gave it as his opinion that Taylor was dead; but when an address was quoted as that of the mysterious old visitor—"James Turner, 294, City-road, London," another listener, Mr. Arnold Bell, was able to give the information that James Turner was a son of the famous James Taylor, and had also been a comedian for some years, and that this helped to confirm the genuineness of the claimant. There the matter rests so far, and the question is whether it is likely that anyone will masquerade as James Taylor for no apparent reason, or whether it is possible that this famous comedian is still amongst us, in spite of some apparent evidence to the contrary.

[Mr. James Taylor, music-hall comedian, died, as stated in the preceding article, on Wednesday, July 24, 1895, at Cane Hill Asylum, to which institution he was taken about five weeks before his death, which was caused by softening of the brain. For a long time the deceased comedian was associated with Miss Ada Alexandra (who died last year) in such sketches as *The Dutch Girl*, *Simon, The Mason*, &c. Into these sketches he introduced his impersonations of the stuttering witness, of the silly boy, and of Sarah Walker. When the partnership with Miss Ada Alexandra was dissolved, Mr. Taylor revived these impersonations in an entertainment, which he called *Fun in a Nutshell*. The deceased claimed the title of champion comic singer—a distinction he won in a contest at Weston's many years since. He was entertaining on the stage until a few months before his death, at the age of seventy. Mr. James G. Taylor, also referred to in the article above, died on Jan. 17, 1904, and was a comedian who played with Toole at the Gaiety.—ED., *The Era*.]

"PETER'S PICTURE."

A Farcical Comedy, by Mr. C. C. Horton, produced at the Bedford, Monday, Sept. 14.

Peter ..... MR. E. J. WALKER
Grigsby ..... MR. M. DREW
Tabitha ..... MISS CRUIKSHANK

This little comedy, which had its first production on Monday last, is an amusing trifle. Peter and Tabitha are a middle-aged couple, brother and sister. Peter has bought at Christie's a work of art, which his friend Grigsby, also a collector, much covets. When the picture arrives, Tabitha is much shocked at the Eve-like costume of the lady represented, and comes down in the night to put on more garments, making it appear like a Gainsborough. Grigsby also arrives, disguised as a burglar, to cut the picture from its frame. Peter discovers Grigsby and Tabitha, and promises not to prosecute the former for theft on condition that he marries Tabitha, a match he had long contemplated. The comedy is brightly played by all concerned. Miss Cruikshank was most amusing as Tabitha and Mr. Walker very diverting as the fussy Peter. Mr. M. Drew made an excellent Grigsby.

LEONARD MORTIMER

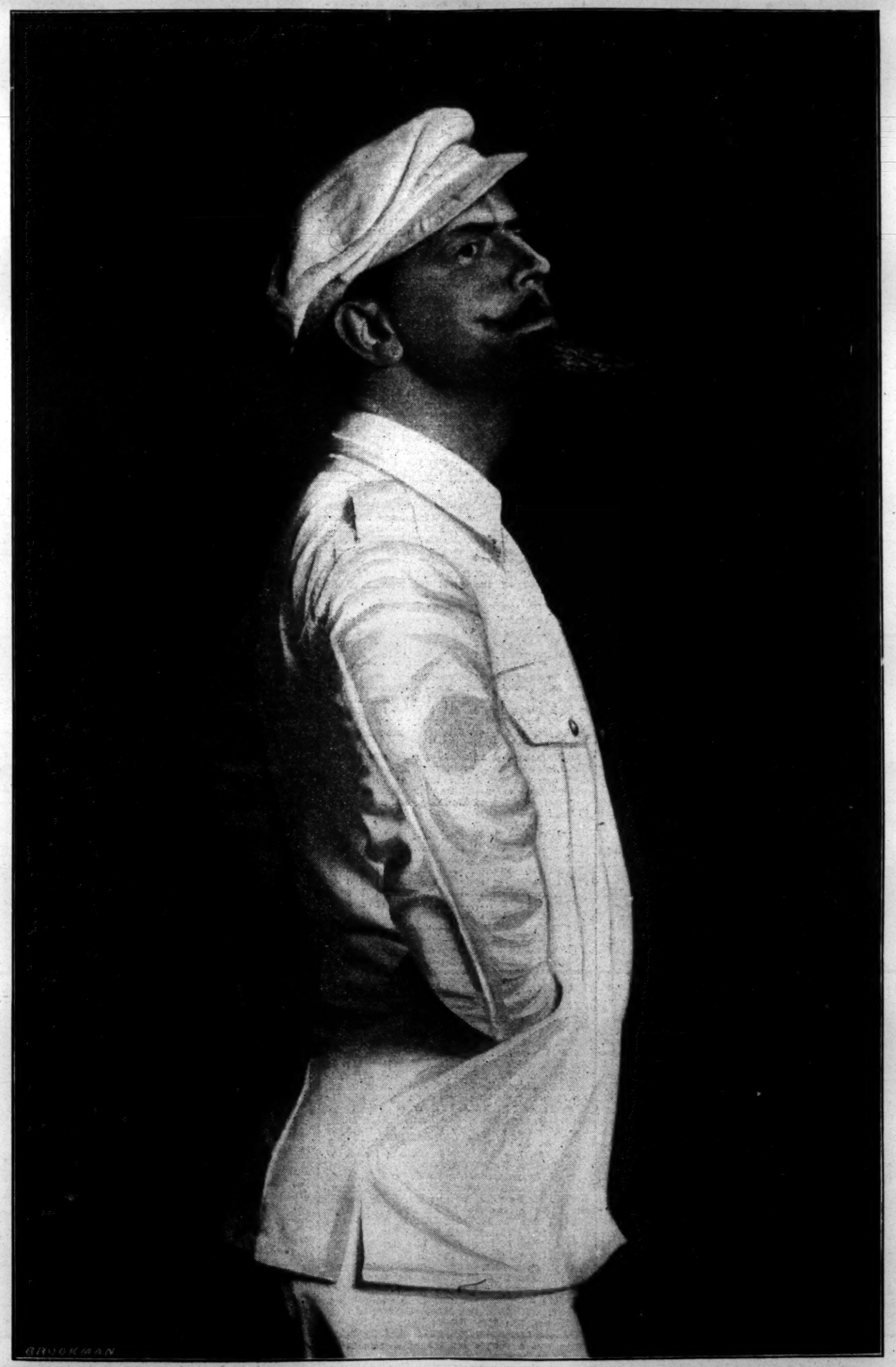
Original Sketch Expert.

AUTUMN-WINTER, 1908-09, features the Great Laughing Success,

"THE LITTLE CAPTAIN."

**

THE ONE
THE ONLY
CAPTAIN
KETTLE!



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A TRIUMPH
OF ARTISTIC
MAKE-UP
AND
CHARACTER
COMEDY
IMPERSONATION.

**

**

CAPTAIN KETTLE.—"Time! Time! By James! time will adjust the situation. The tide may be in to-day at Northend-on-Sea, but so surely to-morrow it will go out and leave the dirty mud exposed."

MONDAY, SEPT. 21, 1908 — THE BEDFORD, CAMDEN TOWN — 7.30 & 10.30.

"THE LITTLE CAPTAIN."

WITH CLEAN HANDS AND UNLIMITED GO! MAGNIFICENT SCENERY AND GREAT EFFECTS.

LEONARD MORTIMER & CO.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

THE fairs ahead until the end of the month are: Backwell, on the Great Western; Farnworth, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Hemel Hempstead, on the Midland; Lewes, on the London, Brighton, and South Coast; Longtown, on the Great Western; Newcastle, on the North Staffordshire; Reading, on the Great Western, South-Western, South-Eastern, and Metropolitan District; Rushden, on the Midland; Sidmouth, on the London and South-Western; Uttoxeter, on the Great Northern and North Staffordshire; Ashby-de-la-Zouch, on the Midland; Bude, on the London and South-Western; Stevenage, on the Great Northern; Bowdon, on the Cheshire lines; Bugsworth, on the Midland; Iron Acton, on the Midland; March, on the Great Eastern and Great Northern; Over, on the London and North-Western, and Cheshire lines; Swindon, on the Midland and South-Western Junction; Birmingham, on the London and North-Western, Great Western, and Midland; Bridgwater, on the Great Western; Brierley Hill, on the Great Western; Cambridge, on the London and North-Western, Midland, Great Eastern, and Great Northern; Heyford, on the London and North-Western; Todmorden, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire, Wootton-under-Edge, Eleven Lane Ends Feast; Haslemere, on the London and South-Western; Pickering, on the North-Eastern; Hartland, on the London and South-Western; Malton, on the North-Eastern; Spalding, on the Great Northern, Great Eastern, and Midland; Tyldesley, on the London and North-Western; Dudley, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Dunstable, on the London and North-Western and Great Northern; High Wycombe, on the Great Western; Idle, on the Great Northern; Long Stratton, on the Great Eastern; Studley, on the Great Western; Woodhouse Feast (Leeds), on the Midland and Great Northern; Alton, on the London and South-Western; Ampthill, on the Midland; Cranbrook, on the South-Eastern; Dorchester, on the London and South-Western and Great Western; Kenilworth, on the London and North-Western; Uxbridge, on the Great Western and Metropolitan District; Wallingford, on the Great Western; Hanbury, on the Midland; Hounslow, on the London and North-Western; Solihull, on the Great Western; Aberdeen, on the Caledonian, North British, Great North of Scotland, and Deeside; Edinburgh, on the Caledonian, North British, North-Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, London and North-Western, Great Western, Glasgow and South-Western, and Highland; Hawick, on the North British; Dumfries, on the Glasgow and South-Western, and Caledonian; Fraserburgh, on the Great North of Scotland; Haddington, on the North British; Sinclair Town; Llandudno, on the London and North-Western; Abergavenny, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Cowbridge, on the Taff Vale; Pontardawe, on the Midland; Llanfyllin, on the Cambrian; and Llanelly, on the Great Western Railways.

Holbeck Feast.

THE growth of a great fair is illustrated in the commanding position held in the show world by Holbeck Feast, Leeds. Fifty years ago Holbeck was a little cloth-weaving village outside of Leeds; to-day Leeds has grown to such an extent that it has absorbed not only Holbeck, but Beeston, a village two miles further out, on the south side. The population of Holbeck itself is greater three times told than the population of the whole of Leeds fifty years ago. The enormous development of the clothing and engineering trades, the staple industries of South Leeds, have at the present moment quite 200,000 workers engaged in the industries of the district. It will be readily seen that such an aggregation of human life makes Holbeck Feast one of the most important pleasure fairs in the United Kingdom. It is to the credit of the city of Leeds that, profiting by dearly-bought experience in the past, it has resumed municipal control of the pleasure fairs of the people.

IN 1869 Leeds fairs were, by a mistake on the part of the Corporation, abolished, with the result that private enterprise stepped in where the Corporation had failed, and Leeds fair was maintained upon private fairgrounds.

QUITE recently the great open space of Holbeck Moor, by arrangement between the Corporation and Lords of the Manor, was dedicated to the use of the public for ever, and amongst the conditions of the bargain one was the maintenance of Holbeck Feast. The present lessee of the ground is the well-known Yorkshire amusement caterer, Mr. Wm. Murphy, who holds it for a term of years directly from the Corporation of Leeds. Here, again, the Corporation has shown great wisdom, for it requires a showman to set out a modern fair under the best conditions. It is a pleasure to visit Holbeck Feast, and to notice the absolute good order and arrangement of the fairground.

A Suburban Fair in Full Swing.

IT was eight o'clock in the evening of Saturday, and the great day of the Feast, when we paid our first visit to the fairground. Our intention had been to walk round and get a general first impression of the shows and concerns in the throng of big business. We could not carry out our intention, for we found ourselves caught in the maëlstrom of contrary masses of human life, streaming into the fairground, or cross streams crowding up the show fronts. The only oasis that we could find out of this madding crowd was on the steps of a friendly roundabout, and even there we were subject to the rush of the crowd, endeavouring to find a vacant saddle on the wonderfully grotesque racing porkers.

WE were glad at last to extricate ourselves from the mass of humanity, and to make a strategical retreat to the rear, taking in as we retreated a vivid picture of the joy, the excitement, and the fun of a modern pleasure fair.

Avenues of Shows.

THE shows, great and small, are set out along the side of the great avenue that crosses the vast moor, from south to north. Entering the fairground from the south the first show was Mr. Wm. Murphy's pictorial palace, one of the most complete and superb cinematograph theatres in showland. The next exhibition was John Creighton's palace of light, a most beautiful cinematograph theatre, with elaborate outside decorations. The next in the line was Aspland's Wonderland, a superbly beautiful cinematograph theatre, and one of the great attractions of the fair.

IN the central position of the line of shows stood yet another magnificent cinematograph theatre—Messrs. Farrer and Tyler's coliseum of animated photography and empire of varieties. Four huge up-to-date shows, with a full blaze of electric light, powerful orchestraphones, attractive outside parades, and all the equipment of the most perfect up-to-date character.

STILL continuing the line of shows, George Procter's London circus, with the talented Procter family, and a capital company of equestrians and acrobats, gave to delighted patrons an opportunity of witnessing one of the most attractive circus performances now on the road. Lewis, the king of serpent experts, with his unique display of huge pythons in the snake jungle, afforded an example of American showmen enterprise of the most up-to-date character. Professor and Mme. D'Osta, in their occult demonstrations, in the lion's cage, was another feature of great novelty and strong attraction.

BALL'S midget exhibition, the charming Princess Lilliput, Bedford's freak pony, the wee McGregor, Westray and Sons' two ground booths—the miniature animal jungles, T. Wortley's two shows (the model colliery and the fine art exhibition), and Powell and Holdsworth's fine art gallery exhausts the list of exhibitions on the great show avenue.

Riding-Machines and Mechanical Novelties.

THE novel features of the great aggregation of riding-machines at this Feast were Messrs. Relph, Pedley, and Holdsworth's galloping porkers, a weirdly grotesque invention, and affording a double-motion action that seemed to be an endless source of uproarious fun to the great crowd of eager patrons. The second novelty was Beech's aeroplanes, an extremely ingenious machine, giving a motion of an exciting and exhilarating character, and the nearest approach at the present moment to aerial navigation on exhibition at our fairs. This machine was in great demand, and the inventor assured us that it has been a great success wherever it has been seen. Richard's Brooklyn cake-walk machine (Plinston Brothers and Taylor's patent) was also on exhibition for the first time at this feast, and did big business.

THE other machines in the front rank were Murphy's motor-cars, G. Marshall's motors, J. W. Waddington's motors and yachts, P. Collins and Sons' racing birds, and steam roundabouts by G. Redfern, C. Marshall, W. Waddington, and Church and Sons. There were sets of gem motors and horses by Messrs. Doubtfire, Gledstone, Johnson, and Seed. Powell's Alpine glissade, Dobson's ocean wave, and steam swing sets by Messrs. Burgin, Morley, and Amos. Steam yachts by Shaw and wheeling the whirl by Procter. Park swings, highfliers, and overboats by Messrs. Riley, Dobson, Thomas, Redfern, Leiske, and Messrs. Hughes.

Variety Frames, Throwing Games, and Novelties.

THERE were several long avennes of minor novelties, side shows, and entertainments of the most attractive modern character. These were provided by such well-known caterers as Messrs. Turner, Steward, Whatmore, Jameson, Doubtfire, J. Corrigan and Sons, T. Burgon, W. Houlds worth, J. Joy, Stores, Walker, F. Redfern, Wilson, J. Watson, Hall, Procter, Johnson, Dobson Seed, Thomson, Stone, Pullein, Powell, Houlds worth, Case, Birch, Saccomani, Veti, Riley, Stock well, and many others.

A Church Service at the Village Feast.

THE *Church Times* of the 11th inst. furnishes another interesting proof of church work amongst the show people. In an interesting account, it says:—"The service was not deprived of any of what have always been helpful aids to worship in church. The clergy and choir went forth from the chancel to the field (supported by the whole congregation) immediately after the blessing, singing "All people," with full vestments and an order of service in their hands, just as if it was one of the solemn services in church; and at once, as the procession went out of the church under the Calvary that is a feature at the west end, respectful groups of people lined the joyful way, and many others threw up their windows as if to pay their respects. When all had taken their stand, the short twenty minutes' service to God's greater glory and blessing of parishioners and travellers was proceeded with, midst much marked approval and heartiness. The priest-preacher spoke of God's love (pointing to Calvary), and His daily blessing on those who daily "hunger and thirst after righteousness" as they travel through the wilderness of this world. The people were blessed, and then the procession went back again to the altar, singing 'O God, our Help.'

"THE show people (many of whom are members of the Showmen's Guild) were no less hearty in accepting than were the clergy, who suggested that they might minister to them as their chaplains. The parishioners' estimation of the special effort in their midst of 'lifting up the Cross' is summed up in the general talk of it, that it was grand."

IN addition to the well-known work of the Showmen's Guild noticed from time to time in our "Showman World" page, it is interesting to find that the local clergy in various parts of the country are beginning to take a deep interest in the spiritual concerns of the travelling show people. The account we have given above is a proof of this growing interest in evangelistic work on the fair grounds. The service took place at a colliery village in County Durham.

Councillor Bostock of Glasgow.

THE *Glasgow Evening Times* of Sept. 10 has the following interesting paragraph concerning Councillor E. H. Bostock:—"The latest addition to the Town Council must have recalled memories of old-time menageries to elderly and middle-aged citizens. Wombwell and Manders had it all their own way for years; then, at George Wombwell's death, his big show was divided into three sections. These sections are owned by Bostock and Wombwell, Fairgrieve and Wombwell, and Edmonds and Wombwell. About 1870 M'Carthy, a tamer of wild beasts, was killed by lions in Manders's menagerie at Bolton. Parliamentary notice was taken of the shocking event, and wild-beast show owners had to cut out from their programme the performing lion and leopard exhibitions. A 'frost' struck the business. William Manders and 'Uncle' Fairgrieve sold out, leaving 'Aunt' Edmonds and the father of Councillor E. H. Bostock in the field. When Mrs. Edmonds died, about fifteen years ago, Councillor Bostock became the sole representative of the old Wombwell business."

A GENEROUS, and quite characteristic, act on Councillor Bostock's part is acknowledged this week in our advertising columns. The general-manager of Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie received £90, to be divided as a bonus amongst the working staff of the show. It is generosity and thoughtful care like this on the part of employers that secures real interest amongst the workers.

Barnstaple Fair.

IN connection with the proclamation of Barnstaple Fair by the Mayor and Corporation, there is an interesting and quaint ceremony. After the usual speech-making, the Mayor's hospitality consists of copious libations of spiced ale and toast, prepared from a jealously guarded recipe, which has been in the possession of the Corporation for generations. This ceremony of hospitality is also remarkable for the large Elizabethan loving cups, exquisite examples of the silversmith's art, wherein the spiced ale is handed round to the civic guests. To the ladies present at the ceremony there is given toothsome Barnstaple fairings.

The White City, Old Trafford.

LAST Saturday was a lovely day, and the annual demonstration in aid of the National Lifeboat Fund was a great success. There was a procession through Manchester, which included a cycle parade, finishing up in this amusement park, where prizes were distributed by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Manchester (in the presence of several Mayors of neighbouring towns), to whom, on behalf of the Lifeboat Fund, Mr. J. Calvin Brown presented the White City's contribution to the fund (a cheque for £300, same as last year).

COUNTESS ROMANOFF is this week performing the Salome dance—made famous by the action of the Manchester Watch Committee—in one of the buildings in this amusement park.

PLEASURE FAIR AT AYR (N.B.).

This famous fair was held in Newton Park, under the expert management of Mr. George Green, and attracted vast crowds of eager sightseers.

There is one great advantage at Newton Park—when you get there; it is large enough to hold the ideal modern fair; there is space enough and to spare to display every show, every machine, every stall, every shooting gallery, to its fullest advantage. We only know one or two other places where the advantage of ground space is so ample as it is at Ayr. We refer to Hull and to Gloucester under their modern conditions. The ground is arranged in four-square form. One side of the huge quadrangle is occupied by shows big and little, one side by shooting concerns, and the two other sides by throwing games, stalls, and variety frames.

The centre of the ground is set apart for the big riding machines, and well and fully displayed they are. We have never seen a better-arranged or more carefully-thought-out plan of a fair than the one we saw last Saturday night, in all its magnificent display of moving charm of life and electric lighting.

The Great Line of Shows.

Principal amongst the shows were the cinematograph theatres of Mr. George Green and Mrs. Manders, Mrs. Johnson's Scottish circus, and Prof. Moore and school of boxers. There were sideshows in well-ordered variety along the great show line.

The World of Whirligigs.

What an amazing, bewildering, entrancing, whirling world it is! In very truth, the heart and centre of the fair. Here you pay your penny and you take your choice. Motor-cars, airships, flying ostriches, mountain ponies, gondolas, Roman chariots, galloping and jumping horses, helter-skelter, steam and manual swings, overboats, oscillating Japanese wheeley-whirley, all alight with golden glitter—the world of machine novelties ready to be yours for the open sesame of a "bawbee." This magnificent aggregation of steam and electric driven marvels of mechanical skill and invention consisted of the concerns of George Green (two sets), John Wilmot (two sets), Peter Swallow, J. Wingate, C. Baker, J. Howard, J. Wilmot, jun., Stevenson, Lawrence, S. Macintosh, and T. Codona, with juvenile and gem sets by Wilmot, Baker, and Swallow.

The Shooting Ranges and Galleries.

These were well displayed, and occupied nearly the whole length of one side of the fair-ground. Winchester ranges, shooting tubes, bottle and egg smashing batteries, by Messrs. Lawrence, J. Wilmot, jun., Sheeran, J. Day, Rostron, Dawson, Smith, Hughes, Merrick, Newton, and Irvine.

Throwing Games, Varieties, and Stalls.

These gave a most attractive display with an immense frontage, nearly two sides of the quadrangle. The up-to-date concerns of Messrs. Macintosh (2), Merrick (2), Kelly (2), Sheeran (2), Hiscoe (2), Knight (2), Wilmot, jun. (2), H. Irvine, sen. (2), J. Anderson (2), Smith (2), and single concerns by Messrs. Cooke-Nelson, Stevenson, Stevenson, jun., C. Irvine, H. Irvine, jun., Russell, J. Blockley, J. W. Kelly, J. Dobbin, Wm. Mrerick, jun., Dawson, Hughes, Bradley, Martin, and Mesdames E. Blockley and Newton. The refreshment booths were those of Hughes, Moore, and Galloway. At the principal entrance to the fair stood the well-known photo. van of J. Caddick and Son, the fair-ground photographers from the Fun City, Olympia, and famous on the great fair-grounds of the Empire.

Benefit for the Guild Funds.

For the second year in succession, the Scotch showpeople have given a benefit night to the Trade Defence Funds of the Showmen's Guild. This is doubly generous when we remember that Scotland is not included in the Movable Dwellings Bill now before Parliament. Inspired and led by such men as John Wilmot and George Green, the Scotch showmen recognise their duty to help English showpeople in the time of trouble, and to show their fellowship and their solidarity in the defence of the just liberties of travelling showmen in all parts of the Empire.

The Names of Contributors to the Funds.

The same plan, we understand, as obtained last year was followed again this—the first night's takings from every concern, big or little, shows, machines, or stalls, on the fair-ground being stated as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
Mr. George Green	7	12	0
Mr. John Wilmot	6	16	0
Mr. S. Macintosh	1	12	0
Mrs. Johnson	1	10	4
Messrs. Baker and Sons	1	10	0
Mr. N. Talbot	1	1	0
Mrs. Manders	1	0	9
Mr. J. Howard		16	1
Mr. P. Swallow		15	9½
Mr. G. Carter		15	0
Mr. J. Day		15	0
Mr. J. Wingate		12	2½
Mr. H. Irvine		12	2
Mr. J. Wilmot, jun.		10	6
Mr. W. Moore		10	3
Mr. H. Irvine, jun.		10	0

Mr. J. Gibbons, 9s. 8½d.; Mr. D. Moore, 8s. 6d.; Mrs. Stevenson, 8s.; Mr. A. Lawrance, 6s. 10½d.; Mr. E. Sheeran, 6s. 2d.; Mr. J. Beattie, 5s. 10d.; Mr. D. Rostron, 5s. 8d.; Mr. E. Stevenson, 5s. 2d.; Mr. W. Merrick, 5s. 2d.; Mr. J. Blockley, 5s.; Mr. N. Irvine, 5s.; Mr. S. Biddall, 5s.; Mr. J. Styles, 5s.

Mr. W. Codona, 4s. 7d.; Mr. J. Anderson, 4s. 6d.; Mrs. Blockley, 4s. 6d.; Mrs. Bradley, 4s. 4d.; Mr. H. Smith, 4s. 2d.; Mr. J. Buckley, 4s.; Mrs. Smith, 4s.; Mr. G. Blockley, 3s. 9d.; Mr. J. Dobbin, 3s. 8d.; Mr. Robertson, 3s. 6d.; Mr. Gow, 3s. 3d.; Mr. J. W. Kelly, 3s. 3d.; Mr. J. Hughes, 3s. 2d.; Mr. J. Knight, 3s. 1d.; Mr. Martin, 3s. 1d.; Mr. J. W. Moss, 3s.; Mr. H. Dawson, 3s.

Mr. H. Chapman, 2s. 6d.; Mr. J. Caddick, 2s. 6d.; Mr. D. Graham, 2s. 6d.; Mr. A. Carrick, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. H. Hadfield, 2s. 1d.; Mr. D. Evans, 2s.; Mr. C. Smith, 2s.; Mr. Nelson Boswell, 2s.; Mrs. Mitchell, 2s.; Mr. J. Slater, 1s. 10d.; Mr. Montana Bill, 1s. 9d.; Mr. C. Nelson, 1s. 8d.; Mrs. Galloway, 1s. 7½d.; Mr. R. Russell, 1s. 7d.; Mr. P. Veitch, 1s. 6d.; Mr. H. Glenroy, 1s. 6d.; Mr. J. Goldberg, 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Hunter, 1s. 6d.; Mr. A. Palmer, 1s. 2d.; Mr. H. Johnson, 1s. 1d.; Mr. M. Kennedy, 1s. 1d.; Mr. W. Newey, 1s.; Mrs. Cook, 1s.; Mr. F. Goldberg, 1s.; Mr. Faulkner, 1s.; Mr. P. Swallow, jun., 1s.; Mr. W. Smith, 1s.; Mr. J. Codona, 9d.; Mr. W. Hiscoe, 7d.; Mrs. Brady, 3d.

The total amount was £36 11s. 7d.; and Mr. George Green sent a cheque for the whole sum to the Guild secretary.

The generous example of Scotland will, we trust, inspire others to rally to the trade defence movement, and to provide similar benefits.

Snake Charmer Bitten.

OSCA, the Arizonian cave dweller, was giving an exhibition of snake charming at Bostock's Jungle, at the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, on Tuesday last when he was bitten in the arm by a puff adder. Nothing was thought of the occurrence at the time, but eventually Osca became giddy and faint, and examination of the wound in the arm showed that a serious development had taken place. The arm was tightly bound above and below the wound, and with a sharp knife a portion of the flesh was cut away, and suction applied to extract the poison. Osca, however, after a gallon of milk had been practically forced down his throat, became unconscious, and remained so all the evening, despite the best medical attention.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

YORKSHIRE SHOWMEN, IN COUNCIL.

Following the important committee meeting at Oldham Wakes, a gathering of Yorkshire showmen was held on Sunday, Sept. 13, at Holbeck Feast. The object of the gathering was to obtain the co-operation of the Yorkshire showmen in the action already determined upon by the Showmen's Guild. The meeting took place in Mr. Wm. Murphy's cinematograph theatre, and although it was called at very short notice, it was attended by the principal show proprietors and stall-holders at the Feast. Mr. George Wright was unanimously voted to the chair, and supporting him were the Rev. T. Horne (Guild chaplain), Mr. Wm. Murphy, Mr. Joseph Corrigan, Mr. T. Burgin, Mr. J. Joy, Mr. S. Doubtfire, Mr. W. Houldsworth, Mr. Westray, Mr Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. E. Ball, Mr. Turner, and others.

Rousing Speech by the Chairman.

In opening the conference to consider the Movable Dwellings Bill, he expressed his strong conviction that it was the bounden duty of every showman and stall-holder to thoroughly grasp the meaning of the detestable measure against which they were bound to protest with all the power and the vigour they possessed. He had no hesitation in saying that such a Bill had for its motive the destruction of their business and the invasion of their domestic life and the security of their homes. He begged them to consider what an insult it would be if at every town they visited their homes were subject to the intrusion of the police. He warned them that it would be the practical end of the show business if the restrictions set forth in the Movable Dwellings Bill became law. The extraordinary powers set out in the Bill would give local authorities unlimited power not only to harass and to hinder their business in life, but to extinguish already existing fairs, and to prevent them opening up new ones.

They would find themselves, if the Bill became law, bound hand and foot, and completely at the mercy of any local busybody or Jack-in-Office anxious to distinguish himself by a crusade against the popular amusements of the people.

The Bill an Attack on the People's Fair Rights.

It would be the duty of the executive committee of the Vandwellers' Society to put before the people of England the danger that threatened the popular fairs and open-air amusements of the working-classes. It was not sufficiently realised (he said) that the Bill was not only in the worst sense a class measure—aiming at the destruction of the life and business of the showman—but it was also a deliberate attempt to destroy the popular amusements of the people of this country—the amusements that they had so long enjoyed at the fairs, feasts, and wakes. It did not require any particular argument on his part to make it clear to his fellow-showmen that when they made—as they were bound to—the facts of the case fully known, that the people of England would rally to the defence of their old-time fairs. As they were already hard at work opposing the Bill as a body of organised traders, he had no doubt that they would be able to show, when they put their case before Parliament, that the Bill not only threatened them as a class, but that it also threatened the rights and liberties of the people of England.

He had no doubt that, as in other great centres of show-life, so at Holbeck Feast there would be a strong expression of opinion against the Movable Dwellings Bill. And in conclusion, he called upon the Rev. T. Horne to move a resolution in condemnation of the Bill and to set out in detail the work of opposition as already enterprised by the Vandwellers' Society.

The Rev. T. Horne on the Bill.

The Guild Chaplain warmly complimented the chairman on his excellent speech, setting forth as it did so clearly the subject matter before that important committee As fully instructed at the beginning of the year by the Guild executive, he had opened up negotiations with the promoters of the Movable Dwellings Bill, The result of his work had been that whilst important amendments mitigating the pressure of its proposals had been discussed in a most friendly spirit, he was obliged to report to them, as he had already done to a general committee specially summoned for that purpose at Oldham Wakes, that in all the great points of difference they had failed to come to an agreement. Putting the matter as concisely as he could, the Bill set up every county and county borough as a registration authority; every living van, if the measure became law, would have to be registered and inspected and brought under the complete control of the county authority.

There would be a body of regulations, and a standard pattern of living van would be adopted, and all vans not coming up to that standard would be declared unfit for human habitation. They would see at once what a serious injury this would be to many of their poorer brethren; in a great number of cases it would mean driving them off the road altogether.

Most Invidious Class Legislation.

He had no hesitation in denouncing the Movable Dwellings Bill as an example of gross class legislation. The ordinary law of the land provided for the proper control and inspection of all dwellings used for human habitation, without any distinction of kind or character; they were already under ample public control. All living vans, tents, or movable structures were as much under the sanitary law as permanent dwellings. The question naturally arose, what, then, is the object of the Bill? It was to make a tremendous change in the administration of the Health Acts, and to transfer all vans and tents from the control and inspection of the sanitary officer to the police authorities. The injustice and the invidiousness of this sort of class legislation will be at once seen when he reminded them that the thousands of single-roomed tenements in all our great towns and cities would still remain under the control of the sanitary officer, but that the showman's van, conditioned by the most perfect equipment for health, as living vans were, would be subject to the invidious distinction of being brought directly under police inspection and control.

The Inadequacy of the Proposed Amendments.

In the negotiations with the promoters of the Bill the Guild had strongly opposed the transfer of the administration of the Health Acts from the sanitary officials to the county police. The promoters of the Bill refused to drop their proposal as regards police supervision and inspection. That, in his judgment, was the most fatal blot upon the measure. But, in addition to the proposals to transfer to the police the administration of the Health Act, the promoters had refused to accept an exemption clause which would have clearly shown that it was aimed at gipsy and insanitary encampments of squatters of common lands

Another fatal refusal on the part of the promoters was that they rejected the suggestion of the Guild executive that the title of the Bill should be altered to "Gipsy Encampment Bill." Another matter of vital moment to the showground community was the prohibition clause—a clause which gave the local authorities power to prohibit or abolish fairs without the consent of the Home Secretary. He had repeatedly warned the Showman World that if the Bill contained but this one clause it would be necessary for them to oppose it. The promoters of the Bill were willing to consider an amendment which would limit the prohibition clause to encampments of living vans on other sites than recognised fair-grounds. If showmen were prepared to accept this amendment it would undoubtedly safeguard all the old charter fairs and the feasts and wakes of long-established use and custom. But they could readily see that it would be used against all that great number of new fairs, created to supply the popular demand in great industrial centres, during the past thirty or forty years. They would also recognise that the prohibition would apply to all private business and to all their winter quarters, and also prevent them extending their business by opening up new fairs.

The Future Work of the Showmen's Guild.

At the general commitee meeting at Oldham they had determined to oppose the Bill at every stage. Showmen had many friends in both Houses of Parliament, and if they failed to obtain its rejection in the House of Lords they had every confidence that they would defeat it in the House of Commons.

He was quite confident that the elected representatives of the people would reject a measure having for its object the penalising of a great national industry and the curtailment of the people's popular amusement. Most assuredly the whole body of fair-ground entertainers would unite to offer the strongest opposition to the Movable Dwellings Bill. He was also confident that the fighting fund for Parliamentary work would be generously supported. Last week at Ayr, in Scotland, the showmen gave benefit performances for the Guild Funds, and it was proposed at Oldham—and he had no doubt it would be endorsed by that meeting—that the showmen give a benefit to the Guild funds at the coming Hull Fair. He was glad also to announce that Mr. John Collins, the lessee of Rotherham fair-ground, had promised to support benefit performances at Rotherham Statutes Fair.

Parliamentary trade defence work in Parliament was at all times an expensive proceeding, and it was necessary that a special fund should be raised in order that the work of opposition may be carried to a successful conclusion. He would leave the financial consideration confidently with them, and concluded by moving "that this meeting of showmen and fair-ground traders engaged at Holbeck Feast protests against the Movable Dwellings Bill. We claim as lawful traders to be under and obedient to the ordinary laws of the Realm. We deny that special inquisitorial and liberty-destroying legislation is needed for our trade and business. If the promoters of the measure want to deal with them to penalise gipsy life, let them make their object clear in the Bill by exempting showmen and fair-ground traders from its proposed penalties and restrictions. This meeting determines to oppose the Bill at every stage."

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Wm. Murphy, and carried unanimously.

It was also resolved, on the motion of Messrs. J. Corrigan and J. Joy, that the showmen present at that meeting heartily approve and undertake to support the proposed benefit for the Guild funds at the forthcoming Hull Fair.

Special Subscription for Trade Defence.

Mr. Wm. Murphy, £1 1s.; Mr. J. Corrigan, 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Joy, 10s. 6d.; Mr. George Wright, 5s.; Mr. T. Burgin, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Doubtfire, 2s. 6d.; Mr. Lewis, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Ball, 2s. 6d.; Mr. W. Houldsworth, 2s.; Mr. John Stockwell, 2s. 6d. Guild member's subscription: Mr. Doubtfire, 5s.

Successful Evening Meeting of the Guild.

In accordance with a custom of many years standing, the Vicar of Holbeck arranged a service for the showpeople. This year and last the Guild chaplain has been able to co-operate in the work of the local clergy. The vicar, the Rev. S. F. Sykes, and the senior curate, the Rev. E. N. Deane, visited every van on the fair-ground and left a notice of the forthcoming Sunday service. The notice paper read as follows:—"Holbeck Feast. You are invited to a Guild Service on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 8 p.m., in Mr. Murphy's Pictorial Palace. An address will be given by the Guild chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne. The Holbeck Church Choir will lead the singing."

Mr. Murphy's beautiful pavilion, seated to hold 500 persons, was filled to its utmost seating capacity. The chaste and beautiful interior decorations, brilliantly illuminated by powerful arc electric lights, transformed the show into a most appropriate chapel of ease to the parish church. The Holbeck Church choir and a considerable body of friends from the church congregation rendered heartily, as Yorkshire folk are so well able to do, the beautiful hymns of the Guild service. The Vicar of Holbeck intoned the service, and the Guild chaplain preached an impressive sermon on the subject of "The Good Samaritan," based upon the Holy Gospel for the day. The Guild chaplain particularly applied the lesson of neighbourliness as it is so very strongly illustrated in one of necessary conditions of the people's fair or feast. The feast (he reminded them) was the annual occasion for "neighbouring." We visited our friends and neighbours at the time of their feasts, and in their turn our friends and neighbours came to visit us at our feast. It was this spirit of "neighbourliness," so important a lesson of the Holy Gospel, that brought them together at feast time, and deepened and broadened the ideals of brotherhood and comradeship. Our individual lives were all the purer and better from this custom of "neighbouring." To the casual observer the noise, excitement, the fun and enjoyment of the fair, were the only things; but let them look beneath the surface of things obvious and they would find that these great principles of comradeship and neighbourliness were the strong formative and abiding traits in our national and social life.

The Vicar of Holbeck's Short Address.

The vicar earnestly begged his showman hearers to make use of the clergy if any necessity should arise during their short stay in his parish. Whilst he might, for the quiet carrying-out of his own parish work, hesitate to desire to have a Holbeck Feast Sunday every Sunday, he had no hesitation at all in desiring more frequent opportunities of meeting the showpeople. He felt that it was extremely difficult to know them and to enter into their life when he could only have that opportunity once a year.

He gladly welcomed them, and he heartily agreed with their efforts to amuse the people. He also welcomed the work of the Showmen's Guild into his parish, and was glad to have Mr. Horne, the Guild chaplain, with them. It was in such work as the service they were now engaged in that they hoped to find the uplifting not only of the showmen and the betterment of the amusements of the people, but that the Church of God should reach and miniser to the people whose business in life caused them to travel from town to town.

At the close of the service a collection was taken for the Holbeck District Nurses' Home Fund.

The Guild chaplain was the celebrant at the 8 o'clock celebration of the Holy Communion at the Holbeck Parish Church, and preached in the evening at St. Cuthbert's, a neighbouring church to Holbeck Moor.

Todmorden Wakes.

FOR the amusement of the crowds of pleasure-seekers at this fair were Col. Clark's Electric Coliseum and Variety Palace, John Whiting's Flying Gondolas, J. Ingram's freak show, Newall's stalls, and Wilson's throwing games.

Fasting Man at Aberdeen.

MONS. VICTOR BEAUTE commenced a six weeks' fast in Humber's Waxwork, Aberdeen, on Monday. The sealing-up ceremony was witnessed by a huge crowd.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

THE EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION.—For the first time in 350 years a Papal Legate landed on English soil to preside over the deliberations of the Congress, and Roman Catholic dignitaries, spiritual and temporal, assembled from all parts of the world to do honour to the occasion. Representatives of every class were present in enormous numbers, and the proceedings terminated on Sunday, Sept. 13, at the Westminster Cathedral, with Vespers, followed by a huge procession of the Blessed Sacrament. In the programme originally arranged, provision was made for carrying the Host in procession through the streets, but Archbishop Bourne announced at the last moment that this feature was abandoned by request of the Prime Minister of England.

THE great procession, however, took place, and a most imposing spectacle, witnessed by tremendous crowds, was provided by the Papal Legate, the members of the Pontifical Mission, cardinals, archbishops, bishops, abbots, general clergy, generals of religious orders and congregations, choirs, and distinguished laymen passing along the streets adjoining the Cathedral. The route was lined by 12,000 men specially invited for the occasion. The robes and vestments worn were most costly and elaborate, and the banners carried were rich and beautiful. Particularly favoured in choice of positions, the Urban operators were fortunate in securing exceptionally good pictures of this great function, and a history-making event was chronicled in a series of motion pictures which will command the rapt enthusiasm of devout Roman Catholics throughout the world. Not only was the procession depicted, but also the Elevation of the Host from a balcony altar over the great door of the Cathedral by his Eminence the Papal Legate, who pronounced the benediction of the Blessed Sacrament upon the thousands of people massed in the streets below. This picture is in itself unique, and was secured with very great difficulty.

THE PREHISTORIC MAN.—The "Hand of the Artist" has added to the world's happiness by the excessive laughter-compelling fancies it has depicted. "Created" is perhaps the better term, for the pictures drawn upon paper or canvas invariably take living form, step out of the canvas, and act more or less—generally less—rationally. In the PREHISTORIC MAN the author has excelled himself. The Artist in person is revealed in this series, where, previously, only his "Hand" appeared. In an idle moment he outlines upon a large sheet the figure of a conventional Prehistoric ogre of forbidding aspect and threatening demeanour, armed with a prehistoric stone hammer. To the artist's own dismay the creature becomes possessed of life and movement and walks out of the wooden frame, evidently looking upon the draughtsman as responsible for his being. He attaches himself to that unfortunate person and accompanies him wherever he goes. So disastrous is the havoc he creates in twentieth century streets, houses, and lanes, and so fearful the impression, that the unlucky artist in vain tries to escape. The gaunt, incongruous figure is not to be shaken off. After calamities innumerable and consternation unbounded, a happy idea suggests itself to the artist, who, returning to his studio, hastily draws a prehistoric animal, which also assumes life. The man, entering the studio in search of his artist friend, is seized between the fearsome jaws of the weird creature and swallowed whole. Only his stone mallet remains, and this the artist uses as a weapon, which cuts the inoffensive canvas upon which the creatures were drawn, thus increasing the illusion.

THE BALANCING BLUE-BOTTLE.—The original fly, accidentally anchored by its wings to a sticky fly-paper, instantly suggested, by the play of its legs, humorous and educative possibilities to the scientific kinematographer, by whose patient efforts marvellous results were secured. For instance, a magnified fly performs with a rope-walker's pole, and experiments with a circus ball (a pilule of bread), which he quickly twists with his feet. Then there are further demonstrations of the fly's marvellous muscular power in manipulating a log of wood, a shell, a cube, a cork ball, and a dumb-bell made from two bread pills and a small splinter, occasionally pausing to rub his hands. The fly's most remarkable display is that of rapidly twirling a ball of cork with another fly perched on the top. The second insect maintains his position by simply walking over the surface of the moving sphere, and shows no disposition to fly away. A very miniature Chippendale chair—made from a penholder—is occupied by the upright fly, whose wings, protruding from the rails, absurdly resemble the tails of a morning-coat. In this position he again performs cleverly with the dumb-bell. The film is both astonishing and interesting.

THE FOUNTAINS OF VERSAILLES AND SAINT-CLOUD, PARIS.—The Fountains of Versailles and the Cascade of St. Cloud, erected in 1676, by order of Louis XIV., are still the most marvellous in the world. The whole of the fountains play only on certain days of the year, and the pictures convey a most vivid and realistic impression of the grace and loveliness of the actual scenes. The waters gush, spirt, spray, stream, and spout in rills, cascades, falls, currents, and feathery, vaporous clouds of varied and studied, though apparently careless, design, exquisitely beautiful in every phase. While the admirable setting of park, pond, and sculptured marble lends added charm to the scene, the scintillating water, the beautiful shadow effects, and the delicate tints employed in toning the pictures will accentuate the fascination of the subject.

Pathé Frères.

FLASH JAMES.—At Monte Carlo, amongst the cosmopolitan crowd, composed of all classes of people, a would-be gentleman is courting a wealthy young widow, the mother of a boy of ten. After a few months he succeeds in marrying her. It has not been very easy to win her, it is true, but now he thinks he will have the disposal of her money, and a broad grin can be seen on his face. Unhappily, he is a born gambler, and the discovery of his wife having made out her will in favour of her son makes him contemplate an awful crime. He will try and get rid of the boy by having him kidnapped and drowned; but a shepherd's dog, an unnoticed witness of the deed, rescues the child from death, and the husband, found out, takes justice in his own hands by blowing out his brains.

BROTHERS IN ARMS.—In this little drama we see two young men who are lifelong companions bidding their friends a fond good-bye as they leave their native village and go away to join the Army. One of the young men is in love with a pretty maiden, who accompanies them as far as the limits of the town. The men arrive at the barracks. The little fiancée comes to see them nearly every day, and brings them good things to eat from the old home. One day, while she is waiting at the gate to be admitted, she is astonished to see her lover go in another direction, accompanied by a gay-looking young woman. Soon his companion comes out and follows them. The next picture shows the party of three at a café, where they are enjoying some refreshments. One of the men leaves the table for a few moments, and seeing his companion kissing the woman's hand as he returns, he strikes his old friend in a fit of jealousy. An officer happens to come in at that moment and upbraids the pair for their conduct, and reports them to their superior officer, who reprimands them for their behaviour. The two young men, however, decide to settle the affair by fighting a duel. The young lover is severely injured, and is carried to the hospital. As he is carried in on the stretcher he passes his sweetheart, who forgets his treatment of her, and goes with him and assumes the duties of nurse. The victorious fellow joins the other young woman, and as they are going down the street the injured man sees his old chum in the company of the deceitful heart-breaker, and calls to him from the window. As soon as he hears the voice of his injured friend he hastens to him, leaving the girl outside. The friends forget the cause of their misunderstanding, and the peasant girl forgives the old wrongs and all ends happily.

A WELL-PAID SITUATION.—A group of merry students are busying themselves in posting the following bill on a pedestal waiting for its statue:—

"Office of Fine Arts."
"Situation as statue 5/- per hour.
"Perfect immobility is requested."

A peasant just up from his village, reads the poster, opens his eyes very wide, and asks for the appointment. His request being granted at once, he strikes an attitude and settles to his state of statue. Worried by the flies, children, watering-hoses, &c., and in spite of the policeman's entreaties, Giles does not move an inch, until the racket of an unskilful player dislodges him from his point of vantage and sends him rolling in the street, where he is picked up by the jolly students.

THE MYSTERIOUS KNIGHT gives us some clever trick scenes. A knight issues from a cloud of smoke, and by magic summons on the stage other knights and musketeers, very small and dainty, who have a free fight. The male and female warriors march past and presently disappear in the smoke.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF A GOOD DINNER.—A starveling, having procured a very good dinner, thanks to his craftiness, is punished for his greediness by a bad digestion. He falls asleep and dreams that his dinner comes back to its former shape among thrilling incidents; but two policemen march him off, and he will have plenty of time at the police-station to think and dream about his good repast. His adventures are most comically depicted.

IN view of the reported serious condition of Osca, the snake charmer (caused by the bite of

a poisonous snake) at the Hungarian Exhibition, it is interesting to note that Messrs. Pathé Frères, the leading cinematograph manufacturers, have obtained, at heavy cost, by an arrangement with Mr. Frank Bostock, a unique and exclusive series of pictures in which Osca is seen performing with his pets, one of which is distinctly seen to bite him.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

ROMANCE OF A WAR NURSE.—Wherever we have soldiers and fighting we of necessity have hospitals with nurses. This film shows us a nurse serving her country, and as a result meriting and meeting her great reward. We see two armies opposed in full battle array. One incident in the campaign is the stoppage of a carriage by an outpost. The lady occupant of the carriage is taken before the headquarter staff, and as a result placed in charge of the nurse. During the fighting that ensues the hospital catches fire, and the lady is wounded, and our nurse, whilst attending to her, discovers an important letter for "the good of the cause." In consequence of this, the nurse assumes the rôle of her patient by changing clothes, and leaves in the carriage for the south. Here she is met by mother and son without any suspicion. The son falls in love with the nurse, who hesitates. Meanwhile, she learns important news, and the original passenger in the carriage makes her appearance and denounces the nurse as an impostor, but the denunciation is not received in the spirit in which it is expected. It is, however, left to the captain to decide, and, being in love with the nurse, she is favoured by his decision. We, however, see explanations demanded and confessions made, which lead up to a happy reconciliation.

THE CHURCHILL WEDDING film, by Gaumont's, constitutes a record of film production. The wedding took place Saturday afternoon, and the film was shown the very same afternoon at the London Coliseum, where it was received with great applause. Gaumont's are well known for their smartness in producing topical events; not only that, they can always be relied on to be of the finest quality photographically. The subject shows Mr. Churchill leaving his home in Bolton-street, his bride leaving Portland-place, and excellent animated scenes outside the church.

THE EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION on Sunday forms another Elge topical subject. A comprehensive series of pictures are seen showing the vast teeming crowd at the mass meeting and procession. The views were secured from very prominent and favourable positions.

OF several good ones issued by this company, FIDO'S TAKING WAYS is probably the best. The "hero" is a little dog which picks up everything and anything that it can carry, and deposits all the articles in its kennel. In this way he makes off with an umbrella which a young lady has left leaning against a hut, a smock which a workman has just discarded, and meat, bread, poultry, and rabbits from various shops. The owners join in making an application to the police. Fido is chased home and brought to bay. All the stolen articles are found in his hut, and the indignant people are about to administer punishment when they are forced to dissolve into laughter by the dog suddenly rearing itself on its hind legs and begging.

IN FORCE OF HABIT a vagrant, who has been accustomed to picking up cigar and cigarette ends in the gutters, receives a lawyer's letter announcing that he has come into a fortune. In due course he becomes a member of good society, but habits of his old life are still strong in him, and at a ball he stows away all the gentlemen's cigar ends in his tail pockets with the result that his coat catches alight, his peccadillo is discovered, and he is hounded from the house.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

18,252.—Mary Esther Priestman, of Liverpool. New or improved devices for teaching swimming, for gymnastic exercises, amusements, and the like.

18,329.—Frederick Karno, of London. Improvements in or connected with means for fastening rails or battens to skeleton frames or the like, principally intended for use in connection with theatrical scenery.

18,341.—Frederick Meredith Clease, of London. Improvements in apparatus for promoting muscular or physical development.

18,401.—William Gordon Craigen, of Glasgow. New or improved appliances for facilitating the turning of leaves of music and the like.

18,428.—Thomas Daniel Ersser, of London. Improvement in cinematograph, optical lantern, and such-like apparatus.

18,431.—Paul de Champtassin, of London. Improved gymnastic appliance.

18,471.—William Laurence Parkinson, of Liverpool. Improvements in lantern or like screen supports.

18,508.—Friedrich Luithlen, of London. Improvements in means for illuminating interiors without the production of shadows.

18,533.—Alfred Edward Robbins, of London. Improvements relating to door-knobs for stage scenery.

18,612.—John Sibley Richardson, of London. Improvements in or relating to automatic recording mechanism for shooting and other exhibits.

18,689.—Joseph Cadman, of London. Improvements relating to rocking or mechanical horses, boats, vehicles, and the like.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

19,847.—Martyne. Formation and arrangement of railways and tracks for purpose of amusement.

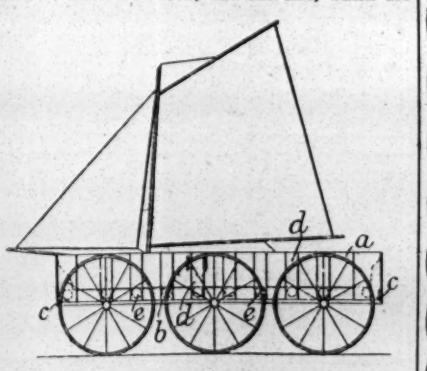
22,880.—Norman. Targets for use in air rifle and other shooting practice.

8,712.—Rousselot. Stage noise cabinet.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

10,224.—Boats, motor vehicles. Smythies, H. W., of Bognor, Sussex.

Relates to a combined motor vehicle and sailing boat. The vehicle (*b*), which may be driven by any type of motor and steered by suitable means, is adapted to receive a sailing boat (*a*) with a view to furnishing sail power for land propulsion, the power of the motor then being dispensed with or used in conjunction with the sail. Guides (*d*) and rollers (*e*) are provided, and either or both ends of the vehicle, hinged as at *c*, may be adapted to serve as inclined planes to facilitate the launching of the boat. When the boat has been launched its carriage may be used independently as a motor vehicle, and is provided with folding seats for such purpose. Instead of, or in addition to, the motor the carriage may be fitted with sail power independent of that supplied by the boat; the carriage is supplied with a hinged mast or masts and sails, and the like, which are

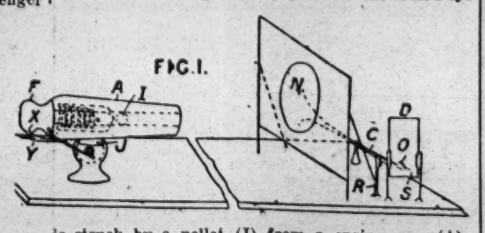


stowed beneath or alongside the boat when the latter is in place. Such hinged masts also allow of the carriage passing under bridges or other obstructions. Brakes are fitted, and the wheels are preferably arranged relatively to the body, so as to counteract as far as possible the tendency to become overturned by side gusts of wind.

10,298.—Shooting ranges. Edwards, T., of Chippenham, Wilts.

The bull's-eye (N) is attached to a pivoted arm (C) carrying a marking pencil (S), which moves across a recording card (D) when the bull's-eye

FIG. 1.

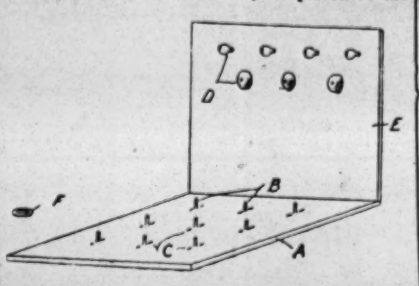


is struck by a pellet (I) from a spring gun (A). A striking-knob (O) on the arm (C) strikes against a spring upright (R), which throws the arm back and causes the knob to strike a projection on a spring clip, which is forced back for an instant and allows the card (D) to fall slightly to receive a fresh recording mark. The spring gun is mounted on a ball-and-socket joint (J) provided with a clamping screw, which is tightened by a rack attached to the pellet-ejecting spring rod (F), which slides within the gun. A spring trigger arm (Y) fixed to the gun engages with a projection (X) on the knob of the rod (F). A shield behind the target catches any stray shots.

A NEW GAME.

The days of Mitcham Fair are not yet numbered, and the small boy at this and like shows whose grin of triumph, ludicrous with delight, as he deftly pitches the metal ring on the peg of a board and thereby gains nuts or a walking cane, will be intensified in the future, as Mr. Ernest McKaig, in his improvement of the pastime, will further reward his prowess by the coincident ignition of an electric lamp.

The new contrivance consists of a horizontal or inclined plane of wood or other material (A) having a series of pins or pegs (B) projecting therefrom, of a convenient height and distance apart. Near each pin and slightly projecting are two electric wires (C), positive and negative, brought up through the inclined or horizontal plane (A) from an electric accumulator, main, or battery. These wires are spaced at a distance apart suitable to the size of the rings used, and at opposite sides of the projecting pins or pegs. The electric wires in turn connect to a series of lamps, bells, or arms (D), fixed upon the score-board (E), which may be placed at the



back of the ring board or in any other suitable position. When the metal ring (F) falls upon and encircles a pin it touches the two wires, completes the circuit, and thus either ignites a lamp, rings a bell, or waves an arm.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS.—The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, and £100? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd-George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents, and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Notes from Wales.

SEVERAL concerns extended their visit at Neath for a few days. Messrs. Wadbrooke and Seard produced some striking new subjects, also varieties, Little Violet, a pretty little girl actor-vocalist, being very much admired. Mr. Glover suitably described the pictures. Messrs. James Dooner and Sons introduced many novelties, which were greatly appreciated. The Floral Swings formed a great attraction, in which the Misses Dooner charmingly sang in graceful style. Gus, our old friend, acts as guide. Mr. Wm. Haggar, sen., provided several new subjects of an up-to-date character. The Misses Haggars execute some graceful dancing to delightful music. Mr. John Studt was to the front with some fine subjects. His merry paraders drew large crowds.

Kindly Act to the Poor.

ON Saturday last, through the kindness of Messrs. John and Henry Studt, Mr. S. White, and Mr. E. Danter, the workhouse people were given free rides on the machines ad lib. Mr. John North allowed them free shies at the cokernuts, and he generously presented them with one each. They were then entertained by Messrs. Wadbrooke, Dooner, Wm. Haggar, sen., Crecraft, E. Danter, and Mr. John Studt's new show. The pictures were much enjoyed by the old people; several good comics caused them much amusement. The managers of the various charitable institutions desire, through the columns of *The Era*, to heartily thank our showmen friends for their kind hospitality.

A Welsh Flannel Fair.

CLYDACH Pleasure and Flannel Fair was held on Tuesday last, and was supported by Messrs. Hy. Studt and Son's magnificent machines; Messrs. Wm. Haggar's No. 1 Bioscope, where some beautiful pictures—some of the latest—were shown, under the direction of Mr. Walter Haggar, who clearly describes the subjects in an efficient manner; Mr. John North, with cokernuts, shooters, Emmas, &c., had a hearty welcome from old friends.

Showman's Gift to Local Charities.

WHITE'S Electric Coliseum terminated its two weeks' successful visit to Maesteg on Tuesday evening, the 15th, that night being set apart for the benefit of the new Cottage Hospital Fund. The entertainment was under the personal supervision and patronage of the Town Council and Cottage Hospital Fund Committee. During the evening, the three local bands played some fine selections, and it would require the services of an ideal expert to adjudicate on the selections given. After the entertainment, Mr. Thos. Rees, chairman of the Council, proposed a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. White for his splendid generosity and noble deed, which was seconded by Mr. Nicholas, secretary to the Cottage Hospital Fund, who stated that the sum of about £40 had been realised through the generosity of Mr. White. The audience was delighted with the entertainment selected for this night's performance.

Oxford Fair.

IT is true of fairs, as of other things, there are fairs and fairs. St. Giles' Fair, Oxford, is without a doubt a high-class feast. A cursory glance at the style and quality of the concerns attending the fair demonstrates that the crowds patronising it are patrons of the better type, and with money enough to patronise or to purchase its superior novelties and expensive "fairings." To begin with, the four immense avenues of stalls, crowded with goods, along the broad boulevard of St. Giles'-street, would, if placed end to end, extend for over a mile.

NOWHERE else in England can we find so select and well-dressed an assembly as at St. Giles' Fair, yet, such a jolly crowd, well mannered, and withal entering into the fun and badinage of the carnival. As we traversed the full length of the "Broad," and endeavoured to take in the wonderful charm of the fair, the one thing that impressed itself most upon our mind was the perfect harmony of the setting or frame of the picture, the dear old College buildings, the friendly, warm, and sheltering walls, towers, and steeples, as we caught sight of them in the gaps between the shows, or towering above the highest-built fronts of the booths or whirling circles of steam or electric roundabout.

THE high-class cinematograph theatres were those of Wm. Taylor, Jacob Studt, Alfred Ball, Charles Thurston, and J. Chipperfield. All these concerns gave delightful displays of up-to-date animated photography, and both inside and out afforded immense delight to the endless stream of visitors. The side shows and minor amusements included Buckley's trained animals, W. Le Neve and Norah Sullivan (the Sandow experts of the fair ground), P. Collins's haunted house, Tom Taylor's school of boxers, and T. Knighton's academy of fine arts.

THE big riding machines were those of Messrs. Thurston, P. Collins, T. Clark, W. Wilson, and Mrs. Bird. There were on either side of the spacious boulevards of St. Giles'-street, on every available pitch, juvenile riding machines, park swings, toy and gingerbread stalls, throwing games, and the hundred and one necessary adjuncts of a first-class fair.

MR. BILLY ROSS and company are deputising for the Brothers Horne this week at the Palace, Camberwell, where they have met with wonderful success.

EDISON FILMS

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, U.S.A.

ROMANCE OF A WAR NURSE.

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES.

PREFACE—Amid shrieking shells and dying groans, a heroic nurse finds opportunity to further serve her country—Daring all—Patriotism opens the door to Love, and she meets and merits her great reward.

ON THE BATTLEFIELD—Two armies opposed—In battle array—Outpost halts carriage—Demands passport—Lady emerges—Corporal in doubt—Takes her to Headquarters.

THE FIELD HOSPITAL—Lady put in charge of nurse—Corporal seeks Captain—Captain finds passport correct—Attack on hospital—Soldiers rush forth—Nurse calms lady—Fighting outside.

"WAR IS HELL"—Soldiers driven back—Fire from Hospital—Pandemonium reigns—Windows broken—Doors splintered—Shells crash through walls—Floor falls—Lady struck

A PATRIOTIC MISSION—Nurse alone—Rushes to aid—Lady apparently dead—Discovers important letter—"For the good of the cause"—Determines to assume her place—Quick change of costumes—Victors enter—Nurse given escort—Leaves in carriage.

EN ROUTE SOUTH—Beyond Battle Zone—Guard leaves—Carriage hastens on.

THE SOUTHERN HOME—Disguised nurse reaches destination—Met by mother and son—Son is Captain—Cordial welcome—Shows letter—Unsuspected.

"ALL'S FAIR IN LOVE AND WAR"—Captain smitten—Lays siege to nurse's heart—Presses suit—Nurse hesitates—Courier arrives—Consultation—Nurse learns important news.

THE MYSTERIOUS LADY—Veiled lady arrives—Mother receives her—Nurse denounced—Proofs shown—Mother thinks insane—Lady shown out.

"AS FROM THE DEAD"—Nurse, happy, enters library—Receives important papers—Makes fearful discovery—Lady abruptly enters—Confronts nurse—Demands retribution—Nurse offers all—"Spare my Love"—Lady unrelenting—Nurse defies her—She calls her lover—Waits decision—Love's victory—Lady departs—Captain escorts.

THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS—Captain returns—Sees shadow on door—Suspicions awakened—"Twixt Love and Duty"—Demands explanations—A harsh measure—The unexpected—A confession—Woman to woman—Happy reconciliation—Love triumphs.

No. 6370. Code, "Velocitate." Length 1000ft.

LATEST SUBJECTS:

No. 6363. **The Little Coxswain of the 'Varsity Eight.**
6364. **The Boston Tea Party.**
6366. **The Face on the Bar-room Floor.**
6367. **A Dumb Hero.**
6368. **Life's a Game of Cards.**
6369. **Tales the Searchlight Told.**
6371. **When Ruben Comes to Town.**
6372. **Aeroplane Flights by Henry Farman.**

EDISON KINETOSCOPES.

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TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
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COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.
Jan. 18, March 8, April 5, 12, May 10, 17, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov. 16 (three nights),
Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
March 15, 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 16.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Dec. 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Oct. 26, Feb. 15, 22, March 15, 29, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
March 1, 15, 29, April 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
April 12, 19, May 3, 10, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Sept. 28, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, Dec. 7, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Oct. 19, 26, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Oct. 5, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, on (three nights only).
Address,
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Sept. 28 (3 nights), Nov. 2 (3 nights), 9 (3 nights).
Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
Nov. 12, onwards.
Apply for all above, ROWLAND, T., Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.,
WANTED, Pay-Box Attractions,
few vacant weeks only, Autumn, 1909,
Various during 1910.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Important Attraction,
Oct. 12 (Musical Comedy preferred).
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
Musical preferred,
Oct. 19,
Nov. 9, 16, 30.
JAMES BELL.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
Oct. 12, 26, and on.

Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, High-class Attractions, for Oct. 19 (through cancelling to oblige),
also Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30.
Extra Attraction Wanted for Dec. 26 (seven nights).
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Sept. 28 (three nights), Oct. 5 (week), and various dates onwards.
G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

CROWN THEATRE, PECKHAM.
WANTED, First-class Company, for Oct. 12.
Apply, CECIL PAGET.

THEATRE ROYAL, BILSTON,
under Entirely New Management of
JOHN M. DAWSON, Lessee and Manager.
WANTED, Company, Vacant Nov. 30, on, with exceptions, for really First-class Dramas and Musical Comedies. Can be booked in conjunction with Theatre Royal, Wednesbury.

WANTED, owing to transfer, an Attractive Company, Musical preferred, for Nov. 30. Christmas possibly Vacant.
SIDNEY COOPER, Lyceum, Newport.

GRAND THEATRE, HULL.
WANTED, Nov. 30, may be at Liberty for High-class Attraction.
Address, WM. MORTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, HULL.
WANTED, Nov. 9, 16, 30, Dec. 14.
Address, WM. MORTON.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions, Vacant Sept. 24, 25, and 26, Dec. 7, Jan. 4 and 11, 1909.
Holding Capacity £100.
Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Front Rank Musical and Dramatic Attractions, Feb. 15, March 22, April 19, May 3, and on.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

WANTED, Palace Pier, Brighton, First-class Comedies and Musical Pieces, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 16, onward. A good Pantomime write in. Letters to J. E. CORNELL.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 16 (?), 30 (Musical), Dec. 14, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, onwards. Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterborough, Good Companies, Oct. 5, 12, 19.
A. D. VERNON.

THEATRE ROYAL, GOOLE.
WANTED, Good Musical Attraction, Oct. 19, also Nov. 5 (three nights), 9, 23, 30, Dec. 7.
Re Business, refer Messrs. Cordiner, Cross, and Neville. Apply, GREAVES, Theatre Royal, Goole.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Oct. 26 and Nov. 23. Theatre redecorated throughout, full electric installation, three colours on stage. Address, GERALD HARDING.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH,
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only entertained.
Vacant Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 2, 16,
onward with exceptions

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Nov. 2, 9, Dec. 7,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Nov. 23, Dec. 21, Feb. 23,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY,
Vacant Dec. 7, 26, April 5, 12, 19,
onward, with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Nov. 30, April 12, May 31, June 7,
onward, with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH,
Vacant Oct. 1, 5, 22, 29,
onward, with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c.

ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, Nov. 23, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, Oct. 26, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating Capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the Largest, Most Handsome, and Best Equipped Theatres in Great Britain.

The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only. Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
Will Guarantee anything really Big.
Next week, Mrs. Brown-Potter, in "Lady Frederick."
Sept. 28, George Edwardes' "The Merry Widow."
Oct. 12, "Merrie England."
Oct. 26, Moody-Manners "A" Company (seventh visit).
All communications, JOHN ED. JOWSEY,
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Telegrams, "Magnet." Telephones, 413, 426, 500.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, Mr. FRED GRANVILLE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Oct. 12, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, March 1, 8, and onwards. Certainty or guarantee if desired.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, First-class Musical and other London Attractions, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Good-class Attractions, Oct. 19, 26, also Nov. 9, 23 (certainty, five nights each).
Re dates,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE,
EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Company,
Sept. 28, 29, 30.
Eastbourne Croquet Week.
Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THE STAR, SWANSEA.
The Popular Drama House.

WANTED, Touring Managers to send their Vacant Dates for Autumn 1909 and Spring 1910; also a few Summer Dates Vacant.

Trade is good in Swansea, and recently £397 was taken in three nights and a matinée.
Certainties or Shares.

All communications to
WILLIAM COUTTS, Sole Lessee and Manager.

THE PALACE THEATRE, WREXHAM.
Building at a cost of £15,000. Stage opening 30ft. by 30ft., 35ft. deep, 64ft. wall to wall.
WANTED, Known, the Management are now Prepared to Negotiate for First-class Companies (only entertained), for Musical Comedies, Pantomimes, Dramas, and Society Plays, for the Spring, 1909. A population over 70,000, Central Ry., Motor Railway Cars, and Electric Trams. All communications to the Managing-Director, W. YATES GREGORY.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Company, Oct. 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28, onwards. Apply, PHILLIPS.

WANTED, First-class Company, Oct. 12, through transferring.
Address, M. LOADER, Theatre Royal, St. Helens.

IPSWICH LYCEUM.
WANTED, Known, only vacant dates this Autumn, Oct. 1 and 5, Nov. 19, Dec. 14, First-class Attractions only. Apply, Miss PARKIN.

BOROUGH THEATRE, HEYWOOD.
Lessee, Mr. ALBERT JONES.
Manager, Mr. HAROLD TWEEDLE.
WANTED, Good Companies, Weeks of Oct. 19 and 26, and Dec. 14. JONES, Queen's T., Manchester.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Smart Pantomime for Glasgow, Xmas and New Year weeks, Share or Certainty, twice nightly. LYNNE'S Agency, Alhambra, Brighton.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Nov. 9, 16, 23, Jan. 11, 18 (?), 25 (?), Feb. 1, 8, March 1, 22, and on. W. E. POTTS, O. H., Dunfermline.

GILBERT'S VARIETY AGENCY,
417A, Brixton-road, S.W.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic and Musical Comedy Companies.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, First-class Companies
Nov. 2, 16, 23, 30.
Good Business with Good Company.

Address, TOM BARGER.

COMPANIES WANTED.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for
Oct. 5, 26, 29,
with exceptions.
Applications for dates to HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

ALEXANDRA HALL,
DOVERCOURT.
Beautifully decorated and furnished.
Electric Light.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Sept. 28, two, three, or six nights.
Apply, BARING BROS., Cheltenham.

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 19, small Dramatic Co., small Stage, Trade good.
GUSTAVE, Empire Theatre, Riddings, Derbyshire.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 11.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, April 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS,"
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, Dec. 21, 28.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, between Scotland and London.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, Feb. 8 (North).
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 5, 12, Jan. 4, 11.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres Nov. 23, Jan. 18.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Nov. 23, 30, Jan. 25 (North).
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 16, Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, 23, Dec. 21, 28, and Xmas.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 12, Nov. 2 16, Dec. 21, 28.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21, 28, on, with exceptions.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 14, 26 (seven nights).
DOUGLAS BRUCE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., London, W.C.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Oct. 12, Nov. 16, 23, 30
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Dec. 21, 28.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH."
And Répertoire of recent West End Successes.
Mr. Ernest E. Norris and Company.
WANTED, Oct. 12, to follow Brixton Theatre.
Address, C. H. BOWMAKER, 25, Pemberton-gardens, N.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, weeks of Oct. 19 and Nov. 2, for this remarkable success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, weeks of Nov. 2 and Dec. 14.
Wire or write, W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 25.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Oct. 12, 26 (South).

All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Sept. 21, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

Mr. MONCKTON HOFFE'S COMPANY,
"IRENE WYCHERLEY"
(by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell).
Special Company in this Famous Kingsway Theatre Success.
Elaborate scenery carried.
WANTED, First-class Theatres Only Oct. 12 and Nov. 23. Address, to-day, King's Lynn; Sept. 21, Theatre Royal, Colchester.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Sept. 21 (3 nights), Oct. 12 (3), 19, Nov. 2 9, 16, 23, and 30, Xmas week (7 nights), also Spring. Bishopsdale Farm, Benenden, Kent.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Large Theatres, Nov. 16, 23
Everything carried.
Sixty People on the Stage.
E. VIVIAN EDMONDS,
O. H., Coventry.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatre,
Oct. 26, Oct. 26, Oct. 26,
Oct. 26, Oct. 26, Oct. 26.

Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, W.C.

"SILVER KING,"
POLINI AND MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:—
Feb. 22, April 19, 28, May 10.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

"MERELY MARY ANN,"
From the Duke of York's Theatre.
WANTED, First-class Theatre,
Oct. 5,
Oct. 5,
Oct. 5,
to Precede Theatre Royal, Hull.
H. GREVILLE, to-day, H. M. T., Barrow; then, Opera House, Perth (Race Week).

"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."
WANTED, good No. 1 Theatre, for Easter, 1909.
Address,
J. BANNISTER HOWARD,
15, Clifford's-inn, Fleet-street.

WANTED, Theatres, "Love's Golden Dream," Frances Delaval's Daringly Original Play (Press), and "Her Lost Self," by Nita Rae. Wire for Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, unexpectedly vacant. Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
The most Powerful Play Touring.

A Solid Success.
A Solid Success.
A Solid Success.
Read the Cast.
MRS. MORTON POWELL
as
ROSA BUD.
Miss May Beatrice as Helena Byars.
Miss Jeannie Risley as Deputy.
Miss Addie Addan as Princess Puffer.
Mr. Bartlett Garth as John Jasper.
Mr. J. H. Twyford as Neville Landless.
Mr. Dayid Phillips as Durdles.
Mr. Ridgway Thorne as Edwin Drood.
Vacant,
Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
Playing to enormous business everywhere.

Refer,
Osborne, Manchester,
Royal, Chesterfield.
Queen's, Longton.
Superb Production.

Great Cast.
Miss Ethel Griffiths
as
Gertrude Hunt.
Mr.
Wilfred Linden
as
Rev. Basil Gortre.
Mr. Haldane Dalton
as
Constantine Schwabe
Vacant,
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 8, 15,
only dates till Sept., 1909.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Dates for this
Brilliant Romantic Drama.
Miss Laura Walker
as
Countess Steinback.
Mr. Norman V. Overton as Baron Cratzlaw.
Mr. Clifford Rean as Count Steinback.
Vacant,
Nov. 2, 9, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 11, 18.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Dates for this
Marvellous Money-maker.
A
Good Melodrama.
The Success of
4,000 Nights,
4,000 Nights,
and still
Drawing Big Money.
Vacant,
Dec. 14, 28, Jan. 11, 25,
Feb. 8, 22, March 1, 8.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Dates for this,
still the
Greatest of all Domestic Dramas.
Pulls the Public.
Makes Money
everywhere.
Vacant,
Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates
The Pay-box
proves the Worth of this.
Vacant,
Jan. 4, 11, 18.

MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

New Play
by
MRS. MORTON POWELL.
Something to Startle
the
Playgoing Public.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

The Thrilling Melodrama, "CONVICT 99."

WANTED, Autumn Dates, Oct. 5, 26, Dec. 7 and on, 1909.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
Vacant for this Enormous Success.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

Apply, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
Grand Theatre, Lancaster.

WANTED, Known.—Theatre Managers are respectfully invited
to Witness a Performance of the
Beautiful Domestic Drama,
"HIS WIFE NO LONGER,"

Next Week,
at the
Theatre Royal, Preston.

Matinée on Thursday, at 2.15.

Vacant Nov. 2, 9, and 16.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Sept. 28, Sept. 28, Sept. 28
three or six nights, between Gateshead and Wales. Last week at Bishop Auckland we played to £42 8s. 6d. more than previous visit. Refer J. Huntley, Esq. These are exact figures and facts not fiction.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted Sept. 28, 29, 30, and Nov. 23.
Playing to record business.
All communications, GEO. A. DE GRAY,
To-day, North Shields; next, Met. T., Gateshead.

"THE LADY OF OSTEND."
"THE LADY OF OSTEND."
By Sir Francis Burnand.

WANTED, Sept. 28, Sept. 28 (through transfer to oblige).
Also Oct. 19 and 24, and Xmas.

Wire,
LAWRENCE BROUGH,
Opera House, Torquay.

"HANDS ACROSS THE SEA."
CECIL A COLLINS' CO.
WANTED, Good Theatre,
Oct. 5, for the above
Most Successful Revival.
WILLIAM MARTIN, 416, Strand, London, W.C.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Oct. 5 and 12, for "Pair of Spectacles," or Repertory.
Reply, Theatre, Inverness.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Nov. 23, 30, Jan. 4, 11, 18, various, on.
Sumptuously Staged, Beautifully Dressed, and always a Perfect Cast.
E. A'DELL, Lessee and Manager,
Pier Pavilion Theatre, Teignmouth, S. Devon.

By Arrangement with Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore.
MISS NORA CARTON'S CO.
"CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Oct. 12.
Oct. 12.
Wire, C. B. VAUGHAN, Grand T., West Hartlepool; Monday, Opera House, Buxton.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY
will Tour the above Successful Romantic Drama, commencing Aug., 1909.
Every scene will be carried, and the costumes and uniforms will be most elaborate.
Fine plant of Pictorial Printing by David Allen and Sons and Moody Bros.
Company of Carefully-selected Artists.

WANTED, August Bank Holiday, 1909, Sept. 27, between Sheffield and Burnley, Oct. 11, to follow Burnley, Oct. 16, and on, with exceptions. Please apply, Miss HILDA BEVERLEY, "A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Easter;
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 2, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Sept. 21, Oct. 26, Nov. 16.
FRED BULMER, Opera House, Treherbert.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
This Year fully Booked.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 1 (Lancs. and Yorks.), 29 (Mid.).

O. H., Dunfermline; next Motherwell, N.B.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOURS.
"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
Only Vacant Date, Nov. 30.
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
WANTED, Oct. 19, Nov. 9 and 16.
"The Convict's Daughter" has now been played at fourteen Suburban Theatres, and has had nine return visits. It played to a record matinée at the Elephant Theatre last Thursday week, and on Saturday night over 2,200 persons paid for admission. Refer Chas. Barnard.
EUGENE BERTRAM, Adelphi Theatre W.C.

BERNARD SHAW'S PLAY.
"YOU NEVER CAN TELL."
TAYLOR PLATT and TREVOR LOWE'S CO.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Vacant Dates,
Vacant Dates,
Oct. 22, 23, 24,
Nov. 5, 6, 7.
Now Booking
Spring Tour.
Third Year of Tour.
Wire or write, this, Theatre Royal, Exeter.
Next, Theatre Royal, Bath.

"EAST LYNNE."
"EAST LYNNE."
"EAST LYNNE."
MR. TOM WATT'S COMPANY.
In the Original Heath-Wilson Barrett Version, by arrangement with J. Pitt Hardacre.
The only one authorised by law to contain the character of P.C. Bullock.
WANTED, immediate Autumn Dates; also now Booking Spring.

Miss Julie Kennard as Lady Isabel.

All coms. re dates, &c., to CECIL ELGAR,
32, Scholars-road, Balham, S.W.,
under whose direction the Play will be Toured.

Messrs. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON'S.
"WAS SHE TO BLAME,"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, few Dates, 1909. Production, Easter, Junction, Manchester. Apply for date, VAUXHALL, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
WANTED, Oct. 19, 26, Wire,
TILBURY, this, Amble; next, Middleton.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26 (precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 (precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. WYN WEAVER, Pier, Southend.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Oct. 12, Nov. 2 (follow T. R., Sheffield). HENRY L. OSMOND Wire, O. H., Treherbert; Write, Royalty, Llanelly.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12,
London or South.
HORACE STANLEY, 19, Nansen-road, Clapham Common.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, Feb. 1, March 22, and on.
Address
CHAS. M. JULIAN Royalty Theatre, Morecambe.

MR. HERBERT RALLAND'S COMPANY.
"HIS HOUSE IN ORDER."
By arrangement with Mr. George Alexander.
WANTED, three nights, South, Oct. 8, 9, 10, seven nights Xmas, and few spring dates.
HERBERT RALLAND, Prince's Theatre, Manchester.

ROLAND YORKE'S
TOURS AND PLAYS.
"THE OLD HOME."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Xmas (7 nights).
ROLAND YORKE, Gaiety, Burnley.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, Aug. 9, on, with exceptions.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.
Or BATEMAN and CONQUEST, Empire, Southend.

WANTED, Oct. 19, 26 (North), follow Scotland, "Beneath the Stars" and Répertoire if required. Everything special carried. COLEMAN DAVIES, O. H., Dunfermline.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Nov. 2, through transfer.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Elaborate Revival. Strong Cast.
Vacant Nov. 2, Dec. 26 (seven nights).
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Vacant Nov. 16, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
Touring Summer and Autumn, 1909.
Wires, C. T., Bacup; letters, T. R., Tyldesley.

"THE FLOWER GIRL."
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Nov. 23 and 30 (to follow Theatre Royal, Glasgow, return visit).
Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Victoria T., Broughton.
Letters, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.
See Companies Column.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11, 18, March 15, 29, April 5.
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Leicester.

"MAN TO MAN," under the direction of Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.
WANTED, Oct. 5 and 12.
FRANK ADAIR, Paisley Theatre, Paisley.

"THE POWER OF THE KING."
The most successful Military Romantic Drama, by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Theatres (through change of route), Oct. 5 and 26 (North or Lancs.), Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Spring 1909 fully booked. Few Autumn dates still open. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, this, Ashington; next, T. R., Darlington.

WANTED, Good Theatres,
Oct. 19 and 26,
for the Instantaneous Success,
"THE WOMAN FROM RUSSIA."
"THE WOMAN FROM RUSSIA."
Address,
HILL and AYRTON, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 26 (through transfer), and onwards, with exceptions. Wire for Sept. 28, WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, to-day, Alexandra, Birmingham; next, T. R., Croydon.

"SECOND TO NONE," by Walter Howard.
WANTED, for this great success, big Theatre, Easter. Add., WARD, O. H., Hammersmith.

THEATRES WANTED.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
"THE MANXMAN,"
By the late Wilson Barrett, from Hall Caine's Novel.

WANTED, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, and few later. Xmas Week Vacant. Entirely New Scenery and Effects. A Unique Production.
"THE MONARCH OF THE WORLD,"
T. R., Stratford. E., Sept. 21.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her big successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.

WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, Nov. 16 (?) and 30, New Year's week; also a few Spring dates vacant for either Play.
Coms. to GEORGE KIRK,
Victoria Theatre, Broughton, Manchester.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY,
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."

WANTED, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb. 8, March 1, 8, on.

Sept. 21, T. R., Wednesbury.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."

WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, 16, Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8, 15, on, for the above attraction. Address,
ARMADALE and WARREN, Theatre Royal, Colne.

MR. and MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
"A SISTER'S SIN."

WANTED, Oct. 5, Oct. 5, Oct. 5, for these great Plays.
Scenery and Uniforms a Speciality.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Vacant Oct. 26 (to follow T. R., Sheffield), refer re piece at Pontypridd this week.
Excellent Cast and Printing.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Vacant Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7.
All Scenery new and Special Racehorses.
Wire for these plays to
KIMBERLEY, Theatre, Pontypridd; next, Ton-y-Pandy.

GILBERT'S VARIETY AGENCY,
417A, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Theatres, for First-class Companies.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, April 12.
Phenomenal business everywhere.
JAMES BELL, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

WANTED, for the enormously successful Musical Absurdity, "The Gay Deceivers," Oct. 19 (follow Aldershot), Oct. 26.
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"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Dec. 7 and 28. for this Great Success.
DICKIE CLARE, T. R., Goole.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime,
"Aladdin." Splendid cast engaged.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Nov. 16 and Jan. 4, 11, for Corri's "Dandy Fifth," up to date.
HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre Royal, Hebburn.

WANTED, for Bliss and Bliss's Pantomime, "Mother Goose," a good Theatre, with large seating capacity, for Feb. 22, only Vacant Week, to complete Tour. This is the entire show from the Crown Theatre, Peckham, with a bunch of good Comedians, and First-class Pantomime Artists. All coms. to GEORGE and LEO BLISS, Majestic Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, "Mason" Chief Co., Oct. 5, 12, 19, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, Xmas; "Mr. Popple," Oct. 26, Nov. 16, 23. Communicate, MACDONA, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

MR. E. H. KNIGHT'S CO.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
Everything New. A Great Success.

WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, 23, 30, Xmas, and New Year.
Now playing to excellent business.
A New "East Lynne."
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ROSE MONCRIEFF AND CO.
"THE CURATE" and "THE BELLS OF OLD YORK," by Rass Challis.

WANTED, Good Theatre, Midlands, Nov. 16 and 23; also New Year's Week, Scotland; only vacant dates. Address, Castle Theatre, Richmond.

"THE NIHILIST."
WANTED, Theatres, Sept. 28, Xmas, New Year, Jan., Feb., on. The finest drama ever seen at the Pavilion, London.—Vide Press. SILVERSTONE, Met., Devonport; next, Elephant and Castle, S.E.

CHARLES LENTONE AND VICTOR HUNTER'S GRAND PANTO., "ROBINSON CRUSOE."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, and 25. Strong Cast, New Scenery and Dresses. Produce at the Queen's, Fleetwood Dec. 21. Write, V. HUNTER, Pier Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea.

COLLINS'S PANTOMIME PRODUCTION,
Twice Nightly.
"PUSS-IN-BOOTS UP TO DATE."
Cast of over Forty Performers,
including Miss Ethel Beech (late of Mr. George Edwardes' Company,
Booked by Oswald Stoll, Esq., for three years),
Specialities by Lancashire Lasses and Collins' Juveniles.
Complete in eight scenes.
Costume by Alias, London.
WANTED, Jan. 18 and Feb. 8. 8, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C.

Only Vacant Date this Year, Oct. 5.
Enormous Success Everywhere.
Refer to Managers where played.
A Real Novelty.
THE JAMAICANS,
The Most Successful, Artistic, Novel, and Smartest Combination now before the Public.
Twelve Coloured Ladies and Gentlemen.
Evening Dress, Native Costume, or Camp Dress.
Royalty delighted. The Public delighted.
Managers want Return Dates.
A most extensive and varied Répertoire.
Real Coon Singers and Dancers.
WANTED, Known.—Only Vacant Date, Oct. 5. Full particulars, terms, and dates, from Sole Managers, H. E. JONES and A. DOUGLASS, 21, Water Street, Liverpool. 'Phones, 2449 and 5650 Central. Wires, "Motherland, Liverpool."

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for E. Hill-Mitchelson's new Production,
Leading Man, Leading Lady, Char. Old Man, for Military part; Lady and Gentleman, for Light Comedy parts; Comedian and Chambermaid.
Photos., references, and two weeks' address,
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Castle Theatre, Stockton.

WANTED, Artists and Chorus for Musical Comedy Tour, commencing Xmas. Write full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Artists, to complete Stock. Rehearse Sept. 28, open Oct. 1. Lowest terms and references, JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum T., Stafford.

WANTED, Lady and Gentleman as Resident-Students for the Shakespearean Stage; thorough training; inclusive terms moderate. Address, PRINCIPAL, 43, Staines-road, Hounslow, Middlesex.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.—Mr. Norman V. Norman has a Vacancy in his Principal Répertoire Company for a Lady and Gentleman, to play small parts and understudy, &c. Theatre Royal, Ryde.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists, in all Lines.
GILBERT'S Variety Agency,
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WANTED, rehearse Oct. 5, Stout Lady, Irish Low Comedy part, Drama; also Low Comedian. State terms, height, references, parts played, photos. MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

WANTED, First-class Leading Man, must be tall, Character Actor, Comedian, and Aristocratic Old Man. Letters, MANAGER, c/o, Johnson, Variety Agent, 66, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Short Robust Comedian, Light Comedian (not a Dude), Walking Gentleman, and S.M., and Bright Chambermaid for Tour with Comedy Sketch. Photos., terms., refs., &c. No callers. E. KELSEY, 88, Barrington-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Heavy Man, for Lawson Répertoire; able to play broken-English parts. Apply with full particulars to
V. NEWMAN, The Empire, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Actor, for Dashing Foreign Part in a New Production; must be Linguist.
Write with portrait to
V. NEWMAN, Empire, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Character Actor, for Old Man, part Music Hall Sketch. Terms, &c., CHARLEY HARVEY, 31, Alma-road, Birkdale, Southport. Wm. E. Pasmore write if at Liberty.

WANTED, for Music Hall Sketch, smart Actor for Juvenile Part, dress well. Terms, age, height, photo. C. HARVEY, 31, Alma-road, Birkdale, Southport.

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Headquarters, George Hotel,
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WANTED, First-class Lady and Gentlemen Amateurs to join the above Society; every advantage given to its members, which cannot be had of any other Society. Competitions, Concerts, Monthly, for valuable prizes. Engagements found for Advance Members Terms for the season, 5s. Special Opening Concert, Monday, Sept. 28, 1908. Hoping to see all Old and New Members. Prospectus and all particulars to Secretary, W. WILLIAMS.

WANTED, Coloured Singers, Dancers, Comedians, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," must all be real Coloured people. CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

WANTED, immediately, Lady Acrobatic Dancers, good stage appearance. Call or send photos. Call from 11 o'clock to 5. 29, Westbaden-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Solo Dancers, for the Continent, good Engagement. Apply immediately to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Smart Young Baritone, who is also a Good Accompanist;
must have good répertoire.
Send lowest terms,
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WANTED, for old-established Musical Speciality Act, a refined Young Lady. Small premium; tuition free. Salary from commencement. Good opening for Amateur. Full particulars to MANAGER, 29, Ouseley-road, Balham.

WANTED, Advance Agent, to Open Monday, one who knows fit-ups, near London. Letters only to A. PLAYER,
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WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription, 6d. weekly, yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers, and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

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WANTED, Known, an Actress of great experience, at present engaged in principal West End Theatre, gives private lessons in Acting and Elocution. Moderate terms. Box 6,899, "Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Joint, Soprano, Grand Opera, Concerteds, Ballads, &c.; Pianist, excellent Sight-reader and Accompanist. Highest refs. Terms moderate for safe shop. "W.," 4, Church-road, Seaford.

WANTED, Known, Public School Man, some Amateur experience, employed in London till 4 p.m., would be glad of microscopic part; has good electrical knowledge. Address Box 7,008, "The Era."

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'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 5in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, for Pantomime, next Xmas, Twelve Chorus Ladies, 5ft. 8in. in height. Photos., experience, references, &c., to
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WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians, Principal Boys, Second Boys, Fairy Queens, &c., &c. Apply to JOHN TILLER and Co., 143, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Comedians, and 20 Acrobatic Dancers, for Pantomime. Call GILBERT'S Variety Agency, 417A, Brixton-road (opposite Bon Marché).

WANTED, for Pantomime, Large Number of Chorus and Show Ladies. Appointments every morning at 11 o'clock. C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Principal Boy, Fairy Queen, Dame, Cat, Comedians, twenty Chorus and Dancers, Principal. Say where can be seen working for next three weeks. Box 7,027, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Nelly Lovell, the Burlesque Artist, Disengaged Panto., 1908 and 1909, or Variety Tour, Nov., Dec., 1908, 1909, Moss or Barrasford. 29, Huntingdon-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, at Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Boy. Offers invited. An Actress and a Vocalist. Queen's Varieties, Poplar, E.

WANTED, Panto. Last Year, Dandini, Fredk. Mouillot's Co. Miss Violet Rosenberg impersonated the rôle with considerable success.—The Stage. Vocalist and Dancer. 16A, Lynn-st., Balham.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Sisters Brenton, Duettists and Expert Dancers. Terms, &c., EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, through misunderstanding Percy Curry is at Liberty for Pantomime. Past Engagements include Dame, two seasons Avenue, Sunderland; Principal Comedian, two seasons with John Tiller, Esq.; Principal Comedian, with Francis J. Laidler, Esq., Prince's Theatre, Bradford; and two seasons Principal Comedian, with Holland and Wood's "Aladdin." Offers invited. Address, Pavilion, Liverpool.

WANTED, KNOWN, Fred Hallam at Liberty for Pantomime. Many thanks for offers.
Sept. 21, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Harry Lonsdale, the Dashing Coon Singer, Expert Dancer, Liberty Panto. Offers invited. Apply, Rose Hill-terrace, Guide, Blackburn.

WANTED, by Little Zola, Vacant for Panto. Many thanks for offers.
All coms., Empire, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Colin Gent, Versatile Baritone and Dancer, Open Panto., Baron, Demon King, Musical Comedy. Perm., Cedar Villas, Bolton-road, Aspull, Wigan.

WANTED, Known, Bert Danson, U.S.***. A Comedian who can make your Panto. a Success. Last year a Big Hit at the Camden, N.W. Next week, Euston. See him!

WANTED, Known, Three Les Greers, Acrobats and Wonderful Equilibrists, on Tour, Vacant for Pantomime. Perm. address, 12, Brief-street, Burnley.

WANTED, Known, the Four Scoreys (two Ladies and two Gentlemen), Musical Mélange, Novel Instruments, Genuine Comedy, free for Panto. The talk of every town. Last two seasons with Mr. J. A. Thomson.

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WANTED, Known, Tom Shenton and Chicks, last six pantos. with F. J. Little, Esq.; Part. Speciality, and Stage Management. Lib. 8, Greenfield-street, Aberystwyth. DALTON'S.

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WANTED, Panto. Engagement, for the New Sherry Gobblers, also the Eight of Hearts, splendid all-round dancers, splendid costumes, always a success, near or in London present. Good offers only. Address, M. BUTLER, 11, Rue Monthessey, Paris.

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WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

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SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

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MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Assistant-Secretary, used to Variety and Theatrical Business, Shorthand and Typewriting essential. State salary required, age, experience, and references in first lettr to A. E. PICKARD, Panopticon, Glasgow.

WANTED, a Resident Manager for a small Variety Theatre in the North; must be sober, experienced, and energetic worker, firm in discipline and organisation. References and salary required to ALFRED GRAHAM, Hippodrome, Hull. No photos., original references, or stamped envelopes. Silence a negative.

WANTED, Smart, Energetic Young Resident-Manager, to take entire charge and devote all his time to a Provincial Variety Theatre in flourishing industrial town (not King's Lynn), Proprietors of which run important business elsewhere; must put down £100 cash security; commence immediately. Send fullest particulars, references, and qualifications to SCOTT ALEXANDER, T. R., King's Lynn. The Proprietors would entertain good commercial man who would invest £250.

WANTED, Smart Young Man, with Music Hall Training, as Assistant Secretary. Shorthand Typist, with knowledge of Book-keeping, preferred. Apply by letter, stating fullest particulars, quoting salary required and names of references, to A. E. PICKARD, New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank. Mark envelopes "Assistant Secretary."

WANTED, at once, good Working Agent, used to Fit-ups. Lowest terms and references, MANAGER, Imperial Hall, Waltham Cross.

WANTED, Practical Electrician, able to wire, repair, and work Bioscope, and understand Gas. Permanency. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

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Apply to Box 7,029, "The Era" Office.

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Good permanency for suitable man.
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WANTED, Known, at Liberty for Management, Acting-Management, or Secretary and Treasurer of First-class Variety Hall or Theatre; thoroughly reliable, and experienced in booking Variety and Dramatic Companies, and all details. HAGUE, Entertainments Manager, Scarborough Corporation, Scarborough.

WANTED, Advertiser seeks Position as Manager or Assistant, Lecturer and Entertainer; thoroughly experienced; now completing third season of management. Fidelity guaranteed. LONDBERG, Victoria-gardens, Mablethorpe, Lincs.

WANTED, Known, Bert Dent, having resigned from the sole management of the Palace, Greenwich, S.E., is now at Liberty to Negotiate for a Similar Position. Address, Palace Varieties, Greenwich, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Man, as Assistant Stage-Manager, Variety; London or Provinces; experienced. S. S. SADLER, 64, Farmlane, Fulham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Agent in Advance, or other capacity; hard-working and energetic; well recommended by Albert Chevalier, Esq., and others. G. L., 68, Philip-lane, Tottenham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, as Property Master and Maker in the Provinces; 20 years' reference. Theatre Royal, Brighton. E. BRIDGER, 9, Ashford-road, Preston-drove, Brighton.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, by J. Parker, Electrician, with thorough Practical Experience, appointment in first-class Theatre or any large Establishment; previous engagements being with the late Sir Henry Irving, London Coliseum, Prince's and Royal Court Theatres, Liverpool. 70, Ling-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Carpenter, Scenery, Properties, own tools, assist painting-room, Theatre or Hall. 64, Dongola-road, Philip-lane, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Practical Carpenter and Property Master, open resident or tour; together or separate. Apply, Grand T., Llandudno.

WANTED, Engagement by Practical Stage-Carpenter, bench hand. Tour or Resident. CARPENTER, 98, Sibly-grove, East Ham.

WANTED, Known, Bill-Inspector and Advertisement-Manager, Disengaged shortly; experience at London Hall; good refs. M. N., 135 Green Gate-street, Plaistow, E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Wardrobe Mistress, permanent, London Theatre, cut, fit, and renovate; produced Harry Day's (Principal's dress) "Cinderella," Panto., 1907. Moderate. MODES, 240, Kennington Park-road.

WANTED, Known, Amy Samwells, First-class Wardrobe Mistress, Disengaged, cut, make, and renovate; good refs. 84, Electric-av., Brixton, London.

WANTED, Engagement, as Theatre Cloak-room Attendant or Matron, to travel; good dresser, speaks French; experienced. Letters, Box 7,020, "The Era."

MUSICIANS WANTED.

PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION,
SOUTH PARADE PIER.
WANTED, Known, applications for the positions of Musical-Director are invited from Gentlemen experienced in organising and conducting Orchestral Bands of the Highest Order; also accustomed to Vaudeville and Concert Stage work. Applicants will expedite consideration by stating fully particulars of past experience, also if disengaged at present. Envelopes should be endorsed "MUSICAL DIRECTOR," and addressed THE MANAGER, South Parade Pier, Southsea.

WANTED, Violin-Conductor, also First Cornet and First Violin, to open Sept. 28, also Basso and 'Cello, to open Oct. 5. All above must be accustomed to Variety, twice nightly, and send copies of recent testimonials, with application.

Apply,
MANAGER, Crown Theatre, Eccles.

WANTED, First-class Conductor, Violinist, Second Violin, Cornet, Pianist, Bass, Drums, Clarionet, commence Sept. 28; copy of references from last Engagement. J. CUMMINGS Palace, Kilmarnock.

WANTED, for Pantomime, a good Pianist-Conductor; must be able to arrange. Apply, with photo. and reference, to GEORGE and LEO BLISS, Majestic Hotel, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Experienced Conductor (Violinist), for Provincial Music Hall.
Apply to Box 7,028, "The Era" Office.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, commencing Sept. 28, at Preston, First Violin, Double Bass, and Drums with Effects. Lowest terms and references. Address, Brixton Hall, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, First Violin and Contra Bass, for Brighton Municipal Orchestra; permanency; must be first-class performers, and thoroughly experienced in Concert work. Apply, JOSEPH SAINTON, Musical-Director, Brighton.

HIPPODROME, WIGAN.
WANTED, to Open at Once, good Second Violin, and Solo Cornet (to open Oct. 5); steady men, that know the business and can play only need apply. Latest references indispensable. WORSWICK.

WANTED, for Hippodrome, Belfast, First Violin, to open at once. Apply, with references, to EDGAR HAINES, Conductor.

WANTED, Cornet Player, young and willing to make himself useful. Terms and full particulars to BESWICK, Boro' Hall, Guildford.

WANTED, good Solo Cornet, Baritone, Trombone, for Rink, Oct. 1. Terms, HERR SCOTT, 7, Oates-square, St. Mark's-street, Leeds.

WANTED, at once, Solo Cornet, for String Band (Pitching), must be sober and reliable. Terms, Shares. Apply to PH. BEKER, 20, Old Orchard-street, Bath, Somerset.

WANTED, at once, for Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's Theatres, Glasgow,
Young, Smart, Solo Cornet, abstainer preferred. Apply, with references (enquired into) to
ALFRED CARPENTER, Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

WANTED, immediately, Solo Cornet; must be thoroughly competent and reliable, and used to First-class Theatre Work. GEORGE BURNLEY, Musical-Director, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Clarionet and Piccolo. Pitching; Terms Shares.
LUDWIG, 77, Carlisle-street, Edgware-road.

WANTED, Double Bass, also Drums. Apply, stating lowest salary and references, to H. MASTERMAN, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, Good Trombone Player.
WILL SMITHSON,
Empire, Barnsley.

STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY ASYLUM,
CHEDDLETON, LEEK.
WANTED, B Flat Slide Trombone Player, to act as Attendant, must read all clefs and be able to take Euphonium; good practice in high-class orchestral work; candidates must be single, of good physique, from 21 to 30 years of age; permanent engagement and pension to suitable man. Salary commences at £33 per annum, with prospect of increase to £60, together with board, lodgings, washing, and uniform (emoluments estimated at £40 per annum); married privileges, together with house of £10 rent money after three years' service. Applications, with full particulars, to the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.
WANTED, Trombone, wear evening dress and assist with fittings; commence Monday. J. W. POOLE, Jubilee Hall, Weymouth.

WANTED Royal Carl Rosa Opera Co., Second Bassoon (Continental pitch).
Apply, WALTER VAN NOORDEN,
Grand Theatre, Croydon.

WANTED, good French Horn and E flat Saxophone, for Military Band; London and Tour. Permanent engagement.

Apply, CONDUCTOR,
64, Gibson-square, Islington, London, N.

WANTED, immediately, good 'Cellist to combine Cornet, three in Orchestra. Permanency. References and salary required. Miss BETTS, Theatre Royal, Margate.

LYCEUM THEATRE, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, Wanted, Drummer,
Address, with terms,
HY. DEAN, Mus.-Dir.

WANTED, for Palace, Carlisle, good Double Drummer; open Monday. Wire terms, CONDUCTOR.

WANTED, Drums, with Tymps preferred, for Variety in Scotland.
Reference to Box 7,011, "The Era."

WANTED, a Drummer for Band. State terms to R. DEWHIRST, Hippodrome, Todmorden. Open Oct. 5. Rehearse Oct. 3.

WANTED, immediately for Brass Bands at Bradford, Glasgow, Belfast, experienced Musicians, Cornets, Horns, Trombones. First and Seconds, Baritone, Euphonium, B and E flat Bass, Drums, &c. Play 6 hours daily winter season.
Reply with lowest terms to
TOM WALTON, 582, Stretford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, two Ladies' Bands, Exhibition and Café, each Band five in number. Lowest terms and refs. Box 7,004, "The Era."

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalists, all Lines, must be thoroughly experienced. Lowest terms, age, and references. Box 7,005. "The Era."

ASSEMBLY ROOMS, HORSHAM.
WANTED, small Ladies' Orchestra, with Vocalists preferred; must have smart Costumes. A. KING, Manager.

WANTED, Full Orchestra for New Palace of Varieties, Exeter. Lowest terms and references to HARRY WILSON, Mus.-Dir., Palace, Gorleston-on-Sea, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, for the Great Lafayette Show, Snare Drummer, B.B. Bombardon, Trombone, write full particulars; no agitators need apply; also two tall Chorus Girls, good looking; Actor, with musical knowledge, very tall, for non-speaking Pantomime part, T.T. preferred. Send particulars and photo., THE GREAT LAFAYETTE, c/o Mr. Syd. Hyman, 29, Leicester-square, London.

WANTED, Musicians to keep away from Munich, owing to dispute there.—A. SEITZ, Secretary International Confederation of Musicians, J. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED, Musicians, before accepting Engagements in Scotland, to communicate with Mr. J. Bartley, 717, New City-road, Glasgow; Mr. W. Anderson, 18, Warrender Park-terrace, Edinburgh; or Mr. W. Davis, 76, Clepington-road, Dundee.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mus.-Dir. at Liberty (Piano and Violin), Sept. 28; experienced, steady; good refs. Address, 36, Barnard-street, Chesterroad, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, or Viola; just concluding 7 years Leader (Theatre). PRITCHARD, 81, Norwich-rd, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Violinist, combine piano.
MARTIN, 277, High-road, Ilford, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Violinist, Orchestral and Soloist; good appearance; any business; refs. Box 7,015. "The Era."

WANTED, by Violinist, 32, any business; just finished Engagement, Répétiteur; steady, sober; open at once. VIOLINIST, 9, Springfield-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Croft, good Violinist, experienced at Liberty.
30, Hartington-road, Stockton.

WANTED, Engagement, by First Violin, thoroughly experienced in all Lines; can open immediately. VIOLINIST, 1, Gathorne-road, Wood Green.

WANTED, Known, Violin Soloist, Disengaged; speaks English, French, and Italian. HENRI DORIGNY, 3, Greenwood-road, West Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin, any Business. References, &c., DALTON, 15, Portland-crescent, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Violinist, age 25, open for engagements; experienced all lines, including Quadrille business; abstainer. 98, Malpas-road, S.E.

WANTED, by Edythe Reeve, Violinist, Engagement, any business; just concluded 11 weeks Clacton Pier, London preferred. 60, Kimberley-gardens, Green Lanes, N.

WANTED, Known, two Ladies, Violinist and 'Cellist, at Liberty for Engagement; both well experienced. MATTHEWS, 230, Croxted-road, Herne Hill, S.E.

WANTED, by Violin, Engagement; open Monday; experienced Theatre, Variety, and Concerts; age 30; abstainer. VIOLINIST, 2, Mitford-place, Armley, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist and Pianist Accompanist, First-class Sight-reader, Brilliant Memoriser; reliable, abstainer. Terminating season, Prince's Pierrots, to-day. FRANK NICHOLS, 37, St. Mary's-road, Peckham.

WANTED, Known, Solo Cornet, finishing 16 weeks, Lofthouse Park Mil. Band, Wakefield, Lib Sept. 21, any Bus. Wire, GAITLEY, Lofthouse Park, Wakefield.

WANTED, by thoroughly experienced Clarionettist, Engagement, any business, permanent or otherwise; excellent references. Apply, ALEX. DAVEY, 42, Plynlimmon-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Known, Solo Clarionet, finishing season, 16 weeks, Lofthouse Park Military Band, Wakefield, 19th. BRADY, 6, Ash-street, Patricroft, Manchester. Any Bus.

WANTED, Engagement, as Clarionet, any business. Apply, J. GRUB,
11, Bury-road, Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, by Clarionet, at Liberty, Theatre or Variety; good refs., and reliable; can open Monday. CLARINET, 35, Stowe-road, Shepherd's Bush, London W.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Engagement; experienced in Variety and Orchestral; sober and reliable. Apply, CLARINET, 242, Brook-st., Preston.

WANTED, Engagement, by 4-string Bass Player, any business. Photo. and testimonials sent if required; permanency required. F. G. POWELL, Victoria Pier, Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass and Bombardon; good refs. and experience. P., 29, Davis-street, Pragell-street, Barking-road, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass; long experience, Theatre and Variety; join at once; good references; any district. PAGE, 31, Princess-street, Nuneaton.

WANTED, by experienced Bassoonist, Engagement.
SWAAN, 99, Guilford-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, by Double Bass, good experience, Theatre and Varieties, any line, a permanency; excellent refs. F. W., 6, Foster-road, Formby, Liverpool.

WANTED, by good Double Bass or Viola, Engagement, any Business; sober, reliable, used to Varieties. W. HORNSBY, 24, Hester-street, Northampton.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, thoroughly experienced, sober, and reliable.
Address, SMITH, 116, Cemetery-road, Southport.

WANTED, by First-class Trombonist, Engagement, Music Hall preferred, where open all year round. Box 7,002, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by good and reliable Trombone, any business; three years last shop; Disengaged Oct. 5. LEE, Pavilion Orchestra, Dunoon.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombonist, excellent performer, experienced, good appearance, any business; ex. refs. Box 7,010 "The Era."

WANTED, by good Trombone, Situation, Variety or Theatre; 10 years' references from last shop. J. L., 54, Mall-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, by Trombonist, permanent Engagement, Theatre, Music Hall, or Concert Band; young, experienced, and reliable; first-class refs. ALBERT MATTHEWS, 7, Willowfield-square, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Orchestral Euphonium and Concert Soloist. Disengaged Oct. 3. HOWARTH, 5, Earnest-villas, Key-road, Clacton.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Euphonium, any business, at Liberty Oct. 1. CHARLES GRICE, Norfolk Artillery Band, Wellington Gardens, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by First and Second French Horns, experienced, Engagement, together or otherwise, Theatre, Concert, Opera, Panto., &c. Conductors wanting reliable men, apply Box 7,019, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Lady 'Cellist, Disengaged 20th. Apply, L. HINE, c/o 5A, Milverton-street, Kennington, London, S.E.

WANTED, by a qualified 'Cellist, Engagement in Orchestra, Restaurant, or on Ocean Liner. MUSICIAN, Austin-Rawlinson, Northwood, Middlesex.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, First-class 'Cellist, at Liberty. Address, Box 7,013, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Ethel Litolff, 'Cellist, Disengaged. Concluding three months' Engagement. Address, c/o "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, 'Cellist, Soloist, Experienced Concert, Theatre, Variety, twenty-nine, smart, reliable, now disengaged, excellent refs. DELK, 92, West End-lane, London.

WANTED, Known, W. Claxton, Viola or Violin, Liberty Oct. 5; can accept permanent engagement. Theatre or Variety. Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, an Engagement, by Oboe and Cor Anglais, at Liberty Oct. 5, Theatre preferred; good references; combine Second Violin or Viola; just finishing Summer Engagement. WM. ASHBURNER, 13, Windmill-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Harpist, with Band; would take Bass; steady, reliable. Add., J. F. STEWART, 2, Howden-terrace, Hyde Park, Leeds.

WANTED, shortly, Engagement as Flute and Piccolo; thoroughly experienced in Dramatic and Variety Bus.; refs. good. HOWARD, 5, North-road, Aberystwyth.

WANTED, Engagement, as Flautist, reliable and competent, Theatre preferred; just concluding five months Palace, Carlisle. Address, FLAUTIST, Palace, Carlisle.

WANTED, Known, Miss Constance Upstone, A.T.C.L., Solo Pianist, Soprano Vocalist, Sight-reader, good accompanist. Concluding season, Pier Pav., Clacton-on-Sea. Liberty 28th. 11, Willoughby-park, Tottenham.

WANTED, Re-engagement, Sept. 28, by Lady Pianist-Vocalist; good sight-reader, transposer, and accompanist, Ballad and Classical Vocalist; steady, reliable, refined. Address, PIANIST, c/o Smith, 23, Brisbane-road, Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED, by First-class Pianist, Orchestral or other Engagement, in or near London. Big experience Variety, Dramatic, Concert, Operatic Management, &c., £20 bonus for permanent position. Box 7,001. "The Era."

WANTED, Young Lady, well educated, good accompanist, tall, not over 22 years; salary, board and residence; suit one wishing musical or stage career. Address, STUDIO, Willing's, 73, Knightsbridge, London, S.W.

WANTED, by good reliable Pianist, Engagement, any Business; Winter Tour Abroad, India preferred. WALLACE, 91, Bristol-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist, steady and reliable; good references; can open at once. PIANIST, Bouverie-mews, Folkestone.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist; good Soloist and Accompanist; any Bus.; young, reliable; excellent refs. F. ROGERS, Pianist, Winter Gdns., Blackpool.

WANTED Known, at Liberty 21, on, experienced Pianist; just concluded 12 months' Engagement with Black's Pictures, West Hartlepool. ROBT. BAYS, 39, Stockton-road, W. Hartlepool.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagements, with Orchestra, Cinematograph, or Select Concert Party; age 27, abstainer. Mr. PAGE, 71, Sandy Hill-road, Plumstead, S.E.

WANTED, immediate Joint, by J. Conolly, Pianist; also E. Conolly, Violinist, in Stock, Variety, or Good Picture Co. 15, Seabourne-road, Boscombe Park, Hants.

WANTED, Picture or Concert Tour, Liberty Sept. 28, Ernest Longstaffe, brilliant Pianist, Baritone, and Entertainer at Piano (three good turns at one price). Also Enid Hamilton, Dainty Comedienne and Dancer. Wire or write, 16, Oxford-street, Douglas, I.O.M.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Double Drums and Effects, Dramatic or Variety, good ref.; total abstainer; finished season at Margate. ROBERT MURPHY, 77, Waring-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Tympanist and Drums, Music Hall or Theatre, London preferred. Apply, G. PIERCY, 213, Leahurst-rd., Lewisham, London, S.E.

WANTED, Proprietors, Managers, and Directors of Music requiring efficient and reliable Conductors and Instrumentalists, to apply for same to the National Federation of Professional Musicians, Trade Union, Reg. No. 1398. Eligible Musicians earnestly invited to join. Benefits: Sick, Burial and Victimisation Pay, Fire Insurance Business Protection, &c., &c. Write at once for propaganda to Hon. Sec., J. BALL, 19, Grange-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Offers, Bateson's Orchestra (small), Dis. Oct. 1, any bus. Musical-Directress, Miss MAUDE TRAINER, Pavilion, Lakeside, near Ulverston.

WANTED, Known, Madam Wilton Davis's Ladies' Orchestra, specially engaged Johnstown Flood. Franco-British. For terms and vacant dates, 42, Linton-street, N.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British Palace Pier, Brighton. Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Signorina de Polo, Italian Ladies' Trio, at Liberty; Orchestra takes Engagements for one evening cheap; Italian Quartette now "Pharaoh's Daughter," Franco-British, wants later engagements. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, The Imperial Ladies' Orchestra. Disengaged Sept. 20; smart costumes. Write, Madame NELLIE BAKER, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, Engagement, by Small Band (String), after Oct. 1; terminating three months' engagement. Particulars, &c., MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Agricultural Hall, Norwich.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Circus Artists, in all Lines, Performing Horses, Ponies, and everything suitable for Stage Circus. No fancy salaries, but money sure; tour if suitable. Wire for Monday next, Samson, Circus, Beverley.

WANTED, Attractive Young Lady Rider, for new Sporting Sketch, Syndicate, good horsewoman. Full particulars to Box 6,974. "The Era."

WANTED, at Once, Girl used to Rings or Trapeze work. Write immediately, 88, Bridge-street, Hammersmith, to JUAN BURGES.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

Look Out. Look Out. Look Out.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Circus Proprietors, Hippodrome Managers, and Agents to Note that the Greatest Act before the Public of the World will shortly return to England.

The Royal Ohmys,
The Royal Ohmys,
The Royal Ohmys,

Greatest of all Acrobatic Equestrians, on Three, Four, and Five Bare-back Horses. The only act of the kind ever seen in a Circus Ring. The talk of every town in Denmark. Just had the great honour of appearing by command before H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Denmark and Royal Family. Complimented by H.R.H. and crowd of 3,000 people. Read what the Denmark paper says:—The Royal Ohmys' appearance before the Crown Prince has caused a sensation in Aarhus, and so delighted H.R.H. that, after their wonderful performance on three bare-backed horses, they were commanded to return before him to receive Royal congratulations. The Royal Ohmys return to England end of October, after fulfilling a six months' engagement with Bech. Olsen's Great Circus, Denmark. The Royal Ohmys have been the talk of every town visited by this great circus, and the Royal Ohmys are now the talk of Denmark. Bech. Olsen, Director, says:—Mr. Ohmy, your family are the finest performers I have ever seen. They have raised my circus above all the others in this country. They must come back to me next season, whatever the cost may be. This should prove to Proprietors and Managers what these Acts are like. Will be at liberty for the winter season end of October, with six good numbers. The most up-to-date acts before the public. For list of acts, &c., address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Bech Olsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

WANTED, Known, John Scott's Royal British Circus Family, at Liberty coming Winter Season; can supply full Circus Company, or can arrange for a number of individual Acts. Pure Business; no Bluff. Address, 12, Charles place, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Crockett's Continental Circus, Entire Company, Performing Horses, Ponies, Mules, Dogs, Riders, and Gymnasts, at Liberty for Winter Season. All communications, Mr. CROCKETT, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Madame Rose Montero is at Liberty Christmas with her thoroughbred Horses; two distinct acts, Ménage Act and Liberty Acts. All communications to Hengler's Circus.

WANTED, Known, Little Bishop and Winkles, Clown and Agouste, after comfortable season with F. Connor, Esq., Circus, I.O.M., re-engaged next season, at Liberty for winter. Address, G.P.O., Liverpool.

WANTED, Sept. 28, on, The Flying Orenius's, Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts, in their Phenomenal Flying Act. Next week, Aquarium, Scarborough. Wire, or letter as above.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flight; Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air Balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 458, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Oct. 5 and on. Apply A. E. PICKARD, as above.

WANTED, Monday, Sept. 28, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, none but good Turns and good Voices need apply.

CLARKFIELD'S Agency, 1, Langham-place, W.

EMPIRE VARIETY THEATRE, GREENOCK.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, nothing too big, salary or share, direct or through Agents; also twice nightly Pantomimes and Combinations. Apply, with vacancies and lowest terms, to MANAGING-DIRECTOR.

OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.

WANTED, Monday, Sept. 28, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, Good Specialities. Apply stating lowest terms, &c., to STANLEY ROGERS.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Sept. 28, onward. A. E. PICKARD.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Pontycymmer Palace, Porthcawl. Terms, vacant dates, PAYNE, Pontycymmer.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, Variety Artists Suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to WM. BIGGAM, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

DUNDEE CORPORATION SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS.

WANTED, Entertainment Agencies in Scotland to forward full information regarding Variety Artists to CONVENER SCRYMGEOUR, 2, Errol-terrace, Dundee.

VERNO'S AGENCY.

16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, for Monday, Sept. 28, and onwards. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

DR. WALFORD BODIE'S WELSH HALLS.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, big Stars with own Combinations, for the Hippodrome, Pontycymmer, and Hippodrome, Ferndale, Wales, two of the prettiest and cosiest Theatres in Wales; just been re-decorated and fitted by Dean and Sons, Birmingham, at great cost; now playing to packed houses; can take close on £300 on the week. I played to over £300 with early doors. Now in full tide of success. Terms, &c., to Sole Proprietor, Dr. WALFORD BODIE, M.D., King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy, N.B.

ALLIANCE THEATRICAL AND VARIETY AGENCY, LTD.,

18/20, Manchester-street, Liverpool.
Manager, EDWIN W. SMITH
(late Parthenon and Haymarket Music Halls).
Telegrams: "Films, Liverpool."
Telephone: 6782 Central.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines. Nothing too Big. Wanted, Novelty and Speciality Acts. Wanted, Artists to send full list of bookings and absolute lowest terms. Wanted, Artists for Alhambra, Belfast. Wanted, Artists for Entertainment, Limited's, Tour. Wanted, High-class Artists for St. George's Hall, Belfast. Sole Agents for above, ALLIANCE THEATRICAL AND VARIETY AGENCY, LTD., 18/20, Manchester-street, Liverpool, to whom all communications re bookings must be addressed.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,

48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.

WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Ayr, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Star Artists, Immediate and Future Dates, good break going North. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Star Artists, immediate and on, for best Halls, Piers, and Pantomimes. GEO. ANTOUN, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Artists, single turns doing double, [illegible] 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin. Freaks write.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Sept. 28, on. 11A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY — Artists for Immediate Dates and Dates onwards.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list and very lowest (this essential), and permanent addresses.

DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Telegrams: Granbeste, Withington-Lancs.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Telephone: 193 Didsbury.

OXFORD, MIDDLESBRO' and HIPPO., HULL.

WANTED, Artists suitable for a popular People's Theatre, Specialities and Novelties or any big draw. Salary no object for the right number.

Immediate dates.
ALFRED GRAHAM, Hippodrome, Hull.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Sept. 28, onwards. Artists, with week out, to follow Manchester, will find this a nice break. Hall small; once nightly. Money sure. All coms., TOWYN THOMAS, Pavilion, Northwich.

GAIETY THEATRE, BLYTH.

WANTED, Artists of Note, onwards Will Entertain any Act at a Price. Hall Small. Apply, W. YATES GREGORY, The Tower, New Brighton.

CHELTENHAM NEW PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.

Architect, Mr. WINSTANLEY, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, KNOWN, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY.

170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. 'Phone 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, the Best of Talent for now and on, also Doubles doing Singles, for all the North and Glasgow. Rountrees send address at once.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates, to communicate terms and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, Talent, all Lines, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, later. JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo., frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to JAS. TYRER, The Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, First-class Acts, of Every Description, Sept. 28, onward.

Nothing too Big.
No Number too Small, if Good.

Wanted, also, Suitable Numbers, for Sunday Concerts, at Yarmouth, Musical and Vocal Acts. Can give week to precede or follow. Quote absolute lowest terms,

GEO. ZALVA'S Agency, The Palace, Gorleston, by Yarmouth.

Silence a polite negative pro tem.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.

Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, Star Acts all Lines, nothing too big. State absolute lowest, once nightly.

WANTED, Acts, all Lines; good break going North, Nov. and on. Lowest terms. SELMAN, 52, Charlton-road, Blackheath, London.

PALACE, BOSTON.

WANTED, good Combination, Sept. 28, also Oct. 12, onwards; good opportunity for opening week. HOLLOWAY and FOUNTAIN, Lessees.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, for Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Tops, Bottoms, Middles, Novelties. Send bookings, lowest, and perm. address. KEEBLE'S Agency, 166, Dalling-rd., Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, Big Tops, for Sept. 28 and Oct. 5. Price no object. Must be big. Wire or 'Phone immediately, J. BROWN and Co., 58, Chicksand-street, N.E. Tel. No. 1098 City. Seen by appointment only.

WANTED, for Season 1909, First-class mixed Troupe of Al Fresco Entertainers; none but the very best need apply. Address, giving full particulars, MANAGER, Victoria Pier, Blackpool.

DAN NOBLE'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Comedians, Comediennes, Specialities &c., &c., for immediate and later dates. Send full list of bookings. Contracts await Ernesto, W. H. Smart, Valvo, T. E. Johnstone, Carl Howard, Babs Lloyd, Ariel and Astarte, Haley's Garden of Girls, Salida and Vone, Lindsey and Harte, McOllive and Baldry, Stidder and Dunbar, The Cedrics, Pasquali Bros., Kramar Family, Mastro and Orretta, Battle of Belles, Maxford and O'Neil, Natalie and Diana. Write, DAN NOBLE, c/o Grand T., Doncaster.

WANTED, Pantomimist and Knockabout, for Xmas, for Manchester. Lowest terms, PENDER, 21, St. George's-buildings, St. George's-road, London, S.E.

Illustrated Song Vocalists.
WANTED, Male and Female, with Up-to-date Numbers and own Slides, for Picture Show.
Apply at once, MANAGER, West London Theatre, Church-st. Edgware-road.

WANTED Small Troupe of Dancers, able to play Guitar, or two or three girls to appear as Dancers in Carnival Scene. Apply by letter, enclosing portrait, to SECRETARY, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham, London.

WANTED, Young Ladies, with good Voices. Apply with song, 12 noon, Monday. W. DOLAND, c/o Haynes and Co., 378, Fulham-rd., S.W.

WANTED, Lady, for Sketch, good Mezzo-Soprano; able to play piano from memory; height about 5ft. 3in; experienced artists only need apply by letter to Box 7,026. "The Era."

WANTED, for Summer Tour, 1909, twenty weeks, Refined Low Comedian (good Patter and Sketch Artist), also Baritone and two Tenors. All must be High-class and used to Concerted Numbers, &c. Full particulars, age, height, experience, and photo., to HARRY LESLIE, 91, Percival-street, Manchester, S.E.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, good Comedians, Sisters, Serios, and Dancing Troupes. Send full bookings and lowest terms to FRANK LYNNE, Gaiety Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Boys and Girls, Good Soprano Voices, for "Casey's Court"; must be over fourteen, and small. MURRAY, 285, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Smart Young Man, about 25; must be Clever Dancer and Good Voice. Address, Miss MARIE LOFTUS, Empire, Dublin.

WANTED, for opening, Sept. 24, 25, 26, Bioscope, with up-to-date pictures; share or salary, three nights weekly; also Variety Acts. State lowest; hall small. C. WILLIAMS, People's Palace, Kenilworth.

WANTED, Operator, with own Bioscope, for eight weeks' tour, commence Oct. 19. One with curtain fit-up preferred. MERRY MARVELS, Victoria Pier, Cowes.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, commencing Sept. 28, at Preston, Smart Cinematograph Operator; must be thoroughly competent. Lowest terms and references, address, Brixton Hall, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Operator, open Monday, used to both currents; permanent if suitable. Lowest terms to QUINTON GIBSON, Picturedrome, Scarborough.

WANTED, Operator, join to-day or Monday, find everything, for about 4½ hours weekly Wire particulars, MANAGER, Exhibition, Lanchester, Durham.

WANTED, Competent Bioscope Operators. Apply, RUFFELL'S Bioscope, Limited, 12, Little Newport-street, W.C.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, by Marie Colmore, the "Rising Star" Comedienne. 21st, Vic., Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, 28th, Oct. 5, 12, by Gertrude Martini, Powerful and Up-to-date Chorus and Descriptive Vocalist. Terrific Success. Last and this, Winter Gardens, Blackpool. Wire, 24, Ackerstreet, Oxford-road, Manchester, permanent address.

WANTED, Known, Annie Charaley (The Charnleys) will in future be known as Nellie Neil. This, Hippodrome, Sheerness; next, H., Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, Jean Macduff, the Favourite Lady Scotch Comedian, unexpectedly Vacant, Oct. 12, 19. Wire best offers, MELVILLE, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, by Rubie and Elsie Redfern, Monday and 28th, with their Novel Piano Drawing-room Act, introducing Banjo Overture, Singing, Dancing, &c. Hippo., Kirkcaldy; next, 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by Babs Lloyd, Star Artist, Sept. 21, Oct. 12, 19, 26; also Nellie Vance, Comedy Artist. 6, Gt. Clyde-st., Glasgow, C/o Anderson.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Monday next, also Sept. 28. This, Hippo., Blackheath. Wire, 5, Long-lane, Blackheath, Staffs.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Tarry, Mimics, Singers, and Dancers. Variety itself.—Press. At Liberty Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12. Communicate, Hippo., Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, Oct. 5, Oct. 5, by Horace Wheatley.
STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
Roars of irresistible laughter are created by Horace Wheatley, the popular Irish comedian. In a manner all his own he relates a number of very funny stories about his friend, "McIntyre," and his songs, too, are witty and catching. He maintains his high reputation in the descriptive song, "Alone, all alone," in which he is assisted by his son. His turn is undoubtedly one of the best and has suited the large audiences admirably.—Weekly Herald, Stalybridge, Sept. 12, '08.
Sept. 21, Gaiety, Glasgow; or TOM SHAW.

WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, by Wyllie, Tramp Musician, ten instruments and fit-up; also Miss Telka, Ballad Vocalist. Wire for one or both, any distance, to 8, Cliff-street, Whitby.

WANTED, Mon. next, also 28th, by Allan Hanbury Stott's New Comedian, with New Ways. Wire, c/o Fred Buxton, Douglas.

WANTED, Monday, on, Dan Ashton, "Lancashire Collier's Lament" Scena, Wigan Colliery Disaster. Sunday, Palace, Manchester. SLEY, STEBBINGS. Perm., 25, Wood-st., Openshaw.

WANTED, Monday, by E. W. Selman, good clean Drawing Singing Turn. Just what's wanted. Thanks Price, Jackson, Discoff, Selwyn, for return contracts. Wire, 52, Charlton-road, Blackheath, S.E.

WANTED, by Morimura, the Celebrated Japanese Illusionist, Oct. 5 and 12; concludes tonight Hippodrome, Oldham; next week, New Empire, Bolton.

WANTED, Sept. 21, onward, the Great Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Humorist, Conjurer, Juggler, and Dog; also May Geraldine, Dainty Comedienne and Dancer. Enormous success Opera House, Workington. Wire, after Sat., 16, Repton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, by Clive and Vera, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, in their High-class Comedy Act, "The Squire and Dairymaid," conclude successful thirty weeks' run, Sept. 26. Wire for a Good Act. 2, Stratton-place, Portobello, N.B.

WANTED, by Savaro and Lillian, Speciality Artists, Double and Singles, Long or Short Engagement, vacant Oct. 5. Wire, Post Office, Grannard, Co. Longford, Ireland. Lib. for Panto.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Burlesque. Wire one or both, Metropole Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, Sept. 28, by Fox and Melville, Greatest Song Illustrators. Finest Songs by St. Clair. Wire, Theatre Royal, Oldham.

WANTED, Monday next, and 28th, The Walons (Renée and Willie), Smart Harmonising Act, Arthur Richards, Comedian. Wire, People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 19, on (exceptions), The Moncktons (Fred, Lillie), presenting Funny Comedy Episodes, "Two in a Flat" and "A Woman's Curiosity." This, King's, Gateshead (return). Sept. 21, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Known, the Kebbles (Nora and Edie), Genuine Success, Winter Gardens, New Brighton. Refer to Lessee, Mr. A. Douglass. Liberty Monday, 21st.

WANTED, by Mouing and Cooney, Sept. 28, Real Coloured Comedians, Plantation Life Up-to-date, introducing Old Man's Character. This Act does not clash with any other Coloured Performers. 4, Hanover-street, Morecambe.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty 21st and 28th, Salmon and Gluckstein, Hebrew Patter Comedians. Success everywhere. Offers. GLUCKSTEIN, Hippodrome, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Bros. Webb, Renowned Musical Clowns, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 23. This, Royal, Oldham; next, Gaiety, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Petro and Leon, Sensational and Comedy Gymnast, Liberty Monday, Sept. 21. Wire, King's Theatre, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Sterling and Cashen, Military Comedy Duo and Champion Dancers, Liberty Sept. 21, 28. Wire, 13, Victoria-st., Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Hardin and Hanlon, Comedians and Patterers, want Monday next, to precede Gaiety, Glasgow. Big Success, this week, Queen's, Dublin. Wire.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton (Original Comedy Act), Monday next, Sept. 21, onwards. Wire, 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston, London. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Leo and Roland, Novel Equilibrists, in a refined and original Act, introducing their great sensational Ladder Feat, the most daring and skilful Hand-balancing feat ever performed, and own invention. This week, Palace, Halifax; next, Theatre Royal, Rotherham. For dates and terms apply, ERNEST EDELSTEN, 17, Green-street, Leicester-square; and WILL DALTON, Esq., Withington, Manchester.

WANTED, by First-class Male Quartette, good Xmas Engagement; now touring; Straight and Comedy. Particulars, FOUR, 59, Hotham-road, Putney, S.W.

WANTED, Sept. 28, by Sergeant Mumford, the Distinguished Military Speciality Wire Act, from the Oxford, London. Wire, this week, Palace, Derby; Monday next, Palace, Tynemouth.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon Trio, Acrobatic and Risley Eccentrics, vacant Nov. Offers invited. This, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley. All coms., 3, Winsley-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Sept. 21, 28, by The Peps, Modern Comedy Gymnasts. Just the Best. Sure Success with all Classes. TOM SHAW. See Cards.

WANTED, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, Bros. Almo, smart Comedy Three-Bar Act. Close tonight, Hippodrome, Dewsbury; Monday next, Pal., Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, Onda and Walonell, great Comedy Bar Act, vacant Monday. Wire, Kursaal, Southend; after Sat., 3, Station-terrace, Camberwell.

WANTED, Sept. 21, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, and 19, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe (five), Athletics and Posing, Sept. 21. Vic., Stanley, Durham.

WANTED, Monday next, for Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globe-la, Juggling Act. Wire offers. Opera House, Londonderry.

WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 5 and 12, by Bessie Travis, the Marvellous Musical Ventriloquist. Monday, Central Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12, by George Gulliver, First-class Ventriloquist. Address, 68, Sayer-street, New Kent-road, S.E.

WANTED, Oct. 12, 19, on (exceptions), Fred Monckton and Co., in Original Farcical Sketch "The Man Who Did." Twenty minutes' Continual Laughter. Managers requiring something good should book above. Sept. 21, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Known, Albini and his Lady in Black Wonder, always a sure drawing card. Tremendous success last week Theatre Royal, Aldershot. Commissioned by Mr. Arthur Rigby to arrange two Special Nights, cost limit £15; result, Thursday money turned away. Friday manager sent to station for police to regulate the crowd; stalls and boxes a record; this is not quackery, but facts. This week came in second favourite, and a bad cold, at Grand Pavilion, Wellington Pier, Yarmouth. What the Eastern Evening says, Sept. 15: Speaks of Arthur Rigby's great comedy, pretty scenery, and prettier ladies. Says: Lieutenant Albini is in himself a good enough draw for any entertainment, and his mystery show last evening, in which the "lady in black" figures prominently, must be seen to be believed. Monday next, return to Hippodrome, Hastings. Topping Bill, as usual. Wanted, Six Nights, Sept. 28.

WANTED, Monday next, also 28th, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Comedy Boxing Act, Deputising, this, for Bros. Horne, Palace, Camberwell. Audience still laughing. Encored nightly. Wire.

WANTED, by Savile Bradley, Company of Pantomimists, for grand Absurdity, "Ructions," Oct. 12 and 19. Address, 36, Hamilton-avenue, Leeds.

WANTED, Boeanquet and Co., Vacant Sept. 28. Big Top-Liner, and Sure Draw. Sept. 14, Gaiety, Dundee.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Monday next, Screaming Comedy Act, "Rustics at Play." Coms., 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. Agent, STEBBINGS.

WANTED, Known, "Teasing the General," Class Comedy Act, introducing Copyright Songs, &c. Vacant Sept. 21, 28. PERRETTS, Hippo., Scarboro'.

WANTED, Monday next, and 28th, by Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist. Wire, 25, Albany-terrace, Burnley.

WANTED, Sept. 21 and 28, by Swift Duo, Humorous Cyclists. Wire, Tower, New Brighton. Write, 89, Bristol-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Oct., on, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the biggest Novelty ever introduced with Troupe of Dogs. Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, by Conjurer, now with well-known Illusionist, comes to London Oct. 2, shop, similar capacity; handy with tools. Box 6,996, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Man, Engagements, Music Halls or Concerts, as Comedian and Bone Soloist; new Catchy Songs; would join Sketch Co. C. A. CHAPMAN, Locust Hall, Felsted, Essex.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private Carl Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also Punch and Judy, with Toby. 264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park.

WANTED, Monday next, on, by De Vere's Marionettes, seven Star Turns. Sure success. Wire or write, 30, Seymour-street, Liverpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman (Silver King), Showman's Auctioneer, Valuer, Variety Agent, Expert, and Authority. The man that sold Lord George Sanger's Circus, also his Zoological Collection, at the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, &c., would like to hear from you. Address, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars, C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 320 miniatures to select from. MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GUERNI, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, Bros., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 26436, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2549, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402. This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability. It is a Record Money-maker. Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street, and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

WANTED, First-class Side Shows, for an Automatic Arcade in London, upon 50 per cent. Sharing Terms. Send all particulars to GAYLAND, 93, King-street, Hammersmith.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known. Important Removal Notice. STACEY, Fair Keepers' Stores, &c., 510, Kingsland-road, London (Sixty Years Settles-street). Guns, Cartridges, Targets, Glass Balls, Hand-made Swing Ropes, Flare Lamps, with noted Star Burners, for all outdoor purposes. Used all over the world.

NORWICH AND EASTERN COUNTIES ARTS, CRAFTS, & INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION. Agricultural Hall, Norwich, Oct 10 to Nov. 7, 1908.
WANTED, for the Pastimes Annex to above, Side Shows, Games, Automatic Machines, Shooting Jungle, Novelty Stalls, &c., &c.
Address, MANAGER.

ANNUAL TRADES EXHIBITION, ASSEMBLY ROOMS, HORSHAM.
WANTED, First-class Side Show, also good Palmist; few Spaces Vacant for Novelties. Apply, MANAGER.

WANTED, Known, Freaks, Novelties, and Attractions can have six, eight, or ten weeks at my American Museum. Apply, with full particulars, &c., photos., lithos, or post-cards, A. E. PICKARD, American Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Freaks and Quick-Showing Novelties, immediate dates.
WAXWORKS, 9, Castle-st., Inverness, Scotland.

WANTED, good Novelties; must have good Flash. Apply, MANAGER,
59, Atlantic-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, good Performing Novelty, for Booth, Shares or Salary; must have Painting or Poster, good Parade and Organ to Show. Apply, A. BAKER, Showman, Post Office, St. Nicholas, Minster, Kent.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman's New Dahomey Amazon Warriors, Men, Women, and Children, headed by Beah Kinder (John Bull), the Champion Fire Performer of the World; also Princess Fassie and the Great Chief Bulgo. Now showing to terrific business, Southampton. Second week; Brighton to follow. A few more Coloured People required to complete Troupe. Nationality no object. Apply, DAHOMEY Exhibition, Canal Walk, Southampton. Settled for Christmas.

WANTED, two Comedians, also a Watchmaker, with own tools, one able to play piano, for WHITE'S Auction Tent, Cheapside, Reading.

WANTED, Funny Plankman and Comedian, must be sober; wages 30s., single man preferred; good shop right man. TRACEY, Auctioneer, Newbridge, Mon.

WANTED, Two Lady Wrestlers; can work on shares or salary; a Good Opening for Good Workers. Apply, J. MANSELL, Showman, St. Nicholas Minster, Kent.

WANTED, Comedian, to Mimic Giant and Giantess, loud roaring voice essential. State lowest terms. Giant Land, Franco-British Exhibition.

WANTED, Trick Musician, to work Front of Refined Show. Great Novelty Only. Particulars and lowest terms, STEREOMATOS, Franco-British Exhibition.

WANTED, Conjurer, to work Front of Refined Show; must be experienced. Particulars and lowest terms, STEREOMATOS, Franco-British Exhibition.

WANTED, reliable Young Man, used to selling Monograms, Travelling Syndicate, Exhibition. Apply, terms and photo. if possible, Monogram Stand, Exhibition, Coventry.

WANTED, Known, the Original Dahomey Warriors; Live Pythons, Snakes, &c.; Countess Eva, Electric Lady. Three Distinct Shows. Vacant Date Oct. 17. ALPHA, Kursaal, Southend.

WANTED, Known, Mme. de Para, the Expert London Palmist, Disengaged till World's Fair, Islington, Xmas. Tour, Exhibitions, Bazaars, &c. 34, The Drive, Fulham.

WANTED, positions for the following fascinating Attractions: Karma, the Egyptian, in Oriental Mystery; The Mummy (2,000 years old, and looks it), a Marvellous Illusion; Madame Sirone, Spiritualistic Séance, a series of Weird and Mysterious Effects. Any one of the above is qualified to draw wherever placed. Terms mutual. D. GREEN, 10, Montague-st., South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, the Mullingar Leprechaun, who has caused such a sensation and proved a gigantic success in Glasgow, will shortly be at Liberty. All applications re vacant dates, &c., must be made to his Sole Manager, A. E. PICKARD, Panopticon, Glasgow.

WANTED, Situation, good Floorman; extra good Pitch-getter; can hand-sell, or (R.O.) willing to take out licence; 13 years' experience. SMITH, 28, Talbot-street, Burnley.

WANTED, Known, Auctioneer, Disengaged; lifelong experience; understands ins and outs; all classes of stock; steady worker. Pay own fare for trial. Box 7,018 "The Era."

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let, Shop for Auctioneers' Shows, Bazaars; good position, central. Wire immediately, MICHAEL, 10, The Circle, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, Space in good Trades Exhibitions, for High-class Toffee-making. Apply, W., 15, Severn-hill, Gloucester-road, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Spaces in Trades or like Exhibitions, for Floss Candy Machine and Hoop-la Game. THOMAS, P. O., South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, Space, in good Touring Trades Exhibition, for cheap Jewellery (not wire-work). Box 7,024, "The Era."

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to send for my new list with over 2000 illustrations of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Field Glasses, Bazaar and Fancy Goods; every line right for price. SIMONS, 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, to Sell, a splendid Organ-front Bioscope Show, with 6 h.p. Burrell's Road Loco. The whole as a going concern, and ready for taking money. Reason for selling, owner giving up travelling. Apply, Box 7,021, "The Era" in first place. Only those that mean business apply.

WANTED, to Sell, Collection 82 First-class Wax Figures, also Barrel Piano and Penny Drops. Particulars, Box 6,978, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Waxworks, quantity good Heads, Bodies, Clothes, Hands, &c., to clear, £8, giving away bargain. STACEY, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Orchestrion Organ, with six Barrels, cheap.
JUDGE, 46, Dame-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, to Sell, Gold-mounted Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, your profits doubled. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, New and Second-hand, Card Delivery, Mother Shiptons, marvellous money-takers, enormous profits. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Singing Birds, Mechanical Figures, Slot Machines, &c. AAB AUTOMATIC Co., 17, Bury-street, Bloomsbury, London.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL EXHIBITION, EDINBURGH, 1908.

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Showmen to Note that
at the close of the above Exhibition
on Oct. 31,
the
following
Attractions
are
for
Sale:—

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65ft. high, 280ft. run, with double electric lift for passengers (by Waygoods); twelve boats, each holding eight people.

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Entirely new model, with eight cars, each holding four passengers, including electric plant, a 17 h.p. motor, and 500 lights.

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Covering 1¼ miles of intricate passages; entirely new idea; including electrical fittings and 380 lamps.

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Most novel sensational Helter-Skelter Windmill, the highest ever built—60ft. to the top—including motor for windmill and a large quantity of lamps.

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Entirely new device for drawing crowds, including eleven full-sized distorting mirrors, jumping-floor, and other mechanical effects.

The above Entertainments can now be seen working, and can either be bought as they stand or re-erected in any part of Great Britain.

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Until Further Notice.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Frank D. Jones, Bert Williams, Hetty Hocking, Bioscope, Gwilym Naish, &c.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
George Bastow, Three Cape Girls, Naughton and Gold, Albert Christian, Fred Elton, Eight College Girls, Kate Cohen, Bioscope, Henry Coutts and Co.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Vesta Tilley, Sisters Grovini, Barton and Franklyn Trio, Tom Parker, Lydia Yeamans, Drew and Alders, Edie King, Crown Trio, Bioscope, Hubert Carter and Co.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Gray and Co., in "The Fighting Parson," Harry Drew, Little Ganty Orpheus, Bros. Huxter, Madge May, Bioscope, Muriel Harding, The Lumars, Ernie Mayne.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Hymack, Griffiths Bros., Steve McCarthy, Nell Emerald, Musical Schaffers, Ouida Macdermott, Walter Wade, Bioscope, Marie Kendall, Dunedin Troupe.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Walter Passmore and Co., Boyd and Gilfain, La Danseuse, Theo Bouwmeester and Co., George Formby, Hayes and Wynne, Lyric Quartette, Frank Couch, Bioscope, Marie Dainton.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Laurence Irving, Mabel Hackney and Co., in "009 West," Bert Harrow, Spry and Austin, J. P. Ling, Reichen's Dogs, Jackson Family, Bros. Redmond, Marion Scott, Bioscope, "The Tea Shop."

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Harry Randall, Bessie Butt, The Haytors, "Home from the Honeymoon," Iben Obed Troupe, Mavis Clare, Will Johnson, Daisy Martell, Bioscope, Loie Fuller's Prehistoric Dancer.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Clark and Hamilton, Fatmah Diard, Walter Curtis, Rosie Ring and Co., Harry Tate's Co., in "Motoring," Chronomegaphone, J. W. Hall, Rossi Ashton, Howe and Ardie, Bioscope, "Makers of History."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Eugene Stratton, Lena Verdi, Dumond Trio, Eight of Hearts, Watson's Dogs, George Rae, Valerie de Lacy, Bioscope, Harry Bedford, The Kirbys.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Alec Hurley and Co., in "The Coster's Beano," Lily Langtry, Walker and Lake, Ed. E. Ford, The Garganis, Olive and Owen, Alf Chester, Bioscope, Nellie Wallace, Dutch Daly.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
W. C. Fields, Chas. Vincent, Thorpe and Coe, Callahan and St. George, Ray Wallace, Victor Travers, Leonie Dixon, Bioscope, Cussac Talma, Terry and Lambert.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Louis Calvert's Co., including Miss Marjorie Murray, in "Sunday."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Herbert Darnley's "Brigands of Tarragona," Olive Armadale, Molasso Quartette, Harry Grey, Syd May, Warsaw Bros., Kitty Clinton, Bioscope, Tom Edwards, Arthur Lennard.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Gustave Fasola, Eight Lancashire Lads, Leo Tell, Duncan and Godfrey, Carney and Armstrong, Fred Keeton, Madge Osmond, Bioscope, Cruikshank.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Horace Goldin, Cissie Curlette, Local turns, R. H. Douglass, Charlene and Charlene, Verno and Voyce, Mlle. Eldee, Fred Lincoln, Bioscope, Chas. Whittle.

NOTICE.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to, any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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Marie Loftus, Johnson and Bert, Arabella Allen, Stewart and Morgan, Wee Mona, Bob Hamilton, Pictures, Jennie Johns, &c.

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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Maud Rochez's Monkeys, Agnes Tina, The Leonards, Ben Albert, Maples, Sisters Pine, Bioscope, Stelling and Revell.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Company as Booked.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
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EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Machnow, Kisbey, Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Kent and Keith, Russell Brandow, Adey Spencer, Bioscope, Ludwig Amann, W. J. Ashcroft.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Lukushima Troupe, Harry May Hemsley, Marie Wilton, Tennyson and Wallis, Mendel, Jock Mills, Probyn and Bates, Pictures, Gus Garrick.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

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NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:

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All Artists carrying scenery must have same fireproofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.
Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."
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CALLS

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Lawrence Barclay, Tennis and Laune, Sisters Brenton, Gladys and Alber, Georgina Middleton, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Gunner Moir, Harvey's Boys and Girls, Sergeant Brennan.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Ada Colley, Burns and Bentley, Three Gregsons, Cassie Walmer, Goggin and Davis, Three Alskarnos, Five Vernons, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Minnie D'Aubyn.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Berzac's Ponies, Thornbury, Violet Nunn, Madge Allan, Sisters Edwardes, Happy Attwood, Lecardo Bros., The Waldrons, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Hayes and Merritt, Chas. Tuppen, Five Broadway Girls, Alfonzo Silvano, Harry Milton, Munroe's Team, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Edie Endon, Fields and Lewis.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
"Saturday to Monday," The Forsyths, Francis O'Flynn, Cliff and Kean, Margit and Lener, Norah Stockelle, Dave Samuels, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
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Harry Weldon, The Smythsons, Clifton and Gibson, Jack Lane, Helen Martin, Mdlle. Bartenelli, Elmo and Rego, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal, 1 o'clock.
Ferguson and Mack, Gold and Sterling, Marie Jones, Annie Heath, Edwards and Dacre, Wright, Aitken, and Co., Alice Hughes and Co., Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Dolly and Elsie, Bertha Winder, Cullen and Carthy, Jock Walker, Three Silcotts, Kelly and Ashby, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Tally Ho Trio.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
"Trip to Coontown, Oliver Martyn, Gibbon and Bell, The Florias, Pearce and Ward, Annie Schuberth, Jimmy Laurie, Denwartz Troupe, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Karno's "Mumming Birds," D. W. Watson, Wake and Dean, Jessie Burnett, Clark and Hayden, The Rivers, Oakley and James, Karno's "London Suburbia," Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée, every Monday.
Raymond, Wallace Whitney, Beattie Foster, Ten Dixie Girls, Dott Moss, Hughes and Carney, Olga Audre, Solida and Vone, Sylvester and Waller, Lilly Devon, Lena Wylie.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Four Kelleys, Harry Zetter, Raymond, Florodora Girls, Sisters Varley, Jessica Brookes, Cyrus Dare, "Oliver Twist," The Gascoignes, Harry Bent, Lottie Lunn, The Sanpietros.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée, every Monday.
Stidder and Dunbar, Gallimore Trio, Raymond, Sisters Brook, Lambert and Hans, Lily Arthur, Baker and De Sales, Leslie Clare and Co., Lily Black, Bernard Mervyn, Millicent Frères, Elsoy.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday, 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Rose Pink, Raymond, Norman Grant, "House of Terror," The Strattons, The Almos, Ted Waite, Clever Mr. Fugg, Attie Santa, Two Sprees, Tiny Arnold, Saxe Edevene.

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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
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Financier, Jan. 18:—
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DRAMATIC and MUSICAL CALENDAR.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.

THEATRICAL, MUSICAL, AND EQUESTRIAN OBITUARY FOR 1907.
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THIS WEEK'S NOVELTIES.

FLASH JAMES.

Code Word, "ETUDIANT."

At Monte Carlo a would-be gentleman is courting a wealthy young widow, the mother of a boy of ten. After a few months he succeeds in marrying her, and now he thinks he will have the disposal of her money, and a broad grin can be seen on his face. Unhappily he is a born gambler, and the discovery of his wife having made out her will in favour of her son makes him contemplate an awful crime. He will try and get rid of the boy by having him kidnapped and drowned; but a shepherd's dog, an unnoticed witness of the deed, rescues the child from certain death, and the husband, found out, takes justice in his own hands by blowing out his brains. Splendid quality and a tremendous success.

890ft. The Subject, **£14 16s. 8d.** Toning, extra **£1 10s.**

A WELL-PAID SITUATION.

Code Word, "ESCALIER."

A group of students are posting the following bill on a pedestal waiting for its statue:—"Office of Fine Arts. Situation as Statue, 5s. per hour. Perfect immobility is requested.—The Minister, Ch. Thing." A peasant just up from his village reads the poster, and asks for the appointment. His request is granted, and he settles at once to his state as statue. Worried by the flies, children, watering hoses, &c., and in spite of the policeman's entreaties, Giles does not move an inch, until the racket of an unskilful player dislodges him from his point of vantage, and sends him rolling in the street, where he is picked up by the jolly fellows.

445ft. The Subject, **£7 8s. 4d.**

TEXT-BOOK OF A PERFECT GENTLEMAN.

Code Word, "EQUITE."

Be always obliging. Be courteous to the ladies. Be charitable and unassuming towards everyone. Support the aged. Defend the oppressed, &c. According to his father's advice, young George tries to follow the above said commandments; but he is not long in discovering the danger there is in being too gallant and obliging in this world of ours, and he writes to his parents thus:—"I have already complied with eight commandemnts, if I had followed nine it is from my grave I should be writing to you now."

428ft. The Subject, **£7 2s. 8d.**

THE CONSEQUENCES OF A GOOD DINNER.

Code Word, "ETALON.'

A starveling having procured a very good dinner is punished for his greediness by a bad digestion. He falls asleep, and dreams that his dinner comes back to its former shape among thrilling incidents; but two policemen march him off, and he will have plenty of time at the police-station to think and dream about his good repast.

428ft. The Subject, **£7 2s. 8d.**

BROTHERS IN ARMS.

Code Word, "ESQUIF."

740ft. The Subject, **£12 6s. 8d.**

DESTRUCTION OF STAMBOUL BY FIRE. (Constantinople.)

Code Word, "FENTE."

362ft. The Subject, **£6 0s. 8d.** Toning extra, **8s.**

THE REVIVAL OF TURKEY."

Code Word, FAUCON."

Titles of Pictures:—The Bridge of Galata and Bosphorus—In the Streets of Constantinople—The Crowd Cheering the New Era of Liberty.

379ft. The Subject, **£6 6s. 4d.**

SPORTIVE 'FÊTE' OF THE MUSIC-HALL ARTISTS.

Code Word "FELLAH.'

A very good film showing several clever turns performed by music-hall artists and acrobats on their bicycles, as well as wrestling, &c.

412ft. The Subject, **£6 17s. 4d.**

PUBLIC "SALAMELICK" AT THE HAMIDIÉ MOSQUE IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

Code Word, "FELURE."

Titles of Pictures:—The Entrance to the Imperial Palace—Soldiers Lining the Streets and Crowd—The Sultan Drives to the Mosque, followed by His Numerous Attendants—The Ladies of the Imperial Harem are Driving to the Mosque.

297ft. The Subject, **£4 19s.**

THE MYSTERIOUS KNIGHT.

Code Word, "ENQUETE."

460ft. The Subject, **£7 13s. 4d.** Colouring, extra **£4 17 6d.**

STICKFAST.

Code Word, "ENVERS."

This is not an advertisement, but merely the story of a pot of glue, which fastens to the ground first a whole family, then passers-by come to their rescue, and last, but not least, several policeman trying to disentangle them. Nothing less than the fire engine plied skilfully by obliging firemen can end this new mode of torment, which highly delights the onlookers.

346ft. The Subject, **£5 15s. 4d.**

Pathé's Films

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PATHÉ FRÈRES AHEAD OF ALL OTHER FIRMS.

LAST WEEK'S NOVELTIES.

MARY STUART.

Code Word "ESTIME."

Mary Stuart, the daughter of Jacques V. and Mary of Guise, was married to François II. King of France. After the death of her husband in 1560, Mary Stuart left France on account of the persecutions of Catherine of Medicis, and, weeping bitterly, she came back to Scotland. Her father having died, the throne was hers. She was barely nineteen years of age, and her youth, as well as her great beauty and charm of manners, won for her the hearts of the Scots. To those qualities were added a great generosity and a deep attachment to the Roman Catholic Faith. When Mary arrived in Scotland she found it in the hands of the Protestants, who gave their young Queen much trouble, and at last revolted against her and put her into prison. She escaped to England, and asked her cousin, Elizabeth, for protection, but the latter betrayed her, and had her imprisoned during nineteen years, after which she had her beheaded. This film, although put on the market last Tuesday morning only, has proved such a success that we have already sold all the copies we received from Paris. But we are expecting a fresh supply to-day in order to cope with the demand.

840ft. The Subject, **£14.** Colouring and Toning, **£9 5s.**

THE BEE AND THE ROSE.

Code Word, "ETABLE."

346ft. The Subject, **£5 15s. 4d.** Colouring, **£3 12s.**

THE LITTLE MAGICIAN.

Code Word, "EPITAPHE."

610ft. The Subject, **£10 3s. 4d.** Toning, **£1.**

A STRONG TENOR.

Code Word, "ESCALE."

379ft. The Subject, **£6 6s. 4d.** Toning, **7s.**

THE BOSTOCK ARENA & JUNGLE —NEW YORK—LONDON—PARIS

Code Word, "FEMINISTE."

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THE FRENCH MILITARY AIRSHIPS.

510ft. The Subject, **£8 10s.** Code Word, "FACHEUX."

A NOBLEMAN'S PLEASURE.

595ft. The Subject, **£9 18s. 4d.** Code Word, "FAUTE."

A TRAGIC CORSO.

Code Word, "ENDROIT."

790ft. The Subject, **£13 3s. 4d.** Toning, **£1 10s.**

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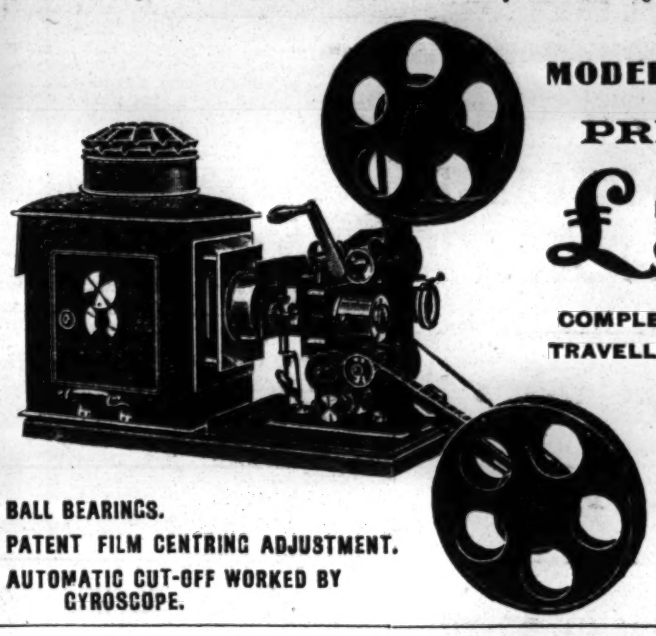

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THE LARGEST WAR VESSEL AFLOAT, at Portsmouth, Sept. 10, 1908.

By permission of the Lords of the Admiralty.

From Unique Positions we were enabled to secure a Panoramic View of the Vessel, and of the Stern, showing the mighty Propellers. Launching Scenes: The "St. Vincent" Released —Leaving the Cradle—Gliding down the Ways—Passing within a few feet of a Camera— Tremendous displacement as she takes the Water—Casting the Anchors—The Vessel riding gracefully in her native element, &c.

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Swiftest Motor Launches in the World Competing.—"Daimler II," "Brook II," "Defender," "Sea Dog," "Arab," "Fleurette II," "Napier Minor," etc. Exciting incidents of the finals: Motor-boats exceeding 10 knots for the Motor Club Challenge Trophy. Handicap for Cabin Cruisers for the B.M.B.C. Silver Cup, etc., etc.

No. 2256. Code "Skim." Length 300ft.

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Sir,—

It may possibly interest you to learn that a Quarter-Column Advertisement in "The Era" (One Insertion) resulted in over £1,000 Bookings for an Entertainment with which I was connected some little time ago. The Entertainment was entitled

ALFRED WEST'S "OUR NAVY,"

and the Bookings were effected within a week.

Yours faithfully,
H. GOLDSMITH-WHITTON,

Late Manager, West's "Our Navy," Ltd. &c.
London, May 19, 1904.

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LONDON, W.C.—119, Gower-st. Well-furnished Apartments, also comfortable Bed-Sit. Rooms; bath (h. and c.), good cooking; close 'bus, Tube; four languages spoken; terms mod.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.

Morning Advertiser, Jan. 20:—

That very useful, one might with truth add indispensable, publication, "The Era" Annual, has once again made its welcome appearance, and once again it is crowded with information concerning the theatrical doings of the past year. Those who purchase it (it is sold at the modest price of 1s.) will have in their possession a complete and succinct history of the year's drama in this country, and a record of the plays produced in Paris and Berlin. As an appetising hors d'œuvre to the solid information, the book contains a number of interesting short stories and amusing anecdotes by well-known actors and theatrical managers.

1908. Letter L. No. 679.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE (CHANCERY DIVISION), LIVERPOOL DISTRICT REGISTRY.

Mr. Justice Joyce.

In the Matter of the LIVERPOOL THEATRES OF VARIETIES, LIMITED (Kiernan v. The Liverpool Theatres of Varieties, Limited, and Others).

Particulars of Important and Valuable Licensed THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS in the City of Liverpool,

TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION

(Pursuant to an order dated the 11th day of July, 1908, made in the above action) by

MR. PETER DAVIES, F.A.I.

(the person appointed by Mr. Justice Joyce to sell the same),

On Thursday, the 24th day of September, 1908, at Three o'clock in the Afternoon prompt, at the Law Association Rooms, 14, Cook-street, Liverpool (subject to conditions of sale to be then and there produced).

PARTICULARS:—

Firstly, all that building licensed for use as a Theatre and Music Hall, known as

THE TIVOLI THEATRE,

situate on the south-west side of Lime-street, in the city of Liverpool, together with the scenery, stage effects, loose furniture, trade utensils, and other loose articles used in connection therewith or belonging thereto, but save and excepting therefrom the electric lighting installation in and upon the premises which is not included in the sale. The building has an entire frontage of 115ft. and 5in. or thereabouts to Lime-street, and the site thereof is held for the unexpired residue of a term of seventy-five years from the 4th day of November, 1882, created by an indenture of lease dated the 24th day of February, 1884, and made between the Mayor, Aldermen, and Citizens of the City of Liverpool of the one part and The Liverpool Real Property Company, Limited, of the other part, and will be sold subject to a peppercorn rent and to the covenants and conditions contained in the said indenture of lease.

SECONDLY, all that building licensed for use as a Theatre and Music Hall, known as

THE PARK PALACE,

situate on the east side of Mill-street, in the city of Liverpool, having a frontage to such street of 82ft. 4in. or thereabouts, together with the scenery, stage effects, loose furniture, trade utensils, and other loose articles used in connection therewith or belonging thereto, but save and excepting therefrom the electric lighting installation in and upon the premises, which is not included in the sale. This property is subject to restrictive covenants referred to in Condition 9 of the Conditions of Sale. The site, which contains 722 5-9 superficial square yards or thereabouts, is freehold and free from chief rent.

THIRDLY, all that building licensed for use as a Theatre and Music Hall, known as

PADDINGTON PALACE,

with the FOUR SHOPS forming part of such building, situate on the northerly side of Paddington and easterly side of Upper Mason-street, in the city of Liverpool, and having a frontage to Paddington of 102ft. 6in. or thereabouts, and to Upper Mason-street of 55ft. 6in. or thereabouts, together with the loose scenery, furniture, trade utensils, and other loose articles used in connection therewith or belonging thereto. The site is freehold and free from chief rent, but is subject to restrictive covenants referred to in Condition 9 of the Conditions of Sale. The said four shops are let at a total annual rental amounting to £88 8s. gross.

These well-known and established properties will be offered in one lot.

They are especially adapted for music halls, and are situate in very desirable positions in the city of Liverpool, the Tivoli, in Lime-street, being in the centre of the city, and the Park and Paddington being situated in the densely-populated districts of Toxteth Park and Edge Hill.

Particulars and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from, and the schedule of furniture fittings, scenery, and stage effects in the premises may be seen, at the Offices of the Auctioneer,

Mr. PETER DAVIES, 8, Cook-street, Liverpool;
Messrs. G. E. HOLT and SONS, Chartered Accountants, 8, Cook-street, Liverpool;
Messrs. OLIVER JONES, BILLSON, and CO., Solicitors, 5, Cook-street, Liverpool; or
Messrs. GRUNDY, KERSHAW, SAMSON, and CO., Solicitors, 31, Booth-street, Manchester, and 89, Gresham-street, London, E.C.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

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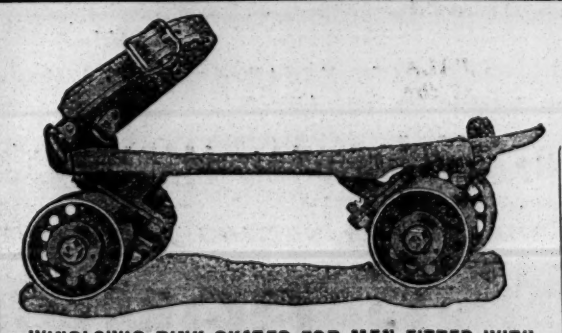

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.
(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Miss Maude Western and company are fulfilling a week's engagement here with *A Mother's Salvation*. Mr. Geoffrey Broughton is well placed as Leslie Mervyne, Mr. J. O. Stevenson supplies a vigorous impersonation of Reuben Smith; the rôle of Beckey is acted by Miss Maude Western with marked ability; Miss Ada Hender plays with dramatic instinct and intelligence the parts of Naomi Lester and Miriam Mervyne; and other rôles are well sustained.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—Mr. Courtneidge's company presents *The Dairymaids* here this week. The piece is beautifully staged, and the gymnasium scene with the Sandow girls in full force is in itself an exceptionally stirring attraction. Miss Clare Marsden is a charming and wholly delightful Peggy; Mr. Johny Osborne keeps the audience in continual fits of laughter as Joe Mivens; Mr. Nelson Keys is conspicuously successful as Lieutenant Sam Brudenell; Mr. J. A. Ward is a most genial Irish doctor; and good work is contributed by Messrs. Cottell, Ashdowne, and Bellew. Miss Clarice Lockstone plays cleverly and gracefully as the other dairymaid; Miss Gladys Silvani makes a decided hit in the "slavey" part; Miss Mabel Younge is a stately Lady Brudenell; and Miss Madge Avery shows much ability in her portraiture of Miss Pyechase. All the minor parts are well filled.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The most exciting feature of the entertainment is *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, which is presented by Mr. Fred Ginnett and a powerful company. All throughout the performance rivets the attention of the house. That first-class comedian Mr. Whit Cunliffe is warmly encored; and the excellent company also includes Miss Maud Prenton, a vivacious comedienne; Mr. Harry Bold, an admirable raconteur; Terry and Bentley, versatile comedians and smart dancers; Zenora, a remarkably expert equilibrist; and the Claymores, who are successful as vocalists, dancers, and jugglers. Another capital turn is the mirthful sketch *Rejected Remounts*. The amusing film The Chauffeur's Dream is shown by the Bioscope.

BEACH PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—Miss Violet Davidson continues in her best voice; and Mr. Jack Marson is warmly welcomed on a return visit. Mr. Percy Maye is an expert female impersonator; Mr. Thomson sings a number of quaint songs inimitably; Vulcares is a first-rate entertainer; and a fine selection of cinematograms are shown by the London Safety Bioscope Company. The houses continue large and thoroughly appreciative.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—The principal artists this week are Mr. Dan Fraser, the noted Scotch comedian; Mr. J. H. Harris, another mirthful comedian; Miss Nellie Osbourne, a charming soprano; Mr. George Millard, humorist and dancer; and Miss Ada Brogden, soprano vocalist and dancer. Miss Brogden is also soloist to the illustrated songs. The Alhambra cinematograph continues to work splendidly under the direction of Mr. Kennedy.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—Mr. G. W. Fyvie continues on his successful course as an Irish comedian and dancer; and among the other artists may be specially noted Mr. Arthur Bright, comedian; Mr. James Grant, tenor vocalist; and Miss Jessie Bunting, contralto and dancer. The cinematograph is now skilfully operated by Mr. Alexander Calder.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborne.—*The Lady of Ostend* is staged here this week, and the audience is kept in a roar of laughter from start to finish, the two most amusing rôles, Dick Whortles and Le Baron de Longueville, being effectively portrayed by Mr. William Spray and Mr. Lawrence Brough respectively, to the high appreciation of the house. Mr. Robert Bolder is very clever as Dick's would-be gay father-in-law; and Miss Barbara Glyn stands out conspicuously as the charming and natural Dorothy. Miss Kitty Devenlin gives a good conception of the title-rôle; and Miss Bessie Harrison makes an admirable mother-in-law.

PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—This popular playhouse and palace of varieties is favoured with the presence of Miss Loie Esmond's clever company in *The Sorrows of Satan*, one of Marie Corelli's works. Mr. Edward Neville gives a masterly interpretation of Prince Lucio; Mr. F. Douglas Howard as Geoffrey Tempest is very good; and Mavis Clare is admirably portrayed by Miss Hilary Burleigh. Credit should be given to Miss Rosie Neville for her excellent acting as Lady Sybil; Miss Loie Esmond gives a capital interpretation of Diana Chesney, an American millionairess; and the part of the Prince's valet, Amiel, is cleverly handled by Mr. E. Holland Day. The play is well staged.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—We are favoured this week with an up-to-date musical play, rendered in a most efficient manner by Mr. Edward Marris's company in *The Dandy Doctor*. Mr. George Brentwood as Melchisadek Brown kept the house in roars of laughter; Miss Mollie Whynee acted with grace and charm as Ivy Pendred; Miss Florence Smithers was exceedingly amusing as the servant Jane; Mr. Burrunston Williams as Arthur Vandyke is seen to advantage; Mr. Herbert Pearce makes a good impression as the Colonel Pendred; and Mr. A. Leslie Martin is well placed as Bertie Bolingbroke. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of clever dancers add greatly to the success of the play, and are loudly applauded.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—Full houses are nightly giving Mr. Herbert Sleath's company a hearty reception in *A White Man*. Mr. Frank E. Petley has the leading rôle of Capt. Wynnegate, and obtains a great histrionic success; Mr. Lewis Broughton gives a capable enactment of the financially embarrassed Earl; Mr. F. W. Jackson gives a careful impersonation of Sir John Applegate. A fine piece of acting is Mr. Bric Hudson's Red Indian Chief, the correct Ute tongue being spoken. A capital Malcolm Petrie is that presented by Mr. Wm. Dempsey; and Mr. J. G. Lambert's Private Secretary is good. Mr. T. F. Martin adds effect to the bar scene as the desperado, Cash Hawkins; and Mr. John Wilmer as the Sheriff is excellent. Of the ladies, Miss Eleanor May makes a charming Countess of Kerhill, her fine acting being one of the best features of the performance. Miss Gertrude Price as the Dowager Countess excels her previous efforts. The staging is admirable.

ARBROATH.—PUBLIC HALL.—Mr. Durward Lely, the celebrated Scottish tenor, paid a visit to his native town on Saturday and Monday evenings. Along with Mrs. Lely and an excellent company Ian Maclaren's modern Scottish drama, *The Bonnie Brier Bush*, was performed both evenings to large audiences. Lachlan Campbell had a faithful interpreter in Mr. George Hunter; as Tammas Mitchell, the shepherd, Mr. Clyde Macintosh was very droll; Dr. Maclure, the kind-hearted physician, received excellent treatment from Mr. Louie Macintosh; Harry Egan as the "posty" kept the house in roars of laughter; Mr. Durward Lely, as the much-respected Free Kirk minister of Drumtochty Glen, acted the part with quiet dignity. He was in excellent voice, and his rendering of "The rigs of barley," "The Land o' Cockpen," and (by special request) "O' a' the airts" was received with unbounded applause. As Flora Campbell Miss Georgina V. Clifford acted with genuine pathos; Mrs. Durward Lely looked handsome and was beautifully gowned as Kate Carnegie.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's company is here with the realistic drama, *When London Sleeps*. Miss Mabel Scudamore as Queenie Carruthers is very acceptable; and an equally meritorious embodiment is given to Carrie Jones by Miss Mona Hall. Miss Lilla Wilde finds plenty of opportunity for the display of her powers as Hilda Carrode; Mr. E. E. Ashby as David Engleheart finds abundant scope for his art in delineation of character.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—Frank Sley and his Nipper are refined comedians and speciality dancers of extraordinary vigour and cleverness; the Colonials, including James Grant, popular Scotch comedian, give a really artistic musical treat; Chas. Rowen is a clever speciality artist; Coverdale and Huxley's Bijou Juveniles also give a really entertaining musical scena, *Pansy's Birthday*; Frances Haskoll is a decided attraction; the Four Netherlands, character singers and dancers, are diverting in *The Tale of the Stockings*; a delightful comedy duo is that of Milner and Storey; and Larry Lewis is a very acceptable singing comedian. The Onlaw Trio, in a novelty wire act; and Kirk and Saraski give expert performances.

ATTERCLIFFE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Hary Sanders.—The special feature of this week's bill is the startling cycle performance of Le Diabelo, in "Looping the Devil's Wheel"; Lieut. Travis is a clever and original ventriloquist; under the title of *A Domestic Musical Squabble*, Sterling and Love give a highly appreciated turn; an amusing act is that of the Two Eeduns, who are seen to advantage in "vocal scenas"; other meritorious turns are contributed by Miss Marie Clifton, vocalist and skipping-rope dancer; Mr. Dan Robans, a fine baritone vocalist; Zellini, eccentric juggler; and the "Attergraph" pictures.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr Harry W. Day.—*Peter's Mother* is being interpreted here by an able company. Miss Elias Earle as Peter's mother gives a bright rendering; Peter is in the capable hands of Mr. Vivian Gilbert; as John Crewys Mr. Eille Norwood makes a good impression; and Mr. Townsend Whitling makes an ideal Sir Timothy.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company is appearing here in the drama entitled *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Mr. Paul Beckett has many opportunities for fine dramatic acting, and plays Felix Beverley with ability; as Jack Stirling Mr. Wilson Summers has a firm grip of the part; Mr. Wilford Cheetham as Geoffrey Langdon is well placed; Mr. Arthur Lowry as Arthur Belairs creates much amusement; Mr. Percy Brown as Thomas and Mr. Herbert Fuller as Charles cause hearty laughter; as the heroine, Mary Geoffrey, Miss Cissy Bellamy enacts the rôle in a sympathetic style; Miss Agnes Collier shows ability as the Hon. Mrs. Sands, and Miss Katie Lever is a flippant Sweet Nancy.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. James Bell's company is here this week in *The Idol of Paris*. Miss Annie Bell is admirably adapted to the title-rôle, and plays with much feeling; Mr. Wilson Howard submits a well-studied and forcible impersonation of Phillipe d'Esterre; the Prince Serglus of Mr. Gordon Robey is a well-rendered character; Mr. Chas. Stafford is satisfactory as Victor Cashelle; Miss Beatrice Fitzhugh a dignified Mme. Sancterre; Mr. Ellis Carlyle as Tatave and Miss Annie Megson as Ann are well suited to their parts.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, the Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—The Szarvasi-Ferencz family of acrobats head the bill; the Three Romas receive applause for clever head and hand balancing feats; Marjutti supplies a new and original act, "From Demon to Fairyland"; Bert Terrel is a typical Dutch comedian, and sings well; Allsopp and Beckwith (Fred and Florrie), in song and dance, are popular; The Orchids, in a vocal comedy duo, and the Bodnia Trio, musical and vocal artists; Billy Yeager and Emma Da Costa, singing and dancing act; Lily Dunne, vocalist; and the Palacescope are also on the programme.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Reginald Dance's company is here in *Raffles*. Mr. Lewis Edgard is a most interesting A. J. Raffles, and Mr. C. Kean a smart Mr. Curtis Bedford; Mr. Arthur Beel does some fine acting as Harry Manders, and Mr. Oswald Griffiths makes a capital Crawshay; Mr. P. Alexander as Lord Amersteth and Mr. Rivers Bertram as Lord Crowley are both good, and Miss Kitty Lofting is a dignified and stately Lady Melrose; Miss Beatrice Marsdene is an attractive Gwendoline Conroy, and Miss Brenda Gibson a successful Mrs. Vidal. *Jerry and a Sunbeam* precedes.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* is here. Mr. Mudie is brilliantly effective as Mr. Ponderbury, and Miss Annie Stalman gives an exceedingly clever portrayal of Mrs. Ponderbury; Miss Florence Wix does admirably as the vulgar and frivolous Mme. Polace Modjeski, and Mr. Alfred Ibberson supplies a clever clear-cut sketch of Peter; Mr. Drew Mackintosh is a capable Mr. Mervyn Thorpe, and Mr. George Child as Captain John Rumford, R.N., and Mr. Charles A. Staite as Mr. Hyacinth Grayling are both good. A curtain raiser is furnished in *His Landlady*.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—An exceptional array of talent is here this week, the premier position being held by the Carmos, who give an exceptionally clever Hurculean balancing and novelty juggling act; their performance met with a great reception; the Three Royal Dreadnoughts gave a marvellous exhibition of rifle shooting; the Sisters Casseli, duettists and dancers, Archie Peff, eccentric comedian, Sadie Simpson, pleasing comedienne and dancer, Géne Selby, the coffee-coloured coon, and Vernon's Bioscope are other attractions.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—As excellent programme of pictures is being presented here this week. Miss Vena Valma intersperses the entertainment with some pleasing songs and dances.

BARRY DOCK.—NEW THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Brogden.—Mr. Morton Powell presented *The Woman Who Gambles* to a large and appreciative audience on Monday. Mr. Clifford Rean as Count Otto plays a difficult rôle capably; as the Countess Miss Laura Walker is admirable; Mr. N. A. Overton is a truculent Baron, Mr. Reg. Fox a capital Karl Ctzaroriski, and Mr. Ernest H. Clarke a successful Chief of Police. The comic element was well supplied by Messrs. Reg. Oldroyd and V. T. Raymond. Miss B. Conway as Cora Gouldhart is attractive, and Miss Lily Malvern is successful as Stella.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*You Never Can Tell*, the brilliantly humorous satire of Bernard Shaw, is meeting with great favour here this week from a numerous section of the playgoing public. Messrs. Taylor Platt and Trevor Lowe, who present the piece, have gathered around them a clever company, in which Mr. Trevor Lowe himself scores a conspicuous success as William, the waiter. Miss Katherine Stuart is capital as Mrs. Clandon; and her three children, Gloria, Dolly, and Philip, are admirably hit off in their various moods by Miss Gladys Morris, Miss Clara Earle, and Mr. Donald Calthrop. The stern Fergus Crampton is undertaken firmly by Mr. J. Edward Pearce; Mr. Charles Daly is well suited to fulfil all the requirements of Finch McComas; Mr. Leslie Hamer enters into the spirit of the play as Valentine, and is responsible for much clever work; Bohun, K.C., is enacted on humorous lines by Mr. George Howard; and Miss Ivy Fenton completes the cast as a parlourmaid.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The Dancing Gilberts gain the plaudits of the house by smartly-executed dances; an old friend is found in Chas. F. Best, who once again demonstrates his wonderful contortionist abilities as MacBunker the Mountebank; Albert Letine, female impersonator, makes up realistically, his dancing being excellent; the Austins give a varied turn as comedy jugglers and dancers; Talbot and Pearce, in their pretty Japanese scena *Yo-San*, give evidence of cultured vocalism; Emma Don wins her usual warm reception from local audiences with her fine character male impersonations; the Brothers St. Clair, upon bicycles, perform many difficult and amusing feats; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux winds up with up-to-date films.

MR. CARL FREDERICKS and his company of merry-makers, who have had such a successful season at the Sydney Gardens, Bath, are now giving their varied and amusing programme at the Assembly Rooms in the evenings. On Thursday and Friday this week Mr. Carl Fredericks had his benefits, when special attractions were announced.

BATLEY.—THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company in *Sapho* had a hearty reception here on Monday. Mr. Abbott played the part of Jean Gaussin with ability; Miss Ada Abbott was immensely successful in the title-rôle; Mr. John Thorpe did well as Dechelette; Mr. D. C. Douglas' Flamant was very good, and Mr. Frank Stephen gave a capital delineation of Ceassaire. For Friday night *Trilby* was billed.

BEDFORD. — ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. Fred J. Webb's company are here this week presenting Wm. Hibbert's drama, *The Hour of Her Triumph*. The part of Zelia Clairmont is well interpreted by Miss M. Danvers Smith; Mr. Fred J. Webb is clever as Eugene Harberry; Mr. Will Henderson displays feeling as Harold Clovening; and Mr. Geo. Raymond is straightforward and manly as Jack Vernon; Mr. Louis Nanton imparts some welcome humour as Ben Brodie; and as a broken-down Shakespearean actor Mr. Hyland O'Shea is very good; Miss Isabel Stevenson is pretty and pathetic as Nellie Clavering; and Miss Lallah Price gives a clever sketch of an inebriate.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company opened here on Monday, with *Florodora*. Mr. Fred Eastman was the life and soul of the piece as Anthony Tweedlepunch, creating roars of laughter; Miss Maisie Ellinger made a charming Dolores, singing her numbers with much effect; and the rôle of Lady Holyrood was delightfully played by Miss Edith Housley, who, for "Tact," received a deserved encore. Mr. H. V. Cropton as Frank Abercoed acted well, and his fine voice was heard to much advantage. A capital exponent of Cyrus W. Gilfain was found in Mr. Stanley White; Miss Bessie Middleton achieved much success as Angela Gilfain, her dancing being very smart; and Mr. Herbert St. John appeared with much acceptance as Captain Arthur Donegal. The special dances, introduced by the Misses Vida Oxlee, Harrie Tidd, Daisy Caley, and Emmie Oxlee found much favour. The full chorus and augmented orchestra were under the direction of Mr. J. Morton Hutcheson.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The chief feature of the programme here is the farcical absurdity, *The Bloomsbury Burglars*, produced by Lew Lake and company, which has created roars of laughter; Tom and Marie Motramo present, with much success, their drawing-room sketch, *Do You Reverse*; and a decided hit has been made by Mr. Sammy Shields, one of the drollest of Scotch comedians. Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor appear to advantage in their American comedy act, *The Dancing Master*; and Paul Cavali, musical athlete, Mr. Harry Luck, comedian, Miss Edie Veno, comedienne and dancer, Beattie and Blanche, duettists and dancers, and Palace pictures are also included in the bill.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Vasco heads the bill, and plays a large number of musical instruments (twenty-eight in all) so cleverly that his reception has been tremendous; Walter Ellis and company appear in their laughable playlet, entitled *The Sleep Walker*; and a smart turn has been supplied by Fraser and French, ragtime and hurricane clog marvels. John Lloyd's Gondolier glee singers afford the utmost satisfaction; and Mlle. Alexandra and Mons. Bertie present their daring aerial act, "After the Ball." Also in the programme are James Hare and company, who present their sensational episode, *The Guilty Man*; Mr. Martin Conway, comedian; Cosgrove and Burns, comedy duettists; Miss Gertrude Lytton, comedienne; and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Mr. G. H. Elliott is the star here, and this clever coon comedian was accorded a flattering and fully deserved reception on Monday; Brown and Le Clerq create roars of merriment with their screaming absurdity, *Black Justice*; and Lady Mansel and juveniles appear in their speciality, *A Concert Rehearsal*, which is one of the features of the programme. The Howards (Ralph and Nellie) appear in their musical comedy scena, *Military Maid*; and Mr. Harry Herbert, eccentric comedian, is certainly very droll. The Sisters West are charming duettists and dancers; and also here are the Four Watsons, in their comedy speciality, and the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—This hall is still achieving great success with animated pictures, this week's programme including The Launch of the White Star Liner, "Laurentic," at the Queen's Island, Belfast, The Son's Crime, The Nurse's Strike, Through Floating Logs, The Bachelor's Baby, &c. In addition are the Sisters Ely, talented duettists; and France and Francis, acrobatic comedians.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The two houses per night system has caught on here, the attendances being constantly on the increase. This week's programme includes the following films, Oh, those Boys, Law of Honour, The Village Fire Brigade, Scottish Highlands, &c. Miss Ailsa Douglas, a charming vocalist, also appears, with every element of success; and W. Dex is a clever comedy necromancer.

BILSTON.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—This week sees a change in the management of Bilston's popular place of amusement. The new manager is Mr. John M. Dawson, late of the Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin, *Royal Divorce*, &c. Mr. Dawson

has chosen as his first attraction *Two Little Vagabonds*, given by Hardie and Von Leer's company. Mr. George Denham, the courteous business-manager for the company, plays George Thornton in a highly creditable manner; Miss Dora Frank Harvey is effective as Marion; and Miss Leonora Castelle is very good as Barbara Scarth. Miss Chrissie Frances and Miss Ethel Frances Greene are excellent as Dick and Wally; Mr. Herbert Standing, jun. (Capt. Darville), Mr. Herbert Russell (the Gaffer), Mr. Hal Charlton (the Cough Drop), and Miss Ethel Lodge (Biddy) are all deserving of praise.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—A return visit from Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche's company, in *What the Butler Saw*, has been received with delight by crowded houses. Mr. Rignold repeats his irresistibly humorous and clever performance of Pink, the butler; Miss Ada Blanche is a charming and vivacious Mrs. Barrington; and Mr. Charles Fawcett revels in the part of Jack Barrington. Sir Charles Foden is well represented by Mr. Raymond Dudley; Mr. G. Nelson Wallace is inimitable as Professor Shale; Dr. Clayton is carefully played by Mr. Hornby Warburton; and Mr. Harry H. Rignold as Abram Wienstein, Mr. George Ascot as General Dunlop, Mr. Howard L. Tracy as Sidney Clifford, and Mr. Louis Lingard as Vere de Bogyns, add materially to the evening's enjoyment. Miss Christine Jensen is a capital Miss Foden; Nora is well played by Miss Gladys Lloyd; and Miss Babs Stewart, Miss Beatrice Egerton, Miss Mona Garland, Miss Julie St. George, and Miss Lilian Rose are all thoroughly efficient. The comedy is well staged.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Harry Tate and his capable company in the new sketch, *Billiards*, form a leading attraction here, and deservedly score heavily. An amusing boxing sketch by the Brothers Horne also figures largely in the entertainment; Miss Maude Mortimer, a talented comedienne, has made a hit; and Smiler Lee, a comedian of ability, is a favourite turn. Miss Dot Stephens, a versatile variety artist and mimic, is a prominent success; and an excellent programme also introduces the Raymond Trio, in a pleasing musical act. Talberto and Douglas, speciality comedy artists; Walter Aubrey, comedian and dancer; Billy Trench, wooden shoe dancer; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical director.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS, ROCK FERRY.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—Mr. Marriott Edgar (the man in red) heads an excellent combination, which also includes Mr. Clifford Morgan, elocutionist and card manipulator; Mr. J. W. Barker, comedian; Miss Josey Leyton, comedienne; Mr. C. D. Reekie, comedian; and Mr. Bernard Knox, accompanist. On Thursday Mrs. Adeler took a well-deserved benefit.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* was most welcome on its return on Monday last. Mrs. Madge Carr Cook's clever characterisation of Mrs. Wiggs, with her quaint humour and sympathy, as before, "took" instantly with the audience; while in a different way Miss Rita Carlyle was the cause of abundant mirth as the Doleful Miss Hazy. Clever character sketches of Mrs. Eichorn and Mrs. Schultz were submitted by the Misses Mabel Durrant and Eva Campbell respectively; Miss Violet Vivian won sympathy for the character of Lovey Mary; Mr. Fredk. Forrest made the most of that eccentric character Mr. Stubbins; Mr. Walter Cameron as Mr. Wiggs does very well; and other clever types of character were played by Mr. Sidney Carlyle as Chris Hazy, Mr. Arthur Vezin as Billy Wiggs, Miss Mary Deverall as Miss Lucy, and Miss Ruhamah as Asia, &c.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Fiander's Widow*, with which Mr. Edward Terry commenced another welcome engagement, has been very popular here, with the famous comedian in his new rôle, Isaac Sharpe. Several old favourites have also been submitted, Mr. Terry's Posket in *The Magistrate* on Tuesday drawing and satisfying his admirers in full. On Wednesday his characterisation of Dick Phenyl in *Sweet Lavender* came as fresh as ever; and for Thursday he was billed for another favourite rôle, Todman, in *Liberty Hall*. Capital support has been afforded him on both sides the footlights, and Miss Edith Coleman, Miss Gwendoline Wren, Mr. William Dexter, Mr. Kenneth Brampton, Miss Evelyn Ormonde, and company have well sustained the rôles allotted them.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*The Tyrant*, with its rich Venetian environment, has drawn well here. Miss Marie Dagmar as Tisbe does some fine dramatic acting; Mr. Fred C. Somerfield, the adapter, plays Homodei in highly finished style; Mr. Roy Fortesque gives a forcible and capable rendering of Angelo; Mr. Edw. E. Louis as Rudolph wins praise by his able and manly acting; Mr. T. Ashmore is popular as Pan; Miss Margaret Frame is a most acceptable Lady Catherine; Miss Cherry Veheyne fills the rôle of Eulie with perfect ease; and Messrs. Frank Etheridge, Willie Barrett, and Miss Nellie Freeland are very entertaining as Victor, Nobbo, and Reginella respectively.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*At Cripple Creek*, the return visit of which has been attended with complete success here, is well acted by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company. Mr. Henry Hare imparts a fine distinction to the part of Joe Mayfield; Miss Constance Elgin lends herself admirably to the rôle of Dynamite Ann; Mr. Chas. E. Johnson's acting as Martin Mason is graphic, and Mr. Roy Jackson is realistic as Alveraz; Mr. Reginald Harley West gives a faithful sketch of Wahketah; Miss Daisy Carlton as Maggie Mason acts and looks the part well; Little Rosy Hopkins is an ideal Little Tatto; and the humorous rôles are well played by Mr. C. E. Preece as Ben White, Mr. Will Hook as Reggie Harwood, and Miss Nora Dillon as Sarah Lively. Miss Lily Bergle is very happy in her assumption of "the luckiest girl in Cripple Creek," Belle Gordon.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer's descent on Saltley in a big, comprehensive répertoire has been an event of much import and success. On Monday she essayed the tragic rôle of Mary, Queen of Scots, applause and perfect stillness at her powerful acting alternating conspicuously throughout. On Tuesday she gave a wonderfully clever portrayal of Hamlet, being supported by her company in a very able and loyal manner. On Wednesday her remarkable diversity was shown in the fascinating rôle of Sapho; and *Nell Gwynn*, *Leah*, and *Jane Shore* have figured brilliantly in her répertoire. The company includes Mr. F. Skein, Miss Alice O'Dea, &c.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*Her Nameless Child* is a strong draw here, with Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company. Mr. J. W. Evelyn is very powerful, and evokes great applause as Anthony Ford; Miss Pattie Hastings as Phyllis acts with fine spirit as well as pathos, as the part requires; Mr. Sidney C. Cranston is seen favourably as Arthur Ford; Mr. Arthur E. Pringle leaves nothing lacking to complete the villainy of Lord Woodville, and his fair accomplice, Lady Sybil, lacks nothing in such a representative as Miss Mona Grey; Mr. Frank Thompson is successful as the catspaw, Mongrole; and some very funny "comic relief" is vouchsafed by Mr. Larry Clements as Tom Rivers and Miss Renie Douglas as Bessie.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Her Forbidden Marriage* takes place here nightly to tremendous applause, in which all the members of Mr. Frederick Melville's company have deservedly shared. Mr. Henry Lonsdale, chief among all perhaps, has won admiration with his well-acted part of George Maddison; Miss Geraldine Le Sage as the persecuted Lucy has gained full sympathy with her well-studied pathetic portrayal; Mr. Louis Hector has enacted the plausible villain, Charles Devereux, thoroughly well; Mr. C. Davidson has done well as Geoffrey Broughton, and other good support has been rendered by Mr. H. Gomer May, Mr. Fred De Vere, Miss Maud Merrick, Miss Grace Lester, and Miss Agnes Imlay, &c.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Fred Storey and his company are here in a tabloid production of *The Merchant of Venice*, which is beautifully played and mounted. The cast includes Messrs. A. M. Stapley, Wilfred Blair, and Miss Lilian Holmes. Alexandra Dagmar was loudly applauded for her songs; Herbert Lloyd gets more eccentric every time, and knows how to please his audience. Other prominent turns are John Humphries and company in an amusing sketch, *Ancient Britons;* Charles Danton, a double-voiced vocalist; the Cumberlands, acrobatic cyclists; the Boccacio Trio, humorous mandolinists, and Rose Cabini.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The Boissett Troupe are on a return visit here with *The Bricklayers*, which is awfully funny; Lottie Lennox scored a terrific success with her "Old green bonnet" song; the Carina Sisters have an artistic musical entertainment; Charles Stevens, Leslie Harris, and Johnny Walker all win applause; and Nellie Coleman, La Belle Nello, and the Six Lancashire Lassies are big attractions.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Kate Carney with her company present a new scena, *The Yiddisher Boy*, which makes a hit; Walter Emerson and Bellman and Moore are applauded for their humorous songs; Rosie Lloyd does well with her songs; B. Troba is an exceedingly clever juggler; Zeta Grey and company have a smart musical comedy interlude; Lillie Lassah and Sibb and Sibb complete the company.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Arthur Rigby and his company appear here in an Eastern episode, *The Isle of Ooma*, and are a big attraction. The production is exceedingly picturesque, and there is plenty of fun in the piece. The Bros. Webb are clever musical clowns; Frank Lymne is loudly applauded; and other turns are supplied by Fred Curran, Dora Martini, Alice Maude, Bromley and Fontein, and Ethel Dunford.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—This popular house has been reconstructed and elaborately furnished and fitted with private boxes. Bessie Willows provides an excellent turn, and Jan Johnson, cycling ventriloquist, is applauded.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Lingford Carson and his company opened to a capital house on Monday in *The Great White Chief*. Mr. Carson gave a well-marked and dramatic portrayal of Reinder, the dumb chief; Mr. Mansell Fane was excellent in the title-rôle, his singing being a feature of the evening; Mr. Leonard Maitland acted with his accustomed drollery as George Rupert Walker; Mr. W. Melrose and Mr. S. Elland, in the respective parts of Hartley Deane and Dave Carter, were excellent; and Mr. Hugh Brady as John Warton gave a satisfactory presentation. Miss Amy Ross Clyde made a creditable Martha Jane Curtley; Miss Dulcie Lawrence was painstaking in her arduous part of Hester Stafford; and Miss Polly Denville as Latika deserved great praise. The scenic effects were admirable.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The new version of *The Christian*, played by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, is finding favour here this week. Mr. Henry Renouf's fine acting as John Storm is much admired; and the Glory Quayle of Miss Doris Gilham is also appreciated. Mr. Oswald Marshall ably portrays Horatio Drake; and Mr. G. R. Montford plays Lord Robert Ure with distinct credit. Other parts are also in capable hands, and the staging calls forth admiration.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's *Tom Jones* company is paying a very welcome return visit here this week, and meeting with another huge success. The principal parts remain in the same worthy hands, and the applause is loud and long at every performance. Mr. Dan Rolyat as Partridge, Miss Florence Smithson as Sophia, Mr. Ambrose Manning as Squire Western, and Mr. Harry Welchman in the title-rôle, retain their high reputations. The minor parts are also well played, whilst the chorus is well up to the Courtneidge high standard.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—George Lashwood shines here this week. The lesser, but still bright, lights are Alexandre and Hughes, clever musical comedians; Winifred Ward, a capable male impersonator; R. A. Speedwell, aptly described as the wizard painter; Maude Wilton, a pleasing comedienne; Frank Seeley, eccentric comedian; the Paxton Trio, the wonderful head-balancers; and Dolly Ross, comedienne and dancer.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. Carlton Wallace's company has presented the romantic play *The Love That Women Desire*, and has met with very liberal patronage. Messrs. J. O. Stewart as Squire Abingdon, Morris Maud as Richard Abingdon, and Sidney Smith as Philip Carnaby are prominent; and the acting of Mesdames Aimee Gratton Clyndes, Jessie Elvin, May Neilson, Violet Young, and Dorothy North-Ore is highly efficient.

GAIETY.—Lessee, Mr. Wm. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baugh.—Heading the bill here is Milo. Florence, the famous globe walker. The Moncktons in their comedy act, *A Woman's Curiosity;* Sadie Bonelle, juvenile male impersonator; Marshall and Wright, comedians; Wragg and Wragg, military athletes, and a charming series of moving pictures make up a capital programme that delights crowded audiences twice nightly.

HIPPODROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Doyle and O'Connell; General-Manager, Mr. Tom Doyle.—The pictorial drama, *Lady Audley's Secret*, has proved a special feature of the week's programme, and others prove attractive. Douglas and Gordon are a pair of clever comedy artists; Miss Tilly Afden, comedienne and speciality dancer, has a good reception; Hector Lee, comedian, does a good turn; and Bert Crosbie, in quaint patter and parodies and clever dancing, finds favour with the numerous patrons of the "Drome."

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—A full house greeted Messrs. José and Young's company on Monday in *Amasis*. The part of Pharaoh was depicted by Mr. W. H. Denny with excellent effect; Miss Winifred O'Connor played the Princess with charming grace, her vocal numbers being capitally rendered; Miss Mabel Burnege was a piquant and pleasing representative of Natis; Mr. Edward McKeown portrayed the part of Prince Anhotep in a highly commendable manner; the part of Cheiro was undertaken by Mr. Arthur Stroud, whose rendering of "Prayed for life" was in every sense excellent; and Mr. Fred Hudson was dignified as the High Priest; Mr. W. H. Brodie as Sebak, the irrepressible crocodile keeper, and Mr. Frank Attree as the ill-fated Ptolemy provoked great merriment.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A welcome return visit is this week being made by Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls, who are accorded a hearty reception; Marlo, juggler and equilibrist; Lilian Lowe, ballad vocalist; the Three Rubys, contortionists and acrobatic ladies; Mr. Charles Diamond, harpist, and Miss Beatrice, soprano saxophonist; Cyril Carle, in dramatic songs and scenas; Josie Delaine Gallimore, in songs and dances; Charles Prelle's bijou dog circus; Miss Diana Hope, in the society episode *Her Good Name*, assisted by Mr. James White and Dick Cruikshanks, and, lastly, Vernon's Imperial Bioscope, are other attractions.

THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—The Martialo Trio head the bill here with their sensational juggling and balancing act. Other attractions are the Sisters Essie and Baby Herbert, duettists and dancers; Morimura, Japanese magician, assisted by Miako; Rowland Hill, "Ye Dame" and historical humorist; Daisy Morell, comedienne; Carlos Menard, trick violinist; F. W. Purcell's company in *That Brute Simmons*, in which appear Mr. Julian Cross, Mr. George Delaforce, and Miss Oliph Webb; and the Bioscope pictures.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—This week the stock company are presenting the romantic Irish drama, *Lord Edward, or 98*. Mr. Albert Sember in the title-rôle gives a capital performance, receiving good assistance from Mr. Stanley S. Gordon as Neilson; as Pamela Miss Nina Vaughton is a charming and graceful heroine; Miss Kathleen Magee is very good as Mrs. O'Moore, and Francis Magan finds a most successful exponent in Mr. Alfred D. Adams. The comedy parts are in the able hands of Mr. Tom H. Solly and Miss Effie Macintosh.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—Frank Fenton heads the bill here this week in his clever impersonation of David Garrick, and is ably supported; C. Emlyn Jones and the "Daughters of Britain" meet with a hearty reception in their vocal scena; Oliver Conroy's droll songs keeps the house in roars of laughter; Nita Clem, comedienne and dancer, is fully appreciated; a clever and sensational performance is given by the Flying Halyons; Russell Carr is successful as a military ventriloquist; Charles Maye as a quaint comedian is worthy of mention; and the Hippo pictures are extremely good.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company in *The Beloved Vagabond* was well received here on Monday. Mr. Arthur Royston has made a careful study of the part of Gaston de Nerac and rendered it with much effect; Mr. Warburton Gamble in the unpleasant character of the Comte de Verneuil was very good; of Asticot Mr. Ramsay Macbeth gave a capital sketch; and Mr. Alfred Drayton did all that was possible with the part of Lord Rushworth. Blanquette was well played by Miss Nita Faydon, and Miss Kathleen Harrington was quite charming as Joanna Rushworth.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—A return visit of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company with *The Dairymaids* is the attraction here. Hearty laughter greets the performance of the comedy, and for this Mr. Harry Dent as Joe Mivens is mainly responsible. Miss Phyllis Dare is a sweet and graceful Peggy; Miss Edith Blanche an altogether excellent Lady Brudenell; and there is a breezy heartiness in the humour of Mr. Percy Marshall as Dr. O'Bryne. Mr. E. Statham-Staples as Lieut. Brudenell and Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., as Lieut. Meredith do well.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—This week Mr. T. Edward Wards company is on a return visit with *Second to None*. Capable acting is shown by Mr. Fred F. Loyd as the scheming Captain Philip Mannering, Mr. Leonard Williams as Private Harry Wilding, Miss Dorothy Clifton as Nell Greystone, and Mr. Theo. Balfour is conspicuous in the part of Sir Reginald Greystone. Mr. Allan Carruthers, Mr. Louis Edmonds, and Miss Carrie Yondell are entertaining in the humorous interludes.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Tom Foy and company elicit hearty laughter here this week in the absurdity *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, and Barton and Ashley introduce a sketch on novel lines, full of rollicking fun. The Proveanies are exceedingly clever lady trick cyclists; Lola Patey renders her songs in pleasing style; there is some good speciality dancing by the Eight bright Stella Girls; two excellent character songs by Tom Woolwell meet with hearty approval; Olga and Elgar's instrumental entertainment is enjoyable; Ted and May Hopkins are well received; Nettie Starr, comedienne, submits a bright turn; and the usual excellent display of pictures by the Bioscope highly entertain the large audiences.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Gunner Moir, champion pugilist, is crowding the theatre this week, and entertaining all comers with the gloves. His recent fight with Tommy Burns is also realistically reproduced by the Bioscope and watched with rapt attention. Very great applause greets Sergt. Brennan's very remarkable gyroscopic feats; Edie Tennis and Gertie Laune are dainty and charming duettists; clever comedy acrobatic work in the turn by Gladys and Alber wins applause; Lawrence Barclay's comic character songs are very funny; Georgina Middleton, soprano, renders her songs in dainty style; in an expert skipping-rope dance the Sisters Brenton are good; Harvey's American Boys and Girls contribute a versatile and bright dancing and vocal entertainment; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are, as usual, an interesting item of the excellent programme.

BRIDLINGTON. — ROYAL PRINCE'S PARADE. — Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—The vocalist this week is Mr. W. A. Peterkin, a capital bass. In the Grand Pavilion, Mr. H. Flockton-Foster's entertainers are giving extra programmes this week. The Loyal Dominion Animated Picture Co. are showing pictures.

NEW SPA AND GARDENS. — General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—Herr Simon Würm's Viennese Band and Mr. Surrie Lindon's vaudeville entertainers finished their season on Saturday with a combined programme, and were rewarded with a crowded house. The Stingarees, under the direction of Mr. Roland Henry, occupy the stage in the Opera House this week, and render some excellent programmes. Miss Roma Castille is a sweet soprano, and Miss Winnie Harbor a clever comedienne; Mr. Robert Carr possesses a fine baritone voice; Mr. Harry Hearne's humorous songs are laughable; and Mr. Roland Henry is a humorist of ability.

SUMMER GARDENS. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Chas. Beanland. —That amusing sketch, *Hamelton's Diorama*, is one of the big items in the capital programme of the Waterloo Pierrots this week. Mr. Beanland's comically portrayed songs, and Mr. Chas. Danton's songs and dances, are always very cleverly done.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company opened here on Monday with *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, and has been doing splendid business. Mr. Ivan Cleveland gave a masterly impersonation of Prince Hilred of Sylvania; Miss Annie Saker made a very charming enactment of the Princess Monica of Illyria, Mr. Herbert Ford was an attractive Prince Olaf of Sylvania; Mr. Graeme Campbell displayed great skill in his portrayal of Prince Michael; Miss Dido Drake was well placed as Candida, a beggar maid; Mr. Francis Hawley acquitted himself admirably as the Bishop of Illyria; and Mr. D. Lewin Mannering's Captain Hector, Mr. Kendal Chalmers' Lieutenant Karl Stromberg, and Miss Isla Vayne's Viola were ably represented. The play was superbly staged.

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is an excellent company here this week. Margaret Cooper, as usual, gives her songs in winsome and artistic style, gaining very enthusiastic applause; Haley's company of vocalists and dancers also achieve marked and well deserved success; their efforts in "The Garden of Girls" being enhanced by excellent scenery and electrical effects; Carl Howard, in comedy and magic, merits warm praise; Millie Engler and company are well received in the farcical episode, *Beauty and the Burglar;* Fred Sheppard is a popular comedian; the Alberto Troupe are clever equilibrists; Professor McCann, with his highly trained dogs, submits a capital turn; Mabel Bright is a novel entertainer; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur R. Hollands.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. John Tiller's company prove very attractive in the nautical spectacular ballet, *Jolly Jack;* Hal Forde, light comedian, is a great favourite; the Delevines are very cordially received in *Flipp and Flopp;* Harry Brown, American coloured comedian, scores heavily; Mons. Gerard, herculean manipulator, performs excellent feats; Ajax and George appear in a novel gymnastic act; Arthur Albert, light comedian, wins warm applause; the Three Orros submit an original act on the silver chains; Ryder Slone is a good character comedian; Fred Hastings, comedian, is cordially received; and Horace and Olga give an entertaining turn with their great table troupe of cats and dogs.

WEST PIER.—Mr. Jerrold Robertshaw's company is here this week, with *Marjory Strode*. Miss Christine Silver makes a delightful Margaret Strode; Mr. Carter Pickford achieves great success as the Viscomte de Selac; Mr. Hawley Francks as Christopher Strode, and Mr. John H. Willes as Peter Strode, display admirable acting; Mr. Leonard Calvert's Dackhum is a clever character study; Mr. Stephen Wentworth is highly successful as Richard Strode; and the remaining characters are satisfactorily sustained.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Prominent among the attractions here is the late Lord Leighton's model, Venus, whose poses are warmly appreciated. Her representations include Helen of Troy, The Coquette, and The Bath of Psyche. In addition to Venus, Mr. L. Austen Millais' vaudeville company is here. Little Sunbeam, "the miniature Marie Lloyd," achieves great success; Messrs. Coombes and Webb are clever banjoists; the Four Sisters Sligo give a pleasing musical turn; Dorothy Joan and Pic are good singers and dancers; Lynn, the original singing boy, from the Tivoli, and Aerola, gymnast, are well received; and other turns are provided by Dainty Van Delle, Harry Francis, Leoville, and W. H. Blackman.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—There is a capital series of animated pictures here this week. Prominent among the films is one depicting a daring robbery of diamonds, and the capture of the thieves. The Bee and the Rose is a beautiful picture, and among those that are delightfully amusing are There's a Smell of Smoke, The Slippery Pickpocket, Anything to Oblige, and The Page and the Baby. Miss Beatrice Felsted contributes songs in good style.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. James Welch, with the entire London company, scenery, and production from Wyndham's Theatre, London, in *When Knights Were Bold*, is packing the house at each performance. Mr. Welch as Sir Guy de Vere is most amusing. He presents a very clever exposition of the part, always humorous, but at the same time consistent. Miss Audrey Ford is graceful, interesting, and very pleasing as Rowena, her performance of the part being highly effective throughout; Mr. Arthur Grenville acts cleverly as Isaac Isaacson; Mr. George Desmond is capitally placed as Widdicombe; Mr. Cecil Kinnaird does excellently as Sir Brian Ballymote; Mr. George Tully makes the most of Wittle; and Mr. Guy Lane is sufficiently dignified as the Clergyman. Mrs. Waldegrave is impersonated in stately style by Miss Helen Palgrave; and the Misses Mary O'Hea, Gwendoline Rayne, and Annie Ferrell are pleasing exponents of the younger ladies. The performance commences with the one-act play, *The Changeling*, in which Miss Helen Palgrave, Mr. J. H. Carson, and Mr. George Tully distinguish themselves.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*Why Men Love Women* is being well performed by Miss Ellen Snow and her company. Miss Snow presents a clever and interesting exposition of Violet Livingstone; Mr. Oliver Rogers is manly and convincing as Gerald Fielding; Mr. Lionel Gadsden displays power as Captain Staniloff; Mr. Ernest Griffen is well placed as the Maharajah of Balore; Mr. W. Norman does well as the Rev. Arthur Gray; Miss Maud Court gives a characteristic performance of Muriel Zoluski; and the remaining parts are all capably represented. The drama is staged in an effective manner.

PALACE — Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Albert and Edmund's company is successfully appearing in the pantomime sketch, *Neighbours;* the Mezzettis are exceptionally clever acrobats, &c.; Baby Vi Davis does a clever turn of song and dance; A-Ba-Be's picture postcard album is a pretty turn, the paintings are good, and a graceful lady poses in various representations; Sidney Dolf is a capable mimic; Harry Taylor, Hebrew comedian, is appreciated; Fraser and Haley (two ladies) are exceptionally pleasing vocalists; and the performance concludes with animated pictures.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Frederick Maxwell and Lois du Cane and company successfully present an interesting dramatic sketch, entitled *The Girl I Love;* F. A. Martell is an exceptionally expert equilibrist; the Mexican troupe of lariat throwers do smart acts with long lengths of cord; Mark Henton, comedian, &c., is appreciated; Thomas and Taylor have an amusing scena, *Fun on the Midland;* Dave Carter, Irish tenor, is successful; Sadie Seymour is an attractive comedienne; Leonard Teel, comedian, obtains applause; and the performance concludes with animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Ralph Pringle's animated pictures and variety entertainment continues to be attractive. This week the speciality films include Nero, or the Burning of Rome, Samson, and The Black Princess.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*From Shop Girl to Duchess* drew a full house on Monday. Sylvia Grey was well sustained by Miss Mary Neil; Mr. Douglas Cecil played capitally as Arnold Vyvian, the hero, and Mr. Frank Strickland as Gilbert Spate presented the villain in fine style; Miss Beatrice Hudson was successful as Lady Delamere; the comedy element was ably given by Mr. Douglas Tremayne as Pelham, Mr. Henri Gerald as Tommy Tinkler, and Miss Florrie Grove as Tilly Dobson. Excellent staging contributed to the pleasure of the production.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A great success is the production here this week of *Lucky Durham* by Messrs. H. Armitage and A. Leigh's company. Mr. S. Herbert Humber as John Durham puts life and sincerity into the rôle; Lord Mountfallon is portrayed in a convincing manner by Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood; and the character of the happy-go-lucky son, the Hon. Reggie, is aptly rendered by Mr. Arthur Leigh. Mr. Vallerton is undertaken by Mr. Wm. Heilbron, and Mr. J. H. Gerald is good as Arthur Walcombe; Miss Alice Esther Belmore, a charming actress, makes a decided hit as Helen Vallerton, and Miss Beatrice Sinclair as Mrs. Durham is exceedingly good; Miss Rosabel Dodd and Miss Florence Dunhulty as Lady and Miss Mountfallon are very good, and the remainder of the company are up to a high standard.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The great draw here this week is Tarro Miyake, the Japanese ju-jitsu wrestler, and great excitement is created by contests with local aspirants; the Five Musical Tritons, vocalists and instrumentalists, give some fine selections of high-class music, and Miss Lydia, a soprano vocalist of excellent quality, fully deserves the applause with which she is greeted. A very smart gymnast is Azella Wilson, with novel feats, and Sid Owen, Scotch comedian, pleases; Grace Dane, in song, is appreciated greatly, and Miss Alma de Liera captivates the audience with "The songs my mother used to sing." The ventriloquial efforts of Harry Vardon prove highly amusing; Fayre and McHenry, the "Two in green," are good at singing and dancing, and An Escaped Lunatic is the title of an amusing picture by the Empire Theatroscope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The various turns comprising the programme here this week are all well received by good houses. *A Trip to Coontown* given by Wm. Garland and Fred Douglas's company is thoroughly enjoyed; the Denwaris Troupe of five juvenile acrobats perform clever feats, and the Florias, in a novel and difficult wire act, earn a good reception; Miss Annie Schubert, soprano, is applauded for her delightful singing, and Gibbon and Bell, in an acrobatic potpourri, introduce good work; Pearce and Ward cause much laughter with their burlesque boxing; Jimmy Laurie, with smart talk, puts the audience in a merry mood; and Oliver Martyn is a success

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in his *Boxing Contest*. A good tragical picture The Mountaineer's Son is shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body. —*The Midnight Wedding*, by Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company, is drawing good houses this week. Miss Yvonne Orchardson gives a highly finished study as Princess Astrea; Miss Gwladys Faunce does extremely well as Satanella; a sympathetic audience soon recognises in Mr. A. E. Wennington Barnes (Paul Valmar) a hero of exceptional interest and ability. The unscrupulous Captain Rudolph and his victim Eugene are capably played by Mr. Mayor-Cooke and Mr. Forbes Harrison respectively. Three jovial comrades are Mr. Jas E. Page (Max), Mr. Harry Richardson (Otto), and Algie Spalding (Bobo), the later being extremely droll, especially in his scenes with Kathie (Miss Ada Champion). Mr. John Nesbett and Mr. Francis Hawley creditably sustain their parts. The play is admirably staged.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—A fine programme this week includes De Ganty's illuminated water grotto, a beautiful spectacle; Bennett and Martell, a pair of real comedians; the Five Juanitos, marvellous acrobats; Rita and Roma, in a little comedy act; Ethel Walker, who entertains at the piano; Phil Parsons, comedian; Lindon's Entertainers, in a sketch, *Monks at Play*; and Tom Colquitt, the great jumper.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Animated pictures are again the attraction here. The series this week is a good one, and includes The Lightning Postcard Artist, The Rag Picker Caricaturist, Scenes in Venice, Over the Sticks, Married Under Difficulties, Jones and the Lamp-post, and A Victim of Science.

THE HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Sons.—Some remarkably good turns are in this week's bill, the best one being a most interesting dramatic sketch, entitled *The Master Card*, played by Thompson Carruthers. Others are the Original Zedoras, gymnasts; David Poole, ventriloquist; Signor and Mme. Borelli, in humorous imitations; Brothers Ford, singers and dancers; Doyle and Massey, comedians; the Denchars, duettists and dancers; and Kendrick and Laura.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve. — *The Belle of Mayfair*, presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company, is drawing packed houses. Mr. Sidney Burt as Sir John Chaldicott brings out the humour of the part to the full; Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft is admirably suited as Raymond Finchley; Lord Mount Highgate is cleverly played by Mr. Stephen Hall; and Mr. Michael Raven's singing and acting as Hugh Meredith are far above the average. Other praiseworthy performances come from Mr. A. Batting (Comte de Perrier) and Mr. Lionel Yeoman (Simpson). Miss Nellie Barnwell is bewitching in the title-rôle; Miss Dora Lyons, a pretty dancer, makes a vivacious Pincott; Miss Denny Fitzherbert is delightful as Lady Chaldicott; and Miss Rosina Effingham plays Princess Ehrenbreitstein very gracefully, Lady Rosaline and the Gibson Girl being cleverly portrayed by Miss Grace Mackay. The excellent work of a powerful chorus, added to the rich dresses and mounting, make the piece remarkably attractive.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company in *Two Little Sailor Boys* provided the opening performance of the season on Monday. Mr. H. E. Herbert gives a fine reading of Noel Tregarthen; Miss Blanche Steele plays convincingly as Lola Grey; Mr. Horace Booth is sufficiently repulsive as Richard Redstone; Miss Effie D. Crawford and Miss Ivy Millais play admirably as the two boys; Miss Muriel Dean makes a pleasing Mildred Grey; Mr. Tom E. Seymour as Ben Baxter proves himself a capable comedian; and he is well assisted in the humour by Mr. Fred Acton as Jack Jolly and Miss Lizzie Chambers as Lucy Wilson.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—A visit has been paid this week by the delightful *Diana of Dobson's*, Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company presenting the piece with exceptional success. Miss Dorothy Green in the title-rôle charms all; Mr. H. Grendon Bentley achieves a great success as Captain Bretherton; Mr. Alfred Harris deserves praise for his impersonation of the baronet; Miss Mary Stuart, beautifully gowned, admirably fills the part of Mrs. Cantelupe; while Miss Nannie Griffin gains well-merited applause for her really fine representation of the old woman; the ladies of Dobson's are capably enacted by painstaking artists.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—George Gilbey makes a hit here with his funny representation of "Spouty," the goal-keeper; a more refined and purely mirth-making sketch than *Kleptomaniacs*, by Fred Edwards and company, could not possibly be desired; two concertina solos are contributed in finished style by Perci Honri; the Bros. Egbert once again delight us as the Happy Dustmen; Millie Payne, low comedy artist, evokes hearty laughter in her couple of up-to-date songs, her get-up in the "Directoire" gown being absurdly funny; the Hartley Wonders in a marvellous jumping speciality, are the best of their kind; Phil Rees' stable lads are most entertaining in their racing dialogue; Hal Hughman is an exceptionally talented imitator; and Maggie Walsh is also in the bill, of which the Bioscope is also an attraction.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—A large audience witnessed at the Royal on Monday night a fine performance of the brilliant drama *Leah Kleschna*. The piece is presented by H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. Mr. William Clayton in the part of Kleschna gives a powerful portrayal; Mr. Hamilton Deane fills the rôle of Paul Sylvaine with much effect; Miss Bessie Rignold is a powerful Leah; Mr. Gilbert Heron does well in the character of Schram; Raoul Burton is capitally impersonated by Mr. Algernon J. Hicks; and Mr. Charles Barrett as General Burton submits a dignified delineation.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton. —An unusual attraction here is a beauty competition for ladies, with prizes of £50, and numerous local beauties compete at each performance for the coveted honour; Miss Alice Hughes, a great favourite, goes down well in a musical comedietta entitled *Star of the Bazaar*; Ferguson and Mack make a hit with their amusing turn; J. W. Aitken and company appear in a realistic sketch called *Nihilism*; Marie Jones, protean artist, gains much appreciation; and the turns provided by Gold and Sterling (the Welsh girl and the artist), Annie Heath (a comedienne out of the ordinary), and Edwards and Dacre (in a comedy duologue), all add to the success of the programme.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. William Holles and Miss Nannie Goldman's company is here in the drama *The Stepmother*. Mr. Holles as Bob Bristow is a prominent feature in the performance; Miss Goldman as Danny is also conspicuous; and Mr. Edwin Stevens makes a capital comedy policeman. The piece is well staged.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Binns and Binns, who top the bill here, are new to Carlisle audiences; Miss Carlotta Levey renders catchy songs most effectively; a graceful and artistic trapeze performance by Alcide Capitaine is a popular feature; the singing of the Scottish Meisters is excellent; Frank Sylvo, quaint comedy juggler, is on a return visit; the twin Sisters Melba, duettists, and Ward and Davis, a comedy duo, contribute popular turns; and the Pepiscope, with some interesting pictures, complete a thoroughly enjoyable entertainment.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Sydney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas France; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—Mr. Sydney Bacon's Animated Picture company still continues to attract large and enthusiastic audiences. Gibson and Doyle, a couple of smart comedians, also entertain.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—A cordial greeting was accorded Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *A Fight for a Throne*. The scenery, dresses, and uniforms are all good. Mr. John S. Millward is an actor of great strength, and his portrayal of Capt. Jack Fortesque calls for warm praise; Miss Dora Hammersley gracefully undertakes Princess Esmee; Nicholai I. is ably represented by Mr. Gerald Byrnne; A vivid depiction of the dastardly Prince Otto is submitted by Mr. Chas. E. Linney; Lieut. Rodna is carefully and earnestly played by Mr. John Worth; while General Rodna, his father, receives effective treatment at the hands of Mr. Tom Roydon; Miss Margaretta Tueskie cast with appropriate spirit as Countess Valeska. The humours of the drama are by no means wanting. Mr. Chas. H. Hughes as Tom Ferret, a detective, keeps the audience in roars of laughter; while Miss Lilith Gabriel as Lady Pat and Mr. Patrick Evans as Lieut. Fitzmaurice also cause a considerable amount of amusement; Mr. Stewart Quartermayne is well placed as Sir George Coventry, and Mr. Eric B. Daventry makes a capital Sergeant.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Travis.—The Loyal Dominion Co.'s animated pictures are still a strong feature here, good audiences being in attendance. Most of the films are of a humorous description, but several dramatic subjects and views of travel are included. Miss Marion Blake renders several songs in a manner which meets well-merited applause. Percy Vale, a comedian and raconteur, sings well and tells several tales with fluency and precision.

CHATHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is here this week with *The Sailor's Wedding*, which is proving very popular. Mr. C. W. Standing makes a fine straightforward Gordon Drake; his friend, Sir Victor Lascelles, is capitally represented by Mr. Cecil Klein; Mr. Frank Stone makes a good Count Bellini; Mr. Hodgson Taylor is sufficiently villainous as Giovanni Ferici; and Mr. F. Finch Smiles does creditable work as Giacomo "of the evil eye"; Mr. Walter Pemberton is a fine breezy Jack Hawkins, and with Miss Belle Travers (Polly Clarke) is responsible for any amount of fun; Miss Maud Linden is effective and pleasing as the Countess Bellini; Miss Dulcie Greatwich makes a sweet little Mary, and Miss Winifred Pearson's Leonore de Gresac is a praiseworthy performance. The scenery and costumes are particularly good.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. Barnard.—Lotto, Lilo, and Otto are again making a big success here with their expert cycling act; another leading turn is that contributed by the Hilgert Arkas Company of Continental equilibrists; Joe Archer is back again with his comic songs and smartly delivered patter; Beau and Belle please with their vocal scena, *Past and Present*; McAskell, comic conjurer, Queenie Delle, comedienne and dancer, the Sisters Selwyn, duettists and dancers, and Geo. Porter, patter comedian, complete the variety turns, and Lacey's Erascope has a change of films.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis.—Mr. W. T. Ellwanger and a well-chosen company are giving the utmost satisfaction here with their sketch, *A Kiss*; Molly Maguire's Irish songs take well; Enzer proves very smart in a juggling act; H. E. Beresford, the bluejacket magician, has a flattering reception nightly; Eugene and Willie repeat their acrobatic musical act; Poppy Lytton and Jack Bland are favourites in *A Lesson in Love*; Louie Hurman and Jack Foley also appear, and the Edisonograph is up-to-date.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, in *The Bondman*, is here this week. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin scores heavily by his masterly acting as Jason; Mr. Oswald Lingard as Adam Fairbrother does well; Mr. Lionel Atwill is convincing as Michael Sunlocks; Miss Georgina Wynter acts with quiet power as Greeba; Mr. W. H. Rotherham has two parts; as the Grandfather he is thoroughly convincing, and no whit the less so as Father Ferrati; Mrs. Fairbrother is effectively personated by Miss Madge Lanerton; Doctor Boni is ably represented by Mr. F. G. Waller; Governor Testa is a telling impersonation in the hands of Mr. Alfred Fisher; Miss Lillian Mayne is good as Martha; as is Miss Emily Mayhew as Christian Ann; and the irrepressible children, Mona and Danny, are delightfully represented by Miss Gertrude Helene and Master Walter Neville.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Harry Foxwell's company, in the drama, *An Abandoned Woman*, is here this week under the direction and management of Mr. Teddy Myles. Mr. Herbert M. King as Captain Herbert Seaton is a distinct success; Mr. W. Fraser-Brunner is capable as Phillipe Malvoisin; Mr. Teddy Myles creating much humour as Paddy Boyle; Miss Marion West in the title-rôle, displays power; Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam attractively rendering Eleanor Deane; while Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner is vivacious as Sally Sloper.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—The Monckton Hoffe comedy company, by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell, is this week presenting *Irene Wycherley*. In the title-rôle Miss Maude Henderson showed real artistic skill; Mr. Charles Garry in the part of Philip Wycherley was powerfully dramatic; Mr Ralph Hutton as Sir Peter was extremely natural; Mr. Edward Sorley played Harry Chesterton with easy confidence; and Mr. Claude Haviland did well as Charles Summers; Miss Phyllis Stuckey was both naïve and vigorous as Muriel; and Miss Muriel Carmel was painstaking as Linda. As Lily Summers Miss Olive Warne was quite a success.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Mr. F. Mouillot and Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Chas. Baldwin's company of comedians and knockabouts, in the absurdity, *The Bank Clerks*, is the head of this week's programme. Great Scott, the London fireman, is seen to advantage on the unsupported ladder; George Antill, with his amusing eccentricities, is a much-applauded comedian; Lillian Rigby performs on various musical instruments with much success; Johnny Fuller, in his entertainment, goes extremely well; Ethel Hilliery is well received; and Florence Turner contributes with low comedy; and Pathé films are also an attraction.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell. —Mr. Reginald Dance and company opened a week's engagement here on Monday, presenting for the first time in Cork *Beau Brocade*, by Baroness Orczy and Montague Barstow. The title-rôle as played by Mr. Reginald Dance is a breezy performance; Miss Ruth Mackay filled the rôle of Lady Patience with marked ability; Mr. Frank Darch as the Earl of Stretton was convincing; and Mr. Frank Powell's delineation of Sir Humphrey Challoner was all that could be desired. Mr. Dalziel Heron as John Stutch was spirited and vigorous; Miss May Brooke as the Maid was successful; and Mr. Edward Irwin as the Village Nincompoop was full of humour. The play was preceded by a one-act piece entitled "Proof," by Alice Clayton Green.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The principal turn here is Miss May Moore Duprez, who contributes some capital songs and dances. Palette and his dog "Max" give a novel turn as a musician and sketch artist; Clarice Sefton sings and dances admirably; Carl Rosine, conjurer, assisted by Mlle. Margaret, provides a clever turn; the Four Regals introduce feats of strength; Ingram and Irving, comedians, have a humorous piece entitled *The Office Boy*; Les Voces remain over from last week; and the Sisters Allen are a smart pair of duettists and dancers. The Palascope continues to amuse with new pictures.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—*Woman and Wine* is always assured of a successful run here, and this week proves no exception. Miss C. St. Elmo gives an inimitable impersonation of the adventuress, Marcel Rigadout; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds invests with much spirit his part of Dick Seymour; Mr. J. Milne Taylor and Miss Violet Simms are successfully responsible for Dick's father and Mary Andrews; Mr. W. Manning is amusing as Professor Sauter; Mr. Harry Harrop as Charles Sauter; and Miss Ethel Vinroy as Mrs. Marlow, are also entertaining. Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers provide a pleasing interlude.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—Miss Annie Purcell is a graceful comedienne, and her songs are much appreciated; Pip Powell and Kate Vesey give a smart farcical comedy, entitled *A Perfect Woman*; Emmie Ames tunefully foretells events by the stars; Harry Taft is a comedian of great originality; Walter Stanley supplies an amusing interlude; the Sisters Hall are good vocalists; Max Gruber and Miss Adelina give a fine show with performing elephant, horse, and pony; and the Bioscope shows some good pictures.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—A well varied programme is drawing good houses here this week. Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and a company of comedians head the bill with a laughable comedy-sketch, entitled *The Cruise of H.M. Victory*. The Daunton-Shaw troupe of cyclists execute some exceedingly clever tricks; Herbert Shelley is successful with his Irish protean act, *Dan the Outlaw*; Vanando gives an amusing ventriloquial entertainment; Jack Pleasants is an entertaining comedian; Jack Hayton is a capable comedian and dancer; Venie Clements, comedienne, and the Three Meers, wire performers, also capably assist, and the Bioscope pictures conclude.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—An excellent programme here this week is headed by James Willard and company in the dramatic episode, *The Ace of Hearts*, which well deserves the commendation elicited. J. H. Milburn, vocal comedian and burlesque actor, makes himself a great favourite; Nelson Hardy, ventriloquist, with his doll "Joey," affords much amusement; Jules Kiaro proves himself a master of the equilibristic art; Spencer and Marks, as the "Stage-struck waifs," are another source of amusement, and introduce some very good dancing; Charles Morton is an excellent mimic and impersonator; Connie Gilbert, the charming vocalist, is very good; and the Operascope shows some excellent pictures.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson. Ltd.; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Wallace Davidson.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company occupies the boards here this week with the sensational drama, *Is Life Worth Living?* Mr. Ernest Owttrim is excellent as the heroic and amorous Lionel Roy; and the character of Isabel Corsbie is finely portrayed by Miss Jeannie Burgoyne. Miss Lilian Earle as Madge Roxton is a great success; Mr. Herbert Hollister as Randolph Kerr is most effective; and Mr. Harry Belford acts well as Roland Roxton. As the ruffian, Peter Sloke, and his worse half, Sally, Mr. Harry Bristow and Miss Lottie Moss are good; and the efforts of Mr. Victor Howard as Tim and Miss Pearl Noyle as Betty are fully appreciated. The scenic effect is realistic.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Great satisfaction is expressed in Croydon this week at the visit of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, the répertoire being *Carmen*, *Tannhäuser*, *The Bohemian Girl*, *Faust*, *Lohengrin*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and *Il Trovatore*. The first-named, on Monday, was splendidly mounted, and a fine chorus and artistic dresses added greatly to a superb production. Miss Doris Woodall acted with vivid actuality as Carmen, and submitted a performance of the highest order; Miss Christine Ritz gave an exquisite picture of Mercedes, and sang sweetly; Miss Bessie Cartwright made a picturesque Micaela; and Miss Annie Walker was in good voice as Frasquita. Mr. Edward Davies as José deserves a warm tribute of praise; Mr. Hesten Foster's commanding appearance admirably fitted him for the rôle of Escamillo, and his songs were heartily re-demanded; Mr. Alexander Richard gave due weight to the character of Zuniga; Mr. William Rousell did ample justice to the part of Morales; Mr. Herbert Felton made the most of Lilias Pastia; Mr. Frederick Clendon thoroughly identified himself with the character of Dancairo; and Mr. William O'Connor gave invaluable aid as Remendado; Mr. Walter van Noorden creditably conducted the large orchestra. The bookings for the week have been exceptionally heavy.

HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Mr. William A. Armour's company in *The Best of Her Sex* is here this week. Mr. Herbert J. Walton is a capable representative of Sir Stanton Faringdon; Mr. Percy Horton earns distinction as Philip Faringdon; Mr. Henry Lloyd portrays the villain, Leslie Verney, with force and skill; Mr. W. A. Armour gives an excellent representation of the Rev. Stephen Maxwell; Mr. Herbert de Ville maintains the difficult rôle of Jake Smith with dignity and power; Mr. J. W. Hooper deserves the highest congratulations upon his impersonation of P.-C. Peter Jorkins; Holy Joe is in the able hands of Mr. Dan Mining; and Mr. Hume Fergus as Simon Downey deserves praise. Miss Dora Price as Vera Delorme proves herself an accomplished actress; Miss Alvina Mining is seen to advantage in her high-class characterisation of the heroine; and Miss Alice Buckland is commendable as Polly Perkins.

DARWEN.—PUBLIC HALL, PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Lewers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Buval, the happy Dutchman, is well received; as also is Jessie Wilton, a dainty comedienne; Chas. Coll scores in his topical songs. The pictures are quite up to the standard.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company is here this week with *The Hypocrites*. Rachel Neve is most ably accounted for by Miss Gladys Harvey, whose portrayal is perfect; Mr. A. B. Imeson is admirable as the Rev. Edgar Linnell; Mr. Alfred S. Barber leaves nothing to be desired as Mr. Wilmore; Mr. King Fordham as Lennard is also praiseworthy; while Viveash is excellently played by Mr. Charles Harley. Miss Amy Ravenscroft makes a delightful Mrs. Wilmore, and Miss Gladys Purnell figures prettily as Helen Plagenet; the Rev. Everard Daubeney receives due justice at the hands of Mr. Cecil Brooking; Sir John Plagenet is well impersonated by Mr. Sydney Hamilton; Dr. Blaney is satisfactorily depicted by Mr. Hamworth Browning; Mrs. Blaney is played with consummate skill by Miss Florence Steventon; Mrs. Linnell is safe in the charming custody of Miss Madge Severne; and Patty is made thoroughly acceptable by Miss Violet Harley.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The Elliott-Savonas pay a return visit here this week, their rendering of the storm scene from *William Tell* being particularly fine, and with the aid of electrical stage effects they achieve an artistic triumph. Another old favourite is Sam Redfern, the black oracle, whose songs and business prove him a first-class comedian; the Milfords, comedians and dancers, are well received; Senorita Elvina, gymnast, performs daring feats in an exceptionally neat manner; the Milsted Bell Trio cause great hilarity in their knockabout sketch, *Three Sharps in a Flat*; Jan Vanbert, illusionist and smoke-painter, is a good all-round entertainer; and Ray Ford, comedienne, has some pretty songs which make her deservedly popular. The Bioscope projects the St. Leger film, which concludes a most acceptable programme.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Messrs. Van Biene and J. F. Traynour's company this week present *Man and Wife*, which proves a popular draw. Mr. J. F. Traynor takes the leading part of Paul in excellent style; Miss Kate Hallam as Marcelle is delightfully sympathetic; Messrs. Hall-Eldon and George Vinning relieve the heavier situations with some refreshing humour; and other capable members of the cast are Messrs. G. Overs, E. M. Hamilton, and G. Rammell, and Miss M. Doris.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—Devonport's latest addition to the halls entered on the second week of its career on Monday with a fine company, the opening number being a well-rendered song and dance by Miss B. Brillant, a comedienne of much promise. The Marvellous Woodwards furnish an attractive cycle-balancing act characterised by cleverness and precision; Hampton and Barron amuse with a negro turn entitled *Down in Kentucky*, which quite catches on; and Sam Spira proves a first-rate pianoforte entertainer. Mme. B. Stone, an operatic vocalist, was loudly recalled after a capital rendering of "The lost chord"; Alburtus and Jessie Millar, American artists, are acceptable in a sketch entitled *A Scene in the Fairgrounds*; and Charles Majilton and company conclude the bill with a humorous three-scene sketch entitled *The Trippers*.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—*The Flower-girl* is being played by Mr. Chas. M. Bestic's company. Mr. Martin Adeson makes one feel alive with his mirthful mannerisms and droll actions as Joe Wheeler, the "cabby," whose occupation is defunct by reason of the all-pervading, overpowering motor-car. In the rôle of the flower-girl, Lily, Miss Dorothy Firmin shows qualities of gracefulness, charm, and dignity, and achieves sincerity and effectiveness in her portrayal; Mr. Alf. Donahoe is a mirth-maker who has learned his trade and learned it thoroughly, and his version of Johnny Wheeler has a plenitude of humour in utterance and acting; Mr. Robert H. Howard develops to the best advantage the part of the Hon. Billy Greenhill; Mr. Norman Bowyer deserves very warm praise for his happily-presented conception of Reginald Rackit; Miss Florence Wilton is a piquant Lizette de Racquet, full of saucy diablerie and amusing sangfroid; Mr. Adnes infuses the Continental manner and accent into his acting and speech as Alphonse, and affords huge diversion to his audience; Miss Jeannie Holmes figures with amusing success as Miss Greenhill, a Suffragette, and caricatures the "politician in petticoats" with fine unction and energy. Other parts are suitably presented, including that of Bertie by Mr. F. Williams, who discharges his duties, vocal and otherwise, with pleasing ability.

DONCASTER. — NEW GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman. —The Shiavonis Troupe are full of merit as acrobats; Dolly Moore, male impersonator, is much admired; Fred Horsfall, vocal comedian, adds to his popularity by imitations; a delightful playlet, *Nell of the Halls*, with Mr. Hugh Ardale, Miss Leila Russell, and Miss Bardine as the principal contributors, gives the greatest satisfaction; the Three Tivoli Girls, vocalists and dancers, are fascinating and dainty; Lisbon and Barker, comedians, are clever in patter; and Zelda, with musical novelties, is applauded; Wal Owen, silent comedian, is refreshing.

DOUGLAS.—GRAND.—Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Hemming; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. R. Wood.—A large and appreciative audience witnessed the presentation of Mr W. Somerset Maugham's latest comedy of manners, *Jack Straw*, at the Grand on Monday evening. Miss Florence St. John was the accentuated attraction, but Mr. Lionel Glenister and Mr. J. W. Wood Ingram have surrounded their star with well-graced actors and actresses. Miss St. John's reception was enthusiastic. She played Mrs. Parker Jennings artistically. Mr. Lionel Glenister as Jack Straw afforded great amusement. The subsidiary characters were well played by Miss Edie Graham, Miss Lucie Milner, Miss Jessica Waters, and Miss Estelle Despa, Mr. Edgar Stevenson, Mr. Frederick Moyes, Mr. A. T. Guilfoy, and Mr. J. W. Ingram. The scenery is a duplicate of that used in the original production at the Vaudeville.

PALACE, LTD.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Fox, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Bullain.—For the final week of the season we have the De Wynne Brothers, comic athletes, who create much fun; Miss Barbara Babbington, a versatile comedienne; Mr. Mike Gray, an expert juggler; Miss Ada Gatley, in a novel act; the Sisters Aindow, in a pleasing musical interlude; Hanid Alexander, a refined and talented entertainer at the piano; and Miss Ada Gatley, a favourite turn. There is also dancing to the strains of Mr. Harry Wood's orchestra, and Vernon's Bioscope. The management have inaugurated dance competitions with prizes. On Thursday his Excellency the Governor of the Island, Lord Raglan, presented the trophy to the winning motorist, and the successful car was on exhibition.

MR. FREDERICK BUXTON'S concerts still continue, either in the open air or in a pavilion. Also Mr. Charles Dare, at the Empire Theatre, which he will continue all the winter, with two performances nightly, maintains his popularity.

DOVER.—PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. C. Whitelock.—The Four Rio Brothers, who top the bill this week, are gymnasts of exceptional skill, their sensational feats being neatly and cleanly performed; the amusing patter of Mr. Chas. Gardiner and his songs make his turn very popular; Miss Gladys Hooley's violin playing is displayed to advantage in the musical episode "The Violin Girl"; in *The Artist and the Intruder*, presented by Stevens and Gillard, the latter cleverly impersonates celebrities, the former sketching their portraits in chalk with lightning rapidity; the Sisters Du Cane have an original and amusing act, their singing and dancing being of a high order of merit; smart cross-talk is the main feature of The Lorrisons' performance; Miss Lil O'Gorman has two good songs in "Pretty picture postcards to-day" and "What a terrible thing to be tall." The Hippodrome pictures conclude.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—A large audience gave Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company a warm greeting on Monday, when they produced, for the first time here, *Brewster's Millions*. Mr. Percy Hutchison is exceedingly funny in the character of Monty Brewster; Miss Cicely Stuckey is all that can be desired in the rôle of Margaret Grey (Peggy); Mr. Cyril Rawdon ably portrays the part of Charlie Harrison; and Miss Violet Ley is dainty and pleasing as Mrs. Dan De Mille. Mr. Robert Forsyth capitally fills the part of Mr. Grant; Miss Frances Davie acquits herself admirably as Janice Armstrong; Mr. A. Andrews is well placed as Colonel Drew; Miss Sybil Walsh makes an acceptable Trixie Clayton; Mr. Frank Hill creates much amusement as Rawles; and the Barbara Drew of Miss Eva Stuart is quite satisfactory. Mr. Henry Hampson makes the most of the part of Archie Golding; and Miss Mary Seton is excellent as Miss Boynton.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Miss Lena Ashwell and her excellent company are here this week, and on Monday night *Diana of Dobson's* was presented. Miss Lena Ashwell scored a brilliant success as Diana Massingberd; Mr. C. M. Hallard deserves commendation for a clever impersonation of Captain Bretherton; and Miss Frances Ivor was particularly good as Mrs. Cantelupe. A word of praise is due to Mr. Dennis Eadie as Sir Jabez; and Miss Gertrude Scott was a distinguished Mrs. White Fraser. Constable Fellowes had an able exponent in Mr. Norman McKinnel; and Miss Nannie Bennett as Miss Smithers, Miss Mary Barton (Kitty Brant), Miss Muriel Vox (Miss Jay), Miss Doris Lytton (Miss Morton), and Miss Ada Palmer (Miss Pringle) were also successful. Mr. W. Lemmon Warde was satisfactory as the waiter; and Miss Beryl Mercer played the old woman with excellent effect. The piece is preceded by *The Likes of Me*. *Irene Wycherley* is also billed.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones. — Thomas Sweeney, "the Dublin singing jarvey," sings his songs in capital style, and is deservedly applauded; the Sisters Ford, character and comedy duettists, give a pleasing turn; and Bob Pearson, the popular humorist and guide, is going as strong as ever. The films shown are excellent.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The principal attraction here this week is Miss Arabella Allen, "the Dickens Girl"; Johnson and Bert, in their novel act, *A Queer Customer*, create roars of laughter; Jennie Johns renders her songs in a charming manner; Charles Leighton in his pianoforte selections is decidedly popular; Stewart and Morgan, in a pleasing vocal act, make a hit; Bob Hamilton keeps the audience highly amused; Wee Mona Vivian, juvenile vocalist and dancer, is greatly appreciated; Bert Osborne, actor vocalist and banjoist, is well received; and the Empire pictures are always worthy of notice.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Another capital bill of fare is provided here. A charming spectacle, entitled "Electra's Dream," is presented by Abdullah and Superbe; Kurkamp, the singing conductor, is heartily applauded; Victor Courtney at the piano gives a turn of much merit; the Ramlos, in their comedy bar act, are clever and entertaining; the Days, second-sight performers, achieve success; Woodhouse and Wells are expert dancers; Daisy Reed has good songs; the Olmars work hard in their acrobatic act; Edith Chantler, child vocalist, renders some talking songs and the Bioscope concludes.

ROUND ROOM, ROTUNDA. — The Irish Animated Photo Company on Monday entered on their seventh and last week here. The artists who contribute include Mr. Patrick O'Shea (tenor), Miss Agnes Meehan (contralto), and Mr. Ralph Goggin (baritone). The orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Harry Peters.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—Bett and Bett, comedy couple; Harry Monkhouse, descriptive vocalist; Sadie Yost, comedienne; Walter Conilla, chorus vocalist; Tom E. Swift, descriptive vocalist; Foster and West, duologue artists; and the Cinematograph.

PAVILION (KINGSTOWN).—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—The reappearance here of *The Saucy Arethusa* company attracted a large audience on Monday. Mr. Bertram Noel's singing of "Wondering Willie" was warmly applauded; Mr. J. W. Hughes's fine baritone was heard to advantage in "The Garden Beautiful" and "Jack's at home at sea"; Miss Claire Reed sang "Love is meant" and "Voices of the wood" in capital style; The Adeler and Sutton Girl" and "The Travelling Menagerie," by Mr. Kemsley Scott-Barrie, were heartily enjoyed. On Thursday evening, the popular manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott, took his benefit.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Charles Macdona as Freddy Popple in *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*, has delighted Dudley audiences this week, his artistic portrayal of the country gentleman being greatly admired. Miss Nellie Hodson as La Bolero displays an attractive personality combined with rare skill. Another prettily-played part is that of Louise by Miss May Hart, who secures well-merited encores. Mr. Cecil Du Cane acts with earnestness and fervour as Norman Popple; Messrs. Nap Barry as George Hennay and James Stevenson as Henry Doring, together with their respective wives, represented by the Misses Lilian Last and Amy Singleton, cause endless fun; Miss Marie Moss as Violet

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Brintor acts in charming and sympathetic style. Another well-played part is that of Platt (Freddy's servant) by Mr. Tom May, who deserves praise.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. B. Peberdy.—The Four Juggling Breens are an attractive top turn, and supply some humorous business; Horace Shrillo is an operatic whistler of the highest order; the Sisters Draycott are first-class vocalists; W. G. Webber is a bass singer of good calibre; Harry Piquo, comedy gymnast; Vi Gibson's Girls, in song and dance; Amos Howard, the American dancing comedian; and the Empire pictures help to make up a good programme.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*Her Second Time on Earth* is staged here this week in that complete manner usual with Mr. Walter Melville. For the part of Dora Grey an admirable artist is found in Miss Edith Blande, whose acting leaves nothing to be desired; Miss Emily Stevens plays the part of Mrs. Burke exceedingly well; and Miss Amy Venimore and Miss Gladys Newcombe as Laura Norman and the maid respectively likewise do well; Mr. Robert Purdie makes a manly Jack Carlton; Mr. Otto Minster is very effective as the Captain; Beppo is made a striking and picturesque character by Mr. A. Fellows Bassett, and the villainous Guy Brand is capitally represented by Mr. Ellis J. Preston.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Moul; Local Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—The Royal Tokio Troupe are topliners, and give a capital exhibition of skill; Sid Cotterell and company, in *The Substitute*, cause screams of laughter; a mirth-provoking act is given by Hunter and Maris; Sandy and Carl, comedians and burlesque boxers, are both amusing and clever; Dusty Rhodes treats us to some excellent patter; and Fred Poplar, comedian, is accorded a warm welcome. Also appearing are Kitty Wager, a *chic* comedienne; Charles Banks and his dog; Harry Marie, who gives a novel dancing act; and the Sisters Marion, duettists; and the Bioscope also provides entertainment.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The place of honour here is held by Lowenwirth and Cohan, who make a hit; Bosanquet, with his violin, proves a remarkable turn; and Yvonne Lamor gives a very realistic impersonation of Maud Allan in "Salome"; George d'Albert, a versatile comedian, receives repeated recalls; Welda and Wynne are seen to much advantage in their juggling act; Eva Darton, a sweet Japanese singer; Atlas and Collins, the eccentric comedy couple, and the Three Calbas, in a clever acrobatic act, supply the rest of a capital bill of fare.

EMPIRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A delightful cinematograph exhibition is being exhibited by the Franco-British Moving Picture Company. The variety part of the programme is ably sustained by James Miller, a fine baritone singer; Joe Humphreys, a good all-round comedian; and Rosie Dawn, an expert dancer.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—Large and appreciative audiences assemble twice nightly to enjoy the long and varied programmes of pictures submitted here; Johnnie Beveridge, a local comedian, and a diabolo contest, for which handsome pictures are offered, are also attractive items.

GILFILLAN HALL.—The entertainment provided here by the B.B. Pictures Co. is being much appreciated. In addition, Mr. Harry Liston and Miss Lord Lumley appear in their clever humorous sketches. A special matinée was given on Wednesday afternoon, the proceeds being handed over to the unemployed fund.

DUNFERMLINE.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—The popularity of Mr. J. W. Turner and his English Opera Company was evidenced by the large and appreciative audience which gathered on Monday to witness the production of *Maritana*. Mr. Turner himself took the rôle of Don Cæsar de Bazan, and sang superbly. Miss Christine Gomez, who plays Maritana, is possessed of a voice of considerable power and quality, and achieved great success. Mr. Tom Griffiths as Don Jose gave an admirable impersonation of the part; Mr. Frank Clarke did equally well as Charles II.; Miss Jessie Dennis was an excellent Lazarillo; and the chorus and orchestra contributed a large share to the success of the performance. *The Bohemian Girl* and *Faust* complete the three nights' engagement. Mr. Coleman Davies's company in *Beneath the Stars* is billed for the last three nights of the week.

EASTBOURNE.—NEW PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Payne Seddon's company appeared here during the earlier part of the week in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. The interesting drama was very well staged, and the company proved a capable one. Mr. C. H. Croker-King as Jasper gave a powerfully impressive performance, penetrating and effective yet free from exaggeration; Mr. Riddell Robinson's work as Edwin Drood commanded high praise for its realism and effectiveness; Mr. Edward Thirlby was equally at home in the serious and humorous sides of the rôle of Mr. Grewgious; Mr. Charles Bruce was a well-defined and earnest Neville Landless; Mr. Lloyd Townrow contributed a fine character study as Durdles; and Mr. Leslie Ray as Crisparkle and Mr. Henry Williams as the Dean were satisfactory. Miss Nita Charlton was a pleasing, girlish Rosa; Miss Gladys Jesson was an attractive and animated Helena; Mrs. William Mallalieu as the old hag Princess Puffer contributed clever and sound work; and other parts were in good hands. Mr. Herbert Ralland's company was to appear later in the week in *His House in Order*.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. James Welch's excellent company is appearing here this week in *When Knights Were Bold*, and crowded houses are being nightly kept in orars of laughter. To Mr. Henry J. Ford falls the lion's share of the work as Sir Guy de Vere, and his cleverness and ability as a comedian were again and again recognised. Mr. Cecil Clayton is a distinct and individual Widdicombe; Mr. William Lockhart is a happy and comfortable Dean Pottleberry; Mr. Vernon Sansbury is very effective as Isaacson; Mr. George Rowlands is an admirable Sir Brian Ballymote; Mr. Talbot Homewood is a quietly skilful Wittle; and Mr. Reginald Hunter is a helpful Barker. Miss Bruce-Joy is a dignified and charming Lady Rowena; Miss Ethel Royale is a realistically aristocratic Mrs. Waldegrave; Miss Violet Grahame and Miss Gretchen Yates are the attractive representatives of Lady Millicent and Lady Marjorie; Miss Adrienne Yates and Miss Bessie Walters do capitally as Kate and Alice; and Miss Phyllis Back as Miss Isaacson introduces very commendable work. The Follies were billed for the latter half of the week.

THE ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Florence and Lillian occupy the place of honour here this week, and in their artistic work as musicians they obtain great applause. Miss Georgette Thierry and company appear in a finely staged and played sketch, *A Daughter of the Revolution*; Lord, Murray, and Lord again entertain with their smart athletic act; Miss Eleanor Lorraine sings very charmingly; Mr. Johnny Val is a comedian who dances admirably; Miss Lily Eyton is a dainty and pleasing comedienne; the Fedora Quartet sing and dance smartly; and new pictures are shown.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. G. F. Slatter.—Messrs. Alf. Northway and W. V. Garrod are presenting here *A Country Girl in London*. Miss Bertha Kingstone as Marjorie Hamilton gives immense satisfaction, as does Miss Leslie Adair in the rôle of Adelaide Puttyphat. Miss Josephine Colonna gives a strong rendering of Gwendoline Gordon; Frank Gordon is capably depicted by Mr. W. V. Garrod; Mr. S. John Sheridan acts well as the Squire; and Mr. G. Moreton Williams does full justice to the part of Godfrey Clinton.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Herbert Sleath and the Lyric Theatre company had a gratifying reception here on Monday when they began a six nights' engagement with *A White Man*, which riveted the interest of a crowded audience from first to last. It received an admirable interpretation. Mr. Herbert Sleath as Captain James Wynnegate played with force, passion, and pathos. The scene in which he bids good-bye to his little son was acted with great feeling, and deeply moved the audience. Miss Gertrude Ellis played the Countess of Kerhill with grace, charm, and the power of dramatic expression; Mr. George Fawcett, a character-actor of rare ability, realised alike in physique, and many vivid touches in acting, the part of Big Bill; while clever sketches of the "cow punchers" were given by Mr. Cecil Yapp as Shorty, Mr. S. J. Warmington as Andy, and Mr. Richard F. Symons as Grouchy. Mr. Menifee Johnstone's Cash Hawkins was an admirable piece of work; and Mr. A. S. Aspland made an outstanding figure of the Chief of the Utes. Miss Dorothy Dix excited the sympathies of the audience by the genuine art of her impersonation of the Indian girl, Nat-u-rich; the child, Little Hal, was prettily played by Miss Victoria May Harris; and capital acting of small rôles was accomplished by Miss Emma Gwynne, Miss Enid Sass, Mr. A. G. Poulton, and Mr. Harold Richardson. The drama, which was realistically mounted, evoked the loud applause of the audience again and again, recalls being frequent, and Mr. Sleath had to appear at the end in response to the enthusiasm, and express his thanks on behalf of himself and his fellow-artists.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—A crowded holiday house gave a cheery welcome on Monday to Mr. Milton Bode's principal company with *The Belle of Mayfair*. Mr. Harry Parker and Miss Nellie Cozens caused much amusement as the parvenu couple, Sir John and Lady Chaldicott; Mr. Percy Yorke, in his old part of the peppery Earl of Highgate, rendered the notable "Military" song with great gusto; Mr. Laurence Wensley's powerful voice was used with good effect in the part of Hugh Meredith; Raymond Finchley found a satisfactory representative in Mr. Edward Hugonnet; and Mr. Laurie Lisle was entertaining as the Comte de Perrier; a careful portrayal of Dr. Marmaduke Lawrence was given by Mr. G. McGloskie. Miss Florence Imeson, with her pleasing and expressive singing, made a very attractive Julia; Miss Blanche Astley was a smart lady's maid; Miss Agnes Tandy created a good impression as the Princess; and the accustomed applause was accorded to Miss Aurelie de Loriere for her "Gibson girl" song. Beautiful stage setting and handsome costumes lent their aid to an excellent production.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—An excellent company here includes the popular comedian Mr. Harry Ford, who scores a success with his song "Wondering" and other humorous contributions; Miss Violet King gives a remarkably clever entertainment, in which she shows equal command of the violin and the pianoforte; the Lannons (Will and May) display grace and dexterity in their high pedestal act, *The Dancing Policeman and the Maid*; Bayne and Hope are dramatic and effective in the sketch *An Emperor's Divorce*; Mr. Steve Bartle plays with excellent taste on the Edeophone and the English concertina; Sims and Sims are good in their musical sketches; and Mr. Chas. Carr, comedian; the Sisters Cora, duettists and dancers; and the Bioscope impart additional interest to the programme.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—That merry comedian Mr. Mark Sheridan heads the bill here this week, and his entertaining patter and amusing songs, rendered with great art, cause abundant laughter; Miss May Edouin, a graceful comedienne with a taking style and a cultivated voice, calls forth loud applause; the Bensons provide a clever musical sketch, *The Page and the Maid*, in which they introduce expert dancing; the Ten-Ji Troupe give a delightful exhibition of sleight-of-hand tricks, their feats with miniature water-fountains being particularly noticeable; the Craggs are seen to advantage in their sketch entitled *Billy*, an act full of droll business and expert tumbling; Miss Lottie Govell is a capital comedienne and dancer; Mr. Gus le Clerq is an excellent comedian; the Four Jumels show distinct ability in their musical act, and the Bioscope displays a series of amusing films.

PORTOBELLO NEW TOWER PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harry Maryello.—The vaudeville season, which has been highly successful, in spite of the attractions of the Scottish National Exhibition, is drawing to a close. The summer company includes several talented artists, such as Mr. Michael Kemble, Mr. Sam Thomson, Miss Elaine Cliff, and Miss Victoria Carmen, while Mr. Geo. Cornille-Pescud, whose comedietta, *The Emperor Commands*, is noticed in another column, has been very happy in his writing and rendering of topical songs.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The return visit of *Sergeant Brue* has drawn crowded houses, and Mr. Benet's company has won enthusiastic applause. Mr. Denis Lyndon, in the title-rôle, gives a natural and finished impersonation; Mr. Lister Morrah has a fine tenor voice, and his personation of Michael Brue makes him a special favourite; the Crookie Scrubbs of Mr. Harry Benet is a most amusing piece of acting; Miss Ray Anderson's graceful presence is of much value in the charming personation of Lady Bickenhall; and Miss Daisy Dale, as Aurora Brue, and Miss Stella Miller, as Daisy, the servant, are both clever and smart.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. Gilbert Payne's company presented the musical oddity *The Honeymoon* to large audiences. The piece is admirably staged, and the parts are very capably filled. The pivot of the play is, of course, Mr. Gilbert Payne himself, who as Nathaniel Noodle has a part which seems much to his liking. In speech and action he has a great wealth of quite original "business," which provides the laugh incessant for his audience. A feature of the play is the speciality dances by the Godfrey Girls. On Thursday night, in the same theatre, Messrs. Sidney Rennef and G. M. Copping's company opened a three nights' engagement with the domestic drama *Love Rules the World*.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—We are this week favoured with a visit from Mr. Walter Melville's company in *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Mr. J. Fortescue as Jack Livingstone gives a capitally effective performance; as John Meadows, the old farmer, Mr. Chas. Feanmore is responsible for a sound piece of character acting; Mr. Edward Valentine enacts the part of Dr. Weston in a thoroughly finished manner; and Mr. Edward Chester as Cuthbert Lumley is all that could be desired. Miss Hilda Beverley as Barbara Wade has a part which requires careful and artistic handling; and the lady is to be complimented on her complete success in the character; Miss Dorothy Hildebrand gives a realistic impersonation of Constance Cornell; Miss Kate Walton as Jessie Wilson is very bright and pleasing; Miss Daisy Maynard as Tilly Vane is bright and vivacious; and Miss Nita Langford as Nellie Meadows is natural and convincing. The staging is all that could be desired.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—The bill for the first three nights of the week was supplied by Mr. Leigh Lovel, Miss Octavia Kenmore, and company in Ibsen's plays, *Hedda Gabler*, *A Doll's House*, and *The Master Builder*. The week opened with the tense drama *Hedda Gabler* to an appreciative audience. Miss Octavia Kenmore as the ill-fated Hedda proved herself to be an emotional actress of exceptional power. The part of Egbert Lovborg allows Mr. Leigh Lovel to appear on the stage in two acts only, but the whole sentiment of the play hinges upon his striking personality, and it was admirably maintained. As the too-confiding Mrs. Elvestead Miss Gladys Morris was a complete success, holding the sympathy of the audience from start to finish; George Jerman, the scholarly husband of Hedda, is a difficult rôle to sustain, but Mr. Claud W. Sykes proved himself equal to the task; Judge Braek, the evil genius of the play, was cleverly portrayed by Mr. E. Stanley Yorke; and the other characters were well sustained by Miss Katherine Maynard and Miss Amy Wood. For the last three nights Mr. Chas. Frohman's company in *The Hypocrite* was billed.

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—The Poppies, a smart costume concert party, are appearing here this week with success, drawing good houses.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—For the last three nights last week we had Mr. Campbell Kelly's company with *A Gamble With Life*. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Mr. C. Watson Mills' company appeared in *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss Florence Melrose Millett gave a superb rendering of the principal part; Mr. Eric Campbell was excellent as Murley; and the rest of the characters were well played by Mr. Milner Noble, Mr. J. Andsell Wilson, Mr. Arthur Robinson, Miss Talbot, Miss Reynolds, &c.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Local Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—A very amusing operatic burlesque, entitled *The Singing Servants*, presented by Joe Peterman, heads the bill here; Luis Hardt, in a new scena, *Flights of Imagination*, performs some almost incredible feats of strength; Allis and Cassati, in a comedy act, form one of the cleverest pairs seen here for some time; Harry Nelson, a local dialect comedian, makes a decided hit; Tom Kelso and company are on a return visit with *The Yorkshire Servant*; Renée, a girl juggler, is highly praised; Roy Beavis is an uncommonly smart conjurer, and the pictures shown by Vernon's Bioscope are attractive.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Lingford Carson sends a powerful company to present *The Power of The Cross* at this house. Mr. George A. De Gray (the author) provides a finished portrayal of the chief figure, Baron Curzola; and a clever actor in the person of Mr. Robt. Hall does full justice to the part of Gerald Fairfax. Very convincing is Mr. Alex. J. Haviland in the rôle of Dr. Fairfax; and Mr. Francis Serle efficiently depicts the shady solicitor Hawke. Some very humorous lines emanate from Tim O'Dowd, a part capitally played by Mr. Tyrone Power. Miss Annie Hylton presents a very intelligent rendering of the part of Margaret Seaton, and the adventuress, Rita Lascelles, receives excellent treatment at the hands of Miss Stella Carmichael. Miss Phyllis Vaughan seems well fitted for the rôle of Blanche Kingsley, and the lighter side is in the capable hands of Miss Etta Turner, who excels in the rôle of Dolly Gray.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—A large audience gathered on Monday to witness the presentation of Mr. Arthur W. Pinero's play *The Thunderbolt*, and a considerable amount of appreciation was shown. The company are well up to their work, every part being adequately sustained. Mrs. Patrick Campbell is very charming and natural in her portrayal of Phyllis; Mr. Julian Royce is to be congratulated upon his able embodiment of Thaddeus; and Miss Stella Patrick Campbell gives an excellent character-study of Helen Thornhill; James Mortimore, in the hands of Mr. Murray Carson, is worthy of commendation; as also is the Colonel Ponting of Mr. Nigel Playfair.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—A crowded house and appreciative audience welcomed Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton here on their opening in *Othello*. A powerful and telling performance of the hapless Moor was given by Mr. Asche, while the Desdemona of Miss Brayton was a splendid conception, restrained yet convincing. Mr. Herbert Grimwood revelled in the villainies of Iago, and fully shared the honours of the evening; Mr. Caleb Porter was excellent as the old father, Brabantio; Mr. Ian Penny as Cassio was another able member of the cast, and his acting in the quarrel scene was accorded most hearty applause; the affected Roderigo was cleverly played by Mr. G. Kay Souper; Miss Constance Robertson as Emilia; Mr. J. Fritz Russell as the Duke; Mr. Ewan Brooke as Gratiano; and Mr. James Siden as Lodovico all gave able support. On later evenings Frank Stayton's mediæval comedy *The Two Pins* was played, and also *The Taming of the Shrew*.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *The New East Lynne* is the attraction here this week, and is being well received. Miss Beth Elliott as Lady Isabel is equally powerful as the jealous wife and the sorrowful mother; Mr. Frederick Harker gives a quietly dignified portrayal of Archibald Carlyle; and the unscrupulous Francis Levison is ably rendered by Mr. W. H. Garbois. An amusing character well performed is Murty O'Flynn, by Mr. Richard Nugent; Miss Guinevere Shilton cleverly doubles the parts of the sisters Afy and Joyce Hallijohn; Miss Daisy Gwynne acts pleasantly the part of Barbara Hare; and the child part of Willie Carlyle is nicely interpreted by Miss Doris Denville. Richard Hare gets a good rendering at the hands of Mr. W. T. Ellonby, and Mr. Byron Pedley makes an amusing Mr. Dill; Miss Sophy Shenton brings out all the contrariness of Cornelia Carlyle.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Artistic performances of *The Sign of the Cross* have been responsible for a successful week here. Mr. William Greet's chief company includes Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee, whose performance as Marcus is most effective. Mr. C. Yorke as Nero; Mr. Charles Aldred as Tigellinus; and Mr J. Weatherall as Licinius show a fine conception of their parts; Mr. Frank Wood as Glabrio is quietly humorous; Mr. Walter Fleet and Mr. Clifton Yates give a most natural representation of Favius and Titus respectively; Miss Constance Little as Mercia makes a profound impression; Stephanus is presented in a sympathetic manner by Miss Edith Drayson; and Miss Beryl Hamilton as the Empress, Miss Lily Ward as Berenice, and Miss Cissie Carlton as Dacia figure prominently.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Patrons here are being entertained this week by Mr. Chas. H. Lester and company in *A Life for a Life*. Mr. Lester as Don Leon Fernandez fills the leading part capably; Miss Beatrice Anderson as Aulalia is satisfactory.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—*The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*, which last week filled the bill at the Princess's, is this week at Govan.

EMPIRE, LTD.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Fred Karno's company in *Moses and Sons* is the attraction here. The cast is a good one, and includes Fred Kitchen, who again proves himself a favourite with the Glasgow public. Another good turn is provided by Albert Whelan, whose singing and whistling are highly appreciated; in place of the old favourite, J. W. Rowley, who is indisposed, J. Johnston, the copper coon, makes a successful appearance; the Narow Bros. are amusing eccentrics on wheels; Frank Leon is a wonderfully expert dancer; Marguerite Arrold, the French vocalist, sings several ballads; and Fred Locking is heard to advantage in illustrated songs; Blanche Vincent, burlesque actress, is well received, and an excellent series of pictures is shown on the American Bioscope.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The chief item here this week is *The Capture of Venus*, presented by J. C. Piddock and company, in which mirth and music are happily blended. Radie Furman, called "the jolly Dutch girl," sings and dances in the favourite coon style; Colin Bryce and company give a laughable sketch, *Are You a Socialist?* Dolly Denton is a pleasing singer and dancer; Madoline Rees, a comedienne who infuses much feeling into her songs, and the Bros. Zenary in *A Meeting at the Club* do some graceful acrobatic feats. The Bros. Lawrence's dancing, the Three Arleys, in trick cycling, Leah Adell, with a fine presence and a good voice, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—An interesting and varied bill of fare is supplied this week, the chief item of attraction being the impersonation of a Virginian Judge by Walter C. Kelly; Chanti is responsible for a capital quick-change entertainment; the Brooklyn Comedy Four sing excellently; as trick cyclists the Sisters Warwick are well received; the Three Panamas in a pot-pourri act also come in for a good reception; Williams and Warden are amusing Irish comedians; W. H. Downs, the coloured ballad vocalist, is well received on a return visit; and Princess Pauline is a comedienne with taking songs and a good voice.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The company here is worthily headed by Von Etta, a lady who gives wonderful examples of sleight-of-hand and quick changes; Tom E. Hughes' talent as a character comedian is fully appreciated; the operatic scena of Dora Barrington affords a treat for those who like good music; while in the way of a screaming farce there is W. T. Thompson and company in *Watch the Chalk*; Tatten Hall cleverly burlesques the songs of the day; American comedy is well represented by Halter and Ray in *The Hebrew and the Maid*; Bernard and Weston's humour is sound and wholesome; Mabelle May sings and dances gracefully; and *The Meet* of Keith and Merson provokes a hearty laugh.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Bella and Bijou are appearing here this week, in their latest sketch, *The Suffragette*, an immense success; St. Alban and Moore's company give the castle scene from *Les Cloches de Corneville* with capital effect, the principal performers being Kitty Brownless (Serpolette), E. St. Alban (Gaspard), Marian Ayling (Germaine), and Conrad Kingsley (Marquis). The dramatic episode, *Told in a Flat* is presented in good style by Harry Rogers and company; David Stewart is a pleasing singer of illustrated chorus songs; and George Newburn is a popular mimic; the Jackley Trio with their whistling comedian provide an amusing act; some smart dancing is submitted by the New York Nippers; the cake walking of C. J. Johnson is highly diverting; and Nellie Martelle proves a good exponent of song and dance.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Perhaps the best turn seen in this popular house for some time past is that of Horace Wheatley. This well-known Irish comedian has lost none of his old wit, and his reminiscences of McIntyre are responsible for continuous laughter. His dancing, too, is still of the same high-class order, and the vociferous appreciation of his audiences goes far to prove his immense popularity. Joe Wesley and his minstrel company are well received; Florrie Bray's choruses are catchy, and Harry Bland, comedian, is well received. This week a dancing competition is being carried through, with Mr. Joe Wesley as judge.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The variety turns here include the Three Neros, a trio of smart acrobats and contortionists; Alf Bentley, mimic; Tom Melrose, vocalist and dancer; Nellie Joyce, comedienne and dancer. There is in addition the Bioscope.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE, LTD.—Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—A welcome return visit of Ernie Myers is made this week, and his turn is thoroughly enjoyable; Adams and Ward give an excellent acrobatic comedy entertainment; an original protean act by Miss Addie Dorina is well received; and Bert Woodward, the cycling coon, is much above the average. A pleasing number is contributed by Miss Lily Lonsdale, who sings with taste; the Two Madges speedily find favour; Julian Mack proves to be a quaint and interesting "Dame"; Flo Melville is clever and bright in songs; and the Palacescope concludes as usual.

KING'S HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The initial night of this hall with Animated Pictures drew a full house. Some admirable films were shown, and proved to be quite to the taste of the audience. Welcome variety is added by Miss Nicholas in illustrated songs.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—On Monday Mr. Dickie Clare and company presented the farcical absurdity *Lucky 'Liza*. The title-rôle is daintily interpreted by Miss Madge Brownie, who, in addition to being a sweet singer, is a clever dancer. Mr. Dickie Clare in the dual rôle of Silas Slim and the Judge is screamingly funny; Miss Vesta Brownie plays Virginia with spirit and vivacity, her songs and dances being worthy of special mention; Mr. F. W. Benson is an effective Peter Pettitoe; Mr. Norman H. Lee a highly amusing Paul; Mr. J. W. Forrest contributed largely to the success as Bimns; Mr. Harry George is an excellent Barnaby Blatherwick; and Mr. Jack Harrington a lively Tompkins. Miss Evelyn Wood is a charming Sadie Potts, and Miss Helen Douglas is well placed as Marie Pettitoe. The dances by the La Belle Trio meet with warm appreciation.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM. — Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—A large audience greeted the first appearance in Yarmouth of Miss Emma Hutchison's and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in *Lady Frederick*. In the title-rôle Miss Mabel Love plays with irresistible charm, and is a big favourite with the audience; Mr. Robert Minster gives an excellent portrayal of Paradine Fouldes; Lord Mereston has a clever exponent in Mr. E. F. Meades; Miss Eleanor Delaporte plays with natural charm as Lady Mereston; Captain Gerald Gumbier is excellent as Admiral Carlisle; and Mr. Edward Bonfield is good as Captain Montgomery.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—The Seven Wulfrunas are popular with their comedy acrobatic turn; a pretty cycling exhibition is given by the Whitworth Girls; Campkin, the tramp cyclist, is clever as well as funny; the Babusio Bros. appear in a sensational head-to-head acrobatic act; Silbin introduces some cleverly trained cats; Jock Neil, the Scotch comedian, scores a success; and Doodles and his satellite poodles are still very popular.

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Chappell's vaudeville company is appearing here this week. Miss Ada Victor is a pleasing vocalist; Leslie Reed sings some good character songs; Mr. Harry Barker, a very refined entertainer, is a big success; Mr. Jack Heath delights everyone with his funny songs; Daisy Silcott sings a catchy Dutch song; Byden Currie is an exceptionally clever ventriloquist; Bros. Hannaway are smart cross-talkers; Ernest D'Almaine is a good tenor; J. H. Crew is funny; Blanche Marion is a charming comedienne; Roberts's sporting dog act is very popular; Nora Doone is an excellent singer of coon songs; and excellent pictures are exhibited on the Britannia-scope.

THE GEM.—This place of amusement finished last week a successful season of continuous performance from 11 o'clock in the morning till 11 o'clock at night. From Monday last two shows nightly have been given, and so successful has the first week been that the same arrangement will be continued during the winter. The Gem is controlled by a company, the managing-director of which is Mr. C. B. Cochran. The programme for the first half of the week included Incendiary Foreman, Saved by a Cripple, Earth to Moon, Pied Piper of Hamelin, A Little Hero, The Miser, Juvenile Scientist, Through the North, Customs in Australia, Dynamite Throwers, and Take a Sail in My Boat, an illustrated song.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—That popular actor-vocalist, George Leyton, presents his latest successes, including his famous military scena, *Boys of the Chelsea School*, in which he is assisted by twenty local lads and two Crimean veterans, and is creating great enthusiasm here this week. Lily Burnand, an attractive comedienne, sings in her best style, and is exceedingly popular; an expert acrobatic act by the Lizzette Troupe is much enjoyed; Yetta is much applauded for her clever performance on the wire; and other good turns are Molly Augarde, burlesque artist; Durazcoe, comedy equilibrist; and Harry Carlton, a quaint comedian. The pictures are again a capital collection.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—J. Gar Kiddie and company in *The House of Tinn* are here, and gain a great reception, Mr. Kiddie as Jeremiah Jinks being exceedingly funny. The Melroses introduce some good dancing in their comedy act; Ned Cole, a coloured Scotch comedian, has a good supply of humour and comic songs; Godfrey James, the singing collier, is successful; and W. B. Raby, comedian, is good. Some first-class pictures on the Bioscope add much to the pleasure.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—A capital programme is provided here this week, the premier item being a musical comedy, *The Duchess of Tooting*, presented by Sidney Bacon and company, which nightly arouses a great show of demonstrative approval. Cummin and Seaham make a decided hit as comedy acrobats; the Sisters Brand are pleasing vocalists and dancers; Jimmy Shields is a clever one-legged comedian, his dancing being very good; the Brothers Brooks submit an amusing vocal item; Hurman gives a fine exhibition of juggling and hoop manipulation; Fuller and West are amusing in their sketch, and the Dromoscope pictures are still up to date.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Mr. F. Mouillot's company is presenting, for the first time here, the musical comedy *The Girl Behind the Counter*. Miss Ida Stratham wins much favour for her charming acting as Winnie Willoughby; Mr. Sam Lockridge achieves honours for his excellent singing; and he represents Charles Chetwyn in breezy fashion; Mr. Kennedy Allen is the life and soul of the comedy in the part of General Sir Wilkie Willoughby; Mr. Frederick Park is also responsible for much droll business as Adolphus Dudds; Miss Irene Vere sings and acts daintily as Millie Mostyn; Miss Irene Lavington is also very pleasing as Susie; Mr. Ferris Pounds is amusing as Viscount Cushington; Mons. Claude Dampier successfully impersonates the French shop proprietor, Mons. Duval; whilst others contributing good work are Miss Eileen Clanford as Ninette; Miss Winifred Knightly as Lady Willoughby; Mr. Geoffrey All-

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sopp as Rudolph; and Messrs. A. M. Moore and William Amery as the humorous waiters.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Dale and O'Malley create endless amusement in their comedy speciality, introducing a fund of smart patter and good songs; the Kurios present another entertaining comedy turn, with a number of clever stage effects; Mr. Leslie Bell and company are appearing for a second week, this time presenting a new sketch, *The Blackmailer*, which is excellently played; Miss Maud Bettison is a talented vocalist, and is well received; the Three Coopers introduce harmonised choruses, &c., with pleasing effect; Grace Darling is another successful vocalist; and Harry Simms gains considerable favour as a comedian, with good songs.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Polini and Melford's company is here with *The Silver King*. Mr. Fred D. Daviss gives a finished representation of Wilfred Denver; Miss Edith Goodall is no less successful as Nellie; Mr. Edward J. George is still the faithful old servant, Jaikes; Miss F. H. Daviss plays well as Cissy; Mr. Stanton-Sharp makes an ideal Spider; and Henry Corkett, Elijah Coombe, and Cripps are well played by Mr. Geo. Belmore, Mr. Arthur Wright, and Mr. Fred May.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are being shown here this week. Frank Leslie scores with "Saint or Sinner," and Recco causes considerable amusement in his scena *How to Become an Acrobat*.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Violet Nunn is an acceptable coon singer; Thornbury as an artist in smoke and oil is clever; the Lecardo Bros. are capable acrobats and hand-balancers; the Waldrons give a screamingly funny sketch, *The Silly Burglar;* Madge Allan is a pretty, graceful, and daintily-dressed comedienne and dancer; Berzac's ponies are clever, and the educated mule causes roars of laughter; Happy Attwood is a quaint comedian; the Twin Sisters Edwardes give an acceptable turn as singers, dancers, and drummers; the Fitzgerald Troupe (one gentleman and six girls) of Indian club jugglers give a skilful, novel, and entertaining turn; and Pictures complete.

VICTORIA HALL.—The Moody-Manners Opera Co. opened at this hall on Monday with *Carmen*. Mr. Philip Brozel played the part of Don Jose admirably; Mr. Lewys James was eminently successful as Escamillo; Mr. C. Tattersall (Il Remendado), Mr. C. Moppett (Il Drucario), Mr. R. Carter (Morales), Mr. S. King (Zuniga), Miss W. Burns (Frasquita), and Miss Penville (Mercedes) assisted a good all-round performance. Miss Kate Anderson used her splendid voice to good effect in the part of Michaela, and Mlle. Zelie de Lussan was an ideal Carmen. On Tuesday *Tannhäuser* was performed, *Il Trovatore* was played on Wednesday, *Aïda* on Thursday, *Madame Butterfly* on Friday, and the visit will close to-day with *Faust* at the matinée and *Maritana* in the evening.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—The Derrington Family in their daring trick cycling act are topping the bill here; Rose and Kitty Sims are well received in their scena *From School to Stage;* Maud Hillman and Maurice Russell appear, with gratifying results, in a vocal comedy duologue, *The Somnambulist;* Will Stoplt is amusing in his acrobatic dancing; Marlow and Manton are well received in their comedy sketch *Winning a Wife;* and Alf. Holt, American mimic and whistling comedian, Minnie Mace, comedienne, Harry Claff and Alice Tremayne all lend zest to an excellent programme. Mr. Ernest Montefiore and company in *The Little Colonel* are very popular.

HANLEY.—ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—A visit from Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their always excellently selected company is looked upon in the Potteries as a great treat, and enormous audiences have nightly gathered to witness the well-chosen répertoire, which includes *The Twelfth Night, Julius Cæsar, The Merchant of Venice, Henry V., Macbeth, Merry Wives of Windsor,* and *Hamlet*. On Tuesday night *Julius Cæsar* was staged, when Mr. Murray Carrington as Cæsar gave a powerful reading of the title-rôle; Mrs. Benson was the Portia, and played with power, her elocution being perfect; Mr. Benson's Mark Antony was marvellous in its fire, spirit, and moving eloquence, notably in Antony's famous oration; Mr. E. A. Warburton's Brutus was an exceedingly fine piece of acting, though his voice in the first act was too low to be heard all over the house; Mr. Baliol Holloway as Cassius could not be improved upon; Mr. H. O. Nicholson's Casca was one of the best character portrayals in the piece, and showed much study; Miss Helen Haye played Cæsar's wife cleverly; Miss Leah Hanman made much of the part of Lucius; Miss A. P. Nicholson acted well, and Mr. F. C. Worloch was fine as Octavius. The play was beautifully staged.

GRAND.—Proprietor and Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—The Kremo Troupe of acrobats and risley performers star, and receive great applause; Harry Tate's company in *Fishing* is responsible for hearty laughter; the Soho Trio sing, dance, and play, to the delight of all; the De Brenns, Japanese entertainers, provide an original quarter of an hour's show; Webb and Branston sing two duets in high-class style; Raymond's Bio-tableaux show Motor-boat Racing at Burnham; Fred Barnes is a clever comedian; Bert Williams is a smart ventriloquist; Daisy James, in pleasing dresses and catchy choruses, makes her usual hit; and Herbert La Martine also appears successfully. Business is good, notwithstanding the great trade depression among the potters.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—"Picture Land" is doing capital business this week. The chief films are Mind My Boil, Ragpicker's Daughters, The New Maid, Housekeeper and Fairy, Neapolitan's Revenge, Race for a Rose, A Pleasant Surprise, and Winner of the Lottery. T. C. Johnstone is an actor-vocalist of much ability.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company is here this week with *The Gay Gordons*. The play is beautifully mounted and dressed, and went with a rare swing from start to finish. Mr. Stanley Brett was excellent as Angus Graeme, and Mr. Edward Lewis, experienced artist that he is, was exceedingly amusing as the old showman, Nervy Nat. Miss Nellie Dade as Charlotte Siddons, the show-woman, was admirably effective; and Miss Madge Vincent as her daughter Victoria both sang and danced well. Mr. Ernest Torrence was a dignified Andrew Quainton; Mr. Wilfred Norman was quaint as Edmund Siddons; Miss Zena Dare played Peggy Quainton in a manner that delighted the large audience; and the smaller parts were in reliable hands. The capable orchestra was under that bâton of Mr. Arthur Spittle, and Mr. J. Alban Newton was the acting-manager.

THE KURSAAL.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldred.—Miss Belle Green is the entertainer at the piano this week. The vocalists engaged are Miss Katherine Jones and Mr. Fowler Burton. The last garden party of the season is announced for this week, and also a display of fireworks. Better accounts are heard of Mr. Julian Clifford, who hopes to return to his post as conductor before the end of the season.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. Ferrier.—The pictures shown here this week are gaining increased popularity. The list includes The Gold Prospector, The Silver King, and Napoleon and the English Sailor. Amusement is provided by Call Me at Seven and The Aspirator. Mr. Ferrier renders two songs in capital style, both numbers being charmingly illustrated on the screen.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—*The Hypocrites* was presented here on Monday by Mr. Charles Frohman's talented company, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey. The exacting rôle of the Rev. Edgar Linnell was an altogether admirable characterisation by Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton; Mr. F. H. Ruston was a pompous and self-assert'ive Mr. Wilmore. An artistic embodiment of the worldly-wise and devoted mother Mrs. Wilmore was supplied by Miss Laura Graves; the cowardly rôle of Lennard Wilmore was cleverly sustained by Mr. John Dennys; the family lawyer, Mr. Viveash, was well defined by Mr. Frederick Morland; and Mr. Charles Tyrel as Sir John Plugenet supplied a good embodiment of a high-minded gentleman. Miss Muriel Mason was charmingly natural and sincere as Helen Plugenet; Miss Muriel Pope played Rachel Neve with much delicacy and refinement; the meddlesome, prying Mrs. Blaney was finely portrayed by Miss Sybil Brooke; Mr. F. G. Thurstan's Rev. E. Daubeney was a truthful character sketch; and the remaining rôles were well played. Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company were billed for the latter part of the week in *Mrs. Dot*.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. R. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Letty Lingard, a dainty comedienne, opens a good programme. Metz and Metz are amusing comedians and dancers; some exciting scenes in steeplechasing are shown on the Bioscope; Mlle. Edythe is singularly unique as a lady posturer; and Toto throws much humour into the turn. Miss Norah Desmond illustrates some very pleasing songs; a "lady in black," introduced by Lieut. Albini, mysteriously disengages herself from knots and doubly-tied straps; the droll sayings and manner of Sam Dalton gain great applause; Miss Lilian Travellie is an attractive ballad vocalist; and some clever feats are displayed by the Austrian trick cyclists, the Rangers.

PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The Bioscope pictures are an attractive feature in a variety entertainment. Mr. Walter George's "Smart Set" are paying a return visit. They are excellent vocalists, and render their songs, glees, and selections in a very pleasing manner. These are contributed by Mr. Walter George, the Misses Georgie Martin, Pattie O'Hanlon, and Mollie Seymour. Mr. Walter Graham introduces his new marionette seance, "King Neptune."

BEACH CONCERT PAVILION.—The present is the last week of the season of the Wallis Arthur Syndicate Co. The concerts here and in the Alexandra Park have been well sustained by Miss Marie Schultz, Miss Edith Blanchard, Miss Elsie English, and Messrs. H. V. Cropton, Frank Wood, and the popular local manager, George Blackmore.

PUBLIC HALL.—The people's Picture Palace Co. remain here, under the management of Mr. F. R. Griffiths. The fine series of pictures produced this week prove of great interest and amusement to large houses.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Thomas augmented his programme on the occasion of his annual benefit by engaging the local St. Cecilia Quartet to sing on Wednesday, the 23rd. During the week the Gipsies and their Jester are appearing, and introduce a variety of songs and dances in characteristic costume. This little concert party is very attractive, and includes Miss Dorothy Francis, Miss Florence Croft, Miss Inez du Buisson, Messrs. Edgar Berte, Walter Grigg, and Will Gane.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. P. Barnsley.—*The Convict* is presented here by Miss Winifred Maude's company under the direction of Mr. Victor du Cane. Miss Winifred Maude displays much tenderness of feeling as Dora; Mr. J. M. Olivert makes a fine, manly hero; another character, that of Olga Brandon, is capably treated by Miss Marie Lyons; Captain Hurley is impersonated in a forcible and convincing manner by Mr. St. Clair Forbes; as Jenny Perkins Miss Amy Maitland acts with commendable spirit and humour; and Mr. du Cane causes much merriment in the character of Freddy Freckles.

HORWICH.—NEW PRINCES'.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—This week's attraction is *The Guiding Star*, presented by Miss Emma Litchfield's company under the direction of Mr. Stuart Cleveland. Mr. Cleveland's portrayal of Harold Hagar, alias Paul Lerant, is a powerful one; Mr. Alfred Stretton plays the manly young squire, Jack Hilton, in good style; Mr. Louis Gordon as the Hon. Algy Allonbury is natural; Mr. Willie Reid is responsible for comedy in the character of Bob Bonser; Mr. Geo. Wallace as Martin Hardcliffe and Mr. H. Pyne Warburton as Farmer Dean are good; Miss Nancy Blackwood gives a fine impersonation of Pattie Barnes; Miss Alice Granville's Dollie Dean is excellent; Miss Mabel Durham gives an artistic rendering of the twin sisters Gladys and Madge Goodwin; and Miss Emma Litchfield's Mother Hagar is powerful.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—By way of holiday attraction Mr. Milton Bode's principal company is here with the merry musical comedy *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Full houses have shown the keenest delight on renewing acquaintance with the many old favourite numbers rendered, as these have been so effectively by the clever cast engaged. The principal parts are in the hands of Mr. Rudolph Kloss as Hang Chow, Miss Elsie Skillings as Princess Soo-Soo, Miss Gwennie Harcourt as Fi-Fi, Mr. Will Harman as Mr. Pineapple, Mr. Harry Jennings as Chippie Chop, Mr. Leonard May as Hi Lung, Mr. P. A. Turner as Hatherton, Miss Veronica Brady as Mrs. Pineapple, and Miss Maud Adams as Mrs. Brown. The scenery and dresses are in Mr. Milton Bode's usual lavish style.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The holiday attractions are Edmund Tearle and Miss Kate Clinton and company, in a condensed version of *The Taming of the Shrew;* Miss Georgina Leonard, comedienne; the Dunvilles, in a musical speciality; the Onyx Duo, quick-change dance artists; the Brennans, expert clog dancers; the Fimans, in their amusing sketch *The Fire Station;* the Brothers Attilla, strong men; and interesting films on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Intellectual Hull has had a perfect treat in Mr. H. H. Davies's delightful comedy, *The Mollusc*. Miss Annie Hughes as Mrs. Baxter is perfection, and fully deserves her high reputation. Her efforts were ably seconded by Miss Lilias Waldegrave, who as Miss Roberts caught the author's idea with singular charm and artistry. The Tom Kemp of Mr. Athol Stewart was bright, breezy, and convincing, whilst Mrs. Baxter's husband was well suggested by Mr. Wylie A. Thompson. The skill in construction shown by the dramatist was excellently brought out by the quartet alluded to. Miss Hughes again delighted with that admirable picture of Saucers in the now familiar *A Bit of Old Chelsea*. Jack Hillier afforded Mr. Alick Chumley opportunities of which he availed himself.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—*Happy Hooligans*, an American medley, built on the lines of musical comedy, is responsible for a deal of laughter at the Royal this week. It is a class of entertainment that has all the vim needed to keep the audience in a state of effervescence, bubbling over with risibility as each fresh phase in this conglomeration is presented. Of all the crowd Miss Lottie Wilson is possibly the best. As our tastes are not transatlantic, we may not be able to appreciate to the same extent the funniosities of Mr. Wm. H. Lester (the Happy Hooligan), Mr. J. J. Sullivan, nor Mr. John K. Hawley.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Old Folks at Home* is a play new to the city, but one that has all the necessary ingredients in it to make a hit with the audience at this favourite home of drama. Mr. J. A. Campbell has gathered his materials well together and welded them into a successful whole. As the unfortunate wife, Miss Maud Warburton plays the part with fine emotional power; the adventuress of Miss Kate Froud is a fine piece of work; Mr. A. Lovett contrives to give an excellent account of himself as the yeoman farmer; As Lord Howard Mr. Frank Liston is a distinct success; Mr. Arthur Dudley plays the part of the hunchback with merit; and the comic relief finds scope for Mr. F. Caffrey.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Appearing here are the Four Madreds, who are clever in a carpet-spinning act; William Heriot and company give a comedy protean sketch; Marie de Vay, the Prinellas, Rosie Bartlett, the Camerons, and T. C. Jaques complete a good company.

THE CIRCUS.—Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—John and C. Tompkinson's Royal Gipsy company give a delightful entertainment, prominent among the artists being the Sisters Leshmere, Cissie Madcap, Wee Winnie, Elsie Rubina, La Vie, the Four Louberts, Sam Paul, and others.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*A Girl Redeemed from Sin* is being played here by Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company. Mr. Jo Monkhouse's Will May is highly appreciated, the like remark applying to the Nancy Lee of Miss Olive Fulton. Mr. Phillippe Orr receives marked attention as Robert Denham; Mr. John E. Tomlinson is very good as Samuel Lee; Mrs. Lee finding a capable exponent in Miss Fanny Olive. Mr. M. Part is successful as Rundle; Mr. Victor Knight (Jim Jakes), Mr. Wallé Spinner (Hon. Bertie Boyes), and Miss Ada Oxley (Peggy Grey), represent the comedy of the piece, of which Mr. Clinton Baddeley as Ernest Sylveston impersonates the evil genius.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Cameron Burgess.—Mr. Russell Rosse and company are here with *A Pair of Spectacles*. The part of Mr. Benjamin Goldfinch was ably played by Mr. David James, and Mr. Fred Dobell's assumption of the brother from Sheffield was convincingly lifelike; the sons were satisfactorily impersonated by Mr. Robert Noble and Mr. Edward Comber; Mr. Robert Rivers as Lorimer was good; and Mr. George N. Williams as a shoemaker did a smart bit of low comedy. Miss Ida Chapman as Mrs. Goldfinch and Miss Frances Carlyle as Lucy Lorimer were all that could be desired; and the parlourmaid had a competent exponent in Miss Gertrude Sage.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—Mr. John Gerant presents this week his romantic military drama entitled *At Duty's Call*. Mr. John Gerant as the villainous Harold Allison gave an excellent piece of acting; the Captain Allison of Mr. Charles Calvert was effective, as was also the General Gordon of Mr. Ernest St. John. Miss Beatrice Weston as Dora Drummond was a success, and the Salema of Miss Ada Roscoe was also good.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Manager, Mr. Stead. — Miss Clarise Mayne is a versatile comedienne; Miss Dora Lyric fully deserves the appreciation she receives; Dan Whiteley is successful both with his singing and his quaint antics; the Two Donatos, although possessing but one leg apiece, are very agile; *The Tree of Truth* is an absurdity given by Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd; Mozetto, a talented juggler, took the place of an absentee from the programme; Bert Weston has a funny song, entitled "If I were a Member of Parliament"; and Miss Dorothy Dundas also sings well. The Bioscope concludes.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—This week C. Verner figures as the vocal comedian; Mac and Hill supply some amusing cross-talk patter; Maisie Gerrard, who, when with Mr. Edward Marris's companies established herself a firm favourite here, had quite a reception; the Milton Trio are wonderful dancers; Marie Bernard contributes illustrated songs; Little Dando, although only about three feet high, is a genuine artist, and his quaint turn is very well received; the Le Cren Trio are very funny, and the lady's dashing dancing gained big encores. Raymond's Bio-tableaux bring the entertainment to a close.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company is drawing excellent houses the first three night of the week with *The Dairymaids*. Miss Empsie Bowman is an excellent Peggy; Winnie is well played by Miss Vera Crichton; Lieut. Sam Brudenell is in the capable hands of Mr. Richard Telford; Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens and Miss Nellie Bowman as Eliza create no end of fun.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—After a lapse of sixteen years, Dr. Walford Bodie is again with us, and, needless to say, is breaking all records. Besides an interesting display of mesmerism, the Doctor is effecting some wonderful cures. Miss Florrie Gallimore, who occupies the bottom position on the bill, is partly responsible for the large audiences, as she is a great favourite here; Mr. Harry Seaton, an excellent descriptive vocalist, has some capital songs; a good turn is presented by Dolly, Agnes, and Maud; Little Dollie Robson is a clever singer and dancer; and successful also is Miss Bella Skene, burlesque actress. Some good pictures conclude.

LANCASTER. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—The attraction this week is the drama, *Sexton Blake*, which has been remarkably well presented. Mr. Horace Hunter, in the dual rôle of detective and philanthropist, gives a vivid portrayal of Sexton Blake, additional interest being given to the part by the introduction of a fine bloodhound. The characters of Randolph Lovell and his accomplice, Simon Fagos, are capitally sustained by Mr. Chas. East and Mr. J. M. East; and there is some excellent acting by Brian Daly and Mr. Wm. Felton, as Farmer Blackburn and Roger Blackburn respectively. Miss Lily Hammersley is responsible for a careful study of Marjorie Lovell; and the comic element is successfully introduced by Mr. Billy Ross as Tinker and Miss Lena Delphine as Euphemia Pattacake. The staging is all that could be desired.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—A varied and attractive bill is again put before the patrons here, good business being the result. The Three Cunards are at the top, and give a clever display of dancing; Henry and Tyler, comedy cyclists, are very amusing; and Friskey is a juggler of no mean order. Mlle. Haydee introduces a miniature vaudeville turn, which is most acceptable; and Maud Esmond sings nicely. Frank Boyce, character vocalist, sings in good style; and Frank Hemming and Marie Free supply a pleasing little sketch. The Hippogroph, with Baby's Playmate and Dick the Kisser, creates roars of laughter.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Walter P. Wright.—At the head of the bill this week is Oswald Williams, Winifred La Barte and company, who submit most mystifying illusions; Fremel and Fremel provide much amusement as eccentric comedians; two old local favourites, Harry Morris, comedian and mimic, and Jim E. James, in his musical entertainment *The One-Man Minstrel Troupe*, appear with distinct success; and other turns include Amy Bellwood, a clever vocalist and dainty dancer, and Miss Sylvia Bond, a delightful American soprano. The Premier Imperial pictures also prove highly diverting.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Musical comedy lovers are crowding this premier theatre this week, for the favourite actress, Miss Marie Studholme, is starring in the new piece, *My Mimosa Maid*. The part of Paulette gives Miss Studholme unlimited scope for the display of those arts for which she is famous, and a most cordial reception is her portion nightly. Mr. Frank Curzon's company includes Mr. Charles McNaughton, in the rôle of the sweep, and in his hands the part is provocative of continual merriment.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Mr. Walter Melville's popular melodrama, *The Worst Woman in London*, again proves a big attraction to the patrons here. That accomplished actress, Miss Sidney Crowe repeats her fine conception of the worst woman to general satisfaction; Mr. Hubert Skardon gives a correct and convincing delineation of the part of Jack Felton; the generous humorous characters are capably sustained by Mr. Willie Scott and Miss Polly Marsh; whilst Mr. George Gaisford, Mr. F. V. Travers, and Miss Dorothy Haigh are also seen to advantage in leading parts.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—An effective sensational racing sketch, *The Futurity Winner*, is the leading turn here, evoking great interest and enthusiasm; Ella Retford is an established favourite; and May Mars scores a pronounced success with a neat song scena. The Herald Comedy Four stand high in popular favour; the Great Northern dancers again present a comprehensive turn; Dion Wade and Little Zola are both comedians of merit in different styles; whilst Stella Dell and Bi-Bo-Bi also make a successful appearance.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The Geni Family here present a remarkably fine acrobatic show, earning general appreciation; the Elite Harmony Boys score with a clever song and dance entertainment; the Brothers Harrison are distinctly good in a comedy line; and amongst other popular turns we specially note the Cromwells, the Hughes Bros., in a cycling novelty, and Gillin, the ventriloquist.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—That accomplished violin virtuoso, Jan Rudenyi, again presents his musical scena, *The Power of Music*, making it the vehicle for some charming playing; Henry Grattan and company score a success with a mirth-provoking sketch, *Man—the Brute;* a novel comedy turn by Ted Karno and company goes well; Mlle. Renee displays great musical accomplishments; Blanche and Powell are to the fore with a good turn; acceptable comedy items are subscribed by J. W. Gallagher; and Nash and Noel, the Three Sisters Tree, Maud and Gill, and the Three Donals also do well.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Charles Parker's Six Æolians are prominent here with a vocal and dancing act, which is much above the average; Arthur Alexandra and company, in an impressive dramatic episode, are well liked; Arthur Boyne and Alec Kendal lead the comedians in clever style; Kloof and Ramsay provide a popular turn; and Selby and Myers are also a prominent feature in a good bill.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton.—Mr. Leonard Boyne and company are here in *Raffles*, in which he is repeating his success. As Mrs. Vidal Miss Lillian Hallows is extremely good; the Bunny of Mr. Harold West calls for high praise; and Miss Hilda Moore as Gwendoline plays well. Others in the cast to be singled out for special eulogium are Mr. E. W. Thomas as Curtis Bedford, Mr. Buckstone Clair as Crawshay, Mr. Arthur Willoughby as the Earl of Amersteth, Miss Blanka Stewart as Lady Melrose, Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald as Lady Ethel, and Mr. Cecil Brymer as Viscount Crowley. Mr. Francis Simpson is the business-manager for Mr. Boyne.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—*The Woman Pays* is being capitally presented here by Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company. Mr. John Davidson as Roger Marchant is effective; and both Mr. Phil Harper as Sir Armstrong and Miss Maud Russell as Madge Armstrong win admiration. Mr. Frank M. Thorne (the author) is a funny Micky Maloney; and Miss Anena Walton a vivacious Polly Stokes. Miss Kate Blair is a success as Nell Morland; and Mr. Beresford Innes as Cyrus Treadgold and Mr. Dunlop Stewart as Luke Morland are also to be commplimented.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Horace Goldin, the star this week, goes through his work with smartness and briskness; Charles Whittle is making a hit; Charlene and Charlene, bright and entertaining artists, submit clever juggling and musical contributions; Verno and Voyce are great favourites in their smart skit on the aeroplane craze; R. H. Douglass displays great versatility as a monologue artist; Cissie Curlette, mimetic artist, is heartily welcomed; Mlle. Eldee is seen in a number of beautiful poses; Fred Lincoln creates merriment with "My pal Jemmy"; and the American Bioscope is again an entertaining feature.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Messrs. Fred Moule and E. D. Nicholl's company has been retained over another week, and hold premier position with the burlesque drama *That Dreadful Detective*. The playlet *The Game of Love* is also being presented. Mlle. de Rose, baritone, is meeting with a good reception; Frank Street is an excellent comedian and story-teller; Alpha gives a capital ventriloquial turn; G. W. James is an entertaining comedian; and J. W. Hawtrey, actor-vocalist, is another turn of merit. A special feature is Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The great popularity of the pictures shown here continues unabated, the principal films this week being Poverty and Honesty, The Thief at the Casino, A Man in a Thousand, Good Medicine, Miss Pimpernel's Gown, and The Lazy Man. A successful first visit is being made by Houston, in a magical show.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott's company is appearing here this week in a répertoire of plays, *The Octoroon* being selected for Monday night. Mr. Charles Draycott as Salem Scudder submitted a performance that deserves high commendation; Mr. George Arthur gave a capable delineation of the rascally Jacob McCloskey; Mr. Wilfred J. Short was satisfactory as George Peyton; Mr Harry Scatchard acquitted himself admirably as Pete; Mr. George Steel cleverly portrayed the rôle of Wah-no-Tee; Mrs. Chas. Draycott did full justice to the part of Zoe, the Octoroon; Miss Issa Steel charmingly portrayed Dora Sunnyside; and Miss Louise Millard deserves praise as Miss Peyton.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—This theatre reopened to a bumper house on Monday, when the pantomime *The House that Jack Built* was produced by Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company. The piece is well equipped in the matters of scenery and costumes, and, with the aid of a good chorus, attractive ballets, and special turns, wins popularity. Miss Jennie Hughes as the fairy Twinkle Star, Miss Daisy Wood as Jack, Miss Dolly Dodds as Jill, Miss J. Marsden as Gretchen, and Miss Gladys Wise as Wee McGregor all please the audience with their acting, singing, or dancing. Mr. Jimmie Watson in a dame's part, Mr. H. Hillerby as the Squire, with Graham and Barron in knockabout business, contribute very happily to the comedy element; and the many minor characters are all smartly presented.

LIMERICK. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. George V. Fogerty.—A talented variety company occupies the Royal this week. The Selwyns, in their entertaining jugglery feats and trunk tricks are much applauded; and Miss Gilotti, the queen of knots, is really clever. The clog-dancers and mimics, Vosco, are unique in their species of breakdowns; and the athletes, Brothers Deroney, in their great jumping performances, have won rounds of applause. The great attraction is centred in Mme. Sahara, who, as Salome, gives a delightful classic interpretation of Cleopatra, and, in addition, dances beautifully; Mr. Tom Black, comic singer, is well received.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Seddon and Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—*The Prince of Pilsen* is offered by Baron Harriss's company. Miss Sophie Harriss as Mrs. Crocker is a complete success, and the whole show, taking its time and tone from her lead, goes smartly. Mr. Harry Kilburn as the Cincinnati brewer is responsible for most of the fun, with Mr. Charles Rogers as Lord Shrimpton and Mr. Ernest Gifford as François. Mr. Leslie Owen sings well as the real Prince, Mr. Arthur Geary is excellent as the Lieutenant, and Miss Dora Christian as Edith and Miss Nellie Lomas as Nellie Wagner score.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—Harry Weldon's drolleries catch on; and Elmo and Rego, acrobatic entertainers, win immense favour. Clifford and Gibson pay a welcome return visit; Jack Lane scores at the piano; Mlle. Bartenelli's contortionism is sensational; and the Smythsons, Helen Martin, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux meet with generous appreciation.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Playgoers who during the week witnessed here the first performance in Liverpool of *The Thief* experienced keen satisfaction that the enterprising management of the Court Theatre had afforded them such an opportunity. The richness of the treat was enhanced by reason of the fact that Mr. George Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh, along with the St. James's company, presented the fine work; and although admission prices were generally increased the house on Monday evening was filled in all parts. To the whole of the artists an especially warm welcome was given, and the deepest attention was paid to the stage, the audience following the unfolding of the powerfully dramatic story with a fixed tension that showed the fulness of their enjoyment. This was particularly evidenced in the second act, where Miss Vanbrugh and Mr. Alexander held their audience spellbound; indeed, the lady achieved a triumph which will long be remembered by all who listened to the thrilling confession of guilt. The other members of the company lent admirable support. Mr. Reginald Owen so naturally presented the character of a silly infatuated boy that it is difficult to believe his efforts could be surpassed; Mr. Dawson Milward deserved the highest praise for his striking depiction of the unhappy father of the accused; Miss Nina Sevening delighted everyone with her Isabel Leyton; and Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds filled the rôle of the detective Protheroe with an ease and manner that showed the true artist. The mounting and dresses were a special feature of the production, which was preceded by an amusing curtain-raiser named *The Nursery Governess*, in which Messrs. Ashton Pearse, Harcourt Williams, and the Misses Jean Sterling Mackinlay and Barbara Hannay took part.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Here this week, through *John Glayde's Honour*, Liverpool renewed acquaintance with Mr. Arthur Bourchier and his talented wife, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, both of whom were called upon to respond to many "curtains." Sutro's stirring play was received with every satisfaction. Miss Vanbrugh, whose share of the work was the heaviest, displayed her accomplishments to the fullest degree and shared with her husband the honours of the evening. Mr. Bourchier's rôle of the American millionaire was one which fitted him to a nicety, and his efforts were watched with pleasing interest; Mr. Charles Bryant undertook the part of Trevor Lerode to the general satisfaction; richly deserved praise was earned by Mr. Leon Quartermaine for his Michael Shurmur; Mr. Arthur Whitby did justice to Christopher Branley; Mr. Bertram Forsyth as Howard Collingham showed to advantage; and the female characters were ably filled by Miss Henrietta Watson (Princesse), Miss Mary Weigall (Lady Lerode), Miss Pamela Gaythorne (an excellent Mrs. Rennick), and Miss Winifred Bateman (Dora Longman). Next week Mr. Bourchier will present *The Walls of Jericho* and at a matinée, by special desire, *The Arm of the Law*.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Melville's *Married to the Wrong Man* paid a first visit to Liverpool this week, and was received here with much gratification. The piece contained some thrilling sensations, and was not without capital comedy. Miss Gertrude Boswell handled the somewhat difficult rôle of Ruth with conspicuous ability; Mr. Oswald Cray made a manly and heroic Jack Gladwin; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff filled the part of Captain Deering with credit; Miss Mary Pemberton submitted a sympathetic Rose O'Connor; and worthy support likewise came from Mr. Joe Livesey (Sergeant Manners), Mr. Syd Claydon (Timothy Clinker), Mr. Charles Vivian (Jasper Skinner), and Miss May Davies (Dolly Fritter).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—A big attraction at this popular resort during the week was Melville's *The Soldier's Wedding*, which, with its numerous striking features, particularly the live farm stock, was thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Wingold Lawrence was a typical soldier, and his Jack Brown earned general favour; Miss Dorothy Richardson played with much tenderness and earnestness the part

Home from the Honeymoon; Mavis Clare, a child vocalist, was heartily welcomed; and the Haytors, as comedy sketch artists and eccentric dancers, were an acceptable turn; Mlle. Theresa Cerutti, "presented" by Miss Loie Fuller on Monday night, gave a "prehistoric dance," representing Eve in the Garden of Eden. Others who contributed to the programme were Bessie Butt, soubrette and dancer; Will Johnson, comedian; and Daisy Martell, comedienne.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville. Mr. Stanley Carlton's company have been here this week with *London with the Lid Off*.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Francini Olloms topped the bill here this week with an excellent all-round entertainment of juggling, balancing, &c., as well as performing on the xylophone and concertina; Grant and Grant, the American Octoroons, pleased with their singing and dancing; Moon and Morris showed themselves to be a couple of funny comedians and smart dancers; Farr and Farland, the aristocratic comedians, raised much laughter with their "strike gag"; Leo Carle as a quick-change artist and eccentric comedian, gave a neat show, and also in the list were Patty Yole, comedienne and dancer; Smarte Bros., acrobatic eccentrics; and Harry Blake, comedian.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Foremost here this week was the popular Vesta Victoria, who had a rousing reception for all her latest songs; also prominent, Topsy Sinden charmed everybody with her dances; George Blunt and E. H. Knight's company, including Fred Powell, gave a condensed form of *The Grip of Iron*; the Three Braggs, novelty acrobats, introduced "the living bridge" sensation; Violet Lorraine had some dainty songs; roars of laughter followed the antics of Wright and Lawson; some remarkable feats of strength were performed by John Grun Max; Lillie Soutter, a capital comedienne, amused greatly; and Hayes and Watson went through a clever dancing act on the billiard table.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Here during the week the stock dramatic company gave *Send Him Victorious*, the parts in which were held by Messrs. R. Seath Innes (King of Ravonia), Sydney Grant (Colonel Kauffman), Leo Montgomery (Sergeant Strauss), David G. Noble (Captain Allison), Cecil Ravenswood (Sergeant Max), E. D. Allen (Johann Arany), Robb Wilton (Geordie Walker), the Misses Florence Palmer (Ethel Hardinge), Florence Cameron (Gretchen), and Lilian Radbourne (Countess Kara). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed some of the latest pictures.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Top of the programme here this week have been Clark and Hamilton, whose entertainment of fun, singing, music, and dancing proved exceedingly enjoyable; Harry Tate's company amused greatly with *Motoring*; a series of living statuary under the title "Makers of History," by Albert Toft, were much admired; Rossi Ashton in "song-sketching," showed great talent with his charcoal and crayon drawings, for which he was loudly applauded; Rosie Ring and her assistants had a neat scena, *Songs of Schooldays*; the vocalism of Fatmah Diard, the American prima donna, was much enjoyed; Howie and Ardie, comedy gymnasts, had a funny trifle, *Up in a Balloon*; the chronomegaphone was witnessed with interest; and the list also contained the names of Walter Curtis, comedian, and J. W. Hall, comedian. The Bioscope showed the Eucharistic procession.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Morny Cash has been the bright particular star here this week, and his Lancashire songs and patter caused endless laughter; the Six Brothers Luck, Ltd., gave a screaming absurdity, *The Hermit*; a pretty novelty scena entitled *A Children's Christmas Eve* was provided by Harwood's Juveniles; Fred Athalan showed some wonderful head balancing; Gala and Norris were cordially received for their musical duologue, *Down South*; Percy Curry, comedian, had some capital songs; Ada Jenner gave an amusing trifle, "The Lady Barber"; and others who appeared included Leo D'Alvar, gymnast; and Edith St. Clare, comedienne.

LLANDUDNO.—GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. G. Pugh.—On Monday *Dear Old Charlie* appeared here for six nights. Mr. George Lestocq, as Charles Ingleton, causes endless fun; Mr. Douglas Cox as Gabriel Peploe could scarcely be improved upon; and Mr. R. S. Trelawney as Thomas Dumphie is excellent. Mr. Duncan Young gives a good impersonation of Colonel Fishbourne; Mr. Arthur Stanley is quite at home as Purkitt; Miss Leonora Braham is a typical Mrs. Fishbourne; and Miss Edith Hall is all that can be desired as Agnes. The piece is preceded by *The Cause*, in which Miss Leonora Braham and Mr. Cyril Vernon distinguish themselves.

PIER HEAD PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's Pierrots are in the last week of their season here. Among the artists may be mentioned Mr. Fred Walmsley, a comedian of more than usual ability; Mr. Tom Isherwood, light comedian, has a pleasing voice; Mr. Dougal McDougal is a good Scotch artist; Mr. Harold Brown is a first-rate basso; and Mr. A. R. Sutcliffe is as great a favourite as ever. Mr. Tunbridge is an efficient accompanist.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Z. Andrews; Resident-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—*The Master Criminal* is being given here this week with success by Miss Winifred Chalmers's company, Miss Chalmers herself taking the part of Cecile in very effective style. Mr. Henry L. Osmond is very good as Telford Lestage; as Phillip Manners, Mr. Edward Avinal does remarkably well; and Mr. J. C. Carlyle as Ben Beaudy is capital. Mr. Chas. Tolcher as Gentleman Jim and Mr. Harry Cooke as Tommy Dale are both to be highly commended; Miss Violet Lytton makes a charming Mabel Manners; and Miss Mabel Tremaine as Peggy Perks is most amusing.

LONG EATON.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—We have here Mr. Augustine Knight and his company, in *The Assassin*. Miss Ella Vane takes the part of the Countess and Mr. A. Knight that of the Prince; Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson as Ivan, a soldier, is a rival of the Prince for the hand of the Countess; and the duel scene between the Prince and Countess is very interesting.

THE PALACE.—Business-Manager, Mr. Alf. H. Smith; Acting-Manager, Mr. Crisford Gaston.—A boxing exhibition between Joe Knowles (8st. 6lb. champion of Derbyshire) and Whistler Tilling is the chief feature here.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. B. Reed.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is here in *Mr. Popple of Ippleton* Mr. Charles Macdona as Freddy Popple is received with unbounded applause; Mr. Leon Sinclair as Norman Popple plays with ability; Mr. Nap Barry as George Hennay and Mr. James Stevenson as Henry Doring are well suited; Mr. Tom May is an inimitable Platt; La Bolero is in the capable hands of Miss Nellie Hodson; Miss May Hart as Louise captivates the house by her clever singing and dancing; Miss Amy Singleton as Mrs. Doring plays with great dramatic power, being most ably supported by Miss Lillian Lait as Mrs. Hennay; and Mr. Eric Barrington as Jacques Kenyon sings with taste and feeling.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Mr. Edward Compton is appearing this week in a number of successful plays, including *David Garrick, She Stoops to Conquer, School for Scandal*, &c. Mr. Compton is admirably supported by a talented company, including Miss Viola Compton.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Splendid houses are the rule here, and the programme is highly appreciated. The variety turns include the Four Cecilians, in a bright musical act; Manton Spry, comedian; Muellen and Coyne, American sketch artists; and Rochez, with his wonderful performing ponies and dogs. The British Biograph shows some pleasing pictorial subjects, which include A Trip to Madeira, Stalwarts at the Stadium, and Over the Sticks, the latter being a highly-interesting sporting subject.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Fred Melville is to be congratulated on yet another good and original play in *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Miss Beatrice Homer portrays the title-rôle powerfully; Morits, the Italian girl, has a good impersonation from Miss Violet Macaree; Miss Nellie Jackson and Miss G. Harrison, as Aggie Brown and Rose Courtenay respectively, are also very good; the Jack Merryman of Mr. P. Darien is popular; and Mr. Leyton Cancellor as Hubert Gold is exceptionally good. Mr. Leonard Thackeray, as Antonio, and Mr. W. De Brigord, as the young artist, are well placed.

MACCLESFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Morton Powell's company, in *When it was Dark*, was accorded a hearty reception from a full house on Monday. Mr. Wilfred Lynden played the part of the Rev. Basil Gortre with wonderful skill and spirit; Sir Robert Llewellyn was intelligently portrayed by Mr. Chas. Brandon; and Miss Ethel Griffies is a delightful exponent of Gertrude Hunt; the humorous part of the Hon. Charles Gayfly was in the capable hands of Mr. George Tawde; Mr. Charles Grandley, as Tonides, submitted a capital study; Mr. W. H. Burton was a typical Rev. Mr. Byars; Constantine Schwabe was exceptionally well played by Mr. Haldane Dalton; and Miss Marie Barrett as Helena Byars displayed considerable ability. The piece was very well staged and dressed.

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The Dandies, under the direction of Mr. H. J. Corner, give a smart act, comprising solo singing and concerted numbers, which are enthusiastically received; Eadie and Ramsden, in a clever acrobatic speciality act, are as popular as ever; Davis and Deane, shadow dancers, and Julian Ross, vocal comedian, score heavily. A well-written sketch, *The Bonnet Shop*, is rattled through, to the accompaniment of hearty laughter, by Miss Elsie Irving and company; May Day is a clever mimic; and the Doreen Girls and the Palace Pictures complete the bill.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Beslee.—A variety company, under the management of Mr. Lloyd Forsyth, is drawing good houses here. Taka, Japanese ju-jitsu wrestler, heads the bill, and gives a clever wrestling act; Tom Thumb, a diminutive comedian, sings cleverly; Miss Dorothy Dryden is a smart dancer, and submits a Salome dance; Belasco, drawing-room entertainer, and Zasma, gymnast, are popular; Whit Acre, comedian, and Isa Davis, comedienne and mimic, together with the Bioscope, make up a good programme.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—For the first time in Manchester, Mr. G. B. Shaw's *Man and Superman* was played here on Monday by the Vedrenne-Barker combination, including Mr. Granville Barker, in the rôle of John Tanner. A growing appreciation of the author in the intelligence of the audience was evident throughout, and the singular humour of the play was accompanied by laughter at just the proper moments. The same understanding was even more marked in the members of the cast, who acted perfectly, and who were headed with superb cleverness by Mr. Granville Barker. The total effect was, in fact, extraordinarily good, and the cast shared equally in the general excellence of the achievement.

PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A huge audience witnessed Monday's performance here of *The Gay Gordons*, by the original London company, including, of course, Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Ellaline Terriss. The whole piece amounts to a mine of opportunity for the delightful talent of this theatrically well-matched couple, who achieve their object admirably, and are quite satisfactorily assisted by the remaining members of the company. Among the latter, special praise must be given to Miss Sydney Fairbrother as Charlotte Siddons, Mr. Johnny Danvers as Nervy Nat, the showman, and Miss Maud Milton as Janet McLeod. The scenery is admirable, the dresses are appropriately brilliant, and a capable augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Frank Tours.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmund's company is proving an attraction here in the picturesque drama *A Soldier of France*. Mr. Leonard Aardale has a strong part as Corporal (afterwards Father) Jean, which he renders with distinction; and conspicuously good work is done by Mr. Albert Guyon as Judas Delara and Mr. Milton C. Curtis as the Duke De Laval—both on the evil side of affairs; while Miss Florence Zillwood gives a charming and sympathetic rendering of Pauline Lorraine, and Mr. Edward Hobart plays well as the Captain. Acceptable humour is added by Mr. Freddy Edwards as Pollyput Jollyboy and Miss Jenny Clare as Margot.

GAIETY THEATRE. — Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—A play by Hermann Sudermann is this week offered to the patrons of this delightful little theatre. It is *The Vale of Content* (*Das Glück im Winkel*), which serves further to exemplify the thoughtful genius of the author. The principal success is gained by Miss Darragh, who, as the second wife of the schoolmaster, Wiedemann, acts with quiet power and a convincing emotional restraint; good also is Mr. Jules Shaw, in the peculiarly difficult rôle of the Baron von Röcknitz; and Mr. Henry Austin gives a commendable rendering of Wiedemann. Others who do well are Mr. Edward Landor, as the inquisitive Dr. Orb, Miss Hilda Bruce Potter as the blind Helene, Miss Penelope Wheeler as Bettina, and Mr. Basil Dean as Dangel, the assistant master. This kind of fare is calculated to test the temperamental quality of the average playgoer, who, it is to be hoped, will generously respond. *Woman's Rights*, by J. Sackville Martin, precedes.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Leslie's Comedy Cadets top the bill here this week, their comedy scena, *After Lights Out*, being brimful of good vocalism and humour; Florry Cooper, the popular comedienne, is also a capital turn; Fanny Robina sings enjoyably in new business; George Westland, Scotch comedian, makes a decided hit; Baddow gives an excellent ventriloquial sketch; Billie Bint adds an amusing turn; and other good items are Helm and Cozens, in a lively sketch; Ada Parker, comedienne and dancer; Mlle. Naveeda, a novel illusionist; and A. E. Clifford, versatile vocalist.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The star turn here this week is provided by Arthur Roberts and company in *Till Sunday*, a highly amusing sketch, which furnishes the well-known comedian with ample scope for the exercise of his extraordinary humour. Corbin and his Dogs add a remarkably entertaining act; Ted E. Box, comedian and siffleur, is particularly successful; and other good items are those of the Five Olracs, rag-time acrobats; Bros. Lester, duettists and expert dancers; Ian Colquhoun, the popular baritone; Takio, the Japanese mimic of sounds; the Avrignys, expert Japanese jugglers; and Marie Empress, smart comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Hetty King is very much to the front here this week, and scores highly, her reception being deservedly great; John Warren is seen to advantage, assisted by Miss Mollie Wynter, in a new magical act; Lionel Brough and Mary Brough are excellent in a short sketch, *The Yarn Spinner*; Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten, in the vocal comedy act *A Model School*, are very entertaining; Will Poluski, jun., scores as an eccentric comedian; Rhoda Paul makes a hit with her song "It's the Gay Gordons"; Prof. Dubois' baboon is well taught; Seener and Fridkin's Imperial Russian Troupe are good vocalists and dancers; and Will Cornish presents a delightful musical ball act. Part singing by the choir and Bioscope pictures complete.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. R. Trippett.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company is here this week in *An Unwedded Wife*. Prominent parts are well sustained by Miss Ethel Van Praagh, Mr. George D. Daiper, Mr. J. Edward Whitty, Mr. Charles Stirling, Mr. R. Wilton Bedford, Little Doris, and Jessie Gillette. The lighter vein is well brought out by Messrs. Will Casey and Robert Young. The scenery is effective.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—John Tiller's company is highly amusing here this week in *High Jinks*, which is well presented; Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, is smart and popular; Arthur Hickman, tenor vocalist, sings well; Dorma Morgan, a pleasing American comedienne, sings with her usual charm; Billy Williams, the "Man in the Velvet Suit," is good; and Astley's American Circus introduces some clever animals. On the occasion of our visit, Jack and Evelyn, the well-known duo, and the Three Romas, gladiatorial marvels, who figure on the programme, did not appear. The Martelloni Troupe were announced for subsequent appearance. Pictures complete.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Miss Sylvia Cavalho, supported by a first-rate company, including Mr. Clifford Pembroke, is well received here this week in the dramatic episode *Lulu*; Ike and Will Scott are exceedingly smart comedians and neat simultaneous dancers; Marie Vere, burlesque artist, has a good voice; Violet Stockelle is a chic comedienne and dancer; Maude Beaumont, burlesque actress, is well received; Les Rubins are excellent singers; Beatrice Lindley entertains at the piano; Wat Tyler is a good character comedian; and Minnie Fenton is a capital Scotch comedienne.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—After a successful week at the King's Theatre, Mr. Harry Roxbury's capital company, including Tubby Edlin, in *The Cowboy Millionaire*, is doing well here this week; the Carney Brothers, in a vocal scena, *Brothers*, are vocalists of more than average merit; Ikey Moe, a very clever little Hebrew, sings and dances well, and tells tales in a highly amusing style; Wyndham and Waters are funny in their drawing-room act; and Kingston Trollope, in a dramatic monologue, *Only a Dream*, is successful. Other good turns are Herbert and Linden, comedians and dancers; the Sisters Lotus, duettists; and the Sisters Valli, in a musical and dancing act. Pictures, as usual, are included in the programme.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Day.—Walton and Lester top the bill here this week, and create much amusement as "the world's worst wizards"; th veteran comedian Charles Coborn scores a big success; the Merrions are vastly amusing; the Bouncing Dillons, comedy gymnasts, cause roars of laughter; Gena Manon, vocalist, has a good voice, and is well received; Wal Robbins, the black and white musical comedian, takes well; and other enjoyable items are offered by Jessie Jukes, who dances well; the Betsons, comedy cyclists; and George Griffin, comedian. The Idara Quartette of dancers did not appear on the night of our visit. The Gipsy and the Painter is the Bioscope subject.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. Phillips.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton present here this week, with great success, the musical comedietta entitled *Old Virginia*, the following capable artists all doing well: Mr. Kit Keen, Mr. Bert Erroll, Mr. H. Buckland, Miss Mildred Bryan, Miss Odeyne Spark, Miss J. Ellis, Miss Nellie Sheffield, Mr. Leonard Russell, and Mr. William Pringle.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene; Manager, Mr. C. R. Hardy.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company delighted theatre-goers for the first three nights of the current week with their admirable presentation of *Diana of Dobson's*. In the title-rôle, Miss Emelie Polini sustained her part in a manner that carried conviction, and aroused the general sympathy of the audience; Mr. Frank Woolfe as Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton was also good; Miss Gwynneth Galton as Mrs. Cantelope, Miss Clarissa Selwynne as Mrs. White-Fraser, Mr. W. Kinsford Pearce as Sir Jabez Grinlay, Miss Dorothy Garth as the old woman, Mr. Stewart Dawson as P.C. Fellowes, and Mr. S. Cole Winton as the waiter, were all admirable in their respective parts. Miss Daisy England as Miss Pringle, and the Misses Violet Gould, Eva Lonsdale, Dorothy Garth, and Olga Esme, all rendered effective help in carrying off the dormitory scene in a spirited manner. The comedy has been preceded each evening by *The Bishop's Candlesticks*. For the remainder of the week *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* has been the attraction.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—One of the smartest turns seen here for some time is that contributed by Texas Hattie, a clever tight rope artist; Tiger Lilly, another dusky artist, is a good dancer and vocalist; Morelli and Moore, eccentric comedy duo, are smart; Alice Maple, comedienne and dancer, sings sensible songs delightfully; and Wallau, a youthful juggler, has been favourably received. Lazern, the mystic, and Wilkie Bard's comedy company, in the "Let me sing," and "Zuyder Zee," have created considerable merriment.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*Home, Sweet Home*, presented by Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company, is here. As the young fisherman, Stephen Armitage, Mr. Arthur Hinton is capitally effective; Mr. Fred G. Kay plays well as David Armitage; Miss Lydia Audre is a sweet and convincing Joan; Mr. Charles Clifford displays tact and energy as the Duke; Mr. David Beattie ably emphasises the rôle of Lucas Lyle; as the Hon. Percy, Mr. Victor G. Mallard is smart; Little Hilda Vokes is well placed as Dora; and as Sybil Fay Miss Laura Wright is pert and pleasing.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Heading the bill are the Andos Troupe of Japanese performers; Les Kullis provide an amusing novelty in *The Artist and His Monkey*; Bertha St. Ruth and Cissie Conyers present two good numbers, and are warmly encored; Miss Nellie Gannon is a pleasing vocalist; Stephens and Kennoir, comedians and dancers, Kose and Wold, in a comedy sketch, *The Sentry and the Maid*, Peggy Fame, the girl in grey, and Harry Wright, vocal comedian, are also well received.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—A well-filled house on Monday witnessed the drama, *Man or Beast*, presented by Messrs. Chas. H. Phelps and Ernest Vaughan's company. The Hon. Jack Newton was portrayed in manly fashion by Mr. Chas. D. Pitt; the invalid Lord Newton was faithfully represented by Mr. Fred Newland; Mr. Frank Hertie, as Col. Bruce Anderson, was earnest and convincing; Mr. Ernest Vaughan, in the cryptic title-part, was excellent, his playing rousing the audience almost to animosity; the woman-hating Captain Macdonald of Mr. Chas. H. Phelps was at first funny and later quite deep in pathos; and Pat O'Brien was well played by Mr. Fred Gresham. Miss Irene Carrington, in the trying part of Bella Newton, displayed evidence of careful study and considerable emotional power; Miss Madge Douglas as Rosie Newton made an undoubted hit, her singing being much appreciated; Nurse Annita had a capable representative in Miss Florence M. Daly; Miss Cissie Clark was capital in the whimsical part of Marie, the lady's maid; and various smaller rôles were played in satisfactory manner. *One Woman's Wickedness* was billed for the last three nights of the week.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Bert Coote's company is here this week, with *The Fatal Wedding*. Miss Ethel Kaye wins admiration for her Mabel Wilson; Cora is played with skill by Miss Elaine Vanbrugh; the "little mother" (Jessie) is cleverly presented by Miss Lulu Wohlmann; Mr. Cecil A. Melton is a capable Howard Wilson; and a vigorous Robert Curtis is found in Mr. Frank Harrison.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company opened a week's engagement here on Monday in Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's famous comedy, *Lady Frederick*. Mrs. Brown-Potter gave a perfect interpretation of the title-rôle; Mr. Philip Cuningham, a great favourite with Teesside playgoers, was as pleasing as ever; and especial commendation is due to Mr. Shirley Lea for his forceful and amusing character-sketch as the Admiral. Mr. Herbert Ganthorne infused much spirit into the part of Lord Mereston; and Mr. R. Van Ranney was very successful in the character of Sir Gerald O'Mara. Miss Rosemary Rees was responsible for a remarkably good impersonation of Lady Mereston; and Mr. Cecil Bevan as Captain Montgomerie and Miss Edith Deverell as Rose Carlisle were all that could be desired. The play was preceded by *The Peacemaker*.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—*A Desperate Marriage* is being presented to large audiences here this week by Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company. Mr. Gordon Raymond makes an ideal hero; whilst the villainies of the piece are ably portrayed by Mr. E. W. Maule Cole. Miss Winifred Whyte as Audrey Howard and Miss Helen Anderson as Betty McKenzie are also responsible for good work. Mr. Herbert Lloyd makes himself a great favourite by his capital humour as Elijah Boggs. The piece is admirably staged.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—A very entertaining programme is provided here this week. Foreman and Fannan, "the millionaires," make a decided hit; the Donaldson Brothers and company create much laughter; Herbert Clifton receives a hearty welcome; Miss Mabel Carr sings excellently; Johnson and Pelham are good; and a delightful musical turn is given by Alex Prince. Edmond and Evelyn do well in a sketch, *Express Baby*.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. J. C. Nicholls.—A unique entertainment is presented here by Colibri's Midgets; Beattie and Babs, two clever juvenile artists, are very successful; and roars of laughter are elicited by Joe Nightingdale and Arthur Stigant in their duologue, *Two Sides of a Wall*. Nellie Lawrence is an excellent vocalist; and other turns are given by the Saletos, in a balancing act; Sprangles and Sawdust, comedy aerial act; Harry Leybourne, comedian; and Oakdene, ventriloquist.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey are paying a return visit in *Rollicking Rory*. Mr. Mackey fills the rôle of the irrepressible Rory with delightful ease; Mr. Chas. Homer makes a dashing Desmond; and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey a sweet and sympathetic Rosaleen. Stephen D'Arcy is suitably represented by Mr. Fred W. Lenond, Brady Saving having an equally apt exponent in Mr. St. John Stuart; Mrs. Nana Flensberg is deserving of praise for her excellent comedy acting in the rôle of Rosie; and Mme. Constance Bellamy's singing of songs is a notable feature.

MUSSELBURGH. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. M. Richardson.—Last Thursday and Saturday nights, Miss Emily Huby and company presented a comedy-drama, *The Convent Bell*. Mr. C. E. Howell, first as Colonel Vautier, and afterwards as his son Philip, played well; as Henri Cassella Mr. H. Croma Osborne was effective; Mr. Arthur Manville showed versatility in the parts of the Prison Warder and James, the servant, contributing in the latter rôle a couple of songs; Pickle Pods, the breezy British sailor, was in the capable hands of Mr. C. Howell Webb; the heroine, Margaret Courier, was capably portrayed by Miss Amy Blanche.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Jones and Douglass.—Mr. Charles Coverdale is a comedian with a distinctly original style; Mr. Hyam Long, another comedian, scores enormously; Princess Pocahontas, a coloured lady with a delightful voice, receives much applause; a clever sketch, *Set a Thief* ——, is enacted in admirable style by Miss Ethel Norrie and Herbert Evelyn; a smart illusionist is Mr. O. Penstone, who has two clever Chinese assistants; the Two Le Bruns are excellent jugglers; and Mr. H. Goodburn, actor vocalist; Miss Vio Laud, child singer and dancer; and Herr Spiegler, violinist, complete the programme of artists. The animated pictures are first-class.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Parker.—A welcome return of some old favourites is made this week. Mr. J. H. Scotland sings as well as ever; Miss Elsie Steadman also received warm applause for her clever and effective items; Mr. Alfred Maynall and Mr. Douglas Maclaren cause much laughter; Mr. Austin Mahoney sings pleasantly; and Mr. Frederick Arthur is a painstaking accompanist.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—A special visit of Mr. Georgé Edwardes's company in *The Girls of Gottenberg* is taking place here this week. The company, which includes Mr. Edmund Payne and Happy Fanny Fields, is particularly strong, and crowded houses are the order. In the part of Mitzi Miss Fields is delightful; ever merry and gay, she infuses an undoubted charm into the character which is heartily appreciated, whilst her singing and dancing are also particularly fine. Mr. Edmund Payne as Max Moddelkopf (his original part) is excruciatingly funny, his quaint style and natural gift of comedy showing to the greatest advantage, and enabling him to keep his audience in the best of humour whenever he is visible. Otto, the soldier prince, is humorously portrayed by Mr. Leslie Holland; whilst Mr. Fred Allendale as Albrecht is excellent in a part all too small for him. Clementine, the Burgomaster's daughter, is played with spirit and grace by Miss Masie Gay, and Miss Thelma Raye gives every satisfaction as Elsa. Other leading rôles are ably played by Mr. Fred Payne, Mr. Jocelyn Hope, Mr. Louis Denver, Mr. Douglas Munro, Mr. A. Chentrens, and Miss Florence Phillips. The choruses are rendered in spirit under the direction of Mr. Philip Braham, and the staging and dresses are all that could be desired.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Miss May Palfrey and Mr. F. Kinsey Peile, supported by an excellent company, in *Mrs. Dot*, are paying a first visit here, and are entertaining large audiences. Miss May Palfrey in the title-rôle has a part that suits her admirably. Her portrayal of the wealthy and fascinating widow is a clever and convincing study. Mr. F. Kinsey Peile is successful as the witty and cynical Blenkinsop; whilst Mr. Hugh C. Buckler ably fills the rôle of Gerald Halstane; as Freddy Perkens Mr. Basil Hallam contributes an amusing study; Mr. McIntyre Wicksteed makes a capital part of the inscrutable valet; while Miss Evelyn Beaumont is a pretty and graceful Nellie; Miss Aida Jenoure does well as Lady Sellenger, and other parts are also in capable hands. The performance is in every respect a great success. *Mrs. Dot* is preceded by a bright little curtain-raiser, *A Lively Dinner*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company, in the new drama, *The Girl With the Angel Face*, is being presented here for the first time in Newcastle, and on Monday was well received by a large audience. Miss Florrie Green is entrusted with the title-rôle, and is entirely successful, while Mr. H. Naylor Grimson proves his cleverness by his excellent portraiture of Sir John Wentworth; that sound actor Mr. Fred G. Evison as Jaspar Death was no less successful, and Miss Phyllis Dailley acquitted herself in a manner worthy of the highest praise. Other capable artists are Miss Mildred Carr as Mollie Maitland, Miss Winifred Delevanti as Millie, Mr. Austin Mortimer as Stephen Arkwright, and Mr. J. L. Mann as the Rev. Gordon Cross, who all contribute to the success of the play.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—*Straight from the Shoulder*, a striking melodrama,

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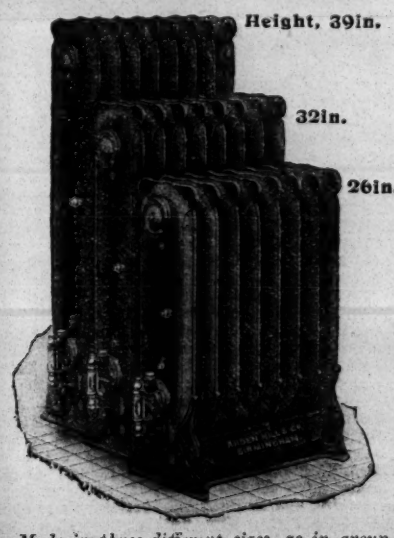

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Made in three different sizes, as in group illustrated.

is being presented here this week by Mr. R. A. Roberts. The company is well selected, and give a capital interpretation of the play. Leading characters are well undertaken by Mr. Matthew Boulton, Mr. Leonard Clarke, Mr. Fred Beck, Miss Beatrice Burdett, Miss Edie Casson, and Miss Beatrice Moore.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—An interesting programme is provided here this week, in which Mr. Laurence Irving is given the place of honour. He presents a tragic episode, *009 West*, and, along with Miss Mabel Hackney, succeeds in winning the appreciation of his audience. In the musical absurdity, *The Tea Shop; or, Tigers, Ltd.*, Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait, and company provide any amount of fun in plenty of singing and dancing, Daley Cooper being in his usual good form. The Jackson Family furnish a most pleasing musical turn, their work being thoroughly artistic and their selections in the best possible taste. Capital entertainment is provided by Spry and Austin, and Reichen gives an exhibition of the wonderful training of his dogs; Bert Harrow is distinctly funny in his songs and patter, and the Brothers Redmond prove clever acrobatic comedians. Other well known and capable artists appearing are J. P. Ling and Marion Scott, the Bioscope completing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The chief turn here this week is Jake Friedman and company in *Happy Holland*, which proves extremely attractive; and other artists contributing to an excellent programme are Kellie and Agnas, Marguerite Broadfoote, Minnie Love, Harry Rogerson, Picitt and Lizette, Society Quartette, and Leonie de Lausanne.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*The Gamester of Metz* is being played here this week by Mr. Chas. March's company.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—George Bastow, who is the star this week, provides a turn that is delightfully quaint; Hy. Coutts, a protean actor of great merit, has a novel way of presenting a quick change in the bright sketch *Outflanked;* the Eight College Girls, charmingly dressed, give several catchy numbers, and Albert Christian is a fine baritone; Naughton and Gold enliven the house with plenty of typical patter; Fred Elton, a gifted vocalist and pianist, displays ability; and the Three Cape Girls, in a novel long-boot dance, present a pleasing turn; Katie Cohen sings a couple of songs with considerable charm. The Bioscope, showing some good pictures, completes the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans; Musical Director, Mr. Walter Ashton.—A strong programme of thirteen items is dominated by Jenny Maningo, in a surprisingly clever juggling act, which is loudly applauded; Ida Barr renders songs in excellent style; Maggie Rimmer, comedienne, is successful; Bell Leaburn is pleasing as a descriptive vocalist; the Sisters Slater are quite at home as banjoists and dancers; the Burnells provide some excellent fun; Ross and Lewis contribute eccentric dancing; and Ackabarr, novelty gymnast, Charlie Craston, comedian, Dennis and Moris, American comedy duo, and the Palace Pictures also furnish well-appreciated items.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's capable company has presented *In Holy Russia* here this week, which has been heartily greeted by appreciative audiences. As Colonel Richard Forrest Mr. Henry Compton submits a carefully studied rendering of the character; and Mr. Frank Copeland gives a capital exhibition of acting as Sir Harry Beresford. Mr. Rolf Leslie makes much of the part of Count Petrolski; Mr. George H. Doyle creates a good impression as Laurice Sterrgoff; Mr. Robert Cockcroft is good as the Czar of Russia; and Mr. J. Rice Cassidy scores a well-deserved success as Mickey Nolan. As Renee Rubinoff Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy plays the part in an artistic manner; Miss Alice Holland gives a finished performance as Madame Natolski; Miss Agnes Durham is admirably suited as Natalie Natolski; Miss Madge Trevellyn is a satisfactory Mrs. Richard Forrest; and Miss Roma Tremayne gives a good account of herself in the part of Catska Lavoski.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The bill here is headed by the Brothers Ashley in *Next, Please*, in which they introduce some clever boxing, for which they are loudly applauded; Messrs. Warren, Doyle, and Clare Fenwick, clog-dancers, are popular; Misses Ada Forrest and Dora King, in their comedy act, are well received; Messrs. Perette and Allen, speciality artists, are very entertaining; and Mr. Harry Jennings, eccentric comedian and dancer, Master Willie Roberts, juvenile Scotch comedian, and the Mouldoscope contribute successfully to a good programme.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—Mr. A. Campbell Kelly's répertoire company is this week drawing good houses. The well-known drama *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* was given on Monday, and was thoroughly appreciated. As Hawkshaw Mr. A. Campbell Kelly was all that could be desired; credit is due to Mr. Arthur Bell, who took the part of Jem Dalton at a few hours' notice; Mr. T. Robertson was a manly Bob Brierley; Miss Blanche Hill was a charming May Edwards; and Miss Nana Cameron made a capital Sam Willoughby. *His House Disordered* and *Lady Audley's Secret* were also announced.

THE PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—The programme this week meets with the heartiest appreciation from large audiences. Jock Dewar is vociferously applauded for his Scotch songs; Joe S. Atkins is quaintly humorous; Clifford Stuart, Lancashire comedian, gains a well-deserved encore for his laughing song; and Miss Madge Goodall is a dainty and graceful comedienne and dancer. The Ruffell's Bioscope shows some very clever and amusing pictures. The entertainment is brought to a conclusion by Mahatma, who is introduced by Prof. J. Steen, and gives wonderful exhibitions of her powers of second-sight.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Moody-Manners' Opera Company is delighting good audiences with some charming operas. On Monday *Madame Butterfly* was given, on Tuesday *Il Trovatore*, on Wednesday *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *I Pagliacci*, on Thursday *Faust*, and on Friday *Carmen*. On Monday Miss Enriqueta Crichton, as Madame Butterfly, was delightful both vocally and in her acting; Miss Benyon was deservedly well received as Suzuki; Mr. Charles Carter was very good as Pinkerton; and Mr. Charles Moorhouse did well as Sharples. On Tuesday Mr. John Childs as Manrico was much appreciated, as were Mr. Charles Moorhouse as Count di Luna and Miss Mary Norton as Azucena, and Miss Nina Bruckshaw as Leonora was most charming.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Carl and Mary Ohm's animal circus is most attractive; Corman's Juveniles, in a vocal scena, *The Waif*, are most interesting; Hugh Cedar and Edward Elgar in *Ye Dayes of Old* submit a quaint performance; the Three Richards are clever in their comedy acrobatic act; Fred Land is quite a favourite; and clever Rose Hamilton, comedienne, Nat Watkins, and Alec Lynn, with the Hippo. Bio., complete a good programme.

AGRICULTURAL HALL ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—Chas. W. Poole's interesting myriorama is here for two weeks. There is a pleasing variety company, which includes the Royal Banzais Japanese Troupe of acrobats; Amasis, the Egyptian magician; the Eight Bramusus in an extravaganza, *Music Afloat;* Sydney Bach, "the Welsh landlady at the piano"; and Harry Raymond, comedian. Mr. Frank Lyndon is an interesting guide.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. Fred Terry presents *The Scarlet Pimpernel* this week, and one night is devoted to *Matt of Merrymount*. In the former Mr. Terry repeats his admirable interpretation of Sir Percy Blakeney. In the absence of Miss Neilson, the part of Lady Blakeney is taken by Miss Miriam Lewes, who acts with passion and verve, revealing a wealth of artistic temperament. Mr. Horace Hodges plays the unscrupulous Chauvelin with his accustomed force; Mr. J. Carter-Edwards adds fresh business to his portraiture of Brogard, and Mr. Alfred Kendrick aptly assumes Sir Andrew Ffoulkes. Misses Claire Pauncefort, Kathleen Doyle, Mary Jennings, Marion Sterling, and Stuart Innes, with Messrs. Malcolm Cherry, Fred Groves, H. F. Wright, and L. Race Dunrobin capitally sustain their different rôles.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* is being keenly appreciated here. Mr. F. Ronald Adair has all the breeziness and vigour of the sailor, and his interpretation of Willie Mason is excellent. Mr. Sydney Sarl as Bill Slater forms a very clever character study; Mr. Frank Robertson capitally plays Jack Fenton, and Mr. Frank Denis is good as Richard Fenton; Miss Jessie Belmore makes a big success of Sophie Coventry, on whose conduct the play turns, and Miss Zoe Davis gives an earnest and thoughtful reading of Lucy Coventry. As the evil genius, Miss Nannie Meade shows conspicuous merit, and her Vesta la Clere is a clever piece of work; Miss Marie Kildare makes a fresh and engaging Poppie, and laughter reigns supreme at the efforts of Mr. Fred Ingram as Johnny Walker.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Vast crowds fill this place nightly to greet the always dainty and charming Vesta Tilley, and a triumph awaits her at each performance. Hubert Carter presents an excellent sketch, entitled *Davy Garrick*, receiving well-deserved applause; the drollery of Drew and Alders is rightly rewarded by peals of responsive merriment; the turn of Lydia Yeamans is greatly enjoyed, and evokes hearty plaudits; an agreeable acrobatic entertainment is provided by the Sisters Grovini, and much favour is shown to the Barton Franklin Trio for their instrumental and vocal speciality; Edie King, in her quick-change scena; the Crown Trio of vocalists, and Tom Parker, a comedian and dancer, call for a word of praise, and the Bioscope shows the usual humorous pictures.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter J. R. Bryan.—We have here this week an excellent representation of *The Eve of Her Wedding*, by Mr. Wilson Benge's company. Mr. Benge as George Tremain gives an excellent impersonation; Mr. Arthur Keand is good as Squire Leverton; Mr. Arthur Danson is well placed as Dick; as Rudolph Earle Mr. Charles Digby is highly amusing; Mr. Wallace Campbell as Dean Clifton is a capable villain; Mr. Chas. Groves, in the dual rôle of Paul Cairstair and Hyram Younger, is well placed; Mr. Arthur E. Holland is a capital Jack Herne; Miss Eppie Bartlett gives a good impersonation of the crafty, scheming Renie de Telle; Miss Daisy Cooke wins favour as Gwendoline Younger; and Miss Sadie Smith is a capable Mavis Leverton. The smaller parts are ably handled by Mr. Fred Rivers (Giovanni), Mr. K. Arthur (Bill Groggins), Mr. Alexander George (Rev. Goodman), Mr. Joe England (P.C. Lockings), and Miss Amy Milstead (Edith Trevanion). The piece is well staged and dressed.

OLDBURY.—PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—A capital programme is offered here. The Beddoes, sketch artists, give a good show; Ethel Yorke is a charming comedienne; Benno is a remarkable performer; Sisters Amy and Ada, eccentric comediennes, are a clever couple; Beanland, female impersonator, wins much applause for his own particular business; Miss Ray Thorne is much appreciated; and Messrs. Malone and Conley, knockabouts and patterers, keep the audience in a good humour. The pictures conclude.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—*The Belle of the Ball* visits Oldham for the first time this week, being played by Violet Osmund's company, under the management of Mr. Alexander Loftus. Miss Gertrude Melville as Poppy acts with charming grace; Vera Grafton is excellent as Lucy Foster, and Miss Florence Watson is clever as the suffragette, Queenie Trevor; Miss Ethel Bertram as Alice and Miss Corona L'Estrange as Mary cause much amusement; Mr. Johnny Schofield is the life and soul of the piece as Timothy Timkins; Mr. Robert Hyett sings well as Sir Francis Lake, and Bobbie Fletcher is well acted by Mr. L. C. Hughes; Mr. Chas. Adeson also does well as Farmer Jones, Mr. E. W. Chewd being very good as James Foster; Mr. E. H. Bertram is a capital Showman Jack.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Messrs. Elliman's company is here on a return visit with *A Heart's Desire*. Mr. R. F. Stacey acts in a forcible manner as Lord St. Ives; Mr. Edward Leroy is powerful as the blackmailing Luke Forest, and Mr. Chas. King is a capital David McCulloch; Miss Lily Prescott is clever as Oiya, Miss G. Gilman is a dainty Hon. Elsie Beresford, and Miss Blanche Leroy a smart Julie. Miss Hilda May as Gwendoline Ross and Mr. H. Lawrence as Bertie Beresford cause much laughter.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—The Gothams sing and harmonise in a capital manner, and Pipifax and Paulo in *Humpsti-Bumpsti* are exceedingly funny; *Her Princely Betrayer* is well played; Miss Amber Wyville acts cleverly as Teresina, Miss May Ollam is excellent as Sancia, and Mr. Joynsen Powell as Bruna is very good; Mr. Brunton and Mr. Roe give able assistance. Pasquali Brothers are clever in an equilibristic tumbling act; F. V. St. Clair does well with his songs; Natalia and Diana are a smart pair of aerial artists; Fox and Melville are good song illustrators; and W. Burnand is a capital mimic.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Hyde and Cody perform capitally as acrobats; Hyram Travers, character comedian, sings good songs; the Three Seabornes are wonderful equilibrists; Mi Narom is a clever eccentric vocalist; and the Danbys, comedians; Elliott and Warne, a funny couple, and Leo Trainor, vocal comedian, also appear. Amusing pictures on the Dottoscope conclude.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Miss Grace Warner's company is here with *The Scarlet Clue*. Mr. George Gordon gives an effective rendering of Michael Stanton; Mr. T. O'Brien is a success in the dual rôle of Jack and Harry Esmond; Mr. A. B. Lyons does well as Edward Croker, and Mr. Roy Rhind is admirable as Crazy Jim; Mr. E. H. Keith is responsible for the fun as Billy the Rotter. Miss K. Stewart is sweet and natural as Elsie Dane; Miss Phyllis Massey is good as Reggie Carstairs, and Little Norah Brettan shows ability as Little Polly; Miss Kathleen Cranston makes the most of Mother Scrooge, and Miss A. Corrie is well placed as Miss Tabitha Esmond; Miss Grace Warner, on whom much devolves, portrays Sal Scarlet very powerfully.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair present this week *Man to Man* with a powerful company. Mr. Edward Lloyd gives an admirable rendering of George Gordon; Mr. Frank Adair as Richard Ellerton is excellent; Mr. H. Holland as Matthew Ellerton is commendable; Mr. Clifford Bown submits a capital portrayal of Bill Burkley; Mr. Bruce Williams as Samuel Plumtree acts with effect; Mr. R. Val Shane is well placed in the character of the Rev. Philip Ormond; and a word of praise is due to Messrs. Charles Russell, J. C. Thornbury, and George Edwin in minor parts. Miss Louie Adair plays with sincerity the rôle of Ethel Maythorne; Gipsy Madge is capably enacted by Miss Evelyn Warde; Miss Ada Martin makes a humorous Mary; Miss Adeline Lester is successful in her interpretation of Miss Lavinia Dove; and Miss Phyllis Oakley as Ned Doyle is good.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Douglas F. Bostock.—Harry Radford and Mlle. Valentine, the jolly juggling jesters and maniacs of mirth, meet with a cordial reception; the Selbinis submit a daring and marvellous pot-pourri bicycle performance, and are applauded; in his humorous and pathetic studies of children Wilson Hallett is very entertaining; Pat Lynch pleases with his wooden-shoe dances; clever are the Three Phydoras in a novel specialty act; Charles Russell appeals with his military song-scena, "1854," and is supported by Tom E. Cliffe and eight veterans; as a comedian and clog-dancer Charley Rose becomes popular; a smart and clever comedy act, *The Porter and the Parcel*, is presented by Howard and Collinson; and the Hippodrome Bioscope is also an attraction.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—An excellent bill is this week topped by Fred Cary, the favourite comedian. In a comedy act, entitled *Fun at a Railway Station*, Farley, Rennie, and Farley evoke roars of laughter; the humour is further continued by Charlie Walker and May, coloured comedians and dancers; Craig, Roze, and Craig execute marvellous gymnastic feats; the Markies have a humorous, vocal, and instrumental sketch; a clever exposition of juggling is given by Ray; and Miss Kittie Upton deserves a word of praise as a comedienne. Reed and Stevens are also smart in a comedy sketch, entitled *Married or Photographed;* and the Tivoliscope concludes.

PETERBOROUGH.—EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—A fine company this week includes Flo Hovis, comedienne; the Incemores, the merry manikins; Halma, the Scottish society juggler; Fred Bamford, the whistling newsboy; Melvin and Max, in an entertaining pot-pourri; Silly Billy Elliott, the famous comedian; the talented Lily and Elsie Judge, with their society bird act; the Two St. Johns, musicians, campanologists and comedians; and Forest to Fireside on the Bioscope.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—The programme this week includes Frank Jester, an artist who well justifies his name; the fascinating Sisters Du Cain; Ryan and Hall, grotesque acrobatic comedians; Sandy McNab, in laughable sketch; Maud Nestle, ballad vocalist; Vesta, the musical Momus; and Mysticus, who gives a very clever turn. The Hippodrome pictures are good.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The ever-popular *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is again on a visit to the West, and a fine house which assembled on Monday was alternately moved to tears and merriment by the really clever acting of Mr. Chas. Harrington's No. 1 company. Mr. J. Carr as the venerable Uncle Tom gave a portrayal that will bear comparison with previous renderings; Mr. C. Harrison is particularly well adapted to the rôle of Phineas Fletcher; and Mr. F. Forbes-Robertson distinguishes himself as St. Clair. Mr. Ernest Regent is a capable George Harris; and other noticeable members of the company are Misses A. Watson, M. Turner, E. Vernon, and H. Hathaway.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The Ten Loonies are starred for the week, and their performance is again popular; Sivoni earns plently of applause for his comedy act, entitled *Mixtures*, receiving material assistance from Miss Amy Broughton; Rauschle impersonates well-known celebrities, past and present, with remarkable exactitude; and Wilson and Waring raise many a hearty laugh with their amusing patter; Bowman and Morton being also adepts in the same business. George Prince and Fred Dunstone, comedians, furnish acceptable numbers.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—At the head of an exceptionally attractive bill here this week are the Cheers, in a refined scena, *Dick Whittington*, done with some effective scenic effects, and introducing some cleverly-trained cats. Angelina, a really smart juggler, does some wonderful feats with a cannon ball; Rose D'Aubby sings some effective songs with swinging choruses; and Chant and Chant rattle through a number of quips and jokes in sprightly fashion. Frances Hanlon, a chic and dainty dancer, sings smart ditties; Arthur Elvey, as a racing tipster, gives a sketch of the racecourse prophet; Miss Gladys Cooper as a ballad singer gains much favour; George Acre is a comedian full of character; and the pictures are, as usual, interesting.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. E. H. Knight's company is the attraction here this week, with *The Lighthouse Robbery*. Tom Manly is admirably played by Mr. Henry Herne; William Farren is in the able hands of Mr. Wm. Annesley; James Hammond is faithfully portrayed by Mr. Percy Beresford; and Miss Hilda Baynton scores a distinct success as Rose Prescott.

PORTH.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping an excellent programme at the above for this week we have Doody and Wright, the Australian comedy duo; Jenny Alexander, child mimic, deserves special mention; the Seymons give a creditable equilibristic act; Will English, the real coon, scores a success; Phern and Phern are admirable musical speciality artists; Irene Meldon is a dainty vocalist and dancer; Dan Thomas is a noteworthy turn; Ben Harries and his Nippers score a success; and the Palascope pictures are effective.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is being presented here by Mr. George Dance's principal company. Mr. Arthur Reynolds makes a droll Mr. Hook; Mr. Frederick Hobbs sings admirably and acts with vigour as Captain Adrian; Mr. Powis Pinder is highly successful as the Bandmaster; Mr. Percy Davidson is well placed as Schnapps; and Mr. Fred Lyne keeps the house in one ripple of merriment by his capital performance of Simon Slinks. Miss Queenie Preston is a charming Gretchen; Miss Mabel Sealby makes the very best of the part of Mina by her droll acting and singing; Miss Marie Wilson is full of life and gaiety in the title-rôle; and the Misses Amy Preston and Mandy Jennings are praiseworthy as Freda and Clara.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. B. Agate.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is here, with *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Mr. Bartlett Garth as John Jasper gives a powerful and convincing interpretation of the character; Mr. G. Ridgway makes a capital Edwin Drood; Nevill Landless is well taken by Mr. J. H. Twyford; Mr. Richard Harris is well fitted with the part of Mr. Septimus Crisparkle; and Mr. David Phillips is amusing in his portrayal of Durdles. Miss Jenny Risley is brisk and smart as the Deputy; Miss May Beatrice, in the rôle of Helena Landless, is quite satisfactory; Miss Addie Adair sustains the part of Princess Puffer with marked ability; and Mrs. Morton Powell is entirely successful in her delineation of Rosa Bud.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—A powerful attraction here this week is Lafayette, the American entertainer; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon-Wilde, society shadowists, are responsible for plenty of laughter; Frank Hardy and company, in the sensational sketch *The Traitor*, score well; the Maximillian Trio of equilibrists gain plenty of applause; Frank Cass is an amusing vocal comedian; Star and Leslie contribute a smart Indian club act; and also billed are Dan Whiteley, eccentric comedian; and Edward Lauri and May Beatty and company.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The star turn here for the week is Florrie Forde, who is in excellent form and voice, and submitted three of her popular and up-to-date numbers, gaining the warm approval of a full house; Woolmer Young, a tuneful and capable vocal comedian, did well; Geo. C. Doughty and company, in comedy sketch *Captain Cupid*, caused plenty of merriment; Frances Letty, American wooden-shoe dancer, is smart in song and dance; Albas on the wire is very clever in an equilibristic sensational act; the Sisters Henderson are most meritorious performers as musicians, dancers, and vocalists; Pete and Minnie Lee, in sketch, *The Scotchman's Visit to London*, proved an acceptable item; W. D. Mackenzie and company, in new and original scena, *Moments With the Masters*, gave a very artistic and pleasing entertainment in a picturesque setting; and Payne's Bio portrays popular pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Colonel Roberts, V.D.—The bill of fare for the week here includes Messrs. Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company, in the elaborately-mounted sketch *St. George and the Dragon*, in which Messrs. Harry Valdo and Harry Calver and the Misses Mona Hungerford and Dora Gregory appear with success; Miss Kitty Taylor is a brisk and pleasing comedienne; the Brothers Dean give much satisfaction by their excellent terpsichorean efforts; Howard and Harris, in *Adventures of a Happy Tramp*, are most ludicrous; Mr. Arthur Aldridge, with a rich and powerful voice, gives old-time favourites with signal success; Wittie Waittie Walton is as diverting and mirth-provoking as usual; the Mackweys, in their knockabout contribution, are very smart; that capable artist Van Biene, actor-musician, in *The Master Musician*, assisted by Miss Mary Mannering and Miss Kingston, is responsible for a sympathetic and artistic turn. The Hippo pictures conclude.

PRESTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—This week Miss Ida Molesworth's company is presenting *Under Two Flags*. Miss Agnes Verity as Cigarette carries all before her, and is a great success; Miss Dorothy Lart is excellent as Princess Corona; Miss Jean Stern as Countess Olga and Miss Madge Stevens as Lady Beatrice are also most successful in their respective parts. Mr. Austin Milroy both looks and acts the part of Louis Victor in a masterly manner; Mr. D. FitzGibbon is capital as his brother, Barklie; and Mr. Charles Brooke is a dignified Lord Royellieu (his father). Mr. Victor Garden is a typical Lord Rockingham; Mr. Harry Benson as Rake extracts much humour from the part; Mr. Arthur Elwyn imbues the character of the domineering Colonel Chanteroy with the necessary treachery; while Mr. A. Holmes as Captain Claude de Chaurellon, Mr. Johnny Leoni as Ezri Baroni are each good. The remaining characters are all in good hands, who work hard for the success of the piece. The mounting and stage effects are good.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Miss Harriett Vernon tops the bill here this week, and is enthusiastically received in her new song scena, entitled "A Yuletide story"; Henri Cazman gives a selection of his well-known representation of celebrities, and concludes with some amusing shadowgraphs; Barrie and Wood are a team of exceedingly clever acrobatic dancers; Fame and Fortune are versatile speciality comedians, who please; Miss Florence Yamen deservedly wins loud applause for her very original coon caricature act; George Young is an expert blind musician, his concertina solos being exceptionally well rendered, and he is well received; Shavo, expert comedy juggler, does some smart tricks; Celest has a sensational act on the slack wire; Leslie Race has some capital comic ditties, which go down well; and Eva Chadwick, who possesses a good soprano voice, of which she makes good use, and wins applause. The Wrong Lottery Ticket on the Bioscope concludes.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—*Convict 99*, by Miss Marie Connor Leighton, is well staged here. Mr. Frank Beresford acts the part of Lawrence Gray with power; Mr. Benson North is to be complimented on his Ralph Villiers; Mr. J. Warris Lindon gives a strong rendering of Christopher Lucas; Mr. Walter Westwood as Warder Gannaway is good; and Mr. H. Peachey and Mr. W. Fordyce both deserve a word of praise. Mr. Edward Kipling as James Stinchcombe and Miss Jennie Richards as Maggie Mason do well; and Miss Dorothy Milne as Geraldine Lucas displays ability.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—*The Gay Deceivers* has been paying a welcome return visit here this week, and the bright musical comedy has had a cordial reception at the hands of large audiences. Mr. Mark Lester is wonderfully droll as Joseph the butler; Miss Pauline Primm proves herself a graceful danseuse and a clever vocalist; Miss Dorothy Chard is a charming heroine as Dora Dartrey; Mr. Douglas Phillips makes an effective appearance as Lieut. Dewar; Mr. Frank Stanmore is most amusing as Lord Reggie Muddleton; and the other parts are skilfully impersonated.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—Miss Frances Delaval and company have been staging *Love's Golden Dream* and *Her Lost Self* this week with success. The first-named drama filled the bill on the evenings of Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Miss Delaval played in accomplished style as Margery, while Mr. Harry Rutland depicted the difficult part of the captain in capable fashion. The representatives of villainy found able representatives in Mr. W. Bradford and Miss E. Crawford, while humour had excellent exponents in Miss Doris Strathmore and Mr. Gus Ernest. Mr. Edmund Grogan also contributed considerably to the quality of the production.

MARINA THEATRE.—The animated pictures continue a source of attraction here, the films being first-class. Mr. Fred Pollard, an old Ramsgate favourite and former manager of the Marina, has been paying a return visit this week.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—We have this week a first visit of Mr. C. Watson Mill's company in *A Warning to Women*. Miss Lillian Herries as Moira Kennion gave a powerful impersonation; as Sheila Kennion Miss Winifred Rutland was charming; and Miss Edith Rutland was a sympathetic Myles O'Moore, and Miss Ellen Beverley scored a success as Molly O'Moore; Mr. William Vane made an excellent and manly Shaun; Mr. C. O'Connor as Fergus McNaughton gave a capital interpretation, as also did Mr. Henry Rutland as Squire Vennion. Mr. Leonard Lawrence as Dr. Marcus Dread gave a powerful and uncanny portrayal; Mr. Harry Douglas was a success as Lord Eversleigh; and Mr. Oscar Power made the most of the character of Mike McQuade; whilst Mr. Alec Finlayson was a thoroughly typical Father Wallace.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is being presented this week in first-class style by Mr. George Dance's principal company. Miss Alice Coverick gives an acceptable rendering of the title-rôle; Miss Cissie Sephton is exceedingly good as Mina, her singing being highly appreciated; Mr. T. A. Shale is a clever Mr. Hook; and Mr. Tom Seymour a most amusing Simon.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Fred Karno's new musical production, *The Adventures of Mr. Right 'Un*, is being well received. In this sketch, Mr. H. C. Barry as Bob Right 'Un and Mr. Rolando Martin as the Butler are specially good. Clive and Clark, comedy artists, give a lively turn; Harry Barclay is an amusing comedian; Kitts and Windrum afford much diversion in the military sketch, *The Cuckoo;* Les Belles Americaines sing and dance cleverly; Ariel and Astarte give a very smart trapeze act; Pat Rafferty makes a welcome reappearance, and his songs quite bring down the house. The Launching of the new Brazilian Battleship is shown on the Bioscope.

REDDITCH.—PUBLIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas E. Field.—John H. Tomkinson's Royal Gipsy company opened here on the 17th for three nights, and, being old favourites, did excellent business. *Miss Hook of Holland* was announced for the 25th and following nights.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Walter Ashley makes a capable George Fielding; Mr. Walter B. Nugent cleverly impersonates the villainous Edward Dudley; and Mr. Harry Ugar keeps the audience in roars of laughter as Silas Crump. Miss Nellie Harcourt is a vivacious Judith; and Miss Dorothy Desmonde as Dorothy Montrose acts well and contributes some capital vocal numbers.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Ella Shields heads the bill here this week, and is accorded a hearty reception, her refined and graceful vocalism being thoroughly enjoyed; O'Connor and Brady, comedians, create much amusement; Miss Amy Elvira is a charming burlesque artist; and Percy Farrimond, singing collier; Mlle. Pollo, lady gymnast; Fred Lyndo, comedian; Ena Corelli, speciality dancer; and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete a capital programme.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—The management here has this week gone in for variety with an exceptionally strong company. Carlton, the mysterious, heads the bill, and fully justifies his title, some of his manipulations being quite extraordinary; Leo and Roland are clever hand balancers and equilibrists; Miss Ethel Sheffer is well received in her illustrated songs and the faceograph; Mr. Harry Cotton is highly amusing in his eccentric comedy act; and Mr. Tom Dunmore is deservedly applauded for his clever work. The other turns are also entertaining, and the Bioscope is used to great advantage.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Messrs. Jordan and Harvey, the original Hebrew comedians, bring down the house with their extremely funny gags; the Ellimans (Alice and Van) give a highly finished and refined musical turn; Mr. Dan Filmer is a very clever comedian; and Mr. L. B. Athol is deservedly applauded for "Dreamland." A clever sketch, *Half a Dollar*, by Messrs. Haines, Borthwick, and Co., creates roars of laughter. Mr. Alan Borthwick as Harry Helton is smart, and Mr. W. A. Haines is quite a treat as Harry Hutchens. Miss Margaret Damer is pleasing as Kate, being ably seconded by Miss Ida Vynall as Nelly. Miss Marguerite Ismay and her White Coons are responsible for a pretty and effective turn, and Miss Ida Adelaide scores a great success in her songs and dance. Messrs. Harding and Preston are responsible for a capital comedy act, *The Editor and the New Sub*, and Miss Nellie Lunelle is a sprightly song and dance artist. Mr. Thomas Richardson continues to entertain with some excellent musical numbers.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Junius Booth's company had a good house on Monday, when was presented *Monte Cristo*, adapted by Mr. Booth, who made a good impression as Edmund Dantes. Miss Lelia Drummond was a charming Mercedes; Danglars was well sustained by Mr. A. Bowerman; Mr. Miller Anderson (Nortier), Mr. Ed. Coates (Fernand Mondego), Mr. C. W. Crowe (Villifort), Mr. K. Milson (Albert de Morcef), and Miss V. Carter (Sophie Danglars) supplied good studies of their respective characters. Much fun was caused by Mr. Herbert Colley as Caderousse; and Miss Alice West as La Caronte.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Edwin Boyde heads an excellent programme this week, and keeps the house in roars; Cestria is a smart acrobat and a comic juggler; the Four Amaraths are clever acrobatic dancers; the musical and patter business of Kenneth and Kane is much enjoyed; and other acceptable turns are given by Tom Sherlock, vocalist; Royal Delones, in song and expert dance; W. L. Murray, the Roman gladiator; Stacey and Williams, duettists; Jack Martin, vocalist; Norman and

body in a merry mood; as Slinks Mr. Fred Dark fills his part to perfection; Mr. J. B. Fox as Capt. Paap is highly distinguished, and has a magnificent voice; as Bandmaster Van Vuyt Mr. Adrian Burgon is decidedly smart; Mr. Robert Corray as Schnapps is equally successful. Miss Ethel James as Miss Hook looks and acts in a charming manner, and sings with admirable expression; Miss Muff Carew as Mina is superb, her singing being encored; and Miss Molly Trevor is a favourite as Gretchen. The dressing and mounting of the piece is on a lavish scale, and the chorus, under the conductorship of Mr. Harry Richardson, is effective.

OLD FREE LIBRARY.—Lessee, Mr. George H. Davis.—Mr. Fred Norman and his star variety company were here for four nights. Mr. Tom Yorke, patter and character comedian, was very droll; Norminto, "the handcuff king," gave one of his marvellous performances; Prof. Vaux gave two successful turns as a conjurer and ventriloquist; and a long series of animated pictures was also shown.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's *Gay Gordons* company is here. Miss Marie Ash, in the rôle of the millionaire's daughter, acts with skill and ability; Mr. Frank Lincoln as Angus wins well-deserved applause; and Mr. Tom Graves as the old showman contributes much to the success of the play.

THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. L. Holland.—This week the Six Albyns give a musical entertainment of a refined character here; the Flying Orenius on the trapeze are wonderfully clever; the Glenroy Troupe of dancers do a refreshing turn and sing well; the Yokels supply a successful musical turn; and Satsuma, juggler, is clever. The programme includes Nellie Nora, instrumentalist; Stan Aubrey, comedian; and J. J. Mannia, coon singer and dancer. Good pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

SPA THEATRE.—Proprietors, Cliff Bridge Co.; Manager, Mr. Fras. Goodricke.—Mr. Geo. Alexander's company, in *The Thief*, is here this week. Mr. Stephen T. Stewart as Richard Chelford is very successful; Miss May Cogden as Marise is delightful; Mr. Gerald Ames as Raymond Leyton has a part that fits him exactly; and Miss Mary Dibley as Isabel Leyton is excellent.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company, in *The Lancashire Lad*, is here, with Mr. Alec Alexander in the title-part. Miss Stanley Burt as Jessie Wincote wins recognition, and Miss Nell Oliver as Lorna Wincote is delightful.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company is proving a powerful attraction here this week in *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. Alfred Goddard gives a calm and well-managed interpretation of Jack Frobisher; and Mr. Russell Barry appears to great advantage as the frank and genial Hankey Bannister. Mr. Ben Lewin does all that is required for the Marquis of Steventon, Lord Drayton (his son) being well depicted by Mr. Christopher Steele. The roué and traitor, Harry Dallas, has a capital exponent in Mr. A. W. Tyrer, Bertram Hannaford, the Hon. Wilfred Renton, and Lord Marchmont being ably presented by Mr. George Percy, Mr. Francis Drake, and Mr. O. Gee respectively. Miss Ormonde Wynne gets in some effective touches as Lady Westerby; Miss Mornington (Miss Pauline Strauss), the Duchess of Skye (Miss Millie Emden), Lady Porchester (Miss Gladys Meyrick), and Miss Wyatt (Miss Mabel Mears) all give good renderings of their respective rôles. Miss Elsie Ross displays a clever *naïveté* and abandon as Lady Lucy Derenham; and Miss Nancy Beresford scores heavily by her clever and well-studied delineation of Lady Alethea Frobisher.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company had a fine reception from a crowded audience on Monday, when *A Merry Maid* was presented. Larry O'Hooligan is portrayed by Mr. Vivian Wakeman in rollicking style; Mr. Neil Hardy as the Hon. Cecil Toft is very droll; Thady Clancy is submitted in pleasing style by Mr. Howard Lawrence; as Von Swank Mr. H. Tracey is a clever comedian; Mr. W. S. Hutchinson as Biddy is immensely popular; Mr. C. W. James as Sharp Scrivener does well; and Bertie is smartly played by wee George Wood. As Peggy O'Hooligan Miss May Gibson's singing is a feature of the performance; Angela is played in dainty style by Miss F. Adamson; and Miss Ray Watson as Flossie Kixie is popular.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Hippodrome Co.—A welcome visit is being paid here by Mr. Ernest Dare and company in the successful farcical comedy *In the Soup*. Mr. Dare is supported by a small but excellent company, prominent amongst which appears Mr. Louis Palgrave as Horace Gillibrand, this character being portrayed in humorous style. He is ably assisted by Miss M. Lowe-Dare as Judith. An excellent portrayal of a peppery old Indian judge is given by Mr. A. Field Fisher as Abernethy Ruppershaw, Mr. Ernest Dare as Paul Hemming is a great success; and special praise is due to Miss Vera Wallace for her delightfully natural rendering of Mme. Moppert. Mr. James E. Taylor is also effective. The piece is preceded by a short dramatic play, entitled *The Glow of an Ember*.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—An attractive programme is again provided here. The best are The Guardsman's Bride, Tricksy, the Clever Princess, The Great Marathon Race, Hoist with His Own Bomb, Jack of all Trades and Master of None, and His Sweetheart's Birthday.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—The world-famous artist, Ellen Terry, opened to a crowded and representative audience on Monday, in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. Miss Terry's visit has naturally aroused great enthusiasm in Sheffield.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*Claudian*, the great play by Wells and Herman, has been acted to big houses here this week. Mr. William Maclaren acts with the requisite fire and dramatic passion as the splendid Claudian; Miss Lily Bandmann makes a graceful and winning representative of Almida; and all the other characters are excellently played. The scenery and costumes, together with the mechanical effects, are faithful copies of the originals used at the Princess's Theatre.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company began a welcome visit on Monday, in a selection of plays. On Monday, the interesting moral drama, *A Gambler's Daughter*, was played to a good house, the principal parts being allotted to Miss Adria Hill in the dual rôle of Mildred and Miriam Grant, Miss Madge Hobart, Miss Harriette Loydall, Miss Ruby South, Mr. Robert Ayrton, Mr. H. Elliston, Mr. Richard Pitt, Mr. Basil Mitchell, Mr. H. C. Robinson, Mr. Cedric Thornley, Mr. F. Wheatcroft, Mr. Fred G. Ingleby, Mr. P. Pierce, Miss K. Dempsey, and Miss M. St. John. *The Woman from Russia*, a new drama of modern life (noticed in another column) and *East Lynne* have also been performed to appreciative audiences.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—*The Fighting Parson* is again delighting large audiences. Mr. George Gray repeats his robust and characteristic representation of the title-rôle. The other parts are well played, and the piece is effectively mounted. Little Ganty causes hearty laughter; Mr. Ernie Mayne also makes the welkin ring with laughter and applause. The Lumars do a graceful, agile, and elegantly staged gymnastic act; and other engaged are the Huxter Bros., jumpers; Miss Muriel Harding, comedienne; Miss Madge May, comedienne; Orpheus, instrumentalist; Mr. Drew, vocalist; and the Bioscope, with The Phantom Motor Ride.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—Large houses this week are lavishing applause on Mr. Harry Roxbury and his company, in the screaming musical and pantomimical absurdity, *The Prince of Monte Carlo;* Rell and Bell, comedians; Mr. Richardsons Taylor, mimic ventriloquist; the Three Krags, gymnasts; Bostock's Baboons; the Three Transfields, in a refined musical entertainment; Carr and Rose, musical comedy artists; Mr. H. C. Lovell's company, in *Mlle. Pom-Pom;* the Barrascope, with beautiful coloured moving pictures; and Miss Zona Vevey, in a gorgeously mounted musical scena, assisted by M. Max Erard.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—In addition to the Raymonde Bio-Tableaux, with all the latest films, there are engaged here Garden's celebrated Royal Quintette, Scotland's representative vocalists, pipers, and international dancers; Mons. Alfonzo does some extraordinary feats; Mr. W. C. Wesley is a funny character comedian; the Sisters Clare are pretty and clever.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—The new-comers here on Monday were Mr. Tom Joy, a funny comic singer; Miss Bessie Travis, lady ventriloquist; and Mr. G. H. Keith, ballad vocalist.

ALBERT HALL.—Manager, Mr. J. Peace.—Mr. Joshua Dyson's Diorama and choir are still delighting big houses with excellent and varied programmes.

THE PAVILION.—As a picture theatre, pure and simple, this establishment is a great success.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—The sensational drama, *Partners in Crime*, is being played here this week by Mr. H. Keates Hale's capable company, and proves a popular show. Mr. Frank Englesfield plays with ability the part of the satanic Dr. Mortimer Caine; Mr. A. J. Ede is an excellent Philip Bardsley; Mr. Lewis de Burgh a manly and talented Jack Brandon; Mr. Wm. Walters acts cleverly as Capt. Tom Cornise; Mr. Fred Joyce merits praise as Nicholas Pickles; Mr. Wm. Passmore performs creditably the part of Joe Norton; Mr. H. Claude Merton is a jovial and successful Irishman as Tom O'Mallory; Mr. Claude Merton makes a capital policeman; Miss V. Winifred Hamilton acts capably as Mrs. Brandon; Mrs. Maud Buchanan as Ruth Maitland in a trying part performs it with power and success; Miss Dorothy Lesleigh makes a bright and lively Pollie Prince, and Miss Violet Leslie is pleasing and meritorious as Dora Bardsley.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Messrs. George Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—By arrangement with Mr. George Alexander, three delightful performances of *His House in Order* have been given by Mr. Herbert Ralland and company. Miss Kitty Cavendish as Nina won repeated applause for a highly commendable portrayal; Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont's ability is cleverly displayed as Hilary Jesson; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves as Filmer Jesson, M.P., was creditable; Mr. Randolfe Reade was well suited as Major Maurewarde; Messrs. T. Langford Browne, Dudley Stuart, and L. Wallis were capable; and Misses Peggy Rae, Avis Grahame, Victoria Wray, and Katie Neville maintained their respective characters capably. A three nights' engagement of *The Belle of Mayfair* commenced on Thursday.

THE KURSAAL. — Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—Commencing on Monday, two evening programmes are now submitted, and reduced prices of admission augur well for increased support. A special feature of this week's capital entertainment is the Bioscope pictures; Miss Rosie Rosedale has a good reception for descriptive songs; Miss Bessie Neilson wins hearty applause with illustrated songs; Miss Phyllis is a miniature danseuse who merits applause; Mr. A. W. Reed entertains as a lightning artist, his pictures and smoke and colour painting being particularly good; Mr. Tricks is closely watched in his illusions and magical wonders; and the Dahomey Warriors prove delightful in their receptions.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—This week's entertainment is entirely devoted to pictures by the Anglo-American Animated Picture Co. Among a long series that affords unusual interest are the excellent films dealing with the Life on a Submarine, the Harlequin's Love Story, and the Sports at the White City.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Hardie and Von Leer's original company is here this week in *Two Little Vagabonds*, which was well received by a large audience on Monday. In the rôle of Marion Thornton Miss Florence Dalton played exceedingly well, the pathetic and emotional scenes being very effectively depicted; and Mr. Richard A. Greene portrayed George Thornton with convincing force. The name-parts were capitally delineated by Miss Denise Zaleski and Miss Alice Leon as Dick and Wally respectively; Captain Darville was admirably impersonated by Mr. Arthur E. Melborne; Miss Marion Fawcett was seen to advantage as Barbara Scarth; Mr. Martin Sands is a successful representative of Bill Mullins, and is ably seconded by Miss Marie Pritchard as Biddy Mullins; Mr. Stanley Field and Mr. Fred Archer are brisk and alert as Dido Bunce and the Coughdrop. The minor parts are well played.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company in *The Breed of the Treshams* is here. Lieut. Beresby is strikingly depicted by Mr. Sydney Bland; Batty is skilfully portrayed by Miss Grace Harlington; Miss Mildred Hodson is a charming and powerful Margaret; the Viscount Dorsington of Mr. Alfred Holles is a spirited interpretation; Mr. W. R. Winning as Clement Hungerford, Mr. George Trail as Sir Henry Curwen, and Mr. Howard Brennan as Francis Tresham are all well placed. The minor parts are in good hands.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The Lukushima Troupe, introducing Otara San, in some clever acrobatic feats, is easily first; Mr. Gus Garrick takes the house by storm; Mendel, the blind pianist, makes a great impression; and good artists are Jock Mills, Scotch comedian; Harry May Hemsley, a clever mimic; Probyn and Bates, in comedy, vocal, and dancing act; Tennyson and Wallis, comedians, and Marie Wilton, comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope is admired.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE LANE.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—The Three Moxons, clever acrobats, tumblers, and dancers, are very popular here; Rob Campbell, a comedian and one-legged dancer, provides an interesting turn; and the rest of the entertainment is provided by the Tivoloscope.

COSY CORNER, SEA FRONT. — Mr. Geo. Burton's clever comedians bring their season to a close this week, and still hold their audiences by their concerted numbers, witty sayings, and patter, concluding their performance with a strong sketch.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. H. Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Stuart Lomath's company provides the attraction here with *No Wedding Bells for Her*. As Frank Hatherleigh Mr. Stuart Lomath is excellent; and as Lola Miss Lizzie Montague gives a fine performance. The other parts are well played by Messrs. Percy Shaw, G. Harvey, Edward Vivian, George Herbert, and Harry G. Momber, and Misses Cicily Clutterbuck, Ellen Owen, and Nellie Wilson. On Wednesday and Thursday *Sapho* will be played, with Miss Montague in the title-rôle.

STAFFORD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—*Sapho*, as presented by the stock company, met with a good reception on Monday. Mr. Edwin Turner's Jean was an able study; Miss Lallah Davies made an enthralling Sapho; Mr. Edwin Warden's Dechelette was convincingly good; Mr. Johnny McElroy gave fine zest to the character of Césaire; and Mr. Fred Carroll's Hettéma was clever. As Alice Miss Mabel Marte proved her ability as an emotional actress; and as Cleopatra Miss Dora Moorhouse did well.

STALYBRIDGE. — HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—Wyndham and Kitty perform a number of clever feats on the aeriel wire; the Burgons, speciality couple, must be congratulated on the rapidity and completeness of their changes of costume; Stanley's Urchins are warmly applauded for their harmony and dancing act; Du Roche is a favourite burlesque artist; and Frank Soleby, mimic, Frank Newbury, comedian and siffleur, and the McConnell Family, vocal comedians, also entertain.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—*Are You a Mason?* is the special attraction at the theatre this week, Mr. Charles Macdona's company appearing in the production. Mr. E. H. Paterson is excellent as Amos Bloodgood; and as Frank Perry Mr. Francis J. Bithel proves himself a capable actor. Mr. H. Langdon Bruce is the life of the piece as the irrepressible George Fisher; and Mr. G. P. Polson is very funny as John Halton. Miss Adelaide Grace acts with becoming dignity as Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood; and Miss Rita Narcelle and Miss Rita Johnson are sweet and pretty and very natural as Eva and Annie respectively. Miss Dulcie Verney is an attractive Lulu; and Miss Viola Garland a graceful Mrs. Halton. Miss Mary Kilpack is amusing as Lottie. The curtain-raiser, *A Bad Penny*, is excellently played.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The programme this week is headed by the Norman Leonard Trio, who are pleasing in musical sketches; H. O. Wills receives a warm welcome; Maud Courtney recites and sings well; Mr. C. has some amusing stories to tell; Lucy Coventry dances prettily; and good turns are given by Arthur Woodville, Moxford and O'Neill, and Robert Dohn.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—The visit here this week of *Tom Jones* has been anticipated with a marked degree of pleasure, and as represented by Mr. Mouillot's company has commanded enthusiastic praise from crowded audiences. As Benjamin Partridge Mr. Geo. Elton makes a great success, his every saying and movement being provocative of hearty laughter. Mr. Cyril Thompson acts and sings ably as Tom Jones; Mr. Michael Dyer is an excellent Gregory; and Squire Western is satisfactorily portrayed by Mr. Fred Seymour. Miss Olive Elton acts with delightful charm and ability as Lady Bellaston; as Sophia Miss Margaret Stonor's vocalism is highly appreciated; whilst Miss Florrie Saunders is exceedingly pleasing as Honour.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—A capital all-round company is appearing here this week. The Robertys, in their clever balancing and juggling act, head the bill, which also includes Rose and Calvert, who are very amusing in their burlesque; Martinett and Wallace, coloured musical entertainers of ability; Hans and Lux, amusing patterers; Les Zelovas, acrobatic equilibrists, who accomplish several smart feats; a pleasing Irish comedienne in Eileen Bernard; the Allisons, successful character duettists and dancers; Flo Hilton, an entertaining male impersonator; and Harrigan and Holt, comedians and dancers.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and company appeared here on Monday in the romantic drama, *Who is She?* Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson, author of the play, takes the leading part as Prince Bora, and gives a good representation; Mr. Graham Woods as King Vladimir gives a good rendering; Mr. Sinclair Holden as Captain Arthur Gower is very successful; Miss Violet Carlyle plays the title-rôle with dramatic skill; and is ably supported by Miss Alice Barber as Countess Ladori, Miss Mabel Ronald as the Little King, Miss Mary Collier as Sarette, and Messrs. Arthur McCulloch as Sergeant Metroff and J. Russell Bogue as Chang-Tee.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—The Seven Perezoffs head the bill in an artistic juggling speciality, *A Supper at Maxim's;* the Four Maisanos, musical eccentrics, are very clever, and receive encores; the Wakeman Quintette sing well; the Sisters Terry, vocalists and mimics, delight the audience; Ted Curtis and Picaninnies are very amusing; Onda and Artell, in a gymnastic pot-pourri act, do daring feats; Vowles and Bryan, comedian and comedienne, have some funny patter; and the Bioscope is up to its usual standard.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company produces this week a stirring drama, entitled *A Touch of Nature*, which is well received by large audiences. The leading characters are in the able hands of Mr. Ernest Wingfield, Mr. Fred Terriss, Mr. H. Hesslegrave, Miss Lilian Beaumont, Miss Sassie Evans, and Miss Lina Nazeby. Payne's Bio-Photoscope concludes with an excellent picture, Vengeance is Mine.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Muller.—The character-sketches (with effects) by Mr. Leo Dryden are most entertaining. His répertoire includes *A White Man, The Only Way, Sherlock Holmes*, &c. The Davis and Gledhill Trio appear on their roller cycling track, on which also competitions are held nightly. Cumminger and Colonna are seen to advantage in a singing and dancing act; Nellie Walton, "singing mill girl," has a nice voice; the Lauri Bros., in some new and smart acrobatic feats, are clever; Willard's Marionettes cause much amusement; and the Two Kays, Ernesto, and the Bioscope are also to be noted.

STOURBRIDGE. — ALHAMBRA THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps.—Miss Maude Hildyard and company are playing *The Great Awakening*. Lola Selby is undertaken by Miss Hildyard, who is also part author of the play. Her acting is of a high standard, and arouses the enthusiasm of a full house. The dual rôle of Sir Henry and Jack Merton is undertaken by Mr. Cecil Grey with great credit; Mr. Wallis Clarke is a sinister James Selby; and Mr. Dudley Wynton submits an interesting study of Captain Harry Lambert. Mr. Tracy Barrow proves vastly diverting as Billy Brass, and receives excellent support from Miss Cissy Podmore as Selina. Miss F. Garnet Vayne gives a sympathetic reading of Molly Merton

STROUD.—SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Twitchett.—On Saturday, the 19th, Miss Harriet Greet's company was here with *The Sign of the Cross*. Mr. Wallace G. Court submitted a careful and convincing study of Marcus Superbus; clever character impersonations of Tigellinus and Licenius were given by Messrs. G. Osmond Tearle and Rupert Carlton respectively; Mr. Burton W. Yaldwyn acquitted himself admirably as Nero; and much amusement was extracted from the part of Glabrio by Mr. Donald McAdam. Highly commendable were Messrs. W. Burton as Favius, Edward Clowes as Titus, Alex. Taylor as Servilius, and Francis Leslie as Strabo. Miss Vera Crichton (Mercia) was sympathetic and natural; and Miss Effie Dane represented Stephanus with much ability.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—*Charley's Aunt*, played by Mr. Brandon Thomas's company, has attracted good houses here this week. The title-rôle is played by Mr. G. A. Sagar, who enters so keenly into the humour of the part that he keeps the audience convulsed. He receives excellent support from Messrs. Hastings, Lynn, and Basil Lynton, who, as Jack and Charley, are always in evidence. Miss Oliver Glynn makes a winsome Kitty; and Miss Grace Russell as Amy acts with charm. Mr. Theo. McCausland Stewart is capital as Sir Francis Chesney; another excellent delineation is Mr. Sydney Compton's Brusse; Mr. Roy Byford (Stephen Spettigue), Miss Vera Gerald (Donna Lucia), and Miss Evelyn Gray (Ella) maintain well the standard of the company. *Charley's Aunt* is preceded by *The Lancashire Sailor*.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is responsible for the capital production of *The Little Breadwinner* this week. In the title-rôle little Minnie Crisp acts with grace and ability; Lord William Dorrington finds a capable impersonator in Mr. H. B. Peppin; and Mr. Reginald Brown as Richard Lawrence acts naturally throughout. Mr. Sidney Lynn as Charles Prior is a real comedian.

THE EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Gustave Fasola heads the bill this week in his extraordinary illusions, with which mirth and melody are agreeably combined; Carney and Armstrong provide excellent fare, singing, dancing, and whistling well; Duncan and Godfrey are dispensers of Cockney humour, and in their sketch *Me and 'Er* are distinctly clever; Fred Keeton is full of eccentricities, and has good songs; the Eight Lancashire Lads' dancing is much beyond the ordinary; Leo Tell, a mimic of great powers; Madge Osmond, a dandy, who does particularly well; and the Bioscope complete.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Heading the bill at the above this week is Brinn, who gives a sensational balancing act, entitled *Pastimes on a Battleship*. Chas. Williams, comedian, does well; Effie White is effective in her kaleidoscope dance; W. Ellis is a clever comedian; Fred and Lulu Camplin, a musical comedy couple, are exceedingly smart; Jack Rae, with comedy act on the rings, wins approval; Rosine Devere, vocalist, meets with appreciation; a turn of excellence is that of Stowe Bros., novelty equilibrists; and the Empire Bioscope depicts the production of the *Football Star*.

G.W.R. MECHANICS' INSTITUTE.—Secretary, Mr. H. J. Southwell.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, including Miss Empsie Bowman, Miss Nellie Bowman, and Mr. Dan Agar, was billed here for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday in the popular musical comedy *The Dairymaids*.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Watson.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company, in *A Soldier's Honour*, is proving a powerful attraction. Mr. Kimberley as Captain Deane is fully capable; and the Captain Temple of Mr. T. Ellis is also a meritorious assumption. As the villain, Henry Thornton, Mr. H. Percy is a great success; Mr. H. Lyndon is highly amusing as Lieutenant Percy Prattle; and as Smartz Mr. F. Mewburn adds to the comedy element of the piece; Miss E. Barton gives a thoroughly sympathetic interpretation of Doreen Illingworth; and Mrs. Kimberley plays with remarkable force as Cora Lee. The Gwendoline Temple of Miss Bales is agreeably light and bright.

HIPPODROME. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Tudor's educated ponies provide a smart act, which is well received; Jack and May McKenzie score heavily in their duologue; Bunsen and Burner are much applauded; Mat Merry Mount and Geo. Grenville add considerably to the evening's success. Of the pictures, pride of place is given to Foul Play, and Through the North is also good.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. George Alexander's company is drawing crowded houses with performances of *The Thief*. Miss Marie Polini gives an excellent impersonation of Marise Chelford; Mr. Rupert Lister also deserves the highest praise for a finished representation of Richard Chelford; Mr. Cyril Harcourt is decidedly good as Raymond Leyton; Miss Jean Cadell makes a clever study of Isabel; and Mr. Owen Nares is a typical Harry Leyton. The excellent setting of the piece is much admired.

PRINCESS PIER CONCERT HALL.—Proprietors, The Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T Tremlett.—The Olympian Entertainers commenced a fortnight's engagement here on Monday. Miss Bertha Callen renders some pleasing light-comedy songs in a dainty and piquant style; Miss Haidee St. George is also applauded for her soprano singing; Mrs. Paul Mill at the piano is a clever accompanist; and Mr. Robert Macaig is frequently encored. Mr. Harry Harmer is amusing in some clever songs and Mr. J. G. Taylor evokes hearty laughter. Mr. Paul Mill's character sketches are very humorous.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in *Mrs. Dot*, has had a most appreciative reception this week. Miss Decima Moore is as charming as ever in the title-rôle; and Miss Emma Hutchison herself gives a very clever study of Lady Sellenger. Miss Ethel Grahame ably cooperates in mantaining the love interest, and is particularly good as Nellie Sellenger; while Miss Celia Gordon gives a successful interpretation of Eliza MacGregor. Mr. Frank Lacy is responsible for a very realistic and excellent portrayal of James Blenkinsop; and Mr. James Gelderd gives an admirable impersonation of Gerald Halstane. Mr. Philip Leslie's comedy powers are well displayed in the part of Freddie Perkins; Mr. H. A. Sampson and Mr. R. V. Cortland are excellent as dunning tradesmen; and the other characters are well sustained by Mr. W. Midgeley, Mr. K. Brandon, and Mr. F. Abbott.

TYLDESLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn and company in *A Beautiful Fiend* are here on a welcome return visit. Mr. Beaudyn fills the rôle of Major Ivan Paulovitch with conspicuous success; Mr. G. M. Montanina is an earnest and impressive Count Fedor Karateff; Sergius Strogoff is presented in capable fashion by Mr. Frank Holyoake; Mr. James Burt is admirable as Malachi; Miss Irene Munroe gives a clever rendering of Nadine Strogoff; Miss Marie Robson shows ability as Wanda Lubinoff; Miss Cecilia Crawford is excellent as Paddy Woodlands; Mr. Arthur Tomlin causes laughter as Crackles; and the minor parts are in good hands.

TYNEMOUTH. — PALACE-BY-THE-SEA.—Proprietor, Mr. J. H. Graham; Manager, Mr. Lindon Travers.—This week the Jamaicans, some dozen or thereabouts of coloured artists, who appear in native costume, are agreeably prominent as coon singers, dancers, &c. Vallance, mimic and magician; and Mumford's wire act are also good. The animated pictures are still a strong feature. The benefit last week to the urbane manager, Mr. Lindon Travers, was quite a success.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Clifton Aldersons company in the drama *The Coal King* is here this week. Mr. Alderson acquits himself in excellent fashion as Tom Roberts; Mr. George Hanbury does good work as the villain, Walter Harford; Mr. Sam Roberts ably depicts the rôle of Jim Williams, creating much laughter; Mr. Frank Dalton gives a clever impersonation as Dick Shirley; Mr. Ulrick Burke is successful as Sir Reginald; and Miss Winifred Love submits a charming and sympathetic conception of Grace Shirley.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—A sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, presented by Messrs. Arnold Richardson, A. Gordon Laws, and Miss Ethel Lonsdale, has a capital reception; Spry and Monti, comedy artists, give a popular turn; Spira, one-legged acrobat, wins applause; Miss Chummie La Mara, comedienne, gives some clever songs; Percy Johnson, comedian, is amusing; the Reays are smart on the silver chains; and Will Serjeant, vocalist, merits favour.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. John Leopold's company is reappearing here this week in the musical absurdity *New Frivolity*. The fun is as fast and as furious as ever, and the members of the company maintain the high standard of efficiency which characterised their previous visits. On Monday night the principals were all recalled. The new business introduced lends a freshness which makes the play as welcome as ever. *The Houseboat* is a delightful curtain-raiser, and the company scores an all-round success.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—The Tally-Ho Trio of vocalists are charming huge houses here this week with their delightful singing. Kelly and Ashby are a capital pair of acrobats, and their act, *Fun in a Billiard Saloon*, is very amusing. Bertha Winder is a rare exponent of the terpsichorean art; Dolly and Elsie are dainty duettists; and Cullen and Carthy and Little Cluley, old favourites here, score with their cross-talk. The Three Sisters Silcott are capital vocalists; and Jock Walker an expert mimic and whistler. The pictures showing the Story of a Lost Overcoat are amusing.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Kuner.—Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company, in *£1,000 Reward*, is drawing favourable houses here this week. The acting of Miss Kathryne Eckart in the rôle of Mme. Sanson evokes continuous applause; a talented artist is seen in Miss Alice Clarke as Mrs. McCarthy; and as Kitty Springthorpe Miss Minnie Goepel contributes praiseworthily; Gilbert Lisle being artistically portrayed by Mr. J. Wilton. Mr. Edward de Vere as Fred Ingleford and Mr. W. Gibson as his son are highly commendable in their respective parts. An excellent interpretation of Vincent Rainsworth is submitted by Mr. Frank J. Pitt; Mr. Arthur Merton is responsible for some good humour in his representation of Fighting Jepps; and the important part of Meg, the flower girl, is adequately portrayed by Miss Marjorie Seymour. The scenery and effects are excellent.

(*Continued on page* 18.)

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Musical Play entitled
"THE MERRY WIDOW."

The Merry Widow has proved very attractive here. The theatre has been crowded nightly, and record attendances have ruled. Mr. George Edwardes has sent out an extremely capable company, with costumes and scenery which are elaborate and expensive. These, added to the bright music of Franz Lehar, have been amply sufficient to keep audiences in excellent humour. Mr. Leonard Mackay shines brilliantly as Prince Danilo, his easy style of acting and pleasant singing being of first-class quality. As the Vicomte Camille de Jolidon Mr. W. Tailleur Andrews secures much favour, his voice being heard to great advantage in his several songs. A really droll Nisch is Mr. W. H. Rawlins, at whose performance the audience is highly amused; Mr. Somers Bellamy is a good Marquis de Cascada, and M. de St. Brioche is well played by Mr. Norman Greene; Mr. Theodore Leonard is a capital General Novakovitch; M. Khadja is ably interpreted by Mr. Robert Whitehouse; an immense hit is made by Mr. Eric Thorne as the Marsovian Ambassador, Baron Popoff, whose sallies and gags keep the audience in hearty laughter; Mr. Robert Rous makes a comical waiter at Maxim's; Miss Constance Drever in the title-rôle bewitches everyone by her fascinating portrait of Sonia. Whether as actress or singer, she is simply delightful, and there can be no question that, so far as the King's is concerned, her success is unequivocal and complete. Natalie is pleasingly represented by Miss Ethel Cadman; the rôle of Olga is satisfactorily sustained by Miss Sylvia May; and Miss Kathleen Courtenay is a charming Sylvaine. The girls at Maxim's are handsome and picturesquely gowned, adding much to the general brilliancy of the scene. Miss Vivienne Tailleur as Frou-Frou contributes a spirited dance. The chorus is carefully selected, and the orchestra, under the masterly direction of Mr. A. McCunn, does its duty admirably.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Drury Lane Drama entitled
"THE SINS OF SOCIETY."

Mr. F. W. Bolam presents this Drury-lane drama, by Messrs. Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton, at the Notting Hill Gate theatre this week, and it is hugely appreciated by crowded houses. It is staged, mounted, and dressed on a lavish scale of magnificence, and it is wonderful how much is made of the small stage-space at command in some of the big scenes, such as Longchamps race-course, the Weir, and the sinking of the good ship Beachy Head. A more thrilling and exciting drama of action could not be wished for, nor is love interest lacking, and an excellent company take the piece at the rattling pace necessary to reach the goal of success in this kind of drama. It's success on the road may be safely predicted. Miss Grace E. Leslie acts with great tensity and force, allied to a certain charm of dignity and sweetness, as the hapless victim of extravagance, Lady Marion Beaumont, and contributes a most engrossing embodiment. Miss Pattie Browne is delightfully bright and breezy as the tender-hearted and wealthy widow Lady Goldbury, and here is a comedienne with a rare sense of humour, vivacity, and *nous*. Miss Dorothy Giles is a very sweet and gentle heroine, Lady Gwendolen Ashley; and Miss Mabel Murray as the bridge-playing Mrs. Murgatroyd, Miss Janet Hodson as the snobbish "Carrotty" Caroline, Duchess of Danebury, are distinctly good. Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan acts with great verve and enthusiasm as the heroic young soldier Sir Dorian March, and creates an excellent impression of strength and resource. Mr. C. F. Collings gives a very clever and polished portraiture of the somewhat remarkable villainy embodied in the person of Mr. Noel Ferrers. Mr. Blake Adams causes roars of laughter by his persistent and untiring efforts to capture the heart of the little widow Lady Goldbury at the price of much physical discomfort. Mr. James Percy, who stage manages the show, does well in the small part of Captain Carruthers; Mr. George A. Brandram is good as Sergeant Wrangham; and Mr. Walter Shomberg as Colonel Gretton; whilst a word of praise is due to Mr. Edward P. Gee for his clever character-sketch of the butler Parker, and to Mr. Frederick Annerley for a very natural and even performance as the money-lender Mr. Morris. Mr. Edwin Palmer makes a most impressive figure of the Rev. Martin Hope. Mr. L. Ashton-Jarry is manager for Mr. Bolam.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Revival of the Drama, by the late Henry Pettitt, entitled
"HANDS ACROSS THE SEA."

Jack Dudley	Mr. Rawson Buckley
Joseph Stillwood	Mr. Adam Alexander
Robert Stillwood	Mr. G. Clifton Boyne
Tom Bassett	Mr. Cecil A. Collins
Jean de Lussac	Mr. Clive Currie
Dick Melford	Mr. Frank Woodville
Captain Lane	Mr. Robert Hunter
Count Paul de Renai	Mr. Edmond Beresford
Governor	Mr. Forrester Harvey
Lieutenant Victor	Mr. John Wilson
The French Minister	Mr. Lionel Hutchinson
Hiram Hickory	Mr. A. L. Burke
French Waiter	Mr. Arthur Blair
1st Mate	Mr. Stanley Brew
Inspector Thompson	Mr. Henry Willis
Lieutenant Mayne	Mr. Olfred Ritson
Port Official	Mr. Hugh Grimshaw
Lillian Melford	Miss Beatrice Whitney
Lucy Nettleford	Miss Lilla Nordon
Mme. Vallerie	Miss Marjorie Davenporte
Polly	Miss Kirsteen Græme

Mr. Cecil A. Collins, with an admirably-selected company, has revived, after a period of rest extending over twelve years, that excellent drama by that excellent writer, the late Henry Pettitt, entitled *Hands Across the Sea*. The Dalston Theatre audience on Monday night accorded a most hearty reception to the piece, and the fact may be accepted as a happy augury of future success. Mr. Cecil A. Collins has undertaken the part of Tom Bassett, a most lovable character. He is the big Devonshire fellow who is in love with the heroine of the piece, Lilian Melford; who leaves England for Australia in the full assurance that the woman he loves will wait for him; who returns to find her the wife of another man, and that man his old friend; but who, despite all this bitter disappointment, proves that he can not only "to himself be true," but to his friends also. Mr. Collins fully deserves the ovation he receives. Miss Beatrice Whitney plays Lillian Melford successfully. She hits the part off most accurately, and the spirit of devotion which she displays is very estimable. The Jack Dudley of Mr. Rawson Buckley is an admirable impersonation, and he succeeds in making himself decidedly popular with the audience. He has the sympathy of all from the moment that he is falsely accused of the murder of the satanic Count Paul de Renai—a part, by the way, well sustained by Mr. Edmond Beresford—and the onlookers are not content until he is fully righted. Robert Stillwood, the upstart son of a crafty farmer, is played by Mr. Clifton Boyne with a degree of studied villainy which is quite fascinating in its intensity. Mr. Adam Alexander portrays Joseph Stillwood's cunning and rascality with convincing effect. Mr. Clive Currie's Jean de Lussac is a carefully thought out piece of work. His outburst of passionate hatred and violent rage is a powerful feature of the convict scene. Mr. Frank Woodville's Dick Melford, otherwise known as the "Australian King," is a pleasing Colonial study, and his favourite expression, "Forward Australia!" evidently awakens an ardent response among many who follow the development of the story. Miss Lila Nordon is very vivacious as Lucy Nettleford, and her scenes with the worthy Tom Bassett, to whom she is eventually engaged, are among the brightest interludes in the performance. Miss Kirsteen Græme is sprightly as Polly, and Miss Marjorie Davenporte's treatment of the character of Mme. Vallerie provides evidence of careful study. Mr. F. Harvey, Mr. J. Wilson, Mr. A. L. Burke, Mr. Arthur Blair (a French waiter), Mr. Henry Willis, Mr. A. Ritson, and Mr. Hugh Grimshaw (Port official) also appear creditably in the parts allotted to them. The scenery, by Mr. Charles J. Sayer, also claims favourable notice, the deck of a steamship and a view of Sydney Harbour, Australia, appearing to please the audience most. Some excellent selections of music are performed during the evening.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Sept. 21, Shakespeare's Tragedy,
"HAMLET."

The seating capacity of the Shakespeare Theatre has been strained to its utmost capacity this week on the first visit to Clapham of Mr. H. B. Irving, Miss Dorothea Baird, and company, with a répertoire of plays with which the reputation of the late Sir H. Irving is so closely associated. The old Lyceum traditions are kept fully alive by the worthy son of a worthy father, and the enthusiastic reception accorded Mr. Irving by Clapham playgoers was a striking tribute to the excellence of his art. For the opening performance Shakespeare's great tragedy, *Hamlet*, was chosen, and Mr. H. B. Irving's study of the melancholy Dane was marked by great variety of treatment. He suggested with artistic restraint the brooding nature of the character, and the intensity of his acting held the audience completely in thrall. His admirable elocution stood him in good stead from first to last, and his sterling performance was loudly cheered by a discriminating audience. Miss Dorothea Baird gave a touching rendering of the part of Ophelia, and shared the honours with her husband. Her rendering of the rôle was shaded with that delicacy of touch that betokens the gifted actress, and her playing in the mad scene made a deep impression, the applause at the conclusion being very emphatic. Mr. Frank Tyars was realistic in his impersonation of the saturnine King of Denmark, every phase of the character being carefully embodied in his delineation. Mr. Tom Reynolds gave distinction to the rôle of Polonius, and acquitted himself with decided success. His acting throughout was excellent, and he made every point in the dialogue tell. Mr. Eric Maxon supplied a sound performance as Laertes; and Mr. Stanley Howlett ably depicted the nobility of character of Horatio. The oddities of First and Second Gravediggers were admirably rendered by Mr. Charles Didsworth and Mr. H. Cook; and the excellent delivery of Mr. Frank Cochrane as the Ghost stimulated interest. Mr. J. Patrick Curwen, Mr. Arthur Curtis, and Mr. Frank Randell as Courtiers were deserving of warm praise; and good support was also given by Mr. C. Stevens and Mr. P. Walder as Officers, and Mr. B. A. Pittar and Mr. W. Cass as First and Second Players. Miss Eily Maylon played the part of the Queen of Denmark in a manner that was thoroughly in keeping with the character; and Miss E. Frances Davis was satisfactory as the Player Queen. The minor parts were capably sustained, and the mounting of the play was all that could be desired. During the week Mr. H. B. Irving also presented *The Bells*, *Louis XI.*, and *Charles I.*, and at each performance large audiences have been attracted. Mr. W. T. Cunningham is business-manager, and Mr. Tom Reynolds stage-manager for Mr. H. B. Irving; and Mr. H. Percival Young is acting-manager for Messrs. Bennett and Bennett.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday Sept. 21, the Drama entitled
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."

For the current week the audience of the Pavilion are enjoying a visit from Hardie and Von Leer's company in *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*, which contains a strong stirring story, dealing with the life in the great Metropolis. The play is excellently produced, the setting of Jago Court being especially effective. The persecuted inventor, John Edmunds, is well played by Mr. Herbert Pearson; and the kind-hearted Rev. Frank Selby is made the most of by Mr. E. Rayson Cousens, who becomes a great favourite. Mr. Chris Mason supplies plenty of humour as Samuel Hallett, being well assisted by Miss Evelyn Shaw as Jane Broomfield. Mr. Harry Mann is a satisfactory Edward Langley; Mr. Jack Miller is resourceful as Jim Price; Mr. Walter Walmesley is a capable Ratty Gabbitt; and Mr. Ronald Clive is a competent Jellaby. The scheming Jonas Deane is played with vigour by Mr. Fred Morgan; and a character study of much neatness is presented by Mr. Dick Winslow as Dr. Gay. In the title-rôle Miss Rosslyn Vayne is excellent as Constance; and Miss Alice Defoe is pathetically good as Nellie. Bessie Edmunds is portrayed with much emotion by Miss Marguerite Trevosper; and Miss Marie Corri as the suffering child Lucy does very well. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Victor Vorzanger, renders with effect many fine selections.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Play, in Four Acts, by F. A. Scudamore, entitled
"THE BEAUTIFUL AVENGER."

Mr. Tom A. Taylor's company is playing in a dramatised version of F. Scudamore's novel. The play makes more than the average demand on one's credulity, and does not even disdain the aid of "parlour-magic"; but it possesses some few situations for dramatic effect. Mr. Leonard Robson plays gallantly the part of Cyrus Telford; Mr. Arthur Estcourt and Mr. Allen Davenport make the most of the villainous Foxbanes, father and son; Mr. Newman Maurice extracts some fun out of the rôle of Peregrine Patch; and Mr. Lionel Ernest represents, with much ability, a very depraved specimen of humanity in the shape of Jim Jhams, chronic inebriate and tramp. Miss Ida Taylor does well as the boy, Baldie Mansfield; Miss Lorna Treherne makes use of her opportunities as Edna Volta, a part with a strong feminine interest; and Miss May Ellis is bright and amusing in the comic part of Arabella Binks. Miss Grace Murielle acts cleverly in the double rôle of Vashti Volta and (in man's attire) of Victor Stanhope.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Drama entitled
"HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD."

Mr. Sam Barnard must be congratulated on securing Messrs. W. H. Hallett and Walter Howard's principal company in this interesting and well-written military drama, supported as it is by a powerful cast. Besides being cleverly acted, the play is lavishly uniformed and excellently mounted, and puts forth strong claims on the attention of the theatre-going public, who are ever ready to respond when a first-class performance is brought before their notice. Consequently, full houses are the order of the evening. Eric, Earl of Strathmere is judiciously portrayed by Mr. Fred Emery, who supplies a clever study of an honourable and manly soldier of fortune; Miss Bessie St. John is soon on good terms with the audience, and essays the rôle of Nella with pathos and dramatic feeling; Ulric, Prince of Ravensburg, an unscrupulous villain, is capably undertaken by Mr. Lewis Gilbert, who besides possessing a fine presence delivers his lines with marked effect. Mr. W. H. Hallatt is successful as Prince Ottmar, and acts with sincerity and earnestness; Mr. Victor Rowland also makes a favourable impression as Prince Maurice; Mr. Henry B. Lewis and Mr. John Mill as Heinrick and Fitz Pimpernickle respectively provide the comic relief in conjunction with Miss Gertie Reid and Miss Hettie Fergusson in their respective characters of Katinka and Gretchen. Miss Grace Heywood gives a good delineation of the character of Iris, the much-perturbed Princess of Idalia. Mr. Charles R. Hann and Miss Nellie Fletcher also render excellent assistance.

ROYAL ARTILLERY, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Musical Comedy entitled
"FLORODORA."

Mr. Charles Constant's No. 1 company, in the ever-welcome *Florodora*, is proving a great attraction at this house. Gaiety, charm, lilting refrains, pretty dresses, and artistic mounting still combine to maintain the firm hold this play has always had on popular favour. Mr. Gus Danby is quite in his element as that quaint individual Anthony Tweedlepunch, and imparts much humour to the character; Cyrus G. Gilfain is capably undertaken by Mr. Jack Parker; Mr. Martin D. Pitt shows to advantage in the part of Frank Abercoed, his songs being well received; Mr. Stanley Bartram is successful as Capt. Arthur Donegal, and is happily suited in the song "I want to be a military man"; Mr. Emlyn Davis does justice to the rôle of Leandro. Miss Daisy Lake offers a bright and lively impersonation of the character of Dolores, and submits an excellent rendering of her numerous numbers; Miss Lille Blythe essays the rôle of Lady Holyrood with charm and vivacity, and gives a clever impersonation, her song "Tact" being rendered with marked effect. Miss Louie Danby submits a good characterisation of Angela Gilfain, equally pleasing in song and dance. Other members of the cast are well placed, and may be congratulated on their share of the work.

BROADWAY THEATRE, S.E.

On Monday, Sept. 21, a Play, in Four Acts, by Thomas Raceward, entitled
"SUNDAY."

Mr. Louis Calvert's company in *Sunday* is this week's attraction here, and the return visit of this delightful play is very welcome. Large and well-pleased audiences are present at each performance. Miss Marjorie Murray now plays the title-rôle, and is very charming in it. Sunday wins all hearts at the opening of the play, and holds them firmly at the finish. Mr. William Giffard enacts Colonel Brinthorpe with ease and finish, and has a warm reception; as has Mr. J. N. Walter, who now represents Tom Oxley in capital style. Mr. Wilson Blake is the Arthur Brinthorpe, and plays the part admirably. Mr. James Skea is very good as Towser; Mr. A. Cotton Homes presents a good portrayal of Davy; Mr. James Hussey is a lovable Lively; and the quartette of "boys" is completed by Jackey, depicted with skill and effect by Mr. Alec Alves. Mr. Thomas Nixon is good as Abbot; and Mr. Harry Lenton is satisfactory as Robert. Miss Lila Barclay is a charming nun; and Miss Helen G. Edwins is all that can be desired as Mrs. Naresby. The scenery and appointments are capital. The production is under the direction of Mr. J. N. Walter, Mr. James Hussey being stage-manager. Mr. Bertram Iles is the courteous resident-manager.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck, entitled
"A LION'S HEART."

Mr. Henry Bedford, after a long absence, makes a welcome reappearance here, and as Rizardo, the lion tamer, is thoroughly well suited. He acts with earnestness and vigour, carrying the play along with great "go" and spirit. He is well supported by Mr. Stephen Scanlan, who, as Gaspard Dobre, gives a very finished and effective performance. Mr. Leonard Booker is excellent as Dick Lorimore; and the other members of a lengthy and excellent cast do well. Mr. Edward Lowrie is an amusing Timothy Puggs; Mr. Edgar C. Coyne is well suited to the character of Jack Bealby; and Mr. Archie Helsby plays admirably as Colonel Robert de Villefort. Mr. Robert Eyre is a clever Dobson; and Mr. John Belton is good as Daddy Mason. Other parts are well sustained by Mr. Peter Bennett (the ringmaster), Mr. Reginald Fletcher (Jean Lorrain), Mr. Chas. Flynn (Captain Gavarnas), and Mr. Patterson (Pitou). Miss Ada Oakley as Louise, and later as Marion, once more proves herself an actress of ability and personal charm; Miss Ida Bastow is very good as Hélène; and the Bessie of Miss Madge Beresford is bright and attractive. Little Gilbert is well acted by little Elsie May; Miss Beatrice Homes is excellent as Sister Gertrude; Miss Kitty Ross is well cast as Mme. le Cheminant; and the female convicts Louise and Adèle are well represented by Miss Edith Lambert and Miss Robinson respectively.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Drama, entitled
"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."

Once again is drama triumphant at this playhouse, Mr. Walter Melville's play meeting with a favourable reception. The company is Mr. Douglas Bruce's, and a capital all-round interpretation is given of the piece. Miss Violet E. Lawson, in the title-rôle, scores well, and gives a striking picture of the wayward Molly Vernon. Mr. Edward Maclean is to be highly commended for his Rev. Robert Everton, and in the part of the wicked and unscrupulous Capt. Caversham Mr. Richard Ferris is villainous enough to rouse the opprobrium of all. Mr. Harold Macartney as Jack England proves a manly, virile, and soldier-like hero; Mr. George H. Asquin is clever and humorous as Dick Punch, being ably assisted by Miss Mary Poulton as Isabella Jones. Miss Lydia Mannington is a striking adventuress as Marian Franklyn; Miss Sybil Hare is capital as Rose Seymour; while Mr. George Mitchell is uncommonly good as James Sutton. The play is nicely mounted, and the scenery good

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 21,
"THE CHRISTIAN."

Mr. Wentworth Croke's new version of Hall Caine's great play, *The Christian*, has been the attraction at Kennington Theatre this week, and the hold which it possesses on the affections of the public has been amply shown by the large audiences which have nightly assembled. The new version is certainly an improvement on the original. Many of the crudities of the first production have been effaced, the story has been brought down to date, there are but thinly veiled allusions in the dialogue to Father Bernard Vaughan's crusade against the sins of Society, and the melodramatic episodes have been strengthened. A story of deep human interest, which stirs some of the deepest emotions in life, is vividly told, and in its telling becomes a great drama. It is safe to predict that the revived *Christian* will do big business throughout its tour. The play is splendidly mounted, and admirably presented by a company strong both in numbers and in talent. The grounds of Lord Storm's house make a picturesque Manxland set; the Foyer of the Frivolity Theatre is a faithful reproduction of a fashionable theatre; and the effect of the great scene in the final act is heightened by the Shrine of the Madonna at one side of the room. There is an abundance of powerful situations, there is much fine repartee, and the author's views find adequate expression by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. In the part of John Storm Mr. Roy Redgrave scores a veritable triumph, for he makes Hall Caine's hero step right out of the pages of the novel and live before one's eyes. A fine manly cleric is Mr. Redgrave, and he appeals with irresistible force to the popular fancy. The Glory Quayle of Miss Daisy Scudamore is excellent, and she holds the balance well between the wayward fancy of the girl anxious to enjoy life, and of the woman who, in her better moments, desires to share in the lot of the man she loves. Her histrionic powers are put to a severe test in her struggle for life, and she emerges from the ordeal with great success. Lord Robert Ure is ably impersonated by Mr. Herbert Hewetson. It is an unpleasant part, but Mr. Hewetson enacts it with great discretion. Miss Cora Deane makes a pathetic figure as Polly Love; and Miss Kitty Symons is a refined and graceful Lady Robert Ure. Archdeacon Wealthy is finely sketched by Mr. J. J. Hooker; Mr. F. Llewellyn gives a careful study of Father Lamplugh; Miss Molly Hayden faithfully interprets the role of the motherly Mrs. Callender; while Mr. Wilfred Noy is splendid as Mr. Drake. Miss Florence Hunt does full justice to the part of Black Meg; Mr. Royce Milton enacts Lord Storm with considerable power; Mr. Bruce Lindley is good as Parson Quayle; and the Bert of Mr. Fred Goodyer deserves a word. Miss Nellie Wyndham (Rosa Ray), Miss Muriel Marsden (Betty Belmont), and Miss Minnie Willett (Letty Belmont) are a trio of pretty and graceful girls; and Miss Ada Rose is a lively 'Liza. The other parts are all well taken.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Musical Comedy, by George Grossmith, jun., and L. E. Berman, entitled
"THE GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG."

We have a very powerful attraction here this week in the first visit to Peckham of the favourite Gaiety success, *The Girls of Gottenberg*, and the theatre has naturally been crowded in every part. Mr. George Dance's company present a splendid rendering of the piece. Miss Ellaline Thorne as Mitzi, the innkeeper's daughter, gives a delightful impersonation of the character, looking very fascinating, and rendering her various vocal numbers with much sweetness and cleverness; Miss May Marshall is a tall and prepossessing Clementine, and acts with much naturalness; while Miss Gladys Gay scores a great success as Elsa, her voice and appearance thoroughly suiting the rôle. Mr. Bertie Wright as the diminutive schemer, Max Moddelkopt, is the life and soul of the piece; he acts with much humour, and has a good singing voice. Mr. Tom Shelford thoroughly realises the rôle of the tall dandy, Prince Otto, and his topical song, "Jericho," is repeatedly encored. Mr. Howard Cridland furnishes a good character sketch as Sergeant Britti Botti; and Mr. Hugh Hinson sings well as Captain Albrich. Mr. David Miller as Colonel Finkhauser, Mr. Morgan Richards as the Burgomaster, and Mr. Tom Squire as Adolph ably aid in the fun-making. Miss Susie Raymond supplies some graceful solo dances. The chorus sing and dance admirably, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Otto Manns. The two principal scenes, the Market Place and the Garden of the Red Hen, are very pretty pieces of brushwork.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, the Musical Play, by Victor Leon and Leo Stein, entitled
"THE MERRY WIDOW."

The beautifully decorated theatre at Kingston presented a brilliant appearance on Monday evening, when Mr. Peter Davey presented to his patrons Mr. George Edwardes' company, *The Merry Widow*. If the Kingston playgoers had journeyed to London to visit Daly's Theatre they would not have found a more finished performance. Mr. Peter Davey brings to the very doors of his patrons the latest London successes, and he should be rewarded by overwhelming audiences. The theatre itself is worthy of the name of the town, Kingstown or Kingston, and is equal to any West End theatre. While the comfort of his patrons is Mr. Davey's first care, his second care, that of the artists engaged, is aptly illustrated in the comfortable, convenient, and clean dressing-rooms provided for the players. A crowded house rewarded his enterprise on Monday night. Full justice was done to the play by a thoroughly capable company sent out by Mr. George Edwardes, and that it was staged with perfect completeness in every detail therefore goes without saying. The bulk of the honours are carried off by Miss Mysie Devine, who appears in the title-part, and fills it with a captivating charm that wins her many friends in all parts of the house. The part of Prince Danilo finds a most capable exponent in Mr. Frank Greene. Not the least attractive feature of the performance was the impersonation of the young wife of the Marsovian Ambassador by Miss Ada Thomas, which she invested with a delightful mixture of the serious and the gay that was not lost upon an appreciative audience. The chief feature of the play, however, was the acting of Mr. Percy D'Arcy, who filled the part of the whimsical Ambassador with a drollery that kept the large audience in roars of laughter what time he was on the stage, and showed himself to be a comedian of more than average ability. An amusing impersonation of the part of Nisch was also given by Mr. Fred Fowler. Mr. Ripley Evans's fine tenor voice was heard to great advantage in the songs allotted to him as the Vicomte Camille de Jolidon; whilst Mr. F. W. Pedgrift, the possessor of an excellent baritone voice, gave a good account of himself as M. St. Brioche. It is unnecessary to add that all the minor parts were filled by ladies and gentlemen of experience in musical comedy.

THE NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Play by C. Watson-Mill entitled
"THE LOVE OF THE PRINCESS."

This play is somewhat out of the ordinary run of drama now on tour. As a rule a heroine is satisfied with two lovers, a good and an evil one, but here she has four, two of each kind. The usual adventuress is also missing. *The Love of the Princess* contains an abundance of incidents, and the dialogue is good. An excellent piece of acting is given by Mr. Beckett Bould as Lieut. Orlans, of the King's Guards. Mr. Wilson Coleman, who speaks his lines with much effect, is all that a hero should be as Prince Conrad; as the degenerate King Josef Mr. E. H. Dobell gives a particularly clever characterisation; Mr. Ernest E. Imeson as the traitor Count Nicholas proves himself a "heavy" man of much ability, acting well and with restraint; Mr. Graham Winsford does good work as Lieut. Zaroff; Mr. W. F. Stirling is satisfactory in the rather colourless part of the Prince Regent; Mr. Edgar Morgan is good as Boris; the part of the Duke Scarfe receives a humorous interpretation at the hands of Mr. George Antley; Miss Ward plays Princess Idalia with much sweetness; and as Lady Irene Miss Nellie Garside acts charmingly. Mr. Ward's high reputation for artistic productions is considerably enhanced by *The Love of the Princess*, the staging and costumes being most effective.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Russian Drama, entitled
"THE NIHILIST."

This week, by way of a change from the semi-German military dramas, we have a full-blooded Russian drama, *The Nihilist*, by Hugh Montgomery and O. Silverstone, at this popular South London theatre. The drama is brimful of exciting incidents in the shape of murders, brandings, and whippings. Mr. Cowell Clark appears to much advantage as Karl Orloff, a Nihilist; Mr. Leo R. Neilson undertakes the part of the villainous Prince Alexander in powerful style; Mr. O. Silverstone does well as Piertre Pitoff, of the Secret Police; Mr. J. Brunelle Harvey is the exiled priest, Father Gourko; Mr. Henry Wright is funny as the British subject, Bobbie Stuart; Miss Jessica Ford is his companion in the general fun as Katrina; Miss Edna Clark plays well as Alexina Orloff; Miss Florrie Kelsey as Princess Olga plays the character in a capable manner; and Mr. Walter Bentley forcibly fills the part of Ivan Nowasky, the village blacksmith.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 409, Strand, on Tuesday. Present: Mr. Robson Paige (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Fred Grove, Chris Walker, Clarence Derwent, Fred Annerley, J. Sebastian Smith, Miss Marion Lind, Miss Rose Mathews, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The Chairman read a telegram from Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn stating his inability to attend the meeting owing to a severe cold.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from the Actors' Union with reference to an alleged bogus manager. The Secretary was instructed to write to the Union thanking them for placing the case before the Council, and stating that the name would be recorded in the Bogus Managers' book, marked second case, as this was the second complaint the A.A. had received in a few weeks. He was further instructed to say that all matters sent by the A.U. to the A.A. were regarded as strictly confidential and private, and to hope that the same course would be taken in communications sent by the Association to the Union.

A letter was read from a non-member with reference to forming a limited company on the same lines as the Army and Navy Stores. The Secretary was instructed to thank the writer and say that they were very interested in his scheme, but owing to the fact that the Association was removing they regretted having to defer any further steps in the matter until Friday, Oct. 2, when they would be pleased if he would interview the Council at 353, Strand. At the same time the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. F. R. Benson with reference to the matter.

The Secretary read a letter from a member with reference to a manager, and was instructed to write to the member asking him to send the facts of the case, together with his agreement, to Mr. Mote.

The Hon. Solicitor reported that he had had an interview with a member, and had written two letters on her behalf. He also read the revised draft agreement between the A.A. and the Cabins, Ltd., as to the taking of the rooms at 353, Strand, which agreement was approved, sealed with the A.A. seal, and signed, with Mr. Robson Paige, Mr. Chris Walker, and the Secretary as witnesses.

Mr. Vincent Clive, Mr. Edward Harrison, and Mr. Walter Cross were elected members.

The Council gave the Secretary instructions to put a notice on the door to the effect: "That owing to the move the rooms will be closed on Monday next at 12 o'clock, and that the new premises at 353, Strand, will be opened for letters only on Tuesday from 10 to 12."

The Council decided, owing to the Association moving on the 29th inst., to hold another Council meeting on Friday, the 25th, and on the following Friday at the regular hour at the new premises instead of next Tuesday.

The Council interviewed a member who complained of members obtaining and offering engagements in the rooms at a salary of less than £2 a week, and the Secretary was instructed to put up a notice on the engagement board to the effect: "That the Council of this Association having heard of engagements being made in the rooms, and not through the Agency, at salaries less than £2 a week, would be glad of any information, which would be strictly confidential, concerning such cases."

The Secretary was instructed to look up information regarding the insertion of life members in the next issue of the Year Book, and put the matter on the agenda to be dealt with at an early date.

The Council gave the Secretary instructions to ask *The Era* kindly to insert the following paragraph:—"That all names of the members of the A.A. who have not paid their subscriptions on Sept. 30 will be excluded from next Year Book. Such defaulters will be posted in the new premises at once."

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual weekly committee meeting of the Actors' Union was held on the 17th inst., when the following were present: Messrs. F. Rawson Buckley (in the chair), Royce Milton, Cecil G. Calvert, W. Ruddle Brown, John W. Braithwaite, Frank Gerald, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Letters were received during the week from Messrs. George P. Lester, J. Hastings Batson, H. Naylor Grimson, Jerrold Heather, Fred F. Loyd, Arthur Bawtree, H. Howard Templeton, and James English.

The secretary, having reported the circumstances which led up to his withdrawal of the resolution at the Trades' Union Congress at Nottingham, a motion that the committee fully endorsed, his action in the matter was carried.

The secretary of the Actors' National Protective Union, Mr. Lew Morton, having, through Mr. Creamer (the American delegate to the Trades' Union Congress), invited the Actors' Union to correspond with him on the subject of affiliation, the secretary was instructed to forward Mr. Morton a copy of the rules of the A.U.

Two cases of bogus management were reported, and the secretary was instructed to send particulars to the hon. solicitor.

Six candidates were elected members.

The secretary reported three engagements through the A.U. Agency.

The Benevolent Fund stamps will be ready, it is hoped, by the end of next week, and members wishing to take up books for sale among their friends are asked to send in their names and addresses to the general secretary.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 21, the Drama, by Nita Rae, entitled
"HER FATAL PAST."

Large and enthusiastic audiences have attended this week to witness the above drama. The play, which has intense human interest, is well played by Mr. Montgomery's company. Mr. Harry Tresham, to whom is entrusted the exacting rôle of Mark Desmond, does it complete justice; he has a commanding figure, a fine stage presence, clear enunciation, and histrionic ability, and he well deserves the applause that he evokes. Mr. H. Ryland-Leigh submits a sound performance as the rascally Gilbert Fernside, and his acting in the final scene is deserving of commendation. Mr. Herbert Young supplies a good impersonation of Dicky Bird; Mr. C. Alan Himeson is responsible for a fine character study of the stammering postman Reuben Tredway; Mr. H. G. Brandon scores as the humorous Jonathan Backstone Nobbs, and is ably assisted by Miss Florrie Barnes, who presents an excellent impersonation of Kittie Springwell. Miss Ethayle Gordon Murray is to be highly congratulated upon her really fine performance as the woman of pleasure, Bella de Lara, a character which gives her great opportunities, and Miss Murray thoroughly deserves the praise she receives. Miss Edna Lester gives a fine study of Martha Springwell. A charming and dainty Honor Symes is Miss LaHa Stanhope; the part suits her style, and appeals strongly to the sympathies of the audience. A performance which stands out prominently is Miss St. John's Little Leonard; her acting and pronunciation are excellent. The drama is well mounted and artistically dressed. The Barrascope closes the entertainment with two excellent films, named A Nervous Twitching and Three Young Ladies and a Bull.

"THE WOMAN FROM RUSSIA."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Fred G. Ingleby, produced at the Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, on Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Frank Haldane .....MR. ROBERT AYRTON
Reginald Fitzgerald .....MR. BASIL MITCHELL
Alexis Yarviski.....MR. FRED G. INGLEBY
James Haldane .....MR. RICHARD PITT
Jerry .....MR. FRANK WHEATCROFT
Baroni .....MR. G. M. HANCOCK
Wun-Hi .....MR. H. ELLISTON
Dr. Chetwede .....MR. T. WYNDHAM
Petroff .....MR. JOHN VERNON
Trevitch .....MR. TOM CAREW
Smirkoff .....MR. STEVE PARKER
Peritski .....MR. J. GILLETTE
Edith Haldane .....MISS MAGGIE HOBART
Mary Ann .....MISS MAUDE ST. JOHN
Wanda .....MISS ADRIA HILL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Hypnotic suggestion, an international marriage, and a brother's cruelty to his sister form the solid basis on which Mr. Fred Ingleby has built a strong dramatic story, the general plot and incidents of which offer a distinct contrast to the ordinary domestic or sensational drama of the day. In this case "the play's the thing," nothing of a spectacular nature allowing the interest of the spectator to waver in watching the development of a Muscovite scientist's villainous scheming. There are some good situations, the dialogue is crisp and worth listening to, and the humorous relief provided is natural and inoffensive. The story begins in a hut in Manchuria during the Russo-Japanese War. Frank Haldane and the Hon. Reginald Fitzgerald, two war correspondents, protect Wanda Sonorovitch from the cruelty of Captain Alexis Yarviski, *alias* Sonorovitch. This scoundrel is gifted—or cursed—with great hypnotic power, and he uses this power, through Wanda, for his personal advantage. Maddened for the time by a blow from Haldane's strong fist, Alexis makes a mental suggestion of marriage to Wanda and Haldane, and the act ends with the interest of the audience thoroughly aroused. Three years elapse, and the curtain rises on an apartment at The Beeches, near London, where Frank Haldane and his wife Wanda are staying with Frank's father, a wealthy invalid. Captain Alexis is also in England, bent on securing revenge and wealth. Acting under his will, Wanda steals behind the old man as he sits in an armchair and stabs him. Frank enters the room at the moment and sees the blow struck. He accuses his wife of murder, and she, when Alexis allows her for the time being to use her normal faculties, grasping the fact that she has killed the father and turned the son's love to hatred, falls lifeless on the floor. In the third act the interest deepens, starting in Ezra Baroni's house, where Alexis enlists the services of the eccentric Jew. At the Beeches the startling discovery that Wanda is not dead, as supposed, but in a state of catalepsy, is made by Frank, to whom Reginald Fitzgerald has just been propounding the theory that the crime was committed at the instigation of Captain Alexis. Leaving Wanda on the couch, they rush out to summon medical help. Captain Alexis and Baroni enter, and they carry off the supposed dead woman to Baroni's house, where she is secreted in the cellar. They are watched by Wun-Hi, a Chinese, who has reason to hate the Russian villain. Frank Haldane gets into the Jew's cellar and confronts Captain Alexis. A struggle ensues, and things look bad for Frank; but Reginald turns up in the nick of time, accompanied by the faithful Jerry and the irrepressible Wun-Hi, and the tables are turned. As the villain and his satellite Baroni turn to escape to the vaults beneath, the door opens, and they are confronted by Wanda. "Can the dead return to life?" cries Alexis Sonorovitch, and the curtain falls. The final scene takes place at the Captain's apartments. Here comes Wanda, recovered in mind and body, Frank Haldane, Edith Haldane, and Reginald, her affianced lover. They draw back in the shadows of the room as Captain Alexis enters. The listeners hear his soliloquy on "Conscience." He rises, and Wanda confronts the unnatural brother who would have murdered her soul. He attempts to regain his influence over her, but fails. Wanda exerts her hypnotic power, and causes the villain to make a full confession of his evil deeds, and thus frees Frank from any suspicion of complicity in the murder and robbery. Wanda's mind is set at rest, as medical evidence proves that old Mr. Haldane had died of heart disease just previous to the blow being struck. On realising his position Alexis rushes to the table and drinks a glass of poisoned wine, previously placed there by himself for the benefit of his Hebrew confederate. With the prospect of happier times for Frank and his beautiful Russian wife, the play ends.

Mr. Ingleby's piece had all the advantage accruing from first-rate stage-management and a strong cast. Mr. Robert Ayrton's fine presence, convincing sincerity, and manly delivery imparted a sense of reality to the scenes in which Frank Haldane appeared, and he was repeatedly and heartily applauded. Miss Adria Hill is a great Alexandra favourite, and her acting in the part of Wanda was marked by her wonted grace and dramatic earnestness. One of the hits of the piece was the cleverly-drawn character of Ezra Baroni, in which Mr. G. Mortimer Hancock kept the house in roars by his whimsical acting and quite unforced drollery. Mr. Harry Elliston was lively and alert as the Chinese spy; and Mr. Fred G. Ingleby gave a clever and interesting study of a curious type of character as Captain Alexis Sonorovitch. Mr. Basil Mitchell made a smart and agreeable young war correspondent as the Hon. Reginald Fitzgerald; Mr. Frank Wheatcroft was funny as the dapper "tiger," Jerry Moriarty; and other good impersonations were Mr. Richard Pitt's James Haldane, Miss Maude St. John's Mary Ann, and Miss Maggie Hobart's Edith Haldane. Mr. Forsdike had the drama staged with his usual care.

PROMENADE CONCERTS.

The works of the great Beethoven formed the principal feature of the concert on Friday evening, Sept. 18, and attracted a very large audience. In Mr. Woods' interpretation of the composer's masterpiece, the "Symphony No. 5 in C Minor," some exception might be taken to his reading of the first movements in this fine work; but there could be no question in regard to the superb playing of the orchestra in the splendid *finale*, and the cheers which greeted both conductor and orchestra at the close were warmly deserved. The programme also included Beethoven's "Leonora" Overture No. 1, one of the overtures written for the composer's opera *Fidelio*, of which an excellent performance was secured by the orchestra. Equally successful was the master's lively Trio in C for two Oboes and Cor Anglais, most skilfully played by Messrs. Henri de Busscher, E. C. Dubrucq, and H. H. Stanislaus. Brahms' Concerto in A Minor for Violin, 'Cello, and Orchestra, although not one of the composer's most interesting works, was admirably executed by the soloists, Messrs. Arthur Beckwith and C. Warwick Evans. A performance of Gluck's overture "Alceste" and Auber's overture "Le Cheval de Bronze" was also given at the concert on Friday evening. Miss Jenny Taggart and Mr. Lloyd Chandos were the vocalists, and each gained hearty applause for their artistic singing in Beethoven's scena and aria, "Ah! Perfido," and the same composer's song, "Adelaida."

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN has been engaged by Mr. E. Oswald Brooks, of the Grand Theatre, Swansea, to play Rev. Stephen Stingles and stage-manage on the spring tour of *The New Housemaid*.

THE LATE MR. WHEELER.

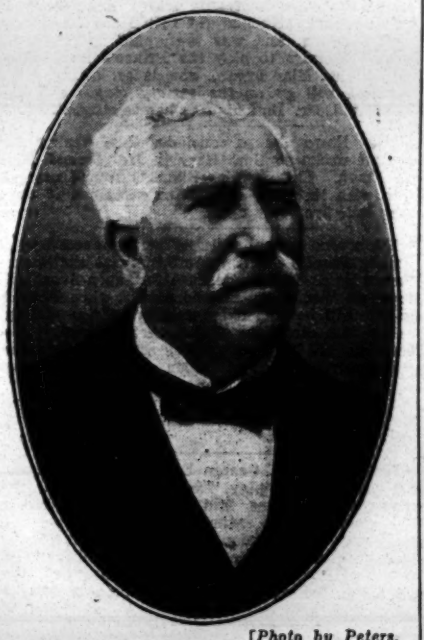
The funeral of the late Mr. Benjamin H. Wheeler, the well-known South African manager, whose death on Aug. 31 we recorded in our issue of the 12th inst., took place on the 1st at Maitland (No. 1) Cemetery. The cortege left the White House Hotel, the residence of the deceased, at 3 o'clock, for Cape Town Railway Station, whence the remains were conveyed by train to Maitland.

A number of townspeople accompanied the funeral to the cemetery, amongst them being Mr. Lay, the Acting American Consul. The chief mourners were Mrs. Ben Wheeler (wife) and Mr. Frank Wheeler (son).

Over forty magnificent wreaths, conveying expressions of deepest sympathy, were placed on the coffin. They were sent by the following:—C. and M. Willoughby, Gaiety Company (Durban), *The Era* (London), Mr. and Mrs. Edward Vincent, Miss Alice Pollard and Miss Cullen, Opera House and Tivoli Orchestras, Mr. Harry Burton and Miss Mabel Medrow, Mr. and Mrs. Grant-Fallowes, Members Orchestra, Theatre Royal (Durban), Staff, Opera House (Cape Town), Staff, White House Hotel, Dr. and Mrs. Dixon, Mr. and Mrs. Sytner, Mr. and Mrs. Morgan, Mr. E. Klein, Mrs. Perrie Green and Misses Green, Mr. and Mrs. Barlow-Coulthard, Staff, Theatre Royal (Durban), Mr. P. J. Casey, Messrs. Reid and McAllister, Mr. A. Mortimer-Jones, Mr. Ohlsson, Messrs. Vallantine, Brown, and Taylor (Durban), Mr. and Mrs. Hinton, Mr. and Mrs. Marshall, Mrs. Frost, Front Staff, Opera House (Cape Town), Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Hyman (Johannesburg), Mr. and Mrs. B. Hart, Mr. Chas. Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Woodman, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. E. Johnston, Mrs Lancaster, Boys and Girls, Gaiety Company (Cape Town), Mr. Attwell, Americans in Cape Town, Mr. Leonard Rayne, Mr. and Mrs. Forrest, Messrs. Dickson and Bayly, Cape Town Operatic and Dramatic Society.

The Rev. Canon Browning, of St. John's Church, officiated at the graveside.

The coffin was of polished teak, brass mounted,



[*Photo by Peters.*

THE LATE MR. BEN WHEELER.

and bearing the following inscription: "Benjamin Franklin Wheeler, died Aug. 31, aged 73 years."

AMUSEMENTS IN BOMBAY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BOMBAY, Sept. 4.—The Bandmann Opera Co. has just visited here for a short season, playing only seven nights. The plays staged were *The Girls of Gottenberg*, *Miss Hook of Holland*, *The Greek Slave*, *Amasis*, and *The Merry Widow* (two nights). The last-named was undoubtedly the greatest success ever produced in Bombay, and on both Friday and Saturday night the theatre was packed to the ceiling. It has been an absolute record, chairs being brought in to the gangways, whilst the promenade was crowded by people, who preferred to stand rather than miss this piece. To stand for 2½ hours in India is no mean feat, and speaks for itself as to the success of the company. The honours amongst the ladies were evenly divided between Miss Constance Lait and Miss Wilmot Karkeek, both old favourites in Bombay, and encores were repeatedly demanded each evening. The chorus was very strong, and quite superior to anything seen in Bombay, both in singing and dancing. Amongst the gentlemen Mr. Frank Danby was really excellent, every one of his parts being a distinct hit each night. Mr. Fred Coyne and Mr. Dan E. Clifford were both received with open arms by our old theatre-goers, and their merry quips did much to soothe the weary Bombayite after our Tilak worries. Mr. John Doran, a fine singer, and G. Villiers Arnold well upheld the reputation of the company, and in their various duets, &c., with Miss Lait and Miss Karkeek had invariably to return and give the audience another taste of their powers. We congratulate Mr. Fred Coyne on the lavish mounting, the productions every night being admirably staged. We also must really congratulate Mr. Bandmann on his excellent choice of artists, and we predict another record for this company when they reach Calcutta after their trip to Java.

The season 1908 will prove an eventful one in Bombay in theatrical circles. Mr. Bandmann's new theatre is rapidly nearing completion, and is situated facing the fine municipal building and Victoria Terminus. Already booked are Mr. West's "Our Navy and Army," Bandmann Comedy Co., Liddiard's Company, Royal Italian Opera Company, Ellis Opera Company, Blanche Vauden in the "Salome" dance, Carter, the American magician, &c. Mr. Bandmann's enterprise will, I think, be amply rewarded during the coming cold season, and especially after the visit and success of last week's opera company.

"MALIGNANT GROWTHS!" (?)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you permit me space to acknowledge publicly Mr. Walter Stephens' charming letter in your last issue, wherein he refers so gracefully to *Butterflies*. After such an interesting epistle from him I feel bound to admit that my remarks were somewhat pointed; but I am satisfied Mr. Stephens now appreciates my intention was merely to uphold the working side of our great industry, against which, we must all admit, many people would appear to be ever ready to make unfounded accusations. After Mr. Walter Stephens' letter it will be patent that he aims for the elevation and progress of the British stage, and if we all adopt a similar plan of campaign we shall be able to successfully combat "prudes on the prowl" and the other interfering people who take upon themselves to use the stage as a target at which to direct the shots born of impure minds. "To the pure all is pure."—Yours faithfully,

W. SCOTT PHIPP.

Apollo Theatre, W., Sept. 21, 1908.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS ROSALIE NOTRELLE.

The clever and versatile young actress whose photograph is here reproduced was educated for a career on the stage. Her first appearance before the public was at the early age of nine, when she delivered a recitation which was vociferously encored. Studying under the late Mme. Scotti, and subsequently under the well-known elocutionist and teacher, Mr. Charles Fry, Miss Notrelle finally took her diploma as a teacher of elocution and reciter, and wrote a useful thesis on the theory and practice of the art. Miss Notrelle soon

Photo by Vestal.

MISS ROSALIE NOTRELLE.

formed a good teaching connection in and around London, Oxford, and Leamington, and fulfilled reciting engagements at most of the London concert halls and throughout the provinces. In 1901, as the result of her own dramatic recital at Leamington, she was enabled to send a substantial cheque to the *Daily Mail* fund in aid of the widows and orphans of those who fell in the South African War. As a reciter, Miss Notrelle is equally at home in dramatic, pathetic, comedy, or musical pieces. She has made a study of dialects and broken English, and has gained a great reputation in depicting French characters. In several of Mr. Charles Fry's Shakespearean and other recitals at the St. George's Hall and the Royalty Theatre Miss Notrelle played prominent parts, such as Rosaline in *Love's Labour's Lost*, Celia in *As You Like It*, Queen Katherine in *Henry the Fifth*, Katherina in *The Taming of the Shrew*, Helen in *The Hunchback*, Lady Teazle in *The School for Scandal*, &c. In 1903 she left the concert platform for the legitimate stage, and joined Mr. Edward Compton's comedy company, playing various parts in his répertoire, which included *The School for Scandal*, *David Garrick*, *The Rivals*, *The Rake*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, &c. Next followed a long tour with Mr. Charles Frohman in *The Admirable Crichton*, and then three tours in the famous play *Sherlock Holmes*, in which she played the part of Thérèse. Later, she played Vera in *Moths*. During the summer months of 1907 she was engaged for lead in a company of Shakespeare and old English comedies, and did particularly good work as Portia in *The Merchant of Venice*, Emilia in *Othello*, Ophelia in *Hamlet*, Celia in *As You Like It*, Lydia Languish in *The Rivals*, &c. Feeling the necessity for a rest she accepted an autumn engagement with Mr. George Day to understudy Miss Lily Hall Caine as Thora in the Drury Lane success, *The Prodigal Son*.

NEW ZEALAND AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WELLINGTON, Aug. 10.—OPERA HOUSE.—Mr. Frank Thornton finished one of, if not *the*, most financially successful seasons he has ever had on Saturday, July 25, due in a large measure to the fact that this is advertised as a farewell tour, for Mr. Thornton is a very great favourite in this part of the world. He gave place to the Dramatic Company, headed by Miss Madge McIntosh and Mr. Harcourt Beatty, who have appeared in many plays during the three weeks' stay now drawing to a close. In *Fedora* Miss Mackintosh invited comparison with a half score actresses who have attempted this and similar "Sardou-esque" parts in Australasia. Mr. Gaston Mervale is responsible for the admirable productions and for a satisfying performance of the part of De Sérieux. Mr. T. Cannam, in make-up and performance, was extremely funny as Gretch. The plays during the season have been *Her Love against the World*, *Camille*, *The Midnight Wedding*, *Feodora*, and *A Beggar on Horseback*. The band was admirably handled by the company's conductor, Mr. Fred Chapman.

TOWN HALL.—Messrs. G. P. Huntley and Herbert Clayton's "Merrymakers" are here in a Pierrot entertainment à la "The Follies." The company contains Miss Doris Lind and Messrs. Sam Walsh and J. M. Campbell.

THE staff of the Tunbridge Wells Opera House had their fifth annual outing on Sunday, when a most enjoyable day was spent at Hastings. Dinner was partaken of at the Queen's Hotel, under the presidency of the popular lessee, Mr. Welton Dale, supported by Mr. W. E. Urquhart, Mr. Arthur Burdett, Mr. P. J. Walker, and Mr. P. Stuart, who duly acknowledged the various complimentary toasts which were honoured. Mr. Welton Dale took the opportunity to pay a tribute to the municipal authorities, and also expressed his satisfaction at the revived prosperity of the theatre.

A WELL-KNOWN Berlin actress, Fräulein Freida Kluht, has just been robbed of her jewels by ingenious means. Under the pretext that he had been sent by an assurance company to see the actress on important business, a young man gained admittance into the reception-room, and seized the actress's jewel-case which lay on a table. When the lady appeared the thief stated his business, declaring that he had forgotten certain documents, but would go back to the office for them, and return in a few minutes. Fräulein Kluht missed her jewels after his departure, and at once communicated with the police.

The Philadelphia Opera House will be opened by Mr. Oscar Hammerstein on Nov. 17 with a "mammoth" performance of *Carmen*. The enterprising impresario also proposes to offer, free of cost, the use of halls and rooms in the opera building for a conservatoire of music. Subscriptions for seats for the entire opera season already amount, it is stated, to £22,000, and with those for boxes, a sum of £45,000 will be available. During the first week of the season it is proposed to present Saint-Saën's *Samson and Delilah*, *La Sonnambula*, with Mme. Tetrazzini, Massenet's *Thais*, and Debussy's *Pelléas et Mélisande*.

THE LATE ALFRED TATE.

We regret to announce the death, which took place on the 17th inst., of Alfred Tate, who became principal comedian of Miss Alleyne's company about 1879. In 1902 he played as Lancelot Gobbo and the First Gravedigger in *Hamlet*. In the spring and early summer of 1903 he was on tour with Mrs. M. Gunn's company, playing Dogberry in *Much Ado* to Miss Haidee Gunn's Beatrice, Sir Toby in *Twelfth Night*, &c. Of late he had been playing Bullock with Messrs. Leigh and Armitage's *East Lynne* company, and was engaged to resume the part when the company went out again. Mr. Tate was trained in the school of the old stock companies, when actors and actresses had to study many difficult parts. In one week at North Shields he had to learn 2,200 lines. Two of the parts he studied on this occasion were Polonius and Charles Surface.

As a boy Mr. Tate started on the stage in his native town, and made something of a hit in a pantomime, in which he played the part of a page. In consequence he was re-engaged for the Shakespearean season to follow the pantomime, in which the star was of no less magnitude than Barry Sullivan.

The play was *Hamlet*, and the youthful Tate was cast for the part of the Second Actor. He had only been twelve months on the stage, and in consequence his theatrical wardrobe was not very extensive in character. For the part of the Second Actor in *Hamlet* they served him out a big cloak and a huge sombrero hat, and under the cloak he donned his pantomime page's jacket, with immense red buttons, to keep him warm (the jacket, not the buttons).

His wig was made out of an old stocking, with curls sewn on, but under the big hat the stocking could not be seen, and the curls looked "bee-utiful," as De Pechman says.

Prior to the opening performance Mr. Tate stood talking to the prompter on the stage, when down came Barry Sullivan to superintend the setting of the stage. The quaint-looking figure in the

THE LATE MR. ALFRED TATE.

prompt corner at once caught his attention, and he said, "What are you dressed for?" "The Second Actor, sir," said young Tate.

"And who gave you that hat to wear?" continued the great man, snatching off the offending headgear and revealing the stocking "wig" with its row of too palpably sewn-on curls.

This sight added to Barry Sullivan's anger, and his next action was to drag away the boy's cloak, exposing to view the pantomime jacket, with its double row of buttons as large as saucers.

Of course, this extraordinary attire for the Second Actor in *Hamlet* sent the tragedian into a paroxysm of rage, and he threw both cloak, wig, and hat far from him, stalking away in speechless anger.

The mortified young actor was naturally terribly offended, and as he was very popular in the town, and had a good home behind him, he did not scruple to speak his mind on the subject. Moreover, he resolved upon a terrible revenge for the affront which he had had to endure.

In pursuance of this project he made his entrance in the play scene in all the comic glory of his pantomime dress, exciting the audience to screams of laughter, and completely "queering" the scene. Barry Sullivan, prone at the feet of the Queen, looked unutterable things, and when the curtain fell Tate had to be hastily hustled from the theatre to escape the righteous vengeance of the wrathful tragedian. But he was only a boy, and was delighted to think he had "got his own back," as the saying has it.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DURBAN, AUG. 17.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs B. and T. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. Woodward.—A crowded house received the first production in South Africa of *The Girl Behind the Counter*, which met with undeniable appreciation. In the hands of the Wheeler-Edwardes company the piece lost none of its success, the catchy music, neat dancing, and comedy business being well accounted for. Mr. Foster Courtenay as General Sir Wilkie Willoughby was very amusing; a capital representation of Dudd was given by Mr. Alfred Beers; a dainty and winsome Susie was found in Miss Crissie Ralland; and Miss Elsa Parkin as Winnie Willoughby ably accounted for the title-rôle, acting and singing herself into public favour. Miss Hilda Guiver as Mlle. Mostyn was thoroughly at home in the rôle; Miss Ruby Vincent made a chic Minette; Mr. H. E. Pearce as Viscount Gushington was satisfactory; the Rudolph of Mr. J. Morrison was a capable study; Mr. Harry Clark as Mons. Duval acted well. The piece was produced under the experienced direction of Mr. Blackmore, and the dressing and staging left nothing to be desired.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Empire Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Aubrey Hyman.—Arthur Stacey, comedian and dancer, opens the programme here, and is well received; the Kellaways are wonderful child vocalists; Daisy Mayer, coon artist, has made herself very popular; Guy Ryder, clever whistler, gives imitations of birds; the Kremo Family of acrobats top the bill in marvellous feats; Miss Jennie Belmore, comédienne, takes well; and others in a successful programme are Hunter and Maris, Fred Shepherd, the Chronomegaphone, and the Bioscope.

THE Consett New Town Hall was packed to the doors on Sunday evening to listen to two most successful concerts given by the Consett Iron Company's Workmen's Prize Brass Band, who were assisted by the Consett and District Contest Choir and also Mr. E. J. Potts, baritone, Newcastle, and Mrs. Norman Snowball, soprano, Newcastle. The concerts were in aid of the band's excursion to the Crystal Palace, where they intend competing for the National Band Contest Prize to-day.

"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."

Drama, in Five Acts, by Rass Challis, produced at the Globe Theatre, Deal, on Thursday, Sept. 17.

Rev. Philip Gordon .....MR. RASS CHALLIS
Captain Romney Kent MR. WILLIAM CARRIDER
Colonel Kent .....MR. FRANK CIVANAH
Trooper Jigger Popkins .....MR. FRED DAVIS
Peter Pluggitt .....MR. TOMMY COUCH
Corporal Spatchcock .....MR. DICK ECKERSLEY
Jules Pomponnett .....MR. RUPERT VINE
Casconne .....MR. GEORGE RANTER
Robert Entwistle .....MR. G. B. RAWLINGS
Constable Cluiken ....MR. HARRY HARSOURNE
Angel Grantham / "Boy" / Young Romney Kent } ..MISS ROSE MONCRIEFF
Lady Angela Grantham / Angela Grantham } MISS MAUD HASTINGS
Judith Puison .....MISS GUSSIE EVERITT
Mary Ellen Ramshottom ....MISS DOT ROBINS
Aunt Diana .....MISS LUCY COURTENAY
Jane Richeux / Kittie Flash } .....MISS LILLIE RAY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Rass Challis, whose prolific pen was responsible for the popular drama, *The Curate*, has supplied another play in which "the cloth" is set off to advantage. The new play is described as a new military comedy-drama, and although the plot is complicated to an unnecessary degree, and encumbered with too many characters, a series of stirring incidents is presented. Early in the story the fact is disclosed that Captain Romney Kent is the father of Angel Grantham's supposed illegitimate boy. There is a worthy parson, Rev. Philip Gordon, who is married to a Frenchwoman, Judith Puison, the she-devil of the piece—villainess is far too weak a term to apply to such a character, so heavily has the author laid his colours on. Colonel Kent, Romney's father, has great estates, which in due course will come to the boy if legitimate. Without knowing it, Romney has legally married Angel Grantham in Paris before the boy's birth, and Judith Puison, having left her clerical husband, endeavours to get Romney to marry her in order to obtain the Kent estates. She obtains possession of the boy's mother, and keeps her prisoner at various places, in Paris, at a bungalow on the Thames, where the boy also is incarcerated, in a cellar in London, and elsewhere. Romney Kent drifts low enough, surely, but he refuses to marry this *diablesse*, and she remains with him as his mistress, constantly plotting to attain her end, and constantly persecuting the poor mother. Angel, meanwhile, deserted by Romney Kent, to whom she was legally married, though neither he nor she was aware of the fact, has sunk to the uttermost depths of female degradation, and the brave and self-sacrificing efforts of Rev. Philip Gordon to rescue her form the most dramatic points in the play. Judith Puison turns up, disguised as an Arab woman at a camp in the Soudan, where Colonel Kent, a cavalry officer, in on active service. She both stabs and shoots him, so as to make sure of the job, just as he has found out and declared that the boy who has enlisted in his regiment as a bugler is his own grandson. Her next appearance is in a cellar in London, where the boy's mother is held a captive bound in iron chains. Just exactly at the right moment the bugler turns up, bugle and all, and, wrenching the chains from his mother, leaves the captor captive in place of her victim.

Eventually she shoots Romney Kent, but he is not so badly wounded that before his death he has time to repent (in the parson's bedroom, where all the characters meet, by some strange chance), and make everything clear. His wife, or, rather, widow, falls on the shoulder of her saviour, Rev. Philip Gordon, and an end satisfactory to the ordinary lover of melodrama is reached.

The players deserve great commendation for their loyal efforts to sustain the interest in the play. As Rev. Gordon Philip Mr. Rass Challis, the author, was excellent, his acting being natural, unforced, convincing, and dramatic; Miss Rose Moncrieff was effective throughout both as the distracted mother and as the Bugler Boy, her own son; Miss Gussie Everitt as Judith Puison played a most unenviable part admirably, and it would be difficult to imagine a better representation. The comic element was supplied by Mr. Fred Davis, whose songs and dances were much to the taste of the audience. The rest of the cast was satisfactory.

"MERCHANT OF VENICE."

Arranged in three scenes, and produced at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, on Monday, Sept. 21.

Shylock .....MR. FRED STOREY
Portia .....MISS LILIAN HOLMES
Antonio .....MR. A. MAITLAND STAPLEY
Bassanio .....MR. WILFRED BLAIR
Gratiano .....MR. BEVAN
The Duke .....MR. BOOTH CONWAY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

In this version of *The Merchant of Venice* Mr. Fred Storey has done remarkably well. He has arranged the story in a coherent manner, the full gist of the play being given within the limit of half an hour. He has painted some specially ornate scenery, which is quite Venetian in its style, and the audience on Monday followed the performance with great interest. Scene 1, a public place in Venice, is a full, rich setting, and here appears Shylock (Mr. Fred Storey), accompanied by Bassanio, negotiating for the three thousand ducats on behalf the merchant, his friend Antonio. They are joined anon by the latter, and the bargain is struck. Scene 2 introduces us to Portia's house, three months having elapsed. The bond is forfeit, and Portia sets out for the Court of Justice—scene the third and last. Miss Lilian Holmes as Portia was very effective, making a successful appeal with the "quality of mercy" speech, which got a round of applause. Altogether, her portrayal was creditable and charming. It is more by gesture and appearance than voice that Mr. Storey realises the "Jew that Shakespeare drew," though, to do him justice, he at times declaims his wrongs in sonorous tones that attain to deep tragedy. And no one could make a more effective picture than Mr. Storey does in the tableau of the first scene, when the merchant and his friend have barely departed. Standing on an eminence, he, with threatening mien and firelit eye, suggests all the bitterness of hate and the fierce hunger for revenge of the Jew. And in the Trial Scene the rapacity and fixedness of purpose of the usurer were forcibly conveyed. Mr. Storey, who had quite an ovation, was well supported. He had an excellent Bassanio in Mr. Wilfrid Blair; Antonio was represented with dignity by Mr. A. Maitland Stapley; the Duke had an adequate representative in Mr. Booth Conway; and the banter of Gratiano was delivered with much humour by Mr. Bevan.

MR. EDITOR,—SIR,—Your Abertillery correspondent states that the Spider in *The Silver King* was very ably personated by me. He is mistaken. The part was played by Mr. Chas. Freeman. I am still content to represent Daniel Jakes.—Yours faithfully, TOM PAULTON, J. Bannister Howard's *Silver King* Co., Tenby, Sept. 22.

MAKES THE SKIN AS SOFT AS VELVET.—Beetham's "LAROLA" preserves the Skin from the effects of the sun, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, tan, &c., and KEEPS THE SKIN SOFT, SMOOTH, and WHITE at All Seasons. INVALUABLE for the COMPLEXION, DELIGHTFULLY SOOTHING AND REFRESHING after cycling, motoring, golfing, tennis &c. Gentlemen will find it wonderfully soothing if applied after shaving. Bottles, 1s., 1s. 9d., and 2s. 6d. each, of all Chemists and Stores. M. BEETHAM AND SON, CHELTENHAM.—[ADVT.]

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM will reopen the New Theatre on or about Oct. 1 with *Bellamy the Magnificent*, a social extravaganza in five acts, by Roy Horniman. Sir Charles will appear in the title-rôle, and Lady Bellamy will be played by Miss Fortescue, who will thus make a too-long-delayed return to the West End. Two members of *Paid in Full*, which finishes at the Aldwych this evening, have found places in the cast, namely, Mr. Robert Loraine and Mr. Paul Arthur. Other welcome inclusions in the company are those of Miss Sarah Brooke, Miss Kate Cutler, Mr. Yorke Stephens, Miss Alice Beet, Miss Marguerite Leslie, Miss Gladys Mason, Mr. Vane Tempest, Mr. Edmund Waller, and Mr. Richard Lambert.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE, having set *Faust* upon a career which promises to extend well into the New Year, is directing his attention to *Macbeth*, which is to be his next Shakespearian production. Associated with Mr. Tree in the staging of the tragedy will be Mr. Gordon Craig, who, as is well known, has made a prolonged study of stage effects, the result of which was seen in his work at the Imperial some years ago for Miss Ellen Terry. Mr. Craig has since then added inestimably to his experience by travels in the Continental cities, and the knowledge thus gained in combination with Mr. Tree's artistic efforts render the contemplated production of *Macbeth* at His Majesty's of transcending interest.

MR. TREE has defended himself ingeniously against the reproach of having engaged ladies to represent Raphael, Gabriel, and Michael in *Faust*. The eminent actor needed only a few words to justify himself, and they were expressed in the simple but pertinent sentence: "I regard angels as sexless." It may be recalled that George Colman, the younger, when he was censor of plays, prohibited a stage-lover from addressing his sweetheart as an angel, his reason being that an angel "was a character in Scripture, and not to be profaned on the stage by being applied to a woman." That would scarcely suit the hero of melodrama nowadays!

MR. EDWARD TERRY'S tour of *Fiander's Widow*, which he started at Glasgow at the beginning of the month, has been nothing short of a triumphal progress, the eminent comedian being welcomed by crowded and enthusiastic houses at each performance. It is admitted on all hands that his portrayal of the shrewd but lovable Dorset farmer Isaac Sharpe is worthy to rank with his finest impersonations, and the play as a whole has won the unqualified praise of all. The success achieved at Glasgow has been repeated at Birmingham this week, and equal prosperity will no doubt attend Mr. Terry's travels to the dramatic centres included in his tour. Besides *Fiander's Widow*, the répertoire comprises *Liberty Hall*, *The Magistrate*, and *Sweet Lavender*.

MR. CHARLES CRUIKSHANKS has been appointed Professor of Elocution at the Guildhall School of Music. A better choice could not have been made. Mr. Cruikshanks' first appearance on the theatrical stage was as Melter Moss in an amateur performance of *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* at St. George's Hall in 1874. He has had all the advantages of the old stock company training, being one of the leading lights of the late Mr. George Conquest's company at the Surrey Theatre, where he had to play a different part each week. He has a fine physique, a strong and mellow voice, and a complete acquaintance with the art of acting. The Guildhall School of Music may be congratulated on securing a teacher who, besides instilling excellent elocution, is able to teach thoroughly the technique and practice of the stage.

MISS LENA ASHWELL has selected a one-act piece by yet another untried playwright with which to precede *The Swayboat* at the reopening of the Kingsway, on Friday, Oct. 9. The playlet is entitled *The Treasure*, and is the first dramatic work of Mrs. Elisabeth Kirby, wife of Mr. J. B. Fagan, the well-known novelist. The cast will include Miss Mary Barton, and Messrs. O. P. Heggie, T. A. Shannon, and W. Lemmon Warde.

MR. WILLARD has received by cable a tempting offer to tour the United States this season for twenty weeks on a very large guarantee, but is not likely to accept it, as he said "farewell" to all cities west of Washington. The eminent actor, moreover, desires to remain in London for some years to come.

MR MARTIN HARVEY has completed the cast of Stephen Phillips' adaptation of "The Bride of Lammermoor," entitled *The Last Heir*, which he will produce at the Adelphi on Oct. 5. Miss Mary Rorke will be seen in the part of Ailsie Gourlay, Mr. F. Cremlin will impersonate Caleb Balderstone, and Master Bobbie Andrews will play Henry, the younger brother of Lucy Ashton.

"A TRAGEDY OF TRUTH," by Rosamund Langbridge, is the one-act play which is to precede *The Corsican Brothers* at the Adelphi next week. Mr. Harvey will play Michael, the part originally sustained by Mr. Henry Ainley.

MISS DOLORES DRUMMOND, who completed her fiftieth year as an actress in 1906, is to be accorded a farewell matinée on Friday, Nov. 20. Mr. Cyril Maude has generously lent the Playhouse for the occasion, and has promised that both he and Miss Winifred Emery will appear. Miss Drummond began her remarkable career in Melbourne as the slave in *Timour the Tartar* in 1856, and first appeared in London in the November of 1874, when she played Hermione in *A Winter's Tale* at the Standard. In her time she has supported such distinguished players as G. V. Brooke, Barry Sullivan, Joseph Jefferson, Edwin Booth, and Henry Irving. Among her most recent parts is that of Lady Belstone in *Peter's Mother*, which she played both at Wyndham's and the Apollo in 1906, the year of her jubilee.

SIR JOHN HARE, who has been spending his holiday at his country residence at Overstrand, starts next week on his autumn "farewell" tour. Beginning on Monday at the Theatre Royal, Bournemouth, the eminent actor will afterwards visit various towns to which he has not yet definitely said "good-bye." These embrace Cardiff, Wolverhampton, Cheltenham, Plymouth, Hanley, Hull, and Sheffield. Flying matinées are also booked, or in contemplation, at Northampton, Reading, Croydon, Portsmouth, Hastings, and Folkestone. His répertoire includes *A Pair of Spectacles*, *A Quiet Rubber*, *Caste*, and *The Gay Lord Quex*. In the company will be found Mr. Charles Groves, Mr. Ivo Dawson, Mr. W. T. Lovell, Miss Mona K. Oram, and Miss Amy Brandon Thomas.

THE annual concert in aid of the Benevolent Fund of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union drew a huge audience to the Empire Theatre, Newcastle, on Sunday. A feature of the performance was an orchestra of a hundred players, who acquitted themselves admirably. The *William Tell* and *Der Freischutz* overtures were both superbly phrased, while excerpts from *Martha* and *Maritana*, and a *Faust* suite and *The Flying Dutchman* selection were quite enjoyable. The Newcastle Glee and Madrigal Society, Miss Mabel Manson, and Mr. Theo. Crozier (violinist) also added pleasing items, and earned warm applause. Mr. E. J. Rogers, whose sprightly March in E inaugurated the entertainment, conducted with complete efficiency.

MISS BATEMAN (Mrs. Crowe) reopens her dramatic school on Sept. 28. As our columns have often testified, pupils in Miss Bateman's school are taught, not to act—that is, as she is the first to admit, an impossibility—but *how* to act, how to move, how to walk, and, most important of all, how to speak. She believes that the first vital thing in a theatre is that the audience should hear what is said; otherwise boredom and discontent set in. Herself a wonderful elocutionist, she is untiring in her efforts that her pupils should speak with that clearness and variety which makes a three-page "tirade" by Coquelin a joy to hear.

IN Miss Bateman's rehearsal classes the pupils are taught many styles of acting—for instance, that the gesture of *The School for Scandal* is not suitable for classical tragedy, or that Pinero is not to be played in the same way as Elizabethan drama; and in her private lessons Miss Bateman strives to perfect her pupils in all the details of their art. Of late Miss Bateman has been giving some very successful matinées, and during the past year has given no less than three public performances in West-end theatres, thereby affording her students most unusual opportunities of being seen in public. Her most recent production was that of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Kingsway, on the afternoon of June 29 last, when Miss Leah Bateman-Hunter (Miss Bateman's granddaughter) made something of a sensational début as Juliet.

THE Scala Theatre is to be reopened on Wednesday, Oct. 7, for a season by Miss Ruth St. Denis, who was seen at the Aldwych two years ago, and created no little interest. Her present series will include dances interpreting Oriental religions and customs. India will be the first of the series. Miss St. Denis has her own native Indian company, and gives a scenic production in five acts, each having its own scenery and costumes. Much time and research have been given to make them accurate and atmospheric, and they serve as a setting to the dances which, having the character and movement of the Orient, express the meaning and the story of each act.

MISS ST. DENIS'S programme will include "The Purda," in which she will appear as the Spirit of Incense, and "The Street," with a dance entitled "The Cobras or Snake Charmer"; "The Palace," the principal figure in which is that of a Nautch Girl; "The Forest," with a "Yogi" dance; and "The Temple," in which "the mystic dance of the five senses" is executed. Miss St. Denis's company includes several Brahmins, whose chanting and playing on native instruments are an interesting feature of the entertainment.

THE Temple Dance in each series embodies the central teaching of the religion of the country, the other dances depicting customs and manners. In "Radha," the Hindu temple dance, the devout pilgrims bring their offerings of flowers, &c., and the temple priests with chants and ceremonies present them to the enshrined deity. During an Hindu Puja or worship, the spirit of Radha enters the image and descends from her lotus pedestal in response to the prayer for enlightenment. Radha's message of the renunciation of the five senses, and the casting off their bondage in order to attain peace, is the central point of all Hindu religions.

MR. LEWIS WALLER has secured a new play, entitled *The Chief of Staff*, by Ronald MacDonald. Mr. MacDonald is the second son of the late George MacDonald, LL.D., the well-known Scotch novelist. He was for some years a schoolmaster in the United States of America, and on his return to England commenced his literary career with the novel "The Sword of the King," which was dramatised and produced at Wyndham's in the spring of 1904.

"THE HON'BLE PHIL," written by Messrs. G. P. Huntley and Herbert Clayton, with music by Mr. Harold Samuel, is to be presented by Mr. Frohman at the Hicks Theatre on Oct. 3. The principal parts will be played by Mr. G. P. Huntley, Mr. Herbert Clayton, Mr. O. B. Clarence, Mr. Horace Mills, Mr. Charles Brown, Miss Denise Orme, Miss Eva Kelly, Miss Elsie Spain, Miss Barbara Huntley, and Miss Julia Sanderson.

THE O.P. Club, now converted into a limited liability company, have secured commodious and attractive quarters at the Criterion, Jermyn-street. Messrs. Carl Hentschel, Orton Roberts, and Algernon Collins are the first directors, and, with the aid of an influential committee, are arranging a strong programme for the coming season, which commences on Thursday next. Messrs. J. Davis-Smith and Stanley Greig are the joint hon. secretaries.

THE Council of the Actors' Association have adopted the resolution that the names of all members who have not paid their subscriptions on Sept. 30 will be excluded from the next issue of the Year Book. Such defaulters, moreover, will be at once posted in the new premises.

"FANNY AND THE SERVANT PROBLEM," the new play by Jerome K. Jerome, is to be produced at the Aldwych on Wednesday, Oct. 14. In the leading part Miss Fannie Ward will make her London reappearance, and it will be observed that the list of artists supporting her embraces some popular names that will be welcome back to the West End. The cast includes Mr. Charles Cartwright, Mr. Leslie Faber, Miss Kate Phillips, Miss Alma Murray, Mr. Benedict, Miss Mabel Garden, Miss Carlotta Addison, Miss Adela Measor, Miss Esme Beringer, Miss Vera Beringer, Miss Harkness, Miss Miner, Miss Flopp, Miss Markham, and Mr. John W. Dean.

MR. JEROME'S *Passing of the Third Floor Back* has, meanwhile, become an established success at the St. James's, where Mr. Forbes Robertson's impersonation of the central figure has won widespread eulogy. The piece, moreover, is already being translated into Dutch, Russian, German, and Spanish.

"IN THE GLOAMING," a play in four acts, by Loie Esmond, was produced for copyright purposes at the Theatre Royal, Goole, on Sept. 18. It may be interesting to add that the title was used for a comedietta by George Capel, produced at Bath on March 17, 1884,

THE Association of Theatre Managers of Greater New York passed the following resolution at a recent meeting:—"Resolved, that a committee be appointed to call upon the Board of Aldermen or such committee thereof as may be necessary and arrange a hearing for the purpose of abolishing sidewalk ticket speculation, which has grown to be a nuisance to both the theatres and the general public, and that this committee shall have power to call upon the association or any member thereof to render such assistance as may be necessary at the hearing for the purpose of abolishing sidewalk ticket speculation."

CERTAIN managers, our American correspondent comments, have been trying to drive the speculators out of business for years, but the difficulty is that they are licensed by the city authorities. Now the managers have decided that the only permanent remedy is to ask the Board of Aldermen to refuse to issue any more licences. A successful attraction at a New York theatre draws a horde of speculators that make it next to impossible for the passer-by to get through the crowd without being subjected to rough treatment. In the early days of *The Merry Widow* at the New Amsterdam Theatre they formed a picket line, and the pedestrian began to run the gauntlet about fifty yards from the entrance to the theatre.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN and Miss Beatrice Wilson have combined enjoyable social activities with their artistic work at Ryde. They were guests of the Rev. Montagu Fowler and Mrs. Fowler during their stay in the island. Both Mr. Norman and Miss Wilson received special messages of congratulation from Princess Henry of Battenberg after the production of *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*. On Sunday last Mr. Norman visited Osborne by special invitation, and inspected the Convalescent Ward. He was accompanied by Miss Wilson and the principal members of his company, who afterwards had tea with the head matron. On Thursday Mr. and Mrs. Montagu Fowler gave a supper party at the Castle to the members of Mr. Norman's company.

THE orchestral department of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter—a department which, under the management of Mr. Leonard Bellamy, keeps the musical-directors of the leading theatres throughout Great Britain supplied with up-to-date novelties for their orchestras—is just now exceptionally busy arranging for the dispatch next week of the beautiful orchestral arrangement of Frank Lambert's "Insouciante" valse, one of the most admired compositions of this master.

IN the Court of Bankruptcy on the 18th inst. a meeting was held of creditors of Arthur Hugh Hare, comedian. The statement of affairs showed liabilities £1,297, of which £897 was unsecured, and estimated assets £840. It was stated that the debtor for the last nine months had been proprietor and manager of touring companies, some of which had proved successful and others failures. His liabilities chiefly represented money advanced for touring and theatrical and personal requirements. The estate remained in the hands of the Official Receiver.

MESSRS. LIONEL GLENISTER AND J. W. WOOD-INGRAM commenced their autumn tour of *Jack Straw* with a very fine cast, including Miss Florence St. John, at the West Pier, Brighton, last week, and played to phenomenal business. One of the West Pier directors congratulated Mr. Wood-Ingram, and assured him that he had never seen the "house" so full as it was at the Wednesday matinée.

IN the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday the public examination of Mr. Ellis Dagnall was concluded. Debtor applied to pass upon accounts showed unsecured liabilities £3,012, and no available assets. In March, 1907, he obtained a twenty-one years' lease of the Shaftesbury Theatre, which he sub-let for the same period to the New Shaftesbury, Ltd., formed by himself and two others. The company carried it on to July, 1907, when it was closed. He reopened it in December following, and carried it on to July last, when the lessors took possession, and he had been without occupation. In April, 1908, he and two others attempted unsuccessfully to float another company, "Dagnormoe, Ltd.," to take the lease of another theatre.

THE modiste in *The Marriages of Mayfair* at Drury Lane has ample scope for the exercise of her art, and a series of brilliant creations is the result. Miss Eva Moore as the heroine, Dorothy Gore, wears in the first scene at Rumpelmayer's a gown full of soft lines made in apricot ninon daintily trimmed with a ceinture made of cord in wheel design. The sash, in the same shade, is tied in Watteau mode at the back. An exquisite evening gown worn by Miss Moore is of ninon in a soft eucalyptus tone, revealing both grey and green notes. It has an under-robe of claire de lune metallic tissue, and is trimmed with opalesque embroidery on the bodice and down the left side. A flowing sash of the eucalyptus ninon falls from the sleeves.

MISS MOORE'S bridal robe is of softest satin in Directoire mode. The two sides of the bodice are laced with silver cord. An empiecement of silver embroidery is carried right down the side, and the same embroidery decorates the bottom of the skirt. The long Court train is made of double chiffon embroidered in high relief with silver roses, oak leaves, thistles, and bunches of acorns. Following the bride are six stately bridesmaids, gowned in pairs in three shades of wisteria blue, and wearing hats to match.

MRS. LANCASTER-WALLIS as Lady Margaret Villiers makes a striking figures in the scene at Rumpelmayer's. She wears a Saxe-blue Directoire dress, the whole beauty of which depends on its statuesque lines, which are emphasised by a deep fringe trimming in the same blue. In the third scene, the stately gardens of Deerminster Chase, Mrs. Lancaster-Wallis wears a costume of white crêpe de Chine. A jet trimming falls stole-wise from the corsage to the hem of the skirt. Tied loosely at the back is a sash of black Suzette net, and a large black picture hat trimmed with falling ribbons is a crowning detail.

MISS MARIE GEORGE as Bess Bissett has a remarkable costume. The skirt of purple over turquoise is worn with a quaint Directoire coat of rose du Barri woven with green stripes, and the bottom edged with deep, knotted fringe in the du Barri colour. Her hat of purple measures two yards round, and is trimmed with blue and violet plumes and a cluster of pink roses. Miss Marjorie Doré as Lady Fordyce appears in a gown in the new brilliant flamingo colour. Revealing the fine lines of the statuesque Directoire, it is richly embroidered with oxydised tissue and chenille, and the clear-cut corsage is simply finished with embroidery. Miss Muriel Langley as Mrs. Anstruther wears a deep Veronese green silk robe under a black net overdress richly trimmed with sequins and pendeloque fringe.

AS Lily de Mario Miss Marie Pera wears some most graceful toilettes, including an exquisitely modelled white gown with a deep tucked net chemisette and sleeves that closely cling to the arms to match, embellished with the Greek key pattern in white silk soutache, and on the chemisette with diamond buttons. The gown is gracefully finished with a purple chiffon scarf sash threaded through a diamond slide in front.

A SERIES of ten lectures on "Form in Music" will be delivered by Mr. Stewart Macpherson in the course of the Michaelmas term at the Royal Academy of Music, which began on Thursday. The lectures alluded to will be free to students of the Academy and to annual subscribers.

AN experience of mixed delights was enjoyed by Mr. George D. Day's *Prodigal Son* company at York last week. Despite the lateness of the year, the attractions of the river were not to be resisted, and so a picnic was arranged on the Friday when a happy crowd started off in boats for Poppleton, four and a half miles distant. Under a fine chestnut the party did justice to the good things provided, and later indulged in a baseball contest, to which the ladies added a great deal of amusement.

AT three o'clock the sky became so overcast that it was thought expedient to return. Barely five minutes had elapsed, however, when the rain came, and for an hour the Prodigals rowed and raced through a perfect deluge. Crowds of river men were waiting on the bank at landing, when cabs were commandeered and rushes made for the necessary hot baths. Though an unpleasant experience, it in no way damped the ardour of the members of the company, who played to the usual large and appreciative audience at night.

THE fourteenth season of Fancy Dress Balls at Covent Garden, under the direction of Mr. Frank Rendle, was announced to begin last evening. An artistic "background" on the stage has been painted by Mr. Harry Brooke of an entirely new character. The whole of the proscenium is filled in with a realistic representation of a Casino, in which the orchestra of 100 musicians, under Mr. Dan Godfrey, is seated. A panorama of over 200 feet, representing lake, mountain, and woodland scenery, is to be seen, the charm of which is further enhanced by special moonlight effects and festoons of Chinese lanterns.

THE stall area at Covent Garden has been completely set aside for the dancers, and forms one of the largest floors in Europe. The parquet has been carefully prepared, and, thanks to a specially made wax with which it is very thinly covered, it makes the best surface that is obtainable in this country. Seats to view the gay throng are once again provided in the amphitheatre. At each of the fortnightly balls throughout the season will be given valuable prizes for the best costumes worn by the dancers, and also for the best waltzers and the best two-step dancers.

MR. RICHARD GOLDEN, who has made such a hit in *The Old Firm* at the Queen's Theatre, has developed a strong attachment to this country, and, despite tempting inducements in the way of salary to return to America, remains firm in his desire to establish himself in England. "For the past fifteen years," says the talented comedian, "I have been coming to England every summer, and each time it has been harder to return to America. Now I have got here, and the English public have given me such a hearty welcome and have taken Daniel Hake into their hearts, I hope to spend the rest of my days here. In fact, I have just finished negotiations to sell my American country home with that idea in view."

MISS MILDRED BRYAN, who was the principal singer in *The Prince of Pilsen* No. 1 company, and afterwards prima-donna with the Moody-Manners Opera Company, scored last season in pantomime as principal girl with Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, and was re-engaged by them for next Christmas to play the Princess in *Aladdin*. Afterwards Miss Bryan, who is an accomplished vocalist, will go on the variety stage, and has appointed Mr. Dottridge as her sole agent.

MISS EDITH BLANDE concludes this evening five special weeks as Dora Grey in *Her Second Time on Earth*. This is Miss Blande's second association with the part, she having sustained it on a long tour five years ago.

THE second annual series of performances by the British Empire Shakespeare Society at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon, will begin on Wednesday afternoon next, when *Twelfth Night*, will be played by members of the society, under the direction of Mr. Acton Bond. Repetitions will be given on Thursday and Saturday evenings and Friday afternoon. There will be two separate casts, drawn from members of the society in all parts of the kingdom. Special arrangements for reduced fares are being made with railway companies.

THE visit of Mr. George Edwardes's company in the great musical play, *The Merry Widow*, to the Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, next week, has aroused great enthusiasm amongst Tees-side playgoers. On Tuesday the performance will be under the patronage of the members of the Iron and Steel Institute, and on that evening only the pit, amphitheatre, and gallery will be available for the general public.

MR. ORLANDO BARNETT, who will be remembered for his performance of George Tesman in *Hedda Gabler* with Miss Elizabeth Robins in the days when she was first helping to introduce Ibsen into England, has been engaged to support Mr. H. V. Neilson as Jacob Engstrand in *Ghosts* next week at Leeds.

MISS VIOLET FULTON will shortly appear in her sketch, *The Collaborators*. She has acquired the rights in the recent success *Kitty the Crook*, a dramatic sketch by Leon M. Lion, the author of *Filby the Fakir*, now being performed as a curtain-raiser at Wyndham's.

MR. CECIL BERYL, who was for so many years the lessee of the Theatre Royal, Brighton, is to be presented with an illuminated address and a purse of £150.

ENGLISH music-lovers share keenly in the regret experienced at the loss of Pablo Sarasate, the great violinst, who died at his residence at Biarritz from acute bronchitis on Sunday. Sarasate, like Lady Hallé and Joachim, began his career as a child prodigy. Born at Pampeluna on March 10, 1844, he commenced his studies at the early age of 4½ years, and appeared at a concert at Corunna when only six. After studying in Madrid, the youth entered, on Jan. 1, 1856, the Paris Conservatoire, and in 1857 he gained the first prize of the violin class. He afterwards joined Reber's harmony class, but subsequently relinquished the study of composition in order to adopt the career of a concert-player. Leaving the Conservatoire in 1859, he quickly won fame in his native country, and subsequently appeared in nearly all the great cities of Europe as well as America.

SARASATE made his London début in 1861, the same year in which Mme. Adelina Patti was first heard at Covent Garden. His next visit was paid in 1874, when he played at one of the Philharmonic Society's concerts, and at the Musical Union. In 1877 he appeared at the Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts, and during the following year, when he received a second invitation from the Philharmonic Society. Sarasate has given many successful recitals and orchestral concerts here. During the last twenty years he had often visited England, and always received an enthusiastic welcome. He had written compositions for the violin which are much favoured by English students.

MANY honours and decorations were bestowed upon the great violinist in the course of his lengthy career. Queen Maria Christina personally invested him with the Grand Cross of Isabel la Catolica, which gave him the title of Excellency. Among other honours were those of Officer of the Legion of Honour, Red Eagle of Prussia (Third Class), Christ of Portugal, White Eagle of Weimar, and the Order of Dessau. Sarasate was an hon. member of many academies, and hon. professor at various conservatoires of music.

THE removal of the body of Sarasate to his native town took place on Thursday morning. Prayers were recited by the Abbé Cor, of St. Charles's Church, and a company of the 49th Infantry Regiment rendered military honours, as the deceased was an officer of the Legion of Honour. The hearse, which was covered with flowers, was followed to the station by several carriages, in which were the Mayors of Pampeluna and Saragossa, delegates of various Spanish associations, the Spanish Consul, the Mayor of Biarritz, and relatives and intimate friends of the deceased.

IN his will Sarasate bequeaths his piano, two violins by Stradivarius, and 25,000 francs to the Pampeluna Academy of Music, besides 30,000 francs to the poor of that town; one Stradivarius to the Paris Conservatoire, and 20,000 francs for endowing a prize; and 100,000 francs to the Madrid Conservatoire.

FOLLOWING on the brilliant success achieved by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Brewster's Millions*, played recently at Yarmouth, Miss Mabel Love appeared on Monday last at the Aquarium Theatre in this successful management's *Lady Frederick* company, and was welcomed by a packed house. Miss Love scored repeatedly in the name-part, being artistically supported by Mr. Robert Minster and a strong cast. Numerous calls were responded to at the fall of the curtain on each act, and finally Miss Love was presented with some beautiful flowers by enthusiastic admirers in the stalls. The Hutchison management have spared no pains or expense in presenting *Lady Frederick* on a par with the London production, which is still playing to huge business at the Haymarket.

THE audience at the Bradford Theatre Royal on the 18th inst. witnessed an unfortunate accident during the performance of *A Chinese Honeymoon* by Mr. Milton Bode's company. The mishap occurred towards the end of the second act, when Mr Will Harman, who played the part of Mr. Pineapple, had to enter with a jumping movement and spring into the arms of the Emperor (Mr. Rudolph Kloss). Mr. Harman, however, took a false step, and fell into the arms of Mr. Kloss, exclaiming, "Take me off, my leg is broken." He was carried to the wings, and the ambulance was summoned by telephone. After being conveyed to the Royal Infirmary it was found that his leg was broken just above the ankle. It has now been set, and the injured limb is progressing satisfactorily, but it will be some weeks before Mr. Harman can continue his tour. Meanwhile his part is being taken by Mr. Tom Burt.

MISS RUTH VINCENT will be the heroine of *The Belle of Brittany*, which will be brought out by Mr. Tom B. Davis at the Queen's on Saturday, Oct. 17. The comedy is the work of Mr. Leedham Bantock and Mr. P. J. Barrow, with lyrics by Mr. Percy Greenbank and music by Mr. Howard Talbot and Mme. Marie Horne. Favourite artists will also figure in other leading parts, the cast including Mr. George Graves, Mr. Walter Passmore, Mr. Lawrence Rea, Mr. George Miller, Mr. David Burnaby, Mr. Charles Maude, Miss Maudi Darrell, Miss Maud Boyd, and Miss Lily Iris.

"THE HYPOCRITES" South Company met with a remarkably enthusiastic reception at the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, on Monday. Seldom, if ever, it was asserted, could be recalled such a burst of cheering as that which greeted the raising of the curtain after the third act. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton, who is playing the curate, the Rev. Edgar Linnell, has scored a gratifying success in the leading part.

MISS ANNIE HUGHES is appearing in *The Mollusc* at the Kennington Theatre during next week. The opportunity of renewing acquaintance with such a clever artist in a part in which she is so thoroughly suited will, no doubt, be eagerly grasped.

MISS MARJORIE MURRAY, who leapt into prominence some six months since by her performance at the Hicks Theatre in the one-act play, *The Agitator*, has since been achieving great things on tour as Sunday in the piece of that name. Miss Murray has the youth and freshness that count for so much in parts of that description, and her undeniable talents, natural and acquired, have been used to admirable purpose. Honours have been showered upon her everywhere, and her career has begun with evidences of the brightest promise. Miss Murray concludes an eight weeks' engagement as Sunday with Mr. Louis Calvert's company at the Broadway, New Cross, this evening, when she is resigning the part.

AT the Royal Academy of Music the Henry Smart Scholarship (organ) has been awarded to Cuthbert Lionel Heel (a native of Folkestone). The adjudicators were Mr. Reginald Steggall, Dr. H. W. Richards, and Dr. W. Stevenson Hoyte. The Maud Mary Gooch Scholarship (organ) has been secured by Alec Rowley (a native of London), Patrick Kevin Buckley being highly commended. The adjudicators were the same as for the Henry Smart Scholarship.

THE Stainer Exhibition (organ) has been awarded to Patrick Kevin Buckley (a native of Beccles, Suffolk), Adelaide Parker being highly commended. The adjudicators were Mr. F. Corder and Sir Alexander C. Mackenzie. The John Thomas (Welsh) Scholarship (instrumentalists) has been gained by Edgar Jones (a native of Landore), Sydney Northcote being highly commended. The adjudicators were Messrs. Carlo Albanesi, F. Corder, and John Thomas.

AT the customary Wagner evening at the Promenade Concerts on Monday the vocalists will be Miss Susan Strong and Mr. Herbert Witherspoon. Tuesdays during this season are becoming popular as the "French evenings." M. Edouard Colonne will again conduct in the enforced absence of Mr. Henry J. Wood, and the programme will include the repetition of the Scherzo ("Queen Mab") from Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliet*, the Scherzo from *L'Apprenti Sorcier* of Dukas, the Serenade from Charpentier's "Impressions d'Italie," and the Suite from Bizet's incidental music to Daudet's play *L'Arlesienne*. The overture will be Beethoven's "Coriolanus," which is one of M. Colonne's finest interpretations. A new pianist, Miss Myrta Stubbs, will make a first appearance at these concerts in Saint-Saëns's G minor Concerto (No. 2).

ON Wednesday evening Miss Mathilde Verne will play Tschaikovsky's Pianoforte Concerto in B flat minor. The Symphony will be Beethoven's No. 5 in C minor, and the second part of the concert will open with Strauss's tone-poem, "Don Juan." A feature of interest of Thursday's programme is Mr. York Bowen's Overture in G minor. Mr. Heinrich Fiedler will be heard in Mozart's Concerto No. 3 in G for violin and orchestra, Mr. Albert Fransella contributes two flute solos, and Miss Mildred Jones sings for the first time at a promenade concert.

FOR Friday, Oct. 2—the "Beethoven night"—the programme is of remarkable interest. The Symphony is the ever-popular No. 7 in A. Mr. Herbert Witherspoon sings Bach's cantata for bass voice and orchestra, "Amore Traditore," one of the only two Italian texts set to music by the Leipzig cantor. On this occasion Mr. Jean Ten Have, a former pupil of Ysaye, will make his début at these concerts in Mendelssohn's violin concerto. Saturday's programme includes Cowen's orchestral poem, "A Phantasy of Life and Love," and Strauss's "Till Eulenspiegels Merry Pranks," besides a number of lighter and very popular items. There will be two first appearances on this evening: Mr. Alfred Heather, who sings "Love in her eyes sits playing," from Handel's *Acis and Galatea*, and Mr. John Powell, who will be heard in Liszt's Hungarian Fantasia for piano and orchestra

THE new modern miltary play, *The Cheat*, by Edward Ferris and B. P. Matthews, which met with an enthusiastic reception at the Grand, Wolverhampton, on its production there this week, will be presented to suburban audiences at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, on Monday, prior to its appearance in the West End. The cast, headed by Mr. Frank Cooper (which we gave in a previous issue) has an addition in the person of Mr. S. A. Cookson. Mr. Hubert Druce, whose production it is, has highly complimented his general-manager, Mr. George Unwin, on the way in which he has carried through all the business arrangements.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

A Safe Man.

MR. H. W. VARNA writes from far Australia to say that there has just passed away there a most remarkable theatrical identity in the person of one "Dan Barry," who for years toured the length and breadth of the Australian smalls, or "back-blocks," as they are there known. Among many admirable characteristics, he was known as the one manager in his peculiar rank with whom money was always safe," and local tradesfolk would do business with him where needed, while with a manager whose word in cities would stand good for any amount, should *he* dare venture into these smalls to fill in a date with his company en route from one town to another, lying perhaps hundreds of miles away, so slight the faith of the small town trader in theatrical folk, he could hardly get his work done at all.

THE famous "Dan" came to Australia, according to certain authorities, from Ireland before 1850, and was reputedly of good family there, though other Melbourne authority states that he was the son of a local equity barrister, and educated at the Church of England Grammar School in that city, from which he embarked in life on a journalistic career, being at times responsible for some startling press work. Another avers that his early years were distinguished by belonging to the paper-selling craft on Dublin's kerbstones. It is strange that he should ever have braved the ocean to reach Australian shores, for never would he be tempted to cross the water again from Australia to New Zealand, a country which offered much to the small manager; yet the fear of drowning was so strong, he would never venture on the water again. All the old-time gagging methods were his, and though reputedly the author of many of the plays he set before his public, it is on record that some were composed as the play went on. One of the company would enter his dressing-room at night—generally ornamented with a bottle of beer in the washing jug, and ask, "What are we going to do in the third act?" Dan: "You then have possession of the twenty thousand pounds. I'll knock you down, and find the missing will and the money in the desk. Tell the stage manager to have a desk—more action in that—speech, and exit." And so on. It is said that the only lines he was perfect in were those he addressed his audience with between the acts, for always was he a keen business man, and the tricks and dodges he resorted to were wonderful enough to make most interesting reading.

ONE of the most interesting was bringing *Romeo and Juliet* to the light as a modern play, entitled "*The Pugilist's Pride*, by Dan Barry, Esq. A phenomenal success in all Europe, and played before all the crowned heads on earth." A correspondent of the *Bulletin* newspaper records witnessing the performance, and quickly dropping to the device. Romeo was O'Romey, an Irish pugilist. The Montagues has become the Monaghans, the Capulets the Caseys. The street brawl between Romeo and Tybalt (named Tynan) was shown as a ten-round glove fight. In the balcony scene O'Romey was discovered on the Casey's verandah, and pursued as a burglar. The tomb scene became a prison cell, in which O'Romey and Julia Casey meet, Julia charged with bigamy, and O'Romey accused with poisoning Tynan at the ringside by introducing poison into his lemonade. The production in question was an immense success, and ran two consecutive nights to great business.

A Realistic Assault.

THE following story, says the *Pelican*, is not true, of course—it couldn't be, could it?—but it bears telling, nevertheless. The manager of a touring company which had been doing worse than badly for some time past, called his company around him, explained the situation, and asked for suggestions for booming the show. All sorts and conditions of ideas were proposed and vetoed in turn as obsolete, overdone, or impossible. At last one bright young walking gentleman came forward and said: "Look here, guv'nor, I've got a notion. Why shouldn't you be assaulted in the railway train?" "Why should I be, my dear boy?" queried the impresario in his turn. "I don't mean really assaulted, you know. After a furious struggle you best your assailant, who escapes. Police are called, things get into the paper, interviewers call in shoals, you work in something about *The Pretty Princess*, and there you are—crowded houses for weeks to come."

"GOOD enough," said Mr. Manager, brightening up, "but who's to assault me? It won't do for any of you to do it, of course. The thing might leak out, and then it would be all U.P." "Leave it to me," said the originator of the brilliant notion, "I'll fix it up for you. I know a decent young chap who'll do the trick for a trifle, and can be relied to keep his mouth shut. Leave it to me." Left to him it was accordingly, and in due course the player sought out his friend, who was a player likewise, very much down on his luck, and happy to turn his hand to anything to make a bit. All the details were arranged, and, so that there should be no chance of the affair leaking out, the parties were not introduced, but the assaulter was told to get into a certain carriage on a certain train at a certain station, and there he would find Mr. Manager.

HAVING made a scene, he would make his escape at the next station, and at the station following Mr. Manager would call the police. This would give the player time to make himself scarce. At the appointed hour the player entered the carriage and found the manager. One glance at him was sufficient to assure him that he was the gentleman who, under a different name, had some years back left him stranded in a south coast town, and had run away with his wife. With wrath at his heart and a stout stick in his hand he did set about his foe, and to such good purpose that Mr. Manager cried for mercy, and promised untold gold to be let off. But the player was in earnest, and he did not cease operating until the unfortunate manager was one mass of welts and bruises. Then he departed. When Mr. Manager crawled from the train, more dead than alive, and was asked by the members of the company cheerfully assembled, "Well, how did it go off?" his language was unfit for publication, even as a guarantee of good faith.

Theatrical Death Watches.

THE New York theatrical managers have been discussing the habitual "first-nighters," and saying some very hard things about them, according to a leading newspaper of that city which has been gathering their views and publishing them. The "theatrical death watch" is the odious descriptive title bestowed upon a certain clique that makes a practice of attending all the first performances and never by any chance finds anything good in them. "The society has flourished for many years, and it is time it went with the Black Hand and other similar organisations. The 'death watch' was started by a New York dramatic critic many years ago. He was a strange, morbid sort of a chap, who came from out West to write only funerals and executions, and the city editor, by error, sent him on his first assignment to a theatre. He was so disappointed at not being at a funeral that he showed it all through the play. He sat through one of the best musical comedies ever produced in New York with an immovable face, cold as a gambler's heart, and this face was reflected in his notice the next morning. This manner of sitting through a play and not smiling soon spread."

"THE MARRIAGES OF MAYFAIR."

Drama of Modern Life, in Four Acts, by Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton, Produced at Drury Lane Theatre, on Monday, Sept. 21.

Lord Adolphus Villiers	MR. ALBERT CHEVALIER
Jim Callender	MR. LYN HARDING
Nigel Villiers	MR. BASIL GILL
Dudley Gore	MR. VINCENT CLIVE
Duke of Exmoor	MR. CHARLES V. FRANCE
Julian Merrowdale	MR. OSCAR ADYE
Lieut.-Gen. Sir Antony Gore, K.C.B.	MR. ARTHUR POOLE
Andrew McBroader	MR. FRED GROVE
Percy Hosfield	MR. FRANK BRADLEY
Dorothy Gore	MISS EVA MOORE
Bess Bissett	MISS MARIE GEORGE
Lady Margaret Villiers	MRS. LANCASTER-WALLIS
Mrs. Bissett	MISS LUCY SIBLEY
Lily de Mario	MISS MARIE PERA
Mrs. Clayson	MRS. EDWIN PALMER
Mrs. Anstruther	MISS MURIEL LANGLEY
Elise Dubernay	MISS OLIVE PALMER
Lady Mab Middleton	MISS D'ARCY LANE
Mary Bandeleur	MISS MARJORIE DAY
La Bébé Bax	MISS IRENE SMITH
Lady Fordyce	MISS MARJORIE DORE
Prudence	MISS GERTIE BRITTON
Yeoman Warder	MR. JOHN ARCHER
Father Felix	MR. CLARENCE VINCENT
Captain Carlyon	MR. GUY WILLIAMS
Matthew Elkins	MR. HOWARD RUSSELL
Jeffreys	MR. EDWARD MORGAN
Lord Tenby	MR. FRED PENLEY
The Rector	MR. RICHARD NORTON
Policeman	MR. ARTHUR LEIGH
Schweitzer	MR. ARCHIBALD MCLEAN
Sir Nicol Eardley	MR. KENELM FOSS

Mr. Cecil Raleigh and Mr. Henry Hamilton have so exactly taken the length of the foot of the patron of Drury Lane Theatre that the success of any of their dramas there is assured in advance. *The Marriages of Mayfair* is quite up to the standard they have fixed for themselves. It has an interesting and exciting story, a sufficient amount of honest sentiment, and all the necessary comic relief. We may take it for granted that the authors are correct in their law, and that a divorce obtained in Geneva is not valid in this country. Such a divorce was obtained by Lord Alaric Villiers from a dancer named Sylvia Thorne, in order that he might marry a Society beauty. Lord Alaric had a son named Nigel, who by the sudden death of a relative becomes Marquis of Deerminster. Nigel has incurred the enmity of a rascally bookmaker named Callender by getting him warned off the turf; and Callender induces an extravagant young man named Dudley Gore to forge Deerminster's name to a bill. Lord Adolphus Villiers, an elderly man about town, is "inveigled" into a marriage with a music-hall singer named Bess Bissett, who knows all about the Geneva divorce, and obtains evidence which enables her to turn Nigel and Lady Margaret out of the estates, Nigel being pronounced illegitimate. Callender now persuades Gore to steal a valuable diamond from the regalia in the Tower, and the young man is shot dead by the soldiers on guard just after he has thrown Callender the jewel. The bookmaker escapes in a boat and repairs to Switzerland, where, by an accident, he crosses a dangerous pass in company with Nigel, whom he still hates. Having drugged him, he leaves him to perish in the snow; but as Callender is going he is killed by an avalanche, and Nigel is rescued by his sweetheart, Dorothy Gore, and Lord Adolphus, who has come to Switzerland to obtain further evidence in connection with the divorce. He returns with sufficient to prove that Nigel is the rightful heir to the Deerminster estates; Nigel and Dorothy are married on Tower Green; and general happiness prevails.

The cast included thirty-two speaking personages, fourteen of whom were of prime importance. The success of the evening was achieved by Mr. Albert Chevalier, for whom the authors have provided a part which enabled him to employ all his best qualities. It combined humour with pathos, and absurdity with a certain amount of dignity and fine feeling. At first it seemed that Lord Adolphus Villiers was a mere senile fop, but as he became involved in the action we lost sight of his senile pretences in the pathos of his position. Mr. Chevalier made the most of the part in all its phases, whether depicting the quaint vanity of the old beau or describing his feelings in his painful and humiliating plight. His make-up was most artistic, and altogether he made a palpable hit. Mr. Lyn Harding's fine stature was well suited to the representation of the burly bookmaker, Jim Callender. The low-bred familiarity, the base cunning, and the brutal heartlessness of the man were portrayed with vivid effect; and Callender's nerve-shaken remorse in the third act was adroitly suggested. Mr. Basil Gill's personal beauty and manly and romantic bearing made him an ideal hero, and he played the part of Nigel Villiers with just the needed amount of poetry and elevation, being always at ease, and always impressive and interesting. The varying impulses of Dudley Gore were portrayed with passionate feeling by Mr. Vincent Clive, who expressed with skill and power the struggles of the victim in the toils of the tempter. A performance which was as entirely charming in style as it was sweet and sincere in sentiment was supplied by Miss Eva Moore, whose declaration of love in the second act held the house in breathless and sympathetic silence, so true was it in feeling and so strongly and deeply expressed. Miss Moore also showed real power in her delivery of the "second-sight" speeches of the character, and played it with an earnestness and emphasis which filled the vast theatre, and showed how much of late years she has increased in power and scope. Miss Marie George as Bess Bissett looked pretty enough to account for Lord Adolphus's infatuation, and acted with all the necessary plebeian pettishness and impulsive violence. She struck a note of truth and passion in the touching scene between Bess and Lady Margaret in the last act, and was the ungoverned, good-hearted child of nature to the life. The ripe and cultured art of Mrs. Lancaster-Wallis was well applied to the embodiment of Lady Margaret Villiers, whose intense pride was shown by Mrs. Wallis very graphically and with unmistakable effect. Miss Lucy Sibley proved herself a genuine comedienne by her quiet but really comical representation of Mrs. Bissett, and handled the part with a "'cuteness" and confidence which were admirable. Miss Marie Pera looked very pretty in becoming attire, and was an agreeable and intelligent exponent of the rôle of Lily de Mario, especially in its more moderate phases. Mr. Charles V. France's style and smartness made him an irreproachable Duke of Exmoor; and Mr. Oscar Adye did all that was required as Julian Merrowdale, and did it extremely well. Mr. Arthur Poole played Sir Anthony Gore with a light and firm touch and with just the needed quiet dignity; and Mr. Frank Bradley was natural and reposeful as Percy Hosfield. Mr. Fred Grove depicted Andrew McBroader with a resolute Scottishness which made the rôle remarkable, though there was not much in it for the actor to develop. Amongst the multitude of minor characters we may select for notice Mr. John Archer, who spoke his lines well as the archæological Yeoman Warder; Mr. Clarence Vincent, who bore himself with reverend dignity as Father Felix; Mr. Howard Russell, who played the poetic schoolmaster with sedate humour; Mr. Richard Norton, who was distinct and deliberate as the Rector; and Mr. Arthur Leigh, who represented the Policeman neatly. The remaining parts had excellent representatives.

The "big scene" of the piece was the Swiss pass with avalanche. The stage picture was a marvellously faithful reproduction of the locality, and the "snow-slip," in which man and horse appear to be destroyed, was managed with a cleverness that defied the sharpest investigation to explain. Mr. Harry Brooke has won great credit by this achievement, and his cloth representing a Swiss lake is a very beautiful picture. The Hospice is most realistically represented by the same artist, and is a set that must be remembered. Mr. Henry Emden has painted a very pretty garden scene for the first act and a charming autumnal woodland for the third, and has also supplied the designs from which Messrs. Hugo Baruch and Co. have built up a faithful reproduction of Rumpelmayer's restaurant. Mr. R. McCleery's Tower sets are most illusive examples of combined arts of scenic construction and lighting, and his arrangement of the jewel effect is excellent; and Mr. Bruce Smith has supplied a spacious interior, with many portraits, for the second scene of the fourth act. The mounting of *The Marriages of Mayfair* is stupendous.

Warm and special praise must be given to the way in which that able and experienced conductor Mr. J. M. Glover has composed the incidental music; and Mr. Henry Emden's new act-drop is pleasing, bright, and varied. To Mr. Ernest D'Auban's stage-management much of the smoothness of the performance was due, and his assistant, Mr. Edward Spiller, should share the credit of the marvellous production which has been prepared under the all-observant eye of Mr. Arthur Collins. Mr. Arthur Collins was called after the third act, and led on the horse which had taken part in the snowy-pass scene; and the lowering of the curtain with a message of thanks was substituted for the usual appearance of the authors and manager at the conclusion of the performance. *The Marriages of Mayfair* may safely be added to the list of Mr. Collins's triumphs at Drury Lane.

"IB" AT THE ADELPHI.

On Monday, Sept. 21, revival of the Picture in Three Panels, by Basil Hood, entitled "IB AND LITTLE CHRISTINA."

Ib	MR. MARTIN HARVEY
Ib's Father	MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR
Little Ib	MASTER BOBBIE ANDREWS
Old Heinrik	MR. PHILIP HEWLAND
John	MR. GEORGE COOKE
The Gipsy Woman	MISS MARY RORKE
Christina	MISS COLERIDGE
Little Christina	MISS RITA LEGGIERO

It was on May 15, 1900, that Mr. Martin Harvey reopened the Prince of Wales's Theatre with a "triple bill," one item of which was *Ib and Little Christina*. In this, Miss Phyllis Dare appeared as Christina in the first period of the play, and as Little Christina in the third, Miss Mary Rorke enacting Ib's mother, and Miss Eva Moore representing the adult Christina of the second period. Hans Andersen's tale is familiar to all readers of his fairy tales, and the pervading melancholy of the story, with its suggestion that it is better to be under the black earth than on it, has a strange weird sweetness and attraction. Like all poetical pieces, however, it requires delicate handling, and Mr. Martin Harvey's style and personality are exactly suited to the representation of the hero. Both in appearance and acting he realises the character with refined feeling and exquisite appreciation, and his performance is redolent of the sad seriousness of Scandinavian poetry. Miss Mary Rorke repeats her excellent rendering of the rôle of the mysterious Gipsy Woman; Miss Coleridge hits off, with skill and zest, the characteristics of the shallow Christina; and Miss Rita Loggiero is a most delightful and promising exponent of the two little Christinas; Master Bobbie Andrews being intelligent and agreeably unaffected and distinct as Little Ib. Mr. Albert E. Raynor gives a sound and satisfactory performance as Ib's father; and Mr. Philip Hewland does excellent work as Old Heinrick, Mr. George Cooke playing John very capably. The piece is admirably mounted, and its revival in front of *The Corsican Brothers* is most acceptable and enjoyable.

"THE EMPEROR COMMANDS."

One-Act Comedy, with Music, by George Cornille-Pescud, Produced at the New Tower Pavilion, Portobello, on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

Napoleon Bonaparte	MR. MICHAEL KEMBLE
Comte de Chatillon	MR. HARRY MARVELLO
Talleyrand	MR. GEO. CORNILLE-PESCUD
Fouché	MR. HARRY GRIFFITHS
Marshal Macdonald	MR. SAM THOMSON
Josephine	MISS VICTORIA CARMEN
Eugenie	MISS ELLIE VERRIERE
Mme. Romolino Bonaparte	MISS JEANNE JEUNE
Mlle. St. Cyr	MISS ELAINE CLIFF

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. George Cornille-Pescud, who has been a valuable member of Mr. Marvello's summer company at Portobello, writing the words and music of many of the songs for his fellow-artists, has attempted higher flights in *The Emperor Commands*. The play is a pleasant, unpretentious work, which shows a certain aptness for literary expression, and is clever without being distinguished. The plot of Mr. Pescud's piece turns upon an episode at the Court of Napoleon I. The Comte de Chatillon, an emigré from England, returns to France, and offers his sword in the service of the Emperor. Chatillon is in love with one of the ladies of Napoleon's Court; but Fouché, who is infatuated with the girl, endeavours to put barriers in the way of their union. Josephine overhears Talleyrand persuading the Emperor to divorce her and marry Maria Louisa, and pleads with Napoleon for the young lovers. Fouché is dismissed, and the Emperor commands that Chatillon shall wed the lady of his choice.

The outstanding feature of the performance was the Napoleon of Mr. Michael Kemble, who acted with dignity and force; Mr. Marvello, admirably made-up, displayed his versatility by his easy acting as Chatillon; the Talleyrand of Mr. Pescud and the Fouché of Mr. Harry Griffiths were capital sketches; and Mr. Sam Thomson indicated that Marshal Macdonald had preserved the Scotch accent of his progenitors. Miss Victoria Carmen, an actress who has been principally seen in comedy parts, played Josephine with feeling and intelligence; and Miss Elaine Cliff comported herself with grace as Mlle. St. Cyr, and sang a tuneful solo for a contralto with much charm. Miss Ellie Verriere was a bright Eugenie; and Miss Jeune was a stately Mme. Bonaparte. Mr. Pescud has written, in addition to the pretty air for contralto, an effective duet, excellently rendered by Mr. Kemble and Miss Carmen, a solo for Marshal Macdonald, "The land you know"—which is too up-to-date for its surroundings—and a chorus for four male voices. The play was well mounted, and the actors were recalled at the fall of the curtain.

"THE WHIRLPOOL."

A Play, in Three Acts, by Herbert Swears, Founded on a Short Story by Cyrus Townsend Brady, and Produced for the First Time in London at the Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, on Monday, Sept. 21.

Elijah D. Tillottson	MR. KENDAL
Bertram Livingstone	MR. BASSETT ROE
Cunningham Cutter	MR. WELLESLEY DRAPER
Hon. Reginald Killiegrew	MR. T. HOLDING
Ephraim Johnstone	MR. EDMUND GURNEY
Chappin	MR. METCALFE WOOD
Parker	MR. W. M. RUTHERFURD
Elise	MISS SARA DE GROOT
Miss Gretchen de Kaater	MRS. A. B. TAPPING
Miss Gertrude Van Stuyler	MISS ETHEL DANE
Miss Constance Livingstone	MRS. KENDAL

In his depiction of the strenuousness and romance of business the English playwright gives pride of place to New York, and Mr. Herbert Swears, in the play he has so cleverly written round Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, lays the action in the Empire City, where, in the drawing-room of Miss Constance Livingstone — a lady who has reached that nebulous period of life known as middle age, and without any serious experience of love, though on account of her great wealth she has had as many suitors as Portia—we meet most of the characters. Of late she has been attracted by the unconventionality and transparent honesty of purpose and intention of Elijah D. Tillottson, a plain, honest mining engineer from Brazil. Having won the lady's consent during a very amusing love declaration, he sets out for the office of her brother, Bertram Livingstone, a stockbroker in the city, to ask his permission. The proposal is treated with scorn. In an angry scene between the two men Elijah draws his revolver, and Miss Livingstone's entrance only prevents the engineer shooting the man who so grossly insults him.

In Act 2 we find Tillottson established in an office apparently as a mining expert; in reality, however, he has gradually been manipulating the coffee market, and by means of private information he has of the coffee plantations in Brazil, he will have, by three o'clock on that day, "cornered" the market, and made the immense pile of dollars he thinks necessary to match Miss Livingstone's fortune and enable him to marry her. Tillottson has been helped towards the end of this gigantic deal by an old partner of his, by name Johnstone, who lends him two million dollars. He is now top dog, and Bertram Livingstone, the man who stigmatised him as an adventurer and fortune-hunter, has not only gone under, but in his reckless gamble to stem the tide of Tillottson's operations has lost both his sister's and his sweetheart's fortunes, which he has appropriated. Unless the corner in coffee is broken he will be a ruined man, and will be branded as a thief. In his dilemma he appeals to his sister to ask for help from Tillottson, who, impelled by his love for Constance, finally says he will not lend the money, but will himself actually break the corner. With the collapse of the corner he will be ruined; but he allows Constance to think he is leaving her because her brother is a thief.

Tillottson informs Johnstone, on his return, of the change in their plans, and explains the reason. Johnstone agrees with him, and will stand by him. They telephone for Cutter, the broker, and on his arrival instruct him to break the corner. It only wants a few minutes to three o'clock, and Cutter refuses the, to him, ridiculous order. Tillottson and Johnstone then draw revolvers, and "covering" the broker force him to telephone to his assistant on the Coffee Exchange to sell at once, and so break the corner. As three o'clock approaches an angry crowd of brokers break down the doors and rush into Tillottson's office, only to be met by the revolvers of Tillottson and Johnstone. As they are held back, three o'clock strikes.

In Act 3 Bertram Livingstone learns something of his sister's self-sacrifice. He has been saved at the expense of her happiness. Bertram leaves the story repentant, but happy with his fiancée. Johnstone then arrives on the scene with a message of farewell from his partner, and tells Constance the full story of how they broke the corner. Constance is overwhelmed with grief to think she has been the means of ruining her lover, and begs Johnstone to bring Tillottson to her. He does so, and then Constance tells Tillottson she knows all, and how generous and noble he has been. On her knees she begs him to take her, and the curtain falls on the prospect of a happy marriage.

Mrs. Kendal's gracious personality is never better fitted than in a part that enables her to display the delicacy of her comedy as well as to exhibit her power of compelling the tear. Her comedy in the first act simply enchants her admirers at Holloway, where she is a strong favourite. In the second act the appeal of Constance to her lover is full of that womanly tact and convincing force that the popular actress knows so well how to express. Mr. Kendal as the mining engineer, Tillottson, has a character to which he gives rare distinction and individuality. Not too American, but just American enough. We immediately cherish the unaffected, simple nature of the man, and take him to our hearts, and it is Mr. Kendal's breezy natural acting that compels us to do so. Mr. Edmund Gurney as Ephraim Johnstone supplies a gem of characterisation; and a real bit of drollery comes from Mr. Metcalfe Wood, who is splendidly made up as the shuffling old clerk, Chappin, who is teetotal until he can handle the whiskey bottle. Mr. Bassett Roe has the character that is the most difficult to play in the piece—that of Bertram Livingstone, who cuts rather a sorry figure in the final act, in spite of the author's heroic attempts to rehabilitate him in the good graces of the audience. The actor is excellent in his suggestion of blank desperation in the second act, where Mr. Wellesley Draper scores most unmistakably in the part of Cunningham Cutter. Mr. T. Holding is a reasonable and possible representative of the Hon. Reginald Killigrew, the son of a peer; and Mr. W. M. Rutherfurd imparts all the necessary individuality and eccentricity to the rôle of Parker. Mrs. A. B. Tapping does well in the part of Miss Gretchen de Kaater, the New York society lady; Miss Sara De Groot makes the most of her short scene as Elise the maid; and Miss Ethel Dane is a winsome and vivacious Gertrude Van Stuyler.

MISS FLORENCE RADCLIFFE, at a few hours' notice, played the name-part in *Merely Mary Ann* at the Opera House, Perth, on Monday night. The part is one particularly suited to Miss Radcliffe's personality, and she made a genuine success, obtaining never less than three curtains at the end of each act.

MR. H. F. MALTBY'S plays, *The Youngest of Three*, *Sir George of Almack's* and *Fraud* (the adventure of a lady typist), have been quite successful in the provinces, and doubtless one of them will soon be produced in London. At almost every town visited Mr. Maltby (who is now only twenty-eight years old) receives letters of congratulation from unknown admirers of his exceptionally clever work.

MR. BOURCHIER AT LIVERPOOL.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier, in replying to the toast of his health at a dinner given to him and Miss Violet Vanbrugh by the Liverpool Stage Club on Sunday, said:—An expert in the business side of our profession greatly interested me the other day by saying that five per cent. of the general public is the maximum figure representing what is known as the "theatrical public"; that is to say, those who take any real interest in the legitimate drama, and who closely follow the careers of actors, authors, and managers. The remaining ninety-five per cent., my friend says, "only go to theatres to be amused, some thinking the plays are written by the actors themselves, others that they are written by Shakespeare, and the rest don't think about it at all." So far as London is concerned, the recent growth of new theatres seems to have kept pace with that of the variety houses, although the profits recently made by the latter would, I fancy, be larger than those of the so-called "legitimate" theatres. In some towns in the provinces, however, a different tale is evidently to be told. In your own town, for instance, there are now only two first-class theatres and there used to be four, although at the present time the population is greater. I read the following statement last week in the *Courier*:—"Not many years ago two music halls sufficed for Liverpool; now we have at least a dozen palatial establishments all giving two performances a night, and generally crowded at both."

I am also assured by some of my provincial friends that the majority of music halls in the provinces are far better and far more comfortable than the theatres that run in opposition to them, and that the standard of entertainment offered at them is steadily improving. A great wit once said: "You may amuse, shock, or interest your audience, but you must never bore them." When the manager of a legitimate theatre is fortunate enough to produce a play which combines the amusement, the thrill, and the sustained interest, that theatre can hold its own against any programme that the combined variety houses in the United Kingdom can put into the field.

The difficulties of managing a legitimate are far greater than those of manager at variety theatres. If one turn fails to please the public the manager of a variety theatre may be quite certain that at least two out of every twenty will more than fill his house throughout the week; or, as in the case of Miss Maud Allan at the Palace Theatre in London, many months he is running these attractions. The lover of the purely intellectual drama must not be too hard on the apotheosis of the variety theatre. Let him remember that the drama, which began in prehistoric times, owes its origin to dancing. Early, very early, before his tongue had much speech or his hand much cunning, man wished to give formal expression to the feeling within him that he and the world about him were governed by a Deity, and he found this expression in dance. Soon the dancing became pantomime. Man, as yet without literature, gave a meaning to each of the actions in his dance, and expressed by gesture what he could not express by language, words being so few. Later, words came, literature, music, and last of all came painting.

Why is the percentage of legitimate playgoers so small in this country, and whose fault is it? Well, ladies and gentlemen, it may be that the whole trouble with the drama at the present moment is that the Puritans, in their mistaken zeal, drove it out of the hearts of the people, and that it has never really returned. But what, may I ask, will be the attitude of the public towards the drama when those pageants which have taken place in the provinces in the past two or three years—and we hope will be followed by many more—have revived the intimacy that at one time existed between the people and the art of acting? The theatre will then draw, I think, an educated public, such as the concert hall draws now. By an educated public I do not mean a public taken from what we call the educated classes, but a public which, though taken from all classes, really understands the play. For instance, a very intelligent and sympathetic audience might come from Hildenborough, where there is a band of village players. These, though not professionals, do know, by actual experience, something of the art of acting, and their presence in a theatre would certainly be an incentive to any conscientious actor. It is the knowledge that the drama is not understood that leads to slovenly, haphazard performances of indifferent plays, and the knowledge that music is understood has led to the improvement which the past ten years have seen in musical performances. That pageants will gradually spread throughout the country an understanding of the drama is a consummation devoutly to be wished, for so long as the public remains uncritical our drama is hardly likely to improve to any great extent.

There are probably many who question whether an improvement in the drama is of vital importance. "If the drama entertains, is not that enough?" Surely that is too poor a view to hold even of the Cinderella of arts. A very different view was held by the Greeks and by mediæval Churchmen. By them the drama was employed to teach history and to inspire the people with ideals. We still expect literature, painting, and music to do more than entertain; we expect these arts to instruct and inspire us; and we slight and insult the drama when we ask of it only entertainment. We have no good reason for rating the drama in this way below the other arts. The appeal to our senses may be slightly less in drama than in painting and music, but surely, ladies and gentlemen, the appeal to our intellect is greater.

It has been said that, as a nation, we are not, like the French, instinctly artistic. A friend of mine who holds this view was expatiating on this subject the other day, and in support of his theory told me this story. He was strolling through a loan exhibition of works of art in the East-End of London, and, coming upon a beautiful triptych representing "The Last Supper," he stopped a few minutes to examine and admire. Two French girls of the working class came by, and they too were arrested by its beauty. "Que c'est beau," said one; "Oui, c'est bien beau," said the other; and my friend will never forget the mingled admiration and reverence with which the words were spoken—admiration for the artist's work, reverence for his subject. A few minutes afterwards two English girls of the same class came up. Only one of them troubled to look at it, but she quickly nudged her companion. "Lor', Liza," she said, "they 'ad waiters even in those days."

The story is, I think, typical of the difference between the point of view with regard to art in this country and the point of view in France or Germany. To those French girls the picture needed no explanation, for they had unconsciously realised the significance of Goethe's cry, "Art still has truth; take refuge there." Their English sisters needed instruction to understand the subject of the picture; and, above all, some measure of reverence to appreciate it.

As another instance of unintelligence, may we quote Mr. Louis Parker's story of the lady who heard the name of Sherborne mentioned? "Sherborne," she said, wishing to show her knowledge, "of course, that's where they had the Warwick Pageant." That spirit of irreverence and flippant ignorance has wrecked many a good enterprise at the outset. The sneer of the man of fashion in the stalls is echoed by the titter of the boy up aloft, and a good scene, a fine piece of interpretation, go for nothing.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE SURREY.

Not the least attractive item on the current Surrey programme is a grand beauty competition for the ladies of Lambeth, with some handsome cash prizes. The judges, composed of many well-known local citizens, will find their task no easy one by the time they have to give their final decision on Friday evening. As the fair and dark competitors were paraded under the searching rays of the limelight on Monday, the outspoken criticisms of the Surrey lads created roars of merriment.

Miss Carlotta de Yonson, assisted by an excellent company, presents another of her thrilling dramaettes, entitled *Crime and the Criminal*, in which the author, Mr. C. Douglas Carlile, assumes the rôle of the hero, Harry Carlton, who rescues his fiancée, Muriel Belme, from the clutches of the villainous Dr. Croxton, who with the assistance of his accomplice, Paulo Macari, has her drugged and confined in his sanatorium. Miss Carlotta de Yonson as the dipsomaniac heroine has a very difficult character to portray, and in the scene wherein she thinks she has killed the Italian while under the influence of the drug her acting reaches a high level of excellence. Mr. C. Douglas Carlile invests the part of the hero with that cool confidence and sincerity that have made him a strong favourite. The murderous Dr. Croxton is capably delineated by Mr. Chas. A. Carlile; Mr. Lee Gilbert as the newsboy, Billy, is the saucy street gamin to the life; and as the Italian, Paulo Macari, and Inspector Scott Messrs. J. Langford and A. Crookes do well.

The Mayvilles (Harry and Elsie) are always acceptable in their clever imitations of variety artists. Gravetta and Parr, in a pot-pourri, "There's Going to be a Show," give a most interesting show indeed, commencing with a spoof ventriloquial act, where the lay figure of an old woman comes to life and reveals a very charming lady, who assists her male confrère in a series of life-like impersonations of Generals Kitchener, Roberts, and Buller, Sousa, Napoleon, and Queen Victoria and His Majesty King Edward VII. Browning and Wally, in their trapeze act, give a marvellous exhibition of skill; Carl Colyer, in his songs "I'm a champion" and "The Dancing Craze," indulges in some clever and original hat jugglery, merry patter, and eccentric dancing; Cissy Esdaile wins early honours with her coon song, "My Dusky Lou," with its quaint melody; Josh Dixon, a quaint little comedian, keeps his audience in a merry mood as a diminutive policeman, and afterwards as "Miss Hook of Holland" fairly brings down the house with his clever dancing; Daisy Stratton, a dainty comedienne, is a charming gipsy fortune-teller; Ruhart, in his burlesque jugglery and sharpshooting, is funny, and cloaks some neat and skilful balancing tricks under merry fooling. Raymond's picture, No Good for Anything, is most amusing. As an extra the pictures depicting the good work done daily in the London Hospital assist the appeal made by the ever-courteous manager, Mr. Roy Cochrane, from the stage.

ROYAL STANDARD.

Miss Kittee Rayburn is singing her special song this week at the Standard, "Won't you come to me in Canada?" and the chorus of it is being taken up with great gusto by the audience. The song was specially written for Miss Rayburn by Messrs. S. Fortescue-Harrison and John Neat, and its sentiment as well as its sense is of a kind which should surely act as an incentive to emigration to the Land of the Maple Leaf. It tells the story of a lad who has gone to Canada to make a home for himself and the lassie he has left behind, and how after a few years he writes to her in the words which form the title of the song. Miss Rayburn sings it very prettily and expressively; and her other ditty, "Hannah from Havana," though not so popular, is extremely well rendered. Gordon and Bell delight the audience with their duets and dances; and Miss Madge Beresford is an accomplished and quite charming comedienne. Phillips and Merritt are once more seen and heard to great advantage in their "Touch of Vaudeville"; and Mr. Cliff Ryland is hugely entertaining in his song "Somebody's mother," which he delivers in his extremely quaint manner. Mr. Austin Lenton and Miss Agnes Lane have a highly diverting turn, in which they indulge in humorous repartee and smart and rapid versification upon "unconsidered trifles of the day." Both sing nicely, and the little act finds great favour. Cull-Pitt, who styles himself the "droll deceptionist," submits several very clever feats of magic, that in which he makes an egg appear suddenly in an empty bag which he holds in his hands—his arms being held by two members of the audience—evokes rounds of applause. Altogether his doings are really marvellous to behold. Mr. Will Evans has never been in more comical mood than now. He is uproariously funny, whether it be as the singer of a chorus song, "A B C," or as the distressed but very voluble plaintiff in a breach of promise action, or as "Miss Maggie Alum, the pure art dancer." Few comedians possess such a sense of the ridiculous as he. Mr. Andy Burn furnishes some merry moments with his verses, "Everybody thinks I'm a millionaire"; and Miss Raie Walters amuses the house with her very effective rendering of two songs, in one of which she appears fondly grasping a huge magnet and tells the audience that it is intended to attract a member of the male species; and on her second appearance she displays a bird cage, open for any human animal to enter. Mr. Frank Elliston, Miss Nellie Stevens, and Mr. Richard Oliver present the charming romantic playlet *My Lady Betty*; and the Edisonograph shows half a dozen films of a diversified and interesting nature. Mr. Maurice Volny attends in his usual able manner to the requirements of the establishment, and Mr. Fredk. Allwood is still ably presiding over the efforts of the orchestra.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

Miss Marie Lloyd is here, and so is all Hammersmith, or, at least, as many as Mr. Lewis Vincent, the popular manager, can possibly pack into this comfortable house. Miss Lloyd, favourite as she is everywhere, seems to have an extra strong hold on the affections of Hammersmithians. On Monday, having sung in her inimitable manner "Don't grumble at the women," "Tiddley-om-pom," and the renowned "The directoire girl," so enthusiastic was the applause that Miss Lloyd gave "I can't make my eyes be good." This song gives an excellent opportunity for "acting," as well as singing, and the interpretation it receives could not be excelled. Miss Lloyd's many costumes are charming.

Mr. Harry Russon is a comedian who will undoubtedly become a "top-o'-the-bill" artist in due course. He was loudly applauded for his character song "I'm only the stage door keeper," and the other two songs, "After you with the girl," and "He's thoroughbred," were cleverly rendered, and received with marked approbation. Mr. Ernest Shand's extremely funny arguments on the proposed Licensing Bill, and the "Oh, what would the vicar say" song were much appreciated and enjoyed. The Two Anartos, with their songs, musical items, and humorous patter, make a popular turn; Mooney and Holbein provide some mirth-provoking business; Miss Flo. Cecil has a catchy song, entitled "Matilda," and afterwards sings, "I do like to be where the money is," concluding with a lively dance; Frank Elliston and company do particularly well in the sketch, *My Lady Betty*; Tom Watts and company's scena, *The Black Eagle*, gives an interesting picture of North American Indians' life; the Arthur Gallimore Trio presented an enjoyable mixture of song, fun, and dancing, and were well received by the audience; Gicardo, a young juggler, was entertaining, showing some clever tricks with bottles, plates, hats, umbrella, and billiard balls. Miss Ethel Arundell is a young lady who will no doubt "come on" considerably in the near future. Her songs, "My English Rose," and "I love to see the ocean" were neatly sung. Maxwell and Francis and Slidder and Dunbar also appear on the programme to advantage. The orchestra's selections, under Mr. J. H. Cleve's able guidance, were much appreciated. The Edisonograph, with its up-to-date films, still maintains its firm hold on a large section of the music-hall visiting public.

THE SOUTH LONDON.

Remarkable audiences are being attracted to the old-established hall in the London-road, where Mr. William Payne officiates so ably as manager, and neither for love nor money has it been possible to obtain a seat after the starting of the second house. Chief of this week's attractions is unmistakably Mr. Joe Elvin, who has revived the droll *Deaf* sketch to admirable purpose. As an outlet for the popular comedian's individual humour his part of the boy-in-buttons is unexcelled, and by means of comic actions and still more comic expressions Mr. Elvin maintains the fun at high pressure. Laughter resounds continuously throughout the house, and at the close the favourite Cockney impersonator is the object of an ovation. Mr. Elvin is loyally supported by the members of his company, who have done him long service.

A source of attraction is also found in a singing competition, with money prizes, for the best imitation of Mr. Fred Earle in any of his songs. That quaint comedian shows the way in a couple of characteristic lyrics, one of which has the affecting chorus "There's another little one a-coming out." The other effusion boasts the taking refrain of "Whack-fol-de-diddle-oh!" which Mr. Earle embellishes with a curious crooning which excites much laughter whenever repeated. Mr. Earle announced the terms of the competition in humorous fashion, asking for "fair play and no favour" on behalf of the aspirants. The first competitor on the night of our visit was a boy who sang "Seaweed" in a tremulous soprano with occasional lapses into a deep baritone. Several other competitors took part, but the choice, which is decided by the acclamation of the audience, fell upon a youth who sported a red wig and gave a very creditable rendering of "Whack-fol-de-diddle-oh!" The finals were announced for last (Friday) evening.

Among the great favourites of the evening is Miss Daisy Dormer, whose melodious coon songs are followed by a dainty dance which captivates the house and results in many recalls. No small share of success is obtained by Lennie and Hast, who crack many a piquant joke and supply some effective singing in their fantasy of *A Sea Nymph*. Miss Cressie Leonard makes a fair and fascinating appearance as a principal boy and sings with agreeable archness and spirit. Miss Ella Lane also finds unbounded admiration for her singing; and Robb Gilmore is particularly entertaining with his clever corkscrew dance. An acceptable interlude is provided by Mr. Randolph King, a protean actor of much skill; and the efforts of Gicardo, a young juggler, are much appreciated. Ruffell's Bioscope has a series of pictures from which both amusement and sensation is derived; and the efforts of the orchestra, capably controlled by Mr. Chas. E. Howells, contribute to the harmony of the proceedings.

SADLER'S WELLS.

There is a beauty competition here which is exciting immense interest in the homes of Clerkenwell and Islington. No doubt there will be heart-breakings before it is concluded, for, judging by the personal appearance of some of the young ladies we saw on Wednesday evening, it was evident there were some whose physical attractiveness existed only in their own imaginations. The great occasion of final selection was announced for last night's second house, when the prizes were to be given away. The beauty show has certainly provoked endless merriment.

The Sisters Brooks are smart dancers and engaging comediennes; and Millicent Freres presents many interesting and daring feats on the trapeze. Lambert and Hans appear in a vocal scena, which is highly diverting, their song, "Isn't it nice to have somebody to love you?" and their conversation being much relished by the audience. Baker and De Sales engage very successfully in an American eccentric comedy act; and Miss Lily Arthur, comedienne, is fortunate in the possession of a pleasing voice, an agreeable manner, and a charming personality.

Mr. Leslie Clare and company present the sketch *Wanted, a Wife*. In it Mr. Clare enacts the rôle of the young spendthrift, Charles Summers, who, desiring to secure his uncle's sympathy and some of his money, tells the old man that he is married to an extravagant woman, though in reality he has not changed his state of celibacy. Hearing that his uncle is coming to see him, he induces his landlady's servant to say that she is Mrs. Charles Summers, and she occasions no small hilarity by her language and behaviour when the uncle arrives. Mr. Clare acts with a fine sense of the humorous possibilities of his part, and so does Miss Alice Cheshire as the slavey; while Mr. Rosney as the uncle and Miss Violet Bancroft as the landlady also submit appropriate impersonations.

Elroy, the armless wonder, astonishes everybody by the facility with which he employs his feet in place of the hands that are missing. With his pedal extremities he performs "Home, sweet home" on a Japanese fiddle, and by the same means gives "Killarney" as a cornet solo, the instrumentation being most commendable. Stidder and Dunbar have a delightful vocal and instrumental act, "Eileen Alannah" and "The Lost Chord" (piano representation of an organ) evoking loud applause. The Irish dances engaged in by the couple are of quite an exhilarating character. The Gallimore Trio also offer their attractive and amusing comedy act; and Miss Lily Black delights the house with her rendering of "Sweet Rose of Killarney" and "You're not the only one." The petite drama, *Treachery*, is presented by Mr. Bernard Mervyn's able company, Mr. Mervyn himself enacting with great success the rôle of the hero, and Miss Mamie Rendle playing with great charm in that of the heroine. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux give The Wedding that did not Come Off.

Mr. Reuben More and his concert party, "The Artists and Models," conclude a most successful twenty-four weeks' Pier tour on Oct. 3. So popular have they become this and last week on the pier, Bournemouth, that Mr. Dan Godfrey has prolonged their engagement for another week, with a re-engagement for three weeks next season. A special feature of the entertainments is the impromptu ventriloquial sketches given by Mr. More.

Mr. Drew Bayley, the English variety agent in Glasgow, has booked with Mr. Oswald Stoll five complete tours for his client, George Rae, a quaint young Scotch comedian, who is just finishing his first tour of the "Moss" Empires.

The Alhambra Company applied in the Vacation Court on Wednesday for an injunction to restrain Miss Cissie Loftus from appearing at the Coliseum or elsewhere in London until she had fulfilled a contract with them; but to enable fresh evidence to be obtained the case was adjourned for a week.

Miss Cissie Thompson has made quite a success on her recent provincial tour, and will shortly be seen in London.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(*Continued from page* 13.)

WEST BROMWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee Mr. R. Nightingale.—There is a great attraction at this popular house this week, Mr. C. Watson Mill, supported by Miss Rosalind Tate, appearing with his London company in the romantic and picturesque play *For Love and the King*, and some capital audiences have thoroughly enjoyed the fare during the week. Mr. G. Watson Mill is a striking figure as Jarval, the young English soldier of fortune; and as Princess Athene Miss Rosalind Tate is both charming and captivating. They are supported by a company of much excellence, Mr. John Burton making a fine Michael Obrenovic, a miser. Mr. Frank Lisdon is an ideal King Kara Dragomir; Miss Joan Ellis is very sweet as Natila, the beggar maid; and Miss Marie Ault as Grazia Obrenovic introduces some humour into the play, which, by the way, is beautifully mounted, and the dresses are remarkably good.

New Hippodrome.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Baines and Reed, in their speciality act *Humsti Bumpsti*, deserve all the applause they get; the acrobatic performances of the Cattaneo Troupe are remarkably clever; May Lilian Levey is a striking character comedienne; Jack Binns is a versatile and entertaining comedian; the Brothers Lavelle give a smart acrobatic turn; Nell Ray sings some taking songs; and the Two Keiths provide an enjoyable turn. There is also a very fine military sketch, *Mutiny*, an episode from the Indian campaign of 1857, by Frank E. Burdett's company, in which Miss Agnes Burdett, Mr. George Daiper, Mr. Villiers Stanley, and Mr. Michael Madden appear to great advantage.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—Grand.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—The visit of Mr. Fredk. Melville's company this week in *Her Road to Ruin* appeals strongly to the popular parts of the house. Mr. Henry Wolston is a capable representative of Frank Temple; Mr. Dane Clarke is realistic in the rôle of the Bishop; much power is displayed by Mr. Alex Bradley and Philip Hardy; Mr. Heaton Grey is good in his portrayal of Tom Wells; Jess Willoughby is capitally played by Miss Beatrice Edwards; and Miss Nellie Bonser's acting in the rôle of Mary Dawson is impressive.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Hayes and Merritt, the bounding trampolinists, submit a most astounding exhibition here; Field and Lewis, in burlesque, provoke hearty laughter; the Five Broadway Girls are smart dancers; the sensational hand-balancing and equilibrism by Alfonso Silvano is clever; the exhibition of horn-blowing by Chas. Tuppen is capital; and Harry Milton, Dutch comedian, creates a favourable impression. Munroe's Black and White Comedy Team is well received. Edie Endon is also in the bill.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — Knightstone Pavilion and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company was here for the first three nights of the week, in the new version of *The Christian*, and was most cordially received. As the heroic John Storm, Mr. P. Gedge Twyman showed much dramatic ability; Mr. G. Montague Lane is a most capable actor, and his Lord Robert Ure was a thoroughly artistic impersonation; Mr. Edward Ouston's Horatio Drake was meritorious; and one of the best acted characters was Mr. John Hastings Batson's Father Lamplugh. Mr. William Mallalieu showed his customary talent as Archdeacon Wealthy, as did Mr. Max Wakeman as Paul. Mr. F. Russell Kirkley made an excellent Lord Storm; Miss Margery Fane possesses a charming stage presence, which stood her in good stead as Glory Quayle. It would be impossible to speak too highly of Miss Gladys Vernon's Polly Love; and Miss Alice Maude was thoroughly artistic as Mrs. Callender. Miss Ida Dawson (Rosa Ray), Miss Nellie Andrews (Betty Belmont), Miss May Dean (Lily Belmont), and Miss Kate Lee, as Liza, were all good in their respective characters. Mr. Brandon Thomas' *Charley's Aunt* company is billed for the last three nights of the week.

Grand Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The So and So's are delighting the audiences here this week. Mr. Stuart Alexander gave a fine rendering of the ballad, "Western Land"; Mr. H. Quiningborough's humorous monologue was especially good; Mr. George Sharratt showed much humour in his song, "Club"; Miss Maud Phillips's excellent voice was heard to advantage in "Summer Night"; the star turn was indubitably Miss Lilian Leoffeler, whose terpsichorean efforts were rapturously received. Fine pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

Victoria Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. M. W. Stanley; Manager, Mr. Flude.—Miss Harriet Greet's *The Sign of the Cross* company opened here on Monday. Mr. Wallace G. Court gave a manly interpretation of Marcus Superbus; Mr. G. Osmond Tearle showed much talent as Tigellinus; Mr. W. Burton's Favius was a sound piece of acting; Nero found an able exponent in Mr. B. W. Naldwyn; Mr. Rupert Carlton made a praiseworthy Licinius; as the imbibing Glabrio Mr. Donald McAdam was humorous; Mr. W. Montaigne did good work as Philodemus; Mr. Alex. Taylor was most meritorious as Servillius; and Mr. Francis Leslie was all that could be desired as Strabo. Mr. Edward Clowes's Titus was deserving of commendation; Miss Vera Crichton as Mercia brought out all the good points of the character; Miss Effie Dane's Stephanus was an impersonation worthy of the highest encomiums; Miss Nora Craigie made a charming Berenis; and Miss Dorothy Lambert was very pleasing as Dacia. Miss Florence Mater sang and acted well as Ancaria; and Miss May Romney's Daones must be eulogised especially for her dancing.

WEST STANLEY.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. M. H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here, presenting *The Village Blacksmith*, with the well-known actor, Mr. Sam Livesey, in the title-part, of which he gives a powerful representation. Miss Maggie Edwards is excellent as the blacksmith's wife; and Miss Lily Leicester gives a pleasing portrayal of their boy, Harry. Mr. Albert Sinclair as Captain Leo makes an effective villain; while his accomplice is Mr. Edwin Maydew. The other parts are all in capable hands. A full and appreciative audience witnessed the effective drama on Monday.

Victoria Theatre. — Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. George W. Montrose.—Topping the bill here are Atlas and Vulcana, in feats of strength, supported by the Sisters Atlas; Vulcana also does some classical poses, which obtain great applause; J. Greener, the singing pit lad, is very good; Marie Colmore, the lively comedienne, La Belle Tosca, in her unique tight rope act, Mlle. Vanda, on the rolling globe, assisted by Will Vint, McDonald and Huntingdon, American entertainers, and the Vicoscope complete a capital programme.

WIDNES.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—This week we have Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company here, in *The Female Swindler*. Miss Violet Ellicott is fine in the title-part; Mr. Gerald Heather does capital work as Jack Coulson; Mr. Fred Rignold makes the most of the part of Abraham Mikestein; Mr. John Hitchens is extremely funny as Billy Binks; Mr. A. Kenyon Gray as James Oliver acts with ability; Miss Bella Moody is a vivacious Mary Ann; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe earns the customary execrations by his realistic acting as Geoffrey Warden; and Mr. Guy P. Ellis acts with dash and sincerity as Harold Travers; Miss Elsie Franks is a charming May Andrews.

WIGAN.—Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—*Sherlock Holmes* is being accorded a great reception here on the occasion of a return visit. Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart is deserving of special praise for an exceptionally clever portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr. Robert Gilbert's representation of Moriarty is capital; Larrabee is cleverly impersonated by Mr. Mark D. Draper; and Mr. A. Shelton deserves special praise as Dr. Watson. Miss Betty Fairfax renders excellent assistance as Alice Faulkner; and Miss Edith Vogne portrays the part of Madge Larrabee in pleasing style

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—A sensational shooting performance is given by Colonel Bordeverry, the exhibition being an exceptionally clever one. Wood, Wells, and Wilkins are vocalists of considerable ability; the Stein Orreto Troupe of hand-acrobats are clever and daring; Willman, an Australian instrumentalist, contributes some fine selections; Melia and Mozarabar introduce cleverly-trained birds; and Curwen and Belle appear successfully in an amusing sketch. J. G. Aitken (comedian), Irene and Morton, and the Brothers Obo complete an interesting programme.

The Empire.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—An excellent series of pictures include The Nihilists, Taming the Lion Tamer, A Magnetic Removal, The Music-Teacher, Animated Snowballs, &c. Admirable variety turns are furnished by Eddie Clay, comedy instrumentalist; the Mays, smart duettists and dancers, who are an exceptionally clever turn; James Huntley, comedian, who is well received; and Percy Victor's canine orchestra, a wonderfully well-trained troupe of dogs, who draw forth unstinted admiration.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Mr. Frank Lindo's capable company, in the domestic drama *Home, Sweet Home*, had a good reception here on Monday. Mr. Frank Lindo proves himself an actor of sterling merit in his excellent portrayal of the part of Steven Armitage; Mr. Archer Brown presents a capital study of the Duke of Ancaster; Mr. Helsby Wright as Lucas Lyle makes a good villain; Mr. Norton Shields creates plenty of amusement as the Hon. Percy; Mr. R. Walsh as Dick Redmayne, although the part is not a big one, displays ability; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle gives an effective rendering of David Armitage; Mr. W. Gregory as Gaffer makes a capital old countryman; whilst Mr. Tom E. Lewis as Solomon Keary and Mr. G. Rogers as Lord Silvermore are both good. Miss Marion Wakeford as the heroine, Joan, works hard and with much success; Miss Maud Leslie-Cudd infuses plenty of life and go into the part of Sybil Fay; and Miss Dolly Webb is delightfully natural as Dora. On Friday Mr. Frank Lindo had a benefit performance, when *David Garrick* was played.

Empire Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Mr. John Lawson, in a répertoire of sketches, is the chief attraction at this popular house. On Monday *The Monkey's Paw* was presented, *The King's Minister* and *Humanity* being billed for other nights during the week. Mr. Lawson's acting leaves nothing to be desired, and he is supported by a good all-round company. Mersano, a comedy coin manipulator, performs clever tricks, his patter also being smart; the Austral Trio submit a pleasing musical mélange, which is a curious combination of the sublime and ridiculous; Mr. Dan Conroy is a quaint comedian, his parody of "The dear old land" being a big hit; the Tintos, in African gambols, perform some ingenious acrobatic tricks; Miss Millie Howell, comedienne, gains applause for her songs; and Mr. Fred Hallam is a good eccentric comedian.

WORCESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—There is a return to variety entertainment this week, and Mr. Carlton has provided a specially attractive programme. Miss Helen Roberts is the bright particular star, and her dancing is artistically weird; the Pichel Troupe are clever acrobats; and the Musical Twelve give a talented performance. Will McIvor is a popular vocalist; and the barrel-jumping marvels of Clack and Clack are most entertaining. Miss Georgie Beaufort and Mr. Frank Coyle contribute some very acceptable vocal items. On Wednesday the cinematograph pictures included the unveiling of the City and County War Memorial, unveiled earlier in the day, and the veterans who took part in the ceremony were present.

WORTHING.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Lewis Waller's principal company was here the early part of the week in *Robin Hood*. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards gave a very fine impersonation of Robin Hood; Mr. J. G. Briant ably enacted the character of King Richard; Mr. H. Elliott Ball put in capital work as Prince John; Mr. Ernest Gray was convincing as Fitz-Alwynne; and Messrs. Lawrence Tessier, Spencer Lloyd, J. Herdman, B. Malvern, G. Reef, and F. Billulph as Robin's men did well. The fine acting of Miss Lilian Stennis as Lady Mario de Faux was greatly admired. For the remainder of the week Mr. James Welch's company in *When Knights were Bold* was underlined

Winter Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. M. W. Shanley.—The pictures this week are again giving unstinted satisfaction. Among the best films may be mentioned the following:—Secret Service, Lost: Pretty Little Dog, Day in the Country, Love's Duty, I'll Fetch the Bread, Customs Officer's Revenge, and Billy Bones

WREXHAM.—Empire Music Hall.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. J. Scott.—A domestic vocal scena, entitled *The Prodigal's Return*, was produced on Monday, the characters being sustained by Ernest A. Foster, Theodore Jones, and Estella Foster. Radnor and Kerry, with song, harp, and violin, gave a most pleasing entertainment; and Capner and Steele, character duettists, were well received. On the four following evenings Mr. Scott generously handed over the hall to a number of local amateurs, who performed a burlesque pantomime, in connection with the annual cycle carnival in aid of the funds of the local infirmary.

YORK.—Theatre Royal.—Lesses, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. S. Dacre.—The utmost enthusiasm has been displayed here this week, the theatre being crowded nightly by fashionable audiences, by whom *The Merry Widow* has been heartily enjoyed. Mr. Geo. Edwardes' company is one of all-round excellence, attention having been paid to the smallest detail. The dresses are a delightful mixture of colour, and have been greatly admired. In the title-rôle Miss Clara Evelyn scored little short of a triumph, her admirable voice, clear enunciation, and charming stage presence combining to make the impersonation a delightful one. As Natalie Miss Mary Grey was a distinct success, her rendition being marked by much grace, whilst as a vocalist she was particularly acceptable. Mr. Haigh Jackson used his strong tenor to great advantage, the numbers allotted to the rôle of Viscomte de Jolidon being heartily enjoyed and applauded. Mr. Tom Redmond was quaintly amusing as Nisch, Mr. Albert Kavanagh wonderfully funny as Marquis de Cascada; and Mr. Basil S. Foster as Prince Danlo was popular throughout. Mr. Lionel Victor as Baron Popoff gave a performance brimful of humour. The play was mounted in lavish style.

Opera House and Empire. — Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—Gipsy Wolff heads the bill this week, and presents a charming scena which is well received; the Brothers Miller are acrobats of more than average merit; Henri Bekker is an expert conjurer; Johnny Dwyer is one of the quaintest of comedians, and scores repeatedly; Dancit is a clever terpsichorean artist; and Gladys Huxley is a sweet singer. Harry Conlin, Florence Esdaile, the Royal Temples, and the Bioscope add to a very attractive company.

ON THE ROAD, SEPT. 28

Alexander & Co., George.—King's T., Glasgow.
Amasis.—Victoria T., Broughton.
An Abandoned Woman.—T. R., Bilston.
An Unwedded Wife.—Elephant and Castle T., S.E.
Asche, Oscar.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Ashwell's, Miss Lena.—P.O.W., Birmingham.
At Cripple Creek.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
At Duty's Call.—New T., Cambridge.
At the World's Mercy.—Empire T., Cradley.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—O. H., Dudley.
Beau Brocade.—Grand T., Southampton.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Belle of New York (Howard).—O. H., Buxton.
Belle of the Ball.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—T. R., Exeter.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—T. R., Brighton.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—Liskeard and Wadebridge.
Bondman, The (Croke).—T. R., Worcester.
Booth, Junius.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Bourchier, Arthur.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—O. H., Buxton and Harrogate.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Jarrow.
Brewster's Millions.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Broken Heart, A.—Prince's T., Preston.
Captain Drew on Leave.—T. R., Hanley.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—O. H., Leicester.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—O. H., Weymouth.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—Aberystwyth and Llangollen.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—Aquarium T., Yarmouth.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—T. R., Merthyr.
Claudian.—T. R., West Stanley.
Coal King.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Compton Comedy Co.—Southend and Eastbourne.
Conscience of a Judge.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Convict's Daughter.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Convict 99.—T. R., Hyde.
Country Girl in London.—T. R., Castleford.
Curate, The.—Central T., Altrincham.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (N.).—T. R., Dublin.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (S.).—H. M. T., Dundee.
Dairymaids (Macdonald's).—Crystal Palace Theatre.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Rochdale.
Dear Old Charlie.—T. R., Hull.
Diana of Dobson's.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—County T., Kingston.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—Sidmouth and Tiverton.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—Lyceum T., Newport.
Diver's Luck.—O. H., Radcliffe.
Donovan, Lydia.—Prince's T., Llandudno.
Dorothy.—Broadway Theatre, Deptford.
Driven from Home.—T. R., Rotherham.
East Lynne (Kelly).—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Eve of Her Wedding.—Queen's T., Longton.
Face at the Window.—T. R., Sunderland.
Fatal Wedding.—Victoria T., Mansfield.
Fight for Life.—Victoria T., Sacriston.
Florodora (Constance).—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Flower Girl.—Theatre Royal, St. Helen's.
For Love and the King.—T. R., Scarborough.
From Shop Girl to Duchess.—P.O.W., Mexboro'.
Gay Deceivers, The.—Hippodrome, Sheerness.
Gay Gordons (Miss Ash).—T. R., Huddersfield.
Gay Gordons (Miss Dare).—T. R. Halifax.
Gay Gordons (Terriss and Hicks).—G. T., Leeds.
Girl Behind the Counter.—Grand T., Hull.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—New T., Worksop.
Girl's Cross Roads.—T. R., Smethwick.
Girls of Gottenberg.—T. R., Nottingham.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Avenue T., Sunderland.
Girl with the Angel Face.—O. H., Perth.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—Ipswich and Colchester.
Groffrey Langdon's Wife.—P.O.W., Salford.
Great White Chief.—T. R., Aston.
Greed of Gold.—Mountain Ash and Ferndale.
Hands Across the Sea.—County T., Reading.
Her Love Against the World.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Her Marriage Vow.—T. R., Consett.
Her Nameless Child.—Osborne T., Manchester.
His House in Order (Ralland).—T. R., Margate.
His House in Order.—Bexhill and Margate.
His Wife No Longer.—Grand T., Nelson.
Honeymoon, The.—Theatre Royal, Glossop.
Horniman's, Miss.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Hughes, Annie.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—Empire T., Oldham.
Hypocrites, The (S.).—West Pier, Brighton.
Irene Wycherley.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
Irving, H. B.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Jack Straw.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Coronet Theatre, W.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Largs and Kilbirnie.
Lady Frederick.—O. H., Southport.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—Grand T., Blackpool.
Lady of Ostend.—Pier, Eastbourne.
Leah Kleschna.—Imperial T., Bordesley.
Lion's Heart, A.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Little Breadwinner.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
London with the Lid Off.—T. R., Cardiff.
Love of the Princess.—T. R., Chatham.
Love Rules the World.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., North Shields.
Lucky 'Liza.—T. R., Batley.
Manxman, The.—Garrick T., Hereford.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Lochgelly and Brechin.
Man and Wife.—T. R., Ashton.
Master Criminal.—New T., Aberdare.
Maude, Miss Winifred.—Lyceum T. Govan.
Merrily Mary Ann.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
Merry Widow (N.).—Marlboro' Theatre, N.
Merry Widow (S.).—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Midnight Mail.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Midnight Wedding.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Miss Hook of Holland (S.).—O. H., Cheltenham.
Mollison, William.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Mother's Salvation, A.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
Moody-Manners Opera (A).—Court T., Liverpool.
Moody-Manners Opera (B).—Tunbridge Wells.
Moore, Miss Decima.—T. R., Worthing & Southend.
Mr. Popple (Macdona).—Court T., Wigan.
Mrs. Pondersbury's Past.—Grand T., Derby.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—Bristol.
My Mimosa Maid.—T. R., Newcastle.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—O. H., Torquay.
New Girl, The.—Grand T., Chorley.
Norman V. Norman.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
Old Folks at Home.—King's Lynn and Grantham.
Pair of Spectacles, A.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Peter's Mother.—O. H., Northampton.
Prince of Pilsen.—P.O.W., Nuneaton.
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Rollicking Rory.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Royal Divorce.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Sailor's Wedding.—T. R., Woolwich.
Second to None.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Sergeant Brue.—Barnstaple.
Sexton Blake.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Sign of the Cross.—Century T., Motherwell.
Silver King.—T. R., Rochdale.
Soldier of France.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Soldier's Honour.—Hippodrome, Barry.
Still Alarm.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Straight from the Shoulder.—T. R., Bristol.
Sunday.—Grand Theatre, Walsall.
Terry, Edward.—O. H., Blackpool.
Terry, Ellen.—Castle T., Stockton.
Terry, Fred.—T. R., Manchester.
Thief, The.—King's T., Glasgow.
Thief, The (N.).—T. R., Darlington.
Thief, The (S.).—T. R., Plymouth.
Tom Jones—Birkenhead.
Tom Jones.—King's T., Sunderland.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—T. R., Colne.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—T. R., Stockport.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—T. R., Belfast.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—T. R., Wednesbury.
Tyrant, The.—T. R., Bolton.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Pavilion Theatre, E.
Vedrenne-Barker.—New T., Cardiff.
Village Blacksmith.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Warner, Grace.—Avenue T., Kettering.
Warning to Women.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
Way of the World.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
What a Woman Did.—New T., Ilkeston.
What the Butler Saw.—Londesboro' T., Scarboro'
When it was Dark.—Junction T., Manchester.
When Knights were Bold.—T. R., Portsmouth.
When London Sleeps.—Metropole T., Manchester.
When Other Lips.—

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGES.

CLEGG—HOLMSHAW.—Sept. 17, Johnny Clegg (general manager, Charles Constant's *Florodora* company) to Miss Fannie Holmshaw, Stratford.

NEVILLE—VRON.—On Sept. 24, at Urmston, Harold Neville to Elsie Vron.

RICE—GIBBON.—Sept. 5, at St. Augustine's, Plymouth, by the Rev. J. H. Shaw, George Eugene, eldest son of Dr. Rice, of Derby, to Phyllis Gibbon.

DEATHS.

MACREADY.—Sept. 19, at Weston-super-Mare, Cécile Louise Frederica Macready, widow of William Charles Macready, aged 81.

MACNALLY.—Sept. 20, at 33, Bradford-st, High Town, Hednesford, Staffs, after a long and painful illness, J. P. MacNally, the last of the original Two Macs (Maccabe and MacNally), aged 49.

MORTIMER.—Sept. 19, at Elland, Wilfred, aged three years eight months, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mortimer.

SARASATE.—Sept. 20, at Biarritz, of acute bronchitis, Pablo Martin Meliton de Sarasate, celebrated violinist, aged 64.

TATE.—Sept. 17, 1908, at his residence, 10, Foxberry-road, Brockley, after a short illness, Alfred Tate.

VANDEN-HEUVEL.—Sept. 17, at 6, Durham-terrace, W., in his 49th year, Count Guglielmo Maria Vincenzo, of Naples, the beloved husband of Countess Vanden-Heuvel (Marie Mely).

WHEELER.—Aug. 31, in South Africa, Benjamin H. Wheeler, theatrical manager, aged 73.

IN MEMORIAM.

AINSLEY.—In loving memory of our dear mother, Mary Ainsley, who departed this life Sept. 23, 1906. Never forgotten by your daughters who miss you every day.—MARIE and KITTY (Sisters Ely).

VINCENT.—In fond and loving memory of my dear father, E. S. Vincent, who sank to rest Sept. 26, 1907. Ever missed and regretted by his loving daughter, Marion Blake.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Yorke Stephens—Saturday, Sept. 26.
Edmund Gwenn—Saturday, Sept. 26.
Fred Fulton—Saturday, Sept. 26.
Hugh Montgomery—Saturday, Sept. 26.
Angelo A. Asher—Saturday, Sept. 26.
Will Hebden—Saturday, Sept. 26.
K. Scott-Barrie—Sunday, Sept. 27.
Lena Ashwell—Monday, Sept. 28.
Henry Arthur Jones—Monday, Sept. 28.
Mabel Syringa—Monday, Sept. 28.
Lilian Williams—Monday, Sept. 28.
Mlle. Marjutti—Monday, Sept. 28.
Simeta Marsden—Monday, Sept. 28.
Elaine Spearing—Monday, Sept. 28.
Tom Terriss—Monday, Sept. 28.
Winifred Hamilton—Tuesday, Sept. 29.
Charles Magrath—Tuesday, Sept. 29.
Fred Russell—Tuesday, Sept. 29.
Victor du Cane—Tuesday, Sept. 29.
Kit Keen—Tuesday, Sept. 29.
Violet Fulton—Wednesday, Sept. 30.
Kate Bishop—Thursday, Oct. 1.
Harrison Brockbank—Friday, Oct. 2.
Hugh Metcalfe—Friday, Oct. 2.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

Aug. 1. Henry Harding Barrington.
,, 1. A. T. Hilton, aged 67.
,, 2. Mrs. M. Moss.
,, 3. Gertrude Glyn, aged 52.
,, 3. Rosa Annie Guest, aged 58.
,, 5. Basil Conway, aged 8.
,, 8. William F. Closs.
,, 10. Elizabeth Hardyman,
,, 16. Mrs. Barry Sullivan.
,, 21. Ernest Herbert Jarvis, aged 27.
,, 21. Michael O'Flynn, aged 60.
,, 22. Rev. T. H. Simon (St. Bernard Wyntour), aged 27.
,, 27. Tony Pastor, aged 70.
,, 27. Caroline Bagley.
,, 28. D. J. O'Leary.
,, 31. Adeline Mary Felix.
,, 31. Benjamin H. Wheeler, aged 73.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

With no niggard hand does Mr. George Dance here cater for the public. The bill this week is quite up to the average, many of the items being of exceptional merit. Ronald George opens fire with his clever musical act, and manages to extract quite a lot of tuneful ditties from a wonderful collection of instruments. Memora follows in the footsteps of Datas. He possesses a singularly retentive memory, and, despite the efforts of the audience, he manages successfully to reply to the volley of questions hurled at him with a composure that proves remarkable. *In Possession* is the title of Blake and Granby's sketch. The fun becomes furious when the man in possession is mistaken for a millionaire. Roars of merriment greet the efforts of the performers, who are altogether successful. The interval is admirably filled by a capital selection, *Iolanthe*, under the able bâton of Mr. C. E. Linaker, after which Clotilde and Musto introduce their singularly intelligent cockatoos.

At first blush it may be averred that one cannot get much common sense out of the cockatoo; but Mme. Clotilde quite gives the assertion its refutation. The show is a wonderful one, for these pretty feathered artists go through an astounding number of tricks, and easily establish themselves first favourites. An aerial flight round the house mounted on cycles and carrying a companion proves how well they are trained. The Sisters Sprightly, attired in Dutch costume, poke an amount of innocent fun at the favourite songs of the public. The secret of the whole business is that "You must sing a song about Amsterdam." "Golf" forms the topic of the Sisters Sprightly's second contribution. It is very hard on golf. Knockabout business of the approved type is exemplified by the Van Host Trio, who are applauded to the echo. *The Pawnbroker* has now been before the public sufficiently long to establish itself a firm favourite, and its reputation here appears to have preceded it, for it meets with an excellent reception. Ruffell's Bioscope transports one to the lovely Savoy district. Mr. H. J. Brett is the new business-manager, and does his work admirably.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

G. ISSLEY.—*Mrs. Poole, the late proprietress of the South London, has been dead for several years.*

PANTO.—*Your questions arrived too late for attention this week. Repeat them early next week.*

NANCE ELDER.—*The ordinary holding capacity of the Hippodrome, Hurst-street, Birmingham, is 3,500.*

HARPIST.—*Mr. J. B. Williams, 96, Long Acre, W.C.*

J. BAKER (West Hartlepool).—*You might get some hints from a book on juggling and conjuring, which, we believe, is issued by Gamage's, Holborn, London, W.C. Write to them mentioning this paper.*

PIPSQUEAK (Liverpool).—Faust *was produced by Henry Irving on Dec. 19, 1885. The adaptation of the first part of Goethe's tragedy was by W. G. Wills, and was played by the following cast:—Faust, Mr. H. B. Conway; Valentine, Mr. George Alexander; Frosch, Mr. Harbury; Altmayer, Mr. William Haviland; Brander, Mr. F. Tyars; Siebel, Mr. Johnson; Student, Mr. Norman Forbes; Burgomaster, Mr. Henry Howe; Citizens, Mr. Helmsley and Mr. Hal Louther; Soldier, Mr. Martin Harvey; Martha, Mrs. Stirling; Bessie, Miss L. Payne; Ida, Miss Barnett; Alice, Miss Coleridge; Catherine, Miss Mills; Margaret, Miss Ellen Terry; Mephistopheles, Mr. Henry Irving; Witches, Mr. Tom Mead, Mr. Carter, Mr. Archer, and Mr. Clifford.*

THE FORESTERS.

A beauty competition, in which the ladies of the district were invited to compete for several remunerative money prizes, was a feature of this week's bill. On the evening of our visit eight damsels proffered their faces in search of fortune, but only one was selected to compete in the final. Much amusement was caused by the competitors, many jocular observations being heard in the auditorium. Mr. Harry Zether sang a singularly appropriate song about a "nose," and concluded with an extremely clever dance, his striped fleshings giving a good effect to the elasticity of his legs. The Floradora Girls, three bright young ladies, rendered a "Fishing song," in which good fun was obtained by netting various articles among their audience. Their second item was "Two's company, three's none," which has a pretty setting, and is worked in novel fashion, the services of a pretended stage-hand being requisitioned with effect. Mr. Cyrus Dare, entertainer at the piano, gives many interesting stories of little children, portraying the youngsters, in mannerism and voice, to perfection.

The Gascoynes, lady and juggling comedian, are very clever, the gentleman executing many skilful feats in haphazard style, the principal task being that of balancing a dozen chairs on his forehead, and, for an encore, placing his partner in the same position. The Four Kellys, acrobats, perform many daring acts, for which they receive much applause; and the Sisters Varley, duettists, sing tunefully "Nellie Dean" and "Love me and the world is mine," their voices blending nicely. Mr. Harry Bent gives impersonations of Gus Elen, Harry Lauder, Harry Champion, and Chirgwin, the last-mentioned being particularly good, and as an encore he gave the Curate, the Coster, and cool, collected Jew with much cleverness. Miss Jessica Brooke, a chic little lady, sang "An old sedan chair," finishing with a neat quick-time step-dance; Miss Rose Pink gave "Chase me, Georgie," and danced particularly well; another good serio was found in Miss Lottie Lunn; and the Sanpietros, jugglers and balancers, juggled themselves into favour.

Mr. George Marriott and company, which includes Miss Edith Finlay, are playing *Oliver Twist*, and right well is the story carried through, each character being ably represented. Mr. Marriot gives a skilful study of Fagin, never for a second overdoing the wily old Jew, but always acting naturally. Miss Finlay as Nancy and Mr. Fred Conyers, an ideal Bill Sykes, play well together, the scene in which the former is killed being admirably acted. The other characters are well portrayed by a capable company. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux presents a good film in The Chelsea Pensioner. Mr. Carl Hamlin leads the orchestra ably, and the genial manager, Mr. Craig, looks well after the comforts of his patrons.

TRICK AND TRIXIE, musical and comedy artists, have made a big success with the Rentz-Santley company. They opened at the Enson's Theatre, Chicago, on Aug. 29 for one week, and were at Milwaukee on Sept. 6, the houses being packed at both places. They returned to the Gaiety Theatre, Chicago, on the 14th. Trixie (Beattie Evans) is the hit of the company, whose good fellowship makes the engagement both happy and comfortable.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

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Adeson, Mr. Charles	April 25, 1908
Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Armstrong, Mr. Barney	Nov. 30, 1907
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Bentley, Mrs. Walter	July 20, 1907
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Bernard, Mr. Albert	Oct. 5, 1907
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Bolder, Mr. Robert	July 20, 1907
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brittain, Mr. Arthur	Oct. 19, 1907
Brodie, late Mr. Matthew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brooking, Mr. Cecil	Nov. 2, 1907
Brooks, Mr. E. Oswald	Nov. 16, 1907
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred.	June 27, 1908
Cannon, Miss Mayme	July 13, 1907
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Carter, Late Mr. John	July 13, 1907
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Connor, Mr. J. F.	Oct. 12, 1907
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Cooper, Miss Florry	Aug. 10, 1907
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T	March 28, 1908
Crawford, Miss Alice	Nov. 9, 1907
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5, 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Curry, Late Mr. H. J.	April 27, 1907
Daraley, Mr. Herbert	Aug. 17, 1907
Dashwood, Mr. Arthur	July 20, 1907
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Day, Mr. David	Nov. 30, 1907
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Donegan, Mr. James E.	July 11, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Draycott, Mr. Charles	June 13, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edmonds, Late Mr. E.	May 4, 1907
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Edwards, Late Mr. G. H.	April 11, 1908
Empress, Miss Marie	Feb. 8, 1908
Feldman, Mr. Bert	Dec. 14, 1907
Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	Sept. 12, 1908
Fisher, Mr. Charles	Sept. 12, 1908
Fitzgibbon, Mr. H. B.	July 25, 1908
Fogerty, Late Mr Robert	July 6, 1907
Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908

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NOTICE.

BASKERVILLE PRINTING WORKS, CAMBRIDGE-ST., BIRMINGHAM.

We have to announce with deep regret the death of Mr. William Albert Upton on Sept. 5, 1908.

Messrs. Arthur Heaton, of Shadwell-street, Birmingham, and James Baskerville Upton, the Son of the late Mr. Upton, have been appointed Directors of the Company, and Mr. Heaton has been elected Chairman.

It is intended to constitute as Departmental Directors, Messrs. C. H. Tebbutt, J. E. Penzer, T. Boyard, and T. R. Barr, who have for so many years conducted with conspicuous ability the departments with which they have been associated. In this way it is thought that the serious loss which the firm has sustained will be best met, and a Staff created which will use their utmost endeavours to continue the Company's business with the efficiency and success which have distinguished it in the past.

JAMES UPTON, LTD.

ACTORS' DAY.

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Hon. Secretary: A. E. DRINKWATER.

The object of ACTORS' DAY is MUTUAL HELP in case of need. No one will be eligible to benefit who is not on the REGISTER as a Contributor.

By the unanimous resolution of the Advisory Board, confirmed at the last Annual General Meeting, ACTORS' DAY in 1908, and FUTURE YEARS, will be ABSOLUTELY CONFINED TO THIS OBJECT, and the FUND will be ADMINISTERED EXCLUSIVELY ON THIS CONDITION.

ACTORS' DAY is the THIRD THURSDAY IN OCTOBER in each year.

To be on the REGISTER, it is required:—

That a Manager, Actor, or Actress shall contribute not less than one night's salary.

That an Author shall contribute not less than one night's fees.

On Aug. 1, 1908, the Trustees had £876 11s. 7d. to their credit at Messrs. Coutts and Co.'s Bank.

ONLY THOSE WHO ARE ON THE REGISTER AS CONTRIBUTORS ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR BENEFIT.

Any further information may be obtained by applying by letter to the HON. SECRETARY, at the Office of the Fund,

DUDLEY HOUSE,
37, Southampton-street, Strand, W.C.
August, 1908.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1908.

MR. BOURCHIER ON FRIVOLITY.

Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER made a capital speech in answer to the proposal of his health at the dinner given by the Liverpool Stage Club, at which he and Miss VIOLET VANBRUGH were honoured guests on Sunday last; and his remarks call for admiration rather than criticism. His observations were so much to the point that it is only possible to differ from them mildly and moderately. The one topic on which a theatrical manager is certain to touch in a public speech at the present day is the rise in importance of the music hall, and this elevation is often associated with a sense of injury. Many of us are so much under the influence of the prevailing spirit of materialism that we pretend to be more mercenary than we really are in order to go with the times. We were glad to find that Mr. BOURCHIER was neither bitter nor unreasonable on the question of variety competition with theatres. He is intensely and sensitively artistic, and he has been wise enough to follow his instincts where they have lead him. His experiments have always been interesting; and he may claim to have gratified his best inclinations thoroughly. Yet this line of action does not seem to have resulted in bankruptcy or unpopularity.

It seems to us, sometimes, that our actor-managers demand too much of life. In no art is it possible to combine the greatest freedom of choice in art productions and the greatest pecuniary profit. The man who has the exquisite enjoyment of following his instincts and gratifying his propensities in the higher walks of Art must not expect to make large sums of money. It should be sufficient for him if he can live, if pecuniary worries and petty cares do not impair his efficiency as an artist. The modern actor-manager is, indeed, a fortunate person. He achieves the almost impossible feat of making the best of two worlds. For years shrewd men of business have been shaking their heads and prophesying bankruptcy for Mr. BEERBOHM TREE, the most wilful and fanciful of experimentalists; over Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER, who has never "played down" to his public in any way; and over Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER, who is sturdy independence personified. In order to account for the prosperity of these gentlemen the fiction of the benevolent "backer" with the long purse was invented by outsiders. But what "backer" is so disinterested and devoted as to pour large sums of money year after year into the quicksand of theatrical failure? There are more millionaires than there used to be, but they are less than ever inclined to subsidise unprofitable art. The theatrical failures are most numerous amongst those who have tried to play down to the public, to give them what they want, instead, as Mr. TREE says, of giving them what you think good for them.

Mr. BOURCHIER thinks that the difficulties of managing a theatre are greater than those of managing a music hall. "If one turn fails to please the public," he says, "the manager of a variety theatre may be quite certain that at least two out of the twenty will more than fill his house throughout the week." It all depends on what one calls difficulty. What is easy to one man is hard to another, and *vice versâ*. The manager of a theatre who is also an actor-manager has first of all to find a play suited to his requirements. This is an anxious and harassing task, but it must be a labour of love when the joy of securing a congenial part for oneself is considered. The manager of a music hall has no such consolation. It is true that his receipts do not rise or fall on the merit of a single turn, as a manager's do on that of a new production; but he is bound, if he wishes to maintain the popularity of his variety theatre, to keep up the attractiveness of the entertainment as a whole. He must always be on the alert for novelty and sensation; he must be a discoverer of persons as the theatrical manager is a discoverer of plays. Managing a music hall is hard, downright business, unmitigated by the pleasure of personal appearance before the public. It is only fair that much money should be the reward of such labour.

We do not exactly agree with Mr BOURCHIER in thinking that people work so hard nowadays that they come to the play exhausted. As a matter of fact hours of business are shorter than they were formerly, and people, on the whole play more and work less. The modern theatre, with its half-guinea stalls, lives by the support of the well-to-do man of business from the suburbs. It is on him, and not from the aristocracy or the people, that the prosperity of a playhouse depends. The defect of the British playgoer is not exactly "frivolity." What it is was rather well defined by Dr. MARIO BORSA in "The English Stage of To-day," when he wrote:

It is maintained by some that the Briton leads a strenuous life, and after a fatiguing day in the City his mind finds its natural and necessary recreation in the lightest and most frivolous types of entertainment. This contention may contain a certain amount of abstract truth, but I must be allowed to question its applicability to the case of the British playgoer. If the strenuous life implies the negation of every artistic sense, of any spirit of reflection, how can the contemporary German drama be explained? The German nation leads a no less strenuous life than the British; in fact, in workshops, banks, and in all other branches of trade and industry its activity is far more concentrated, more intense, and more silent than that displayed in England. And yet the drama which rouses Londoners to such a frantic pitch of enthusiasm is incomparably less serious, less consistent, and less artistic than that which holds the modern German stage—even in the theatres patronised by the masses. Thus it is not a question of a greater or less degree of strenuous application; rather is it a question of the general atmosphere in which the middle-class Briton has chosen to envelop himself.

But what can you expect? His habits are so mechanical, his life so easy, his mental processes so elementary and indolent, his critical faculties so obtuse, his morality so orthodox, and his spirit so egotistical, that he is devoid of all intellectual equipment for the comprehension of serious drama; he takes no interest in the reproduction of psychological difficulties which have never disturbed his own peace of mind; he is entirely without curiosity on the subject of social problems which have never preoccupied his own thoughts; he has no desire to understand and to penetrate the essential nature of the men and the things in the midst of which he moves as automatically, as unconsciously, as the wheel of a machine.

The trouble with the British playgoers, as with the British people generally, is that they cannot be made to think. But there are other good things besides Reflection; and it is on these that we rely both in our Art and our Politics.

THE Monckton-Hoffe Comedy Company is making its first visit with *Irene Wycherley* to the suburbs next week, during which it will form the attraction at the Brixton Theatre. So far the company has been playing to gratifying business everywhere.

AT the South Parade Pier, Southsea, last Sunday evening, Master Reginald Leyland, the boy soprano with a register of over two octaves, received a great ovation after singing "The Chorister," being recalled no less than six times. The rules for not granting encores had to be broken. For his encore song he gave "A Place called Calvary," and at the finish had again to respond to three recalls. At the concerts given daily at this, the finest pier in England, he has delighted large and appreciative audiences. The London Vaudeville Concert Party, of which Mr. Reginald Leyland is the pioneer, are also included in the powerful bill here this week.

"HIS WIFE NO LONGER."

A Drama in Four Acts, by Stephen Pritt, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Preston, on Monday, Sept. 21.

Anthony Merivale ..... MR. CLAVERING CRAIG
Harold Medworth ..... MR. E. PAUL NEVILLE
Rev. Frank Willacy .... MR. C. WORDLEY HULSE
Daniel Trench ..... MR. DAVID DONALDSON
Tommy Oglethorpe ..... MR. C. VIVIAN CHARLES
P.C. Michael Flanagan .. MR. DAVID MCFARLANE
Warder Cunningham ..... MR. NORMAN CLIFTON
Chambers ..... MR. J. E. BAINES
Detective ..... MR. DOUGLAS BUTE
Prison Gate Missioner ..... MR. T. WHEELER
Marion Jeffries ..... MISS LOUIE PEEBLES
Lucy Hooper ..... MISS NELLIE LAWSON
Mrs. Merivale ..... MISS ROSA MERVYN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Stephen Pritt, the manager of the Theatre Royal, Preston, has succeeded in writing a drama that, judging from the reception it had on Monday night, should augur well for its future success. The dialogue contains some really excellent passages both in the humorous and serious parts. The plot is not a complicated one, and is intensely interesting, whilst all the characters possess strong individuality.

In the first act Merivale is discovered poring over documents which appear to be letters from creditors and threatening ones from others who have been concerned with him in various shady transactions. He is badly in want of cash, and his next move is to obtain it. There is a stormy interview with his wife, whom he bullies, and taunts with having married her for her small fortune, which he has already dissipated at Monte Carlo. Tommy Oglethorpe, an old college chum, an easy-going, happy-go-lucky young man of the world, who has his money invested in the Lucky Dog Gold Mine, calls on him, and in the course of conversation mentions the fact that a certain heiress (Miss Marion Jeffries) is engaged to another old college chum, Harold Medworth, a young man studying medicine and very hard up. Merivale immediately conceives a plot, which is to get Harold Medworth out of the way and marry Marion himself, after discarding his own wife, whom he describes to his friends as only his housekeeper. He eventually offers to lend Medworth £100 in order that he may pursue his studies, but the cheque he sends him he has made out by one French (an old lawyer's clerk, whom he has in his power), and which he (Trench) signs with Merivale's name.

Medworth receives the cheque, and cashes same, and it is afterwards proved to be a forgery, of which Medworth is accused, tried, and convicted, and serves a term of imprisonment. During the time he is incarcerated Merivale, by the aid of another of his "tools," has a forged document prepared, with the prison governor's signature attached, stating that Harold Medworth is dead. This, of course, is not the case, and Harold leaves the gaol and is taken in hand by the prison gate missioner. In the meantime, Mrs. Merivale has left her husband's roof, together with the old man French, and both are in hiding. Trench, being on his deathbed, is anxious to confess the hand he had in the forgery which condemned Medworth, and in his semi-delirium is clamouring for a clergyman. Mrs. Merivale goes to seek one, and eventually P.C. Flanagan conducts the Rev. Frank Willacy (a friend of Medworth) to the side of the dying man, and succeeds in obtaining his signature to his confession in the presence of the constable (though, as a matter of fact, the hand he guides is that of a dead man) before leaving. Merivale enters, and finds Trench dead, and also discovers the clergyman, who, being a muscular Christian, gives him a sound thrashing and locks him in with the dead man. Merivale is eventually released from the room by the entry of his wife, and, all unconscious that any confession has been made, or that Harold is free, goes to Walmerston to plead his suit with Marion Jeffries. Harold Medworth travels down to Walmerston just to see the old place again, and wanders into the churchyard, where service is being held, and discovering a wreath on a newly-made grave, looks and reads the name of Marion Jeffries (really Marion's mother), but which he mistakes for Marion, and falls in a faint, calling Marion's name as he falls. Marion, who is coming out of the church, discovers him. In the last act, which takes place at the Manor House, Walmerston, Merivale comes for the answer to his proposal, which Marion has promised to give him on that day, when he is confronted with his discarded wife and Harold Medworth. As he is being handed over to a Scotland Yard officer Merivale shoots himself, and his wife, kneeling, declares, "I am his wife no longer," as the curtain falls.

Of the actors, Mr. Clavering Craig, as Anthony Merivale, was most successful, and gave a most powerful rendition of the unscrupulous scoundrel, who pursued his career of crime without thought for God or mankind, and who, to show his callousness, dies with a gibe upon his lies. Equally successful was Miss Rosa Mervyn, who, as Mrs. Merivale, displayed much pathos, and won the unstinted sympathy of the audience, her denunciation of her husband, when he made a certain suggestion to her in the first act being most impassioned. Mr. E. Paul Neville, as Harold Medworth, is thoroughly suited with the part, and acts with a frank and easy manner. Mr. C. Wordley Hulse, as the Rev. Frank Willacy, is a typical parson of the muscular Christian type. Mr. David Donaldson, as Daniel Trench, presents a very careful character-study of the poor old man, who, owing to one false step in life has got into the power of Merivale. Mr. C. Vivian Charles, as Tommy Oglethorpe, is responsible for much of the humour of the play. His humour is quite contagious. Mr. David McFarlane, as P.C. Michael Flanagan, also contributes to the comedy element; and Mr. Norman Clifton, as Warder Cunningham, is also good. Mr. J. E. Baines, as Chambers, and Mr. Douglas Bute, as the Detective, give evidence of careful study. Mr. T. Wheeler, as the Prison Gate Missioner, is also a small part, but, as in the case of the others, is well thought out and well acted; Miss Louie Peebles as Marion Jeffries, the heiress, is excellent, and carries her audience with her. Miss Nellie Lawson as Lucy Hooper, the large-hearted American girl, is to be congratulated upon her excellent rendition of the character. The scenery and the setting are admirable, and in this respect great credit is due to Mr. Tom Beck and Mr. J. Featherstone.

OWING to the indisposition of Miss Rose Helene Miss May Saker has been suddenly called upon to take up her old part of Minnie Templar in *A Message from Mars*.

MISS SIDNEY CROWE has resigned her engagement as Francis Vere, *The Worst Woman in London*, with Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company, in order to take up her old part of Adela in *The Way of the World*.

AMONGST the many remarkable sights to be witnessed annually at the Crystal Palace perhaps the National Brass Band Festival takes the lead. London's great palace of amusements will to-day be packed with enthusiastic musicians from all parts of the country. There are people who say that this is not a musical nation. Let them visit the Palace and find out for themselves. They will find working men from Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Wales, Scotland, and indeed from all directions, playing instruments in a masterly manner, while during the competition the visitors from afar will carefully follow the score and in an instant detect the slightest error made by one of the bandsmen. The great feature of the gathering will be a concert of 150 bands in the Centre Transept.

DEATH OF MRS. MACREADY.

The death of Mrs. Cecile Louise Frederica Macready, which occurred at Weston-super-Mare on Saturday, at the age of eighty-one, revives the memory of a great and intellectual actor, who shed lustre on the English stage. Macready's marriage with this lady took place in 1860, when he was sixty-seven, and was celebrated at St. John's Church, Redland, Clifton, on April 3, in that year. Mrs. Macready was the fifth daughter of Mr. Henry Spencer, and a granddaughter of Sir William Beechey, R.A., painter to George the Third and Queen Charlotte. His residence for the remainder of his days was fixed at Cheltenham, where a house in Wellington-square received him and his family, and where his life was from henceforth one of complete retirement. Macready's youngest son, Cecil Frederick Nevil, the only child by the lady now deceased, was born May 7, 1862, and Macready's friend and executor, Sir Frederick Pollock, stood godfather for him.

In writing of his second marriage to Mrs. (afterwards Lady Frederick) Pollock, Macready, who dates his letter Dunster, Somerset, April 8, 1860, says:—"I am quite aware that the change I have made in my home may subject me to varieties of opinion; but I have, in deliberating upon it, satisfied myself that a judgment formed without knowledge of the conditions under which such a change has been decided on cannot be worth attention. You have seen my home; but visitors cannot know the wants in a house where only plenty appears to them. You will live to find that your children, dear and intimate as they may be, still are not companions; and I hope in God you will never experience the loneliness of a widowed home.

"My wife is dear Katie's most intimate friend, and both she and the other two children have been most anxious for the engagement that has been formed.

"On the merits of her who has blessed me with her affection I would not dilate; it is enough to be grateful for the possession of them, and for the belief that my home will be much more cheerful, much better conducted, and in all respects much happier when she has the conduct of it. Of this I hope you will be a witness. There are, I know, as all the world does, imprudences in marriages where the ages are disproportionate. From the many motives that have led on to this, in addition to the primary one of sober affection, I believe this will be found an exception to a general rule. I need scarcely say I have but one companion here, who reciprocates very cordially your good wishes."

An interesting comment on the birth of his son is found in another letter to Mrs. Pollock:—"Many, many thanks to you for your kind congratulations. I do not know how far, at my advanced time of life, such an arrival may be really a subject greatly to rejoice in, but I am in principle an optimist, and am firm in the belief that the Disposer of all, knowing best what is best for us, so dispenses His gifts to us. Thank God, my wife and her baby are doing as well as my most sanguine wishes could desire, and I need scarcely add that she is delighted with her little son."

This son, then only eleven years of age, followed his father's remains with his half-brother, Jonathan Forster Macready, and two of the deceased lady's brothers, the Rev. Edward Spencer and Mr. William Spencer. To the actor and to the loving companion of his later years the death of his daughter Catherine in 1869 was a great shock. "The ties of domestic affection between father and daughter," writes Sir Frederick in his Reminiscences, "had been strengthened by much sympathy in temperament and in their tastes; and they had in no degree been loosened by Macready's second marriage, which added much to the happiness and comfort of his family, as well as to his own.

"In the month of March of this year he went from Cheltenham to Plymouth with his wife to receive his daughter upon her return from Madeira, where she had been passing the winter for the benefit of her health. After twelve days of anxious waiting the vessel arrived by which she was expected to come home; but only to bring the story of her death on the voyage, and of the committal of her remains to the sea.

"From this time he would frequently lament his inability to guide his pen, and to write his own letters—a task from which he had never formerly retreated, even in the days of his busiest occupation."

Macready's first wife was Miss Catherine Frances Aikins, whom he married at St. Pancras Church in 1823. This lady died in September, 1852. In announcing his severe bereavement the actor writes to his friend Pollock from Plymouth:—"The event so long dreaded has come to pass. It is God's will, and to this thought, and to the faith that there is mercy and good in all He purposes, I turn for support in an affliction and under a bereavement that takes the sunshine from my remaining life. I have neither heart nor words to dwell upon this subject."

The funeral of the deceased lady took place on Wednesday afternoon at Redland Green Church. The service was of the simplest character, and was very quietly carried out, few besides the relatives and personal friends of the deceased lady being present. The chief mourners were:—Colonel Macready, C.B., London (son); Mr. Gordon Macready, Cheltenham (grandson); Miss Macready, Weston-super-Mare (daughter); Mrs. Morony (niece), Miss J. Macready, Weston-super-Mare (granddaughter); Mr. W. Macready, Weston-super-Mare, and Mr. J. Macready (grandsons); Mrs. Winterbottom and Mr. R. Winterbottom, Cheltenham; Colonel Bird, London (nephew); Miss J. Spencer, Tavistock, and Mrs. Semple, Budleigh Salterton (nieces); Mrs. Downes; and Miss Stevens (the deceased lady's maid). The wreaths were few in number, and were mostly sent by members of the family.

The first part of the service was taken in the church, and as the cortège entered, the organist (Mr. A. J. House) played Mendelssohn's "O rest in the Lord." During the service the hymns "Rejoice, the Lord is King" and "The sands of time are sinking fast" were sung, and at the close the organist feelingly rendered the Dead March in "Saul." The Rev. F. Glenville (Vicar of St. Matthew's, Cotham) officiated.

Deceased was interred in the churchyard in the same grave where her mother, who died in 1883, lies buried. The coffin, which was of polished oak, bore the following inscription: "Cecile Louise Frederica Macready, fell asleep, 19th Sept., 1908. Aged 81 years."

"TITLES AND COINCIDENCE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I see the title of Mr. Fisher Unwin's £100 prize novel is "The Woman and the Sword." By the enclosed circular you will see it is the title of a dramatic playlet written by me for Mr. Bentley, and to be produced shortly. It is hardly commonplace, but there is no suggestion of plagiarism—pure coincidence.—Yours faithfully,

Bath, Sept. 24. CHARLES CROZIER.

ONE of the members of the *Married to the Wrong Man* company, which was appearing at the Prince's Theatre, Bradford, last week, was taken ill suddenly, and Mr. Laidler, the proprietor of the theatre, at once wired to Mr. Frederick Melville, the author of the play, acquainting him of the fact. Mr. Melville was equal to the occasion, and setting out for Bradford by the first train, took the vacant part himself the same evening.

MASONS AT WORK.

The regular meeting of the Chelsea Lodge, No. 3,098, was held on Friday last at the Town Hall, Chelsea, the Lodge being consituted by several acting officers, with Mr. James W. Mathews as W.M., Mr. Herbert Chenery, I.P.M., Mr. W. H. Hitch, S.W., Mr. Harry Bawn, J.W., Mr. Wolfe S. Lyon (treasurer), Mr. C. J. Doughty (secretary), Mr. W. F. K. Walton, S.D., Mr. Fred Neiman, J.D., Mr. Douglas White, I.G., Mr. Angelo A. Asher (organist), Mr. E. T. R. Lester (steward), and Mr. J. H. McNaughton (tyler). The W.M. advanced Messrs. Ernie Mayne, Sydney Chaplain, and Erne Warsaw, and completed the ceremony with Messrs. Harry Bancroft and Paul Murray. The brethren present included Messrs. Dan Lipton, J. Grant, J. B. Helm, C. H. Burton, Frank Hardie, R. W. Duce, Fred Clay, &c.; and as visitors Messrs. Geo. Brown, William Preston, Chas. G. Cautley, Gilbert Girard, &c. Letters and telegrams expressing regret at being prevented attending were read from members of the Lodge who were scattered all over Great Britain; while two members, Messrs. Ernie Mayne and Harry Bancroft, had travelled many miles to be present, the former coming from Leicester and the latter from Portsmouth, both having to return in time for their business.

The Kensington Lodge, No. 1,767, held its installation meeting on Saturday, the 19th inst., at the Royal Palace Hotel, in the royal borough, when Mr. J. A. Battersby installed Mr. Albert J. Taylor as W.M. for the ensuing year, who appointed the following gentlemen to assist him in the governing of the Lodge:—Mr. Maurice Moss, I.P.M., to whom a handsome jewel was presented in recognition of his services as Master during the year just terminated; Mr. G. M. Pettitt, S.W.; Mr. S. M. Jones, S.W.; Mr. G. G. Hatt, P.M., P.A.G.P., P.P.G.D.C., Middlesex Chaplain; Mr. A. G. Turner, P.M., treasurer; Mr. R. H. Meyer, P.M., secretary; Mr. J. M. Hockey, S.D.; Mr. A. H. Proctor, J.D.; Mr. R. H. Williams, P.M., P.P.J.D., Middlesex D.C.; Mr. J. J. Oliver, P.P.G., organist, Middlesex organist; Mr. R. McIvor, I.G., Mr. A. G. Clark, A.D.C., Mr. Arthur J. Taylor, and Mr. F. Cave, P.M., stewards; and Mr. J. H. McNaughton, P.M. (tyler). Amongst the visitors present were four Past-Masters, all of whom had received their masonic tuition from the twin clubs of instruction so well known to the members of the dramatic and musical professions, the Logic and Genesius showing that the preceptors had not worked in vain. After the subsequent banquet a very enjoyable programme of music was contributed to by Mme. Edith Payne, Messrs. Jack Millard, Harry Green, and Arthur Foxon.

The new Masonic honour of "London Rank" played an important part in connection with the regular meetings of the Jubilee Masters' Lodge, No. 2,712, held at the Hotel Cecil on Tuesday under the presidency of its Worshipful Master, Mr. Alfred J. Thomas, P.A.G.D.C., who was supported by his predecessor in the chair, Mr. Henry Neville, P.A.G.D.C. Mr. R. Clay Sudlow, P.M., P.A.G.D.C., acted as Senior Warden, other principal offices being filled by Mr. G. J. V. Rankin, Junior Warden; Mr. Tom Fraser, P.M., P.G.T., Treasurer; Mr. J. D. Langton, P.M., P.G.D., Secretary; Mr. W. Miles and Mr. H. H. Bagnall, Deacons, &c.; while among other Grand Officers who attended were Mr. F. H. C. Boutell, District Grand Master of the Argentine Republic; Mr. Frank Richardson, P.D.G.R., G. Dir. of Cers.; Sir Walter Vaughan Morgan, Bt., P.M., P.G.W.; Mr. R. Newton Crane, G.D.; Sir J. W. Szlumper and Mr. A. F. Robbins, P.G.D.'s; Mr. Henry Times and Mr. Albert Neville, P.D.G.D.C.; Mr. C. W. Cole, A.G.D.C.; Mr. F. C. Van Duzer, P.M., and Mr. C. J. Drummond, P.A.G.D.C.; Major Henry Wright and Colonel Drage, P.G. Sword Bearers; Major H. Vane Stow, P.D.G.S.B.; Mr. J. F. Roberts, Mr. J. Percy Fitzgerald, and Mr. Harry Nicholls, P.M., P.G. Standard Bearers; Mr. E. J. Gittens, and Mr. C. Butcher, P.A.G.P.; and Dr. Martindale Ward, Mr. G. E. J. H. Barlow, and Mr. J. H. Jenks, P.G. Stewards. The Worshipful Master proposed: "That the hearty congratulations of the Lodge be offered to those of its members who have received the honour of London Rank in this the first year of its institution." Eighteen of the members of the Jubilee Masters' Lodge had received the honour, and their names would appear permanently on the minutes as first recipients of the new dignity. The chief toast of the dinner which followed was that of the London Rank representatives, of whom the following were present: Sir Walter Johnson, Colonel S. Wishart, Messrs. H. Potter, J. A. Witthaus, A. W. Letts, J. T. Sweet, S. J. Byng, John Coote, T. J. Bolton, W. C. Smith, R. C. Bayne, W. M. Duckworth, W. S. Hooper, Flory, F. W. Gobby, C. A. Sanders, Robert Manuel, C. T. Coggin, E. W. Roach, J. J. Bridgewater, W. J. Keen, P. Groner, Harry Warren, R. L. Franks, A. H. Hickman, and W. E. Barrow. Messrs. W. Briggs, Grand Treasurer; Frank Richardson, Grand Director of Ceremonies; and F. H. C. Boutell, District Grand Master of Argentine Republic, replied for the Grand Officers. The W.M. prposed the toast of the brethren appointed to London Rank during this the first year of its creation, to which Sir Walter Johnson replied for the visiting brethren; and Mr. W. S. Hooper, late Treasurer of the lodge, for the members who had received the honour. The toast of the visitors was proposed by Mr. A. F. Robbins, P.G.D., and acknowledged by Mr. Gerald Maxwell. The health of the Worshipful Master was given by the I.P.M., Mr. Henry Neville, P.A.G.D.C. A capital musical programme was supplied under the direction of Mr. James Kift, by Miss Hope Jackson, Miss Maud Horne, Miss Helen Mar, Miss Ray Wallace, and Mr. Harry Dearth.

AT the Clydebank New Gaiety Theatre, on Monday, the first house was set apart for the Burgh Unemployed Distress Fund, under the patronage of the Provost, magistrates, and councillors. The house was packed, and the programme submitted was thoroughly appreciated. Harvey and Holt, comedy speciality artists, met with a hearty reception, as also did Miss Kitty Lavigne, a smart comedienne and dancer. Fields and Acres, as "keepers of the park," gained much applause; Miss Maud Clifton sang herself into favour; W. H. Smart proved himself a capital Irish comedian; and the Bioscope was excellent.

BEFORE the last turn Mr. Pickard appeared on the stage to publicly thank the Provost, magistrates, and councillors for honouring his theatre with their presence, and intimated that over and above the takings he would subscribe £10 towards the fund, a remark that brought forth much applause. Provost Taylor, on behalf of the distress committee, returned thanks, paying a high tribute to Mr. Pickard for his generosity, and hoped his stay in Clydebank would meet with much success. A special collection was also made, which realised £4 10s.

ONE of the most enjoyable turns of the evening at the Tivoli is that of Miss Madge Temple, whose rendering of a song about a "kiss" is indeed a delightful performance. This lady is not only the possessor of a beautiful soprano voice, but acts the song cleverly.

THE public examination was concluded at the London Bankruptcy Court on Tuesday of Theodore Broxane, who with another had been performing on the music-hall stage as "The Creo Brothers," acrobats. He attributed his present position to the cancellation of his contracts. The debts were £316, and assets nil.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Messrs. John P. Harrington and Tom McNaughton have this week acquired all their remaining partners' share and interest in the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., and this enterprising young firm will in future be run with Mr. John P. Harrington as the managing partner in England, assisted by Mr. Orlando Powell, a veritable tower of strength and musical adviser and editor to the concern.

Mr. Tom McNaughton will actively represent the interests of the firm in America, where he is under a forty-two weeks' contract with Klaw and Erlanger, to play in Florenz Ziegfeld's *Bonnie Belles of Scotland*, supporting the star, his wife, Miss Alice Lloyd. While Mr. Harrington is busy "plugging" this side of the Atlantic, Mr. McNaughton may be relied upon to be correspondingly active on this side of the "pond."

Miss Claire Romaine, the popular burlesque actress, who is now en route, with her husband, Edgar Romaine, for New York, is booked to appear there at a large salary by Mr. Percy G. Williams. Amongst those present at Euston station to bid her farewell were Marie Lloyd, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Elen, Annie Wood and Mr. Wood, Mrs. Keddie, Maud Bell, Harry Tate, Maggie Schofield, and Bennett Scott.

Miss Evie Greene, who was the original Consuelo in the production of *Havana* at the Gaiety, and also completely realised the dark beauty of Dolores in Mr. Leslie Stuart's even more famous *Florodora*, has signed a contract with Mr. Oswald Stoll to appear at several of the Moss and Stoll houses in the provinces and for a five weeks' engagement at the Coliseum. Miss Greene made her variety début at the Palace Theatre earlier in the year.

Mr. Harry Relph, professionally known as "Little Tich," applied, ex parte, on Wednesday, for an interim injunction to restrain Barry Gilmore and James Bainbridge, from representing that plaintiff was appearing and acting for them at the Waterloo Theatre, at Whitby. He also asked leave to serve notice of motion for an injunction for next Wednesday.

Mr. J. F. W. Galbraith, for plaintiff, described the action of the defendants as "an impudent fraud." Posters and handbills were being circulated in large numbers at Whitby containing the words, "Don't fail to see and hear Little Tich." Plaintiff was under no contract to appear for defendants at Whitby or elsewhere, and the unauthorised use of his name was calculated to do great damage to his professional reputation and his popularity with the public. His Lordship gave leave to serve the notice of motion, and granted an interim injunction over next Wednesday.

The "R. B." Syndicate (Limited), Mr. T. G. Richards, manager, the registered offices of which are at the London Music Hall, Shoreditch, was summoned, on Wednesday, by the Metropolitan Water Board for non-payment of £29 11s. for water supplied to the Cambridge Music Hall, Commercial-street, for three quarters ending Sept. 30, 1908. It was said for the syndicate that there was no defence. The money was due and owing, but the hall was shut up, and there were no assets. An order for payment recoverable by distress was made.

A cablegram received on Tuesday brought the joyful news that Miss Daisy Wood, who made her first bow to an American audience on Monday, was an instantaneous success. Her first appearance created a favourable impression, and as she warmed to her work the enthusiasm of the audience became more and more pronounced.

The little lady's hits are the numbers specially written for her by A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott, and entitled "Oh! George, tell them to stop the Flip-Flap," "Beware of the man with the automobile," and "Won't you come and paddle?" They will be issued by the Day and Harms firm, by arrangement with the Star Music Co., of 9, Charing Cross-road.

Mr. Ernest Shand is, at the Tivoli, nightly pouring wholesome ridicule on the Licensing Bill, the opposition to which will culminate in a meeting to-morrow in Hyde Park that will be epoch-making in its importance. Though audiences laugh heartily all the time Mr. Shand is uttering his amusing funniments concerning "The last pub," beneath the surface there is some scathing satire which directly bears on the grandmotherly interference with the liberty of the subject and the property of the publican by the temperance cranks. Another laughter-compelling contribution of Ernest's is "What would the congregation say?" They would be much too inclined to laugh to say anything at all!

Mr. J. W. Winton, the ventriloquist, has by doctor's advice postponed his English and American engagements, and returns to Australia for a few months' rest. He formed one of Mr. Harry Rickards' party, voyaging on board the P. and O. ss. Moldavia, which left London on Friday. He hopes to return to England next summer to fulfil his present engagements.

Mr. J. P. MacNally, the last of the original Two Macs (MacCabe and MacNally), passed away last Sunday, 20th inst., at 33, Bradford-street, High Town, Hednesford, Staffs., after a long and painful illness. He was forty-nine. Joe Mac, his partner, who was the husband of Alice Maydue, died on Jan. 11, 1893. It was a celebrated partnership, and its rise to popularity was meteoric. The Two Macs appeared at the old Gaiety when they were the rage of London.

Mr. John F. Preston's latest production, *A Ride to Win*, in which his three thoroughbred racehorses jump a regulation hurdle, on its initial performance at Croydon met with immediate success, fourteen London halls being booked during its first week, commencing with Olympia, Shoreditch, on Monday next. This carries Mr. Preston's bookings in town into the new year, when he starts the Stoll tour again with *Rogues of the Turf*. The latter is booked for the Coliseum, London, on Oct. 12, the only time it will be seen till next year.

Rehearsals of *Paris*, the new Empire Theatre ballet, are progressing so satisfactorily that the production may now be confidently expected early in October. Mlle. Lydia Kyaksht, who succeeeds to the position of première danseuse at the Empire, and who has a striking rôle in the new production, has already won golden opinions from both Press and public as a dancer of distinction and superb technique. As one of our foremost critics observes: "Mlle. Kyaksht suffers little by comparison with her great predecessor. She comes to us in all the freshness of her beauty, youth, and talent."

The unhappy career of Mabel, Countess Russell, was terminated by death on Tuesday morning, at her residence, Bray Lawn, near Maidenhead. For some months the deceased lady had been suffering from consumption, and her mother, Lady Selina Scott, and other relatives were with her when she died. She was about thirty-six years of age, and was the daughter of the late Sir Claude Scott. In 1899, after much litigation with her husband, Earl Russell, the Countess appeared as Winifred Grey, in *The Runaway Girl*, and afterwards made her début on the variety stage, at the Tivoli and other London halls. Since her last unfortunate marriage with an adventurer named Brown, who passed himself off as a prince, she had occupied her time with poultry-farming.

The application to the magistrates for a music and singing licence for the Gem, Great Yarmouth, has been before the local magistrates this week. It has been decided to adjourn the matter for a week.

At a meeting of the Portsmouth Watch Committee on Tuesday an application was made for a theatrical licence for the Hippodrome, and after some consideration it was granted with the condition that no intoxicating drink shall be sold in the building.

Mr. Thomas Barrasford has arranged to open his new house at Nottingham, the Royal Hippodrome, on Monday next, when an excellent company of artists will appear. Mr. A. V. Carnell, who for five years had charge of the Hippodrome at St. Helens, has been transferred to Nottingham, and it says much for his unflagging energy and zeal that the work is in a very forward condition.

The Grand Theatre, Glasgow, having recently been acquired by the Moss' Empires, Limited, has been closed for some months for the purpose of alterations, decorations, and furnishing. The house is to open on Oct. 6 with a grand revival of *Dorothy*.

The directors of the Victoria Theatre, Burnley, of which Mr. W. C. Horner is managing director, have decided to rebuild and provide a new "twice nightly" variety house, and have placed the designing of the new building with Mr. Bertie Crewe, whose plans are now well in hand and will shortly be submitted to the local authorities. The new building will seat about 2,300 people, and hold when full about 3,000.

We greatly regret to learn that Mr. Stanley Hope, the popular acting-manager for Mr. Edward Marris at the Jersey Opera House, was seriously assaulted when leaving that building shortly after midnight on Friday, 18th. Mr. Hope, who was savagely kicked about the face and body, is in a very critical condition, and two doctors are in attendance. Had not Mrs. Hope, who was with her husband at the time, managed to obtain assistance the result might have been even more serious.

The Tynemouth Palace, after several vicissitudes, comes under the auctioneer's hammer on the 30th inst. Originally costing about £80,000, it came into the possession of its present owner for about £7,000, and should now easily be a paying property in the hands of a smart entrepreneur. The main interior could, at a comparatively small cost, be reconstructed to meet the demands and requirements of an up-to-date house of entertainment. It enjoys a full six days' licence, and on Sundays a refreshment licence.

Mr. A. E. Pickard, of the New Gaiety, Clydebank, and several Glasgow ventures, on Monday devoted the entire drawings at his Clydebank Theatre to the local unemployed fund. The occasion was graced by the presence of the Provost and magistrates, and a handsome sum was realised, in addition to which Mr. Pickard gave a donation of £10.

The prevailing distress in Glasgow, due to unemployment, has awakened the sympathies of all classes, and two performances were given in aid of the relief fund. On Saturday the entire proceeds of the matinée at the Pavilion were given, and a strong company offered their services for the occasion. On Sunday a sacred concert was given in the Zoo-Hippodrome, the programme being sustained mostly by local artists, and Councillor Bostock was able to hand over the sum of £52 as a result.

The complimentary benefit, on Thursday, Sept. 17, at the Halifax Palace, to Mr. Reginald H. Foster, the manager of that popular place of amusement, was in every way a success. There was a large house at the matinée, and two large houses at night. During the second house at night Mr. Foster came to the footlights. Thanks to Mr. Macnaghten, he had enjoyed a very fine benefit. He wished to thank the artists for their assistance, and the stage hands and staff generally who had helped him. As Mr. Foster was retiring from the stage, amid rounds of cheering, Mr. C. Bedford, of King Cross-street, emerged from the wings, and asked the manager's acceptance, on behalf of a few friends and admirers, of a cheque.

Before Mr. Foster could respond, Mr. G. B. Mozley, the stage-manager, presented to him a silver-mounted stick and comb and brushes from his working staff at the Palace. Mr. Foster humorously observed:—"This is what I did not expect. I knew I was having a 'benefit,' but I did not expect these 'extras.' I am most delighted to receive them, however." He then thanked the subscribers and his excellent working staff, and retired whilst the band again played "For he's a jolly good fellow."

It is with great regret we announce the death of Mr. A. D. Norman, the secretary and entertainment manager of the Brighton West Pier company, which occurred on Sunday evening last at his residence, 18, Lancaster-road, Brighton. Mr. Norman had been associated with the pier for eleven years, during seven of which he was secretary and entertainment manager, winning the esteem and goodwill of the chairman (Mr. W. H. Gibson) and the directors of the pier company. His kind and genial manner endeared him to all who came in contact with him. About a year ago he had a serious nervous breakdown, to which he eventually succumbed.

The Liverpool Tivoli, Paddington Palace, and Park Palace were, on Thursday, offered for sale by auction at the Liverpool Law Association Rooms, when there was an attendance of about 120, including Mr. James Kiernan, the principal debenture holder of the premises. The proceedings were by order of the Chancery Court. The auctioneer dwelt in detail upon the value of the respective properties, which, he said, had to be sold together, and mentioned that the reserve price fixed by the Judge could not be revealed. He, however, declared that it was less than the low amount he himself had anticipated, and there was now a chance to secure valuable properties at a very reasonable figure.

After the auctioneer had spoken thirty-five minutes, a Mr. Gibson offered £20,000, which amount was quickly advanced by single thousands and two five hundreds until one gentleman called £30,000. The auctioneer declared that the reserve had not been reached, and consequently withdrew the property. Before dissolving the meeting, the auctioneer stated, in reply to a question, that the buildings could not be sold separately in consequence of the order of the Judge, but should anybody feel desirous of offering terms for any one of the three premises an application could be made to the Chancery Court, when probably the judicial order might be altered.

Professor Alec Payne, the well-known skater and pioneer of the present craze for roller-skating, has arranged for his marriage to take place at the Skating Rink, the White City, Old Trafford, on Thursday, Oct. 11. The popularity of this rink is shown by the great number of people who find a ready teacher in the professor, who can quickly make good skaters out of the most awkward people. He is arranging a sensation in the form of a skating pantomime dance by himself and four ladies to be performed at Christmas at Drury Lane. He has called the act "Les Petites Patineuses."

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bawn sail for America on Wednesday next per s.s. Majestic, on business and pleasure bent. Mrs. Bawn, who is a native of St. Louis, will renew many pleasant reminiscences.

Miss Vesta Victoria has entrusted her business arrangements to Messrs. Beecham and Wheeler, who have booked that clever artist at an enormous salary with Mr. Walter Gibbons to open exclusively at the Holborn Empire on Oct. 26.

Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, in writing to Mr. T. Harris, manager of the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Company, of 6, Argyll-street, Regent-street, W., says:—"You have done my cleaning for many years now, and when my white eye needs cleaning I shall have no hesitation in sending it to you, as I know it will come back practically new, without an eyelash missing."

Miss Frances Letty, coon chorus singer, intimates that she produced the sequel to *Moving Day* at the Coliseum, Glasgow, in June, 1907, and afterwards played the same at the Empress, Brixton, using the same setting and business as another artist is doing in London, and on the Stoll tour. Miss Letty only desires that she should be known as the originator of the sequel, which she is still playing.

"The Little Captain," a playlet written round Captain Kettle, which is noticed in another column, is being rapidly booked. As the hero invented by the famous novelist, Mr. Cutcliffe Hyne, Mr. Leonard Mortimer is absolutely lifelike, the make-up and business showing an exact appreciation of the idiosyncrasies of the wonderful little adventurer.

For the first time in the history of the Tivoli, animated pictures of the most up-to-date events are to be depicted on Monday by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. It is interesting to note that a special cinematographic exhibiting chamber has been erected, according to the requirements of the London County Council, and it is of the very latest pattern.

Arthur Jefferson's farcical comedy sketch, *Home From the Honeymoon*, is due at the Manchester Hippodrome on Monday. The sketch has proved a "winner," both at Mr. Stoll's suburban and provincial halls, and the cast includes such well known names as Wilfrid Compton, Geo. Elliston, Fowler Thatcher, and Miss Miriam Holt, in addition to other capable artists, whilst the staging is much above the average.

The Water Rats anthem, about which there has been a good deal of controversy during the week, was composed in the early days of the fraternity by Joe Elvin and Harry Freeman. It is now sung at the installation ceremony of each new King Rat and at farewells to artists going on long tours abroad.

When the new King Rat is installed he turns to the banner of the Order, and the company sing the anthem:—

This is the emblem of our Society,
Each member acts with the greatest propriety.
Jolly old sports, to us they raise their hats,
A jolly lot of fellows are the Water Rats.

The first Water Rat was a pony by that name belonging to Jack Lotto, who now controls a well-known hostelry at 119, Charing Cross-road. The social meetings after trotting matches resulted in the foundation of the Order.

The charm, beauty, and sparkle of Mr. George Dance's sketches are being amusingly advertised by a clever parody of "Where are you going to, my pretty maid?" The last verse runs as follows:—

"Are you successful, my pretty maid?"
"Ask all the managers, sir," she said.
"When's your vacation, my pretty maid?"
"We don't never have any, sir," she said.

Mr. Chris Van Bern, after his conspicuous success at the Oxford this week, is not likely to look back, and may prepare at once to book a crop of re-engagements. He is a perfect stranger to the house, and the interest of the vast audience is manifest from the first. Mr. Van Bern deals in the unexpected. He puts his gloves in his hat and they immediately disappear; he changes the colour of his pocket-handkerchief on sight; he manufactures a table from an innocent-looking suit case; and more than all, he volleys out smart patter all the time. He is certain to become a London entertainer of the first water. So original is he that he is scarcely to be classified as "a line," though he will be a "top-liner."

Miss Elsie Kerry, having completed a most successful provincial tour, and fulfilled her subsequent engagements in the London and suburban halls proceeds next week to her native country, where she opens at the Empire, Belfast, appearing at the sister hall in her native city of Dublin on the following week. Miss Kerry, though only a few years associated with the variety stage, has firmly established herself in public favour. This is her return visit to Ireland's two chief cities, where she is certain to receive a *cade mille failte*.

The triumphant salving of the Gladiator off Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, which Urban's have kinematographed by special and exclusive permission of the Lords of the Admiralty, is to be shown on the screen at the Palace Theatre on Monday. In the first picture the wreck is seen as on the morning after the disaster (April 26). Then to his great task comes Captain Young, of the Liverpool Salvage Corps. Divers begin the work by attaching wire hawsers to the mighty hull, the huge cammells (or airtight caissons) are sunk, tripods and shore-cables are placed in position, and ultimately the strenuous labours of five long months are crowned by the bringing of the cruiser to an even keel—a wonderful spectacle.

One is not surprised to hear of the complete success of Mr. Austin Boyd and Miss Trixie Gilfain in their diverting operetta *Sunny Spain*, which is now on the Stoll tour. The vim and sparkle of the sketch and the clever and funny way in which it is presented easily account for the absorbing interest it always creates. If all bagpipers were like Miss Gilfain we should be more tolerant of the "skirl of the pibroch."

To attempt to give even an approximate list of the distinguished people present at Mlle. Genée's farewell on Tuesday would take up a column of our space. In an exquisite Empire gown, she made her first entrance to a volley of cheering, carrying everyone away by the grace and charm of her well-known dance from *The Little Michus*. Later came Miss Dora Bright's pastoral fantasy, *The Dryad*, of which the beauty and pathos were once again emphasised by the incomparable dancer.

When at last the curtain finally fell the outburst of applause was of so decisive and prolonged a character that again and again Mlle. Genée, hand-in-hand with Mr. H. J. Hitchins, had to appear before the curtain, expressing her feelings by eloquent gesture. But her inveterate admirers remained unsatisfied, and loud cries for "Speech, speech," drew from Mlle. Genée the farewell words: "Thank you very much—I shall be back very soon." In the centre of the stage stood a huge tribute, in the shape of a floral horseshoe, presented by the directors of the Empire as a slight testimony of the esteem and affection in which Mlle. Genée is held.

Mr. R. G. Knowles starts a farewell tour, arranged by Tom Pacey, at the New Hippodrome, Nottingham, on Monday next.

Miss Ray Wallace, the lady mimic at the piano, who is now fulfilling a most successful engagement at the Empire, has by consent postponed her American engagement until next year, and is therefore at liberty for pantomime as principal girl.

Beecham and Wheeler are bringing to London a novelty consisting of a vocal and athletic scena, entitled "Kennedy's Kiddies in Ju-jitsu Dance." This novelty has been immediately booked by Mr. Will Collins, of the Syndicate Halls, to appear at the Canterbury on Monday at 9.40.

Miss Cissie Lawson is presenting at the Canterbury on Monday the thrilling episode entitled *A Bride for a Living*, in which she has made her mark as an emotional actress.

Mr. Charles P. Loller, the conductor of the Sunderland Empire, died at his residence in Maud-street, Fulwell, on Saturday afternoon, the cause of death being consumption. Deceased, who was only twenty-eight years of age, was a brilliant violinist. He had been in the service of Mr. Dick Thornton for about fourteen years. A widow and one child mourn his loss.

The entente cordiale will receive fresh significance nightly next week at the Empire Palace, Sheffield, by the complete understanding between Mr. J. A. Wilson and his well-trained, intelligent, and delightful French poodle, Private Towser, who in his way is quite an artist. It is a pleasure to watch this handsome canine in his gleeful desire to support his master in an altogether interesting and clever act.

Dr. Walford Bodie broke all records last week at the Palace, Kilmarnock. This week he is doing the same at the King's Theatre and Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy. Though the prices have been raised the advance booking has been phenomenal, and never since the theatre has been built has such enormous business been done. So great a hit has Dr. Bodie made that the management offered him a guarantee of £300 for himself to remain another week, but he is booked at the New Theatre, Ayr.

Dr. Bodie has just published the fourteenth edition of "The Bodie Book," which has had a record sale. His latest volume, "Stage Stories," is selling by hundreds weekly. He has been approached by a big London firm to contribute essays and stories for some leading magazines, and the Doctor is seriously thinking of leaving the stage and devoting his whole time to literature. In his spare moments he is writing two other startling books.

Miss Ethel Whiteside, who is now touring England with three little negro piccaninnies, has just completed a tour of the Continent, where she has met with the best of success. She has also created a sensation throughout Australia, on the Harry Rickards' circuit. Dainty and petite, with a good voice and good looks, she makes her negro lullabies very effective, and the antics of the little "Picks" are funny in the extreme. Before leaving for America, Miss Whiteside intends bestowing one of her black boys on that person who can provide him with the best home. She has been booked by the Moss-Stoll circuit for three tours.

Mr. Lester Reekie, a prominent member of the troupe of Brighton entertainers known as The Highwaymen, anticipated last Christmas, in a song then sold to Mr. George Brooks, Mark Twain's recent joke to the burglar, "Please close the door." Mr. Reekie's first chorus ran as follows:—

"I don't mind you blowing my brains out,
For on them I don't place any store;
But you might wake the p'liceman asleep on his beat,
And—would you mind closing the door!"

Mr. Brooks is putting the song on immediately. But for this explanation Mr. Reekie feared that he might be accused of plagiarism.

Mr. Leo Dryden, who has been winning golden opinions on his present tour with *The Sins of Society*, by the same author, has accepted of Mr. Cayley Calvert, a new and original scena, founded on an incident in *The Corsican Brothers*, which he intends to produce in town in November.

The well-known firm of Messrs. Vaughan and Cook, Ltd., of Goswell-road, metal craftsmen, made and fixed the fireproof curtain, installed the hydrants, gas lighting and heating, the hot water services for dressing-rooms, and the outside canopy with its attendant illuminations, for the new Devonport Hippodrome. These facts did not appear in our report.

Mr. Arthur Douglas F. Bostock, acting-manager of the Paisley Hippodrome, was on Monday evening, on the occasion of his departure from Paisley to take charge of the Ipswich Hippodrome, presented with a handsome illuminated address, subscribed for by the staff and several of his friends and well-wishers. The social function took place on the stage after the second performance. Mr. Fred Coutts, manager of the Paisley and District Tramways Co., Ltd., made the presentation, and in doing so dwelt on the many good qualities possessed by Mr. Bostock. Mr Bostock thanked one and all very sincerely for the address. He had made many friends since he came to Paisley, and he deeply regretted this parting.

Councillor E. H. Bostock, proprietor of the Hippodromes already mentioned, added a few remarks on being called upon. He explained that his son was being removed from Paisley to Ipswich merely to look after a charge farthest away from head quarters, whilst the manager in Ipswich was being transferred to Paisley. He trusted his son would look after Ipswich as well as he had Paisley. Addresses were also given in praise of the young and capable manager by Mr. D. C. Gribben, Mr. Sam Young, and Mr. Dalgleish.

The address, beautifully illuminated and including the photograph of Mr. Bostock, was as follows:—"Dear Sir,—We, the undersigned, as representing your friends and employees in the Paisley Hippodrome, desire, on this the occasion of your departure from Paisley to take over the control of the Ipswich Hippodrome, to place on record our appreciation of your character through the medium of this address. We gladly recognise your high personal character and moral worth, and we are delighted to have this opportunity of bearing testimony to the esteem in which you are held by your friends and employees and by the community generally

"During the time you have managed the Paisley Hippodrome nothing but the most kindly feelings have prevailed between yourself and the staff, whilst your untiring courtesy and geniality of manner have secured you many friends.

"While recognising the exigencies of business, we still regret your departure from amongst us, and, therefore, welcome this opportunity of placing on record our sentiment towards you and in conveying to you our best wishes for your continued prosperity, and trust you may be long spared to enjoy every comfort and blessing in the years to come.—(Signed), Archie Nicol, John Soar, Wm. Mitchell, Robert Hendry, Fred. Coutts, Sam Young, D. C. Gribben, James Young. Paisley, Sept. 21, 1908."

The directors of the Camberwell Palace have given notice of their intention to terminate their booking arrangements with Moss' Empires, Ltd.

The many friends of Mr. E. W. Mackney will be glad to hear that his mishap, which we reported last week in our "Gossip" columns, has had no serious results.

Mr. Harry Liston and Miss Lord Lumley, after many years' absence from Scotland, made their début at Dundee last Monday, and made an instantaneous hit with a comedy sketch. Mr. Liston's songs and mimicry were highly relished.

Miss Violet Fulton, who recently finished a season at the Théâtre des Capucines, and more recently in her sketch *The Collaborators* at the London Pavilion, is shortly to start a tour on the Syndicate Halls with that bright and cleverly acted playlet.

Mr. J. Fisher White's sketch, *A Royal Heart* (by A. Scott Craven and J. D. Beresford) starts on an autumn tour under Mr. Oswald Stoll's management, on Monday next, at the Hackney Empire. The cast is as follows:—Michael Petrovitch, Mr. Chris Walker; Simon Michaelovitch, Mr. Fredk. James; Marya Paulovna, first house, Miss Margaret Omar, second house, Mrs. Fisher White; Nikita Antonyitch, Mr. A. Corney Grain; and Vassili, Grand Duke, Mr. Scott Craven. Mr. Scott Craven, who is playing the leading part, is one of the authors of the little play, and has published two books of poetry. As at present arranged, the tour extends up to the first week in December.

"A Royal Heart" will be produced with absolute truth of detail—the flat-topped Russian stove, built of brick, common among the very poor; the low cobbler's bench; the Ikon hanging on the wall facing the entrance-door, with its little lamp, lighted always at times of special trouble or rejoicing; the shutters, which, by order of the Government, must be fastened only from the outside, so that the police may open them at any time and pry upon the peasants' life within; and the Russian samovar, used for making tea. These are some of the details, the correctness of which has been verified from Russian sources.

Mr. George Gilbey is featured in the Hackney Empire bill for next week. A few years ago he was a valued member of Mr. George Ginnett's circus company, performing as a clown under the name of Little Frisco; but years before that he had frequently appeared in the circus ring. Keeping a shrewd eye upon the signs of the times, he concluded that the circus entertainment was not likely to provide him with his bread and butter much longer, and as he had faith in his ability to amuse an audience as a "single-handed" comedian, he boldly made the plunge into variety. Gilbey recalls how, after his trial trip to the variety theatre, his friends all met him with chaff, which the recipient bore meekly, serene in the knowledge that as a matter of fact he had been accorded a highly encouraging reception.

Passengers by the Cunard liner Mauretania, which arrived at New York on Saturday with one propeller out of action and twenty-seven hours late, had some exciting experiences during a storm. She was about 360 miles east of Sandy Hook, in a West Indian hurricane, when suddenly one of the blades of her starboard propeller snapped. The engines were at once stopped and the vessel swung broadside on to the seas, which washed over her. The deck became crowded with alarmed passengers, but Captain Pritchard ordered them back to the café, telling them not to be alarmed. Several women fainted, but there was never anything approaching a panic

Not a little of the credit of this was due to Miss Alice Lloyd. In the café crowded with frightened women she stood up and sang for over an hour, till confidence was entirely restored. After the excitement was over Miss Constance Collier, who was travelling with her husband, Mr. Julian L'Estrange, kissed Miss Lloyd, and the captain warmly thanked her for what she had done.

Mr. Herbert Cottesmore, producer of *The Belle of Mayfair*, at the Vaudeville Theatre, *Lady Tatters*, at the Shaftesbury, &c., has entered into sketch management. He has already one pronounced success on the road, *Her Princely Betrayer*, written by Robert Wilford, a thrilling Sicilian drama, in tabloid form, which is being rebooked wherever played. His next production is *The Espada*, written by Robert Wilford, a dramatic sketch with a Spanish setting, which opens on Oct. 5 at the Metropolitan, and on Oct. 12 he produces *The Old Willow Plate*, also written by Robert Wilford, and composed by Mark Strong. This is an operatic phantasy, with a novel setting and elaborate mechanical effects.

In place of the old, inconvenient, and uncomfortable ampitheatre and gallery at the Palace Theatre, the architect, Mr. J. Emblin Walker, has had reconstructed a new and commodious ampitheatre, open from wall to wall, filled with "specially made" mahogany, stuffed armchairs, from every one of which a good view of the whole stage is obtainable. This transformation has been made in the record time of six weeks without stopping or curtailing any one of the eight performances per week. At the same time, considerable alterations and improvements have also been carried out in the first circle. Messrs. Hy. Lovatt, Ltd., of Wolverhampton, and Messrs. Moreland, Ltd., engineers, of London, have together most satisfactorily carried out this hurried programme. Messrs. Shoolbred have provided the seats.

Mr. Bert Levi, a black-and-white artist of Jewish descent and of Australian birth, is paying his first visit to England, and has been secured by Mr. Alfred Butt for the Palace Theatre, where he made his début on Monday. He worked on the *Sydney Bulletin* with the late Phil May, and has made a reputation in America by sketching on the stage. He has a patent whereby he sketches to one side of the stage, his drawings being magnified and reproduced on a big screen at the same time.

Before Mr. Registrar Brougham, a sitting was held on Tuesday for the public examination of Geo. Abel, music-hall artist, who presented his own petition, describing himself as of Greycoat-gardens, Westminster. The accounts showed unsecured debts £2,690 17s. 8d., and assets nil. It appeared from the official receiver's observations and the debtor's statements that in February, 1901, after having incurred a loss in connection with a theatrical speculation, he was adjudged bankrupt in the Cheltenham Court, and obtained his discharge subject to a suspension of three years. He afterwards managed the Opera House, Cheltenham, and from July, 1901, until December, 1903, performed on the music-hall stage with his wife, whose stage name was "Ethel Arden."

In April, 1905, a company called "Ethel Arden and George Abel (Limited)" was registered, to which they sold the right of production of certain sketches for a consideration, payable in shares. The debtor afterwards assisted his wife in the production of a music-hall sketch in the United States, and promoted the George Abel Motor Transfer Company, of which he was the president, but it had recently discontinued business. He attributed his insolvency to cancellation of contracts for the production of a musical sketch in consequence of proceedings successfully instituted by the Theatrical Managers' Association. The examination was closed.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

A MOST amusing song, about to be issued by Messrs. Francis and Day, is "Little Willie's Woodbines," sung by Mr. Billy Williams, and written by Barnes and Weston.

"SHADOWLAND," a charming ballad by Percy Edgar, has been set to music by Henry E. Pether, and will be issued immediately by Messrs. Francis and Day, who have also secured a number of the greatest promise, entitled "John Jasper's lady love," sung by Pop Dearly, and written and composed by Hugh E. Wright and Wolseley Charles.

THE news of the advent of Messrs. Francis and Day's Pantomime BOOKS for the season 1908-9 will be hailed with feelings of the deepest satisfaction by the countless artists and managers who require the very cream of the song market for the productions with which they are concerned. The volumes, which this year are bulkier than ever, are four in number, viz., "Principal Boy," "Principal Girl," "Low Comedian and Dame," and Book of Free Songs (suitable for all lines), and, as heretofore, will be supplied to bona-fide producers, managers, and artists stating their line of business and enclosing the sum of sixpence for each volume required, to cover the cost of despatch.

MISS FLORRY COOPER is making a great success with a new number, entitled "Always Smile," by J. Brownson. Miss Fanny Robina is making a hit with another song, "The Land of Promise," written by Billie Bint and composed by Florry Cooper. Both these numbers have been secured by Mr. David Day, and will be published shortly

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Co. possess a strong list of songs for pantomime this year, numbering, among others in their constantly-increasing catalogue, such tried and proven music hall successes as "The Directoire Girl" (Miss Marie Lloyd), "Lovelight," "Poverty Street" (Miss Kate Carney), "Leaving Monte Carlo" (Miss Dora Lyric), and "I want to be among the boys" (Miss Lena Verdi). Pantomime producers, as well as principal boys and girls, will be well advised to make early application for permission to sing these pantomime certainties.

BOTH Miss Alexandra Dagmar and Talbot and Pearce are producing the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s delightful vocal waltz song, "Ever thine," in the provinces at all their engagements, while Mirzka Gynt, the "boy busker," will specially produce it at the William Morris vaudeville houses in America. Miss José Collins will also produce "Ever thine" during her second week at the London Pavilion, and a week later at the Oxford. This is an ideal song for fairy queens in pantomime, providing they possess voices out of the ordinary.

READERS of Lewis Carroll will remember the "Jabberwock," with its eccentric language. Mr. Joseph Williams, of Great Portland-street, has published a series of recitations with music, and the "Jabberwock" is one of the most effective. Sir A. C. Mackenzie has written the music, which is admirably suited to increase the effect of the recitation. The passage where the hero kills the "Jabberwock" and "goes galumphing back" is particularly good. The management of the chromatic runs shows what a gifted musician Sir A. C. Mackenzie is, and the sudden silence while the hero stands lost in thought by the tumtum tree is also a most happy inspiration. The music, though striking, fanciful, and grotesque, does not in a single instance offend the ear. Another splendid musical accompaniment is that to Hood's "Dream of Eugene Aram," in which the descriptive power of the composer calls for the utmost commendation. Sir A. C. Mackenzie also displays no little skill in "The Confession," by Ingoldsby, and in other pieces by Hood. Florian Pascal is another composer who distinguishes himself, and Frederick Dale is gaily successful in lighter pieces not requiring dramatic force. Hood's "Queen Mab" also supplies Sir A. C. Mackenzie with charming musical ideas, expressed mainly in the key of A, but with clever modulations. Another successful recitation is "Ghosts," by Worral, composed by Frederick Dale. The author describes in lively manner the various ghosts that perplex humanity. Hood's "Faithless Nelly Gray" is treated with no little humour by Sir A. C. Mackenzie. He has caught the droll spirit of Hood's poem. We can cordially recommend these recitations with music, as they are superior to any we have seen.

MR. JOSEPH WILLIAMS also publishes the following:—"The Song of the Gargoyle," a quaint fancy written by Lewis Campion and composed by Sidney Ellen. This would prove a success for bass or baritone, being vigorous and original. It is in the key of E flat, and the composer has done full justice to the subject. "To crown my love," words by May Byron, music by Sir A. C. Mackenzie, is a love-song of merit. Two pieces, a Serenade for viola by Gabriel Pierne and "Abendstern" for piano by Sidney Powell, are both well written and fairly original.

MR. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, of 32, Great Portland-street, W., has issued the répertoire of the "Follies," the celebrated company who have met with success everywhere. The composer, Mr. H. G. Pélissier, has greatly contributed to this success by his clever music. Among the various songs, one in particular has puzzled many. That is "Ypsilanti." The verse quoted may give some idea of the subject and treatment:

De sun am settin'
And here I'm frettin'
For de only place on earth there's no forgettin'!
Here in de gloamin',
Like bees a-homin',
My thoughts towards Ypsilanti town are roamin'.
Away dere in de States
For me a lady waits.
REFRAIN:
She's my Amante,
In Ypsilanti,
And in that town we'll settle down
And build a shanty;
But money's scanty,
I'm dilettante,
And so Amante has to wait
In Ypsilanti!

PROFESSIONAL copies of the songs by the "Follies" are sent free by the publisher, providing 6d. and professional card are given. The sprightly character of some of the songs, and the pathos of others, need no recommendation.

"THUMB-NAIL PLOTS" of operettas, cantatas, &c., give not only the characters but the compass required for the principal voices. They include some extremely bright ideas, and are calculated to assist the amateur in the choice of a subject. Full particulars can be obtained of the publishers respecting fees, hire of band parts, &c. The plots of many of these show how well they are adapted to please audiences. Children's operettas are also included.

PART 2 of "Thumb-nail Plots" is devoted to plays, sketches, duologues, without music. These little pieces are full of character, and are contributed by famous authors, one of them being MR. E. L. Blanchard, for twenty-two years the writer of Drury Lane pantomimes. Mr. Burnand also contributes a comedietta, *One too Many*, composed by Mr. Cowen. Several others deserve hearty commendation.

VARIETY ARTISTS' FEDERATION.

THE AGENT QUESTION.

A mass meeting of members of the Variety Artists' Federation was held, under the chairmanship of Mr. Joe O'Gorman, at the Bedford Head Hotel, yesterday afternoon, for the purpose of further considering the position of affairs which had arisen consequent upon the refusal of the agents to accept the terms offered by the Federation in respect of the commission note prepared by the Federation, and to consider certain resolutions in connection therewith. The meeting was characterised by the numbers and enthusiasm of its members.

The CHAIRMAN, in his opening address, said that it was with the greatest sense of responsibility that he addressed them that afternoon. Not even during the late strike had they a more representative gathering than they had to-day. The agents had made an attempt to bluff them; they had wilfully insulted the artists, and the former would now have to understand that the artists would not tolerate any insults. The time was past for them to consider people who went out of their way to insult the representatives of 4,000 loyal workers of the music hall profession. Their business now had grown to big dimensions, big salaries were earned, and much capital was sunk in music hall enterprises. Yet even Mr. Arthur Collins, of Drury Lane, had tried to hold them up to the obloquy of the public. But Mr. Collins, Mr. Cecil Raleigh, and the others had reckoned without their host. The artists had threatened to demonstrate in Drury Lane Theatre night after night until the scene complained of was withdrawn. They were all depicted as a lot of drunken, brawling idiots. There might, unfortunately, be a few people in the business who "tippled," but he could defy Mr. Collins or Mr. Raleigh to say that there was any profession more honourable than the music hall profession. Reverting to the question of the trouble with the agents, the Chairman read the correspondence which had passed between the Federation and the agents. The latter had invited the executive committee of the Federation to agree to arbitration, failing which the agents stated that they would take such steps as they might be advised. Mr. Monte Bayly wrote back on his instructions to say that the Federation would not, under any circumstances, accept arbitration in any form, and the agents were now at liberty to take any steps they might consider necessary. Some twenty-one of the "younger bloods" among the agents had agreed to accept the V.A.F. office copy, and nineteen of the "fogies" had refused to accept it. It was understood that pressure had been put on some of the agents by a certain great manager. It had been rumoured that this manager had informed the agents that any of them who accepted the Federation terms would never have any bookings with him. The artist cared nothing for the manager who said such a thing as that. This was a fight with the agents, and if the managers wanted any fight with the artists they could have it. If they found that the manager referred to had made this statement they would instantly consider him as a belligerent and a party to the fight. The time had now arrived when they would stand no more domineering or dictation from any quarter whatsoever. They had tried to avoid trouble with the agents, and no half measures were now possible. The leading artists in the profession only paid 5 per cent. commission, but then they had big income taxes to meet. The poorer artists were compelled to pay ten per cent. Then, where the manager stopped 2½ per cent., the agent in the majority of cases demanded and got his 10 per cent. Then, why did they want the same commission on a re-engagement? Mr. Granville stated that when he had made an engagement or a re-engagement he considered that he had earned 20 per cent. There was a clause in their contract which said that they must not assign any portion of their salary to anybody. Therefore, when they signed the agent's office copy they could not assign any portion of their salaries to the managers.

Mr. BEN TILLETT recommended the meeting to leave open every avenue to reason, conciliation, and settlement, so that no complaint could be afterwards levelled against them. The artists had been so long associated with the organised Labour movement that he would advise any manager to be very careful before he took drastic steps in the treatment of the most humble artist they had in their ranks.

The CHAIRMAN said that they had given the agents until twelve o'clock that day to accept their office copy, and those agents who had agreed before noon to accept it would be entitled to the 10 per cent. commission. Mr. Harry Day had been intimidated by some of the managers and the agents, and it was said that they had captured him again. But he (the Chairman) cared nought for that. They were better without him.

The following agency people had accepted the Federation commission note:—Messrs. Tom Pacey, Jack Lotto, Fred Neiman, Papa Brown, Will Dalton, Jess Verno, Henri Cazman, David Hyman, Alf. Auckland, Albemarle Syndicate, J. Brown and Co., Fred Durham, Frank Lynne, E. K. Smith (Advanced Vaudeville Bureau), Alf. Selwyn, George Pearson, Tom Gannon's Agency, Edwin W. Smith, Leslie's Variety Agency, Chevalier Cliquot, Fred Darrell and Co., Northern Counties Variety Agency, Arthur Hample, Dietrich's Agency, J. Tysoe Smith, Sam Hart, Alfred Saker, and Sam Bury. The great ones among the agents had not come in, although, without a single exception, they had stated that they would take a commission not to exceed ten per cent., and would accept the V.A.F. office copy.

Mr. W. H. CLEMART, speaking on the subject of suspending payment of commission to agents, said that as from Sept. 21 the artists were not to pay anything that might be owing to the agents until the latter had accepted the office copy, and such agents were now on 5 per cent. instead of 10 per cent. There was a point on which he would like to issue a warning to the managers. If the latter were going to interfere with their trouble with the agents, the artists would regard the managers as fighting against them. If for that purpose the managers stopped the commission out of the artist's salary, then the Federation would reopen the question as to whether the managers had any right to cut up the commission with the agents. The artists would then insist upon the commission being paid to the agents only, and the agents would probably then be glad enough to accept 5 per cent. The manager to whom reference had been made as having interfered in the struggle between the artists and the agents was Mr. Oswald Stoll. That, however, was only a rumour, and he could scarcely believe that Mr. Stoll would be so foolish. But if Mr. Stoll stated officially on the following night that he would back up the agents, he (Mr. Clemart) would be the first one to say "strike" the Stoll tour on Monday evening. A new Federation office copy was in the hands of the printers, which limited the commission to 5 per cent. and deleted the clause as to the manager having the right to deduct the commission. The artists would employ that in the case of agents who had refused to agree to the Federation's terms, and the 10 per cent. office copy could be used for the agents who had consented to accept the V.A.F. form.

Mr. WAL PINK read some of the correspondence from the Agents' Association to its members advising the latter to request managers and proprietors to deduct commission from salaries. The executive of the Federation had given instructions to their solicitor to write to the proprietors and managers stating that no commission must be stopped from the artists' salaries, or the managers would be sued for the amounts. The agents had also drawn up a commission note which provided that in the event of any engagements procured by the agent not being fulfilled, the commission was, notwithstanding, to be payable, illness alone excepted. He thought that that alone should make the artists all stand together.

Mr. JOE ELVIN expressed the opinion that the artists were the masters of the situation, and the agents were the servants, and whatever the artists ordered the agents had got to do. He felt sure that the executive committee would look after the interests of the whole body of artists, and that the artists would support the committee.

Mr. EUGENE STRATTON, Mr. WILKIE BARD, Mr. R. A. ROBERTS, and Mr. FRED. RUSSELL also spoke on the same subject.

Mr. R. G. KNOWLES then proposed the resolution before the meeting, as follows:—

"That in the case of all agents who have not accepted the form of commission note issued by the Federation, the commission be forthwith reduced to 5 per cent., and the clause authorising the managers to deduct the commission for the agents be deleted."

Mr. BRANSBY WILLIAMS, in seconding, said that he hoped that what had been said as to the action of a certain manager was nothing more than a rumour.

The resolution was then put to the meeting, and carried unanimously, amid great enthusiasm.

Miss VICTORIA MONKS proposed, and Miss LAMBERT (of Terry and Lambert) seconded, the following motion:—"That this meeting expresses its confidence in the Executive Committee in its action with regard to the agents, and pledges the members of the Federation to support to the uttermost any action the Executive may deem it necessary to take."

This was also carried unanimously.

A third resolution, proposed by Mr. W. H. CLEMART, and seconded by Mr. R. G. KNOWLES, read:—"That, if by Friday, October 2, next, at twelve noon, any agent has not accepted the amended commission note, he shall not be allowed to come to terms with the V.A.F. unless he consents in writing to the abolition of the re-engagement clause in past as well as in future contracts." Carried unanimously.

During the meeting letters and telegrams were received from sixty-six meetings throughout the country, expressing confidence in the Executive, and wishing success.

MR. ROWLAND HILL has produced an original Dame song from the pen of Tom B. Newsome, entitled "Dear John; or my week-end husband." This will be a winner for pantomime dames.

AT the Canterbury Miss Madge Temple is scoring a great success with "Esau, take me on the see-saw" and the popular "Pansy," both of which are taken up with great vigour by the audience.

V.A.F. AND THE AGENTS.

In our issue of the 19th inst. we printed the two resolutions passed by the V.A.F. at their meeting on the 18th and the Model Office Copy of Commission Note. Later in the same afternoon the following letter was despatched to every member of the Federation:—

Dear Sir,—The agents are trying to obtain the assistance of the managers in their fight, and have instructed them to deduct commission from artists to-night and onwards. The Committe instruct you most emphatically to object to this proceeding, except in cases where it is distinctly written in the confirmation received by you from the management. We suggest concerted action here—no individual protesting, but the protest of the whole company.—Yours faithfully,

MONTE BAYLY,
General Secretary.

On Friday, the 18th, the variety agents held a well-attended meeting at the Queen's Hotel, Leicester-square, when the letter from the V.A.F., printed in our Variety Gossip columns of the 19th, was under consideration. The meeting was private, and no communication was made to the Press.

Another meeting of agents was held at the same place on Tuesday to consider the V.A.F.'s ultimatum, but no decision was communicated to the Press. On Wednesday the V.A.F. announced in the papers that a letter had been received by the Executive of the V.A.F. at their meeting on Tuesday from Mr. Harry Day, the well-known agent, agreeing to accept the Model Office Copy of Commission Note.

The following resolution of the Executive of the V.A.F. was adopted at their meeting on Tuesday:

That all agents who intimate to the head office of the Federation in writing their acceptance of the Federation Office Copy before 12 o'clock noon on Friday, September 25, will be entitled to the conditions contained therein, notwithstanding any action the Executive Committee may deem it advisable to take in the case of agents who have not so complied at that time.

The following letter from the Agents' Association was sent to the Federation on Tuesday:—

Dear Sir,—At the meeting of agents this day, which was very largely attended, it was unanimously resolved that the Executive Committee of the V.A.F. be asked to receive a small deputation to consider the matters in dispute, with a view to a pacific solution.

I shall, therefore, be glad to be informed if your Executive Committee are agreeable to meet this deputation, and, if so, will you kindly suggest a date and hour for the meeting.—Yours truly,

SYDNEY M. HYMAN,
Secretary (*pro tem.*).

29, Leicester-square, W.C.
General Secretary, Variety Artists' Federation, September 22.

In reply to this communication the following reply was sent on behalf of the V.A.F. Executive:

Dear Sir,—Having received at your hands, on two prior occasions, an insult, we do not purpose courting another; therefore we cannot receive your deputation.

If, however, your members should agree to accept our terms, the offer is still open until noon on Friday next, 25th inst.—Yours faithfully,

MONTE BAYLY,
General Secretary.

September 23, 1908.
Sydney Hyman, Esq.,
Secretary (*pro tem.*), Agents' Association,
29, Leicester-square, W.C.

Late on Wednesday evening a communication was received from Mr. Sydney Hyman, on behalf of certain of the agents, inviting the Federation Committee to agree to submit the settlement of the present dispute in respect to the re-engagement clause of the "office copy" "to the arbitration of some independent person" The Federation considers that this point has already been covered by the vote of a general meeting and ballot of the members, which resulted in an instruction to the Executive Committee to accept nothing less than the total abolition of the re-engagement clause. A letter has therefore been forwarded to Mr. Hyman rejecting the suggestion of arbitration in any shape or form.

THE dispute reached a crisis on Thursday, when at a large and influential gathering of agents at the Queen's Hotel, Leicester-square, it was proposed by Mr. Richard Warner and seconded by Mr. Tom Shaw:—

"That the V.A.F. having refused arbitration, the terms offered by the Federation be rejected."

This resolution was carried unanimously and signed by the following gentlemen, being all the agents who attended the meeting:—Tom Shaw, Harry Goodson, J. Laurie Graydon, William Edelsten, George Barclay, Leo Fritz, Leon Zeitlin, Tom Holmes, Reeves' Agency, Geo. Aytoun, Harry Bawn, Geo. Foster, p.p. William Morris (Paul Murray), H. W. Wieland, Tom Claxton, Fred Higham, Ernest Cadle, Capt. Claremont (for Clarefield's Agency), David Bliss, Jack Goodson, H. B. Marinelli, Ltd. (E. Wollheim), Hartley Milburn, Walter Bentley, David Cohen, Felice Napoli, Geo. H. Brooks, Carl F. Hooper, Allan Fitzroy Maclean, George Peel, Fred Neiman, p.p. Ashton and Mitchell, Ltd. (W. S. Adacker), P. Anger, Ernest de Vere, Arthur Day, Hugh J. Didcott, Ben Nathan (Day's Agency), Will Sley, Harry Day (pp. H. G.), Emanuel Warner, J. W. Johnson, Ernest Edelsten, Fortune and Granville, p.p. Paul Schultze (Bert Howell), Sherek and Braff, John Halpin, H. Hart, Jack Somers, C. G. Cautley, Richard Warner, G. Bauer, Will Oliver, Sidney M. Hyman.

At a meeting held on Sunday evening of the Water-Rats, a proposal was considered for establishing an official central agency, the object of which would be to arrange engagements for all artists who were members of the Water-Rats or the Variety Artists' Federation. The opinions expressed were that with a limited charge of 2½ per cent. for booking engagements, the agency would not merely be self-supporting, but it would be possible to show a very fair margin of profit on the business which would be negotiated. A special meeting of the Water-Rats is called for Sunday next, when the matter will be further gone into.

As various inaccuracies and misstatements have crept into the columns of the daily Press concerning Mr. Harry Day and his attitude towards the Federation, we insert the following letter to us on the matter from Mr. Day:—

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—A statement appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* of the 24th inst. to the effect that I had agreed to accept the office copy issued by the Variety Artists' Federation.

It is perfectly true that I told the secretary of the Federation over the telephone that I would adopt it. I did so in the interests of peace, and with a sincere endeavour to terminate a dispute that can only bear disastrous results for the artists themselves.

Since then, it is with sincere regret I read in the official organ of the Federation—the *Performer*—the aspersions cast upon the agents as a body, and the threats of annihilation uttered by the Executive Committee of the Federation if the agents do not accede to their unjust demands; also the notice they have issued to all artists of the Federation, not to pay any commission (justly owing) until the agents agree to their terms.

The agents asked that the matter in dispute should be referred to arbitration; a request that has been indignantly refused by the Federation.

Under these circumstances, the agents have no alternative but to reject the office copy put before them for adoption, and any offer I made to adopt such copy I withdraw, and shall rely, together with my brother agents, on those artists we have served faithfully and well, regarding the matter in a fair spirit, and allowing the matter in dispute to be referred to an impartial arbitrator.

THE Committee of the Music Hall Home desires to thank Mr. Rosslyn Stuart, Burton House, Brixton-road, for box collection of 13s. 6d.; also for present of parcel of useful men's clothes from Ernest Cadle, of Cadle's Agency, 105, Strand. Thanks are also due to Bob Graham, Electric-avenue, Brixton, who has taken a box for the M. H. Home. The next committee meeting will be held at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday next at 12 noon.

AT the 577th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A., held at the offices on Wednesday, there were present Messrs. Fred Herbert (in the chair), Harold Finden, Sid Bandon, Arthur Gallimore, Billy Brown, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). Mr. Thos. T. Hall, of the Blue Cow Hotel, Grantham, was appointed agent in that town. The weekly statement, showing forty-nine new members and a cash total of £52 15s. 6d., was passed.

THE committee of the Music Hall Home desires to thank Mr. Ernest Cadle, of Cadle's Agency, for a parcel of useful men's clothes, also Mr. E. H. Giles for collection of £2 0s. 6d. at the laying of the foundation stone of the New Empire, Edmonton. Messrs. Leon Bassett, W. S. Bassett, and G. P. R. Burgess have been added to the list of vice-presidents of the charity, and Messrs. E. C. Webb and H. Thacker have been elected on the committee. The next committee meeting will be held at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday next, at 12 noon.

MISS MELINDA MAY, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., tenders her thanks to Miss Lil Hawthorne for her kind gift of a guinea; also Dr. Robertson, 10s.; Mrs. Herbert, for children's velvet dresses; and Mrs. Ernest Collins for useful parcel of ladies' clothing. Miss May would be grateful for gentlemen's as well as ladies' wearing apparel. Through making a presentable appearance many of the unemployed have been able to obtain engagements. Friends of the charity are heartily welcomed to the receptions held every Wednesday, 3 to 5 o'clock.

MANY people are inquiring about Billie Bint and his concerts at the old St. James's Hall. The irrepressible Billie, who used to tell Cockneys that his "father was a marquis," has been going extra strong for eight weeks on the Broadhead tour. He would be pleased to hear from any old friends. A letter will always find him, c/o *The Era*.

THE Empire Theatre made elaborate arrangements for a complete Bioscope record of the great "four-inch" motor race in the Isle of Man on Thursday. Operators were placed throughout the twenty-one sections of the thirty-eight mile course, and at all points where difficulties were likely to ensue.

MESSRS. WITMARK have in the press a smart humorous song, written and composed by Dave Reed, and entitled "Everybody knows it's there." Mr. Charles Warren has had a number of additional verses written by Edgar Bateman.

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT'S song, "Sue, Sue, Sue," from the pens of Messrs. Lester Barrett and Hermann E. Darewski, jun., shows excellent indications of becoming one of the songs of the year, as does Mr. R. G. Knowles' new furore "£ s. d.," by Charles Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski.

ANGLING from the Palace Pier at Brighton last Saturday, Mr. Bedford, of the Hippodrome orchestra, had his bait taken by a 10lb. octopus. With the help of walking sticks and a landing-net the creature, fighting hard with beak and tentacles, was carried to the Aquarium, where is has since attracted numberless visitors, it having been placed in one of the tanks.

A PARTICULAR attraction in the way of new turns at the Tivoli on Monday is Miss Madge Temple, who makes a reappearance in a whole budget of new songs by Hermann E. Darewski, jun. Another new turn is W. W. Jacobs and Charles Rock's popular sketch *The Ghost of Jerry Bundler*.

MESSRS. JOHN P. HARRINGTON AND ORLANDO POWELL have this week supplied Miss Lily Langtry ith an entirely new and original character comedy number, entitled "I couldn't keep still for laughing," which should certainly (if titles go for anything) suit this volatile artist down to the ground. The same author and composer's big song, "Oh, the Exhibition!" sung by the same artist, still continues to be the most popular in Miss Langtry's present répertoire at the suburban Stoll halls.

THE success of Messrs. Harrington and Powell's "Directoire" song, specially written for Miss Marie Lloyd, has been speedily duplicated by the same popular writers' "I can't make my eyes be good," and the fair Marie has commissioned the "old firm" to supply her with yet another couple of comedy numbers, specially written to suit her inimitable style, which may be tentatively entitled "If you want to marry a ——" and "I'll live in hopes." Both of these new songs will be exploited at Miss Lloyd's West End engagements at an early date.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,
142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"

Miss FLORRIE FORDE'S LATEST SENSATION.

Will be the rage of the coming pantomimes. Principal Boys and Girls should secure this at once.

OH! OH! ANTONIO!

"RATS" AND THE LANE DRAMA.

In connection with the production at Drury-lane of *The Marriages of Mayfair*, objection is taken quite naturally by music hall artists to the scene in the play in which a party of variety actors and actresses appear at a shooting party and behave, at the open-air luncheon, in a way that impugns the character of the variety profession. It is not a question of hypersensitiveness on the part of the profession, as a direct reference is made to the Water Rats, and the personal nature of the imputation is also emphasised by the singing of the Rats' anthem. As a consequence, the following correspondence has passed between Mr. W. H. Clemart, King of the Grand Order of Water Rats, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, a past King Rat, and president of the executive committee of the Variety Artists' Federation, and Mr. Arthur Collins, manager of the Theatre Royal, Drury-lane:—

Monday Morning.

Dear Mr. Collins,—We understand that in your production of *Marriages of Mayfair* it is intended to introduce a scene which is calculated to cast discredit on the Grand Order of Water Rats, and I am empowered by the Order to protest very strongly, and request that all references to our Society be deleted, and in particular our anthem, which is our property.—Yours, &c.,

W. H. CLEMART, King Rat.

On the same day a telegram was sent by Mr. Collins as follows:—

Clemart, Vaudeville Club, London.—Yours received. No time to write. There is nothing in *Marriages of Mayfair* which can reasonably give the smallest offence to any of my music-hall friends. I should never permit it, and my authors do not wish it.

ARTHUR COLLINS.

At midnight the following letter was sent by Mr. Clemart:—

Dear Mr. Collins,—I pointed out to you in my last letter that our anthem was our personal property, and must not be used in your production. Two of our officers were present this evening, and have reported that the manner in which you have allowed it to be introduced is an insult to this Order. I am now to give you notice that unless it is deleted to-morrow evening legal proceedings will be taken against you.

W. H. CLEMART, King Rat.

With reference to the foregoing it was decided at Tuesday afternoon's meeting of the Executive Committee of the Variety Artists' Federation to forward the following letter to Mr. Arthur Collins:—

Sir,—According to the reports we have received from our members who were present last evening at the first performance of *Marriages of Mayfair*, we understand you have permitted a scene which holds up to ridicule and contempt the profession which this Federation has the honour to represent. We now give you notice that it will be to the interest of your shareholders and of the capital sunk in the production if you expunge without the slightest delay such objectionable matter.—Yours, &c.,

JOE O'GORMAN (Chairman).

Mr. W. H. Clemart, "King Rat," on Tuesday received the following letter from Mr. Arthur Collins:—

Dear Mr. Clemart,—In reply to your letter of the 21st inst., I beg to say that, since you take exception to what you call the Water Rats' Anthem in the *Marriages of Mayfair*, I should be glad to know when it was published and copyrighted.

Would you be good enough to tell me whether we may not sing "Please to remember the fifth of November" without the permission of Guy Fawkes, or the Eton boat song without the permission of the College authorities, or "Dulce Domum" without the sanction of the authorities of Winchester School?

So far as I am personally concerned, I don't wish to offend the susceptibilities of the Water Rats or any other well-meaning institution, but I must refer you to the authors of the play, with whom I am under contract which I cannot break.—Yours, &c.,

ARTHUR COLLINS.

Mr. W. H. Clemart and Mr. Joe O'Gorman, with Mr. Fred Russell, the ventriloquist, and Little Tich, were all at the Eccentric Club on Tuesday, when Mr. Arthur Collins came in, and they had a little informal round-table conference. They were able to show Mr. Collins that they regarded the matter more seriously, and attached more importance to it than he had supposed, and they also reminded him how such well-known members of the Order of "Water-Rats" as Mr. Dan Leno, Mr. Harry Randall, Mr. Neil Kenyon, and others had helped Drury Lane. Mr. Collins, recognising that they were treating the matter very seriously, assured them that he had no desire whatever to wound their susceptibilities, and said he would with pleasure delete the reference to the "Water-Rats" and the anthem.

They also pointed out to him, on behalf of the music-hall profession generally, that the particular scene in the drama depicted a state of affairs that might have existed, if at all, five-and-twenty years ago, and that nowadays music-hall artists behaved themselves just as well as any other body of persons. Mr. Collins said he thought they were too sensitive, and pointed out that all classes of people were occasionally held up in the drama to a little mild ridicule, and although on the general question he was not able to make anything like so definite a promise as he gave with regard to the "Water-Rats," he said he would do all that was possible, without jeopardising the story, not to show the members of the music-hall profession in an undesirable light.

PORTSMOUTH HIPPODROME LICENCE.

A special meeting of the Watch Committee of the Portsmouth Town Council on Tuesday morning had before them an important application from Mr. George Harris, the resident manager of the Hippodrome for a licence authorising the performance of stage plays at that place of amusement.

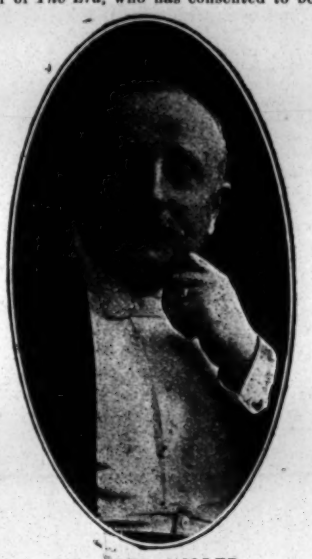
Mr. G. H. King (instructed by Mr. Walter de Frece, managing-director of the Hippodrome, Ltd.) appeared in support of the application; and Mr. E. Hobbs opposed the licence in the interests of licence-holders in the vicinity, and Mr. Cromwell Prior opposed on behalf of the Citizens' Union. Mr. H. T. Goddard, the President of the Portsmouth and District Free Church Council, joined the opposition in the interests of that body.

Mr. King pointed out that the Hippodrome, Ltd., in May, 1907, applied to the magistrates for a music, singing, and dancing licence, which was granted with the restriction imposed that no intoxicating liquors should be sold on the premises. In October it was necessary for the company to apply for a renewal, which was granted, with the same restriction that they were not to sell intoxicating liquors on the premises. The directors after mature consideration, decided to apply for a dramatic licence, with a view to having down London companies for flying matinées, and so that at Christmas, when it was most difficult to get good high-class musical turns, they might run a pantomime. That, at present, was their only reason for the application. They, of course, knew that the licence carried with it the authority to sell liquor, but he (Mr. King) had been instructed to say that no intoxicating liquor should be sold.

In view of this statement, the opposition was withdrawn, and the committee, after visiting the building and considering the application in private, announced that they had agreed to recommend that the licence be granted, with the condition that no excisеable liquors be sold or consumed on the premises, and also that the licensee give an undertaking not to make an application for an excise licence.

MR. FRED MILLER'S TESTIMONIAL.

The excellent qualities of Mr. Fred Miller, as a man, as a sportsman, and as a manager, are generally recognised by all branches of the profession, and no artist or proprietor who has ever come into contact with him has failed to recognise his sterling honesty of purpose, or to be impressed by his unobtrusive courtesy and consideration to everyone working with him. For fifteen years Mr. Miller has been associated with the halls, and though the sphere of his activity for most of that time has been restricted to the South and East of London, his connection with the Syndicate has brought him much popularity up West. Several of his friends, taking into consideration his long and honourable career, feel that the present time is very opportune for presenting him with a testimonial, which it is intended shall take the shape of a purse of gold. Mr. W. H. Armstrong, the well-known professional solicitor, of 1, Renfrew-road, Lambeth, is interesting himself in the project, and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, manager of *The Era*, who has consented to become



MR. FRED MILLER.

the hon. treasurer of the fund, will be pleased to receive subscriptions. A strong and influential committee is being formed.

It was at Lechlade, Gloucestershire, that Mr. Fred Miller first saw the light. His father, an influential grazing farmer, was an enthusiastic rider to hounds, and from the age of twelve young Fred followed his father in the field, and in many an eventful run was in the first flight. At the age of seventeen he accepted an offer from an uncle in the cattle trade, and settled down with him at Wormholt Farm, Shepherd's Bush, where he gained considerable experience and became a good business man. The death of his uncle brought about a change in his fortunes, and he accepted a situation as travelling secretary with Captain Macdonald. Again his employer died, and he had to try fresh fields and pastures new. Through the instrumentality of the late Mr. Harry Lundy, distantly related to him through marriage, Mr. Miller was introduced to Mr. George Adney Payne, who gave him the position of secretary to Mr. Arthur Tressidder, then manager of the Paragon. On Mr. Tressidder's departure on a voyage in search of health Mr. Miller was transferred to Mr. Will Lennon, the successor of Mr. Tressidder at the Paragon. At his death Mr. G. A. Payne chose Mr. Miller for the managership of the house in the Mile End-road, and on the resignation of Mr. Fred Holden of his position at the Canterbury Mr. Miller was installed as manager of both the Canterbury and the Paragon.

The jubilee of the Canterbury in November, 1902, when Charles Morton paid his last visit to a house that was indelibly associated with his career, owed its interest and its success to the organising powers of Mr. Miller, who placed before the patrons of the historic house a novel realisation of the present and past in music-hall entertainment. The portraits of favourites of the 'sixties, the 'seventies, and the 'eighties were thrown upon a screen, and many of the famous old songs were sung by new favourites. It was a great night. Though Mr. Miller has severed his connection with the Canterbury, it is to be hoped that he will be placed in a position commensurate with his abilities and experience at another hall. His many friends anticipate that it will be in London.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Dr. Bodie	2	2	0
Harry Lauder	1	1	0
Foreman and Fannan	1	1	0
Frost Smith	1	1	0
Little Tich	1	1	0
Henri Gros	1	1	0
George Mozart	1	1	0
Mark Melford	1	1	0
W. T. Helmsley	1	1	0
Henry Kemble	1	1	0
Bertha Stuart	1	1	0
Tom Shaw	1	1	0
J. Leopold	1	1	0
Kendall Robinson	1	1	0
Gilbert Girard	1	1	0
Dave Carter	1	1	0
John Nathan	1	1	0
Paul Cinquevalli	1	1	0
S. G. Goodwin	1	1	0
George Loader	1	1	0
J. Collins	1	1	0
Will Evans	1	1	0
Fred Abrahams	1	1	0
Michael Abrahams	1	1	0
Harry Rickards	1	1	0
Margaret Parker	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson	1	1	0
Theophilus Dunkley	1	1	0
W. F. Frame (Hooch Aye)	0	10	6
A. E. Abrahams	0	10	6
E. Bosanquet	0	5	0

Mr. Kendall Robinson, a staunch friend of Mr. Fred Miller, in sending a contribution to this Fund, testifies as follows:—"I have much pleasure in enclosing cheque for one guinea for the Miller Testimonial. I have known Mr. Miller for many years. Uniformly warm-hearted and open-handed, his kindnesses and 'good turns' to large numbers of those who were brought in contact with him at the Paragon and Canterbury can only have been limited by his physical capacity for doing them."

A PICKPOCKET was cleverly captured at a Montmartre music hall on Monday evening. Becoming suspicious of the movements of a man in the audience, the manager decided to have him arrested, and this was accomplished in the following ingenious fashion. A palmist being sent for and instructed what to do, the manager announced that the next item on the programme would be an extra turn by a fortune-teller. The first person called on the stage from among the audience was the suspected thief. The palmist said: "I see by the lines on your hand that you are an expert pickpocket, and have been operating in this hall. I am therefore obliged to give you in charge." The man protested energetically, but the palmist, addressing the spectators, said: "Will those whose watch, purse, or pocketbook is missing kindly stand up?" One after another a dozen persons rose, declaring that they had been robbed. It was then impossible for the pickpocket to deny his guilt, and he was immediately handed over to the police.

"THE LITTLE NEW ZEALANDER."

This is the title adopted by Miss Henriquette Maude, who, after much wandering in America and the Australian Commonwealth, has established herself in the Motherland as a variety artist. She started from her home in the spring of 1904, and, after booking a passage to Sydney, she was left with only £2 to face the world alone. She has since travelled over 50,000 miles, 14,000 of them on foot. From Sydney the intrepid girl proceeded to Melbourne, where she arrived just at the time of a great racing scandal. This was caused by the death of a jockey while riding in the Melbourne Cup race. He was left uncared for on the course while his horse was attended to. Miss Maude took the incident up, and recited at various halls in the town on the jockey's behalf, with the result that a number of societies were formed for the protection of the Australian boys.

Among other regions the young traveller has visited are Honolulu, Vancouver, Canada, and the United States. At Portland, Oregon, she arrived when the great American Fair was being held, and there arranged a side show in a tent and gave dramatic recitals. She then went to San Francisco, and entered a theatrical competition, securing, out of five hundred competitors, the first prize—a gold medal—which was presented to her by President Roosevelt.

This retrospect of her adventures is affording considerable interest to audiences at the Euston this week, where Miss Maude, dressed in the picturesque costume of the Texan cowboy, adds to the excellence of her highly original entertainment by reciting Mr. Frank Desprez's cleverly-written and thrilling poem "Lasca," for which an extended popularity is assured. Miss Maude's receptions are particularly gratifying, and her remarkable personality should speed her in the good graces of Londoners, who appreciate to the full grit, pluck, and initiative.

The star comedian of the programme is Little Tich, whose mirthful methods and quaint dancing make him an immense favourite—a fact to be discovered in the packed houses during the week. *Lift 'Ems, Limited*, Mr. Chris Davis's latest concoction, has been recently noticed in these columns. As a vehicle for the uproarious fun and clever antics of the Brothers Luck it is quite ingenious, and we anticipate for it a most successful career. It gains in briskness and sparkle with every performance, and evokes the heartiest laughter. A clever and smartly-written comedietta is that presented by Mr. and Mrs. Royston Dene. It is entitled *My Lady's Chamber*. An adventuress of the "upper suckles" has secured a compromising letter of a highly-placed Lothario, and threatens blackmail. By obtaining admission to her boudoir and locking the door upon her, he brings my lady not only to reason, but compels her to write him a love-letter. The dialogue is particularly smart, and there is not a dull moment in the playlet, which is admirably acted. Mr. Bert Danson, comedian, is advancing rapidly, and has already made himself a hot favourite with the Eustonians, who appreciate his patter to the full. Miss Daisy Jerome's introduction of a reference to the Druce case dragged into her song "A little pat of butter on the floor" sounds just a little antiquated, but her reference to Joe Chamberlain in the same number brings down the house. Miss Ethel Newman shows the power and charm of a practised and gifted comedienne in her monologue; Wm. Lee and Helen Bentley add to the strength of the bill by their acting of the little sketch, *The King's Counsel*; the Jees present with their customary success their *Musical Smithy* sketch; and nothing more choice in the way of musical accomplishment could be found than the turn of Roma and Romani, whose act creates a furore. Mr. Will Driscoll, swell comedian, opens the programme, of which an attractive item is Ruffell's Bioscope, with a most interesting series of films. Mr. Fred M'Avoy is the courteous and genial manager here.

"A SCOTTISH EXILE'S DREAM."

The comic characteristics of the Scotsman have been freely presented of late on the variety stage, and it has been left for Mr. John Donald, a talented representative of the race, to depict his sentimental side. He does so very effectively in his song-scena *A Scottish Exile's Dream*, which is an item of the programme at the Camberwell Palace this week. The scene represents the interiod of a barely-furnished apartment. Seated at a table is a brawny Scot in tartan and plaid, who laments his separation from his native land, and, to drown his cares, had taken part in a jolly dinner-party the night before. Over the fireplace in an illuminated frame is a facsimile of the bill of fare, in which a prominent part is played by "a wee drap o' Scotch," that item occupying no less than three places on the menu. An honoured position is also given to the "haggis," which is alluded to as "king of the pudding race."

The Scotsman sinks to slumber, when upon the screen there appears a portrait of Bobbie Burns, to which the exile pays tribute, also making homage to a picture of Scott. He recalls, in well-spoken rhyme, the songs of his native land, and the natural outcome is the rendering of a specimen which takes the form of "Mary of Argyle," sung with admirable expression. "John Anderson, my Jo," "The moon is on the lake," and "The bonnie banks of Loch Lomond" follow in pleasing sequence, each air being introduced by an effective recitation, while a fitting finale is reached in "Auld lang syne." Mr. Donald makes a commanding appearance in his picturesque array, and renders his songs with much feeling. He has a fine baritone voice, which tells effectively throughout, and rings clear as a bell in some high notes. His success on the occasion of our visit was complete.

WILL OLIVER'S MARRIAGE.

The marriage by special licence of Will Oliver to Mrs. K. Theurer took place on Saturday last at the Registrar's office, Brixton-road, immediately opposite Spot Lodge. Although the announcement was not made in any journal until it appeared in *The Era* on the day fixed for the ceremony, there was a tremendous crowd of professional and private friends waiting to give the happy couple a hearty greeting as they walked from the office to their carriage in waiting. Several of the boys held the doors, and the happy couple were kept waiting until "My father's face" and "He's a jolly good fellow" had been sung. The marriage was witnessed by Tom Holmes (who came from Dundee), Miss Brown (the bride's aunt), Roma and Romani, and Mrs. and Miss Godwin, personal friends of both the contracting parties. Before leaving, Will and his bride paid a visit to Ye Old White Horse, where Mr. and Mrs. Bogie Green had placed their large room at their disposal for a display of the presents. The room was crowded. The cake was cut, and congratulations on all sides were to be heard. In a neat speech Tom Holmes, as Will's partner for nearly twenty years, said: "His business capabilities you all know. For myself, I say he is one of the most honest and straightforward men alive." The speaker emphasised the fact that Will's generosity was well known to all, but he assured them they heard of but very few of his countless acts of kindness. He had known the bride quite a long time. She was a smart business woman. She had been a good wife and was a good mother. She had been a pal to Will, and he felt sure she would make him an excellent wife."

As the happy couple left for Victoria there was a great send-off, and their carriages were followed by several taxi's full of well-wishers to give them a parting cheer and to smother them with confetti. On their arrival at Brighton they proceeded to the York Hotel. Writing from there, Will, in a letter to us, says: "We have had a royal time. Harry Preston, the boss here, has done us well. We shall be home before your paper appears. I ask you to thank everybody who so kindly remembered us for their handsome presents." The presents included the following:—

T. E. Dunville, silver tantalus; Roma and Romani, silver cake dish; the Walcotts and Mrs. Easton, silver tea and coffee service; Mr. and Mrs. Henderson, table cloths and serviettes; Miss Brown, silver brushes, mirror, and jewel stand; the little Theurers, silver button and glove hook and shoe horn; Mr. and Mrs. McIvor, case of cutlery and silver cruet; Carrie Joy and Sid Gurling, salad bowl; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Couch, gong; Mrs. Green, handsome dressing-gown; Miss Mayme Cannon, sovereign mounted for bangle; Miss Amy Marsden and Harry Wright, silver chain for keys, with coins and silver stamp-case; Miss Carrie Laurie, handsome bedspread, &c.; Miss Crissie Cross, silver purse; Miss Wilcox and Miss

MR. AND MRS. WILL OLIVER.

Stephens, specimen glasses; Mr. and Mrs. Shirley (Shirley and Ransome), silver and pearl fish knives; Miss May Loftus, silver salt cellars; Mr. and Mrs. Delome, case of fish, poultry and joint carvers, and silver knife-rests; Miss Sadie Simpson and Mrs. Simpson, gold-mounted umbrella; Miss Maude Mortimer, gold and turquoise bangle and silver tankard; Miss Selina Seaforth, gold brooch; Miss Millie Tempest, set of handsome antique jugs; Sister Simms, silver letter-weights; Tommy (White Horse), cucumber dish; Mrs. Fred Karno, embroidered tray cloth; Miss Eva Lester, silk blouse and Australian bangle; Mr. and Mrs. Goodwin, biscuit box; Pat Rafferty, diamond ring; Ted E. Box, silver rose bowl; Kitts and Windrum, silver toast-rack; Mr. George Sinclair, set of three oak trays, mounted; Mrs. Pattison (Twickenham), pair of handsome bronze figures; Mr. Gus Healey, Wedgwood china jug; Miss Ray Maskell, pair of bronze photo frames; Rosa and Kitty Simms, golliwog; bridegroom to bride gold watch and chain and cheque; bride to bridegroom, dressing-case.

The following list of telegrams sent to Spot Lodge is an eloquent proof of the popularity of bride and bridegroom:—

Scott Adacker, Carrie Laurie and Beattie, Vesta Victoria, Marie Loftus, Sam Lloyd, Jack Lotto and Mrs. Lotto, Charlie and Mrs. Pratt, Jack Collinson, Millie Howell, H. E. High, Anger and Bauer, Fortune and Granville, Maude Mortimer, Tom Shaw, J. H. Garner, Sadie Simpson, Three Phydoras, Mrs. A. C. Lilly, Dave O'Toole, T. Case (Vaudeville), Dave Carter, G. Sandford, Jack Munro, Ted Volta, Mrs. Walmsley, H. J. Didcott, Tom Pacey, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Budden, Ralph Levy, W. Benn, Sydney Hyman, Walter Munroe, Shuter and Family, M. Volny, Johnny Whiteman (Leeds), Mr. and Mrs. Eustace, Royal Standard Music Hall, George Alltree, Charlie Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. E. de Vere, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Napoli, Ralph Pringle, Miss Fenton and Brixton P.O. staff, Mr. and Mrs. A. D. McFarlane, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Cowper, Ada Kooney, Cleland, Frank Bliss, Bert and Syria Lamonte, the Walcotts, Johnny and Mrs. Woods, Mrs. Fred Karno, the Simms, Tom Henderson (Kingston), Lord George Aytoun, T. E. Dunville, Beaven and Dorrie, Zaro Troupe, Three Ellistons, Charlie Lavell, Tom Shaw's office staff, Mr. and Mrs. Simmonds, Howard Watson, Arthur Day, Lottie Lennox, Crissie Cross, Conway and Leland, Billy Armstrong, Will Liddy and Nellie Wallace, Denby and Dent, A. C. Jaques, Mabas, Manager Thayler, Sam Dalton, Lilian Trevalli, Fletcher, Matt Hill, Flo Morton, Howard and St. Clair, Karr and Kooney, Tom Rice, Carl Lynne, Ben Harris, M. B. Conway, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Claxton, Kitts and Windrum, Sammy Josephs, Miss Fagence, Mr. and Mrs. W. Edelsten, Johnny Dwyer, Sam Bury, E. Devere, P. Napoli, Mr. and Mrs. R. Whiteley, Phil Ray, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lynne, Pat Rafferty, Fred Elton, Will McIvor, Ted E. Box, Harry Wright and Amy Marsden, H. Wieland, A. Melrose, W. P. Sheen, Watty McNab, Laurie Graydon, Doris Lunt, Pat and Mrs. Carey, Ernest Aplin, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Stevens, W. Grimes, Nelson Francis, Mr. and Mrs. Womack, Mr. and Mrs. Burford, Wm. Holles and Nannie Goldman, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Higham and family, Ray Maskell, Phillips and Terry, H. Devere, Alice Conway, Fred and Minnie Durham, E. Scofield, Bill Childs (Leeds), Beattie, Crown Trio, W. Davidson, Dr. Robertson, Miss Briginshaw, the Cheers, the Fimans, Mrs. Jack Shepheard, Mr. Harry Kenyon, Mr. A. E. Robinson, and Angelina.

"THE LITTLE CAPTAIN."

Comedy-Dramatic Sketch, revived at the Bedford, Monday, Sept. 21.

Captain Kettle .....MR. LEONARD MORTIMER
Lord Esmond Slade .....MR. E. S. HOWARD
Randall Vyner .....MR. WALNER GREGORY
General Caranger.....MR. HAL BROUGH
Donna Inez Thelestina .....MISS EDITH LEWIS
Lady Edna .....MISS IDA CLIFFORD

Mr. Leonard Mortimer produced this sketch on Monday last and scored an instantaneous success with it. The story is woven round that well-known hero in fiction, Captain Kettle, and we see the gallant Captain in his most energetic mood, and getting out of tight corners with a breezy manner which is positively invigorating. Randall Vyner, who has eloped with Lord Slade's daughter, Lady Edna, is plotting with Donna Inez and General Caranger, President of a Chilian State, and they are endeavouring to get arms into the country. They meet with Kettle in the Hotel Monica, where they endeavour to get him to sail Lord Slade's yacht for them. They have managed, unawares to the owner, to get the arms on to the yacht. Kettle suspects treachery and refuses, and warns Lady Edna against Vyner, in time to prevent their marriage. The last scene is on the yacht, and it is off the Chilian coast. The President and Vyner come on the yacht. Vyner is disguised as an officer, and they pretend they have come to give an official welcome to Lord Slade, who is a well-known diplomatist. Kettle sees through their game, and acts accordingly, and summons a British gunboat he knows is at hand. Vyner discloses his identity, and calls on the yacht owner to deliver up the vessel and all its contents, threatening to shoot all on board unless it is done. But the British sailors arrive just in time, and help Kettle to finish the work he had begun of polishing off Vyner and his gang. It is a very briskly played sketch, and worked up to a high pitch of excitement. Mr. Mortimer is excellent as Kettle, whom he depicts capitally; Mr. Walner Gregory gives a finished rendering of Vyner, and Mr. Hal Brough was particularly good as the General. Miss Edith Lewis plays Donna Inez with skill, and Miss Ida Clifford is good as Lady Edna. The yacht scene is a very fine set indeed.

"COWARD OR HERO."

A Romantic Costume Sketch, by R. Cameron Matthews, produced at the Empire, Camberwell, on Monday, Sept. 21.

General Ralph Illington ..MR. CHARLES WHITLEY
Lieut. Bertram Illington
MR. CAMERON MATTHEWS
Capt. Despard Bastin ....MR. ARTHUR STRATTON
Lieut. Hugh Copley .....MR. R. ARTHUR
Sergt. Macleod .....MR. C. HENNESSY
Katie .....MISS B. DOYLE

Well written, admirably acted, and effectively mounted, this thrilling episode of the Civil War of 1643 is a decided acquisition to the variety stage. The stirring incidents of the story begin at an old English baronial hall, where a regiment of Royalists are quartered under the command of General Ralph Illington, whose only son, Bertram, is a lieutenant in the same regiment. The troopers are carousing and toasting the health of their fair hostess, sweet Mistress Katie, when Captain Despard Bastin and Lieut. Hugh Copley enter discussing the cowardice of the General's son. The Captain insults Katie, and young Illington, learning the cause of her distress, insists on the Captain apologising. Bastin only laughs at the youngster, but an encounter takes place, and Bertram makes his opponent retract. The Captain swears to be revenged, and to demonstrate to Lieut. Copley the cowardice of Illington discharges a pistol. This so startles Illington that Katie questions him, and he tells her that his mother, terrified by a violent thunderstorm, died in giving him birth. Ever since, when he hears a sudden loud noise, he has to rush away and hide, and he prays that the first shot in the forthcoming battle will rid him of this awful responsibility. News is brought of the approach of the Roundheads, and the General calls his son to take his place at the head of his troop. Captain Bastin and Lieutenant Copley plot to sell some despatches to Cromwell. At this moment the din of battle is heard, and young Illington comes flying in in terror, and tells Katie he is for ever disgraced. She shows him the despatches, and tells him he must defend them. Lieut. Copley returns with three of his men to get the documents, but is mortally wounded by Illington, who also puts the three troopers to flight. The General returns full of bitter feelings against his son, and threatens to have him shot as a coward; but Katie declares that having heard the despatches were in danger Illington had returned for them, and not from motives of cowardice. Katie produces the Captain's letter to Cromwell, and the General recognises the Captain's signature, and orders him to be shot. Illington is found to be severely wounded, and as he dies in his sweetheart's arms she assures him that he has proved that he is not a coward, but a hero.

As Katie Miss B. Doyle acted with sweetness and womanly sympathy; Mr. Cameron Matthews assumed the rôle of Lieut. Illington artistically; as the villainous Captain Bastin Mr. Arthur Stratton played with forcefulness and sincerity; Mr. R. Arthur's Lieut. Copley was an admirable performance; and as the General Mr. Chas. Whitley was the soldier to the life. Mr. C. Hennessy as the jovial Sergeant Macleod gave full effect to the rollicking drinking song in the opening scene.

THE Eighth Annual Eisteddfod at the New Brighton Tower last Saturday attracted contestants and visitors from all sections of Wales and the North of England, and as usual was a most successful tournament of song. The prizes offered by the New Brighton Tower Company in the individual contests are larger even than those offered by the National Eisteddfod, while those for choral singing are as valuable. The contests in every department were keen.

THE season at New Brighton Tower, which closes to-day, has been the most successful of the twelve years that this place of resort has been open to the public. This was due to the increased number of attractions that have been placed in the park by the new manager, Mr. J. Calvin Brown, and also to the active work and constant publicity organised and carried out by the resident-manager, Mr. Arthur Ellis. The presence of the Cummins' Wild West and the erection of the scenic railway, and Figure 8 gravity ride, as well as other numerous amusement devices, serve not only to create an interest, but keep it sustained until the very last. An agent is now in America considering a number of new shows next season for this park, which will open at Easter time.

PASTA MACK.—A delightful necessity for bath and toilet. Imparts a delicious perfume to the skin. Used by principal Courts of Europe. Boxes, 1s. and 2s. 6d. Pasta Mack soap, tablets, 10d. each, box of three, 2s. 6d., of all chemists. Sole maker, H. Mack, Ulm, o/D.—[ADVT.]

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THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR OCTOBER.

ENGLAND.

1. Nottingham (239,384)
1. Bracknell (2,200)
1. Teverton (10,400)
2. Atherton (16,200)
2. Braintree (5,300)
2. Hingham (1,600)
2. Houghton-le-Spring (8,000)
2. Kineton (1,000)
2. Lambourn (900)
2. Liskeard (5,028)
2. Lymington (4,200)
2. Marlborough (3,000)
3. Glodwick (16,900)
3. Pilsley (2,347)
3. Retford (4,200)
3. Yarnborough Castle (Wilts.)
5. Abingdon (6,500)
5. Burton-on-Trent (50,386)
5. Cirencester (7,600)
5. Horwich (15,000)
5. Hounslow (6,700)
5. King's Norton (5,000)
5. Kirkby Lonsdale (1,600)
5. Macclesfield (34,700)
5. Middleton (13,000)
5. New Wortley Feast (15,100)
5. Tamworth (7,300)
5. Wibsey (4,586)
5. Woburn (2,731)
6. Alcester (2,500)
6. Brough Hill (1,000)
6. Peterborough (30,070)
6. Woodstock (1,628)
7. Alvechurch (1,600)
7. Belford (1,600)
7. Bridport (5,700)
7. Hungerford (5,000)
7. Northleach (180)
7. Tetbury (2,000)
9. Hull (235,000)
9. Evesham (7,100)
9. Hartlepool (22,800)
10. Ashford (13,000)
10. Aylesbury (9 300)
10. Basford (11,500)
10. Basingstoke (10,000)
10. Burwell (Cambridge) (2,000)
10. Chipping Norton (3,800)
10. Crich (3,076)
10. Middleton (Stoney) (300)
10. Nuneaton (25,000)
10. Ramsbury (2,200)
10. Pinxton (2,412)
10. Gosport (29,000)
10. Highworth (2,500)
10. Tapton (229)
10. Lancaster (40,300)
10. Leicester (211,600)
10. Tewkesbury (5,400)
10. Tring (1,400)
10. Lowestoft (30,000)
10. Wadebridge (2,300)
10. Winchcomb (2,964)
10. Woller (1,500)
12. Bakewell (3,500)
12. Bedford (35,200)
12. Barkerend Feast
12. Burley - in - Wharfedale (3,600)
12. Caister (Lincs.) (2,000)
12. Cirencester (7,600)
12. Fazeley (1,800)
12. Great Grimsby (63,000)
12. Henley-in-Arden (6,000)
12. Ilmington (705)
12. Needham Market (1,300)
12. Sherborne (6,000)
12. Southam (1,800)
12. St. Ives (Hunts.) (6,700)
12. St. Just (Cornwall) (6,000)
12. Stratford-on-Avon (11,862)
12. Warwick (12,000)
13. Ashton-in-Makerfield (18,700)
13. Hockley Heath (756)
13. Kingsclere (2,000)
13. Shipton-on-Stour
14. Axminster (3,500)
14. Colne (23,000)
14. Daventry (3,800)
14. Newbury (11,000)
14. Tavistock (5,700)
14. Worksop (13,000)
16. Evesham (7,100)
16. Hereford (21,400)
17. Banbury (13,000)
17. Buckingham (3,400)
17. Clowne (2,416)
17. Farnsfield (942)
17. Ivinghoe (1,300)
17. Maidstone (33,500)
17. Marlborough (3,000)
17. Wantage (4,000)
19. City Road (Bradford) (236,240)
19. Leek (15,500)
19. Southam (1,800)
19. St. Austell (3,477)
20. Devizes (6,000)
20. Salisbury (17,100)
21. Chichester (12,300)
21. Bridlington (12,500)
21. Ilkeston (9,825)
21. Market Bosworth (911)
21. Princes Risborough (1,300)
21. Wigan (70,000)
23. Clitheroe (11,400)
23. Hatfield (4,000)
23. Stratford-on-Avon (11,862)
24. Arnold (7,800)
24. Cinderford (3,000)
24. Edwinstowe (936)
24. Heath (406)
24. Holmfirth (9,000)
24. Kirkby (4,756)
24. Market Drayton ((5,540)
24. Stow-on-the-Wold
24. Wingerworth (382)
26. Warminster (5,600)
27. Gainsborough (17,700)
28. Horncastle (4,000)
28. Wellington (7,300)
29. Ely (8,000)
29. Great Marlow (6,000)
29. Hindon (500)
29. Wellingborough (18,400)
30. St. Just (Hunts.) (6,000)
31. Clipstone (256)
31. Disley (3,425)
31. Coalville (15,200)
31. Coventry (70,000)
31. Daventry (3,800)
31. Poole (19,500)
31. Rowsley (700)

SCOTLAND.

5. Dunfermline (1,742)
10. Alloa (11,417)
12. Alyth (3,000)
12. Dundee (153,066)
12. Forfar (12,061)
16. Hamilton (32.775)
16. Stirling (18,403)
29. Kilmarnock (34,161)

WALES.

5. Maesteg (11,000)
5. Maescwmmer (800)
8. Fishguard (2,000)
16. Pembroke (16,000)
10. Pontypool (6,000)
24. Llandovery (2,234)
29. Kidwelly.
31. Talgarth (1,220)

Barnstaple Fair.

We briefly referred to, in last Saturday's issue of *The Era*, Barnstaple's ancient fair. This fair still retains all its old-time ceremonial and civic display. The Mayor and Corporation open the fair according to ancient custom, and dispense hospitality to a large number of invited guests, as well as to the Corporation. Amongst the invited guests, the local member, Mr. E. J. Soares, was the principal speaker. At the conclusion of the ceremony the Mayor, Alderman A. J. Revell, accompanied by the Town Crier, the Mace Bearers, the Town Clerk, and members of the Corporation, proceeded to the various customary points in the town, and at each halting place the Town Clerk read the ancient proclamation, and declared the fair open for its three days' course.

The Pleasure Fair.

Barnstaple is another example of the better wisdom of Corporations in maintaining their valuable charter rights, and adapting the liberty of the charter to modern circumstances. This is shown in the separation of the sheep and cattle fair from the pleasure fair, with the result that the pleasure fair is a source of increasing income to the town, the receipts for tolls from sites let to exhibitions, roundabouts, &c., in 1907, reached over £206, and this year we understand that several applications for ground were refused for lack of space.

Barnstaple serves a very wide district, both as a mart for trade and as a pleasure fair. Train loads of visitors, many from considerable distances, invade the town, and the tradespeople reap a rich harvest.

The Shows and Roundabouts.

The old-established West of England firm, W. C. and S. Hancock, exhibited a large selection of their popular concerns, including the cinematograph theatre, with a fine range of up-to-date pictures and varieties, the fine set of galloping horses, and the helter-skelter tower. Messrs. Anderton and Rowland exhibited their classical theatre of animated photography and Empire of Varieties, and their fine set of motor-cars. The other shows included John Jones's electric cinematograph and variety theatre, Prince Samouda in occult mysteries, Professor Ruby with X-Ray demonstrations, C. Birch's two novelty shows, Professor Leon and Alf Wright's boxing booths, Marshall Hill's motor cars, Brewer's galloping horses, Chapman's big boats, and park swings by Messrs. Smith and Tucker.

Variety Stalls and Novelties.

These included shooting galleries, houp là circles, variety frames, coker sheets, gem swings, and, in fact, all the fun of the fair. The side shows and novelties were provided by Messrs. Rowland, Gratton, Herford, J. Jones, F. Oldridge, J. Herbert, and local caterers.

Barry, Lancashire.

The September fair attracted a considerable number of high-class concerns. These included Kemp's cinematograph theatre, Mander's menagerie, the Westwood giant children, J. Green's motor-cars, galloping horse sets by Mitchell, Makin, and East, racing birds by Holden and J. Green, steam yachts by Mitchell, bicycles by Heim, and aeroplanes by Slater, Cornwell, Makin, and Holland; Winchester ranges and shooting saloons by Cornwell, Jewell, Holland, Cottam, Starkie, and Mrs. John Cornwell; bottle batteries, variety stalls, and throwing games by Messrs. Forshaw, Whatmore, Deeks, Horton, Holland, Middlebrook, B. Horton, Starkie, Slater, Cottam, Ingham, Manders, Harrison, Clark, Redfern, and Vale; football frames by Messrs. Forshaw, Stanfield, Evans, Buckley, Cottam, Whatmore, Bullas, and Horton.

Northampton Fair.

This thriving town has many links with the glorious past, and under many charters enjoys both hiring, trading, and pleasure fairs. One of the most important is the September fair, commencing on the 19th of the month and lasting several days. This fair is visited, amongst other concerns, by Wombwell's menagerie, Fossett's circus, and the cinematograph theatres of Messrs. Thurston, W. Payne, and A. Twigdon. Shows and novelty booths include the first-class concerns of Messrs. Hastings, Powell, Houldsworth, Ball, and Hardy. The machine novelties include switchback sets by Thurston and Twigdon; galloping horses by Thurston, Shepherd, Strudwick, and Billing; racing birds by Collins and Thurston; big boats by Harris, Barnard, Lowe, and Billing.

Shooting saloons, throwing games, coker sheets, and varieties by Messrs. Harris, Shaw, Powell, Lowe, Barnard, Nilling, Essam, Wood, Houldsworth, the Harris family, Johnson, and Holmes.

A New Departure at Ludlow.

The Guild secretary is in receipt of the following letter, which we readily publish for the information of our showman readers:—

"Town Clerk's Office,
"Guildhall, Ludlow,
"Sept. 17, 1908.

"MAY PLEASURE FAIR.

"Dear Sir,—From an advertisement in *The Era* of Sept. 12, you will see the Corporation is throwing open to tender the standings for the shows at this fair. For some years a space at the one end of the Market Hall in Castle-square has been occupied by a large show and a roundabout, and the space at the other end of the Market Hall has been occupied by another roundabout, and a third show has occupied a space in this street. In addition to these there has been the usual swing boats, shooting galleries, photographic studios, cocoanut standings, gingerbread stalls, and such like.

"The public has, of course, a right of passage through the streets, so care has to be taken that room is left for vehicles to get through.

"The Corporation has a strict rule that no living vans be allowed in the streets, and as there is a space of ground in the town purchased for a cattle market where they can be put, there is no inconvenience over this.

"I am writing to you, as I thought perhaps, as this is a new departure for the Corporation, you might bring the matter before the persons who are interested, and if there is any further information I can give you I shall be pleased to do so.

"I am, yours truly,
"JOHN H. WILLIAMS,
"Town Clerk.

"The Secretary, The Showmen's Guild,
"C/o *The Era*,
"5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London."

The Guild Secretary's Reply.

Re May Pleasure Fair.

Dear Sir,—I thank you for the courtesy of your letter, which I have submitted to the Executive Committee of the Guild for observation. I am instructed to point out to the Corporation the great inconvenience of separating the living vans that are necessary for the work of the show from the actual fairground. To an extent that is scarcely understood by the general public the living-van is part of the necessary working plant of the show, and in many instances where it is not actually necessary for the building up of the concern it is of the utmost importance and value that the home of the showman shall be alongside his show. We therefore beg the Corporation not to strictly enforce their rule with regard to living-vans, but to permit, where such vans are a necessity of the exhibition, that they be allowed to serve their full purpose as part and parcel of the equipment of the show.

I am also requested to draw your attention to the fact that the fairground business is always handicapped by weather conditions, and that unless your form of tender includes the provision that a greatly reduced rent will be accepted in the event of bad weather, tendering for sites is not a fair arrangement. This Society strongly objects to the system of competitive tenders for sites, and prefers that a fixed rent should be charged that would be a reasonable toll even when weather conditions are unfavourable.

I shall, of course, bring the subject of your letter before the showmen who travel your part of the country, and again I express my warm appreciation of the courtesy you have shown in the matter.—Very faithfully yours,

The Guild Secretary.

Tendering for Sites. The Fixed Rents.

It has come to our knowledge within the past eighteen months that there has been a good deal of competition amongst lessees for corporation fairgrounds. We are given to understand that in some instances showmen have been unwise enough to suggest to corporations that they should give up their old scale of fixed tolls and throw open either the whole of the ground space or the best pitches for competition. The most glaring example of this cut-throat competition was that afforded by York November Fair last year. We were informed that none of the big shows, owing to the bad weather, took their ground rent. The loss incurred was entirely owing to the fact that rival interests had been at work, and that the corporation had been induced to throw open their best sites to competition. We wish to suggest that such competitive rivalry is not only destructive of the show business as a commercial enterprise, but that it is also destroying that wonderful bond of fellowship and mutual helpfulness which has hitherto distinguished the showman world.

We are strongly of opinion that some means should be taken during the coming winter to bring about a reconciliation of rival interests and a consolidation of the best elements in the show business so that it shall be no longer possible for corporations or private individuals to exploit the showmen for their own greed or selfish interests. It is high time that action be taken to safeguard the best interests of the fairground business when small towns like Ludlow begin to adopt the vicious system of competitive tendering.

Midland Notes.

Sedgwick's menagerie has paid a most successful visit to Redditch; from there the show went to Alcester and joined forces with Strickland's motor-cars and steam galloping horses, to the great delight of the people of the ancient town. At Astwood Bank the Star Animated Picture and Variety Co. continue their successful season.

Guild Subscriptions, 1908.

Mr. J. Amos, 10s. 6d.; Mr. J. Hughes, 5s.; Mr. A. Carrick, 5s.

Reading September Fair.

Held on Monday and Tuesday last, this fair was attended by a good number of shows, roundabouts, &c., and was in every way a big success. Jacob Studt, with his big show and machine, had a week's private business prior to the fair, and drew large crowds of spectators.

The new bye-law with regard to organ-music at other times than the fair has just come into force. We have reason to believe that the Reading Corporation will not use their powers to interfere with legitimate show business.

The principal shows were Purchase's menagerie, Ball and Son's New Lyceum, Buckley's exhibition, and side shows by Messrs. Murch, Gilliam, and Searle. The machines were by Messrs. J. Thomas and J. Searle, swings, shooters, and varieties by Messrs. Gilliam, Matthews, J. Bunce, and Owen Smith.

Stevenage Fair.

The amusements here were Messrs. Thurston and Sons, Biddall, Elliott, Harris, Brinkley, and others.

Uttoxeter Fair.

The principal shows, roundabouts and amusements were provided by Messrs. Collins, jun., and Charles Farrell. Collins's No. 2 Wonderland Theatre, the Palace of Orpheus, was the star attraction.

Wombwell Feast.

The big shows at this Yorkshire feast were Tuby's, Farrar's and Crighton's cinematograph theatres; the side shows were those of Piper and Patteson, and the other concerns, including shooters, swings, variety stalls, and throwing games, were provided by Messrs. Corrigan, Calver, Pullan, Fisher, Campfield, Evans, Hargreaves, Middlebrook, Monks, Silsden, Broadhurst, Shaw, Percival, and others.

Polesworth Wakes.

Amongst the many attractions at this highly successful fair were Bliss's cinematograph theatre; Shepherd's racing motors, shooters, juvenile motors, and park swings; Mrs. Turner's Winchester range and shooting gallery; and stalls, varieties, and throwing games by Messrs. Turner, Cartwright, Shepherd, Ford, Dobson, Dingley, Humphreys, and Cullen.

Notes from Wales.

Sid White's aggregation of fairground novelties is paying a visit this week to Pentre Bach, Merthyr. Mr. White co-operated in the gala benefit performances for the funds of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and was accorded a hearty vote of thanks for his generous assistance.

The White City, Old Trafford.

The season closes in a few weeks, and the educated mare belonging to Mr. Harrison Barnes—which has mystified great numbers of people during its stay in this amusement park—finishes its engagement this week and goes straight to the London Hippodrome, then on the Barrasford tour, and on to the Continent. She is fully booked to November, 1909. Countess Romanoff, who gives the "Salome" dance, was a great draw last week, and continues to obtain large audiences. The Igorrote native village, the mystifying La Mort, and Cleopatra's clever illusions also do well. Frank Burley in his thrilling fire dive, Texas Bill Dillingham, cowboy rider, and a host of outside amusements are still very popular.

Roller-Skating at Liverpool.

On Saturday last Mr. C. P. Crawford commenced the winter session of roller-skating at the vast Tournament Hall, Edge-lane, Liverpool, when there was a great attendance of skaters and sight-seers. This is the second season of the enterprise in this country. The first, which closed at the end of May last, was successful beyond all anticipations, thousands of pleasure-seekers attending each of the three gatherings held daily. The place is made exceedingly picturesque by means of Chinese lanterns, electric lamps, and floral chains, while a first-class military band plays popular selections. Mr. E. B. Barnes is again the resident manager.

Grand Forest Event at Bostock's Jungle.

As a crowning event to the closing week of the Hungarian Exhibition, Earl's Court, Mr. Frank C. Bostock, director of the Bostock Jungle and Arena, will to-day (Saturday), at 4 p.m., assemble a royal family of lions in one spacious den. It will consist of "Wallace," a magnificent forest-bred lion, "Victoria," a beautiful lioness, and three splendid five-months-old lion cubs. No other such exhibit can be seen in the world outside the savage state. A peculiarity about the homely friendliness of the whole party is that "Wallace" (known as "the Untamable Lion") is not the father of the cubs, and though immediately fierce at the approach of a human, is so thoroughly *animal* as to allow the Jungle cat to wander promiscuously in his cage.

Very important meetings of the Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union will take place at Nottingham and Hull Fairs. We draw our readers' attention to these gatherings. For particulars, see our advertising columns.

The Showmen's Guild.

To-morrow (Sunday) the Rev. T. Horne will address two meetings at Gloucester (Barton) Fair, at 3.30 in the afternoon, and again at 8 in the evening.

Marriage of Miss Studt, Clydach.

On Tuesday a marriage was celebrated at St. Mary's Church, between Miss Louise Studt, eldest daughter of Mr. Henry Studt, Tygwyn, Clydach, the well-known amusement caterer, and Mr. V. E. Tuson, Marsh House, Leominster, veterinary surgeon. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. T. Morris (vicar), assisted by the Rev. D. Rees (curate). There was a large assembly at the church. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attired in ninon over Oriental satin, semi-Empire gown, with embroidered yoke and bretelles of lace; tunic skirt banded with satin, and a veil draped over wreath of orange blossoms. She carried a beautiful bouquet of white roses, lillies, chrysanthemums, lillies of the valley, and sprig of orange blossoms and white heather and asparagus and ferns, tied with satin ribbon. Her three bridesmaids were Miss Meg Studt, Miss Eme Studt (sister of the bride), and Miss Kammerer, Llanelly. Miss Meg Studt was attired in a white embroidered French gown, inset with Valenciennes lace and touches of pale blue ribbon, and a lovely Nattier blue crêpe de chine hat, trimmed with white Valenciennes lace and blue hydrangeas. Miss Eme Studt, in a dress of Nattier blue crêpe de chine, with yoke of net lace and a waistcoat of French embroidery, the skirt being banded with taffeta. Miss Kammerer in a Tussore silk dress, and a Nattier blue crêpe de chine hat trimmed with white Valenciennes lace and blue hydrangeas. The duties of best man were performed by Mr. M. E. Kammerer, solicitor, Llanelly. After the ceremony the bride and bridegroom left the church for Tygwyn House, Mendelssohn's "Wedding March" being played by Mr. Rees Williams, organist, on their leaving the church. A reception was subsequently held at Tygwyn, the residence of the bride's father, to which forty guests had been invited. The happy pair subsequently left for London and the Continent, amidst the happy wishes of numerous friends. The bride's travelling dress was a lotus-blue cloth directoire costume, braided with black, and a hat of lotus-blue. The bridegroom's present to the bride was a half-hoop diamond ring. There were other numerous presents, including a Bible from the Vicarage, and a large silver tray, suitably inscribed, from the management committee of the Llanelly Hospital.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

18,783.—Joseph Branchi, of London. Life-motion picture apparatus.

18,867.—Thomas Knight Barnard, of London. Improvements in talking dolls, or representations of animals emitting sounds.

18,919.—John Samuel Parker, of London. Improved portable table, chiefly intended for conjuring and similar performances.

18,934.—Stanley Gubbin Cater, of London. Improvements in targets, more particularly for miniature rifle-shooting ranges.

18,940.—Justine Modeste Duchatellier, of London. Improvements in apparatus for modifying the shape of the nose.

19,045.—John Richards Rowland, of London. New improved target for sport.

19,106.—Arthur Graham Strathie, of Edinburgh. Improved apparatus for conveying cars for recreation purposes on gravity or inclined railways.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

22,874.—Harris. Tight cut-offs for kinematographs and the like apparatus.

9,055.—Ludwig Hupfeld Akt-Ges. Pneumatically-operated musical instruments.

13,663.—Barrasford and Faulkner. Fire-extinguishing contrivance for use with kinematographs.

SPECIFICATIONS OPEN TO INSPECTION.

18,431.—De Champtassin. Gymnastic appliance.

18,783.—Bianchi. Life-motion picture apparatus.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

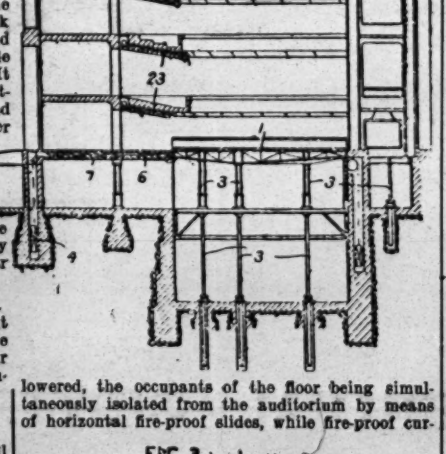
10,531.—Gymnastic, &c., apparatus Ramm, W., of Germany.

Exercising-ladders (*a*), parallel bars (*u*), and horizontal bars (*v*) are combined with a mattress

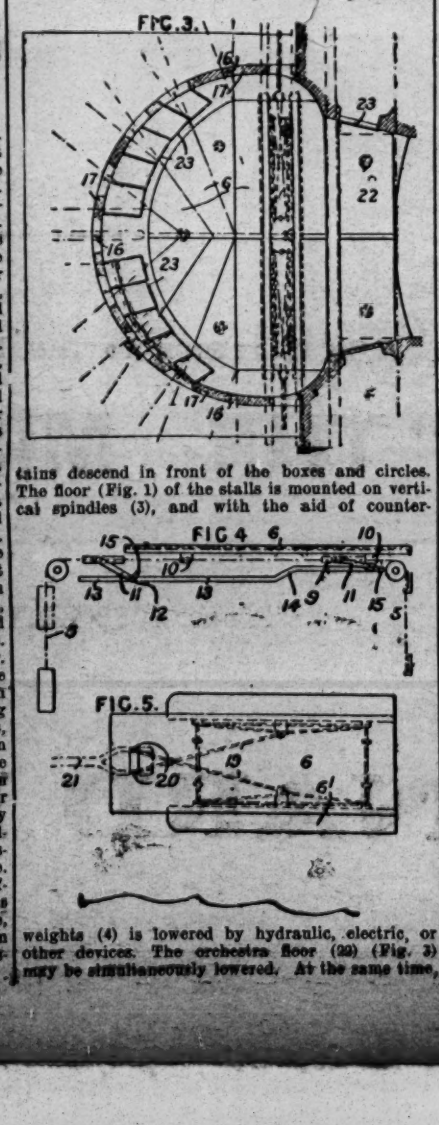
(*d*), or form the end parts of a bedstead, so that the gymnast may rest at once after performing the exercises.

10,957.—Theatres, &c. Graszynski, P. W., of Berlin.

In order to protect audiences in theatres, &c., from fire, the floor of the stalls is adapted to be



lowered, the occupants of the floor being simultaneously isolated from the auditorium by means of horizontal fire-proof slides, while fire-proof curtains descend in front of the boxes and circles. The floor (Fig. 1) of the stalls is mounted on vertical spindles (3), and with the aid of counter-



weights (4) is lowered by hydraulic, electric, or other devices. The orchestra floor (22) (Fig. 3) may be simultaneously lowered. At the same time, fire-proof slides (6) (Figs. 1, 3, and 4) in the hollow outer ground floor (7) are automatically moved out, and meet in the middle of the auditorium. In order to move the slides a catch (9) (Fig. 4) on a chain (5) connected to the floor (1) engages a tappet (10) fixed to each slide (6). To provide for the reverse movement of the slides, a pivoted arm (11) is provided with rollers (12), adapted to move along a guide (13), a raised part (14) of which causes a nose (15) on the arm (11) to engage the inner side of the tappet (10). As the slides (6) have to avoid supports (16) in the outer wall (17), narrow slits remain between the slides (6), these slits being closed, on the operation of the slides, by means of supplementary slides (6*l*) (Fig. 5), which are moved outwards by means of tongs (19), provided with bolts, having rollers (20) adapted to run in guides (21). Fire-proof roller curtains (23), weighted at their lower ends, are lowered in front of the boxes and circles by means of shafting, which, on account of the curvature of the auditorium, consists of a number of sections coupled together. The protecting devices may be brought into operation of switches.

U.S. AMERICA PATENT.

The improvement of stage scenic effects is the object of the recent invention of Mr. M. Fortuny, of Paris, and to provide a concave wall or shell in a simple and inexpensive manner, and the invention consists of a pliable material, such as canvas-cloth, or the like, secured to a rigid structure, so as to form with the structure an air space and means for exhausting the air from said space, whereby the pliable material will be drawn towards the walls of the structure to form a concave surface or background.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians.—The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, and £100? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd-George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents, and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ELEPHANTS ON THE CHUTE.

The performance of the elephants in the Ceylon Village at the White City again formed the subject of police-court proceedings on Friday, the 18th, when, before Mr. Garrett, at West London Court, Havadia, elephant attendant, and William Schreida, elephant trainer, were summoned for cruelly terrifying an elephant, contrary to the Wild Animals in Captivity Protection Act, 1900, and Gustav Hagenbeck, proprietor of the elephants, was summoned for permitting the offence.

Mr. Stuart Bevan, who prosecuted on behalf of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, described the performance of the elephants, which consisted in sliding down a chute into a tank of water.

Frederick Lovejoy, inspector of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said he saw Havadia come from the direction of the Ceylon Village with a small elephant two feet under the normal size. He carried an elephant stick (described by Mr. Bevan as a long stick with an iron point). Having arrived on the platform, a rope was fixed to each fore leg of the elephant, the animal showing signs of fear. Before the elephant could be got down the chute several natives used a long pole and Havadia struck the animal six times with the pointed end of the stick. The elephant gave out a long cry, almost a shriek.

Subsequently the witness saw the elephant and found two fresh punctured wounds and a lacerated wound two inches long. He asserted that in an interview with Mr. Hagenbeck the latter said he knew what took place, and added: "My elephants cost me 100,000 marks (£5,000), and must be put through their rehearsals in order to pay my money back. . . . I have got to get my living."

Charles Miller (present on subpœna), an elephant trainer engaged by Mr. Bostock at the Jungle, Earl's Court, said that an elephant's skin was as sensitive as that of a man. The animal would feel the flick of a whip or the touch of a match or a pin. He had never found it necessary to use an elephant stick.

Havadia stated that he never used the stick. He only carried it to frighten the animals. Mr. Hagenbeck had issued strict rules about treating the elephants kindly.

Hagenbeck asserted that no stick was allowed to be used on the elephants.

The magistrate regretted that the public taste should lend itself to exhibitions which in the nature of things must involve a certain element of cruelty.

Schreida was fined £5 and seven guineas costs; Havadia 40s. and 2s. costs; and Hagenbeck was bound over for twelve months in his own recognisances for £10 to come up for judgment when called upon.

Coney Island in Leeds.

Leeds is to have a big new amusement resort, which we understand is to open early in November. Efforts are being made to present all the novel attractions which are the feature of America's famous pleasure resort. The whole is being produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Alfred Wood, who is general-manager for the syndicate.

Dunning and Kahn and Kahn, after a sixteen weeks' most successful tour in the provinces, return to town on Monday for a brief stay, opening at the Crouch End Hippodrome with their magical and second-sight acts.

Mr. V. Newman, general secretary and manager to Mr. John Lawson, has had the misfortune to lose his father, who passed away last Tuesday, after a very short illness.

Ada Bishop, music-hall sketch artist, residing at Lauderdale-mansions, Maida Vale, attended before Mr. Plowden at Marylebone on Saturday to prosecute Winnie Perutelli, an Italian servant lately in her employ, on a charge of stealing a silver watch, three pairs of trousers, two waistcoats, and other articles, to the total value of £7. It appeared that when spoken to about the missing articles the accused said they must have been lost in moving, but she afterwards wrote confessing that she had taken them. She was arrested by Detective-sergeant Steggals at an address in Carnaby-street, Regent's Park, where a bag belonging to Mrs. Bishop was found under the bed. She was remanded.

Tuesday was the thirteenth anniversary of the opening of the Regent Theatre of Varieties, Salford, and in addition to the regular company, alluded to in our provincial columns, enjoyable turns included Jock Whiteford, Arthur Hickman, Dorma Morgan and Billy Williams (by kind permission of the management of the Manchester Palace Theatre), Ted E. Box and Will Poluski, jun. (by kind permission of Mr. Oswald Stoll), Charles Coborn, Gena Manon, Carney Bros., Jean and Dara Troupe, Florrie Cooper, Langslow, Rose Atherton's company, Graham's Premier Juveniles, Fanny Robina, Leslie's Cadets (by kind permission of Mr. Percy B. Broadhead), Ike and Will Scott, Les Rubens, Marie Vere, Minnie Fenton, Violet Stockelle, Maud Beaumont, and Beatrice Lindley (by kind permission of the management of the Manchester Tivoli). Full houses were at the matinée and evening performances.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

FOR THE SAKE OF HIS UNIFORM is an interesting dramatic film production. At the gambling table a young lieutenant is squandering away his last bank notes. He came there in the hopes of finding Fate a little more lenient to him, but when he leaves the room he is desperate, for he has only succeeded in increasing the amount of his debts. To kill himself in the only thing he can think of now, and he slips a revolver into his pocket; but a beautiful landscape reminding him of hope and possible atonement, he throws away his weapon and comes home. In the office of his father, a bank manager, he finds the safe open. A horrible idea comes to his mind, but he struggles mentally against it. He will not be a thief. Yet the idea of his debt is so overpowering that, being quite alone there for a moment, he takes a handful of bank-notes. After his departure his parents notice the theft, and their son's strange behaviour enlightens them as to the culprit. At first they are so horrified at the idea of the wreck of their lives as a consequence of the young man's action, for they see before the eyes of their minds his military degradation, that it seems they will never recover from the shock. At last the father takes a decision, very heroic and simple; he accuses himself of the theft. The young officer, pursued by remorse, and anxious to atone for his former life, accepts in the Colonies a dangerous mission. The glorious part he takes in an action secures him the military cross, but his wounds are fatal. On his deathbed he confesses to the theft which he is going to atone for with his very life, and entreats his superior officer to forward to his father the cross showing that he has repented, and which he hopes will win for him his parents' forgiveness.

THE TWO MODELS.—The artist in this picture has been trying vainly for days to fix upon the canvas the likeness of an Italian boy, very lively and full of fun, and always up to some mischief. While the painter is busy with a customer, his young sitter thinks it will be lovely to make love to a young lady in the flat next to the artist's by means of expressive signs and gestures. But this young person is so upset at the insolence of the young scapegrace that she goes and tells her father, who goes at once to his neighbour's. The model is found out, the painter apologises profusely, and the father, whose anger has subsided, admires the painter's works. Then it is agreed that the latter shall paint a portrait of the young lady, and this new sitter is so fair that when the work is ended the artist and his model find that they are in love with each other, and they are happily married.

DOG AND PIPE.—In the carriage of a fast train a smoker, indulging in his cigarette, looks with a twinkle in his eyes at a lady cuddling her poodle in her lap. The lady having objected to the smoke, the gentleman throws his cigarette out of the window, but presently he lights a cigar. The lady remonstrates once more, and the obliging gentleman relinquishes his cigar again. After a few minutes he takes his pipe out of his pocket and begins puffing at it. The lady, vexed, snatches the pipe out of the hands of its owner, and it takes the same way as the cigar and cigarette. The gentleman gently grips the dog and sends him to join the other articles. The poor lady is made desperate by this cold-blooded deed; but at the next stop she is delighted again to find her darling dog waiting for her, with the gentleman's pipe in his mouth. As a reward the faithful poodle receives a bank note, which he at once puts into the bowl of a blind man that happens to be there.

A MAGISTRATE'S CONSCIENCE.—A girl having been foolish enough to fall in love with a student who does not know his own mind, is left alone with her small son when the fellow makes a wealthy marriage which will enable him to uphold his position as a magistrate, and the selfish father thinks that he has done his duty towards his baby when he puts in the hand of its mother a few bank notes which will enable her to bring it up. The boy is about twenty years of age now, and his poor mother, who has worked so hard for him in his childhood, is very ill. But he has no money, and his very soul is torn between his love for his mother and his sterner duty as an honest man. At last, throwing away all idea of honesty and straightforwardness, he steals the money which will restore health to his mother. He does it too late, for when he comes back she is dead. Later he is arrested for the theft. But it happens that the magistrate who is going to sentence him is his own father, before whose mind appears very vividly the feeling of his own responsibility in leaving him helpless with a helpless woman to fight out as well as they could the terrible fate that he, the magistrate, had practically shaped out for them. The father, understanding at last what he owes to his son, helps the youth to retrieve the past in enabling him to leave for a foreign country.

THE BEGINNING OF THE SERPENTINE.—This is a cleverly-arranged trick film. Rising from a melting pot, the serpentine spreads her flowing draperies surrounded by her sisters, who fill the screen with the flutter of their wings, sometimes resembling huge butterflies, at other times bearing a great likeness to beautiful and freakish flowers. The different pictures are beautifully coloured.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

MOTOR BOAT RACES.—This film deals with the contests at Burnham-on-Crouch on Sept. 12, 1908, when the swiftest launches in the world were competing. Some of the boats have a record of 32 knots, and all skim and dart along the surface at amazing speed, rounding the mark boat with almost incredible small margin and returning at the same rate to the finishing point. It is a wonderful exhibition of science, skill, and daring. The launches engaged include Daimler II., Brook II., Defender, Sea Dog, Areb, Fleurette II., and Napier Minor. Exciting scenes are witnessed in the finals for motor boats exceeding 10 knots for the Motor Club Challenge Trophy, Handicap for Cabin Cruisers, &c.

WATERPROOF WILLIE is a ludicrous and most original fancy, perfectly and realistically carried out. The troubles of Willie, with whom personal cleanliness amounts to a passion, are faithfully depicted. He yearns to perform a full toilet, but the water necessary to this purpose always fails him. It pours into the basin, streams even from the ceiling, flows in rivers, gathers in ponds, and is ejected from a garden hose, but not for Willie! He remains totally unaffected except by comic despair, and the fun is communicated to the audience.

THE STAR GLOBE TROTTER.—We are told that this is not a play upon the titles of certain London evening newspapers, but a clever farce on novel lines, with humour and mystery in every incident. The globe-trotter is a clever gymnast who, with his assistant, is victimised by a mesmerist and made to perform feats connected with his own athletic calling which would make his fortune upon any stage in the world. In some public gardens an amateur mesmerist entertains the crowd, but its attention is distracted by a globe-walker—an athlete who stands upon a large sphere and juggles with hoops and balls. The offended mesmerist hypnotises the globe-trotter and his assistant, and starts them upon a magic and wonder-working journey. The globe-trotter attempts to leave his ball and board a motor-car, but is repulsed and resumes his trotting. The motor follows, with the juggler's assistant hanging on behind. A strange chase is kept up along country lanes and across an intersecting stream, which is safely negotiated. The globe ascends the perpendicular of a telegraph pole, and along the wires the strange journey is resumed, globe and trotter travelling by their usual means, the assistant magically following. Presumably the athletes arrive in China, to the dismay of the heathen. The steep wall of a Chinese house affords no foot or other hold, but this is of no importance. The ball ascends the sheer wall, with the trotter horizontally footing it. His assistant follows, impelled by magic. Finally an explosion occurs: the globe-trotter and his ball are ejected and ascend to great heights—into the starry heavens, where the trotter trots amongst the constellations. A mad whirligig ensues, and the globe is itself transformed into a twinkling star, with the smiling head of the gymnast standing out in relief from its centre.

THE FESTIVAL OF CORPUS CHRISTI provides one of the most imposing and picturesque pageants ever arranged in the Southern Hemisphere. This festival of Corpus Christi was celebrated at St. Peter's Ecclesiastical College, Mauly, New South Wales, on June 21, and was witnessed by a crowd numbering 25,000 people. Great and pleasing variety is afforded by the rich vestments of the clergy, by the prettily-attired and veiled girls in the procession, the be-sashed boys of the colony, and by the uniforms and regalia of the guilds and societies taking part.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

HEARD OVER THE 'PHONE.—A picure of a mother, accompanied by her little girl, gathering flowers, then waiting to extend greetings to her husband, sets before us the opening of this story. Now we see the girl's father visiting the stables, when, after finding his favourite horse gone lame, an altercation takes place with the hostler. In consequence of this the hostler is discharged, and leaves, vowing vengeance. We are now shown the mother, reading to her child, and, hearing footsteps, has a presentiment of danger. Rushing to the 'phone, she rings up her husband, who, whilst endeavouring to calm her fears, hears crash of breaking glass, wife's screams, and the pleadings of his child. Being powerless, he hears everything that takes place, and pictures to himself the happenings. In spite of the child's prayers and the mother's frantic appeals for mercy, the enraged man seizes the child. Then a desperate struggle takes place, during which the mother is shot. Reaching the 'phone, the husband hears his wife's dying words and the heart-rending sobs of his child.

A COMEDY IN BLACK AND WHITE.—This silhouette picture shows a wise old owl and the shadowy outline of a country cottage. On the curtain in the window we see the burly form of pa looking for "news." Seated on the rustic seat a maiden waits the advent of her lover. Being late, he puts in an appearance bearing a huge bouquet, which smoothes matters, and they are very affectionate to each other until pa objects. Romeo does not wait for orders to go, but clears in record time, leaving the weeping damsel to face pa's lecture. Pa's objection, however, does not stop the young lady, who, having more than one string to her bow, exchanges signals with swain No. 2. He arrives with a large bouquet, and being let in by his lady-love, the course of true love for a time runs smooth. "Music hath charms," at least so thinks admirer No. 3, who proceeds, with banjo accompaniment, from the top of the rain barrel, to serenade his inamorata. He chooses the wrong window, and is rewarded by pa with a pail of water. This, with the insecurity of his foothold, lands him in the barrel. Pa then perceives the light below, also the devoted couple, and a general fight ensues, resulting in the throwing out of the lover and the chastisement of the erring daughter, who promises never to have another beau.

Sheffield Photo. Co.

THE ST. LEGER ON THE CINEMATOGRAPH.—Through the enterprise of the Sheffield Photo. Company the audience at the Alhambra Music Hall, London, were recently enabled to see the race for the St. Leger Stakes reproduced on the cinematograph. The same event was shown also at the King's Theatre, Nottingham, and in Doncaster. The accomplishment is one of the smartest of its kind ever effected. The race was started at 3.15 in the afternoon, and photographed. The operators returned to Sheffield immediately, the films were developed in the Photo. Company's premises, and one was off to London by the 7.20 train, while the others left for Doncaster and Nottingham about half-past eight, being shown the same evening as well as at the Sheffield Empire.

Nordisk Films Co.

BLIND.—Under this title the Nordisk Co. issue a film which tells a pathetic story. Some unscrupulous scoundrels are ill-treating a little blind boy, making him beg for them. He happens to go to a family which has a blind child, a little girl. The master of the house gives to the boy liberally, without suspecting where the money would go to. A little later the lady of the house comes home and tells her husband about a little blind boy, whom she had seen in the street, being ill-treated by a rascal, who was evidently dissatisfied with the child's work. The gentleman understands at once the connection of the affair, and goes out to find the boy. He was fortunate enough to discover the place where the gang has its refuge, and, assisted by the police, he has the poor fellow given up to him. The boy now has a good home with kind people, and the little blind girl becomes a faithful friend to him. These two subsequently meet with adventures, being captured by the bandits, and the boy saves the girl from being hurt at their hands.

STAGE EMPLOYEES.

The Cinematograph Operators' Association is constantly adding to its membership, and is now arranging for a further examination of the recent applicants for membership. A meeting of the committee will be held on Tuesday at 2.30, at the office of the Association, 29, Wellington-street, Strand, London. Operators engaged to show pictures at Sunday concerts, who do not receive the standard rate for such work, are requested to communicate with the secretary.

A branch comprising some forty members of the National Association of Theatrical Employees has been formed in Stockton-on-Tees. Mr. F. Moody is acting-secretary, *pro tem.*

Stage employees are reminded that the first of a series of concerts to be given in the Coliseum by the Musicians' Union will take place on Sunday evening. Tickets from 6d. to 5s., obtainable at the doors.

"PASTA MACK" tablets soften the water, and, used regularly, impart a soft and velvet-like appearance to the skin. Boxes, 1s. and 2s. 6d. Pasta Mack soap, hygienic, fragrant, and lasting perfume. Tablets, 10d.; box of three, 2s. 6d. Of perfumers, chemists. Sole maker, H. Mack, Ulm, o/D.—[ADVT.]

A SPORTING SPECTACLE.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

The New York Hippodrome has opened with a new "show," and the newspapers have used up nearly every available adjective in the dictionary in describing it. Spectacles of extraordinary size and marvellous beauty are an old story at this house, but Messrs. Shubert and Anderson have established a new record, and so emphatic is the success scored by their latest production that no change of bill will be necessary for months to come. The performance begins with a spectacular play called *Sporting Days*, in which there are five scenes, each occupying the entire stage. First there is a baseball game, and then the circus comes on the scene. The red caravans pass, and the big tent is erected in view of the audience. Polar bears, performing dogs, and other circus acts are shown, the dogs being particularly clever what time they are disguised as Shetland ponies. Marceline, the favourite clown, is there, of course, pretending to help and getting in everybody's way. After the circus comes a ballet of girls, whose skirts are suddenly reversed to produce the effect of a sheet of blue water with boats on the surface. This pretty novelty leads up to a fine representation of a boat race. The final sporting event is a horse race, in which the panoramic effects are uncommonly good. *The Land of the Birds*, a ballet of surpassing beauty, is introduced as the climax of a pretty fairy story about a little girl who took pity on some caged canaries, and set them free. Their owner was very angry, and after beating the little girl he left her crying on the doorstep. But the birds recognised her as a friend, and came and carried her off to their kingdom. On reaching Birdland she is presented to King Eagle, and then flocks of birds in most beautiful plumage appear. It is a magnificent scene, and it calls forth a storm of applause. The agility and velocity of the dances executed by Mlle. Ester Zanini as the Dove and Signor Bonfiglia as the Devil Bird are nothing short of wonderful, and surprise follows surprise when several of the birds dart through the air over the heads of the audience and scatter roses. *The Battle of the Skies* shows what is likely to happen in 1950 when the United States of America are attacked by the United States of Europe. Aerial navigation is supposed to be a *fait accompli*, and a fleet of airships, equipped with radium guns, swoops down on a fortified city and destroys it. The enemy has abducted the commanding officer's daughter, and is holding her as a hostage. As the sun sets and darkness falls, the buildings totter and come down, and the terror-stricken inhabitants flee from the doomed city. A glimmer of light shows a surging of waters that completely submerge the ruins. The officer's daughter escapes in a frail boat, which is tossed on the heaving billows, while the inevitable villain pursues her. Along comes an airship, a line is thrown overboard, and the girl is hauled up into the aeroplane just as the villain is about to seize her. In the final spectacle, representing "The Golden Garden," and concluding with "An Apotheosis of Victory," the effects produced are novel and beautiful. Electricity is liberally employed, and the great tank is converted into a lake with grass-grown banks and green islands. In a march of some forty or fifty girls dressed as grenadiers, a huge ivy-covered trellis is brought in. The girls swarm up the trellis, and suddenly opening their cloaks, form an immense United States flag, which is presently illuminated with incandescent lights, turned on and off in such a way as to produce the effect of waving. Finally the entire company is massed on the stage, and groups of living statuary rise from the water. Mr. Manuel Klein composed the music, which is of an agreeable quality, two of his numbers, "The whole year round" and "Motherland," being particularly pleasing to the ear. Mr. R. H. Burnside's stage-management has been praised on every hand. The dances arranged by Signor Vincenzo Romeo, the scenery painted by Mr. Voegtlin, and the costumes designed by Mr. Alfred Edel, are important factors in the success of the entertainment.

TOTTENHAM PALACE.

Fred Karno's troupe, with his specially-selected company, in *The Dandy Thieves*, forms the leading attraction at this already popular house, where Mr. T. S. Mayne so ably and courteously manages affairs. Mr. G. Hestor as Sergeant Lightning is a host in himself, and the piece throughout is immensely appreciated. As usual, the "Six little burglars" number is vociferously received. Mr. Tom Leamore is one of the pillars of the programme, and his second item, "Clarence Fitzgerald," is a sure and final nail in the coffin of anything connected with "the blues." A newcomer on the halls is Maidie Scott, with some original ideas, and who here makes a decided hit. Her first song, "Everybody works but father," is a great success, and her second contribution, "He's got to work," a sequel to her former song, simply brings down the house. The old popular comedian Harry Anderson works as hard as ever. The Ten Union Jack Boys take a prominent place in the bill, and a hearty welcome is given them. They work well together with the happiest results. Some excellent dancing is also a feature of the performances of the troupe. The Two Jagos are a decided success, the high-kicking and toe-dancing of the lady artist being a combination of skill and grace that is much appreciated. They are also very clever at bâton wielding. A notable hit is achieved by the Whittakers in their sketch entitled *Whittington*; and Winnie Derson, comedienne, sings in a very engaging manner. We cannot overpraise the art of the Three San Remo Girls. A series of films by Ruffell's Bioscope completes an excellent programme.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

THE Brothers Huxter have been engaged by Mr. William Morris for a twelve weeks' tour in America, commencing Feb. 15, 1909.

MR. CHARLES COLLETTE will appear next week at the Assembly Rooms, Great Malvern, in *Micawber, Tea for Two*, and his special patter item, *Hard Luck*, &c., &c., with Leamington to follow.

THE latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra 1¼; Canterbury, ¼; Empire (15s. paid), 1¼; ditto (10s. paid), 1; London Pavilion Ordinary, 4; ditto Preference, 4¼; Metropolitan, 11s.; Moss Empire, 4¼; ditto, 5 per cent. Pref., 3¼; Oxford, 6¼; Palace 13-16; Tivoli, 5; Var. Cons. Theatres, 7-16.

THE annual general meeting of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association has been fixed for Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Bedford Head, at 6.30 p.m.

KINEMATOGRAPH regulations respecting the use of the kinematograph in theatres and halls, also the regulations respecting the use of limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the kinematograph or limelight should possess a copy of these regulations.

BATTERSEA PALACE.

Competitions for comeliness are this week the leading features of the Macnaghten halls in London, and the belles of Battersea have entered the lists with avidity. A closely-crowded house marked the opening of the competition on Monday, when Mr. James McCarthy, the energetic and painstaking manager, announced that prizes to the extent of £6 in cash would be given, and that three additional awards for the best-dressed hair would be made. He announced that the candidates might include all those between the years of fourteen and fifty, adding, however, that the age would not be divulged. Thus reassured, a dozen or so of Battersea's fairest made for the stage, upon which a committee of local gentlemen had seated themselves in solemn state. The names of the candidates were not revealed, but each participant was numbered, and as Mr. McCarthy called out "No. 1," the maiden, with trembling step and slow, emerged from the wings and posed nervously beneath the powerful glare of the limelight. In vain she looked into the faces of the judges to discern some trace of her fate, but each member of the committee bore an inscrutable expression from which no hope could be gleaned. Thus the trial proceeded, the house cheering in various degrees as each advanced to the footlights. The participants were of a very homely character, and ill compared with many of the artists, who did not take part in the competition. The choice at length was made, and two lassies were selected to compete in the final yesterday (Friday) evening, No. 11, a young lady with golden ringlets, being a very popular choice. The award for the best-dressed hair fell to No. 6, who was also to compete in the final. "Wot abaht No. 6 for beauty?" bawled an enthusiastic admirer in the balcony, but no answer was vouchsafed.

The regular programme is a substantial one, and includes a sensational sketch, *The House of Terror*, in which Miss Beaumont Collins plays with much dramatic intensity the part of a distraught woman who has witnessed the murder of her husband in a thieves' den in Ratcliff Highway, and eventually takes vengeance on his assassin. A New York detective who enters the house in the disguise of a drunken sailor is cleverly played by that skilful and experienced actor Mr. George Mallett; and good work is also done by Mr. J. Boyd Pearson as a gentleman cracksman and by Miss Stella Leigh as an old hag. A sketch of a humorous character is furnished by Damerell and Rutland and company in the sporting farce *Clever Mr. Fugg*, which depicts the embarrassments of a runaway couple who are so impecunious that the bridegroom has to lie in bed while his pyjamas are pawned by the man in possession. The extravagant situations of the playlet caused continuous laughter.

A warm welcome is extended to Miss Josephine Crook, who renders sentimental ballads illustrated in gorgeous colours pleasingly, and gains the vociferous assistance of the house in the choruses. Miss Tiny Arnold, the clever little comedienne, sings and dances with all her wonted joyousness and energetic skill; Norman Grant, a lady at the piano, sings a pleasing humorous song with "Georgie" as the burden of her refrain; and Ted Waite, a comedian with a quaint individuality, gives a parody of "Will you love me in December?" with much drollery. Daring equilibristic feats are done by the Almas, one of whom mounts a pyramid of chairs placed on a table, and at this precarious height revolves on one hand and performs other dexterous tricks. Included in the programme are also Attie Santa, burlesque artist; the Two Sprees, in a song-scena; the Strattons in a musical act; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux; and Saxe Edevere, who essays imitations at the piano, which he claims to play entirely by ear.

REVIVAL OF ROLLER-SKATING.

Thanks to American enterprise, roller-skating has entered upon a new era in this country. During the last few months it has been demonstrated that, operated on certain lines, roller-skating rinks can be made not merely places of enjoyment for the middle-classes capable of paying for rational pleasure at a moderate price, but, as well, first-class profit-earning concerns. Tournament Hall Rink, Edge-lane, Liverpool, was only opened at the end of last year and remained in operation until the end of May. During that time the better classes of the city patronised it in their thousands. Mr. C. P. Crawford, not slow to gauge the temperament of the English people as judged by Liverpool, opened another rink at Llandudno, and a third at Newcastle. This revival of roller-skating, so auspiciously inaugurated at Liverpool, spread rapidly through the country. On one carnival night alone at Newcastle no fewer than 7,000 persons paid for admission to the rink. The success thus achieved emboldened Mr. Crawford to still further develop the resources at his command by forming "The American Roller Rink Company," with head offices in North John-street, Liverpool, for the purpose of establishing rinks in most of the large towns of the country. In the case of each new rink a separate company is formed with capital independently subscribed. That the public are enthusiastic in their support of the scheme is attested by the fact that the capital is fully subscribed for rinks in Edinburgh, Leeds, Sunderland, Bradford, and Belfast. The rinks in Sunderland and Edinburgh are already open and receiving public patronage. The American Roller Rink Company have secured the Olympia, London, for a large rink, and are going to open other rinks in Dublin, Glasgow, and Manchester (St. James's Hall), companies now being in course of formation to accomplish this object. From Liverpool has radiated a passion for the sport of roller-skating which has spread throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles, and which seems destined to extend still further.

AN ALIEN PIRATE.

Samuel Lubinski, 22, who gave an address in Fairclough-street, Limehouse, was charged on Monday at Old-street with being in possession of a number of pirated copies of copyright musical publications.

Frank Maybee, an agent of the Association of Music Publishers, proved that shortly after midday the prisoner had a stall with music in Whitecross-street, and the witness sent a woman to make a purchase, she returning with a copy of a song called "Love me and the world is mine," which witness saw was a piration. He then called a constable and gave the prisoner into custody, and on searching the stock on the stall and a quantity hidden found forty-one pirated copies of songs, including "The Merry Widow" waltz, "A Waltz Dream," "Mona," and others.

Witness produced the copyright certificates of some of these, and Mr. Cluer made an order condemning the copies. He ordered the prisoner, who offered no defence, to pay a fine of £5, or suffer a month's imprisonment.

AN exceptionally good programme is presented at the Market Hall, Whitehaven, this week. The pictures include The Organ-grinder's Daughter, The Black Viper, The Pretty Flower-girl, Too Busy to Court, the Gipsy Model, His First Frock Coat, &c. Donald and Le Brun in their sporting absurdity *The Huntsman and the Maid* are well received.

EDISON FILMS

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, U.S.A.

HEARD OVER THE 'PHONE.

Synopsis of Scenes:

A CLOUDLESS SKY—Mother and little daughter gathering flowers.
MAKING AN ENEMY—Father visits the stable—Finds favourite horse lame—Blames hostler—Hot words—Blows follow—Hostler summarily discharged—Swears vengeance.
THE "SNAKE IN THE GRASS"—Father about to depart for business—Wife and child wave "adieu"—Hostler watches from under cover—Wife and child at his mercy—Determines to steal child.
HOSTLER ACTS—"Coast clear"—Hostler reconnoitres—In an ugly mood—Climbs porch.
BEFORE THE STORM—Mother reading to child—Has presentiment of danger—Hears footsteps—Rushes to 'phone.
AT HUSBAND'S OFFICE—Husband called up—Is startled—Thinks wife unduly alarmed.
A TERRIBLE ORDEAL—Sudden interruption—(Wife drops receiver)—A masked face at the window—Husband hears crash of broken glass—The hostler's entrance—Wife's scream—The attack.
AS IN A VISION—Husband hears every word—Witnesses as in a vision every scene enacted.
MOTHER'S LOVE—Husband hears wife's frantic appeals for mercy—His child's prayers.
SUSPENSE—SILENCE—Hear child's cry as hostler secures her—The mother going to the rescue—The desperate struggle—The mother's cry as she regains her child—Frenzy of enraged and baffled demon—A pistol-shot—The mother's dying words as she crawls to the 'phone—The child's heartrending sobs—Then SILENCE.

No. 6373. Code, "Velounce." Approximate Length 575ft.

A COMEDY IN BLACK AND WHITE.

SILHOUETTE PICTURE.

Synopsis of Scenes:

THE SHADES OF NIGHT—A big Harvest Moon lights the scene—On a leafless tree a wise old owl is perched—The shadowy outlines of a cottage are discerned—On the curtain of the large window Pa's form is seen—A moonlit lake affords a background for the action.
"ROMEO, WHERE ART THOU?"—Seated on a rustic bench in the garden a dusky maiden awaits her lover—The laggard arrives anon with huge bouquet—All is forgiven, and the lovers start to "bill and coo"—But Pa has "an eye to windward," and enters an objection—Brave "Romeo" waits not upon the order of his going, but makes a spurt—The weeping damsel is led into the house, and severely lectured.
"LOVE LAUGHS AT LOCKSMITHS"—At stern parents, too, at times—Swain number Two arrives with a larger bouquet—The happy man is cautiously let in by his inamorata—The business of love is continued—Plainly shown on the curtain—And the owl still blinks.
"MUSIC HATH CHARMS"—So thinks the next "Admirer," for he has brought his banjo—He mounts the rain-barrel, and starts a serenade—But he's under the wrong window, for Pa's night-capped head appears—A pail of water rewards the singer, whose uncertain footing lands him in the barrel.
Pa sees the light below—Breaks in on the devoted couple—A general "rough-house" ensues—The Lover is thrown out—And the weeping maiden is laid across Pa's knee, and promises to never have a beau again.

No. 6374. Code, "Velours." Approximate Length 225ft.

LATEST SUBJECTS:

No. 6366.—THE FACE ON THE BAR-ROOM FLOOR.
No. 6367.—A DUMB HERO. No. 6369.—TALES THE SEARCHLIGHT TOLD.
No. 6370.—ROMANCE OF A WAR NURSE. No. 6368.—LIFE'S A GAME OF CARDS.
No. 6371.—WHEN RUBEN COMES TO TOWN. No. 6364.—THE BOSTON TEA-PARTY.
No. 6372.—AEROPLANE FLIGHTS BY HENRY FARMAN.

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THE METROPOLITAN.

This magnificent house, which has lately fallen in with the prevailing fashion of two houses a night, is meeting with deserved success in its liberal catering for the masses of Paddington and Kilburn, and Mr. Jack Edgar, the manager for Mr. Henri Gros, who is enjoying a well-deserved holiday abroad, is rejoicing in the generous patronage that has been accorded every evening this week to the two performances. Paul Cinque valli, the world's most famous juggler, is the one performer in the universe whose title is undisputed, even by the most distinguished of his fellows. Originally a remarkable acrobat—an intrepid trapeze performance being his speciality—as well as a daring equestrian, Cinquevalli started his career as a juggler after he met with a serious accident, which incapacitated him for many months. With invincible cheerfulness he mapped out a new career. The great gymnast became the great juggler, who, fertile in invention, leaves his numerous imitators far in the rear by constantly accomplishing new and startling tricks with an ease, an alertness, and a grace that are unapproachable. Billiard cues positively dance to the magic touch of Paul, the apostle of juggling, and as a walking billiard board he pockets the balls from inconceivable places. The act is always bright, and the assistant is particularly amusing in his gesture play, his frantic efforts to save his "guvnor" from disasters that never occur being very droll.

Humour of the most diverting nature is to be discovered in the patter of Vasey and Ramsey, who present their novel creation, *The German and His Butler*. The telling and effective cross-talk evokes hearty merriment, and the double dance on a table is something to be seen and enjoyed. Cole and Rags, juggling eccentrics, have a series of droll "fakments" which set the house in a roar, and their mirthful mission is exceedingly well carried through. The prismatic beauty of the effects produced by Maurin's Fountains is as undisputed as that of the nymphs who pose as naiads during the playing of the jets beneath multi-coloured lights. This is a display that evokes enthusiasm. Les Strads open the programme with their musical sketch, *The Night Before the Concert*, in which much skill is shown in the playing of various instruments.

Miss Margaret Parker and company present the stirring interlude entitled *Lucky Jim*, the story of a newspaper boy, who is able to assert in a very practical way the uprightness and sterling honesty of the lower classes, pursuing a course of transparent virtue that meets with generous appreciation from the gods. He saves a diamond-dealer from committing a felony, and unmasks a slimy and villainous clerk. Miss Parker, in the title-rôle, has the house entirely with her, the outspoken and virtuous sentiments of the character affording intense delight. Mr. Herbert Harden and Mr. Charles V. Sanford give capital support. Other attractions of the bill include Aimée de Leska, the Canadian soprano; Tony Black, Scotch comedian; Jennie Moore, character comedienne and dancer; Victor Newman, in a Dickens impersonation; Lennie and Hast, in *The Sea Nymph*; and Ruffell's Bioscope.

QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

The Hall Caine family is well represented this week at the Queen's, Poplar. Mr. Derwent Hall Caine and his company are presenting for the first time

"THE FATAL ERROR,"
A Miniature Drama by Hall Caine.

The Widow ..... Miss Violet Paget
Jonas ..... Mr. Walter Ringham
The Parson ..... Mr. Thomas Ford
The Sheriff ..... Mr. Robin Harcourt
A Guest ..... Mr. G. J. Hallowes
The Traveller ..... Mr. Derwent Hall Caine

Mr. Hall Caine's sketch, *The Fatal Error*, seems to have been written with the object of introducing Mr. Hall Caine's personal appearance to variety artists. For his son, Mr. Derwent Hall Caine, who is playing one of the principal parts, is so made up, with the assistance of hirsute "additions," as to give us a capital living portrait of his father. There are the luxuriant side-locks, the pointed, Shakespearian beard, and the expression of dreamy obsession characteristic of the well-known author. As to the plot, it is not new to us. A mother and her son are lamenting their hard fate in an inn-farm in the Isle of Man. The home in which they have lived for so many years is to be put up for auction on the following morning, and they anticipate being turned out of it. Unfortunately their unhappy position is due to the conduct of a scapegrace son, whose debts had been honourably discharged by the family exchequer. He disappeared fifteen years before the period at which the story opens. On this night he returns as a stranger to them, and they do not recognise him. He tells them that it is he who will buy up the homestead, and he has already seen the Sheriff in reference to the matter. He shows the old mother a wallet which he informs her contains more than twenty times the amount necessary for the purchase. That night, after the traveller has gone to his bed, the mother and the other son (Jonas) decide that they will become possessed of the money in the pocket case, though the woman warns him that there must be no violence. But seemingly Jonas—though we learn that he has hitherto led an upright, straightforward, honest life—so far lets his feelings get the better of him that he murders the stranger, only to be confronted a few hours later by the Sheriff, who inquires for the long-lost son, whom he knows to have called at the house, and whom he is now informed has never been there! Miss Violet Page plays appropriately and with considerable feeling as the widowed mother, and Mr. Walter Ringham gives a forcefully dramatic representation of Jonas, his remorse at the discovery that he has killed his own brother and would-be benefactor being depicted with a fine sense of tragedy. The little piece received adequate attention from the members of the company who portray the different characters.

There is plenty of variety in the rest of the programme. Miss Bessie Benson is a comedienne and sand dancer of quite outstanding ability, and Ray and Lingard contrive to be exceedingly entertaining in their comedy duologue, *The First of April*; Miss Marie Blythe has a delightful number in "The old love's lost," which she sings with verve, and Rex Fox displays remarkable talents in his ventriloquial and musical act on the wire. The Lyric Mummers present a refined vocal act, their delivery of "Men were deceivers ever" being particularly commendable. The Lyons Trio submit a clever pantomimic and dancing act, and Miss Billie Burford interests the audience with her very appropriate rendering of "In a cheap excursion train," while Otto and Olga provide a capital comedy and musical turn, their selections on the concertina from *The Bohemian Girl* being especially admired. Mr. Walter King, "the doleful one," offers some laughable comments on the subject of married life, and very attractive are the animated pictures shown.

Wearing a most becoming dress of the thirties, Madame Guilbert has been singing at the Coliseum this week in succession "Les Cloches de Nantes," a version of "Where are you going, my pretty maid?" and "Mary was a housemaid," and, by way of encore, "A bargain." "Mary was a housemaid" was originally sung in London by Miss Clare Romaine, who has just left us for America.

Harry Lauder is appearing next week at the Tivoli for the last few performances, prior to his departure to America. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope will be exploiting pictures of the Four-Inch Motor Race at the Isle of Man, every incident from the start to the finish being shown on the screen.

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MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON,
Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.,
Jan. 18, March 8, April 5, 12, May 10, 17, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov. 16 (three nights),
Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
March 15, 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 16.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Feb. 1, 15, March 1, 8, 22, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Feb. 15, 22, March 15, 29, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
March 1, 15, 29, April 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
April 12, 19, May 3, 10, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Oct. 19, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, 25, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Oct. 19, 26, Dec. 21 (5 nights), Jan. 4, 18, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Oct. 5, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, on (three nights only).
Address,
E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Attractions Only.
GRAND THEATRE, SOUTHAMPTON,
Dec. 14
(three nights only),
THEATRE ROYAL, BOURNEMOUTH,
Dec. 17 (three nights only),
Nov. 23.
Apply, F. Mouillot, 1, King-street, Covent Garden.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Nov. 2 (3 nights), 9 (3 nights), Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
Nov. 12 (3 nights), onwards.
Apply for all above, Rowland, T., Folkestone.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Important Attraction,
Oct. 12, Nov. 9.
Fredk. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
WANTED, Premier Companies only,
For Vacant Dates
Address,
Rollo Balmain.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Front-rank Musical and Dramatic Attractions, Feb. 15, March 22, April 19, May 3, and onwards.
Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30.
Required, Sound Attraction for Dec. 26 (7 nights).
Address, Thos. Swinton.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, Julian Malvern.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Oct. 12, 26, Dec. 21, 28, and on.
Now booking season, 1909.
Address, Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
Proprietors, The Royal and Grand Theatres, Ltd.
Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.
WANTED, Big Attractions for Nov. 16, March 22, April 5, May 3, 10, 17, 24, and Whit week.

J. H. SAVILE'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for
PERTH THEATRE,
Oct. 26, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, March 8.
PAISLEY THEATRE,
Feb. 1, April 12, 19, May 3, and onwards.
Address, J. H. Savile, Perth Theatre.

WANTED, Palace Pier, Brighton, First-class Comedies and Musical Pieces, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, onward. A good Pantomime write in. Letters to J. E. Cowell.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, 30, and intermediate onwards. Address, E. B. Goulden.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-class Pantomimes, for early Jan. dates. Address, E. B. Goulden.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies,
Oct. 26, Nov. 30, and few later dates.
The Theatre has just been entirely renovated and re-decorated, also completely fitted with electric light both before and behind the curtain.
(Three colours on stage.)
This week, "Face at the Window" (return); next week, "Two Lancashire Lasses in London."
Now booking Spring.
Address, Gerald Harding.

THEATRE ROYAL, GOOLE.
WANTED, Good Musical Attraction, Oct. 19, also Nov. 5 (3 nights), 9, 23, 30, Dec. 7.
Refer Mr. Dickie Clare re business.
Apply, Greaves, Theatre Royal, Goole.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, WIGAN.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Nov. 9 (Musical preferred), vacant through transfer. Particulars, &c., to Worswick.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
WANTED, Good Companies, Musical preferred, Jan. 11 (three nights), Jan. 20 (three nights), Jan. 25, Feb. 15, March 1, 15, 22, 29, Easter, and onwards. Apply, F. Graham Macdona, Manager.

VICTORIA THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, a few big Attractions, for the Spring, no vacant dates this year. Alf Bailey and Co. Managers. N.B.—This house is situated in the very centre of the town.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEIGH.
Vacant, a few Spring and Autumn Dates.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic, Musical or Variety Combination Cos. Address, Wallace Childs.

COMPANIES WANTED.

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GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, Nov. 23, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, Oct. 26, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

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Seating Capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the Largest, Most Handsome, and Best Equipped Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only. Nov. 2 (to oblige a manager), must be big Attraction. Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909. Will Guarantee anything really Big.
This week, Mrs. Brown-Potter, in "Lady Frederick." Next week, George Edwardes' "The Merry Widow." Oct. 12, "Merrie England."
Oct. 26, Moody-Manners "A" Company (seventh visit).
All communications, John Ed. Jowsey.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Telegrams, "Magnet." Telephones, 413, 426, 500.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for
Nov. 2, 9, 16, on, with exceptions.
Applications for dates to Hugh Robertson, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.,
WANTED, Pay-Box Attractions,
Various 1909 and 1910.
A well-deserved "hurricane" reception accorded to Mr. Sam Livesey and Company in "The Village Blacksmith." Return booked.
Coms., Arthur Jefferson.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Oct. 12 (five nights), Certainty or Share.
Also Vacant, Nov. 2, 9, Dec. 7, 14, and Xmas
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, First-class Attractions, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Vacant, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL
Wanted, Powerful Good-class Attractions, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 9, 16.
Re Dates, Fred Granville,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, First-class Attractions,
Nov. 23, Dec. 21, 28.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions. Only Vacant, Oct. 26, Jan. 4 and 11.
Holding Capacity £100.
Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
Sole Lessee and Manager, Tom Barger.
WANTED, First-class Attractions (Musical preferred), Nov. 2, 16, 23 (?), 30 (?), Dec. 14, Jan. 4, onwards. The above, under present management, is now doing really Good Business, providing the show will stand on its own merits. We open well, and continue to play to solid money every night. Not opening to a few pounds on Monday and then playing to shillings until Saturday. We are patronised by the best people in the town. Everything is done on our part to ensure success (financially), and the comfort of the Artists is studied. Refer to Charles Freeman, Esq., Mrs. Fred J. Kirke, F. H. Neville, Esq., Fred J. Webb, Esq. All coms. to Business-Manager, Norman H. Barger.

HIS MAJESTY'S T., BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Leading Theatre of the Town.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 9 and 16, open for Strong Attractions.
Apply, Calvert Routledge.

THE PALACE THEATRE, WREXHAM.
Building at a cost of £15,000. Stage opening 30ft. by 30ft., 35ft. deep, 64ft. wall to wall.
WANTED, Known, the Management are now Prepared to Negotiate for First-class Companies (only entertained), for Musical Comedies, Pantomimes, Dramas, and Society Plays, for the Spring, 1909. A population over 70,000, Central Ry., Motor Railway Cars, and Electric Trams. All communications to the Managing-Director, W. Yates Gregory.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Oct. 26; also Vacant, through transfer, Nov. 23.
Address, Rich. Waldon.

ST. GEORGE'S THEATRE, KENDAL.
Enlarged, redecorated, and reseated; new Proscenium and Stage (50ft. by 32ft.), First-class Orchestra.
WANTED, Oct. 15, Nov. 26, and Spring, also Nov. 12 (three nights), Special Holiday Date. Figures of previous years given and guarantee if necessary to good No. 1 Musical Attraction. Record business since Aug. reopening. Refer H. F. Maltby, Lionel Rignold, Haldane Crichton, Geo. Robertson, &c. J. Butler, Manager.

WANTED, for Grand Theatre, Croydon, Nov. 30 Vacant; one of the Best Business Weeks in the Year at the Grand Theatre. Only No. 1 Companies entertained. Address, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, good Company, Oct. 8, 9, 10 (3 days).
W. Payne Seddon,
Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Company, Oct. 5.
E. H. Page.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. Ashton, Strand, Barnstaple.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Oct. 12, 13, 19, 20, 21, 26, 27, 28. Apply, D. Phillips.

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE, RAMSGATE.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.
WANTED, good Companies, Oct. 5, onwards, with exceptions; guarantees given if desired for First-class Attractions. Herbert Jay, 10, Jermyn-street, London.

WANTED, Special Attractions, for Nov. 23 and 30; also Open Dates for First-class Pantomime. Address, Horner, Victoria, Burnley.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Nov. 9, 16, 23, Jan. 11, 18 (?), 25 (?), Feb. 1, 8, March 1, 22, and on. W. E. Potts, O. H., Dunfermline.

WANTED, Pantomime, at Christmas, three or four weeks, in good Provincial Theatre.
Particulars to
Box 7,036, "The Era."

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, for Empire Theatre, Blaina, Mon., First-class Musical and Dramatic Companies, Oct. 19, onwards, with exceptions. Apply, W. R. Lee.

WANTED, for Empire, Riddings, Oct. 5 and on, Companies, to follow Campbell Kelly, Esq.; very small Stage. Gustave, Bull Hall, Sittingbourne.

WANTED, a Good Fit-up Company (Pantomime preferred),
Dec. 26 and 28.
State best Sharing Terms.
H. Twitchett, Subscription Rooms, Stroud.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, Dec. 26 (seven nights), Jan. 11.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 12.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, 28.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 4, Feb. 8 (North).
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 12, Jan. 4, 11.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov. 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 18.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Jan. 25 (North).
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 16, Xmas.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, 23, Dec. 21, 28, and Xmas.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 12, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, 28.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21, 28, on, with exceptions.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 14, 26 (seven nights).
Douglas Bruce, 14, Bloomsbury-st., London, W.C.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Oct. 12, Nov. 16, 23, 30.
Andrew Melville, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Dec. 21, 28.
Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH."
And Répertoire of recent West End Successes.
Mr. Ernest E. Norris and Company.
WANTED, Oct. 12 and 19, to follow Brixton Theatre. Address, C. H. Bowmaker, Knightstone Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of Oct. 19 and Nov. 2, for this remarkable success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and last week at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write, to
W. W. Kelly, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, Weeks of Nov. 2 and Dec. 14.
Wire or write,
W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 25.
Charles Harrington,
Pavilion Theatre, London, E.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Oct. 12, 26 (Midlands or South).
Oct. 12, 26 (Midlands or South).
Wire to-day, J. W. Cordiner, T. R., Rochdale.
Sept. 28, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

Mr. MONCKTON HOFFE'S COMPANY,
"IRENE WYCHERLEY"
(by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell).
Special Company in this Famous Kingsway Theatre Success.
Elaborate scenery carried.
WANTED, First-class Theatres Only, Oct. 19, 20, 21 (Midlands), and Nov. 23.
Address, Sept. 28, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 7, Xmas week (7 nights), also Spring.
Address, E. C. S., Bishopsdale Farm, Benenden, Kent.

By Arrangement with Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore.
MISS NORA CARTON'S CO.
"CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 12, Oct. 12.
C. B. Vaughan, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI AND MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:—Feb. 22, April 19, 28, May 10.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, Polini, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

"THE FLOWER GIRL."
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Nov. 23 and 30 (to follow Theatre Royal, Glasgow, return visit),
Wire, F. Martin Morris,
T. R., Dewsbury
Letters, T. R., St. Helens.
See Companies Column.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Nov. 23, 30, Jan. 4, 11, 18, various, on.
Sumptuously Staged, Beautifully Dressed, and always a Perfect Cast.
E. A'Dell, Workmen's T., Abercynon, S. Wales.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Theatres; only vacant dates until 1910 Nov. 16, Jan. 4, April 12.
Everything carried. Sixty people on the Stage.
E. Vivian Edmonds, Royalty Theatre, Chester.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for "Pair of Spectacles," or Repertory, Oct. 5 and 12.
Wire, Royalty T., Glasgow.

WANTED, Nov. 30, for
"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
Also Vacant, Oct. 19 and Nov. 9 and 16, for
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
Eugene Bertram, Adelphi Theatre, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
A Great Cast,
A Great Play,
draws
Great Business.
Vacant
Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 28.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
this Brilliant Success,
Playing to Packed Business.
Refer.
Nov. 2, 9, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
this Wonderful Money-maker,
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 28, 29, 30,
Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Ask any Manager about this.
Vacant Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 11, 25.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

NEW PLAY
by
MRS. MORTON POWELL.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Oct. 19.
Special Band to Parade. Refer re business this week at Sunderland.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Vacant Oct. 26, Oct. 26, Xmas week. Doing bigger bus. than ever. Refer Arthur Carlton, Esq.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, Xmas week, Jan. 4, 11, 25, only vacant dates till Autumn, 1909. The Plays to draw the money. All Plays most beautifully mounted. Managers wire for these Attractions to Kimberley, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy; next, T. R., Barry Dock.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her big successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell,
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, Nov. 16 (?) and New Year's Week;
also a few Spring Dates Vacant for either Play.
Coms. to George Kirk,
Prince of Wales's T., Mexboro'.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY,
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb. 8, March 1, 8, on.
Sept. 28, T. R., Pontypool.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
"ROLLICKING RORY."
"ROLLICKING RORY."
WANTED, Nov. 9 (?), through Theatre closing.
Motherwell; next, Paisley Theatre, Paisley.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Easter.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 2, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 16. Fred Bulmer, St. James's Theatre, Long Eaton.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, 16, Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8, 15, on, for the above attraction. Address, Armadale and Warren, Theatre Royal, Sunderland.

"HIS WIFE NO LONGER."
The Beautiful Domestic Play.
Produced with Genuine Success on Monday at the Theatre Royal, Preston.
Mr. Pritt desires to thank Brother Managers and Friends for their sincere good wishes, which have been more than realised.
WANTED, Good Theatres, for Nov. 2, 9, and 16.
Address,
Stephen Pritt, T. R., Preston;
or David McFarlane, G. T., Nelson.

MESSRS. S. RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World," Oct. 26 (to follow Junction, Manchester), Nov. 2, 30 (near Sunderland), Dec. 7, Xmas, and New Year, onward; Easter settled. Re-booked for Glasgow at Princess's and Lyceum, Nov., 1909. "How Women Ruin Men," new production, Wanted, Nov. 16, Xmas, Jan. 4, onward. Splendid Casts and complete Productions. G. M. Copping, Gaiety Theatre, Leith.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES DRAYCOTT'S FAMOUS HIGH-CLASS REPERTOIRE CO.
Twelve Popular and Successful Plays. Magnificently Staged and Mounted. Everything carried for each piece. Really First-class Company. Business enormous everywhere.
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Dec. 23.
Apply at once,
Charles Draycott, T. R., Leigh.

WANTED, for Strong Attraction, with London Star, First-class Theatres for Nov. 9 and 16. Vacant through transferring. Apply,
Mr. Robert Arthur, 24A, Regent-street, S.W.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
WANTED, Nov. 2 and May 17, for above Phenomenal Success at the Playhouse, London.
Address, Sidney Cooper, Lyceum, Newport.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26 (precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 (precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. Wyn Weaver, T. R., Worthing.

WANTED, Theatres, "The Great White Chief."
The Success of this Autumn.
Forty People on Stage,
including Lingford Carson.
Vacant Nov. 9, Dec. 7, '08, Jan. 4, '09.
Apply to L. Carson, Theatre Royal, Aston.

"A MOTHER'S SALVATION."
By Nita Rae.
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 23, Jan. 4, 11, April, onward, for this Attraction.
Refer wherever played. Address,
Maude Western, this, Aberdare; next, Llanelly.

"SECOND TO NONE," by Walter Howard.
Bigger than ever.
WANTED, Theatres, Easter and few Autumn Dates only. Address, T. E. Ward, T. R., Chatham.

JULIAN MALVERN'S TOUR.
"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Good Theatre, Nov. 9, 16, 23, Dec. 21, 28, and on.
Address, Chas. M. Julian, R. T., Morecambe.

"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."
WANTED, for J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 Company, including Frank Lawton, Good Theatre, Nov. 9.
Address,
15, Clifford's-inn, Fleet-street.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY
will Tour the above Successful Romantic Drama, commencing Aug., 1909.
Every scene will be carried, and the costumes and uniforms will be most elaborate.
Fine plant of Pictorial Printing by David Allen and Sons and Moody Bros.
Company of Carefully-selected Artists.

WANTED, August Bank Holiday, 1909, Sept. 27, between Sheffield and Burnley, Oct. 11, to follow Burnley, Oct. 16, and on, with exceptions. Please apply, Miss HILDA BEVERLEY, "A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., T. R., Smethwick.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN,"
and
"NANA," the Rage of Paris
WANTED, Oct. 12, Christmas, Feb. 8, Various, on.

Magnificent Receipts at
T. R., Belfast, Aug. 3. Re-opening.
O. H., Perth, Aug. 10. Re-opening.
T. R., Paisley, Aug. 17. Re-opening.
Princess's, Glasgow, Aug. 24. Return.
T. R., Dumfries. Aug. 31. Re-opening.
T. R., Hawick. Sept. 3 Re-opening.
Drill Hall, Ulverston. Sept. 7.
St. George's T., Kendal. Sept. 10.
T. R., Goole. Sept. 14.
Pavilion, Abertillery Sept. 21.
All are rebooked,
Most being third visit.

Miss Esmond is authorised to use the names of Mr. F. W. Warden, Mr. J. H. Savile, Mr. Rich. Waldon.

Inquiry means business!!!

A magnificent two-manual Pipe Organ travelled.

The brilliant young actress
Miss Rosie Neville
as Lady Sybil Elton and Nana.

LOIE ESMOND, Pavilion, Abertillery.
Sept. 28, Exchange T., Wellingborough.
Oct. 1, Victoria T., Kettering.

The Thrilling Melodrama, "CONVICT 99."

WANTED, Autumn Dates, Oct. 5, 26, Dec. 7, and on, 1909.

"SEXTON BLAKE, DETECTIVE."
Vacant for this Enormous Success.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

Apply, ALFRED H. GRAHAME,
H. M. Theatre, Carlisle.

KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON'S
"WAS SHE TO BLAME?"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Theatres. Production next Easter, on a lavish scale, at Junction, Manchester, only five vacant dates all 1909. Write, Vauxhall, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

Mr. E. H. KNIGHT'S NO. 1 CO.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
WANTED, Known, the New Human Drama. A Big Success. Refer to any theatre visited. Magnificent new scenery. Bookings and pencillings already include Star, Liverpool; Star, Swansea; Royal, Chatham; Alexandra, Hull; Alexandra, Sheffield; Royal, Barnsley; Metropole Glasgow; Opera House, St. Helens; and many others. Vacant through transfer, Nov. 9, 23, 30, also Xmas (seven nights), Jan. 18, 25, onward, with exceptions. E. H. KNIGHT, 7, The Crescent, Barnes.

'LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Dec. 7 and 28 (South), for this Great Money-maker.
DICKIE CLARE, T. R., Batley (return).

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
WANTED, Dates, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, Jan. 4.
HARRY TILBURY, Theatre, Heywood.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Nov. 2, through transfer.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Elaborate Revival. Strong Cast.
Vacant Nov. 2, Dec. 26 (seven nights).
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Vacant Nov. 16, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
Touring Summer and Autumn, 1909.
Wire or write, Theatre Royal, Tyldesley.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"BABES IN THE WOOD,"
"ALADDIN,"
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
WANTED Managers, with Vacant Dates, for First-class Pantomimes in January and February to communicate with
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"RAFFLES."
"RAFFLES."
"RAFFLES."
WANTED, a First-class Theatre, for Christmas,
also for various Spring and Autumn Dates, 1909.

Apply by letter to AUGUSTUS BINGHAM,
10 and 11, Jermyn-st., Piccadilly, London, W.

J. P. MOORE'S "WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Jan. 11 and 18, through Theatres changing hands.
Address, J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, Aug. 9, on, with exceptions.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11, 18, March 15 (?), April 5 (?).
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Stratford, E.

WANTED, for E. Hill-Mitchelson's Co's., New Production, Xmas,
"THE KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN,"
Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, and March 22.
"WHO IS SHE?"
Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 22, April 5.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, P.O.W., Grimsby.

"MAN TO MAN," Under the Direction of Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.
WANTED, Oct. 5 and 12.
FRANK ADAIR, Metropole, Glasgow.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Oct. 12, 19 (London or South), Nov. 9 (through transfer South).
HORACE STANLEY,
to-day, 19, Nansen-road, Clapham Common.
Next, Greenwich Theatre, S.E.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."
Messrs. Armour and Cheval's play is indeed one of the best and strongest dramas on the road.—Extract from "Era's" London production notice.
Enormous Success at Theatre Royal, Croydon, this week. Refer to Harry Osmond, Esq.
WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 26 (precede Portsmouth), and onwards, with exceptions. Wire for Oct. 5.
WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, Theatre Royal Croydon.

COLLINS'S PANTOMIME PRODUCTION,
Twice Nightly,
"PUSS-IN-BOOTS UP TO DATE."
Cast of over Forty Performers,
including Miss Ethel Beech (late of Mr. George Edwardes' Company,
Booked by Oswald Stoll, Esq., for three years),
Specialities by Lancashire Lasses and Collins' Juveniles.
Complete in eight scenes.
Costume by Alias, London.
WANTED, Jan. 18 and Feb. 8.
6, Hart-street, Bloomsbury, W.C.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime,
"Aladdin." Splendid Cast engaged.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, Jan. 11 and 18, through theatres changing hands.
Address, J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

THEATRES WANTED.

"CINDERELLA" PANTOMIME.
"CINDERELLA" PANTOMIME.
"CINDERELLA" PANTOMIME.
"CINDERELLA" PANTOMIME.
WANTED, Jan. 18, for above.

The Great Cast includes:
Madge Daly as the Prince.
Jessica Brooke as Cinderella.
Newham and Latimer, Sisters.
Harry C. Momber, the Page.
The Sisters Florence.
And the Famous Tally Ho Trio.

Good Chorus.
Beautiful Scenery.
Elegant Costumes.

The most Powerful Company and Elaborate Production travelled.

Jan. 18 only vacant date.
Remainder of a ten weeks' Season.

Booked with
Mr. Broadhead and Mr. Culling.

Apply for all particulars to
SIDNEY COOPER,
Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

Only Vacant Dates this Year,
Sept. 28 and Oct. 5.
Enormous Success Everywhere.
Refer to Managers where played.
A Real Novelty.
THE JAMAICANS,
The Most Successful, Artistic, Novel, and Smartest Combination now before the Public.
Twelve Coloured Ladies and Gentlemen.
Evening Dress, Native Costume, or Camp Dress.
Royalty delighted. The Public delighted.
Managers want Return Dates.
A most extensive and varied Répertoire.
Real Coon Singers and Dancers.
WANTED, Known.—Only Vacant Dates, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5. Full particulars, terms, and dates from Sole Managers, H. E. JONES and A. DOUGLASS, 21, Water-st., Liverpool. 'Phones, 2449 and 5650 Central. Wires, "Motherland, Liverpool."

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists and Chorus for Musical Comedy Tour, commencing Xmas. Write full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Heroic Irish Light Comedian, young, tall, slight figure; Low Comedy Character, Irish Comedian; Heroic Old Man; and young Juvenile Actor, tall, slight; also young, tall Juvenile Lady and young and tall Soubrette. Apply, with terms and all particulars of previous experience, enclosing photographs, by letter only (no telegrams), to RUSSELL NORRIS, 38, Tunley-rd., Balham, S.W.

WANTED, immediately, for Long Engagement, Soprano (height 5ft. 4in.), Dainty Soubrette, Contralto-Comedienne (height 5ft. 4in), Baritone-Comedian (height 5ft. 7in.), Tenor-Comedian (height 5ft. 7in.); must possess excellent voices, good appearance and refinement, also be Versatile, and able to read music. All communications must contain full particulars of previous engagements, photo., and résumé of répertoire, when interview will be arranged. AGENTS, Box 7,063, "The Era."

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN'S TOURS.
WANTED, immediately, a Lady and a Gentleman to play small parts, &c., in Mr. Norman's Répertoire Company. Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.

WANTED, a Principal Soubrette, for the Bandmann Opera Co.
Tour through India and the Far East.
Must sing and dance well.
Apply, with full particulars,
Box 7,066, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, a Smart, Robust, Heavy Lady, for Title-rôle in famous sketch, to join forces with West-end Star Actor. Investment necessary. Write fully to Box 7,062, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, for School-girl Part, must play accompaniment; long tour. Age, lowest terms, with photo. R. S., 26, Saltoun-road, Brixton.

"FOR LOVE OF A WOMAN" CO.
WANTED, immediately, good Heavy Man, tall, well built. Send photos., age, height, build, terms, and refs. (to be wired for), EUSTACE DAY, Queen's, Fleetwood; next, Court, Bacup.

WANTED, Known, opportunity for Gentleman who can invest £20 to play small part in First-class Comedy Sketch; £70 already spent on same; experience not necessary. Every enquiry invited. Write first instance to view to "London," Box 7,038, "The Era."

WANTED, First-class Ladies and Gentlemen Amateurs, to join the North London Entertainments Society; Concerts every Monday, Competitions monthly; Engagements found for advanced Members.
Particulars of Secretary,
W. WILLIAMS,
George Hotel, 57, Liverpool-road, Islington.

WANTED, Amateurs, to complete Operatic and Dramatic Society (now forming), also for Music Hall Turns. Apply by letter, stating age, or personally after 7. HAROLD WESTON, Manager, Hamilton Dramatic Studio, 26, Bishop's-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, Resident London, to Join Dramatic Club. Performances being arranged during coming season. Box 7,065, "The Era."

WANTED, Real Negroes, Specialities, Jubilee Singers, for "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Lowest terms, photo., full particulars, CHARLES HARRINGTON, Pavilion Theatre, London, E.

WANTED, Solo Dancers, for the Continent, good Engagement. Apply immediately to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription, 6d. weekly, yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers, and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, an Actress of great experience, at present engaged in principal West End Theatre, gives private lessons in Acting and Elocution. Moderate terms. Box 6,899, "Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Good Comedians, for next season's Pantomimes
Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, T., Worcester.

WANTED, for Pantomime, next Xmas, Ten Chorus Ladies, 5ft. 5in. in height. Photos., experience, references, &c., to E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Artists Disengaged for Pantomime to send photos., terms, and particulars to BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Principal Boy, Principal Girl, Comedians, Sisters, Chorus Ladies, &c.
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, for Pantomime, Several Good, Smart Chorus Ladies; also a few Young, Clever Dancers. Apply immediately, WILLIAM MARTIN, DARRELL'S Agency, 415, Strand.

WANTED, two good Male Quartettes, for Pantomime; good engagement. Send full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, six really Smart Show Girls for Pantomime; good appearance absolutely essential; good salary. Apply immediately to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233A, Regent-st.

WANTED, Acrobatic Dancers for Panto., also Girls with knowledge of Dancing, to train for Troupes. Call, Monday, between 2.30 and 4.30, Bay Malton Hotel, 158, Great Portland-street, W.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists to note the address of G. D. Fox, the reliable Composer and Arranger. 134, Queen's Park-road, Brighton. Please send orders early as possible.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Pattie Bella, Liberty for Panto., Prin. Boy or Girl. Big Success assured. Address, 282, Great Colmore-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Miss Louie Hurman, at Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Boy. Last year, Alex., Sheffield. Sept. 28, Grand, Gravesend.

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors and Managers who require a successful Pantomime,
Fanny Robina and Florry Cooper
are at Liberty for Principal Boy and Fairy Queen; we are also at Liberty Oct. 19, 26, for the Halls, Star Turns.

WANTED, Known, the Popular Sisters Terry, at Liberty for Pantomime, Boy and Girl. A Guaranteed Success. Communicate, Sept. 28, Hippodrome, Hull.

WANTED, by the Kebbles (Nora and Edie), Character Duettists and Expert Dancers, Vacant for Boy and Girl. Success, Winter Gardens, New Brighton. 31, Hilberry-avenue, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Harry Lonsdale, Coon Singer and Champion Little Dancer, including Sand, Step, and Buck Wing Dancer, is at Liberty for Pantomime only, small part, own speciality. Great Success. Offers invited. Apply, 6, Rose Hill-terrace, Guide, Blackburn.

WANTED, Known, Fred Hallam, at Liberty for Panto, Page, Dame, or Idle Jack. Sept. 28, Palace, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Jack Foley, at Liberty for Pantomime, Dame.
Sept. 28, Grand, Gravesend.

WANTED, Panto. Engagement, by Little Zola. Many thanks for offers. All communications, Empire, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, The Korries, Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Girl and Quaint Chinese Juggling Speciality, suit "Aladdin." 32, Friar-street, Reading.

WANTED, Known, Stuart and Evans, Refined Comedians, open for Panto.
3, Saltoun-road, Brixton.
Oct. 5, Albert Hall, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement, Panto., Pictures, or Combination, by the useful Trio, Happy Harry Ellis, Pianist, Vocalist; Grace Buckingham, Imperial Troupe of Performing Dogs; Alice Vernon, Serio, Dancer, also Solo Cornettist. HELLIS, Ebenezer Row, Dorking.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, at Once. References, lowest terms, reply WM. B. BOSTOCK, Artist, Scenic Studio, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester. Established 1894.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery and Properties, Pantomime or Productions; good effective work, cheap. J. JACKS, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class, Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, A. W. Moore, Scenic Artist, First-class, arrangements temporarily complete, Liberty shortly. Address, 8, Strawberry Dale-avenue, Harrogate.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Stafford, Scenic Artist; best references and best work. 24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NORTHERN THEATRES CO., LTD.
WANTED, Resident Acting-Manager, must have full knowledge of Theatre work. Terms, references, and full particulars to (letters only)
OTTO C. CULLING, Theatre Royal, Bury.

WANTED, A.-M. and Treasurer, for important fully-licensed Theatre. Cash Deposit for fidelity required.

Address, with all particulars,
Box 6,992, "The Era."

WANTED, Acting-Manager for Music Hall; experienced and of good address. Enclose copies of references, state age, height, and salary required. Address, Box 7,037, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Acting-Manager, for Provincial Music Hall, must understand twice nightly system, and have good references. Apply in first instance, by letter only, to
WALTER DE FREECE,
178, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

WANTED, a smart Advertising and Press Manager; must be a Hustler and Know his Business. Apply, stating age, experience, references, and salary required, to A. E. PICKARD, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, a Carpenter, capable of Painting, own tools. Full particulars,
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Pavilion Theatre, London, E.

WANTED, First-class Property Maker, one used to electrical effects; also Electrician, one used to lantern effects, one with own lantern preferred; must be generally useful, sobriety essential. Letters, with last two references, to be marked "Props." or "Electrician," V. NEWMAN, The Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, Property Man, to combine Billing. Age, references, lowest terms,
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, thoroughly efficient Billposter, must understand horses.
Good permanency for suitable man.
Age, experience, wages,
Box 7,006, "The Era."

WANTED, smart Bill-poster and Inspector, for London, one not afraid of work and willing to be useful in front at evening. Apply by letter, stating salary required, references, and positions held, to Box 7,042, "The Era."

WANTED, High Window Billers, open immediately for Huddersfield. Apply, with references, &c., RALPH PRINGLE, Pringle's Picture Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wardrobe Master, for Tour, to take charge of Wardrobe and Supers (one piece); long engagement. Box 7,058, "The Era."

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Engagement, as Manager, Resident or Touring, Advance Representative, by sound practical business man, 22 years' experience, sober, reliable, energetic, expert advertiser, control staff, fears no opposition, gentlemanly appearance, well up in Dramatic, Variety (can book Turns), or Pictures, not a brainless masher; could deposit to £1,000 solid cash. Terms, address, MANAGER, c/o Arons, Palatine-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, as Acting or Advance Manager, any position of trust; 11 years with one touring syndicate; excellent references; security if required.
WILLIAMS, 15, Paradise-square, Oxford.

WANTED, Appointment, as Manager or Acting-Manager of First-class Hall or Theatre; thoroughly reliable and experienced; good disciplinarian, and hard worker; expert accountant; highly recommended. HAGUE, Entertainments Manager, Corporation, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Assistant-Manager (total abstainer) seeks position; honest, reliable, experienced in the various departments; tall, age 22; excellent references. HIGSON, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Known, Young, Smart, Fully-experienced Acting-Manager, at Liberty for Theatre or Music Hall; expert Accountancy, Advertising, Bars, &c. Highest recommendations. Box 7,039, "The Era."

WANTED, by Young Gent., Engagement in Music Hall as Assistant-Manager or Bioscope Operator; thorough knowledge of both; highest references; could give security; have own machine, &c. Apply, Box 7,047, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Herbert Lenton, at Liberty for Advance Work or Assistant-Manager to First-class Companies only; reliable, active, and highest testimonials given. Address, Melbourne House, Grovenor-road, Skegness.

WANTED, by J. Parker, Electrician, with thorough Practical Experience, appointment in first-class Theatre or any large Establishment; previous engagements being with the late Sir Henry Irving, London Coliseum, Prince's and Royal Court Theatres, Liverpool. 70, Ling-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement by Practical Stage-Carpenter, bench hand. Tour or Resident. CARPENTER, 98, Sibly-grove, East Ham.

WANTED, Situation as Bill Inspector, not ashamed to carry the paste-pot.
CORDAROY, Hippodrome, Poplar.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Man, as Box Office Clerk or Assistant same, experienced. Address, C. L., 7, Meon-road, Acton, W.

WANTED, Known, Amy Samwells, First-class Wardrobe Mistress, Disengaged; cut, make, and renovate; good references. 8A, Electric-avenue, Brixton, London.

WANTED, by Widow, Situation as Working Housekeeper or Superior General to one Lady residing in Flat; references; good cook and needlewoman. K., 251, Waterloo-road, S.E.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

PORTSMOUTH CORPORATION,
SOUTH PARADE PIER.
WANTED, Known, applications for the positions of Musical-Director are invited from Gentlemen experienced in organising and conducting Orchestral Bands of the Highest Order; also accustomed to Vaudeville and Concert Stage work. Applicants will expedite consideration by stating fully particulars of past experience, also if disengaged at present. Envelopes should be endorsed "MUSICAL DIRECTOR," and addressed THE MANAGER, South Parade Pier, Southsea.

WANTED, First-class Leaders, 'Cellists and Contrabassists, for Cunard, White Star, and Booth Lines' Winter Service, about six months, from Oct. Audition in London or Liverpool necessary before engaging, and two references as to character. Terms and conditions from C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Leader, Répétiteur, 'Cello and Piano, Café, permanent, only first-class experienced performers. Refs., &c., to F. H. JEPSON, The Palace, Blackpool.

WANTED, Leader, for Provincial Theatre, easy distance from London, firm lead, steady and reliable.
Terms and refs. to Box 7,060, "The Era."

WANTED, Violinist or Flute, to play with Harp, busking, S.E. London. Letters, W. O., 49, Camden Hill-road, Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Brilliant Solo Cornet and Second Cornet, experienced in Varieties and Standard Selections essential. Permanency; open Oct. 5. HARRY HINCHCLIFFE, Hippo., Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, Her Majesty's Theatre, Carlisle, open Monday, Oct. 5. Terms and refs. to FRED BURNS, Mus.-Dir.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, for the Cheltenham Town (Military) Band, to open Season, Oct. 5. Terms, shares. Address, SECRETARY, 6, Queen's-retreat, Cheltenham.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Cornet, must be well up in transposition, or useless. H. W. Scott write. Box 7,061, "The Era."

WANTED, First-class Trombone and Drums, permanency to good men, open Oct. 5. Age, references, SWINGLER, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

HIPPODROME, NORWICH.
"THE BOSTOCK CIRCUIT."
WANTED, good 'Cellist, to commence at once. Permanent engagement to suitable man. Add., with age and refs., V. C. WHITE, Conductor.

WANTED, 'Cellist, experienced Concert, Theatre, Variety; can open immediately; 30, smart, thoroughly reliable; excellent refs. DELK, 92, West End-lane.

WANTED, Immediately, Experienced 'Cello and Bass (ladies), permanency.
Write, Box 7,059, "The Era."

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.
WANTED, Flute and Piccolo; wear evening dress and assist with fittings; commence immediately. J. W. POOLE, Amity Hall, Poole.

WANTED, Young Lady Pianist, good Singer, read at sight; also Sopranos, Contraltos, good Step-dancers. Letters only, stating height, age, photos. if possible, MANAGER, 52, Morat-street, Clapham-road.

WANTED, a thorough good Pianist and Watchmaker preferred, also thorough good Comedian and Planksman. Apply, Auction Mart, Brymbo, near Wrexham.

WANTED, experienced Drummer, combined Tubular Bells, Ladies' Orchestra, week, Oct. 5, London; also Violinist, Vocalist. STOCKHAM, Villa Grove, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Teachers for the Mandoline and Violin, Class Teachings. Good wages; permanent. 2, Shaw-st., Islington-square, Liverpool.

WANTED, Good Ladies' Orchestra, for Darlington Charity Carnival and Exhibition, commencing Oct. 14. Quotations should state number of performers and vocalists, and fee for one and two weeks' engagement, together with photo of band.
Two first-class Side-shows also wanted.
Apply, THE MAYOR, Darlington.

WANTED, Brass or Reed Band (of about ten), with uniform, for Music Hall Sketch, Oct. 5. Apply, V. NEWMAN, The Hippodrome, Wigan.

WANTED, Musicians, Strings, Soloists, and Double-handed preferred, for S. Africa, also India, twelve months; sailing Nov. DELIKAT, 92, West End-lane.

WEST RIDING ASYLUM, SCALEBOR PARK, BURLEY-IN-WHARFEDALE.
WANTED, Musician Attendant, Flute and Piccolo Player.
Salary commences at £33 per annum, with board and lodging.
Applications to the
CLERK and STEWARD.

WANTED, Musicians to keep away from Munich, owing to dispute there.—A. SEITZ, Secretary International Confederation of Musicians, J. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Musician, as an Attendant in a County Asylum, able to play either Cornet, Horn, Baritone, or Clarionet; a single man; salary commencing £34, increasing to £48; extra if promoted; all found. Apply, W. GRAINGER, County Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Proprietors, Managers, and Directors of Music requiring efficient and reliable Conductors and Instrumentalists, to apply for same to the National Federation of Professional Musicians, Trade Union, Reg. No. 1398. Eligible Musicians earnestly invited to join. Benefits: Sick, Burial, and Victimisation Pay, Fire Insurance Business Protection, &c., &c. Write at once for propaganda to Hon. Sec., J. BALL, 19, Grange-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Mus.-Dir. at Liberty (Piano and Violin), Sept. 28; experienced, steady; good refs. Address, 36, Barnard-street, Chester-road, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement, Leader or Répétiteur; any Business; First-class Violinist; highest references. Address, VIOLINIST, 47, St. Mary's-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Evening Engagements, Solo or Orchestral, by Young Lady Violinist (experienced), London preferred. Letters, M. BAMBERG, 23, Greville-road, Kilburn, N.W.

WANTED, by Violinist, 32; just finished season Repetiteur; steady, sober, can open at once. VIOLINIST, 9, Springfield-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Known, good Violinist (used to Variety) at Liberty; experienced. Address, LEADER, 266, Liverpool-street W., Salford.

WANTED, Engagement, First Violin, any business, thoroughly experienced all lines, can open at once. VIOLINIST, 1, Gathorne-road, Wood Green.

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violin; experienced, all lines. References, &c., DALTON, 15, Portland-crescent, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Violinist, Soloist and Orchestral; good appearance; refs. Box 7,055, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Violin and Viola, late leader theatre, young, steady, Disengaged after Oct. 3. Violinist, 39, Marian-square, London, N.E.

WANTED, by Second Violin, Engagement, Experienced in Variety, good refs., London preferred. Apply, SAM GORDON, 21, Buckle-street, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, for Concerts and Orchestras, in London or Suburbs, by good Cornet, Melody Solos great success, sweet tone, Obbligatoist to Madame Ada Crossley on last Australian Tour. CLIFTON, 4, Brandon-mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by brilliant Cornet Soloist, Tripling Polkas Speciality; join good Musical Troupe or Lady Partner. ALLAN GREY, 5, Vaughan-street, Pontypridd.

WANTED, Known, J. Long, First or Second Cornet, seeks re-engagement, any business; experienced; good refs. Address, Tunn-street, Fakenham, Norfolk.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Solo Clarionet; long experience in Profession; just finishing season. Address, H. C. GARNER, 72, Prescott-road, Fairfield, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement as Clarionet, any business; good references. Apply,
J. GRUB, 11, Bury-rd., Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet, Disengaged Oct. 5, finish of season, any business. HILL, Clarionet, Gardens and Opera House, Buxton.

WANTED, Engagement in or near London preferred. Miss MAUD JONES, Double Bass, 44, Cranmer-road, North Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, for Double-Bass, Touring Company, abroad preferred.
Apply, Box 7,045, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass, Dis. Just concluded successful Engagement at Windermere; refs. BERTRAM HORLOCK, 20, St. John's-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Bass, Theatre or Music Hall; just finishing season. Apply, JOSEPH WOODS, New Pavilion, Rhyl, North Wales.

WANTED, Known, Double Bass, at Liberty; experienced in all lines; undeniable references; abstainer. HENRY LEVY, 12, Bedford-place, Southampton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, any Business; just finished season at Folkestone; good refs. F. G. POWELL, 15, Oaten Hill-place, Canterbury.

WANTED, Known, that R. Lee, Trombone, is Disengaged Oct. 5; young, steady, and reliable. Address, Dunoon Orchestra, Edinburgh Exhibition.

WANTED, by First-class Trombonist, good Engagement; at present Solo Trombone, Palace Pier, Brighton. Excellent refs. Disengaged Oct. 5. A. J. BIDMEAD, Palace Pier, Brighton.

WANTED, by Trombonist (good), Permanent Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall; experienced, young, reliable; good refs. ALBERT MATTHEWS, 7, Willowfield-square, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Orchestral Euphonium and Tenor Valve Trombone, Disengaged Oct. 3. HOWARTH, 5, Earnest-villas, Key-road, Clacton.

WANTED, Engagement, Bombardon, 10 years' experience; first-class references; reliable; life abstainer; Disengaged Oct. 1. 149, Caledonian-road, King's Cross.

WANTED, Engagement by Horn, Concert, Theatre, Variety, or First-class Deputising; reliable, experienced. H. DAY, 28, York-street, Burslem, Staffs.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady 'Cellist, London preferred. Apply, L. HINE, c/o 54, Milverton-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as 'Cellist, any Bus.; excellent refs. and reliable. F. DENT, 28, Colebrook-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Known, W. Clarion, Viola or Violin, Liberty Oct. 5; can accept permanent engagement, Theatre or Variety. Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, as Viola, to combine Bombardon, any business, young, experienced, and reliable, abstainer. VIOLA, Post Office, Taunton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Oboe, well up in any business, also deputising, excellent references. OBOIST, 221, Oxford-st., London, W.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Oboe and Cor Anglais. Liberty Oct. 5 Theatre preferred; good references; combine Second Violin or Viola; just finishing Summer Eng. W. ASHBURNER, 13, Windmill-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Harpist, or would take Double Bass, or join Violinist, any business, steady, reliable. J. STEWART, 2, Howden-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, Young Man; good references; any Business. Apply, 28, Parsonage-street, Heaton Norris, Stockport.

WANTED, Known, good Flute and Piccolo Soloist at Liberty, any Business; first-class refs. FLAUTIST, 30, Gainsford-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo. Engagement; competent of any Business; excellent references. THOS. HURN, 21, Gerald-street, Swansea.

WANTED, Engagement as Flute and Piccolo; thoroughly experienced in all lines of business; excellent references. Apply, METCALF, Theatre Royal, Chesterfield.

WANTED, by First-class Variety Pianist-Conductor or Pianist, Re-engagement; near Manchester preferred. CONDUCTOR, 6, Dalton-street, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianiste, experienced Accompanist, excellent sight-reader; in or near London. C. R., 6, Cromwell-avenue, Ravenscourt Park, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Pianist, experienced and reliable. Wire or write, BEATTIE, 42, John-street, Rhyl.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Pianist, steady and reliable; good sight reader; in or near London. Apply, 21, Glendarvon-street, Putney.

WANTED, Known, Ernest A. Westby, First-class Pianist, at Liberty Oct. 5, Theatre or Music Hall; permanency desired. 17, Upper Hanover-street, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, First-class Pianist, four years London theatre, finishing summer engagement, variety or theatrical. A. C. L., 3, Arkley-rd., Herne Bay.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Miss Lillian Bell, Pianist; thoroughly experienced in Orchestral work; good Accompanist, Sight-reader MS., and Soloist; now engaged in Franco-British Exhibition. Good offers write. 9, Hainault-road, Leytonstone.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Man, Pianist-Vocalist, Sketch Artist, Strong, Robust Baritone, Play Cornet little, decent salary. HUSTLER, Mason's Arms, Morecambe.

WANTED, Known, Will Proctor, Pianist and Planksman, at Liberty, First-class Sight Reader and Vamper; steady and reliable. 27, Middlemore-yard, Grantham.

WANTED, Permanency, Military or Orchestral. Double Drums, with Effects; just finished Engagement. Apply, DRUMS, 31, Brading-road, Elm-grove, Brighton.

WANTED, through termination of band, Engagement by good smart Double Drummer, Tympani, Glockenspiel, and Effects; Military or Orchestra. 33, Portland-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Known, Drums, Tympani, Glockenspiel, &c.; Dis.; excellent refs., experienced; Dramatic, Variety, or Concert; abstainer. W. BENNETT, 1, St. Leonard's-road, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Engagement, by Tympanist and Drummer, any business. Apply, G. PIERCY, 213, Leahurst-road, Lewisham, London. S.E.

WANTED, Known, the Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, Disengaged; also Trio and Quartette; large répertoire, tubular bells, &c. Madame NELLIE BAKER, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, by the Grosvenor Ladies' Orchestra (Madam Wilton Davis), Specially Engaged Franco-British Johnstown Flood, completed six weeks, Good Quartette and Trio Dis. for Hotels, Dances, &c. 42, Linton-street, London, N.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Offers, Bateson's Orchestra (small), Dis. Oct. 1, any bus. Musical-Directress, Miss MAUDE TRAINER, Pavilion, Lakeside, near Ulverston.

WANTED, Known, well-known Ladies' Quartette at Liberty, Orchestra takes Engagements, Dancing, Dramatic, Clubs, &c., cheap. Conductor, E. DE POLO, 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

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JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS,
EDINBURGH.

WANTED, for the above,
from Nov., month, on,
the Cream of Artists
in every Branch of the Amusement World,
Equestrian, Gymnastic, and Vaudeville,
to write in at once, with full list of
dates, and all particulars of act (which must be
refined in every detail),
apply to
John Henry Cooke's Travelling Representative,
T. W. COOKE,
Cooke's Royal Hippodrome and Circus,
Edinburgh, N.B.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL CIRCUS, EDINBURGH.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Circus Artists in Every Department,
for Nov. 21.
Address, TALBOT WILLIAM COOKE, as above.

WANTED, John Scott's Royal Circus,
Smart Reliable Ground Acts.
Nothing too Big.
No number too small if good.
No fancy salaries, but will entertain any Good Acts at a reasonable price. Artists please note.—No street parade or 3 and 4 o'clock starts
Our performances daily at 4.30 and 8.

State full particulars in first letter,
12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.

WANTED, for Hull Fair, to open Oct. 11,
Useful Circus Artists in all Lines,
or Small Circus Family,
to work Fair.
Lowest terms to
R. FOSSETT, Ravensthorpe, Northamptonshire.

WANTED, Useful Circus Artists in all Lines; those doing more than Act preferred, for the forthcoming Season of Hannaford's Canadian Circus, at the World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, London.
A Family of Riders with own Horses write immediately to Sir EDWARD HANNEFORD,
27, Third-avenue, Consbrook-avenue,
Strandstown, Belfast.

WANTED, at Once, Lady or Gent., used to Rings or Trapeze; must have good finale. Apply, from 2 to 5, or write to J. B., Gospel Hall, Cambridge-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, a Young Lady, with knowledge of Acrobating, for Comedy Act.
All particulars, Box 7,067, "The Era."

WANTED, a Youth, with a Knowledge of Comedy Tumbling. JOE HASTINGS,
130, Teignmouth-road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

Look Out. Look Out. Look Out.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Circus Proprietors, Hippodrome Managers, and Agents to Note that the Greatest Act before the Public of the World will shortly return to England.
The Royal Ohmys,
The Royal Ohmys,
The Royal Ohmys,
Greatest of all Acrobatic Equestrians, on Three, Four, and Five Bare-back Horses. The only act of the kind ever seen in a Circus Ring. The talk of every town in Denmark. Just had the great honour of appearing by command before H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Denmark and Royal Family. Complimented by H.R.H. and crowd of 3,000 people. Read what the Denmark paper says:—The Royal Ohmys' appearance before the Crown Prince has caused a sensation in Aarhus, and so delighted H.R.H. that, after their wonderful performance on three bare-backed horses, they were commanded to return before him to receive Royal congratulations. The Royal Ohmys return to England end of October, after fulfilling a six months' engagement with Bech. Olsen's Great Circus, Denmark. The Royal Ohmys have been the talk of every town visited by this great circus, and the Royal Ohmys are now the talk of Denmark. Bech. Olsen, Director, says:—Mr. Ohmy, your family are the finest performers I have ever seen. They have raised my circus above all the others in this country. They must come back to me next season, whatever the cost may be. This should prove to Proprietors and Managers what these Acts are like. Will be at liberty for the winter season end of October, with six good numbers. The most up-to-date acts before the public. For list of acts, &c., address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Bech Olsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

WANTED, Known, John Scott's Royal British Circus Family, at Liberty coming Winter Season. Can supply full Circus Company, or can arrange for a number of individual Acts.
Pure Business; no Bluff.
Address,
12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, by Proctor's Family of Circus Artists, either Ring or Stage, for Winter Months; Lady Tight-rope Dancers, Horse-riders, Flying Ring Experts, Trick Ponies, Fiery Donkey, Comical Sketches, Comic Entries by Three Funny Clowns. PROCTOR, Circus, Woodhouse Moor, Leeds; or per. 4, Cross-street, Rockingham, Leeds.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Lion Show, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, and 16.

Communicate,
41, Tower-street, Portobello, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, World-known Musical Agouste, Talking Knockabout Clown, Liberty for Winter Season. Address, 15, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Bishop and Winkles, Clown and Agouste, Knockabout Comedians, Trick and Comic Entrées, just finished Hippodrome, I.O.M., Season at Liberty. Address, 16, Moor place, off Condon-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Two Dominos, Clown and Donkey, a Comic Act. Only one Clown, only one Donkey, only one Agent, only one Week. Hippo., West Bromwich. Vacant Oct. 5. BUER.

WANTED, Sept. 28, on, The Flying Oreniuses, Lady and Gentleman Gymnasts, in their Phenomenal Flying Act. This week, Aquarium, Scarboro'. 27, Foxley-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ada Webb's Water Wonders, World's Aquatic Artists, copied by many, equalled by none. Continued success, Hippo., Yarmouth.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines.
No wires, please.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, Variety Artists Suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to WM. BIGGAM, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Variety Artists,
Big Specialities,
for
Dublin, Liverpool, Leeds, Oldham, Newcastle, Sheffield, Burnley, Bolton, Barrow, Carlisle, Darlington, Middlesbrough, Rotherham, Derby, Attercliffe, Stoke, &c. &c.
Send full list of Bookings and Lowest Terms,
WILL SLEY, 180, Oxford-road, Manchester.
Tele., "Variety, Manchester." 'Phone 09144.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
Sole Proprietor, A. E. PICKARD.

WANTED, for above, Variety Artists in all Lines,. Specialities, Comedians, Comediennes, &c., &c., &c., for Immediate and Future Dates. Write stating absolutely lowest terms in first letter, and enclose samples of lithos., &c. Note.—Hall small: please quote salaries in accordance.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Oct. 5 and on. Apply, A. E. PICKARD, as above.

WANTED, Monday, Oct. 5, and onwards Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Variety Artists
in all Lines,
for Monday, Oct. 5, and onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.
Lisle and Ford please wire address.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, for the above, Oct. 5, onwards; small towns; one house nightly (except Saturdays two). State lowest terms first letter, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Artists, for
Macnaghten
Tour,
and also all others,
Tops,
Centres,
and Bottom of Bills.
JACK JOHNSON, Variety Pantomime Agent,
66, Waterloo-road.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.

WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

EMPIRE VARIETY THEATRE,
GREENOCK.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, nothing too big, salary or share, direct or through Agents; also twice nightly Pantomimes and Combinations. Apply, with vacancies and lowest terms, to MANAGING-DIRECTOR.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Star Artists, Immediate and Future Dates, good break going North. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns doing Single, two weeks, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, onwards. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, Nov. 2, onwards. Hall small. Gymnasts save stamps. DEWAR, Empire, Londonderry.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now, onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT,
Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, First-class Artists, well up in Sketches and Concerteds, capable two distinct turns preferred, for six months' tour in West Indies, sail Oct. 28; education and refinement most essential. Stamped addressed envelope for reply. Box 7,035, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY — and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY — (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY — and permanent addresses.
DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Manchester.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Telegrams:
DALTON'S AGENCY — Grandbate,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Withington-Lancs.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Telephone:
DALTON'S AGENCY — 193 Didsbury.
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY

BARNARD'S AGENCY, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions, for immediate Dates. Bigger the better. We can book you. Send full list of bookings and vacancies.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, new to Morecambe and Lancaster.
Address, WILL ONDA, Alhambra, Morecambe.

WANTED, Artists, Specialities, all Lines, Oct. 5. Town between Dublin and Cork. Terms must be low. HARROD, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Artists, for
Guernsey and Jersey,
Oct. 1, 8, 15.
The garden and delight of the Channel Isles.
JACK JOHNSON, Agent, 66, Waterloo-road.

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.
Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. FLETCHER.
General-Manager, Mr. TOWYN THOMAS.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. REGINALD FLETCHER.

WANTED, Artists (not Aerial), Oct. 5, onwards. Call for Monday next:—
Mr. E., Joe Atkins, George Wyres, Miss Jessie Jukes, The Evalos, Jack Howell, Ruffell's Bioscope.
Rehearsal 1 sharp.
Manager, TOWYN THOMAS.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Oct. 5, on. 18, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

GAIETY THEATRE, BLYTH.

WANTED, Artists of Note, onwards
Will Entertain any Act at a Price.
Hall Small.
Apply,
W. YATES GREGORY, The Tower, New Brighton.

CHELTENHAM
NEW PALACE
THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Architect, Mr. WINSTANLEY, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, also Doubles doing Singles, for immediate and future Dates, for Every Town of Note in Scotland.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates, to communicate terms, &c., to BROOKS'S Agency, 35, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Stars, Specialities, Artists, all Lines, Oct. 5, onwards. Artists visiting Belfast, Dublin, Cork, &c., having a week to spare can fill in lowest in all cases.
DALY, Opera House, Londonderry.

WANTED, Talent, all Lines,
for Every Hall of Note.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.
Telegrams: "Fioni, Liverpool."

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY.

WANTED, First-class Talent, for Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, &c.; also Dalkeith Carnival, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4. Communications, 25, Upper Grove-place.

WANTED, First-class Specialities
and Big Names,
Oct. 12, onwards.

Yarmouth and Lowestoft Hippodromes,
Hengler's, Glasgow, and
New Palace, Exeter,
also
other Towns.

Give Full Bookings, and quote Lowest Terms.

Mr. Zalva is now on Continental Tour,
and will return Oct 2.

GEO. ZALVA'S AGENCY,
The Hippodrome,
Yarmouth.

WANTED, Specialities, Doubles doing Singles, must be new to Oldbury. Say if photo.-frames or lithos. Hall small. Lowest terms to JAS. TYRER, The Palace, Oldbury.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, all Lines, Oct. 5, 12, later.

JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool.
'Phone 1269 Royal. Gen.-Man., WM. LUND.

WANTED, Known, we invite Star Acts of Every Kind to communicate for immediate Dates, which we can always place. Also required, a Principal Boy, with a Voice, for Panto. Communicate where can be seen, terms, photos., and full particulars to above.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Star Acts all Lines, nothing too big. State absolute lowest, once nightly.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, S. Wales and district; now and onward. Full of bookings. MARTINO'S Agency, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Greatest Acts in the Profession. Send full bookings, terms, lithos., WILLIAM AINSWORTH, Northern Amusement Bureau, 11, Baker-st., Middlesbrough.

STEWART'S PICTURES AND VARIETIES.

WANTED, Novel Comedy Act, for one week, Oct. 12. Lowest terms, H. STEWART, Laverton Institute, Westbury, Wilts.

KING'S H., BIRMINGHAM, three Shows daily.

WANTED, Startling Varieties and Specialities, Musical and Trapeze Acts, for immediate dates. Terms, &c., to
Sole Owners, KENNEDY and MOORE.

WANTED, First-class Combinations for Royal Albert Hall, Jarrow, from Oct. 26, to follow Leoni Clarke, Jamaica Choir, Dayton Family, &c. Everything done for Success. Good Business to good shows. SEATON, Theatre Royal, Shotton, Co. Durham.

PALACE, BOSTON.

WANTED, good Variety Combination, Dramas, and Musical Comedies, Oct. 19, on.
HOLLOWAY and FOUNTAIN, Lessees.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.

WANTED, for Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, STANNORS and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Good Mandolinist, with Strong Voice, for Troupe; give one month's rehearsal; young. Letters, H., 108, Castellain-mansions, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, at once, Young Lady, to join well-known Troupe of Singers and Dancers; must be good dancer and pretty. Address, E. M., 142, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, good Comedians, Sisters, Serios, and Dancing Troupes. Send full bookings and lowest terms to FRANK LYNNE, 77, Angel-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Vocalists, with own Slides, for Sunday Concerts. Full particulars and list of Songs to WOOD, People's Palace, Tottenham.

WANTED, Boys with good Soprano and Alto Voices. Apply, to-day, 3-4, ROMA, City Arms, West-square, Kennington.

WANTED, Boy Vocalist; good opening for Amateur.
WOODROW, 55, Brook-st., Kennington-rd., London.

WANTED, a good Tumbler; able to do Comedy and little Shoulder Work. Full particulars first instance to Box 7,062, "Era."

WANTED, at once, Tumbler. State tricks and salary; good shop to right person. Address, FORD, 92, Brook-st., Kennington, London, S.E.

WANTED, good Tumbler, young man, long engagement. Address,
MANAGER, 80, Northfield-road, Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, Hypnotic Subjects,
Male and Female.
Apply, Box 7,040, "The Era."

WANTED, Bioscope, long Tour. Open here Monday. Full particulars, lowest terms (Pianist write), KELLEY, 25, St. Edmund's-green, Southwold, Suffolk.

WANTED, Experienced Manager-Operator. Apply, with references, &c., to
RALPH PRINGLE, Pringle's Picture Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Operator.
Apply, with references, &c., to
RALPH PRINGLE, Pringle's Picture Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED, reliable Operator, for two hours' show, twice nightly. Salary, refs., &c. Will Henry James write? PALLISTER, King's T., Nottingham.

WANTED, a thoroughly expert Lanternist, to accompany Lecturer on Tour in Metropolitan District and South England; must be used to Cinématograph work as well as ordinary Slides.

Apply,
stating age, experience, reference, salary required, &c., to Box 7,032, "The Era."

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday, and 5th, by Marie Colmore, Star Comedienne. Till Sat., Victoria, West Stanley. After, 10, Dunning-street, Middlesbrough

WANTED, Known, Lolo and May, Refined Gymnasts, Contortionist, and Speciality Dance Artists, magnificent silver and electric apparatus, costly wardrobe, instantaneous success everywhere. Press and Public unanimous in their praise. Address, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, by Rubie and Elsie Redfern, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, with their Novel Drawing-room Piano Act, introducing Banjo Overture, Mimicry, Dancing, &c., &c. 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, by the Novelty Girls (Amy and Ada), Cross-talkers and Vocalists. This, Big Success, Palace, Oldbury. Wire.

WANTED, Oct. 12 and 19, unexpectedly vacant, Jean Macduff, the Favourite Lady Scotch Comedian; also Peggy Lyndon, Dainty Musical Act; one or both. Wire, MERVILLE, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Terry, Mimics, Vocalists, and Dancers. Variety itself.—Press. At Liberty Oct. 19, 26. Communicate, Hippo., Hull, Sept. 28. A Sure Hit.

WANTED, by Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Monday next. Wire or write, 23, St. George's-road, Southwark. Wish to thank J. Elphinstone, Esq., for offer.

WANTED, Known, Will Owen, Dame Comedian and Comedy Dutch Vocalist, vacant Sept. 28 and Oct. 5. Terrific this, Hippodrome, Dewsbury; next, 60, Denmark-road, Manchester; vacant Panto., Dame.

WANTED, by Leslie Clements, the Popular Pierrot, Monday next, also Oct. 12.
Wire, 181, Renfrew-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday, also Oct. 5 and 12, by Allan Hanbury, Stoll's New Comedian."
Wire, 43, Brixton-road, London.

WANTED, Monday next, also Oct. 5, by George Grenville, the Popular Comedian. Big success this week, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy (second visit), wire.

WANTED by Frank Coyle, Comedian, Monday next. Wire, Palace, Worcester; after Saturday, 160, Woodhouse-street, Leeds. Oct. 5, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Oct. 5 and 12, Wal Langtry, Dialect Pattering Comedian, in Scotch, Irish, &c. This, Pavilion, Hebburn; next, Victoria, Stanley.

WANTED, Monday next and Oct. 5, by Wyllie, Tramp Musician, ten instruments, and Fit-up; also Miss Telka, Ballad Vocalist. Wire, WYLLIE, Waterloo Theatre, Whitby.

WANTED, Sept. 28, Nov. 16, 23, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman,
Concertina. Topping, Palace, Darwen.

WANTED, by Fred Casburn, Yorkshire Dialect Patter Merchant, Monday next. Wire till Sat., Pelicans, Woodhouse Moor, Leeds; after, Dudley-street, Shipley, Yorks.

WANTED, Known, She of the Auburn Locks, Beanland Query, Female Impersonator, Vac. Mon. Wire, Wire, Wire, BEANLAND, Pal., Oldbury.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, Comedian and Champion all-round Dancer. Salford Hippodrome, Liberty Sept. 28. Wire, 7, Poplar-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED.—Fred Solo's "Drolls and Demures," open to arrange for Pier Tour next season; High-class Al Fresco Halls Wanted. Particulars to F. S., 42, Newcomen-street, Redcar.

WANTED, Sept. 28 and Oct. 5, by Harry Morris, Comedian and Raconteur. Big success this week (wire), Theatre, Leamington.

WANTED, by Morimura, the Celebrated Japanese Illusionist. Oct. 5, 12, and 19. Beautiful Illuminated Electric Stage Effects. Concludes to-night, Empire, Bolton; next, Hip., Stoke-on-Trent. Wire.

WANTED, Monday, also Oct. 5, Les Sardous, Illusionists. Mystifiers, Laughter-makers; also Marie Riviers, Comedienne. Wire, Empire, Hyde, Cheshire.

WANTED, Sept. 28, onward. Wire, 20, Rumford-st., C.-on-M., Manchester. The Great Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Juggler, Conjurer, and Dog; also May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer; two distinct and sure acts.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Monday, only vacancy this year, The Camerons (Jim and Marie), Comedy Duo, Plough Boy and Lady Guide. Wire, Empire, Hull.

WANTED Known, Capita, Living Marionette, with Electric Pit-up; Katie More, Comedienne; at Liberty Sept. 28. Wire, Catlow's Varieties, Burnley

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Burlesque; one or both. Wire, Metropole Theatre, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Savaro, Bird Imitator, Miss Lillian, Vocalist and Dancer; also Double Speciality. Vacant Oct. 28. Address, General Post Office, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Monday next, "Teasing the General," Class Comedy Act, introducing Copyright Songs, Dances, &c. PERRETTS and ALLEN, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Oct. 12, 19, on (exceptions), The Monckton's (Fred and Lillie), Presenting their Screaming Comedy Episodes, "Two in a Fix" and "A Woman's Curiosity." Sept. 28, Tivoli, Pentre.

WANTED, Oct. 5, by The Ives, American Speciality Artists; costly electric fit-up; competitions nightly. Monday, Palace, Morley, where wire.

WANTED, by Malone and Conley, Knockabouts and Dancers, Monday next, Sept. 28, Oct. 5. Wire, Palace, Oldbury; after Sunday, Drovers' Arms, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Bros. Webb, Renowned Musical Clowns, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 23. This, Gaiety, Birmingham; next, Palace, Darlington.

WANTED, by Doyle and Gibson, Comedians and Dancers, Oct. 5 and 19, to precede and follow Greenock. Only vacancies until June. Mon., Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, by The Leedens, Living Statues, Sept. 28, on.
66, Scarborough-street, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Sept. 28, Sept. 28, Sept. 28,
onwards,
by
Tarr and Matey, in an absolutely new and original Acrobatic and Juggling Speciality.

Proprietors and Agents please note.—This Act IS clever, funny, and new, and if you want something good, wire or write,
TARR and MATEY, 30, Hallam-st., West Bromwich.

WANTED, The Itrams, with their most Successful Perch Pot-Pourri Act, Oct. 5, Nov. 16, 23. Next week, Alexandra T., Pontefract.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon Trio, Acrobatic and Risley Eccentrics, require Nov. Sept. 28, Hippodrome, Sheffield. Permanent address, 3, Wimsley-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Monday, Cannon Troupe, Comedy Act. Note.—This act entirely new. A Screamer. Wires, 23, Egerton-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, and 19, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe (five); Greatest Star Speciality Extant. 28th, Empire, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globella, Juggling Speciality. Next, Crystal Palace, London; vacant Oct. 5.

WANTED, Oct. 19, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Monday, and Oct. 5, by Bessie Travis, marvellous Musical Ventriloquist. This, Central Hall, Sheffield; perm., 174, Ecclesall-road, Sheffield.

MISS SYLVIA CAVALHO,
Supported by
MR. CLIFFORD PEMBROKE,
"Lulu," "Husband of Peggy,"
"Fortune of War," &c., &c.

This week, Tivoli, Manchester;
Sept. 28, Empire, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, North and Midlands preferred, Weeks of Oct. 5, 12, and 19.

WANTED, for "His Last Jest," "A Winter's Eve," five principals, magnificent military uniforms, Oct. 5, for these Powerful Attractions, Newcastle District. Enormous Success Standard, Pimlico, Queen's, Poplar, Derby, Stoke, Broadhead's, &c. Wire or write best offers, GERALD BLAKE, T. R., Darlington. Monday, Grand, Newcastle.

WANTED, Sept. 28, onwards, Arthur Breton Troupe, six Pantomimists. "The Tramp's Picnic." Special Scenery. Laughing Hit of every Programme. Wire, 118, Kennington-road, London. Vacant Panto.

WANTED, Dates, for La Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the Biggest Novelty Ever Introduced with Troupe of Dogs. This, topping bill, Theatre, Brighouse; next, topping bill, Queen's, Castleford.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, Vacant Oct. 5 and 12.
Wire, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Swift Duo, Funny Cycling Speciality. Wire Albert Hall, Southport; after Sat., 89, Bristol-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Alston's White Stars, Oct. 19, to follow Lyric, Liverpool; play 15 to 35 minutes, as required. Wire, ALSTON, Empire, York, Sept. 28.

WANTED, Known, W. W. Francis, Cripple Athlete Champion of the World, in great Wrestling Act, assisted by J. Harris, Light-Weight Champion of London; also an M.C. 95, Cornwall-road, Tottenham. Good Agent Required.

WANTED, by experienced Young Man, Engagement in Troupe, Comedy or Sketch; Singing, Dancing, Tumbling, &c. Write, FRED VERNEY, 89, Divinity-road, Oxford.

WANTED, by Young Man, 20, Situation with either Straight or Comedy Boxing Sketch. A. E. BOARDMAN, 36, Fielden-street, Oldham-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, can Tumble a little, wishes to join Comedy Act, or other. Address, HARRY DEANS, 10, Herbertson-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private Carl Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also Punch and Judy, with Toby. 264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Dates, Share or Salary, for Paris's Electric Pictures, finest show on road, vacan t Oct. 5, onwards. Address, Box 7,051, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Bioscope Operator, with own Machine; electric or gas; London or Suburbs only. A. E., 19 Marney-road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Very Important,
that the Next Meetings of the
British Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union
will be held as follows:—
At the Welbeck Hotel, Nottingham, on Friday, Oct. 2, at 2.30 p.m.; and at the Newington Hotel, Hull, on Monday, Oct. 12, at 2.30 p.m. All members are requested to attend. Business Important.
Signed, T. HURST, Secretary.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman (Silver King), Showman's Auctioneer, Valuer, Variety Agent, Expert, and Authority. The man that sold Lord George Sanger's Circus, also his Zoological Collection, at the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, &c. would like to hear from you. Address, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars.
C. G. CRACKNELL, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 360 miniatures to select from.
MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 25160, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402.
This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street,
and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.
CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c, and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

NORWICH AND EASTERN COUNTIES ARTS, CRAFTS, & INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION, Agricultural Hall, Norwich, Oct 10 to Nov. 7, 1908.
WANTED, for the Pastimes Annex to above, Side Shows, Games, Automatic Machines, Shooting Jungle, Novelty Stalls, &c., &c.

WANTED, First-class Side Shows, for an Automatic Arcade in London, upon 50 per cent. Sharing Terms.
Send all particulars to
GAYLAND, 98, King-street, Hammersmith.

H. E. MOSS'S CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR CARNIVAL, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, good High-class Side-shows, to open Dec. 21.
Apply, W. CAMPBELL MILNE, Carnival Omce, Waverley Market, Edinburgh.

WANTED, First-class Side-show, shares; Vacancy for Monos, Jewellery; for Annual Trades Exhibition, Assembly Rooms, Horsham, Oct. 13 to 20.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, and Attractions, now and onwards, for my American Museum. A. E. PICKARD, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, all Kinds of Novelties, on Shares or Salary Living Vans found; or Marionettes, Organ and Van found. RUSSELL, Market-place, Bedlington, Northumberland.

WANTED, Novelties, with good Flash, four weeks certain for right people. Wire, NICHOLAS, White Hart, Surrey-street, Croydon.

WANTED, Freaks, &c., for Penny Show; share terms. Send dates, &c., AMERICAN SWEETMEAT AND AUTOMATIC COMPANY, Rathbone-street, Canning Town.

WANTED, Freaks and Quick-showing Novelties; Peckham Fat Boy, Bear Lady write. WAXWORKS, 9, Castle-street, Inverness.

Palmistry.
WANTED, Lady Palmist, on half cash takings. Apply, HUNT'S, 87, Hurst-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, Pupil-Assistant, Salary 30s. Weekly, YOGA, Scientific Palmist, 30, Margaret-st., Regent-st., W. Established 1898.

WANTED, Young Lady, for Side Show, experience unnecessary, but must be smart. Apply letter, ELLIS, 48, Gower-place, W.C.

WANTED, Microscope Worker, for Touring Exhibition; sharing terms; immediately. Write, Z., 6, Avenue-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Smart Girls, used to Exhibition work. Apply, enclosing photo. J. EDWARDS and Co., Exhibition, Philharmonic Hall, Southampton.

WANTED, at Once, for my New Show, a complete Staff, from Manager to Water Man. A capable Manager to take charge of show, a competent Electrician, Operator, Engine-Driver used to electric light, Pianist, Utility Men, and All-round Paraders, Sisters, Knockabouts, Acrobats, &c. Lowest terms in first letter and full particulars, PAYNE, Dreamland Bioscope, Aldershot.

WANTED, for Coney Island in Leeds, Nov. 9 to March 20, full Staff of Men as Attendants, &c.; uniforms will be provided. ALFRED WOOD, General-Manager, Coney Island Syndicate, c/o "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Showman with Booth. Advertiser has Bioscope and Films, and a good place for winter, and will share. Address, Box 7,050, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Marcus, Palmist and Phrenologist, at Liberty Oct. 5. Pier, Clacton-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, Bailey's Punch and Judy, delighting visitors daily in Buxton, open for Engagements. Address, Buxton, Derbyshire. Chair up.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Let to Showmen, White Lion Ground, Rhosllanerchrugog, for two Fairs in year. Address, Mrs. JONES, White Lion, Rhosllanerchrugog.

WANTED, Known, Kidwelly (South Wales) Fair, Oct. 29 and following days, larger than ever this year, the old original Fair Ground, the Hill Field, most commanding position, to Let on low terms to Showmen; Pictures would do well. Will H. Danter or Sid White write in? DAVIES, London House, Kidwelly.

WANTED, Showmen and Others, to Know, we have Spaces to Let for all Kinds of Amusements for the Season commencing Sept. 26. Apply, PETTIGROVE and SIMPSON, Show Ground, High-st., Stratford.

WANTED, Known, I have Ground to Let in Fun City, Promenade, Portobello, for a Figure Eight, either on Shares or Rental. Apply, CODONA, Fun City, Portobello.

WANTED, Known, Shop to Let, Auctioneers, Bazaars, Entertainments, Modern Town, best position, immediate possession. Wire, MICHAEL, 20, The Circle, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, to Hire, First-class Waxwork Exhibition. Proprietors who have their Exhibitions packed up, now is your time to make money. G. Baines, of Waxwork fame, is now finishing a two years' hire of Gambart's Great Exhibition, and will pay £100 per year or a weekly amount of £2 for a good show. Write for particulars, Waxwork, 10, Foreshore, Scarborough.

WANTED, a small Space, in Touring Trades or other Exhibition. Terms, &c., to Box 7,048, "The Era."

WANTED, Space for Hall of Laughter and Tickler Passage combined; first-class show. PUDGE, c/o Proprietors, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WORLD'S FAIR,
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON, LONDON, N.
Lessee and Manager, T. E. READ.
This, London's Aggregation of Popular Amusements, will open Xmas Eve for the Thirtieth Consecutive Year, with an Absolute Record Programme. The World's Greatest Amalgamation of Various New Shows. Amusements and Up-to-date Attractions entirely New. The Great Canadian Circus, wherein will be many absolutely New Artists, Acts, &c. Bostock's Mammoth Indoor Zoo, with numerous new exhibits of the animal kingdom; while the Great Aerial Shows, always a big feature here, will be of an exceptionally daring nature, the Six Flying Banvards executing some marvellously thrilling acts. Their first appearance here. All the Leading Shows of the World, and Grand Free Ballroom will be located in this enormous building.
WANTED, Known, Space can now be Let for any First-class Shows, viz.: Good Illusion, Mechanical Show, Glass Blowing, Swimming, or any First-class, Up-to-date Show; also Fancy Stalls, &c. A splendid hall for Skating Rink, Johnstown Floods, Marine Show, or any good small shows.
Apply as above.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL EXHIBITION, EDINBURGH, 1908.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Showmen to Note that
at the close of the above Exhibition
on Oct. 31,
the
following
Attractions
are
for
Sale:—

GREAT CANADIAN WATER CHUTE,
65ft. high, 280ft. run, with double electric lift for passengers (by Waygoods); twelve boats, each holding eight people.

FLYING MACHINE,
Entirely new model, with eight cars, each holding four passengers, including electric plant, a 17 h.p. motor, and 500 lights.

SPIDER'S WEB MAZE,
Covering 1½ miles of intricate passages; entirely new idea; including electrical fittings and 380 lamps.

MOULIN ROUGE,
Most novel sensational Helter-Skelter Windmill, the highest ever built—60ft. to the top—including motor for windmill and a large quantity of lamps.

FOUR VENETIAN GONDOLAS,
in splendid condition, gorgeous fittings, straight from Venice, almost new.

HALL OF LAUGHTER,
Entirely new device for drawing crowds, including eleven full-sized distorting mirrors, jumping-floor, and other mechanical effects.

The above Entertainments can now be seen working, and can either be bought as they stand or re-erected in any part of Great Britain.

All further information to be had on application to DIRECTOR, Popular Amusements, Ltd., Scottish National Exhibition, Edinburgh.

WANTED, to Sell, Handsome Lot, suitable Auction Mart or Variety, Auction 2 loads, Variety 1 load, Gourock Marquee, with Wallings and Fittings, 50 by 30; Stage Van, 18 by 6½; opens to 24 by 11, condition perfect, new twelve months ago. Cash price £120; reasons for disposal. Auction Pavilion, Kirkby, Notts.

WANTED, to Sell, Auction Lot, Booth, Fit-up Stage, Shelves, Planks, Acetylene Gas, a going concern, everything just ready for continuing the business. Stock optional. Built up and working at Littleboro'. £20 the lot. Write, PARSONS, Auctioneer, Castleton, near Manchester.

WANTED, to Sell, Carved Two-Waggon Walk-up Front, Road or Rail, suit Bioscope or any Show, will be sold, a great bargain; or exchange for Pullman Living Waggon Front, can be seen built up by appointment. No reasonable offer refused. Apply, 43, Franklin-street, Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, to Sell, Electric Lighting Engine, by Green, Leeds, for 50 arcs, suit Switchback or Public Building, condition new. A bargain. REYNOLDS, Engineer, Bedford.

WANTED, to Sell, Collection 82 First-class Wax Figures, also Barrel Piano and Penny Drops. Particulars, Box 6,978, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Gold-mounted Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, your profits doubled. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, New and Second-hand, Card Delivery, Mother Shiptons, marvellous money-takers, enormous profits. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines of every Description, large variety; Guessing Scales a Speciality. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines, bargains, Loops, Phonographs, Sweetmeat, Lung Testers, Electrics, Fortune, &c., one-third cost. MASON, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Five Edison Electric Phonographs, with accumulators, lot £15; Automatic Piano, ten tunes, £8; other machines for sale. ARNOLD, Hillcrest-rd., Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, to Sell, Egyptian Spirit Writers, Owing to termination of season at the Tower, I have three for sale at £3 each, together with 1,000 sheets of invisible fortunes. These are genuine. Apply at once, GORDON, The Tower, New Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Latest Novelty for Fairs, &c., The Hindu Spirit-Writer, Fortune Teller, real money-getter, £5, sacrifice. MASON, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Freak of Nature, only one alive; Four Web-legged Live Drake, 5 months old. BARLEY, 103, Eldon-street, Canton, Cardiff.

WANTED, to Sell, two Table Skittle Boards, cost £7 in March; take £3. PUDGE, c/o Proprietors, Pleasure Beach, South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Buy, good Pullman Living Carriage, road or rail; also set Auction Vans, with Tent, complete. Apply, Box 7,044, "The Era."

WANTED, to Buy, a Large Booth, for Cinematograph Show, for cash.
Address, Box 7,007, c/o "Era" Office.

WANTED, to Buy at Once, a few First-class Automatic Slot Machines, cheap for cash. DANVER, 97, High-street, Merthyr.

WANTED, J. Johnson, late with Rowley's Auction Mart, to wire address.
ROWLEY, Coliseum, Swadlincote, Derbyshire.

WANTED, every Showman who uses the railway to send to "The Era" for a copy of the article on the new Railway Rates. This will be sent on application, free of charge, to any Showman in the United Kingdom.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Showmen who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any Railway Bookstall to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, that splendidly fitted Variety House known as
VICTORIA HALL, MATLOCK
Beautifully situated in large garden; area 15,000 square yards. Part purchase-money can remain as mortgage. Apply, Box 6,901, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Circus, with Full Inventory, Horses and Ponies, Big Gavioli Organ, and Engine, with Open-out Front; Paintings, 70ft.; Tent, Wallings; all in good condition, ready for taking money. To be seen at Bridgwater Fair. Reason of selling, old age. Address, Box 7,053, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Cinématograph Arc Lamp, 70 ampère, brand new, with 600ft. Film, £4 the lot. Approval. 1, Colmore-buildings, Henrietta-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, to Sell, 500,000ft. Secondhand Film, all the Leading and Latest Subjects, in Excellent Condition, guaranteed lengths, from ½d. per foot.
WEISKER BROTHERS,
4-10, Wilde-street, Liverpool.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, Cinématograph, Lime or Electric, Lantern Body, sliding on rods from Animated to Still Pictures, maker Hughes, London, two Cinématograph Lenses, one ordinary, one high pressure jet, mechanical tray for same, dovetailed travelling case for machine, screen 12 by 12, also folding frame, about 5,000ft. first-class Films, many beautifully coloured, makers Pathé, Gaumont, Walturdaw, &c., 5 10in. Spools, wired edges, case for same, also case for frame.

The lot £60, or nearest offer.

Box 7,033, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, 500,000ft. Films, Humorous, Travel, Topical Subjects.
Wanted, to Sell, 500,000ft. Films, Humorous, Travel, Dramatic Subjects.
All bargains, to clear. Lists ready. JURY'S IMPERIAL PICTURES, 142, Long Acre, London, W.C.

WANTED, to Exchange or Sell, Films, 30,000ft., good stuff; Comic and Dramatic; all in first-class condition. Send for list. ARTHUR HENDERSON, Blackness Quarry, Dundee.

WANTED, to Sell, Films, cheap, and Films for Hire, up-to-date.
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WANTED, to Sell, Six Copies of the 1908 St. Leger Race, splendid quality, condition as new, 25s. each; also one Pathé Marathon Race, showing Dorando's Sensational Finish, 40s.
JASPER REDFERN, Central Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, to Sell, Large Production of "Dick Whittington."
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, to Sell, very nice New Portable Proscenium, 15ft. opening, 14ft. high, 26ft. wide, beautifully painted, folds up in small space; fine set of Fit-up Flaps, 10ft. high, handsome drawing-room, reverse to kitchen.
GREEN,
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WANTED, to Sell, quantity of Flats and Panto. Fit-up Stuff, cheap. On view. FORGE, Peckford-place, Brixton-road. Scene Stores to Let.

WANTED, to Sell, Transformation Act, in entirety; Trick Scenery, Transforming Properties; good investment, suitable for Sketch Scena, Illusionist. Box 7,052, "The Era."

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WANTED, to Sell, Mechanical Baby Elephant and Donkey, Dresses, good condition; also lined hamper to hold them and 800 coloured pictorials, 20s. the lot. Write, Box 7,046, "The Era."

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WANTED, to Sell, Typed Stock Dramas, Duos, Comedy, and Dramatic Sketches; Plays Re-written and Produced. HAL COLLIER, Spanish City, Whitley Bay.

WANTED, to Sell, Brass Engraving Machine, practically new; will accept the first buyer at 15s. 6d. CLARK, 8, Windsor-terrace, Southampton.

WANTED, to Sell, Stereoscopic Slides, real Photographs, 2s. 6d. doz.; Transparent, from 4s. 6d. AAB, 17, Bury-street, Bloomsbury, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Romantic Drama, "The End Crowns All," by Augusta Tullock, Theatre, Fit-up, Colonial, Portable Rights, cheap. COLEMAN DAVIES, Gaiety, Methil.

WANTED, to Sell.—Miss Zerlina Harrington being fully booked with "A Daughter of Pleasure," has for disposal two refined Dramatic Sketches, suitable to First-class Leading Lady. Write, 7, Parkhurst-road, Holloway, N.

The Publisher, "The Era."
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"Dear Sir,—I ordered the following advertisement to appear in your paper for two insertions:—
"'WANTED, to Sell, Self-acting Pianoforte two barrels, twenty tunes, perfect condition. Cost £44; what offers? MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square, W.C.'
"Kindly do not insert my advertisement again, as the self-acting piano which I had to sell has been sold to Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland fame, Whitechapel-road, E. I had also ten other applicants through my advertisement in 'The Era.'
Yours faithfully,
J. H. MEURICE.
"39, Argyle-square, W.C. Oct. 9. 1906."

WANTED TO BUY.

WANTED, to Purchase, good Pantomime Production; also sets of Pantomime Dresses. Full particulars, lowest price, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, to Buy, Scenery, in good condition, for Stock. Particulars to
LEE, Empire, Blaina.

WANTED, Cinématograph, complete, must be perfect; also Fit-up.
Apply, ELECTRICIAN, Metropole, Birmingham.

WANTED, to Purchase, a good Stock of Up-to-date Films; also good Secondhand Bioscopes and Fittings; must be in good condition, and by best makers. Apply, giving full particulars and lowest prices, to M. W. SHANLY, 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead.

WANTED, to Buy, Moir-Burns Fight, at 1d. per foot.
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Apply, Box 7,041, "The Era."

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WANTED, Song Slides, Comic and Humorous, for cash, must be good, words, music of same. GREENWOOD, Fair Ground, Beswick, Manchester.

WANTED, to Purchase, for cash, good Black Magic Show, Illusions (no traps), and Stage Tricks; all must be in first-class condition, and cheap. Address, WELLESLEY LYNN, 119, Fielding-rd., Bedford Park.

WANTED, a Sketch, Small Cast, Character or Vocal.
Address,
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WANTED, smart Comedy Songs, Patter, &c. ALF MAYNALL (Adeler and Sutton), Oct., Moss and Stoll Tour. Address, 209, Ladbroke-grove, W.

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WANTED, to Let, the above-mentioned Hall, for Concert Parties and Cinematographs. Seating accommodation 1,000. Stage 24ft. by 12ft. Height 16ft. The above Hall has a Theatre Licence. Apply to T. W. WELFORD, Solicitor, Consett, Durham.

WANTED, to Let, Dates in Oct. and onwards, Byculiah Athenæum, Enfield, any kind entertainment Scenery, Electric lighting. MANAGER.

WANTED, to Let, Queen's Hotel Assembly Rooms, Queenstown; accommodation for over 400 people; length 90ft. from entrance to stage; breadth of hall 24ft.; electric light.
For terms apply to
B. HUMBERT, Proprietor.

WANTED, to Let, the Rehearsal Theatre, 21, Maiden-lane, Strand, for Private Theatricals, Concerts, Meetings, Rehearsals, &c. Manager, Mr. J. HERBERT JAY. 'Phone, Gerrard 2633. Wires, "Managerial, London."

WANTED, to Let, on Yearly Tenancy, Theatre, Fully Licensed Bars.
Apply, Box 6,591, "The Era."

WANTED, to Let, Rehearsal Room, 30ft. by 30ft., with Piano, 2s. per hour, day or night. Lord Clive, Duke-street, Manchester-square.

WANTED, to Let, Rehearsal Rooms, with Dancing School, in going order, at Kennington; prominent position, and ten minutes only from the Strand. WARING and Co., Surveyors, 38, Parliament-street, Westminster.

WANTED, to Let, for Rehearsals, &c., Large Room, 46ft. by 30ft., smooth pine floor; good piano, accommodation, and ventilation; 1s. 6d. per hour with electric light, 1s. without; two entrances. Bay Malton Hotel, 160, Great Portland-street, W. 'Phone 2,948 Mayfair.

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WANTED, offers for Advertising Curtain and Programme at above Theatre. Address, WALLACE CHILDS.

WANTED, Known, to "Cinderella" Pantomime Producers, on Hire, Ponies, all colours and sizes, Harness, and Coaches. Highest reference given. Established twenty years. Terms moderate. FRASER HAY and Co., Jackson's-row, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Films for Hire, 15s. per 1,000ft. per week. Send for new lists. Films for sale, from ½d. foot. CROSS, Gloucester House, Grays, Essex.

WANTED, to Let on Royalty, Original Musical Play; trial Tour big success; small Cast and inexpensive; everything ready. NIGHTINGALE, 41, Great Queen-street, London.

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WANTED, to Let, Plays, with Printing; also New Dramas, by known Authors.
Crown Agency, 16, Great Newport-street, W.C.

WANTED, to Hire, for three months, coming Winter Season, commencing Dec., Circus Building or any large Hall or Premises capable of accommodating 40ft. Circus Ring, and quantity stabling (for practice purposes).

State full particulars and rental first letter.
GEO. SCOTT,
12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, to Rent, Small Theatre or Hall, cheap. State population and other places of entertainment. S., 22, Millfield-terrace, Hexham-on-Tyne.

WANTED, to Hire, several Cages of Wild Beasts, also Circus, and any great Attraction; open Dec., South Coast. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

PARTNERS WANTED.

WANTED, immediately, Partner to join Advertiser who has Large Massive Carved Two-Waggon Walk-up Front (road or rail), Cinematograph Show. Advertiser practical and experienced Showman; Partner to act as Money-taker and assist generally. This is a genuine and bonâ-fide opportunity. References exchanged. £60 for half share; start at once. Apply, Box 7,056, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, opening occurs for Smart Business Man as Manager to Company making six months' tour in West Indies, sail Oct. 28; must take small financial interest; one with knowledge of Islands and able to give turn or play in Sketches preferred. Solicitor's and banker's references in first instance. Box 7,034, "The Era."

WANTED, Partner, small capital, for half-share in Theatrical Venture (Mus.-Com.), splendid opportunity for talented Lady or Gentleman. Every investigation and solicitor's reference. Address, MANAGER, c/o Tuddenham's, 304, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, immediately, Partner, with good voice essential, Strong Music Hall Act. Letters, RAYNOR, 20A, Longbeach-rd., Lavender Hill, S.W.

WANTED, a Girl (18), must dance, to join Comedian, in new Turn. Send Photo. 113, Burlington-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

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TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

WANTED, Known, F. G. Wright, Gymnastic Apparatus Maker, Electrical Engineer, and Theatrical Blacksmith. 66 and 68, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, C. Kinch, Gymnastic Apparatus Maker, Theatrical and General Blacksmith. 17, St. Mary-square, Kennington-road, London, S.E. Large Hall for Practice.

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WANTED, Managers, Requiring Novel and Up to-date Printing, to call and inspect the latest samples of printing, suitable for everything in the business. Fresh samples continually arriving; nothing old or antiquated submitted. Always a large stock of Posters on hand for Circus, Menagerie, Cinematograph, &c., &c. Address, A. DE FREEL, Manager. Telephone, 331, City.

WANTED, Known, Printing. Absolutely the Cheapest Theatrical Printers. Send for our Useful Price List. MEAD and SON (Room 10), Sandy Bedfordshire.

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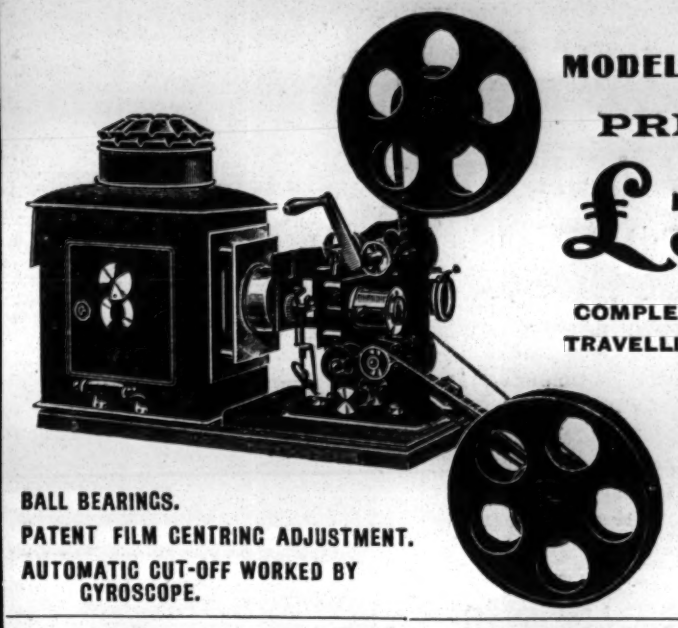

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Romantic Play, by Walter Howard.
A popular play if ever there was one.—Morning Post.
More applause than has been heard in a West End Theatre since the days of Irving.—Daily Express.
All 1908 dates filled.
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"THE COAL KING."
Vacant Oct. 26 and Christmas.
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Under the direction of F. MARTIN MORRIS
in
New and Original Musical Comedy in Two Acts,
THE FLOWER GIRL.
Book, Lyrics, and Music by William T. Gliddon.
A RECORD SUCCESS.
Returning in the Coming Autumn to Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's Theatres.
Thanks Mr. Wentworth Croke for offer of date at Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, but unable to transfer.
132nd PERFORMANCE.
An All Star Cast.
The Manchester Courier, Sept. 15, says:
Patrons of the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, are given a treat this week, the musical comedy "The Flower Girl" being one of the smartest things of its kind going.
The Manchester Evening News, Sept. 15, says:
Plenty of fun, good singing, and dancing make "The Flower Girl," which is presented by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company, a very attractive play. The company all-round is a good one, and the performance goes with an excellent swing.
Birmingham Post says:
The piece has not had the advantage of a run in London, and it made its appearance in Birmingham without the aid of well-known sponsors, but it made a more favourable impression on last night's audience than many productions from West End houses which have been heralded by a great flourish of trumpets. "The Flower Girl" is a pleasant surprise. A bright and breezy entertainment.
Birmingham Gazette says:
"The Flower Girl" made her début at the Prince of Wales'. The event can undoubtedly be written down as a success. Mr. W. T. Gliddon has written a clever little comedy, abounding in catchy songs and charming choruses, replete with wholesome fun and smart quips, spiced with topical gags, and pitched amidst delightful scenes. Then there is a touch of romance and a reasonable dash of sentiment—everything that goes to the making of a pleasing comedy, as a matter of fact, and a full house was unstinted in its warm appreciation. The scenery was picturesque and new, the dresses were bright and effective, the chorus was powerful, and the dancing excellent—altogether a refreshing and successful production.
Birmingham Dispatch says:
The first act was laid in Trafalgar Square, and it is doubtful whether the lions guarding Nelson's column ever looked down on such good humour and gay dresses, whilst Nelson must have been stirred by such a bevy of beauties at his feet. Act II. was performed amidst even more up-to-date surroundings, the Italian Gardens at the Franco-British. The scenes, then, were new, the dresses charming, the chorus powerful, the songs catchy and topical, and the music inspiriting; indeed, "The Flower Girl," as it made its first appearance in Birmingham, can be placed among the successes.
Pronounced by the Entire Press
The Provincial Success of the Year.
Company of Forty.
An All Star Cast.
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MISS FLORENCE WILTON,
MISS JEANNIE HOLMES,
MR. ROBERT H. HOWARD,
MR. ALFRED DONOHOE,
MR. NORMAN BOWYER,
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MR. LOUIS STANISLAUS,
and
MR. MARTIN ADESON.
Full Chorus and Troupe of Dancers.
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June 22, KING'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
June 29, LYCEUM THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
July 6, LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE, SCARBOROUGH.
July 13, GRAND THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
July 20, THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
July 27, EMPIRE THEATRE, OLDHAM.
Aug. 3, OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.
Aug. 10, THEATRE ROYAL, ROCHDALE.
Aug. 17, PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
Aug. 24, ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Aug. 31, THEATRE ROYAL, PRESTON.
Sept. 7, OPERA HOUSE, CHELTENHAM.
Sept. 14, VICTORIA THEATRE, MANCHESTER.
Sept. 21, THEATRE ROYAL, DEWSBURY.
Sept. 28, THEATRE ROYAL, ST. HELENS.
Oct. 5, THEATRE ROYAL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Oct. 12, OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
Oct. 19, HIS MAJESTY'S T., ABERDEEN.
Oct. 26, HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.
Nov. 2, TYNE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE
Nov. 9, THEATRE ROYAL, EDINBURGH.
Nov. 16, THEATRE ROYAL, GLASGOW.
Nov. 23, PRINCE OF WALES' T., NUNEATON.
Nov. 30, GRAND THEATRE, CROYDON.
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Various Vacancies, Autumn, 1909.
Oct. 5, OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER (return).

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Huge Business at Eccles. Dates offered at all Messrs. Broadhead's Theatres. Excellent opening at Castleford. Booked at seventy of the Leading Dramatic Theatres. 1909 practically booked up. Feb. 1 possibly Vacant.
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Mr. Arthur W. Pinero's Successful Comedy
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"STILL ALARM," GRAND, MANSFIELD.
No Vacant Dates this year.
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"FOR WIFE AND KINGDOM." Spring, 1909.
"ALADDIN," Xmas. fully booked.
Next week, GRAND, MANSFIELD.

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"HANDS ACROSS THE SEA,"
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"A Chinese Honeymoon."
"With Edged Tools."
"The Gay Gordons."
"Tom Jones."
"Lucky Durham."
"Duchess of Dantzic."
"Message from Mars."
Leonard Boyne, in "Raffles."
"Girl Behind the Counter."
"Sunday."
"Catch of the Season."
"A White Man."
"Miss Hook of Holland."
Moody-Manners Opera Company.
New Version of "The Christian."
Florence St. John, in "Jack Straw."
"Veronique."
"His House in Order."
F. R. Benson's Répertoire Co.
"The Dairymaids."
"Beauty of Bath."
"Breed of the Treshams."
"A Royal Divorce."
James Kiddie's "Cinderella" Pantomime.
J. F. Elliston's "Puss in Boots."
"The Prodigal Son."
"The Bondman."
"The Girls of Gottenberg."
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Next week, "JACK STRAW."

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Next week,
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VACANT DATES.
VACANT DATES.
VACANT DATES.
VACANT DATES.
VACANT DATES.
NOV. 2 and JAN. 4.
NOV. 2 and JAN. 4.

THE NEW EAST LYNNE.

By Edmund Gurney.
This version of Mrs. Wood's remarkable story is the greatest success on tour.
And in a fortnight at Dublin it played to £1,400, and at Belfast last week hundreds were turned away nightly, unable to gain admission.

This week, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, S.W.
Next week, THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.

VACANT DATES.
VACANT DATES.
VACANT DATES.
VACANT DATES.
VACANT DATES.
NOV. 2 and 9.
NOV. 2 and 9.
NOV. 2 and 9.
NOV. 2 and 9.
NOV. 2 and 9.

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VACANT DATES.
VACANT DATES.
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VACANT DATES.
FEB. 1 and 8, 1909.
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FEB. 1 and 8, 1909.
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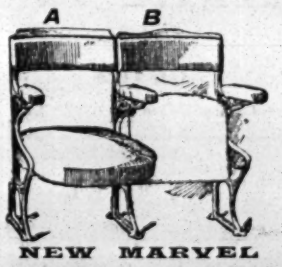

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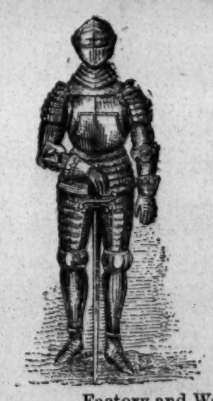

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At Liberty. Letters, C/o "The Era."

MISS DULCIE GREATWICH, Juvenile Lead, Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's "The Sailor's Wedding." Oct. 5, Elephant and Castle.

MISS FLORRIE GREEN,
Title-rôle, "The Girl with the Angel Face."
Metropole, Glasgow.

MISS ETHEL GRIFFIES,
Starring as Gertrude Hunt, "When It Was Dark," Pavilion Theatre.

MISS LOUISE HAMPTON,
Starring as Bertha in "The Girl Who Wrecked His Home." Motherwell.

MISS FLORENCE HARCOURT,
Elizabeth, "The Education of Elizabeth,"
Brixton T. Resigning Oct. 10. 353, Strand.

MISS LILLIAN HERRIES,
At Liberty for Lead.
179, Greenwich-road, Greenwich, S.E.

MISS JEANNIE HOLMES,
Theatre Royal, South Shields.
Permanent address, 30, Aigburth-mansions, S.W.

MISS MARIE HOUSLEY,
at Liberty for Lead.
Address, 42, Upper Bedford-place, W.C.

MISS LOUIE HURMAN, at Liberty for Panto., Principal Boy. Last year, Alex., Sheffield. Oct. 5, Alhambra, Sandgate.

MISS AGNES IMLAY.
Mr. Frederick Melville's Co.
Oct. 5, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

MISS WINIFRED INGHAM,
Disengaged.
Per address, 11, Upper Tooting-road, S.W.

MISS CLARA JECKS.
Address,
Care of "The Era"; or A.A.

MISS KATIE JOHNSON,
Disengaged.
123, St. George's-rd, Victoria, S.W.

MISS ETHEL KAY,
Lead, "The Fatal Wedding."
Oct. 5, Wolverhampton (6 nights).

MISS EUGENIE KEMBLE,
just returned from America. At Liberty.
34, Cambridge-mansions, S.W., and A.A.

MISS GERTRUDE LE SAGE,
"A Pair of Spectacles" Co.
Oct. 5, Kursaal, Bexhill-on-Sea. 12 nights.

MISS ADELINE LESTER,
Messrs. Adair and Lloyd's "Man to Man" Co. King's Theatre, Gainsborough.

MISS GRACE LESTER,
Mr. Frederick Melville's Company,
Oct. 5, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

MRS. L. L'ESTRANGE, at Liberty for Character, Comedy, Grande Dame, or Shakespeare. 1, Eton-villas, Hampstead, N.W.

MISS MARY LEWIN-MANNERING,
Mr. Van Biene's Co., Hippodrome, Brighton.
Oct. 5, Hippodrome, Southampton.

MISS MAUD LINDEN,
Countess Bellini, in "A Sailor's Wedding."
Next week, Elephant and Castle. Dis. Oct. 10.

MISS SOPHIE LINGWOOD.
Mr. Edward Terry's Co.
Oct. 5, Theatre Royal, Hull.

MISS GLADYS LLOYD,
"What the Butler Saw" Co.
Oct. 5, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

MISS KITTY LOFTING,
"Raffles" Co.
Address, next week, T. R., Jarrow-on-Tyne.

MISS KEITH LYTTON,
Mr. Forbes Robertson's Season.
St. James's Theatre, S.W.

MISS MABEL MANNERING,
Starring as Estelle in "For Her Husband's Sake." Grand Theatre, Radcliffe.

MISS BEATRICE MARSDENE,
Gwendoline, in "Raffles."
Oct. 5, Theatre, Jarrow.

MISS EDIE MARTIN,
Disengaged, Chambermaid and Boys.
C/o Felix Pitt, Grand Theatre, Rawtenstall.

MISS ALICE MAY,
Disengaged.
9, York-buildings, Adelphi, W.C. 181 Gerrard.

MISS MADGE McINTOSH,
Leads. C/o Messrs. Meynell and Gunn,
Theatre Royal, Melbourne.

MISS AMY McNEILL,
Lady Marion Chalmers, "The World and the Woman." This, Blyth; next, O. H., Middlesbrough.

MISS ALMA MELROSE,
Disengaged. Part Comedy, Open for Australia. Address, c/o "The Era" Office.

MISS SASH MILLWARD.
Address,
5, Havelock-road, Norwich.

MISS IRENE MONCRIEFF,
Dis. Com., Char., Musical or otherwise.
124, Drakefield-road, Balham, S.W.

MISS LOUISE MOODIE,
at Liberty.
Add., letters only, 36, Airedale-avenue, Chiswick.

MISS MADGE MORLEY,
Disengaged. Thanks Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer for offer. 33, Somerleyton-rd., Brixton, S.W.

MISS EVA MOSS,
At Liberty for leading parts. Good offers invited. Empire Theatre, Newport.

MISS MARGARET MURCH,
Lead. Disengaged shortly.
C/o Actors' Association, 353, Strand, W.C.

MISS LINA NAZEBY,
Heavy Lead.
Stock Co., Grand Theatre, Stockton.

MISS FLORENCE NELSON
(Mrs. J. A. Atkin), Dis., Lead, H. L. or Com. Tour, or Sketches. 73, Munster-road, Fulham.

MISS PEARL NOYLE,
Bett Dabbs, Tom H. Taylor's "Is Life Worth Living?" Oct. 5, T. R., West Bromwich.

MISS MARGARET NYBLOC,
Disengaged.
Address, Flat 12, 118, Long-acre, W.C.

MISS ADA PALMER, Concluded Engagement with Miss Ashwell at Kingsway Theatre. Disengaged. 78, Merton-rd., Wimbledon.

MISS EMILY PATTERSON,
Letters and Wires,
5, Alderney-street, S.W.

MISS CLAIRE PAUNCEFORT,
Disengaged, end of Tour of "Scarlet Pimpernel." Theatre Royal, Dublin.

MISS MARY PEMBERTON
(Mrs. Walter Pemberton).
Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

MISS JOAN PEREIRA,
Letters,
42, Charlwood-street, S.W.

MISS CISSIE PODMORE,
Miss Maud Hildyard's Co.
P.O.W., Salford.

MRS. MORTON POWELL,
Oct. 5,
Theatre Royal, Ilkeston.

MISS DORA PRICE,
Disengaged. Lead or Heavies.
Address 35, Old Town, Croydon.

MISS FLORENCE RADCLIFFE,
Address,
62, Scarboro'-street, West Hartlepool.

MISS CHRISTINE RAYNER,
Lovey Mary, in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." Oct. 5, Boro' Theatre, Stratford.

MISS ROSEMARY REES
Lady Mereston, in "Lady Frederick" (Mrs. Brown-Potter). Oct. 5, Gaiety, Dublin.

MISS DOROTHY RICHARDSON,
as Nancy Lee, "Soldier's Wedding" Co.
This, Star, Liverpool; next, Princess's, Glasgow.

MISS GRACE RICHARDSON,
Disengaged.
Glentworth, Palmers Green, N.

MISS CONSTANCE ROBERTSON,
Engaged by Oscar Ashe, Esq. Add., en route, or 9, Rossetti-mansions, Cheyne Walk, S.W.

MISS MARIE ROBSON
(Mrs. Graham Woods), Heavy Lead,
"Send Him Victorious," Crown T., Eccles.

MISS MAUD RUSSELL
(Mrs. Frank M. Thorne), "The Woman Pays" Co. Oct. 5, Grand, Brighton.

MISS MAY SAKER,
Concluded Special Engagement, "Message from Mars." Add., 79, Perham-rd., Kensington, W.

MISS CLARISSA SELWYNNE,
"Diana of Dobson's" Co. (N.), Oct. 5, Prince of Wales' Theatre, Great Grimsby.

MISS FLORENCE SMITHERS,
Royalty Theatre,
Morecambe.

MISS MARY STAFFORD-SMITH,
Chickweed, "Alone in London."
Oct. 5, Star, Liverpool.

MISS BLANCHE STANLEY,
Grannie, "Pete."
Lyceum Theatre, W.C.

MISS BLANCHE STEELE,
"Two Little Sailor Boys" Co.
Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth, Oct. 5.

MISS DOT STEPHENS,
Address,
Care of "The Era."

MISS MARION STERLING,
Miss Julia Neilson and Mr. F. Terry's Co.
At Liberty end of Tour. T. R., Dublin.

MISS GERTRUDE STERROLL,
Disengaged.
"Avenil," Parkside-gdns., Wimbledon Com., S.W.

MISS ROSSIE ST. JOHN,
"Her Love Against the World" Co.
Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

MISS EVA STUART.
Oct. 5,
King's Theatre, Glasgow.

MISS MILDRED SURREY, Emilia ("Othello"), Queen ("Hamlet"), Elizabeth ("Richard III."), &c, Allan Wilkie Co. York.

MISS KATE SYDNEY,
Disengaged Specials.
C/o Arthur Hales, Theatre, Motherwell, N.B.

MISS NELLIE TAYLOR (Mrs. J. Milne Taylor), Robust Chambermaids and Char. Com. Disengaged. 77, Edge-lane-road, Oldham.

MISS WINNIE TEMPEST,
Marie Louise, "A Royal Divorce."
Oct. 5, Paisley Theatre, Paisley.

MISS ELLALINE THORNE,
Mitzi, Geo. Dance's "Girls of Gottenberg."
To-night, Borough, Stratford; next, Kennington.

MISS MAUDE TOWNSEND,
Disengaged.
37, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

MISS RITA TREKELLE.
Address,
186, Buckingham Palace-road, S.W.

MISS MARION TURNER,
Disengaged.
Address, 26, Mornington-rd., Regent's Park, N.W.

MISS ROSSLYN VAYNE,
Lead, "Two Lancashire Lasses in London."
Oct. 5, Hippo., Todmorden.

MISS AGNES VERITY,
Cigarette, in "Under Two Flags."
Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool, Oct. 5.

MISS HELEN VICARY,
Miss Lena Ashwell's South Company.
Oct. 5, T. R., Merthyr Tydvil.

MISS VIOLET VIVIAN,
Mrs. Schultz, in "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch." Oct. 5, Borough Theatre, Stratford.

MISS CICELY WADE,
Oct. 5,
Londesborough Theatre, Scarborough.

MISS CISSIE WADE,
St. George, Ginnett and Pink's "St. George and Dragon." Hippo., Boscombe; next, Margate.

MISS HELENA WALBRAN,
Resigning Engagement. Disengaged Oct. 19
Theatre Royal, West Stanley.

MISS LAURA WALKER,
as Natalie Steinback, "The Woman Who Gambles." Oct. 5, Pontycymmer (3), Aberavon (3).

MISS DAISIE WALLACE,
Principal Soubrette, with J. C. Williamson, Esq., Australia. Letters, 57, Louisville-rd., Balham.

MISS ANENA WALTON,
Polly Stokes, "The Woman Pays" Co.
Grand Theatre, Brighton.

MISS WARD,
Princess Idalia, "The Love of the Princess."
Address, T. R., Margate.

MISS ETHEL WARD,
as Sunday.
Ripon (3), Harrogate (3).

MISS LUCY WILSON, Musical Directress, J. Bannister Howard's "Silver King" Co. Oct. 5, New T., Aberdare (6 nights).

MISS KATE WINGFIELD,
Disengaged Oct. 4.
Address, 67, Elm Park-mansions, Chelsea, S.W.

MISS ROSAMOND MAYNE YOUNG,
Disengaged, Lead. Address, C/o Miss Julian Young, 20, Tedworth-square, S.W.

MISS DENISE ZALESKI,
Dick, "Two Little Vagabonds."
Oct. 5, O. H., Cork.

MR. FRED ACTON,
Jack Jolly, "Two Little Sailor Boys" Co.
Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

MR. ERIC ALBURY, Juvenile, Light and Eccentric Comedy, Char. Disengaged Nov. 14. 9, Portsdown-road, Maida Vale, W.

MR. ALEC ALVES,
Jacky, "Sunday."
Oct. 5, Ripon (3), Harrogate (3..

MR. GEORGE ARTHUR,
Heavy Lead, supporting Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Draycott. Next, O. H., Cradley Heath (2 weeks).

MR. ROBERT R. ASHBY,
"Silver King" Co.
Oct. 6 New Theatre, Aberdare.

MR. T. WELDON ATHERSTONE,
Disengaged.
Address, 17a, Prince of Wales'-rd., S.W.

MR. LIONEL ATWILL,
Michael Sunlocks in "The Bondman."
Address, Dalston Theatre, Dalston, N.E.

MR. CYRIL AUSTEN-LEE,
Marcus Superbus, "The Sign of the Cross."
Grand Theatre, Falkirk, N.B.

MR. H. K. AYLIFF,
Postman Kelly.
Lyceum Theatre.

MR. MAURICE E. BANDMANN,
Bandmann's Eastern Circuit.
Address, Theatre Royal, Calcutta.

MR. ARTHUR J. BARCLAY,
Manager, Walthamstow Palace.
Address, Parkside, The Drive, Walthamstow.

MR. ORLANDO BARNETT,
Jacob Engstrand, in "Ghosts."
152, Northfield-lane, Ealing.

MR. J. J. BARTLETT,
Disengaged.
Address, 12, Angel-road, Hammersmith.

MR. JOHN HASTINGS BATSON
as Father Lamplugh in "The Christian."
Address, 49, Bedford-street, W.

MR. HENRY BEDFORD,
Rizardo, "Lion's Heart," Prince's, Bradford.
His brilliant acting bringing down the house.

MR. and MRS. FRANK BERESFORD
(Miss Dorothy Milne), Leads. "Convict 99."
Dis. Dec. En route, or 152, Harley-street, W.

MR. IVAN BERLYN,
at Liberty for Pantomime.
Communications, 353, Strand, W.C.

MR. W. WILSON BLAKE,
"Sunday" Co.
Oct. 5, Ripon; 8th, Harrogate.

MR. CHARLES BOULT.
Getting Married. Oct. 6, 1908.
Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

MR. CLIFFORD BOWN,
Comedy, Character. At Liberty Autumn.
Address, 32, Church-road, Moseley, Birmingham.

MR. HARRY BRISTOW, Character and Stage-Management, Tom H. Taylor's Co.
Oct. 5. T. R., West Bromwich.

MR. ULICK BURKE,
Title-rôle, "The Coal King."
T. R., Seaham Harbour; next, T .R., Blyth.

MR. HARRY BUSS, Principal Comedian. At Liberty; also Panto. 195, Church-street, Stoke Newington, N. 'Phone, Dalston 2011.

MR. HENRY BUTE,
At Liberty. Note change of address, 122, Northcote-rd., Clapham Junction, S.W.

MR. WILLOX CADOGAN,
Ernest White, in "Captain Drew on Leave."
T. R., Bath. Dis. Nov. 1. Termination tour.

MR. and MRS. HARRY CANE.
H. C., at Liberty; Mrs. C., Garrick Theatre.
22, Linden-gardens, Chiswick; or Arthur Hall.

MR. GEO. E. CARLETON,
Business Manager.
"The Village Blacksmith" Co.

MR. J. HAROLD CARSON,
Mr. James Welch's Company
Address, Theatre Royal, Birmingham.

MR. FRANCIS CHAMIER, Frank Stanmore's "Gay Deceivers." VIOLET CHAMIER. Dis. Next, Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne.

MR. HAL CHARLTON, Coughdrop and A.B.M., "Two Little Vagabonds" Co.
This, Wednesbury; 5th, T. R., Barnsley.

MR. and MRS. GEORGE H. CHILD
Mary Gleeson, Vicar, and Stage-Manager.
"Straight from the Shoulder." T. R., Dewsbury.

MR. ALICK CHUMLEY,
Jack Hillier, in "A Bit of Old Chelsea."
Mr. Baxter "Mollusc." York (3), Buxton (3).

MR. LEONARD CLARKE,
Heavy Lead, R. A. Roberts's Co., T. R., Dewsbury. Dis. Xmas. Good offers only.

MR. DENNIS CLEUGH,
Lead.
Address, C/o "The Era."

MR. & MRS. GEORGE EDWIN CLIVE
(Miss Chrissie Dunbar). Lead.
All Coms., Market Hotel, Preston.

MR. ROY COCHRANE,
Manager,
Surrey Theatre, S.E.

MR. C. F. COLLINGS,
as Noel Ferrers, "Sins of Society." Dis. Dec. 7. Oct. 5, Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

MR. EDWIN J. COLLINS
Resigning Engagement. At Liberty Oct. 19.
Theatre Royal, West Stanley.

MR. EDWARD W. COLMAN,
Comedian. At Liberty now and 'Xmas.
Address, St. John Denton or Blackmore.

MR. EDWARD COMBERBACH.
Address,
Adelphi Theatre, W.C.

MR. SYDNEY COMPTON,
Mr. Brandon Thomas's "Charley's Aunt" Co.
Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. WILLIAM CORRI,
Musical Conductor and Composer.
Address, 7, Clive-road, Park-road, Merton, S.W.

MR. VERNON COWPER,
"When the Clock went Wrong."
Stoll Tour.

MR. FRANK CRIMP,
"Miss Hook of Holland" Co. Re-engaged by Mr. Dance Xmas. Cheltenham; next, Swansea.

MR. JULIAN CROSS.
Address,
13, Eglantine-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

MR. ARTHUR CURTIS,
Mr. H. B. Irving's Co.
Grand Theatre, Leeds.

MR. PHILIP DARIEN,
Lead, "Ugliest Woman on Earth" Co.
Oct. 5, Royalty T., Barrow.

MR. PERCY DAVIDSON,
Comedian, Open for Xmas.
"Miss Hook of Holland," King's T., Hammersmith.

MR. BASIL DEAN,
Cyril Dean, "Bringing It Home."
Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MR. FRANK H. DENTON,
Oct. 5, Royalty Theatre, Glasgow.
Disengaged Dec. 14.

MR. FRED DOBELL
as Uncle Gregory, "the Man fra' Sheffield," at Lib. Oct. 12, Kursaal, Bexhill-on-Sea.

MR. WELLESLEY DRAPER,
Mr. and Mrs. Kendal's Co.
Court Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES DRAYCOTT
(Miss Muriel Thompson), Own Répertoire Co.
Perm. Address, Trefriw House, Leamington Spa.

MR. CECIL DU GUE,
Communications,
33, Denbigh-place, S.W.

MR. CHARLES A. EAST
and Miss EAST ROBERTSON, "Sexton Blake," T. R., North Shields.

MR. & MRS. ERNEST C. EDWARDS
(Miss Bella Power). Lib. Dec. 12. Com. and Char., Old Men, Women, &c. T. R., Scarborough.

MR. & MRS. CHARLES FRANMORE.
Arrangements complete for the Present.
16, Durham-chare, Bishop Auckland.

MR. W. H. GARBOIS,
as Levison, "The New East Lynne" Co.
Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

MR. and MRS. W. V. GARROD
(Miss Bertha Kingston), Lead and Title-rôle, "A Country Girl in London." T. R., Batley.

MR. WALTER GAY,
Leading Business. Disengaged.
13, The Hermitage, Richmond.

MR. GELDERD,
Lead,
"Mrs. Dot" Co. 5th, T. R., Brighton.

MR. WM. T. GLIDDON,
Author and Composer of "The Flower Girl."
Picking Blackberries and Mushrooms in Devon.

MR. ALFRED GODDARD,
Jack Frobisher, in "The Walls of Jericho."
Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

MR. DOUGLAS GORDON,
compelled to resign engagement with Bandmann Co. owing to fever. Cook's, Cairo.

MR. CECIL GRAY,
Leading business,
Miss Maud Hildyard's Company en route.

MR. HERBERT GREVILLE.
Oct. 5,
Address, 30, Whitby-street, W. Hartlepool.

MR. HARRY A. GRIBBEN,
Re-engaged to play David Blake, in "The Stepmother," E., Croydon. Panto, P.'s, Glasgow.

MR. LAWRENCE GROVE,
Douglas, in "The Private Secretary" Co.
Oct. 5, Londesborough Theatre, Scarborough.

MR. & Mrs. F. R. GWYN-RICHARDSON
(Miss Grace Harlington), General-Manager and Batty, "The Breed of the Treshams."

MR. A. H. HALLATT,
"Her Love Against the World."
T. R., Smethwick.

MR. HERBERT HARDEN,
Carstairs, in "Lucky Jim."
Address, 9, Tavistock-place, W.C.

MR. A. C. HARDIE,
Engaged by H. Sleath, Esq., for Cash, "White Man" Tour, Crown, Peckham, 5th.

MR. W. HENRY HARGREAVES
and MISS MAY DALLAS.
"His House in Order" Co., T. R., Worthing.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY
thanks H. B. Irving, Esq., offer London season. Dis. Dec. Oct. 5, Castle T. Stockton.

MR. CYRIL HARRISON,
Now at Liberty. Xmas settled.
30, Upperton-gardens, Eastbourne.

MR. EDWARD HARRISON,
"Diana of Dobson's" Co. (N.), Oct. 5, Prince of Wales' Theatre, Great Grimsby.

MR. MURRAY HATHORN,
Disengaged Oct. 24.
Address, Loughill, Quedgeley, Gloucester.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY,
General Manager, "The Prince and the Beggar Maid." Shakespeare, Clapham.

MR. JERROLD HEATHER,
Starring as Jack Coulson,
"The Female Swindler," T. R., Leeds.

MR. ARTHUR E. HOLLAND,
Shakespeare, Comedy, Drama, Character, &c.
332nd Performance of "Jack Herne," R., Bilston.

MR. W. EDWYN HOLLOWAY,
Disengaged.
Langroyd House, Larkhall-rise, S.W.

MR. A. COTTON HOLMES,
Davy, "Sunday," Mr. Louis Calvert's Co.
Oct. 5, Ripon (3), Harrogate (3).

MR. FRANK HOWARD,
Management and Bertie (Fourth Year),
"When London Sleeps," T. R., Scarboro'.

MR. GEORGE HOWARD,
Bohun, K.C., "You Never Can Tell."
Oct. 5, Opera House, Cheltenham.

MR. ROBT. H. HOWARD,
"The Flower Girl" Co. Dis. Xmas.
This, T. R., St. Helens; next, T. R., South Shields.

MR. and MRS. WILSON HOWARD
(Miss Carlotta Anson).
Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. JOHN A. HOWITT,
Disengaged Oct. 5, up to Panto. for Character, Comedy, or Stage-Man. 85, College-pl., N.W.

MR. & MRS. S. HERBERT HUMBER
(Beatrice Sinclair), Starring Title-rôle, and Mrs. Durham, "Lucky Durham," R., Sheffield.

MR. REGINALD A. HUNT,
Stage-Manager, "The Bondman,"
Oct. 5, Dalston Theatre, N.

MR. JAMES HUSSEY,
Lively and S.-M., "Sunday" Co.
Oct. 5, Victoria Hall, Ripon; 8th, O. H., Harrogate.

MR. RALPH W. HUTTON.
To-day, Brixton Theatre, S.W.
Oct. 5. H. M. Theatre, Barrow.

MR. A. B. IMESON,
Lead, Rev. Edgar Linnell, Chas. Frohman's "Hyprocrites." Oct. 5, Castle T., Stockton-on-Tees.

MR. POWELL JAMES,
Business-Manager, "Leah Kleschna" Co.
Address, Aquarium T. Great Yarmouth.

MR. S. MAJOR JONES,
Stage-Manager,
Lyceum Theatre, W.C.

MR. F. JOYNSEN-POWELL.
Address,
29, Oxberry-avenue, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. OGILVY KEITH.
Address,
5, Carlton-terrace, South Cliff, Scarborough.

MR. and MRS. EDGAR KENT
(Miss Ada Clarke), Mrs. Patrick Campbell's Co. Opera House Southport.

MR. CLAUDE KING,
Disengaged.
50, Ashburnham-mansions, Chelsea.

MR. and MRS. FRED KNIGHT,
Special Week, "Our Flat," King's, Hammersmith, Oct. 5.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE.
Address, 353, Strand, London, W.C.
Permanent Address, 19, Parkfield-drive, Liscard.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE,
Manager, Stage-Director, Mr. Mouillot's "Tom Jones" Co. T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY,
Disengaged.
72, Camden-street, N.W.

MR. PHILIP LESLIE,
Freddie Perkins, in "Mrs. Dot." At Liberty Dec. 7. Oct. 5, T. R., Brighton.

MR. MARK LESTER, "The Gay Deceivers." Sheerness; next, Pier Pav., Eastbourne. Per., 23, Waldemar-mans., Fulham, S.W.

MR. D. LEWIN - MANNERING,
Captain Hector, in "The Prince and the Begger Maid" (S.) Co. Oct. 6, Shakespeare, Clapham.

MR. and MRS. FRANK LISTON
(Maud Warburton), Leading Bus. and Man. 5th, Lyric, Hammersmith; or The Managers' Club.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY
(Miss Maggie Edwards),
"The Village Blacksmith," Oct. 5, Cambridge.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN,
Father Lamplugh, "The Christian." Suburban Tour. Address, 28, Chelverton-road, Putney.

MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART,
"When Knights Were Bold."
T. R., Plymouth. Offers invited for Xmas.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE.
Mr. L., Justice Hare, "New East Lynne" Co. Address, 7, Bridson-st, Liverpool.

MR. and MRS. A. B. MACKAY,
"A Woman Worth Winning" Co.
Oct. 5, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY,
Own Tour, "Rollicking Rory."
En route, "Ashdale," Poulton-le-Fylde.

MR. GEORGE MALLETT, General Manager, Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's "Flag Lieutenant" Co., C. T., Kingston.

MR. HARRY MARLOW
Will Buy Good Funny Songs.
14, Store-street, Bedford-square, W.C.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL,
Dr. O'Byrne, "Dairymaids" Co. No. 1.
Oct. 5, T. R., Edinburgh.

MR. H. SHERWOOD MARTIN,
Prince's, Bristol;
next, Royal, Plymouth.

MR. CYPRIAN H. MATTHEWS,
Captain Rudolph von Scarsbruck, "Midnight Wedding" Co. Letters, 19, Prince's-av., Liverpool.

MR. MAYOR - COOKE,
Rudolph, "Midnight Wedding."
Queen's, Longton.

MR. WALTER McEWEN,
Disengaged.
13, King's-road, Willesden Green, N.W.

MR. ERIC G. MERRIE,
Fourth year General-Manager with Ida Moleworth and Mr. Mark Blow. P.O.W. T., Mexboro'.

MR. GEORGE MILLER,
Engaged by Tom B. Davis, Esq.
409, Edgware-road, W.

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Leads or Heavies.
General Management. Tours Booked.

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MARIE HARCOURT. Margaret and Magnus, "Prodigal Son" Co. (Croke's). T. R., Woolwich.

MR. G. MORETON - WILLIAMS,
Heavy Lead, "A Country Girl in London."
Oct. 5, T. R., Batley, Yorks.

MR. and MRS. HERBERT MORGAN,
Engaged by Walter Melville, Esq., Heavy Lead, &c. Denham Vicarage, Eye, Suffolk.

MR. and MRS. TOM MOWBRAY
(Miss Edith Ife). Disengaged. Nov. 2, "Captain Drew on Leave" Co. Oct. 5, T. R., Bath.

MR. LEONARD MUDIE,
as Hippolytus, Special Matinées,
Oct. 6, 8, 13, 15, Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MR. J. NEVILLE.
Address,
C/o "The Era."

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY,
"The Prodigal Parson" Tour.
Oct. 5, Opera House, Kidderminster.

MR. NORMAN A. OVERTON,
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ACTING AND GENIUS.

The question as to whether a great actor should be a genius is dealt with in *Munsey's Magazine* by Brander Matthews, Professor of Dramatic Literature in Columbia University, and author of several plays. "The two things that sharply distinguish the actor from all other artists, except the orator," writes Mr. Matthews, "are the twin facts that he must do his work in public and that he must do it with his own person. The actor works in the presence of the public, and the material of his art is himself. This accounts for the acuter sensitiveness of the actor to criticism. It is easy enough to discuss what the poet has done, or the painter, without personal comment. But how is it possible to separate the art of the actor from his personality? How can the artist and the man be disentangled? How may an adverse comment on the performance of a part avoid the appearance of an adverse comment on the personal characteristics of the human being who has put himself inside the character?"

That an actor must be a specialist is the conviction which Mr. Matthews proceeds to prove. "To win a fair proportion of popular approval," he says, "an actor needs only an attractive personality and a modicum of the mimetic faculty—of the special aptitude for the stage, which is as distinct a gift as the aptitude for story-telling, for making verses, or for acquiring money. The successful actor may happen also to be a man of wide intelligence, as Garrick was, and as M. Coquelin is; but he is no more likely to have acute intellect than a successful novelist or a successful business man. The special aptitude of the actor may be accompanied by ability in other directions; but the possession of the special aptitude is not evidence that he has also the wider intelligence.

"What the actor must have if he is to rise high in his art is not general intelligence, but the special intelligence of his own art, the intuitive understanding of its possibilities and of its limitations, the clear insight into its principles and the power swiftly to apply them. That he should always be conscious of the full effect of what he does, that he should always know just why he does it—this is not at all necessary, for often the best work of the artist is instinctive. He does what he does because that is indeed the only way for him to do it. There is no need that he should be conscious of his processes, or that he should be able to trace the steps that led him to the satisfactory result. Like all other artists, the actor is greatest in his achievement when he has builded better than he knew. His native aptitude and his artistic training enable him to produce an impression which often seems to be the result of pure intellectual power. The actor needs to have under control not only his gestures and his tones, but all other means of simulating sensibility; and these should be ready for use at all times, wholly independent of the words of the text."

The need of a guiding hand even to a matured player is insisted on. "The mere possession of all the tools of his trade does not of itself make the craftsman. The means of expression, however ample and however varied, are useless unless there is something to express—and something which it is worth while to express. Many an actor strong in execution is weak in conception. He does not know what it is best for him to do, though he knows how to do it when the best is shown to him. He needs guidance and he cannot steer himself, although he is certain to make a swift trip if only his course is directed by a wiser head.

"Here is the duty and the opportunity of the dramatist himself, or of the producer of the play, who need not be much of an actor, but who must know how the play ought to be acted in every part, and who can suggest to the several performers the various effects they are to accomplish. It may sound like a paradox to assert that the author, who often cannot act at all, can yet teach the actors, who are his masters in this art; but this is exactly what he may have to do.

"Sometimes, it is true, the playwright may be also an accomplished actor; and the result of this combination is generally very advantageous.

"Performers of the highest distinction have sometimes been indebted to a teacher who lighted the path that else they would have trodden in darkness. This dependence of the performer on the trainer has been excellently seized by Thackeray in "Pendennis," wherein we are shown how Little Bowes, the fiddler, had taught the lovely Miss Fotheringay; how he was the organist, and how she was the instrument whose music was evoked by him, hidden and unsuspected.

"Finer actresses by far than the adored Miss Fotheringay have owed much to a trainer in the background. Even the great Mrs. Siddons was often indebted for her novel effects to the inventive brain of her brother, John Philip Kemble. His, for example, was her startling point in *Henry VIII.*, when Queen Katherine throws full in Wolsey's face her 'To *you* I speak!'

"The great Rachel, again, was the pupil of Samson, a little comic actor, who yet was able to teach her how to attain to the loftiest heights of tragedy. She used to say that she was 'lame on one side' until Samson had shown her what to do with a part. Legouvé has recorded how she turned to Samson during one of the rehearsals of *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, and, in the presence of her assembled comrades, expressed her gratitude to the man who had shown her how to get the best out of herself.

"Everyone at all familiar with the inner history of the stage in Great Britain and the United States during the last quarter of the nineteenth century is aware that two of the actresses who held a foremost position in the theatre of both countries were each of them immensely indebted to the constant counsel of two of their professional associates.

"When the keen artistic intelligence and the rich emotional instrument happen to be in the possession of the same person," concludes Mr. Matthews, "then the world is likely to have another great actor. The intelligence alone will not suffice, or else Shakespeare would have been the foremost actor of his day, and not Burbage. The emotion alone will not do it, unless it can express itself adequately by voice and look and gesture—'the actor's symbols,' as Lewes calls them, through which he makes intelligible the emotions of the character he is personating. 'No amount of sensibility will avail unless it can express itself adequately by these symbols,' Lewes adds: 'It is not enough for an actor to *feel*, he must *represent*. He must express his feelings in symbols universally intelligible and affecting.'

"If we may rely on the testimony of Lewes himself, actors as prominent as Macready and Charles Kean—men of intelligence and of character, both of them—did not really attain to the highest altitudes of their art because of their defective control of these symbols, the result of purely physical disadvantages.

"As we study the long annals of the theatre, striving to ascertain what player most certainly combined in himself all the attributes of a truly great actor, we are likely to be led to the conclusion that no one has a better claim to the supreme chieftainship of the histrionic art than David Garrick, equally powerful in comedy and in tragedy, and as warmly welcomed in France as he was highly esteemed in England. In our own day we have been fortunate in the privilege of studying two masters of the stage, Jefferson and Coquelin, probably as accomplished and as richly endowed as any of their predecessors in the theatre, gifted by nature and trained by art."

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ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Miss Winifred Chalmers' company, including Mr. Henry L. Osmond, is here this week in *The Master Criminal*. Mr. H. L. Osmond's impersonation of the title-rôle was intensely dramatic and convincing; Mr. J. C. Carlyle gave a capital performance of the Detective; and Philip Manners was well played by Mr. Edward Avinal. Miss Violet Lytton presented a good study of Mabel Manners; Miss Winifred Chalmers portrayed with power and distinction the part of Cecile; much laughter was caused by the combined efforts of Miss Mabel Tremere as Peggy Perks and Mr. Harry Cook as Tommy Dale; and another part that is very well handled is that of Gentleman Jim by Mr. Chas. Tolcher.

ABERDEEN.—H. M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The new version of *The Christian* is played this week by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Mr. Henry Renouf appears as John Storm with conspicuous success; Miss Doris Gilham makes a vivacious Glory; Mr. George R. Mountford acts skilfully the part of Lord Robert Ure; and Mr. Oswald Marshall gives a quiet but finished portraiture of Horatio Drake. The smaller parts are capably filled.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The amusing sketch *The House of Tinn* is acted with unflagging vivacity by Mr. J. Gar Kiddie and company; Mr. Whit Cunliffe repeats his success of last week; the Royal Tokio Company are singularly expert equilibrists; and among other members of the combination who are well received are Mr. Harry Marte, vocalist and dancer; Miss Lily Burnand, a sprightly comedienne; Mr. Harry Lisbon and Mr. Bert Barker, eccentric comedians, with some very clever business; the Sisters Marion, excellent vocalists; and Dusty Rhodes, the well-known comedian.

BEACH PAVILION.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—The company this week includes Mr. Percy Maye, a clever female impersonator; Miss Violet Davidson, soprano; Mr. David Thomson, humorist; and Mr. Jack Marson, vocalist and raconteur. All the turns are heartily applauded. A fine selection of pictures is shown by the London Safety Bioscope Company

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—Mr. H. C. Bostock appears on the scene of his many past triumphs this week. The veteran is heartily encored. Among the other members of the company are Mr. Dan Fraser, Scottish comedian; Miss Nellie Elliene, a vivacious soubrette; and Miss G. Stewart, a fine soprano.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—Included in the companies that appeared at the four performances given by the Empire lessees on Monday (the local autumn holiday) were Mr. G. W. Fyvie, comedian; Mr. Arthur Bright, vocalist; Prof. Monty, conjurer; Miss Jennie Bunting, singer and dancer; Miss Marguerite Lowe, soprano and entertainer; Miss Marie Rose, vocalist and dancer; Scotch Kriss, comedian; Miss Kate Morgan, soprano; and Miss May Calder.

MR. DOVE PATERSON continues to conduct the Gaiety with marked success. The principal of his cinematograms this week depicts the wonders and glories of the Franco-British Exhibition. Mons. Beaute, the fasting man, is now in the third week of his forty-three days' fast at Mr. Humber's waxwork saloon. There seems to be little doubt but that he will successfully accomplish his feat. The attractions of the house are increased by the engagement of Aaron Moore, a coloured giant 7ft. 6in. in height, with a ready tongue in his head.

ABERTILLERY.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*The Prodigal Parson* is being admirably presented here this week by Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's company. The title-rôle is portrayed in a clever manner by Mr. Logan Darragh; Mr. Alfred Northway gives a fine impersonation of Enoch Jaggins; Mr. Charles Ashwell does justice in the part of Ben Jaggins; Fern Godley, the parson's wife, is played in a natural and charming way by Miss Violet Hammersley; Mr. Owen Remonde as Phil Drive supplies the comedy with Miss Alice Buckland, a capital Gretchen.

PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—*The Mariners of England* is being presented here by Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company. As Lord Nelson Mr. Ernest R. Abbott gives a highly successful impersonation; and Miss Ada Abbott as Mabel Talbot wins high appreciation.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—A crowded house welcomed the return visit on Monday of Mr. Walter Melville's company in *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*. Mr. F. Ronald Adair depicts the rôle of Willie Mason in an admirable manner; Jack Fenton is capably portrayed by Mr. Frank R. Robertson; Mr. Raymond Wood displays power in the part of James Harcourt; Mr. Sidney Sarl is effective as Bill Slater; and Mr. Frank Denis sustains the part of Richard Fenton creditably. Miss Jessie Belmore is a sympathetic Sophie; Miss Zoe Davis a commendable Lucy Coventry; and Vesta Le Clere is acted with ability by Miss Nannie Meade. Comedy relief is afforded by Mr. Fred Ingham and Miss Marie Kildare as Johnny Walker and Poppy Fitzgerald.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—*The Merry Widow*, with its captivating music and exhilarating comedy, has a reputation that is fully maintained here on a first visit, a packed house greeting the talented company on Monday night. Miss Mysie Devine's is a charming and chic portrayal of the name-rôle, and her graceful dancing is one of the features of the rôle, whilst her fine conception of the wiles of women is clever; Mr. Frank Greene (who is a brother of Evie Greene) is a dashing Prince, and in his personation of the willing, yet unwilling, lover, he fills a difficult part in a talented manner, whilst his "last dance" with Miss Devine in the second act is one of the hits of the play; Mr. Edward D'Arcy keeps the audience in roars of laughter with his caustic wit and infectious humour as the Baron; Mr. Ripley Evans is the possessor of a fine tenor voice, which is heard to advantage in the numbers allotted to his part of Jolidon; M. de St. Brioche is in the capable hands of Mr. F. W. Pedgrift, who has an exceptionally pleasing baritone voice; another cleverly-played rôle is Mr. Fred Fowler's Nisch; Mr. Wm. Allison's Marquis is a capable enactment; and as the General Mr. Clifford Seyler is particularly good; whilst Messrs. R. Needham and Bert Edwards are capable. Miss Ada Thomas is a delightful Natalie.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Van Biene and Traynor's company are appearing here in the play entitled *Man and Wife*. Mr. Jno. F. Traynor gives a manly interpretation of Paul Revere; and Miss Kate Hallam as Marcelle appeals to the hearts of all. The evil genius of the play is Captain D'Esparre, and Mr. Edward M. Hamilton makes him a military despot of the most cruel and vindictive character. Mr. George Overs as the cripple boy, Jean, wins the sympathy of the audience; Colonel Latour and Sergt. Jacques are important factors in the action as interpreted by Messrs. Geo. Rammell and Ambrose Horton. Good work is also done by Messrs. E. Hall-Eldon and Geo. Vinning. Mr. E. Leslie is prominent as Father Coupe; and other characters find adequate exponents in Messrs. Phillips, Harcourt, Ralph, and Best. A touching depiction of the blind mother, Ruth Revere, is given by Miss Violet Temple. Rosette is vivaciously portrayed by Miss Millie Doris.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—The leading item of the week's bill is *An Airship Elopement*, played by Aeronauts with a real motor-car and wonderful cloud and storm effects. Greener, the pit lad, in some of his popular ditties, is well received; the ventriloquist, Baddow, affords considerable amusement; Fred S. Peake and company are reappearing here with the historical dramatic sketch *The Hypocrite*, an exciting episode of Charles I.'s reign; Celesi gives a sensational wire act; and Kendrick and Laura appear in a diverting and dainty interlude. Ibon-Obed, equilibrist, proves an interesting performer. The Bioscope is brought into greater requisition than usual.

PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Cinematograph Co.—The old Star Theatre, long closed, has reopened its doors, the interior and exterior having been renovated and decorated. The entertainments are to be animated picture exhibitions, with variety "turns."

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten.—A most interesting series of animated pictures are shown here this week, the most prominent being Father and Son, a military episode; The Mysterious Letter-box, At a Select Hotel, Bear Hunting in Russia, His First Top-coat, and Romeo and Juliet. Mr. W. H. Gatty, in the second week of his engagement here, is meeting with much success in his illustrated songs.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—The Five Saxonias evoke applause for their instrumentalism; and other turns are contributed by Miss Rosie Coleman, comedienne and dancer; Carlo Bianchi, foot equilibrist and juggler; Mr. Harry Conlin, comedian; the Bedini Trio of pantomimists; Master Charlie Carr, comedian and dancer; Willard's Marionettes; and the Attergraph pictures.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—This week the theatre is occupied by Dr. Walford Bodie and company. The Doctor is a host in himself, and his "turn" is a drawing feature. His company is an entertaining one. Little Dolly Robson, one of the Doctor's "cures," sang several catchy songs; Mabel Martin was exceptionally good, as was also Bella Skene. The dancers and comedians, Brothers Baxter, gave great satisfaction; Francisco, in his juggling act, was clever, and Li Chang Hi mystifying in the extreme.

BARNSTAPLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors,—The Long Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—Lovers of Shakespeare here have had a rich treat by the visit of Mr. F. R. Benson's North company, who fulfilled a three nights' engagement. The production of *Twelfth Night* created great interest, and enthusiastic audiences expressed keen appreciation of the high order of the acting. Miss Violet Farebrother created an excellent impression by her powerful rendering of Olivia; Miss Gladys Vanderzee gave a distinctive and engaging interpretation of Viola; and the skittish Maria was capitally undertaken by Miss May De Launey. A vigorous portrayal of Orsino was provided by Mr. Bernard Limpus; Mr. James Berry and Mr. Everard Vanderlip imparted a piquant touch to the representation of Sir Toby and Sir Andrew; Mr. Arthur Fayne also distinguished himself as the Clown; and Mr. Henry Herbert scored a conspicuous success by his extremely clever impersonation of Malvolio. *The Merchant of Venice, Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *Julius Cæsar* were also produced by the same company.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera Company opened here with *Maritana* this week. Miss Christine Gomez makes an engaging heroine, singing and acting prettily; Mr. J. W. Turner is a capital and spirited Don Cæsar; and Mr. Tom Griffiths as Don José and Mr. Frank Clark as the King of Spain both do well; while Miss Jessie Dennis is a winning Lazarillo.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Tom H. Taylor's company in *Is Life Worth Living?* is here. Miss Lillian Earle is a pleasing Madge Roxton; and Miss Jeannie Burgoyne a capital Isabel Crosbie. Mr. Ernest Owttrim as Lionel Ray is exceptionally good; and Mr. Herbert Hollister is the polished villain as Randolph Kerr.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor R. Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—At the top of the bill is Maude Mortimer, who scores a success. Roars of laughter greet the comedy duologue *Two Sides of the Wall*, by Nightingale and Stigant; a clever and amusing acrobatic turn is given by Cummin and Seaham; Alec Kendall is a talented comedian; Staffo, the butcher-boy juggler, is a capital turn; Lorne and Lorne are very good in their song-scena, *Capital and Labour*; the Laura Brothers give a skilful gymnastic turn; and some fine pictures by Vernon's Bioscope conclude.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A most interesting picture entertainment is drawing large houses here this week. The programme is interspersed by some capital songs by Mr. James Bassett.

BARRY DOCK.—NEW THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. F. G. Kimberley presented *A Soldier's Honour* on Monday to a crowded house. As Captain Deane Mr. Kimberley was excellent; and the Captain Temple of Mr. J. Ellis was well acted. Mr. H. Percy made a truculent villain. The comedy parts were well placed with Messrs. H. Lyndon, F. Newburn, and Miss Bales respectively.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*The Private Secretary* is once again causing the usual hearty laughter to old and new playgoers. Mr. Eugene C. Stafford fortunately retains the services of Mr. Donald Price-Evans (Spalding), Mr. W. Hargreaves (Cattermole), Mr. Frederick Tyrrell (Gibson), and Mrs. Alfred Davis (Miss Ashford) in the rôles they have now practically made their own. Mr. Frank Stanley is capital as Mr. Marsland; Miss Cecily Wade worthily enacts Mrs. Stead; and Mr. Andrew Wight, Mr. Lawrence Grove, Miss Dorothy Ripley, and Miss Edith M. Savery appear creditably as the four young people. *The Wild Man from Borneo* precedes.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Sahib Gustave Fasola is creating wonderment by his bewildering mysteries; Sybil Montague is an admirable vocalist; the Millicent Frères perform clever trapeze feats; Marie Jones, supported by Mr. Ernest Munro, presents a smartly-worked protean duologue, *The Way to Win a Bet*; Violet Nunn, coon singer, is a favourite; Thornbury gives his admirable smoke painting and ventriloquial act; Edwardes and Dacre please in their comedy act *What a Life*; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux remains a fixed attraction.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—There was a full house at the above on Monday night, when Mr. Wentworth Croke's company presented, with much success, Hall Caine's *Prodigal Son*. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives a powerful portrayal of the noble and unselfish Magnus; Mr. Gordon Mackintosh is very fine as Oscar Stephensson; and Mr. Charles Cooper is a dignified Stephen. Miss Barbara Gott is an excellent Anna; Miss Marie Harcourt causes some fun as Margaret; Miss Mildred Cottell is good as the scheming Helga; and Miss Valerie Crespin undertakes the dual rôle of Thora and Elin with grace and pathos. Mr. Philip Renouf is natural as Oscar Neilson, and the numerous other characters are ably impersonated.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Hardie and Von Leer's company opened here on Monday with the celebrated play *Two Little Vagabonds*. Mr. Richard A. Greene was thoroughly capable as George Thornton, and Miss Florence Dalton—a good emotional actress—furnished an exceedingly clever interpretation of the injured wife Marion Thornton, her acting throughout being worthy of much praise. The rôles of Dick and Wally could hardly be in better hands than those of Miss Denise Zaleski and Miss Alice Leon; Mr. Arthur E. Melborne was quite successful as Captain Darville, and Miss Marion Fawcett furnished a skilful impersonation of Barbara Scarth. The humour of the piece was interpreted by Miss Marie Pritchard and Mr. Martin Sands, who were very funny as Biddy Mullins and Bill Mullins; and Mr. Fred Archer also contributed to the humour by his unexaggerated interpretation of the Coughdrop. Mr. Joseph Brandon was excellent as John Scarth; and other rôles were effectively presented by Miss Ida Drayton, Miss Dorothy Hart, and Messrs. Stanley Field, Frank G. Kent, John Humber, &c.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Lew Lake and company again top the bill, and present their comedy drama, *My Pal Jerry*, with every element of success. The trick cycling of the Westwoods is certainly marvellous, and the sweet tenor vocalism of Mr. Arthur Hickman has been enthusiastically received. Miss Mamie Fenton is a very capable Scotch comedienne with good songs, and Mr. Mark Leslie an excellent swell coon; Miss Marie Blythe, comedienne, and the Palace pictures complete a good bill. The picture matinées at this theatre on Saturday afternoons are receiving a large measure of support.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs. The chief position here is held by Harry Roxbury and company, who present their musical mélange *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, which has created roars of laughter. The juggling feats of the American juggler, Harry Friskey, are quite amazing; and Mr. Victor Courtney's performance at the piano is clever. The Days, in their second-sight performance, are deserving of much praise; and Mr. W. E. Gillin's ventriloquial act is undoubtedly one of the best before the public. The Canadian Trio in their vocal comedy act take well, and the Four Sisters Gilby play a number of musical instruments cleverly. Also here are Willie and Johnnie, good balancers and acrobats; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers, and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The Gothams top the bill, and this talented combination delight all with their comedy and capital vocalism. As a mimic, Mr. George Newburn has few equals; and Harry Rogers and company appear to the utmost advantage in their dramatic episode, *Told in a Flat*, which is well acted and staged. The fine vocalism of Mr. W. H. Downs, the coloured ballad vocalist, has afforded much pleasure; and Miss Elsie Kerry, a refined comedienne with good songs, made a big hit on Monday. Miss Kathleen Grey is a charming comedienne and dancer. And also here are Wee Mona Vivian, juvenile vocalist and dancer, and the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The good business at this hall continues, thanks to the remarkable energy of the popular manager, Mr. Will White. This week the following films have been exhibited: A Nobleman's Pleasure, Save the Pieces, Getting Rid of His Dog, Distress, Flat Dwellers, Still Worthy of Its Name, and The Poacher's Daughter. Mr. Barney Vox, the clever ventriloquist, appears, and his reception has been gratifying; and Mr. T. C. Callaghan, character comedian, is also here.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The animated pictures exhibited here are aptly announced as unsurpassed for smartness, steadiness, and artistic finish. This week the Electrographic exhibits, under the direction of Mr. Hugh Beckett, the following films, Tragedy of Japan, Lightning Barber, California, Isle of Man Motor Races, The Old Shepherd, &c. In addition Miss Florence Raymond, a smart lady ventriloquist, appears; also Mr. John Cronow, facial expert. With characteristic enterprise the popular manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur, introduced on Friday evening last "Amateur Night," before a crowded house. There were several competitions, and the winner, Mr. Thos. Meharg, will receive a week's engagement at this hall. This innovation on Mr. Arthur's part is bound to be a successful feature.

BILSTON.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-Manager, Mr. S. Hadskis Dawson.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here this week under the direction of Mr. Teddy Myles with the domestic drama *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Nellie Thorne Hallam is eminently successful as Ninon Malvoisin, and she is ably seconded by Mr. Wm. Fraser-Brunner as Philip Malvoisin; as Sammy Sharpe, a London street arab, Mr. Victor Garnet-Vayne is very successful; Mr. Teddy Myles works hard as Paddy Boyle, and keeps his audience well amused. Other parts are adequately sustained by Messrs. Herbert M. King and Arthur Curzon, Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner, Miss Alma Curzon, and Little Frances Maddocks.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Mouillot's No. 1 Company in the comic opera *Tom Jones* presents a delightful and highly attractive entertainment, and were enthusiastically received here. It would be difficult to find a better exponent of the title-rôle than Mr. Cyril Thompson, who, both histrionically and vocally, acquits himself with great distinction. As Sophia Miss Margaret Stonor gives a charming and unaffected rendering, singing her various numbers with fine finish and effect. Miss Florrie Saunders is prominent with a clever performance of Honor; Mr. Geo. Elton displays genuine humour and ability as Partridge, the village barber; Mr. Fred Seymour is well placed as Squire Western; Mr. Michael Dwyer is a mirth-provoking Gregory; Lady Bellaston is excellently played by Miss Olive Elton; Miss F. McEvoy is a good Miss Western; and Mr. A. J. Nicholls as Mr. Allworthy and Mr. Arthur Radcliffe as Blifil are admirably suited. The chorus is numerous and efficient, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Ernest K. Irvine. The costumes and scenic effects are on a liberal scale.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Quite a galaxy of pronounced favourites at this popular hall are in the bill this week, including Mr. Charles R. Whittle, the popular comic vocalist; the Brothers Egbert, the happy dustmen; Ike and Will Scott, versatile character comedians; Miss May Henderson, the dusky comedy queen, a sure draw here; and the McConnell Trio, vocal comedy sketch artists. Mr. Arthur Aldridge is a tenor of ability; Mr. Wilfred Burnand an entertaining character comedian; Miss Eily Adair a talented comedienne; and Brown's Royal Bioscope complete an excellent company.

OLYMPIAN GARDENS, ROCK FERRY.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Edwin Adeler.—A petite musical comedy, *The Gay River*, forms an attractive entertainment here. It is capably interpreted by Messrs. Bert Byrne, Frank Dunlop, Dudley Gibson, Charles North, and Mesdames Rayne, Constance Clive, Harriet Fawn, Nora Walker, Nellie Crawford, and Harriet Greene.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—The Follies, here this week, have brought the theatre-going public face to face with a new form of entertainment, which has proved very popular. The "potted plays" have included *A White Man*, *The Merry Widow*, and *The Christian*, and a burlesque of a benefit matinée, yclept *Everybody's Benefit*, has given huge delight. Mr. H. G. Pélissier was assisted in his "ideas" by Messrs. Dan Everard, Norman A. Blumé, Lewis Sydney, and Mesdames Gwennie Mars, Muriel George, Dollis Brooke, and Ethel Allandale, all of whom, both solus and in concert, helped to make the entertainment one of excellent parts.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Diana of Dobson's* made a most welcome and first appearance here on Monday, with Miss Lena Ashwell in the title-rôle, and both as the shopgirl in revolt and the woman of style and means she carried the audience completely with her. Mr. C. M. Hallard portrayed Captain Bretherton with good style; Mr. Dennis Eadie gave off the self-important and vulgar characteristics of Sir Jabez Grinley with no more than due emphasis; Miss Frances Ivor was well placed as Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss Gertrude Scott came out well as the aristocratic Mrs. White Fraser; Miss Ida Palmer made a cleverly exigent forewoman as Miss Pringle; and Mr. Norman McKinnel was a strong "force" as Constable Fellowes. There was other good support, *The Likes o' Me* preceding. On Thursday Miss Ashwell appeared as Irene Wycherley.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest. — *The Belle of the Ball*, here, is another of those light and merry shows which Mr. Collingwood has taken to submitting his patrons. The titular rôle, Poppy, is Cinderella up to date, and as such Miss Gertrude Melville is most charming; the squire lover is portrayed with true gallantry by Mr. Robert Hyett; the step-sisters are made the best of by the Misses Ethel Bertram and Corona L'Estrange; Mr. Chas. Adeson scores as the father, Farmer Jones; Mr. Johnnie Schofield sets the house in a roar with his amusing portrayal of Tibbs; and Mr. Llewellyn C. Hughes, Mr. E. W. Chewd, Miss Vera Grafton, and Miss Florence Watson are good in their parts. A very pretty miniature brougham and ponies to match appear in the play, which is handsomely mounted, and boasts a well-dressed, good-looking chorus.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Convict's Daughter* is successful here, with Mr. Frank Bertram's company. Mr. Bertram's acting in the quadruple rôle is well diversified, and evokes great applause; Mr. Walter Graham does well as Harold Trevalyan; Mr. Escott Robson is highly efficient as Jasper Thorn; Miss Lillian Dene is much admired for her charm and tact as Edith; Miss Nellie Waddington gives a clever portrayal of Marion Thorn; and Mr. William Burgess plays the rôle of the banker, Frederick Neville, with fine skill. Mr. Willie Black as Patrick O'Laragan is responsible for much diversion; and Miss Amy Randolph makes a pleasing rôle of the maid, Betty Hyne.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Old Home* is presented here by the author, Mr. Roland Yorke, supported by a star company. Mr. Yorke's acting of Lord Avondale is marked with much detail; Mr. Harding Thomas shows his sound qualities as Daddy Deane; Miss Nina Blake-Adams presents an exquisitely-drawn picture of Hazle Deane; Mr. T. W. Dunscombe imparts a fine tone of reality to the character of the Rev. Eric Armstrong; Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite makes a strong part of Bridget Donoghan; Mr. Fred L. Connynghame makes a big success as Sam Adams; and Mr. Jas. L. Air as Timothy Twaddle and Miss Mattie Crawford as Polly Popp support well. Mr. W. Simpson and Mr. Walter Osmond complete the cast. Both play and company have received excellent receptions from crowded houses.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*The Great White Chief*, with Mr. Lingford Carson and company, is proving immensely successful here. The author, Mr. Carson, as the dumb chief, Reindeer, gives a most absorbing and highly dramatic performance; Mr. Mansell Fane in the title-rôle, Leo Stanley, shows rare qualities, both of singing and acting; Mr. Leonard Maitland's portrayal of George Rupert Walker is full of clever humour; and Mr. Geo. Butler as Hartley Deane, Mr. Norman Purnell as Black Forest, Mr. J. Dobson Clyde as Sparrow Hawk, Mr. W. Melrose as Strong Arm, Mr. Hugh Brady as John Warton, Mr. Ritchie Bell as Wallett, and Mr. S. Elland as Dave Carter figure effectively. The Misses Polly Denville, Dulcie Lawrence, and Amy Ross Clyde well supply the feminine interest, and deservedly share in the honours.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Leah Kleschna* is attracting much attention to this house, big "houses" gathering nightly to witness Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's fine presentation of this engrossing play. Mr. William Clayton shows the implacable nature of Kleschna with powerful rays; Mr. Hamilton Deane dignifies the rôle of Paul Sylvanus with many admirable features; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks's acting as Raoul Burton is excellent; Mr. Gilbert Heron makes the rôle of Schram very acceptable; and Mr. Chas. Barrett as General Burton, and also as the journalist, Favre, is good. Miss Bessie Rignold as Leah shows both power and restraint in her acting, which makes her portaayal one of great impressiveness; and the Misses Dorrie Turner, Emmie Wallace, and Ethel Russell afford good support.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Miss Evie Greene is attracting crowded houses here, her charming singing and pleasing style being loudly applauded; May Edouin comes in for a large share of applause for her quick-change burlesque of comic opera; the rich soprano voice of Mavis Clare is highly appreciated; Arthur Playfair and Elly Helene have a smart racing sketch, *327, Finsbury*, which is full of humour; Harvey's American Boys and Girls sing and dance themselves into favour; Hugh Barclay, Walker and Lake, Harry Herbert, and the Brumells complete the company.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Horace Golding is mystifying the large audiences here; his tricks are remarkably clever, and deserve the applause they obtain. Barton and Ashley have a new act, *Adam the Second*, which causes roars of laughter; Daisy James is applauded for her songs, as also is Queenie Llewellyn, who has a sweet, rich voice; Venando, ventriloquist, brings his latest novelty, *The Park Pest*; and other good turns are done by the Harmony Boys, Tom Woottwell, and Frank and Free, who are all popular.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—*Happy Holland* is on a return visit here. This pretty Dutch operatic sketch, presented by Jake Freedman's company, is more attractive than ever; Diamond and Beatrice charm their audience by their refined musical entertainment, and Violet King renders selections of a high order on the violin; Lillie Soutter is loudly applauded for her songs; Violet Lorraine, John G. Marx, Harry Levaine, Lee and Kingston, and Charles Prelle's Bijou Circus are also in the bill.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Harry Tate, in his latest success, *Fishing*, is drawing good houses here. He is certainly very amusing, and is loudly applauded. Mysticus presents his entertainment with success; Roze and Calvert have a smart comedy act; and the Raymond Trio, Jessie Lee, Cynthia, Mlle. Sylvesto, and La Martino all do up-to-date turns.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—The pictures here include The Story of Enoch Arden, The Shipowner's Daughter, and several which are most interesting. Jackson and Osman provide a musical entertainment; Dora Denmark sings well; and George Mayo supplies the comedy of the evening.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Wm. Mollison and his répertoire company, including Miss Evelyn McNay, are here this week, and opened to a crowded house on Monday evening in *Hamlet*. Mr. Mollison played the title-rôle with remarkable ease and ability, and scored a huge success; Mr. Henry Deas was notable for his capital rendering of Cladius; the Ghost was played to perfection by Mr. William Calvert; and Mr. W. A. Mackersy (Polonius), Mr. Archie W. Chappell (Horatio), and Mr. Whitford Kane (Laertes) gave distinct and interesting portrayals of their respective parts. Miss McNay was an excellent Ophelia; and Miss Edith Blair-Staples made a painstaking and thorough Gertrude.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Edward Terry, supported by a very capable company, is paying his annual visit here this week, and meeting with his usual success. *Fiander's Widow* was played on Monday night, when Mr. Terry portrayed with unerring fidelity the character of Isaac Sharpe. Mr. Edmund Hollick acted well as Richard Marshall; Mr. Kenneth Brampton gave a good account of Sam Belbin; Miss Edith Coleman as Mrs. Fiander and Miss Sophie Lingwood as Mrs. Belbin also played their parts with credit and distinction. *Liberty Hall*, *Sweet Lavender*, and *The Magistrate* have also been represented during the week.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*Lady Frederick* is presented here this week by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. The title-rôle is played by Mrs. Brown Potter, and Mr. Philip Cuningham is seen to advantage in the part of Paradine Fouldes. Mr. Reginald Van Ranney as Sir Gerald O'Mara and Mr. Cecil Bevan as Captain Montgomerie are satisfactory.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Fred Storey tops the bill here this week, and appears with considerable success as Shylock in an excerpt from *The Merchant of Venice*. Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, is a great favourite; Kelly and Gillette contribute a clever acrobatic turn; Dick Tubb finds favour as an eccentric comedian; Jessie Buckle is a very pleasing comedienne; Jane Eyre sings nicely; Will Van Allen excels as a raconteur; Esmond and Evelyn contribute a sketch; and Louis Kerno appears as a coon delineator.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—*The Tyrant* is being presented here by Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company. Mr. Somerfield's assumption of Homodei, the avenger, is powerful and impressive; Miss Marie Dagmar gives a telling portrayal of Tisbe; Mr. Roy Fortescue plays the part of the Tyrant cleverly; Miss Margaret as Lady Catherine acts in finished style; Mr. Edward E. Louis gives an interesting picture of Prince Rudolph; Miss Cherry Veheyne is a pleasing Eulie; and Miss Nellie Freeland as Reginella, Mr. Frank Etheridge as Victor, and Mr. Willie Barrett as Nobbo contribute to the success.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A capital company is appearing here this week, the great attraction being Miss Hetty King, male impersonator, who scores heavily at each performance. Other good turns are the Stavordale Quintette in their banjo and harp speciality; Harry Taylor, the Wigan Hebrew comedian; the Sprees in their scena *Twickenham Ferry*; Maston, Yorkshire mimic; S. and G. Auer in "Jumps, Bumps, and Rags"; W. L. Murray as the "Roman Gladiator"; the Danbys, expert dancers; Cosgrove and Burns in a drawing-room entertainment; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE VARIETIES.—Proprietor Mr, Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—The bill here is headed by Broughton's electric scena, embracing twelve performers, in a series of wonderful electric novelties. Other turns are Amy Elvira, burlesque actress; Captain Kettle, the mysterious sailor; John Renson and Rose Waite, comedy duo; Souplessi, contortionist; Little Joey Sterling, character comedian; Gertrude Martini, chorus and descriptive vocalist; the Four Spanish Goldinis in their novel electrical speciality; "Carpet Spinning Extraordinary"; and the Bioscope.

BOSCOMBE.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—The principal turn this week is Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company in their new production of *St. George and the Dragon*, a pantomime, burlesque, and drama in one, in which Miss Cissie Ward is seen to advantage as St. George of England, as also is Mr. Harry Valdo as Peter the Woodman. Wilkie Bard's company keep the house in a good humour in their comedy songs; Hayman and Franklin, in *A Matrimonial Agency*, receive hearty applause; Witty Wattie Walton is funny; Baby Vi Davis receives a great ovation; and the other turns worthy of note are Hardy Palm, quaint comedian, and Leah Arden, vocal comedienne.

BOSTON.—THE PALACE.—Licensee, Mr. H. Fountain; Business-Manager, Mr. E. Cass.—This well-known place of amusement reopened on Monday for the season with a very good variety show. Mr. E. Cass, who has taken over the management, is a member of the Bohemian concert company of Skegness, and is a great favourite of the Bostonians. The Sisters Carlton, duettists and dancers; Barry Gilmore, comedian; Jennie Mackay, the possessor of a sweet voice; the Sauterons, in a smart drawing-room act; the Birds, in a display of dancing; Mackay and Cass, operatic duettists; Pongoulla, the human monkey; and the Beautiful Zaiida, the elegant and graceful slack-wire artist, are the chief attractions.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—A most enthusiastic audience greeted Sir John Hare when he made his entrance on Monday as Benjamin Goldfinch, in *A Pair of Spectacles*. Pleased with so affectionate a reception, the eminent actor appeared to throw his whole heart into the character, and played it as he alone can. Mr. Charles Groves as Uncle Gregory was thoroughly convincing; Mr. Ivo Dawson was easy as Percy; and a capital sketch of Bartholomew was given by Mr. J. H. Brewer; as Dick, Mr. Bertram Steer did well, while the Joyce of Mr. Fred W. Permain and the Lorimer of Mr. W. T. Lovell were capital; Miss Mona K. Oram was quite charming as Mrs. Goldfinch, and as Lucy Lorimer Miss Amy Brandon Thomas acted with much effect. *A Quiet Rubber* was also given, in which Sir John Hare repeated his well-known impersonation of Lord Kilclare. Mr. Charles Groves, Mr. Ivo Dawson, and Miss Amy Brandon Thomas completed the cast. During the week *The Gay Lord Quex* was also played.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*The Sins of Society*, which Mr. F W. Bolam is presenting, is nightly greeted with a storm of applause. Every character in the big cast is adequately played. Mr. Blake Adams as the unpolished but genial James Hogg and Miss Grace E. Leslie as the erring Lady Marion Beaumont stand out with great prominence. Miss Dorothy Giles is very charming as Lady Gwendolen Ashley; the unscrupulous scoundrel Noel Ferrers is represented with coolness and self-possession by Mr. C. F. Collins; Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan is convincing as Sir Dorion March; Miss Pattie Browne plays Lady Goldbury with delightful buoyancy; and prominent amongst the many excellent character-studies in the drama is the Duchess of Miss Janet Hodson.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is paying yet another visit with the popular drama *A Royal Divorce*, which is staged with the usual excellence and received with favour. Miss Edith Cole repeats her fine performance of the persecuted Josephine, and awakens the sympathies of her audience; Mr. Keith Fraser presents a well-studied and clever impersonation of Napoleon; and Mr. Percy H. Vernon's Talleyrand, Mr. Stanley Harrison's Marquis de Beaumont, and Mr. G. Hudson's Grimaud are conspicuous efforts in an admirable representation.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—George Auger, the 8ft. giant actor, is a big attraction here this week in an up-to-date well-staged sketch, *Jack the Giant Killer*, and his lilliputian company includes the smart little comedian Ernest Rommel, who is interesting as Jack. The Griffiths Bros. elicit roars of laughter with their burlesque wrestling; Madge May, comedienne, submits a dainty turn; acrobatic feats by the Lumars are sensational in character and cleverly accomplished; and there is some remarkable somersault throwing by the smart Three Brothers Huxter. Little Ganty is a very funny comedian who elicits laughter; Ernie Mayne, too, is droll; Harry Drew, Welsh basso, sings with power; and there are some diverting pictures shown by the American Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—The special attraction here this week is a Beauty Show and Hair Competition, which is exciting much interest. William Garland and Fred Douglas's company of coloured artists in *A Trip to Coon-town* provide an animated and amusing entertainment; Annie Heath is a graceful dancer and comedienne; as a coach-horn blower and cornet player D. W. Watson is good; Lillie Lassah is a dainty and attractive vocalist; Elmo and Regs are good comedy acrobats; Jimmy Laurie is responsible for some excellent comedy; Kelly and Ashby in *Fun in a Billiard Room* do some novel and clever work; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are entertaining.

BRIDLINGTON. — ROYAL PRINCE'S PARADE. — Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—Mr. Norfolk Megone's municipal orchestra is presenting some special programmes this week in the Grand Pavilion. Mr. Harry White's violin solos have been a source of delight, as have also the solos of Herr Sassbach. The vocalist this week is Mme. Naomi Odille Bell, a charming soprano. Mr. H. Flockton-Foster and his talented costume comedy company finished up their season's engagements on Saturday night, when they had a crowded house, and submitted a monster programme.

NEW SPA AND GARDENS.—Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—The Hollanders, a clever company of entertainers are appearing in the Opera House this week and drawing crowded houses. Miss Beatrice Rowe charms with her songs at the piano; Miss Marie Merton possesses a fine soprano voice; Miss Elsa Brettingham is a clever song and dance artist; Mr. Alec S. Clowes possesses a fine baritone voice; Mr. Dick Henty in his humorous songs is most amusing; and Mr. Harry Buss is a clever comedian.

SUMMER GARDENS. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland, Bath, and Danton; Manager, Mr. Chas. Beanland. —The Waterloo Pierrots finished their season on Saturday night, when they gave a big farewell programme; and at the close a grand beauty show was held, valuable prizes being given for the most beautiful ladies present at the entertainment.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—The stirring drama *Two Little Sailor Boys* is performed here this week by Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company. Mr. H. E. Herbert submits an admirable impersonation of Commander Noel Tregarthen; Miss Muriel Dean is a charming Mildred Grey; Miss Blanche Steele displays great dramatic ability as Lola Grey; Mr. Horace Booth gives a forcible representation of Lieut. Richard Redstone; Miss Ivy Millais and Miss Effie Crawford are well placed as the two boys; and much amusement is afforded by Tom E. Sinclair as Ben Baxter, Mr. Fred Acton as Jolly Jack, and Miss Lizzie Chambers as Lucy Wilson. Others who merit praise include Mr. H. M. Clifford (Captain Tom Yorke), Mr. C. W. Spencer (Admiral Grey), Mr. Sydney Fiennes (Jim Royston), and Miss Lily Nichols (Mary Primrose).

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—Miss Margaret Cooper is re-engaged here, but, owing to a Royal command, was absent on Monday evening. The services of Mrs. Lewis Waller and Miss Winsome Mayde were secured, the former being highly successful with her choice selection of poems, and the latter in the Dagger Dance of Peshawur; Francini, Olloms, and Page give a capital acrobatic and equilibrist turn, introducing concertina and xylophone selections; Gertie Gitana sings in excellent style; Jack Lane's original comedy is warmly appreciated; Walter Ellis and company are very diverting in the playlet, *The Sleep Walker*; the Czar's Royal Troupe contribute whirlwind and fantastic dances; Will 'e Stopit? is a pleasing eccentric; Philips and Merritt are refined entertainers; Sam Redfern, "the black philosopher," is very humorous; and the Alhambrascope pictures are, as usual, interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—There is a capital company here this week. Topsy Sinden achieves distinct success with her up-to-date songs and dances; Van Biene is highly successful in the playlet, *The Master Musician*, and wins hearty applause for his violoncello solos; Jock Whiteford is a smart Scotch comedian; Jack Rae is a novelty gymnast; Zeta Greg and company are warmly received in the musical comedy act, *The Lancashire Lass*; Ethel Whiteside and her picaninnies submit a good turn; Vere and Nelldon are very effective in song and dance; Jenny Manningo, novelty juggler, is smart; Dave O'Toole is an amusing comedian; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey, is here this week, with *The Hypocrites*. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton gives an admirable portrayal of the Rev. Edgar Linnell; Mr. John Dennys presents a good character study as Lennard Wilmore; Miss Muriel Pope imparts much sympathy to her impersonation of Rachel Neve; Miss Muriel Mason is highly pleasing as Helen Plugenet; Miss Laura Groves is admirably suited as the devoted mother, Mrs. Wilmore; Mr. Frederick Morland as the lawyer, Mr. Viveash, is very successful; and Mr. Charles Tyrel's Sir John Plugenet, Miss Sybil Brooke's Mrs. Blaney, Mr. E. H. Ruston's Mr. Wilmore, and Mr. F. G. Thurstans' Rev. Everard Daubeney also merit commendation.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Mr. Arthur Hare and company are here this week with *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Mr. Arthur Hare gives an excellent representation of Jack Worthing; Mr. Cyril Scott makes an admirable Algy Moncrieff; Mr. Morton Francis acquits himself ably as Canon Chasuble; Miss Olive Wilton's Gwendoline Fairfax is a fine protrayal; Miss Elspeth Dudgeon is conspicuously effective as Lady Bracknell; Miss Una Mainwaring does well as Cecily Cardew; and Miss Kate Wingfield makes the most of her opportunities as Miss Prism.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—An excellent series of animated pictures is submitted here this week. The unhappy career of Mary Stuart, Queen of Scots, is admirably represented; a telling story is conveyed by Grandfather's Birthday, and The Blacksmith's Daughter and The Guardian of the Bank possess great dramatic interest. Much amusement is afforded by The Doorkeeper's Substitute, The Universal Flirt, A Quiet Day at the Café, The Artist's Nightmare, and Hurry Up, Please!

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—A return visit of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* is proving attractive. Mrs. Madge Carr Cook's inimitable impersonation of the quaint but kindly Mrs. Wiggs obtained the utmost appreciation on Monday; Miss Rita Carlyle was most amusing as Miss Hazy; Mr. Frederick Forrest was entertaining as Stubbins; Miss Christine Rayner acted in pleasing style as Lovey Mary; Mr. Walter M. Cameron made the most of Mr. Wiggs; and other important parts were carefully taken by Mr. Edward Coventry, Miss Mabel Durrant, and Miss Violet Vivian. The play is effectively staged.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—*Straight from the Shoulder* is being well played by Mr. R. A. Roberts's principal company, the drama being staged exceptionally well. Mr. Mathew Boulton acts remarkably well as Dr. Francis Bedford; Miss Beatrice Burdett is pleasingly sympathetic as Millicent Grant; Mr. Leonard Clarke displays considerable power as David Gleeson; Miss Frances Bruce is admirable as Mary Gleeson; Miss Edie Casson acts cleverly as Miss Brittle; Miss Beatrice Moore is sufficiently vivacious as Gladys Brittle; Mr. George H. Child presents a capable study of the Rev. John Armitage; Mr. George Fisher is well placed as Fred Stafford; and the remaining parts are all carefully played.

PALACE — Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Ten Loonies head the bill successfully with their funny musical sketch *Dotty*. Cromo and Hamilton score in their novelty act, *Artful Aladdin*; Clack and Clack, lady acrobatic barrel jumpers, are exceptionally smart; Webb and Edna Branston are capable operatic duettists; Donna Morgan pleases with her song scena, *Miss Carnation*; Sivroni, assisted by Amy Broughton, scores in his comedy act, *Mixtures*; and Horace Jones, Anglo-Welsh character comedian, obtains appreciation. The performance concludes with a good set of films, Uncle's Rejected Present, depicted by Vernon's bioscope.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire. — Fred Maxwell, Lois du Cane, and company successfully present an interesting dramatic sketch, entitled *The Revolution*, the setting being elaborate; the Venetians supply excellent singing amid picturesque surroundings; the Empire Trio, who are also fine vocalists, excel in their comedy act *Park Pets*; the Dancing Gilberts are exceptionally clever; Violet Ashcroft is a pleasing vocal comedienne; George S. Melvin, Scotch comedian, dances a Highland fling in clever style; Jade Crawley amuses with song and patter; Dan Thomas scores as a character comedian; and Frank Sley and Nipper excel as clog-dancers and comedians. The performance concludes with a good selection of animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Ralph Pringle's animated pictures and variety entertainment is still attracting good houses. This week the speciality films include The Guardian of the Bank, The Eucharist Congress, and The Chieftain's Revenge.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—The comic opera, *Amasis*, with its beautiful Egyptian scenery and effects drew a good house on Monday. Miss Winifred O'Connor sings and acts charmingly as the Princess Amasis; and Prince Anhotep is a fine hero in the hands of Mr. Edward McKeown. Very good character studies are made by Mr. Arthur Stroud as Cheiro, Mr. Fred Hudson as Nebenchairi, Mr. Frank Atree as the Court Embalmer, and Mr. Frank Wood as Psamtik. Mr. W. H. Denny is very diverting as Pharaoh, and he is ably assisted by Mr. Walter D. Brodie as Sebak.

THE WHITE CITY, OLD TRAFFORD.—Countess Romanoff continues to be one of the chief attractions this week, with her charming dancing, including the famous "Salome" dance. On the 26th inst. a large number of Baden-Powell Boy Scouts and boy and girl naval and life-saving brigades attended in this amusement park for inspection, and afterwards went through numerous manœuvres to the satisfaction of crowds of visitors.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A welcome reappearance of Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company in *A Message from Mars* is delighting the audiences here. Mr. Wallace Widdicombe gives a new and pleasing reading of the rôle of Horace Parker, and Miss Flora Hastings repeats her success as Aunt Martha; Mr. W. H. Brougham makes a commanding figure of the Messenger, and Miss Rose Helene is a delightful personality as Minnie; Mr. Norman Clark as the Tramp and Mr. Robert Grey as Arthur Dicey are admirable, and the remaining small parts are capitally performed.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Seven Perezoffs, in their *Animated Supper at Maxime's*, please the house with their clever exhibition of juggling; the Holloways perform a number of daring and difficult feats on the tight-wire, which call forth great appreciation; and the Stuart Bros. are acrobats with skill and humour. The Soho Trio introduce good singing and dancing, and Victor and Louis are capital comedians. Another pleasing turn is that of Ida Kathrena, "the dolly girl," and Marie Kay, juvenile comedienne, does well; Millie Howell suits with descriptive songs, and the Empire Theatroscope is up-to-date.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Fred Karno's popular *Dandy Thieves* heads the programme here; Mr. George Hestor takes the rôle of Sergeant Lightning, and keeps the house very merry; Flash Jack and Lady Maude are capitally rendered by Mr. Frank Moreton and Miss Anita Penrose respectively; Hayes and Merritt display skill interspersed with fun in their bouncing turn; Bert Kemble, comedian, is good, and Helen Charles is a charming versatile entertainer; Rose Sartella is a good vocalist with a tasteful rendering of "Dreamland," and Chas. F. Best, contortionist, as McBunker the Mountebank is responsible for many laughs. The Brokers' Man in Trouble is shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—*The Lancashire Lad* is being presented by G. Carlton Wallace's company this week. Mr. Aleo Alexander finds a congenial rôle as the hero, David Elmore; the part of the heroine, Jessie, is played with natural ease and pathos by Miss Stanley Burt; callous villainy has capable exponents in Mr. T. G. Vane (Max Carlton) and Miss Nell Oliver (Lorna Wincote); and Mr. Percy Maitland is well placed as Jem Wincote. A group of mill hands, who declaim in broad Lancashire dialect and create much amusement are Miss Jennie Halworth (Jane Alice), Miss Molly Monaghan (Mother Wardle), and Mr. Rob Anderson (John Willie). Good variety turns by members of the company are given in Act 3.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Harry Tate's company in *Fishing* is as funny as ever; Herbert Cottermore's company provides a sensational drama entitled *Her Princely Betrayer*; Victor Newman, described as Irving's double, gives representations of Cardinal Wolsey, Svengali, &c.; the programme also includes Florence Esdale, vocalist; The Kymros, Welsh duettists; Sisters Draycott, vocalists; The Dunvilles, in a comedy and musical act: and Melia and Mozarabar, Oriental equilibrists.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The pictures are all good, and include The Streets of Paris, The Promenades of Paris, Features of Ireland, Buy me a Dolly, Policeman's Dream, The Barrow Race, A Wild Goose Chase, &c. The variety turns are Zellini, a clever comedy juggler; and Violet Esdaile, vocalist and dancer.

THE HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—A strong company here includes the Six Brothers Luck, Ltd., in *The Hermit*; Lionel Vaughan's company in a funny sketch, *In Trouble*; George Young, blind musician; Ada Parker, singer and dancer; Hearne and Palmer, acrobats; Herbert and Lindon, song and dance experts; and Eva Chadwick and A. E. Clifford, vocalists.

BUXTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday last Mr. Leonard Boyne and entire London company presented *Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman*, before excellent audiences. The play, owing no doubt to the soundness of the cast, appears to be as popular as ever. Mr. Leonard Boyne in the title-rôle proves a worthy disciple of the author, and provides an excellent character-sketch; Mr. E. W. Thomas as Curtis Bedford proved a great success; and Mr. Buckstone Clair was very satisfactory as Crawshay; as also was Mr. Harold West as Bunny. Miss Hilda Moore as Gwendoline, Miss Blanka Stewart as Lady Amersteth, and Miss Dorothy Gordon as Marie did their work exceedingly well. As the Earl of Amersteth, Mr. Arthur Willoughby was perfectly at ease; and the part of Mrs. Vidal, by Miss Lilian Hallowes, was remarkably good.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. John Gerant and company are paying a return visit with *At Duty's Call*. Mr. Gerant as Harold Alison played his old part with ability; Mr. Chas. C.

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Calvert was really good as Captain George Alison; Mr. Ernest St. John made a striking figure of General Gordon; Mr. J. Tilly Dillsen put any amount of "go" into the part of Terry O'Hallaron; Mr. Frank P. Morton was well suited as Jack Spencer; Miss Beatrice Western played Dora Drummond charmingly; Miss Ada Roscoe was satisfactory as the devoted slave Salema; and Miss Laurie O'Neill was a saucy Mary.

CARDIFF.—New Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker's company appears with considerable success in *Man and Superman* and *Arms and the Man*. In the former play, presented during the first half of the week, Mr. Granville Barker undertakes the rôle of John Tanner, and gives a brilliant impersonation; Miss Frances Dillon as Ann Whitefield and Miss Auriol Lee as Violet Robinson are two vivacious actresses quite equal to the severe calls made on their capabilities; Mr. Michael Sherbrooke (Roebuck Ramsden), Mr. David Powell (Octavius Robinson), Mr. Richard Haigh (Henry Straker), Mr. Frederick Lloyd (Hector Malone), and Mr. James Hearn (Mr. Malone) are all thoroughly at home in the intricacies of their parts; while Miss Helen Rous as Mrs. Whitefield submits a delineation of exceptional merit.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Foremost on the bill are Walter Passmore and company, who present a highly-amusing and unusually successful sketch entitled *The Constable and the Pictures*. Another comedian also on the list is George Formby, who achieves distinct popularity with his laughable songs and patter; Theo. Bouwmeester proves a remarkably clever protean actor in an interesting sketch, *Who is Guilty?* the well-known Hebrew comedians Lowenwirth and Coghan once more gain a hearty reception; while Will English is more entertaining than ever with his medley of coon songs. Other turns are provided by Frank Couch, a popular patter comedian; La Danseuse in a pretty scena, *Santa Claus;* Austin Boyd and Trixie Gilfain, gifted vocalists; and Naughton and Gold, Scotch comedians and dancers; all of whom are equally responsible for the enormous success of the week's performance.

Theatre Royal.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—*London with the Lid Off* is the peculiar title of the drama doing good business at the Royal, presented by Mr. Stanley Carlton's company. The hero of the piece, the Rev. Allen Gordon, is ably sustained by Mr. Carlton himself; Mr. Wm. G. Marshall submits a rendition of the blind burglar which is one of the features of the production; Mr. James Hart acquits himself with credit of the villainies of Collini; while Mr. Edward Vincent as Sam Rendall does his full share of the work. Miss Rubie Maude makes a heroine impossible to resist, and her Astra Bell is most sympathetically received; Miss R. Hamilton Belasco as Mrs. Glendale and Miss Charlotte E. Bellinger as Sarah Shafto are placed in parts for which they are particularly suited; while Miss Amy Ellam as Madge Rendall works with an unusual sprightliness. Miss Emily Lewis (Dolly), Miss Emily Marshall (Clara Jane), and Mr. Lancelot Usher (Percy Plunker) are all responsible for excellent comedy.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—A capital detective sketch, *Sexton Blake*, is put forward by Miss Carlotta de Yonson, who is supported by an excellent company of thorough actors, the performance proving most interesting. Jack and May McKenzie, well-known in Cardiff, are given a flattering reception; the Sisters Silcott are delightful vocalists and dancers; and the Forsyths are amusing in a comedy speciality act. Colin Mail, light comedian; the Miltons, skating comedians; Albert Letine, female impersonator; and Cliff and Kean, comedy duo, are the other artists announced on the programme.

CARLISLE.—H.M. Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—*Sexton Blake* is a big attraction here, as presented by Mr. Charles East's company. In the title-rôle Mr. Horace Hunter's powerful and artistic acting is a big factor in the success. Mr. Charles East, too, in the heavy part gives a clever impersonation, being well supported by Miss East Robertson as Philadelphia Kate; Mr. William Felton is excellent as Roger Blackburn, and the heroine is admirably played by Miss Lily Hammersley.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Jack Lorimer, who again tops the bill, is funnier than ever; another highly appreciated performance is contributed by Sid Doody and Edie Wright; the Sisters Casseli, in their excellent dancing; Blake and Granby, in a funny sketch; the Saletos, with wonderful head and hand balacing; Stella Stahl, a bright and lively comedienne; May Marton, an attractive vocalist, and some excellent pictures are other attractions.

CARMARTHEN.—Assembly Rooms.—Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—This week Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company has been here with *The Silver King*. Mr. Sydney T. Pease gave a fine interpretation of Denver, and the same may be said of Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton as Nellie. Jaikes, the old servant, was admirably impersonated by Mr. Tom Paulton; Cissy was ably portrayed by Miss Dorothy Love; Mr. Charles Freeman was an eminently successful Spider; Mr. Harry Colbeck an excellent Corket; Mr. John Detliv a droll Elijah Combe; and Mr. Charles McCann a smart Cripps. The part of Geoffrey Ware was well played by Mr. Claude Graveley.

CASTLEFORD.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman, J.P.—Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company is here in *A Country Girl in London*. Mr. W. V. Garrod shows ability as Frank Gordon; Marjorie Hamilton is played cleverly by Miss Bertha Kingston; Mr. John S. Sheridan acts with care as John Hamilton; Mr. G. Moreton-Williams does good work as Godfrey Clinton; an admirable character-sketch of Job Smithers comes from Mr. Clifford Marle; Gwendoline Gordon finds an able exponent in Miss Josephine Colona; Adelaide Puddyphat is impersonated successfully by Miss Leslie Adair; and Mr. Seymour Perry as Wilberforce Puddyphat causes roars of laughter. Mr. E. W. Avery provides a welcome amount of fun as Heinrich.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Travis.—Heading the bill here are Le Clair's dogs in *The Canine Picture Gallery;* Lily and Elsie Judge, with their "society bird act," well merit the praise bestowed on them; Tom Joy, comedian, creates roars of merriment; the Brothers Brooks are also mirth-provoking; Cookson is much appreciated for a clever ventriloquial turn; the Fordyces (Jenny and Will) take remarkably well; the Sisters Brand dance gracefully; Little Frankie is a youthful vocalist of promise; and the Loyal Dominion Co. are showing some interesting pictures.

CHELTENHAM.—Theatre and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—This week Mr. George Dance's company with *Miss Hook of Holland* pays a welcome return visit, and opened on Monday to an enthusiastic audience. Mr. T. A. Shale (an old favourite in Cheltenham) is inimitably droll as Mr. Hook, the liqueur distiller, and his study of the part was much appreciated. Miss Alice Coverick is very pleasing as Miss Hook (Sally). She made the most of her songs, the one "Little Miss Wooden Shoes" being vociferously encored. As Mina Miss Cissie Sephton was great, her singing and sabot dancing being quite a feature; the Dutch loafer, Simon Slinks, was very cleverly impersonated by Mr. Tom Seymour, and Mr. Len Neville plays up to him well in the character of the very tired Van Eck. Mr. Frank Crimp takes the part of the bandmaster (Van Vuyt), and scores well with "It was all the violoncello," concluding with a pretty dance with Mr. Hook. As the leader of the band that played the fascinating military march, the bandmaster was repeatedly encored. Mr. George Ide as Capt. Paap sang well "The soldiers of the Netherlands"; Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun., made a good study of the lovelorn Ludwig Schnapps; as also did Miss Tattie Leonard as the distillery manageress. Other parts were well filled by Mr. G. Foley (the Arndyk villager), Mr. W. Ogle (policeman), Misses Isabel Vivien, Mary Allen, May Leslie, and Maud Leonard, and Mr. James Davies as Lieut. de Coop.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Messrs. Cowper-Smith and Douglas Payne's company in the musical comedy *The New Girl* is doing good business here this week. Pretty music, good singing and dancing, and capital mounting combine to ensure success. Miss Rosa Bennett presents a charmingly bright rendering of Hilda Coleman; Cerise is capitally undertaken by Miss Ivy Leighton; Miss Beatrice Sutherland plays Jane excellently; and Miss Victoria Douglas is effective as Martha Grimm. Colonel Bullet is humorously presented by Mr. Edward W. Colman, who creates continuous laughter; Mr. Ralph Lynn as Bertie Holbrook and Mr. Edgar McIntyre as Harry Harrow are exceptionally good; and Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., as Brown is strikingly funny. There is a capital chorus, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. Julian Rutt.

CLYDEBANK.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietor and Director, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Miss Daisy Morell tops the bill here this week, and is a great success. Mouing and Cooney, comedians, get a good reception; Marzelo also finds favour; Mr. Harry Leaton sings some good songs; Empress, the female Houdini, mystifies the audience; and the Bioscope is par excellence.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in *The Belle of Mayfair* opened a half-week's engagement here on Monday before a goodly audience. Amongst the ladies, the palm must be awarded to Miss Rosina Effingham as the Princess, her charming gracefulness and deep melodious voice being much admired. Miss Nellie Barnwell made a sprightly Julia, whilst as her mother, Lady Chaldicott, Miss Denny Fitzherbert was delightfully quaint. Miss Grace Mackay showed a fine conception of the Gibson-Girl qualities; Miss Dora Lyons danced well as Pincott; Mr. Sidney Burt sturdily maintained the character of the nouveau riche Sir John Chaldicott; Mr. Michael Raven was very happy as Hugh Meredith, his singing being much applauded; Mr. Stephen Hall and Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft as Earl Mount Highgate and his heir respectively worked in a praiseworthy manner; and Mr. A. Batting was well placed as Count Perrier. The concluding half of the week was allotted to that charming play *Angela*, as presented by Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and company.

Hippodrome.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Lockhart's elephants, under the direction of Captain Taylor, are topping this week's bill, introducing their well-known business. Paul Cavalli, the musical athlete, shows enormous strength; Jules Kiaro, hand equilibrist, is a very entertaining turn; Maud Willow makes quite a hit with her "Hallelujah" song; Dorothy Sephton, becomingly dressed in white, has some tuneful melodies; Marie Wilton sings much that is popular; Lester May is paying a return visit; and the musical contributions by Carl Heber's orchestra is much applauded.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Messrs Garside and Knowles's company is here this week with the drama *Her Marriage Vow*. Mr. Chas. Beddells does justice to the part of Gilbert Carlton; as Daffy Dan Mr. Edwin J. Collins is very good; Mr. J. Forbes Knowles is an excellent Ned Benton; as Larry Leary Mr. Dan Ryan is very funny; Mr. John W. Ryder as William Walters and Mr. Wilford Bailey as Eben Chubb are both well received; Miss Helena Walbran is exceptionally clever as Kate Walters; as Hester Norton Miss Nelly Shirley is all that could be desired; Miss Grace Ryder as Almira is worthy of mention; and as Maggie Clair Miss Winifred Barton is successful.

CORK.—Opera House.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 company opened a week's engagement on Monday in *Florodora*. As Tweedlepunch Mr. Fred Eastman fills the part with success; Miss Maisie Ellinger as Dolores is excellent; as Lady Holyrood Miss Edith Housley is most successful in her topical number; and as Lord Abercoed Mr. H. V. Cropton effectively displays a fine baritone voice. Mr. Stanley White as Cyrus Gilfain is capable.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The programme here is of exceptional merit. The Maritana Operatic Company gave a capital performance here on Monday of a couple of acts from *Maritana*. Mr. Frank Pemberton was the Don Cæsar; and Mr. Ernest Trowbridge the Don José and the King of Spain; Miss Bessie Forde the Lazarillo, and Miss Evelyn de Lara Maritana. The singing and acting were appreciated. *Il Trovatore* and *The Bohemian Girl* are also in the répertoire. Daisy Reed is a good speciality dancer; Adie Le Moir presents some well-executed pieces on the harp; and Sill and Sillcott, in an acrobat and railway skit; Henry and Tyler, quaint cyclists; Mlle. Lockhart, wire artist and serpentine dancer; the Sisters Ford, comedy duettists; the Cromwells, jugglers; and the Palascope are other attractions.

COVENTRY.—The Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—That stirring drama *The Midnight Wedding*, by Walter Howard, is being presented at the above house this week. Mr. Alfred Paumier gives a masterly rendering of the hero, Paul Valmar of the Red Hussars, and is ably assisted by Miss Yvonne Orchardson as the Princess Astrea, both artists being responsible for some fine acting. As Captain Von Scarsbruck Mr. Alfred Radford gives a typical rendering; capital characterisations are those of Mr. A. W. Barne as Lieut. von Stralsburg and Mr. J. Nesbitt as Prince Leopold. Humorous episodes are introduced (as Sergt. Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobo) by Mr. J. E. Page, Mr. H. Richardson, and Mr. A. Spalding respectively, and by Miss Ada Champion as Kathie.

Hippodrome Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—Miss Shields heads the bill this week, and causes an ovation; Billy Williams renders his songs in a jocular manner, and soon becomes a favourite; Haines, Borthwick, and company give an amusing sketch entitled *Half a Dollar*, which causes continual merriment; Alix Lukos, who appears in a scena entitled *The Language of Flowers*, introduces impersonations of Disraeli, Napoleon, Booth, &c.; the Barton and Franklin Trio give a fine performance on various instruments; and Ryan and Hall, acrobats and comic wrestlers; Harris and Worth, sporting comedians; Nancy St. John, comedienne and dancer; and the Bioscope, showing some excellent pictures, are also in the bill.

Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The star turn takes the form of living statuary, presented by Mr. Alfred Toft. Miss Maud Rochez introduces cleverly-trained monkeys; Matthews and Cowper appear in an amusing comedy entitled *When the Clock Went Wrong;* Messrs. Sinclair and Parr render capital Irish songs; the Leonards are heard in a comedy act entitled *How to Treat a Burglar;* the Sisters Pine are pleasing singers and dancers; and Bioscope pictures conclude.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John H. Morton.—Mr. Carr Loate's company with *A London Outcast* is here for a second week. Miss Cissie Milford deserves special mention for her rendering of two parts, Tom All Alone and Susan Good; Miss Molly Bee as Mabel Raymond plays with much taste and feeling; Miss Kathleen Saunders gives a capital portrayal of Little Philip; Miss Clara Hall as Mary and Mr. Jess. Boxer as Joe Good supply unlimited fun; Mr. Carr Loates himself takes the "heavy" part of Edgar Hall, and gives a masterly rendition; Mr. Geo. W. Knight supplies a very careful study of John Trueman; Mr. Walter Leonard as Philip Raymond has a lot to do in a little time, and acquits himself well; Mr. Leo Rodway as Silas Beal creditably helps along the play; and Mr. William Griffin fully justifies his selection for the part of Police-constable Hearty.

CREWE.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—The attraction here this week is Wm. Holles and Nannie Goldman's company in *The Stepmother*. Miss Eva Mansell gives an excellent rendering of the title-rôle; Mr. William Holles gives a good portrayal of Bob Bristow, captain of the Seamew; Miss Milly Wetton is well placed as Amy Bristow, Bob's wife; Miss Nannie Goldman creates an impression as Danny, Bob's son; Mr. H. A. Gribben as David Blake of Scotland Yard is very well received; Mr. Arthur Rodney makes an ideal Abraham Wiggins; Mr. Wilton Reed as Luke Trixel, a tramp, is very good; Mr. Edwin Stevens and Miss Fay Rivington cause much amusement as Timothy Yapp, of the County Constabulary, and Johanna Jones respectively; and Miss Ethel Rayner as Clara is good.

CROYDON.—Grand Theatre.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—A visit of Mr. Herbert Sleath's company in *A White Man* is giving much pleasure here. Miss Eleanor May deserves congratulations for her rendering of the Countess of Kerhill; Miss Rhoda Ray is appreciated as Nat-u-ritch; Miss Gertrude Price acts with effect as the Dowager Lady Kerhill; and Misses Nora Wadeley and Kathleen Mervyne are appropriate as Lady Mabel Wynnegate and Mrs. Hiram Doolittle. Mr. Frank E. Petley submits a fine, manly rendering of Captain James Wynnegate (Jim Carston); Mr. Lewis Broughton is commendable as the Earl of Kerhill; Mr. H. Wilmott Jackson is capital as Sir John Applegate; Mr. G. T. Lambert is well placed as Mr. Chiswick; Mr. William Dempsey is convincing as Malcolm Petrie; Mr. Louis Ashmeade makes an excellent Dean of Trentham; Mr. R. A. Brandon wins encomiums as Big Bill; Messrs. Thomas Swem and Martin Henry are adequate as Shorty and Andy; Mr. Eric Hudson makes a picturesque Taby-wana; Mr. A. C. Hardie is forcible as Cash Hawkins; Mr. John Wilmer is firstrate as Bud Hardy; Miss Rosina White makes an intelligent little Hal; and minor rôles are in capable hands.

Hippodrome and New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Mr. Percy Norman's company in *A Woman Worth Winning* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Sydney Barton is well placed as Czar Nicholas; Mr. Gilbert Standing as Amos Pauloff is distinctly good; Mr. George Edwin Clive appears to advantage as Fergus Lovinsky; Mr. A. B. Mackay admirably portrays General Borinsky; Mr. Louis Newman as Bertie Scribbles deserves praise; and Mr. Ernest Kendrick creates much merriment as Peter Popples. Miss Ida Mackay is pleasing as Katerina Kloss, and Miss Chrissie Dunbar plays the part of the heroine, Roma Pauloff, in an accomplished manner.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—*The Thief*, played by Mr. George Alexander's company, has attracted good houses here this week. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart as Richard Chelford gives a finished performance; Miss May Congdon as Marise Chelford, in a trying part performs it with becoming dignity; Mr. Gerald Ames as Raymond Leyton is very realistic; Miss Mary Dibley as Isabel Leyton is admirable; Mr. Alfred Lugg does well in the part of Harry Leyton; and Mr. Cyril Cattley as Mr. Prothero gives a clever rendering.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The Paxton Trio are delighting large audiences here in their clever head-balancing and acrobatic act; the Bros. Webb also evoke laughter and applause; the Ward and Davis Comedy Duo do a graceful act. Others engaged are Archie Pitt, comedian; Barbara Babington, vocal actress; Stephens and Rennior, comedians and dancers; and Harry Leybourne, comedian. The Pepiscope is an attraction.

DARWEN.—Public Hall, Palace of Varieties.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Wat Tyler, character actor-vocalist, is very good, as also is Beatrice Lane, a charming chorus vocalist; Jim Ainsworth is pleasing in his illustrated songs; Harry Hutin causes roars of laughter in his legmania act; and Ena Corelli, singer and dancer, is well received. The pictures on the Bioscope are of the best.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is this week producing *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*, preceded by the one-act comedy, *His Landlady*. As Mr. Ponderbury Mr. George Mudie is inimitable; and Miss Florence Wix capably accounts for Mme. Poloco Modjeski. As Mrs. Ponderbury Miss Annie Stalman presents a clever character-study; Mr. Alfred Ibberson as Peter is entirely praiseworthy; and Mr. Drew Mackintosh as Mervyr Thorpe contributes to the success of the production. The Captain Rumford of Mr. George Child is a refreshing assumption; and an asinine dude is well played by Mr. Charles A. Starte. Miss Florence Wellesley figures with acceptance as Ethel Penniston; and other characters receive justice at the hands of Mr. H. Burns, Mr. James Michael, and Miss Madge Elswick. Mr. Alfred Ibberson takes premier honours in the curtain-raiser, and is well supported by Mr. Drew Mackintosh and Misses Florence Wellesley and Madge Elswick.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—Starring here this week is Mr. W. Fulbrook's company in the sketch *Astronomy*, which keeps the house in a continual roar. Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in *Trafalgar Square at 4 a.m.*, create great merriment; Cumminger and Colonna are responsible for the finest exhibition of sand-dancing seen locally for some time; the Two Kays are charming duettists, and possessed of fine voices; Will Sullivan, comedian, has some amusing songs and patter; Dan Robano is a pleasing vocalist; Valvo gives a thoroughly entertaining ventriloquial sketch; and the Bioscope pictures are, as usual, of an excellent variety.

DEVONPORT.—Theatre Metropole.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*Why Men Love Women*, by Walter Howard, is decidedly above the average melodrama, and is deservedly doing very good business, the gorgeous Eastern setting and really capable acting being greatly admired. Miss Ellen Snow as the heroine, Violet Livingstone, has a difficult task, but fully rises to the occasion; Mr. Oliver Rogers as Gerald Fielding plays with manliness and becoming reserve; Mr. Lionel Gadsden gives a highly creditable rendering of Captain Staniloff, a part requiring careful handling; and Mr. N. C. Slaughter does well as Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert; Mr. B. Griffin works hard as H.H. the Maharajah of Balore, and Miss Beresford Glynn is noticeable as Mrs. Figgins.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—Mr. Arthur Dandoe's company in *The Phonograph Belle* is starred for the week, and much genuine fun is provided, Mr. Dandoe as Crooky Sharks being particularly strong in the humorous department, whilst some attractive vocal numbers are carefully interpolated. Miss Alice Hollander has a voice of excellent range and power; Mahatma furnishes a mystifying exhibition of second-sight, and the Mezzettis give a humorous, yet clever, display on the horizontal bars; Vere and Royal have some picturesque scenas, and Fred Dunstone and Ugo Nap materially contribute to the evening's enjoyment.

DEWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—*Sherlock Holmes*, as presented by Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart and company, this week has given local playgoers a succession of thrills. In the title-rôle, Mr. Hamilton Stewart acts with a cool nonchalance and clever vocal inflection that wins much admiration; Miss Betty Fairfax plays Alice Faulkner with sympathy, refinement, and gentleness; Prof. Moriarty had an adequate realisation at the hands of Mr. Robert Gilbert; very agreeable and effective is the acting of Miss Edith Vogue as Madge Larrabee; a strong and earnest interpretation of James Larrabee comes from Mr. Mark D. Draper; Mr. Arthur Shelton is a cheery Dr. Watson; Mr. Walter A. Chetham is an able exponent of John Forman; praise should be given to Master Thomas Russell for a vigorous and volatile Billy; other rôles are undertaken with efficiency.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*Married to the Wrong Man* was well received here on Monday evening. Mr. Oswald Gray as the hero upheld the rôle with distinct credit; as Captain Dearing, Mr. H. Lane Bayliff did well; Mr. Ray Raymond gave a good reading as Sergeant Manners; Mr. Charles Vivian scored a success as Jasper Skinner; Mr. Paige Lawrence was well placed as Archie Bird; and the Nurse Manners of Miss Rosalie Notrelle was a clever sketch. Miss Gertrude Boswell in the rôle of the heroine is a *persona grata* in the cast.

DOVER.—Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. S. W. Winter.—Texas Hattie, the premier turn this week, performs some extraordinarily clever feats on the tight rope; Tiger Lily is an agile dancing acrobat; Mabel Thorne's songs have captivated the town; smart "tangle-foot" dancing is contributed by Daly and O'Brien; and Johnny Val also dances cleverly. The Four Lariats' lasso manipulation is pretty and interesting; the Fedora Quartette sing brightly and dance with grace; Harry Hoddinott appears as a comedian with a fair amount of success.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Fred Holt.—That popular comedian Fred Southern is presenting the sketch *Silas the Yank* on this, the second week of his engagement here. He is well supported by Miss May Emery as Muriel Mayne, Miss Sadie Southern as Estelle Drew, and Messrs. Hugh Mewburn and Percy Emery as Ivan Petroff and Silas respectively. The skill of Winona as a markswoman is duly appreciated, and her turn with Colonel King is loudly applauded; the Sisters Selwyn have a pleasing vocal and dancing act; Dave Laird is an amusing vocal comedian. The programme also includes Flo Burnett; Beal and Broadway, in a harmony and dancing act; Geo. Porter, comedian; the Glennys, in a musical mélange, *Waifs and Strays;* and Raymond's pictures.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—*Jack Straw* was presented here for the first time on Monday, by Messrs. Lionel Glenister and Wood Ingram's company, and met with a good reception. Mr. Lionel Glenister is most amusing in the title-rôle, and scored a decided success; as Mrs. Parker Jennings Miss Florence St. John was responsible for much laughter, and won high honours; Mr. A. T. Gulliver does full justice to the part of Mr. Parker Jennings; and Miss Jessica Waters makes an ideal Rosie Abbott. Vincent Parker Jennings is well assumed by Mr. Christmas Grose; and Miss Edie Graham is seen to advantage as Lady Wanley. Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram gives a capital sketch of Count Adrien von Bremer; and Miss Estelle Despa makes an effective Mrs. Withers; Mr. Ernest Graham acquits himself well as the Rev. Lewis Abbott; and Miss Lucie Milner is all that could be desired as Ethel Parker Jennings. The part of Ambrose Holland is in the able hands of Mr. Frederick Moyes; and Mr. Edgar Stevenson is satisfactory as the Marquis of Serlo. The staging and dresses are excellent. The comedy is preceded by a curtain-raiser entitled *After Seven Years*.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The amusing musical play, *The Dairymaids*, is attracting large audiences here this week. Miss Phyllis Dare as Peggy presents a charming and artistic performance; Mr. Harry Dent gives an exceedingly droll impersonation of Joe Mivens; Miss Dorothy Lane fills, with much credit, the rôle of Helene; as Lieut. Sam Brudenall, Mr. Strahan Staples introduces much humour; Miss Edith Blanche is dignified as Lady Brudenall; and Dr. O'Byrne has an excellent representative in Mr. Percy Marshall; Miss Gladys Ivery is bright and winsome as Winifred; Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., is well placed as Lieut. Frank Meredith; Miss Lottie Sargeant is particularly good as Eliza; Mr. Horace Percival well sustains the part of Lieut. Brereton; Mrs. Rose Edouin Lewis is admirable as Miss Penelope Pyechase; and Mr. Cecil Barnes, as Tim Capus, and Mr. Lewis Oliver, as Togers, are both good in their respective parts. The choruses and orchestra under the direction of Mr. Arthur Wood are also worthy of mention.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—Animated pictures are still showing here, and drawing crowded houses nightly.

Empire.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Mr. G. H. Elliott, coon comedian, is starring here this week, and is the object of a flattering demonstration; Brown and Le Clerq, in *Black Justice* cause roars of laughter; Lady Mansel and her clever juveniles, in their comedy speciality, *A Concert Rehearsal*, are recalled nightly; and the Sisters West are smart duettists and dancers; the Four Watsons, in their vocal and musical act, contribute some excellent items; and Ailsa Douglas has some good songs, and knows how to sing them; Ralph and Nellie Howard, in a musical comedy scena, *Military Maids*, are favourably received; Welda and Wynne, in a juggling and dancing act, score a success; as does also Bert Weinar, character comedian; and Queenie Dell, comedienne and dancer, has a host of admirers; Films, Ltd., depicting Tribulations of Roller Skating, concludes.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls render popular songs in a telling and effective manner; in a sensational episode, entitled *The Guilty Man*, James Hare and company are loudly applauded; and Dallas and Varden, in a musical comedy scena, *That Husband of Mine*, create much hilarity; an excellent turn is provided by John Lloyd's Gondolier singers; and Dorothy Watson, in songs at the piano, is highly entertaining. The Bonanzas give a remarkably clever hand-balancing act; and Miss Gertrude Lytton, comedienne, gives her songs in capital style. Other exceedingly good turns are Zano Brothers, in a comedy bar act, and Cestris, comedy juggler. The Bioscope adds greatly to a good programme.

Round Room Rotunda.—Messrs. Harry and Fred Poole's Myriorama and combination company opened for a short season here on Monday, when an excellent entertainment was provided for the large audience. The Myriorama is perfectly up-to-date, and thoroughly interesting. A remarkably strong variety programme includes Harry Dowsett, eccentric comedian; Miss Phyllis St. Clare, operatic and ballad vocalist; George French's Troupe of cyclists; Learto and his clever dog, "Babbs"; the Snow Family, eccentric knockabouts and expert skaters; and Mr. Bert Gates, ventriloquist and guide. A number of amusing animated pictures add to the interest of the programme.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The programme here includes Edwards and Ward, comedy entertainers; Tom E. Swift, descriptive vocalist; Rita Lyons, comedienne; Walter Conilla, chorus vocalist; Jim Merry, comedian; Bett and Bett, comedy duo; and the cinematograph.

Pavilion, Kingstown.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—Mr. Stuart Alexander's So and So's company are attracting large audiences nightly. Mr. Alexander possesses a sweet tenor voice, and his songs are ably given; Miss Maud Phillips, contralto vocalist, is very warmly received; Mr. Harry Quinsborough, monologue artist, keeps the audience in good humour; Miss Lilian Leoffeler's dances are loudly applauded; Miss Maude Davis, vocalist, has a good reception; and Mr. George Sharritt, humorist, and Miss Dorothy Edwardes, solo pianist and accompanist, also contribute successfully.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and company opened here on Monday with *Jane Shore* to an appreciative audience, and acted the title-rôle with her usual skill and artistic ability. She is well supported by Mr. F. Skein, who, as Richard Duke of Gloucester brings the sinister traits of this character into bold relief. The Lord Hastings of Mr. Howard Rose is a powerful and polished rendering; Miss Alice O'Dea displays ability as Elizabeth Woodville; and another earnestly-played part is that of Matthew Groat by Mr. Bernard Merefield. During the week *Leah, Nell Gwynne*, and *Catherine Duchess of Dantzic* are billed.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. B. Peberdy.—Heading the bill is the Derrington Family, aptly described as sensational cyclists. The Sisters Henderson, in a new musical speciality, introduce some clever dancing; Ida Barr is of charming appearance and sings well; Petro and Leon are clever gymnasts; and the Kenmores give an up-to-date novelty with success. The Sisters Slater secure applause as duettists and skipping-rope dancers; Billy French, who astonishes his audiences with a marvellous exhibition of wooden-shoe dancing; and the Empire pictures are as good as ever.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—This theatre was crowded on Monday evening by a most appreciative audience, who heartily enjoyed *The Dairymaids*. Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is one of all-round excellence, the dresses and setting, especially the scene depicting the gymnasium at Pyechase Academy, being much admired. Miss Clare Marsden makes a most charming Peggy, and wins rounds of applause for her singing of "Sandow girl" and the amusing "Little stranger"; Mr. Johnny Osborne as Joe Mivens keeps the house in continual roars of laughter, his duets with Miss Gladys Silvani, who makes a great hit as Eliza, being encored over and over again; another excellent comedian is found in Mr. Nelson Keys, who infuses much life into the part of Lieut. Sam Brudenell; Mr. J. A. Warden as the jovial Irish doctor, is "a broth of a bhoy"; and Mr. A. Wykes Ashdowne, Mr. Harry Cottell, and Mr. Boris Bellew, all work hard and well in their respective parts. Miss Clarice Lockstone as the other dairymaid is altogether charming; Miss Mabel Younge's portrayal of the stately Lady Brudenell is decidedly good; and Miss Penelope Pyechase is represented with much effectiveness by Miss Madge Avery.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Local Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—The star turn this week is *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, which is very realistically depicted by Fred Ginnett and company, who also present their old favourite, *Rejected Remounts*. The Claymores score as vocalists, dancers, and jugglers; and Herbert Clifton does not belie his title of "marvellous voiced mimic." That delightful sketch, *The Little Colonel*, by E. Montefiore and company, is warmly received; Arthur Boyne, a very capable comedian, causes much merriment; Bella and Gretna, duettists and dancers, are decidedly good; Harry Bold is a capital raconteur; Terry and Bentley treat us to some fine comedy business; and Maud Prenton, a smart comedienne, meets with much approval. The Bioscope completes a good bill.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Miss Zona Vevey's songs are decidedly novel and clever, and she is ably assisted by the eminent piano accompanist, Herr Max Erard; the Szarvasi-Ferencz troupe of Hungarian singers, dancers, and acrobats give an exceptionally brilliant turn; Edward Crossland's melody makers are conspicuously successful in a brilliant musical act; Maud Edwards, the lady ventriloquist, is even more amusing than ever; and Tom E. Hughes brings down the house with his quaint rendering of "Can London do without me?" Williams and Warden simply bubble over with wit and humour; Halter and Ray, who work on novel lines, are an amusing couple; and Cline and Vera, in a refined scena, *The Squire and the Dairymaid*, prove a tit-bit. A well-acted sketch, entitled *Black Against White*, depicting an incident in the race feud in America, completes a grand array of talent.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Franco-British Moving Picture Company again provide a long and varied programme of pictures, chief among which are My Sweetheart when a Boy, The Moneylender, Uncle's Present, The Franco-British Exhibition, and a very long film, entitled John Bull's Bread Basket, showing the reaping and gathering of wheat in Canada. Jeanie Fergus, a sprightly comedienne, furnishes a very entertaining turn; while Harry Jennings, a smart comedian and dancer, also meets with success.

Newman's Picture Palace.—Another fine display

Colyer is an exceptionally gifted dancer, and her work is some of the smartest and most polished seen here for a long time; Eugene and Willie have a pleasing turn with acrobatic work and music skilfully combined; Mr. Steve McCarthy is a fine dancer and able comedian; Mr. Fred Mulvey and Minnie Miriam are entertainers of merit; the Sisters Morgan sing and dance in a picturesque manner; Stevens and Gillard are clever mimics and cartoonists; and new pictures are shown.

PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and company were on a visit here for the first three evenings of the week in *The Lady of Ostend*. Mr. William Spray was particularly well suited in the part of Dick Whortles; Mr. L. Brough repeated his successful work as Le Baron; Mr. Robert Bolder as Joseph Carbury introduced clever fun in a happy manner; Mr. William Macready was a very realistic and comically menacing Toby Krockitt, Mr. Harry Collier a capital James, and Mr Hewson Elliott a smart little Thompson. Miss Barbara Glyn supplied interesting work as Dorothy Whortles; Miss Bessie Harrison was an excellent Matilda Carbury, Miss Alice Leigh a pleasing Millie Grace, and Miss Edith Adeson a satisfactory Jane. *At the Rising of the Moon* was the curtain-raiser. Mr. Edward Compton and company supplied the bill for the remainder of the week.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. G. F. Slatter.—Rowland Hill is heartily applauded here for his humorous songs; Eldra is deserving of credit for the training of his dog, Prince; Wyndham and Waters prove a huge success; the Ramsey Trio create roars of laughter; Fame and Fortune give a good account of themselves; Ikey Moe, the little Hebrew, is precocious; Helm and Cozens are pleasing; and the Denaro Bros., juvenile equilibrists and acrobats, are excellent. Galvanic Fluid, The Fidgety Fly, and Magic Powder are depicted on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Oscar Asche, Miss Lily Brayton, and company are attracting crowds of playgoers here this week. The company opened on Monday with *The Taming of the Shrew*, in which Miss Brayton repeats her delightful impersonation of Katharina—a charming conception charmingly executed. Mr. Asche's Petruchio, mellowed by many performances, remains a masterly and virile study; while it is positively refreshing to see the other parts in the hands of actors who play with uniform excellence. Mr. Kay Souper, graceful and easy in bearing and elocution, is an admirable Lucentio; Mr. Reginald Ian Penny is an effective Hortensio; Mr. E. T. Anson shows a real sense of humour as Biondello; and that sound comedian Mr. Henry Kitts is very amusing as Grumio. Mr. Caleb Porter makes Gremio a vivid character sketch, the story of the wedding being told with great force and cleverness; Miss Muriel Ashwynne is sweet and graceful as Bianca; and Mr. Fritz Russell, Mr. J. Fritz, Mr. Tripp Edgar (a humorous Tranio), and Miss Caroline Bayley render excellent service. The play is artistically staged. *The Two Pins* was given on Tuesday evening, with Mr. Asche in his effective portrayal of Philip and Miss Brayton in her vivacious and pleasing impersonation of Elsa. *Othello* has also been played during the week.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Very refreshing entertainment has been provided here this week by Miss May Palfrey and an excellent company in Mr. Somerset Maugham's breezy comedy *Mrs. Dot*, seen now for the first time in Edinburgh. Miss Palfrey's performance of the attractive widow is a most delightful characterisation; Miss Aida Jenoure as Lady Sellenger gives another finished and artistic portrait; while Mrs. Kemmis in the more staid and reserved part of Miss Eliza Macgregor is pleasingly natural and effective. The fair ingénue, Nellie Sellenger, nicely acted by Miss Evelyn Beaumont, finds a good foil in the soft-headed and impressionable Freddie Perkins of Mr. Basil Hallam; and the small part of Charles is unobtrusively made the most of by Mr. McIntyre Wicksteed in highly commendable fashion. The outstanding rôles of Gerald Halstane and James Blenkinsop are very well played by Mr. Hugh C. Buckler and Mr. F. Kinsey Peile, the former giving a manly and consistent interpretation of the widow's willing victim and the latter revelling as the confirmed misogamist. The piece is prettily set, and ripples with amusement from start to finish. A four-part little farce by Mr. H. de Lange, entitled *A Lively Dinner*, does duty as a curtain-raiser.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Chanti, a quick-change artist of great ability, takes premier place here this week. His impersonations of different nationalities are remarkably clever, the transition from an Italian peasant to a Highlander in full costume being an especially smart piece of work. Mr. John Humphries, the well-known comedian, is seen in a funny sketch entitled *Ancient Britons;* Will Probyn's Brooklyn Comedy Four sing with taste and humour several part-songs, a particularly noticeable effort being "Rocked in the cradle of the deep"; the Three Panamas contribute a bright acrobatic act; Miss Madoline Rees is a comedienne of considerable charm; the Melroses are capital vaudeville performers; and excellent turns are given by Mr. H. G. Prosper, comedian, and Miss Billie Burford. The King's Bioscope shows some pretty films.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—The *pièce de résistance* here this week is Mr. Herbert Darnley's sketch *The Brigands of Tarragona*, a mélange of songs, agreeably rendered by Miss Annette Sellers, and droll fooling by Mr. Chas. H. Bell and Mr. H. Snowdon. Mr. Mendel, the blind musician, displays his marvellous powers of improvisation, and is enthusiastically received; Mr. Ludwig Amann's impersonations of past and present celebrities are clever alike in facial expression and make-up; Tennyson and Wallis are entertaining comedians whose patter is amusing; Mr. Gus Garrick's mimicry of various types of music hall comedians are admirably done, and his burlesque of a Spanish dancer evokes screams of laughter; and Mr. Will Johnson, comedian; Miss Violet Halls, a graceful vocalist; Mr. Walter Wade, comedian; Miss Daisy Martell, comedienne; and Mr. C. J. Johnson, a brisk cake-walk dancer, are also included in the programme, which closes with a humorous series of views by the Bioscope.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford. — The F. R. Benson Shakespearean company is occupying the boards this week, and is drawing large and appreciative houses. On Monday *The Taming of the Shrew* was produced. Mr. Henry Herbert, who is a local favourite, makes an excellent Petruchio; and Miss Gladys Vanderzee as Katherina is the shrew to the life. Mr. Bernard Limpus ably portrays Lucentio; and Mr. Victor Wiltshire is good as Gremio. Miss Violet Farebrother is charming as Bianca; Mr. James Berry as Baptista is all that could be desired. During the week *Romeo and Juliet*, *Richelieu*, *Twelfth Night*, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Julius Cæsar*, and *Richard III.* are being played.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—The pantomime *The House that Jack Built*, as produced by the juvenile company of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell, was made very welcome on Monday. It is a capital show, beautifully dressed. Mr. Jimmie Watson as Aunt Purdy is inimitable; and Messrs. Graham and Barron as Scraggs and Scraggles prove a very lively and entertaining couple; Miss Daisy Wood makes a splendid Jack; and as Jill Miss Dolly Dodds makes the most of the part. Both excel in their vocal efforts. Little Gladys Wyse scores in the character of Wee MacGreegor; Miss Jennie Hughes is captivating as the Fairy; and Mr. H. Hillerby takes the part of the Squire with success. A special feature of the entertainment is the dancing by the Forget-Me-Not Quartette.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—The week opened with Mr. Frederick Mouillot's No. 1 company, including Mr. Arthur Royston and Miss Nita Faydon, in *The Beloved Vagabond*. Needless to say, Mr. Arthur Royston played the romantic Gaston de Nerac in an able manner, and well merited the frequent applause; Miss Nita Faydon made a decided hit as Blanquette, and her sympathetic acting proved a feature of the play; the important part of Comte de Verneuil, the cynical man of finance, was finely acted by Mr. Warburton Gamble; Asticot, the hunchback protégé of Gaston de Nerac, was ably portrayed by Mr. Ramsey Macbeth; Miss Kathleen Harrington has a fine stage presence, suited in every way to the part of Joanna Rushworth (afterwards Comtesse de Verneuil); the dainty little juvenile actress, Miss Hetty Kenyon, won all hearts as Louisette; a young Folkestone amateur, Mr. Guy O'Neal, well known in military theatricals, made his début in a manner that speaks well for the success of his professional career. Mr. James Welch's company, in *When Knights Were Bold*, is billed for the second part of the week.

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—The Poppies are increasing in popularity, and are playing to good houses. Miss Annie Wallace, a charming soprano, sings delightfully; Miss Dorothy Evans, a chic comedienne, sang and danced herself at once into the hearts of the audience; the humorous element is in the capable hands of Messrs. Will Tissington and Harry Lea. A strong feature of the Poppies' programme are their concerted numbers. Charles Resti is giving his smart conjuring interlude at each performance. Miss Eva Hayden, A.R.C.M., presides at the piano with her customary ability.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Miss Bonwin's Carlton's company appeared here for the last three nights last week in *The Old, Old Story*, *Poor Joe*, and *The Plucky Nipper*. On Tuesday and Wednesday Mr. Julian Graham presented the new musical comedy *The Gay Goddess*. Miss Kate Graham Beck was an imposing representative of the Goddess; Mr. Chas. Leverton gave an amusing rendering of Timothy; Mr. Richard Teasdale was effective as Sherlock Blake, the detective; and Les Papillions introduced some clever dancing.

GLASGOW.—ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—An exceptionally strong attraction is offered here this week in the shape of the Lyric Theatre production of *A White Man*, with Mr. Herbert Sleath and Miss Ellis Jeffreys in the leading parts. With two such attractive performers in the rôles of Jim Carston and Diana, the enthusiasm aroused by the performance is easily accounted for. Amongst other outstanding impersonations is Miss Dorothy Dix's touching portrayal of Nat-u-ritch; and as the Earl of Kerhill Mr. Harold Weston proves himself equal to his strong scenes. For the parts of Lady Kerhill and Lady Mabel, Miss Emma Gwynne and Miss Enid Sass are eminently suited; Mr. A. G. Poulton hits off the foibles of Sir John Applegate amusingly; and Mr. Harold Richardson's Dean is a pleasing sketch. As Big Bill Mr. George Fawcett proves a favourite; and the other cowboys—Shorty (Mr. Cecil Yapp), Andy (Mr. S. J. Warmington), Grouchy (Mr. Richard F. Symons), and Hawkins (Mr. Menifee Johnstone)—are all realistically played; Mr. A. S. Aspland makes an impressive Indian chief; as the Sheriff Mr. A. W. Jack Ellis is very good; a characteristic lawyer is seen in Mr. Herbert Vyvyan's Petrie, and Miss Victoria Harris acts well as Little Hall.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—A crowded and enthusiastic audience welcomed Mr. George Alexander and his company in *The Thief* on Monday. The thrilling situations and the acting of Mr. Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh in the crucial scenes ensure for the play a remarkable success. Mr. Dawson Milward contributes a fine performance as Raymond Leyton, and Miss Nina Sevening shows much advance in her art by her acting as Mrs. Leyton; Mr. Reginald Owen as Harry also does well, and Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds as Protheroe completes an able cast. The play is preceded by *The Nursery Governess*, in which Miss Jean Sterling Mackenzie and Messrs. Ashton Pearce and Harcourt Williams specially distinguished themselves.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. Russell Rosse's company is presenting here this week the highly amusing comedy *A Pair of Spectacles*. Mr. David James gives a natural and easy study of Benjamin Goldfinch, and Mr. Fred Dobell supplies an entertaining delineation of Uncle Gregory. The rôle of Percy is ably handled by Mr. Russell Rosse; Mr. Robert Noble submits a capital reading of Dick, and a satisfactory Lorimer is found in Mr. Robert Rivers. Miss Ida Chapman infuses much charm into her impersonation of Mrs. Goldfinch; Lucy Lorimer is carefully acted by Miss Kathleen Naughton; and Miss Gertrude Le Sage is effective as Charlotte. At the finish the one-act comedy *His Last Legs* is admirably played.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdock.—A large audience attended here on the opening night to witness Walter Melville's new production *The Soldier's Wedding*, the interest taken in the play being keen. Mr. Wingold Lawrence as Jack Brown, the soldier hero, fills his part with artistic ability; Mr. Gerald Jordan and Miss Marie M'Aulay as a couple of mischief-makers draw forth resentment from the "gods." Another important part is that of Nancy Lee by Miss Dorothy Richardson. Messrs. Beresford Whitcomb, Johnny Chippendale, Frederick Birdu, and Misses Alice Campbell and M. Lowe render able assistance. The staging is effective.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair are giving here that strong drama *Man to Man*. Mr. Frank Adair as Richard Ellerton and Mr. Edward Lloyd as George Gordon ably sustain two of the principal parts. Mr. Clifford Bown is excellent as Bill Burkley; Mr. H. Holland is well suited as Matthew Ellerton; and a clever performance is the Samuel Plumtree of Mr. Bruce Williams. Mr. R. Val Shane gives a fine rendering of the part of the Rev. Philip Ormond. In the female rôles, Misses Louie Adair, Adeline Lester, Evelyn Warde, and Ada Martin, are all of much value to the cast, and Miss Phyllis Oakley is a smart little Ned Doyle.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Miss Winifred Maude's company is giving here that stirring drama *The Convict*, in which Miss Maude ably acts the part of Dora Renshawe; Mr. Arthur Denmead gives a dignified performance of Charles Renshawe; Mr. J. M. Olivert is a manly Jack Britton, and the scheming Captain Hurley is ably played by Mr. St. Clair Forbes; the humour of Mr. Victor Du Cane as Freddy Freckles is much enjoyed; Mrs. Wingold Lawrence gives a clever performance of Olga Brandon, and Miss Amy Lawrence makes a bright Jennie Perkins. The play is well staged.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Glasgow's favourite comedian, Mark Sheridan, takes the place of honour, and meets with the hearty reception he so well deserves; another turn of considerable merit is that provided by the Scala Opera Company—a powerful quartette, which includes Mrs. Arthur Rousby. Rose Cabani sings and dances as well as ever; Harry May Hemsley is a talented lightning artist with humorous qualifications, and is also a good mimic; Fred Poplar is responsible for an amusing turn, a like remark being applicable to Larola, styled as "a clever man with funny ways"; Ted E. Box is a good comedian who whistles well, and Kitty Wager sings very nicely. Ernest Tilbury's illustrated chorus songs are popular. The Bioscope terminates a capital performance.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—That clever dancing team Fraser and French are a big success here; Clarice Sefton is a smart and dainty comedienne; Blarney and Kennard contribute an amusing song and dance speciality. The bulk of the programme is occupied by Plimmer and Blake's American sketch *Happy Hooligan*, which contains several bright items, the fun being mostly contributed by Wm. H. Lester as Hooligan.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—A strong bill here is headed by two favourite comediennes, Clarice Mayne and Annie Purcell. The latter gives several songs in her own tuneful style, and the former introduces her popular imitations of well-known artists and a catchy new ditty, "Georgie Brown," in all of which she is ably assisted by Jas. W. Tate at the piano. Athas and Collins give a diversified song, dance, and burlesque act; Arthur Reece scores with two clever songs; Selbo is accorded a most enthusiastic recall for his wonderful club-juggling; Ernest Rees is as amusing as ever in his quaint style; Dale and O'Malley catch on immensely with their original patter and business; and Amy Sullivan and Minnie Mace are clever comediennes.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The principal item on the programme this week is a pleasing operatic mélange by the Musical Twelve, accomplished vocalists and pianists; Signor and Mme. Borelli make quite a hit with their cat duet and other imitations; a smart comedy sketch is submitted by Geoffreys and Benson; W. T. Ashcroft's songs and dances are received with the heartiest appreciation; the Davenports give a wonderful exhibition of palming; W. B. Raby, a comedian with a capital voice, takes well; an amusing acrobatic act is provided by Bains and Reed; and the instrumental turn of the Cecilias is clever.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The Craggs, in their lively acrobatic sketch *Billy*, evoke roars of laughter; Jock Mills is an amusing Scotch comedian; the Frank L. Gregory Troupe show some clever tricks with hoops; Mason and Bart take well in their Captain Kettle business; J. P. Ling's imitations are smart and clever; Lottie Govell sings and dances well; the Four Jumels contribute an enjoyable turn; and Gus Le Clerq and the Bensons also help to make an enjoyable entertainment.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The popular comedian Martin Conway tops the bill, and meets with much success; Jack Easy, a pawky Scotch comedian, is well received; Doyle and Gibson appear to advantage in a very entertaining cross-talk turn, and do some good dancing; Harlin and Hanlon in a somewhat similar entertainment make a good impression; Miss Marie Clifton, comedienne and dancer, makes a decided hit, and pictures on the Bioscope are greatly enjoyed. Good houses have been the rule.

BRITANNIA.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Eris and D'Auburn are responsible for much merriment; Hugh Rogers, descriptive vocalist, sings two songs in fine style, and Miss A. G. Davis is a ballad vocalist worthy of note. The Bioscope has an exceptionally good series of pictures.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Salome, as presented by Mlle. Sahara, occupies the place of honour; Mr. Charles Frazer's comedy illusion, "Iona," is a funny and smart piece of work; Bromley and Fontein are clever and diverting in "The man behind the music-stand"; and Phern and Phern win applause. The Godfreys have a pretty and tuneful musical act; Cline and Clark are in great demand; an amusing item is rendered by Billy Richardson; Ryder Davis goes well; Eva Ward proves to be a dainty burlesque actress; J. H. Crew is quaint, and a good dancer; and the Palacescope shows some good films.

KING'S HALL.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.—Miss Gertie Nicholas is pleasing in illustrated songs; and the life-motioned pictures are drawing good houses. A fine programme of films is given.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company opened to a packed house on Monday with *A Wrecker of Men*. Mr. M. Noble as the villain, Pharosaphus, is spirited; Mr. E. Campbell gives a powerful portrayal of Jim Murley; Railton is ably undertaken by Mr. J. A. Wilson; Mr. A. Robinson makes as much as possible of the part of Guise Strange; Mr. M. Wilson as the Hon. Reggie Verincourt and Mr. F. Carruthers as Eric Melville are highly successful; Mr. C. E. Lovell is a capital Ezekiel Isaacs; and Miss Florence Melrose Millett in the title-rôle gives a powerful impersonation. Doris Melville finds an exceedingly clever exponent in Miss G. Talbot; and Miss B. Reynolds is a satisfactory Vavasole.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM. — Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale. — Mr. Wentworth Croke presents an excellent company in *The Christian*. Miss Daisy Scudamore gives a finished interpretation of Glory Quayle; Mr. Roy Redgrave submits a masterful portrayal of John Storm; Mr. Royce Milton makes a dignified Lord Storm; Mr. Wilfred Noy as Horatio Drake ably hits off the society man; Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn is a great success as Father Lamplugh; the character of Lord Robert Ure is in the able hands of Mr. Herbert Hewetson; Mr. John Hooker is admirable as Archdeacon Wealthy; Miss Molly Hayden is excellent as Mrs. Callender; and Miss Cora Deane makes a charming Polly Love.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—The Five Juanitos give a wonderful somersault exhibition; Silbon's performing pony, dogs, and cats are very entertaining; John Watson, in a burlesque jockey act, is funny; Marlo is a first-rate juggler; Cull Pitt and Miss Adele give a smart trick and patter turn; Leicester Cooke is an excellent equestrian; Jenny Alexander proves a clever child comedienne; Recco is very amusing as a burlesque acrobat; Joe Archer is aptly styled "the cheerful chappie"; and excellent pictures are displayed on the Bioscope.

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Nat Travers is the "star" here this week, and is a big favourite with his coster songs; Julia Gilbert is a pleasing comedienne; Saxo, a clever instrumentalist; *The Coster's Christmas Eve*, in which Nat Travers appears with a capital company, is a big success; and Harry Travers sings some good coon songs. The programme concludes with a singing contest, which causes much merriment.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran.—An excellent set of humorous and dramatic pictures this week includes The Shaughraun, A Dressmaker's Dummy, A Wife, Work Made Easy, and Roll Around.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Yukio Tani, the Japanese ju-jitsu wrestler, gives a display of his special talents. Other turns of great importance are the Selbinis, in their pot-pourri cycle performances; the Three Phydoras, in a novel musical act; Princess Pauline, comedienne; Pat Lynch, an expert clog-dancer; Abalo and Hurst, in their comedy act, *The Sport and the Shoeblack;* May Tyler, comedienne and dancer; and J. C. Scatter, comedian. An exhibition of the Alexandroscope is also given.

EMPIRE. — Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun. —The programme here includes the Four Maisanos, who are excellent in their musical act; the Hyde and Cody Trio give a clever acrobatic performance; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard introduce an amusing sketch; the Brothers Lawrence, vocalists and dancers, are well received; Flo Hilton is a clever male impersonator; and Rita and Roma as versatile vaudeville entertainers are good. The Empire pictures are interesting.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The bill this week is headed by the New York Nippers, whose clever comedy and excellent dancing well deserve the reception accorded. Further supporters of an excellent programme are the Arleys, a trio of daring cyclists, who introduce their wonderfully clever performing dogs; Bayne and Hope, in a well-acted dramatic sketch, *An Emperor's Divorce;* Sandy and Carl, comedians and burlesque artists; the Venda Bros., comedy gymnasts; Nellie Martell, comedienne and dancer; and Kempton, described as America's silent comedian.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson is here again with *Rogues and Vagabonds*, a popular play in Grimsby. Mr. Hill-Mitchelson appears in his old character of Nathan Baxter, and is as successful as ever; Mr. Graham Woods acts well as Harry Stanford; Mr. Arthur McCullock is satisfactory in the part of Fernand Delair; Mr. Russell Bogue is excellent as Police-constable Clegg; Mr. Sinclair Holden quaintly fulfils the part of John Lamb; Miss Violet Carlyle acts with distinction as Hilda Jefferies; Miss Alice Barber does well as Vera Laverne; and Miss Mabel Ronald is good as Ben.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—The Poluski Brothers are nightly delighting crowded audiences with their original comedy. They have an inexhaustible fund of very smart patter and stories. Spry and Monti have also a very entertaining comedy turn of a different character; Sterling and Love appear in a diverting vocal and instrumental act combined with good comedy; Edna Latonne is a clever male impersonator; Stelling presents a novel turn, introducing a highly-trained dog; Fred Curran has some capital songs; and Lucy Coventry is a pleasing comedienne and dancer.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—An excellent bill of fare drew large audiences this week. Charles Woodward is a capital comedian; Lomar, the man monkey, gives an astonishing turn; mirth-provoking is the fun provided by the Gren Trio; Kinnard proves an expert magician; Lucie Barnard favours with illustrated songs; Lillie Luraine is a talented brass instrumentalist; and Charles Verner scores with his songs. A new and clever turn is provided by Vivianna and company in a dancing scena, *The Toy Shop*. Raymond's Bio-tableaux add to the enjoyment of the evening.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*The Gay Gordons* is playing to crowded houses. Miss Zena Dare is the Peggy Quainton, and her interpretation of the part is giving universal satisfaction; Mr. Stanley Brett makes a fine Angus Græme, and infuses plenty of life and dash into the part; Mr. Edward Lewis is the comic old showman, Nervy Natt; Mr. Ernest Torrence makes a typical American as Andrew Quainton; Mr. Wilfred Norman plays remarkably well as Edmund Simmons; Miss Madge Vincent is a decided success as Victoria Siddons; Miss Nellie Dade's Charlotte Siddons (the old showman's wife) is a talented performance; and the minor parts are well filled. The play is elaborately put on, and the dresses are superb.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—The Elliott Savonas are proving a big attraction at the Grand this week with their wonderful musical scena, *The Palace of Orpheus*. Bliss and Bliss are two smart patter comedians; Miss Florence is successful in illustrated songs; Senorita Elvina is a graceful gymnast; Great Scott gives a marvellous performance whilst balanced on an upright ladder; and Macdonald and Huntingdon please as American vaudeville entertainers. Leedam Stanley, humorist, and a series of good pictures complete.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Florrie Forde is making a big hit here this week with her popular chorus songs; Edie Endon is a smart dancer; the Three Prestons appear in *The Liftman's Rise;* Lawrence Barclay, comedian, meets with approval; the Smythsons are successful in *Love Germs;* Clifton and Gibson are capable comedians; the Garden Quintette are loudly applauded for their series of costume dances; and good pictures are shown on Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Harry Radford and Mlle. Valentine are clever and amusing in their comedy juggling business; Wilson Hallet is mirth-provoking in his mimicry of children; the Macdonalds contribute an amusing musical act; Walter Emerson's comic songs go well; Mr. Chas. Rose is a smart clog-dancer; Howard and Collinson are entertaining in their comedy act; Mr. Chas. Russell's song-scena, "1854," in which he has the assistance of some local veterans, goes well; Allis and Cassati are good in a musical and cross-talk turn; and the Bioscope shows some interesting films.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*Captain Drew on Leave* is being played here by Miss Norah Garton's company. Miss Cynthia Brooke plays Mrs. Moxon most naturally; Mr. Chas. B. Vaughan is an entrancing Captain Drew; Miss Nora Garton as Miss Mills gives a whole-hearted rendering of a coquettish heiress; George Moxon as presented by Mr. Tom Mowbray is a capital part; Mr. Willox Cadogan plays Ernest White cleverly; Mr. Gerald Venning as Gerald is highly commendable; and Miss Lydia Haywood makes a clever maid. *Cut Off With a Shilling* precedes.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—A capital programme is headed by Harry Champion, comedian, who pays his first visit to Hanley. Miss Helen Roberts is causing a sensation with her dances; Cissie Curlette is a success with her charming songs; Russell Brandow, a coloured comedian, dances finely; the Vasilescu troupe are clever on the bars; the Grand pictures show scenes in the Isle of St. Kilda; Heeley and Meeley appear with success; the Norman and Leonard Trio, with *The Itinerant*, are favourably received; and the Fitzroys, gymnasts, are graceful and clever.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—The principal pictures here are Stickfast, An Attractive Catch, The Pony Express Rider, Black-Eyed Susan, Hostler Joe, Magic Fertiliser, and The Coster Seedsman. Geo. Castrey is a light comedian with a good style.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company appeared in *The Belle of New York*. Mr. James A. Watts as Harry Bronson is pleasant and unforced; Miss Hebe Kneller did well as Violet Gray; and Miss Dorothy Doria played vivaciously as Fifi. Mr. Frank Lawton, in his whistling sketch, evoked loud plaudits; Mr. Arthur Ricketts as Harry Bronson's father played well; and Mr. Joseph R. Tate as the stolid and phlegmatic lunatic made much of his laughter-moving opportunities. Miss Florence Hersee acted with abandon and verve. During the remaining three nights of the week Mr. Leonard Boyne and his company in *Raffles* occupied the boards.

THE KURSAAL.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—Miss Violet Elliott is the vocalist here this week, and the Munograph is showing new films with three changes during the week. On Wednesday the last Symphony Concert of the season is announced, under the bâton of Mr. P. Tas, of the Duke of Devonshire's orchestra. On Saturday afternoon Fritz Kreisler is announced to give a violin recital.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. Ferrier.—Pictures are highly approved of here, the house being packed.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. James Welch's company made a return visit here on Monday in the farce *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. Henry J. Ford filled the rôle of Sir Guy very acceptably; Miss Bruce Joy was a pleasing Lady Rowens; Mr. Talbot Homewood again sustained his rôle as Wittle; Mr. Reginald Hunter was good as the Seneschal Barker; Mr. Cecil Clayton was effective as Widdicome, the jester; Miss Bessie Walters made a pleasing appearance as Alice Barker; and the Jew and Jewess had capable representatives respectively in Mr. Vernon Sansbury and Miss Phyllis Beck. Mr. George Rowlands was equal to the requirements of Sir Bryan Ballymote, and a good character impersonation was supplied by Mr. William Lockhart as the Rev. Peter Pottleberry. *The Wrong Side of the Road* preceded the farce, the characters being sustained by Mr. Cecil Clayton and Miss Phyllis Beck. For Thursday Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company was billed in *The Beloved Vagabond*.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. R. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Lily Wood, a pleasing singer, opens a good programme. Alpho gives an amusing ventriloquial sketch; the subjects presented by the Hipposcope are quite up to date; Continental songs and dances are well illustrated by the Figaros; Rud Whitworth gives a clever musical and comedy act; Peggy Pryde's songs and patter create great merriment; Hal Chapter, eccentric comedian, wins great applause; and a good turn is given by Fyne and Hurley as the coster and the Dude.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Miss Ethel Vibert possesses a powerful contralto; Mr. J. D. Hunter and his alert little company appear in a light-hearted trifle, *A Quiet Family*, which excites great merriment; Mr. Thornley Dodge is very clever in his drawing-room entertainment entitled *A Musical Comedy;* the wonderful memory of Datas arouses much discussion; the Zedoras are particularly good in their acrobatic feats; and Payne's interesting Bioscope concludes.

About six weeks ago I was suffering with

PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE,

brought on probably by painting my face for my eccentric business. I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

VANISHED LIKE MAGIC,

and the scurf is entirely gone. I cannot tell you how thankful I am at having taken "Clarke's Blood Mixture," and I shall recommend it to everybody, as I think it only right that such a remedy should be known.—(Signed) JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnny," Llandudno's Popular Comedian, Thorndale, Llandudno, Feb. 24, 1908.

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the World-famed Blood Purifier, is an invaluable Remedy for all Skin and Blood Diseases, such as Eczema, Scrofula, Scurvy, Bad Legs, Ulcers, Abscesses, Boils, Pimples, Sores and Eruptions of all kinds, Glandular Swellings, Blood Poison, Rheumatism, Gout, &c. It has over Forty Years' reputation, and thousands of wonderful cures have been effected by it.

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnnie," Llandudno's Popular Comedian (from a photo.).

PUBLIC HALL.—The People's Picture Co. continues its attractive entertainment here under the management of Mr. Hy. Gray. The interest of the pictures is enhanced by the lecturer's (Mr. Clement Hurst) well-chosen descriptions. The Weimars on the elevated wire cause diversion; and Charlse Neiman contributes an instrumental and vocal turn.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Under the direction of Mr. D'Arcy Clayton, the Gipsies and their Jester are securing good audiences. Mr. Will Gane as the Jester is particularly good. The speeches and medley by Mr. Edgar Berte and the dancing of Miss Inez du Buisson are attractive items of the entertainment.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. P. Barnsley.—A welcome return visit is being paid by Mr. Alfred Cross and company in *The Manxman*. Foremost amongst an excellent company is Mr. Harold B. Lewis as Philip Christian, whose fine stage presence and clear, telling voice make him an artist of exceptional worth. As Pete Mr. Alfred Cross plays naturally and is very convincing; Miss Minnie Watersford as Kate has scope for the display of emotional acting in a trying part; Mr. Ernest Allen makes a decided hit in the humorous part of Monty; Mr. Fred Charles is excellent as Ross Christian; and the same may be said of the Cæsar Cregeen of Mr. Fred Mace. Mr. W. Dewhurst is highly amusing as Professor Mawley.

HORWICH.—NEW PRINCES'.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—*The Woman from Russia*, presented by Miss Adria Hill and Robert Ayrton's company, forms the attraction here. Miss Adria Hill portrays Wanda Sonorovitch in artistic style; Miss F. Sorsby played Edith with feeling; Miss Maude St. John made an excellent impression as Mary Ann Smith; the manly characteristics of Frank Haldane were shown to advantage by Mr. Robert Ayrton; and the Hon. Reginald Fitzgerald was capitally rendered by Mr. Basil Mitchell. Captain Alexis Zarviski had an excellent exponent in Mr. Max Coutts; Mr. Richard Pitt as Frank's gouty father was amusing; Mr. Jas. Firth's Jerry Moriarity causes plenty of fun; and the Jew, Ezra Caroni, was well represented by Mr. G. Mortimer Hancock. Mr. Harry Elliston as Wun-Hi, a Celestial, was received with shrieks of laughter. *Under Two Flags* was billed for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas J. Phillips.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' smart musical comedy, *The Gay Gordons*, met with a cordial reception on its first appearance here on Monday. Miss Maie Ash was charming in her dainty freshness and tireless vivacity as Peggy Quainton; Mr. Frank Lincoln rattled through his work as Angus Graeme with irresistible verve; Mr. Tom Graves contributed materially to the success by his quaint humour as Nervy Nat; Mr. Edward Nainby was diverting in his inanity as Edmund Siddons; Mr. Norman Forrest was adequate as Corporal John Smith; and Miss Nellie Lonnen and Miss Ida Laurie were both good as the two Siddons ladies.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The top turn on this week's bill, Alexandre and Hughes, is one of the most polished bits of comedy seen here for a long time, and the music is equal to the humour. Others appearing are Dolly and Madge McCalla, duettists and dancers; Sergeant Pickering, on his well-trained mare Ruby; Bert Rowe and Jim Roe, comedians; James Stewart, comedian on the piano; H. C. Lovell and company in a farcette entitled *Mam'selle Pom Pom;* Ray and Calden, comedians and dancers; the Enrico Martialo Trio, in a clever juggling turn; and new films on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The attraction this week has been *The Girl Behind the Counter*, which is in a large measure securing the same patronage as it did on the last occasion it was produced in Hull, when record business was done. Amongst the company responsible for the success gained is Mr. Kennedy Allen as General Willoughby; Winnie finds an admirable representative at the hands of Miss Ida Stratham; the Mons. Duval of Mr. Claude Dampier is a characteristic study of the Gaul; the Dudds of Mr. Fredk. Park is a noteworthy performance; and Mr. Sam Lockridge plays the part of Charles Chetwyn with distinction.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—*Dear Old Charlie*, a comedy new to Hull, is creating a very favourable impression. The husband is a rôle that suits Mr. Geo. Lestocq; nothing could have been better than the Dumphie and Peploe of Mr. R. S. Trelawney and Mr. C. Douglas Cox; Miss Leonora Braham is effectively cast as Mrs. Fishbourne; Miss Edith Hall wins admiration as Charlie's wife; and the rest of the comedy is well cast.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Village Blacksmith* is the play for this audience, and the attractions of it are enhanced by the presence in the cast of Mr. Sam Livesey, who has all the qualities which go to make a success. Mr. Albert Sinclair is well suited as Captain Leo, and the wrestling episode is well done. Miss Maggie Edwards plays with distinction the rôle of the blacksmith's wife, and Miss Cissie Le Grande is the Ruth Perkins. *The Village Blacksmith* is a play always certain of a good welcome on its return visits.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Messrs. F. Marriott-Watson and Sanderson Moffat and company are appearing here in *What a Woman Did*. Mr. Moffat gives a capital impersonation of Conrad de L'Orme; and Miss Florence E. Florence as Elise de L'Orme is a recided success. Mr. C. Elton Morgan as Fritz is highly amusing; and is ably assisted by Miss Norah Waylett as Nannette. Mr. Owen Edwin is a quaint Peter Pippin; La Papillon is admirably represented by Miss Phillis Hamilton; Mr. F. Marriott-Watson makes an excellent villain as Marquis de Viray; and his accomplice, Black Piton, is in the hands of Mr. Reg. Kloof. The Clancy Girls are expert dancers, and the songs sung by the various artists meet with approval.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—The three nights' visit of George Duval and Cosmo Gordon Lennox's company in the delightful comedy of *Angela* has given much pleasure to good audiences. The acting of Miss Florence Glossop Harris in the title-rôle met with the appreciation it so richly deserved. Much was expected from Miss Harris, and her grace and resource in a part of some difficulty realised every anticipation. Mr. Frank Cellier as Richard Evesham was in excellent form; Miss Janet Woram was a skilful Mary Pemariage; the part of Christopher Keswick was in the hands of Mr. Arthur Goodsall; and Mr. Horace Sinclair provoked much laughter as Bithers.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Fred Land is paying a return visit this week, and is again popular with new and catchy songs. Nat Watkins and Alec Lyner are eccentric dancers of merit; Corman's Juveniles (ten in number) are a clever and pleasing troupe; their dances of old time, including the Minuet in court costumes, are very pretty and picturesque. Mary Ohms has a well-trained circus of ponies, bears, donkeys, and monkeys; Miss Rose Hamilton is a mimic of quite exceptional ability, and sings equally well; the Richards Trio have some very novel acrobatic feats; and Hugh Cedar and Edward Algar, in an amusing sketch entitled *Ye Dayes of Old*, and several films on the Bioscope complete the bill.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company, in *The Breed of the Treshams*, is here. Mr. Sydney Bland proves himself a capable actor in the part of Lieut. Reresby; and Miss Grace Harlington gives a good account of that of Batty. Mr. Alfred Holles supplies a spirited portrayal of Viscount Dorsington; Mr. W. R. Winning is well placed as Colonel the Hon. Clement Hungerford; Mr. G. Traill is excellent as Colonel Sir Henry Curwen; while Mr. Howard Brennan is a meritorious Francis Tresham. Miss Mildred Hodson is a charming and powerful Margaret; and the rest of the parts are in good hands. Mounting and dresses are excellent.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—The principal feature of this week's programme is an original dancing scena by the Viviana company, entitled *The Toy Shop*. The salesman is a clever acrobat, and the girls who pose as dolls give some characteristic dances. Other turns are contributed by Charles Woodward, a powerful voiced comedian, whose patter was much applauded; Charles Verner, vocalist; Margaret Allwood, vocalist; Lomas, the man monkey; Kinnard, magician; Marie Bernard, in illustrated songs; and Lillie Luraine, cornet player. The performance terminates with Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

KENDAL.—ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—Managers, Messrs. Butler and Chorley.—Miss Nora Carton's company gives a pleasing interpretation of that charming comedy *Captain Drew on Leave*. Additional interest was taken in the play locally owing to Miss Carton being the widow of a former Liberal candidate for this constituency. The character of Miss Mills is pleasingly delineated by Miss Carton; Miss Cynthia Brooks faithfully portrays Mr. Moxon; and the remaining parts are in capable hands. The dresses have been specially designed, and are very attractive.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Miss Grace Warner's company opened here on Monday with *The Scarlet Clue*. Miss Warner presents a thoroughly artistic rendering of the character of Madame La Lune; Mr. T. O'Brien is excellent as the twin brothers, Jack and Harry Esmond; and Mr. George Gordon gives a powerful performance as Michael Stanton.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—On Monday Mr. Julius Booth's No. 1 company opened a week's engagement in *Monte Cristo*. In the rôle of Edmond Dantés Mr. Julius Booth excels; and Mr. Howard Brenan ably portrays the part of Nortier. Danglars is in the capable hands of Mr. H. Bannister; Mercedes is artistically played by Miss Lelia Drummond; and Miss Jessie Blake as Sophie Danglars does well.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's No. 1 company has been here this week with *The Old Folks at Home*. As Lady Howard Kenilworth Miss Mary Fulton acted with a fine sense of light and shade; Mr. Frank Liston powerfully sustained the rôle of the dissolute husband; Mr. Aidan Lovett played with conviction the part of Andrew Ross; and the Christopher Robin of Mr. Henry Nelson and the Martha Robin of Miss Clara Santley were alike excellent. Mr. Frank Caffrey introduced the humorous vein as Ben Jolly; and as Patricia Bathurst Miss Kate Froud acted a difficult part well.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Mr. Henry Coutts is the centre of attraction this week with a sketch entitled *Outflanked*, in which he is responsible for some really clever quick changes; Joe Humphreys, with some capital songs; Mr. W. H. Smart, comedian; Orlando, a good tenor; Mr. Geo. A. Park, vocalist; Mr. Will Harris, comedian; Yvonne Lamor, comedienne; Pauline Du Barrie, male impersonator; and Miss Kitty Lavigne, comedienne and dancer, are also on the bill.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—The attraction for the first three nights this week was Mr. Ed. Graham Falcon's company in *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Tom Taylor-Vinson appeared with success as Mr. Marsland; his nephew, Harry Marsland, was played by Mr. Ben Barnett; whilst Mr. Chas. Simms made the most of Mr. Cattermole. The parts of Douglas Cattermole and the Rev. Robert Spalding could not have been in better hands than those of Mr. Wentworth Fane and Mr. Cyril Price-Evans. Miss Josephine Richards gave an excellent portrayal of Edith Marsland; Miss Winifred Williamson won favour as Eva Webster; and the characters of Mrs. Stead and Miss Ashford were respectively well depicted by Miss Camilla Norrys and Miss Sybil Chester. *The Power of the Cross* is billed for the remaining three nights for Mr. Lingford Carson's company.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Another interesting programme is arranged this week, with Pip Powell and Katie Vasey at the top in a sketch, *The Perfect Woman*. Mrs. Hugh de Beera and company in a scena, "An Old-English Rose Garden," has a great reception, and is recalled nightly; the Bros Obo are very smart comedians; and the De Wynne Bros. are clever equilibrists. Mr. George Reeves, comedian; Frances Drew, burlesque artist; and the Onyx Duo, in a quick-change act, all do well; and the Hippograph depicting Baby and the Ne'er-do-well and Making a Bad Acquaintance cause roars of laughter.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—Davis and Gledhill are this week topping the bill in their wonderful entertainment of motor and cycle racing on a patent track, a truly remarkable performance. The Foy Bros. keep the house in a continual roar of laughter by their comedy absurdity, *Pat in China*. Another entertaining item is the dramatic episode entitled *Her Good Name*, presented by Miss Diana Hope and company with the greatest credit. The other turns include Halma, a Scottish society juggler; Ted Saunders, mimic; and Marie Neilson, expert dancer. The Premier Imperial Pictures also prove interesting.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Ellaline Terriss present their latest success, *The Gay Gordons*, this week, and the entertainment is thoroughly enjoyed by crowded houses. Mr. Hicks gives a characteristic performance as Angus Graeme, his clever work arousing continual merriment. Miss Terriss is the recipient of much enthusiastic approval for a dainty and artistic effort as Peggy Quainton. The remainder of the company are a capable lot, and the production is dressed and staged in exquisite style.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—A well-staged drama, *Her Road to Ruin*, is the attraction at this theatre, and the engagement proves a popular one. The hero, Frank Temple, is played in convincing style by Mr. Henry Woolston; a particularly good study is that of Jess Willoughby by Miss Beatrice Edwards; whilst Mr. Dane Clarke as the Bishop leaves but little to be desired. Mr. Alex Bradley handles the rôle of Philip Hardy in clever style.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—Harry Randall heads a strong programme here, and his rendering of several new items vastly pleases his numerous admirers. Another popular humorist, Tom Foy, is high in favour with his funny item, *The Yorkshire Lad in London;* Nell Emerald scores a conspicuous success with a vivacious turn; trick cycling extraordinary by the Danedin Troupe is a much-applauded feature; Lee and Bentley repeat previous successes with a well-acted sketch; Ouida McDermott is a popular actress-vocalist; and fine turns by the Musical Schafers, Rhoda Paul, and Sidney Stern are each enthusiastically received.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—J. Willard and company score a success here with a dramatic item, *The Ace of Hearts;* Harry Weldon is having the usual good time; whilst the Haydees, with acceptable comedy; Les Ados, in a clever Continental speciality; and Tiny Arnold, the diminutive vocalist, also render capital support.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Freddie French and company are doing a diverting entertainment here under the title of *The Policeman's Ballet*, and evoke frequent laughs; Kelly and Agnes are also popular fun purveyors. The Three Braggs have an acrobatic act that arouses enthusiasm; a tumbling and balancing act by the Maximilian Trio is well received; whilst other strong turns are the Society Quartette, in clever song and dance; Minnie Love, the Wallys, Sam Thomson, and Ruby Norton.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—A neat comedy sketch, *Wanted, a Wife*, is the principal turn at this popular hall, Mr. Leslie Clare, whose company it is, playing the leading part in good style. The Fimans are also vastly amusing in a humorous sketch. Ernest Clifford is making a big success with song and dance; Edie Veno is again a favourite; a clever speciality by Elvio, Ross, and Elvio is much enjoyed; and of the rest, Johnny Dwyer and Florence Deighton are particularly successful.

ALBERT HALL.—Ibsen's remarkable play *Ghosts* was presented at this hall on Monday evening to a large and critical audience by Mr. Harold V. Neilson's company. Mr. Neilson's conception of Oswald Alving was a telling and effective one, and made a big impression; Mrs. Theodore Wright is to be credited with a really accomplished portrayal of Mrs. Alving, a large share of the honours of the evening falling to her lot; Mr. Dickson Moffat made the rôle of Pastor Manders very convincing; some fine work was done by Miss Constance Bromley as Regina; and Mr. Orlando Barnett's Engstrand was also a most satisfactory effort.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton.—A rich musical treat is being offered the patrons of this theatre this week, by the welcome return engagement of the famous Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, which is under the direction of Mr. Walter Van Noorden. The répertoire for the week includes *Carmen, Faust, Bohemian Girl, Il Trovatore, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci,* and *Maritana. Carmen* was presented on Monday. Miss Doris Woodall both sang and acted delightfully in the title-rôle; Mr. Edmund Davies scored a success as Don José; Mr. Charles Victor as Escamillo made an excellent impression; Mr. Frederick Clendon was very good as Dancairo; Miss Bessie Cartwright, as Micaela, sang exceedingly well; and both Miss Christine Ritz, as Mercedes, and Miss Annie Walker, as Frasquita, may be highly commended. The orchestra and chorus, under the conductorship of Mr. Walter Van Noorden, left nothing to be desired. On Tuesday evening *Faust* was presented.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—*A Sister's Sin*, presented by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company, provides the attraction here this week. Mr. Cecil A. Olgar as Harold Raymond, and Miss Violet Ingram as Minnie Hastings play well; and Mr. Andrew Money is capital as George Oakley. Both Miss Beryl Ravenswood as Chazel and Miss Florence Trevoir as Redempta do well; Miss Mabel Ray as May Raymond and Miss Violet Bales as Jack are to be complimented on meritorious portrayals.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Topping this week's excellent programme are Clark and Hamilton; the Boisset Troupe (Frank and Albert and company) are again arousing merriment with *The Bricklayers;* Happy Tom Parker, a clever dancer, is popular; May Mars well maintains her favouritism; Edie King, in her clever quick-change vocal and dancing act is rewarded with much applause; the Crown Trio of speciality vocalists are good; the Sisters Grovini give a smart and graceful acrobatic performance; Valerie De Lacy has some taking illustrated songs; and the Bioscope completes.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrenc.—A hit being made here this week by Marguerite Broadfoote, in taking songs; Mr. N. W. Phillips and company are a special and popular feature in the military drama *A Soldier's Dishonour* and the amusing comedietta *The Troubles of a Landlady;* Mlle. Bertenelli gives a clever performance on the golden globe; the Milton Trio of vocalists, dancers, and paper manipulators are scoring a success; Arthur Harris is a popular descriptive vocalist; Ethel Schaffer goes well with illustrated songs; Jim Cheetham is a boy whistler of merit; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is popular.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The leading moving pictures this week are The Nihilists, Animated Snowballs, Too Old to Work, The Lady's Companion, and The Music Teacher, which are interspersed with turns by Bert Rose, vocalist; the Brothers Dodge, comedians and dancers; and Jack Miller, vocalist. An open dancing competition is being introduced for the first time here this week.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Mr. T. G. Bailey's new domestic drama *Love Rules the World* is presented by Mr. Sidney Rennef and his company. Mr. Richard Vane and Miss Gertrude Sterroll, as the terribly tried hero and heroine, have strong emotional rôles, wherein both display ability; as a pair of thoroughly villainous adventurers Mr. Stephen Langton and Miss Constance Medwyn succeed in drawing forth hearty execrations from the audience; the house is kept in irrepressible mirth by the humour of Mr. Walter Dale and Miss Kitty Russell; Miss Annie Brunette submits a clever character study of Mother Grimble; Mr. Matt Russell does well as Farmer Carruthers; Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne merits high commendation for his rendering of Paul; and in the pathetic part of Jim Dikey Mr. Rennef himself appears with conspicuous success.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company have been here this week with popular selections from their répertoire. On Monday evening *Lohengrin* was staged, and produced with that completeness of detail which is a special feature of anything emanating from this combination of artists. The fine orchestration, supplied by forty-five performers, under the bâton of Herr Richard Eckhold, proved one of the great features of the evening's enjoyment, and it was generally conceded that Wagner's magnificent and impressive music was most skilfully interpreted by them. Mr. Philip Brozel in the title-rôle sang with an ease and clearness of enunciation that was exceedingly pleasing to the ear; and Mme. De Vere Sapio as Elsa looked charming, acted gracefully, and, being in good voice, rendered her numbers with rich artistic effect. Much credit was certainly due to Miss Marie Louise Roger for her finished portrait of Ortrud. Both as an actress and vocalist she earned honours, her round, clear, telling contralto voice being listened to with deep interest; Mr. William Dever made an imposing and dramatic Frederick; Mr. Charles Magrath proved a dignified King; and Mr. R. Cliffe did justice to the rôle of the Herald. Other operas of the week were *Carmen* (with Mlle. de Lussan and Mr. Seth Hughes), *The Meistersingers* (the first time by this company, Miss Kate Anderson and Mr. Brozel being in the principal parts), *Faust* (Mme. Sapio and Mr. Louis Laurier), *Madame Butterfly* (Mme. Fanny Moody and Mr. Seth Hughes), *Tannhäuser* Mme. Sapio and Mr. Laurier), and *The Bohemian Girl* (Miss Kate Anderson and Mr. Hughes).

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh put in a second week here, presenting *The Walls of Jericho*, and on Wednesday, by special desire, *The Arm of the Law*, the latter being preceded by a curtain raiser, *A Marriage Has Been Arranged*. In the first-named piece, which was particularly enjoyed, Mr. Bourchier gave his Jack Frobisher with all its old-time force, and held his audience at the point where he assumed his proper station and authority in his own house. Miss Vanbrugh as his wife showed that delicacy of movement and refined touch which proves the accomplished actress, and the appreciation of her efforts evinced by the audience was very flattering. Worthy support also came from Mr. Arthur Whitby (the Marquis of Steventon), Mr. Leon Quartermain (Hankey Bannister), Mr. Charles Bryant (Harry Dallas), Miss Pamela Gaythorne (Lucy), and Miss Henrietta Watson (Lady Westerby).

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The attraction here during the week was *Second to None*, presented by Mr. T. Edward Ward's principal company, and it must be said that the bright military play met with acceptance. As Sir Reginald Greystone Mr. Theo Balfour acted with keen judgment; Mr. Frederick F. Lloyd made a powerful Captain Mannering; Mr. J. G. Maine ably represented Sergeant Horseman; Miss Clarrie Yandell proved a humorous Norah; good assistance in the comedy came from Mr. Allan Carruthers, as Joe Ruggles; and other well-held parts were Lieut. Ballater (Mr. Arthur D. Layland), Harry Wilding (Mr. Leonard Williams), Nell Greystone (Miss Dorothy Clifton), and Private Flutter (Mr. Louis Esmonde). The mounting of the drama was good.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Here this week we have had Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company with *From Slave to Princess*, which made its first appearance in Liverpool. The play, which was ably presented, was received with every mark of appreciation. As the Slave Miss Dorothy Lart acted with much judgment, and earned applause; the Princess Claudia of Miss Agnes Verity was full of dramatic intensity; Mr. Austin Milroy made a Manly Prince Julian; Mr. H. Benson caused a deal of humour as Patrick O'Brien; Mr. Victor Gardom creditably filled the rôle of King Adrian; Mr. Arthur Elwyn gave a capital study of the traitor Bardoni; and Mr. Dermont Fitzgibbon afforded satisfaction with his Lieut. Alexis.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Vesta Tilley has been the shining star here this week, and thousands of her admirers have flocked, as usual, to see her; the Donaldson Brothers, along with their company, which included Fred Weedon and Fred Hunter, presented a smart burlesque comedy, *Sports in a Jungle*, which pleased generally; Carrie Laurie's kindergarten combination gave a pretty comedy speciality, *A Model School;* Marie Young showed much capability with her character sketches from well-known authors; the Japanese mimic, Takio, had a turn that was much appreciated; Johnson and Bert gave a novel act, entitled *A Queer Customer;* Bob Hamilton, as a Scotch comedian, was very diverting; the Narow Brothers were particularly eccentric comedians on wheels; and Norah Emerald, soubrette and dancer, also appeared.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—The attraction here this week has been Melville's *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Heading the bill here we have had Florrie Gallimore, who is popular at this north-end house. Her latest songs were cordially appreciated. The particularly smart all-round show given by Vasco, "the mad musician," proved one of the most acceptable items on the programme; Clown Barker, with his comedy animal act, pleased as well as ever; Mlle. Alexandra and Mons. Bertie presented a refined aerial act, *After the Ball;* as patter comedians and dancers Celby and Myers were a treat; Arthur Woodville had some very funny songs and danced cleverly; and other good turns came from Josie Delaine, soubrette and dancer; Curwen and Bell, burlesque artists; and Ivy Aberdare, comedienne and dancer.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—In big type here this week has been Walter C. Kelly, who made his first appearance out of London. As a comedian he proved a treat, and kept his audience in roars of laughter. The merry musical fantasy, *The Capture of Venus*, presented by J. C. Piddock and company, earned hearty approval; Mlle. Renee gave a refined drawing-room musical act, which gained for her general approbation; some remarkable work on the double trapeze was performed by Sibb and Sibb; the three Sisters Tree had a neat "hunting" act; Ted Karno and company caused great laughter with their sketch, *The Merry Carpenters;* Nash and Noel were a couple of versatile comedians and dancers; and the list also contained the names of Beaty and Blanche, duettists and dancers; Richard Taylor, the whistling ventriloquist; and the Three Krags, gymnasts.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The stock dramatic company here have this week given *The Curse of Crime*, from the pen of Julian Rochefort. Mr. David G. Noble made a manly Harry Sterling; as the scoundrel Dick Blight Mr. Sydney Grant played with dramatic force; Mr. Robb Wilton proved a particularly humorous Phil Carney; Miss Florence Palmer submitted a sympathetic Ruth Blight; the rôle of Marie Heartley was undertaken in able manner by the accomplished Miss Lilian Radbourne; and crediable were the efforts of Messrs. Cecil Ravenswood (Mr. Oppenheim), R. Seath Innes (the ferret), Leo Montgomery (Fenton), Miss Florence Cameron (Sally Jinks), and Miss Emmie Edingale (Mother Smith). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the Bioscope pictures shown here the following artists appeared during the week:—J. H. Ellis, eccentric comedian; and Hemel and Hedis, banjoists.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Heading a "taking" bill here this week was Arthur Roberts, with his screamingly funny sketch, *Till Sunday*, which proved immensely enjoyable. Among his supporters were Messrs. H. Rokeby, H. J. Worth, Harry Huddlestone, Miss May Hallett, and Miss Ruby Celeste. J. W. Rowley had a good reception for his latest songs; Jennie Johns proved a general favourite, particularly with her catchy number, "A middy in the King's Navy"; the comedy sketch entitled *Her Birthday*, given by Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas, met with as much acceptance as ever; Stewart and Morgan had a neat vocal item, "Leaving Ireland"; Walter King, "the doleful one," raised much laughter; the Jackley Trio of acrobats gave a skilful entertainment; and contributions also came from the Three Welsh Girls, with harmonised illustrated songs; and the Five Olracs, ragtime acrobats.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Good business continues to be done at this newly-erected place. Heading the programme this week was *The Isle of Ooma*, a bright comic opera sustained by Arthur Rigby and company. It was beautifully put on, and met with cordial approval. Nat Clifford, "the nimble one," was very amusing; Fanny Robina, a prime favourite, brought new business; Florry Cooper pleased exceedingly, particulrly with her song, "Smile, smile, smile"; a smart quick-change comedy act was gone through by the Three Behans; Langslow exhibited remarkable skill in the matter of balancing; Stacey and Williams proved diverting with their comedy; Shavo introduced some funny juggling, which caused endless laughter; and Billy Bint, comedian, also appeared.

LLANDUDNO.—PIER PAVILION.—Secretary, Mr. S. Hughes.—The grand special concerts finished on Saturday, Mme. Blanche Marchesi being the vocalist. Mr. A. W. Payne, F.R.C.M., bade farewell to the audience in an appropriate manner, and was the recipient of many tokens of esteem, amongst them being several beautiful floral baskets.

HIPPODROME ROLLER SKATING RINK.—A contest took place here on the 24th ult. for prizes for the best couples at graceful skating and "two-step." An enormous audience applauded the winners.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Manager and Lessee, Mr. J. Ritson.—For three nights Miss Lydia Donovan's company appeared here in *Niobe*. Mr. C. Quinton Fulford ably acquitted himself as Peter Amos; Mr. Frank Lennard was good as Cornelius Griffin; Mr. Alfred G. Raymond as Philip Innings was well placed; and Miss Lydia Donovan as Niobe was excellent.

LONG EATON.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—This week we have a visit from *The Girl who Went Astray* company. Miss Gwynne Warren in the title-rôle does well; Mr. John B. Shinton is capable as Captain Frank Julian; and Miss Ada Ryder as the persecuted wife is worthy of praise. Miss Mary Dalby is a mirthful Molly Smart; Mr. Fred Lloyd a truculent villain; Mr. R. Ashton a sympathetic doctor; and Mr. Edgar P. Melrose makes up well as the Sergeant.

THE PALACE.—The Metropolitan Picture Co. have good patronage. Miss May St. Clair, Marshall and Forster, and Geo. Larry have a variety programme; while the pictures are as popular as ever. Mr. Alf. H. Smith has two shows nightly. He has comfortably seated the place, and it is well patronised.

LONGTON.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Longton Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. H. Sherriff Howard.—Mr. Wilson Benge and company are paying a return visit with *The Eve of Her Wedding*, and are continuing the excellent business done here recently. As George Tremain Mr. Wilson Benge succeeds admirably in the part; Miss Sadie Smith acts sympathetically as Mavis Leverton; as Renie de Telle Miss Effie Bartlett gives a convincing rendering, and receives excellent support from Mr. Fred Rivers as Giovanni; Mr. Arthur Keand is effective as Squire Leverton; Mr. Henry Danson gives a capital display as Dick Leverton. Mr. Charles Digby as Rudolph Earle and Miss Daisy Cook as Kinkie are responsible for the comedy; whilst Messrs. Wallace Campbell, Charles Groves, jun., Arthur E. Holland, and Miss Amy Milstead complete the cast.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. B. Reed.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company in his own drama of *A Wrecker of Men* has been drawing large houses. Mr. Eric Campbell as Jim Murley gave a powerful interpretation of this exacting part; Mr. Arthur Robinson as Guise Strange, played the part in a finished style; Mr. Arthur Wilson was very good as Reggie Verincourt; whilst Mr. Chas. E. Lovell as Ezekiel Isaac played the Jew with exactness. Eric Melville was safe in the capable hands of Mr. Thompson Carruthers; Mr. Milner Noble was excellent as Pharosaphus; Miss Florence Melrose Millett as Risca Mallison, the wrecker of men, treated the patrons with a sample of fine and powerfully dramatic acting; Miss Gwendoline Talbot was most successful as Doris Melville; and Miss Beatrice Reynolds created a deal of hilarity by her unique portrayal of Vavasole Sloper.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Following a run of musical comedy, the management have again decided to follow on the lines of the Hippodrome by submitting a season of the "variety business." This week Billie Barlow tops the bill, and secures a full measure of success. The bill also includes Enzer, in a juggling act; Miss Clarice, ju-jitsu expert; Marie Goodwyn; the New Macs; Johnny Fuller; the Sisters Dorrell, duettists; and E. V. Barr, a local comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The management here commenced an entirely new season on Monday with many notable improvements, both in seating and lighting. Additional electric lighting of 16,000 candle power has been installed, together with a new and efficient orchestra under Mr. Harry Tidswell. The scenic effects and stage appointments have also been brought thoroughly up to date. On Monday night an audience of upwards of 3,000 warmly signified its approval of the lengthy programme, which was presented with evident taste and skill. Of the beautiful animated subjects special mention should be made of the Isle of Man Motor-car Race (by Warwick), which aroused the greatest interest. Ada and Marvel Webb present a graceful swimming act in the crystal tank; and Brayne and Lloyd created roars of laughter with a genuinely funny sketch, *The Tree of Truth*, seen here for the first time. The Four Dorians present a splendid gymnastic turn; and equally successful are Drum and Major, a comedy couple, whose local topics quickly caught on. Also included in the bill are the Boston Twins, comedians; Whisper, comedy juggler; Beattie Bloom, comedienne; and the Bros. Bright in a smart balancing act. Altogether it is one of the best variety programmes ever presented locally. The management also announce other star turns in all professions.

LUTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Douglas Bruce has brought another drama by Mr. W. Melville, *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Amongst the strong cast must be mentioned the Captain Caversham of Mr. Richard Ferris and the Rev. Robert Everton of Mr. E. Maclean, both very well acted. Mr. Harold Macartney, in the dual rôle of Jack England and Private Johnson, gives a good impersonation. Special praise must also be given to Miss V. E. Lawson as Molly Vernon.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. T. A. Jones and company are here with *When Other Lips*. Mr. T. A. Jones as Ted Daunton handles the rôle with expression and earnestness; Miss Marie Daventry as Ruth Lingley gives an artistic impersonation; Mr. Juan D'Alberti acts with force as Basil Cunningham, and Mr. Cecil H. Raymond is amusing as Tommy Neeles. The part of

their farewell performance being given on Saturday last to an immense audience. A number of presents, some of them of considerable intrinsic value, were handed over the footlights to the several artists. This week Mr. Richard Arthur brings a variety company, including Roulette, whose turn on the rolling globe is much appreciated. Alec Watson is a good coster comedian; Tom Tiddler's patter as a "morose comedian" provokes much laughter; the Kranlees are skilful dancers; and Arthur Stevens contributes song-scenas with considerable success. Miss May Shine pleases with character impersonations and songs, some of which are illustrated, are contributed by Miss Beatrice Hyde and Miss Marie Jones.

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The appearance of Mr. Gus Elen, the coster comedian, is proving very popular, and he has to give three songs at each performance before the audience is satisfied, his "'Arf a pint of ale" and "The wrong 'un's bedroom" being especially well received. Mr. H. A. Moore is a mimic and impersonator with a large répertoire, the selections which he gives including imitations of Mr. Albert Chevalier, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Arthur Roberts, and Mr. R. G. Knowles, the latter quite one of the best we have seen. Maggie Strachan is a clever instrumentalist and vocalist; Russell Carr is a ventriloquist with novel and original methods, his act going with a swing from start to finish. Others appearing are Donald MacDougall, Scotch comedian; the Sisters Du Cane, duettists; Chas. Denton, comedian, and the Bioscope.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—A large audience was attracted here on Monday by the appearance of Mr. Fred Terry and company in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, of which a highly interesting and successful performance was given. Mr. Fred Terry cuts an admirable figure as Sir Percy Blakeney, and is worthily applauded for his picturesque and gallant bearing during the exciting course of events. Valuable assistance is rendered by Mr. Horace Hodges as Chauvelin, Mr. Alfred Kendrick as Sir Andrew Ffoulkes, and quite a host of other capable people in interesting rôles; while as Lady Blakeney (the part usually undertaken by Miss Julia Neilson, who is at present indisposed) Miss Miriam Lewes acts with considerable skill and charm. The staging is, of course, worthy of the play and the company.

PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A capital performance of *Hamlet* was given here on Monday by Mr. H. B. Irving and company, including Miss Dorothea Baird. Mr. Irving's delineation was not quite so melancholy as is the general rule in the title-part; but whether his interpretation may be accepted as correct or not his acting was always cultured and suggestive. As Ophelia Miss Dorothea Baird submitted a very effective performance; and the good effect was further enhanced by the thoughtful and clever acting of Mr. Tom Reynolds as Polonius, Mr. Charles Dodsworth as the First Gravedigger, Mr. Frank Tyars as Claudius, Mr. Eric Maxon as Laertes, Mr. Stanley Howlett as Horatio, Mr. B. A. Pittar as the First Player, and Miss Eily Malyon as Gertrude, Queen of Denmark. On Tuesday *The Lyons Mail* (preceded by *The Sergeant of Hussars*) furnished another enjoyable evening's entertainment, the week's répertoire including also *Louis XI.* and *The Bells*.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—A return visit of *When It Was Dark* is to be recorded here. The play is popular and well known, and the company, Mr. Morton Powell's, is a thoroughly capable one. Mr. Wilfred Lyndon is very good as the Rev. Basil Gortre; Miss Ethel Griffies is quite equal to the demands of the rôle of Gertrude Hunt; as Constantine Schwabe Mr. Haldane Dalton shows great ability; and other good parts are smartly played by Mr. Charles Brandon, Miss Marie Barrett, Mr. George Tawde, and Mr. Jack Armitage. The staging is excellent.

GAIETY THEATRE. — Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—A good performance of Mr. Charles McEvoy's really clever and amusing comedy *David Ballard* was given here on Monday. Mr. B. Iden Payne played the title-rôle with commendable sincerity and understanding; Miss Hilda Bruce Potter was always nice and sympathetic as Mercy; Miss Ada King's Mrs. Ballard was a fine piece of character-acting; and the same may be said of Miss Louise Holbrook's Louisa; while as Percy Ballard Mr. Charles Bibby gave further proof of his sterling value as a comedian; Mr. Jules Shaw played Snodge with excellent spirit; Miss Penelope Wheeler's depiction of the insufferable Gladys was exceptionally fine; and Mr. Lewis Casson gave a pathetic and natural rendering of Ballard, senior. The minor parts of Leo and Rosace were adequately filled by Mr. Leonard Mudie and Mr. Basil Dean. The comedy was preceded by *Reaping the Whirlwind*, a notice of which appears elsewhere.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Mr. Sam Duckworth's company presents here *Her Nameless Child*, a well-written and interesting domestic drama. Miss Pattie Hastings gives a fine and womanly rendering of Phillis Ford, and Mr. J. W. Evelyn is excellent as the blacksmith, Anthony Ford, while Mr. Sidney C. Cranston is well placed as the heroic Arthur Ford. The inevitable schemers, here named Lord and Lady Sibil Woodville, are well impersonated by Mr. Arthur E. Pringle and Miss Mona Gray. Mr. Larry Clements and Miss Renie Douglas provide humour.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—*When London Sleeps* is played here twice nightly by Mr. Lester Collingwood's company with realistic effect. Mr. E. F. Ashby as David Engleheart, Miss Mabel Scudamore as Queenie Carruthers, Mr. Harry Wren as Captain Haynes, and Miss Lilla Wilde as Hilda Carode are the principals, who are well supported by the remainder of a clever cast.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Fred Karno's company in *The Dandy Thieves* provides the top turn here this week. Fred Kitchen is in the cast, and the fun is consequently great. A good and wonderful turn is that of the Ten-Ji Troupe of Japanese illusionists; while excellent business is added by Harry Tate's company in *Motoring*; Little Maudie Francis, child actress and dancer; Walter Curtis, comedian; Duncan and Godfrey, in their capital Cockney sketch, *Me and 'Er*; Howe and Ardie, comedy gymnasts; and the Haytors, comedians and eccentric dancers.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Miss Cecilia Loftus tops the bill here this week in her imitations, and is highly successful, especially in her burlesque of the lady in the car; Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait, and company are exceedingly good in a musical absurdity, *The Tea Shop*; the Belliclair Brothers, American gymnasts, go through a very surprising performance; Fatmah Diard sings in fine style, and is well received; Boccacci's Minstrels, including Signor Francia, the famous mandolinist, are entertaining; Arthur Jefferson presents in good style a farcical comedy sketch, *Home from the Honeymoon*; Rossi Ashton, the London artist and war correspondent, is excellent in his speciality "Song Sketching"; Ruth Lytton, Scotch comedienne, is good; and Johnny Walker is a smart comedian. Pictures complete.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Leo Dryden tops the bill here, presenting his successful song-scenas with a nightly change of items; Harwood's Juveniles are also prominent in their novelty scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve*; the Maddison Brothers give a smart and original boxing act; and other enjoyable items are provided by Bert Bowden, comedian; Scott, Scott, and Co., in *That Awful James*; Ada Jenner, in *The Lady Barber*; Percy Curry, comedian; Arthur Bearle, the popular Lancashire comedian; the Lovelaces, song illustrators; the Colonials, in *Unexpected Guests*; Kirk and Saraski, in a novel acrobatic act; and Kingstone Trollope, in a dramatic monologue, *Unity a Dream*.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Vesta Victoria, the popular and successful comedienne, is the top star here, and is extraordinarily well received. John Tiller's company includes Bob Selvidge in the musical extravaganza *A Trip to Paris*, a bright and enjoyable show; Sammy Shields, the Scotch comedian, goes well, as usual; and other good turns are Phil Rees' Stable Lads, in a novel racing act; Fred Hallam, comedian; Ted Curtis and Piccaninnies; Maudie Ford, comedienne; the Royal Dreadnought Trio of rifle shots; and May Fayre, soubrette.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Miss Meredith Meredos sings several taking songs in her usual delightful manner; Miss Helen Mosley and company are seen to advantage in a neat drawing-room sketch, *Who is Sylvester?* and is ably assisted by Mr. John S. Chamberlain; Fred Herbert, up-to-date vocalist, proves very popular; Eileen Douglas, the musical comedy girl, dances gracefully; Kitty Taylor, a refined comedienne, has a good voice, and sings well; Charles Santon, male soprano, is warmly applauded; Nellie Deane is a very pleasing comedienne; the Sisters Allen are spirited dancers; Nellie Ridgway sings and dances on the slack wire; and Hunter and Mavis are seen in a speciality act of some merit. Ruffell's Imperial pictures complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Harriett Vernon, the well-known burlesque artist, is a great attraction here this week, and sings delightfully in a charming song-scena, "A Yuletide Story." A very entertaining comedy sketch is presented by Rose Atherton's company, entitled *Murphy's Affinity*, in which Cissie Kingsley acts well, and is strongly supported; Fred W. Millis is a good singing ventriloquist; Coverdale and Huxley's Bijou Juveniles are exceedingly smart; Mi Narom is a capable and original comedienne; George Westland, Scotch comedian, has a pleasing style; and other smart turns are supplied by Gala and Norris, in musical duologue, introducing good dancing; Leslie Race, swell comedian; and George Griffin, comedian.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Day.—Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore, assisted by a capable company, present here this week in good style a dramatic episode, *The Usurer*; Ritchie Hearn and company create roars of laughter with *The Village Fire Brigade*; and the Milsted-Bell Trio are highly amusing in a "natural" comedietta, *Three Sharps in a Flat*. The Carney Brothers are good in their vocal scena *Brothers*; one, Billy Farrell, is an entertaining "coon"; Ajax and George, in a very clever gymnastic act, are well received; Lily Hayes dances neatly; whilst other good turns are those of the Sisters Lotus, duettists and harmony vocalists; the Sages, burlesque artists and dancers; and Fred Athalan, a clever head-balancer.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie.—An excellent programme, as usual, is offered here. Miss Gertrude Howarth has a fine contralto voice; Mr. Herbert Uzielli, tenor, sings well; Mr. Fred Field, comedian, proves very popular; Maynard Dakin is a smart entertainer; and James A. Lowe is good at the piano. Mr. Wilford Woodward, acting as deputy for Miss Betty Green, comedienne and dancer (indisposed), contributed a good item.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here with *The Christian*. Miss Margery Fayne gives a clever interpretation of Glory Quayle; Mr. P. Geodge Twyman as John Storm is dignified and impressive; Mr. Edward Ouston makes an excellent Drake; and Mr. G. Montague Lane ably depicts the character of Lord Robert Ure. Mr. J. H. Batson as Father Lamplugh is all that could be desired; Mr. William Mallalieu makes a capital Archdeacon Wealthy, and Mr. Max Wakeman is successful as Paul. Miss Gladys Vernon as Polly Love is pathetic and convincing, and Miss Alice Maude is a delightful Mrs. Callender.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Menotti is a source of attraction in his act on the wire; an amusing sketch, *The Second Mrs. Chester*, is presented by Mr. S. Bedford and company; the Seymours are clever equilibrists; and other successful turns are provided by Hewson's Æolians; Almon, the upside down marvel; Lily Gaston, comedienne and dancer; and Yeager and Dacosta, the Blackville Duo. The Biograph, showing some good pictures, complete the bill.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—Mr. Coleman Davies's company presented on Monday the drama *Beneath the Stars*. Stephen Harcourt was played in breezy style by Mr. Hugh Macdonald; Mr. B. Halley was capital as Matthew Marsden, the victimised farmer; Lord Sylvester had a sympathetic representative in Mr. Harry Reynolds; Messrs. Terry Davies and Arthur Prescott sufficiently emphasised the wickedness of Major Blonson and the wily Silas Clipper respectively; Mr. Coleman Davies, in the amusing part of Jemmy Hopblossom, made himself very popular, as did his rustic sweetheart, Becky Wiggins, ably played by Miss Eunice Udall; Miss Mamie Winter capably presented the adventuress Paulina Petrowski; and Miss Gladys Vane was quite successful as the persecuted Angel Marsden. *The Tramp* was billed for the last three nights of the week. The latest pictures on the Gaietyscope are much appreciated.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Geo. Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company is this week presenting *Her Luck in London*. Miss Mary Neil plays with intelligence as Nellie Harborne; as Lillan Harborne Miss Beatrice Hudson displays ability; a typical portraiture of fast life is presented by Miss Amy B. Ellis as Angelina Plantagenet; Mr. Douglas Cecil plays with much power the part of the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor; Mr. T. Lionel Ellis sympathetically treats the part of the old farmer Stephen Harborne; Mr. Frank Strickland plays vigorously as Richard Lenowen; whilst the rôle of the Rev. Lionel Strong is ably sustained by Mr. Douglas Tremayne.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—A leading feature this week is a film representation of the Great Marathon Race. Other fine pictures are The Bargee's Daughter, The Pierrot's Jealousy, Following in Father's Footsteps, The Enchanted Guitar, The Little Hero, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Edward Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is here this week with *The Merry Widow*. Baron Popoff is admirably impersonated by Mr. Lionel Victor; Mr. Basil Foster is particularly fine as Prince Danilo, and his duets and waltz with "the merry widow" are received with the warmest applause. The title-rôle is taken by Miss Clare Evelyn, a lady of attractive appearance and fascinating manner. She is the possessor of an exceedingly sweet voice, and she imbues the part with humour and charm. Vicomte Jolidon is in the capable hands of Mr. Haigh Jackson, whose fine voice is heard to great advantage; Mr. Albert Kavanagh created much enjoyment by his clever impersonation of the Marquis; and a word of commendation is due to Mr. Tom Redmond as Nisch; and Miss Mary Grey is an exceedingly pleasing and vivacious Natalie.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—Mr. Milton Bode's company occupies the boards here in the musical comedy *The Belle of Mayfair*. Miss Florence Imeson, who plays the part of Julia Chaldicott, is a success; Mr. Hugonnet makes a gallant suitor of Raymond Finchley; the comic element is well supplied by Mr. Harry Parker in the part of Sir John Chaldicott; Mr. Percy York is excellent as Earl Highgate; and Miss Aurelie de Loriere is delightful as Lady Rockesley.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—A return visit is being paid here this week by Atlas and Vulcana, who, together with the Sisters Atlas, give a clever and fascinating display; Gipsy Woolf and her Sunbeams, with *The Mermaids of Margate*, give vim and sparkle to a pretty and interesting scena; and an amusing sketch, *The Husband of Peggy*, is presented by Miss Sylvia Cavalho and company. Walker and May are pleasing, and other turns are given by Chas. Sloman, comedian; Minnie Warner, comedienne; and Wright and Lawson.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; manager, Mr. C. Nicholls.—Mr. Geo. Dance's comedians create roars of laughter in a musical comedy, *The Burglar's Ball*; a novel exhibition of shadowgraphy is given by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde; and Morny Cash, the Lancashire lad, sings in excellent style. The Bros. O'Brien, Hilman and Russell, Frank Sylvo, and Sadie Thompson also add to the programme.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. M. Julian.—Mr. James Bell's company is appearing this week with striking success in Mr. Charles Darrell's stirring play, *The Idol of Paris*. In the character of Flare-Flare Miss Annie Bell has made a conspicuous success. Miss Bell is supported by a company of all-round ability, and the production is a most creditable one.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. William Greet's company is paying a return visit here in the ever-popular *Sign of the Cross*. Mr. C. Austin-Lee admirably sustains the rôle of Marcus; the craft of Tigellinus and the bluff hatred of Licinius are excellently portrayed by Messrs. Aldred and Weatherall; the Glabrio of Mr. Frank Wood is the quintessence of Bacchanalian humour; the dandified Philodemus is well played by Mr. Henry Jones; Mr. Walter Fleet and Mr. Clifton Yates act with commendable restraint as Farius and Titus; Mr. Clifford Yorke gives a carefully-studied rendering of Nero, which remark also applies to the Strabo and Servilius of Messrs. G. W. Ruff and H. Thurston Harris. Miss Constance Little's sweet girlishness, combined with her abilities as an emotional actress, make her a strong favourite as Mercia; Berenice has an excellent exponent in Miss Lily Wand; the Stephanus of Miss Edith Drayson is an admirable bit of work; and special mention should be made of the excellent comedy acting of Miss Cissy Carlton as Dacia.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—*His Wife No Longer*, a new drama by Mr. Stephen Pratt, a Preston playwright, and produced for the first time in that town last week, has had a warm reception here. The diabolical villainy of Anthony Merivale, who pursues his career of merciless ingenuity unto the very doors of eternity, dying with a malevolent sneer on his lip, is powerfully presented by Mr. Clavering Craig; Mr. E. Paul Neville hits off admirably the character of Harold Medworth; whilst as an example of the muscular parson Mr. C. Wordley Hulse is an able exponent, the garret scene being a thrilling episode. As Daniel Trench, the tool of Merivale, Mr. David Donaldson is skilful; whilst the character of the breezy Tommy Oglethorpe is most feelingly presented by Mr. C. Vivian Charles, a comedian of exceptional promise, who was one of the successes of the production. He has a natural gift of touching off humorous situations, and his aptness, in which there was no show of artificiality, was greatly appreciated. Miss Enid Edonie gave a capital portraiture of Marion Jeffries, the heiress; Miss Nellie Lawson won the appreciation of her audience by a refined sketch of the assertive, yet lovable American girl, Lucy Hopper; whilst Miss Rose Mervyn displayed fine dignity and pathos in her treatment of Mrs. Merivale.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—An enthusiastic welcome was accorded *My Mimosa Maid* on its first appearance in Newcastle. The company is particularly strong, and includes the charming Marie Studholme, who plays Paulette. The rôle seems particularly suited to Miss Studholme, who acts with her usual grace and abandon, and is as winsome and pleasing as ever. Mr. Charles McNaughton as Victor Guilbert is responsible for a really clever and amusing portrayal of a difficult character, and with Miss Studholme shares the honours of the entertainment; Mr. Charles E. Paton as Max Guilbert and Master Archie McCaig as Bock assist considerably in the fun-making; whilst Mr. Arthur Jackson as Gone, the waiter, gives a clever character study. Mr. Percy Carr as M. Emilie Gerrard and Mr. John H. Goldsworthy render their songs in a spirited and taking style; and other leading rôles are ably filled by Miss Mabel Hirst, Miss May Garstang, and Miss Ruby Gray.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Brewster's Millions* is here, and is enthusiastically received. Mr. Percy Hutchison as Monty Brewster gives an excellent interpretation, and the calls at the end of each act proved the unanimous appreciation of his talent; Miss Cicely Stuckey supplies a charming and convincing study of Peggy Grey; and Miss Eva Stuart plays with pleasing grace as Barbara Drew. Miss Violet Ley as Mrs. Dan de Mille puts plenty of energy into her performance; Mr. Aubrey Mather is distinctly good as Joseph McLeod; Mr. Henry Hampson is successful as Archie Golding; and Miss Frances Davie, Mr. Cyril Rawdon, Mr. Chas. Esdale, Mr. Douglas Greet, Mr. Bennett Parker, and Mr. Otho Hazlewood are among others who figure to advantage in an admirable entertainment. The play is staged in a most effective and realistic manner.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Stuart Lomath's company is appearing here in *No Wedding Bells for Her* and *Sapho*. The first-named was played on Monday evening to a large audience. Miss Lizzie Montague as Lolo Delaspierre has a hard and difficult part, which she treats with considerable ability; and Mr. Stuart Lomath's Frank Hatherleigh is an interesting study. Mr. G. Harvey, Mr. Percy Shaw, and Mr. George Herbert have parts which suit them well; Miss Cicely Clutterbuck as Doris Fane is effective; Miss Patty Allberry does exceedingly well as a Geisha; and Miss Nellie Wilson makes a typical landlady.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—*The Power of the King* is the attraction here this week. The piece is well staged and admirably played, and of the company special mention should be made of Miss Leila Zillwood, Mr. Geball Blake, Mr. Travis Green, Mr. Chas. Whitlock, and Miss Georgina France.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. Parham Wells.—The chief attraction of an all-round interesting bill is an American racing playlet, *Futurity Winner*, which is ably presented by Joseph Hart's company, and proves extremely popular. The attractive and charming comedienne and dancer Ella Retford proves as taking as ever with her tuneful singing and graceful dances; a trick cyclist turn of more than usual merit is given by the Cumberlands; and Kent and Keith, comedy duologue artists, prove extremely amusing. Another smart turn is that of Charlene and Charlene, expert jugglers; and Dion Wade, comedian and mimic, fairly brings down the house in his quaintly rendered songs. Other artists contributing to an attractive show are Verne and Voyce, Fred Lincoln, and David Stewart, the Bioscope completing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Miss Kate Carney holds the place of honour here this week, and her new production, "The Yiddisher Boy," is going well; the Six Æolians provide a pleasing singing and dancing turn; and other prominent artists figuring on the programme are Michael Nolan, Cullen, Carty, and Little Cluley, Dollie and Elsie, Bell and Butt, and Dollie Ross, the Barrascope completing.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*Diana of Dobson's* is being played here by Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company, and good houses are the order. The girls at Dobson's, in the hands of Miss Molly Tremaine, Miss Kate Turner, Miss Nannie Griffin, Miss Eva Leonard Bryne, are excellent character studies; and Miss Ellen Keary capitally represents Miss Pringle. Miss Mary Stuart as Mrs. Cantelupe is dignified and natural; Miss Georgette de Serville is strikingly attractive as Mrs. Whyte Fraser; and Mr. Alfred Harris makes an amusing Sir Jabez Grindlay, Bart.; while Mr. Albert Wainwright does well as P.C. Fellowes. Miss Dorothy Green plays Diana with humour, refinement, dignity, and tenderness; as Captain the Hon. Victor Brethertón, Mr. H. Grendon Bentley gives a clever character study. *The Bishop's Candlestick* forms an attractive curtain-raiser.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Queenie Leighton is the star turn here, and, charmingly attired, sings three songs that captivate the house; Madge Osmond, "the immaculate dandy," takes well; Ben Albert, "the logician," causes hearty laughter; and Carney and Armstrong provide a laughable turn. Cruikshank, in a purely comic line is exceedingly popular; Fred Keeton's songs and eccentric movements are acceptable; and the Eight Lancashire Lads, in pretty singing and dancing capture the house; while Leo Tell gives some wonderful imitations of instruments and animals. The Bioscope, showing local pictures, completes the bill.

NORWICH. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Manager, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and company are here this week, in *Henry of Lancaster*. Mr. Maclaren himself appeared as Henry of Lancaster, and was much appreciated; Miss Violet Sternes as Elizabeth of York showed much force and charm in her acting; Mr. J. V. Bryant was convincing as Richard III.; and Mr. Gordon Philpott was humorous as Patch.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Miss May Moore Duprez heads the bill as the "Jolly Dutch Girl"; the Faludy acrobats accomplish some astonishing feats; the Prince Milner Trio are clever with hoops, and on the light wire; the Australian Trio are entertaining musicians; the Melbournes are attractive in singing, dancing, and witty sayings; Ray and Lingard are good as duologists; and Will Walton, comedian, and Peter Bermingham, comedian, are appreciated. The Hippo Bio. is also good.

NORTHAMPTON.—NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans; Musical Director, Mr. Walter Ashton.—F. Harrold's company of sketch artists is presenting *The Enemy of Man* with great success here; another highly successful entertainment is Haley's *Garden of Girls*, an octave of good singers and able dancers, beautifully costumed, who perform with special scenery and electric lighting; Johnson and De Vere provide some daring cycle tricks, the lady's performance on the wire gaining great applause; Luigo Salvina, the boy musician, is again successful with his solos on the saxophone, &c.; Karr and Kooney are clever in their cross-talk; Nellie Lunelle is a dashing comedienne and dancer; Jack Searle is funny in song and dance; and the Palace pictures still prove attractive.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Mr. Waller Jeff's New Century Pictures are here for a second week. The films include Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show on Parade, The Last Bullet, An Incident of the Indian Mutiny, A Trip to Klondyke, Life on the Gold Claims of Alaska, A Day at the Races (a most exciting picture), Flying Errand Boy, Porter's Mistake, On a Tandem, Ninette (a child model). Varieties are supplied by the Five M.P.'s, the Musical Palmers, Fred Field, baritone, and the courteous manager, Mr. T. Londberg.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The boards here this week are occupied by Mr. T. Carlton Wallace's company with *The Love that Women Desire*. As Squire Abingdon Mr. J. O. Stewart is effective; Mr. Morris Maud, in the part of Richard Abingdon, is also responsible for some good acting; and Mr. Sydney Leyton scores as Philip Carnaby. Mr. Hugh Wallace makes the most of Frank Hardy; Mr. John Hignett makes quite a hit as Dennis O'Rourke; and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson proves a capable P.C. Sowerberry. As Sybil Thorburn Miss Aimee Grattan-Clyndes wins high praise; Miss Jessie Elvin is clever as Madge Abingdon; Miss May Neilson makes a smart Patty Swift; Miss Violet Young is a pleasing Molly; and Miss Dorothy Northmore is successful as Marquinha.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The chief attraction here is provided by the Cameron Quartette in harmony and humour, which has been much appreciated. Messrs. James and Alexander, Scotch comedians and dancers, have met with a hearty reception; Miss Carrie Harding and Mr. Charlie Preston, comedy artists, are well received; Master Willie Roberts, Scotland's boy comedian, is a great favourite; and Mr. Harry Hayton, eccentric comedian; Mr. Charles Beamont, in his unique entertainment; Marvellos, speciality act; and the Mouldoscope are other attractions.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—Miss Bonwin Carlton's company, which is here this week in a répertoire of plays, opened on Monday with *The Old, Old Story*. Mr. Edward Surrey was forcible and convincing as William Grimshaw; Miss Carlton's Tilly, the Lady Bookie, presented an excellent delineation; Mr. J. P. Dryden played James Marlow with skill and care; Mr. B. Martin did good work as Sir Humphrey Hazel; the comedy parts of Bobby Blossom and Higgins were well placed in the hands of Messrs. C. Wilson and Wilson Lowther respectively; Netty Hazel was capitally played by Miss Bernice Fielding; Janet Marlow found a good representative in Miss Esther Lamont; and Miss Kitty Maynard was a charming Kitty.

THE PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Reginald Fletcher.—George Wyres heads the bill here this week; Miss May Jukes, soubrette and dancer, gives a good turn; The Evales are funny; John Howell, the Welsh basso, in his songs with illustrations, is a complete success; Joe Atkins, parodist, continues in high favour; Mr. E. causes laughter with his limericks; and Ruffell's Bioscope has some interesting pictures.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—The Carnival week is specially favoured by a return visit of *The Girls of Gottenberg*, including Mr. Edmund Payne and Happy Fanny Fields. The performance on Monday was as lively and entertaining as could be desired. As Max Mr. Payne was the very essence of humour and kept the audience in the merriest mood; Miss Fields also sustains the fun at a high pitch; Mr. Leslie Holland as Otto makes a hit, and Mr. Fred Allendale (Albrecht), Mr. Fred Payne (Brittlbottl), and Mr. Jocelyn Hope (the Margrave), give of their best. The ladies were capably represented by Miss Maisie Gay (Clementine), Miss Thelma Raye (Elsa), Miss Florence Melville (Katrina), Miss May Weston (Barbara), and Miss Ethel Wilson (Betti), while praise is due to Miss Florence Phillips for her amazing acrobatic dance as Lucille.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—The company touring under the auspices of Mr. Frank Lindo is presenting here the interesting and pathetic drama *Home, Sweet Home*. Miss Marion Wakeford, a charming young actress, is seen to great advantage as Joan; Mr. Frank Lindo in the heroic rôle of Stephen Armitage displays the possession of excellent versatile histrionic ability; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle elicits sympathy by his portrayal of an old man, and the aristocratic Duke of Ancaster loses nothing of needed dignity in the hands of Mr. Archer Brown. Miss Hetty Webster is good as Lady Somerton; Miss Maude Leslie-Cudd's vivacity makes the part of Sybil Fay a success; and the Dora of Miss Violet Esme is a well studied characterisation.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—George Gray, in his popular sketch, The *Fighting Parson*, proves a capital attraction at the head of the bill this week. L'Incognita demonstrates her possession of a wonderful soprano voice; Herbert Lloyd, King of Diamonds, is as fresh and versatile as ever in his comedy; Carl Howard in his humorous skits on conjuring causes endless amusement; and Pipifax and Paulo create roars of laughter by their droll acrobatic sketch, *Humpti-Bumpti*; J. W. Hall is a comedian of conspicuous merit; and the singing of Charles Stevens is a source of great enjoyment; La Belle Nello is thoroughly at home in her acrobatic and contortionist work; the Carina Sisters present a refined and delightful musical melange; and some capital pictures are shown.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—This house was formally opened on Monday last. A report of the opening will be found in another column.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross.—Mr. Baron H. Harriss's company is here on a first visit with *The Prince of Pilsen*. The company had a most enthusiastic reception on the opening night. Mr. Harry Kilburn, in the rôle of Hans Wagner, is a host in himself, and keeps the house in a constant merriment; Mr. Leslie Owen makes a capital Prince of Pilsen; Mr. Arthur Geary is well placed as Lieut. Tom Wagner; a capable Earl of Shrimpton comes from Mr. Chas. Rogers; Mr. Ernest Gifford is good as François; Miss Dora Christian sings and acts in a charming style as Edith Adams; Miss Mabel Dent is a highly-pleasing Sidonie; Miss Nellie Lomas is a captivating Nellie Wagner, and gives some capital songs and dances; Miss Marion Ryder does well as Jimmy; Miss Sophie Harriss gives a capital assumption of Mrs. Maddison Crocker (the scheming widow), and wins hearty applause. The piece is splendidly mounted, the music is bright, and the dresses are exceedingly pretty and effective.

OLDBURY.—PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—A well-varied programme is drawing good houses here this week. The La Dor troupe of acrobats create a furore with their feats; Miss Hetty Knight, comedienne, renders several good songs; Harry Plowden is a quaint comedian; Miss Cissy Gorden is much appreciated; and Miss Alice Oakley, descriptive vocalist, creates a favourable impression. The sketch *Matadores* causes much fun. The pictures are, as usual, extra good. The Two Clarkes, on rolling globes, are also in the bill.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—*The Hypocrites* opened here on Monday, and was heartily enjoyed. Mr. A. B. Imeson is a great success as the Rev. Edgar Linnell, taking full advantage of the scope afforded; Miss Amy Ravenscroft makes a capital Mrs. Wilmore; and Miss Gladys Purnell is a very good Helen Plugenet. The interfering Mrs. Blaney is cleverly acted by Miss Florence Steventon; and Miss Madge Severne is a capable Mrs. Linnell. Miss

Violet Harley is good as the pert servant Patty; Mr. Alfred S. Barber is excellent as Mr. Wilmore; and Mr. King Fordham is capital as Lennard Wilmore. Mr. Chas. Hartley as Mr. Viveash gives a smart rendering of the character; and Mr. Cecil Brooking is praiseworthy as the Rev. Edward Daubeney. Mr. Sydney Hamilton as Sir John Plugenet is to be commended; Mr. H. Browning is a typical Dr. Blaney; and Mr. Douglas Jeffreys makes a fine Goodyer.

Colosseum Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood. — A crowded house welcomed Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company in *The Still Alarm* on Monday. Mr. M. H. Glenville as Jack Manley acted in a manner quite acceptable to the audience; Mr. Gerald Kennedy well elaborated the villainy of John Bird; Mr. Tom Beasley was capital as Willie Manley; Mr. Lewis Gordon was an effective Franklyn Fordham; and Mr. Fred Osmond as Doc Wilbur caused much laughter. Miss Beatrice Shirley as Elinor Fordham acted in a finished manner; Miss Hettie Zillwood as Carrie Wilbur did much to amuse; and Miss Mabel Veriton was a motherly Mrs. Manley. The Lyric Comedy Four introduced some capital singing.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow. —Paul Cinquevalli juggles with his usual skill, and earns much applause; Tom Costello in songs and scenas does very well; the Peters (Phil and Nettie) are comedy entertainers of merit; *That Brute Simmons*, played by Miss Oliph Webb, Mr. Julian Cross, and Mr. G. Delaforce, is productive of much merriment; the De Breans introduce some smart sciography into their act; Dancit is a clever exponent of dancing; and Alice Maydue is a sprightly comedienne; Fred Lindo is a capital comedian, with a voice.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall. — Wild, Willie, and West are very smart in their tumbling act; Pick, Tholl, and Taylor dance in a clever fashion in *The Dancing Master;* Whimsical Walker presents a well-acted sketch, *Captain Hamilton, V.C.;* Geo. Acre sings some capital songs; Rita Rhylle is a smart comedienne; Sydney Dolf is decidedly novel in his act; Bishop and Vale are capable comedians; and an interesting picture on the Dottoscope concludes.

OXFORD.—East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Messrs. Martin Alwyne and A. W. Thompson's company is fulfilling a week's engagement here with *My Sweetheart*, which is very capably presented throughout. Tony Faust finds a most able exponent in Mr. Wilfred B. Brandon; Mr. A. W. Thompson scores an undoubted success, and brings the house down as Joe Shotwell, the "loving husband" of Mrs. Fleeter; while Mr. Martin Alwyne causes roars of laughter as Dudley Harcourt ("Dash it all!"). Mr. Chas. Cameron does well as Dr. Oliver; Mr. Stewart Quartermayne is capable as Harold Bartlett; and Mr. Charles Edwards is good as Farmer Hatzel. Miss Violet Hurley is most attractive, and attains conspicuous success as Tina; Miss Belle Russell is very natural as Mrs. Hatzel; and Miss Kathie Bratley is admirable as Mrs. Fleeter. Miss Josie Highland makes a capital Peek-a-Boo. All the musical numbers are well rendered, and some pretty dances are contributed by the Empire Trio, which secure deserved encores.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Always a favourite actor in Paisley, Mr. Chalmers Mackey is delighting patrons at this house this week in his new play *Rollicking Rory*. He is supported by an excellent company. Mr. Mackey in his impersonation of Rory O'Donohoe is brimful of mirth; as Desmond Fitzgerald, Mr. Charles Homer achieves a distinct success; the villainous Stephen D'Arcy is capably played by Mr. Fred W. Leonard; Mr. St. John Stuart is excellent in the rôle of Shaun Brady; Mr. Henry Sainsbury as Mr. Callagan is admirable; and General Ashleigh receives a good rendering from Mr. George Francis; Mrs. Chalmers Mackey as Rosaleen Ashleigh submits an excellent portrayal; Miss Nana Flensberg is eminently suited as Rosie O'Donohoe; Miss Adele Liddon as Widow Callagan causes merriment; as Queen of the Fairies Mme. Constance Bellamy sings artistically; and valuable aid is rendered by Misses Marie Flensberg, Ena Ellesmere, Margaret Seymour, and Messrs. George Ross and Joseph Healy.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—The star turn here this week is Tubby Edlin, in *The Cowboy Millionaire*, in which he submits a very entertaining mixture of mirth and melody; Moon and Morris are clever comedians and unique dancers; Dolly Denton is a dainty comedienne; Sid Kenneth and Maud Kane, in a comedy duo, *Just a Few Words*, are capital; Godfrey James, the singing collier, has a good reception; the Brothers Zenary elicit applause for their novel and high-class acrobatic act; Leah Adell, vocalist, is well received in her Irish scena; Blake and Amber, an American duo, evoke much merriment; and the Bioscope is entertaining.

PENTRE.—Tivoli Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn. —Topping the bill is Geo. French; Henry Bekker is deservedly applauded in a series of juggling acts; and Lozelle, in a gymnastic display, wins similar favour. Bennett and Martell are also in the bill.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Geo. Alexander's company presented *The Thief* on Monday for the first time locally. Miss Marie Polini, to whom the rôle of Marie Chelford is entrusted, acquits herself admirably of her task whether as the playful coquette, the luxury-loving woman, or the faithful wife. Mr. Rupert Lister as Richard Chelford rises to a high pitch of dramatic excellence in the second act, and Mr. Luke Forster makes a cool and calculating Mr. Protheroe; Mr. Cyril Harcourt as Raymond Leyton correctly interprets a difficult part; Miss Jean Cadell, beautifully gowned as Isabel Leyton, acquits herself with becoming ease and grace, and Mr. Owen Nares as Harry Leyton is excellent. The play is preceded by a cleverly-written comedy entitled *Too Happy by Half*, in which the principal characters are undertaken by Messrs. C. King, O. Nares, and B. Stevens, and Miss Eileen Kerin.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Mr. Eddie Clark and his Winning Widows provide a decidedly novel musical act, and justify their position at the head of the week's bill; Brinn provides a sensational balancing turn; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto give their up-to-date cycling contribution, and Ada Cerito contributes a couple of vocal numbers which meet with hearty approval; Fraser and Haley, accomplished vocalists, are warmly applauded; A Ba-Be's picture postcard album furnishes some attractive tableaux, and Oliver Martyn, comedian, has some amusing patter.

PONTEFRACT.—Alexandra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—Miss Lilian Burns and company top the bill at this hall with a dramatic episode entitled *Betrayed*. The characters are excellently played. The Itrams give a smart and attractive trapeze act; Fred Tenby is a rollicking comedian; Arthur and Angus do some very funny patter and are clever dancers; Cissy Trent, petite and chic, is a lightning change artist and a dainty dancer; Walter Buxton, who has a capital baritone voice, sings some really good songs; as also does Nellie Walton, the Lancashire mill girl. Lillie Le Breton gives a graceful exhibition on the trapeze; and Pearce and Ward are dancers and burlesque boxers, the lady being particularly vigorous with the gloves. Fred Horsfall's "yodling" and imitations find great favour. The pictures are good.

PORTH.—Palace.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The top turn here this week is Rose Elliott, an excellent singer of sensible songs; Lazern, the famous magician, gives the audience entire satisfaction in his clever performance; Bert Woodward, cycling coon, is well received; Addie Dorina deserves special mention for her successful production "Dr. Spot's Patients"; the Two Madges are intelligent juvenile artists in mimicry, song, and dance; Flo Melville is a dainty burlesque actress; Adams and Ward, American acrobatic comedians, are responsible for much amusement; and Edgar Adams, singing collier, Julian Mack, the chattering dame, and the Palascope are other attractions.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. James Welch and company are appearing here in *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. Welch does not spare himself, and his irresistibly funny and quaint Sir Guy de Vere keeps the audience in one continuous chuckle; Mr. Cecil Kinnaird plays Sir Brian Ballymote in capital style; Mr. Arthur Grenville's character study of Isaac Isaacson is decidedly good; Mr. George Desmond is exellent as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe; the Rev. Peter Pottleberry is played in capital style by Mr. Guy Lane; Mr. George F. Tully is a humorous Wittle; and Mr. Leopold Profeit an impressive Herald. Miss Helen Palgrave plays the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave gracefully and naturally; Lady Millicent, Lady Marjorie Eggington and Kate Pottleberry find pleasing representatives in Miss M. O'Hea, Miss Gwendoline Rayne, and Miss Annie Furrell respectively; and Lady Rowena is portrayed by Miss Audrey Ford in most engaging and artistic fashion. The farce is preceded by the one-act play *The Changeling*.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—The romantic play *Her Love Against the World* is being staged here for the week by Messrs. W. H. Hallett and Walter Howard's company, Mr. Fred Emery sustaining the rôle of Eric Earl of Strathmere with power and conviction; Ulric is admirably played by Mr. Lewis Gilbert; Mr. W. H. Hallett as the good-natured Prince Othmar is most successful; Mr. Victor Rowlands acts with ability as Prince Maurice; Sergeant Kaspar is well taken by Mr. Arthur Moss; and Messrs. H. B. Lewis and John Mill are amusing as Heinrich and Fritz. Miss Nellie Fletcher, in the part of Shulah, deserves much praise; Miss Julie de Esco is seen to advantage as Corona; and Misses Gertie Reid and Hettie Ferguson make a diverting pair of maids. Miss Rossie St. John as Lionel does well; Miss Grace Heywood enacts Princess Iris with dignity and power.

King's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Lafayette is the popular attraction for the week; J. W. Gallagher is a capable comedian; Flora Cromer a graceful versatile artist; Fred Sinclair and Gracie Whiteford, in *Getting Even*, play well; Albert Bellman and Lottie Moore are a lively pair; Jordan and Harvey are smart Hebrew comedians. Animated pictures by the Barrascope conclude.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The top-liner this week here is Oswald Williams, the well-known and sensational illusionist, who is contributing a turn of more than usual merit, assisted by Mlle. Winifred La Barte and company; Johnson and Pelham, in an American pot-pourri act, prove a smart pair; Arthur Albert is a light comedian with excellent style; Nipper Lupino Lane, boy comedian and eccentric dancer, shows versatility; the Lupino Bros., in scena *Musician and the Poodle*, do capable work; and Dan Hendy, comedian and dancer, Raie Walters, dainty comedienne, and Wilson and Waring cause much hilarity. Payne's Bioscope is also an attraction.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Colonel Roberts, V.D.—An attractive programme is offered here for the week. Mr. Joe Peterman and company, in *The Singing Servants*, are amusing; Vandinoff, in his production of pictures in oils at lightning speed, is much liked; Horace and Olga's table troupe of cats and dogs submit a clever turn; Mr. Dave Carter, tenor, Mr. Willie Gardner, American pedestal skate-dancer, Mr. Ted Cowan, with two items of amusing character, Herr Munstedt's Liliputian circus, introducing the Colibris Midgets, and the Hippo pictures are other attractions.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Exors. of the late William Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Edward Marris's company, in the *Dandy Doctor*, is as popular as ever. Mr. George Brentwood causes much merriment as Melchisadek Brown; Miss Mollie Wynne is a charming Ivy Pendred, her singing and dancing being much appreciated; Miss Florence Smithers' impersonation of Jane ("the general") is irresistible, and she kept the house in roars of laughter; Mr. Herbert Pearce is a capital Colonel Pendred; Mr. C. Burrunston Williams, who possesses a good voice, is excellent as Arthur Vandyke, M.D.; and Mr. Leslie Martin is very droll as Bertie Bolingbroke, his vocal efforts being much applauded. Miss Edie Dawson both looks and acts well as Miss Vandyke, and Miss Vi Coudroy as Miss Loraine and Miss Rosie Chandler as Marie Merton are successful in their respective parts. Miss Dolly Payne makes a sprightly boy-in-buttons, and Mr. James Thompson as P.C. Quick and Mr. Dalton Dane as Mr. Drycoff complete a capital cast. The chorus, though small, is very effective, and includes Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of Empire Girls and the Little Dutch Girls. The musical-director is Mr. Harry Bolton. The piece is drawing good houses.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here this week in *A Broken Heart*. Mr. Stanley Bedwell is a manly John Barnard, and displays much power; as the dissipated Stephen Raylton, a young man of fortune, Mr. George Newall is very successful; Mr. Will Lindsay as Tony Tibbetts (the village idiot) creates much amusement; Mr. Edward Rawlinson displays the requisite malevolence as Gash Gills; and Mr. C. Vivian is a capital Rev. Mr. Staunton; Miss Marguerite Thorne as Mrs. Barnard provides an able bit of character acting; Miss Dora Hargreaves as Sally Tavner is good; Miss Daisy Rocheford as Little May is winsome and captivating; and Miss Eileen Bamford is praiseworthy as Grace Fanshawe, as is also Miss Ethel Grey as Mrs. Killett. Miss Sheila Walsh has a trying rôle to sustain as Mary Barnard, but she is fully equal to its requirements. The remaining characters are capably sustained by Mrs. George Addison, Mr. Chas. Grant, Mr. Harrison Tate, Mr. George Ford, and Mr. Hugh Alexander. The drama is excellently mounted.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—David Poole, ventriloquist, and his Messenger Boy mannikin, are very amusing; the Bros. Ford, in their singing and dancing act, *The Poetry of Motion*, prove themselves artists above the ordinary; Gena Manon, vocalist and soubrette, is well received; Charles Rowen and Clifford Stewart, comedians, are both successful; Alfred Graham's Premier Juveniles, in their vocal scena *A Concert on the Lawn*, are much appreciated; Wall Robbins, black and white musical comedian, has some smart patter, and is a clever performer on the Japanese fiddle; Cuban's French Circus is an excellent turn, the animals having been trained to a high state of perfection; and two items are given on the Bioscope.

Public Hall.—Hamilton's Excursions opened their sixtieth season here on Monday, and are popular as ever. In addition to the pictures, there are some clever variety turns. Mme. Florence on the revolving sphere is expert; the Ethairiens, comedians, cause much laughter; Abex, athlete, displays abnormal strength of jaw; the Two St. Johns are versatile musical artists; and some excellent pictures are given on the Eragraph. The entertainment is up to its usual high standard, and is drawing good audiences. Mr. Claude Howell is the manager of the tour.

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Mr. Andrew Emm's drama *The Diver's Luck* is finding favour here. Mr. Harry Cullenford as Martin Faber gives an excellent rendering; Mr. Fred A. Marston as Barney Bawn is rewarded by peals of responsive laughter; the villainous parts of Tom Hall and Pedro are well taken by Mr. Wm. J. Miller and Mr. Kendrew Milson respectively; the aged Maurice Wyngate has a satisfactory exponent in Mr. F. Scarth, and Mr. Joe Rowland is very good as the nigger Snowball; Miss Dora Pass is a charming Helen Wyngate, and submits a carefully-studied rendering of the part. The piece is well mounted.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Victoria Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—*Robin Hood*, put on in first-class style by Mr. Lewis Waller's company, has constituted the attraction at the "Pav" this week. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards is a powerful and picturesquely effective Robin Hood, and Miss Lilian Stennis is a charming Maid Marion; Mr. F. Clive Ross cleverly portrays Little John, and Mr. C. Bruce Winston is a delightfully robust Friar Tuck; Prince John is another part most capably sustained; Mr. Spencer Lloyd is heard to marked advantage as a vocalist, and the general tone of the production is distinctly good.

Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* has been staged in fine fashion this week. Mr. C. H. Crocker-King gives a masterly interpretation of the part of Jasper, and Edwin Drood is a character sustained in talented style by Mr. Ridell Robinson; Mr. Edward Thirlby does admirably as Mr. Grewgious, and Miss Nita Charlton (Rose Budd) and Miss Gladys Jonson (Helena Landless) appear with success; Mr. Lloyd Townrow makes a good Durdles. A distinctly fine production.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—Mr. Reginald Dance's clever combination is this week presenting *Raffles*, which play met with a cordial reception on Monday evening last. In the title-rôle Mr. Lewis Edgard gave a most fascinating and powerful impersonation, his clever acting being repeatedly applauded and deeply appreciated. Mr. C. Keane as Curtis Bedford also gave a fine portrayal and showed capable abilities for the part; Mr. Arthur Bell as Harry Manders was excellent, and seconded Mr. Edgard's efforts with much success; Mr. P. Alexander as Lord Amersteth was thoroughly good; and Mr. Rivers Bertram as Lord Crowley imparted a vein of humour to the character. As Crawshay Mr. Oswald Griffiths was very good, the last act being very fine; as Gwendoline Conron Miss Beatrice Marsdene gave a delightful portraiture, her acting being graceful and sympathetic; as Lady Melrose Miss Kitty Lofting was most capable; and Miss Frances Titheradge was also an excellent Lady Ethel.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. Cecil A. Collins is presenting the late Henry Pettitt's stirring drama *Hands Across the Sea* this week. Mr. Rawson Buckley gives a powerful rendering of the part of Jack Dudley; and Miss Beatrice Whitney acts very effectively as Lillian Melford. Mr. Cecil A. Collins gives a spirited impersonation of Tom Bassett; and the part of the rascally Robert Stillwood is sustained in characteristic style by Mr. C. Clifton Boyne. Mr. Clive Currie is excellent as Jean de Lussac; Mr. Adam Alexander as Joseph Stillwood, Mr. Frank Woodville as Dick Melford, and Miss Lilla Nordon as Lucy Nettleford are all good. The plot is full of interest, and some stirring scenes are enacted. The play is put on the stage in a very complete style, and the scenery is most effective.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco. —The Lyons Trio of pantomimists and dancers produce a very funny sketch; Henri Cazman gives a clever entertainment, *Le Café Chantant;* Ruby Bijou gives a dainty exhibition of barefoot dancing; Fred Elton is paying a return visit with his popular musical sketch, *On Board an Ocean Liner;* the Katos indulge in some spirited dancing and good singing in their miniature theatre; Florence Zaymen, coon caricaturist, burlesques coon songs and singers in a very amusing manner; the Camerons are a pair of clever comedians; Gicardo, boy juggler, is expert; and a good Bioscope show completes the programme.

REDDITCH. — Public Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. T. E. Field.—*Miss Hook of Holland*, under the direction of Messrs. Dudley, Bennett, and Wray, gave performances here on the 25th and 26th ult., before big houses. Mr. E. Russell's personation of Mr. Hook was a most excellent performance; Miss Ethel James, as Sally, Miss Hook, was also good. The chorus and band were all that could be desired. The play went excellently from start to finish. *Home, Sweet Home*, presented by Miss Maggie Morton's company, was billed for Friday and to-day.

RHYL.—Pavilion.—On Saturday and Sunday, the 26th and 27th ult., Mme. Clara Novella Davies's Welsh Choir gave two special concerts, which were largely attended. Solos were given by Mme. Maud Loveless, Miss Winifred Lewis, Miss Marie Novello, and Mr. William Kenway. Mr. de Jong's orchestra concluded a successful season.

Olympian Gardens.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Eric Charlswood.—This week Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's pierrots commence an extended season, and are rewarded with good houses. C. D. Reekie pays a return visit, and his turn is thoroughly enjoyable; Jack Hylton, the merry comedian, has some good songs; Eric Charlswood's songs meet with well-deserved encores; Elfie Vincent is a dainty and graceful comedienne and dancer; Harold Browne is the possessor of a fine baritone voice; and Forshaw Kershaw, in his pianoforte selections, is always popular.

Skating Rink.—Skating is in full swing here, and the management have inaugurated special nights and various competitions, which are very popular. On Friday evening Signor Pecorini, the musical director, took his benefit.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague. —*The Silver King*, always a popular attraction, is here this week. Mr. Fred D. Davis portrays with power the part of Wilfred Denver; Miss Edyth Goodall enacts to the life the part of Nellie Denver; Mr. Edward J. George sustains with ability his old part of Daniel Jaikes; Mr. E. Stanton Sharp cleverly portrays the Spider; and Mr. Arthur Wright is a capital Elijah Coombe.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Binns and Binns, "the vagabonds," in comedy and music, submit some enjoyable music coupled with comic business; Alcide Capitaine is a graceful and clever gymnast; and Edie Anderson, comedienne and dancer; Elton and Elma, triple-bar knockabouts; Leo Trainor, comedian; Prinellas, in *A Country Flirtation;* Cyril Carle, in *Dreams*, and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete an enjoyable bill of fare.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—After a week of variety, the management of this house have returned to the legitimate drama, Mr. Andrew Melville's company occupying the boards with *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pitt gives a finished rendition of the part of Anthony Raybrook; and Mr. P. George Beresford is a manly Walter Hatherleigh. Mr. Charles Burdon is seen to advantage as Geoffrey Waring; Mr. Fred C. Imbert scores as John Anderson; and Mr. Horace Moseley, as David Wilson, and Mr. Edward Finlay, as Dick Saunders, are also deserving of mention. Mr. Percy Dawsone as Willie gives a clever portrayal; Miss Edith Leslie is smart as Margaret Bailey; and Miss Amy Williams does well as Mrs. McCarthy. Miss Nancy Roberts is highly successful in the dual rôles of Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Another first-rate programme is presented here, Mr. W. T. Ellwanger, in *The Peacemaker*, successfully heading the bill. Miss Ada Payne is a talented vocalist; and Messrs. Ryde and Beeman give a clever acrobatic display. Mr. Harry Simms is an amusing comedian; and Mr. Claude Feldman's juvenile troupe are deservedly applauded. Miss Winifred Ward gives a pleasing turn; and Coggin and Davis are very funny in their comedy acrobatic act. The Nettas (Will and Dott) are also deserving of mention.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager. Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Fred C. Somerfield presented to a good house on Monday his drama, *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. It is full of sensational and interesting incidents, which are well staged. Mr. Paul Beckett very forcibly portrays the sinister Felix Beverley; the distressed wife Mary is excellently played by Miss Cissie Bellamy; a vigorous and manly Jack Stirling is that given by Mr. Wilson Summers; Mr. Wilford Cheetham is satisfactory in the short part of Geoffrey Langdon; Mr. Percy Brown (Thomas), Mr. Herbert Fuller (Charles), and Miss Kate Lever (Sweet Nancy) are very funny, and keep the comedy business well in front; the Hon. Mrs. Sands is undertaken by Miss Agnes Collier, who is very effective.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Tom Leamore, the well-known comedian, heads this week's programme with an amusing turn. *A Village in Dahomey* is a clever vocal and dancing sketch by Dinah Morris and her company, including Sam Morris; Emmie Ames has a dainty song, well sung; the Two Eltons, smart and comical horizontal bar acrobats; Helen Martin, vocalist; Harry Bancroft, actor vocalist; Dave McNeil, versatile comedian; the Allisons, very smart character duettists and dancers; Frank Boyce, vocal comedian; and Mlle. Sara's Marblesque Trio, also contribute acceptable turns.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—The very interesting play by Walter Howard, entitled *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, fills the bill twice nightly. Mr. Ernest H. G. Cox makes a gallant and manly Prince Olaf; the hunchback, Prince Michael, is depicted with great skill by Mr. Melville Bickford; Mr. Alfred Brandon is an impressive villain as Prince Hildred; Miss Ethel Bracewell is equal to the demands made upon her in her able impersonation of Monica; Camiola is prettily played by Miss Gertrude Branscombe; and Miss Jessica Black is a dainty Viola. Mr. W. S. Mills as Captain Hector and Mr. Reg Payne as the comical Lieut. Karl Stromberg do well; Mr. Tom Boag as the dumb servant Nathan and Mr. Kenneth Black as Bishop of Illyria give competent representations.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Mr. Winston Churchill's wedding is an interesting film this week, and among the other pictures (twice nightly) are:—Motor Boat Race, Slave's Hate, Satan in Prison, Only Thoughtfulness, Children of the East, Only a Dart, Mary Stuart, Beautiful Holland, and Harry Lauder in a Hurry.

SALISBURY.—County Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company is on a return visit here this week in *The Dairymaids*. In the rôle of Peggy Miss Isa Bowman scored a distinct success; Miss Maud Lucy made a hit as Lady Brudenell; Miss Dorothy Belmore is stately; a droll Miss Pyechase is found in Miss Kitty Kirwan; Mr. Edwin Dodds as Joe Mivens had a great reception; Mr. Frank Barclay as Dr. O'Byrne did well; and Mr. Sam Lysons was a good Sam Brudenell.

SCARBOROUGH.—Londesborough Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—*What the Butler Saw* is the attraction here, with Mr. Charles Fawcett as Jack Barrington, who acted most capably. Mr. Lionel Rignold as the Butler was as good as ever, and Miss Ada Blanche as Mrs. Barrington was delightful.

The Aquarium.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. Holland.—The star turn here is the Great Bosanquet and company in a delightful musical show; in a comedy sketch the Brothers Ashley do well; the Zeloras give an original acrobatic performance; the Wedburns are as strong favourites as ever; Mr. H. K. Bradshaw proves a good tenor vocalist; and La Belle Tosca, Micklin Williams, the Eeduns and Mlle. Vaula also appear.

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fielding Smith. —Sidney Bacon's company in *The Duchess of Tooting* is the star turn here. *Aunt Matilda* also receives hearty recognition; Rex Fox, on the wire, deserves special mention; De Vere and Renwick appear in a unique comedy act; Walter Aubrey dances neatly; Chas. Lewis, and Fred Moule and Lola Patey also appear.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. E. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—*For Love and the King* is staged here, with Mr. C. Watson Mill as Jarval. Miss Joan Ellis as the Beggar Maid was delightful, and Miss Rosalind Tate as Princess Athene showed ability.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. John H. Tomkinson's No. 1 Royal Gipsy company is proving exactly to the taste of the audiences here. Mlle. La Vie stars in her electrical art panel poses; Miss Elsie Howard, contralto, possesses a rich voice; Miss Grace Lindsay, soprano, scores well; as also does James Carr, baritone. Sam Paul, actor-vocalist, gets home; and Elsie Rubina, a princess of equipoise, performs a skilful and daring balancing act. Chas. Bradford, raconteur and humorist; Dan Lawley, patter comedian; the Sisters Leshmere, duettists and dancers; the Four Louberts; Wee Winnie; Tomkinson's Quartette party of vocalists and instrumentalists; Miss Kate Teasdale, solo violinist; Miss Doris Ruth, cornetist; Miss Brenda Leslie, in illustrated songs; Miss Cissie Madcap, speciality dancer; and Miss Evie Lynn, in new songs and dances, are other attractions.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—*The Coal King*, played by Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company, won the hearty approval of a large mining audience here on Monday. In the rôle of Tom Roberts Mr. Alderson submits a powerful piece of acting; Walter Hartford's villainy is well portrayed by Mr. George Hanbury; in the humorous part of Jim Williams Mr. Sam Roberts wins favour; Dick Shirley is vividly depicted by Mr. Frank Dalton; Sir Reginald Hartford is well played by Mr. Ulick Burke; Miss Winifred Love charmingly presents Grace Shirley; Mad Ann is skilfully portrayed by Miss Joan Wellman; Araminta is played in meritorious style by Miss Max Hinton; and as Mrs. Baker Miss Lucy Cato does well.

SHEERNESS. — Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—A well-filled house on Monday witnessed the musical absurdity, *The Gay Deceivers*, presented by Mr. Frank Stanmore's company. Mr. Mark Lester as Joseph, the butler, is funny; Miss Pauline Primm is a delightful Rosie, her singing and dancing being particularly good; Lord Reggie Muggleston is humorously portrayed by Mr. Frank Stanmore, and Mr. Frank Chamier as Major Currie is excellent; Miss Dorothy Chard is a charming Dora, Mr. Douglas Phillips an effective Lieut. Dewar, Mr. Arthur Dennis a satisfactory Colonel Dewar; and Winnie Winter, the Colonel's niece, is played with spirit and grace by Miss Dora Lane. Miss Kate Chard is excellent as the Colonel's wife.

Co-operative Hall.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.—Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—The Pirate's Honour, The Spiteful Groom, The Sign From Heaven, A Troublesome Theft, and The Dog Outwits the Kidnapper are amongst an excellent series of pictures shown this week, and good houses nightly is the result.

SHEFFIELD. — Lyceum Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*A Chinese Honeymoon*, played by Mr. Milton Bode's excellent company, has been cordially received by good houses this week.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. Leigh's clever adaptation of Seton Merriman's novel "With Edged Tools" was acted for the first time in Sheffield on Monday before a big audience. Mr. William F. Grant's portrait of Jack Merideth is a dramatic achievement, careful, consistent, and convincing; Miss Phyllis Relph as Jocelyn Gordon also triumphs over many difficulties thanks to great emotional ability and a graceful manner; Mr. J. A. Rozier submitted a careful and natural study of the urbane and polished man of the world, Sir John Merideth; Mr. Henry Nunn admirably suggests the manly and unselfish traits in the character of Guy; and good work is done by Miss Isabel Grey as Lady Cantourne, Miss Marie Leonhard as Millicent, and Mr. Campbell Goldsmid as the crafty half-caste, Durnavo. The play is effectively mounted.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mark Blow's company began a return visit on Monday in the American drama *At Cripple Creek*. The leading characters were cleverly represented by Mr. Henry Hare, Mr. Charles E. Johnson, Mr. Roy Jackson, Mr. Reginald Harley-West, Mr. C. Pierce, Mr. Will Hook, Mr. Charles Watson, Mr. T. Sharp, Little Rosie Hopkins, Miss Lily Beagle, Miss Nora Dillon, and Miss Constance Elgin. On Friday *Under Two Flags* was announced.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—A programme full of genuine variety and all-round excellence was submitted to a large audience on Monday. Mr. Bransby Williams, in his characters from Dickens, was very successful, a fine impersonation being his pathetic picture of Dan'l Peggotty from "David Copperfield." Little Zola caused much hilarity; Mr. J. A. Wilson and his intelligent canine pal "Towser" were heartily applauded; a pleasing turn was done by the great Russian troupe; Mr. Ian Colquhoun was heartily applauded; the Eight College Girls were pretty and pleasing; Miss Minnie Leslie and Mr. Edgar Stevens appeared in a delightful comic-opera sketch; Be-Bo-Bi is a talented instrumentalist; and Miss Bessie Butt, vocalist and dancer, was well received. Some good pictures concluded the entertainment.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—Mr. Edwin Boyde, the diverting comic singer, is causing great merriment among large audiences; Maud and Gil, in their elegant comedy, dancing, and gymnastic act, win loud applause; Mr. Hal Forde is well received; the Ted Moxon Trio are funny and agile comic acrobats; Mons. Ernesto does a smart new juggling act; Messrs. Hayes and Watson are neat step and sand dancers; and the Royal Temple Trio sing acceptably. Carlton, the laughable patterer and card expert, does well; and Mr. Fred Powell repeats his former dramatic triumphs in a cut-down version of *The Grip of Iron*. Fine coloured animated photos of the lovely marine scenery of Beautiful Biarritz are received with well-merited approbation; and artistic pictures by the Barrascope supplement a generous bill of fare.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Appearing at this favourite theatre are the Johnny Holland sketch combination in the well-known comicality *The Boatbuilder;* Sergeant Mumford, wire walker, &c.; Mlle. de Roze, baritone vocalist; Miss Madge Beaumont, serio-comedienne; Mr. J. H. Hawtrey, character-vocalist; Mr. Glanmore Jones, with illustrated songs; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, with romantic and humorous photos of the most noted firms.

Central Theatre.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—Animated pictures and the following artists are pleasing the habitués here:—Fox and Melville, in pretty illustrated songs; Mr. J. H. Carney, mimic; and Royston and Royce, comedians.

Montgomery Hall.—The Imperial animated pictures, under the direction of the Sheffield Photo Co., are giving great pleasure to large audiences. The programme includes The Making of a Newspaper, The Life of a Chick, In Sunny Maderia, &c., &c.

The Pavilion.—Up-to-date animated pictures and illustrated songs continue popular here.

Albert Hall.—Mr. Joshua Dyson's Swiss Choir and Pictoriagraph concludes a successful visit

of juvenile acrobats are remarkably clever; and others who prosper well include the Donatos and Emma Don.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Frederick Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Howell.—Tarro Miyake, the champion jujitsu wrestler of Japan, is the star attraction, and the wrestling bouts are keenly relished; Mr. C. Emlyn Jones scores with his vocal scena *Daughters of Britain*; Miss Ethel Newman is a delightful artist, and wins golden opinions for her monologue, *Her Wedding Day*; Frank Fenton is seen to considerable advantage in his impersonations of David Garrick; the Flying Hanlons give a daring aerial act; Mack Ollive submits a clever whistling scena; Oliver Conroy and Fred Hastings are a couple of smart comedians.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—The Anglo-American Animated Picture Company present many highly entertaining views. Wednesday evening was set apart for a complimentary benefit concert to the popular lessee, a very lengthy programme being ably carried out with the assistance of London and local artists.

THE KURSAAL.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—Two evening programmes are again submitted this week, the bioscope pictures meriting good support. Miss Una Palmer entertains as a Japanese character cantatrice; Princess Lulu is well received in her transformation dances, admirably executed; Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Watson are vocalists of culture; and Miss Edie Coolville in both illustrated songs and dances gives evident satisfaction.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.,; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—A large audience greeted Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's principal company, including Miss Mabel Love, who are appearing this week in Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's popular play, *Lady Frederick*, which was presented for the first time here on Monday evening. The rôle of the vivacious Irish widow, Lady Frederick Berolles, was enacted by Miss Mabel Love with irresistible charm and abandon, which was much appreciated; Mr. Robert Minster scores highly in the part of Mr. Paradine Fouldes, which he played to perfection; Mr. E. F. Meads submits a capital and well-studied impersonation of Lord Mereston; Admiral Carlisle had a finished and very effective representative in Captain Gerald Gambier; Miss Eleanor Delaporte played very creditably in the part of Lady Mereston; Mr. Edward Bonfield admirably portrayed the character of Captain Montgomery; Miss Lynn Fontanne is a very acceptable representative of Rose; Mr. Patrick Quill is well placed as Sir Gerald O'Mara; and Miss Beatrice Grosvenor and Miss Rita Ward did well as Mme. Claude and Angelique respectively. As a curtain-raiser *The Peacemaker* was presented.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Millar Anderson presents Miss Mabel Mannering in *For Her Husband's Sake*. The rôle of Estelle Beaudet is delightfully performed by Miss Mannering, who makes the part stand out. The wronged wife, Maria Dene, is charmingly portrayed by Miss Margaret Birch; Mr. Robert Faulkner as the hero, Lieut. Jack Seymour, R.N., plays the part in breezy style; and the villain, Herbert Grey, is ably accounted for by Mr. Millar Anderson.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Mr. Hymack, described as the chameleon comedian, who is very expert in changing parts of his costume in view of the audience, is awarded a hearty welcome; the Jackson Family contribute a refined musical entertainment; Kisbey, the call-boy, had many admirers; a good reception was given to the Brothers Redmond, acrobatic comedians. Other popular turns include Bert Harrow, the rum comedian; Spry and Austin, the popular vaudeville artists; Adey Spencer, the girl from the hat shop; Marion Scott, comedienne, and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE LANE.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—The Wakeman Quintette possess powerful and well-trained voices, and sing with great precision; two good military athletes are found in Wrag and Wrag, and the bioscope completes the bill.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—During this week the musical comedy, *The Flower Girl*, is being performed by Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company. Miss Dorothy Firmin is in the title-rôle, and a very pretty appearance, combined with a rich voice, makes the representation a very effective one. Mr. Martin Adeson as Joe Wheeler is full of vim, and scores a success in the part; Mr. Robert H. Howard in the part of the Hon. Billy is to be congratulated on the possession of a good voice and manner; Mr. Norman Bowyer is very amusing in the character of Reginald Rackit; the French couple, Alphonse and Lizette de Racquet, are admirably taken by Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Florence Wilton. The dances are very pleasing, and the music is well rendered by an excellent chorus. The dresses are charming and the scenery most effective.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The Troupe Lafaille top the bill this week with a fine performance of gymnastic feats; Beattie and Babs, two clever little entertainers, are loudly applauded; Sir Cotterell and company cause much amusement in their sketch *The Substitute*; Annie Laurie sings in excellent style; the Ellimans play well on many instruments, and Nancy Thornton is encored for her songs; Hess and Lisbon, and Hans and Lux contribute good turns.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Capital representations of *Two Little Drummer Boys* have been given here this week by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company. Mr. Oswald Douglas acts with skill and ability as Captain George Darrell; Mr. Harry Scott gives a capable portrayal of Captain Frank Carsdale; General Kingsley, V.C., is realistically impersonated by Mr. Edward Bikker; Mr. Will Percy and Mr. Charles Gillier provide abundant mirth as Quiney O'Quirke and Timothy Trimmer; Alma Kingsley is pleasingly played by Miss Mary Ainslie; as Margaret Rivers Miss L. Atherling is effective; Miss Maggie English acts with sympathetic charm as Eric Carsdale; and Jack Smith is portrayed with dash and spirit by Miss Maudie Douglas.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—*The Daughter of the Regiment*, with Mlle. Adele Prescott, Mr. Frederick Silverston, and Mr. Harry Carver in principal parts, has provided a musical treat here this week. Among others appearing are the Leotards, comical clowns and hat-throwers; the Three Rubys, clever lady contortionists and acrobats; Dora Barrington, assisted by Lesley Greig, in an entertaining operatic scena, *Sentiment and Jest*; Pete and Juno, coloured comedians and smart sand dancers; Mint and Mart, expert paper manipulators; Tray and Rich, amusing conversationalists; Dick Bradley, tramp trick cyclist, and Alfonso Silvano, who performs marvellous equilibristic feats.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—The world-famous actress, Miss Ellen Terry, opened here on Monday last to a large and representative audience in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. Miss Terry is supported by an excellent company.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—George Lashwood heads the bill here on a return visit, and receives a hearty welcome, his songs and his style of singing them captivating the audience. Les Piccolinos, midget performers, prove a great attraction; the Musical Keiths, instrumentalists, are very entertaining; Tony Iveson, "the ragman at the piano," causes much merriment; Edie Fink, comedienne, sings well; Charles Ulrick, barrel manipulator, and the McKay Sisters, military maids, are in the excellent programme; and the Bioscope concludes.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company produces here this week the well-known military drama, *Soldiers of the Queen*. There were crowded houses on Monday last. Payne's Bio-photoscope show some very amusing pictures.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—The Jees present their sketch, *The Musical Smithy*, and are well received; the Tennessee Guards, in lightning drill and wall-scaling, are smart; Fred Maitland in his parliamentary candidature skit, with the aid of the lady Suffragette in the box, causes much amusement; Morimura, illusionist, is clever; Edith St. Clare, comedienne, is very quaint; Benson and Rose, in their duologue of misunderstandings, entitled "Elizabeth and the Baby," are very amusing; Rose and Wold, on the wire; T. C. Edwards, baritone, and the pictures are also to be noted.

STOURBRIDGE.—ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps.—This week we are receiving a visit of *A Warning to Women*, under the direction of Miss Lilian Herries. The latter undertook the part of Moira Kennion with distinct ability. Mr. Leonard Lawrence, in the exacting part of Dr. Dread, acquitted himself well; Mr. William Vane as Shaun, a wandering minstrel, gave a pleasing performance; and Mr. Henry Rutland as Squire Kennion upheld the dignity of this character in a capable manner.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Full houses have witnessed an excellent performance of Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*, played by Messrs. Trevor Platt and Trevor Lowe's company. To Mr. Trevor Lowe is entrusted the part of the Waiter, which he plays in such a manner as to ensure the success of the piece; Mrs. Claudon is convincingly portrayed by Miss Katherine Stuart. An excellent pair are Gloria and Valentine, impersonated by Miss Gladys Morris and Mr. Leslie Hamer, who do full justice to the parts, a remark which also applies to Miss Clara Earle (Dolly) and Mr. Donald Calthrop (Philip); Mr. J. Edward Pearce has a fine conception of Fergus Crampton, and as Finch McComas Mr. Charles Daley is well-nigh perfect; and as Bohm, the barrister, Mr. George Howard could not be excelled.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company presents *Her Forbidden Marriage*. Miss Gertrude Le Sage is a charming artist, and her impersonation of Lucy is very fine; George Maddison is played by Mr. Henry Lonsdale with considerable success; Mr. Louis Hector as Charles Devereux brings out the villainy of the character well; Miss Grace Lester could scarcely have improved her delineation of Lady Lucretia Lancaster; Mr. Vincent Loraine is very funny as Joe Lambkin; and Timothy Tuttutt is cleverly represented by Mr. Fred de Vere. Mr. George Elsworthy and Miss Maud Merrick as Benjamin Wardle and Patty Lovejoy provide excellent comedy.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—A finely-balanced programme is headed by George Bastow, whose old English characters are deservedly popular; Miss Lydia Yeamans, with her delightful baby impersonations and singing, charms all; she is well assisted by Mr. F. J. Titus. Percy Honri's talented concertina playing provides one of the hits of the programme. Rousby and company's *Greater London* is a scena of great splendour, thoroughly deserving its hearty reception; Millie Payne is, as usual, excellent, her "Directoire" song providing a great hit; Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire mill girl, has a wonderful voice; the Hartley Wonders do clever jumping, and the Bioscope pictures conclude.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Topping the bill here this week the Columbia Comedy Trio are loudly applauded in their operatic and humorous absurdity. A clever turn is that of the Van Hoste Trio, comedy acrobats; La Freya presents an electrical novelty; Picitt and Lizette, magical pantomimists, are entertaining; Marion Armitage, low comedy artist, is very good; and Starr and Leslie present a new act, in which Indian clubs are smartly manipulated. The Empire pictures complete. Flo Warren, vocal comedienne, was unable to appear on Monday evening, owing to her luggage having gone astray.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Watson.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is presenting *The Woman Who Gambles*. Mr. Clifford Rean gives an admirable study of Count Otto Steinbach; as Lieut. Karl Ctzartorski Mr. Reg. Fox is well suited; the Baron Cratzlaw of Mr. Norman Overton is a masterly assumption. In the name-part Miss Laura Walker is eminently praiseworthy.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Heading the bill here are the Cytoza Brothers, hand balancers; Leo Fields makes another welcome appearance; Clown Garford's dogs are much applauded. The picture par excellence is A Big Fire.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is here in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Mr. Bartlett Garth gives a powerful representation of John Jasper; Mrs. Morton Powell is fascinating as the much-loved Rosa Bud; Mr. J. Henry Twyford is a capital Neville Landless; and Mr. G. Ridgway Thorne is seen to advantage as Edwin Drood. Miss Addie Adair as Princess Puffer makes the most of her opportunities; Mr. David Phillips as Durdles evokes much merriment; Miss Jennie Risley is amusing as well as pathetic as the Deputy.

PRINCESS PIER CONCERT HALL.—Proprietors, The Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. A. T Tremlett.—To conclude the season here this week Mr. Paul Mill's popular party, the Olympian Entertainers, is the attraction, and good business is being done. Miss Haidee St. George is a talented soprano; Miss Bertha Callen renders some amusing songs acceptably; Mrs. Paul Mill at the piano does well; and Mr. Harry Harmer is good in some humorous items. Mr. Robert Macaig has a pleasing baritone voice; and Mr. Paul Mill in his inimitable sketches is much in demand. Mr. J. G. Taylor has some humorous medleys and amusing patter.

TREHERBERT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Poole's, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. N. Stephens.—A welcome return visit is being paid here by Mr. Alex. C. Grant's company with *The Woman From Scotland Yard*. Mr. Charles Gordon as Sir James Stanhope proves himself a gifted actor; Mr. Arthur L. Read gives a fine reading of the part of Harry Stanhope; Mr. Alex. C. Grant makes the most of his opportunities as Paul Obanoff; Mr. John L. Schofield is to be complimented upon his portrayal of Ivan Vassilietch; Mr. Leo Whamboult causes roars of laughter as Algernon Fitzmaurice; Miss Isobel Edbrooke proves herself a reliable actress in the trying rôle of Edith Mayne (the woman from Scotland Yard); Miss Gipsy Alexander gives an excellent impersonation of Lady Mary Stanhope, and Miss Dorothy Wilkinson is cleverly amusing as Mary White. For the last three nights of the week *The Silver King* is announced.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—The annual visit of the Moody-Manners company is bringing to a close a very successful operatic and dramatic season, and full houses are the rule this week. The most interesting feature in the répertoire is the first local production of *Madame Butterfly*, which aroused great enthusiasm among local music-lovers. The principal parts were splendidly sung by Miss Enriqueta Crichton, Miss Rosina Beynon, Mr. Chas. Carter, and Mr. Chas. Moorhouse. The other performances during the week include *Lohengrin*, *Faust*, *Il Trovatore*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *Carmen*, the title-rôle in the latter being sustained by Mlle. Zelie de Lussan.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—*Send Him Victorious* was presented here on Monday by Mr. Montague Beaudyn and company. Mr. Beaudyn deserves commendation for his portrayal of Captain Frank Allison; the villainy of Colonel Heinrich Kaufmann is forcibly depicted by Mr. G. M. Montanini; Mr. John Baxter gives a clever study of Major Charles Strauss; and the part of the King of Ravonia is in the safe hands of Mr. Frank Holyoaks. Mr. James Burt is well placed as Sergeant Max; Miss Marie Robson gives a capital rendering of the Countess; and Miss Irene Munroe is a graceful Ethel. The comic element is well provided for by Mr. Arthur Tomlin as Geordie Walker and Miss Cecilia Crawford as Gretchen.

WAKEFIELD.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company (under the direction of Mr. Haldane Crichton) is here this week in the military comic opera *The Dandy Fifth*. Mr. Jack Crichton gives an able and spirited rendering of Brown; Mr. Percy Baverstock is capital as the Colonel; Mr. George Beverley does full justice in the rôle of Sergt.-Major Milligan; and Mr. J. Edward Fraser gives a clever representation of Dick Darville, his singing winning applause. Miss Pauline Hague as Kate Lorrimer contributes by her fine acting and singing much of the success of the piece; Miss Norah Morra makes a charming Polly; and Miss Maude Nichols fills with taste the part of Mrs. Von Blitzen.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and a clever company of artists, in a musical sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, top the bill this week, and obtain hearty appreciation; Mr. Wilton Heriot and company provide an excellent protean turn; Mlle. Yetta gives a fine performance on the wire; Rose D'Aulby, ballad vocalist, obtains a good reception; Rosie Bartlett, comedienne, delights; and T. C. Jacques, comedian, merits applause.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Potter.—Messrs. Silvanus Dauncey and Mr. V. Leveaux present this week *The Walls of Jericho*. Mr. Alfred Goddard submits a fine interpretation of Jack Frobisher, the manly nature of the "man from Queensland" being well developed. A robust Hankey Bannister is Mr. Russell Barry; and Mr. Ben Lewin is seen to advantage in a clever sketch of the Marquis of Steventon. Mr. Christopher Steele scores as Lord Drayton; and the cynical Harry Dallas is seen in the capable hands of Mr. A. W. Tyrer. Miss Nancy Beresford is a charming Lady Althea; Miss Elsie Ross makes the most of Lady Lucy Derenham; and Miss Ormonde Wynne as Lady Westerby delights all with her skilful interpretation of a noble character. The subsidiary rôles are all well sustained, and the staging was excellent.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Janet Hall's songs are all well received; the Moores are capital speciality entertainers; and the pictures are all good.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—That clever and quaint comedian H. G. Wills is here this week with his fund of humour and good songs; Kurkamp, the singing conductor, again wins favour with his classical selections; the Sisters Cora are charming vocalists and dancers; the Gregson Trio score in the sketch *The Dummy*; the Twin Sisters Edwards are seen to advantage as vocalists, dancers, and drummers; Harry Walton is an accomplished Dutch comedian and dancer; and Burns and Bentley are a capital dancing team. The pictures are all good.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Kuner.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is paying a return visit this week in the successful drama *The Two Little Vagabonds*. Mr. Geo. Denham in the rôle of George Thornton, gives a skilful rendering; and the part of Captain Darville is ably performed by Mr. Herbert Standing. Jim Scarth by Mr. Harry Reynolds is all that could be desired; and as Bill Mullins *alias* the Gaffer Mr. Herbert Russell does full justice. The rôles of Dicky and Wally are excellently played by Miss Chrissie Francess and Miss Ethel Frances Greene respectively. Miss Dora Frank Harvey's presentation of Marion Thornton meets with every approval; and as Barbara Scarth Miss Leonora Castelle proves herself a capable artist. An amusing interpretation of Biddy Mullins is given by Miss Ethel Lodge.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—EXCHANGE.—Miss Loie Esmond's company appeared on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in *Nana*, *In the Gloaming*, and *The Sorrows of Satan*. *In the Gloaming* was played for the first time, and a report of the production will be found in another column.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—*The Midnight Mail* is being excellently reproduced here by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company. Mr. Grant Lytton as Billy Brewer, the drunken stoker, is clever; Mr. Geo. Harvard is capable as Harry Steyne, the driver; and as Leonard Royle, the manager of the line, Mr. Chas. H. Longden has a part admirably suited to him. Miss Jeannie Weston is a charming Lady Eustace; Miss Daisy Clifford as Nancy Brewer and Miss Trissie Humphreys as Mary Steyne fill their respective rôles with distinction.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Special praise must be given to the Three Orros, who give a clever performance on silver chains; Rappo and Ella are very smart gymnasts; Parker and Parr, Welsh vocal entertainers, possess beautiful voices, which they use with much effect; Professor Buer introduces his clever talking donkey; Mr. R. Victor Moran's electrical musical transformations are exceedingly pretty; and Victoria Cross and Marjorie Cecil are two clever comediennes. The Three de Venas introduce an interesting juggling turn; and the Hippodrome pictures are fine.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—The comedy *Merely Mary Ann* is being presented this week by Mr. Herbert Greville's company. Mr. Paul Lovett's rendition of the rôle of Lancelot reflects great credit upon the artist; Mr. Stanley Logan makes of Peter a most enjoyable character; Mr. Robert Entwistle is entirely successful as the Rev. Samuel Smidge; as Lord Tottenham Mr. Herbert Greville contributes considerably to the humour; as Mrs. Leadbatter Miss Violet Greville makes an amusing lodging-house keeper, and Miss Florence Radcliffe scores a success as the daughter. The rôle of Countess of Foxwell is artistically played by Miss Ethel Carlyle, and Miss Jessica Solomon is to be congratulated upon the success she achieves in the rôle of Mary Ann.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Bonnie Goodwin's Apollo Piccaninnies in their dancing bring down the house; *The Silly Burglar*, a sketch brimful of comedy, is capitally played by the Waldrons; Gladys and Alber are sparkling and original in their acrobatic comedy act; Happy Attwood is an old favourite of whom a West Hartlepool audience could never tire, and the same may be said of Cassie Walmer. The Lecardos Bros. are a couple of comedy acrobats; Frank Seeley makes a hit, and Raymond's bio-tableaux are popular.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. C. Bowmaker's company is here this week in *The Education of Elizabeth* and *The Idler*. The former of these was staged on Monday. Miss Florence Harcourt as Elizabeth Black gives an interpretation that is altogether admirable; a thoroughly sound artist is Miss Blanche Lynd, whose Blanche Macyntyre is artistically impersonated; as Lucy Middleton, Miss Helene Forest gives a refined rendering of the character; and Miss May Norris is charming as Lily Kerr. The ripe experience of Mr. Ernest E. Norris stands that excellent actor in good stead as Reggie Hankey; Mr. Bert Morley makes the most of Harry Fairfax; and Mr. Fred Castleman makes a praiseworthy Mr. Whitby.

GRAND PIER PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. John H. Stevenson.—The Dandies are giving their delightful entertainment here this week. Miss Josephine Gordon's rendering of "There you are, that's a girl," is decidedly chic; Miss Rhoda Gordon's Scotch songs were loudly applauded; Miss Gurney Delaporte sings a serenade of Gounod's with much expression; Mr. Henry J. Corner received an encore for his dramatic rendering of the prologue from *Pagliacci*; Mr. Stephen Fitzgerald's humorous songs are rapturously received; and some very fine pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

VICTORIA HALL.—Manager, Mr. Frude.—Mr. M. W. Shanly's bioscope and variety company is the attraction this week. The pictures, by Pathé Frères, are decidedly good, especially those entitled Secret Service, Love and Duty, and The Custom Officer's Revenge. Mr. Gus L. Harris is an artist of much versatility; his songs and recitations are exceptionally good. Master Leonard Athersych's song, "Ora pro nobis," was loudly encored.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—*Claudian*, the famous creation of the late Wilson Barrett, has been performed to record houses here this week. Mr. William Maclaren acts with the requisite fire and dramatic passion as the splendid Claudian; Miss Lily Bandman makes a graceful and winning representative of Almida, and all the other characters are excellently played. The scenery and costumes, together with the mechanical effects, are faithful copies of the original production.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. George W. Montrose.—The Kraners head the bill here with a fine exhibition on the rings and trapeze; the Vanderbilts are very smart in their refined act; Roos presents a fine illusion, which mystifies the house; Frances Haskoll is a sweet singer of illustrated songs; Wal Langtry causes roars of laughter; the Chameleon, in her ever-changing scene, is excellent, and the Vicoscope completes.

WHITEHAVEN.—MARKET HALL.—Lessees, The Edison Picture Company; General-Manager, Mr. Victor Branford; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Urwin.—Pictures shown here this week include The Border Limit, The Man in Overalls, Mixed Babies, The Mesmeriser, Under a Crocodile Skin, The Ragpicker's Wedding, &c. Also appearing here is Charles May, vocal comedian, who is exceptionally well received.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. Chas. Macdona and his talented company are presenting *Mr. Popple* to delighted audiences. In the title rôle Mr. Macdona scores a big success; Miss Nellie Hodson wins admiration for her charming portrayal of La Bolero; Miss May Hart deserves special praise as Louise; Mr. Tom Hart makes a decided hit as Platt; the character of Norman Popple is in the capable hands of Mr. C. Du Cane; Mr. Eric Barrington is successful as Jacques Kenyon; Miss Marie Moss is a real favourite as Violet Buntor, and Miss Lilian Tait wins admiration as Mrs. Henney.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. John Lawson is appearing here in the highly fascinating sketches, *The Monkey's Paw*, *Pigs in Clover*, *The King's Minister*, and the great favourite *Humanity*. Miss Alice Maude is an extremely clever impersonator; Jack Neil is an excellent mirth-provoking patterer; the Royal Delomes are capital clog dancers; the Three Zaracs appear successfully in a comedy sketch entitled *Mashing the Barmaid*; the Melba Twins please greatly with their charming singing; the Ladderites contribute a daring speciality act; Kloof and Ramsay are artists of great merit, and Harry Zetter is a popular comedian.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Good business rules here. The pictures include Hamlet, The Adventures of Princess Tricksy, Life in the Army, A Little Savoyard, and a host of other entertaining subjects. Mr. Dick Wadeson, the popular comedian and dancer, is well received. A clog-dancing competition for which some very fine prizes are being awarded is a big draw.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company, in *The Conscience of a Judge*, was well received here on Monday. Mr. Kenyon Musgrave is excellent in the part of Judge Granstone, which he plays with fine distinction; Mr. Sam Courtney as Sir Edwin Mervin makes a polished scoundrel; Mr. Reginald Maurice plays quietly, but with telling effect, as Cecil Bentley; and Mr. Walter Clarke is straightforward and manly as young Geoffrey Granstone. Mr. Frank Ayrton as John Summers and Mr. Fred W. Graham as Horatio Winters are responsible for the comedy element, and keep the house in roars of laughter, their efforts being ably seconded by Miss Madge Seymour as Mary Wilson. Miss Nellie Howlit as Jessica Draycott proves herself an emotional actress of exceptional power; Miss Mabel Coleman makes a pleasing Ethel Vaughan; and Miss Elsie Isaacs ably fills the rôle of Little Kitty. The piece is capitally staged.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—*The Biter Bit*, a highly-humorous boxing sketch by the Brothers Horne, is the star turn here; the Tally Ho Trio are brimful of mirth and melody; the Brothers Dean soon whistle themselves into favour, and are responsible for some very clever dual dancing; Miss Rosie Lloyd is paying a return visit, and is as popular as ever; Mr. George Prince is a good comedian; and Mr. A. W. Scott sings some taking coon songs, and also dances well.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—*The Bondman* is being presented here for the first time, and with a measure of generous support which more than justifies its great reputation. The interest of the story is sustained throughout the five acts, and Mr. Wentworth Croke's numerous company is responsible for an excellent representation. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin in the title-rôle displays a fine grip of the characterisation; and Mr. L. Atwill as Michael Sunlocks succeeds in making the part most effective. Miss Georgina Wynter's impersonation of Greeba is marked by dignity and restraint; and the part of Mrs. Fairbrother is in the able hands of Miss Madge Lanerton. Mr. Oswald Lingard is well suited as the unctuous Adam Fairbrother; and Mr. W. H. Rotherham successfully doubles the part of Father Ferrati and Grandfather. The small character of Christian Ann was well filled by Miss Emilie Mayhew; and the children, Mona and Danny, are excellently impersonated by Miss Gertrule Helene and Master Walter Neville. The play is elaborately staged, the scenic effects being startling and realistic.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—Alex and Jolly give a really clever and amusing performance on the triple bars; Mueller and Coyne prove themselves smart vaudeville artists, and do some wonderful tumbling; the Le Bruns, in their novel vocal and juggling speciality, *My New Lady Partner*, are popular; and Little Edie's singing is much appreciated, as are the Empire pictures.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—The popularity of Mr. Allan Wilkie is clearly on the increase, and the theatre during the present week has been well filled. On Monday, in *Julius Cæsar*, Mr. Wilkie gave a powerful rendition of the part of Mark Antony, which is imbued with all the necessary fire. The company is one of all-round excellence. Miss Carrie Baillie, in the somewhat minor part of Lucius, shone conspicuously; as Brutus, Mr. Alexander Marsh had ample opportunities to display his undoubted power as a Shakespearean actor of the first rank, and scored a complete success; Mr. Frank Royde was an ideal Cassius, giving a finished performance; our old friend, Mr. John Paley, brought his ripe experience to bear with telling effect on the rôle of Casca. A répertoire of Shakespearean and other plays is announced for the week.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—F. V. St. Clair is being heartily received this week, his popular songs and local allusions finding great favour. Oakdene is a ventriloquist of great ability; Rosa Loader at the piano has been heartily applauded; Enid Errol and company, in a dancing episode, entitled *The Magic Vase*, do well; and Farley, Rennie, and Farley produce an amusing sketch, entitled *Fun at a Railway Station*, in which some clever tumbling is introduced. August and September, in their particular line, are inimitable; and Alston's White Stars give a turn which is at once clever and acceptable. The Three Tivoli Girls and Jolay and Francis complete an attractive programme.

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LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Musical Comedy entitled "MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND."

The audience at the King's on Monday evening was evidently well pleased with *Miss Hook of Holland*. Mr. George Dance's company carry out the intentions of the makers of the play by entering into the spirit of the thing with energy and animation. Mr. Arthur Reynolds has a fund of dry humour which he uses with excellent effect in the character of Mr. Hook, the distillery proprietor; Captain Adrian Paap is dashingly played by Mr. Frederick Hobbs, who sings well; Mr. Lionel Scott is good as Lieutenant de Coop; as Bandmaster Van Vuyt Mr. Powis Pinder acts in manly fashion, and his singing is worth hearing; Mr. Percy Davidson is a clever and active Ludwig Schnaaps; and Mr. A. Murray is capable as Van Eck. Deserving of very great praise is Mr. Fred Lyne for a highly amusing personation of the loafer Simon Slinks, the audience being kept in good humour. With an exceedingly clear voice and a delightful presence Miss Marie Wilson represents Sally Hook to everybody's satisfaction; Miss Mabel Sealby, who displays real comedy powers, quite distinguishes herself as Mina, the maid, and her songs gain the encores they richly deserve. The chorus act and sing with much power, and the quaint Dutch costumes and scenery are objects of admiration. The orchestra is ably directed by Mr. Sydney Shaw.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Musical Comedy, entitled "THE MERRY WIDOW."

Record business is being done at the Marlborough this week with Mr. George Edwardes's company in *The Merry Widow*. The house has been full to overflowing throughout the week, and seats have been at a premium. Mr. Edwardes has engaged a company of which the principals are artists whose performances are too well known to need any special comment. In the title-rôle Miss Constance Drever at once made herself a favourite by her singing, graceful acting, and dancing. Mr. Leonard Mackay is equally excellent as Prince Danilo, his work being characterised by artistic completeness. Mr. W. H. Rawlins makes a great success as Nisch, and provides a good portion of the fun; and Mr. Theodore Leonard meets with considerable appreciation as General Novakovitch. Mr. W. Talleur Andrews acts and sings admirably as Vicomte Camille de Jolidon; and Mr. Thomas David is well placed as the Marquis de Cascada. Mr. H. Sinclair Cotter figures with good effect as the Head Waiter at Maxim's; and Messrs. Norman Greene and Robert Whitehouse play their respective rôles, M. de St. Brioche and M. Kadja, with due appreciation of their possibilities. The sight of Mr. Eric Thorne with his ludicrous facial and tonsorial make-up is amusing enough in itself; but when to this is added the clever comedian's innumerable eccentricities of speech and manner, the result is mirth-provoking beyond description. Miss Ethel Cadman is very charming as Natalie; and Miss Sylvia May appears with excellent effect as Olga, the same remark applying to Miss Kathleen Courtney as Sylvaine. The work of the whole company has a spontaneity and brightness unique in character, the chorus vying with the principals in the easy grace of their acting and the brilliancy of their vocalisation. An attractive lady, whom we are unable to identify by the programme, submitted a *pas seul* in the last act, which obtained a deserved encore. The scenery of the piece is brilliant in the extreme, and is quite up to the usual standard of the painters, Messrs. Joseph Harker and Alfred Terraine. Right well and earnestly does Mr. A. MacCunn perform his duties as musical director of the augmented orchestra.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 28, "THE WHIRLPOOL."

The new play by Herbert Swears, *The Whirlpool*, founded on a short story by Cyrus Townsend Brady, which made its London début at the Marlborough last week, is a drama of American "high finance," into which is deftly woven a romance of middle-aged love interest. Mrs. Kendal must have a predilection and a great sympathy for spinsters who are approaching the "sere and yellow leaf" of old-maidism, for this somewhat hapless mortal finds a place in several of her plays, notably *The Elder Miss Blossom*, and no one could possibly earn more sympathy for them or bring the dumb agony of their monotonous existence more forcibly before us. The part of Miss Constance Livingstone does not exactly come under this category, but it is painfully near it at times, and with all her wealth of money we are permitted by the author, and more especially by the actress, plainly to see how much she longs for a wealth of love to crown her happiness and content. Mrs. Kendal's charm of manner and expression, her grace and refinement, are they not written in the chronicles of her several performances? So suffice it to say that she is quite up to her best form as Miss Livingstone. Mr. Kendal as Elijah D. Tillottson has a part after his own heart as the fearless, intrepid, resourceful, and intensely loyal American engineer, who wrecks the scheme on which his life's happiness depends in order to save the honour of his loved one. Mr. Edmund Gurney as his pal, Ephraim Johnstone, is "great," and contributes a fine characteristic performance of the wild Westerner. Mr. Metcalfe Wood is just splendid as the antediluvian clerk Chappin. Mr. W. M. Rutherfurd, who on Monday night had the reversion of Mr. Bassett Roe's part owing to the indisposition of the latter, came out with flying colours as the egotistical and snobbish Bertram Livingstone, who was determined that no one should play with his sister's money but himself, and was well suited to the part. Mr. Bennett took up Mr. Rutherfurd's part of the manservant Parker. Mr. T. Holding created a good impression as the Hon. Reginald Killegrew; and Mr. Wellesley Draper acts with sincerity and naturalness as the coffee broker, Cutter, of Cutter, Drewitt and Co. Miss Ethel Dane both looks and acts prettily as Gertrude van Stuyler; and Mrs. A. B. Tapping is eminently satisfactory as Aunt de Kaater. On Thursday evening *The Elder Miss Blossom* was billed, and on Friday and Saturday *The House of Clay*.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Romantic Comedy, "DIANA OF DOBSON'S."

Mr. Peter Davey, the managing-Director, made another happy hit in bringing to the riverside town the above London success, which was sent down by Miss Lena Ashwell with her principal company. Good houses have attended each night during the week, and this, one of the latest London successes, was received with rapturous applause. One cannot speak too highly of the acting of Miss Emilie Polini in the principal rôle of Diana Massingberd. Her portraiture of the shopgirl at Dobson's was most realistic, and her behaviour in the Engadine whilst enjoying the fleeting pleasures purchased by a legacy of £300 was also true to life. Miss Daisy England presented a faithful picture of Miss Pringle, the angular and severe forewoman at Dobson's. The other girls at Dobson's were admirably impersonated by the Misses Violet Gould, Eva Lonsdale, Dorothy Garth, and Olga Esme. Miss Gwynneth Galton made a most successful appearance as Miss Cantalupe; and Mr. Frank Woolfe also gave a good account of himself in the part of the invertebrate Captain Bretherton. A special word of commendation is deserved by Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce for an admirable picture of the successful parvenu, Sir Gobez Grinlay, of Grinlay's Emporium, Limited. The minor parts in the play were also well presented. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* was presented as a curtain-raiser, and gave Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce an opportunity of presenting a touching picture of a lovable French bishop. The other parts were ably filled by Messrs. Frank Woolfe and Stewart Dawson and the Misses Daisy England and Olga Esme.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Comedy, entitled "THE MOLLUSC."

"One of the cleverest comedies of the day" must be the verdict of all who have seen *The Mollusc* at Kennington Theatre this week, a production which redounds infinitely to the credit both of the talented author, Hubert Henry Davies, and of the clever quartette of artists who interpret him so faithfully. *The Mollusc* is essentially a comedy in which everything depends on the spirit in which the company catches the author's quaint fancies and work them out, and certainly there can be nothing but praise for the manner in which the play is presented by Miss Annie Hughes and her colleagues. In the title-rôle Miss Annie Hughes is wonderful. The part suits her to the life, and she gives the most delightful sketch of Mrs. Baxter, the Mollusc, that can be imagined. Miss Hughes proves herself to be a finished comedy actress, and she quickly wins all hearts. Of scarcely less importance to the success of the play is Miss Lilias Waldegrave's sympathetic study of the character of Miss Roberts, the governess. A charming lady, Miss Waldegrave impersonates the governess with refreshing naïvette, and she well deserves all the encomiums she has showered upon her. The Tom Kemp of Mr. Athol Stewart is remarkably well done; he is the unsentimental but good-hearted brother to the life. An appeal to the wife's jealous instincts is conventional, but the way in which Mr. Stewart goes to work invests it with absorbing interest. Mr. Aiick Chumley is splendid as Mr. Baxter, the husband of the Mollusc, and proves himself to be a gifted actor.

There is a pretty and unconventional curtain-raiser in the shape of Mrs. Oscar Beringer's one-act play *A Bit of Old Chelsea*, which affords additional opportunity for Miss Hughes to demonstrate her great versatility as the derelict flower-girl, and for Mr. Aiick Chumley to make a hit in the part of Jack Hillier, the sculptor. As Hillier's friends Mr. W. A. Thompson and Mr. F. Hartley both do well.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Musical Play, entitled "THE DAIRYMAIDS."

Mr. J. Bannister Howard has made a most auspicious start on his autumn season with the new and revised version of the above popular piece. In addition to providing such good fare for his patrons, this popular manager has done much to add to their comfort in a rearrangement of the seating and installing additional heating apparatus, whilst very plain notices insist on the removal of ladies' head-gear in the front seats. Mr. Robert Macdonald's company is a good one, and with fresh scenery and a large contingent of extra ladies and gentlemen, is beginning its autumn tour at this theatre. Miss Carrie Lacy makes a bright Lady Brudenell, her dresses and acting being alike smart. The cheerful Sam Brudenell is a lively character in the hands of Mr. Richard Telford, and his dancing is a feature of the performance. Mr. J. Scott Melville as Lieut. Frank Meredith, the naval lover, plays with discretion and a natural manner, making also a very passable girl when disguised in the school scene. Dr. O'Byrne, the Hibernian naval medico, was a matured impersonation in Mr. Bernard Vaughan's experienced hands. Mr. Dare Agar has added many drolleries to his part of Joe Mivens, A.B., and his quaint mannerisms, clever acting, and almost athletic dancing, make each of his appearances the occasion of unrestrained merriment. This is especially the case in his scenes with Miss Nellie Bowman, whose Eliza is an excellent embodiment of the maid-of-all-work. Her singing and acting were of the high order to be expected of this clever little comedienne. Miss Lucy Edwin is a commanding figure as Miss Penelope Pychase, proprietress of the Ladies' School, where so much of the fun takes place, and Miss Vera Chrichton displays a cultured voice and a pleasant manner as Winifred. Miss Empsie Bowman has plenty to do as Peggy, and her two principal songs, "Hullo! little stranger," and the "Sandow Girl," are among the successes of the evening, being encored many times. Miss Doris Dickens has not much to do but to look sweet, and the crowd of dairymaids, school-girls, &c., do the same with marked success. The four Sandow Girls are eminently well selected for their fine physique.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Drama entitled "AN UNWEDDED WIFE."

Described on the bill as "a great play of human emotion," *An Unwedded Wife* is presented by Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. E. Whitty's company. Miss Ethel Van Praagh, who is a great favourite at the Elephant as elsewhere, undertakes the part of Marion, the unwedded wife, and gives an artistic performance, being recalled several times at the end of each act. Mr. J. Edward Whitty plays the part of P.C. Runyin, "the pride of the force"; Mr. George Daiper as Frank Haythorne is a manly hero, and delivers his lines well. Mr. Charles Stirling accentuates the villainies of Philip Blackstone; Mr. Will Casey is a favourite as Napoleon B. Boomer, a jovial showman; and Miss Jessie Gillette is a good second as Caraway Crumpet, his sweetheart. A word of praise should be given to the child actress Little Doris, who takes the part of the boy Reggie. The play is well mounted.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Play entitled "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

The attraction at the Pavilion for the current week is Mr. Charles Harrington's American combination in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. This well-known story is always of interest, and appeals particularly to children, for whom two special matinees are given. A feature of the play is the grand plantation festival in Act IV., when some fine singing and dancing is given by Messrs. Rich and Moor, Shorty May, J. Warrie, and Dinah Dixie. Mr. J. Carr in the part of Uncle Tom is very expressive; while his better half, Aunt Chloe, is amusingly performed by Mrs. Carr. Mr. Charles Harrington contents himself with a rendition of Phineas Fletcher; and the callous Simon Legree is portrayed with power by Mr. T. Bowron. Mr. Frank Forbes Robertson is acceptable as Mr. St. Clair; and an energetic and vigorous George Harris is found in Mr. Ernest Regent. Eliza Harris is made the essence of refinement by Miss Hero Hathway, and Topsy is humorously delineated by Miss Annie Watson; while Miss Hetty Johnson as Cassy is forcible. Little Eva is pathetically performed by Miss Kitty Bell, and Miss Ethel Vernon is seen to advantage as Emmeline. The remainder of the long cast are in excellent hands.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Play, in a Prologue and Four Acts, entitled "THE NEW EAST LYNNE."

Mr. W. W. Kelly is presenting here for the first time in London a new adaptation from the pen of Mr. Edmund Gurney of Mrs. Henry Wood's famous novel "East Lynne." Whilst, as in the other versions, the plot of the novel is closely adhered to, Mr. Gurney has—whilst retaining the pathetic incidents of the story—broadened out the comedy part, and his introduction of the Irish retainer, *Murty O'Flynn*, who is one of the most prominent characters in the production, adds greatly to the humour. An excellent company has been engaged, and their interpretation is in all respects thoroughly satisfactory. Mr. Frederick Harker is responsible for a sterling rendering of Archibald Carlyle, playing the part in quiet, easy style, but with a determination admirably in keeping with the character. The heartless villainy of Francis Levison is neatly hit off by Mr. W. H. Garbois, who acquits himself with credit. As Murty O'Flynn Mr. Richard Nugent is a host in himself, and his humorous remarks and clever repartee make him a warm favourite. Mr. W. Lowe is a sufficiently irascible Justice Hare; and Mr. R. Aspinall makes the most of the part of Otway Bethel. Mr. Byron Pedley is well suited to the rôle of Mr. Dill; Mr. M. Talbot is a dignified Lord Mountsevern; and Mr. W. T. Ellonby renders good service as Richard Hare. In the rôle of Lady Isabel Miss Beth Elliott is remarkably successful. The suffering and despair of the broken-hearted mother beget the fullest sympathy. Miss Sophy Shenton must be warmly commended for a really clever presentation of Cornelia, whose tirades against the sterner sex cause much laughter. Miss Josephine Gwynne, a prepossessing Barbara Hare, acts with pleasing effect; Miss Guinevere Shilton cleverly doubles the parts of Afy and Joyce Hallijohn. The remainder of the company all do well in smaller parts, and the scenery and mounting is beyond reproach. Mr. Frank Rogers is manager for Mr. W. W. Kelly.

THE NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Sept. 28, "A LION'S HEART."

This interesting drama is drawing good houses at the Lyric. It is a play of absorbing interest, and receives excellent treatment from Mr. Bebb's company. Mr. Henry Bedford interprets with much effect the part of Rizardo; Mr. Leonard Booker is a manly Dick Lorimore; Miss Ada Oakley as Louise in the prologue and as Dick's wife later on wins much sympathy by the able manner in which she acts; Miss Madge Beresford is a lively Bessie; Mr. Edgar J. Coyne creates much laughter as Jack Bealey; Mr. Archie Helsby scores well as Colonel Robert de Villefort; quite excellent are the acting and make-up of Mr. Stephen Scanlan as Gaspard Dobre; little Elsie May plays cleverly as Gilbert; Miss Beatrice Holmes is commendable as Sister Gertrude; Miss Kitty Ross is good as Mme. le Cheminart; and the other characters were all ably played. The scene where the ex-prisoners choose wives from among the female convicts was well acted and caused much laughter. The scenery throughout was effective, and the performance met with well-merited applause.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Drama, entitled "QUEEN OF THE NIGHT."

The stock company engaged at this popular house is winning the warm favour of the local playgoers. This week's attraction is the drama *Queen of the Night*, which gives opportunities for the display of ability which the performers take every advantage of. The production includes some excellent scenic effects, with a good representation of a train in motion. Mr. Harry Tresham as Frank Featherstone is thoroughly suited to the part, and acts in frank and easy style; Mr. H. Ryland Leigh as Phillip Stoneleigh is very successful, and gives a most powerful performance of the part of the unscrupulous scoundrel. One of the best impersonations is the Old Brisket of Mr. C. Alan Hineson, who supplies a really good character-study of the bibulous personage. Considerable amusement is caused by Mr. H. G. Brandon as Adolphus Brisket and Miss Florence Barnes as Kitty White. They take full advantage of their opportunities of creating laughter. An excellent impersonation is that of the miser, David Pentreath, given by Mr. W. S. Clarke, who makes the money-grubbing old man stand out very prominently; a charming and dainty Maud Sylvester is Miss L. Stanhope, whose quiet and unaffected manner is very agreeable; Mrs. Brisket is played in a very forcible manner by Miss Edna Lester; Miss Alice Emery as Mary Pentreath is decidedly good. Unqualified praise must be bestowed upon Miss E. Gordon Murray for her very able and consistent performance as Paulina, her acting being much above the average; her performance deserves heartiest congratulations.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Romantic Play, by Walter Howard, entitled, "THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

Mr. Alfred Paumier and Mr. Walter Howard's company is presenting this week at the Dalston Theatre Mr. Walter Howard's romantic play, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, which has only recently terminated its run at the Lyceum, where it was originally produced. The piece is well acted all round. Prince Hildred of Sylvania has a powerful representative in Mr. Ivan Cleveland, who is much admired; Mr. Graeme Campbell as Prince Michael acts with care, and Mr. Herbert Ford, as Prince Olaf, who eventually marries the Princess of Illyria, is a manly hero. As Monica, Princess of Illyria, Miss Annie Saker is deserving of nothing short of the most unstinted praise. Not only does she look the part to perfection, but the amount of feeling which she imparts to certain scenes proves that she puts heart into the character, a rare quality which ensures complete success in any impersonation. As Camlola, a beggar maid (whom for a time the actual Princess impersonates), Miss Dido Drake may be congratulated on a decidedly pretty rendering of a most sympathetic rôle. The part is played with a charming degree of naturalness. Miss Isla Vayne is all that can be desired as Viola, sister to Captain Hector (of the Princess's bodyguard), a character well presented by Mr. D. Lewin Mannering. Mr. Kendal Chalmers is Lieut. Karl Stromberg, the other guardsman to the Princess. Mr. Albert Carlton as Lieut. Felsburg, Mr. J. E. Gardner as Nathan, a dumb servant, and Mr. Francis Hawley as the Bishop of Illyria, are also among the efficient cast. Mr. W. R. King, the business manager at this popular house, does everything possible for the general comfort of all in front of the curtain.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

Monday, Sept. 28, the Drama, in Five Acts, by Horace Stanley, entitled "GUILTY GOLD."

That popular actor-author Mr. Horace Stanley is appearing here this week in a capital play written by himself, in which he sustains with skill and effect the part of Septimus Sweet, a character exactly suited to his ability, and which immediately makes him a warm favourite with his audience. He is admirably assisted by Miss Kate Kilpack, whose Nancy Bright is a delightfully amusing performance. Miss Cora Linda as the twin sisters Elsie and Hetty Middleton is a charming and capable actress, who creates much interest by her clever and sympathetic performance. Miss Josephine Lee as Rhoda Hampton is excellent in every way; and Miss Evelyn M. Walton is a capital representative of Bertha Blossom. Mr. J. Arthur Plummer is very good indeed, and scores well as Harold Elmore; and Mr. Fred Wilberforce as Robert Bartlett gives a consistent and incisive performance of the bigamist and blackmailer. Mr. Chauncey Morris supplies an excellent performance of John Middleton; Mr. Cecil H. Raymond is capital as Sweet William; Martin Haldane is in the capable hands of Mr. William Hayward; Mr. Alaric Burton is a clever Uriah Fudge; and Mr. Arthur E. Francis gives a smart performance as Algernon Carruthers. Other prominent parts are ably enacted by Mr. Ernest Griffiths (Jem Huggins), Mr. Mark Lane (Tobias Dobbs), Mr. Richard Barker (Joe Nobbs), Mr. James Bennett (Sam Swipes), Mr. Harry Loates (Gaffer Giles), Mr. Fred C. Roper (Tom Rowe), and Mr. Thomas Dunn (Inspector Bradley). The performance concludes with an exhibition of animated pictures by the American Bioscope.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the play entitled "IRENE WYCHERLEY."

A pleasant and attractive bill of fare is presented this week at this popular house; and the enterprising management should reap a rich reward for their enterprise. The fame of Miss Lena Ashwell's great success in *Irene Wycherley* no doubt accounted for the large audience, who gave a hearty welcome to the Monckton-Hoffe company in Mr. Wharton's clever play. Miss Maude Henderson splendidly realises the arduous character of Irene Wycherley, her intense acting throughout giving every satisfaction; Mr. Charles Garry is to be distinctly complimented on his admirable portraiture of Philip Wycherley; Miss Grace Illingworth is a graceful exponent of Carrie Hardinge; and Miss Evelyn Cecil successfully enacts Hilda Preston. Miss Muriel Carmel is seen to advantage as Linda Hetheridge; Miss Beatrice Mervyn is excellent as Lady Wycherley; Mr. Ralph Hutton stands out prominently with his clever impersonation of Sir Peter Wycherley; Mr. Edward Sorley is capital as Harry Chesterton; Mr. Claude Haviland well depicts Charles Summers; Miss Phillis Stuckey must be congratulated on her acting as Muriel Wycherley; Miss Olive Warne's rendering of Lily Summers is very commendable; and Miss Emmie Reamer is good as Parker. The play is nicely mounted. Mr. Will T. Taylor is, as usual, always to the front in looking after the comfort of Mr. Fred. Melville's extensive clientèle.

ROYAL ARTILLERY, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Play entitled "THE ADVENTURE OF LADY URSULA."

Besides the above-mentioned play Mr. Norman V. Norman is also presenting during the current week *David Garrick* and *Nell Gwynne of Drury Lane*, with a matinée of *Still Waters Run Deep*, so that patrons of this house are well provided for. The play under notice is carefully dressed and adequately staged, and each of the four acts is set forth in an interesting fashion. Mr. Norman, with his fine stage presence, has a part which suits him admirably as Sir George Silvester. He takes every advantage of his chances, and presents a very finished performance. Miss Beatrice Wilson, in the character of Lady Ursula, contributes a highly successful study, imbuing the part with the necessary intensity and feeling. That "very proper" aristocrat Mrs. Fenton is capably undertaken by Miss Ethel Coleridge. Miss V. Malcolm Barnett is responsible for the part of Dorothy Fenton, which she invests with brightness and charm. Mr. Alfred Gray instils the necessary amount of impetuosity into the character of the Earl of Hassenden, and is entirely successful; Mr. Sam Wilkinson is amusing as the Rev. Mr. Blimboe; Mr. Reginald P. Lamb gives a clever impersonation of Mr. Dent; and the remaining members of the cast are quite efficient.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Drama entitled "THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."

Written by H. Brinsley Hill and produced before the footlights early in the present month by the Hardie and Von Leer company, *The Sailor's Wedding* is continuing a successful career, and is meeting with a very cordial reception at the Royal this week. The setting of the play being under Italian skies offers a fine opportunity to the scenic artist, who has adequately availed himself of the chance. The various emotional situations are carefully handled by a very capable company, who deserve the applause so liberally meted out to them. Mr. C. W. Standing gives a natural impersonation of the part of Gordon Drake and acts with sincerity; Sir Victor Lascelles is cleverly undertaken by Mr. Cecil Klein, who imbues the part with much human sentiment; Mr. Frank Stone gives an earnest rendering of the ambitious Count Bellini; Mr. Hodgson Taylor as the unpopular villain Giovanni Ferici portrays the character with good effect; Giacomo of the Evil Eye is essayed with excellent ability by Mr. F. Finch Smiles; Mr. Walter Pemberton makes an amusing Jack Hawkins; Miss Winifred Pearson gives a praiseworthy representation of Lenore de Gresac, and shows considerable experience and talent, her efforts in the boudoir scene being noteworthy; Countess Bellini is judiciously enacted by Miss Maud Linden; Miss Dulcie Greatwich as Mary is a charming and graceful heroine; Miss Celestine Bertram is humorous as Ninette; and Miss Belle Travers is a suitable Polly Clarke. Minor characters are adequately assumed by Mr. Huntley Gifford, Mr. Frederick Jacques, Mr. Water Emsdale, and Mr. Charles Childs.

ACTORS' DAY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me, through your columns, to remind your readers that Oct. 15—the third Thursday in October—is Actors' Day? The Advisory Board have constant evidence before them of the great practical utility of Actors' Day, and they look forward with confidence to the infinitely greater service it will render to all of us as soon as its objects are completely and universally understood. After last year's collection, the Advisory Board decided that Actors' Day should in future be confined to one simple and definite object—the help of those who are willing to help themselves: that its funds should be independently and exclusively administered on this basis. This was confirmed at the annual general meeting, held at the Kingsway Theatre on March 19 last.

Now, and in future, only those who contribute their one night's earnings once a year on the third Thursday in October can be on the register. All out of engagement may remain on the register without contribution, provided they notify the Advisory Board of their position at the time. Only those on the register may apply for benefit in any form. Actors' Day is open to actors, actresses, managers, and authors.

The benefits are even now substantial, as many can gratefully testify. With general support the benefits will be enormously increased and out of all proportion to the sacrifice involved. A contributor to Actors' Day knows that no part of his contribution will or can go to anyone who has not proved his willingness to help himself by having contributed. All this and further details are fully explained in posters which are being sent to every theatre in the kingdom, and on contribution forms, which will be sent individually to all whose addresses can be obtained.

But, in spite of every effort, there are many with whom it must be impossible to communicate personally. The Advisory Board, therefore, ask for the help of all who are willing to assist by making Actors' Day and its objects as widely known as possible. Actors' Day is not an appeal to charity: it is a genuine effort made by actors to help themselves. The Advisory Board commend it to the careful consideration and cordial support of all who earn their living in the most precarious of all professions. The hon. secretary will be glad to supply forms and give the fullest information to all who apply by letter, addressed to him at Dudley House, 37, Southampton-street, Strand, London, W.C.—Yours faithfully,

SYDNEY VALENTINE,
Chairman of the Advisory Board.

Duke of York's Theatre, Oct. 1.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"REAPING THE WHIRLWIND."

A play in one act, by Allan Monkhouse, produced for the first time on any stage at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, Sept. 28.

Sir Frank Selby, Bart., F.R.S. — MR. LEWIS CASSON
Dickinson — MR. EDWARD LANDOR
Dr. Rushton — MR. JULES SHAW
Lady Selby — MISS DARRAGH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

It is not often that a play so compact and effective in the space of one act is put upon the stage as that which Mr. Allan Monkhouse has entitled *Reaping the Whirlwind*, and which was produced by Miss Horniman's company at the Gaiety Theatre on Monday last. It is tense and suggestive from the first moment, as if the curtain had risen on the great scene of a large dramatic effort. Sir Frank Selby is alone in his study, having just completed a scientific paper on cause and effect, which proves his theory that every effect has a cause—as he is shortly to learn from a concrete example at home. It is late, and he begins to feel concerned about the home-coming of his wife, who has been out dining, and is beyond her usual hour. To him comes a sincere and candid friend, much perturbed about the domestic situation, knowing that Sir Frank has sacrificed time to his studies which might better have been spared to his wife. Dr. Rushton has, in fact, overheard an assignation between Lady Selby and one Asher, who is to take her away by the midnight train; and he tells Sir Frank this unpleasant truth. The latter can scarcely believe it; but his feeling of trust in his wife, and a secondary feeling of the inevitable nature of this issue if it is true, gradually give way to an impulse to follow in the footsteps of Rushton, who goes off in spite of protest to try and avert the impending calamity. Before Sir Frank has put on his coat and hat, however, Lady Selby puts in an appearance. She is obviously overstrung, but her husband, instinctively ignoring his knowledge of the situation, endeavours to talk to her as usual. Her character is shown in her eagerness for confession. She has found out that she could not do the thing she had been on the brink of doing, and that she loves her husband after all. The pity of having misled the third person of the trio is, however, deep in her; and in this lies her guilt, as well as in the thought of her contemplated infidelity. Can things ever be the same again? Sir Frank shows her that they can, so far as he is concerned, for his, after all, is the blame—the blame of neglect—though he loves her. Here, then, is reconciliation. But a startling issue is at hand. A shot is heard; Asher has committed suicide on their doorstep. His body is brought into the house, and the slow tread of men is heard as they carry the suicide upstairs. Horror creeps into the situation as the wife and husband realise that the victim is being taken to their bedroom, to be laid upon their bed. Things can never be the same. At the last, words fall from Lady Selby's lips—the expression of a weird thought spiritually true: "*He lies between us!*" The scene is extremely well done, both in the literary and the dramatic sense, and the thrill imparted is keen. Mr. Lewis Casson showed ability to cope well with the character of Sir Frank Selby; Mr. Edward Landor played the old servant, Dickinson, with quiet naturalness; Mr. Jules Shaw as Dr. Rushton was incisive and arresting; and Miss Darragh gave a performance as the anguished wife that showed her to be an actress of great emotional possibilities.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT" CENTURY AT THE PLAYHOUSE.

Major Drury, R.M.L.I. (part author with Mr. Leo Trevor of *The Flag Lieutenant*) was landed in command of the marines of the Camperdown and Astræa for service in Crete on the occasion of the massacre of Christians and attack on the British camp by Bashi-Bazouks in September, 1898, and has served much at sea. Hence the truth of detail, the exactitude of the replica of life on board one of His Majesty's warships that constitutes one of the chief attractions of *The Flag Lieutenant*, which has now "notched" 100 performances, and commands the favour of very large houses at the Playhouse. So breezy, so refreshing a play makes us hope that its authors will again collaborate and provide Mr. Cyril Maude with another success. That popular actor-manager has added a few extra touches to his fine portrait of Richard Lascelles, the irresponsible officer, who refuses to take his profession seriously. Even when dressing for his dangerous masquerade as a Bashi-Bazouk "Dicky" remarks on his saucy "bags," and the character is so cleverly limned by the actor—who has so exactly reproduced its various facets—that it is a sheer delight to the playgoer to see and hear him in a creation that is a veritable triumph.

Miss Winifred Emery completely realises the humour, the sparkle, and the pathetic touches that are to be found in the part of Mrs. Cameron. One does not require to hear the fascinating widow's avowal of love for William Thesiger. The eloquence of her gesture in the first act makes the fact sufficiently clear. Miss Emery shows us that the thought of love is with her by the tone and expression of her farewell. It is one of those little touches that flash forth the genius of the actress. How charmingly naïve, too, is Miss Emery in the third act when seeking to help Lascelles.

Mr. C. Aubrey Smith deals with the part of the Major of Marines in most effective fashion, and supplies a splendid contrast to the raillery and "rotting" of Lascelles in the second act, where Mr. Smith accomplishes a wonderful fall when the Major is hit. He plays with restrained force and coolness, and with just that touch of cynicism so natural in a brave fellow who has never had his chance.

Miss Lilian Braithwaite looks very sweet in three extremely pretty frocks, and presents a type of girl that is essentially English and essentially lovable. Miss Rosalie Toller is chic and attractive as Viola Hood; Miss Emma Chambers's Mrs. Gough-Bogle gives just the touch of ill-breeding and ill-nature that is so necessary in such a part; and Miss Marie Linden is a gracious, kindly, and well-bred Lady Dugdale.

The play has very much advanced the reputation of Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore, who is a distinct acquisition to Mr. Maude's company in the part of Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Berkeley Wynne. The portrait is clear cut and the conception true to life.

Mr. Sydney Paxton presents a finished character-sketch of the deaf and scandal-loving General Gough, and, though the part is short, it requires the clever handling of an experienced comedian. Mr. Ernest Mainwaring as the surgeon Crutchley is manly and outspoken; and the middies, as played by Messrs. H. Robert Averell and Spencer Trevor, lighten the play by their capital impersonations. There is genuine fun in the James Sloggett of Mr. John Harwood and the Thomas Steele of Mr. A. G. Onslow; Mr. Clarence Blackiston is irreproachable as the Irishman, Michael Palliser; and Mr. Daniel McCarthy makes his mark as the wounded Cretan, Memeti Salos. Mr. E. F. Mayeur and Mr. Charles Hampden realise the soldierlike qualities of Colonel McLeod and Captain Munro; and Messrs. Peter Blunt, W. Percival, Larcombe, Lane, Crawford, and M. Wetherell are seen to advantage in small parts.

The stirring scene on board His Majesty's ship, The Royal Edward, is a triumph for the stage-manager, Mr. John Harwood, and the scenic artist, Mr. Bruce Smith, whose brush work in the Kandia scene is most artistic. Mr. Willie Clarkson's "wigging" is perfect.

DEATH OF ROBERT SOUTAR.

We regret to announce the death, which took place on Monday, in his eighty-first year, of Robert Soutar, the husband of the late Nellie Farren, and father of the well-known actor Mr. Farren-Soutar. The late Mr. Soutar was the son of Robert Soutar, the journalist, and for some time held the position of stage-manager at the Gaiety Theatre under the lesseeship of Mr. John Hollingshead. Mr. Soutar wrote various farces and pantomimes. His first play—a farce called *The Fast Coach*—was produced at the Olympic so far back as the summer of 1851, and revived at the Gaiety in 1873. *A Deed Without a Name* was also given at the Olympic, and *Never Taste Wine at the Docks*, another trifle, was produced at the Strand. *Quicksands and Whirlpools*, another piece, first saw the footlights at "Victoria's own theayter," in the Waterloo-road, on March 21, 1868; and *The Chinese Giant* was performed at the Marylebone, now the West London Theatre.

Mr. Robert Soutar was the Green Jones in the original production of *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, produced at the Olympic on May 27, 1863, and his "giggle" in the character was extensively copied. Miss Nellie Farren, who became Mrs. Soutar, was not in the first cast of Tom Taylor's famous drama, but afterwards succeeded Miss Raynham in the part of Sam Willoughby. In another play of Tom Taylor's, *Settling Day*, produced at the same theatre on March 4, 1865, the deceased comedian played the part of Rocket. Miss Kate Terry was the heroine, and Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Horace Wigan, and Mrs. Leigh Murray were also in the cast. In a performance in May of the same year of Stirling Coyne's comedy *Everybody's Friend*, Mr. Soutar as Icebrook supported Mr. Charles Walcot, an old American actor. Mr. Soutar's first London appearance in Shakespearean comedy was as Sir Toby Belch in an Olympic revival on June 7, 1865, of *Twelfth Night*, in which he supported Miss Kate Terry as Viola, Miss Nellie Farren playing for the first time the clown, Feste. In a revival of *The Merry Wives of Windsor* he took the part of Pistol, and in a performance of *John Bull* he played John Burr. Stirling Coyne, who was prolific in his adaptations from the French, was responsible for an English version of *Les Coulisses de la Vie* under the title of *Woman of the World*, in which Sheridan Jones was played by Bob Soutar.

At the opening of the new Gaiety Theatre, under the management of John Hollingshead, on Monday, Dec. 21, 1868, the deceased actor was appointed stage-manager of the house, and Miss Nellie Farren then commenced, at the home of the "sacred lamp," her series of brilliant triumphs in comedy and burlesque. Mr. Soutar was also cast at the Gaiety for a number of parts in burlesque and comedy. In October, 1871, he appeared as Mr. Featherstone in Cheltnam's piece *The Matchmaker*, and a few days later was seen in the part of Menelaus in Charles Lamb Kenney's version of Offenbach's *La Belle Hélène*, with Julia Mathews in the title-rôle. He played, in 1873, Tobin in *Bibb and Tucker*, an adaptation of *Tricoche and Cacolet*. In a revival of *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* at the Olympic in 1875 he repeated his success as Green Jones, and Miss Nellie Farren again appeared as Sam Willoughby. He returned to the Gaiety in 1876, playing on Aug. 26 of that year the part of Peter Oleum in a dreary piece by H. J. Byron, entitled *The Bull by the Horns*. On the same evening a farce from his pen, entitled *Sold Again*, was produced, previous to the burlesque of *Little Don Cæsar de Bazan*, in which Mr. Edward Terry made his first appearance at the Gaiety as the King of Spain, with Miss Kate Vaughan as Maritana. At the farewell benefit of John Parry at the Gaiety on Feb. 7, 1877 Mr. Soutar played Lord Burleigh in *The Critic*, and in October of the same year appeared as old Faust in Byron's burlesque of *Little Doctor Faust*.

About 1885 the deceased actor performed his old part of Green Jones in a revival at Sadler's Wells of *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, Miss Nellie Farren playing Sam Willoughby. This was the last time either artist appeared in their original characters in Tom Taylor's celebrated drama—one of the cleverest adaptations from the French ever seen on our stage. It was taken from *Léonard*, a melodrama by Brisbarre and Nus.

When the Farren and Conway company opened at the Strand in 1887 in *The Clandestine Marriage* Mr. Farren (who predeceased Mr. Soutar by three days) was the Lord Ogleby, a rôle in which his father was most famous, and Mr. Robert Soutar played the valet, Canton, Harry Conway, as Sir John Melvil, delivering Garrick's prologue. Of late years the stage had seen little of this very useful and conscientious artist.

"FLUFFY RUFFLES."

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

Fluffy Ruffles, a musical mélange by John T. McNally, W. T. Francis, and Wallace Irwin, has scored a popular success at the Criterion Theatre, New York, although the critics were not very enthusiastic over it. The character was created by a newspaper cartoonist, and was supposed to be typical of the so-called up-to-date New York girl, whose abbreviated skirts and peculiar, not to say "freakish," manner of dressing were calculated to attract the attention which the maiden of that species considers indispensable. Fluffy goes to business, but finds it difficult to hold her position for any length of time, although a rich uncle has promised her a large sum of money if she will do so. Wherever she goes she is followed by so many admirers that her employers have to discharge her. Her uncle is so liberal that he pays the expenses of a European trip for the deserving girls in the shop where Fluffy is first employed, thus enabling all the persons concerned in the complications that arise to follow her to France and England, and have all their difficulties adjusted by the energetic heroine. Miss Hattie Williams plays Fluffy, and makes the most of her opportunities. Her song in the second act, "Willie has another girl now," scores a hit, and so does a clever speech which she makes as a Suffragette. Mr. George Grossmith, jun., is delightfully humorous as Augustus Traddles, Fluffy's English admirer, a youth of the "silly ass" variety. Mr. Grossmith sings two songs, "Augustus" and "Dining out," which are very well received. As Noggie Noggles, Mr. Bert Leslie's vocabulary of slang is responsible for much laughter; and Miss Marie Annis sings "Echo of my heart" in capital style. The scenery and costumes are splendid, and the piece, as a whole, is lively and entertaining.

AN ACTRESS OF EXPERIENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—On Monday, July 30, 1888, at one of Charles Dickens's favourite theatres (Theatre Royal, Margate), I played Esther Summerson for the first time in *Lady Dedlock's Secret*, a version of "Bleak House."

I am specially engaged by the Dickens Fellowship to give this character next March, in the Town Hall, Ealing, and on the twenty-first anniversary, in 1909, I hope to arrange a special performance of it in the novelist's county of Kent.

It would be interesting to know if there are any other "juvenile leads" still on active service in the Dickensian parts they were portraying in 1888. There are many ladies playing "character parts" still on duty. These I exclude from the record, as the longevity of actresses is proverbial, and I hope we shall all be playing those parts on our one-hundredth birthdays!—Yours faithfully,

HELEN BRINCKMAN.

Sheffield, Sept. 29, 1908.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS LILLA NORDON.

"When I made up my mind to go on the stage," says Miss Lilla Nordon, "it seemed as if it would be an utter impossibility to even get an engagement. I knew how difficult it sometimes was even for clever, well-known people to obtain work, and as I had no influence and knew nobody in connection with theatrical management it seemed as if there would never be a chance of anything turning up for me. However, I kept on trying, and at last I began to get engagements." Miss Nordon began by walking on at the Adelphi Theatre in *The Children of the Ghetto*, which only ran for a week, and in *Drink*, during Mr. Chas. Warner's season at the Adelphi. After reciting a good deal at such places as the Winter Gardens at Bournemouth and at the Victoria Hall, Waterloo Bridge-road, ballad concerts, &c., she played small parts at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, under Mr. J. M. East's management. While she was there Mr. Charles Warner and Miss Grace Warner visited the theatre to play with the stock company in *Drink*, and Miss Nordon was then engaged by Mr. Warner to go on tour with him and play a small part and understudy in *Drink*. She then went on tour with a répertoire company, and played such parts as Primrose Deane (*The Prude's Progress*), Diana Chesney (*The Sorrows of Satan*), and Duchesse de Sonnaz in *Moths*. This engagement was varied by several odd weeks in *Our Boys* with Mr. Russell Rosse's company, and also in Mr. Chas. Otley's tour with the same comedy, together with Polly Eccles (*Caste*). Subsequently Miss Nordon was engaged by Mr. Bert Coote for his sketch *Supper for Two*, which ran for a few weeks at the Oxford Music Hall. Miss Ewerette Lawrence then engaged her to create parts in two one-act plays which she had written. In one—*Her Ladyship's Daughter*—Miss Nordon played the title-rôle, a very young girl, and in the other play—*A Dangerous Ruffian*—she represented an old lady. A tour followed under Mr. Chas. Frohman's management, during which she played Thérèse, the French maid, in *Sherlock Holmes*, for forty-two weeks. Then she was engaged to play Kitty Spencer in *One of the Best* under Mr. Robert Arthur's management, and after this she undertook the rôle of Joyce in *East Lynne* for a few special weeks in Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company. Then came an engagement on tour to play Tilly Vane in *A Girl's Cross Roads* under Mr. Walter Melville's management. Miss Maud Hildyard then secured her to create the character of Selina Worts in *The Great Awakening*—a part which proved to be her favourite one. She played with Miss Hildyard till last May, when she went to fulfil an engagement in Australia and New Zealand. After that Miss Nordon was engaged by Mr. Frank Bertram for Betty in *The Convict's Daughter*, and she is now representing

Photo by Williams.

MISS LILLA NORDON.

Lucy Nettleford in *Hands Across the Sea*. "I love the stage and everything connected with it," declares Miss Nordon, "and although I often feel, especially when I am out of an engagement, as if fresh work will never come, I have never regretted joining the profession. I think," she added, "people should play as many different parts as possible, provided they are in appearance fit for those parts."

MR. FREDERICK HARKER.

It was not until Mr. Frederick Harker was well up in his teens that he witnessed his first play, which was *The Lady of Lyons*, with the late Mr. Barry Sullivan as Claude Melnotte. During the next few years, however, he saw all the "stars" who visited Birmingham (his native city). Labouring at an uncongenial profession—that of schoolmaster and tutor—Mr. Harker at length drifted on to the stage. He started at the bottom, and had some valuable experience in the smalls. He left Mrs. W. Aubrey's répertoire company to join the late Mr. Henry Talbot in the tour of the English small towns, which he started in 1885, supporting the tragedian as Laertes, Cassio, Bassanio, Edgar, De Mauprat, Alonzo (Pizzaro), and Captain Thornton. In the spring of 1886 Mr. Harker secured an engagement with Mr. John Dewhurst, then touring the principal towns, to play Horatio, Catesby, Glavis, Count Wintersen, Louis XIII., Oliver (*Louis XI.*), and Ramiro in *Carpio*, a romantic play by John Finnamore, an Australian dramatist, produced for the first time in England during that tour at Prince's Theatre, Bradford, May 24, 1886. This was followed by a long stock season at Jarrow, under the management of Miss Ethel Arden. After several minor engagements Mr. Harker went to Worcester for a production of *The Flowers of the Forest*, with the late Mr. William Gomersal, which led to an engagement for his Christmas stock season. In 1887 he was introduced to the late Mr. Andrew Melville, with whom he had many and long engagements, continuing until he retired from active management as confidential manager, stage-manager, and actor, playing chiefly heavy parts. In the autumn of that year Mr. Harker toured with the late Mr. Clarance Holt, playing Jack Randal in *New Babylon*. Then followed tours with *My Sweetheart*, *Mr. Barnes of New York* (Mr. Henry Dundas), and *The Famine*, and in the autumn of 1889 he was engaged by the late Mr. J. B. Howard to play Captain Thornton in Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's production of *Rob Roy* at Edinburgh and Glasgow, and that of Fitz-Eustace in their grand production of *Marmion*. Mr. Harker's principal engagements have been with Miss Claire Scott, playing Gubetta in *Lucretia Borgia*, Lord Burleigh in *Mary, Queen of Scots*, and Nathan in *Leah*; with Mr. H. M. Millington, as Captain Gilchrist in *Bootles' Baby*; with Mr. Thomas Sennett, as Langton Seaton in *Redemption* and in répertoire; with Mr. Edmund Tearle, as Brabantio, Alastor, Caius Claudius, Horatio, Julius Cæsar, Crabtree, &c.; two tours with Miss Marie Dagmar, as Davenport in *A Woman's Victory*; two tours with Mr. Lester Collingwood as Captain Rodney Haynes (his original part) in *When London Sleeps*; two tours with Mr. John J. Lloyd, as Oliver West in *Shall We Forgive Her?* with Mr. Fred Cooke, as the Timour in *Mazeppa* and Martin Faber in *The Diver's Luck*; with Mr. Henry Dundas, as Mathew Hawker in *Human Nature*; with Mr. George Daventry, as Major Ingleby in *The Indian Mutiny*, Polonius in *Hamlet*, and the Doctor in *Lost in Paris*; with Mr. Walter Sealby, as Robert Galloway in *The Law and the Man*; with Mr. Edmund Tearle, as Athos, the Ghost, Polydor, Banquo, Numitorius, Lord

MR. FREDERICK HARKER.

Stanley, and David Deans; with Mr. G. Howard Watson, as Captain Slade in *The Way of the World*; with Messrs. Lely and Mollison, as Captain Thornton in *Rob Roy*; with Mr. Henry Bedford, as Gerald Skinner in *Gipsy Jack* and Capt. Hart in *Mafeking*; and with Mr. T. Edward Ward, as Gilbert Fernside in *Her Fatal Past*. Mr. Harker has also played in stock seasons (principally heavy-lead) at the Standard Theatre, London (two), Birmingham (four), South Shields (two), Swansea, and Northampton. An interesting engagement in the autumn of 1905 was with the Rev. Forbes Phillips (the Vicar of Gorleston), in his own drama, *A Maid of France*. Among Mr. Harker's recent parts have been those of Paris, in Mr. J. W. Turner's production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham; Malcolm Graeme, in Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's revival of *The Lady of the Lake* at Glasgow and Edinburgh; Captain Thornton, in the spectacle of *Rob Roy*, with Mr. Leo Stormont, at Glasgow, Edinburgh, Liverpool, and Manchester; Captain Levison, on tour with Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's *East Lynne* company; Captain Harry Vernon, on tour with Mr. Joseph Bebb's *Prodigal Daughter* company; and Rashleigh Osbaldistone (ond stage-management) in Mr. Robert Arthur's production of *Rob Roy* at Dundee and Aberdeen, Christmas, 1907-8.

MR. ROBERT H. HOWARD.

Mr. Robert H. Howard, actor and vocalist, is an Irishman, and was born in Clonmel, the capital of Tipperary. Although he did not enter the profession until he was nineteen years old, he made a public appearance at the early age of seven. When he was quite a small boy he used to appear at concerts in several "lines of business"—play flute or piccolo solos and flute obbligato to his sister's ballad, sing a comic song, and take part in concerted numbers. Mr. Howard belongs to a very old Tipperary family—the Prendergasts—and adopted his mother's name of Howard when he entered the profession. His first engagement in England was as the Demon King in *Babes in the Wood*. Owing to the illness of the principal comedian he afterwards played

Photo by Hana.

MR. ROBERT H. HOWARD.

Dame with much success. Since that he has appeared in pantomime every year until 1905-6. At the end of his first engagement Mr. Howard confesses to having felt homesick, and he accordingly joined a company going to Ireland and remained with it for eighteen months, playing all kinds of parts—Archibald Carlyle, Danny Mann, Taffy, and Copall in a burlesque called *Bonny Boy Blue*, which part he played for about twelve months

"Before I leave the subject of Ireland," says Mr. Howard, "I must tell you of an incident which occurred in my native town during the performance of *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, in which I was playing Bob. I had employed a half-witted chap called Jim to make himself useful at 'the back,' and just before making my last entrance I gave him the cash box to hold till I went off to take it from him. All went well till just before the time for my exit to rob the safe. To my dismay, on walks Jim with the cash box and says, 'Here's the cash box, sir.' That incident," adds Mr. Howard, "I shall never forget." After nearly two years' tour in Ireland Mr. Howard returned to England, and was engaged at the Duke of York's Theatre in the Sims-Corri opera *The Dandy Fifth*.

At the finish of the run he thought he would like to go on the music halls, so he founded the combination now well-known as the Steinway Quartette (male voice), with which he has been associated ever since. He has fulfilled engagements with them at all the principal music halls (including the Alhambra, W.) and concert halls in the kingdom, including Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's production of *Kenilworth*, in which he played Goldthread, singing the "Bonny, bonny owl" and taking part in the quartet "Row, gently row." His pantomime engagements with the quartette include five consecutive years with Mr. Robert Arthur's *Forty Thieves*, in which he played Mustapha, the old cobbler. Character-comedy is a line of business of which Mr. Howard is particularly fond. Other engagements with the quartette included *The Cherry Girl*, from the Vaudeville, and four consecutive years with the Borough of Margate Fêtes Committee, supplying the concerts on the Oval Band Stand, Cliftonville. During one of Mr. Howard's seasons there a remark was overheard from a lady whose speech betrayed the fact that she hailed from the East-End of London. It was while Mr. Howard was singing one of his favourite Irish songs. The lady said, "'E's a fine singer, and I like to 'ear Irish songs sung, but what a pity 'e's got such a Cockney accent!" Considering Mr. Howard's nationality the remark was amusing.

One of Mr. Howard's last theatrical engagements was with Mr. Wentworth Croke as Tony, in his production of *My Sweetheart*, with Miss Minnie Palmer as Tina. This was Mr. Howard's second tour with *My Sweetheart*, he having been engaged to support Miss Palmer as Tony by the late Mr Jerrard on the previous tour of the piece. On the conclusion of his engagement with Mr. Croke Mr. Howard returned to his quartette, and was about to appear with them at the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, when he was attacked with acute rheumatism and was ill for three months. He is now happy to be able to say that no evil effects have resulted from his illness, and he is stronger and better than ever. He is now playing the Hon. Billy Greenhill in *The Flower Girl*, on tour.

MISS RUBY LONCRAINE.

Miss Ruby Loncraine comes of a very old theatrical family, being the youngest daughter of the

Photo by Guttenberg.

MISS RUBY LONCRAINE.

late Fred Beckett and niece of Harry Beckett, the original Harvey Duff, in *The Shaughraun*. It was in that play that she made her first appearance, being carried on in the Wake scene at the tender age of three weeks, so that it may truthfully be said that she has been on the stage all her life. She was well known as a child actress, and gained her experience with her mother in that best of all schools—a stock company. Miss Loncraine has played a wide range of parts. For the last three tours she has been leading lady with Mr. Clifton Alderson, starring in *Held Apart*, *A Soldier and a Man*, &c. Last year she was engaged by Mr. Richard Flanagan to play the title-rôle in his revival of *Joan of Arc* at the Queen's, Manchester, and made an instantaneous success, being highly congratulated by the author and management. Amongst numerous other parts she has played Lady Sybil Elton in *The Sorrows of Satan*; Lady Isabel, in *East Lynne*; Beatrice Selwyn, in *A Fool's Paradise*; Lady Huntworth, in *Lady Huntworth's Experiment*; Esther, in *Caste*; Kate Hardcastle, in *She Stoops to Conquer*; Pauline, in *The Lady of Lyons*; and leading parts in most of the old English comedies. Miss Loncraine is equally well practised in farcical comedy, having played Edith in *The Private Secretary*, Rose in *Confusion*, Marjorie Sylvester in *Our Flat*, Violet Melrose in *Our Boys*, &c. Miss Loncraine is the wife of Mr. Leonard Laurence. She is very keen on her profession, but says that it is a very lonely life for a girl unless one has a hobby of some kind. She is very fond of boating and golf, and is a great lover of animals. A peculiar incident which happened while she was playing at the Queen's, Manchester, is an instance of the remarkable sagacity of the horse. In one scene Miss Loncraine made her entrance on horseback, and just as the animal was going on, he caught his hoof in one of the holes in the stage used for the electric connections, and nearly fell. The next evening the horse absolutely refused to go over the same spot, but carefully sidled round it, and would not lift one foot until he had carefully planted the other on the stage. The same horse on another occasion was not so considerate to his rider, but bolted on the stage with her, and nearly succeeded in depositing her into the orchestra.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"IN THE GLOAMING."

A Domestic Play, in Four Acts, by Lois Esmond, Produced at Exchange Theatre, Wellingborough, on Tuesday, Sept. 29.

Ross Heatherston ....MR. F. DOUGLAS HOWARD
Clyne Quiller .....MR. E. HOLLAND DAY
Theophilus Thistlewood..MR. EDWARD NEVILLE
Holmes Thistlewood .....MR. CLAUDE CASEY
Alfred Hummock .....MR. EDWIN RAMSDALE
Captain Tollbrook .....MR. J. LE FLEMING
Adolphus .....MR. FRED WHITE
Policeman .....MR. W. FREDERICK
Ella Tollbrook .....MISS HILARY BURLEIGH
Smudge .....MISS LOIS ESMOND
Kate Horton .....MISS MARY ASKEW
Brenda Thistlewood (?)....MISS ROSIE NEVILLE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Theophilus Thistlewood and his son, Holmes, keep a gaming house, to which we are introduced in Act 1. Living with them is Brenda, supposed to be the old man's daughter, who is used as a decoy. She is, however, not aware of the part she is playing in the proceedings until Clyne Quiller (an associate of the Thistlewoods) informs her, and takes the opportunity of asking her to leave the evil surroundings for a home he will provide for her. As, however, he at first refuses to marry her Brenda declines, and when he promises her marriage she, rightly estimating his character, still rejects him, at which he is furious. She gets away with the assistance of Smudge, a dirty, but faithful, servant girl, just before Thistlewood is arrested by Hummock (a boasting but seldom successful detective) for keeping a gaming house, the younger Thistlewood being nabbed for forgery. In the second act, Brenda is comfortably settled as companion to Ella Tollbrook, but receives a shock when Hummock boasts in her hearing that he knows where to find the daughter of Thistlewood, who, with his son, is in gaol, thanks to his wonderful ability. Fearing exposure of her past, Brenda decides to leave. Before doing so Ross Heatherstone proposes to her; but, on account of her clouded life, she is reluctant to accept him, and only does so on the understanding that they leave the country at once. After travelling abroad for a long time the happy couple return to their beautiful home at Brannock Towers, where further trouble is awaiting Brenda. Her supposed father (who with his son has escaped from prison) finds her out, and Clyne Quiller, asked to stay with Ross, on arriving recognises Brenda and takes a cruel revenge. He threatens to expose her unless paid to keep silent, but she refuses to make terms with him. Smudge, who has been associated with Thistlewood in the search for his daughter, on discovering her former mistress makes an appointment to see her alone, and on entering the house is caught by one of the servants. So as not to bring any disgrace on Brenda, she states she was there to steal; but Brenda will not accept the girl's sacrifice, and she tells the truth of their acquaintance and her connection with "her father, the convict." Her husband is astounded, and lets her depart with Smudge, thus closing a striking Act 3. Quiller, who has for some time been endeavouring to find out the truth relating to Brenda, extracts from Thistlewood that she is the daughter of a General Denby, who left his fortune and his daughter in his charge. He is negotiating for the proofs of this, when Thistlewood is re-arrested; but in the struggle Smudge secures the documentary evidence. This is taken to Ross, who meets Brenda "in the gloaming"; and with all misunderstandings satisfactorily cleared up, they decide to forget the past.

The company throughout played remarkably well for a first performance. Mr. Edward Neville has in Theophilus Thistlewood a part that suits him down to the ground, and he gave an exceptionally fine piece of character acting. Miss Lloe Esmond brightened her play with a capital impersonation of Smudge, and Miss Hilary Burleigh was a very fascinating and capable Ella Tollbrook. Miss Rosie Neville acquitted herself well as Brenda; Mr. F. Douglas Howard had not a great deal to do as Ross Heatherston, but certainly made the most of his part; Mr. E. Holland Day's Clyne Quiller was all that could be desired; and Mr. Claude Casey as Holmes and Mr. Edwin Ramsdale as Hummock displayed an able grasp of their respective parts.

COQUELIN AND CHARITY.

(FROM OUR PARIS CORRESPONDENT.)

Pont-aux-Dames is a small village some five-and-twenty miles distant from Paris. Three years ago nobody—except a few school-children very strong in local geography—knew of its existence. To-day it has become celebrated, because in that pretty spot a delightful home for old and decayed actors and actresses has been erected. The organiser of this admirable charity is M. Coquelin *aîné*, who, with a skilful hand, manages the concern and comes to the rescue when funds threaten to become low. His methods are simple. The moment money is needed he organises a matinée at which the "stars" of the Paris theatres and music halls appear; and the announcement of such an entertainment is sufficient to bring thousands of spectators to the pretty *al-fresco* theatre in Pont-aux-Dames. On a recent Sunday I assisted for the first time at one of these matinées—the last one this season—and did not regret having had to travel in a stuffy, crowded railway compartment at the rate of about five miles an hour, not reckoning the stoppages. M. Coquelin, indeed, had offered us a sumptuous fare. MM. Brasseur, Jean Coquelin, Magnard, Fursy, Chabert, Albany; Mmes. Tissier, Focké, Taillade, Thénard, Carrick, and many other celebrities appeared on the programme, and delighted the audience with their songs and recitations. But the great feature of the afternoon was the dancing of Mme. Mata-Hari, the famous Hindoo dancer, who incarnated the flower "Ketjoeboeng," that blossoms and dies in one night. With her magnificent costume twining around her the clever artist gave the illusion of the tropical flower, and scored an immense success. The charmingly characteristic music, written for this symbolic dance by Mr. Louis Keyzer, the young English composer, was played by M. Paul Vidal, the chef-d'orchestre of the Paris Opéra.

After the entertainment M. Coquelin invited the artists and a few intimate friends to a collation; and the conversation having drifted to the subject of dancing Mme. Mata-Hari made some remarks worth reproducing. "Two years and a half ago," she said, "I made my first appearance at a private performance in the Musée Guimet, when M. Guimet, the great Orientalist, gave an interesting lecture on Eastern dances. Ever since that memorable date ladies styling themselves 'Eastern dancers' have sprung out of the ground, and honour me with imitations. I would feel highly flattered with this mark of attention if these ladies' performances were accurate from a scientific and æsthetic point of view. But they are not. Born in Java, in the midst of a marvellous tropical vegetation, I have been taught from my earliest childhood the deep meaning of these dances, which constitute a cult, a religion. Only those born and bred there become impregnated with their religious significance, and can impart to them the solemn note to which they can lay claim. I have travelled all over the East, but can honestly say that nowhere have I beheld women dance holding a snake or some other object. This I saw when I first came to Europe, and it struck me dumb with amazement. The Eastern dances such as I have witnessed and learnt in my native Java are inspired by the flowers, from which they take their poetry. Last year, in the interior of Russia, I came upon a lady—also a pseudo-Eastern dancer—who modestly styled herself an Oriental pearl; and I could not help remarking to her that if there are real precious stones there are also imitation ones."

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Mr. George Alexander has arranged to lengthen his present tour in order that Mr. Forbes Robertson may continue his success at the St. James's with *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*. Mr. Alexander was only able to give his brother actor-manager a two-weeks' extension, as Mr. Alfred Sutro's new play, in which Mr. Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh will have the two principal parts, is due at the St. James's on Wednesday, Nov. 11. Mr. Alexander will visit Bristol on Oct. 19, and a week later will be at the Kennington Theatre, *The Thief* forming the attraction.

Mr. Forbes Robertson will thus be enabled to carry his season with Mr. Jerome's play at the St. James's into November. *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* will then, it is hoped, find a haven in another West-end theatre, where its prosperity will be indefinitely prolonged.

Mr. H. R. Smith, of the Lyceum, will start his season at the Waldorf with a musical comedy, adapted from the French by Mr. Adrian Ross, with music by Dr. Hugo Felix, the composer of *Madame Sherry* and of *Les Merveilleuses*. It will bear the name of *The Antelope*. The title of the work is wittily arrived at. The original deals with the business of a matrimonial agency, whose contracts contain a clause forbidding either parties to the agreement eloping within two years from the date of the wedding. The firm has thus come to be known as the anti-eloping institution, a phrase from which *The Antelope* is a natural outcome.

The Waldorf is to be entirely redecorated and reupholstered within, the colour scheme remaining as before, a blend of Rose du Barri, cream-white, and gold. A special feature is to be made of chorus and of orchestra, the latter consisting of forty instrumentalists. Mr. Smith originally intended to run the theatre on the system of popular prices, which has been found so successful at the Lyceum; but the expenses of the venture promise to be so heavy that the idea of cheaper prices has been, for the time being, set aside.

Mr. George Edwardes will give *The Dollar Princess*, one of his latest acquisitions from America, a preliminary performance at the Prince's, Manchester, where he will produce it on Dec. 21. The piece is a three-act comic opera, written by Herr A. M. Willner and Herr F. Grunbaum, with music by Dr. Leo Fall. The adaptation has been made by Mr. Basil Hood. Miss Hilda Moody will play the title-rôle, and Mr. Robert Michaelis, Mr. Vernon Davidson, and Mr. Richard Golden will be included in the cast.

Mr. Martin Harvey's production of *The Last Heir* at the Adelphi on Monday is one of the events of a busy week. The work is Mr. Stephen Phillips first play in prose, and parts of the dialogue find the gifted dramatist in a comedy vein, the character of Craigengelt being treated on humorous lines. The elaborate nature of the production is indicated by the scene-plot, which comprises the Interior of Wolf's Crag, Tod's Den, The Castle of Ravenswood, The Woods, The Terrace of Ravenswood Castle, and The Hall of the Castle. The Kelpie's Flow will furnish an impressive tableau, showing the quicksands and the figures of the three old hags gloating over their victim.

Alluding to the pathetic story of Scott's celebrated novel, Mr. Harvey says:—"The expression that is sometimes used in describing it 'the Romeo and Juliet of the North' seems to me very appropriate. There is the rivalry, in a measure, of the two houses; there are the two young people, the offspring of these families, falling in love with each other; and there is Fate, cruel Fate, intervening to keep them apart. Certainly it is one of the greatest love-stories in literature—one of the few modern stories, as Mr. Gladstone once said, that can be compared with the ancient Greek in the steady working out of the influence of Fate upon the lives of two helpless creatures."

The complete cast of *The Last Heir* will consist of Messrs. Martin Harvey, Albert E. Raynor, Leslie Palmer, Philip Hewland, Charles Glenney, Charles J. Cameron, George Cooke, Denholm Muir, Alfred Mansfield, Henry Watson, Leonard Craske, F. Cremlin, H. Barry, A. Ruben, and Percy Foster, Master Bobbie Andrews, Miss Mary Rorke, Mrs. F. Wright, Miss Bessie Elder, Miss Ethel Patrick, Miss Maud Hoffman, and Miss N. de Silva.

Mr. F. R. Benson delivered an interesting lecture at the Stoke Town Hall, on the 25th ult., and said he believed there was a splendid future for the theatre and the music hall. Just as on the local schools was inscribed, "To the beautiful, to the new and the true," so would those words be the watchword of our theatres and of our music halls in the very near future.

Miss Lena Ashwell will introduce two new aspirants for dramatic fame at the opening of her second season at the Kingsway on Friday next. The *pièce de résistance* will be *The Sway-Boat*, a three-act comedy, by Wilfred T. Coleby, in which Miss Ashwell will be supported by Miss Kate Rorke, Master Philip Tonge, Miss Frances Ivor, Mr. Ernest Cosham, Mr. C. M. Hallard, Mr. Dennis Eadie, Mr. E. W. Garden, and Mr. Norman McKinnel. Act 1 is laid in the West Room at Ninewell Towers (evening); Act 2 passes at the same place, three months later, and the setting of the third act is the Library at Ninewell Towers, on the evening of the same day. The period of the play is the present.

"The Treasure," a one-act piece, by Elisabeth Kirby, will precede, and will be acted by Mr. T. A. Shannon, Miss Dorothy Brunt, Miss Mary Barton, Mr. O. P. Heggie, and Mr. Lemmon Warde. The scene is the morning-room in Algernon Iffey's house in London. The curtain will be lowered once during the action of the play to indicate a lapse of twenty-four hours. Both plays are produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Norman McKinnel.

Miss Ellen Terry will visit the Crystal Palace Theatre on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6 and 7, with a matinée on the latter date. There will be no increase in the prices, and the eminent actress is sure to furnish an excellent attraction.

The marriage took place on Tuesday at St. Andrew's, Stoke-in-Teignhead, of Mr. Malcolm Sterling Mackinlay, the well-known vocalist and teacher of singing, to Miss Dayny Hansen, daughter of Captain Hansen, of Christiania. Mr. Mackinlay is the elder son of the late John and Antoinette Sterling-Mackinlay. He studied singing with the famous Manuel Garcia, and made his first appearance at the Queen's Hall Ballad Concerts in 1900. He has appeared in *The Medal and the Maid* at the Lyric, *Dolly Varden* at the Avenue, and *The Love Birds* at the Savoy, and has given many concert recitals. He also wrote "Antoinette Sterling and Other Celebrities," "Garcia the Centenarian," and has contributed to various magazines and periodicals.

Mr. Geo. Graves is severing a long connection with Mr. George Edwardes lasting over five years, and goes to Mr. Tom B. Davis, to create the principal comedy rôle in the new two-act musical comedy *The Belle of Brittany*, to be produced at the Queen's Theatre on Oct. 17. The strong cast will also include Mr. Walter Passmore, Mr. Laurance Rea, Mr. Charles Maude, Miss Ruth Vincent, Miss Maud Body, Miss Lily Iris, and Miss Maudi Darrell.

Dublin has declared itself unanimously in favour of *Brewster's Millions*, and for the tenth time in succession the attractive comedy has beaten the records of thirty-eight plays produced by the Hutchison management. Mr. Percy Hutchison and his clever company were received with intense enthusiasm. The praises of company, play, and production have been chorused by the Dublin Press, one of the leading papers referring to the great ship scene as a triumph in stagecraft and the most realistic ever witnessed in Dublin.

At the end of the performance of *Brewster's Millions* at the Gaiety, Dublin, on Saturday night, the enthusiasm was intense. In spite of the fact that the curtain had been raised over a score of times during the evening there were loud calls for speech, and at length Mr. Hutchison was induced to come forward to express his thanks on behalf of the members of his company and himself. The young actor-manager said that although it was the last time he should visit the Gaiety Theatre while it was under the management of Mrs. Gunn, who for so many years had catered admirably for the amusement of the Dublin people, he hoped he should have the pleasure again and again of appearing before the playgoing public of the Irish capital. Mr. Hutchison added that he would be represented there the following week but one by his company in *Lady Frederick*, in which he would present the eminent actress Mrs. Brown Potter, the visit making the fourth of the Hutchison companies to the Gaiety, Dublin, this year.

Mr. Joseph O'Mara, who is about to sail for America, will give a farewell concert at Bechstein Hall on the 9th inst. A new group of songs for children, by Mme. Liza Lehmann, will be performed, for the first time, by Miss Hester Reeve and Master Albert Hole. The famous tenor may rely upon a hearty send-off, and wishes for a renewal of prosperity across the Atlantic.

Mr. O'Mara was entertained by the Lord Mayor of Dublin at the Mansion House on Tuesday. In proposing a toast to their guest, the Lord Mayor said that they much regretted Mr. O'Mara's departure from the land of his birth. Mr. O'Mara, in responding, said that he felt deeply honoured by the magnificent reception he had received there that night. He meant to raise the standard of the Irish music and folk songs, and to make them loved by those over the seas. The little he had done in Dublin had been appreciated. The city was peopled by whole-hearted, true-souled Irishmen, and he was deeply grateful to them for the honour they bestowed on him.

Mr. H. B. Irving finishes his travels on Saturday next, and will open at the Shaftesbury the following Thursday with *The Lyons Mail*. Destined for later production is Mr. Justin Huntly McCarthy's four-act play, *Cæsar Borgia*, which was tried at Edinburgh last November and duly noticed in our columns. Mr. Irving, of course, has the title-part and Miss Dorothea Baird that of Lavinella Orsini.

Another busy theatrical week is before us, happily, however, without any clash. As originally arranged, every night of the forthcoming week was a premier, but the postponement of *Lady Epping's Lawsuit* at the Criterion to Saturday, the 10th, leaves Thursday free. This evening witnesses the coming of *The Hon'ble Phil* at the Hicks Theatre; Monday will find *The Last Heir* at the Adelphi; Tuesday welcomes Sir Charles Wyndham to the New with *Bellamy the Magnificent*, and the following day the Scala will reopen with a series of Indian dances by Miss Ruth St. Denis. Friday is set apart for *The Sway-Boat* at the Kingsway, and the week will be completed, as we have said, by the production of Mr. Hubert Henry Davies' comedy at the Criterion.

The members of the O.P. Club are to be congratulated on moving into brighter and pleasanter quarters in the Criterion, Jermyn-street, where Mr. Martin Harvey will lecture on Oct. 18, and Miss Hilda Trevelyan and Mr. Gerald Du Maurier will be the guests of the club at the Annual Dinner on Nov. 15. With Mr. Max Pemberton as President, and Mr. F. D. Bone as Vice-President, the club will doubtless be as prosperous and popular in its new location as it has been in its former home in Covent Garden. The hon. secretaries, Mr. J. D. Smith and Mr. Stanley Greig, are likely to receive many applications for new membership.

Naval and military performances are to be given at the Court Theatre on Nov. 2 and 3 in aid of the Veterans' Club Labour Review. The programme will consist of popular one-act plays. The performance is obtaining influential support, among its patrons being H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Captain Robert Marshall, Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. Arthur Playfair, Sir A. Conan Doyle, and Miss Lena Ashwell.

Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison presented to a packed house at the Opera House, Southport, on Monday, Mr. Somerset Maugham's remarkable success, *Lady Frederick*, which was beautifully staged. Miss Mabel Love as the fascinating Lady Frederick, who reveals the mysteries of the feminine toilet, won immediate favour, but appealed with especial force to the ladies in front, and received a great and spontaneous reception at the fall of the curtain.

Miss Love's dresses are glorious creations. She makes her entrée wearing a huge black hat, swathed by white tulle and adorned by aigrettes and pendant ostrich plumes of the same hue. Her long-trained gown of amber silk is veiled in creamy point d'esprit inlet with lace appliqués, and embroidered by exquisite designs of trailing leaves composed of jet paillettes, with true lovers' knots of amber satin at intervals around the hem and touches of silver embroidery. From the front of the corsage depend two long streamers of black tulle, and ties of black tulle finish the elbow sleeves, with pendant ends weighted by jet cabochons.

In the second act Lady Frederick is beautifully gowned in lotus-blue satin-striped mousseline de soie, with creamy lace vest and under-sleeves. Daintily-tasselled bows of miroir velvet ornament the corsage, and the fair curls are threaded with blue velvet, terminating in an effective velvet chow. Great interest is evinced in the dressing-room scene, when Lady Frederick arranges her hair and complexion in kimono peignoir of white, patterned in pale green and pink, which she eventually changes for a most delightful toilette of rose-pink satin charmeuse in Directoire style. The corsage has a square yoke of fine white lawn, and under-sleeves of the same, whilst black velvet chenille falls from the deep waist-centure at the front over the fully-trained skirt.

Miss Mabelle Gilman, the American actress who was recently married to Mr. William E. Corey, the president of the Steel Trust, has published in the form of an interview a philippic on the narrow-mindedness of the American aristocracy, the members of which, she says, are devoid of all artistic sense. Mrs. Corey declares her intention of spending as much of her time as possible in France, where an artist is received on terms of equality and not on sufferance, as is alleged to be the case in America.

Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory has just returned to town from a two months' holiday of a thoroughly varied character, during which he has kept himself aloof from all business. He is giving the provinces a rest for the present, in favour of London. Particulars of a somewhat remarkable production will be announced shortly.

An amusing incident occurred to Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory when motoring with a friend in the Isle of Wight during the time that the King of Spain was in the island. One evening, on approaching Cowes, he was somewhat concerned to find that large and enthusiastic crowds insisted on greeting the car with loud cheers and other marks of honour. It seems that the fact that Mr. Maundy-Gregory was sitting without his hat and that his friend was wearing a green one of the same type as that worn the previous day by the King of Spain, added to the coincidence that the car was similar to the royal one, caused a confusion of identities. Turning down the light inside was of no avail; so, alighting, Mr. Maundy-Gregory explained to those nearest that neither himself nor his friend felt justified in accepting such a reception, and that there must be some mistake. His protestations were not, however, taken seriously, and finding the crowd increasing Mr. Maundy-Gregory boarded the car and fled.

Mr. J. Hastings-Batson has made a great hit in the part of Father Lamplugh, in Mr. Wentworth Croke's production of *The Christian*, and his wide experience is brought to bear on the part with the best results. Mr. Hastings-Batson, in the course of a long and extensive career, has given to the stage many fine impersonations, among the more recent of which are the Duc de Brissac, in Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sugden's production of *Zaza*, and his Lord Datchet, in Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Freedom of Suzanne* tour; while his recital of *Everyman* at Croydon at the beginning of last year will be remembered with equal pleasure by those privileged to hear it.

Miss Rosemary Rees, who is playing Lady Mereston in *Mrs. Dot* on the Hutchison tour, leaves Tilbury on Oct. 16 by the Oruba for Australia and New Zealand, and expects to be away about a year. The rights of Miss Rees's one-act play *Her Dearest Friend* have been purchased by Mr. Percy Hutchison, who produced the piece in the spring of last year at the Coronet, and it is now being given in front of *Mrs. Dot*. As an instance of the smallness of the theatrical world, it may be added that while playing at the Opera House, Middlesbrough, last week, Miss Rees was in opposition to her own drama, *A Desperate Marriage*, which was being performed by Mr. Fred Mouillot's company at the Theatre Royal.

The excellent performance of Lieut. Beresby, in Mr. Frank Bertram's *Breed of the Treshams* company, which our South Shields correspondent attributed to Mr. Sydney Bland last week, should have been credited to Mr. Frank R. Gwyn-Richardson, the general-manager of the company, who took up the part owing to the illness of Mr. Bland.

Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, was crowded last Sunday evening on the occasion of a sacred concert, in aid of the funds of the Sisters of Mercy Bazaar. An attractive programme was provided, the contributors including Misses Clare Marsden and Clarice Lockstone, and Messrs. Harry Cottell and A. Wykes Ashdown, of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's *The Dairymaids* company, which is this week appearing in the town. Mr. Louis Karpe, the cultured manager of Her Majesty's, gave a recitation, and the orchestra, under Mr. H. E. Loseby, rendered selections, the accompaniments being played by Mr. Cunningham and Mr. Loseby's daughter. Councillor High, in the course of the evening, delivered a short address, commending the object of the concert, and thanking Mr. Robert Arthur for granting the use of the theatre, the artists, the ladies and gentlemen of *The Dairymaids* company, and the Misses Karpe, who assisted at programme selling and taking up the collection.

Mr. Charles Boult, Mr. R. A. Roberts' genial business-manager, is getting married on Tuesday next at Leeds. We join with his many friends in wishing him a long and happy married life. Over a hundred presents have been already received by the bride and bridegroom elect.

The reopening of the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, under the direction of Moss Empires, Ltd., on Monday next, is eagerly looked forward to in Glasgow, and the production of *Dorothy*, with Messrs. Hayden Coffin, John Coates, and Arthur Williams, and Miss Ruth Davenport in leading parts, should be a noteworthy event. At the head of affairs in the Grand will be found Mr. Christie Grant, for years the able lieutenant of Mr. R. C. Buchanan, and of whom an interesting biography was recently published in our columns.

On Friday, the 25th ult., a grand matinée was held at the Market Hall, Whitehaven, in aid of the Mayor of Wigan's fund in connection with the recent Maypole Colliery disaster. The sum of £14 15s. was realised, Mr. Branford very kindly defraying all expenses. Mr. and Mrs. Field, of Whitehaven, appeared at this matinée in songs and duets, and were very warmly applauded.

At the close of the performance at the P.O.W., Nuneaton, on Monday, the genial acting-manager, Mr. W. J. R. Bryan, was presented, on behalf of the directors and staff, with a handsome gold Albert chain, as a token of esteem, on the occasion of his retiring from the post of acting-manager, which he has held for the past five or six years. A handsome marble clock, with side bronzes, was also presented from a number of friends and well-wishers in the town. A gold brooch set with pearls was among the gifts received by Mrs. Bryan.

Miss Mildred Blanchard, who lately returned from America, has been engaged by Mr. Montague Beaudyn for the title-rôle in *The Power of a Wicked Woman*.

The Council of the Academy of Dramatic Art has invited a number of gentlemen to become Associates. They will have the right of voting, and from their number will be chosen members to fill up any vacancies on the board of the council. They will also have the power, together with the members of the council, to nominate a limited number of candidates for open scholarships, to be won by competitive examination. The first competition will be held in Jan., 1909. Amongst the new Associates are Messrs. Henry Ainley, Oscar Asche, Allan Aynesworth, Granville Barker, F. R. Benson, Alfred Bishop, Dion Boucicault, J. Comyns Carr, R. C. Carton, Haddon Chambers, Hubert Henry Davies, Gerald du Maurier, Norman Forbes, Basil Gill, Sydney Grundy, Lyn Harding, Martin Harvey, Anthony Hope, H. B. Irving, Frederick Kerr, W. J. Locke, Captain Robert Marshall, W. Somerset Maugham, Henry Neville, Louis N. Parker, Alfred Sutro, Lyall Swete, Fred Terry, J. Fisher White, and Herbert Waring.

The Academy will start the new October term with about eighty students. The probationary period has been reduced, and the severity of the entrance examination has been relaxed. Certificates of honour are being prepared to be signed by members of the council as vouchers for the ability of the students which may assist them in securing engagements.

Mr. Oswald Brand has arranged with Sir William Magnay, Bart., for the sole rights of dramatisation of his thrilling novel "The Red Chancellor." Mr. Brand is not yet thoroughly well, and will accordingly do the work of adaptation in Worthing.

Mr. Douglas Gordon has been compelled to resign his engagement with the Bandmann Comedy company in the Far East owing to a severe attack of fever. Mr. Gordon was ailing when the company arrived in Cairo on Sept. 2, and by continuing to play for a week seriously aggravated his condition. Up to date Sept. 23 he was progressing favourably, and will leave Cairo for England as soon as he is pronounced fit to travel.

Miss Grace Hampton (Mrs. Charles Dodsworth), who was so long a valued member of the late Sir Henry Irving's company, has been engaged by Messrs. T. C. Wray and Dudley Bennett to play Lady Caterham in *The Catch of the Season*, opening at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross.

The Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, will next week welcome the first visit to England of the celebrated French actress Mlle. Camille Dalberg, who will appear with her own company in *The Farewell Supper*, a comedy in one act by the celebrated Austrian dramatist, Dr. Arthur Schnitzler, the play having been adapted by Edith A. Browne and Alix Grein. Three one-act pieces will also be performed, namely, *Makeshifts*, a new comedy in one act by G. L. Robins, *Bringing it Home*, by H. M. Richardson, and *Gentlemen of the Road*, a successful tramp sketch by Charles McEvoy.

Miss Horniman's company will also produce at special matinées on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons the *Hippolytus* of Euripides, for which Mr. Granville Bantock has written special music. A signal honour has been paid Miss Horniman's company by an invitation to perform the *Hippolytus* of Euripides at a flying matinée at Birmingham before the Classical Association on Friday, Oct. 9.

Mr. Herbert Vere, who returned from Canada on Sept. 19, was married to Miss Kate Walfred at St. Mary's Church, Kirkdale, Liverpool, on Monday last. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. A. J. J. Abrahams, senior curate of St. Mary's, Mr. Percy Dawsone acting on behalf of the groom, and Miss Nancy Roberts officiating as bridesmaid. Shortly after the ceremony the party left for Rotherham, where the bride is playing in Mr. Andrew Melville's *Driven from Home* company. Mr. and Mrs. Vere intend to tour a company of their own from Christmas.

Miss Ada Rainey appeared as Lady Mary in *Peter's Mother* during Miss Lilias Earle's enforced absence from the cast at the Opera House, Ayr. Miss Earle has happily recovered from a chill contracted during the crossing from Llandudno to Douglas, and is delighting crowded audiences at the Opera House, Northampton, where Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is presenting *Peter's Mother*.

An international copyright conference is to be held in Berlin this month, when the countries which signed the Berne Convention will again be represented. Various proposed modifications and additions will come under discussion, and a scheme for a universal term in the existence of copyright, by means of which present irregularities could be removed, will be considered. Among the subjects set down for discussion is that of the reproduction of copyright music by mechanical means.

Mr. Charles J. Cameron, who was unable to appear at the commencement of Mr. Martin Harvey's season at the Adelphi, by reason of an acute attack of laryngitis, has, we are glad to say, sufficiently recovered to resume his part of Favrolles in *The Corsican Brothers*, which he originally played in Mr. Harvey's successful revival last year. Later in the season Mr. Cameron will again be seen as Lord Dorsington in *The Breed of the Treshams*, and as the President in the Trial scene of *The Only Way*.

For their forthcoming production of the Witches' scene from *Macbeth*, to be played at the St. George's Hall, Langham-place, Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant have engaged Mr. Gordon Bailey to sustain the title-rôle. It will be remembered that during the successful three months' run of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Lyceum this spring, Mr. Bailey played Paris for about a month, Mercutio for over six weeks, and Romeo for one week. He has also been associated many times in London, and elsewhere with most of our leading Shakespearean actors, including Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. William Haviland, and Mr. Hermann Vezin.

The reception accorded *The Village Blacksmith* on Monday at the Alexandra Theatre, Hull, was very flattering, every part of the vast house being packed, and many unable to gain admittance. Each act was followed with keen interest in spite of this being the fifth visit to the theatre in four years. At the conclusion of the thrilling wrestling match which brings the play to a close, the audience gave vent to their feelings in cheering, the like of which had seldom before been heard in the building. Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey are to be congratulated on the success achieved.

"Fanny and the Servant Problem" will be produced at the Aldwych on Wednesday, the 14th, with Miss Fannie Ward in the principal character. Mr. Leslie Faber, Mr. Chas. Cartwright, Miss Kate Phillips, Miss Alma Murray, Miss Adela Measor, Miss Carlotta Addison, and Mr. Chas. Sugden will also be seen in important parts. "Our Empire" is impersonated by a band of beauties, quaintly called England, Scotland, Canada, Australia, India, and other names of the British possessions. They will be embodied by Misses Esme Beringer, Jean Harkness, Edith Cuthbert, Lydia Flopp, Margaret Hastings, Miriam Miner, Vera Beringer, May Straker, Marion Ashley, Patsy McCullock, Rose Barrett, and Daisy Markham. Miss Mabel Garden, Mr. John W. Dean, and Mr. Benedict will complete the cast.

Owing to loss of voice, Miss Dorothy Firmin was unable to appear at St. Helens on Wednesday, and her part of Lily, the Flower Girl, in the successful musical comedy of that name, was played by Miss Kitty Hyde, who was warmly complimented.

Music will constitute a highly important feature of the season of Oriental dances which Miss Ruth St. Denis will commence at the Scala on Wednesday. In the various themes employed in the series of five dances, the compositions of several nationalities are included. Thus, the music to "The Spirit of the Incense" dance is the work of Mr. Harvey Loomis, an American; that of the "Radha," or "Temple," dances is from Delibé's "Lakmé"; while as the Nautch Girl and the "Yogi," Miss St. Denis will dance to the native melodies of India.

Mr. W. H. C. Nation, who a couple of years ago had a season at Terry's, followed by one at the Scala, has taken a lease of the Royalty, where he will begin his enterprise in November. It will be remembered that in 1866 Mr. Nation was lessee of Sadler's Wells, and, subsequently, of Astley's, the Royalty, the old Holborn, and Charing Cross Theatre.

Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird have kindly promised to give a matinée during their autumn season at the Shaftesbury Theatre, in aid of the Mothers' and Babies' Welcome, Somers Town, St. Pancras, an institution for helping and feeding nursing mothers.

Miss Amy Willard has been engaged by Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. W. Wood-Ingram to understudy Miss Florence St. John as Mrs. Parker-Jennings in *Jack Straw* on tour. This is Miss Willard's first appearance in the English provinces since her successful tour round the world.

Mr. Eric Williams repeated his very successful recital from the works of Shakespeare, Tennyson, Longfellow, &c., in aid of Lord Roberts' Veterans' Relief Fund at Ramsgate on Monday evening. There was a large and fashionable audience, and much ceremonial attended the proceedings. The Mayor received General Sir Harry Prendergast, V.C., G.C.B., assisted by the Deputy Mayor and General Sir Charles Warren, K.C.B., G.C.M.G. A guard of honour, under the command of Captain Arthur G. Hendry met Sir Harry Prendergast at the station and an escort of Yeomanry was under the command of Lieut. Robert Sebag Montefiore. Mr. Eric Williams received a telegram from Field Marshal Earl Roberts wishing the recital every success.

"The Flag Lieutenant," which is being sent on tour by Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper, will start at the County Theatre, Kingston, on Monday. The tour is practically booked up to 1910.

The Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, presented a gay and striking appearance on Tuesday evening last, the occasion of the visit to the town of the Iron and Steel Institute. Some 1,400 seats had been booked by the reception committee, and amongst the distinguished assembly were guests representing nineteen nations. The magnificent building, gaily decorated with flowers, was seen at its best, and evoked admiration from everyone present. Special train arrangements had been made for the event.

The performance given by Mr. George Edwardes's excellent *Merry Widow* company went without the slightest hitch. During the intervals a staff of liveried waiters served ices, &c., to the ladies. The invited guests included the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, Lord Airedale, Sir George White and Lady White. During the remainder of the week this palatial place of entertainment has been packed at early doors, many hundreds being unable to gain admission.

Mr. Esme Percy will play Percinet in the revival of *The Fantasticks* at the New Gaiety Theatre, Manchester. The part was created at the Comédie Française by M. Lebargy, and was first played in English by Mrs. Patrick Campbell at the Royalty Theatre, London, in 1900.

Mr. Hubert Druce's production, *The Cheat*, has had the provincial verdict of success thoroughly endorsed by suburban audiences at the Crown, Peckham, this week, and before very long we may expect to see this powerful play, with its fine cast, in the West End. Mr. Druce's manager, Mr. George Unwin, is anxiously awaiting New York's criticism of his sketch, which he wrote for Miss Minnie Palmer, and which is to be produced there on Monday.

Mr. Norman V. Norman has acquired a modern play of powerful interest, in which there is a strong emotional part, which will be played by Miss Beatrice Wilson. Mr. Norman will open his season at Brighton with a special production of the powerful romantic play *Under the Red Robe*, in which he will play Gil de Berault, and Miss Beatrice Wilson Renée de Cocheforêt. Mr. Alfred Gray has been engaged to play Cardinal Richelieu, and special and elaborate scenery has been built.

The "matinée hat" came more than ever into prominence at the Garrick on Saturday afternoon, when a gentleman, having appealed in vain to two ladies who occupied stalls in front of him to remove their hats, carried his case to the management. The gentleman declined the offer of another stall, so the difficulty was overcome by transferring the ladies to a private box. Many communications urging that the obnoxious hat should be banned have been received by the management. Miss Evelyn Millard fully sympathises with the gentleman in his argument that a ticket-holder is entitled to an uninterrupted view of the stage from his seat, but has stated that while recognising that some action was necessary, she could not say what would be done until she had consulted her colleagues in the management.

As an alternative to the matinée hat, the Spanish mantilla, which was generally worn out of doors at the recent Eucharistic Congress, has been suggested. This charming head-dress is artistic and graceful, and would not screen the stage from the vision of those who pay for their seats. The mantilla can be made of black and white silk, and can be worn with a bunch of bright ribbons or flowers arranged on the side of the head.

We hear excellent accounts of a new soprano, Miss Mabel Hope, who has a pure soprano voice, which is very rare nowadays. Mr. George Edwardes has shown his usual cleverness and perspicuity in securing her for three years, and she will shortly appear under his management. The young lady has been entirely trained under that clever professor, Mme. Kate Flinn, who also thinks very highly of her pupil. The ladies who study under Mme. Flinn have so many advantages, as Mme. Flinn is one of the few teachers who have been in grand opera and comic opera herself, consequently they have a practical knowledge given them on stage work as well as in voice training and style.

Miss Pauline Chase scored a triumph at the Théâtre des Arts, Paris, on Thursday, when Mr. J. M. Barrie's *Pantaloon* was produced. As a compliment to the talented young actress one of the Paris dailies arranged to print its notice of the production in English.

The twenty-fourth annual report and balance-sheet of the Playgoers' Club shows that the year 1907-8 has been eventful and successful, and that the club continues to occupy a sound financial position, notwithstanding the fact that the expenditure has somewhat exceeded the income. In April of the present year the possibility of amalgamation with the O.P. Club was discussed, but the committee of the latter signified their inability to accept the scheme drawn up by the sub-committee appointed for that purpose.

Last winter the committee made the usual arrangements for taking some of the poorest children in London to see the pantomimes at Drury Lane and several of the suburban theatres, and the committee are now able to report that very nearly 100,000 children have been taken to the theatres since the foundation of the fund some six years ago. The fund will start the forthcoming season with a balance in hand of £49 11s. 6d. The report contains a résumé of the various social activities of the club during the year, and warm appreciation of the help rendered by various members of the dramatic, musical, and variety professions. The annual general meeting is fixed for Tuesday next

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Tree at the East End.

"It is curious," writes Mr. Raymond Blathwayt in *Pearson's Magazine*, "to note the hold that Tree gains in a moment upon the most varying sections of the body politic. I took him down once to give an address to a large and very poverty-stricken audience in the most desolate part of East London. Dear rugged Will Crooks was in the chair, and the two men took to one another immediately they met. Tree clad in a smart frock coat, and irreproachably 'West End,' from shiny silk hat to patent leather boots, was greeted with a storm of applause the moment he set foot upon the platform, and for nearly an hour that rough and motley audience listened spellbound whilst he talked to them on the humanity of Shakespeare. He was one with his audience in a moment; not by reason of any gift of oratory, or the interest of his discourse, but simply owing to the fact that the entire lovableness of the man shone through every word he said, and in every glance he threw round the crowded room."

The Matinée Hat Problem.

The managers and manageresses of the following theatres have sent to the *Evening News* their ideas respecting the matinée hat. Garrick: "Suggest that fair matinée patrons should plunge further into Greek Renaissance fashion, and dispense with hats entirely. Otherwise, can only leave it to good sense and good feeling not to spoil the enjoyment of others." Vaudeville: "We have no difficulty. *Jack Straw* is a magnet, at once removing all straws in the stalls." Kingsway: "Have found ladies always remove their hats when they read Miss Ashwell's thanks to all those who have done so, which are shown on the fireproof curtain." Daly's: "The only solution would be the prohibition of hats at matinées, as in the evening, but a hard-and-fast rule would destroy the comfort of many elderly ladies." Duke of York's: "Experience no difficulty here with respect to matinée hats. Find ladies readily acquiesce in removing the same when politely requested to do so." His Majesty's: "It is an old story, as far from solution as ever." Adelphi: "Contemplating consulting George Hirst *re* 'hat trick.'" Haymarket: "The good taste of the public is solving the problem."

"From a psychological point of view," says the *Medical Press and Circular*, "we imagine the wearer of the matinée hat connotes the qualities of vanity, selfishness, and lack of the æsthetic sense. As the female hat gets bigger, that of man grows smaller. Those who are curious in the matters of sex dominance and sex degeneration will be able to draw their own conclusions."

New Critics and Old Ideas.

"Many of the new critics," writes Mr. G. K. Chesterton in the *Daily News*, "ask in a wondering way why melodrama is so popular. I can tell them on the spur of the moment, and without the least hesitation. Melodrama is popular because of its profound truth; because it goes on repeating the things which humanity has really found to be central facts. This endless repetition profoundly annoys the irritable artist inside you and me. But it ought to profoundly please the realist. The melodrama is perpetually telling us that mothers are devoted to their children; because mothers are devoted to their children. Humanity may for a time grow tired of hearing this truth; but humanity will never grow tired of fulfilling it. The melodramas say that men are chiefly sensitive upon honour and their personal claim to courage. Men are. It bores one to hear one's honour reiterated; but it would startle one to hear it denied. Now the modern critics seem to mean (when they talk of ideas) some ideas other than, or even opposite to, these old and certain ideas; but surely they are wrong."

A Repugnant Notion.

Mr. G. R. Sims writes to the *Mail*:—"Perhaps I may suggest an explanation of the withdrawal of *Paid in Full* at the Aldwych Theatre after a run of only twenty performances. The central idea is repugnant to an ordinary English audience. With regard to *Paid in Full*, it seems to me to be taken from the same French source as that to which I was indebted for *A Wife's Ordeal*, a play produced in May, 1893, by Mrs. Brown Potter and Kyrle Bellew with ill-success in America, and by poor Amy Roselle and Arthur Dacre on Feb. 16, 1895, with similar ill-success in Australia. When I read the notices of *Paid in Full*, with my own experience of the same motive and action to fall back upon, I remarked to a friend, 'This play, though it pleases the critics, will have exactly the same fate as *A Wife's Ordeal* with the public.'

"An English audience is instinctively antagonistic to the central idea, the pivot upon which the whole plot turns. All sacrifices, to be successful from the stage point of view, should be made for a worthy object. Such a pitiful fellow as the husband in *Paid in Full* is not the kind of man for whom any woman could, with the sympathy of an English audience, risk the sacrifice of her honour. I forward you the Australian notices of *A Wife's Ordeal*, and from these you will be able to judge how far I am justified in suggesting that *Paid in Full* is indebted to the same French source. It was the failure of *A Wife's Ordeal* in Australia which practically led to the tragedy of the Dacres. On Nov. 18, 1895, poor Arthur Dacre shot his wife in their room at Sydney and then committed suicide."

Maude Adams and Mystery.

Miss Maude Adams, the American actress, has, says the *Pall Mall Gazette*, been in this country some three months, and beyond half-a-dozen persons who are connected with her no one was aware of the fact. Miss Maude Adams sailed from the United States at the conclusion of her season, and it was thought she was coming to London. She left the liner at Queenstown, however, and went to Dublin. Near that city she spent part of the summer in the quiet of a convent, going about with the nuns among the peasantry, and assisting them generally in their good work. One of the few people in London who knew her address was Mr. J. M. Barrie, who went over there to discuss with her the details of *Jeanne d'Arc*, the new play he is writing for Mr. Charles Frohman, in which Miss Adams will, of course, play the immortal heroine. Not long ago Miss Adams left her quiet retreat in County Dublin, and she is now living in an old house miles from a station in the Vale of the White Horse.

Mystery has always surrounded Miss Maude Adams's movements. She likes to be lost to the world for months, or even a year at a stretch, and then to reappear, refreshed in health, to increase her fame. Four years ago she disappeared from the American stage, and it was announced that she intended to take a year's rest. But the American public never knew where she took it. She retired to a convent at Tours—since turned into a military barracks—and lived there for the best part of the year with the Sisters, who taught her to become an expert worker in lace. The simple-minded sisters knew little of the outer world. They had never heard her name, never dreamt she was a great actress, and only knew that she was a bright young creature from the outer world who brought a ray of light into the sombre institution. English actresses desiring to fly for a time from the "madding throng" should always leave their addresses for *The Era* Letter-Box.

"IF WE ONLY KNEW."

Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by Harry Nicholls and Charles Ross, music by John Crook, played for the first time at the Fulham Theatre on Monday, Sept. 28.

Dick Steen ..... Mr. P. A. Gawthorn
Ensign John Willmott .... Mr. Ernest Young
Mr. Bignell ..... Mr. J. Benedick Butler
Mr. Samuel Scarper ..... Mr. Harry Nicholls
Crampton ..... Mr. William Ames
Naylor ..... Mr. Henry Jessop
Jackson ..... Mr. George Page
Partlett ..... Mr. Alfred Wynne
Mr. Wilkins ..... Mr. F. Rosse
Mr. Finch ..... Mr. H. W. Parkinson
Mr. Piper ..... Mr. F. Thorpe Tracey
Mr. Gossage ..... Mr. Albert Bernard
Ruth Steen .... Miss Margaret van Hollister
Barbara Wentworth ..... Miss Sylvia Morris
Miss Priscilla Tompkins .... Miss Kate Kearney
Mrs. Thornhill ..... Miss Violet Langley
Hebe ..... Miss Cicely Nicholls
Avice ..... Miss Saffie Kingsford

If We Only Knew is somewhat out of the common groove of melodrama, the period chosen being that of the last century. It has the advantage of supplying that admirable comedian Mr. Harry Nicholls and Mr. P. A. Gawthorn with a couple of characters which suit them exactly, and in which they are continuously prominent. There is something of the Robert Macaire about the dashing, dissolute Dick Steen, and not a little of the Jaques Strop in the "slippery" personage so amusingly portrayed by Mr. Nicholls. The action opens in a small cottage, the tenant of which, Ruth Steen, a gipsy, has been deserted by an aristocratic lover, who, she believes, has left her for the love of another woman. In this surmise Ruth is correct; his second bride was a Miss Barbara Wentworth, an heiress. Unfortunately for Steen, as the criminal nobleman calls himself, he has committed a forgery for which he has been arrested and sent to the hulks, en route for the colonies, on the very eve of his marriage with Barbara. Such is the position of affairs when, having escaped from confinement with the aid of his evil genius, Samuel Scarper, Steen dashes into Ruth's cottage, puts on a gentleman's costume which he left behind him when they parted, and by sheer readiness and audacity puts the peace officer, Crampton, off the scent. Borrowing all Ruth's ready cash, he escapes on the coach to Gravesend, where we find him in the second act, ruffling it bravely at the principal hostelry in the company of his disreputable "pal." Now Miss Barbara Wentworth, having come to the conclusion that it will be better to ignore the mere form of marriage with Steen, has become betrothed to one Ensign John Willmott, who appears at the "Hook and Hatchet" in search of the escaped convict. A warm friend of Willmott's is a certain Mr. Bignell, a London merchant, who is also staying at the inn. Bignell has a large sum of money in his possession, and the two rogues plan to relieve him of it. The merchant comes into Steen's room half-drunk, and Scarper picks his pocket of a number of banknotes. On Willmott entering and trying to take Bignell away, the latter engages in a struggle with him, in which they reel out on the balcony. The balustrade gives way, and Bignell falls into the courtyard below, and is apparently killed. Steen is arrested for the supposed murder, but Willmott refuses to profit by the error, and gives himself up to justice.

The scene now shifts to London. Scarper is engaged in swindling a vain and foolish old lady named Priscilla Tompkins, who is an enthusiastic supporter of the House of Stuart. Scarper has obtained large sums from her on pretence of conveying them to the Pretender over the water. By an accident, Willmott learns of Barbara's first marriage, and leaves her in anger. She is crushed by the blow; and when Ruth, who has long been nursing schemes of murderous vengeance against her rival, offers to stab her with a dagger, Barbara is ready to die, but in justice to herself explains her ignorance of the relationship between the gipsy and the convict bridegroom. Ruth melts and relents, and is inclined to commit suicide; but she is prevented by Barbara, who advises her to wait. Bignell, it now appears, was not killed by his fall, so Willmott is out of danger. In the last act Scarper, who has promised Miss Priscilla to bring to her the Pretender in person, arranges a mock Court, and presents Steen in Highland garb. There is an amusing scene when Miss Priscilla and the supposed Prince discuss the possibility of a morganatic marriage between them. The lady's cash-box is, however, the real attraction; and Scarper, in attempting to secure it, is arrested by the police. Steen's remorse is excited by the spectacle of the two women whose lives he has ruined, and he determines on self-destruction. He therefore arranges with Willmott to fight a mock duel, in which the Ensign shall fire at him a pistol which, Steen says, is only loaded with powder. It contains, however, a ball, which goes to the vagabond's heart; and he dies after begging forgiveness of Barbara and Ruth.

Mr. P. A. Gawthorn, who enacted Dick Steen, was admirably suited to the representation of the polished and callous rascal who is not without all redeeming virtues. He played the part with the necessary ease and smoothness, carrying it through with composure, stern incisiveness, and appropriate emphasis. It is hardly necessary to say how good Mr. Harry Nicholls was as Samuel Scarper. As might have been expected of such a consummate comedian, he endowed the intemperate and ineffectual knave with the richest kind of humorous characterisation. His make-up was most artistic, and the drollery of his expression under various humiliating defeats was irresistible. Another exceptional performance was Miss Kate Kearney's Miss Priscilla Tompkins. In its absolute unconsciousness and its solidly funny style and dignity it was a really remarkable impersonation of self-satisfied vanity. Mr. Ernest Young gave a manly and spirited reading of the part of Ensign Willmott; and Mr. J. Benedick Butler developed the merchant's character strongly and satisfactorily. Mr. William Ames supplied a sound and hearty rendering of the rôle of Crampton; and Mr. Henry Jessop and Mr. George Page were commendable as the Carrier and the Coach-guard respectively. Mr. Alfred Wynne was crisp and sharp as the inn waiter; and various tradesmen were conscientiously portrayed by Messrs. F. Rosse, H. W. Parkinson, F. Thorpe Tracey, and Albert Bernard. Miss Margaret van Hollister, whose expressive beauty stood her in good stead, put plenty of fire and energy into her delivery of the bitter effusions of Ruth Steen; and Miss Sylvia Morris enacted Barbara Wentworth with agreeable sweetness and sincerity. Miss Violet Langley supplied a bright and lively embodiment of Mrs. Thornhill; and Miss Cicely Nicholls and Miss Saffie Kingsford were efficient and intelligent in servants' parts. The play was well mounted, Mr. E. G. Banks's scenery being highly artistic, and it was dressed with particular liberality and care. It had a cordial reception from an evidently well-pleased audience.

"THE CHEAT."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Edward Ferris and B. P. Matthews, Produced, for the first time in London, at the Crown, Peckham, on Monday, Sept. 28.

Lieut. Richard Blanchard .. Mr. Edward Ferris
General Sir Christopher Blanchard .. Mr. Royston Keith
Admiral Sir Charles Bruce-Hardy, G.C.B. .. Mr. Windham Guise
Captain Philip Rivers .. Mr. Edward O'Neill
Dr. John Vorland ..... Mr. Charles Goodhart
Colonel Paget ..... Mr. Edward Y. Rae
Lieut. Brabazon ..... Mr. Max Leeds
Lieut. Neyland ..... Mr. Charles Crawford
La Sing ..... Mr. S. A. Cookson
Sergeant Mack ..... Mr. Duncan Druce
Larry O'Brien ..... Mr. Littledale Power
Native Hospital Orderly .. Mr. Fred Manners
Stephen Blanchard ..... Mr. Frank Cooper
Ethel Hardy ..... Miss Helen Russell
Joan Fielding ..... Miss Eugenie Franckyln
Marjorie Vorland ..... Miss Daisy Atherton

The finer traditions of melodrama are well preserved in *The Cheat*, which was introduced to London on Monday by Mr. Hubert Druce's company, following on its production at Wolverhampton last week. The situations of the piece are arrived at skilfully, and a tense scene in the third act is engrossing beyond measure. The dialogue, too, has the merit of being unpretentious, but terse and forcible. The piece, however, needs elaboration, and a strengthening both of incidents and characters that will make them more definitely outlined. It is nevertheless fortunate in its villain, whose schemes are carried out with neatness and despatch. A thrice-perjured scoundrel is Captain Philip Rivers, whose first act after the opening of the play is to inform Joan Fielding, a girl whom he has deceived under the promise of marriage, that he cannot keep his word. Joan has met and won the love of Stephen Blanchard, a South African millionaire, whom she has promised to marry. When, however, he returns to England for that purpose, she informs him by letter that she cannot be the wife of an honourable man. Stephen, who had lavished all the strength of a deep affection on Joan, is cut to the heart, and vows to force her betrayer to make restitution. Meanwhile Rivers has been at his fell work again, and has caused the accusation of cheating to fall upon his brother officer, Lieut. Richard Blanchard, whose cards Rivers had marked. Richard would fain court inquiry, but the colonel of his regiment, believing him guilty, induces him to resign his commission for the sake of his father, General Blanchard. Such a sacrifice is of little avail, for the General learning of Richard's resignation just after war has broken out on the Indian frontier, believes it is due to Richard's cowardice, and casts him off. Like another famous figure of melodrama, Dick resolves to enlist "in the ranks," and is later distinguished among the Seaforth Highlanders as "the hero of Dargai." The malice of the villain is due to the fact that Dick is betrothed to Ethel Hardy, whom Rivers himself is desirous to wed. He hints to Stephen that the betrayer of Joan was Dick himself, and the millionaire, bent on obtaining retribution, goes off in pursuit.

Dick's late regiment proceeds to the front, where Rivers is left in command of a small force in the hills, where he has incurred the bitter resentment of the natives. News comes that two Red Cross nurses have been captured, and the enemy sends a messenger to offer an exchange. The messenger is no other than Stephen Blanchard, who, in pursuit of his mission, has essayed to get through the Indian passes, but has been taken prisoner. In the attempt to extort information the tribesmen have tortured him beyond endurance. He relates his experiences with his captors, who, not content with burning out his eyes, have rubbed lime into the sockets, and perpetrated other atrocities, the mention of which causes a shudder. Stephen is released in order to carry a message from the enemy to the effect that their women captives will be set free on condition that Rivers is given over to them alive. Stephen declares that one of the nurses whose fate is thus at stake is no other than Joan, who has not only revealed the name of her betrayer, but told him who it was that marked the fateful cards. He urges Rivers to take the chance of atonement thus offered, but the captain cannot face the terrible prospect of giving himself up to his implacable foes. He takes refuge in suicide, and it is Dick who, clad in Rivers's uniform, goes out as a hostage to save the prisoners. Needless to say, Dick's sacrifice is not allowed to be consummated, for just as the exchange is about to be made its motive is recognised by Ethel, Joan's fellow-prisoner, who furthermore finds out that it is not Rivers who is going to his death. The suspicions of the tribesmen are aroused, but before they can take action the sound of the bugle is heard, and Colonel Paget arrives to the rescue. There is an affecting meeting between Joan and Stephen Blanchard, and Dick and Ethel are reunited.

The house on Monday was very full, and included many visitors from outside the district, attracted no doubt by the presence in the cast of artists of West-end fame. At the head of the list stands Mr. Frank Cooper, who made a most impressive personage of the iron-willed millionaire. His appearance as the physical wreck after being released from the clutches of his torturers was realistic without being revolting, and throughout his acting was natural and unforced, the beauties of his elocution being agreeably apparent. The heroic Dick Blanchard was played with quiet effectiveness by Mr. Edward Ferris. All the sinister attributes of the unscrupulous Captain Rivers were outlined by Mr. Edward O'Neill, an actor well practised in such a part, who played remorselessly upon the virtuous emotions of the audience with whom Rivers soon became an object of execration. Miss Helen Russell presented a sweet and prepossessing assumption of Ethel Hardy, and in such opportunities as were allowed her gave evidence of high emotional power. The promise of an impassioned performance of Joan was given by Miss Eugenie Franckyln, whose depiction of utter despair in the first act was cleverly accentuated. Miss Daisy Atherton, who has the distinction of being the daughter of the late Willie Edouin, had no very great chance either as Marjorie Vorland, Ethel's friend, but acted with agreeable grace and vivacity. She was associated in several scenes with Mr. Charles Crawford, who made a smart Lieut. Neyland, and with Mr. Max Leeds, who proved himself a capital light comedian as Lieut. Brabazon, between whom an active rivalry exists for the hand of Marjorie. On them, indeed, the chief humorous scenes of the play rest, though the episode in which one of the youths has to remain under a table while a prolonged scheme of humour is carried out is not justified by much comic result. Merry moments were furnished by the Irish butler of Mr. Littledale Power, who disappeared all too early from the scene. Mr. Royston Keith gave a well-marked rendering of General Blanchard, his sorrow at his son's apparent disgrace being very touchingly expressed; and another sound performance was that of Admiral Bruce-Hardy, enacted in delightfully "breezy" fashion by Mr. Windham Guise. Picturesque both in appearance and delivery was the La Sing of Mr. S. A. Cookson, who gave of the Indian chief a clever study; and Mr. Charles Goodhart and Mr. Edward Y. Rae, as a regimental doctor and Colonel Paget respectively, supplied well-studied impersonations. The drama was admirably mounted and elaborately dressed. Repeated calls were given at the end of each act, and at the conclusion Mr. Ferris acknowledged the call for "Author."

DEATH OF WILLIAM FARREN.

The death is announced of Mr. William Farren, who will be remembered by middle-aged playgoers as a pillar of classical comedy at the Vaudeville Theatre in the seventies, and as the original of Sir Geoffrey Champneys in Henry J. Byron's famous comedy, *Our Boys*, which was originally produced at the house named on June 16, 1875. The deceased actor had lived in retirement for some years, and passed away at Siena, Italy, on Saturday last, in the eighty-third year of his age.

The deceased gentleman was the son of William Farren, sometimes called the elder Farren, a well-known comedian of the London stage, contemporary with Macready. The elder Farren's father was the original Careless in the production of *The School for Scandal* (1777). Previous to his entering the dramatic profession Mr. Farren had appeared in London with some success as a singer at the so-called Ancient Concerts. At the outset of his stage career he performed at the Strand and Olympic Theatres under the name of Forrester, and as William Farren, jun. In January, 1851, Mr. William Farren, jun., was a member of the company of the last-named theatre; and on Monday, 13th of that month, he sustained the part of Frederick Plum, first performance of Morton's comedy, *All that Glitters is not Gold*. At the same theatre in the following year he was in the original cast of the two following plays, viz., *The Bag of Gold* (Hillyard), first performed at the Olympic Theatre, June 27, 1852; and in *Sarah Blangi* (adapted from the French, *Sarah la Créole*), first performed there Oct. 27, 1852, he played Julian Duplessis to his father's Colonel Dumont. In 1853, on Mr. J. B. Buckstone assuming the management of the Haymarket Theatre, Mr. William Farren became a member of his company. On Easter Monday of that year he made his début at the Haymarket as Captain Absolute in *The Rivals*, and for a great many years took part there in the various revivals of national comedy for which Mr. Buckstone's management was specially distinguished. Mr. Farren was also in the original cast of a number of plays produced at the Haymarket during the period of his engagement. Of these, the principal were from the pen of Mr. Stirling Coyne and Mr. Tom Taylor, and included, among others, *Elopements in High Life* (Stirling Coyne), first performed at the Haymarket on April 7, 1853, in which the deceased comedian played the part of Charles Perfect; in *The Old Château*, by the same author, he appeared as Armand; and in *The Man With Many Friends*, also by Stirling Coyne, he played the Hon. Arlington Veneer. He scored a hit in the part of Harry Arncliffe in Tom Taylor's *The Unequal Match*, first performed at the Haymarket on Nov. 7, 1857; and in *The Contested Election*, by the same writer, he appeared in the part of Wapshott. In *The Family Secret*, by Edmund Falconer, produced at the same house on May 9, 1860, he was the Lord Avonmore.

At the Vaudeville Theatre, in July, 1872, in a revival of *The School for Scandal*, Mr. Farren sustained his celebrated father's great part of Sir Peter Teazle, and Sheridan's comedy met with so much favour that it ran for 404 nights. At the final performance on Friday, Oct. 31, 1873, an epilogue from the pen of Mr. E. W. Haxell was spoken by the characters, and advantage was taken of the special character of the occasion by the managers of the theatre, Messrs. David James and Thomas Thorne, for the presentation to Mr. Farren of a mark of their esteem and gratitude for the good service he had rendered to them during the run of the piece, and further, as an acknowledgement of the share he had in its success. The testimonial took the form of a valuable diamond ring. On Nov. 1, 1873, Mr. Farren played at the same house the part of Old Dornton, in a most successful revival of *The Road to Ruin*. In 1875, on Jan. 16, he created the rôle of Sir Geoffrey Champneys in the first performance at the Vaudeville Theatre of H. J. Byron's comedy *Our Boys*, and continued to play the same character at that theatre nightly without intermission until July, 1878. In the autumn of the same year Mr. Farren presented the part of Grandfather Whitehead—in later years one of the elder Farren's most successful impersonations—in a revival of the comedy of that name (adapted from the French by Mark Lemon), at the theatre of the Westminster Aquarium. At the same time and place he acted Young Wilding in a revival of *The Liar* (altered from Foote). On Saturday, April 19, 1879, in the first performance at the Vaudeville Theatre of H. J. Byron's comedy, *Our Girls*, Mr. Farren sustained the part of Josiah Clench. It was at the Vaudeville, too, that he appeared as Hectic, the *malade imaginaire*, in *Petticoat Government*, a part originally played by his father when the piece was originally produced at Drury Lane some seventy years since. Another success was scored by the deceased actor as Sir Harcourt Courtley in Dion Boucicault's *London Assurance*, and herein he rivalled the performance of his celebrated father on the first production of the comedy in 1841.

Among other of his original parts since 1867 may be named Pomerol in *Fernande* (St. James's, 1870), Arthur Minton in *Two Thorns* (St. James's, 1871), Sir Geoffrey Champneys in *Our Boys* (Vaudeville, 1875), Wilfred Lisle in *The Lord of the Manor* (Aquarium, 1880), Pecksniff in *Tom Pinch* (Vaudeville, 1881), Fotheringay Trevanion in Byron's *Punch* (same theatre, 1881), Squire Hesseltine in *The Halfway House* (Vaudeville, 1881), Drinkwater in *The Opera House* (same theatre, 1885), James Burnett in *On 'Change* (Toole's, 1885), Jeremy Sowerby in *The Widow Winsome* (Criterion, 1888), and Lord Harborough in *The Bookmaker* (Gaiety, 1890).

William Farren was also seen in London in the following (and other) characters:—At the Haymarket—Captain Absolute (1853), Aimwell in *The Beaux' Stratagem* (1856), Orlando (1856), Duretête in *The Inconstant* (1856), Charles Surface (1857), Beauseant (1857), Master Waller in *The Love Chase* (1857), Sir Thomas Clifford in *The Hunchback* (1858), Sir Brilliant Fashion in *The Way to Keep Him* (1858), Bronzely in *Wives as they Were* (1858), D'Aubigny in *Mademoiselle de Belle-Isle* (1864), Colonel Freelove in *A Day After the Wedding* (1865), and Dick Dowlas in *The Heir-at-Law* (1866); at the Lyceum—Comte du Barri in *Narcisse* (1868); at the St. James's—Victor in *The Woman in Red* (1868), Colonel Hardy in *Paul Pry* (1870), and Michael Perrin in *Secret Service* (1871); at the Vaudeville—Sir Peter Teazle (1872), and old Dornton in *The Road to Ruin* (1873); at the Imperial—Grandfather Whitehead (1878), young Wilding in *The Liar* (1878), Archer in *The Beaux' Stratagem* (1879), and Adam in *As You Like It* (1880); at the Princess's—Polonius (1880); at the Vaudeville—Sir John Vesey in *Money* (1882), and Sir Anthony Absolute (1882); at the Lyceum—Colonel Damas (1883); at the Strand—Lord Ogleby in *The Clandestine Marriage* (1887); at the Criterion—Digby Grant (1887); at the Globe—Brigard in *Frou-Frou* (1888); at the Criterion—Simon Ingot in *David Garrick* (1890); at the Gaiety—Sir Everard Foxwood in *A Gold Mine* (1890); at the Criterion—Sir Harcourt Courtly in *London Assurance* (1890); and at the Vaudeville—Mr. Butterscotch in *The Guv'nor* (1893).

Mr. Frede. Mouillot's company has been particularly pleasing in *A Desperate Marriage* at the Metropole Theatre, Gateshead. Mr. G. Knox-Ord is a manly Dick Strang; and a clever piece of acting is Mr. E. W. Maule Cole's Clarence Woolmer. Comedy and pathos are ably combined by Mr. Herbert Lloyd's Elijah Boggs; Miss Winifred Whyte is sweet and womanly as Audrey Howard; there is much polish is Miss Gertrude Gilbert's portrayal of Miriam Elton; Miss Helen Anderson as Bertha Mackenzie is to be commended, and Miss Nellie Rousby is amusing as Bertha Onions.

REVIVAL AT THE ADELPHI.

On Monday, Sept. 28, the Play, in Two Scenes, by Rosamund Langbridge, entitled "A TRAGEDY OF TRUTH."

Michael Hennessy ..... Mr. Martin Harvey
Mrs. Riordan ..... Miss Mary Rorke
Mary Riordan ..... Miss N. de Silva

Miss Rosamund Langbridge's piece was originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Nov. 2, 1906, under the name of *The Spell*, and was first seen in London at the Adelphi on June 17 last year, when it was rechristened with its present title. There is a weird and poignant appeal in this little play, with its foundation of witchcraft and superstition, and its mournful desire of an unloved girl to find a mate. When Mary Riordan determines to tell Michael Hennessy, her betrothed, the truth that his love for her is not natural and spontaneous, but has been created by her mother's dark arts, we feel that the "tragedy" is not far off. It has been prophesied and prepared for by the misgivings of the old woman, and by various unlucky happenings. Placed in an atmosphere of sadness and mystery, the story, for all its supernatural basis, has a strong effect, especially when it is acted as it is at the Adelphi. Miss Mary Rorke is finely dramatic and powerfully impressive as the old witch-mother, and makes a very picturesque figure in her ragged garb. Miss N. de Silva's part of Mary Riordan just suits her pathetic and emotional style, and she plays it with a firm, yet delicate, touch, and a deep and telling expressiveness that are warmly commendable. Mr. Harvey has but brief opportunity as Michael Hennessy, but he manages to condense into his single scene a whole gamut of emotion, his depiction of Hennessy's half-crazy horror at the realisation of the "spell" that has been laid upon him being very dramatic and intense. The progress of the performance was accompanied by a really fine musical accompaniment by Mr. Norman O'Neill. So good was it in quality that it often attracted one's attention from the acting to the strains of the admirable orchestra which Mr. O'Neill conducted. The accompaniment was worth hearing on its own merits.

"DOROTHY" REVIVED.

An important development of the Moss Empires enterprise was made on Monday by the revival, at the Broadway, New Cross, under conditions of the most generous character, of the celebrated comic opera *Dorothy*, which enjoyed such a prosperous career in the West-End after its production at the Gaiety just twenty-two years ago. The significance of the present revival lies in the fact that the cast contains the names of the original exponents of two of the principal parts, Mr. Hayden Coffin resuming his old rôle of Harry Sherwood and Mr. Arthur Williams being seen once again as the sheriff's officer, Lurcher. Brilliance is added to the production by the inclusion in the cast of the eminent tenor, Mr. John Coates, who has the part of Geoffrey Wilder, "created" at the Gaiety by Mr. Redfern Hollins.

A new generation of music-lovers has sprung up since the dainty and melodious strains of *Dorothy* were first heard, and though many among the crowded audiences at the Broadway this week are renewing former delights, it was evident that to the majority of the assembly on the night of our visit Messrs. B. C. Stephenson and Alfred Cellier's work appealed for the first time. All the tuneful choruses and concerted numbers were loudly applauded and redemanded, and admiration for the beautiful setting was often expressed.

Mr. Hayden Coffin received a hearty welcome when he appeared as Harry Sherwood, looking more youthful than ever. He acted with his usual buoyancy and elaboration, and his singing was marked by his accustomed well-studied expression. The favourite "Queen of my heart," which has occupied a foremost position on the concert platform since its introduction into the opera, was rendered with all the fervour and spirit with which Mr. Coffin invariably enhances his singing, and the last verse had to be repeated. Mr. John Coates' exquisitely tasteful and musicianly treatment of the numbers that fall to Geoffrey was the occasion for much admiration. He was heard to the greatest advantage in the graceful air "With such a dainty maid," which was enthusiastically encored. The heroine, Dorothy, originally played by Miss Marion Hood, had a representative, well favoured alike in looks and voice, in Miss Ruth Davenport, who rendered her solos in cultivated style, and was of invaluable assistance in the concerted pieces. "Be wise in time," led by Dorothy, exercised a most agreeable influence. Miss Hebe Bliss made a captivating Lydia Hawthorne, her well-modulated contralto adding greatly to the effect of the various numbers with which she was associated. The quartet, "One moment, pray," between the four lovers was sung with particular charm. The acting of the two ladies, dressed in male costume, in the duel scene, too, proved highly diverting.

Mr. Arthur Williams revelled again in the eccentricities of Lurcher, and was responsible for continuous laughter. The cream of the comedy has been preserved by Mr. Williams and supplemented by many up-to-date allusions. His references to topical subjects met with ready acceptance, and the drolleries of the comedian seemed inexhaustible. The humours of Tom Strutt, originally played by Mr. John Le Hay, were safely entrusted to Mr. Tim Ryley, a comedian of unlimited resource, who made the utmost of the funny situations in which he was concerned. Squire Bantam, whose first interpreter was the late Mr. Furneaux Cook, was heartily represented, both vocally and dramatically, by Mr. Colin Coop, who sang with breadth and vigour the exacting solo "Contentment I give you." The simpering Mrs. Privett, originally played by Miss Harriet Coveney, was invested with a deep sense of humour by Miss Emily Spiller, who played well up to Mr. Williams in the amusing scenes in which the couple are engaged. Miss Aimée Roberts looked well and sang in good style as Phyllis Tuppitt; and Mr. Fred J. Vigay as John Tuppitt, Mr. Lester Carey as the Parson, Mr. R. White as the Squire's Footman, and Miss Primrose Harding as Lady Betty added to the completeness of the cast. Mr. Julian Hicks has painted the admirable scenery; and the costumes, wigs, and properties by Willie Clarkson are dainty and appropriate. A pack of fine foxhounds under the control of Major Restall lends realism to the fine hunting chorus in the second act.

Mr. James Bell, the lessee and manager of the Theatre Royal, introduced on Friday, for the first time in Darlington, a subscribers' night. For that occasion the prices of admission were raised, and the gallery was closed entirely.

Instructions have, we understand, been given to Mr. Bertie Crewe, the eminent architect, to prepare plans for a new theatre on the site of the present Empire Music Hall, Burnley. The new theatre is estimated to seat 600 more people than the present Victoria Opera House, and the stage will be much larger and deeper. It is expected the new building will be ready next autumn.

"THE FATAL DISC."

Dramatic Episode, in Two Scenes, produced at the King's Theatre, Gateshead, on Monday, Sept. 28.

Colonel Durant .....Mr. Nicholas Graydon
Captain Wedlock .....Mr. Earnie Archer
Colonel Clavering .....Mr. Percival Baker
Oliver Cromwell .....Mr. Jack Baker
Abbie Durant .....Little Hetty Hornsby
Sylvia Durant .....Miss Carrie Young

(from our own correspondent.)

The Fatal Disc is a very dramatic piece, and had a cordial reception here on Monday. The interest centres in three officers of Oliver Cromwell's army, who have disobeyed an order to retreat whilst engaged in a losing fight. Their action turns the tide in favour of their side; but, notwithstanding, the iron Cromwell has sentenced them to death. The play opens in the room of one of the condemned officers, Colonel Durant, who is relating the story to his little daughter Abbie when Cromwell's men come for their prisoner. The tiny maiden fondly bids her parent good-bye, totally ignorant of the fate awaiting him. Meanwhile Cromwell has endeavoured to induce the men to draw lots to decide which of the three shall expiate the crime of the trio, but without avail, and in Scene II. we are introduced to Cromwell himself. He orders that one man only shall die, and lots are cast for them. He himself decides as to the manner of drawing, and orders one of his bodyguard to bring in a child from the street, who shall be given three discs—two white and one red. The sentenced men are brought in, and their faces turned towards the wall, with their single open palms behind them, into which the child is to place the discs—one in each. Cromwell is thoroughly captivated by the naïveness of the child, and laughingly remarks that should she ever request a favour of him it will be granted. The little girl is given the discs, and her duty explained to her. She recognises her father amongst the three condemned men, and remarks that seeing she loves him so much she will give him the "pretty red one"—and thus sign his death warrant.

Later the truth is told her, and in a moment she sees a way out. She recalls Cromwell's promise of help if ever she needed it, and instantly demands the redemption of the contract. Cromwell abides by his promise, grants her father's release—truly a strong *dénouement*—and the curtain falls on a very happy assemblage. The playlet goes with commendable swing, the interest never for a moment flagging.

Chief honours are due to Mr. Nicholas Graydon, who, in the part of Durant, combines a polished style with a powerful delivery and studious attention to detail. Mr. Percival Baker is convincing as Colonel Clavering; and Mr. Earnie Archer is well suited to the rôle of Captain Wedlock. A clever embodiment of Oliver Cromwell is presented by Mr. Jack Baker; Miss Carrie Young as Sylvia Durant shows much histrionic ability, her emotional expression being excellent. Little Miss Hettie Hornsby is good as Abbie Durant, and speaks her lines clearly and without hesitation.

"WILDFIRE."

(from our new york correspondent.)

Miss Lillian Russell, who used to be called "the Queen of comic opera," made a new departure a year or two ago, and "went in for" comedy rôles requiring no exercise of that fine singing voice that charmed so many people in days gone by. In *Wildfire*, a racing comedy in three acts, by George Broadhurst and George V. Hobart, which won success some time ago in other cities, and recently "struck" the American metropolis by way of the Libetry Theatre, Miss Russell easily upholds the popularity that has been hers for many a year. The late Tony Pastor, the "veteran of variety," who recently passed away, "discovered" Lillian Russell, and when she first appeared at this theatre, at a very early age, her beauty quickly made her famous. Gallantry forbids me to mention the exact date of that discovery, although it is said that the lady herself is not at all sensitive on that point, which is not at all surprising, for it serves to give point and emphasis to the assertion to be found in every newspaper notice of her play, to wit, that "Lillian Russell is as beautiful as ever." Furthermore, the critics agree that Miss Russell is as clever as she is beautiful. Wildfire is the name of a horse owned by an attractive widow named Mrs. Henrietta Barrington (Miss Russell). The sporting proclivities of Mrs. Barrington's husband were not disclosed to her until after his death, as he conducted his racing stable under the name of John Duffy. Wildfire was his favourite, and in the first act the widow arranges a final race, which the horse is expected to win. She intends to dispose of her stable after that, as she has reasons. A younger sister is in love with Ralph Woodhurst, the scapegrace son of a minister, who is a vigorous opponent of race-track gambling. The minister is not aware that his son attends the races, and is already under the thumb of a bookmaker named John Duffy, to whom he owes several thousand dollars. The bookmaker is "the villain of the piece." His name enables him to pose as the owner of the stable and deceive a negro jockey, who has been engaged to ride Wildfire. Mrs. Barrington hears of Duffy's plan to make the horse win or lose, as may seem best to him. Now, Wildfire's victory means that young Woodhurst will be saved from exposure and disgrace, so the widow pretends to be flattered by Duffy's attentions to her, and as the horses pass she waves a white handkerchief, which is to be the jockey's signal to win the race. It is hardly necessary to add that all ends happily. The dialogue is brisk and clever. It is naturally very horsey, and the racing atmosphere is well preserved throughout the play, an exceedingly realistic view of the stable being disclosed in the second act. Miss Russell, as the widow, has never appeared to better advantage. Will Archie, a diminutive comedian, makes a big hit as a slangy stable boy named Bud, causing no end of laughter; and others who render good service in prominent rôles are Messrs. Thurston Hall, John D. O'Hara, Franklyn Roberts, Joseph Tuohy, Frank Sheridan, Sydney Booth, and Gilbert Douglas.

The Fancy Dress Ball season at Covent Garden started with great éclat at midnight on the 25th ult., when a brilliant gathering assembled. Many elaborate and ingenious costumes were displayed. Mr. William Clarkson was again in the van of the prize winners, and took first with "Sweet September," second with "Wonder of the Season," and fourth with "The Blue Sky of Fair Italy."

At the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on Saturday, Mrs. Patrick Campbell gave a special matinée, introducing to the Glasgow public the tragedy of *Electra*, translated by Mr. Arthur Symons from the German, and also Oscar Wilde's powerful one-act play, *A Florentine Tragedy*, both works of special merit and more than ordinary interest.

On Monday and the two following evenings, Mrs. Patrick Campbell presented, at the Theatre Royal, Margate, *The Thunderbolt*. As Phyllis, Mrs. Campbell played with her accustomed power and intensity. Able support was rendered by Mr. Julian Royce as Thaddeus Mortimer; Mr. Murray Carson as James Mortimer; Miss Florence Farr in the rôle of Ann Mortimer; Mr. J. D. Beveridge, who was good as the Solicitor; Mr. Nigel Playfair as Col. Ponting; and Miss Stella Patrick Campbell as Helen Thornhill, and others in a long cast.

The Actors' Association has moved from 409, Strand, to 353.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER PRINZ D'AUREC."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by H. Lavadan, produced at the Neues, on Sept. 18.

Prinz .....Herr Schroth
Prinzessin .....Fraulein Reisenhofer
Herzogin .....Fraulein Reichenbach
Baron Horn .....Herr Christians
Vicomte Montrejean .....Herr Schmidthaesler
Montade .....Herr Werckmeister
Chambersac .....Herr Andresen
Dutaillis .....Herr Parow
Stulbach .....Herr Schindler
Louis .....Herr Schulte

(from our own correspondent.)

BERLIN, Thursday, Sept. 24.—This play, though new to Berlin, is several years old. It was considered at the time of its first production in Paris to be a skit upon certain well-known persons in the worlds of artistocracy and finance, and as such met with—I believe—but scant favour. The environment being entirely Parisian, it was scarcely likely to interest a Berlin audience, and a certain respectfully cordial reception was all that was accorded to it. The wit—when it is apparent—is bright, but is spread over sparsely, and the whole rather bored the audience than otherwise. The interpretation was satisfactory. Herr Schroth as the blasé spendthrift, Fräulein Reisenhofer as the Princess, and especially Herr Christians, as the great Jewish banker Horn, were all deserving of commendation. Herr Linsemann, who was responsible for translation and adaptation, appears to have done his work conscientiously and well, but I do not fancy the piece will hold the boards for any length of time.

Mr. Bernard Shaw's clever and amusing comedy *Hin Teufelskerl* (Devil of a Fellow) has been revived with signal success at the Schiller Theatre, Charlottenburg. It has not been done here for several years, since it was produced at the Berliner, where it had a very long run. The reception last week on the part of a large audience was enthusiastic, and a second lease of life may be predicted with certainty. The cast was not altogether satisfactory, nor was the mounting, but these faults did not affect the enjoyment of the majority of those present. Two plays by Wolfgang von Gersdorff, drawn from Japanese models, were produced with some success at the Chamber Playhouse of the Deutsches Theatre last week. They are entitled *Kimiko* and *Terakoya* respectively. Both are tragic and naïve, as the Japanese drama customarily is. The plays serve to fill an interim bill, but will scarcely run for any length of time.

Eugen D'Albert's dramatic opera *Tiefland* has again been put in the bill of the Komische Oper, where is was produced for the first time some years ago with such great success. It is still drawing largely. Director Gregor, by the way, proposes building a special Wagner Opera house in Berlin. He will run the theatre on the same excellent lines as the Komische Oper, of which house he will still retain the managership. The undertaking is elaborate, but should prove successful. It is to be a theatre seating 2,500 persons, and is to be ready for opening in 1912. Admission prices are to be genuinely "popular," while Herr Gregor says he intends organising a first-class company and a picked orchestra of seventy-five musicians.

The Deutsches has revived *King Lear*, with which it made so great a success the last two seasons. Herr Schildkraut again made his mark in the title-rôle, his representation being powerful and original, although it falls short of his Shylock. An excellent piece of acting was the Edmund of Herr Beregis; Herr Moissis, Herr Walden, and Herr von Winterstein were also good, and the parts of Goneril, Regan, and Cordelia were effectively portrayed by Fräuleins Fehdmer, Schlüter, and Hoflich. The mounting was in the good taste to which we are accustomed at this theatre, but the audience expressed much disapproval at the long entr'actes, which made the evening unusually long.

Herr Ernst von Wolzogen has just completed a new three-act satirical comedy entitled *Der Unverstandenermann*, which will be performed at one of our leading theatres shortly.

"GLORIOUS BETSY."

(from our new york correspondent.)

In *Glorious Betsy*, a four-act play by Mrs. Rida Johnson Young, recently produced at the Lyric Theatre, New York, Miss Mary Mannering gives a graceful and charming portrayal of Betsy Patterson, the Baltimore belle who became the American wife of Jerome Bonaparte, the brother of Napoleon. The action of the play begins at Old Sweet Springs, Virginia, where Jerome is posing as a teacher of French to Mistress Betsy, a vivacious and frolicsome coquette, with several admirers, including John C. Calhoun and Henry Clay. These two, who afterwards became great statesmen, are dancing attendance on Betsy, and in the first act they "dare" her to take a ramble along the country roads in her bare feet, a challenge that she immediately accepts. After that, they are more madly in love with her than ever. The tutor, however, is the favoured swain. When the love affair of Betsy and Jerome has advanced to the point of a proposal of marriage, the latter receives a message from Napoleon, commanding him to return to France and wed Fredericka of Wurtemburg, and assume the Royal dignity of the kingdom of Westphalia. This creates a conflict of impulses, and leads up to the disclosure of the real name and station of Betsy's lover. The third act takes place on the upper deck of the frigate La Cigale two months later. The lovers, accompanied, by Betsy's father and aunt, have reached a French port, and are about to seek Napoleon's consent to the marriage. Jerome receives an uncompromising message, however, and then the Little Corporal himself comes over the ship's side, and sternly refuses to sanction the union. Jerome is placed under guard and taken ashore, while Betsy is ordered to be sent back to America. In the last act she is at home again in Baltimore, where she is shortly rejoined by her devoted lover, who fulfils his promise to make her his wife, in spite of the imperial prohibition. History tells us that Jerome Bonaparte wedded the lady that Napoleon chose for him, and the dramatist has not escaped reproof for "trifling with facts" in this way. From a critical point of view the play is conventional and artificial, but it contains much that appeals to the popular fancy, and Miss Mannering's popularity is great. Mr. George W. Howard bears himself well as Jerome Bonaparte, Miss Helen Macbeth wins approval as Betsy's friend, Eliza Monroe, and the other rôles are in good hands.

On Sunday last the staff of the Opera House, Harrogate, had their annual outing. This time it was to Ilkley that they journeyed, and at 7.30 a.m. forty-two of them left the theatre for Otley, where breakfast was served at the Black Bull. After breakfast they drove on to Ilkley, where at one, at the handsome Crescent Hotel, a capital dinner was disposed of. Speeches followed, and Mr. Tom Marshall (proprietor) in a few happy phrases thanked Mr. Peacock and subscribers to their fund for the enjoyable day. He also asked Miss Marie Peacock to accept from the staff a handsome box of chocolates. Mr. Peacock (managing-director) replied suitably; and speeches were also made by Mr. Eric Fielding Smith (acting-manager) and Mr. Bob Braithwaite (carpenter). After walks on the moors, &c., the happy party started back, reaching Harrogate thoroughly happy and really tired out after a most enjoyable day at 10.30 p.m.

PLAYS FOR THE CLOSET.

"Mr. Hardy raises in his preface to *The Dynasts*," writes Mr. A. B. Walkley in "Drama and Life," "the general question of plays which are not intended to be played, but only to be read, plays 'for mental performance,' as Mr. Hardy puts it. To those who urge that an unplayable play is a contradiction in terms he replies that 'the question seems to be an unimportant matter of terminology.' Compositions cast in the dramatic shape, he says, were without doubt originally written for the stage only; 'but in the course of time such a shape would reveal itself to be an eminently readable one.' Would it? Has it? Surely not. But even if it be conceded that some plays happen to be readable, does that prove that plays ought to be written in order to be read? By no means. Some plays may be read, just as, *faute de mieux*, shoe-leather may be used as an article of diet instead of as a protection for the feet. But, to adapt a familiar line from an Oxford Prize Poem,

It *may* be eaten, but it is not good.

No, with all respect to Mr. Hardy, the question is much more than an unimportant matter of terminology. It is a question of the relation of means to ends. Just as a play may be readable, so an opera score may be playable in a pianoforte arrangement. Mr. Hardy would call it an opera wherein everything that the piano cannot render is left for mental performance. Most people call it an abuse of the opera, which is intended for the stage, and an abuse of the piano, which is intended for pianoforte music. Surely it is a commonplace that every art-form is conditioned by its medium? The shape, the structure, the points of inflection, the perspective of a play are all determined by the mechanical necessities of the theatre and the fact that it is something to be seen and heard by a spectator. A book, which is something to be read, has no such restrictions; it has others, but not these. If you impose upon a book the form of a play—a form, that is to say, designed to meet exigencies which in its case do not exist—you are misapplying or wasting the means at your disposal; you are running a sack-race; you are playing fives, like Cavanagh in Hazlitt's essay, with your clenched fist. At the best, you have achieved a *tour de force*. Let me take an example from Mr. Hardy's old profession. It is an elementary principle in architecture that structure is conditioned by material. Stone demands one kind of building, iron another, wood a third. Suppose an architect were laboriously to construct an iron bridge under the limitations proper to a stone bridge, would Mr. Hardy applaud the feat? No; he would say it was bad architecture. So one may say when it is attempted to build a book according to the methods of a play, or a play according to the methods of a book. Lessing has something very much to the point ('Hamburg Dramaturgy,' Feb. 5, 1768): 'It is not enough that a work produces an effect on us'—*e.g.*, that a play is readable—'it's effect must also be that which properly belong to it . . . What is the use of building a theatre, dressing up men and women, putting their memories to the torture, crowding the whole town into a hall, if any work when represented is only to produce some of the effects which might have been produced by a story read in the chimney-corner?' So one may ask, What is the use of enjoying all the means open to the story-teller if he is to sacrifice most of those means to the vain hope of rivalling the playwright, who has quite other means?

"Nor will it do to rely, as Mr. Hardy does, upon the imagination of the reader, or 'mental' spectator. 'The spectator, in thought, becomes a performer whenever called upon, and cheerfully makes himself the utility man of the gaps.' Unfortunately, the 'gaps' in a closet-play, being just those parts of a play which cannot be expressed in dialogue, are its vital parts. The great passions are mute. The culminating point of a play is not a speech, but an action, or a picture of which the effect resides in the mere juxtaposition of certain personages. It is at these moments that the closet playwright suspends—is bound to suspend—work, while the 'mental' spectator comes in and takes up the burden."

Mrs. Stella Brereton Douglas has commenced her autumn season of instruction in elocution, deportment, and acting at her comfortable and spacious premises at 84, New Bond-street, W.

The annual report of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, which has just been issued, exceeds in bulk the last two reports of the Society combined. The Society is extending its influence in all parts, no less than ten new branches having been formed during the past year. Several additional centres are to be inaugurated after the completion of the performances of *Twelfth Night*, at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon, which end to-day.

Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company travelled on Sunday last from Hanley to Brighton via Market Drayton and the Great Western Railway to Kensington (Addison-road). The train left Hanley at 11.10 a.m., and ran from Market Drayton to Addison-road without a stop, a distance of 178 miles, Brighton being reached at 5.45 p.m., or fifteen minutes before time. The Great Western Railway Company have, during the last two or three years, made great improvements in their travelling arrangements for theatrical companies.

At St. Augustine's Petty Sessions, Whitstable, on Saturday, W. G. B. Bell and R. B. Reeves, the lessee and owner of the Assembly Rooms, Whitstable, were summoned for presenting a stage play, in three acts, called *The Camden Town Murder*, at the Assembly Rooms on the 5th ult. without the licence of the Lord Chamberlain. Evidence having been given of the production of the play and as to its not being licensed, the Bench fined Bell £5 and 7s. 11d. costs, or in default of distress one month's imprisonment, and ordered Mr. Reeves to pay a fine of 5s. and 7s. 10d. costs. As the owner of the hall, they said, he could not get away from his responsibilities.

Messrs. Chappell intend during the approaching season to form a choir of 250 voices, to be known as "The Queen's Hall Choral Society." The prospectus states that every endeavour is to be made to obtain the best voices only, and to train them individually and collectively to a pitch of perfection which, it is hoped, will give to the choir an unrivalled position in the musical world of the metropolis. The choir's trainer and conductor will be Mr. Franco Leoni, the well-known composer. Standard works drawn from the classics are to form the nucleus of the répertoire, but a special feature will be made of choral compositions by young British musicians.

The examination of candidates for pianoforte who had previously passed in paper work but failed to pass in practical work, was held on the 25th ult. at the Royal College of Music. Fifty-two candidates were examined, and the following twenty-six were successful in obtaining the number of marks fixed for passing:—Mrs. Cecilia M. L. Allport, Jean R. Atkins, Grace S. Bannister, Kate P. Barkla, Lilian Baron, Elsie M. Chapman, Emma H. Collins, Florence E. Cotterell, Muriel H. Duke, George F. Fletcher, Lilian M. Gash, Laura M. Jesson, Fannie Knight, Nina Langley, Emma B. Le Lievre, Marianne B. Lincoln, Margaret L. McCaig, Helen M. Mathieson, Emma J. Oakley, Emily Passmore, Christabel E. H. Richardson, Gladys M. Starkey, Olive J. Starkey, Annie Sugden, William C. Twitchen, and Hayda Walters.

LAL BROUGH AT HOME.

In the *Pall Mall Magazine* for September Mr. H. M. Wallbrook writes delightfully of "dear old Lal Brough," as seen in his home of thirty-seven years in Lambeth. Here the veteran comedian may be found sitting under the big ash in the centre of the garden, with his faithful canine friend Bruno and his beloved daughter Mary as companions. Many of the trees he planted himself, and "the ordered disorder of the flower-beds, with all sorts of plants growing together, is at once his handiwork and his pride." The place is literally a storehouse of pictures, drawings, photographs, books, sketches, and souvenirs of all kinds connected with the theatre. From every wall familiar faces look down.

"In his drawing-room, among other things, are a portrait of Quick the actor, which he believes to be by Rowlandson; an early view of Brighton racecourse, a signed Cosway, an interesting oil-painting of Edmund Kean, as a boy, mounted on a tavern table reciting; a number of pieces in oils by George Cruikshank; a very interesting seascape by G. W. Sheffield, executed in thirty-five minutes; a study of cloud, light, and sea by Joseph Jefferson; a stormy scene, by David Murray; statuettes of Liston, Toole, and other players; portraits of Mr. Brough as Dogberry and Sir Toby Belch; a photograph of his mother in her ninety-fifth year, and a host of other interesting things.

"In the library are a lot of the drawings of that tragically-fated genius, the late Fred Barnard; a striking pen-and-ink likeness of Phelps as Dr. Cantwell; a spirited wash-drawing of a Cavalier, inscribed 'To Lionel Brough, from his friend Seymour Lucas'; a valuable collection of Zoffanys, and a brilliant portrait of King, the original Puff in *The Critic*. There is a drawing of Nottingham Castle by Charles Mathews; and on one of the tables a splendid photograph of Mrs. Patrick Campbell rescuing the Bible from the stove in the great scene of *The Notorious Mrs. Ebbsmith* which so electrified the first night's audience at the Garrick and so irritated Mr. Bernard Shaw, who was then writing dramatic criticisms for the *Saturday Review*. And on a wall close by hangs a list of the parts Mr. Brough has played, written in gold, and numbering nearly three hundred. It was compiled with great care a few years ago by an unknown admirer, who called and left it as a small mark of his admiration, and has since never been seen by the comedian.

"The dining-room is hung mainly with water-colours, including several by Elijah Walton; and the staircase to the upper floor is so thickly lined on both sides with things in frames that the walls can scarcely be seen. Here is a photograph of Ellen Terry as a little girl, in some play or other, having breakfast with Benjamin Webster; and there is a clever sketch by Miss Viola Tree of Mr. Brough as the Host of the Garter in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*. A lifelike portrait of E. A. Sothern hangs near a number of original drawings by Phil May and Harrison Weir; and hard by is the photograph of Irving, Wyndham, Toole, John Clayton, Lionel Brough, Henrietta Hodson, and Miss Everard in *Dearer than Life*, which Mr. Bram Stoker has reproduced in his interesting 'Reminiscences of Henry Irving.' It is curious to look at that picture, with the two low-comedians so prominently posing in the centre, and to think that the dark young man with the black moustache, modestly sitting in the corner, lived to overshadow all the others, and when he died was buried in Westminster Abbey amid a national sense of loss. Near the stairs is a large head-and-shoulders portrait of Irving in the late seventies; and on the floor above, one on a similar scale revealing the sensuous beauty of Lilian Adelaide Neilson.

"Mr. Brough has been a great globe-trotter. He once travelled fourteen thousand miles to make a twenty-days' tour in South Africa, where he played the part of Tony Lumpkin for the 777th time in a red cloak borrowed from a girl and cut into a hunting-coat, a pair of riding-breeches that had gone a thousand miles over the veldt, and a pair of brown-paper leggings affixed to his own shoes to give them the appearance of top-boots.

"Nearly half a century has passed since he first played this part; and his most famous appearance in it was at the Aquarium under Miss Litton, whose Rosalind he considers to be the best he ever saw. It was at that time, also, that his Touchstone became really known in London.

"The last Shakespearean part which Mr. Brough played in London was the little one of the gardener in *Richard II.*, when Mr. Tree revived the tragedy at His Majesty's; and it will be remembered how finely he made it stand out, with what a wise gravity he spoke the fine lines to the Queen—

'In your lord's scale is nothing but himself,
And some few vanities that make him light,'

and how near to their eyes were the tears of the audience as he spoke of setting 'a bank of rue, sweet herb of grace' where she had dropped a tear—'in the remembrance of a weeping queen.' He says that tears rose to his own eyes in that passage; and he adds: 'The actor is very sensitive in that way, very susceptible to the emotion of the moment; but it is dangerous to let oneself be mastered by it. It is easy to become incoherent if it is not checked.'"

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" is proving attractive all over the country, and it is equally certain to draw good audiences to the Crystal Palace Theatre next week. In addition to an excellent cast, the company includes Rich and Moore, coloured duettists; Shorty May, comedian; the Tennesseeans, jubilee singers; J. Warrie, buck dancer; Walter Langfield, banjoist; and Dinah Dixie, ballad vocalist. In the plantation festival scene will be found real niggers and freed slaves, and there will be a perfect representation of negro life in the cotton fields of the Southern States of America. The gallery of the theatre, it should be added, is now 6d., so that those purchasing early-door tickets at 9d. can secure seats in the end gallery. The new free cloakroom is much appreciated.

At the Board of Trade Offices, on Tuesday, the statutory first meetings were held of the creditors and shareholders of the Thespian Syndicate, Ltd., under a compulsory winding-up order. The company was formed in April, 1906, with a nominal capital of £5,000, to acquire an option to produce a play entitled *King of Clubs*, and to carry on theatrical business generally. The option was not exercised. On Aug. 8, 1907, the company acquired a licence, tenable for six years, to use Hengler's Circus for twenty weeks each year at the weekly rent of £125, and produced circus and wrestling entertainments during April, May, and June last. These entertainments resulted in a heavy loss, to which the directors attributed the failure of the company. The liquidation accounts show liabilities £2,366 against assets £29, and a deficiency of £7,337 to the shareholders. In the absence of a quorum, the meetings were formally adjourned for a week.

Sir Henry Irving's birthplace at Keinton Mandeville is not, after all, to fall into the hands of an American syndicate, but has been acquired for preservation as a memorial by Mr. Ernest Jardine, who saved Glastonbury Abbey to the nation two years ago.

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ON THE ROAD, OCT. 5.

Alexander & Co., George.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
An Abandoned Woman.—T. R., Wednesbury.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Aston.
Asche, Oscar.—T. R., Bolton.
At Cripple Creek.—P.O.W., Mexborough.
At Duty's Call.—T. R., Colchester.
At the World's Mercy.—T. R., Goole.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—Castle T., Richmond.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—Royalty T., Chester.
Belle of New York (Howard).—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Belle of the Ball.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—Grand T., Fulham.
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—Weston-super-Mare.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—Penzance and Helston.
Bondman, The (Croke).—Dalston T., N.E.
Bourchier, Arthur.—T. R., Manchester.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Breed of the Treshams.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Brewster's Millions.—King's T., Glasgow.
Broken Heart, A.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Captain Drew on Leave.—T. R., Bath.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Prince's T., Bristol.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Victoria T., Burnley.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Her Majesty's T., Dundee.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—T. R., Portsmouth.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—T. R., Barry Dock.
Claudian.—T. R., Coatbridge.
Coal King.—T. R., Blyth.
Compton Comedy Co.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Conscience of a Judge.—Grand T., Walsall.
Convict's Daughter.—Court T., Warrington.
Country Girl in London.—T. R., Batley.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (N.).—T. R., Edinb'gh.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (S.).—Grand T., Hull.
Dairymaids (Macdonald's).—Luton.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Co-operative Hall, Rugby.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—Wellington and Ventnor.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—P.O.W., Great Grimsby.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—T. R., Merthyr.
Diver's Luck.—T. R., Hyde.
Donovan, Lydia.—Colwyn Bay.
Dorothy.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Driven from Home.—Rawtenstall.
East Lynne (Kelly).—T. R., Cardiff.
Eve of Her Wedding.—T. R., Bilston.
Face at the Window.—Miners' T., Ashington.
Fatal Wedding.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Fight for a Throne.—O. H., Workington.
Fight for Life.—T. R., Waterhouses.
Flag Lieutenant.—County T., Kingston.
Flower Girl.—T. R., South Shields.
For Love and the King.—New T., Long Eaton.
From Shop Girl to Duchess.—M. T., Birmingham.
Gay Deceiver, The.—Pier Pav., Eastbourne.
Gay Gordons (Miss Ash).—County T., Reading.
Gay Gordons (Miss Dare).—Grand T., Croydon.
Gay Gordons (Terriss and Hicks).—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Girl Behind the Counter.—Empire T., Oldham.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—Carlton T., Saltley.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Bishop Auckland.
Girls of Gottenberg.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Metropole T., Glasgow
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—March, King's Lynn.
Great White Chief.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Greed of Gold.—New Public Hall, Bargoed.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., Smethwick
Her Marriage Vow.—T. R., West Stanley.
Her Nameless Child.—T. R., Bedford Leigh.
His House in Order.—T. R., Worthing.
His Wife No Longer.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Honeymoon, The.—Lincoln.
Horniman's, Miss.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Hughes, Annie.—T. R., York.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—Castle T., Stockton-on-Tees.
Hypocrites, The (S.).—Grand T., Southampton.
Irene Wycherley.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Jack Straw.—New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Royal Court T., Liverpool.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Kilbirnie and Dunoon.
Lady Frederick.—T. R., Halifax.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Lady of Ostend.—Grand T., Doncaster.
Leah Kleschna.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
Lion's Heart, A.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Little Breadwinner.—Metropole T., Devonport.
Love of the Princess.—T. R., Margate.
Love Rules the World.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Love that Women Desire.—Metropole T.,Gateshead.
Lucky 'Liza.—T. R., Rotherham.
Manxman, The.—Borough T., Heywood.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Arbroath and Montrose.
Man and Wife.—Grand T., Burnley.
Marriage Vow.—T. R., West Stanley.
Master Criminal.—Ferndale.
Master of Millions.—T. R., Edmonton, N.
Maude, Miss Winifred.—O. H., Dunfermline.
Merry Widow (N.).—T. R., Chatham.
Merry Widow (S.).—King's T., Sunderland.
Midnight Mail.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
Miss Hook of Holland (S.).—Grand T., Swansea.
Mollison, William.—T. R., Glasgow.
Mother's Salvation, A.—Maesteg and Treherbert.
Moody-Manners Opera (A.)—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Moody-Manners Opera (B).—Folkestone.
Moore, Miss Decima.—T. R., Brighton.
Mr. Popple (Macdona).—O. H., St. Helens.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—O. H., Rochdale.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—B.T., Stratford.
My Mimosa Maid.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—T. R., Ilkeston.
New East Lynne.—T. R., Cardiff.
New Girl, The.—Shrewsbury and Worksop.
Old Folks at Home.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Peter's Mother.—T. R., Hanley.
Power of Men.—T. R., Sunderland.
Power of the Cross.—T. R., Tonypandy.
Prince of Pilsen.—Opera House, Dudley.
Private Secretary.—Londesborough T., Scarboro'.
Prodigal Parson.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—T. R., Woolwich.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Queen's T., Manchester.
Royal Divorce.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Sailor's Wedding.—Elephant and Castle T.
Second to None.—Grand T., Nelson.
Sergeant Brue.—T. R., Torquay.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., Norwich.
Sign of the Cross.—Grand T., Falkirk.
Silver King.—T. R., Sunderland.
Soldier of France.—King's T., Sutton.
Soldier's Honour.—Alex. T., Birmingham.
Still Alarm.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Straight from the Shoulder.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Sunday.—Ripon and Harrogate.
Terry, Edward.—T. R., Hull.
Thief, The.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Thief, The (N.).—Her Majesty's T., Aberdeen.
Thief, The (S.).—T. R., Exeter.
Tom Jones.—T. R., Bradford.
Tom Jones.—Ashton.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Todmorden.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—O. H., Cork.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—T. R., Barnsley.
Tyrant, The.—Court T., Wigan.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Crystal Palace, London.
Vedrenne-Barker.—T. R., Bournemouth.
Village Blacksmith.—New T., Cambridge.
Warner, Grace.—Globe T., Deal.
What a Woman Did.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
What the Butler Saw.—Stockport.
When It Was Dark.—Pavilion Theatre, E.
When Knights Were Bold.—T. R., Plymouth.
When London Sleeps.—T. R., Scarborough.
When Other Lips.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
White Man, A (N.).—T. R., Newcastle.
White Man, A (S.).—Crown T., Peckham.
Who is She?—Osborne T., Manchester.
Why Men Love Women.—Empire, Southend.
Wilkie Allan, and Co.—Grand T., Derby.
With Edged Tools.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Woman and Wine.—Opera House, Wakefield.
Woman Pays, The.—Grand T., Brighton.
Woman Worth Winning.—P. T., Preston.
Worst Woman in London.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Wrecker of Men.—Methil.
You Never Can Tell.—O. H., Cheltenham.
£1,000 Reward.—Public Hall, Mountain Ash.

The Gallimore Trio leave town Oct. 5 for four weeks.

Fairs, shows, wakes. Seventy thousand showmen of the United Kingdom required to send for the Showmen's Year Book for 1908. Edited by the Rev. T. Horne. Entirely re-arranged, corrected, and enlarged. 100 pages. Price 1s. Principal contents:—The Passion for Pageantry, Constitution and Rules of the "Showmen's Guilds," Lists of Fairs, Local Feasts and Wakes, Synopsis of Bye-laws, &c., &c. Invaluable to all who follow the fair. Address, the Publisher of *The Era*, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C. Telephones: 4747 and 1433 Central.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

L. C. Cox (Belvedere).—*Write to Mr. C. M. Lowne, care of the Haymarket Theatre, who would no doubt be able to give you the information you desire.*

Pamlo (Norwich).—*A meeting in connection with the Music Hall Artists' Protection Association was held at the Trocadero by permission of the late Mr. Sam Adams, on April 21, 1890. The chairman on that occasion was Mr. Charles Coborn. The Association was called into being by the aggressive attitude assumed by the first London County Council towards the music hall industry.*

Rosa Bud.—*The Tivoli was opened on May 24, 1890.*

Jas. Matthews (Newport).—*Mr. Howard Paul died Dec. 9, 1905. Mrs. Howard Paul died June 7, 1879. Write to Mr. Albert Gilmer, 13, Albert-mansions, Northumberland-place, the executor of Mr. Howard Paul, who may be able to assist you.*

T. Welsh.—*Tom Traynor died Jan. 14, 1906.*

R. M. Hill.—*Mr. Ian Maclaren will be at the Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, on Monday, Oct. 5. A letter addressed to him care of* The Era *will be sure to reach him. See notice above.*

Rastus.—*More than one living actress has frequently sustained the part of Romeo, the best known being Miss Marriott; and a preceding generation loudly applauded Miss Cushman and Miss Vestiali in the character.*

Edward W. Colman.—*The address of the Play Actors is 93, Oakley-street, Chelsea, and the hon. secretary is Miss Winifred Mayo, to whom all letters should be addressed.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Forde.—Sept. 26, the wife of Hal Forde, comedian, of a son.

Hindle.—Sept. 26, at Worcester, the wife of Joseph Hindle (Miss Rosie Fenton), of a daughter.

Louis.—Sept. 17, at Bristol, Mrs. R. S. Louis (Mabel Marston), of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Podmore—Robbins.—On Sept. 28, at St. Mary's, Kirkdale, Liverpool, by the Rev. A. J. Abrahams, Herbert Leonard Podmore (professionally known as Herbert Vere) to Kate Robbins (professionally known as Kate Walfred).

Sterling-Mackinlay—Hansen.—Sept. 29, at St. Andrew's Church, Stoke-in-Teignhead, by the Rev. E. Stevenson, Vicar, assisted by the Rev. T. A. Edmonds, Malcolm Sterling-Mackinlay, elder son of the late John and Antoinette Sterling-Mackinlay, to Dagny, youngest daughter of Captain Hansen, of Christiania.

DEATHS.

Farren.—Sept. 25, at Siena, William Farren, sen., aged 82.

Griffiths.—Sept. 26, at his residence, 34, Vardens-road, Wandsworth Common, William Griffiths, aged 77, formerly of the musical profession, organist, contra-bassist, and pianist, member of Covent Garden Orchestra, Old and New Philharmonic, Sacred Harmonic, Crystal Palace Saturday Concerts, Royal Albert Hall, &c.

Hayes.—Wednesday, Sept. 23, at The Cottage, Victoria-drive, Eastbourne, Eva May, the beloved wife of George Hayes, manager, Pier, Eastbourne.

Imrie.—Sept. 27, at Gunnersbury, Cuthbert Imrie Toms, the dearly beloved husband of Florence (Dolly) Toms, aged 27 years. Late of Messrs. Arnold Bell and T. Morton Powell's companies.

Loller.—Sept. 19, at his residence at Fulwell, of consumption, Charles P. Loller, late conductor of the Sunderland Empire, aged 28.

Norman.—Sept. 20, at his residence, 18, Lancaster-road, Brighton, A. D. Norman, late secretary and entertainment-manager of the Brighton West Pier Company,

Soutar.—Sept. 28, at 32, St. George's-road, N.W., Robert Soutar, actor and dramatist, aged 81.

Street.—Sept. 20 at her residence, 1, Baron-street, Islington, Rosie Cousins (Mrs. Fred Street), aged 31. R.I.P.

In Memoriam.

Clough.—In loving memory of my husband, Arthur Clough, died Oct. 1, 1904.
Time changes, but memory faileth never.

Grime.—In loving memory of Edward Grime, who passed away Oct. 3, 1907, in New Ross, the loved and esteemed manager of the Elster-Grime Opera Co. R.I.P.—Marie Elster.

Moore.—In ever loving memory of our dear son George A. E. Moore, who died at Glasgow, Sept. 30, 1906. Deeply mourned by his parents.

Moore.—In loving memory of George A. E. Moore. Ever mourned by his sister Marie.

Moore.—In loving memory of George Moore, who met his tragic death at the Coliseum, Glasgow, Sept. 30, 1906. Never to be forgotten by his sister Winnie.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

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Artois, Mr. John
Artois, Mrs. Violet
Arundel, Miss S.
Augustein, Mr. J.
Bacchul, Mr. R.
Balderstone, Mr. G. E.
Barker, Mr. J.
Barratt, Mr. B.
Barry, Miss Elaine
Barry, Mr. L.
Beltram, Miss
Biddall, Bros.
Blythe, Mr. F.
Boggetti, Mr. E.
Bolger, Mr. F.
Bradley, Mr. Alexander
Branscombe, Mr. Arthur
Brooks, Miss L.
Brown, Mr. E. J.
Bull, Mr. A. W.
Burns, Messrs. D.
Burns and Danvers
Cager, Mr. E.
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Hudson, Mr. H. G.
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Iles, Miss Evie
Jensen, Madam
Kelly, Mr. Campbell
Kempton, Mr. R.
Kirkdale, Mr. R. D.
Klegan, Mr. R. J.
Knight, Mr. A.
Kyasyas, Les
Lamb, Mr. J. F.
Leamore, Mr. Tom
Le Francs, Mr. Fred
Lindo, Mr. Frank
Linsay, Mr. M.
Linwood, Mr. Lance
Lovell, Miss Florence
MacIntosh, Mr. J. G.
Mackey, Mr. W. J.
Mackie, Miss Julie
Maree, Mr. S.
Mars, Miss May
Marsden, Miss Lemetia
Martin and Ridgway
Marx, Mr. John
Martyn, Mr. M.
Mathews, Mrs.
McKay, Mr. Tom
Melrose, Miss
Melrose, Mr. James
Merriman, Mr. Walter
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Mick, Little
Miller, Mr. Wm. J.
Mills, Mr. H.
Minning, Mr. D
Moir, Mr. Gunner
Montefiore, Mr. Edie
Movatts, The Five
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Nation, Mr. J.
Naveed, Mlle.
Neill, Mr. Sinclair
Nethersole, Miss Olga
Nolan, Mr. Hugh
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Ricardo, Mr. Dan
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Stewart, Miss Nellie
Stirling, Mr. Sydney
St. John, Miss Florence
Stockbridge, Mr. G.
Stockham, Mr. H. W.
Storey, Mr. Fred
Sugden, Mr. C.
Taft, Mr. H.
Terry, Mr. Herbert
Thomas, Mr. A. D.
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Trillo, Mr. A.
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Valroy, Miss Edy
Vandy, Mr. Paul
Vitart, Mr. Henry
Volta, Mr. R.
Walker, Mr. Vincent
Watts-Phillips, Mr. N.
Wentworth, Mr. Bert
Wesson, Miss Lilly
Whallen, Mr. Mike S.
Willard, Mr. James
Willis, Mr. J. O.
Wilson, Miss N.
Wylie, Mr. Lauri
Wyville, Miss Amber
York, Mr. Philip
Yukio Tani

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Clara Denman—Saturday, Oct. 3.
Nellie Clarence—Sunday, Oct. 4.
Kate Winstanley—Sunday, Oct. 4.
Mrs. Beerbohm Tree—Monday, Oct. 5.
Mrs. Bernard Beere—Monday, Oct. 5.
Marie Collins—Monday, Oct. 5.
Venie Clements—Monday, Oct. 5.
Mabel Parker—Tuesday, Oct. 6.
Ruth Zillwood—Tuesday, Oct. 6.
Miss Bateman (Mrs. Crowe)—Wednesday, Oct. 7.
Harry Cane—Wednesday, Oct. 7.
Walter Ethairien—Wednesday, Oct. 7.
Walter de Frece—Wednesday, Oct. 7.
Gloria Nellie Harvey—Wednesday, Oct. 7.
Lawrence Grove—Wednesday, Oct. 7.
R. G. Knowles—Wednesday, Oct. 7.
Will Lux—Thursday, Oct. 8.
Harry Anderson—Friday, Oct. 9.
May Day—Friday, Oct. 9
Adèle Liddon—Friday, Oct. 9.
A. W. Verno—Friday, Oct. 9.
Harriett Vernon—Friday, Oct. 9.

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You may be well and strong to-day, but a cold is easily caught coming out of an overheated theatre into the chilly air, and a cold means a relaxed throat with bronchial troubles and loss of voice.

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"The illusions of the stage in the way of scenic effects were," says Dutton Cooke, "much enhanced by Garrick's Alsatian scene-painter, Philip James de Loutherbourg, a man of genius in his way, and an eminent innovator and reformer in the matter of theatrical decoration. Before his time the scenes had been merely strained 'flats' of canvas, extending the whole breadth and height of the stage. He was the first to introduce set scenes and what are technically called 'raking pieces.' He invented transparent scenes, with representations of moonlight, rising and setting suns, fires, volcanoes, &c., and contrived effects of colour by means of silk screens of various hues placed before the foot and side lights. He was the first to represent a mist by suspending a gauze between the scene and the spectator. For two seasons he held a dioramic exhibition of his own, called the Eidophusikon, at the Patagonian Theatre in Exeter Change, and afterwards at a house in Panton Square. The special attraction of the entertainment was a storm at sea, with the wreck of the Halsewell, East Indiaman. No pains were spared to picture the tempest and its most striking effects. The clouds were movable, painted upon a canvas of vast size, and rising diagonally by means of a winding machine. The artist excelled in his treatment of clouds, and by regulating the action of his windlass he could direct their movements, now permitting them to rise slowly from the horizon and sail obliquely across the heavens and now driving them swiftly along according to their supposed density and the power ascribed to the wind. The lightning quivered through transparent places in the sky. The waves, carved in soft wood from models made in clay, coloured with great skill, and highly varnished to reflect the lightning, rose and fell with irregular action, flinging the foam now here, now there, diminishing in size, and dimming in colour, as they receded from the spectator. De Loutherbourg imitated the noise of thunder by shaking one of the lower corners of a large, thin sheet of copper suspended by a chain; the distant firing of signals of distress from the doomed vessel he counterfeited by suddenly striking a large tambourine with a sponge affixed to a whalebone spring, the reverberations of the sponge producing a peculiar echo as from cloud to cloud dying away in the distance. These contrivances of Mr. de Loutherbourg may now, perhaps, be deemed to be of rather a commonplace description, but they were calculated to impress the painter's patrons very considerably."

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Messrs. Arthur Heaton, of Shadwell-street, Birmingham, and James Baskerville Upton, the Son of the late Mr. Upton, have been appointed Directors of the Company, and Mr. Heaton has been elected Chairman.

It is intended to constitute as Departmental Directors, Messrs. C. H. Tebbutt, J. E. Penzer, T. Boyard, and T. R. Barr, who have for so many years conducted with conspicuous ability the departments with which they have been associated. In this way it is thought that the serious loss which the firm has sustained will be best met, and a Staff created which will use their utmost endeavours to continue the Company's business with the efficiency and success which have distinguished it in the past.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1908.

MR. RALEIGH AND THE RATS.

It is not often that a dispute which opened with so much acerbity has ended so much to the honour and credit to both parties as that between Mr. ARTHUR COLLINS and the Society of Water Rats. The latter, certainly, had good cause for complaint, and Mr. COLLINS, in so freely and generously withdrawing the offensive matter from *The Marriages of Mayfair* at Drury Lane, has shown his appreciation of this. A misunderstanding which begins as this one did too often develops into positive rancour and hostility; and we congratulate both Mr. COLLINS and the merry rodents of Charing Cross Road upon the result of the entirely amicable conference at the Eccentric Club last week.

Various attempts have been made to obscure the issue by sophistry. It has been asked why members of various callings, such as that of the policeman, the shop-walker, &c., have not remonstrated against the ridicule which has been showered upon them by the variety profession. But this argument will not hold water. The ridicule in these cases was directed at the calling generally, and not at any particular persons or societies in it. If Captain SHAW had found anything offensive in the harmless pleasantry with which he was alluded to in *Iolanthe*, he might well have complained of it; but he would have had no right to protest against jokes about firemen as a body. If Messrs. CECIL RALEIGH and HENRY HAMILTON had merely depicted a party of variety artists misbehaving themselves at a shooting-party they would not have laid themselves open to so much objection. But the unmistakable labelling of the "rowdy," brawling crew in the *Marriages of Mayfair* as the Rats, even to the singing of the Anthem of the Association, made it impossible to ignore the attack. The picture revealed, indeed, an ignorance of contemporary life which we should not have suspected in the gifted and "usually up-to-date" authors of the Drury Lane drama. Satire, to be successful, must be founded on fact; and where on any of the recent excursions of the Water Rats has there been any instance of two men taking off their coats at luncheon to fight with one another? Where, indeed, has there been an example at these "outings" of anything but good feeling, good humour, and harmless jollity?

There are a number of people who absolutely refuse to realise the change which has taken place in the whole body of variety performers, and in the management and organisation of the modern music-hall profession. Just as the drama grew out of the coarse and often indecent "mystery" plays, so the modern variety theatre has been evolved from the old public-house "sing-songs." It is worthy of notice, however, that the music-hall, in its earlier days, was chiefly supported by "swells." "Champagne Charlie," with his white hat and long Dundreary whiskers, was the acme and idealisation of a certain type of man-about-town of the day. The persons who applauded the SAM HALLS and Captain COSTIGANS of the period were gentlemen, or at least educated persons. What reformed and remodelled the modern music-hall was the adoption of variety entertainment as the pleasure of the people. When the playhouse undertook to appeal chiefly to the well-to-do classes, as it did when the theatre became "fashionable" about the early 'seventies, low comedy, to a certain extent, became neglected. There was no place in the modern scheme of reduced pits and "high-priced" stalls for broad character-acting in the style of WRIGHT or PAUL BEDFORD. Genteel comedy took the place of the "low" branch of the art on the theatrical stage; and the talent thus obscured found a market on the music-halls. The natural result was the ousting of the Bacchanalian ditty of both types—the "Slap! bang!" which celebrated the orgies of the upper class, and the "booze" song which treated intoxication in humble life as a theme for semi-sympathetic ridicule—in favour of realistic and sympathetic pictures of the lives of the proletariat. The impersonations of our leading variety comedians constituted a compendium of information as to the life of the poorer classes in the London of the present day. Concurrent with this change was an improvement in the accommodation of the halls, the abolition of the chairman and the "touting" waiter, and the addition to the entertainment of a great variety of attractions. The improvement in salaries also had an immense influence on the *personnel* of the profession; and the abandonment of Rabelaisian humour for a more innocent but no less piquant "brand" of comicality completed the success of the variety theatres.

The variety entertainment is, as was the low comedy of the last generation, "racy of the soil." It comes from the rich flesh and blood life of the people, and has a bitter-sweet sympathy with their sorrows and their joys. Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER said, at a public dinner the other day, it is impossible, when so many of our leading actors and actresses are appearing at variety houses, to maintain an attitude of opposition, hostility, and contempt. While the theatre is casting out by sheer superfluities excellent artists who are absorbed into the "sketches" of variety houses, the only thing, as Mr. BOURCHIER put it, is to "hedge." More especially should there be reluctance in lampooning the warm-hearted Water Rats, who have done so much good for their class in charity and in generous assistance to their less fortunate variety brethren. There is another reason, too, why the withdrawal of the reference to the Association in the *Marriages of Mayfair* is admirable. The rest of the play is such a faithful picture of the manners of the present day; the scenes and the dresses are so marvellously realistic, and the pictures of life so accurate and so true that it seemed a pity that the general effect of the piece should be marred by the introduction of satire which might have been accounted for thirty years ago, but could only be regarded nowadays as a weak point in a drama which professed to furnish a complete reproduction of reality.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the meeting of the council, held at 409, Strand, on Sept. 25. Present:—Mr. Fred Grove (in the chair), Messrs. J. Sebastian Smith, Clarence Derwent, Fewlass Llewellyn, Robson Paige, Fred Annerley, Misses Rose Mathews and Marion Lind, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

Letters from Mr. C. Furrell and Mr. Harry Harrald were read, and the secretary received instructions thereon.

Miss Norma Russell and Miss Leslie Warner were elected members.

The secretary was instructed to write to a local sanitary authority with regard to alleged insanitary dressing-rooms.

A member interviewed the council with reference to the conduct of another member.

"HARD LUCK."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—We wish to tender our heartfelt thanks to the ladies and gentlemen who so kindly responded to the call for help on behalf of our daughter (a student teacher), who, through illness, was compelled to relinquish her occupation. She is at Hastings, and rapidly regaining convalescence, thanks to the aid that came when it was sorely needed. Many thanks to you, Sir, for insertion of letter.—Yours faithfully,

MADELINE and WALTER HANSCOMB.
83, Milton Court-road, New Cross, S.E.

ENGLISH plays figure largely in the forthcoming Paris season. Miss Pauline Chase and several other English artists are appearing in Mr. Barrie's *Pantaloon* at the Théâtre des Arts, where there will shortly be presented also a translation of Wilde's *Lady Windermere's Fan*. *The Light that Failed* will later introduce Mr. Rudyard Kipling to the French stage. Mrs. Clifford's *The Latch* will be produced during the season at the same theatre. Mr. Pinero's *His House in Order* is at the Vaudeville, and *David Copperfield*, after Dickens, by Max Maurey, will shortly be staged at the Odéon.

"THE SUCCESS OF SENTIMENT."

A Play, in Three Acts, by Hugh Cranmer Byng, Produced at the Court Theatre, on Sunday Evening, Sept. 27.

Rupert Shires ..... MR. FRANK G. BAYLY
Cuthbert Kennet ..... MR. EDWARD RIGBY
Hon. Arthur Frieton ..... MR. EDMUND WALLER
Major Graves ..... MR. HERBERT BUNSTON
Waiter / Gondolier ..... MR. MURRI MONCRIEFF
Official ..... MR. HAROLD CHAPIN
Lady Mary Kennet ..... MISS KATE CARLYON
Vera Shires ..... MISS VALERIE SALBERG
Lucy Kennet ..... MISS GILLIAN SCAIFE
Lady Marcham ..... MISS ALYS REES
Malcolm ..... MISS DORA HOLE
Disset ..... MISS INEZ BENSUSAN

The production by the Play Actors of Mr. Byng's new piece, *The Success of Sentiment*, was witnessed by a large audience at the Court Theatre on Sunday evening, and the author received a far-too-flattering "call" after the curtain had fallen on the final act. The play itself introduces us to one or two rather strange, but yet possible, characters. Some of them are multiloquous, to say the least, and through them are dished up many ancient axioms, as well as common-place reflections of modern origin. Thus we have a conversation between a gentleman of leanings Socialistic and another whose opinions are entirely antithetical to such a creed, the latter's remarks being a successful foil to those of his companion, without either being guilty of greater omniscience than one would expect in the bar of a public house. The author certainly seems to have made an attempt to turn out what no doubt he believes to be phrases and sentiments worthy an honoured place in a book of quotations, but the outcome of his efforts in this respect is a heterogeneous collection of puerilities, most of them lacking both in common-sense and good taste. Generous—indeed, excessively so—as an audience brought together by the Play Actors invariably is, the good folk who sat in the Court Theatre on Sunday evening would scarcely have admitted that their attention had been held from the beginning of the play to its ending. All the scenes are laid in Venice, the opening one introducing us to the private sitting-room of the Shires at the Hotel Britannia. The Shires, by the way, are a married couple—Rupert and Vera, to give them their Christian names—and we are led to believe that they are inherently unsentimental. But they have an old aunt, an authoress, who, in spite of her years and her undoubted experience of life, believes in the romance of human affairs, and in their devotion to her—a devotion somewhat actuated by personal interest—they impiously simulate a characteristic which is to her an essential, and a really beautiful part of her existence. Another married couple, Cuthbert and Lucy Kennet, are also playing the same game, but in a very reprehensible manner. They are ridiculous people, and there is even something absurd in the manner in which Cuthbert attempts to place Rupert and Vera in a most unpleasant situation so that he may gain his own ends with the aunt. The Hon. Arthur Frieton, a professing, if not a practising, Socialist, and a believer in the ethics of "free love," induces Vera to agree to run away with him. The silly conversation between the twain is overheard by Rupert, who promptly, after administering a much too lenient rebuke to Frieton, takes his wife away. After they have gone, Cuthbert Kennet suggests to Frieton a means of securing Vera, by bringing about a divorce between husband and wife. He hands to the Socialist an innocent letter which, by the addition of a few words, can be made sufficiently incriminating for the purpose. Frieton accepts the letter, apparently with the intention of acting upon Kennet's advice, but in a meeting of all the parties at Lady Kennet's hotel sitting-room he confesses that he was too much of a coward to carry out the plan to its successful fulfilment. In the end there is a reconciliation between the Shires, brought about by the kindly offices of Lady Mary, and the Kennets are disgraced.

The piece was acted probably as well as such a piece could be. Miss Kate Carlyon's portrayal of Lady Mary Kennet stood out as the most satisfactory study in the production. She gave us a sweet character of a white-haired woman, advanced by Time to the honour of many years, whose long acquaintance with the world had not robbed her of that endearing, yet, in her case, discerning sentimentality, which helps so much to make life better worth the living, and leads to the proper realisation of sympathetic conduct and feeling towards others. Mr. Frank G. Bayly acted well as the matter-of-fact Rupert Shires; and Miss Valerie Salberg was charming, though possibly ultra-vivacious, as Vera. Mr. Edward Rigby was placed in a difficult position in undertaking the rôle of Cuthbert Kennet. The character was an indifferent piece of drawing on the part of the author, but such humorous possibilities as there were in it were taken full advantage of by Mr. Rigby. Mr. Edmund Waller made the most of his part as the imperturbable Socialist, Arthur Frieton, carrying out the author's ideas of a "Social reformer" who is impervious to decent feeling, and more like a piece of well-oiled mechanism than a human being. Miss Gillian Scaife furnished a praiseworthy portraiture as Lucy Kennet.

Tied to the Post.

"WHILE touring the south of England," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "I visited a seaport town, and played one of those nautical dramas, now nearly out of date, full of broadsword combats, astounding situations, and hairbreadth escapes, in which the hero knocks the 'supers' about, calling them 'Piratical swabs and cowardly landlubbers.' The supers on the Saturday night struck work; for what cause I do not know. They had in the last scene to tie the hero to a post, and leave him to die. They were determined to be revenged, and so fastened the actor up with all sorts of knots, in spite of his remonstrances. They then made a hasty exit from the theatre. The critical moment arrived, and the heroine had to come through a high window and slide down a rope on to the stage and release her lover. She found she could not untie him, he was so well bound up. The low comedian ran on, made a speech, and set to work to untie the rope; but all in vain. The villain was outside shouting from the wings, 'Now, then, look sharp! Cut the rope if you can't untie it'; but there was no knife forthcoming. A sailor from the pit called out, 'Hold hard a minute, and I'll have a try.' He clambered at once on to the stage, and finally released the actor to the great satisfaction of the audience, who loudly applauded. The sailor bowed his acknowledgments, and left the stage. The heavy man dashed on, saying as he did so, 'Ha, ha! you thought to escape me, my fine young spark; but you'll die.' The hero picked up a sword lying on the stage, saying, 'No, Heaven has placed a weapon in my hands, and I'll fight to the last.' A little girl ran on, the hero took her on his shoulders, fought and killed the villain, and the play ended happily."

THE number of Parisian artists who turn their backs on the music-hall to try their luck on the regular stage increases daily. Some time ago Girier went over to the Nouveautés, Mistinguett to the Bouffes Parisiens, and Moricey to the Variétés. The music hall will shortly lose Mme. Anna Thibaud. That talented lady will make her début at the Enghien Casino in *Mariage d'Etoile*, the well-known comedy by MM. Bisson and G. Thurner. Curiously enough, Mme. Jeanne Granier, when she gave up operetta, also made her début in the same piece.

HENRY IRVING SHAKESPEARE.

"THE ERA'S" OFFER.

We announce in another column an offer to our readers of a new and cheap edition of "The Henry Irving Shakespeare" on specially advantageous terms. Editions of the greatest dramatist's works are innumerable, but the one that bears the name of the departed Chief—a student and a scholar, as well as a great actor—carries the hall-mark of thoroughness in its artistic beauty and literary excellence. The illustrations—mostly by Mr. Gordon Browne, with the assistance in six of the plays of Mr. W. H. Margetson, Mr. Frank Dadd, and Mr. Maynard Brown—certainly realise the characters of the plays in a way that appeals equally to the student of the text and the art critic. It was said of a great caricaturist whose black-and-white work is to be found in many volumes published during the last century that his women are hideous. Shakespeare's heroines have invariably inspired artists, and how beautifully Mr. Gordon Browne has caught the expression of the tired and lovelorn Rosalind is to be learnt from the full-page etching of Touchstone, Celia, and Rosalind in the Forest of Arden. Again, how happy is the artist in the varied expression he is able to put into the features of the clowns and comic characters of the immortal comedies. In its illustrations alone, therefore, the Irving Shakespeare stands unrivalled.

The patient research and the untiring care of the editors are to be discovered in the introductions to each play, carefully collated from the most reliable authorities, and in the notes concerning the text; but the guiding principle which has been kept in view throughout is the treatment of Shakespeare's work as that of a dramatist, whose plays were intended not to be read as poetical exercises, but to be represented by living men and women before a general audience. The text is given unmutilated, un-Bowdlerised, and Sir Henry Irving has specially marked those portions which, in his judgment, had best be omitted in dramatic presentation.

For the convenience of the student, as well as of the general reader, the Introductions to each play have been divided into three heads: (1) "The Literary History," which treats of the various early editions of the plays and the sources whence the plot, or dialogue, may have been wholly, or in part, borrowed. (2) "The Stage History"—which, in many cases, is very scanty, as we have so few early records of the representations of Shakespeare's plays—giving an account of any remarkable stage versions of the plays which may have been produced, as well as some notice of the most remarkable performances and of any notable cast. (3) "The Critical Remarks," indicating for the reader's guidance the general tone and purport of the play, and calling attention to any noteworthy features in the structure of the plot or in the treatment of the characters.

In this new edition the work has been divided into volumes of more handy size. An appreciation of the late Sir Henry Irving has been given by his friend Mr. Bram Stoker. An important addition has also been made in Mr. Jerome Harrison's description of The Shakespeare Land, forming part of Vol. 14 of the work, which is richly illustrated with half-tone reproductions from photographs specially made for the purpose. From an artistic point of view a notable feature of the present edition is the series of reproductions of pictures by eminent Academicians that form the frontispieces of the several volumes.

On the question of the mounting of Shakespeare, it is interesting to note that Sir Henry Irving, who followed the example of Charles Kean in the elaborate completeness of his dressing and setting of the works of the Bard, quite justifies Mr. Tree's theories of the stage representation of the great dramatist's works. Sir Henry wrote:—

"Much objection has been made to the employment of the sister arts of music and painting in the stage representation of Shakespeare, and to the elaborate illustrations of the countries in which the various scenes are laid, or of the dress and surroundings of the different characters. I do not contend that a play, fairly acted, cannot be fully effective without any of these aids and adjuncts. But, practically, their value has ceased to be a matter of opinion; they have become necessary. They are dictated by the public taste of the day—not by the desire for mere scenic display, but that demand for finish in details which has grown with the development of art in all its phases. A painter who should neglect truthful detail, however broad and powerful his method, would nowadays be exposed to severe criticism. This is not a proof of decadence; it is a striving after completeness. The stage has become not only a mirror of the passions, but also a nursery of the arts, for here students of the past learn the form and colour of the costumes and the decorations of distant ages. To all this there are clear limits. It is not always possible to reproduce an historic period with exactness. *Macbeth*, and *Lear*, and *Hamlet* belong to history too remote for fidelity of costume. But a period has, in such cases, to be chosen and followed with conscientious thoroughness, tempered by discrimination. Above all, the resources of the picturesque must be wholly subordinate to the play. Mere pageant apart from the story has no place in Shakespeare, although there may be a succession of truthful and harmonious pictures which shall neither hamper the natural action, nor distract the judgment from the actor's art. In fine, there is no occasion to apologise for the system of decoration. True criticism begins when the manager carries ornament to excess, for then he sins against the laws of beauty as well as against the poet. Tried by this standard, a successful representation of a Shakespeare play may be ranked as a worthy tribute to the genius which commands the homage of all art, and which has laid on us the memorable injunction of 'an honest method, as wholesome as sweet, and by very much more handsome than fine.'"—(*Hamlet*, ii. 2. 165-167.)"

Our special terms brings these beautiful volumes within reach of all those who love their Shakespeare. All our readers have to do is to forward us 6s. (six shillings) to-day, and the complete edition will be dispatched, carriage paid. Nine payments of a similar sum, and one payment of 3s. will complete the purchase. Each subscriber is entitled to a magnificent photogravure portrait of Sir Henry Irving in the character of Hamlet.

AN action for breach of promise has been brought by Miss Ada Louise Lonsdale, an actress, in New York, against Mr. Blaine Elkins, son of Senator Stephen B. Elkins, and brother of Miss Katherine Elkins, who is engaged to the Duke of the Abruzzi. £25,000 damages are demanded by Miss Lonsdale, who declares that she possesses 300 letters full of passionate protestations of undying affection from the defendant.

AT the King's Theatre, Sunderland, *Tom Jones* is being played by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company. Mr. Dan Rolyat created much amusement as Benjamin Partridge, and kept the house in continuous laughter; the part of Tom Jones was in the able hands of Mr. Harry Welchman, whose fine voice and presence were much admired; Mr. Ambrose Manning as Squire Western gave a fine picture of a hearty country squire; Miss Florence Smithson as Sophia was a pronounced success, with her sweet and winning ways. Her waltz song was particularly well received. She was ably assisted by Miss Isabel Dillon as Honour. Others noticeable in a good all-round company were Mr. G. T. Macmillan as Gregory, Mr. Dean Percival as Blifil, Mr. T. Morley as Allworthy, Miss Alice Oppity as Lady Bellaston, and Miss Mary Southwell as Miss Western.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"MADAME BLUFF,"

Comedy, in Three Acts, by M. Alexandre Debray, produced at the Bouffes-Parisiens on Sept. 26.

Mme. Cassagnol ..... MME. AUGUSTINE LERICHE
Marcelle ..... MLLE. SUZANNE GOLDSTEIN
Marthe ..... MLLE. GERMAINE ETY
Mlle. Gourmaion ..... MLLE. JEANNE WILLEMS
Miss Watson ..... MLLE. CEZANNE
Cassagnol ..... M. MILO
Préfailles ..... M. CAZALIS
Pouloche ..... M. GALLET
Pigeard ..... M. PREVOST
Chanterelle ..... M. BONVALLET

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Oct. 1.—The heroine in M. Alexandre Debray's new play, brought out at the Bouffes-Parisiens, is Mme. Cassagnol, the wife of a Government official. Ambitious, grasping, and with extravagant tastes, she bluffs everybody in order to raise her husband's social and financial position. Her great desire is to invite Pouloche, the millionaire, to her salons, but all her efforts in that direction fail. Baffled and furious, she vents her anger on the luckless Chanterelle, her son-in-law, and under the pretext that he has been seen in a cab with a strange lady, she forces her daughter Marcelle to divorce him. At last Mme. Cassagnol succeeds in laying her hands on Pouloche, thanks to whom money at once flows into the house. Serious complications, however, arise. Old Cassagnol's income certainly has doubled, but so has his expenditure; and he is worse in debt than before. As to Marcelle, now divorced from Chanterelle, she is pestered by Pouloche, who wants her to be his mistress. Her mother, scenting danger, comes to the rescue, and bluffs Pouloche into promising that he will ask for Marcelle's hand. In the final act we assist at the crisis. Pouloche flatly refuses to keep his promise, and things threaten to take an ugly turn, when Préfailles, Pouloche's secretary, in a charming scene informs Marcelle that he has always loved her, and asks her to become his wife. Mme. Augustine Leriche as the scheming Mme. Cassagnol has a rôle that suited her to the ground. That clever artist was ably assisted by M. Cazalis, a delightful Préfailles; by Mlle Goldstein, a bewitching Marcelle; by MM. Gallet and Milo and Mmes. Ety and Cézanne.

THE management of the Odéon may be congratulated on having unearthed a curious comedy called *Le Cœur et la Dot*, produced for the first time at the Comédie-Française in 1852, then, for some unaccountable reason, withdrawn from the répertoire. The play having been written at the beginning of the Second Empire, all the personages wear the dress of that period, including the crinoline, which forms an amusing and fitting accompaniment to some of the old-fashioned sentiments expressed therein. The plot is simple. Adèle Desperriers, a pretty girl, is in love with Henri Dumège, a talented young musician. He, however, is poor, and Adèle, who also thinks herself penniless, reluctantly follows her mother to Vichy, where the latter hopes to find a suitable husband for her daughter. But Adèle is not penniless. She is on the point of inheriting some £25,000, a fact of which neither mother nor daughter is aware. The only person in the secret is Chavarot, a lawyer, who hopes to reap the benefit of this early information by marrying Adèle. Fortunately, Nanon watches over her young mistress. Nanon is only Adèle's maid, but she plays an important rôle in the piece, and is nicknamed "La cherchouse" because she has a wonderful talent for bringing to light the most hidden secrets. Suspecting the lawyer of some evil design, she ferrets out the secret of the legacy, and baffles the man's attempts to secure Adèle, who becomes the wife of her beloved musician. The work was capitally acted.

"L'OR," the melodrama by MM. René Peter and Robert Danveny, produced at the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre, is such a poor affair as to make us wonder how the great Sarah allowed such stuff to be given at her house, even during her absence from Paris. In a clumsy manner the authors attack the aristocracy and the Jews, whom they hold responsible for all the evils that befall Society. The principal personage is Wahl, a kind of Hebrew Mephistopheles. His father, whilst in the employ of the rich manufacturer Joulin, had—some twenty years before the story begins—appropriated a sum of money to save one of his relatives from ruin; and his employer, on discovering the theft, showed himself pitiless towards the erring clerk, who drowned himself to escape punishment. The son, having changed his name into that of Wahl, swears to be avenged on Joulin, junior, who has succeeded his father in the business, and he employs diabolical means to carry out his scheme. He begins by prevailing on Count de Frégouze to break off his engagement with Gysèle, a charming but poor girl, and to marry a rich widow. He then induces the Count to supply him with the necessary funds to start a huge industrial undertaking in opposition to Joulin, whom he then ruins. Like an evil spirit, Wahl scatters misfortune around him, and greedy aristocrats help him in his work of destruction. The piece was very badly acted.

"LE PETIT FOUCHARD,"

Comedy, in Three Acts, by MM. Raymond and Sylvane, produced at the Gymnase on Sept. 30.

Holzapfel ..... M. DUMENY
Misseron ..... M. G. DUBOSC
Fouchard ..... M. MATRAT
Lucien ..... M. JEAN DAX
Mme. Misseron ..... MME. HENRIOT
Mélie ..... MLLE. RENEE MAUPIN
Renée ..... MLLE. FREVALLES

MM. Raymond and Sylvane have give us an amusing trifle, wherein three babies—one of them unborn—play the leading rôles. M. and Mme. Misseron, retired tradespeople, are a devoted couple. They are rich; they have a charming villa; but there is a dark spot in their happiness. Devotedly fond of children, they have no offspring. When the story opens Mélie, their servant, informs them with tears in her eyes that Holzapfel, a gendarme, has seduced her, and that she soon expects to become a mother. Despite M. Misseron's entreaties, Holzapfel refuses to repair the harm by making the girl his wife. But Mélie is in luck. Fouchard, the rural postman, has fallen in love with her, and, although she is not a *virgo intacta*, he marries her, and gives the child, a little boy, his own name. The sight of the baby makes the Misserons mad with joy; and in order to have it constantly with them they make Fouchard give up his berth as postman and appoint him their gardener. Fouchard, however, is shrewd. Seeing his master so wrapped up in little Jean, he hardly does any work, and lives in idleness. He even threatens to go away, taking his wife and child with him, whereupon the terrified Misserons promise to make him a handsome allowance on condition that for the next six years he shall remain with them—a condition which the wily Fouchard readily accepts. But Misseron has a nephew, Lucien, living in Vienna, who speculates on inheriting his uncle's fortune. Lucien, his wife, and their baby arrive at the villa at the moment that Misseron has signed his agreement with Fouchard, and Lucien's anger at discovering this rival baby leads to a most comical scene. The situation is indeed becoming very complicated, but the authors have solved the difficulty in a rather unexpected fashion. Mme. Misseron, although bordering upon fifty, suddenly discovers that Nature has worked a miracle, and that she will bring a little Misseron into the world. But her husband's joy is not shared by his nephew and by Fouchard, whose two babies have now lost all chance of inheriting the coveted fortune. The farce, which met with an excellent reception, was spiritedly played by the smart Gymnase company.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. and Mrs. and Miss Madge Rickards, Mr. and Mrs. Maas, and Mr. J. W. Winton sailed for Australia on Friday, 25th ult., per P. and O. steamer Moldavia. Mr. Rickards's message sent through us is: "Kind regards to all old friends, and many thanks to managers for their courtesy. Hope to be with you all next year."

Mr. Ben Nathan, when hearing the Earl of Shaftesbury's voice at a church, became impressed with the possibilities of a professional career for that young nobleman, and secured a provisional contract for him to appear for thirty consecutive weeks in the States at a salary of 5,000 dollars weekly, under the management of William Morris, Limited. But the Earl is not dazzled by the prospect of a stage career, and has declined.

A correspondent writes:—"It must have afforded immense pleasure to the King to hear Harry Lauder, on his recent visit to Rufford Abbey, make the remark: 'I am very pleased indeed to meet your Majesty.' It is such touching civilities as these that make the lot of Edward VII. quite a happy one."

Mrs. G. W. Moore, wife of the veteran minstrel, G. W. (Pony) Moore, has been ordered away to Bexhill-on-Sea by her medical advisers, Drs. Percy Smith and H. J. Macevoy. She is suffering from nervous breakdown. The veteran, who is now eighty-eight years of age, greatly misses his beloved partner and constant companion, and we hope soon to hear of her complete recovery.

Miss Adeline Genée, the Empire danseuse, landed at New York on Tuesday for her American tour. To the question, "Are you married?" she replied: "No, I am not even engaged; but if I were it would not be so wonderful, would it? It is woman's sphere to marry, you know; but I am not engaged and not married. I have two years' more contract in the United States. As long as I am dancing I will not marry; and when I marry, if I should, I will not dance."

Miss Marie Lloyd, like the late Nellie Farren, is one of the "darlings of the gods," and on Saturday night she must have been more than delighted with the compliment paid to her by the gallery boys at the Hammersmith Palace. By means of a rope they lowered, to her great surprise, an immense horseshoe of flowers, which she was requested to accept. It was with some difficulty that she returned thanks. The honour is a rare one. It was conferred on the famous Gaiety actress mentioned above when she made her first appearance at that house after her return from America.

Mr. John P. Harrington trusts that the many correspondents who have during the current week written felicitating him upon the sole managership of that flourishing business, the Monte Carlo Publishing Co., will kindly accept his sincere thanks, and (by proxy) those of his partner, Mr. Tom McNaughton (at present in America), for the compliments and kind wishes for the future prosperity of the firm conveyed by their kind letters—far too many to answer, individually, at this busy time of the year. Mr. Harrington hopes sincerely that all who read these lines will "take the will for the deed."

Mlle. Britta Petersen, who is now busily engaged in preparing for the new Spanish ballet at the Alhambra, due Monday, Oct. 12, is, like Mlle. Genée, a Dane. She has had a training at the Opera House at Copenhagen in grand ballet, and, following the example of her great predecessor, she comes to London to win her spurs at an early age. She is only seventeen years old; but Mr. Alfred Moul, the managing-director of the Alhambra, who saw her in Denmark, speaks of her as a finished artist whose work is more than promising.

The new ballet divertissement, *Paquita*, Mr. Alfred Moul anticipates, will be presented to his patrons at the Alhambra on Monday, Oct. 12. It is in three scenes, all laid in and around Granada. Mlle. Britta will have—for her—a new rôle, that of a gipsy girl, she having hitherto appeared principally in classic dancing, which is usually *de rigueur* in the Court Opera House of Denmark. Signor Alfredo Curti, who is arranging and producing the divertissement, and Mr. G. W. Byng, who is providing the music, have taken care that she shall have every opportunity of exhibiting her talents.

There is to be a dance of veiled maidens, culminating in a wild Bacchanal, during which is heard an old Moorish march for the entrance of the Prince. Other notable numbers are an anvil dance, a dance of muleteers and water-carriers, and a farandole, with special bell effects. Mr. E. H. Ryan has painted some gorgeous scenery, especially the final one, "La Fête Galante," in the Ambassadors' Hall at the Alhambra, in Granada. Alias supplies the costumes of the period designed by Comelli. Mlle. Britta will be supported by that clever dancer and old favourite with Alhambra patrons, Miss Julia Seale, as Prince Philip; Signor G. Rosi as Don Gomez; Signori Santini and Frielli, Messrs. Tom Coventry and G. Almonti; and Mlle. Jacqueline Blaney.

Mr. John Lawson's latest episode, *Pigs in Clover*, written by Mr. J. J. Spencer Sutcliffe, which was produced last May at the Empire, Edinburgh, will reach London in a much altered state. The plot deals with the problem of intermixed marriages, and the theme has been very skilfully handled by Mr. Sutcliffe. The cast includes Messrs. J. K. Reynolds, H. Schlesinger, Pascoe Bioletti, and Miss Lucille Sidney and Miss Buena Bent. Special effects, including the destruction of an areoplane, are promised, whilst the scenery, naturally, will be in keeping with Mr. Lawson's usual elaborate productions. Mr. Lawson is due at Balham and Putney on Monday.

Miss Topsy Sinden's delightful dancing has been fascinating the lovers of this most difficult art in Liverpool, and the young and pretty artist has been honoured by most unexpected gifts of flowers. She has been repeating her triumphs this week at the Hippodrome, Brighton.

Mrs. May Swales, daughter of the late Mike Mac (Maccabe), writes:—"In your announcement of the death of J. P. McNally (of the original Two Macs) you state that Joe Mac, who was the husband of Alice Maydue, was his partner. I beg respectfully to correct that statement. Mike Maccabe (or Mac), who died April 2, 1894, was the partner of J. P. McNally. Joe Mac did not become one of the Two Macs until Mike Mac and J. P. McNally had dissolved partnership, after which Mike and his brother, Joe Mac, appeared as the Two Macs." Miss Alice Maydue writes to the same effect.

On the same subject we have received the following interesting communication from Mr. George Belmont, late of Sadler's Wells, and now of the Marquis of Granby, Cambridge Circus. Mr. Belmont writes:—"The original Two Macs were Mike Mac (of Newcastle) and J. P. McNally (of Dublin). Joe Mac was a brother of Mike Mac, and did not join the firm until after the secession of J. P. McNally. I first met and played with them at Brown's Music Hall, Glasgow, as far back as 1879, before their advent into London. Mr. and Mrs. Will Leno and young Dan Patrick (known later as Dan Leno) were also performing at 'Brown's' on this particular occasion."

The Palace Theatre of Varieties, Sunderland, after extensive alterations, reopens on Monday under new management.

At a meeting at the People's Palace, Bristol, on Tuesday, Mr. Horace Livermore was adopted as an independent candidate for municipal honours at the approaching November election in St. Augustine's Ward. It was agreed that the Conservative party in the ward should be written to asking them to withdraw their candidate in view of the adoption of Mr. Livermore.

Mr. R. A. P. Williams, of the Gaiety and Empire, Dundee, is also a candidate for municipal honours. Judging from the able way in which he manages his theatres the town's affairs would be in safe keeping should he be elected, as he undoubtedly will be. He should make a big hit as Lord Provost of Dundee.

The Liverpool Unemployed Fund has during the week been augmented by the following donations:—Royal Hippodrome (Mr. Thomas Barrasford), collections at the doors, £30 13s. 6d.; Messrs. W. H. Broadhead (Pavilion), £10 10s.; Leo Dryden, sale of songs at the Pavilion, £6; Vesta Tilley, £5; Arthur Roberts, £1 1s.; boys who sold Leo Dryden's books, 5s.

The plans for the new Coliseum at Portsmouth, prepared by Messrs. Frank Matcham and Co., the architects of the Coliseum and Hippodrome, London, and many of the suburban and provincial Moss-Stoll Empires, have been passed and approved, so that a commencement may be made with the building on a site purchased some time since. The new house will be run in connection with the leviathan circuit named.

The Coney Island Syndicate have now secured a splendid site in Liverpool, and intend opening a Coney Island there, in addition to Leeds. Mr. Alfred Wood is general-manager for both places, and all communications must be addressed to him.

During the performance last Saturday, Sept. 26, at the Palace Pier Theatre, Brighton, Lord Leighton's "Venus" was presented by Messrs. Coombes and Webb with a gold watch and brooch-pendant as a mark of esteem. Mr. L. Austin Millais made a suitable reply.

Margate intends that English holidaymakers shall have no need to go abroad for rational enjoyment, and an important stage of its policy of keeping abreast of the Continental pleasure resorts has been reached by the decision of the Town Council to buy for £16,000 what is known as the Margate Kursaal site, which occupies about two acres and is on the seafront at the base of the cliffs near Margate's famous jetty.

The half-built Kursaal has had a chequered career. After the Marine Palace at Margate was carried away by the great storm of 1897, there was a scheme for the erection of a concert hall, baths, pavilion, restaurants, and promenades involving an expenditure of £100,000. A new sea-wall was built, and the general buildings were partly completed, when there was a sudden stoppage of work. Repeated attempts were made to obtain capital to complete the work, but without success. The property came into the Court of Chancery, and was put up for sale and subsequently withdrawn.

As is well known, the Margate Corporation make a large profit on their open-air entertainments, admittedly the best of their kind round the coast, and it is computed that over £1,000 is lost each season through the lack of shelter in wet weather. Under the new scheme, when the weather is unfavourable for open-air concerts the Corporation will be able to transfer their entertainers to a large concert hall capable of seating thousands of people.

It is stated that further changes have occurred in regard to the management of the Hippodrome, Grange-road, Birkenhead, formerly the Theatre Metropole, and which has not yet been opened since reconstruction. Messrs. Barrasford and George Dance are reported to have withdrawn, and an authoritative statement has been made that Mr. Walter De Frece has now joined Mr. Will Sley as managing-director of the house. Mr. De Frece hopes to open the Hippodrome in three weeks' time.

The season at New Brighton Tower closes to-day (Saturday, Oct. 3). Yesterday (Friday) the employees of the Tower assembled in the vast ballroom of the Tower and presented to Mr. Arthur Ellis, the resident-manager of the Tower, a handsome ring, together with an illuminated address, as a souvenir of the many kindnesses extended to them during the season. The subscribers included everybody from the offices of the company to the office boy, the gate-keeper, and even the Indians with the Wild West show. Each gave according to his means, and the subscription list was given to Mr. Ellis at his request because of its peculiarly interesting character.

The Tynemouth Palace was put up for auction at the Station Hotel, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Wednesday by Mr. Geo. T. Easten. The bidding was by no means brisk, although the principal amusement caterers were present or represented. The first offer was a bid of £3,000, made by Mr. Joseph Mitchelson, of Blyth; then one of £4,000 by Mr. G. H. Williamson for a client. The sum of £8,000 was then named by the auctioneer, who said: "This is the chance of a lifetime. You buy for £8,000 what cost £120,000. The last glass is turned. It runs quickly. The property is withdrawn." It is anticipated that a sale will be effected by private treaty.

Dr. Walford Bodie still continues his record-breaking tour through Scotland. Last week, at Kirkcaldy, he broke all records for the Hippodrome (late King's Theatre), the takings for the week being over £500. This beats all records for the theatre by nearly £200. He was offered £300 salary to remain another week, but could not do so, being booked at Ayr. He has signed two return dates at the princely salary of £250 per week, for his own act alone. Mr. Williams, of the Gaiety Theatre, Dundee, has offered him a date at £250 per week, and two other dates at £200 for two small towns. This week he is breaking records at the New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr.

Messrs. David Allen and Sons, Belfast, have just completed an entirely new plant of large wall pictorials and lithos for Dr. Walford Bodie, some of them being very striking and really works of art. The Fulwood Printing Co., Ltd., have also completed an entirely new plant of pictorial printing, several being very daring and sensational. The Doctor can now claim to have the finest display of pictorial printing on the road. He can post 1000 sheets without repeating.

At the Winter Gardens, New Brighton, a musical scena, entitled *Moments with the Masters*, is the chief item. It is most tastefully staged, and the chorus of fifteen juvenile voices is very beautiful, the selections being rendered with spirit and harmony. Scenery, costumes, and electrical effects lend valuable aid. Mr. Patrick Playfair gives an extremely clever exhibition of paper-tearing, and is assisted by Miss Vera Davies, a delightful and artistic singer. Edmunda, with his talking and walking figures, scores well; whilst Mr. Ernest Leslie proves himself a very funny comedian. Mr. G. H. Keith sings acceptably; and the animated pictures are of the very best, clever, and in good taste.

Mr. W. H. Clemart, King Rat and president of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, will take the chair at the annual general meeting of that Association, to be held at the Bedford Head on Sunday, October 25

An important item at the Oxford on Monday next will be the introduction of a special song-scena by Will Evans. It is entitled *Mrs. Morgan's Cure*, and has been written and composed by Neville Pigott and George Arthurs.

"The Umbrella Hat," a new song satirising the latest fashion craze, has been most successfully exploited this week, at the Empire, Birmingham, by that always up-to-date comedienne, Miss Daisy James, who has been singing the number since July, in a hat 81in. in circumference. What do Miss Marie George, Miss Madge Temple, and Miss Marie Lloyd say to this? Next, please!

With regard to the Miss Maud Courtney on whom an inquest has been held, we are asked to state that this has no reference to Miss Maud Courtney, the "talkative American girl," who is so popular at the Palace Theatre, and other London houses. The deceased girl, it is stated, was a member of the chorus in the *Kitty Grey* company.

Mr. Alec Hurley has acquired, with a view to immediate production, Mr. John P. Harrington's new Jap-coster sketch, which is now in active preparation. The title of this new "musical comedietta" is *The Cockneys in Japan*, and competent critics predict that it will, if anything, outrival in success the same author's *Costers' Beano*, so long and successfully played by the favourite coster comedian and his talented company.

The little six-year-old son of Florrie Robina and Reed Pinaud has just successfully undergone a serious operation, and is now on the road to recovery. The operation took place at the Evelina Hospital, Southwark. The little fellow made many friends on the Continent, and was a favourite with all, especially at Hamburg, where he picked up the language very quickly.

Miss Millie Hylton has had such a severe attack of influenza that she has been compelled to cease working this past week. She has been staying at Brighton recuperating, and, it is hoped, will be as vivacious as ever by the time she goes to the Manchester Hippodrome, where she will be resplendent in her beautiful gowns made by Louise, of Paris, these latter seen for the first time in the provinces.

Miss Rose Hamilton, who last week played her first engagement at Norwich, is this week making a huge success at Ipswich under the same management. She returns to town Oct. 12, opening at the Chelsea Palace, with new songs and a number of dainty costumes.

Miss Marie Lloyd, the queen of comediennes, in her new songs, will appear at the Tivoli, starting on Monday next, for a very short engagement, prior to her extensive tour. By special request, she will sing her "Directoire" song, and also the song of the "Girl with the naughty eye."

In our list of the wedding presents to Mr. and Mrs. Will Oliver, published in our columns last week, we omitted to mention a silver syphon holder from Mr. and Mrs. T. Parker, a silver clock from Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Cowper, and a box of gloves from Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hart.

Mr. Harry Bawn, agent and proprietor, and his charming wife (My Fancy) sailed from Southampton on Wednesday per s.s. Majestic for a short trip to the States. My Fancy will not be able to get as far as St. Louis, her birthplace, but will probably meet some of her relatives in New York. Harry will be looking after novelties for the Empire, Edmonton.

Mr. Bert Errol, who will make his first appearance at the London Pavilion on Monday, is said to be quite indistinguishable on the stage from a lady, and possesses a most natural soprano voice. Another sensation of the programme is Celest, the wonderful wire walker, who returns to renew his triumphs at the Piccadilly Circus house in a very original and clever act.

At the 578th meeting of the executive committee of the M.H.A.R.A., held at the offices on Wednesday, Mr. Harold Finden occupied the chair, and there were present Lieut. F. Albini, Messrs. Arthur Gallimore, John Alexander, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The financial statement, showing sixty-nine new members and a cash total of £62 5s., was passed.

The Snow Family are now with their skating pantomime at the Rotunda, Dublin, and are causing screams of laughter nightly to delighted audiences.

Messrs. Durham and Ernest's company, in *An Uninvited Guest*, resumes its tour with that novel and laughable number, opening on Oct. 5 at the Foresters'. The piece since its production a few weeks back has been considerably improved, and nothing has been left undone to ensure its ultimate success and a lengthy run. It is presented by an accomplished trio, including Fred Raines. They have another crisp number in preparation, entitled *Look at the Time*, which promises to be equally as good as the "Guest."

Victor Niblo, with his wonderful talking birds, opened last week in New York City, where he is a huge success. The polyglot parrot is a novelty in the States.

A complete Lilliputian circus was a new attraction at the Hippodrome on Monday. The performers are the Zeynards—ten tiny men and women who do everything that their taller brothers and sisters of the ring can perform. There is an equestrian act with a dwarf pony, in which appear two performers whose combined height is only 4ft. 6in.; there is a strong man "turn" by a pocket Hercules of 3ft. nothing; a globe-running act by a lady 2ft. 9in. high, and a Tyrolean song and dance "turn" by two clever little mannikins belonging to the company. Finally, the whole troupe appear in a Russian song and dance. The Zeynards are making their début in England.

Mr. Alfred Butt will submit at the Palace Theatre on Monday several interesting novelties. Miss Margaret Cooper, with her sparkling songs at the piano, will return with some fresh musical numbers, and other artists new to the programme will be Miss Jose Delaine and Mr. Sidney Lee, the popular society conjurer.

What may prove a distinctive novelty to this country is to be given also on Monday, when Moran and Wiser will make their *début*. It is said proverbially that a straw will show which way the wind blows, and a straw hat, when it careers along the muddy Strand, will do much the same thing; but these young Americans—*wiser* in their generation—throw this sort of headgear among their audiences with the greatest nonchalance and confidence, because, unlike the unfortunate speculator, they can always reckon upon quick returns. Palace audiences will therefore have the unique spectacle of watching these hats circling above them, and "boomeranging" to the stage to be caught. The speed with which Moran and Wiser exchange hats from side to side of the stage is said to be extraordinary.

During the progress of a melodramatic sketch at a suburban Hippodrome this week the hero has to say, "Shall I kill him?" The actor was astonished one evening to hear a piping voice from the pit reply: "Yes, guv'nor, for Gawd's sake do!"

Mr. Oswald Stoll is renewing for the third time his application to the London County Council for a licence for a Finsbury Park Empire, close to tube, tram, and terminus. On two previous applications the local opposition has been too strong.

The application for a licence for the London Hippodrome, which is signed by Sir Edward Moss, asks for the removal of the restrictions regarding refreshment or a modification of them. The refusal to grant the same privileges as those enjoyed by the Empire, Alhambra, and Palace was carried by a snatch vote in 1899.

The Terriers will give their first concert of the season on Sunday next at their headquarters, the Dover Castle Hotel, at 8.30 p.m. Friends (ladies especially) are invited.

Miss Patty Yole returns to town on Monday to commence the Gibbons circuit, opening at the Duchess, Balham. Next week she welcomes back her husband, George Regan (of that well-known duo Regan and Ryan), fresh from Australian triumphs.

Mr. Joe Elvin's chauffeur, George Albert Wallace, was summoned at Kingston on Wednesday for having exceeded the ten miles an hour limit at Kingston. The evidence showed that the pace was seventeen miles an hour, and defendant, who admitted the fact, was fined £1.

Miss Geraldine Montrose, who is playing in Mr. Leslie Clare's sketch *Wanted, a Wife*, was last week presented by the management of Sadler's Wells, where they were performing, with a handsome bouquet of flowers, Mr. Murray himself making the presentation.

The Dayton Family have returned to England after a most successful Continental tour. Their extraordinary Risley performance has been a great success at Nice, Marseilles, Milan, Barcelona, Madrid, Paris, and other towns. In Madrid they had the honour to perform twice before their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain, and have been highly complimented upon their clever and interesting performance.

Mr. J. D. Harris and his troupe of actor-musicians, known as the Ten Loonies, who, of course, are as sane as most men, will present at the Hackney Empire next week the altogether original antics of a band composed of harmless lunatics. Nothing has been left undone to faithfully copy such a scene, and even the members of the troupe have been given names in accordance with the characters they represent.

Will anybody of good repute and of a charitable disposition adopt a clever, well-trained, and tractable little black piccaninny? There is no bunkum about this request. The little fellow's pet name is Piggy, and he has been performing with Miss Ethel Whiteside as one of her Piccaninnies. He is exceedingly clever, and will be performing at the Oxford for a period of four weeks from Monday next. Any person who seriously desires to consider the matter would oblige by communicating direct with Mr. H. W. Garrick, Durham House-street, Strand, W.C.

Mr. Louis Cohen's sketch, *Davy Garrick*, as presented by Mr. Hubert Carter and company at the Coliseum, finds an interested audience. Mr. Carter himself undertakes the rôle of Garrick, and portrays what is a difficult character exceedingly well. Mrs. Stanislaus Calhaem gives us a most entertaining study of Araminta Brown, realising to the full the comic possibilities of the part. Miss K. Russell is charming and quite unaffected as Ada Ingot, and Mr. H. Cave is a capital representative of the theatre-hating old alderman. The playlet is exceedingly well staged and mounted.

Mr. Harry J. Brett, who is now filling the position of manager for Mr. George Dance at the Richmond Hippodrome, held the post of assistant-manager to Mr. Cecil Paget at the Crown, Peckham, for eleven years. He has had an extensive and varied experience. When Alderman Treloar was Lord Mayor of London a most successful matinée was organised at the Peckham theatre by Mr. Paget, who was largely assisted by Mr. Brett, and in the end over £100 was raised, of which portions went to the Cripples' Fund and the Camberwell Pension Fund.

The football match between the Tivoli and Compass teams was played at Tooting on the 27th ult., when the Tivoli won rather easily by 9—1. The first half was well contested, the Compass being the first to score, one of their forwards heading the ball through from a beautifully-placed corner kick. Then the Tivoli equalised, and were one up at half-time. In the second half the Tivoli had it all their own way, adding no less than seven goals. It was apparent that the Tivoli were in far better condition, as they played strongly right up to the final whistle.

Mr. Jess Smith, assistant manager of the Empire, Shepherd's Bush, since its inception, took his farewell on Saturday last to join the New Bioscope Trading Company as district manager. The leave-taking was marked in a special manner by several presentations, the gifts being a wrist strap with watch from the front staff, gold sleeve-links from the police, and a purse of sovereigns from the patrons. Among the members of the Testimonial Committee were Sir William Bull, the Rev. Cartmel Robinson, and the Rev. Stewart Headlam. Mme. Effie de Bathe (the treasurer) in making the presentation wished Mr. Smith the success he deserved in his new appointment.

In the Vacation Court on Wednesday Mr. Justice Coleridge granted an injunction, moved for by Mr. Harry Relph (Little Tich), until trial, or a further order, restraining Mr. Barry Gilmore from performing at the Waterloo Theatre, Whitby, or elsewhere, in the name of Little Tich, and also an injunction restraining him and Mr. Bainbridge, as lessee and manager of the Waterloo Theatre, from representing that Little Tich was performing at that theatre. The defendants had advertised that "Little Tich" would perform at the Waterloo Theatre. On the bills the name "Little Tich" appeared in large letters, while the name "Barry Gilmore" appeared in much smaller type underneath. The plaintiff complained that defendants' action was calculated to damage his reputation.

Mr. Paul Pelham, comedian, descriptive vocalist, and song and sketch writer, was summoned to Shoreditch on Tuesday, before his Honour Judge Smyly, K.C., to answer a judgment summons for 10s. 3d., issued at the instance of Henry Bennon, of 91, Dalston-lane, N.E., a tailor, for work done. The defendant did not appear. Judge Smyly: Is he in work?—He was last week, at the Hippodrome. Do you mean the Hippodrome at Charing Cross?—No, at Shoreditch, your Honour. I also saw a bill of a sketch at the Palace, Stoke Newington, the other day, and it said, "Written by Paul Pelham." Judge Smyly: Under those circumstances I think an amount of this description will not hurt him, and I will make an order for the payment in a month, or in default ten days' imprisonment.

The ukase has gone forth:—"No member of the V.A.F. must, under any circumstances whatever, visit the offices of any agent who has not already accepted the V.A.F. office copy." Messrs. Fred Neiman, Sam L. Bury, and Sam Hart have taken their names off the list of those agents who accepted the V.A.F. 10 per cent. model office copy.

Mlle. Naverda, the prepossessing lady illusionist, is giving quite a heavy spectacular turn at the Blackpool Palace this week, and is astonishing the audiences with quite a number of new surprises, including the production of "Eve in the Garden of Eden," from an apparently empty cabinet, with astounding celerity. Many of the Blackpool boys say that "Eve" is very attractive, and wonder where Adam is.

Mr. Justice Coleridge on Wednesday refused to grant the Alhambra Company an injunction restraining Miss Cissie Loftus from accepting an engagement with the Coliseum, which, they said, would amount to a breach of her contract to appear in the Alhambra for twelve weeks.

The Rats' eighth grand Bohemian smoking concert will be held at the Vaudeville Club, 98, Charing Cross-road, to-morrow (Sunday) at 9.30 p.m. King Rat (W. H. Clemart) will be in the chair.

Mr. Barney Armstrong, who sails to-day for America, has just accepted a special "skit" from the pens of John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell. It is entitled *Directoire Lizzie*, which he will specially produce on the other side.

Wills and Mackenzie open on Monday at the Empire, Camberwell, in their novel vocal scena *Christina of Sketra*. Mr. Richard Douglass, the clever scenic artist, has painted some fine cloths for this production. The words are by John Wills and Esmé Austin.

Mr. Harris Fineberg, the well-known actor, who has recently returned from South Africa, will shortly produce in the halls a powerful dramatic episode, entitled *Reunited*, specially written for him by the well-known sketch author, Mr. John Jackson.

Princess Pauline, who was appearing last week at the Pavilion, Glasgow, was on Thursday, Sept. 24, in the first house greatly surprised at the greeting extended to her from a great number of the Order of the Eastern Star sisters and brethren, and at the conclusion of her performance was presented with a handsome bouquet, bearing the following:—"Compliments from the Sisters of the Order of the Eastern Star."

Miss Beatrice Felsted, who is again engaged by Mr. J. F. Elliston for pantomime, 1908-9, will resume after Christmas her tour with illustrated pictures. She has secured a long list of bookings.

On the occasion of the unveiling of the monument to the men of the Worcester Regiment who fell in the Boer War, Mr. Arthur Carlton invited all the old Crimean and other veterans to the evening performance at the Theatre and Palace, Worcester. Mr. Carlton got Mr. F. V. St. Clair to write some special lines for the occasion, and these were admirably recited by Mr. Will McIvor. The rendering of the little poem evidently delighted the gallant old fellows.

Carl and Carr, comedians, in *A Drawing-room Interlude*, are booked for three years with the Moss and Stoll Combine, including the London Coliseum.

A matinée in aid of the fund for the relief of needy survivors of the Light Brigade charge will be held at the Alhambra, on Saturday, Oct. 24. Mr. Alfred Moul and the directors have generously promised (for the fourth time) to provide the whole of the entertainment. Mrs. Clement-Scott will recite "The Charge of the Light Brigade," assisted by buglers and drummers of the London Rifle Brigade, and surrounded by a contingent of the survivors of the charge. Applications for tickets (1s. to £2 2s.) should be made to the Concert Manager, 1 and 2, Plough-court, Fetter-lane, E.C.

Miss Melinda May, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., desires to thank Miss Marie Lloyd for her very kind gift of a guinea. Mrs. Herbert Shelley made a pretty bonnet and sent it to the Guild, and it was sold the same day. Will Mrs. Shelley accept best thanks, also Miss Belle Elmore, Miss Georgie Corlass, and Mrs. Northcott for very useful parcels of clothing, and Mrs. Chas. Mitchell for gentlemen's ties, and for the anonymous gift of a silk petticoat? Miss May would be grateful for gentlemen's as well as ladies' wearing apparel. Such help enables the unemployed to make a presentable appearance and to obtain engagements. Friends of the charity are heartily welcome to the receptions, held every Wednesday from 3 to 5 o'clock.

Mr. Brewster's Six Canadians have met with most gratifying success all through their tour in Spain and Portugal, their engagements having been prolonged at every theatre and circus they have played.

William Bell, a labourer, living at Somers Town, was charged, on remand, at Bow-street on Wednesday, with stealing two seat covers, worth 10s., from the stalls of the Holborn Empire, where he had occasionally been employed as a cleaner. Mr. E. L. Conroy, the manager, said there was no disposition on the part of the Holborn Empire (Limited) to press the charge, but it was felt necessary to proceed against the prisoner as a warning to others. He was sentenced to one month's hard labour.

On Saturday, at the North London Police Court, Bertie Warrant, 26, no fixed abode, was charged, on remand, with stealing from the balcony office at the Hackney Empire Music Hall, at 10.15 p.m. on Sept. 14, 10s., the property of the Moss' Empires, Ltd. Fresh evidence on this occasion was by Harry Lock, a street seller of newspapers. He deposed that he saw prisoner smash the window of the office with the large piece of paving-stone produced, grab something through the hole he had made, and put it in his pocket. He then ran away. He saw him the next morning, and prisoner said, "I only 'clicked' 10s. I tried for the silver, but could not get it." Prisoner pleaded that he was in drink or he would not have done it. He asked to be dealt with now, and so given a chance. Mr. Fordham sent him for trial, there being a number of convictions against him.

Cruikshank, who is due at Hackney Empire next week, commenced his music-hall career some nine years ago. He owes much of his success on the variety stage to his early training in the circuses. His father, the late Mr. W. C. Cruikshank, was a well-known ring jester, who worked most of the circuses in the last generation, including the celebrated Hengler's and Newsome's. The younger Cruikshank was born in 1875 in Dundee. His earliest appearance was as a child in a pantomime of *Cinderella*. In those days all the children of the members of a circus company used to take part in the productions for the purpose of gaining experience. Cruikshank's first act of any importance was a wire-walking one, which he did in connection with his two brothers, the trio forming the Cruikshank Family. Eventually he relinquished the wire and seceded from his brother, and after that worked as a "single turn."

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

AMONG the new songs being placed on the market by Messrs. Francis and Day are Mr. Ernest Shand's fine humorous number "What would the congregation say?" by Bert Lee; "The Valley of Hushabye," by Percy Edgar, Fred Warwick, and Julian Wilson; "The Truth," written by Nat Mayer for Mr. Wilkie Bard; and Mr. Fred Spencer's song, "Sweep! Sweep! Sweep!" by Medley Barrett and Haydon Pearsall.

MR. FROHMAN some time since, having been struck by the enormous success so deservedly attained by Miss Vesta Victoria in America with the songs entitled "Waiting at the church," "Poor John!" and "Don't get married any more, ma!" commissioned the English writers, Fred W. Leigh and Henry E. Pether, to supply striking numbers for pieces he was interested in, and the acumen of the great impresario has recently been fully justified. Miss Hattie Williams in *Fluffy Ruffles* has made an enormous hit with their new song "Willie's got another girl now," which Messrs. Francis and Day have published, and the author and composer—the only two selected by Mr. Frohman to write special numbers—have received the heartiest congratulations from brother writers on their deserved success.

A GREAT comic number for pantomime has been secured by Messrs. Francis and Day in "This little piggy went to market," by Harry Leighton and Medley Barrett, which will be issued immediately, and no "annual" will be considered complete that does not include the same firm's laughable duet for low comedian and dame, entitled "Do you remember? How can I forget!" by H. F. Greenfield.

ADVICES from Manchester chronicle the enormous hit just made by Miss Harriett Vernon in a new song by that talented American team Jerome and Schwartz, entitled "Kiss your soldier-boy goodbye." F. W. Leigh has written additional verses and Messrs. Francis and Day publish the item, which will be very much in evidence in first-class pantomimes.

MR. ARCHIE MILLS, of Nottingham, the smart young Colwick Hall pierrot who recently wrote for, and had a song accepted by, Miss Vesta Tilley, had the felicity a day or so since of being introduced to the great artist, who warmly congratulated him on the number, which is entitled "That's the time a fellow wants his ma." Maurice Scott has set it to music, and it is published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

MISS MARIE LLOYD has accepted a particularly smart song, by Fred Murray and Charles Hilbury, entitled "Rosie had a very rosy time." When the great artist has finished with, at present, her best song in most critics' opinion—to wit, "Rumtiddley-um-tum-ta," by F. W. Leigh—she has another low-life humorous number ready in its place, entitled "With my little bunch of daisies in my hand," by the author of "The 'ouses in between," the music by H. E. Pether.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY are issuing Billy Hobbs's song, entitled "Stand and deliver, Isabella Brown!" by F. J. Barnes, Charles Collins, and Harry Castling, and a striking ballad by F. W. Leigh and C. W. Murphy called "Shine on me, little sunray."

"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL," the song with which Miss Florrie Gallimore is making such a huge hit, is in great demand for pantomime, and the writers, Messrs. C. W. Murphy and Dan Lipton, are to be congratulated upon finding in one season three such successes as Miss Florrie Forde's "Oh! Oh! Antonio," Miss Madge Temple's "Esau, Esau, take me on the see-saw," another prospective pantomime favourite, and the aforementioned "My girl's a Yorkshire girl." These new numbers are published by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

MISS MARIE LLOYD purposes producing, early next week at all her "turns" a new and highly-diverting "skit" on the general exodus of theatrical beauties from the ranks of musical-comedydom into the "hupper suckles" lately. This entertaining number is entitled "If you want to marry an earl," and is from the same fluent pens responsible for "The Directoire girl," and "I can't make my eyes be good," those of Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, to wit.

A SPECIAL message from America, from Mr. Joseph ("Futurity") Hart, anent the success which his wife, Miss Carrie de Mar, has just achieved in New York with Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell's two songs, "Winkie Winnie" and "Gentle Maiden," specially written for the American star prior to her departure from England, has caused much jubilation in the region of Berners-street. Mr. Hart's cable was laconic in the extreme, simplying mentioning the names of the two songs in question, with the highly-significant appendix, "Both big hits."

THE Monte Carlo Publishing Company has just acquired the publishing rights of Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell's new costume "production" number, "Little maid of Brittany." Admitting, as it does, of the wearing of the picturesque Breton peasant costume, the number should be in universal demand for either principal boy or girl.

A. J. MILLS and Bennett Scott have written a new Irish chorus song entitled "Molly Maloney," and those who have been privileged to hear the number declare it to be the best song written by these celebrated writers since their famous "Zuyder Zee" ditty. They are anxious that those artists who have made hits with their chorus songs should communicate with them *re* this splendid new number. Copies are to be had from the Star Music Co.

MISS MARIE BLYTHE, at present creating a furore with Teddy Sullivan and Bennett Scott's great motto song, "Don't put your umbrella up before it starts to rain," has acquired from the Star Music Co. the prior rights of a new song by Harry Castling and A. J. Mills with the strange title, "If you don't succeed, what matters?" There is more in the song than the title conveys, and artists requiring a sure applause-winner would do well to write for a copy to the Star Music Co.

ONE of the most likely numbers for pantomime in the Star Co.'s catalogue is a melodious song by Cecil Johnson, J. Burley, and Maurice Scott, entitled "Ayesha, my sweet Egyptian." This song is in great demand by principal boys and girls, and a limited number of permits will be granted for the halls. The composer of "Swing me higher, Obadiah," and "Carolina Brown" has every reason to feel gratified at the extraordinary success of "Ayesha." Band-parts are printed for this winner.

AMONG Messrs. Joseph Williams and Co.'s guaranteed successes for the pantomime season is the topical song published in their current annual, entitled "What a very great improvement that would be!" One "improvement" suggested is the blending of theatrical and variety entertainment, and the imaginative picture of Mr. Tree and Mr. George Robey doing a triple-bar act at the Palace is decidedly amusing. The words are by Arthur Wimperis and the music by H. G. Pélissier. Free permissions may be obtained on application to 32, Great Portland-street, W. Messrs. Williams publish the répertoire of the Follies.

VARIETY ARTISTS' FEDERATION.

THE AGENT QUESTION.

Mr. JOE O'GORMAN presided over a mass meeting of members of the V.A.F. held yesterday afternoon at the Bedford Head Hotel. The room was uncomfortably packed, and amongst those present were Messrs. Harry Lauder, Neil Kenyon, W. H. Clemart, Dutch Daly, Pete Curran, M.P., Horace Wheatley, Albert Le Fre, Geo. D'Albert, Geo. Mozart, Wal Pink, and Alec Hurley; and Mesdames Sisters Anderson, Irma Lorraine, Sisters Macarte, and Miss Maud Lambert.

The CHAIRMAN stated that the agents had been holding their meetings in secret, and that they had invented many nefarious schemes to intimidate the poorer artists. There was one case in which a young artist had refused to sign an agent's office copy, in spite of his unfortunate financial position, and his salary was paid out of the Federation funds. The Chairman added that the committee would be prepared to deal with all similar cases as they came before them. It now became imperative that they should at once open an emergency fund to deal with these cases. The agents had accused the artists of not paying their lawful debts, but what of the honesty of the agents? Would Mr. Richard Warner explain what became of the money that he and some of the managers, including the late George Adney Payne, had cajoled out of the clients on Mr. Warner's books in respect of the formation of the Fibre Matting Company, Ltd.? Mr. Warner's clients had subscribed hundreds of pounds to this company, and they had not received a sixpenny piece back, or any explanation as to what had become of the company. The agents had asked for arbitration on the re-engagement clause. He (the Chairman) would now say on behalf of himself and his colleagues that if the agents were prepared to place the whole working of their business from A to Z before an independent arbitrator, then the Federation would agree to arbitration. But such an arbitrator would not be allowed to consider merely a discussion of the re-engagement clause. They wanted the whole agency system—which was rotten to the core—investigated. The re-engagement clause was dead and buried for ever. Then the agents had said that Mr. Pete Curran had consented to act as arbitrator. That was not correct.

Mr. PETE CURRAN, M.P., stated that he had received a communication from an agent, asking what was his opinion as to the possibility of a settlement between the agents and the artists. That letter come quite unofficially from an individual agent. If the agents had anything to place before him (Mr. Curran), he would be pleased to place it before the V.A.F.

Mr. HARRY LAUDER stated that he was sorry that he was going away to America while this agency trouble was in progress. He did not like to leave the battle, and while he himself was a fighter, he and every one of his brother and sister artists wanted peace. He would be extremely happy if he heard that it came before he left England.

Mr. FRED RUSSELL said that the artists had the upper hand, and they could now afford to be magnanimous. He would therefore propose a resolution as follows:—

"Having regard to the statement made on behalf of the agents that the artists are afraid to submit the commission dispute to arbitration, this meeting instructs the executive committee to inform the agents' representatives that the V.A.F. will agree to the appointment of an independent arbitrator on the definite understanding that the arbitration shall not be confined to any particular phase of the question, but shall deal with the whole matter of agency, including the rate of commission and the retrospectiveness of the re-engagement clause in existing contracts."

Continuing, Mr. RUSSELL said that if there was going to be arbitration, it would have to be on the whole question, and not on any phase of it.

Mr. W. H. CLEMART seconded.

Mr. WAL PINK, Mr. GEORGE MOZART, and others spoke strongly in opposition.

After Messrs. John Warren, Dutch Daly, Bert Danson, and John L. Shine had spoken,

The CHAIRMAN put the resolution to the meeting, when it was found that the voting was overwhelmingly against it, only thirty-one voting in favour. The motion was then declared lost.

Mr. W. H. CLEMART stated that the meeting had now decided against arbitration, and it was now a fight to the death. He proposed a resolution which had been previously placed before the Federation—

"That, if by Friday, Oct. 2, at 12 noon, any agent has not accepted the amended commission note, he shall not be allowed to come to terms with the V.A.F. unless he consents in writing to the abolition of the re-engagement clause in present as well as future contracts."

Mr. Clemart explained that that resolution meant that the artists were not to do business with any agent until they were notified by the Federation that the agent had agreed in writing to abolish the re-engagement clause.

Mr. ALBERT BRADY proposed, and Mr. CHARLES AUSTIN seconded an amendment to the effect that the resolution should be held over for consideration for a week.

On a show of hands the amendment was lost, and the resolution was carried.

THE V.A.F. AND THE AGENTS.

At the conclusion of the meeting of the V.A.F. at the Bedford Head, on Friday, the 25th ult., it was announced that the following letter had been sent by the solicitors of the Variety Artists' Federation to music hall managers all over the country:—

"Dear Sir,—It has come to the knowledge of the Variety Artists' Federation that a circular has been sent out by agents to managers asking them to deduct from artists' salaries certain commissions. It is doubtless unnecessary for us to point out to you the illegality of the suggested course, and the attendant expense and trouble of the litigation which would inevitably follow its adoption. We do not for a moment suppose that you will embroil yourself with a dispute which in no way concerns you; but imagine that you will adopt a strictly honourable course of leaving the parties to fight out their own battles, without favouring either.

"At the same time, we may add that a resolution was passed by the executive committee of the Variety Artists' Federation to-day, and instructions given us to issue summonses the first thing on Monday morning against every manager who, in violation of the principles of fair fight, seeks to aid one of the parties in the present struggle, by doing that which is not only unfair, but is absolutely illegal.—Yours faithfully,

(Signed) "JUDGE AND PRIESTLEY.

"3, Liverpool-street, E.C., Sept. 25."

At a gathering of the Grand Order of Water Rats on Sunday at the Vaudeville Club, the question of establishing a central booking agency was again under consideration. A special sub-committee was appointed, and thirty-one members—including most of the "stars" at present in London—attended a meeting at the Vaudeville Club on Wednesday, when it was decided to recommend that such an agency should be established forthwith.

It was agreed that the commission to be paid should not exceed 2½ per cent., and that performers other than members of the Water Rats should be eligible as clients on the same terms. A suggestion was made, and warmly received, that the post of booking agent should be offered to an important and popular manager, at present associated with one of the leading syndicates.

Matters were quiet on Thursday, the first day of the picketing of agents who have disregarded the manifesto of the V.A.F. and refused to accept the Federation's "office copy" of the contract commission note. The work of picketing was carried out by forty V.A.F.'s, ladies assisting.

One comedienne, Miss Jeannie Thomas, was told off to watch the office of Messrs. Fortune and Granville in the Strand. She walked up and down outside the office from eleven o'clock until noon. At last both Mr. Fortune and Mr. Granville came down from their rooms to see the lady. They so admired her pertinacity that "they took me across for some light refreshment"—to quote what she wrote on her report. Eventually "Mr. Walter Munroe came up, and the above-named gentleman and myself were photographed together. Messrs. Fortune and Granville brought me a chair, and promised me lunch on Friday."

The Federation is taking action against a well-known manager who contends that an artist who signs the ordinary agent's "office copy" assigns commission to the manager. The legal advice obtained by the Federation is to the effect that the agent's "office copy" is not an assignment within the meaning of the Act, and a manager has no power to deduct commission on behalf of an agent. It is intended to make the action a test case. None of the members of the Federation have yet paid any commission due to the agents, and so far no legal proceedings have been started in respect to the money withheld.

It may be as well to quote the judgment of Lord Macnaghten regarding this question. He laid it down that "An equitable assignment may be addressed to the debtor. It may be couched in the language of command. It may be a courteous request. It may assume the form of mere permission. The language is immaterial if the meaning is plain. All that is necessary is that the debtor should be given to understand that the debt has been made over by the creditor to some third person. If the debtor ignores such notice he does so at his peril.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—May I ask why this dispute should not be considered in the same equitable manner as is daily becoming essential to the success of every other line of business—viz., that obsolete conditions be replaced by up-to-date ideas, and mutually advantageous concessions?

Formerly it was incumbent on an agent to spend a considerable portion of his earnings at the refreshment-bar of the old style of proprietor; or, in the case of a salaried manager, to furnish him with certain financial inducements to accept "turns" offered to him, and frequently unknown to him.

As, in these days, proprietors and managers are above that method of doing business, we have shorter interviews, less waste of time, and—with the assistance of present-day rapid railway conveniences—a reduction by one-half of the agents' working expenses; to say nothing of the fact that managers in many cases do not accept an agent's recommendation of an artist, but insist on the performance being seen by their representative, or at a trial show. We have here, in a nutshell, ample proof that an honourable, business-like agent is, to-day, better paid with 5 per cent. commission than formerly with double that figure.—Enclosing my card, I am sir, yours faithfully,

"REASON."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Under the heading of "Mr. O'Gorman and Mr. Granville" in to-day's *Performer* two letters are printed. But for some reason my answer sent to Mr. O'Gorman on the same date is not given the same publicity.

Knowing that *The Era* is always ready to give both sides of a question, I venture to ask for space to publish the same, copy of which I enclose.

Thanking you in anticipation, yours truly,

EDWARD H. GRANVILLE.

Savoy House, 115, Strand, London, W.C.
Oct. 1, 1908.

(COPY.)

Sept. 28, '08.

Joe O'Gorman, Esq.,
Variety Artists' Federation,
28, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.

DEAR SIR,—

I regret that in the heat of the moment I misread the paragraph. But it is simply splitting straws. I emphatically deny that I told you that I considered we had earned (or were entitled to) 20 per cent. commission on all engagements we booked.

In discussing with you a certain matter with regard to an artist who had written to a manager asking that the contracts should be sent direct (although we had previously offered them return dates), I told you I considered we were entitled, and would claim commission on these particular re-engagements, and this, I presume, is what you mean by 20 per cent. commission, as there was no other matter discussed between us at our interview.

Yours faithfully,

EDWARD H. GRANVILLE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Our client, Mr. Sam L. Bury, desires us to write and inform you that with regard to the question of the Agents and the V.A.F. he was induced to accept the Office Copy now proposed by the Federation at the representation of one of the members, and that all the particulars he agreed to on the Office Copy shown to him were, we are instructed, ten per cent. and the re-engagement clause, three months.

Our client also desires us to inform you that he is still a member of the Agents' Association, and we shall be glad if you will find room for this letter in your next issue, so as to save a lot of unpleasantness and clear up a lot of misconception.—Yours truly, ROBERTS, SEYD, AND CO.

312, Regent-street, W., Oct. 2.

THE latest quotations for music hall shares are as follows: Alhambra, 1¼; Canterbury, ¼; Empire (15s. paid) 1½, ditto (10s. paid) 1; London Pavilion Ord. 4⅜, ditto Pref. 4⅜; Metropolitan, 11s.; Moss' Empire 5, ditto 5 per cent. Pref. 3⅞; Oxford 6⅛; Palace, ⅞; Tivoli, 5⅛; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 7-16.

RICHARD SAVAGE, one of the most curious characters in English literary history, was the son of the Countess of Macclesfield by the Earl Rivers, and his birth gave his mother an excuse for obtaining a divorce from a man whom she hated. He was born in 1696 in Fox-court, a low alley out of Holborn, whither his mother had repaired, under the name of Mrs. Smith, her features concealed in a mask which she wore throughout her confinement. Discovery was embarrassed by a complication of witnesses; the child was handed from one woman to another, until, like a story bandied from mouth to mouth, it seemed to lose its paternity. The son of an earl, the child was apprenticed to a shoemaker; but preferring the pen to the awl, he betook himself eventually to literature, after having by an accident discovered his origin. He made the acquaintance of Steele, who formed a grand design to marry Savage to a natural daughter of his, on whom he meant to settle a thousand pounds. How Savage, himself a natural son, might have relished the proposal of a natural daughter for a wife cannot be guessed—a thousand pounds might make even the author of the "Bastard" witness a charm in illegitimacy. But neither the natural daughter nor the thousand pounds was ever forthcoming. Savage, mortified by the frequent disappointments that attended Steele's promises, took an early opportunity to lampoon his friend, and his friend very properly cut him. He was as quick, however, at making friends as he was at losing them. When he was near dying of starvation, a subscription was raised for him, and he was despatched to Wales. He pushed as far as Bristol, where he halted; spent the money he had in hand, wrote impudent letters for more, was arrested for debt, and lodged in gaol, where he died July 31, 1743.

THE ALHAMBRA.

Mr. Alfred Moul, until the production of the new ballet, is relying on the very remarkable manifestations of Mr. and Mrs. Tomson, who are presenting what is very appropriately called *The Master Mystery*, to a very curious and deeply interested public nightly. Everything seems to have been done by the management to make the "experiment," if we may so call it, as difficult as possible. All the accessories are supplied by the management, which is enabled to give an absolute guarantee that there is no trick of any kind whatsoever in the articles which are used. The roofed cabinet, consisting of a single canvas on simple framing, is erected on the top of two stage cloths upon a solid stage, free from traps of any kind whatsoever. The black wrapper which envelopes Mrs. Tomson as she passes from the dressing-room to the cabinet on the stage is provided by the Alhambra management, and is of so slight a texture that it is quite impossible to conceal materials or objects of any sort, and is not in Mrs. Tomson's possession previous to its being placed upon her by the ladies' committee. It is placed upon her by the ladies' committee only after she has divested herself of her clothing. This fact is vouched for by the affidavit of the female searcher at Vine-street police station.

The Alhambra management seem to be most anxious that their audiences shall understand that the production of material objects is guaranteed to be free from all assistance of trick accessories. There is no mistaking the sensational character of the performance, which was loudly acclaimed on the night of our visit.

In *The Two Flags* the Alhambra patrons have a chance of applauding that great favourite Miss Julia Seale in her smart and natty impersonation of a smart and natty English naval officer, who is quite welcome among the pretty Parisiennes in the opening scene in *la ville lumière*, where John Bull is welcomed by Madame La Republique with all the friendly feeling possible. Mr. Bull, in his turn, invites *les belles Parisiennes* to the Franco-British Exhibition, and we have jinks and evolutions by a gaily-dressed crowd of *militaires* and a bevy of beautiful ballerine that make a feast of colour. Mlle. Pompenette makes her mark as a lissome dancer of eccentric movement, and the work of the *corps de ballet* is a sheer delight. Mr. Byng's selected music and original numbers make up an ensemble that is always pleasing and catchy and inspiriting.

The pretty legend of Narcissus, so beautifully and pathetically told by the late Sir Lewis Morris in his poem, is realised by La Belle Leonora, who may well become enamoured of her own reflection in a fountain, though, unlike the beautiful son of the nymph Liriope, she will not, we feel sure, pine away because she cannot kiss her own image. The inspiring beauty of Leonora gives all the poetic significance possible to this prettily illustrated and cleverly realised fable of "Narcissus and Echo," and the production reflects credit on the taste of the management.

In the early part of the evening, Richard List's bears exhibit their docility in a number of tricks; and the good-natured wrestling match between a gigantic Polar Bruin and his trainer excites much curiosity. Coram, the ventriloquist, is decidedly gifted; the song, "Oh, lucky Jim," as given through his figure, is exceedingly droll. Other attractions of the bill are Kitty Traney, who gives a pretty performance with pony and dog; the Bonhair Troupe of acrobats; "Sal-oh-my"; and Jury's Imperial pictures.

REMARKABLE pictures of the Four-inch Race in the Isle of Man were shown on the night of the 25th ult. on the Empire Theatre bioscope.

THE MILTONS, skating comedians, who made such a hit at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, in pantomime last year, have been secured by Mr. Harry Roxbury to play in *Mother Goose* for a twelve weeks' run.

MR. JOSEPH WILLIAMS, of 32, Great Portland-street, has added immensely to the gaiety of London and New York by the publication of some extremely droll ditties. One of the most comical is certainly "Maria's Diary," written and composed by the late Chas. J. Taylor, and sung successfully by Margaret Cooper. Maria, a flighty sort of person, keeps a diary in which she records all her experiences, but, unfortunately for Maria's hopes, she has adopted the extraordinary expedient of writing in pencil the actual facts. For instance, the indiarubber would not destroy the evidences of her fast conduct, while the indelible ink in which the shams were recorded were intended to deceive her parents and friends, who were invited to inspect the diary; while her bosom friend named Ethel, who had come on a visit, found the diary on her bed, giving a most unflattering account of her appearance and dress. One of the verses describes Maria's difficulties. She was decidedly fast, while her parents were extremely slow and easily taken in. For instance, Maria had gone to a Covent Garden ball, and puts down in her diary that she had spent the evening playing cards and had gone to bed at ten.

ANOTHER most amusing song which was a great hit at the Follies was "Zulu Lulu," which relates how a Zulu chief, being hungry, calls to Lulu not to please his amorous fancy but to appease his hungry appetite. Zulu suspects his design, and hides in a palm grove, but eventually she comes out, and the chief kills the maiden and eats her with relish, the last we hear of Lulu being that the savage is dancing round a platter over the bones of poor little Lulu. The words are very funny, and the music of Mr. Pélissier is quite appropriate, with a ju-jitsu accompaniment to the cannibalistic love song which Mr. Arthur Wimperis, the author, so humorously describes. Absurd as the story is, it caught the fancy of the audience, and was one of the greatest successes of the Follies. A sly allusion to the missionary who thought to reform the chieftain's Little Mary completes the story with great effect.

THE attractive young lady Miss Evelyn Hughes was responsible for the singing of the eccentric song "Mandy," whose nigger lover says:—

"Throw your window open wide,
Stick your curly head outside,
I'm waiting, waiting for my dusky bride.
Mandy, do you hear me?"

The coon lover advises her to slip out of the side door, and join him in the Cake Walk. But the swain in question threatens if Mandy does not come he will call on Amelia Jones. Mr. H. G. Pélissier, the popular composer for the Follies, has written the music as well as the words. "The Flower Girl" is also composed by Mr. Pélissier, but the verses, by Mr. Arthur Davenport, are very effective. The next song on our list is "To the King," written and composed by Mr. John Bradford. He begins by referring to the monarchs of ancient times, and gracefully brings in an allusion to our present King.

THE final publication is a group of orchestral pieces, which can be performed without fee or licence, and the price is only twopence. The works are principally for the first violin, and include such distinguished composers as Goring-Thomas, Victorin de Joncières, the popular French composer, and several delightful waltz writers. The charming and well-known composer Carl Kiefert also contributes. The low price and high quality of these orchestral pieces should secure universal acceptance in the musical world

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"

Miss FLORRIE FORDE'S LATEST SENSATION.

Will be the rage of the coming pantomimes. Principal Boys and Girls should secure this at once.

OH! OH! ANTONIO!

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE CANTERBURY.

Mr. Charles W. Adams, the manager of this establishment, has an interesting and highly-attractive programme this week. One of the novelties is furnished by Miss Fifi Gordon and a company of girls, who appear in a charming scena, entitled *My Tiny Firefly*, in which, under the bewitching influence of the moonlight, they sing a song which bears the same name as that which is given to the scena. Their other item is a Dutch operetta, *New Sabots*, mainly consisting of chorus singing and dancing, with Miss Gordon acting charmingly as Hans and Katarina. Miss Gordon has a pleasing delivery and an engaging presence, and her efforts in *New Sabots* are greatly enjoyed by the audience. Cole and Rags win favour by their eccentric juggling with clubs, balls, and turnips; and another capital comedy juggling act is provided by Derenda and Green. Miss Nita Clem delights the house with her clever imitation of a Parisian singer and dancer; and Mr. George Antil, "the evening shadow," as he quaintly styles himself, causes amusement by his rendering of a topical song in which he introduces the names of the popular plays running in the West End. Much interest centres in the appearance of Mr. Alick Lauder, brother of Harry Lauder, who, along with Miss Jenny Atten and Mr. George Adair, presents a Scottish sketch, *The Christening*. In this Mr. Lauder plays the part of a humorous Scot rather fond of the national beverage, who has for a wife an Englishwoman who disputes with him over the naming of their baby in no unmeasured terms. Mr. Lauder is exceedingly droll as the easy-going, slow-of-speech Scotsman; and the parts of the wife and a clergyman are ably portrayed by Miss Jenny Atten and Mr. George Adair respectively. The Daunton-Shaw Troupe of Australian trick cyclists submit a wonderfully smart performance; and Robins and Collier indulge in some entertaining acrobatic and other antics in a railway station scene, the gentleman appearing as a porter and the lady as a passenger. The scenery of this trifle is extremely well painted and is most realistic. Mr. George Robey, as usual, creates uproarious merriment both with his song "It's all done by kindness," in which he appears as a comical lion-tamer, and with the ditty "It's a lie!" Kennedy's Kiddies, who appear in London for the first time this week, have taken on extremely well in their vocal, terpsichorean, and athletic scena, and their songs, "An innocent country girl" and "Some day we'll go back home," are given with much feeling and expression, and are warmly applauded by the audience. These children, twelve girls whose ages range from fifteen to seventeen, also engage in a smart ju-jitsu dance, invented and produced by Mr. Phil Kennedy. In the dance the girls give evidence of good athletic training and ability, and the whole act is one that should become popular. Miss Doris Gilbert has a couple of delightful numbers, "My gipsy girl" and "Red Wing," with which she quite enchants her hearers. Mr. Percy Hannan, an American baritone, is also responsible for some very praiseworthy vocalism; and Mr. Martin Henderson, the blind musical genius and concertina soloist, plays Suppé's "Light Cavalry" in excellent style. La Pia is seen in a new line of fantastic dances, introducing a fresh dance representing a stormy sea breaking and dashing on the shore, whilst the dancer is seen enveloped in the midst of them, dashed hither and thither, and is finally engulfed in the huge seas that break over and around her. The scena is most realistic and effective. Barrett and Knowles, "the green lizard and his friend who disagree," are highly entertaining with their cross-patter; Miss Winnie Darrell wins golden opinions for her light comedy; and Miss Cissie Lawson thrills the audience with her dramatic acting in *A Bride for a Living*. Ruffell's Bioscope concludes with up-to-date pictures.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

Return of brilliant summer weather has not diminished the patronage accorded the handsome and comfortable temple of amusement so ably presided over by Mr. Ernest Bridgen, the popular and courteous acting-manager, who is in high favour with the frequenters of this hall. Mr. Bridgen has a capable assistant in Mr. C. Young, and Mr. Forbes Russell conducts the fine orchestra with his accustomed skill. The stage is well looked after by Mr. Walter Smith. Mr. Alf. Chester is warmly applauded for his amusing patter and his humorous singing of "Good old mother." Olive and Owen appear in their original entertainment entitled "The Roadside Tinkers." They depict a pair of gipsies, who indulge in clever business, and sing "Two Merry Vagabonds" and "I love you still" in capital style, winning well-deserved applause. Mr. Fred Wilkinson, assisted by Miss Betty Waller, does some smart and original tricks with skill and neatness. Mr. George Cameron presents some clever impersonations of well-known artists, including the late Sir Henry Irving as Mathias in *The Bells*, and Mr. Martin Harvey as the Rat in *The Breed of the Treshams*.

Popular Miss Lily Langtry has a warm reception, and sings, in her usual artistic style, "The person in the house next door" and "Oh, the Exhibition!" winding up with a clever dance. The Garganis are three clever acrobats, who afford much amusement by their original comedy act; Dutch Daly is always welcome, and his humour is so natural and unforced, and his concertina-playing so enjoyable, that he cannot come too often. Miss Nellie Wallace delights everybody, as usual. This amusing artist has to sing three songs, entitled respectively, "Georgie," "Young again," and "The Directoire dress," before she is allowed to depart. Mr. Alec Hurley is a huge favourite here, and is greeted with enthusiasm when he appears in his clever comedy scena, entitled *The Coster's Beano*, which goes with its usual briskness and spirit. Several songs are introduced, and are warmly applauded, viz., "You're my donah," "Our outing," and "Let me call her mother." Mr. Hurley is very ably supported by all the members of his company. Some capital pictures, including one of the Winston-Churchill wedding, are exhibited by the American Bioscope.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

Mr. Fisher White's company forms one of the principal attractions at this hall in the dramatic episode *The Broken Heart*. Mr. Scott Craven and Mr. T. D. Beresford, the authors of the playlet, are to be congratulated on having utilised the theme of Nihilism with great effect and success. The play was fortunate in having a very capable company to present it, Mr. Scott Craven himself as the Duke acting with energy and effect. Very clever and of great value to the production was the character study of the elder Russian by Mr. Chris. Walker. Mr. H. Corney Grain as the chemist was also excellent, and Mr. Frederick James and Mrs. Fisher White left little to be desired in the remaining rôles. The scenery and effects were remarkably complete, and an interesting little article on the piece, a copy of which was given away with the programme, proved interesting and valuable. The sketch proved very popular.

The remaining items on the attractive bill were also up to the high standard of this hall. Mr. Walter Gilbey, a prime favourite, sang a policeman song well. His second number in the character of a gamekeeper mightily amused the sporting section of the audience, its reception being very cordial. Venie Clements in character song and dance did well, and told some amusing stories of children. Florence and Lillian presented a musical act of exceptional merit, their playing on the piano, violin, horn, bugle, and Japanese fiddle gaining well-merited applause. The Delevines in their dancing act scored their usual success. Kitts and Windrum in *The Cuckoo* gained plenty of applause, and caused a great deal of laughter. Loïe Fuller, who presented Mlle. Cerutti in classical dances, had a talented pupil, who gave every sign of ability. Hilda Playfair sang "The Green Isle of Erin" very tastefully. R. H. Douglass in his well-known monologue act kept the house amused and had a big reception. The Bioscope was interesting, and Mr. Greco's orchestra was invaluable. Mr. Percival, the acting-manager, was very courteous and attentive in the front of the house.

BOW PALACE.

Mr. Macnaghten's house of variety in the "Far East" seems to enjoy a patronage which is every week increasing. And this is not to be wondered at when one considers the list of attractions he is able to offer, not to mention the manner in which his able lieutenant, Mr. Charles Harvey, the manager, attends both to the comfort and convenience of the audience and the requirements of the house. Among the turns this week that of Miss Alice Blandford, the "New Zealand nightingale," has won great favour at the hands of the visitors to this beautiful house. Miss Blandford is a ballad vocalist who possesses a highly-trained voice, and her renderings of "Just a sweet red rose" and "Once" make her hearers delirious with delight. Miss Rose Pink is another, too, who wins unstinted applause, and her listeners sit enraptured as her cultured voice rings out the poetic lines of the verses "I'll do anything in the world for you" and "Heather bell." Her dancing is exquisite, to say the least, and one might well imagine from her musical movements that the daughter of Jupiter and Mnemosyne must have been the muse that presided at her birth. Stidder and Dunbar are entertainers of a high calibre, and they deserve all the laurels which the vociferous plaudits signify. They are singers and dancers of exceptional ability, and their delivery of "Every little bit helps" brings them such unmistakable panegyrics that these artists would scarcely envy the station of Demetrius or the triumphs of the consuls. The Florodoras furnish what proves to be an immensely popular sort of musical comedy act, and in it they introduce a couple of songs, "Fishing" and "Two's company, three's none," which fairly bring the house down. Baker and De Sales, the world-famous American comedy team, offer beautiful singing and diverting fun, the vocal numbers, "Isn't it nice to have someone to love you?" and "I don't know where I'm going, but I'm on my way," taking the hearts of the listeners by storm. Damerell and Rutland are intensely mirth-provoking in their sporting farce, *Clever Mr. Fugg*; and the Arthur Gallimore Trio also contribute in no insignificant way to the evening's gaiety. The Sisters Brooks are attractive young ladies whose duet singing is much admired, notably in the song "Mr. Grundy"; and Mr. J. Wright-Aitken and company present the popular sensational sketch *Nihilism*, Mr. Wright-Aitken's brilliant performance as the Under-Secretary of State being the outstanding feature of the production. Raymond's Bio-tableaux include The Hard-hearted Squire.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

Although the magnificent weather has hardly been conducive to indoor amusement, it speaks much for the discretion of the management here that there is no appreciable falling-off in the attendance. *My Little One* is a somewhat thin production, in which Mr. Picton Roxborough and Miss Fanny Wright quite cleverly manage to elicit considerable applause. They might with advantage try something more worthy of their undoubted ability. "Is everybody happy?" is the query proposed by a darkie comedian, Harry Brown. Quite a droll chap is this, and he manages to successfully solve the problem. Harry Brown made a lot of fun. The Scottish-Canadian, John Henderson, is here with a somewhat extraordinary production, *Mid Northern Lights*, on which the pruning-knife may be advantageously exercised. As the old Hudson Bay Company official Mr. Henderson did well, and was capably assisted by Miss Millie Henderson and Mr. Frank C. Mason and company. There is no reason why the piece should not do better in an abbreviated form. Juvenile performers are now the vogue, and although the talent displayed is not always of a startling nature, it is always a source of pleasure to encourage good work. Bellew and Stock's company, the Romps, merit all the praise showered upon their efforts. Daintily dressed, a dozen pretty maidens with fresh young voices sing solos and harmonise in a manner that wins the good graces of the audience, and gives unmistakable evidence of able training.

Special mention may be made of the comedienne of this clever little company. She possesses a fund of original humour, and better things may be expected of her. The Romps are delightful, and really gifted.

Tromba's juggling is quite up to the average, and he performs an astonishing number of tricks to the satisfaction of everyone concerned. Apart from the usual feats, he rouses the audience to a pitch of enthusiasm with his method of juggling with three muskets and firing them as caught. Tromba's feats are truthfully billed as "great"; it is a fine performance. Harry Taft has a really comic entrance reminiscent of Don Quixote. As a whistler he rapidly wins popularity, and altogether he is a distinct acquisition.

Of the literary merit of *The Power of Music* little need be said beyond the fact that it forms a background with Jan Rudenyi as the central figure, and affords him an opportunity to give an exhibition of his wonderful powers. His interpretation of the "Carnival of Venice" with variations was wonderful. Miss Dora de Winton is capable as Eileen Granville; and Mr. J. D. Saunders does well as Reynard Carola.

Mimicry is Charles Norton's forte, and peculiarly happy it is. His imitations of Joe Elvin as "bookie" and a crowd of backers, including R. G. Knowles, Chirgwin, the Fighting Parson, Wilkie Bard, and Harry Lauder, are excessively clever. As a troupe Schiavonis will want some beating. They work splendidly together, and the general result is one of sterling excellence; they met with a magnificent reception and deserved it. The Bioscope is also an attraction.

To the managerial cares of the Hippodrome Mr. H. J. Brett has now succeeded; he brings with him a reputation not easily excelled, and we wish him success under the Dance régime.

THE CASE OF HARRY EVANS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I enclose you cheque for £1 1s. for Mr. Harry Evans, late manager Gatti's, Westminster. I know this to be a most deserving case; he is anxious to get to Canada, where he has relations. If any of his friends who knew him in the old days at Gatti's will help him to get there he will be more than grateful to them for their kindness. His address is 38, Dalwood-street, Camberwell.—Yours truly, JOE ELVIN.

THE AWARDS.—The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, K.C., the official arbitrator appointed to the music hall dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at *The Era* Offices. Copy, including postage, three-halfpence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE MISCHIEF-MAKERS."

Sketch, by Leonard Mortimer, Produced at the Camberwell Palace on Monday, Sept. 28.

The King of Neutralia, Prince Eric, Paul, Duke of Gravenburg ..... MR. LEONARD MORTIMER
Constance, Duchess of Rouvalia ..... MISS EDITH LEWIS
Count Karl Schotler ..... MR. E. E. HOWARD
Baron Hoffenlymer ..... MR. HAL BROUGH
Freda ..... MISS IDA CLIFFORD

An "imperial production" is appropriately being made this week at the Palace, at Camberwell, where Mr. Leonard Mortimer is sustaining his wide reputation as a sketch-producer, by the presentation of a "story of the wisdom of a king," entitled *The Mischief-Makers*. The action, which is laid in the palatial hall of the King of Neutralia, a supposititious state on the Continent, is swift and strong. Scarcely has the curtain risen than the aged King is struck down by an assassin, and his unscrupulous nephew, Duke Paul of Gravenburg, connives with the Duchess of Rouvalia to secure possession of the throne. The people have been oppressed by the Duke, and clamour for the abdication of the King, selecting as their mouthpiece the blind Socialist, Count Karl, who exercises an incredible influence over the multitude. Meanwhile the King's son, Eric, who has been speculating in copper mines abroad, returns with his bride, and claims the crown. He is received by the populace with cries of execration, which soon, however, change to cheers. Duke Paul, prompted by the wily Minister of Finance, puts it into the head of Count Karl that his daughter had been betrayed by Eric, and the blind old man seeks an audience with the young King. The monarch enters with all the panoply of State, and listens to the charges urged against him. He is soon able to rebut the first, that of oppressing the people, by declaring that the money which came from an unknown source, and saved the State from bankruptcy, was the result of the earnings of his copper enterprises. The further charge of betraying the Socialist leader's daughter is answered by the production of the girl, who is none other than the newly-made Queen.

The piece is sumptuously mounted, and the uniforms and costumes are elaborately designed. Mr. Leonard Mortimer acted with all his wonted fire as the young king called to the command of a disturbed country. He made a truly regal appearance, clad in ermine robe and wearing a kingly helmet, and his performance was throughout spirited and dramatic. Mr. E. E. Howard gave an impressive performance as Count Karl, his fine speeches being marked by excellent elocution. Mr. Walner Gregory gave an effective impersonation of the unscrupulous Duke of Gravenburg, acting and delivery being skilfully varied; and Mr. Hal Brough supplied a well-defined character sketch of Baron Hoffenlymer. The duties of Queen Freda and the Duchess of Rouvalia were gracefully undertaken by Miss Ida Clifford and Miss Edith Lewis. The sketch kept the audience engrossed throughout, and cheers loud and enthusiastic marked its progress.

"THE WHITE HAND OF A WOMAN."

A sketch, in three scenes, by George R. Sims, produced at Sadler's Wells on Monday, Sept. 28.

Captain Scarsdale ..... MR. BERNARD MERVYN
Marsden ..... MR. W. G. BLUNT
Lord Farnleigh ..... MR. SYDNEY C. KEARNS
Lady "Dickie" Dunbar ..... MISS MAMIE RENDLE
Belle Bellingham ..... MISS B. DOYLE
Poplin ..... MISS EDITH LORRAINE

One can always rely upon Mr. George R. Sims for something daring and original in the way of a plot, and we are certainly treated to a somewhat novel idea in the playlet under review. Belle Bellingham is the assumed name of an adventuress, Fay Faringdon, who murdered her husband some short time previously in America, and who is now in England seeking another victim in the person of Lord Farnleigh, who is certainly desperately in love with her. Indeed, a marriage has been arranged between the two, and it forms the topic of conversation in the opening scene, which is set in a riverside house at Maidenhead. The late Mr. Faringdon was a friend of Captain Scarsdale, who vows revenge upon Belle Bellingham. He has already put the police on her track, and a detective, disguised as a butler, is staying at the riverside residence. But the means which Scarsdale employs to avenge his friend is somewhat different from that which the ordinary man would put into use, for the gallant captain discovers a resource in matrimony. He proposes to the lady, is immediately accepted on account of his wealth, and together they disappear suddenly from Maidenhead. Scarsdale leaves a note for Lord Farnleigh stating what has been or is about to be done, and giving the name of the London hotel where he is to be found. The concluding scene shows us the Greville Hotel, Bond-street, where Scarsdale and Belle, now united in wedlock, are staying. Into their presence there rushes Lord Farnleigh, who threatens Scarsdale with a thrashing for having robbed him of his betrothed. Scarsdale retorts that, while he may have robbed Farnleigh of a wife, he has saved him from becoming married to a murderess by marrying the latter himself! Then he calls the detective in to arrest Mistress Belle, who, however, is so inconsiderate as to deprive the hangman of his fee by stabbing herself. Mr. Bernard Mervyn acts forcefully in the rôle of Captain Scarsdale; and Mr. Sydney C. Kearns is a quiet, gentlemanly personage as Lord Farnleigh. Miss B. Doyle as Belle Bellingham is a most charming personage in the early part of the sketch, and no one would suspect that she is a stage villainess until, in the concluding scene, she gives us just a few seconds of capital tragedy. Mr. W. Blunt as the detective, and Miss Mamie Rendle and Miss Edith Lorraine in their parts, render able assistance.

NOTTINGHAM HIPPODROME OPENED.

In the period of a little over five months the above hall has been erected and opened, a triumph of building that has never before been accomplished, thereby reflecting the greatest credit on the contractors, Messrs. J. Parkinson and Sons, of Blackpool, and Mr. Bertie Crewe, the architect. The opening night was fixed for Monday last, when the spacious auditorium presented a charming appearance with its Louis XVI. scheme of decoration in cream and gold, its striking crimson panels and hangings, its rich carpets in harmonious shades, and its perfect blaze of electric light.

Mr. Thomas Barrasford had issued a large number of invitations for the second performance, and the house assumed quite a gala appearance, being graced by the presence of the Mayor, Town Councillors, and many of the leading inhabitants. After the performance an inaugural supper was given at the George Hotel to about seventy guests, presided over by Mr. A. L. Parkinson, supported by Mr. Barrasford, Major Savage, Mr. George Dance, and Mr. R. G. Knowles. The toast of "Success to the Hippodrome" was duly honoured, and replied to by the directors present, and an enjoyable evening was spent.

An excellent company is engaged for the week, headed by the eminent raconteur, Mr. R. G. Knowles, who was in excellent form on Monday, his drollery, mercurial activity, and humorous "patter" being a constant source of merriment. A wonderful exhibition of herculean strength and skilful jugglery was given by the Carmos, who had an enthusiastic reception. A drawing-room sketch by Tom and Marie Motramo evoked applause and laughter, both for its humour and clever instrumental work. A pretty performance by the cockatoos of Clotilde and Musto won high praise, and the Stowe Bros. were well rewarded for smart acrobatic feats. Gladys Huxley sang pleasantly and effectively, and the Primrose Quartette rendered part-songs and glees to the enjoyment of all. *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law* proved a screamingly funny farce. Dan Whitley's song was well received, and animated pictures were shown on the Barrascope. The orchestra was a feature, under the bâton of Mr. Reed, and the acting-manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell, made all provision for the comfort of the visitors.

STAFF OF HIPPODROME, BLACKPOOL. ANNUAL PICNIC, SEPT. 13, 1908.

The staff of the Hippodrome, Blackpool, held their first annual picnic on Sunday, Sept. 13. A four-in-hand was chartered for Garstang, where the party, numbering about forty, were entertained to an excellent lunch and tea at the Kenlis Arms Hotel, a spot in a district famous for its beauty. In the course of the speeches Mrs. Fioni was enthusiastically referred to, and it was remarked that the Hippodrome, Blackpool, had been worked up under her care and management to a huge financial and general success. Mrs. Fioni, in her response, took the opportunity of thanking her staff for their loyal support, and declared that it was only by a feeling of camaraderie and the combined efforts of every one of her employees, that the almost unexpected and unprecedented success that had been achieved at the Blackpool Hippodrome could be maintained. Thanks were also tendered to the picnic committee for the successful organisation of the outing.

GOLDSTON ON CONJURING.

There are few things more fascinating than to be told "how it is done," and Mr. Will Goldston, of Gamage's, in his most interesting book, "Tricks and Illusions for Amateur and Professional Conjurers," which has been published by that famous firm, has "covered the ground" in his descriptions of the *modus operandi* of many of the feats which have puzzled and perplexed the outsider. The work is divided into three parts: "Tricks," "Handcuff, Box, and Sack Tricks," and "Stage Illusions." In order to make his explanations clearer, Mr. Goldston adds to each of them an excellent illustration. Some 150 different marvels of ingenuity are depicted and described in this clever and compendious work, which will doubtless meet with a large sale amongst conjurers, amateur and professional. It supplies a want which has long been felt by both classes; and besides this, it should be extremely interesting to the general public, whom it initiates very agreeably into the mysteries of the craft.

CAPTAIN GRUBER is at the King's Theatre, Gateshead, this week with his well-trained elephant, horse, and pony; Mr. W. T. Thompson and company are seen in a screaming absurdity entitled *Watch the Chalk*; a great success is *The Fatal Disc*, played by Nicholas Graydon and company, a full notice of which appears on another page; the Kurios have some cleverly devised "props" and a fund of amusing gags; Walter Stanley is a successful comedian; Bernard and Weston raise numerous laughs; Geo. Rae is a very eccentric comedian; Steeley and Dowton, burlesque artists, Cissie Thompson, comedienne, and the usual pictures are other attractive items on the programme.

THE programme given by the Pierrots this week, at the Pier Pavilion, New Brighton, includes Mr. Charles Harvey and Mr. Nat Known, comedians; Mr. John Hughes, basso; Mr. Ernest Sewell, illusionist; Mr. W. G. Sutton, vocalist; Miss M. Cathcart, comedienne; and Miss C. Thompson, soprano. Mr. Harvey gains much laughter, and Mr. Sutton sings some taking items; whilst the other ladies and gentlemen of the company all work hard, with satisfactory results.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THE GEM, GREAT YARMOUTH.

At Yarmouth Police-court on Tuesday, before a full bench of magistrates, Mr. C. J. Wiltshire renewed his application for a music licence for the Gem. At the outset he elicited from Mr. H. Chamberlin that he did not now oppose on behalf of the Britannia Pier. He also stated that, on considering all the circumstances, the applicants had decided not to proceed with their appeal, so that the justices could now consider the matter. The present bench was not asked to sit in judgment on the magistrates who previously refused a full licence for music, singing, and dancing. Now all that was asked was a restricted licence, allowing the piano accompaniment to the pictures, songs to be sung illustrating the pictures, the gramophone to be permitted inside in order to give the pianist a rest, and that the Sunday hours should be the same as for other places of entertainment. No suggestion of complaint could be made against the character of the entertainment. There was no objection to the building, or to the entertainment, and therefore he failed to see why a licence should be refused. The only private opposition now appeared to come from the Cabin, but the owner had just let it to a new tenant for three years, and the tenant had no objection to the Gem. So it came to this, that the opposition was purely trade rivalry, and he hoped the Bench would not hold that Mr. Nightingale, Miss Lawton, and others could claim a monopoly in the supply of entertainments at Yarmouth. He submitted that a fair and strong case had been made out for the granting of the licence.

A witness named Thrower, who proved publication of the notices, said there was no stage, and it was necessary the hall should be in darkness to show the pictures. The floor was occupied with chairs.

Mr. Cochran, manager and director of the Gem, said there was no intention on the part of applicants to go beyond the terms of the proposed restricted licence. Cross-examined: He had been a director since June 26. It was not true that only nine £1 shares had been allotted, and if that was a return from Somerset House this month it was because the official record was not up to date. It was certainly a bonâ fide company. Mr. Bostock was a shareholder and director. He ran the Jungle at Earl's Court, and was a proper person to have this licence. He had run the show the whole summer without a licence after entering an appeal against a conviction. The appeal was dropped now as a prelude to this application. He had not acted in defiance of the magistrates. They had had no different advice, but now thought it desirable to carry on the entertainment with a licence. The piano might be going ten hours a day, but there were intervals. He had three pianists and three bioscope operators to divide the daily duties. The building held from 800 to 1,000 persons. At the lowest price charged, 2d., some were able to sit, and others stood; but they did not block the gangways. In addition to the main exit, there were doors at the side, and at the back of the screen was an emergency exit by a large push door. He considered there was no place in Yarmouth with better exits. The owners of the building he believed to be the Yarmouth and Gorleston Investment Corporation, which he thought was a syndicate. All his negotiations had been through Messrs. Ferrier and Ferrier.

By Mr. de Caux: He ran the show without a licence on account of the opinion obtained. He next applied for one on the suggestion of the Chief-Constable, not because he thought the advice was wrong. Originally a dancing licence was asked for in connection with the moving pictures, not for dancing on the floor.

Re-examined: Mr. Bostock was one of the best-known showmen in the world, and held licences all over the country. No pianist, as had been suggested, played for ten hours a day at the Gem. There were three for a day. The building was comfortably emptied in about one minute.

Mr. Wiltshire, in reply to Mr. T. W. Swindell, said they would not have a man outside touting if the magistrates objected to it. They were most anxious to meet the wishes of the Bench in every way.

Mr. Chamberlin said the whole thing seemed shrouded in mystery. The building was owned by the Yarmouth and Gorleston Investment Corporation, of which they knew nothing, and the show was carried on by the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, of which, according to a return dated Sept. 19 from Somerset House, had nine shares allotted. Had such a case in the interest of the public been made out that the magistrates should reverse a decision given by the Bench two months ago, though some justices, he was glad to see, had come who did not usually attend. He maintained that the application was precisely the same as at first, and that if it was granted the promoters could have anything except a brass band; and another season it might blossom out into a full-blown music hall. The south part of the town was considered the best end of Yarmouth, and they might well hear of big houses being to let if such places as this were to be planted there. Mrs. Lawton might well complain that she was paying £600 a year to the coffers of the Corporation, and a licence was now to be granted to strangers who came to Yarmouth to run a rival entertainment. No one could say that Yarmouth was not well supplied with amusements already: He asserted that the appeal entered was a bogus one, because applicants had got their season and made their profit, and now they dropped the appeal, which should not have been made to the Quarter Sessions at all, but to the Court of King's Bench. This matter, he complained, had been "engineered" in a way that was unique, and no doubt if it succeeded they would rub their hands. But he would not say what they would think of Yarmouth people. If the licence was granted it would be a most unusual course for the Bench to adopt. Proprietors of other entertainments who had invested large sums in providing shows had a right to come to the Court and protest against further amusements being forced on the town.

The magistrates were twenty minutes conferring in their private room, and the Mayor, on their return to court, said the licence would be granted upon conditions.

The Clerk said the conditions were that the building be opened during the usual hours, that the number of persons to be admitted at one time should not exceed that to be fixed by the Borough Surveyor after measuring the floor-space. The only musical instruments permitted to be one piano and one gramophone. On no occasion were these instruments to be used outside the building. Only one song or ballad was to be sung during each hour of the entertainment, so that there would be one hour's interval between each song. At no time must announcements of the entertainment be shouted from the outside, or any megaphone be used for that purpose.

INDISPENSABLE! Rayne's "Pocket Date Book." Contents: Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance. Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list of brougham proprietors, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c. Price 1s., post free. The proceeds from the sale will be divided equally amongst the two great charities of the dramatic and musical professions, the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Home Fund. "THE ERA" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Aug. 18.—The Tivoli has a choice programme, the newcomers being Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott in their sketch, *Semi-Detached*. The talented couple were well received. Mr. Meymott is a native of Sydney (his father was for years one of our District Court judges), but he has been making headway in London and provincial theatres. Austin Rudd, Mignonette Kokin, the Stavordale Quintette, and Mr. Harry Rickards' pick of European and Australian artists give a very fine show.

"THE KILTIES" BAND opened on the 15th at the Town Hall, under Mr. Frederick Shipman's direction. The house was packed to hear the Canadians, who give an attractive performance, including Highland flings, Irish jigs, and sailor's hornpipes by the Clan Johnstone, weird bagpipe solos, and humorous selections among the more ambitious music played by this unique combination. Two of the Kilties are over seven feet high. The Governor attended the first concert.

MISS ELLA CASPERS, the young Australienne with a beautiful contralto voice, gave her farewell concert on the 15th prior to departing for European tuition. Mesdames Melba, Butt, and Sherwin highly praise Miss Casper's voice and singing, and she has a definitely favourable future in immediate reach. A new basso, Mr. W. M. McEachern, from Albury, made his first Sydney appearance, and created a good impression. Miss Zara Wolinski, possessed of a pure lyric soprano voice, was heartily encored, as was also Mr. Emil Süssmilch. Other local artists assisted, and Miss Ella Caspers was loaded with floral tributes.

WEST'S PICTURES, at the Palace Theatre, now include a fine set of scenes from *The Silver King*, and during the Fleet visit the management will revive "Our Navy" series of life on board a British man-o'-war.

STEVENS' PICTURES, McMahon's *For the Term of His Natural Life*, and the picture shows are all doing paying business, and the Amphitheatre has an adequate vaudeville company.

MELBOURNE, Aug. 25.—PRINCESS'S THEATRE (Lessee, Mr. Allan Hamilton).—A large audience witnessed the performance of *The Prince Chap* on Saturday evening. This pleasing comedy can only be staged for five more nights. On Saturday evening next Mr. J. C. Williamson's company will open in the Dutch musical play, *The Red Mill*.

THEATRE ROYAL (Lessees, Messrs. Meynell and Gunn; Business-Manager, Mr. Stanley W. Cherry).—After a successful run of three weeks the sensational drama, *Two Little Sailor Boys*, will be withdrawn on Friday night next. On Saturday evening the National Opera Company make their first appearance in Melbourne. Their opening production will be *Les Cloches de Corneville*. Popular prices are being charged, and the season promises to be a successful one.

OPERA HOUSE (Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon).—A full house thoroughly enjoyed the generous programme provided on Saturday evening. Mr. Burt Shepard made his first appearance in an entertaining monologue turn. A specially hearty reception was accorded to the troupe of Arabs, whose surprising exhibition becomes more popular the more it is seen. Mr. Tod Lowen rendered three quaint ditties in his best style. Other artists on the present bill include Fred Bluett, Rigoletto Bros., Desmond Sisters, Four Rosebuds, Nellie Wilson, George Dean, and the Ranger Sisters. A distinct hit was made with the biograph pictures depicting the arrival of the American Fleet at Sydney.

KING'S THEATRE (Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. Julius Grant).—The stirring melodrama, *A Life's Revenge*, was revived on Saturday evening, and served to draw a full house. The part of Princess Vauda Ivyala was ably sustained by Miss Eugenie Duggan. Mr. Lawrence Dunbar was well cast as the Prince; he succeeded in making himself thoroughly detested by the audience. Other characters were satisfactorily played by Mr. Bert Bailey, Mr. Temple Harrison, Mr. Edmund Duggan, and Miss Ada Guildford; while the minor parts were all well taken by other members of the company. The scenery and costumes left nothing to be desired.

BIJOU THEATRE (Director, Mr. Henry Hayward).—Mr. Hayward's company are approaching the end of a successful season. This week will afford the last opportunity of seeing the wonderful illusions of Maskelyne and Devant, the adroit and brilliant juggling of Gintaro, and the inimitable drolleries of Mr. Barclay Gammon.

GAIETY THEATRE (Manager, Mr. Harry Brennan).—The National Vaudeville Company appeared in a complete change of programme on Saturday evening. A special feature was the reappearance of Jarvis and Martyn, comedy jugglers and hoop spinners. The rest of Mr. Brennan's company contributed interesting turns.

WEST'S pictures at Wirth's Olympia continue to draw large houses.

MADAME STOCKHAM'S Ladies' Orchestra, including the celebrated harp trio and vocalists, will be heard at the Crystal Palace on Monday next and during the week. This band of entertainers were extremely successful when they last visited Sydenham, and no doubt they will attract an unusually large crowd.

HANDSOME prizes are now on view in the Centre Transept of the Crystal Palace. These will be gained by many of the young ladies and gentlemen and children who compete in the Grand Fancy Dress Carnival and Confetti Fête which will take place at the Palace on Wednesday, Oct. 14. There is, however, no reasan why old folk should not also endeavour to secure some of the beautiful trophies. There will be prizes for the handsomest, most original, and most topical costumes, and for the advertisements, comical, and children's competitions. Competitors in fancy dress only will be admitted to the carnival, and can compete free of charge except for the usual admission to the Crystal Palace. The North Nave will be opened at 6 p.m., and the judging will take place at 6.15 p.m.

THE Chrysanthemum Show will be held at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday next and two following days. The Kennel Club Dog Show is fixed for Oct. 20 to 22.

REHEARSALS for the eighth season of the Crystal Palace Orchestral Society will be resumed on Monday evening in the Concert Room, for Elgar's "King Olaf," McCunn's "Lord Ullin's Daughter," new concert selection from German's opera *The Princess of Kensington*, "Suite Algerienne" (Saint-Saëns), and "Welsh Rhapsody" (German). There are vacancies for all strings, and application should be made to Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock, conductor, or Mr. P. J. Morgan, hon. secretary.

COLLEY CIBBER, who was often deficient in his part from making too free with the bottle, was one evening sustaining a character in a Roman tragedy. When he came to this passage, "I was then in Rome," his memory failed him, and after several ineffectual attempts to recover the passage, and receiving no assistance from the prompter, he started aside, and seizing the fellow by the collar, fairly dragged him forward, and pinching his ear, exclaimed, "Hang you, you scoundrel, what was I doing in Rome? Why don't you tell me?"

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MR. FRED MILLER'S TESTIMONIAL.

The excellent qualities of Mr. Fred Miller, as a man, as a sportsman, and as a manager, are generally recognised by all branches of the profession, and no artist or proprietor who has ever come into contact with him has failed to recognise his sterling honesty of purpose, or to be impressed by his unobtrusive courtesy and consideration to everyone working with him. For fifteen years Mr. Miller has been associated with the halls, and though the sphere of his activity for most of that time has been restricted to the South and East of London, his connection with the Syndicate has brought him much popularity up West. Several of his friends, taking into consideration his long and honourable career, feel that the present time is very opportune for presenting him with a testimonial, which it is intended shall take the shape of a purse of gold. Mr. W. H. Armstrong, the well-known professional solicitor, of 1, Renfrew-road, Lambeth, is interesting himself in the project, and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, manager of *The Era*, is the hon. treasurer of the fund, and will be pleased to receive subscriptions.

It was at Lechlade, Gloucestershire, that Mr. Fred Miller first saw the light. His father, an influential grazing farmer, was an enthusiastic rider to hounds, and from the age of twelve young Fred followed his father in the field, and in many an eventful run was in the first flight. At the age of seventeen he accepted an offer from an uncle in the cattle trade, and settled down with him at Wormholt Farm, Shepherd's Bush, where he gained considerable experience and became a good business man. The death of his uncle brought about a change in his fortunes, and he accepted a situation as travelling secretary with Captain Macdonald. Again his employer died, and he had to try fresh fields and pastures new. Through the instrumentality of the late Mr. Harry Lundy, distantly related to him through marriage, Mr. Miller was introduced to Mr. George Adney Payne, who gave him the position of secretary to Mr. Arthur Tressidder, then manager of the Paragon. On Mr. Tressidder's departure on a

MR. FRED MILLER.

voyage in search of health Mr. Miller was transferred to Mr. Will Lennon, the successor of Mr. Tressidder at the Paragon. At his death Mr. G. A. Payne chose Mr. Miller for the managership of the house in the Mile End-road, and on the resignation of Mr. Fred Holden of his position at the Canterbury Mr. Miller was installed as manager of both the Canterbury and the Paragon.

The jubilee of the Canterbury in November, 1902, when Charles Morton paid his last visit to a house that was indelibly associated with his career, owed its interest and its success to the organising powers of Mr. Miller, who placed before the patrons of the historic house a novel realisation of the present and past in music-hall entertainment. The portraits of favourites of the 'sixties, the 'seventies, and the 'eighties were thrown upon a screen, and many of the famous old songs were sung by new favourites. It was a great night. Though Mr. Miller has severed his connection with the Canterbury, it is to be hoped that he will be placed in a position commensurate with his abilities and experience at another hall. His many friends anticipate that it will be in London.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	£	s.	d.
Dr. Bodie	2	2	0
Harry Lauder	1	1	0
Foreman and Fannan	1	1	0
Frost Smith	1	1	0
Little Tich	1	1	0
Henri Gros	1	1	0
George Mozart	1	1	0
Mark Melford	1	1	0
W. T. Helmsley	1	1	0
Henry Kemble	1	1	0
Bertha Stuart	1	1	0
Tom Shaw	1	1	0
J. Leopold	1	1	0
Kendall Robinson	1	1	0
Gilbert Girard	1	1	0
Dave Carter	1	1	0
John Nathan	1	1	0
Paul Cinquevalli	1	1	0
S. G. Goodwin	1	1	0
George Loader	1	1	0
J. Collins	1	1	0
Will Evans	1	1	0
Fred Abrahams	1	1	0
Michael Abrahams	1	1	0
Harry Rickards	1	1	0
Margaret Parker	1	1	0
Mr. and Mrs. John Lawson	1	1	0
Theophilus Dunkley	1	1	0
Joe Elvin	1	1	0
E. J. Churchill	1	1	0
W. F. Frame (Hooch Aye)	0	10	6
A. E. Abrahams	0	10	6
E. Bosanquet	0	5	0

Mr. Kendall Robinson, a staunch friend of Mr. Fred Miller, in sending a contribution to this Fund, testifies as follows:—"I have much pleasure in enclosing cheque for one guinea for the Miller Testimonial. I have known Mr. Miller for many years. Uniformly warm-hearted and open-handed, his kindnesses and 'good turns' to large numbers of those who were brought in contact with him at the Paragon and Canterbury can only have been limited by his physical capacity for doing them."

DR. PARR used to tell the following story:—A Mr. Greethead wrote a tragedy which he called *The Regent*. It came out whilst the great question of the Regency was pending, and so hotly debated by Pitt and Fox. Of course, people flocked to see a play with such a name, thinking, no doubt, it related to the great party question of the day. But it was a Spanish story, and had nothing to do with the Regency; and everybody was disappointed. Mrs. Siddons, by her excellent acting, kept it up for some nights, but it was only a faint, languishing state of existence. At last some wags in the pit set up a laugh at some ridiculous passage in the dialogue, and then it sank for ever. Somebody asks one of the personages where he had left the King, and is answered thus:—

"Within his tent, *surrounded* by a *friend*
Or *two*, he sits and mocks at fortune."

Now, if the word had been *attended*, all would have been well; but the idea of a man *surrounded* by a friend or two was most egregiously absurd.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

THE sixth annual concert in aid of the Benevolent Funds of the London branches of the National Association of Theatrical Employees will take place on Sunday evening, Nov. 29, in His Majesty's Theatre, Mr. Tree having generously consented to lend the theatre to the Association for this purpose. The Concert Committee are now considering the arrangements, and it will endeavour to provide a novel programme as, having regard to the concerts given by the Sunday League and the Musicians' Union, it is not intended to compete with them in the provision of instrumental music.

MR. J. B. WILLIAMS, the general secretary of the Musicians' Union, has been paid an unusual compliment. At the suggestion of Mr. Thomas Barrasford, he has been selected to arbitrate between Mr. Barrasford and the Brussels Musicians' Union in the dispute now proceeding between that organisation and the management of the Alhambra Music Hall in that city. The Brussels Union is connected with the International Federation of Musicians, of which the A.M.U. is an affiliated body. Mr. Williams has already left for Brussels.

MR. WM. MATHER has been appointed stage-manager at the Islington Hippodrome in place of Mr. Tolano.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Last Saturday a licence was applied for at Bow-street for a child to appear for one week at the Holborn Empire. Her mother was present, and informed the magistrate that she would accompany the child. She also produced a doctor's certificate stating that the child was in thorough good health and perfectly fit to fulfil the engagement, and also produced the child's birth certificate—in fact, complied with all the requirements of the Act. The magistrate absolutely refused to grant the licence on the ground that the mother, who was in the box, was unable from memory to satisfy him the year the child was born in, although the certificate of birth was lying before him.

The Act in its present form applies only to theatres, and not to a music hall with two performances nightly. The licence states a child must have four hours' rest between each performance, consequently a child going on at 6.45 in the first house must go on not before 10.45 in the second house. The child would therefore not be able to reach home before eleven o'clock, or later. Is this not cruelty to children?

The ridiculous decision of the Bow-street magistrate will, no doubt, influence other magistrates, and I think a clear-headed member of the L.C.C. or some other important body should, without delay, take the matter up, and endeavour to place the Act in a more proper form.—Yours faithfully,

A MUSIC HALL MANAGER.

Brixton, S.W., Sept. 30, 1908.

THE ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

"Masquerades and costume recitals," writes Mr. H. Barton Barker in his "History of the London Stage," "were given at the English Opera House to fill up the winter months, and occasionally special permission was obtained for some distinguished actor to appear in a round of legitimate characters. It was in 1821 that Mrs. Glover played Hamlet for her benefit, and a year or two later Mathews was allowed to appear in some of his famous characters of legitimate comedy. Here, in 1821, was produced the operatic version of *Guy Mannering*, Miss Kelly being Meg Merrilies. Liston and Mme. Vestris in 1823 were playing in *Sweethearts and Wives*.

"In the same season was given a dramatic version of Mrs. Shelly's weird romance *Frankenstein*. T. P. Cooke's Monster was a wonderful performance, which he afterwards repeated at the Porte St. Martin, and for eighty nights thrilled the Parisians as he had thrilled the Londoners. No less hair-stirring was his Zamiel, in an English version of *Der Freischütz*. Though the score was very much condensed, the great opera was an enormous success. The minor house could still boast of the finest talent of the day. In addition to the actors already named may be added Miss Stephens, Henry Phillips, Miss Romer; two celebrated juvenile prodigies of the time—Clara Fisher and Master Burke; James Bland, Keeley; and, on July 2, 1825, the bills announced that Miss Goward, from the Theatres Royal, Norwich and York, would make her first appearance in London as Rosina in the ballad opera of that name, and Little Pickle in *The Spoiled Child*. That lady was destined to become one of the greatest favourites, scarcely excepting Fanny Kelly, that ever trod those boards, but she was better known thereafter as Mrs. Keeley.

"During 1828, an explosion of gas having compelled the closing of Covent Garden, the company appeared here, and Kean played some of his finest parts—Shylock, Sir Giles Overreach, Sir Edward Mortimer. A famous melodramatic sensation, *The Bottle Imp*, in which O'Smith, who was to be Cooke's successor in diablerie, played the Imp, and Frank Matthews made his first appearance, was produced in the same year, and ran for forty-four nights.

"On Feb. 10, 1830, while in the occupancy of a French company, the English Opera House died the natural death of all theatres—by fire. It was a terrible conflagration, sweeping away one side of Exeter-street, and involving a loss to Mr. Arnold of £8,000. During the next three years the company played now at the Adelphi, now at the Olympic; and it was not until July, 1834, that the present building was finished and opened under the name of the 'New Theatre Royal, Lyceum, and English Opera House.' Beazeley, the architect, made a curious omission in the plan—the gallery stairs were forgotten. This extraordinary oversight was not discovered until the building was finished, and a temporary wooden staircase, which however, remained for several years, had to be hastily put up for the ascent of the gods to their Olympus."

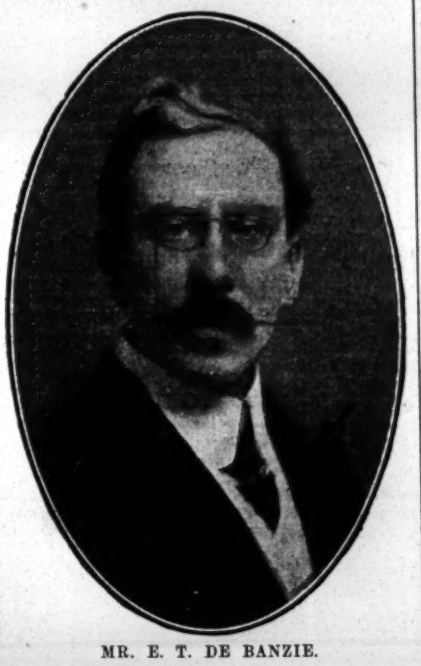
SOME one or two years after Edmund Kean's metropolitan *début* he was engaged in the circuit of Mr. J—— C——. His success was immense, and he received nightly half the receipts of the house. The average exceeded £50 per night. Kean's share was brought to him each night after the play by Mr. J—— C——, to whom, however, nothing could induce him to speak one word; but, with a doggedness that appeared premeditated, when the well-known knock came to the door of his dressing-room, he always said *aloud* to his servant, "See what *that man* wants." About 1827, when the once flourishing manager, stricken by sorrow and by years, applied to the tragedian to play one night for his benefit, Kean consented: the night was fixed for the one after Kean's engagement. Some nights previous to its occurrence he, with some of the actors of the company, met at a tavern in the town, and the *ci-devant* manager, thinking all former ill-feeling buried, rose, and made a speech allusive to Kean's generosity. This was received with loud acclamations, amid which Kean rose and said: "Don't let us misunderstand one another. I am bound to you by no ties of former acquaintance. I don't play for you because you were once *my* manager, or *a* manager. If ever a man deserved his destiny it is you. If ever there was a family of tyrants, it is yours. I do *not* play for you from former friendship; but I play for you because you are a *fallen man*."

OUR MUSICAL CONDUCTORS.

MR. E. T. DE BANZIE.

Of French extraction, Mr. E. T. de Banzie was born in Hull on June 7, 1862, educated at Carlisle, and graduated in Medicine at the Glasgow University. He comes of a medical stock, his father being an M.D., LL.D., and his mother a nurse with Miss Florence Nightingale during the Crimean War; but music had a firmer hold on Mr. de Banzie than medicine, so he "threw physic to the dogs," and devoted his attention to St. Cecilia. Glasgow saw most of his labours, and by natural ability and undoubted business capacity he rose to be one of the most popular musicians in Scotland. The International Exhibition of 1888 brought him unmistakably to the front as a conductor. "De Banzie's Band" became famous, and he had the honour of performing before the late Queen Victoria on three occasions. Mr. de Banzie was for over twelve years musical-director for the Glasgow Corporation bands, in the parks, and concerts; director of the sacred and classical concerts; bandmaster of the Glasgow Highlanders; and resident musical-director for Messrs. Howard and Wyndham at the Royal and Royalty theatres, where he stage-managed as well as conducted three consecutive pantomimes for the late T. W. Charles, of the Prince's, Manchester. He was also Professor of Instrumentation at the Athenæum School of Music, and his many private pupils and apprentices now hold prominent positions as soloists and conductors.

It was Mr. Robert Courtneidge who first induced Mr. de Banzie to try authorship, and the result was a farcical operetta, *Pim-Pom!* written expressly for Mr. Courtneidge's benefit at the Glasgow Princess's, where he was playing principal comedy part in the pantomime of *Peter Wilkins*. Since then *Her Wedding Day*, *Honour Bright*, *The Inkslinger*, *In the Green-room*, *Who's Zoo?* *A Scotch Marriage*, *A Scotch and Polly*, &c., have issued from his fertile pen. He is an indefatigable worker. *Par example*, he produced in March last



MR. E. T. DE BANZIE.

year at the Regent, Salford, *A Scotch Marriage*, in July *A Trip to the Highlands*, and in September, at the Pavilion, Glasgow, *Who's Zoo?* this in addition to his duties as conductor, and the many calls upon his pen for songs and minor sketches. Mr. de Banzie is well known as a composer of melodramatic and pantomime music, and was resident-composer at the Pavilion Theatre, London, with Mr. Isaac Cohen for five years, and in conjunction with the late Fred Locke has "scored" many successes. One pantomime they wrote—*Babes in the Wood*—for Battersby's Children's Opera Co., ran without a break for nearly four years. Mr. de Banzie is well known in Masonic circles as an enthusiastic brother, holding high degrees, and for "Masonic work done" has had conferred upon him hon. life membership by over a dozen lodges. He was elected to the W.M.'s chair in Lodge Dramatic, 541 (his mother Lodge), four times. He is an artist in both oil and water colours of no mean order, and his ready pen-and-ink sketches afford amusement to his many friends and intimates, who include some of the most prominent artists in the theatrical and music-hall world.

AMUSEMENTS IN NAPLES.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NAPLES, Sept. 24.—The summer season here has been an ideal one. The lion's share of patronage has fallen to the charming Eldorado Lucia, and its elegant summer theatre has been taxed to its utmost capacity night after night. *The Merry Widow* (*La Vedova Allegra*) and *The Prince of Pilsen*, played by Signor Lombardo's Operette Company, were the most successful pieces, recording about forty consecutive performances respectively.

THE annual competition for the best new Neapolitan songs, in celebration of the Piedigrotta Feast, was held at the beginning of this month, and many beautiful songs were submitted for prizes offered by the several local music publishers. A nightly festival of the successful songs and duets is now held in the beautiful Galleria Umberto I. Enthusiastic demonstrations are given to the Neapolitan duettists, Signor and Signora Moretti.

GREAT preparations are being made by the management of the Teatro S. Carlo for the coming winter season, which promises to be the best for many years. Amongst the operas new to Naples are Wagner's *Crepuscolo degli Dei*, Massenet's *Thäis*, Cilea's *Gloria*, Mascheroni's *Perugina*, and a sacred action, *Battista*, based on the *Salomé* subject, with music by D. Giocondo Fino. Other operas will be Verdi's *Aida*, Mascagni's *Ratcliff*, Thomas's *Amleto*, and Bizet's *Carmen*. The artists specially engaged for Wagner's opera are Borgatti and Litwinne. Among the tenors will be A. Bassi, M. Gilion, F. Vignas, and John McCormack. Battistini and Titta Ruffo figure at the head of the baritones. Amongst the ballets is *Nel Giappone*, by C. Coppi, of Alhambra fame.

"WHEN you draw your parallels of great actors," said Elliston, addressing Moncrieff, whom he had requested to become his biographer, "you will not fail to recollect that Garrick could not sing—I can. That Lewis could not act tragedy—I can. That Mossop could not play comedy—I can. That Kean never wrote a drama—I have. Do not forget these things, sir, but in mentioning my name you cannot help associating with my name all that is memorable in the age in which I flourished."

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the PUBLISHER, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

THE OLD STOCK DAYS.

Just as I was beginning to think again of the Queen's shilling, wrote John Coleman in "Fifty Years of an Actor's Life," there came an offer to join the company of Messrs. Pike and Gudgeon at Greenock for the light comedy and juvenile tragedy at a rural guinea a week. The light comedy and juveniles, quotha! At last my ability was being discovered, and doubtless this was the first step on the highway to fortune.

I immediately closed with this munificent proposal, and the next night found me in the steerage of the good ship "Roslyn Castle" bound for Greenock.

As soon as I landed, I looked out for the bill of the play. Oh, joy! oh, rapture! I saw myself advertised in large letters after this fashion:

TO-MORROW NIGHT THE CELEBRATED JUVENILE TRAGEDIAN, MR. J. C., FROM [VERY MUCH FROM] THE THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE, WILL MAKE HIS FIRST APPEARANCE IN THIS CITY [WHY CITY?] IN THE PART OF ALONZO IN SHERIDAN'S GRAND TRAGIC PLAY OF *PIZARRO; OR, THE DEATH OF ROLLA*.

Night falls—I forget the time of year, but it must have been in the winter, because it got dark so soon. I don my great-coat, and am off to the theatre. At last I find it. It is fully an hour before the time of commencement; there is not a light or a sign of a light outside the building.

The stage door is open (there is no hall porter). I grope about, and at length find my way to the stage. The gas is not yet on; but by the light of three or four stodgy tallow dips bound together in a vessel, which I afterwards learn is called the "fat pot," I perceive a remarkable-looking person in a shabby black dress-coat and vest, a clerical top hat, white choker, and slate-coloured continuations sweeping the stage. This gentleman is humming something to himself about "Heather Jock" being "awa." While I am wondering who Heather Jock may be and what takes him "awa" the singer catches sight of me, pauses, and abruptly inquires, "Well, sir, and who may you be?"

I respond with the requisite information, and ask when Mr. Gudgeon or Mr. Pike is likely to arrive. My interlocutor informs me that he himself is Mr. Pike, and that his partner, the redoubtable Gudgeon, is expected immediately. Thereupon Mr. Pike thrusts his greasy paw (to the serious detriment of my lavender gloves) into mine, gives me an effusive welcome, produces some snuff, wrapped up in a piece of brown paper, from his waistcoat pocket, and offers me a pinch. Wishing to be civil to the old gentleman, who, I feel convinced, is one of those eccentric managers of whom I have so often heard, I take a pinch, with woeful consequences.

Mr. Pike graciously inquires about my late manager and various members of the Belfast company, and resumes the apparently congenial task of sweeping the stage. At last the property man appears. This worthy fellow is "three single gentlemen rolled into one"—property man, carpenter, and gasman. He "lights up," and with the aid of Mr. Pike sets the scene and drops the curtain. Then, announcing the arrival of the great Gudgeon, Pike offers to introduce me. I am conducted to a large and commodious dressing-room (for the theatre is a decent little house), where I am confronted by a tall, elderly, bald-headed man, built somewhat like a spider. His face is deeply pitted with smallpox. He has no chest to speak of. His lower limbs resemble those of a daddy-long-legs. His protuberant digestive apparatus, however, asserts itself in a manner so menacing that it looks as if it were about to burst through the doublet which he has assumed for *The Master of Ravenswood*. He inquires about the Keans by their Christian names, which, of course, evinces his familiarity with those distinguished artists.

While making these inquiries he leisurely attaches half a dozen corkscrew ringlets to a black scratch wig, which constitutes his *chevelure* for the last Lord of Ravenswood.

"Of course, you've acted Alonzo?" he remarks, casually.

As I didn't want him to know I was a novice, I improvise a pious fraud. "Of course!" I reply; "but I shall want to have a look at the book, just to refresh my memory."

"By all means; we'll have it looked out. Meanwhile, Pike, perhaps you'd better introduce the young gentleman to the company."

"Certainly," replies Pike; "come along, sir."

When we return to the stage I hear the band rasping away. Furtively peeping through the curtain, I catch sight of a little man in a Richard armhole robe and a short white wig (through which, in various places, wisps of stubbly black hair are protruding). He is the leader, fiddling away for dear life at a set of Scottish quadrilles, and is supported by a cornet, a flute, and a trombone. There are two or three dozen people in the pit eating scones and cracking nuts—altogether a lively and inspiring sight! Presently Mr. Pike leads me to the left-hand side of the stage, where I find a fire, round which are grouped three elderly ladies and two boys of my own age.

One of the ladies was a gaunt, elderly person with "no prominences to speak of but her heels and her elbows." Her scanty tresses were bound by a strip of tinsel lace which did duty for what in those days was called a "zone"; her eyes were like boiled gooseberries; her nose corrugated, but celestially inclined; while a dress of threadbare black velvet emphasised the absence of adipose tissue and the presence of her lank, lean arms. At the moment of my introduction to Mrs. Gudgeon she was taking snuff. The situation was awkward, but she rose to the occasion and cordially invited me to join her. With every desire to make myself agreeable to the lady, the recollection of my last experience emboldened me to decline the proffered courtesy.

The second lady was a buxom party of middle age and ample dimensions, with eyes which must have done much mischief in their time, a piquant, tip-tilted nose, a capacious mouth, splendid teeth, and a still passably fine head of black hair. Such was the better half of Mr. Pike. The third and last lady, Mrs. Melton, was a faded, emaciated creature, who looked as if she had been pressed in a *hortus siccus*, which had squeezed every drop of blood out of her attenuated body. She still retained traces of former beauty, an abundance of fair hair, bright blue eyes, and pearly teeth. The poor soul was a widow, and mother of the two boys, Harry and Willie, to whom I was now introduced. One of them did Hayston of Bucklaw; the other did half a dozen parts.

By this time the curtain had rung up, and the leader of the orchestra came on the stage for Sir William Ashton. During these repeated introductions I was all impatience to make the acquaintance of "the fair, the chaste, the inexpressive" Miss Love. So I asked one of the boys when she appeared.

"Huts!" he replied, "there's no Miss Love!"

"Then who plays Lucy Ashton?"

"Yon!" said he, pointing significantly to the Gorgon with the grizzled hair, who was taking a final pinch of *rappee* before she went on the stage. My heart sank into my boots as I beheld this gruesome apparition. How I wished myself back at Belfast—anywhere, anywhere out of this museum of antiquities!

THE funeral of Mabel Countess Russell took place at Maidenhead on Friday, Sept. 25.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are Abingdon, on the Great Western; Burton-on-Trent, on the London and North-Western, Midland, Great Northern, and North Staffordshire; Cirencester, on the Great Western, and Midland and South-Western Junction; Horwich, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; King's Norton, on the Midland; Kirkby Lonsdale, on the London and North-Western; Macclesfield, on the London and North-Western, Great Central, and North Staffordshire; Middleton, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; New Wortley Feast; Tamworth, on the London and North-Western, and Midland; Wibsey, on the Great Northern, and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Woburn, on the London and North-Western; Alcester, on the Midland and Great Western; Brough Hill, on the North-Eastern; Peterborough, on the Great Northern, Great Central, London and North-Western, Great Eastern, Midland, and Midland and Great Northern Joint; Woodstock, on the Great Western; Alvechurch, on the Midland; Belford, on the North-Eastern; Bridport, on the Great Western; Hungerford, on the Great Western; Northleach, on the Midland and South-Western Junction, and Great Western; Tetbury, on the Great Western; Hull, on the Great Central, North-Eastern, Great Northern, London and North-Western, Midland, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Hull, Barnsley and Wakefield Junction, and Swinton and Knottingley Junction; Hartlepool, on the North-Eastern; Ashford, on the South-Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover; Aylesbury, on the London and North-Western, Great Western, and Metropolitan; Basford, on the Midland and Great Northern; Basingstoke, on the South-Western and Great Western; Burwell, on the Great Eastern; Chipping Norton, on the Great Western; Crich, on the Midland; Middleton, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Nuneaton, on the London and North-Western, and Midland; Ramsbury, on the Great Western; Pinxton, on the Midland and Great Northern; Gosport, on the London and South-Western; Highworth, on the Great Western; Tapton, on the Great Central and Midland; Lancaster, on the London and North-Western and Midland; Leicester, on the London and North-Western, Great Central, Midland, and Great Northern; Tewkesbury, on the Midland; Tring, on the London and North-Western; Wadebridge, on the Great Western and London and South-Western; Winchcombe, on the Midland; Wooller, on the North-Eastern; Dunfermline, on the North British; Alloa, on the North British and Caledonian; Maesteg, on the Great Western; Maes-y-cwmmer, on the Brecon and Merthyr; Fishguard, on the Great Western; Pembroke, on the Great Western; and Pontypool, on the London and North-Western and Great Western Railways.

Barton Mop.

The pleasure fair in connection with this ancient hiring fair at Gloucester opened on Saturday, Sept. 26. For the opening day the principal shows and machines on exhibition were those of the lessee, Mr. Jacob Studt, whose magnificent display of up-to-date machines and the mammoth cinematograph theatre were the great attractions of the fair. The superb cinematograph and variety theatre, with its great organ front and its clever troupe of outside paraders, was the centre of attraction, and the immense pavilion was crowded by delighted audiences.

The Gordon-Bennett motor-cars (a very fine set), the scenic railway, with gondola switchback cars, the galloping horses, and the helter-skelter tower were amongst the other novelties provided by Mr. Jacob Studt.

The Other Shows.

Owing to an unfortunate delay at Ross on their way from Abergavenny Fair, Messrs. J. Dooner and Son did not arrive with their cinematograph theatre until too late to build up and do business on the Saturday. A. Purchase and Sons' well-known menagerie arrived only in time, in the early hours of Monday, to build up for the principal fair day. Both these high-class concerns undoubtedly added to the attractiveness of the fair. The other shows included Tom Taylor's up-to-date sparring pavilion, with school of athletes and boxers, and three small side-shows of a freak and novelty character; Mr. H. Strickland provided both steam roundabouts, park swings, and other novelties; Mr. W. Wilson exhibited his aerial wheel; Mr. John Fossett provided shooting-ranges and photo-saloons; Mr. W. H. Freeman with throwing games and novelty frames; shooting concerns, hoop-la circles, and all the fun of the fair were provided, amongst others, by W. Moore, E. Smith, C. Clack, J. Edwards, jun., S. Robins, H. Davies, and J. Stanley.

Taunton Fair.

The principal shows and amusements at Taunton Carnival Fair were provided by Messrs. Anderton and Rowland, Marshall Hill, Alfred Wright, F. Heywood, E. Chaplain, J. Gratton, J. Herbert, T. Rowland, E. Hill, T. Powell, Bernard Hill, E. Smith, and J. Anderson.

Haslemere Fair.

The September fair was maintained by the local caterers, principal amongst whom were Mr. R. Wall (the local showman), who provided steam horses, park swings, Winchester range, and throwing games. The other caterers were Messrs. A. Smith, Matthews, and Davies.

Guild Subscriptions for 1908: L. Rich, 5s.; M. Chapman, 5s.; J. Harker, 5s.; M. E. Paine, 5s.; Mr. Hey, 5s.; Mr. Dabell, 5s.

Show Notes from the Midlands.

For the pleasure fair at Studley the attractions included Chipperfield's modern show of living pictures, T. Clark's electric motor-cars, helter-skelter tower, and minor novelties, with the usual attendant throng of the providers of stalls, throwing games, and varieties.

Sedgwick's American menagerie has visited Evesham for a short season.

The fair will take place on Merstow Green on the usual date, Oct. 9.

The Star Animated Picture Company has been at the Assembly Rooms, Astwood Bank, for two nights.

Notes from Wales.

Llanelly pleasure fair was well supported by local showmen this year. The principal show was W. Haggar's superb bioscope exhibition, giving a fine range of up-to-date pictures under the direction of Mr. Walter Haggar. Closely following in popularity was the bioscope show of Messrs. Creecraft. Another acceptable feature of the fair was Mr. Frank Gess with school of boxers. The machine novelties were provided by Messrs. Henry Studt and Son, and Messrs. North and Matthews exhibited their big range of minor novelties, coker sheets, shooters, swings, and variety frames.

White's amalgamation of amusements are at Dowlais this week, every concern on the ground being well patronised. With the bioscope entertainment, and, appearing at each performance, are those clever performers, Mazzoli, the handcuff king; Miss Mahoney, the fettered lady; Walter Gibbons, baritone vocalist and song illustrator; Willie Long, comedian; and the capable manager and advance-agent, Alfred Shirley, each performer being well received.

WORLD'S FAIR.

ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, ISLINGTON, N.

"I think," said Mr. T. E. Read, lessee and manager of this highly-popular and long-standing annual show, "that the 'Fair' becomes more popular every year, the chief reason being the enormous number and variety of its attractions, and the marvellously small sum of sixpence for admission. For which you can practically see everything free, except an occasional 1d. or 2d. for some of the special large, handsome side-shows, the very best to be seen in the world.

"There is an enormous amount of capital sunk in a show of this character, and any amount of travelling, far and wide, in search of novelties, and the largest and best attractions to be secured for the delectation of the amusement-seeking public. They have been so educated in their tastes for amusements that they only want, and will have, absolutely the very best. Give them that, and you get their patronage. And to give it, as I said before, entails an enormous outlay, and the devoting of your whole time and attention for many months prior to and during the run of the show.

"I will just give you a little idea. For instance, take Hanneford's Great Canadian Circus. There

MR. T. E. READ.

is travelling abroad to see it on tour, also to arrange for its enormous stud of horses, ponies, dogs, and various other animals. The big company of equestrian artists, male and female, all speciality turns and first-class artists in their various lines. The transport from and to the Continent, which runs into big figures. The same applies to Bostock's world-famed 'Zoological Collection,' the upkeep of which is absolutely terrific. The elephants alone put away some tons of hay a week, also flesh for the carnivorous animals. Another enormous item is that of the aerial shows. This is, of course, one of the big features, and must be of the very first rank, and it is only from the Continent these speciality artists can be obtained, the heavy fare and freightage being almost prohibitive. However, the public want them, and their wants have to be supplied. The Six Banvards will bring a marvellous act this season, and will no doubt eclipse all its forerunners, good as they have been, the adaptability of the vast hall lending itself greatly to its effectiveness, and of which the Six Flying Banvards will take full advantage. They are the very cream of the aerial world, commanding exceedingly high salaries, giving two shows daily, and can be seen free of any extra charge.

"There is also an additional hall, wherein are numerous other shows and amusements of an highly-attractive character; in fact, its attractions are endless, and the original and popular 6d. is the secret of the enormous success it has achieved. It is indeed a prodigious undertaking. What with the foregoing and a big working staff, it is no visionary dream.

"Its realisation can only be materialised by hard work and little rest, and, as I before mentioned, its popularity and nominal 6d. admission, a figure I claim to have popularised for a really big show. The weekly change of the circus is a big feature, which greatly enhances its reputation, and the greatly increased traffic and cheap fares is another great incentive."

Todmorden Wakes.

Amongst the novelties at this fair were Relph and Pedley's galloping porkers; Marshall's motor-cars, East's galloping horses, Cornwell's shooting saloons, Bentley's bottle battery, and Holland's swings and bottle-smasher.

Tyldesley Wakes.

For this excellent fixture a great crowd of concerns, big and little, gathered together. The cinematograph theatres were Kemp's and Clark's. Westwood's giant children, Manders', West and Barber's novelty booth, and Gal Hague's boxers were the sideshows. The machine novelties were provided by Messrs. Green, Davies, Helm, Show, Shuttleworth, Sharpe, Humphreys, and the Mitchell Family. Shooters, throwing games, and variety frames were provided by Messrs. Jewell, Sharpe, Royle, Humphrey, Sedgwick, Whatnough, Richmond, Lorenzo, Fletcher, Henshaw, Forshaw, Ingham, Chadwick, Butterworth, Stanley, Dearden, Gorton, Wilson, Brannan, Harrison, Hughes, and Whatmore.

Dunstable Fair.

The chief amusements at this fair were provided by Mr. Fred Gray, who exhibited two fine machines, the motor switchback and the galloping horses, also park swings, shooters, and varieties; G. Saunders with racing birds; J. Short with gem motors and rifle saloon; and throwing games by Messrs. Sulley and E. Taylor.

Long Stratton Fair.

The amusements here were in the capable hands of Mr. Stocks, the local showman.

The Royal Italian Circus has opened a five-weeks' engagement at Plymouth, and are doing excellent business. The animals, to the number of 200, are trained to the highest pitch of excellence, and their performance reflects the greatest possible credit on Signor B. Volpi, who, by the way, has twice performed before H.M. the King. A feature of the entertainment is a little sketch, entitled *The Deserter*, performed by the animals, who appear able to do everything except talk, and depicts a trial by court-martial, dogs acting as counsel, and in the end the accused is sentenced to be, and ultimately is, shot by four monkeys impersonating soldiers. Another feature of the show is some wonderful addition by a pony named Thursa. The interludes are filled with some choice selections from a first-class band, and a visit to the Drill Hall is being eagerly anticipated by all the younger folk of Plymouth, to say nothing of their elders.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD AT GLOUCESTER FAIR.

Ever since the transfer by the city authorities of Old Barton Fair from the narrow and crowded streets of the city to the spacious new fair-ground known as the Oxleazes, Westgate Bridge, there has been a marked improvement in the fair. There is room for the old-time fair to adapt itself to the modern circumstances of a growing industrial city. In order to effect this great improvement, the city corporation has wisely co-operated with the showmen, and Gloucester Fair, under its new conditions, is rapidly becoming one of the most promising fairs in the country. Mr. Jacob Studt has been identified with the city scheme to improve the fair, and has ably seconded the efforts of the corporation, for during the past four years (under his management and control) some of the best concerns travelling the country have been found at Gloucester Fair.

Civic Recognition of the Showmen's Guild.

For three years past there has been at every fair an important gathering of the Showmen's Guild. Each time the Mayor and city officials have taken part in the proceedings. This official recognition of the showmen by the cathedral city has given great satisfaction, and it is felt that towns like Hull, King's Lynn, Bolton, and Gloucester are pointing out the way for other enlightened and progressive corporations to follow. We confidently anticipate that other great towns, instead of committing the mistake of the bad old times and endeavouring to abolish the open-air amusements of the people, will welcome the co-operation of the showmen, and that in the end showmen will be recognised for their true worth as the people's itinerant entertainers.

The annual public meeting of the Showmen's Guild at Gloucester Fair has become quite a feature of the popular festival. This year His Worship the Mayor (F. H. Bretherton, Esq.) presided over the gathering, and to mark the official importance of the occasion wore his beautifully-jewelled chain of office. He was supported by the Rev. T. Horne (Guild chaplain), the City High Sheriff (G. Aldridge, Esq.), Alderman W. P. Hume, Councillor James Bruton, the town clerk (G. Sheffield Blakeway, Esq.), and other gentlemen.

The Mayor's Opening Address.

His Worship, in an extremely genial address, observed that he had come at the invitation of the Guild chaplain, Mr. Horne, to welcome the showmen once again to the ancient city of Gloucester, a duty which he performed as mayor with very great pleasure. Gloucester had been associated for many hundreds of years with the gathering known as Barton Fair, and he rejoiced that the fair was as much alive as ever, and all the better for being housed in a more comfortable and satisfactory place. From congested Barton-street, with its danger to public safety, especially since the laying down of the tramways, to the spacious fair-ground provided by the city was indeed a great and important step. He was glad to see in the current report of the Guild that 1907 was a record year—a record as regards the success of its work in opposing restrictive legislation, and a record, too, with regard to the numbers of members enrolled.

There was one point in the report that had attracted his particular attention, and that was where it was stated that showmen were kind-hearted and sympathetic. With that sentiment he fully agreed. All his experience of show life was in support of that statement, and all who had read Charles Dickens' story of Little Nell would remember the sympathy and kindness which had marked Nell's dealings with the showpeople.

He was glad to have the opportunity of introducing to the meeting the travelling chaplain of the Showmen's Guild. He had no doubt that from the great range of his experiences amongst showpeople that they would hear a most interesting and informing address. He would therefore, without further remark, ask the Guild chaplain to address them.

The Guild Chaplain's Address.

On rising to speak, the Rev. T. Horne was warmly received. The work of the Guild, he stated, really comprised three great departments. The first thing they were concerned with was the protection of the trade and business interests of the world of travelling shows, and of necessity linked with that was the defence and maintenance of the people's fairs, in order that the showman might carry on his legitimate work and business.

The second great department of their work was to vindicate the showman's character and to uphold his claims for the rights and liberties of citizenship in the commonwealth.

Their third great work had most naturally grown out of the other important activities—the uplifting of the showman's life, the betterment of the amusements of the people, and bringing in a really helpful form the Church of God on to the fair-ground. (Applause.)

He begged them to bear in mind these three great departments of their labour, and it would be to him a pleasure to inform that meeting of the great progress they had made with every department of their organised life.

The Difficulties of Organisation.

Economists recognise that wherever trade or business is unorganised there is a downward tendency towards sweating and injurious labour conditions. The only salvation for the workers lies in organisation, in combination for mutual protection and advancement. Showmen were an extremely difficult body of workers to organise. His hearers would recognise this when he reminded them that no trade or business in the world afforded greater scope for individual talent than the business of the fair-ground. It was of the very necessity of his being that the showman should be not merely self-contained, but that he also claimed to have something that the public wanted, and that he and he alone could supply. The successful showman must be individualistic. The same genius, however, which carried the showman into public favour also gave him the ability to see (when the necessity arose to defend himself) the advantage of combination.

Twenty or more years ago the showmen combined to defend their trade and calling, to vindicate their character from unjust attack, and to improve and advance their business in public esteem. He ventured to say that there were many at the meeting who could carry their memories back thirty, or perhaps forty, years, to Barton Fair in the olden times—to the kind of shows and entertainments that were then provided. Keeping that picture of thirty years ago in their minds, and comparing it with the splendid fair they saw around them on that fair-ground that day, the vast improvement, the perfection and splendour of the entertainments, the thoroughly up-to-date and attractive character of the amusements, were sufficient proof, if proof were asked, of how far the showman has justified his position as part and parcel of the industrial progress of the present age. (Applause.)

Trade Defence a Continued Necessity.

In the great work of vindicating the showman's claim to the rights and liberties of citizenship they had been compelled from time to time to oppose mistaken legislation. They had been compelled to oppose Bills in Parliament that aimed at the destruction or the serious restriction of their liberties as lawful traders in the State. Showmen had been driven into combination twenty years ago by a Bill promoted by a set of men who held the most narrow-minded and fanatical views with regard to show life and the amusements of the people. He was sorry to have to bring before the meeting a signal example of the recrudescence of similar fanatical proposals in the present Parliament. Lord Clifford of Chudleigh had introduced a Bill into the House of Lords which was, in fact, the resurrection of the old Movable Dwellings Bill of eighteen years ago. He proposed, at the conclusion of his address, to move a resolution with regard to this, the very latest attack upon the life and liberties of showpeople. To justify that resolution he would claim their patience for a few minutes whilst he briefly outlined the serious nature of Lord Clifford's Bill.

The Showmen's Objections to Lord Clifford's Bill.

Showmen claimed to be under the ordinary law of the land. They recognised that in all matters of daily life and conduct both inside and outside their movable dwellings they were subject to the ordinary restraints of the law. They would see the serious nature of the attack upon the showman's life in Lord Clifford's Bill when he reminded them that it proposed to substitute the policeman for the sanitary officer. The administration of the Health Acts by the medical officer and the sanitary authority was undoubtedly for the benefit of the community. Showmen recognise this, and heartily submit, as other house-dwellers submit, to the wise provisions of the sanitary authority. Showmen indignantly repudiated that any further legislation was necessary for movable dwellings than the very ample provisions that already existed. He had gone thoroughly into the matter, and it was already upon the Statute Book that every van, tent, or shed was as much under the control of the sanitary officer as fixed dwellings. If the promoters of the Movable Dwellings Bill want special coercive legislation to deal with gipsies and squatters on common lands, let them be open and honest about it and call their Bill "The Gipsy Encampment Bill." (Hear, hear.)

The Progressive Trend of the Guild's Work.

Leaving the question of trade defence and the opposition to mistaken legislation alone for a little while, he begged to draw their attention to the third great department of the Guild's work—the uplifting of the showman and his working life. He candidly confessed that when he threw in his lot with the showpeople twenty years ago his great object was to defend their character from attack and to protect their means of livelihood. Out of that almost purely secular work there had grown up a much greater work. He would venture to say that this greater enterprise was the very flower and crown of their work. It was the bringing of the Church of God, with all its ministries of spiritual comfort and its sanctions and sweetness of life, to the very door of the showman. That work under God had grown in his hands, and it was to him (and he was proud to say the great body of the men who were worthy of the name of showmen) an equally great pleasure that upon the fair-grounds of the country, wherever the work of the Guild demanded his presence, services had been held, with the knowledge of the bishops and the hearty co-operation of the local clergy. (Great applause.)

He was proud to acknowledge himself a convinced trade unionist; he had fought in many a fight for better conditions of life and better wages for the workers. There was, however, a peculiar honour about the showmen's trade union. It defended his trade, it vindicated his character. That honour was shared alike by all trade unions, but the Showmen's Guild was not content to stop at secular things, but went on and endeavoured to provide for the educational and spiritual needs of its members.

He had been permitted, in the very first years of his association with the Showmen's Guild, to stamp it with this signal honour—that as an organised body of traders they were banded together not merely for defence, but for advance. (Applause.)

The Resolution Against the Bill.

In concluding his address, he wished again to refer to Lord Clifford's Bill now before Parliament. He trusted that the resolution he was about to propose would meet with the approval of the Mayor and the members of the corporation who had honoured the showmen by their presence that afternoon. From what he had already stated, it would be seen that legislation that would impose upon the travelling traders of our fairs restrictions and disabilities that settled traders were not subject to would be a gross perversion of justice and an invasion of the liberties of the subject. He claimed for showmen that class legislation would stigmatise them as unfit for the ordinary duties of citizenship and for the enjoyment of the liberties and freedom of ordinary life, and would be a gross act of injustice. He felt sure that he would carry with him the sympathies of that meeting when he repudiated, with all the warmth of his nature, the libel that showmen as a body of workers deserved to be treated as though they were "lepers, or unclean." He therefore proposed "That this meeting heartily approves of the work of the Showmen's Guild, and strongly deprecates class legislation that would inflict unmerited stigma and disgrace upon the life and work of showpeople." (Applause.)

Other Speeches.

Mr. Johnson, proprietor of the Victoria (portable theatre), Ferndale, Rhondda Valley, in an impressive speech, seconded the resolution. He had been much touched by the Mayor's kindly sympathy, and in particular by his reference to the works of the great Charles Dickens. As an actor he had studied not only our great dramatists, but the great classic writers of our literature; and he, like his Worship the Mayor, was a disciple and student of that great master of human sympathies—the immortal Charles Dickens. Not only in the story of Little Nell, but throughout his writings, there were deeps of human sympathy that the great master of pathos alone could plumb. (Applause.)

He claimed the sympathy of the Mayor and the members of the corporation present, and in fact the whole of that meeting, for the cause of the travelling showmen. The showmen needed sympathy. The very fact that such a Bill as the one he was now condemning had been introduced by responsible statesmen in Parliament was proof more than sufficient that showmen stood in need of all the kindly help and sympathy that Gloucester City could give them. He was proud to be identified with the work of their good chaplain. He had listened with the greatest respect and admiration to the wise words of Mr. Horne's address, and he could assure that meeting that under their chaplain's guidance and by his leadership they were prepared to go forward and to provide for the people amusements and entertainments that would be worthy of their craft and of their calling in life. He was deeply grateful to the Mayor, the City Sheriff, and the other gentlemen present for their kind help and encouragement, and he could assure them that every showman on the ground would endeavour to justify the appreciation that the city had given them. He seconded with all the earnestness he possessed the important resolution moved by the Guild chaplain. (Applause.)

The Mayor then put the resolution to the meeting and it was carried unanimously.

The Complimentary Votes.

Mr. Jacob Studt (the lessee of the fairground) expressed the great pleasure it gave him to have in his show the Mayor of Gloucester, the City Sheriff, the Town Clerk, and the other members of the Corporation who had responded to the invitation of the Showmen's Guild to be present at that meeting. He begged to move a hearty vote of thanks to the Rev. T. Horne, the Mayor, the City Sheriffs, and to the other gentlemen who had taken part in the meeting. He, for his part, would continue to do his best to make Gloucester Fair worthy of the ancient city, and he was confident that such meetings as the present one were calculated to uplift the ideals of showlife and to encourage public bodies to co-operate with practical showmen in the betterment of the amusements of the people. In moving the vote of thanks to the chairman and the speakers, he felt sure he should carry with him the hearty approval of all those present. He was absolutely certain that (along with himself) every showman present at Barton Fair was proud of the honour that the city, through the Corporation, had conferred upon them.

The motion was duly seconded, and carried with acclamation.

The City Sheriff, in responding for the Mayor and the other speakers, gave expression to the deep interest he had taken in the whole of the proceedings. He quite agreed with the Mayor that the civic control and recognition of the fair was bound to have a good effect and to improve the character of the entertainments, as well as to encourage greater patronage of the fair by all classes of the community. To him the most interesting fact he had learnt from the meeting was that the Showmen's Guild dealt with the whole life of the showman—his trade, his home-life, and, in a very real way, his spiritual advancement. The great thing of all was that the Guild not only cared for the worker's livelihood and the security of his family life, but that it also dealt with the higher and spiritual attributes that make for character and that really improve their social conditions.

He wished especially to emphasise the strong point in the Guild Chaplain's address wherein he claimed for the Guild that just where the ordinary Trades Union ceased to be effective, there the Showmen's Guild continued its good work until it touched every corner of the showman's heart and life. It was the consideration of this important truth that inspired him to say to the showmen, "God be with you in your work and enterprise." He responded most heartily, on behalf of the Mayor, the speakers, and others present, to the vote of thanks so warmly expressed.

This brought the meeting to a successful termination.

Showmen's Service at the Fair.

With the consent and co-operation of the Rev. J. J. Luce (hon. local Guild Chaplain), the Rev. T. Horne conducted a highly successful Guild service in Mr. Studt's show at eight o'clock in the evening. The beautiful show pavilion, illuminated by electric lights, was readily adapted for the purpose of the Divine service. The commodious seating arrangements (tip-up plush velvet chairs) afforded accommodation for at least five hundred persons, and the wide avenues and the run-up at the back must have contained four to five hundred more persons standing. The whole of the working staff and Mr. Studt and members of his family entered heartily into the arrangements for the congregation.

Mr. Studt's company rendered every assistance, and the singing of the service was very largely sustained by the fresh young voices of Mrs. Studt's troupe of dancing girls, strengthened by other members of the company.

The Guild Chaplain records with great gratitude that for the first time in his varied experience the choir, the organist, and every assistant in the service were drawn from the showpeople themselves on the fairground.

The Rev. T. Horne intoned the service, read the appointed lesson, and preached. The service was marked by the deepest reverence and attention, and created a marked impression upon the crowded congregation.

After Meeting of the Guild.

Owing to the busy day, the Organising Chaplain was not able to bring matters of urgent business importance before the showpeople alone until after the conclusion of the Guild service. There was a moderately good attendance, and Mr. Richard Dooner was unanimously voted to the chair. Adverting to the late hour of the evening and to the fact that they had been practically in session all day with meetings, he announced his determination to be extremely brief and, he trusted, to the point in what few remarks he wished to make. They were face to face with an exceeding grave state of affairs in Parliament with regard to their life and business, and it was no exaggeration to say that if the Movable Dwellings Bill was passed it would ruin the show business. They had to fight it, and it was a great blessing to them that they had such men as Mr. Horne to stand out and to champion their cause. He asked their friend the Guild Chaplain to explain the Movable Dwellings Bill to the meeting.

The Rev. T. Horne's Speech.

The Bill (said the Chaplain) sought to set up every county and county borough authority as a registration authority to secure the registration, inspection, and licensing of all living vans, in accordance with the rules and regulations that would bind them hand and foot under the control of the county police. He explained in detail other obnoxious points in the measure, and in particular dwelt upon the prohibition of fairs clause.

He concluded a trenchant *exposé* of the measure by calling upon those present to strengthen the hands of the Guild executive, that all necessary measures might be taken to defeat the Movable Dwellings Bill.

Mr. Jacob Studt's Speech.

He strongly deprecated the apathy of a certain number of the showmen at Gloucester Fair, who had not attended that extremely important meeting. He marvelled at this apparent indifference to their own vital interests. He wished very strongly to identify himself with all that had been said with regard to the necessity for vigorous action, for closing in their ranks and standing shoulder to shoulder as a united body against the common foe. He begged them to think what it would mean if the police of every town had the right of entry merely on suspicion into their homes. They had always been ready to obey every just and proper law with regard to the health and sanitary conditions of their movable homes; but it was the sanitary officer, the medical officer of health, and not the police, that had the right of inquiry and the authority to see to the safety of the general health. He joined with the chairman and with Mr. Horne in urging that non-members joined the Guild, and that all members give, to the best of their ability, additional support to the fighting funds of the society.

Mr. Johnson's Speech.

Mr. Johnson (proprietor of the Victoria Theatre, Ferndale), in an eloquent address, urged the showpeople present to rally to the support of the Showmen's Guild. It was the society that stood between them and their enemies as a bulwark of defence. The Movable Dwellings Bill would treat travelling showpeople as dogs, and wanted to designate their vans as dog-kennels. As an Englishman, and proud of his citizenship, he claimed equal rights with all other men before the law. Let each man in his own sphere do his share towards the defence work; let each one of those present go forth as a missionary to tell others of the pressing need for ready help and of the tremendous danger that faced them; then he felt sure that with such men at the head of affairs as their reverend friend the victory would be certain, and that showmen would be fully vindicated.

Special Subscription List.

Jacob Studt, £2 2s.; R. Dooner, £1 1s.; J. Johnson, £1 1s.; W. H. Freeman, 10s. 6d.; W. Moore, 10s. 6d.; E. Smith, 5s.; J. Edwards, jun., 5s.; C. Clack, 5s.; H. Davies, 5s.; J. Stanley, 5s.; S. Robins, 5s.

On the motion of Messrs. R. Dooner and J. Studt, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. T. Horne for his arduous labours.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

Off to America.—In this we get scenes and incidents of the Atlantic voyage on board the s.s. Adriatic. Previous series have dealt with this subject, but even as the charm of actual travel is found in the constant variety afforded, so the pictorial representation of more or less familiar scenes viewed from different aspects always appeals to the observer with fresh force and added delight. The novelty of the first section of this beautiful and breezy subject lies primarily in the fact that the course of the Adriatic is followed by the camera until she is far out from Queenstown, and that the picture-story is taken up by other cameras stationed on the great liner's decks. By these means, the thoroughness of the series is emphasised, and the results show a decided advance over previous pictures of the same class. The second division affords delightful illustration of the daily life on board—no dulness here, but an exhilarating epitome of a voyage on one of the largest and best-found liners afloat, its pleasures, comforts, and amusements. The series concludes with the unusually brilliant scenes in New York harbour, and the bridges, streets, and principal buildings of the great city.

The Pyrenees.—A combination of scenic and spectacular subjects most unusual and original is here set forth. Nature is at her grandest, with sublime effects of sparkling river, rushing torrent, sun-kissed woodland, and gloomy mountain defiles; rural scenes of country life, with primitive farming methods; bull-fight in the Llandes, without any objectionable feature—a play, in fact, not the real thing, but exciting and amusing withal; the Great Monument built over the healing waters of Lourdes—scene of many and constant pilgrimages; old Spanish castle and town of Cargasonne; festival scenes at Fontarabie; quaint and picturesque procession of peasants and frontier soldiery beneath the frowning walls of the castle. All these and many more fascinating scenes form a sum of pictorial variety and beauty of a district out of the usual beaten track which every audience in any country will hail with enthusiasm.

Salving H.M.S. Gladiator.—The vessel depicted was sunk off Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, on April 25 last, after collision with the American liner St. Paul. The Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd., has in times past recorded in vivid motion pictures many wonderful events in maritime history, but the acme of naval engineering, the triumphant salving of the Gladiator, cinematographed by special and exclusive permission of the Lords of the Admiralty, may be regarded as one of the most remarkable of the whole series. In the first picture the wreck is seen as she lay on her side on the morning after the disaster. Then to his great task comes Captain Young, of the Liverpool Salvage Association. Divers begin the work by attaching wire hawsers to the mighty hull, the huge cammells (or air-tight caissons) are sunk, tripods and shore-cables are placed in position, and ultimately the strenuous labours of five long months are crowned by the bringing of the cruiser to an even keel—a weird and wonderful spectacle.

The Lake of the Four Cantons describes a trip by steamer on Lake Lucerne. The towns of Lucerne, Vitznau, and Veggis pass in close stereoscopic review, revealing beautiful and stately mansions, chalets, hotels, theatres, and embankments on the lake front, while fitting backgrounds are afforded by towering mountain peaks, verdure-clad in the lower altitudes, rugged in the distance, but picturesque always. A complete circuit of the lake presents to the delighted gaze typical Swiss scenery of every description, fertile valleys, the Rigi-Bahn or mountain railway, and the romantic chalets nestling in leafy seclusion, mountain shelter behind, pellucid lake in front. The whole series is one of unusual charm by reason of the facilities afforded for the purpose by steamer, lake, gently rising foreground, and the great heights of the cloud-piercing peaks.

Pathé Frères.

The Thought-Reader.—A gentleman, possessed of the gift of thought-reading, discovers around him all sorts of plots which he makes end just as suits his mood. His son is courting the maid, and he dismisses the girl. He kindly warns a peasant that the latter is going to lose all his earnings if he entrusts them to a certain business man whom he knows is going to squander all the money he has in his house belonging to other people. He helps a poor woman who is going to abandon her child for want of the necessary money. He also tells a young lady that the man she is going to marry only likes her money, and at last he causes two ruffians to be arrested just as they are going to murder their victim. But the thought-reader is very wise, and he does not try to use his knowledge for his own benefit, because he thinks that it is better sometimes to be blind than to see too much.

New Laid Eggs.—Just as he reaches home, a man remembers why he went out, for his numerous stops at the different public houses have slightly dimmed his memory. He retraces his steps and goes and buys a dozen new-laid eggs. But how is he to carry these breakable little things, which slip from his fingers like water? He has scarcely gone ten yards when all the eggs fall on the pavement. He has to go back and buy another dozen eggs; this time, what with the many glasses of spirit he has taken, he finds it difficult to keep his balance, and he thinks it safer for him to lean upon a friend of his he meets, and with whom he goes and has another drink. As he is going to give his friend a great hug he feels something crashing in his clothes. The eggs, which he had forgotten, are now forming a poultice in his pocket. He does not despair, he goes and buys a third dozen eggs, and in order that they should be safe he puts them carefully inside his cap, and puts the whole on his head. But a passer-by whom he has pushed a little gives him a mighty blow on the head. There is another omelette. At last, after sundry and various misfortunes, he comes home with a dozen unbroken eggs; but as it is late, and his wife has already retired to bed, he puts the eggs under her pillow for safety, and the next morning she finds chickens where the eggs had been.

A Villain.—A beautiful young woman, apparently happy with her husband, is indiscreet enough to carry on a correspondence with a man unknown to her family. She goes to the post office and receives a letter from her secret lover. She carelessly drops the envelope in the street, and it is picked up by a man who makes a business of blackmailing. He follows her, and as she tears up the letter and casts it to the wind he gathers up the fragments, and taking them to his room, pastes them together and learns the contents. It is a note asking her to meet her lover at the usual place. He goes to her house, and asks for an interview in which he states that he will keep her secret if she hands him a large sum of money. As she has not got that amount, she is made desperate, and going to her room, she drinks poison. Seeing that she does not return, the blackguard hands over the letter to her husband, who is dumbfounded at its contents; then hastening to his wife's room, he finds her lifeless body on the bed with the villain's note demanding money tightly held in her hand. He realises the situation at a glance, and dragging the blackmailer into the room, shows him the effect of his work, and seizing a revolver shoots him through the heart.

The Miniature Circus.—John has received as a present a nice circus with all kinds of clowns and animals. But after playing with his new toy for some time John becomes tired and falls asleep. His dream is a marvellous one, for the clowns are performing their turns with great skill, while the horses, and elephants, and ostriches, &c., come to life and move about. It is so nice! But his parents entering the room wake the little boy up, and he is still so excited with what he has just seen that he must tell Father and Mother all about it. There are some clever trick scenes in this film production.

The Faun.—Mythology and fiction of the fairy-tale order are agreeably combined in this. A faun, in love with Diana, appears amongst the undergrowth in the forest, and on his way he awakens the sleeping nymphs. But Diana, pleased with the sweet music made by a young god at her side, listens to it with delight. The faun is so jealous that he goes for the god and throws him to the ground. Yet Cupid, the god of Love, gives to Diana a philtre, thanks to which the young god comes back to life, whereas the faun, bound with ropes by the nymphs, is placed by them in a petrifying fountain and changed into stone.

Gaumont Company.

A fine record in animated picture production was created last week by the Gaumont Company, of Chrono House, London. The scene was the unveiling of the Worcestershire War Memorial on Wednesday last. One of Gaumont's expert operators, with a Chrono camera, was commissioned to secure a film of this event. Having procured his picture, he caught the 2 p.m. train to London, arriving at 4.15. He then motored with all haste to the firm's extensive works, where the film was immediately taken in hand and developed. Ready for the screen it was despatched to Worcester, where it arrived in time to be shown during the evening's performance. The film was received with great applause, and was of such fine quality stereoscopically that the inscription was easily distinguishable on the monument. The Gaumont Company are to be highly congratulated on their enterprising smartness. The following letter was received by the company, from Mr. Arthur Carlton, of the Theatre Royal, Worcester:—"I should like to thank you very heartily for the great pains and trouble that you took to produce the film of the unveiling of the Worcester Memorial. We received the first part of the film here at Worcester punctually at 8.53 and showed it at 9.15. It caused very great excitement in the theatre. I think without doubt it must be a record for animated photography in this country, as, of course, your man had to travel to London and send the film back here in time for our show."

The New Bioscope Trading Company have appointed as their district manager Mr. Jesse Smith, assistant-manager of the Empire, Shepherd's Bush, since its inception. The leave-taking on Saturday last was marked by presentations, made by Mme. Effie de Bathe, the gifts being a wrist strap, with watch, from the front staff; gold sleeve links, from the police; and a purse of sovereigns from the patrons. Sir William Bull, the Rev. Cartmel Robinson, and the Rev. Stewart Headlam were on the committee.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

The Devil.—The story as shown by this film is of the meeting, after years of absence, of an artist, Karl, and an old sweetheart, Olga, at the house of her husband. In spite of their belief that their love is dead, old memories awake. Receiving an order to paint the wife's portrait, our artist friend passes a restless night and is chided by his model for his coldness. He promises to visit her; but meantime he meets husband and wife coming to keep an appointment for a sitting. The husband having left, preparations are made for the sitting, during which the Devil puts in an appearance. Olga, frightened, rushes from the room. The Devil now brings his power into play, so that Karl and Olga, having overcome their scruples, are about to kiss, when her husband arrives. The Devil satisfactorily explains, and the husband is mollified. The artist's model again appears on the scene, and the Devil creates jealousy between her and Olga. Karl now endeavours to resist temptation, but is worsted in the encounter with his satanic majesty. Having now got both of them in his power, the Devil creates commotion at a ball, where the artist comes in conflict with Olga's husband. As a result of this she decides to write Karl "never to see her again." But the Devil wills otherwise, and causes her to say "I love you; I am yours; take me!" and in the struggle to write, she is overcome, and faints. Finally we are shown the triumph of the tempter, Olga rushing to Karl's room, where the Devil gloats over his successful work.

An interesting presentation was made at the staff dinner of Walter Tyler, Ltd., which took place at the Holborn Restaurant on the 23rd ult. Mr. Harold Bishop, chairman of the company, occupied the chair, and Mr. Walter Tyler and Mr. F. Fullagar, both of whom are retiring from active management in the firm, were guests of the evening. Mr. E. Holman Bishop proposed the toast, "Walter Clement Tyler," and said he would like to voice the feelings of good-will and affection felt by the whole of the staff for their late chairman, the founder of the business, who in his retirement could feel that he had not only in his successful life's work established a flourishing business, known throughout the world, but had won the affection and regard of the whole of the staff. He had pleasure in presenting to their founder a gold watch and chain. Mr. Tyler suitably responded, adding that he had found in Mr. E. Holman Bishop a man able and competent to fill his place. Mr. W. H. Palmer proposed the health of Mr. F. A. Fullagar, and said that his retirement from the board was regretted by directors and staff alike, and wished him success in his new venture. Mr. Fullagar expressed his thanks felicitously.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

"The Law of Copyright," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPPLICATIONS.

19,255.—Arthur Henry Woolldge, of Sydenham, London. Improved game for outdoor or indoor exercise.

19,270.—Alfred William Southey and John Brown Thorp, of London. Improvements in apparatus for games and sports.

19,319.—Georg Friedr. Lütticke, of London. Improvements in process for producing animated bioscope and mutoscope scenes by means of mechanically-constructed figures.

19,546.—Harry Houdini, of London. Receptacle for holding water, to be used for stage purposes.

19,676.—Emile Hertz Klaber, of London. Improvements in and relating to gramophones, phonographs, or like machines.

19,700.—Walter Goodall, of Liversedge, Yorks. Living kaleidoscope.

19,729.—George Frederic Hatton, of London. Improvements in or relating to cinematographs.

19,742.—William Charles Cooke, of London. Automatic fire-extinguishing apparatus for cinematographs.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

6,504.—Ives. Kinematographic objectives and the like for wide angle work.

20,657.—Morgan, Singer, and Draper. Track and sleigh for amusement.

20,927.—Monk. Carousels.

26,597. Shelton. Recreation gravity railways.

7,397.—Kuschenitz. Apparatus for producing fire.

10,840.—Valencic. Gymnastic apparatus.

14,409.—Sallé. Means for producing theatrical effects.

16,977.—Shaw. Pleasure-railways.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

11,130.—Railways for recreation. Bishop, R. H., and Down, W., both of London.

Relates to amusement apparatus of the gravity-railway type, which comprises an inclined track and an elevator for raising the cars to the point where the descent begins. The elevator consists of a pair of endless travelling chains (*a*) carrying forked triangular platforms (*b*), which form horizontal supports for the cars while being raised.

FIG. 1.

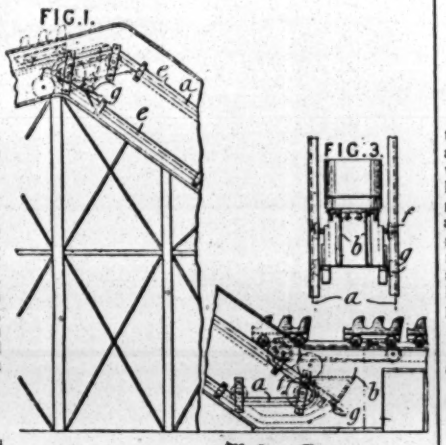
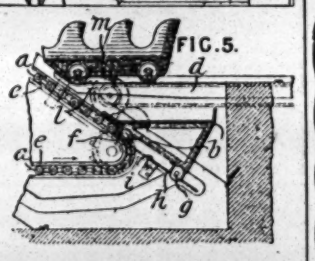


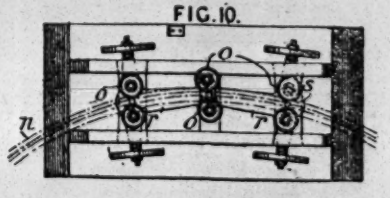
FIG. 3.

FIG. 5.



The platforms are provided with two pairs of wheels (*f*, *g*) running in the same grooves (*e*) as the chains (*a*); the grooves form parallel-sided figures with irregularly-shaped ends, which are duplicated, as shown in Figs. 1 and 5. The extremities of the axle of the front wheels (*f*) are attached to the chains (*a*), and are carried round the path indicated by the broken line in Fig. 1, while the wheels (*g*) deviate at the top and bottom to follow the duplicate path. To prevent the rear wheels (*g*) from falling back into the channels at the lower end of the elevator, each platform is provided with laterally-projecting plates (*h*) adapted to ride on lugs (*i*), and thus give the necessary support at the crossing points. The cars are brought into position at the foot of the elevator by means of a chain with a projection (*l*), which engages a bracket (*m*) on the cars and moves them one by one along a forked stage (*d*). The cars are provided with rollers (*o*) (Fig. 10), mounted on T-shaped plates (*r*), which are pivoted on pins (*s*) on the under-side of the cars. The rollers underlie a T-shaped guide and safety-rail (*n*), and the axles of the wheels are secured to the plates (*r*), with the result that curvature of the track is met by a corresponding change in the position of the axles.

FIG. 10.



To Stage Machinists and Electricians.—The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

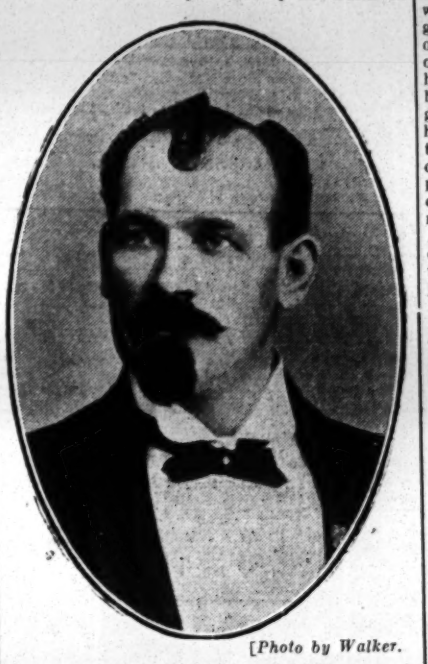
Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, and £100? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd-George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Kinematograph regulations respecting the use of the kinematograph in theatres and halls, also the regulations respecting the use of limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the kinematograph or limelight should possess a copy of these regulations.

Kinematograph Copyright. The law affecting the same. By William Jago, F.I.C., F.C.S., barrister-at-law. Price 6d. Address, The Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C.

MR. W. C. BURNS.

Mr. W. C. Burns, the well-known and experienced showman caterer, has done a marvel in the way of catering at Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh, during the whole of this past summer, commencing March 28. He tried a picture show and turns firstly, but with rank failure; then, after the third week, commenced contests, which he has carried on unremittingly for twenty-four weeks. W. C. B. has many fine achievements in the way of showmanship to his credit, but this is his latest and greatest, inasmuch that the Exhibition for a time closed up every other entertainment house in the city except two. The many various and interesting contests which he has put up included baby shows, beauty shows, wrestling bouts, &c., his greatest endeavour in this respect being his great Marathon Race from Dalkeith to the circus (seven miles) last Saturday, Sept. 26, which set the whole of the Scottish capital ablaze, and, although amidst a drenching rain, the route was packed with thousands of interested spectators. A special force of over 100 police were detailed to keep the home route open. There were forty-seven entries, thirty-five started, and thirty-one came home. The prizes consisted of a very fine handsome silver cup, and gold, gold-centred, and silver medals, total four, which were presented by Mr. Burns on



[*Photo by Walker.*

MR. W. C. BURNS, T.S.A.T.

the stage at night amidst the greatest possible amount of enthusiasm to each of the four winners with appropriate remarks. The huge building, holding over 3,000, was densely packed, showing great appreciation in the event. Mr. Burns has again, for the second season, been appointed manager by Mr. Cooke for his equestrian season, commencing middle of Nov., as usual. The picture season finishes Saturday, Oct. 31, and Mr. Burns has set down his benefit for Oct. 30, when he promises a cyclonic bill of fare on that night.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

At the Trinity College, on Wednesday afternoon, Dr. John Warriner delivered a lecture, choosing for his subject how real culture in music is gained. Dr. Warriner had his lecture illustrated by a number of young scholars from the London County Council of the College Saturday classes for training of teachers. In the commencement of his lecture the professor remarked that the best study required real effort, and quoted Pope in saying we ought to rather blame the culture, not the soil. Dr. Warriner also referred to Sir Walter Besant's novel "The Children of Gibeon," in which two girls, one the daughter of a duchess and the other of humble station, receive the same education, and he gave it as an instance of the value in training. Parents sometimes think any sort of teacher will do. In speaking of refinement, the professor said he overheard some ladies in the train speaking of a lady they knew whom they thought vulgar because at tea she put in sugar before milk. In contrast to this Dr. Warriner spoke of a man having tea with a swell, who, on seeing his guest pour his tea into a saucer, at once did the same, and he mentioned this as an instance of true refinement. In music, people often talk about technique, style, tone, &c., and either say it is superb or rotten without in the least understanding music. The great Ruskin said anybody can criticise a picture or a sunset. The lecturer gave several instances of teaching music in the past with book in one hand and cane in the other, and the later equally bad system of bar to bar, saying he knew a gentleman who only could play one tune, which he had learnt a bar at a time. After the lecture the children went through some very clever exercises and sight-singing; and on the professor extemporising at the piano after the manner of a great composer, the children very cleverly gave the name of the composer the professor was imitating. After Master Richard Johnson, a very young and clever student of the College, had played part of the first movement of Mozart's Sonata in F, the pupils of Dr. Warriner, at his request, correctly hummed the principal theme. A youthful vocalist, Miss Nellie Kowin, who has a really beautiful contralto voice, sang "Life's Lullaby" (Gerald Lane) and "She is far from the land," by Frank Lambert. Much applause followed the close of Dr. Warriner's able lecture.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special Newspaper Express Services now running *Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
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CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
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EDISON FILMS

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A.

"THE DEVIL."

Synopsis of Scenes:

THE SPARK OF LOVE—Karl, an artist, meets former sweetheart at her husband's house—Both believe their love dead—Olga, a faithful wife; Karl six years absent — Old memories awake—Husband orders Karl to paint his wife's portrait—To sit following day.

MIMI, THE "MODEL"—Karl passes a restless night—Mimi reproaches for coldness—He promises to visit her—Olga and husband meet Mimi on stairs—Karl and Olga feel an influence—Strive to resist—Husband departs.

THE TEMPTER APPEARS—Preparations for sitting—Olga removes waist—Startled by sudden appearance of Devil—His cynical philosophy overcomes scruples—Terrifies Olga—She rushes from room.

KARL AND THE DEVIL—Devil praises Olga—Urges, hints, promises—Forces invitation to ball from Olga—Karl and Olga about to kiss when husband arrives—Embarrassment—Devil satisfactorily explains.

MIMI AND OLGA MEET—Mimi calls—Devil hides her—Makes Olga jealous—Reveals Mimi—Karl tries to explain—Olga leaves—Karl goes to Mimi's house.

THE "LOST SOVEREIGN"—Karl tries to resist temptation—Devil tells story—Shows how he may lose Olga—Maddens Karl—Threatens to shoot—A sneer calms.

AT THE BALL—In honour of Elsa—Olga matchmaker — Devil creates commotion — Powerless against Elsa—Controls Karl and Olga.

A DEVIL'S TRAP—Commands Olga to cloak—Karl fears an elopement—Husband removes cloak—Karl confused—Devil gloats.

THE DEVIL'S LETTER—Olga decides to write Karl—"Never to see her again"—Devil dictates—"I love you; I am yours; take me"—Olga tries to recover letter—She faints.

TEMPTER TRIUMPHS—Olga visits studio—Devil gives a letter to Karl—He burns it—Goes to his room—Olga chagrined—Turns to depart—Devil intercepts—Gives her real letter—She rushes to Karl's room—Devil watches—His work accomplished.

No. 6375. Code, "Velouté." Approximate Length 1000ft.

LATEST SUBJECTS:

No. 6364 THE BOSTON TEA PARTY. No. 6369 TALES THE SEARCHLIGHT TOLD.
No. 6366 THE FACE ON THE BAR-ROOM FLOOR.
No. 6367 A DUMB HERO. No. 6370 ROMANCE OF A WAR NURSE.
No. 6368 LIFE'S A GAME OF CARDS. No. 6371 WHEN RUBEN COMES TO TOWN.
No. 6372 AEROPLANE FLIGHTS BY HENRY FARMAN.

Edison Kinetoscopes.

UNDERWRITER'S MODEL (One Pin Movement), **price £36 15s.**
REDUCES FLICKER 50 PER CENT.
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GERMAN CHAMBER PLAYS.

In the current number of the *Contemporary Review* there is an interesting article on German "Chamber Dramas." Dr. Paul Goldmann, the Berlin correspondent and dramatic critic of the *Neue Freie Presse*, in a recently published work, "Vom Rückgang der deutschen Bühne," says: "Literary managers, literary dramaturgists, literary authors and literary critics set about the foundation of the truly 'modern' theatre. Everything would have gone smoothly but for one element which in the theatrical business is not devoid of all importance, namely, had not the public shown a deplorable backwardness. The fact remains that the public does not applaud every piece which these authorities—managers, dramaturgists, authors, and critics—acclaim as really literary and modern. The public is frequently unliterary enough to regard a bad piece of this kind as really bad. One can imagine how disturbing this attitude of the public must be in the literary theatrical business, and one can moreover understand what a notable service Max Reinhardt has rendered by succeeding in removing this disturbing element."

The solution was found in the foundation of the Berlin "Kammerspiele." The promoters of the scheme wisely recognised that the public for which they were angling had money and was willing to spend it in the gratification of its intellectual appetites. They saw that their audiences, in their craze for realism, wanted to be brought into even closer touch with the drama, to have it introduced into their drawing-rooms, as it were, so that they could follow every gesture and every spoken word as though actually assisting at the happenings of real life. The idea then was to transfer to stage conditions the distinction existing between concert and chamber music—there the brilliancy of lights and the blare of a full orchestra, here the shaded seclusion of wax candles and the modulated tones of spinet and flute. Kammermusik and Kammerspiele—Chamber Music and Chamber Drama. Considerations of the Censorship—*nota bene*, an office far more solicitous of the administration of the lèse-majesté law than of the cause of public decency—were surmounted by emphasising the intimate character of the theatre, which was effected by screwing up the prices charged for admission beyond the purses of ordinary mortals. Fifteen, ten, and five marks for stalls, with no other seats but these, are the prices charged. Drama at these prices, in a city where a stall at the opera costs but 8s. 6d., cannot be said to be accessible to the general public, even were the latter likely to be attracted by the strictly modern fare dispensed at the "Kammerspiele." But the hyper-intellectuals have money, you see, and can afford to pay for their thrills.

The "Kammerspiele" is like some dainty *édition de luxe* printed for private circulation only. It is fitted up in a style of *recherché* elegance in consonance with the high class of intellectual entertainment it offers. Not a discordant note jars on the perfect harmony of the whole, no noisy footstep re-echoes on the luxurious velvet-pile carpet of the auditorium, no glaring lustres intrude their unwelcome rays on the sacrosanct twilight enveloping this shrine of intellect. Alas! the theatre's pedigree is base and lowly. It was formerly a notorious dancing saloon known to generations of students and their grisettes under the name of Emberg's. As is the way of the world, with its degeneration it became ashamed of its old name and went downhill to the Erebus of bankruptcy under the ægis of Diana, although the traditional epithet of the goddess would hardly have applied to the frequentees of the Diana Säle.

But the interior now shows no signs of those unregenerate days. The parquet slopes up to the back of the auditorium, where are situated the two entrances. The walls are lined with dark cedar wood, the low, flat ceiling is virgin white. The interior is lighted by electric candles in heavy bronze sconces, whose discreetly modulated rays in nowise break the sober impression conveyed by the whole. Soft-voiced attendants in black liveries with red facings, black knee-breeches and buckle shoes, usher the audience silently into their seats. These are not the agonising chairs of torture which elsewhere a long-suffering public tolerates under the name of stalls, but luxuriously padded armchairs. Their comfortable depths, it is true, may tend to augment the soporific effect on the Philistine of Maeterlinck or Ibsen, but, then, this Temple of Art is not for the profane. The attendants with their unobtrusive manner, their exaggerated politeness and noiseless footfall, seem to reflect the character of the place. Like animated marks of interrogation, like the asterisks of the *Roman passionel*, they seem to incorporate the note of indiscretion, the suggestion of half-revealed intimacies, the query, "What will come next?"

The jarring rustle of the late-comer is taboo at the "Kammerspiele." Every ticket bears a notice that the doors will be closed as soon as the curtain has risen on an act. There must be no risks of the spell being broken. But to say that the curtain rises would not be correct—so simple a procedure were unworthy of the dignity of the place. The ceremony is far more solemn. A gong is struck somewhere at the back of the stage—one heavy booming note—the attendants glide to the doors and silently close them, the lights sink slowly until the auditorium is enveloped in inky darkness, and then the gong resounds again. With a sighing rustle the green silk curtains divide, the drop rises, and the play begins. There are no matinées at the "Kammerspiele"—daylight would imperil the subsequent impression—and calls before the curtain are likewise forbidden as calculated to break the continuity of thrill.

In German theatrical annals the name of Max Reinhardt will for ever be indissolubly associated with the turntable stage, the so-called "Drehbühne." The mechanism is extremely simple. The stage is simply a huge revolving disc, capable of division into seven sections radiating from the centre, so that seven scenes can be set up at one time. Only one is fitted to the proscenium opening, and at the conclusion of the act the disc is revolved so that the next segment comes before the audience, and so forth. For more elaborate productions on a large scale the "Drehbühne" is impracticable, because all scenes have to be set to a point, to the centre of the circle, although to secure depth the entire diameter of the disc may also be utilised. From this short explanation it will be seen that the turntable stage permits of rapid change of scenery with comparatively little trouble. Backcloths are practically dispensed with, for the back wall of the stage is concavely domed and with suitable lighting arrangements effectively represents an open-air background, while neutral tones hangings—*à la* Mr. Tree's *Hamlet*—are generally used for interiors. I have gone somewhat fully into these technical details as being of such essential importance to the "modern" dramatist.

In accordance with their "modern" character the plays presented at the "Kammerspiele" are mostly of the tense realistic order, with a strong leaning towards the erotic.

Fairs, shows, wakes. Seventy thousand showmen of the United Kingdom required to send for the Showmen's Year Book for 1908. Edited by the Rev. T. Horne. Entirely re-arranged, corrected, and enlarged. 100 pages. Price 1s. Principal contents:—The Passion for Pageantry, Constitution and Rules of the "Showmen's Guilds," Lists of Fairs, Local Feasts and Wakes, Synopsis of Bye-laws, &c., &c. Invaluable to all who follow the fair. Address, the Publisher of *The Era*, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C. Telephones: 4747 and 1433 Central.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON,
Nov. 16, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.,
March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 10, 17, 24, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING,
Nov 16 (three nights),
Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 1, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
March 15, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, 31.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Nov. 16.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON,
Feb. 1, 15, March 1, 8, 22, 29, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD,
Feb. 15, 22, March 15, 29, April 5, 12, on
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON,
March 1, 15, 29, April 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER,
April 12, 19, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON,
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Company, for Reading,
Nov. 16, three nights.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Oct. 19, 26, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, Feb. 15, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY,
Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, on (3 nights only).
Address,
E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Nov. 2 (3 nights), 9 (3 nights), Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE,
Nov. 12 (3 nights), onwards.
Apply for all above, Rowland, T., Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.,
WANTED, Pay-Box Attractions, Nov. 15, 22, 29, 1909, and various, 1910 and 1911.
This, "Man to Man." Next, "Girl with the Angel Face."
Coms., Arthur Jefferson.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Important Attraction, Nov. 9.
Fredk. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Nov. 23, Coronet Theatre, W., and Dec. 14 at Dundee.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, High-class Attractions, for Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30.
Required, Sound Attraction for Dec. 26 (seven nights).
Address, Thos. Swinton.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Front-rank Musical and Dramatic Attractions, Feb. 15, March 22, April 19, May 3, and onwards.
Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions, Dec. 7, Jan. 4. Holding Capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Really First-class Attractions,
Oct. 19,
Oct. 19,
Nov. 9, 16.
Nov. 9, 16.
First-class Companies can rely upon Big Business. This week "The Thief" playing to the holding capacity of the theatre nightly.
James Bell.

THEATRE ROYAL, YORK.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7 and 14, to run on popular prices. Apply, Waddington and Sons, Stonegate, York.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 14, March 1, onwards, with exceptions.
Apply, Sherwood and Co.

NEW GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER.
WANTED, through disappointment, First-class Musical Comedy, for Nov. 2.
Stanley Rogers, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Oct. 26, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, 14, and 21. Address, E. B. Goulden.

NEW PALACE THEATRE, MAIDSTONE.
WANTED, High-class Musical Comedies and Dramas.
Apply, Fred Karno, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

STANLEY, DURHAM, ROYAL, LTD.
WANTED, Big Attraction, Dec. 14, to oblige a Manager. Apply, Mark H. Lindon.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Peterboro', Good Companies, Oct. 12 and 26.
Wire, Vernon.

COURT THEATRE, GALWAY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Oct. 12, 19, and onwards, with exceptions.
For terms please address,
P. O'Shaughnessy, Proprietor.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Dec. 21, 28, Feb. 1, March 15. Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. Ashton, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Special Attractions, for Nov. 23 and 30; also Open Dates for First-class Pantomime. Address, Horner, Victoria, Burnley.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Tom Barger.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, only dates this year Nov. 16, Dec. 14; 1909, Jan. 11, on.
Apply, Business-Manager, Mr. Norman H. Barger.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only Entertained.
Vacant, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23,
onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates,
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Dec. 21, March 22, April 5,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 7, April 5, 12, 19,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Dec. 26, April 12, May 31,
onward with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Oct. 1, 12, 22, Nov. 5,
onward with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical Pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty,
Several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing,
with or without Scenery,
including
"In Sight of St. Paul's,"
"Prairie Flower," &c.

Arthur Carlton,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

Booked by
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BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, Nov. 23, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, Oct. 26, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
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MIDDLESBROUGH.

Seating Capacity 3,500.

Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best-equipped theatres in Great Britain.

The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.

Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only.
Will Guarantee anything really big.

All communications,
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Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telephones, 413, 426, 500.
Telegrams, "Magnet."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for
Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23 (?), 30, on, with exceptions.

Applications for dates to Hugh Robertson,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, Musical Company, Nov. 30.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
No Vacancies till Spring.

NEW GAIETY, WORKSOP
(Booked for the Proprietor).
Vacant Nov. 9 and Dec. 7,
last three days of week only.

DUMFRIES and HAWICK,
First Vacancy Nov. 16.

OPERA HOUSE, DERRY.
Wanted, good Companies in January
(No Vacancy before).

THE SPA, WHITBY.
Now Booking Autumn, '09.

W. Payne Seddon, Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions. Vacant Nov. 2, 9, Dec. 7, 14, and Xmas.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, First-class Attractions, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Vacant, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2.
Wire for Oct. 12.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Powerful Good-class Attractions, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 9, 16, and later.
Re Dates, Fred Granville,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Nov. 16, 26 (3), Jan. 11, 18 (?), 25 (?), Feb. 8, March 1, 22, and on. W. E. Potts, O. H., Dunfermline.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Oct. 12, 13; 19, 20, 21; 26 27, 28; onwards. Apply, Phillips.

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WANTED, First-class Attractions, and good small stuff. Address, 143, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C. Telegrams, "Tiptoes, London." Telephone, 1881 Gerrard.

THEATRES WANTED.

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EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 7. Xmas week (7 nights), also Spring.
E. C. S., Bishopsdale Farm, Benenden, Kent.

"SILVER KING,"
POLINI AND MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:—
Feb. 22, April 19, 28, May 10.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, Polini, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES
"BABES IN THE WOOD,"
"ALADDIN."
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
WANTED Managers, with Vacant Dates, for First-class Pantomimes in January and February to communicate with
Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION
WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 26 (7 nights), Jan. 11.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 12.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, 28.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 8 (North), March 29.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Jan. 4, 11.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION,
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 7.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"IS LIFE WORTH LIVING?"
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 16, Xmas.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Oct. 12, Nov. 16, Dec. 21, 28.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb. 1, 8, March 1.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Nov. 2, Dec. 14, 26 (seven nights), Jan. 4, 11. Douglas Bruce,
7, Wentworth-road, Harborne, Birmingham.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Oct. 12, Nov. 16, 23, 30.
Andrew Melville, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Oct. 5, Dec. 21, 28.
Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH."
And Répertoire of recent West End Successes.
Mr. Ernest E. Norris and Company.
WANTED, Oct. 19, 26, onward, with exceptions. Address, this week, C. H. Bowmaker, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of Nov. 2 and Jan. 4.
Wire or write,
W. W. Kelly, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of Oct. 19 and Nov. 2 and 9, for this Remarkable Success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to
W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 25.
Charles Harrington,
Crystal Palace, London.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Oct. 26 (Midlands or South), Oct. 26 (Midlands or South).

Wire to-day, J. W. Cordiner, Q. T., Keighley.
Oct. 5, C. H., Rugby (3); A. T., Kettering (3).

Mr. MONCKTON HOFFE'S COMPANY,
"IRENE WYCHERLEY"
(by arrangement with Miss Lena Ashwell).
Special Company in this Famous Kingsway Theatre Success.
Elaborate scenery carried.
WANTED, First-class Theatres Only, Oct. 19, 20, 21 (Midlands), and Nov. 23.
Address, Oct. 5, H. M. T., Barrow.

WANTED, Good Theatres, for High-class Farcical Comedy, with Strong Cast, including Mr. Stanley Cooke, for Nov. 9, 16, and 30.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

"MR. POPPLE," No. 1 Co., including Mr. Charles Macdona and Company of Forty. Entire London Production carried.
WANTED, Oct. 26. Wire or write, Charles Macdona, Theatre Royal, St. Helens.

"ONLY A WOMAN."
WANTED, for this recognised success, Nov. 9 (?), 16, and on, with exceptions,
Xmas Vacant, Xmas Vacant.
Xmas Vacant, Xmas Vacant.
New Scenery, Uniforms, and Effects.
Picked Cast, including Miss Violet Craufurd.
Re dates, Chabot, T. R., Stratford.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Theatres; only vacant dates until 1910 Nov. 16, Jan. 4, April 12.
Everything carried. Sixty people on the Stage.

E. Vivian Edmonds, Royalty Theatre, Chester.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Easter.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 2, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 16. Fred Bulmer, P.O.W. THEATRE, NUNEATON.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Jan. 18, first open date.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Gorgeous Production, Vacant Jan. 4.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Intense, Human, Thrilling, Interesting.
Vacant Nov. 16, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND."
Touring Summer and Autumn, 1909.
Wire or write, Theatre Royal, Tyldesley.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26 (precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 (precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. Wyn Weaver, T. R., Worthing.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 28, Midlands and South. Last week at Goole "Lucky 'Liza" broke all records. Please refer. Took more in three than most companies take in a week.
Dickie Clare, T. R., Rotherham.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK" and "THE CURATE," by Rass Challis.
WANTED, good Theatres, Nov. 16, 23, New Year's week (Scotland). Enormous success of new production. "The Bells of Old York."
Address, Maurice, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

WANTED, for the Enormously Successful Musical Comedy, "The Gay Deceivers," Oct. 26, Nov. 2. Stanmore, this, Hippodrome, Sheerness; next, Pier, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Theatres, "Love's Golden Dream," Frances Delaval's daringly original play: "Her Lost Self," by Nita Rae. By Special Arrangement, owing to Enormous Success, one week longer, Empire, Watford. Vacant Oct. 12. Wire.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, "MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, Brilliant Success
at
T. R., Macclesfield (return).
This charming Theatre packed by an enthusiastic and cheering audience every night.
Thanks to Manager Gatley
for a pleasant and profitable week.
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 28, 29, 30.

Vacant,
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, Playing to Big Business.
Dec. 14, 21, 28 Vacant.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, A Sound Romantic Drama.
A Fine Cast.
Nov. 2, 9.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, The Best of all Domestic Dramas.
Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
Specially rewritten for the Provinces
by Mr. Comyns Carr,
by arrangement with
Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree.

The Production last week at Worthing was pronounced by Resident-Manager and Press as the most enthusiastic premiere ever known at the Worthing Theatre.

The Worthing Gazette says:—
Mr. Payne Seddon commenced his tour here, and is entitled to the most hearty congratulations upon the excellent manner in which he has placed the piece upon the stage. (Here follows a lengthy eulogy of the scenery, dresses, and company.) . . . The really powerful portrayal of the exacting part of John Jasper being the most conspicuous feature. Mr. C. H. Croker King's success was proclaimed by the cheers which greeted him at the close, the enthusiasm of the audience being most pronounced. . . . The entire production was of the highest standard of excellence.
Eastbourne Society says:—
Not the least of Mr. Hayes' recent achievements is the attractive engagement of Mr. Payne Seddon's company in "Edwin Drood." The perfection of acting calls for remark. If Mr. Croker King's admirers were astonished at his marvellous performance of Jasper, how much more so were those who had only known him by repute. . . . His art reminds one of Irving in "The Bells" . . . and moreover he has the technique of dramatic impersonation at his finger-tips.

There are no Vacant Dates,
Tour being fully booked to Nov. 23 (Grand, Wolverhampton), but in consequence of the Great Success, the Tour will be Extended.
WANTED, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, in Large Theatres which have not "received" any other version of "Edwin Drood."

W. Payne Seddon,
Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Oct. 12, 19 (London or South), Nov. 9 (through transfer South).
Horace Stanley, Greenwich Theatre;
Next, Palace, Ramsgate.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Xmas week (seven nights),
Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, and 15.
Maud Hildyard,
Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford.

Mr. TOM WATTS'S CO.
"EAST LYNNE."
The Original Wilson Barrett (Bullock) version.
WANTED, Nov. 2 and on.
Now Booking Spring.
Wire or write,
Cecil Elgar, 32, Scholars-road, Balham.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Nov. 23, 30, Jan. 4, 11, 18, various, on.
Sumptuously Staged, Beautifully Dressed, and always a Perfect Cast.
E. A'Dell, Grand T., Aberavon.

KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON'S
"WAS SHE TO BLAME?"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Theatres. Production next Easter, on a lavish scale, at Junction, Manchester, only five vacant dates all 1909. Write, Vauxhall, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, Winter, Spring, and Autumn, 1909.
Wire, F. Martin Morris,
T. R., St. Helens.
Letters, Theatre Royal, South Shields.
See Companies Page.

MR. E. H. KNIGHT'S No. 1 CO.,
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
The New Human Drama. An Established Success.
Booked at all the best theatres.
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 14, 26 (7 nights), Jan. 18. Thanks to H. Fineberg, Esq., for contract for one of the best dates at Star, Liverpool.
E. H. Knight, 7, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
LINGFORD CARSON'S LATEST SUCCESS.
Forty People on Stage. L. Carson included in Cast.
WANTED, Nov. 9, unexpectedly vacant; also Dec. 28, Jan. 4. Address all coms. to
L. Carson, Alex. Theatre, Widnes.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, Aug. 9, on, with exceptions.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

S. RENNEF'S and G. N. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World" Co., Oct. 26 (near Manchester), Nov. 2, 30 (near Sunderland), Dec. 7, Xmas, and New Year, onward. "How Women Ruin Men," new production, Xmas, Jan. 4, 11, onward.
Splendid Casts and complete Productions.
G. M. Copping, this, Leith; next, Accrington.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for "Mason," Chief Company, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Xmas.
Communications to Charlton Mann, 10 and 11, Jermyn-street, S.W.

WANTED, Nov. 23, to precede Aldershot, for "Dandy Fifth." Wire, Haldane Crichton, Opera House, Wakefield.

"SECOND TO NONE," by Walter Howard.
WANTED, Xmas and Easter. Wanted.
Address, T. E. Ward, T. R., Margate.

"MAN TO MAN," under the direction of Frank Adair and Edward Lloyd.
WANTED, Oct. 12.
Frank Adair, King's Theatre, Gainsborough.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Splendid Cast engaged.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."
WANTED, for J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 Company, including Frank Lawton, Good Theatre (South) for Nov. 9.
Address, 15, Clifford's-inn, Fleet-street.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOURS.
"THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
WANTED, Nov. 30.
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER,"
Vacant Oct. 19, Nov. 9, 16.
Eugene Bertram, Adelphi Theatre, W.C.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."

WANTED, August Bank Holiday, 1909.

Bookings include Alexandra, Birmingham; Grand, Brighton; Gaiety, Burnley; Alexandra, Sheffield; T. R., Bristol; Star, Swansea; &c., &c., &c.

Wanted, August Bank Holiday, 1909, Wanted.

Wanted, Sept. 27, between Sheffield and Burnley; Oct. 11, to follow Burnley.

Apply, Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., Bishop Auckland.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOURS.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By the late Wilson Barrett, from Hall Caine's Novel.

WANTED, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, and few later. Xmas week Vacant. New Special Scenery and Effects. A Unique Production.
Seventh Year of Present Tour.
Address, Oct. 5, Boro' T., Heywood.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Big Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.

WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, and New Year's Week, also Jan. 4, 11, and 18, for either play.
Coms. to
GEORGE KIRK, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY,
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."

WANTED, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb. 8, March 1, 8, on.

Oct. 5, Public Hall, Mountain Ash (fourth return).

Mr. and Mrs. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.

"ROLLICKING RORY."

WANTED, Nov. 9, through theatre closing. Paisley; next, Perth.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."

WANTED, Oct. 26, Oct. 26, Dec. 21, only Vacant Dates till Autumn 1909. Special Cast, including Miss Ruth Zillwood and Miss Edie Macklin, and other well-known Artists. Managers see this play at Alex., Birmingham, next week.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Wanted, Nov. 2, 9, 16, Dec. 7, for this Great Success. Special Band to Parade.
Refer C. Revill, Esq.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Vacant Nov. 16, 23, 30, Xmas (seven nights), for this Big Success. Racehorses toured. Everything New for this Tour. Wire for dates to KIMBERLEY, Hippo., Barry Dock; next, Alex., Birmingham.

WANTED, Theatres, for Messrs. Kimberley, Green, and Hinton's No. 1 Company, in "The Power of the King," the Brilliant and Successful Military Romantic Play by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. Vacant Oct. 26, Nov. 30, and Dec. 7. Spring, 1909, fully booked; Whit Week only Vacant. Thirty return dates booked for 1909. Wire for Oct. 26. Wire for Oct. 26. TRAVIS GREEN, Grand Theatre, Newcastle; next week, Clarence T., Pontypridd.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."

WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8, 15, March 1, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Miners' Theatre, Ashington.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, Aug. 9, on, with exceptions.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.

WANTED, for "A Pair of Spectacles" Co., or Répertory, Oct. 19; also Xmas open for two weeks Comedy and Drama Répertoire. Wire, Kursaal, Bexhill.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."

WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, Jan. 4. HARRY TILBURY, this, Heywood; next, Colne.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 15, for really Big Pantomime Production. None but theatres capable of holding good money can be treated with.
J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE," by Geo. A. de Gray.

WANTED, Wanted, Dates.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS," Nov. 2, Jan. 18, Feb. 8. "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE," Nov. 23, Jan. 18, 25. All coms., GEO. A. DE GRAY, To-day, G. T., Lancaster; next, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Theatre, Xmas, for the production of "Cinderella," beautiful dresses, splendid cast of Artists, &c. Address, Box 7,087, "The Era."

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11, 18, March 15 (?), April 5 (?).
FRANK M. THORNE, Grand Theatre, Brighton.

WANTED, by the Royal Sovereign Animated Picture and Vaudeville Company, Theatres, Music Halls, or any Large Buildings that will hold money. Rental or shares, latter preferred.
Vacant Oct. 19, onwards, with exceptions.
Vacant Oct. 19, onwards, with exceptions.
Just concluding nine successful weeks at Empress Palace, Morley, playing to record business.
Variety Company includes the Great Sam Ives, Champion Ball-puncher of the World, in his Sensation Speciality Act. Competitions nightly. A Sure Draw. A Sure Success.
Wire or write for this Pay-box Attraction.
Catch-as-catch-can Managers save stamps.
Proprietor, ARTHUR LESLIE, Palace, Morley, this and next week. P.S.—We challenge all Managers of Picture Co's. to show a more clear, steady and brilliant picture than we do. The talk of every town we visit. Elaborate fit-up. Showy printing, everything carried. Vacant Oct. 19, onwards, with exceptions.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists and Chorus for Musical Comedy Tour, commencing Xmas. Write full particulars to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Strong Emotional Actress, for Lead in elaborate production on the Variety Stage. Good salary. Small sum down.
Full particulars first instance.
Box 7,069, "The Era."

WANTED, for Mrs. Hubert O'Grady's Fit-up Tour, Three Towns Weekly, Powerful Leading Lady, with splendid wardrobe, silks, not muslins; also Good Character Heavy Gent., to double old man, good modern wardrobe. Age, height, lowest terms, photos., refs., in both cases, to ALFRED WEEKLEY, Town Hall, Crediton, Devon.

WANTED, Strong, Heavy Lady (young, attractive), good modern wardrobe, telling voice, long engagement, principally London; Heavy Man, ditto; occasional juveniles both; sound artists only. Age, height, photos., references, lowest, LEONARD MORTIMER, 158, Clapham-road, S.W. Letters only.

WANTED, Powerful Heavy Leading Actor, for Harry Hood, "Greed of Gold"; good Irish Comedian, for Conn Creamer. Terms, references, MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Rehearse next week, First-class Leading Man, must be tall and young. ELSWORTHY, 4, Acre-lane, Brixton; or call Surrey after 7.

WANTED, Strong Character Actor. Terms, photos., &c.
HARRY TILBURY, T. R., Colne, Lancs.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, at Once, First-class Character Actor, with Intense Power and Pathos, for Homodei; good Heavy Man (small part and double); also Character Old Man, with Military Bearing; must have power, or no use. Age, height, references, photos., and lowest terms, FRED C. SOMERFIELD, Court Theatre, Wigan.

WANTED, for Drama, First-class Light Comedian, for Aristocratic Part, must be funny and dress well. Applicants please state age, height, and very lowest terms, enclose recent photo., with stamped envelope for return, and give references. Address, STEPHEN PRITT, Theatre Royal, Preston.

WANTED, First-class Ladies and Gentlemen Amateurs, to join the North London Entertainments Society; Concerts every Monday, Competitions monthly; Engagements found for advanced Members.
Particulars of Secretary,
W. WILLIAMS,
George Hotel, 57, Liverpool-road, Islington.

WANTED, Amateurs, Aspirants, Music Halls, Musical Comedy. Everything supplied; every assistance given; Engagements. Write, MANAGER, 44, South Island-place, Brixton.

WANTED, a Soprano, Mezzo, and Contralto, also Tenor or Baritone Comedy Vocalist, for High-class Variety Combination; long Tour. State age, height, and terms to Box 7081, "The Era."

WANTED, Solo Dancers, for the Continent, good Engagement. Apply immediately to KELSON TRUEMAN, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription, 6d. weekly, yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers, and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Ballet Mistress; all-round experience.
Madame SIDONIA, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by High Baritone, powerful voice; large Rep. of Songs, join select Concert Co. A. SINCLAIR, Baritone, Peterhead, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement, Sketch, Play, or Entertaining Young Gentleman, dark, tall, good speaking and singing voice; experienced; excellent notices. Write, CHARLES DISCOMBE, 4, Brandon-mansions, Queen's Club Gardens, W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for Pantomime, next Xmas, Ten Chorus Ladies, 5ft. 8in. in height.
Photos., experience, references, &c., to
E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, for Provincial Pantomime, First-class Comedian. Apply,
C. ST. JOHN DENTON, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Pantomime, Good, Young, Smart Ballet Dancers.
Call immediately,
FRED DARRELL and Co., 415, Strand, W.C.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Little Dot Jeffries, Now on Tour with "The Fatal Wedding." Open for Pantomime, "Babes in the Wood" if possible. First prize winner in singing competitions of several Leading London Halls. Address, 85, Mabley-street, Homerton.

WANTED, Known, Lily Hayes, Comedienne and Dancer, vac. for Panto., "Cinderella" preferred. Oct. 5, Q. Park Hippo.; Oct. 12, Lancaster Hippo. Sure success.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell at Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Boy or Special Comedy Part. Hippodrome, Ipswich.

WANTED, Known, the Popular Sisters Terry, at Liberty for Pantomime, Boy and Girl. A Guaranteed Success. Communicate, Oct. 5, Hippodrome, Spennymoor, Co. Durham.

WANTED, by the Kebbles (Nora and Edie), Character Duettists and Expert Dancers, Vacant for Boy and Girl. Success, Winter Gardens, New Brighton. 31, Hilberry-avenue, Liverpool.

WANTED.—Bert Danson, U.S. ***, still Vacant Panto. A Comedian who can make your Show a Success. This week, South London and Stoke Newington; next week, Metropolitan and Chelsea. See him!

WANTED, Known, Fred Hallam, at Liberty for Panto. Have played the following parts:—Page (twice), Squire (twice), Muggles, "Puss in Boots," with G. B. Phillips, Esq., Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, John Tiller, Esq. Many thanks for offers. Address, Palace, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Jack Foley, at Liberty for Pantomime, Dame.
Oct. 5, Alhambra, Sandgate.

WANTED, Known, Blarney and Kennard, Comedians and Patterers, Vacant Panto. This, Hippo., Glasgow; Monday, Hippo., Paisley.

WANTED, Known, Shenton and Chicks, vacant for Panto.; Tom Shenton last six years S.-M. for F. J. Little, Paris, Speciality, and S.-M. Coms., Empire, Dudley.

WANTED, Notice. Notice. Managers and Agents please Note that the great Ara, Zebra, and Vora are at Liberty from Dec. 21. Fine speciality for Panto., "Robinson Crusoe." Offers invited. Next week, Grand, Clapham.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Good Scenic Artist, at once, for the Country.
Ten weeks' engagement certain.
Apply by letter,
Box 7,083, "The Era."

WANTED, Scenic Artist, to make himself useful, one that will work preferred. Terms and refs., JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for High-class, Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, or Stock, good, effective work, reasonable prices. J. JACKS, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective, Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, for Mr. George D. Day's Co., in Hall Caine's "Prodigal Son," an Advance Representative and a Business-Manager for the Fit-ups and No. 3 towns. Must have a thorough experience of Scotland and the North of England.

Address,
GEORGE D. DAY,
Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

To whom it may Concern.
To whom it may Concern.
To whom it may Concern.

WANTED, Known, that W. C. Burns, the experienced Showman Caterer, is not dead, but is, and has been, for six solid months, Manager and Cicerone of The Orient Life Motion Picture Company, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh, where he has executed quite a record, viz., through various "showman" methods for which he is noted, and in face of very bad trade, the Exhibtion saw all the other places of entertainment closed up except two.

In addition to Pictures and my Giant Phonograph, I have run Singing and Dancing Contests, Beauty Shows, Baby Shows, Shaving Contests, Guessing Contests, and others equally interesting, for twenty-four consecutive weeks, my crowning-point being last Saturday, Sept. 26,
My Great Marathon Race,
Dalkeith to the Circus
(seven miles),
for a fine valuable silver cup and three medals, illustrated in local papers, when route was packed with thousands of people. One hundred special police on duty. Building holds over 3,000. Packed at night. Complimented by all as being the only man who could do what has been done here.

Re-engaged (Second Season) as Manager by J. H. Cooke, Esq., for his Equestrian Season, commencing Middle of November.

My Picture Season terminates Oct. 31.

Facts are chiels that winna ding.

My Benefit Oct. 30, the Greatest of all Nights.

WANTED, Appointment, as Manager or Acting-Manager of a First-class Variety Hall or Theatre; reliable, energetic, good disciplinarian and organiser; knows the value of Artists, acquainted with good Attractions, and versed in all Business Details; Accountant (society's guarantee). Terms moderate. Offers invited. HAGUE, Entertainments Manager, Corporation, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagement as Business or Acting Manager, Resident or Touring, by man of great experience, travelled England and Continent, First-class references, guarantees, &c.; at Liberty at close of Franco-British Exhibition, Oct. 31. Address, Box 7,074, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Geo. Humphries, late 4½ years, Grand, Gravesend; Gaiety, Chatham; at Liberty for Acting-Management or Secretary and Treasurer of Variety Hall or Theatre; thoroughly reliable and experienced; age 30; tall. 12, Somerfield-road, Finsbury Park, London, N.

WANTED, Situation by Electrical Engineer, to Take Charge of Electric Lighting Plant in Theatre or Music Hall; highest references. Address, Box 7,068, "The Era."

WANTED, by Practical Electrician, Appointment in First-class Theatre. J. PARKER, 66, Latimer-rd., Shepherd's Bush, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Jim Morgan, Practical Carpenter, Bench Hand, own tools, first-class refs.; can open at once. Wire or write, 12, Colls-road, Peckham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Carpenter, combine First Violin; young, smart, strictly sober, excellent refs. What offers? J. JAVENS, Carlton, Nottingham.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Musical-Director for Music Hall, South of England, must be good Violinist, and used to Variety business. Apply through Branch Secretaries, with refs., to J. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary, Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED, a good Conductor, for the Castle Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, to commence Monday, Oct. 12; must be a brilliant Violinist, and steady. Last two references and terms to
J. CHAS. IMESON,
Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Three First-class Musical Directors, for Touring Pantomimes. Send full particulars, BARNARD'S Agency, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Leaders, 'Cellists and Contrabassists, for Cunard, White Star, and Booth Lines' Winter Service, about six months, from Oct. Audition in London or Liverpool necessary before engaging, and two references as to character. Terms and conditions from C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

PALACE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
WANTED, Leader, First Violin (Rep.), 'Cello, Oboe, and Drummer (Tymps.), open Monday, Oct. 5; must be competent, used to Variety. Wire, Mus.-Dir., Palace, Sunderland.

WANTED, to open Monday, Oct. 12, good Leader, well up in Variety and First-class Overtures; steady and reliable. Refs. to CONDUCTOR, Wigan Hippo.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Violinist, Soloist (lady), for Tour. Apply,
CONDUCTRESS, 3, Church-street, Berwick-on-Tweed.

WANTED, London, S.E., one house nightly, First-class Violinist, 'Cello, Bass, Viola; must be strong players. Apply,
MUS. DIR., 17, Monson-road, Willesden, N.W.

WANTED, to Open Oct. 12, good Second Violin. Apply, with terms, age, and refs, to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Grand Theatre, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, accustomed to Variety Business, to open Oct. 12. Apply, letter only, marked "Cornet," giving names and addresses for reference and salary expected, to DISTRICT-MANAGER, Empire, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED, for Sedgwick Menagerie, Solo Cornet and Bombardon, to join at once. Terms, 30s. per week. Hinkley, Saturday; Market Bosworth, Monday; Ipstock, Tuesday; Desford, Wednesday; Leicestershire.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, accustomed to Variety Business, to open Oct. 12. Apply by letter only, marked "Cornet," giving names and addresses for reference and salary expected, to DISTRICT-MANAGER, Empire, Shepherd's Bush, London, W.

WANTED, First Cornet Player, Street Band. Apply,
Mr. PFIEFFER, 34, Ancill-st., Fulham Cross, London.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, good Cornet and Drums, accustomed to Variety; Open all Year Round. Age, refs., and terms, HARTLEY, Mus. Dir., Gaiety, Dundee.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRISTOL.
WANTED, First Clarionet, to commence Monday, Oct. 12. All particulars, salary, age, &c., to G. R. CHAPMAN, Musical-Director.

WANTED, experienced Double Bass; can open at once; just finished season; highest references, Variety, Theatre, or Concert. 4 Tygwyn-road, Llandudno.

WANTED, experienced Double Bass (lady). Permanency.
Write, Box 7,095, "The Era."

WANTED, at once, good Euphonium Player, terms Shares; sobriety indispensable. Apply to LEADER, Town Band, 15, Church-street, Torquay, Devon.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, a good 'Cello Player. Latest references and terms to GEO. F. FORD, Mus.-Dir.

WANTED, good 'Cellist, used to Variety and Opera, to open Monday, Oct. 12. Apply, HARRISON, Conductor, Hippo., West Bromwich.

WANTED, Lady 'Cellist and Pianist, experienced, and good readers; also Violin and Flautist. Write c/o Box 7,082, "The Era."

WANTED, Oboe, Flute, and First Violin, to open Monday next at the Holborn Empire, Holborn, must be thoroughly experienced in Variety business. State experience to J. SALE, 19, Cowley-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, to open Oct. 12, First-class Oboe. State lowest terms and references,
T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Grand Theatre, Derby.

WANTED, Lady Flautist, for Orchestra; must be thoroughly competent; good leader. Terms, references, &c., to GOODALL, Trades Exhibition, Southport.

WANTED, Pianist and Wife, for Dr. Walford Bodie's Hippodrome, Pontycymmer, South Wales; must be thoroughly experienced in Music, Variety and Dramatic; Wife to assist Cleaning and Check. Long comfortable Engagement to good people. Apply, with lowest terms, to TOM N. MILLS, Hippo., Ferndale.

WANTED, to join immediately, practical, permanency, good Pianist, Cornet, and Double Drummer. Apply, stating terms and particulars, ANDREWS, New Theatre, Aberdare.

WANTED, Pianist, Cornet, and Bass, used to Dramatic and Variety. Terms and references to LEE, Empire Theatre, Blaina.

GRAND CIRQUE, HIPPODROME, AND MENAGERIE. A. PINDER, France.
WANTED, through disappointment, for termination of Tenting Season, about eight or nine weeks, good Double Drummer, with Effects; Big Drums found. Terms, 45fr. weekly; fare paid from London. Address, W. PINDER, 22, Blagdon-road, Lewisham, London. (N.B.—H. S. Thompson, Trombone, please write at once.)

WANTED, two Ladies, Drummer and Trombone, open Oct. 10 till 24th. Apply, MADAME STREBELLE, Harbour House, Margate.

WEST RIDING ASYLUM, SCALEBOR PARK, BURLEY-IN-WHARFEDALE.
WANTED, Musician Attendant, Flute and Piccolo Player.
Salary commences at £33 per annum, with board and lodging.
Applications to the
CLERK and STEWARD.

WANTED, Teachers for the Mandoline and Violin, Class Teachings. Good wages; permanent. 2, Shaw-st., Islington-square, Liverpool.

WANTED, Musicians to keep away from Munich, owing to dispute there.—A. SEITZ, Secretary International Confederation of Musicians, J. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Proprietors, Managers, and Directors of Music requiring efficient and reliable Conductors and Instrumentalists, to apply for same to the National Federation of Professional Musicians, Trade Union, Reg. No. 1398. Eligible Musicians earnestly invited to join. Benefits: Sick, Burial, and Victimisation Pay, Fire Insurance Business Protection, &c., &c. Write at once for propaganda to Hon. Sec., J. BALL, 19, Grange-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical-Director (Violin), at Liberty; finishing Summer Engagement of seven months (third season). Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement as Conductor or Pianist, fine Orchestral Library; excellent references, resident post appreciated. GRAHAME, Senior's Pictures, Chesterfield (ninth week).

WANTED, Known, Mus.-Dir. at Liberty, Piano and Violin; experienced; good refs.; Tour or Resident. Address, 103, Ward-street, Hendon, Sunderland.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director or Pianist, any business; terminated Summer's Engagement 26th; steady, reliable; good references. HOLROYD, Plas-road, Llandudno.

WANTED, Engagement, as Musical-Director, Violin, Dramatic or Variety; brilliant Violinist; excellent references. SYKES, 88, Montague-street, Worthing.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianist-Conductor, experienced all Lines; abstainer; joint with Soprano (young), Musical Comedy, Pictures, &c. Open Monday. Wire, NEVILLE, 71, St. Clement's-road, Nechells, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violinist-Conductor; thoroughly experienced in Variety Business; excellent refs.; grand library. Apply, CONDUCTOR, 19, Northcote-road, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Leader, Violinist. Address, HAMILTON SALMON, Forest Hotel, Treforest, Pontypridd.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lilian Brion, now at Liberty, Violin Soloist and Leader. Address, 24, Vicarage-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Known, experienced Lady Violinist, Orchestral Leader, Disengaged London or near. Apply, Box 7,073, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Josephine Haût, Orchestral Violinist, Disengaged Oct. 8. Apply,
Canal House, Warwick-avenue, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, Gentleman, experienced in Practical Orchestral and Hotel Work; also Soloist; London; unexceptional references. Box 7,072, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, experienced Violinist, Disengaged Shortly.
Leader and Soloist.
Box 7,079, "The Era."

WANTED, as Violinist, 32, just finished season, Répétiteur, steady; open at once. VIOLINIST, 9, Springfield-road, Kigston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violin, combine Clarionet, Disengaged Oct. 4, any line. Address, JACQUES, 14, Stourcliffe-street, Marble Arch, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violin and Viola, late Leader Theatre, London preferred; young, strictly steady. VIOLINIST, 39, Marian-square, London, N.E.

WANTED, by First Violin (Lady), Engagement in Orchestra, Continental experience, age 20, good appearance, Disengaged. LOWE, 57, Killyon-road, Clapham, London.

WANTED, permanent Engagement, First Violin, Variety or Theatre; thorough experience; highest refs. 1, Gathorne-road, Wood Green.

WANTED, immediate Engagement, by good reliable Solo Cornet, Military or Orchestra; good references; permanency preferred. TOWNSEND, 11, Blackman-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement as Second Cornet, assist First when required; any business; commence at once. HARRY PILLING, 177, Farm-street, Summer-lane, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Cornettist, at Liberty, thoroughly experienced, Dramatic, Variety, or Mil. Band; excellent refs.; good transposer; age 35. JOHANNIDES, Alsager, near Crewe.

WANTED, by experienced Clarionet, permanent Engagement, Theatre or otherwise; strictly sober, first-class refs.; at Liberty. Box 7080, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Clarionet, any business; good references. Apply,
J. GRUB, 11, Bury-rd., Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement, by Clarionet, any business; total abstainer, and can open at once. C. W. LEGGETT, 79, Gloucester-st., Norwich.

WANTED, Known, Solo Clarionet, just finished 17 weeks seaside, at Liberty, any Bus.; young, sober. Address, 52, Carlton-terrace, Huncoat, Accrington.

WANTED, Engagement, as Clarionet, thoroughly experienced in any business; good references. Address, FRANK BRISTOW, 163, Great Knollys-street, Reading.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Clarionettist, any business; distance no object. Address, H. C. GARNER, 72, Prescott-rd., Fairfield, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass, Dis. Just concluded successful Engagement at Windermere; refs. BERTRAM HORLOCK, 20, St. John's-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass, any Business; just finished season at Folkestone; good refs. F. G. POWELL, 15, Oaten Hill-place, Canterbury.

WANTED, Engagement, by String Bass, any District; used to Variety. Refs. J. REEVES, 1, Bernard-road, South Tottenham.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Bass, experienced any business; best refs., at Liberty any time. WM. SHERIDAN, Prince's Theatre, Preston, Lancs.

WANTED, immediate Engagement, by good reliable Bassoonist, experienced Military and Orchestral (terminating season band). LEWIN, 61, Marquess-road, Canonbury, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Bass or Viola (London); finishing Pier, Worthing, Oct. 14. Miss NELLIE STEVENS.

WANTED, Engagement, as String Bass, combine Solo Euphonium, any business; good references. M. KETCHLEY, 15, Harman-street, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Orchestral Euphonium, or with Tenor Valve Trombone, Disengaged Oct. 3. HOWARTH, 61, Corrance-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Euphonium, any business, can open at once. CHARLES GRICE, 2, Gilden-croft, St. Augustine's, Norwich.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone, thoroughly experienced, any business; steady and reliable; refs. S. SMITH, 7, Cross-street, Hove, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, with either Bass or Tenor Trombone, any Bus; would Travel. Address, SACKBUT, 28, Edward-street, Hampstead-road, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement (through misunderstanding), by First-class Trombone; thoroughly experienced in Variety work. C. MACCALLAUGH, 9, Salisbury-terrace, Bridlington.

WANTED, Known, First-class Trombone, at Liberty; strictly attentive to business and reliable. BANWELL, 7, Canton-street, Poplar, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, Bombardon, 10 years' experience; first-class references; reliable; life abstainer; Disengaged. Address, Bandsman HUTLEY, Royal Victoria Hospital, Netley (25 B Ward).

WANTED, Situation, by Bombardon, workshop where Band is kept, Reed or Brass.
BOMBARDON, 9a, Pavilion-terrace, Wood Lane, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced French Horn Player.
P. LENFT, 116, Faraday-road, Wimbledon.

WANTED, by good French Horn, Disengaged, Re-engagement; good refs.
J. S., 32, Cleaver-street, Kennington.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Lady 'Cellist, in or near London; can Double Contra' Bass. Address, W., 12, Heber-mansions, Queen's Club-gardens, Kensington, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cello; would deputise. 'CELLO,
4, Godman-road, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as 'Cellist, reliable, and excellent refs.
F. DENT, 28, Colebrooke-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, by 'Cellist, experienced Concert Theatre, Variety; can open immediately; 30, smart, thoroughly reliable; excellent refs. DELK, 92, West End-lane.

WANTED, Known, First-class 'Cellist, at Liberty. Address, A. GODFREY,
38, Claylands-road, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Viola or Violin; young, sober, and reliable; experienced in Variety; good references; at Liberty Monday. Wire or write, MUSICIAN, 27, Fixby-avenue, Pye Nest, Halifax.

WANTED, by Viola, Engagement; experienced all Lines; young, abstainer. MUSICIAN, 9, Magdalen-avenue, Bath.

WANTED, Engagement, as Oboe or Double Bass; any Business, experienced. J. CRABTREE, 5, James-street, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagement, as Harpist, or would take Double Bass, or join Violinist, any business, steady, reliable. J. STEWART, 2, Howden-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, as Flute and Piccolo, experienced all lines of business; excellent references; young and reliable. METCALF, T. Royal, Chesterfield.

WANTED, by good Flute and Piccolo, first-class references, Engagement. Apply to FLAUTIST, Victoria Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, by Good Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, thoroughly experienced in any business; excellent references. THOMAS HURN, 9, Upper Aberdyberthi-street, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, First-class Pianist, at Liberty. Wire or write; any business. BERT BEATTIE, 28, St. Paul's-road, Bradford.

WANTED, immediately, by Gilbert Garaban, brilliant Pianist and Accompanist; Lib. Mon. next, Oct. 5; any business. Wire, 16, Westby-street, Lytham.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Constance Upstoae, A.T.C.L. (Solo Pianist Queen's Hall, &c.), Soprano Vocalist, Accompanist, Sight-reader, concluded Pier Pavilion, Clacton-on-Sea. Liberty 26th, on. 11, Willoughby-park, Tottenham.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist; good Accompanist and Sight-reader, or Ladies' Orchestra; well recommended. M. Scully, 12, Stockwell Park-road.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady, Certificated Profesional, desires post as Accompanist to Singer during Practises or to attend Concerts. Ferna, 282, St. Paul's-road, Highbury.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Pianist, any business, pictures, &c., good soloist and accompanist, excellent refs. F. Rogers, 162, High-street, Notting Hill Gate, London, W.

WANTED, Re-engagement, First-class Lady Pianist, Expert Sight-reader and Accompanist; experienced all Lines. London only. Pianist, 32, Chapter-chambers, Chapter-street, Westminster.

WANTED, permanency, Drums, Tympani, Glockenspiel, &c., Dis.; excellent refs.; experienced Dramatic, Variety, or Concert; abstainer. W. Bennett, 1, St. Leonard's-road, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Permanency, Military or Orchestra, Double Drums, &c., Tympani. Apply, Drums, 39, Morland-road, James-street, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Engagement, by good smart Double Drummer and Tympanist, Glockenspiel and Effects; terminating season; Military or Orchestra; excellent references. Sullivan, 33, Portland-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Known, Drums and Tymps, Open for Engagement; experienced; after Oct. 10. Jas. O. Day, 316, Abbey-street, Derby.

WANTED, by Double Drummer, Experienced and Reliable, Theatre or Music Hall. W. Dowling, 38, Marlborough-rd., Fulham-rd., S.W.

WANTED, Known, that Madame Stockham's Ladies' Orchestra, including the celebrated Harp Trio and Vocalists, can be Engaged for Exhibitions, Piers, Bazaars, Mayoral Receptions, &c. Specially Re-engaged Oct. 5, week, Crystal Palace, London.
Managers requiring an up-to-date Entertainment, with a large and varied Répertoire of High-class Music.
Permanent address, The Grove, Villa-road, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Madam Wilton Davis's Ladies' Orchestra (The Grosvenor). Specially engaged Franco-British (eighth week); Quartette Dis. 42, Linton-street, London, N.

WANTED, Known, The Italian Ladies' Quartette now (all season at Pharaoh's Daughter, Franco-British) wants offers, large répertoire; also Gentlemen's Orchestra, cheap; Dancing, Concerts, &c. Conductor, Signorina de Polo, 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Engagement, Bateson's Orchestra (small), Vocalists and Instrumentalists; excellent répertoire. Musical-Directress, Miss Maude Trainer, Bowness-on-Windermere.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS,
EDINBURGH.

WANTED, for the above, from Nov., month, on,
the Cream of Artists
in every Branch of the Amusement World,
Equestrian, Gymnastic, and Vaudeville,
to write in at once, with full list of dates, and all particulars of act (which must be refined in every detail),
apply to
John Henry Cooke's Travelling Representative,
T. W. Cooke,
Cooke's Royal Hippodrome and Circus,
Edinburgh, N.B.

WANTED, John Scott's Royal Circus, Smart Reliable Ground Acts.
Nothing too Big.
No number too small if good.
No fancy salaries, but will entertain any Good Acts at a reasonable price. Artists please note.—
No street parade or 3 and 4 o'clock starts
Our performances daily at 4.30 and 8.

State full particulars in first letter,
12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.

WANTED, Circus Acts of all Kinds; Everything that can perform in small ring. No fancy prices. Open Monday. Wire, Samson, Palace, Bridlington.

WANTED, by Renowned Gymnaste, experienced Catcher for Throwing Act; Amateurs need not apply. Eugene, Hippodrome, Sheerness.

WANTED, by Well-known Family, Smart Boy, about 14 years old;
must have Knowledge of Tumbling.
Comfortable home, and all found.
Write, stating full particulars in first letter, to Tumbler, Box 7,078, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Circus Proprietors and Directors
to Note that the
ROYAL OHMYS
must be in England at Christmas.
ROYAL OHMYS,
Greatest of all Acrobatic Equestrians on one, two, three, four, and five Bareback Horses; the only Acts of the kind ever seen in a Circus Ring. Have made the greatest success ever known in Denmark. The only Circus Riders in the world, complimented by H.M. King Edward VII. for fourth time at the Grand Circus, Paris. Have just appeared by command before H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Denmark and Royal Family. Complimented by H.R.H., and received the title of Royal Riders of Denmark.
Ada Ohmy, the Dashing Lady Rider.
Lil Ohmy, the Artist's Model on Horseback.
Sal Ohmy, the Greatest All-round Circus Artist in the World; with six great Acts. Will arrive in England end of Oct., after fulfilling six months' Engagement with Beck Olsen's Great Circus, Denmark. Notice. Beck Olsen has re-engaged
THE ROYAL OHMYS
for eight months next season at an increase of salary. This is proof of what these Artists are worth. No Circus complete without
THE ROYAL OHMYS.
Will be at Liberty for the Winter Season end of Oct. For particulars and list of Acts address, The Royal Ohmys, c/o Beck Olsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

WANTED, Known, John Scott's Royal British Circus Family, at Liberty coming Winter Season. Can supply full Circus Company, or can arrange for a number of individual Acts
Pure Business; no Bluff.
Address, 12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, Oct. 12, on, the Flying Oreniuses (Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts), in their Phenomenal Flying Act, the only one of its kind. 24, Foxley-road, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air Balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. Spencer Bros, Ltd., 45a, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Variety Artists Suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to Wm. Biggam, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday, Oct. 12, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES,
Twice Nightly.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, also WORCESTER EMPIRE (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Variety Artists,
in all Lines,
for Monday, Oct. 12, and onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

PICKARD, A. E.
BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Oct. 12 and onwards, with exceptions.
A. E. Pickard, Britannia, Glasgow.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Oct. 5 and on. Apply, A. E. Pickard, as above.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

EMPIRE VARIETY THEATRE,
GREENOCK.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, nothing too big, salary or share, direct or through Agents; also twice nightly Pantomimes and Combinations. Apply, with vacancies and lowest terms, to Managing-Director.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines from now, onwards. Apply,
Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Oct. 12, on. 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY,
GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL,
HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT,
PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, for the above, Artists in all Lines. Add., T. Allan Edwardes, Grand T., Derby.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns doing Singles, two weeks, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, onwards. Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists, Immediate and Future Dates, good break going North. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

PUBLIC HALL, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Refined Artists, suitable for a First-class Picture Show (once nightly), to open Oct. 12, and onwards. Preference given to artists new to above town. Send lowest net terms to Manager, Public Hall, Workington.

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.
Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher.
General-Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. Reginald Fletcher.
WANTED, Artists, Nov. 2, onwards. Calls for Oct. 3:—Will Owen, Nellie Ford, George Griffan, Baby Renshaw, Sisters Boden, Ruffell's Bioscope. Call for Town Hall, Middlewich:—Geo. Wyres, Annette Coleman, John Howell, Joe S. Atkins, Royal Welsh Entertainers, Vernon's Bioscope. Rehearsals 1 sharp. General-Manager, Towyn Thomas.

WANTED, Artists, from Oct. 12, good Turns, suitable to Picture Shows. Terms must be reasonable. Seaton, Mechanics' Institute, Tow Law, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Known, Grand Anniversary Complimentary Benefit to F. Granville, Esq., Manager, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, Friday, Oct. 16. Pleased to hear from Artists willing to do a Turn in view of Engagements for Granville's three Pantomimes. Usual terms will be given the V.A.F. All communications, Barnard's Agency, Shaw-st., Liverpool. 'Phone 2349 Royal.

CHELTENHAM
NEW PALACE
THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Stars and Specialities, also Doubles doing Singles, for immediate and future Dates, for Every Town of Note in Scotland.

WANTED, Stars, Novel Specialities, Artists all Lines, Oct. 12, onwards. Lowest terms, Daly, Opera House, Londonderry.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates, to communicate terms, &c., to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Stars, &c., Early and Late Dates, Best Halls and Pantomimes, &c.
Geo. Ayton, 103, Kennington Park-rd., London, S.E.

CLIQUOT'S THEATRICAL VARIETY AGENCY.
46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.
WANTED, Big Star Acts,
Big Star Acts,
Also Artists all Lines, for
Oct., Nov., Dec.
No limit for real good stuff.

Notice.
I accepted the Federation Office Copy; good enough for me. No time to ride in motor cars; too busy looking after Managers' and Artists' interests alike. No favourite Acts on my books.
My energy is divided for big and little.
My Motto is: Hard Work and Civility.

Following Artists please communicate (important): Geo. Formby, Billy Williams, Jock Whiteford, Miss Nan Farren, Zedoras, L. W. Harris, Vearley.
All communications to Cliquot, as above.

WANTED, for Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, and other towns in Scotland, the biggest Drawing Acts in the world, nothing too big and nothing too small; money no object. Can place big and small Acts for Scotch Tour immediate. Write or wire, Morris's Agency, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

PALACE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. Cummings.
WANTED, Star Acts all Lines, nothing too big. State absolute lowest, once nightly.

WANTED, Oct. 8, Glasgow, Midlands, Yorkshire, South Wales, Variety Acts all Lines. Full Bookings imperative. Gannon, West Grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Acts. Contracts await T. E. Johnstone, Marstro and Orretta, A. G. Spry, Stiddar and Dunbar, Bennett and Martell. Dan Noble's Agency, Empire, Grantham.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL, JARROW-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, for above Hall, First-class Combinations, Picture Shows, Choirs, &c., to follow Jamaica Choir; Vacant from Oct. 26. For business done refer to Leoni Clarke, Esq., Dayton Family, Elliotts and Savonas, &c. Apply, Staton, Mechanics' Institute, Towlaw, Co. Durham.

PALACE, BOSTON.
WANTED, Variety Combinations, with Star Turn, Dramas, and Musical Comedies.
Holloway and Fountain, Lessees.

EMPIRE PALACE, BARNSLEY.
Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.
WANTED, Top Liners, good Comedians, Specialities Acts, anything Attractive, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 14, and later dates, must be first-class; no Sketches required.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY — Artists for Immediate Dates and Dates onwards.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list and very lowest (this essential), and permanent addresses.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Telegrams: Granbeste, Withington-Lancs.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Telephone: 193 Didsbury.
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DALTON'S AGENCY

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, for Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Tops, Bottoms, all Lines. Send Bookings, lowest, permanent address, to Keeble's Agency, this, Hippo., Spennymoor; next, Palace, New Brighton.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, a Top of Bill Turn for both the above, Oct. 12 and onwards; also other Turns, all lines; small towns, one house nightly, except Saturdays (two). State lowest first letter, those with lithos. preferred. Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Top of Bill, for Oct. 12 and 26, Frank Lynne and Co., 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. N.B.—Callers by appointment only.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent all Lines, Oct. 12, 19, later.
James Fiori's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Barnard's Agency, Shaw-street, Liverpool. Telephone 2349. Talent in all Lines. Pantomime Artists, &c., send full list bookings and vacancies. V.A.F. Office Copy.

WANTED, for St. Anne's Pier, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, for Season 1909, a First-class Company of Al Fresco Entertainers.
Offers, with full particulars, to be sent in not later than Thursday, Oct. 22, 1908, addressed to The Manager.

WANTED, New Sketches for the Music Halls. The Royal Road to Success. Give a Trial Show to the Managers and Agents at the Rehearsal Theatre, 21, Maiden-lane, Strand. Apply to Manager.

WANTED, two Sopranos, two Contraltos, must have good Voices; Instrumentalists given preference; also Comedienne or Speciality. Particulars, salary, compass, photos. (returnable). Lady Harpist, good accompanist, may write. Box 7,090, "The Era."

WANTED, Illustrated Song Singers, Good Panto Artists, Musical Department now Open under Direction of an eminent Orchestral Arranger. Edmond and Rockliffe, 84, High-street, Camden Town, N.W.

WANTED, good Male Alto or Soprano, also Tenor and Bass Vocalists, used to Quartettes, &c., for Variety Theatres. State lowest terms and particulars. Box 7,084, "Era" Office.

WANTED, for Evening Work round London, Entertainer; must play piano and another instrument, and able to sing and generally amuse; long engagement to suitable man. Apply by letter, C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, immediately, Gymnast and Knockabout Comedian, must patter well and must be in London for interview. Apply by letter to Comedian, 77, Liverpool-road, Islington, N.

WANTED, one or two good Knockabouts, would prefer those that can Tumble; long Engagement to suitable Artists. Amateurs save stamps. All communications, Geo. Addison, Hippodrome, Yarmouth. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Two Boys, with Good Voices and Knowledge of Dancing, over fourteen years of age, to join good troupe. Any evening, 5 to 6. H., 36, Trafalgar-rd., Old Kent-rd., S.E.

WANTED, Juveniles (Boys), over 14 years, with good voices. Apply by letter,
A. W., 41, Maxted-road, Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, a smart Coloured Boy, over 14; must sing and dance well.
Apply, Irene and Morton, Hippo., Oldham.

WANTED, a Boy or Girl to assist in Speciality Act. State age and experience; long engagement. Floria, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, for Illusionist, three Lady Assistants, height about 5ft. 6in. Apply to-day, Russell, 59, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, W.

WANTED, Assistant for Illusionist, height about 5ft. 6in. Call to-day,
Russell, 59, Charlotte-street.

WANTED, First-class Bioscope Operator, for Tour with Old-established Firm;
must be absolutely steady and reliable,
used to gas and electric.
Terms and full particulars to
Fred Buxton, Douglas, Isle of Man.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operator and Stage-Manager combined. Send full particulars, with experience, to Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WEST'S "OUR NAVY."
WANTED, a thorough efficient Bioscope Operator. Apply personally, or by letter, to Manager, West's "Our Navy," Ltd., Polytechnic, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, First-class Operator, with Machine, fully experienced in electric and lime, Picture Company; absolute steadiness essential. Age, salary, references, make of machine, &c., to Box 7,091, "The Era."

WANTED, reliable Young Man; must have thorough knowledge of working pictures, effects, combine billing. Particulars, age, terms, refs., Box 7,092, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Miss Rosaline Thorne, Contralto and Dramatic Vocalist, Illustrated Songs, Big Répertoire, for a few vacant dates, 32, North Side, Clapham Common, S.W.

WANTED, by Alice Oakley, Comedienne, Monday next, also 12th. Wire, Palace, Oldbury; after Monday, 157, Brook-st., Kennington, London, S.E.

WANTED, by Little Dolly Brough, Comedienne and Clog Dancer, Monday, Oct. 5. Wire or write, great success this week, Oddfellows' Hall, Ashton-under-Lyne; vacant Panto.

WANTED, Oct. 19, onward, also Panto, Ena Corelli, "The Mighty Atom," Comedienne and Specialitv Dancer. Palace, Darwen (Bottom); next, Hall, Denton.

WANTED, by Rubie and Elsie Redfern, Oct. 5, 26, with their Novel Drawing-room Piano Act, introducing Banjo Overture, Mimicry, Singing, &c., Originality. 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Terry, Mimics, Vocalists, and Dancers. Variety itself.—Press. At Liberty Oct. 19, 26. Communicate, Hippo., Spennymoor, Co. Durham. A Sure Hit.

WANTED, by the Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Monday next. Wire, Theatre R., Bury St. Edmunds; after Sun., 25, St. George's-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Vokes, Comedy Musical and Patter Comedian, new Act, Liberty Oct. 5, 12. Wire, 16, Moreton-street, Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey. Big Novelty Musical Act; do two numbers if required. Wire, 59 Urquhart-road, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 19, by James Stewart, the Original Tramp at the Piano.
Address, 26, Roman-road, Barnsbury, London.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to Note that Beanland Query has Monday next also Oct. 12 at Liberty. Wire, 6, Shakespeare-street, Halifax.

WANTED, Engagement, by Dan Ashton, Lancashire Collier. Original Collier's Song and Story, founded on Wigan Colliery Explosion. Star Turn. 26, Wood-street, Openshaw.

WANTED, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Picture Shows, &c., by Stuart Brampton, the Popular Baritone, own Songs and Slides. 274, Nechells Park-road, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, Comedian and Champion All-round Dancer, I Bar None, Liberty Oct. 5 and 12. Offers invited. Wire, 7, Poplar-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Morimura, the Celebrated Japanese Illusionist, Monday next, also 12th and 19th, entirely New Act, including Beautiful Illuminated Electric Stage Effects. Concludes to-night, Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent; after, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Norman Harris, up-to-date Humorous Magician, vacant Oct. 5 12. No Sole Agent. All coms. N. Harris, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Known, Knotella, Comedy Contortionist and Dancer, &c., Liberty Oct. 12, onward, with exceptions. 208, Wandsworth Bridge-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Monday next, and 12th, 19th, Volto, Man Monkey and Comedy Gymnastic Act. Wire, 34a, Chester-street, Wrexham.

WANTED, Known, Goliath, the Human Enigma, in a Novel Exposition of Human Endurance, concluding with the Most Thrilling Motor Sensation of the Present Century. Vac. November, or Panto. Coms., 41, Brunswick-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Act Ready Shortly. From Street to Stage. Monro, the Modelling Gainsborough, late Song-vendor. Heads of Famous Men in Clay. Coms., 221, Hammersmith-road, London, W.

WANTED, six nights, Oct. 5, by Lieut. Albini and his charming Mysterious Lady in Black Wonder. During my fourteen weeks in the Provinces, at most places I have more than doubled the business with my new methods and ideas of putting a show on. Enquire about Hastings last week. Wanted, big Theatre or Hall, where money can be taken, Share or Rental. Oct. 19, Nov. 9 and 16, for one of the largest Combinations ever seen out of London. Costly Mechanical Fit-up and Appointments. Invented and designed by Albini, patent applied for. Write for particulars, 125, Tufnell Park-road, London, N.

WANTED, Oct. 5, onward, Original Kyoto, Humorous Japanese Contortionist, Conjurer, Juggler, and clever Dog; also May Geraldine, Dainty Comedienne and Dancer. Wire or write, 15, Haslemere-avenue, Bridlington. Any distance.

WANTED, Oct. 19, 26, on, exceptions, The Moncktons (Fred, Lillie), in Own Original Screaming Farcical Episodes, "Two in a Flat," "A Woman's Curiosity," "Are Wives Dummies?" Oct. 5, Winter Gardens, New Brighton, Cheshire.

WANTED, Known, Two Le Bruns (Edgar and Edie), in their Unique Vocal and Juggling Speciality, are vacant Oct. 19, 26, and Nov. 16, 23; Edie Le Brun, the Juggling Prodigy and Vocal Gem; the talk of every town she visits.
Address,
Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Monday next, by Erris and D'Aubyn, Comedy Artists and Dancers. Complimented by all Managers. Wire for sure hit, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Monday next and 12th, Erris and D'Aubyn, Comedy Artists above the average. The Laughing Hit of the Programme. Wire, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Elton and Elma, in their Great Knockabout Triple Bar Act, Liberty through misunderstanding, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7; engaged Panto., third season, Messrs. Dottridge and Longden. Monday, return, Empire, Stockport.

WANTED, Monday next, and immediate Dates, Sardous, Illusionists, Marvellous Mystifiers; also Marie Riviers, Comedienne. Wire, 44, Oldham-street, Hyde, Cheshire.

WANTED, by Fields and Lewis, Great Comedy Act, Oct. 12, to follow Cork.
Wire, Palace Theatre, Cork.

WANTED, Oct. 12, by Ryder Davis, Comedian, also Eva Ward, Burlesque Artist, to follow Porth and precede Crouch End. This, P., Gloucester; Monday, Palace, Porth.

WANTED, Monday, Oct. 5 and 19, by Mlle. Edythe and Toto, Novel Speciality Act, Original. Success this, Gaiety, Birmingham, where wire.

VALDO BROS.,
in their Renowned Droll Absurdity,
"The Eccentric Motor-Bus Men."
WANTED, Oct. 12 and 26. A First-class, Clever and Funny Attraction, which has appeared at nearly every First-class London and Provincial Hall. Coms., Queen's Palace, Leeds.

WANTED, by Mouing and Cooney, Real coloured Comedians, at Liberty Oct. 5 and 12. Wire for Monday, Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank, near Glasgow.

WANTED, by Bros. Webb, Renowned Musical Clowns, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 23. This, Palace, Darlington; next, Hippodrome, Lancaster.

WANTED, Oct. 12 and 19, by Ray and Ross, Comedians and Raconteurs. Thanks to George Burton, Esq., for eighteen weeks' comfortable engagement. Wire or write for success, Octavia House, Baring-street, South Shields.

WANTED, Monday next, also Oct. 12, by Harlin and Hanlon, Patter Comedians, an Original Act. Wire for Monday, Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Merry and Bright, Comedians, Oct. 5, 12. Wire till Saturday, Standard, Pimlico; after, 31, Micklethwaite-rd., Earl's Court.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton (Original Comedy Act), Oct. 12, onwards. This, A., Sandgate. Monday next, Oct. 5, Empire, Dover. Wire.

WANTED, Oct. 12, by Stanley's Urchins. Wire offers this week, Albert Theatre, Brighouse; next week, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, Ringling Trio, Acrobatic Comedy Act, on Stilts, &c., Vacant Monday next and onwards. Wire, 8, Chaucer-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Oct. 19, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, by Cameo Troupe, Monday next, Smartest Comedy Act extant. A Scream. Wire, 23, Egerton-street, Hulme, Manchester. Agent, Stebbings.

WANTED, Oct. 12, 19, 26, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Thanks Messrs. Willmot, Horner, Dottridge, Fred Higham, Werswick, and other Managers for Contracts. Monday, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Monday next, also Oct. 12, 19, Bessie Travis, Premier Lady Ventriloquist. Wire, perm. address, 174, Ecclesall-road, Sheffield.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Oct. 12, for Matt Wilkinson and Co., in their Original Screamer "On the Flip-Flap." Monday next, Empress, Brixton, 10 o'clock.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, Oct. 19 (North), Nov. 9 (Midlands), and Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28 (London or South). Com., 41, Tower-street, Portobello, N.B.

WANTED, Dates, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, the Biggest Novelty ever introduced, with Troupe of Dogs. Next, Crystal Palace, London. Address letters, 9, Rosoman-st., Clerkenwell, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, Vacant Oct. 5 and 12. Wire Saturday, Queen's Theatre, Castleford; after, see Ad. in Cards.

WANTED, Monday next, also Nov. 16, Swift Duo, Funny Cycling Speciality. Wire or write, 89, Bristol-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Lad, 19, wishes to join Cycle Troupe; can do all Solo Riding, including Single Wheel and Riding on Ball-head. Harry Nicol, 10, Canning-place, Townhead, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, Sketch Artist, Comedy or Straight; long experience, own Tours, "Jack's Uncle." George Davis, 262, Manchester-road, Nelson.

WANTED, by two youths, Engagements as Assistants to Illusionist, or take small parts in Sketch or Panto., &c.
A. G., 26, Albert-road, Richmond, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private Carl Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also Punch and Judy, with Toby. 264, Queen's-road, Battersea Park.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Harry Lynton's Royal Marionettes, at Liberty for Xmas. Will Jackey Davies please write? Pleased to hear from old friends. Address, Philharmonic Hall, Southampton.

WANTED, by Willard's Famous Marionettes, Monday next.
Wire, Palace, Attercliffe, Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, Bioscope Operator, with own machine; electric or gas; London or Suburbs only. A. E., 19, Marney-road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman (Silver King), Showman's Auctioneer, Valuer, Variety Agent, Expert, and Authority. The man that sold Lord George Sanger's Circus, also his Zoological Collection, at the Hall-by-the-Sea, Margate, &c., would like to hear from you. Address, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 350 miniatures to select from.
Minerva Automatic Co.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, the Automatic Novelty Co. Supplies all Kinds of American Slot Machines for Sale, cheap; Punch-ball, £5; Diablo, £2; for Bazaars. Manager, 33, High-street, Kingsland.

WANTED, Known, Automatic Piano, £10; Tivolis, 25s.; Krac Shots, Check Delivery, cost £8, sell £2; all kinds of Automatic Machines supplied for Bazaars.
Pauley, 69, Albion-road, Dalston.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Gaskin, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, Taylor, Plinston, Bros., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402.
This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street,
and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.
CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

Houp La, Houp La, Houp La.
WANTED, to Sell, Large Packets Butterscotch, Limejuice, and Chocolate Toffee, 12s. per gross; also assorted best Confectionery, 18s. per gross; Fancy Boxes, containing 1lb., everybody has got them, so they must be the best.
A. Bunn, 16, Dagnall-place, Whitechapel, London.

WANTED, for the Carnival, Camborne, Cornwall, Town Hall Buildings, the great mining centre of Cornwall, for Winter Season, for Winter Season, commencing Oct. 12, all under cover, brilliantly lighted throughout by electricity, the Cornish Carnival, the Cornish Carnival, every description of Novelty in Side Shows, nothing too big, nothing too small. Wanted, Helter Skelter, Rifle Range, Hall of Laughter, Maze of Mirrors, Slot Machines, Skates and Skaters, Lady Palmist, Cocoanut Shies, Giants, Dwarfs, Illusions, Fishing Pond, Wire-workers, Juvenile Roundabout, by hand working, in fact Shows and Stall-holders of all kinds; good terms for good Shows. Special service of trains to the Carnival, which also includes the great Cornish Picturedrome and Varieties, by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, and Star Variety Co. Address, Director, Walton House, Camborne, Cornwall.

WANTED, First-class Side Shows, for an Automatic Arcade in London, upon 50 per cent. Sharing Terms.
Send all particulars to
Gayland, 98, King-street, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Novelties, with good Flash, month certain for right people. Wire, Nicholas, Exhibition, 47, Surrey-street, Croydon. Harry Fanning please write.

WANTED, Novelties, Saturdays and Sundays only, or would let Space. Sloper Ball-throwing for sale. 150, Seven Sisters-road, London.

WANTED, good Novelties, must have good Flash, for 89, Atlantic-road, Brixton.
Apply, Proprietor.

WANTED, for Monday, Novelties of all Descriptions for Best Positions.
Good Shows take Good Money.
Apply, 147, Lewis-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, and Attractions, now and onwards, for my American Museum.
A. E. Pickard, Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, good Specialities for Parade, Benders, Tumblers, and Knockabouts two or three or Troupe; also clever Card Manipulator, with good hanky traps, must understand show business; money no object to the right people; can open at once. Wire, Saturday, W. Biddall, Electric Pictures, Huntingdon; after, Fair Ground, Peterborough.

WANTED, for Coney Island in Leeds and Coney Island in Liverpool, First-class Attractions, on share, rental, or salary. Only First-class Novelties entertained. Alfred Wood, General-Manager, The Coney Island Syndicate, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Strong Men, Conjurers, Freaks, Novelties, &c.; good flash. Share terms. The American Swimming and Automatic Company, 118, Rathbone-street, Canning Town.

WANTED, experienced Man, for Black Art, used to Flying Lady Show, for Waverley Carnival, Edinburgh; tour to follow to right man. Ugo, 86, Highfield-road, South Shore, Blackpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Showmen to Know that the following is a complete
COPYRIGHT LIST OF FAIRS, FEASTS, WAKES, AND CARNIVALS, FOR OCTOBER.

ENGLAND.

3. Glodwick (16,900)
3. Pilsley (2,347)
3. Retford (4,200)
3. Yarnborough Castle (Wilts.)
5. Abingdon (6,500)
5. Burton-on-Trent (50,386)
5. Cirencester (7,600)
5. Horwich (15,000)
5. Hounslow (6,700)
5. King's Norton (5,000)
5 Kirkby Lonsdale (1,500)
5. Macclesfield (34,700)
5. Middleton (13,000)
5. New Wortley Feast (15,100)
5. Tamworth (7,300)
5. Wibsey (4,586)
5. Woburn (2,731)
6. Alcester (2,500)
6. Brough Hill (1,000)
6. Peterborough (30,070)
6 Woodstock (1,628)
7 Alvechurch (1,600)
7 Belford (1,600)
7. Bridport (5,700)
7. Hungerford (5,000)
7. Northleach (180)
7. Tetbury (2,000)
9. Hull (235,000)
9. Evesham (7,100)
9. Hartlepool (22,800)
10. Ashford (13,000)
10. Aylesbury (9,300)
10. Basford (11,500)
10. Basingstoke (10,000)
10. Burwell (Cambridge) (2,000)
10. Chipping Norton (3,800)
10. Crich (3,076)
10. Middleton (Stoney) (300)
10. Ramsbury (2,200)
10. Pinxton (2,412)
10. Gosport (29,000)
10. Highworth (2,500)
10. Tapton (229)
10. Lancaster (40,300)
10. Leicester (211,600)
10. Nuneaton (25,000)
10. Tewkesbury (5,400)
10. Tring (1,400)
10. Lowestoft (30,000)
10. Wadebridge (2,300)
10. Winchcomb (2,964)
10. Woller (1,500)
12. Bakewell (3,500)
12. Bedford (35,200)
12. Barkerend Feast
12. Burley - in - Wharfedale (3,600)
12. Caister (Lincs.) (2,000)
12. Cirencester (7,600)
12. Fazeley (1,800)
12. Great Grimsby (63,000)
12. Henley-in-Arden (6,000)
12. Ilmington (705)
12. Needham Market (1,300)
12. Sherborne (6,000)
12. Southam (1,800)
12. St. Ives (Hunts.) (6,700)
12. St. Just (Cornwall) (6,000)
12. Stratford-on-Avon (11,862)
12. Warwick (12,000)
13. Ashton-in-Makerfield (18,700)
13. Hockley Heath (755)
13. Kingsclere (2,000)
13. Shipton-on-Stour
14. Axminster (3,500)
14. Colne (23,000)
14. Daventry (3,800)
14. Newbury (11,000)
14. Tavistock (5,700)
14. Worksop (13,000)
16. Evesham (7,100)
16. Hereford (21,400)
17. Banbury (13,000)
17. Buckingham (3,400)
17. Clowne (2,416)
17. Farnsfield (942)
17. Ivinghoe (1,300)
17. Maidstone (33,500)
17. Marlborough (3,000)
17. Wantage (4,000)
19. City Road (Bradford) (236,240)
19. Leek (15,500)
19. Southam (1,800)
19. St. Austell (3,477)
20. Devizes (6,000)
20. Salisbury (17,100)
21. Chichester (12,300)
21. Bridlington (12,500)
21. Ilkeston (9,825)
21. Market Bosworth (911)
21. Princes Risborough (1,300)
21. Wigan (70,000)
23. Clitheroe (11,400)
23. Hatfield (4,000)
23. Stratford-on-Avon (11,862)
24. Arnold (7,800)
24. Cinderford (3,000)
24. Edwinstowe (936)
24. Heath (406)
24. Holmfirth (9,000)
24. Kirkby (4,756)
24. Market Drayton (5,540)
24. Stow-on-the-Wold
24. Wingerworth (382)
26. Warminster (5,600)
27. Gainsborough (17,700)
28. Horncastle (4,000)
28. Wellington (7,300)
29. Ely (8,000)
29. Great Marlow (6,000)
29. Hindon (500)
29. Wellingborough (18,400)
30. St. Just (Hunts.) (6,000)
31. Clipstone (256)
31. Disley (3,426)
31. Coalville (15,200)
31. Coventry (70,000)
31. Daventry (3,800)
31. Poole (19,500)
31. Rowsley (700)

SCOTLAND.

5. Dunfermline (1,742)
10. Alloa (11,417)
12. Alyth (3,000)
12. Dundee (153,066)
12. Forfar (12,061)
16. Hamilton (32,775)
16. Stirling (18,403)
29. Kilmarnock (34,161)

WALES.

5. Maesteg (11,000)
5. Maescwmmer (800)
8. Fishguard (2,000)
10. Pembroke (16,000)
10. Pontypool (6,000)
24. Llandovery (2,234)
29. Kidwelly.
31. Talgarth (1,220)

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, for Crighton's Cinematograph, a genuine Operator; good wages to competent man. Apply at once to CRIGHTON'S Palace of Life, Fair Ground, Macclesfield.

WANTED, for my New Show, a reliable Operator; Join at Once. James Humphries write, important. PAYNE, Dreamland Bioscope, Havant, Hants.

WANTED, Known, Tom Thumb, the smallest man on earth, 21 years of age, 23in. high, 24lb. in weight, now open for Engagements. Permanent address, J. S. BEELEY, Market-street, Westhoughton, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, Highly Qualified Lady Phrenologist, Palmist, &c., is open for Engagement, London or Scotland. MDME. E., 129, Church-street, Blackpool.

MARSHALL HILL'S FUN CITY,
ORGAN'S YARD, BEDMINSTER, BRISTOL.
Opens first week in Dec. for Xmas and New Year's Holidays.
WANTED, Known, several Spaces of Ground to Let, for Novelties; Ground already Let for Switchback and Motor Track, Four-abreast Galloping Horses, Helter Skelter, Aeroplanes, Cinématograph, Maypoles, &c. The above position is the finest in Bristol, and the only recognised established ground. Apply, MARSHALL HILL, Organ's Yard, Bedminster, Bristol.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, main road, 40ft. front, 60ft. back; good opening for Auctioneer; rent cheap; grand position, well sheltered.
Apply,
E. MARTIN, 24, Lake-road, Portsmouth.

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WANTED, to Let, Spaces, Stalls, Games, Sideshows, &c., open Dec. 5 (eighth year). Enormous Attractions. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

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EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Tea Shop," Frank Seeley, James Stewart, Syd May, Will Poluski, junr., The Proveanies, Georgina Leno, Three Welsh Girls, Bioscope, L'Incognita.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Colonel Bordeverry, Clark and Hamilton, The Haytors, Leo Tell, J. W. Hall, Eight Lancashire Lads, Lillian, Madge Osmond, Bioscope, Carney and Armstrong.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Machnow, Chas. Vincent, Thorpe and Coe, Terry and Lambert, Ray Wallace, Victor Travers, Leonie Dixon, Bioscope, Cussac Talma, Callahan and St. George.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
George Gilbey, Venie Clements, Florence and Lillian, Chronomegaphone, Delevines, Kitts and Windrum, R. H. Douglass, J. P. Carroll, Bioscope, Lydia Yeamans.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Joseph Hart's "Futurity Winner," Eight of Hearts, Lena Verdi, The Kirbys, Dumond Trio, Watson's Dogs, Hilda Playfair, Bioscope, Harry Bedford, Lottie Lennox.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Dudley Bennett's and T. C. Wray's Co. in "The Catch of the Season."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Alec Hurley and Co. in "The Coster's Beano," Fred Wilkinson, Lily Langtry, Les Martineks, The Garganis, Olive and Owen, Bioscope, Alf Chester, Dutch Daly, Nellie Wallace.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Courtice and Louie Pounds and Co., Boyd and Gilfain, La Danseuse, Theo Bouwmeester and Co., Naughton and Gold, Will English, Frank Couch, Bioscope, George Formby.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
George Gray and Co. in "The Fighting Parson," The Leonards, Carl Howard, Chronomegaphone, Carina Sisters, Jack Hayworth, Sisters Pine, Bioscope, Barton and Ashley.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
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"The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," by Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor, author of "Dramatic and Musical Law" ("The Era" office), seems to be the one compendious and indispensable authority on the subject, as vexed as the "Bermoothes" and as tortuous as a Chancery suit, that has long been wanted. It is in every essential a text book for the perplexed layman, and no solicitor or barrister worth his salt ought to think of taking or appearing in "proceedings" without consulting its pages. It must suffice, after what has been said, to state little more than that the contents include five chapters, respectively named "Copyright as Opposed to Performing Right," "Performing Right," "Infringement and Remedies," "Musical Copyright," and "International and Colonial Copyright." The work, for all its precise authority, is not dry reading. The statutes, with the elucidatory notes, necessarily impose a task on the reader which takes some tackling, but they had to be there. The cases adduced, however, are full of interest. Certain of them might fitly find a place in the romance of copyright. There was the fight of Charles Reade with George Conquest over "It's Never Too Late to Mend," for instance, and the equally interesting conflict of Mr. J. A. Cave with Chatterton over "The Wandering Jew." The latter was a famous battle. Chatterton took it to the House of Lords, and was finally beaten, to the unspeakable relief of Mr. Cave, who is never weary of relating the story. Had the result been otherwise, it would have meant his ruin. I well remember meeting him on the day of his victory and "crashing a cup with him" in honour of the same. "The Law of Copyright" is dedicated to Mr. A. W. Pinero.—Sportsman.

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Code Word, "ETRIER."

An old man is making preparations to go on a journey, and his young wife is hurrying him out of the way, for she is expecting her affinity. The young lover arrives before her husband is gone, and the wife hides him under the table until the coast is clear. The old fellow leaves, but, from the look on his wife's face, he judges that there is something on her mind, and he becomes suspicious. He goes outside the door, and makes a noise with his feet, to mislead her, and make her think he has gone down the stairs, but, instead, he peers through the keyhole, and, to his horror, sees his wife and the young man greet each other very affectionately. He hits upon a scheme, whereby he will catch them. He hastens to the street, and spies a ladder belonging to a window-cleaner, and, going over, he takes it and carries it to his house, and is about to climb in through his window when the owner of the ladder and a couple of policemen come along, and, after a hard struggle, arrest the unfortunate husband as a burglar. In the meantime, the wife and her friend escape from the house and elope. The poor husband has a hard time before the magistrate explaining the situation, but finally he is allowed to go home. Upon entering his apartment, he is set upon by two burglars, and bound hand and foot and left to his fate, while they escape with all the valuables. A messenger enters and releases him and hands him a note stating that he has lost his position for neglect of duty in not making the intended trip.

560ft. The Subject, **£9 6s. 8d.**

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Code Word "ENLEVER."

A beautiful young woman, although happy with her husband, carries on a correspondence with another man. She goes to the post-office and receives a letter from her secret lover. She carelessly drops the envelope in the street, and it is picked up by a man who makes a business of blackmailing. He follows her, and gathers up the fragments of the letter as she throws them away, and, taking them to his room, pastes them together and learns the contents. He goes to her house, and asks for an interview, in which he states that he will keep her secret if she hands him a large sum of money. As she has not got that amount, she is made desperate, and, going to her room, she drinks some poison. Seeing that she does not return, the blackguard hands over the letter to her husband, who is dumbfounded at its contents; then, hastening to his wife's room, he finds her dead, with the villain's note demanding money tightly held in her hand. He realises the situation at a glance, and, seizing a revolver ,he shoots the blackmailer through the heart.

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Code Word, "EXEMPLE."

Mr. Canny, reaching home in a state of intoxication, suddenly remembers he went out to buy eggs. He retraces his steps, and goes out and buys a dozen, which he puts in his pocket. But, as Canny gives a friend he has met a great hug, he feels something crashing in his pocket, and, on looking, he finds the eggs, now a poultice, in his pocket. He, however, buys another dozen eggs, and, for safety, he puts them in his cap, and puts the whole on his head, but a passer-by, whom Canny has pushed, gives him a mighty blow on the head. There is another omelette. At last Canny reaches home with a dozen unbroken eggs, but, as it is late and his wife has already retired to bed, he puts the eggs under her pillow for safety, and the next morning she finds chickens where the eggs had been.

495ft. The Subject, **£8 5s. 0d.**

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Code Word, "EXPEDIENT."

The innkeeper in this picture is so short of cash that he does not know how to meet his bills. A rich customer coming in thus puts into his head the idea of appropriating the other man's money by killing him. Remorse, however, throws before his eyes the horrifying vision of his crime, and one night he drops to the ground in front of his victim, come back to life to reproach him with his sin, so the hallucinated man thinks.

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Code Word, "EXCLUSIF."

At the seaside a bather is flirting with the wife of Jack, the cabman. One day Mr. Cadd thinks he would like to go and see Mrs. Jack, and he beckons a cab, which is just that of her husband. The latter, without suspecting anything, drives his fare to his own address, and, as his customer seems to be a long time, Jack goes with a friend of his to the public-house, where he has a good time. But, seeing that his customer still does not come, he goes up to his wife, and, although he is rather tipsy, he understands why his fare was in no hurry to come down. Attracted by the noise upstairs, some policemen have the three of them marched off. Jack struggles and shouts like a madman, and abuses the police-inspector so much that he is locked up, while in his mind still lingers the idea of his wife and her lover.

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Code Word, "FABLIAU."

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Code Word, "ESTRADE."

John has received as a present a nice circus, with all kinds of clowns and animals; but, after playing with his new toy for some time, he becomes tired, and falls asleep. His dream is a marvellous one, for the clowns are performing their turns with great skill, while the horses and elephant and ostriches, &c., come to life and move about. It is so nice! But his parents, entering the room, wake the little boy up, and he is still so excited with what he has just seen that he must tell father and mother all about it.

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THE FAUN.

Code Word, "ETAGE."

A faun, in love with Diana, appears amongst the undergrowth in the forest, and on his way he awakens the sleeping nymphs. But Diana, pleased with the sweet music made by a young god at her side, listens to it with delight. The faun is so jealous that he goes for the god, and throws him to the ground. Yet Cupid, the God of Love, gives to Diana a philter, thanks to which the young god comes back to life, whereas the fann, bound with ropes by the nymphs, is placed by them in a petrifying fountain and changed into a stone faun.

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Code Word, "EXPERT."

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Code Word, "ESSENCE."

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Code Word "EXCURSION."

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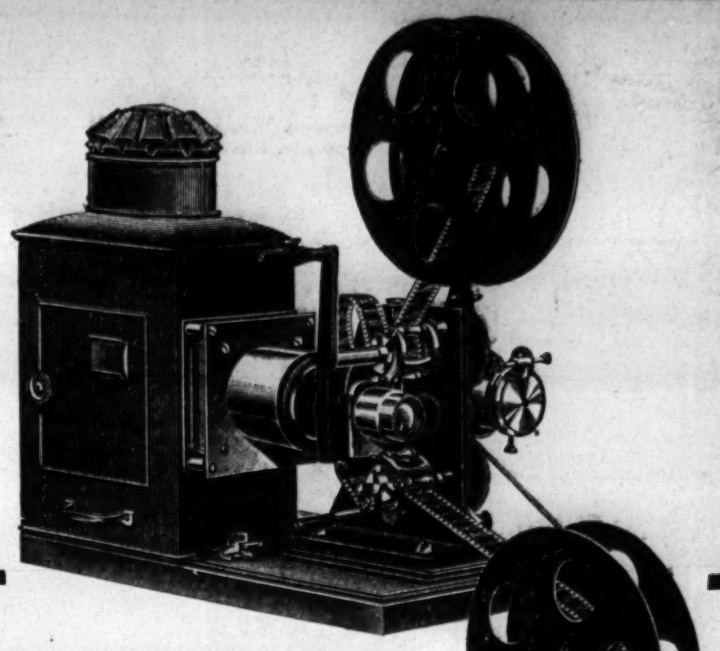

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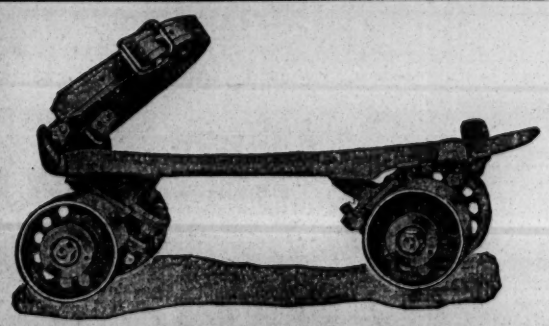

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BARTLETT, ROSIE. Hippodrome, Wakefield. Next, Opera House, Tunbridge Wells.

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CONOLLY, FLORRIE, Irish Colleen 'n Songs. Oct. 5, engaged for Scottish Concerts, Dundee; 12th, Hip., Ton-y-Pandy. Dis. Nov. 3, 10.

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NARO, MI. in New Comedy Creations. Oct. 5, Hulme Hippodrome, Manchester.

NEIL, NELLIE, The Charming Comedienne and Dancer. Monday, Palace, Greenwich, London.

NETHERLAND SISTERS. This, Manchester; next, Liverpool Pav., 2 Acts. "The Tale of the Stocking" and "Dutch Pastimes."

NICHOLSONS, THE, Comedy Artists. Full this year. Panto. settled. A few Open Dates. 1909. 10, Blundell-street, London, N.

NOLAN, AGGIE, Comedian and Expert Dancer. Up-to-date Songs; Smashing Dresses. Booking Principal Halls.

NOTE, R. C., DAISY DEVONPORT. Hippo., Liverpool. Thanks Buchanan and Morris for Scotch Tour of Theatres. No vacancies.

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OKABE FAMILY, THE, Japanese Artists. Oct. 2—15, Palais d'Été, Brussels, Belgium.

PACEY, TOM, Agent, 186, Brixton-road, S.W. Tele., "Paceys, London." 'Phone 87 Brixton.

PACKER, TOM, Resting till Oct. 26, Empire, Camberwell. Thanks J. Lawrence, Esq., for Contracts.

PALETTE and Dog "Max," Artistic, Musical, Canine Novelty; also GROVER, Eccentric Comedy. Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

PALMERS, THE MUSICAL Monday next, Alhambra, Brighton. Also MISS DAISY ALMER, Dancer, &c.

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PICKARD, A. E., American Musuem, Glasgow. Britannia T., Glasgow. New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.

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POOLE and POOLE, On Tour. Perm., 5, Morley-st., Barrow-in-Furness.

PRIMAVESI, New Act. Monday, Empire, Camberwell.

PRINELLAS, THE. in their Great Farmyard Scene. Empire, Rochdale; Empire, Bolton.

RAE, GEO., Scotch Comedian. Big Hit this, King's Gateshead. Oct. 5, Palace, Sunderland. BAYLEY, Glasgow.

RAIE, LYDIA, the Banjo Queen. This, T. H., Drogheda, and T. H., Navan; next, Palace, Worcester (return). C/o "The Era."

RAY and LINGARD. Enormous Success, Hippo., Norwich. Next week, Hippo., Ipswich.

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RICHARDS, ENA. This, Empire, Dublin; next, Empire, Belfast. The Girl Who is Always Smiling. C/o WELDA and WYNNE.

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ROBSON, LITTLE DOLLY, Dr. Bodie's Protégée. Great Success nightly, Gaiety Theatre, Ayr, N.B.

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SMYTHSONS, THE, Novelty Producers. Always Something New. P., Halifax; next (Oct. 5), Palace, Bradford.

SPADONIS, THE, thank Harry Drake, Esq., for 22 weeks' engagement at Bijou Theatre, White City, Manchester.

STAFFO, the Comedy, Talking, Juggling Butcher Boy. Note.—Open for Panto. Mon., Hip., W. Bromwich.

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ST. JOHNS, THE (GALE & FRANK), Musicians, Comedians, and Dancers, Hamilton's Ex. P. H., Preston; vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4.

STOCKELLE, NORAH, Dainty Comedienne. Oct. 5, Hippo., Leeds.

STREET, FRANK F., the Story-teller. "I won't keep you a minute." Alh., Sandgate; Oct. 5, Empire, Camberwell, S.E.

STREET, FRED, Comedian. Thanks for Kind Sympathy from Friends of my late dear wife (Rosie Cousins). 1, Baron-st., Islington, N.

SUTHERD, DICK, The Original Bullfighter, Oxo, "Mam'selle Pom Pom." Huddersfield; next, P., Newcastle.

TAFT, HARRY. Barrasford Tour. Barrasford Tour.

TAMAMOTO, C., Japanese Blondin. Next, Palace, Hammersmith; at Liberty Oct. 12. Add., 310, Camberwell New-road, London.

TARR and MATEY, Acrobats, Balancing and Juggling Speciality. Vacant Monday, on, 59, Trinity-street, West Bromwich.

TAYLOR and BRIDGE, Singing Lancashire Mill Lads. This, Hip., Ton-y-pandy; next, T. R., Grantham.

TEMPLES, THREE ROYAL, Including LOUIE GILBERT. This, Hip., Sheffield; next, Hip., St. Helens.

TERRY SISTERS. Variety itself. Press. Creating a furore nightly. Hippo., Hull. Oct. 5, H., Spennymoor. At Lib., Oct. 19, 26.

THOMAS, MISS JEANNIE, Polite Picket, Disengaged Sketch or Single. 54, Millman-street, W.C.

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TOMLIN, HARRY, Versatile Vocalist. This week, Hip., Hull. Next, Tivoli, Pentre. Vacant Oct. 12.

TRANSFIELDS, THREE, Lady Instrumentalists. Oct. 5, Hippo., Yarmouth; Oct. 26, Vacant.

TRENT, MISS CISSY, Glorious Success Alexandra T., Pontefract. Mon., Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy. At Liberty Panto.

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VIOLI, Lady Instrumentalist. Cromwell Hall, Lancaster.

VIVIAN, WEE MONA. This, Empire, Belfast. Next, Hippodrome, Bury.

WALTON and LESTER, "The World's Worst Wizards." Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

WAMBAS, LES. Next. Hippodrome, Rotherham.

WEBB, BROS., Vacant Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 23. This, Palace, Darlington; next, Hippo., Lancaster.

WEDBURN, MRS. JAMES (the Wedburns), née Amy Carina. Communications, care of "The Era."

WEDBURNS, Comedians, &c. Big success at Scarboro'. Oct. 5, Theatre Royal, Warrington.

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WHITMORE, JOE. The Ellis Tour, Drill Hall, Guildford.

WILDER BROTHERS, Pyrotechnic Artists, Gala, and Fête Agents, 29, Great Francis-street, Birmingham.

WILLIAMS, E. H., Composer and Arranger, Musical Director, Empire, Portsmouth.

WILLS and MACKENZIE, Vocal Scena, "Christina of Sketra." Oct. 5, Starring, Empire, Camberwell.

WISPER and BEATTIE BLOOM. Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy. Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy.

WOOD, CARRIE, Dainty Comedienne and Expert Dancer. Vacant for Panto. Per. add., 351, Coldharbour-lane, Brixton, S.W.

WOODWARDS, THE, Bicycle Balancing Act. Oct. 5, Hippodrome, Eastbourne.

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YEO, GWENNIE, The Beautiful Dancer. Return Dates everywhere. Oct. 5, E., Dublin. Sole Rep., David Hart.

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CAPT. DEVEREUX'S Great Dog Sensation. The Show that bars no one. The Act that makes the People Laugh and Wonder. How does he do it? No shouting and no whip. DEVEREUX, the Gentleman Performer. Lib. Oct. 12. OPERA HOUSE, WORKINGTON.

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SKETCHES.

JOHN LAWSON. Oct. 5, HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

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"THE HOUSEBOAT."
Will Shortly be Produced, an Athletic Sketch, entitled "THE STADIUM," by John Leopold, sen., and A. Hickmore. Now in Active Preparation. General-Manager, John Leopold, jun. Oct. 5, WELLINGBORO'; 9th, KETTERING. Agents, R. Warner and Co.

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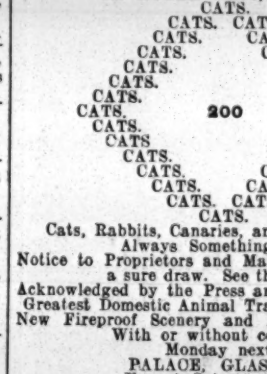

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M.H.A.R.A.
and
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M.H.A.R.A.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.
The
TWELFTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
will be held on
SUNDAY, Oct. 25, 1908,
at the
BEDFORD HEAD HOTEL,
commencing at 6.30 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. W. H. CLEMART, President.

Extracts from the Rules *re* General Meetings and Election of Hon. Officers and Executive Committee:—

Rule 8.—"That the Hon. Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. . . ."

Rule 10.—"That nominations for positions of Honorary Officers, signed by not less than two members of the Association, together with the written consent of the nominee, must be sent to the Chairman of the Committee not later than fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting, viz., Oct. 10, and all such nominations shall be put before the General Meeting."

Rule 25.—". . . . Due Notification of any resolution for discussion at the General Meeting must be sent in writing to the Secretary fourteen days prior to the date fixed for the meeting, viz., Oct. 10, so that it can be placed on the Agenda, and no matter shall be discussed which has not been placed on the Agenda. Such resolutions shall be brought by the Secretary to the General Meeting in their original form. . . ."

ELECTION OF THE COMMITTEE.

Rule 12.—"That the Executive Committee shall be elected by ballot of the members of the Association, and shall consist of sixty members, who shall be elected annually."

Rule 13.—"That any member of the Association (ladies, children, and assistants excepted) whose membership shall have exceeded twelve months, shall be eligible for nomination as a member of that Committee. Nominations, signed by not less than two members of the Association, together with the written consent of the nominee, must be sent to the Chairman of the Committee not later than fourteen days prior to the Annual General Meeting, viz., Oct. 10, at which meeting a list of the candidates shall be published. Outgoing members of the Committee shall be accepted as nominated. [Members of the Committee not desiring to stand for re-election are requested to notify the Secretary.]"

Rule 14.—"That the ballot for the annual election of the Committee shall be taken about fourteen days subsequent to the Annual General Meeting, the exact date to be fixed by the Committee."

C. DOUGLAS STUART, Secretary.
Sept. 28, 1908.

MUSIC HALL LADIES' GUILD.
Donations of clothing earnestly requested. All parcels acknowledged in "The Era." Note Change of Address.
Secretary, Miss Melinda May, Room 53, Albion House, 59-61, New Oxford-st.,

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HERBERT COTTESMORE'S
SKETCH COMPANIES.

HER PRINCELY BETRAYER.

A THRILLING SICILIAN DRAMA
by
ROBERT WILFORD.

SCENERY BY FRANCIS H. BULL.
COSTUMES BY J. A. HARRISON.

An Enormous Success Everywhere.

See what the Press say:—

CARLISLE JOURNAL, July 21, 1908:—"Her Princely Betrayer" is not a condensed version of a drama, nor is it a mere sketch. It is something more. Into twenty minutes or so is crammed a world of events. . . . The acting is excellent.

THE YORKSHIRE POST, Aug. 4, 1908:—"Her Princely Betrayer" possesses that dramatic touch that will ensure its success as a tabloid drama.

THE LEEDS MERCURY, Aug. 4, 1908:—A powerful dramatic sketch, and a well-staged production.

THE LIVERPOOL ECHO, Aug. 18, 1908:—A new departure in music hall sketches. It is quite unique in its way. . . . and last night held the audience spellbound.

THE BIRKENHEAD ADVERTISER, Aug. 22, 1908:—It is really one of the finest turns on the music hall stage to-day.

THE NORTHERN WHIG, Belfast, Aug. 25, 1908:—The powerful story embodied in the creation is full of strong human interest.

THE ULSTER ECHO, Aug. 25, 1908:—The piece is excellently set, and from first to last it holds the audience breathlessly interested.

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THEATRE ROYAL, BURY.
NEXT WEEK,
SURREY THEATRE.

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A SENSATIONAL DRAMATIC EPISODE
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ROBERT WILFORD.

INCIDENTAL MUSIC BY MARK STRONG.
ELABORATE SCENERY BY FRANCIS H. BULL.
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Who sings in his natural voice.

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Sept. 28, WINTER GARDENS, NEW BRIGHTON.
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GEORGE DANCE'S SKETCHES

EXTRACT FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY A FRENCHMAN ON A VISIT TO THE WHITE CITY.

Mon cher ami,—

This Angleterre is what you call tres bon. I have do nothing since I arrive but eating and drinking. I am full of beef and Bass. I met last night M. Barrasford, the Director of the Alhambra in our own dear Paris. He is what you call all right. He took me to see a Vaudeville at one of the Music Halls des Londres. It was called "The Burglars' Ball." Oh, my friend, I did laugh! The antics of the comedians made me explode my insides out. I am still rubbing my ribs with eau-de-Cologne to remove the pains and bumps. And the girls! Ah, mon cher ami, we have nothing in La Belle France to hold a candlestick to them. Oh! la, la! I am tumbled over head and ears in love. M. Barrasford tells me "The Burglars' Ball" will soon visit Paris. When it comes I will purchase a private box, and in it I will put you, my friend, and your wife as my honoured guests.

Au revoir, JULES.

Next week, ALEXANDRA, GREENOCK.

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FRED LAND,

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BOOKED STOLL, BARRASFORD, WILLMOT, GIBBONS' TOURS.
BOOKED OVER 100 WEEKS WITH THE SYNDICATE, INCLUDING 32 WEEKS AT THE OXFORD.
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NEXT WEEK, **HIPPO., NOTTINGHAM.**

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The Musical Comedy Couple.

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Managers say, Arthur Ferriss is one of the best Comedians on the Stage.

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Tremendous Success at Surrey Theatre, London.

This is a Screamer from Rise to Fall of Curtain, with Thunders of Applause.

Highly Complimented, and all say the same, that it is New, Original, and Funny.

Monday, PALACE, CORK.
Monday, PALACE, CORK.

One or two Vacant Dates only.

I thank Joe B. for his bluff, you see',
For trying his best to injure me;
But talent will tell,
Wow, Wow, Que, Que.
So it's quite impossible, say I, with glee.
Should you fail, and disheartened be,
Take this pill to comfort thee.

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Playing to enormous business everywhere.
Smashing records all along the line.

Still the greatest draw in the Country. Unprecedented success last week at the Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy, the beautiful building packed to the doors nightly by the élite of Kirkcaldy and district. All previous records for the theatre absolutely smashed. The advance booking simply phenomenal. These are the takings for the week. No idle bluff, but *facts*.

	£	s.	d.
MONDAY	95	3	9
TUESDAY	70	2	9
WEDNESDAY	84	1	6
THURSDAY	61	11	3
FRIDAY	63	10	9
SATURDAY	126	4	6
GRAND TOTAL	£501	4	6

Beating all records for the Theatre by nearly £200, against Opera, Musical Comedy, Drama, and Vaudeville. Thanks to Mr. G. W. Walker for offer of £300 to remain one week longer; also contracts for two other dates at £250 per week.

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AT THE HIPPODROME.
HUNDREDS TURNED AWAY NIGHTLY.

"The crowds that have visited the Hippodrome to see Dr. Bodie, the great bloodless surgeon, have never been equalled in the annals of entertainment in Kirkcaldy. The drawings average over £90 nightly, which makes an average of 2,700 persons nightly, or a total of over 12,900 persons for five nights. One of the features of the whole entertainment is the enthusiasm with which the doctor has been received nightly, and also the great pleasure that the patients have derived from the marvellous cures the doctor has administered. During the week he has cured several local children of paralysis in full view of his audience. After he had administered his famous electrical treatment his patients were able to walk about the stage with the greatest of ease, and to use the affected limbs with comfort, which speaks for itself of the skill of the famous bloodless surgeon. Apart altogether from the curing of paralysis, Dr. Bodie has performed some of the most daring feats, such as lighting ordinary gases by the most sensitive part of the body, namely the teeth. He also displays in a remarkable manner the power that 'Bodieism,' or 'Bodie-Force,' has over the human system, and his audience is kept in fits of laughter by the antics of his subjects."—Vide the *Fife Free Press*, Sept. 26, 1908.

DR. WALFORD BODIE,
THE FAMOUS SCIENTIST,
AT THE KIRKCALDY HIPPODROME.
ALL RECORDS BROKEN.

"This week all records for Kirkcaldy have been utterly smashed at the Hippodrome, the visit of Dr. Walford Bodie, the marvellous electro-hypnotist and bone specialist, drawing each night a packed house, with hundreds unable to gain admission. The daring electrical experiments, the wonderful cures effected before the eyes of the huge audiences, and the screamingly funny antics of mesmerised volunteers, have been the sole topic of conversation throughout the district during the week."—Vide *Fifeshire Advertiser*, Sept. 25, 1908.

The whole town in a state of wild excitement.
Rebooked for two return dates at

£250 PER WEEK.

Many thanks to R. A. P. Williams, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee, for congratulations and offer of £250 one week Dundee and £200 per week for two other towns; also to Rich Waldon, Esq., Palace, Glasgow, A. Mascard, Esq., King's Theatre, Edinburgh, Austin Fryers, Esq., Hengler's Circus, London; Thomas Barrasford, Esq., J. De Frece, Esq:. J. Hargreaves, Esq., offer of Bolton and Rochdale, &c., &c.

Only Vacant Dates This Year,
NOV. 23 & 30.

VERY FEW VACANCIES IN 1909.
Share or certainty, with or without own company. Share preferred.

Gorgeous New Plant of Printing by D. Allen and Sons, Belfast, Culliford and Sons, London, the Fulwood Printing Co., London, &c., &c. Nothing like it in the country. Also a £1,000 motor car for parade.

Breaking all records again this week at NEW GAIETY THEATRE, AYR, and my seventh visit. Hundreds turned away nightly, special trains being run from all parts.

All letters address to
DR. WALFORD BODIE, M.D.,
NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.

HEAD OFFICE:
163, BLACKFRIARS ROAD, LONDON, S.E.
Telegrams, BODIEISM, LONDON.
Phone 1323 HOP.

Permanent Address:
THE MANOR HOUSE, MACDUFF, N.B.
Telegrams, Bodie, Macduff. Nat. Tel., No. 5.

LOOK OUT FOR STARTLING ADVT.

NOTICE TO PROPRIETORS & MANAGERS

J. A. WILSON

J. A. WILSON

AND HIS
WONDERFUL
PERFORMING
DOG

PRIVATE TOWSER

PRIVATE TOWSER

Have the following Vacant Dates this year:

Nov. 16th and 30th.
Dec. 7th, 21st, and 28th.

ALSO

Jan. 4th, 11th, and 25th.
Feb. 1st, 8th, and 15th, 1909.

NOW, THEN! WHO WANTS A GOOD, CLEAN ACT?

OCT. 5th,
EMPIRE PALACE, BRADFORD.
Where Wire or Write for Terms,
OR
Sole Agent:
TOM SHAW,
18, Adam Street, Strand, London.

G. H. ELLIOTT, ONE OF PACEY'S STAR LINES.

THE EMPIRE
THEATRE of VARIETIES
MATINEE Saturday, at 2·30 p.m. Doors open 2 o'clock
NEWCATE STREET, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Proprietary
Moss' Empires, Ltd. (Total Capital, £2,056,000)
Resident Director - - - B. Thornton
Managing Director - - - Oswald Stoll
Asstg. Director and Chief of Staff Frank Allen
District Manager - - - - S. Gething
Resident Manager - - W. Parham Wells
Nat. Telephone, 1285 (Central).

MONDAY, AUGUST 24th, 1908.
And Twice Nightly during the Week—6·45 and 9.
and Saturday Afternoon at 2·30, Doors open 2 o'clock

The Chocolate Coloured Coon:
G. H. ELLIOTT,
The Original Singer of "I'se Waitin' for you, Josie." In all his Latest Successes

RALPH AND NELLIE HOWARD,
In a Comedy Musical Act—"The Military Maid."

WILL JOHNSON, The Popular Lively Comedian.
DAISY MARTELL, Comedienne.

BROWN AND LE CLERQ,
Black-Face Comedians, in their Screaming Absurdity—"Black Justice."

LADY MANSEL AND HER JUVENILES,
In a Comedy Speciality, entitled—"A Concert Rehearsal."

EDWARD LAURIE AND MAY BEATTY AND COMPANY,
In the enormously Successful Musical Comedy Protean Melange—"In Her Boudoir." Scene—The Prima Donna's Boudoir. Miss May Beatty was Principal Boy at the Tyne Theatre Pantomime last season.

THREE LLOYDS,
Marvels of the Bounding Cables. A1 at Lloyds.

QUEBEC TO NIAGARA,
The Most Beautiful Travel Series ever presented on the Bioscope.

HERBERT DARNLEY Submits his Colossal Comedy Company, including that favourite Comedian, Chas. H. Bell, in that great Spectacular Spanish Musical Comedy production, in Four Set Scenes, entitled—
"THE BRIGANDS OF TARRAGONA"
A Company of nearly 40 Performers.

PRICES—Private Boxes (to hold 4 persons), 7s. 6d. and 3s.; Extra Seat, 3s. and 1s. 6d. respectively; Grand Circle 1s. 6d.; Orchestra Stalls, 1s.; Pit, 6d.; Balcony, 4d.; Gallery, 3d. Seats can be booked by Telephone, No 1285 (Central). Booking Fee for Circle and Stalls 6d.

G. H. ELLIOTT
(Chocolate Coloured Coon),
BOOKED WITH
OSWALD STOLL, Esq.,
FOR
9 Complete Tours,
FINISHING THE END OF 1916.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL COON SINGER ON THE STAGE.

"SUE, SUE."
The Song for Panto.

Business Manager: **TOM PACEY,**
186, Brixton Road, S.W.
Tele., 'Pacey's, London.' 'Phone, 87 Brixton.

NEXT WEEK, **EMPIRE, LIVERPOOL.**

NO VACANCIES TILL 1917. PANTO. WITH JOHN HART, ESQ. 5th YEAR.

RETURNED TO OLD ENGLAND.

THE DAYTON FAMILY

RISLEY PERFORMANCE EXTRAORDINARY.
6 CUSHION RISLEY GAMES 6
A Great Draw. A Sure Success.

This Week,
OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH (Re-engagement).
Oct. 5,
PALACE, MANCHESTER.

Rebooked for
THE LONDON COLISEUM, THE OXFORD,
and a great many other London Houses.
1909—A few open dates.
Communications direct or through Agents.

C. MAUS DAYTON, Manager.

MANAGERS AND DIRECTORS.

SENSATIONAL ADDITION IMPROVED

CELEST

THAT WIRE PERFORMER.
ORIGINATOR OF NEW BUSINESS.

NEW WORKING OF THIS NOVELTY

SEE THE NEW IMPROVED SENSATIONAL FINAL—
A THRILLER.

8.50. LONDON PAVILION. 8.50.

EVERY EVENING PRESENT WEEK.

Address as per above re dates free 1908:
Oct. 23, Nov. 2, 23, and Dec. 28.

MISS MARIE LLOYD.
London Season.
"The Directoire Girl,"
the Rage of London.
Written and composed by Harrington and Powell.

Have been offered the whole of the box-office receipts to appear in America this season, but the London proprietors will not release me.
"'Tis a pity; pity 'tis 'tis true."
Representative, Harry Day.

"My girl's a Yorkshire girl," Terrific Success, By Murphy and Lipton, Publishers Francis and Day. "Ida from Devonshire," Bennett Scott, Another Big Number.

FLORRIE GALLIMORE.
ROYAL HIPPODROME, PRESTON.

MISS JOSIE DELAINE.
Another big success, "You are a pretty white lady." Mon. next, PAL., SHAFTESBURY-AVENUE, and ISLINGTON. Coms. E. J. Langford. Agents, G. and F. Peel. PALACE T., and EMPIRE, ISLINGTON.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA.
Just finished Successful Engagement at Palace, Manchester. Monday next, HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

MISS ALEXANDRA DAGMAR.
Oct. 5,
NORWICH.
Agent, Geo. Foster.

ETHEL RA-LESLIE,
"Always"
the Topic of Conversation.
All coms., John A. Walker, EMPIRE, BELFAST.

FANNY ROBINA, FLORRY COOPER.
Vacant Oct. 19, 26. Both star turns. Always a great success. FANNY ROBINA at Liberty for Panto., Principal Boy. FLORRY COOPER, Fairy Queen or speciality. Address, ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.

MISS MARGARET ASHTON.
MISS MARGARET ASHTON.
CROUCH END HIPPODROME,
In her Delightful "Vanity" Song,
"Wouldn't You Like to Learn to Love Me?"

MARIE EMPRESS.
Oct. 5, EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
New songs a success.
Panto settled with R. Arthur, Esq.,
for 5 years.

"Emmie's Christmas Tree."
Still Huge Success.
EMMIE AMES.
Huge Success, Regent T., Salford;
Monday next, Oct. 5, HIPPO., STOCKTON.

MISS MAUDE MORTIMER.
Oct. 5, PALACE, CARLISLE.
Another Big Success, "A tiny seed of love," by Macdonald and Tate, published by B. Feldman and Co. Will Oliver.

MISS ROSE HAMILTON.
Oct. 5, E., WOLVERHAMPTON.
Oct. 12, P., CHELSEA.
Oct. 19, E., CAMBERWELL.
Per., 27, Holland-road, Brixton.

MISS BARBARA BABINGTON,
Vocal Actress and Comedienne.
Enormous success, Hippo., Darlington.
On stage ten times nightly.
Oct. 5, PAL., CARLISLE. All coms., Tom Shaw.

"You speak when you're spoken to."
Copyright. Any infringement will be dealt with.
MISS RAIE WALTERS.
BARNARD'S, CHATHAM.
Sole Agent, E. De Vere, 72, Waterloo-road, S.E.

"The Girl with the Voice."
DORMA MORGAN,
Refined American Comedienne.
Latest Successes, "Miss Carnation" and "In a Little Old Shanty."
By James Wilson and Henrie Jaxon.
Dorma Morgan, a dainty American comedienne, sings delightfully, and meets with a deservedly good reception.—Era, Aug. 15, 1908.
Panto., Principal Girl. Mr. Jack Haddon.
Oct. 5, HIPPODROME, DEVONPORT.
Coms., H. Raymond, Regent Theatre, Salford.

FLORRIE FORDE.
"Oh, oh, Antonio," by Murphy and Lipton.
"Always keep a polish on the old front door," and "Round and round about," by Pelham and Rule.
Oct. 5, PALACE, ABERDEEN.

A Coming Top-liner.
NANCE ELDER,
The Versatile Comedienne.
Next Week, Oct. 5, GRAND, HALIFAX.
Good offers invited for Nov. 2, to follow Hippodrome, Hastings. Write, Glenfield, Sowerby Bridge.

I still remain,
Yours very truly,
CONSTANCE MOXON,
1, Arodene-road,
Brixton Hill, S.W.

The Greatest Hit of the Year.
London Captured and Enraptured
by
FRANCES LETTY,
the Chorus Queen.

America's Greatest Lady Wooden Shoe Dancer.

Tremendous Reception this week at the Granville, Walham Green, and Palace, Camberwell.

Acknowledged to be the Greatest Exponent of Coon Singing Extant.

Notice.
The sequel to "Moving Day" was produced by me at the Coliseum, Glasgow, June, 1907. I desire to inform Proprietors, Managers, and my fellow Artists that I am the Originator of this Sequel in my Song Scena, with special Stage Setting and Effects, entitled,
"Bring My Furniture Back."

Success breeds Enmity.

The following Songs are being whistled and sung throughout London:—
"Does Anyone Want a Girl?"
"Does Anyone Want a Girl?"

"Have Your Ears Been Burning, Mr. Jackson?"
"Have Your Ears Been Burning, Mr. Jackson?"

Special Production next week at the CANTERBURY and PARAGON:—
"You Can't Blame the Girls."
"You Can't Blame the Girls."
"You Can't Blame the Girls."
Song-writers in Chief, Percy Edgar and A. D. McFarlane.

Commissioners, Sydney Hyman, Ltd., & Will Oliver.

Solicitor, Angus Campbell, Glasgow.

Perm. address, 20, Fieldhouse-road, Balham, S.W.

KATE WALBRAN,
The Principal Boy.

Completing arrangements.
Letters, 15, Elgin-mansions, W.

MLLE. NAVEEDA,
the Premier Lady Illusionist, and her company, in a New, Novel, and Sensational Illusionary Act. Agents and Managers looking out for new novelties will do well to see this act next week, Oct. 5, at QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

See the Sensational Production of a huge glass bowl full of water from space, and the catching of dozens of gold fish.

DANDIES,
Presented by HENRY J. CORNER,
HIPPODROME,
WIGAN.
Sole Agents, Messrs. Blackmore.

"Sunshine and Shadow."
MISS HARRIETT VERNON.
New Scena, "A Yule-tide Story."
This week, Queen's Park, Manchester.
Next week, EMPIRE, ASHTON.
Representative, Leslie Race.

MISS VESTA TILLEY,
All Communications to Walter de Frece,
178, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

MISS MILLIE HYLTON.
THE OXFORD.
Oct. 5, 1908.

MISS LELIA ROZE,
"A Dressing Room Dream."
Disengaged for Panto.
Address, Shrigley Hall, Killyleagh, Down.

MISS RACHEL LOWE,
Address,
186, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

An Artist to Her Finger Tips.
MISS DAISY DORMER.
145, Brixton-road, S.W.

KATE CARNEY,
KATE CARNEY.
KATE CARNEY.
KATE CARNEY.
KATE CARNEY.
KATE CARNEY.
Enormous Success at Argyle, Birkenhead.
Enormous Success at Argyle, Birkenhead.
Enormous Success at Argyle, Birkenhead.
The following notice speaks for itself.
The following notice speaks for itself.
The following notice speaks for itself.
LIVERPOOL ECHO.
A varied and altogether delightful entertainment is occupying the boards at the Argyle this week. Kate Carney is back again, and a right Royal welcome she receives. Her three best-known songs were rendered last night, including "Mr. Postman," and the famous song-scene, "The Yiddisher Boy." This latter is quite unique. Certainly nothing like it has been on the halls for many years. Last night's audience went almost wild with enthusiasm, and it was only with great difficulty that the curtain could be finally lowered.
Scena of the Season.
Scena of the Season.
Scena of the Season.
"THE YIDDISHER BOY."
"THE YIDDISHER BOY."
"THE YIDDISHER BOY."
Enormous Success Everywhere
Enormous Success Everywhere.
Enormous Success Everywhere.
"Good Morning, Mr. Postman."
"Good Morning, Mr. Postman."
"Good Morning, Mr. Postman."
A Musical Comedietta "Par Excellence."
A Musical Comedietta "Par Excellence."
A Musical Comedietta "Par Excellence."
The Talk of Everybody.
The Talk of Everybody.
The Talk of Everybody.
"From Poverty Street to Golden Square."
"From Poverty Street to Golden Square."
"From Poverty Street to Golden Square."
The Song of the Season.
Monday next,
HIPPODROME,
BLACKPOOL.
All communications, Sole Agent, George Barclay.

A Star that never fails to shine.
GERTIE GITANA.
Thanks O. Stoll, Esq.,
for offer of three more Tours
at another increase.
Success, Success, Success.
Oct. 5, EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Agents, G. Barclay and Co
Business-Manager,
J. O'Conner, 83, The Crescent, South Tottenham.

MABEL SINCLAIR, the Premier Lady Ventriloquist. Oct. 25, KANSAS CITY (KAN.), Western States of America. Representative, Arthur Palling, 34, Gloucester-crescent, Regent's Park, London.

LUNA LOVE,
Comedienne and Dancer.
Oct. 5, METROPOLE and WILLESDEN.
Agents, Messrs. Richard Warner, Ltd.

LA MILO.
Touring.
Own Co. and Management.
All coms., A. D. Cruickshank (Man.), c/o Marinelli, or 250, Lauderdale-mans., Maida Vale, London, W.

CHUMMIE LA MARA
In New and Original Songs,
Great Success, Empire, Hull.
Next Week, VICTORIA T., WEST STANLEY.
Sole Agent, Mr. Fred Reeves.

Quality, Not Quantity.
LITTLE DOTT MOSS,
the Toy Comedienne. An Originator, not a Mimic. The Greatest Success Possible this week at Sadler's Wells. At Lib. for Panto. Special parts. Monday, T. R., BURY.

"Erin's Pride."
MISS ELSIE KERRY,
Versatile Comedienne.
Following Belfast success,
EMPIRE, DUBLIN, Oct. 5.

CISSIE THOMPSON.
Comedienne.
Oct. 5,
PALACE, SUNDERLAND.

AMY MARSDEN. Enormous Success in a Burlesque Salome Song, by Chas. Norton (the Old Firm). Congratulated by everybody. Please remember I am the first lady in the field with a Burlesque Salome Song. Copyists, refrain and be matey.
Next week, METROPOLITAN.
Perm., 21, Stockwell Park-crescent, Brixton, S.W.

MISS BEATRICE FELSTED,
Soprano Vocalist. Illustrated Songs.
Concerts, &c.
115, Castellian-mansions, Maida Vale.
Good Agent Wanted.

MISS BENNA BENT,
PAT ROCHESTER, Mr. John Lawson's production "Pigs in Clover."
First time,
BALHAM and PUTNEY EMPIRES.

MAY DE ROWSE,
Still at Liberty for Panto.
Good offers invited, Second Girl.
This, Hippo., Hull (return);
Next, OXFORD, MIDDLESBRO' (return).

THE SIMMS
(ROSA and KITTY),
Up-to-date Artists.
THE EUSTON, LONDON.
All communications, Will (Spot) Oliver.

The Famous
EISTEDDFOD PRIZE VOCAL SEXTETTE.
Thanks for Offers. Still Vacant for Panto.
Address, Edward Hope, c/o "The Era."

THE SNOW FAMILY.
THE SNOW FAMILY.
THE SNOW FAMILY.
Expert and Grotesque Skaters.
The Greatest Skatorial Artists in the World.
Now Performing with Enormous Success at the ROTUNDA, DUBLIN, till Further Notice.
Managers and Agents should see this Great Act.

MISS MARIE LOFTUS
Resting through indisposition.

Special Notice.—Proprietors and Managers allowing any infringement of my original lisping song will be held responsible. My first Lisping and Stuttering songs were written by Felix McGlennon, and sung by me all over England, and in New York at Weber and Field's, where they were at once "pinched" by everyone that could get hold of them. My latest Lisping song is by Harrington and Powell, which I have been working with terrific success.
Dresses by Hina, Griffiths, and leading firms.

"Can't Keep Still!" Harrington and Powell.
No one has permission to sing my song, "Exhibition," by Harrington and Powell.
MISS LILLIE LANGTRY easily holds her own among our most prominent and favourite comediennes with her gems of comedy, skilful and untiring dancing. Stoll Tour.

MISS CECILIA LOFTUS.
Address,
EMPIRE THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.

The Inimitable
PATTY YOLE,
A Comedienne; a Dancer.
Oct. 5, DUCHESS, BALHAM.
Oct. 5, DUCHESS, BALHAM.

LIL HAWTHORNE.
HIPPODROME,
WILLESDEN.

MY FANOY,
THE SUPREME SAND DANCER.
"THE SEASONS" (Winter, Spring, and Summer).
The most Novel Dancing Scena on the Stage.
In AMERICA.

MISS MILLIE HOWELL,
Refined Singer of Refined Songs.
Always a Favourite.
Oct. 5, Resting a Week.
Agent, Will Oliver.

MISS MAYME CANNON,
in her Latest Success, "The Rose of Fermoy," written by Herbert Shelley.
Offers invited for Panto., '08 and '09. Will Oliver.

GEORGINA LENO,
Comedienne,
Daughter of the late Dan Leno.
Oct. 5, EMPIRE, LEEDS.
Offers invited for Pantomime.
Agent, Fred Reeves.

MISS DAISY JAMES,
Everybody's Favourite.
Terrific Success. The Umbrella Hat.
A great "hat" traction, 81in. in circumference.
Next week, EMPIRE, GLASGOW.
Oct. 12, EMPIRE, EDINBORO'.
MISS DAISY JAMES.
Coms., 65, Sudbourne-road, Brixton-hill, S.W.

"I'm Leaving Monte Carlo."
By Worton David and Percy Edgar.
Composed by Kenneth Lyle.
Published by Monte Carlo Publishing Co.
"Kiss Me, Georgie, Do."
By Ayller Lee and Maurice Scott.
Published by Shapiro Von Tilzer Music Co.
"I Know You Know I Love You."
By Herbert Rule and Paul Pelham.
Producing shortly another great number,
"Winkles and Watercresses."
By Alf Ellerton.

MISS DORA LYRIC,
the Ideal Populariser of Chorus Songs and Ditties.

Finishes to-night, South London and Putney Hip.
Monday, Oct. 5, BEDFORD, and
LONDON, SHOREDITCH.

Booked solid at every Principal Hall till 1910.
Business-Manager, Walter Bentley,
Cromwell House, Surrey-street, Strand, W.C.
'Phone 12706 Central. Telegrams, Yeltneb, London.

"The Irresistible Comedienne."
MISS DAISIE MORELL.
Topping the Bill with Terrific Success.
GAIETY, CLYDEBANK, N.B.
Vacant Monday, Oct. 5, 26, also Panto.

MISS GWENNIE HASTO,
The Fancy Dancer and Refined Vocalist.
Indisposed. Coms., 54, Bath-row, Birmingham; or Walter Emerson, HIP., ST. HELENS.
Sole Agent, E. De Vere, Esq.

GRACIE GRAHAME,
(the Original Comedienne.)
Recovered from recent indisposition, making Big Success Crouch End and Brixton with new Numbers. Vac. Oct. 19 owing to Shipley closing. Next, PALACE, GRIMSBY.

AUSTIN and COWAN.
LONDON, 5 Weeks.
G. Barclay, Agent.

AISTON'S WHITE STARS.
"THE NEW FOLLIES."
Thanks for offers Oct. 19, vacancy filled.
This, Empire, York (bottom);
next, HIPPODROME, STOCKTON-ON-TEES.

ROMA and ROMANI,
Classical Musicians,
WALHAM GREEN and OXFORD.
Vacant, May 31, Five Weeks.
Will Oliver, Spot Lodge, Brixton.

CROMO and HAMILTON,
in Novelty Act,
"Artful Aladdin."
This, Palace, Bristol (bottom).
Next, PALACE, PLYMOUTH.

ROSSI ASHTON.
"Song Sketching," Copyright.
Nothing like it anywhere.

Moss and Stoll Tour, 1908, 1909, 1910.

MAGGIE TOM J.
BOWMAN and MORTON.
"She Loved a Policeman."
MIDDLESEX and COLLINS'S.
Vacant for Pantomime.

"Unconsidered Trifles."
AUSTIN AGNES
LENTON and LANE.
Oct. 5, E., BRIXTON, and G., WALHAM GREEN. New Comedy Act, rapidly booking. Tom Shaw.

Champion Dancers of the World.
THE LANNONS.
Another Tremendous Success of New Act.
Result: Booked 20 Weeks Immediately.
This week, the Hit of the Bill Oxford, Middlesbro'.
Big Reception Nightly (talent will tell).
Monday, HIPPODROME, HULL.

TO PROPRIETORS AND MANAGERS.
It's up to you to see
WILLS and MACKENZIE,
in their great Vocal Scena,
"CHRISTINA OF SKETRA."
"CHRISTINA OF SKETRA."
"CHRISTINA OF SKETRA."
Words by John Wills and Esmé Austin.
Properties direct from Sketra.
Full Set of New and Magnificent Scenery by Richard Douglass.

EVERYTHING CARRIED.

Monday next, Starring,
EMPIRE, CAMBERWELL.
EMPIRE, CAMBERWELL.

THE THREE LLOYDS,
World's Wonders of the Double Bounding Cables. As far above all other Cable Artists as Moon from Earth. No Balance Poles used.
Vacant Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30, and Xmas Week.
Big Hit in Brussels.

MR. HARRY RANDALL.
Oct. 12,
OXFORD and TIVOLI.
Good, Clever Songs Required.
Bookings now complete 1908-9.

Monday, Oct. 5.
MR. GUS ELEN
Stoll's EMPIRE, GLASGOW.
Communications, Geo. Foster.

MR. ARTHUR LENNARD.
EMPIRE,
CARDIFF.
"Put Me a Girl Inside."
By Worton David and Kenneth Lyle.
"Nightingale,"
By E. W. Rogers.
Agents, Tom Shaw and Co.

MR. HARRY TATE,
Sportsman, Author, and Traveller
There's nothing in the game.

ARTHUR SLATER,
The Original
and Only Recognised
Man in White.
Whistling Oct. 5, at
ALHAMBRA, BRUSSELS.

MR. WALTER CURTIS,
The Merriment Merchant.
HIPPODROME, MIDDLESBROUGH.

MENDEL, England's Blind Genius and Marvellous Musical Wonder. Loudly applauded by all audiences. Empire Pal., Edinburgh, this week; next week, EMPIRE, GLASGOW. Per. add., 123, Ravenslea-rd., Balham, London, S.W.

The Genial
HORACE WHEATLEY.
Oct. 5, Vacant.
Tom Shaw, London.

HERBERT SHELLEY
in the great Irish Protean Play,
"DAN, THE OUTLAW."
EMPIRE, GLASGOW.
Warner and Co., Ltd.

"Song Playlets," title originated by Cayley Calvert, Esq.
MR. LEO DRYDEN.
CROWN THEATRE, ECCLES.
Agent for "A White Man," G. Foster.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD H. LUCAS, in their Original Scenes from Dickens.
This week, Empire, Islington, N.
Next week, EMPIRE, HOLBORN, W.C.

Two Pantomime winners for Dames,
"My Old Man's ——," by Tom B. Newsome.
"My Dear John," by Tom B. Newsome.
MR. ROWLAND HILL,
Oct. 5, ALHAMBRA, MORECAMBE.

FRED HASTINGS,
Comedian.
This week, Hippodrome, Southampton;
next, LONDON PAVILION and HIP., PUTNEY.
Vacant Nov. 16, between Oldham and Sheffield.

ARTHUR WOODVILLE,
Versatile Comedian.
This, Lyric, Liverpool.
Next, REGENT THEATRE, SALFORD.
Agents, G. and F. Peel.

Unprecedented Hit, Oldham and York.
St. Clair has the biggest chorus hit.
The biggest ever heard in Britain.
MR. F. V ST. CLAIR
Oldham audiences still left singing his songs.

MR. FRANK COYLE,
The Continuous Comedian.
Monday next, TIVOLI, DUBLIN. To follow: Belfast, Manchester, Bolton, Rochdale, Southport, Liverpool, Wakefield, &c.

SLIPPERE,
A Man of Many Parts.
Blind Entertainer.
All coms., 16, Albert-st., Regent's Park, N.W.

FRED DURBAN
Light Comedian,
Terms and dates of Neiman's Agency,
1, Imperial-mans., Charing Cross-road.

MR. JOHN DONALD,
the Popular Actor-Vocalist,
"A Scottish Exile's Dream."
And the Big Pots are already Copying.
But John has a Book Full of Engagements.
See Special Notice, "The Era," Sept. 26.
OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH,
Monday next. Managers, don't miss this.
The Pioneer and Energetic Manager for this is Will Oliver, Spot Lodge, Brixton-road, S.W.

Best price for Funny Songs.
Best price for Funny Patter.
Best price for Burlesque Recitations.
All letters answered per return.
MR. MARK SHERIDAN.
Address,
EMPIRE, BELFAST.
G. and F. Peel.
Christmas, T. R., Manchester.

CHRIS VAN BERN
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"HELLO! HERE WE ARE AGAIN!"
"SHE LOOKED SO SIMP-SIMP-SIMPLE,"
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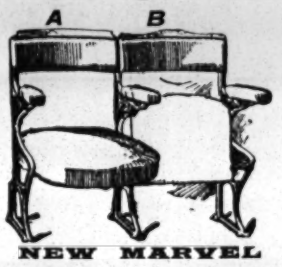

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THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"LADY FREDERICK,"
Comedy, in Three Acts, by W. Somerset Maugham,
Produced at the Kleines Theatre, Oct. 3.

Lady Frederick	FRAU PETRI
Sir Genold	HERR ADALBERT
Fourdes	HERR ZIEGEL
Lady Merestone	FRAULEIN STEINMANN
Lord Merestone	HERR ACHTERBERG
Captain Montgomerie	HERR KLEIN-RHODEN
Admiral Carlisle	HERR MARX
Rose	FRAULEIN SCHINDLER
Thompson	HERR WEISS
Kellner	HERR PERU
Schneiderin	FRAULEIN GRUNING
Diener	HERR WERTHER
Jungfer	FRAULEIN WEBER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Oct. 8.—The English dramatist's new play—translated and adapted by Herren Schwarz and Lothar—met with a considerable amount of success, Mr. Maugham being still remembered with pleasure by the habitués of the Kleines Theatre on account of his clever piece *Shipwrecked*, produced here some years ago. I take it *Lady Frederick* is known to English playgoers, so that a detailing of the plot will be superfluous. The grateful rôle of the elderly, yet fascinating and generous, heroine met with full justice at the hands of Frau Lili Petri, an actress who took Berlin by storm twenty years ago in the French play *Fall Clemenceau* at the Lessing Theatre. Frau Petri was at her best—which is saying a good deal—in the scene in the third act, where Lady Frederick disillusions a youthful suitor by forcing him to witness the secret arts of her "make-up." The amusing scene brought down the house, and the success of the piece was assured. The remainder of the cast might have been better, if we except Fraulein Gruning and Herr Ziegel, whose renderings were capital.

BOOKING for Caruso's three performances at the Royal Opera is brisk, notwithstanding enormous admission prices, and within a few days there will not be a seat to be had in the legitimate course of things, and the street dealers will make a fortune. On Oct. 20 the famous tenor sings in *Aida*, on the 22nd in *Bajazzo*, and on the 24th in *Martha*.

THE famous Italian actor Giovanni Grasso and his Sicilian company gave a performance, in their native language, at the Wolzagen Theatre last week. The play selected was the three-act drama *Feudalismo*, by Angelo Guimera, from which Herr Eugen d'Albert drew the plot of his successful opera *Tiefland*. It is as revolting a tragedy as can well be imagined, and Signor Grasso in the rôle of the shepherd, Vanni, spared us none of its horrors. That he acted with great temperament and was well supported and applauded is all that is necessary to record.

MME. SARAH BERNHARDT gives a season at the Hebbel Theatre this month, bringing, as usual, her own company with her. The opening performance—on the 21st—is Sardou's *La Sorcière*, which is followed by Zamacoi's *Les Bouffons*, Porto Riche's *Le Passé*, *Adrienne Lecouvreur*, and *La Dame aux Camélias*. The season, according to present announcements, will not last longer than a week.

AT the Trianon Theatre, the four-act comedy *Die Liebe Wacht*, by MM. de Caillavet and De Flers, met with an exceedingly cordial reception last Tuesday. The acting is particularly bright, and the piece will certainly enjoy a lengthy run.

A NEW satirical comedy by Gustav Wied—the clever Danish author whose *Twice Two Are Five* has made such an unprecedented hit—will be produced for the first time on any stage at the Berliner at the end of the week. The title of the piece is *Erotik*; it is in three acts, and a one-act comedy, also by Herr Wied, will serve as a curtain-raiser. The title of the latter is *Erinnerungsfest* (memorial festival), "an act in four rooms." The production is being anticipated with much interest.

AT the Lessing, Ibsen holds the chief place in the week's bill: *Rosmersholm* and *Ghosts* are being performed with superb casts. The ever-popular farce *Die Raub der Sabinerinnen* affords a vivid contrast by two performances in the week.

SIGNORA DUSE will give a single performance here this month, appearing on the 28th at the Deutsches Chamber Playhouse in the rôle of Ella Reutheim in Ibsen's *John Gabriel Borkman*.

IN 1749 the following advertisement appeared in the papers:—"At the New Theatre in the Haymarket, this present day, to be seen a person who performs the several most surprisnig things following, viz.:—First, he takes a common walking-cane from any of the spectators, and thereon he plays the music of every instrument now in use, and likewise sings to surprising perfection. Secondly, he presents you with a common wine-bottle, which any of the spectators may first examine; this bottle is placed on a table in the middle of the stage, and he (without any equivocation) goes into it, in the sight of all the spectators, and sings in it; during his stay in the bottle any person may handle it, and see plainly that it does not exceed a common tavern bottle. Those on the stage or in the boxes may come in masked habits (if agreeable to them), and the performer (if desired) will inform them who they are. Stage, 7s. 6d. Boxes, 5s. Pit, 3s. Gallery, 2s. To begin half-an-hour after six o'clock." A great crowd assembled, and sat patiently till nearly seven o'clock, when, finding no performance to commence, they proceeded to raise their cat-calls. On this a person came forward who promised the audience their money should be returned if the performer did not appear. A man shouted out that if they would come again the next night, at doubled prices, the conjurer would go into a pint bottle. A candle was thrown on the stage, which was the signal for a row. In the rush to escape among the more peaceable, the Duke of Cumberland lost his diamond-hilted sword, on which a cry was raised that "Billy the Butcher" had lost his knife." Boxes and benches were then torn up, the curtains and scenes torn down, and an immense bonfire made of them opposite the theatre entrance. Next day the manager wrote a letter to the papers complaining of the loss of his property, and protesting that he was the dupe of an impostor. Samuel Foote is said to have been the wag on this occasion.

HEIDEGGER, Master of the Revels in King George's I.'s reign, was famous for his singular ugliness. The following trick was once played off on him. The Duke of Montague, having invited him to a tavern, made him drunk, and when he was asleep had a mould of his face taken, from which was made a mask, and the Duke provided a man of the same stature to personate Heidegger at the next masquerade, when the King, who was apprised of the plot, was to be present. On his Majesty's entrance, Heidegger as usual bade the band strike up "God save the King." But no sooner was his back turned than the impostor bade them play "Over the water to Charley." The company was thunderstruck, and Heidegger ran to set the matter to rights, swearing that the band were drunk or mad, and ordered them most peremptorily to recommence "God save the King." The moment he retired, the false Heidegger commanded "Over the water to Charley" again. The band thought the master mad, but durst not disobey. This went on, to the delight of the King and his courtiers, till, after the band had been kicked out of the orchestra, and their commanding officer driven half frantic, the counterfeit presentment stepped forward and assured the King that he was the true Heidegger, and that the other was only the devil in his likeness.

HALL CAINE'S FIRST PLAY.

Notwithstanding the generous confidence of my friends, coupled as I fear it was by my own opinion, that under favourable conditions I could write a play—says Mr. Hall Caine in his interesting autobiography "My Story," just published by William Heinemann—I made no serious attempt to do so until dramatic pirates began to appropriate my novels. Then I remembered Wilson Barrett's request, and sent him my first Manx novel, thinking the subject and chief character might suit him. He answered that both seemed promising, and asked me to see him immediately, for he had reached a crisis in his fortunes when a change in his programme was necessary.

It was early spring, I remember, one of the worst of the second winters that come to our English climate, and I was staying with my people in Liverpool; but with the utmost eagerness I packed my bag and set off for London, hardly knowing yet where the drama lay in my narrative story, and seeing many perplexing difficulties.

A few miles out of Liverpool, travelling by the Midland route, we were overtaken by a very dense fog, and at Derby, to my great chagrin, I was compelled to leave the train; but what seemed to my impatience to be the most vexatious accident proved to be the most fortunate circumstance. The fog, which enveloped almost the whole of England, lasted eight days; I sought refuge from it among the hoar frost in the heights of Dove Dale, and while waiting in the old Isaac Walton Inn (alone there and thrown entirely on my thoughts) for the clouds to lift that cut me off from London, the clouds in my brain were also dissipated, and I thought my play for all practical purposes was produced.

Then, with a full scenario, I completed my journey, and found Barrett more than content. We struck and signed a bargain straight away, I remember—two guineas a performance for me until my royalties reached £800, when my interest was to end, and though I had not a penny piece of this money in my pocket, and everything depended upon the opinion of the public, and my fortune was like a glistening bubble in the air, I came away from our interview with the sense of possessing more wealth than I had ever yet known to be in the world.

Not only was my money not yet earned, but my play was not yet written, and toil and pain and sleepless nights there were to go through before it got itself done. And even when I came to an end and thought the curtain had fallen for good, I realised from the sharp criticism of my colleague that I had been working in a medium that was new to me, and not all the supernatural wisdom I had won in earlier days as a dramatic critic had taught me the hundred and one technical tricks that are necessary to success on the stage.

What Barrett himself did to make my first play a practical effort it is unnecessary to say, but sure I am that without his knowledge of the "ropes" of the theatre the dramatic instinct on which my friend Blackmore had counted to produce "a grand and moving drama" would have gone for nothing, and, conscious of this, I insisted on coupling Barrett's name with mine when the play came to be produced.

Before that, of course, there were the rehearsals, and though in my ignorance of stage-management, I took little or no part in them, I remember as a unique experience the first moment when, stumbling through the pall of darkness which lies over "the front of the house" in daytime, I first heard my own lines spoken by an actor on the stage. It was almost as if something of myself had in a dream, by a hypnotic transfer, passed into the mouth of somebody else.

By the time of the first public performance this elusive sensation had naturally passed away; but then came another emotion equally new to me, and yet more thrilling; the emotion created by the tears, the laughter, the applause, and, above all, the silence of the audience. It is just once in a man's life that he produces his first play, and perhaps he may be pardoned if after the lapse of years he puts the experience out of proportion.

I think it was a notable first night in some respects. The audience was great, for in all the years since I have never seen so many really distinguished people in one place. The acting was great, too, and the reception was generous and almost tumultuous. I remember, as something seen in a sort of delirious trance, through a mist of blinding tears, that at the fall of the curtain the whole audience was on its feet, and that when Barrett led me in front of the curtain there was a roar that dazed and stunned me.

It was not until an hour or two afterwards that I came to myself in some measure, and then, with my friend Tirebuck, who had come up from the country to share my great experience, I was tramping up and down Oxford Street in the early morning, and making the silent throroughfare ring with peals of foolish laughter. Being too poor to think of a room at an hotel, we were to sleep at a little shabby boarding-house in Bloomsbury, and having suddenly remembered that we had not eaten anything since breakfast, we were searching for a restaurant that would be open late enough to give us a supper. We found one at length in the form of a smoking coffee-stall at the corner of Berners Street, and there we ate roasted potatoes with a pinch of salt. And then home to our dingy lodgings like creatures walking on the stars.

BOADEN, adapting Ann Radcliffe's "Romance of the Forest" to the stage of Covent Garden Theatre, records the anxiety he felt about the proper presentment of its supernatural incidents. The contrivance he hit upon has since become one of the commonplaces of theatrical illusion. It was arranged that the spectre should be seen through a bluish-grey gauze, so as to remove the too corporeal effect of a live actor, and convert the moving substance into a gliding essence. The plan, however, was not carried into effect without considerable difficulty. Mr. Harris, the manager, ordered a night rehearsal of the play, so that the author might judge of the success of the effects introduced. The spectre was to be personated by one Thompson, a portly, jovial actor, whose views as to the treatment of the supernatural upon the stage were of a very primitive kind. He appeared upon the scene clad in the conventional solid armour of the theatre, with over all a grey gauze veil, as stiff as buckram, thrown about him. Mr. Boaden describes his horror and astonishment at the misconception. It had been intended that the gauze, stretched on a frame, should cover a portal of the scene, and that the figure of the spectre should be seen dimly through it. But even then the contour of Thompson was found very inappropriate to a phantom. It was necessary to select for the part an actor of a slighter and taller form. At length a representative of the ghost was found in the person of Follet, the clown, "celebrated for his eating of carrots in the pantomimes." Follet readily accepted the part: his height was heroic, he was a skilled posture-maker, he was well versed in the duties of a mime. Still there was a further difficulty. The ghost had to speak—only two words, it is true—he had to utter the words "Perished here!" and, as the clown very frankly admitted: "'Perished here!' will be exactly the fate of the author if I'm left to say it." The gallery would recognise the clown's voice, and all seriousness would be over for the evening. At last it was determined that the part should be divided; Follet should perform the actions of the ghost, while Thompson, in the wings, out of the sight of the audience, should pronounce the important words. The success of the experiment was signal.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—*The Silver King* is being presented here by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company. Mr. Sydney T. Pease appeared as Wilfred Denver, and completely won the hearts of the audience; Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton is charmingly effective as Nellie Denver; Captain Herbert Skinner is dramatically played by Mr. Chas. Freeman; Tom Paulton is as popular as ever as Daniel Jaikes; Mr. Claude Graveley is successful as Geoffrey Ware, and Samuel Baxter is well played by Robert R. Ashby.

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Thief* is powerfully presented this week by Mr. George Alexander's company. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart's acting as Chelford is masterly; and Miss May Congdon is no less successful and impressive as Marise Chelford. Mr. Gerald Ames plays with spirit as Raymond Leyton; and Mrs. Leyton is gracefully portrayed by Miss Nancy Dibley. Mr. Alfred Lugg makes a good Harry; and the Detective is very well impersonated by Mr. Cyril Cattley. All the other parts are capably filled. The piece is preceded by the comedietta *Too Happy by Half*, which is brightly played by Miss Irene Leonard and Messrs. Marmont and Lugg.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Miss Florrie Forde is rapturously encored again and again; and Mr. Herbert Clifton has also a most enthusiastic reception. Another excellent turn is that of Cummin and Seaham, a pair of versatile artists; Mr. Ernest Montefiore and company appear with success in a highly dramatic sketch, *The Little Colonel*; and among the other good turns are those of Steely and Dowton, burlesque artists; Bella and Greta, duettists and graceful dancers; Mr. Arthur Boyne, a droll comedian; and the Eeduns in a first-class vocal scena, *The Spider and the Fly*.

Beach Pavilion.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—Among the artists this week are Miss Violet Davidson and Miss Muriel Collie, vocalists; Mr. David Thomson, humorist; Master George Henry, Highland dancer; and Mr. Jack Marson, vocalist and raconteur.

Alhambra. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—Included in this week's company are Mr. N. C. Bostock, the veteran comedian; Mr. Dan Fraser, Scotch comedian; and Miss Nellie Ellienne, comedienne and dancer. Mr. Fraser sings solos to the illustrated songs most effectively.

Empire.—Manager, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—The following excellent artists are members of the company this week:—Mr. Archie Murray, coloured comedian; Miss Marie Rose, vocalist and dancer; Mr. Arthur Bright, descriptive vocalist; Miss Ada Brogden, soprano; Mr. George Millard, comedian; and Prof. Montague, conjurer and ventriloquist.

ABERTILLERY.—Theatre Metropole.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—The production of the drama *The Lighthouse Robbery* this week by an excellent company is exceptionally good. Mr. Henry Horne as Tom Manly is capital; Miss Hilda Baynton is a natural Rose Prescott; William Farren, alias Squire Hammond, is in the capable hands of Mr. William Annesley; his son, James Hammond, is portrayed in a masterly manner by Mr. Percy Beresford; Mr. Herbert Lewis is a successful David Morris; Ruth Manly is presented in a pleasing style by Miss Maggie Stewart; and Mr. Sammy Foster makes quite an ideal Sam Kidder, a stage-struck rustic.

The Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott is here in *A Wife's Triumph*. Mr. Ernest R. Abbott scores high as Robert Dewhurst; Frank Wilton is successfully presented by Mr. Frank Stephens; Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle makes an excellent Ellis Jordan; Miss Ada Abbott deserves special praise for her portrayal of Bessie Dewhurst; Miss Florence North is good as Alice Wilton; and Margery Crib is played naturally by Miss Isabel Singleton. The humour of the piece is in the capable hands of Mr. Edwin Keene, who scores heavily as Ben Bradford. The Bioscope is also shown to advantage.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Messrs. Sidney Rennef and G. M. Copping's company is presenting *Loves Rules the World* here. Miss Conyers Radcliffe as Maud Carruthers, in the pathetic passages, is exceptionally good; Mr. Richard Vane infuses plenty of power into the character of Harold Kingston; Mr. Stephen Langton as Stephen Blight plays with ability; Mr. Sidney Rennef is a capable Jim Dixey; Mr. Matt Russell a clever Farmer Carruthers; Mr. Alex Wilson Whynne a successful Paul Carruthers; and Mr. G. H. Langley does justice to the rôle of Sir Edward; Mr. Walter Dale is funny as Billy Binks, and has the able assistance of Miss Kitty Russell as Kitty Snowdrop. Miss Constance Medwyn submits a careful study of Flo Morton; and Miss Annie Brunette is seen to advantage as Mother Grimble.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—*If We Only Knew*, the new play by Messrs. Harry Nicholls and Chas. Ross, is well supplied with melodramatic situations, and the historical costumes and charming old customs, together with the fine staging, go a long way in making the play in question the success it is. Mr. P. A. Gawthorn's is a talented portrayal of the polished villain, Dick Steen; whilst Mr. Ernest Young gives a meritorious enactment of the gallant Ensign Willmott. Mr. Harry Nicholls plays the rôle of Slippery Sam with a rich vein of low-comedy humour, and he scores heavily; Miss Sylvia Morris is a charming actress, and in Barbara she has a rôle which fits her like a glove; Miss Kate Kearney's conception of the ancient doll-like spinster Priscilla is excellent; Ruth has a vigorous personator in Miss Margaret Van Hollister; whilst Miss Violet Langley's is a capital portrayal of the widow, Mrs. Thornhill. Mr J. Benedick-Butler is good as the merry-making merchant Bignell; and Messrs. Wm. Ames, Henry Jessop, George Page, Alfred Wynne, F. Rosse, H. W. Parkinson, F. Thorpe Tracey, and Albert Bernard do well in other parts. Misses Cicely Nicholls and Lorna Treherne as waiting-maids are also well placed. The melodrama is effectively staged, several capital sets being carried, whilst special music is rendered by the orchestra.

ARBROATH.—New Public Hall.—Mr. John Clyde, the popular Scottish actor, and a good all-round company, presented Hall Caine's *The Manxman* on Saturday and Monday evenings. The scenery and appointments, by Mr. Ray Ashmore, were all that could be desired. The trying part of Kate was in the capable hands of Miss Lena Levenston; Miss Jeanie Macintosh, as the maid at "The Manx Fairy," played the part with ease and natural freedom; Mr. H. Macaulay with great energy represented Cæsar Cregeen; and Mr. Clyde did well in the part of Pete.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Comic opera has possession here for the week, during which Mr. Mouillot's company is producing *Tom Jones*. Miss Margaret Stonor plays Sophia with rare charm and vivacity, and proves her possession of a voice of singular sweetness and volume; Miss Florrie Saunders as Honor is admirable, and sings with charming effect; old-world refinement and eccentricity of manner are imported into the characterisations of Miss F. McEvoy as Miss Western, Miss Olive Elton as Lady Bellaston, and other actresses of talent. Mr. Cyril Thompson is the ideal Tom Jones, and uses his fine baritone voice with good vocal effect; Mr. Geo. Elton as Partridge is extremely funny; and Mr. Alfred H. Majilton makes Blifil a prominent personage. Messrs. A. J. Nicholls as Alworthy and Mr. Fred Seymour as Squire Western, a fine old English gentleman, are well cast; Messrs. Michael Dwyer, C. Lane, H. Courtin Stagg, George, and Montrose are useful in minor characters, and the chorus is very effective.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Monty Walker, known as the happy swell comedian, gives a diverting turn; the Bioscope exhibits the Royal Club Motor Races at the Isle of Man and a series of funny films. Premier Juveniles, managed by Alfred Graham, appear in their vocal scena, A Concert on the Lawn; Bosanquet and company appear in the episode, *The Fiddler's Windfall*, in which some startling musical effects are produced; Mr. Leslie Race is a refined comedian; Fred W. Millis gives a ventriloquial sketch very cleverly; the principal turn on the list is Miss Harriett Vernon, who appears in the favourite song scena, "A Yule-tide Story," a special turn for her benefit night being "Sunshine and Shadow"; Dex, the necromancer, is a treat; and the Bros. Ford introduce some expert dancing, with an accompaniment of song.

Picturedrome (Star Theatre). — Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.—Between the animated picture exhibitions turns are given by Mr. J. H. Wakefield, coon singer and dancer, and Mr. Osmond Penistone, illusionist and smoke-sketch artist. The most notable pictures are the Story of Samson and Delilah, in exquisite colours, views of Sunny Madeira, The Fireman's Daughter, The Chieftain's Revenge, and a comic series of pictures.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—This week's selection of interesting and amusing pictures is drawing crowded houses. The principal films are What Willie Did, An Indian Romance, Oh! that Umbrella, Motor-boat Racing, and Blind! Chorus songs are rendered by Mr. Glanmore Jones.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—The premier position of this week's excellent programme is held by Mr. Phil Ree's Stable Lads in a novel comedy act, introducing a number of songs and dances; much enthusiasm is evoked by Hinton and Wooton in a football match on bicycles; a popular turn is that of Mr. Frank Cumminger and Miss Colonna, whose vocalism and sand-dancing are heartily applauded; the Morrellis (lady and gentleman) give a pleasing comedy, musical, and vocal act; Miss Edith St. Clare is a smart comedienne; Dalton and Euston, cross-talk comedians and dancers are good; so also is Mr. Harry Taylor, Hebrew comedian; and the Attergraph pictures of Motor-boat Racing complete the bill.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's juvenile pantomime company in *The House that Jack Built* is here for the week, and judging from the opening night it should have a successful run. The pantomime is completely staged, and the dresses are pretty. Miss Daisy Wood as Jack makes the "principal boy" very fascinating; while the same may be said of the Jill of Miss Dolly Dodds. As Aunt Purdy Mr. Jammie Watson makes a great deal of the part; and Graham and Barron as Scraggs and Scraggles are extremely funny in their knock-about business. Miss Jennie Hughes makes a captivating fairy; little Gladys Wyse as Wee Macgregor renders some catchy songs and acts well; Mr. H. Hillerby as the Squire is quaintly funny. The Forget-Me-Not Quartette dance daintily.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Long Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—A hearty welcome was accorded on Monday to Miss Harriet Greet's company in *The Sign of the Cross*. A sterling representation of the redoubtable Marcus was submitted by Mr. Wallace G. Court; Mr. Burton W. Yaldwyn, delineated with skill the inhuman Nero; Messrs. G. Osmond Tearle, Rupert Carlton, Donald McAdam, and W. Montaigne, as the Roman "big-wigs," supported the general effect. Miss Vera Crichton as Mercia quickly established herself as a favourite; Miss Effie Dane faithfully depicted Stephanus; and Miss Nora Craigie and Miss Dorothy Lambert possessed an accurate conception of their respective parts.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Frederick Melville's play *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is being presented here. Mr. Philip Darien is a capital and convincing Jack Merryman; and Mr. Leyton Cancellor displays much cleverness as Hubert Gold. In the title-rôle Miss Beatrice Homer shows great ability and is a great success; Miss Gertrude Harrison as Rose Courtney and Miss Nellie Jackson as Aggie Brown are both attractive impersonations; and Miss Violet Macaree is an entertaining Mority.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Monckton Hoffe's company in *Irene Wycherley* is here. Mr. Charles Garry as Philip Wycherley is quite brilliant; Miss Maud Henderson as Irene Wycherley surmounts a difficult task with great artistic delicacy; and Mr. Edward Sorley is an interesting Mr. Chesterton.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The following popular artists are appearing here this week: Walton and Lester, Ike and Will Scott, May Marton, Chas. Russell, Stuart and Stuart, Zelleni, Rose Sartella, and Vernon's Bioscope.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A monster programme of pictures is being shown here this week to capital houses, the films being interspersed with pleasing songs by Mr. James Basnett

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Wentworth Croke presented *The Christian* to a crowded house on Monday. As John Storm Mr. P. Gedge Twyman was a great success; the Glory Quayle of Miss Margery Fane showed great promise; Mr. John Hastings Batson as Father Lampugh was really excellent; Messrs. Edward Ouston and G. Montague Lane did well in their respective parts; Miss Gladys Vernon scored a success as Polly Love; Mr. Bert Conway worked hard in the double parts of Lord Storm and Paul; and Miss Alice Maude gave a finished portrayal of Mrs. Callender.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—In *Captain Drew on Leave* that delightful actress Miss Cynthia Brooke scores another conspicuous success as Mrs. Moxon; Mr. Charles B. Vaughan also makes a great impression by his candid and sincere rendering of Capt. Drew; as Chester Hassell Mr. Gerald Venning handles the part with excellent effect, his scene in the third act with Miss Brooke and Mr. Vaughan being admirably sustained; Miss Nora Carton (whose company it is) portrays the featherbrain flirt Miss Mills with the necessary assurance; Mr. Tom Mowbray is well suited to the rôle of George Moxon, and Mr. Willox Cadogan as Ernest White is amusing. The farce *Cut Off with a Shilling* is the curtain-raiser. Mr. Frank Withers is the business manager for the tour.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Crowds are attracted twice nightly to witness the beauty and hair competitions that are being held this week for money prizes presented by the management. The numerous ladies who have braved criticism have been received with the greatest enthusiasm, and aroused either admiration or amusement. In the regular bill Edith Chantler, a rising young vocalist, is the first to appear, to be followed by the Lyons Trio in a laughter-creating pantomime and dancing act; Phil Bransby proves himself a character comedian who shows that originality is still possible; Lambert and Hands gain applause for their well-arranged vocal scena; a just ovation is accorded to Chanti, whose quick-change act baffles description, while his national dances are executed with wonderful accuracy and nimbleness; Hilda Mascot secures many admirers as a comedienne and dancer; Gibbon and Bell indulge in many difficult acrobatic feats, supplemented by some pretty dancing. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, as usual, wind up the programme.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is this week appearing in the sparkling musical comedy, *The Belle of Mayfair*. The company is a very powerful one, and the chorus and scenery are excellent. Mr. Stephen Hall is a good representative of the "peppery" Earl of Mount Highgate, and his "Military Man" goes with a good swing; Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft has a pleasing manner, and his personation of Raymond Finchley leaves little to be desired; Mr. Sydney Burt is most amusing as Sir John Chaldicott; Mr. Michael Raven possesses a fine tenor voice, and is excellent as Hugh Meredith; the Comte de Perrier is comically presented by Mr. E. Batting. Of the ladies, Miss Nellie Branwell as Julia is a dainty dancer and a sweet singer; Miss Dora Lyons is a pretty and vivacious lady's maid; Miss Patricia Weldon gives to the part of the Princess the necessary gracious dignity; and Miss Denny Fitzherbert as Lady Chaldicott adds greatly to the success of the piece.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Messrs. Plimmer and Blake's musical comedy, *Happy Hooligan*, is the attraction here this week. In the title-rôle Mr. Wm. H. Lester was thoroughly successful, his vocalism and dancing being first class; and much praise must be accorded Miss Lottie Wilson for her charming impersonation of Widow Johnson. Much merriment, in their respective rôles of Donald Macgregor and Max Guggenheimer, is created by Messrs. Jos. J. Sullivan and John K. Hawley. In the rôle of Nettie Miss Blanco Moure is an excellent dancer; Miss Rosie Lyndon a bewitching Rose; Mr. Harry Emeric an admirable Charley Flipp; and Miss Olive Stuart a delightful Daisy.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The star here is Carl Hertz (assisted by Miss Emmeline D'Alton), whose illusions are certainly extraordinary. His reception on Monday was tremendous. Park's Eton Boys and Girls provide a capital vocal entertainment; a hit has been made by Percival, the comedian at the piano; Mr. Mike Cray, a good juggler, introduces his canine companion, whose feats are really wonderful; as comedians, Messrs. A. W. Scott and Medley Barrett create much merriment; and the bill is completed by the Two McKays, "the military maids," Miss Lily Ward, comedienne, and the Palace pictures.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Bellman and Moore top the bill, and this clever American duo have been very successful. The speciality act of the Iben-Obed Trio (including the great Arabian giant), is one of the best items on this first-class programme; and John G. Brandon and company appear in their pathetic American sketch, *The Girl and the Tough*, which is exceedingly well acted and capitally staged. The feats of McLeavy Brothers, barrel jumpers, are certainly wonderful; and the spectacular absurdity by Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, is decidedly unique, being one of the funniest items on the programme. Dallas and Varden, in their comedy act; Harley and Melton, comedians; W. B. Raby, comedian; Miss Edie Anderson, comedienne; and the Hipposcope are also here.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—To the great delight of his many Belfast admirers, Mr. Mark Sheridan is here, and this inimitable comedian is drawing big houses. The New York Nippers are a smart combination; Bert Welda and Dorothy Wynne introduce juggling, dancing, &c., into their speciality act with much effect; the mimicry of Mr. J. P. Ling is really first class; and the Five Olracs provide a good act, entitled *The Tourist and His Tormentors*. Miss Nellie Martell is a good *danseuse*; and Mr. Jock Mills, Scotch comedian, and the Bioscope complete.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The exhibition of pictures here is certainly unique, and, under the management of Mr. Will White, the following films have been exhibited: The Crime on the Mountain, The Reluctant Dog, The Story the Boots Told, Jane Shore, The Farmer's Daughter, &c. Mr. Jock Henri, the favourite Scotch comedian, also appears; and Cestria, comedy juggler and acrobatic waiter. On Monday both houses were crammed to the doors, standing room only being available.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The popularity of this latest addition to Belfast amusements is certainly increasing, and this week, under the direction of Mr. Hugh Beckett, some beautiful films have been exhibited, including Curfew Shall Not Ring To-night, Cairo to Khartoum, Grandfather's Birthday, Our Pretty Typist, &c. The winner of the St. George's first singing competition, Mr. Robert Meharg, is appearing with marked favour; also Mr. Clem Hacknee, American baritone. Another competition, instituted by the enterprising manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur, resulted in one guinea being awarded on Monday to a Mr. A. Moreland for the best lines written on St. George's Hall and its entertainments. On and after Monday next it is intended to have matinées daily at this hall, an experiment that will be watched with interest.

BILSTON.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-Manager, Mr. S. Hadskis Dawson.—Mr. Wilson Benge and his company are presenting *The Eve of Her Wedding* this week. Mr. Benge is very successful as George Tremain; and Miss Sadie Smith wins much sympathy as Mavis Leverton. Mr. Wallace Campbell does effective work as Dean Clifton; and Miss Effie Bartlett makes a capital adventuress as Renie De Yelle. Mr. Arthur E. Holland is very good as Jack Hearne, a cripple; and Miss Daisy Cook is successful as Gwendoline Younger. Other parts are effectively filled, and the scenery is very fine.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—A week's engagement of Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. W. Wood-Ingram's company in the comedy *Jack Straw* has proved thoroughly successful. The title-rôle is assumed by Mr. Glenister, who gives a fine and consistent rendering of a difficult and important part; Miss Florence St. John plays Mrs. Parker-Jennings with great skill and effect; Mr. A. T. Gullifer is excellent as Mr. Parker-Jennings; Miss Lucy Milner is an admirable Ethel Parker-Jennings; and Mr. Christmas Grose is an efficient Vincent Parker-Jenings. As Ambrose Holland Mr. Frederick Moyes scores an undeniable success; Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram is a good Count Adrian von Bremer; Lady Wanley is cleverly enacted by Miss Edie Graham; and Miss Estelle Despa as Mrs. Withers and Miss Jessica Waters as Rosie Abbott accord valuable assistance. The cast also includes Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson, Mr. Ernest Graham, and other able artists. The petite play *A Long Journey* forms an interesting curtain-raiser. Both company and piece have created an excellent impression here.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—After a somewhat lengthy absence Cinquevalli, the prince of jugglers, again heads the bill, and arouses all his customary enthusiasm. Mr. Alfred Whelan, a versatile mimic and variety entertainer, is on a welcome return visit, as also is Miss Winifred Hare, a charming and accomplished comedienne. Mr. Charles Frazer, in a clever comedy illusion, *Enchanted Iona*, is a prominent success; and Mr. Mike Nono, a smart comedian and dancer, makes a hit. The Brothers Ashley are well received in a comic boxing sketch; Miss Violet Stockelle, comedienne, is a general favourite; the Three Comedy Chanters, pleasing vocalists, are a reliable turn; and Larry Lewis, comedian, Miss Eileen Bernard, Irish comedienne, and Brown's Royal Bioscope complete an excellent programme. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical-director.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*When Knights Were Bold*, with Mr. James Welch in the company, has again proved irresistible, and for Mr. Welch it can be said that he has amply repaid his admirers for their patronage. His personification of the little knight evoked the most boisterous laughter, and the support was well worthy of the recognition it received. Miss Audrey Ford's charming portrayal of Lady Rowena held everybody delighted; Miss Helen Palgrave was most apt and natural as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave; Mr. Arthur Grenville played the part of Isaacson to considerable advantage; Mr. George Desmond as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe acted well; as did Mr. Guy Lane as the Rev Peter Pottleberry; and Messrs. Geo. Tully, Leopold Profeit, and the Misses M. O'Hea, Gwendoline Rayne, and Turrell assist ably and gracefully. *The Changeling* is played for the front piece.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*The Girls of Gottenberg*, has returned with an infusion of fresh talent, which makes it doubly welcome. Happy Fanny Fields delights her admirers as Mitzi; Mr. Edmund Payne retains his original rôle of Moddlekopf, which he has made stronger than ever; and Messrs. Leslie Holland, Fred Allandale, Fred Payne, and Jocelyn Hope form a tower of strength as Otto, Albrecht, Brittlbottl, and the General. The Misses Masie Gay, Thelma Raye, Florence Phillips (whose efficiency in a saltatorial display is marked), Florence Melville, and May Weston add grace and beauty to the show.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*A Soldier's Honour* has attracted well here with a big company, including the authoress, Miss L. Addison (Mrs. F. G. Kimberley) and Mr. Kimberley. Mr. Kimberley's portrayal of that true soldier and a man, Captain Deane, has thrilled and pleased immensely; Miss Addison's characterisation of the notorious thief, Cora Lee, is a fine piece of acting; Mr. T. Ellis makes a congenial rôle of the faithful Captain Temple; Mr. Hugh Hughes embodies the character of Henry Thornton admirably; Miss E. Barton is appreciated for her charm as Doreen Illingworth; Miss Edie Macklin's personification of Jemima Eliza is extremely good and popular; and the others do very well.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Her Luck in London* is a big draw here, with Mr. Geo. Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's company. The acting of Miss Neil as Nellie Harborne is still a highly dramatic feature; Mr. Douglas Cecil prospers well as the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor; Mr. Frank Strickland shows ability as Richard Lenowen; and Mr. Douglas Tremayne, Miss Beatrice Hudson, Miss Mary Clavering, Mr. T. Lionel Ellis, and Miss Florrie Groves play their accustomed parts with undimmed lustre.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*A Girl Redeemed from Sin* is engaged here, with Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company. Miss Olive Fulton's portrayal of Nancy Lee keeps the audience in full sympathy with the part; Mr. J. Monkhouse acts in manly style as Will May; Mr. Clinton Baddeley as Ernest Sylveston acts with the greatest ease and with perfect style; and Mr. John E. Tomlinson and Miss Fanny Olive, as the aged couple, elicit much sympathy. Mr. Victor Knight, Mr. Wallo Spinner, Miss Ada Oxley, Miss Gertie Pawle, Mr. Phillippe Orr, and several others contribute.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. B. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*An Unwedded Wife* is scoring here, with Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company. Miss Van Praagh's acting in the titular-rôle, Marion, elicits loud applause for its many effective points; Mr. Geo. D. Dapier as Frank Hawthorne makes a good impression; Mr. Chas. Stirling presents the villainous character of Philip Blackstone in a strong light; and the boy, Reggie, is cleverly played by Little Doris. Mr. Whitty as P.C. Runyin is a strong force, and a humorous one; and Mr. Will Casey, Miss Jessie Gillette, and others act well.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Old Home* is a great attraction here, presented by Mr. Roland Yorke, with a strong cast of well-known actors. Mr. Harding Thomas as Daddy Deane gives a strikingly fine portrayal; Miss Nina Blake-Adams has a rare hold of the audience as Hazel Deane; Mr. T. W. Dunscombe's acting as the Rev. Eric Armstrong is convincing; Mr. Roland Yorke's powers find capital expression in the rôle of Lord Avondale; Mr. Fred L. Connynghame's humour as Sam Adams is keenly relished; and Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite and Miss Mattie Crawford are good members of the cast.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. Walter Melville's company opened to a full house on Monday in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, this being a return visit. Mr. Charles Franmore sustains the part of John Meadows in good style; Jack Livingstone is capitally portrayed by Mr. J. Fortescue; Mr. Fred Hodson is funny as Toby Turvy; Mr. Edward Chester (Cuthbert Lumley), Mr. Fred Withers (Luke Ramsden), and Mr. Edward Valentine (Dr. Weston) render their parts in a painstaking manner. Miss Dorothy Hildebrande is a charming Constance Cornell; and credit is due to Miss Daisy Meynard as Tilly Vane. Miss Nita Langford plays in a most energetic way as Nellie Meadows; and Miss Hilda Beverley is forcible in the title-rôle.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Another visit of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company in *Florodora* has to be recorded here this week. Mr. Fred Eastman continues to play the part of Anthony Tweedlepunch, and, having now essayed the rôle well over a thousand times, custom has made it in him a property of easiness. Mr. Stanley White does well as Cyrus Gilfain; Mr. H. W. Crofton gives every satisfaction as Frank Abercoed; and Mr. Herbert St. John's assumption of Captain Donegal is a meritorious one. The Lady Holyrood of Miss Edith Housley is an admirable portrayal; whilst Miss Maisie Ellinger as Dolores, and Miss Bessie Middleton as Angela Gilfain are likewise charming.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—*The Walls of Jericho*, capitally played by Messrs. Dauncey and Leveaux's company is again the attraction here. An excellent Jack Frobisher is found in Mr. Alfred Goddard; and Mr. Russell Barry ably accounts for Hankey Bannister. Mr. Ben Lewin is a good actor, but his make-up as the Marquis of Steventon is altogether too youthful; Miss Nancy Beresford is well suited to the part of Lady Alethea Frobisher; and the other characters are all in very good hands.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Mr. J. C. Piddock and company top this week's bill, and appear with great success in a musical fantasy entitled *The Capture of Venus*. Mr. Piddock represents Mars to perfection, and receives excellent assistance from Mr. Gus Oxley, who proves himself to be a great comedian. Other enjoyable turns are supplied by N. T. Kioto, a wonderful Japanese equilibrist; Tray and Rich, comedians and dancers; Polo and Florence, equilibrists; the Raymond Trio, in a musical act; Irene Rose, a charming vocalist; Flo Cecil, comedienne; and Surrie Lindon's Entertainers, in a sketch. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope continues to show all the latest and best pictures.

Hippodrome.—Manageress, Mrs. Fioni.—The pictures of the Franco-British Exhibition are proving very attractive fare here. Songs are rendered by Miss Ada Clarrisse; and the Jeans are well received in their comedy.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson, supported by an excellent company, has presented with every success the interesting drama, entitled *The Coal King*. In the character of Tom Roberts Mr. Alderson submits a powerful and realistic impersonation; Mr. Ulick Burke, in the title-rôle, is highly satisfactory; the Walter Harford of Mr. George Hanbury is a good performance; Miss Winifred Love as Grace Shirley wins favour; Mad Ann in the hands of Miss Joan Wellman is a forcible impersonation.

The Gaiety.—Lessee, Mr. Wm. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baugh.—The star turn at the above popular resort has been supplied by Blanche and Diacoff, in their clever cycling act; Sill and Sillcott are a couple of pleasing comedians; and Miss Ada Whitton, comedienne; Dick Bradley, Mint and Mart, Marcus Boyle, and the Bioscope complete.

Hippodrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Doyle and O'Connell; General-Manager, Mr. Tom Doyle.—An unusually strong series of pictures is featured at the "Drome"; the Ives appear in a clever ball-punching display.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton and their London company had a flattering reception here on Monday evening, when *Taming of the Shrew* was performed before a large and fashionable house. Miss Lily Brayton as Katharina portrayed the varying moods of the character with consummmate skill; and Mr. Oscar Asche imbued the rôle of Petruchio with reckless abandon, his rendition being of a high order of merit; Miss Muriel Ashwynne was a pleasing Bianca; Mr. Henry Kitts gave a clever study of the part of Grumio; Mr. G. Kay Souper made a handsome Lucentio; and Mr. Herbert Grimwood an excellent Baptista. Other parts were admirably taken. In addition to *Taming of the Shrew*, *Othello* and *The Two Pins* have been given during the week.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The principal item here is the Human Chameleon, Mysticus (?), who appears in his mystifying, yet funny, entertainment entitled "Spirits? Spiritualism? or What?" Other turns are Miss Kity Kennedy Allen, comedienne; the Olmars, Roman statuary acrobats; Charles Santon, male soprano and double-voiced vocalist; the De Breans, in their Japanese entertainment; the Norman and Leonard Trio, in a musical incident, *The Itinerant*; the Ramlos, whirling comedians, in their comedy gymnastic speciality; Sadie Seymour, a refined comedienne; the Bros. Curran, in a screaming boxing act, *Taking the Census*; Charles R. Whittle, comedian; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

Empire Varieties.—Proprietor Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—Signor and Madame Borelli appear in their humorous imitations; and other contributors to the programme are Adele Lincoln, comedienne and eccentric dancer; Ida Kathrena, "the dolly girl"; Conan and Doyle, comedians; Bert Woodward, cycling coon; the Denaro Bros., juvenile equilibrists and acrobats; the Prinellas, in their farmyard scena, *A Country Flirtation*; Jessie Starr, lady Scotch comedian; Phillips and Terry, in their comedy duologue, entitled *Taming the Lion*; and the Bioscope.

Victoria Hall.—On Wednesday evening a grand concert was given here, at which there appeared Madame Melba, Willie Backhaus, the famous pianist, Szigeti, eminent violinist, Mr. Landon Ronald, composer, and Mr. Vincent Needham, solo flautist.

BOOTLE.—Muncaster Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The stock company is this week presenting *The City Outcast*, the principal characters being excellently played by Messrs. Albert E. Sember, Stanley S. Gordon, Alfred D. Adams, Tom Solly, Cyril Grier, and Misses Nina Vaughton, Kathleen Magee, and Effie Macintosh.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. Granville Barker and his company opened here on Monday in that brilliant comedy, *Man and Superman*. Mr. Barker was at his best in the difficult rôle of John Tanner, and had a great reception from an appreciative audience. The Roebuck Ramsden of Mr. Michael Sherbrooke was excellent; two clever studies of the American father and his son were given by Messrs. James Hearn and Frederick Lloyd respectively; and Mr. David Powell as Octavius Robinson, and Mr. Richard Haigh as Straker were distinctly good. Special praise must be accorded to the ladies of the cast. Miss Francis Dillon as Ann Whitfield was simply charming; and Miss Auriol Lee imparted distinction to the character of Violet; while other clever performances came from Miss Helen Rous and Miss Frances Wetherall.

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Madge Beresford, and Mr. B. J. Coyne contribute to the interest and success of the piece.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—One of the quaintest and most expert juggling acts imaginable is presented by W. C. Fields, who elicits roars of laughter and hearty applause; Henry Coutts, in his protean sketch *Outflanked*, does some remarkably quick changing in full view of the audience; as a juvenile mimic Agnes Tina displays exceptional talent; Ian Colquhoun's baritone songs are rendered with power and dramatic effect, in character; in native costume, Seener and Fridkin's Russian Troupe of singers and dancers go through an animated and clever performance; Arthur Jefferson and company present a wildly absurd but very amusing sketch, *Home from the Honeymoon*; Bessie Butt is a charming comedienne and dancer; J. A. Wilson, comedian, reappears with his remarkable dog Towser, with the usual success; and some very funny pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—A pantomimic and cleverly executed juggling act by the Seven Perezoffs, viz., *An Animated Supper at Maxim's*, elicits a lot of applause here this week; Madge Allan is a pleasing singer and dancer; Dan Whitley's capital comedy is productive of much merriment; Sivroni, in a burlesque sketch, *Opera Gone Mad* (assisted by Amy Broughton), elicits much laughter; Happy Attwood's comedy is of a droll order; *Love Germs* is a well-acted and amusing sketch given by the Smythsons; the Lecardo Brothers are good acrobatic comedians; in their vocal extravaganza *Ancestral Spirits* MacKinnon's Scottish Meisters are highly entertaining; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are interesting.

BRIDLINGTON. — ROYAL PRINCE'S PARADE. — Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—The municipal orchestra, which has been so successful during the season, under the able conductorship of Mr. Norfolk Megone, finished their engagement on Sunday evening, when a large and enthusiastic audience assembled at the sacred concert. The vocalist was Madame Naomi Odille Bell. This week Mr. Arthur Randall's costume concert party are securing big houses. Miss Ethel Dunbar is a charming soprano and excellent dancer; Miss Bertha Zander's contralto voice gives great pleasure; Mr. Bryan O'Sullivan possesses a baritone of good compass; Mr. Bert Williams is a most amusing comedian; and Mr. Arthur Randall's humorous songs and smart patter win great applause.

NEW SPA AND GARDENS.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—The popular Will Catlin's Pierrots are drawing full houses here this week. Mr. Farren Sumner's songs are finely rendered; Mr. Tom Catlin renders some most amusing lyrics; as does also Mr. Con Brierley; Mr. Harold Franklin shines as a lady impersonator; and Mr. Will Catlin proves himself a first-class artist in his various items. The concerted numbers and song scenas by the members of the troupe are excellent; and Mr. Harry Taylor is a brilliant piano soloist and accompanist.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—The Royal British Circus commenced their second week here on Monday, with some new items added to their varied programme. There is plenty of fun, and the entertainment is amusing, the various artists being highly applauded for their performances.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company opened here on Monday with *The Woman Pays*, and attracted a crowded audience. Mr. Phil Harper submitted a masterly impersonation of Sid Armstrong; Mr. Dunlop Stewart was highly effective as Luke Morland; Mr. John Davidson achieved great success in the rôle of Roger Marchant; Miss Kate Blair's Nell Morland was admirably enacted; Miss Anena Walton made a diverting Polly Stokes; Mr. Beresford Innes was well suited as Cyrus Treadgold; Miss Florence Thorne was a capital Tabitha; Miss Maud A. Russell imparted great sympathy to her representation of Madge Armstrong; and Mr. Frank M. Thorne afforded much amusement as Micky Maloney. Admirable support was given by Mr. Claremont Gaskell (Nathan Moss), Mr. A. T. Jones (Captain Holt), and Mr. J. K. Wilson (Peter Hallam).

ALHAMBRA.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—T. E. Dunville, the very eccentric comedian, is enthusiastically applauded for his entertaining songs; the Five Musical Palmers achieve great success with their instrumental selections; Starr and Leslie, in an act comprising juggling and musical selections, score heavily; Daisy Almer sings and dances herself into great favour; Stacey and Williams are a capital pair of comedians; Kato's Komical Kidgets are popular in their marionette entertainment; Queenie West is well received in song and dance; Barrett and Knowles are smart patter comedians; Kate Fraill is delightful in songs at the piano; and the Alhambrascope pictures are very interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Vesta Victoria achieves distinct success with her very entertaining songs; Shaun Glenville and company make a great hit in the amusing sketch *The Art of Deception*; the Three Royal Dreadnoughts are clever rifle shots; Alice Hollander, the Australian contralto, sings artistically; Frank Silvo is a quaint comedy juggler; Lillie Soutter is a pleasing characteristic comedienne; Clotilde and Musta, with their well-trained cockatoos, submit a good turn; the Two Kays are cordially received in their novelty scena, *The Nightingale*; Harris and Worth, sporting comedians, win hearty applause; Les Barrois are smart hand balancers; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

WEST PIER.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Scholey.—Mr. Norman V. Norman and company are here this week with *Under the Red Robe*, and are warmly welcomed. Mr. Norman V. Norman gives a picturesque and masterly enactment of Gil de Berault; Miss Beatrice Wilson also achieves conspicuous success with her charming and artistic portrayal of Renée de Cocheforêt; Mr. Sam Wilkinson cleverly handles the character of the vapid Captain Larolle; Mr. Alfred Gray is deeply impressive as Cardinal Richelieu; and others meriting commendation include Mr. Reginald P. Lamb (Marquis de Pombal), Mr. Cyril Percy (Mons. de Fargis), Mr. F. Ambrose Flower (Sir Thomas Brunt), Mr. Norman Leslie (Lieut. Manet), and Miss Katherine Harrington (Suzette).

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Mr. Arthur Cornell's company is here this week with *The New Clown*. Mr. Arthur Cornell is highly entertaining as Lord Cyril Garston (the new clown); Mr. Frank H. Morton, as the circus proprietor, Mr. Dixon, merits warm praise; Mr. Thomas Ford's representation of the real clown, Thomas Baker, and Mr. B. Harrison's enactment of Billy, a strong man, are very effective; Miss Olive Wilton makes a charming Rosie Platt; and Miss Una Mainwaring and Miss Eileen Terence are graceful as Maud Chesterton and Winnie Chesterton respectively.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The exhibitions of animated pictures here continue to attract good houses. John Bull's Bread-basket is descriptive of the work on the Canadian cornfields; The Highway Robbery is replete with sensational incidents; The Gipsy Girl's Gratitude conveys a dramatic story; The Mountaineer's Son and Charlie's Dream are interesting; and much amusement is afforded by Miss Pimpernel's Gown, Mr. Simpson's Artful Ruse, and McGrady's Capture. Illustrated songs are contributed by Mr. Percl Lennard. Mr. Arthur W. Briggs gives the descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to the whole series of films with marked skill.

CONCERT HALL, WEST-STREET.—The Anglo-French and American Kinematograph exhibitions opened here on Wednesday evening, when a capital series of pictures was submitted, comprising subjects dramatic, interesting, and amusing. The programme was varied by pianoforte selections by Miss G. Williams, songs by Miss Phyllis Victoria and Mr. Vincent Walker, and a mirth-provoking absurdity, *Friday, the Amateur*, by Robins and Kruso.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—This week we have the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, and on Monday *Faust* was played to a remarkably good house. Mr. Edward Davies both sang and acted well as Faust; Miss Elizabeth Burgess, who was in excellent voice, scored a pronounced success as Marguerite; Mr. Arthur Winckworth sang admirably as Mephistopheles, and his caustic humour was effective; Mr. Hebden Foster has a nice baritone voice, and sang with artistic taste as Valentine; Miss Christine Ritz was pleasing as Siebel; and Martha and Wagner had satisfactory exponents in Miss Douglas Wilson and Mr. Alexander Richard. The orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Walter Van Noorden, did full justice to Gounod's music, and the chorus was both strong and effective. The opera was staged in a realistic style. On Tuesday evening *Tannhäuser* was staged, and the superb rendering of the overture, under the direction of Mr. Eugene Goossens, will long be remembered. Mr. Hanns Robert both acted and sang well in the title-rôle; Miss Beatrice Miranda displayed much ability both as a vocalist and an actress as Elizabeth; Mme. Ina Hill sang well as Venus; and Miss Annie Walker made a pretty Shepherd Boy, vocalising charmingly; Mr. Charles Victor was highly successful as Wolfram, his rendering of the beautiful solo "O star of eve" being most commendable; Mr. Arthur Winckworth made a stately and impressive Landgrave, his fine bass voice enabling him to do full justice to his numbers; and Messrs. Alexander Richard, Charles Brierley, Albert Felton, and William O'Connor did well as Biterolf, Reinmar, Schrieber, and Walther. The excellent work done by the competent and evenly-balanced chorus deserves favourable mention. *Il Trovatore, Carmen, Esmeralda, Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci*, and *The Bohemian Girl* are also in the week's bill.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Mr Frederick Melville's company is here with the interesting drama *Her Forbidden Marriage*, the play being well staged. Mr. Harry Lonsdale acts excellently as George Maddison, and fine expositions of their respective parts are given by Miss Geraldine Le Sage as Lucy, Miss Agnes Imlay as the Mother Superior, and Mr. Louis Hector as Charles Devereux. The remaining characters are all in competent hands.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Arthur Dando and company are successful with their musical sketch *The Phonograph Belle*; Binns and Binns amuse with comedy and music; Walter Ellis and company have a good comic sketch, *The Sleepwalker*; Marie Neilson is an expert dancer; Pearce and Ward (Kitty and Fred) entertain with smart dancing and boxing; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto are clever trick and fancy cyclists; Fred Tenby, comedian, is successful; and Ada Cerito is a pleasing comedienne. The performance concludes with a good selection of animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire. — Charles T. Aldrich, American entertainer, does an excellent turn, including quick-change work, conjuring, &c.; Wilson and Waring score a success with their sketch *The Ugly Duckling*; Ida Young is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; the Bright Trio do a good musical act; Ethel Dove is a smart comedienne and dancer; Stevens and Gillard amuse with comedy and lightning sketches; Diana Hope and company have a good dramatic sketch, *Her Good Name*; Billy French, wooden shoe dancer, is appreciated; and Fred Russell, ventriloquist, is also in the bill. Some up-to-date animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

COLSTON HALL.—Ralph Pringle's animated pictures and variety entertainment continues to be well attended. The speciality films this week include The Press Gang, John Bull's Bread Basket, and Noble Jester's Deceit.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*The Belle of the Ball* is this week presented by Miss Violet Osmund, under the direction of Mr. Alexander Loftus. Miss G. Melville ably sustains the title-rôle, dancing and singing well; Miss Florence Watson makes a charming Queenie Trevor; Mr. Johnnie Schofield as Tibbs bubbles over with fun; and Alice and Mary are comical ugly sisters in the hands of Miss Ethel Bertram and Miss Corona L'Estrange. Mr. Charles Adeson as Farmer Jones also contributes to the fun; Mr. Robert Hyett sings well, and ably presents the hero, Sir Francis Lake; and good support is given by Mr. Llewellyn C. Hughes as Bobbie Fletcher, Mr. W. E. Chewd as James Foster, Mr. E. H. Bertram as Showman Jack, and Miss Vera Grafton as Lucy. The choruses are well sustained under the direction of Mr. Joseph D. Rogers, and the dresses are very pretty.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett and Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Fred Karno's company is here in *Mumming Birds* and *London Suburbia*, a couple of side-splitting burlesques, which are well played by a strong array of comedians. In addition, good variety turns are submitted by Mr. James Graydon, comedian; Miss Ivy Proudfoot, who is meeting with hearty applause; Fred Carr and Ada Rose, in *A Winning Double*; Miss Kitty Douglas, who sings well and dances cleverly; and Mr. Russell Carr, in a really good ventriloquial act. Living pictures conclude.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve. — Miss Loie Esmond's company in *The Sorrows of Satan* occupies the boards this week, the leading rôles being enacted by Mr. Edward Neville, Mr. F. Douglas Howard, Miss Rosie Neville, Miss Hilary Burleigh, and Miss Loie Esmond. *Nana* is billed for Wednesday night.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—This popular entertainment reopens with a capital programme, including Nora Doone, a smart dancer; Muriel Blair, a pleasing vocalist; Onda and Walonell, gymnasts; Allan Hanbury, comedian; the Sisters Beatrice, duettists and dancers; and a sketch, *The Devonshire Dad*, cleverly presented by Mr. Victor Widdicombe, Miss Clara Russell, and Mr. Richard Neville.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company opened a six nights' engagement here on Monday with *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey made an ideal hero, his John Strong being in every way worthy of an actor of his ability; Kate Strong was in the capable hands of Miss Maggie Edwards; Miss Lily Leicester rendered with charm the boy, Harry Strong; Mr. Albert Sinclair made himself perfectly odious as Captain Leo; Mr. Edwin Maydew was good as Lucas Marler; Mr. Thomas E. Marshall (Jeremiah Parkins), Mrs. T. C. Livesey (Sal Parkins), and Miss Cissie Le Grande (Ruth Parkins) were thoroughly at home in their parts; Mr. George Willon was excellent as the manager of the music hall. The scenery and appointments were all first class.

GUILDHALL.—Poole's Myriorama, which holds such a high place amongst entertainments of this character, is at the above hall. The variety portion also is of quality, consisting of the Five Royal Banzais, a troupe of Japanese experts; Little Togo, who quickly became a favourite; and the Seven Bramusas, a clever troupe of juvenile musicians.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Sir John Hare's farewell performance here has created intense interest, and many have been disappointed in obtaining admission to the theatre. Sir John's inimitable performance in *A Pair of Spectacles* has evoked the most intense enthusiasm, and the efforts of his excellent company have been keenly appreciated.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—George Bastow is here with his famous character songs, and achieves distinct popularity; Arthur Lennard has a warm reception; Tom Edwards brings down the house with his ventriloquism; Ross and Lewis are a brilliant duo; the Molasso Quartet provide a smart "cyclonic" dance entertainment; and two clever juvenile artists who win genuine applause are Miss Margaret and Master John Rawson. The Lyric Quartet in harmonised picture songs; Les Voces, two vocalists with beautifully-blended voices; and Marie Empress, a smart comedienne, add to the success of the performance.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—*The New East Lynne* has been performed here by Mr. W. W. Kelly's company. Mr. Frederick Harker is a very creditable representative of Archibald Carlyle; Mr. W. H. Garbois capably fills the part of Captain Levison; and Miss Beth Elliott impersonates Lady Isabel with pathos and reality. Mr. Richard Nugent appears successfully as Murty O'Flynn.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton. Fred Maxwell and company are here in a stirring playlet entitled *The Last Command*. The rôle of Captain Yewlett is well undertaken by Mr. Maxwell, and Miss Lois Du Cane portrays Lola with becoming pathos. The Denwartz Troupe of juvenile acrobats create much excitement; the Sisters Cora make a "hit" with their catchy songs and clever dancing; and the Bros. Millicent do some remarkable feats on the trapeze. Belle Braham renders pictorial songs in fine style; Jim Cheetham astonishes his audiences by his bird mimicry and whistling; Mlle. Bartenelli, contortionist, is distinctly clever; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux complete the bill.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stowart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company in *The Breed of the Treshams* hold the boards here this week. Mr. Sydney Bland as the Rat gives an artistic and finished performance; Mr. W. R. Winning does well as the Hon. Clement Hungerford; Miss Mildred Hodgson is a winsome Margaret; and Miss Grace Harlington plays Batty to perfection. Mr. Alfred Holles is an impressive Viscount Dorsington; Mr. Howard Brennan is all that could be desired as the Hon. Francis Tresham; and Mr. George Trail cleverly depicts the kindly Sir Henry Curwen.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—The Carmos present a startling herculean and juggling act here; Maude Mortimer scores an enormous success with her catchy songs; Alec Kendall convulses the audience with his funny patter; Fred Barnes is a capital light comedian; and Kitty Wager, Fred Poplar, Leonora and Kendrich, and Laura also entertain. The Pepiscope completes.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Sydney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas France; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Uden.—The pictures here this week include For a Wife's Honour, Greed of Gold, and The Cross Roads of Life, all of which are much appreciated. Mr. Chas. May is an excellent comedian.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman, J.P.—This week a delightful entertainment is afforded by an interpretation of *A Merry Maid*, by Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company. Mr. Vivian Wakeman in both singing and acting makes an ideal Larry O'Hooligan; Miss May Gibson as Peggy O'Hooligan plays the character in just the right spirit, and she is very charming in her songs; Mr. W. S. Hutchinson is extremely funny as Biddy O'Hooligan, and keeps the house in roars of laughter; Mr. C. W. James gives a humorous sketch of Sharp Scrivener, a lawyer; Miss Fanny Adamson as Vere de Vere acts well, and she possesses a pleasing and well-modulated voice; Wee George Wood is well known here, and his funny business is warmly applauded; Mr. Neil Hardy fully appreciates the humour required for the Hon. Cecil Toft; Miss Ray Watson appears with much success as Flossie Kixie; Mr. Harry Leander causes no end of amusement as an impossible German, Von Swank; while Mr. Howard Lawrence as Thady Clancy proves himself to be an actor and vocalist of considerable ability.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Travis.—The Fimans head the bill in a scena *The Fire Station*. They dance well, and cause no end of fun with amusing dialogue; Elmo and Rigo as acrobatic knockabouts cause screams of laughter; Mlle. du Roche has a sweet and well-modulated voice, and her songs are much appreciated; the Stanley Urchins, a sextette of boys and girls, work hard, and with much success, as singers and dancers; Wal Owen as a silent comedian evokes much amusement; Musical Zelda manipulates a number of musical instruments with much skill; George Rapley is a burlesque comedian, and he causes hearty laughter; Dan Kino, assisted by local children, in a scena, *Britannia's Navy*, receives well-merited applause. The Loyal Dominion Company's animated pictures are good, and conclude an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Mr. George Edwardes's *Merry Widow* company is here under the general management of Mr. Fuller Allen. In the title-rôle Miss Mysie Devine is a favourite, and delights all in her interviews and duets with Prince Danilo, a character played with ease and ability by Mr. Frank Greene; Mr. Edward d'Arcy as the Baron Popoff misses no opportunity of creating laughter; Mr. Fred Fowler represents Nisch with ability and discretion; as Vicomte Camille de Jolidon Mr. Ripley Evans gives a highly creditable performance; Miss Ada Thomas is excellent as Natalie.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—On Monday Messrs. Taylor, Platt, and Trevor Lowe's company are here, with *You Never Can Tell*. Miss Gwladys Morris acts with distinction as Gloria Clandon; and her lover, Valentine, is cleverly represented by Mr. Leslie Hamer. The parts of the twentieth-century youngsters, Dolly Clandon and Philip Clandon, are played with liveliness and point by Miss Clara Earle and Mr. Donald Calthrop; Miss Catherine Stuart cleverly hits off the Shavian conception of a "new" woman, Mrs. Clandon; Mr. Trevor Lowe suavely impersonates the delightful old waiter; Mr. J. Edward Pearce is capital as the old-fashioned Fergus Crampton; Mr. Charles Daly is well placed as Finch McComas; Mr. George Howard is a capable Bohun; and Miss Ivy Fenton is all that can be desired as Crampton's immaculate parlourmaid.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Mr. Frank Lindo is appearing here this week with his company in *Home, Sweet Home*. The drama is capitally mounted. As Stephen Armitage Mr. Lindo excels and is much appreciated; as David Armitage Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle gives an excellent study; Mr. Archer Brown appears with good effect as Duke of Ancaster; Mr. Helsby Wright capitally undertakes Lucas Lyle; Dick Redmayne is strongly interpreted by Mr. Richard Walsh; and Mr. G. Rogers is good as Lord Silvermore. Joan is charmingly rendered by Miss Marion Wakeford; Miss Hetty Webster capitally portrays Lady Somerton; Miss Maude Leslie Cudd ably undertakes Sybil Fay; and Miss Violet Esmo is good as Dora. *David Garrick* was billed for Friday night.

CLYDEBANK.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Miss May Lillian Levey tops the bill her this week and scores heavily with her catchy songs. Doyle and Gibson are a pair of good comedians and dancers; Neil Nelson, Scotch character comedian, is well received; Belford and Mars, comedy entertainers, cause much laughter; Lily Davies sings some good chorus songs; and the pictures shown on the Bioscope are very entertaining.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. John Gerant and company are here with *At Duty's Call*, Mr. Gerant taking the part of the renegade, Harold Allison. Mr. Ernest St. John plays General Gordon with much cleverness; Mr. Charles Calvert makes a manly Capt. Allison; Miss Beatrice Western is good as Dora Drummond; Mr. J. Jelly Dillsen humorous as Jerry O'Hallaron; Mr. Frank Morton does well as Jack Spencer, being ably seconded by Miss Laurie O'Neill as Mary. Miss Ada Roscoe is a satisfactory Salema.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Mr. John Tiller's name is prominent on this week's bill with the musical absurdity *Queen of Monte Carlo*. The piece is dressed quite in accordance with Mr. Tiller's well-known lavish style, and creates a deal of amusement. It is under the management of Mr. H. Garside and the bâton of Mr. Peter Flitcroft. The leading feature is its excellent finale. The Sisters Iris, vocalists and dancers, are redemanded for their clever dancing; the Hippodrome Quartette excel with well-executed dances; and the Martinette Troupe, in a novelty act, introduce much funny business. Will Lytton shines as a comedian.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell. —*Two Little Vagabonds*, by Hardie and Von Leer's company, opened a week's engagement here on Monday, and played to a good house. The play is admirably staged and the company is an excellent one. Miss Florence Dalton as Marion Thornton is commendably earnest; Mr. Richard A. Green as George Thornton gives a very effective representation; and the vagabonds of Miss Denise Zaleski (Dick) and Miss Alice Leon (Wally) are very clever assumptions. The other minor parts are well taken.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—A burlesque sketch entitled *Fun in a Gymnasium* introduces smart acrobatic work; the Avocas, male quartette, are heard with much pleasure in an operatic scena entitled *The Reckless Miner*. Alf. E. Passmore, comedian, proves exceedingly diverting; the Watson Family are accomplished musicians; Fields and Lewis, in sensational burlesque, amused; the Misses Edwardes, duettists, are very pleasing; Harry Kirk, comedian, contributes capital songs; the Pichel Troupe of acrobats are clever and original, and the Palascope also contributes to the amusement of the evening.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. Reginald Dance presents *Beau Brocade*, and gives a very fine rendering of the title-part. Miss Ruth Mackay submits a charming impersonation of the heroine, Lady Patience Gascoyne; the blacksmith is vividly portrayed by Mr. Dalziel Heron; Mr. Frank Darch makes a good Earl Stretton; and good representations are furnished by Mr. F. Powell (Sir Humphrey Challoner), Mr. S. Lathbury (Mr. Mittachap), Mr. E. Irwin (Jock Meggs), and Miss May Brooke as the maid Betty. The piece is preceded by a one-act play, *The Proof*, by Alice C. Greene.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. B. Wright.—The top turn this week is supplied by the Four Holloways, marvellous acrobatic and trick cyclists on the tight wire. Mr. John Humphries and his company appear in a very funny episode, entitled *Ancient Britons*; Mr. H. C. Charlton as a conjurer introduces some clever and original tricks; Fred Dunstan is an amusing comedian; the Columbia Comedy Trio are humorous; and other artists are Vera Mayne, the Stowe Brothers, and Merton and Rydon. The Bioscope pictures show St. Kilda—its birds, rocks, fish, and people.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—An exceptional programme is being well appreciated this week, the star turn being that highly-successful sketch, *An Outside Chance*, the outstanding feature of which is the remarkable acting of Master Edward Garrett. The Dunedin troupe are accomplished trick cyclists; the Three Cape Girls are clever, especially in long-boot dancing; Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne are American dancers; La Belle Nello, "the queen of equipose," is artistic and graceful; Chas. Stevens is a good comedian; Minnie Paget, on the concertina, and the Crown Trio of speciality artists, also appear. The Bioscope pictures conclude.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Messrs. Bennett and Wray's company, in *Miss Hook of Holland*, is drawing full houses here. Miss Ethel James makes a dainty Sally Hook; Miss Muff Carew as Mina infuses plenty of "go" into the part; and Miss Molly Trevor is good as Gretchen. Mr. Edmund Russell as Mr. Hook is a capital merriment merchant, being ably assisted by Mr. Fred Dark as Simon Slinks; Mr. J. B. Fox plays admirably as Captain Adrian Paap; Mr. Adrian Burgon is good as the bandmaster, Van Vuyt; and Mr. Robert Corray is suitably placed as Schnappa.

CROOK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Wallace Davidson.—Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company is appearing in Crook for the first time this week in the emotional drama *A Life for a Life*. The character of Don Leon is satisfactorily rendered by Mr. Chas. Lester; and Miss Beatrice Anderson as Eulalie has an excellent reception. Miss Dorothy Riddell as Kate Evelyn is clever; and Mr. Richard Bosco makes an ideal Pedro. The part of the Sheriff is well taken by Mr. Charles Osborne; and Mr. Claude Seaton as Bunker Bill is also good.

CROYDON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—*The Gay Gordons* is being played here by a first-rate company. The mounting leaves nothing to be desired, the chorus is well balanced, and the dresses are superb. Miss Zena Dare wins all hearts with her sweet and enchanting rendering of Peggy Quainton; and she has a capital partner to work with in Mr. Stanley Brett, whose portrayal of Angus Graeme is received with marked approval. Mr. Edward Lewis makes a quaint and curious Nervy Nat; Mr. Wilfred Norman cuts a droll figure as Edmond Siddons; Mr. Ernest Torrence is in his element as Andrew Quainton; Mr. Paul Plunket makes the most of Corporal John Smith; Mr. Buchanan Wake is adequate as Archibald Speedy; Mr. J. Sims Woolley causes a sensation as Jack M'Phrisky; and Messrs. John Woolley, Edward Leith, Reginald Adair, and J. Carlisle make capital out of the rôles of Marquis of Dalesbury, Viscount Belstairs, Lord Elmington, and Lord Merlsham. Miss Eugénie Vernie's fine acting as Janet M'Leod receives cordial greetings; Miss Madge Vincent acts and dances admirably as Victoria Siddons; Miss Nellie Dade gives an excellent character sketch of Charlotte Siddons; Miss Doris Stocker deserves praise as Mary M'Leod; and Miss Ada Fraser makes a charming Lady Millicent Graeme. The augmented orchestra is under the bâton of Mr. Arthur Spittle.

HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company in *The Girl Who Lost Her Character* is here this week. The Rev. Robert Everton is played in capital style by Mr. E. Maclean; the part of Jack England is sustained by Mr. Harold Macartney in a most convincing manner; Mr. George Asquin as Dick Punch is particularly good; Mr. Richard Ferris as Captain Geoffrey Caversham and Miss Lydia Mannington as Marian Franklyn cleverly sustain the villainy of the play; Mr. George Mitchell submits a fine impersonation of James Sutton; and Mr. Augustine Bowerman acquits himself admirably as Detective Weathersby. Miss Marie Poulton as Isabella Jones calls for special mention; Miss Sybil Hare as Rose Seymour proves herself a capable artist; and Miss Violet Ennis Lawson gives an effective portrayal of the title-rôle.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Mr. Hubert Druce's company in *The Cheat* is here this week. Mr. Edward Ferris as Lieut. Richard Blanchard plays his part with great success; Mr. Frank Cooper as Stephen Blanchard is admirable; Miss Eugenie Francklyn is charming as Joan Feilding; Miss Daisy Atherton as Marjorie Vorland gives a graceful impersonation; Mr. Royston Keith is good as General Blanchard; Mr. Edward Y. Rae as Colonel Paget acts in capital style. The remainder of the company includes Mr. Windham Guise, Miss Helen Russel as Ethel Hardy, Mr. Edward O'Neill as Captain Phillips-Rivers, Mr. C. Goodhart as Dr. John Vorland, Mr. Max Leeds as Lieut. Brabazon, and Mr. Charles Crawford as Lieut. Neyland.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The Gentle Mackweys, in their comic wire act, are highly appreciated; Gus Blake and Maud Granby are very clever in comedy duologue; Morny Cash, on his return visit, was well received. Other good turns are Chas. Rowen, comedian; Mlle. Haydee, with her miniature theatre; Vernando, ventriloquist; Sadi Simpson, comedienne and dancer, and the Pepiscope, with up-to-date pictures.

DARWEN.—PUBLIC HALL, PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—The Rowntrees top the bill here this week in their clever duets; Carl Bennie is a ventriloquist of no mean order; Geo. Castrey, comedian, receives well-merited applause; and great admiration is aroused by Arthur and Angus,

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comedy duettists and dancers. The usual excellent pictures conc'ude the bill.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Allan Wilkie's Shakespearean company opened on Monday with *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Wilkie gave a remarkably fresh and enjoyable reading of Shylock; and the Portia of Miss Carrie Baillie was a most intelligent and satisfactory assumption. Ample justice was done to Antonio by Mr. John Paley; and the Bassanio of Mr. Alexander Marsh was also exceedingly good. Mr. Marsh is a Derby man, and naturally more than ordinary interest was centred in his fine impersonation. Mr. Frank Royde and Mr. Ernest Digges acquitted themselves admirably as Gratiano and Lorenzo respectively; Mr. Ian Fleming gave a diverting depiction of Lancelot Gobbo; Miss Mildred Surrey made a charming Nerissa; and the same may be said of Miss S. Hunter Watts as Jessica; the remaining characters all being in excellent hands. *Hamlet, Julius Cæsar, Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It, She Stoops to Conquer,* and *Richard III.* are also in the week's bill.

Palace. — Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—An entertaining star turn is provided this week by the Jees, in their sketch, *The Musical Smithy*. The various numbers, played on anvils, horseshoes, &c., meet with all-round approval. Miss Georgette Thierry's company is responsible for a dramatic playlet, entitled *A Daughter of the Revolution*, which is highly successful; T. C. Edwards, an Australian baritone, is deserving of praise; Violet Gibson and her White Coons appear to advantage as vocalists and dancers; Charlie Rose is a talented comedian and dancer; the Tintos, in *African Gambols*, provide much hearty laughter; and Royston and Royce are smart comedy dancers. The Bioscope, with an exciting film, concludes.

DEVONPORT.—Theatre Metropole.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—The Metropole has a strong attraction this week in *The Little Breadwinner*. Mr. J. A. Campbell's company includes Mr. Alfred Maurice, whose conception of Joseph Prior is exceptionally good; and Mr. H. P. Peppin, whose Lord Dorington is excellent. Mr. Reginald Brown as Richard Lawrence is a capable actor; and Little Miss Winnie Crump gives a fine representation of the title-rôle.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Grace and refinement are characteristic of this week's programme. Charcot and his automatic man furnish a mystifying exhibition; Lena Shirley and Claude Anderson deservedly reap encouraging plaudits for excerpts from *Il Trovatore;* Horace Pollock and company have a well-written little sketch by A. W. Pinero, entitled *Hester's Mystery;* Lèse Rolland, Continental equilibrist, is a finished exponent of her particular art; the Krags are past masters in the gymnastic business; and Miss Dorma Morgan is an attractive American comedienne. Chas. Bignell, comedian, and Archie Royor, humorous acrobat, materially contribute to the evening's enjoyment.

DEWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—The drama *Straight from the Shoulder* is being presented by Mr. R. A. Roberts's company. In the rôle of Dr. Francis Bedford effective acting is shown by Mr. Matthew Boulton; the "absolute rotter," Gleeson, has his wickedness well depicted and defined by Mr. Leonard Clarke; as Millicent Grant Miss Beatrice Burdett plays with effect and attractiveness; very pleasing and successful is the impersonation of Mary Gleeson by Miss Frances Bruce; the humour is largely exploited by Mr. Fred Beck in the amusing character of Jim Green, in the exposition of which he makes a marked success; Miss Edie Casson is a very clever exponent of Miss Brittle; whilst Gladys Brittle is entertainingly vivacious as represented by Miss Beatrice Moore. Other rôles are capably and consistently dealt with.

DONCASTER. — New Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*The Lady of Ostend* was the bill of fare on Monday. Mr. Lawrence Brough was from the first a prime favourite, and his popularity increased as the play progressed. Mr. William Spray was naturally amusing as Dick Whortles; the title-rôle received a good interpretation at the hands of Miss Kitty Develin; as Dick's wife Miss Barbara Glyn was especially engaging; Toby Krockett, a prize-fighter, was well presented by Mr. William Macready. On Thursday evening *The Cruise of the Saucy Sally* by the same company was the attraction.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company commenced a short season here on Monday, when *Lady Frederick* was produced for the first time before a large and and appreciative Dublin audience. Mrs. Brown Potter gives a capital impression of the title-rôle; Mr. Philip Cunningham distinguishes himself as Paradine Foulde; Lord Meriston is well represented by Mr. Herbert Garthorne; and as Lady Meriston Miss Rosemary Rees takes the part exceedingly well. Mr. Reginald Van Ranney as Sir Gerald O'Mara is in every respect admirable; and Miss Phyllis Manners as Mme. Claude does remarkably well. Mr. Cecil Bevan is successful as Captain Montgomerie; Miss E. Nolan O'Connor is well placed as Angelique; Admiral Carlisle is in the safe hands of Mr. Shirley Lea; and Miss Edith Deverill is capital as Rosie. *The Peacemaker* is the curtain-raiser.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—*The Scarlet Pimpernel* is being presented in capital style by Mr. Fred Terry's company. Mr. Fred Terry plays the part of Sir Percy with great judgment and excellent effect; Miss Miriam Lewes charmingly portrays Lady Blakeney; Mr. Horace Hodges is highly successful as Chauvelin; the Prince of Wales of Mr. A. E. Anson is carefully acted; and Mr. J. Carter Edwards submits a humorous impersonation of Brogard. Mr. Alfred Kendrick sustains the rôle of Sir Andrew Ffoulkes with no little skill; and the parts of Captain Dewhurst and Lord Grenville are capitally played by Mr. Malcolm Cherry and Mr. Frederick Groves.

Empire. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—A feature of the programme here is the amusing sketch *Billy*, presented by the Craggs, which causes no end of laughter; and Elsie Kerry is a favourite comedienne, her catchy songs being well appreciated. W. H. Downs, the coloured ballad vocalist, sings in good style; and George Newburn enhances his reputation as a mimic. In a dramatic episode, *Told in a Flat*, Harry Rogers and company score successfully; and Kathleen Gray receives due recognition as a comedienne. Gwennie Yeo in a smart clog-dancing act is cordially encored; the Gothams are applauded; and the Empire Pictures deserve mention.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A diversified bill is headed here by Harry Roxbury and company, in *The Prince of Monte Carlo;* the Sisters Henderson are expert instrumentalists; the Cameo troupe give a fine acrobatic performance; and Frank Coyle, the continuous comedian, makes a hit. Beattie and Babs, juvenile entertainers, in *A Pavement Rehearsal*, are extremely popular; and Albert Damm and page boy give a smart and clever acrobatic turn. In a neat and artistic dancing act the Brennans score; and the Bioscope, depicting Mary is Dismissed, is also an attraction.

Round Room Rotunda.—Poole's Myriorama entered on their second week here on Monday, and judging by the measure of support accorded since the opening this entertainment is highly popular. In addition there are: The Snow Family, eccentric knockabouts and expert skaters; Miss Phyllis St. Claire, operatic and ballad vocalist; Harry Dowsett, eccentric comedian; George French's troupe of cyclists; and Bert Gates, ventriloquist and guide. The animated pictures add interest to the programme.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—A good programme is made up of the following:—Edwards and Ward, comedy entertainers; Tom E. Swift, descriptive vocalist; Rita Lyons, comedienne; Walter Conilla, chorus vocalist; Jim Merry, comedian; Bett and Bett, the comic couple, and the cinematograph.

Pavilion, Kingstown.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack Macdermott.—The Gay River Company opened here on Monday, and met with a good reception. Mr. Frank Dunlop, an amusing comedian, was warmly received; as a song and dance artist Nora Walker achieves distinction; Mr. Bert Byrne is a most diverting comedian; Miss Harriett Fawn sings her songs in taking style. Others who contributed to the success of the programme are: Miss Connie Olives, Miss Harriet Greene, Mr. Francis Rayne, Miss Nellie Crawford, and Mr. Charles North.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Baron H. Harriss' No. 1 company in *The Prince of Pilsen* has delighted Dudley playgoers this week. Mr. Harry Kilburn as Hans Wagner was exceedingly droll and created endless laughter; Miss Sophie Harriss, splendidly gowned, was greatly admired; Mr. Leslie Owen was excellently placed as the Prince, and gave a bold rendering; Mr. Arthur Geary was successful as Lieutenant Tom Wagner; and Mr. Charles Rogers was cleverly humorous as the Earl of Shrimpton. Miss Nellie Lomas was daintily pretty as Nellie Wagner; and Miss Mabel Dent as Sidonie was decidedly chic, and proved herself a good dancer. All the principals' songs were well rendered, and received unstinted applause.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. B. Peberdy.—The following clever artists are much applauded by good houses:—The Burnells, in *Over the Garden Wall;* the Lombards, equilibrists; Shenton's Chicks, in *The Children's Birthday Party;* Maximilian Trio, in a balancing act; Bains and Reed, acrobats; Sisters Duquesne, vocalists and dancers; George Lawrence, actor-vocalist; and Jack Gearle, comedian. The Empire pictures are very enjoyable.

Public Hall.—Hon. Sec., Mr. W. Pearson.—The Twentieth Century Pictures and Variety Company is giving a good show here this week. An excellent programme of pictures is provided, interspersed by variety turns by Miss Rosie Gordon, a singer of sensible songs; Milford and Lewis, refined sketch artists; and Handel and Lee, saxophonists and musical experts.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here in *The Christian*. As Glory Quayle Miss Doris Gilham held the sympathy of the house from start to finish; the part of John Storm was admirably played by Mr. Henry Renouf; Miss Margaret Brodie was exceedingly good as Polly Love; and the rôle of Lady Robert Ure was well sustained by Miss Catherine Maude. Mr. George R. Montford gave an admirable study of Lord Robert Ure; and Mr. Oswald Marshall was an excellent Horatio Drake.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—That mirth-provoking sketch, *The House of Tinn*, is being presented here by J. G. Kiddie and company with great success. *Prince Arthur* is ably rendered by Albert Wyndham and company; Lily Burnand's descriptive songs are warmly received; and Ruby Norton, comedienne, has a flattering reception. George S. Melvin, Scotch comedian, improves at every visit; Lisbon and Barker, in their act, *Extemporising*, and Allis and Cassati, in *A Funny Few Minutes*, prove admirable merry-makers. Archie Pitt's quaint style suits his ditties to a nicety. The Bioscope completes the bill.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A fantastical dancing scena, entitled *A Belfry Dream*, is presented here by Mabel Fairchild. Another brilliantly illuminated scena, *A Dream in Fairyland*, is artistic and clever. The Four Delewares cause much amusement by their *Revels in a Billiard Saloon;* and Belle and Bright, in their laughable act, *Along the Sands*, are amusing. Yohle and company contribute a pleasing musical interlude; the Four Spanish Goldinis introduce several novel tricks and feats into their carpet-spinning act; Michael Kemble repeats his former successes; Orlando uses his fine voice to advantage; Ivey Aberdare and Maude Beaumont, comediennes and dancers, are well received; and the programme is completed by Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, whose vocalising is much admired.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Some very fine pictures are being shown here by the Franco-British Moving Picture Company, the most popular being Wild Goose Chase, The Captain's Wives, Scandalous Boys, and an excellent film depicting episodes in the life of Robin Hood. In addition to the picture programme excellent variety turns are provided by Teddy Bland, a rattling good comedian; Rose Bell, a smart soubrette; and James Miller, a very fine baritone singer.

Newman's Picture Palace.—The films shown here this week include The Reprieve, Through Central France, Force of Habit, The Great Bully, and a host of others. Donaldson and Emslie, assisted by a troupe of well-trained local children, produce a very amusing scena, entitled *Fun on an Irish Farm*, which reflects credit on all concerned.

Kinnaird Hall.—The U.S.A. Animated Picture Company opened a short season here on Monday, when a large audience enjoyed the up-to-date programme provided for their delectation. The Eucharistic Procession, The Quebec Pageant, and The Marathon Race, were amongst the most popular items. The necessary accompaniments were tastefully furnished by Mr. Frank Hobbel.

DUNFERMLINE. — Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Miss Winifred Maude's company provides the bill-of-fare here with *The Convict*, which was presented on Monday. Mr. Victor Du Cane appears with credit in the dual parts of Freddy Freckles and Alphonse Godin; and Miss Winifred Maude achieves success as Dora Renshawe.

EASTBOURNE. — Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Frank Stanmore's company is appearing here in *The Gay Deceivers*. Miss Dorothy Chard, the possessor of a pretty face and tuneful voice, is a most attractive and charming Dora; Miss Dora Lane, in dainty manner, takes the part of Winnie; Miss Kate Chard, refined and dignified, is an unqualified success as Mrs. Dewar; Miss Pauline Primm is a popular maid Rosie; Mr. Mark Lester gives a delightfully humorous performance of Joseph; Mr. Frank Stanmore as Lord Reggie does much in an able manner; Mr. Douglas Philips is an earnest and interesting Frank Dewar; Mr. Arthur Dennis works hard and well as Colonel Dewar; Mr. Francis Chamier is an animated Major Kurrie; Mr. Leslie Hawkins sings and acts capably as the burglar Pinch; and Mr. Will Capers satisfactorily represents the policeman Parker. Mr. E. Ramsey is the musical conductor.

Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clarke.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and company are paying a return visit here with a round of well-known plays. On Tuesday evening *The School for Scandal* was performed. Miss Violet Sterne was a pretty, fascinating, and keenly interesting Lady Teazle; Miss Claire Townshend brightly and girlishly played the rôle of Maria; Miss Muriel Dole was a delightfully pointed Mrs. Candour; and Miss Gertrude Littlewood a capital Lady Sneerwell. Mr. Ian Maclaren lightly and easily assumed the part of Charles Surface; Mr. George Relph gave a fine account of the hypocrite Joseph Surface; Mr. Murray Hathorn was a restrained and effective Sir Peter; Mr. F. Stafford Dawson a particularly able Moses; Mr. Gordon Phillott a capable Sir Oliver; and the parts of Sir Benjamin and Crabtree were satisfactorily filled by Mr. J. V Bryant and Mr. F. Stafford Dawson.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—The Woodwards occupy the place of honour here in their daring balancing act. The Whittakers in a sketch, *Dick Whittington*, introduce effective cat imitations; the Sisters Eugénie are smart and finished trapeze and acrobatic artists; Dacey and Lewis sing, dance, and tumble, and supply a very popular turn; the Empire Trio sing pleasingly and introduce effective dancing; Mr. Tom Dunmore is a comedian with a pronounced style; Bert and Dora sing and patter well; Miss Violet Ashcroft pleases as a vocalist; and new pictures are shown on the Biograph.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. G. F. Slatter.—Montague Beaudyn and his company, with *Send Him Victorious*, are enjoying strong patronage. Mr. Beaudyn as Captain Frank Allison depicts the character in a clever, manly way; Mr. G. M. Montanini capably fills the part of Colonel Heinrich Kauffman; Mr. James Burt makes the most of his opportunities as Sergeant Max; Miss Marie Robs gives a praiseworthy impersonation of Countess Kara Von Mecklinberg; and Miss Irene Munroe as Ethel Hardinge is well placed. Much fun is caused by the efforts of Mr. Arthur Tomlin and Miss Cicilia Crawford in the respective parts of a manservant and a lady's maid. *The Power of a Wicked Woman* was billed for Thursday and Friday.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Wm. M. Downie.—The boards of this house are occupied this week by Mr. George Alexander, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, and the St. James's Theatre company with *The Thief*. Mr. Alexander's performance of Richard Chelford is full of the qualities of grace, humour, and passion which the actor has at ready command. Miss Irene Vanbrugh as Marise Chelford plays with a gaiety in the lighter scenes that renders the power and emotion of the later acts more deeply impressive. The acting of both artists in the second act produced a great effect, and the audience recalled them with enthusiasm at the close. Mr. Dawson Millward is a dignified and pathetic Raymond Leyton; and the Harry of Mr. Reginald Owen is a fine piece of acting with many dramatic touches. Miss Nina Sevening plays Isabel Leyton with much feeling, and her personal charm gives additional attraction to the part; and Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds is an admirable Mr. Protheroe. The play is preceded by an amusing comedietta, *The Nursery Governess*, in which Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay, Mr. Ashton Pearse, and Mr. Harcourt Williams act with spontaneity and finish. Both pieces are handsomely staged.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—The musical comedy *The Dairymaids*, performed by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company, is paying a return visit this week. Miss Phyllis Dare is again the leading attraction, and in her part of Peggy she gives a performance in which her skill in acting, singing, and dancing never fails to charm. She is supported by an excellent company, which includes Miss Edith Blanche as Lady Brudenell, Miss Rose Edouin Lewis as Miss Penelope Pyechase, of the ladies' seminary, to the humour of which she does ample justice; Miss Lottie Sargent, who is very funny as Eliza, the maid-of-all-work; and Miss Gladys Ivory, a sweet Winifred. Mr. E. Statham Staples is an admirable Lieut. Sam Brudenell; Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., and Mr. Percy Marshall are very amusing as Lieut. Frank Meredith and Dr. O'Bryne respectively; and Mr. Harry Dent gives a capital account of Joe Mivens. The other ladies and gentlemen in the smaller parts contribute to the success of the performance. The piece is picturesquely mounted, and there is a full and well-trained chorus.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—A capital programme is presented here in which Mr. Harry Radford and Mlle. Valentine give an exceedingly clever and laughable turn, including several smart juggling feats. Pipifax and Panlo appear in a comic acrobatic act; Mr. W. J. Williams and Mr. Tom Warden are excellent comedians with a fund of racy Irish humour; the Szarvasi-Ferencz Troupe perform some wonderful acrobatic feats; Mr. Wal Croft sings several humorous Scotch songs; Walker and May, comedians and dancers, are deservedly popular; Mr. Leslie Talmage is a magician of merit; and Miss Bessie Knight, comedienne, Miss Yvonne Lamor, comedienne, and pictures by the Bioscope complete the programme.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney are here this week presenting the tragic sketch *009 West*, in which these accomplished players give ample proof of their ability in parts which call for the display of powerful acting. An excellent programme includes the Jackson Family in a musical entertainment, which comprises admirable solos and ensemble playing; the Bros. Redmond, whose clever acrobatic act has a dash of real humour; Miss Adey Spencer, a pianist of undoubted merit; Miss Marion Scott, a charming comedienne with a sweet, expressive voice; Kisbey, a comedian, who burlesques smartly various styles of music hall performers; Mr. Reichen and his little dogs, which show their natural intelligence and the patient training of their master in several surprising tricks; the Lukushimas, Japanese jugglers and acrobats, who provide an entertainment both pleasing and effective; and the well-known comedians Spry and Austin in new songs. The Bioscope also depicts an amusing scene, The Dart.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. George Alexander's company with *The Thief* is drawing large and appreciative houses. Miss Marie Volini as Marie Chelford and Mr. Rupert Lister as Richard Chelford greatly enhance their reputations by their powerful acting; Mr. Cyril Harcourt as Raymond Leyton correctly interprets a difficult part; and Miss Jean Cadell acquits herself with becoming ease and grace as his wife. Mr. Owen Nares is good as Harry Leyton; Mr. Luke Forster is all that could be desired as Protheroe, the detective. The play is preceded by a cleverly-written comedy entitled *Too Happy by Half*, of which Mr. Charles Keen and Miss Eillen Kerin are the principals.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. William Greet's chief company is this week fulfilling an engagement with *The Sign of the Cross*. The company is one of all-round excellence, and the piece appeals to the local playgoers with all its wonted charm and interest. The leading parts are in capable hands. Mr. Cyril Austin Lee gives a finely impressive portrayal of Marcus, his rendering of the part being accentuated by his commanding stage presence and a nicely modulated voice; Mr. Charles Aldred as Tigellinus, Mr. C. Yorke as Nero, and Mr. Frank Wood as Glabrio being also prominent; Miss Constance Little makes a dignified and tender Mercia, and the subordinate parts are exceedingly well played.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—On Monday the Moody-Manners company opened their annual grand opera week with Mlle. Zelie de Lussan specially engaged as Carmen, which was acted to a packed and enthusiastic audience. Mlle. de Lussan possesses a beautifully-toned voice, which, aided by her magnetic acting, frequently held the house spellbound. She was ably supported by Mr. H. Weiss, who, as Don José, acted with natural ease, his fine tenor voice being heard to great advantage; as the Bullfighter Mr. Marshall Vincent was a distinct success, and his baritone voice has undoubtedly gained in richness since his last visit to Folkestone; Miss Rosa O'Farrell sang sweetly, and gave a natural study of Michaela; Mr. R. Brookes made a dashing Smuggler; and Mr. Van Lachterop extracted all the quiet humour possible out of the droll character of Il Dancairo. Miss N. Gill and Miss M. Jeffries made graceful Cigarette Girls; and Messrs. H. Schofield and G. Gorst were excellent as Dragoons. The clever dancing was a feature of the opera; and Mr. Cuthbert Hawley deserves great credit for his skilful directorship of the augmented orchestra. *Cavalleria Rusticana, I Pagliacci, Faust, Madame Butterfly* (first time in Folkestone), *Lohengrin*, and *Bohemian Girl* are also in the répertoire of the week.

Leas Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—The Gipsies and their Jester are again drawing splendid audiences here. Miss Dorothy Francis is a charming soprano; Miss Florence Croft an extremely popular vocalist and entertainer at the piano; Miss De Buisson dances gracefully; Mr. Walter Grigg is a good baritone; Mr. Edgar Berte scores heavily in monologues; and the Jester, Mr. Will Gane, is an established favourite. They were accorded a benefit on Wednesday last.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Messrs. Dice and Frewar's Variety and Bioscope company appeared here. The Selwyns gave a clever illusionist entertainment. Miss Amy Sagmar (comedienne), Miss Madge Bryde (serio), Mr. Will Fox (ventriloquist), Miss Ada Sylvester and Zennue (the boy juggler) also appeared. Mr. Fred Dice is a clever dancer; and a number of interesting animated pictures were also given.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Gainsborough Syndicate.—This house is now running on the two-performances-a-night system, and opened on Monday with a company performing the sketch, *Napoleon at Waterloo*, Clown Caban and his French circus, and a selection of animated pictures.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Jack Lorimer, an entertaining Scot, heads the programme submitted here this week; Steel and Lang, an American duo, show us something novel in the shape of dancing; Sisters Marion sing two duets very sweetly; O'Malley and Brown have a very laughable comedy sketch named *You're Still a Friend of Mine;* Cavalli, a local ventriloquist, is up to date; the Ramsey Trio are seen to advantage in a knockabout act; Stella Stahl is a chic comedienne; Will Mitcham, instrumentalist, and the usual pictures by Vernon's Bioscope complete the bill.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company, in *The Love that Women Desire*, has done good business here this week. Mr. Sydney Leyton presents a powerful depiction of Philip Carnaby; and Mr. Morris Maud does an excellent Richard Abingdon. The chief female part, that of Sybil Thorburn, is ably undertaken by Miss Aimee Grattan Clyndes.

GLASGOW.—Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Glasgow has again an opportunity of seeing the evergreen drama *Rob Roy*, presented in first-class style by Mr. William Mollison. The special feature of the present production is the appearance of Mr. Ben Davies in the part of Francis Osbaldistone, and it is almost needless to say that this gentleman's singing in the rôle is a rare treat to lovers of Scottish song. The Bailie Nicol Jarvie of Mr. Mollison teems with humour and character, and grips the audience from first to last; Mr. William Calvert fills the title-part, and in appearance and bearing realises the bold Macgregor admirably. The Diana of the cast is Miss Retta Macallister, who sings the familiar folk songs with much sweetness and grace; Mr. Whitford Kane does well in the part of Rashleigh; as Dougal Mr. R. B. Drysdale acts well and shows acquaintance with the Highland accent; Mr. Clifford Morgan is Major Galbraith, and sings "The Bold Rob Roy" with capital effect; Mr. Henry Deas gives due weight and dignity to the part of Captain Thornton; and the declamatory lines of Helen Macgregor are well rendered by Miss Evelyn McNay. Sir Frederick Vernon is ably represented by Mr. Leslie Lingham; an attractive Mattie is found in Miss Ethel Armit; other well-filled parts being Owen (Mr. Leslie Newton), Fairservice (Mr. Wm. A. Mackersy), MacStuart (Mr. Rutherford Mayne), and Saunders Wylie (Mr. Murray Graham).

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—*Brewster's Millions*, one of the most enjoyable comedies that has visited Glasgow for some time, opened here on Monday to a crowded house. The scenery is most effective, particularly the yacht scene, the cloud and lightning effects being very realistic. The company, under the direction of Mr. Percy Hutchison, is a thoroughly capable one. A better Monty Brewster than Mr. Percy Hutchison makes would be hard to imagine. Mr. Hutchison enters into the spirit of the character, and presents a neat and meritorious study of the part Mr. Cyril Rawdon gives a good portrayal of Charlie Harrison; Margaret Grey is admirably impersonated by Miss Cicely Stuckey; and the Mrs. Dan de Mille of Miss Violet Ley was a painstaking effort. Good work is also done by Mr. Aubrey Mather as Joseph McLeod, Miss Frances Davie as Janice Armstrong, Mr. Henry Hampson as Archie Golding, and Mr. Charles Esdale as Frank Bragdon.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—For the first time in Glasgow *Mrs. Dot* was produced on Monday night to a well-filled house. The leading part is taken by Miss May Palfrey as Mrs. Dot, the well-provided-for widow of a brewer. Her rendering of the title-part is altogether delightful, and meets with the full appreciation of the audience. She is ably assisted by a clever company, including Mr. F. Kinsey Peile as James Blenkinsop, who gives point to the author's clever cynicisms; Mr. Basil Hallam as Freddy, Miss Evelyn Beaumont as Nellie, Miss Annie Hill as Lady Sellenger (an able representation), &c. The success of the piece is assured, and the author, Mr. W. Somerset Maugham, is to be congratulated on his brilliant and sparkling effort. *Mrs. Dot* is preceded by *A Lively Dinner*, which was also received with favour.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Mr. James Bell this week presents an interesting drama of Parisian life in *The Idol of Paris*, in which Miss Annie Bell gives a magnificent rendering of Flare-Flare, a variety star, a wayward but good-hearted woman swayed with contending passions. Mr. Charles Stafford as Victor Cashelle represents with great acceptance a French nobleman who ultimately marries the "idol." A grand figure finely played by Mr. Gordon Robey is Prince Sergius Zoresky, of a Russian secret society; Mr. Wilson Howard as Phillipe d'Esterre gives a strong picture of a Parisian man-about-town. This somewhat serious drama is enlivened by the exquisite comedy supplied by Miss Annie Megson as Anne and Mr. Frank Dale as Tatave; while Miss Phena Powell as Mme. Sancterre, a severely censorious old lady, adds much to the fun. Mr. Chris Roberts as Theo Decline represents a typical Frenchman; while Mr. R. J. Hamer amusingly pictures the stage doorkeeper. A natural portrayal of a family lawyer is given by Mr. Pringle Roberts as Gustave Langloise. Ably-handled characters are Olympia Sosage, a stage dresser, by Miss Grace Noble; Rachel Bernhardt by Miss P. Anderson, and a confidential servant by Mr. Richard O'Neil.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—The attractive drama *The Girl with the Angel Face* is presented here this week by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company. Miss Florrie Green takes the character of Angel Leigh, and fills it with great effect; while Mr. Fred G. Evison as Jasper Death is seen to advantage. Admirable support is given by Messrs. H. Naylor Grimson, Austin Mortimer, Arthur Gilroy, Dobell Lyle, Allan Charles, Miss Mildred Carr, Miss Phyllis Dailley, and other members of the company. The scenery is pretty and effective, and a large audience showed their marked approval of the production on the opening night.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Walter Melville's company, in that taking and popular drama *The Soldier's Wedding*, has moved from the Princess's, and is proving equally successful here, a crowded house enjoying every scene of it on Monday evening.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. Manners.—Gus Elen is the star here, and in his scena "The Wrong-'Un's Bedroom" he gives a clever turn; while his other songs go with a fine swing. Queenie Leighton scores with a dramatis song, "On and off the stage," very cleverly worked up; Mendel, the blind pianist, again proves his marvellous memory and wonderful ability, while several of his items contain a welcome touch of humour in addition; Ludwig Amann once more impersonates the great ones of the past and present with wondeful fidelity; David Stewart is well received for his American illustrated songs; a hand-balancing turn of more than usual merit is given by the Paxton Trio, and was accorded a great reception; Daisy Martell is a neat dancer; Fatmah Diard is a soprano vocalist of ability; and Will Johnson is a lively and energetic comedian.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The most exacting of Councillor Bostock's patrons cannot but congratulate him on the fare he has placed before them this week, every item on the programme being most interesting. The Macdonald Trio appear in a musical scena with a rustic setting; Lily Tiso sang well, but appeared to greatest advantage in a Dutch song and dance; the Cheers put their performing cats through an entertaining show, the evidence of careful training being most marked; Hallam and Stanton give an enjoyable sketch, brightened by some fine vocalisation; the Melroses (Lalla and Mat), in a comedy duo, introduce some capital mimicry of society manners, and also some fine dancing and singing; Mme. Florence Kay, a contralto of excellent quality, furnishes a good account of herself in a few popular songs; the Lafaille Troupe submit a gymnastic and equilibristic show of a most original and sensational order; Bradley and Barnes, an American singing and comedy duo, score with some smart dialogue and harmonious duets; the sporting sketch, *Black versus White*, is of a thrilling nature and is well presented, the acting of Miss Mabel Wynn being especially impressive. The cast also includes Jephtha, the coloured boxing champion of England and Africa, who participates in an exciting set-to during the sketch. The Bioscope concludes.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Whit Cunliffe again tops the bill here, and this excellent light comedian (who is to be in Glasgow at pantomime time) comes provided with several clever new songs. A novel turn, but quite evidently to the taste of the audience, is provided in three scenes from *The Grip of Iron*, with Fredk. Powell in his famous part of Simmonette, the strangler. Alix Lukos, in a song-scena, gives half a dozen clever impersonations of famous men; the Four Maisanos contribute a clever and amusing musical turn; Belle Davis and her Pick-chicks catch on greatly in their song and dance items; Tom E. Hughes again contributes his amusing study of an out-at-elbows swell; Spry and Monti, in a smart turn; Nancy St. John and Billie Burford, comediennes; and Wilfred Burnand, who gives a life-like imitation of Neil Kenyon, are also popular items on a lengthy programme.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The Selbinis, in their really wonderful trick cycling, make a first-rate star turn here, and are heartily received. Leoni Clarke, the cat king, introduces his varied and interesting collection of trained animals; Ernest Rees, comedian, is very amusing in his songs and patter; Will Harris is a smart dancer; the Hyde and Cody Trio of acrobats are responsible for an enjoyable item; Marie Blythe's songs go well; Bliss and Bliss shine as comedians and dancers; Rita and Roma are accorded deserved applause for their clever act; and the Bioscope is kept up to date.

Coliseum. — Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Charles Darnley's company in *The Brigands of Tarragona* affords half an hour's continuous laughter, the principal characters being taken by Charles H. Bell and Annette Sellens. The Lancashire Singers, in their various part-songs, show splendid training; clever protean work is done by Herbert Shelley in his Irish episode *Dan the Outlaw;* the musical sketch of Minnie Hunt and Rhys Thomas is a pleasing feature; and the wonderful exhibition of hoop rolling by Frank L. Gregory's troupe commands hearty applause. The music-hall tit-bits of Gus Garrick are highly amusing; Tennyson and Wallis have always something good; and Daisy James scores with her umbrella-hat song.

Gaiety, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Fair business has been done here this week, the special attraction being the appearance of Will Probyn's Brooklyn Comedy Four in an entertainment entitled "The Mirthful Mariners." Their quartettes are very well rendered, and worth hearing. The basso profundo has a voice of telling quality. Oliver Conroy, the popular comedian, gives some old and new songs from his répertoire, and meets with much encouragement; Jim Harte's company presents a mirth-provoking absurdity entitled *The Virginian Mummy*, the various parts being well sustained by Messrs. Harte, J. H. Richmonde, C. F. Bradie, and Miss Nelly Devere in a way that goes to make a fine entertainment. The Bioscope display, which is always an important feature here, is unusually interesting this week.

Panopticon.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Among the variety artists Fred Lester, descriptive vocalist, is the principal, and his several songs were heartily applauded; while Miss Lillie Vere is a sprightly comedienne and dancer. France and Francis, comedy acrobats, also pro-

Makes the Skin as Soft as Velvet.—Beetham's "La-rola" preserves the Skin from the effects of the sun, winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, tan, &c., and Keeps the Skin Soft, Smooth, and White at All Seasons. Invaluable for the Complexion; Delightfully Soothing and Refreshing after cycling, motoring, golfing, tennis &c. Gentlemen will find it won

vided capital amusement; and not the least interesting part of the entertainment is that portrayed by the Bioscope with a splendid series of amusing and instructive pictures.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The De Wynne Bros., athletes, with a quiet and effective style, are first favourites here; Karr and Kooney, in new business, go as well as ever; the Brothers Harrison, with their eccentricities, cause roars of laughter; Rozel, in his gymnastic performance, is applauded; and the Five Juanitos, with acrobatic speciality, are extremely smart. The Sisters Ford sing a couple of character duets well, and the Miltons are a clever couple of skaters; Miss Ivy Adelaide is a bright comedienne and dancer, and Mr. Dan Filmer amuses with comic songs.

KING'S HALL.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.—The popularity of animated pictures is shown by Messrs. Pooles relying entirely on that form of entertainment in catering for the patrons at this theatre. Illustrated songs are interspersed.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Mr. Carr Loates' company opened here on Monday in the musical comedy drama *At the World's Mercy*. Mr. L. Rodway as Captain Frank Manley gives an excellent piece of acting; the rôle of the villain, Jabez Barber, is ably taken by Mr. Carr Loates; Mr. G. D. Knight is an excellent Morris Goldstein; Mr. J. Boxer as Charley Smart and Miss C. Milford in the dual-rôle of Skittles and Kitty Knolt keep the house continually amused, their songs and dances being well received; Miss K. Saunders is a delightful Dot; Miss M. Bee plays with much spirit the rôle of Alice Lloyd; Mr. W. Griffin gives able support as Slouching Sam; and Mr. W. Leonard works hard as Dan. The musical drama *A London Outcast* is announced for the latter part of the week.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM. — Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company are appearing here this week in *Leah Kleschna*. Mr. William Clayton gives a strong portrayal of Kleschna; Mr. Hamilton Deane delicately handles the character of Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks makes an excellent degenerate Raoul; Mr. Gilbert Heron gives a clever character study of Schram; Mr. Charles Barrett is a good General Barton; and Miss Bessie Rignold gives a sympathetic rendering of the reclaimed Leah.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—The Derrington Family of cyclists, are very popular; Sisters Transfield appear in a clever musical act; Woolmer Young is an excellent comedian; Ernesto is an exceptionally smart juggler; Bros. Bright are ideal athletes; Donal McDougall is a big success; Doodles is back again creating much merriment.

BRITANNIA PIER PAVILION.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edward Gray.—Arthur Norton is creating a sensation as a wrestler; Kitty Lorraine is a pleasing comedienne; the Brontes appear in a smart duologue, entitled "Saucy Maud"; Mostoc is a clever instrumentalist; Len Keppel is a good comedian; and Ena Soutar, soprano, and Rose Gower, vocalist, complete the programme.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cockran.—An excellent set of films is being shown here this week, including A Case for Sherlock Holmes, A Workman's Honour, and Viligant Police Commissioner. The illustrated songs, "Bombardier," "When the Berry's on the Holly," are very popular.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. George Dance's company top the bill here in the lively musical comedy sketch *The Burglars' Ball* with undeniable success; Fanny Robina, burlesque artist, is accorded a big reception; the Acmes are seen to advantage in a musical act; and smart turns are contributed by Florry Cooper, descriptive vocalist; Fred Smart, comedian; and Billie Bint. The Alexandroscope proves an interesting item.

EMPIRE. — Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Harvey's American Boys and Girls are the principal attraction here, and submit a popular song and dance speciality; Venturini presents his illusion, "The Mysterious Bedroom"; Ryan and Hill give a clever and amusing acrobatic turn; and other good items include Ethel Loftus, the comedy girl; Tom Garland, ventriloquist; Mark Leslie, the swell coon; Bert Anderson, society conjurer; and the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington. — The programme here includes Sears, the American illusionist, who holds the audience spellbound with his amazing tricks; Walker and Lake prove very popular comedians; the cycling turn by the Westwoods is highly appreciated; and others who appear successfully are Shawlene, the well-known siffleur and mimic; Selbo, an expert club juggler; Mabelle May, comedienne and dancer; Charles Banks, with his dog Wolf; and the Claymores, dancing jugglers; while the Dromoscope shows an amusing series of pictures.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—*Diana of Dobson's*, presented by Miss Lena Ashwell's company, is being received with enthusiasm, and on Tuesday evening the Mayor and Mayoress of Grimsby, accompanied by several members of the Corporation, paid an official visit to the theatre. Miss Emelie Polini appears as Diana, and her fine acting in the emotional scenes, as well as in the lighter comedy parts, is greatly admired; Mr. Frank Woolfe is also responsible for excellent work as Captain Bretherton, portraying this member of what Diana calls "the ornamental class" with good effect; Mr. W. Kingsford-Pearce accomplishes good character acting as Sir Jabez Grinlay; Miss Gwynneth Galton is successful as Mrs. Cantelupe; Mr. Edward Harrison is good as P.C. Fellowes; Miss Dorothy Garth gives a clever impersonation of an old woman, and also represents Miss Jay; whilst the other shop girls are ably played by Miss Violet Gould as Miss Smithers, Miss Eva Lonsdale as Miss Kitty Brant, and Miss Olga Esme as Miss Morton; whilst Miss Daisy England as Miss Pringle and Miss Clarissa Selwynne as Mrs. Whyte-Fraser also do good work. *Diana of Dobson's* is preceded by *The Bishop's Candlesticks*.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Jack Pleasants' quaint comedy is as highly appreciated as ever, and he is presenting excellent new songs; Simms and Simms introduce a pleasing instrumental turn, combined with an abundance of humour; Terry and Bentley are clever comedy artists, the lady dancing prettily, and the gentleman accomplishing smart acrobatic work; Gracie Grahame retains her popularity as a comedienne; Nell Emerald is a vivacious singer with good songs, and also dances well; Don and Mabel appear in a capital vocal speciality.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—This week we have E. Selman, character-comedian; Daisy Hurdle, comedienne; Jimson's *Pets at Home*; Leonard Gorney, speciality dancer, delighted all; Capt. Ellis and Son, clever instrumentalists, in their comedy musical act; Lucie Bernard, in capital illustrated songs; the Four Kelleys, in a smart acrobatic act; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here with *Lady Frederick*. Miss Mabel Love is charming everyone by her portrayal of Lady Frederick Berolles; Sir Gerald O'Mara is ably taken by Mr. Patrick Quill; as the cool, *blasé* Paradine Fouldes Mr. Robert Minster gives a magnificent performance; Miss Eleanor Delaporte is effective and well placed as Lady Mereston; Mr. E. F. Meads' Lord Mereston is one of the hits of the play. His acting in Act 3 is a triumph. Mr. Edward Bonfield is good as Captain Montgomery; Captain Gerald Gambier is an ideal old salt as Admiral Carlisle; Miss Lynn Fontanne is suited to the part of Rose. The subordinate parts are exceedingly well played. *Lady Frederick* is preceded by *The Peacemaker*.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are again the attraction at this house. Vicky, the premier English mandolinist, and Nance Elder, comedienne, also appear.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—H. O. Wills is proving immensely popular with the Palace audiences, his eccentric comedy bringing down the house; Cassie Walmer is a clever comedienne, well received and smartly dressed; Annie Heath is a capable singer and clever dancer; the Five Broadway Girls give every satisfaction; Keith and Merson, comedians, Bros. St. Clair, trick cyclists, Gladys and Alber, clever acrobatic comedy artists, also appear.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton. — Mr. Harry Roxbury's company, with Mr. Tubby Edlin as the bright particular star, is topping the bill and proving an excellent draw here in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*. Dolly Denton is a dainty comedienne; and the Brothers Zenary are excellent in a novel acrobatic turn. Godfrey James, the singing collier, is well received in a couple of songs; and Mr. Pat Lynch dances very cleverly. Jack Neil is a amusing Scotch comedian; Sid Kenneth and Maud Kane amuse in their comedy duo, "Just a Few Words"; Blake and Amber are clever in a bit of burlesque business entitled *Sowing a Little Seed*; and the Bioscope, with some interesting films, concludes.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is presenting *Peter's Mother*. Miss Lilias Earle as Lady Mary is natural and unforced, her beautiful elocution being a great treat; Mr. Eille Norwood as John Crewys artistically fills the rôle with a charm of manner and expression rarely seen; Mr. Vivian Gilbert's Peter is highly commendable; Mr. Townsend Whitling plays Sir Timothy with great skill; Miss Hilda Sims has a pretty part as Sarah, which she plays perfectly; Mr. Walter Russell as the Canon is most praiseworthy; Mr. Edward Jephson as Dr. Blundell proves himself a gifted actor; Miss Mary Griffiths as Lady Belstone plays in a most natural manner; the part of Miss G. Crewys is well sustained by Miss Josephine Rae; Miss Ada Rainey (Mrs. Hawell), Mr. P. Wright (Ash), and Mr. S. Smith (a footman) also do well. There is a pretty curtain-raiser entitled *Turtle Doves*.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—A splendid all-round programme is submitted this week, which includes Alf Gibson, a quaint comedian, who sings three songs successfully; Harry Simms, a smart swell comedian; Tom and Marie Motrama, who made a gigantic hit, and are reluctantly allowed to retire; Spencer and Marks, speciality comedians; Calile and Walker, who are the essence of smartness; Baker and Balfe, xylophone players; Jenny Manningo, in a daring and novel heavy juggling act. Raymond's Biotableaux shows very clearly and distinctly Motor Racing in the Isle of Man and Yacht Racing in the Solent. A great attraction is Gipsy Woolf, in a magnificently staged and luxuriantly dressed song-scena, *The Margate Mermaid*. It is very pretty, and great assistance is given by six clever ladies. Raymonds have installed a new Bioscope at the Grand, and a great improvement is noticeable in the pictures.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—A finer programme has not been presented than this week's series of pictures, chief of which are The Fisherman's Daughter, Salome Dance, Grandfather's Pills, Enoch Arden, Tramp in Clover, Crazy Conjurer, Moving In, and Catch Me If You Can. Miss Ethel Yorke is a charming comedienne, with sweet voice and catchy chorus songs.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week the incomparable Ellen Terry makes her first appearance in Harrogate in Geo. Bernard Shaw's *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. Miss Terry gives a delightful performance as Lady Cicely, always natural and genuinely amusing; Mr. James Carew makes a fearless and manly Capt. Brassbound, and Mr. George Fitzgerald is duly snobbish and dignified as Sir Howard Hallam; Mr. Story-Gofton supplies a clever sketch of the Rev. Leslie Rankin, and Mr. Max Montesole is funny as the unwashed Mr. Felix Drinkwater; Mr. Hay Cameron is dignified and impressive as the Cadi, and small parts are in effective hands. Miss Terry's gown, by Miss Edith Craig, was greatly admired. The play was very well mounted. For the rest of the week Mr. Louis Calvert's company was billed in *Sunday*.

THE KURSAAL.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—Mr. Wilfred Virgo is the vocalist this week, and the Munograph is showing new films. Three changes per week.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. Ferrier.—The pictures this week are drawing crowded houses at each exhibition. The list of films includes two very interesting ones—The Dublin Horse Show and The Launch of the Menas Geraes; Mother's Darlings, The Magic Sack, and The Rocking-Chair cause considerable amusement, and a host of others are thoroughly enjoyed.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—We are favoured this week with the welcome visit of Mr. Edward Compton and his famous comedy company, which opened on Monday with *Davy Garrick*. Mr. Compton played the name-rôle for the 1,459th time, and achieved his customary success; Miss Kathleen Leigh was a charming Violet; and the whole cast assisted in a perfect representation. The one-act comedy, *The Desperate Lover*, preceded. Miss Viola Compton gave a pleasing performance as Mistress Prue, and was ably supported by Misses Marie Hassell and Jess Morton, and Messrs. Henry Worrall, Neville Clifford, Lawrence Meade, Ivan Leslie, Wallace Johnston, and J. W. Austin. The other plays billed are *The Rivals*, *The Gentleman in Grey*, *The School for Scandal*, and *A Reformed Rake*. Mr. Henry Crocker stage-managed.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—George Dante, an entertaining comedian, appears first on the programme; a series of pictures of agricultural life in Canada is graphically depicted on the Bioscope; a very pleasing vocalist is seen and heard in Miss Dora Harrison; an American duologue by Fred Pollard and Kitty Grey is very amusing; the delightful ballad singing of Miss Bessie Watson, who renders her songs with sweetness and expression, wins the hearts of all her listeners; the Indian Hercules exhibits remarkable feats of strength, breaking any coin in halves given him from the audience; the droll manner and sayings of Roderick Dew afford plenty of laughter material; Tee and Tee keep the audience in good humour; and an interesting sketch is introduced by Wake and Dean.

PIER PAVILION. — General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Arthur B. Malden is giving a series of cinematograph lectures of visits to different parts of Europe. These include on respective evenings Ireland, Switzerland, Italy, &c. One of the most interesting is a tour though the Italian cities. Mr. Malden describes the views represented in a concise and graphic manner. From Dover Harbour we are taken to Paris, where an animated scene is shown of the Champs Elysees; from thence to Turin, Genoa, and Rome. In Rome the principal objects are exhibited, and the adjacent resorts of tourists are realistically displayed. Each lecture concludes with a visit to the White City.

PUBLIC HALL.—The People's Picture Palace Company, so well managed locally by Mr. Henry Gray, present an excellent series of animated pictures this week. Among them, The Black Princess, depicting exciting scenes in the Soudan, An Arabian Legend, dealing with rival Persian carpet merchants, and The Bully and the Recruit are good samples.

ST. LEONARD'S PIER. — Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas. — This week the farcical comedy *In the Soup* is presented by Mr. Ernest Dare and excellent company, the piece being capitally stage-managed by Mr. Leo St. Clair. Horace Gillibrand has a very suitable exponent in Mr. Erik Charles Stirling, who well realises the possibilities of the rôle; Miss M. Lowe-Dare is high-spirited as Judith Gillibrand, and plays the part in excellent style; Mr. Ernest Dare as Abernethy Ruppershawe gives point to the selfish characteristics of the rôle, and makes things lively all round; Mr. James Westfield is amusing as Bates, and Mrs. Bates is well impersonated by a lady whose name is not in the cast for the part; Mr. Leo St. Clair does well as Paul Hemming; the Moppert family have good representatives in Mr. Lionel Waltham as the French father, Miss Kate Lang as Mme. la mère, and Miss Elizabeth Lang as Delphine, who respectively add much to the tout ensemble. The remaining rôles have suitable exponents, and the piece is well dressed and adequately staged.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. P. Barnsley.—Messrs. M. Alwyne and A. W. Thompson's company is giving us an opportunity of renewing acquaintance with the ever-popular *My Sweetheart*. Mr. Wilfred Brandon acquits himself admirably as Tony, and his musical numbers are rendered in a manner that gains great praise; Miss Violet Hurley is a fascinating Tina, and wins success with her acting, singing, and dancing; Mr. M. Alwyne submits a most amusing and telling study of Dudley Harcourt; a fine exhibition of character acting is given by Mr. A. W. Thompson as Joe Shotwell; Miss K. Brathy is eminently satisfactory as Mrs. Fleeter; and other parts are in capable hands.

HORWICH.—NEW PRINCES'.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—This week Miss Rose Moncrieff provides the attraction, *The Bells of Old York* and *The Curate*. In the former Miss Rose Moncrieff gives an excellent rendering of the dual-rôle, Angel Grantham and Trumpeter Romney Kent; Mr. W. Carriden plays satisfactorily the part of Captain Romney Kent to perfection; Mr. Rass Challis, the author of both pieces, plays the muscular parson, the Rev. Philip Gordon, and arouses well-merited approval. In *The Curate*, Mr. Challis again plays the parson cleverly; Mr. W. Carriden as Gilbert Westwood is a truculent villain; Mr. F. Caranah does well as an old English gentleman; Fred Davis as the yokel is amusing; Mr. Dick Eckersley is much in evidence as Sergeant Snipe; and Miss Moncrieff gives a very fine performance as Dick the Trumpeter. Miss Maud Hastings plays May Verner in a pathetic manner, and Miss Gussie Everitt as Katinka is effective, Miss Dot Robins as the garrulous Mrs. Muggs creating roars of laughter.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—Mr. J. W. Turner and company are here on a return visit. On Monday was presented *The Lily of Killarney*. Mr. J. W. Turner sang with much skill as Myles na-Coppaleen; Miss Christine Gomez sang sweetly as Eily; Mr. Charles Le Sueur displayed commendable vocal ability as Hardress Cregan; and Mr. Tom Griffiths was very effective as Danny Man. *Maritana*, *Il Trovatore*, *Daughter of the Regiment*, *Martha*, *Faust*, and the evergreen *Bohemian Girl* are also in the repertory.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—In the most attractive programme provided this week we have Chas. and Lily Charlene, in their juggling and musical entertainment; Miss Sara Rosebury, refined comedienne; the Alberto troupe of equilibrists; Maurin's novel Fairy Fountains; Frank Leslie, comedian; Viviana and company, in a well-arranged dancing scena entitled "The Toy Shop"; Frank Elliston and company in the brightly-written costume play *My Lady Betty*; and some interesting films on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—An appreciative audience have given welcome to Robert Courtneidge's company in *The Dairymaids* this week. The dressing and mounting are worthy of the production, and the company is one that reflects credit upon Mr. Courtneidge's discrimination. Peggy, in the hands of Miss Clare Marsden, is a charming personage, her singing of the "Sandow Girls" and "Little Stranger" catching on with the house. Mr. Johnny Osborne is a favourite in Hull, and his last visit in *Tom Jones* is remembered to his credit. His Joe Mivens is most amusing. Miss Gladys Silvani is an excellent Eliza. The remainder of the cast are all capable, and *The Dairymaids* speaks another success for the management.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—After a lapse of years that inimitable and sterling comedian Mr. Ed. Terry is here for a week in répertoire, the plays produced including the ever-popular *Sweet Lavender*, with Mr. Terry in the rôle which has brought him fame in every corner of England. Phenyl is undoubtedly one of Mr. Terry's best parts. As Sweet Lavender Miss Gwendolen Wren plays most sympathetically; Miss Edith Coleman was all that we wished for as Minnie Gilfillian; Mr. Kenneth Brampton was cast as Clement Hale; and read his part satisfactorily; as Mrs. Gilfillian excellent service was done by Miss Sophie Lingwood; Miss Agnes Knight was a clever Ruth. *Liberty Hall*, *The Magistrate*, and *Fiander's Widow* have been in the bill. In each and every rôle Mr. Terry did himself justice.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Under the title of *Married to the Wrong Woman* a strong drama is served up at the Alexandra this week. Miss Gertrude Boswell makes a striking Ruth; Capt. Gladwin finds a fitting representative in Mr. Oswald Craig; and Mr. Chas. Vivian's Jasper Skinner is commendable.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—Tom Fay and company appear with the old success, *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, and *Pat in China* is presented by Fay Bros.; the Sisters Jonghmans' vocal efforts are greatly appreciated. Other artists include Sidney Dolf, the Cecelias, the Lannons, and Tom Gatt. Mr. Graham celebrated his third anniversary of the opening of this hall, when extra turns were provided.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—*A Broken Promise*, a musical absurdity, presented by Stanley and Vandyke, assisted by Horace and Edmunds, is the hit of the bill this week; Mr. E. is a very witty turn; Munro's Black and White Comedy Team appear with much success. Other favourites include Emma Don, Rose D'Aulby, the Evalos, and the Sprees.

THE CIRCUS.—Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Mr. Sydney Carter's pictures have commenced again here.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is the attraction this week, the players being the company of Mr. Morton Powell. Mrs. Powell is seen in the rôle of Rosa Bud, to which she does justice; Mr. Bartlett Garth displays much ability in the heavy part of John Jasper; Mr. G. Ridgway Thorne makes the most of his opportunities as Edwin Drood; and Mr. J. Henry Twyford is in good form as Neville Landless, whilst Mr. Richard Harris is all that can be desired as Septimus Chrisparkle. Durdles finds an amusing representative in Mr. David Phillips; Miss May Beatrice as Helena Landless gives a pleasing performance; Deputy and Princess Puffer are suitably represented by the Misses Jennie Risley and Addie Adair.

ILKLEY. — BRIDGE PAVILION. — Lessee, Mr. Sydney Carter; Manager, Mr. Edwin Bryan.—The New Century Pictures still draw crowded houses, there being a change of films every week; Mr. Will Fieldhouse, the Yorkshire humorist, is paying a visit this week, his songs and patter being much appreciated.

KING'S HALL.—Proprietors, the Ilkley Urban District Council; Manager, Mr. Frank Hall.—Fabbro's Royal Electric Singing and Talking Pictures are here, and good houses testify to the quality of the entertainment provided. In addition to a fine display of animated pictures, the Fabbro's Columba Quartette gives some good selections. Others on the bill are Mr. Leslie Sears, character comedian and impersonator; Miss Bessie Farrell, comedienne; Mr. Cecil Bradley, tenor; and Miss May Vincent, American soubrette.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—Mr. W. Payne Seddon presents Mr. Comyns Carr's dramatised version of Dickens' "Mystery of Edwin Drood." Mr. C. H. Croker King in the part of John Jasper gives a fine interpretation; Edwin Drood is capably played by Mr. Riddell Robinson; Mr. Leslie Rea does well as Mr. Crisparkle; Mr. Charles Bruce is effective as Neville Landless; and Mr. Edward Thirlby is satisfactory as Mr. Grewgious. Mr. Lloyd Townrow is an amusing Durdles, and Rosa Budd, in the keeping of Miss Nita Charlton, is charming, as also is Helena Landless, as played by Miss Gladys Jonson; Mrs. William Mallalieu scores as the proprietress of the opium den; and the Misses Eleanor Gilbert, Laura Bolt, and Agnes Byron, and Irene Ross all deserve honourable mention. The singing of the Choir Boys from Nolan's Academy is effective.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The strong bill here this week is headed by Miss May Moore Duprez, who is as vivacious as ever; the Faludy Troupe of acrobats give a really marvellous exhibition of daring; the Austral Trio, in a mélange, entitled *A Musical Evening*, are accomplished musicians as well as amusing mimics; the Prince Milner Trio are clever performers on the tight wire, and especially with hoops; the Melbournes give a bright duologue; Will Walton and Peter Bermingham sing parodies; Ray and Lingard caused much merriment with a sketch entitled *The First of April*; and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—This week Mr. Reginald Dance and company present *Raffles*. Mr. Lewis Edgard gives an excellent portrayal of the part of A. J. Raffles, while Mr. C. Kean does full justice to the part of Mr. Curtis Bedford; Mr. Arthur Bell is well placed as Harry Manders, and Mr. Oswald Griffiths gives a capable rendering of the part of Crawshay; Mr. P. Alexander looks and plays the part of Lord Amersteth to perfection, and Miss Brenda Gibson gives a first-class rendering of the part of Mrs. Vidal; while Miss B. Marsdene plays the part of Gwendoline Conron with skill; and Miss Eva Bevington does full justice to the character of Marie. The piece is preceded each evening by the comedietta *Jerry and a Sunbeam*, which is well received.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—The vaudeville season closes here this week. The star turn is the Four Kelleys, in a truly marvellous acrobatic act; Daisy Hurdle, a chic comedienne, should procure a couple of songs more suited to her charming personality; Jimson's dogs are clever tykes; Leonard Gorney is a good speciality dancer; and other turns are E. W. Selman, comedian; Capt. Ellis and son in comedy musical act; and Lucie Bernard with illustrated songs. The entertainment ends with Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—This week Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod present the drama *The Prodigal Parson*. In the rôle of the Rev. Tom Gadley, Mr. Logan Darra excels; Mr. Alfred Northway ably portrays the character of Enoch Jaggins; and Mr. Chas. Ashwell that of Ben Jaggins; Messrs. Walter Vincent and Owen Remonde are good respectively as Ned Kettlepin and Phil Drive, a handyman at the vicarage; Miss Violet Hammersley plays the part of Fern Gadley in an artistic manner. The play is well staged.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—A capital bill this week is headed by Miss May Henderson, the dusky comedy queen, who is making a great hit; Mr. Dion Wade proves himself a comedian of undoubted ability; Lochlynne, the farmyard mimic, has a rousing reception; and Mr. Percy Maye as a female impersonator is marvellous, his serpentine dance being worthy of particular notice. Miss Beattie Bloom is a good comedienne with capital songs, and a smart and funny juggler is Wisper; Miss Jeannie Deans, Scotch comedienne, is a clever dancer. The Bioscope concludes.

LANCASTER. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is here under the direction of Mr. George A. De Gray in *A Fight for a Throne*. Mr. John S. Millward appears to advantage as Jack Fortesque; Mr. Gerald Bryne is well cast as the King of Saxovinia; Mr. Charles E. Linney is an admirable Prince Otto, and Mr. Tom Roydan is well suited to the rôle of General Ronda. As the Princess Esmee Miss Dora Hammersley has the full sympathy of the audience; Miss Margaretta Tueski shows marked ability as Countess Lorenski, and Miss Emmeline B. Lewis plays well as Lady Pat.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—W. Fullbrook and company appear here in a sketch *Astronomy*, which has a good reception; the Brothers Webb, musical clowns, win well-deserved encores; George Penn, comedian, is very funny; Henri Bekker does some smart tricks; Vera Vere and Tommy Nelidon sing and dance nicely; Ajax and George are clever gymnasts, and Maud Vera sings tunefully. The Hippograph continues to prove an attraction.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—A good all-round bill is this week headed by Sergeant Brennan, who is aptly described as the gyroscopic marvel. His clever performance of the Diabolo order is amazing. Collette and Derry, in their farcical duologue, provide much amusement; the Dunvilles' comedy musical act is an entertaining item; and other turns include Charles Collette, an old Leamington favourite, in songs and sketches; Luna Lyndon, comedienne and dancer; Jessie Buckle, comedienne; Percy Johnson, comedian; and the Paolias, in a graceful athletic act. The Premier Imperial pictures add interest to the programme.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird are paying a most welcome visit to this theatre this week, opening on Monday to a full and enthusiastic audience with *The Lyons Mail*. Mr. Irving scored a great success in the exacting dual rôle of Dubosc and Lesurges, and received a rare ovation at the close; Miss Baird played the somewhat meagre part of Janette in perfect style, and also delighted her audience with an accomplished portrayal of the principal part in *The Sergeant of Hussars*, the curtain-raiser. *Hamlet*, *Louis XI.*, and *The Bells* form the répertoire for the remainder of the week.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Another of Mr. Walter Melville's popular melodramas, *The Female Swindler*, is proving acceptable fare at this theatre. The central character of Lu Valroy is most effectively portrayed by Miss Violet Ellicott; the detective, John Coulson, gets a capable and successful impersonation at the hands of Mr. Jerrold Heather; Mikestein is a telling character-study by Mr. Fred Rignold; the humorous element is made the most of by Mr. John Hitchen and Miss Bella Moody, and is a most enjoyable feature.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—A laughable comedy sketch is here presented by Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait, and company, and is well received; an accomplished and interesting turn is that of L'Incognita, a masked vocalist; James Stewart is as entertaining as ever at the piano; Syd May mimics well-known comedians cleverly; the Proveanies are seen in an expert cycling speciality; and Frank Seeley, Will Poluski, jun., the Three Welsh Girls, and Georgina Leno are particularly interesting turns.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Popular Marie Loftus is at the head of a strong bill, and with clever new items rendered in her best style wins the demonstrative appreciation of her audience. Leo Fields is vastly amusing in a novel speciality; and Harry Anderson adds to a big reputation as vocal comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—R. G. Knowles is leading here. Michael Nolan is again a success as raconteur and comedian; juggling extraordinary by B. Troba is a much-applauded feature; Willie Gardner does a novel and effective turn on roller skates; the Van Host Trio are capital entertainers; and there are also good turns by Wright and Lawson, the Three Orros, the Panamas, Rosie Reval, and Norah Stockelle.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Always a warm favourite, Ella Shields is again delighting her numerous admirers with clever new items; Ferris and May are popular with comedy entertainment; Lily Lonsdale, a pleasing vocalist, is scoring well; Ernie Myers and Fame and Fortune are acceptable humorists; whilst the Saletos, in a neat speciality, and Alice Maude, a child vocalist, also win much applause.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—A distinct change from the usual form of theatre entertainment is being made here this week by the first appearance locally of H. G. Pélissier and "The Follies." Their versatility is immense, and their "potted plays" too funny for words. The artists, all of whom are to be heartily congratulated on their cleverness, include Norman A. Blume, Gwennie Mars, Lewis Sydney, Ethel Allandale, Muriel George, Dan Everard, Dollis Brooke, and H. G. Pélissier.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—A strong attraction is being presented here this week by the return visit of the romantic play *The Assassin*, which is exceedingly well portrayed by Mr. Augus-

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tine Knight's company. In the name-part Miss Ella Vane is conspicuous with a powerful performance; and Mr. Augustine Knight as Prince Demetri is also a thorough success, the duel between the two in the third act creating great excitement. Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson is excellent as Ivan Ipanoff, the same remark applying to Miss Eva Trevenna as Nita; Miss Hettie Senior is good as Connie Jonathan; Mr. Edwin Jenner (the general-manager of the company) plays well as Captain O'Neil; Mr. Edward Fryer is capital as General Nicol; and Mr. Edward Swinton as Baron Alphonse, Mr. Tom J. Taylor as Peter, and Miss Marie E. Robertson as Katrina, are also prominent with humorous and clever performances. The play is well staged and dressed.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—A good all-round programme here is headed by George Gray and company in *The Fighting Parson*, which well maintains its immense popularity among all sections of the audience, the various characters being capably billed and the staging a special feature. Barton and Ashley, in a new farcical creation, *Adam the Second*, are scoring a well-deserved success with a mirth-provoking turn; Harry Tate's No. 1 company present the uproarious skit *Motoring* to the delight of all; the Leonards (Bob and Jennie) make a hit with their funny and smartly-enacted comedy act, *Point Duty*; the Carina Sisters are seen and heard to great advantage in a refined musical melange; Jack Hayworth creates much laughter as the queer young Lancashire lad; Carl Howard, in a humorous skit on conjuring and second sight, is very amusing; Gaumont's Chronomegaphone depicts in a lifelike manner selections by Will Evans and Victoria Monks; and the Bioscope is a feature with The Story of a Broken Heart. Barton and Ashley did not appear on Tuesday owing to illness.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The star attraction for the Fair Week here is the British boxing champion, Gunner Moir, who is taking on all comers. Interesting pictures of his fight with Burns are shown on the Bioscope, and lectured on by Major Best. Mr. N. W. Phillips and company are retained over a second week, and are presenting the tabloid drama, *A Just Reward*, and the comedy-sketch, *Muggins' Matrimonial Muddle*; Cliff and Kean are popular comedy artists and smart dancers; the Gelders give a cleverly-worked magical act; Alf. Ripon, the Scotch ventriloqnist, is well received for a good and entertaining show; Ivy Dene is a capital serio and dancer; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope retains its great popularity with Hurrah for Freedom! and Children of the East.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The chief films this week include Hamlet, The Little Savoyard, Saved by a Horse, Walter the Rural Postman, A Little Music, Engaged all the Same, and Two Little Motorists. Professor Holt, F.O.S., the well-known ventriloquist, is on a successful return visit; Horace Monto scores with his novel musical sketch *Tommy Atkins at Play*, introducing song, story, instrumentation, and club manipulation. A singing competition, confined to the twelve previous winners, is taking place, and Tom Myers, the last prize-taker, is rewarded with a week's salaried engagement.

Association Hall. — The annual visit of Fred Clements, the popular comedian, and his company of favourite artists, is being made here this week. The entertainment, which is of a thoroughly diversified character, including pictures on the Bioscope, receives unstinted approbation.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. Sam Duckworth's company is paying a return visit here this week with the drama, entitled *Her Nameless Child*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn repeats his clever assumption of Anthony Ford; Mr. Sidney C. Cranston acts with capital expression as Arthur, his son; Mr. Arthur B. Pringle gives a capable delineation of the rascally Lord Henry Woodville; Mr. Frank Thompson does clever work as Mongrole; Miss Pattie Hasting was highly successful as Phillis Ford; Miss Mona Gray acquits herself with marked ability as Lady Sybil Woodville; Mr. Larry Clements puts the audience in the best of humours as Tom Rivers; and able assistance is forthcoming from Miss Renie Douglas as Bessie Brooks and Miss Geraldine Verner deserves praise as Crayont.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—It is some years since Dr. Walford Bodie was last seen in Leith, so that to many his singular entertainment has this week had the attraction of novelty. In addition to his own illustrations of electro-hypnotism and other interesting phenomena, a series of variety turns is included in the programme, of which the conjuring of Li Chang Hi and the juggling of the Great Francisco are outstanding items; while Bella Skene, Mabel Martin, the Brothers Baxter, little Dolly Robson, and a trio of dancers, also contribute to a popular bill of fare. The cures of several apparently hopeless cases of paralysed children have caused considerable wonderment.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The enterprising management of the leading theatre gave their patrons this week another London success in the form of *The Whirlpool*, an excellent play sustained by the Kendals and company. There was no mistaking the earnestness with which the work was appreciated, not only on account of its own particular value, but owing to the finished manner in which it was presented. As the honest, bluff Elijah D. Tillotson Mr. Kendal was seen in a rôle which fitted him with an ease that was delightful to witness; in fact, it was generally agreed that the accomplished actor had never done anything finer. Mrs. Kendal, looking as charming as ever, was the Miss Livingstone, a part in which she had many opportunities for showing her well-known qualities as a coquettish and emotional artist; that sound actor Mr. Bassett Roe did the most with the somewhat unthankful character of Bertram Livingstone; Mr. Wellesley Draper, who has already won his spurs under another management as a reliable man, did excellently in the rôle of Cutter, the frightened broker; Mr. Edmund Gurney gave an able character study of Ephraim Johnstone; Mr. Metcalfe Wood's picture of the old clerk Chappin was a piece of work that found general appreciation; Mrs. A. B. Tapping worthily impersonated Aunt Gretchen; and valuable support also came from Mr. T. Holding (Killiegrew), Mr. W. M. Rutherford (Parker), and Miss Sara de Groot (Elise).

Shakespeare Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Mr. Brandon Thomas has been here this week with *Charley's Aunt*, and good business has resulted. The author was seen in his old part of Colonel Chesney; Mr. Roy Byford held the rôle of Spettigue; Mr. G. A. Seager caused endless laughter as Babberley; Miss Vera Gerald did well as Donna Lucia; and others in the cast were Messrs. Hastings Lynn and Basil Lynton (Chesney and Wykeham), Miss Grace Russell (Amy Spettigue), and Miss Evelyn Grey (Ela Delahay). The curtain-raiser was *A Highland Legacy*, by Mr. Thomas, in which he played Sammy Macdonnell.

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The attraction here this week has been Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company with *Under Two Flags*. As Cigarette Miss Agnes Verity displayed much spirit and vivacity; Mr. Austen Milroy made an admirable Louis Victor, playing with a deal of dramatic power; Mr. Harry Benson proved a humorous Rake, his comic singing and dancing being received with every favour; Mr. Dermot FitzGibbon did justice to Barklie Royellieu; Mr. Arthur Elwyn was satisfactory as Colonel Chanteroy; and valuable support came from Miss Dorothy Lart (Princess Corona), Mr. Victor Gardon (Lord Rockingham), and Mr. Charles Brooke (Lord Royellieu).

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*Alone in London*, here this week, met with much acceptance. Mr. Percy Rhodes was well suited to the powerful part of Richard Radcliffe; a pathetic rendering of the flower girl Nan came from Miss Theresa Osborne; Miss Elsie Clarke made a delightful Little Paul; great comedy was provided by Mr. Lonnen Meadows as Charley Johnson and Miss Nellie Lauraine as Mrs. Maloney; Mr. Harry McClelland handled the rôle of Mr. Burnaby with ability and success; and Mr. Frank Sutherland gave much support as Spriggins.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—The always-welcome Cecilia Loftus has proved a big draw here this week, her imitations of leading artists being richly enjoyed. G. H. Elliott had a rousing reception for his delightful and artistically rendered coon songs; Lady Mansel's Juveniles went through a neat speciality, *The Concert Rehearsal*; the Musical Schafers pleased everybody with their fine novelty act, *The Garden of Melody*; Mason and Bart, novelty comedy gymnasts, had an amusing trifle, *Captain Kettle and His Mate*; Edward Lauri, May Beatty, and company afforded the utmost satisfaction with their musical comedy mélange, *In Her Boudoir*; Little Zola was a very diverting comedian; Ralph and Nellie Howard produced a smart comedy musical act, *The Military Maid*; and Harry Herbert, eccentric comedian, also appeared.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—This week Mr. Harry Foxwell's company has presented *A Broken Heart*.

Lyric.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Heading the bill we have had Harry Tate's No. 1 company with *Fishing*, which provoked great laughter; Les Rubens, the "fortune tellers," were very diverting; Julian Mack's patter proved exceedingly enjoyable; Winifred Ward, "the ideal boy," pleased with her impersonations and songs; shouts of laughter followed the work of the Elvio Trio with *Those Troublesome Slaveys*; Ethel Walker at the piano proved very entertaining; a refined musical scena, *Pansy's Birthday*, was given by the Bijou Juveniles; and the Laurie Bros. presented a skilful and graceful athletic act.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Charles Austin and company topped the bill here this week with their screamer, *Parker, P.C.*, which proved immensely enjoyable; Carlton gave a capital turn as a comedian, card manipulator, &c.; very amusing were Kelly and Agnes; Charles Parker's Six Æolians submitted a refined vocal and dancing act; as a comedian and talker Charles Reekie was a treat; Minnie Love sang pleasingly; along with acrobatic dogs, Maud and Gill gave a neat eccentric mélange act; the Society Quartette went through a smart turn as character vocalists and speciality dancers; Lee and Kingston were a couple of capable comedians; and also in the list was Herbert Le Martine, eccentric dancer, &c.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Here this week the stock dramatic company have given *The Power of a Wicked Woman*, the principal parts in which were undertaken by Messrs. Sydney Grant (Philip Carey), David G. Noble (Horace Winter), Robb Wilton (Bransby), Miss Florence Palmer (Denise), and Miss Lilian Radbourne (Helen Terraire). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed some excellent films.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the Bioscope pictures shown here during the week, the following artists appeared: Maston, comedian; and Bert Tyrell, Tyrolean vocalist.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Foremost here during the week has been Karno's sketch *The Dandy Thieves*, with Fred Kitchen as Sergeant Lightning. The merry sketch was received with as much approval as ever. The Ten-Ji Troupe of jugglers submitted a remarkable act, and were loudly applauded; Ted E. Box kept his audience in capital humour with his funny talk; *Black Justice* was a most laughable skit provided by Brown and Le Clerq; Nellie Ganthony gave an exceptionally neat turn as a society entertainer; Collins's Eight Stella Girls danced and sang pleasingly; Harry May Hemsley as a caricaturist and impersonator of children was not the least acceptable artist on the list; and Nettie Starr, comedienne and dancer, was received with approval.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Heading the programme here this week has been Zona Vevey, assisted by the pianist Herr Max Erard. Miss Vevey's dainty songs with catchy choruses were much enjoyed. *The Usurer* was a smart dramatic sketch, presented by Sydney Mason, Theresa Moore, and company; Ada Fawn was loudly applauded for her popular songs; Billy Farrell proved very amusing with his coon songs; *The Tale of the Stockings* was a neat sketch given by the Four Netherlands; as shadowists and entertainers Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde were entirely acceptable; a novel acrobatic act in the electric aquarium came from Kirk and Saraski; Bert Bowden, comedian, gave a pleasing turn; and Allsopp and Beckwith (Fred and Florrie) were also in the list. The Bioscope pictures given at this theatre are always a special feature.

LLANDUDNO.—Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Day's company appeared here the first three nights of the week in the domestic drama, *For Love of a Woman*. Mr. Jerold Ord, in the emotional part of Ned Merrick, is good; Mr. Frederick Garratt as the villainous Guy Manor acts well; Mr. Eustace Day, the blind Allen Paget, does all that is required of him; Mr. Charles Ninian as the irascible Major Hulmes is amusing; Mr. Fred Fulton as Albert St. Everamond is a diverting dude; Miss Mildred Clay as Nell Paget is well placed; Miss Eva St. Vincent is a typical Jane Manor; and Miss May Day as Nance Manor is all that could be desired.

Pier Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Sam Hughes, jun.—The winter season has commenced here with the ever-welcome American Bioscope. An entire change of programme is submitted each week, and enhusiastic audiences attend nightly.

LONG EATON.—St. James's Theatre.—Mr. C. Watson Mill, supported by a really good company, is here this week in *For Love and King*. Mr. Mill has the support of Miss Rosalind Tate as the Princess Athene and of Miss Joan Ellis as Natila. The Miser is portrayed by Mr. John Burton. Mr. Henry Earlesmere, Mr. Alfred Hilliard, and Mr. Frank Lyndon play effectively. The play is well staged in every detail. Mr. Mill's martial bearing and fine diction completely captivated the house. The patronage for the week is excellent.

The Palace.—Mr. Alf Smith, the enterprising manager of this place of amusement, has scored by reseating the place, adopting the two-show plan, and providing a really interesting programme. His films are quite up to date and his variety business of good class. The artists include Henshall and Foster, in a sketch, Miss May St. Clair, and George Tarry. The house has been well filled each night.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. B. Reed.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is here in Walter Melville's drama *The Worst Woman in London*. Miss Grace Murielle sustains the rôle of Francis Vere in her usual powerful manner; Mr. F. Vernon Travers as James Milford plays with conspicuous ability; Miss Dorothy Haigh as Ruth Milford proves herself a capable actress; Mr. Willie Scott as Bob Goldfinch amuses the house immensely, and is ably seconded by the clever performance of Miss Polly Marsh as Matilda Parker; Mr. George Gaisford as Jack Felton puts plenty of energy into his acting. The drama is elaborately mounted.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—The variety bill is headed by Sandy McNab, who is genuinely funny in a mirth-provoking sketch *The Egyptian Mummy*, in which he is ably assisted by Miss Langley. The bill also includes Madge Beresford, vocalist; Edwin Rutland, comedian, and Rose Cambry, burlesque actress.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The business at this popular resort is beating all previous records. On Monday the huge building was packed with an audience numbering over 3000 at early doors. Great interest is evinced in the initial appearance locally of the Colibri Midgets (eight in number), whose wonderful performances in a specially constructed miniature circus ring created something approaching a sensation. As musicians, clowns, jugglers, acrobats, and equestrians they presented a really surprising act. Other capital turns are provided by Cull Pitt, in comedy conjuring business, and Recco, burlesque acrobat. Some beautiful subjects are shown by the British Biograph Co., of which special mention should be made of Nero, or the Burning of Rome. Next week the star turn is Fred Earle.

LUTON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's musical play *The Dairymaids* is being greatly appreciated by good houses. Miss Carry Lacey as the Lady Brudenell is both smart and attractive; Sam, her nephew, is in the capable hands of Mr. R. Telford, who dances wonderfully well; Mr. Scott Melville as the naval rover, Lieut. Frank Meredith, is also very good; Mr. Dan Agar is a very clever actor, and portrays the sailor part, Joe Mivins, perfectly; his quaint dancing is also an important item in the play. The Eliza of Miss Nellie Bowman is a quaintly funny representation of the maid of all work; Miss Lucy Edwin as the proprietress of the Academy, portrays the character to perfection; Miss Empsie Bowman as Peggy at once takes the hearts of the audience, and her songs, "Hullo, little stranger" and the "Sandow girl," are encored time after time. The Dairymaids look very sweet in their new and bright dresses, and a fine selection has been made of the Four Sandow Girls.

MACCLESFIELD. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley. — Mr. Stephen Pritt's company has met with a hearty reception here with the domestic drama *His Wife No Longer*. Mr. Clavering Craig impressively portrays the character of Anthony Merivale; the emotional and trying part of Mrs. Merivale is exceptionally well undertaken by Miss Rosa Mervyn; Miss Enid Edoni is responsible for some excellent acting as Marion Jeffries; and Miss Nellie Lawson makes a vivacious Lucy Hooper. Mr. C. Wordley Hulse gives an exceptionally fine performance as the Rev. Frank Willacy; Mr. E. Paul Neville's delineation of Harold Medworth is also a fine piece of work; Mr. David Donaldson gives a clever character study as Daniel Trench; Mr. Vivian Charles as the elegant Tommy Oglethorpe and Mr. David McFarline as P.C. Michael Flanagan are responsible for the excellent humour of the play.

MAESTEG. — Town Hall Theatre.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. F. Knowles.—The attraction at this popular playhouse for the first three nights of the week was Miss Maud Western's company in *A Mother's Salvation*. Mr. J. O. Stephenson as Reuben Smith played with ability; Mr. Geoffrey Broughton was responsible for a powerful rendering of Leslie Mervyne, the villain; Mr. John Levey was good as Lynton Desmond; Miss Ada Hender won applause for her portrayal of Naomi Lester and Miriam Mervyne; Miss Sophie Reiss is to be commended for her delineation of Little Paul; Miss Ella Powell deserved praise as Mother Turntail; Miss Maud Western, as Beckey, and Mr. Carl Vallender, as Billie Bumpkin, provided the comedy element.

MAIDENHEAD.—The Pavilion.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gude.—Mr. Richard Arthur has a company here for another week. Tom Tiddler and Billy Buttons are re-engaged, and continue to highly amuse the audience; Jack Jones is redemanded again and again for his topical songs, in which he introduces many local hits; Little Taddles, the vocal tit-bit, proves herself to be a clever little artist; Lily Arthur is a smart comedienne and dancer, and pleases greatly with her character songs and impersonations; Jessie Harper has a fine presence and style, and is at once "at home" with her audience; the Wesmars contribute a mystifying turn in thought-transference, and emerge triumphantly from the most difficult and searching tests; and Mr. Russell Moyles' sketch company make much fun with *Sammy*.

Town Hall.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—On Tuesday, Oct. 6, by arrangement with Mr. Robert Courteidge, Mr. Robert Macdonald's company played *The Dairymaids*, and were rewarded with a crowded house. The cast is an excellent one, and both scenery and dresses are exceptionally good. Miss Isa Bowman is a charming Peggy; Miss Mora Hersee is pleasing as Helen; Miss Kitty Kirwan is well suited as Miss Pyechase; and Miss Maud Lucy does well as Eliza. Miss Dorothy Belmore wears an air of distinction as Lady Brudenell; Miss Gertie Davies is good as Lady Hyde; Miss Connie Beaugarde is dainty as Helen; Messrs. Sam Lysons, Frank Manger, and Paul Smythe are effective as Sam Brudenell, Frank Meredith, and Lieutenant Brereton; Mr. Frank Barclay acts with much quiet humour as Dr. O'Byrne; and the irrepressible Joe Mivens is thoroughly well played by Mr. Edwin Dodds. The "Sandow Girls" scene is well sustained, the selected ladies being well fitted for the display.

MAIDSTONE.—Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Mr. James Willard and company appear in the dramatic sketch *The Ace of Hearts*, which is well played and receives an ovation. Wild, Willie, and West, trampoline artists and acrobatic comedians, cause roars of laughter; Miss Daisy Hicks is a favourite comedienne; Sam Redfern, negro comedian, has some funny songs and stories, and others appearing are the Sisters Bartholomew, duettists, Arthur Stevens, vocalist, Thil Parsons, comedian, and the Bioscope.

Corn Exchange.—Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Beslee.—The Imperial Electric Picture Co., under the direction of Mr. Albany Ward, is drawing good houses here this week. The subjects of the films are well varied and quite up to date. Mme. Edith Vivian, soprano vocalist, and Mr. George Deighton, entertainer, appear during the evening.

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—For the first time in Manchester, *John Glayde's Honour* was presented here on Monday by Mr. Arthur Bourchier and the Garrick Theatre company, including Miss Violet Vanbrugh. In it Mr. Bourchier has found a part which fits him to perfection, though it is distinctly reminiscent of others in which he has distinguished himself before Manchester audiences; Miss Violet Vanbrugh as John's wife has also opportunities for her emotional gifts, which are indisputably great. Considerable ability of an equally admirable kind is displayed by Mr. Charles Bryant as Trevor Lerode, and strong parts are excellently handled by Mr. Arthur Whitby, Mr. Leon Quartermaine, Miss Henrietta Watson, Miss Mary Weigall, and Miss Winifred Bateman. The play, which went tremendously well, was preceded by *Admiral Peters*, by W. W. Jacobs and Horace Mills.

Prince's Theatre. — Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Huge audiences are filling this theatre to see Mr. George Edwardes's company in a return visit of *The Merry Widow*. Miss Lily Elsie as Sonia (her original London part) is received with especial favour, and carries the part through in most charming style; Mr. Leonard Mackay's qualities as a vocalist and actor are well known, and he instances them to the full in his depiction of Prince Danilo; Mr. Eric Thorne is, as usual, lavishly funny; and much humour is added by Mr. W. H. Rawlins as Nisch. Mr. W. Talleur-Andrews retains his part of Jolidon, which he renders in cultured style; and Miss Ethel Cadman as Natalie, "the dutiful wife," acts capitally with him. Many other rôles are pleasingly filled, and elaborate staging adds to the brilliance of the piece.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Messrs. Sutton and Raynor are here this week in a very good rendering of *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*. Miss Henrietta Schrier plays the title-rôle in good style, and Mr. Cecil Wynne acts with marked power in the rôle of Aubrey Tanqueray. Mr. Raynor's Cayley Drummle is very successful, and clever impersonations are given by Mr. Leonard Lawrence as Captain Ardale, Miss Frances Waring as Mrs. Cortelyou, and Miss Dorothy West-Symes as Ellean, the minor parts being in capable hands.

Gaiety Theatre. — Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—A remarkable programme is here this week. It consists of an evening bill of five short plays (two of which are new, and noticed in another column), and two matinées of the *Hippolytus* of Euripides, a translation of Greek tragedy by Gilbert Murray. A repetition of Mr. J. Sackville Martin's sarcastic playlet *A Question of Property* opened the programme on Monday; and, leaving out the new pieces already mentioned, it was followed by a translation of a one-act comedy by Dr. Arthur Schnitzler, *The Farewell Supper*, played by Mlle. Camilla Dalberg and company, a well-rendered but unedifying episode; and Mr. Charles McEvoy's *Gentlemen of the Road*, a tramp sketch, which is fairly typical of the author's sense of humour, and which proved the most amusing item of the night. In the course of these plays exceptionally good work was done by Mr. Henry Austin, Miss Louise Holbrook, Mlle. Dalberg, Mr. Charles Bibby, Miss Sybil Thorndike, and Mr. Edward Landor; while in the *Hippolytus*, which was not so well attended as it deserved to be, but which, after all, held out few features of attraction beyond its aspects of interest to students of modern drama remarkably good acting, strenuous, thoughtful, and never once beyond the line which seemed to confine the whole drama within purely scholarly and poetical limits, was supplied by Miss Penelope Wheeler as Phædra, Mr. Leonard Mudie as Hippolytus, Mr. Lewis Casson as a Henchman, Mr. Jules Shaw as Theseus, and Miss Dorothea Spinney as the Nurse. Others commendable were Miss Ernita Lascelles, Miss Sybil Thorndike, Miss Evelyn Hall, and the half-dozen members of the Trozênian chorus, the latter being a remarkably effective feature of the production. A highly-valuable accompaniment to the tragedy was the music of Mr. Granville Bantock, played by a special orchestra.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson presents here, for the first time in Manchester, a strong romantic drama, entitled *Who is She?* which deals with the events of a small kingdom, and the hatching and frustration of dire plots against the reigning family. Mr. Graham Woods gives a strong and excellent depiction of King Vladimir; Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson makes a powerful Prince Bora; Mr. Arthur McCulloch is exceptionally good as the honest and faithful Sergeant Metroff; the same may be said of Mr. J. Russell Bogues as the good-hearted Chinaman Chang-Tee; and the great demands of the title-part—Who is She?—are quite adequately supplied by the cleverness and sympathy of Miss Violet Carlyle. Others who do well are Miss Muriel Inglis, Miss Alice Barber, Mr. Sinclair Holden, Mr. Val Gully, Miss Mary Collier, and little Miss Mabel Ronald.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—A capital programme here is headed by Jake Friedman and company in *Happy Holland*, a smart Dutch operetta; Harry Russon is an accomplished actor-comedian; the Sages, burlesque artists and dancers, are well received; and George Prince, the crazy comedian, is very amusing. Other good turns include Petro and Leon, expert trapeze artists; Emil and Ediss, banjoists; Wal Robbins, black and white musical comedian; Eva Chadwick, soprano vocalist; and the Bros. Lydamore, comedians and patterers.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The top of the bill here this week is *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, picturesquely given by Fred Ginnett's company. Prominent also are Jenny Johns, the popular soubrette; and Maud Rochez's animal novelty, the monkeys' music hall. Good turns are added by J. W. Rowley, the veteran comedian; Narow Bros., the eccentric comedy cyclists; the Harmony Boys, refined vocalists; Frank Leon, expert dancer; Arabella Allen, "the Dickens Girl"; and Edie King, comedienne and dancer.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—George Lashwood, the vaudeville Beau Brummel, tops the bill here this week, and meets with a big reception; La Scala Opera Company, including Mrs. Arthur Rousby, are excellent in a selection from *Cavalleria Rusticana*; Vasco, the "mad" musician, plays on twenty-eight instruments in record time; and Drew and Alders are vastly amusing as *The Coastguards*. Mlle. Alexandra and M. Bertie are exceedingly good in aerial act, *After the Ball*; Edith Fink, comedienne, sings with her usual charm; Johnson and Bert in a novel act, *A Queer Customer*, are well received; William Lee and Helen Bentley are amusing in sketch, *A Sure Thing*; and Violet Halls, American vocal comedienne, is pleasing. The Barrow Race is a screamingly funny film shown on the Bioscope.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Mr. Alfred Paumier and Mr. Walter Howard's company are the attraction here this week in the recent success, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, which is playing to full houses. The company is excellent all round, and includes Mr. Melville Rickford as the Hunchback, Mr. Ernest Cox as the Prince, and Miss Ethel Bracewell as the Beggar Maid. The piece is exceedingly well staged.

Palace. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Ethel Arden and George Abel, excellently supported, are to the front here this week in that highly-laughable sketch *Three of a Kind*; Harry Champion scores as a quick and quaint comedian; Cullen and Carthy, with their funny assistant, Little Cluley, fairly brought down the house; Gus Harris, the well-known Jewish delineator, is very successful in *The Synagogue*; and the Dayton Family are seen to great advantage in their incomparable risley act. Other good turns are those of Lola Patey, a sweet singer; Queenie Essex, comedienne; Edie Veno, who dances cleverly; George Collins, quaint comedian; and Major Moss and Son, vocal duettists. Bioscope pictures complete.

Tivoli. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Sadie Jerome, the well-known burlesque artist, tops the bill here this week, and meets with a deserved good reception; Stuart Alexander presents those delightful entertainers the So-and-So's with success; Charles Gardener, a comedian of the eccentric order, is capital; Maud Laverne is a pleasing burlesque artist; Sewell as the living marionette is excellent; Ching Koo gives a clever deceptive performance; Lucy Coventry, comedienne and eccentric dancer, takes well; the Zampas are seen to advantage as duettists, dancers, and bâton manipulators; and My Lady Dainty is a neat comedienne and dancer. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is good, as usual.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Fred S. Peake and company in the dramatic episode *The Hypocrite* are highly successful here this week, the sketch being exceedingly well done; Lily Hayes is a charming juvenile comedienne and dancer; Leo Trainer, comedian, is warmly applauded; Beau and Belle in a neat song-scena are a great success; A Ba-Be's picture post-card album shows some pretty poses; the Colonials, including James Grant, the Scotch comedian, are pleasing in a musical comedy scena, *Unexpected Guests*; the Three Behans are seen in a smart quick-change act; Maxford and O'Neill have some very amusing patter; Herr Karoly Czynsky plays cleverly on several musical instruments; and Barfoot and Carson, comedians, are good. Bioscope pictures complete.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Day.—Arthur Rigby, strongly supported, is to the front here this week in that delightful Eastern pocket comic opera *The Isle of Ooma*, which is excellently presented on a lavish scale; the Onlaw Trio are exceptionally clever in their Parisian wire act; Zeta Grey and Wal Grace in musical comedy act, *The Lancashire Lass*, make a hit; and Edwin Adeler, a capital comedian, is deservedly well received. The Sisters Valli are seen to advantage in pleasing musical dancing act; Mi Narom is good in comedy; Radie Furman is good as a jolly little Dutch girl; and the Miners' Quartette, including Billy Dewey, are capital vocalists. And Then There was a Row is the Bioscope subject, which is very funny.

Rusholme Pavilion.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie.—A capital programme here this week includes Fred Carlton in banjo tit-bits; Bruce Green, comedian; Bill Bailey at the piano; Cecilia Gold, comedienne; Andy Drew, comedienne; Iris Banfield, comedienne; Leonard Slater, tenor vocalist; Walter Barrett, baritone vocalist; and Jack Waller in chaarcter sketches, all of whom do well.

MANSFIELD.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Captain Clayton. — *The Still Alarm* is presented here this week. Mr. Gerald Kennedy's impersonation of John Bird is excellent; and Mr. Matthew H. Glenville acts in fine style as Jack Manley. The important part of Doc Wilber is effectively performed by Mr. Fred Osmond; and Mr. Lewis Gordon as Franklin Fordham and Mr. J. Sutton Pateman as Joe Jones are capital. Miss Mabel Veriton as Mrs. Manley makes an excellent mother; Elinor Fordham is charmingly portrayed by Miss Beatrice Shirley; and Miss Hettie Zilwood makes herself a warm favourite in the part of Carrie Wilber.

MARGATE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Kenne.—The T. Edward Ward company has been playing *The Love of a Princess* this week, in which Miss Ward perfectly impersonates the Princess Idalia; Josef, King of Ilarnia, is admirably portrayed by Mr. Ernest Ross; Lieut. Orlans is played with forcefulness and resource by Mr. Beckett Bould; Mr. Wilson Coleman makes an ideal hero; and Mr. Ernest Imeson plays the villain, Count Danillo, capably; Mr. George Antley as his accomplice being equally good. Mr. Antley and Miss Nellie Garside as Lady Irene Ramona are responsible for some comedy relief and amusing interludes.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—*St. George and the Dragon*, Messrs. Ginnett and Pink's spectacular sketch, which heads the bill this week, is admirably played. Bessie Slaughter, contralto, has had enthusiastic receptions; and Ross and Grayson, comedy artists, are excellent, their trick piano playing being clever as well as amusing. Alice Maydue, character comedienne, Rosalie Jacobi, comedienne, and Jack Binns, comedian, all contribute acceptable turns. The Bioscope pictures are funny.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*Diana of Dobson's*, presented by Miss Lena Ashwell's company, is here this week. Miss Dorothy Green gives an excellent impersonation of Diana; Captain Bretherton is characteristically played by Mr. H. Grendon Bentley; Mr. Alfred Harris is an able Sir Jabez Grinlay; and Miss Georgette de Serville as Mrs. White-Fraser and Miss Mary Stuart as Mrs. Cantelupe both deserve praise.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The following make up a good programme here this week:—Colin Bryce and company in *Are You a Socialist?* Bennett and Martell as the shipwrecked mariners; Harry Leaton, vocalist; Emson Girls, duettists and dancers; Phern and Phern, musical experts; Mlle. Pollo, aerial artist; Flo Melville, comedienne; and Drum and Major, comedians.

METHIL.—Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—On Monday a good house was favourably impressed by Mr. C. Watson Mill's drama *A Wrecker of Men*, presented by a company under the direction of Mr. Thompson Carruthers. Miss Florence Melrose Millet displayed considerable dramatic power in her delineation of Risca Mallinson; Doris Melville was feelingly played by Miss Gwendoline Talbot; the part of Pharosaphus, the Egyptian, was excellently rendered by Mr. Milner Noble; Mr. Arthur Robinson played earnestly as Guise Strange; Mr. Millar Willson as the Hon. Reggie Verincourt thoroughly deserved his success; Railton was capably portrayed by Mr. J. Ansdell Wilson; Messrs. Chas. E. Lovell and Thompson Carruthers were capital as Ezekiel Isaacs and Eric Melville respectively; Mr. Eric Campbell as Jim Murley showed strength and sincerity; and Miss Beatrice Reynolds was amusing as Vavasole Slopper.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is this week presenting *At Cripple Creek*. Mr. Henry Hare plays with histrionic skill in the rôle of Joe Mayfield; Miss Constance Elgin is an admirable and winning figure as Dynamite Ann; Mr. Charles E. Johnson gives a vigorous interpretation of the character of Martin Mason; the bully Manuel Alvarez has an able exponent in Mr. Roy Jackson; Mr. Reginald Harley-West gives a capital portraiture of the faithful Indian Wabketah; little Rosy Hopkins is a charming Little Yallo; Maggie Mason is capitally interpreted by Miss Daisy Carlton; and Miss Lily Beagle is a pleasing Belle Gordon.

New Picture Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—Among a capital series of animated pictures shown here this week are two

Why Tire your fingers in the effort to get a copy with carbon

beautiful coloured pictures Dancers of All Nations and Japanese Butterflies. Other capital films are: Thief at the Casino, Clog-making in Britanny, An Error of Justice, The Chauffeur's Dream, and A Poor Officer.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Edward Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy and his company occupy the boards here this week in the domestic drama *The World and the Woman*. The piece is admirably staged and the dresses are all that can be desired. Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy charmed all by her effective impersonation of Nelly, and her acting was most convincing; in the hands of Mr. J. Rice Cassidy the part of Terry O'Harris, an honest thief, is well placed, and he acquits himself with credit; Mr. George H. Doyle is very effective as Arthur Burleigh, and Mr. George Frere plays the part of Ludlow Burleigh to perfection; Mr. Harry Holroyd as Tut Harding, Miss Amy McNeil as Lady Chambers, and Miss Vera Hern as Gwendoline are all that can be desired.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Mr. Frank Carson's company is this week presenting *My Mimosa Maid* for the first time in Middlesbrough. On Monday night a large audience gave Miss Marie Studholme, who appears in the title-rôle, a great reception. Miss Marie Studholme gives a delightful impersonation, and although it does not give her a great deal of scope, she has some charming songs. A great amount of the success of the piece is due to Mr. Charles McNaughton as the sweep. He is irresistibly funny, and he is the life and soul of the play. Mr. McNaughton is ably seconded by Master Archie McCrag, who simply delights the audience with his impersonation of Bock, the sweep's assistant; Mr. Chas. E. Paton is also very amusing; Mr. Percy Carr has a splendid voice, which he uses to great advantage as the café proprietor; Mr. Elliot Skinner does well as Boss; and Miss Mabel Hirst as Popitte and Miss May Garstaing as Mme. Pilaine are very pleasing. The piece is nicely staged.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's company provide an enjoyable sentimental sketch here this week entitled *The Sundowner*. Barton and Franklin give a very clever musical turn; Tom Leamore and Walter King, comedians, keep the house in much merriment; Flo Deighton is an excellent vocalist; and other items are given by Howe and Ardie, acrobats and gymnasts; Victor Courtney, comedian; Rell and Butt, comedians; and Lumley and Freda Ettrick in a comedy skit *Jimmy All-of-a-Twist*.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—R. W. Moran and company in their electric transformation scene are the chief attraction here this week. Enzer, the soldier juggler, gives a capital display; Mr. Walter Curtis gives an amusing entertainment; a sensational feat on a tight wire is performed by Albas; and other turns are given by Clarke's Nippers, the Sisters Casseli, Harry Monte, and Marie Glenn.

OXFORD.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf. Graham; Manager, Mr. R. L. Griffiths.—F. V. St. Clair, an excellent vocalist, pays a return visit here this week; Deane Tribune, a comedian of exceptional ability, is appearing in a screaming farce entitled *Applicants*; Tiny Arnold is very clever; and Marshall and Wright are a pair of smart dancers. The Counters, duettists; Fox and Melville, vocalists, and May de Rowse, vocalist, complete the programme.

MORECAMBE.—ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Lieut. Julian Malvern; General-Manager, Mr. Chas. M. Julian.—Mr. Ed. Marris's company has been appearing this week with success in the popular musical play *The Dandy Doctor*, the company including Miss Florence Smithers as Jane, "the general." Miss Smithers gives a most amusing delineation of the typical stage domestic, and she is heartily applauded for all she does. Her Gibson girl burlesque is exceptionally funny. Mr. George Brentwood is capital as the American millionaire; and Mr. Herbert Pearce succeeds as the retired Army man with a *penchant* for tasty femininity. Ivy Pendred, his daughter, is sustained by Miss Mollie Wynne, whose dancing is very graceful. Mr. B. Williams as the Dandy Doctor and Mr. A. L. Martins as Bertie, the dude, have parts of which they make the most. The chorus is good, and Lottie Stone's dancers contribute considerably to the success of the production.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is filling a week here in *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*. Mr. Fred W. Goddard is a manly and convincing Jack Marshall; and Mr. Paul Barry Lewers does excellently in the somewhat unsavoury rôle of Lenord Kenyon. Miss Louise Hampton gives a strong emotional rendering of the title-rôle; and Miss Lulu Bowes is bright and ingenuous as Winnie Marshall. Val Raymond has an excellent exponent in Miss Georgie de Lara; and Mr. Herbert Goddard is good as the old brewer. There is an abundance of comedy element, in which various members of the company, notably Mr. Francis Hope and Miss Alys Eden, shine. The scenery and effects are on a par with the usual Melville productions.

MUSSELBURGH.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. M. Richardson.—This week Mr. Kingston presents Mr. Coleman Davies and company in a series of plays. On Monday *Beneath the Stars*, a drama by Brandon Ellis, was played before a good house. Mr. Hugh Macdonald in the part of the hero, Stephen Harcourt, gave a strong and forcible impersonation; as the villainous Major Blonson Mr. Terry Davies played with power and finish, being ably assisted by Mr. Arthur Prescott as Silas; Mr. Harry Reynolds, first as Farmer Marsden and afterwards as Lord Sylvester, submitted a powerful delineation of both characters; Mr. Coleman Davies himself in the rôle of Jemmy Hopblossom, the Lancashire lad, caused much amusement; Miss Gladys Vane as Angel Marsden played with much feeling.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—A company of undoubted merit and versatility constitutes the programme this week, and the large audiences are delighted with the whole performance. Mlle. Mattie Lund is a beautifully clear and cultured vocalist; the Four Cecilians sing, dance, and play instruments cleverly; whilst Mr. H. Vernon Harcourt, an excellent actor and impersonator, the Monckton, smart sketch actors, Tennis and Laune, dainty lady singers and dancers, Mr. Arthur Harris, vocalist, and the animated pictures are all first class and receive loud applause.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton.—The last week of the season is announced, and that very clever entertainer, Mr. Leslie Harris, is engaged, and this gentleman is giving keen delight to the pier patrons. Miss Emilie Tait, vocalist, Mr. Jack Hylton, comedian, and Mr. J. A. Tunbridge, accompanist, assist in the evening's entertainment. During October and November Saturday evening performances only will be given in the Pier Pavilion.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—The captivating Western drama *A White Man* made its first appearance on Tyneside on Monday, and was accorded a great reception. Mr. Herbert Sleath as Jim Carston has a part in which he has ample scope to display his undoubted ability, and his very powerful acting received just appreciation; the Earl of Kerhill is capably enacted by Mr. Harold Weston; there is an agreeable breeziness in Mr. George Fawcett's Big Bill, the American ranch foreman; and Mr. Menifee Johnstone plays to the life the blustering Cash Hawkins. Miss Enid Sass renders the part of the Countess of Kerhill in an effective manner; Miss Rhoda Ray gives a clever study of that pathetic figure, the Indian girl; and the Dowager Lady Kerhill is well depicted by Miss Emma Gwynne.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The Moody-Manners Company opened a week's engagement on Monday with *Faust* to a large and fashionable audience. Gounod's fine music has seldom been heard to greater advantage, and great credit is due to Signor Romualdo Sapio, the conductor. Mr. Seth Hughes is entrusted with the title-rôle, and he effectively fulfilled the requirements of the part; Mme. de Vere Sapio made a charming Marguerita, and her rendering of the Jewel Song received an enthusiastic encore; Mr. Charles Manners as Mephistopheles was as convincing as ever, his singing being warmly applauded; Mr. Lewys James gave an excellent account of the part of Valentine; Miss Toni Seiter made a graceful and clever Siebel; and Mr. D. Gulland and Miss A. Worth proved capable as Wagner and Martha respectively. Other operas billed are *Tännhauser, Carmen, The Bohemian Girl, Madame Butterfly*, and *Il Trovatore*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company in the sensational play *The Lancashire Lad* is drawing good houses. Mr. Alec Alexander gives a powerful portrayal of David Elmore, and as the unscrupulous Max Carton Mr. T. G. Vane scores. Mr. Percy Maitland acts finely in the part of Jim Wincote; Mr. Bob Anderson imparts much humour into the character of John Willie Wardle; Miss Stanley Burt gives an admirable impersonation of Jessie Wincote; Miss Nell Oilver does well as Lorna Wincote; Miss Maudie Grayson merits praise as Kitty de Vere; and Mr. George Watson, Mr. G. Dudeney, Mr. Will Brereton, and Miss Jennie Hallworth all give prominent support. The play is excellently staged.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—*A Desperate Marriage* is presented here this week by Mr. F. Mouillot's company, and is proving a great attraction. All the characters are capably played, special mention being due to Mr. J. Knox Ord and Miss Winifred White.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—An interesting programme is presented here this week, the chief attraction being Horace Goldin, the clever illusionist, assisted by Jeanne Fransioli, who exhibits several very smart cabinet and box tricks and other illusions. Olga and Elgar, refined lady musicians, contribute a pleasing turn of singing and music; breezy comedy is supplied by Phil and Nettie Peters; and Daly and O'Brien are very funny in an eccentric dancing act. Rosa Loader, "the happy slavey at the piano," accompanies herself in some amusing medleys; and Mena Brae proves acceptable in a Dutch song. Happy Tom Parker, a lively comedian, keeps the house in good humour; Ouida MacDermott, in a dramatic composition, entitled *Red Wing*, makes a favourable impression; and the Bioscope completes.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Lafayette is here for the first time, and is proving a great attraction. Other artists figuring in an interesting bill are the Three Braggs, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Hall and Hall, Fioretti and Elly, H. C. Lovell and company, and Billy Downes, the Barrascope completing.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company plays *The Beloved Vagabond* here this week to good houses. Mr. Arthur Royston's Gaston de Nerac is a fine piece of romantic acting; Miss Kathleen Harrington as Joanna acts with sympathy and charm; and Miss Nita Faydon's Blanquette has the required intensity and force. Mr. Warburton Gamble did well as the cynical Comte; Mr. Ramsay Macbeth was successful in the part of Asticot; and special praise is due to Miss Hetty Kenyon for her charming presentation of the small part of the child, Louisette.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—A demonstration of up-to-date electrical appliances in the mystifying spectacle *Greater London* is much appreciated here; Percy Honri, concertina soloist, is heard to advantage in the overture to *Maritana;* Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing mill girl, wins applause; Millie Payne is distinctly original in a couple of humorous songs; the Hartley Wonders are both daring and clever; and Miss Dolly Elsworthy's dramatic fragment *Sweet Mistress Dorothy*, Billy Williams, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

NORTHAMPTON.—NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans.—The Six Brothers Luck presented two of their well-known pantomimic sketches on Monday, when both houses were crammed. *The Hotel Grande* and *The Demon of the Cellar* were both received with special favour. Wyndham and Kitty provided a sensational wire act, which was loudly applauded; Gala and Norris, in their musical duologue *Down South*, pleased greatly with their coon duet and dance; Hayes and Merritt earned applause for their smart work on the trampoline; May Fairclough gave the potion speech of Juliet with effect; Frances Lyric, comedienne, and J. P. Ford also appeared. The Palace pictures completed the lengthy programme.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—*Sexton Blake* pays its first visit here this week and has been heartily greeted by large audiences. In the title-rôle Mr. Horace Hunter is highly popular, his excellent acting being greatly appreciated; much success also attends the efforts of Mr. William Felton as Roger Blackburn. Mr. Charles East gives a capital rendering of Randolph Lovell; Mr. Billie Ross scores throughout as Tinker; Mr. Algernon Syms gives a convincing study of the Rev. Edward Grey; and Mr. John M. East is well placed as Simon Faggs. As Marjorie Lovell Miss Lily Hammersley is to be congratulated upon her delineation of the character; and Miss East Robertson creates a good impression as Philadelphia Kate.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Miss Daisie Morrell, the popular comedienne, holds premier position here, and her various songs are rendered in capital style; Mr. Alf Wellesley, assisted by Miss Beatrice Webb and Mr. Frank Harris, in *Uncle's Courtship*, are heartily received; and Zeno Zedora, equilibrist and hand jumper, is very smart. Mr. Willie Wylie, tramp musician, causes much hearty laughter; Misses Bertha St. Ruth and Cissie Conyers, operatic and descriptive vocalists, are well received; the Hamiltons, comedians and dancers, have made a hit; and the Mouldoscope interests with The Cowboy Baronet and The Man and the Latchkey.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—An excellent house witnessed the performance of *Napoleon's Divorce*, a romantic drama well presented by Messrs. Neville and Carnaby's company. As Napoleon Mr. F. H. Neville looked the part to the life and acted capably; Miss Kate Randolph in the trying rôle of Josephine gave a talented reading throughout; Mr. John Seddon as Colonel d'Arville played with dramatic force; Joseph Bonaparte received full justice from Mr. Alf Russell; Miss Veronica Clinton was a capable exponent of Marie Louise; and the remainder of the parts were ably played. The piece is well staged.

PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—Mr. Will Owen convulses the house with his quaint patter, and is repeatedly recalled for his songs; Baby Renshaw, a tiny maid of eleven, acquits herself well, and her dancing and singing bring down the house; Mr. Blanco White, an old favourite, has lost none of his skill in dancing; Mr. Geo. Griffan adds to the humour of the evening with his songs and jokes; Miss Nellie Ford dances and sings daintily; Bland and Emilie are clever dancers and vocalists; the Bodens receive well-earned applause; and Ruffell's Bioscope continues to occupy a prominent place on the programme.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—A capital company in *Sherlock Holmes* occupies this place this week. Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart plays the title-rôle with a keen perception of character; Miss Betty Fairfax is an admirable Alice Faulkner; Miss Edith Vogue a capable Madge Larrabee; Mr. Robert Gilbert an excellent Professor Moriarty; and Mr. Walter A. Cheetham as Fooman, Mr. Mark D. Draper as James Larrabee, Mr. Douglas Murray as Sydney Price, Mr. F. C. Berridge as Jim, and Master Thomas Russell as Billy adequately act their several parts.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Lockhart's Elephants, introduced by Capt. Joe Taylor, are here this week; Alexandra Dagmar, in her songs, patter, and appearance is a great success; Marguerite Ismay and her white coons are an interesting turn; Charles Dixton's company is humorous in the funny sketch *Uncle Obadiah*; the Lavelle Brothers are capital acrobats; Ruhart, assisted by La Belle Rosalind, is amusing in novel tricks; Joe Archer is a favourite comedian; and Louis Verno, coon impersonator, is a good dancer. The Hippo Bio is attractive.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Sins of Society* is being presented by Mr. F. W. Bolmann's company. Miss Grace E. Leslie finely portrays the trials and troubles of Lady Marion, awakening instant sympathy for this erring character; Mr. C. F. Collings as Noel Ferrers makes a thoroughly conventional scoundrel, playing with an easy nonchalance that commands praise; a delightful Lady Goldbury is seen in Miss Pattie Brown, whose impersonation of the warm-hearted friend of Marion evokes constant expressions of approval; Miss Dorothy Giles is a fresh and engaging Gwendolen; and Mr. E. Vassal Vaughan supplies a clever study of Dorien March. Mr. Blake Adams revels in the part of James Hogg, which he plays with the requisite amount of humour; Mr. Frederick Annerley as Morris, Miss Janet Hodson as the Duchess, and Miss Mabel Murray as Mrs. Murgatroyd add their quota to a thoroughly efficient performance.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company is here in *With Edged Tools*. Mr. William F. Grant adds another artistic success to his many former ones in the part of Jack Meredith, and proves once more his versatile adaptability; Mr. J. A. Rosier is well suited to the part of Sir John Meredith; and a very manly Guy Oscard is found in the person of Mr. C. Hartopp. Miss Marie Leonhard is good as Millicent; a very sweet representation of Jocelyn is given by Miss Phyllis Relph; whilst the restrained manner of Miss Isabel Grey as Lady Cantourne is commendable. In the exacting rôle of Victor Durnovo Mr. Campbell Goldsmid is seen to great advantage; Miss Frances Wolviston must be congratulated on her acting as Marie; and to complete the cast there are some very capable artists.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The visit of Miss Evie Greene this week has given a real musical treat to patrons here, her cultured vocalism and charming personality winning a warm and enthusiastic reception; Bellonini accomplishes his jugglery feats with a neatness and finish that bring forth frequent applause; and the performance of McCann's Irish Terriers is a striking example of patience and careful training. Gertie Gitana sings and dances with characteristic vivacity; and the comicalities of Harry Grey keep the audience in the best of humours. The Cavalloti Brothers supply an interesting instrumental item; and a resourceful comedian is found in Fred Keeton. Olive Armidale sings in pleasing manner; C. J. Johnson shows the latest thing in cake walks; and the Bioscope films complete an interesting programme.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell. — The great attraction here is Georges Hackenschmidt, and delighted audiences have watched the noted wrestler as his different opponents succumb to his greater experience and strength; the difficult tumbling feats of the Pasquali Brothers evoke applause; the musical contribution of Mlle. Renée calls for hearty praise; and Haley's Juveniles prove themselves clever and entertaining children. An item of exceptional interest is given by Jan Rudenyi, whose brilliant powers as a violinist evoke a storm of enthusiastic plaudits. Thomas and Taylor contribute an amusing sketch entitled *Fun on the Midland;* and Nathalia and Diana supply some excellent gymnastic feats in the air. Fred Land and Ryder Slone add to the fun; and capital pictures are shown on the Barrascope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. Bulmer's company is presenting to good houses *The Girl Who Went Astray*. The leading characters are capably portrayed by Mr. John B. Shinton, Miss Gwynne Warren, and Miss Ada M. Ryder.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—*The Girl Behind the Counter* is being played by Mr. F. Mouillot's company. Mr. Kennedy Allen as General Willoughby makes the most of his opportunities, and causes much amusement, in which he is ably assisted by Mons. Claude Dampier as Mons. Duval. Miss Ida Stratham plays the part of Winnie Willoughby in fine style, her singing being excellent, and she also joins in some well-sung duets with Mr. Sam Lockridge in the well-acted rôle of Charles Chetwyn. Miss Winifred Knightly is a dignified Lady Willoughby; Miss Irene Vere is very smart at Millie Mostyn; Miss Irene Lavington is capital as Susie; and Miss Eileen Clanford does well as Ninette. Mr. Ferris Pounds is excellent as Viscount Cushington; Mr. Geoffrey Allsopp is a smart Rudolph; Mr. F. Park also makes a good Adolphus; and Messrs. A. M. Moore and W. Amery are very amusing as waiters. A full chorus contributes ably to the success of the comedy under the able bâton of Mr. W. D. J. Damant.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. Walter Melville's company opened here on Monday with *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*. Mr. F. Ronald Adair acts the part of Willie Mason in a manly fashion; Miss Jessie Belmore is seen as Sophie Coventry, and creates a good impression; Miss Zoe Davis as Lucy is equally successful; Miss Nannie Meade as Vesta Le Clere ably sustains that character, and along with Mr. Raymond Wood as James Harcourt is responsible for much crime; Mr. Sydney Sarl is very good as Bill Slater; and Mr. F. R. Robertson is also commendable as Jack Fenton. Miss Marie Kildare as Poppy Slater and Mr. F. Ingram as Johnny Walker cause roars of laughter by their capital comedy. The remaining characters are in capable hands, and the drama is well mounted and dressed.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Arthur Roberts and company head the bill in *Till Sunday*, and the sketch is much enjoyed. Miss May Mars in her song-scena proves most popular; the Royal Delomes have a smart and novel dancing act, which takes well; Lallie Brooke sings her numbers in a delightful manner; Derenda and Green are a smart couple of juggling comedians; Jessie Brooke sings and dances in a very clever manner; E. Ford as a facial mimic contrives to get a large amount of applause; and the Attilas are marvellous equilibrists on the swinging trapeze.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Dusty Rhodes proves a capital vocalist and comedian; Spangles and Sawdust are clever in a comedy stage and aerial act; Rousby and Réne are very good in a study of Lancashire life; Ida Ross is a dainty comedienne; Irene and Morton are smart in a comedy and dancing act; the Sisters Lavender are clever comediennes and smart dancers; Starr and Jerome introduce some capital singing and dancing; and the Dottoscope exhibits an interesting picture.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—An attractive vaudeville programme is provided here this week by the management, including some good animated pictures on popular subjects, which are cleverly manipulated by Mr. Frank Stuart. Other items include Laffan B. Jolly, laughing comedian; Belsey and Hughes, in the sketch *Bottled;* and Eddie Clay, comedy musician, who has a very enthusiastic reception. Percy Victor's dog minstrels give an intelligent and clever performance; and Empress, the lady Houdini, gives an effective exhibition of her powers.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*A Royal Divorce* is here this week, Mr. W. W. Kelly's company being piloted by Mr. J. L. Barry. A highly emotional rendering of the unfortunate Josephine is given by Miss Margaret Watson, and both she and Mr. Keith Fraser as Napoleon score a big success in the leading rôles; Mr. Percy H. Vernon gives an admirable reading as Talleyrand; and as the Marquis de Beaumont Mr. Stanley Harrison is reliable and convincing; Mr. Walter T. Clifford as General Augereau gives a finished piece of acting; Mr. Harold S. Standing is responsible for a first-class Marshal Murat; and Mr. George Hudson acts with ability the part of Grimaud. Miss Maud Lacy gives an exquisite rendering of the part of Stephanie; Marie Louise is capitally represented by Miss Winnie Tempest; and Miss Ethel Love plays intelligently as the Little King of Rome. Clever assumptions are also rendered by Messrs. C. Jackson and Rex Lowrey, and Misses Nellie Lucas, Violet Hudson, Loyale Frere, Marie Johns, and Helen Meadows.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead. — The musical comedy sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, is proving a capital top-liner here this week, Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and company winning hearty and unstinted applause; Arnold Richardson, A. Gordon Laws, and Ethel Lonsdale, in their clever and amusing comedy sketch, *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, provoke roars of laughter; Blarney and Kennard are versatile comedians, and they introduce their waltzing dogs to advantage; a smart comedienne and expert dancer is Kitty Colyer; J. B. Preston, Scotch comedian, is as funny and entertaining as ever; Fraser and French provide much entertainment as American rag-time vocalists and dancers; the Arleys submit a refined pot-pourri act, in which they are assisted by their acrobatic trick-cycling dogs; Clarice Sefton, comedienne and dancer, wins approval; and the Bioscope continues to interest and entertain.

TOWN HALL. — Proprietors, the Magistrates and Council. — Mr. J. M. Hamilton, the well-known Scottish tenor vocalist, visited here with his company on Saturday evening. He was in excellent voice, and had a flattering reception. The others of the company included Miss Maggie Robertson, contralto vocalist; J. A. Cassells, Scotch comedian; William Menzies, conjurer and mystifier; Alf. Walker, coon comedian and dancer; Flora McDonald, vocalist and dancer; and Chorley and Connor, comedians, patterers, and dancers.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—At the head of the monster programme here are Clive and Clark, lightning dancers; the Three Rubys, lady contortionists and acrobats, are cordially received; physical culture and muscular development are personified in Oscardo and Albert; the Bros. Attila, in graceful feats of skill and strength, fully maintain their reputation; Newco and Sullo are exceedingly smart in their dances; the Two Madges earn well-deserved praise for their mimicry; a clever musical turn is contributed by Hewson's Æolians; Johnson and De Vere are responsible for a sensational wire trick cycling act; and Matthews and Brown, coloured eccentrics; Harry Tomlin, versatile vocalist, and the Tivoliscope conclude.

PENZANCE.—ST. JOHN'S HALL.—Mr. F. R. Benson's South company is here this week. *The Merry Wives of Windsor, She Stoops to Conquer, Julius Cæsar*, and *The Merchant of Venice* constituted the bill-of-fare. Miss Mary Webb and Mr. Ross Shore divided honours in the leading parts of each production, and were ably seconded by Miss Rosa Burgess, Miss Regina Lawrence, and Miss Agnes Ray. Mr. Charles Warburton is an exceptionally clever juvenile lead; and Mr. Burgess Barratt, who combines the arduous duties of stage-management with character parts, plays with artistic ability. The various name-rôles found thoroughly experienced exponents in Messrs. John Cairns, Victor Hardy, Herbert Lester, and Frank Weir. The company is being toured under the business-management of Mr. Vivian Aldridge.

PETERBOROUGH.—NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—A capital programme is presented here. It includes Atlas and Vulcana, society athletes; Dorothy Sephton, comedienne and vocalist; Lloyd Morgan, the popular light comedian; the Tossing Austins, in comedy juggling and dancing extraordinary; Lauri Wylie's Mimicking Mannikins; George Campbell, comedian; and Eardley Turner and company, in the farce *Doctored!*

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*When Knights Were Bold* returns to the Royal after a comparative short absence. Mr. Henry J. Ford as the gallant Sir Guy de Vere treats his audience to some capital fooling, particularly in the second act; Mr. W. Lockhart furnishes a clever character-study of the Rev. Peter Pottleberry; Mr. Geo. Rowlands admirably fits the part of Sir Brian; the absurdities of the Hon. Chas. Widdecombe, played by Mr. Cecil Clayton, who also supplies the only vocal number, are much enjoyed; the parts of Wittle and Barker are excellently portrayed by Messrs. J. Homewood and R. Hunter respectively; as Lady Rowena, Miss Bruce-Joy is graceful and dignified; and Miss Violet Graham is delightfully girlish as Lady Millicent.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—*The Singing Servants*, an operatic burlesque, presented by Mr. Joe Peterman's company, is the principal attraction here. Miss Nellie Hewett extracts some delightful melody from hand and sleigh bells; Miss Elsie May furnishes a smart exhibition of club manipulation; Farr and Farland, banjoists, have some amusing patter; Hal Forde is loudly encored; Webb and Edna Branson maintain their popularity as ballad singers; and Clack and Clack have an amusing acrobatic pot-pourri. Cromo and Hamilton furnish the remaining number of an interesting bill.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Wentworth Croke is presenting here the new version of *The Christian*. A successful portrayal of the Hon. John Strong is given by Mr. Roy Redgrave; Mr. Wilfred Noy as Horatio Drake is convincing; Lord Robert Ure is well sustained by Mr. Herbert Hewetson; Father Lamplugh is powerfully taken by Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn; Mr. John J. Hooker is amusing as Archdeacon Wealthy; Miss Molly Hayden plays naturally and with consistency as Mrs. Callender; Miss Cora Deane as Polly Love is sympathetic; Miss Florence Hunt cleverly impersonates Black Meg; and Miss Daisy Scudamore depicts the ever-varying emotional part of Glory Quayle with great success.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*Two Little Sailor Boys* is being played here by Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company. Miss Blanche Steele's impersonation of Lola Grey is most thrilling; Noel Tregarthen is well taken by Mr. H. E. Herbert; Lieut. Richard Redstone is a natural and most effective villain in the hands of Mr. Horace Booth; Admiral Grey is capably played by Mr. C. W. Spencer; Mr. Sidney Fiennes makes an excellent burglar; Miss Muriel Dean is praiseworthy as Mildred Grey; and the Two Little Sailor Boys find efficient representatives in Miss Effie Crawford as Cyril Grey and Miss Ivy Millais as Tom Yorke.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—A programme of great variety is presented here this week. The Brooklands, comedians and dancers, are taking in their style; Leonard Barry, the popular vocal comedian, in his new song scena, "Weary Willies," is excellent; Mlle. Leonie de Lausanne and company submit a clever act of rapid rifle marksmanship; Picitt and Lizette, in the magical extravaganza *The Crazy Cook* are brisk and highly amusing; Harry Friskney is a comic sleight-of-hand expert; Fred Edwards and company, in *Kleptomaniacs*, give a capital sketch; Joe Conway, comedian, and Miss Maud Dennis also entertain; the Animated Pictures conclude.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Miss Agnes Molteno and company are here in a well-presented scena, with living tableaux, entitled *A Dolly and a Coach*, which meets with cordial approval; Ruby Bijou is a barefoot dancer of much versatility; Dorothy L. Clark has a sympathetic voice; Bonnetti and Corrie are diverting jugglers; the Two Anartos are clever and amusing cross-talkers; Bert Lytton, the swell comique, has excellent songs; the Three Sisters Sprightly are a versatile trio; Frank Long and Omoya San, in an interesting act, give a capital exposition of the art of ju-jitsu wrestling; and Payne's Bioscope, with new pictures, is another attraction.

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HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Colonel Roberts, V.D.—Mr. Fred Karno's company is here this week in *Saturday to Monday*. Mr. C. Emlyn Jones, actor-vocalist, and the Daughters of Britain sing prettily, and please much; Mr. Chas. Deane, singer of rollicking songs, is well received; Miss Leah Arden, vocal comedienne, has popular songs; Mr. Frank Fenton, in his impersonations of David Garrick, supported by his company, gains abundant applause; Mr. Mack Ollive has a whistling scena that is well presented; Mr. Tom Stuart is a capable character actor; Hayman and Franklin contribute a bright and smart item, *A Matrimonial Agency*. Entertaining Hippo. Pictures conclude.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—*Amasis*, presented by Messrs. Jose and Young's excellent company, opened on Monday to a very full house. Mr. W. H. Denny as Pharaoh overflowed with humour; Mr. Edward McKeon, who has a fine stage presence and an excellent voice, was seen and heard to much advantage as Prince Anotep; Mr. Arthur Stroud as Cheiro was also loudly applauded, and had to respond to a vociferous encore for his well-rendered tenor solos; Nebeuchairi was in the hands of Mr. Fred Hudson, whose vocalisation was good; Mr. Fred Atree as Ptolemy convulsed the audience with his dry drollery; and Mr. Walter D. Brodie's subtle humour as Sebak was quite contagious. Mr. Frank Wood was a remarkably fine-looking Psamtik, and rendered the solos allotted to him excellently; Miss Mabel Burnege was a prepossessing Natis, with a full, clear voice, which she used to advantage. Much praise is due to Miss Lillian Lane, who, owing to the sudden indisposition of Miss Winifred O'Connor, took the part of Amasis at practically a moment's notice, and achieved an immediate success both in acting and singing. On Tuesday and during the week the rôle of Amasis has been essayed by Miss Doris Cameron (a daughter of the famous Violet Cameron). She possesses a beautiful voice and a charming personality, and won round upon round of applause. Misses Nellie Wallace and Lily Leverne were noticeable as the fan-bearers Anna and Queresa; while Misses Lovett, Carlisle, Voile, and Cameron, as Atossa, Ladice, Kleiss, and Ranofre were winsome in their respective parts. The chorus is powerful, and the dresses and mounting admirable. Miss Mabel Lovett is the principal dancer, and the play is produced by Mr. Cairns James, who is to be congratulated on such an ensemble.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Percy Norman's company in the drama *A Woman Worth Winning* is doing good business here this week. Mr. Sidney Barton is an imposing Czar Nicholas; Mr. Gilbert Standing gives a powerful presentation of Amos Pauloff; Mr. A. B. Mackay as the unprincipled General Borinski is successful; Mr. Louis Newman as Bertie Scribbles causes much laughter, and is responsible for the comedy element in conjunction with Mr. Ernest Kendrick as Peter Popples and Miss Ida Mackey as Katerina Kloss. Miss Chrissie Dunbar in the trying part of Roma Pauloff has the full sympathy of the audience, and wins much applause; Miss Trixie Leighton is also deserving of much praise for her rendering of the character of Lola Kalnovsky; the rest of the cast is in very capable hands and the mounting of the play is good.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Miss Florrie Gallimore has a hearty reception, and the way the choruses are taken up by the audience is sufficient evidence of their popularity; the Waldrons are also favourites, and succeed in raising hearty laughter with their comical absurdity *The Silly Burglar;* Gillin is a ventriloquial humorist with an original style; the Milstead-Bell Trio, including Emmie and Mabel Milstead and Joe Bell, prove themselves clever comedy artists and dancers in their comedietta *Three Sharps in a Flat*, which is well received; Ada Parker is a sprightly comedienne and dancer who gives a very pleasing turn; Hearne and Palmer, in their acrobatic act, present some very clever feats of tumbling and balancing; Carney Bros., in their vocal scena *Brothers*, bring out their musical and dramatic powers with gratifying results; A. E. Clifford gives some catchy songs, which are well rendered; Edwin Garth as the Quaint Dame causes roars of laughter; and The Baron's Crime on the Bioscope concludes a capital show.

PUBLIC HALL.—Hamilton's Excursions are still drawing good houses. The variety turns remain the same as last week, while several changes are given in the scenery and the Eragraph pictures. Mr. Claude Howell makes an ideal conductor, his lecture being most instructive.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—*For Her Husband's Sake* is ably produced by Miss Mabel Mannering's company. Miss Mannering has an attractive and interesting part in Estelle Beaudet, a French lady, and makes her an interesting personage. Mr. Robt. Faulkner acts well as the hero, Lieut. Seymour; Mr. Herbert Grey is an effective villain; and Miss Lloyd as Eileen Silas acts effectively.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—Fine fare has been put on at the Royal Victoria Theatre this week, Mr. Leigh Lovel, Miss Octavia Kenmore, and a talented company having appeared in a répertoire of Ibsen's plays. On Monday night *Hedda Gabler* filled the bill, Miss Kenmore proving herself an actress of exceptional ability as Hedda, and Mr. Lovel playing with excellent effect as Ejlert Lovborg. On Tuesday *A Doll's House* was staged,with Mr. Lovel as Torvald Helmer and Miss Kenmore as Nora Helmer. On Wednesday *Hedda Gabler* was again staged, and for the remainder of the week the programme was: Thursday, *The Master Builder;* Friday, *Romersholm;* Saturday, *A Doll's House*.

MARINA THEATRE.—Here the animated pictures are proving as popular as ever, and the artists engaged this week have had cordial receptions at the twice-nightly houses. The Marina management have evidently struck the public fancy.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—Mr. Horace Stanley's company occupied the boards of the Palace Theatre on the first three evenings of the week in the sensational drama *Guilty Gold*. Mr. T. Arthur Plummer made a successful appearance as Harold Elmore; Mr. Alaric Burton did well as the hypocrite Uriah Fudge; Mr. Fred Wilberforce supplied the villainous element capably as Ralph Bartlett; Mr. C. Morris rendered good work as John Middleton; Mr. Horace Stanley played Septimus Sweet in creditable fashion, and the various other male parts were in good hands. The ladies—chief among whom are Miss Cora Linda (the heroine) and Miss Josephine Lee (Rhoda Hampton)—add much to the effectiveness of the show. On Thursday the company commenced a three-night series of performances of *The 10.30 Down Express*.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—A great attraction is supplied this week in Mr. Andrew Melville's company, who appeared on Monday evening with *Driven from Home*. As Anthony Raybrook Mr. Felix Pitt gave a capital impersonation; and Mr. Charles Burdon was seen to advantage as Geoffrey Waring. Mr. George Beresford was a manly and thoroughly capable Walter Hatherleigh; and Mr. Percy Dawson as Willie was decidedly clever. Mr. Fred C. Imbert as John Anderson was intensely funny, and, together with Miss Edith Leslie as Margaret, kept the house convulsed in their chief scene. Miss Amy Williams made a success as Mrs. MacCarthy; and Miss Lizzie Ingle as Barbara gave an excellent portraiture. Mr. Edward Finley did well as Dick Saunders; and Mr. Harry Cornwall was an effective Jabez Thomas. As Laura Raybrook and Walter Hatherleigh the younger, Miss Nancy Roberts was highly successful. The rest of the numerous characters were adequately sustained.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company is here this week in *The Gay Gordons*, which is being enthusiastically received by crowded houses. Mr. Frank Lincoln is a very able representative of Angus Graeme; and Miss Maie Ash acts with great charm and vivacity as Peggy Quainton. The company also includes Mr. Tom Graves as Nervy Nat, Mr. Edward Nainby as the old Showman, Mr. Edward Beecher as Andrew Quainton, Mr. Norman Forrest as Corporal John Smith, Mr. J. Cranstom Nevill as the Marquis of Dalesbury, Mr. W. Terris as Viscount Belstairs, Mr. Arthur Bravo as Lord Elmington, Mr. A. Pierce as Lord Merstham, Mr. Herbert Cannon as Archibald Speedy, and Mr. R. H. Vallis as Jack McPrisky, all of whom sustain their parts in excellent style. Miss Ida Mann as Janet McLeod, Miss Nellie Lonnen as Victoria Siddons, Miss Ida Laurie as Charlotte Siddons, Miss Gladys Deane as Mary McLeod, Miss Katie Buller as Lady Millicent, and Miss Norah D'Esterre as Lady Graeme are good exponents of their respective characters, and a full chorus and augmented orchestra do full justice to the tuneful music of the play. The piece is handsomely mounted both as to scenery and dresses. A special matinée was given on Wednesday which was well attended.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Clown Barker, assisted by Miss Rozsika, provides a capital turn with his performing dogs and other animals, which are highly trained and go through a very clever comedy act; Ulrick does some wonderful balancing feats; the Mezzettis go through a novel horizontal bar performance in their *New Recruit* tit-bit; Roxborough and Wright create much amusement in their farcical tabloid, *My Little One;* the Sisters Allen sing and dance very cleverly; Arthur Reece scores well as a comedian; the Eleven Romps, a musical and attractive group of lady artists, give a very pleasing turn, in which they sing in good tune and dance gracefully; Amy Sullivan, comedienne, is well received; and a splendid series of scenes of the "Four-inch" motor race in the Isle of Man are shown on the Bioscope.

LARGE TOWN HALL.—Mr. Wallis Jeffs' New Century Pictures are now being exhibited here. The pictures include a wide range of up-to-date subjects, including the Marathon Race, Olympic Regatta, A Trip Through the Tyrolean Alps, Goodwood Races, &c., also some amusing comic scenes. During the interval the Four Scoreys appear in their clever comedy musical speciality.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* is being presented by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. The comedy is splendidly mounted, and creates roars of laughter throughout. Mr. George Mudie handle the part of Mr. Ponderbury with masterly skill; Mr. Drew Mackintosh is most effective in his impersonation of Mr. Mervyn Thorpe; and Mr. Alfred Ibberson makes a capital Peter. Miss Florence Wellesley charmingly enacts the part of Ethel Penniston; Miss Florence Wix admirably sustains the rôle of Mme. Polaca Modjeski; and Miss Annie Stalman carries off high honours by a really fine embodiment of Mrs. Ponderbury. The play is preceded by a capital one-act comedy, *His Landlady*.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Vonetta heads the programme here with a bewildering series of cleverly-executed illusions and tricks; Doody and Wright are a smart entertaining couple of "Australian comiques"; Joe Stirling, comedian; Eric, ventriloquist; Claude Feldman's troupe of juveniles; Martine and Son, illustrated vocalists; Renie Grahame, character vocalist; and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete the bill of fare.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—The musical comedy *Lucky Liza* fills the bill. Mr. Dickie Clare essays the triple rôle of Silas Slim, the Judge, and the French Waiter, and is equally successful in each part; Mr. T. W. Benson scores as Peter Pettitoe; and Mr. Norman H. Lee is very amusing as Paul Pettitoe. Mr. J. W. Forrest is deserving of praise as William Biffins; Mr. Harry George is seen to advantage as Barnaby Blatherwick; and Mr. Jack Harrington is smart as Thomkins. Miss Evelyn Wood is very pleasing as Sadie Potts, her songs being well received; and Miss Vesta Brownie shows herself to be a clever dancer in the rôle of Virginia Blatherwick. Miss Madge Brownie in the title-rôle, Eliza Bird, is the life of the piece, her songs and dances being received with well-merited applause. The music is very tuneful and catchy, and the mounting and special dances by Misses Edna Evelyn, Lily Bell, and Beckie Sterling add greatly to the general enjoyment.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Mr. Tony Black is a typical Scotch comedian; the Brothers Obo are very amusing; Les Wambas give a clever and finished gymnastic display; Mlle. De Rose, assisted by Miss Hilda Claremont, are deservedly recalled. A very amusing comedy sketch, *The Collar Stud*, is presented by Miss Edith Muir, and Messrs. Hubert Bartlett, Bruce Gordon, and Edward Vivian, and creates much amusement; Little Rose Pink is a clever song and dance artist; and Mr. F. A. Martell is smart as an equilibrist. Mr. J. H. Hawtrey gives a capital turn, and Mr. Kit Keen sings and dances very effectively.

RUNCORN.—PUBLIC HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Public Hall Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. E. S. Lea.—We have a welcome visit here of J. H. Tomkinson's Gypsy Choir and a company of variety artists. The list of entertainers includes Elsie Rubina, a talented exponent of the art of equipoise; La Vie, in electrical art panel poses; Wee Winnie, a versatile young artist; the Four Louberts, in a knockabout act; Misses Elsie Howard, Grace Lindsay, Kate Teasdale, Brenda Leslie, Evie Lynn, Sisters Leshmere, Messrs. James Carr and Sam Paul, all excellent vocalists, and the Bioscope.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*The Great Awakening* appeared to be thoroughly enjoyed by a full house on Monday. Miss Maud Hildyard admirably plays the principal part of Lola Selby; Mr. Herbert Robinson as Guy Rogan supports the scheming Lola with credit; Mr. Cecil Gray does well in the dual characters of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton, his son; Mr. Tracy Barrow as Billy Brass and Miss Cissie Podmore as Selina Worts cause much laughter; Mr. Conrad Franklyn as Captain Harry Lambert and Mr. David Curtis as Richard Wilson, do good work; a charming Molly Merton is presented by Miss F. Garnet-Vayne.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—*The Bloomsbury Burglars*, by Lew Lake and his company, heads this week's programme. The Weimars, in their military spectacle, give an interesting turn; W. J. Churchill gets much laughter; and Arthur Woodville, light comedian, is an expert dancer. The Danbys, comedians and neat dancers; Adah Payne, vocalist; the Donatos, one-legged clowns and smart acrobats; Fred Mason, whistling comedian; Onda and Artell, clever gymnasts; the Two Rubies, dainty duettists and dancers; and Marie St. John, descriptive vocalist, also appear.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Wentworth.—David Poole gives a most acceptable ventriloquial act; the novelty scena, *A Children's Christmas Eve*, is well played by Howard's juveniles; Fred Athalan, champion head-balancer, is good; and the other interesting turns include Kingstone Trollope, in "Only a dream"; Ada Jenner, in "The lady barber"; George Westland, Scotch comedian; Percy Curry, in "The original candy man"; the Sisters Lotus, juvenile operatic duettists; George Hyam, comedian; and Herbert and Linden, comedians and clever dancers.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The Guardian of the Bank is a sensational dramatic picture, and the others include Immaterial Man between 1 a.m. and 2 a.m., Red Spectre, Versailles Fountain, Stepfather's Jealousy, Suffer Suffragettes, Curate's Honeymoon, What William Did, and Shipowner's Daughter.

SALISBURY.—COUNTY HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead. — Mr. Joseph Poole's Myriorama's annual visit is being enjoyed by large audiences. The living pictures introduced are highly interesting, and the variety entertainers include Loudoun Cameron and Maud Dunham, mystifiers; the Seddons, comical jugglers; Miss Frederica's performing terriers; Eileen and Maynie, Dutch dancers; and Johnny O'Rourke, comedian. Mr. Bert Berry acts as guide, and the orchestra is under the conductorship of Mr. W. A. Abbey.

SCARBOROUGH.—LONDESBOROUGH THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Waddington and Son; Manager, Mr. J. T. Carpenter.—*The Private Secretary* is here, and is as popular as ever.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—*When London* sleeps is here, with Edward E. Ashby as David Egglehurst and Miss Mabel Scudamore as the heroine, and Mr. Harry Wren as Captain Rodney Haynes. The other parts are all capably undertaken.

THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. Holland.—Tony Iveson at the piano is most entertaining, and goes well; Patrick Playfair receives due recognition for his wonderful designs with paper; the Three Tivoli Girls are smart dancers; Master Tom Cullen, vocalist, has a nice voice; ventriloquism receives good treatment at the hands of Norman Osborne; and also included in the bill are the Hentys, Forest and King, Adams and Dale, and Miss Clare Washington. Vernon's Bioscope concludes.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fielding Smith.—Heeley and Meeley, in a scena, are exceedingly clever; Miss Enid Errol in "The Magic Vase" shows ability; Fairley, Rennie, and Fairley are well received, as are August and September, comedians. Zellini as a juggler is very smart. The programme also includes Oakdene, Sira, and the Two Jays.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company is doing excellent business here this week with *A Message from Mars*. The *sangfroid* displayed by Mr. Wallace Widdicombe as Horace Parker fits him eminently for the part; the fine voice and skilful elocution of Mr. William H. Brougham makes him an ideal Messenger from Mars; Mr. Norman Clark gets in some effective passages as the tramp; Mr. Robert Grey does all that is required of Arthur Dicey; Miss Flora Hastings is dignified and convincing as Miss Parker; and an unaffected and charming study of Minnie Templar is presented by Miss Rose Helène. The special illusions and electrical effects are all excellently managed, and the piece proves thoroughly popular from start to finish.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—Mr. F. Marriott Watson and Mr. Sanderson Moffat's company are presenting here this week *What a Woman Did*. Mr. F. Marriott Watson gives a stirring delineation of Raffaelle Duroc; as Conrad Mr. Sanderson Moffat ably sustains the part; Fritz is pleasingly sketched by Mr. C. Elton Morgan; and as Peter Pippin Mr. Owen Edwin is responsible for much merriment. Black Piton is well played by Mr. Reg Kloof; Miss Florence E. Florence is an admirable Elise; La Papillon is skilfully played by Miss Phillis Hamilton; Miss Norah Waylett is a pleasing Nanette; and as Bella Miss Violet Sheridan wins favour. The Clancy Girls and others give capital specialities.

SHEERNESS. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co.—Russell Wallett, "the lady in black," tops the bill here this week, and his reception is of the most cordial description. The Four Eugenes, flying gymnasts, score a decided success. Other contributors to the programme are Jock Campbell, the comedy merchant; Fyne and Hurley in *The Coster and the Dude;* Florence Burns and James Danvers in a burlesque operatina; and Jack Crawley, descriptive vocalist. The Bioscope concludes with pictures of more than ordinary interest.

CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—The pictures are varied and interesting, the principal items being The Fight for a Throne, The Law of Honour, Why He Signed the Pledge, The Cracksman, Miss Pimpernal's Gown, Poverty and Honesty, and The Lighterman's Son.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Though the Triennial Musical Festival is the great event of the week with Sheffield society, a large section of the local public evidently preferred the lighter musical charms of *The Gay Gordons* to the severely classical on Monday, when Miss Ellaline Terriss, Mr. Seymour Hicks, and the Aldwych Theatre company opened to a house crowded from floor to ceiling. Miss Ellaline Terriss, who was warmly greeted, played with her accustomed grace and bewitching vivacity as Peggy, and she was frequently applauded. Mr. Seymour Hicks, alert and irrepressible, was thoroughly in his element as Angus, and his mingled humour and sentimentality were much enjoyed; Mr. Johnny Danvers, one of Sheffield's sons, made the most of his chances and created hearty mirth as the showman, Nervy Nat; and other characters were represented in a finished manner by Miss Sydney Fairbrother, Miss Rose Chesney, Mr. Lawrence Caird, Mr. H. Ulph, Mr. Will Bishop (an old Sheffield pantomime favourite), Mr. E. Lugg, Mr. George Carroll, and Mr. J. C. Buckstone.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*Lucky Durham* began a return visit on Monday under the direction of Messrs. Armitage and Leigh. Mr. Herbert Humber repeated his powerful reading of the well-drawn character of John Durham, and Miss Alice Esther Belmore, Miss Isabel Dodd, Miss Elsie Mayne, Miss Florence Dalhuntry, and Mr. Arthur Leigh (who gave an enjoyable performance as Reggie) were all very successful in their respective parts.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Frederick Melville's new drama *Her Road to Ruin* was played for the first time in Sheffield on Monday, and met with an enthusiastic reception from a crowded house. The scenery was elaborate, the effects realistic, and the ladies' costumes were up-to-date. Mr. Henry Wolston acted with convincing earnestness as Frank Temple, and Mr. Dane Clarke submitted an interesting sketch of a worldly-minded clerical dignitary; Miss Nellie Bonser cleverly realised Mr. Melville's latest conception of feminine perversity as Mary Dawson, alias Marie de Vaune, alias 'Orrible Mary, and she triumphed in a difficult and complex study of temperament. The sisters May and Jess Willoughby were well represented by Miss Alice Bowes and Miss Beatrice Edwards; Mr. Otto Minster was good as the poor journalist Tom Wells; Mr. Alex. Bradley succeeded admirably as Philip Hardy, and amusing types of London life were Mr. C. H. Brookes's Dick Gerald, Mr. W. Lynton's John Derwent, Mr. William Arnold's Inspector Homewood, Mr. Harry Talbot's Billy Boots, Mr. T. Henry's Bill Grimes, and Mr. Victor Moor's Charles Cholmondesley; Mr. Harry Winter and Mr. Harry Clay caused amusement as the two waiters, Fritz and Carl.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Mr. Eugene Stratton is again pleasing his Sheffield admirers; Miss Hetty King has made a tremendous hit and has to respond to many recalls; the Sisters Grovini do a graceful acrobatic drawing-room act; Miss Nora Emerald is a pretty and tuneful serio-comedienne; Mr. Bob Hamilton's Scotch songs are heartily applauded; Stewart and Morgan are amusing comedy entertainers; the Bros. Griffiths are well received; Miss Sybil St. Elmo is a refined balladist; and the wild fun and extraordinary antics of Donaldson Brothers and their pantomime company in the original ornithological absurdity *Fun in a Jungle* keep the house in roars of laughter. The Bioscope concludes the excellent programme.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The scheme of amusement this week includes turns of the following talented and well-known performers:—Miss Kate Carney and her company in the lively and diverting serio-comic interlude *The Yiddisher Boy;* Miss May Clinton and her bevy of pretty girls in a musical scena, *Ten Minutes in Japan;* Mr. Sam Thompson, the comic Caledonian; Messrs. Sibb and Sibb, trapeze artists; Mr. George Cairncross, in clever impersonations of Mathias, Svengali, Louis XI., &c.; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, amusing comedians; Prof. Norton, a smart conjurer; the Violas, in a second-sight séance; Miss Addie Dorena, in her popular protean-farcical sketch; the Barrascope, with artistic coloured moving pictures; and Mr. Charles Prelle's Bijou Circus, with well-trained dogs and extraordinary ponies.

GRAND THEATRE.—Acting-Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—A novel attraction this week is the grand annual "Beauty Competition." The regular programme is contributed to by Miss Daisy Silcott, comedienne; the Milton Comedy Trio, in mélange of mirthful oddities; Jack and May McKenzie, comic duettists; Mat Merrymount, comedian, &c.; Miss Ethel Schaffer in illustrated songs, &c.; Raymond Bio-Tableaux Co., with romantic and humorous films; and Mr. J. Halland's company in a comic absurdity.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—The new arrivals on Monday were Messrs. Lang and Beal, variety entertainers; Memoria, in feats of memory; and the vivacious and popular local favourite Miss Flo Hilton, male impersonator, pleases with her catchy new ditties. Animated pictures are also a much-appreciated feature.

MONTGOMERY HALL.—Manager, Mr. Mottershaw.—The Imperial animated pictures, under the direction of the Sheffield Photo Co., include the latest samples of films of the most noted firms. The picturesque, fanciful, funny, and topical photos continue to draw good houses. Mr. T. Moorhouse and other artists sing excellent songs.

THE PAVILION.—In its improved conditions the old Wonderland has entered on a successful new career as a well-conducted picture theatre.

SHREWSBURY. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton. — Messrs. Cowper, Smith, and Douglas Payne's capable company was here on the first three nights of the week, playing the lively and diverting musical comedy *The New Girl*, which has been revised and improved. Mr. Edward W. Coleman as Colonel Bullet, V.C., acted with ability and danced with agility and skill; Mr. Ralph Lynn played carefully and well as Bertie Holbrook, and he was most amusing as the applicant for the place of assistant schoolmistress; Mr. Edgar McIntyre merited praise as Harry Harrow; Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., was exceedingly droll and energetic as Brown; Mr. C. Daniels and Mr. Tom Harding were capital as policemen; Miss Ivy Leighton sang sweetly and danced gracefully as Cerise; Miss Beatrice Sutherland was deserving of encomiums as Little Flossie; Miss Victoria Douglas as Martha Grimm played a rather thankless part most creditably; Miss Rosa Rawlings was pleasing as Ida Downe; Miss Beatrice Sutherland worked hard to please, and evoked much laughter as Jane; Miss Rose Bennett danced and sang charmingly, and acted with great success as Hilda Coleman; and other ladies' parts were creditably filled by Miss Ada May as Violet Powder, and the Misses Minnie Hazleton, Lil Delhaute, Bertha Buckley, and Ruby Vivian as Smart Set Girls.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Messrs. Hallatt and Howard's company is presenting here *Her Love Against the World*, Mr. Fred Emery sustaining the rôle of Eric with power and conviction; Miss Rossie St. John does well as Lionel Nello, his brother; Mr. Lewis Gilbert is convincing as Ulrick; Mr. W. H. Hallatt as Prince Othmar is most successful; Mr. Victor Rowland acts with ability as Prince Maurice; Mr. Charles R. Hann is prominent as General Gressler; Sergt. Kaspar is well taken by Mr. Arthur J. Moss; and the humour is supplied by Mr. Henry B. Lewis and Mr. John Mill, and they are ably assisted by Miss Gertie Reid and Miss Hettie Ferguson. Miss Julie De Esco is seen to advantage as Corona; Miss Grace Heywood enacts Princess Iris with dignity and power; and Miss Nellie Fletcher in the part of Shulah deserves praise.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frederick Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Charles Frohman presents *The Hypocrites*, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey, with the greatest success. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton in the character of the Rev. Edgar Linnell plays in convincing style, his scenes with Mrs. Wilmore—admirably played by Miss Laura Graves—being quite the success of the evening. Miss Muriel Pope is equally successful as Rachel; and Miss Muriel Mason scores as Helen. Mr. Ernest Rushton plays admirably as the blustering squire, and every praise is due to Mr. Frederick Morland (Mr. Viveash), Mr. F. G. Thurstans (Rev. Everard Daubenay), Mr. Chas. Tyrel (Sir John Plugenet), Mr. Fred Lake (Dr. Blaney), Miss Sybil Brooke (Mrs. Blaney), and others.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Victoria Monks, the bright particular star here, is as great a favourite as ever. Miss Marie Jones in her smart protean sketch *The Way to Win a Bet* receives excellent assistance from Mr. Ernest Munroe; the Florias Troupe of acrobats are clever; a like remark applying to the Paulastor Troupe; the Three Sisters Silcott sing and dance naïvely, and others who entertain are Edwards and Dacre, in a comedy duologue, *What a Life;* Chas. Woodward, light comedian; and Horace Jones, the comedy tit-bit.

HIPPODROME.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Frederick Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Mr. Yardley, a gentleman well known in the theatrical world, has now taken over the managerial reins here, and we wish him every success in his new sphere. The current bill is headed by M. Van Biene, the famous actor-musician, in a one-act playlet, *The Master Musician*, which gives the celebrated 'cellist an opportunity of displaying his skill on this favourite instrument; Tom Costello has an excellent song-scena; and a capital turn is given by Horace and Olga's well-trained dogs. Vandinoff, lightning painter; Hanvarr and Lee, jugglers; Frazer and Haley, duettists; and Baby Vi Davis also contribute to the evening's enjoyment.

PIER PAVILION.—Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Sait.—The season was brought to a successful conclusion on Wednesday, when two grand military concerts were given by the band of the 1st Life Guards, under the able direction of Mr. George Miller, L.R.A.M.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA. — PIER PAVILION. — Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—The Anglo-American Bioscope Company present an entirely new change of pictures for this week's attraction, which proves even more popular and enjoyable.

EMPIRE THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Miss Ellen Snow is providing this week's attraction in the romantic play, *Why Men Love Women*. Miss Snow for a studious and talented characterisation of Violet Livingstone wins hearty applause; Mr. Oliver Rogers makes a capital exponent of Gerald Fielding, and shares honours with Mr. Lionel Gadsden in the villainous rôle of Captain Staniloff; Mr. Ernest Griffin as H.H. the Maharajah of Balore, and Mr. N. Carter Slaughter as Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert, win credit for suitable impersonations; Mr. W. Norman makes a sympathetic character of the Rev. Arthur Gray; Mr. Arthur Radford works well as Chundra Singh; and Miss Maud Court gives satisfaction as Muriel Zoluski. The comedy is made very enjoyable by Mr. Harwood Roberts as Orlando Figgins, who has capital support from Miss Hogarth Beresford-Glynn as Mrs. Figgins, and Misses Nita Owen and Freda Vaughan as members of the Figgins Opera Company.

THE KURSAAL. — Secretary and Manager, Mr. P. T. J. Bacon.—Only one programme nightly is gone through this week, which is under the direction of Forsyth's Enterprises, and the patronage is most encouraging. Taka, the Japanese ju-jitsu wrestler, who issues challenges to all comers, gives exhibitions of muscular poses, &c., that arouse keen enthusiasm; comic and trick skating by Wyman is a smart and pleasing turn, as also is the comic wire-walking by the clever Deroneys. Zasma, both as a gymnast and dental athlete, merits hearty recalls for a skilful performance; Belasco wins popularity as a musician of talent; and Whit Acre pleases as a comedian. Miss Ira Davis mimics and sings in delightful style; while the Turkish Tom Thumb, who sings in French, causes much merriment. P. J. Durney is most interesting as a globe-walker; and two series of pictures are depicted by the New American Bioscope.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Patrons of this theatre are favoured by a visit of the popular and talented actress Mrs. Patrick Campbell, and her excellent company, who opened on Monday evening in *The Thunderbolt*. In the rôle of Phyllis Mortimore Mrs. Campbell repeated her former successes, and depicted the erring wife artistically; as Thaddeus Mortimer Mr. Julian Royce enacted the part of the devoted husband with natural and convincing effect; Miss Stella Patrick Campbell made a charming exponent of Helen Thornhill; Mr. Murray Carson did full justice to the part of James Mortimore, which he played with vigour and point; Stephen Mortimore was capitally portrayed by Mr. Edgar Kent; the two lawyers, Mr. Vallance and Mr. Elkin, were praiseworthily represented by Mr. E. H. Brooke and Mr. J. D. Beveridge respectively; the two child parts, Cyril and Joyce, had clever and graceful representatives in Miss Mignon Clifford and Master Cyril Bruce; Mr. Nigel Playfair was thoroughly suited in the character of Colonel Ponting; Rose Ponting was well played by Miss Florence Wells; and good character studies were supplied by Mr. Charles A. Doran as the Rev. George Trist, and Miss Florence Farr and Miss Florence Kahn as Ann and Louisa Mortimore. *Electra* and *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* are also billed.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Chas. M. Bestic's company appears in the musical comedy *The Flower Girl*. Miss Dorothy Firmin, in the title-rôle, plays in a charming and vivacious manner, and renders her songs in good style; the chief comedy part, Joe Wheeler, furnishes proof of the capacity and talent of Mr. Martin Adeson, who keeps the audience in a merry mood. Other parts cleverly portrayed are those of Reggie, by Mr. Norman Bowyer; Johnny, by Mr. Alfred Donohoe; the Hon. Billy, by Mr. Robert H. Howard; Alphonse, by Mr. Henry Adnes; Lizette, by Miss Florence Wilton; the Suffragette, by Miss Jeannie Holmes; and Miss Masie, by Miss Lucy Clark. The chorus is powerful, well balanced, and assisted by an augmented orchestra, under the able baton of Mr. William Neale.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Ella Retford, who divides the chief honours with W. J. Ashcroft, sings and dances well, and has a good reception; the original "solid man," W. J. Ashcroft, is an old favourite here, and had an ovation; Kent and Keith introduce a good comedy item; Verno and Voyce contribute a clever vocal character sketch, *Old Pals*. The remaining good items are Fred Lincoln, comedian; Walter Wade, raconteur and mimic; Lye Jeffries, comedienne; Hugo and Smith, comedy acrobats; and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE-LANE.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Maggie Rimmer, a dainty artist

STALYBRIDGE. — HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jas. Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—The Kurios head the bill here with a remarkable turn full of vivacity and laughter-provoking qualities; Miss Marjorie Cecil is a dainty comedienne, and the Corcoran Bros. perform on a number of instruments with every satisfaction. The remaining items of the programme are Fred Lyndo, comedian; Folay and Francis, comedians and dancers; Lichfield, in a speciality act; the Dixons, and others.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—Mr. Charles Macdona and company are here this week in *Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)*. Mr. Macdona portrays the ingenuous Mr. Popple in a manner which is "childlike and bland," creating roars of laughter by its very innocence, and his success is assured by his naturalism; Norman Popple is excellently taken by Mr. M. Du Cane; and Mr. Eric Barrington is also good as Jacques Kenyon. One cannot conceive a better Platt than Mr. Tom May, and his scenes with Miss May Hart (Louise), who is full of vivacity and sings really well, are delightful. Miss Amy Singleton as Mrs. Doring and Miss Lilian Lait as Mrs. Hennay are both very amusing, as are also their respective husbands, for whom Mr. Nap Barry and Mr. James Stevenson are responsible. Miss Marie Moss looks sweet and sings prettily in the character of Violet Brintor. Much depends upon the La Bolero, and Miss Nellie Hodson who assumes the part fulfils all desires. Both in singing and action she is admirable. The dresses are very beautiful, and the scenery a credit to the production.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—A big bill is headed by Francini Ollams and Page, who both show great ability as acrobats; the former also performs in a wonderfully clever manner on the xylophone; the Brothers Bradshaw also are extremely supple, as well as amusing in their feats; a display of telepathy is given with success by the Days; and the Sisters Julian sing and dance acceptably. Good turns are also given by Walter Emmerson, Janet Hall, the Three Royal Temples, Selby and Myers, and Jack Easy, who, needless to say, are all greatly appreciated.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*What the Butler Saw* is here this week. Mr. Charles Fawcett is exceedingly good as Jack Barrington; Sir Charles Foden is pleasingly impersonated by Mr. Raymond Dudley; Mr. Harry H. Rignold amusingly portrays the character of Abram Wiensten; and Mr. Lionel Rignald provokes genuine and hearty laughter as Pink. Miss Ada Blanche acts delightfully as Mrs. Barrington; Miss Christine Jensen charmingly portrays the character of Miss Foden; and Nora is charmingly impersonated by Miss Gladys Lloyd.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —Mephisto in mystifying illusions is the chief attraction here. Others appearing are Mr. Ernest Lord's light opera singers, the Excelsiors, who are highly successful; Victoria Dagmar in a clever gymnastic display on the horizontal bar; Russell Brandow, a smart coloured dancing comedian; Thora, an entertaining ventriloquist; Evelyn Geldard, who sings sweetly; Elton and Elma in their amusing and clever performance on the triple bars; and the Stavordale Quartet, who give a pleasing entertainment on the harp and banjo.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. Chas. Frohman's company, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey, presents here this week *The Hypocrites*. Mr. A. B. Imeson gives an admirable portrayal of the Rev. Edgar Linnell; Miss Gladys Harvey, as Rachel Neve, acts the difficult rôle with much feeling; Mr. King Fordham, as Lennard Wilmore, is capital; Miss Gladys Purnell is very pleasing as Helen Plugenet; Miss Amy Ravenscroft is well suited as the devoted mother, Mrs. Wilmore; Mr. Charles Harley, as the lawyer, Mr. Viveash, is successful; Mr. Alfred S. Barber, as Mr. Wilmore, acts well, as does also Mr. Sydney Hamilton as Sir John Plugenet; Miss Florence Steventon gives a good representation of the interfering Mrs. Blaney; Mr. Cecil Brooking, as the Rev. Everhard Daubeney, is well suited; Miss Madge Severne, as Mrs. Linnell, is very pleasing; and Mr. Hanworth Browning, as Dr. Blaney, is adapted to the part.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Thompson Carruthers' company heads the bill here in a sensational card manipulating novelty, *The Master Card*, which meets with a huge success from crowded houses. Captain Max Gruber, assisted by Miss Adelina, with their unique performing horse, elephant, and pony, are very entertaining, the animals appearing quite human; Aiston's White Stars, as musical entertainers, show great skill; Harry Bancroft, actor-vocalist, takes well; Emmie Ames, in a scena, "The Stars in the Sky," makes a big hit; Ted Moxon Trio, acrobats, do some very daring feats; J. C. Scatter, comedian and dancer, is very funny and dances well; and the Bioscope concludes an excellent programme.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company is presenting here this week the drama *Love Rules the World*. There was a crowded house on Monday. Payne's Biophotoscope shows up-to-date pictures.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—The Andos Troupe pay a return visit in their acrobatic, juggling, and rope-walking act; Ted Curtis and Piccaninnies appear successfully in a speciality act; Minnie Mace, a dainty comedienne, has a pleasing reception; Walter Stanley, the Zelovas, Dan Robans, Chas. Valvo, Vaughan and Hyde, and the Bioscope are also billed.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. A. Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—Mr. George Edwardes's excellent company presented *The Merry Widow* here on Monday evening to a crowded house. Mr. Basil S. Foster as Prince Danilo acted with great judgment; Mr. Haigh Jackson made a splendid Vicomte Camille de Jollidan, and as a vocalist his efforts were warmly appreciated; Mr. Lionel Victor as Baron Popoff; Mr. Tom Redmund as Nisch; and Mr. Albert Cavanagh as Marquis de Cascada greatly helped with their sparkling and original humour towards the success achieved. Miss Clara Evelyn as Sonio, the merry widow, played and sang with great ability, and was encored several times in the renowned waltz scene with Mr. Foster; Miss Mary Gray as Baroness Popoff showed both vocal and histrionic ability; and Miss Dora Langham as Frou-Frou, proved herself a dainty and accomplished dancer. Other artists in the cast include Messrs. Lennox Coombs, Grafton Williams, J. S. Durant, Ernest Spalding, and Misses Nora Barry, Suzanne Selbourne, H. Featherstone, F. Reeve, K. Cherry, Becky Sharpe, Phyllis Allen, and Mary Morrison. *The Merry Widow* is elaborately mounted and dressed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Grierson.—The attraction here this week is Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company in *The Silver King*, which is drawing crowded houses. Mr. Fred D. Daviss in the title-rôle arouses warm praise; Nellie has a capital delineator in Miss Edyth Goodall; Mr. Edward J. George gives an excellent rendering of the faithful old servant, Daniel Jaikes; the villain, Captain Herbert Skinner, is in the able hands of Mr. E. Stanton-Sharpe, who gives a good account of the part; his assistant, Elijah Coombe, is made the most of by Mr. Arthur Wright; Miss Flossie Hall Davis is a clever juvenile and plays Cissy Denver to perfection; Messrs. E. Stidwell and Geo. Belmore are both seen to advantage as Samuel Baxter, a detective, and Henry Corkett. All the other rôles are in able hands.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—That delightful musical comedy *Miss Hook of Holland* is done full justice to at the Grand this week by Mr. George Dance's company. Mr. Hook is played with a quiet humour and finish by Mr. T. A. Shale that is irresistible; the part of Sally is enacted by Miss Alice Coverick with vivacity and charm; that lady is well played to by Mr. Frank Crimp, who as the Bandmaster Van Vuyt is all through excellent; Mina has a real clever impersonator in Miss Cissie Sephton; Mr. Tom Seymour was in happy mood as Simon Slinks; and Mr. George Ide as Captain Adrian Pasp and Mr. James Davies as Lieut. De Coop could not have been better.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company are seen to considerable advantage in *The Nihilist* this week. Mr. Joseph Millane as the village blacksmith makes the utmost of a good part; Mr. Cowell Clarke as Karl Orloff is a thorough soldier; Mr. Leo Neilson as Prince Alexander is also good; Miss Jesica Ford achieves success for her playing as Katrina Zendoff; and Mr. Henry Wright as Robbie Smart is excellent.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The bill here is headed by Courtice and Louie Pounds, who in a charming musical episode. *Charles, His Friend*, are given every opportunity of displaying their undoubted talent. George Formby again visits us, and, with the funniest songs imaginable, is as big a "hit" as ever; Mr. Theo. Bouwmeester shows great ability as a protean actor in a thrilling sketch *Who is Guilty;* Will English contributes a characteristic turn in his usual clever manner; Naughton and Gold's step-dancing is an enjoyable item; Austin Boyd and Trixie Gilfain's melody is much appreciated; La Danseuse is a child dancer of whom more will be heard; and Frank Couch as a patter comedian is all there. The Bioscope, as usual, is up to date.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners. — The Zerbinis Troupe, in a brilliant musical act entitled *The Enchanted Glen*, are heading the bill this week; Mark Henton, comedian, goes well; and Dora Duncan is a dainty comedienne. Miss Teddy Edmonds' company presents a very laughable sporting farce, *The Lady Jockey;* a mysterious turn is that of "Buddah's Blackboard"; Hunter and Hicks, vocalists and ice-skate dancers, are appreciated; the Walleys are smart comedy jugglers; John Grun Marx, "the modern Hercules," performs some marvellous feats of strength; and the Empire Pictures complete.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—After a long absence that amusing musical comedy *Sergeant Brue* is here once more. The principal rôle of Crookie Scrubbs is admirably taken by Mr. Harry Benet, whose performance is really funny; Mr. Denis Lyndon also provokes continuous merriment as the Sergeant, and is frequently applauded for a really clever representation. Miss Ray Anderson as Lady Bickenhall is charming, and her piquant style wins her considerable admiration; while Miss Mabel Davis is also deservedly applauded for her rendering of the part of Mabel. The character of Mr. Crank is in the very capable hands of Mr. T. G. Warren, whose impersonation is worthy of the highest praise, whilst the vocal efforts of Mr. Lister Morrah as Michael are very much appreciated. A fascinating interpretation of Aurora Brue is given by Miss Daisie Dale, whilst her singing is often encored. In fact, all the characters are admirably sustained.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—The Hippodrome season in connection with the Mouillot and De Frece circuit was resumed on Monday last, when the star turn of the programme was the sensational feats of the Tokio Troupe of Japanese equilibrists. Maxey and Pete, the trick cyclists, also performed some clever tricks; and Harvie proved a skilled performer on the wire. Other notable turns included Vestor, instrumentalist, cartoonist, and dancer; Rosie Bartlett, vocal comedienne; and the Sisters Herbert, juvenile duettists and dancers. The Hippodrome pictures proved as popular as ever.

TYLDESLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—*A Traitor Prince* is being played here this week by Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company. Mr. G. M. Montanini is artistic and powerful as Prince Rao; Mr. Dudley Wynton shows a fine conception of the part of Lieut. Frank Derrick; Colonel Vane is ably treated by Mr. Robert Pittard; and Mr. Robert Foster does creditable work as a half-caste Hindoo. Miss Florence Delmar gives a skilful performance as Vashti; and Miss Pamelia Hodson is a sympathetic Lola Vane. Miss Netta Mitchell makes a sprightly Pansy Blossom; Mr. Jack Cuthbertson as Billy and Mr. Guy Routh as Hon. Bobby are very droll. A welcome feature is the clever dancing of the Three Berlin Belles.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company, in the drama *Woman and Wine*, opened to a large audience here on Monday. Miss Cissie St. Elmo acts with ability and effect as Marcel Rigadout; Mr. Edmunds gives a meritorious performance as the student Dick Seymour; Miss Violet Sims makes a charming and pathetic Mary Andrews; as Professor Sauter Mr. W. Manning scores; Mr. J. Milne Taylor gives a fine rendering of Hugh Seymour; Miss Ethel Vinroy submits a pleasing portrayal of Mrs. Marlow; Mr. Harry Harrop is effective as Charlie Sauter; and the character of the demi-mondaine, La Colombe, finds an able exponent in Miss Octavia de Noel. Mr. Edwin T. Kisby merits praise as Caliban; and Mr. R. Foulis is successful as Alphonse Beaudet. Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers give a smart exhibition of dancing in the ball scene. The play is well staged.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The Three Coopers head the bill this week, and delight the audience with their songs. Mr. Harry Leybourne, eccentric comedian, is very funny; the Two Eltons are clever on the triple bars; the Gregsons appear in an amusing sketch entitled *The Dummy;* Warren Doyle and Leonard Fenwick, vocalists and dancers, earn approbation; Miss Iva Mona, comedienne, and the Marblesque Trio, in living statuary, provide acceptable turns.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—Mr. Frank Bertram and company are reappearing here in *The Convict's Daughter*. Mr. Bertram's versatility has ample scope for development in the characters of Weary Willie, Michael Grahame, Convict 89, and a mystery. Mr. Wm. Burgess is a delightful Frederick Neville; and Mr. Walter Graham makes a manly hero as Harold Trevalyan; Mr. Escott Robson scores as Jasper Thorne; Miss Lillian Dean acts gracefully as Edith; and Miss Nellie Waddington makes the most of Marion Thorne. The lighter element is ably sustained by Mr. Willie Black as Patrick, and Miss Amy Randolph as Betty.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—The Brothers Weddburn are delighting good houses here; Rappo and Ella are smart gymnasts. The pictures are again excellent.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Rarely has such enthusiasm been seen in this place of amusement as that which greeted Miss Ada Colley on Monday night, when she made her début before a Warrington audience. For several minutes the charmed hearers rose *en masse*, and her beautiful rendering of "The Nightingale," "Dear heart," and "Killarney" was a rich musical treat. She possesses a voice of remarkable range and purity, and her articulation is such as to stamp her an artist in every sense of the word; the Elimans are refined musical entertainers, and their items are all well received; Leo and Roland are expert equilibrists and hand-balancers, and some rare feats of strength are accomplished; the Three Prestons score well in the sketch, *The Liftman's Rise;* D. W. Watson, an old favourite with Warrington audiences, wins many encores for his cornet and coach-horn selections; and Moon and Morris are clever simultaneous dancers and patterers. George Acre is a smart comedian. The pictures are full of hilarity, depicting the fun to be had of appropriating a policeman's whistle. The orchestra play two fine selections.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Kuner. —Mr. Harry Foxwell's powerful company, under the direction of Mr. Teddy Myles, in the dramatic success, *An Abandoned Woman*, is drawing excellent houses here this week. Mr. Teddy Myles's interesting interpretation of Paddy Boyle evokes loud applause; an artistic study of Captain Herbert Seaton is ably presented by Mr. Herbert M. King; Mr. Frederick Healey is responsible for some clever work in the portrayal of Sir Marmaduke Seaton; the part of Robert Saunders, the artist, is left to the safe keeping of Mr. Arthur Curzon; Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam submits a clever rendering of Ninon Malvoisin; whilst the rôle of Eleanor Deane is cleverly enacted by Miss Alma Curzon. Valuable assistance is forthcoming from Miss Lily Addison as La Celeste; and as Mona Deane little Frances Maddocks proves quite a favourite.

WELLINGBOROUGH.—EXCHANGE.—Mr. John Leopold's company opened on Monday for three nights in *The New Frivolity*. This was their first appearance here, and many were grateful to Messrs. A. Bailey and Co., of Kettering, who made arrangements for the visit. The performance was of a decidedly clever character, the Leopolds and their supporters continually evoking roars of laughter and bursts of applause.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company, which are producing *Is Life Worth Living?* at this place of amusement, have been accorded a great reception for the admirable manner in which they render this powerful and realistic drama. Miss Lilian Earle as Madge Roxton plays with much verve and ability; Miss Jeannie Burgoyne is an admirable Isabel Corsbie; Mr. Ernest Owttim has a part excellently suited to him in Lowel Roy; Mr. Herbert Hollister is a great success as Randolph Kerr; and other members of the company perform their allotted tasks with skill.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Rosie Ring, with her six ladies, in the scena *In a Rose Garden*, has a hearty reception, which is well deserved; Elsie Day is a clever comedienne; and the Wakeman Quintette, in their musical sketch, are very fine. Then, too, there are some wonderfully clever gymnasts, including the Kramers, in a marvellous aerial act; Dick Ona and Chas. Walonell, in a smart triple-bar turn; Ariel and Astarte, gymnasts; Indiana, the flexible Venus; and Staffo, the clever talking butcher boy; while the Hippodrome pictures conclude an altogether satisfactory programme.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather. —*Dear Old Charlie* kept the audience in the best of humour on Monday. Mr. George Conquest is responsible for the delineation of the titular part, and acquits himself admirably; Mr. S. Trelawney was excellent as Thomas Dumphie, acting with much quaint humour; Gabriel Piploe is capitally played by Mr. C. Douglas Cox; Mr. Duncan Young does well as the irascible Colonel Fishbourne; Miss Enid G. Forde is a charming Agnes; and Miss Leonora Braham plays the rôle of Mrs. Fishbourne in a manner deserving of every praise. A matinée is to be given this (Saturday) afternoon in aid of the Mayor's Fund for the relief of local distress, the whole of the receipts being devoted to the charity.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Packed houses are thoroughly enjoying the performance by Karno's troupe of comedians in *Mumming Birds* and *London Suburbia;* Lawrence Barclay, character comedian, gives an acceptable turn; musical comedy is agreeably served by Stidder and Dunbar; an entertaining turn is given by the Askarnos; a capital exhibition of skipping-rope dancing by the Sisters Brenton is well received; and much fun is caused by Kelly and Ashby in their sketch *Fun in a Billiard Room*. Capital films by the Raymond Bioscope conclude the bill.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—The F. R. Benson Shakespearean company is paying a welcome return visit in a répertoire of standard plays. *The Taming of the Shrew* was presented on Monday. As Petruchio Mr. Henry Herbert's elocution was good; Mr. Bernard Limpus made a handsome Lucentio; Mr. James Berry, a sound actor, gave an artistic interpretation of Baptista; Mr. Victor Wiltshire did the utmost with Gremio; Mr. Harvey Bratan was a praiseworthy Hortensio; Mr. Everard Vanderlip showed ability as Tranio; and unstinted praise must be given Mr. Vincent Holman as Biondello. Mr. Arthur Fayne's talents as a comedian find plenty of scope in the character of Grumio; Mr. Fernley Bisshopp as Vincentio and Mr. Patrick Lewis as the Tailor were both meritorious; Miss Gladys Vanderzee made a strikingly beautiful Katherina, her portrayal of the rôle being replete with artistic touches; Miss Violet Farebrother's Bianca must be awarded the highest eulogy. *Julius Cæsar, Twelfth Night, Richelieu, Faust, The Merchant of Venice*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* are also in the repertory.

WEST STANLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles' company is here with *Her Marriage Vow*. Mr. Chas. Reddalls is a good Gilbert Carlton; Mr. Edwin J. Collins an excellent Daffy Dan; Mr. Dan Ryan a funny Larry Leary; Mr. John W. Ryder as William Walters and Mr. Wilfred Bailey as Eber Chubb are both well received. Miss Helena Walbran is clever as Kate Walters; Miss Nelly Shurley being all that can be desired as Hester Norton.

VICTORIA THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. George W. Montrose. —The principal turns here include Phil Herman, actor-vocalist; Helms and Cozen, the comedy couple; Wragg and Wragg, military athletes; Chummie Le Mara, the quaint one; and the Vicoscope.

WHITEHAVEN.—MARKET HALL.—Lessees, The Edison Animated Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. Victor Brandford.—The pictures shown here this week include Samson, a Biblical story, An Expensive Mail, Washing Day, Too Old to Work, Married Under Difficulties, The Guardian of the Bank, and How the Poor Clown's Prayer was Answered. Mr. Jack North, comedian, also appears, and is well received.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiddie.—This week Mr. Lingford Carson and company are here with *The Great White Chief*. Mr. Mansell Fane, an impressive Leo Stanley, sings well; Mr. Lingford Carson, in the part of Reindeer, a dumb Indian, does excellent work; Mr. Geo. Butler is a villainous Hartley Deane; Mr. Dobson Clyde a capital Sparrow Hawk; and Mr. Hugh Brady is an original John Wharton; Mr. Ritchie Bell is an amusing Ernest John Wallet; Mr. Leonard Maitland an effective George Rupert Walker; and Miss Amy Ross Clyde a humorous Martha Jane Curtley. Miss Dulcie Lawrence plays with comprehension of the character of Hester Stafford, and Miss Pollie Denville is a winning Latika.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Company.—Miss Marie Dagmar and Mr. Fred C. Somerfeld's powerful company is here in *The Tyrant*. Miss Dagmar ably impersonates the important rôle of Tisbe; Homedei finds an admirable exponent in Mr. Fred Somerfield; Miss Margaret Frame gives a charming portrayal of Lady Katherine; Mr. Roy Fortescue as the tyrannous and despotic Angelo gives a very powerful impersonation; while Mr. E. Louis sustains the part of Prince de Roma with eminent success.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—Bert Wickham is the "star" here this week, and he introduces some exceptionally clever feats of strength; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic, has a big reception, and his patter and imitations are very entertaining; Fred Curran, the parody singer, is accorded an ovation for his humorous songs; the Dandies entertain with great success; some daring tricks are done by the Lizzette troupe of lady acrobats; Molly Augarde wins much applause for her songs; as an equilibrist Bugler Carr is considerably above the average; the Westbrooks appear successfully in a sketch entitled *Two Little Maids from School;* and an acceptable turn is contributed by W. G. Wesley, comedian.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company.—District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—The chief attraction this week is provided by De Vere's life-like marionettes, which are a great source of amusement, and are highly appreciated by large audiences. The excellent pictures include The Pirate's Honour, The Maniac's Revenge, A Romance of the Slums, and many other interesting films.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Mr. Bert Coote's company, under the direction of Mr. Percy Williams, is drawing good houses here this week in *The Fatal Wedding*. Mr. Cecil A. Melton plays with quiet effectiveness and attention to detail as Howard Wilson; and Miss Ethel Kay gives an exceedingly able interpretation of the much wronged wife Mabel Wilson. Miss Elaine Vanbrugh creates a favourable impression in the trying part of Cora Williams; and as Robert Curtis, her confederate in villainy, Mr. Frank Harrison does well. Mr. Cyril Melton as Peter Schwartz makes a capital old German; Mr. Charles Locke is funny as Toto; Miss Ethel Sarjient causes much amusement as Bridget; and Miss Lulu Wohlmann as Jessie has quite a strong part for a child actress. The minor parts are all in good hands, and special mention should be made of the very excellent dancing and singing in the third act by the juvenile members of the company.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—A galaxy of comedians here this week is headed by Peggy Pryde, who had a hearty reception on Monday; Nat Clifford's extraordinary dancing gains much applause; Harry Taft is a comical whistling and singing comedian, his introduction of a toy horse being highly ludicrous; the Fitzroys, trapeze and rope specialists, do a neat and smart act; Athas and Collins, comedy duo, cause plenty of laughter; Mayfayre sings nicely; and Souplessi is correctly named "the anatomical wonder."

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold; Stage-Manager, Mr. Malcolm Spurgin.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company presented for the first three nights of the week the enjoyable comedy *His House in Order*. Mr. T. Herbert Beaumont as Hilary Jesson enacted the part capably; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves as Filmer Jesson, M.P., did well; the Major Maurewarde of Mr. Randolfe Reade was cleverly portrayed; Miss Peggy Rae as Derek Jesson gave an excellent impersonation; and Miss Kitty Cavendish as Nina put in some excellent work.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week the La Dor Troupe give a capital acrobatic show; the Matadores, in their sketch, *The Spanish Bull Fight*, are amusing; the Two Volbecques, cross-talk comediennes, are popular; and the Two Clarkes, the lady and clown, give a novel performance.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*The Mollusc* is, without doubt, one of the cleverest comedies at present before the public. Miss Annie Hughes's rare gifts as a comedienne of the first rank are brought into play in the part of Mrs. Baxter; in the character of Miss Roberts, Miss Lilias Waldegrave gives a sympathetic study; Mr. Alick Chumley as Mr. Baxter is excellent; and Mr. Athol Stewart is well placed as Tom Kemp. In that quaint curtain-raiser, *A Bit of Old Chelsea*, Miss Hughes give her well-known rendition of Saucers with telling effect. Miss Ellen Terry and Mr. James Carew were announced for Thursday.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke. — An exceptionally strong programme of all-round excellence is presented this week. Rosie Lloyd is vociferously encored for her clever and up to-date songs; Witty Watty Walton keeps the house in roars of laughter; the Tally-Ho Trio are truly described as "monarchs of mirth and harmony"; Rex Fox introduces a novel ventriloquial and musical act on the wire; Azella Wilson is a graceful and daring trapeze performer; Martinett and Wallace are clever musical entertainers; Bayne and Hope present a laughable sketch, entitled *The Love Cure;* Blanche Marion is a dancer of considerable merit, Enrico Martialo a clever juggler, and the Empire Bioscope has new and up-to-date pictures.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special newspaper express services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—Rugby, 4.30 a.m.; Coventry, 4.54 a.m.; Birmingham, 5.20 a.m.; Crewe, 6.5 a.m.; Manchester, 6.50 a.m.; Liverpool, 7 a.m.; Chester, 9.3 a.m.; Doncaster, 6.10 a.m.; York, 7 a.m.; Hull, 8.20 a.m.; Darlington, 8.58 a.m.; Scarborough, 10.5 a.m.; Newcastle, 10.10 a.m.; Leeds (Central), 6.58 a.m.; Huddersfield, 7.37 a.m.; Bradford (Exchange), 7.47 a.m.; Harrogate, 7.50 a.m.; Halifax, 8.17 a.m.; Burnley, 9.28 a.m.; Leicester, 4.36 a.m.; Nottingham, 5.10 a.m.; Derby, 5.35 a.m.

AN important influence on the prosperity of the Crystal Palace will be made by the proposed tube from Victoria and Charing Cross, for which Parliamentary powers are being sought by a syndicate recently formed. The suggested route is by way of Peckham, Forest Hill, and Upper Sydenham to the north-west end of the Crystal Palace, and the fare from Victoria will be 3d.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

LONDON.

SEPT. 1. *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, an idle fancy, in a prologue, a play, and an epilogue, by Jerome K. Jerome (Mr. Forbes-Robertson's season)—St. James's.
" 2. *Idols*, drama, in four acts, by Roy Horniman, from the novel by W. J. Locke (commencement of Miss Evelyn Millard's season)—Garrick.
" 3. *What Every Woman Knows*, comedy, in four acts, by J. M. Barrie—Duke of York's.
" 3. *The King of Cadonia*, musical play, by Frederick Lonsdale, lyrics by Adrian Ross, music by Sidney Jones—Prince of Wales's.
" 4. *The Old Firm*, eccentric comedy, in three acts, by Harry and Edward Paulton—Queen's.
" 5. *Faust*, a new version, by Stephen Phillips and J. Comyns Carr, of Goethe's poem of "Faust"—His Majesty's.
" 7. *The Sailor's Wedding*, drama, in five acts, by H. Brinsley Hill—Marlborough.
" 7. *The Early Worm*, farce, in three acts, by Frederick Lonsdale—Wyndham's.
" 7. *Filby the Faker*, comedietta, in one act, adapted by Leon M. Lion from a story by Tom Gallon—Wyndham's.
" 8. *Paid in Full*, drama, in four acts, by Eugene Walter (originally produced in America)—Aldwych.
" 8. *The Duke's Motto*, melodrama, in four acts, adapted by Justin Huntly McCarthy from "Le Bossu" of Paul Féval (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on Aug. 31, 1908)—Lyric.
" 9. *The Conspiracy*, play, in one act, by Robert Barr and Sidney Lewis-Ransom (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, Nov. 8, 1907) (opening of Martin Harvey's season)—Adelphi.
" 14. *The Love of the Princess*, drama, in four acts, by C. Watson Mill (originally produced at the Grand Theatre, Nelson, on April 13, 1908)—Elephant and Castle.
" 14. *At the World's Mercy*, a musical comedy-drama, in four acts, by Carr Loates—Theatre Royal, Stratford.
" 14. *The House of Pierre*, piece, in one act, by Julie Opp Faversham and Kate Jordan (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Dublin, June, 1908) (Mr. Martin Harvey's season)—Adelphi.
" 21. *The Marriages of Mayfair*, drama of modern life, by Cecil Raleigh and Henry Hamilton—Drury Lane.
" 21. *The Whirlpool*, play, in three acts, by Herbert Swears, founded on a short story by Cyrus Townsend Brady (originally produced on Feb. 22, 1908, at Cardiff)—The Marlborough.
" 28. *If We Only Knew*, romantic play, in four acts, by Harry Nicholls and Charles Ross, music by John Crook—Grand Theatre, Fulham.
" 28. *The Cheat*, drama, in four acts, by Edward Ferris and B. P. Matthews (originally produced at Wolverhampton on Sept. 21, 1908)—Crown, Peckham.

REVIVALS.

SEPT. 9. *The Corsican Brothers*, romantic drama (opening of Mr. Martin Harvey's season)—Adelphi.
" 21. *Ib and Little Christina*, picture in three panels, by Basil Hood (originally produced on May 15, 1900, at the Prince of Wales's)—Adelphi.
" 28. *A Tragedy of Truth*, play, in two scenes, by Rosamund Langbridge (originally produced under the name of *The Spell* at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Nov. 2, 1906; Adelphi, June 17, 1907) (Mr. Martin Harvey's season)—Adelphi.
" 28. *Dorothy*, comic opera, by B. C. Stephenson, music by Alfred Cellier (originally produced at the Gaiety on Sept. 25, 1886) Broadway, New Cross.

PROVINCES.

SEPT. 7. *The Proof*, play, in one act, by Alice Clayton Greene—Opera House, Southport.
" 7. *Next Door*, tragic farce, in three acts, by Eardley Turner—Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
" 16. *The Emperor Commands*, one-act comedy, with music, by George Cornille-Pescud—New Tower Pavilion, Portobello.
" 17. *Lady Dolly and the Decalogue*, play, in three acts—Pier Pavilion, Paignton.
" 17. *The Bells of Old York*, drama, in five acts, by Rass Challis—Globe Theatre, Deal.
" 21. *His Wife No Longer*, drama, in four acts, by Stephen Pritt—Theatre Royal, Preston.
" 22. *The Woman from Russia*, drama, in four acts, by Fred G. Ingleby—Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.
" 28. *Reaping the Whirlwind*, play, in one act, by Allan Monkhouse—Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.
" 29. *In the Gloaming*, domestic play, in four acts, by Loie Esmond — Exchange Theatre, Wellingborough.

PARIS.

SEPT. 15. *Mam'zelle Trompette*, farce, in three acts, by Maurice Desvaillères and Paul Moncousin, music by T. Hirleman—Folies-Dramatiques.
" 25. *Madame Bluff*, comedy, in three acts, by A. Debray—Bouffes-Parisiens.
" 26. *L'Or*, play, in four acts, by R. Peter and R. Danceny—Sarah Bernhardt.
" 30. *Le Petit Fouchard*, comedy, three acts, by C. Raymond and A. Sylvane—Gymnase.

BERLIN.

SEPT. 1. *Sardanapal*, historical pantomime, in four scenes, by F. Delitzsch—Royal Opera.
" 4. *Sozial-Aristokraten*, comedy, in five acts, by Arno Holz—Deutsches Chamber Playhouse.
" 4. *Der Liebhaber*, four-act comedy, by Bernard Shaw—Hebbel.
" 9. *Kettenglieder*, four-act play, by H. Heijermans—Deutsches.
" 12. *Der Prinz D'Aurec*, comedy, in three acts, by H. Lavedan—Neues.
" 13. *Kimiko*, two-act play, by W. von Gersdorff—Deutsches Chamber Playhouse.
" 13. *Terakoya*, one-act play, by W. Von Gersdorff—Deutsches Chamber Playhouse.
" 18. *Theater*, comedy, in three acts, by E. Mautner—Luisen.
" 23. *Der Kolonialskandal*, farce, in three acts, by MM. F. von Zobeltitz and W. von Metzsch-Schilbach—New Schauspielhaus.
" 29. *Die Liebe Wacht*, four-act comedy, by MM. de Caillavet and de Flers—Trianon.
" 30. *Der Paragraphen-Schuster*, four-act volksplay, by MM. Rauchenegger and Dreher (Schliersee Company's season)—New Royal Opera.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act aff

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Farcical Comedy, entitled
"OUR FLAT."

Many and many a hearty laugh has Mrs. Musgrave's ingenious comedy caused, and the late Mr. Willie Edouin's famous impersonation of the theatrical manager, Nathaniel Glover, will always live and be fresh in the memory of his admirers. It is therefore very fitting that the clever little company appearing this week at the King's should be organised by Miss Daisy Edouin. A large audience on Monday evening took very kindly to the piece, laughing uproariously at its absurd situations, and it appeared probable that a successful run would result. Mr. Charles Steuart, as the unsuccessful dramatic author, possesses an easy and natural style of acting exactly suited to the part; Mr. Clarence Vane was capably played by Mr. G. P. Trevor; an amusing Mr. McCallum was Mr. Fred Knight; while Mr. Kaye Brudell was good as Pinchard, the milkman. Mr. S. B. Mayne was an excellent foreman from the furniture stores, acting as if to the manner born; Stout, the hall porter, was capitally rendered by Mr. John Morrin; an immense success was gained by Mr. Wilfred E. Shine in the character of Nathaniel Glover, his make-up and exaggerated manner as the eccentric theatrical manager giving rise to the most genuine laughter; Miss Mary Allestree made a pleasing Margery Sylvester, displaying much talent therein; Lucy McCallum was brightly represented by Miss Katie Yates; and Miss Florence Tyrell made the most of the fashionable dressmaker, Mme. Volant. Miss Irene Ross as the irrepressible youngster Clara Pryout acted well; quite a hit was made by Miss Louie Tinsley as the servant Bella, her sallies keeping the audience continually amused. Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's one-act play *Barbara* was also given, and in it Miss Florence Tyrell rendered the title-rôle very earnestly, while Miss Katie Yates, Mr. G. P. Trevor, and Mr. Kaye Brudell gave useful support.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Musical Play,
"MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND."

Local playgoers are congratulating themselves on being able to witness the popular *Miss Hook of Holland* so near home. A good house mustered to welcome Mr. George Dance's principal company on Monday. To say that the performance was greatly enjoyed is to put it very mildly, for apart from the fact that the play is a little out of the ordinary run of musical pieces, the acting in it is of a quality that would satisfy the most exacting. Nothing has been spared in the way of mounting and dressing, and the attention to detail and the excellent stage-management of Mr. Fred Lyne, which were evident throughout, helped materially to the success of the production. The Mr. Hook of Mr. Arthur Reynolds keeps the audience in the best of humour during his occupancy of the stage, his performance being very good. A delightfully vivacious Sally (Miss Hook of Holland) is seen in the person of Miss Marie Wilson, whose sprightly acting, pleasing singing, and graceful dancing combine to make hers a peculiarly attractive performance; the part of Captain Paap is well undertaken by Mr. Fred Hobbs, whose rendering of "The Soldiers of Nederland" is greatly appreciated; the not very exacting part of Lieut. pe Coop is undertaken by Mr. Lionel Scott, who makes the most of his opportunities; Bandmaster Van Vuyt finds a capable exponent in Mr. Powis Pinder, whose vocal efforts are treated in a thoroughly meritorious manner; the voices of Miss Marie Wilson and Mr. Powis Pinder are several times melodiously blended, their combined efforts being most appreciated perhaps in the duet "By the side of the sleepy canal." Mr. Percy Davidson gives a satisfactory impersonation of Ludwig Schnapps; and Mr. H. Holland makes a capital old Dutch policeman. Mr. Fred Lyne, whose splendid work as stage-manager we have referred to above, figures well as Simon Slinks, keeping the house in continual laughter by his quaint humour and by-play. As leader of the deputation of the unemployed—who don't want work—he is funny in the extreme. One of the most vivacious of actresses and sprightliest of dancers, Miss Mabel Sealby, undertakes the part of Mina. One of her great hits is the comical "Flying Dutchman" song, in which she is well supported by the efficient chorus, and another feature of her performance is her rendering of the famous "Petticoats" song, repeated encores being demanded in each case. Mr. A. Murray must be awarded praise for his impersonation of Van Eck, although it is a somewhat "sleepy" part; and Messrs. Charles Russ (Hans Maas) and H. Smith (Hendrick Draek) are to be congratulated upon their efforts. In characters of minor importance, praise is also due to Misses Amy Preston, Maudy Jennings, Queenie Preston, N. Burn, and F. Craigie, all of whom work well and for the success of the play. The members of the chorus are quite up to their work, and sing well. The gentlemen among them have a number all to themselves—"Bottles"—which is very humorously rendered, and for which an encore is demanded. The musical arrangements are under the direction of Mr. Sydney Shaw, and the crowded houses have been well looked after by Mr. Herbert Austin, for Mr. Geo. Dance, and the resident-manager, Mr. J. Murray Herriot, who have left nothing undone in catering for their audiences.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Play, entitled
"RAFFLES."

Mr. Leonard Boyne and company are paying their return visit to the Coronet Theatre this week, and the amateur cracksman is meeting with a most hearty welcome. As A. J. Raffles, the champion crib-cracker of the brainy, cultivated class, Mr. Leonard Boyne is magnificent. His easy, natural manner, his polished conversation, with the sudden awesome flashes of doubt and dread, and, above all, his marvellous alacrity and appearance of tense application to the business in hand, are all admirably suited to the part. His brief passages of love and tenderness, too, are delightfully depicted. Mr. E. W. Thomas gives a good sound performance of the part of the amateur detective, Curtis Bedford. Mr. Harold West contributes a touching embodiment as the faithful friend, Harry Manders, *alias* "Bunny," a very natural and lifelike representation. Miss Hilda Moore is gentle and graceful as the lovelorn Gwendoline Couran; and Miss Lillian Hallows is a fine, handsome exponent of the part of the adventuress, Mrs. Vidal. Miss Blanka Stewart is excellent as Lady Melrose; and Mr. Arthur Willoughby is dignified and polished as the trusting old nobleman, the Earl of Amersteth. Viscount Crowley is safe in the hands of Mr. Cecil Brymer, who is first rate in the rôle. Mr. Buckstone Clair acts with rugged force as the truculent scoundrel Crawshay; Miss Dorothy Gordon is good as the French maid Marie; and Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald makes a very pretty and engaging Lady Ethel. Mr. Robert Barbour is quietly effective as the porter Barraclough; Mr. Thomas Brooklyn, who enacts the small part of Merton, is stage-manager; and Mr Francis Simpson is business-manager.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Play, in Four Acts, by Walter Howard, entitled
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

The visit here this week of Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, which achieved such a success at the Lyceum, is proving a great attraction. The bare statement of the fact that the play was rehearsed under the direction of Mr. Walter Howard, and that the company carried the original scenery, furniture, and accessories, was in itself an incentive to suburban playgoers, and therefore at the opening performance on Monday it was not surprising to find the house packed from floor to ceiling. That their expectations were fully realised was evidenced by the enthusiastic applause they accorded the principals at the close of the performance. Much of the success of the play was due to Miss Annie Saker, whose impersonation of the sorely-tried Princess Monica was marked with that thoroughness of detail only found in the highly-gifted artist. The varying emotions of the part were faithfully partrayed, and Miss Saker evoked the fullest sympathy of the audience, who accorded her a great ovation. Miss Isla Vayne won hosts of admirers by her refreshing delineation of Viola; another good performance was that of Miss Dido Drake, in the rôle of Camiola, a beggar maid. Mr. Ivan Cleveland fully realised the despotic nature of Prince Hildred, and acted throughout with dignity; Mr. Graeme Campbell contributed a clever character-study of the deformed Prince Michael; Mr. Herbert Ford gave a vigororus and polished interpretation of Prince Olaf; Mr. Francis Hawley gave distinction to the rôle of the Bishop of Illyria; and Mr. Edmund Lea was effective as Colonel Wellenberg. Mr. D. Lewin Mannering played the part of Captain Hector in a manner thoroughly in keeping with the character; and Mr. Kendal Chalmers must be commended for a highly entertaining presentation of Lieut. Karl Stromberg; Mr. J. E. Gardner rendered good support as the dumb servant, Nathan; and the remaining parts were all in safe hands. Mr. Francis Hawley is general-manager for Messrs. Paumier and Howard.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Drama, entitled
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

Mr. Charles Harrington's company enacted the many stirring incidents in the above favourite play with much success here, and received quite an ovation at the hands of the young people, to whom the story of the slavery days will always appeal. In the grand plantation festival the vocal efforts of the ladies and gentlemen of colour were a great help to the success of the piece. Miss Hero Hathaway gave a sympathetic rendering of the suffering Eliza Harris; and Miss Jennie Malcolm fully entered into the quaint side of the character of Miss Ophelia, whose primness gave additional point to the outrageous tricks of the irrepressible Topsy, realistically represented by Miss Annie Watson. Miss Hetty Johnson's Cassy was a forcible impersonation; and Little Eva moved her audience not a little in the pathetic scenes, which Miss Kitty Bell so ably presented. Mr. J. Carr, a genuine negro, gave dignity and genuineness to the central figure of the play, Uncle Tom; and the brutal Legree was unsparingly drawn by Mr. T. Bowron. Plenty of mirth was aroused whenever Mr. Walter Langford came on as Marks, the lawyer, the same versatile gentleman giving a clever banjo solo in the plantation scene. Sambo and Quimbo, both genuine blacks, were played by Messrs. Jack Black and Tom Miles; and Mr. F. Forbes-Robertson made an interesting St. Clair. A host of talent appeared in a negro festival in Legree's cotton fields, giving concerted pieces, instrumental solos, ballads, and characteristic dances.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Comedy, entitled
"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH."

This famous West-end success is this week being presented to delighted theatre-goers at the playhouse on Brixton Oval, and the comedy seems as assured of proving profitable in the provinces as at the Apollo and Haymarket. The company is under the direction of Mr. C. H. Bowmaker, so long associated with the palmy days of the Surrey. A good cast is provided for the presentation, and Elizabeth Banks and her merry companions, it is safe to say, have made a troop of friends this week in South London. Mr. Ernest E. Norris makes a capital Reggie Hankey. His acting, indeed, as the good-natured dandy, is most amusing, and in his praiseworthy work he has an accomplished companion in Miss Blanche Lynd. This talented lady's portrayal of the good-hearted, but vulgar, Blanche Macintyre proved highly successful. As Elizabeth Banks Miss Florence Harcourt did well; her change from the frivolous and merry chorus girl of the start to the studious damsel was depicted excellently. Miss Helene Forrest was a sympathetic and handsome Lucy Middleton; Miss May Norris a pretty and engaging Lily Kerr; Mr. Fred Castleman was exceptionally good as the cynical roué, Mr. Whitby; as Harry Fairfax Mr. Bert Morley was a most agreeable lover, and deserved the applause received. *The Education of Elizabeth* was nicely staged and mounted, and produced under the superintendence of Mr. Ernest E. Norris.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Musical Comedy entitled
"THE GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG."

Aided by an exceptionally large company, a full chorus, and an augmented orchestra, *The Girls of Gottenberg* nightly receives the plaudits of a highly-appreciative audience. Mr. Bertie Wright as Max Moddelkopf is brilliant throughout, and he is undoubtedly the most humorous feature of the piece. His scenes with Miss May Marshall as the Burgomaster's daughter are laughable in the extreme, both artists combining most happily for the amusement of the audience. Mr. Tom Shelford as Otto, Prince of Saxe-Hildersheim, is superb, his rendering of the song "Jericho" being remarkably fine. Miss Amie Grey plays the part of Elsa with style and finesse. Mitzi, the innkeeper's daughter, is admirably impersonated by Miss Ellaline Thorne, whose dramatic powers are singularly well developed, whilst her singing is irreproachable. Miss Susie Raymond as Lucille, maid to Elsa, is the *première danseuse* of the cast, and furnishes a combination of beauty, grace, and agility. The undergraduates of the Gottenberg Ladies' College are resplendent in uniforms of green and gold. In these rôles the Misses Romaine, Allen, Taylor, and Gordon are certainly seen at their best. As Katrina Miss Susie Beardon displays a considerable amount of talent. The Burgomaster, as portrayed by Mr. Morgan Rickards, is distinctly funny, as is also Mr. Tom Squire as Adolph, the Gottenberg town clerk. The part of Kannenbier, the innkeeper, is left in the able keeping of Mr. Edward Stanley. Of the other characters Mr. Hugh Henson and Mr. Howard Gridland are admirable in their way; while Messrs. Allen, Miller, Comber, and Sealey contribute largely to the success of the piece. The play is magnificently staged and dressed. The lyrics are exceedingly pretty, and the chorus effects are unusually fine.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Drama, in Four Acts, by S. Buchanan Rogerson, entitled
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."

The management of this well-conducted theatre have been fortunate enough to secure for the current week Mr. T. Morton Powell's company in an adaptation of Guy Thorne's "When it was Dark." A large audience on Monday followed the story with unbounded interest, and appreciated with no uncertain voice the many fine situations to be found in the play, while the beautiful scenery and stage-pictures gained unqualified admiration. As Constantine Schwabe the millionaire Mr. Haldane Dalton brought out with fine effect the dominant personality of the man; and the sensual Sir Robert Llewellyn was made the most of by Mr. Charles Brandon. Mr. William H. Burton was a capital Rev. Mr. Byars; Mr. Wilfred Lyndon was seen to advantage as the Rev. Basil Gortre; and Mr. Jack Armitage portrayed with ease the man about town, Nunc Wallace; the Greek Ionides being played with finish by Mr. Charles Grandley. Mr. George Tawde caused amusement as the Hon. Charles Gayfly; Mr. Aldred Collingham was a competent Harold Spence; and the wronged and repentant Gertrude Hunt was finely played by Miss Ethel Griffies, Helena Byars being rendered by Miss Marie Barrett in good style. The remaining characters were in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur Clifton, Mr. Francis Cavins, Mr. F. Dixon, Miss Tessa Myers, Miss Emilie Schular, and Miss Florrie Lyndon.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Play, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE BONDMAN."

Mr. Wentworth Croke is presenting this week at the Dalston Theatre Hall Caine's play *The Bondman*, and it is going strong. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin is prominent in the cast in the trying part of Jason, which he plays with considerable force, quite impressing the audience with the intense and earnest nature of the man represented. As Michael Sunlocks Mr. Lionel Atwill imparts an air of romance to the character which is in every way acceptable; as Adam Fairbrother, the good-hearted farmer, Mr. Oswald Lingard is admirable; and as the exacting and somewhat mercenary Mrs. Fairbrother Miss Madge Lanerton does excellent work. The exacting rôle of Greeba falls to the lot of Miss Georgina Wynter, who sustains the burden of sorrow, hope, and fear with tear-compelling sympathy. Other female characters are satisfactorily portrayed by Miss Lilian Mayne (Martha), Miss Emilie Mayhew (Christian Ann), Miss Gertrude Helene, Miss Bessie West, Miss Hilda Grey, Miss Ethel Lockhart, and Miss Marie Florence. Mr. W. H. Rotheram is cast for two characters, Grandfather and Father Ferrati. The latter part affords plenty of scope for the actor's art, and Mr. Rotheram takes advantage of the chances. Mr. Alfred Fisher's Governor Testa and Mr. F. J. Waller's Doctor Boni must be mentioned among the careful enactments in the play; while Mr. Frederick Chapel as John Robert and Mr. John Grant as John James are favourites with the audience.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Oct. 5, Mr. F. R. Benson and Co. in SHAKESPEAREAN REPERTOIRE.

It is always worth while to see Shakespeare worthily presented and acted, and if one goes to see Mr. Benson and his company one may be pretty sure that the play will be well done. This week Mr. Benson is giving performances of *The Merchant of Venice, Julius Cæsar, Henry V., The Merry Wives of Windsor, Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*, with a slight excursion into *The School for Scandal*. Mr. Benson's Shakespearean productions are always distinguished by a fine air of scholarship and thoughtfulness, and proper respect for the greatness of the author. As for the acting, it needs no praise, for there is not a man living who has done more to train good actors and actresses than Mr. Benson. The play of *Julius Cæsar*—to mention one of the week's performances—is one that tests the powers of elocution of the actors as much as their dramatic powers. In this Mr. Benson takes the part of Antony: it is not the leading rôle by any means, but has its attractive points. Mr. Benson was excellent in the splendid funeral oration. Mrs. Benson was seen to advantage in the beautiful character of Portia. Mr. Murray Carrington made an impressive Cæsar—a Cæsar past his prime, and not quite the man he was, even as we are told Shakespeare meant him to be. Mr. E. A. Warburton deserves much praise for his work as Brutus, which was full of fine and dignified acting; nor was Mr. Baliol Holloway less effective as the fiery Cassius, and the famous quarrel scene went with splendid vigour and truthfulness. Mr. F. G. Worlock was a good Octavius; and Mr. H. O. Nicholson gave much point to Casca. Miss Helen Haye did well the little that falls to the part of Calphurnia. The work of the minor characters all showed the careful training of a master hand, and the crowds were splendidly alive.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Drama,
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."

The above is a strong play with a good cast. It is excellently staged, and is ably acted, and "Elephant" patrons have not been slow in showing their approval. Mr. C. W. Standing gives a vigorous representation of the gallant Lieutenant Gordon Drake; Mr. Cecil Klein is responsible for a very natural performance as his easy-going yet staunch friend, Sir Victor Lascelles; Mr. Frank Stone gives an excellent reading of the character of Count Bellini; and Mr. Hodgson Taylor is a forcible and impressive villain, Giovanni Ferici. The Countess Bellini is played with much feeling by Miss Maud Linden; and Miss Dulcie Greatwich acts in a sweet and natural manner as her daughter Mary. Miss Winifred Pearson is to be congratulated upon her excellent portrayal of the adventuress Lenore de Gresac, her acting in the scene in the boudoir at the Villa Marina giving evidence of her high emotional abilities. All the minor characters were in safe hands, and an adequate amount of fun was provided by Mr. Walter Pemberton and Miss Belle Travers in their respective characters of Jack Hawkins and Polly Clarke. The scenery is worthy of special mention, a most beautiful back-cloth being hung in the set depicting the Villa Bellina.

ROYAL ARTILLERY, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Farce entitled
"ARE YOU A MASON?"

The above-mentioned amusing farcical comedy is drawing good houses this week, and, judging by the mirth exhibited, is proving highly delectable fare to the patrons of this theatre. Mr. Charles Macdona has got together a capable company who work well and are not slow in taking every advantage of their opportunities and emphasising the laughter-provoking incidents with which the piece abounds. Frank Perry has a good representative in Mr. Francis J. Bithel, who extricates himself from the scrape he has got into in a light-hearted manner and a commendable spirit. Mr. E. H. Paterson gives an amusing rendering of the henpecked Amos Bloodgood; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce is entirely successful in the part of George Fisher; ample justice is done to the character of John Halton by Mr. G. P. Polson; Hamilton Travers is in the capable hands of Mr. Erskholme E. Clive; Mr. Wilton Ross makes a favourable impression as Ernest Morrison; Eva is a charming young lady as submitted by Miss Rita Narcelli, who puts heart into her work; Miss Mary Kilpack essays the rôle of Lottie in humorous fashion, and is the source of much merriment; Miss Adelaide Grace is well suited in the part of Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood; while Mr. R. Wiseman, Miss Viola Garland, Miss Pleonsgains, Miss Rita Johnson, and Miss Dulcie Verney also add their quota to the evening's amusement. The farce is preceded by a dramatic episode by W. Lestocq entitled *A Bad Penny*, and is successfully interpreted by Mr. Erksholme E. Clive, Mr. G. P. Polson, Mr. Wilton Ross, and Miss Dulcie Verney.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Play, in Four Acts, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

Presented by Mr. Wentworth Croke, *The Prodigal Son* is without doubt possessed of considerable magnetic power, and is consequently attracting large and interested audiences to this commodious house. The play, which comprises four acts, is excellently mounted and dressed, and the numerous members of a long cast are judiciously placed. Mr. Gordon Mackintosh essays the difficult character of Oscar Stephensson with much dramatic power, and brings into play the necessary ability and experience, and in Act 3 shows to conspicuous advantage. Mr. Hugh Montgomery supplies a clever study of the brother, Magnus Stephensson, and acts with sincerity and conviction; Mr. Charles Cooper merits commendation for his handling of the part of Stephen Magnusson, Anna, his wife, is pathetically rendered by Miss Barbara Gott; Miss Mildred Cottell as Helga Nielson infuses a good deal of emotion into the character, and is effective; Oscar Nielson is ably undertaken by Mr. Philip Renouf; Mr. Ernest Rivary offers a good characterisation of Dr. Olsen; Miss Valerie Crespin portrays the part of Elin with easy grace and in a charming manner, her singing being a grateful feature; Miss Marie Harcourt as Margaret Neilson and Mr. G. Dickson Kenwin and Mr. Charles A. Maynard as Director of Casino and Neils Filsen respectively are valuable members of the cast, the remainder of which lend excellent assistance to a praiseworthy production.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Drama, by Edwin Milton Royle, entitled
"A WHITE MAN."

The attraction here this week is the famous Lyric Theatre success, *A White Man*, presented by Mr. Herbert Sleath's company, which is drawing vast audiences to the popular South London house. The author of the piece has contrived to bring the atmosphere of cowboy life in the Wild West over the footlights, and there is a picturesqueness and novelty about the play which enthral the audience. Mr. Frank E. Petley as the brave, self-sacrificing Jim Carston scores a great success. He looks the part well, and the emotional passages are excellently rendered. Mr. Lewis Broughton plays very earnestly and successfully in the unthankful rôle of the Earl of Kerhill; Miss Eleanor May makes a sympathetic and stately Countess of Kerhill; while Miss Rhoda Ray is a very pathetic little Indian squaw as Natu-Ritch. Mr. R. A. Brandon scores heavily as the good-hearted foreman of the Ranch, "Big Bill"; while the three cow-punchers, Shorty, Andy, and Grouchy, are graphically delineated by Messrs. Thomas Severn, Martin Henry, and T. W. H. Sarll. Mr. Eric Hudson is remarkably good as the tall, silent Red Indian chief; and Mr. Walter Gibbons presents a first-class character-sketch as the cruel Cash Hawkins. The scenery and effects are most admirable, and the piece is most enthusiastically received.

THE LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Oct. 5, for the first time in London, the Drama, in Four Acts, by J. A. Campbell, entitled
"THE OLD FOLKS AT HOME."

Lord Howard Kenilworth	Mr. Frank Liston
Andrew Ross	Mr. Aidan Lovett
Christopher Robin	Mr. Henry Nelson
Hugh Lovell	Mr. Vernon Proctor
Ben Jolly	Mr. Frank Caffrey
Joe Chaff	Mr. Leslie Crowther
Jock	Mr. Arthur Dudley
Musillo	Mr. William Speke
William	Mr. William Myers
Robert	Mr. Harold Shuter
A Policeman	Mr. Henry Strong
Sam	Mr. Richard Loft
Johnson	Mr. H. Danby
Martha	Miss Clara Santley
Susan Giles	Miss Nellie Hook
Patricia Bathurst	Miss Kate Froude
Bonita Durham	Miss Amy Rudd
Dinah	Miss Lillian Francies
A Nurse	Miss Helene Cronie
Dorothy Robin	Miss Mary Fulton

Sentiment such as a popular audience love and fun that they revel in are abundant in the play above named, which was originally produced at the Junction Theatre, Manchester, on Sept. 30, 1907. The author has dealt deftly with incidents collated from many sources, and has presented a series of striking dramatic scenes and touching episodes, illustrated by dialogue of a telling character. Though the action of the play is transported at one time to the banks of the "Swanee Ribber," it is in an English village that the "old folks" reside. They are Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Robin, and they have a daughter, Dorothy, whom they had hoped to wed to their adopted son, the upright Andrew Ross. Dorothy, however, has been fascinated by the attentions of a libertine named Lord Howard Kenilworth, the landlord of the homestead, who only wants to make her his bride because he is obliged to marry in order to inherit a fortune, and because he thinks the simple country maid will offer no opposition to his vicious habits. The old people give a reluctant consent to the marriage, and Andrew Ross, who is passionately devoted to Dorothy, takes a solemn oath that should his lordship treat his wife with anything but kindness he will exact a terrible revenge.

The worst forebodings of Andrew are realised in the second act, when Lord and Lady Kenilworth return a year later from the Continent. Dorothy has suffered a long course of ill-treatment at the hands of her husband, who not only refuses to receive her father and mother, but intercepts her letters to them. Moreover, he introduces into his house a woman named Patricia Bathurst, whom he had met in Paris, but attempts in vain to force Dorothy to acknowledge her. Eventually a young artist named Hugh Lovell, who had been the means of introducing Lord Kenilworth and Dorothy, comes to see the young wife, and reveals to her the fact that it was from mercenary motives that his lordship married her. He takes a serious view of his responsibility, and cherishes a deep remorse for having been the means of Dorothy's unhappiness. He reminds Lord Kenilworth of Andrew Ross's threat of vengeance, and his lordship, stricken with fear, consents to a proposal, made by his lady accomplice, that Andrew shall be assassinated. Through the good offices of a servant-maid Mr. and Mrs. Robin gain admittance to the house, and take their daughter to the old home.

In the meantime Andrew Ross has gone abroad, and has obtained a situation as overseer at a cotton plantation in Virginia. The hired assassin duly makes his appearance, in the person of a pretended Mexican mail carrier, who is about to kill Andrew with a dagger, but is prevented by a timely shot from Lovell, who yearns for Andrew's forgiveness, and travels to the States for that purpose. He informs Andrew of Dorothy's dire position, and the young man immediately starts for England. He is saved the trouble of attacking Lord Kenilworth, for summary vengeance is meted out to him by a dumb hunchback, who is devoted to Dorothy, and kills the villain before ending his own life. The way to a union between Dorothy and Andrew is thus opened, and the peace of "the old folks at home" made secure.

Effective "curtains" are supplied to the play, and are well worked up by the principals. The highly-strung part of Dorothy is earnestly enacted by Miss Mary Fulton, who invests her scenes with deep poignancy and feeling, Dorothy's display of emotion at the sight of her dead child being very affecting. Mr. Aidan Lovett is a stalwart and well-spoken Andrew Ross, and gives full effect to his many stirring speeches. The unscrupulous nature of Lord Howard Kenilworth is neatly accentuated by Mr. Frank Liston, who makes a morbid villain, vindictive and aggressive towards the defenceless, but quick to show the coward nature. An artistically coloured performance of the adventuress, Patricia Bathurst, is given by Miss Kate Froude, who varies her utterances and actions skilfully. The old couple, Christopher Robin and his wife, supply two interesting personages, and Mr. Henry Nelson, an actor of manifest experience and excellent elocution, and Miss Clara Santley are much to be commended. As Hugh Lovell Mr. Vernon Proctor has to combat with a character drawn on very indefinite lines, but submits a sound and spirited rendition. A refined representation of Bonita, the young proprietress of the cotton fields, who falls in love with Andrew, is given by Miss Amy Rudd. A well-studied rendering of the bully, Musillo, comes from Mr. William Speke; and as the cripple lad Mr. Arthur Dudley supplies an eloquent piece of pantomime. The lighter element of the play is entrusted to Ben Jolly, a sailor, and William and Robert, a couple of flunkeys, who form a trio of rivals for the hand of the maid, Susan. Much diversion is caused by the efforts of the individuals named, Mr. Frank Caffrey greatly enhancing his reputation as a comedian by his jovial and cheery sailor-man; Miss Nellie Hook lending invaluable aid by her vivacity as the servant; and Messrs. William Myers and Harold Shuter going through a series of eccentricities that excite unbounded amusement. The play is embellished by some glees, including "A Farmer's Life," sung by the darkies in the Virginia plantation. They are particularly well rendered, the sweet and flexible voice of Miss Lillian Francies, who plays Dinah, being greatly admired. The scenery for the production is very elaborate, some picturesque effects of colour being gained in the plantation scene. A good audience on the night of our visit gave frequent expression of their approval.

THE BROADWAY, NEW CROSS.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Musical Comedy entitled
"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

This bright and clever production is proving an excellent draw this week, and it is remarkably well acted all round. Mr. Hill-Mitchelson is seen to great advantage in the rôle of the Duke of St. Jermyns, and to him falls a large share of the work; Mr. Robert Cranny as Higham Montague is distinctly good, and the same remark applies to Mr. J. W. Bruce as Lord Yatton; Mr. Franklin Miles is an excellent Sir John Crystal; Mr. Geoffrey Berwick is a capital Mr. Gibson; Mr. William Greene is good as Captain Rushpool; Mr. George Slade gives a good performance as Almeric Montpelier; Mr. H. C. Barry is very good indeed as Isaac Isaacstein; Master Peter Grata is a clever and amusing Bucket; and the footmen are well impersonated by Messrs. Edward Pollard and Stanley Liston. Miss Gladys Guy is a charming Angela; Miss Clare de Vere is an imposing Duchess of St. Jermyns; Miss Alice Hamilton is a pleasing and convincing Lady Crystal, whose two daughters have attractive representatives in Miss Barry Eldon (Honoria) and Miss Kate Robertson (Sophia); Miss Annie Braddon dances with grace and skill; Miss Ethel Edwards is an admirable Princess; and Miss Grace Hampton as Lady Caterham acts delightfully. The Gibson Girls and Lucille Girls have prepossessing representatives, and the orchestra is under the direction of Mr. E. Peterson.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Drama entitled
"THE HEART OF A HERO."

Business under Mr. Arthur Carlton's spirited management continues excellent. This week we have Mr. Lingford Carson's clever play, *The Heart of a Hero*, which is admirably interpreted by the capital company headed by Mr. Ernest J. Fare, whose performance of Jem Resdale is warmly appreciated. Mr. James Miley plays Wilfred Marl exceedingly well; Mr. J. P. Lallen is very good as Mark Marl; Mr. Will White is amusing as Timothy Heighno; Mr. Frank Kelland gives a capital performance of Jack Collinson; Mr. Cuthbert Taylor is a capital Detective David Pritchard; Mr. J. Harold plays effectively as Henry Barker; as does Mr. David Donaldson as George Winson; Mr. Sydney Russell is an impressive Inspector of Police and Mr. Hubert Monti a capable Chief Constable. Messrs. Compton Howard and Felix Lawson are competent Warders; and Mr. Horace Leech is well placed as Giles Brown. Miss Emma Rainbow brings her ripe experience to bear with excellent effect in the dual part assigned to her, viz., Mrs. Barker and Mrs. Ryder; Miss Mabel Fare is a charming May Ryder; Miss Frances Fernia a bright and clever Susie Slack; and Miss M. Steeple plays very well indeed as Nell Resdale. *The Shaughraun* was announced for Thursday and Saturday, with Mr. Ernest J. Fare in the part of Conn.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Drama, by Percy Ballard,
"ONLY A WOMAN."

Only a Woman is an apt title for the piece under notice. Marie Lestoc is the woman, and she dominates the destinies of the rest, and before the curtain falls the audience know that such a passing description can carry full significance. She is the first wife of Rodney Summerfield, who believes the marriage has been a mock ceremony; but his precious confederate, Courtney Wallace, is still a clergyman at the time and "lets him in." The woman finds this out, and henceforward holds sway over the two men, the second wife, and the children of the "marriages." Love, however, triumphs in the end, and sees the death of both Marie Lestoc and Rodney Summerfield, and the betrothal of the wronged Violet Redgrave to Rodney's cousin Richard. Miss Violet Cranford has plenty to do as Marie Lestoc, and brings much histrionic ability to bear upon the somewhat complex character; Mr. F. Green is a manly and outspoken Lieut. Richard Summerfield; Lieut. Rodney Summerfield is powerfully presented by Mr. Charles Wilton; Mr. Leslie K. Manton submits a well-defined sketch of the broken-down factitious scoundrel, Courtney Wallace; and Mr. George Willis as Billy Bumpkins (buttons), and Mr. A. Silvernie as the flunkey, James Dobson, lend able support in the comedy scenes. Miss Lily Ferris acts with charm as Violet Redgrave; and Miss Flo Bevan is a merry and entertaining Eliza Jane. Other parts receive adequate treatment, and Mr. F. E. Chabôt is to be complimented upon the mounting of the piece.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Oct. 5, the Play, in Three Acts,
"MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH."

Mr. Gaston Mayer's company, in *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, is the attraction here this week. The decidedly novel and piquant story, which has the rare advantage of gaining in interest as it proceeds, is being received with much cordiality, and is quite repeating on tour the success it met with in London. Mrs. Madge Carr Cook, in the name-part, is the central figure of the piece, and in the hands of this talented actress the cheerful, large-hearted, philosophic Mrs. Wiggs is a delightful personage, and is quickly endeared to everyone. Exceedingly clever is Miss Rita Carlyle's impersonation of Miss Hazy; while much praise must be bestowed upon Miss Mabel Durrant and Miss Mabel Vivian as the angular Mrs. Eichorn and the rotund Mrs. Schultz respectively. Miss Christine Raynor plays with becoming naivete as Lovey Mary; Miss Mary Deverell is a very charming Miss Lucy; and Miss Ruhamah Catton brightly impersonates Asia. Mr. Frederick Forrest is entirely successful as Mr. Stubbins, and is responsible for a very droll and interesting performance; Mr. Walter M. Cameron handles with tact and expression the rôle of Mr. Wiggs; Mr. Bob has a buoyant representative in Mr. Gerald Henson; Mr. Arthur Vezin plays in manly style as Billy Wiggs; and Mr. Sidney Carlyle makes the most of his opportunities as Chris. Hazy. Remaining parts are all played very capably, and the scenery and mounting are most appropriate.

The Duke and Duchess of Connaught and Princess Patricia witnessed the performance of *The King of Cadonia* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Monday.

"BRINGING IT HOME."

A Play in One Act, by H. M. Richardson, produced at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, Oct. 5.

Mrs. Unwin .....Miss Darragh
Mrs. Bent-Bullough ....Miss Louise Holbrook
Simpson .....Mr. Henry Austin
Jeanette .....Miss Lilian Christine
Cyril Unwin .....Mr. Basil Dean
Maid .....Miss Enid Meek

(From our own correspondent.)

Mr. H. M. Richardson has based his idea in *Bringing it Home* on the attitude of motorists towards the non-motoring public—a popular theme just now—and the title itself is the first step he takes towards giving away that idea before its time to an audience concerned chiefly at the start with the clever sarcasms of the dialogue. It is a play of incident rather than character, and such plays, to be effective, demand a climax that is unforeseen. Mrs. Bent-Bullough and Mrs. Unwin discuss motor-cars and the impertinence of the public that objects to be run down and killed by them. Children are killed, it seems, because their parents deliberately place them in the way to annoy the Bent-Bullroughs and the Unwins, to whom the roads belong. Mrs. Bent-Bullough departs (by car, of course), and Mrs. Unwin, whose husband is a motoring magistrate—but "a motorist first and a magistrate second"—is left to her thoughts. Suddenly Jeanette breaks on her in a state of excitement. Unwin junior, known as "the treasure," has strayed away somewhere and cannot be found. Some instinct of calamity is in the governess; but Mrs. Unwin allays her fears, not thinking of the danger of motor-cars in relation to her own child. It is, in fact, only after her husband has arrived home at a breakneck pace some time afterward, weary of trying cases which bear on the curiously human nature of the lower classes that, answering his inquiry about the whereabouts of "the treasure," she begins to wonder uneasily whether the little truant has been found. Mr. Richardson, having thoroughly prepared his audience for the tragedy, piles on the agony by making the parents dwell fondly on the value and meaning of their child to them. When the issue begins to make itself actually felt, and there can be no doubt whatever in anyone's mind that the thing—"the dog or the sheep"—which Mr. Unwin happens to have run over (without stopping) on approaching his home is his own child, a tense situation is created. It is, however, dramatically futile, and one is left to wonder that a play capable of effective treatment should be spoiled by the author's lack of tact. Otherwise a certain cleverness in the action and dialogue, a reflex, as it were, of current dramatic modes, indicates some knowledge of the stage and an ability worth cultivating. The acting was, on the whole, very good. As. Mrs. Unwin, especially at the close, Miss Darragh played with extraordinary incisive emotional power; Miss Louise Holbrook filled the part of Mrs. Bent-Bullough with just the requisite superficial smartness; the Simpson of Mr. Henry Austin was natural and, in its way, impressive; Miss Lilian Christine as Jeanette and Miss Enid Meek as the maid fulfilled their purposes creditably; and Mr. Basil Dean, though obviously too young for a magistrate, and therefore ill-cast, played the husband and father with the fullest regard for the intimate sentimentalities of his part. The part was well received.

"MAKESHIFTS."

A Middle-class Comedy, in One Act, by Gertrude L. Robins, produced at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, Oct. 5.

Caroline Parker .....Miss Ada King
Dolly Parker .....Miss Louise Holbrook
Mr. Thompson .....Mr. Leonard Mudie
Albert Smythe .....Mr. Charles Bibby

(From our own correspondent.)

In addition to her experience as an actress, Miss Gertrude L. Robins has brought to bear upon her little play, *Makeshifts*, a literary gift which is not only free from pretentiousness, but characterised by those qualities of perfect simplicity and ease which denote the artist. Moreover, her subject, quiet and simple as it seems, is distinctly outside the range of ordinary talent. It is a character play, and has for its central figures two sisters, Caroline and Dolly Parker—the one quietly domesticated to a life of commonplace anxieties, the other an assistant teacher in a school. In the house are also a sick mother and a very modest and unassuming lodger, Mr. Thompson, who looks upon the sisters with a kind of respectful yet sympathetic awe, but who in their eyes is apparently not a marriageable object. The life seems deadly dull; they see no men outside their narrow opportunities; it is probable they will develop into old maids. But the dulness is made bright for the audience by keen and humorous dialogue, quite natural to the characters and relevant to the situation, even while the bitter hopelessness of it all is throbbing underneath. It becomes apparent too, that a certain interest stirs in each when Mr. Albert Smythe is mentioned. That personage is expected, and presently arrives: a brisk and empty egotist in a gorgeous vest, talking much about himself and patronising the girls as if his very presence confers distinction upon them. Opportunity provides him with a chance to talk confidentially to each in turn; and in both cases he is interrupted apparently on the brink of a proposal of marriage. Pathos steals into the situation, for each loves him; pity also, for he is worthy of neither. But the truth is that what he has been on the point of confessing, and now blurts out to both, is that he is about to be married to the daughter of an elderly mutual acquaintance. With that, having got is off his mind, he cheerfully leaves them, an absconding makeshift, unaware of the painful little situation he has left behind. Admirable as the play is, it was no less admirably acted. Miss Ada King played Caroline, the elder sister, with remarkable tact and feeling; Miss Louise Holbrook was the discontented school teacher, Dolly, to the life; while as Mr. Thompson, the lodger, Mr. Leonard Mudie was quietly natural, and Mr. Charles Bibby as the cheerful Mr. Smythe gave an excellent comedy sketch. The piece and its authoress were warmly applauded at the close.

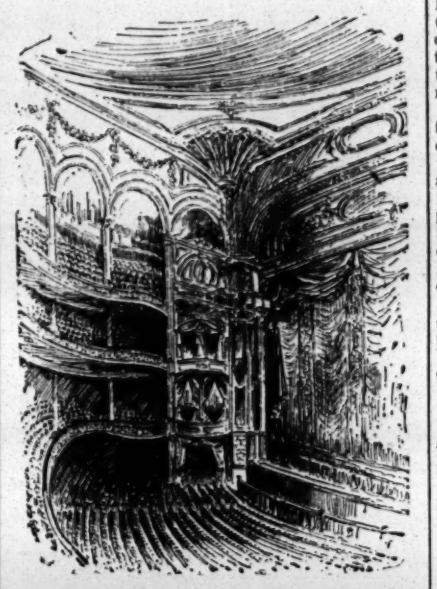
At the Savoy Theatre on the afternoon of the 29th ult., at 4.30 p.m., was given a copyright performance (by kind permission of Mrs. D'Oyly Carte) of *The Plumber Prince; or, The King of Ersia*, by A. E. Stilwell.

"The King of Crime" is proving a strong attraction at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, this week. Mr. F. B. Woulfe, in the title-rôle, gives a powerful rendering of Ronjarre, and Miss Mildred Eversleigh as Henrietta, the blind wife, ably seconds his efforts; Mr. William Miller as Gandek, Mr. William Melvyn as Louis Mascorot, and Miss Grace Evelyn as Mimie Patenlair, all do well in their respective parts. Mr. Sam Wilford, in the part of Mick Maloney, ably supports the lighter moments of the play.

Mr. Frank Stanmore's company in *The Gay Deceivers* has been playing to record business everywhere, and at the Hippodrome, Sheerness, last week, hundreds were turned away nightly. Such success is all the more gratifying in view of the fact that the piece has no London reputation, and relies solely on its intrinsic merits.

REOPENING OF GRAND, GLASGOW.

On Monday this theatre reopened under the management of Moss Empires, Ltd., and a very large and distinguished audience assembled to do honour to the occasion. The production for the opening was the popular comedy opera *Dorothy*, the revival of which was so successful at the Broadway, New Cross, last week. The early history of the Grand Theatre is crammed full of incident. It was originally opened on Aug. 3, 1867, by Alfred Davis, under the name of the Prince of Wales's Theatre. Among the notable bookings during his reign was an Italian opera company, which included Titiens, Sinico, Demeric-Lablache, Foli, and Santley. On the opening night of this engagement (Feb. 27, 1868) occurred a famous local "O.P. riot," owing to the limited accommodation allowed to the gods for their shilling and their indignation thereat. Davis produced two pantomimes during his lesseeship, *The Fair One with the Golden Locks* and *Valentine and Orson*, and it was during the run of the latter that the fire took place which ended the first chapter of the theatre's history. After being rebuilt, the Prince of Wales's was opened by Fred Belton, and subsequently, was under the control of John Coleman, William Sydney, W. H. Sleigh, Fred Cooke, and William Glover, all well-known names in the theatrical arena. In the autumn of 1881 a Nottingham syndicate installed Mr. Thos. W. Charles here, altered the name of the theatre to the Grand, and the opening under this management marked the beginning of a new era for the theatre. All the successes of 'Gus Harris at Drury Lane, and Wilson Barrett at the Princess's, and the Adelphi dramas, were given here with ample and adequate effect, the stage being the largest in Glasgow, and the visits of the Carl Rosa Opera Company twice yearly were always notably successful. But it was in pantomime that T. W. Charles excelled, and his first effort here, *Dick Whittington* in 1881-2, holds the record for Glasgow with a run of ninety-one nights. For five years the theatre had a run of prosperity, and then Charles left and Augustus Harris took the reins. Owing to several differences of opinion with the local magistrates, Harris left after one year, and the theatre was for a time run by H. Cecil Beryl and then by Andrew Melville. In September, 1893, Mr. Ernest Stevens took over the control of the Grand, and for ten years was most successful here, especially at pantomime time, thanks to that excellent comedian the late Percy Milton. During his occupancy Mr. Stevens did much to improve the theatre, particularly about the year 1899, when he became sole proprietor of the building and adjuncts. At this time a block of buildings in the rear of the stage was bought, and extensive and improved dressing-room accommodation added. In 1903 a syndicate, at the head of which was Mr. R. C. Buchanan, took over the theatre, and for a time was very successful, until the growing popularity of the variety houses began to tell against the theatres devoted to drama. Under this management considerable alterations and additions were made to the Grand, principally a new wing at a cost of £6,000, in



which are extensive bars, cloak-rooms, and smoking-lounges for every tier. Notable productions during this régime were *Romeo and Juliet*, which ran for forty-seven performances, a record for a Shakespearean revival in Glasgow annals; *Cymbeline*, which was not so successful; Robert Courtneidge's *Cinderella* pantomime; and a beautifully-staged revival of *Rob Roy*.

In the spring of this year Moss Empires took over the Grand, and since then the tradesmen have been busy transforming the interior. Messrs. Frank Matcham and Co. were entrusted with the work, and they have made new façades, improved exits and entrances, and have rebuilt the circles. The whole of the ceiling has been remodelled and ornamented with Italian art paintings. The auditorium has been entirely refurnished, and contains luxurious tip-up seats on velvet-pile carpet. The entrances have been artistically decorated, and the stage and dressing-rooms overhauled and altered. The sum of £5,000 has been spent, and the unanimous opinion of the large and enthusiastic audience at the opening on Monday when they beheld the beautiful interior of this fine theatre was that the money had been well spent. The illustration we give, though small, indicates the artistic and luxurious style of the decorations generally.

The revival of *Dorothy*, which serves to introduce the new régime, is that of Messrs. Hayden Coffin and John Coates, and both these popular artists were given a right hearty welcome on Monday. As Harry Sherwood and Geoffrey Wilder both were in excellent voice, and the encores were numerous and well deserved throughout the evening. Miss Ruth Davenport makes a charming Dorothy, and with the aid of her cousin Lydia, cleverly played by Miss Hebe Bliss, the humour, sentiment, and tuneful music of the opera were all equally well looked after. The opera has not been played professionally in Glasgow for twelve years, and so had the charm of novelty to many theatre-goers. In the part of Lurcher, Glasgow admirers welcome back Mr. Arthur Williams, who has not been here for a long time. His performance was most enjoyable, and all the time-honoured "gags" of the part, and several distinctly new ones, were received with roars of laughter. Mr. Colin Coop is an excellent Squire Bantam; and as Mrs. Privett Miss Emily Spiller again treads the boards where she reigned as a principal boy in pantomime. Mr. Tim Ryley as Tom Strutt, Miss Aimee Roberts as Phillis (a sweet singer), and Mr. Fred J. Vigay as the innkeeper, complete an excellent cast.

The audience on the opening night included several of the Glasgow magistrates and town councillors, and Sir Edward Moss, Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan, and the new manager at the Grand, Mr. Christie Grant, were all much in evidence. It is pleasant to record the fact that both before and behind the curtain most of the former employees are at their accustomed posts. *Dorothy* is to run two weeks, and be followed by Mr. Wm. Maclaren in *Claudian*.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. C. A. WHITE.

It is a pleasure to record that Mr. C. A. White has quite recovered from the effects of his serious accident, sustained on the night of Jan. 12, when, hurrying to catch his train, he slipped on a banana-skin and came down with such force as to break his right thigh, thus placing him *hors de combat* for many weary months. He is now happily convalescent, and most anxious to be at work again. With an experience extending over ten years, Mr. White's engagements have naturally been very varied. After his third long tour in 1896-7 as Jaikes in *The Silver King*, he was engaged by Mr. Edward Terry to take up the character parts in his répertoire at a few days' notice, owing to the illness of the late Mr. George Belmore, and appeared as Rushey Platt in *Love in Idleness*, Mr. Bearder in *The Churchwarden*, Dr. Fleming in *Weak Woman*, Dennis in *Innocence Abroad*, Colonel Hardy in *Paul Pry*, &c.

At the termination of the tour he went to Brighton for pantomime. During the spring of 1898 he was engaged by Miss Jennie Lee to play Tulkinghorn in a tour of the principal towns with

MR. CHAS. A. WHITE.

Jo. Then followed a tour with Mr. Norman V. Norman, when his répertoire consisted of *Garrick, Sweet Lavender, Caste*, and *The Lady of Lyons*, playing Simpkins, Dick Phenyl, Eccles, Colonel Damas, &c. During the last fortnight of that engagement Mr. White was engaged by Mr. Charles Wyndham (now Sir Charles) for a part in the production of the *Jest* at the Criterion; then followed a short tour with a farcical comedy, *Naughty Rosina*, as the Professor, under Mr. Murray King's management.

In 1900 he was engaged by Miss Ada Blanche to play the dialect part of Pilchard in her tour of *The Telephone Girl*, at the end of which he was appointed to understudy Mr. Charles Groves and the other comedians in the production of *The Thirty Thieves* at Terry's Theatre, and played the part of Appy, the Woodcutter, during the original tour. Then came pantomime at Brighton Hippodrome as Ibrahim and stage-manager for *Blue Beard*, followed by various short tours and special engagements in *Sweet Lavender, My Friend the Prince* as Jannaway, *Ticket-of-Leave Man, Streets of London, Variety Girl* (musical comedy), two tours of *A Hidden Crime* as the Chinaman Hop Wah, and supplemented by parts in numerous comedy and dramatic sketches.

Mr. White recalls a memorable performance of *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* at the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, when he played Melter Moss made up as Kruger. The news came that Mafeking had been relieved, and the acting-manager asked Mr. White to announce it from the stage. He did so in a little speech to Jem Dalton in the public-house scene. Nothing further of the play was heard. It was all "God Save the King," "Rule, Britannia," &c.

In 1905 Mr. White was engaged by the late Mr. Addison Bright to play the part of Eames, the butler, in the original production and tour of *The Little Stranger*. At the termination of the tour he was engaged for the character-comedy parts in *'Twixt Axe and Crown* and *Clancarty* on Mrs. Russ Whytal's tour. Then followed three tours with Mr. Hardy with *The Beauty and the Barge* as Dibbs the Gardener. He had on several occasions to play Captain Barley, and on the last week of the tour, on an emergency, he doubled the parts of Dibbs and Tom Codd. On his return to town on Jan. 1 he was engaged by Mr. J. E. Vedrenne for the production at the Queen's Theatre, which his unfortunate accident prevented him fulfilling.

THE MATINEE HAT.

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—I should not think of troubling you with a letter on the matinée hat question were it not that, since the episode which occurred at the Garrick Theatre the other afternoon during the performance of *Idols*, I have received so many communications urging me to take a "strong stand" in the matter, and, at the same time, blaming my acting-manager for the course he adopted in inviting the ladies in question to occupy seats in a vacant box, that I think a word from me is necessary to close the matter—at least, as far as my management is concerned. I feel that it would be quite uncalled for, not to say presumptious, on the part of one who has so recently started in management to attempt to institute any rule prohibiting the wearing of hats at matinées, even supposing that it were possible to enforce that rule, which I think would be a very difficult and ungrateful task.

Having read most of the letters which have been written on this subject, I feel that my sympathies are somewhat divided. As a manageress, I sympathise with the ticket-holder who maintains that, having paid for his seat, he is entitled to an unobstructed view of the stage, whilst as a woman I feel there is something to be said for the point of view of the lady correspondent who writes complaining of the discomfort endured whilst trying to fix on a hat at the correct angle in front of a small glass in a crowded cloak-room.

Surely it is for the milliners to solve the problem? Just as they have got over the difficulty of the creation both of a practical and becoming headgear for motoring, so surely will they, if they set their minds to it, devise a practical, and, at the same time, absolutely becoming theatre "cap"—a form of headgear barely larger than the head it is designed to cover, and yet so dainty and charming that every woman would feel happy in wearing it, not only at matinées, but at any other function, which she might be attending afterwards. Would not this get over the difficulty of the cloak-room, and at the same time permit every ticket-holder to have an uninterrupted view of the stage?

Managers are in rather a difficult position—the position of those who are anxious to please everyone.—Yours faithfully, EVELYN MILLARD.

Garrick Theatre, W.C.

DEATH OF DUDLEY CLINTON.

Mr. J. A. E. Malone has received a cable from Mr. Williamson announcing the death, at Perth, Western Australia, from pneumonia, at the early age of thirty-six, of Mr. Dudley Clinton, the well-known character actor. Mr. Clinton was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gillame, of Clifton Hill, Brighton. He was originally intended for the musical profession, but at an early age chose the stage, and made his first appearance at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, playing a small part in pantomime under the late Mrs. Nye-Chart's management in 1889. He immediately afterwards toured with English opera, playing such parts as Florestein, *Bohemian Girl*, and Lord Allcash, *Fra Diavolo*, &c. This was followed by a long engagement with Miss Inez Howard, playing the eccentric comedy part, Crispin St. Jones, in *Master and Man*. He then joined Mr. Arthur Bearne's company to play Charles Prescott, *My Jack*, and remained with this management for over three years, gaining much experience in a variety of character and comedy parts in répertoire. Then followed engagements with Mr. William Bourne as Plumtree, *Man to Man*; Ferdy St. Evremont, *A Big Fortune*; and a long tour with Mr. Arthur Carpenter's *Middleman* company. He then returned to Mr. Bearne's management to play Professor Marrables, *The Charlatan*, for an autumn tour, and in the spring following played Old David Garrick, *Dick Sheridan*. After a short summer engagement with Messrs. Charles Groves and Sydney Brough, playing Joyce in *A Pair of Spectacles*, Mr. Clinton was engaged by Mr. Charles Harrington to create the character part of Seth Mayson in *Her Wedding Day*, which he played upwards of 200 times. Then followed another tour with *A Pair of Spectacles*, playing Mr. Lorrimer, under Messrs. Charles Groves and George Raiemond's management. He was the original Mammon in the ill-fated *Pilgrim's Progress* at the Olympic Theatre, which was produced in December, 1896. In the spring of '97 he joined Mr. W. S. Penley's touring company to play Mr. Simpson, the Bombay agent, in *Jedbury, jun*. Then followed a tour with Mr. C. J. Abud's *Prisoner of Zenda*, playing Earl Rassendyll; and in the spring of '99 he was engaged by Mr. Frank Curzon to play Arthur Williams' part, Brabazon Tudway, in *Lord and Lady Algy*. At the conclusion of this tour Mr. Clinton had the rather unique experience of appearing nightly at two West End theatres, viz., the Vaudeville at 9.20, and the Adelphi at 10.50, under two separate managements—Messrs. A. and S. Gatti and Mr. Herbert Sleath respectively—creating the part of Hyams, the Jew picture dealer, in the farcical comedy *The Elixir of Youth* at the Vaudeville, and the Jew convict, a small part, in the last act of *With Flying Colours* at the Adelphi. This very pleasant combination lasted five months, and it was owing to his performance of Hyams that Messrs. Morell and Mouillot offered him the part of Mosenthal in the forthcoming tour of *The Degenerates*. He was unable to accept, however, having arranged with Mr. Ben Greet to play Mr. Dagnall's part of Leopold Kolditz on his original tour of *Hearts are Trumps*, and shortly before the

[*Photo by Boughton.*

THE LATE MR. DUDLEY CLINTON.

conclusion of the second tour Mr. Greet released him to accept another offer from Morell and Mouillot to play Arthur Williams' part of the Tramp in their principal company of *A Message from Mars*. This engagement extended for over two years, Mr. Clinton having played the Tramp for upwards of 600 times, and the part has naturally been associated with his name throughout the provinces. At the termination of the fifth tour in December, 1902, he went to Belfast and Dublin, under Messrs. Mouillot and Warden's management, to play King Rattatat in *Jack and the Beanstalk* pantomime. After a short engagement with Miss Florence St. John, playing Mr. Willoughby, *Mrs. Willoughby's Kiss*, he toured his own company with the Criterion success *Betsy*, playing Mr. Birkett, in partnership with Messrs. Atwood and Barry, and in the previous summer of 1902 he toured, in partnership with Mr. Frank Lascelles, Mr. Pinero's *Dandy Dick*, playing the old butler, Blore. Subsequently he resumed one of his favourite parts, Leopold Kolditz in *Hearts are Trumps*, under Mr. Henry Dundas's management. Although Mr. Clinton chose the stage in preference to music, he by no means abandoned that profession, as he published with many of the leading London firms, including Ascherberg, Jeffreys, Ashdown, Howard, &c., his ever-popular waltz "Alciméne," "Eastern Dances," and "Colorado" barn dance being amongst his best-known compositions, and he was one of the last composers to receive a kindly letter from our late beloved Queen in gracious acceptance of his march "In Victoria's Name."

At the time of his death Mr. Clinton was under engagement to Mr. Williamson, the famous Australian manager.

At the Royal Academy of Music Ada Lewis Scholarships have been awarded as follows:—Pianoforte, Arthur Brian Nash (of Darjeeling, India); violoncello, Ethel Huskisson Martin (of London); violin, John Spink (of Brentford). Highly commended, Elsie Haworth; and commended, Gladys Daniel and Frieda M. Fairclough. The examiners were Messrs. T. B. Knott, Carlo Albanesi, and Benno Schonberger (pianoforte), Messrs Josef Blaha, L. Zimmermann, and Hans Wessely (violin), Messrs. A. Pezze, H. Walenn, and W. E. Whitehouse (violoncello). The Orchestral Instruments Scholarship has been awarded to Edward James Augarde (of London), clarionet, William Gardner being highly commended. The examiners were Messrs. Daniel S. Wood, W. M. Mulsch, and Stewart Macpherson (chairman). The Baume (Manx) Scholarship for any branch of music has been awarded to Mary Purcell (vocalist), of Ramsay, Isle of Man. The examiners were Messrs. T. B. Knott, Arthur Thompson, and F. Corder (chairman).

"THE FIGHTING HOPE."

Drama, in Three Acts, by William J. Hurlburt, Produced at the Stuyvesant Theatre, New York, on Sept. 22.

(From our New York correspondent.)

The appearance of Miss Blanche Bates in a modern play, written by a Western dramatist hitherto unknown to fame and "discovered" by Mr. David Belasco, lent an interest that was much more than ordinary to the reopening of the beautiful playhouse in West Forty-fourth-street built by Mr. Belasco and devoted to the practical realisation of his ideals. From recent statements in the newspapers we have gathered that Mr. Belasco intended to give the struggling American dramatist "a chance." Unknown writers are always supposed to be struggling, but in view of the fact that the author of the play under notice has hit the mark the very first time, it would seem that he has not had to struggle very long or very hard. To have to use such a word as failure, however, in connection with any play produced under the direction of Mr. Belasco is a very remote possibility. Mr. Hurlburt has written a play of considerable power, direct, coherent, and intensely interesting. It deals with the conflicting personal interests of a woman who fights for the honour of her husband and the good name of her two children, and who suddenly discovers that her husband is unworthy, the situation being complicated by the discovery in the same moment that her heart has gone out to the man who has been instrumental in sending her husband to prison. The play was received with demonstrative approval by a crowded house, and Miss Blanche Bates scored a brilliant success as the heroine, the other characters being ably represented by Mr. Charles Richman, Mr. John W. Cope, Mr. Howell Hansell, and Miss Loretta Wells. The one scene of the play is laid in the library of Burton Temple's home near Ossining, on the Hudson, not far from Sing Sing Prison. Temple is the president of the Gotham Trust Company, a wealthy concern which has gone to the wall. Following the crash and the investigations of the State authorities, Robert Granger, the cashier, has been arrested, tried, and sentenced to ten years in Sing Sing; but while the jury placed the blame on the cashier's shoulders, the Press and the public are not so sure that justice has been done. There is a strong feeling that Granger acted under Temple's instructions when he certified the cheque that caused all the trouble. It is believed that Temple has succeeded in making a scapegoat of Granger, and the feeling grows so strong that the newspapers start an investigation of their own, with the result that the case is reopened and Temple is indicted. In the meantime Temple has engaged a young woman named Anna Dale as his private secretary and typist. She is really the wife of Robert Granger, who is now serving his sentence. Her purpose in coming to Temple's house is to get at his private papers and obtain such evidence as will cause his downfall and liberate her husband. At the first interview with Temple she recognises him as a man whom she had observed and idealised during her business career in days gone by. But she brushes all personal feelings aside, and begins her self-imposed task. The impression conveyed during the first act is that Temple is guilty and Granger innocent. It soon becomes evident, however, that justice has not miscarried. In fact, it is palpable that the jury was right, and that those who condemn Temple are utterly wrong, for the latter employs detectives, who discover a letter signed by Granger which is in effect a most conclusive admission of guilt. The letter is placed in the safe, and Anna abstracts it, reads it, and puts it in the fire, thus destroying the only bit of evidence against her husband and the only thing that will keep Burton Temple out of Sing Sing. She does this far less for her husband than for the father of her children, for she realises that she has married the wrong man, and cannot conceal from herself the fact that she has grown to love Temple, who has shown his affection for her, believing her to be a single woman. This is the situation when Robert Granger, supposed to be in prison, suddenly appears on the scene and tells his wife that he has been pardoned. "Miss Dale" confesses her identity and tells Temple that she has destroyed the evidence against her husband, and Temple's love for her is so great that he immediately forgives her. Knowing her husband to be a criminal and loving another, the wife means to be loyal to the father of her children nevertheless. But her trust in the man she has married is utterly destroyed when Temple's partner, knowing nothing of her relationship to Granger (who has been thrust into an adjoining room), discloses the fact that the latter spent the money he obtained on another woman. When he finds that his wife knows everything, Granger proves himself a cur by insinuating that she and Temple are more friendly than they ought to be, and by trying to make terms with her by conniving at her disloyalty. This infuriates her to such a degree that she strikes him with her clenched fists until he grovels at her feet. Then the silence outside is broken by the sound of a whistle. Granger knows the signal. He confesses that he has escaped from Sing Sing, and that the keepers are after him. The ulster he wears conceals the garb of a convict. The first impulse of his wife and those about her is to deliver him to his pursuers; but he shakes and cowers and begs for mercy, until she opens a back door and lets him go. A moment later a shot is heard, and word is brought that Granger is dead, the ultimate marriage of Temple and the woman who has fought so bravely being implied, of course, as the play ends.

"COLD MUTTON."

A Farce, written by H. W. Mince, produced for the first time at the Brixton Theatre on Monday, Sept. 28.

Dick Middleton .....Mr. Ralph Hutton
Mabel .....Miss Evelyn Cecil
Mr. Morley .....Mr. Claude Haviland

An interesting *lever de rideau* which should prove extremely popular is provided in *Cold Mutton*. The dialogue is sparkling and the plot is most amusing. The story, briefly told, relates how a fortune is left to a newly-wedded couple by an eccentric relative, who has very peculiar notions regarding the fair sex, and also a decided objection to cold mutton, classing both under the head of "painful necessities." He leaves a sum of £500 to Dick Middleton on the distinct undertaking that his wife (Mabel) does not ask him to have a meal of the objectionable dish for a year and a day after their entering matrimony. On the occasion that Mr. Morley, the solicitor, calls on Middleton to complete the business of the eccentric clause in the will, the dog belonging to the young couple dies. Mabel is so distracted by her loss that she has given her cook orders to serve cold mutton. The young couple's troubles are at their height, when the situation is saved by the kindly lawyer, who finds that the old uncle has had a clause inserted in the will to the effect that if Dick's wife should be so ungrateful as to serve cold mutton Dick is to have a solatium in an allowance double that already left him. The play is appropriately brought to an end by "all three" promising to dine off "cold mutton" on the anniversary of the uncle's death. Mr. Ralph Hutton admirably sustained the part of Dick; and Miss Evelyn Cecil was a sympathetic and charming young wife. Mr. Claude Haviland was capital as the cheery lawyer, Mr. Morley. A cordial reception was accorded the little piece.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham's dress-suit in *Bellamy the Magnificent* is light blue. The coat skirt is old-fashioned in cut, there is an outside breast-pocket on the left-hand side, and from this pocket is shown the corner of a pink handkerchief. The crease-edge stands off from the collar, so that the lapels of the coat look rather like rolls of cloth. The waistcoat is white and cut V-shaped; and in place of an ordinary dress tie Sir Charles wears a white stock. His Bellamy is just now the "talk of the town."

Mr. George Alexander concluded his engagement at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, on Saturday night. After thanking the public for their appreciation of the efforts of his company and himself, Mr. Alexander paid a warm tribute to the tact, courtesy, and ability of Mr. Hugh Macfarlane, the popular business-manager here, in his management of "this beautiful theatre," adding that he wished all provincial theatres were controlled in the same way The large audience indicated complete agreement with Mr. Alexander's remarks.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell went through a trying experience on Wednesday at the Southport Opera House, where she was playing in *Electra*. Mrs. Campbell was taking a torch from a doorway, when the flame set fire to her hair. She smothered the flames with her hands, but they spread to her robes, when, with admirable presence of mind, she clutched at the garment and managed to put the flames out. "'Don't be alarmed," cried the actress to the startled audience. "It is nothing. I am not a bit hurt." The house accorded her a tremendous ovation, which was repeated at the close of the performance.

The matinée hat is to be banned during Mr. Tom B. Davis's administration at the Queen's Theatre. Mr. Davis has announced that, having regard to the publicity given to the matinée hat incident at the Garrick Theatre recently, and to the fact that the letters written to the Press seem to show that the public expect some definite action should be taken in this matter, for the purposes of studying the comfort and convenience of the majority of the audience he has decided to print on all tickets issued during his management of the Queen's Theatre a notice that ladies are required to remove their hats during the morning performances.

Mr. Tom B. Davis, who will produce *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, on the 17th inst., is the only manager associated with theatres and productions in the West-End of London and at the same time controlling a very important theatre in the provinces, viz., the Theatre Royal, Birmingham. In addition to Mr. Davis's interest in a dramatic star of the first magnitude like Mr. Lewis Waller, with whom he has a permanent arrangement running into years for the Lyric Theatre, it is due to him that "the Follies" will reopen on Dec. 1 at the Apollo Theatre for a season extending over twelve months. In addition to the Lyric and Apollo Theatres and *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's, Mr. Davis will produce the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on the subject of *Dick Whittington*, with Miss Sybil Arundale as Dick, and *Jack and the Beanstalk* at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, with Miss Ada Reeve as Jack. In spare moments Mr. Davis advises Miss Evelyn Millard on her managerial policy and business interests, and the success of *Idols* at the Garrick is tremendous.

The book of *The Belle of Brittany* is by Leedham Bantock and P. J. Barrow, the lyrics by Percy Greenbank, and the music by Howard Talbot and Mme. Marie Horne. The action of the play is laid in Brittany about a hundred years ago, the first scene being a charming exterior in the Bois d'Amour, Pont Aven, and the last the interior of a château, during the celebration of the old-time custom of the Daffodil Harvest Festival, which affords an opportunity for a charming old Breton country dance. The production is under the direction of Mr. Sydney Ellison, and Mr. Howard Talbot will conduct.

Principal among the cast are Miss Ruth Vincent, Miss Maudi Darrell, Mr. George Graves, and Mr. Walter Passmore, who will have strong support in Messrs. Lawrence Rea, Davy Burnaby, George Miller, Fred Trott, J. Oliver Round, Vere Mathews, John Montague, Harry Leslie, and Hamlyn Hamling, and Misses Lily Iris, Maud Boyd, Blanche Stocker, Cora Carey, Alice Hatton, Blanche Carlow, Minnie Baker, and Gladys Saqui.

An attempt to prevent Mr. Henry R. Smith from taking up his lease of the Waldorf Theatre failed in the Vacation Court on Wednesday, when the syndicate owners moved to restrain the Law Guarantee, Trust, and Accident Society, Ltd., who are in possession of the house as trustees for the first debenture holders, from carrying out an agreement of Sept. 22 last to let the theatre to a company to be formed by Mr. Henry Richard Smith at a rental alleged to be wholly inadequate. It was urged that the theatre was let to Mr. Shubert at £8,900 a year, but that it was now proposed to let it to Mr. Smith on a twenty-one years' lease at a rental of £3,000 for the first six months, £6,000 for the next two years and a half, £6,500 for the following two years, £7,000 for the next nine years, and £7,500 for the last seven years. Counsel suggested that £8,500 a year would be reasonable. Mr. Justice Coleridge declined to grant the injunction asked for.

The sympathies of all will be with Mr. William Bailey, so long the proprietor of the West London Theatre, against whom a receiving order was made in the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday. The unsecured liabilities were returned at £855, and the available assets at £2,105. The debtor began business as a theatre proprietor in or about 1892 at the Royal West London Theatre, in partnership with others, but since 1901 he has carried on business alone. He attributed his failure to competition, to general trade depression, and to the removal from the district of several thousands of families owing to the opening of the Great Central Railway. A trustee was appointed.

Mr. H. B. Irving has effected a compromise with regard to the booking of the cheaper-priced seats, a system which his lamented father made such a gallant effort to institute at the old Lyceum. During Mr. Irving's season at the Shaftesbury Theatre, beginning on Oct. 15, it will be possible for seats to be reserved for eighteenpence in the amphitheatre.

Mr. F. R. Benson is discharging a formidable task at the Fulham Theatre this week. He is playing no fewer than seven of the longest and most arduous parts in the whole range of the drama. The list consists of Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*, Marcus Antonius in *Julius Cæsar*, Henry V. in *Henry V.*, Dr. Caius in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Macbeth, Charles Surface in *The School for Scandal*, and Hamlet. The mere physical exertion required by such a feat is remarkable. Mrs. F. R. Benson, who acts the heroines in these plays, is scarcely less weighted with dramatic responsibilities.

Mr. Lewis Waller has forwarded £4 6s. 6d. to the secretary of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, being a further sum collected by means of his autograph and kindly devoted to the Fund.

A joyous event occurred at the Parish Church, Grimsby, on the 25th ult., when Mr. Leslie Owen, the principal of *The Prince of Pilsen* company, was married to Miss Ida Stratham, leading lady with Mr. F. Mouillot's No. 1 *Girl Behind the Counter*. The bridegroom is the eldest son of Mrs. Owen, of Bedford-park, Chiswick, and the bride the youngest daughter of Mr. F. E. Farmer, of St. John's-road, Tunbridge Wells. Miss Farmer has recently returned from a successful tour in Spain, and when at Madrid she frequently appeared before their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain.

The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Richard Meddings, Vicar of Grimsby, and chaplain of the Actors' Union, in the presence of a crowded congregation. The bride, who was charmingly gowned, was given away by her father. A brief homily was delivered by the Vicar, and a merry party subsequently had lunch together. A large number of telegrams were received wishing the newly-wedded pair long life, happiness, and prosperity.

The members of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company had an unpleasant experience on their journey from Cork to Blackpool. They left Cork after the matinée last Saturday, and were due to reach Liverpool at 1.30 a.m. on Sunday morning; but, owing to the dense fog, they arrived nearly twenty-four hours late. Once during the journey the boats were ordered to be lowered, as the vessel was found to be drifting on to the rocks, but fortunately a disaster was averted. Although the company and scenery did not arrive at Blackpool until late on Monday afternoon, the company opened to a crowded house at the Winter Gardens on Monday evening.

Mr. Douglas Hamilton, a member of the Thornton company in New Zealand, has been recommended for the Royal Humane Society's medal for a plucky act, the circumstances of which, reported in the *Poverty Bay Herald*, have been sent to us. Amongst the first of the Southern passengers to descend the gangway of the ss. Monowai to the tender at Poverty Bay on Aug. 6 was a well-dressed lady, a passenger from Wellington, N.Z. She was assisted on to the deck by Mr. Frank Thornton, of the Thornton Dramatic Company, who happened to be standing near the gangway. Mr. Thornton directed her towards the shelter of the awning, whilst another gentleman kindly held her little child. A moment later Mr. Thornton was astounded to see the lady step over the bulwark of the steamer. Before he and others standing near had realised what had happened there was a splash in the water, and the woman was being rapidly carried away by the nasty sea that was running.

The first to grasp the situation was Mr. Douglas Hamilton, a member of the Thornton company, who, quickly stripping off his heavy overcoat, sprang overboard, and swam to the rescue of the woman. The water was bitterly cold, and there was a heavy sea running, which had carried the woman some distance, but her clothes spreading out helped to keep her afloat until her rescuer arrived. Mr. Hamilton, though hampered by his clothing, caught the woman, and swam back to the tender with his charge, whom he held firmly, though obviously exhausted by his gallant effort.

Mr. Charles Wynyard, another member of the company, had jumped down on to the tender, and caught hold of the rescued one, and with the help of the captain and members of the crew pulled her on board, whilst Mr. Hamilton was also assisted up the side of the vessel. Accompanied by two of her children, the lady, who was suffering from melancholia as the result of a recent sad bereavement, was going to Gisborne for a change. She was met on the wharf by her friends, who took her to a hotel, where she was none the worse for her immersion. It is stated the lady had not been on a boat since the time she went out from England about twenty-four years ago.

The wedding of Mr. Charles Boult and Miss Dora L. Hampson, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, took place at St. John's Church, Briggate, Leeds, on Tuesday, in the presence of a large congregation. A reception was afterwards held at the bride's sister's house in St. George's-terrace, where the presents, to the number of over one hundred, were on view. From his manager and life-long friend, Mr. R. A. Roberts, the bridegroom received a massive silver cigarette case. The members of the *Straight from the Shoulder* company, among whom Mr. Boult is very popular in his capacity of business-manager, gave him an admirably-appointed luncheon basket, and amongst the splendid presents to the bride were three complete suites of furniture. We join with the numerous friends of Mr. and Mrs. Boult in wishing them every happiness, long life, and good health.

Actors' Day, as already announced, is due on Thursday. In a letter which we published last week Mr. Sydney Valentine puts the claims of the Fund very clearly. As chairman of the Advisory Board, the members of which are not only influential, but thoroughly representative of the provinces and of the London stage, Mr. Valentine writes with a very full knowledge of the actor's interests and the best way in which they may be served. He tells us that the Board have ample and grateful testimony of the great practical utility of Actors' Day, that the benefits are even now substantial, and that with general support he considers they would be out of all proportion to the sacrifice involved.

The scheme, as decided at the last annual general meeting, is simplicity itself. The Fund is open to actors, actresses, authors, and managers. To be on the register, at least one night's earnings must be contributed, and as no applications from those not on the register are entertained in any form, contributors know that no part of their contribution can, under any circumstances, go to any who have not shown their willingness to help themselves. The organising committee ask for the help of all who will assist in making their objects widely known. Forms and all particulars can be obtained at the office of the Fund, Dudley House, 37, Southampton-street, Strand, W.C.

The first suburban performance of Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's successful drama, *A Country Girl in London*, will take place at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, on March 1, with Broadway, New Cross, Stratford, &c., to follow. The piece is a great success in the provinces.

Patrons of the Crystal Palace Theatre will be afforded the opportunity next week of witnessing a new romantic costume play, which rejoices in the fetching title of *Beau Brocade, the Highwayman*. The text is by Baroness Orczy and Montague Barstow, the authors of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, which has had such a phenomenal success in London and in the provinces. The story told is of the adventures of Jack Bathurst, a captain in His Majesty's forces, who, wrongfully accused of high treason, becomes a highwayman to escape from his political foes. The action of the play takes place at Brassington, in Derbyshire, in 1746. No expense has been spared in the mounting, for which Mr. Louis Calvert is responsible. Mr. Reginald Dance, who tours the production, sustains the title-rôle, and the cast includes Mr. Edward Irwin, Mr. Stanley Lathbury, Mr. Dalziel Heron, Mr. Frank Powell, and Miss May Brooke. *Beau Brocade* will be preceded by a one-act play, entitled *The Proof*, by Alice Claton Green.

Mr. Nat Goodwin, the well-known American comedian, has been granted a divorce by the Nevada Court from his wife, Miss Maxine Elliott, the equally famous actress. Both parties in the action are well-known in London, where they first played, in 1898, at the Duke of York's Theatre, in a number of American plays.

Miss Maxine Elliott, who had previously divorced Mr. G. A. McDermott, a New York lawyer, married Mr. Nat Goodwin twelve years ago, and accompanied him on a tour to Australia. One of her best-known characters in London is that of Phyllis Ericsen in *When We Were Twenty-One*, in which she appeared at the Comedy Theatre in the autumn of 1901. Her most recent visit to London was in September of last year, when she appeared as Mary Hamilton in *Under the Greenwood Tree*.

Miss Elliott was playing at the Adelphi Theatre, Philadelphia, on Sept. 22, when the despatch from Reno announcing that her husband, who had resided there for some time, carrying on a brokerage business, had filed a suit for divorce was shown to her. "This news of the beginning of a divorce suit comes as a complete surprise to me," she said to an interviewer. "I do not know what is the matter with Mr. Goodwin. He must be crazy to take such a step. We never separated; it was merely unfortunate that our theatrical engagements necessitated that we be apart a great deal of the time." Miss Elliott has spent most of her leisure time abroad in recent years. The Elliott Theatre, which is now under construction in New York, is being built for Miss Elliott by the Shuberts.

Mr. H. B. Irving is anxious to have it known that he is in no way interested in the proposed conversion of the Shaftesbury Theatre into a music hall. If the application to be made in due course to the licensing authorities is successful it will not take effect until after the expiration of Mr. Irving's tenancy, which commences with the production of *The Lyons Mail* on Oct. 15.

The Shaftesbury, for which a music hall licence is to be sought by Mr. Walter Gibbons, has had a noteworthy career. It was built by the late Mr. John Lancaster in 1888 for his talented wife, then known as Miss Ellen Wallis, whom he had married in August, 1876, and who four years previously had made her stage début at the old Queen's Theatre in Sir Charles Young's *Montcalm*. Mrs. Lancaster-Wallis, by the way, is now appearing in *The Marriages of Mayfair* at Drury Lane.

The autumn of 1889 witnessed the production at the Shaftesbury of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's drama *The Middleman*, in which Mr. Willard scored a great triumph. Signor Lago had an opera season on Oct. 19, 1891, and he gave the first performance in this country of Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*. In 1896 Sir Augustus Harris produced the comic opera *The Little Genius*, and in April, 1898, *The Belle of New York* was started on its prosperous career. More recently the theatre gave hospitality to the Sicilian actors, who achieved what was picturesquely described as an "electric success."

Mr. Joseph O'Mara, who is about to journey to America to fulfil an extended concert tour, was presented with the freedom of the city of Limerick on the 2nd inst. "in recognition of his distinguished services as a great Irish tenor and actor to musical and dramatic art, and as one who during a brilliant career on the operatic and concert stage has earned undying fame and reflected honour upon Limerick as the city of his birth." The occasion was invested with much civic importance, and the presentation was made at the Town Hall by the Mayor in the presence of a crowded assembly.

Many eulogistic speeches were made, and in acknowledgment Mr. O'Mara said that while he knew that they valued his services to Irish musical art, and were proud of his achievements as a singer, still he felt it was strongly supplemented by the love and affection they had always borne his family. Now the call of art was taking him across the sea, and he should always endeavour to demonstrate to the world that Irish song had no equal for beauty and sentiment among the nations. He firmly believed that the day was not far distant when they would see a school of Irish musical composition arise that would be a revelation of artistic beauty fit to take its place among the best in the world.

Mr. Herbert Leonard's latest drama, *The Kiss of Judas*, will be started on tour under the management of Hardie and Von Leer on Monday, Oct. 19, at the Theatre Royal, Aston. The cast will include Misses Jess Dorynne, Katharine Clarke, and Laura Dyson and Messrs. C. Howard Templeton, J. H. Darnley, Chas. V. Sandford, Herbert de Ville, Henry C. Moreton, and Herbert Leonard. The two first acts are laid in England and the last two in the Wild West of America.

The formal opening of the Todmorden Hippodrome took place on Monday evening, when Mr. Richard Dewhirst, the manager, was gladdened by the presence of an enthusiastic multitude. Telegraphic messages wishing success to the undertaking were received from managers elsewhere. After the singing of the National Anthem, the general-manager, Mr. E. P. Clipt, said he thought that Mr. Dewhirst was very much to be congratulated upon the possession of that cosy house of entertainment, and he sincerely hoped that the citizens of Todmorden would loyally support the manager in the enterprise he had undertaken. He was sure Mr. Dewhirst would do everything he could to cater worthily for their entertainment. Mr. Clipt concluded, amid loud applause, by declaring the Hippodrome open.

The play for the week was *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*, presented by the Hardie and Von Leer company, which was greatly appreciated. At the close of the performance the members of the company and staff celebrated the opening by a private entertainment on the stage, the proceedings including toasts and music.

Congratulations to Mr. G. Carlton Wallace, the much-esteemed touring manager, whose wife presented him on Tuesday last with a fine daughter.

The directors of the Brighton West Pier Company have appointed Mr. Scholey as manager and secretary of the pier in the place of the late Mr. A. D. Norman.

Mr. Cyril Maude has lent the Playhouse for Nov. 25 for a matinée in aid of the Infants' Hospital, Vincent-square, Westminster.

The engineers' strike which has so greatly affected theatrical business in the North is now happily at an end. The men have resumed work, and there is a strong reaction in favour of amusement. One of the towns suffering most from the effects of the recent struggle was Middlesbrough. The management of the Grand Opera House during the most severe period of suffering and starvation provided no less than 17,000 free dinners, which were cooked on the premises and dispensed on the stage of the Opera House. This charitable action has gained enormous popularity for the Opera House, and now that better times have arrived the inhabitants will not fail to show their appreciation of the generosity of the management.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company will introduce *Lady Frederick* to the London suburbs on Monday, with Miss Mabel Love as the heroine of Mr. Somerset Maugham's remarkable comedy, which will be seen at the Kennington Theatre throughout next week. Among Miss Love's recent West-End successes it is interesting to recall those of the Comtesse de Candale to the Comte de Candale of Mr. Lewis Waller, with Mr. Arthur Bourchier in *A Marriage of Convenience*; as Constance in *The Musketeers*, with Mr. Tree, at His Majesty's Theatre; as Joan in *Sweet and Twenty*; and as Suzanne in *The Freedom of Suzanne*.

The Hutchison management, who now have companies visiting all the big provincial cities with *Brewster's Millions*, *Mrs. Dot*, *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*, and *Peter's Mother*, among others, have spared no expense to ensure an absolutely perfect production of *Lady Frederick*. The dresses, staging, and scenic effects have called forth the highest praise from packed audiences in every town visited.

A meeting of the committee of the Touring Managers' Association was held at the Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, Strand, W.C., on the 2nd inst. Present:—Mr. E. Lockwood (in the chair), Mr. Wentworth Croke, Mr. Frank Weathersby, Mr. Brydon Phillips, Mr. M. V. Leveaux, Mr. J. Bannister Howard, Mr. Leslie Moreton, and Mr. Martin (secretary). Mr. Percy Hutchison was co-opted a member of the committee. A letter of complaint *re* the Great Eastern Railway from Mr. Percy Hutchison was read, and the secretary was instructed to write to the company for an explanation of the incident. Mr. Edouard Jose was elected a member of the Association.

On the same day a meeting of the committee of the Managers' Club was held. Present:—Mr. Leveaux (in the chair), Mr. Wentworth Croke, Mr. E. Lockwood, Mr. J. B. Howard, Mr. F. Weathersby, and Mr. Martin (secretary). The following gentlemen were elected members:—Mr. Richard Winslow, Mr. Allyn Whyte, Mr. Ernest F. Wallace, Mr. William Ernest Bentley, and Mr. H. B. Hampton.

Messrs. Dottridge and Longden have furnished themselves with an attractive trio of principal boys for their forthcoming pantomimes. Miss May Mars has been secured for Crusoe, Miss Florrie Gallimore for Dick Whittington, and Miss Ray Wallace for Aladdin.

Mr. Martin Harvey announces that the curtain now rises on *The Last Heir*, at the Adelphi, at 8.15 p.m., instead of 8.

The Kangaroos, fresh from triumphs in South Wales, were on Monday invited by Mr. George D. Day to witness the performance of *The Prodigal Son* at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester. The team filled the first two rows of the stalls, and received quite an ovation from the large audience assembled.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's No. 1 London company, in *Lady Frederick*, including Miss Mabel Love, in the title-rôle, reached Halifax from Southport on Sunday, and found hundreds of people on the platform waiting to catch a glimpse of the young actress. On Monday the pretty New Theatre Royal was full to overflowing, and there was an enthusiastic ovation at the fall of the curtain. The beautiful dresses worn by Miss Love and Miss Eleanor Delaporte and the staging and effects of the production have won high eulogy.

Miss Annie Hughes, who is receiving the congratulations of her numerous admirers on her birthday to-day, will be seen in the suburbs the week after next, and will begin an engagement at the Crystal Palace on Oct. 19, with Mr. Hubert Henry Davies' brilliant comedy, *The Mollusc*, in which Miss Hughes has been so successful. A double attraction is being provided by Miss Hughes that week, as she is entering her prize dog, Master Murphy, at the Kennel Show on the 20th. Master Murphy is a Griffon, and won the first prize in a Novice Class at the last Kennel Club Show.

Miss Laura Hansen has been engaged by the Hardie and Von Leer management to play the part of the Countess in *The Sailor's Wedding*. Miss Hansen thus fulfils her sixth engagement with that firm, having played Marion Thornton (*Two Little Vagabonds*) in all the principal towns and at the revival of that play at the Adelphi.

The defendant in the case Brandon Thomas *v.* Bell, re piratical performances of *Charley's Aunt*, came up before Justice Coleridge on Wednesday. The defendant, whose committal to prison for "contempt" had been ordered, tendered the humblest apologies to the Court for disobedience to the order made, and in consideration of this he was let off with the payment of £20 costs.

"Butterflies" will have to defer to dates previously arranged, and its present career at the Apollo Theatre must be cut short in the height of its success in two months' time after its 250th representation. The production in its entirety will then go into the provinces for an extended tour commencing at Christmas. In April the play will return to London for a short season, after which the tour—already booked into the year 1910—will be resumed.

Mrs. Fowler Thatcher, lately returned from abroad, was present at Earl Clancarty's wedding at St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Wednesday last. She was handsomely dressed in pale grey voile over pink silk, and wore a large *Merry Widow* hat.

Messrs. Langhorne Burton and R. Henderson Bland will produce at the County Theatre, Kingston, on Oct. 19, a play by Mrs. T. P. O'Connor and Mr. R. Henderson Bland entitled *The Blackmailers*. The piece will be produced under the direction of Mr. Percy Nash. It may be added that the same title was used for a four-act play produced at the Prince of Wales's on June 7, 1894. *The Blackmailer*, moreover, was the name given to an Irish-American drama staged at the Queen's Theatre, Dublin, in the January of 1904.

Mr. James Bell, lessee and manager of the Theatre Royal, Darlington, is to be congratulated upon the success of an experiment introduced on Friday of last week. The play running was Mr. George Alexander's latest London success, *The Thief*, which had been enjoyed by large audiences during the week. In a circular letter to various of the leading residents of Darlington, Mr. Bell placed his house at the complete disposal of subscribers (should there be sufficient) for one night, thus insuring them an evening in the greatest comfort and in the most congenial surroundings. Friday evening saw a well-dressed assemblage in the house, and the first-class company, including Mr. Stephen T. Ewart and Miss May Congdon, in the chief rôles, that presented *The Thief* must have been gratified at the intense interest displayed. Mr. Bell proposes to have another special night a month hence, when *Irene Wycherley* visits his theatre.

Presentation.—Mr. E. W. Cowley, superintendent of the Brighton Aquarium, has been presented with a silver cigarette case upon the anniversary of his birthday by the members of the Brighton Municipal Orchestra and the Aquarium staff.

Miss Mary Moore makes her reappearance on Monday at the Criterion, which reopens under the direction of Sir Charles Wyndham, with a new comedy, entitled *Lady Epping's Lawsuit*, by Hubert Henry Davies. Supporting Miss Moore will be Miss Grace Lane, Miss Elfrida Clement, Mrs. Sam Sothern, Miss Norma Whalley, Miss Cleaver, Miss Frances Vine, and Messrs. Eric Lewis, Sam Sothern, Ferdinand Gottschalk, Berte Thomas, John Toke, Walter Pearce, Cooper, Reginald Besant, Lawrence White, Thomas Braidon, Toose, and Arthur Hare. The three acts are laid respectively at Epping House, at Berkeley-square, and in the Court of King's Bench.

Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper are heartily to be congratulated on the great success of their venture with *The Flag Lieutenant*. The final dress rehearsal took place at the Playhouse on the afternoon of Oct. 2, when many of the leading actors, actresses, and managers were present to wish good luck to the new management. The tour opened on Monday night at Kingston-on-Thames, when the play was received with rapturous applause. The curtain was raised no fewer than five times at the end of the play, and the authors expressed their satisfaction with the company and everything which had been done to bring about the success of the piece in the provinces. *The Flag Lieutenant*, it should be added, is attracting crowded audiences to the Playhouse, and the booking ahead is phenomenal.

At the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, on Saturday, was performed, for copyright purposes, a new monologue, by Mr. F. Kinsey Peile, entitled *Jacob Tyginski*.

Mr. Allan Wilkie's production of *Macbeth*, which secured an immediate success at the Theatre Royal, York, recently, had the advantage of some fine scenery and some beautiful costumes. The number of plays in Mr. Wilkie's répertoire is now thirty-one.

"The Beggar Girl's Wedding" is the title Mr. Walter Melville has given his new play, to be produced at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Monday, the 19th inst. The music has been arranged by Edward Reeves. The scenery is from the Melville Brothers' studio, and is painted by Mr. H. K. Brown, a fine representation being given of the Thames Embankment by night. The cast includes Messrs. Hubert Morgan, Ellis J. Preston, and Otto Minster, and Misses Vashti Wynne, Olive Warne, and Eva Dare. The play will be produced under the personal direction of Mr. Walter Melville.

The annual meeting of the Croydon County Council to consider applications relating to music, dramatic, and dancing licences was held at the Town Hall on Tuesday. The licences of the Grand Theatre and Opera House, New Theatre Royal, and Empire Palace were renewed. Councillor Stapleton moved that the theatres and music-halls be closed at eleven, but after some discussion it was agreed to make the closing hour half-past eleven. A licence for music, dancing, and stage plays was granted to Mr. Charles Spencer, in respect to the King Edward Hall, London-road, Norbury.

Mr. Jack Rowland has been engaged by Mr. Maundy-Gregory to become his assistant-manager.

Mr. Bernard Shaw's play *Arms and the Man* is furnishing material for the libretto of a comic opera by Herr Oscar Straus, composer of *A Waltz Dream*. Mr. Shaw has refused to allow his play to be used as the book of the comic opera. The play will therefore be a burlesque of the original, every borrowed line being struck out, and not a name retained. The operetta, which is to be called *Der Tapfere Soldat*, will be given its first performance at the Theater des Westens, Berlin, early in December.

The annual general meeting of the Playgoers' Club was held on Tuesday, at the Hotel Cecil, when the report and balance-sheet were adopted. Mr. Osman Edwards was unanimously elected president for the coming season, Mr. Willy Clarkson vice-president, Mr. Louis Harfeld trustee, Mr. F. S. Hess hon. treasurer, and Mr. James Sharpe hon. secretary. All the old members offering themselves for re-election were elected, in addition to Mr. Philip Carr. Close on twenty different functions have already been arranged.

The costumes in *Bellamy the Magnificent* at the New are so remarkable that even the "wear" of the principal gentleman comes in for comment. Sir Charles Wyndham's suits as Lord Bellamy are superb. His mulberry-coloured velvet one of the third act thoroughly indicates his foppish proclivities, which are insisted upon all through. His evening suit of the last two acts shows up amongst the black ones of the men, inasmuch as it is made of blue cloth, precisely matched by the sapphire ring that graces one of his hands, rimmed with diamonds in accordance with the white waistcoat that completes the picture.

The dresses of the ladies are exquisite. As Lady Bellamy Miss Fortescue presents a distinguished appearance in the first act in a gown of Alençon net and lace of that newest of new shades called rose champagne, with a hint of rose to colour it. The materials used are satin charmeuse veiled with net and lace, and the gown is trimmed with a fringe of the same shade and is finished with a blue ceinture. In another act a blue outdoor costume much trimmed with buttons, and relieved with gold lace as an edging to the square guimpe, is worn with a mist-grey toque of draped chiffon, completed by means of a grey and white bird at one side. An oyster-white evening robe profusely embroidered with crystals and belted with green is worn by Miss Fortescue in the last acts.

Miss Sarah Brooke's most remarkable dress is a very beautiful evening toilette made of a bright shade known as rose-geranium crêpe, with embroideries of gold upon it. The tunic is brought to the back in a square fold-over form, and is edged with gold embroidery in heavy plaques and more delicate stitchery, as is the skirt. Features of the gold embellishment are the rays of embroidery that give the corsage a striped appearance and add to the beauty of the whole. The sleeves are made of embroidered crêpe draped in loops over the arms. The white lingerie frock in which Miss Brooke looks so smart in the third act is covered with punched embroidery, and has a peplum edged with a wheel pattern traced in embroidery, a repetition of which defines the outside of the arms upon the closely-fitting sleeves. The soft pink satin ceinture that encircles the figure high above the waist forms a most successful finishing touch to a delightful dress.

Miss Kate Cutler as Mme. Henriette has a black dress which is a triumph in simplicity of design and superb modelling. It is of heavy crêpe de chine, with the relief of a band of Venetian lace beneath the tucked black net guimpe, and below that again of a broad band of Gobelin blue satin, and a white ruffle round the throat. The draperies of crêpe are carried over the shoulders, crossed at the back, and brought forward again to fall loosely over the hips and be knotted in front low down at one side. With her blonde cendre hair, and wearing a huge blue ring that repeats the colour of the satin on the corsage, Mme. Henriette looks most charming.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mrs. Kendal and the Critic.

THE following letter from Mrs. Kendal appeared in the *Liverpool Daily Post and Mercury* on Wednesday :—

"THE WHIRLPOOL."

To the Editor of the *Post and Mercury*.

SIR,—May I tell your dramatic critic there is no "twilight" in America, and a well regulated servant pulls down the blinds and lights up to prevent his mistress being left in the dark? It is always nice for a dramatic critic to correct an actor; but it is, oh! so much nicer for an actor to correct a dramatic critic.—Yours, &c.,

MADGE KENDAL,

Court Theatre, Oct. 6, 1908.

The passage in the criticism to which Mrs. Kendal refers was as follows :—"A little matter of stage management requires attention, near the end of the first act. A manservant turns on the electric light and pulls down the blinds while it is apparently yet brilliant daylight!"

"East Lynne" Absurdities.

"DURING a visit to the Midlands," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "we produced the popular play of *East Lynne*. We had arrived at the third act—the bedroom scene where Little Willie dies. This scene was preceded by a front scene, in which the noble and gallant policeman arrests Sir Francis Levison for the murder of Hallijohn. Sir Francis was duly handcuffed and taken off, and his exit was the cue for the front cloth to ascend. Madame Vine had placed herself by the side of the bed preparatory to shedding a flood of tears. As the front cloth went up it unfortunately caught in the bed-clothes, which were taken up in its folds, emptying poor Little Willie with scant ceremony out on to the stage to the horror of the audience. The stage-manager ordered the scene to be let down again, which it promptly was; but the bed had to be re-made, and the poor child, who was crying bitterly, had to be pacified. The low comedian, who had just come off in the front scene, was asked to go on and make up a speech or two till everything was ready. He was rather annoyed at having to do so; and as he went on he sang, 'Put me in my little bed,' and then went on talking about it being a cold night and mother having to tuck him well up in bed to prevent his falling out. This set the house in a roar, and the more they laughed the more he continued to tell funny stories, but Madame Vine was fuming and raging at the back and declaring she would not finish the play or go on with her part, as such tomfoolery was turning the play into ridicule. The manager called to the comedian to come off, so he made his exit, the audience still screaming with laughter.

"THEN the scene went up once more; but, alas! misfortunes never come singly. The child was discovered in bed, a fat, rosy-faced little girl, who had never been on the stage before. She was a local child, secured for the occasion, and therefore could not speak a line, but someone had told her to shout out 'Mother! mother!' The chambermaid lay behind the bed to speak poor Little Willie's lines in a rather squeaky voice. The child died in the orthodox manner. Madam Vine then, in her frenzy of grief, threw off her disguise, and in a tearful voice exclaimed, 'He is dead! He is dead, and he never called me mother!' On which the poor dead child sat bolt upright and called out 'Mother! Mother!' This spoiled the grand effect altogether, and Madame Vine vowed the whole thing was a base conspiracy to ruin her prospects and make her ridiculous."

Actors' Generous Gifts.

GREAT was the joy of the children of the Actors' Orphanage Fund the other day, when Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, and Mr. A. J. Austin arrived at Croydon with the following gifts :—Mr. Arthur Chudleigh, four pairs boxing gloves, six sets Diabolo, six sets of draughts; Mr. George Alexander, two sets carpentering tools; Mr. Martin Harvey, two Association footballs; Miss Evelyn Millard, parcels of books; Mr. Arthur Collins, punch-ball; Miss Lena Ashwell, games; Mr. Eric Lewis, books; Mr. Henry Ainley, two sets gardening tools; Mr. L. H. Nathan, two parcels of toys; Miss Ellen Terry, swing; Mr. Arthur Bourchier, see-saw; Mr. Fred Terry, hockey sticks and balls, games, &c.; Mr. George Edwardes, books; Miss Winifred Emery, knitting materials; Mr. Cyril Maude, goal posts and nets; Master John Maude, rocking horse; Mr. A. J. Austin, footballs; Mr. A. Turner, chess boards; Mr. Aubrey Smith, cricket set; Mr. Norman Forbes, toys; Mr. J. Harwood, skipping ropes; Mr. Charles Hawtrey, shuttlecocks and battledores; Mr. Lyn Harding, horizontal bars; Miss Constance Hyem, tennis set; Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, magic lantern; Mr. Allan Aynesworth, parallel bars; Messrs. Smith and Carpenter, books. Mr. A. J. Austin (20, Gower-street, W.C.), will be glad to hear from members of the profession who are desirous of taking an active interest in the fund.

MISS ROSINA FILLIPPI has been telling *Pearson's Weekly* what is her favourite economy. It is exercised in the matter of food. "I absolutely refuse," writes Miss Fillippi, "to feed at expensive restaurants, and so help the proprietors to pay enormous rents through the profits on my food. I like the simplest fare, and strongly object to paying exorbitant prices for it."

The Dramatist's Difficulties.

MR. JEROME K. JEROME, speaking to a meeting of men in Bloomsbury Chapel on Sunday, said the Church and Stage Guild was "merely a move to get one or two actors into heaven." The difficulty of the playwright was that he had to appeal to "a very mixed and varied lot—the roué and the hooligan, the cynic and the prig, the shallow and vicious," thoughtful, sincere, and religious people being far in the minority. No art exerted wider influence than the dramatist's. In America there were 3,000 theatres opened every night to audiences numbering three or four millions, and England's theatres could count anything under a million nightly. He would therefore like religious people to take the drama up and do something for it.

In the times of the old morality plays religious people were found hand in hand with the players, but in the present day a gulf that had opened between the Church and the Stage was widening so dangerously that if not bridged soon it would never be. Folk seemed to put God as far away from them to-day as possible; they took their drama without Him; He must have nothing to do with art and literature, and as to business they were perfectly confident He understood nothing of that. Mr. Jerome pleaded for wide-minded, broad-minded people—the thinkers and the workers—to take up the drama just as they took up other arts. He wanted audiences who called for something wider and deeper than the everlasting heroine of Park Lane, and fun based on something else than vice and lying.

A Hundred Ladies' Letters.

"I HAVE had occasion to request hundreds of ladies to remove their hats," says Mr. Henderson, of the Criterion Theatre, in the *Mirror*, "and have not been refused in one case. We must always have matinées, and if the ladies objected to take off their large hats, and the fashion continued, we should have to reconstruct the theatre. It depends on how a lady is asked, very often, if she will comply or not." Mr. Lestocq, Mr. Charles Frohman's manager, finds that women were now removing their hats at all the theatres under his management.

"THE LAST HEIR."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Stephen Phillips, adapted from Sir Walter Scott's Novel, "The Bride of Lammermoor," produced at the Adelphi Theatre, on Monday, Oct. 5.

Edgar Ravenswood	MR. MARTIN HARVEY
Sir William Ashton	MR. ALBERT E. RAYNOR
Colonel Ashton	MR. LESLIE PALMER
Henry Ashton	MASTER BOBBIE ANDREWS
Hayston of Bucklaw	MR. PHILIP HEWLAND
Captain Craigengelt	MR. CHARLES GLENNEY
Angus of Clydesdale	MR. CHARLES J. CAMERON
Sir John de Bothwell	MR. GEORGE COOKE
Sir Andrew Murray	MR. DENHOLME MUIR
Colonel Murray	MR. ALFRED MANSFIELD
James Murray	MR. HENRY WATSON
Malcolm Rutherford	MR. LEONARD CRASKE
Caleb Balderstone	MR. F. CREMLIN
Landlord	MR. H. BARRY
A Notary	MR. A. RUBEN
Rev. Mr. Bide-the-Bent	MR. PERCY FOSTER
Ailsie Gourlay	MISS MARY RORKE
Annie Winnie	MRS. F. WRIGHT
Maggie	MISS BESSIE ELDER
Mysie	MISS ETHEL PATRICK
Lady Ashton	MISS MAUD HOFFMAN
Lucy Ashton	MISS N. DE SILVA

It was inevitable that Mr. Martin Harvey's presentation of Mr. Stephen Phillips' adaptation of "The Bride of Lammermoor" should revive recollections of the production by Henry Irving at the Lyceum, in the September of 1890, of Herman Merivale's version of the same story. Amongst the principal effects in Irving's fine production were the funeral procession in the first act, and the scene of the sands in the last, with Caleb Balderstone standing awestruck by the spot where his master had gone down. In this version Henry Irving was, of course, the Master of Ravenswood, Miss Ellen Terry enacting Lucy Ashton, Mr. William Terriss Hayston of Bucklaw, Mr. Alfred Bishop Sir William Ashton, Mr. F. H. Macklin the Marquis of Athole, Mr. H. Howe Bide-the-Bent, Mr. Gordon Craig Henry Ashton, Miss Le Thiere Lady Ashton, and Mr. Wenman Craigengelt, Mr. Mackintosh being the Caleb Balderstone. Mr. Harvey made an excellent choice in entrusting to Mr. Stephen Phillips the task of preparing a fresh version of the novel. The main lines of Scott's story are so strongly laid down that it is impossible for the most imaginative adaptor to deviate from them very greatly. The tendency in dramatising "The Bride of Lammermoor" is to intensify the tragedy by exaggerating the supernatural element and suppressing the comic relief supplied in the book by the character of Caleb Balderstone; and the gloom of *The Last Heir* is certainly somewhat excessive. The tragedy is so mournful and terrible that anything that can mitigate it may be taken full advantage of. Still, whatever an adapter may do, the piece will remain a tragedy; and Mr. Phillips was quite right to rely for effect on the awesome terror and horror of the story and the situations. He has divided his version into four acts. In the first, in the interior of Wolf's Crag, the neighbouring gentry swear vengeance on Sir William Ashton for having ruined the Ravenswood family; and Sir William and Lucy, taking refuge from the storm which rages, are housed for the night by the Master, who falls in love with Lucy at first sight. In this act Caleb Balderstone suggests to Ravenswood that he shall assassinate Sir William while he has a chance; but Edgar, after a momentary impulse to follow this advice, refuses, and goes to sleep in a big armchair before the fire as the act-drop falls. In the next act, Lady Ashton, on her return, surprises the lovers, and abuses Ravenswood, who is forced to fight a duel with Bucklaw, whom he disarms, afterwards going off to seek his fortune in the south. In the third act, Lucy, worn out by waiting for an answer to her letters to Edgar, consents to marry Bucklaw in two days, inducing the benevolent minister, Bide-the-Bent, to forward a letter to Ravenswood by a trusty messenger. The signing of the contract takes place in the fourth act, and Edgar arrives too late, to find Lucy silent and distraught, and to leave her with bitter reproaches. While the guests are revelling in the hall a terrible scream is heard; and Lucy, appearing with a bloody dagger in her hand, sinks half-dead on the staircase at the back. In the last act Ravenswood, whose reason is affected by his terrible experience, rides out from Wolf's Crag to find his fate in the quicksand, the concluding scene showing the "Kelpie's Flow," with the witches pointing to the place where the Master and his steed have been engulfed.

Mr. Martin Harvey's style and personality fitted him exactly for a rôle of the picturesquely mysterious nature of that of Edgar Ravenswood, and he brought out all the melancholy poetry of the part very beautifully. His wooing of Lucy Ashton was the acme of romantic delicacy; and the sense of the fate that hung over the last of the race was suggested by Mr. Harvey with great skill and subtlety. He was powerfully dramatic in the scene in which Edgar returns and demands an explanation from Lucy, and his concluding scene with Balderstone was very weird and winning. Miss N. de Silva must have astonished her warmest admirers by the strength which she displayed by her performance as Lucy Ashton. The character is one which taxes severely the resources of the most intense and earnest actress; and the fact that Miss de Silva sustained it so successfully shows how greatly she has gained in power and resource. She delivered Lucy's speech of agonised reproach in the second act admirably, and the strong restraint of her simulation of madness in the last act was equally effective. In its combination of feminine weakness with passionate, though fitful, energy, Miss de Silva's performance was worthy of most warm and enthusiastic praise. Mr. Charles Glenney made an important and very acceptable contribution to the performance by his richly humorous exposition of the part of Craigengelt, the swagger and servility of the swashbuckler parasite creating hearty laughter, especially in the minuet in the third act, in which Mr. Glenney amusingly imitated the efforts of an inexperienced dancer to copy the movements of his companions. Mr. Philip Hewland hit off the characteristics of Hayston of Bucklaw easily and ably; and Mr. Albert E. Raynor was excellent as Sir William Ashton. A striking and resplendent embodiment of Lady Ashton was supplied by Miss Maud Hoffman, who looked like a Lely portrait in her superb attire, and bore herself with all the hard, remorseless pride associated with the character. Mr. F. Cremlin as the ever-foreboding Caleb Balderstone acted with solemn expression and an admirable simulation of sad senility; and a very creditable representative of the Rev. Mr. Bide-the-Bent was contributed by Mr. Percy Foster, who spoke his lines with commendable clearness and judgment. Miss Mary Rorke made an impressive Ailsie Gourlay; and Mrs. F. Wright and Miss Bessie Elder were satisfactory as Annie Winnie and Maggie, Mr. H. Barry being efficient as the Landlord. Mr. Leslie Palmer was a distinguished and dignified Colonel Ashton; and Master Bobbie Andrews played Henry Ashton pertly and prettily. The local gentry had conscientious and careful representatives in Mr. Charles J. Cameron, Mr. George Cooke, Mr. Denholm Muir, Mr. Alfred Mansfield, Mr. Henry Watson, and Mr. Leonard Craske.

Mr. W. Telbin had contributed a fine interior for the Wolf's Crag scene of the first and fourth acts; and Mr. George J. Dodson's beautiful set, The Woods, for the second act, evoked a spontaneous outburst of delighted applause, his Hall set in the fourth act being a fine bit of mediæval architecture. Mr. Telbin's well-skilled brush had also been employed with advantage in fine pictures of the Terrace of Ravenswood Hall and the "Kelpie's Flow," with moonlight reflections from water. Mr. Norman O'Neill's talent as a composer was displayed in the beautiful entr'actes and incidental music which he provided. The dances arranged by Professor Leslie McCormick went with great spirit; and Mr. Alfred Rivers deserves credit for his attentive stage-management. *The Last Heir* had an enthusiastic reception from a house which evidently fully appreciated Mr. Harvey's high artistic ambitions, and the liberal and courageous efforts which he makes to realise them.

"THE SWAY BOAT."

Mrs. George Lomax	MISS KATE RORKE
Dench	MR. ERNEST COSHAM
Jim Maitland	MR. C. M. HALLARD
Freddy Cartwright	MASTER PHILIP TONGE
Lady Kilross	MISS LENA ASHWELL
The Countess of Churnside	MISS FRANCES IVOR
Lord Kilross	MR. DENNIS EADIE
Cresswell Barker	MR. E. W. GARDEN
George Lomax	MR. NORMAN MCKINNEL

The exigencies of early publication prevent us from stating with absolute certainty that *The Sway Boat* was actually produced at the Aldwych Theatre on Friday evening; but as so strong and original a work is certain to be seen on the stage, and Miss Lena Ashwell's arrangements seldom "gang agley," we make no apology for a description founded on the very complete dress rehearsal on Thursday. Mr. Wilfred T. Coleby's play in three acts has the tinge of morbidity which is characteristic of so much advanced art; but there is so much sympathy for poor humanity in it, and the theme is so tenderly handled, that it arrests and interests us. Barrenness and the drug-habit, two of the commonest tribulations of our artificial social system, are the materials of which the author has composed his plot. Lady Kilross, the wife of an earnest politician, is childless. Her mother-in-law, the Countess of Churnside, a hard and bitter religionist, attributes Lady Kilross's barrenness to want of faith. Her ladyship's history is a sad one. Having married, in the first place, a husband who drank himself to death, she has conceived a repulsion for the physical side of marriage, and thus is easily able to repel the advances of Jim Maitland, a young tutor, who is at Ninewell Towers "coaching" Freddy Cartwright, a lad who is in the care of a shrewd lawyer, Mr. George Lomax, K.C. While suffering from her first husband's ill-treatment, and from sorrow at the death of her child, Lady Kilross has contracted the "drug habit," and has confessed the fact to her husband, who has betrayed the secret to the Countess, of whom he is much in awe, and who is a deadly enemy of her daughter-in-law. Lord Kilross, who is a hard, dry, narrow-minded man, taunts his wife with failing to supply him with an heir; and she resolves to do so at all costs and to prove that the fault is not on her side. The first act ends with her practically throwing herself at the tutor's head, the act-drop falling on their passionate embrace.

In the interval of three months between the first and second acts, Lady Kilross and Maitland have been carrying on an intrigue; and the lady, having, presumably, attained her object, now desires that he shall leave England for Egypt, where she has procured for him an appointment. There is an angry scene between her and the tutor when she proposes that they shall part. The physical repulsion already alluded to has developed into a positive horror ; and she tries in vain to explain to him her strange and delicate feelings. Maitland refuses to leave her; but evidence as to their meeting at a house of ill-fame in London has been laid before Lomax, who is obliged to go into the matter, as, in the event of Lady Kilross having a child, Freddy Cartwright, who is the heir to the Kilross property, will be unjustly deprived of it. Lady Kilross lies very cleverly in self-defence, and almost persuades the lawyer of her innocence by an ingenious perversion of the facts. Now Lomax is already aware that Maitland, some time back, went to the same house with a casual acquaintance of the opposite sex; and when the lawyer mentions this to Lady Kilross she flies into a fit of jealous rage. Maitland is summoned; and, when asked by Lomax who was his companion, says that she was the "light o' love" already alluded to, on which Lomax dismisses him from his tutorship, and Lady Kilross faints as he leaves the room.

The last act is not quite equal in sustained interest to its predecessors. The net of evidence seems to be closing round Lady Kilross, but she is not brought to book, Lomax being overborne by his wife's implicit belief in her friend's virtue. The agony is somewhat protracted here, the act chiefly consisting of an elaborate depiction of neurotic excitement. A shot is heard—some poachers are in the park—and Lady Kilross imagines that Maitland has committed suicide. By this time, however, drug drinking and conscience combined have done their work, and she is half crazy. She takes what we must suppose to be an overdose of the drug and goes out into the park to die.

Miss Lena Ashwell gave a marvellously faithful picture of a neurotic woman with all the symptoms of drug-drinking, and made Lady Kilross as little repulsive and as sympathetic as was possible. The part, however, is not a pleasant one; and not even Miss Ashwell's genius and charm could altogether reconcile us to its peculiarities. As a piece of morbid pathology her creation was a remarkable example of finished study and subtle art; and her acting in the last division of the piece was a marvellous study of nervous irritability. One of the best performances in the cast was Mr. Norman McKinnel's strong, self-controlled, able barrister; and Miss Kate Rorke was capital as the faithful and affectionate Mrs. Lomax. Mr. Ernest Cosham contributed a quietly natural impersonation of the old butler Dench; and Mr. C. M. Hallard was powerfully passionate as the amorous and impulsive Jim Maitland. Master Philip Tonge was quite intelligent and well trained as the boy Freddy Cartwright; and Miss Frances Ivor was the acme of stony self-conceit as the Countess of Churnside, Mr. Dennis Eadie supplying a very clever character study as the fussy and foolish Lord Kilross. Mr. E. W. Garden acted with his accustomed ease and humour as a pompous physician. The play was perfectly produced by Mr. Norman McKinnel, the two interiors by Messrs. W. Johnstone and J. J. M. Davis being in every way excellent.

"BELLAMY THE MAGNIFICENT."

Comedy, in Five Acts, by Roy Horniman, produced at the New Theatre on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

Lord Bellamy	SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM
Stephens	MR. ROBERT LORAINE
Mr. Spottit	MR. PAUL ARTHUR
Hon. Reginald Vandeleur	MR. A. VANE-TEMPEST
Mr. Dawlish	MR. YORKE STEPHENS
Lord Porchester	MR. RICHARD LAMBART
Lord Petersfield	MR. R. LEGGIERO
Curtis	MR. EDMUND WALLER
Lady Bellamy	MISS FORTESCUE
Hon. Mrs. Challoner	MISS SARAH BROOKE
Lady Charlotte Blount	MISS ALICE BEET
Duchess of Havant	MISS MARGUERITE LESLIE
Miss Pamela Gray	MISS GLADYS MASON
Miss Williams	MISS CATHERINE DUPONT
Mme. Henriette	MISS KATE CUTLER

Whatever may be said against the actor's calling, one advantage may confidently be claimed for it—it may be followed with complete success for longer than most vocations. It is simply marvellous that, at an age when some evidence of decrepitude is usually observable in the artist, Sir Charles Wyndham should have sustained the leading character in Mr. Roy Horniman's comedy at the New Theatre on Tuesday with the same effectiveness, the same sharpness, and the same spirit as he has displayed at any time during the last twenty years. Even had there been in the embodiment any of the "shakiness" which is usually associated with senility, it would not have been entirely out of place in the character which Mr. Horniman, the author of the very successful *Education of Elizabeth*, has written for Sir Charles. Bellamy, the elderly married rake and incorrigible runner after the women, is a dilapidated, if dignified, Adonis. "You should see him in his bath!" says his valet, Stephens, in the deepest note of scorn. *Bellamy the Magnificent* is, in short, a satire. There is no room in Mr. Horniman's scheme for sentiment; he is too much engrossed in scarifying society to depict humanity. Despite its pretence at gay frivolity, the satire of the play is positively vitriolic; and certainly no stronger indictment of the upper class has ever been presented on the stage.

Lord Bellamy's adulteries are so numerous and so notorious that his silly wife has given up resisting him, and confines herself to mild and maudlin remonstrances. She is foolish enough to suppose that she can do good by interfering between him and his latest "victim," a pretty little milliner who calls herself Mme. Henriette, but is really the wife of Lord Bellamy's indispensable and incomparable valet. Lady Bellamy has engaged a private detective named Spottit, with good connections and irreproachable manners and appearance, who has informed her that Lord Bellamy has been making love to Mme. Henriette. It appears that his lordship has also been carrying on an intrigue with the Hon. Mrs. Challoner, a bosom friend of Lady Bellamy's, but he is beginning to get tired of her. In the second act, which takes place at Mme. Henriette's establishment, Stephens tells his wife that he has discovered her flirtation with his master, and is determined to ascertain how far she has gone with him. So he conceals himself behind some millinery, with a loaded pistol in his hand, threatening to shoot his spouse if, when Bellamy pays the visit which he has promised, she shall give him any hint of the ambuscade. His lordship arrives, and proceeds to make love to the lady, who is in an agony of apprehension; and at last Stephens discloses himself, gives his master a month's notice, and threatens a divorce action with a demand for damages.

To lose the valet who so well understands his wants and weaknesses would be a great misfortune for the master, so he conspires with the private detective above-mentioned, who is also a skilled blackmailer, to coerce Stephens into withdrawing his resignation. The detective secures the valet's portmanteau, and, when it is opened, some diamonds of Lord Bellamy's are found inside it. Threatened with police proceedings for the alleged theft, Stephens agrees to remain in Lord Bellamy's service, but swears that he will have his revenge. He has it in the last act. His lordship has lately been winning largely at cards from a certain Mr. Dawlish, and the valet sends to this gentleman an anonymous letter telling him that Bellamy cheats at cards. Stephens then places a card in his master's sleeve, and when Dawlish, after a heavy loss, insists on his lordship being searched, the card is found. Bellamy, realising that he is socially ruined, shoots himself, and so the play ends.

We have already alluded to the remarkable performance of Sir Charles Wyndham as Lord Bellamy. The fashionableness of the elderly rake was indicated by some curious details in his costumes, which were of very advanced and anticipatory "up-to-dateness." The blue dress suit which Lord Bellamy wears in the last act, and the bold colour schemes of his other dresses will certainly create discussion in "smart" circles. The part itself is not a pleasant one, the sympathetic note being struck only in the last act, when Bellamy, before committing suicide, addresses a little sermon of counsel to his son, a little boy in pyjamas. Otherwise the key of the character is an imperturbable heartlessness and indifference. Sir Charles Wyndham is capable of performing upon a greater gamut of emotion than is allowed him in *Bellamy the Magnificent*; but within the limits allotted by the author his performance was perfectly alert and acute, his bearing and style being entirely irreproachable, and his ease and *aplomb* exquisite. A fine performance of the part of Stephens was supplied by that admirable actor Mr. Robert Loraine, whose valet had all the necessary brutal energy, controlled by the sleekest and most complete duplicity. The contrast between Stephens when stirred by passion and the same man when wearing his servile mask was very effective; and there was a masterliness and even manliness about the gentleman's gentleman that won for him a good deal of sympathy. Mr. Paul Arthur played the part of Mr. Spottit very crisply and well, though Mr. Arthur's pervading *bonhomie* and essential good-nature made Spottit, if anything, a little too amiable. Mr. A. Vane-Tempest did all that was required as the effeminate idler, Vandeleur; and Mr. Yorke Stephens played Mr. Dawish in his usual firm, clever, and competent style. A delightful embodiment of Lady Bellamy was supplied by Miss Fortescue, who combined with finished style, exquisite diction, and the greatest correctness in every detail, the complete characterisation of the personage. The rôle was such a shallow and artificial one that it needed the most delicate handling, and that Miss Fortescue was quite able to supply. Her appearance was of no small advantage to her in her task. Miss Sarah Brooke was the essence of "flighty," irresponsible frivolity as the Hon. Mrs. Challoner; and Miss Alice Beet, though she has yet to show us on the stage the repose and ease of bearing of the society lady of the last generation, was strong and emphatic as Lady Charlotte Blount. Miss Marguerite Leslie was agreeable and intelligent as the Duchess of Havant; and Miss Gladys Mason, beautiful in figure and feature, spoke her lines with excellent enunciation and pleasing inflexion as Miss Pamela Gray. Miss Catherine Dupont was satisfactory as Miss Williams. A piece of acting which was both artistic and acute was Miss Kate Cutler's Mme. Henriette. She suggested very distinctly the weak and worthless character of the milliner, and her slim prettiness and the expressiveness of her depiction of anxiety and distress won much sympathy for the feather-headed little woman. Taken as a whole, the performance of *Bellamy the Magnificent* was a wonderful instance of judicious selection on the part of the management. Even the smaller parts were dressed and acted with extreme care, Mr. Richard Lambart as Lord Porchester and Mr. R. Leggiero as Lord Petersfield being faithful representatives of society people of the day. Of course, in a work of this kind, much of the effect is gained in semi-tones; and the dialogue sparkled intermittently with gems of wit. At times these were less brilliant than could have been desired, notably in the rather laboured conference of women at the beginning of the fourth act. The quality of the wit is somewhat hard and cruel, but often Mr. Horniman has dropped into humour and deviated from his general aim at a somewhat arid acuteness. Both the situations of the play and its sentiments will appear rather to the cynical clubman and the society hack of the opposite sex than to the more artless and unsophisticated average stallite; but Sir Charles Wyndham's "following" is a fashionable one, and the reception which the audience gave to *Bellamy the Magnificent* at the New Theatre on Tuesday was warmly enthusiastic.

"THE HOUSE OF CLAY."

A Play, in Three Acts, by Herbert Swears, adapted from *La Maison d'Argile* of E. Emile Fabre, and produced for the first time in London at the Coronet Theatre, Notting Hill, on Friday, Oct. 2.

Henri Armières	MR. KENDAL
Pierre Rouchon	MR. BASSETT ROE
Fernand	MR. EDMUND GURNEY
Frédéric	MR. R. BURNETT
Valentine	MISS JESSICA THORNE
Marguerite	MISS ETHEL DANE
Mme. de Réhy	MISS SARA DE GROOT
Mme. Armières, sen.	MRS. A. B. TAPPING
Mme. Armières	MRS. KENDAL

The House of Clay, forcible and pathetic as its chief situations are, is not exactly suited to the atmosphere of an English theatre, and any success that it scored at the Coronet Theatre on Friday, the 2nd inst., was a success due entirely to the personality of Mrs. Kendal, whose portrait of a mother of tender susceptibilities showed all the finish and charm which belong by prescriptive right to that delightful actress. M. Emile Fabre, the author of *La Maison d'Argile* (produced at the Comédie-Française on Feb. 25, 1907), is a great antagonist of divorce. He sets out—and Mr. Herbert Swears, the author of the above adaptation, faithfully follows him—that marriage involves duties, and does not merely confer rights, and he is not ready to admit the selfishness of those "who want to live their own life." Mme. Armières has obtained a divorce from her first husband, a M. Rouchon, a brutal and vulgar individual, and in her second marriage has found great happiness. She has inherited from her parents a factory, but M. Armières mismanages her affairs, and when the curtain rises on the first act he is in a state bordering on bankruptcy through injudicious speculation. In sore straits for money, he appeals to his wife for the necessary funds to tide him over. She consents to the loan, and for this purpose proposes to sell the factory. Her beloved daughter Marguerite's dowry will come out of her own private means. In making this arrangement she takes no count of Valentine Rouchon, her daughter by her first husband, or of Pierre Rouchon, her only son, who, strange to say, turns up in the drawing-room of the Armières as a prospective purchaser of the factory. Pierre, who has not seen his mother for many years, is now a workman in desperate straits, and does not respond to the maternal solicitude. A residence abroad with his father had not nurtured the sense of filial duty; and during the painful interview between him and his mother he shows himself to be hard, cruel, and selfish, but intensely business-like. He can find 600,000 francs towards the purchase, which has been fixed at 800,000 francs, and he asks his mother to advance him the remainder on the money due to him at her death. She refuses, and he immediately threatens to expose to a syndicate treating for the factory the financial difficulties of M. Armières, who sternly rebukes him for his unfilial conduct, and orders him from the house. Pierre has an unexpected ally in his sister Valentine, who is, not unnaturally, jealous of her half-sister Marguerite, because the latter's dowry is secured while she is entirely overlooked. Marguerite, a sweet and lovable girl, then comes to the rescue. She refuses to accept a dowry, under these conditions, and decides to follow her father to Tiflis, where he has accepted a post as engineer. We may conclude that the trio recommence life under happier conditions in that far-off region.

Mme. Ségond-Wéber's part in the Comédie-Française production gave Mrs. Kendal great opportunities, and in the second act she held the house by the pride and sensibility of the fond mother cut to the quick by the conduct of the boy whom she had idolised. Her grief burst forth without restraint later, and many eyes were dimmed with tears both in the second and third acts. Mr. Kendal had but one chance, in the second act, when the indignant M. Armières turned upon the mean-spirited Pierre and showed him the door. Mr. Kendal sounded the possibilities of the situation exactly. Mr. Bassett Roe handled the disagreeable and unsympathetic character of Pierre like an artist; Mr. Edmund Gurney was much too British to realise the rôle of Fernand, the raisonneur of the piece; Miss Ethel Dane made a vivacious and sympathetic Marguerite; Miss Jessica Thorne played the difficult part of Valentine with much tact; and Miss Sara de Groot, in her one scene as the frivolous and scandal-loving Mme. de Réhy (the Mrs. Candour of the piece), did well. Mrs. A. B. Tapping did useful service as Mme. Armières, sen.; and Mr. R. Burnett completed the cast as Frédéric.

THE Princess of Wales visited the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday night, and witnessed Miss Evelyn Millard's production of *Idols*.

MME. MELBA will have her farewell concert at the Albert Hall on Nov. 7. Mr. Landon Ronald will then conduct the first performance in London of Mr. Henry J. Coates's "Pageant March."

THE 500th performance of Mozart's *Figaro* took place at Berlin about a week ago, the first having been given on Sept. 14, 1790. Fräulein Destinn was to have appeared as the Countess, but in her absence through illness the part was taken by Mme. Gadski, and owing to a like cause Mr. Griswold appeared as Figaro in the absence of Herr Knüpfer.

FECHTER STORIES.

During a visit to Paris, wrote John Coleman in "Players and Playwrights," Fechter saw Sardou's clever adaptation of Paul Feval's wild and improbable story, *Le Bossu*, was struck with it, and produced it for his opening piece at the Lyceum on Jan. 10, 1863.

The Duke's Motto (so the English version by John Brougham was called) "struck ile" immediately, and was played to crowded houses for the entire season.

For a considerable period Phelps' name was conspicuously underlined in the Lyceum playbills.

Of course, no manager could be expected to withdraw a piece which was filling his coffers nightly; the position was, nevertheless, so mortifying to the English tragedian's *amour propre*, and so injurious to his reputation, that he desired to be released from his engagement. Fechter was, however, master of the situation, and, as he paid Phelps' salary regularly, he held him to his bond.

Montgomery was similarly situated, and chafed at the chain which bound him.

Fechter had an unfortunate knack of scratching everybody the wrong way. No man made friends with greater ease, or lost them with greater facility. One of the first fruits of his uncertain temper was a row with George Vining, his stage-manager, who left him and went into management on his own account at the Princess's, where he became a most dangerous rival. Montgomery, impatient at being debarred an appearance, also threw up his engagement, and joined Vining, whereupon Fechter sought to obtain an injunction to restrain the former from appearing elsewhere than at the Lyceum, when, lo and behold, it oozed out that the salary of Walter Montgomery, the most accomplished *jeunne premier* of his time, amounted to the munificent sum of £6 per week!

The relations between Fechter and Phelps now became somewhat strained, and things approached a climax during an interview in which the former, after intimating that the next production would be *Hamlet*, blandly inquired what part Phelps would play in the piece.

"Why, Hamlet, of course," he replied.

"Oh! but I play Hamlet myself," responded the Frenchman.

"The d——l you do!" growled Phelps.

"Yes! So I thought, perhaps, you would play the Ghost!"

"You thought that I would play the Ghost to your Hamlet—yours! Well, d——n your impudence!"

With this the interview terminated, and Phelps' engagement terminated soon after, amidst a blaze of legal fireworks.

Prosperity, which had turned Fechter's brain, parted company with him after his first season, and the remainder of his term was marked either by quasi-successes, or a dreary monotony of failure.

Fechter decided to terminate his management with a revival of *Hamlet*. Alas! the fickle fashionable public had deserted their whilom idol, the glory had departed, and on the first night there was a wretched house, and an unsympathetic audience.

Fechter had feminine proclivities, and was as hysterical as a woman; hence, he was taken suddenly ill with another attack of the mysterious malady, which caused the epigastrium to swell out into abnormal dimensions; he collapsed at the end of the second act, and Ryder, who had played the Ghost in the first act, had to come to life again to play the three last acts of *Hamlet*. He played the part for three nights more, during which he roared himself so hoarse that after the third performance he was scarcely audible; hence he, too, found it expedient to throw up the sponge.

It was the last week of the season. John Ryder had taken the theatre for a short time to introduce a German-American actress, one Mme. or Mlle. Vestvali. Being this lady's manager, all the responsibilities of the enterprise rested on his shoulders, and he therefore found it necessary to preserve his strength in order to devote his energies to his fair client. In grateful acknowledgment of his services on this occasion, Fechter presented him (Ryder) with his Hamlet dress.

Some time afterwards, when they were at loggerheads, and Fechter was stigmatizing Ryder as a robber and a ruffian, and I don't know what else, I reminded him (Fechter) of the above incident.

"Yes, my boy," rejoined he, triumphantly, "I certainly did give the hook-nosed, herring-gutted villain my old Hamlet dress; but I gave it him because it would no longer fit me!"

It was in vain that Barnett—Fechter's acting-manager—urged Ryder to act for only another night.

"No," rejoined "honest Jack," in the vigorous vernacular of which he had always a copious supply on hand; "I've shouted myself hoarse. Let the Frenchman try a little shouting on his own hook."

Finding Ryder still obstinate, Fechter said to Barnett:

"Well, as this *voleur* will not act, and I cannot, you must go and get a Hamlet."

Away went Barnett to the agents to see if there were any Hamlets "knocking about."

On his return, after an hour or two's absence, Fechter eagerly inquired:

"Well, well, have you got one?"

"No," replied Barnett; "I've been to all the shops where the article is sold, but they haven't got one in stock."

Finding it impossible to provide a substitute, the theatre was closed on the Friday, and Fechter had to wind up the season himself, on the following night, which he did with a very bad grace.

On this occasion I presented myself at the box-office for admittance; but Barnett persistently, though politely, alleged that I had seen *Hamlet* often enough to serve for the rest of my life, and insisted on escorting me to the club opposite.

This opposition excited my curiosity; so, taking the earliest opportunity for bidding him good-night, I went round to the gallery, deposited my modest shilling, and found myself one amongst a gallery audience of (ill-omened number) thirteen! The other parts of the house were proportionately empty. Fechter walked through the part in a sullen, listless manner; the whole performance was melancholy and depressing in the extreme; and when at length the curtain descended in solemn silence, an Irishman of the proletariate, who sat just before me, roared out:

"Phelps for ever! Fechter be blanked! Hurroo!"

And thus ended Fechter's unfortunate management at the Lyceum.

Mr. Acton Bond may be warmly congratulated upon the success of the British Empire Shakespeare Society's second annual season at Stratford-on-Avon. The British Empire Shakespeare Society presented one play by two different companies within a period of three days. In the second cast of *Twelfth Night* on the 2nd inst. Mr. G. H. Holloway sustained the rôle of the Clown with remarkable success; the Viola of Miss Ruth Anderson deserved hearty praise; and Olivia had an excellent exponent in Miss Enid Rose. Orsino was well played by Mr. C. H. Humphreys; Mr. P. L. Eyre was effective as Malvolio; and Mr. W. H. Slyde and Mr. G. H. Luke won credit as Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek. Maria had a lively representative in Miss Rochelle Thomas; Mr. Hugh J. Percy was good as Viola's brother; and Mr. A. D. Flower was commendable as Antonio.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LE BON ROI DAGOBERT."

Comedy, in Four Acts, in Verse, by M. A. Rivoire, produced at the Comédie-Française on Oct. 7.

Eloi ..... M. Leloir
Dagobert ..... M. Georges Berr
Ega ..... M. Croue
Odoric ..... M. Siblot
Nantilde ..... Mlle. Leconte
La Reine ..... Mlle. Pierat
Bertrude ..... Mlle. Madeleine Roch
Une dame d'honneur ..... Mlle. Faylis

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Thursday, Oct. 8.—We have had a busy week, but the novelties produced were interesting, and some of them far above the average. M. Rivoire's comedy *Le Bon Roi Dagobert* is somewhat *risqué*, a fault for which he atoned by the delightful manner in which he dealt with his subject. The Dagobert whom the gifted author introduces is not the historical monarch, the King of the Franks, named the Great on account of the victories he won on the battlefield. M. Rivoire's hero hails from the domain of Fancy. He is young, a great sportsman, but fickle, and so hare-brained that on his wedding-day, whilst deer-stalking, he forgets all about his fiancée, a Spanish princess, and arrives at the palace only just in time to throw an embroidered cloak over his hunting garments to appear decently in church. Yet, the Princess does not at all mind his being late. In fact, she would have been delighted had he stayed away altogether, for she is—or fancies herself—in love with one of her cousins, and has sworn to remain faithful to him. Whilst waiting for the King, she informs Eloi, the Prime Minister, that she intends to keep her promise, and therefore wants to return home. Eloi, dreading political complications, then hits upon a strange stratagem. He prevails upon Nantilde, a young girl employed in the palace, and who has lost her heart to Dagobert, to impersonate the Queen during the night; and he bamboozles his royal master in the belief that an oracle ordains that he (the monarch) must, after he has retired to his apartment, keep the place in darkness whilst he is with the Queen and withdraw from the room before daybreak. This queer arrangement works well during two days, and then the unexpected happens. The young Queen, forgetting her cousin and her promise, suddenly becomes jealous of Nantilde, and insists on taking her place that same night. It so happens that the two ladies meet the King in the darkened room. The bewildered sovereign then has his suspicions, and, calling on his people to bring torches, discovers that he has been fooled. In his wrath he sends his wife back to her father, and orders little Nantilde to be hanged on the nearest tree. But the good-natured Eloi does not carry out that cruel sentence, and smuggles the girl into a convent. A few days later the King accidentally finds out Nantilde's retreat; and as he also discovers that it is she whom he loves, he makes her Queen of the Franks. The work was splendidly acted. M. Berr's Dagobert will rank among that actor's best creations; and the same can be said of M. Leloir's masterly impersonation of Eloi. Unstinted praise must also be bestowed on Mlle. Piérat and Mlle. Leconte.

The Cluny Theatre brought out its annual *Revue de Cluny*, with the same topical jokes that never fail to amuse the audience. The popular theatre has mounted MM. Paul Ardot and Albert Laroche's production in really good style.

We have had at the Vaudeville an English version of Mr. Pinero's play *His House in Order*, called in the adaptation *Sa Maison en ordre*. It met with an excellent reception, and appealed specially to the French audience in the first and last acts. The characters of Richard and Price—the brother of the husband and the brother of the lamented Anna Bell—were sympathetic to the Parisians and excellently played by the popular actors Lérand and Levesque. M. Lérand, as Richard, has the rôle of the moraliser that the French are accustomed to in Dumas' plays; and although they may consider there are newer methods they nevertheless appreciate the attention. The family Ridgeley was capitally played by Mlle. Carron as Lady Ridgeley, M. Joffre, as Sir Daniel, and Mlle. Andrée, as the aggressive Geraldine. M. Arquillières was a perfect Jesson, reserved and austere; and the rôle of Nina could not have been in better hands than Mlle. Regnier's. But, undoubtedly, the cast made the success of the play.

Under the pseudonym of Louise Dartigue, the wife of M. Cruppi, the well-known French Cabinet Minister, gave us at the Théâtre Antoine a comedy called *Répudiée*, her maiden effort. It is a simple story, a "drama intime." Daniel Roberty, a professor at the Paris University, is what the ladies call "an irresistible man." Women attend his lectures, not from scientific motives, but in order to gaze at the professor's handsome features. Ambitious, heartless, and vain, Daniel revels in this incense and neglects Maria, his wife, to whom he owes the best part of his social and professional success. Among Daniel's great admirers is Antoinette de Blay, the daughter of a ruined titled lady. Fearing a scandal, Daniel at first resists Antoinette's bold overtures, but in the end she becomes his mistress, and he promises to marry her the moment he will have divorced his wife. The man, however, need not wait so long. The luckless Maria, hearing what is in store for her, commits suicide. The play is well constructed, but the dialogue is painfully amateurish. Moreover, the actor who impersonated the lady-killing professor did not understand his rôle, and rendered it in a ludicrous fashion. But the attitude of the audience was deplorable. The ladies and gentlemen in the boxes and stalls should have remembered that dress rehearsals are functions to which invitations are issued, and that as guests they had no justification for interrupting the play by loud and sarcastic remarks.

"L'Auberge Rouge," produced the same night at Antoine's is a dramatised version by Mr. Serge Basset of one of Balzac's blood-curdling stories, in which a young French officer is summarily shot, although innocent of the murder of a bank cashier, who has been robbed of 100,000 francs while a fellow-guest of his alleged murderer at the "red inn." The piece, which is in two acts, met with a good reception, and the mounting was worthy of the traditions of the house.

Miss Pauline Chase has scored another success in Mr. Barrie's *Pantaloon: a Plea for an Ancient Family*, at the Théâtre des Arts. At the present moment everything here is "tout à l'Anglais." Heaven grant it may last? The thing, however, must not be overdone, and I do not share the views of those who think that an Anglo-American theatre will do well in Paris. From my personal knowledge of the resident English and Americans in Paris the scheme would be a risky one; and as regards the French, their support cannot always be relied upon.

Two triple bills will be presented at the performances in aid of the Veterans' Club Labour Bureau at the Court Theatre on Nov. 2 and 3. The programme on the Monday evening will be, *Pride of Regiment*, the successful military play by Mr. F. D. Bone; *The King's Hard Bargain*, a naval piece; and *Private Nobody*, which is of a military character. On Tuesday afternoon *The King's Hard Bargain* and *Pride of Regiment* will be repeated, with *The Top-side Dog* in place of *Private Nobody*. Miss Mouillot, who becomes lessee and manager of the Court Theatre on the day of the first veterans' performance, intends to celebrate her opening night by holding a reception on the stage after the performance, and also after the matinée, to which members of the audience will be invited.

THE NEW THEATRE, OXFORD.

The directors of the New Theatre, Oxford, have taken vigorous measures to make the house worthy of the town. They secured the skilled co-operation of Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, who has designed and controlled the construction of more than forty theatres, among them the Hicks' and the Queen's, part of the imposing new block of buildings in Shaftesbury-avenue, London. His plan swept away the old arrangements. The former lobby and corridors have disappeared, and the auditorium is carried back to the exterior wall, thus gaining considerable space. At the same time the dress circle and balcony have been brought forward so that they now form but a small segment of a large circle. As a result nearly every seat directly faces the stage, and they spread out fan-wise as they reach back. The pitch is steep, so that the occupants of one row have a free view of the stage over the heads of those in front, and the matinée hat will lose its terrors. The extension of the gallery necessitated raising the roof, and now there is room and comfort for the "gods," with a promenade behind all. The stalls and pit both provide increased accommodation. The pit absorbs part of the old corridor and lobby; and—greatest boon of all—the adoption of the cantilever system in the construction of the dress circle and gallery has banished all supporting columns, and opened up an unimpeded view of the stage for everyone. Large gangways render access easy to all seats, and two exits for every part of the house will enable the theatre to be speedily emptied. The stage that formerly extended beyond the proscenium, has been cut back, and the orchestra will occupy the space, but, following the modern plan, will be sunk out of sight. Nor has the experienced architect overlooked the need of proper ventilation, and airshafts provide for the renewal of fresh air.

Those seeking refreshment will find the saloons refitted and greatly improved, whilst the lounge has been extended. The lavatory accommodation, too, has been largely increased for all parts of the house.

Outside, the main entrance and booking-office have been placed in the centre of the George-street façade, where the introduction of columns and portico gives considerable dignity and symmetry to the building. All this work of reconstruction has been confided to Messrs. Kingerlee and Son, who recently built the Reading Theatre, and are now altering Wyndham's. The steel and ironwork has been carried out by Messrs. Smith, Walker, and Son. Mr. Wilkins, the local architect, has daily supervised the proper execution of Mr. Sprague's plans.

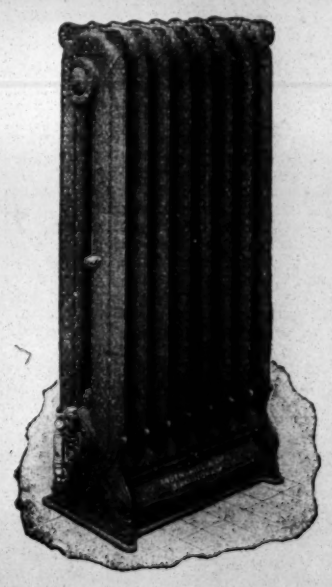
For the decoration of the auditorium, Mr. Sprague has chosen the Renaissance style. Double columns fill the space on either side of the proscenium, giving richness where it was needed, and a series of arcades and intervening columns carry on the architectural design to the back of the circle. The ceiling has moulded enrichments. White and gold are the colours; the ground white and the enrichments gold. The effect is very refined and distinguished, and the note of crimson in the seats and cushions provides the accent to complete the colour scheme. The furnishing and upholstering are in the capable hands of Messrs. Walford and Spokes, whilst the plaster work and decoration are being carried out by Messrs. De Jong, who have made this province their own.

The iron curtain, with its asbestos coverings, is so carefully hung and balanced, that by merely touching a lever it quietly descends and completely cuts off the auditorium from the stage.

On the stage itself more room has been gained by removing two staircases, their place being taken by the non-inflammable cat-ladder. On the prompt side—erected on an iron balcony—is the elaborate switchboard for that magician of the modern theatre—the electrician. Mr. Sheard, R.B.A., is painting a new act drop—a vision of mediæval Italy. One gazes from the hall of some Renaissance palazzo through the loggia, where are musicians and maidens dancing, to a spreading sunlit landscape. In the courtyard below knights are riding by; beyond rise city and castle-crowned hills, and beyond these again the sea and distant mountains. On the right may be recognised the cliffs of Capri and towering Monte Solaro.

THE "ACME" HEATING SYSTEM.

The "Acme" new system of heating by means of the "Mars" gas-heated steam radiators is the most efficient and economical means of heating theatres and music halls, &c. Each radiator is entirely self-contained, being ready for work when fixed to the existing gas supply, no flue or hot-water connections necessary, so that the cost of installation is only nominal. When more than one



radiator is required, any one of these can be instantly brought into action or dispensed with, thus giving control over the warmth required, according to the varying conditions of temperature. The gas consumption is automatically controlled, which effects great economy. Under the "Acme" system, no more gas is required for heating than for lighting a building. Further information will be furnished by writing to Messrs. Arden, Hill and Co., "Acme" Works, Birmingham

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A grand Balaclava concert will be given at the Crystal Palace on Saturday evening, Oct. 24, in aid of Mr. T. H. Roberts' Light Brigade Charge Survivors' Relief Fund. The vocalists will be Miss Gertrude Maxted and Mr. Frederick Earl. "The Charge of the Light Brigade" will be recited by Mrs. Clement Scott. She will be supported by a contingent of the Balaclava Light Brigade charge survivors and the buglers and drummers of the London Rifle Brigade (by permission of Col. Lord Bingham), under the direction of Bugler H. Dunbar. The Crystal Palace Orchestral Society and Choir will take part, as well as the Crystal Palace Band, conducted by Mr. Herbert Godfrey. There will be altogether 350 performers. Mr. Fred W. Holloway will be the accompanist, and Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock will be the musical director.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

At the meeting of the council, held at 353, Strand, on the 2nd inst., with Mr. Fred Grove in the chair, there were present Messrs. Chris Walker, Franklyn Walford, and Robson Paige, Misses Rose Mathews and Marion Lind, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary). Mr. Robson Paige made a statement with regard to the move to new premises. The council offered their special thanks to the secretary and to Mr. Bowen for the extra work they had undertaken in consequence of the move. The council instructed the secretary to put up a notice expressing their regret to members that the rooms had been closed during the last week, and thanking them for their kind co-operation and accepting the situation.

At the meeting held on Tuesday, Mr. Fred Grove again in the chair, there were present:—Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor) and Messrs. Chris Walker, J. Sebastian Smith, and Robson Paige, Misses Rose Mathews and Marion Lind, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The secretary read the minutes of the meeting held on Sept. 29 and Oct. 2, and the meeting confirmed and the chairman signed same.

The secretary read a letter from Miss Mary Ainslie, in which she suggested that a lower rate of subscription should be made for touring members, and was instructed to write to Miss Ainslie pointing out all the advantages the touring members receive for the small subscription of 15s.

The hon. solicitor reported that he had written two letters to a member as to her claim against a member, and had also written requesting him to return her sketch and pay the amount of royalties he owes; that he had written to another member requesting further information as to his claim, also to another member, and had had an interview with her, and had written a letter on her behalf to the Great Northern Railway *re* damage sustained for delay in delivering luggage; that he had written two letters to another member, and had had an interview with her, and had advised her; that he had had an interview with two other members, and had advised them.

The secretary asked whether he might close the rooms at seven o'clock, but the council decided that they should remain open until eight o'clock every evening, and Mr. Sebastian Smith kindly consented to undertake the charge of the rooms every Thursday evening for a month from seven to eight o'clock.

The council passed a unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. Smith.

"ART AND AGITATION."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—It will require the shortest flight of fancy to predict that the chroniclers of 1925 will describe the early years of the twentieth century as being principally famous for their genius in agitation and their lamentable dearth in the way of originality in either stage or vaudeville personalities. The architects, the monarchs of vast combinations, and the sub-lessees of theatres have grown to such enormous proportions as to quite overshadow the substance upon which their mammoths look for existence, viz., the personnel and the productions. It is not given to any living being to do that which the ancients and philosophers have proved an impossibility, *i.e.*, to play the dual rôle of master and man. If a Charles Frohman or an Oswald Stoll have to supply fifty theatres with an annual amusement, it stands to any reasonable man's mind that these two "Universal Providers" have very little time to "reason why," but, out of self-preservation, to take for production that which is in the market at the moment, and make the best of them before the most pampered public the world has ever known, with the possible exception of Babylon in its zenith. An over-confidence amongst artists, has, it would seem, bred a dangerous indifference as to the exact fare he or she should place before their managers, and, to my mind, a good deal of this is traceable to the want of artists' admiration of artists. To-day there is an abundance of copying, but a lamentable want of emulation and ambition to excel. I have scores of people tell me they are glad when "this is over, or their part is finished"—quite young people, too, whose predecessors would have thrilled you with the fire of their enthusiasm. We seem to live in a veritable age of "Thank God, that's over" type. I shall have the man on the platform saying "Quite right, look at the way they are treated; good luck to them," or some such anachronism. Precisely, and it is to this gentleman I would answer—Was the great Dr. Johnson treated as well when he was forced to subsist on 4½d. a day? What of Kean, who had to tramp from York to Bristol with his broadswords and props swung over his shoulder? What of Irving, Jefferson, Booth, and the brilliant little Dan Leno, who used to dance his heart out at the Malakoff in Liverpool for 18s. a week—were these men ever treated as well as the modern aspirant? The subject scarcely admits of argument.

The feeling of resentment to discipline and hard work is gradually bringing about a profession of pessimists. We have to remember that we are a commodity that can be done without, and it is up to each and all of us to make ourselves as indispensable to the manager and public as is possible. I've had people remark to me, "I should think it is easy enough to knock an act together of ten minutes"; and my reply has invariably been, 'It's far more difficult than writing a play, for every line has to be a third act," which only goes to show that all the time an earnest man or woman has, either upon the stage or vaudeville theatres, should be spent thinking and improving their acts. This is the age of competition and the survival of the fittest.

You cannot be a politician and a worker. To agitate and say rude things of others should be left to those people who fight like the devil for harmony, and pray to Heaven they may never obtain it. So long as "the hand that rocks the cradle rules the world," so will the man with the attraction rule the managers!—Yours faithfully,

HERBERT SHELLEY.

Empire, Glasgow.

The Princess of Wales witnessed the performance of *What Every Woman Knows* at the Duke of York's Theatre on Thursday night.

The Earl of Rosslyn, who will be remembered as an actor under the name of James Erskine, was married for the third time on Thursday, when he espoused Miss Vera Mary Bayley, younger daughter of Mr. Eric Edward Bayley, formerly of the 17th Lancers, and of the late Mrs. Bayley, of Little Moyle, Co. Carlow, Ireland. The ceremony, of which only the immediate friends of the bride and bridegroom were acquainted, was performed at the registry office, Princess-row, Buckingham Palace-road.

As "Mr. James Erskine" he played at the Court Theatre in *Trelawny of the Wells* and toured with Mrs. Langtry, subsequently appearing at Wyndham's in *The Undercurrent*. The first marriage of the Earl of Rosslyn, who is thirty-nine years of age, was in 1890, when he wedded a daughter of Mr. Robert Charles de Grey Vyner, but two years later the marriage was dissolved. His second wife was Miss Anna Robinson, a well-known American actress, whom he married in 1905. The union, however, was not a happy one, and it was nullified last year. The Earl served in the South African War with Thorneycroft's Horse, was twice taken prisoner by the Boers, and wrote a book on his African experiences.

ON THE ROAD, OCT. 12.

Alexander & Co., George.—T. R., Newcastle.
An Abandoned Woman.—T. R., Pontypool.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Smethwick.
Asche, Oscar.—Theatre Royal, Hanley.
At Cripple Creek.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
At Duty's Call.—T. R., Tyldesley.
At the World's Mercy.—T. R., Shotten.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—T. R., Cardiff.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—T. R., Bradford.
Belle of New York (Howard).—Dalston T., N.E.
Belle of the Ball.—Grand T., Luton.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—Marlborough T., N.
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—T. R., Worcester.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—Falmouth and Newquay.
Bondman, The (Croke).—Grand T., Swansea.
Bourchier, Arthur.—T. R., Manchester.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—Grand T., Croydon.
Breed of the Treshams.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Brewster's Millions.—T. R., Edinburgh.
Broken Heart, A.—T. R., Barnsley.
Bulmer, Mr.—Empire T., Southend.
Captain Drew on Leave.—Brixton Theatre.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—T. R., Plymouth.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—O. H., Coventry.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—Taunton & Chippenham.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—O. H., Northampton.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Gaiety T., Ayr.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Claudian.—Century T., Motherwell.
Coal King.—T. R., North Shields.
Compton Comedy Co.—T. R., Brighton.
Conscience of a Judge.—T. R., Bedford Leigh.
Convict's Daughter.—T. R., Sheffield.
Country Girl in London.—P.O.W., Grimsby.
Dandy Fifth.—T. R., Long Eaton.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (N.).—King's T., Glasgow.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (S.).—Castle T., Stockton.
Dairymaids (Macdonald's).—T. R., Exeter.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Croydon.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—Salisbury and Basingstoke.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—County T., Reading.
Diver's Luck.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Donovan, Lydia.—Bordon Camp and Littlehampton.
Dorothy.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Driven from Home.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Eve of Her Wedding.—O. H., Dudley.
Face at the Window.—T. R., Hebburn.
Fatal Wedding.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Fight for a Throne.—T. R., West Stanley.
Fight for Life.—T. R., Crook.
Flag Lieutenant.—T. R., Chatham.
Flower Girl.—O. H., Wakefield.
For Love and the King.—T. R., Ilkeston.
From Shop Girl to Duchess.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Gay Deceiver, The.—T. R., Aldershot.
Gay Gordons (Miss Ash).—O. H., Cheltenham.
Gay Gordons (Miss Dare).—Grand T., Fulham.
Gay Gordons (Terriss and Hicks).—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—T. R., Scaham Harbour.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Girls of Gottenberg.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—T. R., Bury St. Edmunds.
Great Awakening.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Greed of Gold.—Metropole T., Devonport.
Hands Across the Sea.—Grand T., Lancaster.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., Aston.
Her Marriage Vow.—T. R., Jarrow.
Her Nameless Child.—Metropole T., Manchester.
His Dishonoured Wife.—Queen's T., Manchester.
His House in Order.—County T., Bedford.
His Sister's Honour.—O. H., Ferndale.
His Wife No Longer.—Court T., Bacup.
Honeymoon, The.—Todmorden.
Horniman's, Miss.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Hughes, Annie.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—T. R., Preston.
Hypocrites, The (S.).—West Bromwich.
Irene Wycherley.—T. R., Shrewsbury.
Jack Straw.—Pavilion, Eastbourne.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—O. H., Southport.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Larne and Ballymena.
Lady Frederick.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—T. R., Portsmouth.
Lancashire Lad.—T. R., Blyth.
Lion's Heart, A.—Pavilion Theatre, E.
Little Breadwinner.—Grand T., Walsall.
London with the Lid Off.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
Love of the Princess.—Grand T., Brighton.
Love Rules the World.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Love that Women Desire.—Miner's T., Ashington.
Lovel, Leigh.—Victoria Pav., Ramsgate.
Lucky 'Liza.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Manxman, The.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Fraserburgh and Buckie.
Man and Wife.—T. R., Mexborough.
Master of Millions.—T. R., Bilston.
Merely Mary Ann.—T. R., Hull.
Merry Widow (S.).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Midnight Mail.—T. R., Stratford.
Midnight Wedding.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Miss Hook of Holland (S.).—County T., Kingston.
Mollison, William.—O. H., Leicester
Mother's Salvation, A.—Aberavon and Mountain Ash.
Moody-Manners Opera (A).—T. R., Glasgow.
Moody-Manner7 Opera (B).—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Moore, Miss Decima.—Grand T., Southampton.
Mr. Popple (Macdona).—T. R., Darlington.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—T. R., Halifax.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—T. R., Bolton.
My Mimosa Maid—T. R., Nottingham.
Mystery of Edwin Drood (H. M. version).—Cambridge.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—Queen's T., Manchester.
New East Lynne.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Old Folks at Home.—Avenue T., Kettering.
Peter's Mother.—T. R., Colchester.
Power of the Cross.—New T., Aberdare.
Prince of Pilsen.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Private Secretary.—Assembly Rooms, Durham.
Private Secretary.—Richmond and Wolverhampton.
Prodigal Parson.—Alhambra T., Stourbridge.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—Borough T., Stratford.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Winter Gardens, Blackpool.
Rollicking Rory.—Princess's T., Glasgow.
Royal Divorce.—T. R., Stockport.
Sailor's Wedding.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Second to None.—T. R., Rotherham.
Sergeant Brue.—Penzance and Falmouth.
Sherlock Holmes.—Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.
Sign of the Cross.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Silver King.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Soldier of France.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Soldier's Honour.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Still Alarm.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Straight from the Shoulder.—P. O. W., Salford.
Sunday.—Glossop and Buxton.
Terry, Edward.—Prince's T., Bristol.
Thief, The.—T. R., Newcastle.
Thief, The (N.).—H. M. T., Dundee.
Thief, The (S.).—New T., Cardiff.
Tom Jones.—T. R., Rochdale.
Tom Jones.—Grand T., Leeds.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Accrington.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—Nottingham.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—Waterford and Limerick.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Tyrant, The.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Maidenhead.
Vedrenne-Barker.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Village Blacksmith.—Elephant and Castle Theatre.
Way of the World.—Mountain Ash.
What a Woman Did.—O. H., Perth.
What the Butler Saw.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
When It Was Dark.—Paisley T., Paisley.
When Knights Were Bold.—Oxford and Cambridge.
When Knights Were Bold.—T. R., Bath.
When London Sleeps.—Colosseum, Oldham.
When Other Lips.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
White Man, A (N.).—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
White Man, A (S.).—Empire T., Oldham.
Who is She?—Junction T., Manchester.
Why Men Love Women.—T. R., Woolwich.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
With Edged Tools.—T. R., Merthyr.
Woman and Wine.—Grand T., Nelson.
Woman Pays, The.—New T., Bargoed.
Woman Worth Winning.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Wrecker of Men.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
You Never Can Tell.—Canterbury and Eastbourne.
£1,000 Reward.—T. R., Barry Dock.
10.30 Down Express.—Palace T., Ramsgate.

The site of the Globe Playhouse, in Bankside, Southwark, with which Shakespeare was intimately associated, is to be marked by a mural tablet. The memorial, which is expected to cost about £300, is promoted by an executive committee, of which Mr. William Martin is chairman and Mr. Cecil F. J. Jennings, of 27, Walbrook, is the hon. treasurer.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

L. E. WALL (Stamford Hill).—*The address of the Royal General Theatrical Fund is Savoy House, Strand, W.C., the secretary being Mr. Charles J. Davies. The address of the secretary of the Actors' Orphanage Fund is 20, Gower-street, Bedford-square, W.C.*

MABEL BURRELL.—*The lady's advertisement does not appear in our columns, but a letter addressed to our office c/o* The Era *would reach her.*

OLIVER B. JONES.—*Miss Ellen Terry was born Feb. 27, 1848, at Coventry. The fact is stated in Mr. T. Edgar Pemberton's book "Ellen Terry and Her Sisters."*

T. H.—*The Empire was inaugurated as a theatre, under the licence of the Lord Chamberlain, and opened its doors with a grand revival of* Chilpéric *on April 17, 1884. In this opéra-bouffe the late M. Paulus appeared as Rigolboche, the jester. Later, Mr. Hayden Coffin made his début at the same house in* The Lady of the Locket. *On Dec. 22, 1887, the Empire was opened as a music hall—under the joint direction of Mr. George Edwardes and the late Sir Augustus Harris—with the two ballets* The Sports of England *and* Dilara.

T. L. E.—*Mr. Harry Monkhouse (M'Kie), comedian, died on Feb. 18, 1901, at the age of forty-seven.*

JIM CROW.—*We are sorry we cannot spare the time or the space to give a digest of the dramatic scheme of* La Cigale. *The comedy in three acts known by this title is by Meilhac and Halévy, and was produced by a French company at the Gaiety on July 3, 1883. It is founded on La Fontaine's fable "La Cigale et la Fourmi." The comic opera* La Cigale *on the same subject was produced later. Our files are at your service on the payment of a small fee.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth, a Marriage,** or a **Death,** or an **"In Memoriam"** notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

NELSON.—Oct. 2, at 128, Osborne-place, Aberdeen, the wife of Harry Adair Nelson, a son.

WALLACE.—Oct. 6, at 107, Esmond-road, Bedford Park, W., the wife of G. Carlton Wallace, of a daughter.

WELLS.—On Wednesday, Sept. 30, at 11, Canonbury-lane, London, Mrs. E. Wells, of a daughter. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

BOULT—HAMPSON.—Oct. 6, at St. John's Church, Briggate, Leeds, by the Rev. Canon Longbottom, Charles Andrew Swinton, eldest son of the late Frederick H. Boult, of Liverpool, to Dora Louise, third daughter of Charles G. Hampson, of Gloucester-terrace, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

OWEN—FARMER.—Sept. 25, at Grimsby Parish Church, Leslie Charles Cameron Owen, eldest son of Mrs. Owen, of Bedford Park, Chiswick, to Ida (Ida Stratham), daughter of F. E. Farmer, of St. John's-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WHEATLEY—DOUGLAS.—Oct. 2, at St. James's, Piccadilly, Walter Wheatley, of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, to Fanny Florence Douglas, of Edinburgh.

SILVER WEDDING.

COURTICE-POUNDS—MURRAY.—On Oct. 14, 1883, at Southampton, Charles Courtice-Pounds to Jessie Louise Murray, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Murray.

ENGAGEMENT.

ERNEST BERESFORD to Gludys Frederica Helena Taylor, Elberfeld, Oct. 1, '08.

DEATHS.

BENONE.—Oct. 4, at the Sunderland Infirmary, Alfred Benone, resident-manager of the Palace, Sunderland.

BLAKE.—Oct. 5, at Leeds, Minnie, the dearly-beloved wife of Fred Blake, and mother of Freda, Winnie, Bessie, and Norah Blake, Alhambra Theatre, Milnsbridge, Yorks.

FORREST.—Oct. 3, at Greenock Infirmary, of heart disease, Arthur Forrest, music-hall comedian, aged 50.

GILLAME.—At Perth, Western Australia, Ernest J. W. E. Gillame (Dudley Clinton), son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gillame, of 20, Clifton-hill, Brighton, of pneumonia, aged 36 years.

HASSAN.—On Sept. 24, Prince Hassan, wire equilibrist, leaving widow with three boys totally unprovided for through misfortune.

JOHNSTONE.—Sept. 5, at 120, E. 107th-street, New York City, Owen Johnstone (née Flynn). Leaves a wife (Annie Jarman) and family. Dublin papers please copy.

SNAPE.—Oct. 5, Isaac Snape (Harry Lester), secretary of the Terriers' Society, aged 48.

WESTON.—Oct. 1, John Weston. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife and family.

IN MEMORIAM.

BATEMAN.—In loving memory of Frank Bateman, the dearly-beloved husband of Lizzie Montague, who died Oct. 8, 1906.
He lives on earth in thought and deed,
As truly as he lives in Heaven.

BURKE.—In loving memory of W. E. Burke, who died Oct. 5, 1906. Not forgotten by JACK and MADDY.

DAVENTRY.—In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, George Daventry, who died Sept. 30, 1904. "Oh, dead, most dear."

KEITH.—In loving memory of our dear mother, Elizabeth Keith, who died Oct. 13, 1900. Gone, but never forgotten by her loving children.

WATSON.—In memory of all I held most dear, my beloved husband, Jack Bowles Watson. Died Oct. 8, 1906. "To live in the hearts of those we leave behind is not to die."

WORSWICK.—In loving memory of John Worswick (late of the Royal Court Theatre and Grand Hippodrome, Wigan), who died Oct. 13, 1906. Though death divides, fond memory clings. R.I.P. Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Worswick.

MR. KENNETH LYLE has just completed a striking polka song, founded on the old adage that "the boy's the father of the man." It is entitled "To see if it was fit for father." It is quite on the cards that it will be acquired by one of our greatest living stars.

MISS DORA LYRIC on Monday at the Shoreditch Empire essayed two new numbers which were instantly acclaimed as emphatic hits. One of the very foremost chorus singers, the popular lady has never been better fitted than in the present instances. The first is a motto song, by F. J. Barnes and Maurice Scott, entitled "Do just a little bit more," and the second is a number called "Winkles and Watercresses," which embodies a humorous story, and is by Alf Ellerton.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Abbott, Mr. E. R.
Achurch, Miss J.
Albert, Mrs. Arthur
Andre, Mr. Victor
Artois, Mr. John
Artois, Mrs. Violet
Augustein, Mr. J.
Bacchul, Mr. R.
Balderstone, Mr. G. E.
Barclay, Miss Annie
Barker, Mr. J.
Barratt, Mr. W. B.
Barry, Mr. L.
Beckwith, Miss A.
Beckwith, Mr. Wilfred
Beltram, Miss
Bert, Mr. R.
Biddall, Bros.
Blakey, Mr. R.
Boggetti, Mr. E.
Bradley, Mr. Alexander
Branscombe, Mr. Arthur
Brantford, Mr. Thomas
Brooks, Miss L.
Brown, Mr. E. J.
Burns, Messrs. D.
Busse, Miss M.
Caban, Mr. C.
Caine, Mr. J. J.
Calbas, The Three
Callan, Mr. John
Campbell, Mr. Dennis
Campbell, Mrs. P.
Carew, Mr. Guy
Carroll, Mr. M.
Carse, Mr. W. R.
Caselle, Mr. Edmund
Cash, Mr. M.
Chapman, Mr. Bertrand
Chipperfield, Mr. J. H.
Coma, Mr. Arthur
Conway, Miss Alma
Cooke, Mr. C. F.
Corri, Mr. Clarence
Corrick, Mr.
Coutts, Mr. Wm.
Cranford, Mr. J. F.
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Culton, Master J.
Curran, Mr. Fred
Cuthbert, Mr. Alfred
Davis, Mr. Charlie
Desmond, Miss Maud
Eaton, Miss Rosie
Edouin, Miss Rose
Esden, Miss Alice
Evans, Mr. A. R.
Ferrar, Miss Ada
Ferris, Mr. Edward
Fox, Mr. Bob
Friedman, Mr. Jake
Gates, Mr. Bob
Godwin, Mr. Will
Gotham Quartette
Grahame, Miss Gracie
Granger, Miss Madge
Grattan, Mr. Harry
Gregory, Mr. Warner
Griffes, Mrs.
Hales, Mrs. Frank
Hardy, Mr. J.
Hare, Miss Winifred
Hargreaves, Mr. W.
Harris, Mr. Gus
Hartington, Miss
Healy, Mr. Robert
Hector, Mr. Frank
Hill, Miss Adria
Hill, Mr. J. H.
Hoffe, Mr. Monckton
Hollister, Mr. Herbert
Hope, Mr. Edward
Hopkins, Mr. Dick
Howard, Mr. G.
Hudson, Mr. H. G.
Humphreys, Mr. A.
Hutchinson, Mr. J. N.
Iles, Miss Evie
Ingleton, Mr. G.
Jones, Mr. Guy
Kelly, Mr. Campbell
Kelway, Mr. Vincent
Kempton, Mr. R.
Knight, Mr. A.
Kremo Troupe
Kyasyas, Les
Lafayette, The Great
La Martine, Mr. John
Lamb, Mr. J. F.
Leamore, Mr. Tom
Le Francs, Mr. Fred
Leicester, Mrs. Geo. F.
Lindo, Mr. Frank
Linwood, Mr. Lance
Locraine, Miss Ruby
Mackey, Mr. W. J.
Mackie, Miss Julie
Manders, Mr. Albert
Mars, Miss May
Marsden, Miss Lemetia
Mathews, Mrs.
McKay, Mr. Tom
Melrose, Miss Alma
Melrose, Mr. James
Merriman, Mr. Walter
Moir, Mr. Gunner
Moore, Mr. Marshall
Natalia, Madame
Nethersole, Miss Olga
Nolan, Mr. Hugh
Norris, Miss Kitty
Oliver, Mr. J. C.
Parham, Mr. Frank
Paulton, Miss B.
Perkins, Mr. Sandon
Pink, Mr. Wal
Plant, Mr. Harry
Pleydell, Miss B.
Powell, Miss Pip
Preston, Mr. J. F.
Prideaux, Miss
Purcell, Mr. F.
Revy, Mme. A.
Rezene and Robini
Ricardo, Capt. J.
Roadright, C. A.
Richards, Mrs. F.
Rousby and Rene
Sansbury, Mr. Vernon
Saxon, Mr. Arthur
Seymour, Miss Nellie
"Shadow"
Shine, Mr. John L.
Sheen, Mr. L.
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Simmons, Mrs. H. S.
Sinclair, Mrs.
Smith, Mr. Clement
Stanhope, Mr. F. A.
Stewart, Miss Nellie
Stewart, Mr. Charles
Stirling, Mr. Sydney
St. John, Miss Florence
Stockham, Mr. H. W.
Summers, Miss Julia
Temple, Mr. Fred.
Terry, Mr. Fred E.
Thelma and Grooves
Thomas, Mr. A. D
Toni, Signor
Towle, Mr. W. Edwardes
Twigdon, Mrs. A.
Vallus, Mr. H.
Valroy, Miss Edy
Vandy, Mr. Paul
Vitart, Mr. Henry
Walker
Warne, Miss Olive
Waterfield, Mr. C.
Wentworth, Mr. Bert
Wesson, Miss Lilly
Willard, Mr. James
Wilson, Miss N.
Wyville, Miss Amber
Yargains, Mr.
York, Mr. Philip
Yukio Tani

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Annie Hughes—Saturday, Oct. 10.
Charles Warner—Saturday, Oct. 10.
Frank Weathersby—Saturday, Oct. 10.
Ernest Hans—Saturday, Oct. 10.
John Tully—Saturday, Oct. 10.
Eille Norwood—Sunday, Oct. 11.
Fred Kerr—Sunday, Oct. 11.
J. T. Grein—Sunday, Oct. 11.
Geo. Mudie—Sunday, Oct. 11.
Frank Radcliffe—Sunday, Oct. 11.
Claude Trevelyan—Sunday, Oct. 11.
Lillian Ramsden—Sunday, Oct. 11.
Charles Wilmott—Sunday, Oct. 11.
Hal Milton—Monday, Oct. 12.
D. Lyn Harding—Monday, Oct. 12.
Ethel Matthews—Monday, Oct. 12.
Louis Hermann—Monday, Oct. 12.
Mrs. Langtry—Tuesday, Oct. 13.
Marie Polini—Tuesday, Oct. 13.
Mrs. Butler Stanhope—Tuesday, Oct. 13.
Cliff Ryland—Tuesday, Oct. 13.
Newman Maurice—Tuesday, Oct. 13.
Evelyn M. Walton, Wednesday, Oct. 14.
May Saker—Thursday, Oct. 15.
Ina Goldsmith—Thursday, Oct. 15.
Marion Terry—Friday, Oct. 16.
Mabel Love—Friday, Oct. 16.

GEO. DOLAN, 20, labourer, of no fixed abode, was charged, at Tower Bridge, on Saturday, with assaulting Kitty Burns, a music-hall artist, by striking her in the face. Prosecutrix was standing outside a stationer's shop in York-road, Waterloo, when prisoner came up and informed her that he had been robbed. She expressed her sorrow, and walked away. Prisoner followed, and put his arm round her neck to kiss her, when she told him that she considered it an insult. He then said, "You want a punch in the face," closed his fist, struck her on the cheek, and ran away. Prisoner had no recollection of the occurrence. Mr. Rose said such conduct could not be excused, and prisoner was fined £1, or 14 days' hard labour.

Stage Fright Avoided.

Stage fright is but a poor definition of the exhausting nervous tension experienced by the truly artistic temperament on stage or platform.

The effort to excel, even when one is feeling in the best of health, imposes a drain on the entire nervous system which is likely at any time to end in sudden collapse.

Good food and much rest will do a lot, but when, despite these, you find your nervousness increasing, your voice inclined to rasp, or your energy fairly "oozing out of your feet," it is high time to adopt special measures of repair.

To do this you need not lay up, however. A few glasses daily of that marvellous restorative, Hall's Wine, will work wonders in you.

This grand old tonic was formulated by a West End physician nearly thirty years ago, and has never been improved upon. By means of Hall's Wine you get invigoration without headiness, sustenance without torpor, and can therefore take it at any time.

It is a fact, as testified by hundreds of actors and singers, that nothing allays nervousness or stage fright so readily as Hall's Wine.

The secret is, of course, that Hall's Wine quickly and fully enriches the blood, and thus passes rich, rejuvenating tissue-building nutriment to the parts most needing it.

Nerves are calmed and comforted, inflamed membranes soothed and invigorated, the voice becomes strong and clear. Indeed, there is no safer or surer way of raising your whole body to the summit of physical and mental activity and of keeping it there.

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THE MARVELLOUS RESTORATIVE.
3/6 size for 3/-, 2/- size for 1/9.

TESTIMONIAL.

Market Hotel,
Birmingham.

DEAR SIRS,
Thanks for your letter. I am pleased to say Hall's Wine has done me good. I have ordered two large bottles, and find it most excellent, and shall continue to take it as it is a *splendid tonic* and invigorator.
I am, dear Sirs,
Truly yours,
(Signed) GWENNIE HASTO,
Theatre Royal,
Birmingham.
Messrs. Stephen Smith & Co.,
Bow, London.

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Town .....
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Price 3s. 6d. Post free 3s. 10d.
THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER.
BY
ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his textbook on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1908.

A THEATRICAL EXHIBITION.

Those patrons of charity who are often hard pressed for some new attraction which shall bring in money for their excellent objects might do worse than consider the promotion of a Theatrical Exhibition such as has been given in the Marsan wing at the Paris Louvre this month by the Union Centrale des Arts Décoratifs. The exhibition consists of a theatrical portrait gallery and a collection of various objects of art and use connected with the theatre. The exhibition in the Louvre has over 2,000 exhibits; but we feel certain that it could be improved upon in England.

It would, however, be by no means an easy task to properly organise such an exhibition. The advantage of shows of this sort is that they allow the public to admire things which have been buried in the private houses of collectors and others. The difficulty is rather an embarrassment of riches than any want of material. A collector who possesses a few "gems" and a great deal of trash may be offended at the rejection of articles which he considers of intense interest and genuine merit; and the result too often is that an exhibition is clogged and surcharged with "stodge." Yet, when one thinks of the possibilities of such an enterprise, and the prospect of its popularity, it seems that it might be worth the trouble of preparing it properly.

To start with, we have in the possession of the nation and in that of private owners a rich hoard of theatrical portraits and engravings. Our finest portrait-painters have employed their genius in depicting the actors and actresses of this generation and the last; and even in the debased periods of English art there is much in this direction to create interest, if not to excite admiration. How pleasant it would be to pass from the various portraits of GARRICK to SARGENT'S characteristic treatment of Miss ELLEN TERRY as Lady Macbeth, and to compare the exquisite ideals of GAINSBOROUGH and Sir JOSHUA with the more modern manifestations of LONG and MILLAIS; to study the features of CHARLES LAMB'S old actors, of MUNDEN, of PALMER, and of ELLISTON, and to contrast them with the "counterfeit presentments" of our present-day favourites. The theatrical portrait gallery alone would draw "the town."

The historical section of the stage would be of great interest to students; and, as a writer in the *Times* suggests, it might include the well-known drawing of the Swan Theatre, and the very interesting model of the Fortune Theatre which Mr. ARCHER and Mr. WALTER H. GODFREY have evolved between them from the extant builder's contract which is to be found in an upper storey of the Aile de Marsan at the Louvre. The relics connected with SHAKESPEARE and his predecessors may not be numerous, but they would be reverentially examined; and, of course, we should have a rich collection of things associated with great theatrical artists. The French exhibition includes the chair in which MOLIÈRE sat when he played in *Le Malade Imaginaire* on the night before he died; RACHEL'S shoes, the tops made of a piece of the Grand Cordon of the Emperor of Russia; the sword which ELLISTON gave to TALMA in 1825, TAGLIONI'S contracts, FANNY ELSSLER'S shoe, and Mlle. MARS'S fan.

The important thing in an exhibition of this kind is that a process of selection should be exercised, and that superfluous rubbish should be sturdily rejected. The sections should be so separated that anyone desiring to "skip" one of them could do so with ease, while the specialists could enjoy their contemplation unobserved. There are many things—designs for old-fashioned scenery, for instance—of which we are glad to glance at an example or two, but which become tiresome when offered to us in large numbers. Old playbills are exhibits of which it is easy to have too many, and a nice discrimination would be required to draw the line between intrinsic merit and mere association. Every article worn or used by a great man does not necessarily become sacred or thrill the imagination; and, on the other hand, if a portrait is good as a work of art, one may strain a point as to the importance of the original. It must be remembered also that an exhibition of this sort should attract the general public as well as the *cognoscenti;* and therefore many things tediously familiar to the latter, such, for instance, as the complicated mechanism of an up-to-date modern stage, with its electrical and other arrangements, would be novel and acceptable to the outsider. The very fine original designs of the modern scene-painter, which often are inevitably marred by the restrictions of actual reproduction, and by the necessary combination of painting and building-up, would be agreeable as well as instructive; and there must be many famous costumes which have not yet been unpicked. We wonder, for instance, what has become of the wonderful Lady Macbeth dress in which Miss TERRY appears in the SARGENT portrait already alluded to? Of course, the architects would have a section, with designs for theatres; and in our ideal theatrical exhibition there would be a special department devoted to methods of ventilating playhouses—an art which is still in its infancy. One of the attractions in the Louvre collection is the marionettes. The illusion created by these puppets is often very keen; and we can imagine a high-class marionette show making quite a sensation. But the material of the exhibition, whatever it was, would have to be systematically arranged; and there ought to be plenty of amusing and diverting exhibits besides those which chiefly appeal to the serious. The theatrical exhibition should, like the old panoramas, "combine amusement with instruction."

AN AUTHORESS'S AGREEMENT.

At Marylebone County Court on Monday, before his Honour Sir William Selfe, Mrs. Ada Marian Doughty, professionally known as Vera Leslie, sought to recover £10 10s. damages for breach of contract from Miss Constance Meredyth, playwright and actress. The claim arose through the defendant having agreed, on April 1 last, to sell tickets to the value of £10 10s. in connection with a play which was to have been produced at the Court Theatre on June 2. The defendant had written a piece which was called *Notre Edouard*, and the plaintiff wrote to her asking whether she would like it put on at the Court Theatre, which she had taken for a matinée. Mlle. Jane May consented to appear at the Court Theatre in *Notre Edouard*, and this fact having been conveyed to the defendant, the latter wrote saying that she would be very pleased to play in her piece with Mlle. May. The defendant also agreed to take £10 10s. worth of tickets, but at the last moment she wrote to say that there was no time to put the piece on, and that it would be courting disaster to produce it at a few days' notice.

On May 19 the defendant intimated that her piece could not be produced, and two days later, when witness told her she could not have it withdrawn at a moment's notice, the defendant said she would pay the money she had guaranteed. Mlle. Jane May had come expressly from Paris to give her services, and plaintiff paid her £10 for expenses incurred, and also paid for advertisements. Another item had to be substituted at the Court Theatre matinée, and through the non-production of *Notre Edouard* plaintiff estimated her loss at £30.

Miss Meredyth, who conducted her own defence, said she made a mistake as to the date of the Court matinée, and when she returned from abroad she found that there was not time to arrange for the adequate production of her piece. When she agreed to take ten guineas' worth of tickets she had not the money to pay for them at the moment, and as she did not receive them from the plaintiff she thought the latter did not wish her to have anything more to do with the matter.

His Honour said the defendant had entered into an agreement, and there must be judgment for the plaintiff for the ten guineas claimed, and costs.

"THE HON'BLE PHIL."

Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, Book by G. P. Huntley and Herbert Clayton, Music by Harold Samuel, Additional Numbers by Ralph Nairn, Lyrics by Harold Lawson, Additional Lyrics by Bertrand Davis and Claude Aveling, Produced on Saturday, Oct. 3, at the Hicks Theatre.

Capt. the Hon. Phil Giffard..MR. G. P. HUNTLEY
Capt. Jules de Valery ....MR. HERBERT CLAYTON
Lieut. Maurice Montpensier ..MR. CHAS. BROWN
Monsieur Marinet .....MR. O. B. CLARENCE
Buckle .....MR. HORACE MILLS
Cournot .....MR. CHARLES SEGUIN
Dubois .....MR. HUBERT WILLIS
Homard .....MR. T. M. HICKTON
Jerome .....MR. FRANK PERFITT
Gascon .....MR. CARLTON BROUGH
Gobert .....MR. J. HERBERT
Courriol .....MR. H. HULCUP
Marie .....MISS DENISE ORME
Didine .....MISS EVA KELLY
Brigette .....MISS ELSIE SPAIN
Mme. Lascelles .....MISS BARBARA HUNTLEY
Annette .....MISS NELLIE FRANCIS
Fleurette .....MISS DOROTHY DUNBAR
Fanchette .....MISS ALICE KAY
Mauricette .....MISS TESSIE HACKNEY
Josephine .....MISS ELLA BRANDON
Marcelle .....MISS VIOLET WYATT
Eugenie .....MISS BARBARA ALLEN
Clarice .....MISS WINIFRED HARRIS
Julie .....MISS MARY FRERE
Henriette .....MISS NANCY REEVE
Louise .....MISS NELLIE BROWNLEE
Babette .....MISS NELL CLAPTON
Susanne .....MISS JULIA SANDERSON

Londoners love their Huntley in the guise of a dull-witted, languid, but wholly good-hearted aristocrat, and as that clever comedian—who has delighted two hemispheres—plays the title-rôle in his own and Mr. Herbert Clayton's musical comedy, *The Hon'ble Phil*, crowds of laughter-loving playgoers should greet the new piece at the Hicks Theatre for some time to come. The story is not remarkable for originality, but it serves its purpose quite well in introducing plenty of humorous business, tuneful songs and love duets, and diverting situations. We are taken to the island of St. Angelo, somewhere on the Breton coast, and outside the hotel there we meet with M. Marinet, his sister—Mme. Lascelles, his daughter Marie, and his niece Susanne. Marinet is a rich bon-bon manufacturer, a vulgarian nouveau riche who brags of the price of his cigars, and gets into trouble with the customs house officer, who fines him a large sum for not "declaring" his large stock of "smokes," and also for bringing into the island a number of modern dresses, a proceeding entirely contrary to the law, which stipulates that each visitor shall adopt the native costume after a residence of twelve hours. Of course, there is a love interest, to which a tinge of welcome romance is given by Marie, Marinet's daughter, falling in love with Captain Jules de Valery, of the Cuirassiers, on a yachting tour with his friend Maurice Montpensier. The captain's masquerading as a boatman lends itself to picturesque developments, and before the inevitable straightening out of the slight love tangle in the second act—which is particularly bright and funny—Jules pays Marinet's fine. The Hon'ble Phil, who must be a descendant of Lord Dundreary, finds in Susanne, who calls him a "dear old thing," a congenial partner. Phil has a valet, Buckle by name, who, in the words of his master, is a perfect treasure—"there is no one to beat him at folding socks." Buckle and Cournot, the interpreter, are fierce rivals for the hand of the pretty bathing attendant, Didine. The Englishman, whose ducking in the first act is due to the machinations of his rival, gets his revenge in the second part of the piece, when he frightens Cournot by flourishing a dagger, which is an important detail of the costume he has to wear as an onion-seller.

The return to the musical comedy stage of so pretty and gifted a comedienne and singer as Miss Denise Orme is in itself quite a sufficient reason for a visit to the Hicks Theatre, and this charming examplar of the sweetness of British womanhood has in Marie a part which gives her the best possible opportunities of showing off her perfect technique, both as a singer and a violinist. In the first act, where Marie wears a chic bathing costume of pink, she has a pretty number, "Drifting," which we are given to understand is written by herself, and in the last she plays the violin as an obbligato to her lover's serenade—an innovation that delights the house. Mr. Herbert Clayton sings mostly in association with Miss Denise Orme, but also does a good deal on his own account to make Captain Jules de Valery quite a dashing cavalier, with an eye for a pretty wench and the boldness to woo her. Miss Julia Sanderson, who comes from America to play the part of Susanne, is a gifted soubrette, who sings pleasingly and acts with considerable gaiety and abandon. She looks particularly fetching in a bathing-costume of blue, and sings in the first act a taking number, "Little boys, get away," and "Be careful." Miss Elsie Spain, a recruit from Gilbert and Sullivan opera, makes a hit by her singing of "Pick out your beau" and "When young maidens" in the part of Brigette; and a very fascinating Didine is found in Miss Eva Kelly, who is heard to advantage in a "bathing-costume song," which is likely to become popular. Another number to which she gives much point is "Oh, dear, no; not the sort she wants to know." Mr. Horace Mills has a real chance of distinguishing himself as a comedian in the part of Buckle, and his business and by-play in the second act, when masquerading with strings of onions and a dagger, are very amusing. With such capital ditties as "I'm a raging, roaring, ramping Vesuvius, "A gentleman's gentleman," and extremely droll and eccentric dancing, Mr. Mills should establish himself as a big West-end favourite. Mr. Charles Seguin, a newcomer from the provinces, as the fire-eating interpreter, has a character that would have rejoiced the heart of the late M. Marius. He is diverting, and his song "The which, the why, the wherefore" is lively and catchy. Mr. O. B. Clarence gives humorous individuality to the rôle of Marinet; Mr. Charles Brown, who has little to do as Montpensier, is bright and breezy; Mr. Hubert Willis is a capable customs house officer; and Messrs. Frank Perfitt, Carlton Brough, and J. Herbert, who sing the "Ode to St. Angelo" in the second act, do so with all the necessary quaintness. Mr. G. P. Huntley, as we have already intimated, has a part full of the sayings necessary to its success, and there is no doubt he will work up the humour considerably before many nights have elapsed. He has a song in "Woman" that is quite in the Huntleyan vein. Miss Dorothy Dunbar contributes a couple of clever dances; Miss Barbara Huntley is seen to advantage as Mme. Lascelles; Messrs. H. Hulcup and Hickton, and Misses Nellie Francis and Alice Kay play small parts creditably.

The score of Mr. Harold Samuel shows an innate sense of the value of orchestral colour, and the concerted numbers are decidedly well written. Mr. Samuel, too, has the gift of melody, and his début in musical comedy is decidedly encouraging. The mise-en-scène is very attractive, and much intelligence, daintiness, and charm are displayed by the chorus, who put their hearts into their work.

MISS ST. DENIS'S DANCES.

An exquisitely beautiful exhibition of the "poetry of motion" was given at the Scala Theatre on Wednesday last, when Miss Ruth St. Denis appeared in a series of dances interpreting Oriental religions and customs, beginning with India. There were five of these dances, each with its appropriate scene; and these scenes were faithfully realistic representations of Indian surroundings, with real natives acting as supporters of the dancer. Miss St. Denis's style of beauty is that which we associate with the sculptures of the East; and she has marvellous suppleness, especially in the joints of the arms. Her first dance is called "The Spirit of Incense," and is performed before the Purda, or curtain which separates in India the women's apartments from the rest of the house. It is a graceful series of poses, the dancer frequently rearranging the incense on plates over small fires. A most remarkable example of mimic presentation is the "snake-charmer." With two emerald rings on each hand, to suggest snakes' eyes, Miss Denis imitates with her arms and by movements of her head the evolutions of a couple of cobras. So vivid is the suggestion that we shrink and shudder as if at a real serpentine show. The "Nautch Dance" which is the third item is performed in an Indian palace, in the presence of a pair of Eastern potentates seated on splendid thrones. With certain modifications to suit English taste, it is a real Nautch, fascinating by the beauty of the movements and poses and free from indecent exposure or voluptuous antics. The coquetry of the dance is very clever, and there is plenty of energy—more perhaps than is usual in the East—in parts of it. The next dance represents the transition of a Yogi, or Hindoo Saint, through the various phases of religious aspiration up to the culminating "experience" of complete sanctity. It is both poetic and expressive, and its effect is increased by the mysterious forest scenery in which it is performed. The last item is the "Dance of the Five Senses." At the back of the stage is a sanctuary in which is dimly seen an idol representing one of the incarnations of Vishnu. Worshippers present offerings, and finally the idol comes to life, descends from its throne, and does a series of dances, in which the senses are vividly symbolised. The intense expression which Miss St. Denis throws into her depiction of the raptures of the several senses is marvellous; and in each case the beauty of the dance is equal to its expressiveness. The audience at the Scala on Tuesday were kept in spell-bound silence and rapt attention by the artistic influence of the entertainment, and at the close of each dance an outburst of enthusiastic applause proved how deeply they had been touched by the exquisite charm and originality of the performance. The music was no unimportant factor of the success attained; and for this Jacques Desky and Herr Walter Meyrowitz, the director of the Scala orchestra, deserve full credit. Miss St. Denis's entertainment is unique.

BRANSBY WILLIAMS AND THE DICKENS FELLOWSHIP.

Friday in last week at the Empire, Sheffield, was a veritable Dickens gala day. The Dickens Fellowship was holding its annual conference and dinner in the city during the week-end, and, appropriately enough, Mr. Bransby Williams was also giving his inimitable character impersonations from the novelist's works at the music hall named. On the Friday night the whole of the stalls and many seats throughout the theatre were occupied by members of the Fellowship from different parts of the country, who gave Mr. Williams one of those sincerely hearty receptions which betoken not only admiration of the artist, but of the man himself. Inspired, perhaps, by the enthusiasm of his audience, Mr. Bransby Williams never acted better. Every little movement and every inflexion of his voice which at all characterised some individuality of the original of his impersonation were at once recognised and appreciated by the audience. The characters of Micawber, Uriah Heep, Sydney Carton, Grandfather Smallweed, and Newman Noggs were given, and so faithful was each presentation that enthusiastic applause greeted them from the whole house. At the close of his performance Mr. Williams was the recipient of a handsome laurel wreath from the management of the hall, and was called upon for a speech from his ardent followers in front, in which he expressed his indebtedness to the people of Sheffield for their appreciation during the week, and his pleasure at being able to welcome members of the Dickens Fellowship in Sheffield to the Empire. He was himself a Dickensian at heart, and he was gratified to think that Sheffield had the second largest branch of the Fellowship in the world. It was rather remarkable that the biggest branch of all should be located, not in England, but in Toronto, Canada. Mr. Williams recalled a speech of Dickens made in Sheffield in 1855, when the writer spoke of the warmth of Sheffield hearts.

Mr. Bransby Williams, who is, by the way, a vice-president of the Fellowship, was later entertained at supper by the members from London and a few of the Sheffielders. On the Saturday Mr. Bransby Williams was a guest at the public dinner at the Royal Victoria Station Hotel, and found time between his shows at the Empire to give some of his imitations of notable actors to the company assembled. It need hardly be said that his impersonation of Uriah Heep à la Beerbohm Tree simply convulsed the audience. At eleven o'clock he again appeared in time to propose the toast of the ladies in a manner quite worthy of the subject, and to tell some funny stories. It is interesting to note that it was the anniversary of the day Mr. Williams sailed for America, and many of those present had helped to form the party which gave him such a send-off from Euston.

Hare on Irving.

SIR JOHN HARE, speaking to a Cardiff interviewer recently said: "We owe to Irving not only a splendid example of courage and high endeavour, but that of a long life devoted to obtaining recognition and honour for the art which he loved and to which the energies of his life were devoted. By his genius as an actor, by his lofty policy as a manager, by his persistent advocacy that his profession should be esteemed as an equal of the sister arts and professions, he won for it recognition for the first time by the State, and by the great academic bodies of the United Kingdom. Some time since there was a good deal of nonsense written and spoken about the 'mantle' of Irving. The 'mantle' of Henry Irving was a garment woven by himself and fitted only for his own proportions. It was composed of a mixture of power, genius, subtlety, charity, gentleness, and simplicity, which we can hardly hope ever again to see united in one person. And we can emulate the lofty example which he has left behind."

THE friends of Mr. Campbell Rae-Brown, the author of "Kissing-Cup's Race," are raising a subscription to present him with a "loving cup," to commemorate the twenty-fifth year of the poem's popularity. Mr. Douglas Machell, Castle Hotel, Richmond, is the hon. secretary of the testimonial.

BRERETON'S LIFE OF IRVING.

"The work could not have been better done" is the verdict which must be passed upon Mr. Austin Brereton's "Life of Henry Irving," which has just been published by Longmans, Green, and Co. It is finely bound, beautifully illustrated, and is one of the most complete and carefully-compiled things of its kind possible. Especially interesting are the facts relating to Irving's first great success in *The Bells*. Of this Mr. Austin Brereton says:

"The personal triumph of an actor who had not yet risen to fame, in a sketchy part, was not expected to fill the theatre at a time when the drama was at a deplorably low ebb and theatre-going was out of fashion with the majority of the better-class patrons of the playhouse. Something of an extraordinary nature was necessary to drag the unfortunate Lyceum out of the desperate straits into which it had sunk. The resources of Mr. Bateman were almost at an end. He had tried and failed, and, after two months at the Lyceum, he thought, as we have already seen, of abandoning his scheme and returning to America. It was at this moment that Henry Irving stepped into the breach, and, with invincible belief in himself, urged upon Bateman the one thing needful to save the situation from disaster. This was the production of *The Bells*, a translation of 'Le Juif Polonais,' which had been offered to him by one Leopold Lewis. The same person had already offered the play to Bateman, who had peremptorily refused it. This made Irving's fight all the harder. Moreover, Bateman had in his mind the popular idea of a burgomaster, and, looking at the slender figure before him, laughed in the actor's face. 'You a burgomaster!' he exclaimed, in good-natured derision, and would hear no more of the subject. The resolution of the actor was not to be shaken. And fortune, for once, favoured him in his plans, but in a manner which would have caused the majority of men to hesitate and then to abandon the project. This was the announcement of another version of the same story. Irving felt that it was now or never. The most critical moment in his career had arrived and he did not falter. He took advantage of his opportunity and pressed his suit with renewed ardour. The manager, as a last resort, yielded to the earnest entreaty of the actor, and consented to give his views a trial. The piece was put into rehearsal, and Bateman went over to Paris, where the French play was being acted, to see if he could gain any valuable hints for the English production. The company thought that Irving was bereft of his senses, but he worked assiduously at rehearsals, and the scenery and properties were hastily prepared. In the meantime, the spirits of all concerned—save, only, those of the future Mathias—were lowered to their utmost limit by the complete failure of the rival version on its production, at the Alfred Theatre, on Monday, Nov. 13. This failure only added to the determination of the actor to succeed in his cherished idea. *The Bells* was produced on Saturday, Nov. 25, 1871. Irving's performance of Mathias electrified the audience. The spectators on this auspicious occasion were few and they had come in a spirit of boredom. Henry Irving beat down their coldness and reserve, the theatre re-echoed with such applause as had not been heard within its walls for many years, and, by the Monday morning, all play-going London was aware that a great personality and a great actor had come into his hard-won kingdom.

"He had fought for over fifteen years with London as the goal of his ambition, and the struggle, long, anxious, and absolutely unparalleled in the history of the stage, had been won. It had been won fairly and squarely, without any social or any other influence, without money, and, as we have seen, in the face of prejudice and managerial opposition. To do Colonel Bateman justice, it is only fair to say that, having once given way in regard to *The Bells*, he did all that lay within his power for the production. The company was a capable one, and the scenery was, for those days, so good that its excellence was commented on in the Press. He also brought over from Paris a conductor who was thoroughly acquainted with the music of the play—a great assistance. In order thoroughly to appreciate the surrounding circumstances, it should be noted that *The Bells* was only one item in what would be called nowadays 'a triple bill.' The 'star' of the company was a comedian, George Belmore, who began the proceedings with a farce, *My Turn Next*, and also appeared in the last piece, *Pickwick*, the actors in which were announced in this order: George Belmore, Henry Irving, and E. P. Addison. It will be observed that Irving, despite his success as Jingle, was still playing second fiddle to the elder actor. *The Bells* changed all that, though not at once. In order to fill his house, and save his pocket, the clever Colonel adopted a novel plan in regard to the opinions of the Press. It would have required several columns to have published anything like the complete, and favourable, comments. So he had a two-inch advertisement, headed with *The Bells*, and 'Mr. Henry Irving,' in capitals, followed by this announcement: 'The Press has, with startling unanimity, expressed so favourable an opinion of the new drama, *The Bells*, and also of the marvellous acting of Mr. Henry Irving in the character of Mathias, that the management would desire to publish in the form of an advertisement the whole of the notices. This, however, being impossible, Mr. Bateman cannot do less, in acknowledgment of these opinions, than to enumerate the papers which have contained such unprecedented commendatory criticisms.' The manager then gave a list, printed in capitals, in double-column, of the forty-one London newspapers which had extended such an enthusiastic welcome to the creator of Mathias—for Henry Irving was, in the French sense, at least, the creator of the character.

"It is not generally known, although the critics of 1871 were well aware of the state of the case, that there is a great difference between *The Bells*, as played by Henry Irving, and the original work by Emile Erckmann and Alexandre Chatrian. This was intended to be 'une simple étude dramatique écrite sans aucune préoccupation du théâtre.' The French theatrical managers saw the possibilities of *Le Juif Polonaise* on the stage, and it was produced at the Théâtre Cluny in 1869. The original Mathias of the French stage, Talien, and his French successors, the elder Coquelin and M. Got, made the part that of a prosperous, somewhat easy-going Alsatian, whose fears are not very intense, and whose death, in accordance with the views of the authors, is attributed to too much white wine. This is the more faithful rendering of the part, strictly speaking, but a typical, commonplace burgomaster would not have been acceptable to the English public, and it is not difficult to see why no one had any faith whatever in *The Bells* beyond Henry Irving. The manager, as we know, produced it against his will, having first refused to do so and having laughed in Irving's face at the absurdity of the thing. Even when the piece was being rehearsed, Irving's fellow-players looked at him askance.

"Matthias was the turning-point in Irving's career. He literally awoke to find himself famous.

"To Irving, however, and to no one else, belongs the initial credit for the representation of the drama. If it had not been for his indomitable will, his persuasive powers, and his profound faith in himself, *The Bells* would never have been seen at the Lyceum or anywhere else. And the opportunity once gone, it would have been many more weary years ere the actor could have got a similar opening. As it was, he had risen, at a single step, and ere he was thirty-four years of age, to a popularity which never abated during his future career."

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Miss Kate Carney, the coster queen, who was taken ill on Friday at Newcastle, where she was performing, was stated on Monday to be suffering from appendicitis. Her engagements have been cancelled. At the time of going to press we are pleased to state that Miss Carney is much better.

The Ilford Hippodrome, which is being built for Mr. George Dance by Messrs. T. H. Kingerlee and Sons, of Oxford and Shepherd's Bush, from the plans of Mr. Frank Matcham, the designer of the London Hippodrome, will not be opened until after Christmas.

To celebrate the 250th consecutive performance of Miss Maud Allan at the Palace Theatre every member of the audience present at the matinée next Wednesday will be presented with a souvenir edition of Miss Allan's forthcoming book, entitled "My Life and Dancing."

Miss Cecilia Loftus has just returned from a highly successful engagement in the United States. Before she sailed for America this talented actress was, as she is now, the idol of English variety theatre-goers, who never tired of her brilliant mimicry and dainty songs. Her imitations will be of a more than usually interesting nature, including impressions of Harry Lauder, Hayden Coffin, Lily Elsie, and an astounding life-like imitation of Signor Caruso.

Mrs. John Lawson has accepted a travesty, from the pen of J. J. Spencer Sutcliffe, on *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, now being played by Mr. Forbes Robertson, Miss Gertrude Elliott, and company at St. James's Theatre. For the moment the title of Mr. Sutcliffe's work is *The Back Parlour Lodger*. The first scene is laid outside St. James's Theatre, and the second at a lodging-house in the Borough. It will provide a big comedy study for Mrs. Lawson.

Mr. Charles Denier Warren, the Paris representative of M. Witmark and Sons, sailed for New York per Hamburg-American Line s.s. Deutschland for a short business visit. Young Mr. Warren is well remembered for his great successes in the children's pantomime at the Grand, Clapham, and the old Royal, also for his engagement at the Garrick Theatre in *Whitewashing Julia*. For two years he has been representing the house of Witmark in Paris, where he has established a splendid business for his firm.

Dr. Bodie is arranging for the purchase of four well-known Scottish theatres, which he will run in conjunction with his Welsh halls and theatres. Mr. Tom N. Mills has been appointed his general-manager for Wales and Mr. Wm. Skene Henry his manager for his tours. Mr. G. W. Walker has been appointed his sole Scottish representative.

Mr. Ernest Shand, who is at the Oxford singing "What would the vicar say?" has been offered by Mr. Henry Smith the principal comedy part in *The Antelope*, the new production at the Waldorf Theatre; but owing to his previous engagements the popular comedian has had regretfully to decline.

Mr. Will Evans, in his new and comical scena entitled *Mrs. Morgan's Cure*, has scored another great success at the Oxford, where audiences are nightly convulsed with the comicality of his new creation. He never allows the public to tire of his productions, and by continually finding something new increases his popularity. *Verb. sap.*

Mr. Harry Relph has suffered a good deal from the unwarrantable use of his name, and gives notice in another column to the proprietors of all theatres, music and concert halls, and to all persons concerned in marionette, cinematograph, and other similar exhibitions, and also to all artists and other persons whom it may concern, that he will commence legal proceedings against any person or persons making any unauthorised use of the title of "Little Tich," which he has made famous by his remarkable talents.

Artemis Colonna, who opens at the London Hippodrome on Monday, was born at Corfu, her father being a large manufacturer. One day while her governess was playing Chopin's Fantaisie Impromptu Colonna began to dance. So delighted was the player at the interpretation of the music given by her pupil, then fifteen, that she suggested her appearance in public. Colonna begged her parents to let her study for this purpose, but her father would not hear of it. It was Prof. Mendelssohn, a friend of the family and a descendant of the great composer, who praised and helped the little dancer to continue, and at last her mother resolved to go with her to Athens, and so Colonna became a dancer.

In the classic city she made many friends interested in the old Greek art, and obtained special permission to study alone for one hour every day in the famous museums from the vases and bas-reliefs. She then gave, with extraordinary success, several performances in the open-air theatre of Bacchus, which is 4,000 years old. Her next public performances were given in Prague, where she was commanded to dance before the Crown Prince. She has also danced by command before the Princess Clementine of Belgium, in St. Petersburg before the Grand Duchess Elizabeth, and at two command performances before the King of Greece.

Mr. George Fuller Golden, who at one time partnered Mr. Cliff Ryland, has recovered his health sufficiently to fulfil an engagement in the States. Recently, at the Lincoln-square Theatre, he was asked to deputise for Howard and Barrison, and he held the stage for twenty-seven minutes, making a great hit. Mr. Golden is extremely popular on this side, and his success at the Palace Theatre is well remembered.

The announcement in the *Referee* and other journals that a general meeting of the Music Hall Home Fund will be held on Thursday next is inaccurate. The annual meeting took place as recently as Sept. 17 last, when, as recorded in our subsequent issue, the report and accounts were duly presented and adopted.

Miss Frances Letty, the "chorus queen," has made quite a hit at the Canterbury this week. She makes her appearance attired in a very pretty costume, and immediately gains the favour of her audience with her very expressive and appropriate rendering of the opening lines of the song, "Have your ears been burning, Mr. Jackson?" There is to this an extremely tuneful and catchy coon melody. Miss Letty concludes her turn by performing in a most graceful and neat manner a somewhat difficult dance.

Miss Winifred Hare has been secured for the part of Robinson Crusoe at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, next Christmas. Deservedly a great favourite in the Irish capital, Miss Hare is likewise very popular everywhere else. This week the gallery girls at Birkenhead presented her with two lovely bouquets, and her reception at each performance has quite taken the nature of an ovation. Miss Hare recently offered £100 for a good song suitable for her to sing in pantomime this year, and the very keenest competition is taking place amongst song-writers and composers in consequence. The decision will be made the first week in December, so there is yet plenty of time for the sons and daughters of Erin to likewise try their hand at a song success.

Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards, the proprietors of the New Hippodrome, Peterborough, have secured a valuable site in the centre of the High Street, Exeter, for a new Hippodrome. Plans are now being prepared by the well-known architect, Bertie Crewe, and building operations will be commenced immediately.

It is proposed to erect in Southport a new variety theatre, with ballroom, shops, offices, and flats, on a site in Lord-street, near to London-square. The drawings have been prepared by Mr. George E. Tonge, architect, of Southport, and Mr. H. Arnold Turner, A.M.S.A., architect, of Manchester, a gentleman who has had a wide experience in theatre construction. When complete it is claimed that the building will rank as one of the most magnificent frontages in Lancashire.

Towards the close of the second performance at the Empire Theatre, Glasgow, on Friday last, John M'Cuddin, who occupied a seat in the stalls, was struck on the head with an empty beer bottle, which fell, or was thrown, from the gallery. M'Cuddin received a nasty wound behind the right ear, and lost a good deal of blood.

The officials at the hall telephoned at once to the office of the St. Andrew's Ambulance Association, from which was despatched a waggon, in which the young man was conveyed to the Royal Infirmary. After having his injury dressed he was taken home in a cab. The police are inquiring into the matter, but no arrest has yet been made.

Professional charity is again to the fore this week in Glasgow, and further efforts on behalf of the Unemployed Relief Fund have to be recorded. On Sunday last an excellent evening concert at the Empire realised a handsome sum, and on Thursday the entire proceeds of both houses at the Palace were devoted by Mr. Rich. Waldon to the same cause.

Mr. E. H. Bostock was so pleased at the record business done by Mr. John Tiller's company, *High Jinks*, at Paisley and Hamilton, that he presented them during their stay at the Palace, Manchester, last week, with boxes of cigars for the comedians and two handsome boxes of chocolates for the principal ladies. The company look forward with great pleasure to their future dates with Mr. Bostock.

Messrs. C. W. Poole, who control the Tivoli Palace and Hippodrome, Pentre, generously set apart the proceeds of the two houses on Friday for the funds of the Ton-Pentre A.F.C. Upon Mr. James Gunn, the popular acting-manager, devolved the duty of making the necessary arrangements.

We are glad to hear that Mr. Stanley Hope, acting-manager for Mr. Edward Marris at the Jersey Opera House, who was so seriously assaulted three weeks ago, is sufficiently recovered to resume his duties. His assailant, who was remanded on bail till Mr. Hope was well enough to appear against him, got away from the island, so his bail has been estreated and a warrant for his arrest has been lodged at Scotland Yard.

The many friends of Mr. Frank Percival, the general-manager of the Gaiety and Empire theatres, Dundee, will be sorry to hear of the death of his youngest son, Frank, who passed away on the 3rd inst., aged three years. The funeral on Wednesday last at Eastern Cemetery was largely attended, and we beg to extend our sympathy with Mr. and Mrs. Percival in their sore bereavement.

Jock Walker, Scotch comedian, who as Roderick McSwanky created such a favourable impression during the run of the Howard and Wyndham pantomime in Edinburgh last season, appears at the London Pavilion on Monday next. He will introduce for the first time a new and original Scotch scena, and his many admirers will watch with interest the impression he makes in the Metropolis.

Mr. H. Yardley, a gentleman well known in theatrical circles, has been appointed acting-manager of the Hippodrome, Southampton, in place of Mr. Harold P. Howell, son of Mr. James Howell, the much-respected acting-manager of the Tivoli.

Young Mr. Howell, during his three years' stay at the Hippodrome, Southampton, successfully engineered several charity matinées, and will carry away with him into the North many pleasant reminiscences. At a meeting held at the Star Hotel on Saturday a committee was formed to organise a presentation which is to take place on Friday next, the 16th inst. Subscribers should forward their donations to Mr. H. C. Sait, care of the Pier Pavilion, Southampton.

Mr. George Zalva, the energetic agent and impresario, has just returned from a flying visit to the Continent. Whilst there he was instrumental in engaging the whole of the principal attractions of the Cirque International, one of the largest travelling circuses in Germany; also Herr Schwarz and his twenty-two performing horses, who give a novel and sensational number of acts. They will appear at Hengler's, Glasgow, this season.

Mr. George Zalva has been appointed Mr. Geo. Gilbert's general-manager at the new Hippodrome and Palace, Exeter, which opens this month. This building, which has been known as the Victoria Hall, is now being transformed into a handsome and well-appointed variety house. The scenery is to be painted by Francis H. Bull, and the seating and tableaux curtains will be by Dean, of Birmingham. The floor has been raked, so that everyone in the pit may have an uninterrupted view of the stage. Electricity has been installed as the illuminant, and a spacious balcony has been built. When finished the house will be one of the cosiest as well as one of the largest palaces of amusement in the provinces, seating 2,400 persons.

With regard to the Stratford Empire licence, Mr. Knight (Knight and Ridley) applied on Tuesday to the local authority on behalf of Mr. Oswald Stoll for the removal of the restriction prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors on the premises. Since the restriction was made, he said, the circumstances of the neighbourhood had changed. The Theatre Royal, Stratford, which was at one time only licensed for stage plays, had had variety entertainments, but when the police interfered they were discontinued. Then the Theatre Royal applied for a music and dancing licence, which was granted, but they had not since taken advantage of it. That house was in competition with the Stratford Empire, and had the advantage over it in that, having its stage-play licence, it was privileged to sell drink.

The Stratford Empire had been well managed in the past, and it could not be apprehended that if this restriction was removed the management in the future would be removed. The licences were renewed with the restriction prohibiting drink on the premises.

Miss Madge Temple, on Monday next at the Coliseum, will wear a hat valued at £120. It has been specially made for Miss Temple by the well-known milliner "Rita," of 14, New Oxford-street, and is 14ft. in circumference. It is trimmed with about fifteen ostrich feathers of old rose colour, each measuring 2yds., of which the total cost was £100, the hat itself being made of the very best straw. It is the largest on record, being 4ft. larger than Miss Marie Lloyd's and 8ft. larger than that of Miss Marie George. It is to be hoped that the *chapeau de Temple* will not become popular at matinées.

A marriage has been arranged and will take place at the end of October between Will Poluski, jun., and Rosie Lloyd, a younger sister of Marie.

The committee of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund announce that the next sports will be held at the Herne Hill Grounds on July 21, 1909.

The usual monthly meeting of the Committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held on Wednesday next at 4 p.m. at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross Road.

Mr. Reed Pinaud has, we hear, a big production in preparation, entitled *The Twopenny Tube*, written and invented by himself, in conjunction with Harry Leighton, and with music by Peter Conroy.

The general meeting of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association will take place at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 25, at the Bedford Head Hotel, Covent Garden.

This meeting will be followed by a general meeting of the V.A.F. at eight o'clock, at which Mr. O'Gorman will take the chair. An important debate is expected on the qualification for membership rule.

Mr. Percy Ford, the popular manager of the Empire, Camberwell, will take his benefit on Nov. 17 at that house, by permission of the directorate. A committee has been formed to promote the success of the function. Mr. Charles Knight is the hon. secretary and Mr. E. C. Webb hon. treasurer.

Mr. G. P. R. Burgess, the excellent solicitor for the Music Hall Home, acting as almoner for Mrs. O'Brien, of Rule's, Maiden-lane, called at the Music Hall Home laden with twelve boxes of tobacco, kindly sent by Mrs. O'Brien to the inmates. The happy recipients gave three cheers for Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Burgess.

At Wednesday's meeting of the M.H.A.R.A., Mr. Fred Albini in the chair, there were present Messrs. Harold Finden, T. C. Callaghan, Merriott Edgar, Arthur Gallimore, and J. McNally. Two new agencies were appointed: Tudno Hotel, Llandudno, and the Three Towns Club, Devonport. The weekly statement showed thirty-nine new members, the receipts being £62 8s.

Mr. Will McIvor, a new candidate for London honours, opened at the Empress, Brixton, on Monday, and although late in the programme scored sufficiently to be at once secured for the Holborn Empire next week. He has a good appearance and a capital selection of songs that will be heard everywhere a little later on. He is in the safe hands of Will Oliver.

Miss May Mars, who is concluding a successful twenty-eight weeks' tour with her scena "In the Shadows of the Pyramids," has been engaged by Mr. Ernest Dottridge to play Robinson Crusoe in the pantomime of that name at the Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield, at Christmas. She will feature during her engagements in town for the next few weeks a new song entitled "Susie Ann, send a telegram."

A new Anglo-Russian production, *Life and Love*, is billed for the Stoke Newington Palace for next week. In addition to a powerful love interest, the vital questions of the alien and inter-marriage are to be touched upon. The episode will be presented by a West-end company, including Marion Turner, F. Joynson Powell, and Ivan Berlyn, whose Dickensian sketch *Fagin* was played with much success in July at this beautiful house.

The next committee meeting of the Music Hall Home Fund will be held at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday next, at twelve noon, when all committeemen are kindly asked to attend. The secretary, Mr. Ben. Woodger, would be pleased to hear from managers who will take collecting-boxes for the Home, and will also be glad to receive parcels of men's old clothes and boots. Address, 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, London, S.E.

Miss Kate Brand is by way of producing a new sketch, entitled *The New Star*, at the Empire, Shoreditch, to-day at the matinée, by arrangement with Mr. T. C. Richards. The sketch has been specially written for Miss Brand by Mr. Oswald Brand, the well-known author and manager. Mr. Brand, who has been for a long time an invalid, is now in a better state of health, his friends will be glad to hear, and goes next week to Worthing to carry on his literary work. He will benefit by the health-giving sea breezes of that pleasant watering-place during the winter.

Much regret is felt in variety circles at the news of the death of Arthur Forrest, who at the time of his decease was one of Mr. Fred Karno's managers. Death resulted from heart disease, which took a serious turn when the Karno company went to Greenock a month ago. He was taken to Greenock Infirmary, where he succumbed last Saturday at the age of 50.

On Monday the remains were conveyed to the Greenock Cemetery. Those who followed to pay the last tribute of respect were:—Mr. H. L. Skivington, lessee of Greenock Hippodrome; Mr. Gordon Skivington; Messrs. Rowland Martin, Bert Royston, and H. Lloyd-Davis (of Mr. Fred Karno's company); Mr. Sid Walker, Mr. Cliff Lake, Mr. Westwood, Mr. Palmer, and others of Mr. Geo. Dance's company, and the Rev. R. F. Strathern, who conducted a service at the Infirmary and the grave. Mrs. Forrest and a lady friend were the chief mourners. The coffin, which was in violet and gold, bore on an inscribed plate: "Arthur Forrest, died Oct. 3, 1908, aged 50." The deceased was one of the early members of the Water Rats, and that fraternity sent a wreath.

Miss Melinda May, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., tenders her thanks to the following ladies for donations:—Miss Dot Stephens, a guinea; Miss Lillian Souter, 2s. 6d.; Miss Topsy Sinden, 2s. 6d.; Miss Violet Lorraine, 2s. 6d. (through Miss Maude Mortimer). Miss May would be grateful for gentlemen's as well as ladies' wearing apparel. Through helping so many lately the Guild is greatly in need of it. Mme. Haydée has sent a useful parcel, for which many thanks. Will Miss Georgie Corlass accept best thanks from M. M. for the handsome umbrella given on her birthday on Sunday last? Friends of the charity are heartily invited to the receptions held every Wednesday from three to five o'clock.

Mr. and Mr. Harry Lauder had a cordial send-off at Euston Station on Saturday, when they left by the mid-day special to catch their boat to America. Mr. Lauder was escorted to the station from his house at Tooting by the pipers of the London Scottish, and his motor-car was decorated with the Scottish flag. At Liverpool the comedian was played on board the Lusitania by four pipers, and cheered by a large crowd of enthusiastic Scots. Harry Lauder will open at Lincoln-square Theatre, New York, on Monday, and will stay in the United States for twenty weeks. A reserved compartment on the train by which Mr. Lauder travelled was surrounded by a large crowd, who cheered enthusiastically, and presented wreaths to the comedian. "God bless you all, and good luck to you all till I come back again. I am sorry to go, and I shall be glad to see London again," were Mr. Lauder's final words as the train steamed out of the station.

Mr. Gordon Cleather, who made such a success in *The Dryad* with Mlle. Adeline Genée, will open for a special month's engagement at the Empire on Monday next.

Mr. George Robey, who still goes North for pantomime, has been secured by Messrs. Howard and Wyndham to play the chief comedy rôle in the pantomime *Cinderella* at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

Miss Dorma Morgan has been receiving gratifying evidence on her tour of the popularity of her songs "Miss Carnation" and "In a little old shanty." This charming American comedienne is making her first appearance in London on Monday at the Bedford.

Dr. Walford Bodie still continues his record-breaking tour through Scotland. This week he is repeating his former triumphs at the New Gaiety Theatre, Leith, where, despite the bad state of trade and great depression, he is packing the theatre nightly to the doors. He has just had an offer for a nine-months tour of Australia at the record salary of £300 per week.

The sum of £10 2s. 1d. was raised at the Palace, North Shields, by the sale of Jimmy Shields's "Old Collier's Song" by means of a collection box. Jimmy also raised £3 at Dundee and Greenock, making a total of £13 2s. 1d. for the Wigan Relief Fund.

The Romps, who are to be exploited on Monday at the London Pavilion by Messrs. Bellew and Stock, include ten ladies, six of them from Covent Garden Opera and four from Mr. Beerbohm Tree's company. They can sing selections from grand opera, and are also graceful skirt dancers.

The committee of the Music Hall Home desire to thank Henry C. Arnold, per Rex Dooley, for donation of £1 5s. 8d.; Mr. Bert Chapman, of the Lava Skating Rink, Denmark-hill, for 7s. 6d.; Mrs. Ebdon, The Tankard, Kennington-road, for 8s.; Mr. Hargreaves, of the New Empire and Hippodrome, Rochdale, for 12s.; and the Empire, Camberwell, New Crown and Cushion, Westminster Bridge-road, and S. Salter, The Three Stags, Kennington-road, for donations to the Home Fund.

The Terriers gave the first social of the season on Sunday at their headquarters, the Dover Castle Hotel. A good assembly was present. The artists who gave their services included Vin Monksley, Martin Henderson, Robb Gilmore, Miss Elsa Joel, Ernest Powell, Ernest D'Almaine, Charlie Cornish, Alf. Mavin, Fred Hooper, and Arthur London. Mr. J. Chas. Moore presided at the piano, Mr. Alf. Henning was the chairman, and Mr. Ben Woodger occupied the vice-chair. The entire arrangements were carried out by the late lamented secretary, Mr. Harry Lester.

Following promptly upon the Declaration of Independence by Bulgaria, Mr. Charles Urban, with the acquiescence of Mr. Alfred Butt, added on Tuesday evening at the Palace Theatre to the admirable "Urbanora" section a number of animated pictures, which have been months in the making, of Bulgaria's army in the field, and these stirring scenes will be presented nightly until further notice. It will be seen that in point of physique, equipment, and drilling the new Tsar's soldiers are second to none, whilst the cavalry is especially fine, the Bulgars having been noted for their horsemanship since the seventh century. There is also a peculiarly appropriate spectacle of Bulgarian and Turkish sentries keeping the territorial boundary lines, and a complete panorama of the ancient capital of Tirnovo.

Strange things happen in the variety world. Great stars sink from their lofty place, sink and are heard of no more. Others disappear for a time, and return to brighten another sphere of life entirely. "I was speaking," writes Judd Green, "the other day to my life-long friend, Pat Carey, late the chairman of the Music Hall Benevolent Fund, a comedian of great worth and now a prosperous proprietor of a flourishing business up the river. 'It would make your heart bleed,' he said, 'if you only saw the cases that come before us now. My mouth is closed, I cannot tell you who they are; but men you have topped bills with, artists of ability who have made mirth for countless thousands, nearly starving. We must do something this winter, or I don't know what may happen.'

"'That reminds me,' I said, "of a case that perhaps you even have never heard of. I knew a man, and, for all I know, he is alive now, who once topped the bill at every hall he appeared at. The hoardings put forth his name in letters 6ft. high. When he arrived in any town, a brougham would await him at the station. The delighted populace would take the horses out and drag the carriage to the hotel where he stayed. The halls were packed, and he would occupy the best part of an hour on the stage, and then the audience would call for more. No musician of modern times has ever approached the extraordinary popularity of this truly great artist. I was walking along the streets of —— (I will not say the seaport town for fear of giving offence to some relatives who may perhaps be living), when my attention was arrested by an old, bent, white-haired figure, playing the violin, and singing snatches of old ballads. The perfect tone, which only an artist can produce, caused me to look well at the man. I gave him some money and walked on. Here was my hero of bygone days; here was the idol of the masses. I'll give you a good many guesses, Pat, but I don't think you will be able to pick out my man.

"'Well, that is not where the tale ends. The experience I had with this old artist did not leave off there. One night I was invited for the first time in my life to a Hebrew party. The majority of the guests were well known to me, and my excellent friends they have always been. When I entered the room, rather late, some game had been in progress, for my friends were all sitting round in a gigantic circle. At a rough computation there would be about seven miles of nose around that circle, and a jollier evening I have seldom spent. It was during a lull in the proceedings that someone heard the sound of a violin playing in the road outside. A friend asked me if I knew the player, and if it were possible to get him to come in and play, and I volunteered to go and see what I could do. I touched my old friend on the shoulder, and asked him if he would oblige a party of his own people by playing before them that night. He looked at me when I mentioned his name, and hesitated for a moment, then, turning to go, he said, "I'll be back shortly, "I'm going home to fetch my violin; this one I only use in the streets." He was as good as his word, and came back within the time stated. They were all pleased to see him, all made him welcome, and when one young lady played some piece familiar to him, he drew his beloved violin from its case, and standing erect once more, with the old fire lighting up his eyes, poured forth a stream of melody that held the company spellbound. I could see the artist as I knew him back in his old life, back to the footlights once more—the chord which he had rent asunder seemed to be rejoined for a brief space; but, oh! for so brief a space. The melody died away. There were tears in many eyes. The beloved instrument was placed again in the case, and bidding us all "Good-bye," he passed out into the night. I did not tell them who he was; I had no need to tell he was an artist.'"

Mr. Harry Evans, late manager of Gatti's, desires us to acknowledge the amount of one guinea which he has received from kind-hearted Alec Hurley.

Miss Gladys Huxley and Mr. Sydney Burns sail for Africa to-day to fulfil engagements made with Mr. G. H. Hyman by Mr. Tom Pacey.

Monday next is the anniversary of the opening of the New Palace Theatre, Northampton, by Fred H. Anderson, who has specially engaged Marie Kendall for this occasion, in addition to a strong array of talent in various lines.

Mr. Walter Stanton sails on Friday, Oct. 23, for Australia, to give his marvellous impersonation of the rooster in Mr. J. C. Williamson's pantomime *Jack and Jill*.

The variety shows in the Centre Transept of the Crystal Palace next week will include La Clair's performing dogs and canine picture gallery; Bill Davis in an eccentric comedy act; the La Dor troupe, double-ladder and pyramid-grouping act; and the Brothers Werds in a grotesque acrobatic act.

Papa Brown, the agent, is opening a branch office in Hamburg, and will be pleased to hear from English turns suitable for the Continent. All letters from Oct. 12 to Martinstr. 30, III. Hamburg, 20.—Manager, Frank Ackermann.

Mr. Herbert Mack, who for four and a half years has been the advertising manager at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, has now become assistant acting-manager at that popular house. Mr. Mack is a very worthy gentleman, and those who have come into contact with him will have no doubt of his success at his new post.

On the invitation of the manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor, the Australian football team attended the second performance at the Devonport Hippodrome on Saturday evening and grouped themselves upon the stage, being received most enthusiastically.

Mr. Taylor, in a brief speech, said he had much pleasure, on behalf of the directors and himself, in introducing to the audience the Australian football team. They had landed in Devonshire, they had played their first match in Devonshire, and they were making their first public appearance on a music-hall stage in Devonport. The audience then rose and sang with much gusto "For they are jolly good fellows," which chorus was followed by ringing cheers.

Captain McMahon, who is in charge of the Australians, thanked the company for their very kind reception. It was but a continuation of the kindness that had been shown them since they arrived in Devon, and he assured them that amongst their most pleasant memories would be the week they had spent in that leafy shire.

Messrs Derenda and Green, comedy duo, sail for America on Thursday next per ss. Baltic for a twenty-six weeks' tour on the Orpheum and Keith circuit in the States. They return in May next to open on the Moss and Stoll tour.

Mr. Van Biene, the actor-musician, will make his first appearance at the Oxford in his new one-act playlet, entitled *The Master Musician*, on Monday. He has to fulfil contracts with Mr. Stoll until 1910, when he will do a long tour in America. He will divide his time between the halls and the theatres with the ever-popular *The Broken Melody*, which is now fast approaching its 5,000th performance.

Among the new applications to the Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the London County Council for music and dancing licences in November will be one for the Shaftesbury, the applicants being the executors of the late Mr. John Lancaster, four gentlemen resident in Manchester, Messrs. A. H. Briggs, G. W. Kirkham, Peter Taylor, and A. J. Tobias. Should this licence be granted—and at present there is no opposition—the Shaftesbury will be converted into a music-hall, attached to the circuit of which Mr. Walter Gibbons is the managing-director.

For the purposes of a high-class variety entertainment the house needs reconstruction, and the work, so we are informed, will be started directly the architect's plans have been passed. Mr. H. B. Irving's season, which commences on Thursday next, will consequently be the last theatrical enterprise at this somewhat unfortunate playhouse, built by Mr. John Lancaster, and opened on Oct. 19, 1888, with a revival of *As You Like It*, Miss Wallis being the Rosalind. Mr. E. S. Willard scored some of his greatest triumphs at the house, at which the best of American musical comedies, *The Belle of New York*, had a long run.

The following is the cast of the principal characters of the Empire ballet, *A Day in Paris*: The "Glory of Paris," Mlle. Lydia Kyasht; Tanagra (an artist's model), Mlle. Zanfretta; Mr. Smith, Mrs. Smith, and Miss Smith (tourists), by Mr. Jameson, Miss Elise Clerc, and Miss Phyllis Bedells; a "vieux marcheur," Mr. T. Walls; and Jacques (a student), Mr. Fred Farren. Nearly a hundred and fifty people will crowd the stage in at least two scenes, and in the third Mr. Fred Farren and Miss B. Collier will introduce a dance of surprising novelty. The story has already been told. Mlle. Kyasht, the central figure of the production, will introduce some beautiful dances; and Mr. Fred Farren is provided with a part which will be found to give his nimble genius the utmost opportunity. Fun and frolic characterise the whole scheme of the divertissement, and M. Wilhelm will be again responsible for the beautiful colour scheme.

The members of the Vaudeville Club assembled in goodly numbers on Sunday evening at the premises in Charing Cross-road to celebrate their eighth grand Bohemian smoking concert, and the first of the present season. Mr. W. H. Clemart, King Rat, presided over what proved to be a very pleasant function. Most of the artists whose names appeared on the programme turned up. Mr. Harrison Brockbank was in good singing form, and gave a fine rendering of "Follow me home" (Rudyard Kipling) and "Request." Mr. Neil Kenyon was entertaining with Scottish anecdotes, and with his monologue "Ostler Joe"; and Mr. Charles Austin was responsible for a delightfully humorous selection.

Mr. Horace Goldin gave an attractive demonstration of sleight-of-hand, and Mr. V. L. Granville furnished a really capital impersonation of the late Sir Henry Irving as Mathias in *The Bells*. Mr. Marriott Edgar recited an amusing parody on "The Village Blacksmith," introducing the agent question; and Mr. Alfred Hickman's fine tenor voice was heard to advantage in "The Trumpeter" and "Songs of Araby." Mr. Jan Rudenyl played three violin solos in excellent style; Mr. George Ridgwell gave a cornet solo and sang "On the road to Mandalay"; Mr. Dave O'Toole created huge merriment with his burlesque Italian opera, and Mr. George D'Albert gave "Rastus Brown" in a capital manner. Mr. Walter James, whose first appearance it was in London, was highly diverting with his Irishisms, and made a great impression on his audience. Others who contributed were Messrs. Charles Draper, Bert Erroll, Eli Hudson, George Leyton, Harry Maynard, Walter Tilbury, and Jack Roland. Mr. Penyston Miles performed good service as accompanist.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

A very choice set of dances are issuing from Messrs. Francis and Day's establishment, entitled the "Harry Lauder Quadrilles." They are arranged by Karl Kaps, and are founded on the following Lauder successes—viz.:—"He was very kind to me!" "When I come back again tae Bonnie Scotland," "The Weddin' o' Sandy MacNab," "The Safest o' the family," "Stop yer tickling, Jock!" "She is ma daisy!" "We parted on the shore," "I wish I had someone to love me," "Sound advice," "Hey Donal'!" "Wee Nelly McKie frae Skye," "Fou the noo," "Rob Roy MacIntosh," "Charlie Macneil," "Killiecrankie," "Tobermory," and "I love a lassie; or, Ma Scotch Bluebell."

Mr. David Day's firm are also bringing out the following news songs:—"There'll be no war" (sung by Miss Lottie Lennox), by Stevens and Wells; "If you are born with good in your heart" (Miss Kitty Clinton), by Richard Elton and Denham Harrison; "The old church bells" (Miss Kitty Taylor), by F. H. Hopkins and J. Perry; "Take me back to Ballymaclinton," by Scott MacKenzie and H. E. Pether; "Lend me your wings, little bird" (Miss Lily Black), by Scott MacKenzie, Tom Radcliffe, and Arthur Auckland; and "In the land of the kangaroo," by Fred Godfrey, Percy Edgar, and T. W. Thurban.

That fine song of Miss Rhoda Paul's, "The Gay Gordons"—a number which was specially commissioned by Moss' Empires, Ltd., and executed in their always admirable manner by Charles Wilmott and Hermann E. Darewski, jun.—has been added to Messrs. Francis and Day's "Sixpenny "ops."

A good comic domestic duet for low comedian and dame is a scarce article nowadays, and the number of comedians of the absolute first rank who have been quick to perceive the possibilities in pantomime of a truly humorous item has been added to during the week by Mr. Dan Rolyat securing Wallis Arthur's comic duet entitled "Do you remember?'—'How can I forget!'" which Messrs. Francis and Day publish. Mr. Rolyat will at Christmastide add to the gaiety of London in a West End pantomime.

Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford have this week placed with Messrs. Feldman and Co. what is probably one of the quaintest novelties ever penned for pantomime. The title of this combination of words and melody is "Call round on Sunday," but it must be heard to be appreciated, and artists should lose no time in paying a call at Messrs. Feldman's, or upon the authors at their new offices, at 132, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

The Von Tilzer Publishing Co., of Charing Cross-road, W.C., are now featuring a very possible winner for pantomime purposes in "A little wooden house in Norway," by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford; they have also secured the publishing rights of G. H. Elliott's new song "My Dream Girl," by the same authors.

There are very few alfresco companies who have not worked "Mandy's Wedding" during the past season. This delightful "coon jingle" now promises to be a big pantomime favourite also, and artists should visit the publishers, Francis, Day, and Hunter, and hear it. The words and music are by those past-masters of this type of song, Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford.

Pantomime artists should note that the Star Music Company's special book of pantomime songs will be ready in a few days, and will be supplied free (on receipt of six stamps for postage) to those actually engaged for pantomime. To prevent the abuse of this arrangement, the Star Music Company request that the theatre and part engaged for be mentioned by any artist requiring the book, which will be found to contain the best selection of numbers yet issued by this enterprising firm. The volume includes, among other popular items, the great principal boy song "I don't care if there's a girl there," also "Oh! George, tell them to stop the Flip-Flap," "Carolina Brown of Chinatown," "Have you got another girl like Mary?" "Ayesha, my sweet Egyptian," Whit Cunliffe's big hit "Nobody's Satisfied," and A. J. Mills' and Bennet Scott's latest and greatest chorus song, "Molly Maloney" (Jump on my jaunting car).

It sometimes happens that a song becomes a great success in the provinces long before it has been sung even once in London. Such a number is "Far away in Australia," which has been popularised in the Isle of Man and the North and Midlands by Miss Annie Braddan (the Manx Girl) during the past summer. At last we are to hear it in London, for Miss Braddan comes to London on the 19th of this month for the Gibbons tour, opening at the Ealing Hippodrome. "Far away in Australia" was written and composed by Chas. Wilmott and Hermann Darewski.

Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell have been busy, during the current week, fixing Miss Marie Lloyd up with yet another comedy song, which she sings in the character of a garrulous, ringletted old maid. The expressive title is "I'll live in hopes, if I die in despair."

In addition to writing Miss Lily Harold a piquant "contrast" song, entitled "The chapters of life," Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell have also this week been busily occupied in fitting the same artist with a new number, in two scenas, for immediate production at the London Pavilion, entitled "Queen of Zululand."

Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell have written many popular songs in their time, but none that makes a more distinct bid for popularity than their latest number, "Little maid of Britanny." Pantomime producers declare this morceau to be one of the daintiest and most original. Miss José Collins will specially feature it at all her turns, including the London Pavilion on Monday next. The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. issue this number.

Performers engaged for the rôle of Fairy Queen or Demon King may be strongly advised to make early application to the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. for permission to embellish their parts with that charming vocal waltz song, "Ever thine," by John P. Harrington and Julian W. Kandt, undoubtedly predestined to become one of the present season's greatest vocal rages. It is founded on the popular waltz, "Toujours à Toi," published by the same firm.

The Monte Carlo Publishing Co. will, next week, issue, in a special *edition de luxe*, a new *valse lente*, composed by Madame Yvonne Grant Maxwell, entitled "Hyvidore," which is dedicated, by special permission, to H.R.H. Princess Christian. Band-parts are now in the press and in active preparation, and "Hyvidore" will later on be included in the Berners-street firm's popular "Sixpenny Successes" series.

No. 109 of the Monte Carlo Publishing Co.'s "Sixpenny Successes" series, "You mustn't make naughty eyes at me," by Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, now being sung in London by Miss Adele Rose, who holds the sole English rights, will be "featured" in America, at Christmas, on the William Morris circuit, by another of our most prominent comediennes.

V.A.F. AND THE AGENTS.

NO SETTLEMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Mr. Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the V.A.F., did me the doubtful honour of mentioning my name in one of his various, and not always correct, statements at a meeting of the Federation held at the Bedford Hotel on the 2nd inst. At that meeting he asked the question whether I would explain what became of the money that I and some of the managers, including my lamented friend, the late Mr. George Adney Payne, cajoled out of my clients in respect of the formation of the Rhea Fibre Co., Ltd. Mr. O'Gorman, if he had known anything at all about it, must know that I was simply a shareholder, and not a director, and that I was, furthermore, a large loser on this unfortunate affair, which I honestly thought would bring a profit to all concerned in it. If any of my clients took shares in the company, it was certainly not for my benefit, and Mr. G. Adney Payne also, I believe, lost a considerable amount of money in this company. No doubt if Mr. O'Gorman applies to the proper quarters he will get the information he requires.

In conclusion, I would suggest to Mr. O'Gorman to remember the old proverb, that "people who live in glass-houses," &c., and to carry his memory back a few years, when, under certain circumstances, I think I did him an act of great kindness. The circumstance I refer to is when he owed me a large sum of money, and I did him a service for which he expressed his great gratitude and appreciation, and ever since then he has always spoken most highly *of* me, and *to* me as to my honesty and method of doing business. Therefore, I am at a loss to understand this unnecessary and unwarrantable attack on myself and my dead friend, Mr. G. Adney Payne.

On the agents' side of the question, although having received all kinds of insults, we have kept a dignified silence until a proper time arrives, but, as an individual, in justice to myself, I trust you will give my explanation the same publicity you have done to the statement by Mr. Joe O'Gorman.—Yours faithfully,

R. WARNER.

Lyric Chambers, 27, Shaftesbury-avenue,
Oct. 7.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—As I am on the eve of leaving for the States with my client Mr. Harry Lauder, for whom, by the way, I claim to have made a contract for the largest sum ever paid to an artist on the variety stage—and incidentally keep my eyes open for fresh talent—you may permit me to explain, for the information of the public, the position of the agitation of the Variety Artists' Federation against the music-hall agents.

The contention originally advanced was that an agent should not be entitled to receive commission on an artist's return engagement, and the unfairness of this may be gauged by the following typical case: An agent "discovers" what he thinks will be a popular turn, but he may be put to considerable trouble and expense in persuading a proprietor to give him a show. Ultimately he gets a trial of a week or two. The agent claims that if the artist be re-engaged *by the same proprietor* he should receive the commission.

Some personal instances of now popular artists may be interesting.

A lady artist was, when I saw her, receiving 30s. per week. Her first engagement through me was for £12, and then ran up to £35. Upon the latter I secured her, after much trouble and negotiation with the proprietor, a return engagement for £40, and then she tried to reduce the commission.

Another turn I saw at St. Helens receiving £7 per week. The last contract I secured for him was at £50, and when I booked a return engagement with the same proprietor at £60 he coolly wanted to reduce my commission.

The new attempt to reduce the agents' commission is preposterous because, with all the attendant expenses, it would be impossible to conduct business, and the very first to suffer would be the artists, as all of them well know.

It is a curious thing that the men who are leading the present agitation have engagements booked up for years in advance, and consequently their own financial position cannot be adversely affected in any way by whatever happens. It is the small artist, the poor struggling artist, who will have to suffer, and they are being made the catspaws.

Whilst the well-paid artist, with his hand on his heart—on the platform—pathetically pleads for his "poorer brethren," an incident which occurred only the other week at a West-End hall, in which one of these persons was the central figure, deserves mention.

This big turn, getting an almost fabulous salary, refused to follow a poor artist who was getting a small salary, but who was being well received by the audience.

The former notified the management that unless the latter's position on the programme was altered he ("the star") would decline to appear. Such incidents are by no means uncommon or unusual.

I have been in the agency business over twenty years, and have clients on my books to-day who started with me, and it is incomprehensible that any member of the profession should be so easily hoodwinked by one or two leaders whose motives will not always bear critical examination.

As far as the agents are concerned, my final words of advice to them are—not to be influenced by threats or cajolery. Their case is of the strongest, and the agitation is a pure game of bluff, manœuvred by an arrogant army of sawdust Napoleons.

I am a man of peace, but there are times when it is necessary to take a firm stand, for people who are blind, deaf, and dumb when their rights are invaded cease to be men and become mice

Yours faithfully,

GEORGE FOSTER.

4, Garrick-street, W.C., Oct. 5.

To the above letter, which has also been inserted in the daily press, Mr. Joe O'Gorman replies in the *Morning Advertiser* as follows:—

Sir,—Mr. George Foster, in the *Morning Advertiser* of the 5th inst., writes a letter "for the information of the public" which contains as many misleading half-truths as sentences.

That the artists' case is one which they believe will stand the fullest investigation is proven by the fact that at a meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation Executive Committee this afternoon, it was decided to approach the London County Council with a request that all agents shall be licensed, and that this committee is prepared to put forward such testimony to the inner working of the agency business as will, it is hoped, convince the L.C.C. of the desirability that all variety agents ought to be registered by public authority.

Mr. Foster says that the agent discovers what he thinks will be a popular star, and then goes on to tell us about the great expense to which an agent is put in securing contracts for that turn. He does not explain, however, that the agent's commission is 10 per cent. on the gross turnover of the artist. The so-called salary of the artist on which the commission is based includes the cost of songs, costumes, stage paraphernalia, income-tax, cost of travelling, and other incidentals. The majority of music hall artists, when the agent's 10 per cent. and other expenses are paid, seldom have a clear profit of 10 per cent. remaining for their own labour. As a rule agents only discover new stars after the latter have waited for weeks, and even months, on the agent's doormat, with a view to securing an interview with the agent; indeed, generally the discovery is due chiefly to the artist's own energetic efforts for recognition and the appreciation of managers rather than the activity of the agent.

No agent, so far as any artist is aware, has ever explained in detail the matter of the mysterious outlay which is supposed to render the business of agencies so expensive. In simple fact, modern agencies consist chiefly in arranging interviews with the heads of tours and running over to the same the contents of the agent's book, with an occasional journey into the country, undertaken presumably to book artists with managers.

If 10 per cent. on the gross salaries of the artists is not ample remuneration for such services without the added burden for the artist, constituted by the re-engagement clause—binding him to an agent who may or may not secure him a re-engagement—what would the agents consider ample remuneration? In America the variety agent charges 5 per cent., and many of them have made fortunes upon this sum. Few English agents render service to the artists that would not be over-valued at 5 per cent.

The paragraph in which Mr. Foster declares that the present agitation against the agents is being run by a few artists who are booked up for years ahead is absolutely unfounded. The executive committee of the Variety Artists' Federation contains a majority of artists receiving very moderate salaries, and exceedingly few very highly paid artists. Their action at the present time is in obedience to a mandate from the general body of members of the profession, who have demanded the abolition of the perpetual re-engagement, or re-enslavement clause in the agents' office copy. Whether or not the artists' attitude is a game of bluff the future will show; what is perfectly clear is that the struggle now proceeding was forced upon the artists by the arrogance of the agents. To the refusal of the agents to negotiate the artists replied by the issuing of a fair form of office copy and the starting of an agency by artists for artists, which they are convinced can be run profitably on a 2½ per cent. basis with no re-engagement clause.

As to the injustice of the rate of commission which the agents have been charging, it is evident from the fact that Mr. George Foster himself only two years ago published an advertisement in the *Era*, in which he declared his willingness to accept clients at the rate of 5 per cent. commission.

As Mr. Foster well knows, the leading artists on his book, like Mr. Lauder, are not compelled to sign an office copy containing a re-engagement clause. Mr. Foster, however, refuses to allow the smaller artists to delete the clause from his office copy. The V.A.F. is fighting the battle of the smaller artist, and is determined that in this matter all artists, large and small, shall be treated with equal justice and consideration.—I am, sir, yours, &c.,

Joe O'Gorman,
Chairman, Variety Artists' Federation.

Oct. 6, 1908.

[The advertisement referred to by Mr. O'Gorman in the above letter was inserted in our issue of Sept. 30, 1905, and reads as follows:—"Mr. George Foster wishes to make a plain statement of facts to the members of the music hall and theatrical professions, and to offer a suggestion. Mr. Foster is a little tired of the word AGENT. It is unsatisfactorily uncomprehensive. It seems in the public mind to encompass the most disreputable as well as the most distinguished of what should be an honourable calling. Mr. Foster claims that he has earned the right to pose as an EXPERT in every detail of popular entertainment—during twenty-five years he has been an artist, an impresario, an agent, not to mention public positions which have given him a still deeper insight into the business of public amusement. Mr. Foster is now by way of completing the list of artists for whom he proposes to obtain engagements during the ensuing season—working industriously, loyally, and discreetly. With this object he is willing to undertake the business of a few star artists only for a NETT CASH COMMISSION OF TWO AND A HALF PER CENT. Mr. Foster is shortly opening offices at Liverpool and Manchester, in Paris and New York for the purpose of expanding the business, which he has always conducted on rigorously commercial lines, discarding all nefarious trickery and repudiating every adjunct that seems improper to 'honest brokerage' between manager and artist. Artists to whom this announcement appeals will please write to 4, Garrick-street, London, W.C., or call. The most reliable agency in the world. Telegrams, 'Confirmation,' London. Telephone, 6248 Gerrard."—Ed. *The Era*.]

The committee of the Federation intend to urge the London County Council to make inquiry into the status of the variety agents, and to recommend that the Council should issue licences to all music hall agents. A resolution to make this application was passed unanimously on Tuesday by the executive committee.

The Variety Artists' Federation has announced its intention of issuing writs against a number of managers who on Saturday deducted the agents' commission before paying the performers' salaries. It is understood that the agents demanded that this action should be taken, and that the managers acted as they did to make their legal position secure. They will retain the money until the dispute is settled by the courts. The Federation proposes to make a test case, and it is stated that the managers will abide by the decision in this case.

The Water Rats on Wednesday completed arrangements for the opening of the proposed central booking agency in connection with the order. Business will commence on Monday next, and the work of securing engagements will be transacted for a number of well-known artists, including those not connected with the Water Rats.

It is considered that a maximum charge of 2½ per cent. on engagements would make the agency self-supporting.

At the 110th regular committee meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation on Tuesday the following resolution was passed:—"That immediate application be made to the London County Council asking that the whole status of the agents be inquired into, and asking that the London County Council take measures for the registration of all variety agents."

Mr. B. J. Brown has been appointed resident-manager of Brighton Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.

The ever-popular chorus and character singer Miss Lil Hawthorne added greatly to her already established popularity by her singing of the latest American song craze, "Just someone," and the quaint and thoroughly original number, "The boy who stuttered and the girl who lisped."

For principal girls in pantomime in want of a comedy song there is a mine of fun in the humorous number "Mother's Maxims," the verses of which are by Arthur Davenport and H. G. Pélissier, the latter gentleman, who heads the Follies, being the composer of the music. Permissions to sing it may be obtained of Messrs. Joseph Williams, music publishers, of 32, Great Portland-street, W., and we should hear a great deal about "Mother's Maxims" during the winter season.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"

Miss FLORRIE FORDE'S LATEST SENSATION.

Will be the rage of the coming pantomimes. Principal Boys and Girls should secure this at once.

OH! OH! ANTONIO!

VARIETY ARTISTS' FEDERATION.

THE AGENT QUESTION.

Mr. Joe O'Gorman presided over a packed mass meeting of members of the V.A.F. held yesterday afternoon at the Bedford Head Hotel. Amongst those present were Mr. W. H. Clemart, Mr. "Dutch" Daly, Mr. Neil Kenyon, Mr. Charles Coborn, Mr. Walter Stanton, Mr. Bert Williams, Mr. C. C. Bartram, and Mr. James Mooney.

The Chairman stated that they were practically in the same position as they were a week ago. The agents had made up their minds to put their backs against the wall as long as they could stand it. The agents had prepared Mr. Stoll and other managers with a letter on Saturday demanding that he or they should deduct the commission. On Saturday night they were all prepared for emergencies, and they received a stream of telegrams at the Vaudeville Club. He was not surprised to hear that Mr. Stoll and other managers had deducted the commission. He was pleased that Mr. Stoll had waited until last Saturday to do it. Had he done it a week previously, there would have been trouble. They did not want to strike. That was the last thing they would descend to. Mr. Stoll had written to say that he was deducting the commission, but that he was not paying it over to anyone. The Federation committee had warned all managers that they held them responsible for any moneys that were deducted, and that these must not under any circumstances be paid over. The managers were going to pay the commission money in Court. He (the Chairman) was advised that the money might be kept in the Court for three years. He did not, however, wish them to act dishonestly to the agents. When the struggle was over they would be paid. Practically all the managers had agreed to make contracts direct. The agents had been trying all they could to keep themselves on a good footing with the managers, but the latter were not going to have their business interfered with by this dispute. Untruthful statements had been made as to the number of artists who had resigned from the Federation. As a matter of fact, there had only been three resignations, while new members had been coming in at the rate of sixteen per week for the last six months. The other day he (the Chairman) had received a private telephone message from a gentleman who stated that while travelling in the train a man of the "bruiser" type had informed him that he had received the best sum of money that he had ever been offered in his life for a similar job to do grievous bodily injury to Mr. Clemart and Mr. O'Gorman. The Chairman stated that he desired to dissociate the general body of agents from such cowardly conduct. While he simply laughed at the matter, his committee put themselves into communication with Scotland Yard, and they gleaned that a certain agent had been negotiating with a certain pugilistic performer. The Chairman next referred to the emergency fund, which he said now amounted to between £460 and £470. The half-crown levy would make £500. He hoped that the artists who were in difficulties over this question would not hesitate to place their case before the committee, and not allow the agents to intimidate them any longer. It was possible that the fund would run up to from £1,500 to £2,000, and he thought that by the time that amount of money was expended they would have been able to give the agents the best fight they had ever had. He desired on behalf of himself and his committee to express to his brother and sister artists their deepest thanks for the very handsome manner in which a response had been made to the call for emergency funds.

Mr. W. H. Clemart said that any member of the Federation who would send a list of his vacant dates to Mr. Monte Bayly, the secretary, would have these blank weeks placed before every manager in the country. The Federation would be able to put the managers into immediate communication with the artists who wanted engagements. It was important that those artists who wished to be placed on the emergency list should not ask for a bigger salary than they were in the habit of earning; otherwise they would be the means of destroying the idea that the committee were trying to get some of the artists out of a hole. They had called a general meeting for Sunday, Oct. 25. The committee thought that it would be better to re-arrange the rule as to excluding from their ranks an artist who had acted as an agent. Now, however, in order to create opposition to the agents who had declined to accept the V.A.F. office copy, it was intended to propose a resolution at the general meeting that the rule referred to be deleted. In this way they would bring new agents into the music hall world. In addition to that, the Federation intended to ask the London County Council to register music hall agents. They had already written asking for an appointment for a meeting, so that the committee could explain to the Council the manner of men that variety agents were. Their emergency committee would meet at 12 noon on the following day (Saturday), and would continue so to do at that hour on that day of the week.

Mr. James Mooney proposed a resolution as follows:—

"That this meeting places its utmost confidence in the Executive Committee, and pledges itself to give the same support in the future as in the past, until the agency dispute has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion."

This was seconded by Mr. Walter Stanton, and carried unanimously.

In reply to a question the Chairman explained that Mr. Stoll's receipt intimated that the amount of the commission deducted would be detained until the end of the dispute.

Other speakers were Messrs. Charles Coborn, Dutch Daly, Andy Caine, Neil Kenyon, and Bert Williams.

Mr. Walter Hague, conductor of the Liverpool Empire Theatre orchestra, has severed his connection with that place of amusement.

Mr. Andie Caine opens at the Chelsea Palace on Monday next, and will present "Way down in Colon Town," with which he has made so great a success at Filey during the past summer. This bids fair to be the great pantomime song of the year, and Mr. Caine's rendition of it is well worth hearing.

The ladies' night of the Pimlico Lodge, of which Bro. Dave Cohen (Napoli and Co.) is Worshipful Master, took place on Thursday, Oct. 1, at the King's Hall, Holborn Restaurant, W.C., and proved the biggest success ever known in the annals of the lodge. At the concert, under the direction of Bro. Jack de Frece, which followed, the following artists kindly appeared:—Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss Bessie Slaughter, Miss Madge Grey, Miss Kitty Clinton, Miss Evelyn Taylor, Miss Doris Gilbert, Misses Hilda, Daisy, and Violet Higham, Miss Mamie Stuart, Miss Olive West, Miss Elsa Joel, Sisters Gordon, Miss Edie Reynolds, La Fostia, Mr. Sam Mayo, Mr. Fred Earle, Mr. Walter Hast, Mr. Joe Belmont, Mr. George Richens, Mr. Medley Barrett, Mr. Jack Ronald, Mr. Walter James, Mr. Ernest Powell, Rich and Rich, Ritter and Foster, Bradley and Barnes, and the Three Orleans.

The affair terminated gith a ball. During the banquet the London Orchestral Band played a selection of music, and this orchestra was also engaged for the dance. The function commenced at 6.30, and did not break up till four o'clock the following morning. It was attended by 115 guests, who expressed themselves as being delighted at the most enjoyable entertainment provided for them.

BREACHES OF CONTRACT.

At the Shoreditch County Court on Wednesday Judge Smyly, K.C., had before him an action which was brought by the London Music Hall Company, of High-street, Shoreditch, against Mr. Charles S. Kitts and Miss Rhoda Windrum, music hall artists, for £10 for breach of contract. Mr. Profumo appeared for the plaintiffs and Mr. Martin O'Connor for the defendants.

Mr. Profumo said the agreement relied upon was made in August, 1904, and one of the dates mentioned was in June of the present year. Before the 10th of that month the defendants sent on their billing matter and were duly billed in *A Liqueur of Humorous Refinement; a Satire on Modern Society*. They did not put in an appearance, and the management were put to considerable expense in obtaining other artists. It might be suggested, said counsel, that since 1904 the defendants had got better engagements and put aside one which was less profitable.

Thomas Greenhill Richards, managing director of the London, proved the contract, and said that on June 10 the defendants did not appear.

His Honour: Was any notice sent you?—No notice was sent, nor was there any communication as to illness or accident. Witness had been manager of the London for two years, but the Richards whose name appeared on the contract was his father. He had heard of the Stoll barring clause.

His Honour: Who is Mr. Stoll—another music hall proprietor?—Yes.

His Honour: What have we to do with his agreement?

Mr. O'Connor: Mr. Stoll is the proprietor of a music hall close by, and my client had an agreement with him in which he was precluded from appearing at any other hall within a certain radius.

His Honour: That is his look-out.

Mr. O'Connor: The London management were informed of this. Afterwards the dates were varied, it being understood that the barring clause would be waived if there was three months' interval.

Will Oliver, variety agent, spoke to the fact that after seeing the defendants perform Mr. Stoll made a three years' contract with them. Witness then went to Mr. Hector, of the London, who said, "If they are good enough for Stoll they are good enough for me." He was given to understand that the barring clause was waived in the case of the London.

Thomas Kitts, one of the defendants, said that a few days before June 10 he telephoned to the London and said he had received notice from Mr. Stoll barring him from playing there. He asked to speak to the manager; but was answered in such a vulgar way that he dropped the telephone. They told him while at Collins's that they were going to sue him. He was under the impression that the two managements were on amicable terms. What had happened since he didn't know.

His Honour: But you see you have entered into contracts both of which you could not carry out if the people hold you to the agreement. I am afraid you must abide by the result.

Judgment for the plaintiffs for £10 and costs.

A similar action was brought by the London Music Hall Company against Sinclair and Whiteford, who were engaged to appear at the London on Jan. 7, 1907, at a salary of £12 a week, but did not appear, other artists having to be engaged in their place.

Mr. Richards having given evidence as to the breach of the contract was asked why he had allowed so long a time to elapse before bringing an action.

Witness: It has taken us six months to serve them. They are all over the place. He denied receiving a telegram from Mr. Sinclair, and he had never offered other dates either to Sinclair or to Walter Bentley, his agent. No one but himself could have done so.

Fred Sinclair, one of the defendants, said that at the time he entered into the agreement with the London he was under contract with Mr. Stoll. This was, however, so endorsed that he could have appeared at the London, but this had escaped his memory. On June 7 he received a wire from Mr. Stoll forbidding him and Miss Whiteford from appearing at the London. He telegraphed to the London, and, receiving no answer, telephoned the manager on the Monday and explained most fully. As the result of the conversation he understood that the matter was settled, and that other dates would be accepted. When at Ipswich Hippodrome in August he received a summons, and again offered other dates at the same terms, although his position had improved since January, 1907.

Cross-examined by Mr. Profumo: He would not say that Mr. Stoll was worth more to him than the London. At the time he signed the contract Mr. Stoll was not using his barring clause. He sent the telegram to the London from Southampton.

Mr. Nicholson argued that the matter had been settled by "accord and satisfaction" in defendants agreeing to appear on certain other dates.

His Honour: There is no agreement on this, and you cannot make one out of mere negotiations.

Mr. Profumo: It takes two parties to make an agreement.

Mr. Nicholson: There was an agreement over the telephone.

His Honour: Oh no, you cannot say that.

In the end his Honour gave judgment for the amount claimed with costs.

SKETCH PIRATES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Might I ask you to kindly give publicity to the following facts, as a warning to other sketch managers, proprietors, and artists who have lately produced new acts?

Last night, on appearing on the stage at the Woolwich Hippodrome in my new sketch *A Ride to Win*, I was surprised to see three men in a private box hard at work making a shorthand copy of my playlet. They were, during the performance of the sketch, asked by the local manager to desist. One of the men went to the door to converse with him, but the other two went on with their shorthand writing, their only answer being that they were not annoying the audience, and that one of them was trying the speed of his shorthand.

After the sketch was over, I myself interviewed them. They refused to give their names or to give me the shorthand notes. I had them followed when they left the building. They proceeded to the Poplar Hippodrome, and, I understand succeeded in taking Mr. Beauchamp's new sketch and Mr. Fred Earle's two songs, after which they dodged round a corner, jumped into a motor-car that was waiting for them, and drove rapidly away. They were of medium height, looked something like Pressmen; two were clean-shaven, one (who seemed to direct operations) very dark, with a slight dark moustache and a very high forehead. Hoping that the publication of this letter may put other people on their guard against these piratical sharks and stealers of copyright acts, or that someone may be able to identify them and help us to put an end to their malpractices.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN F. PRESTON.

Hippodrome, Woolwich, Oct. 8.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ½; Empire, (15s. paid) 1½, Do. (10s. paid) 1; London Pavilion Ordinary, 4½, Do. Preference 4¾; Metropolitan, 11-16; Moss Empire 5, Do. 5 p.c. Preference 5¾; Oxford, 5; Palace, ¾; Tivoli, 5½; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 12s.

MR. MARRIOTT EDGAR.

For a young man of eight-and-twenty Mr. Marriott Edgar has done notable service in many directions of stage-work, and he appears to possess abilities of a rather universal kind. He was born at Kirkcudbright, and started his working career in 1896 by being apprenticed to the scene-painter, Mr. H. P. Hall, of the St. James's Theatre. He stayed there for two years, afterwards painting under Mr. Walter Hann and the late Mr. Pritchard Barrett. Mr. Edgar then went on tour with Mr. Percy Hutchison, got tired of scene-painting, and began to play small parts. Later he went on tour with Mr. Charles Frohman's *Adventure of Lady Ursula* company, and later still with Mr. W. W. Kelly's *New East Lynne*, doubling the parts of Richard Hare and Lord Mountsevern. Then he had a stock season at the Sebright, playing juvenile lead in sketches, this being followed by a tour with Wilfred Cotton's *My Friend the Prince* company. Mr. Edgar says that his first decent success was as Pink Jannaway, on tour. He was for four years at the Prince's, Bristol, as assistant stage-manager and general understudy, in which capacity he played for Tom Craven (Dame), Horace Mills, and Wilkie Bard, enacting the latter's rôle of the Baroness in *Babes in the Wood* for a fortnight. Leaving Bristol, Mr. Edgar went to the Prince's, Manchester, with Mr. Courtneidge to appear in pantomime with George Graves, "Jimmy" Sullivan, Johnny Coyle, Neil Kenyon, Queenie Leighton, and the late Charles Laurie. During the run of the production Mr. Laurie died, and Mr. Edgar had to play his part of Man Friday during the last two weeks of the run. Mr. Edgar was made up to go on in Mr. Laurie's part when news came of the latter's death. After another year at Bristol in 1901 Mr. Edgar toured through South Africa during the Boer War with Mr. George Edwardes' company, playing Cunningham in *The Geisha* and similar parts in *San Toy*, *Florodora*, *The Runaway Girl*, and *The Messenger Boy*. Returning to England, he toured as stage-manager for *The Toreador* and *Messenger Boy* companies.

In 1903 he conceived the idea of going on the halls. He wrote for himself a couple of songs, and started at the Palace, Camberwell. Subsequently he went out on tour with Mr. Eugene Stafford in the musical comedy *His Fatal Beauty*. While on this tour Mr. George Scott saw Mr. Edgar, advised him to return to variety, and gave him a letter of introduction to Mr. Richard Warner, who immediately started him. Mr. Hugh J. Didcott next worked for him as agent for three years. Mr. Edgar was in the pantomime of *Puss in Boots* with Messrs. Mouillot and Warden, at Belfast and Dublin, Mr. Paul Cinquevalli and Mr. Martin Adeson playing in the same production. He was on the point of going out to America last year when an amalgamation between Keith and Proctor stopped him, and at the last minute he dropped into pantomime at the Palace Theatre, Manchester, playing Dame in *Jack and Jill*. There Mr. John Hart saw him, and engaged him to

[*Photo by F. Austin*

MR. MARRIOTT EDGAR.

play Dame for the next three years, starting next year in Sheffield.

During the time Mr. Edgar has been on the halls he has played at the Tivoli, Oxford, Empire, Palace, and London Pavilion. Two of his biggest successes were "On the sand" and "Let's swop." Mr. Edgar has written all his own songs, about twenty-five altogether. His present number, "The reason why I dress in red," has proved very popular.

Mr. Edgar is booked for the Stoll and De Frece tours and the Gibbons halls, as well as for a return visit to South Africa in 1910. This will be his fourth South African engagement. His last two visits there was under the management of Mr. Sidney Hyman, when he made a great hit with his comedy ideas as "The Man in Red."

A BENEVOLENT FUND LOAN.

Before Mr. Curtis Bennett at Bow Street on Saturday, Walter Lovick Butler, sixty-one, of Broad-street, Lambeth, was charged with obtaining the sum of £2 from the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund by false pretences. Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, secretary to the fund, was the first witness called. He stated, in reply to questions from the magistrate, that on Aug. 17 he received, through one of the committee, a letter from the prisoner asking for assistance, and stating that he was an old performer who was destitute. An application form was sent, which was returned duly filled up, together with a letter purporting to be signed by "Frank Yapp," of the Bros. Ashley. The case was considered by the committee, and on the strength of the reference from Mr. Yapp postal orders for £2 were sent the prisoner as a loan, for which he signed the accompanying receipt.

Further inquiries having been instituted, it was decided to apply for a warrant, which was granted by Sir Albert de Rutzen, and the prisoner was arrested on Friday.

Detective-Sergeant Collins stated that he arrested the accused, who said, "I don't understand it. Mr. Yapp told me I could use his name and write what I liked. I wrote the sketch he is now playing, and I may as well say at once I wrote the reference myself." Prisoner asked the magistrate for production of another reference that had been sent from Mr. Powell, and Mr. Stuart stated that he had not got it with him, but would find it and produce it later. The prisoner then told Mr. Curtis Bennett that it was the custom for variety artists to use each other's names in cases of this kind, and that he had been a variety artist for many years.

The magistrate recalled the secretary of the fund, and asked him if he knew of any such custom, and Mr. Stuart replied that during the fifteen years he had been connected with the profession he had never heard of anything of the kind. The prisoner was then remanded until next Saturday morning on £5 bail.

DEATH OF HARRY LESTER.

The sad ending of Mr. Harry Lester, secretary of the Terriers' Association, on Tuesday came as a great shock to the friends of the deceased, from whom we received as late as Tuesday morning, in his own handwriting, a short report of the Terriers' social, held on the previous Sunday evening at the Dover Castle, at which he was present. In the days of his youth, and, indeed, up to the time of his appointment as secretary of the Terriers' Association, Mr. Lester was a comic singer, and incidentally a motto and descriptive vocalist. A native of Manchester, he was, as he used to put it, born in the profession. At any rate, he took to it at a very early age, and was only eleven years old when he composed melodies to songs he found in old song-books. In his early days as an entertainer he was popular at temperance and smoking concerts. Developing his talents, he was engaged to perform at the Star Music Hall, Ancoats, Manchester, where he made his first appearance on the boards over twenty-eight years ago. He soon became popular at all the provincial halls of note. One of his earliest successes was "They

[*Photo by Simmons*

THE LATE MR. HARRY LESTER.

went coo-coo," and one of his latest was "I'm a man of the world," written by Fred Lee and Joe Tabrar.

About ten years ago Mr. Lester settled down in business in Kennington, and two years later he took possession of another commercial enterprise at 16, Kennington-road, where he died. He fulfilled his last engagement in the halls in August, 1903, at Margate, where his powers as a refined comic and descriptive vocalist were highly appreciated. For no less than thirty years he had been a member of the Oddfellows' Society, so, as he once remarked, he was not what might have been termed a "fly-away sort of fellow." Mr. Lester, naturally enough, was very proud of the Terriers' Association, and whatever could be done to improve its condition, socially or financially, he was always ready to do. He also took a great interest in the M.H.A.R.A., and was a member of the first committee of that Association. The deceased gentleman, whose real name was Isaac Snape, married Miss Annie Howe, a burlesque artist popular in the eighties, who, with one daughter, survives him.

Our Birmingham correspondent writes:—"Allow me to say how very sorry I am to learn of poor Harry Lester's sad end. He was a good fellow, in whose mouth was found no guile, and a great favourite with the Gaiety boys here, with his pleasing appearance, ringing voice, and always popular songs. One of his earliest successes was 'And the girl went coo,' by Felix McGlennon, and of course there were others. Although, obviously, he had dropped out, I thought he was comfortably placed."

The funeral of the late Mr. Harry Lester has been fixed for Tuesday next, that being the date of his forty-ninth birthday. The remains are to be interred in the Lambeth Cemetery, Tooting. The cortège will leave the deceased's residence in Kennington-road at 12.45, arriving at the cemetery at 2.15. Mr. Theophilus Dunkley, of Westminster Bridge-road, who has charge of the funeral arrangements, will be pleased to give any desired information to friends of the deceased who may desire to be present. They should be at the house, 16, Kennington-road, at 12 o'clock.

THE INQUEST.

At the inquest, which was held yesterday by Mr. R. H. Wellington, at the Lambeth Coroner's Court, the principal witnesses were Mrs. Lester (the widow), her daughter, Lily Lester, and Mr. J. Derungs, professional cook. The latter was the first to find Mr. Lester, whom he saw standing on some steps. Some time later, when he returned, he found the deceased was not on the steps, but was hanging from a rope. He immediately caused the police to be notified. They arrived about 11.30, and immediately cut Mr. Lester down. Dr. McCarthy, of 138, Westminster Bridge-road, announced that when found Mr. H. Lester must have been dead abou two hours. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide during a fit of temporary insanity."

Barnard's Agency, of Shaw-street, Liverpool, are acting as sole agents for Mr. Fred Granville's pantomimes, that gentleman having specially engaged Kennedy's Kiddies, Daleno and Stream, and other first-class turns.

Mr. Arthur Hickman, the new tenor, has established himself as a prime favourite with London audiences in record time. He has only to be heard to be fully booked. Among his great song successes are "Far away someone thinks of you to-night" and "Some day you'll come back to me," the latter number by Ernest R. Ball, the composer of the omnipresent "Love me and the world is mine."

John Henry Humphries, 25, labourer, was charged at Worship-street with being in possession of a number of pirated copies of certain copyrighted songs. An agent of the Music Publishers' Association proved that the prisoner was exhibiting music in Middlesex-street (Petticoat-lane) on Sunday morning, and when the music was seized eighteen copies were found to be piracies. The prisoner was fined 40s. or fourteen days.

The acting-manager of the Willesden Hippodrome applied for a licence for a child under fourteen years of age to appear on the stage at Willesden on Monday. A magistrate said that the Bench did not feel disposed to grant licences where a child was supporting her parents. The sister of the child told the magistrate that her father worked, and that her sister kept the whole of her earnings. In proof of her statement she handed a bank-book to the magistrate, who expressed satisfaction, and granted the licence.

CHAT WITH CHARLES WILMOTT.

Mr. Charles Wilmott, of the firm of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, is a gentleman whose accomplishments are of the versatile order. He has written and produced plays and sketches and pantomimes, has acted himself, and is the author of hundreds of songs. He started life as an author and journalist, contributing articles, poems, and stories to various magazines. His first introduction to the music-hall world was due to the late G. H. Macdermott, who was a very old friend of Mr. Wilmott's father. The latter was the Wilmott of the famous music-hall duo, Connolley and Wilmott, who were the originators of the duets, "Belgravia and Whitechapel" and "St. James's and St. Giles's." They were, too, the first to introduce short dramatic versions of Dickens, such as the story of Oliver Twist, in which each artist would play two or three parts. Mr. Wilmott's father became manager of the Variety Theatre, Hoxton—the first two-houses-a-night establishment in London. "During one of Macdermott's engagements there," says the subject of this sketch, "my father introduced me to him, and the great Mac then suggested my going in for music-hall work. I always had something of an original bent, and my first contribution to the music halls of real importance was the sketch, *The Bewitched Curate*, which I wrote. It was the first playlet to bring into actual combination the Church and the Stage, and it excited a great deal of comment at the time, and gave me a position as an author. This was almost contemporaneous with a burlesque of *Faust*, which I wrote for Mr. Fred Williams, who was then a popular sketch star on the music-hall stage."

Subsequently, Mr. Wilmott turned his attention to dramatic work, and one of his earliest dramas, entitled *Old Times*, was produced on the opening night of the Theatre Royal, Woolwich. It was followed by a long series of dramas, with which their author toured with his own company for some time. Then he started supplying the Albert and Edmunds troupe with farcical sketches, the first of which was *The Locket*, the success of which led to his being called upon to supply them with playlets ever since, right up and including the present production of *Neighbours*. Mr. Wilmott was subsequently approached by Mr. Willie Phillips, who was a member of the Court Theatre company, and played in most of Mr. Pinero's successes, such as *The Schoolmistress* and *The Magistrate*. Mr. Phillips had decided to take to the music halls, and commissioned Mr. Wilmott to write some sketches for himself and his wife, Miss Ada Terry, and these sketches these two talented artists have been playing ever since. Mr. Wilmott's scena on the subject of Nelson and Trafalgar-square, which were produced by Mr. Godfrey at the Oxford, excited a considerable amount of attention, and the strongly patriotic vein in which the sketch was conceived was most favourably commented on even by the Radical newspapers. The success of this induced the Tivoli management to commission Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Wilmott to supply them with a scena dealing with

MR. CHARLES WILMOTT.

Major Wilson's famous stand against the Matabele hordes.

All this while Mr. Wilmott had been writing songs for nearly all the star artists. Thus, he wrote Miss Fanny Leslie's "Boys of London Town"; Miss Vesta Tilley's "In the days of the cavalier"; Mr. R. G. Knowles's "Once upon a time"; Mr. G. W. Hunter's "Courtship" and "Logical Conclusions"; Miss Marie Lloyd's "Geisha" song; and Miss Bessie Wentworth's "My boy." He rendered similar service to Mr. Eugene Stratton, Mr. George Beauchamp, Mr. Walter Munroe, Mr. Charles Bignell, the late Fred Harvey, the late Lizzie Howard, and many others. Another branch of theatrical work which Mr. Wilmott has engaged in successfully is the writing of pantomimes. For six years he was responsible for the "book" at the Britannia Theatre.

In describing some of Mr. Wilmott's pantomime plots, the *Daily Telegraph* stated that the mantle of the Brothers Grimm had fallen upon that gentleman. Mr. Wilmott made a strong point of writing the comedians' scenes in the shape of gags, so that continuity in the telling of the story may not be interrupted. Mr. Wilmott has also supplied pantomimes for several of the provincial theatres.

Amongst his most recent song-successes are George Lashwood's "In the twilight," Miss Annie Purcell's "In the valleys of Switzerland," the recent Franco-British Exhibition skits, "Take me on the flip-flap," and Miss Millie Hylton's "Meet me under the golden dome." The music for the greater number of Mr. Wilmott's songs has been composed by Mr. Hermann Darewski, who has given to the public several very catchy melodies. Those two gentlemen were responsible for "Humpty-Dumpty," which has been Miss Terriss's most popular number in *The Gay Gordons*; and their most recent hit is Mr. R. G. Knowles's song, "£ s. d." Mr. Wilmott is now busy with a new production for the Albert and Edmunds troupe, which will be on an even more elaborate scale than anything the troupe has hitherto accomplished.

"Speaking of music-hall songs past and present," says Mr. Wilmott, "I am distinctly of opinion that the present 'numbers' are far in advance of anything we had in the old days. One has only to compare such songs as "Champagne Charley," "Slap, bang, here we are again," and "Cliquot," with some of the recent successful songs, to understand the tremendous improvement that has taken place. How much more is demanded of the author of to-day in the way of intelligence, to say nothing of wit, sense of rhythm, and grammar. Twenty and thirty years ago the glorification of drink was the prevailing characteristic of the comedy in the songs. That, fortunately, has almost entirely disappeared, and a much higher tone has been adopted.

"PIGS IN CLOVER."

A "Racial Retrospect," in One Scene, by J. J. Spencer Sutcliffe, produced at the Balham Hippodrome on Monday, Oct. 5.

Leon Rochester ..... Mr. John Lawson
Calvert Rochester ..... Mr. J. K. Reynolds
Rosie Nathan ..... Miss L. Sidney
Marcelle Bazan ..... Mr. H. Schlesinger
Leslie ..... Mr. Pascoe Bioletti
Pat Rochester ..... Miss Buena Bent

"Mixed marriages" serve as the theme of Mr. John Lawson's latest thriller, which was introduced to London on Monday, after a preliminary production in the country. In an address issued by Mr. Lawson it is stated that "so serious an evil has intermixing in marriage between different nations become that a well-known Russian Jew, who died a few months ago, left instructions in his will asking his son to marry only of his own religion." Much more disastrous consequences attend the union of a young Jew, named Leon Rochester, who has invented an aeroplane, which he has offered to the British Government. The War Office moves slowly, and three years have elapsed without any definite communication from that authority. Meanwhile, Leon has married a young English girl, named Patricia, whom he affectionately calls "Pat," in spite of the fact that an engagement exists between himself and Rosie Nathan, a young Jewess, and an heiress in her own right. Leon has brought his wife to the Riviera, where the scene of the playlet is laid at Carnival time, and she longs to join in the gaieties around her. She has, indeed, gone so far as to encourage the attentions of a libertine—a "pig in clover"—who sends her a diamond ring. The envelope containing the ring is opened by the unsuspecting husband, but accompanying it is a note, with the words "My present.—M." An adept in the art of prevarication, "Pat" assures her husband that she herself sent the ring to him for his birthday, and the husband smilingly puts it on, only to discover that it is too small. "Pat" is equal to the occasion, and declares that she had bought a small ring for purposes of economy, so that both could wear it in turn. While "Pat" has gone out ostensibly for "shopping," but really to meet her lover, Leon's father and Rosie Nathan arrive unexpectedly. Mr. Rochester, unaware of his son's marriage, hints at a speedy union between Rosie and Leon, and delivers an impassioned harangue against mixed marriages. Rosie is devoted to Leon, and left alone busies herself in tidying the room. She is thus engaged when "Pat" returns with her lover from the Carnival. She learns the reason of Rosie's visit, and reveals the fact that she is Leon's wife. "Pat's" attitude towards Marcelle has not escaped the attention of Rosie, and she retorts that though "Pat" is the wife it is she herself that truly loves Leon. "Pat" is so incensed that, after tearing the plans of Leon's invention to shreds and dashing the model of his aeroplane to pieces, she seizes Rosie by the throat and beats her to death with a heavy ruler. Leon returns, and learning of the tragedy, prepares to give the girl up to the authorities in fulfilment of his nation's axiom of "A life for a life." His wife pleads for mercy; but Leon is obdurate, and "Pat," seizing a dagger, stabs herself and falls dead. There is a terrific noise of explosives outside, and Leon sinks to his knees in lamentation of his loneliness.

The sketch is written with dramatic force, and supplies Mr. Lawson with one of the most acceptable of the "Grand Guignol"-like shockers with which his répertoire is stocked. He has a part after his own heart in the character of Leon Rochester, whom he portrays with that quiet dignity which becomes so impressive. Later, the passion of the part shows forth, and Mr. Lawson's gift for portraying by facial expression the workings of a distraught mind proves again invaluable. Miss Buena Bent, whom Mr. Lawson may be said to have "discovered" some years ago when he engaged her for leading lady in his sketches, thoroughly proves the wisdom of his choice. She plays the part of the impulsive young wife with artless impudence and an air of frivolity that sit well upon her, while the ferocity of the last fateful scenes is sustained with real tragic power. Miss L. Sidney is a gentle and prepossessing Rosie Nathan, and gives a clever depiction of the young girl who realises that the love so long cherished is unrequited. A characteristic study of the elderly Mr. Rochester is given by Mr. J. K. Reynolds, who declaims the invective against intermarriage with much vehemence. Mr. H. Schlesinger cuts a comical figure as the "pig in clover," the dandy who carries on an illicit flirtation with "Pat"; and Mr. Pascoe Bioletti gives so droll a sketch of a waiter that the part might well be enlarged. A crowded house became thoroughly absorbed in the sensational episode, and Mr. Lawson and Miss Bent were thrice recalled at the close. Mr. E. W. Hancorne James officiates with his customary courtesy as manager of the prosperous Balham hall.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

At the head of an attractive programme this week is Machnow, the famous Russian giant. Machnow is described as the tallest man in the world, and his appearance on the stage is certainly quite startling. After being introduced the giant strolls amongst the audience, first in the stalls, then in the circle, and ultimately in the gallery, shaking hands with any who may desire to do so.

An extraordinary illusionist appears in the person of Cussac Talma, who, assisted by Mlle. Yvonne de Forge, performs some really wonderful tricks, including a £500 challenge box trick, with which Cussac-Talma challenges the world, "barring neither sex, profession, nor nationality." Leonie Dixon proves herself a very smart and pleasing soubrette; and Charles Vincent achieves great success with a couple of good songs, one being a medley of snatches from various popular music-hall ditties, which goes extremely well. That dainty little mimic Miss Ray Wallace contributes her always excellent turn, her imitations of well-known variety artists, to her own accompaniments, being very clever and entertaining. A turn which is a real delight is that presented by Callahan and St. George, a couple of American artists, lady and gentleman, who appear in a scena entitled *The Old Neighbourhood*. The gentleman gives a richly humorous study of an old Irish-American, who plays a little on the flute, and the lady contributes some excellent singing and harp-playing. It is well worth while visiting the Shepherd's Bush Empire this week if only to see this most artistic turn. Terry and Lambert, two more American artists, present a humorous character sketch, *English Types Through American Eyes*, which rightly meets with great approval. Both members of this combination are extremely clever, and the various caricatures they introduce us to are undeniably based on truth.

Victor Travers, an eccentric comedian and dancer, is responsible for a great deal of laughter, one of his songs having the title "I couldn't do that, could you?" Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe appear in their comedy playlet *My Burglar*, written by Miss Zoe Coe. This very smart and unexaggerated sketch is really excellent, the acting both of Miss Coe and Mr. Thorpe being unusually good. The programme is completed by the American Bioscope, which this week presents an instructive and fascinating series of pictures showing life on the island of St. Kilda.

Mr. E. P. Morgan is the courteous acting-manager, and Mr. Herbert Mack, who for four and a half years has been the advertising manager at this house, has succeeded Mr. Jess Smith as assistant acting-manager.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

LONDON PAVILION.

Mr. Frank Glenister inaugurated a new departure at this house on Monday, when was given the first of what is conveniently designated as cinématinées; and, in consequence, the ordinary Wednesday morning performances of the variety company have been discontinued for the present. The evening bill happens to be one of the strongest that has been arranged for some time. Early in the evening we have the farcical sketch entitled *Beauty and the Burglar*, by that expert dramatist Mr. George R. Sims, which is presented by Millie Engler and company. That lady appears to advantage in the part of Kitty Rippleby, an actress; Mr. Fred Knight is the John Rippleby; and Miss Louie Tinsley, a delightful low comedy lady, plays Polly. Gicardo, a young juggler, accomplishes a very neat hat and umbrella trick, and his juggling with billiard balls thrown up behind him shows very deft manipulation. Hill and Hull are responsible for the eccentric dwarfing business brought over to this country a quarter of a century since by two Viennese artists, and, therefore, quite novel to a later generation. The business is chiefly remarkable for the wonderful realisation of inertness by one of the twain. Mr. Chris. Richards brings nothing fresh in the way of song, novelties not being wanted by such an eccentric dancer; Mr. Fred Hastings' betting song is not particularly striking; and Miss Hanid Alexander, who is quite grown-up, plays Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody with no little brilliancy, though her touch leaves something to be desired. She is at her best in her description of a waif's country outing.

The art of funambulism is brought to a high pitch by Celest, a performer with all the necessary skill and nerve to give full effect to an original show. Appearing at first in ordinary dress, he makes a rapid change behind a pretty bit of scenery, which opens out and discloses him habited in a smart blue uniform, braided with gold. As a baton-twirler, Celest is bewilderingly swift; but it is when he takes to the wire that he astonishes us by his perfect command of poise and his exact knowledge of the laws of balance. Commencing his perambulations of the thin filament of steel several feet above the stage, he allows it to be slackened, still retaining his footing, and swaying the wire to the tune of a pretty waltz. The excitement becomes more intense when he places a ladder on the wire, which is gradually raised again while he is mounting several rungs. As he does so flags blossom from the ladder, and the act finishes amid great applause.

Bert Errol, a female impersonator new to London, made a successful début here on Monday, and scored an immediate success in his business. He burlesques the operatic solo, "Nobil Signor," just sufficiently, and, though wearing the skirts, he knows how to be refined and artistic. Mr. Neil Kenyon has the house in the throes of laughter while he patters as the "postie of Auld Dunrobin Town." He is very rich and unctuous, and his humour has a fine flavour. Other turns in a remarkably strong bill are given by Malcolm Scott, the lady "sciolist"; Miss Marie Dainton, in her impersonations; Mr. Arthur Aldridge, the Pavilion tenor; King and Cooke, in a really droll trampolin act; the Marriotts, in silent telepathy; Miss José Collins, a pretty and clever comedienne; Mr. Josh Dixon, comedian and dancer; Mr. George Mozart, a Pavilion favourite; Jock and Evelyn, in their latest act; the Yankee Doodle Girls, a clever, attractive troupe of vocalists and dancers, under the direction of Mr. Bert Coote; and Miss Elsie Steadman, whose singing is charged with piquancy and point. Mr. Bond Sayers directs a first-rate orchestra here; and Mr. William Cobbett is a courteous assistant-manager.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

The art of pleasing the public has been practised by Mr. Jesse Sparrow in many London suburbs, but in no hall has his success been more gratifying than at the Camberwell Empire, which he has brought to a state of complete prosperity. Packed houses have this week nightly greeted the artists who make up the current bill, the head of which is taken by the sketch *Lift 'Ems, Limited*, an obvious skit on a well-known provision stores, in which the Six Brothers Luck combine to furnish an interlude of riotous fun. The efforts of the comedians to create mirth are indefatigable, and the laughter aroused during the progress of the sketch is unceasing. An important place on the programme is also allotted to a vocal scena called *Christina of Sketra*, which has the benefit of special scenery by Richard Douglass. It depicts the rugged shore of a remote Scottish seaport, noted for its oyster industry, and its chief character is the young fisher-girl Christina. Her fame as a singer having reached the ears of a manager about to produce a Scottish opera, that worthy journeys to Sketra to judge for himself. His trouble is well rewarded, for he finds that the lowly fisher girl has a voice of remarkable power and range. Its excellent qualities are displayed in a quaint folk-song, and in the popular Scottish ballad, "Loch Lomond." The manager is entranced, and immediately engages her at a fabulous salary. Being a vocalist himself, he joins her in an expressive rendering as a duet of the favourite "Mary of Argyle." The scena is smartly rendered by Wills and Mackenzie, who have occupied important positions in the Carl Rosa company. Miss Mackenzie, who made a comely and picturesque Scotch lassie, is possessed of a dramatic soprano voice, powerful and well-modulated, and she sings in a cultivated style that obtains applause from all parts of the house. Mr. John Wills, who, with Miss Esme Austin, is the author of the libretto, renders able assistance as the opera producer, and sings tastefully in the duet.

A pleasant diversion is created by Little Ikey Moe, the diminutive comedian who won magisterial approbation early in the week when he applied for a licence to perform. He is a smart little raconteur, and delivers Yiddisher yarns with an appreciation of their point which is thoroughly shared by his hearers. The youthful comedian also sings a quaint song of a Hebrew character, and in answer to repeated recalls submits a dance full of eccentricity. Miss Olive West, who in private life is the daughter of the well-known music-hall manager, Mr. "Teddy" Giles, is a newcomer to the ranks of the comedienne. She has the gift of song well developed, and is an expert dancer. Both accomplishments are agreeably displayed in the lively lilt of "Schneider," in which Miss West makes a vivacious Dutch girl, and performs a skilful sabot dance. The pretty and clever artist also supplements her song of "Don't knock, Mr. Jones, come in," with a series of intricate and well-conceived steps, and wins a popular ovation. Mr. Arthur Holland cuts a smart figure as a naval officer, who sings of "bidding good-bye on the quay" in excellent style. Mr. Sam Spira entertains at the piano with realistic mimicry; Primavesi juggles marvellously; Mr. Frank F. Street is a diverting story-teller; and the programme also consists of Haig and Novel, in a comedy act; Les Uniques, gymnastic performers; and Jeapes' Animated Graphic, with a coloured moving picture representing the Trial of Mary, Queen of Scots. Mr. Percy Ford is still manager and secretary of the Camberwell Empire, and Mr. Gus Danter now holds the position of acting-manager.

THE PARAGON.

Business has improved wonderfully here since the reduction in prices and the establishment of the two-houses-a-night plan. The removal of the drinking-bars from the promenade was a much-needed reform, and the maintenance of perfect order is now much easier. Miss Marie Lloyd, correctly described as "the queen of all comediennes," sings in her inimitable style "Don't grumble at woman any more," "Rum-tiddley-um-tum-tay," and "The Directoire Girl," for which she receives an ovation. Miss Lloyd is indeed a true artist, her different expression and rendering of each number being perfect. Mr. George Robey has two new songs which are quite up to his usual standard, being entitled "It's a lie" and "I think I shall sleep well to-night." Needless to say, the house is kept in continual laughter the whole time he is on the stage. Miss Flo Esdaile's delightful voice is heard to advantage in "The Soldiers' Chorus," from *Faust*, the top notes being reached with the greatest ease. Mr. Dan Thomas, garbed as an "old dame," gives an interesting song in "Columbine," his second item, "Play up Millwall," being greatly to the liking of the football enthusiasts. La Pia, in fantastic dances, introduces many novelties, the principal being a representation of a stormy sea with great waves breaking and dashing on the shore. The dancer is enveloped, and finally engulfed, in the huge seas that surround her. The effect is really wonderful, and the lady retires amid rounds of applause. The Poluski Brothers provoke roars of laughter with their many funniosities. Miss Frances Letty, chorus singer, possesses a couple of tuneful numbers in "Does anyone want a girl?" and "Mr. Jackson," which are ably rendered, a smart wooden shoe dance completing the lady's interesting turn. The Daunton-Shaw troupe of cyclists perform many daring feats, the elder male partners being exceptionally clever. The ladies make a pretty picture. Hughes and Elliott amuse with "Santa Claus" and "The Beauty Show," concluding with a cleverly-executed sand dance. Matthews and Cowper, in "When the clock went wrong," provide plenty of good fun, many complications arising owing to the mixing up of the "she's" by the Irish servant, one being a clock and the other the wife. Vether Brothers give a neat and clever trapeze performance which is quite original, the costumes and properties being quite unique; Mr. Fred Elton at the piano wins favour with several tuneful ditties, the principal being a charming little number, "Little Maid of Monte Carlo," which will soon be popularised. Conway and Leland, "the merry monopedes," together with Ruffell's Bioscope, conclude a most enjoyable programme.

THE METROPOLITAN.

The desire for sketches of a short and entertaining type is very pronounced at the halls, and Mr. Jack Edgar is ever seeking to discover novelties that thrill or convulse with laughter. He has secured for this week a tabloid of tragedy—in other words, a dramatic episode, written by Robert Wilford, and entitled

"THE ESPADA."

Lady Daphne ..... MISS HILDA DICK
Hon. Paul Esmond ..... MR. HENRY MARTIN
Noel Gordon ..... MR. PHILLIP POTTER
Brother Silvanus ..... MR. ARTHUR GORDON
Don Manrico ..... MR. GUY CARY

It is quite in the Grand Guignol vein, is this tragedietta. Don Manrico, "the Espada," has not lost his heart to a dark beauty of Seville, but is passionately attached to Lady Daphne, whose Anglo-Saxon beauty has bewitched him. She has smiled upon him only to deceive, concealing the fact that she is married. In a conversation which is overheard by the Espada she speaks of other conquests, and evidently regards her love affair with the hot-blooded bull-sticker as a mere flirtation. It is no jesting matter with him, and he determines to give the coquette short shrift. Locking the doors and windows, he tells her that she shall deceive no more. She, however, cajoles him, and later she is able to give a signal for help. Her two male friends arrive just too late to save her from the Spaniard's dagger; but a pistol shot rings out, and Lady Daphne, who lies dead on the couch, is revenged, a bullet reaching the Espada's heart. Miss Hilda Dick makes a most fascinating temptress, and tackles the difficult scene between Lady Daphne and Don Manrico with discretion, restraint, and considerable force. Mr. Guy Cary is a picturesque Don Manrico, and shows intensity. He must not, however, allow his forcible display of the Espada's passion to hurry his utterance in a way that makes him occasionally indistinct. The sketch is beautifully mounted, the elaborate interior being painted by Francis H. Bull. The incidental music, by Mark Strong, adds local colour to the picturesque little piece.

Mr. and Mrs. Royston Deno sound an uproarious comedy note in their comedietta *My Lady's Chamber*, which we have already commended; and Lytton and Bland are quite popular in *A Lesson in Love*.

Mr. George Robey sheds joy around when he relates his adventures as a lion tamer, and tells us something of the idiosyncrasies of the king of beasts and his playful little ways. The patter is becoming funnier every night, and there can be no doubt that George has a number that will do him excellent service. Miss Amy Clevere returns here to renew the triumphs she has won in her dainty dancing and tuneful singing of coon melodies. "Dresden China" is admirably suited to her style, and she brings down the house by the genuine fascination of her rendering of "I don't like the white moon shining." Miss Cressie Leonard, an excellent burlesque actress, habited as a principal boy, gives a taste of her quality in the song "Will there be any girls there?" Haley's Garden of Girls, who score in their dancing, have a pretty and most effective scena; Mr. Bert Danson, a capital comedian, has a lively and amusing song, "When a fellow's in love with a girl"; Miss Luna Love is a chic dancer; Miss Amy Marsden, the "comedy girl," is seen in her latest success, "I'm Salome"; and Master Edward Frisby is applauded in ballads. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is responsible for an interlude of up-to-date and attractive pictures.

MOSS' EMPIRES, LTD., AND THE CAMBERWELL PALACE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The attention of our clients, Moss' Empires, Ltd., has been called to the paragraph which appeared in your issue of Sept. 26, in which it is stated that the directors of the Camberwell Palace have given notice of their intention to terminate their booking arrangements with our clients. As this statement is inaccurate, we should be glad if you will make this correction in your next issue.—Yours truly,

SMITH, RUNDELL, AND DODS.
9, John-street, Bedford-row, W.C.

As the result of a recent matinée, Mr. J. M. Glover was enabled, at Bexhill, to hand over to the local clergy a cheque for £91, to assist the unemployed and poor during the approaching winter.

NAT TRAVERS, a well-known coster comedian, was summoned at Great Yarmouth on Saturday for distributing handbills containing betting announcements. Travers' name appeared on the front of the bills with the programme of a pier entertainment, but at the foot and on the back were intimations by a betting agent of Flushing inviting business. It was stated that the only pecuniary benefit to the comedian was in getting his bills free of cost from the betting agent, and that he had no other share in the transactions carried on at Flushing. The magistrates held that it was a distinct breach of the Betting Act, and inflicted a penalty of 19s., at the same time cautioning him against any repetition of it in Yarmouth.

STAGE STORIES.

DR. WALFORD BODIE'S LATEST LITERARY SENSATION.

A FEAST OF GOOD THINGS.

"Stage Stories" is the title of an entertaining volume which has just been issued by Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, and Co., Ltd., 4, Stationers' Hall-court, London, E.C., and the price of which is a shilling. The author is Dr. Walford Bodie, who is appearing in the New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr, this week, and delighting large audiences. This is not Dr. Bodie's first essay in literature, as not long ago he wrote "The Bodie Book," which was enthusiastically received by Press and public, and still has a good vogue. "Stage Stories" is a work in lighter vein, and will, we feel sure, have a larger sale than his first contribution. In the course of eighteen fair-sized chapters Dr. Bodie has many interesting sayings to set down and many amusing and exciting experiences to narrate, all of which make capital reading. The book is, in fact, the story of his life so far. Dr. Bodie is still comparatively young, but already his career has been full of interest, and he has travelled far in the way of public entertainment and as a public entertainer. From very small beginnings he has attained to a position of remarkable success on the stage; and now he can "sport" a motor-car—and a very fine car it is too, as those who have seen it in the streets of Ayr this week can testify. During his career, Dr. Bodie has been music hall doctor, ventriloquist, conjurer, illusionist, and lightning caricaturist. It is a strange combination, yet in each he has achieved remarkable success. Dr. Bodie is an Aberdonian. There are, however, few traces in his speech in public that he was born in the silver city by the Dee; but no doubt in private conversation with brother Aberdonians he can use with fluency and picturesqueness the language of "Johnny Gibb of Gushetneuk," the finest classic in the Aberdeenshire tongue, and a work that is truer to the life of the people than the efforts of Barrie or Crockett or any of the other literary spademen in the kailyard school. A score of years ago Dr. Bodie was in the employment of the National Telephone Company, at Aberdeen, and it was then that he made his first appearances in public. It was at Saturday evening entertainments that he graduated. Those entertainments he says "were useful to me. They trained me for my future profession. They accustomed me to the sight of an audience watching me, listening to me, and intent on being instructed or amused by me. They put my hand on the pulse of the people. They taught me to read the faces of the people. They gave me a sense of my own power, and a confidence in that power. They led up not only to my first performance in the Town Hall of Stonehaven, but to countless more performances in other halls and in other places throughout the British Isles." Dr. Bodie has always realised the great value of advertising and keeping on friendly

DR. WALFORD BODIE

terms with the members of the Fourth Estate, which shows his astuteness and perspicacity. Even in those early days, he was billed as "The Great Walford Bodie: The Man of the Hour." His friends were responsible for the adjective "great," which he admits was "a little premature." The drawings at the first performance at the pleasant little town of Stonehaven amounted to thirty-five shillings; and, although this sum was less than the hire of the hall, the hallkeeper agreed to accept it. Dr. Bodie deals, inter alia, with his cures by means of electricity or magnetism, his experiences in putting men in a trance, and records conversations with Billington, the hangman. Billington, he remarks, was a character in his way; a rough-hewn North countryman, with the hard, honest features characteristic of the people of the North of England. "I'd never hang you" (Dr. Bodie), said Billington, "however much they offered me for the job, and I'd save you from anyone else doing it. I'd get you reprieved. And I'll tell you how I'd manage it. I'd fix up the apparatus so that it wouldn't work properly. Then I'd bring you to the scaffold, and make two or three attempts at swinging you off. Of course, I should not succeed, and I'd take you back to the cell. Then the prison people would write to the Home Secretary, and you'd be reprieved. Yes, I know how to hang a man, and I know how to save him from being hanged." This was surely the height of gratitude in a public servant; but it is not a spirit that should be emulated. By many persons Dr. Bodie has always been regarded as an uncanny bodie. He looks it at times. He has fathomed the way in which one can successfully entertain and mystify the public; and he has also learned some things which set the medical faculty agape. He is a clever and daring man; if he had not considerable intellectual ability he could not accomplish the things he does. Owing to the nature of his calling, he sees many landladies, and some of his experiences with this necessary and generally respectable class make laughable reading. After giving specimens of conjuring and ventriloquism in the presence of an old-fashioned landlady, Dr. Bodie was told by her to leave at once. He asked the reason why he should leave, and was told, "You're no canny. You hae put the fear o' death on me. I winna hae you here." "Surely, madam, you'll allow us to have something to eat before we go?" he said. "No' a bite," was the reply; "tak' yer things and gang." And they (Dr. Bodie and his wife) had to depart at once, the landlady pushing them out of her house and throwing their belongings after them. What we have written should, we think, convey some idea of the style of the book, and whet the appetite of those who like this sort of thing. Dr. Bodie is unquestionably as interesting on paper as he is before the footlights. He is a capital story teller, and writes lucidly and accurately.—Ayrshire Post, Oct. 2, 1908.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

20,001.—Alfred William Southey and John Brown Thorp, of London. Improvements in apparatus for games and sports.

20,107.—George Ernest Forrester, of London. Improvements in or connected with wheel-shaped cycle tracks of that class in which the wheel is vertically supported and rotatable by the action of cyclist riding upon the inner surface of the rim or track.

20,229.—Henry Phillips, of London. Improvements in disappearing targets for miniature rifle ranges.

20,238.—George Clarke, of Halesworth, Suffolk. Improved rifle butt for miniature or full charge rifles.

20,256.—Frank Harvey Urry and William David Locke, of London. Improvements in coin-freed amusement apparatus.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

20,778.—Kiralfy. Gravity railways and similar amusement apparatus.

8,482.—Bond and Searle. Waterways or pleasure canals for the purpose of amusement.

15,496.—Kamman and Kaszab. Targets.

SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

19,319.—Lütticke. Process for producing animated bioscope and mutoscope scenes by means of mechanically-constructed figures.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

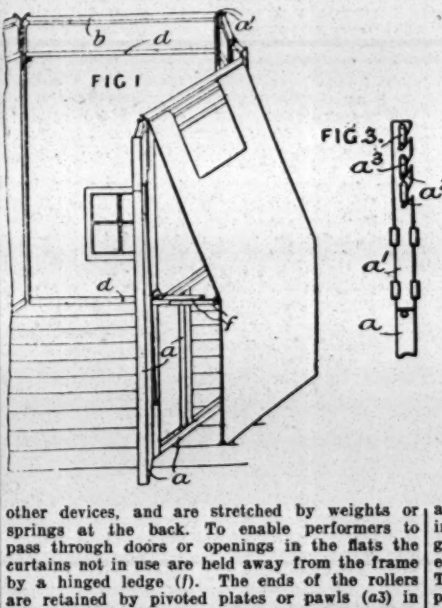
11,296.—Artificial snow man. Lindner, G., and Heyda, O., both of Frankfurt-on-the-Main.

An imitation snow man is made from papier-mâché or other material, and consists of separate body portions (*a*, *b*, *c*, *d*) adapted to be fitted together in known manner, each portion being

formed in halves secured together by button-hole fastenings (*e*). The head, hat, and, if desired, the arms, are so secured that they fall off easily when struck by a snowball-like or other missile.

11,410.—Theatrical scenery. Poole, G. W. S., of Weymouth.

Flats or sections (*a*) for constructing the insides of rooms, &c., are provided with additional change scene cloths or curtains (*c*), which can be pulled down over rollers (*b*) to represent different interiors without the necessity of changing the flats. The curtains are secured to the floor by eyes (*d*) or



other devices, and are stretched by weights or springs at the back. To enable performers to pass through doors or openings in the flats the curtains not in use are held away from the frame by a hinged ledge (*f*). The ends of the rollers are retained by pivoted plates or pawls (*a3*) in slots or bearings (*a2*) in detachable plates or extensions (*a1*), adapted to slide in guides at the upper ends of the flats. The flats are connected together by cleats and ropes in the usual manner.

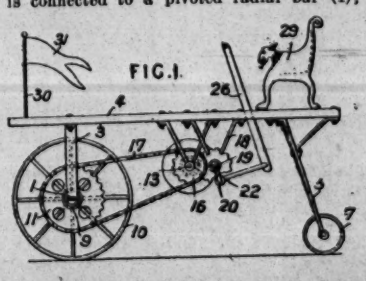
11,705.—Musical instruments, music. Michaelis, F., of London.

Instruments with sonorous strings; violins. Transverse divisions of distinctive colour are marked upon the finger-boards of violins and other

stringed instruments, in such a way that the marks may be readily removed. A transfer strip of the shape of the finger-board is employed to produce a series of white marks, as shown, the black spaces being the surface of the finger-board itself. Music notation. The notes to be played by fingering on the white spaces are indicated by a cross or otherwise.

11,720.—Roundabouts. Johnson, P. T., of Magnolia, Illinois, U.S.A.

A manual or pedal-operated roundabout consists of a platform (4), supported by a U-shaped frame (3), in which is mounted a wheel (10), and by rear hangers (5) carrying a wheel (7). The frame (3) is connected to a pivoted radial bar (17) or



the motion of the car is confined to a circular path by a rotating frame to which the platform (4) is connected. The car is driven by means of a lever (26), which is reciprocated in a slot in the platform, the lever being connected by a pitman (22) to a crank (20) on a shaft (19) mounted in hangers (18). The shaft (19) communicates motion to the wheel (10) by means of a sprocket-wheel (16) on a shaft (13) geared to the shaft (19), and a chain (17) which drives a wheel (11) integral with or connected to a hub (9) of the wheel (10). The hub (9) is mounted on a detachable axle in the lower part of the frame (3). The car is provided with a seat (29).

AMUSEMENT APPARATUS.—Yet another form of railway recreation apparatus has been invented, and this time the designer of same is Mr. Arthur G. Strathie, of Edinburgh. The apparatus consists of a "drum-shaped" frame, to the periphery of which there are fixed two rings or the like. These rings have flanges which serve as tyres to enable the frame to roll on the rails of the track. To the internal circumference of the frame are fixed two rails, on which an ordinary car can travel. The action of the apparatus is somewhat on these lines: The circular frame travels over the track by rolling on the rails, while at the same time an apparent rotary motion is imparted to the car as the frame rotates.

TETRAZZINI TRILLS FROM TREE-TOP.—Two American inventors have perfected a device for repeating talking-machine records by telephone. At a demonstration given, Caruso's voice came from a receiver hidden in a shrub, and Tetrazzini's trills from the top of a tall pine.

RECENT U.S. AMERICAN PATENT.—Mr. A. F. Biavati, of Freeport, N.Y., has provided a useful adjunct to these pleasure-giving appliances, amusement cars, and his particular purpose is to provide means for readily handling the cars employed. The invention comprises apparatus for lifting a car from one level to another, so as to bring the support of the car into registry with a railroad track, then tilting the supporting mechanism so as to cause the car to glide obliquely downward along the track.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS.—The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,000, £5,300, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd-George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents, and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

THE BEDFORD.

There is a long and varied programme at the Bedford this week, and in the three hours' performance there are many very entertaining items. One of the most interesting turns is that given by Mr. Alfred West, the well-known pianist, who plays with a delightful finish, and his "Patrol March" is keenly relished, as also are the other items from his répertoire. We shall look forward to hearing this accomplished musician again. The Florodoras appear in their lively comedy act, *Two's Company—Three's None*, which is most diverting, and replete with capital songs and dances. The business they introduce with a boy from the gallery, who joins them on the stage, is very whimsical, and causes the utmost amusement. Miss José Collins, who is also on the bill, makes a big hit with her song "My Cuban Girl," and her second number, "You're the boy," of a lighter description, is sung with great point. Miss Collins is a great favourite. On the occasion of our visit that diverting comedian Mr. Herbert Rule appeared as a deputy, and his song, "Little brown jug," fairly brought down the house. Mr. Rule also introduced a chorus song à la Wilkie Bard, which is cleverly worked, the interruption from the box being a highly amusing piece of business. The Lorrisons, in their laughable scena, keep the fun going merrily all the time they hold the stage. The male partner is extremly grotesque in his style, and has many droll gags. The Markies present a clever musical act, playing on glasses and bells, the solo on the bottles being both novel and tuneful.

Miss Florence Creagh and company present a dramatic sketch entitled *Daddy's Boy*, in which Miss Creagh gives a fine portrayal of the neglected wife. Mr. H. W. Hatchman is particularly good as the husband, who returns home to find that his baby is dead, and that his wife is planning to elope with his friend. Mr. Frederick Lloyd and Mr. C. H. Ash also lend valuable assistance. It is a striking little drama, played in the best style, and has a capital reception. Frank Sley and Nipper give a bright turn, the dancing of the Nipper being remarkable and creating great interest. The Belasco Trio are melodious male vocalists, who sing and play the piano. One of them gives a clever and neatly-executed wooden shoe dance, introducing some novel steps, their turn being greatly applauded. Minton and Moore appear early in the programme in a bright little scena. They are most entertaining, and introduce some pretty vocal numbers.

Mollie Seymour, described as the "musical comedy girl," sings a most lively song anent "Madrid," and also gives a violin solo, which meets with great approval and makes her most popular. Astley's American Circus, which also figures on the programme, provides a merry entertainment. During the week prizes are to be offered for those who can ride round the ring on the mule, pony, or revolving table. The efforts of the would-be prize-winners cause the utmost hilarity. An extra turn is given by a couple of young athletes, whose finished display of barrel-jumping is much applauded. Miss Botha, a charming comedienne, also appears; and the Biograph concludes this very long but interesting programme. Mr. Donald Brown has a strong bill for his patrons this week, and he and his chief, Mr. B. P. Lucas, deserve the excellent support they get.

MISS FREDA SHARLOTTE is putting on at the Empress, Brixton, next week, her new monologue, written especially for her by Paul Pelham, entitled *Is Life Worth Living?*

A NEW departure has been taken at the London Pavilion, where on Monday afternoon was given the first of a series of "Cinématinées." The word denotes, of course, matinées at which the staple of entertainment is animated photographs; indeed, the only other attraction is a gramophone. At these matinées, which are announced for all week days except Saturdays, smoking is prohibited and the charges much reduced, the dearest seats being half a crown.

ERNEST GIBBS, 28, described as a costermonger, of Clerkenwell, was charged with exposing and offering for sale thirty-five copies of pirated music at Ferndale-road, Brixton, on Saturday evening. When taken into custody by Police-constable Terry, 395W, the prisoner said that the music had been given to him to sell by a man whom he casually met. He did not know, he said, what was meant by pirated music. A representative of the Music Publishers' Association told the magistrate that the prisoner was a man for whom they had been looking for some time, but the prisoner asserted that that could not be so, as he only came from Nottingham on Saturday. Mr. Hopkins ordered the prisoner to pay a fine of £5, and made an order for the destruction of the music.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are:—Bakewell, on the Midland; Bedford, on the London and and North-Western and Midland; Barkerend Feast; Burley-in-Wharfedale, on the Midland and North-Eastern; Caister (Lincs), on the Great Central; Cirencester, on the Great Western and Midland and South-Western Junction; Fazeley, on the Midland; Great Grimsby, on the Great Central and Great Northern; Henley-in-Arden, on the Great Western; Ilmington, on the Great Western; Needham Market, on the Great Eastern; Sherborne, on the London and South-Western; Southam, on the London and North-Western; St. Ives (Hunts), on the Midland and Great Eastern; St. Just (Cornwall), on the Great Western; Stratford-on-Avon, on the Great Western and East and West Junction; Warwick, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Ashton-in-Makerfield, on the London and North-Western; Hockley Heath, on the Great Western; Kingsclere, on the Great Western and London and South-Western; Shipston-on-Stour, on the Great Western; Axminster, on the London and South-Western; Colne, on the Midland and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Daventry, on the London and North-Western; Newbury, on the Great Western; Tavistock, on the Great Western and London and South-Western; Worksop, on the Great Central and Midland; Evesham, on the Great Western and Midland; Hereford, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Banbury, on the London and North-Western and Great Western; Buckingham, on the London and North-Western; Clown, on the Midland; Farnsfield, on the Midland; Ivinghoe, on the London and North-Western; Maidstone, on the South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover; Marlborough, on the Great Western and Midland and South-Western Junction; Wantage, on the Great Western; Alyth, on the Caledonian; Dundee, on the Caledonian, North British, and Dundee and Arbroath Joint; Forfar, on the Caledonian; Hamilton, on the Caledonian and North British; and Stirling, on the Caledonian and North British Railways.

Peterborough October Fair.

The ancient cathedral city of Peterborough rejoices in two pleasure fairs annually. The principal one of these is locally known as "the Bridge Fair." It is held on the meadow-land on the south side of Peterborough Bridge, hence its name—Bridge Fair.

The date of this fair coincides with Nottingham, and, for that reason, amongst others, it is very largely in the hands of the showmen who travel the East Anglian round. Messrs. Thurston and Sons and Barker and Thurston, and the providers of minor novelties who follow the banner of these greater showmen, maintain the fair.

The principal concerns included the fine cinematograph theatre of Messrs. Thurston and the superb modern machine sets, including motor-cars, switchback gondola, galloping horses, helter-skelter towers, and other machine and show novelties. There were overboats, high-fliers, shooting galleries, variety and penalty frames, and hoopla circles in abundance, altogether making one of the best fairs held in the city for many years past.

Swindon Fair.

As usual, this fair was mainly provided by the local caterers, Jennings Brothers, who displayed steam horses, shooting galleries, and throwing games. There were no shows, and the limitation of the entertainments to the well-known concerns of the local showmen does not tend to increase the interest in the fair, or to maintain its popularity.

The Showmen's Guild at Hull Fair.

In accordance with long-established custom, the annual meeting for the North of England members of the Showmen's Guild will be held at Hull Fair on Sunday next. It is hoped that the Mayor of Hull will occupy the chair at the afternoon meeting, timed for three o'clock on the fair ground. There will be a second gathering in the evening. This will take the form of the Guild service, and will be open to both show people and the general public.

Retford Fair.

For this fair Messrs. Tuby and Sons provided the principal attractions. These included the Coliseum of animated pictures, the motor-car set, the steam swings, park swings, and Winchester range. The other concerns were Johnson's varieties, Hunt's rifle saloons, and throwing games, stalls, &c., by Messrs. Illingworth, Gellett, Duck, Harris, and local traders. An interesting feature of this fair was the showmen's service, held in Messrs. Tuby's Coliseum on the Sunday. Nearly two thousand persons took part in the service, which was conducted throughout by the vicar of Retford, the Rev. Canon Mumford. The hymn-singing was sustained by the "Stella" band, a local organisation of eighteen instrumentalists. The vicar has kindly consented to act as honorary local chaplain to the Showmen's Guild.

Guild subscription, 1908:—Mr. Bleackley, hon. member, Bury, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Bernard Hill, 5s.

Picturesque Hiring-fair.

Various quaint features characterised the old-fashioned Michaelmas hiring-fair at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. It is one of the very few fairs which are still held under the old conditions, and it continues to attract large numbers of agriculturists and labourers from different parts of Bucks, Berks, and Oxon. Many of the servants who assembled in the neighbourhood of the ancient Guildhall were picturesquely decorated for the occasion. Some wore huge button-holes, while others displayed distinctive emblems of their callings. Waggoners, for instance, displayed pieces of whipcord, shepherds tufts of wool, and ploughmen plaited horsehair. There was a good deal of animation about mid-day, when the major part of the hiring took place. Large numbers of the men make a rule of changing their situations at Michaelmas, and consequently there was a good supply of hands. Terms of remuneration did not show much alteration as compared with the rates prevailing twelve months ago. The pleasure portion of the fair, formerly held in the public streets, was once more relegated to a meadow in the vicinity of the town, and thousands of people were present from the countryside.

Elland Wakes.

For this village festival the following shows, machines, &c., were present:—Hitchen's Premier Picture Exhibition, with up-to-date films cleverly operated by J. Humphries, Hitchen's electric jumping horses; Seibon's flying airships, and Reynolds's motor-cars and bottle battery.

Woodstock Bower.

This celebrated fair was held under favourable conditions. The entertainments were Wilson's cinematograph theatre, Ayres's steam horses, Buckland's steam roundabouts, and the usual addenda of minor amusements.

Burton-on-Trent Hirings.

For the fair here the usual big crowd of high-class concerns foregathered:—Dr. Lawrence's cinematograph theatre, and the two similar shows of Messrs. A. Twigdon and A. Proctor, P. Collins's motor-cars, Mrs. Weir's steam horses, shooter, and games, Smart's shooting range and throwing games. The amusement caterers were Messrs. Charlton, Blond, Mercer, Proctor, James, Westrop, and others.

NOTTINGHAM GOOSE FAIR.

Every year when the great National Carnival comes round, for, indeed, Nottingham Fair is more than local and is truly a national event, there is always a breezy discussion in the Nottingham Press with regard to the wisdom or otherwise of continuing the fair. Some would-be reformer, with a daring pen, enters the lists to have a tilt at the fair. This year the usual battle of the pens has taken place. The would-be demolisher of "Goose" Fair expressed himself in the following terms:

"It is a singular thing that for three days in the year a large bulk of the community should be reduced to the level of, and rejoice in the amusements suitable to, the inmates of a lunatic asylum, and yet in our much-lauded city this is what really happens. There is no solid argument to be adduced in its favour, and yet year after year traffic is dislocated, trade upset, the centre of the city turned into a chaos for the solo purpose of serving up idiotic and trivial amusements to a section of the community who, at any rate for the time being, have lost their heads. Just after last Goose Fair I was talking to the son of a well-known and prominent Nottingham gentleman, and this worthy gave utterance to the following pithy sentence, 'You want to be half boozed to enjoy the fair.' He admitted that if you were in full possesion of your faculties the affair was a nuisance, and to thoroughly enter into its joys the less sense and reason you had the better. I quite agreed with the young gentleman.

"There is something to be said for the country 'wakes' and 'feasts'; there is a certain element of old-world romance about them, and they are held in healthy open spaces; but a huge, tawdry saturnalia in the centre of a busy town has nothing to recommend it. Never was a fair more aptly named. If the silly babies of Nottingham cannot do without their painted rattle let (as you suggest) the nursery be removed to Bulwell Forest. It will be well ventilated, and the city will be rid of an intolerable nuisance. Bulwellites and the golfers would welcome it with open arms, and the sensible residue of the population could, as far as sight and sound go, remain in happy ignorance of the fact that within a mile or two a considerable portion of their fellow-citizens were performing antics that would cause a respectable savage to gaze in wonder and astonishment."

The Local Defence of the Fair.

In answer to this tirade, the Editor of the *Nottingham Daily Express* thus replies: "Year by year as the fair comes round, it is attacked and voted a nuisance by a number of people; and the opinion is expressed that it is out of place in these enlightened days and ought to be abolished. But threatened men live long, and the old fair, although often assailed, still flourishes.

"It is too deeply rooted in the affections of the majority of Nottingham people to be lightly disturbed; and its continued popularity is seen in the great crowds which it attracts not only from the city itself, but from a wide radius outside. It is a time for family reunions, for natives of Nottingham who have left the city make a point of returning home for the fair. That it is an important date in the local calendar is evidenced by the frequency with which people say that 'such and such an event' happened just before or after Goose Fair, as the case may be. For the children the annual festival with its shows and wealth of toys is a delightful time—to be anticipated with pleasure for days beforehand and talked about for days afterward. It does one good to see how whole-heartedly the youngsters enjoy themselves. Many even among the 'grown-ups' are not averse to throwing off the usual restraint and participating in 'the fun of the fair'; and it is a joyful sight to see some staid citizen bestriding a fiery steed on a whirling roundabout. Possibly some of those who grumble at the fair find themselves at one time or other during the three days drawn into its vortex, and discover that they can, after all, have a good time."

For our own part, we have always maintained that the so-called defect of its quality, i.e., being held in the centre of a great city, is the greatest argument for its continuance and the greatest source of its abiding popularity. We hold the opinion that it is a good thing for a great trade or commercial centre to be obliged at least once a year to give itself up to other things and other enterprises than the sordid pleasure of money-grubbing; that it speaks volumes for the sanity, health, and prosperity of a great industrial centre, when trade and commerce, by the force of universal consent, is held up for a time that the workers may go out and play.

Examples of this kind are all too rare, and it is to the credit of great industrial communities like Oldham, Nottingham, Hull, and Gloucester that the municipalities recognise this necessity for surcease from toil for the workers, and co-operate with the people's amusement providers—the itinerant showmen—to make and to hold a fair that embodies all the best traditions of the past and all the improvements of the present.

The Fair, Past and Present.

'Twas Goose Fair cracked the merriest "wheeze,"
Where Babel's babble filled the breeze;
Glad Goose Fair's gambols oft would cheer
The country-side through half the year.

The title "Goose Fair," now almost universally given to Nottingham's historic pleasure fair, cannot be traced back more than four hundred years, and it is undoubtedly owing to the fact that large numbers of geese were driven there for sale from the stubble land of Nottinghamshire and from the Fen-land of both Lincoln and Cambridge. The first appearance of the words "Goose Fair" is in "The Nottingham Records," under date 1541, and runs as follows: "Particulars of the Chamberlain's Expenditure. Item, we demand allowans for xxij stalles yat the Sheryffes had on Gose Fair dey."

There are also some interesting records of a later date, as the following in 1634: "Scarlett gownes to walk the fayre. This companie are agreed that all the Aldermen and Cloathinge (livery) shall wayte on Maister Maior to walke the fayre on Saint Matthewes daye nexte, in their scarlet gownes; and this order, for the grace of the towne, to have contynewance for ever."

Of course, it goes without saying that the makers of history whose fertile imagination scorns the base alloy of actual fact have woven around Goose Fair many pretty stories, and one of them is worth repeating. "There was once upon a time a certain college don who was so dissatisfied with his experience of married life that he determined his only child, a boy, who had been motherless from infancy, should be kept from ever seeing (until his wisdom tooth was fully grown) deceitful womankind. When this period of safety had been reached the father took the full-fledged man to the fair, and instead of being utterly absorbed by the shows and other attractions of the fair, he was entirely amazed and overwhelmed with the charm and beauty of the women of Nottingham. The father and the son (according to the old ballad) have this dialogue. The youth says, as he gazed upon the beauties of Nottingham:—

"Oh, father! what are these?"
"Birds," said the Don, "they call them Geese!"
"Sweet, charming birds!" exclaimed the lad,
"If I had one I *should* be glad!
But see, they don't attempt to fly!
I'll go and catch one, father, should I?
We'll take it with us to our cell,
And I'll be bound to treat it well!"

George Hickling (the venerable poet of Cotgrave), in one of his local rhymes, thus described the fair of fifty years ago:—

We pass the Trent "bridges" and enter the town,
And straightway we haste to that place of renown—
The centre of tumult—the great market square,
With which in all England there's none can compare.

And thus soon warms to his subject:—

There's Wombwell's menagerie and Holloway's stage,
And all the most wonderful things of the age:
Fat pigs and fat children in plenty are there—
Descriptions of giants and of dwarfs rend the air.
Then there's Indian wars and Waterloo's battle,
Engagements in China and wonderful cattle;
There's "grand exhibitions" and high learned ponies,
And hares which perform, and astonishing conies;
Here your portrait is taken, and here you are weighed,
And here try your strength if a penny be paid.
"Tom-fools" and fine actors in glittering array
Exhibit their tinsel in beams of the day;
Then you see "Punch and Judy" at the turn of the street,
And jugglers and tumblers in plenty you meet.
Here's monkeys and donkeys, and animals funny,
And birds of fine plumage from lands which are sunny;
Here's an elephant huge that can "stand on his head,"
And a man eating fire as if it were bread.

Then down the bazaars we elbow our way,
And gaze on the gorgeous, the tempting display:
There's gingerbread husbands and gingerbread wives,
And fourpenny trumpets and sixpenny knives.

Its Increasing Popularity.

Probably nowhere else in the wide, wide world is the annual fair so great and all-absorbing an institution as it is at Nottingham. The official figures supplied by the Corporation will give some indication of the business importance to show-people and fair-ground traders of this immensely popular fair. Over 300 standings have been let for shows of all kinds, riding machines in endless variety throwing games, bazaars, pannum stalls, and the other numberless amusements of a popular fair.

The revenue to the city funds in tolls amounts to £1,500.

For three whole days the town is given over to the display and to the whole-hearted enjoyment of the fair. The vast area of the city market and various spaces in side streets are completely covered with the shows and other amusements provided by the enterprising itinerant entertainers. Traversing the heart of the town from east to west, from north to south, you make your way through long avennes and streets of stalls, and these in many instances are the enterprises of the shopkeepers, before whose very doors the stalls are erected. For the time being Cheapside, Long-row, Chapel Bar, Angel-row, South-parade, and Exchange-row are lined with the stalls of both travelling and permanent traders. As your train empties itself into the station you are immediately carried along in the great stream of your fellow-travellers, who have journeyed from all parts of England to Nottingham Goose Fair. At once you feel the power and attraction of the fair. Your pulse beats to the music and joy of it, and you find yourself speedily on the fair-ground and in the full swing and glorious abandonment of England's greatest open-air carnival.

The Pilgrims of the Fair.

All the great Trunk lines ran specials for the fair days. The Midland brought people from Leeds, Bradford, and the Yorkshire towns served by their system—Manchester, Liverpool, and the Lancashire area, the Derbyshire towns, and from Birmingham, Walsall, and Wolverhampton, Peterborough, King's Lynn, Stamford, Bristol, Cheltenham, and Gloucester, St. Albans, Luton, and Kettering, Bedford, Wellingborough, and Northampton, Lincoln, Newark, Leicester, Loughborough, Chesterfield, and Sheffield. The Great Central Railway had an excellent service of specials on their line, including the direct London to Nottingham, from Liverpool, Manchester, and big towns on their routes, with Cleethorpes, Hull, and the Eastern coast towns. From Sheffield and other Yorkshire towns the G.C. had to considerably strengthen their ordinary trains, and also ran a few trains in duplicate. The Great Northern Railway Company also brought crowds of sightseers from their territory. Special and strengthened ordinary trains from Hitchin, Peterborough, and Grantham; Luton, Hertford, and Bottesford; Louth and Horncastle; Boston, Billingborough, and Sleaford; Lynn, Holbeach, and Spalding; Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and Walsall; Halifax, Bradford, Leeds, Batley, and Wakefield; St. Ives and March; Yarmouth, Ipswich, and Lynn.

Another significant fact for the people eager to chant the requiem of popular fairs is that thousands more excursionists than last year's big total came into Nottingham to keep Goose Fair.

The Shows and Big Machine Novelties.

On the vast market square, where the fair is held, you may enjoy all the delights of a British fair under the very best conditions. Here are huge concerns of every kind, designed by the art of man for the delight of his fellows, each one a marvel in its own peculiar feature of attractiveness; you may ride electric motor-cars, circling round a fixed track that gives you all the exhilarating excitement of up hill and down dale rapid speeding without any of the attendant dangers of the way.

If your fancy flies high, you may be wheeled and whirled through the air in Japanese ships, whose astounding vagaries of motion test the courage and enterprise of the daring voyageur. You may career round the racecourse on galloping horses, you may feed your fancy full by riding a long-limbed ostrich in a Kaffir circus, or you may imagine yourself sweetly gliding on the waterways and lagoons of Venice in your own electric-driven gondola. If you are of a bucolic temperament you may ride your own racing cockerel, farmyard rooster, or rollicking porker, and last (if you like it so) you may enjoy a trip in a Chinese junk, or be carried skyward in steam yachts or airships. When you have fully enjoyed all these (or any of these) you may patronise England's premier menagerie—Wombwell's—or any of, or, better still, all of, the cinematograph theatres, each one the best of its kind and each different to the others. But what pen can describe this group of big shows, when we say that it includes such experts of the fair-ground as George Kemp, T. Payne, E. Lawrence, J. Proctor, A. Twigdon, and Mrs. F. Collins.

Freak shows are not allowed at the fair, but side shows of an attractive character are accommodated as far as space permits.

The machine novelties were provided by Messrs. P. and J. Collins, J. Whiting, A. Twigdon, Relph and Pedley, Holdsworth, A. C. Beech, Green, Hall, and Proctor, and others.

The photographic concerns were those of Messrs. J. Caddick and C. Warwick; and amongst the stallholders were W. Jennings, H. Sharp, the Brothers Warwick, and Mesdames Mulhearn, James, and Hall.

An application was made on Monday at Lambeth for a licence to enable a tiny little chap, said to be 13½ years of age, to appear at the Empire, Camberwell. The child had to be placed upon the solicitors' table for the magistrate to see him. His birth certificate was produced, and it was stated that he was exempt from school attendance, having passed the seventh standard. The Magistrate: Is he to look as old as possible or as young as possible? The Manager: As young as possible. The Magistrate: Then he will succeed. The licence was granted.

LONDON PAVILION "CINE-MATINEE."

"Cinematinée" is the name for a special kind of entertainment, which was inaugurated on Monday afternoon at the London Pavilion, and which it is proposed to continue every afternoon, Saturdays excepted. The programmes are to consist of exhibitions of Cinema animated pictures, produced with original effects, singing and talking pictures illustrated from current events of interest, specially taken for the purpose exclusively for the London Pavilion. The Gramophone Company has installed a new and elaborate instrument which, we are told, electrically reproduces the voices of the world's most famous singers. Thus, on Monday afternoon, the audience enjoyed the treat of hearing Mr. Harry Lauder singing "I love a lassie," and La Tortajada in "La Creola," both being at the same time pictorially represented on the screen with all the animation associated with their actual performances.

One of the most effective of the pictures shown bore the title, The Life and Death of Mary Stuart. This beautifully highly-cloloured hand-painted film had been secured specially for the London Pavilion, illustrating in a series of magnificent views the life and death of one of Scotland's foremost historical characters. So wonderfully are the scenes portrayed, the capture and escape of the ill-fated lady, her imprisonment, her trial, and, finally, her execution, that one can readily imagine the scene was actually taken at the period of the incidents depicted. The picture is historically correct, the various characters being portrayed by some of the greatest actors and actresses in France. The film itself cost many hundreds of pounds to produce, and is perhaps the most costly film that has ever been exhibited. How the Coster Sold the Seeds tells an amusing story. An enterprising coster tries to sell his seeds in the village, the inhabitants of which are ardent gardeners. He fails to impress them, and hands a good lot over to one man, saying that if they do not produce a record growth he will return the money. In the dead of the night he steals out to the patch where the seeds have been sown, puts in a number of young trees, bushes, and plants. Next morning, to the astonishment of the village, the seeds have grown. Our coster passes through again, and sells out his whole stock of seeds in a very short time.

Prospecting for Gold is of educational and topical interest. It is not often we have such a combination which at once appeals to every section of the community. Photographically, the film is as near perfection as could be desired. The atmospheric conditions in Egypt assisted Mr. H. S. Brown, the operator, who accompanied the expedition, and he has shown great ability in focusing the scenes to the best advantage. The procession of camels and men leaving Assuan makes a good start and we get a splendid panorama of scenery until the first stop, which shows the process of revictualling and overhauling the various loads. Incidents such as tracing a lost camel, the crossing of the desert, and the arrival at the camp, make interesting features of the journey. The work at the prospecting shaft seems primitive, but gives a perfect demonstration of the methods adopted to procure the precious metal. One of the most novel scenes is that of men drilling at the bottom of the shaft preparatory to blasting. The lighting of this section and the movements of the natives is particularly realistic. The crushing and panning show the slow process of obtaining the gold, and make a splendid finish.

Children of the East consists of a series of remarkable studies of Indian life and character. The camera first takes us to a typical Hindi village fair, where amusements of all kinds are in progress. We are introduced to frolicsome maidens who indulge in a variety of native dances, acrobats who perform fearsome feats of strength and daring, snake-charmers, war-dancers, and various other Oriental people. Then we get some highly interesting pictures of a herd of gigantic elephants—not the little twopenny-halfpenny elephants that we are accustomed to at English circuses, but real Indian monsters. The series terminates with some interesting and amusing scenes of domestic life amongst the ebony-hued children of the East.

In a Stone Quarry is a new Italian film which is one of the finest examples of high-class beautiful photography that has ever been produced in Italy, where it recently made a great sensation. Briefly, the story is of the adventures of a young journeyman who comes to a stone quarry seeking employment. He meets and falls in love with his employer's daughter and thus arouses the ire and anger of the superintendent, who also seeks the maiden's hand, but unsuccessfully. The superintendent, when he discovers that the maiden reciprocates the journeyman's love, forces a quarrel upon him, but their fellow-workmen separate them. A message arrives, instructing the foreman to proceed to inspect a stone quarry and to take a workman with him. He chooses the journeyman, planning a crafty scheme of revenge. Arriving at the quarry he forces the journeyman to descend a very dangerous shaft that he himself is afraid to descend. The journeyman descends, while the treacherous superintendent above cuts the rope to hurl him to his death. His escape from death, thrilling rescue, and the announcement of his betrothal to the owner's daughter complete a wonderful picture.

Nick Carter.—Nick Carter, the hero, proves himself to be a veritable tracker of criminals. The story deals with the adventures of a doctor, newly married, and wealthy, who is induced by an old hag to accompany her to a so-called "bad case." When the doctor arrives at the house—which proves to be a thieves' abode—he is seized, bound, and gagged. The thieves try to make him sign a document giving up his money to them. This, naturally, he refuses to do, and they resort to torture. In the meantime, the distracted wife, feeling something is wrong, seeks the service of Nick Carter. He disguises himself cleverly as the old hag, and, with two assistants, goes to the house where the doctor is imprisoned. He quite gulls the malefactors, and succeeds in freeing the doctor and capturing the gang.

Among other pictures exhibited are a comical subject, New Laid Eggs; a dramatic film, The Man in Overalls; and The Lady and the Lions.

The White City, Old Trafford.

This beautiful amusement park closed its second season on the 3rd inst., on which day the grounds were crowded—all the shows working at full pressure—giving the management further encouragement in their intention to open next spring with extra attractions.

Meantime the magnificent ballroom continues to be open under the direction of Mr. Tom Walton, and the popular skating rink also remains open daily during the winter under the management of Mr. L. C. Everett.

There is plenty of evidence to show that these grounds are fast growing in popularity, and that such entertainments as are provided there are to the taste of this rapidly-growing district.

It is claimed by the management that the "attendance this year ran enormously ahead of last year," and the experience of the working of the various shows enables a proper selection of the most popular for next season.

Now ready. Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906. Effect on theatres and music halls. By Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor. Price 6d. Published at *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Sept. 1.—Mr. J. C. Williamson has made two changes during the week. At Her Majesty's Miss Margaret Anglin finished a brilliant season and left for Melbourne, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* occupying the stage on the following night. In this dramatisation of the popular story the acute up-country American flavour is given by a company of imported artists, all perfect experts in the simple life depicted by the authors. Miss Ada Dwyer has the name-part, and nothing could possibly excel her deft handling of the "star optimist." The ingénue, Lovey Mary, falls to the lot of Miss Lottie Alter, a wise appropriation. The mature bride-to-be and wife, Miss Hazy, is Miss Helen Lowell's portion, and from her first entrance she is intensely amusing;; the vinegar-souled Mrs. Eichorn has Miss Helen Raymond as her bitter-tongued exponent; and our old favourite, Miss Jennie Reiffarth, depicts Mrs. Schultz as a ponderous German. Mr. John F. Webber gives a fine character-portrait of Mr. Stubbins. Mr. Wiggs has full justice done him by Mr. G. Bryant; and Mr. Joseph W. Smiley doubles the parts of Deputy Sheriff and stage-director. Miss Helene Raymond is Miss Lucy; and a host of other people play the parts allotted to them in London and America. The play is produced by arrangement with Liebler and Co., of New York, with Mr. Fred Meek as the firm's representative. Mr. J. C. Williamson has staged the idyll excellently well.

At the Theatre Royal, managed by Mr. Edward H. Major, *The Red Mill* is replaced by *Peter Pan*, with Miss Tittell Brune as Peter. Mr. Williamson has given us some beautiful scenery. Mr. Loring Fernie is Mr. Darling and the Pirate Captain; Mr. Edwin Lester gives a correct portrait of a Redskin Chief; with Miss Adele Kelly as the amorous Tiger Lily. Misses Rosie Fitzgerald, Ethel Phillips, and Florence Kelly, and Messrs. Phil Curtis, Fred Cambourne, and Maurice Dudley are in the cast; and Mr. Charles H. Weston gives a clever representation of the dog, Nana. Mr. L. B. Carleton directs, Mr. Maurice Dudley stage-manages, and Mr. George Leopold conducts the orchestra.

The Tivoli has a capital story-teller in Mr. Ted Kalman, a real reviver after a weary day at business. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Meymott are a distinct success in their sketches. Mr. Meymott's father was a Sydney judge. Mr. Frank Rae, who has a phenomenal soprano voice, has "caught on" most firmly; Miss Nita Leete, an ever-welcome soprano, is always worth listening to; and Miss Mignonette Kokin is in her last week. The Miles-Stavordale Quintette, Austin Rudd, Galette's dogs and baboons; and Regan and Ryan are only a few of those engaged by Mr. Harry Rickards to delight his patrons.

West's Pictures had to vacate the Palace Theatre owing to its being otherwise appropriated, and will now be shown at the Town Hall on Saturday nights only.

The Bijou Picture Palace, erected opposite the Central railway station, was opened on the 29th with a fine series of biograph views. Mr. J. F. Gavin is the manager.

ROYAL ALBERT LICENCE.

Mr. H. H. Bodkin (instructed by Mr. James Turner) applied on Tuesday to the West Ham Town Council for the renewal of a music and dancing and stage-plays licence to Mr. Arthur Edward Green, of the Royal Albert Music Hall, Canning Town. Counsel said that last year the licence was held by a Mr. Hunt, but there were then difficulties which led to Mr. Hunt closing the house, and a few days before the renewal sessions the Judge of the Court of Chancery appointed Mr. A. E. Green as receiver and manager. The application for renewal of the licence to Mr. Green was made, and contemporaneously Mr. W. Maddams, the freeholder, put forward plans to alter and enlarge the hall. These were approved by the committee of the Council, which on Oct. 1 last year renewed the licence to Mr. Green on condition that the plans should be adhered to and the building carried out within eight months, and that no drinking-bars be provided in the auditorium.

The reason of the closing of the house by Mr. Hunt was that a considerable sum of money was needed to be spent on the house—about £1,000 for exits—and as the hall was a small one, the Council would appreciate that it would be overloaded with capital expenditure. Mr. Maddams, having this in view, prepared the plans which the Council's committee adopted, but he (Mr. Bodkin) was there now to say that that scheme had fallen through.

Mr. Maddams, who was seventy-six years of age, had been in negotiation with a Mr. Underwood to transfer his interests to a person who would have the capital and the business experience to carry on an undertaking of this kind, but those negotiations fell through. From time to time after that until this very week other negotiations had been going on between Mr. Maddams and various other people to carry out the scheme which the Council sanctioned last year, and now he was in a position to state that a firm and absolute contract had been entered into to take over the property and to let it for ninety-nine years. The deposit had been paid, all the parties were at one, and Mr. Maddams had acquired property at a cost of some thousands of pounds to make the necessary exits.

The plans being approved, there would be started immediately the process of taking over the interior of the hall and to fit it with the decorations (now lying in the hall) which had been taken from Mrs. Langtry's theatre (the Imperial) in London. The stage would be widened 10ft., and when the whole work was done West Ham would have the most beautiful music hall in the metropolitan district.

They had got a firm contract with Universal Amusement, Ltd., who would provide about half the capital, while Mr. Maddams would provide the remainder and also the land required. The hall would cost from £10,000 to £12,000, and he felt sure the Council would give very careful consideration to the application. The Council, after a sitting in camera about three-quarters of an hour, announced that the further consideration of the application would be adjourned for three weeks.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I quite agree with "Music Hall Manager" that no magistrate should be allowed to refuse a child a licence when the child's health is certified good and well cared for, and accompanied by a responsible person. To obtain a licence the Act (Employment of Children in places of amusement) demands certain formalities, and if these are furnished and it is shown that all the requirements of the law are in order, then I think it is poor law that permits a magistrate to refuse the licence for no apparent or expressed reason. The early stage experience, so well spoken of by Miss Ellen Terry and other well-known stars, is evidently to become a thing of the past, and the "academy artist" will replace the "natural artist," who got to the front by merit, not money.
—Yours faithfully, MANAGER.
Balham, S.W., Oct. 8, 1908.

The Munich Wagner performances, it is said, have resulted in a deficit of about £5,000, in addition to which the municipality had paid a subvention of £3,000 in advance.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

A Virtuous Young Man.—This film gives us several comical scenes. A young fellow from the country arrives in the city with a note from his father to an old friend, in which the parent states that the youth is about to be married, and as he is far from being up in the ways of the world, desires to have him remain in town for a while and learn something of city ways. When the young man, who is an awkward, supercilious individual, arrives at the home of the friend, he is received very cordially by the man and his charming wife. The young fellow shows at once that he has a very keen eye for beauty and is strongly impressed with his hostess. In the next picture we see the host taking the young fellow out to show him the sights. They arrive at a café and are enjoying some refreshments, when two pretty girls at the next table carry on a flirtation with him, but the youth is too timid to make any advances, so finally the girls take sole possession of him, and lead him away from his friend. He escapes, but they pursue him and overtake him sitting on a bench in the park, and after relieving him of his watch and money they let him trot along. He hurries back to the home of his friend, and finds the wife alone, and she, being rather attracted by his demure and winning ways, makes him sit on the couch with her, and soon they are having a very pretty little love scene, when, to their horror, in walks the enraged husband. He immediately proceeds to give his guest a good beating. After kicking him all over the house, he sits down and writes a note to his father, telling him that he is returning his son after one day's stay in town, for he has graduated with honours, and could even give him points now. He then starts the young man on his way home with a kick.

Aunt Sally's Outing.—At the fair the showman puts up his marionettes, with their red and smiling faces, and drops off to sleep. Being careful that he should not wake up while they are jumping over the counter, those grimacing figures mean to have an outing, and a good time at that. They all go together, huddled in a heap, for they are afraid of losing their way, and all the people in the fair look at them in mild surprise. First they go to the cinematograph show and the wooden bride amuses itself so much that it nearly goes over the balcony in front, while the bridegroom and the best man do their best to keep it back. Afterwards the whole party has a try at tobogganing, and some of them challenge the athletes and weight-lifters. After trying their skill at a neighbouring Aunt Sally show, the puppets come back to the booth and take their respective places again. The showman wakes up, rubs his eyes, and sees that all his little people are there, and he is pleased to know that no one is missing.

Impossible to Lunch.—The Openair family have been thinking for a long time about having a right good time in the country and a lunch on the grass. On a fine morning they start very early, laden with victuals. They spread out their eatables on the lawn just outside a large manufacturing town, and are happy in the anticipation of a whole day in the fresh air. The keeper comes up and politely orders them to withdraw from the privately-owned property which they had thought was the common. Of course, they have to pack up again and depart. This time they take a table outside a restaurant, but a cyclist running right into them upsets them and their belongings. The Openair family gather up the remainder of their goods and chattels and this time take possession of an abandoned hut in the wood, but a tramp, on lighting his pipe, sets fire to the dry grass outside, and in a few minutes the poor people inside the hut have to struggle for their lives out of the smoke and fire. They think that they will be safe in a small boat to finish their lunch; but a sailing boat makes for them, and in no time their small craft is cut in two by the larger vessel. Wet, tired, untidy, hungry, &c., the members of the Openair family come home, and swear never to attempt such an impossible thing as enjoying a day in the country again.

A Sicilian's Revenge.—It is amongst the magnificent scenery of the wild and imposing mountains of Sicily that we must go now to see two fishermen, Peppo and Matteo, courting pretty Marcita. But as the girl decides in favour of Peppo her rejected suitor thinks he has been slighted, and he follows Marcita when she goes to see her lover, and the moment she is alone he jumps forward and kidnaps her. Attracted by the noise, Peppo comes back, and sees a heavy cart disappearing round a corner of the road. He runs distractedly to the house of his beloved, and in a few words acquaints her father with the fact; then, taking short cuts, they soon overtake the cart, which they take by storm. Whilst the old man cuts the ropes which bind his daughter, Peppo has a hand-to-hand fight with Matteo; but Marcita, when free, slips behind the latter, and stabs him with her dagger.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

Mr. Wilbur Wright's Aeroplane Flights.—By arrangement with Mr. Wilbur Wright, the celebrated aeroplanist, the Urban Company has obtained the exclusive right for kinematographic reproduction of his very interesting flights at Camp d'Auvours, near Le Mans—a most unique film, representing the Wright aeroplane in all its aspects, suspended, at rest, and in full flight. These views were not taken surreptitiously, but under the most favourable conditions, and from the best points of view, giving, consequently, perfect results.

The order of the pictures shows the Wright aeroplane emerging from its shed, the airship wheeled on a trolley to Camp d'Auvours, Mr. Wilbur Wright examining and testing the motor, a close view of the airship, its propelling gear, and its inventor, and a capital portrait of Mr. Wright as he makes ready for flight. Then we witness the start. There is a swift run along the rail, a slight ascent, and a dash into the distance at the rate of forty miles an hour. The airship now takes wide circles, soaring over the tops of trees, turning with the ease and grace of a bird, and answering to every touch of the guiding hand. A close view of the aeroplane in flight is afforded as Mr. Wright steers direct for the camera, and the descent is accomplished with equal ease and grace. The concluding scene depicts the aeroplane being towed back by motor to its hall.

The Balkan States and Bulgaria.—For some time past the Urban Trading Company has been engaged upon pictures of the Balkan States—a new issue, of course—and these are now completed and ready for exhibition at a most opportune time, when the eyes of the whole world are centred upon what is happening in the Near East. The first series depicts the Bulgarian Army in being, and presents a spirited display of all arms of the service. The second shows the disputed Oriental railway, the original cause of the present trouble, and affords panoramic views of Tirnova, the ancient capital of Bulgaria. The third section deals comprehensively with Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Dalmatia, the States recently annexed by the Austrian Government. The habits and customs of the people and the picturesque scenery of the different neighbourhoods are fully illustrated in this delightful series, which should enjoy a wide popularity.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

Wifey's Strategy.—It is breakfast time, and the first quarrel is caused between the loving couple by the wife's attempts at biscuit-baking. To prove the impossibility of eating the biscuit the husband breaks a plate. The upshot is that before leaving for business he threatens to engage a cook. Being a clever amateur, wifey decides not to be outdone, so, getting the address of a servants' agency, she plots with the manager to score one. Disguised as a Swedish servant, she is interviewed by her husband, who has just gone through exciting adventures with cooks of all nations—pugilistic and otherwise—and, after exchanging references, she is engaged. In accordance with arrangements, the new cook is met by hubby, who gets her home after a hard tussle with her numerous goods and chattels. Upon arrival home he finds a note left by his wife, saying: "Have tried to please, but it seems hopeless. I won't stay with another woman in the house. Gone to mother's." The receipt of this loving epistle so unnerves the poor man that he immediately goes to drown his sorrows in drink. Cook follows the example set, with the result that, when ordered to clear the table, she gets slightly confused, turning dishes, ornaments, bric-à brac, &c., into the dishpan, after emptying the dishwater over the master of the house. Cook and master now meet in the kitchen. He exercises his authority, and orders her out of the house. Now the fun increases, for the cook turns a pan of flour over him and puts some grease on the stove. The smoke thus raised causes the man to call an alarm of fire. Returning to the kitchen, he objects to the cook drinking, and in endeavouring to get hold of her bottle pulls off her wig. Seeing the joke, he is just embracing the wife, when the firemen enter and deluge them.

Ingomar, the Barbarian.—Myron, an armourmaker, and father of Parthenia, the heroine, sets out on a journey to sell his wares, but is captured by a barbarian tribe, whose chief is Ingomar. The capture is seen by a friendly fisherman, Lykon, who carries the news with all speed to Myron's family. In making an effort to release her father Parthenia learns of the ransom demanded, but fails to raise the necessary amount. Nothing daunted, she sets out to seek her father's captors, and is captured on the road. When brought before Ingomar her bravery compels his admiration, in spite of the fact that he looks upon women as slaves. She is held as hostage whilst her father is released to seek the ransom. A change now comes over Ingomar, his admiration turning to love for Parthenia. The barbarians, fearing to lose their chief, abduct Parthenia, but, coming to her rescue, Ingomar accepts her as his share of the spoils, and forsakes his tribe to escort her home. Arriving in Messalia, Ingomar is coldly greeted, and mischief is made by a hoary-headed villain—Polydor by name—a one-time suitor of Parthenia's. She refuses to listen to his protestations of love, and Polydor leaves, vowing vengeance. We next find him as the purchaser of Myron's debt, when, demanding immediate settlement, as Myron has not the wherewithal to satisfy his demands Polydor claims father and family as his slaves. The barbarian, not understanding such "civilised" methods, wants to kill Polydor; but upon receiving an explanation from Parthenia he offers himself and is accepted in their stead. Learning this, the barbarians, believing Ingomar to be held against his will, besiege the city; and, panic ensuing, it is left to Ingomar to appear as leader and save the city. The result of this is that Polydor is driven out of the city, Ingomar succeeding in winning Parthenia and being acclaimed Governor.

France and Germany on the Bioscope.—Apropos of the international "incident" at Casa Blanca, it is interesting to note that the Empire is now showing on the Bioscope some very interesting pictures of French and German manœuvres, in which the soldiers of the two nations are shown in alternate pictures. In order to render the nationalities clear to the observer two distinct colours have been introduced—yellow indicating the French forces and blue the German. The picture concludes with a fine view of the German Emperor and his staff watching the "battle" from a hill. General de Lacroix, of the French army, is seen observing a reconnoitre.

Nordisk Films Co.

Sherlock Holmes.—Raffles, the master-thief, who is able to move about in high society just as easily as amongst the lowest criminals, has been ordered by "the king of criminals," Moriarty, to steal a valuable necklace from Lady John Bedford. Lady Bedford's chambermaid and her sweetheart, Crousy, have, however, also formed a scheme, according to which they, too, were going to steal the necklace. Accidentally both parties meet in Sir John's antechamber during the night after a party in which Raffles had been the guest of the house. The thieves commence fighting, but Raffles gains the victory and secures the booty, and is thanked and honoured for having captured Crousy, who is taken to prison. But the pearls are not found in Crousy's possession, and the assistance of Sherlock Holmes is requisitioned. After a conversation with Raffles, Holmes knows who is the thief. A message is sent to the police-station asking for a warrant, Raffles realises that he is found out, and writes a note to Moriarty asking him to make away with Sherlock Holmes. Sherlock Holmes arrives at Raffles' smartly-furnished home, attended by two police officers. Raffles escapes through a clock, which is connected with the adjoining room through the wall. While travelling by train to a port with the intention of leaving England, Raffles is discovered by Holmes and duly arrested, after an exciting fight. The other criminals decide upon revenge. In Moriarty's cellar a scheme is laid for the destruction of Sherlock Holmes. Dr. Watson, Holmes's friend, and the boy Billy are sent for under different pretences, and Moriarty himself is to settle Sherlock Holmes for ever in the great detective's own room. Eventually, covered by Holmes's revolver, the king of criminals is arrested, and Holmes falls down exhausted, having now fulfilled the greatest work of his life.

The Gaumont Company.

The Gaumont Company are to be envied their monopoly of Harry Lauder for living picture purposes. The great comedian is humorous under all circumstances, and the snapshots secured of him by this company in various phases of everyday life are among the most genuinely interesting on their list. This week they have issued Harry Lauder Leaves for America, which opens with a view of the artist's flower-covered motor-car, preceded by several Highland pipers, and surrounded by well-wishers, entering Euston Station. Dismounting, Harry is next seen at the door of his compartment, which is surrounded by a surging crowd all anxious for a handsake. Following this we get a remarkable picture of Lauder and his agent, Mr. George Foster, at lunch in the special saloon reserved for the comedian in the Liverpool train—a picture of wonderful quality considering the difficulties of lighting. At Liverpool further interesting views are given of the procession, still headed by pipers, proceeding to the gangway, Lauder with his wife standing close to the operator, affording an opportunity for a large scale photograph which has been well utilised. On deck a further interesting picture shows the hero of the occasion, who wears a Highland costume, rendering a solo on the bagpipes, and the film concludes with a picture of the Lusitania steaming out of harbour. Despite occasional patches of indifferent quality, due to the wretched conditions of light prevailing when most of the scenes were taken, the film is, on the whole, one of the most striking issued for a long time, and well deserves the success practically assured it.

LONDON HIPPODROME OUTING.

There were two extra saloons on the train that left Victoria at 9 o'clock last Sunday morning for Dorking, and both were labelled "Hippodrome." It was not an innovation of the L.B. and S.C. Railway in providing a travelling theatre for their patrons, as might at first be supposed, but merely special accommodation placed at the disposal of Mr. Fred Trussell, the London Hippodrome manager, for the convenience of his staff travelling to Dorking, en route to Wootton Hatch, there to have a day's jollification.

One or two missed the train—the morning was foggy—but got down by a later one. Brakes were waiting at Dorking to convey the party the four intervening miles to Dan Dibble's "Hatch." Now midway there is a lovely bit of Surrey scenery round about the Rookery, and Mr. Trussell called a halt for the party to view it. The Hippodrome manager having to mark the ground at the hotel for the afternoon's sports could not accompany the party through some more delightful uplands, so after giving elaborate directions to Mr. Will A. Bennet, the Press agent, as to the route through wood and dell to Wootton Hatch, and promising to meet them at a given spot, Mr. Trussell drove away.

The morning was sunshiny and hot, and the ladies and gentlemen thoroughly enjoyed the scenery and the ramble—for a time. But the field paths and stiles to be crossed seemed never ending, and, the ladies complaining of feeling tired, the guide's face presently wore a worried look. On the programme luncheon was scheduled for 1 o'clock. Noonday had passed, and there was still no sign of the "Hatch." Not a living creature or habitation had been passed, and it dawned on all that the way was hopelessly lost. But Providence was good, for a very small boy, munching a very large apple, came in sight, and after a good deal of persuasion and bribing agreed to pilot the party to its destination. More woods, more fields, more stiles, and the weary wanderers reached Wootton just in time for luncheon. Although everyone thoroughly enjoyed the walk, it might have turned out an awkward adventure.

The two star turns of the sports programme were undoubtedly the one-mile handicap and the cricket match—Mr. Fred Trussell's XI. v. Mr. H. C. Wild's XI. The former was won in splendid style by a young lad named Rice, whose supremacy was contested every inch of the way by Mr. Alexander.

The cricket match was remarkable for the tenacity with which Mr. Trussell kept his wicket up from the first to the last ball delivered, and the bowling of Mr. Will Bennet, both gentlemen being in the winning team. Mr. Wild's team was dismissed for 32 runs, and Mr. Trussell's team scored 34 without the sacrifice of a single wicket.

The following is a list of the sporting events and the winners thereof:—

100-Yards Race.—Alexander, 1; Thompson, 2.

Thread-needle Race.—Darville, 1; Barnes, 2.

Three-Legged Race.—Thompson and Alexander, 1; Rice and Thomas, 2.

One-Mile Race.—Rice, 1; Alexander, 2; Cane, 3.

Egg-and-Spoon Race (Ladies).—Sandford, 1; Hubbock, 2.

Heavy-weight Race (over 15st.).—Thompson, 1; Harris, 2.

Girls' 100-Yards Race.—Darvill, 1; Laws, 2.

Quarter-Mile Handicap.—Rice, 1; Goodyer, 2.

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A WOMAN'S WIT—Wife gets address—Plot concocted—Wife clever amateur—Makes up as Swedish servant—Returns to agency.

"HUBBY'S" CHOICE—Cooks of all nations—Tough one wants to scrap—"Coloured lady" carries a razor—Irish dame imbibes—In despair.

THE SWEDISH BLONDE—Disguised wife arrives—Interview—Hubby decides give a trial.

COOK AND CARGO—Car arrives—Regular "moving day"—Hubby escorts.

"HOME TO MOTHER"—At home—Cook unloads—Hubby finds wife's note—Reads—"John: Have tried to please you—Seems hopeless—I won't stay with another woman in the house—Gone to mother's—Good-bye. Mabel."

"FOLLOW MASTER"—He orders table cleared—Cook amiable, but awkward—Brings dishpan covered with soot—Hubby wild—Cook calmly wipes pan with table-cloth—Hubby furious—Drinks again—Everything into dishpan—Dish-water over best trousers—Chases cook—Struck by swing-door.

THE SURPRISE PARTY—Orders cook out of house—Pan of flour over head—Cook pours grease into stove—Big smoke—Hubby sends alarm—Finds cook drinking—Grabs bottle—Pulls wife's wig off—Sees the joke—Embraces wife—Long soul kiss—Firemen enter—Deluge the loving couple.

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THE CAPTURE—Myron, father of Parthenia, the heroine, goes forth to sell his wares—Captured by a Barbarian Tribe, whose chief is Ingomar.

TRYING TO RAISE THE RANSOM—Lykon hastens to inform Myron's family—Parthenia tries to raise the ransom-money, but is unable to do so.

PARTHENIA SEEKS HER FATHER—Met on the road and captured—Conducted to Ingomar, who looks on women as slaves.

BECOMES HOSTAGE—The brave and undaunted girl compels the admiration of Ingomar—He releases her father—She remains as hostage.

TEACHES LOVE TO INGOMAR—Ingomar at heart is "Sterling"—Learns the true meaning of Love—Admiration gives way to passion—Ingomar becomes her Champion.

THE MUTINY—The Barbarians abduct Parthenia—Ingomar rescues her—Forsakes his tribe—Escorts Parthenia home.

A HOARY-HEADED VILLAIN—They arrive in Messalia—Polydor, an old man, an ancient and jealous suitor of Parthenia's, starts trouble.

THE "POUND OF FLESH"—Polydor buys up the debts of her father, who is unable to pay them—Polydor demands the father and family as slaves.

A NOBLE "BARBARIAN"—Ingomar marvels at such "civilised" conduct—Parthenia explains—He offers himself in their place—Polydor accepts.

INGOMAR MADE TIMARCH—The Barbarians besiege the city—Ingomar saves the city—Polydor driven forth—Ingomar wins Parthenia, and is made Governor by the Citizens

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AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Sept. 23.—Mr. John Drew began his annual engagement at the Empire Theatre on the 14th inst., appearing in Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's three-act comedy *Jack Straw*, which proved to be a most suitable vehicle for this past-master of all the arts of light comedy, and was received with emphatic approval by a crowded house. It was a long time since Mr. Drew had appeared in any sort of make-up, and to see him with a French beard and dressed as a waiter at a fashionable hotel was a surprise indeed. His unwonted appearance caused a titter, and put the audience in a good humour at the start. Then there was cause for rejoicing in the fact that the comedy not only contained a delightful rôle for Mr. Drew, but served to re-introduce an old-time favourite to Broadway playgoers in the person of Miss Rose Coghlan, who made a distinct hit as Mrs. Parker-Jennings. Miss Coghlan played the ambitious bourgeoise to the life, and divided the acting honours with Mr. Drew. Their comedy scenes together were hugely enjoyed by the audience, the infectious humour of the piece provoking no end of laughter and applause. Miss Mary Boland as Ethel was charming; Mr. Frank Goldsmith gave a capital impersonation of Lord Serio; Lady Wanley was well played by Miss Adelaide Prince; and Mr. Parker-Jennings was ably represented by Mr. Fred Tyler. The comedy made an excellent impression, and bids fair to be as successful here as it has been in London. It is highly probable that two plays from Mr. Maugham's pen will be running in New York simultaneously, as *Lady Frederick*, with Miss Ethel Barrymore in the title-rôle, will be produced here very shortly.

"What Happened Then," a "musical fantasy," by Austin Strong and Edward Corliss, was produced at His Majesty's Theatre, Montreal, on the 14th inst. Mr. De Wolf Hopper was at the head of the company, and important parts were played by Miss Toby Claude and Mr. Dallas Welford. According to the local newspapers, Mr. Hopper has a big success on his hands, his performance of the rôle of the Pied Piper of Hamelin being warmly praised. The story of the play tells what happened after the Pied Piper failed to receive his pay from the burgomaster of Hamelin for piping all the rats out of the town. It seems he played again on his pipes and lured all the children of the place into the mountains, where he established the City of Innocence. The action is supposed to occur fifty years hence, and the afore-mentioned city to be three hundred years old. In his efforts to obtain a mate for the heroine of the story, the one little girl left over on the "general wedding day," the piper pipes to the Innocent City not only an eligible Duke, but three servants of the latter, dreadful creatures who attempt to corrupt the city and kill the Pied Piper. With the assistance of many magical and fairy creatures this awful disaster is averted, and the spirit of romance preserved. There are said to be seventy-four speaking characters, three beautiful scenes, and elaborate mechanical effects. The seven-league boots, the casks containing the forty thieves, and other incidents and characters from the old familiar nursery tales are introduced.

"School Days," a sketch that enjoyed a long term of popularity at the vaudeville houses, has been lengthened into a three-act musical play, and in its new form has been produced at the Circle Theatre, where it is now playing to large audiences. The book is by Aaron Hoffman, the lyrics by Edward Gardenier and Vincent Bryan, and the music by Gus Edwards, the well-known song composer. There are forty girls and boys in the cast, the majority of them being between the ages of sixteen and twenty. Miss Janet Priest, a diminutive comedienne, has a prominent part; and Miss Hazel Cox sings the prettiest number in the piece, "Maybe it's a bear," in which she is the centre of a group of frightened children in nightdresses. The games and tricks played by the youngsters in the school-yard and an examination in the class-room, which elicits a number of nonsensical answers, are depicted in a lively and entertaining manner. The music is melodious and catchy, and the piece just suits the large percentage of playgoers who like something with lots of "go" in it.

NEW YORK, Sept. 30.—Mr. Israel Zangwill, who arrived here last week, has gone to Washington to superintend the production of his new play *The Melting Pot* at the Columbia Theatre on Oct. 5. It was in Washington that Mr. Zangwill's first play, *The Children of the Ghetto*, was first produced in America about nine years ago. Since then he has given us *Merely Mary Ann* and other successful plays. *The Melting Pot* touches on the immigration problem and expresses some of Mr. Zangwill's ideas as to how this problem may best be solved. It is a play of cosmopolitan New York, wherein are fused all the nationalities of the earth—hence the title. Two of the scenes are laid in the Borough of Richmond, or Staten Island, across the bay from Manhattan, and reached in twenty minutes by the ferry-boats; and the others in an "east side" settlement house. All of the characters save one are foreigners. The central character is a young Russian Hebrew student and musician named David Quixano, who has come to the United States after his parents have been murdered at Kishineff. At his uncle's house on Staten Island he works upon a wonderful epic opera that is to symbolise all that is best in America. Before this he has met a young woman, Vera Ravendal, who teaches at a settlement-house on the lower east side. She is herself a Russian, who escaped after her revolutionary propaganda had brought her under the notice of the Russian police. Quincy Davenport, jun., the son of a wealthy man and a friend of Miss Ravendal, brings to the settlement-house the leader of his own private orchestra to look over David's composition. Davenport discovers that Miss Ravendal has fallen in love with David, and brings the Baron and Baroness Ravendal, Vera's father and stepmother, to New York in an effort to put a stop to the affair. The father is horrified to discover that his daughter is in love with a Hebrew, but is about to make the best of it when David recognises the Baron as "the butcher of Kishineff." This, for a time, makes the marriage of David and Vera an impossibility; but the difficulty is solved ere the curtain falls, and the play ends happily. Mr. Walker Whiteside, who has been chosen by Mr. Zangwill to play the principal part in his new drama, is a Westerner, whose reputation as an actor of Shakespearean rôles has been made outside of New York, in which city he seldom appears. Other well-known players in the cast are Miss Chrystal Herne, Messrs. John Blair, Henry Bergman, and Grant Stewart.

"Father and Son," a new American play in four acts, by Edgar Selwyn, has been well received at the Majestic Theatre, and Mr. William Norris, whose comical capers have made us laugh many a time and oft in musical comedy, has shown his versatility by appearing in characters quite different from those which he has been wont to represent. He impersonates "Doc" Filkins, a veterinary surgeon practising in a small manufacturing town in New Jersey, where the residents consider themselves quite up to date. Filkins has a fondness for aphorisms, and is regarded as the local sage, even though he is somewhat erratic and has the name of being a little queer at times. He has adopted a boy named Billy, the child of a woman he once loved, and has reared him as his own son. There comes a time, however, when Billy learns the truth about himself, and when he discovers that Filkins is not his real father he proceeds to sow wild oats with a generous hand. He has fallen in love with Grace Gardner, whose uncle, Arthur Welby, is a rich millowner, and as Billy is only one of the hands, of course it won't do at all. So Welby, to show him how useless his suit is, tells him that he is not the son of "Doc" Filkins—that his antecedents, in fact, are somewhat shady. Billy is a high-spirited boy, and the disclosure hits him hard. He goes on strike with the rest of the hands, and when they draw lots and it falls to him to set fire to the works, he is quite willing. But Billy is caught, and his foster-father has to exert himself to save the lad from being sent to gaol. He not only does this, but, thanks to the village gossip, discovers that the proud Welby is the boy's real father. Then the two men join hands in giving Billy a fresh start. The scenes are laid in "Doc" Filkins's cottage, the post office, and Welby's home. All the parts are well played, the cast including Messrs. John Westley, George C. Staley, Herbert Corthell, Misses Madeleine Louis, Marion Abbott, Georgie Lawrence, and Alice Gale.

"Mater," an American comedy in three acts, by Percy Mackaye, was produced by Mr. Henry Miller at the Savoy Theatre on the 25th inst. It was admirably acted, the principal characters being represented by Miss Isabel Irving, Mr. Charles A. Stevenson, and Mr. Frederick Lewis, and made a decided hit. The time is the present, and the place a small city. The story, which may be described as whimsical, deals with the political ambitions of a young man of twenty-two and the part played by his mother in helping him to realise them. The mother proves the shrewder politician of the two, and leads him to victory in an election when his own methods and impulses would have carried him to certain defeat. "Mater," as her son calls her, is a Mrs. Dean, a woman of forty-five with the manners and appearance of a girl. She is the widow of a man who made his mark in the United States Senate. Her son Michael is a candidate for an important office, and he is filled with lofty notions of the duty he owes to himself and his country. He declares that he will be one man free from the taint of corruption; that he will follow in the footsteps of his father, who he believes to have been a politician without a stain. "Mater" lets him know, however, that by various subterfuges she assisted in promoting her husband's political fortunes, and that after each rash act in his behalf the senator was wrathful, only to turn around in the end and "make-up" with his wife. Michael is uncompromising in his attitude towards the Hon. Arthur Cullen, a political "boss," who happens to be a susceptible bachelor. This attitude of his means that Michael has no chance of election, Cullen being conscienceless and tricky. So, in spite of her son's wishes, "Mater" makes an ally of Cullen by leading him into a flirtation. Michael is elected, but when he learns the truth he repudiates his mother and threatens to resign his office. But he finally arrives at his mother's way of thinking, and agrees that hers was a commonsense way to win a political fight. All of which indicates that the play is a sort of satire on ideal politics, and as such it should appeal very strongly to those who hold that all politicians are "tarred with the same brush."

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special Newspaper Express Services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible :—

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SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
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HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35

Many friends will be pleased to know that Mrs. Charles Warren and her little son are doing well.

"Pigs in Clover," Mr. John Lawson's latest production, has scored an instant success, and will be seen at the Canterbury and Euston next week. Mr. Oswald Stoll has selected this episode for his London halls.

Messrs. Witmark's striking piece "The Teddy Bears' Picnic," by John W. Bratton, composer of "The Mosquitoes' Parade," is likely to be in greatest request among grotesque and fantastic dancers in pantomime.

At the Paragon during the week Miss Frances Letty's powerful voice has been heard to the greatest advantage in her new song, which Mr. David Day's firm has secured, entitled "Have your ears burned, Mr. Jackson?" It is written and composed by Percy Edgar.

The Viviana Company's dainty and amusing dancing scena, entitled *The Toy Shop*, created quite a sensation at the Jersey Opera House. The two girls who appear as dolls are a particularly pleasing and shapely pair, whose piquant and delicate dancing nightly provoked a perfect furore.

Manager E. J. Dexter (late of Dundee), after seeing *The Collar Stud* at Carlisle last year, remarked that "the sketch was fit to top the bill of any music hall." The management of the New Hippodrome, Rotherham, will doubtless endorse this opinion, for this most original of all of Messrs. Muir and Bartlett's comedies is packing their house nightly, Wednesday's business creating a record.

There was a good deal of excitement on Westminster Bridge, on Monday, due to the behaviour of a performer who rejoices in the name of Jack Sheppard, and who has adopted the title of "the handcuff king." The performer, who cannot swim a stroke, jumped from the bridge into the river loaded down with manacles. On rising to the surface he threw up his arms, and was hauled into a boat in waiting for him. The dive was said to be the outcome of a £250 wager.

Mr. Austin Fryers writes :—"In the report of the liquidation of the Thespian Syndicate, to whom I sublet Hengler's Circus for certain periods, it is stated that under this lease the syndicate acquired the right to run wrestling. As a matter of fact, I expressly barred wrestling, believing strongly that such an exhibition is quite unsuitable for a place of amusement where children are specially catered for. It was on the urgent plea of the syndicate to permit wrestling that I conceded the privilege, not wishing to oppose what they believed would result in financial gain. Wrestling, in any shape or form, will find no place in the programme I present at Hengler's."

MR. FRED MILLER'S TESTIMONIAL.

The excellent qualities of Mr. Fred Miller, as a man, as a sportsman, and as a manager, are generally recognised by all branches of the profession, and no artist or proprietor who has ever come into contact with him has failed to recognise his sterling honesty of purpose, or to be impressed by his unobtrusive courtesy and consideration to everyone working with him. For fifteen years Mr. Miller has been associated with the halls, and though the sphere of his activity for most of that time has been restricted to the South and East of London, his connection with the Syndicate has brought him much popularity up West. Several of his friends, taking into consideration his long and honourable career, feel that the present time is very opportune for presenting him with a testimonial, which it is intended shall take the shape of a purse of gold. Mr. W. H. Armstrong, the well-known professional solicitor, of 1, Renfrew-road, Lambeth, is interesting himself in the project, and Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, manager of *The Era*, is the hon. treasurer of the fund, and will be pleased to receive subscriptions.

It was at Lechlade, Gloucestershire, that Mr. Fred Miller first saw the light. His father, an influential grazing farmer, was an enthusiastic rider to hounds, and from the age of twelve young Fred followed his father in the field, and in many an eventful run was in the first flight. At the age of seventeen he accepted an offer from an uncle in the cattle trade, and settled down with him at Wormholt Farm, Shepherd's Bush, where he gained considerable experience and became a good business man. The death of his uncle brought about a change in his fortunes, and he accepted a situation as travelling secretary with Captain Macdonald. Again his employer died, and he had to try fresh fields and pastures new. Through the instrumentality of the late Mr. Harry Lundy, distantly related to him through marriage, Mr. Miller was introduced to Mr. George Adney Payne, who gave him the position of secretary to Mr. Arthur Tressidder, then manager of the Paragon. On Mr. Tressidder's departure on a

MR. FRED MILLER.

voyage in search of health Mr. Miller was transferred to Mr. Will Lennon, the successor of Mr. Tressidder at the Paragon. At his death Mr. G. A. Payne chose Mr. Miller for the managership of the house in the Mile End-road, and on the resignation of Mr. Fred Holden of his position at the Canterbury Mr. Miller was installed as manager of both the Canterbury and the Paragon.

The jubilee of the Canterbury in November, 1902, when Charles Morton paid his last visit to a house that was indelibly associated with his career, owed its interest and its success to the organising powers of Mr. Miller, who placed before the patrons of the historic house a novel realisation of the present and past in music-hall entertainment. The portraits of favourites of the 'sixties, the 'seventies, and the 'eighties were thrown upon a screen, and many of the famous old songs were sung by new favourites. It was a great night. Though Mr. Miller has severed his connection with the Canterbury, it is to be hoped that he will be placed in a position commensurate with his abilities and experience at another hall. His many friends anticipate that it will be in London.

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Theophilus Dunkley	1	1	0
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W. F. Frame (Hooch Aye)	0	10	6
A. E. Abrahams	0	10	6
E. Bosanquet	0	5	0

Mr. Kendall Robinson, a staunch friend of Mr. Fred Miller, in sending a contribution to this Fund, testifies as follows :—"I have much pleasure in enclosing cheque for one guinea for the Miller Testimonial. I have known Mr. Miller for many years. Uniformly warm-hearted and open-handed, his kindnesses and 'good turns' to large numbers of those who were brought in contact with him at the Paragon and Canterbury can only have been limited by his physical capacity for doing them."

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. W. F. Frame (Hooch Aye) has been creating quite a stir at the National Exhibition in Edinburgh, where his Scotch humour was voted of a high quality.

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Feb. 1, 15, March 1, 8, 22, 29, on.
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March 1, 15, 29, April 5, on.
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WANTED, High-class Musical or other Attraction for Nov. 23.
Write, William Morton.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Company, Oct. 26, 27, 28 (three nights), Harrogate, Vacant through obliging Manager.
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Managing-Director, George Conquest.
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Apply, George Conquest.

WANTED, for Opera House, Cheltenham, First-class Comedy or big Musical Attraction, for Nov. 9 (latter preferred), open through alterations in Tour. Apply (letters only), H. Oswald Redford, General-Manager.

WANTED, Company, Bury St. Edmunds, Theatre Royal, vacant dates Nov. 16, 30 (?), Dec. 7 (each three nights), Xmas (Dec. 26, 28, 29, and 30), Musical Comedy, Jan. 11, 25, March 1, onwards, with exceptions. Address, A. A. Peulevé, General-Manager.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
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WANTED, Companies. Oct. 26 Vacant, through misunderstanding. Strong attraction wanted.
Address, Sydney Spenser.

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Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only Entertained.
Vacant Nov. 2, 16, 23,
onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates.
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Dec. 21, Feb. 22, March 22,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 7, April 5, 12, 19,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 21, April 12,
onward with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Oct. 12, Nov. 5, 16,
onward with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical Pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty,
Several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing,
with or without Scenery,
including
"In Sight of St. Paul's,"
"Prairie Flower," &c.

Arthur Carlton,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating Capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, most handsome, and best-equipped theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District.
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only. Will Guarantee anything really big.
All communications,
Jno. E. Jowsey,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telephones, 413, 425, 500.
Telegrams, "Magnet."

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, Musical Company, Dec. 7.

NEW THEATRE, LOUGHBOROUGH.
No Vacancies till Spring.

NEW GAIETY, WORKSOP
(Booked for the Proprietor).
Vacant Dec. 7 and on.
last three days of week only.

DUMFRIES and HAWICK,
First Vacancy Nov. 16.

OPERA HOUSE, DERRY.
Wanted, good Companies in January
(No Vacancy before).

THE SPA, WHITBY.
Now Booking Autumn, '09.

W. Payne Seddon, Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

PIER, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies (three or six nights), Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and various dates, onwards.
Address, G. Hayes, Pier, Eastbourne.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
Under the Management of Rollo Balmain.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 9, 16, March, onwards.
Only Premier Attractions Entertained.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Nov. 23 and 30.
Address, Gerald Harding.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, for Nov. 16, 23, 30,
Jan. 18, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, Thos. Swinton.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31.
First-class Companies only need apply.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Oct. 26, Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 7, and onwards. Address, E. B. Goulden.

GRAND PIER, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, High-class Attractions, for two and three nights.
Apply, John H. Stevenson, Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, First-class Company, Oct. 26.
Wire, Manager.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attraction, Nov. 16.
Address, H. Masterman, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

HIPPODROME, SHEERNESS.
WANTED, good Attractions (Musical preferred), three nights Oct. 19, also week Nov. 30, on, with exceptions. Lowest terms, Share or Certainty, to Manager.

PALACE, BOSTON.
WANTED, Good Dramas and Musical Comedies, Oct. 19, onwards. Ernest Cass, Manager.

CENTRAL THEATRE, NORTHWICH, CHES.
WANTED, Big Attractions, for Dates, as follow: Oct. 19 (unexpectedly Vac.), Nov. 9, 16, 30, Dec. 21, Jan. 7, on. Coms., E. Golden.

WANTED, Special Attractions, for Nov. 30, Jan. 4, 11, 25, Feb. 1, 8; also Open Dates for First-class Pantomime. Address, Horner, Victoria, Burnley.

GRAND THEATRE, NELSON.
WANTED, through disappointment and cancelling, good reliable Management, to produce Pantomime, Dec. 24, nine nights and two matinées. Apply, George E. Mudd, Business-Man.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

GRAND THEATRE, ABERAVON.
WANTED, Oct. 15, 16, 17 (?), Strong Attraction, Musical Comedy preferred. Wire, Burrows, as above.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Leading Theatre of the Town.
WANTED, London Attractions, for Nov. 9 and 16. Apply, Calvert Routledge.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. Ashton, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Nov. 16, 26 (3), Jan. 11, 18 (?), 25 (?), Feb. 8, March 1, 22, and on. W. E. Potts, O. H., Dunfermline.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Good Companies, Nov. 2 (through misunderstanding), Dec. 14, only vacant dates this year.
Address, Norman H. Barger.

NEW STANDARD THEATRE, HETTON.
WANTED, Strong Dramas or Musical Shows, Oct. 19, Nov. 30, Dec. 7. Apply, Chapman.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
Moss' Empires, Limited,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.

The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.

The Bookings for the Autumn of 1908 and Spring of 1909 include the following first-class Attractions:— J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return visit), Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer's (annual visit), "The Merry Maid," "Sexton Blake," Lawrence Brough, "The Coal King," "Raffles" (return visit), "A Broken Heart," Frederick Melville's Co's., "Amasis," "A Lion's Heart," "The Bondman," "Old Folks at Home," Pantomime of "Mother Goose," "Claudian" (return visit), Miss Mary Austin, George Edwardes' Own Company, "The Merry Widow," Mr. George Dance's Own Company with "Miss Hook of Holland." Thanks to Mr. Wilfred Cotton for Offer of "Butterflies." Sorry could not arrange Date. Also Mr. Wentworth Croke and other First-class Managers.

WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for all November, also Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 11, and Feb. 8, on, with exceptions.

Mr. J. W. Turner played to Packed Houses last week, in spite of tropical weather. Refer.

All applications for dates to
Hugh Robertson,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

LYCEUM, NEWPORT.

WANTED, Big Drama, for Nov. 30, owing to transferring. Dec. 7 possibly Vacant, and Dates in Spring and Autumn for Special Attractions only. Address, Sidney Cooper.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 11. Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, First-class Company, Nov. 9, 10 11, D. P. T., Eastbourne; Nov. 12, 13, 14, P. G. T., Folkestone. Apply, Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, really First-class Attractions, Nov. 9, Nov. 16, Nov. 9 and 16. James Bell.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BLAINA, MON.
WANTED, First-class Musical or Dramatic Companies, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, and onwards, with exceptions. Seating capacity 1,100; population of district 25,000, within a radius of two miles. Certainty or sharing terms. Apply, W. R. Lee.

WANTED, Good Stock Company, for a few weeks, Nov. 16; small stage, big mining centre. Gustave, Empire T., Riddings, Derbyshire.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION
WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 26 (7 nights), Jan. 11. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 12. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, 28. Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 8 (North), March 29. Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Jan. 4, 11. Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov. 23, Dec. 7. Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION,
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 7. Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov 16, Dec. 21, 28. Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb. 1, 8, March 1. Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 23, Dec. 26 (7 nights). Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Dec. 14, 25 (seven nights), Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1. Douglas Bruce, Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

WANTED, Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 28. Andrew Melville, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."

WANTED, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4. Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH."
And Répertoire of recent West End Successes.
Mr. Ernest E. Norris and Company.
WANTED, Oct. 19, 26, onward, with exceptions. Enormous success, this week, at Brixton Theatre, receipts gone up every night. Address, Chas. H. Bowmaker, Theatre Royal, Margate.

"SILVER KING,"
POLINI AND MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:—
Feb. 22, April 19, 28, May 10.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, Polini, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, weeks of Nov. 2 and 9, for this Remarkable Success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly. Wire or write to W. W. Kelly, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, Weeks of Nov. 2 and Jan. 4. Wire or write, W. W. Kelly, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE'S TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 16, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 25. Charles Harrington, Maidenhead.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Oct. 26. Oct. 26. Oct. 26.
All communications, J. W. Cordiner, Hippodrome and T. R., Croydon.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 7, Xmas week (7 nights), also Spring. E. C. S., Bishopsdale Farm, Benenden, Kent.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
LYN HARDING and SIDNEY COOPER'S CO.
WANTED, Nov. 2 and March 1. Sidney Cooper, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Theatres; only vacant dates until 1910. Nov. 16, Jan. 4, April 12. Everything carried. Sixty people on the Stage.

E. Vivian Edmonds, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

TAYLOR PLATT AND TREVOR LOWE'S CO.
"YOU NEVER CAN TELL,"
Farcical Comedy in Four Acts, by Bernard Shaw.
WANTED, Theatres, for the Only Vacant Dates this Year, Oct. 22, 23, 24, Nov. 5, 6, 7. Now Booking Spring Tour. This week, Opera House, Cheltenham. Third Year of Tour. "The wittiest play of modern times."—Vide Press. Apply for dates, E. Taylor Platt, 52, Shaftesbury-avenue, London.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Easter.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Oct. 5, 19, Nov. 2, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 16. Fred Bulmer, EMPIRE THEATRE, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.

"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, Winter, Spring, and Autumn, 1909.
Wire, F. Martin Morris, T. R., S. Shields.
Letters to Opera House, Wakefield.
See Companies Page.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Dec. 21. Special Cast, Brilliant Uniforms, New Scenery and Properties.

"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
LINGFORD CARSON'S LATEST SUCCESS.
Forty People on Stage, L. Carson included in Cast.
WANTED, Dec. 7, 28, '08, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 15, 22 (?). All coms., L. Carson, T. R., York.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
by
Walter Howard.
WANTED, Nov. 2 and 9, Nov. 2 and 9, between Grand, Brighton, and Alex., Hull.
Wire, Ellen Snow, This, Empire, Southend; next, T. R., Woolwich.

S. RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "LOVE RULES THE WORLD," Nov. 2. Splendid cast and production, Jan. 4, 11, 18, onward.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN," Jan. 4, onward. May be able to arrange Dec. 7 (North).
G. M. Copping, Osborne, Manchester.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for "Pair of Spectacles," or Comedy Repertory, Oct. 19 and 26. Wire, 58, Sea-road, Bexhill.

WANTED, Nov. 30, for "THE BREED OF THE TRESHAMS."
Also Vacant Oct. 19 and Nov. 9 and 16 for "THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
Eugene Bertram, Adelphi Theatre, W.C.

HARDIE AND VON LEER'S CO.
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."
The Dramatic Success of the Year.
WANTED, Large, First-class Theatre, Nov. 16, through transfer.
The Finest Production and the Strongest Cast on the Road.
E. P. Clift, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C. Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel., 7504 Gerrard.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS," "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE," by Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Dates, "The Power of the Cross," Nov. 2; "A Fight for a Throne," Wanted, Nov. 23. All communications, Geo. A. De Gray, this, T. R., Ton-y-Pandy; next, New Theatre, Aberdare.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, Aug. 9, on, with exceptions.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Nov. 2, 16, Jan. 4. Harry Tilbury, Queen's T., Manchester.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-Class Theatres, Dec. 21, Jan. 4 (?), 11, 18.
Admitted by Press and Public to be a Great Show. Admitted by the Pay-Box to be a Record Attraction.
Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare.
Address, James Bell, T. R., Darlington.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26 (precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 (precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. Wyn Weaver, Knightstone O. H., Weston-super-Mare.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Dec. 7 (between Birmingham and Wales), Dec. 28, Feb. 22. March 8, for this great success. Now going better than ever. Dickie Clare, T. R., Chesterfield (return).

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Nov. 23, 30, Jan. 4, 11, 18, various, on.
Sumptuously Staged, Beautifully Dressed, and always a Perfect Cast.
E. A'Dell, Opera House, Ferndale.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
Eight Months' Continued Success.
A Success the First Night.
A Success Every Night Since.
Columns of Press Opinions from Glasgow, Liverpool, Manchester, Middlesboro', Coventry, Swansea, Newport, Leeds, Oldham, Wigan, Blackpool, Derby, Portsmouth, York,
All pronounce this Version "A great play, magnificently acted."
An Artistic Triumph.
A Financial Success.
Worthy of any Theatre.
Vacant
Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 21.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, This Phenomenal Success Playing Everywhere to Enormous Business. Manchester, Longton, Macclesfield, Chesterfield. Playing to holding capacity. No other Attraction like it Touring. Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, a Fine Play, Well Acted. Miss LAURA WALKER as COUNTESS STEINBACH. Vacant Nov. 2, 9.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, Now in its Fourteenth Year of Continuous Tour, and Playing to More Money than ever before.
What other Drama has played an Average of Forty-nine Weeks a Year for Fourteen Years.
Vacant
Dec. 14, 21, 28.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, The Greatest of All Domestic Dramas.
Strong Play, Powerful Company, Fine Production. Carriage and Pair, Brass Band.
Vacant
Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 14, 21, 28.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

New Play
by
Mrs. Morton Powell.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Good Theatre, for Production of High-class Musical Comedy, with strong cast, including Stanley Cooke, for Nov. 9 or 16; also Nov. 30 to follow.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, Christmas, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8, 15, March 1, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, Armadale and Warren, Miners' Theatre, Ashington.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
WANTED, Nov. 9, through Theatre closing. Perth; next, Princess's, Glasgow.

MR. E. H. KNIGHT'S NO. 1 COMPANY.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
The Great Human Drama. The best-equipped Show Scenically on Tour. Fast Booking.
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 14, Jan. 18. Thanks many Managers for Contracts.
E. H. Knight, 7, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 16, 30. Address, Edmund Tearle, Dock Hotel, Amble.

"THE PRODIGAL SON."
WANTED, for the Principal Company of above, Dec. 26 (seven nights).
Wentworth Croke, Piccadilly-mansions, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Xmas week (seven nights), Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, and 15.
Maud Hildyard, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

"SECOND TO NONE," by Walter Howard.
WANTED, Theatres, Xmas, Jan. 25, and Easter. Address, T. E. Ward, Grand T., Brighton.

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."
LYN HARDING and SIDNEY COOPER'S CO.
WANTED, Nov. 2 and March 1. Sidney Cooper, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Nov. 2, 9, 16, Dec. 7, for this great Attraction, special band to parade. Refer re business. Wire for these great successes to Kimberley, Alexandra T., Birmingham; next, G. T., Nottingham.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22, Aug. 9, on, with exceptions.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime, "Aladdin." Splendid Cast engaged.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Oct. 19 and Nov. 2, "For Her Husband's Sake." Wire, Millar Anderson, Grand, Radcliffe; next week, T. R., Edmonton.

WANTED, Nov. 23, Jan. 4, 11, for Corri's "Dandy Fifth."
Haldane Crichton, Theatre, Long Eaton.

"MR. POPPLE," No. 1 Co., including Mr. Charles Macdona and Company of Forty. Entire London Production carried.
WANTED, Oct. 26. Wire or write, Charles Macdona, Theatre Royal, Darlington.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and
"GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Oct. 12, 19 (London or South), Nov. 9 (through transfer South).
Horace Stanley, next, Palace, Ramsgate.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 4, 11, 18, March 15 (?), April 5 (?).
Frank M. Thorne, New Hall, Bargoed, S. Wales.

WANTED, Large Theatres, for Rose Moncrieff's Co., "The Bells of Old York," by Rass Challis. Enormous success; everything carried; elaborate scenery. Vacant Nov. 16, 23, and 30. Address, Maurice, Brixton Theatre, London, S.W.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, August Bank Holiday, 1909.
Bookings include Alexandra, Birmingham; Grand, Brighton; Gaiety, Burnley; Alexandra, Sheffield; T. R., Bristol; Star, Swansea; &c., &c., &c.
Wanted, August Bank Holiday, 1909, Wanted.
Wanted, Sept. 27, between Sheffield and Burnley; Oct. 11, to follow Burnley.
Apply, Miss Hilda Beverley, "A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., P. T., Newcastle.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Wilson Barrett, from Hall Caine's novel.
WANTED, Oct. 19, Oct. 19, Oct. 19, One or two dates later. Christmas Week Vacant.
Oct. 12, T. R., Dewsbury, Six Nights.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Big Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, and New Year's Week, also Jan. 4, 11, and 18, for either play.
Coms. to
George Kirk, Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY,
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Nov. 23, Nov. 23, (through cancelling the West London). Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, March 1, 8, on.
Oct. 12, T. R., Barry Dock.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
Now Booking next Summer Season, 1909.
WANTED, Theatres, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4.
THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
"At the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, during the last three weeks the advanced bookings have been unprecedented, and hundreds have been unable to obtain admission nightly."
A few vacancies for this winter.
For terms, &c., address Mr. D'Arcy Clayton, 13, Alexandra-gardens, Folkestone.

WANTED, Theatres, Hippodromes, and Halls, for the Royal British Stage Circus; shares, salary, or rental. Performing Horses, Ponies, and Dogs, Bareback Riders, Gymnasts, and Funny Clowns; Complete Circus Performance. Big Attraction and Novelty. Liberty Oct. 19 and Nov. 2. Address Samson, Palace, Bridlington.

FABBRO'S SINGING PICTURES AND VARS.
WANTED, good Theatres, Oct. 12, Nov. 9, 16, 23. F. Hartley, Prince's T., Bradford.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists and Chorus for Musical Comedy Tour, commencing Xmas. Write full particulars to Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, Refined Chambermaid and Utility Gent, Tour.
Andrew Melville, Metropole T., Birmingham.

WANTED, Juvenile Gent., combine A.-M. Terms, photos, and full particulars, address,
Frank J. Pitt, T. R., Barry Dock.

WANTED, rehearse to-day, two good tall Responsible Men, must be experienced; open Monday, near Manchester. Wire, Haywood, 26, Charter-road, Altrincham.

WANTED, Little Principals, age 12 to 15, height about 4ft. 8in. or under; thoroughly capable of taking lead in Juvenile Light Opera Co.; six months' engagement guaranteed, will probably extend over two years. Only Smart Girls and Boys, capable of Speaking and Singing Well, need apply. Clever Boy Comedians also wanted. Write for special appointment, Stedman's Head Offices, 58, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, Known, famous amusement firm Touring big Productions in the most important Variety Theatres, is prepared to place one or two clever Stage Aspirants as Understudies of Principal Parts, Comedy, Character, Vocal, &c. Thorough tuition given under personal supervision of well-known producer. Actual Stage experience gained by appearing before the Public nightly, and every opportunity given for parts to be played; also Stage and General Stage Management. For terms, &c., apply (letter only),
A. Wilkinson, Secretary,
16, Trinity-square, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED.—Dramatic Academy on Tour. An exceptional opportunity occurs for a Lady and Gentleman to Tour with High-class Play, and to undertake small parts with thorough tuition. Premium required £100, returned in salary. Address, Box 5,022, "The Era."

WANTED, Male Quartette, sing in Chorus, "Dandy Fifth," Rehearse next Monday; also Solo Choristers. Wire, Haldane Crichton, Theatre, Long Eaton.

WANTED, Solo Dancers, for the Continent, good Engagement. Apply immediately to Kelson Trueman, Regent House, 233a, Regent-street, W.

WANTED, at once, several Smart Young Dancers, for Troupes. Apply any time after Oct. 10. 23, St. Oswald's-road, West Brompton.

WANTED, three Young Ladies, with Dancing Costumes, to walk on in Carnival Scene, Monday next. Apply, between 2 and 3, to-day, V. Newman, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Ladies. Smart Girls, to join my Dancing School. Terms moderate. Apply, Bertha Valentine, 193, Latchmere-road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Ballet Mistress; all-round experience.
Madame Sidonia, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Miss Maud Linden terminates to-day Engagement, "The Sailor's Wedding." Opens Monday, Oct. 12, as Lillie Summers, in "Irene Wycherley." Thanks E. P. Clift for offer. Address, T. R., Shrewsbury.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 5in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., Arthur Carlton, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Principals and Chorus. Ventor's Agency, 24, Devonshire-street, All Saints, Manchester. Mark envelopes "Panto."

WANTED, for "Cinderella" and "Aladdin," Principal Boys, Girls, Comedians, Knockabouts, Chorus Ladies, Dancers, Stage-Manager (to produce), Conductor, also good Pantomime Troupe. Age, height, references, lowest terms, ladies' photos. (or no notice taken). Interviews in London. E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontlod, London."
'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, Corliss Claflin.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

WANTED, for Pantomime, young and pretty Ballet Dancers. Call Monday (with practising skirt), 2 p.m., Darrell's Agency, 415, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for a London Pantomime, First-class Professional Soprano and Tenor Solo Singers, Gentleman Comedians, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, Coryphées, Dancers, Extra Girls, and Smart Boys, with Stage experience, about 11 years of age, must be small. Apply to Mr. S. E. Bauman, Drill Hall, Chenies-street, Tottenham Court-road, W., from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., from Monday, Oct. 12, to Saturday, Oct. 17, inclusive.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Lily Hayes, Comedienne and Dancer, Vac. Panto., "Cinderella" preferred. Oct. 12, Lancaster Hippo. "P.A.," 26, Strawberry-road, Pendleton.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, at Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Boy or Special Comedy Part. Address, Hippo., Coventry.

WANTED, Known, the Popular Sisters Terry, at Liberty for Pantomime, Boy and Girl. A Guaranteed Success. Communicate, Oct. 12, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Known, The Kebbles (Nora and Edie), Character Duettists and Dancers, at Liberty, Boy and Girl. Address, 31, Hilberry-avenue, Liverpool.

WANTED, by the Kebbles (Nora and Edie), Character Duettists and Expert Dancers, Vacant for Boy and Girl. Success, W. G., New Brighton. 31, Hilberry-avenue, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Crissie Cross, Smart Singer and Dandy Dancer, at Liberty for Panto., Principal or Second Girl. Address, 7, Loughboro'-road, Brixton, S.W. Oct. 19, Pal., Hammersmith.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, Vacant for Pantomime, can play any part.
All coms., Granville Theatre, Walham Green.

WANTED, Known, Len Delmar, Enigma Girl (?). Serio Impersonator and Acrobatic Dancer. At Liberty for Ugly Sister, &c., or Specialty and Understudy. This, P.O., Brotton; next, P.O., Northallerton.

WANTED, Known, Percy Curry, Comedian, Lib. Panto. any Principal Part. This, Hip., Salford; next, Hip., Hulme, Manchester. Sing, Dance, Patter.

WANTED, Panto., by Sam Leo, Cat, Dog, or any Animal part, or Knockabout, Leaps, Traps, &c. Next week, Hippodrome, Margate.

WANTED, Known, Fred Hallam, still at Lib. for Pantomime, Page, Dame, Idle Jack. Many thanks for offers. Monday, Palace, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Percy Curry, Comedian, Liberty for Panto; any principal part. This, Hippo., Salford; next, Hippo., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Tumbler, Knockabout, Pantomimist, speak lines; have Novel Somersault Act; would join Troupe. Cooper, 53, Glenthorne-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Known, Wedburns, Comedians, Vocalists, &c. Still Vacant for Pantomime, any parts, Bigger the Better. Not Knockabouts, but Comedians. Creators and Legitimate Laughter-makers. Oct. 12, Empire, Rochdale.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Denby and Dent, Comedians and Dancers; thoroughly experienced. Add., Pavilion Theatre, Abertillery, Mon.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. Fred Wilkins and Bro., Ltd., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. Cecil E. Hicks, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective, Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. Charles Sayer, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, or Stock, good, effective work, reasonable prices. J. Jacks, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, smart Assistant Advance-Agent, must be used to Fit-ups. References, &c., F. Darrell, 415, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, immediately, Smart Electrician and Operator; thoroughly conversant with alternating current; must be steady and reliable, and prepared to commence on receipt of wire. Fullest particulars in first letter,
A. E. Pickard, New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.

GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP.
WANTED, Stage-Carpenter, one capable of using a brush preferred. Apply, giving references of situations as carpenter during the last three years. No notice will be taken of applicants unable to give present addresses of previous employers. Apply, S. Goodman.

WANTED, good reliable Carpenter, with tools; one capable of keeping scenery in first-class condition; sober and attentive, and able to play small parts intelligently. Age, height, latest references (important), photo., lowest terms. Fred C. Somerfield, Lichfield-rd., Rushall, near Walsall.

WANTED, tall well-built Baggage-Man, who can play Parts if required; long Tour. Apply by letter only, with terms, to Walter Reynolds, 38, Tunley-road, Balham, S.W.

WANTED, Character Actor, to Coach aspirant in Make-up, &c., Saturday mornings. Terms (which must be moderate) and experience to Rogate, Thrale-road, Streatham.

WANTED, Appointment as Business and Stage-Manager for Music Hall or Entertainment Hall, in London or Suburbs, good appearance and education, has stage-managed productions at London Theatre, &c., versatile actor and entertainer. Sketches written and developed. Security offered. Salary principally or entirely by results. Box 5,019, "The Era."

WANTED, by Advertising Manager, better position, 11 years' practical experience, 9 years with Music Hall Syndicate. Box 5,004, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Fred Lewis, Advance and General Business-Manager, Circus and Dramatic, Dis. winter season. C/o Andexter, 39, Earl-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Engagement, by W. Coxon, Practical Carpenter, own tools, late 12 years West London Theatre. Address, 200, Miles-buildings, Corlett-street, Edgware-road, London, W.

WANTED, Situation as Carpenter, Bill Inspector, or Caretaker, in Hall or Theatre; good references. W. Chas. Cook, Bristol-street, Malmesbury.

WANTED, Known, E. Dundas, Wardrobe Mistress, is at Liberty for Panto.; design, cut, and make. 41, Elcot-avenue, Peckham.

WANTED, Official Position, Commissionaire, Time, Store, or Warehouse Keeper, Stocktaker; age 40; 6ft. 2in.; good salesman. Box 5,006, "The Era."

WANTED, Situation by Respectable Man, worker, as cleaner and generally useful, Theatre, Music Hall, or Music Hall Artist's Assistant, wages £1. Tom, 8, Ardoch-road, Catford.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Experienced Pianist-Conductor, small band, pictures, twice nightly; permanent engagement. Apply, matinée, to-day, Conductor, Queen's Park Hall, Harrow-road, W.

WANTED, Lady Violinist (Second First), for Permanent Engagement in London; only ladies well experienced in Orchestral work need apply. Write to Mr. G. Broxhorn, The Cabin, 245, Piccadilly, W.

WANTED, First Violin, for Theatre in Midlands.
Full particulars, lowest terms, and references, Box 5,008, "The Era."

WANTED, First Violin, to open Oct. 19; experienced in Varieties. Lowest terms, references, &c., T. Allan Edwardes, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, immediately, First Violinist, experienced. References and lowest terms, David Collins, Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Reliable Violin, for Bedford Professional String Band.
Sec., 9, Little Butt-street, Bedford.

WANTED, immediately, First Violin, for the Brighton Municipal Orchestra; only First-class Players with concert experience apply. Joseph Sainton, Musical-Director, Brighton.

WANTED, good Solo Cornet, for small Touring Orchestra; steady and reliable; permanency. Address, Baring, Anglo-American Exchange, 23, Craven-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, for Folkestone Town Band, Clarionet, Cornet, and Tenor Horn; terms Shares. Write, Secretary, 44, Sandgate-road, Folkestone.

WANTED, Bass Player, for Town Band, Eastbourne. Terms shares. Apply to Band Sec., G. Sergeant, 81, Sydney-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED, First-class Trombone Player, to combine Euphonium, for Summer Season, 1909; six months' engagement, seaside; must be experienced Concert Work. Full particulars, age, to Box 5,021, c/o "Era."

WANTED, for the Hastings Town Band, established 1880, Bombardon. Terms, Shares. Apply, Secretary, Clarance Hotel, Middle-street, Hastings.

WANTED, Good 'Cello, to open Oct. 12, permanency. Apply, with terms, age, and refs., Chas. Elphinstone, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

WANTED, Harp, to combine Second Violin, for Music Hall. Apply, with references, through Branch Secretary, to J. B. Williams, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED, an experienced Dramatic Pianist, for Répertoire Company; long Tour. Full particulars, lowest terms, J. B. Carrickford, Town Hall, Dundalk, Ireland.

WANTED, immediately, Drums and Effects. Wire lowest terms and references
(open Monday if possible),
Manager, Theatre, Leamington.

WANTED, First-class Tympanist, with all Effects, to commence Oct. 26. Permanent engagement to suitable man. Address, with lowest terms and references, Charles Revill, Theatre Royal, Stockport.

WANTED, First-class Leaders, 'Cellists and Contrabassists, for Cunard, White Star, and Booth Lines' Winter Service, about six months, from Oct. Audition in London or Liverpool necessary before engaging, and two references as to character. Terms and conditions from C. W. Black, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin, Viola, and French Horn, not over 30 years of age, and single; none but competent players need apply. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 at the end of the first year, then by annual instalments up to £45, and according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.
Apply to The Medical Superintendent.

WANTED, Musicians to keep away from Munich, owing to dispute there.—A. Seitz, Secretary International Confederation of Musicians, J. B. Williams, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET,'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical-Director (Violin), at Liberty; finishing Summer Engagement of seven months (third season). Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, well-known Young Conductor, Pianist; brilliant, refs.; every business. This week and next, A. B., 34, Zetland-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Musical-Director, Violinist, at Liberty Nov. 16. C. A. Lawrence, Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violinist-Conductor; thoroughly experienced in Variety Business; excellent refs.; grand library. Apply, Conductor, 19, Northcote-road, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Known, Emily Wilson, First Violinist (Solos), young, experienced, Dis. for Ladies' Orchestra, Choir, or Concert Party. Pavilion, Tramore, Co. Waterford.

WANTED, by Josephine Haüt, Orchestral Violinist, Engagement. Apply, Canal House, Warwick-avenue, Maida Vale, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Violinist; steady, experienced, and reliable.
Box 5,001, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady, Violin and Pianist; can also sing; Ladies' Orchestra preferred. Address, Nora Benson, 41, Rye Hill-park, Peckham Rye, London.

WANTED, by good Violinist, Engagement in Varieties; experienced and reliable.
Address, Leader, 266, Liverpool-street, Salford.

WANTED, by First-class Orchestral and Solo Violinist, Lady, just completed three years' engagement; highest references. Violinist, 29, Fairlawn-mansions, New Cross Gate.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violin or Viola, experienced Variety; young, sober, reliable; good refs.; A.M.U. Musician, 27, Fixby-avenue, Pye Nest, Halifax.

WANTED, Engagement, as Cornet, any Bus.; age 22; good refs.; steady. Wire or write, Cornet, 51, Dartford-road, Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, by good reliable Cornet, any Business; good refs.
Townsend, 11, Blackman-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Cornet Player, assist First when required; can commence at once; any business. H. Philino, 179, Farm-street, Birmingham.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by Cornet, experienced;
can double Violin.
Write, Box 6,020, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagements, by experienced Trumpet and Cornettist; just finished season; excellent refs.; any Business. Whitaker, 28, Honeybrook-road, Clapham Park, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement as Clarionet, any business; good references. Apply,
J. Grub, 11, Bury-rd., Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoon; good player; Military or Orchestra; just finished Successful Season. Highest references. Lewin, 61, Marquess-road, Islington.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass and Bombardon; good refs.; long and varied experience. Basso, 29, Davis-street, Barking-road, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoonist, any business, just finished season at Lofthouse. Alex. Bertram, Alma, St. Leonards-avenue, Hove.

WANTED, by Trombone or Euphonium; 14 years' experience; good refs. Also Clarionet, Solo or First; good refs. O. C., 31, Portland-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Engagement, by Slide Bass Trombone, eight years' experience. Mr. Burbage, 155, York-road, Battersea, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone or Euphonium, or combine both, any business; good references. T. R. Westley, 45, Portland-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Known, First-class Trombone, at Liberty, any business, London or Provinces, strictly attentive to business and reliable. Banwell, 7, Canton-st., Poplar, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Orchestral Euphonium and Concert Soloist, or with Tenor Valve Trombone. Howarth, 61, Corrance-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Situation, by Bombardon, Workshop where Band is kept, Reed or Brass.
Bom,
9a, Pavilion-terrace, Wood-lane, W.

WANTED, Engagement, Bombardon, reliable; splendid refs.; life abstainer; Disengaged. Mr. Hutley, 33a, Canterbury-road, Old Kent-road, London.

WANTED, an Engagement, as 'Cellist, Theatre or Variety Hall; good references; thoroughly experienced. Box No. 5,011, c/o "Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, as Oboe or Double Bass; any Business, experienced. J. Crabtree, 5, James-street, Scarborough.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, or Deputise; good references. Flautist, 52a, Wilson-road, Stamshaw, Hants.

WANTED, Engagement, as Flute and Piccolo; young, reliable, good references, any Business. Flautist, 2, St. Michael's-st., Southampton.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, by Lady Pianist, Vocalist, Organist, Double Bass Player; would travel; sight reader; excellent testimonials. Rosemont, Sydenham-road, Bristol.

WANTED, well-known young Brilliant Pianist (Violin); splendid refs.; every Business. This and next, A. B., 34, Zetland-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagements, Pianist, First-class Accompanist, good Sight-reader. Mr. Sam Clifton, 37, Woodside-road, South Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Re-engagement, First-class Lady Pianist, Expert Sight Reader and Accompanist, experienced all lines, London preferred. Pianist, 32, Chapter-chambers, Chapter-street, Westminster.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement, suit Pictures; good memory and improviser; terms moderate. London or suburbs preferably. G. Lainson, 24, Offerton-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Pianist, any business, pictures, &c., good soloist and accompanist, excellent refs. F. Rogers, 152, High-street, Notting Hill Gate, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums (Tympani, Glockenspiel, Xylophone, and Effects), any Business; excellent references; experienced. Bennett, 1, St. Leonard's-road, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Engagement, Drums and Tympanis, any Business. Haslam, 17, Albert-street, Heaton Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drummer, Tympanist (with Effects); Military or Orchestral; excellent refs. Permanency preferred. Drums, 31, Brading-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Tympanist and Double Drummer, own tymps., drums, glockenspiel, &c. The Standard, 3, Varistone-place, Walham Green, S.W.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, Bateson's Orchestra (small), Vocalists and Instrumentalists; excellent répertoire. Musical-Directress, Miss Maude Trainer, Bowness-on-Windermere.

WANTED, Known, the Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, Instrumentalists and Vocalists, from Olympia, Franco Exhibition, &c. Vacant dates, Mme. Nellie Baker, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, Known, the Renowned Shamrock Ladies' Trio (all experienced and brilliant soloists) have still a few vacant dates open this autumn for at-homes, concerts, and hotels, &c.; smart costumes and extensive répertoire. For terms, apply, Musical Director, 12, Heber-mans., Queen's Club Gardens, Kensington, W.

WANTED, Known, First-class Ladies' Quartette or Trio, open for Re-engagement, Café, Hotel, &c. Box 5,003, "The Era."

WANTED, by Novelty Gentleman's Orchestra, conducted by Miss De Polo, Dancing, Concerts, Reception, &c. Miss de Polo, Ladies' Quartette. Offers. All season Franco-British. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Re-engagement by Small Brass Band, just concluded six months' Tour with T. Fossett's Circus. L. Walters, 15, Lower Drayton-place, Croydon, Surrey.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, John Scott's Royal Circus,
Smart Reliable Ground Acts.
Nothing too Big.
No number too small if good.
No fancy salaries, but will entertain any Good Acts at a reasonable price. Artists please note.—No street parade or 3 and 4 o'clock starts
Our performances daily at 4.30 and 8.

State full particulars in first letter,
12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS,
EDINBURGH.
WANTED, for the above, from Nov. 21, 1908, on, the Cream of Artists in all Branches of the Equestrian, Gymnastic, and Vaudeville Profession (refinement absolutely necessary). Lithos. and Posters to T. W. Cooke, Cooke's Royal Hippodrome and Circus, Edinburgh, N.B.

WANTED, by Renowned Gymnasts, experienced Catcher for Throwing Act; Amateurs need not apply. Eugene, South London M. Hall.

WANTED, a Young Lady, with knowledge of Acrobating or Juggling. All particulars, Box 5,023, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Circus Proprietors and Directors
to Note that the
ROYAL OHMYS
must be in England at Christmas.
ROYAL OHMYS,
Greatest of all Acrobatic Equestrians on one, two, three, four, and five Bareback Horses; the only Acts of the kind ever seen in a Circus Ring. Have made the greatest success ever known in Denmark. The only Circus Riders in the world, complimented by H.M. King Edward VII. for fourth time at the Grand Circus, Paris. Have just appeared by command before H.R.H. the Crown Prince of Denmark and Royal Family. Complimented by H.R.H., and received the title of Royal Riders of Denmark,
Ada Ohmy, the Dashing Lady Rider.
Lil Ohmy, the Artist's Model on Horseback.
Sal Ohmy, the Greatest All-round Circus Artist in the World; with six great Acts. Will arrive in England end of Oct., after fulfilling six months' Engagement with Beck Olsen's Great Circus, Denmark. Notice, Beck Olsen has re-engaged
THE ROYAL OHMYS
for eight months next season at an increase of salary. This is proof of what these Artists are worth. No Circus complete without
THE ROYAL OHMYS.
Will be at Liberty for the Winter Season end of Oct. For particulars and list of Acts address, The Royal Ohmys, c/o Beck Olsen, Copenhagen, Denmark.

WANTED, Known, John Scott's Royal British Circus Family, at Liberty coming Winter Season. Can supply full Circus Company, or can arrange for a number of individual Acts
Pure Business; no Bluff.
Address, 12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Crockett's Continental Circus, Entire Company, Performing Horses, Ponies, Mules, Dogs, Riders, and Gymnasts, at Liberty for Winter Season. All communications, Mr. Crockett, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Madame Rose Montero it at Liberty Christmas with her thoroughbred Horses; two distinct acts, Ménage Act and Liberty Acts. All communications to Hengler's Circus.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, the late Buffalo Bill's Rough Rider, who presents his thoroughbred Mare in her Novelty Act, Racing Tricks. Apply, Maerdy, Glam., South Wales.

WANTED, Oct. 12, on, The Flying Orenius's, Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts, in their Phenomenal Flying Act. The only one of its kind. 24, Foxley-road, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Variety Artists Suitable for Concert Platforms, three Halls, one night only (Saturdays). Send vacant dates, lowest terms, to Wm. Biggam, 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted.
Variety Artists, Big Specialities in all Lines,
Send full list of Bookings, lowest terms, lithos., &c.
Ventor's Agency,
Manager, Richd. T. Blick (late 10 years with W. Sley), 24, Devonshire-st., All Saints, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Ventor, Executive, Manchester."
Telephone 7873.

WANTED, Monday, Oct. 19, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. Mascard, Manager.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Variety Artists,
in all Lines,
for Monday, Oct. 19, onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal.

WANTED, Variety Artists, for South Wales and Cornwall, good Funny Acts, Vocalists, and Dancers. Good Pierrot Troupe write. Address, Director, Walton House, Camborne.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines, Nov. 16, twice nightly. No wire.
E. H. Page.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Oct. 19, and onwards, with exceptions.
A. E. Pickard, Britannia, Glasgow.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48 Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists, Immediate and Future Dates, good break going North. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT.
PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, for the above, Artists in all Lines. Add., T. Allan Edwardes, Grand T., Derby.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott,
Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, good Drawing Turn, Oct. 19 and 26, good towns, North, to follow Leoni Clarke, Jamaica Choir, &c. Sharing terms. Also Comedians, Vents., &c. Manager, 14, Gregson-street, Sacriston, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns doing Singles, two weeks, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, onwards. Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists all Lines, Nov., Dec., onwards.
Terms, Bookings, Lithos., &c.,
Edgar Stebbings,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
'Phone 9261. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester."

WANTED, Artists, Monday on,
Small Hall; Lowest.
Brown, Hip., Blackheath, near Birmingham.

PUBLIC HALL, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Artists, suitable for Picture Show, once nightly; new to above town.
Lynch, 64, John-street, Workington.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Good Sisters. Send list bookings, lowest, and perm. add., to Keble's Agency, King's Hall, Farnworth.

WANTED, First-class Al Fresco Artists, to open Pavilion, Ilkley, Oct. 25, rehearse week previous; also Competent Stage-Manager, to Produce Concerteds.
Full particulars, stating experience, age, répertoire, references, lowest terms, also photo.,
S. Garratt,
Bridge Hotel, Ilkley.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Oct. 19, on, 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.
WANTED, Artists of all descriptions. Write or call, with full particulars,
J. W. Johnson,
Variety and Pantomime Agent,
66, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Grand Anniversary Complimentary Benefit to F. Granville, Esq., Manager, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, Friday, Oct. 16. Pleased to hear from Artists willing to do a Turn in view of Engagements for Granville's three Pantomimes. Usual terms will be given the V.A.F. All communications, Barnard's Agency, Shaw-street, Liverpool. 'Phone 2349 Royal.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY	
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DALTON'S AGENCY	Artists for
DALTON'S AGENCY	Immediate Dates
DALTON'S AGENCY	and Dates onwards.
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DALTON'S AGENCY	Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY	and very lowest
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DALTON'S AGENCY	and permanent addresses.
DALTON'S AGENCY	
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DALTON'S AGENCY	29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Manchester.
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DALTON'S AGENCY	Telegrams:
DALTON'S AGENCY	Granbeste,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Withington-Lancs.
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DALTON'S AGENCY	Telephone:
DALTON'S AGENCY	193 Didsbury.
DALTON'S AGENCY	
DALTON'S AGENCY	

ALLIANCE THEATRICAL AND VARIETY AGENCY, LTD.,
18-20, Manchester-street, Liverpool.
Manager, Edwin W. Smith (late Parthenon and Haymarket Music Halls).
Teles., "Films, Liverpool." 'Phone 6782 Central.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, nothing too big, Novelty and Speciality Acts; Artists to send full list of bookings and absolute lowest terms; Artists for Alhambra, Belfast; Artists for Entertainments, Ltd.'s Tour; High-class Artists for St. George's Hall, Belfast. Sole Agents for above, Alliance Theatrical and Variety Agency, Ltd., 18-20, Manchester-street, Liverpool, to whom all communications re Bookings must be addressed. Will Minnie Cunningham communicate? Important.

CHELTENHAM
NEW PALACE
THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.
WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

WANTED, Known, Empire, Londonderry, closes Sat., Oct. 10, for alterations. All contracts cancelled. Artists write for later dates. Signed, W. G. Cody.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Stars and Specialities, also Doubles doing Singles, for immediate and future Dates, for Every Town of Note in Scotland.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates, to communicate terms, &c., to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Variety Stars, all Lines, London and Provinces; also for Pantomimes.
Geo. Aytoun, 103, Kennington Park-rd., London, S.E.

WANTED, Variety and Speciality Stars, Comedians, &c., Oct. 19, on. Terms and bill of contents, week, James Elphinstone, Theatre, Stafford.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, PONTEFRACT.
Telephone 64 Pontefract.
General-Manager, Tom Diacoff.
WANTED, Big Star Turns, Artists all Lines. State if ever appeared in Pontefract or Districts, also absolutely lowest (only small town). I can place you elsewhere if acts suitable. Ella's Lions, Tokio Troupe, Tennessee Guards, communicate,
Tom Diacoff
Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

WANTED, Turns suitable for the Continent. Lithos., posters, photos.,
Vacant dates, and terms,
Papa Brown,
Variety Agent,
Martinister, 30, III,
Hamburg, 20.
Manager, Frank Ackermann.
Papa Brown returns to London Oct. 19.

WANTED, two or three good Speciality Turns, to open Oct. 26, at the
East Oxford Theatre, Oxford.
To save unnecessary correspondence, please state full particulars in first letter (no wires). Address, Boswell, Corn Exchange, Newbury, Berks, until Wednesday, Oct. 14.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines, Oct. 19, 26, later.
Callie and Walker send address.
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Barnard's Agency, Shaw-street, Liverpool. Telephone 2349. Talent in all Lines. Pantomime Artists, &c., send full list bookings and vacancies. V.A.F. Office Copy.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, for South Wales and District. Lowest terms and list of bookings, particulars, &c., Martino's Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly. Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Oct. 19, Glasgow, Midlands, Yorkshire, South Wales, Variety Acts all Lines. Full Bookings imperative. Gannon, West Grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Acts, can give immediate dates. Send particulars, with full list of bookings, terms, &c., Dan Noble, Empire, Grantham.

EMPIRE THEATRE, DOUGLAS, I.O.M.
WANTED, Smart Single and Double Acts, Nov. 9, onwards (single weeks only).
Absolute terms (hall small) in first letter to
Rex Sugden, Manager.

CLIQUOT'S THEATRICAL VARIETY AGENCY,
46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.
WANTED, Big Attractions, all Lines.
Big Star Acts.
Big Star Acts.
Artists, all Lines, must be First-class,
for all dates,
for everywhere.
Notice.
I accepted Federation Office Copy.
Good enough for me.
Have no time parading with motor cars, too busy looking after
Managers' and Artists' Interests alike.
No favourite acts on my list.
My energy is divided for all.
All communications address as above.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, for the Above, Strong Attractions, all Lines, Oct. 19, onwards. Will share for extra big numbers. State lowest first letter, Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

PALACE, BOSTON.
WANTED, Good Variety Combinations, also Variety Artists all Lines, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2, 9. Ernest Cass, Manager.

NORTHERN COUNTIES AGENCY.
WANTED, Class Numbers to communicate. Stars or good filling-up Lines equally catered for. Bookings and lowest to J. Harrison, Touring Representative, or Carrill-grove, Levenshulme, Manchester. 'Phone 108 Rusholme. Wires, "Vaudeville, Levenshulme." Mlle. Frederica (Dogs) please write.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, for Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

YARMOUTH & LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.
YARMOUTH & LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.
WANTED, Oct. 26, onwards, Specialities and Dumb Shows of every description; big Sketches.

NEW HIPPO. PALACE, EXETER.
NEW HIPPO. PALACE, EXETER.
Wanted, Nov. 9, onwards, First-class Numbers of every description. Artists engaged for opening kindly send Bill Matter to Geo. Zalva, Hippodrome, Yarmouth, immediately.

HENGLER'S, GLASGOW.
HENGLER'S, GLASGOW.
Wanted, First-class Acrobatic Troupe, big Bicycle Act, Specialities of every description, to commence middle of Nov. Kindly say when and where in Glasgow before.
Apply
with lowest terms and full particulars,
Geo. Zalva's Agency,
Geo. Zalva's Agency,
The Hippodrome, Yarmouth.
Artists not receiving reply will kindly take same to mean inability to arrange at present.

WANTED, Top of Bill, for Oct. 26, Frank Lynne and Co., 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. N.B.—Callers by appointment only.

WANTED, for Oct. 19, good Top and good Speciality Acts. Wire, or phone 1098 City. Seen by appointment only. J. Brown and Co., Variety Agents, 58, Chicksand-street, E.E.

WANTED, for New Amphitheatre or Bijou Pavilion, Rhyl, First-class Bioscope and Vaudeville Attractions, for Oct. 12 and onwards. Address, S. Warhurst, Pier, Rhyl.

WANTED, for St. Anne's Pier, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, for Season 1909, a First-class Company of Al Fresco Entertainers.
Offers, with full particulars, to be sent in not later than Thursday, Oct. 22, 1908, addressed to The Manager.

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.
Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher.
General-Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. Reginald Fletcher.
WANTED, Oct. 12, Tenors, Basses, Pavilion, Northwich; Town Hall, Middlewich; Town Hall, Winsford. Rehearsals 1 sharp all concerned.
General-Manager, Towyn Thomas.

WANTED, Sopranos, Contraltos, Lady Pianist (play at sight). State if step dance. Age, height, photos., Manager, 52, Morat-street, Clapham-road.

WANTED, a First-class Contralto or Mezzo Soprano, to Sing to Pictures, for Exeter; commencing shortly. Give répertoire, experience, and salary.
Geo. Zalva, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Young Lady, Musical Novelty Act, travel villages Picture Show, at once. Stanton, Post Office, Bishop Monkton, Ripon.

WANTED, a Young Lady, who can dance, to join another Lady already on the Variety Stage, who has in preparation a Novel Act. Apply by letter only, R., care of Moran and Wiser, Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.C.

WANTED, Girl, 17-19 years of age, smart all-round Dancer, Acrobatic and Step, must be clever and talented, to learn little Acrobatic business for First-class Comedy Act, also for Continent, Act playing at present West End Hall.
Apply, with lowest terms, full particulars, to Box 5,002, "The Era."

WANTED, at once, several good Amateurs (Comedians, Dancers, Vocalists). For interview, The Gresham Variety Agency, 67, Liverpool-road, Islington, N.

WANTED, for Long Engagement with Established Minstrel Co., a Young Man, with Good Voice; must read music, and able to play Bones or Tambo. Ransom and Co., 26, Ivy-lane E.C.

WANTED, Wire Walker and Knockabout Tumbler (young), to rehearse at once, for good Sketch. Write, stating tricks and lowest terms, Box 5,010, c/o "Era."

WANTED, one-and-half hours' good Picture Show, Oct. 19 and 26, two weeks, near Durham, and two Smart Variety Turns. Address, Pictures, 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, a First-class Bioscope Operator, must be used to alternating current, for West of England; good salary to the right man. Apply, with references and particulars as to previous experience. Also Wanted, a good Bill Inspector, combine other duties, effect workers, window-billers, &c., permanency. Apply, Geo. Zalva, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Up-to-date Operator, own machine (lime) and films. Absolutely lowest terms, refs. (2), to W. E. Potts, Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Operator, own machine and house, for month Nov.; salary or shares; long show. Box 5,014, "The Era."

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Little Dolly Brough, Comedienne, Clog Dancer, Mon. Wire. A sure success anywhere. This, 1, Park-st., Ashton-under-Lyne. Vac. Panto.

WANTED, Known, that Lolo and May, Extraordinary Gymnasts and Speciality Dance Artists, are making terrific success everywhere. Fully booked 1908. Please write for dates 1909. Address, 127, Upper Aughton-road, Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Monday, Lydia Raie, Banjo Queen, Trick Mandolinist, with own Pictures, great novelty Last week, Drogheda; this, Palace, Worcester. Wire.

WANTED, by Fanny Robina and Florry Cooper, two Star Turns, sure Draw, certain Success, at Liberty Oct. 19, 26, also for Pantomime, Principal Boy and Fairy Queen. Address, Hippodrome, Eccles, Lancashire.

WANTED, Oct. 19 and 26, between Workington and Greenock, Unexpectedly Vacant, Jean Macduff, the Favourite Lady Scotch Comedian; also Peggy Lyndon, Dainty Musical Act. One or both. Wire, Melville, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, Known, Ruble and Elsie Redfern, Drawing-room Act, with Piano, Banjos, Mimicry, Singing, Dancing, &c. &c. Vacant Oct. 26, between Birmingham and Brighton. Next, Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, Oct. 12, 19, 26, Babs Lloyd, Star Artist; also Nellie Vann, Comedy Artist. Wire, Empire, Burnley, two good turns.

WANTED, Monday next, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers. Wire or write, 23, St. George's-road, Southwark, S.E.; also Oct. 19, Nov. 2 and 9.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Terry, Mimics, Vocalists, and Dancers. Variety itself. Press. At Liberty Oct. 19, 26. Communicate, Oct. 12, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Co. Durham. A Sure Hit.

WANTED, Monday next (one week only), by Cambo, the Musical Monkey, two Acts if required. Wire, 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen; any distance.

WANTED, Known, Sabino, Musical Monarch, concludes to-night, with Tremendous Success, three weeks, New Town Hall, Pontypridd. At Liberty Oct. 12 and 19. This Act a Big Number for Picture Show.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Oct. 12 and 19 (through changing dates), Siaffo, the Comedy Talking, Juggling Butcher Boy. The Laughing Hit of the Bill. This week, Hippo., West Bromwich.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, World's Champion Bantam-weight Wrestler, Great reception and success Londonderry, Ireland. Next, Hippo., Kirkcaldy; vacant Nov. 11, 25. Coms., 34, Margaret-street, Liverpool; or Criquer.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Oct. 19 and Nov. 2; beautiful Illuminated Electric Stage Effects. Concluded to-night, Queen's Theatre, Glasgow; next, Opera House, Londonderry.

WANTED, Nov. 2 and 16, Scotland, by the Great Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese Illusionist. This week, Gaiety, Leith; next, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Oct. 19, 26, on (exceptions), The Monckton's (Fred, Lillie) present their original screaming, farcical episodes, "Two in a Flat," "A Woman's Curiosity," "Are Wives Dummies?" Enthusiastic reception this week, Winter Gardens, New Brighton; Oct. 12, Gaiety, Clydebank, Scotland.

WANTED, by Ernest Longstaffe, Baritone and Entertainer at Piano; and Enid Hamilton, Comedienne; joint only. 18, Up. Sandwith-street, Dublin.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Dutch Comedy Duo, Oct. 5, 12, 19, Original and Clever. Wire for Monday, 5, Brunswick-street, Whitby.

WANTED, Oct. 19, 26, by the Two Le Bruns, Edgar and Edie, the Wonderful Child Juggler and Vocalist. Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, Monday next, also 26th, by Ryder Davis, Comedian; also Eva Ward, Comedienne. Wire, Saturday night, Pal., Porth; after, 41, Cambridge-st., Camberwell.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Burlesque; one or both. Wire, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Monday next, by Ward and Davis, Comedy Singing and Dancing Duo. "Wanted, a Typist," sure success. Wire, Hippo., Richmond.

WANTED, by Bros. Webb, Renowned Musical Clown, Oct. 12, 19, Nov. 2, 23. Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell.

WANTED, Nov. 2 and 16, by Phern and Phern, in their Great Drawing-room Speciality, the "'Phone Act." Novelty, Comedy, Originality, Melody. Wire or write. Oct. 12, Tivoli, Pentre. 19th, Palace, Cardiff; 26th, Palace, Bath.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Monday next, Oct. 12, onwards, Novel Comedy Act. Wire, Empire, Dover; after Saturday, 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston, London.

WANTED, Monday next, by Les Rallis, the Artist and His Monkey. Wire, 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

WANTED, by McAleavey Brothers, World's Premier Trick and Barrel Jumpers, Oct. 19 and 26. This, Hippo., Belfast; next, Albert Hall, Southport; or wire.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon Trio, Acrobatic Eccentrics, Vacant November. This, Hip., Stockton; next, Hip., Nottingham. Perm. address, 101, Woodland-road, Clifton, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Stavordale Quintette wants Oct. 12 and 19. The most artistic item in the bill.—Referee. Sept. 27. E., Stockport.

WANTED, Known, what a draw the Four Cecilians are. Storming Winter Gardens, New Brighton, this; vacant Oct. 12, 19, 26; two distinct Acts.

WANTED, Known, Ringling Trio, Acrobatic Comedy Act, on Stilts, &c., vacant Monday next, Oct. 19, 26. Wire, 8, Chaucer-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Oct. 19 and 26, by Alex and Jolly, the Greatest of all Comedy Three-bar Acts. Royalty Theatre, Morecambe.

WANTED, Oct. 19, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Crystal P., London.

WANTED, Known, Tom Garland, Ventriloquist and Conjurer, wants Monday next. Very Big Hit this week, my return at Empire, Greenock. Impossible to answer all re advert.

WANTED, Nov. 2, 9, 16, by Harry Keeble, Novelty Ventriloquist. This, Palace, New Brighton; Mon., King's Hall, Farnworth. Wire, write.

WANTED, Known, Gaiety Entertainers, under Management London and Provincial Entertainments Co., now booking dates. Coms., MANAGER, 56, Dangan-road, Wanstead.

WANTED, Oct. 12 and 19, and Nov. 23, by Tom Kelso and Co., in their 15-minutes' Screaming Absurdity, without vulgarity, entitled "The Silly Servant." Re-booked Everywhere by results, not bluff. Thanks to Mr. Bostock for return tour, also Mr. Graham and other Proprietors, for return dates. Thirty-six weeks already booked for next year. Pantomime settled with J. F. Elliston, Esq. Per., TOM KELSO, 36, Cremorne-street, Nottingham. First day's fishing landed a jack, 41b.

WANTED, by Salmon, Trick and Musical Cyclist, Oct. 12 and 19. Wire, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, Oct. 19 (North), Nov. 9 (Midlands), and Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28 (London or South). Com., 41, Tower-street, Portobello, N.B.

WANTED, Oct. 19, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery, biggest novelty ever introduced, with Troupe of Dogs. Crystal Palace, London.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, vacant Oct. 12, 19. Wire, Saturday, Hippodrome, Stalybridge; after see Cards.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, Bâton Spinner, Dancer, and Comedy Tumbler, wishes to join Comedy Act. HERBERT, c/o Abercrombie, 77, South Portland-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, by Youth 20, Shop as Assistant, or in Sketch; good refs. WILL EVENS, Post Office, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private, Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also "Punch and Judy," with Dog Toby. 13, Paulton-st., Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

THE YANKEE ANIMATED PICTURES.
WANTED, immediate and future Dates, for the Finest Picture Show Travelling. Halls of not less than 800 capacity. HELM, 21, Colebrooke-row, London, N.

WANTED, Halls or Institutes, suitable for Sylvester's Royal Bioscope and Vaudeville Company, in or near London. State holding capacity. Terms and full particulars, 271, Clapham-rd., London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Operator, with own machine, seeks Engagement; good refs. Apply, Box 5,000, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Bioscope Operator; good Electrician; good refs. Address, W. E. N., 20, The Grove, Vauxhall, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars, C. G. CLACHER, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 350 miniatures to select from. MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, 22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 22s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls, GREEN, 94, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 26150, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402.
This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street, and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.
CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c, and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, latest, latest, Mysterious Bezek. Breathes Fortunes on Blank Sheets of Paper; no offensive smell; can take 10s. an hour, 7 guineas; Prepared Fortunes, 10s. 6d. 1,000. LESTER, Aylesbury.

WANTED, Known, XL-All Electric Pistols, Greatest Success, Mechanical Figures, Parisian Stereoscopic Slides, &c. AAB, 17, Bury-street, Bloomsbury.

WANTED, for Arcadia, Drill Hall, Portsmouth, Big Attractions, Menagerie, Native Village, Cake-walk, &c., Spaces to Let for Side Shows, Stalls, Games, Novelties, &c.; open Dec. 5. MANAGER, 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, First-class Side Shows, for an Automatic Arcade in London, upon 50 per cent. Sharing Terms.
Send all particulars to GAYLAND, 98, King-street, Hammersmith.

WANTED, for the Carnival, Camborne, Cornwall, Town Hall Buildings, the Great mining centre of Cornwall, for Winter Season, commencing Oct. 26 all under cover, brilliantly lighted throughout by electricity. The Cornish Carnival. The Cornish Carnival. Every Description of Novelty in Side-shows. Special service of trains to the Carnival. Address, DIRECTOR, Walton House, Camborne, Cornwall.

WANTED, good Novelties, with Flash, to open on Oct. 12, for two weeks, half shares. Will Aden and Hero write? Strong Show and Wrestling Girls. Wire to BARRON BROS., Exhibition Arcade, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Novelties, Freaks, &c., with good Flashes; also Tattooist, Palmist, &c.; grand position. PROPRIETOR, 157, High-street, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Novelties for two of the Best Shops in London; month certain for right shows. MANAGER, 95, High-street, Stoke Newington.

WANTED, Living Freaks and Novelties, immediate Dates. WAXWORKS, 9, Castle-street, Inverness.

WANTED, Strong Men, Conjurers, Freaks, Novelties, &c.; good flash. Share terms. THE AMERICAN SWEETMEAT AND AUTOMATIC COMPANY, 118, Rathbone-street, Canning Town.

WANTED, Cinematograph, for Walk-up Booth; Organ, Drums, &c. Open at Once. Sharing. Particulars, apply TEXAS, Show Ground, Larkhall, N.B

WANTED, Lady Palmist, to work on half cash takings. Permanency. HUNT'S Photographic Studio, 87, Hurst-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, Microscope Worker, for Touring Exhibition, on sharing terms. "Z," 6, Avenue-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, Tommy Halton, Comedian, Descriptive Vocalist, and Experienced Planksman, is vacant Monday. Those who want a turn and a worker, write at once. Two years with F. M. Barber, Esq., three and a half years with H. Johnson, Esq. Plenty of songs and gags. Wire, Auction Mart, Shelley, near Huddersfield.

WANTED, Known, Young Lady, Scientific Palmist, desires Engagement, 35s. weekly. Address for particulars, 12, Portland-road, Mottingham, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Lizzie Wainwright, the Nottingham Fat Girl, shares or salary. Miss L. WAINWRIGHT, c/o Mrs. Marwood, 4, Infirmary-st., Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, to Showmen. Advertiser, well educated, good appearance, would Advance Agent, Inspector, or Secretary; good Decorative Artist and Writer; willing. At Liberty. S., 101, Alfred-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

GRAND PIER, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
Season 1909.
WANTED, Known, Spaces to Let, for Side-shows; also Shops, low rentals, for the sale of Fruit, Flowers, Tobacco, and Smokers' Requisites, Fancy Goods, &c. MANAGER.

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WANTED, Space, in First-class Touring Exhibition, for Mirrors, &c. Address, Box 5,007, "The Era."

WANTED, Space, Photography, Miniatures, Postcards, While You Wait; Exhibition, or anywhere. WALLIS, 10, Church-square, Margate.

WANTED, to Sell, a Burrell's 6 h.p. compound, double-crank Road Locomotive, also Dynamo and Plant. For price and particulars, apply to COTTRELL'S Cinematograph, Show Ground, Houghton-le-Spring.

WANTED, Known, for Sale or Hire, Portable Electric Lighting Engine, in truck, by Green, Leeds, to drive 50 arcs, Pickering governors. W. REYNOLDS, Engineer, Bedford.

WANTED, to Sell, Gold-mounted Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, your profits doubled. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL EXHIBITION, EDINBURGH, 1908.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Showmen to Note that at the close of the above Exhibition on Oct. 31, the following Attractions are for Sale:—

GREAT CANADIAN WATER CHUTE,
65ft. high, 280ft. run, with double electric lift for passengers (by Waygoods); twelve boats, each holding eight people.

FLYING MACHINE,
Entirely new model, with eight cars, each holding four passengers, including electric plant, a 17 h.p. motor, and 500 lights.

SPIDER'S WEB MAZE,
Covering 1¼ miles of intricate passages; entirely new idea; including electrical fittings and 380 lamps.

MOULIN ROUGE,
Most novel sensational Helter-Skelter Windmill, the highest ever built—60ft. to the top—including motor for windmill and a large quantity of lamps.

FOUR VENETIAN GONDOLAS,
in splendid condition, gorgeous fittings, straight from Venice, almost new.

HALL OF LAUGHTER,
Entirely new device for drawing crowds, including eleven full-sized distorting mirrors, jumping-floor, and other mechanical effects.

The above Entertainments can now be seen working, and can either be bought as they stand or re-erected in any part of Great Britain.

All further information to be had on application to DIRECTOR, Popular Amusements, Ltd., Scottish National Exhibition, Edinburgh.

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WANTED, to Sell, Very Latest Illusion, Great Indian Mystery, "A Human Moth." Grand Fit-up and Startling Effects. A First-class Side-show (Sure Draw) or Open for Engagement. Letters, INVENTOR, 1, Effie-place, Walham Green, London, S.W.

WANTED, to Sell, Fit-up of Flying Lady Show, cheap. Address, BARING, Anglo-American Exchange, 23, Craven-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, to Buy, a Large Booth, for Cinématograph Show, for cash. Address, Box 7,007, c/o "The Era" Office.

WANTED, to Buy, a well-equipped Waxworks or Penny-slot Parlour; going concern preferred. Reply, full particulars, price, where seen. Immediate purchase. G. THOMPSON, 48, Park-row, Bristol.

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WANTED, to Sell, that splendidly fitted Variety House known as VICTORIA HALL, MATLOCK
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WANTED TO SELL.

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Yours faithfully,
J. H. MEURICE.
"39, Argyle-square, W.C. Oct. 9, 1906."

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WANTED, Films, Fireman's Story, Trouble of the Twins; must be in good condition and cheap. Address, ADKIN, Guild Hall, Carnarvon.

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WANTED, Two Stage Cloths, Seascape or Landscape, size 30 by 20. Lowest price for cash. Apply, T. BOUCHER, Theatrical Stores, Hastings.

WANTED, good Knockabout Comedy Sketch, must be original. State terms, Box 7,070, "The Era."

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WANTED, to Let, immediately, Music Hall, established two houses nightly, prices, 2d., 4d., 6d., and 9d., and early doors; gross receipts last week £108 7s. 7d., with only £50 on Bill; possible to take £130 to £140. Population within six miles' radius about 70,000; lease five years, with option; rent £250 per annum. Giving up solely on account of having taken two theatres in another part of country. Only those prepared to pay £150 Goodwill need apply. Sure income with personal and careful management. Apply first instance by letter, Box 5012, "The Era."

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WANTED, Prof. J. W. Banister (late of White City, Manchester), to please communicate immediately with SECRETARY, Lofthouse Park, Wakefield.

WANTED, Known, will Leo Vint kindly send his name and address to M. W. SHANLY, 35, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead?

WANTED, to thank all those to my last week's advertisement. All vacancies full. W. SEDGWICK, Menagerie, Leicester.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
The Boissets in "Bricklayers," Johnny Walker, Ruth Lytton, Carney and Armstrong, Dare Austin and Co., Carina Sisters, Three Cape Girls, Crown Trio, Bioscope, Bellonini.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Bella and Bijou, Four Jumels, Maudie Francis, Neil Emerald, Harry Rogers and Co., Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Athlones, Cyril Dane, Bioscope, The Gothams.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Lashwood, Violet Halls, Boccaccios, Geo. Newburn, May Edouin, Delomes, Edith Fink, Bioscope, Fred Edwards and Co., in "Kleptomaniacs."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Joseph Hart's "Futurity Winner," Wilfred Burnand, Walter King, "That Brute Simmons," Ten Zerbanis, Goodwin's Piccaninnies, Millie Payne, Bennie Barrow, Bioscope, Hunt and Thomas.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
The Ten Loonies, Victor Newman, Four Figaros, Carlotta Levey, Hermann Melot, Tom Lloyd, Les Esdonians, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Lowenwirth and Cohan.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Harry Tate and Co. in "Billiards," Venie Clements, Edna Luby, Florence and Lillian, Chronomegaphone, The Delevines, Kitts and Windrum, R. H. Douglass, Bioscope, George Gilbey.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Lottie Lennox, Lena Verdi, Eight of Hearts, Dumond Trio, Harry Bedford, J. W. Hall, Watson's Dogs, Bioscope, The Kirbys, Clark and Hamilton.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Tom Edwards, Les Voces, Molasso Quartette, Miss Margaret and Master John Rawson, Ross and Lewis, Lyric Quartette, Marie Empress, Bioscope, Arthur Lennard.

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Tom Foy and Co., Sisters Allen, Eight Lancashire Lads, Olive Armadale, Ten Ji Troupe, Harry Grey, La Belle Nello, Chas. Stevens, Bioscope, Ella Shields.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Lil Hawthorne, Victor Travers, Chas. Vincent, Maud Rochez's Monkeys, Billy McClain and Co., Chronomegaphone, Leonie Dixon, Bioscope, Callahan and St. George, Ray Wallace.

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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Courtice and Louie Pounds, Boyd and Gilfain, La Danseuse, Georgina Leno, Thora, Frank Couch, Bioscope, George Formby.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Tea Shop," Johnson and Bert, Narow Bros., Harry Tate's Co. in "Motoring," Jennie Johns, Renee Reel, Arabella Allen, Bioscope, Warsaw Bros., Syd May.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Bessie Butt, Ian Colquhoun, Imperial Russian Troupe, Lee and Bentley, J. A. Wilson, Sydney Lee, Bioscope, Lydia Yeamans.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Vesta Tilley, Fred Wilkinson, Lily Langtry, Stratton Mills and Co., The Garganis, Olive and Owen, Bioscope, Alf Chester, Dutch Daly, Nellie Wallace.

NOTICE.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—
Cecilia Loftus, Odette Valerie, Bioscope, Wright and Lawson, Les Frascettis, Tom Child, "Rogues of the Turf," M. Volbert and Mlle. Sylve, Madge Temple, Arthur Lloyd Trio, Horace and Olga, "Visions of Wagner."

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Mark Sheridan, Nellie Martell, Musical Schaffers, J. P. Ling, New York Nippers, Jock Mills, Lillie Currie, Pictures, Five Oiracs.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
The Craggs, Will Johnson, Mendel, Tennyson and Wallis, Gus Garrick, Daisy Martell, Pictures, Humpsty Bumpsty.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Hymack, Harry May Hemsley, Maggie Walsh, The Gaudsmidts, Hartley Wonders, George Young, Bioscope, "Makers of History."

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Company as booked.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
Mrs. John Lawson and Co. in "A Bride for a Living," David Poole, C. J. Johnson, Arthur Albert, Maudie Ford, Daunton-Shaw Troupe, Elsie Roby, Moon and Morris, Doody and Wright, Carl Howard, Pictures, Carter Livesey and Co.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
W. C. Fields, Emmie Ames, Conway and Leland, May Henderson, Drew and Alders, Harry Bancroft, Walter Wade, Bioscope, Olga and Elgar.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Barton and Ashley, Little Keeno, Rhoda Paul, Tom Parker, Ouida Macdermott, The Maples, Pictures, The Cumberlands.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

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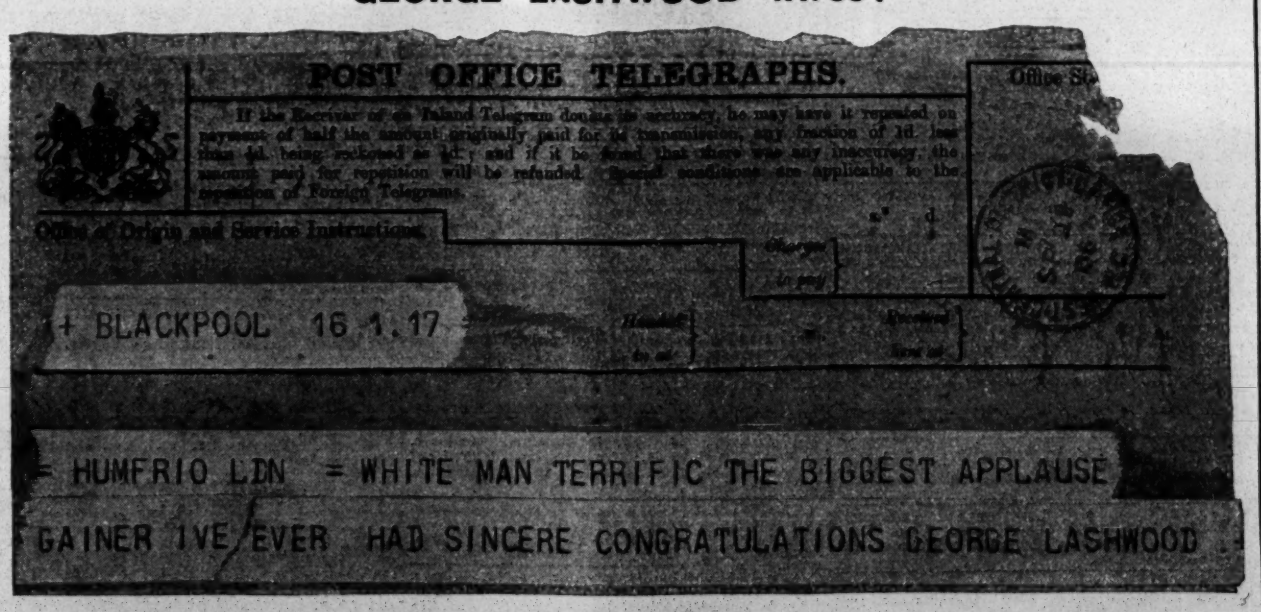
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New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:

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La Pia, Cliff and Kean, George Acre, Lecardo Bros., Happy Attwood, Virto, The Prinellas, Billy Andrus and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Seven Perezoffs, Burns and Bentley, Talbot and Pearce, Jessie Burnett, Chas. Tuppen, Addie Dorina, Bob Hamilton, Annie Schuberth, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Haley's Juveniles, Bros. Hannaway, D. W. Watson, Cavalli, Emma Don, Elmo and Rego, W. G. Wesley, Fritz von Liston, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
"The Maid of the Alps," Lillie Lassah, Carl and Mary Ohm, Sisters Cora, Dave O'Toole, Gibbon and Bell, Tom Yorke, Frank Long and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

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The Waldrons, Harry Milton, Sisters Brenton, Munroe's Team, Gravetta and Parr, The Sivronis, Lambert and Hands, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal, 1 o'clock.
Fred Maxwell and Co., Kitty Willis, Johnson and De Vere, Edith Chantler, The Roxbys, Madge Allan, The Florias, Ross and Grayson, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Beauty Competition, Pete and Juno, Annie Heath, Five Broadway Girls, The Smythsons, Steve Bartlie, Gladys and Alber, Bros. St. Clair, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Gunner Moir, Three Prestons, Dan Whitley, Clifton and Gibson, Flo Burnett, Leo and Roland, Norah Noble, Harvey's Boys and Girls, The Donatos, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Harry Grattan and Co., Nellie Moore, The Countess, The Davenports, Harris Coonie, Bowman and Morton, Gallimore Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée, every Monday.
Florence Yaymen, Edwards and Dacre, Marie Jones and Co., Raymond, Adah Payne, Clack and Clack, Mme. De Rose, J. H. Hawtrey, Browning and Wally, Daisy Stratton, Bernard Mervyn and Co.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Thornbury, Violet Nunn, Lillie Soutter, Walter Clyde, Raymond, Beattie Lyndon, Horace Whitney, Beattie Foster, Ten Dixie Girls, Salida and Vone, Josh Dixon, "Leah."

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée, every Monday.
Alice Blandford, Chas. Penrose, Raymond, Mac and Hill, The Beteons, Sisters Florence, The Bombays, Chas. Resti, Irma Orbasany, Lane and Esgood, "House of Terror," Josephine Crook, Faceograph.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday, 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Sisters Selwyn, Connie Mostyn, The Glenroys, Chas. Lloyd, Jim Cheetham, Raymond, De Lange and Co., Geo. James, Ethel Sheffer, Chas. Lewis, Carlotta De Yonson.

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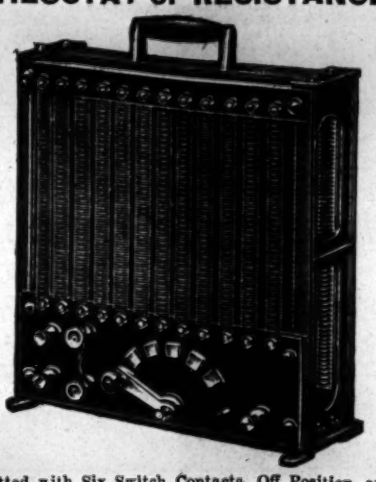

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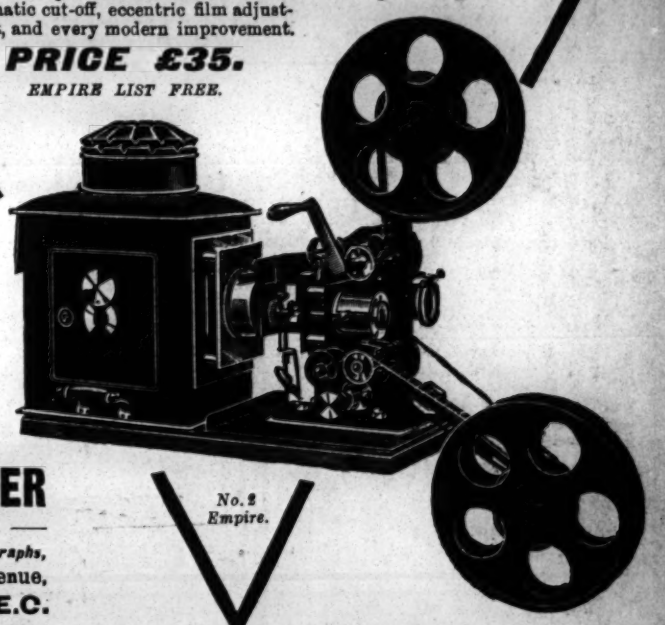

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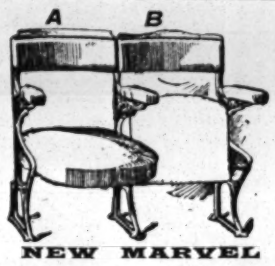

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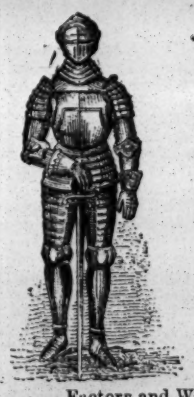

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Merry Widow*, by Mr. George Edwardes's company, crowds the house in every part this week. The piece is splendidly acted, full justice in particular being done to the music. Miss Clare Evelyn makes a fascinating widow, and she also sings with rare skill, while her dancing in the waltz scene is wonderfully artistic. Mr. Basil S. Foster is an admirable Prince; Miss Mary Grey, who possesses a voice of fine calibre, makes a success of Natalie; Mr. Lionel Victor and Mr. Tom Kedmow are excellent as Popoff and Nisch; Mr. Haigh Jackson sings most tunefully as Jolidan; and Mme. Novikovitch is well portrayed by Miss Nora L. Barnby; while Mr. Grafton Williams cleverly represents the old General, and Mr. Albert Kavanagh is a very capable Cascada. The play is superbly staged.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Brothers Horne play their mirthful sketch *The Biter Bit* with an exuberant humour that proves irresistible; Mr. Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, is as popular as ever; Mr. Albert Wyndham and company give a finished rendering of the castle scene from *King John*. Mr. Wyndham admirably sustains the part of Hubert; and Miss Paul Shepherd imparts a poignant degree of pathos to her representation of Prince Arthur. Enzer, the soldier juggler and sword expert, gives a highly interesting display of his skill, in which he is ably assisted by Miss Clarice with a first-class exposition of ju-jitsu; and among the other artists in the bill are Miss Ethel Dove, a captivating comedienne and dancer; Allis and Cassati, versatile comedians; and those warm favourites the Kimberley Boys.

Beach Pavilion.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—The principal attraction this week is a ladies' beauty competition, in which there are a large number of entrants The votes will be counted and the result announced on Saturday. An excellent variety programme is likewise presented, the artists including Miss Violet Davidson (soprano), Miss Muriel Collie (comedienne), Master George Hendry (dancer), Mr. Jack Marson (Scotch comedian), Mr. David Thomson (humorist), and Mr. J. O. Kynoch (pianist).

Alhambra. — Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. G. B. Lee.—Principal among the artists this week are Mr. Tom Melrose, an expert comedian and dancer; Mr. Tom Read and Miss Elsie Wright, first-class duettists and comedians; Miss G. Stewart, a promising soprano; and Mr. Dan Fraser, Scotch comedian, who is rapturously encored for every song.

Empire Music Hall.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—The company includes a large number of clever artists, among them Mr. Archie Murray, coloured comedian and banjoist; Miss Marie Rose, a fine singer and dancer; Prof. Montague, a skilful humorous conjurer; Miss Ada Brogden and Mr. George Millard, comedians and dancers; Mr. Arthur Bright, descriptive vocalist; and Miss May Calder, pianist. The exceedingly funny farce *Black Justice* is well played by the Empire sketch company.

ABERTILLERY.—Metropole Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*The Woman Who Gambles* is capitally staged here this week. Miss Laura Walker scores heavily, and deserves the appreciation shown to her for her fine rendering of Countess Natalia Steinbach; Count Otto Steinbach is performed in a natural and masterly manner by Mr. Clifford Rean; and Mr. Norman N. Overton gives a clever conception of Baron Cratzlaw. Mr. Reginald Fox gives a fine portrayal of Lieut. Karl Ctzartoriski; Miss E. Conway as Cora Gouldhart is much admired; and the minor parts are in capable hands.

Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—The Derrington Family, a clever troupe of cyclists, head an interesting programme, and get much applause for their daring feats; the famous comedian Will English never fails to amuse; the Sisters Morgan are capable vocalists; Mike Asher proves very popular with his songs and dance; Denby and Dent are laughable comedy duologue artists; Ada Gatley is very successful in her unique pot-pourri speciality; a novel and pleasing turn is given by the Avocas, who excel as vocalists in the sensational scena entitled *The Reckless Miner;* and the Bioscope shows some very interesting pictures.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—The Hardie and Von Leer company in *Two Lancashire Lasses in London* is here. Mr. Herbert Pearson gives a manly impersonation of John Edmunds; Mr. E. Rayson Cousens capably portrays the Rev. Frank Selby; Mr. Fred Morgan gives a capital rendition of Jonas Deane; Mr. Chas. Bevan makes an effective Edward Langley; and Mr. Chris Mason is a humorous Samuel Hallett. Miss Rosslyn Vane as Constance proves herself a capable artist; Miss Alice Defoe plays Nellie very sympathetically; Miss Marie Corri is a charming Lucy; and Miss Evelyn Shaw is well suited as Jane Adelaide Bloomfield. The remaining characters are in competent hands.

ALDERSHOT. — Royal and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—Mr. Frank Stanmore's company, in a musical absurdity, *The Gay Deceivers*, is proving a change that is highly appreciated. Miss Kate Chard plays the rôle of Mrs. Dewar with refreshing ease and grace, and has a fine appearance in her favour; Miss Dorothy Chard's is a meritorious portrayal of Dora; and Miss Dora Lane is successful as Winnie. Several excruciatingly funny comedy scenes are introduced by Mr. Mark Lester as the butler Joseph and Miss Pauline Primm as the pert maid, Rosie. Mr. Frank Stanmore gives an amusing personation of Lord Reggie, and makes endless fun with the screen scene; Mr. Arthur Dennis gives a clever enactment of the Colonel; Mr. Douglas Phillips as the Lieutenant is all that could be desired; whilst as the Major Mr. Francis Chamier is good. Mr. Leslie Hawkins is a clever dancer, and as Pinch, the burglar, introduces some good legmania business.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Mr. F. Mouillot's company is here with *A Message from Mars*. Mr. Wallace Widdicombe as Horace Parker realises admirably the self-satisfied, cynical, and callous man of the world; Mr. W. H. Brougham is a majestic Messenger; Mr. Norman Clark impresses the audience as the Tramp; Mr. Robert Grey is an effective Dicey; and minor rôles are adequately filled by Messrs. Eric Ward, Eustace French, Eric Fowler, Walter Selby, and others. Miss Flora Hastings interprets with rare charm the kindly, considerate gentlewoman, Miss Parker, and Miss Rose Helene is sweet as Minnie Templer

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—In the way of instrumental expert playing we have here this week Emil and Ediss, banjoists; A-Ba-Be's Picture-postcard Album affords a good deal of diversion; and Ada Parker wins favour as a comedienne and dancer. Eva Chadwick displays in song her tuneful soprano voice; the *Village Fire Brigade*, in four scenes, presented by Ritchie Hearn, wins great favour; A. R. Clifford is a versatile artist in song and patter; Geo. Westland is a canny Scotch humorist; Florence Raymond is a humorous and refined exponent of the art of ventriloquism; Harry Ford is an extremely laughable, droll comedian; and Uncle's Picnic is depicted on the Bioscope.

Picturedrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros., Liverpool.—The animated picture exhibition here continues to attract the people. This week's bill has many features of interest, and includes The Rivals, a love tragedy of the cavalier period; The Scullion's Dream, a clever humorous set; and Baby's Playmate, introducing a charming child and an intelligent horse, with a dramatic finale. The Pneumatic Policeman provokes roars of laughter, and so does Moving In.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Pease; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—Viviana and company, under the title of *The Toy Shop*, introduce a bright and original dancing scena, full of fun and vivacity; Mr. Ted Curtis and his black and white piccaninnies are popular in song and dance; a clever exhibition on the horizontal bars and trapeze is given by Ariel and Astarte; Miss Marion Blake's vocalism is of a high order; Terry and Bentley (lady and gentleman) present a refined comedy act; Mr. T. C. Edwards, the popular Australian baritone vocalist, has a good reception; Valvo, described as a "military" ventriloquist, is smart, and causes hearty laughter by his witticisms; and Mr. E. C. Clayton's pictures, including Caught in the Quicksands, are highly appreciated.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—On the first three nights of this week the attraction was Mr. Arthur Roberts, Miss Ruby Celeste, and company, appearing in two pieces nightly, *The Importance of Being Another Man's Wife* and *Till Sunday*. The Macdonalds, musical experts, are whimsical in the extreme; as a mimic and speciality whistler Mr. Herbert Lyne is entertaining; and Onda and Artell, gymnasts, are also in the bill.

Town Hall.—Between the show of films here there are variety turns, including the Merry Mannikins, the Bentleys (with a musical turn), and Mr. Dufton Scott.

Volunteer Hall.—Mr. Durward Lely and company appeared on Saturday evening in *The Bonnie Brier Bush*. The company gave every satisfaction.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Stephen Pritt's company, in *His Wife No Longer*, has formed the attraction here this week. Mr. E. Paul Neville gave a capital interpretation of the part of the hero, Harold Medworth; and Daniel Trench found a clever exponent in Mr. David Donaldson. Mr. Clavering Craig's performance as the callous villain, Anthony Merivale, was sufficiently repulsive; Mr. C. Vivian Charles as Tommy Oglethorpe gave a humorous study of that character; Mr. C. Wordley Hulse submitted a masterly representation of the Rev. Frank Willacy; Mr. David McFarlane was decidedly amusing as P.C. Michael Flanaghan; Miss Rosa Mervyn made a sympathetic and pleasing Mrs. Merivale; Miss Nellie Lawson gave a carefully-studied performance of Lucy Hooper; and Miss Florrie Hayes as Marion Jefferies was highly commendable.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Long Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—The bill of fare this week is being provided by Mr. and Mrs. John Walters' No. 1 company in the fairy play *Babes in the Wood*, and large audiences are being attracted. The scenery and properties carried by the company are extensive and elaborate, the chorus work together well, and the various songs and dances are thoroughly enjoyed.

Albert Hall.—Proprietors, The Barnstaple Town Council; Manager, Mr. O. J. Nicklin.—Mr. Walter George and his Smart Set delighted large audiences on two nights; the company includes Miss Georgie Martin, a burlesque actress of pronounced ability; Miss Lena Hutchings, who possesses a powerful soprano voice; Miss Pattie O'Hanlon, contralto; and Messrs. Oliver Comber, Samuel Woodin, and Edgar Hulland, who is a clever pianist.

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Frank G. Pitt presented *£1,000 Reward* to a well-filled house on Monday. As Mme. Sanson Miss Kathryne Eckhart acted with power; Mr. Frank Pitt, an effective Vincent Rainsworth, was well supported by Mr. Frank Dallas as Inspector Gilbert; Miss Minnie Goepel gains many admirers for a clever portrayal of Kitty Springthorpe; the comedy parts are well filled by Miss Marjorie Seymour and Mr. Joe English; Mr. J. Wilton plays admirably as Gilbert Lisle; and Messrs. Edward De Vere, William Gibson, A. Merton, and Miss Alice Clarke all do well in their respective parts.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—A return visit of *When Knights Were Bold* is again attracting large audiences. Mr. Henry J. Ford is starred in the heavy rôle of Sir Guy de Vere, which he enacts with the greatest success, laughter being incessant while he is on the stage. Mr. Vernon Sainsbury continues to impersonate Mr. Isaacson, and is even better than before; the Hon. Charles Widdicombe is hit off capitally by Mr. Cecil Clayton. The experience of Mr. William Lockhart is brought out well in his present character of the Rev. Peter Pottleberry; Mr. George Rowlands is fairly satisfactory as Sir Brian Ballymole. Two excellent impersonations are those of Mr. Talbot Homewood and Mr. Reginald Hunter as Whittle and Barker. Miss Bruce Joy catches just the right key of farce as the "ancestral worshipper" Lady Rowena. Miss Phyllis Back as Miss Isaacson, Miss Violet Graham as Millicent, Miss Gretchen Yates as Marjorie, Miss Adrienne Yates as Kate, Miss Bessie Walters as Alice Barker, and Miss Ethel Royall as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave are all good. A duologue, *The Wrong Side of the Road*, is enacted smartly by Mr. Cecil Clayton and Miss Phyllis Back.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Webb and Branston render duets with artistic effect far above the average; the Three Sisters Silcott, who sing the taking "Farewell, Killarney," score a success in a capitally-arranged naval composition; the Two Kays return to win further laurels in their scena *The Cuckoo;* Robins and Collier create much hilarity in their comedy act *The Lady and the Porter;* Chas. Woodwall gets on capital terms with the audience as a light comedian; Mlle. Bartenelli as a contortionist does many smart feats upon a particularly small platform, and as one of the Vyponds gains plaudits with her amusing partner in a well-arranged turn. Raymond's Biotableaux are to the fore as usual.

Assembly Rooms.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Howes, jun.—A delightful series of entertainments is being given this week by Mr. Harold Montague and his lady and gentlemen coadjutators who style themselves "The Vagabonds." The refinement, combined with much humour, together with their excellent musical abilities, gains for them many admirers.

BATLEY.—Theatre.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—The attraction here this week is *The King of Crime*, presented by Mr. Harry Battersby's company. Mr. F. B. Woulfe plays the title-rôle effectively, and Miss Milfred Eversleigh as Ronjarre's blind wife is successful. Other principal parts are capably played by Mr. William Miller, Mr. William Melvyn, Miss Nance Battersby, and Miss Edith Loraine.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. Herbert Ralland is presenting a well-selected company in Pinero's comedy *His House in Order*. The play was thoroughly enjoyed and loudly applauded on Monday. Miss Kitty Cavendish plays Nina with conspicuous ability; Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont as Hilary Jesson is distinguished and debonair; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves acts with dignity and fine feeling as Filmer Jesson; Miss Victoria Wray impersonates Geraldine Ridgeley very ably; and Mr. Randolfe Reade is convincing as Major Maurewarde. Miss Avis Grahame, Mr. Langford Browne, and Mr. Dudley Stuart all give clever studies of the Ridgeleys; and Miss Peggy Rae is good as Derek Jesson.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—*Alone in London*, the attraction here, has been ably presented by Mr. J. F. Elliston's company. In the rôle of Richard Redcliffe Mr. Percy Rhodes was convincing, his fine acting being much admired; and praise is due to Miss Theresa Osborne for her clever interpretation of Nan. In the part of John Biddlecombe Mr. W. S. Hartford displayed ability; and Mr. Lonnen Meadows would be difficult to excel in his old part of Charley Johnson. Miss Gertie Douglas was a vivacious Liz Jenkinson; Miss Mary Stafford Smith a capable Tom Chickweed; Miss Elsie Clarke exhibited unusual talent for one so young in her interpretation of Little Paul; and Mr. Harry McClelland was all that could possibly be desired as Mr. Burnaby. Mr. Percy Bell's impersonation of Jenkinson reflected credit on him; and Mr. Blundell Fenton furnished an excellent piece of acting as Walter Burnaby.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. S. Salmond.—The star here is Chirgwin, "the white-eyed Kaffir," who in song and patter repeats his former success. Much fun has been created by the sketch *Three of a Kind*, ably presented by Miss Ethel Arden and Mr. George Abel; and Selbo's juggling feats have created quite a sensation. Miss Ida Brophy is a charming comedienne with good songs; and Recco appears in his mirth-provoking tumbling act, *How to Become an Acrobat*. Mr. Fred Hallam, comedian, Mr. George Collins, comedian, and the Palace pictures complete the bill.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The leading attraction here is provided by Chas. Austen and company, who present with success their comedy creation *Parker, P.C.* Mr. Frank Coyle's songs have been accorded a good reception; Bliss and Bliss, patter comedians and dancers, take well; and the musical act of the Four Maisanos is one of the best items on the programme. Jenny and Will Fordyce, in comedy singing or dancing, afford satisfaction; and also appearing are Beattie and Babs, two exceedingly smart juveniles, who made a big hit on Monday; Mr. W. L. Murray, in feats of strength; Miss Eileen Douglas, a refined comedienne, who sings and dances well; the Damm Brothers, acrobats; and the Hipposcope in interesting pictures.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The top-liners here are the redoubtable Craggs, who return with their act, entitled *Billy, the New Steward of the Channel Queen*, which affords them much scope to exhibit their marvellous acrobatic feats. Tennyson and Wallis, comedians, uphold their reputation in songs and up-to-date patter; and Mendel, the blind pianist's brilliant and clever performance has been cheered to the echo. Mr. Gus Garrick deserves much praise for his impersonations, which are certainly realistic; Humpsti and Bumpsti are deserving of much praise in an act which is aptly described as unparalleled eccentricity. Miss Daisy Martell, comedienne, and the Bioscope are also included in the programme.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The famous Filmograph presents here this week the following pictures:—The Last Cartridge, Wanted, a Son-in-Law, Beauty's Eyes, London of To-day, A Drama of Country Life, &c. In addition Maddison Brothers, comedians and burlesque boxers, appear with much success, and Mr. Horace Slade, a clever dancer.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The success of this the latest addition to the amusements in Belfast continues to be maintained, and undoubtedly Mr. Fred L. Arthur must be congratulated on the success of his untiring efforts. Among the many pictures presented, special mention should be made of those representing the Franco-British Exhibition, which are most interesting. Mr. Barnes Stuart and Mr. Bob Ritchie, baritone, are also in the bill.

BILSTON.—New Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-manager, Mr. S. Hadskis Dawson.—Mr. Alex C. Grant has brought a good all-round company this week with *A Master of Millions*. Mr. Grant does well as the Master; Mr. Frank Lester proves amusing as Muggins; Miss Gipsy Alexander is very good as Stella; and Miss Edna Wilkinson is a charming Lucy Manners.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. F. Mouillot's No. 1 company, in the musical comedy, *The Girl Behind the Counter*, is delighting large audiences. Mr. Kennedy Allen proves himself a comedian of resource as General Sir Wilkie Willoughby, and scores the success of the evening; Mr. Ferris Pounds as Viscount Cushington gives a clever caricature; Mr. Sam Lockridge exhibits exceptional vocal and histrionic skill as Charles Chetwyn; Mons. Claude Dampier is an admirable Monsieur Duval; and Adolphus Dudds is well embodied by Mr. Frederick Park. Miss Ida Stratham wins all hearts by a charming performance of Winnie Willoughby; Millie Mostyn is finely played by Miss Irene Vere; Miss Winifred Knightley is a splendid Lady Willoughby; and Miss Eileen Clangford as Ninette and Miss Irene Lavington as Susie are both eminently successful. Messrs. A. M. Moore and William Amery are particularly good as the two waiters; and Mr. Geoffrey Allsop scores heavily as the Commissionaire. Subordinate parts are all well filled.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Miss Hetty King, the favourite comedienne, in some of her clever male impersonations, is a perfect loadstone of attraction here; Mr. Tom Costello, the popular character comedian, meets with his customary big reception, being always a hot favourite here; and Sandford and Lyons, in their clever simultaneous dancing, and the Norman and Leonard Trio, instrumentalists, are pronounced successes. A capital all-round company also includes Frank Seeley, a good comedian; Miss Irene Rose, descriptive vocalist; the Ascotts, comedians and dancers; Cyril Carl, in a clever vocal scena; Miss Ethel Walker, piano entertainer; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Scarlet Pimpernel* will apparently never fade, for this time its success has been greater than ever. Mr. Fred Terry's vim and buoyancy as Sir Percy and his tender by-play with Lady Blakeney carry the audience completely away; the Lady Blakeney of Miss Miriam Lewes is an exquisite portrayal; next to this certainly comes Mr. Horace Hodges as the sinister and irascible Chauvelin; Mr. Alfred Kendrick is again an excellent Sir Andrew Ffoulkes; Miss Kathleen Doyle gives an engaging presentment of Susanne; Mr. A. E. Anson bears himself with easy grace as the Prince of Wales; and the other rôles are played in praiseworthy fashion.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Mrs. Dot* has found much favour on its first appearance down here. Miss May Palfrey in the title-rôle presents an enchanting picture of the by no means down-hearted widow; Mr. F. Kinsey Peile submits some clever comedy acting as Blenkinsop; Mr. Hugh C. Buckler makes a sympathetic Gerald Halstane; Mr. Basil Hallam contributes an effective delineation of Freddy Perkins; Mr. McIntyre Wicksteed as Charles is the very model of the part; Miss Aida Jenoure acts in the manner of the proud and worldly Lady Sellenger admirably; Miss Evelyn Beaumont is charming as Nellie; and Mrs. G. Kemmis makes a most pleasant part of Miss Eliza Macgregor. The play is preceded by *A Lively Dinner*.

Alexander Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*The Fatal Wedding* is re-appearing here with all its old success, and is presented by Mr. Bert Coote's special company. Miss Ethel Kay as the wife, Mabel, brings in much sympathy for the rôle, her acting being highly capable throughout; Mr. Cecil A. Melton is successful in his portrayal of the husband, Howard Wilson; Mr. Frank Harrison is thorough in his method of acting the man about town, Robert Curtis; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh gives a strongly dramatic portrayal of the adventuress, Cora Williams; and the "Little Mother," Jessie, is cleverly represented by Miss Lulu Wohlmann. Miss Ethel Sarjient, Mr. Charles Lockne, Mr. Cyril Melton, Mr. Frank Ashley, and a host of smart specialities support.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Great World of London* appears here, with Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Melville in the cast, a fact which the patrons here appreciate by filling the theatre nightly. Mrs. Melville, under the *nom de théâtre* of Miss Rose Ralph, does better than ever in this her present rôle, Lilian; Mr. Hugh Carmichael proves an able exponent of the husband's rôle, Jack Clinton; Mr. Clinton Baddeley keep the house in a ferment of excitement in his well-acted study of Thornton; Mr. Andrew Emm (Melville) relieves the tension of the play with his genuine good humour as Tom Bates; Miss Edie Martin shines as Tagrag; and some clever character studies are given by Mr. Edgar Snow, Mr. Francis Everard, Mr. G. H. Tulford, Miss Naomi Hope, and several others.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Nihilist*, with its exciting situations and strong company, headed by Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright, is a big success here. Mr. Joseph Millane is specially engaged in his absorbing and dramatic portrayal of Ivan, the blacksmith; Messrs. Silverstone and Wright exercise a big influence as Petroff and Bobbie Smart respectively; Mr. Leo R. Neilson sustains the rôle of the Prince in a particularly able manner; Miss Florrie Kelsey fully realises the rôle of the Princess; Miss Edna Clare takes the sympathy of the house as Alexina; and May Ediss wins admiration as little Alexina. Miss Jessica Ford at Katrina acts in a very useful way; and Mr. Cowell Clark as Karl Orloff, Mr. J. Brunelle Harvey as Father Gourko, and Mr. Morgan Dale as Sergeant Markoff do well.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*Her Love Against the World* draws full houses here with Messrs. Hallatt and Howard's company again. Mr. Fred Emery acts the chivalrous Eric to perfection, his voice and manner being in full sympathy with the rôle; Miss Rosie St. John makes a searching appeal as the despitefully treated Nello; Mr. Lewis Gilbert plays the vengeful rôle of Ulric very powerfully; Mr. W. H. Hallatt is a dignified and popular character as Prince Othmar; Miss Grace Heywood as the good angel of the piece, Iris, is completely idolised for her graceful and womanly attributes; and the lighter parts are humorously enacted by Mr. Henry B. Lewis, Mr. John Mill, Miss Gertie Reed, and Miss Hettie Ferguson.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Lucky Durham* is bringing good business here, Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company being responsible for the acting, which is commendably good in every part. Mr. S. Herbert Humber's exposition of the character of Durham is sound and convincing; Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood's fine portrayal of Lord Mountfallon is an effective contrast to Mr. Arthur Leigh's lighter and cleverly drawn character of the son, the Hon. Reggie; Miss Alice Esther Belmore's treatment of the rôle of Helen is decidedly good and charming; Mr. William Heilbronn proves his ability as Mr. Vallender; and much credit is due to Mr. J. H. Gerald as Walcombe, Miss Beatrice Sinclair as Mrs. Durham, Miss Florence Dulhunty as the Hon. Margaret, and Miss Rosabel Dodd as Lady Mountfallon.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The musical extravaganza *The Dandy Thieves* is presented here by the Fred Karno company, with Fred Kitchen in the cast, and creates plenty of laughter; Vanco in his clever musical entertainment is exceedingly versatile; Rousby's scenic and electrical review of London is interesting; Fatmah Diard charms with her sweet singing; Cruikshank, the jester, is witty and entertaining; Alexandra and Bertie, in their refined aerial act, are loudly applauded; and other good turns are the Mezzettis in a clever bar act, and Walter Curtis, who supplies plenty of fun.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The Elliott-Savonas in their marvellous musical creation *The Palace of Orpheus* are attracting crowded houses. Another attraction is the well-known comedian John L. Shine, whose latest success, *An Actor's Art*, is a smart little playlet; Cruikshank is deputising for the Egbert Bros. Professor Dubois, with his educated baboon; Lord, Murray, and Lord, James Stuart, the Three Welsh Girls, Maud Vera, and Billy French complete a fine programme.

Hippodrome. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—R. G. Knowles is delighting the packed houses in this huge building. Messrs. Blunt and Knight's company is appearing in the dramatic episode *The Grip of Iron;* the Three Orrors have an original act; and Cullen, Carthy, and Little Cluley, Herbert La Martine, Dollie and Elsie, Minnie Love, and C. D. Reekie complete the bill.

Gaiety Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—The big attraction here is Dolly Elsworthy and her company in the sketch *Sweet Mistress Dorothy*. The Bensons have an amusing sketch, *The Page and the Maid;* Walter Emmerson and W. J. Ashcroft are popular comedians; the Shentons are a good vocal and dancing turn. Other prominent turns are May Marton, Martine and Son, Curwen and Belle, and Ruffell's Bioscope.

King's Hall.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—Sacco Homann, a Hungarian fasting man, commenced a fast of fifty-two days, while there is an exceptionally fine series of pictures being shown.

Curzon Hall.—Lessee, Mr. Waller Jeffs.—May Maude Murray is the attraction here this week. There are some entertaining pictures, including Peculiar People, Adventures of Tompkins, The Swashbuckler, The Unseizable Pickpocket, &c.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Messrs. Cowper Smith and Douglas Payne's company opened to a good house on Monday in the musical comedy *The New Girl*. Mr. Edward W. Colman (Colonel Bullett), Mr. Ralph Lynn (Bertie Holbrook), and Mr. K. Black, jun. (Brown) kept the house thoroughly amused. Mr. Edgar McIntyre was capital as Harry Harrow; Miss Ivy Leighton gave a pretty and fascinating portrayal of the French girl, Cerise; in the title-rôle Miss Rosa Bennett was charming; and Miss Victoria Douglas was a great success as Martha Grimm. Miss Beatrice Sutherland played the rôles of Flossie and Jane, and was full of merriment, pleasing all. The chorus was strong and well controlled by Mr. Julian Rutt.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*The Prodigal Son*, ably enacted by Mr. George D. Day's company, is again proving attractive here. Mr. Albert Ward's depiction of Oscar Stephensson is loudly applauded, and Magnus Stephensson is creditably sustained by Mr. H. J. Crane; Mr. Jackson Hayes as Stephen Magnusson, and Mr. A. J. Williams as Oscar Neilson, also play well; the dual rôle of Thora and Elin is in the capable hands of Miss Pauline Emeric, and Helga Neilson is ably accounted for by Miss Pearla Gardner. Other parts are in capable hands.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company is paying another visit here this week with *The Breed of the Treshams*. The very difficult part of Lieut. Raresby is played on this occasion by Mr. Sidney Bland, whose success is complete; Viscount Dorsington is ably represented by Mr. Alfred Hollis, and Colonel Hungerford by Mr. W. R. Winning; Miss Mildred Hodson as Margaret Hungerford also merits commendation.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—John Leopold's company of acrobats, with their sketch, entitled *The Houseboat*, top the bill here this week, and evoke rounds of applause; Harry Claff and Alice Tremayne contribute a good sketch; the De Wynne Brothers provide a unique athletic turn; Mildred Bryan, an Irish mezzo-soprano, meets with the most cordial reception; Fred Walmsley is a comedian who is rapidly approaching the front rank; and La Tostia, the clever mandolinist, St. Ruth and Conyers, operatic duettists, and Mr. "E.," raconteur, also supply good turns.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here with *The Lancashire Lad*. In the part of David Elmore Mr. A. Alexander was rewarded with applause; Mr. T. G. Vane as Max Carton was sufficiently villainous; Mr. Percy Maitland gave a finished impersonation of Tim Wincott; the humour of the piece was safe in the hands of Mr. Bob Anderson as John Willie Wardle; and the Jessie Wincote of Miss Stanley Burt was a pleasing rendition.

The Gaiety.—Lessee, Mr. Wm. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baugh.—The Gentrys in their comedy duo entitled *Bits* supply a capital turn; Mary Gold wins favour as a vocalist; Lillie le Breton on the trapeze is clever; and Wal Owen, comedian; George Gulliver, ventriloquist; Mlle. Zeldor in a musical act, and the Bioscope make up an excellent programme.

Hippodrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Doyle and O'Connell; General-Manager, Mr. Tom Doyle.—Maggie Rimmer is a dainty artist; and Charles Craston, in quaint comedy, and the Pictorials complete an attractive bill.

BOLTON. — Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. Gaston Mayer's production, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, is this week paying its first visit to Bolton. Mrs. Madge Carr Cook is simply delightful as Mrs. Wiggs; Miss Christine Rayner is a comely Lovey Mary; and there is a charm and freshness in Miss Mary Deverell's Miss Lucy. Miss Rita Carlyle as Miss Hazy (the nervous bride) gives a performance that is much relished; Mr. Fredk. Forrest is an equally quaint Mr. Stubbins; and Mr. Walter M. Cameron is pleasing as Mr. Wiggs.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Miss Kate Carney's company, in the successful scenas, "The Yiddisher Boy" and "Good-morning, Mr. Postman," is loudly welcomed by crowded audiences. Contributions to the bill are also made by the Haverleys, American song illustrators; Jessie Buckle, comedienne; C. H. Charlton, phenomenal wizard; Fred Curran, parody comedian; Slippere, blind pianist and baritone vocalist; Conway and Garland, in a screaming burlesque absurdity, *Left in Charge;* Nellie Chandos, a dainty comedienno and dancer; Charcot and his automatic man; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

Empire Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—A strong bill is presented here with Vonetta, lady illusionist and quick-change artist and dancer, at the top. Fred Poplar, comedian; Kitty Wager, comedienne; Eric, ventriloquist; the Cecilias, up-to-date lady instrumentalists; the Three Tivoli Girls, vocal and speciality dancers; Renie Grahame, character vocalist; Ernesto, juggler and musical equilibrist; and the Bioscope are also in the programme.

Temperance Hall.—Hamilton's Excursions opened here on Monday for a short annual season, and have been extensively patronised. Supplementing the Excursions, a variety company appears, comprising Mlle. Florence, equilibrist on the moving globe; Miss Blanche Murray, ballad vocalist; the Two St. Johns, musical performers and dancers; and Abex, "the college boy," in a rare display of muscular strength. Mr. Claude Howell is the lecturer and guide.

BOOTLE. — Muncaster Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The stock company is this week presenting the comedy drama *Sons of the Sea*. Mr. Stanley S. Gordon makes a manly Dave Hardy; Mr. Cyril Grier is well placed as Squire Lyndurst; Mr. Albert Sember is a capable Ephraim Tubbs; Mrs. Nina Vaughton plays Edith Bruce sweetly; Miss Kathleen Magee gives a capital performance of Marie Broschel; Mr. Alfred D. Adams is a powerful Arthur Lyndurst; and the comedy element is well sustained by Mr. Alfred Grenville as Adolphus Brown and Mr. Tom H. Solly as Marmaduke Montague. Miss Effie Macintosh is a sprightly Nancy Tubbs.

BOSCOMBE.—Hippodrome, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Ball.—Joe Peterman and company head the bill with *The Pawnbroker*. An excellent turn is the Onlaw Trio, presenting in an artistic manner their incomparable wire equilibristic act, which is both daring and clever; the Wakeman Quintette are successful in their musical comedy sketch; another clever turn is provided by Charles Ulrick, the barrel king; Vandinoff, the lightning painter, is well received; Maud Wellon, comedienne, and Marie Wilton give satisfaction; and the Hipp

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in the new version of *The Christian* opened here on Monday. Mr. Roy Redgrave effectively sustained the character of John Storm, and Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn gave a capital impersonation of Father Lamplugh. Glory Quayle was in the hands of Miss Daisy Scudamore, and the remaining parts were capably filled especially by Mr. Wilfred Noy as Drake, Mr. Herbert Hewetson as Lord Ure, and Miss Molly Hayden as Mrs. Callender.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*The Belle of Mayfair*, which is this week presented by Mr. Milton Bode's company, opened to a well-packed audience on Monday night. Mr. Harry Parker was particularly quaint as Sir John Chaldicott, Bart.; Mr. Lawrence Wensley gave a capital performance of the part of Hugh Meredith; Mr. Percy Yorke's Earl of Mount Highgate, Mr. Edward Hugounet's Raymond Finchley, and Mr. Lauri Lisle's Comte de Perrier were amusing and commendable efforts. Miss Florence Imeson played Julia Chaldicott with brightness, and was at once natural and convincing. As her maid, Pincott, Miss Blanche Astley danced charmingly; Miss Agnes Tandy gracefully represented the Princess Ehrenbreitstein. A charming bevy of ladies in pretty frocks fill minor rôles, and Mr. Leslie Stuart's haunting music is delightfully rendered.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Miss Maud Hildyard and her capable company reappear here again this week in the drama *The Great Awakening*. Miss Hildyard is again seen as Lola Selby, stirring her audience visibly with her emotional acting, and Mr. Wallis Clark fills with striking effect the part of the maniac James Selby; Miss Fay Garnett-Vayne as Molly Merton and Mr. Conrad Franklin as Captain Lambert are good, and there is a fund of humour in the acting of Mr. Tracey Barrow as Billy Brass and Miss Cissie Podmore as Selina Worts.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Queenie Leighton in well-acted descriptive songs is winning applause here this week, and Nora Emerald, soubrette and dancer, submits a dainty turn; Theresa Cerutti displays much grace in the execution of a classical dance; G. H. Elliott, "chocolate-coloured coon," wins hearty applause with his songs and dancing. With a voice of great compass Sybil St. Elmo renders ballads charmingly. In *The Concert Rehearsal* Lady Mansel's smart little company of juveniles are warmly applauded; the Sisters Grovini, expert acrobats, present a very clever entertainment. There is some excellent harmony in the vocal speciality submitted by Stewart and Morgan; marvellous animal imitations by Donaldson Bros. in *Sports in a Jungle* are productive of roars of laughter; and some amusing pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Harry Champion, comedian, with eccentric songs, well sung, wins hearty plaudits. There is some very fine banjo-playing by the Leonas. In very charming and dainty style Little Rose Pink submits her taking song and dance. In "Songs and Singers" Belle Braham, the pictorial songstress, meets with success. There is some good musical comedy in the turn by Stidder and Dunbar; Albert Letine is a capital female impersonator; as speciality entertainers Drum and Major are amusing; with good patter and dancing Keith and Merson, in their turn, *The Meet*, amuse the audience. Excellent harmony by the Tally Ho! Trio secures well-won applause, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are very entertaining.

BRIGHTON. — Grand Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company opened here on Monday with *The Love of the Princess*, and has attracted crowded houses. Mr. William Coleman gave a masterly portrayal of the hero, Prince Conrad; Miss Ward submitted a very charming impersonation of the heroine, Princess Idalia; Mr. E. H. Dobell's King Josef was a fine character study; Mr. Ernest E. Imeson acquitted himself admirably as Count Nicholas; Mr. Beckett Bould displayed able acting as Lieut. Orlans; Mr. Graham Winsford was an excellent Lieut. Zaroff; Miss Nellie Garside made a very pleasing Lady Irene Ramona; and the remaining characters were satisfactorily sustained.

Alhambra.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is a capital company here this week. Fred Karno's comedy company wins the heartiest of laughter in the farce *Mumming Birds*; the Great Northern Troupe of international dancers find great favour with the audience; Ingram and Irving are cordially received in their absurdity *The New Office Boy*; La Belle Flora, in a dainty mélange which includes daring cycling feats and classic dances, merits warm praise; the Lyric Mummers, operatic duologue artists, achieve great success; Herbert Rule, character comedian, wins hearty applause; Marie Strout is a pleasing comedienne; Belle Orphini submits a good ring act; the Sisters Condor are effective in song and dance; and the Alhambrascope pictures are excellent.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney are highly successful in the tragic episode *No. 909, West*; Wild, Willie, and West, the bounding navvies, are very amusing; Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, is enthusiastically received; Mlle. Renée appears in a capital drawing-room musical act; a pleasing sporting farce, *The Lady Jockey*, is presented by Miss Teddy Edmund's company; Clown Barker's refined comedy animal act is excellent; Lee and Kingston are an artistic comedy duo; the Three Sisters Tree submit a refined act, *Hunting*; the Schiavonis Troupe of acrobats are favourably received; Nash and Noel are versatile comedians and dancers; Sibb and Sibb are clever double trapeze artists; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

West Pier.—Secretary and Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Scholey.—Mr. Norman V. Norman's company opened their second week here on Monday with *Still Waters Run Deep*, and again delight crowded audiences. Mr. Norman V. Norman achieved distinct success with his splendid portrayal of John Mildmay; Miss Beatrice Wilson submitted a highly artistic and finished enactment of Mrs. Sternhold; Mr. Sam Wilkinson was very entertaining as Mr. Potter; Mr. Alfred Gray merits cordial praise for his capital embodiment of Captain Hawksley; and Miss V. Malcolm Barnett made a charming Mrs. Mildmay. The répertoire for the week also included *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, *Nell Gwynn*, *David Garrick*, and *The Swashbuckler*.

Palace Pier Theatre.—The Rev. Forbes Phillips' romantic costume play, *A Maid of France*, is proving very attractive here this week. Miss Hilda Forbes Phillips merits unstinted commendation for her delightful impersonation of Frances Charmonti; Mr. George Munro gives a forcible enactment of Sergeant Cartouche; Mr. Henry Eglington, who produces the play, makes an impressive Emperor; Mr. Arthur Beckingham is admirably placed as Pope Pius VII.; Miss Daphne Gelstone is a pleasing Julie Hasnet; Miss Letitia Rushforth is highly effective as Mme. Caselli; Mr. Digby Worsley proves very entertaining as Henri Duvernet; and the minor parts are well filled.

Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The exhibition of animated pictures here still proves very attractive. A Roman Idyll conveys a very interesting love story; When Other Lips is full of stirring incidents; The Lightning Postcard is a cleverly-worked film; and much humour is afforded by Uncle's Rejected Present, At the Stage Door, Then There Was a Row, and Under a Crocodile's Skin. Mr. W. Thirkettle contributes songs in good style.

BRISTOL.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. Edward Terry and his company are here in a round of plays. On Monday evening *Sweet Lavender* was performed to a well-filled house. Mr. Terry scored his accustomed success in his old part of Dick Phenyl; Miss Gwendolen Wren was very pleasing as Lavender; Miss Agnes Knight presented a clever study of Ruth Rolt; Miss Edith Coleman was sufficiently vivacious as Minnie Gilfillian; Miss Sophie Lingwood made a good comedy part of Mrs. Gilfillian; Mr. Kenneth Brampton and Mr. Edmund Hollick did well in their respective parts of Clement Hale and Horace Bream; Mr. Poole Kirkwood acted effectively as Geoffrey Wedderburn; Mr. William Dexter was well placed as Dr. Delaney; and Mr. Maw and Mr. Bulger had satisfactory exponents in Mr. George Byrne and Mr. Percy Crawford. The one scene, Phenyl's Chambers in the Temple, was well appointed. *Liberty Hall*, *Fiander's Widow*, and *The Magistrate* are also billed.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—The interesting drama *Two Little Sailor Boys*, by Walter Howard, is the attraction here. Miss Blanche Steele displays much power in her exposition of Lola Grey; Mr. H. E. Herbert acts in manly and convincing style as Commander Noel Tregarthen; Mildred Grey has a pleasing representative in Miss Muriel Dean; Mr. Horace Booth acts consistently as Lieut. Richard Redstone; the two Sailor Boys are cleverly taken by the Misses Effie Crawford and Ivy Millais; and in the comic part of Ben Baxter Mr. Tom E. Sinclair scores a decided success. The remaining characters are all carefully played, and the drama is well staged.

Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The interesting sketch *The Little Stowaway* heads the programme, and it is well played by a competent company, including Miss Marjory Armstrong in the title-rôle. G. W. Hunter, comedian, obtains appreciation; Fred Karno's company amuse with a comic sketch, *Dinner Hour*; the Three Romas do some clever work in the gladiatorial line; Far and Farland, comedians, are applauded for their efforts to amuse; Gracie Lawn is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; the Della Sisters are competent vocalists; and some good animated pictures, The Guardian of the Bank, conclude the entertainment.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Victoria Monks heads the programme most successfully; W. T. Thompson and company amuse with their smart sketch *Watch the Chalk*; Lilian Sivado does some clever and graceful acts on the trapeze and rope; Sid Bandon obtains applause for a song-scena; the Fedora Quartette are smart acrobatic dancers and vocalists; the Dunlops are expert in trick cycling and roller skating; Fyne and Hurley amuse as a coster and dude; Clyne and Clark are energetic speciality artists and dancers; and Nellie Neil is a pleasing vocalist and a clever step-dancer. The performance concludes with amusing animated pictures.

Colston Hall.—Ralph Pringle's animated pictures continue to be atractive.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*The Female Swindler*, by Walter Melville, is this week's attraction, and proves most enjoyable. Mr. Jerold Heather is excellent as John Coulson; Miss Violet Elliott makes a great impression in the title-rôle, and is ably assisted by Mr. Stanley Radcliffe as the villainous Geoffrey Warden; Mr. John Hitchins is very amusing in his various disguises; a charming May Andrews is presented by Miss Beatrice Hone; Mr. Guy P. Ellis does well as Harold Travers; Mr. Fred Rignold as Abraham Mikestein, Miss Kate E. Lawrence as Mrs. Poppem, Miss Bella Moody as Mary Ann Mee, Mr. D. Winstow (Detective Dixon), Mr. A. Kenyon Gray (James Oliver), and the other members give most satisfactory representations of their various characters. The scenery and staging are very good.

BURNLEY.—Victoria Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*The Beloved Vagabond* is being presented here this week by Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company, and was accorded a great reception on Monday. Mr. Arthur Royston as Paragot gives a true and earnest representation of the title-rôle. Miss Lila Fraydon's impersonation of Blanquette earns whole-hearted admiration; and Miss Katherine Harrington as Joanna displays many artistic gifts. An admirable Asticot is found in Mr. Ramsay Macbeth; and the Comte de Verreuil finds an able exponent in Mr. Warburton Gamble. Delightful is the rendering of Louisette by Miss Hetty Kenyon; and Mr. Alfred Drayton is good as Lord Rushworth.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Vasilesqu Troupe perform a number of startling tricks on the bars; Ferris and May are responsible for a charming little sketch introducing good music and acting; and the Gentle Mackweys present a fast and furious comedy acrobatic act. The Westwoods are distinctly clever on cycles; the Bros. Ashley are re-welcomed for their comedy boxing act, *Next, Please*; Clive and Vera introduce some pretty patter into *The Squire and the Dairymaid*; Little Ganty's fun creates a deal of laughter; Madge May, comedienne, is good; and the Empire Theatroscope is greatly in favour.

Palace Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Hardcastle.—Great interest is evinced here in the visit of Gunner Moir. A fine picture illustrating the fight between that worthy and Tommy Burns is explained by Major Best, and bouts arranged with local boxers are highly interesting. The Donatos, one-legged clowns, are received with well-merited applause; and much amusement is caused by the Three Prestons in an absurdity *The Liftman's Rise*. Roars of laughter fill the house during the turn of Dan Whitley, eccentric comedian; and Leo and Roland are expert in hand-balancing. Flo Burnett is a good singer; and Nora Noble, comedienne, is pleasing. Harvey's Troupe of ten Americans are very smart; and The Policeman's Whistle is a funny film by Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — New Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—*London with the Lid Off* is presented by Mr. Stanley-Carlton's company this week. Mr. Carlton is eminently suited to the rôle of the Rev. Allen Gordon; a villainous quartet of swell burglars is composed of Miss R. Hamliton Belasco as Mrs. Glandale, Miss Charlotte Ballinger as Sarah Shafto, Mr. James Hart as Collini, and Mr. Wm. G. Marshall as Gratton Gale, the latter impersonating the blind burglar with dramatic effect. The persecuted heroine (Astra Bell) is pathetically played by Miss Rubie Maude; a veritable sleuth-hound of the law is Miss Amy Ellam, a clever lady detective; a spice of humour is introduced into the play by Mr. Lancelot Usher (Percy Plunker) and Miss Emily Lewis (Dolly); and Mr. Marshall Meade does well as Mr. Templeton. The mounting of the piece is excellent.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS. — Theatre Royal. — General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and her company opened here on Monday, when *David Garrick* was presented to a brilliant house. Mr. Frank Cellier's delineation of the title-rôle leaves nothing to be desired, tremendous applause greeting his appearance. The Alderman Ingat of Mr. Arthur Goodsall is a finished piece of acting, the same remark applying to Mr. Percival Madgewick's portrayal of Squire Chivy; the rôles of Mr. Smith, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Jones are in the capable hands of Mr. Horace Sinclair, Mr. Francis Roberts, and Mr. Murray Kinnell; Miss Glossop-Harris plays Ada Ingat with the fascination characteristic of her acting; Mrs. Smith and Miss Araminta Brown are taken by Miss Mary Goulden and Miss Janet Warden in a highly-diverting manner. The comedy is preceded by the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, Miss Glossop-Harris appearing as Romeo with conspicuous success and Miss Gertrude Tate making a charming Juliet. *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, and *Romeo and Juliet* are billed for the rest of the week.

CAMBRIDGE. — New Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L. — Mr. Payne Seddon's company presented for the first three nights of the week *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Mr. C. H. Croker-King made a great success as John Jasper, acting with fine force from beginning to end; Miss Nita Charlton looked and played charmingly the part of Rosa Budd; Mr. Ridell Robinson was extremely good as Edwin Drood; Mr. Edward Thirlby (Mr. Grewgious) made the character very interesting; and the Durdles of Mr. Lloyd Townrow might have walked out of the book. Miss Gladys Gesson made the most of Helena Landless; Miss Irene Ross was excellent as The Deputy; Mrs. William Mallalieu is to be highly commended for her embodiment of the proprietress of an opium den; Mr. Crisparkle, Neville Landless, Mrs. Crisparkle, and Miss Twinkleton were capitally portrayed by Mr. Leslie Rea, Mr. Charles Bruce, Miss Eleanor Gilbart, and Miss Laura Bolt respectively.

CARDIFF.—New Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—*The Thief* is presented here this week by Mr. George Alexander's company, and opened on Monday to a large audience. Miss Marie Polini gave a flawless portrayal of the part Marise Chelford, and was at all times perfectly natural; Mr. Rupert Lister gave a skilful interpretation of Richard Chelford; Mr. Cyril Harcourt acted with considerable distinction as Raymond Leyton; Mr. Owen Nares was responsible for a capital rendition of the rôle of Harry Leyton; Miss Jean Cadell made a charming Isabel Leyton; and Mr. Luke Forster was agreeably prominent as Mr. Protheroe. The play is preceded by *Too Happy by Half*, in which Miss Eileen Kerin and Mr. Charles King, as Mr. and Mrs. Verner, gain considerable applause. The staging of both pieces deserves particular mention.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Packed houses have been the rule here nightly. The ever-popular comedienne Lil Hawthorne pays a welcome return visit, and in her latest numbers adds to her list of successes. The charming Ray Wallace is always a Cardiff favourite, and nothing more refined could be desired than her clever mimicry at the piano; Callahan and St. George present with marked effect *The Old Neighbourhood*, a concoction of comedy, music, and pathos; Billy McClain and his royal happy blacks in a Southern scena are decidedly entertaining; while the animal novelty act presented by Maud Rochez in the shape of a variety theatre enacted entirely by monkeys, is a masterpiece of training; Charles Vincent never fails to keep the "house" lively; and Victor Travers, eccentric comedian and dancer, thoroughly merits the applause accorded him; Leonie Dixon, soubrette; Gaumont's chronomegaphone, and the always interesting American Bioscope complete.

Theatre Royal.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, supported by an excellent company, is fulfilling a week's engagement here, and opened on Monday with *Hamlet*. Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer in the title-rôle gave a particularly fine portrayal, and received a reception worthy of such histrionic abilities; as Laertes Mr. F. Skein proved himself an actor of great powers; Claudius was interpreted in fine style by Mr. Bernard Merefield; and Polonius was well played by Mr. Arthur Kean; Miss Maud Garth as Ophelia and Miss Alice Odea as Gertrude deserve special mention. *Mary Queen of Scots*, *Nell Gwynn of Old Drury*, *Sapho*, *Leah*, *The Merchant of Venice* and *Jane Shore* are also in the répertoire.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Heading a capital programme this week are Frederick Maxwell, Miss Lois Du Cane and company in a capital sketch entitled *Hawksley's Luck*, which largely accounts for the good business done this week. Others who contribute to the excellent bill are Ted Johnson and Belle de Vere, comedy and sensational wire trick cyclists; the Florios, novel comedy wire and equilibristic artists; Ross and Grayson, in "Piano-playing Extraordinary"; the Roxbys, vocalists and dancers; Madge Allan comedienne and dancer; Edith Chantler, juvenile vocalist; and Kitty Willis, comedienne; while Raymond's bio-tableaux complete.

CARLISLE.—H.M. Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—The first visit here of the comic opera *Amasis* drew a large house on Monday. Messrs. Jose and Young are fortunate in securing so many clever artists for the principal parts, and with a strong and well-drilled chorus, pretty dresses, fine scenic effects, and tuneful music, the piece went with a delightful swing from start to finish. Mr. W. H. Denny's ripe experience was clearly evinced in the title-rôle, his clever acting creating unbounded amusement; there were no dull moments when he was on the stage. Mr. Edward McKeown's fine presence made him an ideal Prince, his sweet voice was heard to advantage in several tuneful numbers; Mr. Arthur Stroud as Cheiro, Mr. Fred Hudson as Nebenchairi, and Mr. Walter D. Brodie as Sebak, have excellent parts, in which they acquitted thmselves admirably; Miss Winifred O'Connor was a charming Princess, her vivacious acting and cultivated and skilful vocalisation made her an immediate favourite; a clever dance by Miss Mabel Lovett was deservedly applauded. Mr. J. Van Henvel directed an augmented orchestra, whose clever performance added much to the success.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—The Szarvasiferencz troupe of Hungarian singers, dancers, and acrobats, who top the bill this week contribute a fine turn, their singing and dancing, characteristic of their nationality are excellent, and as acrobats they excel, their wonderful feats, executed with rare skill and daring, bringing down the house. Morny Cash, on a return visit with new songs and funny patter, is as popular as ever; Yvonne Lamor is described as a "somewhat different comedienne," and her act is certainly novel and entertaining; Vanando, a clever ventriloquist, has some clever ideas, which he works out with excellent effect; Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre is splendidly worked and staged, and deservedly received a large share of applause; Chas. Russell, a comedian with a funny style, and Sadie Simpson, a smart dancer and comedienne, are popular turns. The Pepiscope, with some excellent pictures, complete.

CASTLEFORD.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman, J.P.—Mr. Frank Lindo and company, with the domestic drama, *Home, Sweet Home*, is doing excellent business here. The scenery and other accessories are good. Miss Marion Wakeford, in the emotional rôle of Joan, plays throughout in a natural and charming manner; as the old fisherman, David Armitage, Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle's acting is powerful and touching; as Stephen Armitage Mr. Frank Lindo speaks with fluency and ease, and gives a most graphic representation; Mr. Archer Brown is excellent as the typical Duke; Lucas Lyle has a capital exponent in Mr. Helsby Wright, who plays the villain with distinction; Mr. Norton Shields shines as the brainless Hon. Percy; Miss Maud Leslie Cudd is a smart and volatile Sybil Fay; Little Dora is well undertaken by Miss Violet Esme; Mr. Richard Walsh does some particularly good work as Dick Redmayne; Mr. Tom E. Lewis is good as Keary; and Mr. G. Rogers and Miss Hetty Webster do well as Lord Silvermore and Lady Somerton.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Travis.—Topping the bill is Chas. Majilton's company, in the musical comedy-sketches, *The Trippers* and *Round the Clock*, which evoke roars of laughter. Ormonde Penstone, magician and smoke-painter, is decidedly smart; the Boston Twins, comedians, mimics and knock-abouts, are productive of much laughter; Will Hebden, with a couple of capital songs, is much appreciated; John Cronow, as a facial expert and impersonator, is well received; Jimmy James manipulates the tambourine, bones, and banjo in a very skilful manner, and creates mirth as a comedian; the Two Le Bruns provide an appreciative turn in a vocal and juggling scena; and the Loyal Dominion Co.'s animated pictures are, as usual, much appreciated.

CHATHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Mr. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company in *The Flag-Lieutenant* forms the attraction here this week. Mr. Langhorne Burton as Richard Lascelles is capital, and has a fine reception nightly; Mr. George Mallett is effective as the Hon. Sir Berkeley Wynne; Mr. Montagu Love makes an ideal Major of Marines; Mr. John Wheatman is natural as Michael Palliser; Mr. Hugh Wakefield is sufficiently boisterous as Horatio Hood; Miss Florence Jackson displays much skill in her impersonation of Mrs. Cameron; Miss Marjorie Chard makes a charming Lady Hermione Wynne; and Miss Viva Birkett is an admirable Viola Hood.

Barnard's Palace of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have Leonard Mortimer and company in a popular production, entitled *The Good Intent*. Daly and O'Brien are a couple of agile dancers; the Belasco Trio present a well-liked turn of song and dance; J. H. Carney's rapid changes of costume without leaving the stage surprise all; and the Four Scoreys in a musical mélange; O'Reenie and Dean, comedy cyclists; A. T. Bute, comedian; and Lacey's Erascope are other attractions.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Captain H. E. Davis.—Lily Burnand, who owes her first English engagement to the Gaiety's worthy proprietor, is on a welcome return visit, topping the bill with marked success; Geo. French has a capital ditty, "Out of the working classes"; Kid Johnson and Masie Pelham contribute a well-liked pot-pourri act; Mostol's musical entertainment is appreciated; the Sutcliffe Troupe give a spirited acrobatic display; and Frank Fox, comedian, and Madge Beresford, a pleasing comedienne, complete the company. The Edisonograph has new films.

CHELTENHAM.—Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Miss Maie Ash and *The Gay Gordons* are playing to packed houses here this week. Miss Ash makes the jolliest little heroine as Peggy Quainton, singing in the pleasantest way imaginable; Mr. Frank Lincoln is delightfully droll as Angus Graeme, and scores heavily in his singing; Miss Nellie Lonnen as Victoria Siddons acts pleasingly, and sings and dances excellently; Mr. Tom Graves is responsible for much merriment as the chief of the strolling comedians; he is ably assisted by Miss Ida Laurie as the wife and Mr. Edward Nainby as the lugubrious offspring; Miss Gladys Deane as Mary McLeod sings very nicely; Mr. Edward Beecher acts pleasantly as the millionaire "poppa," Andrew Quainton; Miss Ida Mann is natural as Janet McLeod; Mr. Norman Forrest does well as the ponderous Corporal John Smith; and Mr. R. H. Vallis makes a hit with a marvellous Highland fling as Jack McPhrisky.

CLYDEBANK.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietor and Director, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The Monckton top the bill this week with the comedietta *Two in a Flat*, which was well received; Miss Mabel Comely won much favour for her smart singing and dancing; Signor Bandoni is a good musician; Mr. J. H. Heffern is an entertaining comedian; Miss Billie Burford, comedienne, gets a good reception; Mr. Percy Maye as a female impersonator would be hard to beat; and the Bioscope is a great draw, the pictures shown being excellent.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company opened a half week's engagement here on Monday with *Peter's Mother*. Miss Violet Ley won golden opinions in the name-part, the applause meted out to her being hearty and well-sustained; Mr. Eille Norwood was excellent as John Crewys, Q.C.; Mr. Vivian Gilbert was a most interesting Peter; Mr. Townshend Whitling was effective as Sir Timothy; and Mr. Walter Russell as Canon Birch and Mr. Edward Jephson as Dr. Blundell each creditably enacted their parts; Miss Hilda Sims was ingenuous as Sarah; and the two aunts of Peter were delightfully portrayed by Miss Mary Griffiths and Miss Josephine Rae. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* occupied the boards for the concluding half of the week.

Hippodrome.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The principal turn here is Messrs. Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's spectacular and equestrian episode, *St. George and the Dragon*, which is on a return visit; Alice Maydue goes well in her satirical comedy-drama business; Mersano, amuses all with his coin and card manipulating and "extemporisms"; Maxey and Pete, trick and comedy cyclists, provide a good item; Willie and Johnnie, the acrobatic and balancing piccaninnies, are extremely clever; Ivy Proudfoot, with capital songs, is a treat; and W. H. Downs, the coloured ballad vocalist, is also well received.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Messrs. Kimberley Green and Hinton's company is here this week with the military play, *The Power of the King*. Mr. Travis Green essays the rôle of Prince Oscar with much effect; Miss Leila Zillwood is prominent in the part of Lady Anastasia; Mr. Gerald Blake is a good Captain Rupert Landgrave; and as King of Vallambrosa Mr. Charles Whitlock acts creditably. Mr. P. Merton Wright does full justice to the part of General Stenovis; Mr. Wilton Drury as Fritz and Miss Grace Barton as Marget, keep the audience in the best of humour; and Miss Georgina V. France is a capable Lady Fleviva.

CORK.—Palace Theatre, Ltd. — Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—This popular place of entertainment provides a first-class bill of fare this week. Carl Hertz, illusionist, assisted by Miss Emmeline D'Alton, presents his illusions in a finished style. The lady assumes a recumbent position and rises in the air by the very neatly done levitation trick. Another feat is binding a male attendant on a board with locks, and on drawing the curtains it is the lady who is firmly bound, the erstwhile captive appearing at the same time among the audience. The disappearing bird and cage is another clever trick. Cambo, a musical man-monkey, is capital; G. W. Foster is a good eccentric comedian; Cestria, an entertaining comedy juggler; the Three Violets sing and dance charmingly; Alick Milne gives a good ventriloquial turn; Russell Rainbow is a capital coloured dancing comedian; the Vagrants, a quartette of male singers, sing humorous and sentimental songs with considerable success; and the Palascope, in latest pictures, is interesting.

COVENTRY.—The Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—The evergreen *Charley's Aunt* is paying a visit at the above house this week after a long interval. The company is under the direction of Mr. Brandon Thomas. In the title-rôle Mr. G. A. Seager keeps the audience in a constant state of hilarity; Mr. Theo McCausland Stewart is a typical Sir Francis; Mr. Roy Byford a comical Stephen Spettigue; Miss Vere Gerald a stately Donna Lucia; and Miss Evelyn Grey is seen to advantage as Ela Delahay.

Hippodrome Theatre.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—This week Haydn Reano brings his famous band of English performers, thirty in number, who play with military precision several marches and the famous "1812 Overture" (Tschaikowsky). Another feature of the programme is the turn given by W. J. Churchill, a very good comedian; Primavesi submits some extraordinary juggling tricks; Lily Black, comedienne, sings some good songs; Ray and Lingard appear in an amusing comedy duologue entitled *The 1st of April*; the Sisters Ford are capable dancers; and Stacey and Williams prove an interesting comedy pair.

Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—An attractive programme is being witnessed this week by good audiences. The chief item is Ernest Cadle's novel act, *Casey's Court*, introducing thirty juveniles in song and amusement. Will Murphy appears successfully as Mrs. Casey; Ludwig Amann is successful in his famous impersonations of "Makers of History, Past and Present"; Fred Keeton is a capable comedian; and other popular people are Lottie Govell, comedienne and dancer; Hal Hughman, the inimitable imitator; Les Martinets in a novelty act, *The Rag Doll*; and Gus le Clerq, comedian. The Empire Bioscope concludes.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott's répertoire company is remaining a second week here. *The Shadows of a Great City* occupies the boards for the first part of the week, and Mr. Charles Draycott takes the part of Jim Farren in a style peculiarly his own, carrying the audience with him. Mrs. Charles Draycott does a marvellous piece of acting in her dual impersonation of Annie Standish and Nellie Standish (mother and daughter); Mr. Geo. Steel as Tom Cooper acts with great feeling and much discernment; Mr. Geo. Arthur as George Benson has a lot to do and wins constant recognition; Mr. Chas. H. Herberte might have been at Scotland Yard all his life from the way he plays the detective, Arkwright; Miss Louise Milward deserves special mention for her clever and humorous interpretation of Biddy Roonan; Mr. Henry Hasell and Mr. Chas. E. Warne are well placed as Jacobs and Hammond; whilst Mr. Wilfred J. Short, Mr. Sydney Russell, and Miss Doris Vincent as Downey, James, and Little Nellie do their best to complete a good all-round company.

CREWE.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Lovers of Shakespeare are well catered for here this week by Allan Wilkie's Shakespearean Répertoire Co. On Monday Mr. Wilkie was seen to advantage as Hamlet and his clever acting will be long remembered; Mr. Alexander Marsh played excellently as the Ghost; Mr. John Paley capably sustained the rôle of King Claudius; Mr. Frank Royde as Laertes was much appreciated; Mr. Houston Meharry was a good Polonius; Mr. Ernest Digges an effective Horatio; and Mr. Ian Flemming and Mr. Edwin Beverley were successful as the First and Second Grave-

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PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE,

brought on probably by painting my face for my eccentric business. I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnnie," Llandudno's Popular Comedian (from a photo.).

diggers respectively. Miss Carrie Baillie played superbly the difficult part of Ophelia; Miss Mildred Surrey was an admirable Queen Gertrude, and Miss Eily O'Dempsey was good as the Player Queen. The répertoire includes *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Sleigh Bells*, *David Garrick*, *Othello*, *Julius Cæsar*, and *Richard III.*

CROOK.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Wallace Davidson.—Miss Ada Frank's company, under the direction of Mr. Courtney Robinson, is appearing here this week in the domestic play, *A Fight for Life*. As Count Adrian Mr. Courtney Robinson has an excellent reception and Miss Ada Frank as Susanne is extremely clever. The part of Dan Murphy is well sustained by Mr. George Scully, and Miss Carrie Henderson as the Tigress is truly villainous; Miss Chrissie Bickerstaffe makes a pathetic blind girl Marie, and the characters of Jean and Carlos Cardell are in the capable hands of Mr. Clifton Earle and Mr. William Matthews respectively; Miss Rose Woodhall is good as the Countess Du Maily. The staging of the play is excellent.

CROYDON. — Grand Theatre. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—On Tuesday a special flying matinée of Mr. Cyril Maude in *Toddles*. During the week Mr. Leonard Boyne's company is delighting visitors with *Raffles*. Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald is a charming Lady Ethel; Miss Hilda Moore makes a good deal of the rôle of Gwendoline Conran; Miss Lilian Hallows is praiseworthy as Mrs. Vidal; and useful assistance is given by Misses Blanka Stewart and Dorothy Gordon as Lady Melrose and Marie. Mr. Leonard Boyne is a host in himself as A. J. Raffles; Mr. Arthur Willoughby is excellent as the Earl of Amersteth; Mr. Cecil Brymer is creditable in the part of Viscount Crowley; Mr. E. W. Thomas is admirable as Curtis Bedford; Mr. Harold West deserves a word as Harry Manders; and Messrs. Buckstone Clair and Harold Perry are adequate as Crawshay and Merton.

Hippodrome and New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in the musical novelty comedy *Dare Devil Dorothy* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Walter Ashley gives a capital portrayal of Capt. George Fielding; Mr. Walter B. Nugent figures prominently as the villain Capt. Edward Dudley; Mr. Harry Ugar as Silas Crump is responsible for the comic rôle, which he capably fills; a word of praise is due to Mr. W. H. Troutbeck for his representation of Smith the footman; and Mr. Dean Ecliffe as Featherstone Haugh is very good. Miss Nellie Harcourt is to be congratulated on her impersonation of Judith; Miss Nellie Vallentine as Ruth Montrose does well; and Miss Dorothy Desmonde acts charmingly as Dorothy Montrose, her songs being well rendered.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—A return visit is being made by Mr. Charles Macdona in *Mr. Popple of Ippleton*. Mr. Macdona as Freddy Popple appeared in the part with his usual success; Miss Nellie Hodson as La Bolero received a hearty reception, her singing and acting being much appreciated; Mr. Louis Du Cane, in the part of Norman Popple carries himself well; Mr. Nap Barry is good as George Hennay; and Miss Lillian Lait as his wife excels in the rôle. Mr. Tom May is very smart as Platt; Miss May Hart sings charmingly as Louise; Miss Amy Singleton is impressive as Mrs. Doring; Mr. James Stevenson as Mr. Doring gives a clever rendering; and Miss Marie Moss as Violet Brinton is sweetly pretty. There is a capital chorus, and the piece goes with a swing.

New Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The Carmos head the bill this week, and win well-merited applause in their herculean juggling act; Maude Mortimer, vocal comedienne, sings in winning style; Harry Marte is a clever singer and dancer. Good numbers are also provided by Fred Barnes, comedian; the Raymond Trio, in their musical and dancing act; Alec Kendal, comedian; and Cassie Walmer, in her latest successes.

DARWEN.—Public Hall, Palace of Varieties.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—English and Penley, comedy sketch artists, are exceedingly humorous; the Sisters Hula, comediennes and dancers, give a fine turn; Geo. Edwards is applauded for his selections from Rudyard Kipling and G. R. Sims; Evie Temple, comedienne, is well received; and Sam Shipley is clever in his new act. Pictures from the Bioscope are of the best.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. George Dance's company is here this week with *The Girls of Gottenberg*. As Max Mr. Bertie Wright proves himself a comedian of the highest ability; Miss Ellaline Thorne as Mitzi may be said to divide honours with Mr. Wright, and plays and sings in a manner most charming and effective; Mr. Tom Shelford as Prince Otto acquits himself cleverly; and Elsa and Lucille are very prettily portrayed by Miss Amie Grey and Miss Susie Raymond respectively. As Clementine Miss May Marshall proves herself a genuine comedienne and an accomplished vocalist; Mr. Howard Cridland, Mr. Hugh Henson, Mr. David Miller, Mr. Rudd Allen, and Mr. Edwin Stanley are excellent in their various parts. Well-played also are the parts of the Burgomaster and Town Clerk, depicted with great success by Messrs. Morgan Rickards and Tom Squire; while Miss Susie Beardon gives a pleasing depiction of Katrina. All the other parts are in capable hands.

Palace. — Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The principal attraction here this week is the Achmed Ibrahim Troupe of Bedouin Arabs, whose tumbling and equilibristic feats are remarkable, their efforts meeting with all-round approval. Walter Stanley, a clever comedian, causes much hearty laughter; Flo Deighton, vocalist, is possessed of a fine voice, and renders her songs with effect; the Zelovas, acrobats and equilibrists, submit an excellent performance; Frank Sylvo is a diverting comedy juggler; Dalton and Euston are praiseworthy comedians and dancers; and Minnie Mace is a pleasing comedienne. The Bioscope, as usual, is not the least entertaining item on the programme.

DEVONPORT.—Theatre Metropole.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*The Greed of Gold* is welcome here again. Mr. Wilson Errol proves a popular hero as Arthur Errol; Mr. W. H. Domoney plays the villain in effective style; Mr. James Jarrett gives a clever representation of a dumb man; and Miss Beatrice Hughes, an actress of tender years, receives much genuine applause. Mr. J. P. Marsden and Miss May Watts-Knight adequately fill the lighter rôles. The scenic effects are all that can be desired.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The principal turn is provided by Mr. Walter Ellis and company in *The Sleep-Walker*, an intensely humorous production, in which the small company of three do excellently; Binns and Binns, comedy musicians, furnish a most popular number; the Milicent Frères perform some gymnastic feats of ability and daring; and Bert Jerrell is a hard-working, quaint Dutch comedian. Joan Dering, vocalist and violinist, receive many flattering encomiums; Eadie and Ramsden, comedy duo, are quite at home in this class of business; and Bugler Carr furnishes a number full of interest to the strong contingent of Service men present.

DONCASTER. — New Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*The Catch of the Season*, from the Vaudeville Theatre, London, pays its first visit to Doncaster this week, and is attracting large "houses" every evening. Mr. Charles Hanbury takes the rôle of the Duke of St. Jermyns; and Miss Gladys Guy is as charming as she is pretty in the part of Angela. Mr. H. C. Barry is a quaint comedian, and he can make the audience laugh before he says a word. The company is well balanced.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—*The Mollusc*, presented by Miss Annie Hughes and a capable company, has been played here to large audiences. Miss Hughes gives a charming and artistic delineation of Mrs. Baxter, and Mr. Athol Stewart endows the part of Tom Kemp with a personality all his own, making the character thoroughly interesting; Miss Lillias Waldegrave supplies a careful study of the rôle of Miss Roberts, and Mr. Alick Chumley enacts the part of Mr. Baxter in a praiseworthy manner. In *A Bit of Old Chelsea*, which precedes, Miss Hughes displays her versatility to advantage in the rôle of Alexandra Victoria Belchamber, and Mr. Alick Chumley achieves success as Jack Hillier; Mr. Wylie A. Thompson is exceedingly good as Phil McDonnell, and Mr. F. Hartley as Phil Raymond plays excellently.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The Follies' excellent entertainment has been enjoyed by crowded houses nightly. Their burlesques on *A White Man*, *The Merry Widow*, and *The Christian* are most amusing. *Everybody's Benefit*, too, creates roars of laughter. The artists who contributed included Mr. Norman A. Blume, Miss Ethel Allandane, Mr. Lewis Sydney, Miss Gwennie Mars, Muriel George, Mr. Dan Everard, Miss Dollis Brooke, and Mr. H. G. Pellissier, all of whom obtained flattering marks of favour.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearse; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The new series of pictures presented here this week, which are both instructive and amusing, are being patronised by full houses at each performance. The variety turns, which include Edwards and Ward, duettists and dancers, and Bob Pearson, the popular humorist and guide, are warmly appreciated.

Empire. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The ever-welcome Mark Sheridan is the chief attraction here this week, and creates a furore nightly with his quaint patter and songs. The New York Nippers score a success in their novel entertainment, as do the Five Olracs, in their clever acrobatic act. Nellie Martell is a charming comedienne, with good songs; the performance of the Musical Schaffers is greatly appreciated; P. J. Ling, comedian and mimic, has established himself a favourite; Jock Mills, Scotch comedian, is recalled nightly; Lillie Currie, comedienne, provides a pleasing turn; and the Empire pictures are, as usual, interesting.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Daisy Mayer, in her presentation of coon stories with music, wins enthusiastic applause; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco create much amusement in the absurdity *Trafalgar Square;* and Lena Brunton, comedienne and mimic, meets with a good reception. Heeley and Meeley are highly-diverting comedians, and Horace Jones, "the comedy tit-bit," provides a capital turn; the Three Krakes, "electric car conductors," are responsible for much laughter, and Fred Arthur, comedian, is as popular as ever; Harley and Melton are very humorous in song and patter, and Bert Kemble, comedian, makes a hit. The Bioscope concludes.

Round Room Rotunda.—The programme here continues to draw large houses nightly. The variety entertainment, which includes the Snow Family, eccentric and expert skaters, Miss Phyllis St. Clare, soprano vocalist, Harry Dowsett, vocal comedian, the George French Troupe of cyclists, and Learto, with his clever dog Babs, is heartily enjoyed.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The artists here this week are:—Mons. Savaro, bird mimic and musical equilibrist; Alice Leigh, ballad vocalist; Little Bert Allen, eccentric comedian; Long Amos, comedian and dancer; Miss Lilian, vocalist and dancer; Long and Short, comedians and sketch artists; and the Cinematograph.

Pavilion, Kingstown.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack McDermott.—A good bill is presented here by Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's vaudeville company. Miss Emilie Tait, a soprano vocalist of more than ordinary merit, is encored; the popular humorist, Fred Jeffs, keeps the audience highly amused; Mr. Ernest Sewell proves himself a clever conjurer; Mr. Francis Rayne's vocal items are well received; Mr. Jack McDermott, comedian, is as entertaining as ever; and Mr. Perry, accompanist and solo pianist, is also deserving of mention.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Wilson Benge and company are here this week in *The Eve of Her Wedding*. Mr. Benge plays the principal part of George Tremain in telling style, being ably assisted by Miss Sadie Smith as the heroine Mavis Leverton.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. P. Peberdy.—The Tennessee Guards, who head the bill this week, perform some sensational lightning drill with marvellous precision; Harry Luck, a favourite comedian, soon "catches on"; Hearne and Palmer are clever gymnastic knockabouts; Bertha Norwood secures applause as a clever soubrette and dancer; the Wallys give an exceptionally clean and clever juggling act; the Sisters Eugenee as gymnasts are notable for their physique and originality; J. P. Ford, Gapner and Steele (duettists), Gala and Norris, and Wyndham and Kitty (wire artists) all help to make up a good bill.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. George Alexander's company had a gratifying reception from a crowded house here on Monday, when *The Thief* was presented. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart as Richard Chelford was a fine polished man of the world, his acting being marked by grace and finish; the Marise Chelford of Miss May Congdon was an altogether delightful study; as Harry Leyton Mr. Alfred Lugg did exceedingly well; and another polished performance was that of Mr. Gerald Ames as Raymond Leyton. Miss May Dibley was a pretty and attractive Isabel Leyton; and the detective of Mr. Cyril Cattley was also a clever bit of work. The play was artistically staged, and the principals were repeatedly called to the front at the close. As a curtain-raiser, *Too Happy by Half*, in which Miss Irene Leonard and Messrs. Percy Marmont and Alfred Lugg distinguished themselves, proved very amusing. The auxetophone recitals introduced by Mr. Louis Karpe are proving very popular with early-door patrons.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—An excellent company here is headed by Florrie Forde, whose clever rendering of catchy songs at once made her a warm favourite; Steeley and Dowton, burlesque artists, are responsible for an amusing turn; Spry and Monti are big favourites, their business being marked by smartness and point; Harry Zettar, an excellent comedian, scores in song and dance; and Clark's Nippers present a very clever turn. Cissie Thompson affords much enjoyment by her sweet singing; and George Ray is a Scotch comedian with an original style. The Eeduns appear in their charming electric vocal scena entitled *The Spider and the Fly;* and Veturini completely mystifies the audience with his clever illusion. The Bioscope completes a varied and attractive bill.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company are engaged here in two dramas entitled *A Beautiful Fiend* and *The Power of a Wicked Woman*. The former was staged on Monday, and proved a great success. Mr. Montague Beaudyn as the hero, Major Ivan Paulovitch, gave a capital representation of the part; while as Wanda Lubinoff Miss Marie Robson was exceedingly good. Mr. Jerrold E. Reed as the villainous Count Karateff was conspicuously successful; and Mr. Frank Holyoake as Sergius Strogoff was well placed. The other parts were in safe keeping. The scenery is fresh and appropriate.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The major portion of the entertainment here is devoted to pictures, of which many fine examples are shown. His First Experiment in Chemistry is a very funny film, and a coloured picture, The Beginning of the Serpentine, is a triumph of cinematographic photography. The variety items include Adeline Yohle and company in their pleasing musical interlude *In Possession;* and Will Harris, a comedian possessed of a good voice.

Newman's Picture Palace.—The pictures shown this week include The Two Fairies, An Old Man's Heroism, The Stolen Jewels, Tomkins Buys a Donkey, The Curate's Honeymoon, The Sky Cyclist, and a host of others. The laughable sketch *Fun on the Farm* causes considerable amusement; the clever exhibition of dancing by a local troupe being also an attractive item. Little Doris captivates with her sweet singing.

Kinnaird Hall.—The U.S.A. Animated Picture Company, under the capable management of Mr. Victor Hamilton, is being well patronised. An entirely different programme is given this week, the pictures including The Legend of the Ghost, In Time of Rebellion, The Brigands of Calabria, and a very notable film—Quebec to Niagara.

EASTBOURNE. — Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes. — Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. W. Wood-Ingram's able company is appearing here in *Jack Straw*, and proving an attraction. Mr. Lionel Glenister is particularly happy and capable in the part of Jack Straw; as Mrs. Parker-Jennings Miss Florence St. John gives a delightfully natural and clever performance; Mr. Frederick Moyes is a very capable Ambrose Holland; Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson is a quiet and effective Marquis of Serlo; Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram's work as Count Adrian is marked by dignity; Mr. C. Grose is an effective Vincent Parker-Jennings; Mr. A. T. Gullifer is a successful Mr. Parker-Jennings; while Mr. E. Graham is very good as Lewis Abbot. Miss Edie Graham, attractive and gifted, is a conspicuous success as Lady Wanley; Miss Lucy Milner, prettily girlish, is a sympathetic Ethel; Miss Estelle Despa deserves much praise for her cleverness as Mrs. Withers; and Miss Jessica Waters contributes good help as Rosie Abbott. *A Long Journey* is the curtain-raiser.

Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Mr. Lionel Rignold and company are here in *What the Butler Saw*. In the comedy part of Pink Mr. Lionel Rignold has a part which suits him exactly; Mr. Charles Fawcett as the happy-go-lucky Barrington is most effective; Mr. George Ascot is a comically irascible General Dunlop; Mr. G. Nelson Wallace is a success as Professor Shale; Mr. Raymond Dudley does good work as Sir Charles Foden; Mr. Harry H. Rignold gives a clever sketch of Wienstein; Mr. H. L. Tracy is a good Sidney Clifford; Mr. Louis Lingard an enthusiastic and capable Vere; and Mr. H. Warburton a satisfactory Dr. Clayton. Miss Ada Blanche, bright and attractive in manner and handsomely gowned, is a prominently successful Mrs. Barrington; Miss Christine Jensen a realistic Miss Foden; and Miss Gladys Lloyd and Miss Babs Stuart are charming representatives of Nora and Clarissa, as is also Miss B. Egerton as Selina. Miss Mona Garland is a dignified Mrs. Fleming-Smythe, Miss Julie St. George does ably as Mrs. Hake, and Miss Lillian Rose is a girlish and active Sophie.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Heading the bill here are the Six Idols, ladies who are clever exponents of the art of dancing; the Austral Trio, in a musical turn, are pleasingly novel; Manning and Domersil have a smart and up-to-date sketch, *Knocked Out;* Sim Maree is a remarkably supple contortionist; Miss Lil O'Gorman is an original and attractive comedienne; Miss May Clarke sings ballads with much taste; Mr. Harry Lawson is a natural and successful comedian; Lambert and Butler dance with ability; and new pictures are exhibited on the Bioscope.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. R. Andrews.—Nat Clifford heads the bill, and proves a huge success; Fanny Robina furnishes a good turn, and it is quite plain that she is a warm favourite; Petro and Leon, comedy gymnasts, are funny; Billie Bint is well received; the Brothers Ford are responsible for a clever exhibition of dancing; Barfort and Carson evoke much mirth; Florrie Cooper knows how to make excellent use of a good voice; Herr Karoly Czynski, musical expert and vocalist, gives a good account of himself; France and Francis render some clever acrobatic feats; the Days give an astounding performance; and Red Man's Justice is depicted on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—The reputation which *The Gay Gordons* achieved in Edinburgh some months ago has been emphasised on the return visit of this lively production, with Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Ellaline Terriss in their original parts. These two mirthful and vivacious performers keep the piece very much alive, and they have capital support from a strong company. Mr. Johnny Danvers as the old showman provides unlimited fun; while the other members of the Siddons family have full justice done to their varied humours by Mr. George Carroll as Edmund, Miss Nell Carter as Victoria, and Miss Sidney Fairbrother as Charlotte. Every part in the cast is in competent hands, and with plenty of excellent singing and dancing by a full chorus, and the equipment of beautiful costumes, combined with lovely scenery, the piece satiates both eyes and ears, running with the greatest possible verve and animation from start to finish.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison once again show their enterprise in presenting the capital farcical comedy *Brewster's Millions* for the first time to an Edinburgh audience. The theatre was crowded on Monday evening, and the comedy went to an accompaniment of loud laughter and hearty applause, from the rise to the fall of the curtain. Mr. Percy Hutchison has, in Monty Brewster, a part that fits him like the proverbial glove. The actor is full of resource, and his energy and his ease and humour enabled him to give a genuinely clever and amusing performance of the rôle. Mr. Hutchison is excellently supported by a capable company. The ladies have little to do save to look pretty in their elegant gowns, and in this they are eminently successful. There is much charm in Miss Cicely Stuckeys fresh and girlish Margaret Gray, and Miss Sybil Walsh, Miss Frances Davis, Miss Eva Stuart, Miss Mary Seaton, and Miss Mary Scott are all meritorious in their respective parts. Mr. Cyril Rawdon is seen to advantage as Charlie Harrison, and Mr. Henry Hampson as Archie Golding, Mr. Aubrey Mather as Joseph McLeod, Mr. Charles Esdale as Frank Bragden, and Mr. Douglas Greet as Tommy Smith play their parts with great vivacity. Neat character sketches are filled in by Mr. A. P. Kaye as Monsieur Borgie and Mr. Robert Forsyth as Mr. Grant; while a special word of praise is due to Mr. Frank Hill, whose acting as Rawles proves him to be as droll a comedian as, when—years ago—he set the little Princess's Theatre here in a roar with his power of humour. The play was well staged, the effective working of the Yacht scene calling forth enthusiastic plaudits.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Crowded houses have been drawn here this week by the classical dances of Mlle. Sahara, who displays a plentitude of grace and refinement in the attitudes and movements of her three performances, Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," the "Dance of Salome," and the "Dance of Cleopatra"; Mr. Albert Bellman and Miss Lottie Moore, in their vaudeville entertainment, please their audiences greatly, as also do Ryan and Hall with an eccentric acrobatic exhibition; and the comedienne turns of Miss Ruby Norton and Miss Kitty Douglas are well received. Eldra and his educated dog Prince show some wonderful results in canine training; compressed grand opera is enjoyably presented by Mr. Ernest Charles Gittins, who produces portions of *The Daughter of the Regiment* and *Martha*, with Mlle. Adele Prescott as the prima donna; and Messrs. Sidney Dooley and Charles Seymour's company appear very successfully in a thirty minutes' complete musical comedy, entitled *A King for a Day*, in which Mr. Will Letters as principal comedian, creates much amusement. Bioscope films round off an attractive bill.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—The programme this week possesses a peculiar interest in the inclusion of the mysterious singer, L'Incognita, who has not only a graceful personality, but is a vocalist of wide range and culture. Mr. Horace Goldin, the remarkable illusionist, mystifies and delights his audience by the surprising feats which he performs; Verno and Voyce evoke shouts of laughter by their amusing business in their funny sketch *The Fly-Far Man*, and their singing is admirable; Charlene and Charlene give a clever entertainment, consisting of smart juggling feats and xylophone playing; Miss Julia Kent and Mr. Alec Keith are excellent in their duologue sketches; Miss Daisy James, in a costume *à la mode*, proves herself a charming comedienne; Mr. Dion Wade's imitations are lifelike; Mr. Bert Harrow, comedian, and Mr. Fred Lincoln, capital artists both, provide entertaining turns; and the Bioscope, with a fresh series of views, concludes the programme.

EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—A return visit is being paid here by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, in the musical comedy, *The Dairymaids*. Mr. Dan Agar again sustains the part of Joe Mivens cleverly, and is, if possible, better than on his last appearance here; and Miss Empsie Bowman captivates as Peggy, both singing and dancing well; Mr. Richard Telford is highly amusing as Sam Brudenell; Miss Nellie Bowman as Eliza is one of the hits of the production; Miss Carry Lacey is good as Lady Brudenell; Mr. J. Scott Melville and Mr. Bernard Vaughan well sustain the parts of Lieut. Meredith and Dr. O'Byrne respectively. The Four Sandow Girls are good.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—For the first three nights of this week Mr. Wentworth Croke's company appeared in the new version of *The Christian*. John Storm was admirably played by Mr. Henry Renouf, whose make-up and acting made Hall Caine's great character live on the stage; Miss Doris Gilham has all those graceful attributes which go to a bright and successful portrayal of the vivacious Glory Quayle; and also of the deeper and more impressionable side of her character. Out of a large and really excellent company, all of whom are well up to their work, mention may also be made of Mr. Oswald Marshall, Mr. George R. Montford, and Mr. C. T. Turpin. On Thursday and three following nights Mr. Arthur Roberts, supported by his London company, filled the bill.

FLEETWOOD. — Queen's Theatre. — Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—The new domestic play, *The Woman From Russia*, is drawing good houses this week. Miss Adria Hill, in the title-rôle, displays strong histrionic ability; Mr. Robert Ayrton as Frank Haldane, a war correspondent, gives a powerful rendering of his part; the ruffianly Capt. Alexis Zarvisti is capitally undertaken by Mr. Max Coutts; and Mr. James Firth as Jerry Moriarty creates endless amusement.

Co-operative Hall.—Manager, Mr. Thos. Robinson.—The Loyal British Empire Animated Picture Company is still drawing crowded houses. A Drama in Country Life is a picture of thrilling interest; and A Brother's Sacrifice is a powerful dramatic film. The Military Manœuvres at Saumur prove most interesting, and numerous humorous pictures keep the audience amused. Mr. Tom Reed, comedian, contributes songs at intervals, and is well received.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—This week welcomed a return visit of Mr. Ian Maclaren and company, in Shakespeare, old English comedy, and romantic plays. Monday night opened with *The Merchant of Venice*, in which Mr. Ian Maclaren upheld his reputation in the portrayal of Shylock. In voice and gesture Mr. Maclaren was perfect, and was quite equal to all the exacting situations of the play. Miss Violet Sterne was brilliant as Portia, especially in the Trial Scene, when her elocutionary power was shown to full advantage; Mr. George Relph made a handsome Bassanio; capital support was given in their respective parts by Mr. Murray Hathorn as Antonio, Mr. J. V. Bryant as Gratanio, and Mr. Manning Sproston as Salarino. Mr. Charles Brown supplied the humour as Old Gobbo. Mr. F. Stafford Dawson made a stately Prince of Morocco, and spoke his lines exceedingly well in the Casket Scene; as Nerissa Miss Claire Townshend was everything that could be desired; in the part of Jessica, the Jewess, Miss Muriel Dole was commendable, and gave promise of greater things; the singing of Miss Blanche Johnstone and the dancing of Miss Gladys Carton were greatly appreciated. *Henry of Lancaster*, *School for Scandal*, *Hamlet*, *David Garrick*, and *As You Like It* are also billed.

Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—The Gipsies and their Jester are giving their last performances this week, and are re-engaged for next season. The Poppies open for a week on Monday.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Messrs. Alwyne and Thompson's company appeared here on Tuesday and Wednesday in *My Sweetheart*. Miss Violet Hurley was a vivacious Tina; and Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon gave a fair rendering of Tony. Mr. Chas. Cameron was a good Dr. Oliver; Mr. Quartermayne and Miss Kathie Bratley were excellent representatives of Bartlett and Mrs. Fletcher; and the rest of the characters were in capable hands.

Empire Hippodrome. — Lessees, the Gainsborough Syndicate.—This place is doing good business with a picture show, a sketch, *True to the Core*, and variety company.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Harry Roxbury, as funny as ever, is starring here this week with *The Prince of Monte Carlo;* Nellie Hewitt presents a dainty musical act; Lisbon and Barker are extremely funny in their attempts at extemporisation; Barney Vox is an entertaining ventriloquist; Tom Joy, comedian, Ben Harris's Nippers, and Gertie Lewes are also in the bill.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. William Greet's talented company, in *The Sign of the Cross*, has drawn large audiences to this house during the week. Mr. Cyril Austin-Lee supplies a powerful Marcus; and Mr. C. Yorke repeats his excellent portrayal of Nero. Mr. Chas. Aldred is a vigorous Tigellinus; and Licinius is ably embodied by Mr. J. Weatherall. Miss Constance Little earns loud praise for her depiction of Mercia; Berenice is well looked after by Miss Lily Ward; and a vivacious Dacia emanates from Miss Cissie Carlton. Other rôles are well looked after, and the setting is distinctly good.

GLASGOW.—Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphreys.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company, Ltd., opened here on Monday with a fine performance of *Carmen*. Miss Zelie de Lussan was once more the representative of the gipsy girl, and gave an excellent rendering, vocally and dramatically; Mr. Seth Hughes in the tenor part of Don José acquitted himself well, being possessed of a sweet voice, and in the tragic moments of the opera he rose ably to the occasion; Miss Kate Anderson made a charming Michaela; and an impassioned rendering of the part of Escamillo was given by Mr. Lewys James. On Tuesday *Lohengrin* was given, with Mme. de Vere Sapio and Mr. Philip Broyd in the leading parts. *Faust* served to introduce Mr. Seth Hughes and Mme. de Vere Sapio, with Mr. Charles Manners as Mephistopheles. On Thursday an important revival of *Die Meistersinger* was staged, and the programme also included *Madame Butterfly*, *Tannhäuser* and *The Bohemian Girl*.

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—A welcome return visit is this week being payed by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *The Dairymaids*. Mr. Harry Dent is exceedingly funny and entertaining as Joe Mivens; Mr. E. Statham Staples is responsible for much hilarity in the part of Lieut. Sam Brudenell; Miss Phyllis Dare's impersonation of Peggy is a fine performance; Miss Glady's Ivery makes a pleasing Winifred; Miss Lottie Sargent is a fetching Eliza; Miss Edith Blanche makes a stately Lady Brudenell; and Miss Dorothy Laine makes the most of the part of Helen.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—*The Cheat*, the new military play by Messrs. Edward Ferris and B. P. Matthews, has reached Glasgow this week, and proves to be a production of strong dramatic interest. The company is Mr. Hubert Druce's, and includes Mr. Frank Cooper, who gives fine distinction to the character of Stephen Blanchard; Mr. Edward Ferris appears as the hero, Lieut. Richard Blanchard, and presents a capital study of an officer and a gentleman; the task of representing the unprincipled Captain Rivers is accomplished with credit by Mr. Claude King; well contrasted types of character are seen in the General Blanchard of Mr Royston Keith and the Admiral Hardy of Mr. Windham Guise; as Ethel Hardy Miss Helen Russell acts with grace and dignity; Miss Eugenie Francklyn gives strong emotional effect to the part of Joan Fielding; and Miss Daisy Atherton makes a pleasing Marjorie Vorland. Mr. Charles Goodhart's Dr. Vorland is an imposing figure; Mr. Edward G. Rae lends due weight to the rôle of Colonel Paget; the young officers Brabazon (Mr. Max Leeds) and Neyland (Mr. Charles Crawford) are very well played; and distinctive character work is seen in the Lal-Sing of Mr. S. A. Cookson and the Larry O'Brien of Mr. Littledale Power.

Grand.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Christie Grant.—The fine performance of *Dorothy* is again attracting most appreciative and enthusiastic audiences to the Grand this week. The auditorium has been quite transformed into a place of beauty and comfort, and the sweetly-pretty opera has charms all its own. Mr. John Coates continues to sing with most delightful charm, and acts the lover to perfection; Mr. Hayden Coffin is a pleasing singer of "Queen of my heart"; the burlesque humour of Mr. Arthur Williams as the Sheriff's officer leaves nothing to be desired; Miss Ruth Davenport as Dorothy is excellent, and has a sweet voice; and Miss Hebe Bliss also merits much praise.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch. — Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey and company appear here in *Rollicking Rory*, with Mr. Mackey as Rory, a part he ably fills. Mr. Fred W. Leonard as Stephen D'Arcy and Mr. Charles Bailey as Captain Ashleigh are particularly effective, and are well supported by Messrs. Chas. Horner and St. John Stuart. Mrs. Chalmers Mackey does well, and the singing of Mme. Constance Bellamy and Miss Nana Flensburg is thoroughly enjoyed.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company appears this week in *A Wrecker of Men*. Miss Florence Mel rose Millet gives a strong delineation of the fascinating Risca Mallinson; Mr. Eric Campbell as one of her victims is a powerful Jim Murley; Miss Gwendoline Talbot is a charming Doris Melville; and the hero, Guise Strange, is ably represented by Mr. Arthur Robinson. Mr. Milner Noble as Pharosaphus, a mysterious Egyptian wanderer, looks and acts the part to perfection; and the Jew, Isaacs, has a good exponent in Mr. Charles E. Lovell. Miss Gertrude Camp is pleasing in the part of Marion Isaacs; while Miss Beatrice Reynolds supplies plentiful comedy as Vavasole Slopper. Another of the "wrecker's" victims is finely played by Mr. Thompson Carruthers as Eric Melville; Mr. Millar Willson is successful as the Hon. Reggie Verincourt; and Mr. J. Ansdell Wilson makes a dignified Railton.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—*Her Road to Ruin* contains all the essentials for a thrilling evening's entertainment. Miss Beatrice Edwards as Jess Willoughby and Mr. Henry Wolston as Frank Temple both show a keen appreciation of their responsibilities. They are well supported by Mr. Dane Clarke as the Bishop; Mr. Otto Munster as Tom Wells, the poor journalist; Mr. Alex. Bradley as Philip Hardy, the villain; Miss Alice Bowes as May Willoughby; and Miss Nellie Bouser in her triple rôle, in which she shows great ability. Mr. Harry Talbot as Billy Boots and Miss Marie Wright as Jenny Crackling in their "Theatrical Rehearsal" in the third act are responsible for a most amusing interlude.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Manners.—Miss Marie Lloyd is the top turn here, and her impersonation of the "Directoire Girl" is well received. Other notable turns include Spry and Austin, a versatile pair; the Bros. Redmond; Reichen and his dogs in a clever performance; the Jackson Family in a fine musical entertainment; Marion Scott, comedienne; Phil and Nellie Peters, entertainers; Ella Lane, comedienne; and the Lukushimas, Japanese entertainers.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A.

maids from school" dance with a gouty old soldier; and Bessie Knight is a lively comedienne of the coon variety. The Bioscope pleasingly winds up the evening.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—That quaint and original comedienne, Maidie Scott, is again proving a great hit here, and all her songs are enthusiastically received. George Dance's company in *The Burglar's Ball* provide a lively and enjoyable half-hour's sketch, which goes well all through; another clever and amusing sketch is *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, which is responsible for roars of laughter; the Four Spanish Goldinis give a unique turn with their carpet-spinning and other novel items; Harry Levaine is an amusing and original comedian; Walker and May, the coloured singers and dancers, again prove great favourites here; and Edwin Barwick, in a new scena; Massona, the jolly juggler; and Spangles and Sawdust, in an aerial act, complete a lengthy programme.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The comic juggling act of Radford and Valentine provokes a deal of merriment here; and that clever American couple, Blake and Amber, make a hit with their operatic burlesque business. Ethel Loftus shows talent as a girl comedienne; Lambeth and Robertson give one of their amusing sketches of Scottish character; and a refined gymnastic act is submitted by Rappo and Ella. The singing and instrumental turn of the Scottish Belles finds favour; the smart dancing and club-juggling of the Claymores is also well received; Harry Arnold, a local comedian, makes a successful appearance; and Harry Bold's patter and singing and the duets of the Sisters Wingrove complete a pleasing programme.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Ella Retford is the star here, and this chic comedienne and dainty dancer is accorded a rousing and well-deserved reception at every performance. That gigantic specimen of humanity, Machnow, the Russian giant, is also here, and his huge proportions excite great wonder and astonishment; Herbert Shelley gives his clever protean sketch, *Dan, the Outlaw*, in which his able performance of the five different characters and the incidental songs earn him hearty applause; Rell and Butt give a smart comedy act, with some clever dancing; the Haytors contribute an amusing sketch and some eccentric dancing &c.; the turn of Kisbey, the call-boy, is well worked up, and proves popular; Adey Spencer is a neat and nimble dancer; Ernest Tilbury sings well in illustrated songs; Harry Herbert is an eccentric comedian with several very smart songs; and the Bioscope is well up to date. Merrill and Ward, comedy trick cyclists, only appeared on Monday evening owing to their unfortunate accident.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Programmes of interest and amusement are still being held before the patrons of the Anderston house. This week Williams and Warden take the leading place, and are thoroughly enjoyed in their Irish cross-talk and dancing. Daisy Morrell is extremely popular; Ivy May and Edie Ward are both comediennes above the average; the Sisters Rivers as duettists, whistlers, and dancers take well; and Fred Smart, eccentric comedian, and the Gaiety Bioscope terminate a well-balanced programme.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Here we have Arthur Crow, who excels as a comedian with plenty of side-splitting patter; Klean and Klever are clever dancers; the Silvane's have many friends; the Sisters Ely do well in their song; and a popular item on this programme is the Bioscope.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Messrs. Conn and Conrad have a good act of the gymnastic order; the Four Amaranths are clever acrobatic dancers; and excellent clog dancing is given by Macintosh and Royal. Nat Watkins patters well; and Harry Edson has two wonderfully trained dogs. Mr. Henry A. Moore, as actor and mimic, is clever and refined; and McDonald and Huntingdon entertain capitally with their American duets, dancing, &c. Miss Millie Howell, descriptive vocalist, sings two songs; and the Palacescope concludes.

KING'S HALL.—Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.—The popular life-motioned pictures and illustrated songs are the form of entertainment here. Miss Gertie Nicholas is the vocalist.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Messrs. Elliman and company opened here on Monday with *A Heart's Desire*. The scenery is first-rate, and the piece is well staged. Mr. R. F. Stacey makes a manly Lord St. Ives; Luke Forrest is most ably taken by Mr. E. Leroy; a good portrayal is that of Mr. J. Mitchell as Eric May; Mr. H. Lawrence plays with spirit the part of Hon. B. Beresford; Mr. J. Hames is an amusing Coombes; Mr. C. King is a capital David McCulloch; Miss Lily Prescott wins all hearts by her natural portrayal of Olya; Miss B. Leroy is an excellent Hon. E. Beresford; and Miss H. May plays with charm and grace the rôle of Gwendoline Rose.

GRAVESEND.—NEW PUBLIC HALL AND THEATRE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke, J.P.—Mr. Bannister Howard sent a good company in *When Knights Were Bold*, under the direction of Mr. A. Howard, on Monday and Tuesday. Mr. Bert Beswick as Sir Guy de Vere worked untiringly, and infused an enormous amount of humour into the character. He was ably assisted by his servants, Wittle and Barker, happily entrusted to Messrs. C. Roadnight and S. F. Courtenay. As Mr. Isaacson Mr. C. Benson was perfectly easy and natural; as was Mr. Humphrey Warden as Sir Brian Ballymote; Mr. Colin Johnston as the Dean was dignified; and Mr. Algernon Lee was very funny as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe. As Miss Isaacson Miss Madge Devereux was decidedly good; whilst as Lady Millicent Miss May Guthrie was most captivating. Miss Elsie Groves as Mrs. Pottlebury, Miss Ada Waugh as Alice Barker, and Miss Norah Kingsley as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave were all good; and Miss Edith Anton Laing as Lady Rowena acted delightfully throughout.

GREAT YARMOUTH. — ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—*Sherlock Holmes* is the attraction here this week. In the title-rôle Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart displays marked ability; Mr. Douglas Murray is very humorous as Sydney Prince; James Larrabee has a clever exponent in Mr. Mark Draper; Mr. Robert Gilbert is good as Professor Moriarity; Miss Edith Vogne cleverly portrays Madge Larrabee; and Miss Betty Fairfax is charming as Alice Faulkner. The play is well mounted.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Victor Rowe has commenced a season of animated pictures and varieties; the pictures are clear and steady. Charles Williams is a smart light comedian; Irene May executes some exceptionally clever dances; Charles May's illustrated songs are popular; Veld is an excellent instrumentalist; and the Neilsons, in *Silly Billy*, are well received.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—Fred Earle receives a cordial reception; Nellie Derham is a pleasing comedienne; the Dayton Troupe are exceptionally clever acrobats; Leicester Cooke is a good equestrian; Percy Farrimond's excellent voice is heard to advantage; Jules Kiono is a smart hand equilibrist; Edgar Budden scores as a bone sololist and skate dancer; and Doodles' absurdities create much merriment.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran.—Excellent films, both humorous and dramatic, are being exhibited here this week. Those worthy of special mention are Saved by an Ape, Drummers' Day Off, and The Pilot's Daughter. The illustrated song, "Shadowland," is well received.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. B. Cardwell's juvenile pantomime company is this week presenting *The House that Jack Built*. Miss Daisy Wood as Jack quickly made herself a favourite, and has had a flattering reception at each house; Miss Dolly Dodds is exceedingly graceful as Jill, and sings her songs prettily; Miss Jennie Hughes as the Fairy and Miss Gladys Wyse in the character of Wee McGregor are worthy of special mention. Messrs. Graham and Barron are a capital pair of comedians; Mr. Jimmie Watson as Aunt Purdy causes roars of laughter; Squire Bounce is capably sustained by Mr. H. Hillerby; and the specialities are of an attractive nature. The dresses are gorgeous, and the scenery a marked feature of a splendid performance.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The premier attraction this week is Dr. Walford Bodie, the bloodless surgeon, who performed some wonderful cures in sight of the audience, and caused screams of laughter with his mesmerism; Li Chang Hi creates much astonishment with his marvellous conjuring feats; the Three Alskarnos, risley comedians, Mrs. Mabel Martin, in a musical act, the Brothers Baxter, comedians, Ivey Aberdare, comedienne and dancer, the Original Musical Shipbuilders, Fransisco, juggler and equilibrist, and Little Dollie Robson, comedienne and dancer, complete an excellent programme.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Leoni Clarke, the "cat king," is giving his highly interesting performance with his admirably trained animals here this week. Others appearing successfully are Ryde and Beeman, a pair of clever and amusing acrobats; Sidney Dolf, the "originator of novelties"; Tom E. Hughes, a comedian of undoubted merit; Doyle and Gibson, clever cross-talk comedians; Dancit, the "American dancing nugget"; and Vrea Mayne, a charming comedienne. The Hippodrome pictures are again a capital collection.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—A new drama, *A Country Girl in London*, is being presented by Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod. Mr. Garrod himself appears as Frank Gordon, and invests the part with sympathy and dignity; Miss Bertha Kingston instils a pleasing charm into the part of Marjorie Hamilton; the strongly emotional character of Gwendoline Gordon is excellently realised by Miss Josephine Colona; Mr. G. Moreton Williams suitably portrays the unscrupulous adventurer, Godfrey Clinton; Mr. Clifford Marle faithfully reflects the varying moods of Job Smithers; Mr. John S. Sheridan is good as Squire Hamilton; Mr. E. W. Avery is responsible for clever character acting as Heinrich Oppenhein; and Mr. Seymour Perry as Wilberforce Puddyphat and Miss Lesley Adair as Adelaide Puddyphat contribute excellent comedy scenes.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Much interest is being aroused by the visit of Miss Alice Hollander, the celebrated Australian contralto. She is contributing a series of favourite concerts ballads, in which her beautiful voice is heard to the best advantage, and she is enthusiastically received. The Proveanies, a clever troupe of lady cyclists, give a daring exhibition of difficult feats; the Saxonias, a quintette of musicians, perform selections upon saxophones, &c.; Frank Harwood, a popular actor-vocalist, is repeating his former success here; Cora Magda gives a smart gymnastic display on the trapeze; May de Rowse is a comedienne and dancer with a dainty style; and Lorne and Lorne appear in a capital vocal comedy sketch.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Another company under the Hutchison management is at this house this week, presenting *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*. Mr. George Mudie makes a realistic henpecked husband as Mr. Ponderbury, and causes unlimited laughter; Mr. Drew Mackintosh is delightfully fresh and buoyant as Mervyn Thorpe; the old servant, Peter, as depicted by Mr. Alfred Ibberson is a fine character-study; Miss Florence Wellesley is charming and lovable as Ethel Penniston; Miss Florence Wix infuses sufficient abandon into the part of Mme. Modjeski to make it an unqualified success; and Miss Annie Stalman's Mrs. Ponderbury is a clever performance. The comedy is preceded by *His Landlady*, well put on and played.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Mme. Ada Colley is delighting big houses, her cultivated voice being heard to fine effect; Jack Brooks mystifies the audience with his conjuring tricks; and Pictures complete.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The Seven Perezoffs contribute a pantomimic juggling turn, *An Animated Supper at Maxim's*—a smart performance admirably staged and dressed. Burns and Bentley are two clever dancers; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, is a success; Addie Dorina proves a skilful protean artist in *Dr. Spot's Patients*, ably assisted by Frank Wheatcroft as Dr. Spot; Talbot and Pearce provide a musical treat in *Yo-San;* Charles Tuppen's playing on a coach-horn meets with warm approval; Annie Schubert sings delightfully in her scena, *The Deputy;* and Jessie Burnett, comedienne, and the Pictures complete the enjoyable entertainment.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Arthur Watson and Flo Stanley's company, in a musical comedy sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, are topping the bill here this week; dainty Kitty Colyer's clever dancing and sweet singing make her a big favourite; G. B. Preston, an old local favourite, meets with a very flattering welcome; Fraser and French, ragtime vocalists and dancers, are well received; Blarney and Kennard, cross-talk comedians, are amusing, as are also a couple of dogs introduced into their turn; the Three Arleys, together with their cleverly-trained dogs, give an exceptionally good acrobatic show; Clarice Sefton dances very cleverly; Miss Josie Mooney is good in a character comedy song; Mr. Walter Munro, comedian and dancer, and the Bioscope conclude.

HANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—A tremendous ovation was accorded Miss Lily Brayton and Mr. Oscar Asche at the conclusion, on Monday evening, of *The Taming of the Shrew*. Mr. Asche's Petruchio was a great piece of acting, only equalled by Miss Brayton's Katharina. Miss Muriel Ashwynne as Bianca played with artistic sweetness; Miss Constance Robertson as Curtis played her part cleverly; Mr. G. Kay Souper as Lucentio gave a masterly interpretation; Mr. Tripp Edgar as Tranio was splendid; Mr. Caleb Porter as Gremio, Mr. Herbert Grimwood as Baptista, Mr. J. Fritz Russell as Vicentio, Mr. R. Ian Penny as Hortensio, Mr. R. F. Anson as Biondello, Mr. Henry Kitts as Grumio, and Mr. Arthur Trandom, one and all, are worthy of special praise. *Othello* and *The Two Pins* are also being given for one night each. The general-manager is Mr. B. A. Meyer and Mr. Christopher Lloyd directs the orchestra.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Charles Prelle's Bijou Circus causes endless fun; Raymond's Bio-tableaux show The Salving of the Gladiator and The Eucharest Procession very clearly; Harry Conlin is a quaint comedian; *Monks at Play* is cleverly put on by Surrey Lindon's Entertainers; the Dunedin Troupe of trick cyclists verge on the miraculous; Rosie Coleman, comedienne, is good; the Three Panamas have a smart act; Nipper Lupino Lane is a brilliant dancer; Belle Davis returns with her talented pick chick actors, and again scores a tremendous success.

KING'S EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Acting-Manager and Operator, Capt. F. Shaw.—This week's pictures include the Isle of Man Motor Race, The Little Cripple, Dolly's Adventure, The Pneumatic Policeman, The Convict and the Dove, A Raw Recruit, and The Bathroom Tragedy. Mlle. Vanda Lorraine on the rolling globe and slack wire is very successful.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week Messrs. Dauncey and Levaux's company appeared in *The Walls of Jericho*, and large houses were attracted. Mr. Alfred Goddard was excellent as Jack Frobisher, and brought down the house at his outburst in Act. 3. Miss Nancy Beresford was a capable exponent of Lady Alethea; and Mr. A. W. Tyrer was well placed as the vicious Harry Dallas. Mr. Russell Barry was good as Hankey Bannister. Other parts were well filled.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney H. Carter; General-Manager, Mr. F. D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred A. Parker.—This spacious and well-equipped hall has been permanently taken by Mr. Carter's company. Picture shows are given morning and afternoon, and large audiences are the rule. Among the films shown are Mary Stuart, The Fountains of Versailles, Darnley's Comedians, Moving In, The Miser, and Othello, Captain Devereux appears in his dog sensation, *The Canine Streets of London*, and is greatly appreciated.

THE KURSAAL.—General-Manager and Musical-Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—Miss Adelaide Lambe is the vocalist here this week. The Munograph shows new films; and Consul, the well-known monkey trained to a high state of perfection, is announced. A special afternoon is announced for Tuesday with Mr. Walter Gordon, entertainer. For Wednesday Mr. Percy French, in his entertainment, was billed.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Proprietors, Messrs. Councillor Everton and J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. C. Ferrier.—Pictures continue to hold sway here, and some exceedingly good ones are shown this week. The Rarebit Fiend, a clever trick film, causes roars of laughter, and another amusing picture is The French Recruit. The Marathon Race, Lost in the Alps, The Trainer's Daughter, Engulfed in the Quicksand, and An Italian's honour are all very interesting. An illustrated song, "When the fields are white with daisies," is rendered in Mr. Chas. Ferrier's usual masterly style.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company opened a week's visit here on Monday with the first performance in Hastings of Puccini's opera, *Madame Butterfly*, which was received with much applause by a house crowded in every part. Mr. Cuthbert Hawley directed the largely-augmented orchestra, and secured a thoroughly artistic and impressive rendering. The opera was beautifully mounted. Miss Enriqueta Crichton played the title-rôle with exquisite pathos, and held the house enthralled in the final scene; Mr. Charles Carter filled the rôle of Pinkerton, and in the duet of the first act shared with Miss Crichton a brilliant success; Mr. Charles Moorhouse was seen and heard to advantage as Sharples, the American Consul; Miss Rosina Beynon was excellent as Suzuki, using her fine voice effectively; Mr. R. Brookes gave a good impersonation of Goro, the marriage broker; and effective aid was given by Miss V. Barry as Kate Pinkerton. On Tuesday *Faust* was presented, *Carmen* was billed for Wednesday, *Cavalleria Rusticana* and *Pagliacci* on Thursday, *Lohengrin* on Friday, and *The Bohemian Girl* to-day.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—A well-varied programme is opened by Neville Delmar, a light comedian; Lillie Luraine is a clever instrumentalist; a variety of interesting subjects are depicted on the Bioscope; the Edelweiss Troupe, international entertainers, sing with much sweetness and expression; Charles Trave is a good comic; a merry illusionist is seen in Kinnard, whose sleight-of-hand puzzles his audiences; the Sisters Bartholomew are smart singers and dancers; particularly good are the sayings of Chas. Grantley; and a laughable comedy act, *The Substitute*, is introduced by Sid Cotterell and company.

PIER PROMENADE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Arthur B. Malden's cinematograph lectures continue to attract good audiences. They are interestingly varied, and the modern tourist seems to revisit the scenes of his summer holiday. Mr. Malden is an excellent elocutionist, and his graphic description adds greatly to the pleasing effect of the views. This week he takes Modern and Historical Paris, Scotland, the Land of Mountain, Flood, and Fell, and A Yachting Cruise to Norway.

ST. LEONARD'S PIER. — Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—On Monday Mr. Walter Maclean, supported by a talented company, opened a week's visit here in *David Garrick*, in which he gave a well-studied and convincing exposition of the name-rôle. He was well supported by Miss Eveleen Mills as Ada Ingot. A fine conception of the self-important Simon Ingot was supplied by Mr. T. J. Ford; and the merchant's friends had amusing exponents respectively in Messrs. J. W. Hooper, W. P. Wells, and P. Lewis, and Misses May Conrade and Eily Wilson. The dissolute Squire Chivey was capably represented by Mr. R. C. Harcourt and the servant by Mr. Bishop. A briskly-played comedietta, *Uncle Joe*, preceded the comedy.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. P. Barnsley.—*Dainty Lady Dorothy* is being played here by Messrs. Edgar Dereve and Snell Robinson. The music is particularly good. A sweet voice and bright, natural acting marked Miss Ida Ernest's delineation of Lady Dorothy; Mr. W. H. Montgomery gave a good impersonation of Lord Arnold; and Mr. Jerrold Manville as General Sir James Miles introduced excellent comedy.

HORWICH.—NEW PRINCES'.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Miss Maud Haywood and Mr. C. Shott's company, in *A Son's Devotion*, forms the attraction this week. Mr. Edward Ranier's interpretation of Eric Farnham is a fine performance, and he is ably assisted by an all-round good company. *The Bank Robbery* is played as a curtain-raiser.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is here with *Florodora*, in which Mr. Fred Eastman plays the part of the irrepressible Tweedlepunch with his usual laughter-raising ability; Mr. Stanley White is bright and brusque as Cyrus Gilfain; Miss Maisie Ellinger as Dolores is handsome and charming enough to account for the lovelorn state of Amercoed, played with effect by Mr. H. V. Cropton; Mr. Edwin Oxlee is quite a flamboyant sort of person as Leandro; Miss M. Van Dieman is smart as Valeda, the maid; Miss Bessie Middleton is daintily natural as Angela Gilfain; and Miss Edith Houseley plays the up-to-date society lady to the life. There is a good chorus and pretty scenery and dresses.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The turns appearing here are Brinn, the strong man, in his clever act "Pastimes on a Battleship." Miss Lizzie Kirk, comedienne and dancer; O'Malley and Brown in a comedy duologue; Frank Leon, an expert clog dancer; Great Scott in a daring performance on the unsupported ladder; Harry Simms, light comedian; Carl Lynn, an entertaining animal mimic; the Five Sisters Warwick, a neat and clever troupe of cyclists; and new films on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Miss Ellen Terry is paying a welcome visit this week with Mr. Jas. Carew in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. Lady Cicely is just the character to carry an audience, and that there is full appreciation of the rôle goes without saying. The Scotch missionary, Rankin, is well played by Mr. Story-Gofton; Captain Brassbound finds a fitting place for Mr. Jas. Carew; Mr. Max Montesole figures well as Felix Drinkwater, and renders a difficult rôle with credit; and there is much to admire in both Mr. Frank Powell's Captain Kearney and Mr. David Hallam's Marzo.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—It is some time since we saw Mr. Zangwill's *Merely Mary Ann*, and it may well be said that it has received the welcome it deserves. Remarkably skilful is the picture that Miss Jessica Solomon paints of Mary Ann. Her creation is one that merits every commendation: she realises the rôle in a very pleasing fashion, and conveys to the audience the Mary Ann which Zangwill meant her to be. Her art is natural and pleasant. Mr. Paul Lovett was a very effective Lancelot; whilst the Peter of Mr. Stephen Logan was exceptionally good. Miss Violet Greville is well cast as Mrs. Leadbatter, and makes the part one that just takes the audience's fancy.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—The attraction this week is *The Girl with the Angel Face*. Miss Florence Green undertakes with much credit the name-rôle; the village sexton is a rôle which finds for Mr. Fred G. Evison ample opportunities. Miss Mildred Carr and Mr. Allen Charles effectively hit off the comedy parts.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Sydney Carter's pictures are drawing crowded houses.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—Jack Laurier tops the bill with success; *Applicants*, a clever sketch, is presented by Dean Tribune and company; Lucy Coventry is a very clever dancer; F. V. St. Clair's topical songs make a big hit; and other turns include Stella Stahl, Blake and Granby, and the Three Cattanios.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Appearing here are the Gregson Comedy Duo, the Eltons, the Sisters Carlton, the Marblesque Trio, Harry Harvey, Little Vena, and two local shoeblacks.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*For Love and the King* is proving quite an attraction this week in the hands of Mr. C. Watson Mill and company, Mr. Mill himself receiving quite an ovation for his capital interpretation of Jarval. Miss Rosalind Tate takes the part of Princess Athene in a praiseworthy manner; Miss Joan Ellis plays with good taste as Natila; and Mr. Alfred Hilliard is quite at home in the rôle of Prince Uros. King Kara is cleverly represented by Mr. Frank Lyndon; and Duke Fernand finds a suitable exponent in Mr. Geoffrey Chate. Miss Marie Ault gives a good reading of Grazier; and Miss Frances Tierney is successful as Edith Meredith. Mr. Jim K. Woods causes much amusement as Carl Oppenheim; Mr. John Burton is aptly chosen for the miser Michael Obrenovic; and Vladimir Obrenovic finds an excellent interpreter in Mr. Henry Earlesmere.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here with *At Cripple Creek* and *At Roaring Camp*. The company is popular, and includes the following artists:—Miss Constance Elgin, Miss Lily Beagle, Miss Rosie Hopkins, Miss Daisy Carlton (as the heroine), and Miss Dorah Dillon; Mr. Henry Hare, Mr. Charles B. Johnson, Mr. Roy Jackson, Mr. Harley West, Mr. Arthur North, and Mr. Will Hook.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Miss Alexandra Dagmar is receiving a hearty welcome on her return visit, and her popularity is unbounded. Her vocal abilities are of a very high class. Lockhart's Elephants, under Capt. Taylor's management, have been here several times, but their clever feats and marvellous training always meet with appreciation. Miss Marguerite Ismay and her White Coons sing well and dance exquisitely. The Bill also includes Joe Archer, Louis Karno, and George Gordon, comedians; Ruhart, the juggler; Lavell Brothers, knockabouts; and Charles Dixon's company in *Uncle Obadiah*.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles' company is here with the drama *Her Marriage Vow*. Mr. J. Forbes Knowles gives a finished rendering of Ned Benton; Mr. Charles B. Beddells is well placed as Gilbert Carlton; and Mr. Edwin J. Collins is excellent as Daffy Dan. Mr. Chas. Mont causes much amusement as Larry Leary, and is ably assisted by Miss Winifred Barton as Maggie Clare. Miss Helena Walbran is charming as Kate Walters; Miss Nellie Shirley makes the most of the part of Hester Norton; and the rest of the characters are in very good hands.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—The concluding programme of the vaudeville season here contains two splendid star turns in Les Montallos, who introduce some wonderfully trained cockatoos, and the Almos, in which the man, who proves himself a simply marvellous equilibrist, is assisted by a remarkably pretty and piquant girl. Other turns are Takio, a Japanese mimic, whose English is particularly good, but whose pronunciation of one or two words caused the "gods" much amusement; Eva Daunton, vocalist and dancer; Gracie Hunt, comedienne; Lucie Bernard, with illustrated songs; and E. W. Selman, comedian. The dramatic season opens next week with the popular lessee's drama *As Midnight Chimes*.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—A well-filled house greeted *The Lady of Ostend* on Monday. Mr. Lawrence Brough acts cleverly as the French Baron; Mr. Wm. Spray gives an admirable performance of Dick Whortles; and Mr. Robert Bolder, Mr. William Macready, and Miss Barbara Glynn render capable support.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—The attraction this week is Mr. J. A. Campbell's company with *The Old Folks at Home*. Mr. Aidan Lovett is an admirable Andrew Ross; Mr. Vernon Proctor a successful Hugh Lovell; and the unscrupulous character of Lord Kenilworth is forcibly enacted by Mr. Frank Liston. Miss Maud Warburton gives a charming rendering of Dorothy; and Miss Kate Froud's acting as Patricia Bathurst is good. Mr. Frank Caffran and Miss Nellie Hook contribute some excellent comedy as Ben Jolly and Susan respectively. The acting of Mr. Henry Nelson and Miss Clara Santley as the "old folks" is deserving of the highest praise.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Kidderminster has again an opportunity of seeing the musical comedy *The Prince of Pilsen*, presented in first-class style by Mr. Baron H. Harris's company. Mr. Harry Kilburn as Hans Wagner is exceedingly funny, and keeps the audience laughing practically the whole time he is on the stage. Miss Sophie Harris as Mrs. Maddison Cracker makes the most of her opportunities, her dresses being beautiful and artistic; Mr. Leslie Powers as the Prince is striking, and renders the part with power; Lieut. Tom Wagner is in the capable hands of Mr. Arthur Geary; and Mr. Chas. Rogers is funny in the rôle of the Earl of Shrimpton. Miss Nellie Lomas is a pretty Nellie Wagner; and Miss Mabel Dent as Sidonio dances well and is full of fun. There are some capital songs well rendered, which were encored again and again.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—*The Prince of Monte Carlo* is being presented by Mr. Harry Roxbury's company, including Mr. Tubby Edlin, who is making a phenomenal success in the comedy rôle. Mr. Chevalier Cliquot presents quite a sensational turn; Ike and Will Scott are quaint comedians and clever dancers; Lidsay and Harte, in a Scotch musical turn, have a warm reception; and Bass and Davies, comedians and dancers, contribute acceptably. An interesting exhibition of wrestling is given by Little Hackenschmidt. The Hipposcope concludes.

LANCASTER. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. C. Howitt.—Mr. Cecil A. Collins and company are presenting *Hands Across the Sea* to fair audiences. As Jack Dudley Mr. Collins appears to special advantage; Joseph Stillwood and his son Robert are exceedingly well played by Mr. Adam Alexander and Mr. C. Clifton Boyne respectively;

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the part of Tom Bassett could scarcely be in better hands than those of Mr. Forrester Harvey; Miss Beatrice Whitney gives a careful study of Lilian Melford; and as Lucy Nettleford Miss Lilla Nordon is a success.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Mr. Chas. Parker's Six Æolians are the stars here; Jenny Manings in a novel juggling act; Edward E. Ford with droll facial expressions; J. J. Mannix, coon comedian; Chas. Santon, a good vocalist; Kathleen Gray, comedienne; Lily Hayes, comedienne and dancer, and the Hippograph complete the bill.

Leamington. — Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—An excellent attraction is provided for the opening of the dramatic season this week, Mr. Lewis Waller's principal company, under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross, appearing in the romantic play *Robin Hood*. This being the first occasion the piece has been played locally, *Robin Hood* is receiving a warm reception at the hands of Leamington audiences. The character of Robin Hood is entrusted with Mr. Ethelbert Edwards, who proves himself admirably adapted for the part; Miss Lilian Stennis makes a charming Lady Marian; Mr. J. N. Briant a good King Richard; and Mr. H. Elliott Ball an effective Prince John. Mr. C. Bruce Winston as Friar Tuck and Mr. F. Clive Ross as John Little provide much amusement; whilst Miss Irene Malvesyn is a dignified Eleanor of Acquitaine.

Royal Assembly Rooms.—Proprietor, Mr. A. Smith; Acting-Manager, Mr. Francis Londberg.—Mr. Waller Jeff's New Century picture company is now entering on its thirteenth week, and still continues to do good business owing to the constant change of up-to-date pictures. The variety turns this week are the Musical Morrellis in a smart musical performance, and Miss Connie Kemp, soprano.

Leeds.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—The popular new musical comedy *Tom Jones* made its bow to a full house at this theatre on Monday, and was voted a vastly amusing entertainment. Mr. Dan Rolyat leads the humorous element in great style, his Benjamin Partridge evoking continual merriment; Mr. Ambrose Manning is also original and entertaining in the character of Squire Western; the part of Tom Jones is well within the capabilities of Mr. Harry Welchman, his vocal renderings being much appreciated; whilst his rival Blifil is an efficient personation by Mr. Deane Percival. Miss Florence Smithson, a big favourite locally, sings and acts well up to her reputation in the leading part of Sophia. Mr. Edward German's pretty music is admirably rendered by an augmented orchestra under the able bâton of Mr. E. Thornton.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*Her Forbidden Marriage* is the entertainment here, its presentation by Mr. Walter Melville's clever company being well patronised. The heroine, Lucy Lancaster, is a pleasing and accomplished effort by Miss Geraldine Le Sage; Mr. Henry Lonsdale makes a manly and effective figure as George Maddison; whilst Miss Agnes Imlay is duly impressive as the Mother Superior. Mr. Fred de Vere and Miss Maude Merrick deserve much praise for clever work in humorous characters.

Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—George Bastow leads here with clever and amusing character-studies, and his work arouses the demonstrative appreciation of full houses. The evergreen J. W. Rowley is at the bottom of the bill, and is as popular as ever; Carrie Laurie's Juveniles are again a pleasing and successful turn; an expert acrobatic entertainment is subscribed by the Three Brothers Huxter; a neat comedy sketch by Arthur Jefferson's company goes well; Harry Drew enhances his reputation as vocalist; and clever turns are given by Howe and Ardie, Ernie Mayne, and the Great Lumars.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The most popular item of entertainment this week is W. Selkirk's juvenile spectacle, *All Scoteh*, cleverly presented by one hundred local children. The Musical Tritons achieve success with a fine turn; the Alberto troupe are well received in a capital speciality; those old favourites, the Brothers Obo, are again doing well; and Leonard Teel, Nellie Ridgway, and the Melroses also prove most entertaining.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Vesta Victoria is the bright particular star at this hall, and her turn arouses the liveliest enthusiasm; Carlton, with a clever sleight-of-hand turn, is deservedly popular; Nightingale and Stignant again score with a farcical sketch; another amusing episode is effectively done by Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard; feats of strength by John Grun Marx arouse much interest; and of the rest Vasey and Ramsey, Joe Conway, Mike Noño, and Fioretti and Elly are particularly prominent.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Charles Harvey and company score here with a laughable sketch, which is cleverly presented; Edna Latonne is successful as vocalist and impersonator; Larry Lewis is prominent amongst the comedy providers; Crosby and Walker and Bert Williams also doing well.

Leicester.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—Mr. William Mollison and his excellent company occupy the boards here in a répertoire of plays including *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Bonnie Briar Bush*, *Macbeth*, and *As You Like It*. The first-mentioned was presented on Monday evening, when Mr. William Mollison, an actor of high histrionic talents, gave a really fine interpretation of Shylock, being well supported by Miss Evelyn McNay, who made a favourable impression as Portia. Other parts calling for special eulogium were played by Mr. William Calvert, Antonio; Mr. Archie W. Chappell, Bassanio; Mr. Murray Graham, Lorenzo; Mr. R. B. Drysdale, Lancelot Gobbo; Miss Edith Blair-Staples, Jessica; and Miss Gladys Brandon Gower, Nerissa. On Tuesday *The Bonnie Briar Bush* was given with Mr. William Mollison making a conspicuous success as Lachlan Campbell, and Miss Evelyn McNay giving a delightful impersonation of Flora. The plays are well staged and dressed.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—A capital attraction is staged here this week in the interesting play, *Under Two Flags*, which is being presented by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company. Miss Agnes Verity as the vivandiere Cigarette, makes a hit with an excellent performance, and Mr. Austen Milroy is also a conspicuous success as Louis Victor; Mr. Arthur Elwyn is good as Colonel Chanteroy; Miss Dorothy Lart plays well as Princess Venetia Corona; Mr. Victor Gardon is capital as Lord Rockingham; and both Mr. Harry Benson as Rake and Miss Elsa Anderson as Lavina deserve special praise.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—At the head of a good all-round programme this week is Tom Foy and company in the absurdity, *The Yorkshire Lad in London*. At the other end is Ella Shields, a particularly smart singer of coon songs; the Ten-Ji Troupe do some wonderful things in the way of juggling with jets of water, &c., their show being a first-class one; the Eight Lancashire Lads gain a popular reception for their smart dancing; Harry Grey is a versatile comedian; La Belle Nello is aptly termed the queen of equipoise, the suppleness of her limbs being a revelation; the Sisters Allen are excellent speciality dancers; Charles Stevens is a capital light comedian; and Olive Armidale a dainty soubrette. The Bioscope is an entertaining feature.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Special interest is centred here on the latest craze, a beauty competition, and also a competition for the best head of hair, for which the substantial amount of £50 is being offered in prizes. Johnny Holland and company present their ultra-farcical absurdity, *The Boat Builder*, with their usual success; the Czar Troupe of Russian dancers are particularly smart; Daisy Silcott maintains her popularity as a comedienne; Jimmy Laurie is a capital comedian; Maude Beaumont, burlesque actress, goes well; Jack Heath is an entertaining eccentric comedian; the Levans in illustrated songs, and May Tudor, chorus vocalist, also appear; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope maintains its popularity with What Willie Did and An Indian Romance.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. A. Hurley.—The chief moving pictures in a big programme here this week are The Pirate's Honour, A Romance of the Slums, The Maniac's Revenge, or the Pretty Girl Farmer, The Young Sportswoman, The Fresh Air Fiend, and Sausage Fruit. A popular and cleverly worked show is provided by De Vere's lifelike marionettes, in a turn that has the merit of originality in many particulars. There is also a dancing competition taking place during the week.

Leigh.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is here with *The Conscience of a Judge*. Mr. Kenyon Musgrave as Herbert Granstone, the judge, deserves praise for his representation; Mr. Reginald Maurice plays admirably as Cecil Bentley; Mr. Sam Courtney is an excellent Sir Edwin Mervin; Jessica Draycott is capably presented by Miss Nellie Howitt; Miss Mabel Coleman is successful as Ethel Vaughan; and the comic side of the drama is safe in the hands of Mr. Fred W. Graham, an excellent Horatio Winters; Mr. Frank Ayrton as John Summers, and Miss Madge Seymour as Mary Wilson.

Leith.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—*The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*, a new drama from the prolific pen of Mr. Walter Melville, is interpreted by the author's own touring company in a manner which promises well for the continued popularity of the production. Mr. Fred Goddard plays the leading rôle of Jack Marshall with effective reserve of power; Bertha Marshall is portrayed by Miss Louise Hampton with genuine feeling and sympathy; and the younger and elder Winifred find pleasing representatives in Miss Ida Thompson and Miss Lulu Bowes. The members of the Stevenson family, father and son, are capably represented by Mr. Herbert Goddard, Master Dick Evans, and Mr. Norman B. Canaon; villainy is duly worked in strenuous fashion by Mr. Paul Barry Lewers as Leonard Kenyon, and his accomplices, Josh Crockett and Val Raymond, well acted by Mr. Will L. Clement and Miss Georgie de Lara; and the comedy element is successfully developed by Mr. Francis Hope and Miss Alys Eden as Tommy Biffin and Lottie Primrose.

Liverpool.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—The second visit to Liverpool at this theatre of *The Merry Widow* has proved even a greater triumph than the former one. Miss Lily Elsie repeated her former success, and charmed everybody with her graceful dancing and clear, telling voice. The reception accorded to the artist must have proved very gratifying. Another who earned great favour was Mr. Leonard Mackay, whose Prince Danilo was a finished performance. He and Miss Elsie were conjointly the favourites of the evening. Miss Ethel Cadman, possessed of a rich voice, which was remarkable for its purity, deservedly enjoyed some of the honours, and her depiction of Natalie ranked among the best efforts of the company. Mr. W. W. Talleur Andrews was Jolidon, in which part he excelled, and found general appreciation of his singing. Regarding the humorous section of the comedy, the gentlemen responsible left nothing undone to arouse laughter. It would be exceedingly difficult to imagine a funnier Popoff than that presented by Mr. Eric Thorne. The dryness of his humour and the seriousness of his face when delivering witticisms provoked shouts of laughter. An able supporter was Mr. W. H. Rawlins, who undertook Nisch. That well-known and excellent comedian was never seen to better advantage, and much of the fun of the evening was the outcome of his efforts. Mr. Somers Bellamy as the Marquis Cascada and Mr. Theodore Leonard in the rôle of Novakovitch deserved thanks.

Shakespeare Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*The Sins of Society*, presented by Mr. F. W. Bolam's company, paid a first visit to Liverpool this week. Mr. E. Vassal-Vaughan was a capital exponent of the part of Sir Dorian March; Mr. C. F. Collins made a convincingly villainous Noel Ferrers; Lady Goldbury was delightfully impersonated by Miss Pattie Browne; Miss Grace E. Leslie presented a Lady Marion that was full of sympathetic feeling; as James Hogg Mr. Blake Adams proved entirely amusing; Miss Dorothy Giles acted sweetly as Lady Ashley; and worthy support also came from Mr. Frederick Annerley (Mr. Morris) and Mr. E. P. Gee (Parker).

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* has proved a draw at the popular north-end house, Mr. Walter Melville's company of artists being an accomplished one. Mr. F. Ronald Adair in the rôle of Willie Mason was a great favourite, and earned much applause; Miss Jessie Belmore acted with a deal of dramatic force the part of the unfortunate Sophie Coventry; Mr. Raymond Wood as the rascally James Harcourt did well; Miss Nannie Meade did excellently with the rôle of Vesta le Clere; extremely humorous were Mr. F. Ingram (Johnny Walker) and Miss Marie Kildare (Poppy Slater); Miss Zoe Davis proved successful as Lucy Coventry; Mr. Sydney Sarl did justice to Bill Slater; and Mr. Frank R. Robertson gave satisfaction with his Jack Fenton.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Here this week Messrs. Paumier and Howard's able company gave *The Midnight Wedding*. The leading rôle was undertaken by Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes, who showed much ability as the heroic Paul Valmar; Miss Yvonne Orchardson handled the parts of Princess Astrea and Lieut. Karl with every satisfaction. The comedy was well presented by Messrs. James E. Page (a very funny Sergeant Max), Harry Richardson (Corporal Otto), Algie Spalding (Private Bobo), and Miss Itua Herne (Rozel). Mr. John Nebitt made a dignified Prince Leopold; and Mr. Francis Hawley did well as Father Gerard. To-morrow (Sunday) Mr. Harris Fineberg will kindly lend the use of his theatre for a sacred concert in aid of the unemployed fund.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Owing to the indisposition of one of the artists, Bella and Bijou, the top-liners, were unable to appear, and Mr. George Lashwood deputised. On Wednesday evening Mme. Alice Esty, the renowned prima-donna, was added to the programme. The Gothams pleased with their capital entertainment; Nell Emerald had some acceptable songs and dances; a well-presented dramatic episode, *Told in a Flat*, came from Harry Rogers and company; the Frank L. Gregory Troupe went through a smart hoop-rolling and juggling show; Maudie Francis, as a comedienne and dancer, pleased immensely; a clever musical act emanated from the Four Jumels; and contributions likewise came from the Athlones, athletes; and Cyril Dane, comedian.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here during the week Mr. Andrew Melville's company has given *Driven from Home*.

Lyric.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Top of the bill here this week has been an able dramatic sketch entitled *The Light in the Window*, given by Fred Winn and company. It was received with much favour. The Pasquali Brothers went through a smart exhibition as speciality equilibrists and tumblers; Gus Harris appeared in his latest success, "'Tis Primrose Day"; a sparkling musical entertainment was provided by Aiston's White Stars; Tony Black, Scotch comedian, proved very amusing; as aerial gymnasts Natalia and Diana showed much ability; and others in the list were Edie Anderson, comedienne and dancer; and Ida Barr, burlesque artist.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Heading the programme here this week have been the interesting Colibris Midgets, whose work earned for them a deal of hearty applause. Buddha's Blackboard, on which questions were answered, proved a source of enjoyment and bewilderment; the humorous Michael Nolan brought his latest songs, which were richly enjoyed; some particularly smart and funny tumbling was gone through by the Three Van Hosts; Leonie de Lausanne and company presented a neat turn of expert rifle shooting; Harry Rogerson, "the tired comedian," made his audience roar with laughter; a smart comedy musical mélange came from the Hiatts; Lena Wylie sang several soprano songs with taste; and Rosie Reval, comedy and dialect artist, was acceptable.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Good business has been done here this week with *The Duke's Motto; or, I Am Here!* played by the stock dramatic company. Mr. David G. Noble acted excellently as Legardere; Mr. Leo Montgomery satisfactorily doubled Phillipe of Orleans and Duke Nevers; Mr. Sydney Grant made a strong Duke Gonzague; Miss Florence Palmer gained honours with her Blanche de Nevers; Miss Lilian Radbourne acquitted herself most creditably in the character of Blanche de Caylus; Miss Florence Cameron was Pepita; and good work also emanated from Messrs. Robb Wilton (Passepoil), Cecil Ravenswood (Peyrolles), and R. Seath Innes (Staupitz). Some fine Bioscope pictures, shown by Mr. Anthony Brown, completed the programme.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery. — Here this week have been Lennie Ward, who made her first appearance in Liverpool, with several popular songs; George Christian, a very funny comedian; Lieut. Uniquem, ventriloquist, with an amusing smoking puppet; Delmar Demay, whose sketch, *The Hero's Return* was immensely funny; Dolly Ross, comedienne and dancer; and the Bioscope.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton. — George Lashwood headed the bill here this week, and got a rousing welcome. Among his latest songs were "The Admiral" and "Hang out the front door key." Fred Edwards and company, including Miss Bertha Northam, kept their audience in a jolly mood with the sketch *Kleptomaniacs;* Edith Fink delighted everyone with her taking songs; the Boccaccio Trio of Italian singers and instrumentalists, including Signor Francia, gave a neat musical turn, *Hu-la-la;* the Delomes gained general applause for their dancing speciality, "The Phantom Clogs"; George Newburn, an accomplished and popular mimic, had a cordial reception for his work; and Violet Halls, comedienne; and May Edouin, with her latest scena, were also in the list.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Principal here this week were the Six Brothers Luck, with their laughable sketch *The Demon of the Cellar*. Will Probyn's Brooklyn Comedy Four submitted an amusing musical sketch; Baddow, ventriloquist, paid a return visit; Alfred Graham's Premier Juveniles presented a pretty vocal scena, "A Concert on the Lawn"; Kingstone Trollope had a clever dramatic monologue, "Only a Dream"; U. C. Ugo, assisted by Valetta, won much approval for his magical scena, "Mirthful Mysteries"; the gymnastic turn of Ajax and George was appreciated; and also in the programme were Mark Henton, comedian; and Milner and Storey, comedy duettists.

Londonderry.—Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Payne Seddon.—The variety programmes continue to attract large and appreciative houses twice nightly. Prominent in the bill this week is the remarkable turn of Morimura, Japanese illusionist, while the Sisters Henderson, musical speciality artists, give a refined and clever performance. Mr. Chas. M. Daly's company gives a highly amusing sketch, and other contributors to a good programme are Mlle. Reine Drassa, speciality dancer; Mowing and Codney, coloured comedians and dancers; Miss Rosie Dawn, Scotch comedienne; Gilroy and Cross, comedians and dancers; while the Dalyscope pictures are as popular as ever.

Long Eaton.—St. James's Theatre. — *The Dandy Fifth* constitutes an amusing entertainment. Mr. J. Edward Fraser has the part of the highwayman—a fine representation; Miss Pauline Hague, who has portrayed Kate Lorrimer over a thousand times, is excellent; Trooper Brown and Polly are amusingly played by Jack Crichton and Miss Nora Moira; the singing of the Blue Moon Quartette is enjoyed.

The Palace.—Two shows nightly bring good patronage. Mr. Alf Smith has up-to-date films; Professor Garton gives an amazing display, and there are other attractions.

Loughborough.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Gilbert Payne's company in *The Honeymoon* has been attracting good houses. Mr. Gilbert Payne himself as Nathaniel Noodle is the life and soul of the piece; Mr. H. F. Housden as Colonel Brown is eminently suited to the part; Jack Armstrong loses nothing in the capable hands of Mr. Leslie Erle; Mr. Edward Ray as Archie Mashington plays creditably; Miss Hetty Lind as Madge delights the house by her clever singing and acting; Miss Connie Meadows as Bweetie Noodle is well received. The speciality dances by the Godfrey Girls are skilfully performed.

Lowestoft.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Poole's Myriorama is paying its annual visit here this week.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Splendid business is the general rule here, and the programme is quite to the popular taste. Fred Earle, in some quaint humorous numbers, heads the bill this week and scores heavily. Donald McDougal, a Scotch comedian, also came in for a big reception, and was recalled again and again by the audience, which consisted of a goodly portion of the 10,000 Scotch fish workers at present engaged in the fishing here. Other turns include Ugo Nap, burlesque artist; Albano, harpist; Mario, juggler; R. A. Speedwell, a clever lightning cartoonist; Sisters Transfield, musical experts; Woolmer Young, comedian, &c. The British Biograph Co. also contribute to the general success.

Luton.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Miss Violet Osmund has brought her first-class company *The Belle of the Ball* to this theatre this week under the direction of Mr. Alexander Loftus. Mr. Johnny Schofield is particularly funny in the character of Timothy Tompkins; Mr. Chas. Adeson as Farmer Jones is also droll; Mr. Robert Hyett, the young squire, is very good; Poppy is in the able hands of Miss Gertrude Melville.

Maesteg. — Town Hall Theatre.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. F. Knowles.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company in *Home, Sweet Home*, pays a return visit here. Mr. Arthur Hinton as Stephen Armitage plays with much success; as David Armitage, Mr. Fred G. Kay is good; the Duke of Ancaster is presented in capital style by Mr. Chas. Clifford; Lucas Lyle is capably portrayed by Mr. David Beattie; as the Hon. Percy Ancaster, Mr. Victor G. Millard deserves mention; Mr. Frank Brunell is at home as Dick Redmayne; Mr. William Bailey is a capable Solomon Keaay, Miss Lydia Andre a charming Joan, Miss Kitty Collinson a successful Lady Summerton, Miss Laura Wright an attractive Sybil Fay, and Dora is played naturally by little Hilda Vokes. For Thursday and Friday *East Lynne* is billed.

Macclesfield. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company presented the stirring melodrama *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* before a large and appreciative audience on Monday. In the title-rôle Miss Cissie Bellamy submitted a well-studied and clever portrayal; Mr. Paul Beckett as Felix Beverley gave an adequate representation; as Jack Stirling, Mr. Wilson Summers acted with dignity and power; Miss Agnes Collier played the society lady with refinement; and Miss Kate Lever showed ability as Nancy. Mr. Wilfred Cheetham acquitted himself creditably as Geoffrey Langdon; Mr. Arthur Lowry as Arthur Bellairs did well; as Colonel Miles Mr. Charles Coventry was successful; Mr. Percy Brown as Thomas and Mr. Herbert Fuller as Charles make the most of their respective parts.

Drill Hall.—Prof. Wood's musical and pictorial combination, under the supervision of Mr. T. R. Wood, occupies the hall this week, and provides a very interesting programme. The pictures are up to date and full of interest. The variety combination includes Mme. Doré, oboe soloist; Miss Nellie Nora, instrumentalist; Ted Wooton, vocalist; Walter Gray, juggler; Mr. H. S. S. Watson, humorist; and Mr. H. A. Dowson, pianist.

Maidenhead.—Town Hall. — Secretary, the Town Clerk.—Mr. Chas. Harrington's No. 1 American combination played *Uncle Tom's Cabin* for three nights, commencing the 12th inst., and met with much success. Mr. J. Carr presented Uncle Tom in a natural and convincing manner; in Mr. E. A. Massingham Phineas Fletcher had an able representative; Mr. Tom Bowrow was good as St. Clair; and Mr. John Milward made a manly George Harris. Messrs. J. Henry Rogers and James Jackson were thorough in the repulsive parts of Legree and Dan Haley; and Mr. Walter Langford was well suited as Marks. Miss Hero Hathaway was a pathetic Eliza Harris; Miss Jennie Malcolm and Miss Hetty Johnson were good as Aunt Ophelia and Cassy; Mrs. Carr was a homely Aunt Chloe; Miss Annie Watson raised much laughter as Topsy; and Holly Haslewood exercised due care in the part of Little Eva.

Maidstone.—Palace.—Manager, Mr. Stanley Baskerville.—A good bill is headed by Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, who give a clever cycling act, one of the best seen here for a long time; Metz and Metz are clever simultaneous dancers and cross-talk comedians; the powerful military sketch, *Mutiny*, is well staged by Frank E. Burdett and Co.; Tom Taylor, singing collier, has a well-trained baritone voice, which he uses to advantage in two well-sung songs; Lytton and Bland, in the scena *A Lesson in Love*, are popular; and other items of the bill are May Fayre, comedienne, the Sisters Hampel, duettists, and the Palace Pictures.

Manchester.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Mr. Arthur Bouchier opened his second week here on Monday by a performance of *The Walls of Jericho*, which was played in perfect style. It is almost superfluous to praise Mr. Bouchier's impersonation of Jack Frobisher or the Lady Alethea of Miss Violet Vanbrugh; the level is a high one, and it is maintained consistently throughout. Mr. Arthur Whitby, in his old part of the Marquis of Steventon, also played admirably; and an easy and effective depiction of Hankey Bannister was given by Mr. Leon Quartermaine. Other notable successes were scored by Miss Pamela Gaythorne as Lady Lucy, and Miss Henrietta Watson as Lady Westerby; while all the remaining parts were satisfactorily filled. On Wednesday a fine performance of *The Arm of the Law* was given, preceded by Mr. Sutro's play, entitled *A Marriage Has Been Arranged;* and on Thursday a new play, *The Outsider*, was put on, a notice of which appears elsewhere.

Prince's Theatre. — Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A return visit of Mr. George Edwardes' company, in *The Girls of Gottenberg*, was welcomed here on Monday. The cast was notable for the inclusion of Mr. Edmund Payne as Max Moddiekopf, his original creation, and the substitution of Happy Fanny Fields for Miss Gertie Millar, who played Mitzi so successfully here some time ago. Mr. Payne's whimsicalities kept the house in continuous good humour; and Miss Fields as Mitzi scored a decided hit. Mr. Leslie Holland as Otto was full of life and humour; Miss Maisie Gay did well as Clementine; Miss Thelma Raye gave a very nice depiction of Elsa; Mr. Fred Payne repeated his excellent impersonation of Brittlbottl; and others worthy of praise were Mr. Arnold Lucy, Mr. Fred Allandale, Mr. Douglas Munro, Mr. A. Chentrens, and Mr. Louis Denver. A pretty and noteworthy feature of the second act was the dance by Miss Florence Phillips.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—*Who is She?* from the Royal Osborne Theatre, is the attraction here this week.

Gaiety Theatre. — Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—This week here Rostand's comedy, *The Fantasticks*, is put on. It is well played by a cast which includes Mr. Esme Percy, specially engaged for the rôle of Porcinet. His clever work is admirably supplemented by that of Miss Hilda Bruce Potter as Sylvette, Messrs. Charles Bibby and Edward Landor as Benjamin and Pasquin, Mr. Jules Shaw as Straforel, and Messrs. Leonard Mudie and Joseph A. Keogh in minor parts. The comedy is preceded by a "Bajazzade," in one act, by Dr. Erich Korn, and entitled *Columbine*. Mlle. Camilla Dulberg is rather powerful in the title-rôle; but the piece is not a pleasing one.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Messrs. Sidney Rennef and G. M. Copping's domestic drama, *Love Rules the World*, is deservedly appreciated here this week. Mr. Richard Vane plays strongly as Harold Kingston; Mr. Stephen Langton as Stephen Blight makes an effective villain, ably assisted by Miss Constance Medwyn as Flo Morton; Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne is very pleasing as Paul Carruthers; Mr. Sidney Rennef is seen to great advantage as Jim Dixey; and Miss Conyers Radcliffe has all the qualifications for an excellent heroine as Maud Carruthers. A prominent feature of the play is the humour supplied by Mr. Walter Dale and Miss Kitty Russell as Billy Binks and Kitty Snowdrop.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—Twice nightly Mr. Sam Duckworth's company are presenting here an interesting drama, *Her Nameless Child*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn as Anthony Ford is particularly successful; Mr. Sidney C. Cranston plays well as Arthur, the blacksmith's son; Mr. Arthur Pringle as the villainous Lord Henry Woodville is strong and effective; Miss Pattie Hastings acts sympathetically as Phyllis Ford; and Miss Mona Gray as Lady Sybil is a worthy assistant of Lord Henry in his wickedness. Good comic parts are well played by Mr. Larry Clements and Miss Renie Douglas.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Gus Elen, the popular coster comedian, is the star turn here this week, and is very well received. Prominent also is *A Royal Heart*, an admirable dramatic episode, admirably played by Fisher White's company, including A. Scott Craven. Edward Lauri and May Beatty, in *In Her Boudoir*, are highly successful; and other good turns are Ralph and Nellie Howard, in a comedy act; Agnes Tina, a very smart juvenile mimic; the Charles Fisher Pocket Opera Company, in excerpts from *Il Trovatore;* Sinclair and Parr, comedy vocalists; the Eight Stella Girls, vocalists and dancers; and Nettie Starr, comedienne and dancer.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Loie Fuller and her dancers are exceptionally graceful exponents of the terpsichorean art, and the "Ballet of Light," presented, with its wonderful colour effects, is a feast of delight; Colonel Gaston Bordeverry is an astonishing rifle and pistol shot, his performance being wonderfully clever; the Two Anartos fairly bring down the house with smart talk and pleasing music; Hilda Jacobsen, the charming burlesque actress, is successful, as usual; Mason and Bart are comedy gymnasts of more than average merit; Nellie Ganthony scores as a society entertainer; Angus Strong, baritone, has a good voice; Senor Varez, tenor, sings well; Keen and Waller are quietly effective in a novel eccentric act; and Brown and Le Clerq are as funny as of yore in *Black Justice*. Bioscope pictures complete.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Harriett Vernon is the bright particular star here this week, and meets with a big reception, her charming song scenas, "A Yuletide Story" and "Sunshine and Shadow," being highly successful; the Four Netherlands are excellent vocalists and dancers; George Prince, the "crazy" comedian, makes a hit; Leslie Race, the "new" comedian, takes well; Edythe and Toto give a neat and novel act; the Farrows are smart sketch artists; and others who offer good turns are Fred Athalan, head balancer; Beau and Belle, in scena, "Past and Present"; George Griffin, comedian, who dances well; and the Sisters Lotus, duettists. Married for Nothing is the Bioscope film.

Palace. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Mrs. Lewis Waller, ably supported by a capable company, including Mr. Leonard Robson, plays delightfully as Lady Jane Rumblow, in a capital comedy, *The Admiral's*

THE

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The Edition has many features to recommend it, which here can merely be touched upon: "Shakespeare as a Playwright" by Sir H. Irving, "An Appreciation of Sir Henry Irving" from the pen of Bram Stoker, "Shakespeare's Country" contributed by Jerome Harrison, being, perhaps, the most important. Whilst the text is given unmutilated, un-Bowdlerized, Sir Henry has specially marked those portions which can, in his judgment, best be omitted in dramatic presentation.

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Lady. Screamingly funny are Hayman and Franklin in the Hebrew farcical sketch, *A Suit for Divorce;* and Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls are exceedingly clever vocal entertainers. Dan Conroy, comedian, does well; and other smart turns are offered by A. W. Scott, comedian; Mark Leslie, coon comedian and dancer; Percival, at the piano, in his one-man musical comedy; Annie Long, comedienne; and the Brothers Lawrence, dancers. The Palace Pictures, good, as usual, are shown.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Billie Barlow, the ever-charming comedienne, is here this week with her usual success; Hal Forde, the well-known light comedian, is popular as ever, his "Doomsday Book" song being smart and up-to-date; Revill Hall scores as a humorist, entertainer, and mimic; the Zenary Brothers are exceedingly good in a novel and high-class acrobatic act; Atroy is a neat juggler and hoop roller; Lily Eyton, character comedienne, sings well; Laurie Wylie, the "mimicking mannikin," is excellent; Ethel Dancy, contralto, has a good voice; Fred Maitland, assisted by a "Suffragist," gives an original and amusing turn; and Viola is a very pleasing instrumentalist. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope pictures complete.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Radie Furman is a jolly little Dutch girl, and captivates with her smart sayings and dancing; Gillen is an amusing ventriloquist; and Zeta Grey and Wal Grace, ably assisted, are excellent in a musical comedy act, *The Lancashire Lass.* One, Billy Farrell, has a good reception; the Miners' Quartette, including Billy Dewey, who sings and dances well, blend harmoniously; Rowland Hill makes a decided hit with his historical song; Edwin Adeler is a swell comedian of more than average merit; Wal Robbins, the black and white musical comedian, patters well; and the Swift Duo are clever trick cyclists. Pierrot's Drunkenness is shown on the Bioscope.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Wentworth.—Zona Vevey, in dainty songs, with catchy choruses, assisted by Herr Max Erard, pianist-accompanist, tops the bill here this week, and is very well received; Edie Veno, a comedian of the order eccentric, is very funny, and makes a hit; Fred W. Millis is a first-rate ventriloquist; the Three Behans are good in a novel quick-change act; Harwood's Juveniles in their novelty scena, *The Children's Christmas Eve,* are pleasing; Monty Walker, swell comedian, takes well; Ada Jenner, in an up-to-date sketch, *The Lady Barber,* is amusing; and other good items are those of Allsopp and Beckwith, comedy duo; Percy Curry, comedian; and Clifford Stuart, Lancashire comedian.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie.—Remaining here another week are the following artists, who appear with their usual success in special scenas and sketches: Messrs. Fred Carlton, Bruce Green, Bill Bailey, Andy Drew, Leonard Slater, Walter Barrett, Jack Waller, and the Misses Cecilia Gold and Iris Banfield.

MANSFIELD. — GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company in *A Soldier of France* was well received here on Monday. Mr. Percy Ballard as Corporal Jean was excellent; Mr. Albert Guyon in the part of Judas Delara was a great success; and Capt. Louis Loraine was played admirably by Mr. Edward Hobart. The important part of Pauline Loraine was in the cauable hands of Miss Carlotte Anson. Mr. Freddie Edwards as Jollyboy and Miss Jennie Clare as Margery frequently caused roars of laughter; Rita was charmingly portrayed by Miss Maggie Hobart. Elaborate scenery, painted by Mr. Alec Toole, the resident artist, was a feature of the performance.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—*The Education of Elizabeth* has been presented here this week by Mr. Ernest E. Norris and company, and, owing to its phenomenal success, the piece was billed to run the whole six nights instead of only four, as originally intended. Miss Winifred Ingram gives a thoroughly sound and artistic presentment of Elizabeth Banks; Miss Blanche Lynd is altogether admirable as Blanche Macyntire, her impersonation being a charming one; and Miss Helene Forrest makes a refined Lucy Middleton. Miss May Norris is delightful as Lily Kerr; Mr. Ernest E. Norris plays Reggie Hankey with the resourcefulness and finish of the accomplished actor; and Mr. Fred Castleman does admirable work as Mr. Whitby. Mr. Bert Morley plays effectively as Harry Fairfox; and capable support is given by Mr. Hugh W. Peel as Parsons, Mr. Carlton Holt as a Waiter, and Mr. Julius Hogen as a police officer.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The turns this week include the Three Sisters Lee, vocalists, dancers, and acrobats, and they have been accorded a most flattering reception. Winnie Stanhope, comedienne, meets with success; and Will Conn, the all-round page, vocalist, instrumentalist, and dancer, is well applauded. Stevens and Rennoir, eccentric comedians, also add to the plethora of dancers in the programme; and Billy Hubbard, comedian, proves most amusing. Charles Baldwin's pantomimists and comedians conclude the entertainment with the absurdity *The Bank Clerks,* which is broad farce and bustle throughout.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*With Edged Tools,* presented by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, is here. Mr. William Grant ably impersonates the rôle of Jack Meredith; Mr. Charles Hartopp supplies a capital representation of Guy Oscard; Victor Durnovo is successfully assumed by Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; and Mr. J. A. Rosier is well cast as Sir John Meredith. Miss Phyllis Relph plays gracefully as Jocelyn Gordon; Millicent Chyne is admirably impersonated by Miss Marie Leonhard; Miss Isabel Grey makes a good Lady Cantourne; and Miss Violet Thorold as Lady Herries is deserving of praise.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The programme this week includes Bostock's Educated Baboons; Ellis and Watts, swell comedians; Roy Beavis, conjurer; the Dunvilles, in a comedy musical act; Nita Carman, comedienne; Fred Charles, comedian; Bianco and Emile, vocalists and dancers; Lozelle, in a novel speciality act; and animated pictures.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—Prince Bendon's Variety Company occupies the boards this week. Miss Mary Meek, soprano, creates a favourable impression; Mr. J. K. Macfarlane, a comedian of quaint methods, evokes laughter; the singing of Mr. J. M. Aitken, a young baritone, is of good quality; Prince Bendon gives an amusing ventriloquial entertainment; a bright little artist is Miss Daisy Taylor, whose clever dancing especially appeals to the house. A capital series of up-to-date pictures is shown on Benden's Bioscope.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Ed. Van Biene and John F. Traynor's company is this week presenting *Man and Wife.* Mr. Traynor submits a manly rendering of the character of Paul Revere; the despicable Captain D'Esparre is cleverly typified by Mr. Ed. M. Hamilton; Mr. Geo. Overs plays with ability as the cripple, Jean; Mr. Geo. Rammell is a dignified Colonel Latour; and a brusque Sergt. Jacques is Mr. Ambrose Horton. Miss Kate Hallam is refined and sympathetic in her impersonation of the wronged heroine, Marcelle; Miss Violet Temple submits a well-studied rendering of Ruth Revere; comedy is agreeably contributed to by Mr. E. Hall-Eldon and Mr. Geo. Vining as Bimbo and Bambo, and Miss Millie Doris as Rosette.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—A capital series of pictures being shown here this week includes the Harlequin's Story, Duel after the Ball, The Rivals, The Devil's Three Sins, &c.

PUBLIC HALL.—Mr. Will Hunter's pierrots are here this week. The artists are Miss Flo D'Alton, Miss Edie Greene, Mr. Will Hunter, Mr. Charlie Orme, Mr. Ernie Graham, Mr. Harold Carlyle, Mr. J. Leslie Tyrrell, and Mr. Bert Nicholson.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Edward Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—The Middlesbrough Amateur Operatic Society were accorded a most cordial reception on Monday night, when by special permission they produced the comic opera *Merrie England.*

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company occupies the boards here this week in *Diana of Dobson's.* In the title-rôle Miss Emilie Polini, who is no stranger to Middlesbrough, gives a delightful impersonation; Mr. Frank Woolfe as Victor Bretherton is a distinct success; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce does exceedingly well as Sir Jabez Grinlay; as Miss Pringle Miss Daisy England is seen to advantage. The play is preceded by *The Bishop's Candlesticks.*

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—Mr. Fred Karno's company provides the star turn here in a sketch entitled *The Casuals;* Hyde and Cody Trio provide another enjoyable turn; and W. T. Ellwanger in *The Peacemaker* is a great favourite. Bert Weston, comedian, is amusing; and Gracie Graham, comedienne, is very pleasing.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—Marie Loftus, the famous comedienne, provides the star turn here this week, and scores a great success with her latest songs. The Paxton Troupe present a particularly clever and daring acrobatic act; Alf Gibson, with his quaint humour and original style, is well received; Rosa Sartella is a capital vocalist; and Ernest Rees, comedian, is amusing. A clever trick cycling turn is given by Henry and Tyler; and Mabelle May, vocalist, and Stuart and Stuart, in their pot-pourri act, also do well.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Ormesby French. — This place of amusement, which is now under new management, is rapidly regaining its popularity. Hall and Hall, in their comedy sketch *Bertie and the Barmaid,* cause much merriment; the Sisters Jonghmans score a success in their vocal trios; Billy Ross and company are good; and Wake and Dean, patterers, cause much laughter. James Bray is an excellent vocalist; and McAskell is a clever conjurer.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales. — Mr. William Maclaren's company is again paying a return visit in the late Wilson Barrett's great play *Claudian,* and on Monday opened to an excellent house. Mr. William Maclaren gives a fine interpretation of the title-rôle; and Miss Lily C. Bandmann is sweet and sympathetic as the sorely-tried Almida. Theorus, the sculptor, and his wife, Serena, have apt and fitting exponents in Mr. G. Edward Dunstan and Miss Amy Hardcastle; Agazil, the sturdy blacksmith, as played by Mr. Douglas Earle, is deserving of praise, as is also Mr. Bernard Elliott's interpretation of the somewhat unsavoury rôle of Thariogalus, the Tetrarch. Other characters deserving of praise are Mr. Chas. T. Challoner as Belos, Miss Ruth Trafford (whom we have already made mention of under another name) as Edessa, and Mr. Cecil Maynard as Rhamantes; while a word of praise should be given to Mlle. Stella Dorin for her cymbal dance. The dresses and staging are exceptionally good.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—A fine programme is presented again this week, and full houses thoroughly appreciate the various items. Mr. Leo Carle in his quick-change act has caused quite a sensation, his violin playing also being excellent; Mr. Frank Laurl's sketches at the piano cause loud laughter; Messrs. Fields and Lewis score in a mock melodrama; the Three Temples sing operatic selections in fine style; a delightful turn is given by Miss Adela Crispin; the Milsted-Bell Trio are responsible for an excellent sketch, *Three Sharps in a Flat;* and Mr. Cliff Dixo sings well. The animated pictures are chiefly educational and poetical, and find great favour.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. W. G. Sutton.—The summer season closed on Saturday last, but during this and next month Saturday popular concerts have been arranged.

THE PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. Frank W. Nall.—Skating here has caught on, and good business is being done. There is a good band in attendance.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Keen interest is evinced in the visit of Mr. George Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh to Tyneside in their latest success *The Thief,* and each evening sees the house packed to its utmost limits. Mr. Alexander and Miss Vanbrugh in the parts of Richard Chelford and his wife Marise are seen to the greatest advantage, and their efforts arouse unbounded enthusiasm. Mr. Dawson Milward gives a finished impersonation of Raymond Leyton; Miss Nina Sevening is equally successful as Isabel Leyton; and other parts are ably played by Mr. Reginald Owen and Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds. As a curtain-raiser *The Nursery Governess* is presented, and in it Miss Jean Maclinlay, Mr. Harcourt Williams, and Mr. Ashton Pearse give excellent portrayals.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The engagement for this week of Mrs. Patrick Campbell and her company in *The Thunderbolt* was enthusiastically appreciated on Monday evening. Mrs. Patrick Campbell in the emotional part of the erring Phyllis Mortimore fully maintained her great reputation; while Miss Stella Patrick Campbell gave a delightful rendering of the part of Helen Thornhill; Mr. Julian Royce is responsible for an excellent interpretation of the manly Thaddeus Mortimore; Mr. Murray Carson's portrayal of the bluff James Mortimore was decidedly good; and Stephen Mortimore was well played by Mr. Edgar Kent. Mr. E. H. Brocke and Mr. J. D. Beveridge acquitted themselves admirably as the solicitors; while Master Cyril Bruce and Miss Mignon Clifford left nothing to be desired as Cyril and Joyce respectively. Other parts are ably played by Mr. Charles A. Doran, Miss Florence Farr, Miss Florence Wells, and Miss Florence Kahn. *Electra* and *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* are also in the week's bill.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. W. Rowe; Manager, Mr. E. B. Clark.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is paying a return visit here this week in *A Girl's Cross Roads,* and is again attracting good houses. Miss Hilda Beverley's acting of the degraded Barbara Wade is most realistic; Mr. Charles Franmore appears as John Meadows, and gives a clever performance; Mr. Jack Fortescue plays the part of the hero, Jack Livingstone with manly dignity; Mr. Edward Valentine is effective as Dr. Weston; Mr. Edward Chester appears as the unscrupulous Cuthbert Lumley; and is well supported by Miss Nita Langford as Nellie Meadows; Miss Dorothy Hildebrande is charming as Constance Cornell; and Mr. F. Hodson and Miss Daisy Meynard are responsible for humorous parts.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—*The Silver King* is proving immensely successful. Mr. Fred Daviss makes an excellent Wilfrid Denver and Miss Edyth Goodall a sweet and sympathetic Nellie Denver; while Mr. Edward J. George retains his old part of Daniel Jaikes. All the other characters are well represented.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The ever-popular Boissetts Troupe in *The Bricklayers* head an interesting programme here this week, and, as usual, prove vastly amusing; Bellonini, the famous juggler, is well to the fore, and gives a clever and interesting turn; an artistic musical mélange is contributed by the popular Carina Sisters; and the Three Cape Girls contribute a smart dancing turn. Dave Austin and company present an original sketch, *His Wedding Morn;* whilst the patter of Armstrong and Carney is decidedly original. Other artists contributing meritorious turns are Johnny Walker, comedian; Crown Trio, speciality vocalists; and Ruth Lytton, Scotch character vocalist, the Bioscope completing an all-round excellent bill.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The Great Lafayette is retained another week, and is proving an immense draw. Other clever artists included in the programme are Max Waldon, female impersonator; Welda and Wynne, B. Troba, Laurence Barclay, Leonard and Vereky, and George Carncross.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company are playing *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* this week to enthusiastic houses. Mr. Ernest Cox as Prince Olaf, who had a touch of light humour, was an ideal lover; Miss Ethel Bracewell played Princess Monica with a becoming dignity; Mr. Melville Bickford's Prince Michael was pathetic; while Mr. Alfred Brandon played the elder brother Prince Hildred with force. Mr. W. S. Hardy does well in the part of Col. Wellenberg; and the other officers are well represented by Messrs. B. Hamilton, Fred Upton, J. H. Vyvyan, Sidney Bayliss, Herbert Nield, Edward Bowen, Arnold Cameron, and Arthur E. Robinson. Mr. W. S. Mills played Captain Hector splendidly, with humour and well-expressed loyalty. Lieut. Karl Stromberg in the hands of Mr. Reginald Payne was humorous, and Mr. Fred Wilson's Nathan afforded an opportunity for expressive acting; while Mr. Kenneth Black played Bishop Illyria with marked dignity. Miss Gertrude Branscombe as Carniola was exceptionally sweet, pretty, and natural; while Miss Jessica Black as Viola was bright and amusing.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—A very clever sketch, *Charles, His Friend,* is presented here by Mr. Courtice Pounds as Charles, Miss Louie Pounds as Lulu, Miss Pearl Keats as Barbara, and Mr. H. Lambart as Peter Ward. Geo. Formby is popular with his taking songs; Georgina Leno manifests much of her father's talent; and Thora showed great skill in a ventriloquial turn. La Danseuse is a promising young artist; Frank Couch, with smart patter, is given a flattering reception; and Austin Boyd and Trixie Gilfain provide a very pleasing musical turn. The Bioscope, with capital films, completes the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans; Musical Director, Mr. Walter Ashton. — This being anniversary week, Marie Kendall was specially engaged to give *éclat* to the occasion, and her engagement has been a highly-successful one, both houses being nightly crowded with enthusiastic admirers. Mlle. Lumiere presents a brilliant spectacle in her electrical fairy grotto; the Court Jesters, introduced by J. G. Taylor, give a merry mixture of song and dance; Steve McCarthy makes a hit with his policeman's song, "If I catch you bending," and tenders some expert dancing; the Maximilian Trio show some clever balancing; George Lawrence gains approval as an actor vocalist; the Sisters Redfern are favourably received as banjoists; Mr. and Mrs. Shelley evoke roars of laughter in their duologue; May Maymant is a handsome comedienne; Bains and Reed are good knockabouts; and the Palace Pictures entertain with vivid pictures of The Daily Life of a French Sailor.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and his capable company are presenting *The Coal King,* which has had an enthusiastic reception. As Tom Roberts Mr. Alderson gives a fine and consistent rendering, and Ulick Burke as Sir Reginald Hartford submits an excellent study; Mr. George Hanbury makes the most of his opportunities as Walter Hartford; Mr. Sam Roberts is good as Jim Williams; and Mr. Frank Dalton scores as Dick Shirley. Miss Winifred Love deserves special praise for her portrayal of Grace Shirley; Miss Joan Wellman proves a capital Mad Ann; and Miss Max Hinton is pleasing as Araminta Green.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Mr. Phil Herman, actor-vocalist, tops the bill here, and has been warmly greeted; Les Valdos, the eccentric 'busmen, cause much hearty laughter; Messrs. Ray and Ross, comedians and speciality artists, have made a great hit; Mlle. Tella renders her songs in good style; Master Walter Aubrey, coon vocalist, is popular; Miss Nannie Shaw, Scottish comedienne, Miss Sadie Hope, comedienne and dancer, and the Mouldoscope contribute successfully to the programme.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Day's company is presenting *For Love of a Woman* here. The honours of the performance go to Miss May Day for her clever rendering of Nance Manor; Mr. Jerrold Ord is a manly Ned Merrick; as Guy Manor Mr. Frederick Garratt makes the most of the part; Allen Paget is capably acted by Mr. Eustace Day; Miss Eva St. Vincent is good as Jane Manor.

PAVILION. — Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—Barry Gilmore, an old favourite, is topping the bill here this week, and his quaint humour convulses the house; Miss Alexandra Royal gives her songs in a dashing manner; Howard and Lenore are skilful dancers; the Spadonis (Madge and Sylvia) are clever dancers; Miss Eunice Lowe is a vocalist above the average; Mr. Laurie Howard is a clever dancer; and Jack Holland's eccentric dancing causes much amusement. Excellent pictures by Ruffell's Bioscope are nightly shown.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—An excellent company is presenting the sensational play of *Leah Kleschna* here this week. Mr. Hamilton Deane deserves praise for his impersonation of Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks is good as Raoul Berton; and the same may be said of Mr. Clayton as Monsieur Garnier. Mr. Charles Barrett is much appreciated as General Berton; Miss Bessie Rignold, with much earnestness, portrays the character of Leah Kleschna, and her vocal items in the last act are very successful. The other characters are ably filled.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Joe Peterman's company, including George Ricketts as Novinski, in *The Belle of the Orient,* heads the bill. The sketch is full of fun, whilst the singing is much appreciated. Agnes Molteno, assisted by Mr. T. T. Edwards and Little Dolly, excite much sympathy in their scena *An Old-time Story;* the Elite Harmony Boys are very good in their vocal act, *Messmates Ashore;* Graham, the Lilliputian wonder, is very successful; and a humorous turn is given by Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic. Sam Redfern as a comedian is well received; May Newall is a good vocalist; and Kerr and Koe are clever dancers. The Hippo-Bio. is also attractive.

BANK PLAIN ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The Franco-British Co. present a fresh programme, which includes the Marathon Race of Saturday, last week, and other up-to-date pictures. Good patronage is secured.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*My Mimosa Maid* forms a strong attraction this week. Miss Marie Studholme is altogether dainty, lively, and charming as Paulette, and her songs are given with delightful freshness; Miss May Garstang is well fitted as Mme. Pelaine; and Miss Ruby Gray is effective in the part of Marcelle. As Victor Guilbert, Mr. Charles McNaughton is all that could be desired. Always funny, and with seemingly endless stores of humour, he keeps the house in continuous laughter, in which he is capitally aided by Mr. Charles Paton in the guise of a bailiff. Mr. Arthur Jackson makes an amusing waiter, as also Mr. Fred Gilbert. Popette is played vivaciously by Miss Mabel Hirst; and the two officers are a decided acquisition as impersonated by Messrs. J. H. Goldsworthy and L. Winter. Master Archie McCaig does well as Bock; and Mr. Percy Carr shows conspicuous ability in the rôle of M. Gerrard.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Mr. F. G. Kimberley's company is providing pleasant fare in *A Soldier's Honour.* Mr. Elan Meredith appropriately shows the gallant conduct and manly nature of Captain Deane; and Mr. T. A. Ellis well expresses the sterling friendship of Captain Temple. Mr. Andrew Money makes the villainy of Henry Thornley stand out with startling clearness, and he is ably assisted by Mr. A. Anderson (Holly) and Mr. Vernon Cooper (Burly Bill). Miss Ruth Zillwood is to be congratulated on her artistic impersonation of the unsavoury character of Cora Lee; Miss Edie Macklin as Jemima Eliza is bubbling over with goodness and merriment; and charming studies are also provided by Misses Edie Trapnell and M. Shelton.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The popularity of Eugene Stratton increases at each visit, and he is delighting large audiences nightly with his artistic "coon" songs; Howard and Harris contribute an excellent acrobatic performance, which evokes hearty commendation; Leo Tell shows marked ability in his imitations of musical instruments; and Gwennie Llewellyn captivates the house by her remarkably clever rendering of operatic airs. Bi-Bo-Bi proves a smart manipulator of sleigh bells; and the dancing of Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne draws appreciative applause. Ben Albert is good, both in song and patter; and Madge Osmond effectively portrays a "dandy." Duncan and Godfrey help the fun in their cockney sketch; and humorous pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

KING'S THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. E. O. Waller.—Animated pictures still continue to attract large audiences, and the illustrated songs of Mr. Ernie Williams are a constant source of pleasure.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—The company of Jake Friedman have kept the fun moving this week in their picturesque sketch *Life in Holland.* Capital work is done by Miss Florence Hunton and Mr. Friedman. The Columbia Comedy Trio combine harmony with comicality, to the great delight of their hearers; another musical combination is that of the Courtiers, who sing with artistic care and fine effect; the gymnastic exhibition of La Vails deserves the highest praise; and the somersaults of Hayes and Meritz are of a skilful and daring nature. The ventriloquism of Lieut. Travis forms a thoroughly diverting turn; and the dancing on roller skates of Willie Gardner is a smart piece of work. Items are also contributed by J. W. Gallagher, Violet Lorraine, and the Barrascope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. R. Mitchelson's company under the direction of Mr. Augustine Knight is presenting *The Assassin.* Mr. Augustine Knight is admirably suited as Prince Demetri; Mr. Bonhote Wilson wins much appreciation as Ivan Ipanoff; Mr. Edwin Lever is to be commended upon his forcible acting as Duke Carl; Mr. Edward Swinton depicts Baron Alphonse in a manner deserving much praise; and Mr. Tom Taylor as Peter creates a good deal of amusement. Mr. Edward Fryer as General Nichol, Mr. Edward Jenner as Captain O'Neil, and Mr. James Abbot as Evangie are well suited. Miss Ella Vale fills the rôle of Countess Wanda with ability; an interesting and attractive Connie Jonathan is presented by Miss Hettie Senior; Miss Eva Trevenna as Nita deserves praise for her sympathetic portrayal; Miss Ada Douglas as Nardine Farina and Miss E. Robertson as Katrine play their parts with success. The piece is elaborately mounted.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme. —Mr. Herbert Sleath's company is here in *A White Man.* Mr. Frank E. Petley as Jim Carston is splendid, his acting earning several recalls; Mr. Lewis Broughton is very successful as the Earl of Kerhill; Mr. H. Wilmott Jackson makes a good Sir John Applegate; Miss Eleanor May is very stately as the Countess of Kerhill; and Miss Gertrude Price is a capital Dowager Lady Kerhill. Miss Margaret Fairleigh as Nat-u-ritch acts in a clever manner as a shy Indian girl; Mr. Eric Hudson is most realistic as Tab-y-Wana; Mr. R. A. Brandon cleverly interprets the part of Big Bill; Mr. A. C. Hardy is smart as Bud Hardy; and Mr. Arthur Gibbons is capital as the bully, Cash Hawkins. Miss Rosina White is most winning as Little Hal.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*When London Sleeps* is being presented

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by Mr. Lester Collingwood's company. Mr. Ed. E. Ashby is a manly David Engleheart, the athletic hero, and his arch enemy, Capt. Rodney Haynes, is acted well by Mr. Harry Wren. Miss Mabel Scudamore is delightful as Queenie Carruthers; Miss Lilla Wilde is forcible as Hilda Carode, a woman with a past; Mr. F. E. Thomas makes a capital Bob Jones; Miss Bella Power is very good as Mrs. Jones; Miss Doris Brereton is a sympathetic Lelia; Mr. Douglas Campbell makes a good Sammy Blyth; and Mr. Frank Howard is smart as Bertie Broomhead. Some capital comedy causes roars of laughter.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Bransby Williams in his famous impersonations scores a most emphatic success. Chas. R. Whittle again appears with new songs, and has a fine reception; the Dandies present a delightful turn with excellent singing; the Selbinis perform in a daring manner in a capital cycle act; Ada Martine wins much applause with some smart dancing; Helen Martin scores with well-rendered songs; and a funny sketch by Frank Elliston and company takes well. Will Willis, comedian, and an amusing picture on the Dottoscope fill the bill.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Ernie Myers proves himself a favourite with smart comedy songs; Azella Wilson is most graceful in a unique act on the trapeze; Lily Lonsdale uses her splendid voice with telling effect in well-sung songs; Boyne and Hope are highly successful in their farcical comedy; the Love Cure, Almon, is clever in an equilibristic turn; Cribb and Cribb are very good in a comedy act; and the Stowe Bros. do well as equilibrists. The Dottoscope concludes with an interesting picture.

OXFORD.—East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company is paying a return visit here with *Sapho*, which drew an appreciative house on Monday. As Jean Caussin Mr. Ernest R. Abbott plays with great robustness and feeling; Mr. Frank Stephens is highly successful as Uncle Cesaire; Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle is good as Henri Dechellette; and Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown is droll as Hettema. As D'Arac Mr. Edwin Keene gives some excellent musical specialities in Act 1, and Mr. Walter Rosier does well as old Legrand. Miss Florence North makes a very graceful Lucy; Miss Isabel Singleton makes the most of Mme. Hettema; and Miss E. Gertrude Jones is really clever as Josaph. Miss Ada Abbott, on whom the brunt of the acting falls as Fanny Legrand, works strenuously and succeeds in giving a very sympathetic and natural rendering.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is appearing here this week in *When It Was Dark*. Mr. Haldane Dalton is a powerful exponent of Constantine Schwabe; Mr. Wilfred Lyndon displays talent in his assumption of the Rev. Basil Gortre; Mr. Charles Brandon's impersonation of Sir Robert Llewellyn is very effective; the Rev. Mr. Byars is capitally played by Mr. William H. Burton; a capable and humorous portrayal of the Hon. Charles Gayfly is furnished by Mr. George Fawde; Nunc Wallace is admirably embodied by Mr. Jack Armitage; Mr. Alfred Collingham's Harold Spence is highly appreciated; Mr. J. T. Inglis does well as Mr. Ommaney; Ionides is faithfully portrayed by Mr. Charles Grandley; and Mr. Francis Cavins as Ali al Murad is excellent. Miss Ethel Griffies displays much charming ability in the rôle of Gertrude Hunt; Helena Byars is extremely well personated by Miss Marie Barrett; Miss Tessa Myers amusingly enacts Gracie Goldeye; and Minnie Golightly and Flossie Lovegay are successfully undertaken by Misses Emilie Schular and Florrie Lyndon.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—The foremost place in the programme this week is occupied by the Musical Twelve, which includes Mlle. Louise van Dalle, George Hilton St. Just, and T. H. Wood, in a new and original musical mélange founded on the famous opera *The Bohemian Girl*. An entertainment which greatly pleases the audience is contributed by the Three Cheers, with their performing cats; Walker and Lake appear in their diverting exploit *Extemporania;* the Lafaille Troupe do some extraordinary gymnastic and equilibristic feats and are warmly greeted; Lily Tiso is a clever comedienne and dancer; Henry Hallam and Josephine Stanton delight and amuse in their musical comedy sketch *A Broken Journey;* Sandy and Carl, comedians, dancers, and burlesque boxers, are much appreciated; a popular and entertaining comedienne is Beattie Bloom; Wisper proves himself a clever comedy juggler; and the Bioscope concludes with some interesting pictures.

PENTRE.—Tivoli Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping the bill this week is the popular artist, Lilian Lee, in a picturesque scena, with catchy songs and dainty dances. The Three Coopers, comedy vocalists, are well received; the Weimars contribute a graceful entertainment on the elevated wire; Bonnetti and Corrie, in their juggling act, are clever; the Brothers Ralston, character duettists, are capable artists; Lillie Bloy, comedienne; Morris and Richards, comedy acrobats; Jim Topping; Phern and Phern, in a musical act; and the Tivoliscope are also in the bill.

PETERBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—On Monday Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair's company opened here with *Man to Man*. Mr. H. Holland submits a finished piece of acting as Matthew Ellerton; George Gordon is excellently represented by Mr. Edward Lloyd; Richard Ellerton is in the capable hands of Mr. Frank Adair; and Mr. R. Val Shane is well placed as Rev. Philip Ormond. The humorous element is well sustained by Mr. Clifford Bown as Bill Burkley, he being ably assisted by Mr. Herbert Williams as Samuel Plumtree and Miss Adeline Lester as Miss Lavinia Dove. Miss Louie Adair fills the rôle of Ethel Maythorne in a way that leaves little to be desired, and Miss Evelyn Warde appears to advantage as Gipsy Madge.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—The attractions here this week include Tarro Myaki, ju-jitsu wrestler; Clive Watts, wonderful eccentric dancer; Lenton and Lane, in a comedy concoction entitled *Unconsidered Trifles;* Russell Carr, ventriloquist; Datas, the marvellous memory man; and Arthur Page and Co., in a dramatic sketch entitled *A Midnight Call*.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—A house packed from floor to ceiling assembled on Monday for the initial performance of the Carl Rosa Opera Company, and were rewarded with one of the richest musical treats heard in Plymouth for a considerable period. *Faust* was the first of the attractive répertoire presented, and the more popular numbers of this magnificent work were rapturously applauded. To Mr. Arthur Winckworth was entrusted the exacting rôle of Mephistopheles, and he proved himself a singer and actor of first-rate ability. Mr. Walter Wheatley as Faust has a delightfully mellow tenor voice, and scored brilliantly in the rendering of "Salve Dimora," in the garden scene; Mr. Hebden Foster as Valentine is well adapted to the soldier-vocalist's part, and was at his best in the beautiful "Dio Poperte"; while Mr. Alexander Richard gave an attractive rendering of Wagner. Margarita was played by Mme. Elizabeth Burgess, and the critical audience were not slow to demonstrate their approval of her clear soprano voice; while Miss Christine Ritz as Siebel furnished a contrast with numbers allocated to the contralto. During the week *Carmen, Cavalleria Rusticana, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Il Trovatore, Tannhäuser,* and *The Bohemian Girl* have also been performed.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The principal turn is that of Geo. Anger and company in *Jack, the Giant Killer*. Mr. Anger is a man of colossal proportions; whilst his opponent, Jack (Master Ernest Rommel), is quite a diminutive bit of humanity, and the battle between the two is therefore very diverting. The Three Richards present a comedy acrobatic turn above the ordinary level; Bert Danson is a first-rate comedian, his songs being refreshingly free from anything distasteful; "The Enchanted Iona" is a clever combination of humour and acceptable statuary, Mr. Chas. Fraser working hard in the former department, while Pearce and Warde have an amusing burlesque on boxing. Remaining contributors to the bill are Marie Neilson, dancer; the Two Clares, in a song-scena; and Fred Tenby, comedian.

PONTEFRACT.—Alexandra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—Coverdale and Huxley's Juveniles are at the top of an attractive bill here in a daintily-conceived scena, *Pansy's Birthday*. The children dance and sing charmingly, and the comedian of the troupe puts in some really funny business. Hess and Lisbon, in addition to a clever exposition of figure-skating, cause great hilarity by their comic business; Hall and Wilson, in a motor-cycling act, create intense excitement in the progress of their "stationary race," which is indicated by figures on a miniature track. One of the pair does some exceptionally novel trick-riding on the "rollers." East and West sing of topical items with much point; and Ena Correlli dances herself into favour. Cade Burnett, actor-vocalist, sings good songs; Marie Powell, in a "Poor Joe" type of song, is pathetic; and Lang and Beal, comedians, practise the "noble art" in a manner not after Moir-Burns. There are new and interesting pictures shown on the Bioscope.

PORTH.—The Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Chief place is occupied by the Five Spanish Juanitos, whose acrobatic performance is appreciated by all; Karr and Kooney, comedians in scarlet, are applauded; Ivy Adelaide is a refined singer and an admirable dancer; Dot Hardy scores a success as a low-comedy artist; Lloyd Morgan, who possesses a very sweet voice, is a great favourite; the Brothers Harrison are responsible for great amusement as the golfing Johnnies; Rozel gives a marvellous gymnastic performance; Dan Filmer, comedian and dancer, is a capital turn; the Palacescope, with its fine pictures, still maintains its reputation; and the Miltons, skating comedians, are exceedingly clever.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*Lady Frederick* is being presented by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's strong company. In the title-rôle Mrs. Brown-Potter has a part that suits her admirably, the complexity of the character being depicted with great success, and gaining much applause; Mr. Phillip Cunningham nobly supports her in his splendid portrayal of the well-bred man of the world, Paradine Fouldes; Mr. Reginald van Ranney well sustained the rôle of Sir Gerald O'Mara; Mr. Herbert Garthorne is excellent as Lord Mereston; Mr. Cecil Bevan is entirely satisfactory as Captain Montgomerie; and Mr. Shirley Lea depicts Admiral Carlisle with much ability. Miss Phyllis Manners is good as Mme. Claude; Miss Edith Deverell made a charming Rose; Lady Mereston found a capable exponent in Miss Madeline Du Val; and Angelique, Lady Frederick's maid, is most admirably acted by Miss E. Nolan O'Connor. The play is preceded by *The Peacemaker*.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's original London company is here for the week with *The New East Lynne*, Miss Beth Elliott cleverly sustaining the dual rôles of Lady Isabel and Mme. Vine. Mr. Frederick Harker ably presented Archibald Carlyle, and with distinction; as Francis Leveson, alias Captain Thorne, Mr. W. H. Garbois acted most creditably. The part of Justice Hare is taken by Mr. W. Lowe with care and precision; Lord Mountsevern is safely entrusted to Mr. W. Talbot; Mr. W. T. Ellonby is excellent in his part of Richard Hare; and Mr. Richard Nugent is diverting and decidedly good as Murty O'Flynn; Cornelia Carlyle is well portrayed by Miss Sophy Shenton; Barbara Hare is personated by Miss Josephine Gwynne in very capable manner; Miss Doris Denville as Willie Carlyle is deserving of much praise for her capital acting.

King's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The top-liner here this week is Georges Hackenschmidt, who is proving a most popular attraction, and gives a fine exhibition of wrestling; the Moxon Trio, a clever combination of hand-balancers and equilibrists, receive a cordial welcome; Jack Rae, a gymnast with novel business, meets with approval; Clarke and Hayden in musical comedy duologue, *By Appointment*, are very creditable; Dora Brooklyn, a charming comedienne, does excellent work; Bellew and Stack's company in stirring sketch, *An Outside Chance*, appear with success; Ford and Barras submit an amusing turn; Wyndham and Waters in highly-diverting sketch, *The Professor and His Pupil*, score well. The animated pictures are of more than usual amusing description.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Menotti, the Stockholm performer, submits his daring performances on a cycle track on a single wire; Phil Bransby, the coster comedian, gains a good hearing; Merlin, the demon crocodile, is a clever contortionist; Jack Collinson and company in two capital items, *Who's Won* and *The Club Raid*, are successful, and have a cordial greeting; Fielding and Hull in vocal entertainment, *Bathing*, are diverting, and cause plenty of merriment; Baker and Balfe, a pair of versatile xylophone experts, give excellent operatic selections; Don and Mabel in Scottish scena, *Sandy's Return*, provide an agreeable turn; Queenie Essex, a dainty comedienne, gives two acceptable vocal numbers. New pictures of interesting character by Payne's Bio. conclude.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.—The great attraction here this week is "The Globe of Life"—an immense wire globe, in which Wizard and Irene Stone very daringly ride cycles at a terrific pace, causing a storm of appreciative applause; the Fitzroys, very smart gymnasts, create a favourable impression; Baby Vi Davis, billed as the youngest actress-vocalist, deserves the approval accorded to her; Orpheus, an accomplished musician, submits a capital turn; Mr. Harry Taft, American whistling comedian, is responsible for much amusement for his amusing contribution; Tokio Troupe of Japanese acrobats give a bright and clever entertainment; *The Hunting Morn*, a well-presented scena, with amusing pictures by the Hippo Bio, is much appreciated; Mr. Edwin Boyde, an eccentric comedian, with his humorous songs, scores tremendously; Frazer and Haley, duettists, are also popular here.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Charles Frohman's company this week is presenting *The Hypocrites*. Mr. A. B. Imeson as the Rev. Edgar Linnell was loudly applauded for his very excellent rendition; Mr. Alfred S. Barber as the pompous Mr. Wilbur was most natural; and Mr. King Fordham gave a good account of himself as Lennard Wilmore. Mr. Charles Harley as Mr. Viveash, the lawyer, was exceedingly good; Mr. Cecil Brooking presented a capital character-study of the Rev. Edward Daubeney; Mr Sydney Hamilton was a dignified Sir John; and in the difficult rôle of Rachel Neve Miss Gladys Harvey is certainly to be complimented on her tactful presentation of the part. Miss Gladys Purnell was a winsome and attractive Helen Plugenet; Miss Amy Ravenscroft had a by no means easy part as Mrs. Wilbur, but she emerged with flying colours; Miss Madge Severne as Mrs. Linnell and Miss Florence Steventon as Mrs. Blaney sustained their parts capitally, as did also Miss Violet Harley as Patty.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company in the drama *Two Little Drummer Boys* is the attraction here. Mr. Edward Bikker sustains his original part of General Kingsley, V.C., in a manly and dignified manner; Mr. Harry Scott is an imposing Capt. Frank Carsdale; and Mr. Geoff. Sutherland a good Lieut. Kingsley. Mr. Oswald Douglas presents the unprincipled Capt. George Darrell in a characteristic manner; Mr. Frank Cope is a soldierly Major Kilkerrin; Mr. Will Percy as Quiney O'Quirke and Mr. Chas. Gallier as Timothy Trimmer succeed in keeping the audience in merry mood, and they are ably supported by Miss Patricia Connaughton, a captivating Molly; Miss Violet Ingram is a powerful Margaret; Miss Marie Ainslie a capable Alma Kingsley; and Miss Maggie English as Eric Carlisle and Miss Maudie Douglas as Jack Smith are excellent.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. B. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Mr. Arthur Rigby, supported by his company of twenty artists, has a good reception with his comic operetta, *The Isle of Ooma*. The setting is really good, and the dresses are excellent. Harry Russon is an actor-comedian with a good song, and his recital of a Kipling poem is loudly applauded. Herbert and Linden are a clever duo of expert clog dancers; Rose and Wold give a clever exhibition on the bounding wire; Evelyn Taylor, comedienne, contributes a couple of songs; and Greener, singing pit lad, possesses a good voice. Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore present a dramatic episode entitled *The Usurer*.

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—The piece, entitled *Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman*, is exceedingly interesting. In the title-rôle Mr. Lewis Edgard achieves his customary success; Mr. C. Kean makes a typical Curtis Bedford; Mr. Arthur Bell does good work as Harry Manders; and the ruffian Crawshaw has a capable exponent in Mr. Oswald Griffiths. Mr. P. Alexander is an effective Lord Amersteth; and Mr. G. Grogson deserves a word as Barraclough. Miss Brenda Gibson takes the part of Mrs. Vidal to perfection; Miss Beatrice Marsdene as Gwendoline is attractive; and Miss Eva Bevington is a typical French maid.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Victoria Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—Mr. Richeux continues to maintain his reputation for supplying good dramatic fare at the above theatre. This week the diverting farce, *Are You a Mason?* has been giving great amusement to audiences nightly. It is played in clever fashion by Mr. Charles Macdona's company. Mr. H. Langdon Bruce is fine as George Fisher; and Mr. E. H. Paterson is admirable as Amos Bloodgood. Mr. Francis J. Bithell effectively sustains the part of Frank Perry, son-in-law of Amos; Miss Adelaide Grace makes first-rate play with the part of the aggressive Mrs. Bloodgood; and other characters are performed with distinct ability by Mr. G. P. Polson (John Halton), Mr. E. E. Clive (a typical "fallen star") as Hamilton Travers. The ladies are all charming. They include Miss Rita Narcelli, Miss Rita Johnson, and Miss Dulcie Verney (Eva, Annie, and Lulu, daughters of Mrs. Bloodgood), and the Misses Viola Garland, Mary Kilpack, and Pleongains. *Are You a Mason?* has been preceded each evening by the dramatic episode *A Bad Penny* (Lestocq).

Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—Large and appreciative audiences have assembled here twice nightly during the week to witness attractive exhibitions of animated pictures given by the Palace Bioscope Company, and entertainments by a select vaudeville company. The films shown are of general and humorous interest, and among the turns which intersperse the pictures, the appearance of Sterling and Cashen, military comedy duo and champion dancers, in their novel performance, "The New Army," create much amusement. There is a change of pictures at each performance.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—*Convict 99* is being greatly appreciated by large audiences. As Lawrence Gray Mr. Frank Beresford gives a strong and artistic interpretation; and Miss Dorothy Milne is a delightfully sympathetic and womanly Geraldine Lucas; Mr. Benson North is a capital Ralph Vickers; and Mr. J. Warris Lindon an excellent Christopher Lucas. As Maggie Mason Miss Jennie Richards is very successful, and with Mr. Edward Kipling as James Stinchcombe keeps the humorous part of the play well sustained, the latter artist being an excellent comedian. Mr. P. L. Julian as Jim Lacy is very good; as also are Messrs. Fred Epiteaux, Mr. H. Peachey, and Mr. W. Fordyce, as the Judge and the Counsel. Mr. Hal Forde is clever as the Magistrate; and Mr. Walter Westwood makes an excellent Jannaway. Mr. F. Wilson shows to advantage as the Doctor; and Mr. Wilfred Harris is a success as Jennings. Miss Woolgar Mellon is capital as Mrs. Smedley.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company is appearing this week in the phenomenally successful play *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Dorothy Green acts most effectively in the difficult part of Diana Massingberd, her amazing change from shop-girl drudgery in the first act to masquerading as a wealthy widow in the second act being very cleverly depicted; Mr. H. Grendon Bentley appears to advantage as Captain the Hon. Victor Brotherton; the vulgarity of the self-made Sir Jabez Grindley is cleverly expressed by Mr. Alfred Harris; Miss Mary Stuart as Mrs. Cantelupe and Miss Georgette de Serville as Mrs. Whyte Fraser are both good; the shop assistants at Dobson's are well impersonated by Miss Molly Tremaine, Miss Kate Turner, Miss Nannie Griffin, and Miss Eva Leonard Boyne; Miss Helen Vicary is excellent as the indignant forewoman, Miss Pringle; and Mr. Albert Wainwright acts well as P.C. Fellowes. The play is preceded by *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, which is well acted by Messrs. Alfred Harris, A. Wainwright, T. Pauncefort, Miss Helen Vicary, and Miss Georgette de Serville. A successful matinée was given on Wednesday.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. B. Draco.—This week's programme is of a very diversified character. Edward Crosland's Melody Makers appear very successfully in a clever and novel musical scena, entitled *The Burglar's Dream;* the De Breans, a troupe of Japanese entertainers, give an expert juggling performance; the Three Rubys, contortionist and acrobatic ladies, perform some extraordinary feats; George Bernard is an effective actor-vocalist; Lloyd and Lane create much amusement in their comedietta *That's Torn It;* the Herald Comedy Four are much appreciated; Ruby Emerson is a pleasing comedienne; and Rose Elliott is successful as a singer of sensible songs.

Large Town Hall.—Walter Jeffs' New Century pictures are still attracting large audiences, this being the last week of the exhibition. A complete change has been made in the programme, one of the new scenes depicted being that of last Saturday's football match between Reading and New Brompton.

REDDITCH.—Public Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. J. E. Field.—*Florodora*, under the direction of Mr. Charles Constant, opened here on the 9th and 10th, and did excellent business. Mr. Gus Danby as the showman, Miss Daisy Lake as Dolores, and Miss Lillie Blythe as Lady Heyrood, met with marked receptions. Mr. Albany Ward's pictures opened on Monday last, for six nights, and are doing good business. A variety company also gives general satisfaction.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*Tom Jones* is drawing good houses. It is finely staged, and the music is charming. Mr. Cyril Thompson in the title-rôle both acts and sings with vigour and effect; Mr. Fred Seymour as the irascible Squire Western is heard to great advantage; and Mr. George Elton is highly amusing as Benjamin Partridge. Miss Florrie Saunders is a vivacious Honour; Miss Florence McAvoy is effective as Miss Western; Lady Bellaston is finely enacted by Miss Olive Elton; and Miss Alice Moffat charmingly fulfils the part of Sophia.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Maurin's fountains produce some beautiful effects; the Wedburns are mirth-provoking with their smart patter; Billy Hobbs is a capital coon comedian and dancer; and other turns are presented by Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian and dancer; Master Richard May, vocalist; Carn and Rose, in vocal scena; Adele Lincoln, comedienne and dancer; and the Empire Bioscope pictures.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. A. A. Roberts's company presented the drama *Straight from the Shoulder* to a good house on Monday, and had a very cordial reception; Mr. Matthew Boulton gives an earnest and manly portrayal of Dr. Francis Bedford; Mr. Leonard Clarke was very effective as David Gleeson, and afterwards as Major Lucas; Mr. Fred Beck as Jim Green, Miss Edie Casson as Miss Brittle, and Miss Beatrice Moore were well placed, and kept the fun to the front. Miss Beatrice Burdett was a charming Millicent Grant. Mr. George H. Child gave a good study of the Rev. John Armitage; Mr. Cuthbert Dennison as Donald MacGregor, Mr. Franklin McAvoy as Henry W. Grant, Miss Frances Bruce as Mary Gleeson, Mr. Bertram Carlton as Sergeant Bright, and Mr. George Fisher as Fred Stafford did well in their respective parts.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—This week's programme includes several old friends, who are here again. It is headed with *My Pal, Jerry*, in which Lew Lake and company keep the house in roars; Barton and Franklin Trio are much applauded for their musical act. The other turns include Ernest Montefiore and company, in their dramatic and musical sketch, *The Little Colonel;* Fred Land, comedian; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers; Alice Maude, juvenile male impersonator; and Marie Goodwin, comedienne.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. George F. Slatter.—Flo Hilton heads an excellent bill with her clever male impersonations; Denaro Bros. are smart juvenile acrobats; Carney Bros., in vocal scena, "Brothers," were much appreciated; a clever swimming act is performed by Kirk and Saraski. The other turns include the Colonials, including James Grant, Scotch comedian, in *Unexpected Guests;* Leo Trainor, comedian; Brothers Lydamore, comedians and dancers; Jukes and Earle, comediennes and eccentric dancers; Maxford and O'Neill, clever patterers; and Original Zedoras, smart gymnasts.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Mr. Lester King carries the audience with him in the chorus of his illustrated song, "Boys of the old brigade," and the following films are also well received: In a Stone Quarry, Stickphast, Magic Piano, Little Flower-seller, Adventures of a Watch, Power of the Child, Wild Goose-chase, Miniature Circus, Virtuous Young Man, &c.

SALISBURY.—County Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—A delightful visit has this week been paid by Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's*. In the title-rôle Miss Violet Vorley is charming; Miss Hilda Francks as Mrs. Cantelupe is amusing; Miss Pamela Hope looks charming as Mrs. Whyte-Fraser; as Sir Jabez Grinley, a most clever exponent is found in Mr. Philip Sanders; Mr. Briscoe Owen as Capt. Bretherton is very good.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Messrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company is doing well here this week, with the musical comedy burlesque, *A Merry Maid*. Mr. Vyvyan Wakeman is a great favourite as Larry O'Hooligan, his sister, Biddy, being smartly hit off by Mr. W. S. Hutchinson. Mr. Howard Lawrence scores as Thady Cluncy; and Miss Fanny Adamson gets a capital reception as Angela Vere de Vere. Mr. H. Tracey's droll presentiment of Vere Swank causes much hilarity; and the precocity of Wee George Wood as Bertie Vere de Vere is surprising and clever. Miss May Gibson as Peggy O'Hooligan is heard to advantage in several popular songs.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company is here this week with *A Girl Redeemed from Sin*. Mr. Philippe Orr impersonates Robert Denham with ability; Ernest Sylveston's villainy finds a clever exponent in Mr. Geo. Lyttleton; an admirable conception of the manly Will May is presented by Mr. Jo Monkhouse; Jim Jakes provides Mr. Victor Knight with plenty of scope for his abilities as a comedian; Samuel Lee is faithfully depicted by Mr. John E. Tomlinson; and Mr. Walle Spinner is very funny as the Hon. Bertie Boyes. As Nancy Lee, Miss Olive Fulton wins hearty approval; Peggy is sketched in a humorous style by Miss Ada Oxley; and as Mrs. Lee Miss Fanny Olive is satisfactory.

SHEERNESS. — Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Sheerness Hippodrome Co. — The Four Mexican Lariats, who top the bill, furnish a smart and sensational lassoing performance; Ella Lorraine, ballad vocalist, is accorded an enthusiastic reception; Roze and Calvert give an entertaining turn; Carl and Carr, comedians, afford the greatest pleasure; and Madison and Webb are clever comedy artists. Charles Cardon, comedian, is good; Henri Bekker is a conjurer of ability; and the Bioscope depicts the Four-inch Motor Race in the Isle of Man in a highly satisfactory manner.

Co-operative Hall.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; Manager, Mr. F. R. Griffiths.—Among the popular dramatic and comedy pictures shown here are The Black Princess, The Quebec Pageant, Jones and the Lamp-post, The Gambler, In a Submarine, The Secret of the Iron Mask, and The Baby Competition.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*A White Man*, with its picturesque mise-en-scene and powerful dramatic interest, kept the attention of a good house on Monday, not a little of the success of the play being due to the admirable acting of Mr. Herbert Sleath and his excellent company. The character of Jim Carston, as limned by Mr. Sleath, stood out from the crowded canvas—a bold, fascinating, and virile presentment of a real man; and a companion study—an impersonation of a characteristic Western type—was Mr. George Faucett's Big Bill; the Earl of Kerhill found a careful representative in Mr. Harold Weston; Mr. M. Johnston was first-rate as Cash Hawkins; Miss Rhoda Ray made a pretty and pathetic Indian maiden; and Miss Enid Sass looked well in her becoming dresses and acted in a graceful manner as the Countess of Kerhill; and the others in the cast all did conscientious work. Some admirably painted scenery conduced to the general artistic success.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Convict's Daughter* is a favourite piece with the habitues of the classic Royal, and on Monday Mr. Frank Bertram and his talented company were accorded splendid receptions. Mr. Frank Bertram repeated his clever impersonations of Michael Graham, and showed much versatility in his quick changes to Weary Willie, "the Mystery," and Convict 89; Mr. Walter Graham acted with vigour and earnestness as the hero, Harold Trevelyan; Mr. Willie Black again caused considerable laughter as Patrick, and all the other parts were in competent hands. The realistic effects were well managed, the convict-hero's escape on a passing train winning sympathetic cheers from the gallery and responsive echoes from the pit and stalls.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Walter Melville's popular domestic drama, *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, was played to a large audience on Monday by Mr. Melville's No. 1 Company. In the title-rôle Miss Violet Lawson looked charming in several exquisite confections, and she acted with the requisite emotional ability; Mr. Edward Maclean was admirable as a conventional stage clergyman; Mr. Harold Macarthy acted well in the dual parts of Jack England and Private Johnson; good character sketches were the Dick Punch of Mr. George Asquin and the Joe Purvis of Mr. John Wilson; Mr. Richard Ferris submitted a characteristic military study as "an officer and a gentleman," Captain Caversham; Miss Sybil Hare was a pretty Rose Seymour; and other characters were well played by Mr. George Mitchell, Mr. Jack Clark, Mr. J. Dixon, Mr. A. Bowerman, Miss Mamie Thorpe, Miss Mary Poulton, and Miss Lydia Mannington. The piece was elaborately staged.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Mr. Syd May has long been a favourite at the Empire, and his appearance in several new impersonations gave great pleasure to a big house on Monday. Miss Arabella Allen's character studies were much enjoyed, and other features in a generous programme were Mr. Harry Tate's company in *Motoring*, a screamingly funny absurdity; Miss Jennie Johns, speciality artist; the Warsaw Brothers, in a smart act; Miss Renee Rell, vocalist and dancer; the Bioscope, with humorous films; the Narow Brothers, in a smart comedy cycling act; Johnson and Burt, eccentric comedians; and the lively and well staged musical farce, *The Tea Shop, or Tigers, Ltd.*, in which Mr. B. Daley Cooper, Miss Mabel Lait, and a numerous company of clever vocalists and dancers appeared with considerable success.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—A strong company is engaged here this week, the artists being Sheffield's own serio-comedienne, Miss Florrie Gallimore, who is singing her latest success, "A Yorkshire Girl," assisted by a voluntary choir of a thousand local voices; Kelly and Agnes, talented terpsichorean artists; Starr and Jerome, comedy entertainers; Mr. Leonard Barry, with his comical mouchers; the celebrated violinist, M. Jan Rudini, in a dramatic episode, *The Power of Music;* the Three Permans, in a clever gymnastic performance; Miss Ida Ross; the Lannons, duettists; the Barrascope, with artistic films; and the celebrated Miss Topsy Sinden, in her graceful exposition of the "light fantastic art."

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—The great local "song competition" is a popular fixture, and also appearing to large audiences are Mr. Alf Ripon, ventriloquist; Sylvestre and Waller, in an operatic scena; Miss Lottie Bray, speciality artist; Miss Daisy Hicks, comedienne; Miss Ivy Dene, vocalist; the Gelders, the comedy magicians; and the Raymond Bio-Tableaux, with good and instructive pictures.

Central Theatre.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—In addition to the usual picture programme, the Dancing Gilberts, burlesque artists; Shavo, juggler; Harry Morris, comic singer; and Miss Mabel Robarts, vocalist, are appearing nightly.

Montgomery Hall.—Manager, Mr. Mottershaw.—The Imperial Animated Pictures under the direction of the Sheffield Photo Co., conclude a successful season here. Such artistic films as In Sunny Madeira, &c., have given refined delight to large audiences.

Albert Hall.—Manager, Mr. J. Peace.—The welcome return visit here of Mr. Sydney Carter's realistic talking and singing pictures, with photographic presentments of Harry Lauder, Victoria Monks, George Lashwood, and other stars has met with the cordial approval of the Bioscope-going public.

The Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. C. A. Wordsworth.—Here also animated pictures of topical interest, "comics," and picturesque views of famous beauty spots, form the main attraction.

SHREWSBURY. — Theatre Royal. — Licensee an Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Appropriately mounted and admirably enacted, the comedy *Irene Wycherley* is being well received here this week, being staged by the Monckton-Hoffe Comedy Company. Miss Maude Henderson acts with consummate ability the extremely exacting rôle of Irene Wycherley; Miss Grace Illingworth is a very capable Carrie Hardinge; Miss Evelyn Cecil acts most creditably the part of Hilda Preston; Miss Emmie Creamer merits considerable praise as Parker; Miss Muriel Carmel is successful as Linda Hetheridge; Miss Beatrice Mervyn as Lady Wycherley plays her part in a capital manner; Mr. Ralph Hutton as Sir Peter Wycherley, Bart., acts in talented fashion; Mr. Edward Sorley makes a very fine Harry Chesterton; Miss Phyllis Stuckey is pleasing and accomplished as Muriel Wycherley; Mr. Chas. Garry, who has a difficult and exacting part as Philip Wycherley, proves himself a highly-trained actor; Miss Maud Linden may be deservedly complimented upon her interpretation of the rôle of Lily Summers and Mr. Claude Haviland is a manly and vigorous Charles Summers.

SMETHWICK. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard;

Forsyth's Enterprises, who retain Taka, the champion Japanese wrestler. Taka's clever scientific exhibitions of jui-jitsu are as popular as his smart wrestling bouts. The programme also comprises items by Whit Acre (comedian) and Zasma (the dental athlete), who both merit their retention; Gipsy Ann, with her well-trained fortune-telling dog; Nora Doone, a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Mons. Rogers, who exhibits a very small pony that creates much interest; the Victas as hand-balancers, table and barrel jumpers, their cleverness winning capital recognition; Mlle. Rosini's Miniature Menagerie represented by dogs; and the American Bioscope in an enjoyable series of pictures. A special children's matinée will be given this (Saturday) afternoon, and for this evening Miss Natalia Janotha, the world-renowned pianiste, is fulfilling a special engagement in a concert recital, who will be assisted by Miss Emily D'Orsay (soprano), Mr. Arthur Hammond (baritone), and Miss Nora Freeley (solo violin).

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nervey; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*Sentenced for Life* is being played by Mr. Fred Bulwer's powerful company. Mr. John B. Shinton displays masterly talent in the rôle of Lieut. Roy Stillwell, and he is accorded applause in a merited impersonation of a convict; Mr. Fred Lloyd makes a strong character of the villain in Capt. Paul Derrick, who throughout is most successful; Mr. Evan Roland is eminently suited as the Rev. Martin Orris, and his conversation is particularly noticeable; Miss Ada M. Ryder as Adele Gray is both sympathetic and dignified, whose clever portrayal makes her very popular; Miss Gwynne Warren is responsible for the characterisation of Kate Rennel, and which she takes in praiseworthy manner; Mr. Tod Squires proves an inimitable Percy M'Gentle, his comical mannerisms being heartily received, and he is ably supported by Messrs. Arthur Reand and Edgar P. Melrose as convicts.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—For the fourth week in succession the Anglo-American Bioscope Company entertain with a long programme of most interesting and delightful series of pictures, which are well received, and well supported.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and their excellent company are fulfilling their annual engagement here, and on Monday evening *The Whirlpool* was accorded a hearty reception. In the rôle of Elijah D. Tillotson Mr. Kendal gave a realistic and impressive interpretation of the bluff, honest Westerner; Mrs. Kendal depicted the part of Miss Livingstone with her well-known grace and charm, the all-round excellence of the interpretation being worthy of her high reputation; Bertram Livingstone was enacted by Mr. Bassett Roe with earnestness and force; as Ephraim Johnson Mr. Edmund Gurney presented a striking character study; Mr. Wellesley Draper's impersonation of Cunningham Cutter is highly commendable; Mr. Metcalfe Wood is exceedingly droll as the old clerk, Chappin; Mrs. A. B. Tapping is well placed in the character of Miss Gretchen de Kaater; Miss Gertrude Van Stuyler is admirably played by Miss Ethel Dane; and other good portraitures are those of Mr. T. Holding as the Hon. R. Killigrew, Mr. W. M. Rutherford as Parker, and Miss Sara de Groot as Elise. For Thursday and Friday evenings *The House of Clay* is billed.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—The boards are occupied by Mr. Fred Mouillot's company, in *A Desperate Marriage*. Dick Strang is portrayed in manly and breezy style by Mr. J. Knox-Orde; Mr. E. W. Maule Cole makes a desperate personage of Clarence Woolmer; Mr. Herbert Lloyd acts well as Elijah Boggs; Miss Winifred White plays the part of Audrey Howard in a sweet and sympathetic manner; and Miriam Elton is powerfully portrayed by Miss Gertrude Gilbert. The comedy parts are well represented by Mr. Walter Rousby as Tom Stripe, and Miss Nellie Rousby as Bertha Onions. Mr. Houghton Goddard and Mr. Edwin Fergusson are good as Dr. Frank Baxter and the Chaplain respectively.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Barton and Ashley, who head the bill, are well received in their farcical creation, entitled *Canal Boat Sal*; the Cumberlands contribute a clever acrobatic cycling turn; Rhoda Paul, who is a local favourite, is much appreciated for her male impersonations; the Maples supply a funny sketch, *How to Treat a Burglar*. Other good items are Happy Tom Parker, eccentric comedian; Little Keeno, juvenile comedian and dancer; Ouida Macdermott, descriptive vocalist; and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE-LANE.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Roars of laughter greet the Four Randoms in their absurdity *The Wrong Bedroom;* Zenora gives some wonderful exhibitions of hand-balancing and equilibrism; and the Tivoloscope makes up the programme.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. H. Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—The attraction at the above house this week is Mr. T. Arthur Jones's company in *When Other Lips*. The piece is well mounted, and well played by a capable company, including Miss M. Daventry and the author.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Joseph Burrows; General-Manager, Mr. George Battle.—Large crowds continue to flock to this place of amusement. The Carlotti Brothers in their musical speciality, "Ten Minutes with the Great Masters," top the bill. Marshall and Wright are a pair of clever comedians and dancers; Willie Roberts, Scotland's boy comedian, meets with a flattering reception; Fred Horsfall is a clever vocal comedian; and Harry Jennings scores a success with his singing and dancing. The company also includes Sira, the one-legged phenomenon; the Sisters Dainton, duettists and dancers; and Kail Stern, coon comedian. The Hipposcope again proves an attraction.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is being presented here by Mr. Frederick Melville's company. Mr. Philip Darien as Jack Merryman acts particularly well; Miss Beatrice Horner, in the title-rôle, gains the sympathies of the house; Mr. Leyton Cancellor's assumption of Hubert Gold proclaims him a capable actor; and Mr. Leonard Thackeray is equally good as Antonio Luchesi. The lighter parts are taken by Mr. Freddie Bentley as Tubby, and Miss Nellie Jackson as Aggie with great success; and Miss Gertrude Harrison plays with power the part of Rose Courtney. Dr. Carr has a fine representative in Mr. Gerald Nolan; and Miss Violet Macaree is interesting as Morita.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—A varied programme is produced this week, headed by Harry Tate's No. 1 company, in *Fishing*, a most amusing sketch, and well played; the Carlyles give an astonishing display of whirlwind dancing; Miss Winifred Ward is enthusiastically recalled for her songs; and Julian Mack's talk is laughter-provoking. Dorothy Watson gives a refined entertainment; and Stelling and Love are applauded for their efforts. Arthur Bedini is successful in a pantomime act.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—The large audiences which have assembled here throughout the week have given ample testimony to the continued popularity of *A Royal Divorce*. Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is a capable one, and includes Mr. Keith Fraser, who acts effectively as Napoleon; and Miss Margaret Watson, who impersonates the character of Josephine with much power and feeling; Mr. W. Robbins is a pleasing Doctor Corrisart; Grimaud is amusingly portrayed by Mr. Geo. Hudson; Stephanie is delightfully presented by Miss Maude Lacy; and Miss Winnie Tempest acts with ability in the character of Marie Louise.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—*The Magic Carpet*, which is mystifying and interesting, forms the chief attraction here this week; John Warren, as an expert conjuror and actor, showing to much advantage. W. G. Webber's excellent vocalism is appreciated; Otto and Olga, musical experts, are amusing entertainers; Chas. Banks and dog, "Woof," are distinctly pleasing; and Mollie Woolstenhulme, operatic vocalist, Cora Corina, vocalist and dancer, W. Fullbrook's sketch *Astronomy*, and the Bohemians, instrumentalists and comedy artists, add their full share to a capital programme.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—This theatre was crowded on Monday evening by a most appreciative audience, who heartily enjoyed *The Dairymaids*. Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is one of all-round excellence. Miss Clare Marsden is a charming Peggy, and wins great applause for her singing; Mr. Johnny Osborne as Joe Mivens is very funny, and dances with great skill; Miss Mabel Younge as Lady Brudenell acts to perfection; Mr. J. A. Warden as Dr. O'Byrne is well suited to the part; Mr. Wykes Ashdowne as Lieut. Frank Meredith and Mr. Nelson Keys as Lieut. Sam Brudenell act and sing well. Miss Clara Lockstone as Winifred, Peggy's sister, is very sweet; Miss Gladys Silvani as Eliza, the maid-of-all work, is very funny; Miss Madge Avery does ample justice to her part as Miss Penelope; Mr. Boris Bellew as Lieut. Brereton is very clever.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—May Moore Duprez, the jolly Dutch girl, makes her first appearance here, and received a hearty welcome, her singing and dancing being of the best; Ted Waite, comedian, is as popular as ever, his quaint style causing much laughter; Duncan and Brasque, in a sketch entitled *A Society Butterfly*, are very entertaining; Charles Rowen, comedian, sings in good style, and is very funny; J. H. McCann, roller-skate dancer, is very skilful; the Nettas, comedian and comedienne, sing well; the Five Vernons, xylophone specialists, play popular airs; Gracie Grahame, comedienne, is very taking. The Bioscope concludes with up-to-date pictures.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week the historical drama, *Jane Shore*, and is a great attraction. Payne's Bio-Photoscope shows some excellent pictures.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller.—The Stein-Eretto Troupe provide a most interesting hand-jumping and acrobatic exhibition; the comedy of the Three Chanters is very amusing and their harmonising sweet; Maude Courtney tells some smart American yarns, and her duet with her partner in the circle is most pleasing; La Belle Lilly and Albert's comedy instrumental act is good; Mr. C. and his stories are well received; and the Wambas; Rennie, ventriloquist, and his dog Popsey; and Harry Taylor are also contributors. The Man in Overalls, depicted on the Bioscope, proves popular.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. A. Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—One of Mr. Walter Melville's dramas, *Married to the Wrong Man*, is being presented this week to appreciative audiences. Miss Gertrude Boswell as Ruth excites great sympathy in her dumb scenes; Mr. Oswald Gray represents Jack Gladwin with well enacted gallantry; the villain, Captain Deering, is played on strong lines by Mr. H. Lane Bayliff; and the humour of the piece is supplied by Mr. Syd Claydon as Timothy Clinker.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company is presenting *A Warning to Women*. The part of Moira Kennion is well played by Miss Lilian Herries; Mr. Leonard Lawrence gives a clever portrayal of the rascally doctor, Marcus Dread; Mr. Charles O'Connor makes an excellent Fergus; and little Edith Rutland is a capable Myles.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Mr. W. C. Fields heads the bill this week, and his eccentric juggling creates much amusement. The Lancashire Glee Singers are proving themselves a fine combination of vocalists; Miss May Henderson is smart in song and dance; Conway and Leland are aptly described as the "Cheerful Monopedes"; Drew and Alders, the Coastguards, have a capital sketch; and other items are given in smart style by Walter Wade, comedian and mimic; Harry Bancroft, vocal comedian; and Emmie Ames, who scores well with her scena, *Emmie's Christmas Tree*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, United Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—The chief attraction here is J. Gar Kiddie and company in *The House of Tinn*, a musical farce in which Mr. Kiddie is particularly funny as the Long Waiter. Albas is well received for his wire-walking feats; the Sisters Marion sing well, and other turns are given by Herbert Clifton, Archie Pitt, the quaint comedian; Belle and Greta, duettists and dancers; and Perrette and Mona, in a comedy scena.

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mansfield, Sutton, and District Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Captain Clayton.—Hardie and Von Leer's company, in *The Two Little Vagabonds*, opened here on Monday to a crowded house. The play was warmly received.

SWANSEA. — GRAND. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—To Mr. Wentworth Croke's company the patrons of the Grand are indebted this week for a powerful reading of *The Bondman*. Mr. Lionel Atwill is to be congratulated for his powerful playing as Michael Sunlocks; no less successful is Mr. R. S. Quentin, who makes grand use of his opportunities as Jason; acting with great feeling, Miss Georgina Wynter carries away her audience as Greeba. Another capable effort is that of Mr. W. H. Rotherham, who, in the dual rôles of Father Ferrati and the Grandfather, shows undoubted talent. An unusually large company give excellent support.

STAR.—Mr. E. H. Knight's company is very successful in *The Lighthouse Robbery* here this week. Tom Manley finds an able exponent in Mr. Henry Hearn; and as Squire Hammond, Mr. William Annsley distinguishes himself; and the villain Mr. Percy Beresford plays well. Miss Maggie makes a vivacious and charming Ruth, her singing being excellent. Miss Ethel Lovett as Little Nelly, and Miss Hilda Baynton as Rose Prescott act really cleverly. The humour provided by Mr. Sam Fisher is genuine.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The principal attraction this week is provided by Tom Edwards, whose topical sayings were not in the least effective of a really enjoyable turn; Arthur Lennard comes again to us with old and new numbers, which are given in his best vein; a terpsichorean turn is given by the Mollass Quartette, whose grace and ability is beyond question; the Lyric Quartette sing illustrated songs very effectively; and Ross and Lewis, the Yankee-Doodle Duo, are at the top of the tree in humorous dancing. The Les Voces sing gems from the operas in cultivated style; two clever children are Miss Margaret and Master John Rawson, whose efforts are distinctly pleasing; Marie Empress proves herself a talented comedian; and the Bioscope concludes.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—The programme this week includes Les Barrois, acrobats; the Sisters Brooke, charming serios; and the Society Quartette with a singing and dancing act. Frank Hartley, boy juggler, is smart; a pleasing turn is that of Flora Cromer, comedienne; Mina Green is a dainty burlesque comedienne; and Jay Laurier, the Impressionable One, keeps the house in roars. The Empire Pictures complete.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—A first visit of *The Belle of Mayfair* is being paid here by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company. Miss Nellie Barnwell is dainty and pleasing in the rôle of Julia Chaldicott; Miss Dora Lyons is a charming Pincott, her attractive dancing being much appreciated; as the unrefined Sir John Chaldicott Mr. Sydney Burt introduces some clever patter; Lady Chaldicott is creditably taken by Miss Denny Fitzherbert; Earl Mount Highgate is amusingly portrayed by Mr. Stephen Hall; Miss Madeline Keats is a charming Countess Mount Highgate; Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft is well placed as Raymond Finchley; and Mr. Michael Raven is heard to advantage as Hugh Meredith; Miss Grace Mackay is a typical Gibson Girl, and a delightful representation of the Princess is given by Miss Patricia Weldon.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—This week's Hippodrome programme includes a burlesque scena, *The Singing Servants;* Nita Clem, a clever comedienne; Amandus, facial mimic, in realistic impersonations; Gilbert Orme and Lester May, comedians; Jenny Alexander, a child comedienne of more than average ability; and the Hippodrome pictures. The sixth anniversary of the theatre is to be celebrated by a visit from Mr. Cyril Maude in *Toddles*.

TYLDESLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. John Gerant and company in the military drama *At Duty's Call* is here this week. Mr. John Gerant sustains capably the part of Harold Allison; General Gordon is satisfactorily presented by Mr. Ernest St. John; Mr. Charles C. Calvert is successful as Captain G. Allison; and Mr. Frank Morton is adequate as Jack Spencer. Miss Beatrice Western makes a charming Dora Drummond; Miss Ada Roscoe an excellent Salema; Miss Laurie O'Neill a vivacious maid; and genuine humour is supplied by Mr. J. T. Dillsen as Terry O'Halloran.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company is here with the new musical comedy, *The Flower Girl*. Miss Dorothy Firmin gives a charming and vivacious portrayal of the title-rôle, and sings delightfully; Mr. Martin Adeson as Joe Wheeler is the mainstay of the piece, and scores a huge success with his songs and patter. He is ably supported by Mr. Alfred Donohoe as Johnny Wheeler. Mr. Norman Bowyer is a most amusing dude; Mr. Robert Howard, who is heard to advantage in several songs, is capital as the Hon. Billy Greenhill; Mr. Henry Adnes as Alphonse de Racquet and Miss Florence Wilton as Lizzette de Racquet introduce some clever and amusing business; Miss Jeannie Holmes is good as the Suffragette, and Miss Townley Laurence is successful as Maisie Flirtington. Other minor parts are ably presented by Misses Cassie and Alice King, Phyllis Leslie, Kitty Hyde, and Messrs. L. Stanislaus, Arthur Carter, and F. Williams.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The oy Bros. and company create unbounded merriment in a comedy absurdity, *The Tea House;* Bennett and Martell, comedians, have a good reception; Henriette and Selina provide a pleasing musical turn; the Emson Girls (Rita and Kitty) are dainty duettists and dancers; Stanley and Vandyke in their sketch, *A Broken Promise*, earn hearty appreciation; Fred Mason is an expert whistler, and Miss Marie St. John, descriptive vocalist, merits favour.

WALSALL.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—The varied programme submitted here includes the chameleon comedian Mr. Hymack, the man with the hump; Maggie Walsh, the original Lancashire singing mill girl; the Hartley Wonders, in a capital jumping speciality; Harry May Hemsley, caricaturist and impersonator of children; the Gandsmidts, novelty acrobats; George Young, expert blind musician and concertina player; The Little Mother, on the American Bioscope; and "Makers of History," artistic living statuary, by Albert Toft.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Walsall Theatres Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. W. H. Westwood.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's principal company is here in the drama *The Little Bread Winner*. Little Winnie Crisp charmingly portrays the rôle of Meg. Other characters are well sustained.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred J. Reece.—The Warrington Amateur Operatic Society are occupying the boards at this house this week, and an enthusiastic reception is given the talented amateurs for a delightful interpretation of German and Wood's comic opera *Merrie England*.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Johnson and J. Potter; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Capital business has again been done at this house. The Wiltons are clever speciality artists; and Lilian Lowe scores well with select ballads. Arthur Royce is a capital character vocalist. The pictures are all good, and include a dramatic series.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—A beauty competition is the chief attraction here this week. The Brothers St. Clair are exceptionally clever comedy cyclists, and their football turn is very amusing; Steve Bartle sings well, and his selections on the concertina are much enjoyed; the Five Broadway Girls are refined singers and dancers; the Smythsons score with their sketch *Love Germs;* Annie Heath is a chic comedienne and dancer; and Gladys and Alber good comedy tumblers.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Kuner.—Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company, including Miss Beatrice Anderson, in *A Life for a Life* is here. Mr. Chas. H. Lester plays Don Leon Fernanders, alias Josh Harker, in capital style; the rôle of Pedro Li Calci is manfully portrayed by Mr. Richard Boxo; as John Evelyn Mr. Chas. Osborne is well suited; well-merited applause being accorded to Mr. Claude Seaton for his skilful interpretation of Bunker Bill. Miss Beatrice Anderson in the part of Eulalie evokes hearty appreciation; the presentation of Kate Evelyn by Miss Dorothy Riddell scores a decided success; Little Irene as Venetta meets with hearty approval; and Mr. Horace Buckley as Tim McCarthy and Mr. Jack Mason as Slim Jim are highly commendable in their respective parts.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—There is a striking attraction at this place of amusement this week, Mr. James Bell presenting Miss Annie Bell and a strong company in *The Idol of Paris*. As Flare-Flare, a variety star, Miss Annie Bell is admirable; Miss Annie Megson as Ann is capable; Miss Phena Powell as Mme. Sancterre and Miss Pharo Anderson as Rachael Bernhardt fill their parts with distinction; Mr. Gordon Robey as H.R.H. Prince Sergius Zoresky has a part well suited to him; Mr. Wilson Howard as Phillipe D'Esterre is clever; and the other parts are satisfactorily sustained.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—This place of amusement opened on Monday night with a departure from its ordinary variety entertainment, and for the first time took advantage of the full licence recently granted to produce stage plays. The first play to be staged was Henry Arthur Jones's *The Hypocrites*, and it would be difficult to find a more attractive one. The company, which is under the direction of Mr. Sylvanus Dauncey, is an excellent one. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton as the Rev. Edgar Linnel is remarkably good; the Mrs. Wilmore of Miss Laura Graves is also a fine study; and the other characters are sustained in a most praiseworthy manner.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—Stuart Lomath's revised adaptation of *Sapho* is being presented this week by Mrs. Frank Bateman and Stuart Lomath's company. Mr. Lomath himself undertakes the rôle of Jean Gaussin, and gives a masterly interpretation of the part; Miss Lizzie Montague is an ideal Sapho; Irene is prettily represented by Miss Lily Clutterbuck; drolleries are judiciously introduced by Mr. Percy Shaw as Uncle Cesaire and Miss Ellen Owen as Cleopatra; and others who do well in their respective rôles are Mr. C. Lincoln as Famant, Mr. Geo. Harvey as Dechelette, Mr. Geo. Herbert as Jules Delbret, and Miss Nelly Wilson as Mme. Hettema.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Haley's Juveniles, a remarkably clever troupe of children, are the principal attraction in the programme this week. W. G. Wesley, in patter and comic song, is exceedingly funny; some capital imitations of birds, &c., are rendered by Fritz Von Liston; Emma Don is always a favourite here; the Hanaway Bros. are smart at patter and neat at simultaneous dancing; Elmo and Rego perform many clever and comical acrobatic feats; a remarkably smart and amusing Tyneside ventriloquist (whose name does not transpire) substitutes for No. 10; and some interesting Pictures by Raymond's Bioscope conclude the bill.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. H. F. Maltby's company is here this week in a round of plays by his own pen. On Monday *Fraud* was staged. Mr. Maltby gave a highly artistic interpretation of Robert Jones; Mr. Wyn Weaver's talents found ample scope in the character of Mr. Barnes; Mr. Bremner Wills, excellently made up, gave a fine impersonation of the Rev. Stanley Kershaw; Mr. Arthur Claremont showed much dramatic ability as Leslie Partington; Mr. Norman H. Tracey was decidedly good as the priggish Tommy Kershaw; Mr. James Willoughby made the most of Mr. Bramber; whilst Mr. S. Clegg was quaintly humorous as Jackson. Miss Mara Maltby's delineation of Ernestine Kershaw merits the highest eulogy; Miss Florence Wynn showed much skill as Miss Butler; Miss Lizzie Maddocks was a praiseworthy Mrs. Kershaw; and Miss Kathleen St. George was all that could be desired as Harper.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—Messrs. Plummer and Blake's company is here this week with the American comedy *Happy Hooligan*, which goes with a great swing. Mr. W. H. Lester is very funny as Happy Hooligan; good work is done by Mr. Jos. J. Sullivan as Donald McGregor; Mr. John K. Hawley is smart and entertaining as Max Guggenheimer; Mr. Harry Emeric is well fitted to the part of Charley Flipp; Miss Lottie Wilson secures honours as the Widow Johnson, singing very nicely; and Miss Rose Lyndon is distinctly pleasing as Rose. The play is well staged, and the musical numbers are bright and catchy.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. J. W. Turner's talented company is paying a welcome return visit in a repertoire of standard operas. Those billed are *The Lily of Killarney, Faust, Maritana, Il Trovatore, Martha*, and *The Bohemian Girl*.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Les Frères Bakusio are excellent head-to-head balancers and acrobats; H. O. Wells is encored for humorous songs; August and September create roars of laughter; the Kurios appear successfully in a blend of pantomime, art, and mystery; Bert Woodward, the cycling coon, deserves special mention; the Prince Milner Trio are responsible for some excellent wire-walking and balancing; Mi Narom has humorous songs; the Danbys are dancers above the average; and Marie Blythe, vocalist, and Patrick Playfair complete.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Another capital programme is in evidence this week. The pictures include The Bully and the Recruit, Pony Express, Cossacks of the Don, The Fireman's Daughter, Beatrice Cenci, A Mexican Love Story, and a host of other good films. Mr. Chas. Cassel is a pleasing descriptive and character vocalist; and Mr. Frank Stanert, who hails from the land of stars and stripes, is a novelty, his laughing song and musical items gaining rounds of applause. Full houses are the rule.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is proving an excellent draw this week in *The Sailor's Wedding*. The company is exceptionally strong, and the drama is very well staged. Mr. C. W. Standing as Lieut. Gordon Drake is all that a chivalrous young English naval officer should be; and Mr. Cecil Klein gives a perfectly easy and natural portrayal of the part of his friend, Sir Victor Lascelles; Mr. William Sequin is successful as Count Bellini; Mr. Hodgson Taylor as the scheming Giovanni Ferici does well; Mr. Frank Gordon gives a clever character study as Giacomo, and Mr. Walter Pemberton as Jack Hawkins makes a typical sailor; Miss Winifred Pearson's impersonation of the adventuress, Lenore de Gresac, is deserving of the highest praise, and proves her to be an actress possessing much dramatic power; Miss Laura Hansen as the Countess Bellini is sympathetic and dignified; Miss Dulcie Greatwich is a delightfully ingenuous heroine as Mary; and Miss M. Sadie is amusing as Polly Clarke. The minor characters are all capably played.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—A good all-round bill is topped by Chianti, a protean actor who accomplishes with bewildering rapidity a number of changes in costume and scenic effect, depicting the people of various nations; Tom and Marie Motramo, whilst being exceedingly funny, delight the audience with their musical contributions; Kurkamp, the singing conductor, has an excellent voice; and Mack Ollive whistles tunefully in a most elaborate stage setting. Beattie and Blanche, duettists and dancers; A. G. Spry, comedian; and Lilian Farrar, comedienne and dancer, complete the bill.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Warde.—Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakespearean company constitutes the attraction this week. The programme during the week has comprised *Taming of the Shrew, Richelieu, Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet, Faust, The School for Scandal, Henry V.*, and *Richard III.*—sufficiently diversified to meet all tastes. The company is a large and capable one. Mr. Henry Herbert occupies pride of place, and his masterly impersonations have aroused the enthusiasm of well-filled houses. Mr. Herbert also undertakes the arduous duties of management with conspicuous success. Other members of the company calling for mention are Mr. Bernard Limpus, Mr. Arthur Fayne, Mr. James Berry, Mr. Harvey Brabay, Mr. Everard Vanderlip, Mr. Victor Wiltshire, Mr. Vincent Hallman, Mr. Sam Cohen, Mr. Patrick Lewis, Misses Violet Farebrother, May de Launey, Jean Graeme, Palgrave and Gladys Vanderzee. The company is splendidly equipped with scenery and costumes for this tour, and the works in their extensive repertory are presented under the best possible conditions.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—Mr. Fred J. Webb's company presented *A Knight in Armour* for the first three nights. Mr. F. Wheatley was good as James Milbourne; Mr. Fred J. Webb did well as Frank Milbourne; Mr. Louis Nanton was an excellent Bill Newton; Mr. W. Henderson a capable Dominie Domino; Mr. Geo. Paradise a convincing Sternhold Keys; and Miss Olive Webb an able Miss M. Danvers-Smith. On Thursday Mr. Ernest Dare and company presented *In the Soup*.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week the attractions are Bert Lytton, the swell comique, who catches on well; Lucretia and Josephine, clever burlesque artists and smart dancers; Grover, an eccentric magical juggling comedian, and the Bioscope pictures.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Lovers of highly-flavoured drama are having a treat this week in witnessing *The Great White Chief*, admirably played by Mr. Lingford Carson's company. As Reindeer, the dumb man, Mr. Carson gives a very clever rendering of a part which calls forth all his efforts; Mr. Mansell Fane as the chief acts with great coolness and skill; as the villain Mr. George Butler takes the fullest advantage of his opportunities to display his talents as an actor of undoubted merit; much fun is caused by Mr. Leonard Maitland as George Rupert Walker; and Miss Ross Clyde, Miss Dulcie Lawrence, and Miss Pollie Denville are particularly clever in their various rôles.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor in their absurdity entitled *The Dancing Master* give a show which at once catches on; the Denwartz Troupe are hand-balancers of extraordinary ability; Julian Ross sings some catchy songs in good style; the Lovelaces are song illustrators of great merit; Simms and Simms, musical comedians, are well received; and Harry Russell and company in a neat sketch, *The Two Jays*, are pleasing; Irene Weldon, Frank Melville, and the Bioscope, complete the list.

A NEW place of entertainment has been opened in the Burgh Hall, Woodside, a division of Aberdeen, largely inhabited by the paper workers and granite quarrymen. The first show last Saturday was crowded.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Play entitled
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

If the dramas of recent years had been up to the standard of *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* there would have been no outpourings on the decline of the drama of which so much has been said and written during the past few years. Mr. Walter Howard is the author of some very successful plays, and he has invested them all with stories which make them attractive, are in no way repulsive, but, on the other hand, wholesome. So it is with *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, one of the latest of the Lyceum successes. The plot is romantic, and worked out with fantastical cleverness, the sensational incidents being very exciting. Excellent audiences at the King's this week have testified to the popularity of the piece. Mr. Ivan Cleveland displays remarkable ability as the cruel Hildred, Prince of Sylvania. A very clever impersonation of the deformed Prince Michael is afforded by Mr. Graeme Campbell, his make-up and manner being alike admirable. Mr. Herbert Ford makes an exceedingly dashing and brave Prince Olaf, easily paving his way into the good graces of the ladies of the audience. Mr. Edmund Lee plays well as the brusque Colonel Wellenberg, and Colonel Schwartz and Captain Karsberg are capably handled by Mr. Ivan Ewart and Mr. N. Christie. Nathan, the dumb servant, is intelligently expressed by Mr. J. E. Gardner, and Mr. Francis Hawley creates a good impression as the hypocritical Bishop of Illyria. A performance of exceeding merit is given by Mr. D. Lewin Mannering in the character of Captain Hector. Mr. Kendal Chalmers provides much amusement by his rendering of Lieut. Karl Strömberg. In Monica, Princess of Illyria, Miss Annie Saker has a part that suits her to perfection, and it is needless to say that she does ample credit to her opportunities. Miss Dido Drake acts prettily as Viola. As the beggar-maid Camiola Miss Isla Garnet-Vayne makes a decided hit. The costumes and scenery are elaborate and artistic.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Oct. 12,
MR. AND MRS. F. R. BENSON AND CO.

Mr. and Mrs. Benson and their Shakespearean company are paying another welcome visit here this week. The répertoire for the week consists of *The Merchant of Venice*, *Julius Cæsar*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Richard III.* As is customary with all Mr. Benson's enterprises, the scenery and dresses are a marked feature. On the night of our visit *Julius Cæsar* was being presented, and Mr. Murray Carrington is seen in a capital portrayal of the title-rôle, which he undertakes with a naturalness and finish beyond reproach. Mr. F. R. Benson infuses much pathos into the part of Marcus Antonius, speaking his lines with much care. The part of Cassius is admirably undertaken by Mr. Baliol Holloway, an actor of much worth, whose work throughout the long and trying part deserves the highest praise. Mr. E. A. Warburton must also be complimented upon his admirable assumption of Marcus Brutus, giving as he does an earnest and conscientious reading. Mr. H. O. Nicholson sustains the character of Casca in a most capable manner; and Mr. J. P. Wilson speaks his lines with much care as Trebonius. Messrs. G. F. Hannam Clark and Worlock are well placed as Metellus Cimber and Artemidorus, the same remark applying to Mr. M. Johnston as Decius Brutus. Mr. Johnston makes an excellent representative of Pindarus. The ladies have not much chance in this play, but Mrs. F. R. Benson created a good impression by her fine acting as Portia, the part being artistically treated. As Calphurnia, Miss Helen Haye proves herself an accomplished and clever artist; and the Misses Leah Hanman (Lucius) and A. P. Nicholson (Cæsar's servant) both do justice to their parts. The remaining parts are all in capable hands. Messrs. W. H. Quinton, stage-manager, and his assistant, Mr. Harry Stafford, are deserving of much praise for their work. Mr. Cuthbert Ricketts is Mr. Benson's business-manager.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Play, entitled
"MAN AND SUPERMAN."

Crowded houses are witnessing the Vedrenne-Barker performances at Notting Hill Gate, and worshippers at the shrine of Bernard Shaw as well as the ardent admirers of Mr. Granville Barker are in their element. Mr. Shaw's verbal fireworks are permitted to ricochet in all directions, and for any hapless sensitive wight who feels the sting of the falling stick from his random rockets there is scant sympathy. Clever, caustic, cynical, cryptic, and callous, he is everything by turns and nothing long. As the hare-brained philosopher and amiable Anarchist Jack Tanner Mr. Granville Barker presents a remarkable study of character. His charm and fascination of manner as well as his fluent delivery of the long-winded diatribes against convention and the "life force," make the part positively alluring and convincing. Miss Frances Dillon is such a charming and handsome exponent of the selfish, insincere, aggravating, and strong-minded Ann Whitefield that our only wonder is that Jack Tanner holds out so long against her wiles and artifices. Miss Auriol Lee as the managing young woman, Miss Violet Robinson, alias Mrs. Hector Malone, makes a great hit by her intensely natural and notable impersonation, and looks pretty as a picture. Mr. David Powell as the sentimental idiot Octavius Robinson shows what can be done by first-rate acting in that he engages our sympathy for this namby-pamby poet and lap-dog of society. Mr. Michael Sherbrooke is exceedingly good as the testy old guardian, Roebuck Ramsden, his facial play and expression of discomfiture being particularly life-like and amusingly grotesque. Mr. Richard Haigh scores tremendously as the Cockney chauffeur, 'Enry Straker, and causes roars of laughter by his droll philosophy. Mr. Frederick Lloyd is good as Hector Malone; and Mr. James Hearn contributes a life-like embodiment of the self-made man, Mr. Malone, his father. Miss Helen Rous is very funny as the lugubrious and lachrymose Mrs. Whitefield; and Miss Maud Burton does all that is required of her as a parlourmaid. Miss Frances Wetherall supplies a clever picture of middle-aged acerbity as the pronounced spinster, Miss Ramsden. Mr. Arthur Bowyer is stage-manager, Mr. Harry W. Lumley acting-manager, and Mr. E. Taylor Platt is general-manager.

THE BROADWAY, NEW CROSS.

On Monday, Oct 12, the Musical Comedy entitled
"MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND."

An enthusiastic reception was accorded the pretty Dutch musical play entitled *Miss Hook of Holland*, which commenced a return engagement on Monday. Miss Marie Wilson plays the title-rôle (otherwise Sally) in delightful fashion, singing and acting in a manner which wins all hearts. Freda Voos and Clara Voos have very charming representatives in Miss Amy Preston and Miss Maudy Jennings; Miss Queenie Preston is excellent as Gretchen; Miss N. Barn is good as the old market woman, and Miss F. Cragie is a capital Thelka; Miss Mabel Sealby is a bright and clever Mina, and Ludwig is capitally played by Mr. Percy Davidson; Mr. Arthur Reynolds as Mr. Hook is exceptionally good, and Mr. Fred Hobbs as Captain Adrian Paap and Mr. Lionel Scott as Lieutenant de Coop are excellent; Mr. Powis Pinder is good as Bandmaster Van Voyt; Mr. H. Holland plays the old policeman cleverly; Mr. Charles Russ as Hans Mans gave a good rendering of the part; Mr. H. Smith acts well as Hendrick Drack, as does Mr. A. Murry as Van Eck and Mr. Fred Lyne as Simon Slinks. The attractive and tuneful chorus adds greatly to the general success, and the orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. Sydney Shaw. The play is produced by Mr. Leslie Holland. Mr. Herbert Austin is manager for Mr. George Dance, and Mr. Bertram Iles is the popular resident acting-manager.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Play entitled
"BEAU BROCADE."

The high standard which Mr. Bannister Howard has set himself at Sydenham is well maintained in the current attraction, which is being presented by Mr. Reginald Dance's company. The piece is from the pens of Baroness Orczy and Montague Barstow, the authors of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, which has had such a singularly successful run, and the same thrilling character surrounds the scenes and incidents as that which commended the *Pimpernel* so strongly to favour. Interest in the slight story is ingeniously stimulated throughout, and the pursuit of papers from the time they leave the hands of their rightful owner to their safe deposit in the proper quarters, which is carried on by village and road, and over a lonely heath at sunset, kept the audience at the Crystal Palace on Monday thoroughly engrossed. The various parts are in the hands of players of tried ability. The rôle of the intrepid highwayman known as Beau Brocade is sustained in a fitting spirit of chivalry by Mr. Reginald Dance, who dresses with becoming elegance and bears himself gallantly. He has a rich and well modulated voice, which enables him to express with every point the effective lines of the part, and though in some of the softer sentences he speaks so low as to become almost inaudible, it is only momentary, and later the words ring out with telling emphasis. A typical village blacksmith is found in the John Stitch of Mr. Dalziel Heron, whose impersonation is full of rugged force and vigorous declamation. Mr. Frank Powell makes a truly forbidding appearance as the vindictive Sir Humphrey Challoner, whose truculence is expressed in every word and action. The character is drawn on frank melodramatic lines, but Mr. Powell enriches it with much varied action and resource. A particularly fine performance is that of the Sergeant, played by Mr. J. W. Brighten, who invests his rendering with much fire and energy. The fair sex is represented by only two personages, and of the leading lady Miss Ruth Mackay is a comely representative. She plays Lady Patience Gascoyne with gentleness and refinement, the winsomeness of the earlier acts being agreeably contrasted with the more impassioned phases of the later ones. Her love scenes with Jack Bathurst are carried out with admirable delicacy, and throughout the performance is one of sweetness and grace. Miss May Brooke is the maid Betty, and gives a neat and intelligent embodiment. The serious scenes are lightened by a liberal infusion of humour, the bulk of which is supplied by the country yokel Jock Miggs, in which part Mr. Edward Irwin acquits himself with every credit. He loses no opportunity of broadening the effect of his lines, and is well justified by the laughter he arouses. Mr. H. Asheton Tonge is little less droll as the parish beadle, a second edition of Shakespeare's Dogberry, and his numerous perversions of the King's English result in continual mirth. Mr. Stanley Lathbury cuts a quaint figure, and acts with an effective sense of drollery as the lawyer Mr. Mittachip; and the part of his clerk is well taken by Mr. Albert Thomas. Mr. Frank Darch wins sympathy for the fugitive Earl of Stretton; Mr. R. Hayes is a handsome and elegant Duke of Cumberland; Mr. A. E. Mayne is benign in appearance and manner as Squire West; and the cast is completed by Mr. R. Hope as a postboy. The piece is admirably mounted, and the picturesque military uniforms of the middle of the eighteenth century lend an agreeable note of colour to the proceedings. The audience gave frequent tokens of satisfaction at the piece and calls for the principals accompanied the end of each act.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Drama entitled
"A LONDON ACTRESS."

The production of *A London Actress* by Mr. M. Montgomery's company is proving a great success, and crowded houses have been the rule during the week. The stock company engaged are winning favour by their excellent acting. Mr. Ryland-Leigh gives a fine impersonation of Clive Crawford. Mr. Harry Tresham presents an artistic performance as the open-hearted naval officer, Ned Kingstone; Captain Mannering, R.N.R., is a life-like personation of a retired naval officer as introduced by Mr. W. S. Clerke; Mr. H. G. Brandon as Moses Mendoza introduces a good representation of the typical Jewish moneylender who is always at hand to assist virtue and denounce villainy, and is a performance that deserves special mention. Considerable amusement is caused by Mr. Alan Himeson as Pat Mahony, an Irishman whose accent and brogue are natural. Mr. Pat Ivan Gore is a good representative of a kind-hearted London policeman, and he receives the applause of the audience. Miss Ethyle Gordon Murray is to be heartily congratulated for her fine performance of Hilda Langley, an adventuress, a part that gives ample opportunity for an artist to show her talent in the varying emotions the character requires, which Miss Murray takes every advantage of. A considerable amount of the success of the drama is attributed to the interpretation of the sorely-tried Phyllis Crawford, which is sympathetically and charmingly played by Miss Lalla Stanhope, a young artist who is rapidly coming to the front; Miss Edna Lester is good as Biddy Maloney, and Miss Florence Barnes acquits herself in a dual impersonation of Rosie Blythe and Mrs. Skinner, characters of distinct opposite temperament, remarkably well. The drama is well mounted, and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. F. W. Hatley, renders some tuneful selections during the evening. Mr. Fred A. Fowler, the courteous manager, attends to the comfort of his numerous patrons in his usual affable manner.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Musical Play, in Two Acts, entitled
"MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND."

This charming musical production made a most welcome reappearance at the Kingston playhouse on Monday evening, when an exceptionally capable and well-drilled company, under the direction of Mr. George Dance, commenced a week's engagement. Mr. Peter Davey, the enterprising managing-director of the theatre, knows well how popular musical plays are in the riverside town, and he never loses an opportunity of bringing the best of the London productions in front of his patrons. Few musical plays that have appeared at the Royal County have been received with so much favour, or, let it be added, that deserved it. The audience on Monday night "tumbled" at once to the tuneful numbers composed by Mr. Paul A. Rubens, encored every one of them, and whistled and sang them in the street next day. The drollery of the play was also evidenced by the laughter which resounded throughout the house from the rise to the fall of the curtain. The title-rôle was filled by Miss Alice Coverick, a young lady who, as a riverside pierrette, had won many friends during the summer in the Royal borough. As the gay young daughter of the Dutch distiller she made a decided hit and many additional friends, singing and dancing and looking the part with a rare charm. The equally gay young Dutch bandmaster finds a most capable exponent in Mr. Frank Crimp, whose fine singing frequently attracts particular notice. Equally successful, both in acting and in song, is the Captain Papp of Mr. George Ide, whose rendering of the song "Soldiers of the Netherlands" is one of the numbers to be remembered. It would be difficult to find a more droll exponent of the lazy canal loafer, Simon Slinks, than Mr. Tom Seymour, whose shuffle and impassive countenance are an object-lesson to the unemployed of any country. The lighter side of the comedy is also well exemplified by Mr. Tom Shale, who plays the father of the charming Miss Hook with inimitable drollery. All the subordinate parts in the play are also well placed, the scenery, properties, and dresses are all of first-class order, and the whole show goes with a fine swing that carries all before it. It may be added that there is a most capable augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Alfred Vernon, and that the company is being toured under the management of Mr. Edward Beresford.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Drama, entitled
"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."

There was a good-sized audience assembled on Monday to witness Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company in the old Elephant favourite *The Village Blacksmith*. Billed as a great human play, it certainly appeals to the emotions of audiences here, who have been quick to show their approval or disapproval in very forceful manner. Mr. Sam Livesey gives a fine impersonation of the village blacksmith, John Strong, and his stalwart appearance gives realism to his acting; Mr. Albert Sinclair is as villainous as possible in the part of Captain Leo. The wrestling match between John Strong and the Captain at the finish is conducted in a very strenuous style. Mr. Thomas E. Marshall scores as Jeremiah Parkins; Mr. Fred Howing, a delightful Billy Twigg, the blacksmith's boy, sings a good comic song in the last scene; Miss Maggie Edwards plays well and convincingly in the part of Kate Strong; Miss Cassie A. Grande is a pathetic figure as the unfortunate Ruth Parkins; Mrs. T. O. Livesey fills the part of Sal Parkins; and Miss Edith Gidders makes the most of the part of Martha Mopps. A very praiseworthy performance is that of Miss Lily Leicester as the blacksmith's child, Harry Strong. The Elephant Bioscope continues its series of excellent pictures.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Drama, entitled
"HER LUCK IN LONDON."

The golden opinions earned by this excellent company some eighteen months ago when they first visited the Lyric are being more than realised by the performances this week. Miss Mary Neil as Nellie Harborne again proves herself an actress of great ability. It is by no means an easy part, and the manner in which it is played reflects great credit upon Miss Neil. Miss Florrie Groves' work in the character of Maud Gladys Shovepenny is excellent throughout; Mr. Douglas Cecil, in appearance and acting, is most successful as the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor; Mr. Frank Strickland works hard as Richard Lenowen, and earns the hatred of the audience for this villainous character; as the Rev. Lionel Strong Mr. Douglas Tremayne gives a finished performance; Mr. T. Lionel Ellis submits a clever study as Stephen Harborne; Mr. S. P. Clewlow makes a good "fop" as Algie Kircumbie; as Jerry Goldbed Mr. Henri Gerald provides plenty of amusement; Miss Beatrice Hudson does well in the character of Lilian Harborne; and Miss Marie Clavering as Mme. Gabrielle is praiseworthy. Miss Amy B. Ellis is a humorous Mrs. Thirsty. The staging of the play leaves nothing to be desired.

PAVILION THEATRE, E.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Drama, entitled
"A LION'S HEART."

The management of the Pavilion Theatre are fortunate in securing for this week Mr. Joseph Bebb's company in Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck's stirring emotional play *A Lion's Heart*. The story is a straightforward and continuous one, dealing largely with the customs of the convicts in the island of New Caledonia, who are allowed, under certain circumstances, a plot of land to cultivate. The play is highly appreciated by the large audiences which are patronising the theatre. Mr. Henry Bedford as Rizardo, the lion tamer, gives an excellent exposition of the part, his emotional acting in the prologue being productive of great enthusiasm. The adventurer, Gaspard Dobre, as enacted by Mr. Stephen Scanlan, is a portrayal of intense vigour and power, and is a clever study of refined villainy followed by final repentance. The erring wife, Louise, is performed with poignant pathos by Miss Ada Oakley, whose fine acting in the last act interested everyone. Mr. Leonard Booker as the young farmer, Dick Lorrimore, looks exceedingly well, and plays with manliness; and Bessie is made the most of by Miss Madge Beresford. The young barrister, Jack Bealey, as enacted by Mr. Edgar J. Coyne, becomes a great favourite; and Mr. Archie Helsby renders the scheming Colonel Robert de Villefort with effect. Mr. Edward Lowrie as Timothy Puggs and Miss Ida Bastow as Helene cause much amusement. The remaining characters are in the capable hands of Mr. Peter Bennett, Mr. Robert Eyre, Mr. John Belton, Miss Beatrice Holmes, and little Elsie May. The scenery for this production is especially fine, particularly the Exterior of Manor Farm and the Hotel St. Moritz, while the costumes are in the best possible taste. Mr. John Belton is the manager for the company.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Joseph Arthur, entitled
"THE STILL ALARM."

At the Shakespeare Theatre this week Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is holding the boards with the stirring drama *The Still Alarm*. An excellent company has been engaged, and the representation is illustrated by fine scenery, the Engine House scene introducing two specially-trained horses in a realistic set. Mr. M. H. Glenville makes a fine, manly Jack Manley, his vigorous manner and earnestness being well suited to the rôle. Mr. Gerald Kennedy contributes a finished impersonation of the scheming John Bird; and Mr. Tom Beasley's presentation of Willie Manley leaves nothing to be desired. Mr. Fred Osmond as Doc Wilber is bubbling over with humour, his humorous antics keeping the audience well amused. Mr. Lewis Gordon as Franklyn Fordham and Mr. J. Sutton Pateman as Joe Jones put in some excellent work; and Mr. Ernest Hamilton as Jenkins and Mr. Frank Wilson as a Messenger Boy are also deserving of praise. Miss Beatrice Shirley makes a charming Elinor Fordham, acting throughout with zest and sincerity; Miss Hettie Zillwood, a vivacious Carrie Wilber, gains much applause for her song and dance; and Miss Mabel Veriton is seen to advantage in the rôle of Mrs. Manley. The Lyric Comedy Four sing several glees with pleasing effect. The comfort of the audience is well looked after by Mr. H. Percival Young, the courteous acting-manager for Messrs. Bennett and Bennett.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Musical Comedy
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

Presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard, Mr. George Musgrove's principal company is greatly pleasing the Dalstonites this week by most efficient performances of the musical comedy *The Belle of New York*. Mr. Arthur Ricketts is Ichabod Bronson, the millionaire, and he delineates the part ably. Harry Bronson is represented by Mr. James A. Watts, who acts with plenty of vigour and sings well. The favourite song "When we are married" is still persistently encored. Mr. Frank Lawton scores a decided success as Blinky Bill McQuirk, "a mixed ale pugilist." His eccentricities keep the house in a roar. The same may be said with regard to Mr. J. W. Tate as the Polite Lunatic, whose urbanity as a would-be cut-throat even renders such a character reassuring. Mr. William Hartigan is also amusing as Doe Snifkins, manager of the Cora Angelique Comic Opera Company, and in sustaining the fun he is well supported by Mr. Alec Godfrey as Kenneth Mug, low comedian. Mr. Hal Kirke and Mr. Ray L. Cody greatly please with their quaint but sprightly business as the Portuguese Twins. Miss Hebe Kneleer as Violet Gray, the Salvation Army lass, who is acknowledged as the Belle of New York, acts with surprising vivacity, and sings and dances in a charming manner. Miss Dorothy Doria as a Parisienne sings and dances well; Miss Winnie Browne is somewhat of a favourite as Cora Angelique; and Miss Florence Hersee as Mamie Clancy, a Peel-street girl, dances splendidly. The cast also includes Mr. R. Edwards, Mr. C. Henry, Mr. Owen O'Brien, Mr. T. Dixon, Mr. Towsley, Miss Betty Hall, and Miss Maud Bower.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Comedy, entitled
"LADY FREDERICK."

The first appearance of *Lady Frederick* in the suburbs, with the added attraction of Miss Mabel Love in the title-rôle, has this week drawn crowded audiences to the Kennington Theatre. Miss Love makes full use of her manifold artistic graces, and imparts into her rendering of the title-part a liveliness and energy that keep the audience absorbed. The charming personality and natural vivacity by which Miss Love has endeared herself to the playgoing public are again utilised in her conception of Lady Frederick, and as the impulsive and almost tempestuous Irishwoman she is bewitching. Sir Gerald O'Mara, her brother, is admirably acted by Mr. Patrick Quill; Mr. Robert Minster gives an artistic impersonation of Mr. Paradine Fouldes, the sentimental cynic, whose speech teems with apt epigrams and caustic witticisms. Miss Elsie Irving as Lady Mereston presents a careful study of the fond parent, anxious to protect her son from the clutches of an alleged designing woman. Mr. E. F. Meads as Lord Mereston sustains a difficult part with great effect. The Captain Montgomery of Mr. Edward Bonfield leaves nothing to be desired; and Admiral Carlisle is interestingly portrayed by Captain Gerald Gambier. As the daughter Rose Miss Lynn Fontanne wins all hearts by her charming manner and talented acting. Miss Beatrice Grosvenor in the rôle of Mme. Claude gives evidence of being a clever and versatile actress; Messrs. John Orme and Harry Winton are excellent as Thompson and Pierre respectively; and Miss Rita Ward as Angelique shows much promise. Mr. Bruce Smith also gives satisfaction as Lady Frederick's footman. The scenery, effects, and dresses are exceptionally fine, the setting of the first act being a masterpiece of staging. The play is preceded by *The Peacemaker*.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Comedy entitled
"CAPTAIN DREW ON LEAVE."

This bright comedy of Mr. H. H. Davies, associated with the fame of Sir Charles Wyndham's name, was produced here on Monday, and proved very successful. Miss Nora Carton, under whose management the play is presented, has surrounded herself with a company of clever artists, with the result that a complete representation is afforded. Miss Cynthia Brooke gave a capital performance as Mrs. Moxon. This lady was specially good in the striking scene which concludes the third act. Miss Nora Carton was delightfully animated as the rich heiress, Miss Mills, her efforts being admirably seconded by Mr. Willox Cadogan, who plays her somewhat dull fiancé; Mr. Gerald Venning is to be distinctly commended for his portrait of the scheming Chester Hassall; Mr. Tom Mowbray renders useful support as the quiet husband, George Moxon. In the title-rôle Mr. Charles V. Vaughan throughout played splendidly, and richly deserved the approval his acting evoked; Miss Lydia Hayward was good as the maid. *Captain Drew on Leave* is nicely staged and handsomely dressed. The play was preceded by that capital old farce, *Cut Off with a Shilling*.

THE GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE GAY GORDONS."

The visit of Mr. Seymour Hicks's principal company is proving a great success, and has drawn crowded houses, a potent source of attraction being, no doubt, the presence of Miss Zena Dare in the cast. Mr. Stanley Brett is responsible for the important rôle of Angus Græme. He infuses into his impersonation a large amount of irrepressible vitality, and he is possessed of a charm of manner that puts him on the best of terms with his audience in very little time. His love-making, also, is quite irresistible. Mr. Edward Lewis as Nervy Natt keeps the house in roars of laughter at his whimsical doings; and is ably supported by Mr. Wilfred Norman as Edmund, and by Miss Nellie Dade as Charlotte Siddons. Mr. Ernest Torrence gives a good representation of the American millionaire, Andrew Quainton. Mr. Paul Plunket makes a good show as Corporal John Smith, forced to masquerade as the Earl; and the young noblemen are brightly and breezily played by Messrs. J. Wooley, E. Leith, Reg. Adair, and J. Carlisle. Mr. Buchanan Wake is good as the lawyer, Speedy, and Mr. J. Sims Woolley displays uncanny energy as the wonderful McPhrisky. The part of Janet McLeod is played with appropriate tenderness by Miss Eugenie Vernie. Miss Madge Vincent does well as Victoria Siddons; as does also Miss Ada Fraser as Lady Millicent. Miss Zena Dare is a great success as Peggy Quainton, playing brightly and naturally, as well as contributing several song and dances, which are very well received. The dresses are handsome, and the piece is mounted in excellent style.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Musical Farce, entitled
"HIS MAJESTY'S GUESTS."

Laughter and brightness are reigning supreme at the above popular South London house, where the efforts of Mr. Fred Kaino's clever company of comedians, who are paying a return visit with *His Majesty's Guests*, are much appreciated. Mr. George Hester as Sergeant Lightning is the life and soul of the production. While he is on the stage the fun never flags for an instant, and his supply of mirth-provoking patter seems inexhaustible. Miss Aggie Morris ably aids him in the fun-making as Lady Maud Easem, and the character duet between the two is much appreciated. Miss Edith Ager makes a prepossessing and dainty Dolly Miffin, her singing being greatly admired; and Miss Kitty Brunton is amusing as the New Woman, Miss Manley. Mr. E. Freshwater makes a stalwart Lord Easem, and his fine baritone voice is heard to advantage in a couple of ballads. Mr. Charles Usher contributes a good character sketch as Mr. Miffin; and Mr. C. Griffiths does well as Harry. Mr. Tom Manardo is an entertaining Selina, and goes through some clever knockabout business. Mr. Sid Kranns as the irrepressible Minks does excellently; and Mr. T. Ellis Buxton is good as the doorkeeper, Fritz. The scenery is quite adequate, and the production is received with every mark of approval.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Play, by Hall Caine,
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Prodigal Son*, which is paying a return visit, is proving a strong attraction here this week. An excellent cast has been engaged, and the piece is well mounted. Mr. Hugh Montgomery as the serious, rugged-natured Magnus, submits a manly, earnest, and incisive performance, and the character is exceedingly popular. Mr. Gordon Macintosh as the brilliant though pusillanimous Oscar plays with ease, fluency, and distinction, his acting in the Casino scene being especially good. Mr. Charles Cooper portrays Stephen Magnusson with expression and dignity; and Mr. Philip Renouf submits a sound performance as Oscar Neilson. Miss Valerie Crespin, in the dual rôle of Thora and Elin, is sympathetic and charming as the former, while as the guileless Elin she is becomingly naive and girlish. Miss Barbara Gott is decidedly successful as Anna Magnusson; Miss Marie Harcourt is a natural and interesting Margaret Neilson; and in the important rôle of Helga Miss Mildred Cottell acts with much tact and latent strength. Others who do well are Mr. E. Rivarz as Dr. Olsen, Mr. Charles A. Maynards (who stage-manages) as Neils Finsen; and Mr. G. Dickson-Kenwin as Director of the Casino.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Drama, by Arthur Shirley,
"THE MIDNIGHT MAIL."

In a centre of railway workers like Stratford *The Midnight Mail*, with its thrilling locomotive scene and many railway appurtenances, is having to stand the test of critical audiences this week, and that the piece is easily repeating the success it has met with here on previous visits augurs well for its popularity as a touring production. Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company interpret the piece with much credit, and a high standard is maintained with the staging and scenic effects. Mr. Geo. Harvard looks the part of the brawny engine-driver Harry Steyne splendidly, and he makes a highly popular hero; as the cunningly facetious reprobate Billy Brewer Mr. Grant Lytton's performance is of incalculable value; and Mr. Chas. H. Longden makes a fluent and dignified Leonard Royle. Miss Trissie Humphries plays with much feeling and expression as May Steyne, and enlists the sympathies of the audience throughout. Miss Daisy Clifford is a bright and prepossessing Nancy Brewer; Miss Jeannie Weston charmingly impersonates Lady Phyllis Eustace; and Miss Marie Longden plays Miss Mildmay very appropriately. Mr. C. P. Wentworth makes up well and acts incisively as the Turkish adventurer Hassan Padisha; Mr. T. C. Glenville makes the most of his opportunities as Jasper Thornleigh; and Mr. Fred Morley is a smart P.C. Duncombe. Minor parts in a long cast all have quite capable representatives.

ROYAL ARTILLERY, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Comedy Opera, entitled
"THE MERRY WIDOW."

Messrs. Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth must be congratulated on securing such an exceedingly powerful "draw" as Mr. George Edwardes's company in the record-breaking play of *The Merry Widow*. The opera is lavishly mounted and gorgeously dressed, and the acting and singing are of high artistic merit. Not the least attractive feature of the production is the dance performed by Miss Mysie Devine and Mr. Frank Greene to that now famous waltz refrain, and encores are repeatedly demanded. Miss Devine, in the title-rôle, invests the part with delicacy and feeling, and is accorded a flattering reception. Miss Ada Thomas as Natali supplies an attractive and pleasing study, her vocal numbers being rendered in a charming manner. The character of Baron Popoff, the Marsovian Ambassador, is in the very capable hands of Mr. Edward D'Arcy, a comedian of excellent ability, who provokes roars of laughter whenever he is on the stage. Mr. Frank Greene is a clever exponent of the part of Prince Danilo, scoring heavily in a humorous characterisation. Mr. Ripley Evans as Vicomte Camille de Jolidon has a good tenor voice, which he uses to the best advantage, and is entirely successful. Nisch is a most comical personage as played by Mr. Fred Fowler, whose agile dancing is much appreciated. Minor characters in the cast are all undertaken by members of experience and praiseworthy ability.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Oct. 12, the Drama entitled
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."

The prolific pen of Mr. Walter Howard has been used to effective purpose in this attractive drama, which is doing good business this week. The plot is worked out in India, and the play, being unfolded amid Eastern surroundings, lends itself to picturesque treatment, a circumstance of which every advantage is taken. Miss Ellen Snow has secured a capable company, who are greatly appreciated, and in the character of Violet Livingstone Miss Stone maintains a strong hold of the audience, imbuing the part with much pathos and emotion. Mr. Oliver Rogers does full justice to the severely harassed Gerald Fielding, of whom he makes a prominent figure. The villainous Captain Staniloff is imbued with due ferocity by Mr. Lionel Gadsden, who gives a good impersonation; Mr. Ernest Griffen is impressive as the Maharajah of Balore; and Mr. N. Carter Slaughter is successful as Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert. The comic relief is adequately supplied by Mr. Harwood Roberts as Orlando Figgins, who keeps the house amused; Miss Nita Owen and Miss Freda Vaughan as Birdie and Baby respectively add much to the humour; Miss Maud Court gives a graceful impersonation of Muriel Zoluski; and Mr. W. Norman, Mr. Arthur Radford, Mr. Fred West, Mr. George Storm, and Mr. W. Wilson are efficient in minor parts.

"A LONG JOURNEY."

A Dramatic Episode, by Marie Muggeridge, produced at the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead, on Monday, Oct. 5.

Rex Hardy ..... Mr. Christmas Grose
Bobby ..... Mr. Ernest Graham
Madame Bontemps ..... Miss Estelle Despa
Constance Ford ..... Miss Lucy Milner

(From our own correspondent.)

This little play opens in a studio in the Quartier Latin, Paris, where we find Madame Bontemps (the landlady), Constance Ford, and Bobby making preparations to celebrate the return of Rex Hardy, who, after some years of struggles and privations, has suddenly attained affluence by composing a successful opera. Bobby is in love with Constance, and presses his attentions upon her; but the girl refuses him, adding that though she likes him their affection can only be of a platonic nature, as her love is already given to Rex Hardy. It appears that Constance, under a promise of marriage by the latter, has been living with him, and now that better times have come she looks for the fulfilment of his word. Bobby also, to whom Rex confides the truth, assumes that the marriage will take place as a matter of course, and is much surprised on hearing from Rex that he is already engaged to another lady. A strong recriminatory scene takes place between Rex and Constance, and wine being produced, she, in her despair, puts poison in her glass, unknown to Rex, who leaves the house. Constance writes a letter of farewell to Bobby informing him that she is going a long journey, swallows the poison, and dies.

The piece is interesting, but is overweighted with material. It formed a striking contrast to the performance of *Jack Straw*. It was capably interpreted by members of Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. W. Wood-Ingram's company, notably so by Miss Lucy Milner, who did all that was possible with the part of Constance. Miss Estelle Despa was a vivacious Madame Bontemps; as Bobby Mr. Ernest Graham played with care and effect; and Mr. Christmas Grose made the most of his opportunities in the unthankful rôle of Rex Hardy.

The second fancy dress carnival, dance, and confetti fête of the season was greatly enjoyed at the Crystal Palace on Wednesday, and a number of valuable prizes were awarded.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the meeting of the council, held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Present:—Mr. Fred Grove (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Misses Marion Lind, Rose Mathews, and Lucy Sibley, and Messrs. Clarence Derwent, Sebastian Smith, Jackson Wilcox, and Hubert Blount (secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The secretary read a letter from a member with regard to his claim against a manager, and instructions were given to the hon. solicitor to write to the said manager for the money. The secretary also read a letter from the manager of a provincial theatre, enclosing a letter from a firm of surveyors with regard to the dressing-rooms, &c., and was instructed to send a copy of the letter to the gentleman who first made the complaint.

The hon. solicitor reported that he had written to two members on a matter; that the bailiff of the County Court had sent in a notice to the effect that he levied execution upon the goods of a manager, but they were claimed by another party, and that he had written to the member reporting, and that he had written to and advised four lady members.

The secretary was instructed to strike off the members who have not yet paid their subscriptions for the current year.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place on the 8th inst., when the following were present:—Messrs. F. Rawson Buckley (in the chair), D. Lewin Mannering, E. Howard Templeton, A. Maitland Stapley, Orlando Barnett, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Letters were received from the following:—Messrs. Jerrold Heather, Frank Strickland, Geo. P. Lester, Edwin J. Collins, J. Hastings Batson, Fred F. Loyd, Geo. H. Child, Royce Milton, and Ruddle Brown.

The secretary placed sixteen resignations before the committee, which were accepted.

Mr. Francis Chamier, having resigned his seat on the committee, Mr. Gerald Mirrielees automatically takes his place.

The secretary was instructed to post, in sealed envelopes, copies of the minutes to every committeeman not present.

The secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Geo. H. Child, and, in reply to his question, say that he is still eligible for the committee.

The secretary was instructed to inform a member to send particulars of his case to the hon. solicitor.

Eleven new members were elected.

A member was advanced 30s. from the Fund to defray his travelling expenses and the purchasing of props to join a company.

Stamps for the benevolent Fund are now ready. They are made up into books containing thirty at 2s. 6d. each. Application for these books must be made to Mr. Kenneth Blackmore.

A new agency has been opened at Coatbridge, under the direction of Mr. J. P. Dippie, The Deerhound Hotel, 66, Main-street.

Mr. Jarvis, of the Criterion Hotel, Bournemouth, has resigned the position of agent to the A.U. The address of the new agent will be published later. Mr. Leslie Arthur has resigned his position of assistant secretary to the Actors' Union, and terminates his engagement to-day (Saturday).

"A GENTLEMAN FROM MISSISSIPPI."

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

A Gentleman From Mississippi, a play in four acts, which has made a decided hit at the Bijou Theatre, has been pronounced the best American comedy of politics since *The Senator*. It was written by Harrison Rhodes and Thomas A. Wise, and the latter appears in the title-rôle. William H. Langdon is the name of the gentleman who goes to the Capitol at Washington as Senator from the State of Mississippi. He is what is known as a "typical Southern gentleman," courteous, genial, easy-going, and with a sense of honour that nothing can bend. As played by Mr. Wise, Senator Langdon is one of the most attractive and likeable characters to be found upon the local stage; and Mr. Douglas Fairbanks as "Bud" Haines, a youthful reporter, who becomes the Senator's private secretary, acts the part in a delightfully natural manner. The principal characters are easily recognisable as the types that abound in the National Capitol, and the plot is said to be founded on an actual occurrence. Senator Langdon arrives in Washington to be buttonholed by politicians who are working for their own pockets all the time, and need his vote in order to further their scheme to establish a naval station at a certain harbour on the Gulf Coast. They have invested heavily in the adjoining land, counting on an enormous increase in value. Langdon listens to them, and decides that he wants a smart young man to act as his secretary and instruct him in the game of politics as it is played in Washington. So he engages "Bud" Haines, correspondent for a New York newspaper. Haines is a foe to corruption, and he advises Langdon to favour a rival site for the naval station. The political "grafters" are threatened with defeat, and they play what they believe to be their winning card when they openly announce that the son and daughter of the Senator have a pecuniary interest in the success of their scheme. This puts Langdon to the test, but he does not falter, and at the last moment he conceives a plan that completely routs the "grafters." He votes against them, although his own family loses by it, and goes back with a light heart to his beloved Mississippi, having proved that he values his good name above riches. The dialogue is "breezy" and mirth-provoking, being full of wholesome humour, and the various characters are portrayed in a lifelike manner.

PROMENADE CONCERTS.

Mr. W. H. Bell's Prelude, "Agamemnon," for orchestra was the principal novelty of the Promenade Concert on Tuesday evening. Although not strikingly original, or by any means equal to Mr. Bell's other compositions, the Prelude is in some respects a fairly effective work, while it is richly scored for the orchestra. As no information is given in the programme as to the date of Mr. Bell's production, it is probably an early work of the composer. An attractive programme was forthcoming on Tuesday evening, and the large audience were greatly interested in the first appearance at these concerts of Mr. Paul Goldschmidt, a pianist of remarkable ability. Mr. Goldschmidt played Liszt's Pianoforte Concerto No. 1 in E flat with great refinement of style and admirable technique, revealing to the full the poetical effect of Liszt's much-discussed Concerto. At the conclusion the delighted audience made a strong demand for an encore, which the pianist politely but firmly refused. The orchestra, under Mr. Wood, gave fine performances of Wagner's Overture to *The Flying Dutchman*, the charming Ballet Air in G from Schubert's *Rosamunde*, and Grieg's popular "Peer Gynt," Suite No. 1. Also included in the programme was Tchaikovsky's Chant Sans Paroles, Concerto No. 2 in B flat (Handel), Sibelius's Symphonic Poem "Finlandia," and Elgar's Dream-Children, two pieces for orchestra. The vocalists were Mlle. Eve Simony and Mr. Paul Reimers, who gave an excellent account of Air du Rossignol (*Les Noces du Jeannette*), Victor Massé, and Carissimi's "Vittoria! mio core"; while the organist, Mr. Gostelow, was much applauded in Handel's Concerto in B flat.

RE-OPENING THE NEW, OXFORD.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Oxford New Theatre, which has been closed during the Long Vacation, reopened on Monday, after undergoing reconstruction, details of which appeared in our last issue. The interior now presents a charming appearance, and great admiration was expressed.

There was no vacant seat in the theatre on Monday, there being present at the reopening the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Dr. T. Herbert Warren, President of Magdalen), both the University Proctors, many heads of colleges and professors, the Mayor (Alderman Ansell), and most of the aldermen and magistrates of the city. The performance began with the National Anthem, after which Mr. Percival Riley, the well-known actor (who resides now in Oxford), spoke the following prologue, written by an Oxford "Don," in excellent style:—

Eternal Progress marks dramatic art:
Once it was Thespis, now it's D'Oyly Carte;
You, too, advance as other people do—
You've ampler Galleries and an Exit new;
No nightly thousands need their lot deplore
By want of space excluded from your door;
Your audiences are privileged to sit
In Stalls more numerous and a larger Pit:
For due approval from the Press he meets
Who gives his critics comfortable seats.

More than two decades here the Muse has spent
(Though none can say that she's a Decadent),
Now, though she change her mere material frame,
Her lines of policy are still the same.
In seats of learning all should be designed
To form the manners and improve the mind,
And here in Oxford none can help discerning
How Drama still goes hand in hand with Learning:
Thus 'tis a fact which history records,
That Dons themselves have trod these self-same boards;
Thus the pale student, fired with noble rage,
Who fondly yearns to shine upon the stage,
And deems himself of fame no less deserving
Than Arthur Bourchier or than H. B. Irving,
May, if he likes, a double object seek,
And learn his τύπτω while he acts in Greek.
No modern drama claims him for his hero
By Jones or Sheridan, Goldsmith or Pinero:
For him this motto o'er your doors is graven—
"This Haven's barred, save to the Bard of Avon!"
Nor is't alone that Undergraduate who
Such blessings knows, the public shares them too;
Townsmen or Dons, whate'er their rank or station, all
Regard this stage as strictly educational.
Be London's theatres by plays defaced
Which mar the morals and degrade the taste,—
You (let me emphasise the pronoun—YOU),
Howe'er so frivolous the piece you view,
Feel no anxiety, but know 'tis meant
For Intellectual Enlightenment,
Because it first has satisfied the care
Of the Vice-Chancellor and eke the Mayor!

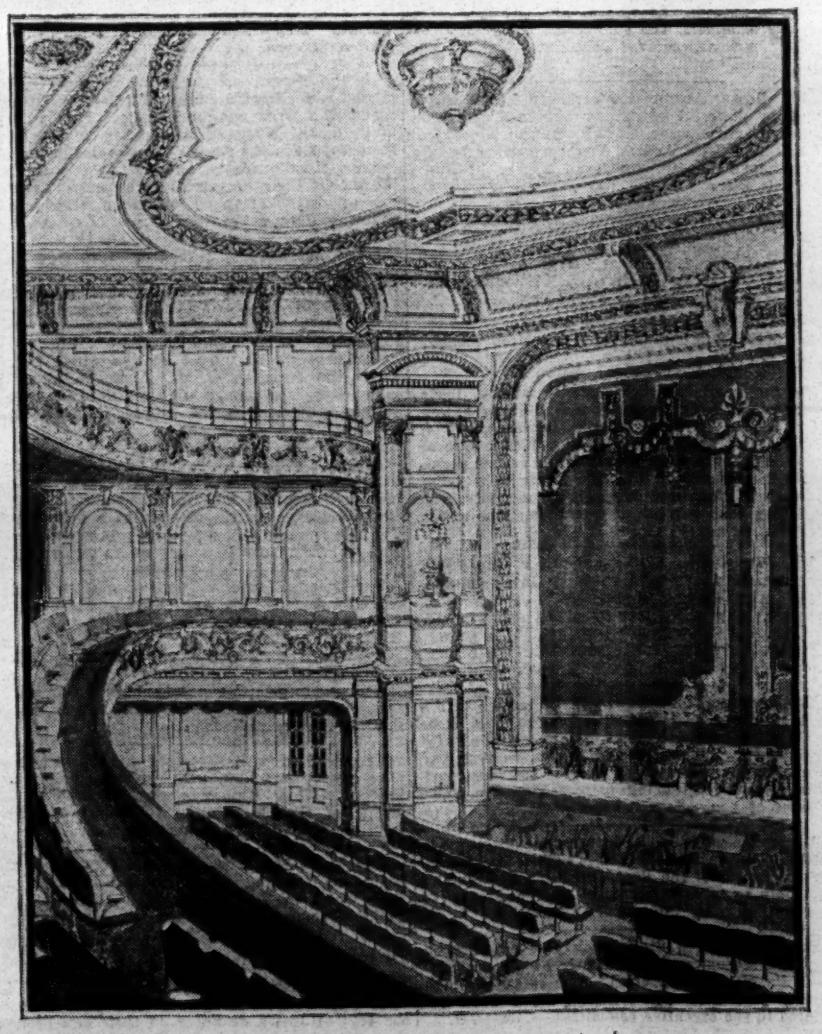
Secure in this we'll strive ('tis hoped not futilely)
To link the *Dulce* with the merely *Utile*.
You—for the Drama is your servant still,
And you, kind friends, can make it what you will—
Help while you may, and don't demand of it
Horseplay for acting, *double entente* for wit:
Afar be those unconscionable folks
Who laugh at pathos and who groan at jokes;
And farther still those rude unlettered boys
Who fill the Theatre with senseless noise—
Poor youths who can't appreciate at all
A Comedy which isn't "Musical"!
Keep far all such—you'll find that you'll have got
A Stage that's worthy of this classic spot;
Or with its fare if e'er you wish to quarrel,
The fault's with you, and not with Mr. Dorrill!

Time shifts the scenes: To-day before your view
The curtain rises on a piece that's new.
"Act I., Scene 1—Enter a Theatre"
Who humbly hopes that you'll be kind to her:
Give her new run which now commences thus,
The best of auguries by applauding us.

A special performance was then given of *When Knights Were Bold* by Mr. James Welch, with his entire London company. Mr. Welch was in his happiest vein, and kept the house convulsed with laughter right through the play. He evidently liked his audience, and never played Sir Guy de Vere in more amusing fashion; and his outrageous gagging must really have rather put out the members of his company, as they were laughing themselves when they should not. Miss Audrey Ford gave a very fine representation of Lady Rowena; Miss Daisy Cordell was a handsome and fascinating Sarah Isaacson, the other ladies' parts being admirably filled by the Misses Maev O'Hea, Gwendoline Rayne, Annie Furrell, Annie Chippendale, and Helen Palgrave. Mr. Arthur Grenville was a convincing Isaac; Mr. George Desmond was an amusing Widdicombe; and Messrs. Guy Lane and Cecil Kinnaird were successful as Dr. Pottleberry and Sir Brian Ballymote.

Needless to say, Mr. Welch had a great reception, and had to speak a few words at the finish, in which he thanked Mr. Dorrill, the managing-director of the theatre, for asking him to reopen the theatre. He asked the audience if they liked their new handsome house, and a thundering "Yes" answered the question.

Mr. C. C. Dorrill, the managing-director, is to be congratulated on the handsome house he now invites the Oxford public to patronise, and the sterling success attending the opening night augurs well for a prosperous future under his skilful management. Mr. G. T. Lucas, son of the late managing-director, is now the assistant-manager. The programme for the present term is a strong one, and the management will doubtless reap the reward of their heavy expenditure for the comfort of their patrons in largely-increased returns from their more commodious theatre.



THE NEW THEATRE, OXFORD

"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."

The first tour of this powerful play, now running with such success at the Playhouse, opened at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, on the 5th inst. under the generalship of Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper, by arrangement with Mr. Cyril Maude, and it was received by a crowded house, both then and at subsequent performances during the week, with such unmistakable favour that the happiest auguries are entertained of a successful journey through the provinces. It will be a surprise indeed if the experience at Kingston be not repeated in every town visited, for, apart altogether from the play itself, which is of a stamp that never fails to arouse enthusiasm, it is presented by a company of which it may be said that almost every member is an artist, whilst it has been staged with a thoroughness, completeness, and disregard of expense that one seldom finds except in shows of A1 quality. The four scenes have been painted specially for the tour by W. D. Hobbs, the well-known scenic artist, and contribute in no small measure to the realistic effect produced upon the onlookers. The ladies' dresses and the officers' uniforms are excellent. It is with a thrill of pride that Britishers see naval officers of fine physique, resplendent in their blue and gold uniforms, treading the deck of a British man-of-war, and to find their orders obeyed by breezy blue-jackets and marines with all the discipline that one finds in the first line of defence. From the moment the curtain rises on the first act until it finally descends the interest of the audience never wanes. It is frequently evidenced by vociferous applause, and manifested at the close of each act by the recall of the principal performers. The chief interest is centred in the warm-hearted, boyish, brave flag lieutenant, whose loyal and unselfish devotion to a friend in the face of social obloquy wins for him a warm corner in the hearts of the onlookers. The part is played by Mr. Langhorne Burton with a dash and abandon that never fail him, and shows that a very wise selection was made when arranging the cast. Mr. H. Montague Love as Major Thesiger also creates a most favourable impression. Mr. George Mallett makes a capitally typical and dignified Vice-Admiral, whilst good work is also done by Mr. Stephen Gatling as the flag captain, by Mr. Claude Little as the Admiral's secretary, by Messrs. Hugh Wakefield and Lyonel Watts as the midshipmen, by Mr. Victor Lawrence as the quartermaster, by Mr. W. S. Stevenson as the sergeant of marines, and by Mr. Frederick C. Leister as the Colonel of the Campbell Highlanders. Particularly noticeable amongst a capital company were Mr. E. S. Petley, who plays the surgeon with a delightful sang-froid, and Mr. John Wheatman, whose Michael Palliser, the Hibernian telegraphist, it would be difficult to beat. Amongst the ladies honours were equally divided between Miss Florence Jackson as the wealthy widow Mrs. Cameron and Miss Marjorie Chard as Lady Hermione Wynne, both torn by conflicting emotions, which were assumed with remarkable success. Miss Evelyn Robson acquitted herself well as the matronly Lady Dugdale, and Miss Stella Leigh made the most of her opportunities as the scandal-mongering Mrs. Gough-Bogle. The company go next week to Chatham, and afterwards to Eastbourne, Folkestone, Brighton, Cheltenham, Bath, Southampton, and Bournemouth, and another tour that will extend until the end of next year commences at Preston on Dec. 24. Mr. George Mallett is acting as the general-manger, Mr. C. S. Lewis is acting-manager, Mr. W. S. Stevenson is stage-manager, and Mr. J. Wilfred Chilton is the agent in advance.

"MRS. PECKHAM'S CAROUSE."

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

A ONE-ACT PLAY, BY GEORGE ADE.

Miss May Irwin has returned to the regular stage after a long season in vaudeville and is now appearing in this playlet at the Garrick Theatre, New York, where success has attended her. *Mrs. Peckham's Carouse*, by George Ade, has been put on as a curtain-raiser to *The Mollusc*. Mrs. Peckham is a prominent member of a temperance society known as the Daughters of Abstinence. Her husband is a lawyer, and both he and his clerk wear the blue ribbon. The temperance movement is pretty strong in the little town where the Peckhams dwell, and so enthusiastic is Mrs. Peckham over the address which she is to deliver at a meeting to be held in the evening that she calls at her husband's office to read it to him. She comes at an inopportune moment, as the carrier has just delivered to Mr. Peckham a bottle of forty-year-old rye whisky which his brother-in-law has sent him, and which he is just about to sample when his wife's voice is heard in the outer office. The whisky is quickly put out of sight, Peckham hears the address, hypocritically approving his wife's sentiments, and she departs for the meeting. A moment later, Thomas Barrett, a man about town, arrives, and when he hears about the whisky he decides that it is quite old enough to drink. Mrs. Peckham comes back for a glove that she has left behind, and catches Peckham in the outer office with a glass of water in his hand. He trembles like a leaf, and his manner is decidedly strange. When his wife tries to get her glove he prevents her, and give sall sorts of absurd reasons why she should not enter his private office. There is a man in there who has been taken ill, he finally tells her, and the glass of water is for him, although in his nervousness he has just drunk it himself. Peckham gets his friend to rush out as if there were something the matter with him, but unfortunately he overdoes it when he passes Mrs. Peckham in the outer office, and she decides that he is drunk. As a Daughter of Abstinence she telephones to Mrs. Barrett that her husband is intoxicated. Then she leaves once more for the meeting. Barrett slips back for the delayed drink, and the glasses are filled when Mrs. Peckham's voice is heard once more outside. Frightened out of his wits Peckham springs into a convenient wardrobe and shuts himself up in it, leaving Barrett to face the music. He is bearing up wonderfully when Mrs. Barrett comes storming in and finds her husband alone with the venerable Daughter of Abstinence and a bottle of whisky on the table between them! Crazy with jealousy, she threatens to get a divorce and expose Mrs. Peckham. Speechless with rage and mortification Mrs. Peckham sinks into a chair and faints. Then the demon Drink takes his revenge on the reformer. Barrett gives her two drinks of whisky to revive her, and she comes to in a most joyous frame of mind. With bonnet awry, and her voice and features decidedly twisted, she attempts to deliver her lecture, and the effect is most comical. Peckham sneaks out in the meantime, and comes back as if he had been absent all the while. Peace is finally restored when an ink bottle (supposed to be the whisky) is thrown out of the window. Mrs. Peckham hears the crash, and believes that the accursed stuff will do no further mischief. But Barrett slips out with the bottle of whisky under his arm.

Miss Irwin impersonates the temperance reformer in her own inimitable way, and the piece is received with roars of laughter. Mr. Charles Frohman intends to present it in London next spring.

MR. W. GOODWIN WOODWARD.

By numerous friends and employees it was considered that the eminent services rendered to the staff of the Palace Theatre, Bordesley, by the popular manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward, should meet with due recognition, and the matter having taken a tangible form, it was decided that a presentation and complimentary supper be given to Mr. Woodward on Tuesday, Oct. 6. Needless to say, the affair was taken up with much enthusiasm, and after the curtain had been rung down on Mr. Roland Yorke's production, *The Old Home*, on Tuesday, the stage was cleared for the important business on hand. A numerous and representative company did ample justice to the excellent bill of fare provided, after which the toasts of "The King," "Moss Empires, Ltd.," "The Visitors," and "The Staff" were duly honoured.

Mr. F. Fox presided, and amongst others present were Mr., Mrs. and Miss Woodward, Mr. Woodward, jun., Mr. Roland Yorke, Mr. Archer, Mr. Hopkins, and Messrs. Knowles, Jennings, Crighton, Johnson, Butler, and others. The presentation took the form of a gold watch, on which was engraved the following inscription: "Presented to Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward, manager of the Bordesley Palace Theatre, by the staff and friends, Oct. 6." Mr. F. Fox, in making the presentation, referred to the sterling qualities possessed by Mr. Woodward, who had commanded a host of friends during the short time he had held his present important position. Mr. Woodward, in acknowledging the valuable token of their esteem, hoped that the amicable relations existing between himself and the members of the staff would long continue.

The popular manager was also the fortunate recipient of a gold Swan fountain pen from Mr. Roland Yorke and a gold snuff-box from Mr. Archer. An excellent concert of vocal and instrumental music was rendered by several members of the staff and friends, and in the "wee sma' hours" a memorable gathering terminated with the National Anthem being given in true British style. Mr. Fox admirably filled the position of chairman, and was ably seconded by Mr. Knowles.

Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward, who was born at Cheltenham, belonged to a musical family and made his début at nine years of age, singing at a concert. He won a scholarship at Cheltenham Grammar School for singing, and trained for the Civil Service, which he entered and did successfully for years. He then drifted into theatrical management, being engaged by St. John Denton to produce pantomimes, and stage-managed them. Then he was secured by Fred H. Anderson as general-manager of his touring companies, more especially *The Sands of Time*, which was produced at the Shakespeare, Clapham, and afterwards toured. Mr. Woodward then filled the position of manager for the Palace of Varieties, Northampton. On vacating that position he was engaged by Charles Macdona, and was for five years manager of various musical comedies run by that gentleman. The pantomimes Mr. Woodward has produced include *Cinderella* (Harriett Vernon principal boy), *Dick Whittington* (Marie Loftus principal boy), *Puss in Boots* (Lil Hawthorne principal boy), *Babes in the Wood* (Rita Presano principal boy), &c. He has had a large managerial experience, having risen from the very bottom rung of the ladder. Though a strict disciplinarian, Mr. Woodward retains the goodwill and wins the respect of all artists with whom he comes in contact.

No one need be without a typewriter, so essential to a properly-conducted business, since one can be acquired for the modest sum of £3 10s., carriage paid. The Junior Typewriter in case is only 10in. long, 5in. wide, and 2in. high, and, with its leatherette case, strongly resembles a Kodak. Its weight is just 3½lb., including the case, hence it may be sent through the post. The agents for this unique production are G. Wheeler and Co., of 203, Strand, W.C.

HENRY IRVING SHAKESPEARE.

"THE ERA'S" OFFER.

The offer which we made a fortnight ago to our readers of a new and cheap edition of "The Henry Irving Shakespeare" on specially advantageous terms has been responded to, and will doubtless continue to be taken advantage of by them. As we remarked, editions of the greatest dramatist's works are innumerable, but the one that bears the name of the departed Chief—a student and a scholar, as well as a great actor—carries the hall-mark of thoroughness in its artistic beauty and literary excellence. The illustrations—mostly by Mr. Gordon Browne, with the assistance in six of the plays of Mr. W. H. Margetson, Mr. Frank Dadd, and Mr. Maynard Brown—certainly realise the characters of the plays in a way that appeals equally to the student of the text and the art critic. It was said of a great caricaturist whose black-and-white work is to be found in many volumes published during the last century that his women are hideous. Shakespeare's heroines have invariably inspired artists, and how beautifully Mr. Gordon Browne has caught the expression of the tired and lovelorn Rosalind is to be learnt from the full-page etching of Touchstone, Celia, and Rosalind in the Forest of Arden. Again, how happy is the artist in the varied expression he is able to put into the features of the clowns and comic characters of the immortal comedies. In its illustrations alone, therefore, the Irving Shakespeare stands unrivalled.

The patient research and the untiring care of the editors are to be discovered in the introductions to each play, carefully collated from the most reliable authorities, and in the notes concerning the text; but the guiding principle which has been kept in view throughout is the treatment of Shakespeare's work as that of a dramatist, whose plays were intended not to be read as poetical exercises, but to be represented by living men and women before a general audience. The text is given unmutilated, un-Bowdlerised, and Sir Henry Irving has specially marked those portions which, in his judgment, had best be omitted in dramatic presentation.

For the convenience of the student, as well as of the general reader, the Introductions to each play have been divided into three heads: (1) "The Literary History," which treats of the various early editions of the plays and the sources whence the plot, or dialogue, may have been wholly, or in part, borrowed. (2) "The Stage History"—which, in many cases, is very scanty, as we have so few early records of the representations of Shakespeare's plays—giving an account of any remarkable stage versions of the plays which may have been produced, as well as some notice of the most remarkable performances and of any notable cast. (3) "The Critical Remarks," indicating for the reader's guidance the general tone and purport of the play, and calling attention to any noteworthy features in the structure of the plot or in the treatment of the characters.

In this new edition the work has been divided into volumes of more handy size. An appreciation of the late Sir Henry Irving has been given by his friend Mr. Bram Stoker. An important addition has also been made in Mr. Jerome Harrison's description of The Shakespeare Land, forming part of Vol. 14 of the work, which is richly illustrated with half-tone reproductions from photographs specially made for the purpose. From an artistic point of view a notable feature of the present edition is the series of reproductions of pictures by eminent Academicians that form the frontispieces of the several volumes. The appreciation contains the following estimate of the late Henry Irving's character and genius:—

Henry Irving was not only a great actor; in him were combined those attributes which go to make up a great man. He had a mind to conceive and relentless purpose to carry thought into effect. In this edition of Shakespeare which bears his name there is evidence of these high qualities. For it must be always remembered that acting in its highest sense is not merely an effort of the individual; it is an effort organised and purposed, and comprehends not merely the action of one, but the interdependence of many. An actor, save in a soliloquy, can no more run through the gamut of emotions set by the dramatist than a single soldier can complete the evolutions of a battle. Acting in its personal aspect was always held by Irving himself to be impersonation—the giving of concrete identity to abstract thought. Schlegel defined the actor's part in the ensemble of stage effort as "secondary concrete"—which, to borrow a simile from theosophy, is, I take it, like the massing of physical atoms in the building up of an astral body. But in this building there may be a choice of many possibilities which, though all equally good for the representation of the individual character, might act differently on the development of other characters of the play. To seize, therefore, that which has a wider significance of general purpose and the most direct bearing on characters set in juxtaposition is the supreme of mimetic art. This belongs to the inceptive stage of impersonation, and is therefore an important matter of consideration in the study of a play. The other side of acting, the carrying of the accepted idea into execution, is purely individual. It is of the art of the stage rather than of the study; and so we need not follow it here. It will be well, however, for the student either of the drama or the stage to consider at the outset of the study of this edition of Shakespeare how much, and what kind, of work went to the making of Irving's part in it. The purely scholarly and literary part was chiefly done by Frank Marshall; but to Irving fell the task of shortening the plays in such manner as to bring the time of playing or reading into reasonable compass, without omitting anything which would show the progress of the story, or the development of the characters. In this is included what I have called the interdependence of the characters. In later day, when scenic art and historic exactness of costume are commonplaces, and when the art of stage lighting, which Irving enlarged and almost re-created, is a matter of scientific perfection, it is possible to do without certain descriptions of place and period which were, when the plays were written, necessary aids to the imagination of the audience. But a thoughtless excision might easily create uncertainty, if not absolute puzzlement. To an unthinking reader the placing of those printed lines which mark the excisions may seem a simple enough task. But let such an one consider the preparation and forethought necessary for the judicious placing of them, and he will learn a lesson which by purity of reason may help him later in many ways of thought. For such work it was necessary to know the whole play thoroughly well before beginning to "cut" at all. The end had to be known as well as the beginning, for so only could the knife be judiciously handled. Each character had to be followed, and separately, so that no clause throwing enlightenment concerning it might be excised. In fine, knowledge, accurate and comprehensive, was required of the author's scope and method of development. Not reading of a piece once or twice, nor less than many times could fit an editor for such a task. In addition, the editor should have supreme stage knowledge, so that out of actual experience he might, in the plays not generally acted, know how far a modern audience or a skilled actor could rely on the actor's part for full illustration of the emotion to be conveyed. Histrionic art is so quick in its method that at times a single glance or movement will convey an idea more completely, as well as more rapidly, than a series of phrases.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham and Mr. Beerbohm Tree have been appointed as a deputation from the Society of West-End Theatre Managers to attend the Mansion House meeting on the 28th inst. on the subject of the excessive charges imposed by the Metropolitan Water Board. There is great need of revision in this respect, and it is sincerely to be hoped that the efforts of the distinguished representatives of the theatres interest will be productive of satisfactory results.

The theatres for which music and dancing licenses are to be asked at the forthcoming meetings of the Licensing Committee of the London County Council are the Shaftesbury, the Camden, and the Crown, Peckham. The committee will sit on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 6 and 7, at the Sessions House, Clerkenwell, for the purpose of hearing applications for licenses for places both north and south of the Thames. The Council, sitting as the Licensing Authority, will consider the report of the committee at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, on Friday, Nov. 27, and the following day, if necessary.

The falling horse episode in *The Marriages of Mayfair* was the subject of a question in the House of Commons on Thursday, when Mr. Carr-Gomm asked the Home Secretary if his attention had been drawn to the stage representation at Drury Lane Theatre of a horse falling from a precipice, and whether the Home Office inspector had satisfied himself that there is no ill-treatment of the animal. Mr. H. Samuel replied: "Theatres are not under Home Office inspection; but the Secretary of State has made inquiry into this matter, and learned that the measures taken are such that there is no ill-treatment of the horse."

The effect of the horse falling over a precipice is produced by the animal descending on to a movable platform to below the level of the stage, and the suggestion that there is cruelty or risk attached to the fall is untenable. The performance has, moreover, met with the approval of an inspector of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

The safety of children attending theatres is provided for in the Children's Bill, which has this week been before Parliament. The measure contains a clause making it necessary for the person who provides an entertainment at which the number of children who attend is more than a hundred, and access to any part of the building in which the children are accommodated is by stairs, "to station and keep stationed wherever necessary a sufficient number of adult attendants, properly instructed as to their duties, to prevent more children or other persons being admitted to any such part of the building than that part can properly accommodate, and to control the movement of the children and other persons admitted to any such part whilst entering and leaving, and to take all other reasonable precautions for the safety of the children."

The occupier of a building who permits it to be used "for hire, or reward, for the purposes of an entertainment" is required to take "all reasonable steps to secure the observance of the provisions of this section." Failure to fulfil such requirement renders the person responsible liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding, in the case of a first offence, £50, and not exceeding £100 in the case of a second or subsequent offence. Furthermore, if the building is licensed "under any of the enactments relating to the licensing of theatres and of houses and other places for music and dancing, the licence shall be liable to be revoked by the authority by which the licence was granted."

Miss Viola Tree, whose vocal accomplishments have won so much admiration, will make an advance in the operatic career to which she justly aspires by undertaking the title-rôle in Herman Gotz's opera *Francesca da Rimini*, which is to be given by the students of the Royal College of Music in December. It will be the first performance in England of the work, which was produced at the Court Theatre at Carlsruhe while the composer was conductor there. *Francesca* was not entirely completed by Goetz. Two acts were finished by the composer, who merely sketched the last, and left it to Ernest Frank to complete the score.

Miss Lena Ashwell will give a matinée of Mr Wilfred Coleby's new and successful drama, *The Sway Boat*, at the Kingsway Theatre, this afternoon and every Saturday at three o'clock. Though reluctant to abandon the Wednesday matinées which were so popular in her former season, Miss Ashwell is compelled to do so by reason of the great emotional strain made upon her by her rôle of Lady Kilross. It should be noted that the curtain now rises on the first piece, *The Treasure*, at 8.15 p.m., a quarter of an hour earlier than formerly.

The announcement in numerous newspapers that Mr. Lewis Waller had been out of the bill of the Lyric Theatre and has now returned is inaccurate. The popular actor certainly had a sudden attack of laryngitis on Saturday, the 3rd inst., but he played both in the afternoon and the evening. Mr. Waller, moreover, has an unbroken record, and has never once been out of the bill.

Mr. Oswald Stoll, with characteristic enterprise, arranged for Mr. Cyril Maude and the Playhouse company to pay a flying visit to the Leicester Palace Theatre on the afternoon of the 8th inst., when *Toddles* was presented before a large and fashionable audience. The Palace has for some time now possessed both a dramatic and singing and dancing licence, so that there is no difficulty in submitting at this beautiful vaudeville theatre any class of entertainment. Although smoking is allowed, the gentlemen present without exception abstained, and the ladies, who attended in considerable numbers, had the courtesy, even to the gallery, to remove their hats and bonnets without request.

The audience expected much, and were not disappointed, and from the rising of the curtain till the close heartily appreciated the highly-amusing situations in *Toddles*, the name-part of which was played by Mr. Cyril Maude in his own artistic style. Another well-played part was that of Mrs. Joblyn by Miss Emma Chambers, who kept the laughter going while she was on the stage. Mr. Allen Thomas scored a well-deserved success as Joblyn, and as Haslitt Mr. Sydney Paxton was very good. Mr. H. Robert Averell was particularly smart as Boolby, and Miss Helen Ferrers as Lady Dover could hardly be improved upon. Miss Rosalie Toller was altogether charming as Constance Joblyn. At the termination of the performance the curtain had to be repeatedly raised in answer to the enthusiastic applause.

Mr. and Mrs. Forbes Robertson will be the guests of the evening at the opening dinner of the New Vagabond Club, which takes place at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday, Nov. 1. Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., will preside.

Mr. Martin Harvey will deliver an address embodying "Some Reflections on the Art of Acting," to the members of the O.P. Club at the Criterion Restaurant on Sunday next.

Mr. H. B. Irving has been elected a member of the Athenæum Club. Mr. Irving's illustrious father, it will be remembered, was one of the most esteemed members of the Athenæum.

Mr. Percy Hutchison and his company in *Brewster's Millions* were accorded a hearty welcome at the King's Theatre, Glasgow, last week. On Saturday night the enthusiasm was intense, and although the curtain had been raised again and again the audience would not leave the theatre until Mr. Hutchison had responded to their cry for "Speech!" Mr. Hutchison thanked them for their cordial reception on behalf of Miss Hutchison, his company, and himself. He remarked that although his companies visited hundreds of theatres everywhere, he could safely say none was more excellently managed than the King's, Glasgow. It was a real pleasure to be there. They were very fortunate in having such a courteous manager as Mr. D. MacFarlane. The great strength of *Brewster's Millions* as a draw is proved by the fact that sixty-eight visits of Hutchison companies to Glasgow have been recorded. The company travelled to Edinburgh on Sunday, and on the following night received a great ovation from a packed house.

Mr. Norman V. Norman was the guest of honour at the Pen and Palette Club, Brighton, on Sunday last. A very pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent, Mr. Norman during the course of the evening returning thanks for the honour done to him by the members of the club. Mr. Norman is still playing *Nell Gwynn*, with Miss Beatrice Wilson as Mistress Nell receiving flattering greetings from houses crowded in every part.

The following extract from John Strange Winter's article "Back to the Coast" is a striking tribute by that popular authoress and ardent playgoer to the artistic efforts of a company that has won eulogy on all hands. "On Wednesday we went back to the theatre, and laughed and wept over *David Garrick*, as if we had never seen it before. It is a beautiful show, one of the best things Mr. Norman does. Thursday we went to that charming musical comedy, *The Merry Widow*. Friday we went to see Mr. Norman as the Merry Monarch and Miss Beatrice Wilson as Nell Gwyn. I have it my mind that Miss Wilson is Mistress Nell in her last incarnation."

"Iolanthe" will be revived at the Savoy on Monday. Mrs. D'Oyly Carte has been successful in securing Mr. Rutland Barrington for his original part of Lord Mountararat, and the cast will be completed by Mr. C. H. Workman, Mr. Henry Herbert, Mr. Leo Sheffield, Mr. Henry A. Lytton, Miss Louie Rene, Miss Jessie Rose, Miss Dorothy Court, Miss Beatrice Boarer, Miss Ethel Lewis, and Miss Clara Dow.

The second Fancy Dress Ball at Covent Garden on the evening of the 9th inst. proved most successful, and several beautiful frocks were on view. The prettiest and most original was "The Penny Post to U.S.A.," designed by Mr. Clarkson, which gained first prize. It was a unique confection, with painted panels, showing the English and American post-offices, a portrait of Henniker Heaton, and an arrangement of envelopes cunningly devised on the skirt. The head-dress was a postman's hat, bearing portraits of President Roosevelt and the Postmasters-General of England and America. Hand prop English and American flags were surmounted by a model of the Lusitania. The costume was worn by a beautiful French girl.

The second prize was won by a costume entitled "On the Moors," also designed by Mr. Clarkson. It was a pretty and effective dress, composed of a brown satin coat, mauve skirt, trimmed with mauve chiffon and heather, and having hand-painted panels of landscape scenes. The large hat was trimmed with heather and birds on the wing, and a hand prop of heather and birds completed the design. Other pretty and effective dresses were "The Sun," "Belle of Brittany," "Merrie Widow," "Miss Hook of Holland," and several very handsome dominoes, mostly designed by Mr. W. Clarkson. Excellent music was supplied by Dan Godfrey's Band.

A matinee on behalf of the Actors' Church Union will be given on Thursday, Dec. 10, under the direction of the Rev. J. Stephen Barrass, Rector of St. Laurence, Jewry, and Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory. Mr. Cyril Maude has kindly lent the Playhouse, and arrangements for a long and attractive afternoon's programme are being made. By the courtesy of Mr. Alfred Turner, seats may be already booked at the Playhouse. The matinée will be under distinguished patronage. It is desired to emphasise the fact that the Actors' Church Union is not a mission to actors.

An interesting little pamphlet was presented by Mr. H. B. Irving to every member of the audience on the revival of *The Lyons Mail* at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Thursday. It contains a brief account of the origin and history of the play, and mentions that Mr. Hermann Vezin appeared in the dual part of Lesurques and Dubosc at the Gaiety in 1870. Nellie Farren was then the Joliquet, and the late Robert Soutar the Courriol. The pamphlet is embellished with many interesting illustrations.

A new comedy, in three acts, entitled *Mrs. Bailey's Debts*, founded by Charles Eddy on his novel of the same name, is to be produced at a matinée at the Garrick on Tuesday, Oct. 27. The cast will include Miss Hilda Antony, Miss Florence Lloyd, Miss Esmé Hubbard, Mr. Edward Sass (by permission of Mr. Forbes Robertson), and Mr. Sidney Paxton. The theatre has been kindly lent for the occasion by Miss Evelyn Millard, and the proceeds of the performance will be devoted to Pearson's Fresh Air Fund.

Miss Adrienne Augarde has been enabled, by the courtesy of Mr. Oswald Stoll, to whom she was under contract, to accept an offer made her by Mr. Joseph Brooks, the American manager, to play the title-part in the musical comedy *Peggy Machree* during the autumn and winter tour of that piece in America. Miss Augarde sails for New York on Wednesday to join the company headed by Mr. Joseph O'Mara, who left London last Saturday.

Mrs. Langtry (Lady De Bathe) has repeated a former triumph by again winning the Cesarewitch Stakes at Newmarket. The last occasion was eleven years ago, when the race was won by the famous actress's horse Merman. The victor of Wednesday's event was Yentoi, a horse which Lady De Bathe purchased last season from Mr. George Edwardes.

Mr. Harry Bristow has been secured by Mr. Andrew Melville to take up the duties of stage management with *The Diver's Luck* company. Mr. Bristow finishes to-night (Saturday) a seven and a half months' tour as Peter Sloke, and stage-manager, in Tom H. Taylor's *Is Life Worth Living?* company.

Mr. Tom B. Davis, having "barred" the matinée hat during the performances of *The Belle of Brittany*, is doing everything possible to facilitate the delicate operation of removing and readjusting feminine headgear at the Queen's Theatre, which opens this evening. Mr. Davis has taken a bold step, and the experiment will be watched with great interest, as it is understood that should the innovation prove a success the plucky manager will extend it to other theatres under his management. It is manifestly a movement in the right direction, which should be supported by all men and every unselfish woman.

Mr. J. B. Mulholland has secured for the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, next week the elaborate revival of *Dorothy* in which two of the most important parts are taken by their original exponents and others are rendered by artists of great popularity. Mr. John Coates, the accomplished tenor, forsaking for the present grand opera and oratorio, will be seen as Geoffrey Wilder; Mr. Hayden Coffin will resume his original part of Harry Sherwood, created by him at the Gaiety Theatre, and will, of course, sing "Queen of my heart," the song which he rendered famous; Mr. Arthur Williams will also undertake his original part, Lurcher, in which he made probably the greatest hit of his career; and charming Miss Ruth Davenport will assume the title-rôle. *Dorothy* will be played for six nights only, with one matinée, and as the usual prices remain unaltered the handsome King's Theatre should be crowded at every performance.

The present season at the King's Theatre is proving the most successful in the history of that house, and while making all the allowance for expert management, the fact that "the play's the thing" is again proved. Mr. Mulholland has already presented such varied attractions as *Tom Jones*, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, *The Merry Widow*, H. B. Irving, *Miss Hook of Holland*, *The Sins of Society*, *The Gay Gordons*, &c., and follows on with the Hayden Coffin and John Coates *Dorothy* company, Mrs. Patrick Campbell's *The Girls of Gottenberg*, *The Christian*, Oscar Asche and Lily Brayton, *Havana*, *Jack Straw*, &c. Incidentally, it may be added that Mr. (Alderman) Mulholland has again for the third year in succession been offered the Mayoralty of Hammersmith.

"Lady Epping's Lawsuit" at the Criterion displays a number of novelties in the way of costume. The gown worn in the first act by Miss Mary Moore as the Countess of Epping is of sky-blue chiffon cut in the Directoire mode, and trimmed with Oriental embroidery on the bodice. A long sash of blue lined with old-rose falls from the back. The chemisette and quaint little half-sleeves to the elbow are of white lace. An immense white hat trimmed with six white and blue feathers adds to the beauty of the gown.

Miss Moore wears in the second act one of the new Labrador-net, sleeveless Manteau over a violet gown in the same shade. It is a Directoire dress, and the waist is swathed with a gold sash fastened high up at the back with two large gold buttons. Miss Moore also looks charming in the last act in a rose du Barri Directoire gown, with the over-dress of velvet in the same colour. It contrasts well with the beautiful sables worn by the actress.

Mrs. Sam Sothern, as the actress Miss Berengaria Mortimer, is attired, in the second act, in a remarkable "Mermaid" dress. It is made in deep Veronese green souple satin, the gown being cut in the conventional lines of the Directoire, but swathing the body and coming well below the hips is a meshed over-dress of black that wonderfully resembles the scales of a mermaid. A tailed fringe adds to the effect, which is also accentuated by the twist of the train round the feet and ankles. A large black hat trimmed with feathers and a lace veil completes the toilette

Another remarkable dress worn by Mrs. Sothern is carried out effectively in black and white. The skirt is of white cloth with a lining of black faintly revealed at the hem. The exquisite jacket is of white lace, the long basques of which are split up back and front to beyond the waist, where they are held together by a folded band of emerald green. Black chiffon lines the white coat, and a large black and white hat is worn. In the final scene Mrs. Sothern wears the millinerie dernier cri, the chief trimming of which is wide, green satin ribbon, rosetted at the right side, and with ends falling the full length of the dress.

Very quaint is the gown worn in the first act by Miss Norma Whalley as Miss Olivia Vanderhide. In a new shade of pale brown the over-dress of lace in the same shade is only seamed on the shoulders, the side seams being laced together by heavy cords, finished with tassels. The hat is also brown.

Mr. Robert Arthur has arranged for an exceptionally powerful attraction at the Kennington Theatre next week, during which Mr. James Welch and Miss Audrey Ford, supported by the Wyndham's Theatre cast, will appear in *When Knights Were Bold*.

Miss Mabel Love received a warm welcome on her appearance at the Kennington Theatre on Monday in *Lady Frederick*. The huge audience on Monday thoroughly appreciated the fine acting of Miss Love and the company supporting her. It was the first visit of *Lady Frederick* to any theatre in the suburban area, and the result was yet another triumph for the Hutchison management.

At the matinée on Wednesday at the Lyric, Hammersmith, owing to Miss Neil being unwell, her part of Nellie Harborne in *Her Luck in London* was undertaken by Miss Florrie Groves, who displayed ability which should assure prominence in her profession in the future. The young actress's performance throughout was excellent, and Miss Groves received several curtains at the end of each act.

Mr. Wentworth Croke's studio at the Lyric, Hammersmith, where Mr. Harry Drury is principal artist, have just been given the work of providing the whole scenery of Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's new production, entitled *Wife and Kingdom*, which is to be toured in the coming spring.

Mr. Norman V. Norman and Miss Beatrice Wilson enjoyed great success in *Under the Red Robe* in Brighton last week. The theatre was filled with enthusiastic audiences, and both Mr. Norman and Miss Wilson were repeatedly called before the curtain, Miss Wilson being presented with a great number of bouquets and other floral gifts.

A special matinée is being generously given to-day (Saturday) at the Prince's Theatre, Preston, for the benefit of the Poor Children's Fund, under the patronage and presence of the Mayor of Preston and other influential citizens.

The Incorporated Stage Society is entering on its tenth season, and will shortly be able to celebrate its fiftieth production. At a meeting of the council just held the following have been appointed to the executive committee:—Messrs. H. A. Hertz, Charles Strachey, W. Lee Mathews, G. Bernard Shaw, and C. E. Wheeler; Miss Louise Salom and Mrs. Bernard Shaw, with Mr. W. Hector Thomson as honorary treasurer and Mr. Frederick Whelen as chairman. A programme for the ensuing season will shortly be issued. The secretary is Mr. A. E Drinkwater, of 9, Arundel-street, Strand.

Miss Alys Lorraine, a pupil of Marchesi and Jean de Reské, made a most successful début on the 5th inst at the Royal French Opera at the Hague, in *Faust*. Her interpretation of the rôle of Marguerite was a revelation, and she was called seven times before the curtain in the course of the evening. The American Minister at The Hague and other members of the diplomatic corps occupied boxes, and sent many baskets of flowers to the new prima donna. Miss Lorraine, who has a marvellous voice, has done a good deal of concert work in London, where she interpreted the works of various members of Royal families.

Mr. William Cartwright, the stage-manager of the Elephant and Castle Theatre, was complimented by Mr. Paul Taylor, the magistrate at Marlborough-street Police Court, on Wednesday, for his very plucky action in stopping a horse under circumstances which held a risk of great danger to himself. It appears that about a month ago Mr. Cartwright was in a cart which contained some articles of furniture which were being conveyed to Mr. Barnard's private house at Hampstead. While proceeding along the Finchley-road he saw approaching two motors, both going towards London. They were travelling at a very fast rate, in fact, the respective chauffeurs were racing each other. Mr. Cartwright mentioned to his own driver that he thought there would be an accident before the motors had gone very much further. On turning round a few seconds later, Mr. Cartwright saw that the rear motor had collided with a van thirty yards behind the cart in which he was seated. The van-driver was flung into the road, and his horse, thoroughly affrighted, dashed in full gallop towards Mr. Cartwright's vehicle. Mr. Cartwright jumped to the ground, hung on to the runaway horse's bridle, was dragged some fifteen yards, but succeeded in stopping the animal and taking it back to where its driver lay unconscious. The latter was somewhat badly injured, and was taken to a hospital. Mr. Cartwright escaped with slight injury to his knees. Mr. Paul Taylor, who, as already stated, complimented Mr. Cartwright upon his bravery, promised that a statement regarding it would be sent to the proper quarter. Mr. Cartwright, who is a sturdy, well-set-up young man of twenty-seven, is an all-round athlete. In 1903 he won a victory with the sculls over Ernest Barry, who succeeded in securing the English Sculling Championship last week. On that occasion Cartwright received two seconds from Barry, and beat him by a couple of lengths, which was equivalent to rowing him level and winning by a length and a half. Mr. Cartwright has also taken part in many prominent boxing and football contests.

The announcement by Mr. Charles Barnard, of the first production of Walter Melville's new play, entitled *The Beggar Girl's Wedding*, on Monday next should draw the popular young dramatist's admirers from all parts of the metropolis to the Elephant and Castle Theatre. It is intended to run *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* for a season, and the success of similar enterprises at the Standard Theatre, where a Melvillian drama has often enjoyed quite a long run, should be a good augury for the production in the south of London.

"The Beggar Girl's Wedding" unfolds in the Melvillian way a story of London life. The action takes place in various parts of the metropolis, but the last scene is laid at a cottage in a Sussex village. The production will be on an elaborate scale, special efforts being made to surpass in realism all previous representations on the stage of "The Thames Embankment by Night." Among other talented artists who have been selected by the author, the company will include the popular comedienne Miss Eva Dare (Mrs. Walter Melville) as Tina Torkington, Miss Olive Warnes as a fascinating society lady, Miss Vashti Wynne as the Beggar Girl, and Messrs. Herbert Morgan, Ellis J. Preston, and Otto Minster.

The new gowns introduced into the play of *Fanny and the Servant Problem* at the Aldwych are described as "pose" dresses. The tightness of the Directoire still remains, but by the novel arrangement of sash and trimming an altogether different effect is secured. In the first act Miss Fannie Ward wears a beautiful cloth gown in the new shade of shell-pink. Cut in the tight lines of the Directoire, it is redeemed from a too exclusive leaning to that mode by the buttoning of the right side, and the draping of the black, heavily fringed satin sash on the left. With the exception of the sash and two faint lines of black satin on the plain cloth sleeves, the gown is entirely of pink, as the chemisette and neck and sleeve frills are of shell-pink net. Over this delightful gown is thrown a sealskin cloak, and a sealskin "Mephistopheles" cap trimmed with pink feather is worn.

In the second act Miss Ward appears in a quaint mid-Victorian gown of black taffeta, draped across the front and bunched out over a bustle at the back. A wonderful effect is secured in the third act when the twenty other ladies in the cast appear simultaneously on the stage with Miss Ward. Of their dresses five are green, but they are so deftly arranged with the other shades that they form a beautiful mosaic of colour.

After successfully managing various musical enterprises on the continent, Colonel Mapleson has returned to England, and will resume his position as managing-director of Mapleson and Co., of which the London offices are at 47, Charing Cross-road. Mapleson and Co. have also opened a variety department at the above address which will be under the direction of Mr. J. D. McLaren, for many years manager of the Carl Rosa Opera Co., concert direction Daniel Mayer, and Mitchell's (now Ashton's) Royal Agency.

Derby is shortly to be provided with another temple of the drama, a syndicate having entered into preliminary arrangements to lease a site in Becketwell-lane for the erection of a new theatre. The site is the old house recently occupied by the National Telephone Company as an exchange.

The Moody-Manners Opera Company gave a concert at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on Wednesday afternoon, in aid of the City Distress Fund. The matinée was under the patronage and presence of the Lord Provost and magistrates, and an excellent and varied programme was sustained by the principals and chorus of the company, all of whom gave their services gratuitously.

Mr. S. Burton has severed his connection of nine years' standing with Messrs. Polini and Melford's *Silver King* company, to take up the duties of Resident-Manager of the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd., theatre at Rochdale.

Miss Pearl Noyle, who to-night (Saturday) concludes a seven and a half months' tour, playing Bett Watts in Tom H. Taylor's *Is Life Worth Living?* company, has been engaged to play Peggy in Mr. Andrew Melville's *The Diver's Luck* company.

Miss Constance Elgin has been re-engaged by Miss Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow to create the part of Jovita de Sutro in their new production of *At Roaring Camp* at Ipswich. Miss Elgin has previously played Cigarette in *Under Two Flags*, Antoinette de Mauban in *The Prisoner of Zenda*, and Dynamite Ann in *Cripple Creek*, under the same management.

The Lord Provost of Glasgow (Sir William Bilsland, Bart.) and the Magistrates of the city have accepted an invitation from Mr. Arthur Jefferson, on behalf of the Metropole Theatre directorate, and Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren (of the *Claudian* company) to be present at a special matinée performance of that play during the week of the 26th inst., the entire proceeds of which will be handed over to his Lordship's unemployed fund. Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren and the members of their company have generously volunteered their services; the executors of the late Wilson Barrett have agreed to forego their fees; and the city printers, bill-posting firms, the various tradesmen concerned, and the Metropole staff in all departments, have "joined hands" in the good cause.

Miss Mouillot, the new lessee of the Court Theatre, will introduce Mr. F. D. Bone, the author of the clever one-act play *Pride of Regiment*, as the writer of a three-act piece in conjunction with Mr. William Shore. The new drama is called *Isaac's Wife*, and deals with civil and military life in the Far East. Its production is fixed for Sunday, Dec. 6.

Mr. J. Fisher White will discourse on "The Actor's Art" to the Playgoers' Club in the Medici Hall of the Hotel Cecil to-morrow (Sunday) evening. The chair will be taken by Mrs. Tree.

The Council of the British Academy have made arrangements with Mr. William Poel to give his production of *Samson Agonistes* before the members and their friends on the occasion of the Milton Tercentenary next December.

"Lady Epping's Lawsuit" at the Criterion now begins at nine o'clock. On Wednesday next Mr. H. H. Davies's comedy will be preceded by a new one-act play, entitled *The Burglar Who Failed*, by Mr. St. John Hankin, author of *The Return of the Prodigal* and *Charity that Began at Home*. The parts in the new playlet will be sustained by Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk, Miss Elfrida Clement, and Miss Kate Wingfield.

At the Penrith Police Court on the 6th inst. the application was renewed on behalf of Mr. Wilson Stacey for a licence for a portable theatre at Penrith. Mr. Stacey said he asked for a licence for six months. He had submitted plans of the proposed building to the Urban Council, and he had the consent in writing of the Council. Mr. H. Graham opposed on behalf of the Copyright Protection Association, and cross-questioned the applicant with regard to his alleged unauthorised performances of *The Silver King* (which it was stated was a misprint for *The Silver Ring*), *The New Magdalen*, *Two Little Vagabonds*, and other plays. For the applicant it was contended that if the copyrights had been infringed, it was the duty of the owners to proceed in the proper way. After a consultation in private the magistrates refused the licence.

The Crystal Palace Theatre will next week have a potent attraction in Hubert Henry Davies' clever comedy *The Mollusc*, with Miss Annie Hughes in the title-rôle. The talented comedienne will enjoy strong artistic support in Miss Lilias Waldegrave, Mr. Athol Stewart, and Mr. Alick Chumley.

Mme. Adelina Patti will make one of her rare appearances in London during next month. The celebrated diva has promised to sing at Father Bernard Vaughan's charity concert, to be held at the Albert Hall on Wednesday evening, Nov. 4.

The visits of the Moody-Manners Opera Company to the Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, are invariably looked forward to by the numerous patrons of this magnificent building. Middlesbrough has always been one of Mr. Manners' strongholds, and the seventh visit during a period of five years of the principal combination is being eagerly welcomed. The capital programme of operas selected includes *Aida* and Wagner's *Meistersinger*.

At the first of the Symphony Concerts at Queen's Hall this afternoon Sir Edward Elgar will conduct the second of his suites from *The Wand of Youth* (which was produced last month at the Worcester Festival). M. Ysaye will also be in the programme, and will play Beethoven's Concerto and a Concerto Grosso of Corelli.

Mr. Wentworth Croke has arranged with the Moody-Manners Opera Company to give a flying matinée of *Madame Butterfly* at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, on Friday, Oct. 30.

Competitions for two scholarships at the Royal Academy of Music will take place next month, and three others will be decided early in January. Two of the Ada Lewis Scholarships for tenors and basses or baritones respectively will be competed for on Thursday, Nov. 5. Competitions for the Macfarren Scholarship for musical composition will take place on Friday, Jan. 8, and those for the George Mence Smith Scholarship (for male vocalists) and for the Sainton Scholarship for promise in violin-playing will be held on or about the same date. Forms of entry, with full particulars, are obtainable on application to the secretary.

Miss Evelyn Millard is negotiating for another theatre to continue the run of *Idols* at the conclusion of her tenancy at the Garrick Theatre on Jan. 31.

Mr. W. Yates Gregory has taken over the Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury, which he intends running in conjunction with the Palace Theatre, Wrexham.

A novelty in the way of "curtain-raisers" is furnished at the New Theatre, where *Bellamy the Magnificent* is now preceded by selections on the harp by Miss Winifred Hemming. The harp is an instrument out of which much harmonious effect may be gained, and Miss Hemming's accomplished art enables her to produce sweet strains that ravish the ear. The audience on Thursday evening, when the talented performer began her engagement, took great delight in her selections.

Mr. William Lockhart wishes to direct attention to the fact that, although he has no permanent address, his whereabouts will always be found in the avertising columns of *The Era*.

The performance of Mrs. Madge Carr Cook and her company at the Theatre Royal, Bolton, have aroused the enthusiasm of audiences there. Repeated calls have been bestowed on the artists, and it is safe to say that Mrs. Wiggs and her cabbage patch will live long in the memories of Bolton playgoers.

"The Belle of the Ball," which was produced at Southport in July, will be introduced to London on Monday at the Crown Theatre, Peckham. Miss Violet Osmund's company, under the direction of Mr. Alex. Loftus, will present the musical comedy, which is founded upon the fairy story "Cinderella." A strong cast is headed by the popular comedian Mr. Johnnie Schofield, who will be supported by such well-known artists as Mr. Robert Hyatt, Mr. Charles Adeson, Mr. W. E. Clewd, Mr. E. A. Bertram, Miss Gertrude Melville, and Miss Florence Watson. The chorus numbers over forty voices, and the orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. J. W. Rogers, will be augmented.

Miss Vashti Wynne, after a lengthy tour of the music halls, is returning to the theatres, having been engaged by Mr. Walter Melville for lead in the production of *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* at the Elephant and Castle on Monday.

The F. R. Benson Shakespearean Company (North) produced *Faust* on the 9th inst. at the Knightstone Pavilion, Weston-super-Mare, before a large and enthusiastic audience. The mounting of the play was very effective. Mr. Henry Herbert, who was responsible for the production, also distinguished himself in the rôle of Mephistopheles. Mr. Bernard Lupus was the Faust, and made a fine impression, being particularly good in the scene on the Brocken. Miss Gladys Vanderzee made a very charming Marguerite in the first part of the play, and was powerful and convincing in the exacting Prison scene. The rest of the acting was on a high level, and met with well-deserved praise at the hands of the audience, the calls being numerous and enthusiastic.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Miss Allan and Royalty.

THE story of Miss Maud Allan's appearance before King Edward at Marienbad in May, 1907, is told by her in her just published autobiography. But her greatest triumph was reserved for London this spring. "How plainly it all comes back to me! How clearly I seem to hear her Majesty's voice as taking hold of my hand she said: 'How beautiful your dancing is. It has given me real delight!' It all happened one night after my usual appearance at the theatre. It was after a dinner given in honour of their Majesties by the Earl and Countess of Dudley. The beautiful ballroom, in its white and gold splendour, was radiant with beautiful women and sparkling gems. One end had been reserved for me, and with a background of masses of smilax and La France roses I felt as though I had been transported to Fairyland! I looked with quivering heart and tears in my eyes at all the wondrous beauty of my surroundings, and calling upon the fairies to support and guide me—danced as I have never danced before! When I had finished I saw the King and Queen applauding—I grew dizzy with joy, and I could have kissed the hem of her garment. When Lady Dudley came to me with a message that the Queen would receive me, London held at that moment no happier girl—England's Queen, ever young, ever charitable, had recognised my efforts to give something beautiful to the world, and I was now to hear it from her own dear lips. I have heard it and rejoice!" How much depends on the way in which it is done and on the genius of the individual artist is shown by the recent reception of a lady dancer at a theatre in a provincial town, where the "gods" hailed her appearance with "Go home and put your clothes on!"

An Odd Advertisement.

"ONE afternoon, in the course of my season at the Haymarket," writes Mr. Charles Brookfield, "a magnificent carriage and pair drove up to the stage-door, and a message was brought to me that I was wanted. I went out, and found Gillie Farquhar in the Duke of Beaufort's carriage. He had called to ask me if I would play for his 'benefit,' which was shortly to take place at the Gaiety Theatre. I told him I would play for him, but that I should charge him for my services, as I didn't see why anyone who had been such a short time on the stage, and who had rich relatives, should have a 'benefit.' During this conversation I noticed two or three of the stage hands appeared to be closely admiring, as well they might, the beautiful japanning of his Grace's equipage, but I did not suspect how they were actually employed. All the workmen in the theatre used to carry variegated gummed labels about 10 inches in circumference bearing the legend 'Haymarket Theatre. Mr. Charles Brookfield's Summer Season—*Evergreen*—To-night!' which they would idly stick on to lamp-posts and palings and counters. When Gillie called out to the Duke's coachman, 'Twice round the park and then home!' and the splendid pair of horses bounded down Suffolk-street, I discovered that my faithful employees had covered the back of the carriage with these gaudy announcements. That night we had quite a distinguished audience.

A Tree-ian Hoax.

"ONE summer's night in 1888," says the same genial raconteur, "Comyns Carr and Tree and I had been dining together, and as we walked up the Haymarket soon after ten o'clock we noticed a very trifling conflagration on the terrace of the old Her Majesty's Opera House. Someone had opened the theatre with a season of promenade concerts, and the balcony above the principal entrance was tastefully laid out with grottos and palms in pots, and illuminated with coloured lights, so that an imaginative Londoner could sit there and smoke, and fancy himself miles away—say at Rosherville Gardens. Somehow or other, a Chinese lantern had set alight to an eightpenny plant, to the great alarm of a sentimental couple who were sharing a glass of shandy-gaff close at hand. But a waiter soon extinguished the blaze by a few adroit flicks of his napkin. However, Comyns Carr decided that this was a matter to be inquired into, so we buttoned our overcoats up to our chins, with a vague idea of giving ourselves an official appearance, and walked up to the check-taker.

"'WE'VE called respecting that outbreak of fire on the terrace at 10.15,' said Carr to the man, in a confidential yet authoritative undertone. 'I presume you'll let us pass quietly, without obliging us to exercise our authority?' 'Otherwise——' exclaimed Tree impetuously, clutching at some imaginary object in his inside breast-pocket. 'Sh-sh, mate!' said Carr. 'Gently does it! Give the chap a chance. He seems an orderly, well-conducted man.' 'I've nothing about him in my notes,' said I. We had by this time telepathically cast ourselves—Carr as a kind of inspector, Tree as an utterly impossible Gaboriau detective, and myself as a sort of nondescript *mouchard*.

"THE check-taker turned rather pale. 'Are you from—the police?' he inquired, in a rather awe-stricken tone. 'From the Yard,' said Tree, in a metallic voice. 'If you'll kindly step this way,' said the man. 'I'll fetch the manager.' 'If you please,' said Carr. 'And it is my duty to inform you that anything you say will be taken down in writing, and altered and used against you at your trial.' We were soon on the terrace, interrogating couples and cross-examining waiters. Tree turned to me, and said in an audible aside: 'Corky! twice down the terrace and report!'

"WHEN I got back, the manager was begging that we would all come to his room and take a glass of wine, and Carr was taking impressions of the waiter's thumbs in his pocket-book by means of a piece of burnt cork. There was tall rockery covered with ferns near where we stood. Tree now advanced to it, and pulled out a large, jagged piece of rock, which proved to be a kind of corner-stone, for the whole structure fell in fragments on to the tessellated pavement. 'Why, what's that for?' inquired the astonished manager. Tree nodded his head two or three times mysteriously, then slipped the stone into his side-pocket, and ejaculated in sepulchral tones, 'Analysis!' It was not until nine years later that he took the rest of the theatre."

A Fire Alarm.

IN the course of an interview last week Mr. Ernest Shand related an amusing experience connected with his first appearance on the stage. "My first appearance," said Mr. Shand, "was at the Theatre Royal, Exeter, in *Formosa*. I was only a youngster, and my part was what is known as a 'thinking' one. I yearned for an opportunity to shine in a speaking part, and when, to my delight, I discovered that one man did not appreciate the honour of having entrusted to him the duty of imparting to the hero the weighty intelligence that 'the house was on fire!' I squared him with twopence to allow me to impart the news. When the time came I rushed on the stage, but the sea of faces before me put the fire right out, and I stood rooted to the spot with my mouth open. The hero waited a reasonable—or, as he put it afterwards, in his coarse way, a 'blank unreasonable'—time, and then said, 'I suppose you have come to say that the house is on fire.' Covered with confusion, I crept off the stage—a sadder and wiser youngster."

"LADY EPPING'S LAWSUIT."

A Satirical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Hubert Henry Davies, produced at the Criterion Theatre, on Monday, Oct. 12.

Countess of Epping ..... MISS MARY MOORE
Lady Lucy Lister ..... MISS ELFRIDA CLEMENT
Lady Beacroft ..... MISS ANNE CLEAVER
Mrs. Paul Hughes ..... MISS GRACE LANE
Miss Olivia Vanderhide .. MISS NORMA WHALLEY
Miss Berengaria Mortimer .. MRS. SAM SOTHERN
Miss Ferris ..... MISS FRANCES VINE
Earl of Epping ..... MR JOHN TOKE
Lord Oswald Bruce-Bannerman ..... MR. WALTER PEARCE
Mr. Justice Wray ..... MR. ERIC LEWIS
Mr. Craven, K.C. ..... MR. BERTE THOMAS
Mr. Clinton Perry .. MR. FERDINAND GOTTSCHALK
Mr. Paul Hughes ..... MR. SAM SOTHERN
Rev. Dr. Gull ..... MR. COOPER
Mr. Hickory ..... MR. ARTHUR HARE
Mr. Pearson ..... MR. REGINALD BESANT
Henry ..... MR. LAWRENCE WHITE
Associate ..... MR. THOMAS BRAIDON
Usher ..... MR. TOOSE

Mr. Hubert Henry Davies has demanded a good deal of Miss Mary Moore in asking her to carry on her own shoulders the responsibility of the success or failure of his new piece. In *The Mollusc*, Miss Moore's part was one of four which were almost equally interesting. In *Lady Epping's Lawsuit*, Miss Moore carries out the old operatic idea of "myself and a few puppets." Lady Epping is the be-all and end-all of the piece. Her husband, her innocent lover, and her friends are people of little or no importance. It was a great testimony to Miss Moore's powers and to the author's wit and humour that the piece was as favourably received as it was at the Criterion on Monday.

The story is slight. The Countess of Epping is affected by a mania for play-writing, and has entered into an alliance, for purposes of collaboration, with a dramatic author called Paul Hughes. The acquaintanceship has developed into a flirtation which Lady Epping, a fashionable, superficial, and cheerfully flighty personage, encourages for her amusement, but which Hughes takes more seriously than is well for his peace of mind or that of his wife. The first act is taken up with establishing this situation. In the second, Paul presses his suit, and, when repelled by the Countess, tells her bluntly that he is tired of being played with. Either he will earn the reputation of being her successful lover, or he will have an affectionate wife and a well-ordered home—"one or the other." Lady Epping is, as usual, artful and elusive; and there is a capital little comedy scene in which, when Mrs. Hughes comes to reproach the Countess with "carrying on" with Paul, her ladyship turns off the attack by pretending to think that Mrs. Hughes has called to express her repentance for a flirtation with Lord Oswald Bruce-Bannerman. But all other ideas are extruded from Lady Epping's not very capacious mind by the discovery, which she fancies that she has made, that Hughes has stolen the plot of one of her plays and used it for one of his own. She vows that she will go to law; and she does so, telephoning to her solicitor at the end of the second act.

The third takes place in a Court of Justice, arranged on the scale of completeness which we expect nowadays, with a trial which is eminently realistic and absurd. The judge is a personal friend of Lady Epping's; and she impairs the gravity of the case by addressing him familiarly on the bench. The trial is carried out in a manner which might be called farcical were it not that its absurdity may be paralleled every day in the Law Courts. The sparrings of the counsel, the portentous insistence on trifles, the personal feeling and amusing bias exhibited are rather comic than fantastic. A dramatic point is reached when Hughes' counsel, in order to prove *animus*, puts in a very compromising letter which Lady Epping wrote to Paul in carrying on their flirtation. The Countess is in despair. "Snatch it!" she whispers to her counsel, but he has not daring enough for such a deed. In the end, Lady Epping is put into the witness-box, and innocently asks to be allowed to read out the letter herself. When she gets it into her hands she calmly substitutes in her reading an innocent invitation to dinner for the assignation which the note contained, and, as if absently, tears the document into little bits. The Judge, who knows what was in it, is, ostensibly at any rate, indignant, and he signs an order for Lady Epping's committal to the cells. But this is cancelled when she protests her innocence of any evil intent, and withdraws her case, throwing all the blame upon her discomfited counsel. The judge brings down the curtain with a few words of sober advice to playwriting fine ladies and dramatists with a taste for smart society.

Miss Mary Moore is inimitable in characters of the class to which the Countess of Epping belongs; and those who are familiar with the perfect "style," absolute certainty of definition, and the curious mixture of charm and silliness which she manages to suggest in her comedy performances, can imagine how she revels in portraying the feather-headed but quick-witted woman of fashion. The sketch really contains a very clever observation of life, and a subtler analysis than one expects in a piece of this kind. No one else in the cast has any great opportunity of distinction; but, so far as they go, all the subordinate characters are played with marvellous neatness, skill, and finish. Mr. Sam Sothern, whose speciality is the depiction of slightly-puzzled, well-meaning honest men, is as good as ever as the much-worried Paul Hughes; and a strikingly refined and intelligent exposition of the rôle of Mrs. Paul Hughes is supplied by Miss Grace Lane, whom one is always glad to see on a West-End stage. Judges in Court have always some chance of "scoring"; and Mr. Eric Lewis is very droll in his clear and quiet way as Mr. Justice Wray. The two Counsel are actively and amusingly embodied by Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk and Mr. Berte Thomas; and Mrs. Sam Sothern supplies a broadly-marked suggestion of a "gushing" society actress. The remaining characters are well dressed and groomed, and serve their purpose of "furnishing the stage." Miss Elfrida Clement depicts Lady Lucy Lister with a delicate flavour of affectation; and Miss Norma Whalley is acceptable and agreeable as Miss Olivia Vanderhide. Miss Anne Cleaver does satisfactory work as Lady Beacroft; and Miss Frances Vine deserves credit for her sound and careful performance as Miss Ferris. Mr. John Toke as Earl of Epping does useful and careful work; Mr. Walter Pearce is firm, easy, and unimpeachably correct as Lord Oswald Bruce-Bannerman; and Mr. Toosé, remarkably well made up, is soberly effective as the Usher. Mr. Cooper is efficient as the Rev. Dr. Gull; and Mr. Arthur Hare and Mr. Reginald Besant are commendable representatives of Mr. Hickory and Mr. Pearson; Mr. Lawrence White being an excellent exponent of the young and inexperienced servant Henry; and Mr. Thomas Braidon making a natural and reposeful Associate. The play is dressed and mounted with the utmost liberality and taste.

"FANNY AND THE SERVANT PROBLEM."

Play, in Four Acts, by Jerome K. Jerome, produced at the Aldwych Theatre on Wednesday, Oct. 14.

Fanny ..... MISS FANNIE WARD
Vernon Wetherell, Lord Bantock ..... MR. LESLIE FABER
Martin Bennet ..... MR. CHAS. CARTWRIGHT
Susannah Bennet ..... MISS KATE PHILLIPS
Jane Bennet ..... MISS ALMA MURRAY
Ernest Bennet ..... MR. BENEDICT
Honoria Bennet ..... MISS MABEL GARDEN
The Misses Wetherell ..... MISS ADELA MEASOR, MISS CARLOTTA ADDISON
Dr. Freemantle ..... MR. CHAS. SUGDEN

OUR EMPIRE.

England ..... MISS ESMÉ BERINGER
Scotland ..... MISS JEAN HARKNESS
Ireland ..... MISS BARBARA VIVIAN
Wales ..... MISS LYDIA FLOPP
Canada ..... MISS MARGARET HASTINGS
Australia ..... MISS MIRIAM MINER
New Zealand ..... MISS VERA BERINGER
Africa ..... MISS MAY STRAKER
India ..... MISS MARION ASHLEY
Newfoundland ..... MISS PATSY MCCULLOCH
Malay Archipelago .... MISS STEWART DAWSON
Straits Settlements ..... MISS DAISY MARKHAM
Geo. P. Newte ..... MR. JOHN W. DEAN

A recent phenomenon is the resurgence of Mr. Jerome K. Jerome as a dramatist. His play *The Passing of the Third Floor Back* is doing remarkably well at the St. James's, and there is much amusing matter in the "quite possible" comedy which Miss Fannie Ward, under the ægis of Mr. Charles Frohman, offered to an expectant audience at the Aldwych on Wednesday. Servants are beginning to play quite an important part in contemporary drama; but Mr. Jerome's title is a little misleading. It is not the "servant problem" as we understand it which is the question to be considered, but how Fanny Bennet, a young and pretty music-hall artist who has married into the aristocracy, will get out of difficulties arising from her relationships. In a fine old hall in Rutlandshire we see, when the curtain rises, two elderly ladies expecting the arrival of their nephew, Vernon Wetherell, Lord Bantock, and his newly-married wife. Knowing that she has been on the stage, the aunts are a little anxious as to how she will suit her new surroundings. Not that the kind-hearted creatures would be very critical; but they are under the influence of their servants, who all belong to the same family, which has served the Wetherells for three successive generations. The butler is especially authoritative in a heavy, pompous, ceremonious way; and, as he is a stern religionist, he nails up "improving" texts in her ladyship's bedroom. Lord Bantock and his bride arrive, and are warmly received by the aunts; but Lady Bantock has a shock when she recognises in the butler her own uncle, and in the rest of the servants her near relations. The butler announces his intention of holding his tongue, and at the same time "training" his niece to fill the position she has attained by marriage.

Fanny telegraphs for her late business-manager, Mr. Geo. P. Newte, to come down to the Hall, and, when he arrives, has an explanation with him. It seems that when Lord Bantock asked Newte about his intended wife's connections Newte invented a bishop and a judge on the spur of the moment, so that Lord Bantock has no idea of her real origin. Innocent of any desire to deceive, Fanny is at first for making a clean breast of it to her husband; but Newte persuades her to let matters remain as they are and to "put her foot down." The visit to the Hall of a party of lively young ladies from the variety stage gives Lady Bantock an opportunity of exerting her authority, and she obliges the butler and his subordinates to wait upon the girls, who depart noisy, delighted, and refreshed. The situation, however, is too strained to endure; and, at the end of the second act, Fanny writes a cheque for two months' wages for the whole gang of domestics in lieu of notice, and hands it to the housekeeper, after confessing to her husband and his aunts her relationship to the household, and expressing her sorrow that her uncle and his family should have driven her to take this step. All now depends on the generosity and fairness of Lord Bantock, which, fortunately, stands the test. He confesses that, had he known exactly the state of the case, he would have hesitated before marrying Fanny; but, as things are, he is proud of having won her. In the last act matters are arranged without the necessity of the butler leaving the service of the family. Appealed to by Fanny, who says she will only retain her position as Lady Bantock if her uncle approves, the great Bennet melts, and consents to sanction the union, and continue to be her domestic.

Miss Fannie Ward is generally clever enough to choose for herself a part which is within her powers, and her prettiness, vivacity, and the ring of genuine feeling in her voice do the rest. On Wednesday, wearing some very becoming frocks, and one—an early Victorian silk gown with an "improver," which belonged to Lord Bantock's late mother—which was extremely odd and quaint, she won all hearts by her free, warm-hearted, and impulsive acting as Fanny. Her depiction of anger and irritation was very natural and telling; and in the more sentimental scenes she hit the right note exactly. Miss Ward has added another to her list of successes. A strong and steady embodiment of the rôle of Martin Bennet was supplied by Mr. Charles Cartwright, whose sonorous tones and portentously self-important bearing made the butler a very prominent and memorable personage. Two exquisitely artistic portraitures of amiable elderly ladies were supplied by Miss Adela Measor and Miss Carlotta Addison, who made a very sweet and charming couple; and Mr. John W. Dean, as the business-manager, gave a character-sketch in which much droll comedy was mingled with a little deep and genuine feeling. Miss Kate Phillips bore herself perfectly well as the housekeeper; Miss Alma Murray gave a clever rendering of the rôle of Jane Bennet; and Miss Mabel Garden hit off neatly the characteristics of Honoria; Mr. Charles Sugden, as a kind of medical "chorus" or friend of the family, acting with his usual mellow repose and crisp sagacity. Amongst the dozen variety ladies who invaded the scene in the second act it is not easy to choose or distinguish; but Miss Esmé Beringer, Miss Lydia Flopp, and Miss Vera Beringer were all equal to their opportunities. *Fanny and the Servant Problem* went with a laugh throughout, and had a very friendly and favourable reception. The single scene was an excellent example of the extent to which modern stage furnishing and arrangement can be carried.

"SEXTON BLAKE" is paying a visit to the Royalty Theatre and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness. Mr. Horace Hunter in the title-rôle is extremely effective, and Mr. Brian Daly is a clever Farmer Blackburn; Mr. Wm. Felton is an admirable Roger Blackburn, and Mr. Stephen Nicholls a fine Squire Lovell; Mr. Charles East is a sufficiently villainous Randolph Lovell, and Miss Lily Hammersley makes a sweet Marjorie Lovell, while Miss Lena Delphine is well suited as Euphemia Pattacake.

"THE LYONS MAIL."

The Play, in Three Acts, adapted by Charles Reade from *Le Courrier de Lyon*, by MM. Moreau Siraudin and Delacour, revived at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Thursday, Oct. 15.

Joseph Lesurques ..... } MR. H. B. IRVING
Dubosc ..... }
Courriol ..... MR. ERIC MAXON
Choppard ..... MR. CHAS. DODSWORTH
Fouinard ..... MR. TOM REYNOLDS
Durochat ..... MR. NORMAN MACOWAN
Jerome Lesurques ..... MR. FRANK TYARS
Dorval ..... MR. FRANK COCHRANE
Didier ..... MR. FRANK RANDELL
Joliquet ..... MR. ARTHUR CURTIS
Guerneau ..... MR. STANLEY HOWLETT
Lambert ..... MR. J. PATRICK CURWEN
Postmaster of Montgeron .... MR. B. A. PITTAR
Coco ..... MR. H. R. COOK
Commissary of Police ..... MR. W. GRAHAM
Postillion ..... MR. W. CASS
Guard ..... MR. GEO. SILVER
Waiter ..... MR. S. BEAUMONT
Julie ..... MISS PHYLLIS EMBURY
Marie ..... MISS MAY HOLLAND
Niece to Postmaster .. MISS E. FRANCIS DAVIS
Janette ..... MISS DOROTHEA BAIRD

The circumstances attending the late Sir Henry Irving's famous revival of *The Lyons Mail* at the Lyceum in 1877 have been completely stated by Mr. Austin Brereton in his "Life of Henry Irving." The play in which these two characters are introduced is, as most people are aware, founded on fact. In 1796, an innocent man, Joseph Lesurques, was condemned to the guillotine for a murder committed by a notorious captain of a band of robbers, Dubosc, whom he had the misfortune to resemble in appearance. The truth came to light too late for a reprieve, and the unhappy man was executed. Four years after this deplorable miscarriage of justice the real criminal was discovered and guillotined. There is still to be seen in the cemetery of Père la Chaise a simple white marble monument bearing this pathetic epitaph: "A la mémoire de Joseph Lesurques, victime de la plus déplorable des erreurs humains, 31 Octobre, 1796. Sa veuve et ses enfants, martyrs tous deux sur la terre, tous deux sont réunis au ciel." The remarkable trial furnished the groundwork of *Le Courrier de Lyon*, a drama by MM. Moreau, Siraudin, and Delacour, first represented at the Théâtre de la Gaîté, Paris, on March 16, 1850, with M. Lacressonière in the dual rôle of Lesurques and Dubosc. The dramatists had the express sanction of the descendants and heirs of Joseph Lesurques for the use of that unhappy man's name. The drama was soon transplanted to England. On March 10, 1851, it was acted at the Standard Theatre, and on June 26, 1854, it was represented at the Princess's Theatre, with Charles Kean in the double character. Charles Reade's adaptation—as arranged for the Princess's—was used for the revival of the drama at the Lyceum. The title used at the Lyceum was given to the piece by Mr. J. W. Clark, of the Cambridge A.D.C.

The Lyons Mail depends very largely for its success on the special ability of the impersonator of Lesurques and Dubosc. But it is one of those plays which must be acted well by all concerned in its production. The following was the cast of Sir Henry Irving's revival:—Joseph Lesurques, Mr. Henry Irving; Dubosc, Mr. Henry Irving; Jerome Lesurques, Mr. T. Mead; Didier, Mr. E. H. Brooke; Joliquet, Miss Lydia Howard; M. Dorval, Mr. F. Tyars; Lambert, Mr. Louther; Guerneau, Mr. Glyndon; Postmaster at Montgeron, Mr. Collett; Coco, Mr. Branscombe; Garçon at Café, Mr. Tapping; Guard, Mr. Harwood; Postillion, Mr. Allen; Courriol, Mr. R. C. Lyons; Choppard, Mr. Huntley; Fouinard, Mr. J. Archer; Durochat, Mr. Helps; Julie, Miss Virginia Francis; Jeannette, Miss Isabel Bateman. There were troubles on the first night to add to the anxieties of the chief actor. Someone had thought it wise to do away with the customary farce which eked out a short programme, the result being that the performance ended at the unusual hour of ten o'clock. This was too much for the occupants of the pit and gallery at the Lyceum production, and Irving had to do his best to pacify the irate members. Calls were made for Mr. Reade, calls were made for Mr. Irving, appeals were made for a speech, and, at one time, there seemed a likelihood of a debate on the relative value of farces persistently put up at the Lyceum. But Mr. Irving, with commendable diplomacy, elected to refer the matter to the management. And the Press advised Mrs. Bateman that the prices charged for admission were such that an entertainment of greater length was required. These prices, it may be noted, were somewhat less than those which now prevail: dress circle, 5s.; upper circle, 3s.; pit, 2s.; gallery, 1s. The stalls which, in the previous year, were 7s., had now been raised to 10s. Despite the trials of the first night, *The Lyons Mail* made a great hit, and it ran until the end of the season.

Mr. H. B. Irving achieved a great personal success as Joseph Lesurques and Dubosc at the Shaftesbury on Thursday. All the points in the two characters which were emphasised by the father were well and ably developed by the son. He did full justice to the refined and elevated character of Joseph Lesurques, and developed with care and effect the smallest details of the sordid degradation of Dubosc. The intensity of his acting in the stronger passages was very great, and he constantly reminded us of his illustrious parent in method, accent, and appearance. The completeness of his triumph was proved by the scene of enthusiasm which took place at the conclusion of the performance. Mr. Irving was called with an earnestness that would not be denied, and, after a prolonged scene of enthusiasm, was forced to say a few words. He confined himself to hoping that he had made the play interesting, both to those to whom it was new and to those who were familiar with it in the old days at the Lyceum. The answer was a cry of "You have!" Mr. H. B. Irving had valuable support from a strong and well-chosen company. Mr. Eric Maxon was capital as Courriol; and Mr. Charles Dodsworth, Mr. Tom Reynolds, and Mr. Norman MacOwan supplied very graphic and grotesque representations of the other members of the rascally robber gang. A very fine reading of the rôle of Jerome Lesurques was contributed by that sound and experienced actor Mr. Frank Tyars. It was a performance which had all the mellow thoroughness of the old Lyceum school, and it touched the audience deeply. Mr. Frank Cochrane gave a careful and very satisfactory performance as Dorval, and Didier was really well played by Mr. Frank Randell. Miss Phyllis Embury charmed the audience completely, and was decidedly pleasing and intelligent as Julie. She showed marked talent, and created a very favourable impression. Miss Dorothea Baird was very acceptable and agreeable as Janette, and all the minor rôles had careful and competent representatives.

The Lyons Mail was preceded by the play in one act by Miss Cicely Hamilton entitled

"THE SERGEANT OF HUSSARS."

Joseph Arnault ..... MR. GEORGE SILVER
Voisin ..... MR. FRANK COCHRANE
Jeanne ..... MISS DOROTHEA BAIRD

This little play was first performed at the Theatre in Bedford-street, under the auspices of the Play Actors, on June 23 last year. It is a strong, bitter, and sensational sketch, with a powerful part for the representative of Jeanne, the French peasant girl who has been seduced by a soldier. She is sought, with honourable motives, by the honest and affectionate Joseph Arnault; and when she learns that her seducer is a married man, she resolves, in her wrath, to give the signal which will cause him to visit her, so that he shall be shot by Arnault. When the moment comes, however, she cannot bring herself to permit the murder; and she is shot dead in the attempt to prevent it. Miss Dorothea Baird played Jeanne with much earnestness and ability, and a handsome bouquet was thrown to her at the end of her performance. She had excellent support from Mr. George Silver, who gave a strong and effective interpretation of the rôle of Joseph Arnault, and by Mr. Frank Cochrane, who was clever and characteristic as the third personage of the play.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"EROTIK,"

Satirical Comedy, in Three Acts, by Gustav Wied, Produced at the Berliner Theatre, Oct. 9.

Spag ..... HERR SABO
Kraft ..... HERR BOLZ
Fix ..... HERR MEINHARD
Petersen ..... FRAULEIN GERNOD
Jörensen ..... FRAULEIN DORA
Jensen ..... FRAULEIN SEELIGER
Rasmus ..... HERR HOFFMANN
Inger ..... FRAULEIN WALLDORF
Handlanger des Gesetzes ..... HERR NESSLER

BERLIN, THURSDAY, OCT. 15.—The almost unprecedented success accorded to the Danish playwright's comedy *Zwei mal Zwei ist Fünf* (*Twice Two is Five*) naturally caused the demand for tickets for the new production to be very great, and there was not a vacant seat in the house. There were two pieces in the bill, both by Wied, and *Ein Erinnerungsfest*, an act in four rooms—as the author terms it—served as curtain-raiser. Unfortunately, there is little to be said in favour of either, beyond some pretty dialogue and one or two very well-drawn characters, and for the first time under the new management at the Berliner (MM. Meinhard and Bernauer) some hisses were intermingled with the applause. The first piece depicts, with the aid of the new revolving stage, the reminiscences of the husband and the lover of a deceased lady. The husband is a coarse countryman, who lives for the indulgence of his material senses—we see him eating like a pig—and whose grief is only skin-deep; the lover is a cynical, blasé aristocrat. After a while the talk, and especially the jokes, about the dead woman become worse than monotonous, and the piece will never become popular. In *Erotik* the chief amusement is caused by an amateur matrimonial agent named Fix (admirably acted by Herr Meinhard), who, to cover his own sins, couples everyone together. Spag and Kraft are two farmers who wed Petersen and Jörensen, their housekeepers, one because she has saved money, the other for another reason. This is the whole plot, and only the author's characteristic humour—which, however, is sparsely distributed this time—saves the piece. Both plays were exceedingly well acted, and author and artist were "called."

Two Italian companies are with us at present, and though both are excellent, the business is the reverse of good. This is especially the case with the famous Sicilian actor Grasso at the Gastspiel Theatre (formerly known as the Wolzagen); the position in the east of the city is about as unfavourable as possible for an undertaking of this kind, and the foreign guests are playing to almost empty houses. The plays produced are highly dramatic; indeed, blood-and-thunder pieces would describe them more accurately. One solitary comedy, or satirical parody upon the volks-play *Zolfara*, delighted the small and happy portion of the audience that understood it.

AT the Neues Signora Mimi Aguglia is giving a season of Italian tragedy. Her acting is very fine, and she is well supported. On alternate nights Clyde Fitch's four-act comedy *Wahrheit* (German by B. Pogson) is running successfully.

"DER KOLONIALSKANDAL," the new farce by Herren von Zobeltitz and von Metsch, met with a very cordial reception at the New Schauspielhaus. There is not much of a plot, the main idea being the sending of an up-to-date young journalist to the German colonies to discover (in the interests of his paper) a scandal at any price. The fun is, however, quite as good as in many other farces, and it is a matter of surprise that the piece has been—temporarily, at least—removed from the bill.

THE Schliersee peasant company, with its clever artists, is doing well at the New Royal Opera (Krolls). On Tuesday night the Kaiser was present at a performance of the merry volks-play, *Der Paragraphenschuster*, and visibly enjoyed it. At the close of the evening His Majesty sent for Xaver Terofal—the actor of the name-part and general-manager—and expressed his warm appreciation of both the play and the interpretation.

PUCCINI'S *Bohème* has been revived at the Royal Opera, and, under Kapellmeister Blech's leadership, left little, orchestrally speaking, to be desired. Miss Farrar as Mimi was not altogether satisfactory, but unstinted commendation must be awarded to MM. Hoffmann, Bachmann, and Maclennan, and to Mrs. Maclennan (Florence Easton) as Musette.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The students' concert on Monday afternoon commenced with two movements from Mendelssohn's organ "Sonata in A, No. 3," the Andante being most intelligently rendered by Mr. Leonard Gordon. In three songs by Arthur Somervell, "Birds in the high hall garden," "O that 'twere possible," and "Go not, happy day," Mr. Horace Witty displayed a well-trained voice and poetical expression in his singing. A characteristic work of Bach, "Prelude in A minor from Second Suite," for pianoforte, from the master's "Suites Anglaises," was neatly executed by Miss Edith K. Bird; and Miss Margaret Bradfield received hearty applause for her really able performance of Papini's violin solo "Souvenir de Sorento." "Fair spring is returning," from Saint-Saëns' *Samson and Delilah*, was carefully sung by Miss Hilda Felstead; and Miss Rita Ramsden gave an effective rendering of two songs by Landon Ronald, "Down in the forest" and "Away on the hill." Two pianoforte solos, "Arabesque" (Debussy), played by Miss Flora Willoughby, and Chopin's "Scherzo in B flat minor," cleverly played by Miss Margaret Richardson, concluded a short but interesting concert.

"The Era" in Halves.

"'THE ERA,' otherwise the 'Actors' Bible,' is," says the *Chronicle*, "one of our biggest weeklies. To tear it in halves by one effort is an achievement that would seem only possible to one of those gentlemen who get £100 a week for exhibiting their strength in the variety theatres. Yet a correspondent of one of the Australian papers has been complaining that his last copy of *The Era* was delivered in a completely bisected condition. Here is a little postal mystery which St. Martin-le-Grand might endeavour to elucidate. It is certainly the case that both at the G.P.O. and the district offices bags of mails are anything but gently handled."

THE Duchess of Albany and Prince and Princess Alexander of Teck witnessed *The Lyons Mail* at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Thursday. The audience also included the Earl and Countess of Lathom.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE EUSTON.

Mr. Freddie French and company's presentation at the Euston this week of the laughable skit, *The Policemen's Ballet; or, Votes, Votes, Votes!* comes opportunely enough in view of the Suffragette fiasco of Tuesday evening, when certain notoriety-seeking women attempted to incite the starving unemployed to raid the Houses of Parliament. From the sketch referred to the militant Suffragettes will—if they take the trouble of visiting the music hall in Euston-road—get an idea of how ridiculous their behaviour appears to other people. There are two scenes, the first of which opens with a Suffragette meeting outside the House of Commons, and the usual absurdities about "mere man" are indulged in. A husband of one of the Suffragettes is holding a baby, and he is particularly servile in his attitude towards his female companions. After a comical fight between police and Suffragettes we are taken to the second scene, the stage of the Municipal Theatre. Here some ballet girls are induced by the Suffragettes to go out on strike. In his extremity the manager accepts the offer of the police to take their place, and a dozen or so of these gentlemen in blue engage in very diverting Terpsichorean antics. The trifle has found great favour with the audiences. The Sisters McCalla submit a capital singing and dancing turn; and Mr. W. H. Clemart once more gives a demonstration of his remarkable ventriloquial powers. Miss Kitty Clinton is a dainty comedienne who possesses a tuneful voice and an expressive manner; and the Dardinis perform many really smart and entertaining juggling feats. Mr. Tom Woottwell, who can always be relied upon for an attractive item, furnishes a characteristic rendering of the song, "What did I do?" in which he appears attired as a Tommy Atkins. Miss Ethel Whiteside and Piccaninnies offer a delightful coon scena, in which we get some pleasing vocalism; and Mr. George Brooks interests the house with his verses on the subject of the sights one sees on "the midnight mail." Mr. John Lawson arouses the tragic sensibilities of the spectators by the acting of himself and company in the sketch *Pigs in Clover;* and Miss Margaret Parker and company present the stirring interlude *Lucky Jim*, the part of the honest newspaper boy being cleverly acted by Miss Parker. Miss Madge Gray, comedienne, whose name appears on the programme, has been compelled to absent herself on account of illness. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope shows several good films.

THE MIDDLESEX.

There is a precocious juvenile artist at the Middlesex this week in the person of Master Ikey Moe. He seems to possess what for his years—we judge them to be somewhere in the neighbourhood of a dozen—is an astonishing *sang froid*. He commences his turn by relating a number of really amusing Hebrew anecdotes, delivered in the Yiddish dialect, which create no little hilarity among all sections of the audience. As a concluding effort he sings a song, "Oh, Solly"—the sentiments and subject of which are of the same character as his patter—which, combined with its accompanying dance, entirely wins the favour of the house. Ikey Moe should certainly be heard of in the future. Another juvenile performer at the same establishment this week goes by the name of Little Victoria, a bright, winsome, and intelligent petite comedienne, who sings sweetly a couple of numbers, "Will you buy a bunch of shamrocks?" and "The Flip-Flap." She also engages in a lively dance. Still another capital comedy and dancing act is furnished by Miss Connie Mascot; and Mr. Cyrus Dare is once more seen and heard to advantage in his wonderful imitations of children, accompanying himself at the piano. The Sauteron Troupe give an amazingly smart exhibition of jumping in and out of high baskets, and up and down piled up chairs; and Miss Lily Esplin agreeably entertains her hearers with her rendering of the well-known "Dada" song, as well as with her succeeding low comedy item. Mr. Wilton Heriot and company present what is called, and what certainly proves to be, a "protean pleasantry," in which the gentleman undertakes the characterisation of five people of totally different individuality and nationality. His acting, as well as that of his lady partner, is eminently successful. Fancourt and Rubie have a highly entertaining comedy act, in which the former appears as a comical waiter and the latter as a "young sport." Mr. Johnny Dwyer makes the most of his old favourite, "I kept on trotting up and down," which, however, does not appeal to Drury-lane folks so much as the more homely ditty, "My little wife," which proves immensely popular. Rich and Rich are most diverting as eccentric comedians, and considerable hilarity is also caused by Doody and Wright, the Australian comiques. Miss Lallie Brooke appears in a most attractive performance as an old-fashioned maiden of the early Victorian period, who proves that she is capable of doing all that modern girls can do. So she appears as a Gibson girl, a Sandow girl, and even as a Salome dancer, and in each of these her postures are exceedingly graceful. Her "Old-fashioned girl" verses are delightfully rendered, and the whole act is to be commended for its inherent charm and refinement. Mr. Ryder Slone, the popular character comedian, furnishes no small diversion in his song concerning the comforts of Sing-Sing prison in New York, and his other, which tells the story of a wife who works all day, while her husband works all night, is also an agreeable number. Mr. Carter Livesey and Miss Lilian Rosebery repeat their former success in the extremely laughable absurdity, *The Would-be Actors;* and a variety of interesting pictures are shown on the Bioscope screen.

CROUCH END HIPPODROME.

A capital programme is being presented here this week to full houses. The overture, Paul Lincke's "Glow Worm," is performed very ably by the orchestra under the conductorship of Mr. Archie Howells, after which the ball is set rolling by Rose Tilley with two pleasing songs, "Men and manners" and "He's my pal," the latter having a rattling good chorus in which the audiences lustily join. The Orchids, smart vocal comedy duo, are paying a welcome visit. The smartness and refinement of their style are exemplified in their rendering of a medley song, cross patter, and neatly-executed dancing. Oliver Martin creates merriment with his descriptive song, relating his experiences as a jockey for the first time. He follows on with a burlesque recitation on "Kissing Cup's Race." The Lutinas secure success in a physical mélange, an act of marked originality, in which their skill as singers, dancers, trapeze work, and wire walking are strikingly exemplified. An excellent turn is contributed by Cissie Lupino, a talented speciality character dancer, who cleverly depicts the national dancing of Scotland, Ireland, and Holland, appropriately attired, following with a marionette dance, and concluding with an exceptionally clever step-dance. Mooney and Holbein's company appears in a comedy sketch entitled *Oysters Is. a Bucket*, and are loudly applauded for their hard work. Willie Stoppit keeps the house in a continual roar all the time he is on the stage. As an eccentric fellow he is deserving of warm praise for the originality of his methods. His turn is one of the most appreciated on the bill. Young George Benson's imitations of George Lashwood, Sam Mayo, Geo. Robey, and Harry Lauder are excellent, and lend pleasing diversity to the evening's entertainment. A comic acrobatic act is presented by the Creo Brothers, attired as Continental gipsies. It is a clever turn and withal very amusing. Another turn highly appreciated is that of Miss Yolande Noble, who gives three of her latest successful songs, "David Evans," "To-morrow," and "Holiday." A very amusing pair are Dale and O'Malley. They contribute some genuine fun, and constitute one of the best turns on the programme. A most commendable item is a comedy episode, by Mr. A. W. Pinero, entitled *Hester's Mystery*, in which Horace Pollock and company appear. The parts, all of them, are capitally played, and the piece is well received. The evening's entertainment is brought to a close with the Imperial Bioscope.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

Novelty again marks the all-round excellence of the Richmond bill, and every item on Monday was rapturously received, and all went as merrily as the proverbial marriage bells. The fun is opened with a couple of musical wags, Grey and Brown, both excellent instrumentalists, who delight the audience with examples of their skill. Despite the national sneer of Sydney Smith, Scotch humour has found a host of admirers, and Sam Thompson, a comedian from over the border, with his song dealing with the emancipation of the creature Man is responsible for quite a funny effort. The house indeed screamed at the Scotch wag, and accorded him the compliment of a "call."

There is quite a melodramatic vein in *Her Good Name*, satisfactorily enacted by Miss Diana Hope's company. Bright and winsome Norah Stockelle quite early won the good graces of the audiences. To a particularly pleasing personality she brings no mean talent as a vocalist and dancer. Her ditty anent a certain sailor man was one of the best things of the evening. Cedar and Elgar are refreshingly comical in a patter scene, *Ye Dayes of Olde*. The fun becomes deliriously merry in this novel act, which is quite admirably done.

Starr and Leslie get through a smart programme of dexterous club-balancing, stick-whirling, and other tricks of that cult. The usual gossip between this quaint pair proved irresistible, and merriment reigned supreme during the entire turn. Star and Leslie form an ideal combination.

There are all the ingredients of a lasting success in Phil Rees' Stable Lads' episode. The juvenile comedian is always desperately in earnest, and this company of boys sing and dance with tireless energy; they have been admirably trained, and Mr. Rees may be proud of them, to say nothing of the dog who contributes his share to the show with satisfactory results. Gladys Mavius is tremendously popular here. She sings with no end of gusto, and in an incredibly short time had the vocal assistance of the gods; her clever step-dancing won immediate recognition. *Getting Even*—billed as a farcical comedy—is rattled through to an accompaniment of laughter by clever Gracie Whiteford and Fred Sinclair; it is the old story of *The Taming of the Shrew* in a new gown, but let it be said that the compressed version is delightfully amusing, though some of the lines we have heard before; thus history repeats itself. Mr. Linaker's orchestra does well, and Mr. H. J. Brett in front leaves nothing to be desired.

BARNARD'S, GREENWICH.

A large and well-pleased audience assembled on Monday to do full justice to the liberal fare provided for their delectation by Mr. Barnard and his capable and popular representative, Mr. Bert Dent. The Woodwards are skilful and pleasing cyclists, and fully deserved the applause bestowed on them; Kenneth and Kane are a capital comedy couple who contribute a clever turn, which includes an excellent rendering of the "Blind Boy" on a one-string violin; Miss Madge Field is very successful with "Rainbow of my heart"; and Minton and Moore contribute some amusing patter.

Lillain, the talented mimic, gave some clever imitations, including those of Miss Marie Kendall in "Suffragettes," Miss Marie Lloyd in "The Skirt," and Miss Kate Carney in "Liza"; Mr. George Ridgwell is a clever vocalist and instrumentalist. He contributed "The Lost Chord" (cornet solo) and sang "Asthore" in capital style. Some excellent pictures on the Bioscope brought an enjoyable performance to a successful conclusion.

Aiston's White Stars, a clever quintette, are meeting with great success this week in their duologues, patter, and other business at the Lyric Theatre, Liverpool.

The Mohamed Ben Mohamed Troupe of nine genuine Souasa Arabs return to England in December. They are now fulfilling four weeks with the Circus Henry, Brussels.

In a recent notice of the Paragon it was stated in error that the two-houses-a-night system had been adopted there. The programme is only given once nightly.

Jennie Alexander, child mimic, makes her début on Monday at the Holborn Empire. She has been booked by Leo Fritz's Agency for over 275 consecutive weeks. She is only thirteen years old.

As announced in *The Era* of last week, Mr. Walter Hague, conductor of the Empire orchestra, Liverpool, has severed his connection with that place of amusement. Mr. Hague, who is a musician of undoubted ability, had held the position for some eight or nine years, and the work of his band, guided by a master-hand, was always one of the features of the evening's programme.

Mr. Nelson Barry, the popular manager of the Manchester Hippodrome, was made on Tuesday the recipient of a handsomely framed photograph of the staff. Mr. George F. Reynolds (assistant manager) and Mr. Harry Garnham (advertisement manager), who jointly made the presentation, referred to the excellent relations that existed between manager and staff, and asked Mr. Barry's acceptance of this memento of his first appearance in command of their fourth annual picnic. Mr. Nelson Barry, in returning thanks, said that the present success of the Manchester Hippodrome was in no small measure due to the universal interest taken in it by the staff itself.

The Awards. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "The Era" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Indispensable! Rayne's "Pocket Date Book." Contents: Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance. Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list of brougham proprietors, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c. Price 1s., post free. The proceeds from the sale will be divided equally amongst the two great charities of the dramatic and musical professions, the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Home Fund. "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(From our own correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Oct. 7.—*Marcelle*, an operetta in two acts, by Frank Pixley and Gustav Luders, is the latest "Casino success." These two words form a phrase that has become proverbial, for the attractions at the Casino usually please the public and enjoy good runs. *Marcelle* has brought that excellent German comedian Mr. Jess Dandy to the fore again, and he is just as funny as he was in *The Prince of Pilsen*. Then we have Miss Louise Gunning, now a "star" under the Shubert management, who appears as Marcelle, and whose birdlike notes would go a long way towards ensuring the success of any musical play. Miss Gunning sings "My own Paree" and "The message of the red, red rose" entrancingly. But her success is not confined to her vocal achievements, for she acts with no little charm the part of a Parisian actress who is unexpectedly called upon to represent a boy. The scene is a small German town near the French frontier. Baron von Berghoff (Mr. Jess Dandy) has to produce a son at short notice in order to comply with an ancient law which requires that each owner of the estate after twenty years' tenure shall deed it to his heir. Having no son, the Baron is about to be dispossessed in favour of his nephew Karl, a lieutenant in the German army. When the attorney waits on him in pursuance of the legal requirements the artful Baron conceives the idea of pretending that he has a son who has been brought up in Paris. So he temporises, and sends Dumm the cellarer to meet the Paris train with instructions to bring back the first person he sees who is not over nineteen and can speak French. Dumm fails to understand that a lad is required, and comes back with Marcelle. Being persuaded to dress as a boy and take the name of Otto, the young French girl finds herself in the position of having to be a son and a daughter to the Baron at the same time. As the son she flirts with all the girls, and as the daughter she falls in love with nephew Karl. The ensuing complications include a duel, which Marcelle, as the so-called Otto, barely escapes having to fight with an excitable Frenchman. Karl saves her, however, and in the end they agree to marry and leave the Baron to enjoy his estates as long as he lives. The most amusing scene in the piece occurs when the Baron and the lawyer try to make each other drunk after each has secretly poured into the punch-bowl an overpowering compound of his own. They repeatedly empty their glasses back into the bowl behind each other's backs, waiting in vain for developments. Mr. Frank Rushworth as Lieut. Karl acts the part well, and charms the ear when he sings the sentimental number "After a while." Mr. Henry Norman as Dumm the cellarer renders a drinking song in capital style; Mr. Lawrence Wheat wins applause in a spirited song and dance called "Kalamazoo"; Miss Elsa Ryan appears with success as Fräulein Elsa; Mr. George Boniface, jun., is capital as Lawyer Klug; and Mr. Herbert Cawthorne is funny as Herr Schwindle, a burgomaster.

Miss Lulu Glaser, who is now under the management of the Shuberts, is appearing at the Lyric Theatre in *Mlle. Mischief*, a Viennese operetta, in three acts, which has been somewhat modified and adapted for the American stage. The original book was by Kraatz and Von Sterk, and the score by Carl M. Ziehrer. The American version is by Sydney Rosenfeld. As a comedy without music the piece was produced a few years ago by Mr. Louis Mann and Miss Clara Lipman under the title of *The Girl in the Barracks*. Rosetta, an artists' model, makes a wager with a group of her admirers that she will spend twenty-four hours in the barracks of Fremstadt as a soldier. Against the advice of her lover, André Claire, an artist, she makes the attempt, and, being nineteen and audacious, she actually succeeds. Taking the name and credentials of Freddy Meline, the son of a rich automobile manufacturer, who has joined the regiment but mislaid himself somewhere for the time being, she assumes several male disguises, and when a bold lieutenant discovers her sex she tells him a plausible story and keeps his friendship by making violent love to him. This doesn't appeal to her sweetheart, who has enlisted in order to keep an eye on her; but he is forced to put up with her flirtatious capers, and as a raw recruit is subjected to all sorts of indignities. The venturesome Rosetta gets into deep water as the result of her explanations and prevarications, but she wins her wager and marries her sweetheart. The first act shows the studio of Claire, the artist; the other scenes representing the inside and outside of the barracks. Rosetta is the best part that Miss Glaser has played since she relinquished Dolly Varden, and her success has been most emphatic. Her never-failing vivacity and heartiness have always made her a favourite with her audiences, but she has never appeared to such advantage as she does in the garb of a boy of nineteen. The music is tuneful throughout. "Le Cœur de Ninon," sung most charmingly by Miss Gertrude Darrell, aroused the utmost enthusiasm. "Other things," a topical song for Miss Glaser, proved very amusing, and "My own Vienna," a delightful waltz melody, pleased the audience immensely and was repeatedly encored. "Sweetheart," the finale of the second act, and "The Army Corps," rendered in fine style by Mr. W. T. Carleton, were also well received. Messrs. Alexander Clark, Robert Dempster, Roy Atwell, and Robert Broderick contributed to the success of the performance.

Mr. Robert Edeson, who is fulfilling his annual engagement at the Hudson Theatre, has been rather unfortunate this season so far, neither *The Call of the North*, his opening attraction, nor *The Offenders*, a play written by Elmer Blaney Harris, in which he is now appearing, having proved successful. Again we have a story of a criminal whose efforts to reform fail to keep him out of prison. The story in this instance is more improbable than the one told by the author of *The Regeneration*, which was recently produced at Wallack's Theatre, and then described. Klif King, who has spent half his lifetime in prison, is reformed after he has been caught in the act of stealing by the wife of an unscrupulous politician, Horace Street, who, for the usual consideration, helps to smother a legislative measure directed against child labour. It is the one reform in which his wife, Helen, is most interested; but he believes that the woman's place is the home—that she should attend to that and let him corrupt legislators and accept bribes from the proprietors of disreputable resorts. Helen befriends the convict King, and he reforms, but her husband is instrumental in sending him to prison again. In the meantime, however, King exposes the politician, and his wife obtains a divorce from him. The play deals with sociological problems, and depicts the work of reclaiming the children of the street. Mr. Edeson appears as Klif King and Miss Katherine Grey as Helen Street.

Mr. Herbert Shelley has had to refuse offers of eight immediate weeks in Scotland with his Irish play *Dare the Outlaw*.

Glasgow has been making extensive claims on the generosity of the profession lately in connection with the Unemployed Relief Fund, and the latest was on Thursday evening, when Mr. Rich. Waldon generously devoted the entire proceeds of both houses at the Palace Theatre to the fund. The occasion was graced by the patronage and presence of the Lord Provost (Sir William Bilsland, Bart.), Lady Bilsland, and the magistrates of the city. Our preliminary paragraph of last week unfortunately read as if this performance had taken place a week earlier.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(From our own correspondent.)

MELBOURNE, Sept. 8.—Princess Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson.—*The Red Mill* is proving a great attraction. Messrs. John Forde and Fred Leslie as the principal fun-makers are irresistible, and their dancing is cleverly executed. Misses Fanny Dango, Olive Godwin, and Alma Barber have several musical numbers which are brightly sung. The costumes and scenery are on a most elaborate scale.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. E. J. Tait.—The last week of *The Thief*, in which Miss Margaret Anglin displays her great dramatic skill, and Mr. George Titheradge submits some finished acting, is announced. Next Saturday Miss Anglin will be seen in comedy, when *Truth*, by Clyde Fitch, will be presented by the present company.

Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Meynell and Gunn.—Planquette's delightful comic opera *Les Cloches de Corneville*, which is well presented by the National Opera Company, drew a large and enthusiastic audience on Saturday night. The piece is capitally staged, and as there is good singing by the principals and chorus, with excellent orchestration, the opera should continue in favour for some time.

King's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. Julius Grant.—The stirring Australian melodrama *Robbery Under Arms* has been attracting large houses. All the characters are well represented by Mr. Anderson's company while the scenery is typical of Australia throughout. During the action of the piece a number of striking tableaux call forth loud applause. Mr Julius Grant is Mr. Anderson's popular manager in Melbourne.

Bijou Theatre.—Lessee, Miss Florence Baines.—Miss Florence Baines and her company were received on Saturday night by an audience which crowded the house in every part. The amusing features of *Mrs. Lee's Lodgers* were greeted with laughter and applause.

Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon.—Several new turns were added to an already strong bill on Saturday evening. They were all good. Miss Mignonette Kokin proved herself to be one of the best dancers that has appeared at this theatre for some considerable time. Another very popular addition to the programme was made by Osborn and Brooks, musical comedy artists, whose smart burlesque will find favour in Australia. Much amusement was caused by Galleti and his performing dogs and baboons. A welcome reappearance was made by Little Baby Watson, one of the most charming child artists who have ever appeared in Melbourne. The rest of a generous bill of fare was provided by Fred Fluett, George Dean, Burt Shepard, Tod Lowen, Desmond Sisters, Four Rosebuds, Ranger Sisters, Naomi Tanna, and Rochfort and Hart. The ever-acceptable biograph showed some interesting pictures.

Gaiety Theatre.—Business-Manager, Mr. Harry Brennan.—The programme just now is an excellent one, and includes Jean Hugarde, James Marion, Joe Rox, Marie Marlow, Jack Morrissey, Wally Edwards, Bruce Drysdale, Driscoll Brothers, Arthur Tanchart, James Craydon, Ivy Nicholls, Coleman Girls, and P. J. Knowles.

West's Pictures at Wirth's Olympia are as popular as ever. Frequent changes of programme are the order of the day. An interesting subject shown on Saturday evening was that of the Marathon Race.

ACTORS AND TRADE UNIONISM.

"The low wages received by actors and actresses," writes Miss Daisy Halling and Mr Charles Lister in the *Socialist Review*, "are largely due to economic forces that operate in almost every trade: the competition of wage earner with wage-earner, the excess of the supply of labour, the limitation of the demand for labour; but there is one factor that is unique in this particular conspiracy of circumstances against the bread-winner. Many young ladies and gentlemen have a romantic and sentimental longing for the footlights. They are people with private means, they will almost pay to be allowed to act, they can dress the part. Managers are therefore inclined to engage these almost unpaid amateurs to the exclusion of those who depend on acting for their bread and butter. The unpaid amateur undersells the wage-earner, demoralises stage-life, and causes bad art to be given to the public.

"Actors are not compelled to have any qualifications in England to entitle them to be called actors. I sign a contract with a manager: I am an actor. The difference that there is between myself and Mr. Tree is one of degree, not of kind.

"In France the evil of the unpaid amateur is obviated by the fact that the Paris managers will not take on any actor or actress who has not been through the Conservatoire, where only bonâ-fide wage-earners are allowed to take up the course. The result is a higher scale of efficiency, and the elimination of the unfair competition of the unfit.

"In Germany there are a number of dramatic schools run by leading managers such as Herr Rheinhardt, of Berlin. A diploma from one of these schools is of as vital importance to the aspirant as a course at the Conservatoire.

"In both France and Germany there is strong Trade Union feeling among actors and actresses and a National Theatre. Not a German town of any size is without a Stadt Theatre and a Stadt Oper Haus, or, as is more usual, a theatre or opera house partly subsidised out of the pocket of the ruling prince. Both France and Germany are far better equipped in actors than ourselves, and the reason is not far to seek. Superior organisation is bound to win the day.

"The actor is a wage-earner, and he has certain specific evils obtaining in his own profession that can only be overcome by Trade Unionism. There is dire need for the organisation of actors; there has always been; but there are certain obstacles in the way of militant unionism among artists. The relation of actor to manager is often a very intimate relation. An artist may be an actor one day and a manager the next. A miner has no reasonable expectations of becoming a colliery proprietor. Any actor, on the other hand, may develop into a Beerbohm Tree or a George Alexander. In many trades that have been successfully organised, members of the Union have often found themselves at the same time in the position of employers and workmen; but in all these trades there is a gulf between the 'boss' and the worker. In the theatrical profession this gulf is very often bridged.

"The opponents of Trade Unionism for actors are inclined to overrate the intimacy of the connection between employer and employed, the advocates of Trade Unionism to minimise it; but there is no doubt the actor's hopes of rising to a manager's position will operate against Trade Unionism . . .

"The actor's abhorrence of anything that savours of the horny-handed make him a very difficult subject for the organiser. Figures fail to raise him from his apathy, and he does not realise that he is being worse paid that the engineer or the cotton operative in despite of his proud membership of a profession of artists."

Mr. T. W. Rowe, chairman of the Palace, Newcastle, Company, and manager of the theatre, has been made a Sheriff of the City Council. Mr. Rowe was elected to the Council in 1905.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

ON THE ROAD, OCT. 19.

Alexander & Co., George.—Grand T., Fulham, S.W.
An Abandoned Woman.—Avenue T., Kettering.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Asche, Oscar.—Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.
At Duty's Call.—Gaiety Theatre, Burnley.
At Roaring Camp.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
At the World's Mercy.—Gaiety T., Musselburgh.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—Garrick T., Hereford.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Belle of New York (Howard).—Brixton T., S.W.
Belle of the Ball.—Crown T., Peckham.
Bells of Old York.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—T. R., Bath.
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—O. H., Coventry.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—St. Austell & Launceston.
Bondman, The (Croke).—T. R., Exeter.
Bourchier, Arthur.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—Theatre Royal, Aldershot.
Breed of the Treshams.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Brewster's Millions.—Castle T., Stockton.
Broken Heart, A.—East Oxford T., Oxford.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Bilston.
Captain Drew on Leave.—Bridlington & Harrogate.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—New T., Cardiff.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—Grand T., Southampton.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—Petersfield & Littlehampton.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—T. R., Portsmouth.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Princess's T., Glasgow.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—Grand T., Hull.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Royalty T., Llanelly.
Claudian.—Grand Theatre, Glasgow.
Coal King, The.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Compton Comedy Co.—Grand Theatre, Croydon.
Conscience of a Judge.—Queen's T., Longton.
Convict's Daughter.—T. R., Hyde.
Country Girl in London.—Todmorden.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (No. 1).—T. R., Newcastle.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (S.).—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Dairymaids (Macdonald's).—O. H., Torquay.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Metropole T., Devonport.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—Worthing and Bexhill.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—Grand T., Leeds.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—Broadway T., Deptford.
Diver's Luck.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Donovan, Lydia.—Pavilion, St. Leonards.
Dorothy.—King's T., Hammersmith, W.
Driven from Home.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Eve of Her Wedding.—T. R., Barnsley.
Face at the Window.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Fatal Wedding.—T. R., Rochdale.
Fight for a Throne.—T. R., North Shields.
Fight for Life.—T. R., Hebburn.
Flag Lieutenant.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
Flower Girl.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
For Love and the King.—Grand T., Nelson.
Gay Deceivers, The.—Palace Pier, Brighton.
Gay Gordons (Miss Ash).—T. R., Chatham.
Gay Gordons (Miss Dare).—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Gay Gordons (Terriss and Hicks).—T. R., Glasgow.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—T. R., South Shields.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Girls of Gottenberg.—T. R., Belfast.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Great Awakening.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Great White Chief.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Greed of Gold.—Treherbert and Pontcymmer.
Hands Across the Sea.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., Leigh.
Her Marriage Vow.—T. R., Darlington.
Her Nameless Child.—Metropole T., Manchester.
His Dishonoured Wife.—Horwich.
His House in Order.—O. H., Wakefield.
His Wife No Longer.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Honeymoon, The.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Horniman's, Miss.—Theatre Royal, Hull.
Hughes, Annie.—Crystal Palace Theatre.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Hypocrites, The (S.).—Artillery T., Woolwich.
Irene Wycherley.—T. R., Leamington.
Jack Straw.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Kiss of Judas.—Aston.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—T. R., Manchester.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Ballymoney and Portrush.
Lady Frederick.—O. H., Leicester.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—T. R., Plymouth.
Leah Kleschna.—Victoria T., Burnley.
Lion's Heart, A.—P. O. W., Salford.
Little Breadwinner.—T. R., Macclesfield.
London with the Lid Off.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Love of the Princess.—New T., Long Eaton.
Love Rules the World.—Junction T., Manchester.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Scarboro'.
Lucky 'Liza.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Manxman, The.—Queen's T., Keighley.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Inverness and Lossiemouth.
Master Criminal.—Mountain Ash.
Master of Millions.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Merely Mary Ann.—Court T., Warrington.
Merry Widow (S.).—H. M. T., Dundee.
Midnight Mail.—Pavilion Theatre, E.
Miss Hook of Holland (S.).—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Mollison, William.—County Theatre, Reading.
Mother's Salvation, A.—Ferndale.
Moody-Manners Opera (A.).—Lyceum T., Edinboro'.
Moody-Manners Opera (B.).—Eastbourne.
Moore, Miss Decima.—T. R., Bournemouth.
Mr. Popple (Macdona).—T. R., Halifax.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—O. H., Southport.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—Leamington and Oxford.
My Mimosa Maid.—Borough T., Stratford.
Mystery of Edwin Drood (H. M. Version).—King's Lynn and Lincoln.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—King's T., Sunderland.
Napoleon's Divorce.—Pardoe's T., Middleton.
New East Lynne.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
Old Folks at Home.—Grand T., Brighton.
Peter's Mother.—T. R., Norwich.
Power of the Cross.—Theatre Royal, Barry.
Prince of Pilsen.—Victoria T., Broughton.
Private Secretary.—Victoria Pav., Ramsgate.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—T. R., Colchester.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Empire T., Oldham.
Rollicking Rory.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Royal Divorce.—Empire T., Southend.
Sailor's Wedding.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Second to None.—T. R., Gloesop.
Sergeant Brue.—Taunton and Bridgwater.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Sign of the Cross.—T. R., York.
Silver King.—T. R., Bradford.
Soldier of France.—Queen's T., Fleetwood.
Soldier's Honour.—T. R., Sheffield.
Still Alarm.—Palace T., Ramsgate.
Straight from the Shoulder.—T. R., Castleford.
Sunday.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Terry, Edward.—Oxford and Cheltenham.
Thief, The (N.).—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Thief, The (S.).—Prince's T., Bristol.
Tom Jones.—Crewe and Shrewsbury.
Tom Jones.—T. R., Edinburgh.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Batley.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—Star T., Liverpol.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—Bargoed.
Tyrant, The.—T. R., Stanley.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Vedrenne-Barker.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Woolwich.
Warning to Women.—Drill Hall, Durham.
Way of the World.—New T., Aberdare.
What a Woman Did.—Paisley T., Paisley.
What the Butler Saw.—West Pier, Brighton.
When It Was Dark.—O. H., Perth.
When Knights Were Bold.—Kennington T., S.E.
When Knights Were Bold.—Hereford and Kidderminster.
When London Sleeps.—Crown T., Eccles.
When Other Lips.—New T., Consett.
White Man, A (N.).—T. R., Nottingham.
White Man A (S.).—T. R., Huddersfield.
Who is She?—Aquarium T., Yarmouth.
Why Men Love Women.—T. R., Woolwich.
Why Men Love Women.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Public Hall, Runcorn.
With Edged Tools.—Grand T., Swansea.
Worst Woman in London.—Palace T., Bordesley.
Woman and Wine.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Woman Pays, The.—Maesteg and Treherbert.
Wrecker of Men.—Lancaster.
You Never Can Tell.—Lincoln.
£1,000 Reward.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
10.30 Down Express.—Palace T., Ramsgate.

The representatives of the late Mrs. Charles Wilmot have sent a cheque for £50 to Mr. Charles J. Davies, a legacy from the deceased lady to the Royal General Theatrical Fund.

"Iolanthe" will be revived at the Savoy on Monday night. It is the first performance of this favourite opera this season. Mr. Rutland Barrington plays his old original part in it.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

J. H. Stevens.—*The Gaiety girls who have married peers include: Miss Constance Macdonald Gilchrist, who became the Countess of Orkney in 1892; Miss Rosie Boote, who wedded the Marquis of Headfort in 1901; and Miss Sylvia Storey, daughter of Fred Storey, actor, who was united to the seventh Earl Poulett as recently as September last. Other ladies of the stage who may be regarded as prospective peeresses are: Miss Denise Orme (Jessie Smither), who married in 1907 the Hon. John Yarde-Buller, heir to the barony of Churston; and Miss Camille Clifford (the Gibson girl), who became the wife of the Hon. Henry Lyndhurst Bruce, eldest son of Lord Aberdare. Miss Eva Carrington (Chandler), another Gibson girl, was united to Baron de Clifford, an Irish peer, in February, 1906.*

H. F. G.—*Miss Lily Hanbury (Mrs. Herbert Guedalla) died on March 5 last.*

B. C. Tatham.—*In order to get money taken at the door you will require a proper licence. Apply to the clerk to the local magistrates explaining what you require.*

T. A. (Cambridge).—*We will reply fully to your question next week.*

W. Blakeman (Stafford).—*Dan Leno's last appearance in Leicester was at the Palace there on Saturday, Sept. 3, 1904. See notice above.*

Charles Nightingale.—*American playwrights eagerly seized upon Mrs. Henry Wood's novel "East Lynne" for adaptation immediately after its publication in 1861, and Miss Avonia Jones, wife of Gustavus Vaughan Brooke, the famous tragedian, made a hit in the States as Lady Isabel. She was engaged by Mr. Shepherd to play at the Surrey that part in Mr. John Oxenford's version of the story (the first to be produced in London), which saw the footlights on Feb. 5, 1866, at the famous transpontine house, just then rebuilt. Mr. "Jimmy" Fernandez was the original Archibald Carlyle, Mr. E. F. Edgar played the villain Levison, and Miss Rose Ogilvie was the Barbara Hare. On June 29, 1867, the Oxenford version of East Lynne was revived at the Surrey, with Miss Caroline Heath and Mr. Wilson Barrett as Lady Isabel and Archibald Carlyle. Other versions were written by Wilson Barrett (the Bullock version), J. C. Chute, T. A. Palmer, Edmund Gurney, Lilla Wilde, and Herbert Shelley. Many famous actresses have appeared in the part of Lady Isabel, among others Mrs. Hermann Vezin, Miss Dolores Drummond, Miss Louise Moodie, Miss Bella Pateman, Miss Sarah Thorne, Miss Ada Cavendish, Miss Furtado, and many more. Mr. W. L. Abingdon has played Levison.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Hortin.—Oct. 7, 1908, at 45, Tucker-street, Watford, Herts, Mrs. J. W. Hortin, of a daughter (Eileen), both doing well.

Stephens.—Oct. 6, 14, Hilda-road, Brixton, S.W., Miss Ivy Ongar (The Ongars), wife of Jack Stephens, of Harry Tate's No. 1 "Motoring" Co., of a bonny son. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

Dowling—Leyton.—Walter Dowling to Josey Leyton at Liverpool, Oct. 8.

DEATHS.

Heming.—On Sept. 21, at Forest Hill, Fred Heming.

Melville.—Oct. 15, John Melville, aged 20, brother of Walter, Frederick, and Andrew Melville.

Mills.—Oct. 11, at Charing Cross Hospital, Lila Doyle (Gould), the beloved wife of Harry Mills.

Percival.—Oct. 3, at 27, Constitution-street, Dundee, Francis Daniel Wallace (Frankie), the loved youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Percival. R.I.P.

In Memoriam.

Ashcroft.—In loving memory of William Edward Ashcroft, beloved brother of Harry Adair Nelson, who died Oct. 22, 1906.

Daventry.—In ever-loving memory of my dear husband, George Daventry, who died Sept. 30, 1904. R.I.P. Oh, dead, most dear.

Doris (Round).—In loving memory of Lily, who died Oct. 17, 1906. Dearly loved and sadly missed by her sister Blanche (Mrs. Fred Emney).

Round (Henry), of Wright and Round, Liverpool, father of the above, who died Sept. 1, 1905. Lovingly remembered by his daughter Blanche (Mrs. Fred Emney). "He giveth His beloved sleep."

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

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Artois, Mrs. Violet
Athas, Mr. Jack
Augustein, Mr. J.
Baines, Mr. Hamilton
Balderstone, Mr. G. E.
Ball, Mr. Alfred
Barclay, Miss Annie
Barker, Mr. J.
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Cooke, Mr. C. F.
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Coutts, Mr. Wm.
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Culton, Master J.
Curran, Mr. Fred
Cuthbert, Mr. Alfred
Daulby, Miss
Donegan, Mr. James
Doon, Miss M.
Eaton, Miss Rosie
Echert, Miss K.
English, Mr. James
Esden, Miss Alice
Evans, Mr. A. R.
Felix, Mr. Tom
Ferrar, Miss Ada
Ferris, Mr. Edward
Friedman, Mr. Jake
Fuller, Mrs. N.
Gates, Mr. Bob
Glennie, Mrs.
Gotham Quartette
Grahame, Miss Gracie
Grattan, Mr. Harry
Gregory, Mr. Warner
Haddon, Miss Blanche
Haddon, Mr. Jack
Hare, Miss Winifred
Hargreaves, Mr. W.
Harris, Mr. Gus
Hartington, Miss
Hector, Mr. Frank
Hill, Mr. J. H.
Hoffe, Mr. Monckton
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Homeyard, Mr. L. S.
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Hudson, Mr. H. G.
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Iles, Miss Evie
Ingleton, Mr. G.
Jimson, Mr.
Jones, Mr. Guy
Kelly, Mr. Campbell
Kelway, Mr. Vincent
Kempton, Mr. R.
Kessler, Madame
Knight, Mr. A.
Kremo Troupe
Lafayette, The Great
Leamore, Mr. Tom
Lee, Mr. Edgar
Le Francs, Mr. Fred
Linwood, Mr. Lance
Locraine, Miss Ruby
Mackey, Mr. W. J.
Mars, Miss May
Marsden, Miss Simeta
Mathews, Mrs.
McKay, Mr. Tom
Melrose, Miss Alma
Merriman, Mr. Walter
Mysticus
Nethersole, Miss Olga
Nolan, Mr. Hugh
Norris, Miss Kitty
Parham, Mr. Frank
Paulton, Miss B.
Penrose, Mr. C.
Perkins, Mr. Sandon
Phydora, Mr. Harry
Pleydell, Miss B.
Pook, Mr. T.
Powell, Miss Pip
Preston, Mr. J. F.
Prideaux, Miss
Prince, Mr. Sidney
Purcell, Mr. F.
Purchase, Mr. A.
Ray, Miss Belle
Ricardo, Capt. J.
Rice, Miss Rosie
Richards, Mrs. F.
Rigg, Mr. Burlington
Rogers, Mr. Harry
Rousby and Rene
Sansbury, Mr. Vernon
Seymour, Miss Nellie
"Shadow"
Sheppard, Mr. Jack
Shine, Mr. John L.
Sheen, Mr. L.
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Simmons, Mrs. H. S.
Sivado, Mr. Charles
Smith, Mr. Clement
Sprake, Mr. Herbert
St. Clair, Mr. F. V.
Stewart, Mr. Charles
Stewart, Mr. Harry
Steyne, Mr. E. T.
St. John, Miss Florence
Stratton, Mr. Eugene
Summers, Miss Julia
Sutherd, Mr. Dick
Temple, Mr. Fred.
Terry, Mr. Fred E.
Toni, Signor
Towle, Mr. W. Edwardes
Twigdon, Mrs. A.
Vallus, Mr. H.
Valroy, Miss Edy
Vandy, Mr. Paul
Vint, Mr.
Vitart, Mr. Henry
Warne, Miss Olive
Warren, Mr. F. Brook
Wellies, Mr. J. Othello
Wentworth, Mr. Bert
Wesson, Miss Lilly
Willis, Mr. Alfred
Wilson, Miss N.
Yamagata, Mr. J.
Yorke, Mr. Leonard

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Isabel Jay—Saturday, Oct. 17.
Robert Pateman—Saturday, Oct. 17.
Alma Bignell—Saturday, Oct. 17.
Marianne Caldwell—Saturday, Oct. 17.
Lillian Maude—Sunday, Oct. 18.
Pearl Noyle—Monday, Oct. 19.
Dorothy Firmin—Monday, Oct. 19.
Charles Cameron—Monday, Oct. 19.
Alice Lloyd—Tuesday, Oct. 20.
Fanny Dango—Tuesday, Oct. 20.
Maud Esmond—Tuesday, Oct. 20.
Arthur Playfair—Tuesday, Oct. 20.
Tom Brantford—Tuesday, Oct. 20.
J. A. Cave—Wednesday, Oct. 21.
Townsend Whitling—Wednesday, Oct. 21.
Cecil Morand—Wednesday, Oct. 21.
George Bastow—Wednesday, Oct. 21.
Sarah Bernhardt—Thursday, Oct. 22.
Ted E. Box—Thursday, Oct. 22.
Minnie Terry—Thursday, Oct. 22.
Cissie Loftus—Thursday, Oct. 22.
Lillie Lassah—Thursday, Oct. 22.
Arthur Rich—Thursday, Oct. 22.
Rose Moncrieff—Friday, Oct. 23.
Marie Clavering—Friday, Oct. 23.
Eric Lewis—Friday, Oct. 23.

Messrs. Fred Wilkins and Brother, Ltd., of Whitechapel, Liverpool, are adding considerably to their already wide activities in the furnishing of theatres and music halls. They are supplying fire-proof curtains, tip-up seats, pit seating, and other furnishings for the New Hippodrome, Rochdale, and fibrous plaster decorations and other work for the New Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Bedford Leigh, which opens about Dec. 1. They have also furnished tip-up chairs, pit seats, fire-proof curtain, &c., for the Hippodrome, Todmorden, which opened on the 5th inst.; and the fire-proof curtain and various other embellishments for New Theatre, Lancaster, were also the work of this enterprising firm, who have, moreover, just completed the fibrous plaster decoration, electric lighting, seating, carpets, scenery, and general furnishing of the Hippodrome, Grange-road, Birkenhead, in addition to the scenery for the Palace, Hippodrome, Oldham, and a large number of other theatres.

Voice and Throat.

Mr. SIMS REEVES, the World-Famed Tenor, writing on "The Art of Singing," said:—"Condy's Fluid clears the Throat and braces up the uvula, which in some singers interrupts the pure emission of the Voice."

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Every night a houseful of critics hangs upon his every word, compares his every note. Everyday colds and indispositions, recognised in all other vocations, are not allowed to him. Whatever his real feelings may be, neither brain nor voice nor body must betray his indisposition if he wishes to retain, let alone to strengthen, his hold of popular approval.

You, yourself, know how often the very knowledge of this is nearly your undoing.

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You might do far worse than take Hall's Wine this very day—you could not do better. It is not a tonic of the "here to-day, gone to-morrow" order. For long years it has been the reliable support of many of the leading men and women on stage and platform. And so you will find it.

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The Era, 17/10/08.

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DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

Sept. 1.—Louis Frederick Chapuy, aged 72.
" 3.—Thomas Chadwick.
" 4.—George Robert Peach, aged 52.
" 5.—Owen Johnstone.
" 7.—George Horton, aged 83.
" 8.—Mrs. Arthur Bond-Sayers.
" 9.—Mrs. Mary Elcock.
" 10.—Mrs. E. Townsend.
" 12.—W. A. Upton.
" 13.—Thomas Ballard.
" 13.—Edmund Cuthbert.
" 14.—William Hibbert Ware, aged 36.
" 17.—Alfred Tate.
" 17.—Count Guglielmo Maria Vincenzo.
" 19.—Mrs. William Charles Macready, aged 81.
" 19.—Wilfred Mortimer, aged 3.
" 19.—Charles P. Loller, aged 28.
" 20.—J. P. MacNally, aged 49.
" 20.—Pablo Martin Meliton de Sarasate, aged 64.
" 20.—A. D. Norman.
" 20.—Mrs. Fred Street, aged 31.
" 21. Fred Heming.
" 23.—Mrs. George Hayes.
" 24.—Prince Hassan
" 25.—William Farren, sen., aged 82.
" 26.—William Griffiths, aged 77.
" 27.—Cuthbert Imrie Toms, aged 27.
" 28.—Robert Soutar, aged 81.

Lush and Cook, Limited, the chemical dyers and art cleaners, of 29, Charing Cross-road, W.C., guarantee work of unapproachable excellence, and theatrical managers who have soiled pantomime dresses will find their methods of restoration completely satisfactory. Their despatch in the execution of orders and moderate charges are the main features of a business that is increasing rapidly.

Mr. Harry Nicholls' company in *If We Only Knew* is at His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness. He himself as the humorous villain is exceptionally attractive, and Mr. F. A. Gawthorne is fine as Dick Steen; while Mr. Ernest Young is particularly good. The incidental music of Mr. John Crook is very good.

The Princess of Wales and suite witnessed the performance of *Faust* at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday evening. On Monday the King and suite visited the Duke of York's and saw the performance of Mr. J. M. Barrie's play, *What Every Woman Knows.*

Bureau de Change | Specially recommended. Hands and Co., 16, Strand, Charing-Cross Railway Station, London, W.C.

"*I'll swear upon that bottle.*"—Tempest, Act ii.; Scene ii.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT
FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER.
By ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his textbook on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chace Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.
Published at "The Era" Buildings,
5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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Manager, Mr. George Edwardes.
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a Musical Play.
Box Office Open Daily, 10 to 10.

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MATHESON LANG as PETE.
HUTIN BRITTON as KATE.
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Every Evening at 8.15,
"THE LAST HEIR,"
by Stephen Phillips.
Matinées on Saturdays at 2.30.
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MISS LENA ASHWELL.
At 8.15, "The Treasure," by Elisabeth Kirby.
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A Comedy, in Four Acts,
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TIVOLI
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Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Armstrong, Mr. Barney	Nov. 30, 1907
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Bernard, Mr. Albert	Oct. 5, 1907
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brittain, Mr. Arthur	Oct. 19, 1907
Brodie, late Mr. Matthew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brooking, Mr. Cecil	Nov. 2, 1907
Brooks, Mr. E. Oswald	Nov. 16, 1907
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred.	June 27, 1908
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Clinton, Late Mr. Dudley	Oct. 10, 1908
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Connor, Mr. J. F.	Oct. 12, 1907
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T	March 28, 1908
Crawford, Miss Alice	Nov. 9, 1907
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5, 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Darnley, Mr. Herbert	Aug. 17, 1907
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Day, Mr. David	Nov. 30, 1907
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
De Banzie, Mr. E. T.	Oct. 3, 1908
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
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Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Draycott, Mr. Charles	June 13, 1908
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Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1908.

ACTOR-MANAGERS AS ADVISERS.

The strength of the chain which binds the playgoer to the performer was strongly evidenced at the Adelphi the other evening, when Mr. MARTIN HARVEY had a curious experience. A bouquet of white lilies was thrown on the stage while he was taking a call at the end of the final scene between Lucy Ashton and the Master of Ravenswood in *The Last Heir*, Mr. STEPHEN PHILLIPS's adaptation of "The Bride of Lammermoor." It appeared to come from one of the boxes, but Mr. HARVEY afterwards traced all the occupants of the boxes that night, and has come to the conclusion that he must have been mistaken in that idea. It may have been thrown from one of the side seats in the upper circle.

When Mr. HARVEY came to examine the bouquet he was astonished to find that it contained a note written in pencil in a refined feminine handwriting on the margin of a back page of the programme. A wedding-ring was tied to the bouquet. The note was a most distressing communication, indicating that the writer (who gave neither name nor address) was in great trouble, and asking Mr. HARVEY, if he were willing to help her, to advertise the fact through the agony column. In response to this request, he inserted the following in a daily paper:

Will the LADY who THREW from BOX at the ADELPHI, on Thursday, BOUQUET, containing wedding ring and distressing letter, WRITE to Mr. Martin Harvey, who will do as she requests.

Mr. HARVEY thinks the writing of the note was an impulsive action inspired by the similarity of Lucy's tragic situation in the play to that of the writer. Lucy had been forced into an odious marriage, and the scene that provoked the incident was between her and the man she loved. The tying of the wedding-ring to the bouquet, in conjunction with the wording of the note, seems to suggest that the lady who threw it is the victim of a similar matrimonial tragedy. Mr. HARVEY, it may be added, is no novice in these matters, and has been indirectly responsible for the reuniting of a husband and wife after several years of separation.

The incident opens to the imagination a wide vista of possibilities. The responsibilities of our actor-managers are already very onerous and numerous. Besides acting his part in a play every evening, the actor-manager has to be always considering or preparing a new piece to follow it; to receive interviewers, to lay foundation-stones, to attend social functions, to engage artists, to inspire and instruct scene-painters and costumiers, to make speeches at public dinners, and to write articles in monthly magazines. To these various occupations it appears there is now to be added that of setting straight the crooked ways of the world as they affect the lives of individual playgoers. It seems that the excuse to be offered is a resemblance between the troubles of the patron of the drama and something in the piece which the actor-manager is presenting on the stage. A new terror may thus be added to the anxieties of actor-management. Miss LENA ASHWELL may receive missives from ladies who have fallen victims to the "drug habit," deploring their weakness and asking her to suggest, if not to supply, the means of a cure. Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM will be requested by gentlemen who have had a little difficulty at their club about the absolute fairness of their play to decide if detection at a card-table really justifies suicide; and young women who have loved not wisely but too well may implore Mr. BEERBOHM TREE to get them out of difficulties which would never have arisen if the Devil had not been mixed up in the matter. As for Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER, husbands with kleptomaniac wives will intrude their sorrows upon him by post, and beg him to advise them on the strength of his dramatic difficulties with Miss IRENE VANBRUGH in *The Thief*. Mr. ARTHUR BOURCHIER'S great success as the Catholic priest in *The Duel* will suggest him at once as father-confessor to all the unhappy wives in smart society; and Mr. FORBES ROBERTSON'S Socratic method, as applied to the lodgers in the Bayswater boarding-house at the St. James's, will encourage all sorts of sinners to crave his comforting attentions. As for Miss MARY MOORE, the ready wit with which she deals with the compromising letter in *Lady Epping's Lawsuit* is no doubt the envy of many ladies in her audiences who have found themselves in awkward situations as the result of their little escapades, and she will be plagued to suggest a way out of many an *imbroglio;* and Miss MARIE TEMPEST will be pestered for counsel on the strength of the bright intelligence she displays in *Mrs. Dot* at the Comedy. The only actor-managers who are likely to escape annoyance are Mr. H. B. IRVING—who, however, as an expert in criminology, may possibly be asked to assist to restore a burglar or two to his friends and relations—and Mr. CYRIL MAUDE, whose careless, breezy Flag Lieutenant gets into such scrapes himself that few would feel inclined to resort to the actor for wise direction on the strength of his impersonation. Nor would many ladies be brave enough to adopt the method of downright perjury so successfully employed by Miss MILLARD in *Idols* at the Garrick. We daresay that if the correspondence of our leading actor-managers and actress-managers is preserved, it contains numerous and diverting examples of the faith of the public in their sympathy and good nature; a faith which is really touching in its sincerity, and which is entirely reasonable and justified. We only wish we could secure a few of these amusing epistles for publication in our "Items of Interest" column, without, of course, even initials to expose the identity of the writers.

"THE TREASURE."

Play, in One Act, by Elisabeth Kirby, founded on a Story by L. N. Becké in "The Smart Set," produced at the Kingsway Theatre on Monday, Oct. 12.

Algernon Ifley .....Mr. T. A. SHANNON
Mary .....Miss DOROTHY BRUNT
Mrs. Van Buskirk .....Miss MARY BARTON
Charles James Jenkins .....Mr. O. P. HEGGIE
Isaac Cohen .....Mr. W. LEMMON WARDE

The one-act play by Elisabeth Kirby which precedes *The Sway Boat* is somewhat slight in texture and rather improbable in its incidents, but it serves its purpose of keeping the audience amused for half an hour. The "treasure" is the manservant of a young and very foolish bachelor, and is possessed of such exceptional ability and perfect manners that he is frequently "loaned" to his master's friends on occasions of more than ordinary importance. He confesses to his master that he has one great failing—he cannot resist the annexation of anything which glitters, especially diamonds, although immediately afterwards he is filled with horror and remorse. With every appearance of penitence, he produces a tiara, a necklace, &c., which he took, he protests, much against his will, from guests at a dinner party given by one of his master's friends the night before. At his earnest solicitation his master helps him to restore the trinkets to their rightful owners, but learns a little later that in the interval paste has been substituted for the real stones. He accuses Jenkins of villainy, but the valet turns on him and tells him that, as an accessory after the fact, his silence is secured, and by the same threat the master is forced to "square" a private detective and to compensate the victims for their loss. As the fraudulent Jenkins Mr. O. P. Heggie is excellent, and gives a very clever impersonation; Mr. T. A. Shannon as the master is satisfactory in a curious part; and Miss Mary Barton as a talkative widow is genuinely amusing. Mr. W. Lemmon Warde as the detective Isaac Cohen, is characteristic, and his Jewish accent is excellent.

THE Répertoire Theatre Association operating at the Theatre Royal, Margate, announce an interesting trial week commencing on Monday next of *Griffith Gaunt*, a new romantic costume play adapted from Charles Reade's novel by Messrs. Freeman Wills and Canon Frederick Langbridge, the authors of *The Only Way*.

MR. GEORGE BROADBENT, who for twenty-four years was secretary of the Liverpool Philharmonic Society, died on Monday. The deceased gentleman, who was exceedingly popular among the musical circles of the city on the Mersey, had reached the age of sixty-two years, and when only fourteen years of age entered the clerical service of the society. He was a prominent member of the Masonic body, being a P.M. of Lodge 1,013 Royal Victoria.

THE grim interior of Brixton Gaol was enlivened on Sunday afternoon by the visit of Mr. and Mrs. Kennerley Rumford (Mme. Clara Butt), who sang to the prisoners to the number of six or seven hundred men assembled in the chapel. Mme. Butt rendered "The Promise of Life" and "Abide with Me," and Mr. Rumford gave "There is a green hill far away" and "Nazareth," the artists afterwards joining in the duet "Night Hymn at Sea." Absolute silence reigned in the hall, no applause being allowed, but the gratitude of the unfortunate men at the popular vocalists' kindly act must have been intense.

"THE OUTSIDER."

Play, in Three Acts, by Mayne Lindsay and Robert Marshall, produced at the Theatre Royal, Manchester, on Thursday, Oct. 15.

General Mortimer .....Mr. BOURCHIER
The Hon. Richard Caldwell .....Mr. CHARLES BRYANT
Admiral Sir Thomas Farleigh .....Mr. ARTHUR WHITBY
Sir Aubyn Burdicott ..Mr. LEON QUARTERMAINE
Captain Ferningham ....Mr. BERTRAM FORSYTH
The Rt. Hon. Sir John Craven ..Mr. F. CECIL
Westbury Allison, M.P. ..Mr. DOUGLAS IMBERT
Jervis .....Mr. CHARLES VERNON
Landlord .....Mr. ALFRED BRISTOWE
Margaret Hepplestone..Miss HENRIETTA WATSON
Elsie Farleigh .....Miss PAMELA GAYTHORNE
Lady Vereker .....Miss EVA KILLICK
Lady Helen Caldwell ..Miss VIOLET VANBRUGH

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The latest play to be produced by Mr. Arthur Bourchier, *The Outsider*, contains, besides its strong and virile story, some features of curious and appealing interest. The two leading characters, General Mortimer and Lady Helen Caldwell, are drawn more or less from life. Most people who see the play will make a pretty shrewd guess at the identity suggested by the General, while Lady Helen, it may be added, is a well-known figure in society, and will be recognised by the London stalls.

The first act takes place at Lady Helen Caldwell's London house. She is the worthy descendant of a long line of ministers and statesmen, and as a graceful political wire-puller and patroness of Parliamentary leaders, embryo and complete, she represents no mean power in the land. But her work lies also in the direction of match-making, and, at the outset, we find a typical example in the engagement of two of her protégés, her nephew and adopted son, Dick, and Elsie, daughter of Admiral Farleigh. Other little jobs and instances of the lady's extraordinary power are in evidence; while among the guests present after her luncheon party are a Cabinet Minister, of the young and pushful type, a War Office clerk, the Prime Minister himself, and also a lady journalist, erstwhile a singer, who, however, has given up the latter vocation in the cause of art, though it was fostered under the good offices of Lady Helen, for the more concrete benefits of a post on a latter-day scurrilous rag called the *Phœnix*.

The talk is on politics, and, of course, the new Army scheme. Burdicott, of the War Office, is much disturbed; a new appointment has been made, and an exalted position given to a certain General Mortimer, a great big active fellow with new ideas, and a very big reputation in India—"a provincial sort of place to be known in," as Burdicott puts it. Mortimer is, of course, one of Lady Helen's protégés, and he presently arrives. Burdicott soon gets a taste of his quality in the shape of a sound rating for not having replied to a letter which the General has written to him. Lady Helen afterwards takes Mortimer to task for his outspokenness in her drawing-room; but now that they are alone at last, Mortimer is more outspoken still. The son of a city tailor, who had put him in a crack regiment (to be faced with the hardest fight against odds to gain his present position), for the honour and glory of being the father of "an officer and a gentleman," the General boldly disavows himself a gentleman in the conventional sense of the term. What is more, he knows how his present appointment has been gained; it has been a backstairs business he has got in behind Lady Helen's petticoat. She expostulates, but he will have no humbug; if her friendship is to mean assistance of this kind, he throws her friendship back in her face. She is hurt and shocked, yet he goes on: the truth is he loves her, and has loved her ever since he set eyes on her; and he cannot, in his splendidly straightforwardness, occupy any other position than that of an avowed lover. Here is a dilemma. What is to be done? The social situation is made awkward. Lady Helen's training, experience, and ambition show her what to do. She accepts him, though without love, with a whole-hearted endeavour to be a faithful wife and comrade in his attempt to reach by honest means the top of the tree. The General, in a whirl of happiness, seizes her hands, covers them with kisses, and the curtain descends.

The second act occurs eighteen months later, in the library of Lady Helen Mortimer's home. The country is on the verge of war. It is nearing midnight, and a tension of unrest is in the air. Burdicott, of the War Office, and Margaret Hepplestone, the lady journalist, make affairs clear in conversation, the former anxious but reserved, the latter vainly endeavouring to extract from him information which, once obtained in advance of the proper hour, would give her the position of lady correspondent of the *Phœnix*. Dick and Elsie, now happily married, appear; and Dick has news that war is actually to come, and that General Mortimer (now Sir George) is to command, and he (Dick) has been appointed to his staff. Elsie breaks down and cries. Later on, Mortimer up to his eyes in work, appears, accompanied by an A.D.C. Left alone, he is beset by the lady journalist, whom he unceremoniously rebuffs, having scarcely time to admire her impudence. The lady, however, sneaks in again, and conceals herself behind some palms and window-hangings in a corner of the room. A scene between the General and Lady Helen next transpires, and, of course, the whole of it is overheard by Margaret Hepplestone—Mortimer's news of his appointment; Lady Helen's enthusiastic pleasure (a biting contrast in Mortimer's heart to little Elsie's tears); all the little things, in short, she wants to know including the certainty that on one side at least there is no love in the domestic situation of the General and his wife. After the latter's exit, Mortimer hears a slight sound, and, locating it, brings the eavesdropper from her hiding-place. He is a resourceful man, and has his remedy; he simply locks the door and keeps her a prisoner till her information has become public property. They sit there together in the dead of night, he cool and firm, she venting her spleen upon him, and taunting him with his loveless marriage. The scene is interrupted by cries of "War" outside. She may go now; her knowledge is no more than that of the newsboys in the street. Lady Helen re-enters, and she and her husband acknowledge from the balcony the cheers of a crowd which has gathered about the house. As they turn back into the room, Elsie is seen weeping on her husband's shoulder. "Ah," says the General, taking his wife's hand, "that is what I want!"

The third act takes place at an inn near Dover, and the curtain goes up on a sad little group. Mortimer has been superseded, and is hourly expected home. His campaign has displeased both the public and the Cabinet; there have been no red-hot victories, no fireworks, and no news but that of one reverse. The Government has been treated with contempt, and to save its own downfall it has recalled the General against whom popular feeling has begun to run high. When Sir George at last enters, however, it becomes apparent that he is unbeaten, and has no doubt of the ultimate success of the plan of campaign he has left behind. But there is that other battle he has lost, and in a touching scene he offers to do all he can to free Lady Helen from her position as his wife. Failure has wrought a change in Lady Helen, however: it has done for him what the most brilliant success, apparently, could never do—she finds herself able to give her husband all the support and love that are needed by him in this dark hour. Then the clouds break. Burdicott rushes in with the announcement that Mortimer's successor, by following rigidly the plans laid down, and resolutely refusing to change them in the slightest, is even now reaping the fruition of victory, *vide* a cablegram to hand. Everything is progressing magnificently, and it is only a question of a little more time and patience. This is not all. International complications are looming elsewhere, and Mortimer has been selected to command the allied forces on the Chinese frontier.

The General turns to his wife: "Now, then, you—is this another of your jobs?" She begins to expostulate, but Mortimer only smiles—the broad smile of a happy and light-hearted man who understands and is understood by the woman he loves.

It will be seen that the chief parts are quite in the style which brings out the special gifts of the two principal members of the cast. Mr. Arthur Bourchier's depiction of General Mortimer was instinct with life and individuality from his first brusque entrance to the final tender scene—always manly, direct, human, and suggestive of the genius of the character he impersonated. Every opportunity was given also to Miss Violet Vanbrugh, not only for the exercise of her splendid emotional gifts, but also her inimitable society *finesse* in the varied situations, and her triumph in the rôle of Lady Helen Caldwell was never in doubt. The second couple, contrasting poignantly with the General and his wife, were admirably played by Mr. Charles Bryant as the Hon. Richard Caldwell and Miss Pamela Gaythorne as Elsie. Miss Henrietta Watson also scored a marked success as the egregiously enterprising lady journalist Margaret Hepplestone; while as Admiral Farleigh Mr. Arthur Whitby played with his customary ease and finish, and Mr. Leon Quartermaine was brisk and effective as Burdicott. Among the minor parts, which were all relatively well handled, Miss Eva Killick was especially commendable in the rôle of Lady Vereker.

There was loud applause at the close of the play, and Mr. Bourchier, in response to calls, made short speech of thanks. Demands for the authors resulted in an explanation that Captain Robert Marshall was unavoidably absent, but his co-author, Mayne Lindsay, was induced to bow her acknowledgments to the delighted house.

AN AGENT'S COMMISSION.

The case of Denton v. Hildyard came before His Honour Judge Woodfall in the Westminster County Court on Thursday as a claim by Mr. St. John Denton, the well-known theatrical agent, of Maiden-lane, Strand, against Miss Maud Hildyard, authoress and actress, for £20 commission on engagements. Counsel for the plaintiff said the claim was for the usual ten per cent. on ten weeks' engagement at £20 a week. Defendant was a well-known actress and dramatic authoress, and played in her own pieces. Plaintiff wrote to her to know if there was any possibility of their doing business together, and suggesting that she should call. She did call, and eventually a client decided to engage her for a forty-week Australian tour at £70 a week if she did not play in her own pieces, and £60 if she did play in them, on condition that her acting suited him. The client went to Southport, saw her act, and the contract was agreed to. In accordance with custom, the commission was charged on the first ten weeks.

Plaintiff gave evidence in support, and in cross-examination said ten per cent. on the first ten weeks' salary was the usual amount. The agent served the hirer in the matter as well as the hired. He did not draw up the contract, but arranged the terms as to salary, &c.

Mr. Meynell, plaintiff's client, deposed to being a theatrical manager in Australia. He bore out plaintiff's evidence, and declared that he paid plaintiff no commission. The usual commission was ten per cent. if the commission was limited to ten weeks. He heard nothing of defendant declining to have anything to do with agents.

Mr. Herbert Blackmore gave evidence that the custom was to pay ten per cent. on salary for the first ten weeks in a case like this. In hundreds of cases agents did not draw the contracts. Ten per cent. on the first ten weeks was the universal custom in the theatrical profession. Mr. Ben Nathan gave similar evidence.

The defendant declared that the terms were discussed direct with Mr. Meynell at Stockport, and she concluded the bargain with him there, without the aid of plaintiff. Cross-examined, she said she did not know Mr. Meynell before Mr. Denton brought them together, but she though he was acting on Mr. Meynell's behalf. She distinctly told Mr. Meynell that she would have nothing to do with any agent.

Mr. Monty Bayly, general secretary of the V.A.F., said he was of opinion, after hearing the evidence, that the plaintiff was not entitled to any commission on this engagement.

Mr. Charles Coborn, who said he had had thirty-three years' experience, said it was not an invariable custom to pay ten per cent. He had paid five per cent. on pantomime engagements.

His Honour said he must find for the plaintiff, holding that defendant, although she appeared not to have intended to do so, bound herself. It was quite clear that the engagement was brought about by plaintiff's introduction, and he gave him judgment for ten per cent. on £50 for ten weeks. He found plaintiff had not proved his case to commission on that part of the salary relating to dramatic rights, and he entered judgment for the plaintiff for £50, with costs.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DURBAN, SEPT. 14.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, The Empire Theatre Co., South Africa, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. C. Hyman.—A welcome item is Alec Worcester in excepts from musical comedies; Ambrose Thorn nightly meets with undeniable success; the Kellaways are a smart pair of juvenile artists; Miss Estelle Stapley shows herself to be an accomplished performer on both violin and piano; Miss Edith Burn, serio, does well; the Arbras, acrobats, execute some wonderful feats of balancing; Kitty Gordon tops the bill, and is admired for her dainty singing; Ruby and Laws are an able comedy duo; and other items on the bill are Gaumont's Chronomegaphone and the Bioscope.

PIETERMARITZBURG, SEPT. 14. — SCOTT'S THEATRE.—Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. F. F. Woodman.—*The Little Michus* has met with complete public approval. Mr. William Everard as Gaston Rigaud makes good use of his fine voice; Mr. Foster Courtenay as General Des Ifs keeps the audience in uncontrollable mirth; the Bagnolet of Mr. Alf Beers is an amusing study; Mr. F. J. Blackman gives a capital delineation of Pierre Michu; Miss Hilda Guiver as Herpin is well suited to the part; a clever danseuse is Miss Nellie Lawrence, who undertakes the rôle of Mlle. St. Cyr; Miss Florence Vi as Mme. Michu scores a success; the rôles of Blanche Marie and Marie Blanche are in the hands of Misses Chrissie Ralland and Elsa Partiss, who captivate all by their charming singing and dainty acting. The chorus is efficient and the scenery up to the standard that one can always expect from the management. Other pieces to follow are *The Girl Behind the Counter* and *The Merry Widow*.

UNDER the name of the Glasgow Stage Society, a new organisation has been lately started in Glasgow to foster interest in the literary drama, and to emulate to some extent the good work of the Irish National Theatre at Dublin, Miss Horniman's company, at the Gaiety, Manchester, and the Ulster Literary Theatre at Belfast. The new society will, however, proceed on somewhat different lines.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"ISRAEL."

Play, in Three Acts, by M. Henry Bernstein, Produced at Réjane's on Oct. 13.

Le Père de Silvian .....M. DE MAX
Thibault, Prince de Courcy ..M. LOUIS GAUTHIER
Justin Gutlieb .....M. SIGNORET
Le Comte de Grégenoy .....M. DUQUESNE
Le Marquis de Mauve .....M. TRÉVILLE
Le Comte de Sallaz .....M. ANDRÉ HALL
Gilbert de Jouvins .....M. MONTEAUX
Le Comte de Morice .....M. SCHELLER
Agnès, Duchesse de Courcy .....Mme. RÉJANE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Oct. 15.—M. Henry Bernstein's comedy *Israël*, heralded with a flourish of trumpets, was produced at the Théâtre Réjane, where, thanks to the admirable interpretation and to two or three very telling scenes, it met with an excellent reception. But the stage is not the place to treat religious problems, and the talented author committed the mistake of discussing the Jewish question in that form. Every praise is due to M. Bernstein for the earnestness and tact with which he handled his delicate subject; but in order to develop his theories he was compelled to introduce lengthy conversations between two of his *dramatis personæ*, with the result that these dialogues became in reality lectures, and proved somewhat tedious. Nor did these discussions lead to any result, for the violent conflict continued to the end without the problem being solved. The scene of the first act is laid in the Cercle de la Rue Royale, one of the fashionable Paris clubs. Prince Thibault de Courcy, a young Deputy, the leader of the Anti-Semitic party, objects to the presence in the club of the millionaire Justin Gutlieb, a Jew. Unheeding the fact that Gutlieb is a man of irreproachable character, respected by all, Thibault asks him to resign his membership, and as Gutlieb refuses the young Deputy assaults him. A duel is bound to follow, and Thibault, an expert swordsman, swears to kill his adversary. In the second act—at the house of the Duchesse de Courcy—a surprise is in store for us. The Duchesse implores her son not to cross swords with Gutlieb. Something in that lady's attitude arouses suspicion in Thibault, who questions her, and then learns that he, Thibault, Prince de Courcy, is the son of Gutlieb, the Jew, with whom, years before, the Duchesse had a liaison. Thibault, whose first impulse was to commit suicide, listens to the exhortations of Father de Silvian, his confessor, and decides to become a Trappist. But in his subsequent meeting with Gutlieb the latter succeeds in convincing him that, as he lacks faith, he ought not to join the religious order. Unfortunately, Gutlieb does not know that the monastery is his son's last resource; for, irresolute and mad with grief, Thibault now poisons himself. It was the first time we had the pleasure of applauding Mme. Réjane in the rôle of a "mother," and as the Duchesse the great artist fairly enchanted the house. M. Louis Gauthier gave real distinction and individuality to the part of Thibault, and M. de Max was an impressive confessor. M. Signoret hardly did justice to the rôle of Gutlieb, which certainly did not suit his special aptitudes. The minor parts were very well rendered by MM. Tréville, Hall, and Monteaux.

M. SUDERMAN'S four-act play, *Parmi les pierres*, adapted by MM. Maurice Valentin and Rémon, was produced at the Odéon, and despite the sentimental touches—so dear to German playwrights, but to which the French are averse—the audience received the work with marked favour. Nor can it be denied that the ideas expressed therein raise it to a high level. If I am not mistaken, the adapters made some slight alteration in the plot. Jacob Bielger, M. Suderman's hero, has spent six years in prison. He has had the misfortune to kill a man, and although it was almost a case of self-defence, he finds himself after his release shunned by everybody and unable to earn a livelihood. After having undergone many privations, Zarncke, a stonemason, engages him as night-watchman. Zarncke is a philanthropist, interested in the welfare of discharged prisoners, and Biegler hopes that his troubles are at an end. But he has reckoned without his comrades. They have discovered that Biegler is a "jail-bird," and from that moment shower insults upon him. Two of them, Gottlinck and old Eichholz, even enter into a conspiracy to murder him by arranging to drop a large piece of granite on his head. Laura, Gottlinck's discarded msitress, however, warns him of the impending danger, and Biegler does not fall a victim to these men's diabolical plot. Thanks to this attempt on his life, he is rehabilitated, and becomes the husband of the gentle Laura. The distinguished German author owes a debt of gratitude to his exponents—MM. Desjardin, Armand, Bour, Léon Bernard, and Mlle. Van Doren—who shared with him the success of the evening.

A DRAMATISED version of M. Paul Bourget's novel "L'Emigré" has been brought out at the Théâtre de la Renaissance. Many scenes are treated with consummate skill, but the author—a well-known reactionary—infused a little too much retrograde spirit into his play. Every broad-minded Frenchman looks upon armies as necessary evils, and agrees with England that a general disarmament will benefit humanity. Nor does he worship aristocracy in the belief that titled people are superior to those less favoured by birth. The tirades, therefore, on the prestige of the army and on the duties of the members of the aristocracy sounded like an echo from a bygone age, and missed their effect. The plot is as follows: Landri de Clavier, lieutenant in a dragoon regiment, the son of the Marquis de Clavier Granchamps, refuses to marry Françoise de Charlus because he loves Valentine Ollier, a young widow, companion to the Duchesse de Charlus. The Marquis refuses to give his consent to this match, as, according to him, noblemen are privileged beings, to whom a high mission has been entrusted, which does not allow them to marry outside their sphere. But Jaubourg, the Marquis's intimate friend, has fallen dangerously ill, and, whilst delirious, makes an unexpected disclosure to Landri. And I cannot help remarking that our up-to-date authors make very light of the morality of Duchesses, Marquises, and *tutti quanti*. In M. Bernstein's before-mentioned play we see a Duchesse run off the rails with a Jew; here it is Jaubourg who has had a liaison with the Marquise de Clavier, and, therefore, is Landri's father. Landri, of course, is neither pleased nor flattered. But he keeps the secret to himself and marries Valentine, which brings about a rupture between him and the Marquis. The latter, however, having received an anonymous letter revealing the truth, understands Landri's action in the matter. They become reconciled, and Landri emigrates with his wife to America. The naïve play was finely acted. M. Guitry impersonated the old Marquis in a masterly manner, and MM. Dubosc, Capellani, and Mlle. Dorziat helped to impart colour to this sombre story.

A SLIP OF THE PEN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—My attention has been called to the fact that in my notice of the performance of *Dear Old Charlie* at the Grand, West Hartlepool, last week, I said that Mr. George Conquest was responsible for the delineation of the titular part, whereas the credit for its excellent portrayal should have been given to Mr. George Lestocq. I cannot imagine how the mistake occurred, but can only say the fault was entirely that of—Yours faithfully

YOUR WEST HARTLEPOOL CORRESPONDENT.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The New Year's collection for the Music Hall Home Fund, 1908-9, will have the very warm espousal of that star of the first magnitude, Miss Marie Lloyd. In a practical and sympathetic manner Miss Lloyd has already started the fund with a contribution of three guineas. The queen of comediennes has a generous heart for her less fortunate brothers and sisters in the profession.

"To-morrow," which is to be operatic as well as scenic in character, is to be the Christmas production at the London Hippodrome. The subject should have immense possibilities for exercising the ingenuity of Mr. Frank Parker, the equestrian and stage director. Is it possible that we are to have a new sensation "aeroplanned" by that clever gentleman? Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy will co-operate with Mr. Parker.

Mr. George Robey is following the example of Mr. Harry Lauder, and has compiled a small volume of "memoirs" bearing the title "George Robey: My Life Up to Now," to be published by Messrs. Greening. It should be a bright book, and we hope to "wade" through it shortly.

Miss Madge Temple, the fascinating singer who exhibits a remarkable and richly befeathered umbrella hat at the Coliseum, was recently married to Mr. Hermann E. Darewski, a popular member of the staff of Francis, Day, and Hunter, and the composer of the bride's most successful numbers, "Esau," "Come, be my rainbow," and "Kissing."

Miss Adrienne Augarde, who has by kind permission of Mr. Oswald Stoll postponed her English engagements, sailed per s.s. Kronprinzessin Cecile on Wednesday for America. Miss Augarde has been engaged by Mr. Joseph Brooks to star in the title-rôle of *Peggy Machree*, with Mr. Joseph D'Mara in the hero's part, and will open in New York on Nov. 15.

Mr. Jocelyn Brandon, author of *The Love that Kills*, a version of *L'Arlésienne*, has placed upon the agenda of the L.C.C. the following notice of motion:—"That, in the opinion of the Council, it is unnecessary to differentiate between the licences granted to theatres and to music halls; and that it be referred to the General Purposes Committee to consider and report what amendments should be made in the standing orders of the Council with the view to granting a general and uniform licence to all places of entertainment licensed by the Council, under which it would be optional for the licensee, subject to such restrictions as may be considered desirable, to give either dramatic or what are known as variety entertainments."

It will be remembered that Councils in the outer metropolitan area—such as Walthamstow or Richmond—are quite ready to grant stage play in addition to music and dancing licences, and have done so; but Mr. Brandon's "uniformity" proposal touches the whole principle of licensing, and though apparently a simple one, it is its very simplicity that it is likely to cause controversy.

The laws of entertainment licensing, with all their absurdities and anomalies, are in urgent need of amendment and revision; but the real necessity of the moment is the acquisition by the Council of further powers in order that that important governing body may regulate irregular places of amusement, such as clubs, which more often than not form the arena for the production of piracies of every kind—variety or theatrical.

Applications for music-hall licences for two more suburban theatres will be made to the London County Council in November. One of these houses is the Camden, which was opened on Dec. 26, 1900. The other is the Crown, Peckham, which was opened by the late Wilson Barrett with a performance of *The Sign of the Cross*, on Oct. 31, 1893.

The application for the Camden is being made by Mr. Sidney Marler, of the Jacobus-Marler Syndicate, on behalf of the London Theatres of Varieties, of which Mr. Walter Gibbons is managing-director. It is this company, with which Mr. George Dance is associated, which will control the Shaftesbury when the London County Council grant the music-hall licence now being asked for. The new title selected for the Shaftesbury is the London Casino—an unfortunate choice.

The Brothers Luck, owing to their success in *Lift 'Em's, Limited*, have commissioned the author, Chris Davis, to write two new pantomimic episodes, respectively entitled *The Abode of Love* and *Bluebottles*. Mr. Davis will shortly produce off his "own bat" a new sensational episode, entitled *The Fighting Doctor*.

Mme. Yvette Guilbert has confirmed the statement that she is leaving the variety stage for a time to interpret a number of character parts in the regular drama. After a short holiday in Paris she will begin rehearsing the rôle of the heroine in *The Marriage of a Star*, a comedy which deals with the story of a French actress who marries an Englishman. This is to be produced by Yvette in London next year

The directors of the Empire Theatre have arranged to give a special matinée in aid of the Lifeboat Fund on Tuesday, Nov. 24. A varied programme, in which the leading actors and actresses will appear, has been arranged, and the performance is under the distinguished patronage of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, the Duke of Fife, the Lord Mayor, &c.

Miss Vesta Tilley made her reappearance in London on Monday evening last at the Shepherd's Bush Empire, and the splendid house was thronged at each performance by delighted audiences, who would not be satisfied with less than four songs from this incomparable artist. Miss Tilley sang first "No girl's a fairy," following it with "The seaside smile" and, thirdly, "Jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier." So imperative was the clamour for more that Miss Tilley had to appear again, when she sang her latest success, "I'm the idol of the girls."

The new Empire ballet, *A Day in Paris*, will be produced on Monday. The principal artists are Mlle. Lydia Kyasht, Mlle. Zanfretta, Mr. Jameton, Miss Elise Clerc, Miss Phyllis Bedells, Mr. T. Walls, and Mr. Fred Farren. The story is simple and direct. Mr. and Mrs. Smith and daughter arrive at the gay capital, bent on seeing the sights, and encounter a lively student (Mr. Fred Farren), who promptly becomes their guide. He takes them round Paris, and it is round the amusing episodes in which they figure that the story revolves. Mlle. Kyasht is the central figure, and will introduce some extremely beautiful dances. Mr. Fred Farren is provided with a part which will be found to give his nimble genius the utmost opportunities of fun and frolic.

Miss Dot Stephens, who, since recovering from her serious accident, has been appearing with the greatest success in the principal music halls, sailed on Saturday last for South Africa, where she is booked to appear for nine weeks. On her return she plays her third tour with Moss' Empires, Ltd., and in the autumn tours a drama from the pen of Mr. Frank Price, an author rapidly coming to the front. In this she has an opportunity of introducing all the numbers so popular in the halls, and the play also contains other novel features which should make it a certain success.

An order was made by Mr. Justice Neville on Tuesday for the compulsory winding-up of the Brighton Alhambra, Ltd., but it is understood that the company will appeal. It was stated that the petitioners, who were the trustees of the will of the late Mr. Robert McKergow, held a mortgage on the property for £19,000, which fell due in December last, and had not been paid.

Mr. Jenkins, K.C., urged that the company could pay its debts if given a reasonable time. The property was to be put up for public auction as a going concern at the Mart on Nov 11, and it was believed that more than sufficient would be realised to discharge all encumbrances, He applied that the petition might stand over until after the sale.

His Lordship said that the only course open to him was to make a compulsory order, but he did so with regret. It was clear that the company was unable to pay the debt, and the question before him was not whether at any future time it might be in a position to do so.

Messrs. Douglas Young and Co. have been instructed to offer for sale on Nov. 11 the Alhambra, Brighton, a fully-licensed freehold music hall, providing a total accommodation for over 2,500 persons. Built in the early nineties, this house had as its first manager Mr. William Bailey, now of the West London, and at one time manager of the Metropolitan and the Alhambra, Leicester-square. Later the reins were held by Mr. Harry Lundy, who had to seek the bankruptcy court, when the hall passed into the hands of the Official Receiver. Mr. J. L. Graydon also for some years controlled the house.

With regard to the proposed new variety theatre for Southport, we are informed that the venture is not a purely Manchester undertaking, but the launching of it depends to a large extent on the support accorded it in Southport. Unless this is forthcoming in the measure looked for, the project will not be proceeded with.

It is pointed out by the promoters that Blackpool—which, by the way, has practically no "season" at all during the winter months—can support eight or nine big places of amusement. For this reason the conclusion has been arrived at that Southport could well make a new variety theatre pay. While the theatre is to be managed by Southport directors, a Manchester firm is prepared to find a third of the capital. The chief question is the measure of support which Southport may accord, and the capital which may be forthcoming locally.

By the kindness of Mr. Oswald Stoll, two sacred concerts were given at the Leicester Palace Theatre on Sunday last, when Mr. Hayden Coffin sang with his usual artistic expression, and the Irish Guards band and Miss Daisy Sherriff, vocalist, were the other attractions. The concerts were in aid of the Poor Children's Christmas Treat Fund.

Mr. Fred Solo has concluded his third season with his Drolls and Demures company on Redcar Pier, where he has given general satisfaction to his directors and many patrons during his season. He had Mr. Malcolm Scott and the Northern quartettes from Durham and York cathedrals and other special attractions. He will resume work at the music halls shortly.

We are informed by Councillor Everton that he has disposed of the Empress Variety Theatre, Hartlepool, to Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope Company, which takes possession of the house at an immediate date.

In order to assist the general distress prevalent in Burnley owing to the state of the cotton trade, matinée performances have been held at the two variety theatres, and the amounts which have been handed to the Mayor's Distress Fund are as follows:—Empire Theatre of Varieties (lessee and manager, Mr. W. C. Horner): Money at doors, £19 17s. 11d.; collected by Mrs. Horner, £33 3s. 9d.; given by Mrs. Horner, £5; refreshments and programmes, £3 1s. 3d.; total, £61 2s. 11d. Palace Theatre and Hippodrome (managing-director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten), £60 10s. 3d. A football match was also played on Tuesday between Burnley (League team) and Variety Artists, which proved to be very humorous, and realised about £50, which will be handed over to the same fund.

A new Scottish romantic sketch was produced by Miss Helen Kennedy and company at the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, on Tuesday. It met with a most flattering reception, the curtain having to be raised no less than three times at the finish. Miss Kennedy was presented with a large horseshoe wreath, wishing her good luck. The scenery and dresses are beautiful, and the plot is very interesting.

Mr. Thos. A. Evans, manager of the New Palace Theatre, Northampton, on Monday, the first night of the anniversary week, on behalf of the proprietor, Mr. Fred H. Anderson, tendered sincere thanks to the public of Northampton for their generous support during the past five years. In return, Mr. Anderson would do his level best to obtain the best of talent available in the variety world.

A syndicate has been formed to acquire the old Her Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, in Guild-street, and convert it into a music hall. No expense will be spared in making the necessary structural alterations.

On Wednesday night the fireproof curtain at the Bordesley Palace, Birmingham, refused to act after being lowered, and after fruitless efforts to raise it, it was found necessary to dismiss the audience, who dispersed quietly and good-temperedly enough. However, by Thursday morning the thing was rectified, and the resident-manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward, had special bills out apprising the public of the fact, the performance of *Lucky Durham* that evening being witnessed by the usual large audience that the Palace attracts.

Miss Irene Moncrieff will shortly appear in the title-rôle of Mr. Kyburn-Dellar's latest work, entitled *The Flaming Hussy* (in one flame).

The directors of the Blackpool Winter Gardens, of which Mr. J. R. Huddlestone is manager, are recommending a dividend at the rate of 4 per cent. In respect of the Blackpool Tower, Mr. Harrop and his fellow directors advise the declaration of a dividend at the rate of 6 per cent.

The remains of Mr. Alfred Browne, lately manager of the Sunderland Palace of Varieties, were interred in Bishopwearmouth Cemetery on Friday, the 9th. There was a large gathering of friends and sympathisers at the graveside.

Brighton's amusement resorts are not invariably successful; but the receipts at the West Pier in breezy London-by-the-Sea have been sufficiently large during the present season to enable the directors to declare a dividend of 9 per cent.

Wednesday being the anniversary of the opening of the Hippodrome, Hamilton, N.B., the first performance on that evening was under the distinguished patronage and presence of the Provost, Magistrates, and Councillors of the burgh. The entire proceeds of that performance were devoted to the Hamilton branches of the Queen Victoria Jubilee Institute and the Children's League of Pity.

Mr. George Lashwood opens on Monday at the London Coliseum, where he will again delight his myriads of admirers with his gigantic success "Hang out the front-door key." Messrs. Francis and Day, who publish the song, have in this number what is known as a "gilt-edged security."

Vasco, the "mad musician," whose success at the Empire is recent history, has been elected a member of the Water Rats fraternity. He sails on Saturday next by the Lusitania for the States. George Ross, of Ross and Graydon, has also become a brother of the same order.

Miss Vashti Wynne, after a lengthy tour of the music halls, is returning to the theatres, having been engaged by Mr. Walter Melville for lead in the production of *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Monday.

Miss Alexandra Dagmar returns to London after a short tour, and opens on Monday at the Oxford and Metropolitan, where she will introduce her successful song entitled "A marriage of Mayfair," by Geo. Arthurs and Orlando Powell.

Miss Vesta Victoria has now definitely decided to produce "The lass who loved a sailor," by Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, at the Holborn Empire, when she opens at that house on Monday, the 26th. It is confidently expected to prove the *bonne bouche* of this talented comedienne's répertoire, when she again gives America a taste of her quality shortly.

Amongst recent purchasers of Imperial cars is Miss Cecilia Loftus, the well-known variety artist, who has just ordered a 30 h.p. model from Messrs. C. E. Whittaker, Ltd., of 66, Great Russell-street, the sole agents for Great Britain and the Colonies.

"The Old Willow Plate," an operatic phantasy, written by Robert Willford and composed by Mark Strong, is to be produced by Mr. Herbert Cottesmore at the Camberwell Empire on Monday. The scenery of this costly production is by Mr. Francis H. Bull, and the costumes by J. A. Harrison. Mr. Cottesmore has several other big attractions in active preparation. All communications *re* dates should be made to Messrs. G. and F. Peel, Granville House, Arundel-street, Strand.

Miss Winifred Hare has been secured for the part of Robinson Crusoe at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, next Christmas. Miss Hare recently offered £100 for a suitable song for her to sing in this pantomime, and very keen competition is taking place among song writers and composers in consequence. Strangely enough, although she wants the song for an Irish pantomime, not one manuscript has been received from Ireland yet.

The many friends of Miss Millie Hylton will be delighted to learn that that lady has recovered from her recent indisposition, which at one time threatened to be very serious. She will open at the Manchester Hippodrome on Nov. 2, with new songs by Chas. Wilmot and Hermann Darewski, jun., taking with her the beautiful stage wardrobe which she recently purchased from Louise, of Paris.

On Monday night last the captains and chiefs of the French Fire Brigade visited the Empire Theatre, Holborn, in full regalia. A crowded house gave them an enormous reception, and when the orchestra played the "Marseillaise" the whole house rose en masse and cheered vociferously.

At the conclusion of the performance Mr. E. Leslie Conroy, the manager, introduced six of the captains to the audience, and the *entente cordiale* was fully illustrated by the cheers which greeted them. There were over 500 people waiting to show their appreciation outside the building after the performance, and they actually carried several chiefs and captains shoulder high through the streets. Altogether it was a great night.

At the Richmond Theatre on Monday a new and original musical interlude in three scenes, entitled *The Mountain Belle*, will be produced by Mr. Lawrence Anarto and Mr. Harry Rushworth's company. The book and lyrics emanate from the pen of Mr. Charles Crosier, the music has been composed by Mr. Harry Rushworth, and considerable interest is centred in the initial performance.

Mr. Lawrence Anarto, as one of the Brothers Anarto, has loomed large as a music hall and pantomime favourite, and Mr. Harry Rushworth, as a conductor and composer, has long been recognised as one of the first musicians in the Isle of Man. Since leaving his adopted country in 1900 he has had a large and varied experience—a two years' tour with Our Navy as musical director through the Australasian Colonies, New Zealand, and Queensland; in the same capacity with Mr. C. P. Levelly's *Amorelle* company; and with Mr. John Hart as chef d'orchestre and arranger of music for Christmas production at Bradford

"The Mountain Belle" is brightly written, and has an interesting and coherent story. It will be artistically mounted, and will be interpreted by a carefully-selected company and a full chorus.

There is an old Scotch whiskey curiously named "The Era." It is blended on the banks of the Clyde by Messrs. McIntyre, Ltd., Glasgow. It is the mountain dew whose flavour is cherished by Dr. Bodie, Mr. T. Colquhoun, the Acmes, and Leoni Clarke. These convivial souls—all excellent judges of spirit—while out motoring this week near Glasgow toasted some of their dear London friends, to whom they sent a "wee drappie" of The Era brand in order that they might return the compliment in Cockaigne.

Mr. T. E. Dunville has hit upon an idea out of the common to procure new gags and wheezes for his song "Stickyback, the postman." Week by week members of the public are invited, through the columns of *London Opinion*, to send the comedian at the hall where he is appearing amusing "postcards" to read aloud during the performance of the song, and each week he awards monetary prizes to the senders of the two best gags.

The two criticisms annexed were written in Lancashire papers upon the Dutch entertainment presented by the Four Netherlands:—"Strange and weird in the extreme are the ideas of some of those who set themselves to entertain us. What enjoyment an audience can obtain from watching four women take off their stockings puzzles me. The troupe I saw go through this performance crowded on to the footlights, first shielding the operation by raised parasols, behind which they tugged at their hose in anything but an elegant fashion. The gallery giggled and the house was put into a highly nervous state. When the stockings were removed the quartette danced. They were described on the programme as 'character singers and dancers, in their latest sensation.' The authorities who prohibit living statuary allow these kind of suggestive acts to pass unnoticed. Why?"

"The famous Sisters Netherlands, who gave an ideal 'Dutch' show last year, present an entirely new performance. Opening with a smartly-costumed 'cadet' song and dance, they conclude with a song and dance scena, 'The Tale of a Stocking.' It is an original—even daring (but not by any means a vulgar) show, and culminates, after a humorous interlude, in a clever and pretty barefooted dance of a most charming character, which evokes hearty applause." So much depends on point of view.

When the Ilford Hippodrome opens it will be under the control of the London Theatres of Varieties, Ltd., of which circuit Mr. Walter Gibbons is managing-director.

Miss Rosie Heath, a sufferer for some years from dementia, has had several lengthy rational intervals, during which she has visited friends, who have been led to hope for the complete recovery of this charming burlesque artist of the eighties. Unfortunately, these hopes have proved fallacious. Mrs. Heath, her mother, who is over eighty, has recently lost her husband.

Miss Henriquette Maude, who is this week pursuing her successful London career at the Surrey, temporarily lost the cowboy costume that is necessary to her turn; but turning her ingenuity to account, she was able to improvise one. Fortunately the original dress was restored to her when she applied to the lost property office at Scotland Yard. Her recitation of Frank Desprez's stirring poem "Losca" has roused much enthusiasm among the dwellers across the bridge.

At the Bath House, Dean-street, Oxford-street, will be found Mr. and Mrs. Jack Ashby (of Kelly and Ashby), who will be pleased to see all old and new friends. The house is one minute from the Oxford, and there is a large club room for rehearsals.

On the "Maud Allan Day" at the Palace Theatre on Wednesday the popular dancer completed her 250th appearance at that house, and to commemorate the event Miss Allan presented, in addition to "The Vision of Salome," an extended répertoire of her classic dances, including Rubinstein's "Valse Caprice," Chopin's "Marche Funèbre," and Mendelssohn's Spring Song. The house was crowded. Before the fall of the curtain Miss Allan was presented by the directors with a magnificent bouquet of golden chrysanthemums. To every member of the audience was given a souvenir edition of Miss Allan's book, "My Life and Dancing."

"All at Sea," an original musical-comedy sketch, in three scenes, is from the pen of Mr. Edward Foster, the resident-manager of the Grand Theatre, Birmingham, the music being by Mr. Guy Jones, the composer of *The Gay Gordons*. We hope to announce at an early date the production of the novelty at an important variety theatre. It has been copyrighted.

Miss Hanid Alexander, who has made such an outstanding success at the London Pavilion, where she is nightly appearing, is a pupil of Mme. Helen Townshend, and has been vocally and dramatically trained by that "coaching" expert. Mme. Townshend has, as usual, a long list of students playing principal parts in many of the forthcoming pantomimes at Christmas.

An unfortunate accident happened in the Coliseum, Glasgow, on Monday evening, at the second house. Merrill and Ward, trick cyclists, were in the midst of their business, and were about to perform their most daring feat, a somersault on the bicycle from a sloping platform ten feet high, when they lost their balance, and, in the fall, Merrill was severely injured.

Mr. Harry Burdette, manager at the Coliseum, at once summoned a doctor, and as soon as possible had the sufferer removed to the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow. The accident, naturally, caused much excitement among the large audience.

The well-known comedian, Ted E. Box, had a marvellous escape from a serious accident on Tuesday evening while returning in his brougham to the South London from the Metropolitan. A motor-car dashed into the horse, severely cutting it, breaking the shafts, and bending the undercarriage of the brougham. Fortunately, Mr. Box escaped with a severe shaking up. He had to walk over Lambeth-bridge in his make-up to get a cab, having had to go via Lambeth-bridge owing to the suffragettes blocking the thoroughfare of Westminster-bridge. He arrived at the South just in time to do his turn.

Mr. Frederick Maxwell has in active preparation, and will shortly produce, another new sketch from his own pen entitled *Give a Man a Chance*. Several novel features will be introduced in it, and the general mounting and effects will be on a lavish scale. Miss Lois du Cane will have an especially good part in Loanda, an Indian girl. After his present tour he will return to London for a lengthy season.

Mr. Stanley C. May, who has represented Messrs. Richard Warner and Co., Ltd., for some years, both in London and the provinces, resigns his position with that firm on Saturday next to join Leo Fritz as manager and representative on the following Monday. Mr. Fritz, owing to the increase of business, has taken new offices in Cecil House, Charing Cross-road, where he hopes to see his old friends.

The first Music Hall and Theatrical Football League match took place on Sunday last in ideal weather and under perfect conditions. The opposing teams were the Tivoli and Broadway Theatre, New Cross. Mr. Joe Wilson, manager of the Tivoli, Mr. Wilkie Bard, and Mr. Fred Ginnett were amongst the visitors, and after a short delay Mr. Wilson kicked off for his team at 11.25. The Broadway became immediately prominent, making several smart rushes. Their clever wing forwards were well fed by a smart set of half-backs, of whom the centre was the star man. When the Tivoli forwards set themselves going play became very exciting, and just before half-time A. Webb scored with a beauty, the teams crossing over 1—0 in favour of the Tivoli.

In the second half the Tivolians gradually worked their way down into the Broadway territory, and from a beautiful centre A. Webb put the Tivoli two up. Eventually Broadway sent the ball into the mouth of the Tivoli goal. In stopping it the goalkeeper slipped, and the ball just rolled over the line. With the score 2—1 the interesting match finished in favour of the Tivoli.

James Horgrove Thurley, formerly chairman of the Suburban Varieties, Limited, was committed for trial at the Mansion House on Wednesday charged with forging cheques for £50 and £10. It was stated that the Suburban Varieties had an account at the Fleet-street branch of the Capital and Counties Bank. The prisoner opened a private account there, and paid into his account cheques for £50 and £10, drawn on the Suburban Varieties account. The cheques were signed by himself as chairman and purported to be signed by a co-director, Mr. Cuthbert Simkins; but the latter's signatures were forgeries. When arrested it was alleged the prisoner said, "I can but plead guilty."

Regan and Ryan have just returned from a phenomenally successful engagement in Australia with Mr. Harry Rickards. Their original style of telling gags while walking was a big feature down under. They go to the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, this Christmas, making their fourth season in that city for pantomime.

A freehold estate in Keighley, acquired some time ago as a site for a music hall (the plans being approved by the Corporation) was offered by Mr. Murgatroyd Smith for sale on Wednesday evening, when it was knocked down for £1,725 to Mr. F. S. Pearson, accountant, on behalf of a local magnate, who intends to erect a large warehouse thereon.

A question which has agitated the minds of Mr. W. H. Mallock and others is disposed of in a few lines in *Is Life Worth Living?* a monologue, produced at the Empress, Brixton, this week. Miss Freda Sharlotte delivers the piece, and impersonates a woman who lives luxuriously on ten thousand a year, but is dying miserably of ennui. She puts to herself the fateful query alluded to, and sinks into a chair asleep. Then appears a weird gnome, who beckons to the sleeper and hurries off.

After a moment's pause the lady awakes, and relates in rhyme how she has been led, like old Scrooge, to many and various scenes, depicting the noble exertions of a mother for her child, a thrilling rescue at a fire, and the work of the lifeboat crew at sea—all the incidents going to prove how much life is worth the living. The realm of sport is entered as a conclusion, and the keen contests at cricket, football, and on the turf are extolled, a tribute to the King as sportsman and peacemaker forming a fitting finale. Miss Sharlotte expressively renders the monologue, which is accompanied by effective music, and is loudly cheered.

Mr. William A. Bennet, the popular Press agent for the Moss and Stoll combine, is resigning his position at Cranbourn-mansions, and in a few weeks will be installed in offices at 22, Denmark-street, Charing Cross-road. Mr. Bennet came into prominence when he succeeded Mr. Coates at the Coliseum. Previous to taking up the position he had been working assiduously for the suburban Empires connected with the Moss-Stoll circuit. Previous to becoming a Press agent, he was at one time chief reporter on the *Weekly Dispatch*, and was also on the staff of the *Daily Mail*.

Such an experienced journalist and smart business man should not languish for clients, and we are given to understand that Mr. Will Bennet will represent some of the leading artists of the theatrical and music-hall professions, and incidentally a couple of West-End theatres.

The usual monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road. In the absence of the president (Mr. Fred Karno), Mr. Pat Carey presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. J. Wainratta, H. E. High, T. Carney, Frank Boyce, S. White, W. Brisco, G. Fredericks, T. B. Brydge, F. Melli, and O. Grimaldi.

Eight new members were elected, and the chairman expressed his gratification at the increase in the membership. He believed that the society was regarded by the profession as a very sound investment, and he had no doubt that the oldest music-hall provident fund in existence would continue to flourish, in spite of the fact that in these days it had to meet with competition from other societies with similar objects.

It was agreed that the secretary (Mr. R. T. Baines) should be instructed to write a letter to the hon. treasurer (Mr. Frank Heath) expressing the regret of the members at hearing of his illness, which prevented him attending the meeting, and their hope that he would speedily recover. The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

At the 580th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, held on Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Marriott Edgar presided, and among those present were Messrs. W. H. Atlas, J. McNally, J. Tray, T. C. Callaghan, Lieut. Albini, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The draft of the annual report was passed after a few slight alterations.

Mr. Douglas White was nominated for Vice-President, and Messrs. Albert Womber, Charles Parker, J. Obo, and James Miller were made committeemen. This brings the total number up to fifty-seven. Three more will be co-opted by ballot of the entire committee in order to bring the number up to the required sixty.

Mr. Albert Wyndham, who terminates his provincial tour in three weeks, will open at the Surrey in a special production of *Prince Arthur*, with the great child actress, Miss Paula Sheppard, as the Prince.

"There are always a certain number of songs," says the *Morning Leader*, "which, by the unbounded favour they have already achieved, leave the panto-makers no chance but to accept them. They take their places by right of conquest. Such is the case this year. There is, for example, 'Oh! Oh! Antonio.' We may depend upon it that few of the 250 pantos to be produced in London and the provinces this Christmas will be without this big hit of Florrie Forde.

"Then there is the melodious story of 'Sue, Sue, Sue,' beloved by that popular coon, G. H. Elliott. With the aid of Mr. Hermann E. Darewski's charming music, 'Sue' has already turned myriad heads in London and the provinces, and when Mr. Elliott goes to the Prince of Wales's at Birmingham it will not be long before the whole city will be singing, humming, and whistling, 'Sue, Sue, Sue.'"

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1¼; Canterbury, ¼; Empire, 15s. paid, 1¼; ditto, 10s. paid, 1; London Pavilion Ordinary, 4; ditto Pref., 4¾; Metropolitan, 14s.; Moss Empire, 5; ditto 5 per cent. Pref., 3¾; Oxford, 6; Palace, 18s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5¼; Var. Cons. Theatres, 9s. 6d.

Miss Melinda May, secretary Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., tenders her thanks to the following ladies:—Miss Rose Elliott, for her contribution of £1 3s. 6d. (through Mrs. Fred Ginnett); to Miss Louie Davis, for her collection of £1 2s. 6d.; and Mrs. Phil Hayes, 5s. (through Miss Davis); Mrs. Tom Wootwell 2s. 6d., and a very useful parcel of clothing (anonymous) from Kennington Cross. Miss May would be grateful for gentlemen's as well as ladies' wearing apparel, of which the Guild is greatly in need. Friends of the charity are heartily invited, and are sure of a welcome at the reception and tea held every Wednesday from 3 to 5 o'clock.

Councillor James Baggs, a director of the Portsmouth Empire Palace Co., Ltd., was unanimously selected Mayor of Portsmouth for the ensuing year.

The Water Rats' Agency, which has been established as a result of the V.A.F. dispute, is now in active working order, under the personal superintendence of Mr. Joe O'Gorman.

Walter Lovick Butler, an elderly man, of Broad-street, Lambeth, was charged at Bow-street, on remand, with obtaining money by false pretences. It was stated that the prisoner recently obtained a loan from the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund by means of a forged reference signed in the name of F. Yapp. When he was arrested by Detective-sergeant Collins, he said:—"I don't understand it. Mr. Frank Yapp told me I could use his name, and write what I liked. I wrote the sketch he is now playing in, *Next, Please*. I may as well say at once that I wrote the reference myself." Mr. Frank Yapp, a music hall artist, said that he had known the prisoner for many years as a respectable man, and if he had applied to him for a reference he would have given him one. The prisoner was bound over in 40s. to come up for judgment if called upon.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Any novelty from the pen of that graceful composer Herbert E. Haines is always hailed with expectant delight by lovers of music, and his reputation will be enhanced by two latest additions to Messrs. Francis and Day's catalogue, in which Mr. Haines is at his best. The titles are "Angela's serenade" and "Cinderella" intermezzo.

Other numbers in the press about to be issued by Messrs. Francis and Day include songs entitled respectively "In the land of the kangaroo," by Fred Godfrey, Percy Edgar, and T. W. Thurban, and "I'm not the swallow that flies away," by G. A. Stevens, sung by Miss Gladys Mavius.

Miss Daisy Irving's fine voice has, at the Tivoli, been heard during the week to the greatest advantage in the ballad by Percy Edgar, entitled "Let me but hope." The music is in Henry E. Pether's best vein, which is saying much. Mr. David Day's firm issue the number.

During the week at the London Coliseum Mr. Louis de Rondelle's fine orchestra has been performing the new Intermezzo Parisienne entitled "Musette," by Neil Moret, the composer of "Poppies." The morceau is likely to vie in popularity with the gifted composer's former "rage," as is borne out by the avalanche of requests addressed to Messrs. Francis and Day's orchestral department for band parts of the same.

Miss Annie Purcell is this week making a decided hit with Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford's charming song entitled "Mary Anne," published by Francis, Day, and Hunter. Another pretty song by the same authors, entitled "I'm going to marry Maisie," and published by Messrs. Price and Reynolds, will shortly be featured on the halls by the Magpies, and this number will also be heard in several of London's biggest pantomimes at Christmas.

Messrs. Joseph Williams, of 32, Great Portland-street, W., have just published a merry musical comedy for girls entitled *When Woman Rules*, written by Mr. F. Hutchinson, with music composed by Lionel Elliott, and the ease with which the comedy can be staged and costumed ought to make it very popular with lady amateurs. The scene of *When Woman Rules* is laid at Lynde Castle. Lady Dorothy Lynde, feeling that the wrongs of her sex demand redress, determines to hold a court of law in the hall of Lynde Castle, being herself the judge, and her lady friends taking the parts of the counsel for defence, counsel for prosecution, clerk of the court, and the jury. The dialogue is lively, as all the ladies want principal parts and picturesque costumes, while the jury decline to serve unless they can wear a delicate shade of art blue. Muriel Hardinge, counsel for defence, has a short solo, "O men of the world, see our banner unfurled," and the chorus,

"With solemn step and weighty tread,
With learnèd air and thoughtful head,
We maids of Lynde these volumes bear,
For Law's our joy, our study dear,"

is very effective. Copies of the libretto and music are published at the modest price of 1s. each, and all rights of representation are reserved by Messrs. Joseph Williams.

Of quite another character is *The Sentence*, a short one-act play by Miss Edith Wheeler. There are only three persons—Judge Dane, Lady Cecil (his wife), and a friend, Rudolph Chalmers, K.C.—in this little play, the motive of which turns on the hypnotic powers of Judge Dane, who either has or thinks he has used them unfairly in causing his brother's death, and in winning his wife and present position as Judge. *The Sentence* ends by the conscience-stricken Judge shooting himself. As the time of performance only takes about half an hour, and as no special scenery or effects are required, Miss Wheeler's play is admirably adapted to drawing-room representation.

From the same firm comes "The Sleepy Song," abridged from the poem by Josephine Daskam, with music by Katharine Barry. "Ein Liebeslied," a pianoforte solo, with violin accompaniment, composed by Seymour Powell, contains a pleasing and expressive melody, and is an excellent study for a clever amateur. In "Malagnena," an effective Habanera for the piano, Mr. Arnoldo Sartorio has given English fingering above the notes and foreign fingering below the notes. A French composer, M. Edouard L'Enfant, has written a clever piano solo entitled "Pierrot et Colombine," which is dedicated to his pupil, Mlle. Joséphine Redding.

Mr. F. Hutchinson has written a laughable play for amateurs in *The Cressmans Entertain*. The unexpected appearance of Mrs. Cressman's great-aunt, Miss Sarah Hopkins, from whom the Cressmans have expectations, is a diverting incident, as the old lady is somewhat eccentric and old-fashioned. Much fun is also caused by the goings-on of Perkins, a hired waiter. The play can easily be given in a drawing-room, and has been written to give scope to members of a house-party who do not wish for frequent rehearsals.

Miss Annie Braddan (the Manx girl) brings the song she has made famous in the provinces, "Far away in Australia," to London next Monday. She will be heard at the Ealing Hippodrome.

A difficult pantomime problem is the sorting out of the real "gems of song" from the many worthless ones. In order to influence managers and artists many weird and wonderful arguments are used—for instance, by some it is mooted that "girl" songs are out of date, as though that were possible. Such songs always have and always will be the people's favourites as long as the world goes round. But—and it is this but which baffles so many would-be writers of popular numbers—the subject must be redressed in an interesting and attractive manner and the melody must be the crowning glory, bright and dashing, yet simple, melodious, catchy, and easy to remember. There is one number this season which fulfils all the above requirements, and that is Mr. Chas. Whittle's great song, "I don't care to" (published by the Star Music Co.). It has already been secured for most of the big pantomime productions in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Nottingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Hanley, Dublin, Belfast, &c., not forgetting ten London pantomimes. Light comedians and principal boys, hurry up, or you'll be left!

Mr. Bert Feldman, of Feldman and Co., to use his own words, has now got "the real gem" for the forthcoming pantomimes in the shape of a production and chorus number entitled "I like your old French bonnet," and is confident that the chorus will become even more popular than the famous "Zuyder Zee." The words and music are by Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford. Pantomime boys and girls should hurry up and book this charming song.

Miss Maidie Scott has secured a song, written and composed by Will Hyde, entitled "As soon as a fellow gets married," and Mr. Josh Dixon a comic number from the same pen called "Home-made nursery rhymes."

Mr. Harry Dacre, the well-known publisher and author-composer of whom we hear all too little nowadays, was a visitor to the Tivoli on Tuesday last, and was observed to be enjoying the fine programme with evident zest.

LONDON HIPPODROME.

Classic dancers multiply apace, and it seems that the newest apostle of the poetry of motion deprecates the methods of the schools, and would even speak disrespectfully of Taglioni and the famous *pas de quatre*. Broadly and briefly speaking, the lover of the art of expression in dancing accepts all that is worthy in the unconventionality of the new without losing his belief in the established conventions that have given us a Genée. Artemis Colonna, who made her début at the London Hippodrome on Monday, is of the opinion that dancing has been degraded and debased, but that there is some hope that the ugly contortions of the modern ballerina will be altered gradually into something more graceful and harmonious. Mlle. Colonna, like Miss Maud Allan, was originally inspired by the melodies of Chopin—that erratic and romantic poet of dance music—to a novel interpretation of his delightful cadences. His Fantaisie Impromptu naturally stimulated her to a freedom of gesture and movement—spontaneous, not academic. Like Miss Allan, she, too, studied examples of Greek sculpture in classic Athens, where her artistic temperament revelled in the rich suggestions of perfectly modelled antiques. For her opening solo Colonna on Monday afternoon chose the Blue Danube waltz, one of the famous dance measures that is likely to achieve immortality. Dressed like a Greek nymph, in loose classic robes of soft silk, the dancer at first adopts a pensive attitude, which develops into greater animation as the opening bars of the first melody, with its irresistible lilt, are played. Then she starts from her seat, and with face irradiated with pleasure, expresses the joy of living in her rapid waltzing. She perhaps reaches a higher plane of her art when she realises in her gesture play and movement something of the tragedy of *Iphigenia in Aulis*. Glück's opera, it may be recalled, marked a new era in the history of French opera. This severe and deeply conceived work transports us bodily into Greece: it is pervaded throughout by the atmosphere of the days of Sophocles. Colonna in her interpretation of the beautiful Minuet and Saraband, suggests with considerable intelligence the tragedy of the sacrifice to the gods of the daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra; but the business of the scene—in itself a clever representation of the Acropolis at Athens—was spoilt by anachronisms. It was on the actual spot depicted by this special scene—cleverly painted by Joseph Harker—that Colonna danced before the King of Greece and Court.

The Sands of Dee reaches its wonderful water catastrophe twice daily, and nothing quite so thrilling has been seen even at the Hippodrome, where Mr. Frank Parker has exercised more mechanical ingenuity in regard to stage effects in the course of a decade than was the case in the previous half-century. The roar of the engulfing waves, the rapid advance of the tide that threatens to immolate the heroine, strike the ordinary visitor with awe, and the great enthusiasm which breaks forth at the moment of her gallant rescue by her sailor lover has the genuine ring of exultation. Mr. J. H. Barnes, Miss Ruth Maitland, Mr. Lawson Butt, Mr. Norman Trevor, and Mr. Fred Wallace play better than ever.

Mr. Charles Aldrich delights the audience by his droll burlesque of juggling; the Four Holloways create a big sensation by their wire performance, Miss Holloway's bicycling tricks on the thin filament of steel being of unprecedented difficulty; and Princess Trixie is quite an accomplished performer in the three R's, with music as an additional accomplishment. Those popular Hippodrome humorists Alexandre and Hughes keep the house laughing; and we have eminent circus drolls in the Fratellini Brothers and the Brothers Albano. Kioto, Japanese equilibrist, stands on a loose pedestal of wooden bricks, changes his feet for his hands by skilful bending; Botello and Virginia are clever and smart aerial gymnasts; and Zeynard's Liliputian speciality and equestrian troupe submit a most interesting speciality. It is always a pleasure to meet Mr. Fred Trussell in front of the house here.

"Ice cream! Baked chestnuts!" is the title of an eccentric comedy topical duet for principal comedian and "dame" in pantomime which Messrs. Harrington and Powell are issuing the rights of, price £2 2s. per town. Already several of our leading comedians engaged in pantomime have secured the rights for their respective towns. The number opens up vast possibilities for the introduction of "business."

Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell have just completed a "serenade" of more than ordinary charm for Miss Kitty Tims entitled "Where only the stars can hear," which the latter will produce for the first time at the Metropolitan on Monday.

"Fads and Fancies" is the title of a new song by John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell, in which the authors indulge in some sly digs at human foibles. This number will be "featured" at the Oxford on Monday next by stately Miss Alexandra Dagmar, who specially commissioned Messrs. Harrington and Powell to write the song for her.

RETURN OF CECILIA LOFTUS.

Unheralded by preliminary puff, Cissie Loftus (as she was then known) stepped on to the stage of the Oxford one Saturday matinée, and immediately became famous. How well does the writer remember the girl of fifteen in her simple white dress, with her light brown tresses *au naturel*, holding an immense house spellbound by the perfect naturalness of her imitations of the stars of the period. Her success was immediately noised abroad, and Mr. George Edwardes very soon secured her to play the part of Haydée. It was afterwards the privilege of the young actress to be chosen by Sir Henry Irving for the rôle of Marguerite in his last revival of *Faust* at the Lyceum; but in no character has she been seen to greater advantage than in that of Peter Pan at the Duke of York's.

After an absence of some eighteen months, Miss Loftus is to be seen again in St. Martin's-lane, this time at the Coliseum. With the development of her gifts by experience and observation, she is greater than ever as a mimic. There is subtler finesse, a more absolute certainty of touch, greater minuteness of detail. Cecilia is both serious and droll. Her passion seems very real when in the tones of Miss Ethel Irving as Lady Frederick she rates Lady Mereston for her persecution; and one laughs consumedly a minute or two later when one recognises Marie Dressler singing "A great big girl like me." Mr. Hayden Coffin is an old favourite; but Caruso is new. Herein are great vocal difficulties, which are surmounted with surprising success. The genuine cleverness of her facial play is conspicuous in her realisation of the American comedian, Mr. Bert Williams (the Jonah man of *In Dahomey*), playing a game of poker. An even more admirable example of her keen perception and exactitude is the singing, as Yvette Guilbert, of "The Keys of Heaven." Her Harry Lauder, too, is a great success. Miss Loftus has been received during the week by Coliseum audiences with acclamation, and Mr. Stoll may be congratulated on securing such an eminent actress to top his bill.

Other attractions at the Coliseum include the Arthur Lloyd Trio, in their drawing-room entertainment known as *Little Charlie; or, The Twin Sisters*. The family traditions are well sustained in this bright, clever, and capably-acted trifle. We have a Parisian sensation in the Apache dance of M. Volbert, a most agile performer, who is assisted by Mlle. Sylve; and in *The Rogues of the Turf* we get all the excitement of a five-act racing drama, with real thorough-breds, in the short space of half-an-hour. The great race for the Manchester Cup is positively thrilling. Early in the bill we find Les Frasettis—a lady fiddler and a gentleman harpist, and incidentally most skilful xylophonists, whose musical entertainment makes a hit. The tenor, Tom Child, sings exceedingly well, being heard to great advantage in "Take a pair of sparkling eyes," Sullivan's delightful tenor song from *The Gondoliers*, and in "Mary of Argyle."

Miss Madge Temple, that delightful artist, has made her reappearance at this house, and has once more proved that she deserves her reputation of being one of the smartest-dressed women on the stage. She wore a most becoming blue silk gown of the very latest Parisian design, and a handsome "matinée" hat. Her first number, "Come, be my rainbow," with "atmospheric" and "meteorological" effects, was rendered in most charming manner, the refrain being readily taken up by the audience. The other number, "Kissing," she gave with inimitable archness. She creates a sensation when, in answer to a call, she emerges from the wings in her wonderful 14ft. hat, with lovely feathers. Oh, what a surprise!

Other turns include Horace and Olga's interesting troupe of toy terriers and cats; Wright and Lawson, a couple of curiosities; Odette Valery, in her "Salome" and "Cleopatra" dances; and "Visions of Wagner," produced by Charles Wilson, illustrative of the stories of *Lohengrin* and *Tannhäuser*. The Bioscope is also an attraction. Mr. Dundas Slater, the popular manager here, is rejoicing in crowded and delighted audiences. The Coliseum has established a high reputation, and it is evident that it has its special clientèle of patrons, who are not exactly what may be called music hall frequenters.

Messrs. John P. Harrington and Orlando Powell are responsible for Mr. Jock Whiteford's song-scena, "Mary, ma Hieland Fairy," which the popular Scotch comedian produced for the first time at the Hippodrome, Birmingham, with the most gratifying results.

Teachers of music who have hailed as veritable godsends the scholarly works of Mr. J. Simpson, whose books on "Irregular Scale Practice" and "Scale and Arpeggio Manuals" for the pianoforte, have been hallmarked by the approval of Sir Geo. Martin, the late Walter Macfarren, and Dr. E. H. Turpin, will be glad to learn that the publishers of the foregoing manuals, Messrs. Francis and Day, are issuing two more works from the same pen, forming Nos. 7 and 8 of the "High School Editions"—to wit, "Simpson's Violin Scale and Arpeggio Manual" and "Simpson's High School Pianoforte Tutor."

"PAQUITA."

Romantic Ballet, Arranged and Produced by Signor Alfredo Curti, Music by George W. Byng, Costumes by Alias from designs by Comelli, Scenery by E. H. Ryan. Presented under the Personal Direction of Alfred Moul at the Alhambra, on Monday, Oct. 12.

Prince Philip	Miss Julia Seale
Don Gomez de Sylva	Signor G. Rosi
Duke of Alcala	Signor Santini
Roderigo Perez	Mr. Tom Coventry
Piquilo	Mr. G. Almonti
Pedro	Signor Frielli
Concita, Inez	Mlle. Jacqueline Blaney
Manolita	Miss L. Bryant
Paquita	Mlle. Britta

A sensuous and beautiful spectacle, with the picturesque environment, the warmth of atmosphere, the rich colouring, and the passion demanded of a romantic ballet which has its genesis in the immediate neighbourhood of the Moorish Alhambra! This is our verdict on *Paquita*. Mr. Alfred Moul has certainly done well in presenting, amid such magnificent surroundings, such an intelligible story—which reminds one so strongly of the libretto of *Maritana*—and he has done even better in entrusting the principal part to a young artist so well equipped as Mlle. Britta, who has the advantages of a most attractive personality, and is still in her teens. On Monday evening she began most auspiciously a brilliant career at the famous ballet house, and at once established herself a favourite.

We may briefly sketch the scenario of the new ballet. Paquita's lover, the impecunious Don Gomez, is imprisoned and threatened with death on account of his share in a duel which he fights in defence of the gipsy girl, who determines to rescue him. She comes with the gipsy chief, disguised as a monk, and the rest is quite easy. The chief, on behalf of his companions, proposes that Paquita shall marry the man who has been ready to lay down his life for her, and she joyfully consents. The wedding then and there takes place, with the gipsy rite of breaking a jar. Don Gomez then departs by the window of the prison, leaving his newly-made bride behind. Paquita can, however, take care of herself, and when the Duke Alcala forces his odious attentions upon her she draws a dagger and threatens to kill herself. She is then taken away by two guards.

In the next scene, the Ambassadors' Hall at the Alhambra, Mr. E. H. Ryan has painted a Moorish interior of great splendour, and herein the gaiety of the beautifully-dressed throng, the magnificent proportions of the architecture, and the brilliance of the decorations make up a mise-en-scène of glittering beauty. La Fête Galante, a superb series of dances, employs the whole corps de ballet. In a fan and veil dance we see coryphées daintily clad in pink; in a garland dance a rich tone of green feasts the eye; and in the dance of Bacchanals gold is the prevailing colour. The story continues with the entry of Paquita, whose position as captive excites the pity of Prince Philip, who asks her to dance. His favourite, Inez, jealous of the gipsy girl, insists that Paquita shall dance undraped, but such an indignity is prevented by the Prince, who makes an avowal of his passion; but eventually Don Gomez is granted his freedom, and the newly-wedded pair are reunited.

Of the new dancer we have already spoken. We may, however, add that while there was apparently no desire to overload her with responsibilities, she admirably realised them. In the second scene she showed considerable command of passion in her miming, and the dance in the final scene completed her conquest. She reminds one at times of her gifted countrywoman Genée. Julia Seale expressed with perfect art the admiration of Prince Philip for the heroine and his chagrin at his rebuff; Mlle. Jacqueline Blaney made an attractive Inez; Signor G. Rosi sang a tuneful serenade as Don Gomez; Signor Frielli was a passionate Pedro; and Mr. Tom Coventry, Mr. G. Almonti, and Signor Santini played other parts with all the significance demanded, Miss L. Bryant completing the cast of principals as Manolita.

Mr. George W. Byng's music is throughout bright, engaging, and full of melody. The farandole and the mazurka by the muleteers in the first scene are happy examples of inspiring dance measures; and the ear is again captured by the series of dances in the last scene, which we have endeavoured to describe. The conclusion of the ballet was marked by great enthusiasm, and principals and everybody concerned were called and recalled. *Paquita* should be exercising her fascinations at the Alhambra for months to come.

Mr. Harry Marlow, author-composer of "Bayon," so popular in most of last year's pantomimes, has supplied the Monte Carlo Publishing Co. with a new number for the forthcoming pantomime season. The title is "Gretna Green," and the song (the words of which are by Mr. Andrew N. Allen) recounts in diverting fashion the adventures of a young cavalier and his "ladye love." "Gretna Green" should certainly be a song for principal boys in all our Christmas "annuals" this year.

V.A.F. AND AGENTS.

At yesterday afternoon's meeting of the V.A.F., held at the Bedford Head Hotel, a vote of continued confidence and support in the executive committee was passed unanimously. The proceedings were not open to the Press.

There is scarcely anything to report in connection with the above dispute. The boycotted agents are pursuing a policy of masterly inactivity, and the situation is practically the same as it was a week ago. Mr. Joe O'Gorman has been selected to superintend the newly-established Water Rats Agency, and the General Secretary of the V.A.F. has sent out the following circular to every music hall manager in the country:—

Dear Sir,—

Re THE AGENCY DISPUTE.

In order that you and your patrons may not suffer any inconvenience in completing your programmes owing to the boycott of the agents by our members, we have made arrangements whereby we can put you into immediate communication with any artiste whose services you desire.

Our members have supplied us with a full list of bookings, together with their absolutely lowest terms, and you can rest assured your requirements—more especially as regards the *barring* clause—will receive our immediate attention.

As we are not charging our members for the services rendered, the sincerity of our motive cannot possibly be misconstrued.—Yours faithfully,

Monte Bayly,
General Secretary.

In view of the knotty question whether deducted commission is equitably assignable, the following letter from Mr. Oswald Stoll to an artist who wrote suggesting to that gentleman that the agent should be dispensed with is interesting:—

Oct. 2, 1908.

Dear Sir,—I have your letter of yesterday's date, intimating that, in view of the dispute between the Variety Artists' Federation and the agents, you would prefer to do business direct instead of through your agent, Mr. George Peel.

In arriving at your salary for this week, we took into account the fact that you were paying your agent 10 per cent. We are quite agreeable to meet your wishes by doing business direct on your making this reduction on your salary.—Yours faithfully, p. Oswald Stoll, A.Y.

Cranbourn Mansions.

AGENTS' PROTEST.

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—Our attention has been called to the following statement in the *Performer* of the 8th inst., that "it was made clear that people who made engagements for the Continent, such as Marinelli, &c., were in the habit of charging 15 to 20 per cent." This statement, as far as we are concerned, is wholly devoid of the truth, and as there is no justification for it, we should be glad if you will contradict it in the next issue of your widely-read journal.—Yours faithfully,

E. Wollheim
(p. H. B. Marinelli, Ltd.)

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—In the issue of the *Performer* of the 8th inst. there was published a report of a speech made at the V.A.F. meeting held on the 2nd inst., by Mr. O'Gorman, in which he named this firm as having charged clients 15 per cent. commission.

We ask the hospitality of your columns to most emphatically contradict such wanton and irresponsible assertions. In no single instance since our firm's existence have we ever charged any one artist or troupe of artists more than the recognised commission of 10 per cent.

Our books are periodically audited by Messrs. Baker, Sutton, and Co., chartered accountants, of Eldon-street House, E.C., who can vouch for the accuracy of our statement. Thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of our reply to Mr. O'Gorman's baseless charges,—We are, sir, yours faithfully,

Somers and Warner.

Jean Macduff, the Scotch male impersonator, is meeting with much success on her first appearance at the Opera House, Workington. Mr. Herbert Melville, her manager, has under consideration several London offers.

Owing to the sudden indisposition of Miss Clara Alexander on Thursday evening, Mr. Walter Macnamara went on at a moment's notice and worked his clever skit, *The Member for Bunkham*, with such success that it has been retained on the bill for the remainder of the week.

Such is the vogue of open-air entertainers by the seaside that already in our columns managers and town clerks are inviting offers for the season 1909. The Corporation of Sunderland is betimes with an announcement asking for tenders for the use of the pierrot enclosure, adjoining the Holey Rock, Lower Promenade, Roker, Sunderland, for next summer. Offers are to be delivered at the offices of Mr. F. M. Bowey, town clerk, Sunderland.

Pantomime is growing near, at least as regards songs. Managers, producers, and artists are alike eager to find the one thing essential for pantomime—the popular song. Mr. Fred Elton is this week exploiting his one hundred-guinea song, "When the leaves are tinged with gold," at the Canterbury and Duchess, Balham, and, if we may judge by its reception it bids fair to be most popular. It has already been secured by several of our leading pantomime producers. It will be issued by the National Publishing Co., 132, Charing Cross-road. The author is Mr. J. F. Lambe, whose "Queen of Old Samara" has become world famous.

Five of Mr. J. F. Lambe's most successful songs are being sung in London this week—"Jessie, the flower of Inverness," by Miss Annie Purcell at the Bedford, published by Price and Reynolds; "When the berry is on the holly," by Miss Ethel Arundell at the Standard, published by Francis and Day; "Maggie Schneider" (Francis and Day), and "Oh, Salome," by Miss Jessie Preston at the Empress, Brixton; and Mr. Fred Elton's one hundred-guinea song, "When the leaves are tinged with gold," at the Canterbury and the Duchess, Balham. The author-composer of "Queen of Old Samara" ought to be a happy man.

The question of the local band stand was again considered at a meeting of the Clacton Traders' Association on Monday night. A Councillor proposed the following resolution:—"That the Clacton Traders' Association views with some anxiety the proposed alteration in the arrangements on the band stand, and urges the Clacton Urban District Council to on no account dispense with the military bands, as in the Association's opinion the benefit to the whole town of having a high-class entertainment at the most prominent spot in the town far outweighs any pecuniary advantage which might be gained by letting to a contractor." Another Councillor explained that they had £300 for the letting of chairs, &c., on the beach—which was all included in the band stand accounts; they had had bona-fide offers of £200 for the band stand; there was the £200 which they had dropped, and there was about £100 paid in the way of rates, &c., in respect of the band stand, which was charged to the greensward account. That made the £800, which was equal to a 4d. rate. The matter was discussed at length; and there was evidently a strong feeling against the alteration.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,
142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"

Miss FLORRIE FORDE'S LATEST SENSATION.

Will be the rage of the coming pantomimes. Principal Boys and Girls should secure this at once.

OH! OH! ANTONIO!

A COMEDIAN'S TRAVELS.

Mr. Harry Phydora, writing from St. Paul Hotel, West 60th Street, New York, where he is having a look round, says:—"Of course, never having been by another route, I don't know, but I should think the one I took—via Canada—the best. You have only four days open sea, and if you are lucky, as I was, you meet with experiences that you never could meet with by other routes. I sailed from Liverpool September 10th, had a good passage, and on the 15th just before we sighted Belle Island, I saw my first iceberg. The doctor estimated it at 200ft. high and a couple of miles distant, which, of course, at sea would appear very near, and a good two-thirds of it seemed to be under water. You can easily imagine what a huge floating mass of ice it was, shaped exactly like an island, with a lighthouse one end, then a few hillocks rising gradually to the full height and looking like a huge cliff, and then again gradually descending to the sea. Across the Gulf of St. Lawrence good weather, and a lovely run up the St. Lawrence River, though the river is too wide to see the beauty of its banks at their best. On our arrival at Quebec at 1 p.m. on Thursday, 17th, we visited the historic Plains of Abraham, whereGenerals Wolfe and Montcalm were both killed, and should have sailed at 10 p.m., but the smoke from forest fires up-country was so dense on the river we could not start. Next morning it was no better, so took the car to Montmorency Falls—only a few cents' ride, and one of the most beautiful sights one could wish to see. The falls are 100ft. higher than Niagara, and mark the end of 'he Montmorency river. Though the volume of water is not nearly so great as Niagara, still the falls are a sight to quite fill the eye. At half-past ten p.m. on Friday, 18th, the strong wind which sprung up cleared away the smoke, and we were under way by eleven, arriving at Montreal at nine on Saturday morning, just missing our connection for New York.

We stayed the day and night in Montreal, and left at half-past eight Sunday morning; and, after a tiring train journey, arrived at New York at three a.m. Monday. Over Brooklyn Bridge to Coney Island, and, once there, you have all the fun of the fair in abundance. Each side of a fairly wide street, about a hundred yards from, and running parallel with, the sea is lined with all sorts of attractions of a holiday nature. The switchback in every variety—here called the rocky road to Dublin, there looping the loop, and, again, the Devil's Highway, and so on. Then the semi-music halls, where you pay for a drink, and a continuous cinematograph is being displayed; or at another a half dozen or more girls sit in a semicircle on a stage, and take it in turns to get up and sing a song or perform a skirt dance. Then every few yards a restaurant or café of every nationality under the sun, where you can dine à la France, Germany, Italy, Chinee, Greek, American, or English for a very moderate sum, from 50 cents to a dollar, as per the advertisements outside. What it may cost you before leaving the inside is something I would not care to guess at.

There is one show, or, rather, a combination of shows, that is real good fun, and worth all the money easy, and that is the Steeplechase Enclosure. There are twenty-five different items, all labelled from 5 cents each, but you can buy a combination ticket for a quarter (25 cents), and have a shot at all of them; but to be there and watch the others try them is worth the visit. As you enter you hear shrieks and screams from every quarter, and whilst you are trying to collect yourself, and though there was not a breath of air stirring when you entered, you find yourself suddenly hatless from a regular tornado of cold wind, which a little dwarf-like man has turned on you from a huge funnel. As you are not the only hatless one, you can afford to laugh with the rest, and start to share in the fun of the "eccentric stairs," the "Lion and Mouse," a maze made of wire, through which you can watch the people inside trying to get out or go in, and make an effort yourself. Then there are several varieties of the Alpine slide. The one where you sit on a mat and get thrown off at the finish after a few very "busy" turns. A novelty to me was the "Human Niagara." On an incline there are about thirty rollers, which just clear each other, covered with different-coloured plush, and, four-abreast from a slippery platform at the top, you descend, your own weight causing the rollers to pass you from one to the other with a little "bump" between each pass, until you reach the bottom. There is a giant see-saw, which is exactly like the Flip-Flap in appearance, only about one-third the size, and it see-saws in the air, instead of going right over.

RE "BROTHERLY LOVE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—I notice in your contemporary *The Performer* of Oct. 8 a letter from Mr. Walter Gibbons on the prohibitive attitude certain West-end managers threaten to adopt as far as the engagement of star artists by the outlying two-houses-a-night variety palaces is concerned.

As a ci-devant manager, and, I may say, successful pilot into London of the double-house system, I feel that a few words on the disastrous effect of syndicate monopoly, as experienced by me during the latter part of my régime at Sadler's Wells Theatre, may be of interest.

I opened Sadler's Wells with instant and striking financial success, but lo! the eye of the imitator was upon me, and I soon after felt the touch of strong opposition, and discovered that it was not to be man-to-man fights, but a keen contest on my part against the overwhelming force of powerful managerial allies, for the two-houses-a-night establishment which opened within a stone's throw of my own began slowly but surely to attract the patrons who had been so ready to recognise my initial efforts for their entertainment. I looked for the reason, and found that I was losing ground, not through the superior generalship of my opponents, but through the strategic movements of the power behind the throne, in the person of a music-hall syndicate magnate, who was controlling quite a circuit of halls, and made emphatic points, apparently, of boycotting my one establishment in contracts which debarred star artists and attractions from appearing with me.

I readily realised my inability to battle single-handed with a Hydra, and, preferring discretion to valour, I retired diplomatically, though not yet vanquished, from the field.

It cannot be wondered at, therefore, that those managers who now apprehend aggressive evolutions on the part of my former opponent, who admittedly operated with powerful support for nearly seven years, should take protective measures against the annexation of their special artists, and seek sanctuary in the brilliance of such stars whose course they are still able to rule. Self-preservation is the first law of life, and is only human nature after all.—I remain, yours faithfully, GEORGE E. BELMONT.

Cambridge Circus, W., Oct. 15.

TWO GILMORES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Owing to the impression prevailing among a number of artists that I am the Mr. Gilmore who was recently injuncted by Little Tich, I wish most emphatically to state that such is not the case, as the reports of the action will show. I hope you will find space for this letter.—Yours faithfully, ROBB GILMORE.

Chelsea Palace, Oct. 14.

FUNERAL OF MR. HARRY LESTER.

The funeral of Mr. Harry Lester (Isaac Snape), who committed suicide on the 6th inst., took place on Tuesday afternoon. The cortège, consisting of a car containing the coffin and covered with wreaths, and ten mourning coaches, left the residence of the deceased at 16, Kennington-road, at a quarter to one, and arrived at Lambeth Cemetery, Tooting, at 2.20.

The principal mourners, who occupied the first three carriages, were Mrs. Lester (widow), Mr. Snape (father), Mr. Snape, jun. (brother), a sister and daughter of the deceased, Mr. D. White, "Ma" Dixon, and Mr. Salt, the last-mentioned having been an old schoolmate of Harry Lester. These were followed by five coaches, in which were members of the Terriers' Association, namely, Mr. Jesse Sparrow (president), Mr. Burgess (solicitor), Mr. C. Pratt, Mr. B. Whiteley, Mr. Atlas (of Atlas and Vulcana), Mr. Dalmaine, Mr. F. Neimann, Mr. S. Salter—the foregoing eight gentlemen acted as pall-bearers—Mr. Johnnie Alexander, Mr. B. Bent, Mr. Bassett, Mr. Pearson, Mr. P. Ford, Mr. B. Woodger, Mr. Dome, Mr. Johnny Gilmour, Mr. Maddon, Mr. Kato, Mr. Cliffe, Mr. Henderson, Mr. Box, Mr. Lang, Mr. Monkley, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Dodson, Mr. R. Whiteley, Mr. Woodrow, Mr. Kohler, Mr. C. Cornish, Mr. Traynor, and Mr. Jos. Gardiner. The M.H.A.R.A. was represented by Mr. Harry Blake, Mr. C. D. Stuart, Mr. Horace Wheatley, and Mr. T. C. Callaghan, whilst a contingent of the Water Rats included Mr. Joe Elvin, Mr. Jack Lotto, Mr. Alfred Martinetti, Mr. James Howard, Mr. Jeff Vendome, and Mr. Reed Pinaud.

The Cemetery Chaplain officiated both at the service in the chapel and at the graveside. The coffin, which was of polished oak, with brass mountings, bore the following inscription:—

ISAAC SNAPE
(Harry Lester),
Died 6th Oct., 1908.
Aged 48 years.

Amongst other people who were present at the interment were Mr. McCarthy, the deceased's medical adviser, and Mr. George Sinclair, the well-known agent, who had to be wheeled to the cemetery in his chair.

A number of beautiful wreaths were sent. The widow's floral tribute was in the form of a heart resting on an easel, bearing the simple, but expressive, words, "My Harry." Other wreaths came from the father, brother, sister, and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Larola, Camberwell Terriers, Brother Terriers, Mr. Billy Downs, Mr. Douglas White, Mr. Angelo Asher, Mr. and Mrs. Stockton, Mr. and Mrs. Newton (Bradford), "Lottie," Mr. and Mrs. Wright and Charlie, Mr. Walter Hawkins, Fred and Prissie Millis, "Lizzie and Rose," Mr. and Mrs. Gardiner, Mr. J. Sparrow, Mr. and Mrs. Neiman, Mr. Alfred Borelli, the Grand Order of Water Rats, Master Hairdressers' Association (Lambeth Branch), M.H.A.R.A., Mr. and Mrs. Wal Pink, Mr. and Mrs. Skipper, Mr. Dan Kirton, Miss Marie Seaton, Mr. and Mrs. Kellerman, Atlas and Vulcana, Mr. and Mrs. Papa Brown, Mr. S. N. Salter, Mr. and Mrs. Hoyle, Mr. George Aytoun, Mr. G. Sinclair, Mrs. H. E. Ebden, Harry and Flora Blake, Mr. J. Lotto, Sam Stream and Marie Sefton, Mr. W. Salter, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Merrie, Mr. Walter Norman, Mr. Alf. Aubyn, Mr. Tom Blandon, Mr. Ted E. Box, Mr. and Mrs. Pratt, "Mary and Harry," Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Stuart, Mr. Hill, Miss Soper, Newman Family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Zola, and "Ma" Dixon.

The funeral arrangements were conducted by Mr Theophilus Dunkley and his son, Mr W. R. Dunkley.

Mrs. Harry Lester and her daughter have been the recipients of much sympathy in their sad bereavement. The following letters express the deep sense of sorrow felt by the Terriers Fraternity in the loss of their brother and secretary:—

"The Meet,"
Dover Castle Hotel,
Sunday, Oct. 11, 1908.

Dear Mrs. Lester,—I am directed by the members of the Terriers' Association, in open meet, to express to you and your daughter their deep feeling of regret and sympathy at the sad loss you have both sustained in the lamented death of your husband Harry Lester, our esteemed and valued brother Terrier and colleague. Trusting you may find consolation in your bereavement in the reflection that he did his duty in this world nobly and honourably,—Yours sincerely,

Harry Gage.

The Three Stags' Committee Room,
Kennington-road,
Oct. 12, 1908.

Dear Mrs. Lester,—I am desired by the Committee of the Terriers' Association to convey to you and your daughter their deep sympathy at the irreparable loss you have both sustained in the lamented death of your husband, a loss which they share, appreciating as they do the zealous and exemplary manner in which he discharged his duties as secretary of the Association.—I am, dear madam, yours truly,

Harry Gage.

CANONBURY TOWER CLUB'S CONCERT.

Alderman G. S. Elliott, the Mayor of Islington, who was accompanied by the Mayoress, occupied the chair at a dinner and concert given by the Canonbury Tower Club at King Edward's Hall, Canonbury Tower, on Saturday evening. Colonel Dance, the warden, was the vice-chairman, and the company of ladies and gentlemen numbered nearly one hundred. The musical programme, which had been arranged by the Entertainment Committee, gave complete satisfaction. One of the most successful items was the laughable sketch by Cayley Calvert entitled *A Little Dinner*, the three characters in which were admirably played by Mr. and Mrs. Roland Henry and Mr. Arthur Court. Mr. Henry in the part of the jealous waiter was highly amusing, and he had excellent support from the lady and gentleman already mentioned. Later in the evening Mr. Roland Henry again scored with his very clever character sketch of a loafer addressing a crowd of workingmen. Mr. A. McKelvin succeeded in keeping the audience amused by his humorous description of "The wedding of Sandy McNab" and "The Talkalogue" was another contribution by the same artist that was well received. Mr. A. C. Chapman in his musical sketches at the piano, "When Richard the First Sat on the Throne" and "Tom, the Piper's Son," made a hit; and Mr. George McDonald introduced his "merry marionette"—a figure that was cleverly voiced and worked—with marked success. Miss Elmes gave an admirable rendering of Tosti's "Good-bye"; and Miss Ross sang in pleasing style "Kathleen Mavourneen" and "A summer's night." Miss Kohler was applauded for her artistic rendering of "My dear soul." Mr. J. H. Ross had a good reception for his comic ditties "Who?" and "You." Mr. Gordon-Meager, who possesses a fine baritone voice, did justice to "The Storm King" and "Bandolero." Mr. Wm. Meadows was a most efficient accompanist at the piano; and Mr. Will Clinch carried out the duties of stage-manager with his usual energy and to the complete satisfaction of all concerned.

The pictures this week at the New Hippodrome, Barrow-in-Furness, are quite up to the usual excellent standard and drawing capital houses. Mr. W. G. Quirk (baritone) renders several good songs during the evening.

THE STEREOMATOS.

A NEW THEATRICAL AND PANTOMIME EFFECT.

The Stereomatos, which forms one of the most interesting and attractive entertainment features at the Franco-British Exhibition, is likely to prove of considerable assistance to the producers of pantomimes, who have hitherto experienced difficulty in being able to present on the stage "properties" of figures of huge dimensions. Technically, the Stereomatos may be described as a scientific optical machine, which projects stereoscopically upon a properly-prepared sheet to any desired enlargement, free from all vibration, any solid substance, animate or inanimate. Thus with the aid of this invention can be shown, as if in a magnified form, human beings, animals, flowers, statuary—in fact, any and everything, with absolute fidelity to life and nature, and with all the natural colours and shadings of colour.

How valuable such an apparatus would be to the pantomime producer will be readily understood, for by its use any object or person can be enlarged enormously. For instance, comparatively small things can be given the appearance of great size, a Lilliputian can be transformed in a Brobdingnagian, and it seems to us that the possibilities of this machine in the direction we have indicated are practically unlimited.

To give an idea of these possibilities, it might be well to describe what is being done by the Stereomatos at the White City. The programme opens with the exhibition of an Ingersoll watch of such huge dimensions that one can scarcely believe in the possibility of being able to place it in the waistcoat pocket. But it is nothing more than an ordinary "ticker" enlarged to eighteen times its actual size. Then we see a bunch of flowers—asters, chrysanthemums, and others—increased almost to the bulk of sunflowers, the colours being retained in all their natural perpectness. So, in similar manner, a tank of goldfish is brought before the gaze of the astonished spectator, who finds that the sparkling little denizens of our ponds have assumed the physical proportions of mackerel! A pretty little twelve-inch statue of the "Fairy of the Sea" is extended, in exquisite bodily proportions, to six feet; and a common dinner-plate is made large enough for a score of men to stand upon. A man in a recumbent position is drawn before the screen, feet foremost. He is only really of average size and height, yet by the time he has passed the screen he has been lengthened to two hundred feet, and broadened in proportion. The sight of him would be enough to cause the Irish giant of revered memory to blush with envy, if only he could be resurrected to witness so great a miracle!

Mr. W. Vaughan Neale, the inventor, who has charge of the Stereomatos—Stéréomatos Française, to bestow upon it the full dignity of its title—at the Exhibition, holds out high hopes of the uses to which it may be put in future theatrical productions. He is of the opinion that the apparatus would be of particular advantage in the representation of scenes under the sea, as small "properties" designed to play the parts of crocodiles, sea serpents, &c., can be given an aspect of truly awe-inspiring physical greatness. No doubt more than one pantomime manager will take the Stereomatos into his employment during the forthcoming season. Mr. Neale, by the way, is well known for his "flying specialities," especially in connection with Mr. Tree's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at His Majesty's Theatre. In this direction Mr. Neale's latest novelty is "walking in the air," a comic act for comedians, introduced for the first time during last season's pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Manchester. Mr. Neale, who was born in Piræus, near Athens, is a son of the late W. B. Neale, H.B.M. Consul-General for Continental Greece. His grandfather was Judge Neale, of Madras. The inventor of the Stereomatos was intended for the Diplomatic Service, but in consequence of the death of his father he commenced a business life in the offices of Sir Charles Tennant. The late Lady Henry Gordon-Lennox was his aunt. Mr. Neale's permanent address is the Vaudeville Club.

[*Photo by Parker.*

MR. W. VAUGHAN NEALE.

MR. HENRY CARLTON AND AMATEURS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—It has come to my knowledge that certain persons have been writing to managers to the effect that I have taken an amateur lady into my company. This is absolutely false. I never have done in the past, neither do I intend in the future to employ amateurs.

All the parts in my little comedies are played by first-class, competent, and experienced artists only, and any proprietor who engages me can rely upon a good reliable show.

I should esteem it a very great favour if you would publish this letter fully in *The Era*, as such libellous and false reports are likely to prove detrimental to my business reputation. Thanking you in anticipation,—Yours faithfully,

HENRY CARLTON.

Oct. 14.

A MATTER OF YEARS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

Sir,—In your criticism of *Pigs in Clover* you state: "Miss Buena Bent, whom Mr. Lawson may be said to have discovered some years ago, thoroughly proves the wisdom of his choice," &c. I might point out that my first engagement with Mr. Lawson was made some sixteen months ago, the contract being for twelve months with an option. You will therefore see that my engagement is not yet two years old.—Yours faithfully,

BUENA BENT.

Euston Music Hall, Oct. 13.

MISS CECILIA LOFTUS

COLISEUM THEATRE, LONDON.

PRESS OPINIONS.

DAILY TELEGRAPH.
THE COLISEUM.

A warm welcome was given to Miss Cecilia Loftus on her reappearance yesterday afternoon as the chief "star" in the Coliseum's bill. It is a long time since the London public has seen Miss Loftus in the character of a mimic, and what she did yesterday can have left her audience in no doubt as to her having preserved those qualities which won for her so large a measure of popularity when she first made display of her powers. Miss Loftus's touch is as sure, and her methods as quiet and unforced, as was the case formerly, and, as in the years gone by, she is too conscientious an artist to exaggerate unduly the mannerisms of the performers whom she elects to imitate. Indeed, in much that she accomplished yesterday, she made her chief effects by the art of faithful mimicry rather than of parody. Two of her "impersonations," notably, stood out from the rest in this connection. That, in the first instance, of Harry Lauder singing "I love a lassie," in which the Scottish comedian's every look, gesture, and accent were reproduced with deft fidelity, and, in the second, the portrayal of "Lady Frederick" in imitation of Miss Ethel Irving. The scene chosen was the melodramatic one of the compromising letter, and there is no questioning the skill with which the mimic echoed, as it were, the tones of the original, and gave her audience a vivid counterfeit of a clever actress in one of her most telling moods. Long ago Miss Loftus showed us how aptly she could "hit off" the mannerisms of Mr. Hayden Coffin, but yesterday she seemed anxious to impress upon her hearers the fact that Mr. Coffin's mannerisms are far less pronounced now than they used to be, and so this particular "impression" perhaps just missed fire. On the other hand, the touch of caricature was not to seek in Miss Loftus's delivery of "The Keys of Heaven," à la Yvette Guilbert—an admirable example of the mimic's powers of observation and refined sense of humour. Miss Loftus can do wonders with her voice, and can reproduce with remarkable fidelity the tones of a variety of artists of both sexes. Miss Loftus's performance calls for nothing but praise, and the Coliseum audience said so in no hesitating terms

WILLIAM MARION REEDY IN ST. LOUIS MIRROR.

CECILIA LOFTUS.

There are more mimics and imitators on the stage now than could be accommodated in Madison-square, New York, if a convention of them were brought together. But there's only one Cecilia Loftus—the Cissy that was. Why is she greater than all those who have followed her? Because she is a woman of genius. She is an actress. She can write, and draw, and sing. She has played in juxtaposition with artists like Irving and Sothern. She has given a wonderful performance as "the serio-comic governess." She comes as come all the great actors and actresses—she was, as the saying is, born on the stage. There is grease paint in her blood. Perverse managers will have her in her imitations. The public will have her, too, in work which, while the best of its kind, is but the merest by-play of her gifts. No obiter dictum, this. This town was charmed and thrilled by her acting in a series of plays at Suburban Garden last summer.

But her imitations have a quality all their own. They are simple, yet they are subtle. They are truthful copies of originals, yet at the same time not only criticisms of the originals, but at times bold interpretations of her own. We remember her imitation of Mme. Nazimova as Ibsen's Nora. It has the merit of a creation and it clutches the hearer. When she touches her imitation with caricature she does it kindly, as in the case of Ethel Barrymore. When she imitates Vesta Victoria it is with the introduction into the song of a finer, more silken fibre in the work. And all she does is done with her individual contribution to the part mimicked of a truer sense of artistic values and a delicious modesty of method. There is no sense of effort conveyed to the spectator or auditor. She gives to what she does an air, a grace, something ethereal. There is no woman on the stage so much mistress of naïvété. Her work and herself have a distinction that is stranger to the vaudeville stage. She has an atmosphere that glamours her acting, a personality that touches what might easily fall close to coarseness to finer issues. To see her in vaudeville is like coming upon a daintily strong etching among a lot of chromos, or to catch a strain of Schubert or Schumann after a crash of ragtime, or to come upon a piece of Sèvres in a cupboard of ham and china ware.

Miss Loftus is an actress of finesse and of keen percipiency of character. She makes of her imitations more than mimicry. They are not only replicas of the actors and actresses imitated, but condensed revelations of the characters in which the actors imitated have appeared. She is no mere surface-skimmer. She goes deeper than those she imitates, and shows the dissonance between the actors and the parts they essay. She does it without prejudice. She does it with an enchanting demureness, with suppressed self-consciousness, with a soft virginal air of ingenuousness and girlishness of grace which are of the things of pure delight that never can grow old.

THE STANDARD.

MISS LOFTUS AT THE COLISEUM.

To a programme already loaded with good things another attractive feature has been added at the Coliseum, namely, Miss Cecilia Loftus, in some of her clever impersonations. This versatile young comedienne's girlish grace and liquid voice are sufficient to charm, apart from her great gifts of mimicry.

Obviously suffering from "nerves," Miss Loftus did not succeed in bringing the personality of Mr. Hayden Coffin very forcibly before one in her opening impersonation, but that of Yvette Guilbert was most laughable, if somewhat of a travesty. Harry Lauder, of course, was brilliant; the house was delighted with the exceedingly vivid pictures of Bert Williams, America's leading comedian. To those, however, who are familiar with *Lady Frederick*, Miss "Cissy" Loftus's study of Miss Ethel Irving in the letter scene was the triumph of the performance. Miss Loftus was loudly recalled, and several "extras" had to be given.

DAILY MAIL.

After a long absence in America, Miss Cissie Loftus reappeared in London yesterday, at the Coliseum. Her faculty for imitation has lost none of its power. Some of her impressions of stage "stars" were sufficiently close to life to make the listener imagine that the artist imitated, and not the imitator, was speaking or singing.

THE TIMES.
THE COLISEUM.

The list of performers at the Coliseum, which already included many well-known names, was much strengthened yesterday by the appearance of Miss Cecilia Loftus, who has been away from the London stage so long as to be almost a stranger.

She does not, however, appear to be a day older than when she was last seen at the Duke of York's. Her voice is just as wonderful, and her imitations of actors and actresses are even cleverer than they used to be. Hayden Coffin, Yvette Guilbert, Harry Lauder, Caruso, Bert Williams, Marie Dressler, and Ethel Irving were the public favourites whom she had chosen as the subjects of her imitations on her reappearance; and they were all so good that it is difficult to pick out any one of them as specially excellent. Perhaps the cleverest bit of acting which she gave was the imitation of Mr. Bert Williams dealing a hand at poker, the facial play in this little bit of dumb-show being extraordinarily vivid and illuminating. It is wonderful how she contrives to mimic not only the more obvious little tricks and peculiarities of each of her victims, but also the varying *timbres* and intonations of their several voices. To represent the quiet little swagger of Harry Lauder's walk, or the hand-action of Marie Dressler, or the mannerisms of Mr. Hayden Coffin as well as Miss Loftus does is in itself a feat of which no professed mimic need feel ashamed. But, of course, to this she adds the power of making her voice exactly reproduce the particular inflections and compass which belong to each of them. Her Caruso is absolutely different to her Harry Lauder or her Hayden Coffin, and the distinction between her Marie Dressler and her Ethel Irving, both of them admirable impersonations, is just as marked. Practically she relies entirely on her voice and her slight and never exaggerated gesticulations to carry her through, without any elaboration in the way of make-up. And, above all, her personal charm is just as magnetic as ever. In fact, her performance is so delightful that it is sure to be very popular.

MORNING LEADER.
CISSIE LOFTUS'S RETURN.

There are many clever mimetic actresses on the stage; but there is only one Cissie Loftus. Cissie—or "Miss Cecilia," as she is called, for she is now quite grown up—made her appearance at the Coliseum yesterday; and the enthusiastic welcome that she received was proof that London has an affectionate memory for its old friends.

In appearance she is just as much a child as ever—a tall child, with a wonderfully expressive and mobile face, with her long hair hanging down her back, and a plain white silk dress that takes from her years instead of adding to them.

In her imitations, too, she is just the same Cissie Loftus. Her art, however, has gained in breadth; her characters are more robust, and, if anything, her impersonations are more realistic than they used to be. Her répertoire is quite up to date; and Lauder, Miss Ethel Irving, and Miss Marie Dressler are amongst her new imitations.

MORNING POST.
LONDON COLISEUM.

Ten years ago the two perfect products of our theatre were the imitations of Miss Cissie Loftus and the song impersonations of Mr. Albert Chevalier. Miss Loftus, who has returned to the variety stage after too long an absence, yesterday showed at the London Coliseum that she has lost none of her exquisite art, that her observation is as searching, her critical faculty as keen, and her sense of humour as constant and unfailing as ever. Of the English artists she was wont to make fun of in the old days only Mr. Hayden Coffin remains effective. Miss Letty Lind, Miss Connie Ediss, and Miss Edna May—to mention but a few—are already no more seen, and Miss Marie Tempest is seen only in comedy. Others have come to the fore, as, for instance, Miss Lily Elsie, Mr. Harry Lauder, and Miss Ethel Irving, and Miss Loftus deals faithfully with them all. An artist of Miss Irving's ability must be very hard to score off, and Miss Loftus's imitation of Miss Irving is much "straighter" than are most of her others. She selects one of Lady Frederick's passionate outbursts, and, while closely reproducing Miss Irving's tones and gestures, really rouses the audience to a sense of Lady Frederick's wrongs. Of non-British artists Miss Loftus gives delicious accounts of Madame Bernhardt, Signor Caruso, and Miss Marie Dressler, whose astounding and ear-splitting methods she takes off very cleverly in "A great big girl like me." Another American artist treated at considerable length is Mr. Williams, the coloured "Jonah-man" of *In Dahomey*, given a few years back at the Shaftesbury, whom Miss Loftus imitates not only on the stage but in private life playing a harassing game of cards. The Coliseum is a vast house for so delicate an art as Miss Loftus's, but she was warmly applauded, and will bear seeing again when she has thoroughly settled down.

STANDARD.
RETURN OF MISS CISSIE LOFTUS.

After many years' excellent work on the stage, both in America and in this country (where she last appeared in the 1905 revival of *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York's), Miss Cecilia Loftus has returned to the English music-halls. Recently she has been touring in the provinces, and yesterday she appeared at the Coliseum, where she was very warmly welcomed by the large audience.

Again she afforded great amusement by her remarkable imitations of footlight favourites, and her mimicry of Miss Ethel Irving in the letter scene from *Lady Frederick* and of Miss Marie Dressler singing "A great big girl like me" was a splendid exhibition of her powers. Another extremely clever "selection" was her pantomimic illustration of a man playing a game of poker, a little sketch both realistic and amusing.

Miss Loftus is receiving the highest salary ever paid to a single artist at the Coliseum; her remuneration is £250 weekly for twelve performances.

WESTMINSTER GAZETTE.
RETURN OF MISS CISSIE LOFTUS.

Miss Cissie Loftus made a welcome return to the London variety stage at the Coliseum yesterday, where she had a most enthusiastic reception. Her brilliant mimicry seems only to have improved with time. When the orchestra struck up "I love a lassie" the audience forgot in a moment the slight girlish figure in the now familiar white frock, and saw and heard only Harry Lauder, as Miss Loftus gave his every accent and gesture. No less happy are her imitations of Miss Ethel Irving in *Lady Frederick*, and Miss Yvette Guilbert's singing in quaint broken English, with a wealth of gesticulation, "The Keys of Heaven." Her little monologue on a lady in a tramcar with her little boy is an excellent study.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD AT HULL FAIR.

In accordance with long-established custom, the meeting of the Showmen's Guild at Hull Fair takes the form of the annual gathering for the North of England members of the Society. For several years past the meeting has been honoured and recognised by the Mayor and Corporation. The Mayor of Hull—Alderman Feldman—presided at last year's gathering, but was unable to do so at the present year's fair. He sent the following letter to the Guild secretary:—

"Town Hall, Hull,
"Oct. 8, 1908.

"Dear Sir,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your lefter of the 5th inst., but regret that, owing to absence from home, I shall be unable to preside at the showmen's annual meeting at Hull Fair on Sunday afternoon next. If, however, I can be of any assistance to the Showmen's Guild later in the week, I shall be glad.—Yours faithfully,

"H. FELDMAN (Mayor)."

The Mayoress, Mrs. Feldman, graced the meeting by her kindly presence, and with her were Mrs. Levy, Councillor and Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Wokes, Councillor Dean, Mr. R. Grace (market superintendent), and other ladies and gentlemen interested in the work of the Showmen's Guild.

Councillor Wokes occupied the chair, and, in opening the proceedings, said that in the regrettable absence of the chief magistrate he had been called upon to preside at that meeting. He was the junior member of the City Council, and he viewed with apprehension the fact that the youngest member of the Council had been called upon by the Guild Chaplain at the last moment to preside over so important a gathering. He could only observe that he had satisfied himself by his interview with Mr. Horne, and by reading the annual report and other sources of information concerning the work of the Guild, that it was deserving of public recognition, therefore it gave him great pleasure to fill the position of chairman. He thought that the meeting would agree with him that it was a specially unique feature to find a trade union with a regularly-appointed chaplain. It seemed to him to indicate that the showmen in their trade organisation were prepared to work upon broader, more generous, and, he would venture to say, higher lines than the ordinary trade protection societies. He was pleased to identify himself with the work of the Showmen's Guild. It would ill-beseem him to stand between that meeting and the address from the chaplain, to which they were all looking forward with so much interest and expectation. He therefore called upon the Guild Chaplain to address the meeting. (Applause.)

The Guild Chaplain's Address.

The Rev. T. Horne, in the course of an eloquent address on behalf of that class who helped the tired workers to find rest, recreation, relaxation, and amusement, said the showmen class were part and parcel of the nation, and therefore took their share in promoting the interests of the great commonwealth. Theirs was an extraordinary business. It was obvious it must be so, or else they would have no patronage. The showman filled a proper place, and the fun of the fair was an antidote for trials and troubles of life. The reverend gentleman, by caustic wit, discomfited those "faddy, fussy reformers" who desired to see the end of their pleasure fairs. He retold, with fitting phrase, the story of his own life, and how he became associated with the showman movement. In vigorous terms he denounced the new Movable Dwellings Bill introduced by Lord Clifford in the House of Lords, and which threatened an industry which directly gave employment to 70,000 people, and upon whom thousands more were dependent—engineers, founders, painters, joiners, tent and rope makers, moulders, all in some measure taking part in bringing up the showmen's world to its proper state of equipment and efficiency.

The Defence of the Showman's Life and Work.

Proceeding, he said a great deal of prejudice and misapprehension with regard to the life of the showman existed, but the showman claimed to be a part and parcel of the nation. They gave their talent and enterprise for the general amusement at the various popular fairs, and if they were able to earn their daily bread, all the more credit to them. Some people were narrow-minded enough to object. They said, "Look at the amount of money they are taking out of the town. Oh, what a wicked lot of people they must be, and what terrible lies they do tell. (Laughter.) What a blessing it would be if they could be only wiped off the face of the earth. What a terrible thing it was that the people should indulge in this dreadful dissipation." That was the kind of letter they sometimes read in the newspapers. The showman suffered a great deal from the faddy, so-called reformer, who wanted to mould everything according to his own narrow views of life. They had to meet legislative proposals that would seriously destroy the liberty of the showman, and interfere with the amusement of the people, so that it would be impossible to carry on the great enterprise in which they were engaged.

The Sufficiency of the Present Health Laws.

A very telling portion of the Guild Chaplain's address was that in which he clearly showed that every law for the sanitary well-being and for the health of the general public that applied to dwellings of all kinds, from the palace of the peer to the cottage of the working man, applied with equal rigour to the movable dwellings of showmen. It was forgotten by these would-be reformers of the showmen's life that ninety per cent. of travelling showmen and fairground amusement caterers possessed two homes, their permanent residence in some town convenient as a centre for their year's work, and a living carriage or movable dwelling that they used when following the fairs. He pointed out that it was essential for the showman to have his dwelling next to his show. He also explained that they had also their permanent homes, and no man loved his home better than a showman. He declared that 70,000 people obtained a living in connection with the shows in the various departments, and added that it would be a serious thing from an employment point of view if the showmen were interfered with in getting their living.

At the conclusion of the Rev. T. Horne's forcible and eloquent address, the following resolution was put, and carried unanimously:—

"That this public meeting of showpeople and their friends, at Hull Fair, heartily approves of the work of the Showmen's Guild, and protests against the Movable Dwellings Bill, now before Parliament, as being class legislation aimed at the showman's liberty of life, and penalising his trade and business."

Other Speakers.

In seconding the resolution, Mr. P. COLLINS said that the Bill was uncalled for. He referred to showmen as a law-abiding section of the community, and pointed out that they most of them had their homes in different parts of the country as well as their movable dwellings, which were a necessity to their trade and business. He strongly denounced the root evil and fault of the Bill which classed them as "gipsies and hedge crawlers." The promoters of such class legislation over-reached themselves. In their anxiety to find means of penalising the gipsies they were endeavouring to inflict upon a numerous and industrious class of workers grievous insult and terrible injury. He was quite sure that the good people of Hull would give their sympathy and support to the opposition of the showmen against so manifest a piece of class legislation as the Movable Dwellings Bill. The resolution was then submitted to the meeting and unanimously carried.

Mr. A. C. TYLER moved a vote of thanks to the Rev. T. Horne, the chairman, and other speakers, and in doing so observed that the showpeople were not the common class in the community that Lord Clifford and others like him tried to make the public believe. It was a libel and a disgrace that such things should be said of a body of men who were doing their best to provide cheap and popular amusements for all classes of the community.

The Rev. T. HORNE, in acknowledging the vote, expressed the pleasure he had felt on this occasion and upon the occasions of his previous visits to Hull. It was to him both pleasure and duty to identify himself in this crusade against faddy and fussy legislation that would interfere with the life and liberty of the travelling showmen, and that also threatened the popular amusements of the people. He concluded by moving a vote of thanks to the Mayoress, who had so kindly identified herself with their concerns, and by her presence on the fair-ground that afternoon had very greatly pleased the showpeople. To the members of the City Council and the ladies and gentlemen present he wished to tender the hearty thanks of the president and the council of the Showmen's Guild, and he therefore moved the vote of thanks to the Mayoress, the City Councillors, and the other friends present at that gathering.

The vote was passed with acclamation.

Mr. Councillor NELSON, in responding for the Mayoress and the other visitors, said that he had listened with the greatest possible pleasure to Mr. Horne's address. He was quite sure that the showmen as a body must be proud of their chaplain, and it was no small honour to the city of Hull that the Showmen's Guild so ably co-operated with the corporation in making the fair one of the best in the country. Instead of thanking the visitors for their attendance the obligation was entirely on the other side, and he was sure that he was speaking not only for the Mayoress and the members of the Council present, but that he also voiced the unanimous opinion of that meeting when he said they had been delighted with the stirring address of the Guild chaplain. He thanked them for the vote.

The meeting then terminated.

Business Meeting of the Guild.

Later in the evening a business meeting of the Guild was held under the presidency of the Rev. T. Horne, and was numerously attended by the showmen at the fair. Mr. Horne detailed the measures taken by the Guild to safeguard the interests of the fair-ground community, and the determined opposition which the society was carrying on against the Movable Dwellings Bill. He moved a resolution condemning the Bill, which was seconded by Mr. P. Collins and carried unanimously.

A request made by the Mayor of Hull that a benefit performance should be given by the showmen to the funds of the local hospital was then considered, and, after discussion, it was agreed that the Guild chaplain be requested to reply officially for the showmen, and to state that in consideration of the urgent need of funds for the hospital this year, that the shows would give two hours' takings on the last day of the fair, the hours being those between four and six in the afternoon, but that the showmen's readiness to comply this year must not be taken as a precedent to govern future occasions. The showmen then went into committee as to the best means of raising the necessary funds for the Parliamentary work of the Guild, and the following subscription list was opened at the meeting:—

R. Fossett, £1; Messrs. Relph and Pedley, £1; Foster and Co., Lincoln, £1; J. Corrigan, 10s. 6d.; P. Collins, 10s.; G. Green, 10s.; J. Green, 10s.; G. Marshall, 10s.; E. Farrar, 10s.; S. Waddington, 10s.; J. Plinston, 10s.; B. Howden, 10s.; John Collins, 10s.; Holdsworth, 10s.; Monte Brothers, 10s.; J. H. Chipperfield, 10s.; W. Murphy, 10s.; A. Payne, 10s.; H. Powell, 10s.; W. H. Marshall, 10s.; J. W. Waddington, 10s.; A. Richards, 10s.; H. Hughes, 10s.; Mr. Hackett, 10s.; G. Cornwell, 5s.; J. Hastings, 5s.; Lieske, 5s.; H. Wallis, 5s.; Pattison, 5s.; J. Seed, 3s. 6d.; Ratcliffe, 3s.; G. Westray, 2s. 6d.; J. Gledstone, 2s. 6d.; Westwood, 2s.; J. Thompson, 2s.; J. S. Stockwell, 2s.; and 6d. in smaller amounts. Mr. R. Grace, hon. member, 10s.

The Evening Meeting of the Guild.

The Guild chaplain preached both morning and evening at Dairycoates Church, one of the churches in the neighbourhood of the fair-ground. Both this year and last the vicar and the choir of Dairycoats Church have rendered most valuable assistance in the singing of the service on the fair-ground. The Guild service was held (like all the other meetings of the Guild during the day) in Enoch Farrar's beautiful show pavilion. Both the proprietor and the working staff rendered most valuable service in the arrangement of the show for both meetings and service. The booth at the evening meeting was crowded to the utmost of its seating capacity, and many late-comers had to stand on the gallery at the back. There was an extremely gratifying attendance of showpeople, and the greatest possible interest was manifested at the meeting by the outside public.

The choir in their robes, headed by the cross-bearer, occupied the front seats of the pavilion, and gave considerable church form and order to the service. The singing of the hymns was most hearty and congregational, and the Guild Chaplain held the congregation in rapt attention as he discoursed upon the Holy Gospel for the day and applied its lessons to the life of both showpeople and the general congregation.

Mr. Moss and his pupil, Hargreave, again (as last year) effectively led the singing with trumpets.

A GOOD programme is being presented this week at the Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness, and is being enthusiastically received. The chief item is the Five X Rays. They give a most humorous comedy knockabout and gymnastic turn, and their tricks are exceedingly smart and clever. V. L. Granville, character impersonator, is a turn that stands out well. Of splendid stage appearance, his acting is good and his characters well portrayed. Violet King is a splendid musician. She sings and plays the piano well, and her performance on the violin is a musical treat. Harry Leybourne is excellent, his skit on the village concert quite convulsed the audience. Other very good turns are Rudge Whitworth, a smart society entertainer; Kendric and Larna, is a song and dance scena; Edith St. Clair, a very pleasing comedienne; and Vernon's Bioscope, as popular as ever.

WE have official authority for announcing that it has been definitely decided to hold in the palaces and grounds of the Franco-British Exhibition at Shepherd's Bush during the summer and autumn of next year a great International and Colonial Exhibition. Mr. Imre Kiralfy, in a very business-like way, has already formulated his plans for a new World's Fair on a big and imposing scale.

ON the 28th, 29th, and 30th of this month a great charity bazaar will take place at the Franco-British Exhibition, the proceeds of which will be given to the League of Mercy and to three French charities in London, including the French Hospital in Soho. A committee has been organised for this purpose, including a number of distinguished ladies, among whom are the Duchess of Sutherland, the Countess of Plymouth, the Countess of Bective, the Countess of Ancaster, and Lady Brassey.

HULL FAIR.

THE most notable feature of this year's fair has been the large extension of the available ground space. The large field which hitherto has been solely used for the horse fair has been annexed for the purposes of the pleasure fair, and the result has been a remodelling of the entrance avenues and the addition of a new one, the horse fair being relegated to another site under the control of the Corporation. The fairground is approached from Walton Street, and the whole stretch of this thoroughfare was lined with stalls and small bazaars—a kaleidoscope of ever-changing light and colour. The new entrance diverted the main stream of visitors from the old principal entrance, and in a very large measure took the people away from some of the most important attractions of the fair.

ENTERING the great square of the fairground by the new entrance the first important concern to attract attention was the vaudeville portable theatre of varieties—an excellent up-to-date concern, under local management. The other shows along this line included the two concerns of Mr. Harry Hughes, the fine art gallery, and the assault-at-arms pavilion, the haunted castle, Pattison's model show, Westray's miniature jungle, three cake-walk machines by Messrs. J. Corrigan, A. Richards, and Monte Brothers, a bicycle circle, and Beech's two concerns—the haunted chamber and the aeroplane overboats.

The Line of Big Shows.

AT the top of the new avenue was Bailey's famous circus, one of the institutions of this fair, provided by Sir Robert Fossett, the premier of British circus proprietors. The next show, and occupying its accustomed place of honour, was Bostock Wombwell's menagerie (manager, Mr. Birkett). One of the advantages of the extension of ground space is seen in the arrangement of the big shows, which this year had ample space on both sides for emergency exits. Randall Williams' superb show occupied the premier position at the top of the second entrance and next to Wombwell's. Next in the line of shows came Chipperfield's well-known menagerie; then following one another came Captain Tom Payne's bioscope, Enoch Farrer's cinematograph theatre, and Farrer and Tyler's magnificent coliseum of animated photography. Continuing the line of shows were J. Hastings's two concerns (the midget marvels and the giant lady), T. Wortley's two concerns (the model of a coal mine and the portable Royal Academy), the Westwood Colonial giant children, and Lewis's snake jungle. Aspland's magnificent show was a special feature of this part of the fair. Following Aspland's came the concerns of Messrs. Relph and Pedley. These included the latest novelty in fairground machines, the rollicking porkers, a grotesque, yet charming variation of the animal carousal, the Japanese wheeling the whirl, and the motor-car set. H. Powell's helter-skelter was a commanding feature at the end of the great line of shows.

The Machines, Swings, and Gem Novelties.

SPACE will not permit us doing more than to give a list of the machine novelties present at Hull Fair. There were motor-car sets by Messrs. Collins, J. Green, B. Howden and Son, W. H. Marshall, Goldthorpe Marshall, W. Murphy, and W. H. Waddington.

MR. P. COLLINS, ever to the fore with the latest novelties, had a composite set of racing porkers and birds; Mr. John Collins exhibited four-abreast galloping horses and the twin ships in the air; there were also roundabout sets by Messrs. A. Payne and Shipley; steam swings by Morley; and manual swings by R. Payne and other caterers. Helter-skelter towers by Messrs. Holdsworth and Gavan and Waddington; and gem horses and motor-cars by Messrs. Gledstone, Seed, and Gavan.

Shooting Concerns and Throwing Games.

AMONGST the providers of these ever-popular attractions were Messrs. George Cornwell, Richards, Watson, Goodall, Payne, Ratcliffe, Levey and Lieski. The bazaars, always a popular feature of Hull Fair, were provided by Messrs. Howarth, Gledstone, Seed, and Johnson. The houp-la frames, throwing games, coker sheets, electric fish ponds, Japanese fish stalls, and all the fun of the fair were provided by (amongst others) Messrs. Middlebrook, Burgin, Steward, Doubtfire, Fisher, Watson, Wright, Jameson, Edwards, Turner, Stockwell, Jones, Houldsworth, and other caterers of the Yorkshire round.

A NOTICEABLE feature here, too, is the enterprise of local caterers and stallholders. Hundreds of smart local traders pitch their stalls on the line of march to and from the fairground, and reap the well-won reward of their endeavour. To the Corporation, for its enlightened and progressive policy in making provision for the amusement of the people, every praise is due, and the city treasury will reap a rich reward, to the easement of public burdens, not only in tollage for shows and stalls, but also in the revenue of their splendid electric trams, loaded on the fair days to their utmost carrying capacity, taking visitors to and from the open fair and carnival in Walton street.

A SPECIAL word of praise is due to the expert official of the Corporation, Mr. Robert Grace, the superintendent of markets and fairs. Mr. Grace, in interpreting the policy of the City Council into actual fact, has brought to bear a remarkable ability for organisation and control, and Mr. Grace has his reward in the well-equipped fair, second to none in the United Kingdom. Every detail of management is thoroughly carried through under his immediate control. Every provision for the safety and comfort of the multitude, and for the use and benefit of showpeople, is provided by the City Council, and controlled by their courteous and indefatigable chief officer for the fair, Mr. Robert Grace.

Mayoress in Fair Caravans.

THE Mayoress of Hull and a party enjoyed a unique experience at the Hull fairground on Sunday last, when they paid a visit to several of the living-vans of the show proprietors. Elaborately fitted up, these vans are complete from a domestic point of view. In one van an apartment was fitted up like a dainty little drawing-room, and on the table, which slides out of the way when not required, was set an artistic tea-service. The fireplace was polished like silver, the fittings being of electro plate. On the sideboard were Worcester china ornaments and bric-à-brac. From the drawing-room a small door gave access to the sleeping apartment, wherein the bed was covered with an artistic eiderdown quilt. There was one difficulty which the ladies encountered, and that was on account of the ample hats now the prevailing mode. Some of them were wider than the narrow doorways of these caravans! And the Mayoress, who was amused at the position, remarked with a smile that they were not made for matinée hats.

THE showmen will probably receive a visit from the Mayoress and party seeking contributions for the medical charities. Last year the showmen gave over £40.

Fair at Wath-on-Dearne.

MESSRS. TUBY & SONS continue their successful round of fairs with a pleasure fair at Wath, a thriving centre of the Yorkshire coalfields. The Doncaster firm exhibited their superb new coliseum of living pictures and variety and their two large sets of roundabouts, the motor-cars, and the four-a-breast galloping horses. The other concerns were Amos's steam swings, Messrs. Fisher, Shaw, and Pullan's shooters, and throwing games and varieties by Messrs. Percival, Calver, Shaw, Campfield, Moore, Robinson, Webb, Walker, and others.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

20,442.—Herbert Henry Pratt, of Reading. Air-rifle target.

20,541.—Martin Albert John Harper and John Robert Harper, of London. Improvements in the construction and application of apparatus for producing or throwing moving multi-coloured effects on or through suitable screens, vapours, or liquids, and the like.

20,542.—Martin Albert John Harper and John Robert Harper, of London. Improvements in the construction of apparatus for producing or throwing moving multi-coloured effects on or through suitable screens, vapours, or liquids.

20,688.—Robert Hodges Bishop and William Danton Sandwell, of London. Improvements in mechanical galloping horse circuses or roundabouts.

20,695.—Emile Frederick Ginnett, of London. Improvements in amusement apparatus.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

22,316.—Stranders. Apparatus for the production of an effect for the amusement of an audience.

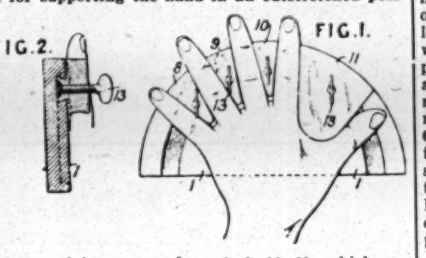
9,199.—Dameron. Amusement devices.

18,431.—Champtassin. Gymnastic appliance.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

11,980.—Finger-exercising apparatus. Finger, R., of Prague, Austria.

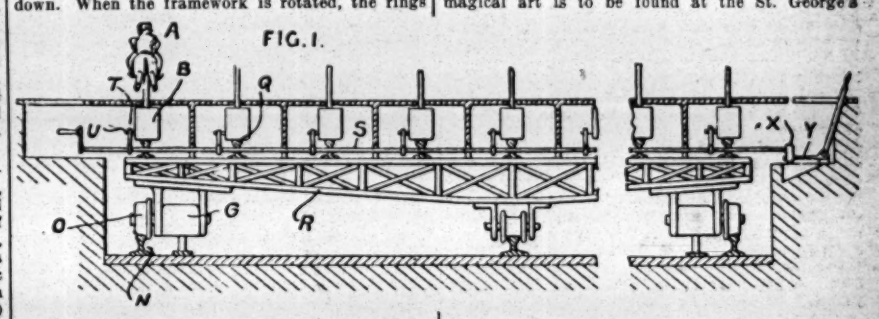
A finger-stretching apparatus consists of a plate 1 for supporting the hand in an outstretched posi-



tion, and keys or wedges, 8, 9, 10, 11, which are secured in any desired position on the plate 1 by means of clamping screws 13.

12,013.—Roundabouts. Ellis, G. B., of London; Sulzer, E. T., of New York.

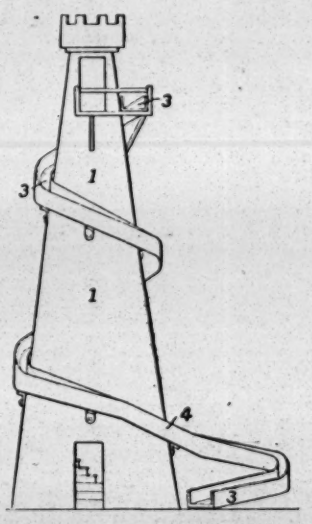
The carrying devices A of a roundabout are mounted on a series of concentric rings B, which rest on rails Q arranged on a framework R. The framework is provided with supporting rollers O, which run on rails N, and is rotated by one or more motors G. A shaft S is provided with cranks T, adapted, when turned upwards, to engage pins U carried by the rings B. The cranks, when turned upwards, are held in position by a spring lock, which engages the shaft S. The cranks may be caused to release the pins U by an arm Y, which strikes an arm X, and turns the cranks down. When the framework is rotated, the rings



revolve with the same angular velocity, but when the cranks are turned down the rings slide on the rails Q with varying speeds due to their momentum.

12,118.—Amusements for fairs. Harrison, T., of Preston, Lancashire.

A "helter-skelter" spiral track 3, arranged round a model of a lighthouse 1, ends with a sharp descent 4, followed by a slight rise or



gradual dip, and a complete reversal in direction as shown.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MR. EDITOR—SIR,—In your last edition you report me as singing at the Vaudeville Club under the name of Alfred Hickman. As there happens to be an Alfred Hickman in the profession, would you be good enough to point out that the songs sung on Sunday week were rendered by—Yours faithfully, ARTHUR HICKMAN.

MR. DOVE PATERSON continues to attract large audiences to the Gaiety, Aberdeen, with his display of cinematograms. Variety is lent to the entertainment by the fine tenor singing of Mr. Felix Nolan.

KINEMATOGRAPH COPYRIGHT. The law affecting the same. By William Jago, F.I.O., F.C.S., barrister-at-law. Price 6d. Address, The Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C.

"LIFE AND LOVE."

A Sketch by E. Dalverr, produced at the Palace, Stoke Newington, on Monday, Oct. 12.

Karl Veronski ..... MR. IVAN BERLYN
Lieut. Frank Morton ..... MR. P. CLARK
Ethel ..... MISS HOLLOM
Vareska Orloff ..... MISS MARION TURNER
Colonel Orloff ..... MR. F. JOYNSON POWELL
James ..... MR. ELLIS CARLISLE

Life and Love, a sketch by E. Dalverr, which was produced with considerable success at the Palace, Stoke Newington, on Monday last by Mr. Ivan Berlyn, is a powerful and interesting drama in miniature, with a coherent plot, interestingly told. As it has also the advantage of being excellently mounted and exceedingly well acted all round, its chances of success in the future are of the brightest.

The scene is laid in St. Petersburg, in the drawing-room of the house of Karl Veronski, a Russian Jew who has become a naturalised Englishman. Three years before the period of the play Karl has separated from his young English wife on the understanding that if she does not return to him within that time he is to consider they are parted for ever. In the meantime, thinking he has been mistaken in marrying one not of his own race, and having inherited a large fortune, he has returned to Russia and devoted his life to aiding his own people to resist the persecution they suffer at the hands of the Russian Government. On this, the last evening of the three years, he is visited by Lieut. Frank Morton, a young officer attached to the English Embassy. Karl has promised Morton's father before his death to do all he could to protect and befriend the son. Morton confides to Karl that he has fallen in love, and when Karl finds that the object of Morton's affection is his own wife, Ethel, and, wrongly thinking that she returns his love, quite misunderstands the object of her visit when she enters the room a few minutes later, and refuses to hear her explanation of why she has come to him. When they have left, Vareska, the wife of Colonel Orloff, comes to warn Karl of a conspiracy against him. In a passionate scene Vareska declares her love for Karl and tells him that she, too, being a Jewess, has made the mistake of marrying out of her own race, and implores him to take her. To him Colonel Orloff enters, and finding them together, is only too eager to seize on the excuse for ridding himself of his wife, of whom he has tired, and threatens them both with exile to Siberia; but Karl checkmates him by the aid of a compromising document which he holds implicating Orloff in a plot against the life of the Czar. Morton brings Ethel back, she having told him that she is Karl's wife, and that her only wish is to return to him, and all ends happily.

Mr. Ivan Berlyn gives a most picturesque and interesting rendering of Karl Veronski, and Mr. F. Joynson Powell is an admirably brusque and truculent Colonel Orloff; Miss Marion Turner plays powerfully as Vareska, and Miss Hollom is a charming and graceful Ethel; Mr. P. Clark makes a manly and gallant Lieut. Frank Morton, and the little that Mr. Ellis Carlisle has to do as Veronski's footman, James, is done well.

MASKELYNE AND DEVANT'S.

All that is best and most ingenious in the magical art is to be found at the St. George's Hall, a fact that is fully recognised by lovers of the marvellous, and a visit to the "home of mystery" in the middle of the week found an audience in complete possession of the hall. A prominent place in the programme is taken by the "surprising absurdity" called *The Magical Master*, which introduces Mr. David Devant in his favourite rôle of a student of magic. Astonishment combined with mirth reigns supreme while he is occupied with his experiments, and the effect of "The Giant's Breakfast," in which an ordinary egg is at a touch turned into one of Brobdingnagian proportions; of "The Fairy's Grotto," in which a nymph is seen to emerge from space; of "The Wandering Wool," and of "The Dissected Messenger," is as powerful as ever. The culminating feat is that of the Indian Rope Trick, by which a man clinging to a rope in full view of the audience is made to disappear instanter. Mr. Devant performs his tricks with his customary cleverness, and with the humour which he knows so well how to exercise, and is throughout loudly cheered. Mr. Chas. Glenrose is an effective foil as the new man-servant; Miss Dora Devant makes a comely and well-spoken nymph of the sea; and similar effect is secured by Miss Florence Eaton as a phantom bird, Mr. B. Mackenzie doing well as an Indian youth.

The Philosopher's Diamond well justifies its title of "comedy of marvels," and is the source of much wonderment and no little amusement. A new importation to the cast has been made since the production by the engagement of Mr. Gordon Bailey, who has been doing such important work in recent Shakespearean revivals at the Lyceum. Mr. Bailey has the part of Sir Grimley Greensward, formerly played by Mr. Nevil Maskelyne, and gives a finished study, with an appropriate touch of senility, of the fussy old baronet, his make-up being artistic and his elocution particularly notable. Mr. E. Morehen repeats his droll enactment of the "rag-man"; and Mr. Arnold Mussett adds to the humour by his clever impersonation of the butler, Bootles. Mr. E. S. Elton is again a most impressive mahatma; and Mr. Charles Glenrose acts capably as his henchman. Miss Cassie Bruce makes a captivating fairy of Moonsheen, acting and speaking with delicacy and grace; and Miss Helen McCulloch renders valuable aid as Lady Catherine.

The "Society Snapshots" of Mr. Nelson Jackson at the piano are the cause of abundant mirth. They are drolly conceived, and possess a freshness that is very agreeable. The entertainer has a happily-written parody of "The Charge of the Light Brigade," in which the patrons of the "summer sales" are cleverly satirised, and the travesty of a curate's announcement from the pulpit and the account of an Irish party's trip to "Paree," give excuses for unlimited mirth. The mysteries of thought-transference are deepened by Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Marriott, who indulge in a seance of "technopathy," by means of which the lady performer, blindfolded on the stage, describes articles obtained from among members of the audience by her husband, who says never a word except to cry "Correct!" as each article is accurately described. Essman, the juggling waiter, continues his dexterous display with plates, bottles, provisions, tables, and other articles of domestic use, and wins much applause. A choice selection of animated pictures completes the entertainment, for which Mr. F. Cramer's excellent orchestra provides the requisite harmony.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are:—City-road (Bradford), on the Midland, Great Northern, and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Leek, on the North Staffordshire; Southam, on the London and North-Western; St. Austell, on the Great Western; Lowestoft, on the Great Eastern; Devizes, on the Great Western; Salisbury, on the Great Western and London and South-Western; Chichester, on the London, Brighton, and South Coast; Bridlington, on the North-Eastern; Ilkeston, on the Midland and Great Northern; Market Bosworth, on the London and North-Western, and Midland; Princes Risborough, on the Great Western; Wigan, on the London and North-Western, Great Central, and Lancashire and Yorkshire; Clitheroe, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Hatfield, on the Great Northern; Stratford-on-Avon, on the Great Western and East and West Junction; Arnold, on the Great Northern; Cinderford, on the Great Western and Midland; Edwinstowe, on the London, Dover, and East Coast; Heath, on the Great Central; Holmfirth, on the Lancashire and Yorkshire; Kirkby, on the Midland; Market Drayton, on the Great Western and North Staffordshire; Stow-on-the-Wold, on the Great Western; Wingerworth, on the Midland; and Llandovery, on the London and North-Western and Great Western Railways.

Abingdon Fair.

At the old historic fair at Abingdon a number of the very best shows on the Southern Round were present. These included W. Taylor's superb cinematograph theatre, Alf. Ball and Son's similar concern—the New Lyceum, and Knighton's fine art gallery. The riding machines were W. Wilson's switchback motor-cars, Thomas's galloping horses, Forrest's Japanese airship, Knighton's overboats, and Fitchett's park swings. There was a capital array of shooting concerns, provided by Messrs. Bailey, Hatwell, Sanders, and others. The throwing games included the present-day novelty, the hoop-la May-poles, coker sheets, ring boards, and other novelties. The fair was well set out by the competent and ever-obliging Mr. T. Faulkner.

Tamworth Fair.

This well-known Midland pleasure fair was well provided with first-class entertainments, including P. Collins's cinematograph theatre, Leo's Egyptian Hall entertainments, Harris's school of boxers, Braham's performing birds, Mme. Small, the Lilliputian marvel, the "Young Colossus," and the model of the coal-mine exhibiton. The capital array of machine novelties were provided by P. Collins, and included motor-cars and other novelties. There were the usual well-ordered varieties—shooting ranges, houp-las, and throwing games.

Tetbury Fair.

The machines and other entertainments at this fair were provided by Messrs. Wellington, Jennings, Gratton, Cole and Edwards.

Woburn Fair.

The amusements at this fair, consisting of steam horses, racing birds, rifle saloons, bottle batteries, and throwing games, were provided by the local showmen, Messrs. Smith and Short.

Chipping Norton Fair.

Amongst the amusements at this fair were Forrest's steam horses and rifle saloon; H. Ayer's houp-la frames, variety stalls, and park swings; and throwing games were provided by Messrs. Buckland and Hollifield.

Macclesfield Fair.

The big show at this Cheshire fixture was Crighton's palace of light, with splendid range of up-to-date pictures. The machine list (a very strong one) included steam-horse sets, racing birds, and big boats by Hibbert; switchback motor-cars and galloping horses by E. Holland; and steam yachts by Isaac Richards. Shooting galleries, throwing games, penalty frames, and variety stalls were by by Messrs. Beckett, Worthington, J. White, Whatmore, G. White, Murphy, Worthington, J. Jones, Ormerod, Harrington, Fearn, Gorton Jones, J. Jones, jun., and local stallholders.

An Echo of Nottingham Fair.

The upholders of Goose Fair will find another argument to their hands in the tramway returns for the three days that this year's carnival lasted, the figures breaking all records. During the three days of the fair the trams took no less than £2,642 2s. 8d., and carried 560,578 passengers. This is an increase of £120 in money and 24,700 in numbers over last year. Saturday easily beat any previous day in the history of the undertaking, the receipts amounting to £1,173 12s., and the number of passengers carried to 254,730. This is 9,000 more than on Goose Fair Saturday last year—the previous highest figure.

The Chamber of Commerce and the Fair.

There was a curious interruption to the business of the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce at its last meeting. A Mr. Stiebel interrupted, and introduced the following motion:—"That in the opinion of this Council it is desirable in the best interests of the city for Goose Fair to be abolished." This gentleman, with the un-English name, expressed his alarm that the old English fair for which Nottingham was famous had such popularity and vitality. He expressed the opinion that English people had too many holidays and too many opportunities to get rid of their money, and concluded with the usual reference to the fair as being a "pandemonium." That blessed word "pandemonium" was the refuge of all faddists, narrow-minded puritans, when they wanted to have a fling at the open-air amusements of the people. The Mayor of Nottingham, who was present, expressed the opinion that in face of the general popularity of the fair with the people, he was sure that the City Council would take no steps to abolish it. With the exception of Barnstaple and Barnet, Nottingham was, he believed, the oldest existing fair. It was, however, purely a pleasure fair, and it rested with the inhabitants to say whether it should be continued or not. If they were anxious to do away with it they should make their opinions known at the November elections.

The Mayor was followed by a number of speakers, including the Sheriff, who stoutly defended the fair, and, in the end, the resolution was withdrawn.

When it is remembered that the rates benefit to the amount of £1,500, and also that £2,542 is netted by the Corporation Tramways, it is not to be wondered at that there are many people in Nottingham who, although, they have outgrown the attractions of the fair, will not burden themselves with the additional rate that such a loss of revenue would demand. After all, however, the question is for the people of Nottingham, and he would be a bold candidate for civic honours who, at the next November elections inscribed upon his banner "I stand for the abolition of Goose Fair."

A Local Champion on the Fair.

Fortunately, for certain reformers, there is always a large body of thoughtful men and women who endeavour to see both sides of every question. We have, therefore, much pleasure in reproducing an extract from the letter of a Nottingham gentleman, who deals with Mr. Stiebel's opinion in a most calm and impartial manner.

"In its time it has encountered numberless foes, but public opinion has ever proved its friend. However objectionable this old-time institution may have become in the eyes of some, it appeared slightly inopportune to have reintroduced the question of its abolition at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, and members also expressed opinion to that effect. They had met to discourse on matters connected with commerce, and not to hold discussions on the diversions and amusements of the people. It seems to be the ambition of the moralist to educate the mind to a certain standard of morality, and such frivolities as pleasure fairs are considered to be merely stumbling-blocks in the path of this ideal. The morals of all classes might be improved, but let the moralist be reminded that the lower class has not the means and facilities for enjoyment which the upper class of society has, and, therefore, has a legitimate right to exercise its prerogative when opportunity offers. It moreover prefers enjoyment after its own fashion, and resents undue interference with its liberty. Pleasure fairs which are only occasional are conducted with as much decency and propriety as theatres and music halls, and have a similar right to exist."

The Hull Press on the Work of the Guild.

The *Eastern Morning News*, under the heading "The Showmen's Friend" has the following interesting paragraph:—"Those who have been privileged to attend a meeting of the showmen can bear testimony to the wonderful influence and hold the Rev. T. Horne has over his flock, who he told the audience who assembled at yesterday's gathering of the Showmen and Vandwellers' Protection Association number some 70,000. Mr. Horne is the ideal man for his post. That the showpeople love and revere their chaplain is apparent almost to the unobservant. He is no mincer of matter; he says what he means and means what he says. This is not surprising, for up to nineteen years of age he was one of them. He is not the son of the manse, but of the "sawdust and canvas," for his people were vandwellers, and at the historic Goose Fair in Notingham he was born. Even when he was a poor, struggling curate at two pounds a week a tempting offer of another pound came, but he remained true to his choice. For many years now he has conducted services on the Sunday for his people, and on the week-day fought their fight in the Press, at public meetings, and with Parliamentarians. For some years he was stationed at Manchester; then he found it necessary to give up his clerical work there, and took up work under the Bishop of London. On leaving Manchester, the Bishop gave him permission, at any time he wished, to minister to the showpeople in the diocese of Manchester. Full of a rich fund of humour, which is used to adorn the moral and tell the tale, the showman parson is a force to be admired and reckoned with."

Pontefract.

Lord George Sanger's circus is here for one day, and the children, young and old, evince great excitement. The procession was imposing, and was witnessed by interested crowds, who flocked to the great tent afternoon and evening, and were rewarded by a very excellent show. Details would be invidious, but "Sanger's" is a byeword.

Leicester Pleasure Fair.

Our Leicester correspondent writes: "The October pleasure fair, the principal one of the year, commenced on Thursday, Oct. 8, and terminated on the following Tuesday. It will be remembered that it formerly was held in Humberstone-gate and abutments, but was, after a struggle, done away with, and is now, owing to the enterprise of Mr. P. Collins, located on a large piece of ground on the Ross's-walk, off the Belgrave-road. On Saturday the usual enormous complement of excursionists arrived, and during the afternoon and evening the fair presented a most animated appearance.

The Shows.—There were a goodly number of shows on the ground, the principal ones being Collins's wonderland, with its beautiful artistic front and splendid orchestration, and a first-rate collection of moving pictures; Kemp's cinema de lux, another work of artistic beauty, and showing the very latest films. Both Mr. and Mrs. Kemp are natives of Leicester, where they are held in the greatest esteem. Sidney Braham's home of mystery and midget show, with Mlle. Small; both Mlle. Annetta as a conjurer and Sidney Braham with his performing troupe of birds and canaries, are entertaining; Collins's lion show, in which Mlle. de Osta goes through a second-sight performance in the lion's den; and Bert MacComo, a grandson of the great trainer, also gives a daring performance with an untamable lion. Other shows were Pook, the 35st. fat boy, who looked as clean and smart as anyone could desire; James Leo's Egyptian Hall, where many mysterious tricks are performed; Professor Cullis's boxing booth, where doughty champions of the noble art have met in friendly rivalry to the admiration of good houses; W. Davis's model colliery, an ingenious show, well worth seeing; and Marwood's freaks of nature and elephant boy, three-legged girl, and tattooed ladies.

Sedgewick's Menagerie.—This popular menagerie's visit is always looked forward to with pleasure, as there is always something fresh to see. There is a cage of young lions and another of leopard cubs, together with a vast number of various wild animals, camels, elephants, &c. A really fine performance is gone through in the lion's den by Zarmah, who, accompanied with his boarhounds, is thoroughly at ease in a pretty show. He also performs with an elephant. Other intrepid performances are given by Herr Olga, with bears and wolves; and Alphonze, with lioness. The band of the establishment enlivens the proceedings with capital selections.

The Fun of the Fair was supplied by P. Collins's motors, J. Collins's airship and razzle-dazzle, P. Collins and Son's horses and cockerels, Collins's Royal yachts, Miller and Glisber's Canadian helter-skelter, juvenile machines by G. Neal, G. Ford, Chaplin, and Mercer; shooting saloons by J. Humphrey, H. Saunt, G. Neal, G. Ford, and Bloomfield; and others on the ground were J. Holmes, A. Warwick, Hart, Hall, Gamfield, &c.

Stratford-on-Avon.

At Stratford-on-Avon bull roast were Clarke's helter-skelter, Wadbrook's cinematograph exbition, Chipperfield's modern show of living pictures, Purchase's menagerie, Chaplin's camera obscura, Robbin's freak shows, and Taylor's boxing saloon.

The machines were Wilson's big wheel, P. Collins's motor-cars, Clarke's motor-cars, Davies's galloping horses and cockerels, Strickland's galloping horses, Butlin's motor-cars, Wright's midget horses, and photo. studios by Messrs. Caddick and Fossett.

Shooting saloons, swing boats, stalls, houp-las, &c., by Messrs. Wilson, Chipperfield, Turner, Kemp, Lewis, Wainwright, Herbert, Butler, and many others.

Evesham.

At Evesham Mop were Clarke's electric motor-cars, Clarke's helter-skelter, Strickland's gallopers, Butlin's midget ponies and motor-cars, Wadbrook's cinematograph, Wilson's shooting saloons, Caddick's photo studios, Wilson's big wheel, and other attractions.

SHOWMEN'S BRIEF AGAINST THE MOVABLE DWELLINGS BILL.

The showmen of England object most strongly to the Movable Dwellings Bill, introduced into Parliament by Lord Clifford of Chudleigh. They regard it as a serious menace to their means of livelihood, an uncalled-for aspersion upon their character, an unwarrantable invasion of their family life, and an unmerited attack on their liberties.

What the Bill Seeks to Do.

It would make every county authority for the purposes of the Act a registration authority, with power to compel the registration of all movable dwellings. It would further enact that

"The Local Government Board shall make regulations—

"For the registration of movable dwellings, including regulations as to certificates of registration and as to the fees in connection with registration; and for the renewal of registration from time to time;

"For the lettering, marking, and numbering of movable dwellings; and

"For registering the number, age, and sex of the persons who may be allowed to use a movable dwelling as a place of abode, having regard to cubic space, ventilation, provision for the separation of the sexes, general healthiness and convenience of accommodation; and

"For promoting cleanliness in and providing for the habitable condition of movable dwellings; and

"For preventing nuisances, fire, and the spread of infectious disease in and in connection with movable dwellings.

"The occupier of any movable dwelling shall produce the certificate of registry thereof when demanded by the police-constable or school attendance officer, and any person failing to do so shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

Show Vans already under the Law.

Every provision on the Health Acts and the whole body of the sanitary laws of the country apply to van life. In the year 1875 the Public Health Act [38 and 39 Victoria, Ch. 55] set up all over England local sanitary authorities to look after the health conditions of the people. It was a consolidation Act, as well as setting up a perfect network of administrative machinery for preservation of health and the prevention of all dangers to the health of the nation.

Section 91 of that Act is of great importance to our argument, for in a later Act—the Housing of the Working Classes Act [48 and 49, Ch. 72]—mention is made of tents and vans, and the penalties for van-dwellers not fulfilling the law are the same as those imposed upon all house-dwellers by Section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875. The Housing of the Working Classes Act specifically and clearly states in Section 9 that "(1) A tent, van, shed, or similar structure used for human habitation, which is in such a state as to be a nuisance or injurious to health, or which is so overcrowded as to be injurious to the health of the inmates, whether or not members of the same family, shall be deemed to be a nuisance within the meaning of Section 91 of the Public Health Act, 1875. (2) A sanitary authority may make bye-laws for promoting cleanliness in, and the habitable conditions of tents, vans, sheds, and similar structures used for human habitation and for preventing the spread of infectious disease by persons inhabiting the same, and generally for the prevention of nuisances in connection with the same."

Other clauses in the same section provide for the properly authorised sanitary officer having the right of inspection of vans and tents used for living purposes.

Here we have enough law in all fairness for the possible demands of public health and security for the showman and his family life.

Still More Legislation.

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889 [52 and 53, Victoria, Ch. 72], Section 13 (1) provides that the Act applies to "Every tent, van, shed, or similar structure used for human habitation, in like manner, as nearly as may be, as if it were a bulding."

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Extension Act, 1899 [62 and 63, Victoria, Ch. 8] makes the Act of 1889 operative all over the country by extending its operation to all sanitary districts that had not voluntarily adopted it.

Every living van is a house for all health and sanitary purposes. It is as much under the rule and government of the sanitary and health authorities as any other building, permanent or temporary, used for human habitation. There is just the same law and just the same liberty for the van-dweller's home on wheels as the town-dweller's home of wood and stone. In the matter of all necessary safeguards for public health the law as it is is all-sufficient. It is just, because all must obey it. To endeavour to fix special and clearly invidious rules upon the showman that do not apply to householders in permanent homes is an insult and an invasion of his rights and liberties that every showman is bound to resist with all the vigour at his command.

Invidious Class-legislation.

The serious nature of the Movable Dwellings Bill as an attack on the life and character of showmen lies in the fact that it proposes a tremendous change in the law of the land. As the law now stands, it is the sanitary authority that has the power of control of all dwellings in the interest of public health; but under Lord Clifford's Bill the administration would be entirely in the hands of the county police. Thus an invidious stigma is placed upon van-dwellers. Not the sanitary officer, but the county policeman would come to their door in order to be satisfied as to the sanitary conditions of their movable dwellings.

The showmen have pointed out to the promoters of the Bill the insult of this tremendous essay in invidious legislation, but they have refused to amend their Bill so as to deal with this injustice.

Wholesale Powers to Abolish Fairs.

It will have been already seen how the proposed legislation would injure and penalise the life and work of the travelling showman, but that is not all the mischief contemplated by the Bill. Clause 5 provides that "where it appears to the registration authority that the encampment of occupiers of movable dwellings on any specified place or places within their area would be dangerous to public health, or constitute a nuisance to the neighbourhood, the registration authority may by bye-law prohibit such encampment on such specified place or places; and any person acting in contravention of any bye-law under this section shall be guilty of an offence under this Act."

To place such powers in the hands of local governing bodies would in many instances lead to the abolition of the people's fairs, and without any appeal to the people and traders concerned. Showmen know from sad experience that bye-laws primarily intended for the good rule and government of fairs have been strained by the local authorities to prohibit fairs altogether.

The Adequacy of Existing Law.

Already the notification of Infectious Disease Acts and all local health and sanitary bye-laws apply fully to show vans and tents. The Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Officer have complete control, in the interests of public health, of every fair in the country. Showmen most readily comply with every requirement of the sanitary authority; they have a clean bill of health throughout the land. The showmen, therefore, view with justifiable alarm the claim for these additional powers. They fear that they will be used as an instrument of oppression, and for the purpose of prohibiting the time-honoured fairs of the people.

Why Not a Gipsies Bill?

The differences between gipsies and squatters on common lands and travelling showpeople are so obvious, and (to right-thinking people) so many and so utterly at variance with each other, that it is a source of perpetual wonderment to them why our statesmen and legislators persist in framing Parliamentary measures that refuse to recognise the open and unmistakable fact that a showman is not a gipsy nor yet a squatter on the commons of the country. If Lord Clifford and his backers mean to exterminate gipsy life, let them say so, and go before the country with an intelligible scheme. A Bill to compel gipsies, tramps, and other nomads to settle in towns or villages would go to the root of the problem. Why not revive the old feudal law that made it a crime to have no settled abode—to be a landless man?

Itinerant Entertainers—a Home Industry.

The great bulk of the business of the fairground is a home industry. The caravan or home on wheels is an essential part of the working plant. The home must be next door to the workshop—the show or booth. When lawmakers speak of regulating, marking, and ticketing gipsy and squatter vans and tents, why cannot they say in the measure they are supporting, "This Act shall not apply to vans, tents, or erections used by travelling showpeople pursuing their lawful and admittedly useful and honourable business"?

A Great and Skilled Industry.

The showman world in these islands of Great Britain and Ireland numbers at the least 70,000 persons, almost all directly employed in the show business; besides these there is a vast army of workers making and handling the goods sold or used upon the fair grounds of the Empire.

The modern showman has no need to be ashamed either of his work or his position in the national economy. To cater for a people's natural relaxation involves no slight share of responsibility in the nation's well being.

The Showmen's Guild of Great Britain speaks for the whole industry of the fair ground, it claims that the whole body of showmen and fair ground traders are law-abiding and industrious citizens. Furthermore, as representing a highly technical and skilled industry (an industry that has grown with the growth of the nation), that they are fully entitled to claim the sanction and liberties of the ordinary laws of the realm, and that invidious class legislation is not necessary for them or their business in life.

At all the principal fairs of the country this year, indignation meetings in opposition to the Bill have been held. Resolutions condemning the measure have been unanimously passed, and a great deal of public sympathy with the showpeople has been manifested.

The organised showmen having failed to obtain from the promotors of the Bill a clause exempting them from its operation, or one clearly restricting its operations to insanitary settlements of gipsies, or to squatters on common lands, now appeal to the justice-loving people of the Kingdom, confident that their appeal for justice will not be made in vain.

ELEPHANTS ON THE CHUTE.

Further proceedings in respect of the performance of elephants on the water-chute at the Ceylon Village, Franco-British Exhibition, were taken before Mr. Garrett, at West London on Monday at the instance of the Royal Society for the prevention of Cruelty to Animals, against Gustave Hagenbeck, the proprietor of the show, and Schreida and Havadia, elephant trainer and attendant respectively. All three defendants were summoned under the Wild Animals in Captivity Protection Act for being concerned in terrifying two elephants on Sept. 26. Hagenbeck was further summoned "to come up for judgment" under certain recognisances into which he entered on Sept. 18.

It will be remembered that on Sept. 18 the same three defendants were, after a hearing of similar summonses, convicted under the Act, and while substantial penalties were imposed on Schreida and Havadia, Hagenbeck, who was then, as on this occasion, charged with permitting the offence, was bound over in the sum of £10 to come up for judgment.

Mr. Stuart Bevan (instructed by Mr. Sidney Polhill, solicitor to the society) appeared for the prosecution; and Mr. R. D. Muir for the defence.

Owing to the pressure of business, the magistrate adjourned the summonses.

Alcester.

Purchase's menagerie has been here.

Bidford-on-Avon.

Purchase's menagerie has been here.

South Wales Notes.

The Pembrokeshire fair was maintained by Messrs. Hy. Studt and Sons' magnificent gondolas, &c., Danter's zoological set, J. North's shooters, cokernuts, mollies, &c.; Wm. Haggar's, sen., fine new bioscope; E. Danter's bioscope; and Prince Samuda's home of mysteries. A consignment of Messrs. Bostock's wild beasts arrived at the Pavilion, Mountain Ash, which will remain there until Easter. They were all in beautiful condition. Great crowds witnessed them being discharged at the Great Western Railway.

White's amalgamation of amusements are paying a visit this week to Pricetown. In the bioscope entertainment the varieties are supported by Mazzoni, the handcuff king; Willie Long, comedian; and Walter Gibbons, in his song illustrations.

Messrs. Johnson Brothers opened at Tredegar with their up-to-date theatre on Saturday last to crowded business. Miss Rosa Lind, Tyrolean singer and serio comedienne, was the variety turn, and was recalled before the curtain several times.

Mr. Clement Austin and his smart little orchestral band, assisted by Master George Austin, a clever rising violinist, had a rousing reception by many old friends.

Mr. John Johnson, at Ferndale, of Victoria Theatre fame, is doing excellent business, everything being up to date. Mr. Jos. Traynor is to be complimented as the leader of the orchestra. An old favourite to be noticed is Mr. Fred D'Albert and Mr. Tommy Gough. Messrs. Roberts's big wheel, shooters, and mollies are stationed at Mountain Ash, also Ford's shooting saloon.

Mr. Wm. Haggar, jun., was successful in obtaining a three months' licence at Neath on the 13th inst.

Kinematograph regulations respecting the use of the kinematograph in theatres and halls, also the regulations respecting the use of limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the kinematograph or limelight should possess a copy of these regulations.

Kinematograph Copyright. The law affecting the same. By William Jago, F.I.C., F.C.S., barrister-at-law. Price 6d. Address, The Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

A Texas Elopement is a thrilling dramatic story, in which are interwoven wonderful feats of horsemanship, performed by the principal characters. The opening scene gives us a Texas cowboys' encampment, a grand display of horsemanship, rival cowboys giving a demonstration with revolver and lassoo, and the extraordinary intelligence of the hero's quadruped. Then we get the interior of a rancher's home. His daughter unconsciously plays upon the piano while her father is tempted by the villain—the defeated cowboy of the first scene—to sell the girl. He yields to the tempter, accepts a cheque, and leaves the purchaser in charge. The villain explains the transaction to the indignant girl, and exhibits the cheque counterfoil in proof. He seeks to enforce his right to an embrace. "Hands up!" His successful camp rival appears opportunely, and releases the girl from the attentions of the villain, who departs, vowing vengeance upon the pair. At the camp the villain attends to the trappings of his horse, while his rival gives a finished display of horsemanship before the girl. She consents to an elopement, and mounts her lover's horse, the hero riding behind until his rival is reached, when he dismounts. There is a struggle between the villain and the rival for the possession of the second horse. The villain is defeated, and his enemy rides away. The defeated man fires after him, but is over-powered by the cowboy's chums. Many other incidents occur until the romance ends happily.

The Adventures of a Watch.—Eight minutes of rollicking farce, ridiculous situations, most original incidents—including a Rontgen Ray experiment and a complicated surgical operation of a very unusual character—a clever dog, his unlucky owner, a couple of precocious children, and a loafer, make the sum of one of the best comic and magic pictures of the year. The story is this:—The watch is publicly presented to the deserving but embarrassed recipient. Arrived at home, he hangs up the timepiece, and retires to enjoy a tub. During his absence, his little son enters, secures the watch, and hastily leaves to put certain plans into practice. The father returns and makes search for his valued testimonial. His room is nearly dismantled in the process, when he remembers his son's proclivities, and goes to investigate. The young hopeful has just tied the presentation watch to the tail of his terrier, which flies, followed by the owner. In and out of river barges the man pursues the dog, who enters into the spirit of the "game." Sundry mishaps occur. The owner falls into the mud, and eventually catches his dog, only to lose him again before recovering the watch. Terrier decides upon a swim, and his master follows, still intent upon securing the watch. A ragged urchin assists the dog to land at a pier, but possesses himself of the watch, which is for ever lost to its owner. In a woodland scene a loafer sleeps and snores. The boy is of an original turn of mind. He drops the watch and chain into the open mouth of the sleeper, who wakes with a start and swallows them both. Other amusing situations are presented to the gaze of the spectator.

The Training of a Fighting Bull.—The breeding of animals which are subsequently to figure in the bull rings, or "corridas," of Southern Europe is an occupation largely followed in Camargue, in the delta of the Rhone. The young bulls are first weeded out from the general herd, after which, at the age of eighteen months, they must pass the test of the "tienta," trying conclusions with a horseman armed with a pike. If the animal renews the attack after receiving a prick from the weapon he is branded with a hot iron, and prepared for the "corrida." If, on the contrary, he runs away, he is taken from the herd of fighting bulls, and becomes an ordinary ox. The fighting bull does not make a public appearance until it is four years old, the intervening time between its first selection and the actual conflict being spent in training. During this period the bulls are confined in "ganaderias," where they are familiarised with the methods of fighting adopted by the picadors and the banderilleros, occupations of considerable danger for the men engaged.

The Gorges of the Tarn.—This river is a tributary of the Garonne, one of the most picturesque districts in the south-west of France. Romantic scenes on the banks of the Tarn, a shallow but swiftly-flowing stream, navigable only for punts, reveal fresh beauties of majestic nature at every turn. Dolomite rocks, cliffs, and caverns, chiselled and modelled by rain and frost, are continuously presented in wonderful arched, pointed, groyned, and fantastic designs. Ruins nestling at the feet of majestic escarpments, lend their charm, and simple huts of the peasant population add variety and heighten the general effect, the beauty of which is doubled by the mirroring waters of the Tarn. Amidst foliage, in delightful confusion, rapids whirling and eddying in and out of rocky channels, each turn of the river reserves an agreeable surprise as it defiles in front of the audience. The darkness of the caves, the mountains rising sheer above them, the graceful bridges spanning the waters, and the natural weir over which the skilled boatmen shoot their shallow punts, form views of incomparable nature such as are seldom seen.

Pathé Frères.

Obliged to Consent.—A nice young man, having been refused by a stern father the hand of the girl he loves, comes back and sings his love under her window. The father is so furious that he fires at him, and the poor boy tumbles down in a heap. Then the infuriated old man puts his foot on the motionless body, saying at the same time, "Now you shall not have my daughter." But the nice young man is not dead at all, he has been acting all the time; and having put the doctor into his secret who had been called in after the supposed murder, the young man, with the aid of his friend, wraps himself in a white sheet and plays the spectre before the haunted eyes of the father, who is now a prey to the most acute pangs of remorse. At last, after seeing his daughter in the arms of the spectre, the distracted old man gives in, and says to the horrible spectre that he grants it in advance anything it may wish for provided it does not follow his footsteps so doggedly. On hearing this, the perfect young man throws away his white sheet and resumes his former appearance, at the same time thanking his father-in-law for his forced consent, and removing from him the weight of his supposed crime.

Dowry Hunting.—This film depicts humorously the comedy of the Franco-American marriage of a young Yankee lady, who has, like her countrywomen, a respect for the only luxury which the gold kings of the New World lack, viz., ancient lineage and ancestors, but whose practical and healthy mind despises the useless and empty life of many a young snob who is attracted by her fortune. Yet, as an old name and traditions do not always exclude cowardice, one of her rejected suitors, in order to compel her consent, has the

young lady carried off by hired men; but he has not reckoned on the unforeseen presence of a young schoolmaster of the place, who bravely defends the young lady and saves her from her assailants. The American girl, finding in her defender a modest, honest, and devoted lover, offers him at once her hand and her fortune.

DETECTIVES FRITT AND PLOCK.—A lady has had her jewellery stolen at the hotel where she is staying, and she puts in a claim. She picks out one photo amongst those shown to her as that of the thief, who happens to belong to a gang well known to the police for their daring, and whose head is called "Napoleon of Crime." Hoping to be able to arrest the whole party at one and the same time, the authorities put on the track two of their best detectives, Fritt and Plock, after promising a reward of £1,000 to the winner. Then ensues between the two detectives a fight recalling the feats of Sherlock Holmes, the well-known English detective, and those of the French Ganimard. They discover their man at the terrace of a coffee-house; but the thief, scenting danger, beckons a cab and drives to the station. The moment the train steams away an old lady and a swell arrive panting on the platform. "Too late," they both exclaim at the same time, and then Fritt and Plock recognise each other. Yet the train keeps running speedily. Fritt boards a motor-car and grasps the steering-wheel, while Plock lifts a cripple out of his carriage, jumps into his place, and ties his tiny vehicle to the rear of the automobile. The one following the other closely, both detectives follow the same route as the train. The pickpocket puts up at a boarding-house, but as he hears a noise in the hall, he looks through the keyhole and sees his two enemies hiding in his trunks. He darts out, locks his trunks up, and slips out of the house. Freed by the servants, Fritt and Plock are again facing each other. Without wasting a moment they start after the scoundrel, who, seeing himself on the point of being caught, jumps into the water, disappears, and comes out some distance from his diving place; then, thanks to his masterly jump, he is on the bridge. In front of a curiosity shop he hesitates for a second, during which Fritt and Plock disappear each in an armour. The burglar enters and offers the jewellery for sale, but at this very moment the detectives pounce upon him. Fritt and Plock acknowledge each other equally crafty, shake hands loyally, and decide to share the reward.

FEMININE HATE.—An elderly gentleman and his daughter are mountaineering. Suddenly they stop to listen to a song issuing from a sort of cave in the rocks. Several Bohemians are sitting around the singer, a handsome son of their race. The man, noticing an impression of admiration on the face of the lady, has her followed by a child, and thus he finds out her address. But a young girl of his gang who loves him follows him on the sly when he goes to her house. The girl sees the lady descend the mountain in the direction of the beach, where the Bohemian meets her. He beckons a fisherman, and soon they are on the sea, while the heart of the girl seems to be bursting with jealousy and grief. The old gentleman is leaving the house in his turn, when the gipsy girl steps forward and tells him what she has just seen; but he, after listening to her, shrugs his shoulders and resumes his walk. Hidden by a bush, the girl watches for the return of the lovers, and when she sees them on the beach she springs forward and tries to kill the other woman with a stiletto, but the stranger snatches a revolver from her pocket and fires. The last picture shows the Bohemian crying over the body of the girl his fickleness has caused to be so badly injured.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

BUYING A TITLE.—That the course of true love never did run smooth is once more proven by a devoted couple who had made up their minds to marry. The trouble begins when Jack interviews papa, and receives the order to quit, as it is a titled husband the latter wants for his daughter. Sad at heart, our bold lover is left to think of a way out of the difficulty. Whilst pa is at the matrimonial agent's enquiring into the credentials of eligible "Noblemen," he is struck by a French Count's noble lineage and bearing, and makes an appointment for him to call and see the prospective future wife. Our lover friend is also struck—but with an idea—and arranges a meeting with *his* future wife. A plot is now arranged. Nora—maid to Jack's sweetheart—agrees to appear as her mistress. She is dressed for the part, and Jack and his sweetheart make up as butler and maid. The Count now arrives to keep his appointment, and is received by Nora, the bogus mistress, and in his attempts at love-making he is "lead on" to the amusement of the hidden "butler" and his lady love. To prove his undying love the Count embraces Nora just as Dan, her policeman lover, arrives. This arouses the temper of the gentleman in blue, and he proceeds to demonstrate his abilities as a fighting force to the detriment of the Count's personal appearance. The Count is made to look rather undignified, and is finally thrown out.

THE LEPRECHAWN, an Irish fairy story.—One day an Irish landlord, Lord Craven, in making his way across the fields, spies a pretty Irish colleen, Nora, hoeing potatoes. Being struck by her singular beauty he makes advances to her. These are not appreciated, yet he endeavours to kiss her, and is rewarded with a resounding smack on the face. This brings trouble, because the result is a demand by Lord Craven's agent for the overdue rent, which, owing to bad crops, is not forthcoming. The appeals for time made by Nora's mother have no effect, but Lord Craven arriving, he is agreeable to cancel the debt providing Nora will listen to him. Before there is time to parley Barney—Norah's broth of a bhoy—comes into consideration, and his answer gives the noble lord a sore head. Ill-pleased with things in general, meeting a witch-woman Craven allows her to tell him his fortune, and this, not being to his liking, he strikes her with his hunting crop. For his pains she places him under a curse. Now, after consoling her mother, Nora sets out to sell potatoes, but is disheartened by her want of success. Meeting Barney, she is cheered by his promising to catch a Leprechawn and get the money. They now seek the witch-woman's advice, and she paints a rosy picture of their future, at the same time giving Barney a charm. Barney gets away on the task of catching the fairy, and reaching the Fairy Grove, sees a Leprechawn at work. His attempts to lay hands on the little man are futile, but the display and handing over of the witch's charm works wonders. The fairy fairly dazzles Barney's eyes when he shows him the treasure cave, but he is unable to get the better of our friend. Barney's wits are not dazzled, and, knowing if he once lets the fairy go his good fortune goes too, refuses some snuff which is offered to him, preferring to pack a heavy load of gold. We now witness some magic by the Fairy Queen, who, by a wave of her wand, blesses Barney with a new suit of clothes as well as a beautiful steed to carry him and the gold to his beloved Nora. Whilst Barney has been away among the fairies, Lord Craven has sent the soldiers to evict Nora and her mother. Their pleadings being in vain, the soldiers are about to move their belongings when Barney appears, pays the rent, and demands a receipt for the payment. The landlord gives this, taking away the money, and later stops to count it, when he discovers that it has turned to autumn leaves. A scene now occurs between him and Barney, but as the latter refuses to give up the receipt Craven is beaten, and Barney with Nora is happy.

The Gaumont Company.

THE SILENT HOTEL.—This is an extremely entertaining film novelty, which is bound to become immensely popular. It begins with the entrance of a visitor to an hotel and his surprise at finding there is no one to welcome him or to wait upon him. But he has really no need for servants, and, by some magical means, tables, inkstands and pens come to him, and he signs his name in the hotel register. His bag now flies out of his hand, travels upstairs unaided, and shows him the way to his bedroom. Subsequently he goes downstairs for dinner. A table, with all its equipments for a meal, is mysteriously placed before him, and the "grub" also arrives as if by magic. Going back to his bedroom, his clothes remove themselves and fly to their respective hooks and chairs. As day breaks our friend is awakened by an alarm clock, and he is shot out of bed, his clothes falling on him again. He is on the point of making his exit from this ghastly hostelry when a mysterious hand seizes him, and compels him to pay his bill as well as the tips.

Nordisk Films Company.

HERCULES, THE WORLD'S CHAMPION.—Two young people are engaged at the same music hall by the names of "Hercules" and "Miss Sylvia." He is an athlete and she is a riflewoman. The two artists love one another, and it is only Sylvia's mother that prevents them from marrying. A decrepit baron takes an interest in Sylvia, and persuades the manager of the hall to prolong her engagement. While they are busy with the contract the baron is rude to Sylvia; she tears herself away from him and runs out into the hall, where she meets Hercules, just coming back from the stage. She explains to him what has been planned against them. Then they hasten to their cloak-rooms, wrap up the few articles they require, and fly together in a motor-car. We see the young couple again after a year. Hercules has no engagement and is sitting in a bar, discouraged. Sylvia on her way to the music hall, where she is performing, goes in and tries to comfort him. After she has left, two men, who have been talking to the landlady, commence playing cards. Hercules wants to go, but the landlady asks him to stay, gives him money, and invites him to play cards. He gives way to the temptation, plays and wins. All the time he is drinking from the glass, which the landlady keeps filling. Suddenly he discovers that the two fellows are cheating, he jumps up and knocks them down, and they hurry out of the room. Hercules is now half drunk and very excited. He sits down by the table, and now the landlady sits down by him with her arm round his neck. A few minutes later Sylvia comes in, followed by her mother and the baron, who have traced her. She is astounded at seeing the two sitting together, and, without a word, she hurries out of the room. The landlady and Hercules enter a box in a first-class music hall. The curtain is drawn, and Sylvia is seen on the stage. She sees Hercules and the hated rival, takes aim at the box and fires a shot at Hercules, who drops to the ground wounded. Sylvia falls into a swoon, and is carried into her cloak-room. A policeman wants to arrest her as soon as she recovers, but Hercules comes in, tears the bandage away from his forehead, declares himself to be but slightly wounded, and will not allow her to be arrested. He takes the jewellery and money the landlady has presented him with and throws it in her face as she enters the room. She gets angry, takes out a revolver and tries to shoot Sylvia, but Hercules takes Sylvia in his arms and carries her safely away.

W. Butcher and Sons, Ltd.

THE "PRIMUS" LANTERNIST'S POCKET-BOOK, 1908-9.—This useful little book, edited by Mr. W. F. Butcher, F.C.S., and published by Messrs. Butcher and Sons, Ltd., at Camera House, Farringdon-avenue, is an excellent sixpennyworth of information for cinematograph lanternists. Particularly valuable are the hints as to the employment of electric light and other means of illumination. Thus, under the heading of "Miniature Arc Lamps," the Editor says: Within the last few years miniature arc lamps have been introduced which work off the ordinary house supply. They absorb about four ampères of current and give very good results, illuminating discs from six to eight feet in diameter for ordinary lantern work, and from four to six feet for cinematographs. Wherever the electric current is available they are one of the best forms of illuminant, and have proved very popular, being so easy to handle and so inexpensive. These lamps are sent out complete, and one of the best forms is that which is listed in the catalogue under the title "The Ariel." The most convenient resistance to buy is that which will cut out 250 volts, as it is always better to have rather a large resistance than to have one that is too small, in case at any time, even although the voltage in the home circuit is only 100, occasion may arise to take one's outfit to a district where it is 250, and the resistance occupies very little extra space.

THE booklet also deals with incandescent spirit lamps, as to which the following information is given: Within the last few years spirit lamps which burn with incandescent gas mantles have been introduced for working with projection lanterns, and as these are destined in the future to play a very important part as an illuminant, it is as well for the operator to make himself conversant with the general principles on which these lamps are designed. They have practically cut out entirely the use of the mineral oil lamps, as they are portable and inexpensive; there is no smoke or smell, and they are no more dangerous than an ordinary paraffin lamp. They give a very brilliant light of splendid quality, and an eight-foot picture can be well illuminated.

THE reader is also informed, by means of diagrams and letterpress, how to connect up resistance, arc lamp, ampmeter, and motor with regulator, and tables are given showing the system of electrical current and voltage employed in many of the towns in Great Britain and Ireland. Information is also furnished on the subject of compressed gases and the requirements for an entertainment, and the work, which contains a "diary for engagements, 1908-1909," concludes with a directory of dealers in all manner of photographic and moving picture requisites.

Jury's Imperial Pictures.

CINEMATOGRAPH pictures are now an important item in every programme at the variety theatres, the up-to-date representations of the happenings of the same day being most appreciated. At the Alhambra Jury's Imperial Pictures are permanently established favourites, coming, as they do, immediately after the new ballet *Paquita*. This week, among other events pictorially presented, are the Marathon race, the sculling championship, and the Gordon-Bennett balloon race; while for those who like fun there is a series illustrating how a bulldog protected a bank from a burglar.

MISS IRENE MONCRIEFF is going into partnership with Mr. Kyburn-Dellar, and will shortly produce a realistic dramatic sketch entitled *The Flaming Hussy*, in one flame.

MONDAY being the anniversary of his birthday, Mr. H. H. Braham, stage manager of the Gaiety Theatre of Varieties, Chatham, was the recipient of a handsome silver-mounted walking stick, the gift of the orchestra and staff. The presentation was made by the Gaiety musical conductor, Mr. Harry Clements.

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HAMMERSMITH PALACE.

Variety halls sometimes are known to somewhat belie their title, and present programmes with very little variety in them; but such a charge could not possibly be made at Hammersmith, for we doubt whether a more varied bill could be arranged. Excellent is practically every turn, and Mr. Coe and his manager, Mr. Lewis Vincent, deserve every congratulation on their well-chosen bill. It is headed by Mr. Van Biene, who, in a clever sketch entitled *The Master Musician* introduces some of his superb 'cello solos. Mr. Van Biene is ably supported by Miss Mary Mannering, who acts excellently as Jenny, and by Miss Kingston, who is quite satisfactory in the part of Miss Carlisle. Mr. Van Biene's first visit here is certainly a great success.

Another newcomer to Hammersmith is Miss Nellie Wigley, a lady blessed with a charming voice, which she used to great advantage in "Egypt," and another song, both being deeply appreciated. The bottom of the bill this week is Mr. Phil Ray, and he is at his very best. Mr. Ray introduces a lot of new patter, in which he is funnier than ever, and his reception was tumultuous. Hinton and Wootton perform their particularly clever football match on bicycles, and are well received. Miss Edie King proves popular in "Oh domino, pink domino," and "I'm getting rather tired of smart society," finishing up with a clever dance. For clever and novel dancing Ritter and Foster would be hard to beat, and their songs are really good. Mr. Wm. Gourlay is weird in "The Scarecrow," and dances well. Foreman and Fannan, without much alteration in their business for some years, still provoke plenty of mirth.

Two clever children with sweet voices are Dolly and Madge McCalla, and the audience gave them unstinted applause for their two songs, "You're just the girl I'm looking for" and "My palace of ivory I've built for you." Miss Alice Hughes and company present a musical comedietta entitled *Star of the Bazaar*, in which Miss Hughes acts and sings well. Mr. F. R. Lurin as Rev. Willie Wood and Mr. Charles Dillon as James contribute largely towards its success. Barlee and Smith are a delightful pair of artists. Miss Barlee's song, "Roses bring memories of you," was excellently rendered, and in their comedy duet and dances both proved exceedingly popular. Mr. Will Musgrave's songs, "I'd rather wear the hat that father went to school in" and "It's a good job the sergeant came along" went well with the house; Hurman is a smart hoop manipulator and juggler; and Broom and Broom dance well together and crack some funny motoring jokes. The Edisonograph is responsible for some up-to-date pictures.

MISS BEATRICE FELSTED, of illustrated song fame, has been specially engaged by Mr. J. F. Elliston, of Bolton, for pantomime, 1908-9. Miss Felsted's fine voice should enable her to make a hit.

MISS OLIVE WEST, owing to her success at the Empire, Camberwell, last week, has been engaged as second girl for Mr. Mulholland's pantomime at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, at Christmas.

MISS FANNY ROBINA and Florry Cooper have just finished twelve weeks' provincial tour with very great success, and will rest for a fortnight previous to resuming business at Gloucester, Porth, and other towns.

DOLLY, AGNES, AND MAUD finish to-night six weeks' successful tour in Scotland with their vocal act, fancy box-making, playing four weeks in Glasgow. They open on Monday at the Hippodrome, Wakefield, on a third return visit.

MR. ARTHUR TURLE, after being away in the States for a considerable time, has returned to England much improved in health, and is now at liberty for a position as manager. His experience and smartness should soon secure him a post.

EDISON FILMS

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BUYING A TITLE.

Synopsis of Scenes:

THE COURSE OF TRUE LOVE—A devoted couple decide to marry—Jack interviews Pa, but is told he wants a titled husband for his daughter—Jack retires downcast.

THE MATRIMONIAL BUREAU—Pa looks over an "assorted lot" of "Noblemen"—They display their credentials—A French Count is told to "call around" and meet his future wife.

AMONG THE "LOWER FIVE"—Nora, the maid of Jack's sweetheart, has a policeman lover, and between times entertains him—Jack is in her good graces, and she arranges a meeting.

HATCHING A PLOT—The lovers are interrupted by the arrival of the Count's note stating his intended visit at 4 p.m.—The lovers finally hit upon a plan of action—Nora enters into the fun, and assumes the young lady's place—Attires herself accordingly—The lovers dress as Maid and Butler.

THE COUNT'S FINISH—The Count arrives—Nora, as mistress receives him—He presses his suit ardently, while the hidden lovers enjoy the scene—The Count declares his undying love, and embraces Nora just as Dan, the policeman, arrives—His "Irish up" he "wipes the floor" with the Count—Finally throws him out, to the delight of Nora and the young couple.

No. 6378. Code, "Velox." Length, 935ft.

THE LEPRECHAWN: An Irish Fairy Story.

Synopsis of Scenes:

THE CLOVEN FOOT—Lord Craven, an Irish landlord, sees pretty Nora—Makes advances, which are resented—He tries to kiss her—She slaps his face.

AN UNEXPECTED BLOW—Lord Craven's agent demands rent from Nora's mother—She pleads for time.

AN IRISHMAN'S MIGHT—Craven offers to cancel rent if Nora will listen to him—Barney answers for her—Craven retires with a sore head.

THE WITCH-WOMAN'S CURSE—Craven meets the witch-woman—She tells his fortune—Strikes her—She "puts a curse on him."

RAISING THE RENT—Nora starts out to sell potatoes—Poor success—Meets Barney—He promises to catch a Leprechawn and get the money.

AT THE WITCH-WOMAN'S—She works a charm—Shows a rosy future—Gives Barney a charm for the Leprechawn.

CATCHING A LEPRECHAWN—Barney starts on his errand—Sees a Leprechawn at work—Tries to catch—Gives him the charm.

THE TREASURE CAVE—Leprechawn leads Barney—Barney's eyes dazzled—Is offered snuff—Refuses—Packs the gold—A heavy load.

THE MAGIC STEED—Fairy Queen waves her wand—Barney receives a beautiful horse—Sets off on his way to Nora.

THE EVICTION—Lord Craven has soldiers evict Nora and her mother—Pleadings are vain—Barney arrives—Pays the rent, demands and gets a receipt.

"FAIRY GOLD"—Gloating over his money, Craven stops to count it—It turns to autumn leaves—Demands receipt from Barney—"Paid once, get out"—Nora and Barney happy.

No. 6379. Code, "Velozmento.' Approximate Length, 1000ft.

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THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 15, 22, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Company, for Reading,
Nov. 16, three nights.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Attractions for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON,
Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 15, Mar. 1, 8, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, on (3 nights only).
Address,
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions,
March 14, 1910, onwards,
1909 fully Booked.
"Wrecker of Men" refused money, popular parts, Monday. Promises to eclipse the success of its former visit, when the "gross" totalled well over £300.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Nov. 2 (3 nights), Nov. 16, 23, 30 (3 nights),
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, onwards.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
Nov. 16, Dec. 3 (3 nights), 7, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 18, onwards.
Apply for all above, ROWLAND, T., Folkestone.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Managing-Director, R. C. BUCHANAN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions for the following dates:—
Nov. 9, 16, 30,
Dec. 7, 14, and on, with exceptions.
Apply, R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Important Attraction, Nov. 9.
FREDK. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Nov. 9.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR,
24A, Regent-street, S.W.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 11. MORTON POWELL,
Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Front-rank Musical and Dramatic Attractions, Feb. 15, March 22, April 19, May 3, and onwards.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Really First-class Attraction,
Nov. 9,
Nov. 9,
Wire, JAMES BELL.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Really First-class Attraction,
Nov. 16,
Nov. 16,
Wire, JAMES BELL.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.
WANTED, Special Company, for Nov. 2, which is likely to be available. Address,
Mr. MULHOLLAND, King's Theatre, W.
'Phone 119 Hammersmith.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14, and various dates onwards.
Apply, G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE,
CHRISTMAS.
WANTED, Pantomime or Strong Attraction.
Apply,
W. W. KEENE

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, JULIAN MALVERN.
WANTED, Good Pantomime, Dec. 21, 28, or Dec. 26 (7 nights).
Now Booking Season, 1909.
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Companies, for Nov. 16, Dec. 14, March 8, 15, 29, April 5, 19, onwards. SHERWOOD and Co.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, for Nov. 16, 23, and 30.
Jan. 18, and onwards.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, PRESTON.
WANTED, good Dramatic Companies, Nov. 9 and 23, through transferring. Address, SAWYER and WOODRUFF.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Company, Nov. 5, 6, 7, three nights, Harrogate,
vacant through obliging Manager.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, Good Company,
Nov. 9.
Wire, MANAGER.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Gen.-Mans., ARTHUR CARLTON and SAM DUCKWORTH
High-class Attractions only Entertained.
Vacant Nov. 16, 23, Dec. 7,
onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates.
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 14, 21,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Dec. 21, Feb. 22, March 22,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 7, April 5, 12, 19,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Dec. 21, April 12, June 7,
onward with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Oct. 14, 22, Nov. 5, 16,
onward with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical Pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty,
Several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing,
with or without Scenery,
including
"In Sight of St. Paul's,"
"Prairie Flower," &c.

ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

Seating capacity 3,500.

Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District

Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only.

We are prepared to guarantee
Really Big Star Attractions.

All communications, JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

Telegrams, "Magnet." 'Phones 413, 426, 500.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Nov. 2, 16, 23, and 30, also Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 11, and Feb. 8, on, with exceptions.
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, SHREWSBURY.

Lessee and Director, W. YATES GREGORY.
Business-Manager, W. C. DORNTON.

WANTED, Companies, Nov. 5, 6, 7 (3 nights), Nov. 30 (6 nights), First-class Attractions only entertained. Easter, onwards, can be booked in conjunction with the
Palace Theatre, Wrexham.

WANTED, Companies, Three Nights, Nov. 5, and on, just concluded twenty weeks' successful stock. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, First-class Co., Nov. 9, through obliging Mr. Fred Bulmer Feb. 22, 1909, Vacant through transferring. Apply, A. C. MOODY.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions, Dec. 7, Jan. 4. Holding Capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31.
First-class Companies only need apply.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
Nov. 2, Dec. 14,
Nov. 2, Dec. 14,
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Nov. 9, Dec. 7, 21, also good Pantomimes for January dates. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, Something to Draw, Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 25, Grand, Chorley, one of the best money-making Theatres in Lancashire.
Refer any Manager visited this Season.
Also Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 14, 21, Grand, Radcliffe.
SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

GLOBE THEATRE, ROYAL MARINES', DEAL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, vacant dates Nov. 5 (3), March 4 (3), on. Apply, MANAGER.

GRAND T. AND HIPPO., STALYBRIDGE.
WANTED, First-class Twice Nightly Drama, Nov. 16.
Good Show sure to do Big Business.
Have not played Drama for over six months.
JAMES FIONI, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Special Attractions, for Nov. 30, Jan. 4, 11, 25, Feb. 1, 8; also Open Dates for First-class Pantomime. Address, HORNER, Victoria, Burnley.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple. Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, for Boro' Theatre, Heywood. Good Companies, weeks of Dec. 14, 21, and 28, also Jan. 4 and 11, Feb. 1, 8, 15, and 22. ALBERT JONES, Queen's T., Manchester.

COMPANIES WANTED.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.

WANTED, Companies, Nov. 9, 16, 30, March 1, 22, 29, April 12, 26, on.
Our Season's Booking, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," "Irene Wycherley," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Peter's Mother," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Jack Straw," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Gheat," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," and Mr. Geo. Alexander's next St. James's Theatre production.
Note.—No Beauty Competitions held between the Acts at this Theatre.
All communications, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE,
H. M. T., Barrow.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Nov. 16, 26 (3), Jan. 11, 18 (?), 25 (?), Feb. 8, March 1, 22, and on. W. E. POTTS, O. H., Dunfermline.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Dec. 26 three or four nights), Assembly Rooms, Taunton (Stock Scenery, &c.).
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, DOVERCOURT.
Several good Autumn and Spring Dates Vacant.
Apply, BARING BROS., Cheltenham.

WANTED, for Keswick, Queen of Lakes Pavilion, Good Companies, Christmas, New Year, and onwards, shares or rental. MCKANE, Fitz-arcade, Keswick.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION
WANTED, Dec. 26 (seven nights), Jan. 11.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 12
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, 25
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 8 (North), March 29.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Jan. 4, 11.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION,
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Nov. 30.
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, 25.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
Nov 16 Dec. 21, 28.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
Feb. 1, 8, March 1.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 2, Dec. 26 (7 nights).
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Nov. 2, Dec. 14,
Dec. 26 (seven nights), Jan. 4.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., London, W.C.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."

WANTED, Weeks of Nov 9 and 23, for this Remarkable Success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.

Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
Week of Nov. 2.

Wire,
HUSTLER,
Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 16, 23, 30.
Jan. 25, Feb., March 8, 22.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, London.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 28.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH,"
from the Haymarket and Apollo Theatres.

Mr. ERNEST E. NORRIS and COMPANY.

Owing to the Great Success of this piece, Mr. Norris has decided to drop his Répertoire and continue through Xmas with the above.
Refer Mr. Fred Melville for
business done at Brixton.
Also T. R., Margate, this week.
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, onwards.
First-class Theatres Only.

Wire,
ROWMAKER, Theatre, Margate, till Sunday; after, 25, Pemberton-gardens, London, N.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, 18,
March 15, 22, 29,
April 12.

All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Oct. 19, Theatre Metropole, Devonport.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30,
Dec. 7. Xmas week (7 nights), also Spring.
E. C. S., Bishopsdale Farm, Benenden, Kent.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI AND MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:—
Feb. 22, April 19, 26, May 10.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, for High-class Farcical Comedy, with Strong Cast, including Stanley Cooke, good Theatres for Nov. 9 and 16, also Nov. 30 to follow.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Nov. 2 and 16. Wire, 3, St. George's-parade, Wolverhampton.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Dates, for
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."

Eight Months' Continued Success.
A Success the First Night.
A Success Every Night Since.

Columns of Press Opinions
from
Glasgow, Liverpool,
Manchester, Middlesboro',
Coventry, Swansea,
Newport, Leeds,
Oldham, Wigan,
Blackpool, Derby,
Portsmouth, York,

All pronounce this Version
"A great play,
magnificently acted."

An Artistic Triumph.
A Financial Success.
Worthy of any Theatre.

Vacant
Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 21.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
This Phenomenal Success
Playing Everywhere to Enormous Business.
Manchester, Longton, Macclesfield, Chesterfield.
Playing to holding capacity.
No other Attraction
like it Touring.
Vacant
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
a Fine Play,
Well Acted.
Miss LAURA WALKER
as
COUNTESS STEINBACH.
Vacant
Nov. 2, 9.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates.
Now in its
Fourteenth Year
of
Continuous Tour,
and
Playing to More Money
than ever before.

What other Drama
has played an
Average of Forty-nine Weeks a Year
for
Fourteen Years.

Vacant
Dec. 14, 21, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates
The Greatest of All
Domestic Dramas.

Strong Play,
Powerful Company,
Fine Production.
Carriage and Pair,
Brass Band.

Vacant
Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 14, 21, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton

New Play
by
Mrs. Morton Powell.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates
Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
By Raes Challis.
WANTED, Nov. 16, 23, and New Year's week also Feb. and March (with exceptions), Oct 19. Opera House, Kidderminster.

"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
LINGFORD CARSON'S LATEST SUCCESS.
Forty People on Stage, L. Carson included in Cast.
WANTED, Dec. 7 (?), 28, '08, Jan. 4, Feb. 1.
All coms.,
L. CARSON, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, Winter, Spring, and Autumn 1909.
Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS,
Opera House, Wakefield.
Letters to His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen.
See Companies Page.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
WANTED, Theatres. Vacant Nov. 2, 16, Jan. 4
HARRY TILBURY, this, Middleton; next, Horwich, Lancs.

H. HAMILTON STEWART'S CO'S.
WANTED, First-class Theatres
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
Nov. 16 (through transfer);
also few Vacant Dates, Spring and Autumn, 1909
"SECRET SERVICE," by William Gillette, by arrangement with Charles Frohman. Dates in January and February, and Autumn, 1909
Address, WALTER J. BAYLISS, Memorial Hall, Chesterfield.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, Aug. 9
on, with exceptions.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, First-class Theatres Only, for the Enormously Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE GAY DECEIVERS."
Oct. 26, Nov. 2 and 9.
Wire, STANMORE,
this, T. R., Aldershot; next, Palace Pier, Brighton

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S COMPANIES.
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."
WANTED, Southern or Eastern Counties, Nov. 9 and 30. Address,
CECIL BARTH, Grand Theatre, Southampton.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for "Pair of Spectacles" or Comedy Repertory, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2.
Wire, 58, Sea-road, Bexhill.

"WAS SHE TO BLAME?"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, three dates in 1909, and a few remaining ones in 1910. Most Magnificent Production ever put on the Stage. Book this play immediately. Write for same to KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, Vauxhall, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, for this Great Success, Dec. 7, 14, 21, Jan. 4, Feb. 15. HENRY L. OSMOND,
Workman's Theatre, Mountain Ash.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Nov. 9, for
"THE BROKEN MELODY."
Apply,
AUGUSTE VAN BIENE, Aldwych-mansions, Strand.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26 (precede O. H., Blackpool), Nov. 16 (precede Gaiety, Manchester), and Spring, '09. WYN WEAVER, Kylemore, Railway Approach, Worthing. Wire.

"WEDDED TO CRIME."
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, 26.
ERNEST CHESNEY, Grand Theatre, Luton.

WANTED, to oblige a Manager, Jan. 25, for First-class Production of "Cinderella."
Feb. 15 Wanted for "Aladdin."
Address, J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

S. RENNEF'S and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "LOVE RULES THE WORLD,"
Dec. 7, Xmas, Jan. 4, onward.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN."
Xmas, Jan. 4, 11, onward.
G. M. COPPING, Osborne; next, June., Manchester.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, August Bank Holiday, 1909.
Bookings include Alexandra, Birmingham; Grand, Brighton; Gaiety, Burnley; Alexandra, Sheffield; T. R., Bristol; Star, Swansea; &c., &c., &c.

Wanted, August Bank Holiday, 1909, Wanted.

Wanted, Sept. 27, between Sheffield and Burnley; Oct. 11, to follow Burnley.

Apply, Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., M. T., Gateshead.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Big Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Theatres, Oct. 26, Nov. 16, and New Year's Week,
also Jan. 4, 11, and 18, for either play.
Wire for Oct. 26.
Wire for Oct. 26.
Wire for Oct. 26
Coms., to-day,
GEORGE KIRK, Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith; next, Prince's T., Portsmouth.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
WANTED, Nov. 2, 16, Nov. 2, 16, for
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Dec. 21,
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Dec. 7, 21, for the Great Play,
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wire for these Money-makers to
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Easter,
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Nov. 2, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 16. FRED BULMER,
THEATRE ROYAL, BILSTON.

Mr. and Mrs. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."

WANTED, Nov 9, (North),
through theatre closing.
Princess's, Glasgow;
next, Lyceum, Govan.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, good Theatre, for Dec. 26 (seven nights), only vacant date this year; also Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, and 15.

MAUD HILDYARD, Grand Opera House, Middlesbro'.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Theatres; only vacant dates until 1910, Nov. 16, Jan. 4, April 12.
Everything carried. Sixty people on the Stage.

E. VIVIAN EDMONDS, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

JULIAN MALVERN'S TOUR.
"I DEFY THE WORLD"
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Dec. 26 (seven nights),
Jan. 4, 11, Feb. 1.
Address,
C. M. JULIAN, R. T., Morecambe.

"10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."
"GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Nov. 9, through transfer,
London or South,
Jan. 4, Midlands.
HORACE STANLEY, Palace, Ramsgate.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Dec. 7 and 28, Easter vacant (South), sixteen Artists and Scotch Piper, in full Highland Costume, to play outside Theatre each evening. Please refer Court, Wigan; T. R., Batley (return); T. R., Goole; T. R., Rotherham; T. R., Chesterfield (return), re business this autumn. Return next week to the Grand, Mansfield, where we hold the Autumn record.
DICKIE CLARE, Mansfield (third visit).

"LONDON WITH THE LID OFF."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, for Nov. 16, through transferring, only vacant date till Sept. 6, 1909. STANLEY CARLTON, Alex., Widnes.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. F. BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, Aug. 9,
on, with exceptions.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
By Walter Howard.
WANTED, Nov. 2, Nov. 2,
Nov. 2,
Nov. 2,
Nov. 2,
South.
Wire, ELLEN SNOW,
this, T. R., Woolwich;
next, Lyric, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Feb. 22 (one week only) for Cullen and Carthy's Grand Money-making Production of "Babes in the Wood." This Show is well known as one of the biggest successes in travelling Pantomime. This date is to take the place of a date already booked, but to oblige a well-known Proprietor we shall be pleased to arrange First-class Theatres or Hippodromes.
Close on fifty in Company. Lovely Dresses from last year's production at Drury Lane.
Now who wants it?
Address,
CULLEN and CARTHY, Hippodrome, Brighton.

WANTED, Theatre, Feb. 15, six nights, for Miss Edith St. Clair's Pantomime,
"Aladdin." Splendid Cast engaged.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 1909.
FRANK M. THORNE, Maesteg (3), Treherbert (3).

J. P. MOORE'S "WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
WANTED, through transfer, Big Theatre, Jan. 18. Note.—This is a Pantomime, not a Variety Jumble. Kindly address, King's Hall, Birmingham.

MR. E. H. KNIGHT'S No. 1 CO.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
A Great Spectacular Domestic Drama.
Booked at all the Best Theatres.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (Tyneside or North), Feb. 8, onwards, with exceptions. Apply, E. H. KNIGHT, 7, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

FRANK BERTRAM'S TOURS.
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."
WANTED, Nov. 9, 16, only vacant dates.
EUGENE BERTRAM, Adelphi Theatre, W.C.

WANTED Theatre, Nov. 2,
"MRS. DOT."
Miss Decima Moore, Miss Emma Hutchison, and Company.
Add., PERCY HUTCHISON, Castle Theatre, Stockton.

NEVILLE and CARNABY'S ENTERPRISES.
"NAPOLEON'S DIVORCE," thirty people and two horses. Everything carried. All new scenery and costumes.
WANTED, Known, Unexpectedly Vacant, Oct. 26. For address see Companies page.

WANTED, Dates for
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Nov. 2, Nov. 2 (three or six nights, between Wales and Birmingham), terrific business at Ton-y-Pandy.
Refer A. Carlton or Sam Duckworth.

Wanted, for "A FIGHT FOR A THRONE,"
Nov. 23, Nov. 23.

Wire for the above weeks to GEO. A. DE GRAY, This, New T., Aberdare; next, T. R., Barry, Glam.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, Xmas, Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, 15, March 1, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Grand Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

THEATRES WANTED.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Wilson Barrett, from Hall Caine's novel.
WANTED, Nov. 2, Nov. 2, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, and few later.
Christmas Week Vacant.

Oct. 19, Queen's T., Keighley, Six Nights.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANIES.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
WANTED, Nov. 23, Nov. 23 (through cancelling the West London).
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts,
By Walter Howe.
To be produced Jan., 1909.
Wanted, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, March 1, 8, 22, 29, April 26, May 3, on,
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.
Metropole Theatre, Abertillery, Oct. 19.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
Now Booking next Summer Season, 1909.
WANTED, Theatres, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4.
THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
"At the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, during the last three weeks the advanced bookings have been unprecedented, and hundreds have been unable to obtain admission nightly."
A few vacancies for this winter.
For terms, &c., address MR. D'ARCY CLAYTON, 13, Alexandra-gardens, Folkestone.

WANTED, Theatres or Music Halls, for High-class Vaudeville Company. Shares or Certainty; Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, and 16. Send full particulars to D. SELBO, 182, Greenside, Dalton, Huddersfield.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, Halls, &c., for Boswell's Royal Stage Circus.
Boswell's Royal Stage Circus.
20 Handsome Ponies, 20,
and High-class Vaudeville Co.,
Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.
Share or Certainty.
BOSWELL, Corn Exchange, Abingdon, Berks.

Messrs. SPALDING and CO.,
27, Browning-road, Manor Park, E.
WANTED, Theatres, Halls, and Companies, to forward list of Vacant Dates. Dramas and Comedy Cos. having odd weeks vacant communicate re filling same in good Fit-up Towns.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Milton's "Samson Agonistes," Gentleman, well built, with deep voice used to verse plays, for part of Manoa; also Ladies for Chorus who can Sing as well as Declaim, tall, good figure, with contralto voice. Only Town Residents should apply. Address letters only,
WILLIAM POEL, 5, Amersham-road, Putney, S.W.

WANTED, Entire Company, for Stock Season, those with portable experience and capable variety turn preferred. Terms low; money sure. Fares advanced. MANAGER, Hippodrome, Littleport, Cambs.

WANTED, Full Company, with exception of Comedy, rehearse 26th inst. Terms and full particulars to FRANK AYRTON, Queen's T., Longton.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Juvenile Gent. and Juvenile Leading Lady, for Répertoire; must be perfect and quick studies, dress well both on and off. All particulars (photos. where not known), last two references, and where can be seen playing for next two or three weeks. HENRY L. OSMOND, Workman's Hall, Mountain Ash

S. RENNEF'S and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTION.
WANTED, a Leading Lady to create Heavy Part in "How Women Ruin Men." Special week, Nov. 9, rehearse 2nd, near Manchester; height about 5ft. 5in, must be powerful. To the right lady, long tour from Xmas can be arranged. S. RENNEF, Osborne; next, Junction, Manchester.

WANTED, for "When Other Lips," First-class Heavy Lady, capable strong Emotion. Lowest terms, photo., last two refs., T. ARTHUR JONES, New, Consett.

WANTED, for the Ian Maclaren Shakespearean and Old English Comedy Co., good Juvenile Man and Character Man. Photos., references, lowest terms, &c., to Mr. STANLEY JAMES, 10, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, N. Interviews by appointment only.

FREDERICK MAXWELL'S CO.
WANTED, immediately, Gent. for Juvenile Lead and Character; good voice and appearance; not less than 5ft. 9in. or taller; long engagement to suitable Artist. Absolute lowest terms, references, photos., till Sat. night, Palace, Cardiff; after, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, Romantic Juvenile Gentleman, also Leading Lady. Terms, height, references, parts played, photos., MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

WANTED, good Broad Irish Comedian, for Conn Creamer, "Greed of Gold." Rehearse Tuesday next. Wire,
T. MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

HARRY ROXBURY'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, good smart Comedian, for Part of Page, one able to Sing and Dance preferred; must be able to run through Xmas; long Engagement to suitable Artist. Terms, height, photo., references, TUBBY EDLIN, Hippo., Stockton.

WANTED, Gentleman, for Small Parts and A.S.M., capable of understudy. Photos., refs., and full particulars, to GEORGE KIRK, Prince's, Portsmouth. Interviews to-day, Lyric, Hammersmith, 12 to 2.

Little Principals Wanted.
Six Months' Engagement.
WANTED, to Rehearse at once, Clever Little Principals, age 12 to 16, thoroughly capable of taking lead in juvenile light opera company, must speak, sing, and act well. Also wanted, a few Special Juvenile Dancers. This is an exceptional opportunity for clever girls and boys to make a big name. Those contemplating other engagements should ascertain what we have to offer first. Two Good Boy Comedians wanted for same company. We guarantee six months' engagement under first-class management, which will probably extend over two years. Write for special appointment. STEDMAN'S Head Offices, 58, Berners-street, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, Beginners and Amateurs, for Chorus and Music Halls. Write for appointment, JOHN HALLICK, 44, Cranbourn-street, Leicester-square, W.

WANTED, Young Ladies all Lines, for Travelling Choir. Lowest figures; own dresses. Apply, C. MACDONA HOBSON, Custom House Hotel, Whitby.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, for Musical Comedy Sketch. Apply, LIZZIE KITCHEN, 9, The Caxtons, Langton-road, Brixton, S.W.

BERT COOTE'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, immediately, all-round Girl Dancers for Continent and England. Apply personally, Friday and Saturday, 150, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Known, The New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription, 5d. weekly, yearly £1 1s.; no entrance fee. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, typewriter, sewing machine, daily and theatrical papers, and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey-buildings.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL
LADIES' THEATRICAL AND RESIDENTIAL CLUB,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, from 18s. 5d. inclusive.

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ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman, 22, seeks Engagement in Touring Company.
Previous experience with Colonial Companies.
Quick study and reliable in every way.
What offers?
DAVEY COOPER, 27, Risbygate-street, Bury, Suffolk.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

WANTED, for next season's Pantomimes, good Chorus Ladies, height not less than 5ft. 6in. Last two references, lowest terms, age, and photo., ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for "Cinderella" and "Aladdin" Principal Boys, Girls, Comedians, Knock-abouts, Chorus Ladies, Dancers, Stage-Manager (to produce), Conductor, also good Pantomime Troupe. Age, height, references, lowest terms, ladies' photos. (or no notice taken). Principals only engaged by personal interview in London. Mark letters "Pantomime." E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, Principal Boy,
for Cullen and Carthy's
"Babes in the Wood" Company.
Good voice, figure,
and not less than 5ft. 6in. or 5ft. 7in.
Please state previous experience,
lowest salary (eleven weeks' run),
also send photos.
CULLEN and CARTHY, Hippodrome, Brighton.

WANTED, Principals and Chorus, for Panto. Call between 2 and 4 p.m., Monday, and during week, HENRY LESLIE, 27, Harrow-road, Edgware-road (opposite stage door, Metropolitan).

Pantomime.
WANTED, Chorus Ladies, Ballet Ladies, and Beginners, also Amateurs, for Strong Dramatic Sketch, London Productions.
Apply, daily 10-12,
HAMILTON'S Academy, 26, Bishop's-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Male Quartette, Riding Hood, Idle Jack, Robbers.
Write or call, with full particulars,
J. W. JOHNSON,
Variety and Pantomime Agent, 66, Waterloo-road.

WANTED, Smart All-round Dancers,
Smart All-round Dancers,
Smart All-round Dancers,
for London and Provincial Pantomimes.
Engagements waiting for the right sort.
Must be proficient and smart appearance.
Write fully, or call (practice dress), 11 to 4,
SINCLAIR'S, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Madame Phasey, Ballet Mistress.
1A, St. Luke's-road, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell at Liberty for Pantomime, Principal Boy. An Actress, a Vocalist, and Dancer. Hippo., Hastings.

WANTED, Known, Crissie Cross, Smart Singer and Dandy Dancer, at Liberty for Panto., Principal or Second Girl. Address, 7, Loughboro'-road, Brixton, S.W. Oct. 19, Pal., Hammersmith.

WANTED, Known, Vena Valma, free for Panto. (Principal Girl), the Salomé Dance for Speciality. See advert. Back Page. Next, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Known, Hetty Kenyon, Small Child Actress, Singer, and Dancer, Re-engaged by both H. B. Tree and Cyril Maude in London, at Liberty December. Offers invited for Panto. or Child Lead. On tour F. Mouillot's Co. This, Burnley; next, Opera House, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, the Popular Sisters Terry, at Liberty for Pantomime, Boy and Girl. A Guaranteed Success. Communicate, Oct. 19, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

WANTED, Known, The Kebbles (Nora and Edie), Character Duettists and Dancers, at Liberty, Boy and Girl. Address, 31, Hilberry avenue, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Little Zola, Vacant for Panto.; Stoll Tour until 1912. All coms., Empire, Birmingham.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Ambrose Leicester, the Somewhat Different Comedian, 1906-7, "Babes in Wood"; 1907-8, "Dick Whittington." All coms., this week, Pavilion, Belper; next week, 25, Harewood-avenue, Marylebone, London.

WANTED, Panto., by Sam Leo, Cat, Dog, any Animal part or Knockabout, Leaps Traps, &c. This, Hippo., Margate; next, 5, Ely-terrace, Mile End-road, E.

WANTED, Known, Nash and Noel, Comedians, Free for Panto. This, Hippo., Brighton; next, Regent, Salford.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective, Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Scenic Artist in London or Suburbs; can undertake Stage-management; used to Exhibition and General Decoration Work; good and long references. Address, ARTIST, 17, Hearne-road, Chiswick, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, or Stock, good, effective work, reasonable prices. J. JACKS, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, for Theatre, Gentleman, learn Acting-Management; security £5, returned in share; also Amateurs, Drama. Stamp. Box 5,039, "The Era."

WANTED, an honourable genuine working Advance Agent; immediate lowest terms, recent refs. HYBERT, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Co., Llandovery, Carmarthenshire.

WANTED, good rapid Signwriter or Poster Writer; steady situation to the right party.
Apply, ELECTRIC THEATRES, LTD.,
20, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Appointment, as Manager or Acting-Manager of a First-class Variety Hall or Theatre; reliable, energetic, good disciplinarian and organiser; knows the value of Artists, acquainted with good Attractions, and versed in all Business Details; Accountant (society's guarantee). Terms moderate. Offers invited. HAGUE, Entertainments Manager, Corporation, Scarborough.

WANTED, by Advertising Manager, better position, 11 years' practical experience, 9 years with Music Hall Syndicate. Box 5,004, "The Era."

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Position as Manager, Assistant ditto, Bill Inspector, Agent in Advance, or otherwise, Variety Theatre, Circus, or Dramatic, by Arthur Turle, just returned from the States; strictly sober and attentive; one of the best of Advertising Experts that has crossed the Pond; age 37. Wire or write, 38, Whiterock-street, West Derby-road, Liverpool.

WANTED Known, at Liberty, First-class Manager, Dramatic, Variety, or Pictures, fully experienced back and front of house; London references. Wire or write, STILLWELL, c/o Post Office, Torre, Torquay.

WANTED, Post as Manager or Assistant, Exhibitions or otherwise, good Organiser. Address, SANDILAND, Scottish National Exhibition, Post Office, Edinburgh.

WANTED, by William Benson, Re-engagement as Advance Agent. Refer W. S. Penley, Esq., E. G. Falcon, Esq., T. J. West, Esq., Miss Maggie Morton, &c.; experienced. 55, Montgomery-street, Hove, Sussex.

WANTED, Engagement, as Advance Agent; long experience; excellent references; low salary. Address, AGENT, care of Guy Wittam, Printers, Station-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, Property Master; thorough practical maker and modeller, any class wax, &c.; Theatre or Store; late Grand, Metropole, and Princess's, Glasgow. Box 5,026, "Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by C. Withers, Carpenter, all-round Practical Bench-hand; age 30, own tools. Address, 64, Dongola-road, Philip-lane, London, N.

WANTED, Known, that G. W. Schofield is engaged by Lennox Barry, Esq., as Musical-Director, Palace Theatre, Sunderland.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Nov. 2, Musical-Director, to play Violin, must be used to Varieties and have good Répertoire of music. Lowest terms and references, T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, a First-class Conductor, for King's Theatre, Manchester; must be accustomed to Twice-nightly Variety. Apply, MANAGER, King's Theatre.

Bandmaster (Retired Naval).
WANTED, at Once, for a few weeks, on the Training Ship Exmouth, Grays, Essex (under the Metropolitan Asylums Board).
For salary and other particulars apply to the CAPTAIN-SUPERINTENDENT.
Envelopes to be marked "Bandmaster."
Oct. 16, 1908.

WANTED, Smart Variety Leader, and First Violin; open Monday. Wire terms. A. E. HUNT, Mus. Dir., Temperance Hall of Varieties, Merthyr Tydfil.

WANTED, First-class Leader, London Suburban Theatre. State age, refs., to
Box 5,041, "The Era."

NEW PALACE, TOTTENHAM, N.
WANTED, First and Second Violins; must be smart and well up in Variety Business. Others may write in, with age, terms, and references, to WM. BURGESS, Conductor.

WANTED, First and Solo Violinists for Africa and India, 12 months, sailing Nov.; trial essential. DIRECTOR, 92, West End-lane, London.

WANTED, Young Lady Violinist (to Lead) or Cornet, in either case one able to sing necessary; unbroken tour of four years in Ireland. Money sure. Applicant must send latest refs., age, and photo. Letter and wires to MANAGER, Town Hall, Maryborough.

WANTED, a First B flat Clarionet Player,
for Town Band,
Oxford,
Foreigner preferred.
Address,
7, Norfolk-street.

WANTED, at Once, for Croydon Town Band, B flat Clarionet and Cornet. Terms, shares. WALTERS, 51, Waddon New-road, Croydon.

WANTED, First or Ripieno Clarionet, for Cheltenham Town Band, season just commencing. Terms shares. Military Journal. SEC., 6, Queen's-retreat, Cheltenham.

WANTED, First-class Bassoon, Continental Pitch; only those experienced in Grand Opera need apply. WALTER VAN NOORDEN, New Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, to Terminate Tenting Season, good Trombone or E flat Tenor Horn, and Double Drums. Apply, COOK, Circus, Saturday, Lydd; Monday, Rye, Sussex.

WANTED, 'Cello; must be up in Standard Selections and Varieties; other good Instrumentalists may write when at Liberty, &c. HARRY HINCHCLIFFE, Hippodrome, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, for Long Music Hall Tour, Harpist, Gentleman (young); good permanent engagement to suitable person. CHARLES DARNAY, 15, Nelson-road, Chatham.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.
WANTED, immediately, good Flute and Piccolo; must wear evening dress and assist with fittings when travelling. J. WOLSELEY POOLE, "Verona," Malmesbury, Wilts.

PALACE THEATRE, PORTH, S. WALES.
WANTED, a good Flute and Piccolo, to open Nov. 2, must be used to Variety. Terms and refs. to W. BYNORTH, Palace, Porth.

WANTED, a First-class Flute and Piccolo-Player, for the Palace Theatre, Reading. Terms and references, AUGUSTUS GRECO.

WANTED, for Wadbrook's Royal Electrograph Pianist, one used to Fair Business; good shop for suitable man. Full particulars to Wadbrook's Empire, Stratford-on-Avon. Must read at first sight.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, able to play Organ. Lowest terms, age, photo., last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, at once, First-class Pianist, one used to Singing Illustrated Songs; long Engagements. Letters will be answered after Wednesday. W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Park Hotel, Pontypridd, S. Wales.

WANTED, to open Nov. 2, Picture and Variety Pianist, announce Pictures and willing to assist. Lowest. AUBREY, 17, Rhondda-st., Swansea.

To Drummers.
WANTED, Male Attendant, at Caterham Asylum, Caterham, Surrey (under the Metropolitan Asylums Board), Double Drummer preferred, age between 25 and 40 years, wages £26, rising to £32, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform, and allowances of 10s. per quarter, subject to good conduct, and 6d. for each musical practice and performance. Apply to THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, either personally (10 to 1), with testimonials, or by letter, with copies of testimonials.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, really good Double Drummer, used to Dramatic and Operatic Work; open Oct. 26. Permanency to suitable man.
Address, with last reference and lowest salary,
A. MOSCROP-ALLISON.

WANTED, Trap Drummer, for Cinematograph Effects. Apply, ELECTRIC THEATRES, LTD., 20, Bedford-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for West-End Pier, Morecambe, Orchestral Band of 15 Performers, for Season, 1909. Particulars, JOHN RASTOW, Secretary.

WANTED, a really good Band, ten to twelve performers, from Dec. 24 to Jan. 9, for Exhibition in Wales. Reply, with lowest terms and full particulars, Box 5,037, "The Era."

WANTED, Full Orchestra, used to Variety business; must be steady, sober, and reliable. Fullest particulars in first letter, A. E. PICKARD, New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.

WANTED, at Once, Piccolo, Clarionets, Cornets, Euphonium, Horns, Bombardon, and Drums, for Pitching, West-end London. Shares. BANDMASTER, 73, Carlisle-street, Edgware-road.

WANTED, Boy Orchestral Musicians, als Pianist, for Tour. Age, height, &c., to Box 5,044, "The Era."

MUSICIANS WANTED.

RAMSEY, ISLE OF MAN.
WANTED, Known, the Ramsey Town Commissioners are prepared to receive offers from qualified persons for providing a First-class Band to play in the Town during the season of 1909. Particulars can be had on application to the undersigned, JAMES BELL, Clerk, Public Offices, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

COUNTY ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin, Viola, and French Horn, Flute and Piccolo, not over 30 years of age, and single; none but competent players need apply. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 at the end of the first year, then by annual instalments up to £45, and according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.
Apply to THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical-Director (Violin), Disengaged. Thanks Jules Richeux, Esq., for long and comfortable Engagement (third season). Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, as Musical-Director in good Variety Hall or Theatre; First-class Violinist; excellent experience and references; good library. CONDUCTOR, c/o Smith, 16, Grove-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Musical-Director, Violinist, at Liberty Nov. 16. C. A. LAWRENCE, Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED, Charles Weldon, Mus.-Dir. (Violin), Disengaged; wife Pianist-Vocalist; experienced all branches; good refs. 56, Dieppe-street, West Kensington.

WANTED, by First-class Conductor, an Engagement in Music Hall; young, smart, thoroughly versed in Variety; moderate terms; London, Seaside, or Provinces; can commence at once; excellent refs. Write, CONDUCTOR, Brenchley, Elgin-road, Wallington, Surrey.

WANTED, Engagement, London or Suburbs, by Pianist-Conductor, First-class Accompanist; can Compose and Arrange; just finished fifth season with own Company, J. SENNOI, 91, Portland-road, Holland Park, W.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianist-Conductor or Pianist, Com., Arr.; six years West's "Our Navy." RICHARD LAIDLAW, Mimosa, Lansdowne-avenue, Leigh-on-Sea.

WANTED, Engagements, Pianist-Conductor and Harp, married couple, Hotel or Concerts; excellent Press notices. Mr. S., Hetherington's, 165A, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin, any Business; good references. VIOLINIST, 85, Derby-road, Southampton.

WANTED, Known, Chas. Wareham, Violin, Viola, A.M.U., Liberty, Matinées and Sundays. Engaged Chelsea Palace. 148, Bennerley-road, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, Engagement as Violinist, First or Second; experienced in Grand Opera and Variety; A.M.U. Address, VIOLIN, 29, Alma-place, Oxford.

WANTED, by Violin, combine Clarionet, age 30; open at once; good refs. Address, JACQUES, 14, Stourcliffe-street, Marble Arch, W.

WANTED, by Violinist, Engagement, immediately; good references; total abstainer. HORACE T. V. WALPOLE, A.C.V., 34, Melrose-road, Eaton, Norwich.

WANTED, immediately, London Evening Engagement, by excellent Violinist and 'Cellist, Soloists; large Orchestral experience. F. DEANE, 29, Addison-gardens, W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violin or Euphonium; good player. Address, CHAS. BIONECK, 43, Hoxton-road, Ellacombe, Torquay, Devon.

WANTED, Known, Harry Simeon, Violinist, First or Second, any Business; good and quick Arranger; Glasgow or vicinity. 30, Coburg-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady Violinist; Soloist and Orchestral; good appearance; refs.—Any replies please forward to Miss AYRTON, Post Office, Exmouth, Devon.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Cornet; used to Solo; any Business; good refs. TOWNSEND, 11, Blackman-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet and Viola, London or Suburbs only; would Deputise. 34, Galloway-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, by experienced Orchestral Cornet, good Engagement, for Season or Permanency, or Deputising. ANGEL, 47, Stopford-road, Upton Manor, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly reliable Cornet, First or Second, any Business; can open at once. ROSSON, 2, Waterhouse-terrace, Upper Kirkgate, Halifax.

WANTED, Engagement, experienced Cornetist, any bus.; would deputise; sober, reliable; Lib. 19th, London preferred. YATES, 24, Peabody's cottages, Lordship-lane, Tottenham.

WORTHING BOROUGH BAND.
WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Clarionet, Disengaged; well up in Orchestral and Military Music. 3, Belmont-terrace, Southfield-road, Broadwater, Worthing.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Clarionet-Player; experienced.
Box 5,029, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Clarionet, any business; good refs. JORDAN, 19, Courthope-villas, Walpole-road, Wimbledon, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss Maud Jones, Double Bass, and Miss Edythe Reeve, Violinist, Disengaged Oct. 26. 5 Riverside-road, Norwich.

WANTED, by First-class Double Bass, late R.A. Band, also reliable Cornet (First or Second); any business; finishing season, Scottish National Exhibition, 31st. CONDUCTOR, care of Smith, 16, Grove-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoonist, just finished seventeen weeks' Summer Engagement, Orchestra or Theatre; both pitches. NEWMAN, Boldmere-road, Sutton Coldfield.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoonist, any business, just finished season at Lofthouse. ALEX. BERTRAM, Alma, St. Leonards-avenue, Hove.

WANTED, Engagement, by Baseoon, Military or Orchestra, Disengaged Oct. 31. HOPKINS, Municipal Orchestra, Eastbourne.

WANTED, by Trombone, just completed twelve years Army Bandsman; good refs.; Orchestral or Military Band. J. JONES, 4, Howard-street, Oxford.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Trombone, permanent Engagement, thoroughly experienced in Variety business; good refs. A. C., Trombone, 172, Wimborne-road, Winton, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombone, any business, can combine Solo Euphonium; excellent refs.; sober and reliable. SONNUM, 9, Winchester-street, Pimlico.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone.
G. F. CHAPMAN,
6, St. Philip's-terrace, Cheltenham.

WANTED, Engagement, Bombardon, reliable; splendid refs.; life abstainer; Disengaged. Mr. HUTLEY, 33A, Canterbury-road, Old Kent-road, London.

WANTED, Deputising or Engagement, as 'Cello; any business. Address, R. SORVIN, Royal Victoria Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lilian Sexton, Violoncellist, at Liberty for Engagements or Deputising; experienced. 11, Kelross-road, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Aeneas Gibson, Orchestral and Solo Harpist, combine Piano, experienced Accompanist, young, Panto., Café, &c.; Tour abroad. Music Seller, Ilkley.

WANTED, Known, Flute and Piccolo, Disengaged; experienced, steady, reliable, any Bus., London preferred. Refs. RONNEIL, 28, Argyle-road, West Ealing, W.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Engagement; experienced any Business; sober, reliable, excellent references. FLAUTIST, 9, Woodford-terrace, Pavilion-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Engagement as Flautist, any Business; thoroughly experienced; good refs F. C. BROOK, 27, Howson-road, Brockley, S.E.

WANTED, by Flute and Piccolo, Soloist, Engagement, any business; reliable, excellent references. THOMAS HURN, 9, Upper Aberdyberthist., Swansea.

WANTED, by Ernest Longstaffe, Pianist, Baritone, and Entertainer; and Enid Hamilton, Dainty Comedienne, Monday next. Wire, 18, Up. Sandwith-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, by Lady Pianist, Vocalist, Organist, Double Bass Player; would travel; sight reader; excellent testimonials. Rosemont, Sydenham-road, Bristol.

WANTED, by Young Lady, Certificated Professional, Post as Accompanist, able to Vamp, read MSS., &c. FERNA, 26, Sotheby-road, Highbury.

WANTED, Re-engagement, by two Young Ladies, Pianist and Vocalists, Concert Party preferred; good refs. Address, LINGHAM, 247, Bexhill-road, St. Leonards.

WANTED, Engagement as Accompanist to Instrumentalist or Vocalist, practice or otherwise; excellent sight reader. F. T., 49, Pauletroad, Brixton, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement as Pianist, by Young Lady, for Concerts or Quadrille; good reader and accompanist; Disengaged, London only. Apply, M. L., 54, Roden-street, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Engagement, good Pianist, male, 20, any business, used to Picture and Variety, London only. PIANIST, 30, Station-street, Stratford.

WANTED, Known, Accompanist Practises Songs, &c., with Panto., Musical Comedy, Concert Artists. 39, Chelsham-rd., Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Pianist, any business, pictures, &c., soloist and accompanist; refs. F. ROGERS, 162, High-st., Notting Hill Gate, London, W.

WANTED, by Gilbert Garahan, First-class Solo Pianist and Accompanist, Transpose, Memorise, MSS. Reader; any business. Write or wire, 48, Brook-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Double Drummer, with Effects, Dramatic and Variety; excellent references. Wire or write, DRUMMER, 105, Castle-road, Torquay.

WANTED, Engagement, by young and smart Double Drummer and Tympanist, combine Violin, any business; good refs. Apply, T. R. WAYT, Pavilion Orchestra, Ilfracombe, N. Devon.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Drums, with Effects; Military or Orchestral; excellent refs.; just disengaged; permanency preferred. DRUMS, 31, Brading-road, Brighton.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, by experienced Tympanist, own Tymps, Drums, Glockenspiel, &c., any business. The Standard, 3, Varistone-place, Walham Green.

WANTED, Engagement, as First-class Drums, Glock and Tubular Bells; finishing seven months' season. NEVILLE, Victoria Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, that Madame Stockham's Ladies' Orchestra including the celebrated Harp Trio and Vocalists, can be Engaged for Exhibitions, Piers, Bazaars, Mayoral Receptions, &c. Specially Re-engaged Oct. 5, week, Crystal Palace, London.
Managers requiring an up-to-date Entertainment, with a large and varied Répertoire of High-class Music. Perm., The Grove, Villa-road, Handsworth, Birmingham. This, and following weeks, Drill Hall, Darlington.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, Bateson's Orchestra (small), Vocalists and Instrumentalists; excellent répertoire. Musical-Directress, Miss MAUDE TRAINER, Bowness-on-Windermere.

WANTED, Known, Madame Wilton Davis' Ladies' Orchestra (The Grosvenor), eleventh week at Franco-British, "Johnstown Flood," Quartette; Dis. 42, Linton-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Known, First-class Ladies' Quartette or Trio, open for Re-engagement, Café, Hotel, &c. Box 5,003, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, First-class Ladies' Quartette, all Brilliant Soloists, one Renowned Singer; At Homes, Concerts, &c.; extensive répertoire; disengaged Nov. 14. Beech Holme, West Hill-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Novelty Gentleman's Orchestra, conducted by Signorina de Polo, at Liberty for Café, Hotels, Concerts; extensive Répertoire, in costumes. 12, West Hill-rd., Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, the Renowned Shamrock Ladies' Trio (all experienced and brilliant soloists) have a few vacant dates this autumn for At Homes, Concerts, Hotels, &c.; smart Costumes, extensive Répertoire. MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 12, Hebermansions, Queen's Club Gardens, Kensington, W.

WANTED, Known, to Managers, best Orchestras and Ladies' Bands. Thirty-seven Testimonials received this season, Franco-British Exhibition and elsewhere. ALGERNON CLARKE, Conductor, 28, Lonsdale-road, Barnes. Telephone 109 Putney.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, smart Girl Contortionist, or one willing to learn; good home, all found. Particulars, with photo., INSTRUCTOR, 5, Gloucester-place, Bristol.

WANTED, a Young Lady, with knowledge of Acrobating or Juggling. All particulars, Box 5,023, "The Era."

WANTED, Bender or Juggler or Tumbler, or any Act, one show a day, open at once. Money low but sure. Wire, Circus, Saturday, Great Bedwyn; Monday, Burbage, Wiltshire.

WANTED, for Troupe, smart Acrobats and Hand-balancers, male and female. Apply at once, Saturday only, CLARKE, 7, Woodland-hill, Upper Norwood.

WANTED, by Renowned Gymnasts, experienced Catcher for Throwing Act; Amateurs need not apply. EUGENE, Palace, Chelsea.

WANTED, Top-mounter, about 7st., one that can tumble a little. Terms, full particulars first letter, ACROBAT, 22, Ashted-row, Birmingham.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL HIPPODROME AND CIRCUS,
EDINBURGH.

WANTED, for the above, from Nov. 21, 1908, on, the Cream of Artists in all Branches of the Equestrian, Gymnastic, and Vaudeville Profession (refinement absolutely necessary). Lithos. and Posters to T. W. Cooke, Cooke's Royal Hippodrome and Circus, Edinburgh, N.B.

WANTED, John Scott's Royal Circus, Smart Reliable Ground Acts.
Nothing too Big.
No number too small if good.
No fancy salaries, but will entertain any Good Acts at a reasonable price. Artists please note.—No street parade or 3 and 4 o'clock starts
Our performances daily at 4.30 and 8.

State full particulars in first letter,
12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.

WANTED, Catcher and Bearer, also Good Middle Man, one that can tumble, to join immediately. Levett, 6, Prince's-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Circus Proprietors, Managers, and Agents
to Note that the
ROYAL OHMYS
ROYAL OHMYS
are re-engaged by Director Bech Olsen
for One Month longer,
for One Month longer,
to open at the Grand Circus, Gothenburg.
THE ROYAL OHMYS.
Greatest of all Acrobatic Equestrians, on one, two, three, four, and five Bareback Horses. Complimented by H.M. King Edward VII. and Crown Prince of Denmark and Royal Family. Read what Director Bech Olsen says: Mr. Ohmy, your family have been the success of my Circus Season and the talk of Denmark. Accept this Contract for one month longer, to open the season at the Grand Circus, Gothenburg. I cannot open without the Royal Ohmys, and don't forget you come back for eight months next season.—Signed, Bech Olsen. This should prove to all Proprietors and Managers the worth of the Royal Ohmys, who expect to arrive in England end of Nov., and will be at Liberty for the Winter Season, with six good Acts, with three or five Horses, grand Wardrobe, Posters, Lithos., &c. For list of Acts and particulars, address, The Royal Ohmys, Circus Bech Olsen, Gothenburg, Sweden. Notice.—The Royal Ohmys wish to thank Geo. Gilbert, Esq., for his great kindness in breaking Contract to enable them to stay one month longer with Director Bech Olsen.

WANTED, Known, John Scott's Royal British Circus Family, at Liberty coming Winter Season. Can supply full Circus Company, or can arrange for a number of individual Acts
Pure Business; no Bluff.
Address, 12, Charles-place, Hotwells, Bristol.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, the late Buffalo Bill's Rough Rider, who presents his thoroughbred Mare in her Novelty Act, Racing Tricks. Apply, Maerdy, Glam., South Wales.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Equestrians, own Horse, Liberty shortly for Winter. 95, Hill-street, Garnet Hill, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Bishop and Winkles, Clown and Agouste, now appearing with Success, Geo. Gilbert's, Esq., Hippo., Yarmouth. Coms., 46, York-road.

WANTED, Known, Brothers Austin, Tumbling, Talking Knockabouts, Clowns and Agoustes, with Entrées, also First-class Foot Equilibrists, at Liberty for the Winter Season. Address, 56, Kitchener-road, East Finchley, London.

The dearest article is invariably the cheapest.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
at Liberty from Dec. onwards, for Management, Circus, Picture Shows, or Myriorama,
Joe Hastings,
acknowledged by the best judges to be the greatest Lecturer and Actor-Ringmaster in Great Britain. The man to make the Joeys go. The man to do your Press and Journalistic work. As an advertisement writer Joe Hastings is absolutely nulli secundus. Joe Hastings seldom advertises, because verbum sat sapienti, and the wise Proprietors know it. James Lloyd, Esq., says: Hastings is the finest Ringmaster I have seen. David Taylor, Esq., says: There is no other man in the Circus business to equal Hastings as a Picture Lecturer. Joe Hastings is thoroughly experienced in Circus, Diorama, Music Hall, Pantomime, or Al Fresco business. Now on Tour with John Scott's Circus.
Ad., 120, Teignmouth-rd., Bournbrook, Birmingham.
Nemine dissentiente.

WANTED, by Wartana Trio, Lady Jugglers, Oct. 19, on, a Novel Juggling Speciality.
Add., 32, Halston-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, good Hand Balancer, Record Hand Jumper, Hand to Hand, Top, good Comedian or Straight, wishes to join good Act. Gymnast, 13, St. Ervans-road, Westbourne Park, London.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, these Concerts will cease from Oct. 31, 1908. Artists please note, and cancel dates.
Wm. Biggam, Sec., 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. Mascard, Manager.

PALACE, BOSTON.
WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, or good Combination Company, with Pictures. Ernest Cass, Manager.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK.
Sole Proprietor, A. E. Pickard.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, for immediate and future Dates. Quote lowest terms, and enclose samples of lithos. N.B.—Hall small; salaries must be in accordance.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, good Comedy Acts, Sketches, &c., for Nov. 9, 23, also many other dates for suitable Acts. Lowest Combination terms; sure money, comfortable Engagements.
The Dayton Family,
Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

Please accept silence as a polite negative.
Artists having written the last weeks kindly write again. Please all send current and perm. address.

WANTED, Monday, Oct. 26, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Nov. 16, 1908, and onwards.
Apply, Manager, Britannia Theatre, Glasgow.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth's-street, Liverpool.
WANTED Variety Artists
in all Lines,
for Monday, Oct. 26, and onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2076 Royal.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
HIPPODROME, STOKE-ON-TRENT.
PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD.
WANTED, for the above, Artists in all Lines. Add., T. Allan Edwardes, Grand T., Derby.

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY — Artists for Immediate Dates and Dates onwards.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list and very lowest (this essential), and permanent addresses.

DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Telegrams: Granbeste, Withington-Lanca.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Telephone: 193 Didsbury.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Wanted, urgently, the address of Sydney and Partner, Cycle Act.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists, Immediate and Future Dates, good break going North. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

VICTORIA HALL, MANSFIELD.
WANTED, Refined Artists, suitable for a First-class Picture Show, Once Nightly, to open Oct. 19. Fox, Victoria Hall, Mansfield.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns doing Singles, two weeks, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, onwards.
Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Oct. 26, on, 1A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, for Combination, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, and 16. State lowest terms and full particulars to D. Selbo, 182, Greenside, Dalton, Huddersfield.

PUBLIC HALL, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, Oct. 26 and on.
Arthur Lynch, Public Hall, Workington.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, Artists of Every Description, Oct. 26, onwards. Nothing too Big. Share or salary for extra attraction. Terms, lithos., &c., Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Artists, for immediate Dates, also for 1909, 10, 11, 12.
Pacey's Agency,
186, Brixton-road, S.W.

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.
Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher.
General-Manager, Towyn Thomas.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. Reginald Fletcher.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Public Hall, Runcorn (opening Nov. 9), Town Hall, Winsford, and Pavilion, Northwich. Call for Monday next:—The Deuchars, Carmen Barrie, Charles Coll, Ethel Dancy, Scena, "Awakening of the Lily Bell," Will Harris, Ruffell's Bioscope. Rehearsal 1 sharp. Signed, Towyn Thomas.

WANTED, several First-class Minstrel Artists (Comedians and Vocalists), for Tour. State absolute terms, &c., in first letter. Charles Dare, 26, Ivy-lane, E.C.

WANTED, Artists, for my Trial Matinée, Oct. 26, Empire, Shoreditch. Sam Hart, 7, Lancaster-house, Ruscroft-road, Brixton.

CHELTENHAM
NEW PALACE
THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

WANTED, Stars, Novel Acts, &c. Best Halls and Pantomimes. Contracts await Three Bros. Lloyd, Kramers, and Winona. Geo. Aytoun, 103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates, to communicate terms, &c., to Brooks's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Suitable Turns for the Continent. Lithos., posters, photos.
Vacant Dates and Terms,
Papa Brown,
Variety Agent,
Martinister 30 III.,
Hamburg 20. Postage 2½d.

Manager, Frank Ackermann,
Papa Brown,
Variety Agent,
Holland House, Durand-gardens, London, S.W.

WANTED, Two Small Turns, Oct. 26,
one week, at the Theatre, Oxford;
must be neat, good, and refined.
Address,
Boswell, Corn Exchange, Abingdon, Berks.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, commencing Nov. 2, First-class Comedy Turns; must be really funny and free from vulgarity. Lowest terms, Temperance Hall, Bolton.

WANTED, a Refined Double Turn, working Singles, for Dec. 26, seven nights.
Address, Jack Barnes, Smethwick.

WANTED, for Joseph Poole's Myriorama and Variety Confederation, Big Variety Turns, all Kinds, First-class Comedy Acts, Animal Shows, Sensational Acts, for Oct. 26, Nov. 23, Dec. 22, Jan. 4, and later. State lowest, partics., perm. address, to F. Mayer, Manager, Bath Saloon, Torquay.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Wanted, Talent,
all Lines,
Oct. 19, 26, later.
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Talent, now, onwards. Booking lowest, and perm. add. imperative.
Keeble's Agency, Palace, Denton.

WANTED, for Oct. 26, onwards,
Star Acts in all Lines.
Star Acts in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
Cadle's Agency, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Novelty and Speciality Acts and Artists in all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, &c., for immediate and future dates.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly. Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Oct. 26, Glasgow, Midlands, Yorkshire, South Wales, Variety Acts all Lines. Full Bookings imperative. Gannon, West Grove, Bristol.

WANTED, for Monday next, at Queen's, Castleford, a good Comedy Act, also Comedian; must be new to the town. Wire absolute lowest. Beanland, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

CLIQUOT'S THEATRICAL VARIETY AGENCY,
46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.
WANTED, Big Star Acts,
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Big Star Acts.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Big Star Acts.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Big Star Acts.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Artists all Lines
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. for all dates.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Notice.
I accepted the Federation Office Copy.
Send full list of all Bookings.
Lowest price essential.
Clients please keep me posted.
Following Artists please communicate: Geo. Formby, Jock Whiteford, Narrow Bros., Fred Ginnett, Cullen and Carthy, J. W. Rowley, Dayton Family, Arden and Able.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. No callers,
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. only by appointment.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Address as above.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY. Address as above.

BARNARD'S AGENCY,
SHAW-STREET, LIVERPOOL.
Telephone 2349 Royal.
WANTED, Big Attractions, for Immediate Dates, and onwards; also Panto. Artists, in all Lines. V.A.F. Office Copy.

PALACE, BOSTON.
WANTED, good Variety Companies, with Star Turns and Dramas, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9.
Ernest Cass, Manager.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, for Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Top of Bill, for Oct. 26, Frank Lynne and Co., 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. N.B.—Callers by appointment only.

WANTED, for St. Anne's Pier, St. Anne's-on-the-Sea, for Season 1909, a First-class Company of Al Fresco Entertainers.
Offers, with full particulars, to be sent in not later than Thursday, Oct. 22, 1908, addressed to The Manager.

WANTED, immediately, for Riviera Tour, Concert Party, First-class Comedienne, must have Répertoire Comedy Songs, Duets, and accustomed Concertede; Charming Party, expenses paid; Rehearse Wednesday, Liverpool. Interview London, Tuesday; sail 27th. Letters, Bowen, 56, Cartwright-gardens, W.C.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen Amateurs, for Variety Entertainments, share of profits, would not interfere with daily occupation. Letter, Sam Wallace, 105, Roslyn-road, Tottenham

WANTED, at once, Lady and Gentleman, must do Single Turns and Produce Sketches and Play in same, used to Portable Theatre. Letters answered after Wednesday. W. C. and S. Hancock, Park Hotel, Pontypridd, S. Wales.

WANTED, few Smart, Clever, Pretty Girls, do Buck and Fancy Dancing; 12 months' tour. Full particulars to Box 5,027, "The Era."

WANTED, for Picture Show, two Young Ladies, Sing, Dance. Lowest (live in), long Tour. Good Amateur write. Manager, Hippo., Chard.

WANTED, Smart Knockabout Pantomimist, able to work traps, to open Monday. Wire lowest terms to Bradley, 36, Hamilton-avenue, Leeds.

WANTED, to join reliable Troupe, Man with slight knowledge of Knockabout Comedy and to look after props.; must be sober and reliable; salary 30s. per week and all found for stage.
Address letters only,
J. F., 22, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Boys and Girls, Vocalists, Choristers, over 14;
also Comedian, must dance.
Munroe's Comedy Team,
Palace, Reading.

WANTED, Boys, with good voices, age 14, small for age, join good troupe. Call any time before 5 o'clock. Hicks, 35, Trafalgar-road, Old Kent-road

Illustrated Songs.
WANTED, Singers, with own Slides, for one or two weeks. Coutts, The Palace, Swansea.

WANTED, Smart Youth, over 14, with knowledge of Tumbling, to join well-known Comedy Act.
Particulars in first letter to
Box 5,034, "The Era."

WANTED, a Boy or Girl, with little Acrobatic experience. State age and height; long comfortable Engagement. Floria, Empire, Rochdale.

WANTED, at once, Competent Operator, for Crighton's Electric Palace. Apply, stating terms and full particulars, to Feast Ground, Basford, Notts.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operator, own Machine, prospect of long engagement.
Address, A. Court, 55, Averill-street, Fulham.

WANTED, First-class Operator, must be good Electrician; one willing to assist and make himself useful; a good permanent shop to a willing man. State lowest terms with ref. Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Dates, Illustrated Songs, Miss Beatrice Felsted, Principal Soprano, fine voice, vacant 1908, Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2 (to precede Brighton, return); 1909, Feb. 22, 29, March 15, onwards (Midlands or North).
115, Castellian-mansions, Maida Vale.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marie Leonard, Pictured Melodies, also Nov. 2, Dec. 7, 21, latest American Slides.

WANTED, Known, Marie Powell, the Crossing-Sweeper, also Refined Speciality Comedienne, at Lib. Monday, also Oct. 26. Wire for a sure success, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract, Yorks.

WANTED, Re-engagement, Contralto Vocalist, able to do Turn and Sing to Slides. Morelle, Sanger's Picture Co., Operative Hall, Rushden, Northamptonshire.

WANTED, Oct. 19, 26, Babs Lloyd, Star Artist; also Nellie Vann, Comedy Artist and Dancer. Wire, B172, Witton-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, by the Kebbles (Nora and Edie), Character Duettists and Expert Dancers, Vacant for Boy and Girl. Success, W. G., New Brighton. 31, Hillberry-avenue, Liverpool.

WANTED, by the Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Nov. 2 and 9, to follow Cork and precede Gloucester; also Nov. 23. Next week, T.R., Yarmouth.

WANTED, Nov. 2, 9, and 30, Jean Macduff, Lady Scotch Comedian; Peggy Lyndon, Dainty Musical Act. Great success, this week, at Opera House, Workington. Refer Manager. Wire, Melville, Rathbone Gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Terry, Mimics, Vocalists, and Dancers. Variety itself.—Press. At Liberty Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9. Communicate Oct. 19, T. R., Grantham.

WANTED, by B. Merry, Eccentric Comedian, Oct. 19, 26. Offers invited.
31, Micklethwaite-road, Earl's Court, London.

WANTED, Re-engagements, by Little Poulton, 3ft. 9in., Dwarf Comedian; Sing and Dance; age 23 years. 87, Highgate-road, Sparkbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Cliff Dixo wants Monday, also 26th; immediate success, Winter Gardens, New Brighton; complimented all round. Wire, Falstaff Hotel, Sheffield. See Card.

WANTED, Oct. 19, 26, by Fred Fulton, Comedian, with Original Songs. Wire or write, King's Head Hotel, Holyhead.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Monday next and Nov. 2; Elaborate Electric Stage Effects. Concludes to-night, Opera House, Londonderry; next week, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

Prestidigitation.
WANTED, Known, an Artistic and Incomparable Display of Accomplished Sleight of Hand, Mysterious and Bewildering, Humorous and Incomprehensible. Success everywhere. Managers and Agents communicate. Sure draw. Three Programmes. Original, Original, Original. Valentine-Benzonn, The Marvellous Conjurer, 103, Nottingham-road, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, having concluded highly successful Summer Contract at Yarmouth, Mr. Niel Stanley, Magician and Entertainer, is at present Disengaged. Agents please write. 39 Claremont-square, N.

WANTED, Monday next and Oct. 26, on, exceptions, The Monckton's (Fred, Lillie), the Popular Comedy Duo, in Latest Screaming Farcical Successes. The Monckton's in a comedy sketch entitled "Two in a Flat" furnished an enjoyable entertainment, and the situations, which are of the most mirth-provoking nature, created roars of laughter.—Glasgow News, Oct. 13, 1908. Topping bill, immense success, wire, Gaiety, Clydebank. Next, 19, North Elgin-street, Clydebank.

WANTED, Oct. 19 (wire 15, Haslemere-avenue, Bridlington), Kyoto, Humorous Japanese Contortionist, Juggler, Conjurer, and Dog; also May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer; also vacant, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 1908.

WANTED, Monday, also 26th, Capner and Steele (Will and Victoria), Character Duettists. Empire, Dudley; after Saturday, 1, Holden's-square, Nottingham.

WANTED, Nov. 2, Phern and Phern, in Comedy Drawing-room Speciality, "The 'Phone Act." Wire, write for absolute success.
Oct. 19, Palace, Cardiff; 26th, Palace, Bath.

WANTED, Oct. 26, by The Mosaics, Comedy Duo, in Screaming Sketch, "The Suffragette." This, Pavilion, East Kirkby; Oct. 19, Victoria Hall, Mansfield. Pantomime settled.

WANTED, Monday, on, The Mannikins (Harry and Maud), Living Marionettes, Novel Electric Show; also Double Comedy Singing Turn. Old Corn Exchange, Hull.

WANTED, Monday next, by Clive and Vera, in their refined Comedy Act, "The Squire and Dairymaid." Wire, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Dutch Comedy Artists, introducing Songs, Dances, and Dialect; Vacant Monday, 19th, also Oct. 26. Wire, Palace, Jarrow.

WANTED, Known, E. W. Selman and Ivy Gallard conclude two highly successful weeks, Guernsey and Jersey. Monday, Palace, Dover. Luna Lisle write.

WANTED, Monday next; also 26th, by the Two Le Bruns (Edgar and Edie), a unique and novel juggling and vocal speciality. Wire, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, Monday next, by T. W. Lenner, Comedian, and Florrie Wright, Sweet-voiced Vocalist. Last week, Hit of Bill, Empire, Grantham. Booked return at increase. Wire, Hippo., Maldon, Essex. Dan Noble's Agency.

WANTED, by Bros. Webb, Renowned Musical Clowns, Oct. 19, Nov. 2, 23.
Address, 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell.

WANTED, Known, The Valdo Bros., Celebrated Eccentrics, Vacant Oct. 26, Nov. 2, in their Renowned Funny and Clever Speciality, "The Eccentric Motor 'Bus-men." A First-class Attraction. 19th, Empire, Islington. Coms., 12c, Lynn-street, Balham, London.

WANTED, Monday next, Oct. 19, through disappointment, by Harlin and Hanlon, Refined Patter Comedians. Wire, 126, Griffin-road, Plumstead, Kent.

WANTED, Oct. 26, and few Later Dates, Alex and Jolly, the Smart and Funny Three-bar Act. Top, Empire, Wrexham, last week; top this week, Royalty Theatre, Morecambe; top next week, Opera House, Theatre, Workington.

WANTED, Known, The Kiros (two Ladies, one Gentleman), Double, Singles, and Comedy Sketches, open for Pantomime, Parts or good Picture Show. 17, Manor-st., Port Talbot, S. Wales.

WANTED, Monday next, by Billy Ross and Co., Greatest Comedy Boxing Act before the Public. Starring, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough. Wire for Draw.

WANTED, Monday next, one week, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe (five), Lady and Gentlemen Athletes and Posing. Always a Star Attraction. Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Ted Moxon's Trio,
Acrobatic and Risley Eccentrics.

This, King's Theatre, Southsea;
Next, Hippodrome, Brighton;
Vacant Nov. 2, 9, 16, and 23.

Wire, permanent address,
102, Woodland-road, Clifton, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, The Eltons, Comedy Bars, Marblesque Trio, Statuary Tableaux, Two Acts, Liberty Oct. 19. Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Oct. 26, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Petro and Leon, Sensational and Comedy Gymnasts, Liberty Monday, Oct. 19. Wire, Crown Theatre, Eccles.

WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 2, by Onda and Walonell, Great Comedy Bar Act, introducing Dog Wally. Monday, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Walker's Would-be Acrobats, Globella, Juggling Speciality.
Next, Palace, Boston. Vacant Oct. 26.

WANTED, Known, Bessie Travis, Only Lady Ventriloquist and Pianist, Vacant Oct. 19, Nov. 2 and 9. Wire, 174, Ecclesall-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Gulliver, Ventriloquist, thanks Geo. Aytoun and Managers Frank Allen, Gregory, and Baugh, for Contracts during the past week. Monday, E., South Shields (third visit).

WANTED, for "Frivolity" and "The Houseboat," Nov. 2 and 9,
through misunderstanding.
John Leopold,
This, Pal., Blackpool; next, Paragon, Mile End-rd.

WANTED, Known, the American Vaudeville Company want Oct. 19 to 24, next week, through disappointment, real Indians, real Cowboys, and full Vaudeville Company, in the Dramette, "Ojija." Wire, Hatzau, Public Hall, Manningtree, Essex.

WANTED, by Cecil Renton and Co., in "The Parson's Dilemma," Sketch, Oct. 19, 26. This week, Topping Bill, Hippodrome, Dewsbury. Wire for Monday, a sure success.

WANTED, Nov. 16 and 23, Swift Duo, Funny Cycle Speciality.
Next week, Hippodrome, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28,
and Jan. 4
(London or Midlands).
Com., 41, Tower-street, Portobello, N.B.

WANTED, Jan. 4, 25, to follow Edinburgh and Glasgow, Chard's Dog Circus, Comic Sheepdogs, Clever Collies, and the World's Greatest Troupe of High Leaping Hounds, 14 Dog Artists. Lieut. Chard, Poole's Great Show, Torquay.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Dogs, at Liberty Monday next, one week only, till next spring. Sure draw. Wire, St. James's Hall, Harrogate.

WANTED, Known, Top Mounter, at Liberty; good Hand-balancer; can Turn Backs and Forwards. Address, Marcellis, 25, Patten-street, Burnley, Lancs.

WANTED, by Skating Instructor, Engagement. Good reference if required.
Address, A. H. Bear, 51, Byron-road, Margate.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private, Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also "Punch and Judy," with Dog Toby, 13, Paulton-st., Chelsea, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenjon's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Known, British Bioscope Co. can give Up-to-date Shows; no fancy prices. Write or wire, 25, Valmar-rd., Camberwell, London.

WANTED, Known, having this week concluded Tour with Walter Jeff's New Century Pictures, I am at Liberty to open with any First-class Show for Monday, Oct. 19, both current and limes, any make of machine, fully certified Operator; excellent refs. Write or wire to Stuart, Operator, New Century Pictures, Town Hall, Reading.

WANTED, Engagement, Bioscope Operator, with own machine; electric or gas; London or Suburbs only. E. A., 19, Marney-road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 350 miniatures to select from.
Minerva Automatic Co.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

BREWERS' EXHIBITION,
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, LONDON, N.,
Oct. 17 to 23, inclusive.
WANTED, Known, we are this year repeating our usual offer to allow cost of cheap return fare from any point in the U.K. to all purchasers of goods to the value of £25 upwards at our stands 41, 42, and 43, Great Galleries, where we shall for the first time display epoch-making Novelties from the Mills' Factory.
Minerva Automatic Co., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C. Sole Agents to the Mills Novelty Co. Telegrams, "Minervauto, London." Telephone, Holborn 5703.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, that I am the Inventor and Maker of Brass Hand Rails around body of Motor Cars for Roundabouts.
These are registered and fully protected.
Unlicensed Imitators and Infringers of my Rights will be severely dealt with.
All applications to use the same must be addressed to
P. Collins,
Gondola Works,
Walsall.

Taj Mahal,
or improved
Haunted Castle.
WANTED, Known, I am the Inventor of this, the latest
Amusement Device.
Imitators Beware.
All to load and build up on one truck.
Prices and conditions
on application to
P. Collins,
Gondola Works,
Walsall.
Telegrams, "Gondola, Walsall."
'Phone, No. 80, Walsall.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, Taylor, Plinston, Bros., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 26150, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2640, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402.
This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street,
and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.
CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Known, Flare Lamps. Stacey's Star Lamps are still flaring, and the best in the world. All prices. 510, Kingsland-rd., London.

WANTED, Known, Latest Money-getter, Hindu Spirit Writer and Character Reader, sure living, £5; Slips, 15s. 1,000. Advance, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, an Assistant Secretary, for the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union.
Copies of testimonials and salary required to be sent to Thos. Hurst (Secretary), Broadhurst, Clifton, Manchester.

WANTED, good Novelties, with Window Flash, to open on Monday, Oct. 19, on half shares, two weeks' engagement. Strong Show and Wrestling, or Fat Lady write. Barron's Exhibition, Lowestoft.

WANTED, all kinds of Novelties, for good Shops, &c., Brighton, can open Monday, also Bioscope Operator, with own Machine; long Engagement for good Machine at reasonable salary. Showman, 43, Franklin-street, Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, Cinématograph or good Show, for Walk-up Booth; Shares; can open at once. Texas, Show Ground, Larkhall, N.B.

WANTED, Lady Palmist, grand position; also Photographer, to rent positions at Fun City, Crown Hill, Croydon.

WANTED, Young Lady, for Second Sight Act, Private Exhibitions.
Apply, Box 5,038, "The Era."

WANTED, First-class Singer, also Operator for Cine., for Auction Mart.
Bloom, White Hall, Haughton, Darlington.

WANTED, Known, Madam Leslie, Phrenologist, Character Reader, Society Palmist, Lecturer, at Liberty; Smart, Up-to-date; open immediately. Address, Post Office, Drogheda, Ireland.

WANTED, by T. F. Archer, Lady Palmist, also Four Young Ladies for Fancy Stands, and Sideshow for Novelty Exhibition.
Apply letter to Archer, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, now appearing outside "Pharaoh's Daughter," Franco-British Exhibition, James Roberto, Unique Instrumentalist, at Liberty Oct. 31; Speciality, Cornet Solos, self accompanied on the Piano.

WANTED, Known, Tom Thumb, World-renowned Lilliputian, now Showing at Pentre, South Wales. Permanent address, Berry, Market-street, West Houghton, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Harry Clarke, clever young Planksman, Comedian, and Assistant Pianist; excellent refs. 30, Lodge-street, Queen's-road, Harpurhey, Manchester.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for
Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909;
address, Proprietors, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

ARCADIA DRILL HALL, PORTSMOUTH.
WANTED, to Let, Spaces for First-class Sideshows, Stalls, Games, Novelties, Photography, &c. Open Dec. 5th (eighth year). 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, to Let, Large Space of Ground, for Machines and Shows, in a busy thoroughfare; good position. Apply by letter to Offord, Fairfield Lodge, Tooting Broadway, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Showmen coming North to Write Bloom for Grounds. I have positions. I own them. Bloom, White Hall, Haughton, Darlington.

WANTED, to Let, Ground, on Promenade, Portobello, tent, stage, and all fittings, for pierrots. Corona, Sea View Cottage, Promenade, Portobello.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL EXHIBITION, EDINBURGH, 1908.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Showmen to Note that
at the close of the above Exhibition
on Oct. 31,
the
following
Attractions
are
for
Sale:—

GREAT CANADIAN WATER CHUTE,
65ft. high, 280ft. run, with double electric lift for passengers (by Waygoods); twelve boats, each holding eight people.

FLYING MACHINE,
Entirely new model, with eight cars, each holding four passengers, including electric plant, a 17 h.p. motor, and 500 lights.

SPIDER'S WEB MAZE,
Covering 1¼ miles of intricate passages; entirely new idea; including electrical fittings and 380 lamps.

MOULIN ROUGE,
Most novel sensational Helter-Skelter Windmill, the highest ever built—60ft. to the top—including motor for windmill and a large quantity of lamps.

FOUR VENETIAN GONDOLAS,
in splendid condition, gorgeous fittings, straight from Venice, almost new.

HALL OF LAUGHTER,
Entirely new device for drawing crowds, including eleven full-sized distorting mirrors, jumping-floor, and other mechanical effects.

The above Entertainments can now be seen working, and can either be bought as they stand or re-erected in any part of Great Britain.

All further information to be had on application to DIRECTOR, Popular Amusements, Ltd., Scottish National Exhibition, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to send for my new list with over 2,000 illustrations of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Field Glasses, Bazaar and Fancy Goods; every line right for price. SIMONS, 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, to Let, at Trades Exhibition, Public Hall, Dorking, Oct. 22 to 29, Space, for Engraving, Jewellery, Daisy Needle, Photos., and other Attractive Exhibits. Special terms. Apply, MANAGER, Horsham. Exhibition now on. Terrific success. All records broken. Crowds turned away nightly.

WANTED, Known, Shop to Let, Open Front, for Travelling Auctioneers, Entertainments, &c.; fine position seaside town; weekly rental. JUSTINE, 43, Stokes-croft, Bristol.

WANTED, to Sell, a First-class Picture Show, organ front, everything first-class and nearly new, only wants seeing, everything ready for taking money; 6 h.p. Burrell Compound Loco. Can be had on the deferred payment. Reason for selling, retiring. Apply, Box 5,031, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, a Bargain, Grand, Massive, Carved Two-wagon Walk-up Front, by Orton, road or rail, with good living accommodation, opens out 40ft., admirably suited for bioscope exhibition; or advertiser can have, on very reasonable rent, for four months, space in very best position of South Coast town of 200,000 population, where enormous business is certain. Will accept partner with small capital to act as cashier, &c.; or person to finance, on good interest and security. No risk, grand and genuine opportunity. References exchanged. Part purchase-money can remain. Front can be seen built up, and all particulars given, at personal interview only. Apply, EXHIBITION, 43, Franklin-street, Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, to Sell, a Burrell's 6 h.p. compound, double-crank Road Locomotive, also Dynamo and Plant. For price and particulars, apply to COTTRELL'S Cinematograph, Show Ground, Eston, Yorkshire.

WANTED, to Sell, Two Living Carriages, road or rail, with carved domes, &c., forming show front. Price £60; part can remain if desired. Box 5,043, "Era" Office, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Hot-air Engine, 80s.; Second-hand Winchester Rifles, 20s.; Electric Target, 4-value, 80s. MASON, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Gold-mounted Photos., Husbands, Wives, Babies, X-rays, latest sensation, marvellous value, your profits doubled. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Love Letters, Palmistry, Fair and Dark, Comic Cards, Eyes, Marriage, Liars', Lunatics' Licences. MEURICE, 39, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Automatic Machines, New and Second-hand, Card Delivery, Mother Shiptons, marvellous money-takers, enormous profits. MEURICE, Argyle-square.

WANTED, to Sell, Slot Machines. Punch Balls, £8 10s.; Phonographs, £5; Mutoscopes (Living Pictures), £5; Loops, 20s.; &c. MASON, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, to Sell, all kinds of Automatic Machines, Edison Phonographs, with Accumulators, £3 each. ARNOLD, Hillcrest-road, South-end-on-Sea.

WANTED, to Sell, Guess Your Weight and other Novelties in Slot Machines. Stand 19, Brewers' Exhibition, Agricultural Hall, Islington.

WANTED, to Sell, Helter Skelter, Wanted to Sell, Helter Skelter, as now erected at Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, immediate delivery. For full details apply, J. W. NIGHTINGALE, Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, to Sell, Petrified Man, in Wonderful State of Preservation, with most interesting history; very suitable for show purposes; certain public attraction.
Apply, Box 5,024, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, Model Working Colliery, new, grand money-taker, and easy to move about. Will sacrifice for £10, cash. Box 5,046, "The Era."

WANTED, to Buy,
Good Living Waggon.
State full particulars and price,
C. T. BAILEY, 11, Harrow-street, Derby.

WANTED, to Buy, Distorting Mirrors. Give full particulars, size, condition, &c., and where can be seen. GOODALL, Trades Exhibition, St. Helens.

WANTED, to Know, the present addresses of the following Showmen: C. Brookes, H. Roberts, H. Oddley, H. Davies; also Albert Austin, late of 56, Kitchener-road, East Finchley, London, N. Box 5,033, "The Era."

WANTED, every Showman who uses the railway to send to "The Era" for a copy of the article on the new Railway Rates. This will be sent on application, free of charge, to any Showman in the United Kingdom.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, that splendidly fitted Variety House known as
VICTORIA HALL, MATLOCK
Beautifully situated in large garden; area 15,000 square yards. Part purchase-money can remain as mortgage. Apply, Box 6,901, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell (Partnership dissolved), Lyric Theatre (Al-fresco), Hythe, Kent. Ideal position; seating capacity 400; large stage, two dressing-rooms; scenery by Fred Storey. Apply, PHILIP WILLIAMS, Actors' Association, 353, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, to Cinematograph Proprietors. Complete Show, comprising Wrench Bioscope, about 6,000ft. Film, arc lamp, iron box, opaque sheet (12ft. by 12ft.), resistances, trestle, drop curtain and rods, switches, lamps, cables, and outside signs, together with lease of small hall, free of all rent, rates, and taxes until March 25, 1909, in Weston-super-Mare; £75 for the lot to quick buyer. Apply, BAGSHAW, Lynmouth Grove, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Clear, Large Quantity of Second-hand Films, Comedy, Dramatic, and Travel Subjects, all in good condition. Lists ready. JURY'S Imperial Pictures, 142, Long-acre, London, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell or Hire, Films, Films, Films. Send for List.
ATHOY, Cromwell Hall, Lancaster.

WANTED, to Sell, Cinématograph Arc Lamp, brand new, 70 ampère, cost £6; also 200ft. of Film. The lot, £3 5s. Approval. WM. POLLARD, 1, Colmore-buildings, Henrietta-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, to Sell, "Cinderella" Pantomime; or would Let on Hire, two Shetland Ponies, suitable for "Cinderella" Pantomime, or Advertising purposes; also Small Trap for use with Ponies. For full details, apply, J. W. NIGHTINGALE, Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, to Sell, the whole of the beautiful Historical Costumes, Hats, Properties, Armour, Arms, Tights, Shoes, Stockings, State Coach, &c., &c., as used in the Gloucestershire Historical Pageant, all as good as new, eminently suitable for a Theatrical or Pantomime Production. No reasonable offer refused to clear. Send requirements to the Managers, Messrs. BARING BROS., Cheltenham.

WANTED, to Sell, Pantomime Dresses; a large Variety, all clean and in good condition. May be seen at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, by appointment with Wynn Miller.

WANTED, to Sell, a large quantity of Pantomime Dresses, Properties, &c., used in many successful Productions at the Theatre Royal, Bradford; also a complete Production of "Mother Goose." Apply, T. F. DOYLE, Stage-Manager.

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Mark Sheridan, G. H. Chirgwin, Sisters Grovini, New York Nippers, Lily Burnand, Pete and Minnie Lee, Billy French, Nellie Martell, Bioscope, "The Tea Shop."

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Gus Elen, Frank and Free, J. P. Ling, Bert Harrow, Gwennie Llewellyn, Reichen's Dogs, Maud Vera, Bioscope, Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Hetty King, Edith Fink, Frank Sylvo, Stein Eretto Troupe, Brown and Le Clerq Co., Lupino Lane, Sisters Morgan, Lupino Bros., Bioscope, "Casey's Court."

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Clark and Hamilton, Walter King, Goodwin's Piccaninnies, "That Brute Simmons," Hunt and Thomas, Millie Payne, Ten Zerbinis, Bennie Barrow, Bioscope, Marie Dainton.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Vesta Tilley, Victor Newman, Four Figaros, Carlotta Levey, Stratton Mills and Co., Royal Cambodia Troupe, Tom Lloyd, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Bella and Bijou.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Miss Lena Ashwell's Company, in "Diana of Dobson's."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Miss Evie Greene, Georgina Leno, Florence and Lillian, Prof. Dubois' Baboon, Venie Clements, Kitts and Windrum, R. H. Douglass, J. P. Carroll, Bioscope, George Gilbey.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Lil Hawthorne, Victor Travers, Billy McClain and Co., Chronomegaphone, Maud Rochez's Monkeys, Chas. Vincent, Leonie Dixon, Bioscope, Brinn.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"Makers of History," Johnson and Bert, Arabella Allen, Narow Bros., Harry Tate's Co., in "Motoring," James Stewart, Syd May, Jennie Johns, Bioscope, Warsaw Bros.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—
Miss Cecilia Loftus, George Lashwood, Cardow's Merry Yachtsmen, Bioscope, Wild, Willie, and West, M. Volbert and Mlle. Sylve, Laurie and Beattie, Lancashire Singers, Miss Lillian, The Delevines, Hermann Melot, "Visions of Wagner."

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Humpsty Bumpsti, Daisy Martell, Will Johnson, Annie Laurie, Mendel, Tennyson and Wallis, Marie Goodwin, Pictures, Gus Garrick.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Jackson Family, Marion Scott, Musical Schaffers, Phil and Nettie Peters, Bros. Redmond, Spry and Austin, Pictures, The Lukushimas.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
W. C. Fields, Florence, Les Martineks, Rohda Bros., Harry Drew, Bioscope, Olive Armadale, Harry Grey.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Herrick Dean, Frank Edwards, Harry Lewis, Bioscope, &c.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
John Lawson and Co., in "Pigs in Clover," Fred Curran, Sisters Condor, Dale and O'Malley, Lee and Bentley, McConnell Trio, Frank Boyce, Addie Lennard, May Marton, Bioscope, Jack and Evelyn.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Callahan and St. George, Charles Stevens, Maudie Francis, La Belle Nello, Carney and Armstrong, Harry Leybourn, Rell and Butt, Crown Trio, Bioscope, Bellonini.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
H. Cottesmore and Co., George Gulliver, Grapho and Jackson, Ruth Lytton, Three Cape Girls, Johnny Walker, Pictures, Carina Sisters.

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Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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Sung by Wilkie Bard.

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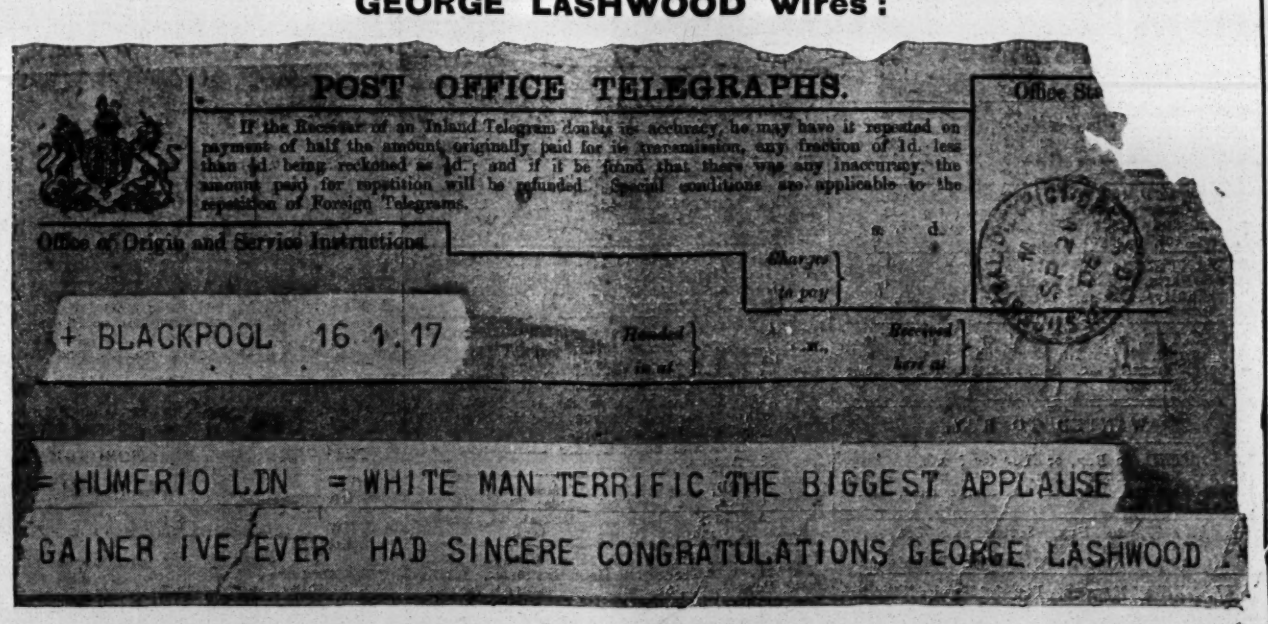

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PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Arthur Rigby and Co., Three Prestons, Talbot and Pearce, Jim Cheetham, the Symthsons, Albert Letine, Dott Moss, Harry Champion, Raymond's Bjo-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Beauty Competition, Virto, Sivronis, Alf. Ripon, Flo Burnett, Stidder and Dunbar, Rose Pink, Haley's Juveniles, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Herbert Clifton, the Leonas, Wake and Dean, Sisters Darnton, Bob Hamilton, Alfonzo, Bowman and Morton, Conway and Leland, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Fred Maxwell and Co., Edith Chantler, Mlle. Bartenelli, Five Vernons, Harry Simms, Leo and Roland, Madge Allan, Webb and Branston, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
"The Dandy Doctor."
Pictures.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"Two Little Sailor Boys."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
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THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Married to the Wrong Man."

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PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
The Motramos, Lecardo Bros., Burns and Bentley, Margaret Royce, Five Broadway Girls, Beaty and Blanche, Happy Attwood, Ernest Rees, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal, 1 o'clock.
George Marriott and Co., Phern and Phern, Harry Milton, Two Kays, Jimmy Laurie, Gimbon and Bell, Ralston Boys, Carl and Mary Ohm's Circus, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
"Mumming Birds," Denaro Bros., Lily Hayes, Cliff and Kean, Bains and Reed, Dan Whitley, Winifred Ward, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
George Auger, the giant, Bros. St. Clair, Addie Dorina, Geoffreys and Benson, Nellie Brierley, Chas. Tuppen, Elmo and Rego, the Kurios, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Gracie Grahame, Gladys and Alber, D. W. Watson, Kenway and Emery, George Acre, Bros. Ashley, Harvey's Boys and Girls, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Chas. Penrose, "The Winner," Raymond, Mac and Hill, Margaret Radcliffe, Norman Grant, Chas. Resti, Connie Milton, Lane and Osgood, Barris and Ford.

FORESTERS'.
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Alice Blandford, Raymond, Fergusson and Mack, Sisters Florence, Rubart, Sisters Selwyn, Carlotta De Yonsen, Halma, Glenroys, Esmo Gallia, Alpho, Ethel Scheffer, Faceograph.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée, every Monday.
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PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday, 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
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Mrs. Hart learns that her husband is carrying on a flirtation elsewhere, and pushing her hat right back on her head, she goes out in search of him. After a very exciting run she spies the white flannel suit of Mr. Hart in company with a smartly dressed lady. The couple step into a carriage; Mrs. Hart beckons a cab, but as she thinks the cabby is too slow for her impatience, she dislodges him from his box and drives herself. She comes up with the carriage in front and gives the gentleman with the white suit a good thrashing. Her husband happening to come along is very much surprised to see her fighting with a negro.

297ft. The Subject, **£4 19s. 0d.**

I AM GOING TO MY AUNT'S.
Code Word, "FAIENCE."

Young Teddy, a school boy with bad manners and worse temper, writes to his aunt that he is coming to spend a few days with her. Teddy's manners have not improved since he last came to see his aunt; he smokes his uncle's cigars without asking anyone, stretches himself on the sofa, and eats . . . like a pig. Surely when he goes away the whole household will heave a sigh of relief.

264ft. The Subject, **£4 8s. 0d.** Toning extra, **5s. 0d.**

MODERN MAGIC.
Code Word, "FAITAGE."

The magician puts panes of glass on to water-jugs, which serve as supports. On top of these she places a casket from which issue grimacing faces; smoke of different colours rises from the ground, and there appears in a frame a young woman who takes the shape of a butterfly, whose shining wings flutter and shimmer in the light.

396ft. The Subject, **£6 13s. 0d.** Colouring extra, **£4.**

DETECTIVES FRITT AND PLOCK.
Code Word, "EXCITANT."

A very daring thief has been traced by the police, but as he always escapes when they least expect it, a reward of £1000 has been promised to the detective who can catch him. Our friends, Fritt and Plock, who have been given special instructions, see the man as he is enjoying his drink on the terrace of a café; but noticing that he is being watched the scoundrel jumps into a cab and drives to the station; just as the train is steaming out an old lady and a swell arrive in time to see that they are too late. Turning round, they recognise each other. Fritt boards a motor-car, and while he is preparing for the start Plock ties a small carriage belonging to a cripple to the rear of the automobile, and jumps in. And so forth, until at last they are both there to catch the thief in a curiosity shop, and shaking hands loyally they decide to share the reward.

626ft. The Subject, **£10 8s. 8d.**

SILHOUETTES.
Code Word, "FACTAGE."

Two Chinamen throw on the screen all sorts of personages that silhouette themselves on the dark background, then move and dance very prettily in a series of "tableaux vivants."

379ft. The Subject, **£6 6s. 4d.** Colouring extra, **£3 3s. 0d.**

OBLIGED TO CONSENT.
Code Word, "FABLE."

A young man, having been refused by a stern father the hand of the girl he loves, comes back and sings his love under her window. The father is so furious that he fires at him, and the boy tumbles down in a heap. After a time he comes back wrapped in a white sheet and plays the ghost before the haunted eyes of the man who believes himself to be a murderer. The repeated visions are telling on his nerves, and at last he promises the ghost to grant any request he might have to put before him, and so it happens that the young man can marry his lady love, in spite of the strong objection her father had to this marriage at first.

379ft. The Subject, **£6 6s. 4d.**

FEMININE HATE.
Code Word, "ETEIGNOIR."

An idle young lady has become interested in a handsome Bohemian; and she goes out with him. Yet a gipsy girl of his gang is in love with him, and as this rouses her jealousy she tells the young lady's father of her idyll; he shrugs his shoulders, and resumes his walk. The gipsy runs to the beach where she is sure to find the couple, and she endeavours to kill the other girl with her stiletto; but the stranger snatches a revolver from her side, and fires. The last picture shows the Bohemian crying over the body of the girl his fickleness has caused to be so badly injured.

445ft. The Subject, **£7 8s. 4d.**

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Code Word, "ESTAMPE."

Titles of pictures:—The team—On their way to th cantonment—Searching for the wounded—In the wood—A bad spot—After covering twenty miles—A well-earned rest.

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Code Word, "FACULTE."

Jane is twenty-five years of age, and as her father does not seem to be in a hurry to see her married, she helps Fate by bestrewing the pavement in front of her house with broken glass, enough to make fifty tyres burst. What she has anticipated happens, and the gentleman who has met with an accident is very pleased to be introduced to Jane's father; but after h has proposed for her hand and he sees that there is no other way of moving the old man, he runs away with her in his motor-car as soon as same is repaired, and this forces Jane's father to say, "Yes," when he would have fain said "No."

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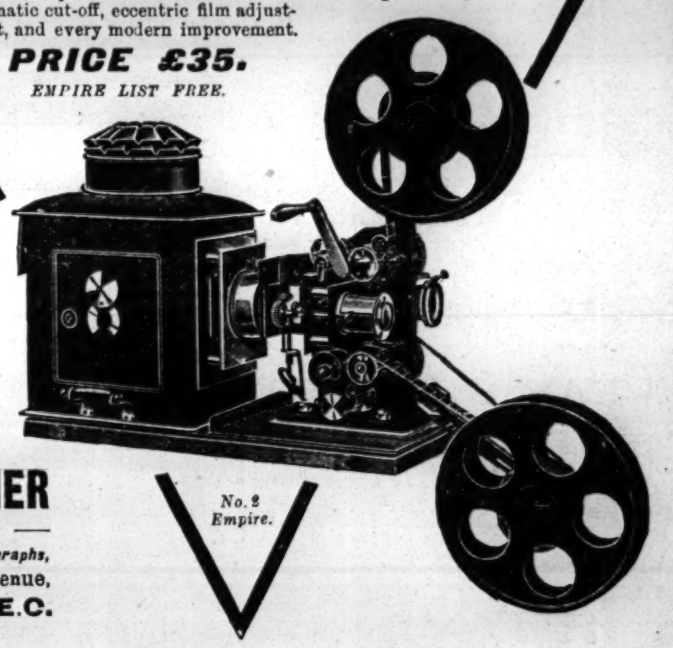

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No. **2281**. Code "**Siret.**" Length **365**ft.

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TIRNOVA.

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No. **2276**. Code "**Capital.**" Length **200**ft.

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No. **2275**. Code "**Ferdinand.**" Length **600**ft.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Morning Leader, Jan. 18:—
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Sunderland, Oct. 12, 1908.

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New Tip-up Chairs in Velvet and Pegamoid.
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Whole of Mahogany Fittings, Counters, Desks, &c.
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UP-TO-DATE TESTIMONIALS.

WE LEAD—FOLLOW WHO CAN.

TESTIMONIALS FROM

A MANAGER.

Dear Sir,—It gives me much pleasure to testify to the admirable work done by you in the cleaning of the exceptionally heavy tableaux curtains of this theatre. It must have been no easy task, especially the bringing up of the gold to the state of perfection you have achieved.—Yours truly, HERBERT BEERBOHM TREE, His Majesty's Theatre.

Mr. Harris, The Chemical Cleaning Co.

AN ACTRESS.

May Hargreaves, "His House in Order" Co.,
Drury-lane, Wakefield,
Oct. 17, 1908.

Dear Sir,—I was very pleased with my green costume you cleaned for me about a fortnight ago.—Yours faithfully, MAY HARGREAVES.

A MUSIC HALL ARTIST.

G. H. Chirgwin, "Easdale,"
Leigham Court-road, Streatham Hill,
September, 1908.

Dear Mr. Harris,—I hardly think you need any testimonial, as the Chemical Cleaning and Dyeing Co. and its very worthy manager are known all over the United Kingdom. You have done my cleaning for many years now, and when my white eye needs cleaning I shall have no hesitation in sending it to you, as I know it will come back practically new, without an eyelash missing.—Yours very truly, G. H. CHIRGWIN.

A MUSIC HALL MANAGER

T. Harris, Esq.,
Chemical Cleaning Co., Argyll-street.

Dear Sir, Your restoration and cleaning of the curtains, draperies, and silk panels is deserving of the highest praise, especially your treatment of the Royal Box.

I am not forgetting the fact that it was all done between the shows, without interfering in any way with the business of the theatre.—Yours truly, H. E. MOSS.

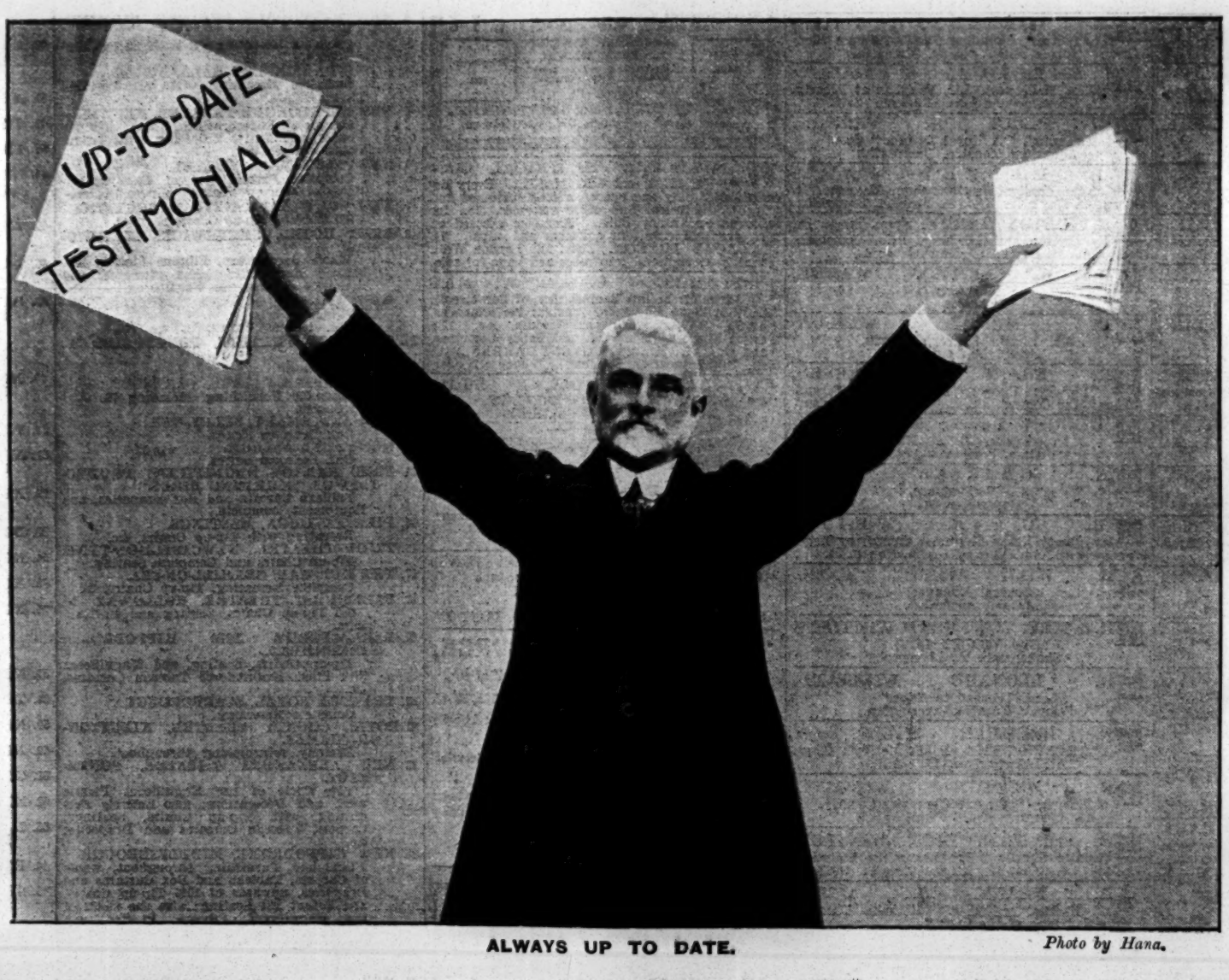
MRS. GEORGE ALEXANDER.

57, Pont St., S.W.
Monday.

Dear Sir,—You have done my gown quite beautifully. I had no idea that dry dyeing was so perfect. Many thanks for the care you have taken with the embroidery.

Truly yours,

Mina Alexander.



ALWAYS UP TO DATE. *Photo by Hana.*

AN ACTRESS.

Opera House,
Cheltenham.
17th October, 1908.

Gentlemen, — I received the coat this morning, and am very pleased with it.

Yours truly,

Gladys Deane.

A COURT DRESSMAKER.

Caley,
Court Dressmakers
21st: Sept., 1907

Mr. Harris, Dear Sir —I wish to thank you for cleaning the linen costumes for me, and at such very short notice. I think it simply wonderful being able to do it in the time, and they looked splendid. I need hardly say how pleased I am under the circumstances. Yours Truly L. Hall.

A MANAGER.

Hippodrome, Croydon.
15th October, 1908.

Dear Mr. Harris,—Dresses to hand, many thanks; they are beautifully cleaned. Herewith cheque in payment of same.

Kind regards, yours faithfully,

J. W. Cordiner.

A MANAGER.

Criterion Theatre, W.,
Sept. 23, 1907.

Dear Mr. Harris,—I am glad to be able to state that Miss Mary Moore and Sir Charles Wyndham are very satisfied with the manner in which you have cleaned the tableaux curtain and all the draperies at the New Theatre. They look as good as new.—Yours very truly, A. F. HENDERSON.

A MANAGER.

Fulham Theatre, S.W., Oct. 24, 1907.

Dear Mr. Harris,—It is with pleasure I am able to express Mr. Robert Arthur's entire satisfaction as to the excellent manner the tableaux curtains, draperies, &c., at the Fulham Theatre have been cleaned by your firm. The work has been admirably carried out.—Yours truly, FREDERICK MERER.

A MANAGER.

J. H. Savile, Paisley and Perth Theatres, Oct. 20, 1908.

T. Harris, Esq. Dear Sir,—We were more than satisfied with the excellent manner in which you cleaned the "Dick Whittington" pantomime dresses last year. I am sending you all the dresses from the pantomime, "Puss in Boots," and shall be obliged if you will immediately have them cleaned for me and then forwarded on to me here at Paisley Theatre. I am sure you will do it with quickest despatch.—Yours faithfully, JOHN HENRY SAVILE.

BETWEEN THE SHOWS.

TABLEAUX CURTAINS, BOX CURTAINS, AND DRAPERIES.

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TO CLEAN UP
AND RENOVATE
PANTOMIME DRESSES!

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Proprietors, the Aberdare, Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company presented here, in brilliant style, *The Way of the World*. Mr. Herbert Skardon gave a capital performance of Cecil Hardy; Miss Sidney Crowe's portrayal of Lady Adela Hardy was effective in every detail; in the rôle of Captain Fred Blake Mr. Victor Gordon gave a good account of himself; as Joe Sparrow Mr. D'Arcy Kelway evokes continual laughter; Miss Violet Vivienne as Polly Bell (the strong woman) caused much fun; an effective rendering of Kate Montague came from Miss Marie Fontaine; Mr. Augustus Hammond was successful as Horatio Bluff; Mr. Clarence Temple gave a manly rendering of Matthew Malyon; and as Sir John Hardy Mr. Pat Quin was commendable.

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Flower Girl*, by Mr. Martin Adeson's company, has drawn good houses this week. Mr. Adeson acts with rollicking humour the part of Joe, and Miss Dorothy Terris sings and plays most vivaciously as the Flower Girl; Mr. Alfred Donohoe, Mr. Norman Bowyer, Mr. R. H. Howard, and Miss Jeannie Holmes are also conspicuously successful, the last-named appearing in the rôle of a Suffragette. The orchestra is skilfully conducted by Mr. Neale.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—An exceptionally interesting display of ju-jitsu wrestling is given by Mr. Frank Lyon, the British champion, and Omoye San, the Japanese lady champion; Mr. Albert Wyndham and his able company appear in a sketch based on *Othello*. Mr. Wyndham acts powerfully as the Moor, and Miss Paula Sheppard pathetically portrays the sorrows of Desdemona; Mr. George Rae, Scotch comedian and dancer, is warmly encored; Spry and Monti are as amusing and resourceful as ever; Olga and Edgar, a pair of cultured musicians, are thoroughly appreciated; Mr. Harry Zetter makes a success as an eccentric comedian and dancer; Allis and Cassati continue popular; and, as usual, Clarke's Nippers earn hearty applause.

Beach Pavilion.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—The chief feature of attraction this week is the men's beauty competition, for which there is a host of entrants. The excellent variety programme is contributed to by those popular favourites Miss Violet Davidson, Miss Muriel Collie, Mr. David Thomson, Mr. Jack Marson, Mr. Jack Kynoch, and Master George Hendry. Despite the lateness of the season and the recent rough weather at the beach, the audiences continue large.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General Manager, Mr. G. B. Lee.—Mr. Tom Melrose, coon comedian, is heartily applauded for his singing and dancing, and no less successful are Miss Vesta Rae, an excellent comedienne and soprano singer, and Mr. Tom Read and Miss Elsie Wright, who are enthusiastically encored for their rendering of the humorous ditty "The Christening of the Kid." The Cinematograph display remains a strong feature of attraction.

Empire Music Hall.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—Among the artists this week are the piquant comedienne Miss Marie Rose; Mr. Archie Murray, a capital coloured comedian; Mr. Henry Mitchell, a dexterous gymnast; and Mr. Arthur Bright, topical vocalist and instrumentalist. An amusing sketch, *Obedient Sam*, is cleverly depicted by the Empire Sketch Company, and Mr. Alexander Calder's cinematograms are greatly appreciated.

ABERTILLERY.—Metropole Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—An excellent production of the famous drama *£1,000 Reward* is given at this theatre by Mr. Frank J. Pitt's capable company. Mr. Pitt submits a realistic impersonation of Vincent Rainsworth, the detective of the new school; and Mr. Frank Dallas acts with power and stirring effect in the part of Inspector Gilbert, of the old school. Fred Ingleford is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Edward de Vere; and Mr. J. Wilton enacts with dramatic force the part of Gilbert Lisle. Miss Kathryne Eckart appropriately sustains the character of Madame Sanson; Miss Marjorie Seymour is good as Meg, a flower girl, and her singing is highly appreciated. The mounting of the piece is decidedly good.

Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—The programme this week is meeting with capital support. Wizard and Irene Stone top the bill in their daring performance in the "Globe of Life." Another interesting feature is Cambo's musical mélange as the man-monkey; and the Itrams are decidedly clever in their pot-pourri act. A pleasing sketch, entitled *Devonshire Cream*, is given by Jack and May McKenzie; while George Bernard uses his vocal powers with great dramatic force in "The last of the Light Brigade." Harry Claff and company provide a treat in their burlesque pantomime, *Demon and Fairy*; Minnie D'Aubyn is very successful as a vocalist; and the Bioscope shows several interesting pictures.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company in the powerful drama *The Breed of the Treshams* is drawing good houses. Mr. Sydney Bland impersonates the character of Lieut. Beresby with irresistible power and skill; Batty is skilfully portrayed by Miss Grace Harlington; Miss Mildred Hodgson makes a graceful and winning Margaret; Mr. Alfred Holles gives a spirited impersonation of Viscount Dorsington; Mr. W. R. Winning is eminently satisfactory as Clement Hungerford; Mr. George Traill distinguishes himself as Sir Henry Curwen; and Mr. Howard Brenan is an admirable Francis Tresham. The remaining characters are all in good hands. The mounting and stage effects are good.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—Mr. Leonard Boyne and talented company are here this week, and are giving a delightful interpretation of *Raffles*. Mr. Leonard Boyne's conception of the leading rôle is masterful, his acting throughout proving his marked ability. As the aristocratic Earl Mr. Arthur Willoughby is wonderfully effective; Mr. Cyril Brymer is good as the Viscount; whilst Mr. Harold West's is a meritorious enactment of Bunny; Mr. E. W. Thomas gives a capable personation of the persistent and shrewd detective Bedford; Mr. Buckstone Clair is capital as Crawshay; and Mr. R. Barbour does well as Barraclough, besides attending to the stage-managing. Miss Blanka Stewart as Lady Melrose is decidedly good; Miss Hilda Moore plays the rôle of Gwen with ease and refinement; Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald's Lady Ethel is all that could be wished for; Miss Lillian Hallows' performance of Mrs. Vidal is marked by ability; and Miss Dorothy Gordon as the French maid Marie does well. The play is effectively staged and tastefully dressed, and large audiences are showing keen appreciation of the performance.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Mr. J. W. Turner's company is producing here some well-tried and popular works. On Monday *The Bohemian Girl* was performed to a good house. Mr. Chas. Le Sueur as Thaddeus sang the music with tunefulness, and his acting was full of vigour and passion; Miss Sarah Williams made a winsome Arline; Mr. Tom Griffiths gave dignity to the Count, and his fine bass voice told excellently in "The heart bowed down"; Mr. Sidney Clifford's Devilshoof was, as usual, full of humour; and the Florestein of Mr. P. Newton was satisfactory. Miss Olive Westwood as the Queen of the Zingari was sufficiently regal as the head of the tribe; and Miss Maud Esdale was also satisfactory in the small rôle of Bada. On Tuesday *Martha* was given; and on Wednesday Mr. Turner appeared as Tom Tug in the popular old operetta *The Waterman*.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The "bill" here this week is headed by Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore in the dramatic episode *The Usurer*. Some good character-acting is witnessed, with Mr. Sydney Mason as a money-lender, Mr. Syd Leslie as an adventurer, and Miss Theresa Moore as the money-lender's wife. Stacey and Williams are a stylish comedy pair; Leo Trainor finds friends as a singing comic; Ajax and George are clever gymnasts; Arthur Bearle sings some taking ditties in an eccentric manner; the Sisters Hardie charm as Scottish duettists and dancers; Milsted Bell Trio appear in a diverting comedietta, *Three Sharps in a Flat*. Emmie Milsted is a vivacious lady with nimble feet; Mabel Milsted is an expert dancer; and Joe Milsted is laughable. Radie Farman fully justifies her title, the "jolly little Dutch girl"; and the Bioscope figures prominently.

Picturedrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.—New animated picture exhibitions are the prominent feature here for the week.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—The Imperial Animated Picture Co. still hold the sway here. In addition to illustrated songs by Mr. Glanmore Jones, the following series of films are shown: Brigands of Calabria, A Reveller's Dream, The Magic Sack, Abduction in the Reign of Louis XIV., and A Night of Terror.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—The chief item of this week's attractive programme is furnished by Kennedy's Kiddies, who give a capital vocal, dancing, and athletic scene; Elton and Elma are clever as well as funny on the triple bars. Other interesting turns are furnished by Rennie, ventriloquist; Hughes and Elliott, in a singing and dancing act; Mr. Walter Barrett, baritone and character vocalist; the Two Errols, comedy tumblers and leapers; Mr. Eugene Brandt, comedian; and the Attergraph pictures.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—*The Soldier's Wedding* attracted a full house on Monday. Miss Dorothy Richardson as Nancy plays the part with a charm which makes her a strong favourite; Mr. Wingold Lawrence takes the part of the hero with great acceptance; Miss Marie McAulay and Mr. Gerald Jordan make themselves sufficiently detested, which is a tribute to their fine acting; as the old farmer, Nathaniel Lee, Mr. Fred Yarnold makes a decided hit; and the other members of the company give loyal support. The scenery is a feature of the production.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Miss Bonwin Carlton's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week, and on Monday night played *The Plucky Nipper*. Mr. W. Lowther infuses the due amount of military dignity into the character of Colonel Fenwick; and Mr. T. Hadlin as Captain Frank Leslie plays in a manner well in keeping with the part. Richard Vanborough is skilfully represented as a thorough-paced villain by Mr. J. P. Dryden; and Mr. Edward Surrey as Bill Burgess gives a life-like representation of the character. Mr. C. Wilson as Tommy Atkins gets plenty of fun out of the character; Miss Esther Lamont gives evidence of ability as Ina Fenwick; Miss Kitty Maynard gives a pleasing impersonation of a blind girl; and Miss Bonwin Carlton scores heavily in the title-rôle. On Tuesday and the two following evenings, *The Old, Old Story* was presented by the same company, with Mr. Edward Surrey as William Grimshaw, detective, and Miss Bonwin Carlton as Tilly, the lady bookie.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Messrs. Jose and Young's company in *Amasis* is here. Mr. W. H. Denny as Pharaoh thoroughly proves his capabilities as a comedian; and Mr. Edward McKeown is an inspiriting Prince Anhotep. Mr. Arthur Stroud as Cheiro the Scribe sings artistically; Mr. Frank Atree is an eccentric Ptolemy; and Mr. Walter D. Brodie a droll Sebak. Miss Elsie Don is a pleasing Natis; and Miss Mabel Burnage invests Princess Amasis with much sweetness and charm.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—A capital array of talent is here this week. The premier position is held by Shaun Glenville, assisted by Miss Ada Tilley and Mr. Augustine Symonds, in a laughable sketch; *The Coastguards*, by Drew and Alders, kept the audience in excellent humour; an ingenious miniature vaudeville theatre entertainment is given by Mlle. Haydee; Will Cornish has a fine musical speciality act; Fred Barrs is a pleasing light comedian; some good baritone songs are well rendered by H. Neild; and the entertainment is concluded by some interesting pictures.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—The reputation of this house is maintained by the capital pictures that are being shown this week. Mr. Fred Lamb, tenor; Messrs. Fred Williams and W. G. Gilmore render songs and duets during the evening.

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Last night Mr. Geo. A. De Gray presented *The Power of the Cross* to a well-filled house. Mr. Geo. A. De Gray portrayed the chief rôle capably; Miss Annie Hylton sustained with marked ability the character of Margaret Seaton; another commendable performance was that of Mr. Robert Hall as Gerald Fairfax; Mr. Alex J. Haviland was good as Dr. Leslie Fairfax; and the comedy parts were well sustained by Mr. Tyrone Power and Miss Etta Turner.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—This week Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson are paying their annual visit, and, as usual, are supported by a body of enthusiastic Shakespearian actors and actresses. On Monday a capital start was made with an excellent all-round performance of *The Merchant of Venice*, Mr. and Mrs. Benson appearing in their well-known and appreciated impersonations of Shylock and Portia. Mr. Baliol Holloway was a new-comer as Bassanio, as was Miss Helen Haye as Nerissa. Both scored a conspicuous success. On Tuesday *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was put on.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—During the temporary absence of Mr. Schuberth the management is being entrusted to Mr. Macdonald, who is fortunate enough to be able to present a pleasing programme. Foremost is Miss Kate Traill, whose songs at the piano are given charmingly; hilarity reigns supreme while The Waldrons occupy the stage in their absurdity, *The Silly Burglar*; Johnson and Devere execute difficult cycling feats upon the high wire and boards; Silvo, on the glasses and silvochimes, is unique; Shrillo is a whistler of wonderful accomplishments; Harold Thorley, who has been seen here in musical comedy, now secures appreciation as a ballad vocalist; Tom Yorke, comedian, also appears; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux remain a fixed attraction.

BATLEY.—Theatre.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—The entertainment this week is provided by Hardie and Von Leer's company in *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*. The company is one of all-round merit, and the performance on Monday night was greatly appreciated by a capital house. Mr. Herbert Pearson gives a clever impersonation of John Edmonds; Mr. Chris Mason's Samuel Hallett is very realistic; Mr. E. Rayson-Cousens scores heavily with an effective portrayal of the Rev. Frank Selby; Mr. Fred Morgan makes an excellent Jonas Deane; Mr. Jack Millan and Mr. W. Walmsley give powerful delineations of the two burglars, Jim Price and Ratty respectively; Miss Rosslyn Vane and Miss Alice Defoe are successful as the sisters from Lancashire; the part of Bessie Edmonds is capaby portrayed by Miss Marguerite Trevosper; and Miss E. Shaw does well as Mrs. Hallett.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's chief company commenced a week's sojourn here on Monday with *Are You a Mason?* Mr. H. Langdon Bruce amusingly impersonates George Fisher; Mr. Wilton Ross is excellent as Ernest Morrison; and Mr. E. H. Paterson acts well as Amos Bloodgood. A humorous exponent of Frank Perry is Mr. Stanley Groom; and Mr. G. P. Polson as John Halton and Mr. Erskholme E. Clive as Hamilton Travers are well fitted for their parts. Miss Adelaide Grace has a part for which she is well suited, viz., Mrs. Bloodgood; Miss Viola Garland is a capable Mrs. Halton, and Miss Mary Kilpack a charming Lottie. Mrs. Bloodgood's daughters were ably impersonated by Misses Rita Narcelli, Rita Johnson, and Dulcie Verney.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—We are favoured this week with a visit from Mr. George Edwardes' company, in the musical play, *The Girls of Gottenberg*, which is meeting with a great reception. Happy Fanny Fields appears as Mitzi, the inn-keeper's daughter, with the most gratifying success, her singing and dancing being frequently encored; Mr. Edmund Payne also achieves a great hit as Max Moddelkoff. His humour is irresistible, and he succeeds in creating the heartiest laughter. As Otto Mr. Leslie Holland is capital; and a delightful impersonation of Elsa is submitted by Miss Thelma Raye; Miss Maisie Gay must be congratulated on her clever impersonation of Clementine, which it would be difficult to excel; Mr. Fred Allandale as Albrecht is much to be commended; and Mr. Fred Payne appears to advantage as Brittlbotti. Miss Florence Phillips as Lucille furnishes a fine exhibition of dancing in the second act. Other rôles are sustained by Miss Kitty Sparrow, Miss Nancy Rich, and Messrs. Jocelyn Hope, Arnold Lucy, and Ernest Arundel. The chorus and augmented orchestra are under the direction of Mr. P. Branam.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Tarro Myaki, who is described as the champion ju-jitsu wrestler of Japan, tops the bill, and furnishes a good exhibition; Mr. Arthur Boyne's comic songs have been enjoyed; and a sensation has been created by the wonderful rifle performance of Col. Gaston Bordeverry. The comedy bar act of the Three Zaracs is excellent; and Messrs. S. and G. Suer provide a clever jumping act. Mr. Dan Conroy, always welcome here, makes a bit hit; and Miss Ivy Aberdare is an accomplished comedienne and dancer. Also here are Miss Maud Prenton, comedienne; the Ladderites, equilibrists; and the Palace pictures.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The leading attraction is provided by Mr. J. W. Wilson and Miss Nellie Waring, who have been most successful in their comedy act, *An Ugly Duckling;* a great hit has been recorded by Probyns' Brooklyn Comedy Four, their performance being decidedly entertaining; and much merriment has been created by Arthur Ferris and Ethel May in their comedy act, *Two's Company, Three's* ——. Miss Daisy Mayer's coon stories, with music, meet with pleased acceptance; Langslow is aptly described as a wonderful rifle shot; and the Bohemians (Will and May), Heeley and Meeley, in their original scena, *The Lucky Tramps*, Dancit, Arthur Holland, vocalist, and the Hipposcope, complete the bill.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The chief position here is filled by the Lukushimas, a troupe of real Japanese entertainers, introducing Otarasan, Japan's premier lady artist, and their reception on Monday was terrific; the Jackson Family return with their refined and clever musical act; and the Schaffers appear to great advantage in their comedy musical act; Phil and Nettie Peters are a very excellent comedy duo; the Brothers Redmond return with their acrobatic act; Spry and Austin take well, and deservedly so; and also here are Miss Marion Scott, comedienne, and the Bioscope.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Packed houses are the rule, and this week the following films have been exhibited, Chieftain's Revenge, I've Lost the Ball, Cliff Climbing, Haunted Bedroom, Indian's Honour, &c. Wragg and Wragg, military athletes, appear with much success; and Mr. Arthur Harris, a capital vocalist, is deservedly encored.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Capital business still continues here. This week many beautiful films have been exhibited, including, The Bargee's Daughter, Wishbone, Kind-hearted Tramp, Alexandra Quadrille, &c. In addition, the charming Sisters Stanley appear; and Mr. Hugh T. Devine's songs are enthusiastically received.

BILSTON.—New Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; General-Manager, Mr. S. Hadskis Dawson.—Mr. Bulmer's company, presenting *The Girl Who Went Astray*, drew a capital house on Monday. Mr. John B. Shinton makes a manly hero as Captain Frank Julian; and Miss Ada Ryder acts in a winning manner as Violet Harvey. Miss Gwynne Warren scores a distinct success in the heavy rôle of Madge Harvey, the girl who went astray. Amusement is provided in a generous measure by the capable trio Mr. Tod Squire (James Yellowsocks), Mr. Edwin Roland (Adolphus Boomer), and Miss Mary Dalby (Molly Smart). Mr. Fred Lloyd makes an effective Rupert Murdock; and Mr. Edgar P. Melrose is very good as Sergt. John Harvey, V.C.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—A return visit from H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's *Lucky Durham* company has attracted crowded houses. Mr. S. Herbert Humber gives a powerful and telling performance of John Durham, securing the sympathy and interest of the audience throughout; Mr. William Heilbronn is conspicuous with a fine rendering of Mr. Valkerton; Mr. Arthur Leigh plays the Hon. Reginald Steighton with irresistible humour and ability; and Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood does full justice to the rôle of Lord Mountfallon. The important character of Helen Vallerton is admirably represented by Miss Alice Esther Bellmore, who sustains the part with much charm and acceptance; Lady Mountfallon is played with considerable tact and effect by Miss Rosabel Dodd; Miss Beatrice Sinclair attains distinction as Mrs. Durham; and Miss Florence Dulhunty is an interesting Hon. Margaret Steighton. Mr. J. H. Gerald is well placed as Arthur Walcombe, and the remaining parts are all adequately filled.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—An excellent programme is contributed by King and Benson, entertaining variety artists and accomplished vocalists; the Six Brothers Luck, in an entertaining sketch, entitled *Lift-'Em's, Limited;* Miss Marie Blythe, a talented comedienne; Lieut. Travis, the popular ventriloquist; Tom E. Hughes, comedian; Miss May De Rowse, comedienne; George Collins, the popular comedian; Miss Ida Barr, a charming serio; Arthur Woodville, comedian and dancer; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical-director.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*The Sins of Society* has given the patrons of this noted old drama-house of the past a taste of up-to-date or Drury Lane drama, of which they have well availed themselves. The company which Mr. F. W. Bolam presents gives a very vivid portrayal. Miss Grace E. Leslie at once touches the sympathies of the audience with her realistic picture of despair and remorse as Marion; Mr. C. F. Collins plays the villain, Noel Ferrers, in a most accomplished and nonchalant manner; Mr. E. Vassal-Vaughan gives a fine display of acting as the self-sacrificing hero, Dorien March; Miss Dorothy Giles brings out the charms of Lady Gwendoline in full perfection; Mr. Blake Adams, in his cleverly humorous way, does credit to the part of Hogg; and other able supporters are Mr. Fredk. Annerley, Miss Pattie Browne (in a delightfully humorous study of Lady Goldbury), Miss Janet Hodson, and Miss Mabel Murray.

Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*The Merry Widow* has returned upon us with its attractions undiminished, the audiences being large and appreciative. Miss Constance Drever bears the title-rôle very gracefully, her singing, dancing, and acting being really exquisite; Mr. Leonard Mackay as the Prince gives an artistic portrayal, which is complete in every way; Mr. W. Talleur Andrews could not be excelled for his singing and acting as Vicomte de Jolidon; and Mr. Eric Thorne, with his ludicrous make-up and his even more ludicrous capers and witticisms as Popoff, keeps the audience in roars. Mr. W. H. Rawlins is another source of mirth as Nisch; and the characters of Natalie, Olga, and Sylvaine are acted to charming advantage by the Misses Cadman, May, and Courtney. Messrs. Leonard, David, Cotter, Greene, and Whitehouse are also prominent.

Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Convict 99* is fulfilling a successful engagement here, the house being full every night. Mr. Frank Beresford is admired for the excellent way he carries out the character of Lawrence Gray; Mr. Benson North does his work well as Ralph Vickers; Mr. Edward Kipling is praiseworthy as James Stinchcombe; Miss Dorothy Milne finds favour for her sympathetic portrayal of Geraldine; Mr. J. Warris Lindon ably sustains the rôle of the father, Christopher Lucas; Mr. Walter Westwood successfully indicates the cruel nature of Warder Gannaway; and Messrs. H. Peachey and W. Fordyce as counsel for the defence and prosecution respectively do well. Miss Jennie Richards as Maggie Mason and Mr. P. L. Julian as Jim Lacy are also well up in their parts.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*The Idol of Paris* is playing to big business here with Mr. James Bell's company. Miss Annie Bell creates a very favourable impression with her fine dresses and still finer acting as Flare-Flare; Mr. Gordon Robey is very good as Prince Sergius; the acting of Mr. Wilson Howard as Philippe D'Esterre, is all that the character requires; Mr. Leonard Aardale makes a popular and manly Victor Cashelle; Miss Annie Megson as Ann makes good use of her opportunities; Mr. Frank H. Dale shines as Tatave; and Miss Phena Powell, Miss Grace Noble, Miss Phare Anderson, Mr. Rd. O'Neill, Mr. Phil Rivers, Mr. Chris. Roberts, and Mr. Prindle Roberts complete the excellent cast.

Carlton Theatre, Saltley.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Shaughraun* on Monday commenced a liberal week's fare here, with Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Draycott and company. The life and soul of the play, of course, was Mr. Draycott, whose clever treatment of the rôle, Conn, will not easily be forgotten. Mrs. Draycott's portrayal of Clare Ffolliot was a charming performance, and got right to the hearts of the audience; and some very excellent support was given by Mr. Geo. Steel as Molineux, Mr. Wilfred J. Short as Robert Ffolliot, Mr. Geo. Arthur as Kinchela, Mr. Harry Scatchard as Harvey Duff, Miss Isa Steel as Arte O'Neale, and Miss Eva Norman as Moya. *The Colleen Bawn, Shadows of a Great City, The Ticket-of-Leave Man, It's Never Too Late to Mend,* and *A Stolen Birthright* have also been done exceedingly well here by this clever company.

Theatre Royal, Aston.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*The Kiss of Judas*, Hardie and Von Leer's new production, is recorded in another column.

Palace Theatre, Bordesley.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Worst Woman in London* is the attraction here, with Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company. Miss Edith Blande essays the title-rôle, Frances Vere, in a clever fashion, and makes the most of it; Miss Dorothy Haigh acts in graceful contrast as Ruth Milford; Mr. George Gaisford makes a very pleasant and manly character of the hero, Jack Felton; Mr. Arthur Preston shows the despicable qualities of Vincent Lyle with much realism; Mr. H. W. Monte depicts the disreputable parent, Drayton, with great skill; Mr. Frank Litchfield gives a good embodiment of Philip Armstrong; Mr. F. Vernon Travers is successful as James Milford; and the comedy parts, Matilda Parker and Bob Goldfinch, are smartly enacted by Miss Polly Marsh and Mr. Willie Scott.

Grand Theatre of Varieties.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The principal attraction here is Reano and his famous band. George Leyton is presenting his scena *The Last Muster*, which is applauded. Another popular turn is that of Billy Howard and Cathryn Harris, who are always bright and entertaining. Mildred Bryan renders her selections in an artistic manner; Lottie Govell dances herself into favour; Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne are expert dancers; Thora's ventriloquism is up to date; the Gandsmidis have a novel acrobatic act; and Gus Le Clerq and Howard and Harris are more amusing than ever.

Empire Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—G. A. Elliott is entertaining crowded houses here. The famous Craggs have a sketch, *Billy, the New Steward*, which is very funny; Lady Mansell and her Juveniles are on a return visit with "The Concert Rehearsal"; and other popular turns are those of Ray and Calden, Little Zola, Coverdale, Maggie Walsh, W. G. Webber, and the Hartley Wonders.

Hippodrome.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Jan Rudenyi is proving an exceptional draw here. With his company he presents a romance, *The Power of Music*, in which he excels as a violinist. Leonard Barry is applauded for his song-scena; some clever card manipulating is done by Carlton; the Panamas have a smart pot-pourri act; and the Van Host Trio of comedy acrobats are particularly good. Rosie Revel, Willie Gardner, Joe Conway, Cedar and Elgar, and Kelly and Agnas complete a strong bill.

BISHOP AUCKLAND.—Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton's company opened here to a good house on Monday, in *The Power of the King*. Mr. Travis Green as Crown Prince Oscar, and Mr. P. Morton Wright as General Stenovie, are excellent; Mr. Gerald Blake gives a fine portrayal of the part of Captain Landgrave; every credit is due to Mr. Charles Witlock for his capital rendition of the King of Vallambrosa; Mr. Wilton Drury keeps the house alive by his funny capers in the part of Fritz Taslheln; and is well assisted by Miss Grace Barton, who makes a pleasing Marget; Miss Leila Zillwood is both charming and admirable as Lady Annastasia; great praise is due to little Miss Ruby Sutherland, an ideal Phillipe; and Miss Georgina V. France fulfils the part of Lady Florina admirably.

BLACKPOOL.—Her Majesty's Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*The Beloved Vagabond*, very ably enacted by Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company, is this week's draw. Gaston de Nerac is played by Mr. Arthur Royston with conspicuous ability; and Miss Nita Faydon has a part exactly suited to her style in Blanquette de Veau. Mr. Warburton Gamble contributes a very creditable impersonation of the Comte de Verneiul; and Mr. Alfred Drayton faithfully portrays Lord Rushworth. Favourable mention should also be made of Miss Kathleen Harrington, whose impersonation of Joanna Rushworth is distinctly good.

Grand Theatre.—Owner and Manager, Mr. T. Sergenson.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmond's company is here this week with *Woman and Wine*. Mr. Edmonds successfully delineates the character of Dick Seymour; whilst Hugh Seymour is ably accounted for by Mr. J. Milne Taylor. The heartless Marcel Rigadout is excellently played by Miss C. St. Elmo; and Miss Octavia de Noel does equally well as La Colombe. The winsome Mary Andrews is impersonated in the most pleasing manner by Miss Violet Sims; and other parts are in efficient hands.

Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Vonetta, the wonderful lady illusionist and protean artist, contributes the principal turn here this week, and her performance is loudly applauded. The Denwartz troupe of acrobats are also much appreciated; whilst Jas. E. Walmsley, a fine tenor vocalist; Mabelle May, in song and dance; the Saletos, marvellous balancers; Elton and Edwin, banjoists; Lily Black, vocalist; Merton and Rydon, comedians; and Rossi Ashton, in a scena, are likewise well received.

BLYTH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—*The Old Home* has been successfully presented by Mr. Roland Yorke, and has aroused much interest. Mr. Yorke as Lord Avondale was a very conspicuous personage; whilst the Daddy Dean of Mr. Harding Thomas won the hearty applause of the large audience. Mr. T. W. Dunscombe won much favour as the Rev. Eric Armstrong; Mr. Fred L. Conynghame as Sam Adams was successful; in the part of Hayle Dean Miss Nina Blake Adams gave a pleasing performance, and won well-merited applause; Mrs. J. W. Braithwait, Miss Mattie Crawford, Messrs. W. Simpson, Walter Osmond, and James L. Air were much in evidence in their respective parets.

Gaiety.—Lessee, Mr. Wm. Yates Gregory; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baugh.—The special turn here is provided by the Royal Quintette of dancers, in special Scotch song scena, which has met with a warm reception; Miss Alice Oakley, serio comedienne, rendered several charming numbers; Charles Ousley, coloured coon vocalist and dancer, is a favourite. The series of pictures on the Bioscope are of a pleasing description.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Tom Doyle.—A grand display of pictures has been on view here, and varieties have been introduced by the Frohmans, musical artists, and George Hirste, Scotch comedian.

BOLTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. George Dance's company in *The Girls of Gottenberg* is here for the week.

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Mr. Bertie Wright (an old Bolton favourite) scores heavily as Max Moddlkopf; Mr. Hugh Henson is happily placed as Prince Otto; Mr. Howard Cridland gives a clever presentment of Britti Bottl, Sergeant of Hussars; Miss Ellaline Thorne is clever and versatile as Mitzi, her singing and dancing securing for her much appreciation; Miss May Marshall acts capitally as Clementine; Miss Amie Grey is graceful and effective as Elsa; and Miss Susie Raymond is a captivating Lucille. The play is admirably staged, the dresses and uniforms specially attractive, the chorus strong and tuneful, and the augmented orchestra ably conducted by Mr. Otto Manns.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The Whiteleys (five in number), Continental speciality artists, are here in their original acrobatic wire-walking and musical pot-pourri act. Also appearing are Eva Chadwick, soprano vocalist; Harry Levaine, eccentric patter comedian; Ralph and Nellie Howard, in a comedy musical sketch, *Military Mad*; Carl Lynn, animal mimic; Frank Hartley, boy juggler; the Sisters Edwardes, vocalists, dancers, and drummers; Dave Laird, versatile comedian; Dora Harrison, refined comedienne; the Dandies; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

Empire Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—A novel show here consists of Maurin's marvellous fountains, of many changes in shape and colour, concluding with living statues inside one of the fountains. Other turns are the Sisters Stuart, smart duettists and dancers; Master Richard May, a young tenor vocalist; Billy Hobbs, coon comedian and dancer; Mlle. Eldee, "the girl in the golden frame"; Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian and dancer; Lily Lonsdale, vocalist; Ernie Myers, comedian; and the Bioscope.

Temperance Hall.—Mr. W. Hamilton's "Latest Excursions," with a varied company of artists, is now in its second week here, and is being well patronised.

BOSTON.—The Palace.—Lessees, Messrs. Fountian and Holloway; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Cass.—The entertainments this week are being witnessed by crowdeded houses. Globella, globe manipulator, gives a very smart show; Gayne, the unusual comedian, tells some original yarns; Herman and Evelyn, are experts on the tightrope; Miss Lydia Raie, is a clever banjoist; Sylvene, assisted by Mlle. Florence, does some novel and refined equilibristic feats; the dramatic episode, *For the Honour of the Family*, is presented by Arthur Alexander and Co.; Cosselby gives a very neat, smart table-jumping performance; and Albert Williams, original comedian and patterer, Walkers, "would-be acrobats," and Chas. Grantley, the "erratic entertainer," help to make up a good programme. Miss Lilian Burns and company appear in the interesting military sketch, *Betrayed*.

BOURNEMOUTH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Mrs. Dot* had a flattering reception here on Monday. Miss Decima Moore gives an admirable delineation of the central character, and is well supported by Mr. Frank Lacy, whose acting of James Blenkinsop is decidedly easy and clever. As Gerald Halstane Mr. James Gelderd does well; and Mr. Philip Leslie plays Freddie Perkins with just the right touch of humour. Lady Sellenger is magnificently dressed and artistically played by Miss Emma Hutchison and Miss Ethel Grahame as Nellie Sellenger and Miss Celia Gordon as Eliza Macgregor are successful.

BRADFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—On Monday night last a large audience greeted very cordially Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's excellent company in the time-honoured drama *The Silver King*. Mr. Fred D. Daviss now fills the character of Wilfred Denver; and Miss Edyth Goodall is the representative of his wife, Nellie. Both parts are finely played; and, with Mr. E. J. George in his old place as Daniel Jaikes and Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp as the exponent of the part of the Spider, it is almost needless to say that the interest in the play is well sustained. Amongst other impersonations calling for special commendation are the Henry Corket of Mr. G. Belmore; the Elijah Coombe of Mr. Arthur Wright, the Olive Skinner of Miss Kathleen Maude, and the Cissy Denver of Miss Flossie Hale Daviss.

Prince's Theatre.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—A return visit this week of Mr. Walter Melville's company in the strong drama *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* is again proving acceptable fare to Mr. Laidler's patrons, who are very demonstrative in their appreciation of the play and the acting. Mr. F. R. Adair is distinctly a success as the rollicking sailor and hero Will Mason; and the villain, James Harcourt, Mr. Raymond Wood represents effectively. As the wayward Sophie Miss Jessie Belmore wins distinction. Other members of the company meriting special notice are Mr. F. Robertson as the disowned son, Miss Kildare as the star of the music hall, Miss Meade as Vesta, and Messrs. S. Saul and F. Ingram in comic parts.

The Empire.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—There is a fine programme here this week, to which the Warsaw Brothers, Australian musical comedians, contribute a lot of fun. Aided by special scenery, Jennie Johns gives in dainty style a good song in naval costume. In *Motoring* a company of Harry Tate's elicit very hearty laughter; "Makers of History" is a series of most artistic living statues of statesmen and others, with striking scenic arrangements, which impress the audience strongly. Arabella Allen, "the Dickens girl," gives some dramatic impersonations of male characters with exceptional skill; James Stuart, as "the tramp at the piano," is diverting; *The Landlord and His Queer Customer* is a humorous knockabout sketch by Johnson and Bert; Sid May returns with his clever mimicry and burlesque wrestling; the trick cycling by Narow Brothers is very clever and particularly funny; and there are some entertaining pictures shown by the Bioscope.

Palace Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Jessie Burnett, comedienne, contributes in pleasing style to a good programme here; and those nimble one-legged acrobats the Donatos elicit well-deserved applause. Steve Bartle contributes some cleverly executed concertina solos; a versatile turn by Gravetta and Parr, American novelty artists, wins applause; as a mimic and whistler Fritz von Liston is distinctly clever; in his usual droll style Wilkie Bard (with company) amuses the audience with familiar songs; Charlie Austin, comedian, in a style all his own, wins hearty laughter with his songs; Harley and Hardon, comedians, give a good turn as deputy for Tony Black, Scotch comedian; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux interest the audience greatly.

BRIDLINGTON.—Royal Prince's Parade.—Manager, Mr. Charles Palmer.—"The Maids and Middies" costume company commenced on Monday the third and last week of their engagement here. They provide a capital programme, under the able management of Mr. Arthur Randall, whose humorous songs are always encored. Mr. Bryan O'Sullivan sings some capital baritone songs with good taste; and Mr. Bert Williams proves a comedian of great ability. Mr. Pennystone Miles, the able pianist of the party, is also possessed of a fine tenor voice; Miss Ethel Dunbar is delightful with her soprano singing; and Miss Bertha Zander's contralto voice is of great effect in her several songs and the concerted numbers by the company. Miss Dunbar shines in her character songs and dances. The Loyal Dominion Animated Picture Company, under the able direction of Mr. Will H. Emmerson, are showing some of their choicest pictures this week. Mr. Palmer, the accomplished manager of the Parade, is to be congratulated upon the excellent companies he has secured during the season for the entertainment of the thousands who have patronised this popular resort. The season terminates this (Saturday) night.

New Spa Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—The manager is affording his patrons a great treat this week by the engagement of Miss Norah Carton's company in that charming play by Mr. Hubert H. Davis, *Captain Drew on Leave*. Mr. Charles B. Vaughan as Captain Drew, R.N., acts with consummate skill, and every line came with telling effect; Mr. Willox Cadogan as Ernest White and Mr. Gerald Venning as Chester Hassell availed themselves to the utmost of their opportunities; Mr. Tom Mowbray is effective as George Moxon; Miss Nora Carton is charming as Miss Mills, her genuine and unaffected humour being delightfully realistic. In the character of Mrs. Moxon Miss Cynthia submits a capital rendering of the part. The small part of the Maid is played by Miss Lydia Hayward. The ladies are charmingly gowned, and the staging is very effective.

BRIGHOUSE.—Albert Theatre. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Charles H. Beanland.—At the top of the bill this week is the Prince Milner Trio, who provide plenty of sensation, novelty, and daring in their pot-pourri act, which includes a number of difficult slack-wire performances, clever juggling, and hoop manipulation; Lozelle, a skilful trapeze artist, is highly appreciated; a typical farmyard scene is realistically presented by the Prinellas; the singing and dancing of the lady in "A Country Flirtation" is very good, and she is ably seconded by her partner; Vowles and Bryan are a couple of capital vocalists, who sing with much effect; Walter Curtis causes merriment with his song "Work" and in his parody on "Twilight"; George Slyam tells funny stories and sings songs in a quaint way; Nancy Renshaw is a fine negro comedienne and clever as a bone soloist; a pretty and entertaining act is given by Nellie Nora; Joe Gill amuses with his funniosities; and animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Company conclude an interesting programme.

BRIGHTON. — Grand Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is here this week with *The Old Folks at Home*. Mr Henry Neilson and Miss Clara Santley as the old folks are realistic and sympathetic, and as their daughter, Dorothy Robin, Miss Maud Warburton displays grace and charm; Mr. Aidan Lovett gives an admirable impersonation of Andrew Ross; Mr. Frank Liston's Lord Howard Kenilworth is a good portrayal; Miss Kate Froude merits praise for her forcible enactment of Patricia Bathurst; and the comic element is furnished by Mr. Frank Caffrey (Ben Jolly) and Miss Nellie Hook (Susan Giles). Plantation ditties are sung by the Excelsior Quartet.

Alhambra.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is a good company here this week. The Griffiths Brothers are as clever and mirth-provoking as ever; the Glenroy Troupe, characteristic dancers and speciality artists, appear with success in *Sons of Britannia's Empire*; Rex Fox's ventriloquial and musical act on the wire is warmly appreciated; Johnny Dwyer is a very entertaining comedian; Baker and Balfe are cordially applauded for their xylophone selections; Chas. J. Johnson, a coloured performer, is a diverting comedian; David Poole is well received in a ventriloquial act; Nat Watkins is a good comedian; Dorma Morgan, a gifted American comedienne, submits a capital turn; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. Kitty Gordon, a charming songstress, achieves complete success; a fine performance of the operatic burlesque, *The Singing Serrant*, is given by John Peterman's company; Percival appears in a clever comedy act; Sahib Gustave Fasola is amusing and mystifying as the Eastern Wonder-worker; Billy Williams, "the man in the velvet suit," is heard in his latest successes; Cullen and Carthy, with Little Cluley, are capital comedians; Lillie Lassah is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Hayes and Watson appear in a dancing act on the billiard-table; Dolly and Elsie are charming duettists and dancers; the Moxon Trio submit a good acrobatic turn; the Three Pirmans are well received in their pantomimic gymnastic act; and the Barrascope pictures are entertaining.

West Pier.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche, supported by a very good company, are here this week with *What the Butler Saw*. Mr. Lionel Rignold is highly diverting and humorous as the Butler; Miss Ada Blanche as Mrs. Barrington makes a dainty and vivacious widow; and Mr. Charles Fawcett's Jack Barrington is a very praiseworthy enactment; while others prominently effective in the strong cast include Mr. Raymond Dudley (Sir Charles Foden), Mr. Harry H. Rignold (Abram Weinstein), Mr. George Ascot (General Dunlop), Mr. G. Nelson Wallace (Professor Shale), and Miss Christine Jensen (Miss Foden).

Palace Pier Theatre.—Mr. Frank Stanmore and company opened here on Monday with *The Gay Deceivers*. Mr. Mark Lester as the butler, Joseph, kept the audience in a merry mood with his amusing impersonation; Mr. Frank Stanmore as Lord Reggie Muddleton was also very entertaining; Miss Dorothy Chard is delightful in her artistic portrayal of Dora Dartrey; Miss Pauline Primm is a fascinating Rosie; Miss Dora Lane's Winnie Winter, and Miss Kate Chard's Mrs. Dewer are admirably sustained, and capital support is given by Mr. Arthur Dennis (Colonel Dewar), Mr. Francis Chamier (Major Kurrie), and Mr. Leslie Hawkins (Pinch).

Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Fred Bauer.—There is a capital series of animated pictures exhibited here this week. The Brigand's Last Exploit conveys a wonderful tale of daring; Buy Me a Dolly is a touching drama from real life; The Lonely Trappers presents an exciting story; and much amusement is afforded by His First Experiment in Chemistry, Mr. Creepy is Startled, Our Village Marathon Race, and New Laid Eggs. Miss Connie Cook contributes songs in pleasing style.

BRISTOL.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. George Alexander, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, and the St. James's Theatre company are here with *The Thief*, and large attendances in all parts of the house have been recorded. Great enthusiasm was created by Mr. Alexander's brilliant performance of Richard Chelford. Miss Irene Vanbrugh's Marise Chelford fully came up to the expectations of the most exacting of critics—at times charming, emotional, and powerful, but always natural. Mr. Dawson Milward acted with much skill as Raymond Leyton; Miss Nina Sevening was a pleasing Isabel Leyton; Mr. Reginald Owen did all that was possible with the difficult part of Harry Leyton; Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds was sufficiently decisive as the Detective Mr. Protheroe; and Mr. Montague Wigan was properly unobtrusive as the servant. The performance commenced with *The Nursery Governess*, in which Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay, Mr. Harcourt Williams, Mr. Ashton Pearce, and Miss Barbara Hannay distinguished themselves.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company is here with *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, the drama being adequately staged. Miss Violet Ennis Lawson acts with much power as Molly Vernon; Miss Sybil Hare is decidedly good as Rose Seymour; Miss Lydia Mannington displays considerable ability as Marian Franklyn; Mr. Edward Maclean is manly and convincing as the Rev. Robert Everton; Mr. Richard Ferris is effective in the heavy part of Captain Geoffrey Caversham; and all the remaining parts are in competent hands.

Palace.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The farewell visit of Georg Hackenschmidt is attracting packed houses. Substantial prizes are offered to competitors, and well-known British wrestlers try their luck. The Tally Ho! Trio entertain with comedy and harmony; the Two Clares amuse with *Troubles of a Motor-car*; McDonald and Huntingdon, eccentric comedians, obtain applause, as also does Bert Danson, comedian; Rene, girl juggler, is expert in her line; Roy Beavis is a competent conjurer; and the performance concludes with up-to-date animated pictures.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—J. C. Piddock and company are successfully presenting a well-staged musical fantasy entitled *The Capture of Venus*, the parts being creditably taken by Miss Florence Lee, Mr. J. C. Piddock, Mr. George D. Lara, and Mr. Gus Oxley. Annie Purcell, comedienne, does a pleasing turn; Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's company have a good dramatic swetch entitled *No. 99*; Horace Lane and Violet Lloyd amuse with their farcical episode *That's Torn It*; Herbert Bates has a good tenor voice, and he sings with artistic taste; Ruby Emerson is a pleasing comedienne; the Arleys are expert comedy cyclists; Mlle. Pollo is an exceptionally clever gymnast; and Charles Ashdown, eccentric legmania comedian, obtains appreciation. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

Colston Hall.—Ralph Pringle's animated pictures continue to be attractive, the leading speciality this week being a fine set of films depicting A Tale of Two Cities, or, The Only Way.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*The Prince of Pilsen* commenced a return visit on Monday, when the house was crowded, and Miss Sophie Harriss was presented by the Australian football team with a handsome bouquet. Miss Sophie Harriss as the widow was in excellent humour and voice. Mr. Harry Kilburn as Hans Wagner kept the house in roars of laughter; Miss Nellie Lomas did well as the dainty Nellie Wagner; Mr. Leslie Owen was a fine Prince, and his singing was much applauded; as also was that of Mr. Arthur Geary as Lieut. Tom Wagner. Mr. Charles Rogers was a comical Earl; Mr. Ernest Gifford as Francois and Miss Mabel Dent as Sidonie were an amusing French couple. Miss Dora Christian worked hard as Edith Adams; and Miss Marion Ryder was a clever Jimmie. The scenery and dresses (especially of Miss Harris) were beautiful. The choruses and manœuvres were very pleasing. Many of the songs were encored, and at the end the curtain had to be raised several times.

BURNLEY.—Victoria Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—There was a splendid audience here on Monday for the opening performance of *Leah Kleschna*, performed by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company. Miss Bessie Rignold, an actress of great resource and charm, scores high honours in the title-rôle. Mr. Hamilton Dean pleases greatly in the manly part of Paul Sylvaine; and Mr. William Clayton displays cleverness and power in the exacting rôle of Kleschna. The work of Mr. Charles Barrett as Valentine Favre is good; and Mr. Gilbert Heron is a capital representative of Schram; Raoul Berton is in the capable hands of Mr. Algernon Hicks and Miss Ethel Russell does well as Mme. Berton.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The bill at this house this week goes from start to finish with a swing. The Carmos, on a return visit, in their display of herculean jugglery are greeted with applause; and Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe, in a comedy sketch by Zoe Coe, entitled *My Burglar*, thoroughly please; the Sisters Julian receive approbation for pretty duets; Bert Lytton, the swell comique, has two good songs; F. A. Martell is a smart equilibrist; Tony Black, Scotch comedian, is good in song and patter; Odeyne Spark, comedienne, captivates with her songs; and Folay and Francis are a couple of funny fellows. The Empire Theatrescope shows good films.

Palace Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—A new venture which promises to become a successful fixture here is "The Picture Hour." From 3 to 4 daily pictures of the best quality are being exhibited, and the prices—6d., 4d., and 2d.—are so reasonable that success is assured. On Monday night there was a crowded house, when a programme of all-round excellence was put forward. Mr. George Auger, giant actor, and company, including several miniature people, are seen in a beautiful bijou pantomime *Jack the Giant Killer*. The Kurios, in a "komical koncoction of komicalities," are responsible for bursts of laughter in a really clever turn; Addie Dorina, in *Dr. Spot's Patients*, is a clever actress, and performs a series of wonderfully quick changes; smart cycling tricks are done by the Bros. St. Clair. A humorous comedy sketch is provided by Geoffreys and Benson; and Elmo and Rego make an impression with comedy acrobatics; Nellie Brierley, a cripple mill girl, has a sweet soprano voice; and Chas. Tuppen, coach-horn blower, is excellent. The Victoria Falls are shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — Opera House (New Hippodrome).—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Chung Ling Soo, the famouse Chinese conjuror, tops the bill here this week, and fairly astounds the crowded houses with his marvellous illusions; Slippere, blind musician, a really clever turn, is received with unstinted applause; Billy Richardson's stump oration is clever and up-to-date; a dressing-room interlude, presented by the Camplins, makes a hit; the Fimans, with clever dances and patter, score in their fire station scene; a clever juggling and comedy turn is provided by Caroze and Keith; Clive Watts, a champion dancer, is worthy of the name; a novel and original singing turn is given by Arthur Gill, the man of many voices; and Bertha Norwood sings sweetly and dances cleverly.

BURY (Lancs.).—Theatre Royal and Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The Dunedin Troupe of trick cyclists are paying a welcome visit, and their clever turn is much appreciated. The Pasquali Bros. are also prominent as tumblers and equilibrists; E. Thornley Dodge, entertainer, well known locally, makes his first appearance on the Bury music hall stage, and gives a finished performance. Other good items are Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls in a musical act; Edna Latonne, an exceedingly smart male impersonator; Cissie Curlette, mimetic vocalist; Jack Barker, light comedian, with some good songs; and Natalia and Diana, who provide an aerial gymnastic display. The Ottograph Pictures conclude.

Circus of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—An entirely new series of pictures includes some very interesting films, The Photographer's Flirtation being particularly noticeable. Pleasant variety is supplied by Connie Mascot, vocalist and dancer, and T. C. Jaques, actor-vocalist.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—The principal attraction here is Miss Harriett Vernon. Her latest success, "Sunshine and shadow," is well received. Maxford and O'Neill as patter comedians are most entertaining, their patter being distinctly good; Harry Russon shines as an actor-comedian; and Billy Farrell, coloured comedian, gives a capital performance. Tom Morris, whistler; Leslie Race, comedian; the Hentys, in a sketch entitled *The Divine Amelia*; Emil and Ediss, banjoists; and Western Justice on the Bioscope all add to the success of the show.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—Theatre Royal.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company is playing *When Knights Were Bold* here to crowded houses. Mr. Bert Beswick is amusing in his portrayal of Sir Guy de Vere; excellent performances of Wittle and Barker come from Mr. Chas. Roadnight and Mr. Sydney Courtnay; Mr. Algernon W. Lee is good as the Hon. Chas. Widdicombe, as is Mr. Colin Johnston as the Rev. Peter Pottlebury. Mr. Chas. Benson (Isaacson) and Mr. Humphrey Warden (Sir Bryan Ballymote) are quite equal to their responsibilities. Miss Edith Anton Laing makes a stately Lady Rowena; Miss Madge Devereux and Miss Nora Kingsley as Sarah Isaacson and Mrs. Waldegrave make the most of their opportunities; a smart Alice Barker is found in Miss Ada Waugh; and the rôles of Lady Millicent and Kate are satisfactorily played by Miss Mary Gorkie and Miss Alice Shepperd.

CAMBRIDGE. — New Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and company are this week paying their usual visit here with a round of Shakespearean and old English plays. On Monday night *The Merchant of Venice* was presented. The Shylock of Mr. Maclaren is always well worth witnessing; Miss Violet Sterne made an ideal Portia, having a very fine presence and charming voice; Mr. Gordon Phillott made an excellent Launcelot Gobbo.

CARDIFF.—New Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—After a short absence we have a most welcome return visit of grand opera by the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, and on Monday *Carmen* was repeated before a large and enthusiastic audience. Miss Doris Woodall was the Carmen, and gave a deeply interesting reading of the character; she sang with taste and skill, and acted throughout with much power and grace. Mr. Edward Davies gained great favour by his rendering of Don José, his voice being sweet in tone and flexible; Mr. Hebden Foster as the toreador, Escamillo, won an enthusiastic encore; a special treat was provided by Mme. Ina Hill, who undertook Micaela in a delightful manner, and her singing won the admiration of all. The opera was well performed, and nothing was wanting to make the presentation perfect. On Tuesday Gounod's *Faust* was underlined, with Miss Elizabeth Burgess as Marguerite, Mr. Walter Wheatley as Faust, and Mr. Arthur Winckworth as Mephistopheles. *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, *Maritana*, *Don Giovanni*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Il Trovatore* are also billed.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—A strong programme is drawing packed houses this week. Harry Tate makes a more than welcome re-appearance in his clever skit, *Fishing*, and achieves an additional triumph in a city where he is already at the height of popularity; a great hit is made by Ernie Mayne, a comedian who gains unbounded applause; the Ten-ji Troupe of jugglers give a remarkable performance; Nellie Wallace obtains full appreciation by her really clever and humorous characterisations; Dutch Daly is as entertaining with his story-telling as he is delightful with his concertina-playing; Lively Lily Langtry is as sprightly as ever, and proves quite up to expectations; the Mayvilles, with their clever Lilliputian entertainment, are excellent exponents of their business; and Alf. Chester opens the programme with a capital nautical song, the Bioscope completing.

Theatre Royal.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—A capital representation of *Monte Cristo* is provided at the Royal this week, by Mr. Junius Booth's company. Mr. Booth undertakes the rôle of Edmond Dantes, and submits a delineation worthy of his reputation; Miss Cecelia Dare's interpretation of Mercedes quite charmed the large audiences which nightly fill the theatre; Mr. H. Bannister's rendition of Danglers stamps him as an actor of ability; Mr. Conrad Heywood's representation of M. Nortier is worthy of much praise; as Fernand Mondego Mr. John Howden has full opportunity for the exercise of his histrionic powers; and Mr. C. W. Crowe, Mr. Ralf Leon, Miss Jessie Blake, and Miss Alice West all render effective aid. Mr. Herbert Colley acts cleverly as Caderousse.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—At the head of the bill are Geo. M. Marriott and company, in a sensational dramatic sketch, entitled *The Maid of the Alps*, which has drawn crowded houses. Mr. Marriott as Mother Potard scores a success; while Mr. Frank Seton made a manly Stratton Towers. Miss Edith Finlay as Louise gained much applause for her acting and for her well-rendered French and Tyrolean songs; quite the most talented animal act seen here for some time is that of Carl and Mary Ohm; Jimmy Laurie proves a first-class comedian; the Balston Boys, comedy duettists, go well; the Two Kays please in a novelty scena, *The Cuckoo*; Phern and Phern, musical speciality artists, secure well-merited approbation; and Harry Milton, Dutch comedian; Gibbon and Bell, in acrobatic dancing act; and the Bio-tableaux complete the programme.

CARLISLE.—H.M. Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—A return visit of Mr. Louis Calvert's company in *Sunday* is proving popular. Miss Ethel Ward in the title-rôle is both pathetic and humorous; as Colonel Brinthorpe, Mr. Pennington Gush is particularly good; of the "boys," Mr. James Skea as Towzer was as solid and emphatic as the part demanded; Mr. James Hussey as Lively was happily humorous; and Mr. Alec Alves played Jacky with a fine appreciation of the character. Mr. A. Colton Holmes as Davy, Mr. T. Norman Walter as Tom Oxley, and Miss Helen G. Edwins as Mrs. Naresby contributed excellent performances.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—The Gentle Mackweys, who head the bill this week, contribute a clever knockabout acrobatic act; the Paxton Troupe, on a return visit, in their vaulting and balancing feats, are warmly applauded; Harry Marte has a good song; Rudge Whitworth as a society entertainer meets with favour; and the Raymond Trio as musicians and dancers are popular. Rose Sartella gives a capital turn; and Stuart and Stuart, eccentric comedy entertainers and smart dancers, score an immediate success. The Pepiscope shows some interesting pictures.

CARMARTHEN.—Assembly Rooms.—Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—This week delighted audiences have attended the splendid performances of Tom Owens, the Welsh comedian, and his Welsh Pierrots and star variety company. Tom Owens is inimitable in his Welsh impersonations; Miss Ethel Veronica amuses with her serio-comic contributions; Miss Catherine Ray possesses a nice soprano voice, and gives a fine interpretation to the toast song in *The Checkers* as Lady Lovell; Miss Lilian Therese is an accomplished mandolinist; Miss Mollie Gwynne delights with her contralto songs; Mr. Francis Maxwell-Stewart wins rounds of applause with his tenor solos; Mr. Reginald Bale (tenor) and Mr. Alfred Bale (bass) are likewise successful in their songs; Mr. Harry Vernon is excellent as a descriptive vocalist; Mr. Bert Crosbie shines as a "rag-time" dancer, as does Miss Ethel Vere in her soubrette contributions. The musical comedy sketch *Checkers* by the company is excellently well played and creates roars of laughter.

CASTLEFORD.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman, J.P.—Mr. R. A. Roberts and company, under the direction of Mr. Charles Boult, is appearing here with *Straight from the Shoulder*. The play is admirably staged, and the acting is good. Mr. Matthew Boulton undertakes the part of the hero, Harry Bletchley, and wins much applause for his vigorous portrayal; Millicent Grant is played by Miss Beatrice Burdett, who does full justice to the part; the scheming villainies of Major Lucas are brought into prominence by the clever acting of Mr. Leonard Clarke; Mr. George H. Child plays the Rev. John Armitage with much refinement and dignity; as the wealthy Miss Brittle Miss Edie Casson acts in a delightfully humorous vein; and the niece, Gladys, finds a bright and vivacious representative in Miss Beatrice Moore, who also sings several good songs. Mr. Fred Beck's songs are also applauded, and his acting as Jim Green causes many a hearty laugh; Mr. George Fisher is excellent as Fred Stafford; Miss Frances Bruce is effective as Mary Gleeson; and Mr. Bertram Carlton makes a capital Sergeant.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Travis.—Burg, Hand, and Wise top the bill with their acrobatic comedy act, *Ye Brown Cow Inn*, and their many antics are productive of roars of laughter; Tom Kelly and company have a laughable sketch in *The Silly Servant*; A. G. Spry is a quaint comedian; a couple of pleasing duets are given by Lambert and Hands (Edwin and Emmie) with much feeling and sincerity; Gladys Bushell's songs are sweetly rendered; and Fred Hovis sings in an enjoyable manner some good chorus songs. The Duncans display ability and dexterity in manipulating musical instruments; Fred Burwell adds to the general entertainment as a comedian; and a series of capital pictures are shown by the Loyal Dominion Co.

CHATHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company is here with *The Gay Gordons*. Miss Maie Ash and Mr. Frank Lincoln as Peggy Quainton and Angus Graeme revel in their respective parts, and work with unflagging energy; Mr. Tom Graves creates plenty of fun as Nervy Nat; Mr. Edward Nainby is a quaint Edmund Siddons; Miss Ida Laurie makes the most of her opportunities as Charlotte; and the rôle of Victoria was pleasingly played by Miss Nellie Lonnen. Miss Gladys Deane was a very natural Mary McLeod, and as Corporal John Smith Mr. Norman Forrest was amusing.

Barnard's Palace of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Maitland Marler and company are appearing here in a musical comedy sketch, entitled *His Worship the Mayor*, with Mr. Marler in the title-rôle scoring throughout; Chris Van Bern gives a highly creditable scena, in which he displays much versatility; Curwen and Belle contribute a rollicking conception, under the style of *The International Club*; the Austral Trio are to be commended for their pleasing musical mélange; Jock Campbell scores with "The Cuckoo"; Lacey's Erascope has a screaming film, Percy Wanted a Moustache, and another depicting the doings of Sherlock Holmes; while others billed are Sybil Lester, lady-baritone; the Menzies, in *The Suffragette*; and Dolly Golden, speciality dancer.

CHELTENHAM.—Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Sir John Hare and his company opened a three days' farewell engagement on Monday in *A Pair of Spectacles* to a house filled to overflowing. Sir John's realisation of the part of Benjamin Goldsmith is, to say the least, inimitable and beyond praise; Mr. Charles Groves's impersonation of Gregory Goldfinch is a most admirable piece of comedy, true to the life; Mr. Bertram Steer is particularly good as Dick; Miss Mona K. Oram is charming as Mrs. Goldfinch; and Mr. Ivo Dawson as Percy and Miss Amy Brandon Thomas as Lucy Lorrimer are a natural and pleasing pair of lovers. Mr. J. H. Brewer gives a neat little study of the snivelling old shoemaker Bartholomew; Mr. Fred W. Permain is excellent as the faithful butler, Joyce; Mr. W. T. Lovell does well as Lorrimer; and Miss B. Grand and Mr. E. Kean supply effective assumptions. *A Quiet Rubber* followed the comedy. On Tuesday *The Gay Lord Quex* was given, and on Wednesday *Caste*. The latter half of the week Mr. Edward Terry pays a welcome return visit with *Sweet Lavender*, *Liberty Hall*, *The Magistrate*, and *Fiander's Widow*.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—This week we have a very pleasing change, Mr. Reginald Dance's company presenting *Raffles*. An excellent house assembled on Monday, and the play met with enthusiastic approval. As A. J. Raffles, Mr. Lewis Edgard gave an exceptionally fine and sympathetic portrayal; Mr. Arthur Bell capitally undertook Harry Manders (Bunny); Mr. C. Kean was particularly good as Mr. Curtis Bedford; Lord Amersteth being most effectively rendered by Mr. P. Alexander, as was Crawshay by Mr. Oswald Griffiths. Miss Brenda Gibson's Mrs. Vidal was a highly-finished study; Gwendoline Conron was charmingly interpreted by Miss Frances Titheradge; and Miss Eva Bevington as Marie was a distinct success.

Town Hall.—This hall is occupied for the week by Mr. Chas. W. Poole's up-to-date Myriorama, excellent fare being provided. In addition, there are capital pictures on the Bioscope. The Craig Family, society gymnasts, are a particularly clever troupe; Ray and Miles are smart comedy jugglers; Dai Davies is a capital mimic and whistler; Harland and Rollison are entertaining eccentric musicians; and last, but not least, there is Amasis, the Egyptian man of mystery.

CLACTON-ON-SEA.—Operetta House.—Lessee, Mr. W. F. Jury; Manager, Mr. Dudley Harcourt.—Good business is still being done here. A film showing Wilber Wright's flying machine is a great attraction, and other instructive and amusing pictures are shown. Miss Clairette Florence brings down the house with her illustrated songs.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Wentworth Croke presented *The Prodigal Son* here on Monday, and Hall Caine's play, magnificently staged, dressed, and acted, was received with enthusiasm. Mr. Hugh Montgomery made a powerful Magnus, his fine, manly presence and lucid enunciation being strong points; Mr. Gordon Macintosh undertook with ability the difficult rôle of Oscar; Miss Barbara Gott was a natural Anna; Miss Mildred Cottell acted with dramatic force the part of Helga; Thora and Elin were cleverly portrayed by Miss Valerie Crespin; Mr. Charles Cooper acted with dignity the part of Governor Magnussun; and Miss Marie Harcourt added a spice of dry humour as Margaret Neilson. Mr. Philip Renouf was well suited to the rôle of Factor Neilson; and the very numerous minor parts were in skilful hands.

Hippodrome.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The Three Royal Dreadnoughts are paying a return visit with their rifle sh

tion; Le Strad, in his impersonations of well-known 'cellists and violinists, contributes a most acceptable turn; Mark Leslie, swell coon comedian and dancer, excels in the latter branch; the Sisters du Cane, duettists and dancers, are a charming pair; Hardie Palm, quaint comedian, is brimful of parodies; and Alice Maple, comedienne and dancer, is most prominent in the last-named rôle. Maud Dennis also appears in a Salome dance.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. T. Arthur Jones and his company are presenting here this week *When Other Lips*. Miss Marie Daventry is excellent in the rôle of Ruth Lingley, and as Ted Daunton Mr. Jones is equally good; Basil Cunninghame is rendered by Mr. Julian d'Alberti with good effect; and as Tommy Neccles Mr. Cecil Raymond does well. Miss Marie Grace is seen to advantage as Octavia; Mr Arthur A. Felton as Ginger and Miss Lizzie Lennon as Kitty cause much laughter. The remaining parts are well filled.

CORK.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD. — Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The programme here is full of good things. Edward Crossland's melody makers, five in number, provide a musical turn of great merit; Miss Mi Narom is a dainty comedienne; the Haverleys, American song illustrators, give a meritorious turn; the De Wynne Brothers are refined athletes; the Sisters Casselli are a fetching pair of dancers; Crosby and Walker, jocular Eton Boys, are amusing; Lena Brunton, comedienne and mimic, succeeds in pleasing; and Russell Wallett (the lady in black) contributes humorous stories and songs. The Palascope throws on the screen some laughable films.

COVENTRY.—THE OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakespearean company is paying a welcome visit here this week with *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *The School for Scandal*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Faust*, *Julius Cæsar*, and *Hamlet*. A good house gathered on Monday night for *The Merry Wives*, in which Mr. Henry Herbert scored a big success as Sir John, being ably supported by Miss Gladys Vanderzee as Mistress Ford and Miss Violet Farebrother as Mistress Page. Miss May de Launey as Mistress Quickly was amusing; and Mr. Bernard Limpus as Ford was successful.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—The top turn this week is given by Mr. F. V. St. Clair, who has a hearty reception for his popular songs; a good turn is given by Miss Gertie Gitana, whose songs and dances please the audience immensely; Miss Maude Ford is a good comedienne; some wonderful acrobatic tricks are shown by members of the Royal Tokio Troupe; a good turn is given by the Three Sisters Thurban, vocalists and instrumentalists; Edgar Forrest and company give a farcical comedy, entitled *A Great Surprise;* Keith and Merson appear in a hunting absurdity, entitled *The Meet;* and some good pictures on the Bioscope conclude.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—Mr. Fred Edwards and company are paying a welcome return visit here in their capital sketch *Kleptomaniacs*, which is well acted. Miss May Edouin is a clever impersonator; the Cavallottis Brothers are a couple of smart instrumentalists; Rhoda Paul is well received in her latest success, "It's the Gay Gordons"; Les Voces give some pleasing operatic solos; and Lord, Murray, and Lord give a smart gymnastic comedy display. Olive and Owen appear in their sketch, *The Road Tinkers;* and Alf. Maynall is a smart comedian.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—This week we have Mr. Percy Norman's company in *A Woman Worth Winning*. Miss Chrissie Dunbar takes the leading part of Roma Pauloff, and gives a powerful rendering of a difficult character; Mr. A. B. Mackay is entrusted with the interpretation of the heavy character, and as General Bomiski he finds full scope for his histrionic powers. Mr. Geo. Edwin Clive gives a masterly impersonation of Fergus Lovinsky, and wins much applause; Mr. Louis Newman as Bertie Scribbles ably combines pathos and humour; Mr. Ernest Kendrick and Miss Ida Mackay as Peter Popples and Katerine Kloes cause much fun and merriment; Mr. Sidney Burton takes the part of Czar Nicholas with dignity and expression; Mr. Gilbert Standing as Amos Pauloff deserves special mention for a fine piece of acting; Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh displays much ability in his able Ivan Bardoff; Miss Trixie Leighton as Lola Kalnorky gives a pleasing rendition; Mr. Jack Corlass as Colonel Mashemoff and Mr. Wynne Davies as Fedor Petronovitch are both well placed.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Mr. Frank Mouillot is presenting *Tom Jones* here. The company is a powerful one, the title-rôle being enacted in a clever manner by Mr. Cyril Thompson. Mr. George Elton as Benjamin Partridge is responsible for much humour; Mr. Fred Seymour does ample justice to the part of Squire Western; Mr. Alfred H. Majilton is a capable Blifil; and Mr. A. J. Nicholls a capital Mr. Alworthy. Miss Alice Moffat is dainty and charming as Sophia, and her singing wins golden opinions; Miss Florrie Saunders also sings and plays excellently as Honour; Miss F. McAvoy is a dignified Miss Western; and Miss Olive Eltone distinguishes herself as Lady Bellaston.

CROYDON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—The Compton Comedy Company is here this week, and is being cordially greeted. On Monday *Davy Garrick* was given, and Mr. Edward Compton submitted an impersonation of the title-rôle, which did him infinite credit; Mr. H. Crocker just touched the right note as Alderman Gresham; Mr. Henry Worrall gave a free and easy portrayal of the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut; Mr. Philip Gordon was very droll as Rumbelow; Mr. Wallace Johnston was capital as Sowerberry; and Mr. Ivan Leslie was a quaint Simpkins. Miss Constance Merton cut a curious figure as Selina; Miss Marie Hassell contributed a smart performance as Mrs. Rumbelow; and Miss Kathleen Leigh made a charming and affectionate Violet. Messrs. J. W. Austin and Laurence Meade completed the cast as John and Davis. The curtain-raiser was Henry Alexander's one-act comedy, *The Desperate Lover*.

HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company, in *The Heart of a Hero*, is here this week. Mr. Ernest J. Fare as Jem Resdale proves himself a capable actor; Mr. J. P. Lallen is good as Mark Mari; Mr. James Mailey depicts the villain Wilfred Mari in a telling manner; Mr. Will White as Timothy Heighno is very amusing; Mr. Frank Kelland plays the part of the hero, Jack Collinson, in good style; and Mr. David Donaldson gives an excellent representation of George Winson. Miss Emma Rainbow does well in her dual rôle; Miss Mabel Fare as May Rider is impressive as the heroine; Miss M. Courtney as Susie Slack deserves praise; and Miss Madge Steeple gives a good portrayal of Nell Resdale. The same company is also playing *The Shaughraun* and *The Ticket-of-Leave Man* during the week.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Messrs. Garside and Knowles' company is here with *Her Marriage Vow*. Miss Lillian Herries as Kate Walters is excellent; Mr. C. B. Bedells as Gilbert Carlton gives a powerful impersonation; Ned Benton is in the able hands of Mr. J. Forbes Knowles; Mr. Edwin Wishaw as Daffy Dan achieves a noteworthy success; Mr. H. Vernon and Miss Winifred Barton in the comedy parts as Larry Leary and Maggie Clare cause a great amount of fun; Mr. Wilford Baily as Eben Chubb is good; Miss Grace Garside is a typical old maid; and Miss Nellie Shirley does justice to the part of Hester Norton.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—A good bill this week is headed by the Scottish Meisters in their vocal extravaganza *Ancestral Spirits;* Albas, on the wire, thrills the house with his daring tricks; George Adams, baritone, goes well; Charles Russell, comedian, is excellent; and other items of the bill are Sisters Warwick, trick cyclists; Ryan and Hall, in an eccentric acrobatic act; Yvonne Lamor, a burlesque singer, and the Pepiscope pictures.

DARWEN.—PUBLIC HALL, PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—The Camerons create roars of laughter in their sketch *Plough Boy and Lady Guide;* Sandale and Somers earn rounds of applause for their fine dancing; Cissie Carter wins favour with her illustrated songs; and Connie Croston pleases with her singing. The variety turns are interspersed with pictures on the Bioscope.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Miss Ellen Terry is here with *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. She is supported by a fine all-round company, including her husband, Mr. James Carew. Miss Terry's Lady Cicely is a consummate piece of acting, and in her hands the character lives; Captain Brassbound has an admirable exponent in Mr. Carew. Other parts calling for special mention are those of Sir Howard Hallam, played in excellent style by Mr. Geo. Fitzgerald; the Rev. Leslie Rankin, very ably accounted for by Mr. Story-Gofton; Drinkwater, the Cockney hooligan, cleverly impersonated by Mr. Max Montesole; and Captain Kearney, capably portrayed by Mr. Frank Powell. The remaining characters are efficiently impersonated by Messrs. Edwin Cushman, Guy Addison, Herbert Lomas, David Hallam, Sydney Travers, H. H. Hay Cameron, Arthur Bachner, Gerard Hoffman, and Master Roberts.

PALACE. — Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—An attractive comedy turn heads the bill here this week in the person of Maidie Scott, whose charming manner and excellently-rendered songs gain for her a hearty reception and numerous recalls. Ted Curtis's Piccaninnies are praiseworthy singers and dancers; Terry and Bentley are a smart comedy duo; Ariel and Astarte are clever triple-bar experts; Harry Taylor is an amusing Hebrew comedian; Jack Rae as a gymnast is both amusing and clever; and Morrisey is an entertaining musical equilibrist. The Bioscope is again presenting an exciting film.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company is a strong attraction with the smartly-written musical comedy *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Mr. Harry Ugar as Silas Crump is the cause of roars of laughter; Miss Nellie Harcourt, who has already appeared 2,634 times in the part of Judith, shows no signs whatever of staleness; and Miss Dorothy Desmonde as Dorothy and Miss Nellie Valentine as Ruth Montrose also come in for popular approval.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The principal position on the bill is this week allocated to Mr. Fred Bowyer's company in *The Little Stowaway*, in which a cleverly-worked nautical sketch is presented, the principal parts being undertaken with commendable ability by Messrs. J. H. Walton (captain), Mr. G. Stratton (lieutenant), and Mr. Horace Corbyn (boatswain), while Miss Marjory Armstrong is delightfully sympathetic in the title-rôle. Another attractive item is Miss Mona Garrick, whose scenes and characters from famous plays are followed with earnest attention, and are heartily applauded; the Jackey Trio are a smart little company, in which Whistling George excels; and Henri Bekker mystifies the audience with some well-executed conjuring tricks. Other very acceptable items are furnished by Harry Morris, a clever mimic; the Della Sisters; and Charles Woodward, comedian.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—*His Wife no Longer* is well played by Mr. Stephen Pritt's company. Mr. Clavering Craig as Anthony Merivale makes a consistent and convincing villain; Mr. David Donaldson gives quite a Dickens touch with his exposition of Daniel Trench, the poor, weak-willed, but kindly old clerk; Miss Rosa Mervyn plays the harassed and brutally-used wife, Mrs. Merivale, sympathetically and with dignity; Miss Florrie Hayes shows pleasing tact and delicacy as Marion Jefferies; Messrs. E. Paul Neville and C. Wordley Hulse as Harold Medworth and the Rev. Frank Willacy respectively worthily sustain their parts; Mr. David McFarlane's bucolic policeman (P.C. Michael Flanagan) is genuinely humorous; Miss Nellie Lawson (Lucy Hooper) and Mr. Arthur Beaufort (Tommy Oglethorpe) both work hard to amuse. The play is well mounted and dressed.

DONCASTER. — NEW GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Alfred Sutro's play *The Walls of Jericho* has the boards for the week. Mr. Alfred Goddard is a fine exponent of Jack Frobisher; Mr. Russell Barry ably accounts for the part of Hankey Barrister; Mr. Ben Lewin applies a vivid colouring to the Marquis of Steventon; Miss Pauline Straus is happy in the rôle of Miss Mornington; and Miss Ormonde Wynne's conception of Lady Westerby is a lofty one. Lady Lucy Derenham is charmingly presented by Miss Elsie Ross; and Lady Alethea Frobisher is an artistic performance by Miss Nancy Beresford.

DOVER. — ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert.—Among the items of a strong bill is the sketch, cleverly presented by Mr. Fred S. Peake and company; speciality dancing is given by Mr. Harry Barnes and his "Six Idols"; another terpsichorean turn is contributed by the Haydons; the extraordinary suppleness of Sim Maree makes his turn a most notable one; some clever tumbling and acrobatic work is introduced by Griffin and Ardell; Maude Haile is a dainty comedienne; and Charles Harvey is an amusing droll.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—*Mrs. Dot* is presented here by Miss May Palfrey and company to capital houses. Miss Palfrey as the charming widow, Mrs. Worthley, won rounds of applause for her clever and effective portrayal, the part suiting her admirably. In the character of Gerald Halstane Mr. Hugh C. Buckler is highly successful; and Mr. F. Kinsley Peill gives a praiseworthy representation of James Blenkinsop; Freddie Perkins is in the capable hands of Mr. Basil Hallam; Miss Evelyn Beaumont makes a pleasing Nellie Sellinger; and Miss Aida Jenoure submits an excellent reading of Lady Sellinger; Mr. McIntyre Wickstead is conspicuous as Charles; and Mrs. G. Kemmis enacts the part of Miss Macgregor capitally. The comedy is preceded by an amusing curtain-raiser, *A Lovely Dinner*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—There was an exceedingly large audience present on Monday, when Mr. Arthur Bourchier, with his company, including Miss Violet Vanbrugh, gave a most impressive performance of *The Walls of Jericho*, which was heartily appreciated. Miss Vanbrugh as Lady Frobisher was most artistic, and her performance won the highest admiration. Mr. Bourchier acted with feeling and irresistible dramatic power in the character of Jack Frobisher; Mr. Arthur Whitby gave a clever impersonation of the Marquis of Steventon; Mr. Leon Quartermaine was perfect as Hankey Bannister; and Mr. Charles Bryant was all that could be desired as Harry Dallas. Mrs. Henrietta Watson effectively portrayed the rôle of Lady Westerby; and Miss Pamela Gaythorne was charming as Lady Lucy Derenham. The staging was perfect.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones. — The capital programme provided here continues to draw large houses nightly. The new films include The Train Robbery, Fra Diavolo, Over the Sticks, A Separation Wanted, The Mysterious Parcel, The Cruel Stepmother, Caught in His Own Trap, and That's Not Right, Watch Me. Messrs. Edwards and Ward, duettists and dancers, and Mr. Bob Pearson, humorist and guide, contribute successfully to the variety entertainment.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Mendel, the blind pianist, is the centre of attraction here, and receives unstinted applause from a delighted audience for his marvellous performance. Humpsti Bumpsti is a laughable and clever acrobatic act; and Charlie Robinson, an old favourite, gets an enviable reception nightly. Tennyson and Wallis are a smart pair of comedians; and Daisy Martell is a charming singer of popular ditties. Gus Garrick, in his impersonations, is highly amusing; and Marie Goodwin, a daintily humorous comedienne, wins hearty applause. Will Johnson is a capital singing comedian; and Films, Ltd., depicting the Marathon Race, in which Pat White, winner of the second prize, personally describes the race, concludes.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy. — The Vasilescu Troupe, comedy, triple bar, and bicycle performers, head the bill here and score a success; Carr and Rose, presenting *A Winning Double*, are responsible for some excellent amusement; Kit Keen does remarkably well as a comedian; the Four Maisanos, French musical clowns, submit a much-appreciated turn; and Eileen Douglas, the musical comedy girl, meets with a capital reception. The Fordyces, in their refined act, are really good; and Nellie Ridgeway, a pleasing comedian, does well. Russell Brandow, coloured dancing comedian, makes a decided hit; Nellie Walton, the Lancashire singing girl, is well received; and the Bioscope, with up-to-date pictures, completes the programme.

ROUND ROOM ROTUNDA.—Poole's Myriorama is still here, and the management are to be congratulated on the success of their entertainment, large audiences patronising it at each performance. The variety programme is well sustained by Mr. Harry Dowsett, comedian; Miss Phyllis St. Clair, ballad vocalist; the Snow Family, expert skaters; Learto and his dog Babs; George French troupe of cyclists; and Bert Gates, ventriloquist and Guide.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—Long and Short, comedians and sketch artists; Miss Lilian, vocalist and dancer; Little Bert Allen, comedian and dancer; Mons. Savaro, bird mimic and equilibrist; Alice Leigh, ballad vocalist; Long Amos, comedian and dancer, and the Cinematograph comprise the programme here.

PAVILION, KINGSTOWN.—Lessees, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton; Manager, Mr. Jack McDermott.—This is the last week here, after a most successful season, and an attractive and varied programme is securing large audiences. Miss Emilie Tait, soprano vocalist, gives pleasing expression to her songs; Mr. A. F. Dunlop provides much merriment, his patter being decidedly smart; a good reception is accorded Mr. J. W. Hughes, a basso vocalist of more than average ability; the Sisters Elmore are graceful dancers and pleasing singers; Mr. Jack McDermott retains his popularity as a comedian; and Mr. A. W. Parry, solo pianist and accompanist, is also well received. Arrangements are being made to hold a skating ring here during the winter season.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—*Man to Man* still retains its popularity with Dudley playgoers, and on Monday met with the usual cordial reception. Mr. Edward Lloyd gives a fine representation of George Gordon, and makes a highly popular hero; while as the heroine, Ethel Maythorne, Miss Louie Adair supplies an attractive and pleasing study. The villainous Richard Ellerton is played by Mr. Frank Adair with vigour and power, and is a clever study; Mr. R. Val Shine acts with earnestness and realism as the Rev. Philip Ormond; Mr. Clifford Bown's dry humour as Bill Burkley (the convict) is much appreciated; Mr. Herbert Williams as Samuel Plumtree supplies the comedy element; Miss Adeline Lester is admirably suited to the part of Miss Lavinia Dove; Miss Evelyn Ward acts the gipsy with realistic ferocity; and Miss Ada Martin is a pretty and pert Mary the Maid.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—The programme is headed by the Five Musical Tritons, a turn pleasing both to the ear and eye; Viviana and company, in scena entitled *The Toy Shop*, keep their audiences in a very happy mood; the Beau-Ideal Troupe of talented juveniles are greatly appreciated; Stuart and Evans are well described as refined comedians, their songs and patter being clever and clean; Mint and Mart, comedy sketch artists, are much appreciated; as also are the Sisters Redfern, lady banjoists; and Dick Bradley, tramp trick cyclist. The songs of Harry Lawson, eccentric comedian, are decidedly good; Sam Tomson, Scotch character comedian, also contributes to the bill.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*The Merry Widow* made her bow to a Dundee audience on Monday, when she completely captivated the audience. Mr. George Edwardes's company is a very strong one, and the scenery, dresses, and chorus are all effective. In the title-rôle Miss Clara Evelyn scored a triumph, her acting and singing throughout being really excellent. As Natalie Miss Mary Grey sang exceedingly well, her acting also being marked by grace and refinement; Miss Mary Morison made an acceptable Prascovia; and as Frou-Frou Miss Dora Langham sang and danced charmingly. Prince Danilo found a capable exponent in Mr. Basil S. Foster, whose nimble dancing and pleasant singing made him a decided favourite; Mr. Lionel Victor simply revelled in the part of Baron Popoff, and as long as he occupied the stage laughter reigned supreme. Mr. Haigh Jackson's fine tenor voice was heard to much advantage in the songs allotted to him as Vicompte Camille de Jolidon; Mr. Albert Kavanagh gave a good account of himself as the Marquis de Cascada; Mr. Tom Redmond gave a very clever and amusing rendering of the part of Nisch; and Mr. Ernest Spalding was ludicrously funny as the waiter. Mr. Harrison Frewin ably conducted the augmented orchestra.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Jock Whiteford, the clever Scotch comedian, who tops this week's bill, is in grand form, his various old and new numbers being applauded to the echo. *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law* is one of the funniest comedy sketches seen here for some time; while the clever act contributed by the Kimberley Boys well deserves the hearty applause bestowed on it. Bernard and Weston, in song and story, meet with a fine reception; Gertie Lewis, male impersonator, is gifted with great vivacity; and Ethel Dove renders her songs in a pleasing and graceful manner. Harris's Nippers in *A Promising Pupil* provide exhilarating fare; and the turn of Enzer, the soldier juggler, is decidedly good. John Donald is warmly received for his song-scena, and the bioscope completes a very attractive programme.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The thrilling drama *A Traitor Prince* is staged here this week, and receives a capital rendering from Mr. Montague Beaudyn's powerful company. The scenery is effective. As the heroic Lieut. Frank Derrick Mr. D. Wynton plays powerfully; and as Lola Vane Miss P. Robson has a part which fits her like the proverbial glove. Several delightful dances are introduced by the Berlin Belles, and all the other parts are in safe keeping.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Pictures still form the principal feature of the entertainment here. The films, which are clear and remarkably steady, depict incidents both comic and pathetic. The artists also appearing are Sisters Rivers, pleasing duettists; Souplessi, a marvellous contortionist; and Eva Compton, a chic comedienne.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—Mr. Fred Newman's venture here has been attended with gratifying success, large houses nightly assembling. In addition to a capital picture exhibition sparkling varieties are provided by Donaldson and Emslie, comedians; and Alick Melvin, a very promising young vocalist.

KINNAIRD HALL.—The U.S.A. Pictures entered upon the last week of their present visit on Monday before a large and enthusiastic audience. Good houses have been the rule throughout their stay here, and Mr. Victor Hamilton should be pleased with the liberal patronage bestowed on his entertainment.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—The Moody-Manners Opera company returns here this week. On Monday evening *Madame Butterfly* was rendered. Miss Enriqueta Crichton as Madame Butterfly united the gift of a beautiful voice with the ability of the actress. Miss M. Dennis as Susuki sang and acted with much feeling; Miss V. Barry did excellently as Kate Pinkerton; and Mr. Charles Carter scored a success as Pinkerton; Mr. Charles Moorhouse being cultured and able as Sharples. *Tannhäuser*, *Carmen*, *Faust*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and *Il Trovatore* are also billed.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Mr. Lyn Harding and Mr. Sidney Cooper's company is appearing here in *The Flag Lieutenant*. The interesting play is remarkably well staged. Mr. Langhorne Burton, breezy and enthusiastic, makes the most of the fine part of Richard Lascelles; Mr. H. Montagu Love plays with feeling and conviction as Major Thesieger; Mr. George Mallet is strong and serenely dignified as Sir Berkley Wynne; Mr. S. Gatling is a refined Christopher Neate; Mr. E. S. Petley undertakes the rôle of Surgeon Crutchley in a very natural manner; two parts extremely well and effectively played are those of Hood and Dormer-Lee, by Mr. Hugh Wakefield and Mr. Lyonel Watts; and finely effective work is contributed by Mr. John Wheatman as Michael Palliser and Mr. Ian Chassereau as Memeti Salos. The graceful and charming work of Miss Florence Jackson as Mrs. Cameron is delightfully prominent; Miss Marjorie Chard is a sympathetic and attractive Lady Hermione; Miss Vivian Birkett does able duty as Viola Hood; and Miss Stella Leigh and Miss Evelyn Robson share honours as Mrs. Gough-Bogle and Lady Dugdale.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Topping the bill this week are the Four Mexicans, and their wonderfully accurate lasso and lariat throwing delights the audience; Daly and O'Brien, clever comedy artists, introduce striking dances; the Victoria Family sing, dance, and play with ability; Miss Diana Hope and company are successful in their sketch, *Her Good Name;* Frank Sley and Nipper dance smartly; Miss Jenny Lynn, with effective songs, is a capable comedienne; Miss Madge Bryce pleases as a smart-figured contralto comedienne; and new pictures are put on.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. R. Andrews.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's company is appearing in *When London Sleeps*. Captain Rodney Haynes is well impersonated by Mr. Harry Wren; Mr. E. E. Ashby makes a good David Engleheart; Mr. Ernest C. Edwards ably fulfils his part as Mr. Furnaby Fuller of Lincoln's Inn; much fun is brought about by the exertions of Mrs. Douglas Campbell, Frank Howard, Tom Royden, and Miss Mona Hall, in the respective rôles of Sammy Blyth, Hon. Bertie Broomhead, Mark Blackwood, and Carrie Jones; Miss Mabel Scudamore depicts Queenie Carruthers ably; and Miss Lilla Wilde acts the part of Hilda Carrode capably.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company opened their autumn week's engagement on Monday evening, with Wagner's *Meistersingers*, a work which has not been heard in Edinburgh for a number of years, and its revival, therefore, had much both of interest and novelty. With Mr. Philip Brozel excellent as Walter, Mr. Lewys James a pleasing Hans Sachs, and Miss Kate Anderson and Miss Toni Seiter well placed as Eva and Magdalena, the opera was finely rendered, both vocally and histrionically. Admirable supporters were found in the Beckmesser of Mr. William Dever, the Veit Pognor of Mr. Charles Magrath, and the David of Mr. F. Davis. Mr. Eckhold, who had a very hearty greeting, conducted his forces with untiring zeal and effect, which contributed largely to the success of the production. *Faust*, presented on Tuesday evening, under the direction of Signor Romualdo Sapio, drew another crowded house, the cast including Madame De Vere Sapio, who sang the Marguerita music most artistically; Mr. Seth Hughes, meritorious alike in his singing and acting of the name part; Mr. Charles Manners, strong as ever in the familiar rôle of Mephistopheles; and Mr. William Dever, always an acceptable Valentine. The chorus was augmented by the Edinburgh Grand Opera Society. *Cavalleria Rusticana*, in which Madame Sapio and Mr. Hughes were again heard, was given on Wednesday, followed, as usual, by *Pagliacci*, wherein Mr. Brozel and Miss Anderson took the lead. Thursday was devoted to *Madame Butterfly*, and the only appearance during the week of Madame Fanny Moody; *The Meistersingers* being down for repitition on Friday; with *Tannhäuser* and *The Bohemian Girl* completing the season's programme on Saturday afternoon and evening. To Mr. Louis Laurier was allotted the part of Tannhäuser, with Madame Sapio as Elizabeth, the Edinburgh Grand Opera Society again assisting in the chorus.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is paying a welcome return visit to Edinburgh this week, with *Tom Jones*. The acting and singing reach a high standard, and Mr. Edward German's delightful music is rendered with all the charm that belongs to an artistic performance. Mr. Harry Welchman, in the title-rôle, acts with grace, feeling, and earnestness, and his pleasant voice is heard to much advantage in the airs that fall to his part; Mr. Ambrose Manning shows his versatility as Squire Western, giving due effect to the broad humour of the character, and singing with immense gusto the drinking song in the first act; Mr. Dan Rolyat as Benjamin Partridge is Mr. Rolyat in his best, quaintest style, keeping the audience in the heartiest laughter while he is on the stage; Mr. J. J. Macmillan is extremely amusing as Gregory; and Mr. Walter Rignold as Grizzle, and Mr. Lionel Braham as Dobbin, are very good. Miss Florence Smithson, an actress who possesses not only a charming presence, but a sweet, expressive voice, makes an undoubted hit as Sophia, her numbers being interpreted with much skill; Miss Isabelle Dillon as Honour is bright, intelligent, and genuinely humorous, and sings with taste; and the Lady Bellaston of Miss Alice Oppitz is more than competent, it is a distinctly forcible and clever piece of acting. The remaining parts are in capable hands; the chorus is strong and admirably balanced; and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Thornton, contributes to a really excellent and exhilarating performance.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—There is not a weak turn in the admirable programme presented here. Mr. Geo. Dance's company taps a vein that is always enjoyable in the musical sketch *The Burglar's Ball*, which is played in lively and amusing fashion; Mr. W. B. Raby possesses the true art of the comedian, and his song entitled "Sleep," so greatly tickles the risibilities of the audiences that they are unwilling to permit him to leave the stage; Spangles and Sawdust give a very clever act, in which excellent acrobatic work is seen; Mr. Edwin Barwick's capital comedy sketches and imitations are loudly applauded; the Sisters Wingrove are expressive duettists and dainty dancers; the Glenvills afford much amusement by their droll playing in the comedy act *The Slavey and the Yokel;* Miss Jane Eyre sings sweetly several ballads; and Rappo and Ella are deft gymnasts. The Bioscope, as usual at this house, displays a variety of interesting views.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Crowded audiences are being attracted here this week, the name of the leading performer, Miss Marie Lloyd, on the bill having much to do with the large houses. Miss Lloyd scores her customary success, her latest song, "The Directoire girl," in which the artist is dressed in a striking costume, evoking great applause; Mr. Herbert Shelley is seen in his playlet, *Dan, the Outlaw*, which is notable for the quick changes which the actor makes while sustaining the entire weight of the piece on his own shoulders; Miss Rosa Loader, "The Happy Slavey at the Piano," gives a clever musical sketch; Miss Nell Emerald is a smart, vivacious comedienne, whose turn is bright and entertaining; the Great Lumars provide a particularly neat acrobatic act on the horizontal bar, in which a pretty electric effect is introduced; the Brothers Horne well deserve the applause which they call forth by their dexterous and amusing boxing act; and other performers who enliven the programme are Little Keeno, a boy comedian;

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EXETER.—Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Wentworth Croke presents *The Bondman* here this week, and it is being welcomed by large audiences. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin as Jason is recalled again and again for his powerful acting; Mr. Lionel Atwill as Michael Sunlocks also earns deserved applause. Miss Georgina Wynter as Greeba is all that could be desired; Mr. W. H. Rotherham ably portrays the dual part of Father Ferrati and the old grandfather; Mr. Oswald Lingard is good as Adam Fairbrother; Miss Madge Lanerton is the match-making Mrs. Fairbrother to the life; and Mr. Alfred Fisher as Governor Testa and Mr. Fred J. Waller as Dr. Boni do well.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House, —Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—This week Mr. Walter Melville's company is presenting *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*. The play is exceedingly well "put on," the greatest attention being paid to scenic aids. Mr. Fred Goddard plays the part of Jack Marshall in a way which suggests cultured acting. He has a fine voice and a handsome stage presence. Mr. Paul Barry Lewers, Mr. Norman B. Cannon, and Mr. Francis Hope are worthy of special mention in a fine all-round combination. Miss Louise Hampton, in the leading part of Bertha Marshall sustains throughout a difficult and trying part with great effect; Miss Lulu Bowes makes a charming and vivacious Winifred Marshall; while Miss George de Lara fulfils the more notorious part of Val Raymond, and gives a faithful portrayal of the character.

FLEETWOOD.—Queen's Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—A powerful company is appearing this week in *A Soldier of France*. Mr. Percy Ballard is a strong and convincing hero as Corporal Jean; Mr. A. Guyon as Judas Delara gives a clever rendering, as also does Mr. Milton C. Curtis as Count d'Laval; Mr. Freddie Edwards proves himself a talented comedian; Miss Carlotta Anson enacts Pauline Lorraine in finished style; and Miss Maggie Hobart is decidedly good as Rita.

Co-operative Hall.—Manager, Mr. Thos. Robinson.—The Loyal British Empire Animated Picture Co. is again drawing full houses. Several strong dramatic pictures are shown, and a host of humorous films keep the audience in good humour.

FOLKESTONE.—Pleasure Gardens Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, including Miss Agnes Verity and Mr. Austin Milroy, are playing to good houses in the new comedy-drama *From Slave to Princess*. Mr. Arthur Milroy as Prince Julian makes a manly hero; and Miss Verity as the cruel-hearted and plotting Princess Claudia is a complete success. The real villain of the play is Michael Bardoni, Chief of Police, spy, and traitor, and this character is skilfully portrayed by Mr. Arthur Elywyn. Miss Dorothy Lart as Vera, the slave, afterwards Princess, is a careful study. Real fun is caused by the low-comedy acting of Mr. Harry Benson as the Irish coachman, and is skilfully assisted by Miss Kitty Sinclair as Amelia, the maid to Princess Claudia; Mr. Dermont Fitzgibbon as Prince Alexis, and Mr. Arthur Estcourt as King Adrian are good. The play is well staged and dressed.

GAINSBOROUGH.—King's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Day's company appeared here on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday in *For Love of a Woman*. Miss May Day gave a clever rendering of the child-part, Nance Manor; Mr. Jerrold Ord was an earnest Ned Merrick; and the villainies of Guy Manor were well brought out by Mr. Frederick Garrett.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, the Gainsborough Syndicate; Manager Mr. Scott Alexander. —This week we have Mr. Robt. Trebor's new sketch *The Reptiles' Devotion*, which is fully reported elsewhere. Lieut. Albini and Miss Marie Gautier give a very clever illusionist turn; and the rest of the company includes Miss Lottie Lennon (comedienne), the Sisters Delmore (duettists), Miss Kitty Aven and Mr. Kranlee in a coon cake-walk, and Pictures.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Florrie Forde in her latest successes has drawn large audiences to this house during the week. J. Gar Kiddie and company are extremely funny in *The House of Tinn;* Archie Pitt fairly convulses the audience; Daisy Morell is immensely popular; and Rowland Hill excels in the telling of "dry" tales. The Bros. Milford are successful knockabouts, and a clever gymnastic turn is given by Carla Magda.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. Walter Melville's company in *A Girl's Cross Roads* has proved a great draw here. Mr. Chas. Franmore vividly portrays the old farmer, John Meadows; a masterly assumption of Jack Livingstone is submitted by Mr. Jack Fortescue; Mr. Ed. Chester gives a polished Cuthbert Lumley; Miss Hilda Beverley is an admirable Barbara Wade; Nellie Meadows is ably depicted by Miss Nita Lingford; whilst Constance Cornell is cleverly done by Miss Dorothy Hildebrand.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphreys.—Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks are this week paying their first personal visit in *The Gay Gordons*. No brighter or more winning lovers have come north than Peggy Quainton and Angus Graeme; Mr. Johnny Danvers is likewise admirably suited as the old Showman; Miss Sidney Fairbrother's Charlotte is another diverting study; and Mr. George Carroll's quaint impersonation of Edmond Siddons completes the comic trio; for the part of Victoria Siddons a bright and attractive exponent is found in Miss Nell Carter; Mr. E. Lugg gives a touch of distinction to the character of Andrew Quainton; as Corporal Smith Mr. Lawrence Caird is good; and the lawyer Speedy is suitably represented by Mr. J. C. Buckstone; the performances of Miss Maud Milton as Janet McLeod and Miss Doris Macintyre as Mary McLeod are very pleasing; the Ladies Graeme are handsomely depicted by Miss Katie Butler and Miss Rosie Chesney; Mr. Will Bishop is funny as McPhrisky; and the young titled sportsmen are successfully represented by Messrs. Harry Ulph, Melville Florance, E. Dewey Gibson, Harry Walter, and Arthur Metcalf.

King's, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—Large and fashionable audiences are assembling nightly to welcome Mr. Fred Terry and his company in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, with Mr. Terry as Sir Percy Blakeney, of which he gives his usual vivid impersonation. The Lady Blakeney of the cast, played on former visits by Miss Julia Neilson, is now undertaken by Miss Miriam Lewes, and is an excellent interpretation; Mr. A. E. Anson as Prince of Wales is a courtly and "first-gentlemanly" figure; the mysterious and ever-wary Chauvelin is suitably rendered by Mr. Horace Hodges; Mr. D. J. Williams as Jellyband, the Dover landlord, makes a suitable English host; Sally is well played by Miss Mary Jennings; Brogard, host of the Lion d'Or is sufficiently truculent as played by Mr. J. Carter Edwards; while Mère Brogard, by Miss Marion Sterling, is still more forbidding; the Comtesse de Tournai, by Miss Claire Pauncefort, is a magnificent grande dame, and Miss Kathleen Doyle as her daughter Susanne is charming; Amand St. Just, as depicted by Mr. L. Race Dunrobin, Sir Andrew Ffoulkes by Mr. Alfred Kendrick, and Lord Anthony Dewhurst by Mr. Malcolm Cherry are all fine gentlemen of the period; Mr. Hermann Griffiths as Captain of the Guard is a stern, uncompromising figure. The song, "Eldorado," is still a feature of the performance.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—A neat little costume play, *If We Only Knew*, by Messrs. Harry Nicholls and George Ross is presented this week to the patrons of the Royalty. Mr. Nicholls takes the part of Slippery Sam, and, being a first-class comedian keeps the audience in good humour; Mr. P. A. Gawthorn as Dick Steen gets through his work in a capable manner, a like remark applying to Messrs. Ernest Young and J. Benedick Butler, as Ensign Wilmott and Mr. Bignell respectively; Miss Sylvia Morris does well as Barbara Wentworth; Miss Margaret Von Hollister makes an ideal Ruth Steen; Miss Kate Kearney an amusing Priscilla; and as landlady of the Hook and Hatchet Inn Miss Violet Langley is seen to advantage.

Grand.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—*Claudian*, as presented by Mr. William Maclaren's company is a fine bill of fare. Mr. William Maclaren's fine stage presence and dignified method fit him admirably as Claudian; In Miss Lily C. Bandmann we find an excellent Almida, her performance being both powerful and graceful; Mr. Ernest Lodge portrays Theorus with telling effect, and the part of Serena, in the hands of Amy Hardcastle, stands out prominently; the character of Thariogalus the Tetrarch is convincingly presented by Mr. Bernard Elliott; Mr. Douglas Earle creditably sustains the part of Agazil; Mr. Chas. T. Chaloner does good work as Belos, and excellent also is the Edessa of Miss Ruth Trafford.

Royal Princess's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—This week Mr. Waldon introduces his patrons to the new version of Hall Caine's well-known play, *The Christian*. Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is responsible. Miss Doris Gilham as Glory is most interesting in the various emotional scenes; Mr. Harry Renouf as John Storm bears himself well throughout; Mr. Geo. K. Montford as Lord Robert Ure acts with ability, the same remark being applicable to Mr. Oswald Marshall, a sympathetic Horatio Drake; to Mr. C. T. Turpin, who figured strongly as Archdeacon Wealthy, and Mr. E. R. Holloway; Miss Sinna St. Clair gave a quiet comely rendering of the part of Mrs. Callender, and Miss Margaret Brodie did well in the trying rôle of Polly Love.

Metropole, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—A crowded audience on Monday welcomed that strong drama of the late Henry Pettitt, *Hands Across the Sea*. Mr. Cecil A. Collins is an excellent representative of the hero, Jack Dudley, and carries the audience with him in every scene; Miss Beatrice Whitney is well suited as his sweetheart, Lilian Melford; Mr. Forrester Harvey acts with humour as Tom Bassett, and the lively Lucy Nettleford is played with much gaiety by Miss Lilla Nordon; Mr. Adam Alexander as the scheming farmer, Joseph Stillwood, and Mr. C. Clifton Boyne as his unscrupulous son, contribute two clever studies; a breezy performance is the Dick Melford of Mr. Frank Woodville; Mr. Clive Currie as Jean de Lussac, Mr. Edmund Beresford as Paul de Renal, and Miss Marjorie Davenport as Mme. Vallorie, give a vivid picture of the principals in a gambling house. The numerous other characters are well played, and the play is most effectively staged.

Lyceum.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—No more popular artist than Mr. Charles Mackey appears in the Govan theatre, and in *Rollicking Rory* he is excellently suited. Good houses have ruled this week, and the popular young comedian and his company have been most heartily received. The cast is the same as at the Royal Princess's last week.

Empire.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—A first-class company is booked here this week, the chief attraction being Horace Goldin, illusionist, in conjunction with Jeanne Fransioli and company; Fisher White's company, including Mr. Scott Craven and Miss Margaret Omar, submit a fine dramatic piece entitled *a Royal Heart;* the songs of Charles R. Whittle are amusing; and the Maples, in their original comedy act, *How to Treat a Burglar*, are a decided success; Julia Kent and Alec Keith, duologue artists; Mlle. Theresa Cerutti, classical dancer; the Cumberlands, acrobatic cyclists; Nellie Ganthony, society entertainer; Fred Lincoln, in successful scena, *My Pal Jemmy;* and the American Bioscope are other attractions.

Zoo-Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The principal item on the programme here is the sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, in which there is lots of fun, and plenty of smart songs and dances. Misses Nellie Grant and Flo Stanley, and Messrs. Arthur Watson, Jack Roberts, M. Rufus, and H. Watson ably sustain the leading parts. Harry Conlin, whose panto engagements have made him a big favourite here, is again going strong in his female impersonation; Kitty Colyer is a pleasing comedienne, and an acrobatic dancer of special merit; the three Orros give a first-rate gymnastic turn on the silver chains; Simms and Simms as musical comedians are great favourites, and their act is heartily applauded; Frank Harwood gives a clever and dramatic study of a burglar; Fanny Humber takes well in a musical and dancing turn; Rosie Coleman is a clever comedienne and smart dancer; Probyn and Bates are amusing in a comedy act. The Bioscope concludes a varied and interesting programme.

Pavilion, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Mrs. Lewis Waller tops the bill here with a sketch, *The Admiral's Lady*, in which this clever actress has a first-rate comedy part as Lady Jane Rumblow. She is particularly well supported by the members of her company, and the little play goes splendidly; Fred Russell and his amusing figure Coster Joe come in a new setting this time, and in addition to the clever ventriloquism which was always a feature, many new and novel effects have been introduced; Sidney Dolf gives a smart singing, juggling, and sleight-of-hand turn, which goes well; Hal Forde's songs are up to date, but he still relies on his "Domesday Book" for an encore; Kendrick and Laura contribute a smart society entertainment; Ruby Norton, comedienne, Jeanette Hall, the lady baritone, and that eccentric comedian, Tatten Hall, all ably sustain their share of the performance. Though appearing late in the evening, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor were accorded a hearty reception, and after their smart singing and dancing turn, the enthusiasm of the audience was most gratifying, and was really well deserved.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Fred Karno's company in *The Dandy Thieves* occupies the greater part of the programme here, and with George Hestor as Sergt. Lightning the fun never flags; Ernest Freshwater as Lord Easem and Aggie Morris as Lady Maud also do well, and the part of Fritz is cleverly played by T. Newman. Les Rallis give their smart turn, *The Artist and the Monkey*, which proves highly popular; Billie Burford takes well, her chorus songs being tuneful and cleverly sung; Ted Saunders gives a number of life-like imitations of well-known variety artists; the New Macs, in song, dance, patter, and with their boxing bout to finish up, are greater favourites than ever, and deservedly so; Witty Will Wicker ably deputises for an absent turn, and a lady vocalist also sang well as an extra.

Coliseum.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The top item this week is the Boisset Troupe in *The Brick-layers;* The Eight Stella Girls give elegant displays of their skill in dancing; Ella Retford is as great a favourite as ever; Verno and Voyce, in their amusing burlesque, *The Fly-Far Man*, utter some good jokes; Charlene and Charlene combine entertaining music and daring jugglery; Dion Wade is a successful mimic; the Athlones do some clever acrobatic feats; Nettie Starr is a charming comedienne and dancer; and the American Bioscope agreeably fills up intervals.

Gaiety, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Houston a marvellous magician, is the principal artist here. The Parcz Trio of lady instrumentalists; Cliffe and Vanstan, with their amusing comedy duologue; Dan Hendy, a good dancing and acrobatic turn; and Ned Graydon, instrumentalist, are also on the bill, which is completed by pictures on the Bioscope.

Panopticon.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—George Arrott, character comedian and dancer, is the leading turn here. The contribution by Hal Crouese is received with marked approval; Miss Ada Brogden, soprano, renders several songs in artistic fashion; George Millard, comedian, completes the variety items, and the Bioscope pictures are interesting.

GLOSSOP.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spencer. — Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is here this week with *Second to None*. The apparently stern, but generous-hearted, Sir Reginald Greystone, V.C., Colonel of the Scots Greys, is adequately portrayed by Mr. Theo Balfour; Mr. Len Williams as Harry and Mr. Chas. Halling as Frank Wilding, the dashing nephews of the Colonel, are admirable; Lieut. Archie Ballater, the light-hearted officer, is admirably sustained by Mr. Arthur D. Layland; and Mr. J. G. Maine is fully alive to his responsibilities as Sergt. Jack Horsman. Private Flutters and Footman Joe Ruggles are impersonated by Mr. Louis Edmonds and Mr. Allan Carruthers, who keep the house convulsed with laughter; Nora, the housemaid at the Manor, is vivaciously represented by Miss Clarrie Yandell; the part of Nell Greystone is portrayed with grace and dignity by Miss Dorothy Clifton; and that of her sister May is tastefully represented by Miss Mary Mallalieu. Mr. Frank Austin adequately plays Inspector Trueman, the police officer.

GLOUCESTER. — Palace. — Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Piccollinis (midgets) prove a clever and entertaining turn; Dot Hardy, in low-comedy songs, scores unmistakably; Lloyd Morgan, light comedian, retires to great applause; and Mlle. Du Roche sings tastefully. Harry Blake goes well with a "dame" song and an impersonation of "the man in the moon"; Winnie Derson shows hereditary talent; Harry Anderson is willingly assisted by the audience with his chorus songs; Miss Ada Gatley, lady juggler and wire walker, is exceptionally good; and Stanley's Urchins give a pleasing entertainment. Mr. Will English, coloured comedian, provides a humorous interlude.

King's Theatre.—Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Acting Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—Animated pictures and illustrated songs are finding favour here. Miss Gertie Nicholas is the vocalist.

Public Baths. — Fabro's animated singing and talking pictures and a variety entertainment find favour here. Amongst those billed are Ernie Mayne, Tom Graves, and Pete Hampton.

GOOLE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—This week Mr. Laurence Brough and company are paying a visit with *The Lady of Ostend*. Miss K. Develin in the title-rôle plays with gaiety, and is especially pleasing. Mr. A. Cheshire keeps the house in roars of laughter by his inimitable acting as Dick Whortles; Mr. B. Bolder acts in an easy, buoyant manner as Joseph Carbury; Mr. Laurence Brough gives an excellent representation of Le Baron de Longueville; Mr. W. Macready is highly amusing as Toby Knockitt; and Mr. R. Harvey is a capital John Humbert. Miss B. Glyn is highly successful as Dorothy Whortles; Miss Edith Adeson is a delightful Jane; Matilda Carbury is cleverly portrayed by Miss B. Harrision; and Miss A. Leigh charmingly portrays Millie Grace. *The Saucy Sally* was presented on Thursday.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—Royal Aquarium.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—The stirring play *Who is She?* is occupying the boards here this week. Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson is excellent as the Prince; Who is She has a clever exponent in Miss Violet Carlyle; Mr. Graham Woods plays well as King Vladimir; Miss Mabel Rignold is a delightful Little King, Mr. Sinclair Holden a good Captain Gower, Mr. Arthur McCulloch a soldierly Sergeant Metroff, Mr. J. Russell Boyne an excellent Chinaman, and Miss Mary Collier a vivacious Garette.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Excellent pictures are being shown on the kaleidograph bioscope, and are interspersed with some good variety turns, including Miss May Neal, in excellent songs; Bob Down, a funny comedian; the Staffords, in an entertaining comedy duologue; Two Beatrices, engaging duettists and dancers; and Ward and Wylie, who are well received in their duologue entitled *That's the Way it's Done*.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—An excellent programme is presented here this week. The Seven Perezoffs are exceptionally clever jugglers; Jessie, the lady Scotch comedienne, is very popular; the Voca Duo are well received in operatic scenas; Doodles and company appear in a side-splitting sketch entitled *Love in All Corners;* Harry Tomlin is a pleasing vocalist; Leo, the ventriloquist, is much appreciated; and Harry Reynolds' Minstrel Quintette are excellent.

GREENOCK. — Alexandra Theatre, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—*The Thief* was presented here on Monday for the first time by Mr. George Alexander's company. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart's reading of Richard Chelford made considerable impression. He was ably supported by Miss May Congdon in the rôle of Marise Chelford; Mr. Gerald Ames fills with credit the rôle of Raymond Leyton; and Miss Mary Dibley is all that could be desired as Isabel Leyton. The part of Harold Leyton is in the able hands of Mr. Alfred Lugg; and Mr. Cyril Cattley is satisfactory as Mr. Protheroe. The play is preceded by *Too Happy by Half*, in which Mr. Percy Marmont, Mr. Alfred Lugg, Mr. Frank Elton, and Miss Irene Leonard successfully appear.

Empire.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Messrs. Wm. Garland and Fred Douglas's company heads the bill here this week in a musical sketch entitled *A Trip to Coontown*, which proves most entertaining; Walter Munroe scores greatly as an Irish comedian and dancer; and other good turns include Marlow and Manton, in their amusing sketch *Winning a Wife;* Eldra and his dog Prince, in a novel act; Josie Mooney, comedy character impersonator and dancer; and Leo Fields, comedian. New pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The chief attraction here is the Haytors in their comedy sketch entitled *The Plumber*, which is responsible for much laughter. Among others entertaining are Francini, Olloms, and Page, whose novel acrobatic and musical act gains much applause; the Ramseys, a trio of clever acrobats; the Four Royal Scots pleasing vocalists and instrumentalists; Bliss and Bliss, comedians and patterers; Rose D'Aulby, who scores with her songs, and Ted Waite, an amusing comedian. The pictures are interesting.

GRIMSBY.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The sparkling musical comedy *The Dairymaids* is delighting large audiences nightly. Miss Clare Marsden cleverly fulfils the exacting part of Peggy, accomplishing the many musical numbers falling to her lot in charming style; Miss Clarice Lockstone also wins vocal honours as Winifred; Mr. Johnny Osborne is the moving spirit of the comedy, giving a droll impersonation of Joe Mivens, A.B.; Mr. Nelson Keys and Mr. A. Wilks Ashdowne are also responsible for much diverting business as Lieuts. Sam Brudenell and Frank Meredith; Mr. J. A. Warden gives a capital portrayal of the jovial Dr. O'Byrne; Miss Gladys Silvani achieves excellent character acting as the quaint maid-of-all-work, Eliza; Miss Mabel Younge as Lady Brudenell, Miss Madge Avery as Miss Pyechase, and Mr. Harry Cottell as Tim Capus also contribute to a bright performance.

The Palace.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Victor Moran and company present something novel in the way of musical specialities, playing solos, quartettes, &c., on trombones, saxophones, and other instruments, whilst a number of scenic and lighting effects are introduced; Mysticus presents a series of clever illusions that keeps the audience in a constant state of surprise; Alfred Graham's Premier Juveniles contribute smart solos and choruses; Charles Rowen is an amusing comedian; Walter Stanley, another comedian, causes much laughter; Florence Schubert sings excellent songs; and Rosie Archer is a clever mimic of popular artists.

HALIFAX.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Charles Macdona's company is at the Royal this week with *Mr. Popple*, the comedy being admirably staged and beautifully dressed. Mr. Macdona as Freddy Popple makes an ideally simple country gentleman; Miss Nellie Hodson plays well as La Bolero; Miss May Hart is a pert and successful Louise; Miss Amy Singleton as Mrs. Doring brings one of the smaller parts into prominence; Mr. Tom May's Platt is well played; and the parts of Norman Popple (Mr. M. Du Cane), George Hennay (Mr. Nap Barry), Henry Doring (Mr. Jas. Stevenson), Jacques Kenyon (Mr. Eric Barrington), Mrs. Hennay (Miss Lilyan Lait), and Violet Brinton (Miss Marie Moss) are all capably presented.

Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are again the attraction at this house. Mr. Harold Wardroper, light comedian and dancer; and George Doughty and Molly Laney, in a well-acted farce, *A Woman's Way*, also appear.

Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Beauty and hair competitions, with prizes to the value of £50, are drawing big houses to the Palace this week. Haley's Juveniles are a well-trained troupe; Dot and Spot are two wonderful little artists, and the quartette of barefeet dancers are also worthy of praise. Flo Burnett, ballad vocalist, makes a welcome re-appearance; Stidder and Dunbar, musical comedy artists, provide a successful turn; Rose Pink, in song and dance; Virto, musical act; Sivroni and Amy Broughton, in *Opera Gone Mad;* and the pictures complete.

HAMILTON, N.B.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—The Safaillo troupe of gymnasts are excellent in a sensational equilibristic display, into which is introduced a fine exhibition of heavy-weight lifting; Colin Bryce and company are exceptionally good in a cleverly-written and brightly-played little comedy act, entitled *Are You a Socialist?* Walker and Lake, in their entertaining exploit, "Extemporania," prove most amusing; Beattie Bloom goes well in a couple of songs; Whisper is a clever comedy juggler; the Ormond-Penstones are entertaining illusionists; the Three Cheers introduce some cleverly-trained cats into their scene *Dick Whittington;* Land and Carl are great favourites in their clever burlesque boxing turn; Henry Hallam and Josephine Stanton, in a musical comedy sketch, entitled *A Broken Journey*, are acceptable; and the Bioscope concludes.

HANLEY. — Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company present this week *The Catch of the Season* to capital audiences. The dresses are elaborate. Miss Gladys Guy as Angela is particularly successful, her charming acting winning immense favour; Mr. Chas. Hanbury as the Duke plays naturally and cleverly; Mr. H. C. Barry as Isaacstein, though handicapped by a severe cold, causes much merriment; Master Peter Grata as Bucket is a great success; Mr. Geoffrey Berwick as Mr. Gibson plays skilfully; Mr. Franklin Miles's Sir John is praiseworthy; Miss Alice Hamilton plays Lady Crystal with much success; Miss Barry Eldon is a good Honorio, and Miss Kate Robinson is a capital Sophia; Miss Grace Hampton is a treat as Lady Caterham; Miss Margaret Jolly as Princess S. H. is very pleasing. Mr. Ed. Peterson conducts the augmented orchestra. Mr. H. Burgess Harries is the business manager.

Grand.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Capital houses show their appreciation of the management's bill of fare. The Ten Dixie Girls, including Miss May Carter, in a dancing and vocal scena, *The Silver Coon*, make a marked impression; Miss Ella Shields also is adding to her terrific successes in "Do you want any coal?" Iben-Obed, an Arabian equilibrist, is clever; Raymond's Bio-tableaux show the last Marathon Race and the Hypnotic Policeman; Azella Wilson trapeze artist, is good; Helen Martin has a charming soprano voice; Frank Seeley is a favourite; Barrett and Knowles cause continuous laughter; and Rousby and Rene introduce a smart sketch.

King's Empire Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—A packed house watched with interest a fine selection of pictures on Monday. Chief of the list are True till Death, A Magnetic Removal, Walter, the Rural Postman, Driven by Hunger, Prehistoric Man, Drunkard's Dream, and The Innkeeper's Nightmare. Miss Lila Vesta supplies the vaudeville items cleverly.

HARROGATE.—Grand Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith. — For the first three nights of this week Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company appeared in *Floradora*. Mr. Fred Eastman was seen to advantage as Tweedlepunch; Mr. Stanley White made the most of his opportunities as Cyrus W. Gilfain; and Mr. Herbert St. John was well placed as Captain Arthur Donegal. Mr. H. V. Cropton both acted and sang well as Frank Abercoed; and Miss Edith Housley was excellent as Lady Holyrood. Miss Masie Ellinger was the Dolores, and has a handsome stage presence. The chorus was smart and well dressed.

St. James's Hall. — Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney H. Carter; General-Manager, Mr. F. D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred A. Parker.—This week some exceptionally good films are shown, and among them are The Tramp's Daughter, The Statue, A Debt of Gratitude, and a regular screamer, The Apostle of Liberty. Mr. K. Scott-Barrie, an exceptional entertainer, proves to be popular.

HARTLEPOOL.—Empress.—Proprietors, Messrs. Everton and Cragg; Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charlie Ferrier.—An especial feature in the programme this week is a smart exhibition of conjuring by Winn. The remainder of the programme is filled in by a capital selection of pictures, amongst which are The Globe Trotter, Donkey Polo, The Swimming Master, The Poacher's Wife, The Text Book, and The Indian Python.

HASTINGS.—Gaiety Theatre.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles B. Scutt.—Mr. Reginald Dance and company opened on Monday with *Beau Brocade*. The chivalrous highwayman had an excellent representative in Mr. Reginald Dance; Lady Patience Gascoyne was presented by Miss Ruth Mackay with charming grace; Betty, her maid, had a vivacious representative in Miss May Brooke; the Earl of Stretton had a forceful exponent in Mr. Alfred H. Majilton; John Sticke was well impersonated by Mr. Dalziel Heron; and good character rôles were also submitted by Mr. Edward Irwin as Jock Miggs, a shepherd; Mr. R. Hayes, as the Royal Duke; Mr. Frank Powell as the scheming Sir Humphrey Challoner; and Mr. H. Asheton Tonge as the Parish Beadle.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Beatrice Elstree, a dainty comedienne, opens a good programme; Sam Stern is skilful on a variety of musical instruments; James Adderly, of the Brothers Adderly, is a remarkable musical mimic; some novel acrobatic performances are shown by the Four Kellys; Miss Ada Twibell is an attractive vocalist; as a coon comedian, Pop Dearly scores a success; Ted Young's droll manner and sayings create great laughter; and Edward Cranston and Mrs. Bennett's company produce an amusing sketch entitled *Poor Master*.

Pier Pavilion.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The "Scarlet Mr. E.'s" are occupying the boards this week.

Public Hall.—The pictures exhibited here by the People's Picture Palace Company, under Mr. Henry Gray's local management, continue attractive. Shakespeare's tragedy *Romeo and Juliet* is a cleverly-worked film.

St. Leonards Pier Pavilion. — Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Miss Lydia Donovan and company opened on Monday with *My Soldier Boy*. Mr. C. Quinton Fulford filled the rôle of Montague Mendle very amusingly; Miss Lydia Donovan also added largely to the evening's amusement; and the Captain had a convincing exponent in Mr. Frank Lennard. Miss Nellie Lambert made a spruce Martha; Mr. Alfred G. Raymond made a droll Private Michael O'Doeherty; and Mendle's stepfather was well played by Mr. C. E. Lambert. The comedietta *Nan* followed. *Niobe* was billed for Thursday.

HEREFORD.—Garrick Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. P. Burnsley.—Mrs. Bandmann Palmer's company opened on Monday with *Catherine, Duchess of Dantzig*, and was accorded a hearty reception by a large audience. In the title-part Mrs. Bandmann Palmer made a great impression by her excellent acting; Mr. F. Skein is to be commended on an excellent portrayal of the thankless part of Fouché; a performance of much prominence is that of Adrian Lefebvre, cleverly played by Mr. Howard Rose; Mr. Owen Chambers as Napoleon I. sustains his part effectively; Mr. Bernard Merefield gives a manly and spirited rendering of Maréchal Lefebvre; and other members of the cast do full justice to their respective parts. The piece is exceedingly well dressed.

Drill Hall. — Manager, Mr. A. Lovesey.—Mr. Henry J. Ford's company is here with *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. Henry Ford as Sir Guy de Vere makes the most of the part, His unflagging energy and unlimited resource convulse his audiences. As Sir Brian Ballymote, Mr. G. Rowlands is excellent; Mr. Cecil Clayton is particularly clever and amusing as Charles Widdicombe; Mr. W. Lockhart is good as the Rev. Peter Pottleberry; Mr. Vernon Sansbury gives a good character sketch as Isaacson; Miss Bruce Joy acts well as Lady Rowena Eggington; Miss Bessie Walters is a pert Alice Barker. Mr. H. Bull is the courteous manager for Mr. James Welch.

HORWICH.—Princes' Theatre.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. Harry Tilbury's company in the drama *His Dishonoured Wife* is exciting great interest. The author (Mr. Tilbury) gives an excellent rendering of Micky Doolan, his quaint sayings creating roars of laughter; Mr. Victor Rae as Frank Lindon plays the hero to perfection; Mr. Fred Owen's Neil Locksley is a very fine interpretation of the acute but kind-hearted detective; Mr. Horatio Sinclair makes Lord Devant a thorough disgrace to Society, and receives due recognition at the hands of the gallery; Mr. Bernard Webb's efforts as Tom Redman, Devant's accomplice, are eminently successful; Miss Belle Tilbury gives an artistic rendering of the part of Florence Lindon; little Miss Phyllis Spalding plays the blacksmith's child with great feeling; as Araminta Dustpan Miss Etta Spalding is distinctly funny; Miss Arline T. George gives a good rendering of Alice Harvey, and the minor characters are in good hands.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Thomas J. Phillips.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's fine organisation, playing *A White Man* here for the first time on Monday, was welcomed by a large and enthusiastic audience. The principal parts in the long cast are sustained by Mr. Frank E. Petley, a polished and virile Jim Carston; Mr. R. A. Brandon a cool-brained and big-hearted Big Bill; Mr. Arthur Gibbons as the treacherous Cash Hawkins; Mr. A. C. Hardie as the Sheriff, Bud Hardy; Mr. Eric Hudson, a remarkably impressive and dignified Tab-y-wana; whose interpreter is most naturally played by Mr. F. Thornton; Miss Rhoda Ray is intensely lovable as Nat-u-ritch; Miss Eleanor May a womanly Countess of Kerhill; Mr. Wm. Dempsey a suave lawyer Petrie; and Mr. Thomas Swem, Mr. Martin Henry, and Mr. T. W. H. Sarll are seen to advantage in the well differentiated characters of Shorty, Andy, and Crouchey.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—A good programme includes the Six Æolians in their refined musical and dancing act; Volvo, ventriloquist; Miss Florence Burns and James Danvers in their well-known burlesque; Leedham Stanley, a smart character impersonator;

FISH (hot or cold)
has an exquisite delicacy imparted to it by the addition of
LEA & PERRINS'
SAUCE.
It is just that "finishing touch" which is required to make the dish perfect

August, September, and May, truly described as eccentric comedians; Phillips and Merritt in a clever medley of singing, whistling, and dancing; Miss Rose Elliott in swinging chorus songs, and a pretty picture of Italian lakes on the Bioscope.

HULL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—Mr. Iden Payne and his coadjutors are here again, and meeting with a great artistic success. They opened on Monday with *David Ballard*, and obtained an enthusiastic reception. On their last visit we spoke in words of commendation upon the efforts of Miss Louise Holbrook, Mr. Penelope Wheeler, and Miss Hilda Bruce-Potter, and of the ideal acting of Mr. Iden Payné, Mr. Jules Shaw, Mr. Lawson Casson, Mr. Charles Bibby amongst others. The répertoire has included *Widowers' Houses, Candida, When the Devil Was Ill, The Vale of Content*, to which are added several interesting one-act plays.

GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Chairman, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company has presented this week the Hall Caine version of *The Christian*. Miss Cora Deane is a fine Polly Love, and realises the rôle in every sense; Miss Daisy Scudamore gives a clever reading of Glory Quayle, and Mr. Roy Redgrave is an acceptable John Storm. Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn is well cast as Father Lamplugh.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. George Morton.—Fully to the liking of the audience is *Man or Beast*, which figures this week on the Alexandra bill. It is full of striking scenes and episodes. Miss Irene Carrington makes a capital Bella Newton, whilst Miss Phyllis Elton is a very effective Annetta. The hero is well placed in the hands of Mr. Charles Pitt; Mr. Fred Gresham fills with credit the comedy rôle; Mr. Ernest Vaughan contrives to give sufficient shading to the heavy part. The play has a startling hypnotic scene which adds to its interest.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Sydney Carter's animated pictures are drawing crowded houses, and additional interest is provided by Prof. Jennion's electric "Fantiochs."

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Three principal turns include Arthur Wellesley in a funny sketch, *Uncle's Courtship*; Kelly, a fisherman hypnotist; and Richard Finburg in character studies from famous plays; Greeners, Blanco and Emilie, and Hurelle and Selina complete a good company.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—Harry Tate's company in *Fishing* is an excellent top turn; Doody and Wright gain much applause; McAskell's comedy conjuring creates much laughter; others appearing include Will Owen, Fred Horsfall, Patrick Playfair, Vera Davis, and Mlle. Zelda.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*Florodora* pays a welcome return visit, and is presented by Mr. Charles Constant's company. Miss Daisy Lake appears as Dolores, and her delightful singing is much applauded; Mr. Martin D. Pitt, the Frank Abercoed, possesses a fine voice, which he knows how to use; Mr. Stanley Bartram as Captain Arthur Donegal is responsible for several good numbers; Lady Holyrood is embodied in capital style by Miss Lillie Blythe; and Angela Gilfain finds an admirable exponent in Miss Louie Danby. Mr. Jack Parker as Cyrus Gilfain is a suitable representative; Mr. Gus Danby as Tweedlepunch proves himself a clever comedian, there being not a dull moment whilst he is on the stage. The remaining artists are all deserving of praise.

ILKLEY. — BRIDGE PAVILION. — Lessee, Mr. Sydney Carter; Manager, Mr. Edwin Bryan.—This being the last week of Mr. Carter's stay at the Pavilion, capital fare is provided. Messrs. Logan and Logan, comedy duettists, on a return visit, give some good selections; Master Gordon Illingworth, boy comedian, in his latest songs, continues to win applause; Mr. Bryan's topical recitation takes well; and a new series of New Century Pictures is shown.

INVERNESS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Burgess.—Mr. John Clyde and a strong company gave an excellent representation of *The Manxman* on Monday night. Mr. Clyde, who played Pete, gave an excellent rendering of the part; Kate Cregeen was well played by Miss Lena Levenston; the Cæsar Cregeen of Mr. H. Macaulay was a good piece of character acting; Nancy was also represented in a spirited manner by Miss Jeanie Macintosh. The Aunt of Miss Denise Huntley was admirably free of exaggeration. All the other parts were well played.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and company are giving a week's Shakespearean performances, including *The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, As You Like It*, and *Twelfth Night*. The plays are excellently staged, and Miss Glossop-Harris is a favourite with Ipswich playgoers, as also is Mr. Frank Cellier. The company includes Mr. Percival Midgewick, Mr. Francis Roberts, Mr. J. Cassells Cobb, Mr. Horace Sinclair, Mr. Arthur Goodsall, and Mr. Lawrence Toole; also Miss Gertrude, and Miss Janet Warden. The excellence of the company is attracting good houses.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Mr. Joe Peterman's company in *The Belle of the Orient* is sufficiently amusing; Miss Agnes Molteno, a vocalist of exceptional ability, is assisted by Mr. T. Edwards and Little Dolly in a scena entitled *Dolly and a Coach*, which quite charmed the audience; the Elite Harmony Boys, who sing well, have an enjoyable sketch, entitled *Messmates Ashore*; Graham, the Lilliputian wonder, gives a living marionette entertainment, called "The Music Hall of Bygone Days," in which he impersonates cleverly some of the old comedians; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic, has a hearty welcome; Sam Redfern is as full of humour as ever; and Miss May Newell and Kerr and Koe complete an excellent bill.

PUBLIC HALL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Poole's Myriorama is drawing crowded houses with a talented company, including the Gramusa Family of eight musicians, Mr. Sidney Bach, Harry Raymond, and Miss Eileen Russell.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here with *The Lancashire Lad*. Mr. Alec. Alexander gives a first-class rendering of David Elmore; Mr. T. C. Vane as Max Carlton plays with force; and Mr. Wilton Reed acts finely in the part of Jim Wincote. Mr. B. Anderson imparts much humour into the character of John Willie Wardle; Miss Stanley Burt gives an admirable impersonation of Jessie Wincote; Miss Nell Oliver does well as Lorna Wincote; Miss Maudie Grayson merits much praise as Kitty De Vere; and Mr. Geo. Watson, Mr. G. Dudeney, Mr. W. Brereton, and Miss Jennie Hallworth give excellent support. The play is well staged.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—After a long spell of vaudeville the dramatic season opened here on Monday evening with Mr. Edward Marris's company in the successful drama from his own pen, entitled *As Midnight Chimes*, which was accorded a very flattering reception. The scenery was especially excellent. Miss Nita Imeson is a chic and racy French maid; Miss Doris Digby is a dainty heroine; Miss Barbara Allison does well in the small part of Zamora; and little Miss Elsie May makes a delightful boy. That Mr. Charles Weir as Luke Dezzard is a convincing villain was amply proved by the marked ill-favour bestowed on him by the "gods"; Mr. James Salter is a first-rate comedian, and his funnicsities as Tat Spavvin won him fresh kudos from his old admirers; Mr. Helier Le Maistre acquits himself admirably in the rather thankless part of Ezra Gamble, the heroine's weak old father; Mr. Cecil W. Parke as Dave Stannard supplies the usual characteristics expected of a melodramatic hero; and the remaining parts are well filled.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—*The Manxman* still retains its popularity, and good houses are the rule this week. Mr. Alfred B. Cross portrays the character of Pete in an admirable manner; Miss Minnie Watersford appears as Kate Cregeen, and gives a fine performance; Mr. Harold B. Lewis and Mr. Fred Mace are good in their respective parts.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday we had here Miss Rose Moncrieff and company in the military comedy entitled *The Bells of Old York*. Miss Rose Moncrieff in the dual rôle of Angel Grantham and Trumpeter Romney Kent both acted and sang well, being ably supported by Mr. Rass Challis as the Rev. Philip Gordon. For Thursday Mr. James Welch's company was billed to appear in *When Knights Were Bold*.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Mr. Sidney Dooley's company in *A King for a Day* are heading an excellent bill, the sketch being in the hands of Mr. Will Letters, Miss Clair Richardson, and Miss Fanny Wallace. Datas, the wonderful memory man, makes his first appearance here, and has a great reception; a popular turn is by Mr. Peter Berminghan, a quaint and clever comedian; the Welsh Meisters are a capital harmony four; and Helm and Cozens, in *The Doctor and the Patient*, are good. Some excellent pictures are shown on the Hipposcope.

LANCASTER. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—A good impression has been created here by the visit of Mr. C. Watson Mill's company, under the direction of Mr. Thompson Carruthers, with *A Wrecker of Men*. A feature of the play is the excellent staging, the sinking of a yacht and the wreck being especially well contrived. Miss Florence Melrose Millett is conspicuous with a portrayal of exceptional merit as Risca Mallison; Mr. Eric Campbell deserves high praise for his clever rendering of the part of Jim Murley; Mr. Milner Noble shines as Pharosaphus; and Mr. Chas. E. Lovell is good as Karnaphus. Mr. J. Ansdell Wilson is capital as Railton; Mr. Arthur Robinson makes a manly Guise Strange; and Mr. Thompson Carruthers is a great success as Eric Melville. Miss Gwendoline Talbot is charming as Doris Melville; and as Vavasole Slopper Miss Beatrice Reynolds causes much laughter.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The Achmed Ibrahim Troupe of Bedouin Arabs are the stars here, and are warmly recalled; Revill Hall, entertainer, is very pleasing; and Arthur Royce at the piano is capital. Harley and Melton, comedians, win a well-deserved encore; Miss Jessie Merrilees sings sweetly; as also does Joe Oliver, "the Lancashire lark." Poppy Lytton and Jack Bland appear successfully in a sketch, *A Lesson in Love*; and the Hippograph depicts For a Flower and A Debt of Gratitude.

LEAMINGTON. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—The attraction here for the first three days of the week was Mr. Gaston Mayer's London production, *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, presented by Mrs. Madge Carr Cook and company. The character of the sympathetic and kind-hearted Mrs. Wiggs was cleverly portrayed by Mrs. Madge Carr Cook, whose skill in bringing out the characteristics of the part was greatly admired. The Miss Hazy of Miss Rita Carlyle was a commendable performance; and Mr. Frederick Forrest's delineation of Mr. Stubbins was irresistibly droll. Miss Christine Rayner made a charming Lovey Mary; and Miss Mary Deverell was praiseworthy as Miss Lucy. All the other characters were ably sustained, and the intelligent performances of the juvenile members of the company added brightness and quaintness to the production. For the concluding days of the week the Monckton Hoffe comedy company is announced to appear in *Irene Wycherley*.

ROYAL ASSEMBLY ROOMS. — Proprietor, Mr. A. White; Acting-Manager, Mr. Francis Londberg.—Mr. Waller Jeffs' New Century Pictures continue to draw good houses. The varieties are supplied by Miss Leah Pinnick, who has a fine soprano voice, and Frank Fredella, a clever character-actor and mimic, whose performance has created quite a sensation.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company opened here on Monday with the successful play *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Emilie Polini enacts the name-part in clever and confident style, her comedy acting being especially admired; the Captain Bretherton of Mr. Frank Woolfe is a very satisfactory effort; and Mr. W. K. Pearce is thoroughly successful with the rôle of Sir Jabez Grinlay. Praise is also due to Miss Gwynneth Galton, whose Mrs. Cantelupe is a clever character-study.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Mr. Frederick Melville presents still another exciting melodrama to the patrons here, *Married to the Wrong Man* making its bow to a good audience on Monday evening. A very capable company includes Miss Gertrude Boswell in the principal female part, and her work is pleasing and sympathetic; Mr. Oswald Cray demonstrates the heroic character of Jack Gladwin in masterly style. There are many opportunities for humour, and in this direction Mr. Syd Claydon and Miss May Davis win distinction.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Eugene Stratton is a popular star turn here; Ludwig Amann is again successful in personating historical characters; J. A. Wilson presents his intelligent canine "Towser" in a neat turn; there is a capital entertainment by the Musical Twelve; that popular vocalist, Ian Colquhoun, is again doing well; and there are clever and applause-winning turns by Les Esdonians, Eileen Bernard, Imperial Russian Troupe, and Bessie Butt.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The 'Varsity Girls head the bill here with a clever singing and dancing turn, which is much applauded; Bertha Winder, the dancing marvel, is a deservedly popular turn; France and Stewart score with a comical racing absurdity; Bob Hanlon and Walter Buxton are both very successful in their respective lines; whilst Poole and Maguire and Millie Wolfrang also make a good impression.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—That able comedian, Edwin Boyde, is on a welcome return visit here, and the reception accorded by full houses is of the heartiest. George French is also vastly popular in vocal comedy; some really clever female impersonations by Max Waldon are vociferously applauded; and an artistic novelty by La Freya is well received. C. D. Reekie is an entertaining storyteller; and of the rest, Welda and Wynne, Karr and Rooney, Harry Rogerson, and Horace and Olga's dog and cat show are going particularly well.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. L. Jones.—A thrilling dramatic item, *The Light in the Window*, cleverly put on by Fred Winn and company, is a leading line here, and takes well; Belle Braham, the picture songstress, is having a successful time; a clever mystery entertainment is submitted by C. H. Charlton; W. G. Wesley proves a popular comedian, as also does Harry Webber; whilst the Czar troupe are prominent with a characteristic Russian speciality.

LEICESTER.—ROYAL OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—A first visit is being paid here this week by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's all-round excellent company, in the comedy *Lady Frederick*, in which Miss Mabel Love is to be highly eulogised for an altogether charming performance of the title-rôle; Mr. Robert Minster is very good as Mr. Paradine Fouldes; Mr. E. F. Meads is a success as Lord Mereston; and Miss Elsie Irving is capital as Lady Mereston. Mr. Patrick Quill does well as Sir Gerald O'Mara; Miss Lynn Fontanne is a delightful Rose; Mr. Edward Bonfield as Captain Montgomery and Captain Gerald Gambier as Admiral Carlisle are both capable exponents of their parts; and Miss Beatrice Grosvenor as Mme. Claude is also deserving of special praise. The staging and dressing of the play is of the best. *The Peacemaker* precedes.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—Mr. C. H. Knight's No. 1 company is here this week, and presenting the domestic drama, *The Lighthouse Robbery*, which is effectively staged. Mr. Henry Herne maintains his reputation as Tom Manly; and Miss Hilda Baynton as Rose Prescott is also very good. Mr. Percy Beresford scores as James Hammond; and Mr. William Annesley is capital as William Farren. Mr. Herbert Lewis is capable as David Morris; Mr. Sammy Foster is funny as Sam Kidder, his patter, singing, and dancing being heartily appreciated; Miss Maggie Stewart scores with her singing and acting as Ruth; Miss Ethel Lovett deserves much praise as Little Nellie; and Miss Ida Millais as Mrs. Manly plays with her usual ability.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Bucclench.—A gratifying success is scored here this week by Courtice and Louie Pounds and company, in a smart and enjoyable playlet, entitled *Charles—His Friend*. Mr. Courtice Pounds as Charles is extremely good; and Miss Louie Pounds as a young widow is charming. Miss Pearl Keats and Mr. Harry Lambert are also capital as Barbara and Peter Ward; Leo Tell makes a hit with his remarkable mimicry of horses and cats and imitations of instruments; the Provenanies, a clever troupe of lady trick cyclists, do some smart feats; Mr. G. P. Trevor and company present with success the interesting and stirring playlet, *Her Country's Enemy*, in which Miss Mary Allestree as Helga, Mr. G. P. Trevor as Capt. John Clayton, and Mr. Creagh-Henry as Capt. Markovitch are conspicuous with well-played parts; Frank Couch raises plenty of merriment with his smart and original patter; the Four Jumels are heard to advantage in their delightful and novel musical act; Aida Martine is a dainty comedienne and excellent dancer; Charles Santon is a success as a male soprano and double-voiced vocalist; Blanche Vincent is a capital burlesque actress and vocalist; and the Bioscope depicts Bostock Arena, London, Paris, and New York.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Being possessed of both dramatic and singing and dancing licences, Mr. Macnaghten is in the position of being able to stage anything in the way of entertainment, and this week his Leicester patrons are being entertained by Mr. Edward Marris's company, in the successful musical comedy, *The Dandy Doctor*, which is raising plenty of hearty laughter. The orchestra has been augmented, and there is a capital chorus of attractive and well-dressed ladies. Miss Florence Smithers as the servant Jane is a veritable merriment merchant; Mr. George Brentwood is very good as Melchisadek Brown; Miss Mollie Wynne is a delightful and vivacious Ivy Pendred; Mr. Herbert Pearce is capital as Colonel Pendred; Mr. A. Leslie Martin is funny as Bertie Bolingbroke; and Mr. C. Burrunston Williams is capable as Arthur Vandyke. Specialities are introduced by Miss Lottie Stone's Empire Girls and the Little Dutch Girls with satisfactory results. The only other attraction is Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, showing Motor-Boat Racing at Burnham-on-Crouch and Blind, two films of special merit.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt.—A very fine programme is submitted here this week, the chief moving pictures being Cossacks of the Don at Moscow, The Bully and the Recruit, The Pony Express, The Fireman's Daughter, The Spiteful Groom, The Sandwich Woman, and The Refractory Saveloy. At the head of the variety portion is Vulcanett, in a series of remarkable feats of strength; the Danas (Charles and May) create merriment in their vocal scena, *On the Honeymoon*; Le Warren, the ventriloquial "fop," and May Belle, comedienne and vocalist, also appear with success in entertaining turns.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company provides an intensely interesting attraction in the romantic play, *Her Love Against the World*. As Eric, Earl of Strathmere, Mr. Fred Emery preserves a dignified and manly demeanour throughout, evoking hearty sympathy and applause; Mr. Louis Gilbert displays an ample sense of villainy in the character of Prince Ulric; Mr. W. H. Hallatt is conspicuously successful as Prince Othmar; Miss Grace Heywood makes a prepossessing heroine, and she acts with commendable restraint and artistic finish; Miss Rossie St. John gives a fine delineation of Nello; and Mr. Victor Rowland is well placed as Prince Maurice. Miss Nellie Fletcher deserves praise as Shulah; and the remaining parts are all in capable hands.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—A good variety programme has been presented twice nightly this week. Outstanding items were the clever conjuring of Morimura, the highly-sensational gymnastic act of Onda and Artell, and the eccentric comedy turn of the Brothers Passmore. Billy Ross and company give a lively vaudeville entertainment, with boxing as a special feature; the Sisters Belmont distinguished themselves as duettists and dancers; and Lily Lorraine's wonderful contralto voice was heard to advantage in several songs; while popular single-handed turns were provided by R. E. Note and Lily Davies, and the American Bioscope exhibited a remarkably fine series of very interesting films. Neil Nelson, a Scotch comedian, and Jack Lester, a vocalist and raconteur, had good places in the bill; and the dancing of a deputy couple, whose names were not mentioned, found much favour with the house.

LICHFIELD.—ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Miss Rosie Neville's company appeared here on Monday night in *The Sorrows of Satan*. Mr. E. Neville gave a sardonic representation of the Prince; and Mr. E. Holland Day, his servant, seconded him by an able rendering of a sinister rôle. Mr. T. Douglas Howard played Tempest effectively, and Mr. E. Ramsdale proved successful as Morris; the Diana Chesney of Miss Lole Esmond was an excellent piece of acting, while Miss Rosie Neville, who was the Lady Sybil Elton, led the play in effective fashion. The remaining parts were adequately filled. *Nana* was played on Tuesday night.

LINCOLN. — ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope.—Messrs. Taylor Platt and Trevor Lowe's company in *You Never Can Tell* opened on Monday to an extremely appreciative audience. Miss Gwladys Morris as Gloria and Mr. Leslie Hamer as Valentine were especially successful, and Mr. Trevor Lowe as William made a hit; Mr. J. E. Pearce as Crampton and Mr. Charles as McCorner were also excellent. *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* was billed for Thursday and the remainder of the week.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—Ernest Rees is scoring here with smart songs and patter, and Tom and Marie Motramo do extremely well with their sketch *Do you Reverse?* Lecardo Bros., comedy acrobats, are amongst the best in their line, and Burns and Bentley are surely the last word in simultaneous dancing; the Five Broadway Girls contribute a dashing act; Margaret Royce has a charming turn with songs at the piano; Happy Atwood's quaint style catches on; and Hetty and Blanche also entertain.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Here this week we have had a welcome visit from Mrs. Patrick Campbell, with *The Thunderbolt, Electra*, and *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*. A delighted audience on Monday gave *The Thunderbolt* an appreciative hearing. As the conscience-stricken Phyllis Mortimore Mrs. Campbell shows to the fullest those admirable emotional qualities for which she is noted. There were moments when the audience listened to her with breathless interest, particularly in the confession episode. A fine supporter was Mr. Julian Royce, whose Thaddeus Mortimore thoroughly earned the sympathy and entire approval of his hearers. His manly tenderness towards the distressed wife, and the attempted self-sacrifice in her defence, were as absolutely natural and convincing as could be imagined. It was an added pleasure to find Miss Stella Patrick Campbell in the cast. Her assumption of the part of Helen Thornhill was in every way delightful, and marked by thoughtfulness and charm. Little Miss Mignon Clifford deserved thanks for her minor, but tactfully played, rôle of the precocious Mortimore child; Mr. Murray Carson stood out prominently with his eminently sound picture of the bumptious James Mortimore; Mr. J. D. Beveridge was perfect as the family solicitor; a well-drawn and forceful character was that of Colonel Ponting, impersonated by Mr. Nigel Playfair; and included in the remainder of the sterling combination were Messrs. Edgar Kent (Stephen Mortimore), and E. H. Brooke (Mr. Vallance), and the Misses Florence Kahn (Louisa Mortimore), Florence Farr (Ann Mortimore), and Florence Wells (Rose). The one-act play, *A Florentine Tragedy*, was given on Wednesday.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—An excellent company, sent by Mr. Charles Frohman, has here this week given Liverpool a first glimpse at *The Hypocrites*. The public approval of the play has been generally enthusiastic. In the exacting rôle of Mrs. Wilmore Miss Amy Ravenscroft acquitted herself to everybody's satisfaction; Mr. Alfred S. Barber handled the part of Mr. Wilmore in a manner which won entire commendation; as the Rev. Edgar Linnell Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton presented a firm, earnest type of parson, with strong force of character; Mr. Charles Harley played the lawyer, Viveash, to perfection; Miss Gladys Purnell was a sweet Helen Plugenet; and worthy support also came from Mr. Cecil Brooking (the Vicar), Miss Gladys Harvey (Rachel Neve), and Miss Florence Steventon (Mrs. Blaney). The work was staged and costumed in excellent style.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The attraction here this week has been *A Desperate Marriage*, presented by Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company. Mr. J. Knox-Orde acted the rôle of Dick Strang with much dramatic force, and frequently earned applause; Mr. E. W. Maule Cole was another strong supporter, his Clarence Woolmer being marked by care and tact; Miss Winifred Whyte made a charming Audrey Howard; Mr. Houghton Goddard did justice to Dr. Frank Buxter; Mr. Herbert Lloyd's Elijah Baggs was particularly amusing; and others who afforded satisfaction were Messrs. Walter Rousby, Edwin Fergusson, Miss Nellie Rousby, and Miss Helen Anderson.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Hardie and Von Leer's original company has been here this week with *Two Little Vagabonds*. The Misses Denise Zaleski and Alice Leon were the "boys," parts which were presented in a manner that soon earned the sympathies of the audience; Mr. Richard A. Greene as George Thornton acted with sound judgment; Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne was well suited to the rôle of Captain Darville; Miss Florence Dalton made a very sympathetic Marion Thornton; the part of Barbara Scarth was in the good hands of Miss Marion Fawcett; Miss Ida Drayton proved pleasing as Sister Randall; and enjoyable comedy came from Mr. Martin Sands (Bill Mullins) and Miss Marie Pritchard (Biddy Mullins). The sacred concert held here on Sunday evening last in aid of the unemployed fund was a great success.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Foremost here this week are Mark Sheridan and G. H. Chirgwin, both of whom came in for rousing receptions; the New York Nippers have a smart show of eccentric dancing; Lily Burnand was warmly received for her excellent songs; an amusing and delightful musical absurdity, *The Tea Shop, or Tigers, Ltd.*, was provided by Daley Cooper, Mabel Lait and company; Billy French showed to advantage as a wooden shoe dancer; Pete and Minnie Lee present a funny trifle, *A Scotchman's Visit to London*; and the list likewise contained the names of Nellie Martell, comedienne and dancer; and the Sisters Grovini, acrobats.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here this week Mr. Frederick Melville's company have given *Her Forbidden Marriage*.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—The popular Miss Amy Augarde headed the programme here with her charming episode, *La Carmencita*, which proved as enjoyable as ever; Bert Williams, the novelty ventriloquist, pleased immensely; Bert Woodward, coon cyclist, has some clever and diverting tricks; Clifton and Gibson are a couple of laughable comedians and excellent dancers; some remarkable clog dancing was performed by Fraser and French; the musical comedians, Kloof and Ramsey, provided an excellent turn; as whirlwind dancers the Carlyles showed to great advantage; and Jack Easy, Scotch comedian, and Cliff Dixon, swell comedian, also appeared.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Top of the bill here this week is Charles Prelle's bijon circus, in which a number of highly-trained dogs gave a smart show; another turn in the same line is that presented by Clotilde and Musto, with a flock of cockatoos; Jordan and Harvey, Hebrew comedians, proved very amusing; a neat comedy duologue, *Two Sides of a Wall*, came from Nightingale and Stigant; Edward E. Ford, the Australian sundowner, showed himself to be a clever mimic; Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard submitted an amusing sketch, *Coming Home*; some daring jumping was gone through by Fioretti and Elly; and bounding trampolinists Hayes and Merritt are somewhat novel; Vasey and Ramsey, neat dancers, gave an amusing trifle, *The German and His Butler*; and Dora Brooklyn, comedienne, also appeared.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The stock dramatic company here has during the week given *The Blind Witness*, the principal parts in which were undertaken by Messrs. R. Seath Innes, Sydney Grant, David G. Noble, Cecil Ravenswood, Leo Montgomery, and Robb Wilton, and Miss Florence Palmer and Miss Lilian Radbourne. Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the series of cinematograph pictures, the following artists appeared during the week:—Tony Freedman, vocal comedian; and the Three Royal Temples, operatic vocalists.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Gus Elen is the bright, particular star here this week, and delighted everybody with his latest songs, including "The wrong un's bedroom"; a new version of *Turpin's Ride to York* was given by Fred Ginnett and company, and loudly applauded; Reichen's dogs showed remarkable training; a cordial reception was extended to Miss Gwennie Llewellyn for her sweet singing; Frank and Free are a couple of highly-diverting comedians; J. P. Ling showed himself to be an accomplished mimic and comedian; Maud Vera, a capital dancer, pleased greatly; and Bert Harrow, comedian, also appeared.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Principal here this week is W. D. Mackenzie's company, with a neat musical scena, "Moments with the Masters"; the Merrions (Will, Harry, and Fred) gave a smart vocal and instrumental comedy entertainment; Zeta Grey, Wal Grace and company, amused greatly with the sketch, *The Lancashire Lass*; a wonderful electric cycle act was performed by Cyclumina; George Prince earned loud applause for his funny songs; some popular patriotic illustrated songs were given by Francis Haskell; Satani presented several clever illusions; Dex surprised with his conjuring; and the list also contained the names of Frank E. Ford, clog dancer; the Bros. Lydamore, comedians and dancers; and Clifford Stuart, comedian.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Messrs. Martin Alwyne and A. W. Thompson's company appeared here for three nights in the evergreen *My Sweetheart*. Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon ably undertakes the part of Tony Faust and Mr. A. W. Thompson is quite at home as Joe Shotwell; Mr. Chas. Cameron does justice to the part of Dr. Oliver; Mr. Stewart Quartermayne is a polished type of villain as Harold Bartlett; and Mr. Martin Alwyne is amusing as Dudley Harcourt; Miss Kathie Bratby gives a good portrayal of Mrs. Fleeter; Miss Belle Russell is capital as Mrs. Hatzel; and Miss Violet Hurley is a pleasing Tina.

PIER VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Sam Hughes, jun.—Some excellent pictures are shown here this week.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Resident-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here this week, meeting with great success, in *The Christian*. Mr. P. George Twyman appears as John Storm, and wins great approval;

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Glory Quayle is most ably taken by Miss Margery Fane, who achieves success; Mr. Edward Custon as Horatio Drake and Mr. Montague Lane as Lord Robert Ure are both very good; in the parts of Father Lamplugh and Brother Paul Messrs. John H. Bateson and Bert Conway are both painstaking; Mr. Wm. Mallalieu makes a good Archdeacon Wealthy; as Polly Love Miss Gladys Vernon is commendable; and Miss Gracie Baring is equally good as Black Meg. The part of Mrs. Callender is in the able hands of Miss Alice Maude. The piece is well staged.

LONDONDERRY.—Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Payne Seddon; Manager, Mr. A. Jeffries.—Crowded houses are again the rule, and an excellent programme is submitted. Cestria, comedy juggler and acrobat, gives a capital turn; Dan Kino, a comedian of ability, is very popular; Mr. Chas. M. Daly's sketch company produce successfully *I Must Have It*, an uproariously funny little farce; and others who support the programme are Bell and Bright, in an amusing comedy act; Elsie Moore, a clever comedienne; and Cissie Gazetti, an artistic vocalist. The Dalyscope pictures are again very entertaining.

LONG EATON.—St. James's Theatre.—Mr. Ward's company, in *The Love of the Princess*, is here. As the Prince, Mr. Wilson Coleman makes a good impression, and Miss Ward gives a touching representation of the Princess; Mr. E. H. Dobell is the plotting King of Ilarnia, Mr. Ernest E. Imeson figures as Count Nicholas, the traitor, and Miss Helen Elmar, the sister of mercy, with Miss Nellie Garside as Lady Irene. The piece is well staged and dressed, and the company had a very flattering reception.

Palace.—Mr. Alf. Smith has a good picture show, with Mr. W. H. Blackman, a protean artist, and Coombes and Webb, musical entertainers. Two shows nightly are given, at popular prices.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Charles Constant's company in *Florodora* has been drawing good houses. Mr. Gus Danby as Tweedlepunch is, as usual, a host in himself; Mr. Jack Parker as Cyrus G. Gilfain plays with considerable vivacity; Mr. Martin D. Pitt as Frank Abercoed creates a good impression, his fine baritone voice being heard to great advantage; Mr. Stanley Bartram as Capt. Arthur Donegal is well suited to the rôle; Leandro is capitally taken by Mr. Emlyn Davis; Miss Daisy Lake as Dolores sings and acts with great power and feeling; Miss Louie Danby makes a piquant Angela; and Lady Holyrood is fascinatingly played by Miss Lillie Blythe.

LOUTH.—Town Hall.—Cyril Getliffe is here again with his National Ladies' Choir; the popular music is exceedingly well rendered, and the humorous portions prove highly amusing. Cyril Getliffe is quite at home with the most difficult compositions on the violin. Miss Minnie Sanderson is a delightful comedienne, and also pleases the house with her cornet solos.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—The variety bill is headed by Will Van Allen, tramp musician; Will Crackles also affords amusement in song and dance; the Woodwards, cycling act; Ina Lorimer, Scotch comedienne; Mostol, musician; Yoland Noble and Howard and Wallace are also included in the bill.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Interest is centred in the first visit locally of the famous Gunner Moir, and on Monday the spacious building was crowded, many being refused admission. The "Gunner," who is introduced by Major Best, looked the picture of health, and received an ovation. The bill also includes the talented Dayton Family, in a wonderful acrobatic sketch, *Le Rendezvous*, which is again scoring success; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier, is in excellent voice; Edgar Budden, comedian and roller skate dancer, wins applause; Millie Denham, comedienne, added to the entertainment; and the same may be said of Chas. Bu Val, in his clever musical sketch. On Thursday, Lockhart's Educated Elephants occupied the boards, in addition to a remarkably fine series of pictorial subjects by the British Biograph Co.

LUTON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Ernest Chesney's company is appearing here this week in *Wedded to Crime*. Miss Maud Arnold as the adventuress Lola L'Estrange displays much talent; the rôle of the Forger King, Desmond Delane, is played to perfection by Mr. E. Chesney, and his powerful acting in the last act was a pleasure to witness. Miss F. Halton gave a splendid performance as the long-suffering wife; a very clever character-study is that of Mr. Bernard Webb as the grasping old Ikey Kopstein; Mr. Chas. Sewell makes a breezy hero; and the comic relief suffers nothing in the hands of Mr. Harry Edlin and Mr. Vyvian Thomas.

MACCLESFIELD. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in *The Little Breadwinner* is here. Lord Dorrington is well portrayed by Mr. H. B. Peppin; the rascally Joseph Prior is faithfully drawn by Mr. Alfred Maurice; Chas Prior finds a clever exponent in Mr. Sydney Lynn; Mr. R. Brown is a popular Richard Lawrence; and Mr. W. Carey is successful as Dr. Chadwick. Little Winnie Crisp gives an excellent rendering of the title-rôle; Miss May Richardson is quite equal to the trying rôle of Margaret Daventry; Bridget O'Flannaghan is cleverly presented by Miss Clara Hunt; Miss M. Ford enacts the part of Kate Cherry to perfection; Miss Lissa Young makes an excellent Bobby Trott; and Miss Kitty Melville a charming Ruth Cherry.

MAESTEG. — Town Hall Theatre.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. F. Knowles.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne and his company opened here on Monday with *A Woman Pays*. Mr. Phil Harper was exceedingly good as Sid Armstrong, and had a fine reception; the Roger Marchant of Mr. John Davidson was excellent; Mr Beresford Innes showed ability as Cyprus Tread gold; as Micky Maloney Mr. Frank M. Thorne afforded much amusement; Miss Maud Russell submitted a careful study of Madge Armstrong; Nell Morland in the hands of Miss Kate Blair was forcibly impersonated; and Miss Anena Walton was entertaining as Polly Stokes.

MAIDSTONE.—Palace.—Manager, Mr. Stanley Baskerville.—A smart farcical sketch, *Poor Beggar*, is well played by Mr. John Le Hay and company, Mr. Le Hay in the title-rôle being enthusiastically received. The Oakes, American entertainers, have some smart patter; Wilfred Burnand gives some clever character sketches from Dickens; Ivy Proudfoot has to respond to a well-deserved encore; Field and Lewis, duettists and dancers; Carson Hicks, comedian and dancer; Captain Ellis and Son, coloured instrumentalists; and the Bioscope are other attractions.

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The United Theatres, Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal's presentation of *The Whirlpool* here on Monday was received by a large audience with every mark of favour. The principal parts—Elijah D. Tillottson and Constance Livingstone—are quite in the vein usually associated with the popular couple who head the cast, and the efforts of both were duly honoured by rapt interest and unstinted applause. Every assistance was rendered by the company, among whom Mr. Bassett Roe played Bertram Livingstone with his customary finish; Mr. Edmund Gurney was excellent as Ephraim Johnstone; and Mr. Metcalfe Wood made quite a hit as Chappin, the clerk. On Tuesday an admirable performance of *The Elder Miss Blossom* was given before a good house, and on Thursday *The House of Clay* was deservedly well attended.

Prince's Theatre. — Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Considerable amusement is provided here this week by Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. W. Wood-Ingram's company, in *Jack Straw*. A particularly strong feature of the performance is the inclusion of Miss Florence St. John as Mrs. Parker-Jennings, an admirably humorous and intelligent impersonation. Mr. Lionel Glenister plays the title-part in capital style, especially in the later scenes at Taverner's; and he is well assisted by Mr. Frederick Moyes as Ambrose Holland, Miss Edie Graham as Lady Wanley, and Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson as the Marquis of Serlo. Mr. A. T. Gullifer contributes an amusing depiction of Mr. Parker-Jennings; Miss Estelle Despa is satisfactory as Mrs. Withers; and Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram makes a dignified Count von Bremer. The remaining parts are adequately filled. *A Long Journey* precedes.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—*Love Rules the World* is here this week, after a successful week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—A good house was attracted here on Monday by the appearance of Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton in *The Taming of the Shrew*. A more perfect and enjoyable depiction of Petruchio and Katharina, by Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton respectively, could not be desired by the most fastidious of playgoers, and the parts subordinate to these are played in excellent spirit by the other members of the cast. Mr. Herbert Grimwood as Baptista is noteworthy; and Miss Muriel Ashwynne provides a well-studied contrast to the shrew as Bianca; while Mr. G. Kay Souper as Lucentio and Messrs. Caleb Porter and R. Ian Penny as Gremio and Hortensio are distinctly good. A matinée of *Othello*, splendidly done, was well attended on Wednesday.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company are here this week in a drama entitled *The Girl With the Angel Face*, founded on the recent Druce mystery. Mr. Fred J. Evison as the decrepit old sexton, Jasper Death, has a strong part; and Mr. H. Naylor Grimson is seen to advantage as the aristocratic Sir John Wentworth. Mr. Dobell Lyle displays extraordinary ability as the Rev. Gordon Cross; Mollie Maitland is a great success in the hands of Miss Mildred Carr; Miss Phyllis Dailley is womanly and sympathetic as Ena Wentworth; and in the title-part, Miss Florrie Green is very clever in depicting the dual character of Angel Leigh. The scenery is elaborate, and the piece very well received.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Andrew.—A good programme here this week includes the Five M.P.'s, who provide a rich musical treat; Carney Bros., in an excellent vocal scena; Ada Janner, in her amusing sketch, *The Lady Barber*; Jukes and Earle, comediennes and dancers; Monty Walker, swell comedian; Percy Curry, the original candy man; U. C. Ugo, comedy illusionist; the Three Behans, in a novel quick-change comedy act; the original Zedoras, graceful gymnasts; and the Sisters Valli, in music and dance. George Hall, siffleur, did not appear.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—An excellent programme here is headed by Fred Karno's company, in *Mumming Birds*, who are funnier than ever; a big turn also is that of Lowenwirth and Cohan, Hebrew comedians, who are very well received; Harry Herbert, eccentric comedian, makes a hit with his funny songs and smart patter; Lilian Dundas and company present a well-written and effective convict episode, *Nance Arden*; Kisby, the call boy, is smart and amusing; the Lyric Quartet are heard in harmonised picture-songs; and other pleasing items are Merry Margery Lawrence, a clever juvenile comendienne and dancer; Adey Spencer, "the girl from the hat shop"; and The Book of Life, a novelty in living pictures.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Resident-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Loie Fuller and her graceful dancers remain here another week with their beautiful *Ballet of Light*; Queenie Leighton meets with a deserved good reception; Adele Crispin and the Little Forget-me-Nots are delightful in a pretty song-scena; and the Gothams are capital entertainers. The Frank L. Gregory Troupe are marvellous hoop rollers and jugglers; Dave Austen and Frank Hawthorne are highly amusing in a comedy duologue, *His Wedding Morn*; Ray Wallace at the piano is a clever mimic; and others who entertain are Edie Reynolds, violinist, in well-rendered selections; Margaret and John Rawson, smart juveniles; and Arthur Schofield, comedian. Interesting films are shown on the Bioscope.

Palace. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Kate Carney is here this week in her successful song-scenas, "The Yiddisher Boy" and "Mr. Postman," and meets with a splendid reception. The Colibris Midgets, introduced by Herr Munstedt, are the smallest performers before the public, and are exceedingly clever; Kurkamp is a fine singer, and is deservedly well received; Chanti, in his wonderful quick-change act, scores a big success; George Melvin, Scotch comedian, dances well, and makes a hit; Charles F. Best as McBunker is very funny; and other good turns are those of Charles Cardow, vocal comedian; Dan Kennedy, comedian; and Mack Olive, in whistling scena. Pictures complete.

Tivoli. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Excellent and well-received turns here this week are those of Marguerite Broadfoote, burlesque artist; the Six Spots, vaudeville entertainers; and Lisbon and Barker, comedians. The Llewellyns, in a comedy operetta, *Two Wicked Maids*, are also good; and Daisy Reed, comedienne, dances in fine style. Other smart items are offered by Ida Katherina, "the dolly girl"; George Laurence, light comedian; Irene Meldon, comedienne; and the Three Sisters Duquesne, vocalists and dancers. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is also shown. Mr. Frank J. Smith's twentieth original fantasia, entitled "Three Manchester Sketches," is a characteristic piece of work of this indefatigable conductor and composer, and was successfully produced for the first time on Monday last.

King's Theatre. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Jake Friedman, in that delightful Dutch operetta, *Happy Holland*, assisted by a capital company, tops the bill here this week, and is well received; Margit and Lever, acrobatic eccentrics, are exceedingly smart; Cecilia Gold is an excellent comedienne; Angelina gives a remarkably clever juggling act; and Herr Karoly Czynski, musical expert, is warmly applauded. Others who do well are Frances Hanlon, dainty comedienne; Jack Waller, lady impersonator; and Allsopp and Bekwith, the popular duo. Gaieties of Divorce is shown on the Bioscope.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—The members of Mr. Thompson Carruthers' company, in *The Master Card*, a highly sensational sketch, are all excellent, playing with great dramatic power. The piece is well mounted, and presented in masterly manner, and the card manipulating of Dunningarto is exceptionally clever. Baddow is undoubtedly a "great" ventriloquist, his turn being exceedingly smart; the Three Sisters Tree sing and dance pleasingly; Edwin Garth gains a good reception for his quaint humour; the Sages are good comedy artists; France and Francis, in an acrobatic tumbling act, display much ability; the Brothers Ford are neat simultaneous dancers; Doyle and Massey score as cross-talkers; Ben Jackson plays the banjo cleverly; and Mark Hinton is an entertaining comedian.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley.—Morny Cash, the Lancashire lad, tops the bill here this week, and makes a big hit; the Wedburns are highly amusing comedians; Coverdale and Huxley's Bijou Juveniles are exceedingly clever singers and dancers, and meet with a deserved good reception; and the Swift Duo are very clever trick cyclists. First-rate and well-received items are also offered by Beau and Belle, in scena, *Past and Present*; Barfoot and Carson, comedians and dancers; Milner and Storey, comedy duo; Leonard Gale, vocal comedian; Will Sullivan, comedian and patterer; the Imperial Comedy Quintette, in musical sketch, *His Last Day of Freedom*; and Carl Howard in comedy and magic. The Isle of Man Motor Races are shown on the Bioscope.

Rusholme Pavilion.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie.—An excellent programme is offered here this week, and includes Miss Rene Steadman, comedienne; Miss Annie Coxon, contralto; Miss Belle Sylvia, comedienne and dancer; Mr. George Curzon, baritone; Mr. Vernon Noble, light comedian; Mr. Andy Drew, eccentric comedian; Jim Pullen, a popular comedian; and Mr. Fred Shepherd at the piano.

MANSFIELD. — Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Mr. Dickie Clare's company of comedians is this week presenting the musical absurdity *Lucky Liza*. Miss Madge Brownie is vivacious and captivating in the title-rôle; Miss Vesta Brownie is smart and entertaining as Virginia Blatherwick; Miss Evelyn Wood sings and acts capitally as Sadie Potts; and a pleasing and graceful Marie is found in Miss Helen Douglas. Mr. Dickie Clare shines prominently, firstly as Silas Slim, then as the Judge, and finally as the French waiter. Mr. Norman H. Lee plays cleverly as Paul Pettitoe; Mr. T. W. Benson and Mr. Harry George are excellent as the rival barristers; and Mr. J. W. Forrest is extremely comical as Biffins. Scotch dances are given by Miss Vesta Brownie, whilst the Astor Trio are both clever and original in their dancing.

Victoria Hall.—Lessee, Mr. A. Fox.—The Victoria pictures continue to draw large audiences. In addition to the pictures, Mr. Clarence Turner (dialect comedian) and Miss Mollie Revill (lady baritone), both well known to local audiences, are a great success. The Mosaics, comedy duo, complete an excellent programme.

MARGATE. — Hippodrome.—Managing Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The programme here is headed this week by Joe Peterman's company in the operatic burlesque *The Singing Servants*. This bright and tuneful production has been remarkably well received. Other contributors are Nita Olem, comedienne and dancer; The Orchids, vocal comedy duo; Mr. C., who sings and talks; W. A. Harvie, in the adventures of a telegraph wire repairer; and Maud Courtney, American songstress and story-teller; who all secure a full share of popularity.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company is paying a return visit with *Moths* on Monday and Wednesday, *Called Back* on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* on Friday.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—In an all-round programme of excellence provided here this week are the Three Rubys, contortionists and acrobats; the Wallys, in a juggling act; Fred Casburn, who appears in a song-scena, *An Actor's Reverie*; the Devonports, illusionists; the Godfreys in a musical comedietta, *The Slavey and the Coon*; Lesta Lowe, comedienne and dancer; Bonetto and Corri, eccentrics; Donald McDougal, Scotch comedian; and the Biograph.

METHIL.—Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—Mrs. Fred J. Kirke's company opened the week here with the musical drama *The Naval Detective*. Miss Florry Jackson and Mr. O. B. Stanley as Phillis Leslie and Lieut. Jack Beresford respectively displayed great versatility, their various disguises being well sustained; Miss Francesca Strickland was a most effective Lulu Kauffmann; Miss Lily Seymour played well as Rebecca Gentle, the Quakeress; Miss Edith Clariss was amusing as Susan Scrubbs, and Miss Gladys Glaney made an excellent impression as Maud Marsham. Mr. G. H. Holloway was capital as Dr. Schreiner; Captain Hustle and the Hon. Bertie Fairlock had capable representatives in Messrs. Franklyn Daly and W. T. Hybert respectively; Mr. R. Bridge as Sergeant Duncan was good; and, as Hans Winklepump, Mr. Charles Burns made a decided score. The Sisters Gaze, as the dancing girls, Ruby and Pearl, made themselves popular. The Gaietyscope added to the enjoyment of the evening. *In Old Madrid* was billed for the last three nights of the week.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company are this week playing *The World and the Woman*. Mr. Geo. H. Doyle gives a dignified and intelligent rendering of Arthur Burleigh; Ludlow Burleigh is played with vigour by Mr. St. George Frere; Terry O'Harris has an able exponent in Mr. J. Rice Cassidy; Mr. Hy. Hoyland is satisfactory as Tut Harding; Mr. Hy. Compton plays well as Sir Francis Chalmers; Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy invests with dramatic power the trying rôle of Nelly; Miss Amy McNeill cleverly portrays Lady Marion Chalmers; and Miss Vara Hern does well as Gwendoline.

New Picture Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—Among the excellent pictures being shown here this week are—The Vision of Salome, The Lady Barrister, 'Twixt Love and Duty, Sports of the World, and A Free Pardon.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Edward Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Miss Maud Hildyard, who scored a great success on her former visit to the Opera House last year, makes a most welcome reappearance here this week in *The Great Awakening*. In the rôle of Lola Selby, an adventuress, she gains unstinted applause. The play, in which pathos, passion, and humour are well blended, gives Miss Hildyard plenty of scope in which to display her versatility as an actress. Mr. Wallis Clark is excellent as James Selby, and Mr. Conrad Franklyn does full justice to the rôle of Captain Lambert. Miss Fay Garnett-Vayne is a pleasing Molly Merton, and Mr. Cecil Gray in the rôles of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Mertan does well. Mr. Herbert Robinson as Guy Rogan is good, and Mr. Tracy Barrow as Billy Brass and Mr. Eric Dane as Sergeant Bone cause much merriment.

Theatre Royal. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—*Roaring Camp*, a drama, the scene of which is a gold-mining camp in Western America, is being presented here this week. The play, which is produced by Mr. Leonard Boyne's company, abounds with stirring scenes and amusing situations. The part of Will Gordon, a rich man, is admirably portrayed by Mr. Henry Hare, and the character of Nell Curtis could scarcely have been placed in better hands than those of Miss May Forster. Tom Barnes and Jovita de Sutro, the villain and villainess, are well sustained by Mr. Charles E. Johnson and Miss Constance Elgin. Mr. J. W. Braithwaite as Paddy McGinty and Miss Gwen Clifford as Mrs. O'Flynn contribute to the humour.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—Jack Lorimer, the popular Scottish comedian, with a number of catchy songs, has a great reception. *The Spy*, which is produced by Messrs. Percy Ford and G. W. Webb's company, creates a big impression; Fred Poplar in a new absurdity is good; Wee Mona Vivian does some clever impersonations of popular artists; Kitty Wager is a dainty comedienne; and the Stowe Bros. are clever equilibrists. Stella Stahl and Harding and Preston, comedy artists, also do well.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Crowded houses are the rule here this week, the great attraction being Lafayette in an original and remarkable performance. Binns and Binns are exceptionally entertaining; Alcide Capitaine is a clever gymnast; Frank Maura, the Mexican wonder, is very popular; V. L. Granville's character impersonations are all that can be desired; and Dorothy R. Clarke is a charming vocalist.

Oxford Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Ormesby French.—Cline and Clarke, black and white comedy artists, score a great success here; considerable amusement is caused by the numerous attempts to ride Berzac's mule or to run on the revolving table; little Miss Horsley and W. Horsley give a clever exhibition of clog-dancing; and included in a number of other turns are the Rosses, whose patter and dancing are excellent.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company in *Her Road to Ruin* is here this week. Mr. Henry Wolston is earnest and convincing as the young curate, and Mr. Ernest Hague gives a carefully studied rendering of the rôle of Tom Wells; Philip Hardy, "the man who was to blame," is excellently played by Mr. Alex. Bradley; May Willoughby, as played by Miss Alice Alice Bowes, is a pretty picture of English girlhood; her sister Jess having a powerful exponent in Miss Beatrice Edwards; Miss Nellie Bonser submits some excellent character acting in the rôle of Mary Dawson; Mr. Dane Clark is strong and convincing as the Bishop; Miss Mary Wright is amusing in the rôle of Jeannie Crackling, as is also Mr. Harry Talbot as Billy Boots. The minor rôles are well played, and the scenery and effects are excellent.

MUSSELBURGH.—Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. M. Richardson.—For the first three nights this week we were favoured with a return visit of Mr. Carr Loates and his company. *At the World's Mercy* was given on Monday and Tuesday before large and appreciative audiences. Mr. Leo Rodway as the dashing young sailor, Captain Frank Manley, made a typical hero; Mr. Carr Loates as the rascally solicitor, Jabez Barber, was ably assisted in his villainies by Mr. George D. Knight as Goldstein, the Jew, and Mr. W. H. Irving as Slouching Sam; the much-persecuted heroine, Alice Lloyd, was in the capable hands of Miss Molly Bee, who gave an excellent rendering of the part; Miss Kathleen Saunders played the child Dot with feeling; Mr. G. Scully and Miss Cissie Milford were responsible for the comedy element; and as Charley Smart and Kitty Knott, the music hall artists, they gave some very clever songs and dances. Miss Milford played the part of the stowaway, Skittles, with touching effect. The piece was effectively mounted and dressed. *A London Outcast* was staged on Wednesday.

NEATH.—Gwyn Hall.—The Neath Amateur Dramatic Society gave a performance of *Jedbury, Jun.*, before a crowded audience. The comedy was very creditably portrayed. Mr. C. P. Palmer as Christopher Jedbury, jun., submitted a strong and artistic representation; Mr. W. H. Curtis as Jedbury, sen., displayed talent; Mr. H. W. Beckley cleverly represented Tom Bellaby; Mr. H. C. Peerman as Mr. Gibb was greatly appreciated; Mr. A. W. Loughour as Job, valet to Jedbury, jun., made a typical gentleman's servant; Mr. W. P. Rees cleverly doubles the parts of Wimper, a manservant, and Mr. Simpson, manager of Jedbury's Bombay house; Major Hedway, a retired army officer, was faithfully portrayed by Mr. H. E. Aldington; Mrs. C. P. Palmer acted effectively the part of Mrs. Jedbury, jun.; Miss Ethel Dunsdon as Nelly, daughter of Jedbury, sen., played in capital style; Miss Joan Thomas as Dora, niece of Major Hedway, displayed talent; and Miss Lillian Pole played Mrs. Gibb with success. The whole of the proceeds are to be handed over to the Neath Maternity Section of the Nursing Association. Hutchin's Orchestral Band played some delightful music during the evening. Great praise is due to Mr. W. P. Rees for his able stage management and to Mr. H. Wright, who worked hard to ensure success in his capacity as acting-manager and agent in advance.

NELSON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—The boards here have this week been occupied by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company in *For Love and the King*. Mr. Mill successfully presents Jarval, his acting in the torture scene being of a very vivid and impressive character. The miser is well played by Mr. J. Burton; Mr. Hy. Earlsmere makes a powerful Vladimir Obrenovic; whilst the characters of Prince Uros Dragomir and Duke Fernand are capably treated by Mr. H. Hilliard and Mr. Geoffrey Chate; as the German artist Mr. Jim K. Woods is very successful; Miss Joan Ellis charmingly presents Natila, the beggar-maid; Miss Marie Ault is a vivacious and pleasing Grazia; and as Princess Athene Miss Rosalind Tate increased her popularity. The dresses and scenery are specially attractive.

NEW BRIGHTON.—Winter Gardens.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—Condensed grand opera is drawing enormous houses at this popular resort. Mr. Ernest C. Gittins' company, consisting chiefly of late members of the Carl Rosa Opera Co., renders a portion of *Martha*, also Donizetti's popular military opera, *The Daughter of the Regiment*, in a manner beyond reproach. The principal artists include Miss Adele Prescott, Miss Theresa Gilbert, Mr. Frederick Silverston, Mr. Harry Carver, Mr. Harry Malthouse, and Miss Hilda Marks. The staging is most effective. The band, augmented, under the direction of Herr A. Spiegler, lend valuable aid. The first part also embraces other items of an acceptable character. The Franco-British Marionettes, cleverly manipulated, cause loud laughter, whilst Miss Mamie Morris dances well. The animated pictures are, as usual, of the highest class, depicting travel and educational subjects.

Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Nall.—Skating is quite a fashionable pastime, and the attendance daily is very good.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—A welcome return visit is being paid to Newcastle this week of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's production, *The Dairymaids*. The company is particularly strong, including, as it does, Miss Phyllis Dare, Miss Edith Blanche, Mr. Harry Dent, and Mr. Statham Staples. In the part of Peggy Miss Phyllis Dare retains all her charm; Winifred has a bright and vivacious exponent in Miss Gladys Ivery, an extremely capable singer; Lady Brudenell is played with quiet dignity and charm by Miss Edith Blanche; and Eliza, in the hands of Miss Lottie Sargent, receives diverting treatment. Mr. Harry Dent as the ubiquitous Joe Mivens is responsible for the major portion of the fun, being ably assisted by Mr. E. Statham Staples as Sam Brudenell, Mr. Fred Leslie as Lieut Brudenell, and Mr. Percy Marshall as Dr. O'Bryne.

Tyne Theatre and Opera House.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Many years have elapsed since the Follies visited Tyneside, and great interest is being evinced in the present visit of Mr. H. G. Pélissier and his merrymakers. Mr. Pélissier, himself an accomplished musician and brilliant entertainer, is ably assisted by his talented company in many and various items of interest, and altogether the whole performance is one huge success.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—*The Sailor's Wedding* is here, the presentation of the piece being in the capable hands of Miss Dulcie Greatwich, Miss Laura Hansen, Miss Celestine Betram, Mr. C. W. Standing, Mr. Cecil Klein, and Mr. Frank Gordon.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—An enthusiastic reception was accorded that popular drama *The Face at the Window* on Monday evening. Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale and Mr. Scott Leighton, in respective parts of Le Loup and Paul Gouffet, are excellent. Mr. Alfred Warne, Mr. Arthur Beverley, Miss Elsie Marriott Watson, and Miss Louie Lonora also lend valuable aid.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—At the head of a capital programme this week is Mr. Arthur Roberts and company in a clever and original sketch *Till Sunday*. The Eight Lancashire Lads present an attractive dancing turn; Harry Bancroft, actor-vocalist, goes well; the inimitable George Bastow gives a series of clever character studies, which receive hearty appreciation; whilst another pleasing turn is contributed by Emmie Ames. Other prominent artists appearing are Ben Albert, the logician; Madge Osmond, who sings in the dress of a British officer; and Duncan and Godfrey, in the comedy *Me and 'Er*. The bioscope completes an all-round interesting bill.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Miss May Moore Duprez, the jolly Dutch girl, is the star on an exceedingly strong bill here; and other artists contributing are that very fine and fascinating dancer Topsy Sinden, Bros. Bradshaw, John Grun Marx, Blake and Amber, Harry Vardon, Herbert La Martine, Mike Nono, and Bromley and Fontein.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. George Edwardes' company is playing *The Merry Widow* to crowded houses here this week. The music is charming, the setting brilliant, and the dressing magnificent. The chorus-singing is particularly good, and the acting of the principals is of a high order. Miss Mysie Devine as Sonia displays powers of fascination and acts with grace and charm; and Mr. Frank Green's Prince Danilo is humorous and spirited; and Mr. Edward D'Arcy is extremely funny as Baron Popoff. Mr. Fred Fowler is really comical in the part of Nisch; Mr. Bert Edwards as Maxime is delightfully entertaining; and Mr. Ripley Evans, who puts a good deal of fervour into his love-making, as Vicomte Camille de Joliton, sings excellently. Mr. Wm. Allison and Mr. F. Pedgrift do well as the Marquis de Cascada and M. de St. Brioche respectively; and Mr. Clifford Seyier displays humour in the part of General Novakovitch. Miss Ada Thomas acts Natalie with spirit and tenderness; Miss Katie May dances well as Frou-Frou; and Miss Winnie Bailey, Miss Madeline Seymour, Miss Marjorie Villis, Miss Patricia Bevan, and Miss Nancy Keeley are particularly attractive as girls at Maxim's; and Miss Daphne Glenne as Olga; and Miss Violet Hotson as Sylvanie and Miss Lucie Donati as Prascoria, are well adapted for their parts.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Arthur Lennard delights crowded houses with his popular songs; Tom Edwards presents an extremely clever turn in ventriloquism; and a very artistic performance is provided by the Three Welsh Girls. Cyclonic dances are given by the Molasso Quartette; Ross and Lewes, in quaint dancing, add to the evening's enjoyment; and the Three Bros. Huxter perform some remarkable feats in high and long-distance somersaults. Marie Empress presents a smart turn as a comedienne; Little Pam dances very creditably; and Constance Mori sings with taste and expression. The Bioscope, showing capital pictures, completes the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—New Palace Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, M. Thos. A. Evans.—*That Dreadful Detective*, presented by E. D. Nichols and company, is a burlesque of the old style of drama, and proves very amusing; the Sisters Tasners, able dancers and duettists, take the place of Queenie Essex, incapacitated by illness; Will Hebden gives a couple of comic songs with success; Les Ados, of fine physique, give a good athletic display; the Sisters Carlton, duettists and speciality dancers, obtain a hearty reception; Lillie Hales, "Queen of the Wooden Shoon," D'Arcy and Lewis, in an eccentric comedy act, Hearne and Palmer, eccentrics, and the Palace Pictures fill up the list.

NORTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is presenting *A Fight for a Throne*, which is greatly enjoyed. As Captain Jack Fortesque Mr. John S. Millward is seen to much advantage; Mr. Gerald Byrne plays admirably as Nicholai I.; and Otto finds a capable exponent in Mr. Charles E. Linney; Mr. Patrick Evans is well suited as Lieut. Fitzmaurice; Mr. John Worth is responsible for a well studied and clever portrayal of Lieut. Paul Rodna; and Mr. Tom Roydan makes the most of General Rodna. Princess Esmee of Viazma finds an excellent representative in Miss Dora Hammersley; Miss Margarette Tueskie displays much ability as Countess Waleska Lorenski; Miss Madge Clayton is appreciated as Sister Agatha; and Miss Emmeline B. Lewis makes a satisfactory Lady Pat.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Three Markies, vocal and musical comedy artists, have made a great hit here; the Gentrys, comedy duo, also introduce a smart act; and Messrs. Donald and Lebrun, in *The Huntsman and the Maid*, are heartily greeted; Miss Mollie Malone, Irish comedienne, is very popular; Miss Marie Gold, a capital vocalist, has many admirers; Mr. George Rylatt, swell comedian, is well received; and the Mouldoscope still continues a prominent item on the programme.

NORTHWICH.—Central Theatre.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—*A Heart's Desire*, this week's fare, is presented by Mr. C. Elliman's company. Mr. R. F. Stacey makes an admirable Lord St. Ives; Miss Lily Prescott is a satisfactory Olya; Mr. Julian Mitchell acts efficiently as Eric May; Miss Hilda May as Gwendoline Ross and Mr. Hubert Lawrence as the Hon. Bertie Beresford supply the comedy element; and Miss Blanche Leroy is a charming Elsie Beresford.

The Pavilion.—Pro

Mr. Edward Jephson deserves commendation as Dr. Blundell; and Mr. Billie Norwood acts admirably as John Crewys.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Mr. T. E. Dunville is much appreciated for his songs, and obtains loud encores nightly; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, trick cyclists, exhibit marvellous ability; George Brooks is well received; and other good turns are given by Lizzie Danielo, comedienne; Rose and Calvert, comedians; Tiny Arnold, the diminutive comedienne; the Elimans, clever musical entertainers; Ada Cerito, comedienne; and the Hippo. Bioscope, with interesting films.

BANK PLAIN ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The Franco-British Bioscope Company's animated pictures continue to do well here.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*A White Man* is meeting with great success here; Mr. Herbert Sleath as Jim Carston gets a thorough grip of the character, and plays with an intensity and force that carries conviction; as the weak-minded Earl, Mr. Harold Weston shows appropriate discrimination; there is a breeziness about Mr. George Fawcett's Big Bill that makes him a general favourite; Mr. Menifee Johnstone indicates the blustering Cash Hawkins with reality and vigour; Mr. A. W. Jack Ellis capitally exploits the Sheriff; the Indian chief of Mr. A. S. Aspland, and the Interpreter of Mr. A. Plumpton fit well in the picture; and the cowboys are excellently done by Messrs. Cecil Yapp, S. Warmington, and R. F. Symonds. Too much praise cannot be accorded Miss Dorothy Dix for her artistic interpretation of Nat-u-ritch; Miss Enid Sass contributes an excellent portraiture of the warm-hearted Diana; and the Dowager Lady Kerhill is effectively embodied by Miss Emma Gwynne.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—The company of Mr. Ernest R. Abbott presents *A Wife's Triumph* this week to appreciative audiences. Mr. Frank Stephens gives an interesting exposition of a gambler, and gains sympathy by his fine acting; as the long-suffering and tender wife, Miss Ada Abbott displays dramatic intensity and touching pathos; Mr. Vincent Carlyle earns hearty execrations for his portrayal of the villainous Ellis Jordan; Miss Florence North is good as Alice Wilton; and Mr. Ernest R. Abbott fills the rôle of the Squire with urbanity. The humour is abundant, and is led by Mr. Edwin Keene, who, as Ben Bradford, contributes several songs that are mightily enjoyed; Miss Isabel Singleton makes a sprightly Marjory Cribb; and judicious work is also furnished by Messrs. Arthur Britton, D. Pentland, and T. Wilson.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—As a singer of "silly" songs, and an exponent of the broadest farcical style, George Formby excels, and his efforts are highly appreciated; Boyd and Gilfain, in song and dance, present a turn artistic and interesting; and Harry Rogers and company, in a highly dramatic sketch, *Told in a Flat*, create enthusiasm; Machnow, the Russian giant, stimulates curiosity and wonder; the electrical and scenic effects of Rousby's Panorama of London and the Exhibition are unique and impressive; Cruikshanks, always sure of a hearty welcome here, is as comical as ever; Kitty Clinton is a dainty comedienne; the dancing of La Danseuse is agreeable to watch; the Egbert Brothers perform some comedy acrobatic tricks cleverly; and the programme is completed by some good films of the Manx motor races, shown by the Bioscope.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Miss Ada Colley is delighting large audiences by her finished and artistic rendering of old songs; Leoni de Lausanne's skilful rifle shooting calls forth great enthusiasm; the daring feats on the wire of the Onlaw Trio are both novel and exciting; Radford and Valentine supply a dexterous juggling act; the whistling and ventriloquism of Richard Taylor is thoroughly appreciated; and the Sisters Sprightly delight their hearers by a smart burlesque on golf. A laughable sketch, entitled *The Peacemakers*, is given by W. E. Ellwanger; and the shadowgraphy of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde obtains applause. The Hiatts are heard in a musical mélange; and the Pictures on the Barrascope are, as usual, very good.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company, in the popular comic opera *The Dandy Fifth*, is here this week. Mr. Percy Baverstock is capital as the brusque and hot-tempered Colonel; Mr. J. Edward Fraser is appreciated by his singing and acting in the double rôle of Dick Darville and Claude Duval; Mr. George Beverley creates much amusement as Sergeant-Major Milligan; Mr. Jack Crichton delights the audience and wins rounds of applause as Trooper Brown; the singing of the Male Quartette Party is highly commendable. Miss Pauline Hague is the Merry Madcap, and her splendid singing and delightful acting fairly bring down the house; Miss Nora Morra is deserving of much praise for the charming way in which she fills the rôle of Polly; Miss Maud Nicholls is good both as Mrs. Von Blitzen and the Vivandiere. The Tambourine Dance by Miss Sadie Thomson is cleverly performed.

OLDBURY.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—Melvin and Max head the bill here this week. The dancing of Max as a female impersonator is extraordinary. Chas. Day is a comedian of merit; Miss Mabel Kingston contributes good songs; the Sisters Holman, duettists and dancers, are a refined couple; and there are some good films.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. George D. Day's company, in *The Prodigal Son*, opened here on a return visit on Monday. Mr. Albert Ward plays Oscar Stephenson in his well-known breezy manner, and Magnus is ably acted by Mr. H. J. Crane; Miss Pauline Emeric is successful in the dual rôle of Thora and Elin; Miss Florence Lovell is a capital Anna Magnusson, and Miss Kate Osborne an amusing Margaret Neilson; Mr. Jackson Hayes is good as Stephen Magnusson, and Mr. Jas. English does well as Oscar Neilson; Dr. Olsen is well acted by Mr. J. E. Savery, and Messrs. A. J. Williams and R. C. Brooksmith are capable as the Pastor and the Sheriff respectively.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Large crowds have been drawn to this popular drama house by Mr. Walter Howard's latest success, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. Miss Ethel Bracewell is a delightful Monica; Miss Gertrude Branscombe a sympathetic Camiola, and Miss Jessica Black a capital Viola; Mr. Ernest Cox plays Prince Olaf in manly fashion; Prince Hildred is ably acted by Mr. Alfred Brandon; and Mr. Melville Bickford as the deformed Prince Michael gives a clever portrayal; Mr. W. S. Mills as Capt. Hector looks every inch a soldier; Mr. Reg. Payne makes good use of his opportunities as Lieut. Karl Stromberg; and Mr. W. S. Hardy is excellent as Col. Wellenberg.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Marie Loftus heads the bill here, and her songs gain several recalls; Albert Whelan is smart in his entertainment; Surrey Lindon's Entertainers give a capital vocal turn; Ouida Macdermott is clever as a vocal actress; the Erico Martialo Trio are capital in a balancing act; Amos Howard dances well; and Lena Wylie sings good songs. The Mezzettis do a good comedy bar act; and Kitty K. Allen is a smart comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall. — The Arthur Gallimore Trio present a laughable comedy; Miss Edith St. Clair is highly successful in capital songs; Chas. Banks has some excellent patter, being ably assisted by his clever dog Woof; Bert Rayburn is smart in his quaint songs; Fred Maitland has a good act, *Talked Out;* and the Varleys harmonise tunefully; Zellini is a good comedy juggler; and the Dottoscope concludes.

OXFORD. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—The latter half of last week Messrs. Glenister and Wood-Ingram's company gave a most successful performance here of *Jack Straw*. Miss Florence St. John as Mrs. Parker-Jennings and Mr. Glenister as Jack Straw scored a huge success. This week we are having a welcome return visit from Mr. Edward Terry and his company. On Monday *Fiander's Widow* drew a capital house, and gave us the chance of seeing Mr. Terry in a new part, and very humorous and delightful he was as Isaac Sharpe. Mr. Edmund Hollick was excellent as his nephew, Richard Marshall; Miss Edith Coleman's most natural and sympathetic performance of "Widow" Fiander quite delighted the house; and Miss Sophie Lingwood gave a clever sketch as the village charwoman. On Tuesday Mr. Edward Terry appeared in *Liberty Hall*, and on Wednesday in *Sweet Lavender*.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, Miss Winifred Stuart and Mr. C. Watson Mill; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here with *A Broken Heart*. Mr. Stanley Bedwell portrays John Barnard powerfully; and Mr. Geo. Newall is also very capable as Stephen Rayiton. Mr. Edward Rawlinson proves himself a clever actor as Gash Gills; and Mr. Will Lindsay is most amusing as Tony Tibbetts; Mr. Harry Foxwell enacts Rev. Mr. Staunton with conspicuous success; Miss Marguerite Thorne is natural as Mrs. Barnard; Miss Eileen Bamford is good as Miss Grace Fanshawe; Miss Daisy Rocheford wins sympathy as Little May; Miss Dora Hargreaves is excellent as Sally Tavner; and Miss Sheila Walsh gives a clever rendering of Mary Barnard.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Here this week is Messrs. F. Marriott-Watson and Sanderson Moffat's company in *What a Woman Did*. Mr. F. Marriott-Watson forcibly plays the part of Raffaelie Duroc; Mr. Sanderson Moffat is excellent as Conrad de L'Orme; Mr. Reg. Kloof acts with marked effect the rôle of Black Pitou; a capital Fritz von Hœltheim comes from Mr. C. Elton Morgan; and Mr. Owen Edwin as Peter Pippin is amusing. Miss Florence E. Florence gives a sweet rendering of Elise de L'Orme; a powerful interpretation of La Papillon is furnished by Miss Phyllis Hamilton; and Nannette is vivaciously enacted by Miss Norah Waylett.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Barton and Ashley, the bright and breezy comedy duo, head an interesting programme here; the clever show by the Faludy troupe of acrobats arouses a deal of interest; Jack Nell, Scotch comedian, is responsible for much laughter; neat buck dancing comes from Bessie Knight; the Corcoran Brothers supply a pleasing musical turn; interesting and entertaining are Vere and Nelldon, singers and dancers; the Westbrooks, in a novelty dancing scena, offer a refined turn; Benson and Rose submit a smart comedy duologue, *Elizabeth and the Baby;* and the Bioscope forms a pleasing feature.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping the bill this week are the laughter-makers Conn an Conrad, in their comical sketch, *Fun on a Barber's Pole*. Les Tripellos, in a novelty musical entertainment, are deservedly applauded; the Twin Brothers Dean contribute a clever exposition of dancing; the skating turn of the Miltons is highly appreciated; Nell Cotter is a favourite in popular chorus songs; Sid Brandon captivates the audience with his character comedy; T. W. Rawson and Lily Bertram, in a funny sketch, are also good. The Brothers Durant have been unable, through indisposition, to appear. The Tivoliscope, with new films, conclude an interesting programme.

PERTH.—PERTH THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is the attraction here this week in *When It Was Dark*. The part of Constantine Schwabe is in the capable hands of Mr. Haldane Dalton; Mr. Wilfred Lyndon is highly successful as the Rev. Basil Gortre; Sir Robert Llewellyn is capitally played by Mr. Charles Brandon; Mr. William H. Burton is quietly effective as the Rev. Mr. Byars; Mr. George Tawde as Hon. Charles Gayfly is humorous; Mr. Alfred Collingham is good as Harold Spence; the part of Nunc Wallace is adequately filled by Mr. Jack Armifage; Mr. J. F. Inglis is successful as Mr. Ommaney; Mr. Charles Crandley gives satisfaction as Ionides; and Mr. Francis Cavins as Ali-al-Murad is well received. Miss Ethel Griffies displays considerable ability in her rendering of Gertrude Hunt; the part of Helena Byars is well rendered by Miss Marie Barrett; Gracie Goldeye is humorously portrayed by Miss Tessa Myers; and Misses Emilie Schular and Annie Rhoda Ross are successful as Minnie Golightly and Flossie Lovegay respectively.

PETERBOROUGH.—NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—Mr. Fred Karno's company opened on Monday in *Saturday to Monday*, which was much enjoyed. The parts were ably taken by Miss Julia Bassett as Clorinda, Miss Ada Maskell as Belinda Dobbs, Miss Mary Young as Violet Perrin, Mr. Victor Smith as Tom Freeman, Mr. Louis Weston as Mr. Potts, and Mr. Gilbert Childs as John Willie Jaggs. Other turns are Harry Clifford, character vocalist; Mina Green, versatile comedienne; Jay Laurier, the irrepressible idiot; Maggie Strachan, the clever pianist and vocalist; the Whitworth Cycling Girls, and Campkin, the tramp cyclist. The Hippodrome pictures are good.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—Mrs. Brown-Potter in *Lady Frederick* forms a strong attraction, and her acting in a many-sided part is followed with rapt attention. Mr. Philip Cunningham as Paradise Fouldes is admirably suited to the part; Mr. Herbert Garthone is distinctly clever as Lord Mereston; Mr. Van Ronney as Sir Gerald is creditable; Mr. Cecil Bevan in the difficult rôle of Captain Montgomerie acts with ease and reserve; Miss Madeline Du Val is particularly pleasing as Lady Mereston; and Mr. Shirley Lea is a hale and hearty old salt as Admiral Carlisle. A clever little curtain-raiser is entitled *The Peacemaker*.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Ted Karno's comedians in *The Dinner Hour* cause roars of laughter; Harry Morris, character comedian, tells some quaint yarns in the Yorkshire dialect, and Winifred Hare furnishes a vocal treat in her excellent numbers; Bruce Green adds weight to the comic side of the performance; the Bros. Brooks also assist in the same department with a smart comedy act; and Gracie Lawn, comedienne and dancer, is acceptable. The Three Romas, in an item styled "Gladiatorial Marvels," furnish some original and clever feats; and the Sisters Brand complete an interesting programme.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—The Japanese Tamamoto heads the bill here this week in an unique performance on the slack wire and the perpendicular rope; Savile Bradley and his company of pantomimists give a crisp show in their pantomime absurdity *Ructions;* the set scene is really artistic. Flo Inman scores as a descriptive vocalist and dancer; Alf Brooks and Frank Coyle are comedians who at once, in their respective lines, get on good terms with their audience; Mabel Roberts sings popular songs illustrated by excellent photographic slides; and the audience join heartily in the choruses; Mollie Woolstenhulme is the possessor of a well-trained voice, which she uses to some purpose in operatic selections; Ama and Ada, lady patterers, have a fund of quaint jokes; and the Bioscope shows a capital series of pictures.

PORTH.—THE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping the bill here are the Four Amaranths, admirable lady acrobatic dancers; Millie Howell, refined character vocalist, possesses an excellent voice; Bert Terrell, Dutch comedian, meets with decided approval; Martin Henderson, English concertina soloist, is undoubtedly a clever manipulator of this instrument; Harry Edson gives a marvellous performance with his cleverly-trained dogs; the Sisters Herbert, juvenile entertainers, are enthusiastically received; Macintosh and Royal, champion dancers, score a huge success; Mlle. Renee is a wonderful manuipulator of various musical instruments, notably the ocarina; and the Palascope, with its latest films, delights everyone.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*A Chinese Honeymoon* is being staged here this week by Mr. Milton Bode's sterling company, and full houses have testified to the worth of the attraction. Mr. Keino Johnston as the suffering bridegroom, Mr. Pineapple, works very hard and with complete success; Hang-Chow is ably represented by Mr. Rudolph Kloss; Chippie Chop in the hands of Mr. P. Allerton Turner is an important personage and well acted; High Lung is taken in excellent style by Mr. Leonard May; Tom Hatherton is admirably depicted by Mr. Harry Jennings; Mrs. Pineapple is safe in the keeping of Miss Veronica Brady, who sings and dances in charming manner; Miss Maud Adams plays the "official mother-in-law" Mrs. Brown most effectively; Miss Elsie Skillings is capital as Soo-Soo; and Miss Gwennie Harcourt as Fi-Fi scores a hit.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil, with the drama *Her Luck in London*, are drawing good houses here this week. As Nellie Harborne Miss Neil plays in excellent style; Mr. Douglas Cecil as the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor is admirable; the scheming Richard Lenowen finds an able exponent in Mr. Frank Strickland; Mr. Douglas Tremayne well portrays the tender-hearted curate, the Rev. Lionel Strong; and Stephen Harborne is depicted with much success by Mr. T. Lionel Ellis. Mme. Gabrielle is powerfully presented by Miss Marie Clavering; Miss Beatrice Hudson is most acceptable as Lilian Harborne; and Miss Florrie Groves as Maud Gladys Shovepenny and Mr. Henri Gerald as Jerry Gotobed prove diverting.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—R. G. Knowles, the American comedian, takes first place here, his quaint mannerisms and humorous patter causing much amusement; Norah Stockdale, a smart comedienne and dancer, does good work; the Canworths, banjo experts and vocalists, give an excellent entertainment; the Society Quartette, characteristic singers and speciality dancers, are very capable; Alf Holt, American mimic, whistler, and comedian, submits realistic imitations; Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene and company contribute a powerful dramatic episode in *On the Stroke of 12;* the Barrois, as hand-balancers, excel greatly; Freddie French and company, with *The Policeman's Ballet*, cause plenty of laughter; and animated pictures conclude.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The Robertys, hand-balancers and jugglers, have an effective act; Ralston and Frances, in their excellent scena *Ocean Stars*, are capital; Fred Spencer, expressionist, gives well-liked vocal personations; Ingram and Irving, in *The New Office Boy*, are smart; Lily Tiso is a popular and charming comedienne and danseuse; Frank Leon as a step-dancer would be hard to beat; Sydney James's Strolling Players are responsible for a meritorious entertainment; Martine and Son contribute a pleasing singing picture item; W. J. Churchill, with his quaint funniosities, has a most flattering reception; and Payne's Bioscope, with some highly amusing pictures, completes.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.—La Milo is the popular turn here this week, and her statuesque and classical poses meet with great approval; Mr. T. E. Finglass, as a delineator of negro songs, is acceptable; Zaid Trio, Spanish Moors, with acrobatic feats of merit, are applauded; Dusty Rhodes, a most diverting and humorous patter comedian, has a warm greeting; Mr J. G. Grahame and Miss Zerlina Harrington in a smartly-played Parisian sketch, *A Daughter of Pleasure*, give much satisfaction; Miss Bessie Slaughter's well-trained contralto is heard to much advantage; Hanvaar and Anna Lee, in a juggling speciality, *The Golfer and the Maid*, are very amusing; Ryder Slone, a comedian who sings with expression, gains much applause; and Hippo pictures and Mr. Archie Glenn complete.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. Charles Hawtrey's company in Charles E. Brookfield's *Dear Old Charlie* is causing much merriment here. Mr. George Lestocq as Charles Ingleton (dear old Charlie) sustains the character in a manner that calls for the highest praise; Mr. R. S. Trelawney as Thomas Dumphie is excellent; Mr. Douglas Cox is equally amusing as Gabriel Peploe; Mr. Duncan Young as Colonel Fishbourne both looks and acts the part perfectly; Mr. Stanley Arthur is admirably adapted for the part of Purkitt; and Mr. G. Smythe is capable as the florist's boy. Miss Viola Holland is a capital Reeve; and Miss Enid G. Forde an excellent Agnes. Miss Leonora Braham makes a typical mamma-in-law as Mrs. Fishbourne. A dramatic little curtain-raiser based on a Nihilist plot, and entitled *The Cause*, is excellently rendered by Miss Leonora Braham and Mr. Cecil Vernon.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Frank Lindo's company in *Home, Sweet Home* is a powerful attraction here this week. Mr. Frank Lindo portrays the part of Stephen Armytage in a masterly manner; Mr. Laurence Doyle gives a clever rendition of David Armitage; Mr. Archer Brown is a dignified Duke of Ancaster; Mr. Helsby Wright as the subtle and unscrupulous Lucas Lyle is successful; Mr. Richard Walsh is a capable Dick Redmayne; Mr. T. B. Lewis in the part of Solomon Keary introduces some clever specialities in the first act; a clever make-up is that of Mr. W. Gregory as Gaffer, an old countryman; and Mr. Harry Danvers makes a capital Dr. Granby. Miss Maud Leslie-Cudd as Sybil Fay is really excellent; Miss Marion Wakeford as Joan is fully equal to the requirements of that part; little Miss Hilda Jackaway is a clever child actress; Miss Hattie Webster as Lady Somerton is to be congratulated on the excellent manner in which she portrays the part.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—At the top of the bill is Miss Zona Vevey and Herr Max Erard, with a refined musical turn. Miss Vevey's singing is listened to with rapt attention; the setting is also most artistic. Edward Carr and company, in their sketch *Shooting*, cause much merriment, as do also Walter Ellis and company in their playlet *The Sleepwalker;* George Westland is a clever Scotch comedian and female impersonator. Some of his patter, might, however, be revised with advantage; Bert Osborne, actor-vocalist, is also an expert performer on the banjo; A-Ba-Be's picture-postcard album is a novel turn which is well received; the Lovelaces, American song illustrators, are highly successful; and The Gipsy and the Painter on the Bioscope concludes a capital show.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—The detective play *Sexton Blake* is receiving its full share of patronage. In the title-rôle Mr. H. Hunter does some fine work; and Mr. William Felton as Roger Blackburn does full justice to the part; while the villainies of Randolph Lovell have an able exponent in Mr. Charles East. The comical element is well undertaken by Mr. Billy Ross as Tinker and Miss Lena Delphine as Euphemia. Mr. John M. East as Simon Jaggs and Mr. Algernon Syms as the Rev. Edward Grey both deserve praise. Miss Lily Hammersley makes a charming Marjorie Lovell; and Miss East Robertson is quite satisfactory as Philadelphia Kate.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—At this comfortable place of amusement during the past week successful performances of the evergreen farce *The Private Secretary* have been given by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company. Mr. Donald Price-Evans is immensely funny as the Rev. Robert Spalding, and extracts all possible effect out of the most diverting character he is called upon to assume; Mr. W. Hargreaves is unapproachable as Mr. Cattermole; and all the other parts are sustained by their respective impersonators in a manner which calls only for complimentary reference.

ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—*The Still Alarm* is one of the most popular plays with local audiences, and its reappearance on the boards here this week has been enthusiastically welcomed. It has been finely staged and acted by Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's clever company. Mr. Matthew H. Glenville is a capital Jack Manley, and Miss Beatrice Shirley plays with skill the part of Elinor Fordham. Other rôles are sustained in admirable fashion by Mr. Fred Osmond (Doc Wilbur), Mr. G. Kennedy (John Bird), &c.; while the songs of Miss Hettie Zillwood are much appreciated. On Sunday evening the first of a series of sacred concerts and exhibitions of animated pictures was given, much to the enjoyment of a large audience.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—Messrs. Plimmer and Blake's musical comedy, *Happy Hooligan*, scored a thorough success on its opening performance here on Monday. As Widow Johnson Miss Nan Ainsley acted with grace and charm and sang tastefully; Miss Rose Lyndon as Rose also sang and acted exceedingly well; and Miss Lily Jago as Nettie and Miss Olive Stewart as Daisy were also clever. Mr. W. W. Evans as Happy Hooligan caused roars of laughter; and Mr. Jack Lyle as Donald Macgregor was an excellent comedian, as also was Mr. Harry Emeric as Max Guggenheimer. Mr. Chris. Jago as Charley Flipp was most satisfactory, and he and Miss Jago were awarded an enthusiastic encore for their singing and dancing. Mr. Jack Henry was successful as Orki San and the Cowboy; and Mr. Harry C. Nervey made an excellent constable. The chorus was excellent, and the production everything desirable.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. William Mollison, the eminent tragedian, is appearing this week in a round of his favourite characters. The répertoire for the week comprises *The Merchant of Venice* on Monday and Friday, *The Bonnie Brier Bush* on Tuesday and Wednesday, *Othello* on Thursday, *Macbeth* on Saturday, and *As You Like It* at a special matinée on Wednesday. The leading parts in all the above are admirably sustained by Mr. W. Mollison and Miss Evelyn McNay, who are well supported by a capable company.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr P. B. Draco.—This week's attractions include John G. Brandon's company in the American farcical comedy *The Lovely Liars;* Primavesi, juggler; Mlle. Lucretia, burlesque artist; Arthur Albert, light comedian; Henry and Tyler, quaint and sensational cyclists; Munroe's comedy team of harmonising vocalists and dancers; Ellis and Watts, swell comedians; C. Emly Jones, actor-vocalist; and the Daughters of Britain in a vocal scena, and the Palace Bioscope. All the turns are, as usual, quite up to the mark, and the entertainment throughout is well appreciated.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*The Fatal Wedding* occupies the boards here. Mr. Cecil A. Melton makes a powerful Howard Wilson; Mr. Frank Harrison cleverly portrays the part of Robert Curtis; Mr. Frank Ashley creates much amusement as O'Reilly; Miss Ethel Kay enlists sympathy as Mabel Wilson; and Miss Elaine Vanbrugh skilfully enacts the adventuress, Cora Williams.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—A capital programme is presented to the patrons here. Belle Davis and her Pick Chicks, in song and dance, are deservedly appreciated; E. H. Bostock's performing baboons are highly entertaining; the Four Dorians, gymnasts; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers; the Florias, wire performers; Ada and Marvel Webb, in ornamental swimming; J. C. Scatter, comedian; and the Empire Bioscope Pictures, complete the list.

RUGBY.—TOWN HALL.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Miss Inez Howard's company presented on Monday and Tuesday the romantic drama, *Her Love Against the World*, which was remarkably well acted and staged. Miss Margaret Savill as Princess Iris acted with ability and restraint; Miss Katharine Herbert as Shulah was excellent; and Miss Elsie Winter as Corona was very good. Miss Dorothy Mullord and Miss Janiel Deane as Katinka and Gretchen did well; Mr. Leonard Yorke was most effective as Eric, Earl of Strathmere; and Miss Josie Bertram as Lionel was an ideal boy. Mr. Henry C. Cooper as Ulric of Ravensburg kept the attention of the audience throughout; and the Prince Othmar of Mr. Gordon Ingram was a clever rendering.

RUNCORN.—PUBLIC HALL THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Public Hall Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. E. S. Lea; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Smethurst Orme.—We are favoured this week with a visit from Mr. Allan Wilkie's company. *Othello* was presented on the opening night, when Mr. Allan Wilkie, in the title-rôle, provided a histrionic treat. Miss Carrie Baillie made an appealing Desdemona, and her performance was thoroughly enjoyed; Mr. Alexander Marsh as Iago submitted a rendition well-nigh perfect; and equally commendable was the representation of the unfortunate Cassio by Mr. Frank Royde. An entertaining picture of the amorous Roderigo was given by Mr. Ian Fleming; Brabantio was dealt with in finished style by Mr. John Paley; Mr. Sinclair Neill made an ideal Montano; Miss Mildred Surrey's Emilia was a pleasing rendering, fully appreciated; and Bianca was agreeably personified by Miss Elly O'Dempsey. The week's bill also comprises *Romeo and Juliet, Sleigh Bells, Garrick, Julius Cæsar, Hamlet*, and *Macbeth*.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—The stirring drama, *A Lion's Heart*, is well received this week. The acting of Mr. Henry Bedford as the lion-tamer, Rizardo, makes an excellent impression; Mr. Stephen Scanlan gives an effective performance of the villain, Gaspard Dobre; Dick Lorimore is well played by Mr. Leonard Booker; Miss Ada Oakley as Louise, and afterwards as Marion, proves herself an able and charming actress; Miss Madge Beresford as Bessie, Mr. Edgar J. Coyne as Jack Bealey, and Mr. Edward Lowrie are very amusing; Mr. Archie Helsby makes an excellent Colonel Robert de Villefort; and Miss Ida Bastow, Mr. Peter Bennett, little Elsie May, and Miss Beatrice Holmes also give good support.

REGENT THEATRES OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The principal turn is given by the Courtiers, comprising nine accomplished vaudeville entertainers under the direction of Paul Mills. *The Silent Sentinel* is a weird sketch, well presented by Charles Worland's company; Brayne and Lloyd provoke much laughter in *The Tree of Truth;* and the excellent programme also includes smart turns by the Harvey Boys in their comedy boxing act; Evelyn Taylor with pleasing songs; Cumminger and Colonna, singing and dancing; George Young, clever blind musician; Nash and Noel, comedians and dancers; the Macdonald Trio in musical garden; Lorne and Lorne in song-scena, *Capital and Labour;* and Blake and Granby, comedy duologue artists.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—The Six Brothers Luck head the bill with their clever sketch *The Hermit;* and another comical sketch is *The Village Fire Brigade* by Ritchie Hearn's company of clever artists. Other good turns are those of Wal Robbins, black and white musical comedian; A. E. Clifford, versatile vocalist; the Miners' Quartette, including Billy Dewey; Ada Parker, with coon song and dance; Barrie and Wood, acrobatic dancers, &c.; Harry Kirk, amusing mimic; and Edwin Adeler, comedian. The animated pictures, including Flash James, are very good.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Twice nightly good houses appear to enjoy the pictures, and join in the chorus of Mr. Lester King's illustrated song, "Starlight," with zest. The pictures include The Burglar's Unexpected Bath, Her Flowers, The Mill Girl, White Suit, Marathon Race, Sold by His Parents, Dummies on the Spree, Flash James, and Quick-change Mesmerist.

SCARBOROUGH.—THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. Holland.—Miss Cavalho and company present a capital sketch, entitled *The Husband of Peggy;* Ford and Hansom give a novel musical turn; Wyndham and Kitty submit a daring act on the wire; Williams and Warden are well received in comedy; Taylor and Bridge, vocalists, also appear; Onda and Walonell are smart on the triple-bar; and Arthur Clarence and Walter Gordon, comedians, are well received.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Garside; Manager, Mr. Fred P. Morgan.—Mr. Carlton Wallace's company in *The Love that Women Desire* is here this week. Mr. Sydney Leyton as Philip Carnaby shows ability; Miss Clyndes as Sybil Thornburn is good; and Mr. Morris Maud as Richard Abingdon acts creditably.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fielding Smith.—Kate Vesey and P. Powell have a clever little act entitled *A Perfect Woman;* Corman's Juveniles are a pleasing attraction; Oliver Conroy does well in his songs; Bayne and Hope give an excerpt from *The Royal Divorce;* and Lambert and Robertson, the Boston Twins, and Jack McCormack also appear.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—The juvenile element is specially catered for this week by the Royal British Circus, many of the old-time amusements so dear to the hearts of children being provided in a large ring specially built on the stage. Mr. Robert Yelding leads off with a number of clever and well-executed feats in bareback horsemanship, and finishes with an excellently-managed scene between himself and his charger depicting "A Wounded Soldier." Miss Rolla on the rolling globe and Miss Lena Scott on the silver wire display perfect mastery of the art of equipoise; and Miss Addalla, the magnet, successfully resists the combined efforts of several strong men to displace her from certain positions. Other good turns include Leo Berto and Prince, the midget pony, on the revolving table; Gilleno, the clown, with his zoological curiosity the performing elephant; Uno Bros., comedy gymnasts and acrobats; Shadow, the fool, in an eccentric equestrian entrée; Harry Curly Beaumont and the Rochez ponies and dogs; and Simple Sid, the clown, with the educated pony Sam.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company is here this week with *A Warning to Women*. Mr. Harry C. Robinson gives a powerful interpretation of Dr. Marcus Dread; Mr. Wm. Vane is a pleasing Shaun; as Fergus McNaughton Mr. W. Chas. O'Connor is capable; Mr. Henry Rutland is a typical Squire Kennion; Lord Eversleigh and Ferdinand de Joules afford much scope for the comedy talents of Mr. Leicester Jackson and Mr. W. Palliser Acock; Mr. W. Alex. Finlayson capably enacts the Rev. Emanuel Wallace; as Moira Kennion Miss Blanche St. Albans wins great praise; Miss Winifred Rutland plays Shelia with taste; the Hildred of Miss Marie Moore is cleverly done; Miss Ellen Beverley is an admirable Molly O'Moore; and Myles finds a sympathetic exponent in Miss Edith

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company opened to a good house on Monday in the new domestic drama of Mrs. Kimberley's, *A Soldier's Honour*. Mr. Elan Meredith, by his conduct and bearing in peace and war, justified the appellation "an officer and a gentleman," and his Captain Deane was a virile and powerful impersonation. Mr. Andrew Money depicted clearly the despicable disposition of Henry Thornley; the pleasing part of Captain Temple was carefully acted by Mr. T. A. Ellis; and good character-studies were Mr. Vernon Cowper's Burly Bill and Mr. A. Anderson's Holly. Miss Ruth Zillwood as Cora Lee made a handsome adventuress; and Miss Edie Macklin caused great laughter by her high spirits and drollery as Jemima. The scenery and military appointments were first-rate.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike.—That sound old drama *Driven From Home* was played to a crowded and keenly-interested audience on Monday by Mr. Andrew Melville's company. Mr. Felix Pitt, who is one of Sheffield's dramatic sons, acted with intense power and well-sustained emotional ability as the old father; and other leading characters in the long cast were sustained by Miss Nancy Roberts as Laura and Walter, Miss Lizzie Inglis, Miss Walfred, Miss Custance, Miss Amy Williams, and Messrs. P. G. Beresford, Howard Thornley, Chas. Burdon, Geo. Lawrepce, Arnold Winters, Henry Helling, W. Fortescue, Dick Saunders, F. G. Imbert, Percy Dawson, and Harry Cornwall. Trafalgar Square, the Embankment, Chingford Church, and the Foundling Hospital were well-painted and interesting scenes.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Mr. Fred Karno's new melodramatic serio-comic absurdity in two scenes, *G.P.O.*, was produced to a packed house on Monday. The big scene is a very realistically built-up representation of the parcels department of the General Post Office. The fact that the original and diverting comedian Mr. Fred Kitchen as Perkins, a postman, is left in sole charge by the Postmaster during the latter's absence from town will fully suggest the extravagant fun that follows. Mr. Kitchen was, as usual, the incarnation of quiet, unforced drollery, and he was well supported by Miss Madge Rockingham, a Sheffield comic-opera favourite, Mr. Bruno, Mr. Herbert Landeck, and a smart company. Miss Carrie Lawrie's Juveniles in *The Kindergarten* were immensely successful, being recalled again and again by the delighted audience. Mr. George Newburn gave a clever imitation of the characters in Harry Tate's skit, *Motoring*, and was loudly applauded; the Delomes did some expert dancing; and others who successfully appeared were Howe and Ardie, gymnastic acrobats; the Norman-Leonard Trio, in a musical sketch; Mr. Fred Keeton, comic singer; and Mr. Tom Child, tenor vocalist. A dramatic film, The Sweep's Boy, concludes.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The pretty, vivacious, and talented vocalist and comedienne Miss Vesta Victoria was received with enthusiasm by a crowded audience on Monday. After four items, the fair songstress was not allowed to retire till she had obliged with "Waiting at the church." Miss Florrie Gallimore is retained another week, and was again well received; Miss Minnie Love, a graceful and pleasing burlesque actress, was received with deserved applause; that old local favourite Mr. Mickey Nolan was cheered to the echo; Mr. Laurie Wylie's mimicry was much enjoyed; Mr. B. Troba does some daring feats of equipoise and juggling; Mr. Lawrence Barclay's gifts as a mirth-maker are well known; Wright and Lawson are good entertainers; and other turns billed this week are Miss Violet Loraine, vocalist; Miss Winnie Brooke, comedienne; Mr. Chas. Sloman, comique; and the Barrascope, with coloured pictures.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Tarré, musician, &c., the dashing Sisters Brenton, and Mr. John Holland's dramatic company are here, together with a series of the most noted films, including A Trip to Copenhagen, The Horrors of War, A Silly Josser, &c.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—The new arrivals here on Monday were Shirley Luggins and his celebrated *Darkey Revels* company, in a lively interlude; Mons. Kavados, a smart juggler; the Four Scoreys, musical comedy artists; and Miss Nellie, serio. A bioscopic sketch, The Last Roll-Call, heads the picture list.

ALBERT HALL.—Mr. Sydney Carter's New Century Bioscope pictures continue successful.

THE PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. C. R. Wordsworth.—A good show of animated pictures is given here to delighted houses.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—(Under new control.)—Lessee, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company was here on the first three nights of the week with *The Silver King*. Mr. Sydney T. Pease, who has a fine stage presence, played with admirable effect the rôle of Wilfred Denver; Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton sustained with power and success the part of Nellie Denver; Mr. Tom Paulton made an excellent Jaikes; Miss Dorothy Love is a clever and pleasing Cissie Denver; Miss G. Lyndon merits high praise as Ned; Mr. Chas. Freeman earned the execrations of the audience as "The Spider"; Mr. Harry Colbeck made a very good Henry Corket; Mr. John Detlin, in the character part of Elijah Coome, acted with considerable ability; Mr. Chas. McCann made a good Cripps; Mr. Claude Graveley acted in excellent fashion as Geoffrey Ware; Mr. Robt. R. Ashby was a smart Detective as Samuel Baxter; Mr. Jones won praise as Mr. Parkyn; Messrs. A. Blagdon and Henry Bigge were capable as Messrs. Binks and Bronson; Messrs. Olivert and Arthur Reid acted creditably as Belcher and Teddy; and the minor male parts were all satisfactorily filled. Miss Dorothea Black was deserving of encomiums as Olive Skinner; Miss Janet Bullworthy was a painstaking Tabitha Durden; Miss Marie Lyndon was bright as Susie; and Miss Beatrice Blagdon was distinctly good as Mrs. Gamage.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frederick Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's company is scoring in the farcical comedy, *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. G. A. Seager is the life and soul of the piece, and wins endless applause for his clever impersonation of the lady from Brazil; Mr. Roy Byford is well cast as Stephen Spettigue, and Mr. Sydney Compton is equally good as Brasset; Mr. Theo. McCausland Stewart looks the part of Colonel Chesney to the life; and others who do well are Miss Evelyn Grey (Ella), Miss Grace Russell (Amy), Miss Olivia Glynn (Kitty), Miss Vera Gerald (Donna Lucia), Mr. Hastings Lynn (Jack Chesney), and Mr. Basil Lynton as Charley Wykeham. *The Lancashire Sailor* is an effective curtain-raiser.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—*Hawksley's Luck* is the big feature here, and Mr. Fred. Maxwell, supported by his clever wife, Miss Lois du Cane, and a capable company, score all along the line. Leo and Roland are expert equilibrists; Webb and Branston, operatic duettists; The Vernons, clever xylophone players; Madge Allan, a dainty singer and dancer; Edith Chantler excels as a juvenile vocalist; Harry Simms is a capital comedian; and Mlle. Bartenelli twists and twirls herself about in all directions.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. de Frece and F. Mouillot; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Joe Peterman and company are easily first favourites in *The Pawnbroker*, in which Mr. Peterman causes roars of laughter; Marie Kendall sings a number of taking songs; and the Wakeman Quintette are heard to advantage in their vocal scena; Harry Taft is a quaint comedian and capital whistler; whilst Charles Ulrick, the barrel king, the Alaskas, acrobats, Steve McCarthy, vocalist and dancer, and Maxey and Pete, comedy cyclists, also prosper well.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE, LTD. Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nervey; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *A Royal Divorce* drew a large audience on Monday. The costumes are pleasing and typical and the scenery pretty. Mr. Keith Fraser was accorded a hearty reception for his clever impersonation of Napoleon; Miss Margaret Watson was equally well received in an able, dignified, and characteristic portrayal of the Empress Josephine; Miss Winnie Tempest as Marie Louise also gained distinction; Miss Maud Lacy wins favour as Stephanie de Beauharnais; Mr. Percy H. Vernon was well suited as Talleyrand; and Mr. Stanley Harrison impersonated the Marquis de Beaumont in capital style. Mr. Walter T. Clifford ably sustained the rôle of General Augereau, having good assistance from Mr. Harold S. Standing as Marshal Murat, Mr. J. O'Brien as Rob Royal, and Mr. George Hudson as Grimaud.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company, in *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*, furnishes a diverting and attractive entertainment here this week. Mr. George Mudie is an admirable representative of Mr. Ponderbury, and creates much merriment; Miss Annie Stalman cleverly and characteristically depicts the part of Mrs. Ponderbury; in the rôle of Mervyn Thorpe Mr. Drew Mackintosh presents a capital comedy sketch; Miss Florence Wellesley is a charming and attractive exponent of Ethel Penniston; the old servant Peter is exceedingly well played by Mr. Alfred Ibberson; Miss Florence Wix assumes the character of Mme. Modjeski in a vivacious and entirely satisfactory manner; Mr. Hyacinth Grayling is very successful as Mr. Charles A. Staite; and Captain John Rumford, R.N., was well played by Mr. George Child. The curtain-raiser is a comedietta entitled *His Landlady*.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—*A Girl Redeemed from Sin* is being performed here by Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company. Will May is excellently embodied by Mr. Jo Monkhouse; Ernest Silveston is capably portrayed by Mr. Geo. Lyttleton; Miss Olive Fulton gives a charming representation of Nancy Lee. The comic element is strongly represented by Miss Ada Oxley as Peggy Grey, Mr. Victor Knight as Jim Jakes, and Mr. Walle Spinner as Hon. Bertie Boyes. Other important parts are Mr. Phillippe Orr (Robert Denham), Mr. John E. Tomlinson (Samuel Lee), and Miss Fannie Olive (Mrs. Lee). The scenery and mounting is good.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—A powerful dramatic playlet, *Her Princely Betrayer*, is well performed here by Herbert Cottesmore's company. A good sketch in a restaurant is contributed by Grapho and Jackson; the Carina Sisters are well received in a musical turn; the Three Cape Girls are good dancers. Other good turns are those of Geo. Gulliver, ventriloquist; Johnny Walker, comedian; Ruth Lytton, Scotch comedienne; and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Phil Herman, a vocal actor, is the premier attraction, and is popular; Cavalli, a Tyneside ventriloquist, is a favourite here; Will Owen, character comedian, delights the audience; and the Tivoloscope completes the entertainment.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—Mr. F. Mouillot's company is playing before crowded houses in *The Girl Behind the Counter* this week. Miss Ida Stratham is charming everybody as Winnie Willoughby, and her singing and acting are of a high quality; Mr. Sam Lockbridge has an excellent voice, and his breezy manner in the part of Charles Chetwyn is very taking; General Sir Wilkie Willoughby is amusingly presented by Mr. Kennedy Allen; Miss Winifred Knightly makes a distinguished Lady Willoughby; Mr. Ferris Pounds wins many a laugh by his impersonation of Viscount Cushington, as does also Mons. Claude Dampier as Mons. Duval; Miss Eileen Clanford is a chic Ninette; Miss Irene Vere is pretty and sprightly as Millie Mostyn; Miss Irene Lavington in the part of Susie looks pretty and sings and acts well. Excellent support is rendered by a well-balanced chorus, and beautiful dresses and pretty scenery add to the success of the production. The full orchestra is under the direction of Mr. W. D. J. Damant.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—A capital sketch is given by Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, who head the bill, and creates much amusement; the original Four Regals execute some wonderful feats of strength; the Fylde Male Quintet sing pleasingly; and the L.V.O. Trio produce a laughable absurdity, *Those Troublesome Slaveys*. Other capital turns are given by Maston, Fred Arthur, and Edie Anderson.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*A Message from Mars*, capably presented by Mr. Fred Mouillot's company, has thoroughly entertained large audiences here this week. Mr. Wallace Widdicombe plays with pleasing ability as Horace Parker; Mr. W. H. Brougham acts powerfully as the Messenger from Mars; Mr. Norman Clark feelingly impersonates the character of a Tramp; and Mr. Robert Grey displays merit as Arthur Dicey. Miss Flora Hastings acts with dignified grace as Miss Parker; Minnie Templer is charmingly portrayed by Miss Rose Helene; and Miss Mary Glanbrane makes an excellent Mrs. Clarence.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Signor and Mme. Borelli, in their humorous imitations, are the chief attractions here this week, and have been greeted with marked favour. The Five Olracs, acrobatic comedians, are boisterously funny; Gillin is an entertaining ventriloquist; the Westwoods accomplish smart tricks on the cycle; Harry Briggs, triple-voiced vocalist, is very pleasing; Adeline Yohle is a sweet singer; Pauline Zaro is an able comedienne; and Mason and Bart are amusing and clever on the horizontal bars.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company presents here this week *Brewster's Millions*. Mr. Percy Hutchison as Monty Brewster is extremely clever; Mr. Cyril Rawdon gives a good portrayal of Charlie Harrison; Miss Cicely Stuckey impersonates Margaret Grey (Peggy) admirably; Mrs. Dan de Mille is in the able hands of Miss Sybil Walsh; Mr. Aubrey Mather is a typical Joseph McLeod; Miss Frances Davie is well suited as Janice Armstrong; Mr. Henry Hampson does well as Archie Golding; Frank Bragden is in the able hands of Mr. Charles Esdale; and Mr. Frank Hill as Rawles proves a droll comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Harry Roxbury's company presents here this week the musical mélange *The Prince of Monte Carlo*. The company includes a well-known comedian, Tubby Edlin, as the Scotland Yard detective. Audiences find the farce much to their liking. Hinton and Wooton, on a return visit as fotoball players on bicycles, are accorded a hearty welcome; Edith Muir and company in a society comedy episode, *The Courage of Charlie*, takes well; Morrin and Cardiff, comedians, have good patter and dance well; Fred Neiman, a clever ventriloquist, makes a hit; Iris Banfield is a pleasing comedienne; Walter Wade in a mimetic monologue shows great skill; and the Bioscope presents an excellent film, Lost in the Alps.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here a sensational drama, *London's Curse*. As George Montgomery Mr. Ernest Wingfield is a pronounced success; Mr. Fred Terriss as Abraham Scroby does well; Miss Lina Nazeby is a capable Lena Cameron; Miss Lilian Beaumont an excellent Mabel Montgomery; and Mr. F. Carlyle as Rory Drummond and Mr. Arthur Byron as Mussels both act well. Miss Daisy Norman makes a pleasing Lottie Smithers. Payne's Bio-photoscope concludes.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is being presented by Mr. Morton Powell's company. Mr. Bartlett Garth effectively sustained the character of John Jasper; Mr. J. H. Twyford was good as Nevill Landless; Mr. G. Ridgway Thorne made an excellent Edwin Drood; and Mrs. Morton Powell a charming Rosa Bud. Mr. David Phillips, a humorous Durdles, was assisted by Miss Jennie Risley as Deputy.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton.—The powerful drama *No Wedding Bells for Her* is being enacted this week by Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company. Miss Lizzie Montague gives a good delineation of Lola, whose accomplice, Abney Stone, was well presented by Mr. H. Ansleigh; Mr. Stuart Lomath was seen to advantage as the Rev. Frank Hatherleigh; Dick Delver, the detective, was in the capable hands of Mr. Percy Shaw; to Doris Fane a sympathetic rendering was given by Miss Cicely Clutterbuck; Mr. G. Harvey was good as Montague Blair; and Mr. George Herbert's portrayal of Horatio Fane was very fine.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—Callahan and George occupy the premier position on the bill this week, and their performance in the musical duologue *The Old Neighbourhood* proved that they were justly entitled to the distinction. Bellonini and his assistant Wal were warmly applauded for their clever juggling feats; Carney and Armstrong sing, whistle, and dance to the great delight of the audience; Rell and Butt create amusement in *Fun in a Garden;* the Crown Trio of speciality vocalists; La Belle Nello, in feats of equipoise; Chas. Stevens, character vocalist; and Harry Leyburn, "the nervous lady," are all clever; and Maudie Francis sings and dances in a dainty manner.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Moul.—Heading a capital programme this week are Harry Roxbury and company in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, Harry Roxbury creating much amusement as the bogus Prince; J. W. Hall sang well, and kept the house in roars of laughter with his patter; Marie Nelson is a skilful and dainty dancer; and Maud Mortimer a pleasing vocalist. Others who contribute are Godfrey James, singing collier; Barney Vox, the popular ventriloquist; Chicet, a clever contortionist; and Bella and Greta. The entertainment concludes with the Palascope.

SWANSEA.—GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company has made a hit with *With Edged Tools* here. Jack Meredith is entrusted to Mr. William F. Grant, who enhances the reputation he has made in Swansea; Mr. Charles Hartopp is responsible for an able impersonation of Guy Oscard; Durnovo's villainy is well brought out by Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; Miss Marie Leonhard is a capable Millicent Chyne; and Miss Phyllis Relph's Jocelyn Gordon is pathetic. Mr. J. A. Rosier makes a good Sir John Meredith.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Andrew Emm received his usual welcome this week at the Star, where he appears as Tom Bates in *The Great World of London*. He gets capital support from Mr. Hugh Carmichael as Jack Clinton. Mr. Clinton Baddeley's Richard Thornton is an interesting study; and Miss Rose Ralph is a clever Lilian.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Time has not diminished Lil Hawthorne's popularity, and her success here this week is as good as ever. Brin, the herculean juggler, presents "Pastimes on a Battleship," in which he does some extraordinary feats; Maud Rochez's monkeys give an interesting turn; Charles Vincent, with good songs, does well; Billy M'Clain's coloured people sing and dance excellently; Victor Travers is an amusing comedian; and Leonie Dixon sings and dances daintily. The Chronomegaphone provides a really good turn.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Watson.—Messrs. Green and Hinton's company are successfully presenting *Home Sweet Home*. Mr. Hinton is a meritorious Stephen Armitage; Mr. F. G. Kay is suitably cast as David Armitage; Mr. David Beattie plays with commendable vigour as Lucas Lyle; and Miss Lydia Audrie gives an intensely sympathetic rendering of Joan.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Charlie Goodman's comedy troupe makes a hit here; Slater and Neal do well in their dancing and patter; Belle Harcourt has the house with her in chorus songs; Tom Cowley and Harry Ashby are smart comedians; and the picture of the week is A Visit to the Franco-British Exhibition.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, in the musical comedy *The Dairymaids*, is proving a great attraction. In the rôle of Peggy Miss Empsie Bowman is as winsome and vivacious as ever, and her dancing and singing win her frequent encores. As Winifred Miss Vera Crichton has a sweet soprano voice, which she used to the best advantage; Miss Doris Dickens is a charming Helen; and Miss Carrie Lacey admirably fills the part of Lady Brudenell. A clever piece of acting is afforded by Miss Nellie Bowman, who is thoroughly amusing as Eliza; and Miss Lucy Edwin is sufficiently austere as Miss Pye-chase. Mr. Bernard Vaughan makes a typical Dr. O'Byrne; and Mr. Richard Telford provides some excellent fun as Lieut. Sam Brudenell. Mr. Dan Agar is the life of the piece, his performance as Joe Mivens being marked by continuous laughter.

BATH SALOONS.—Proprietors, The Torquay Town Council; Manager, Mr. G. Courtney.—That popular entertainment Mr. John Poole's Myriorama is here this week, and is doing good business. Some new Bioscope films are shown, and an excellent variety entertainment includes Morritt, the well-known magician, whose marvellous illusions win frequent applause. Fil Gerrard also appears in some excellent impersonations; Vela introduces a good wire-walking turn; and Lieut. Chard's troupe of trained dogs are much admired.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—The Hippodrome season is maintaining its popularity. Fred Ginnett's company in the sporting act *A Hunting Morn*, introducing the trained mare Clonmel, is enthusiastically received; and a warm welcome also awaits Peggy Pryde in her latest songs and patter, including "Mr. Moon." The Fitzroys are clever and graceful gymnasts; and Winnie Stanhope, comedienne and dancer; Charles Sloman, comedian; and Arthur Hickman, an excellent tenor vocalist, complete the company. The Hippodrome pictures are as popular as ever. On Thursday the sixth anniversary of the Opera House was celebrated with a flying matinée by Mr. Cyril Maude and company in *Toddles*.

TYLDESLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company is here this week in *Man and Wife*. Mr. J. F. Traynor submits a fine performance in the part of Paul Revere; Mr. E. M. Hamilton acts with power as Captain D'Esparre; Mr. George Rammell is an able Colonel Latour; and a clever study of the cripple, Jean, is given by Mr. George Overs. Mr. Ambrose Horton is a soldierly Sergeant Jacques; the twins Bimbo are amusingly represented by Mr. E. Hall Eldon and Mr. Geo. Vining; Miss Kate Hallam is a refined and sympathetic Marcella; Miss Violet Temple does well as the blind Mrs. Revere; and Miss Millie Dorris is a sprightly Rosette.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company in the comedy *His House in Order* is a great attraction this week. Miss Kitty Cavendish gives a fine interpretation, and acts with great dramatic force as Nina; Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont submits a powerful portrayal of Hilary Jesson; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves is highly successful as Filmer Jesson, M.P.; Mr. Randolfe Reade ably acquits himself as Major Maurewarde; Miss Peggy Rae gives a clever study as the boy Derek; Miss Victoria May is seen to advantage as Geraldine Ridgeley; and Miss Avis Graham is successful as Lady Ridgeley.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Mr. John G. Brandon and company appear in a thrilling sketch, *The Girl and the Tough*, the clever acting eliciting well-earned applause. Tom Joy, comedian, scores a huge success; the Four Spanish Goldinis perform wonderful feats of carpet spinning; Miss Winnie Wentworth is a dainty comedienne; the Four Watsons are clever in a musical act; Mr. Keane Harper, comedian, delights; and Dolly, Agnes, and Maude, fancy box makers and vocalists, sing well.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Reece.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company is here this week in the charming comedy *Merely Mary Ann*. In the title-rôle Miss Jessica Solomon submits a delightful interpretation of the simple maid; and as Lancelot, the composer, Mr. Paul Lovett displays histrionic abilities of a high order. Mr. Stanley Logan as Peter acts with a robustness which wins high approval; and a clever sketch of Herr Brahmason is given by Mr. Frank Roy. A typical Clive is Mr. Robert Entwistle; and Mr. Arthur Foster scores as the inquisitive journalist O'Gorman. Mr. Herbert Greville is successful as Lord Tottenham; Miss Violet Greville as Mrs. Leadbetter makes a palpable hit; and Miss Ethel Carlyle makes the most of the Countess of Foxwell; and Miss May Colquhoun as Lady Glyn and Miss Lester Stephen as Lady Chelmer are clever. The staging is very effective.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Phil Brandsby scores well here this week with a good collection of songs; and the sketches played by the Cecils are thoroughly enjoyed. The pictures, including the dramatic set entitled A Farmer's Daughter, are a good assortment.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Fred Karno's troupe of comedians have obtained a big success here this week in the sketch *The Mumming Birds*. Winifred Ward, the "immaculate boy," is exceptionally good, and her business is original; Dan Whitley is a clever comedian; Lillie Hayes charms all with her songs and dances; Bains and Reed gain applause in the sketch *Humpsti Bumpsti;* Cliff and Kean are good comedians; and the Brothers Ashley are rare exponents of the noble art in the sketch *Next Please*. The pictures are good.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—There is an exceptionally attractive engagement at the Theatre Royal this week, Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod presenting the popular drama, *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. Logan Darra is very fine as the Rev. Tom Godley; and Mr. Alfred Northway has a part splendidly suited to him in Enoch Jaggins. Mr. Chas. Ashwell is good as Ben Jaggins; and Mr. Walter Vincent does well as Ned Kettlepin. Miss Violet Hammersley is charming as Fern Godley; and Miss Ethel Roberts as Fraulein Korale is excellent.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—There is plenty of variety at this place of amusement this week, a return having been made to a variety show. The Tennessee Guards, in their lightning drill, wall scaling, and harmonised singing, are very fine; and the performance of the Five Paulastos, acrobats, are wonderfully clever. Then there are the Selbini Troupe of trick cyclists, who do some smart things; the Ringling Trio, comedians on stilts, who create much amusement; while excellent turns are provided by Grey and Welford, Edward Darby, and Ivy Rocheford. The Hippodrome pictures complete a fine programme.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. Herbert E. Feather.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is appearing in *The New East Lynne*. The rôle of Lady Isobel is in the hands of Miss Beth Elliott, who gives an earnest and artistic portraiture; Francis Levison is capitally played by Mr. W. H. Garbois; Mr. Frederick Harker does well in the part of Archibald Carlyle; and an enjoyable vein of humour is exploited by Mr. Richard Nugent as Murty O'Flynn and Miss Sophy Shenton as Cornelia Carlyle. The dual rôle of Alfy and Joyce Hallijohn is creditably undertaken by Miss Guinevere Shilton; Miss Josephine Gwinne makes a capable Barbara Hare; and an excellent piece of character work is done by Mr. Bryon Pedley as Mr. Dill.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Herbert Clifton in imitations is popular; Bob Hamilton, the Scotch comedian, is always a favourite here; Bowman and Morton appear in a lively duologue, "She Loved a Policeman," their impersonations being great; the Sisters Darnton are attractive duettists; a pretty musical show is presented by the Leonas; Conway and Leland show remarkable dexterity; Wake and Dean cause much merriment; and Alfonso, feet equilibrist, is out of the common. Raymond's Bio-tableaux are also an attraction.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's *The Belle of Mayfair* company is paying a welcome return visit here this week. Mr. Sydney Burt, a really clever comedian, easily carried off the honours of the evening with his humorous impersonation of Sir John Chaldicott; Mr. Michael Raven's interpretation of Hugh Meredith is the work of an artist; Mr. Stephen Hall is thoroughly artistic as the Earl of Mount Highgate; and Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft makes an excellent Raymond Finchley. Mr. A. Batting's portrayal of Comte de Perrier deserves the highest eulogy; and as the Bishop of Brighton Mr. Tom Lyle is praiseworthy. Miss Patricia Weldon looks particularly handsome and acts with distinction as Princess Ehrenbrietstein; Miss Nellie Barnwell is extremely popular as Julian Chaldicott; and Miss Grace Mackay shows rare ability in doubling the characters of Lady Rosaline and the Gibson Girl. Miss Denny Fitzherbert as Lady Chaldicott proves herself an artist; and Miss Dora Lyons looks pretty and acts well as Pincott.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Miss Marie Dagmar presents her romantic Venetian drama, *The Tyrant*, here this week. Mr. James Sydney Pitt successfully depicts Homedei, the avenger; Mr. Mr. Roy Fortescue is very good as Angelo, the tyrant. Miss Marie Dagmar is all that can be desired as Tisbe. A fine house on Monday night witnessed this successful play, which is elaborately staged.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. G. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. George W. Montrose.—Topping the bill here are the Les Montaldos, with cockatoos and macaws in their acrobatic performance. The programme also includes Elsie Earle, the chic comedienne; Gus Hindell, in his song-scena *Boys Will Be Boys;* Theodore Jones, the Welsh actor vocalist, in his scena; Jack Sheppard; the Alveros, South African novelty gymnasts; Hyde and Beenan, acrobatic grotesques, and the Vicoscope.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company. — Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's powerful company is appearing here to crowded audiences in *The Midnight Wedding*. Mr. Paumier, who is accorded a hearty reception, gives a masterly impersonation of Paul Valmar; Miss Yvonne Orchardson's portrayal of Princess Astrea is a charming one; Miss Gwladys Faunce successfully interprets the character of Satanella; Captain Scarsbruck finds an able exponent in Mr. Mayor-Cooke; Prince Leopold is in the capable hands of Mr. J. Nesbitt; and Mr. A. W. Barnes is successful as Lieut. Strelsburg. The humorous parts are also well sustained.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—Vasco, the "mad musician," makes a welcome reappearance, and contributes many fine selections, which meet with much appreciation; Charles Majilton and his comedians reappear in *Round the Clock*, and the sketch is received as heartily as ever; a novel turn is supplied by Kirk and Saraski, who perform some particularly clever feats; the Juanitos are exceedingly clever acrobats; Jock Mills gains favour as a Scotch comedian; Arthur Slater is a whistling expert, and his selection, "Poet and Peasant," is really excellent; Irene and Lauri, juvenile dancers, are above the average; and other acceptable turns are provided by Rose Tilley and Harris Coonie.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Some fine pictures are being exhibited here this week, which include The Quebec Pageant, A Noble Jester, In a Submarine, The Tempter, Antiquary Burglars, Visit to Stockholm, Dancing Legs, and many others. James Atherton, a local lad, dances himself into favour; and Horace Santo, the military entertainer, is well received. Business good.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Ethel Van Praagh and J. Edward Whitty's company is here with *An Unwedded Wife*, and good business is being done. Miss Ethel Van Praagh gives a very able delineation of the heroine, Marion, her artistic acting having an impressive effect; Mr. Charles Stirling in the renegade Philip Blackstone has a part which fits him like the proverbial glove; and as Christopher Lennox, his parasite, Mr. R. Wilton Bedford makes the most of his opportunities. Mr. George Daiper plays with vigour and earnestness as Frank Hawthorne; Little Doris is very natural as Reggie; and Mr. J. Edward Whitty as P.C. O'Runyin, Mr. Will Casey as Napoleon Boomer, and Miss Jessie Gillette as Caraway Crumpet relieve the tension with some acceptable comedy business. Some novel films are shown on the Bioscope for those patrons who take advantage of the early doors.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—The chief attraction here is Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company, in *St. George and the Dragon*, which is well received. Mike Cray is a smart comedy juggler, and his canine assistant performs some clever acrobatic tricks; an amusing musical act emanates from Ross and Grayson; the Gargany Trio provide an expert acrobatic turn; Dave Carter sings with taste several tenor songs; Charles Deane, comedian, is as droll as ever; and Vandinoff proves his ability as a lightning painter in oils. The Empire Pictures are quite up to date.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Warde.—A first visit of the Dutch musical comedy *Miss Hook of Holland* is this week receiving generous support from Mr. Carlton's patrons. Admirably presented by Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company, the comedy is dressed and staged superbly, and proves highly entertaining. Mr. Edmund Russell is inimitable as Mr. Hook; and Miss Ethel James is a charming Sally Hook, playing daintily, and singing the numerous delightful numbers falling to the part in excellent taste. Miss Muff Carew as Mina scores an unqualifying success, her songs gaining great applause. Mr. Adrian Burgon has a singularly sweet voice, which makes him very acceptable in the part of the romantic bandmaster; and Mr. J. B. Fox's commanding presence makes him well suited to the part of Captain Paap. Mr. Fred Dark invests the character of Slinks with unlimited humour; and Mr. Robert Corray has too little to do as Schnapps. The chorus is strong and well balanced, and the playing of a picturesque band on the stage is a feature of the performance.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week the attractions have been Tony Iveson, assisted by David Hornby, in the interesting sketch,

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Comic Opera, by Mr. B. C. Stephenson and Mr. Alfred Cellier, entitled "DOROTHY."

That *Dorothy*, splendidly staged and having an unquestionably able cast, is still a prime favourite, was soon evidenced by the vigour with which Monday evening's huge audience at the King's encored the early songs in the opera, and in fact all through the success of the revival was never for a moment in doubt. Playgoers of the 'eighties were delighted to renew their acquaintance with the opera, and judging from appearances there were many present to welcome several of the principals in their original parts. Mr. C. Hayden Coffin, looking as young and dashing as ever, was completely successful as Harry Sherwood, and in the celebrated song "Queen of my heart" he, as of old, captured the audience, who insisted upon several repetitions. Mr. John Coates made a hit as Geoffrey Wilder, and the beautiful quality of his voice soon established him as a favourite. As Squire Bantam Mr. Colin Coop sang and acted in true fine old English gentleman fashion. Mr. Tim Ryley was capital as Tom Strutt; and Mr. Fred J. Vigay was a capable John Tuppitt. Mr. Arthur Williams was an inimitable Lurcher, the part which he so cleverly built up on the original production, and which still remains a most laughable representation. In Miss Ruth Davenport the management have secured a Dorothy Bantam worthy to rank with any of the previous artists, and her triumph was unequivocal. Lydia Hawthorne was very pleasantly rendered by Miss Hebe Bliss; Miss Aimee Roberts played Phyllis with brightness and sang very sweetly; as Mrs. Privett Miss Emily Spiller proved most amusing; and Lady Betty was well impersonated by Miss Primrose Harding. The chorus was composed of excellent voices, and the orchestra, under the clever conductorship of Mr. Frederick Rosse, ably fulfilled their duties. The scenery and costumes were of artistic excellence, and the Moss' Empires Co. must be heartily congratulated on the result of their enterprise.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Drama, entitled "THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

The management here are providing their many patrons with excellent fare this week in Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's romantic play *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. The drama, as proved by its lengthy run at the Lyceum, is one warranted to hold the attention of the most fastidious, and Marlborough playgoers have not been slow in endorsing the favourable opinion already passed upon the play at the home of its production and on tour. The company is good all round, and the scenery, mounting, and dressing are all worthy of praise. A better Prince Hildred than Mr. Ivan Cleveland it would be difficult to imagine. He thoroughly enters into the spirit of the character, and presents a powerful study. Mr. Graeme Campbell as the deformed Prince Michael also does excellent work, and is decisive in his methods. Mr. Herbert Ford's acting as Prince Olaf is admirable. He makes a very manly hero, and his performance throughout is warmly applauded. Miss Annie Saker is successful in holding the attention of the audience by her powerful and realistic depiction of Monica. Miss Saker has many opportunities to display her abilities, and of each she takes full advantage. Miss Dido Drake as Camio acts with much charm and intelligence, and gives a careful study, well depicted. Miss Isla Garnet-Vayne also does commendable work as Viola, sister of Captain Hector, who, as one of the Princess Monica's bodyguards, finds a capable exponent in Mr. D. Lewin Mannering, the other bodyguard, Lieut. Karl Stromberg, being effectively undertaken by Mr. Kendal Chalmers. Nathan, the dumb servant, is an unthankful part, but is very ably performed by Mr. J. E. Gardner. The portrayals of Lieut. Felsburg by Mr. Albert Carlton and the Bishop of Illyria by Mr. Francis Hawley are worthy of praise; and Messrs. Edmund Lea, Ivan Ewart, W. Christie, Richard Lane, W. Williams, Richard Coates, and E. A. Ball, officers of the Sylvanian Army, and Master W. Beasley, a bugler, all impersonate their respective parts successfully. The large number of scenes are manipulated with commendable speed by Mr. Stage-Manager Kendal Chalmers.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Oct. 20, the Comedy, by G. Bernard Shaw, entitled, "ARMS AND THE MAN."

For the second week of the Vedrenne-Barker short season we had *Arms and the Man*. Nothing is sacred to the sarcasm of Mr. Bernard Shaw, who is on paper a veritable iconoclast of the first water and in whom vandalism is omnipotent. Give him a sacred tradition or a fixed belief and he will poke fun at it till it totters on its base and falls into an abyss of ridicule and contempt. Mr. Granville Barker as the modern exponent of commercialism as applied to arms, the soldier of circumstance and opportunity, or, as Raina dubs him, "the chocolate-cream soldier," Captain Bluntschli, acts with a remarkable power of characterisation and lifelike realism. He does not act the part, he is simply the man depicted, and had we not seen him in other parts demanding enthusiasm and intensity we might regard him as really the cold calculating cynic and time-server whom he portrays. Every caustic and well-judged remark of his gains its natural spontaneous outburst of laughter, and has the stamp of individuality and resource. It is a wonderful concentration of character and intelligence. Mr. David Powell comes out with flying colours as the per-fervid and hot-blooded Bulgarian, Major Sergius Saranoff, and aptly depicts the tumult of mind in which his many-sided nature, his honesty of purpose, and his weak will-power plunge him. Miss Auriol Lee is excellently placed as Raina, one of Mr. Bernard Shaw's favourite types of femininity—fascinating, bewildering, high-falutin', lovable, inconsistent, self-seeking, always striving to reconcile the ideal with the real, and above all to get her own way at any cost of moral tergiversation. Miss Frances Dillon is very ardent and intense as the high-souled menial and determined wooer, Louka. Miss Frances Wetherall is capital as the clever and managing wife, Catherine Petkoff; and Mr. Michael Sherbrooke causes much laughter and amusement as the fussy, weak-minded, comfort-loving Major Paul Petkoff, and makes his points with precision and lucidity. Mr. James Hearn contributes a most telling embodiment as the avaricious opportunist, the servant Nicolo. The *pièce de résistance* is preceded by Mr. Frederick Fenn's capital one-act play, *The Convict on the Hearth*, wherein Mr. Frederick Lloyd gives an altogether admirable impersonation of the kindly and practical young parson, the Rev. Cartwright Dade; Mr. James Hearn is excellent as the returned jailbird George, and Mr. Richard Haigh as Thomas Midden, the father, and Miss Helen Rous as his helpmeet, give first-rate sketches of character; Miss Vera Coburn, like Niobe, all tears, Mr. Arthur Bowyer (stage-manager) as the kindly old uncle Joseph Peterson, little Willie Parke, Miss Maud Burton, and Mr. Allen Wade—indeed, all concerned work loyally and well. Mr. E. Taylor Platt and Mr. Harry W. Lumley assist the indefatigable Mr. Eade Montefiore at the front of the house.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Drama, by Carlton Wallace, entitled "THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."

Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is presenting here *The Village Blacksmith*. The wrestling match between John Strong and Captain Leo in the final act is capitally portrayed and highly appreciated. The drama is well mounted, and the interest of the audience is continuously maintained throughout the production. Mr. Sam Livesey, who plays the part of John Strong, is of sinewy build, and naturally adapted for the village blacksmith; he not only looks, but gives a powerful rendering of the character. Miss Maggie Edwards puts the necessary amount of pathos into her study of Kate Strong; Harry Strong is capably undertaken by Miss Lily Leicester; Mr. Albert Sinclair as Captain Leo, an athlete and rogue, has an excellent presence, and is most suited to the part, and performs his villainies in a forcible manner. Comic relief is afforded by Billy Twig, amusingly essayed by Mr. Fred Haming; Mr. Thomas E. Marshall and Mrs. T. C. Livesey, in the characters of Jeremiah and Sal Parkins respectively, also score as merry-makers; Ruth Parkins is ably undertaken by Miss Cissie Le Grand, her song in the last act being well received; Miss Edith Giddens makes an acceptable Martha Mopps.

THE KENNINGTON.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Farce, entitled "WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD."

Mr. James Welch is a great comedian who has the additional virtue of being distinctly original in his methods, and in *When Knights Were Bold* he is seen at his best. Mr. Welch has gathered around him a highly talented company, and at Kennington Theatre this week he presented the play with all the accessories of pretty dresses and ingenious staging which count so much in the modern production, and hence the theatre has been crowded nightly by audiences who have hugely enjoyed the whole performance. On Monday night the enthusiasm of the house was tremendous, and at the end of each of the three acts Mr. Welch and his fellow-artists had to appear before the curtain. Many topical lines have been introduced since *When Knights Were Bold* left Wyndham's Theatre, and they go well. As Guy de Vere Mr. Welch is just splendid, and he must be seen for his rare qualities of humour to be fully understood. As Lady Rowena, the fiancée of Sir Guy, Miss Audrey Ford is the superior modern girl to the life, and then, by way of demonstrating her histrionic capabilities, gives a vivid sketch of the proud and vengeful dame of the twelfth century. She is ably seconded by Miss Maev O'Hea as Lady Millicent, Miss Gwendoline Rayne as Lady Marjorie, and Miss Annie Furrell as Kate Pottlebury, three charming ladies who are equally graceful whether filling the rôles of romping girls in a country house-party, or of nuns "dedicate to Heaven," as the Abbess puts it. The Abbess of the second act is the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave of the rest of the play, and at the hands of Miss Helen Palgrave both parts are admirably enacted. Mr. Arthur Grenville is exceptionally good as Isaac Isaacson, the Jew; and Miss Daisy Cordell introduces much vivacity and spirit into her conception of the character of Miss Isaacson. The Hon. Charles Widdicombe of Mr. George Desmond is a lively and entertaining rôle, and in the third act he scores a big hit as the Jester, his song going with great éclat. Mr. Guy Lane is excellent as the pompous Dean and vindictive Monk; while the not easy part of Sir Brian Ballymote is finely sketched by Mr. Cecil Kinnaird. Miss Annie Chippendale makes a rosy-cheeked twelfth-century damsel; and Mr. Leopold Profeit is a dignified Herald. Mr. G. F. Tully (Wittle), and Mr. G. Tomkins (Barker) give first-class representations of their respective rôles, and create a good deal of amusements on the Battlements in 1196. The enlarged orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. H. A. Newton; while Mr. Arthur Whittaker looks after Mr. Welch's interests at the front of the house.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Comedy, "THE MOLLUSC."

Miss Annie Hughes and her well-selected company have had a flattering reception here in the above play. It is said that the play originally comprised seven characters, but that the judicious pruning of Sir Charles Wyndham reduced this number to the select four, which seem really quite enough to develop the clever idea which is embodied in the production. Be that as it may, it was a pleasure to see the united efforts of Miss Hughes' company meet with so much well-merited success. As Mrs. Baxter, the lady who would do nothing which she did not want to, Miss Annie Hughes was as clever and natural as one would expect this lady to be, and her delivery of the lines caused roars of laughter and appreciation. She appeared in some most charming gowns, a pale blue creation in Empire style, worn in the first act, being especially noticeable, and in the last act, where she is carried into the room, too weak to move, her studied negligée and pretty headgear were exquisite. As Tom Kemp, Mr. Athol Stewart was breezy and bright, his reading being somewhat different to that of Sir Charles Wyndham, but still most effective and suitable. He was equally good in the tenderer scenes with the governess, and throughout the piece was most helpful. Mr. Alick Chumley as Mr. Baxter, the long-suffering husband, was quite a success, although this part is one requiring great tact to make it acceptable. Miss Lilias Waldegrave as the governess, Miss Roberts, was excellent, her clear diction and sweetness of manner being very suitable to the character. In the pathetic scenes she was especially good. Her frocks were all in excellent taste, especially the pretty black voile worn in the first act, and the charming creations in the second and third. Mr. J. Bannister Howard has secured the services of Mr. Leonard Gautier as musical-director, and the orchestra performed a well-selected programme of popular pieces during the evening.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Drama, entitled "WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."

This play is proving a strong attraction here this week, and the troubles of Violet Livingstone with her several lovers—the good, the bad, and the unselfish—are a subject of all-absorbing interest to the patrons of the house. It is a well-written play, and lends itself to picturesque setting and mounting, the uniforms, dresses, and the scenery being all most effective. Miss Ellen Snow shows much ability in the part of Violet Livingstone. Mr. Oliver Rogers is particularly good as Gerald Fielding, the hero; and as his enemy, Captain Staniloff, Mr. Lionel Gadsden plays powerfully. The Maharajah of Balore, in the hands of Mr. Ernest Griffin, is a character of much dignity and native nobleness. Mr. N. Carter Slaughter as Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert does well. Mr. W. Norman is satisfactory as the Rev. Arthur Gray. Chundra Singh is capably interpreted by Mr. Arthur Radford. Miss Maud Court is a charming Mariel Zoluski. The fun of the piece is split up between four characters, and they all do their work well. They are Orlando Figgins, played by Mr. Harwood Roberts; Mrs. Figgins, by Miss Hogarth Beresford-Glynn; and Birdie and Baby, by Miss Nita Owen and Miss Freda Vaughan respectively.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Drama, by Nita Rae, entitled "A BEAUTIFUL CRIMINAL."

Another success is to be recorded this week with *A Beautiful Criminal*, and this popular house of drama is returning to its earlier and palmy days when the old Britannia stock company were accustomed to attract crowded houses. Mr. Montgomery's company are undoubted artists, as their performances week by week testify. The burden of this week's entertainment falls upon the shoulders of Mr. H. Eyeland Leigh, who gives a most masterly impersonation of Will Maynard, a character that requires very forcible and powerful representation, and Mr. Leigh must be heartily congratulated. Miss Etheyle Gordon Murray also is a very important factor in the play, undertaking the difficult rôle of Elinor D'Arville, and obtains great applause for her most artistic rendering of the unthankful part of the beautiful criminal. The remainder of the cast have not many opportunities of displaying their histrionic powers; but we cannot allow the occasion to pass without giving Mr. C. Allen Hineson a word of warm praise for his splendid character-study of Peter Millet, a part that fits him admirably, and causes the audience to join in hearty laughter. He is ably assisted in this by Mr. Herbert Young as Percy Vimbart, a henpecked husband, and Mr. H. G. Brandon as James, an excellent representative of an upper servant. The remainder of the performers render able assistance. We must congratulate Mr. Job Cook, the resident scenic artist, on his realistic work. The scene representing the old bridge near the Manor is a very fine picture. The orchestra renders some very pretty selections, and a fitting finale to an excellent entertainment is the Barrascope, which shows some striking pictures.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Dutch Musical Incident, entitled, "MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND."

The extremely diverting entertainment, acceptable alike to eye and ear, presented under the title of *Miss Hook of Holland*, is being played with great success at the Dalston Theatre this week. Miss Alice Coverick sustains the title-rôle, Sally, and thoroughly establishes herself as a favourite, her vivacious style, acceptable vocalisation, and dainty dancing being positively refreshing. Mr. Frank Crimp is the Dutch bandmaster, and his singing is highly appreciated. The duet in reference to the ever-interesting Dutch canal, in the rendition of which composition he is joined by Miss Hook, is received with boisterous applause, accompanied by a good deal of laughter, the item having the advantage of humour as well as melody. Mr. George Ide as Captain Paap is very popular, and his singing of "Soldiers of the Netherlands" secures every evidence of approval. Mr. James Davies is Lieut. De Coop. Mr. Tom Seymour is entitled to unstinted credit for his representation of Simon Slinks, the canal loafer. Mr. Hook, the widowed and wealthy distiller of liquor is represented with all the true spirit of the comedian by Mr. Tom Shale, who, during the evening, is responsible for many aching sides. Miss Cissie Sephton, as Mina, maid to the Hooks, sings a good song, "The Flying Dutchman." The cast also includes Miss T. Leonard, Miss Isabel Vivian, Miss Mary Allen, and Mr. George Mudie, jun., the latter imparting a bustling and properly self-important air to the character of Ludwig Schnapps, foreman of Hook's distillery.

THE GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Play, entitled "THE THIEF."

An excellent company, organised by Mr. George Alexander to tour one of his recent successes, is drawing good houses here this week. Mr. Alexander does the thing handsomely in the matter of his secondary companies, the scenery, effects, dresses, and the artists all being of the best. Mr. Rupert Lister does very well as Richard Chelford, giving a fine, manly performance, which won great admiration. Mr. Cyril Harcourt is a success as Raymond Leyton, playing with great earnestness and sincerity. Mr. Owen Nares has a difficult part as Harry, but acquits himself creditably. Mr. Luke Forster as the detective Protheroe is appropriately matter-of-fact and unsentimental. Miss Jean Cadell does all that is required in the rôle of Isabel Leyton. The honours of the evening must surely go to Miss Marie Polini as the representative of the erring wife, Marise Chelford. Miss Polini is well suited to highly emotional parts, and moves one with equal power in all phases of the rôle. It is a remarkably clever performance, and ought to add considerably to her reputation. *The Thief* is preceded by the one-act play, *Too Happy by Half*, in which Mr. Charles King plays brightly as Eric Verner, and is well supported by Mr. Owen Nares as Jack Fortescue, Miss Eileen Kerin making a charming young wife as Mary Verner.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Oct. 20, the Drama, in Five Acts, entitled "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."

An adaptation of Mrs. Beecher Stowe's beautiful work "Uncle Tom's Cabin" is being presented at the Shakespeare Theatre this week by Mr. Charles Harrington's company, and is meeting with great success. The introduction of real negroes adds a touch of realism to the production, of which their plantation festival scene is one of the features. Mr. J. Carr gives a convincing impersonation of Uncle Tom, and his quiet, but earnest, acting makes a deep impression. Mr. Charles Harrington as Phineas Fletcher looks and acts the part to perfection; and Mr. Frank Forbes-Robertson as Mr. St. Clair acquits himself with credit. A painstaking study of the fugitive slave, George Harris, is contributed by Mr. Ernest Regent, whose resolute bearing and manner are well in keeping with the rôle. Mr. T. Bowron makes the most of his opportunities as Legree, and sufficiently emphasises the brutal attributes of the character. Mr. Walter Langford causes much amusement by his clever delineation of the lawyer, Marks, and Mr. E. A. Massingham is satisfactory as Dan Haley. Miss Hero Hathaway makes a pleasing appearance as Eliza Harris, and skilfully depicts the varied emotions of the part. Miss Jennie Malcolm does all that is possible in the rôle of the prim Aunt Ophelia; and Mrs. Carr gives a good performance as Uncle Tom's wife. Miss Annie Watson scores a decided hit as Topsy, and her quaint antics and clever repartee keep the audience in uproarious laughter; Miss Kitty Bell acts with natural innocence and grace as Little Eva, speaking her lines with praiseworthy distinctness; and Miss Hetty Johnson plays Cassy, the creole slave, with pronounced success. The piece is admirably staged, and the scenery throughout excellent.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Drama, in Four Acts, by G. Buchanan Rogerson, entitled "THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."

Mr. Morton Powell's elaborate production, *A Woman Who Gambles*, is proving a great attraction this week. It is capitally acted all round. Miss Laura Walker gives a clever and powerful rendering of the rôle of the Countess Natalie Steinbach, and is well supported by Mr. Norman A. Overton, who is an admirable Baron Cratzlaw. Mr. Clifford Rean submits a clever and effective study of Count Otto Steinbach; Mr. Reginald Fox is very good indeed as Lieutenant Karl Cizartorski; Mr. Ernest J. Clark is a convincing M. Stambuloff; Mr. James Turner is good as M. Koska Marinavitch; Mr. Victor J. Raymond is very popular as the Honourable Bertie Bray, of the British Embassy, a part which suits Mr. Raymond's style admirably; Mr. Victor Brandhurst is a very capable George Orloff; Mr. Reginald Oldroyd gives a good performance of Manifred Speinletch; Mr. Jack Kerr is a competent Silanovitch; Mr. George Payne as Alexander Gouts, Mr. Arthur Cuff as Max Mecklebach, and Mr. K. H. Speake as Michael Lantoff, are all well placed. Miss Lily Malvern gives an excellent representation of Stella Malakoff; Miss Lillian Rignold is very good as Mlle. Zila Zeyelda; Miss Brenda May is bright and smart as Zanette; and Miss E. Conway is a clever and attractive Cora Goldhart.

SHAFTESBURY THEATRE.

MR. H. B. IRVING.

Every Evening, at 8.45, "THE LYONS MAIL."

MR. H. B. IRVING. MISS DOROTHEA BAIRD.

Preceded at 8.15, by

"THE SERGEANT OF HUSSARS," by Oicely Hamilton.

Box-office Ten till Ten. Telephone 6,867 Gerrard.

MATINEES WEDNESDAYS and SATURDAYS, at 2.15.

THE VERDICT OF THE AUDIENCE.

THE TIMES.

Tact before the curtain is an Irving tradition; and the son had all his father's suavity and grace last night in his little speech of thanks at the close of a most enthusiastic evening. . . . Altogether a most pleasant evening, and auguring well for the success of the season.

THE MORNING POST.

The scene at the fall of the curtain last night recalled many a first night at the old Lyceum, so prolonged and enthusiastic was the applause, so persistent the demands for a speech. After about a dozen "curtains" and appearances, Mr. Irving briefly thanked the audience for its reception. If he and his comrades had brought to those who had seen the play before pleasant recollections—(several cries of "You have")—and had made the old play interesting to those to whom it was new—(loud cheers)—they had done all they hoped to do. Even after Mr. Irving retired the cheering continued for a while . . the applause at the end of act two was such as is rarely heard nowadays in a London theatre.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

Melodrama dead—moribund even! Assuredly not while such conclusive proof of its vitality is forthcoming as was furnished last night at the Shaftesbury. Let it not be assumed either that the evidence came from part of the house only. On the contrary, the pit was not more enthusiastic than the stalls, the gallery not more prodigal of applause than the boxes. It was, in truth, like the old days come again; it wanted but the slightest effort of the imagination to make one believe that the hands of the theatrical clock had been turned back twenty-five years. After all, what a splendid specimen of its class "The Lyons Mail" is! . . . The authors little suspected, probably, that after half a century it would succeed in thrilling a London audience and rousing it to the highest pitch of excitement. That, however, is precisely what happened at the Shaftesbury last night.

THE STANDARD.

Mr. H. B. Irving is quietly, but surely, establishing his position with the London public. There was a note of affection, as well as admiration, in the remarkable ovation which greeted the actor's reappearance after a lengthy absence. . . . The stage-management was perfect—and that is a pleasing thing to be able to say, because stage-management always was (and, let us hope, long will be) one of the "Irving traditions."

THE DAILY GRAPHIC.

A splendid reception was accorded to Mr H. B. Irving last night. . . . The reception of both plays was, as said before, most enthusiastic.

THE DAILY CHRONICLE.

One of those glorious evenings when an audience suddenly takes it into its head that it is assisting at a great occasion, and proceeds to do its duty with a true passion of applause, happened at the Shaftesbury Theatre last night, when Mr. H. B. Irving was received with a tremendous ovation of volley upon volley of shouts and of cheers of welcome. It was a reception that must have surprised Mr. Irving himself, and certainly refreshed the hearts of many playgoers. . . . after the fine acting of yesterday, and the earthquakes of enthusiasm that it evoked, it is pleasant to know—as those who have followed Mr. Irving's provincial tour can testify—that still better remains behind.

THE DAILY MAIL.

It was a very successful evening, and Mr. Irving met with an enthusiasm which he amply deserved.

THE DAILY MIRROR.

Certain it is that there is no English actor living as well qualified to appear in Sir Henry's parts in "The Lyons Mail." What a roar of welcome went up when he appeared upon the stage last night! . . . The play has run now for fifty-eight years. Seldom, however, has it been played more effectively than it was by Mr. Irving last evening.

THE ACTING.

THE TIMES.

Mr. H B Irving very wisely does what his father did, insisting with all his might upon the contrasts between the open, simple, sentimental Lesurques and the grim, sardonic, snarling villain Dubosc. . . . Yes, for those who have seen the play before, this revival does indeed bring back memories of the pleasantest kind. . . . He is well justified, too, in his modest hope that, for those who see the play for the first time, there are still elements of attraction. "The Lyons Mail" is, in fact, an excellent specimen of the old romantic melodrama—with direct, rapid action, simple emotions strongly expressed, and no superfluous verbiage.

THE MORNING POST.

In some quarters objection has been taken to Mr. Irving's playing his father's parts, but the question surely is: "Are the parts worth playing, and, if so, who else could play them so well?" Now, it is certain that many of them are by no means done with yet, and if the enthusiasm of last night's audience may be taken as any criterion of the public feeling, Mr. Irving's season at the Shaftesbury should be a triumph. . . . the performance is one which no English actor now before the public could surpass. In the more difficult character of Lesurques Mr. Irving's success is even more remarkable. The growing apprehension and agony of the unhappy man as he sees the toils closing in on him are pictured with pathetic fidelity; the whole scene is one of the finest exhibitions of mental anguish that our stage has shown for years.

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH.

To follow in the footsteps of a great actor must always be a venturesome step, especially when the recollections of his achievements are still fresh in the minds of numerous playgoers. But out of the ordeal Mr. H. B. Irving emerged with something more than mere credit to himself. In one respect he even outstripped anticipations. His study of Lesurques will bear comparison with any of its predecessors. As a matter of fact, we are inclined to place it, so far as verisimilitude is concerned, on the quite highest plane.

THE DAILY MAIL.

A thoughtful, intelligent study of the two parts—one very well worth seeing, polished, sure, personal.

THE STANDARD.

If Mr. Irving's other performances of his father's characters are at all comparable with his Lesurques and Dubosc, there can be no reason why another permanent Irving management should not become an institution in London. An actor who can play, in the Grand manner, Hamlet and Iago, Charles I. and Louis XI., Matthias and Dubosc, should be more than equal to the task of creating a new Lyceum. . . .Mr. Irving emerged triumphantly from the trying ordeal. Both as Lesurques and as Dubosc he delighted the audience, who repeatedly "rose at him" during the course of the evening. In the famous garret scene, at the end of the drama, where the brutal Dubosc is driven to bay, Mr. Irving's acting was superb. . . . The curtain fell to a tremendous outburst of cheering, the pit shouting the name of "Irving" as though they loved it.

THE DAILY CHRONICLE.

Quite apart from this, the evening showed that there can be no possible doubt of his having returned from his provincial progress a much finer and more accomplished actor than he was when London knew him last. To the old passion and command he has added a faculty and range of character that are obviously only waiting for some great new part to take the town by storm.

THE PALL MALL GAZETTE.

The important fact of last night was that, even with vivid memories of Henry Irving pressing upon one all the time, one could sit through the performance with genuine pleasure. Obviously it could not have been from those memories only that the gratification came, for had the acting of Mr. Irving been seriously in conflict with them, the evening would have been one of little less than torture. The general cheers, however, that followed the descent of the curtain after each act, and particularly after the second and third, proved that the audience had been moved to real admiration; and, with the memory of his father's performance still so fresh and so vivid, the evening must be chronicled as one of triumph for the son. . . . We saw quite enough last night to convince us that there is only one man before the present playgoing public who has the artistic right to play the parts which Henry Irving made his own, and that man is his elder son. The remainder of the company work well; and the scenery and incidental music—the latter, by the way, plays a very important part in this, as it did in all the Lyceum melodramas—are just as they used to be in the old days. The house was crowded with an audience that was as brilliant as it was enthusiastic; and we trust that the events of last night will prove to have inaugurated another long and affectionate relationship between London playgoers and an Irving.

THE WESTMINSTER GAZETTE.

Mr. H. B. Irving has been very successful. . . . . In his Lesurques he presents a charming picture of the amiable, dignified, virtuous man, whilst his Dubosc is a vigorous study of the unadulterated beast. It is difficult to know which to praise the higher. . . . It was not surprising that the reception exhibited remarkable enthusiasm.

EVENING STANDARD.

If Mr. H. B. Irving had produced "The Lyons Mail" at the Lyceum instead of the Shaftesbury Theatre, there would have been playgoers in plenty to say that the Irving traditions had been revived with all their former glory. Even as it was, the rousing reception extended to Mr. Irving last evening recalled the fervour of the old Lyceum first nights, and one felt tempted to exclaim in sheer exultation: "Le Roi est mort; vive le Roi!" . . . The house rose at Mr. Irving; it was a new and real triumph for the actor. . . . If all of us who made, with good critical reason, an idol of the father, do not rush to see the son, it will be strange indeed, and we wish Mr. Irving very well in what is both a dutiful and a happy enterprise.

THE WORLD.

"The Lyons Mail" at the Shaftesbury is, I am bound to admit, a capital entertainment. I would rather see Mr. Irving in a play of to-day, but that must not prevent me from acknowledging either the picturesque vigour of his own performance or the interest of the piece. Was it not M. Faguet who called "Le Courier de Lyon" the best melodrama in existence? It certainly is an admirably-managed machine. There is real human nature behind all its contrivances and coincidences. It ought to teach juries never to convict upon circumstantial evidence. It forces one to realise how much stronger is the logic of apparent facts than a reputation for life-long integrity. Mr. Irving's acting in the double part is naturally upon his father's lines, though by no means an imitation. He brings out even more vividly, because more naturally, the stupefaction of the accused man when he finds the net closing around him. There is no melodrama here: it is a fine piece of emotional acting.

THE OUTLOOK.

Mr. H. B. Irving is a fine actor—a man of imagination. His work in "The Lyons Mail" is a striking performance, and the venerable melodrama lives again under his hand. In some ways the play is improved: the mobbing of Dubosc in the last act, for instance, is better done. "The Lyons Mail" is "The Lyons Mail"—a law unto itself, a thing to take or leave. You may think Mr. Irving better in finer work, as I do; but you can hardly suppress the thrill of the gruesome as you listen to the disjointed jabberings of the tipsy fiend in this historic play.

MISS DOROTHEA BAIRD.

Mr. Irving is very happy in his leading lady, Miss Dorothea Baird. In the part of Jeannette she has not much to do, but she does it prettily and pathetically; and she is also seen to advantage in the little drama, "The Sergeant of Hussars," with which the programme opens.—Pall Mall Gazette.

A new curtain-raiser, by Miss Cicely Hamilton, "The Sergeant of Hussars," had an excellent reception. . . . Miss Baird's performance of the heroine was powerful and sympathetic.—Standard.

Miss Dorothea Baird, the Jeannette, rendered very pathetically the part of the victim of Dubosc, and received a hearty welcome.—Westminster Gazette.

Miss Dorothea Baird plays the part of Jeannette, and plays it very effectively.—Evening Standard.

Miss Dorothea Baird acts with great emotional fervour as the unhappy Jeanne.—Evening Standard.

Miss Dorothea Baird indicated the misery of Jeanne with touching simplicity.—Morning Post.

Miss Baird plays charmingly.—Globe.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham has kindly lent the New Theatre for a matinée on Tuesday, Nov. 17, in aid of Miss Olive Christian Malvery's Shelter Fund for Homeless Women, of which Lady Brassey is the hon. treasurer. A novel and interesting programme, including many popular favourites, is promised for the matinée, of which Miss Catherine Lewis is the organiser.

Mr. George Alexander concludes his triumphal tour of the provinces at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, this evening, and on Monday he, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, and his St. James's Theatre company, including Mr. Dawson Milward, Mr. Reginald Owen, Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds, and Miss Nina Sevening, will begin a special week's engagement at the Kennington Theatre with *The Thief*. The principal piece will be preceded by a new one-act play entitled *The Nursery Governess*, which has been translated and adapted from M. Provins' *La Gouvernante* by P. G. Duchesne. The cast of the new playlet, which has met with success in the provinces, will include Mr. Harcourt Williams, Mr. Ashton Pearse, Miss Barbara Hannay, and Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay.

Mr. Alexander will produce Mr. Alfred Sutro's new play at the St. James's on Wednesday, Nov. 11. The piece is in four acts, and is entitled *The Builder of Bridges*. Mr. Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh will play the principal parts, and in the cast will be Mr. Dawson Milward, Mr. Harcourt Williams, Mr. William Farren, Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds, Miss Florence Hayden, Miss Barbara Hannay, and Miss Nina Sevening. The action of the play is laid in London at the present time.

Mr. Forbes-Robertson, in accordance with the announcement already made, will close his season at the St. James's on Saturday, Nov. 7, to make way for the return of Mr. George Alexander. No break, however, will be made in the successful run of *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, as the production will be transferred to Terry's Theatre on the following Monday.

Mr. H. B. Irving's triumph at the Shaftesbury, though not unexpected, is no less gratifying to those who long since pledged their faith in the clever son of a distinguished father. The young actor has created another Irving "atmosphere," due no less to his own artistic accomplishments than to his inherited talents. His performance of Lesurques and Dubosc in *The Lyons Mail* gives proof of the polish which he has acquired since his last appearance in London, and it is acknowledged on all hands that to no living actor could the part with which the fame of the father is so closely associated be as worthily entrusted. From the chorus of praise and congratulation that has gone up on all sides, it can hardly be doubted, as it will certainly be hoped, that Mr. Irving has established himself permanently among West-End managers.

Mr. Martin Harvey was to have offered "Some Reflections on the Art of Acting" to the O.P. Club at the Criterion Restaurant last Sunday. Mr. F. D. Bone, in taking the chair, announced that Mr. Martin Harvey was suffering from a severe chill, accompanied by a rise of temperature, and could not leave his room. He had, however, sent his paper, which was read by members of the committee. Mr. Harvey's very interesting lecture has already appeared in our columns.

Miss Marion Terry will stay in New York for a fortnight before going to Montreal, where she will create the leading rôle in Paul Bourget's drama *Divorce*, on Nov. 2. Miss Marion Terry has never visited America before. On the way over she slipped and fell on the deck, and sprained her ankle. Miss Terry went to the States under the management of Mr. Fred C. Whitney, and the American adaptation of M. Bourget's play has been made by Mr. Stanislaus Strange. The cast will include Miss Nelly Roland, Mr. John Glendinning, and Mr. Vincent Serrano.

The newly-constituted Executive Committee of the Shakespeare Memorial met at the Mansion House on Tuesday. The Lord Mayor presided, and there were present Lord Lytton, the Earl of Plymouth, Mr. Alfred Lyttelton, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. G. Bernard Shaw, Mr. William Archer, Mr. J. Comyns Carr, Mr. Granville Barker, Mr. Philip Carr, and Professor Gollancz. The proceedings were private. Several committees were appointed—one to draft a scheme for the erection of a national theatre, and another to organise the appeal to the public for funds to carry out the work.

In celebration of the King's birthday, Mr. Cyril Maude has been commanded to Sandringham on Friday, Nov. 13, to give a performance of *The Flag Lieutenant*. Mr. Maude and the Playhouse company will leave London at midday on the day of the performance, returning about six o'clock on the following morning. An entirely new set of scenery is being made to fit the stage at Sandringham, so that the production will be in every way an exact replica of that now to be seen at the Playhouse. There will accordingly be no performance at the Playhouse on the evening of Friday, Nov. 13. Mr. Maude and his company, it will be remembered, appeared at Sandringham on the King's birthday last year in the "Dressing-room" scene from *The Clandestine Marriage* and the one-act play *French as he is Spoke*.

Mr. Martin Harvey is also honoured by the King's command, and will journey to Windsor on Nov. 18 with his company in order to give a performance of *The Corsican Brothers* during the visit of the King and Queen of Sweden. This is the second time within sixteen months that King Edward has asked for a special performance of this play, for during Mr. Harvey's last Adelphi season in June, 1907, the programme was changed from *The Only Way* to *The Corsican Brothers* in order that the King and Queen might witness the piece.

The stage-room in the Waterloo Chamber being limited, an entirely new production on a somewhat smaller scale than that used at the Adelphi has to be prepared. Mr. George J. Dodson, who painted the original production, is engaged on a replica of the scenes, and last week Mr. George Ashton, who has in hand all the arrangements, accompanied Mr. Harvey's stage-managers to Windsor Castle, when the necessary measurements were taken. The Adelphi staff also accompany the production, and a large portion of the band will augment the Royal Orchestra.

The Royal command has necessitated a slight rearrangement of Mr. Martin Harvey's Adelphi programme. *The Only Way* will be revived on Monday next, and will be followed later by *The Breed of the Treshams*, while the last two weeks of the season will be devoted to a revival of *The Corsican Brothers*.

Mr. Lewis Waller also shares in the Royal favour, and for the third time in four years will appear at Windsor Castle by command of the King. The date fixed is Friday, Nov. 20, on the evening of which Mr. Waller and his company from the Lyric Theatre will give a performance of *The Duke's Motto* before the King and Queen of Sweden, who will be the guests of His Majesty.

Mr. Norman V. Norman concluded his season at Brighton with a revival of *Nell Gwyn*, the play being received by a crowded and enthusiastic audience, and Miss Beatrice Wilson being presented with several bouquets. Though there were calls for a speech at the fall of the curtain, Mr. Norman did not comply. We regret to add that the popular actor-manager met with a painful accident one day this week. Whilst playing hockey he was struck in the eye by the ball, the eyelid being somewhat severely cut.

Mr. Carl Hentschel writes:—"In reference to the letter from the hon. secretary of the Playgoers' Club which appeared in a contemporary, may I be allowed to explain why the O.P. Club sold their furniture. They had decided to move to larger and more commodious premises at the Criterion, and as the new headquarters are already furnished, there was no necessity to retain the old furniture. The O.P. Club, with its new headquarters under the presidency of Mr. Max Pemberton, is going very strong, and the fact of the sale of the old furniture certainly should not affect either of the clubs. Both are so well-known that it is impossible that one should be mistaken for the other. I had the honour of being joint founder of the Playgoers' Club, and in 1900 I founded the O.P. Club. Since then both clubs have flourished. What O.P. stands for is a matter of opinion. It can stand for 'Old Prices,' 'Opposite Prompt,' 'Old Playgoers,' &c., &c. Therefore anyone is quite at liberty to choose his own definition if he pleases. As regards the Club itself, it desires to be known only by its initials."

Congratulations are being received by Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Meyer on the birth to them of a fine boy, a happy event which occurred on Thursday last. Mrs. Meyer in professional life is Miss Dorothy Grimston, who lately achieved such success as Nina in *His House in Order* in the provinces, and Mr. Meyer is general manager for Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton.

The statutory meeting of Drury Lane Theatre, Ltd., will be held on Monday. The annual report then to be presented to the shareholders shows a profit for the year ended June 30, after allowing for depreciation, of £20,651. To this there is to be added £2,097 brought forward from last year. The directors have considered it prudent to create a reserve, and accordingly have transferred £10,000 for this purpose. They recommend the payment of a dividend of 10 per cent., leaving £3,348 to be carried forward. Insurance claims in respect of the recent fire are not finally settled, nor are the necessary rebuilding and reinstatement completed; but the directors express themselves satisfied that the amount transferred to reserve account will be more than sufficient to meet any contingencies under this head.

Excellent progress is being made with the farewell matinée which is to be given to Miss Dolores Drummond at the Playhouse on Friday, Nov. 20. A committee, representative of the leading West-End managers, is headed by the Earl of Kilmorey, K.P., and includes Sir Squire Bancroft and Lady Bancroft, Sir Charles Wyndham, Sir John Hare, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Miss Ellen Terry, Mr. A. W. Pinero, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. Arthur Chudleigh, Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. J. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. George Edwardes, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr H. V. Esmond, Mr. Otho Stuart, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. Frederick Kerr, Miss Mary Moore, Mr. Dion Boucicault, and Lady Violet Greville.

The Playhouse has been kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Cyril Maude, who will also contribute with his wife, Miss Winifred Emery, to the programme. Details of the entertainment have not yet been arranged, but among the ladies and gentlemen who have already consented to appear are Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Forbes-Robertson and Miss Gertrude Elliott, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. H. B. Irving and Miss Dorothea Baird, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Frederick Kerr and Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Ada Reeve, Miss Marie Illington, Mr. Martin Harvey and Miss N. de Silva, Mr. H. V. Esmond and Miss Eva Moore, Mr. Malcolm Scott, and Mr. Lionel Brough. Mr. Lewis Waller would also have been on the programme but for the fact that he is on that day commanded to Windsor Castle.

Messrs. Smith and Carpenter ask us to state that, although the old mystery will be a prominent feature of their forthcoming production at the Lyceum on the subject of "The Man in the Iron Mask," the play will be an entirely new one from the pen of Mr. Norman Forbes. The title is not yet settled, but it will certainly not be *The Man in the Iron Mask*.

Mr. Charles Manners (of the Moody-Manners Opera Company) delivered a lecture on Voice Production in the St. Andrew's Halls, Glasgow, on Sunday. There was a very large audience, and the lecture was followed with evident interest and attention. Mr. Manners' principal points were—"Breathe correctly; chin down; be natural; begin at the bottom of the ladder." Incidentally he remarked—although he took pains to emphasise the fact that he was only expressing his personal opinion—that much of the elaborate theorising regarding singing was far-fetched and unnecessary. After a person had had a grounding in the fundamentals, experience was the best teacher.

Mr. Manners strongly deprecated the idea that an amateur, however good the voice, could be allowed to do otherwise than start at the beginning, and drew a humorous picture of novices who had approached him with the object of playing the part of Marguerite or Elizabeth, scorning the idea of beginning in the chorus. Mr. Manners gave many amusing reminiscences and imitations, and at the close of the lecture sang "In Sheltered Vale."

The members of Mr. Wilson Benge's *Eve of Her Wedding* company and a numerous party of friends were entertained to supper after the performance on Thursday night, on the stage at the Theatre Royal, Barnsley, the occasion being the birthday of Miss Sadie Smith (Mrs. Wilson Benge). A most enjoyable evening was spent, songs and recitations being given by various members of the company. Mrs. Benge was the recipient of many handsome presents.

"The Belle of Brittany," which was unavoidably postponed last Saturday, will make her bow at the Queen's this evening. Mr. Tom B. Davis has strengthened the cast by the engagement of Mr. E. W. Royce, sen., and Mr. M. R. Morand. The principals include Mr. George Graves—happily recovered from his throat trouble—Mr. Walter Passmore, Mr. Lawrence Rea, Mr. Davy Burnaby, Miss Ruth Vincent, Miss Maudi Darrell, Miss Maud Boyd, and Miss Lily Iris, who thus makes her first appearance in musical comedy.

The patrons of His Majesty's, Barrow-in-Furness, which is prospering so thoroughly under the administration of Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge, suffered a keen disappointment this week, during which the theatre has had to be closed, the management of the company which was to have played *The Cheat* having telegraphed that they were unable to keep their engagement. In asking the indulgence of their supporters, Mr. and Mrs. Routledge point out that they were in no way responsible for the regrettable occurrence, the intimation alluded to not reaching them in time for arrangements with another company to be made. The theatre will reopen on Monday with Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's*

Mr. Charles Manners, ever indefatigable in the cause of opera in English, is establishing a record for grand opera in his latest achievement. Hitherto it has been the rule for flying matinées to be given by a company appearing in London making a dash to one or other of the provincial or suburban theatres. A reversal of this custom will take place during next week, when the Moody-Manners B company comes from the provinces to give a series of flying matinées in the suburbs of Puccini's opera, *Madame Butterfly*, in English, of course. Thus a matinée will be given at the Willesden Hippodrome on Tuesday, Oct. 27; at the Ealing Hippodrome on Wednesday, Oct. 28; at the Richmond Hippodrome on Thursday, Oct. 29; and at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, on Friday, Oct. 30.

The cast for these matinées will comprise Miss Enriqueta Crichton, the artist whose rendering of Isolda, in *Tristan and Isolda*, when recently given at the Lyric Theatre, W., created such a stir in artistic circles, in the title-rôle; Miss Rosina Beynon as Suzuki; Mr. Charles Carter as Lieut. Pinkerton, which rôle he rendered at the Lyric Theatre during the company's annual season there; and Messrs. Charles Moorhouse and Marshal Vincent, as Consul Sharples, on alternate days. The well-known Moody-Manners operatic chorus and augmented orchestras will also officiate.

Dress of the most up-to-date character is portrayed in *The Sway Boat* at the Kingsway. In the first act Miss Lena Ashwell appears in a graceful house-gown carried out in two shades of bois-de-rose, the corsage being drawn tightly over the waist with a few ridges to break the surface. It is fashioned with huge armholes scooped out over an under-blouse of rosewood ninon, the long skin-tight sleeves of which are tucked horizontally and finished with the little flounces which fall over the knuckles of the hands. The corsage is studded at the armholes with flat satin buttons, which in a smaller size are repeated round the sharp "V"-shaped opening, which gives place to a vest of cream net, while the jupe is slit up on one side and is folded over at the back, where it is caught with four mammoth flat buttons.

Miss Ashwell's next appearance is made in a beautiful gown of corn-coloured satin veiled with tulle, and enriched with a long panel of gold embroidery, cutting right through the front of the gown, while the corsage is adorned with the same wonderful broderie, and the sleeves are of the scantiest description. Very pretty, too, is the simple little robe of foam-white crepe de chine, inlet with horizontal rows of creamy Mechlin lace, which describe a series of panels behind. The corsage opens over a perfectly transparent drawn tulle vest and a soft myosotis blue satin sash is tied high up under the bust, and finished with a huge blue chou, the sleeves being inlet horizontally with lace to match the gown.

The gown donned by Miss Ashwell in the last act is a beautiful mixture of deep Bordeaux-coloured satin of the richest and softest tint, covered with dark plum-coloured chiffon. The jupe opens like a curtain down the front, and is caught together at the height of the knees with heavy gold ornaments and tassels, while long stole bands designed in ragged Japanese chrysanthemums, worked in gold on a background of deep purple, outline the squared decolletage of the corsage, and are brought down the jupe on either side to the hem.

Miss Kate Rorke appears in the first act in a gown of a "plover's egg" shade of greenish-grey cloth, apparently fastened down the back from the throat to the hem, while it is enriched all the way down with quasi-military braidings in the same tone. The front of the corsage is almost plain, and the folded satin belt to match terminates abruptly each side of the front, and is connected with a shower of tassels and boules. The corsage is cut out over a cream vest, while the plain, clinging skirt falls in long statuesque folds to the feet.

"Butterflies," at the Apollo Theatre, will reach its 200th night on Thursday, when the occasion will be marked by the presentation to the audience of a full vocal score of the opera. The souvenir appears to err on the side of generosity, as its published cost is in excess of the prices of admission to all except the most expensive parts of the theatre.

Miss Maude Western has acquired from the exors. of the late Sir Augustus Harris the sole right of that fine old drama, *Queen's Evidence*.

Notwithstanding the fact that Mr. H. F. Maltby has been constantly touring with his own company and plays, he manages to put in a lot of time writing, and his new play, in three acts, with the attractive title of *The Laughter of Fools*, is now nearing completion. It will be produced in the course of next year.

Mr. Frank Harrison, who was so long connected with the productions at the Crown and Pavilion Theatres under Mr. Isaac Cohen's management, has been engaged by Mr. Robert Arthur for one of his suburban pantomimes. Mr. Harrison produced *Red Riding Hood* last year very successfully for Mr. Arthur at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham.

The one-act play by Mr. St. John Hankin, entitled *The Burglar that Failed*, which was to have been produced in front of *Lady Epping's Law-suit* at the Criterion, has been postponed to next Tuesday evening. The cast will consist of Miss Kate Wingfield, Miss Elfrida Clement, and Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk.

Mr. Arthur E. Holland, whose name has for the past fourteen months been associated with the part of Jack Herne, the cripple, in Mr. Wilson Benge's *The Eve of Her Wedding* company, a week ago visited the theatre of his native town. Exceptional business was the result, and Mr. Holland was nightly accorded a most enthusiastic reception. He has many friends throughout the district, and fully appreciates their kind patronage and generosity, particularly on the part of those who were responsible for the public testimonial, which he will ever preserve as their token of esteem and goodwill.

Short lectures by Dr. Otto Neitzel will precede the performances of *Pelléas et Mélisande* at the Berlin Komische Oper. The experiment, it will be remembered, was tried by Mr. Charles Manners in London a little while ago, to the great profit of those who heard the addresses.

The well-known firm of Liberty and Co., of Regent-street, who transact quite a large amount of business with the theatrical profession, has nominated Sidney Frederick Arthur Down for the Warehousemen's, Clerks', and Drapers' Schools. The boy is eleven years of age. His father is suffering from an incurable disease, which incapacitates him from work, and has a wife and four children. Messrs. Liberty do not expect that many in the profession have votes for these schools, but any kind of votes will be acceptable, as they can be interchanged for those required. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, will be pleased to receive votes for this very deserving case.

The O.P. Club held their annual meeting on the 15th inst. at their new headquarters at the Criterion. General satisfaction was expressed at the new surroundings. In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Atherley-Jones, M.P., the vice-president, Mr. Geo. Gardner, presided. Mr. Max Pemberton was unanimously elected president, and Mr. F. D. Bone vice-president; Mr. Carl Hentschel, who is already chairman and director of the O.P. Club, Ltd., was appointed trustee, Mr. Algernon L. Collins, hon. treasurer, and Messrs. J. Davis Smith and Stanley Greig joint hon. secretaries. The new committee includes such well-known members as L. Atherley-Jones, M.P., Alfred F. Robbins, Sidney Dark, T. McDonald Rendle, J. M. Freshwater, George Rollit, and J. Bernard Dickson.

At the conclusion of the meeting some hundred members sat down to an informal supper under the chairmanship of Mr. Max Pemberton. The toast of the President, proposed by Mr. Sidney Dark, was received with musical honours. Mr. Max Pemberton, in responding, thanked the members for the honour they had conferred upon him in electing him as their president, and assured them that he would do everything in his power to continue the success and uphold the traditions for which the O.P. Club had become so famous. Messrs. George Stone, Laurence Bascomb, Arthur Helmore, Arthur Grover, Morris Harvey, James Godden, and Ben Nathan contributed to the concert that followed.

The tea-room at the Castle Theatre, Stockton, was formally opened on Monday, when a large number of ladies and gentlemen accepted the invitation of the manager (Mr. Chas. Imeson), and partook of refreshments during the intervals. It is an elaborate retiring room, with tapestry decorations and handsome oak furnishings, and should become most popular. The Winter Garden, which is situated on the opposite side of the main corridor, is not quite completed, but is expected to be opened in the course of a few days.

Mr. J. Wellesley Lynn, who is now recovered from his recent serious accident, sails on Wednesday from Southampton for a six months' tour in the West Indies with his company, which includes Miss Marguerite Leigh, Miss Katherine Brock, Messrs. Malcolm Cockerell, A. J. Reid, W. Welby, and A. Dene.

The Florence Glossop-Harris company, playing a répertoire of Shakespearean plays at the Ipswich Lyceum this week, has been greeted by crowded and most enthusiastic audiences. *Romeo and Juliet* on Tuesday evening had an especially hearty reception, and at the final fall of the curtain Miss Glossop-Harris was the recipient of a remarkable ovation. Ipswich is not alone in its appreciation of this talented company, return visits having been arranged to the last five towns visited.

By special arrangement with Mr. Frederick Harrison Mr. Stanley James, general-manager for Mr. Ian Maclaren, is in the spring sending out a company touring jointly with Mr. Michael Morton's comedies, *Her Father* and *My Wife*. Negotiations are proceeding with well-known London artists for the leading parts in each play. A replica of the Swiss hotel scene used for *My Wife* at the Haymarket is to be executed for the occasion and other special scenery will be carried.

For the benefit of the local charities in Bradford, Mr. Harold V. Neilson presented Ibsen's play *Ghosts* at the Baths Hall, on the last three nights last week. Mr. Neilson was supported by Mrs. Theodore Wright, Mr. Dickson Moffat, Mr. Orlando Barnett, and Miss Constance Bromley. The audiences were large.

Miss Elsie Irving, who undertook the part of Lady Mereston in Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Lady Frederick* company at very short notice, met with such pronounced success that she has been engaged to continue in the part for the rest of the tour.

"Lady Frederick's" first birthday will be celebrated at the Haymarket on Monday, when a prosperous though roving career will be marked by the presentation to every member of the audience of a souvenir-programme.

On Saturday, the 31st inst., Mr. Somerset Maugham's clever piece will be temporily withdrawn, as Mr. Frederick Harrison is under contract to produce Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's new four-act comedy, the title of which will be *Dolly Reforming Herself*. Miss Ethel Irving will play the principal part, and included in the cast will be Miss Margaret Halstan, Miss Ada Webster, Mr. Robert Loraine, Mr. C. M. Lowne, Mr. Lyall Swete, Mr. Charles Maude, Mr. Herbert Bunston, and Mr. Gilbert Porteous. The production is underlined for Tuesday, Nov. 3.

A very successful concert was given on Sunday in Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee (kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Robert Arthur), on behalf of the Royal Infirmary and other local charities. By permission of Mr. George Edwardes, Miss Clara Evelyn, Miss Mary Grey, and Mr. Harrison Frewin, of *The Merry Widow* company, who are appearing in the town this week, contributed pleasing items. The ladies of the company also lent their aid in selling programmes. Auxetophone selections were given by Messrs. Paterson, Sons, and company, and the Dundee Trades Band also performed during the evening. Among local artists who appeared was Mr. Louis Karpe (manager of Her Majesty's Theatre), who scored as an elocutionist.

The West London Theatre is to come under the hammer, and will be offered at auction by Messrs. Edwin Fox and Bousfield at the Mart on Wednesday, Nov. 25. Historic associations surround the theatre, which was opened in 1831 as the Royal Sussex, a name that was afterwards changed to the Royal Pavilion. In 1842 the house was rebuilt and re-named the Marylebone, with Mr. John Douglass as lessee, and it celebrated its jubilee in 1892, when Mr. Henry Gascoigne had the management. The name of the West London was conferred upon the theatre in the April of 1893, when it was opened with a variety entertainment by Messrs. William Bailey and A. E. Oliver, being subsequently given over to theatrical performances.

Many theatrical celebrities have appeared at the old dramatic house, including such notabilities as Macready, T. P. Cooke, and J. B. Buckstone, and associated with its management have been Messrs. J. A. Cave (now in the Charterhouse), E. T. Smith, J. W. Wallack, and Charles Harcourt. The house has the distinction of having introduced to the stage Mrs. Kendal, who as Little Madge Robertson made her début as a child actress there in 1854, and a year or two later Lady Bancroft, then Marie Wilton, adorned its boards. At the present moment picture exhibitions are being given.

The theatre, which is situated in Church-street, Edgware-road, will be sold as a going concern, with possession, if desired, and ready for Christmas entertainment. The building, which affords accommodation for about 1,800 persons, comprises a fine auditorium, fireproof corridors, dressing and property rooms, bars, &c., and the stage is reputed to be the longest in the kingdom. Nos. 67 and 69, Church-street are included. £3,000 have been expended on improvements in recent years. The property is held for terms of which about thirteen years are unexpired, at moderate ground rents.

At the meeting of the Music and Dancing Licensing Committee of the Surrey County Council, held at the County Hall, Kingston-on-Thames, on Monday, Sir William Vincent, Bart., in the chair, a full and unconditional licence with unanimously granted to Mr. Peter Davey with respect to the Royal County Theatre. An application made at the same time for a provisional licence for a building which it was proposed to erect to be styled the Kingston Empire, was refused.

Extensive improvements and alterations were carried out during the summer closure at the charming Royal County Theatre, at Kingston-on-Thames, and this popular theatre is now one of the most elegant and commodious in the country. It is the intention of Mr. Peter Davey to run it in the future partly on dramatic and partly on music hall lines. The first twice-nightly variety season will commence on Nov. 9, and many important star artists are engaged.

At the Borough Theatre, Stratford, all next week Mr. Wentworth Croke will present his principal London company in the new version of Hall Caine's *The Christian*. The production comes direct from the Lyceum and Shaftesbury Theatres, and is equipped with new scenery and effects.

Fulham will be represented in its match with Bradford Park Avenue at Fulham this afternoon by Skene, Lindsay, Charlton, Collins, Parsonage, Suart, Millington, Dalrymple, Harrison, Brown, and Lipsham. On Wednesday next Fulham will be opposed to the International Danish team at Craven Cottage. The kick-off is at 3 o'clock.

A new one-act play, entitled *Mrs. Peckham's Carouse*, by George Ade, will be brought to London from America next spring, and presented by Mr. Charles Frohman with Miss May Irwin, in the chief part which she is now playing with much success in the States. The play was fully described in our last issue on its recent production at the Garrick Theatre, New York.

Miss Sophie Harriss, who is re-appearing in *The Prince of Pilsen* this week at Manchester, was favoured by the presence of her compatriots, the Australian football team, on Monday evening. During the interval they obliged the audience with their remarkable war cry, which was repeated at the fall of the curtain on the stage, where supper was served. During the evening's proceedings much merriment was caused by the pet kangaroo of the team gravely appearing upon the stage and depositing a huge floral tribute, representing the map of Australia, at the feet of Miss Harriss.

Mr. Harris Finesberg, proprietor of the Liverpool Star Theatre, allowed a sacred concert to be held on Sunday evening last in aid of the local unemployed fund, the result being that a sum of £25 was realised. The financial return would have been more than double that amount but for the miserably wet weather that prevailed.

The cast of *A Bridge Tangle*, a society comedy, by Mrs. Frank Wright and Mrs. Caleb Porter, which is to be produced by Mr. Frank Cooper at the Court on Nov. 12, for a series of six matinées, has been completed. It will consist of Messrs. Frank Cooper, Edward Ferris, Charles Goodheart, Max Leeds, S. A. Cookson, and Arthur Wontner, and Misses Gertrude Kingston, Charlotte Granville, Claire Hamilton, Violet K. Cooper, and Phyllis Embury.

Miss Violet Lev is again starring with much success as Lady Mary in *Peter's Mother*.

Mr. Arthur Conquest, who for several years has been the pet animal of Drury Lane pantomime, is to be promoted to the part of Dick's mother in the forthcoming production of *Whittington and His Cat*, a responsibility for which he has before given evidence of his fitness. Mr. Conquest's possession of the gift of comedy, too, has been prominently displayed in his impersonation of the ape Chadi in the *Sioux* sketch in the variety theatres. The popular pantomimist's immediate successor at the Lane will be Mr. George Ali, who has won fame in America by his embodiment of the dog Tige in *Buster Brown*.

"Mrs. Bailey's Debts," a play founded by Charles Eddy on his novel of the same name, will be produced at the Garrick on Tuesday at a special matinée, in aid of Pearson's Fresh Air Fund. The comedy, which is modern in style, has for its central figures a captivating but financially embarrassed widow, and a wealthy, vulgar stockbroker. The cast will consist of Messrs. Edward Sass, Sydney Paxton, P. H. Clayton Greene, W. S. Staverley, E. H. Wynne, and Charles Cecil, and Misses Hilda Antony, Edith Cruickshanks, Esme Hubbard, Florence Lloyd, May Holford, and Dorothy Edwards.

A special afternoon performance will be given at a West End theatre on Tuesday, Nov. 10, of a new three-act play, named *The Builders*, by Nora Keith. The title was suggested by a few lines in Miss Beatrice Harraden's popular novel, "Ships that Pass in the Night."

At the Coronet on Monday *When Knights were Bold* will be preceded by a new one-act play, named *A Question of Time*, by Mathias Alexander and Evelyn Glover. The action of the piece takes place in the kitchen of a Yorkshire farmhouse. The cast will include Mr. Harold Carson, Miss Helen Palgrave, Miss Daisy Cordell, and Mr. George Tully.

The Council of the Actors' Association announce a Cinderella dance for members and friends at their new rooms at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Nov. 24, beginning at 8.30. The prices, which will include light refreshments, will be, members' tickets, 2s. 6d.; non-members' single tickets, 5s.; double tickets, 7s. 6d. As the accommodation is strictly limited, early application should be made for tickets, which may be obtained of any member of the Council or of Mr. Hubert Blount, the secretary.

A popular music-hall song used to boast that the singer had "knocked 'em in the Old Kent-road." The same remark might now apply to the New Kent-road, which was blocked on Monday evening, after the production by Mr. Charles Barnard of Mr. Walter Melville's drama, *The Beggar Girl's Wedding*, by an enthusiastic crowd, who waited to give the popular Mr. Melville a reception. The traffic was seriously interfered with, and the police had to request Mr. Melville to leave the theatre privately, in order to avoid confusion. "House Full" boards have been shown at a quarter past eight at every performance this week; and, altogether, the drama is evidently an immense success.

At the usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union, held at Hummum's Hotel on Tuesday afternoon, Mr. E. J. Collins presided, and gave it as his opinion that they should for the time being discard the consideration of such questions as the minimum wage, and work hard in the direction of organisation. He was pleased to say that the Union was in a flourishing condition. Mr. Arthur Leslie spoke on the subject of the withdrawal of the resolution by the A.U. at the Trade Union Congress a few weeks ago, and suggested for consideration the advisability of publishing the correspondence which passed between the committee and secretary. The secretary (Mr. Blackmore) read to the meeting a letter from the Actors' Protective Union of America on the matter of affiliating the two associations.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Harvey as a Matchmaker.

The episode at the Adelphi Theatre last week, when a young lady threw to Mr. Martin Harvey a bouquet containing a note and a wedding ring, has developed into quite a pretty little romance of real life. It will be remembered that Mr. Harvey replied through the agony column of a daily paper to the lady's strange note, and arranged an interview with her. Mr. Harvey, on being interviewed, explained that the girl had been secretly married six months ago, and her parents not knowing this, were anxious for her to marry someone of their own choice. Her secret had been well kept, and she could never summon up her courage to acquaint her parents of the fact. To get the husband to break the news would have been disastrous, so the lady begged Mr. Harvey to intercede for her, and get her parents' forgiveness. At first Mr. Harvey decided not to interfere, but after much pleading intermingled with tears, he wrote to the parents begging them to forgive the girl, and was delighted to receive a reply from the parents saying that the letter was a severe blow to them; but, as Mr. Harvey had pleaded the cause so strongly, they had decided that forgiveness was "the only way," and that they would take their new son-in-law to their arms.

Actors and Fashions.

During the past few years, says *M.A.P.*, actors and actresses have been responsible for giving us many novel fashions, although most of these were short-lived, and returned to oblivion with the plays in which they were originated. To Mr. George Grossmith, junior, we owe the habit of wearing the double collar with evening-dress, and this clever comedian did much to popularise the Panama hat. Mr. George Alexander has been devoutly thanked by men of all types and classes for appearing in *His House in Order* in a flannel collar. The rush for flannel collars after that made the fortunes of several haberdashers, and during the summer months every second man one met was wearing a *House in Order* collar with the jauntiest of airs. Among other stage fashions of recent years may be mentioned the "Coddington" hat worn by Mr. Arthur Roberts in *In Town*; the brown frock-coat worn by Mr. Lewis Waller in *A Woman's Reason*; the "Gibson" dress worn and made famous by Miss Camille Clifford, and the "Anna Doherty" hat—of the "cartwheel" variety—worn by Miss Doherty in the "halls."

Treating the Supers.

Mr. Turner, of "Playhouse fame," told a funny story at the complimentary dinner to Mr. George Scott on the 16th inst. Mr. Tree was producing *Julius Cæsar* at His Majesty's, and the rehearsal dragged along from 11 a.m. on Friday till 3 on Saturday morning. Knowing well what would happen if he allowed his supernumeraries to go outside the theatre for refreshment, Mr. Tree ordered in a barrel of Bass's sixty-shilling bitter, and had it broached for the "crowd." It was a hazy and elated band of citizens that shambled on with flaming flambeaux and cries of "O nobl' Cæsar! O trait'rs, vill'ns! O bloody day!" in the scene before the Forum. Mr. Tree gazed at them hopelessly, but philosophically made the best of it. "Fine! fine! A splendid bit of acting!" he cried. "Your simulation of the intoxication consequent upon Rome's grief at Cæsar's fall is most realistic, but—but return your torches, all of you, to the property-master before you set fire to my beautiful scenery!"

Playwright and President.

A new terror has been added to the lot of the playwright in America. The President and Mrs. Roosevelt and suite attended the première of Mr. Zangwill's drama *The Melting-Pot*, at Washington on the 5th inst. The plot deals with American life and Russian revolutionism. Certain strong lines caused Mr. Roosevelt to lean forward in his box and say in a perfectly audible tone, "That's all right!" At the end of the second act it was the President who led the applause. But the play is rather severe on the divorce question in America and extremely critical of American family life. When the glamour of the footlights had lost its influence over him, Mr. Roosevelt suddenly realised that the American family was being made an object of attack. Mr. Roosevelt sent for Mr. Zangwill, and the author, playwright, and leader in the Zionist movement took luncheon at the White House. He came back, says the *New York Times*, crestfallen and abashed, and he has promised to change the lines objected to if the President insists. The lines refer to that uncertain quantity in New York City known as the "Four Hundred." "I'm sorry he doesn't like the strictures on domestic affairs in this country," said Mr. Zangwill to the interviewer, nervously smoothing his waistcoat. "In my lowly opinion, the play as it now stands will arouse sentiment in America against the institution of divorce."

Barrington's Breeches.

Mr. Rutland Barrington, in his autobiography, which has just been published by Grant Richards, tells a story of "an awkward moment" which occurred in *Patience*. "When I took my seat," he says, "on a rustic tree trunk preparatory to singing 'The Magnet and the Churn,' I heard an ominous kind of 'r-r-r-i-p-p-p-!' and immediately felt conscious of a horrible draught on my right leg. I knew, of course, what had happened; my beautiful velvet knee-breeches had gone crack. It was an awful moment, as I could not possibly ascertain the extent of the damage, and had a song to sing and a scene to play before I could leave the stage. Had they but been made of red velvet, it would not have mattered so much, for I felt I was blushing all over, and it might have escaped notice, though some of the æsthetic maidens were already choking with laughter. What I did was to shuffle all through the scene, and shuffle off sideways as best I could."

A Dear Seat.

"Gilbert's marvellous readiness," says Mr. Barrington, "undoubtedly did much to add to the effect of his witty sayings, and in all the years I have known him I do not recollect seeing him at a loss. On one occasion, when rehearsing *Pinafore*, he said, 'Cross left on that speech, I think, Barrington, and sit on the skylight over the saloon pensively.' I did so, but the stage carpenter had only sewn the thing together with packthread, and when I sat on it it collapsed entirely, whereupon he said like lightning, 'That's expensively.'"

"W. S. G." Stopped.

Sir W. S. Gilbert was stopped on the Great North Road the other day by two constables in uniform, who took the number and details of the car and then asked the driver for his licence. The licence was duly produced, and long and apparently elaborate notes were derived from it. Sir William asked the constables why they had stopped him, but to this question they made no reply. He asked them when he should be allowed to proceed, and was told "Presently." At last, after a lengthy whispered conversation between them, Sir William was informed that his car had been timed over a certain length of road, and that if it should prove that he had exceeded the statutory speed limit of twenty miles per hour he would receive a summons in due course. There was no suggestion that he had done anything of the kind, and the delay involved was about five minutes. As a magistrate of long standing who has been accustomed to deal with motor cases during the past six or seven years, Sir William is justly indignant, and he says he will not allow the matter to remain where it is. He never exceeds the speed limit; or, at any rate, "hardly ever."

"IOLANTHE;
or, THE PEER AND THE PERI."

Fairy Opera, in Two Acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan, revived at the Savoy Theatre on Monday, Oct. 19.

The Lord Chancellor ....Mr. C. H. Workman
Earl of Mountararat..Mr. Rutland Barrington
Earl Tolloller .....Mr. Henry Herbert
Private Willis .....Mr. Leo Sheffield
Strephon .....Mr. Henry A. Lytton
Queen of the Fairies .....Miss Louie René
Iolanthe .....Miss Jessie Rose
Celia .....Miss Dorothy Court
Leila .....Miss Beatrice Boarer
Fleta .....Miss Ethel Lewis
Phyllis .....Miss Clara Dow

Iolanthe is the most fanciful, the most poetical, and, many think, the most delightful opera of the Gilbert and Sullivan series, and all will be grateful to Mrs. D'Oyly Carte for giving the patrons of her theatre another opportunity of witnessing it. This is not the first revival of the opera, which was put on at the Savoy in June last year; but it is distinguished by the fact that Mr. Rutland Barrington was seen on Monday in his original part of Lord Mountararat, which was sustained last year by Mr. Frank Wilson. In the June revival, Mr. C. H. Workman was, at at present, the Lord Chancellor, Miss Louie René the Queen of the Fairies, Miss Jessie Rose the Iolanthe, and Miss Clara Dow the Phyllis. We can only repeat our praise of these excellent performances. Indeed, in the case of such good work, criticism must perforce be microscopic. Mr. Workman may be advised to continue throughout his delivery of the Dream song the distinctness which he employs in the earlier part of it. At present, he seems inclined to sacrifice too much to mere speed. The great charm of Mr. Workman's performance, as a whole, is its naturalness and geniality. He realises to the full the "old equity draughtsman," who is in love with Phyllis, whom Miss Dow represents with all the necessary Dresden china finish and arch and delicate refinement. Miss Jessie Rose is a most "convincing" Iolanthe, and her song of pleading in the last act is sung with intensely dramatic sincerity and pathos. This sincerity, which is an essential in the right rendering of Gilbertian irony, is also pleasingly manifest in Miss René's rendering of the Captain Shaw song. Previous representatives of the part have been too apt to go across the footlights in open appeal to someone in the audience, just as, not long ago, the effect of a music-hall song was made by the artist addressing herself to an actual "Charlie," who was placed for the purpose in a private box. Miss René's treatment of the lyric is absolutely earnest and serious, and the humour of the verses is thus greatly increased. Mr. Rutland Barrington has, if memory serves us faithfully, slightly modified his make-up as Mountararat, and now represents the peer with a chestnut wig parted in the middle, and a rather rubicund visage. It is a ripe and firm performance that could hardly be improved upon. Mr. Leo Sheffield is a very acceptable Private Willis; and again we have a rendering that reduces us to notice of *minutiæ*. Mr. Sheffield speaks the phrase, "I am generally admired," with the accent on the "admired," and with much facial play. The phrase, one thinks, should be spoken in the usual way, the hack phrase being only the spoilt guardsman's tolerant acknowledgment of universal adoration. Mr. Henry Herbert is, vocally and dramatically, very commendable as the Earl of Tolloller; and Miss Dorothy Court is a sprightly Celia, Miss Beatrice Boarer and Miss Ethel Lewis being agreeable representatives of the other leading fairies. Mr. Henry A. Lytton repeats his fine rendering of the rôle of Strephon. His reposeful expressiveness is exactly in the right key, and he makes every line tell, singing the music, of course, irreproachably. The scenery and dresses are as artistic and complete as possible; and the wonderful accuracy and activity of the stage-management, and the precision of attack and general excellence of the orchestra may be ascribed to the joint efforts of those experienced Savoyards, Mr. François Cellier and Mr. Albert James. The second revival was very enthusiastically received, encores and applause being frequent.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Actors' Association, held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday. Present: Mr. Robson Paige (chairman), Mr. Cecil Raleigh (deputy-chairman), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Franklyn Walford, C. Hayden Coffin, F. Morland, and J. Sebastian Smith, Miss Marion Lind, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary). The minutes of the meeting held on Oct. 12 were read and confirmed.

The secretary read a letter from Mr. F. Topham thanking the Council for their letter to him of the 14th inst., and asking that his name be removed from the list of members. Instructions were given to this effect. The secretary also read a letter from Mr. Arthur Carlton complaining of the insanitary condition of a provincial public hall, and was instructed to write to Mr. Carlton and ask for particulars.

The hon. solicitors reported, with regard to the case of F. H. de Quincey *v.* Seaman, that they had written to Mr. Seaman on behalf of Mr. F. de Quincey for £3, balance of salary, but have received no reply. The secretary was instructed to write to Mr. de Quincey asking him to attend the next Council meeting. The hon. solicitors reported that, in the case of Morland *v.* Nugent Monck, in which judgment had been obtained for the plaintiff, the execution had been issued. The bailiff had sent in his report to the effect that the goods at Mr. Monck's flat upon which execution had been levied had been claimed by Mrs. Monck, of Closworth Rectory, Sherborne, Dorset. They had written to Mr. Davenport, enclosing copy of a letter written to him, but he appeared not to have received it.

Frederick James, proposed by Chris Walker and seconded by Fred Grove, and Dulcie M. O'Neill Conry, proposed by James C. Taylor and seconded by Chris Walker, were elected members.

On the proposal of Mr. Morland, seconded by Mr. Coffin, the secretary was instructed to write to the secretary of the Variety Artists' Federation to the effect that the Council passed an unanimous vote of sympathy and admiration in their struggle against the agents.

Mr. Morland asked as to the rescinding of the "Socials" report, and the secretary was instructed to put the matter on next week's agenda.

Mr. Robson Paige reported upon the financial estimate, and was requested to send to absent members of the Council. A resolution was carried, "That, in view of the possibility of a small deficit at the end of the year, all members of the Council be invited to pay their subscriptions in advance, as the amounts resulting would be more than sufficient to meet the possible deficit.

The secretary reported the following engagements made since the last meeting of the Council:—Philip Williams with H. St. G. Rawlins, Miss May with H. St. G. Rawlins, Miss Wynne with H. St. G. Rawlins, Frank G. Bayly with Langford Reede, H. Louis Wilson with Langford Reede, Frank Melrose with Bert Lawrence, Gilbert Esmond with Hr B. Irving, Edwin Coates with Camilla Dalberg, Joan Pereira with Miss Beaumont Collins, and Eva Chaplin with Arthur Playfair.

In our notice of the performance of *Claudian* by Mr. William Maclaren's company at the New Century Theatre, Motherwell, last week, we alluded to Miss Ruth Trafford as doubling two parts. She only sustained that of Edessa.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Oct. 19, for the first time in London, the Musical Play, in three acts, by L. Norden, with music by E. T. De Banzie and Michael Dwyer, entitled

"THE BELLE OF THE BALL."

Sir Francis Lake .....Mr. Robert Hyett
Bobbie Fletcher ..Mr. Johnnie Schofield, jun.
Gussie Maitland ....Mr. Llewellyn C. Hughes
Farmer Jones .....Mr. Charles Adeson
James Forster .....Mr. E. W. Chard
William .....Mr. Jack Hale
Timothy Timkins .....Mr. Johnnie Schofield
Showman Jack .....Mr. E. H. Bertram
Footman .....Mr. E. Osborne
Queenie Trevor .....Miss Florence Watson
Lucy .....Miss Vera Grafton
Alice .....Miss Ethel Bertram
Mary .....Miss Corona L'Estrange
Marie .....Miss Sydney Penrhyn
Irene .....Miss Gwenneth Penrhyn
Red Riding Hood .....Miss Rosie Wade
San Toi .....Miss May Hawthorne
Poppy .....Miss Gertrude Melville

The story of a modern Cinderella, which is told in the new musical comedy, *The Belle of the Ball*, bears only the faintest resemblance to the popular nursery tale. The Fairy Godmother, for example, is taken by a comedian, and when it is said that the part is enacted by that popular droll, Mr. Johnnie Schofield, it will be assumed that the piece proceeds upon lines of laughter. Melody, nevertheless, plays an important part in *The Belle of the Ball*, which, it may be stated, was first produced at the Opera House, Southport, on July 27. The plot is of the minutest character, and the opportunity thus given for the introduction of songs and dances is fully taken. The evil genius of the piece makes his appearance at the very beginning in the person of James Forster, the steward of Sir Francis Lake, the village squire. Forster has betrayed his master's trust, and in order to escape punishment for his defalcations, on the young squire's return to his ancestral home connives with his sister Lucy to wed her to his master. Sir Francis, however, arrives just in the midst of the village festivities, and falls in love with Poppy, the farmer's daughter, who has taken part in a dancing competition. Efforts are made by Forster to throw the charge of theft upon Poppy, but are happily frustrated by the showman of the travelling circus which has pitched its tent in the village. Meanwhile, Timothy Timmins, a member of the Squire's hunting-party, has been very busy, principally in the manufacture of mirth, but is taken partly into the confidence of Forster, who arranges with him to carry off Poppy in order that she may not appear at the ball which the Squire is about to give. Timothy gains the confidence of Poppy; but, instead of carrying out the villain's wishes, he provides her with a handsome dress and equipage, and escorts her to the ball, the scene showing Poppy, now resplendent in white silk, entering the carriage, on the road to the Manor House, being very effective.

The ball is in progress in the third act, when Timothy, made up as a portly dame, brings Poppy to the scene of the festivities. She and the young Squire meet, but Forster takes advantage of Poppy's brief absence to present his sister, dressed and masked exactly like Poppy, with the result that the latter hears the Squire propose to her rival. All is speedily cleared up, however, and everything ends in the best possible way.

The connecting-links in the story are made by songs and dances and many merry scenes, throughout which Mr. Johnnie Schofield as Timothy Timkins moves light-heartedly. His contrivances for making mirth are unlimited, and the house is kept in constant laughter. His song "I'm so happy" exercises a droll effect, and is followed by a dance full of eccentricity and activity. Mr. Schofield has also a funny concoction in "What's the use?" which proves equally diverting. He is humorously prominent, too, in the kitchen scene, wherein he enacts with Poppy a travesty of the Godmother scène in *Cinderella*. Mr. Schofield, who appears first in huntsman's dress, has many changes of costume, at each of which the merriment is added to. Miss Gertrude Melville is the heroine of the play, and makes a comely and ingenuous Poppy. She is bright and buoyant throughout, and her singing is also agreeable. Her strong and tuneful voice is heard to the best advantage in the song, "I'm looking for a sweetheart," which is immediately followed by an air lamenting her loneliness, with a prettily-concerted chorus. She has also the song of "Pretty little heather bell," the graceful dance with which it is supplemented winning an encore. A handsome and stalwart partner is provided in the Squire of Mr. Robert Hyett, who introduces himself in a brisk hunting song with a lively chorus. He is also responsible for a lyric with the refrain, "Will you marry me?" which is quaintly carried out, and wins well-deserved cheers. The duet, "Cupid's a Tyrant," sung with Poppy, is prettily concerted and tastefully rendered. Two happily-conceived characters are found in Queenie Trevor and Bobbie Fletcher, who indulge in flirtations and lovers' quarrels. A captivating portrayal of Queenie is given by Miss Florence Watson, who acts, sings, and dances in refined style. She has a particularly sweet voice, which is heard with infinite pleasure in "A true blue British Girl," and in the coon song "Kiss me, honey." She takes an effective part, too, in the duet with Bobbie, "Well, well, you never can tell." The latter personage is portrayed by Mr. Johnnie Schofield, jun., who does credit to his talented father. He is an excellent light comedian, and gives a good account of the foppish Bobbie. His song "Over in monkeyland," which is accompanied by a dance, is well received. Mr. Charles Adeson makes a hale and hearty farmer, and his dialect song, in which he mimics, among many others, the Cockney, the Chinaman, and the canny Scot, receives innumerable encores. A dramatic villain is submitted by Mr. E. W. Chard; and Miss Vera Grafton acts with the requisite intensity as his associate in evil-doing. Few chances are given to the modern representatives of the Ugly Sisters, Mary and Alice; but Miss C. L'Estrange cuts a grotesque figure as the former. Mr. E. H. Bertram is to be commended on his impersonation of Showman Jack; and the rest of the parts are suitably represented. The piece, which is presented by Miss Violet Osmund, under the direction of Mr. Alexander Loftus, is equipped with elaborate scenery and sumptuous dresses, and has a full chorus, controlled by Mr. Joseph D. Rogers, and the four miniature ponies which draw the carriage in Act II. are greatly admired.

Under the auspices of the Shakespearean Reading Society Mr. Patrick Kirwan will give the first of a series of lectures on the Elizabethan drama at Strathallan House, Bolton-gardens, S.W., on the afternoon of the 26th inst. Mr. J. T. Grein will take the chair.

Mr. H. Cecil Beryl, formerly lessee of the Theatre Royal, Brighton, was made the recipient on the 15th inst. of a valuable presentation. It took the form of a purse of gold and an illuminated address, setting forth the feelings of high regard and respect entertained for him during his lesseeship of the Royal, which extended over a period of ten or eleven years. Alderman Colbourne, J.P., made the presentation at a little informal gathering at the Old Ship Hotel, and spoke of Mr. Beryl's urbanity and courtesy of manner to all with whom he had had business relations. Mr. Beryl, in his reply, expressed his appreciation of the kindness of those present, and of others unable to be there, and his regret at the severance of his association with a theatre to which he had become so much attached.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, produced for the first time at the Elephant and Castle Theatre on Monday, Oct. 19.

Jack Cunningham .....Mr. Otto Minster
Doctor Millbank .....Mr. James C. Taylor
Dicky Storm .....Mr. Willie Garvey
Norman Marsh .....Mr. Ernest G. Batley
P.C. Phillips .....Mr. George Vernon
Rev. Mr. Melsom ....Mr. David Cartwright
Thompson .....Mr. C. Brown
Davis .....Mr. B. Elton
Lizzie .....Miss Anita Playfair
Tina Torkington .....Miss Eva Dare
Maud Villiers .....Miss Olive Warne
Gilbert Lindsay .....Mr. Herbert Morgan
Joe Webster .....Mr. Harry Playfair
The Dodger .....Mr. Horace Kenny
Robert Grimshaw .....Mr. Ellis J. Preston
Old Cloe .....Mrs. Wilson
Jim Rothschild .....Mr. George Bates
Corky .....Mr. J. Clark
Elsie Cunningham .....Miss Doris Whyte
Bessie Webster .....Miss Vashti Wynne

The experiment of putting on a Melville production for a run at the Elephant and Castle seems likely to be well justified, for the theatre was crowded on the occasion of the production of Mr. Walter Melville's latest effort, and "house full" boards had to be exhibited on the night of our visit. *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* possesses all the characteristics of Melvillian melodrama, and the audience went frantic over the sensational incidents and grew delirious over its humour. Interest is stimulated by scenes of excitement, and the drama is constructed with great ingenuity, one scene in particular, that in which a lesser scoundrel bargains with a greater for the possession of incriminating articles, furnishing an episode of real dramatic worth. Events move rapidly in the drama, and the wedding to which the title has reference is arranged and celebrated in a single day. The bridegroom is the erratic Jack Cunningham, who, in charity, has brought to his home a girl named Bessie Webster, whom he had found starving on the Thames Embankment. Incredibly forgetful, Jack is reminded by his solicitor, Grimshaw, that by the terms of his late father's will he is only to inherit the estate on condition that he marries on or before his twenty-fifth birthday. That event has arrived, without Jack having even thought of a wife. Solicitous for his client's welfare, the lawyer has not only provided a special licence for the ceremony, but has furnished a bride in Maud Villiers, a society lady, who had just previously asked Jack to marry her. The young man, however, anxious to retain his fortune, arranges with the beggar-girl to figure as his bride, and the marriage is already accomplished when Maud and her accomplice, Gilbert Lindsay, rush into the church in a wild desire to stop the ceremony.

Happiness is not long allowed to hover over the household of Mr. and Mrs. Cunningham, for a year later Bessie's reputed father, a notorious burglar and convict, of whose existence Jack is unaware, comes to levy blackmail. The interview between father and daughter is overheard by Lindsay, who turns it to evil purpose, declaring that Bessie is a notorious "gaol-bird," and had lived a life of shame. In the result Jack bids her begone, and administers a sound thrashing to Lindsay. Having deposited some deeds he has stolen with the lawyer as security for a debt, Lindsay goes to the office to procure them. Grimshaw refuses to part with the documents, and Lindsay makes matters easy by strangling the lawyer from behind the curtains. Jack Cunningham coming to interview Grimshaw about his affairs is stunned, and fastened up in the iron safe. All would be secure for the villain, but for the fact that Jessie's father and his pupil, the Dodger, have selected that night for the purposes of burgling the house. They blow open the safe-door, and are put to flight by the apparition of Jack's senseless body, not, however, before the Dodger has secured a handkerchief dropped by Lindsay and a handbag left behind by Maud.

Having established his innocence with regard to the lawyer's death, which remains a profound mystery, Jack has entirely disappeared in the third act, leaving no trace behind. His wife has found refuge with the hospitable Mr. and Mrs. Dicky Storm, who are led erroneously to believe they have come into some money and set up housekeeping on a lavish scale. A cosy tea-party is interrupted by the arrival of Bessie's father, who is soon ousted by the redoubtable Dicky; but, in his absence, Bessie is chloroformed by Lindsay, with the help of Maud Villiers, and committed to the care of a demented doctor, who places her in an iron cage, side by side with a similar one in which Jack Cunningham is found to be incarcerated. Dicky Storm, however, is hot upon the track of Bessie, and arrives with his friend Norman Marsh just in time to release the prisoners, putting Lindsay and the doctor in their places. The villain is not yet disposed of, for he escapes, and in the last act, after shooting Joe Webster, is himself brought to book by the Dodger, who produces the necessary evidence to convict both him and his fair accomplice of murder. Reconciliation between Jack and Bessie rings down the curtain.

A wise selection has been made in the constitution of the cast. Mr. Otto Minster wins cheers unlimited for his impersonation of Jack Cunningham. His various scenes are acted with vigour and spirit, and though his delivery is at times rather ponderous, his numerous stirring lines are always effective. The strongly emotional part of Bessie is fittingly portrayed by Miss Vashti Wynne, who makes an affecting picture of the beggar-girl in rags, and furnishes a pleasing contrast by the comeliness of her later appearances. Norman Marsh is taken in an agreeably buoyant spirit by Mr. Ernest G. Batley, and in some graceful love-making passages is assisted by Miss Doris Whyte, who plays the hero's sister Elsie with much delicacy and refinement throughout. Gilbert Lindsay, whose description of "Jack's friend" on the programme is followed by a mark of interrogation, well merits the qualification. He is a thorough-paced villain, and Mr. Herbert Morgan represents him with quiet resourcefulness and well-judged emphasis. The evil fascination of his accomplice Maud Villiers is effectively exercised by Miss Olive Warne, who works her way sinuously through the story, and presents an artistically coloured picture of the wily adventuress. A clever character-study, too, is that of Mr. Harry Playfair as Joe Webster, his depiction of the drink-soddened vagabond being realistic, and he had a capital associate in Mr. Horace Kenny, whose sharp-featured countenance and cunning expression were admirably suited to the Dodger. A striking success in the comedy department was made by Miss Eva Dare and Mr. Willie Garvey, who caused unlimited laughter as Mr. and Mrs. Dicky Storm. Each had an arduous part, Miss Dare causing a mild sensation on her appearance as the "built-up" Mrs. Torkington, arrayed in glowing colours and wearing an immense hat. Mr. Ellis J. Preston is to be commended on his artistic assumption of the solicitor, and a weird and forcible rendition of the demoniacal doctor was given by Mr. James C. Taylor, who succeeded in effecting a ghastly make-up; and Miss Anita Playfair caused laughter by a stupid grin as a "slavey." The piece was realistically mounted, effect being obtained by the startling pattern of the wallpaper in the Storms' sitting-room, and the production enjoyed a reception equal to any of the Melville pieces.

"THE BLACKMAILERS."

A Dramatisation of Emile Gaboriau's famous novel, by Mrs. T. P. O'Connor and R. Henderson Bland, Produced at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, on Monday, Oct. 19.

CHARACTERS IN THE PROLOGUE:—

The Marquis de Marsay ....Mr. Frank Collins
Gaston .....Mr. Hubert Harben
Louis .....Mr. J. Fisher White
Pierre Latour .....Mr. John A. Howitt
Jean .....Mr. Alfred J. May
Sergeant of Gendarmes ....Mr. Charles Wood
Henriette de Lambelle .....Miss Roxy Barton

CHARACTERS IN THE PLAY:—

Louis de Marsay .....Mr. J. Fisher White
Gaston de Marsay .....Mr. Hubert Harben
M. Dubois .....Mr. Jack Haddon
Henri Bertram .....Mr. R. Henderson Bland
Lucien de Lagors ....Mr. Stephen Wentworth
Leroy .....Mr. Rudge Harding
Peter Fanfariot .....Mr. John A. Howitt
Cassillon .....Mr. Alfred J. May
Charles .....Mr. W. Bannister
Alphonse .....Mr. James Ellis
Henriette Dubois .....Miss Roxy Barton
Madeleine .....Miss Elizabeth Wieland
Julie Cliquet .....Miss Kitty Carteret
Sophie .....Miss Audrey Vaughan

Mrs. T. P. O'Connor and Mr. R. Henderson Bland have between them produced a most interesting dramatic version of Gaboriau's famous work, and one that will doubtless be seen and appreciated in the future by much larger audiences than at Kingston this week. The story is full of interest, and from the rise to the fall of the curtain on the last of twelve scenes into which the play is divided the attention of the audience is riveted. In this prologue we see the proud old French Marquis de Marsay and his two sons, Gaston and Louis, and hear the story of the love of the headstrong Gaston for Henriette de Lambelle, the daughter of the hereditary enemy of the house, an attachment that enrages the Marquis, while affording secret joy to Louis, the younger brother. In a moment of rage against a man who speaks unkindly of his betrothed, Gaston commits a murder, and has to fly the country, but in effecting his escape across the Rhone when in flood he is supposed to be drowned, and Henriette, believing herself without a lover, marries the rich and upright M. Dubois, a banker in Paris. Years afterwards, when Mme. Dubois has a daughter, and is highly respected in society, Louis appears before her with the tale that he has found her love child, a handsome young fellow, languishing in Paris, and he induces her to admit him and himself into her house, under a threat of blackmail, which the so-called son easily becomes a party to. The two of them so work upon the fears of the unfortunate woman, that she not only has to submit to seeing her daughter accept the scheming Louis as a suitor, but to be a party to the robbery of her husband's safe, which brings Henri Bertram, M. Dubois' trusted cashier, and Madeleine's discarded suitor, into disgrace. Thanks, however, to the astute investigations of M. Leroy, the chief of the detective police of Paris, the authors of the robbery are unmasked and their schemes destroyed, whilst Louis escapes the final penalty of his villainies by taking a fatal dose of poison.

The play is produced by a most capable company, got together by Mr. Langhorne Burton and Mr. R. Henderson Bland, under the direction of Mr. Percy Nash, and it had a most favourable reception from an appreciative audience. Chief honours were earned by and accorded to Mr J. Fisher White for a polished and consistent interpretation of the part of the scheming Louis, a piece of acting that quite sustains the high reputation that this talented artist has earned in other rôles. Not less pleasing, and equally successful, was the Gaston of Mr. Hubert Harben, whose portrayal of the part was more particularly effective in the scenes that show him a man twenty years older. Too much cannot be said of the Henriette de Lambelle of Miss Roxy Barton, both as the young and impulsive girl just betrothed and as the wife of a highly-respected banker of the city of Paris. The numerous painful scenes between her and the scoundrels who embitter her life are most effectively portrayed, and the success of the production is in no small measure due to her efforts. Mr. Jack Haddon makes a fine, manly Dubois; the part of his daughter Madeleine is most effectively and charmingly rendered by Miss Elizabeth Wieland; whilst good work is also done by Mr. R. Henderson Bland as the unfortunate cashier, Henri Bertram. Effective relief in the heavy part of the drama is afforded by the low-comedy acting of Mr. John A. Howitt as the assistant detective Fanfariot and by Miss Kitty Carteret as his frivolous helpmeet, Julie Cliquet; a word of praise is also due to Mr. Rudge Harding for a particularly effective picture of the French Chief of Police, M. Leroy. The drama was admirably mounted, and went with a fine swing from the beginning to the end. Mr. Alf. J. May is acting as stage-manager for the company, and Mr. W. Bannister as assistant stage-manager.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual weekly meeting of the committee of the Actors' Union took place at the offices at 49, Bedford-street, Strand, on the 15th inst., and the following members were present:—Messrs. W. Ruddle Brown (in the chair), F. Rawson Buckley, Frank S. Strickland, Henry Bedford, Gerald Mirrielees, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Letters were received from Messrs. Jerrold Heather, James English, Fred F. Loyd, Cecil G. Calvert, J. Hastings Batson, Edward Chester, Oswald Marshall, and Royce Milton.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The secretary was instructed to write to an agency and request them to send in the book of stamps issued to them.

Owing to the continued difficulty of forming a quorum, Mr. Buckley proposed and Mr. Strickland seconded that the committee be increased to forty members, and that preference be given to members permanently in London in order that they might attend.

The secretary was instructed to inform members that some confusion had been caused by the purchasing of stamps by one member for another without giving the name of the member for whom the stamps were purchased. In future the committee would esteem it a favour if members who purchase stamps for others would enter their name and numbers on the stamp sheets at the agent where they were obtained.

One new member was elected.

"A Country Girl in London," Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's new production, drew such big business at Grimsby last week that Mr. J. H. Curry immediately rebooked it for a holiday date. He also paid a nice compliment to the author, Mr. Frank Price, and the management by booking their next production, of which even the title has not yet been decided upon.

Mr. Fredk. Melville's *Ugliest Woman on Earth* company have revived an old institution on their present tour, viz., their hockey club, which takes the field under the name of "The Uglies." The last match played was on Thursday, Oct. 8, v. Barrow Hibernians, on Walney Island. In the result, "Uglies" scored 1 goal to the Hibernians' nil. The "Uglies" team consisted of H. Leyton (goal), Leyton Cancellor, C. de Lee (backs), W. D. Brigord, G. Morgan, and G. Nolan (half-backs), and P. Darien (captain), B. Thackeray, F. Bentley, J. Edwards, and N. Clarke (forwards).

A MEDICAL PLAY.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

Miss Nance O'Neil, after an absence of three years, made her reappearance on the American stage at the Majestic Theatre, New York, on the 5th inst., and scored a distinct success in the title-rôle of a play called *Agnes*. *Agnes* was written by "George Cameron," which is the pen-name assumed by Mrs. Gladys Rankin Drew, wife of Mr. Sydney Drew, and the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. McKee Rankin.

Geoffrey Marshe's yacht Rhoda is the scene of the first act. Marshe, an Australian millionaire, has just married Agnes Belgradin. It is by no means a love match, Mrs. Belgradin having arranged the marriage from motives of self-interest. The yacht is off the coast of France, when it collides with a passing steamer, and there is a scramble to escape. Marshe, who has bitterly reproached his bride for her lack of affection for him, is stunned by a falling object, and although the wife and one of the officers make heroic efforts to save him, they are compelled to leave him to his fate. Agnes refuses to accept the fortune left by the husband she did not love, and takes up her abode in modest apartments in London that were formerly occupied by her mother, who went down with the yacht. Whilst she is examining the contents of a trunk, she comes across a number of letters from her former lover, Dr. Loring Brent, these having been intercepted by her mother in order that Agnes might be made to believe that her sweetheart had grown tired of her. The letters prove that he remained true, and when he appears in person a reconciliation is effected. Dr. Brent and Agnes are united in marriage, and the two following acts take place in the doctor's office in New York. When they have been married about five years, Dr. Brent tells his wife of a new patient, a Monsieur de la Mer, who has lost his memory through a shock, and seeks to have it restored to him by an operation. When the latter appears Agnes recognises him as her first husband, Geoffrey Marshe, who was supposed to have been drowned. Marshe fails to recognise her, and she tries to persuade him not to undergo the operation, but only succeeds in making him the more anxious to recover his memory, and the act ends with Agnes in despair crying, "What am I going to do?"

The physician, all unconscious of the fact that his own happiness is threatened by the success of the operation, begins his task, and Agnes, waiting in an adjoining room, hears the patient calling for her. This makes her frantic, and she beats on the door, imploring her husband to desist. When he appears she starts to speak, but he stops her. He has failed. The patient has died without revealing his identity. Agnes gives a gasp of thankfulness, and falls into her husband's arms.

The play has been favourably received by the Press and the public. Miss O'Neil's supporting company includes Messrs. Robert Drouet, Cuyler Hastings, Percy T. Ames, Herbert Fortier, and Mrs. Adeline Stanhope-Wheatcroft.

THE BROADWAY, NEW CROSS.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Comedy, in Four Acts, by Cicely Hamilton, entitled "DIANA OF DOBSON'S."

This clever comedy, which was such a great success at the Kingsway Theatre, is proving no less so at other theatres, and is drawing large and well-pleased audiences here this week. The company is an excellent one, and the general interpretation very good indeed. Miss Molly Trémain gives a charming representation of Miss Smithers; Miss Kitty Brant has an excellent representative in Miss Nannie Hume; Miss Dorothy Green is a delightful Diana Massingberd, and her efforts were warmly appreciated; Miss Eva Leonard Boyne played with ease and refinement as Miss Morton; Miss Helen Vicary was a clever Miss Pringle; Miss Mary Stuart was an excellent Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss Georgette de Serville was a capital Mrs. Whyte-Frazer; and Miss Nannie Hume was a competent representative of an "old woman." The Waiter was well played by Mr. Thomas Pauncefort; Mr. Alfred Harris was a capital Sir Jabez Grindley; Mr. H. Grendon Bentley gave a clever and effective rendering of the part of Captain the Honourable Victor Bretherton; and Mr. Albert Wainwright was very good as Police-constable Fellowes. The comedy is preceded each evening by *The Bishop's Candlesticks*. The trifle, which is founded on Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables," is excellently performed by Miss Helen Vicary, Miss Georgette de Serville, Mr. Alfred Harris, Mr. Albert Wainwright, and Mr. Thomas Pauncefort. Mr. Clark Richardson ably directs the orchestra; and Mr. Norman McKinnell is responsible for the production of both plays.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Drama, entitled "THE MIDNIGHT MAIL."

The management of the Pavilion Theatre are fortunate in securing for this week Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company, in Arthur Shirley's great domestic drama *The Midnight Mail*, which is highly appreciated by large audiences. Mr. George Harvard gives a very good impersonation of Harry Steyne, the engine-driver; while Mr. Grant Lytton, as Billy Brewer, the drunken stoker, thrills the whole house with his realistic acting. Mr. Chas. H. Longden as Leonard Royle, the manager of the line, plays the part to perfection. Some very clever acting is displayed by Mr. C. P. Wentworth as Hassan Padisha, a Turkish adventurer; and Jasper Thornleigh, a signalman, is carefully portrayed by Mr. T. C. Glenville. Mary Steyne, the engine-driver's wife, is in the clever hands of Miss Trissie Humphries. The humour of the play is supplied by Miss Daisy Clifford, who creates much laughter; and Miss Jeannie Weston does justice to the part of Lady Phyllis Eustace. The remaining characters are capably performed by Mr. G. Wilkinson, Mr. I. Mann, Mr. Warburton, and Miss Ethel North. Mr. T. C. Glenville is a capable and genial acting-manager for the company, Mr. C. P. Wentworth is responsible for the stage-management, and everything is carried out exceedingly well.

As the windy weather approaches professionals will do well to look to their umbrellas, and if they have not obtained Cross's Patent Unbreakable Umbrella they should do so at once; it is impossible to get them blown inside out. Mr. H. Cross is the inventor of this umbrella, and was at one time connected with patent theatre roll tickets. His address is 62, Lowther-street, Whitehaven.

The company of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. R. Cardwell is at the Empire Theatre, Swindon, this week with the musical comedy burlesque *A Merry Maid*. Larry O'Hooligan is in the able hands of Mr. Vivian Wakeman; and Mr. Neil Hardy is amusing as the Hon. Cecil Toft. Mr. Howard Lawrence is seen to advantage in the part of Thady Clancey, Peggy's sweetheart; and Mr. H. Leander is good as Von Swank. Mr. W. S. Hutchinson makes up well as Biddy; Miss Fanny Adamson is effective as Angela; a great reception is accorded Wee George Wood, who takes the part of Bertie Vere de Vere; Mr. C. E. James does well as Sharp Scrivener, the lawyer; Miss Ray Watson does herself justice as Flossie Kixie; and Miss May Gibson makes a charming Peggy. The minor parts are in capable hands, and the chorus good.

MANAGER AND AGENT.

At the Worthing County Court, on Monday, an action was brought by Mr. McDonald, theatrical agent, London, against Mr. Adolf Seebold, lessee of the Theatre Royal, Worthing, to recover the sum of £6 8s., balance due on an agreement. Mr. Webb, solicitor, Brighton, appeared for plaintiff, and Mr. Buckland Dixon for defendant. The amount in dispute was paid, but defendant counter-claimed for £9 9s., for loss sustained by alleged breach of agreement.

In 1906, it was alleged, Mr. Seebold booked through Mr. McDonald *The Dairymaids*, which the latter represented as the "A" company, that only visited first-class theatres, and consisted entirely of artists of the highest merit. After some negotiations it was settled the company should come to Worthing on certain terms. Those terms were 67½ per cent. of gross returns to the visiting company, such terms being largely in excess of those paid to ordinary companies, and only paid to companies that went to the Theatre Royal, Brighton—not to companies that only went to smaller towns as fit-up companies. The company came to Worthing in September, 1907, and did excellent business, the returns being very good indeed. In the spring of the present year Mr. Seebold went to London, and saw Mr. McDonald's representative, who asked him if he would like to have a return visit of *The Dairymaids*. Mr. Seebold replied that he would be pleased to do so, and would give a better date—a date in August—which was the best month in the year for that class of entertainment. The company came in August, and directly it arrived Mr. Seebold realised it was not so good a company as he had before. On the third night when settling up accounts Mr. Seebold deducted from the company's share £6 8s., more by way of protest than as any compensation for the loss sustained in having such an inferior show. He considered it was not right under the circumstances that he should be palmed off with a company that would not bear comparison with that of the previous year.

Mr. Seebold, in the witness-box, bore out his counsel's statements, and produced certain correspondence relating thereto. When the question of terms was mentioned he wrote that he only gave high percentages to companies like Ellen Terry's, *The Prince of Pilsen*, &c., and he received a reply that the company would be quite equal to any of these. The terms eventually agreed on were 67½ per cent. On the occasion of the first visit of *The Dairymaids* he took £150 15s. 9d. in four performances, on Sept. 2, 3, and 4. When he entered into the contract for the return visit this year the same terms were agreed upon, and he fully expected the company and scenery and everything else would be fully equal to that of the first visit.

At the close of Mr. Seebold's examination Mr. Webb asked for the production of the contract, which, however, could not be produced. It was stated to be in the hands of Mr. Seebold's London solicitor.

His Honor Judge Scully said he could not decide the case in the absence of the contract.

Mr. Dixon asked for an adjournment.

Mr. Webb objected, and pointed out the expense of bringing a lot of witnesses a long distance.

Eventually the Judge entered a non suit against Mr. Seebold.

"The Nihilist," which is on a return visit to the Theatre Royal, Smethwick, is being well presented by Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company. Mr. Joe Milliane is specially engaged in his dramatic portrayal of the hero Ivan; Mr. Cowell Clarke as Karl Orloff is a thorough soldier; Mr. Leo R. Neilson is good as Prince Alexander; Mr. Henry Wright's humour as Bobbie Stuart is highly appreciated; Mr. O. Silverstone exercises a big influence as Petoff; Messrs. J. B. Harvey as Father Gourko and Morgan Dale as Sergeant Markoff do well; Miss Jessica Ford achieves success as Katrina Zendoff; Miss Edna Clare gains the sympathy of the house as Alexina; Miss Florrie Kelsey fully realises the rôle of the Princess; and little May Ediss gives a capital rendition of Little Alexina.

"The Law of Copyright," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

DEATH OF MISS ROSIE LEWIS.

We regret to announce the death, on Monday last, of Rosetta (Rosie Lewis), the beloved wife of T. P. Haynes. Miss Lewis dated her first appearance on the stage from her ninth year, but her real début was made at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, London, during the early run of *Alice in Wonderland*, where she played the parts of the Tiger Lily and the Duchess. Then followed four tours with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pateman, as Letty Lightfoot, in *Master and Man*. She was next engaged for the original tour of *Theodora*, and was Pattie Woodruff in the Drury-lane drama *The Royal Oak*, on tour. At the Princess's Theatre

THE LATE MISS ROSIE LEWIS.

she appeared in several light comedy parts, and on *The Great Metropolis* being transferred from there to the Grand Theatre, she took up Miss Ellaline Terriss's part of Nellie Carr, which she also played on tour. Another long and highly successful engagement was in G. R. Sims' and Cecil Raleigh's farcical comedy *Fanny*, playing Flo Barnes (alias Fanny). In C. J. Abud's tour of *Hue and Cry* she appeared as Bessie Timmings, and sustained the rôle of Jane in the original production of *Tommy Dodd*. Among the many parts Miss Lewis played special mention may be made of Polly, in *The Harbour Lights*; Julie, in *Secrets of a Life*; and, with Mr. Arthur Williams, Belinda, in *Our Boys*; Maria, in *Confusion*; Mrs. Delacour, in *War to the Knife*; Moya, in *The Shaughraun*, &c. Miss Lewis also appeared at many of the principal London and provincial music halls in musical sketches, also as principal girl in pantomimes at Theatre Royal, Portsmouth; Grand, Glasgow; Theatre Royal, Hull; Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield; Standard Theatre, London; and special boy at the Grand Theatre, Birmingham. Miss Lewis sustained the part of Polly Appleyard, in *The Mariners of England*, nearly 500 nights in London and on tour. Her last engagement was a special one, under the management of Mr. Van Biene.

At the Exchange Hall, Wellingborough, *The Dairymaids*, smartly played by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, had a first-rate reception on Tuesday and Wednesday. Mr. Edwin Dodds as Joe Mivens gave an excellent performance; Mr. Sam Lysons was a capital Sam; and Mr. Frank Barclay was successful as Dr. O'Byrne. Miss Isa Bowman worked hard and well as Peggy; and it would have been difficult to improve the Lady Brudenell of Miss Dorothy Belmore. Miss Maud Lucy gave a wonderfully good rendering of Eliza.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Meyer.—On Oct. 22, at 21, Tregunter-road, S.W., the wife of Bertie Alexander Meyer (née Dorothy May Grimston), of a son.

MARRIAGES.

Johnson—Howson.—On June 20, at St. Mark's, Battersea Rise, by the Rev. J. F. G. Glossop, Reginald Kenneth Johnson, of the Northern Nigerian Government Railways, to Amy Clotilda, second daughter of the late Charles E. Howson, of the Lyceum Theatre, London, and Sydney, N.S.W., and Mrs. Howson, of Illawarra, Battersea Rise, S.W. American, African, and Australian papers please copy.

Poluski—Lloyd.—By special licence, at St. Mary's Church, Primrose Hill, N.W., Will Poluski, jun., to Rosie Lloyd, Oct. 17, 1908.

DEATHS.

Anthony.—Sept. 29, at San Francisco, George Anthony (known as Pat Kelly), song writer and composer, aged 50.

Congo.—Oct. 18, in New Monkland Hospital, Airdrie, William Congo, equestrian.

Haynes.—On Oct. 19, 1908, Rosetta (Rosie Lewis), the beloved wife of T. P. Haynes.

Potter.—Oct. 19, at his residence, Ryland-street, Warrington, Joseph Potter, retired theatre proprietor, aged 64.

In Memoriam.

Mellors.—In loving memory of Arthur Gregory Mellors, died Paris, Oct. 22, 1899, aged 45. Never will be forgotten by his loving wife and children.

Owen.—In loving memory of our daughter, Emily Mary Owen, who fell asleep Oct. 18, 1905.

Poole.—In loving memory of Joseph Poole (originator Poole's Myriorama), who passed away Oct. 21, 1906. Never forgotten by his loving wife and family.

Sennett.—In ever-loving remembrance of my dear husband, Charles Sennett, who died Oct., 1905.—Annie.

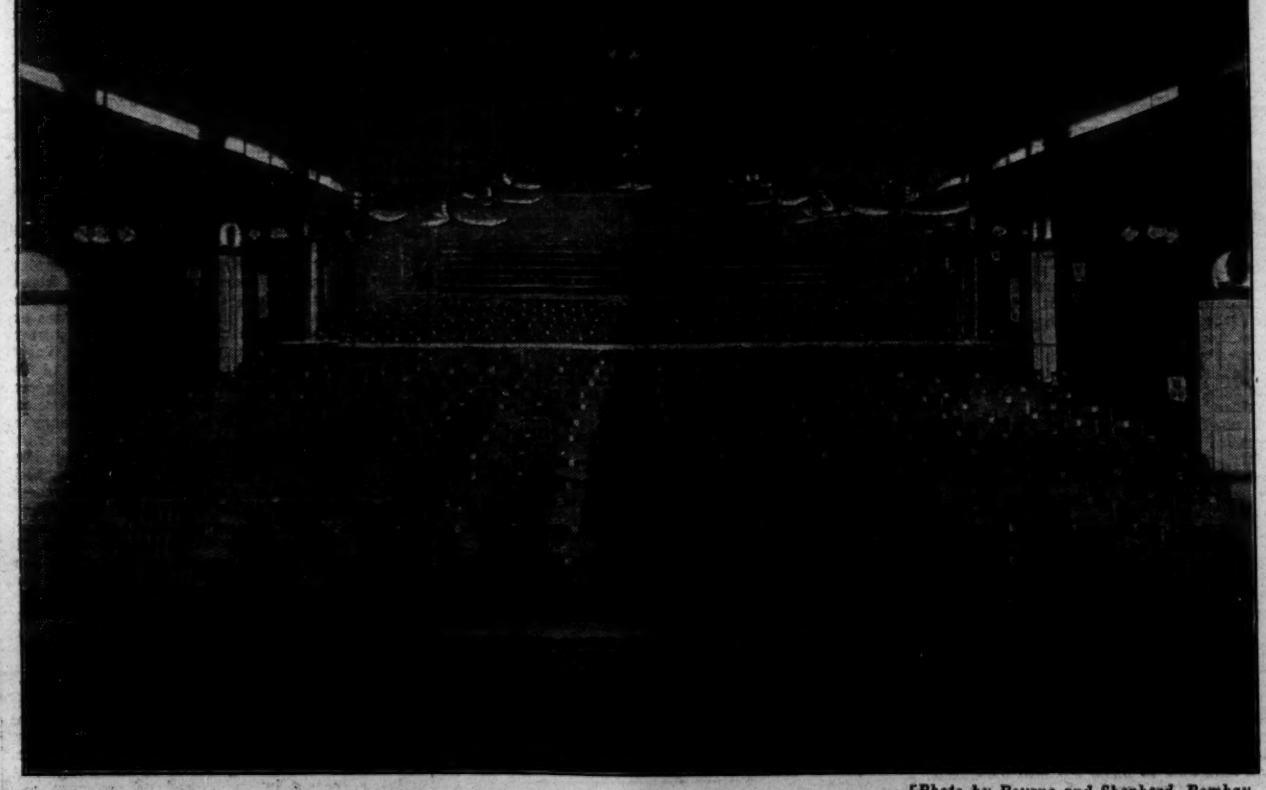
For Sympathy.

Mrs. Lester (widow of the late Mr. Harry Lester) wishes to thank all her kind friends for their sympathy, telegrams, and letters of condolence, beautiful floral tributes, &c., which have greatly assisted her to bear her sadness in her sudden loss. Mrs. Lester also wishes to thank especially her friends Mr. Douglas White and Mr. Harry Blake for their many acts of kindness to her during her great grief.

This week Mr. Alex. C. Grant's *A Master of Millions* company is successful at the Theatre Royal, Wednesbury. An effective rendering of Alexander J. Daunt is given by Mr. Alex. C. Grant; Mr. John L. Schofield is an able Eric Gordon; as Reginald Carrington, *alias* the Emperor, Mr. Arthur L. Read is worthy of mention; Mr. Frank Lester is a characteristic Jeremiah Muggins; Mr. Will Pimm a mirthful Bill Donovan; an excellent portrayal of Stella St. Lisle goes to the credit of Miss Gipsy Alexander; Miss Daisy Hoy as Alice Brown and Miss Minnie Ward as Jenny Hicks contribute most successfully; and well-merited applause is accorded Miss Dorothy Wilkinson as Lucy.

A. R. Dean and Sons, of Birmingham, are living up to their description of "the world's theatre decorators and furnishers." The contracts booked and in hand for this year number no less than seventy-eight, and include theatres, palaces, Empires, concert halls, hippodromes, town halls, hotels, hospitals, and business houses in all parts of the kingdom, as well as the Continent. Messrs. Dean and Sons undertake any sort of theatre-furnishing—decorations, seating, fibrous plaster work, draperies, and other departments, and during their thirty years' practice their name has been synonymous with the word "excellence."

An excellent programme is provided at the Hippodrome, Stalybridge, foremost of those figuring in the bill being the Babusio Bros. in their great balancing act, followed by George Antell, an eccentric comedian, who succeeds in creating much merriment. The Gregson Trio in their hilariously funny speciality; the Bros. Obo, patter comedians; Charles Tempest, comedian; the Lannons, pedestal dancers; and others add to the attractions.



[Photo by Bourne and Shepherd, Bombay.

MR. M. E. BANDMANN'S NEW THEATRE, BOMBAY.

BOMBAY, Oct. 10.—On Saturday last, under the distinguished patronage of H.E. the Governor of Bombay, took place the addition of one more theatre to the rapidly-increasing number of those owned and controlled by Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann in the Far East. Bandmann's Theatre is situated in the very centre of the city, almost opposite to the Municipal Hall and Victoria terminus, and is served by a complete connection of trams from every suburb of Bombay. It is an ideal, cosy, but cool, building, and is admirably suited to the atmospheric conditions of India. It has been built under the personal supervision of Mr. Bandmann's resident-manager, Mr. Fred Mitchell. The seating accommodation is excellent, the seats being built on a slight gradient, which enables anyone in the building to have a perfectly clear and uninterrupted view of the entire stage. Every little comfort has been carefully studied, and ample use has been made of electric pendants and lights. The building seats about 1,000 people, and at ordinary prices holds just £200. The theatre was opened by the new Bandmann Comedy Company. During the week crowded houses have again testified to the wise selection of artists for the company. Mr. Bandmann has made full preparations for Bombay theatre-goers, and amongst the attractions touring under his management which will visit us during the coming season are the Ellis Opera Company, Carter (the world's magician), Tom Liddiard's Bijou Troubadours, the Bandmann Opera Company, the Chrono Megaphone, Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer in Shakespearean répertoire, the English Grand Opera Company, and West's "Our Navy and Army." An opera week will be supplied by the La Scala Grand Opera Company. The new theatre will prove an undoubted acquisition to Bombay, and Mr. Bandmann's enterprise in bringing out such first-rate companies to India will be amply rewarded.

ON THE ROAD, OCT. 26.

Alexander and Co., George.—Kennington T., S.E.
Alone in London.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Amasis.—T. R., Stockport.
An Abandoned Woman.—O. H., Coventry.
An Unwedded Wife.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Are You a Mason?—Crystal Palace Theatre.
Aschs, Oscar.—Grand T., Hull.
At Duty's Call.—Llandudno and Rhyl.
At Roaring Camp.—T. R., South Shields.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—St. James's T., L'g Eaton.
Beau Brocade.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Beloved Vagabond.—H.M.T., Aberdeen.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—Grand T., Derby.
Belle of Mayfair (Howard).—Salisbury.
Belle of New York (Howard).—Fulham Theatre.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—New T., Cardiff.
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—Burton-on-Trent.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—Tavistock and Yeovil.
Bondman, The (Croke).—T. R., Torquay.
Booth, Junius.—Metropole T., Devonport.
Bourchier, Arthur.—T. R., Dublin.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Castleford.
Brewster's Millions.—Oxford and Cambridge
Broken Heart, A.—Grand T., Walsall.
Bulmer, Mr.—T. R., Batley.
Captain Drew on Leave.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—Pavilion T., Eastbourne.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—Bognor and Andover.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Broadw'y T., Deptford.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Prince's T., Bradford.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—Borough T., Stratford.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—New T., Aberdare.
Claudian.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Coal King, The.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Compton Comedy Co.—T. R., Bournemouth.
Conscience of a Judge.—T. R., Aston.
Convict's Daughter.—Grand T., Blackpool.
Country Girl in London.—Grand T., Nelson.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (No. 1).—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (S.).—Cambridge and Leamington.
Dairymaids (Macdonald's).—West Bromwich.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Prince's T., Horwich.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—Woking and Kettering.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—H. M. T., Barrow-in-Furness.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—Grand T., Southampton.
Diver's Luck.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Donovan, Lydia.—Globe T., Deal.
Dorothy.—T. R., Birmingham.
D'Oyley Carte Opera.—Marlborough Theatre, N.
Driven from Home.—Grand T., Chorley.
Eve of Her Wedding.—Pavilion Theatre, E.
Face at the Window.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Fatal Wedding.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Fight for a Throne.—New T., Consett.
Fight for Life.—Theatre Royal, Shotton.
Flag Lieutenant.—Pleasure Gardens, Folkestone.
Floradora.—Todmorden.
Florodora (Howard).—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Flower Girl.—H. M. T., Dundee.
For Love and the King.—T. R., Hyde.
Gay Gordons (Terriss and Hicks).—T. R., Newcastle.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—Star T., Swansea.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—New T., Sacriston.
Girl's Cross Roads.—T. R., Crook.
Girls of Gottenberg.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Junc. T., Manchester.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—Avenue T., Kettering.
Great Awakening.—King's T., Sunderland.
Great White Chief.—Prince's T., Preston.
Greed of Gold.—Hippodrome, Barry.
Hands Across the Sea.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Hare, Sir John.—T. R., Plymouth.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., St. Helens.
Her Luck in London.—Victoria Th., Ramsgate.
Her Marriage Vow.—Grand T., Lancaster.
Her Nameless Child.—O. H., Radcliffe.
His House in Order.—Grand, Doncaster.
His Wife No Longer.—T. R., Leicester.
Home Sweet Home.—T. R., West Stanley.
Honeymoon, The.—Grand T., Luton.
Horniman's, Miss.—Leamington and Oxford.
Hour of Her Triumph.—P.O.W., Nuneaton.
Hughes, Annie.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—T. R., Belfast.
Hypocrites, The (S.).—T. R., Exeter.
If We Only Knew.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
Irene Wycherley.—T. R., Darlington.
Jack Straw.—P.O.W., Birmingham
Kiss of Judas.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—King's T., Glasgow.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Coleraine and Omagh.
Lady Frederick.—Grand T., Croydon.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—T. R., Hanley.
Lancashire Lad.—T. R., Sunderland.
Lion's Heart, A.—Royalty T., Barrow.
Little Breadwinner.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
London with the Lid Off.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Love of the Princess.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Love That Women Desire.—G. T. West Hartlepool.
Lucky 'Liza.—King's T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Man and Wife.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Manxman, The.—St. George's T., Kendal.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Nairn and Pitlochry.
Master Criminal.—T. R., Sheffield.
Master of Millions.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Merely Mary Ann.—New Gaiety T., Ayr.
Merry Widow (S.).—T. R., Bolton.
Midnight Mail.—New Court T., Bacup.
Midnight Wedding.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Miss Hook of Holland (S.).—T. R., Norwich.
Mollison, William.—Crown T., Peckham.
Mother's Salvation, A.—King's T., Gainsboro'.
Moody-Manners Opera (A.).—O. H., Middlesbrough.
Moore, Miss Decima.—Gaiety T., Chatham.
Mr. Popple (Macdona).—O. H., Southport.
Mrs. Pondersbury's Past.—Court T., Warrington.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—P. T., Manchester.
My Mimosa Maid.—T. R., Portsmouth.
My Sweetheart.—Central T., Northwich.
Mystery of Edwin Drood (H. M. Version).—Stockton and Harrogate.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—Lyceum, Govan.
New East Lynne.—T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
Old Folks at Home.—West Bromwich.
Old Home, The.—Grand Th., Glasgow.
Otto the Outcast.—Victoria T., West Stanley.
Peter's Mother.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Power of the Cross.—Llanelly.
Prince of Pilsen.—T. R., Rochdale.
Private Secretary.—Northampton and Leicester.
Prodigal Parson.—O. H., Dudley.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Victoria T., Broughton.
Royal Divorce.—Aquarium T., Yarmouth.
Sailor's Wedding.—T. R., Smethwick.
Second to None.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Send Him Victorious.—Gaiety T., Methil.
Sergeant Brue.—T. R., Merthyr.
Sherlock Holmes.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Sign of the Cross.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Silver King.—Court T., Wigan.
Silver King (Howard).—Mountain Ash & Pontyp'l.
Soldier of France.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Straight from the Shoulder.—Q. T., Liverpool.
Sunday.—Queen's T., Keighley.
Terry, Edward.—Lincoln and Stockton.
Terry, Ellen.—O. H., Leicester.
Terry, Fred.—Lyceum Th., Edinburgh.
Thief, The.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Thief, The (N.).—T. R., Bradford.
Thief, The (S.).—T. R., Bath.
Tom Jones.—Cheltenham.
Tom Jones.—T. R., Glasgow.
Traitor Prince.—Middleton.
Two Lancashire Lassies in London.—Empire T., Oldham.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—Metropole T., Abertillery.
Tyrant, The.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Carlton T., Birmingham.
Vedrenne-Barker.—T. R., Manchester.
Village Blacksmith.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Warning to Women.—Miners' T., Ashington.
Way of the World.—T. R., Tony-pandy.
What a Woman Did.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
When It Was Dark.—Dumfries and Hawick.
When Knights Were Bold.—Coronet Theatre, W.
When Knights Were Bold.—County T., Reading.
When Knights Were Bold (Howard).—Aylesbury.
When London Sleeps.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
When Other Lips.—T. R., Jarrow.
White Man, A (N.).—Court T., Liverpool.
White Man, A (S.).—T. R., Halifax.
Who is She?—Marina T., Lowestoft.
Why Men Love Women.—Grand T., Brighton.
Wilkie Allan, and Co.—T. R., Shrewsbury.
Worst Woman in London.—T. R., Scarboro'.
Woman and Wine.—Queen's T., Manchester.
Woman Pays, The.—T. R., Bristol.
Wrecker of Men.—Maesteg.
You Never Can Tell.—West Pier, Brighton.
£1,000 Reward.—Garrick T., Hereford.

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B. M. DAUNT.—*We will answer your question next week.*

GORDON LEICESTER.—*Messrs. Paxton, the big music agents, have no cognisance of the song, therefore it can be put down as unpublished.*

H. T. TAYLOR.—*Apply to Mr. Johnson, secretary of the Stage Operatives Society, 25, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C.*

F. J. PEERS (Pretoria).—*You will find the addresses of several reliable firms of humorous song-writers in our back page.*

F. G.—My Pretty Maid, *comedy, in four acts, by Basil Hood, was produced at Terry's Theatre on April 5, 1902.*

GO AHEAD.—*You will require a music licence, and for that purpose you should apply to the local magistrates. Their clerk will give you the necessary forms and information.*

WALTER CLIFFORD (Bristol).—(1) *In* The Era *advertisement columns will be found the addresses of publishers who may have a clergyman song in their lists. Write to any of them, enclosing stamped envelope. Mr. Ernest Shand has the sort of song you speak of; but we have seen no announcement of its publication in our columns. Write to him. You will find his address on our back page.* (2) *The Moss and Stoll head office officials know nothing of a new enterprise at Bristol. The rumour may have arisen through their having started operations at Portsmouth.*

T. A. (Cambridge).—*The terms of the arrangement that was entered into in 1906 between the music-hall proprietors and directors and the Theatrical Managers' Association were as follow: (a) The time occupied in the performance of any sketch shall not exceed thirty minutes. (b) No sketch shall contain or consist of more than six speaking or singing parts altogether, exclusive of supernumeraries, auxiliaries, and chorus, the number of whom and of the scenes in such sketch shall be subject to no limit. (c) No sketch shall be taken or adapted from any stage play or dramatic entertainment which shall have been licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, except after the expiration of fifteen years after the first public performance of such stage play or entertainment. (d) No more than one such sketch shall be presented in the course of such performance in any music-hall except that, in addition to such sketch, there may be presented at the same performance either (1) one short sketch, of one scene only, occupying fifteen minutes, with not more than four speaking or singing parts, with supernumeraries or auxiliaries; or, in the alternative (2), One operatic or musical sketch of one scene only, occupying not more than ten minutes in performance, but without being subject to the restriction imposed by Clauses (b) and (c). No two sketches performed at the same performance to follow consecutively or be connected either in plot, story, character, or scenery, with each other, or with any ballet, at the same performance. The term "stage play" shall be deemed not to include ballets, which are performed without dialogue or singing (except two choruses not occupying more than ten minutes together in any ballet). These are the whole of the conditions (slightly condensed).*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

F. Martin Morris—Saturday, Oct. 24.
Professor Wingard—Saturday, Oct. 24.
Alfred Lester—Sunday, Oct. 25.
John Donald—Monday, Oct. 26.
J. D. Beveridge—Wednesday, Oct. 28.
Horace White—Wednesday, Oct. 28.
H. Sherwood Martin—Thursday, Oct. 29.
Frank Lindo—Friday, Oct. 30.
Maude Stewart Drewry—Friday, Oct. 30.

THIS week the drama, *London with the Lid Off*, holds the boards at the Alexandra, Widnes. Mr. Stanley Carlton plays the Rev. Allan Gordon very ably; Mr. Wm. G. Marshall is powerful and convincing as Gale, the blind burglar; Mr. Marshall Meade is good as Templeton; Mr. Lancelot Usher handles the part of Percy Plunker with ability; Miss Muriel Ross is sound as Mrs. Fordyce; Mr. James Hart is a scoundrelly Collini; Miss Hamilton Belasco as Mrs. Glandale and Miss Charlotte E. Ballinger as Sarah Shafto are excellent; Miss Amy Ellam handles the difficult part of Madge Rendall with distinct ability; Miss Rubie Maude is a sympathetic heroine. The play is exceedingly well staged.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

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Addison, Miss Lorma
Albert, Mr. Arthur
Andre, Mr. Victor
Archer, Mr. T. F.
Artois, Mr. John
Ash, Miss M.
Baines, Mr. Hamilton
Balderstone, Mr. G. E.
Barclay, Miss Annie
Beadon, Mr. Valentine
Beckwith, Miss A.
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Bert, Mr. R.
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Callaghan, Mr. T. C.
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Chirgwin, Miss Clara
Clare, Mr. Leslie
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Corri, Mr. Clarence
Cresser, Miss Ada
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Curran, Mr. Fred
Cuthbert, Mr. Alfred
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Elliston, Mr. Frank
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Esden, Miss Alice
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Farren, Mr. A.
Felix, Mr. Tom
Ferrar, Miss Ada
Ferris, Mr. E.
Forsyths, The
Frame, Miss Margaret
Francis, Miss Lilian
French, Mr. Gerald
Friedman, Mr. Jake
Fuller, Mr. Walker
Gazetti, Miss C.
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Hare, Miss Winifred
Hartington, Miss
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Hollister, Mr. Herbert
Homeyard, Mr. L. S.
Hopkins, Mr. Dick
Hutchinson, Mr. J. N.
Ingleton, Mr. G.
Jones, Mr. Guy
Kayes, Mrs. E.
Kelly, Mr. Campbell
Kelway, Mr. Vincent
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King, Mr. Claud
Kremo Troupe
Lafayette, The Great
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Linwood, Mr. Lance
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Marsden, Miss Simeta
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Mead, Mr. D.
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On Monday, Oct. 19, the Musical Play, "MY MIMOSA MAID."

The presence of Miss Marie Studholme in Mr. Frank Curzon's company in *My Mimosa Maid* is undoubtedly a potent attraction, and accounts in no small measure for the large audiences which the piece is drawing this week. But as the piece itself comes to Stratford with such fine credentials and the other members of the cast are so admirable and hardworking, the result is a well-balanced performance which gives general satisfaction. Naturally Miss Studholme is the central figure, and as Paulette she is charming and dainty to a degree, while her singing and dancing evoke unstinted applause. Miss Eva Sandford is a prepossessing and engaging representative of Popitte; Miss May Garstang is altogether admirable as Mme. de Pelaine; and Miss Ruby Gray is a refined and pleasing Marcelle. Mr. Charles McNaughton scores a decided success as Victor Guilbert, and quite revels in the many opportunities which the part offers him; Mr. Charles E. Paton plays with genuine humour, and is exceedingly funny as Max Guilbert; and Mr. Percy Carr acts and sings in buoyant style as M. Gerrard. Mr. John Goldsworthy makes a dashing Captain du Maurier, and is very successful vocally; while Mr. L. Winter plays Lieut. Courmandet very smartly. Master Archie McCraig causes much fun as the diminutive sweep Bock; Mr. Arthur Jackson does well as Grove; Mr. Fred Gilbert plays Henri very appropriately; and Mr. E. Skinner is well placed as Boss. The large and tuneful chorus and augmented orchestra are under the direction of Mr. Leonard Hornsey, who secures an excellent ensemble.

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Adeson, Mr. Charles	April 25, 1908
Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Armstrong, Mr. Barney	Nov. 30, 1907
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Bernard, Mr. Albert	Oct. 5, 1907
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brittain, Mr. Arthur	Oct. 19, 1907
Brodie, late Mr. Matthew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brocking, Mr. Cecil	Nov. 2, 1907
Brooks, Mr. E. Oswald	Nov. 16, 1907
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred.	June 27, 1908
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Clinton, Late Mr. Dudley	Oct. 10, 1908
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Connor, Mr. J. F.	Oct. 12, 1907
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T	March 28, 1908
Crawford, Miss Alice	Nov. 9, 1907
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5, 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Tate, Late Mr. Alfred	Sept. 26, 1908
Vron, Miss Elsie	July 25, 1908
Waller, Late Mr. John	April 4, 1908
Waxman, Mr. Morris D.	April 11, 1908
West, Mr. Alfred	May 16, 1908
Wheatley, Mr. Horace	Aug. 17, 1907
White, Mr. Chas. A.	Oct. 10, 1908
White, Mr. Reginald	April 25, 1908
Willard, Miss Amy	April 11, 1908
Wilmott, Mr. Charles	Oct. 10, 1908
Wilmot, Mr. John	Sept. 28, 1907
Wirth, Mr. Philip	March 14, 1908
Wood, Mr. T. R.	Oct. 5, 1907
Woolf, Mr. Jack	Jan. 11, 1908
Worrall, Mr. Henry	Sept. 12, 1908
Wright, Mr. Stewart D.	Nov. 17, 1907
Young, Mr. Sidney	May 2, 1908

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August, 1908.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1908.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE SCHEME.

On the afternoon of May 19 last the Lyceum Theatre, so ably, astutely, and energetically managed by those excellent *entrepreneurs* Messrs. SMITH and CARPENTER, was crowded with an enthusiastic meeting of over three thousand persons. As our representative stated at the time: "The intellectual and artistic classes were well represented, for on the platform and in the auditorium were men who bore notable names by reason of their distinguished association with literature, law, politics, religion, the stage, and society. And this gathering of three thousand persons expressed itself—with the solitary exception of one of its members—in favour of the establishment of a National Theatre which should remain to all ages not merely an ornamental monument in honour of England's greatest playwright and poet, but should be a house where Thespis in his highest and most practical aspect could be worshipped by the presentation of what is noblest and best in the dramatic literature of our Empire."

The list of the names of those who were present, or had accepted invitations to be present, was a long one; and the report of the speeches made on this auspicious occasion covered over six columns of our paper. Lord LYTTON, who was in the chair, made a brief but telling speech; and the Right Hon. ALFRED LYTTELTON, K.C., M.P., proposed "That this demonstration is in favour of the establishment of a National Theatre as a memorial to SHAKESPEARE." In his speech Mr. LYTTELTON put the case for a National Theatre most admirably. He said: "The human race is exalted in tone and looks by beautiful persons who attune themselves to the glories of fiction. Yet we expose this beautiful and splendid art to the ruinous risks of competition, and extend no hand to it, isolated as it is from all the other arts in this respect. It was my good fortune years ago to nightly attend, when my means permitted, at the Théâtre Français. It was in the great days of GOT, FABVRE, BARTET, SARAH BERNHARDT, and other artists. What lesson did I learn with such ecstatic delight? I felt in the first place that a national theatre like that, aided by the Conservatoire, taught clearness and precision of language. And what is the use of acting SHAKESPEARE unless you can make him intelligible even to those who sit some way off? Secondly, it taught me how agreeable it was to see variety, instead of a succession of long runs. And, thirdly, it taught me to delight in what is called *ensemble*, the voluntary co-operation and the voluntary subordination of the great and eminent men of the profession with the young who have exhibited talent, and whom they delighted to educate and yet to serve. And lastly, this appealed to me more than anything, because I belong to a profession which has, like the actor's profession, desperate struggles in its beginning, and is always full of speculation—the profession of the Bar. The Comédie Française offers a dignified and leisured retreat for those who have done great service to their art—a dignified leisure not in the least lost to the nation—and enables men in that profession as well as others to minister to it, and give the best of their time and youth to the highest and noblest form of art."

Sir JOHN HARE'S speech in seconding the resolution was a model of what such an oration should be; and Mr. EDMUND GOSSE, in the name of Literature, spoke in support. Mr. A. W. PINERO, with the keen practicality which always distinguishes him, moved the appointment of the "honorary committee of the demonstration as a committee for the drafting of a scheme for a National Theatre"; and Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR'S seductive eloquence was heard in seconding Mr. PINERO'S resolution. Mr. J. COMYNS CARR, who combines the imagination of the poet with the sagacity of the financial speculator, brought the meeting down to the business level by his resolution to the effect that "the committee should organise meetings for the formation of a National Theatre Society and the collection of subscriptions." Mr. W. C. STEADMAN, M.P., proposed that the committee should appoint a deputation "to wait on the Prime Minister and the London County Council with a view to seeking their support for the proposal of a National Theatre"; and that the weight and importance of the proceedings might be complete, Mr. STEADMAN'S motion was seconded by Mr. BERNARD SHAW. The list of names on the committee alluded to was enough to "take one's breath away" with wonder and admiration; and if there be safety in numbers, the establishment of the National Theatre might well have been believed to be absolutely secure.

After an interval of silence which may have caused some supporters of the scheme to grow unreasonably impatient, the first meeting of the newly-elected Shakespeare Memorial Executive Committee was held at the Mansion House on Tuesday last, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. Among those present were the Earl of PLYMOUTH, the Earl of LYTTON, the Hon. Mrs. ALFRED LYTTELTON, Professor BUTCHER, M.P., Mr. BEERBOHM TREE, Mr. BERNARD SHAW, Mr. A. W. PINERO, Dr. FURNIVALL, Mr. A. GOMME, Mr. J. COMYNS CARR, Mr. H. GRANVILLE BARKER, Professor GOLLANCZ (hon. secretary), and Mr. PHILIP CARR (assistant hon. secretary). Sub-committees were appointed, to one of which has been allotted the task of drafting a scheme for the erection of a National Theatre. The other sub-committee will deal with the organisation of an appeal for funds.

Though we may regret the absence from the meeting of some of those who were prominent at the Lyceum last May, it is encouraging to find that so earnest and energetic a worker as Mr. BEERBOHM TREE is interested in the scheme. In all these movements a large number of those whose names appear in print merely take the matter up as a means of excitement or self-advertisement. The number of those who are prepared to devote time and trouble sincerely and disinterestedly to the object in view is but small; but it is to these that we must look for any sustained labour or effective action. Many years since, when proposals were made for the establishment of an "English Conservatoire," we pointed out that all attempts would be futile unless the idea were taken up by the leading London managers. Our contention was proved to be correct by the extinction of certain establishments, and by the success of the Academy of Dramatic Art. Now that Mr. BEERBOHM TREE has placed himself at the head of the National Theatre movement it will have at any rate a fair chance of success.

OFFERS are invited by the Clacton Urban District Council from established and responsible musical agencies for renting the bandstand on the east cliff and providing, free of expense to the Council, a good band for a term of three years. The tenant is to have the right to let chairs on the open greensward adjoining the bandstand and extending 500 yards east of the pier approach, at a maximum charge of 3d. per chair. Offers must reach Mr. Geo. T. Lewis, clerk to the Council, not later than noon on Wednesday, Dec. 2 next.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. H. H. Watson, acting-manager of the Royal, Ton-y-pandy, was on the 16th inst. presented with a handsome gold fob chain and seal. The presentation was made by Mr. Geo. Avery (advance-manager for Messrs. Green and Hinton's *Home, Sweet Home* company), who in a pithy speech spoke of the sterling qualities possessed by Mr. Watson, whom he had known for the past eight years. Mr. Watson, in responding, acknowledged that he already liked the Welsh nation exceedingly well, and promised to remain in Wales as long as he was wanted.

"THE KISS OF JUDAS."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by Herbert Leonard, Produced at the Theatre Royal, Aston, on Monday, Oct. 19.

Philip Dunree ..... Mr. HOWARD TEMPLETON
Capt. Silas Brandon ..... Mr. J. H. DARNLEY
Jake Long ..... Mr. HERBERT LEONARD
Rev. Barry Dillon ..... Mr. HERBERT DE VILLE
Frank Sudley ..... Mr. CHAS. V. SANDFORD
Timothy Parkis ..... Mr. HENRY C. MORETON
Little Jack ..... Miss BERTHA HANBURY
Myama ..... Miss ISABEL DE CRESSE
Myama's Brother ..... BRANT SERO
Daisy Virginia Carlotta .... Miss LAURA DYSON
Nancy Nollid ..... Miss KATHERINE CLARKE
Dorothy Marlow ..... Miss JESS DORYNNE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Kiss of Judas shows the hand of a skilled and resourceful dramatist at every turn, and should serve the producers (Hardie and Von Leer) for years to come. The plot hinges on the machinations of one Silas Brandon, a captain in the U.S. Cavalry, to inveigle his rival in love, Philip Dunree, a banker, into a marriage with a notorious decoy of the "Bohemian Club," in London. This scheme is, of course, to further his own suit with a heiress, named Dorothy Marlow. It so happens that Dunree, who has been "told off" by the heiress in question for his gambling propensities, has, during a pleasant sojourn in Paris, really married the said decoy, Nancy Nollid, out of vexation. On their return Dunree fritters away his time at the cards, and he is at the Bohemian Club when news comes that there is a run on the Chartered Bank, of which he is the head. Stupified and reckless with wine, and oppressed with the thought of his marriage, which he bitterly repents, he loses all discretion, and returns to the cards, at which Brandon is cheating him right and left. Dunree's friend, Frank Sudley, is ready with help in the crisis, and offers to forgo his own fortune, which is deposited in the bank, and which would leave it impregnable—at least for a time. Dunree's wife revolts at the spectacle of her husband's fatuity and in a dramatic scene she threatens Brandon with exposure. Striking his former decoy with his glove, Brandon threatens to kill her, and quits her sight in a tempest of passion. However, she is as good as her word, and on the exposure recriminations of a most heated nature ensue between the two men. These are interrupted by the entrance of Dorothy Marlow, who has all along been apprised by the villain of her lover's backslidings and the place thereof, and, consequently, knows where to find him. On hearing of the bank disaster, she has come to offer her fortune and, incidentally, her hand, to her former lover, to save the bank and his honour. Of course he cannot accept her hand because of the secret tie that binds him to "the other woman," who, later, and in a very tense scene, essays to shoot herself that he may be free. He struggles with her to dispossess her of the revolver, and here the villain enters, unobserved of the twain, and taking his opportunity, shoots the woman with his own hand with his own revolver.

It should be mentioned that Dunree has previously attempted his own destruction in his despair, and it is his revolver that the woman has secured. Dunree, of course, concludes that the revolver has gone off in the struggle, and accuses himself of the crime, when Brandon steps forth and offers his silence on terms which will transpire later, promising to spirit the body away. Dunree departs, when the vivacious keeper of the den, Daisy Virginia Carlotta, enters, to whom the villain at once exposes the wretched man, pointing to Dunree's revolver as evidence; but she, examining it, finds that it has never been discharged, and thus confounds the villain.

Later, and in a healthier environment, we find Dunree and Dorothy married, but the past weighs heavy on the former, and throws its reflex on the latter, who, however, cannot understand her husband's depression. He is being blackmailed by the villain, and has come to his last hundred. Thus he is about to quit his wife and home to escape his tormentor's toils, and his wife is further estranged at what she deems his desertion. Brandon, coming for his hush-money, is refused, whereon he urges his victim to appropriate his wife's fortune, which has for the most part gone to stave off disaster at the bank. Dunree refuses, and Brandon at once proceeds to denounce him as the murderer of Nancy Nollid, when who should enter as Mrs. Dunree's newly-engaged companion but Nancy herself, who, it seems, was nursed back to life and health by the good-hearted mistress of the Bohemian Club, Carlotta.

A transient glow of relief shines over Dunree's face, which gradually changes into horror as he realises the awful position in which it places Dorothy. Happily this is not known to the villain, who hovers round with devilish pertinacity. The revelation of his former wife's survival makes his home now quite intolerable to Dunree, and he departs. Brandon at once turns his attention to the wife, and nearly succeeds in securing her, when his kiss—the kiss of Judas—brings about a revulsion of feeling. Her innate virtue asserts itself, and saves her from the villain's wiles. Nancy, during her illness, has borne a son, of whom Dunree is the father, though it is only he that she will tell of his responsibility, the others being kept in ignorance for Dorothy's sake.

Later, the two women cast their lots together in a strange land. Arizona is the scene, and the time is eight years later, at a log hut on the Rocky Mountains. Here comes the sheriff, a cowboy rejoicing in the name of "Hell Fire Jake," with a glint in his eye that bodes ill for marauders in these rough parts. He would fain teach the child how to "swar" and shoot, but his present mission is to catch a horse-thief hovering in the neighbourhood. He departs, when who should appear but Brandon, lately returned to these his old haunts. He renews his suit, is spurned, and later encounters Dunree, who by a strange decree of Providence is shooting wild bears in the district. He has come for succour, being sorely wounded in the arm by one of his quarry, not knowing that his wife is located here, and reconciliation almost takes place, when the sight of the child, whom Dorothy has adopted, rouses jealousy. He departs, and is cajoled into borrowing Brandon's pony, on the strength of the latter's protestations of friendship. Brandon instantly denounces him to the Sheriff, and he is shot down and brought back to be lynched as a horse thief. Ere the arrival of the Sheriff and his accuser, however, he is safely deposited in a straw loft, and when they arrive he is not to be seen. Standing beneath the loft, however, Brandon feels a spot of blood fall on his hand from the wounded arm of the man hiding above, and guessing the truth, is just about to reveal his whereabouts, when his attention is drawn by one of the characters, young Sudley, to a hand pointing at him through the straw with a revolver. This revolver follows him wherever he shifts, and he is reduced to silence. The Sheriff and his boys depart, and Brandon, being made to give up his sword, is rendered impotent, till, catching up Dunree's weapon, he attacks Dorothy, who defends herself with Brandon's own sword. Nancy flies to her aid, and dispatches the villain just as the Sheriff returns, and Dunree, who has meanwhile been in the fracas, is accused of the murder of Brandon. He is about to be lynched, when his friend, Sudley, who is a medico, gives him a drug in the guise of poison, and he falls apparently dead, the Sheriff leaving in high dudgeon at thus being cheated of his prey. After this Nancy disappears for good, her dead body being discovered in the river. The happiness of Dunree and Dorothy Marlow is eventually secured, after further tussles.

The play is mounted in a very handsome manner, the picturesque environment of the latter half being in fine contrast to the first. The acting was very good. Mr. J. H. Darnley, as the villain, Brandon, with his exultant "Ha, ha! Ho, ho!" was indeed excellent. He spoke his lines in a most trenchant manner, and he looked the part. Miss Katherine Clarke as Nancy Nollid, the decoy, was quite the good angel of the piece, with her self-sacrificing and many good qualities, which she showed in spite of her evil surroundings. Ever dignified, with a fine strain of pathos, she made a very affecting character. Mr. E. Howard Templeton shone in an earnest, manly fashion, as Philip Dunree, rising to the various situations in a style that betokened great capabilities. Mr. Herbert Leonard, the author, created something of a sensation on his appearance in the third act as Jake Long, alias "Hell Fire Jake." Strong of voice and strong of limb, with a burly stature and a stentorian voice, plus the additional grace of humour, he made the rôle very popular. Miss Laura Dyson showed a vivacity and a gift of comedy that lifted the rôle of Carlotta into one of the best parts in the piece. Miss Jess Dorynne as Dorothy Marlow finely expressed all the varying emotions of the rôle—love, hatred, and jealousy. Mr. De Ville was successful as the Rev. Barry Dillon, foster-father to the hero, and whose long-lost daughter proves to be none other than the ill-fated Nancy Nollid. Mr. Chas. V. Sandford played in an excellent vein of light comedy as Frank Sudley; Mr. Henry C. Moreton as Timothy Parkis was accountable for much mirth; Miss Bertha Hanbury did well; and Miss Isabel De Cresse as Myama, a Chiquite Indian girl, and Brant Sero as her Indian brother, were both good.

"GRIFFITH GAUNT; OR, JEALOUSY."

A Drama, in Five Acts, adapted from Charles Reade's novel by Freeman Wills and the Rev. Canon Langbridge. Produced at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Monday, Oct. 19.

Griffith Gaunt ..... Mr. W. EDWYN HOLLOWAY
Sir George Neville ..... Mr. PENN HAMILTON
Captain Peyton ..... Mr. BYRON DOUGLASS
Parson Oldbury ..... Mr. ELLIS CARLYLE
Father Leonard ..... Mr. ARTHUR BURNE
Tom Leicester ..... Mr. REGINALD H. STEPHENS
Major Rickards ..... Mr. A. C. THORNHILL
Mr. Hammersley ..... Mr. LIONEL BARTON
Doctor Islip ..... Mr. FRANK STONE
Mr. Houseman ..... Mr. LEONARD CALVERT
Solomon Ryder ..... Mr. WILLIAM LOOZE
Enoch Hump ..... Mr. L. S. YORKE
Joram Monk ..... Mr. LOUIS PALGRAVE
Roger ..... Mr. A. POULETT
Brockbank ..... Mr. H. AINGER
Pycroft ..... Mr. S. F. RANKIN
Hayes ..... Mr. M. R. BELL
Jane Ryder ..... Miss NONA HOFFE
Miss Penfold ..... Miss DOROTHY HULLAH
Mrs. Dickson ..... Miss E. M. JESSEL
Septima Dickson ..... Miss JESSIE LOTHIAN
Kate Gaunt ..... Mrs. RITA TREKELLE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The production of the above play was witnessed on Monday evening by a large and interested audience. Griffith Gaunt has been disinherited by an uncle, and left a paltry £2,000, because it had been represented to his departing relative that he was a wastrel and a spendthrift. His uncle's fortune and estate have been bequeathed to his cousin, Kate Gaunt, but as the cousins are already lovers, and in the usual course of events the property will remain theirs, there is not much to quarrel over.

In Act 2 Kate has been Griffith Gaunt's wife a year. He is still the ardent lover, and thinks there is no woman in the world like his Kate. Kate, however, has devoted herself to religious matters, and seeks the guidance of Father Leonard, a fanatical priest. He is giving her advice, in a not wholly disinterested way, when Griffith comes upon the scene, and flies into a rage, declaring that Father Leonard shall never darken his doors again.

There is in the plot a servant named Jane Ryder, who is secretly in love with her master. She plays a double game, urging Father Leonard to press his unholy suit, assuring him of his success; and at the same time tells the husband that his wife is faithless, and that for two years she has been carrying letters between them. In return for her betrayal, she asks Griffith to leave his wife for one who loves him better, but he loathes the idea. He is the witness of a bitter quarrel between the Rev. Father and his wife, and thinks she is still true to him until he sees her hand him her purse. Then he becomes furious, hurls opprobrious epithets at his wife and leaves her.

Whilst ill and delirious he is staying at the Packhorse Inn, kept by Jane Ryder's father, and when he recovers his reason he is made to believe by Jane, an assertion, backed up by Solomon Ryder and Tom Leicester, a drunken and dissolute servant, really Jane's husband, that he, Griffith, has gone through the ceremony of marriage with her. He is being blackmailed by the Ryders, who demand his legacy of £2,000 as the price of their silence. In the end all the mistakes are righted, Father Leonard is moved to repentance, and succeeds in nursing Gaunt back to health, the scheming of Jane Ryder is thwarted, and there is a happy reconciliation between Griffith and Kate, not, however, until after she has been tried for the murder of her husband, her innocence being proved by the appearance of Griffith himself on the scene.

Mr. W. Edwyn Holloway played remarkably well as Griffith Gaunt, giving a telling representation from start to finish. Mrs. Rita Trekelle was delightful as Kate Gaunt, and in her scenes with her husband and with Father Leonard was exceptionally good. Mr. Arthur Burne enacted Father Leonard with forcefulness and impressiveness. Miss Nona Hoffe was a success as Jane Ryder, who may be regarded as the villainess of the piece; a rôle in which she was ably assisted by Mr. William Looze as her father, Solomon Ryder, landlord of the Packhorse Inn. Miss Dorothy Hullah as Miss Penfold, Mr. Byron Douglass as Captain Peyton, Mr. Penn Hamilton as Sir George Neville, and Mr. Ellis Carlyle as Parson Oldbury were all excellent in their respective rôles. Other characters in the cast were sustained with success.

ROYAL ARTILLERY, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Play, entitled
"THE HYPOCRITES."

Under the direction of Mr. Sylvanus Dauncey, Mr. Charles Frohman's company is paying an acceptable visit to the Artillery Theatre this week, where Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's clever play is being amusingly portrayed. Mr. A. B. Imeson makes an effective curate, his character of the Rev. Edgar Linnell being carefully presented. Mr. E. H. Ruston gives a good delineation of the part of Mr. Wilmore; Lennard Wilmore is capably undertaken by Mr. John Dennys; Mr. Frederick Morland sustains the part of the family lawyer, Mr. Viveash, in a very natural manner; Mr. F. G. Thurston's study of the Rev. Everard Daubeney is realistic; Sir John Plugenet is in the able hands of Mr. Charles Tyrel; Mr. Fred Lake makes the most of Dr. Blaney; and the same may be said for Mr. H. Gee as Goodyer. Mrs. Wilmore is cleverly depicted by Miss Laura Graves; Miss Muriel Mason plays the part of Lady Blugenet in an attractive and graceful manner; Miss Sybil Brooke deserves praise for a good rendering of Mrs. Blaney; Miss Madge Severn is acceptable as Mrs. Linnell; Miss Eva Turnour makes an amusing Patty; while Miss Muriel Pope stands out prominently as Rachel Neve.

THE PLAY-ACTORS.

"THE MAID'S TRAGEDY,"
by Beaumont and Fletcher, revived at the Court Theatre on Sunday evening, Oct. 18.

King ..... Mr. A. E. WARBURTON
Lysippus ..... Mr. LE GRAND
Amintor ..... Mr. W. EDWYN HOLLOWAY
Melantius ..... Mr. H. A. SAINTSBURY
Diphilus ..... Mr. P. PERCEVAL CLARK
Calianax ..... Mr. LEONARD CALVERT
Cleon ..... Mr. HAROLD CHAPIN
Strato ..... Mr. RATHMELL WILSON
Servant to Amintor ..... Mr. ROBERT TAYLOR
Evadne ..... Miss ESMÉ BERINGER
Aspatia ..... Miss KATHLEEN RIND
Dula ..... Miss MARION LIND

The Play Actors are to be congratulated upon their production on Sunday evening at the Court Theatre of Beaumont and Fletcher's play *The Maid's Tragedy*—not, we would mention, for the scenic effects nor the costumes as displayed at this particular performance, but for the intelligent manner in which the piece was acted and stage-managed. Judicious care and attention had apparently been given to the work of compressing the play into suitable limits for modern production, and for the most part the excisions were such as could most conveniently be made, having regard to the full length and strength of the five acts and the sense and poetry of the whole play. A keen interest was evinced in the presentation of the play by the crowded audience at the Court Theatre on Sunday evening, and at the conclusion of each act and at the final fall of the curtain all the actors and actresses were called before the curtain and heartily applauded. *The Maid's Tragedy* cannot be said to be a picture of human life at any period of the world's history. Perhaps more than any other of Beaumont and Fletcher's plays its plot has been modelled on the lines of the old Greek tragedies, for here we have relentless fate pursuing the hero and heroine, and those upon whom they are able to cast any influence until, one by one, the leading characters in the play are gathered to the gentleman with the scythe and the hour-glass. Poor, unhappy Aspatia, who loves Amintor, with all the breadth and depth of a woman's soul, is rejected by him in favour of Evadne, who becomes his wife as well as the mistress of the King. Then the proud and gallant Melantius, brother to Evadne, demands that as the King has robbed her of her honour, he shall suffer death at her hands. So she murders the King—an act which is quickly followed by her own suicide and the deaths of Aspatia and Amintor. We should not go far wrong did we give premier honours in the direction of the acting to Mr. H. A. Saintsbury, whose study of the difficult rôle of Melantius was eminently satisfactory. Mr. Saintsbury showed that he had the power of vehement declamation, and in the scene where he compels his sister Evadne to consent to slay the King he rose to a high pitch of tragic oratory. Miss Esmé Beringer was the Evadne, and while some of her gestures and facial expressions in the first and second acts were somewhat unexplainable, she did extremely well when, in the later scenes, she let herself "go" with the fine dramatic delivery of which we know her to be capable. Mr. A. E. Warburton submitted an admirable portraiture as the King, the dignity, manliness, and bravery of that personage being consistently sustained throughout. Miss Kathleen Rind gave an appropriate characterisation of the rôle of the faithful Aspatia, to whom there comes so much misery, resultant on the conduct of Aminta, a part acted with judgment by Mr. W. Edwyn Holloway. Mr. Leonard Calvert was exceedingly amusing as Calianax, and Miss Marion Lind as Dula and Mr. Le Grand as Lysippus were also seen to advantage. The play, it should be mentioned, was produced under the direction of Mr. Clarence Derwent.

DEATH OF MR. JOSEPH POTTER.

By the death of Mr. Joseph Potter a striking personality has been removed from the active life of Warrington. The sad event, which took place on Tuesday morning, was not totally unexpected, for Mr. Potter had been in failing health for nearly two years, and there is no doubt that the serious fire on Christmas morning, 1907, when the Royal Court was thoroughly destroyed, considerably hastened the end. The more serious symptoms, however, did not manifest themselves until a couple of months ago, when he was confined to his room, and since then his medical advisers held out little or no hopes of ultimate recovery. Suffering from an internal complaint, Mr. Potter bore his pain with fortitude quite characteristic of the man, but it is satisfactory to note that the end was peaceful.

Mr. Potter, who was in his sixty-fifth year, was associated with the entertainment of Warrington people for well nigh half a century, and was from 1892 co-proprietor of the Royal Court Theatre together with Mr. William Johnson and the Milton Rays. In 1893 the Theatre Royal also came under their control, and on the Milton Rays dissolving partnership the first-named gentlemen kept up their long association. Mr. Potter was also connected with the principal theatre at Rawtenstall. He enjoyed the friendship of such notabilities as Barry Sullivan, Charles Matthews, T. C. King, Madame Beatrice, Walter Montgomery, Henry Hampton, Madame Celeste, and the local comedian, Brindley Sheridan. Mr. Potter's death has severed a link with the past, and Warrington Theatre patrons regret the loss of one whom they had learned to love and respect. His funeral took place on Thursday.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 19, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

Once again in South London is this favourite musical play making a bid for favour, and with undeniable success. Brixtonians on Monday evening assembled in large force, and gave the capital company of Mr. J. Bannister Howard a hearty welcome. The tuneful music once more delighted playgoers, and the whole performance went with a "bang." The chorus and orchestra were large and capable, and Mr. B. J. Paterson deserves eulogy for his conductorship. Miss Hebe Kneleer is a captivating Belle; her demureness is irresistible, and she nicely sang the songs allotted to Violet Gray. Mr. J. W. Tate is highly amusing as the Polite Lunatic. Mr. Frank Lawton causes roars of laughter as the mixed ale pugilist, Blinky Bill; his capital whistling provoked roars of delight. Ichabod Bronson finds a capable representative in Mr. Arthur Ricketts. Harry Bronson is well played by Mr. James Watts, and his singing is much appreciated. Mr. William Hartigan is distinctly amusing as Doc Snifkins, the manager of the Cora Angelique Opera Company; while Mr. Alec Godfrey is remarkably well cast as the lugubrious low comedian, Kenneth Mugg. The Portuguese Twins find capital representatives in Mr. Hal Kirke and Mr. Ray L. Cody. Miss Dorothy Doria is a charming Fifi; her dancing and singing deserve warm approval. Miss Florence Hersee beautifully dances and ably enacts Mamie Clancy; and Miss Winnie Browne is also capital as Cora Angelique. The remainder of the large cast all deserve warm praise. As is usual with Mr. Bannister Howard's productions, the play is beautifully mounted and dressed.

MR. HARRY CHADWICK, the popular young acting-manager of the Grand Theatre, Newcastle, who has been connected with the theatre for twelve years, has resigned his position, having been engaged by Mr. G. M. Polini as business-manager for *The Silver King* company.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Walter Gibbons, on behalf or the London Theatres of Varieties, Ltd., has arranged to take over the Hammersmith Palace, and, later on, Hengler's Circus, Argyle-street, Regent-street.

Miss Vesta Victoria will be starting shortly for America, where, in consequence of her great success, much of her future professional life will be spent. She has placed her business in the hands of Messrs. Beecham and Wheeler.

The West London Theatre is to be sold on Wednesday, Nov. 25, as a going concern, by Messrs. Edwin Fox and Bousfield. When Mr. William Bailey took over the house, he ran it for a time on variety lines.

Councillor J. M. Glover is among the Bexhill municipal candidates. As Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and director of local amusements he has done the town yeoman service during the past eight years. The Hon. T. A. Brassey, son of the present Mayor, has written expressing regreat that he is unable to accept the mayoralty for the coming year.

The Water Rats Booking Agency, which is carrying on business temporarily at the Vaudeville Club in Charing Cross-road, has secured offices at Trentishoe Mansions closb by. We are given to understand that Mr. O'Gorman's position as manager is only temporary.

Mr. Walter Reynolds has resigned from the Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the London County Council. Mr. Reynolds is a strenuous worker, and looks into things. We regret that so business-like an expert is severing his association from a committee whose work he has brightened by original and valuable suggestions on many important questions concerning public amusement.

A general meeting of the V.A.F. will take place on Sunday at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane, at 8 p.m., when Mr. Joe O'Gorman will take the chair. The chief subject for discussion will be the amendment of the rule regarding qualification for membership and its amendment.

Miss Cecilia Loftus, who is retained on the Coliseum bill for next week, continues to draw crowded houses, her imitation among others of Signor Caruso being the one topic of conversation. W. C. Fields, the juggler, the Molasso Quartette, Fred Edwards and company in *Kleptomaniacs*, May Edouin, the McConnell Trio, the Lancashire Singers (nineteen in number), the Brothers Webb, are other members of the new company.

"To-Morrow: The Story that Never Grew Old," the Christmas production at the London Hippodrome, promises to be one of exceptional merit, for Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy is to produce it, and he returns to England with the prestige of a name for wonderful stage effects. The central idea is that of a child asking for practically impossible things, and is told they will be given "to-morrow"—in short, the scheme is built round the phrase, "To-morrow never yet."

Fragson reopens on Monday at the Tivoli, where he will introduce three new songs—two comic and one sentimental. The sentimental one will be after the style of "Whispers of Love" and the comic song after the nature of that popular ditty "The Band Box Girl." The special feature of Fragson's re-entry into London will be his rendition of a new song in French entitled "Ah! Qu'on est bien, Mamselle?"

A list of applications for music, music and dancing, and stage plays licences, to be heard on Nov. 6 and 7 by the Licensing Committee of the Administrative County of London at the Clerkenwell Sessions House, has just been published. There are applications for 371 licences in respect of 353 places.

The Licensing Committee will sit at 10 a.m. on each day, and a report will be made to the L.C.C., sitting as the licensing authority, at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, on Nov. 27, and, if necessary, the following day. Mr. Imre Kiralfy is applying for a stage-plays licence for the Franco-British Exhibition.

Miss Maud Allan has, by the imperative orders of the doctor, been compelled to suspend, for a time at least, her performances at the Palace. At Wednesday's matinée a strained tendon caused her considerable pain, and although she bravely struggled through both afternoon and evening performances, she feels the immediate necessity for complete rest. It is expected that Miss Allan will be able to return to the Palace in a few weeks.

Mr. Alfred Butt on his last American tour booked Carlisle and Baker, two popular coloured vocalists and instrumentalists, who are also writers and composers of their own songs and duets, many of which have a great vogue in the states. The novelty of their item lies in the fact that each artist has his own grand piano on the stage, and, notwithstanding the fact that they have their backs turned to one another, they keep perfect time in their instrumental vocal duets whilst playing simultaneously, an extremely difficult feat.

Mr. Lester Barrett, of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, thinks that "Oh! Oh! Antonio" will be the most popular song this Christmas. The story deals with an Italian ice-cream merchant who has deserted his "inamorata," and the words and music of the little composition are exceedingly catchy. At the Theatre Royal, Manchester, the principal singer is to be supported by a chorus of Italian girls, and as a finale Antonio himself and his ice-cream cart will be introduced on the stage.

Miss Marie Lloyd intends to adopt the piccaninny now appearing with Miss Ethel Whiteside at the Oxford, when he finishes his engagement at that hall. Miss Lloyd, by the way, has guaranteed a bond of 3,000 dollars to the U.S. Government to return this nigger boy, whose name is "Piggy," when she has ceased to use him in domestic service. The bond stipulates that he is not to be allowed to perform on the stage while under Miss Lloyd's care.

Mr. Leonard Mortimer and Company top the bill at Hackney Empire next week with *The Little Captain*, a most interesting tabloid of drama, founded on the adventures of Cutcliffe Hyne's hero, Captain Kettle, a character which Mr. Mortimer realises both in make-up and temperament, being resourceful, alert, and convincing.

Mr. Whately, on behalf of Mr. Harry Lauder, applied in the King's Bench on Wednesday that a pending action over contracts between the United Theatres, Ltd., and Mr. Lauder should be delayed till April next. "There is no reason to think he will not be able to pay damages if they are ordered," added Mr. Whately, "for I dare say your lordship has heard that his salary is about five times that of a Cabinet Minister. He can't come back from America. He would lose far more than the amount in dispute." Mr. Justice Ridley: "That would not matter, because he is so rich." Mr. Whately: "I don't know that experience shows that rich men are fond of giving away what they are not bound to. Mr. Lauder is a Scotchman. I'm afraid he would not appreciate the humour of the suggestion."

The Liverpool Empire orchestra was this week conducted by Mr. George Saker, son of the late Edward Saker, of Liverpool.

The new Hippodrome at Exeter opens on Monday, Nov. 2. It will be booked by Mr. Fred Karno in conjunction with the Maidstone and Peterborough Hippodromes, and will give two shows a night. It is most advantageously placed.

Actions have been raised by the Palace Theatre, Glasgow, and the Pavilion Theatre there against Mr. George Robey for breach of contract in respect to his non-appearance at these theatres some time ago, and damages to the extent of £200 are claimed by each theatre.

The Empress Theatre, Hartlepool, has been purchased by Mr. C. W. Lovesy, of 12, Little Newport-street, W.C. Councillor Everton's proprietorship terminates on Monday, the 26th inst. Ruffell's Bioscope will supply the pictures under the new proprietary.

The directors of the Palace Theatre (Darlington), Ltd., who are the proprietors of the new Hippodrome in Parkgate, have declared and paid a dividend of 6 per cent. to the preference shareholders and one of 10 per cent. to the ordinary shareholders.

The Della Sisters wish to publicly thank Mr. Horace Livermore, of the Palace, Bristol, for paying them their matinée money out of his own pocket.

Mr. Reuben More is now taking a few weeks' rest with his wife and family at Southsea after his long and most successful summer pier tour. Some of his leisure is filled up with writing and composing songs, for which he finds a ready market.

Messrs. G. W. Smith and T. Fox, of Greek-street, Leeds, who own a variety hall at Rotherham, and are interested in houses in Brighton, Belfast, Liverpool, Berlin, and Paris, have purchased the old Manor House, Dewsbury, and property adjoining, on the site of which they intend erecting a Hippodrome to accommodate 2,600 people, and to run it on the two-houses-a-night plan. They hope to get a building about 140ft. by 85ft. on the site.

Dr. Walford Bodie continues his triumphal tour in his native land, playing to record business. Last week, despite great and unprecedented trade depression, he broke all records at the Empire, Greenock, which was packed to the doors, despite the fact that it was the doctor's eighth visit. This week he is packing the Theatre Royal Coatbridge, on his ninth visit.

Mr. Bert Dent, who for the past six years has so successfully discharged the duties of resident-manager at the Palace of Varieties, Greenwich, has just been appointed by Mr. T. Allan Edwardes to a similar position at the Palace of Varieties, Attercliffe. On Monday evening he introduced himself in a neat little speech to the audience.

Mr. Sydney Carter, of the New Century Pictures, which are so popular in Yorkshire, vacates the Bridge Pavilion, Ilkley, this week, after a stay of over twelve months. Mr. Edwin Bryan, the manager, goes to Halifax to coach the local amateurs in *A Princess of Kensington*. The Pavilion will continue during the winter, under the management of Mr. Samuel Garratt, the proprietor, who is to present first-class entertainments with the best of talent.

At the Lowestoft Borough Police Court recently application was made on behalf of the Hippodrome, the largest place of entertainment in the town, for permission to hold Sunday concerts during the present fishing season. A similar application was made on behalf of the Public Hall.

Frank Freeland, manager for Mr. Geo. Gilbert, remarked that the management of the Hippodrome proposed bringing down some of the best bands—the Black Dyke, and other well-known bands; and the films shown by the bioscope would be of a sacred character, moral stories, &c., and the songs would be suitable for the occasion. Both applications were refused.

The first anniversary of the opening of Bostock's Hamilton Hippodrome was celebrated with great éclat on Wednesday (14th). At an appropriate juncture during the evening Provost Pollock, accompanied by Mr. Gus. Bostock, son of the proprietor, appeared at the footlights. Mr. Bostock intimated that between donations and the proceeds of the performance the sum of £29 9s. 3d. had been realised. He had much pleasure in making up the amount to £30, which would be handed over to the local branches of the Jubilee Nurses's Institute and the League of Pity.

Provost Pollock expressed the sincere thanks of the community to Mr. Bostock for his public-spiritedness and great generosity. Mr. Gus Bostock suitably acknowledged the compliment, and said he could assure them that his father was deeply thankful to the people of Hamilton for their splendid encouragement.

In the Court of Session, Edinburgh, on Friday, the 16th inst., Lord Skerrington disposed of a note of suspension and interdict by the Glasgow Pavilion (Limited) against Ella Retford, comedienne, at present appearing at the Coliseum Theatre, Glasgow, to have the respondent interdicted from performing at the Coliseum during the present week or at any other place of entertainment within a radius of ten miles of the Pavilion Theatre between Oct. 19, 1908, and Oct. 19, 1909.

The complainers averred that on Feb. 18 last they entered into a contract with the respondent whereby she contracted to appear at the Pavilion Theatre during the week commencing Aug. 30 next and also during the week commencing Sept. 5, 1910, and that the respondent in breach of the agreement had appeared at the Coliseum this week. The respondent pleaded that no validly executed or binding agreement was ever entered into between the parties, and Lord Skerrington refused to grant interim interdict, with expenses to neither party.

The death took place, shortly before noon on Monday, at his residence in Ryland-street, Warrington, of Mr. Joseph Potter, formerly co-proprietor with Mr. Johnson of the Royal Court Theatre and the Royal Theatre of Varieties, Warrington. The late Mr. Potter, who was about sixty-five years of age, had been ailing for some time, and he took to his bed some six weeks ago. He was highly esteemed and respected by a large circle of friends. It will be remembered that twelve months last Christmas the Royal Court Theatre was totally destroyed by fire, and about a month ago both theatres were sold.

Immediately after the second performance at the Hamilton Hippodrome on Wednesday evening, the permanent staff met in the main entrance hall for the purpose of expressing in a tangible manner to Mr. Clayton, the resident manager, their appreciation of his personal worth. Mr. Clayton was taken completely by surprise. He thanked the donors briefly but feelingly, on behalf of his wife and himself, for their gifts of a smoker's cabinet and a handsome cake basket, and expressed the hope that the pleasant relations which had always existed between his staff and himself might long continue.

His many friends will be glad to hear that Mr. John E. Coyle, the popular comedian, has completely recovered after his four months' severe illness, and that he resumes business shortly. He has been skilfully treated at Ventnor, and the result is completely satisfactory.

Vasco, the mad musician, is sailing for the States to-day, when he will depart from Liverpool on board the Lusitania. Vasco's voyage will bring him increased reputation in a land where originality and smartness have always made good. Vasco returns to the Empire on May 31 next year.

Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, having just completed their fifth visit to the Palace Theatre, W., are now playing a provincial tour, including the Moss-Stoll Empires. Miss Rosebery's gowns are by Mme. Louise Biddulph, West Kensington, and her hats by Mme. Irene.

Regan and Ryan have been making the Middlesex ring with laughter at their new business this week. They have several new songs from the pens of Will Hyde and new gags by Alf. Ellerton.

Miss Leah Adell (operatic vocalist), sister of Walter and Jack de Frece, wishes to give notice to proprietors and managers that, in order to avoid complications with artists of somewhat similar names, she will in future be known as Miss Addie Adell.

Australia again gives the call to one of our leading lights in the musical world, Mendel having booked with Mr. Harry Rickards for a tour of his various houses in the land of the Southern Cross. Many dates held by Mendel for 1910 have been postponed by various managers, to allow him to accept the offer.

Mr. Peter Davey on Monday made application for a music and dancing licence at the annual meeting of the Licensing Committee for Surrey. Mr. Davey, who is the manager of the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, intends varying his theatrical fare at that house with a variety programme.

A great loss will be imposed upon Mr. W. R. Nutt, the proprietor of the Empire Music Hall (now in course of erection), Richmond-road, Kingston, through the absurd conditions imposed by an obsolete statute upon applicants for new licences. Mr. A. R. C. Forrest, in his application on Monday, at the anuual meeting of the music and dancing Licensing Committee for Surrey, said that the hall, which was to seat 1,200 people, would be ready for opening in January, and no intoxicants would be sold. Already the building, for which the Kingston Corporation had passed the plans, was 30ft. high.

The chairman said that the committee could not grant even a provisional licence for an unfinished building, while they were bound by statute, dated 1752, that they could grant no licence at an adjourned meeting. The application was therefore refused, and cannot be renewed until next October, the chairman expressing sympathy with the applicant.

Miss Rosie Lloyd and Mr. Will Poluski, jun., were married by special licence on Saturday last at St. Mary's Primrose Hill, N.W., the church nearest the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Alec Hurley (Miss Marie Lloyd). The wedding was a very quiet one, the only guests present being relatives of the happy couple. Mr. Jack O'Connor (of Jack and Evelyn) officiated as best man, and Miss Annie Wood, sister of the bride, acted as bridesmaid, the bride being given away by her father. A reception was afterwards held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Will Poluski, sen., The Lindens, Effra-road, Brixton. It was at St. Mary's Church, Primrose Hill, that the bride's sister, Miss Daisy Wood (now in America), was married to Mr. Donald Munro.

The annual matinée for the benefit of the few survivors of the Balaclava Charge will take place this afternoon at 2.30 at the Alhambra. The whole of the programme has been provided by the directorate, and many well-known artists have generously promised their services. Seeing that this function is the chief source of Mr. T. H. Roberts' supplies for the support of these poor old soldiers, it is hoped that the matinée will be well patronised.

The preliminary list of artists includes Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Alice Ellison, Miss Violet Ludlow, Miss Ada Reeve, Miss Ida Rene, Miss Kitty Traney, Mr. John Bardsley, Mr. Leonard Barry, Mr. Arthur Boyd, Mr. Louis Bradfield, Mr. George Giddens, Mr. Nelson Hardy, Mr. Eric Williams, Coram (ventriloquist), the Frank Bonhair Troupe, the Master Mystery, the Imperial Concert Party, &c.

Master Ikey Moe, described as "the smallest Hebrew comedian in the world," has made a great hit this week at the Canterbury. He is a diminutive, rosy-cheeked young gentleman of some twelve summers, and he affords a somewhat remarkable example of youthful precocity. With a coolness and sangfroid which one cannot help admiring, he relates several funny Jewish anecdotes, in Yiddish dialect, which cause immense delight to the audience. His rendering of the song, "Oh, Solly," is also highly entertaining, and he also wins applause for his dancing, into which, by the way, he manages to infuse an element of humour.

Mr. Ben Woodger, Secretary of the Music Hall Home, wishes to thank, on behalf of the committee, the Brothers Obo (Ben and Jim) for parcel of men's clothes and boots, of which the fund is greatly in need. He also thankfully acknowledges the donation of £1 1s. from Mr. Arthur Wilson (late of the Hercules, Kennington-road); also Ted E. Box (committeeman, M.H.H.) for donation of £1 1s to the Music Hall Home fund, which is greatly in need of funds. The Home is keeping eleven old and infirm performers. The next committee meeting will be held at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday, Nov. 5, at 12 noon.

The heroine of the matinée hat, Miss Madge Temple, pays a visit to the Brighton Hippodrome next week. Last week, at the London Coliseum, it will be remembered, Miss Temple created a great sensation by appearing in a gigantic hat 14ft. in diameter, thereby satirising the present vogue in millinery. The hat cost £120 to make, and Miss Temple, at the conclusion of her Brighton engagement, intends to sell the hat to the highest bidder, the proceeds to be devoted to a charity. In addition to her notable song successes, "Kiss" and "Come, be my rainbow," Miss Temple will render in Brighton Hermann Darewski's novel number on "The Matinée Hat."

The third Tom Woottwell comic song album is shortly to be issued by that comedian through a well-known firm of publishers. He has published practically nothing during the last two years since he booked this, his fourth Australian engagement, as he knows from past experience that songs published in England are sung in America and the Colonies almost before the print is dry, and he values his Colonial reputation far above the few pounds he could get for the songs. Fifteen thousand of the Collin Album (No. 1) were sold in Australia and New Zealand alone, and Charles Sheard did very well out of the second. The third will contain:—"Blow'd if I didn't wake up," "The little shirt my mother made for me," "Wait a minute, half a minute," "What did I do?" "I've got it here," &c.

The M.H.A.R.A. will hold its general meeting to-morrow (Sunday) at 6.30, at the Bedford Head Hotel, Maiden-lane.

Signor Alegria, of the Circo Alegria, Barcelona and Saragossa (Zaragoza), shot himself on the 15th inst. at Barcelona. The sad occurrence has created a painful sensation in professional circles in Spain.

Miss Florence Esdaile has returned to London after a successful pantomime tour. Miss Esdaile is in excellent voice, and delights her many admirers at the Oxford by her charming rendition of "Carissima."

Miss Fanny Sinclair, of Howard and Sinclair, has probably introduced more successful American songs in London than any other artist. That she should select Witmark's latest hit, "Take me some place with you, Johnnie," as a vehicle for her peculiar and original style of work is proof positive that the song is a winner. Miss Sinclair has the first rights of the song, which can also be procured for certain pantomimes.

Gustave Hagenbeck, at the Indian arena, Franco-British Exhibition; William Schreida, elephant trainer; and Havadja, attendant, were summoned before Mr. Garrett, at West London on Monday with being concerned in cruelly abusing and terrifying two elephants, contrary to the Wild Animals in Captivity Protection Act. The case was adjourned to Nov. 3.

Mr. J. J. James, an entertainer who calls himself "the pierrot," is making his appearance at the Chelsea Palace next week in his funny and refined turn.

Miss Melinda May, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., tenders her thanks to Mrs. H. Maud Gamble for her generous gift of two guineas; Miss Maggie Bowman, 10s.; Mrs. Max, 5s.; Mrs. Horn, 2s. 6d. (through Mrs. Doust); Mrs. Eugene Stratton, a large leather trunk; Mr. Edward Luke, Portsmouth, boxes of fancy goods for Christmas tree; Miss Kate Vulcana (collection), 10s.; and Miss Florence Yaymen and Mrs. Redlich, for useful parcels of clothing. Miss May would be grateful for gentlemen's as well as ladies' wearing apparel. Friends of the charity are sure of a welcome to the tea and reception, held every Wednesday, three to five o'clock.

When the renewal of the licence to Mr. George Dance in respect of the Richmond Theatre was called on on Monday at the annual meeting of the music and dancing Licensing Committee for Surrey, Inspector Hart informed the committee that he had been directed by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police to bring to the notice of the committee that Sunday concerts were being held at the theatre, promoted by the National Sunday League. Mr. T. C. Wray, for Mr. Dance, said that the League were giving such concerts in nearly every theatre or place of amusement in London. No complaints had been received as to the concerts held in the past.

Alderman Gregory, of St. Pancras, a member of the executive of the National Sunday League, said that an exactly similar condition of things prevailed in London, as there were no seven-day licences. The League did not seek financial gain from the concerts, which were run purely for the pleasure of the community. They did not ask Mr. Dance to apply for a seven-day licence, and he asked the committee to make no protest. The committee eventually renewed the licence.

Open-air music is apparently not appreciated by the unco' guid at Richmond, for on Monday objection was raised to the renewal to Tom Alfred Brooks of the licence for the garden of the Red Lion Hotel, Castelnau, Barnes. Mr. G. Lodeidges, a churchwarden, of Barnes, who lives 120 yards away, gave evidence, saying that the voice of the lady who sang at the concerts was "like a railway whistle."

The applicant, in his evidence, said that only good music was provided at the concerts, which were of a high-class character. The lady artist referred to had belonged to Mr. Geo. Edwardes's and Mr. Seymour Hicks's companies, and sang at many Masonic gatherings. Many of the inhabitants attended the concerts, and on Saturday evenings the piano was supplemented by a string band. Inspector Hart, of the Metropolitan Police, said that he had attended many of the concerts unknown to the licensee, and he had seen nothing to object to in them. The committee renewed the licence on the condition that there were no Sunday concerts in future, and that the concerts should cease at 10.30 p.m.

There was more trouble over Sunday concerts in connection with the application of Mr. P. Twitchin for the renewal of the licence of the Castle Hotel, Richmond. The licence was held in respect of a large concert hall accommodating 800 people, "and if," said Mr. J. Wells Thatcher, who represented the licensee, "there could be any nuisance to the residents by the holding of the concerts it could only exude through the opening of some of the windows during the warm weather."

The Chairman: What about the Sunday concerts? If we grant the licence for six days you cannot use it for seven. Mr. Twitchin replied that he merely provided music for people having tea there. He made no charge for admission on Sundays. As it was done in well-known restaurants in London on Sundays he did not think that he was doing any harm. All he had was a piano and a vocalist. In the end the committee granted the renewal on condition that the Sunday concerts were discontinued.

At Bolton last week Charcot caused tremendous excitement with his great blindfold drive. Long before the time announced for starting large crowds began to gather in the vicinity of the Grand, and when Charcot emerged he was met by a solid wall of people stretching from the hall right along the main thoroughfare numbering some thousands. It was with the greatest difficulty the police cleared a way for Charcot's smart open carriage and beautiful pair of greys, after which, to the utter amazement of the beholders, he galloped off accompanied by Mr. Kenyon, followed by Miss Kate Carney and friends in her motor.

A whole tour of Bolton and its environments was covered and a safe return back to the Grand, where thousands still waited in anxious expectancy of seeing Charcot's automatic man released from his perilous position. Charcot's act since last in town has undergone great improvement, and wherever he goes he plays to record business. This fact coupled with such a sensational novelty has induced Mr. George Barclay to take it in hand, and this should mean plenty of dates for Charcot.

At the Paisley Hippodrome on Wednesday evening there was celebrated the second anniversary of the opening of the establishment. The first performance was under the distinguished patronage and presence of the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Councillors of Paisley and other well-known people of the town. Following the custom of the previous two years, Mr. E. H. Bostock again divided the entire proceeds of the first performance between the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, the Victoria Eye Infirmary, the Consumptive Sanatorium, and the Workshop for the Blind—all charitable institutions of the town.

A meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation was held yesterday afternoon at the Bedford Head, Maiden-lane. We were informed that it was not open to the Press, and that the proceedings were of a purely private character.

Mr. George Anthony, once a famous song writer and composer, died in San Francisco on Sept. 29, age fifty years. He was known in that city as Pat Kelly.

The news was flashed across the ocean that Mr. Isidore Witmark, who has many friends in London, was engaged to be married to Miss Violet Hahn, of Chicago. It was always thought that "Issy" was much too busy to think of matrimony, but he has evidently found just time enough to select a charming companion and helpmate, and his many friends are showering him with congratulations.

Miss Ray Maskell, the popular comedienne and speciality dancer, has created quite a furore with her new dancing act, *Rehearsing Before the Show*, introducing a new song by Phil Myvern, entitled "My big umbrella," at the Apollo Theatre, Berlin, where she tops the bill for the month of October. She opens at the Alhambra, Paris, Nov. 1.

"Pigs in Clover," Mr. Lawson's latest production, is continuing its successful run, and will be seen at Shoreditch and Walthamstow during the coming week. Crowded houses at the Holborn Empire testify to Mr. Lawson's drawing powers. Without a doubt he has at last found a sketch to beat *Humanity* in the matter of packing different halls.

The 581st meeting of the M.H.A.R.A. was held on Wednesday. Mr. Fred Herbert (vice-chairman) presided. There were also present W. H. Atlas, F. W Millis (vice-president), T. C. Callaghan, Harold Finden, Johnny Alexander, J. Tray, Horace White, and Marriott Edgar. The weekly statement showed an increase of 33 new members, and the receipts amounted to £50 16s. 6d.

Mr. Monte Bayly, the secretary of the V.A.F., states that the total amount of money paid by members, either in red, black, or subscription stamps, from the foundation of the Variety Artists' Federations up to the present time, has been £18,222 14s. 2d. The Emergency Fund has reached £620. During the year £3,333 worth of red stamps and £755 worth of black stamps had been sold.

Mr. T. Allan Edwardes, a prominent theatrical manager in the Midlands, will take over on Monday, Nov. 2, the Grand Theatre, Blackpool, where he will present high-class variety twice nightly. At present Mr. Edwardes runs the Grand and Palace Theatres, Derby, the Stoke Hippodrome, and the Sheffield Palace, and is credited with the intention of stirring things up in Blackpool during the winter.

Mr. Marriott Edgar, the entertaining light comedian, is scoring heavily at the Willesden Hippodrome this week. Mr. Edgar, who arranges all his own "business" and writes his songs, has an exceedingly amusing ditty on the subject of the colour red. Attired in a gorgeous scarlet lounge suit, he tells the audience, in diverting fashion, why he favours that showy hue, why tomatoes are red, and why his Satanic Majesty is represented in the colour of a flame. The verses, which are interspersed with laughable comments, are followed by a "gag" song, in which Mr. Edgar deals in humorous fashion with the ancient use of kilts in the Scottish regiments and the introduction of trousers. The turn has proved immensely popular.

Miss Pansy Montague, world-famed as La Milo, the beautiful young poseuse, has again been attacked by pulpit censure and prejudice. She is making her first appearance in the Walter de Frece circuit at the Hippodrome, Portsmouth. Hardly had La Milo alighted from her beautiful 30-h.p 6-cylinder car—in which, accompanied by her sister, she covered the distance from London on Sunday afternoon—before Stiggins made her the subject of his pharisaical censure from at least three pulpits, throwing out that innuendo which poisons truth and blinds justice.

If the booking-office is the test of public appreciation and approval, the ultra-Puritan has had one of the most withering defeats that clean truth can inflict, for on the rising of the curtain on the first night, despite his criticism of the unheard and unseen, La Milo was greeted by a tumult of delight, which must have done much to force into the heart of her most bitter opponents the conviction that, after all, Art was not the indecent exposition which the local Stiggins endeavours to prove it. However that may be, La Milo is scoring such a victory in Portsmouth that proofs are not wanting of the deposition of Prejudice and the enthroning of Truth, and the nimbus so exclusively claimed by the ultra-Puritan has lost some of its personal advertisement and dangerous glow.

Her defence of Art against the artfulness of her opponents in the pulpit points to the success of the week, and runs in line with the pluck and astuteness of Mr. Walter de Frece in deciding to compete against local and other influence for the public favour which is assured to him in his appreciative engagement of this world-known star, despite the fact that there are six other competing halls in the town.

If we desired personally a mentor in the domain of railway travel we should seek the guidance of Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, who did such yeoman service for the variety artist when he assisted in the establishment of the M.H.A.R.A. His handy "Railway Fare Book" is an absolute boon and blessing to the touring professional. Important advice is given regarding lost luggage, and special notes for artists travelling to or from the Continent are of great value. The times of rehearsals at London and provincial halls are also handy. This vade-mecum should be in the possession of every professional. Sixpence is the price, and twopence of this goes to the V.A.B.F.

When the act-drop rolls down on other places of amusement in Douglas the little Empire Theatre there still continues open with two houses nightly at popular prices. Mr. Charles Dare, who is also responsible for the burnt cork comedians, vocalists, and variety artists on the Head, has been for nigh on two decades the proprietor and lessee of this popular and pretty little playhouse. In his absence Mr. Rex Sugden takes charge, and an interesting programme is presented. The animated pictures are of the finest calibre and quite up to date. Mr. Syd Herman is a clever comedian whose talent as a raconteur is considerable.

A most successful charity matinée was given, by permission of Mr. Oswald Stoll, at the Hackney Empire on Thursday, to aid the cause of the underfed children of the neighbourhood, for which the Mayor of Hackney is raising a fund. The Lord Mayor, who takes a warm interest in the efforts made to cope with one of the most painful problems of London's poverty, gave his personal patronage, and brought the Sheriffs with him, and the Mayor of Hackney and many of the Borough Councillors were also present. Among the artists who entertained were Miss Evie Greene, Mr. Lewis Waller, Mr. George Lashwood, Mr. Ernest Shand, Mr. George Gray, the King's College Boys, and a number of others. Mr. Percy Percival, the popular resident manager, personally superintended the arrangements, and the affair was a gigantic success.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Pantomime artists will be eager to secure Messrs. Francis and Day's latest "find" in the song line, a magnificent number by Fred Godfrey, Percy Edgar, and T. W. Thurban. It has one of the sweetest and most ear-haunting choruses ever written, and the item has been named "In the land of the kangaroo."

Mr. James Moran, the new Scotch comedian, opens in New York in December. Messrs. Francis and Day have secured the numbers with which he made so great a success at the Coliseum.

Mr. David Day's firm are issuing a clever song by Percy Tarling and Percy Vere, entitled "Won't you come for a canoodle in my canoe?"

Mr. Wilkie Bard's fine new song, "She sells sea shells," which Messrs. Francis and Day are publishing, is spoken of as likely to be in great request at police stations. Any person who can sing the chorus at sight is undoubtedly sober. The song is by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford.

A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott's latest and greatest chorus song, "Molly Maloney," had its first London production on Monday evening, at the Empress, Brixton. Mr. Dan Thomas was the successful exponent. He drove on to the stage with a real jaunting car and pony, and, after singing the song, was joined by a pretty Irish colleen, and after a wonderful reel she drove off with the happy jarvey, to the accompaniment of thunderous applause. Mr. Thomas was called before the curtain several times, and had to make a speech before he was allowed to finally retire. The Star Music Company are the lucky publishers.

During the past few weeks all the London publishers have been bombarded with applications for Harry Bedford's sensational skit on the Salome craze, "Salome—the sheep's head and tin tack." This is undoubtedly the biggest thing Mr. Bedford has done since his famous "A little bit off the top." Anyway, the applications have only met with blank replies up to now, but we understand the Star Music Company have been successful in securing this great number at an exceptionally heavy price. Comedians should apply early for copies, as pantomime rights are restricted to one for each town, and the ditty has been instantaneously secured for several of the big cities.

Tom Costello, who returned to town on Monday, has been appearing at the Hammersmith and Chelsea Palaces, in A. J. Mills and Bennett Scott's Irish emigrant song-scena, "Homeland, good-bye." Mr. F. H. Bull has duplicated his beautiful scenery and effects so that Mr. Costello could present the number to advantage at both houses. As a stage picture it is superb; as a song, it is enough to say Mr. Costello will not want to replace it for at least two years. "Homeland, good-bye" is published by the Star Music Co.

Arthur Sutcliffe is the latest recruit to the light comedians who help to dispel the care of weary Londoners. Though by no means an unknown performer, having a great provincial reputation, Mr. Sutcliffe is making his first bow to a London Pavilion audience. He is fortunate in being equipped with the two numbers "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" which he sings with delightful abandon and breeziness. His songs are published by the Star Music Co.

Miss Marie Blythe, who has been associated with many popular chorus songs, is just now exploiting one of the Star Company's special numbers, "Don't put your umbrella up before it starts to rain." This song was a "hit" in London, but in the provinces it simply creates a furore. Miss Blythe is never allowed to retire with less than four calls, and usually a speech and an encore number are necessary before the next turn can go on. Such successes as these are few and far between, and principal boys and girls who want not only pretty numbers but those which also bring thunders of applause should secure this gem.

M. Witmark and Sons, whose efforts to supply the profession with all sorts of material are so much appreciated, have just published "The Witmark Aid to Entertainers." This booklet is a veritable encyclopædia of information for all kinds and conditions of amusement caterers. Lists of joke books, gag books, sketches, quartets, duets, and illustrated songs form a portion of the book, which is not only entertaining in itself, but is useful and instructive.

Managers and artists desirous of obtaining the tuneful jingles and rhymes with which to please their pantomime audiences wend their way to Witmark's, for this name conjures up the many successful songs that have delighted countless thousands.

The plentiful supply of excellent numbers offered by the Witmarks this year will doubtless be fully appreciated by the many patrons who have in former years taken advantage of the good things handed out at the "Home of Melody and Song."

The halfpenny dailies have recently been predicting the names of some songs as likely to be heard in the coming season's pantomimes. The limitations of space may have caused omission of others that have just as good a chance of being heard on Boxing Night. Many a principal boy, and possibly not a few comedians, will be declaiming their inability to get away from the girls:—

I can't get away from the girls—
The girls with the curly curls.
They've captured me, and now you see
I can't get away from the girls.

This song is published by Charles Sheard, and another from the same house that is destined to make a great reputation for itself and many a charming stage motorist is "Hold me tighter, Mr. Lighter." This is the chorus:—

Hold me tighter, Mr. Lighter, Mr. Lighter, pray!
I won't be the least bit afraid if you'll hold that way.
Round the world I would love to spin if you'll always just hold me in—
Hold a little bit tighter, Mr. Lighter, pray!

The inevitable coon song has a most piquant example of its genius this year in "Ma Limelight Lou," also issued by the firm of Sheard. Here is the chorus:—

Dainty Limelight Lou, how I worship you!
Somehow there is that about you that I cannot live without you.
Saucy little maid, why are you afraid?
Aggravatin', zasperatin', dainty Limelight Lou.

Another of Charles Sheard's songs that is certain to prove a great pantomime success, with its highly melodious maternal injunction to a tom-boy daughter, who is waiting for her sweetheart and amusing herself with swinging on the garden gate, is "Jennie! Jennie! Jennie! don't swing on the gate." Here is the refrain:—

Now, Jennie, don't swing on the gate;
It's certainly getting too late.
The bees have stopped humming, there's nobody coming—
Now, Jennie, don't swing on the gate!

"A DAY IN PARIS."

Ballet, in Five Scenes, by Lieut.-Col. N. Newnham-Davis; music composed and arranged by Cuthbert Clarke; produced by Fred Farren at the Empire on Monday, Oct. 19.

Jacques Bonnair	Mr. Fred Farren
Georges Legay	Miss Trevesick
Paul Sorel	Miss F. Martell
John Bullivant Smith	Mr. Jameson
Augusta Euphemia	Miss Elise Clerc
Ethel	Miss G. Tree
Poppy	Miss Phyllis Bedells
A Nurse	Miss M. Paston
A French Officer	Miss Hilda Edwardes
Le Comte de Canteloup	Mr. T. Walls
Sarotte	Miss B. Collier
Apaches	Messrs. Hunter and Ford
Mimi la Feuille	Miss D. Payer
Marie	Miss B. Hill
Phrynette	Miss Elsie Collier
La Granada	Mme. Zanfretta
La Gloire de Paris / L'Arc-en Ciel	Mlle. Lydia Kyasht

A ballet having for the base of its scenario la ville lumière comes with special appropriateness at a house like the Empire, which ministers in its scheme of amusement largely to the foreign dwellers in its immediate neighbourhood; and in securing the aid of the cosmopolitan Lieut.-Col. Newnham-Davis to map out the scheme and supply the plot the directorate have shown wisdom. The ballet might have been Chauvinistic in tone, or politically significant; but the librettist—wisely, as it seems to us—seems to have been content to present to us the gaiety of the city as it appears to the man in the street, and to have introduced into its various scenes well-known Parisian types. The ballet was produced on Monday amid manifestations of enthusiasm from a crowded house; and it was evident that the up-to-date nature of the production made a very popular appeal to every portion of the house. The superb mounting of the spectacle accentuates the brightness and brio of Parisian life, as it is seen through English eyes; there is just sufficient realism to give a dramatic touch to one or two of the scenes; and the final spectacle—the Artists' Ball at the Moulin Rouge—will become the talk of London. In its conception and development the sumptuously-mounted novelty reminds one of the *Round the Town* ballet, one of the most famous of Empire productions, of which there was a second edition. The adventures of Mr. Bullivant Smith (of Brixton), his wife and two daughters, who are on a trip to Paris, give all the necessary stimulus to the action. The Britisher has a decided inclination to flirt with La Granada, a smart model, upon whom he lavishes presents. In her turn Mrs. Bullivant Smith is on very friendly terms with a lively and nimble art student from the Latin quartier, who for the nonce assumes the costume and carries out the duties of guide.

The party commence their short Parisian pilgrimage at the Place de l'Opéra, where they witness a quaint dance of bakers' boys and midinettes. A scene on the quays gives an excellent conception of the grandeur of Notre Dame; and the gaiety and chic of the Parisians receive excellent illustration in the Champs Elysées scene, where a crowd composed of blanchisseuses, midinettes, artists, military students, street singers, and artists' models assemble. We have a delightful dance of children and nurses, in which Miss Phyllis Bedells, late of the Prince of Wales's, distinguishes herself. The military spectacle that succeeds the dances, and which forms a triumphant conclusion for the third scene, is particularly striking, the ballerine being dressed as cuirassiers, chasseurs d'Afrique, and dragoons. Later the troops are joined by a pretty coterie of cantinières, who join the officers in a dance. The Hôtel des Invalides in the background suddenly vanishes, and in its place is seen a fine tableau of the First Napoleon on horseback, surrounded by his troops, after the victory of Austerlitz; and Mlle. Kyasht, at the end of a particularly inspiring and pretty dance, poses most effectively as La Gloire de Paris.

The exterior of the Moulin Rouge shows us the sails of the "Red Mill" illuminated, and here we are treated to a most dramatic dance—the Apache—which is undoubtedly the great hit of the production. Miss Beatie Collier as the woman is really powerful in her creation of the truculent outcast, and shows rare ability both as a pantomimist and dancer. The duo between her and Mr. Fred Farren will be the rage of London if we are not mistaken.

The artists' ball is a happily-arranged feast of colour, for beneath a gigantic canopy of soft silk lit by prismatic arcs of electric light the revels of the ballerine are conducted. Mauve, blue, apricot, vieux rose, pink, heliotrope—all of the most delightful shades—are seen in the various divisions of the dancers. A group of Directoire belles appear, gowned in beautifully-draped robes of clinging white charmeuse, with large hats of white silk gauze and white uncurled ostrich plumes. The robes are heavily embroidered with gold in classical designs, and long scarves of silk gauze are draped across the shoulder, harmonising with a knot of coloured ribbons in the hat and with the lining of the robes themselves. A most original number is a cosmopolitan dance that is given by a selected contingent of coryphées, wearing mob caps. They commence with a country dance à l'Anglaise to the strains of "Cherry Ripe," and then, rapidly doffing their top skirts, appear in shorter costumes of richly-shaded orange, in which they accomplish the seguedilla. They eventually descend to the cake-walk, which is not exactly the poetry of motion, but is nevertheless still popular. Mlle. Lydia Kyasht's Russian dance is an interesting feature that comes towards the end of the ballet, which finished on Monday amid a hurricane of applause.

We have spoken of most of the principals, but we must give a word of praise to the excellent acting of Mme. Zanfretta as La Granada, who is the very embodiment of irresponsible gaiety; Miss Elsie Collier distinguishes herself in a solo as Phrynette; and Miss Elise Clerc's Augusta Euphemia is an amusing British matron with a nice assortment of delightful dance measures. Mr. T. Walls is decidedly clever in his character study of Le Comte de Canteloup. M. Wilhelm has again designed a magnificent colour scheme, and the production by Fred Farren reveals much ingenuity.

A large audience assembled at the Hastings Hippodrome on Tuesday evening to congratulate Mr. Walter Norman, the respected assistant-manager, on commencing his third year of office there.

The Canadians Troupe of John E. Brewster concluded their engagement with the Circo Alegria, Barcelona, on the 10th, and opened on the 11th at the Casino Espositione in Zaragoza (Saragossa).

Harry Carlo, of the Lach and Ford Trio, was arrested last week at Brixton, taken back to Jersey, and prosecuted at the local Police Court, where he was charged on Saturday last with having committed a serious assault on the person of Mr. Stanley Hope outside the Opera House on the night of Sept. 19. Carlo was remanded in custody.

Rarely have we met (writes a correspondent) such a clever entertainer as Mr. Frank Fredella. On Monday night at the Royal Assembly Rooms, Leamington, he kept the eyes of the audience riveted upon him as he gave his character impersonations of a lady vocalist and a Frenchman in English comic opera. As a mimic he was not less successful, and his acting as tragedian in *The Vagabond King* was much appreciated.

Charles Bradley, 45, a licensed pedlar, was charged at Lambeth Police Court on Monday with having in his possession and offering for sale eighteen copies of pirated music at Camberwell Green. The offence was proved by Mr. Arthur Preston, chief agent to the Music Publishers' Association. Mr. Hopkins (to the prisoner): It is a traffic we are all concerned to stop. I always fine the same amount. It is £5.

Councillor E. H. Bostock, of the Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow, has at present on view that mysterious hybrid animal which for want of a more definite name has been called the Uneeka. When sold at Tattersall's it realised £1,350, and an offer of £2,000 by Barnum and Bailey was afterwards refused for it. The animal is of special interest, both to people of scientific views and to the general public.

At the Coliseum, Glasgow, on Sunday Mr. Harry Burdette, resident-manager, organised an excellent concert in aid of the Unemployed Relief Fund. Bailie Archibald Campbell presided over a large audience. The programme included selections by a male-voice choir and numerous vocal and instrumental solos, while the contributions of the Coliseum Orchestra under Mr. Tom Walker were among the most enjoyable items.

A fire broke out on Monday afternoon at Lunéville Theatre during a cinematograph performance. It was noticed by the firemen on duty that a Soffit curtain had caught fire, and they quietly told the management to inform the spectators that the projecting apparatus had broken down, and the performance could not go on. The public left the theatre without suspecting that there was anything wrong. A few minutes afterwards the whole theatre was a mass of flames, nothing but the four walls being left standing. The coolness of the firemen avoided a catastrophe.

The National Music Publishing Company has acquired Mr. Fred Elton's 100-guinea song, entitled "When the leaves are tinged with gold." This they are making free for pantomime. They have also arranged with Mr. George Lashwood for an immediate production of two entirely original numbers, entitled "Nicolo, Nicolo, play on your piccolo," and "If it's a lady." Principal boys or girls should not overlook last year's tremendous success at the Princess Theatre, Glasgow, "My Little Eva." Among other numbers free for pantomime are "I wish I had a pal like you," "Call round any old time," "Kate, will you roller-skate?" and "I don't want to go on the Flip-Flap."

THE TIVOLI.

Cosmopolitanism reigns in most music-hall programmes, but there is something specially English about the scheme of amusement that Manager Joe Wilson is just now presenting. We know that Little Tich is an accomplished linguist, and that his artistic conceptions of character have won the praise of no less a master of comedy than Coquelin *aîné*; but at the Tivoli he is decidedly British, and presents types that are easily understood of the people. His "Keeper at the Zoo" touches the risible faculties immediately, and it forms a subject on which much more diverting gag and business might be grafted. The "Park-keeper" has very much developed in its broad drollery since we first laughed at its oddities. The sketch of character has increased unction, and the whimsical nature of the business throughout proves how much the possibilities of a number may be developed in the hands of a real comedian. As a final item, in answer to the strenuous demands of packed audiences Little Tich has to lengthen his turn by his remarkably clever assumption of "Miss Turpentine," a lady of the ballet who, like the aunt of Charles Surface, sets a value upon herself. It was an East End audience that first laughed at the germs of this really clever parody; but the West End has now set the seal of its approval upon its fun.

Mr. Wilkie Bard is exploiting a very amusing song, "Sea Shells," in which those who sing the chorus are likely to get their tongues in a tangle; Mr. Harry Randall has the house entirely with him in his patter song, "The Parlour Queen"; and Mr. Phill Ray's abbreviated English is as funny as ever. Mr. Tom Woottwell, the globe-trotting comedian, has a quaint item in "Not a word"; and Mr. George Robey keeps the house in a roar with his lion-tamer song.

Miss Millie Hylton has a real comedy song in "If I weren't so ladylike," to which she does complete justice. She wears two magnificent costumes, and the taste exhibited in these creations of the couturier's art is unexceptionable. One is in a lovely shade of grey—but it is not for the mere man to attempt the description of such lovely confections. There is probably nothing in which the variety stage has advanced so much as in the stage costumes of its lady stars. In the language of the Boulevards, Miss Hylton's dresses are *le dernier cri*. Miss Sadie Jerome gives a short entertainment in which she describes the walks of the Parisienne, the athletic girl, and Maud Allan. She appeals in another song to the Man in the Moon. This astronomical gentleman is becoming very popular. Miss Daisy Jerome is effective in her dramatic song; Miss Madoline Rees is pursuing her career as a comedienne with much success; and Miss Madge Grey's stories concerning the Kiddies are heartily welcomed. Marcel and Boris combine cleverly the art of hand-balancing and musical selections; and Selbo, a clever club juggler, on the night of our visit took the place of Paul Cinquevalli. Mr. Ernest Shand rouses the echoes with his quaint "parson" song; and the Poluski Brothers burlesque the illustrated song with much success, one of the brothers assisting the fun from the grand circle. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope presents a series of interesting pictures. Mr. James Howell's courtesy in front and the excellent work of the band under Mr. Walter Johnson are features of the Tivoli management that should not be overlooked.

Frame, of "Hooch aye" fame, finishes his successful vaudeville tour of Scotland at (the Tail o' the Bank) Greenock, to-day.

Mr. J. H. Leroy, the Australian high trapeze performer, has finished a successful summer with John Penfold, and is resting until fresh engagements.

Madame Isobel, of 48, Shaftesbury-avenue, Piccadilly, W., is a new aspirant for fame in the world of theatrical dress. Costumes on the stage are growing more elaborate every day, and it is a necessity with the artist to consult a mistress of taste and ingenuity. Madame Isobel guarantees the latest styles and lowest prices.

The gaiety of Paris was further enhanced by the production of the new revue at the Moulin Rouge last week. It was especially interesting to the English auditors, as the cast included Fred Wright, jun., who was formerly a great Gaiety favourite, and now has firmly placed himself as a Parisian star of the first magnitude. His pantomime scene and dances with Gaby des Lys, who was also at the Gaiety, made the distinct hit of the performance, and was received by rounds of applause and half a dozen calls before the curtain. Mr. John Tiller's Manchester Mites have established themselves as great favourites, and make one of the successes of the revue. Among the songs introduced were "He's my pal," "Cupid is the captain of the army," "Way down in Colon Town," "Kiss, kiss, kiss," "I could learn to love a soldier," all published by M. Witmark and Sons, and also "Has anyone seen a German band?" which is controlled by the Whitmark Paris House.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

ANOTHER GREAT PANTOMIME NUMBER.

"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO"

(By FRED GODFREY, PERCY EDGAR, and T. W. THURBAN).

Principal Boys and Girls should secure this Number,

Which has just been added to the following Phenomenal List of Successes:

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"WHO SAID HE DON'T LIKE GIRLS?"
"L.S.D."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"SHADOWLAND."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL."
"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."
"ON THE CLIFFS OF NORMANDY."
"SWEETHEART DAYS."
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"BOMBADIER."
"MANDY'S WEDDING."
"ARE YOU THE LITTLE GIRL I MET THE OTHER EVENING?"

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER.

WINNIE STANHOPE.

A UNIQUE TURN.

A FEW PRESS OPINIONS.

Winnie Stanhope, who has lately joined the music halls, is a dainty and fascinating little lady with a style quite her own. Her French song, which she delivers in a truly chic manner, is most exhilarating, and it should be, considering it was written by those talented authors Harrington and Powell. Then there's "A Lot to Learn," by Leigh and Pether, in itself a creation, and a saucy little monologue "Beautiful Stories of Love"; and as a fillip we get a military comedy song of the first water, into which Winnie introduces the sword exercise as done in the Army, and very smart it is.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Miss Stanhope has had varied experience, being on the stage from childhood; has played in comic opera, musical comedy, drama, farcical comedy, burlesque, and is one of the best principal girls Pantomime can introduce, so she can claim to be a very versatile artist. Her dresses are in quite the best of style and taste.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Winnie Stanhope is the most dainty of comediennes, the clear enunciation of her songs, rendered in quaint conversational style, being particularly taking.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Quite the most chic and dainty style of comedienne is Winnie Stanhope, whose French song is particularly striking.

MISS WINNIE STANHOPE.

Undoubtedly the tit-bit of the menu is Winnie Stanhope, with her tricks of voice and manner and chic way of dressing. She captivates every heart from gallery to boxes.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Winnie Stanhope comes on as a refresher. Her turn is so different from anything else.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Winnie Stanhope is quite the daintiest thing in frocks and frills, is a graceful dancer, and has a very sweet voice which she uses in a tricky manner.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Not least is Winnie Stanhope, the clever and dainty little lady who made such a big hit as principal girl in last Easter pantomime.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

With a good stage presence, lovely dresses, original songs, and her graceful dancing, Winnie Stanhope got right there.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Winnie Stanhope is undoubtedly a real good comedy actress, has a sweet soprano voice, is a graceful dancer, added to a pretty and dainty appearance; is an acquisition to any programme.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Winnie Stanhope in "Lovelight" song, with mirror effects, is her usual piquant self.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Winnie Stanhope made a terrific hit with the Tunbridge Wells audience on Monday night with "Lovelight," with mirror effects, her dainty and chic style getting straight there.

WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.
WINNIE STANHOPE.

Address, "The Era" Office; or Agents.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE OXFORD.

Mr. Will Evans is adding much to the gaiety of Londoners, and incidentally of many of their country cousins, by his comic behaviour as the better half of Mr. Brown, who is waiting up in her feather-stitched nighty for that lagging husband, determined to give him a taste of "Mrs. Morgan's Cure" for the staying late at the club propensities of the husband of the British matron. The scene is a hall and staircase in a "desirable" residence in a southern suburb, and it is evident that Mrs. Brown means business by the playful way in which she handles a poker. With this weapon she proposes to administer tincture of iron in a more solidified form than is usual, and poor Brown, who is probably drowning care at the nearest pub., but little anticipates his warm reception. While waiting we hear some interesting particulars of Mrs. Morgan and her methods, which excite continuous laughter; and the more boisterous fun commences with the arrival of a gentleman whose potations have been deep and frequent. He has a warm time, and while he is being belaboured, another tipsy reveller invades the domestic hearth of the vigorous Mrs. Brown. He is none other than Brown. The first is Morgan. Mrs. Brown soon discovers her mistake, but when she tackles Mr. Brown she finds she has caught a tartar, and the curtain falls upon a mirthful melée. There is plenty of exuberant drollery in the concoction, which is from the pens of Messrs. Neville Piggott and George Arthurs.

Mr. Ernest Shand is exploiting his "last pub" song with immense success. There is many a true word spoken in jest; and it is evident that among the audience there are a large number of opponents of the bill, who vigorously applaud any sentence of condemnation passed by the comedian. In "What would the congregation say?" Mr. Shand has a curate's song in which the worldliness of both the vicar and his subordinate are very humorously and unctuously described.

Miss Mabel Bright, a dainty little girl, accompanies herself at the piano, and is generally concerned with coon songs and dances; Miss Edie King is a delightful dancer; and Miss Florence Esdaile, a prima donna who hails from the country of Melba, sings with much brio and culture.

Mr. Harry Randall has another great success in his "Parlour Queen" song. The lady monarch in this instance is the "general," who keeps the missus and the master completely under her thumb. She is an engaging little pet, gowned in pink cotton, and her "talk" evokes roars of laughter. Mr. George Robey's lion-tamer becomes a more amusing personage every week; and Mr. Wilkie Bard's business in his latest item, "She sells seashells on the seashore," convulses the house. Miss Alexandra Dagmar is quite up-to-date with an expressive and brilliant rendering of her new song, "A Marriage of Mayfair," well written by George Arthurs and Orlando Powell; and there are cheers in abundance for M. Van Biene, the actor-musician, in the playlet by Thos. Broadhurst, *The Master Musician*. In this he plays the 'cello like the great artist he is. Mr. Phil Ray's abbreviated gags are better understood perhaps at the Oxford than at any other hall; Miss May Mars is popular in her songs; the Poluski Brothers present successfully a new entertainment, entitled "Pictures"; and Foreman and Fannan's gags touch the springs of laughter. Miss Ethel Whiteside's piccanninnies dance uncommonly well; and there is plenty of entertainment to be found in Howard and Collinson's duologue, *The Porter and the Parcel*. Other attractions in the fine bill presented by the popular Mr. Blyth-Pratt are the San Remo Girls, a trio of fascinating comediennes and dancers; Miss Nora Guy, comedienne; Little Tich, labelled as the world's leading comedian; the episode *Christmas Eve;* and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, with some capital films.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

The programmes at this popular hall are still maintained at a high level of excellence, and the audiences are, as a consequence, very large, seats being at a premium. Clark and Hamilton are at the top of the bill, and this popular couple score as big a success as ever with their patter, singing, and playing. Their reception was very hearty on Monday, and for an encore an effective Japanese scena was given. Bennie Barron, a youthful baritone, proved himself the possessor of a powerful voice, his singing of "Thora" being marked by great taste. The Ten Zerbinis, Continental speciality artists, present a very effective and gorgeous novelty entitled *The Enchanted Glen*. As instrumentalists their abilities are very great, and a large number of selections were very cordially received. An item of the act that caused great amusement was a burlesque of Sousa, very capitally done by one of the youthful members of the company, the same gentleman also giving a clever dance. Needless to say, the whole turn went with a swing, and was well greeted at the close.

Millie Payne, low comedy queen, scored an unmistakable hit in her two songs, "Tea-cup" and a number on the "Directoire" craze, the audience being loth to let her go. F. W. Purcell's company present the successful comedietta *That Brute Simmons*. The trifle is capitally written, and caused unlimited laughter, a result that Miss Oliph Webb and Messrs. Julian Cross and George Delaforce have to be thanked for, the acting by these three experienced players being altogether admirable. Another comedy sketch, *Her Birthday*, also figures in the programme, being performed by Miss Minnie Hunt and Mr. Rhys Thomas. This also was responsible for a good deal of laughter, and was smartly played.

Bonnie Goodwin's four real Apollo Piccaninnies, in a clever dancing act, with the assistance of Miss Lily Vine, gave a wonderful exhibition for such youthful artists, and secured a great reception that was well deserved. Walter King, comedian, who opened the programme, did well, his patter creating much amusement. Miss Marie Dainton, who is at the bottom of the bill, gives an interesting series of imitations, including Harry Lauder, Marie Lloyd, Connie Ediss, Evie Green, Hayden Coffin, &c. Her very faithful portrayals created great enthusiasm, and the gifted lady had to concede several encores. The Bioscope is amusing this week, and Mr. Camp's excellent orchestra renders valuable assistance throughout the evening.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

Despite Mr. George Dance's multifarious engagements he finds time to keep a watchful eye on his Richmond venture, and a good bill is the rule rather than the exception. Mystery is represented by a somewhat wonderful example of blackboard magic; in truth "Bhudda's Blackboard" is altogether mystifying, as in addition to replying to queries in caligraphic characters and removing all evidence at will from "Bhudda's Blackboard," the most satisfactory reply seemed to be the fate of the present Government, "How long will the present Government last?" queried someone of the audience athirst for information. "Two months," was the reply. Gus Harriss touched vocally on the Chosen Race. Francis and Alfred bring a lot of fun to bear on their balancing tricks, and are exceedingly clever. There is little in this peculiar line of business that Francis and Alfred do not know, and their methods are generally clean-cut and entirely praiseworthy.

Athas and Collins are popular and refreshingly funny; the "scarecrow" of Athas is quite a droll impersonation. A burlesque melodrama is smartly rattled through by this talented couple, and a coon song and dance raised the audience to a pitch of enthusiasm, and an encore was inevitable. Quite a gossip is Cullpitt, who combines conjuring with cajolery, and wins a lot of applause, which no one grudges. Cullpitt may be complimented on his effrontery and good humour. Mr. J. Drinkwater sings with plenty of spirit and dresses the part well; to this may be traced the reason for his well-deserved popularity.

Probably the funniest item in the bill is the exasperating cleverness of Mooney and Holbein's company, for they would draw smiles from a Stoic. There are four in this remarkably humorous crowd, and everyone works for dear life—and the amusement of the audience. The hit of the sketch belongs to an irresponsible nigger, whose difficulties in vending the succulent bivalve are the source of trouble and joy. The Bioscope is excellent.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

A distinct feature of the entertainment at the Camberwell Empire this week is furnished by Mr. Herbert Cottesmore's company in *The Old Willow Plate*, an operatic phantasy, written by Robert Wilford, with music by Mark Strong. This little musical comedy, which was seen for the first time on Monday, is produced on a very elaborate scale. An excellent representaion of a large willow plate, of the dimensions of a full act drop, is first placed before our view. It dissolves, and reveals an exceedingly pretty and picturesque Chinese house and garden. This scene, as well as the opening one, is a capital piece of artistic work on the part of Mr. Francis Bull. *The Old Willow Plate* tells the story of a Chinese legend many centuries old, and shows that the course of true love, even in those ancient days, never ran smooth. Li-Chi, the daughter of a Chinese mandarin, falls in love with Chang, her father's secretary, but the mandarin, having other intentions regarding his daughter's future, upon discovering the state of affairs discharges Chang, who, before departing promises Li-Chi that he will return before the peach trees are in bloom. Six months elapse and we find the peach trees in full blossom, and Tajui, a wealthy noble selected by the mandarin as a fitting husband for his daughter, arrives to claim his bride. Li-Chi receives no tidings of Chang, her betrothed, but in the nick of time he arrives in a magic boat, fashioned by the aid of the Goddess of Love from the shell of a cocoanut. The lovers are about to elope when they are intercepted by the mandarin, who calls upon the God of Thunder to destroy them; but the Goddess of Love, true to her promise, transforms them into two doves, who, we are told, are to live and love for ever. The piece is extremely well acted, and the vocal numbers, notably "Whisper it, Bluebell," "Good-night," "A beach tree," and "Two doves," are rendered in fine style.

There are several other interesting items in the programme. Little Victoria, the "bijou comedienne," repeats her success of last week at the Middlesex, her delivery of "Will you buy a bunch of shamrock?" and "Take me on the flip-flap" being most pleasing to the ear. Mr. Ronald Bagnall tells some amusing stories and sings to his own accompaniment; and Wills and Warlock are seen and heard to advantage in a capital comedy dancing act. Haley's Prize Juveniles appear in a beautiful garden scene, and sing and dance in a most attractive manner, their numbers, "Annie Laurie" and "Moonlight," being especially worthy of commendation. Miss Rose Hamilton creates quite a diversion in her ditty, "Don't you think you would like to marry me now?" in which she gives a laughable burlesque of a tragic actress. On her second appearance, this time as a comely Chinese "boy," she delights her hearers with her rendering of "Sing, song See." Mr. Fred Ellis cuts a comical figure as a landlady, and in the song connected therewith, as well as in his other effort, proves highly entertaining. Pearce and Ward in a comedy and burlesque turn arouse in no small degree the risible susceptibilities of the audience; and Mr. Charles Clark, character comedian, wins loud applause for his hunting song. The Arthur-Bedini Trio are seen and admired in a smart and original pantomimic juggling act; and Jeapes' animated graphic brings the evening to a close by a splendid exhibition of pictures.

THE SOUTH LONDON.

Feats of strength and daring are pleasing the patrons of the old-established hall in London-road, where Mr. William Payne so efficiently discharges the difficult duties attaching to the post of manager. The strong man of the bill is Luis Hardt, who makes the significant statement that he cured himself of consumption when in the second stage of that disease by the practice of physical culture. He now presents a muscular specimen of humanity, and exhibits his remarkable development of biceps under a powerful light. Amid a picturesque setting he indulges in novel feats of strength, in one of which he lifts an attendant weighing considerably over 10st. at arm's length above his head. His final feat is the most extraordinary, and consists of sustaining no less than five men, three of whom are clad in real armour, the total weight aggregating nearly to half a ton. The clever performance is loudly and deservedly cheered.

Similar honours await the long-famous Menotti, who precedes a thrilling wire performance by a little target-practice, in the course of which, while seated in a chair balanced on its back legs, he puts out the candle-lights held by an assistant at the other end of the stage. Menotti's chief sensation is reached when he mounts his twentieth-century bicycle track. It consists of a single wire, which is propelled at a rapid rate by electricity, while Menotti, mounted on a bicycle, pedals in an opposite direction. The result is that the performer appears to be stationary, though in reality he is travelling at the rate of forty miles an hour. It is an intrepid feat, and is deservedly acclaimed. Miss Daisy Jerome is a welcome contributor to the bill. Her coon carol, "Can't go home in the dark," is rendered with irresistible point, and is succeeded by the descriptive song, "Temptation." An encore brings forth the popular "Do, re, mi, fa," in the chorus of which the audience revel.

The comedy novelty of Hunter and Maris embraces a series of clever side flip-flaps on the part of the comedian, who is also responsible for a couple of fearful and wonderful appearances while his lady partner is indulging in a song. Mr. Fred Shepard rejoices in the description of "the distinct comedy vocalist," and proves his right to the appellation by rendering two comic songs in a way that makes their humour fully apparent, the possibilities of the phrase, "Lor, lumme, look at that!" being fully tested. "Artful Aladdin" introduces Cromo and Hamilton in a singing and dancing act plentifully furnished with comedy, which is broadened by the comedian clothing his ample proportions in a "Gibson Girl" dress, and passing humorous comments on various portions of his anatomy. The sketch for the week is provided by Mr. Charles Worland's company, in *Cromwell or the King*, those two famous melodramatic associates, Mr. Ashley Page and Miss Marion Denvil, exercising a great impression in the principal rôles. Wilman plays the cornet and other brass instruments with great skill, and the programme is contributed to by the Lester Bros., capital pictures being furnished by Ruffell's Bioscope.

"THE REPTILE'S DEVOTION."

Dramatic Sketch, produced by Mr. Robert Trebor at the Empire Hippodrome, Gainsborough, on Monday, Oct. 19.

King of Umpah .....Mr. Robert Trebor
Mahmud .....Mr. Clifford North
Captain Montague .....Mr. Bert Oates
Princess Cleo .....Miss Kitty Fraser

(from our own correspondent.)

The Reptile's Devotion, a sketch which was produced with considerable success at the Empire Hippodrome, Gainsborough, on Monday, is an artistic and romantic petite drama of Eastern life, and is of a decidedly more refined nature than the usual run of sketches, and given the advantage of a longer stage and more elaborate lighting effects, the success would have been greatly enhanced.

The scene is laid in Eastern climes, at the palace of the King of Umpah, who is madly in love with a Princess Cleo and anxious to make her his Queen. She, however, having met Captain Montague, an English officer, has renounced her old faith and become a Christian. She eventually escapes from the King's Court with Montague. The King, incensed at his discomfiture, sentences her to be tortured by reptiles. Captain Montague, overhearing this decree, disguises himself as Mahmud, one of the King's trusted servants, and obtaining the reptiles for the carrying out of the sentence, substitutes for them some tame snakes belonging to the Princess, knowing they will not harm her. Consequently the Princess, although undergoing the ordeal, is unharmed. The King, enraged at the apparent futility of his intended torture, approaches the Princess, whereupon the snakes which are coiled round her immediately attack him, causing him to fall dead on the spot. Princess Cleo is then proclaimed Queen, and her followers swear their allegiance and adopt the Christian faith.

Miss Kitty Fraser as Princess Cleo gave a graceful rendering of the part. She was artistically dressed, and the portion in which she was supposed to be in the clutches of the deadly serpents was presented in a clever and weird manner. Mr. Robert Trebor was a powerful representative of the cruel ruler, the King of Umpah; and Mr. Bert Oates as Captain Montague played the part in a straightforward and effective style. The scenery carried by Mr. Trebor consists of an excellently built-up representation of a Moorish Palace. The dresses are elaborate and tasteful, and the incidental music by Mr. Arthur Workman is appropriate.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The London County Council met on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, Mr. R. A. Robinson (chairman) presiding.

RESIGNATION OF MR. REYNOLDS.

The Theatres and Music-Halls Committee reported that they regretted that Mr. Walter Reynolds had found it necessary to resign. They would report later as to filling the vacancy.

EXPLOSIVES.

The Committee reported that during the quarter ended Sept. 30 last explosives and dangerous substances were found to be in use in licensed premises on sixty-five occasions. In most cases the arrangements were found to be satisfactory, but it had been found necessary to take Police Court proceedings against one of the exhibitors at the Franco-British Exhibition on account of non-compliance with the regulations as to the storage of petroleum spirit.

FINSBURY PARK EMPIRE.

The Council have already approved plans submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co. on behalf of Moss' Empires, Ltd., showing the arrangements proposed to be adopted in the erection of a music-hall to be known as the Finsbury Park Empire on a site at the junction of St. Thomas's-road and Prah-road, Finsbury Park. Application for a music and dancing licence for the premises was made at the Licensing Sessions in 1905, 1906, and 1907, but was refused. The application will be renewed at the Licensing Sessions, to be held in November, 1908, and the Council is asked to renew its approval of the drawings in question. The Theatres and Music-Halls Committee consider that the request may be complied with, and recommended accordingly.

The recommendation, which was agreed to, provided that the usual requirements of the Council were carried out.

INSPECTION.

The Committee reported that the expenditure incurred during the quarter ended Sept. 30, 1908, in connection with visits to unlicensed premises to ascertain whether public music or dancing was given thereat, and in connection with reports upon the character of the performances at licensed premises, amounted to £2 12s. 3d.

KILBURN VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

The Committee reported that they had considered drawings submitted by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, showing slight modifications of the Kilburn Priory elevation of the proposed Kilburn Vaudeville Theatre. They recommended that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the five drawings submitted by Mr. Sprague with regard to the proposed modification of the Kilburn Priory frontage of the proposed Kilburn Vaudeville Theatre, provided that the means of escape from the flies be completed either by making the door to the manager's office at the stage level open outwards and fitting it with automatic fastenings, or by providing a means of exit on to the flat roof of the office, and the door to the gas-meter chamber be of fire-resisting materials and be made self-closing.

The recommendation was approved.

SANITARY CONVENIENCES IN THEATRES.

The Public Health Committee reported: We are informed that the Theatres and Music-Halls Committee have, from time to time, had before them the question of the unsuitability and insufficiency of sanitary conveniences in exhibitions, theatres, and similar places of public resort, not only for use by the public but for artists, and recently a similar question has been brought prominently into notice in connection with the Franco-British Exhibition. We understand that the Theatres and Music-Halls Committee in the past have fixed the number of conveniences which they deemed necessary in theatres and music-halls which, upon their recommendation, have been licensed by the Council; but, in the case of the Franco-British Exhibition, no requirements were made, and we are advised that neither the Council nor the sanitary authority has power to require provision of sanitary convenience adequate for the use both of employees and of the public seeking admission. We regard the matter of such importance that we strongly urge the Council to secure an amendment of the law in the direction indicated. We have been in communication with the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, but that Committee do not see their way to concur in our proposal.

The Council sat until a very late hour; and at 11.20 p.m. Sir John Benn moved the adjournment as a protest against the proposal to postpone the above report, threatening that his party would leave the Council chamber. The motion for the adjournment was defeated, and only three Progressives returned to the chamber.

Mr. Edward Smith then demanded a count, but Mr. Peel warmly protested, declaring that the Progressives were attempting to stop work which it was proposed should be given to the unemployed.

A scene of great confusion followed.

Sir John Benn said it was all nonsense about this work for the unemployed.

The Council was then counted, and there being only fifty-six members present, due to the fact that the Progressives remained outside the Council chamber, the chairman said they could take only unopposed business, and this was accordingly done.

THE LATE HARRY LESTER'S GRAVE, TOOTING CEMETERY. [*Photo by Hellis and Co.*
WITHIN A FEW FEET OF THE LAST RESTING-PLACE OF THE LATE DAN LENO.

ANOTHER COINCIDENCE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—May I point out yet another instance of the strange things that happen in connection with similar productions. Some time ago I copyrighted a Chinese musical romance at a suburban music hall. The week after my announcement appeared in your paper the notice of a forthcoming Chinese musical production was announced, the title, of four words only, varying by one. A strange coincidence, was it not? But, stranger still, when the production of this second operetta took place it happened to be at the very suburban hall where mine was copyrighted. Coincidence again! I find that the same scenic artist, who had my model from the beginning of July, is the artist who has painted the same scene for this other production. Strange to say, the libretto, music, and lyrics are not similar; but, then, my romance has no libretto, and no one has heard the words of the songs or the music.—Yours faithfully,

EUGENIE MAGNUS.

MR. MARTINO EXPLAINS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Can you find space in your valuable columns to publish this letter in reference to a statement made by the Variety Artists' Federation in the last issue of *The Performer* to the effect that I did not accept the Federation office copy in the given time?

I beg to say that the office copy in question was accepted by me on sight, and since September 11, 1908, my old office copies have been altered in accordance with it. Surely there could be no better form of acceptance than this. My omitting to give the Federation my acceptance in writing was due to pressure of business and illness. —Thanking you in anticipation, yours faithfully,

FREDERIC MARTINO.

Martino's Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby, Oct. 20.

One guinea has been received from Mr. H. Gomm in aid of the Fred Miller Testimonial.

A new dramatic and fairy spectacle is in preparation for immediate production at Hengler's Circus, in succession to the scena, *The Dispatch Bearer*. It is written by Mr. Austin Fryers, and composed by Mr. Denham Harrison.

The Musical Palmers have this week been playing their latest success, *The Village Blacksmith*, to a series of pictures illustrating Longfellow's verses, at the Metropole Theatre, Manchester, where the novelty has been highly appreciated.

Miss Maude May Murray is appearing at the Curzon Hall, Birmingham, in her beautiful electrical production, "Visions," and "The Dance of Light. Nothing so beautiful and effective has ever been seen at this hall before. She appears in flowing robes of white silk and dances in a most charming and graceful manner. She is received at every performance with the greatest enthusiasm.

Mme. Patti, who will appear at the Albert Hall on Nov. 4, when she has promised Father Vaughan that she will sing at the concert he and his committee are arranging on behalf of starving children, will be supported by a number of other well-known artists. Included in the programme will be Miss Maria Wadia, M. Zacharewitsch, and Mr. Wilhelm Ganz, all of whom—like Patti herself—are giving their services.

The Awards. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "The Era" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MASONS AT WORK.

The last regular meeting of the session of the Chelsea Lodge of Freemasons was held at the Town Hall, Chelsea, on Friday (16th), the Lodge being constituted by Mr. Henry Coutts, W.M., Serpentello, I.P.M., W. H. Hitch, S.W., W. H. Atlas, Acting J.W. (in the absence of Mr. Harry Bawn in America), Wolfe S. Lyon, Treasurer, C. J. Doughty, Secretary, W. F. K. Walton, S.D., Douglas White Acting J.D., Fred Clay, D.C., B. A. Bigny, I.G., Angelo Asher, Organist, L. G. Sharpe and E. T. R. Lester, Stewards, J. H. McNaughton, Tyler.

The W.M. initiated Mr. Bertie Ralland, of the Holloway Empire, into the mysteries of the order, advanced Mr. Will Catling, and further advanced Messrs. Will Stone, Bowker Andrews, and Sydney Chaplin, being assisted at the latter ceremony by Mr. Herbert Chenery, who delivered the traditional history. The W.M. announced his intention of representing the Lodge at the annual festival in aid of the Royal Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons, and in response to his announcement the Treasurer stated that he was pleased to say the finances of the Lodge were in a sound condition, and proposed that twenty-five guineas should be placed on the Master's list, which was carried unanimously.

There was a fair attendance of the members, including Messrs. Dan Lipton, Fred Neiman, W. Collinson, Sydney Chaplin, J. W. Ellison, J. Laurie Graydon, C. H. Burton, Herbert Austin, Harry Gold, H. Leslie Bell, J. Grant, Harry Kato, Willie Benn, Frank Hardie, W Permane, Andie Cane, B. J. Whiteley, J. S. Lyon, &c., and as visitors Messrs. R. Whittaker (237), Norman Walters (2579), C. E. Hodges (346, San Francisco), W. G. Mendel (1705), G. W. Peachey (2524), and Chas. Cohan (219, Glasgow). An emergency meeting will be held at the Town Hall, Chelsea, on Friday, Nov. 28, at 1 p.m., when the whole of the ceremonies will be performed.

At the final performance at the Olympian Gardens, Rhyl, Mr. Eric Charlswood, the local manager for Messrs. Adeler and Sutton, thanked the public for the hearty support they had extended to the entertainments. He also announced that he would resume his duties as manager in Rhyl next season.

UNLICENSED PLAYS.

In the Cambridge Police-court on Monday three persons were summoned at the instance of the Theatrical Managers' Association for alleged infringements of the law governing the public performance of stage plays. Thomas Askham, coach-builder, of the Cambridge Hippodrome, was summoned for, on Sept. 16 and 19, having or keeping the Hippodrome for the public performance of stage plays without authority from His Majesty, or without licence from the Lord Chamberlain or from the Cambs County Council. George Leslie and Miss Violet Lisle were summoned that on Sept. 19 they did act or present a new stage play called by the name of *True as Steel*, or an act, scene, or part thereof, without the same having been allowed by the Lord Chamberlain. Gerald Leslie, described as a stage artist, of the Hippodrome, Auckland-road, was summoned that on Sept. 16 he did act or present part of a stage play called *Sally in Our Alley* at the Hippodrome, an unlicensed building. Gerald Leslie was also summoned for a similar offence in respect of the stage play called *True as Steel*.

Mr. H. Bodkin, instructed by Messrs. Stanley Woodhouse and Hedderwick, prosecuted for the Theatrical Managers' Association, and Mr. H. St. J. Raikes, instructed by Mr. Ernest Vinter, defended Miss Lsle and Leslie. The defendant Askham was unrepresented.

Mr. Bodkin read the following bill, which he remarked was dated Oct. 19:—

"THE LIFE OF AN ACTOR.

"The story is the companion one to the Life of an Actress, and fully explains the vicissitudes experienced by the struggling Actors of to-day, who, after winning the Public's favour, are often the victims of jealous rivals, who endeavour by foul means to crush them."

Mr. John H. Riley, 38, Maida Vale, London, an actor of forty years' experience, said he visited the Hippodrome on Sept. 16, and paid 1s. admission and 1d. for a programme. The programme set out the details of a piece called *Sally in Our Alley*. On the bills *Sally in Our Alley* was called "a grand episode, appealing to all." On the 19th he was also present when *True as Steel* was advertised. On the top of the bill he found Mr. Askham described as proprietor, Miss Violet Lisle as lessee, and Mr. Gerald Leslie as manager for Miss Lisle. On both occasions he saw the first of the two nightly performances. In *Sally in Our Alley* there were six characters and eight scenes, and the piece took thirty-five minutes to perform. Witness knew nothing about the piece before he went. The scenery was "more or less" appropriate to the scenes presented. Asked to describe the piece, witness said the lawyer of the piece was a lawyer.

Mr. Bodkin: Of course. (Laughter.) It does not say what branch of the profession, I take it?

Witness: Oh, I believe he was a conveyancing lawyer.

Mr. Bodkin: Ah! That is the worst type—quite the worst type. (Laughter.) And does the piece proceed to disclose to what depths of infamy even a conveyancing lawyer can sink?

"Yes, sir," replied the witness cheerfully, and proceeded to give a synopsis of a lurid plot with humorous emphasis. Miss Violet Lisle was the heroine and Mr. Gerald Leslie the hero. The end of the piece was the triumph of virtue over villainy.

Mr. Bodkin: There is nothing more common in dramatic representation than the triumph of virtue over vice?

Witness: I don't think so, sir. I don't think you would get much popularity without.

Mr. Bodkin: Well, I don't know. At the present time if you break the law it seems you will get more popularity than if you don't.

The witness proceeded to describe the piece *True as Steel*, which he saw at the Hippodrome on Sept. 19. There were six speaking parts. A well-known melodrama, very popular thirty or forty years ago, was entitled *True as Steel*. In the last ten years it had been played very considerably in the smaller towns of England. The piece *True as Steel* at the Hippodrome bore not the slightest resemblance to the melodrama of that name, and included a representation of a gas chamber similar to that in the well-known play *Sherlock Holmes*. This piece took thirty-five minutes to perform.

Mr. Bodkin: From your experience, and having seen each of those plays—in your judgment, do they present dramatic incidents?

Witness: Yes, certainly. There is a well-defined plot, carried through to its logical conclusion.

Mr. F. S. Osgood, employed in the office of the Lord Chamberlain in London, spoke to searching in the records of the office for a play named *True as Steel*. A play of that name was filed in 1871, and he produced the manuscript of it. He had read the manuscript, and found that it was not in the least like that described by Mr. Riley. Another play, a comedy, was licensed in the name of *True as Steel*. That also bore no resemblance to the play described by Mr. Riley.

The magistrates were unanimously of opinion that the defendant on Sept. 16 and 19 did keep the Hippodrome for the public performance of stage plays without a licence.

It was decided that the cases against Miss Lisle and Gerald Leslie should be taken together.

Mr. Riley was cross-examined by Mr. Raikes upon the agreement between the Theatrical Managers in London and the managers of music halls, but witness said he had no more knowledge of the agreement than the man in the street. He was not informed that managers of music halls might perform sketches lasting not more than thirty-five minutes, with no more than six speaking parts.

In each case pleas of not guilty were entered. The evidence given previously was taken as having been given in the remaining cases.

The chairman, on the magistrates' return to court after an absence of thirty-five minutes, announced that Askham would be fined £5 5s., including costs. In the first case against Leslie the fine would be £2 2s., and in the second case £1 1s., both including costs. Leslie and Miss Lisle would each be fined £1 1s., including costs.

Notice of appeal was given in respect of the four summonses against Mr. Leslie and Miss Lisle, and the magistrates fixed the amount of the sureties as £20 in each case. The fines were paid.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The first item in the Students' Concert on Wednesday evening was a pianoforte solo, "Il moto continuo" (R. Steggall), skilfully played by Miss Millie Flower. In Finden's song, "A Request," Miss Minnie Cox displayed much intelligence; and Miss Mimie Köhler was greatly applauded for her singing of "My dear soul." Grieg's "Sonata for pianoforte and violin in G major" was ably executed by Miss Doris Cloud, a clever pupil of Mr. Johannes Wolff. Miss Cloud was well supported by Mr. R. Stuart Welch on the pianoforte. The young performers were most successful in the second movement, Allegretto tranquillo. "Highland Mary," by Sunnington, was carefully sung by Mr. H. L. E. Lopresti; while Miss Ada Eshelby Phillips received a very hearty recall for her singing of Beethoven's "Busslied." Miss Emmeline Forster gave a neat and finished interpretation of Mendelssohn's piano solo "Andante cantabile and Presto agitato"; and Mr. A. Gourlay used his pleasing voice intelligently but with little dramatic feeling in the Prologue to *Pagliacci*. Miss Jenny Hyman was the accompanist, and the concert ended with an effective little duologue of Herbert Swears entitled *Pansy*, brightly acted by Misses Ellen Rice and Hilda Brooker, two promising pupils of Miss Kate Rorke.

JUDGE AND THE DANCING GIRL.

Some amusement was caused at the Southwark County Court on Tuesday, during the hearing of Brydge *v.* Dodsworth, an action brought by Mrs. Ellen Ann Brydge, a teacher of professional dancing, of Waleran Buildings, Old Kent-road. She claimed damages in respect of an alleged breach of contract on the part of William Dodsworth, a chemist's assistant, of Grosvenor-terrace, Camberwell, whose daughter the plaintiff taught dancing.

Mrs. Brydge handed up to his Honour Judge Willis, K.C., the written contract between the defendant and herself, by which the man's daughter was to work for the plaintiff for two years, Mr. Dodsworth to pay Mrs. Brydge one-third of the money his daughter earned during that time.

"Who is Mlle. Eleanor Estelle, première danseuse?" asked his Honour, reading from the contract.

Plaintiff: That is my professional name. Mrs. Brydge said that not only had the girl been taken away from her, but she had not been paid the third of the wages she had earned.

The defendant agreed that he had entered into the contract, but said that Mrs. Brydge had sublet his daughter to another man without his sanction. According to the contract she was to stop with the plaintiff. Mrs. Brydge said that the young lady danced at the Paragon and in another place with the father's consent.

The plaintiff signified that the judge had guessed correctly, and said that on account of the girl refusing to return to her she lost an engagement at the Southend Kursaal for the Sylvia Girls, of which Miss Dodsworth was a member.

Defendant told his Honour that his daughter had had to pay for her board and lodging, and she had used what she earned for herself. Girls in this business did about six weeks' work in the year, and often got stranded in "foreign" places.

The plaintiff said that parents expected their children to go on the stage directly they started learning.

Judge Willis: Is this the first she has earned for you?

Plaintiff: No; she went away for pantomime, and earned 30s. a week, out of which I deducted my share and gave her the £1.

The father said he was willing for his daughter to go back till the end of the two years.

In the end his Honour gave judgment for the plaintiff for the £2 16s. 8d. claimed, and said that he hoped the little hearing in court would lead to an increase of happiness for the ladies concerned.

Plaintiff: I still have the umbrella, your Honour, but it is not broken (Laughter.)

Mrs. Brydge agreed to accept payment of the debt by small monthly amounts.

EXHIBITION TICKETS STOLEN.

Sydney George Kingham, 27, clerk, of 5A, Clarendon-square, St. Pancras, and Charles Nuttall, 24, clerk, of 4, Collingbourne-row, Shepherd's Bush, were charged on remand, before Mr. Garrett, at West London, with stealing and receiving from the administrative offices at the Franco-British Exhibition 400 entrance tickets, worth £20, belonging to the Exhibition authorities.

Mr. Oswald Hanson (Hanson and Smith) prosecuted, and Mr. Pierron (Pierron and Ellis) represented the accused, who pleaded guilty.

It was stated that both the defendants were in the accountant's department at the Exhibition, and it appeared that for some weeks Kingham had been disposing of an enormous number of tickets, chiefly at a club at Camden Town, of which he was a member.

In answer to Mr. Hanson, Detective-sergeant Burrell stated that 120 men had been discharged in consequence of the deficiency in tickets, and that, in all, some thousands of tickets had been stolen.

For the defendants, Mr. Pierron urged that they were young men of good character, and that they had been inveigled into this wrong and loose way of dealing in these tickets. Kingham was for over thirteen years with Singer's Sewing Machine Company, who gave him the best of characters.

The magistrate observed that probably the defendants were not the principal offenders; but if, listening to the eloquent plea put forward by Mr. Pierron, he were to allow them to leave the dock unpunished, he would, under all the circumstances of the case, be failing in his duty. He sentenced Kingham to three months' hard labour, and Nuttall to two months' hard labour.

"THE GATES OF DAWN."

A Dramatic Sketch, by Arthur O'Keen, produced at the Canterbury on Monday, Oct. 19.

Hawkesley .....MR. ARTHUR O'KEEN
Maybury .....MR. NORMAN G. ACTON
Crafer .....MR. JOHN SLEIGHT
Mrs. Hawkesley ....MISS GERTRUDE CHURCHILL

The Gates of Dawn tells a very slight story; but, slight as it is, it is thrilling. The scene is given as Hawkesley's rooms at Monaco. Here Hawkesley and his beautiful wife are discussing things in general, and gambling in particular. He and his friend Crafer have arranged to play cards that evening with a rich traveller, Mr. Maybury. Hawkesley tells his wife to sit at the piano in a position from which she can easily see Maybury's cards, and she is to indicate the kind of cards the other two shall produce by her performances at the piano. She agrees to carry out her husband's plan, and the other two men duly arrive. But Gertrude Hawkesley plays on the piano so that the directions she thus gives to her husband and Crafer are favourable to Maybury, whom she really loves. The two swindlers lose all their money, and at the close of the game the police arrive to arrest them, for they are members of a notorious gang. Hawkesley shoots himself, and the curtain falls as Maybury is embracing Mrs. Hawkesley, and tells her that the happy gates of dawn are now open to her. Miss Gertrude Churchill acted in quite a charming manner as Mrs. Hawkesley, and performed in excellent style on the piano. Mr. Arthur O'Keen showed good tragic ability as Hawkesley; and Messrs. Norman G. Acton and John Sleight satisfactorily fulfilled the rôles of Maybury and Crafer.

A LADY writer who has entered the lists quite recently is Dora Langlois, dramatic and variety artist, who is the wife of Mr. H. A. Langlois. She comes this season with a tale calculated to hold the attention of even the most *blasé* reader of romance. At many a fireside this winter "In the Shadow of Pa-Menkh" will be read with zest and delight. Mystery, adventure, love, science, and scholarship are deftly mingled in a thrilling narrative. The author of "In the Shadow of Pa-Menkh" has had many opportunities for gaining materials for novels. Her father was the late Lieut.-Col. Rice Davies Knight, a cousin of that Rice Davies Powell who built Craig-y-Nos Castle, and grandson of Daniel Anthony Overbeck, the last Dutch Governor of Chinsurah. The late Professor William Wright, LL.D., F.L.S., &c., &c., custodian of the Sanscrit Antiquities of the British Museum, was a cousin of hers, and also her godfather.

MISS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE has been fortunate in securing as business-manager Mr. Leighton Demain, of Clifford's Inn, Fleet-street. Mr. Demain is not only a writer of considerable ability, but is also a pastmaster in stagecraft.

A GREAT revival in roller-skating in the United Kingdom is imminent, and announcements of the opening of skating-rinks are being daily made. The remarkable success experienced by roller-skating rinks which have been equipped with Winslow's skates is nothing short of marvellous, the celebrated "rollers" being in use in a large number of rinks in Great Britain. The Samuel Winslow Skate Manufacturing Co., of Worcester, Mass., U.S.A., are the oldest and largest manufacturers of skates in the world. Their goods are used in every civilised country, and have been sold on their merits for more than fifty years.

IT has been found that with skates, like everything else in the world, one pays for exactly what one gets. The Winslow Company has for fifty years furnished the very best skates which can be made. It can be said that Winslow's skates are used in the great bulk of the 5,000 rinks in operation in the United States at this time. The merits of the articles are further attested by the fact that many professional skaters use the Winslow product, as it has been found by experience that these famous skates are sufficiently durable to withstand the severe strain to which they are thus subjected.

THE Winslow Company has made skates continuously since 1866. 10,000 pairs of skates a day, or 3,130,000 per annum, can be made in the Winslow factory—a truly remarkable output.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

A GENERAL meeting of the Theatrical Carpenters' Society will be held on Sunday evening at 8 p.m. at the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's Lane. The business being important, all members are urged to attend.

A MEETING of employees connected with the theatres and music halls in Birmingham and district will be held to-morrow (Sunday) evening in the Victoria Hotel, John Bright-street, Birmingham, at 7.30. The president of the Birmingham Trades and Labour Council will preside. Among the speakers will be Mr. Wm. Johnson, general secretary to the National Association of Theatrical Employees, Mr. F. J. Lees, secretary to the Birmingham branch of the Musicians' Union, and Mr. J. V. Stevens, secretary to the Metal Workers' Union. The purpose of the meeting is to establish a branch of the National Association of Theatrical Employees.

THE committee dealing with the sixth annual concert in aid of the Employees' Benevolent Fund, which will take place at His Majesty's Theatre on Nov. 29, is now meeting weekly. The tickets are now ready, price 6d. to 5s., and may be obtained from Wm. Johnson, the hon. secretary, and from members at the various halls and theatres. Mr. G. H. Dyball will be the stage-manager for the concert. Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Martin Harvey, and Mr. Alfred Butt have already consented to add their names to the list of patrons. Mr. Butt has sent a cheque for £1 1s. as a donation to the Benevolent Fund from the directors of the Palace Theatre. The committee hope to provide a programme representative of the dramatic, operatic, concert, and variety professions. Among those who have already promised to contribute are Mr. Alfred Lester, Mr. Cyril Clensy, Mr. G. H. Chirgwin, Mr. George Mozart, the Marriotts, Dutch Daly, Mr. Tom Clare, and the committee are delighted to hear that Miss Cecilia Loftus will, if possible, also contribute to the programme of the concert.

THE committee in charge of the "Open" Benevolent Fund for Employees have granted £3 on the recommendation of Mr. Cecil Paget, the manager of the Crown Theatre, to the widow and children of the late Mr. W. Chappell, formerly property master at the Pavilion Theatre, and also £1 to a carpenter who is partially blind. Several other applications for assistance are under consideration.

A MEETING of the committee of the Heads of Departments Association was held on Friday evening. Several matters of importance were considered, and applications for membership from heads of departments with touring companies and of theatres and music halls in London and several provincial towns were considered.

WITH regard to the formation of the new society to provide sick and funeral benefits to employees and to share out annually the surplus funds, particulars of which were some time ago given in this column, the executive committee of the N.A.T.E. are making an effort to secure the use of a theatre for the purpose of submitting the scheme to employees—men and women—generally. An application was made to Mr. Edward Terry for the use of Terry's Theatre, and the following very kind reply was received by Mr. Wm. Johnson:—

"Prince's Theatre, Bristol.
"Oct. 14, 1908.

"Dear Mr. Johnson,—

"I have the greatest possible sympathy with your new movement, and as far as I am concerned you are welcome to the use of the theatre for the movement, but Mr. James Welch is at present the tenant of Terry's, so you must apply to him for the necessary consent.

"With all good wishes,
"Yours sincerely,
"EDWARD TERRY."

IT is intended to hold a meeting at the earliest possible moment in order that the Fund may be inaugurated on Jan. 1.

CAICEDO, king of the wire, will finish his engagements in America at the end of this month, and will return to England in November, commencing the Moss and Stoll tour on the 23rd of that month. His first open date is in January next.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

20,951.—William Thomson Braham. Improved device for use in spiritual intercourse.

20,971.—Leus Herman Christensen, of London. Improvements in or relating to the manufacture of colour-plates or screens for colour photography.

21,038.—Harry Thomas Dumbleton, of Smethwick. Method of accurately registering "bull's-eyes" for air rifles or rifled guns.

21,048.—James Biltcliffe, of Keighley. Improvements in and relating to the raising and lowering of theatrical and like scenes or curtains.

21,069.—Charles Marshall Lungren, of London. Insulated projecting lantern.

21,097.—Leus Herman Christensen, of London. Improvements in or relating to the manufacture of colour screens or plates for photography.

21,098.—Benjamin Jumeaux, of Brighton. Improvements in or relating to kinematographs and like apparatus.

21,126.—Robert William Glanville, of Woolwich. Improved device for checking target scores.

21,186.—Auguste Saunier, of London. System for taking continuous photographs for panoramas, cinematographs, and for circular ordinary or stereoscopic photographs.

21,245.—Frank Van Neck, of London. Improved support for optical lantern screens and photographic backgrounds.

21,257.—Charles William Plaice, of London. Improvements in automatic targets.

21,308.—John William Harris, of Leeds. Improvements in or in connection with light cut-offs for kinematographs and the like apparatus.

21,313.—Robert George Walker, of Glasgow. Running track for stage use.

21,455.—Robert Henry Mercer and William Chas. Pannell, of London. Improvements in and relating to the fireproofing of scenery and other substances.

21,495.—Ferdinand von Madaler, of London. Improvements in and relating to disc cinematographs and talking machines.

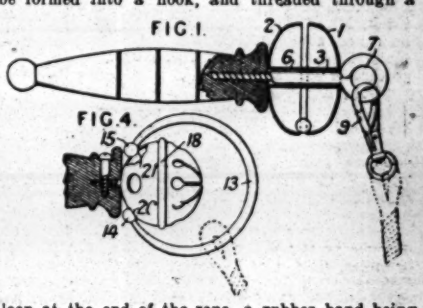
COMPLETE SPECIFICATION ACCEPTED.

2,884.—Ostrovsky. Apparatus for use by musicians for promoting the lateral movements of the fingers.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

12,181.—Skipping-ropes. Burford, H., of Birmingham.

Skipping-ropes are provided with bells, and the handles are made readily detachable so that they may be used as dumb-bells. The end of each handle is provided with a rattle or gong, preferably formed of two dome-shaped half-bells (1, 2), which are secured to the handle by an eye-bolt (3). A distance-piece (6) holds the bells apart. The rope is provided with a spring hook (9) to engage the eye (7). The end of the bolt may be formed into a hook, and threaded through a



loop at the end of the rope, a rubber band being provided to prevent the loop from working off the hook; or the rope may carry either a split or a spring ring to engage the eye or recesses formed in its sides. In the modification shown in Fig. 4, an ordinary spherical bell (18) is secured by a screw to the end of the handle, recesses (20, 21) being formed in the bell to receive the ends (14, 15) of a spring-ring (13) threaded through the looped end of the rope.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS.—The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

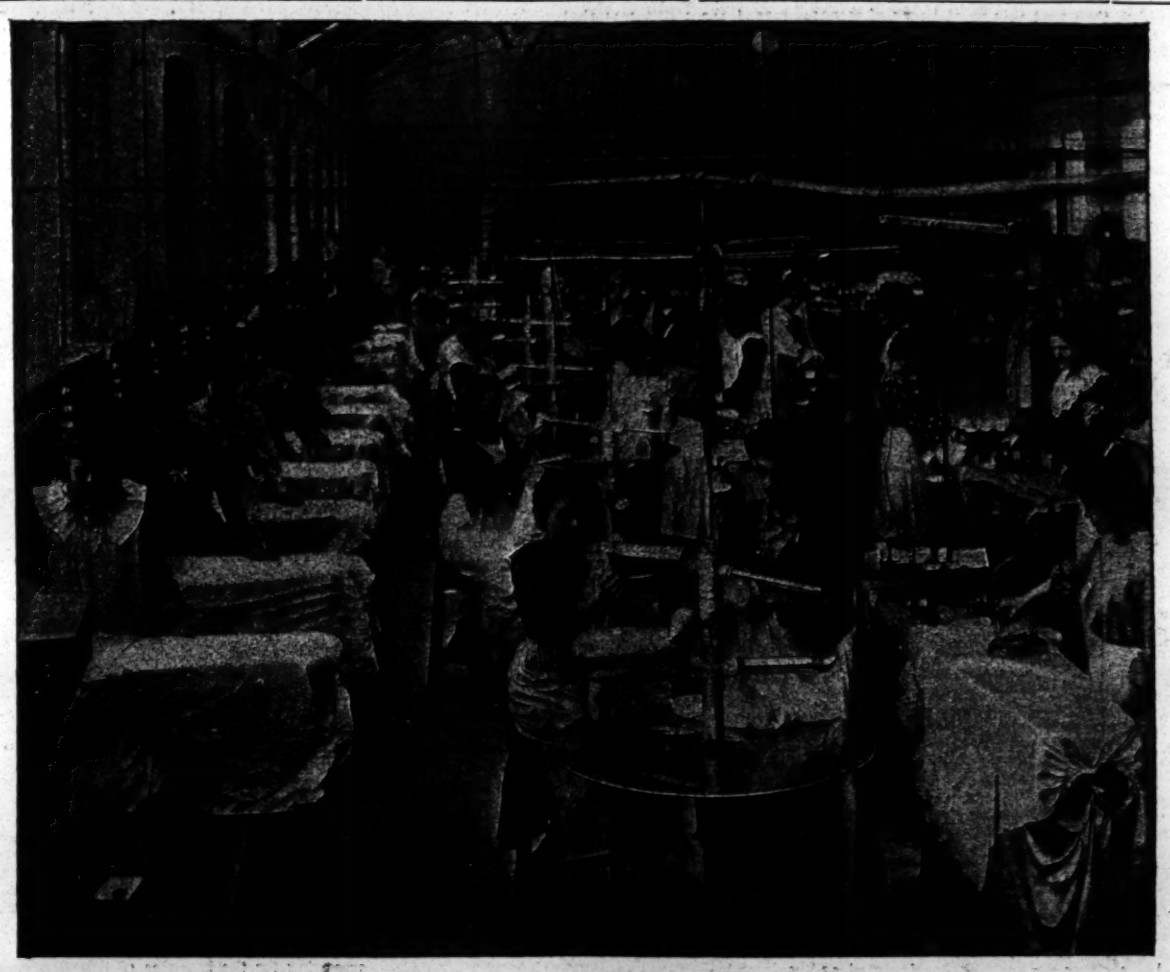
A "HEAVY LADY."

The clever caricaturist of the *Star* read one of the "Wanted" advertisements in *The Era*, and his

fertile imagination and facile pencil have provided a picture of the "heavy lady" he thinks is required.

The following was the advertisement:—

WANTED, for "When Other Lips," first-class heavy lady, capable strong emotion; lowest terms, photo, last two refs. T. Arthur Jones, New, Consett.



Messrs. Clark and Co. are dyers and cleaners at Retford. Their works are fitted with the latest machinery and appliances for cleaning, dyeing, and finishing every kind of article of personal wear or household furnishing. They are lighted by electricity, generated by their own plant; many of the machines are electrically driven. Newly built, and situated in the country, every attention has been paid to sanitation, and all the work is carried out in well ventilated and lighted buildings under the most comfortable conditions for the workers. They are specialists in dry cleaning, and have brought this process nearly to perfection. No unpicking whatever is now required, and articles cleaned by them have no disagreeable odour, nor is there risk of alteration in shape or colour, or of shrinkage.

Their dyeing department has all the latest colours, and is in touch with the best English and Continental practice. Their long experience and perfect equipment in this branch enable them to obtain the very best results possible.

Theatrical managers are invited to send their tableaux curtains and box draperies; artists to send their dresses, blouses, and other wearing apparel for cleaning or dyeing.

The facilities of the parcel post, which allows parcels up to 11lb. in weight being sent through the post, should induce artists to give Messrs. Clark and Co., of Retford, a trial order.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead till the end of the month are:—Warminster, on the Great Western; Gainsborough, on the Great Central, and Great Northern and Great Eastern Joint; Horncastle, on the Great Northern; Wellington, on the London and North-Western and the Great Western; Ely, on the Great Eastern; Great Marlow, on the Great Western; Hindon, on the London and South-Western; Wellingborough, on the London and North-Western and Midland; St. Just, on the Great Western; Clipstone, on the Derbyshire and East Coast; Disley, on the London and North-Western; Coalville, on the London and North-Western; Coventry, on the London and North-Western; Daventry, on the London and North-Western; Poole, on the London and South-Western; Rowsley, on the Midland; Kilmarnock, on the North British; Kidwelly, on the Great Western; and Talgarth, on the Cambrian Railways.

Showmen at Hull Fair.

The following letter of thanks to the showmen and others at Hull Fair, communicated to the local Press by the Mayor, tells its own tale:—

"THE MAYOR'S THANKS.

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'HULL TIMES.'

"Sir,—Will you please allow me through the medium of your newspaper to thank most sincerely the showmen, stall-holders, and roundabout proprietors who so generously contributed to the Hospital Sunday Fund at the collection taken by the Mayoress and myself on Thursday last?

"I may say that the sum collected (two hours' takings) amounted to £70 15s. 5d.

"I also beg to thank Messrs. W. F. Lawton, R. Grace, and W. G. Harrison for their kind assistance in making the collection.—I am, Sir, &c.,

"H. FELDMAN (Mayor),

"Town Hall, Hull, Oct. 16, 1908."

Yet Another Tribute of Appreciation.

Quite in keeping with the above is an interesting letter, which we gladly reproduce, as showing that not only did the funds of the Hull General Hospital benefit, but that other charities were materially assisted:—

"SHOWMEN AND 'REFORMERS.'

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE 'DAILY MAIL.'

"Sir,—I was much interested to read in the 'Mail' of Monday the speech of the 'Showman's Parson' (Rev. Mr. Horne) as to the 'Misunderstood Showman.' I quite agree with the rev. gentleman that the showmen suffer from the faddy narrowmindedness of the so-called 'reformers,' who think what wicked people these people are. Now, Sir, it was my privilege to be present at the sacred concert in Bostock and Wombwell's Menagerie on Sunday night last, and I was struck with the evidence of the self-sacrifice displayed by the genial manager Mr. Burkitt and his staff; they did their best to make the concert a success, so that the funds of the Victoria Children's Hospital should benefit—even to providing a capital chairman in Mr. Trousen (lion tamer); in addition, collections are allowed every day for the charities in the show. I was pleased to hear from the President of the Working Men's Committee that Mr. Burkitt would be made a life member of the Children's Hospital. So I think, Mr. Editor, such acts go to prove that showmen are not what these faddists would try to make them out to be. Thanking you in anticipation.—I am, Sir, &c.,

"S. W.

"Oct., 1908."

Warwick Fair.

The grand old town of Warwick keeps its annual pleasure fair at the same time as the famous "Mop" at Stratford-on-Avon, and is, therefore, sometimes overshadowed by the bigger event in Shakespeare's town. Warwick Fair, however, maintains its popularity, not only locally, but it draws a great number of visitors from the Midland Counties. The fair this year was well supported by Chipperfield's Cinematograph Theatre and Empire of Varieties, T. Clarke's motor switchback, W. Davis' galloping horses, and C. Farrell's racing birds and varieties. The minor amusements consisted of shooting galleries, Winchester ranges, throwing games, variety and penalty frames, and were supplied by Messrs. Wilson, Farrell, and Mrs. Marsden.

Warwick has a second fair, known as the "Run away Mop," held a week later than the first "Mop," and is usually maintained by the same shows and amusements that are in attendance at the first "Mop."

Daventry Fair.

The pleasure fair at this interesting old town was under the direction of Billings, the local amusement caterer, who amongst other novelties provided steam galloping horses, park swings, and throwing games. The other caterers were Messrs. W. Harris, Barnard, Irving, and Shaw, who exhibited bottle batteries, hoop-la frames, and other varieties.

Brecon Pleasure Fair Threatened.

At the recent meeting of the Brecon Town Council a petition was presented from a number of the ratepayers asking that the Brecon pleasure fairs in May and November should be limited to two days. The petition also contained other reasons for wishing to curtail the fair, reflecting upon the health conditions of the showmen's living vans and paraphernalia. A correspondent of the Showmen's Guild has brought the matter under the notice of the Organising Chaplain, who has dealt with the attack upon the health conditions of showman life in a letter which he has addressed to the Town Clerk, to be submitted to the Mayor and Corporation. The petition led to a warm discussion at the Council Board, and the question was adjourned to an evening meeting. It was quite evident at the adjourned meeting that there was a great division of opinion with regard to the petition.

It was ultimately resolved that the matter should be submitted to a Town's Meeting, in order that the people should see what the proposal would cost them. One speaker put the loss to the town at something like a penny or a twopenny rate. And, further, it was suggested, in order that the Town's Meeting should have full information, that two tenders should be advertised for, one for the lease under the existing conditions as to the period of the fair, and the other in the case of the fair being restricted to the two days on the streets.

"Oct. 20, 1908.

"To the Mayor and Corporation of the Borough of Brecon.

"Gentlemen,—My attention has been drawn by a member of the Guild to the words of a petition recently considered by you and reflecting seriously upon the health conditions of showmen's living vans and their working plant. The petition in question was one asking you to limit the May and November fairs to two clear and consecutive days, and the words to which I am requested to draw your attention are as follows:—'We (the petitioners) also respectfully submit the presence of so many living vans and show paraphernalia on the streets for such a lengthy space of time is a menace to public health, and is a matter which deserves your serious consideration as a sanitary authority.'

"With the other reasons adduced by the petitioners it is not my province to deal, and it is fairly a matter for the Town's Meeting to decide. My purpose is to inform you that showpeople have a clean bill of health from one end of the country to the other, and that they are a healthy and long-lived class of workers. Their movable dwellings are built upon perfect hygienic lines, and contrast favourably with regard to health conditions with even the best class of permanent dwellings.

"Your Medical Officer of Health and your Sanitary Officer have exactly the same powers of control and inspection over movable dwellings as over all other kinds of dwellings.

"By the Housing of the Working Classes Act and by other amending Acts of the Health and Sanitary Laws, it is provided that every van, tent, or similar structure used for human habitation is under exactly the same laws as though it were a permanent building.

"The showmen for whom I am speaking regard it as an extremely serious matter that these reckless accusations should be brought against them, when they are bound to observe exactly the same laws with regard to health and sanitation as all other citizens. It is serious for other reasons, because it creates in the public a fear and distrust of attending the fair, and it inflicts great injury upon a deserving class in the community. It is a stigma upon their home life which showmen justly resent, and subjects them to serious loss in their business.

"Nothing is so injurious to them as the creation of public opinion that would lead people to fear attending the fairs.

"Whatever may be the decision of the people of Brecon with regard to the curtailment of the pleasure fairs, I am particularly anxious on behalf of the showmen to dissipate the false impression that may have arisen in some minds, that it is wise to curtail the days of the fair on account of its being a menace to public health.

"I speak with knowledge and lifelong experience of the conditions of showman life. It has been my privilege for twenty years past to minister amongst them, and I am able to say from the fullness of this intimate knowledge that showpeople as a class live cleanly lives.

"That their homes are models of domestic comfort and are so built as to afford almost perfect conditions with regard to ventilation and the other necessaries of a healthy life.

"Signed on behalf of the Showmen's Guild of Great Britain.

"T. HORNE,

"Honorary Chaplain."

It is high time that this great bogey of menace to public health was scotched, and that the persistent, nay, almost invincible, ignorance of public bodies with regard to real conditions of van life was fully enlightened. When the organised showmen were meeting the attacks of George Smith and his supporters in the House of Commons twenty years ago, Mr. Stevens, M.P. for Hornsey (a sturdy champion of the showmen), did splendid service by proving that showmen were not lawless men, but that every law applying to other men applied with equal force to showmen—that living vans and tents when used for human habitation were just as much under the law as all other dwellings in town or country. Since those days every amendment of the Public Health Acts has been made to apply specifically to vans and tents, and it is to us a matter of the most profound astonishment that the enemies of show life persist in regarding showpeople as a class apart in the community, and also as being outside of the restraints and sanctions of the ordinary law of the land.

This petition with regard to the Pleasure Fairs of Brecon is the latest example of the persistence of the phantom of menace to public health that the coming of the show van is supposed to be.

Castleford Fair.

Held in the Castle Fields, had for its entertainers, Messrs. J. Manders, with menagerie; G. Proctor, with hippodrome and circus; Marshall, with cinematograph theatre and steam roundabouts; and throwing games, stalls, shooters, &c., by numerous caterers.

Gainsborough Fair.

This fair, as usual, attracted a big aggregation of show and machine novelties:—Tuby's Coliseum, motor set, and gallopers; Farrar and Tyler's two great theatres of animated pictures; Smith and Warren's motor set; P. Collins's ostrich set. Other machines were by Amos, Kent, Hunt, Warwick, Morley, Barwick, and Fisher, and a side show by Ling. There were also a capital array of shooting concerns, cokers, throwing games, and variety stalls, by Hart, Ball, Fisher, Hunt, Aitken, Gillett, Illingworth, Campfield, Seaton, Brook, Evans, Bond, Greaves, Boness, Webster, Smith, Amos, Ling, Barber, Sherran.

MITCHAM CONSERVATORS AND THE FAIR RIGHTS.

We are indebted to the *Mitcham Mercury* of Oct. 17 for the following report of a discussion at the meeting of the Board of Conservators, of great interest to showmen:—

"The most important business of the meeting was a statement by the Chairman on the subject of the Fair. He began by referring in detail to the negotiation for the purchase of the rights from Mrs. Bailey. In 1905 the Conservators, he said, accepted the purchase, provided £600 was raised by other bodies, and although that was the motion on Sept. 23, a contract had been entered into on Sept. 9 in the names of Messrs. Foss, A. Mizen, Cubison, and R. M. Chart, but the £600 was never subscribed. Only £514 1s. was raised, and that came from the Mitcham Parish Council and private subscribers. How it came from them no one would ever be able to find out, for though it was an extraordinary thing to say, there was nothing to show in their ledger or anywhere else how the money was paid, to whom it was paid, or by what authority it was dealt with. One would have thought that in an important transaction of that kind a clear statement of accounts would have been kept, and that their minutes would show by whom the money was received, and why it was paid out by the Conservators to the owners of the franchise. To complete the purchase price of £950 the Conservators voted annual sums of £100. The money subscribed by the outside gentleman whose name was mentioned was subscribed under the idea that the Conservators were the owners of the franchise. But another extraordinary fact had come to their notice. On July 31, 1906, Mr. Chart, as one of the owners of the franchise, attended, and those gentlemen all being present, it was stated that they did not intend to let any sites or exercise the franchise. On Feb. 2, 1907, it was resolved to pay £100 off the balance of the purchase money. The matter was then left in his (the Chairman's) hands, and he interviewed the Home Secretary. But only two days before the Fair was held he learned from Mr. Newnham that he had received documents from the solicitor to the vendors of the franchise, showing that the conveyance which purported to purchase the rights from Mrs. Bailey had not been taken out by the four gentlemen mentioned as trustees for the Conservators, but that it was a direct conveyance to them. So far as the Conservators were concerned the result was that their legal possession with regard to the rights or wrongs of holding the Fair was absolutely nil. He therefore instructed Mr. Newnham that the Conservators could take no action whatever against the showmen, as they had no legal right to do so. They all assumed that they were taking action against the showmen last year and obtaining injunctions against them as the owners of the franchise, but it was clear that they were nothing of the kind. No declaration of trust had ever been signed by the four gentlemen on behalf of the Conservators, and as the position stood revealed it was perfectly clear that neither the Clerk nor himself were going to issue writs against the showmen. The first thing brought against them would have been that they had no locus standi. Therefore, he took no action with regard to the showmen, and that was the present position of affairs so far as he had been able to ascertain. No account had been kept from whom the £514 had been received. The question had been asked of the Mitcham Parish Council over and over again where the sum of £400 had gone to, and it had been stated there that it had been received by the Conservators. Whoever was deceiving the Parish Council, it was certainly not the Conservators, because whatever information they had was entirely at the disposal of the Council, and they now knew as much as the Conservators did. They heard from the bank that there was an overdraft in connection with the purchase of the Fair of £117 10s. Mr. A. Mizen had the pass-book relating to it.

"Mr. Willcocks thought the two trustees present should give an explanation.

"Mr. Cubison asked whether anybody seriously supposed that a gentleman like Mr. Foss, after the years of experience he had had as a solicitor, would do anything that was not absolutely correct? If anybody had taken the trouble to inquire into the proceedings upon which they had obtained injunctions they would have found that the Fair owners were parties as plaintiffs, and that the Conservators were joined, and joined upon the advice of counsel. The reason was this. The owner of the franchise held the Fair on the Upper Green by virtue of some right of the commencement of which they did not know. Apart from that right the Conservators, being the successors in title to the Lords of the Manor, had the absolute control of the Upper Green. Consequently, if the owners of the franchise to-day did not desire to exercise their right and hold the Fair, the Conservators were the proper persons to prevent the showmen going on the Green. That was why, according to counsel's advice, the Conservators were joined as plaintiffs. What had been done was done perfectly regular, and that course should have been repeated this year, and as quickly as possible. The owners of the franchise stepped into the breach and bought the rights to prevent them being lost. Four persons had to make themselves personally liable for the money before it was possible to come before the Conservators and know their desires, and accordingly a contract was entered into. But when it came to finding the money they were required to make themselves responsible, and the Chairman had forgotten to tell them that the four persons were still liable to the bank for the overdraft.

"The Chairman: I have not forgotten anything of the kind, because it is quite impossible to find out by whom the overdraft was obtained and for whom it was obtained.

"Mr. Cubison said if the Conservators would relieve the trustees of the liability they would only be too glad to execute another deed of conveyance of the franchise rights to them. There was no mystery about it, and there was nothing difficult to understand. With regard to the 'mystery' of the £400, he was a member of the Parish Council when it was voted. It was, in fact, voted upon his resolution, and it did not refer to the Fair rights in any way at all. It was voted to the Conservators for the improvement of the Upper Green, and the Parish Council had good ground of complaint against them that they had not improved the Upper Green. The Council, in fact, had been remarkably long-suffering in putting up with it so long as they had done.

"Alderman Allen: I am perfectly certain that that £400 was paid to us for the purchase of the Fair rights and for no other purpose whatever.

"The Chairman: I have not been making up fairy tales. I am reading from your own minutes. As a matter of fact, in the account kept with regard to the Fair, there is the item 'Mitcham Fair account, by cash contributions, £412 10s.' How is it that it has taken the Council so many months to ascertain what has become of the money? They could only have got an answer from their own representatives, who are also Conservators, and I was determined to see if I could find an answer for you, because not only have the Council asked the question, but they have accused the Conservators of misleading them. I think that is a very improper thing, and we ought not to allow ourselves to remain under the stigma. All we did was to receive the £400 for the purchase of the Fair rights.

"Mr. Mizen produced the bank-book, and said the first time he had it in his possession was on Monday night. The Chairman had stated that £600 was never subscribed. Yet there was £400 from the Parish Council, £100 from the Rural District Council, and £142 14s. 6d. private subscriptions, making £642 14s. 6d. from outside sources, so that the resolution had been complied with.

"The Chairman: I am glad to hear it. It has taken three years to find it out.

"Mr. Mizen: There is now due to the bank £117 14s. 4d.

"The Clerk said there was no doubt about the legal position. The four gentlemen were the trustees of the Fair rights for the Conservators, subject to lien on their representatives to repay them the sum of £117 owing to the bank. With regard to the £400 which came from the Parish Council, it did not appear in the cash books of the Conservators where it came from. It was entered 'Contribution towards Fair rights.' But the four trustees had that money and paid it for the purchase of the Fair rights, so that there should be no misunderstanding.

"Mr. Cubison: There never has been any misunderstanding.

"Mr. Aldwinckle said the cheque was made out to the Conservators, and the words of the resolution were 'For the improvement of the Upper Green.'

"The Clerk said there could have been no misunderstanding as to what the money was for, because the four gentlemen were parties to the money being used for that particular purpose (the purchase of the Fair rights). He said the resolution that ought to be passed was, that the £117 overdraft be paid off on the trustees executing a new conveyance.

"Mr. Willcocks moved a resolution in these terms, and it was agreed to."

A BUBBLE FOUNTAIN.

In the Louvre Museum in Paris can be seen an Etruscan vase on which is depicted a group of children blowing bubbles, and from this poetical suggestion a clever mechanician has invented and constructed a most artistic feature of modern stage effect. These fountains can be constructed to form and discharge up to 20,000 bubbles per minute, and if the atmosphere be calm the bubbles, being inflated with gas, rise in a huge column in the air, and form a very imposing and charming spectacle. The beautiful series of tints of colour in the bubble-film is common knowledge, and on the stage a most fairylike effect can be produced with artificial illumination, two points of light being reflected from every bubble for each light employed, and with a large series of lights suitably arranged the dazzling illustration of a torrent of balls of fire can be obtained, or the rising column can be lighted at its base, producing a pillar of living fire. We do not think the producers of pantomimes at Drury Lane, Moss' Empires, and other theatres could do better than communicate with the Manager of *The Era*, with a view to arranging for the inclusion of this charming spectacular illusion in their forthcoming Christmas productions. The Bubble Fountain, which we learn is securely patented, is also suitable for erection on the lawn of a garden, surrounded by growing flowers; or it may be raised on a plinth like an ordinary fountain.

Kinematograph Copyright. The law affecting the same. By William Jago, F.I.C., F.C.S., barrister-at-law. Price 6d. Address, The Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions

Pathé Frères.

The Heart of a Gipsy.—Messrs. Pathé offer an absorbingly interesting dramatic film under this title. Gipsies, having been seen pilfering, are driven away by some infuriated peasants. A young girl of their gang sprains her ankle in trying to overtake her people, and she falls to the ground helpless. She is made a prisoner by a peasant, and her beauty and youth move him so that he takes her with him to his farmhouse. When she has completely recovered the young man's mother sends her away, but the boy, who loves her dearly by now, obtains from the old woman the promise to let him marry the gipsy girl.

My Ma-in-Law Beats the Record.—Ma-in-law is not possessed of the sweetest of tempers, and her son-in-law is a grocer. During one of those stormy explanations which take place every day between the two a motor-car stops before the shop. The son-in-law, seeing a golden opportunity of getting rid of that shrew of a woman, packs her off in the automobile, which he at once sets in motion. Ma-in-law is now a runaway. She goes straight for a barrow. That she upsets, pulls down a barrier, collides with a train at the level crossing, and finally stops just in front of the goal of the New York-Paris race, where she is cheered by the crowd.

A Fashionable Waltz.—Here we have another comic series. The new waltz looks so attractive, represented as it is by a beautiful woman, that an artist buys it and begins waltzing in the street. Two policemen join in and whirl about. Then the artist asks a street organ-grinder for his instrument, and at the sound of the music everybody in the street, and the carriages also, turn and waltz madly.

The Happiest Day in Her Life.—While her little friends follow with fervour the religious meetings before their first communion, a small girl, Marie Blanche, kept in bed by bronchitis, sees with anguish the great day approaching. Is she going to die without knowing the great joy that she has dreamed about from her earliest days? No, she will take advantage of the absence of her mother to put on her pretty white dress, and with her body shaken by the terrible cough which is killing her, she goes out into the street and wanders away along the walls, which she uses as a support. At length her strength gives way, and she falls fainting at the church door. She is taken home shivering with fever. The doctor, hastily summoned, examines the little one for a long time, and in the end he gives very little hope. The child will be saved if she takes regularly the medicine he prescribes. But Marie Blanche is unwilling to take the medicine; she excites herself and increases the fever, and at last she falls asleep and dreams that she sees the good Abbé Martin, the kindly priest who has prepared her, advancing in the full light of the church towards the little communicants, who are kneeling before the altar. The whole church is brilliantly illuminated. Oh, would that she could approach and take her share in that divine feast. She eagerly stretches out her hands. And then the priest advances towards her, utters the sacred words, and gives her the holy bread. The emotion is too great for Marie Blanche. She faints, holding in her hands the vessel the contents of which she has just drunk. The little dreamer is healed. Heaven has worked a miracle on account of her strong faith.

Jerusalem.—Interesting open-air scenes are here brought to our notice. Jerusalem is built on four mountains, thus forming four different quarters. One of them possesses St. Sepulchre's Church, around which numerous shopkeepers deal in all sorts of eatables, beads, and arms, all to be found pell-mell in their more or less picturesque houses. Zion mountain is adorned with "the tower of David," and forms the most desolate and deserted part of the town. Cactus plants and all kinds of undergrowth block the way; miserable looking huts are scattered about, sheltering a population of lepers, which afford us a few vivid pictures. On another mountain are seen the remnants of the Gate of Damascus leading to Nazareth and the grotto of Jeremiah, with its Wall of Lament, used now as a burying ground, where people in mourning come and vent their grief most loudly. The film ends with a bird's-eye view of Jerusalem, showing the town surrounded by high walls formed of immense blocks of stones which used to support the terraces of the temple of Solomon, and flanked with embattled towers, rising from the walls every hundred yards from one another. With her high-arched porticos, her minarets, and the terraces in front of the houses, Jerusalem looks like a glorious apparition of the City of Jehovah, seemingly full of her own people, but on closer inspection one realises that it is only a magnificent sepulchre.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

Scotland's Greatest Newspaper.—In this very attractive cinematograph series, the editing, printing, and publishing of *The Scotsman* is fully described. It is for the Urban Company a triumph of "midnight" cinematography. Every important process in the preparation, printing, publication, and despatch of a great daily newspaper is faithfully and with remarkable detail reproduced in motion-pictures of enthralling interest—undoubted technical and general educational value and absolutely perfect photographic quality. Special attention has been paid to the editorial departments, and the means of rapidly collating and disseminating news; to the working of the linotype machines; to the making of a matrix; the casting of plates, and the working of the monster Hoe presses; and the series is further especially noteworthy as a conquest by cinematographic skill and ingenuity of difficulties insurmountable by less fortunate competitors. The pictures begin with an exterior view of the offices of the *Scotsman*, the *Weekly Scotsman*, and the *Edinburgh Evening Dispatch*. The whole building, including the site, cost half a million pounds, and is the largest structure ever erected by private enterprise in Edinburgh. Then we are shown the sub-editors preparing copy for the Press, the pneumatic tubes by which news is received from the General Post Office and despatched to the sub-editors, and tape machines receiving news from London over the *Scotsman* private wires. These scenes were secured at the busiest hour—midnight—shortly before the issue went to press, and the importance of the department may be gauged by the miles of paper strips, or "tapes," which cover the floors. Other scenes show us a day's supply of paper used in printing the *Scotsman*, and the processes of spraying the paper as it arrives from the *Scotsman* mills at Balerno, linotyping, preparing the matrix, hot-pressing the matrix, inserting, pressing, and removing the mould, dusting and trimming the paper moulds and passing them by means of an "endless band traveller" to the foundry for the next process; stereotyping, preparing the Hoe printing press, machining, and finally packing and distributing.

COMPIÈGNE AND PIERREFONDS.—We are here treated to an exquisitely photographed and beautifully toned film, illustrating the Chateau of Compiègne with its superb forest, and the feudal castle of Pierrefonds, restored by Violette-le-Duc, two favourite tourist resorts in the environs of Paris. The Chateau of Compiègne was built by Gabriel in the reign of Louis XV., and the town, full of historic associations, is remarkably quaint and picturesque. The Hotel de Ville, in particular, is a graceful building, which affords one of the most charming specimens of the Renaissance. The Castle of Pierrefonds, dating from the twelfth century, was the theatre of many historic events, notably under Henry IV., when it formed the fortress of the Ligueurs (Leaguers). Dismantled, it was restored on the original plans by order of Emperor Napoleon III. in 1858.

RETRIBUTION.—This production tells one of the most powerful, touching, and beautiful dramatic stories ever unfolded upon the screen, containing a world of motive and emotion which only such films can elucidate. Based upon deep human interest, this strong and vital drama shows great insight into character, and moves with virile force to the inevitable end. Emotionally effective, loving and unerring touches portray a great struggle between paternal affection and natural craving for sympathy, superhumanly overcome for the welfare of its object, which will command the silent enthusiasm of every observer. Wisely and delicately handled, the subject never travels beyond just limits, and the superb enactment, coupled with the exquisite setting of every scene, have been caught by the camera with absolute faithfulness and perfect photographic quality.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

TEN PICKANINNIES.—This is a subject which is funny from the introduction of the ten "chillun" to their entire disappearance under difficult circumstances. The first exit is caused by Melon and the last "monkeyed 'round a 'gator—now there's none."

SANDY MCPHERSON'S QUIET FISHING TRIP.—We have all heard "fishermen's tales" of big catches but none of them tell of the things they couldn't catch. This is a story of a braw laddie, who, to keep cool, dons Highland costume, but gets very hot instead as a result of the attention he receives from two bad boys, mosquitoes, tramps, and police. Poor Sandy goes off to the "Cooler," whilst the bad boys are rewarded with his lunch.

POCAHONTAS: A CHILD OF THE FOREST.—A film of historical interest, connected with the adventures of Captain John Smith, who founded Jamestown in 1607. The story tells us of the meeting with Pocahontas at a time when her father, the famous Powhatan, is in Jamestown for the signing of the Treaty of Peace. Love and jealousy play prominent parts in the exciting adventures of Smith. We see mutiny quelled, and order and progress established by him, for which he is trailed by "Kunder-Wacha" and a band of hostile Indians. After all Smith's companions are slain he is taken prisoner, and about to be tortured by his Indian rival when he produces a compass. Such knowledge brands him as a "medicine man," but at a council of tribesmen Kunder-Wacha gets the captain sentenced to death. Pocahontas now exercises her knowledge of Indian law, and obtains the release of Smith, who has been led forth for execution. Promising to repay Powhatan for his kindness, Smith sets out for Jamestown with a bodyguard of two Indians and Pocahontas, for part of the journey. Kunder-Wacha now appears and shoots Smith, but Pocahontas aids him, and he is able to set sail for England. We are now face to face with famine, and whilst on an errand of mercy in bringing food into Jamestown, Pocahontas meets a friend of Captain Smith's named Rolfe, who imparts the information that Smith is dead. Whilst grieving her loss, Kunder-Wacha endeavours to win her, but is repulsed, and Rolfe saves her from his hate by shooting the Indian. Winning the love of Pocahontas, Rolfe gets her father—Powhatan—to consent to their getting married, and a grand wedding is celebrated, which brings happiness and prosperity to the colonists.

Gaumont and Co.

AN ANIMALS' HOSPITAL is one of the finest subjects we have seen for some time, and should appeal to all lovers of animals. The film gives a very vivid depiction of the treatment of the patients. First we see the out-patients, then the in-patients, and views of the lethal chamber, and scenes in the convalescent ward. Messrs. Gaumont's have excellently produced every scene, and the quality is of the highest. The scenes were arranged by Mr. G. R. Sims, and everything goes to make the film a great success. Showmen will be wise in securing a copy, as descriptive animal scenes always appeal to, and attract, the public. Other films of note issued this week are THE CONSCIENTIOUS MUSICIAN (comic), THE CONSIDERATE CABBY (comic), THE BOTANIST (coloured trick).

Nordisk Films Company.

THE QUEEN'S LOVE.—Thus is the story of this romance related. The Queen, who was not any longer very young, had been making love in her usual inconstant way to the young Sir X., who was engaged to be married to one of the young ladies at Court, the beautiful Lady Claire. Just as Sir X. has taken leave of his sweetheart, a page brings him a letter from the Queen telling him that Her Majesty wishes to see him in the evening. He considers the wishes of the Queen as a command, and at the appointed hour we see on the picture Sir X. on his way to the Queen's apartments. He meets the Royal lady, and her eyes express plainly enough the honour he may expect. Another gentleman at Court, the deceitful and brutal Y., who had for a long time tried in vain to win Claire's favour, was in the meantime watching in the courtyard. As Claire passes by him, he tries once more to make love to her. She gives the detested lover a scornful reply, and he tells her in his rage that her intended husband is now staying with the Queen. She believes this accusation to be false, slaps him in his face, and hurries away, while Sir Y. swears to revenge himself. The next morning the two rivals meet at the park. Under the guise of friendship Y. coaxes X. to tell him about his adventures with the Queen, and then he hurries away to tell the Queen that X. was boasting of her favour. X. is now sent for, and as he cannot deny the accusation he is taken to prison. As he is escorted by two guards and passes the courtyard, Claire rushes towards him. She hurries off to the Queen in order to plead for the life of her lover, but there she is also scornfully turned away. She now turns to her last resource—she humbles herself to the scoundrel Y. and implores his mercy. He promises to save her lover's life on condition that she will be the price. Pale with horror she agrees to belong to the villain in order to save her beloved one. The next morning Claire awaits in Y.'s bedroom, she pulls the heavy curtains aside, and opens the window to get some fresh air. With all her power she stifles a scream. Outside in the courtyard X. is hanging dead on the gallows. She sees now how dreadfully she has been cheated and collecting all her strength she stabs the villain through the heart. He has just time to see Claire standing by his bed as a goddess of revenge.

MR. HAROLD ARNOLD, having secured the necessary licence, is giving concerts and animated pictures at the King's Theatre, Gateshead. Mr. Arnold apportions ten per cent. of the takings each week to local charities.

A NEW series of pictures forms the chief attraction at the Market Hall, Whitehaven, this week, chief of which are The Franco-British Exhibition, The Train Wreckers, A Mother's Secret, Adventures of Dollie, Love Finds a Way, and The Music Teacher. Mr. Sam Shipley, comedian, is well received, and good business continues to be done.

Notes from Wales.

AT Pontypridd, Messrs. Hancock open their Welsh tour with their Coliseum and Theatre of Varieties. The pictures are new and up-to-date. The variety entertainment is composed of a good company of star artists:—Miss Dodo Hancock, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Ralph Chappel, comedian and dancer; Mr. Hugh Howarth, female impersonator; Miss Eugene Raymond, coon vocalist and dancer; Mr. Frank Bedford, bird mimic; Stidum, illusionist and juggler. A grand selection of music is played on the keyless Gaviolophone each evening.

SID WHITE'S Electric Coliseum and Fairground aggregation continued their very successful season at Pricetown for a fortnight. A benefit was given by Mr. White to the Ogmore Valley Temperance, and realised £12.

Caistor (Lincs.) Fair.

MESSRS. SMITH AND WARREN exhibited steam roundabouts, shooting saloons, and variety frames. The stall-holders and side shows were provided by Messrs. Russell, White, Needham, Quickfall, and others.

Princes Risborough Fair.

THE shows, machines, shooters, houpla frames, and other popular amusements at this fair were provided by Messrs. Peters, Irving, H. Peters, G. Bond, Tyler, Mrs. Bird, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Edwards, and local stall-holders.

Marlborough Fair.

HERE were the two superb cinematograph theatres of W. Taylor and J. Dooner and Son; W. Le Neve and Norah Sullivan, in physical culture demonstrations; Tom Taylor and school of boxers, in up-to-date fistiana pavilion; Professor Gillham and athletes; and Spinks' freak show. The machine novelties at this fair were provided by W. Symonds, H. Jennings, Greensway and Chapman; shooting concerns by Gould, Edwards, Gillham, and Jennings; houpla maypoles and frames by Frankham, Smith, Wellington, Chapman, Taylor, Crole, Bunce, Brewer, and Jones.

Salisbury Pleasure Fair.

THE annual three days' pleasure fair commenced on Monday in the spacious Market-place, and is this year, for the first time, under the sole management of the Town Council, who have done the utmost to assist the showpeople; consequently it is the largest held here for many years. With such a strong array of the best concerns travelling it only needs fine weather to ensure great success; but unfortunately rain fell heavily on Tuesday morning, but cleared off by the afternoon. Mr. Jacob Studt's Mammoth Picture Palace, with its gorgeous front and big array of paraders, is being crowded all day long. Mr. William Taylor, who has occupied the same site in the fair for over twelve years, has a splendid show, with another highly imposing front. Messrs. Dooner and Sons' New Empire is meeting with much success, and since last year they have added a mammoth front and organ. Professor and Madame Ruby, with X-Rays exhibition, are paying their first visit. Professor Taylor's boxing exhibition is, as usual, a favourite feature of the fair; the American fat lady drew crowds to her show; Mr. Jacob Studt has brought, for the first time, his motor-car track, and crowds are attracted by it; Mr. Marshall Hill's switchback and motor-car track is also a great source of attraction; and Mr. William Symonds has brought his galloping horses and switchback. Amongst the other attractions are Studt's lighthouse, Freeman's juvenile motor-cars, Chapman's big wheel, Marshall Hill's aeroplanes, and a very large number of Houpla Circles, which are drawing well. Mr. J. Haines has some fine shooting galleries, and the usual attractions of stalls, shies, hunt sallies, &c., seem endless, and good business is being done.

MARSHALL HILL'S Fun City has paid a visit to Salisbury this week. His splendid switchback and motor car track, with its fine organ and illuminations, were features of interest. Other attractions were aeroplanes and houp-la circles.

THE managing-director of the London Theatre of Varieties, Ltd., writes: "Contrary to the statements appearing in a contemporary, we have not taken the Scala Theatre, have entered into no negotiations in respect to, nor do we intend to enter into negotiations for, the acquisition of this property."

THE annual Liverpool Theatrical Licensing Session was held on Tuesday, when the Chairman of the Bench (Sir Thomas Hughes) drew special attention to the fact that stricter supervision would have to be shown by managers of places of amusement; further, that no children under fourteen years of age ought to be granted admission without being accompanied by parents or guardians, and that male attendants should be in uniform, so that patrons would know who was in authority to secure good order. Respecting the Empire Theatre, the Bench pointed out that objection had been taken to a female artist on account of her dances, and they thought that proprietors of theatres should know beforehand the kind of performance that was to be presented.

THE majority of the magistrates were in favour of renewing the licence, but it was with a caution. It was not the first time they had had to caution the Empire, an action which had not been found necessary in the case of any other music hall. In respect to the Tivoli, Park, and Paddington halls, which are now closed, a temporary licence was given to Mr. James Kiernan for the first-named, but the other two applications were refused on the ground that there was no probability, at present, of their being reopened.

MR. JOHN WARREN, the late Court magician to the Sultan of Morocco, will present his mystifying act at the Hackney Empire next week. On the rise of the curtain, Mr. Warren is discovered packing a travelling trunk, assisted by his chauffeur. A lady entering explains that she has made a bet of £10 with a police inspector that he cannot arrest her in ten minutes. Mr. Warren places her in the glass cabinet, and soon after the inspector enters. Mr. Warren puts on an overcoat, cap, and goggles, and tries to leave, but the inspector pulls him back. The latter, assisted by the chauffeur, wheels the cabinet down to the footlights, and out steps Mr. Warren, who turns off, followed by the inspector. Then the lady steps from behind the screen, and picks up a newspaper, and sinks into an armchair. The inspector makes a grab at her, but she vanishes completely.

THE chauffeur, standing on a cane settee, covers himself with the lady's cloak down to his knees, and changes to a lady, who runs out, followed by the inspector. Mr. Warren suddenly appears, followed by the lady. He puts her behind the screen just as the inspector holds her up, and orders her to put her hands over the top of the screen. She does so, and the inspector puts on a pair of handcuffs. As he does so the screen falls, disclosing the chauffeur. The inspector admits defeat, and offers the £10 note to the lady if she will come and claim it. To everyone's surprise Mr. Warren throws off the overcoat and is found to be the lady!

NOVEL SCENIC DOOR-KNOB.

Mr. Alfred Northway (Mr. A. E. Robbins), of the Northway and Garrod Tours, has applied for a patent for an improvement that should be heartily welcomed by theatrical managers and others responsible for stage scenery whilst in transit or storage, for he proposes to do away with the ordinary method of securing knobs to doors by means of screws—which is not at all suitable for attaching them to stage scenery, and to flats in particular. According to his invention, the shank or spindle of the door-knob is made with a T-shaped end. In combination with this door-knob and shank he employs a metal disc or plate, which is attached to the wooden frame supporting the canvas on which the scene is painted, by means of screws, and so as to project only very slightly, if at all, from the face of the piece of scenery. This plate has a circular recessed or countersunk part at its centre, in which an elongated slot is cut. After the metal disc has been secured to the scenery in the desired position, the T-ended shank is inserted through the slot therein until stopped by a part of the knob, which for this purpose is made to fit the above-mentioned circular recessed part of the plate, to limit the distance by which the shank can project through the plate. In this position the knob can be turned so as to set the T-end of the shank at an angle to the slot, and thus prevent the shank of the knob from being drawn out of the plate until turned, so as to bring again the cross-piece on the shank into position opposite to the slot. At the back of the disc or plate, and on one side of the slot therein, a catch or stop is provided to engage the cross-piece of the shank, and thus to prevent the same from being turned too far in one direction. Thus door-knobs are provided for stage or scenic purposes which can be put on or taken off at will, without the aid of tools, screws, or like accessories, and the scenery left without any substantial projection to obstruct the packing of the scene, or cause damage to other scenery with which it is packed. The employment, moreover, of an actual handle adds to the realistic and ornamental appearance of the door itself.

THE WEST LONDON.

A very excellent display of animated pictures is being shown, under the management of Mr. Harold Jeapes, at this old Marylebone playhouse, and this class of entertainment bids fair to become very popular with the West Londoners. The best of the films were Parisian Life in Miniature, Yusuf, the Pirate, Archie Goes Shopping, The Kind-hearted Bootblack, For His Child's Sake, The Wonderful Fertiliser, and Our Banana Supply, in which the transit of the fruit from the groves in Costa Rica until it finally reaches the shopkeeper in Edgware-road is interestingly depicted. Two illustrated songs were clearly and well rendered by Mr. Jack Charman, the house heartily joining in the choruses of "In a shady lane" and "Under my Merry Widow hat."

THE Elliott-Savonas, amid their sumptuous stage-setting of "The Palace of Orpheus," again contribute their instrumental selections from *William Tell*, and a catchy little piece, entitled *A Trip on a Mississippi Steamer*, at the Hippodrome, Stoke-on-Trent, this week. Marguerite Ismay and her White Coons meet with a good reception, as does also Alice Maude in her impersonations; the Brothers Hannaway are smart patterers and dancers; Senorita Elvina gives a graceful exhibition on the trapeze; the Alskarno Trio, amusing Risley acrobats, and Jack Hayton, the queer Lancashire lad, are to be noted. The film, A White Man, depicts various phases of cowboy life.

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Synopsis of Scenes:

Talk about "Fisherman's Luck," we get plenty of it here as is shown by the adventures of Sandy McPherson with mosquitoes, two bad boys and a sleeping beauty in the form of a tramp.

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Synopsis of Scenes:

A remarkable presentation in motion pictures of the story of Pocahontas and her love for Captain John Smith. An historical film.

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"THE MOUNTAIN BELLE."

A Sketch in Three Scenes, Libretto by Charles Crozier, Music by Harry Rushworth, first produced at Richmond Hippodrome, on Monday, Oct. 19.

Marcos Crespo .....Mr. Walter Freear
Pedrillo .....Mr. Bay Russell
Lionel Bernard .....Mr. Edward O'Brien
Don Jerome .....Mr. Bert Rolfe
Donna Lorenza .....Miss Edie McCarthy
Violante .....Miss Hilda Jacobson

When *The Mountain Belle* has been a little longer before the public she will have all the town at her heels. The production was received with enthusiasm at Richmond, and both the composer, Mr. Harry Rushforth, and the author, Mr. Charles Crozier, are to be heartily congratulated. The dialogue is smart, the business clever, the situations droll, and the general production above the average of its class.

The plot deals with a topic admirably adapted to the lyric stage. Marcos Crespo, a delightful villain, has turned brigand for want of an occupation. He is associated with a band of cut-throats, with an amiable second villain, Pedrillo to boot. Then there is the usurper, Don Jerome, and the Mountain Belle, Violante. As a plea for polite burglary the band are to visit Don Jerome's Palace disguised, the Mountain Belle to pose as a Countess and her followers as her attendants. The Don receives his guests, and is then faced by the rightful heir. Restitution follows. Interwoven with the plot there is the love story of the Mountain Belle for a certain itinerant artist, who succeeds in winning her hand, and thus all ends comme il faut.

The piece is mounted with prodigal sumptuousness; the scenery is particularly good, the opening tableau showing the Mountain of Cresso is in itself a veritable gem. The dresses are bright and the appointments appropriate. The chorus did fairly well, but the orchestra seemed a little timid of attack on the evening of our visit, and several of the numbers suffered. In the representation, Miss Hilda Jacobson took the house by storm in the title-rôle. She has a fine, well-trained voice, and was heard to advantage in a rousing ditty, "Hark to the tramp." She was equally successful in the farewell duet with Lionel Bernard. Mr. Bay Russell made a decided hit as Pedrillo; his antics and business resulted in a lot of merriment. His song, "I've just been introduced," was capital, too. Mr. Bert Rolfe did well as Don Jerome, and Miss Edie McCarthy was interesting as Donna Lorenza. Mr. Walter Freear was a huge success as Marcos Crespo, the bandit chief—a desperando with a vein of extravagant humour. All things considered, *The Mountain Belle* is a delightful item, thanks to an admirable all-round performance. For Mr. Bay Russell as stage manager we only have unqualified praise.

Mr. Billy Ross and company are meeting with great success in Scotland with their new comedy boxing act, *Maloney's Troubles*.

On Friday evening (16th) at the first house at Barrasford's Hippodrome, Sheffield, just as Jan Rudenyi had finished his sketch, *The Power of Music*, a young woman in the gallery gave birth to a child. Mother and baby were removed as speedily as possible, and hurried home in a cab.

The latest quotations for music-hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1¼; Canterbury, ¼; Empire (15s. paid), 1¼; ditto (10s. paid), 1; London Pavilion ordinary, 3½; ditto, preference, 4½; Metropolitan, 14/0; Moss Empire, 5; ditto 5 per cent. preference, 3¼; Oxford, 6; Palace, 18/6; Tivoli, 5¼; Var. Cons. Theas., 9/6.

Miss Nellie Norway, another aspirant to the variety stage, is a younger sister of Miss Ethel Walker, the popular entertainer at the piano. She made her début at the grand charity matinée on Thursday at the Hackney Empire, where her speciality "Campanology," had a hearty reception from the vast audience that filled the building. It was manifest that the finely-played melodies on the bells were immensely appreciated. Miss Norway's selections were supported by the excellent orchestra.

Signor Augustus Greco, musical director of the Palace, Reading, was presented on Saturday evening by the gentlemen of his orchestra with a gold medal, bearing his monogram on the face, and on the back: "Presented to Signor Augustus Greco by his band as a token of esteem on the first anniversary of the opening of the Palace." The leader, Mr. Pizel, made the presentation, in the presence of Mr. George Howard Watson, managing-director, who also had something complimentary to say concerning Mr. Greco. The gratified recipient made a speech of grateful acknowledgment.

Opening her London tour of the Gibbons theatres at the Ealing Hippodrome last Monday Miss Annie Braddan ("the Manx girl") sang for the first time to Londoners her great provincial song success, by Willmott and Darewski, "Far away in Australia." "The boys" caught it up at once, and Miss Braddan's popularity in the metropolis was at once assured. Another catchy song, with novel effects, was sung by the same lady, embodying a warning that "The man at the door was father." It speaks volumes for Miss Braddan when it can be recorded that several well-known managing-directors sent their representatives out to Ealing during the week especially to book her turn.

Miss Lola Lee, an exponent of Eastern dancing, will make her first appearance on the European stage at the Canterbury on Monday. Miss Lee, who is still in her teens, is a member of a well-known Anglo-Indian family, and was born and brought up in the East, where her dances have hitherto been given from time to time privately before Indian notabilities. A feature of her dances are her snakes. From her earliest days she has had a peculiar influence over ophidians, and if there really is such a thing as snake-charming, she may certainly be said to be able to do it. The dances to be given at the Canterbury will be two characteristic instances of Miss Lee's style, and may be accepted as genuine Eastern art. Dances suitable for private entertainments in Indian drawing-rooms naturally required a certain amount of revision before being transferred to a London stage, and here Miss Lee has had the advantage of the practical advice of Mr. John D'Auban.

For the first time there is to be a "Winter Session" at Earl's Court. A syndicate has acquired the Empress Hall, and after spending £3,500 on a new parquet flooring and general rebuilding, will open it as a dancing and skating carnival on Nov. 5. Many novelties are promised. The "carnival area" will be the biggest ballroom in the world, surpassing even those at Blackpool, Isle of Man, and Coney Island. The programme will be changed daily, and all the time two spectacles will be going on at once. Skating will start at 11.30 a.m., and dancing will be added at 7 o'clock each evening. Among the novelties promised are "Sports on Wheels" and "Beauties on Skates," and a pony and trap is the first prize for the lady who exhibits the best head of hair. There are to be limelight effects. The M.C. will wear hunting evening dress; everyone dancing must wear proper shoes and remove hats. Lady and gentleman instructors will be everywhere. Admission will be 6d., with extras for dancing and skating.

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MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 8, 15, 22, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.,
March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 10, 17, 24, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, 19, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
Nov. 16, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Nov. 23, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 15, 22, March 22, April 5, 26, May 3, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 1, 29, April 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, 19, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Nov. 9, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 15, March 1, 8, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, on (three nights only).
Address,
E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, March, 1910, onwards.
Excellent week with "Wrecker of Men." Re-booked. This, "Hands Across the Sea"; next, "Claudian."
Can arrange for First-class Panto. or Musical Show for Holidays, 1909-10.
£1,300 has been taken in one week (New Year) with the latter.
Coms., Arthur Jefferson.
Wires, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Nov. 16, 23, 30 (3 nights),
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, onwards.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS.
Nov. 16, Dec. 3 (3 nights), 7, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 18, onwards.
Apply for all above, Rowland, T., Folkestone.

F. W. BOLAM'S THEATRES.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
Dec. 14 Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Company.
Address,
R. G. Elder, Gen.-Man., Metropole T., Gateshead.

PALACE PIER THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, First-class Comedies and Musical Pieces.
Nov. 16, onwards.
Good Pantomime write in.

Letters to J. E. Cowell.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Dec. 14,
H. M. Theatre, Dundee.
Apply, Mr. Robert Arthur, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Front-rank Musical and Dramatic Attractions, Feb. 15, March 22, April 19, May 3, and onwards.
Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

GRAND THEATRE, HULL.
WANTED, High-class Musical or other Attraction for Nov. 23.
Write, William Morton.

HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, good Attraction, for week commencing Jan. 4; First-class Company only for this important date. Apply, Jno. R. Huddlestone, General-Manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, HULL.
Dec. 28 vacant.
WANTED, Powerful Drama, with up-to-date Picture Printing.
Wm. Morton.

JERSEY AND GUERNSEY.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Dec. 7, 14, and Xmas; or could arrange three weeks with company able to change piece weekly. Small printing bill and no contra account. Now booking spring and autumn, 1909.
Address, Edward Marris, Opera House, Jersey.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Nov. 23, Dec. 7 and 14.
Address, Rich Waldon, as above.

THEATRE ROYAL, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 16, Dec. 7 Jan. 11, 25, March, onwards with exceptions; First-class Companies only. Apply, Auguste A. Peulevé, General-Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL and HIPPODROME, SHREWSBURY.
Lessee and Director, W. Yates Gregory.
Resident-Manager, W. C. Dornton.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 5, 6, 7 (3 nights), Nov. 30 (6 nights), Jan. 11, 18,
First-class Attractions Only Entertained.
Easter, onwards, can be booked in conjunction with the Palace Theatre, Wrexham.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, SHREWSBURY.

Lessee and Director, W. Yates Gregory.
Business-Manager, W. C. Dornton.

WANTED, Companies, Nov. 5, 6, 7 (3 nights), Nov. 30 (6 nights), First-class Attractions only entertained. Easter, onwards, can be booked in conjunction with the Palace Theatre, Wrexham.

AVENUE THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, Good Companies, Nov. 16, 23, Dec. 7, Jan. 7 (three nights only), onwards, with exceptions. Frank Payne.

PALACE, BOSTON.
WANTED, Good Companies, Dramas, Comedy, or Good Vaudeville, Nov. 2, 9. Ernest Cass, Manager.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only Entertained.
Vacant Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 21,
onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates.
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Dec. 7, 14, 21,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Dec. 21, Feb. 22, April 5,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 7, April 12, 19,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant April 12, May 31,
onward with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Nov. 5, 16, 26, 30,
onward with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical Pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

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Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

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THEATRE ROYAL, MERTHYR,
Next week, "Sergeant Brue."

NEW THEATRE, BARGOED.
NEW THEATRE, BARGOED.
Next week, "Leah Kleschna."

GRAND THEATRE, ABERAMAN.
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HIPPODROME, WEST BROMWICH.
HIPPODROME, WEST BROMWICH.
Next week, "The Dairymaids."

Booking in Conjunction.
Booking in Conjunction.
WANTED, Companies for a few Spring and Autumn Dates, 1909, including April 12, May 31, and Aug. 2.

Bookings include:—
Mr. Edward Compton.
"A White Man."
"Peter's Mother."
"Belle of New York."
"Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch."

N.B.—Managers are requested to note that Aberdare and Mountain Ash are within the barring radius of the T. R., Merthyr, which will from this date be rigidly enforced.

Managers holding Contracts with the Theatre at West Bromwich need not apply.

Apply, stating lowest certainty for the four weeks, to A. J. W., Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Nov. 16, 30, also Dec. 7, and Feb. 8, on, with exceptions.
All applications for dates to
Hugh Robertson,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
Sole Lessee, Julian Malvern.
WANTED, Pantomime or Strong Attraction, Dec. 21 and 28 or Dec. 26 (seven nights); also Musical Comedy, April 12.
Note.—The National Conference of Teachers is held in Morecambe during Easter.
Address, Chas. M. Julian, General-Manager.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, BOLTON.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Dec 28 (?), Jan. 11 (?), Feb. 1.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Nov. 16. No wires.
Lester Collingwood.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Good Companies, Nov. 2, Dec. 14, Nov. 2, Dec. 14.
Address, Norman H. Barger.

WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dec. 21, 28, also Panto., for Dates in Jan. and onwards. Full particulars, Harry Batteresby, T. R., Wednesbury.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31. First-class Companies only need apply.

WANTED, good Companies, for Treherbert and Maesteg, Treherbert Nov. 9 (3 days), Maesteg Nov. 16 (3 days); Maesteg Dec. 7 and 14, full weeks, Treherbert Dec. 14, full week, and various Spring dates. Poole, Theatre, Gloucester.

WANTED, Musical Shows, Nov. 23, Dec. 14, 21, Grand, Chorley; also Dec. 7, 14, 21, Grand, Radcliffe. Sante, Radcliffe.

WANTED, good Dramatic or Musical Companies, with change of Bill and Special Pictorials; Share or small Certainty (no guarantee); vacant Nov. 9 and on. James Elphinstone, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, 18, Dec. 28. Apply, Phillips.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, First-class Co., Nov. 9, through obliging Mr. Fred Bulmer Feb. 22, 1909, Vacant through transferring. Apply, A. C. Moody.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, an Attraction for Xmas and New Year weeks. Vacant Dates apply. Cameron Burgess.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Nov. 9, through Company going off the road, also 16th and 26th (three or six nights). W. E. Potts.

WANTED, Sound Attraction (Musical preferred), Nov. 12, 13, and 14, Important Date. Share or certainty. Butler, St. George's Theatre, Kendal.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROOK.
WANTED, Company, Nov. 2 (through breach), Nov. 2.
Next vacant date, March 29.
Wire, Wallace Davidson,
Victoria Hall, Huddersfield.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions, Dec. 7, Jan. 4. Holding Capacity £100. Bookings, "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Good Companies, for Jan. 11 and Feb. 22, 1909.
J. H. Curry, as above.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

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with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
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HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 16, 30, March 1, 22, 29, April 12, 26, on.
Our Season's Booking, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," "Irene Wycherley," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Peter's Mother," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Jack Straw," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Cheat," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," Mr. Harry Nicholls, and Mr. G. Alexander's next St. James's T. production.
All coms., Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., Barrow.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

Seating capacity 3,500.

Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District

Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only.

We are prepared to guarantee
Really Big Star Attractions.

All communications, Jno. Ed. Jowsey,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

Telegrams, "Magnet." 'Phones 413, 426, 500.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, a Good Drama, Nov. 26, 27, 28, Musical Comedy, Jan. 4 and Feb. 1.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP.
Vacant last three days of Nov. 9 and 23 weeks, also Xmas.

TOWN HALL, RUGBY.
Wanted, good Company, Dec. 24 and 26, also Easter.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Now run as a Variety House.
A few good Dramatic Attractions will be booked from Xmas, on, certainties.

W. Payne Seddon,
this week, T. R., Lincoln;
next, Loughborough.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. Ashton, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, High-class Companies, Nov. 16, 26 (3), Jan. 11, 18 (?), 25 (?), Feb. 8, March 1, 22, and on. W. E. Potts, O. H., Dunfermline.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Dec. 26 three or four nights), Assembly Rooms, Taunton (Stock Scenery, &c.).
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, DOVERCOURT.
Several good Autumn and Spring Dates Vacant.
Apply, Baring Bros., Cheltenham.

ROYAL PAVILION, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, good Panto., also First-class Musical Comedies or Variety Combinations. Write, C. W. Jenkinson.

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, RUNCORN.
WANTED, Companies, for weeks commencing Nov. 9, 23, 30, also odd nights, Nov. 16, 17, 18, 19, 21. Edgar Lea, Manager.

NEW STANDARD THEATRE, HETTON.
WANTED, Good Dramas or Musical Shows, for Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21. Write, Chapman.

WANTED, small Fit-up Companies, for Small Hall, Highley, Shropshire. For terms and particulars apply to Mrs. Bache, Highley, Bridgnorth.

THEATRES WANTED.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 23, 30, Jan. 25, Feb., March 8, 22.
Charles Harrington,
Carlton Theatre, Birmingham.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, 18, March 15, 22, 29, April 12.

All communications, J. W. Cordiner,
Oct. 26, Prince's Theatre, Horwich.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Nov. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30, Dec. 7, Xmas week (7 nights), also Spring.
E. C. S., Bishopsdale Farm, Benenden, Kent.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI and MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:
Feb. 22, April 19, May 3.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, Polini, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

MR. BRANDON THOMAS'S COMPANIES.
"CHARLEY'S AUNT."
WANTED, Midland or Southern Counties, Nov. 9 and 30. Address,
Cecil Barth, Pavilion Theatre, Eastbourne.

ROLAND YORKE'S TOURS AND PLAYS.
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
"THE OLD HOME."
Oct. 26, Grand, Glasgow.
Address, Roland Yorke, Grand, Glasgow.

ROLAND YORKE'S TOURS AND PLAYS.
WANTED, First-class Theatres.
"SUNSHINE AND SHADOW."
Production Autumn, 1909.
Address, Roland Yorke, Grand, Glasgow.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for "Pair of Spectacles," or Repertory, Nov. 2 and 9.
Wire, Yorkshire Grey Hotel, St. Leonards.

"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
LINGFORD CARSON'S LATEST SUCCESS.
Forty People on Stage, L. Carson included in Cast.
WANTED, Dec. 7 (?), 28, 1908, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 15, 22, March 15, 22, 1909. All communications, L. Carson, Prince's Theatre, Preston.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION
WANTED, Dec. 26 (seven nights), Jan. 11.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 12.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, 28.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER FORBIDDEN MARRIAGE."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 8 (North), March 29.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE UGLIEST WOMAN ON EARTH."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Jan. 4, 11.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER ROAD TO RUIN."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov. 23, Dec. 7.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDK. MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION,
"MARRIED TO THE WRONG MAN."
WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 18, 25.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov 16 Dec. 21, 28.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb. 1, 8, March 1.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 2, Dec. 26 (7 nights).
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Dec. 14, Dec. 26 (7 nights), Jan 4, Feb. 1.
Douglas Bruce, 14, Bloomsbury-st., London, W.C.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
Andrew Melville, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, Feb. 1.
Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH,"
from the Haymarket and Apollo Theatres.
WANTED, Nov. 16 (to follow Cheltenham), Nov. 23, onwards, with exceptions.
Chas. Bowmaker, 25, Pemberton-gardens, N.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
By Walter Howard.
From the Lyceum Theatre, London.

WANTED, weeks Dec. 7, 14, 21, Feb. 1, March 1, 29, big Theatre for Aug. Bank Holiday. Apply,
Paumier and Howard, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.
Oct. 26, six nights.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, at Christmas, for the Great Success,
"RAFFLES."
Apply to Mr. A. Bingham, 53a, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W. Telegrams, c/o "Dramatical, London." Telephone 1,255 Gerrard.

N.B.—A few Spring and Autumn Dates open.

WANTED, Nov. 16, week, for Mr. Louis Calvert's Production of "Sunday." Wire, Gifford, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, London, W.C.

JULIAN MALVERN'S TOUR.
"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 11, 25, March 29, April 19.
Address,
Chas. M. Julian,
R. T., Morecambe.

"WOMAN AND WINE."
WANTED, Large Theatres, Jan. 4 (North), April 12 (South).
Everything Carried.
Sixty People on the Stage.

E. Vivian Edmonds, Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

MR. H. F. MALTBY AND HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Nov. 16 (only vacant date this year), to follow O. H., Blackpool, and precede Gaiety, Manchester, 1908 production, "The Laughter of Fools." Wyn Weaver, Kylemore, Railway Approach, Worthing.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22 (Wales), Easter vacant (South).
Dickie Clare, King's, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

"SECOND TO NONE," by Walter Howard.
WANTED, for this Magnificent Drama, Xmas, Jan. 25, and Easter.
Address, T. E. Ward, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, good Theatre, for Dec. 26 (seven nights), only vacant date this year; also Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, and 15.

Maud Hildyard, King's Theatre, Sunderland.

"AT CRIPPLE CREEK."
WANTED, Xmas, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, and on.
Mark Blow, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

WANTED, Nov. 23, Jan. 4, 11, for Corri's "Dandy Fifth." Wire, Haldane Crichton, Theatre, Nuneaton; next, Rugby.

WANTED, for "Who is She?" Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 1, 22; "The King and Unknown Woman," new production, Jan. 18, 25, and Feb. 1. E. Hill-Mitchelson, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

"UNDER TWO FLAGS."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, and on.
Mark Blow,
6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

"NAPOLEON'S DIVORCE."
WANTED, Theatres. Unexpectedly Vacant Oct. 29 (three nights), Nov. 30 (?), Dec. 14, and on. Thirty people, two horses. No colourable imitation of any other version. Address, Neville and Carnaby, to-day, Middleton; after, Assembly Theatre, Normanton.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. FRANK BATEMAN and GEORGE CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Feb. 1 and Aug. 9, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, for the Greatest Woman's Drama of To-day, "The Empty Cradle," mounted on a lavish scale, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4. Harry Batteresby, T. R., Wednesbury.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
WANTED, Nov. 2, Nov. 2, Nov. 16.
Tilbury; this, Horwich, Lancs; next, Cradley.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Nov. 30, Jan. 11, 18, 25, various, on.
Sumptuously staged, beautifully dressed, and always a perfect cast.
Wire, E. A'Dell,
Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge

WANTED, Managers, with Vacant Dates in February, to communicate with
J. F. Elliston, Bolton. Most important.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 1909.
Frank M. Thorne, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
Nov. 9, 10, 16, Nov. 16.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Wire, Nov. 2. Wire.
Wire, Nov. 2. Wire.
Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 15, March 1, 8.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 9, 16, Dec. 28, Jan. 11.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

EDWARD MARRIS'S COMPANY.
"THE GENTLEMAN JOCKEY."
"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
"SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Spring, Summer, and Autumn, 1909.
Few Dates still Vacant.
Address, EDWARD MARRIS, Opera House, Jersey.

FRANK STANMORE'S CO. OF COMEDIANS,
in
the new Musical Comedy,
"THE GAY DECEIVERS."
"THE GAY DECEIVERS."
The Funniest and Brightest Musical Show on Tour.
Breaking all records in every Town visited.
Catchy Songs, Clever Dances, Uproarious Comedy, and Pretty Girls.
Star Cast of London Artists.
Enormous success at Hippodrome, Sheerness, Eastbourne, and Aldershot.
Great Success on its return to Critical Brighton.
The Brighton Gazette says:—
Some musical comedy is rubbish. Some musical comedy serves to pass away an evening in a pleasant fashion. Some musical comedy is excellent, and well worth seeing on its merits. Of the latter order is "The Gay Deceivers," being played this week at the Palace Pier Theatre. There is a "plot"—if that is the correct term for musical comedy—and it is not hidden, as is so often the case; but it matters little. "The Gay Deceivers" is hilarious in its fun, full of subtle wit, and sparkles with pretty music—which is modestly described on the programme as "catchy songs." But the term is inadequate; it is not grand opera, certainly, it is not classical, but it is more than "catchy," it is pretty and tuneful, and on several occasions rises to the height of real music, with all that is meant by the word. And the fun is glorious, so absurd as to be positively clever; while the whole thing is carried through so brightly that it appears as though the artists are amusing themselves rather than playing for the benefit of the audience. As regards the cast, our difficulty is not who to praise, for the whole company play into each other's hands, and work for the success of the whole, and the consequence is that on the Palace Pier this week is to be seen one of the nicest musical comedies ever brought to Brighton, played by a company which is second to none. In a sentence, "The Gay Deceivers" is brilliant, and a certain cure for a fit of the blues.
WANTED, First-class Theatres only, Nov. 2 (S. Wales and North), Nov. 16 (North), Nov. 23. Wire, this, STANMORE, Palace Pier, Brighton; next, Grand T., Aberavon.

SIDNEY RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World," Nov. 2 (through misunderstanding), Dec. 7, 14, Xmas and New Year, Jan. 4.
Wanted, for "HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN," Xmas, Jan. 4, 11, onward.
Splendid casts, complete productions.
G. M. COPPING, Junction Theatre, Manchester; next, Victoria, Broughton.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Jan. 18, only Vacant Date
"A TRAITOR PRINCE,"
Gorgeous Revival, Vacant Jan. 4.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Refer P. Broadhead, Esq., Wm. Morton, Esq.
Intense, Human, Thrilling, Interesting.
A Play that Draws. Refer. Refer.
Vacant Nov. 23, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
Wire for Nov. 23, Nov. 23, Nov. 23.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," Touring 1909.
Wires, Gaiety, Dundee. Letters, P. T., Middleton.

WANTED, for "The Black Flag," Nov. 23, between Blackburn and Hanley. HENRY PETTITT, Lyceum, Edinburgh; next, O. H., Middlesbrough.

EDWARD MARRIS'S COMPANY.
"THE GENTLEMAN JOCKEY."
"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
"SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Spring, Summer, and Autumn, 1909.
Few Dates still Vacant.
Address, EDWARD MARRIS, Opera House, Jersey.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS,"
Nov. 2, Nov. 2 (3 or 6 nights, between Wales and Birmingham). Terrific Business at Tonypandy and Aberdare. Refer A. Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Nov. 23, Nov. 23. Doing big business everywhere. GEO. A. DE GRAY, this, T. R., Barry, Glam; next, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANIES.
"£1,000 REWARD."
No Vacant Dates.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts,
By Walter Howe.
To be produced Jan., 1909.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 26, May 3, on.
April 26, May 3, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.
Garrick Theatre, Hereford.

H. HAMILTON STEWART'S COMPANIES.
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, North, Nov. 16, through transfer.
WALTER J. BAYLISS, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, good Theatres, Dec. 7, 14, 21, for this great Success.
HENRY L. OSMOND, T. R., Sheffield.

WANTED, Jan. 22 (one week only), for Cullen and Carthy's Grand Money-making Production of "Babes in the Wood." This Show is well known as one of the biggest successes in travelling Pantomime. This date is to take the place of a date already booked, but to oblige a well-known Proprietor we shall be pleased to arrange First-class Theatres or Hippodromes.
Close on fifty in Company. Lovely Dresses from last year's production at Drury Lane,
Now who wants it?
Address next week,
CULLEN and CARTHY, Palace, Southampton.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, having large Stage and large Holding Capacity for
JAMES KIDDIE'S
Colossal Gorgeous Pantomimes,
"ALADDIN"
and
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Vacant Feb. 1 for both Pantomimes.
Can play both subjects.
Twice Nightly.
Address,
JAMES KIDDIE,
Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

EDWARD MARRIS'S COMPANY.
"THE GENTLEMAN JOCKEY."
"THE DANDY DOCTOR."
"SOMEBODY'S SWEETHEART."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Spring, Summer, and Autumn, 1909.
Few Dates still Vacant.
Address, EDWARD MARRIS, Opera House, Jersey.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."

Fast Booking Autumn, 1909.
WANTED, Good Theatre, Aug. Bank Holiday.

Wanted, Aug. 9, in or near Wales.

Wanted, Sept. 27, between Sheffield and Burnley.

Wanted, Oct. and Nov., with exceptions.

Managers Wanting First-class Attraction,
Apply MISS HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., T. R., Crook.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Wilson Barrett, from Hall Caine's novel.
WANTED, Nov. 2, Nov. 2, Nov. 2, Nov. 9, and few later.
Christmas Week Vacant.

Oct. 26, St. George's, Kendal.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Big Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 16, and New Year's Week,
also Jan. 4, 11, and 18, for either play.
Coms., GEORGE KIRK, Royal Victoria, Ramsgate.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
"ROLLICKING RORY."
WANTED, Nov. 9 (North), through Theatre closing.

Wire, Wire, Wire.
Lyceum, Govan; next, Paisley.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, Xmas, Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, 15, April 12, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

"THE FLOWER GIRL."
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, Winter, Spring, and Autumn, 1909.
Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS,
His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen.
Letters to Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee.
See Companies Page.

MR. BULMER'S ENTERPRISES.
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Easter.
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
"SENTENCED FOR LIFE."
Vacant Nov. 2, Xmas.
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
"FROM SCOTLAND YARD."
WANTED, Oct. 26, Nov. 16. FRED BULMER, THEATRE ROYAL, BATLEY.

JAZON AND NIGHTINGALE'S
"WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
WANTED, big Theatre, Lancs. or Yorks., Feb. 15, 1909, vacant through misunderstanding. E. C. JAZON, T. R., West Bromwich.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO., "THE BELLS OF OLD YORK," by Rass Challis.
WANTED, Nov. 16 and 23, and New Year's Week, also Feb. and March (with exceptions). Address, MAURICE, Elephant and Castle Theatre, London.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c.

An evening spent in their company is a time to be remembered. For misanthropes, pessimists, and that ilk there could be no better prescription. The applause loud and long that always punctuates their numbers is an even inadequate criterion of the pleasure that they afford to their audiences. We are forced to the conviction that few if any of the other concert parties who have visited us this year are the equals of this troupe in the all-round excellence of their entertainments.—Folkestone Herald, Oct. 10, 1908.

The Directors of the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, have re-engaged them for seventeen weeks next summer. Their returns showed another 40 per cent. advance over their previous season, which was 50 per cent. over any preceding year.

Only Vacancies Next Summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onward.

Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON,
13, Alexandra-gardens, Folkestone.

WANTED, Immediate Dates in Theatres of Repute for
BOSWELL'S
ROYAL STAGE CIRCUS.
20 Educated Ponies, 20,
and Full Company.
Managers cordially invited to witness performance.
Monday, Oct. 26, and during the week, including two matinées, Thursday and Saturday.
East Oxford Theatre, Oxford.

WANTED, Theatres and Hippodromes, Nov. 2, onward, to follow Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, the Royal British Circus, a complete Circus performance on the Stage. Bareback Riders, Performing Horses, Ponies, Dogs, and Funny Clowns. This week playing to packed houses at the Irving Theatre, Seacombe. Managers wanting a Novelty and Draw wire for Nov. 2, to SAMPSON, Theatre, Seacombe.

ARTISTS WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, First-class Juvenile Lady, for Helena Landless; "Mystery of Edwin Drood," open Nov. 2, also for twelve nights, perhaps longer. Old Lady for another company. Terms, references, MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, young slight Chambermaid, gentleman, small parts. Rehearse Tuesday. State terms, height, references, parts played, MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

WANTED, through releasing, Bright Comedian and Chambermaid. Photos. and full particulars, HILL and AYRTON, Borough T., Heywood.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Lady, pretty, look 16; Irish Comedian. State terms, height, references, photo., MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

"THE KING OF CRIME" CO.
WANTED, Juvenile Lady, Rehearse Croydon Oct. 26. Photos., age, height, references, F. B. WOULFE, Theatre Royal, Croydon.

WANTED, a Young Lady, capable of Playing a Pretty Juvenile Part in a High-class Costume Playlet, London halls, and tours Great Britain, America, and Australia. A golden chance for intelligent lady. Investment necessary. Sound established management. Box 5,068, "The Era."

WANTED, for Sketch, Juvenile Leading Lady, Power and Pathos, to rehearse immediately. Refs., photo., lowest terms, address, Care of Railway Hotel, Padiham, Lancashire.

WANTED, Lady, by Company playing one-night Shows in town; good parts; a beginner with some talent and experience preferred; an opportunity for gaining experience; no fees. Address, Box 5,060, care of "The Era."

H. HAMILTON STEWART'S CO'S.
"SECRET SERVICE."
WANTED, Gentlemen, to Play the following: Mr. Arrelsford, Wilfred Varney; also Ladies, for Miss Varney and Caroline Mitford (Light Comedy), for tour, starting shortly after Christmas; all must be tall. Address, with full particulars, photos., references, to Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for New Production, Xmas, Powerful Character Actor, for Military Old Man; must have good voice. Also Child Actress over 14. Photos., references, and two weeks' address,
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

"CLAUDIAN."
WANTED, tall Declamatory Actor, of experience; rehearse Oct. 29, open Nov. 2. Age, height, photos., latest references, lowest terms, &c. WILLIAM MACLAREN, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Juvenile Gentleman, for Parson, in "Man to Man," rehearse Nov. 3. Terms and particulars, FRANK ADAIR, T. R., Bilston.

WANTED, immediately, recognised Comedian, for Charles Hawtrey part in Town; must be tall, well built, and smart appearance. Full particulars, references, and lowest terms, Box 5,047, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, Young Lady, Vocalist and Mandolinist; must be good reader. Letters, H., 108, Castellain-mansions, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagements, by the Beaufort Dance Trio. Dances attended. Terms moderate. T. WALMSLEY, 14, Gowan-avenue, Fulham, S.W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

WANTED, a good Principal Boy, Comedians, also Good Chorus Ladies; must have good voices. Write to J. BROWN and Co., Variety Agents, 58, Chicksand-street, N.E. Tel. No. 1098 City. Mark letter "Panto."

WANTED, for good Theatre, Good Principal Boy and Girl, Second Boy and Girl, smart Comedian (Baron), small Comedian, good Dancer for Cat; those known to me WIRE at once. Send photos., bookings. DAN MAXFORD, 19, St. John-street, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Young Knockabout Comedian, height about 5ft. 2in; must be well up in Grotesque and other Comical Dancing for First-class London Long-season Panto. Apply, every day between 10-1, Mr. S. E. BAUMANN, Drill Hall, Chenies-street, Tottenham Court-road, W.

WANTED, for Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy's Long Panto. Season at the Hippodrome, First-class Ballet Dancer; good salary offered young and pretty. Apply every day between 10 and 1, to Mr. S. E. BAUMANN, Drill Hall, Chenies-street, Tottenham Court-road.

WANTED, Principal Solo Dancer for Pantomime. Lowest terms and references to
JAMES KIDDIE,
Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, sixty Ballet Girls, for London Theatre, and twelve Acrobatic Dancers.
Call, GILBERT, 417A, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Acrobatic Dancers, for Panto. Photos., terms, and all particulars,
EDITH ST. CLARE, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, for Pantomime, not less than 5ft. 6in. Photos., terms, &c.,
EDITH ST. CLARE, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, First-class Chorus Ladies; must be young, tall, and really good appearance, and decent voices Apply by letter, giving full particulars, with photo., which will be returned, to C. CONSTANT, Theatre Royal, Ryde, I.O.W.

WANTED, Six Ladies, for Established Troupe; must sing and dance well. Good Pantomime settled. Apply by letter only,
PAPA BROWN, Agent,
Holland House, Durand Gardens, London, S.W.

WANTED, Solo Tenor, Solo Prima Donna, for a Part for a First-class Panto. Apply, every day between 10-1, S. E. BAUMANN, Drill Hall, Chenies-street, Tottenham Court-road, W.

WANTED, for Crystal Palace Pantomime, Good Animal Performer, for Parrot, with costume complete. Address, W. MARTIN, 415, Strand.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Crissie Cross, Smart Singer and Dandy Dancer, at Liberty for Panto., Principal or Second Girl. Address, 7, Loughboro'-road, Brixton, S.W. This, Pal., Hammersmith.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Panto., Merry Marie Liston, the Popular Principal Boy. Offers, C/o Columbia Pictures, Bath. Refer Lester Collingwood, or E. G. Falcon, Esq.

WANTED, Known, The Kebbles (Nora and Edie), Refined Duettists and Clever Dancers, at Liberty Panto. 31, Hilberry-avenue, Liverpool. Agent wanted.

WANTED, Known, the Popular Sisters Terry, at Liberty for Pantomime, Boy and Girl; a guaranteed success. Communicate, Oct. 26, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

WANTED, Known, Bert Danson, U.S. * * *, vacant Panto., First-class Theatres only. Last year Fitzwarren at the Camden Theatre, and a big success. This week, Starring and getting screams of laughter at the Palace, Bristol (fourth visit); next, Empire, Bolton.

WANTED, at Liberty Panto., Fred Zarinella, Specially Engaged "Marriages of Mayfair," Drury Lane Theatre, Animal, Comedy, Special Parts; First-class Speciality. Last season the Ape, "Sindbad," Theatre Royal, Manchester. Coms., Drury Lane Theatre.

WANTED, Panto., by Sam Leo, Cat, Dog, any Animal Part, or Knockabout, Leaps, Traps, &c. Per. add., 5, Ely-terrace, Mile End-road, E.

WANTED, Known, Percy Curry, Liberty Panto., any Principal Part; splendid references. Refer Francis J. Laidler, William Holland, Chas. E. Machin. Address, Hippodrome, Belfast. Sing, Dance, Patter.

WANTED, Known, Will Owen, the well-known Dame Comedian, the Woman of a few words, vacant for Panto., also Nov. 30. Terrific success this week, Tivoli, High Shields; next, Hippodrome, Stockton-on-Tees.

WANTED, Known, Jack Knox, Animal Impersonator, at Liberty for Pantomime. Last year with Fredk. Mouillot, Esq. (Goose). Address, G. P. O., Winchester.

WANTED, Joint Engagement, Panto. or Pictures, Happy Harry Hellis, Pianist Vocalist, Patterer, and Lecturer; Grace Buckingham's Performing Dogs; Alice Vernon, Vocalist, Cornet Soloist, and Dancer. HELLIS, Ebenezer-row, Dorking.

WANTED, Known, Nash and Noel, Comedians, free for Panto. This week, Regent, Salford; next, Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Pantomime by Denby and Dent, Comedy Parts; thoroughly experienced. Next week, Alhambra T., Attercliffe, Sheffield.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective, Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, or Stock, good, effective work, reasonable prices. J. JACKS, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Scenic Artist in London or Suburbs; can undertake Stage-management; used to Exhibition and General Decoration Work; good and long references. Address, ARTIST, 17, Hearne-road, Chiswick, W.

WANTED, Known, T. C. Daly, Principal Scenic Artist, the Broadhead Theatres; estimates given, fair prices. STUDIO, 31, Hinckley-st., Bradford, Manchester.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Manager and Secretary, for a Concert Hall on the North-West Coast.
Salary £150 per annum.
Only those with experience and highest references need reply.

Address, A. TELFORD,
11, Birch-lane, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Secretary for Friendly Society, whole services indispensable Friday afternoons and Sunday evenings, otherwise work can practically be done during leisure. For particulars apply by letter, stating qualifications, to TERRIERS' ASSOCIATION, 69, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Stage-Manager; must be able to produce pantomime, with company of 100 on stage. Will applicants please take silence as a polite negative. Terms and particulars, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, Gentleman, Learn Management Picture Variety Establishment. Premium required, or would entertain partnership; experience unnecessary. Box 5,069, "The Era" Office, W.C.

WANTED, good reliable Electrician, for Theatre. Address, with full particulars and references, to Box 5,059, "The Era."

WANTED, Property Man, combine Billing, for Warrington, commence Nov. 2. Age, references, and terms, to M. LOADER, Theatre Royal, St. Helens.

WANTED, good Carpenter and Baggage; open Hull, Nov. 2. Address,
HALDANE CRICHTON, Town Hall, Rugby.

WANTED, Good Carpenter, capable of Lines if required. Terms, height, recent references, age, MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

WANTED, to open Nov. 2, smart hard-working Top Window-billers and Effect Workers. All particulars first letter, ANDREWS, 25, Cottage-grove, Southsea, Hants.

WANTED, Young Man, as Attendant and Dresser, and assist with Baggage; must be well-mannered. NORMAN V. NORMAN, 50, Regency-square, Brighton.

WANTED, smart Young Man, about 18 or 20 years, as Assistant for Fixing-up, Cleaning, and looking after apparatus and bicycles; must have experience on stage. Apply J. J., at the Loughborough Hotel, Loughborough-road, Brixton, between 2 and 4 p.m.

WANTED, by Advertiser, position as Manager or Assistant; thoroughly capable, Varieties or Pictures; now finishing third season; a smart Lecturer and Entertainer; vacant Nov. 2.
FRANCIS LONDBERG, Assembly Rooms, Leamington.

WANTED, Engagement, as Manager or Acting-Manager of Hall or Theatre, thoroughly experienced in all details, good disciplinarian, highest references, accountant. HAGUE, Entertainment Manager, Corporation, Scarborough.

WANTED, Engagement, as Electrician, Theatre or Music Hall, charge of whole installation. Box 5,067, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Stage-Carpenter, also young Scenic Artist. Terms moderate. Good references; good workers. W. COOK, Bristol-street, Malmesbury.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, an experienced Musical-Director; only those thoroughly conversant with First-class Variety Work are requested to apply. Address, giving full particulars of previous engagements, age, experience, references, salary required, and photo. (if possessed) to "A. B.," Messrs. Moss' Empires, Ltd., Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, a Musical-Director, for Music Hall in North of England, to open Nov. 2; also First Violin, Bass, Flute, First Cornet, Trombone, and Drums, for Music Hall, Exeter, to open Nov. 2. Apply to GEN. SECRETARY, Amalgamated Musicians' Union, through your branch secretary, at once.

HARRY ROXBURY'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, First-class Reliable Musical-Director (Pianist), able to arrange, to open at once; must run through Xmas; long engagement to suitable man. HARRY ROXBURY, Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, to open Nov. 2, Musical-Director, Violinist, must be thoroughly experienced in Variety business, and able to conduct a smart, quick Programme; up-to-date Répertoire of music. Address, with terms and references,
T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Grand Theatre, Derby.

ANDREWS' PICTORIAL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, to open Nov. 9 (South), Pianist-Conductor, to compose and arrange; must give complete change of music weekly; also Musicians all Lines, and a First-class Baritone Vocalist and Lecturer; all must be used to Pictures, or useless. Permanent resident Engagement to reliable and sober people. Terms, age, refs., and full particulars first letter to ANDREWS, 25, Cottage-grove, Southsea, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Conductor, for Pantomimes, also Conductor to open early; must be conversant with First-class Music Hall Business. Letters only, with terms and references,
Address, J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

PARAGON THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LONDON, E.
WANTED, two Brilliant First Violins, also Oboe, First Clarionet, Second Cornet, and Trombone, to combine Solo Euphonium; all must be first-class Instrumentalists; steady, reliable, and well up in Variety Business. Terms and references to CONDUCTOR.

WANTED, Good Leading Violinist, for a Regiment just home from abroad.
Bonus given to good player.

Apply,
R. W., c/o Boosey and Co.,
295, Regent-street, London.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced and expert Leader; only those with competent knowledge of First-class Variety Work are requested to reply. Apply, with references, and particulars of previous appointments, and salary, to
ALBERT BULMER, Empire Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, on Nov. 2, Leader and First and Second Cornets, well up in Varieties. Full particulars and three references, MUS.-DIR. (piano), also required for tour. H. V., Palace, Dundee.

WANTED, for Empire, Stockport, Nov. 2, Violinist (Leader); must be good. State age, lowest salary, references, CHAS. EATON, Musical-Director.

WANTED, for Manchester, Hotel, Restaurant, First-class First Violin; must be Soloist; permanent for fine player; foreigner preferred. State age, nationality, write, H. HERBERT, 245, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Violinist, 'Cello, Double Bass, Harp, for Hydro Band; must be brilliant players, thoroughly experienced. References and full particulars to Box 5,070, "The Era."

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, smart Leader, Violin, also 'Cello, used to Varieties; must be good, others save stamps. Apply, with references, JACKSON, Manager.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM THEATRES, GLASGOW.
WANTED, at Once, Solo Cornet; must be first-class; abstainer preferred. References inquired into. ALFRED CARPENTER, Musical-Director, King's Theatre, Glasgow.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD. EDINBURGH.
WANTED, Solo Cornet and Bassoon, open Nov. 2. State terms, references, age, and full particulars. Reliable, competent men need only apply. GEORGE BURNLEY, Musical-Director, Theatre Royal.

WANTED, Cornet Player, young, and willing to make himself useful; long tour. References and lowest terms, BESWICK, County Hall, St. Albans.

WANTED, Trombone, Join at Once, Permanent to Suitable Man.
Terms and full particulars to
E. PRICE,
Pavilion, Abertillery.

WANTED, Reliable Bombardon, Solo Cornet, 32s. 6d., at once.
Wire, LEADER, Fossett's Circus, Castleford.

WANTED, 'Cellist, Bass, or Flute, Lady or Gent; good Orchestra Player. State lowest terms. Letters only. No callers. M. D., 22, Nile-street, North Shields.

WANTED, good 'Cello, to Open at Once; permanency. Apply, with age, terms, refs., to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

WANTED, good 'Cello Player, for the P. O. W Theatre, Grimsby. Terms and refs. to J. R. BINGLEY, Musical-Director.

WANTED, immediately, for Newport Empire, Oboe Player. Address, giving full particulars as to age, experience, salary required, &c., to Mr. MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

WANTED, Ladies, Pianist and Violinist (Second First), for Permanent Engagement in London; must be well-experienced in Orchestral Work. Write only to Mr. G. BOXHORN, Musical-Director, The Cabin, 214, Piccadilly.

WANTED, Lady Pianist, Organist, good Accompanist, quick sight-reader, Engagements, hourly, daily, or weekly. 4, Wren-road, Camberwell, S.E.

THEATRE ROYAL, ALDERSHOT.
WANTED, smart reliable Pianist, to double Violin or Viola. Lowest terms to J. GLADWIN (Manager for Mr. Sounes).

WANTED, good Pianist, must also play Second Violin or Viola; permanency to suitable man. Terms and references to LEWIS TOLPUTT, Musical-Director, Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, to commence Nov. 2, at Leeds, First-class Double Drummer, with all Effects; must be of good appearance, wear evening dress, and be absolutely reliable. References and terms, Temperance Hall.

WANTED, Scotch Piper. Send age, height, photograph, last two references, lowest terms, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WEST END PIER, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Orchestral Band of 15 Performers, for Season, 1909. Particulars, JOHN BASTOW, Secretary.

WANTED, a really good Band, ten to twelve performers, from Dec. 24 to Jan. 9, for Exhibition in Wales. Reply, with lowest terms and full particulars, Box 5,037, "The Era."

WANTED, good Musicians, for Winter Season, B Flat Clarionets, Cornet, Trombone, Euphonium, and Bombardon. GUIDI, The Zoo, Mountain Ash, S. Wales.

WANTED Musicians to keep away from Munich, owing to dispute there.—A. SEITZ, Secretary International Confederation of Musicians, J. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

RAMSEY, ISLE OF MAN.
WANTED, Known, the Ramsey Town Commissioners are prepared to receive offers from qualified persons for providing a First-class Band to play in the Town during the season of 1909. Particulars can be had on application to the undersigned, JAMES BELL, Clerk, Public Offices, Ramsey, Isle of Man.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET,'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical-Director (Violin), Disengaged, Panto.; good tour or resident. Large and valuable library. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, as Musical-Director in good Variety Hall or Theatre; First-class Violinist; excellent experience and references; good library. CONDUCTOR, c/o Smith, 16, Grove-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagements, Pianist-Conductor and Harp, married couple, Hotel or Concerts; excellent Press notices. Mr. S., Hetherington's, 165A, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Variety Conductor, late with Barrasford; young, smart, and steady. LANCASTER, 3, Brightfield-road, Lee Green, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Musical-Director, Violinist, at Liberty Nov. 16. C. A. LAWRENCE, Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED, Known, Misses Clarice and Bessie Earle, Violin and Double Bass. Present address, 13, Marine-parade, Clacton-on-Sea. Open to offers.

WANTED, by Violinist, Lady, aged 16, Engagement; playing First in Leading Orchestral Band. Complimented Soloist; pass as Juvenile. Box 5,048, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, £2 Bonus offered for Violin Engagement, Theatre or Music Hall. Low terms. VIOLINIST, 93, Lower Clapton-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Miss Nellie Mitchell, experienced Orchestral Violinist, Brilliant Soloist, at Liberty Oct. 30. 18, Mayfield-terrace, South Halifax.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Cornet, experienced in Military or Orchestral; good refs.; any business. TOWNSEND, 11, Blackman-st., Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, Military or Orchestral; just completed 12 years' Army Bandsman; good references. A. WARNER, 38, Cambridge-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, an Engagement, by an Experienced Solo Cornet, any business, steady and reliable. NUTTALL, Hippodrome, Colchester.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly reliable Cornet, First or Second, any Business; Open at Once. Rosson, 2, Waterhouse-terrace, Upper Kirkgate, Halifax.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Cornet, Military or Orchestral; good Trumpeter; good refs. Box 5 057, "The Era."

WORTHING BOROUGH BAND.
WANTED, Engagement by Solo Clarionet; well up in Orchestral and Military Music. 3, Belmont-terrace, Southfield-road, Broadwater, Worthing.

WANTED, by First-class Double Bass, late R.A. Band, also reliable Cornet (First or Second); any business; finishing season, Scottish National Exhibition, 31st. Conductor, care of Smith, 16, Grove-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoonist, any business, just finished season at Lofthouse. Alex. Bertram, Alma, St. Leonards-avenue, Hove.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoon, Military or Orchestra, Disengaged Oct. 31. Hopkins, Municipal Orchestra, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass; last Engagement four years.
Address, Bass, 42, Hereward-road, Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, by Trombone, just completed twelve years Army Bandsman; good refs.; Orchestral or Military Band. J. Jones, 4, Howard-street, Oxford.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone, Music Hall or Theatre; thoroughly experienced; steady, reliable; refs. S. Smith, 7, Cross-street, Hove, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, Bombardon, reliable; splendid refs.; life abstainer; Disengaged. Mr. Hutley, 33A, Canterbury-road, Old Kent-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, experienced, reliable, steady; good refs.; any business. A. C. Romeril, 28, Argyle-road, West Ealing, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo Soloist, experienced in any business; reliable, excellent references. Thomas Hurn, 9, Upper Aberdyberth-street, Swansea.

WANTED, Engagement as Accompanist to Instrumentalist or Vocalist, practice or otherwise; excellent sight reader. F. T., 49, Pauletroad, Brixton, S.E.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement, suit Pictures; good memory and improviser; terms moderate. London or suburbs preferably. G. Lainson, 24, Offerton-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, by Pianist and Vocalist, Lady, Engagement in Hotel or Hydro; good Artist; sociable and attractive. Write, S., 14, Oxford-road, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Young London Pianist, brilliant every business; Double Violin, also Conductor; splendid refs. Bernard, 34, Zetland-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Pianist, in or near London; good Sight-reader, also Transpose; excellent references. R. B., 120, Albany-street, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Pianist, any Business, pictures, &c., soloist and accompanist; refs. F. Rogers, 162, High-st., Notting Hill Gate, London, W.

WANTED, Engagement as Pianist, by Young Lady, for Concerts or Quadrille; good reader and accompanist; Disengaged, London only. Apply, M. L., 54, Roden-street, Holloway, N.

WANTED, by Lady, Permanent Engagement, would travel, Organ, Pianoforte, Singing, Double Bass; good references and testimonials. Rosemont, Sydenham-road, Bristol.

WANTED, Engagement, by young and smart Double Drummer, Tympanist, or Second Violin. Apply, F. R. Weist, Pavilion Orchestra, Ilfracombe, N.D.

WANTED, Engagements, as Drums, own Tymps, Glockenspiel, E Flat Tubular Bells; finishing seven months' season Ramsgate. Nevill, Victoria Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, Herr Wilhelm Morgann's Blue Hungarian Band.
Wilhelm Morgann's
White Viennese Band.
Wilhelm Morgann's
Blue Viennese Band.
Open for Good Offers, Season 1909.
Testimonials for record attendances at all public engagements, including the Exhibitions at Glasgow, Cork, Bradford, Birmingham, Sheffield, Middlesbrough, Edinburgh, White City, &c., &c.
Four Seasons, Victoria Pier, Blackpool; Three Seasons, Palace, Tynemouth; Three Seasons, West End Pier, Morecambe; Three Seasons, Crystal Palace, Sydenham; &c., &c., &c.
Recherché Uniforms,
Unique Programmes,
Continental Star Soloists.
All communications,
Herr Wilhelm Morgann, 95, Gloucester-road, Gloucester-gate, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Mdme. Stockham's London Ladies' Orchestra of fifteen Artists, all Soloists, including the celebrated Harp Trio and Vocalists, are returning to London from the North on Oct. 25. Those looking out for an Attractive Novelty and a draw, please note. Box 5,053, "The Era."

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, that Mr. Braham Cowen's String Orchestra (five to ten performers) is Open to accept Engagements for At Homes, Dinners, Receptions, and Exhibitions, &c. 65, St. Thomas's-road, Victoria Park.

WANTED, Known, Madam Wilton Davis's Ladies' Orchestra (The Grosvenor), Specially engaged Exhibition (twelfth week). Quartette Dis. 42, Linton-street, Islington, N.

WANTED, Engagements by Ladies' Quartette, all brilliant Soloists, one renowned Singer, just finishing three months' engagement, At Homes, Concerts, &c.; good Gentlemen's Orchestra. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

MR. HENGLER.
WANTED, Applications from Artists desirous of Engagement for the Winter Season,
Commencing Saturday, Nov. 28.
Full particulars and lowest terms must be given in first letter.
Preference will be given to Artists whose business is new and comparatively fresh to Glasgow audiences.
Artists who have written in during the summer are invited to apply again.
Letters to be addressed to
Mr. Hengler,
Hengler's Cirque, Glasgow;
or to
Geo. Zalva,
Victoria Hall, Exeter.
Glasgow, Oct. 22, 1908.

WANTED, Circus Artists, Knockabout Clowns, with good Entrées. Will Yanke, the groom that was with Yelding, wire? Address, Sampson, Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood.

WANTED, good Strong Catcher and Thrower, for Well-known Acrobatic Comedy Act, to join immediately. Smith, 6, Prince's-row, Birmingham.

WANTED, Young Lady Contortionist, or one willing to learn, good home, all found. Particulars, with photo., Instructor, 5, Gloucester-place, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, Cullen and Carthy wish to thank all who have written in for Prin. Boy; have settled. Kindly accept this intimation. Photos will be returned.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Circus Proprietors, Managers, and Agents to Note that the
ROYAL OHMYS
ROYAL OHMYS
are re-engaged by Director Bech Olsen for One Month longer, for One Month longer, to open at the Grand Circus, Gothenburg.
THE ROYAL OHMYS.
Greatest of all Acrobatic Equestrians, on one, two, three, four, and five Bareback Horses. Complimented by H.M. King Edward VII. and Crown Prince of Denmark and Royal Family. Read what Director Bech Olsen says: Mr. Ohmy, your family have been the success of my Circus Season and the talk of Denmark. Accept this Contract for one month longer, to open the season at the Grand Circus, Gothenburg. I cannot open without the Royal Ohmys, and don't forget you come back for eight months next season.—Signed, Bech Olsen. This should prove to all Proprietors and Managers the worth of the Royal Ohmys, who expect to arrive in England end of Nov., and will be at Liberty for the Winter Season, with six good Acts, with three or five Horses, grand Wardrobe, Posters, Lithos., &c. For list of Acts and particulars, address, The Royal Ohmys, Circus Bech Olsen, Gothenburg, Sweden. Notice.—The Royal Ohmys wish to thank Geo. Gilbert, Esq., for his great kindness in breaking Contract to enable them to stay one month longer with Director Bech Olsen.

WANTED, Known, the Famous Biddall Family are at Liberty for the Winter Season for an Engagement for their Circus Performance, introducing Male and Female Equestrians, Performing Horses, Benders, Wire Performers, in fact a full Circus Performance; also the new improved Bioscope, with all the latest pictures, if required. Don't take our word; ask those who have seen us perform. Address, Biddall's Circus, Show Ground, Wishaw.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, the late Buffalo Bill's Rough Rider, who presents his thoroughbred Mare in her Novelty Act, Racing Tricks. Apply, Maerdy, Glam., South Wales.

WANTED, Oct. 25, on, the Flying Oreniuses, Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts, in their Phenomenal Flying Act, the only one of its kind. 24, Foxley-road, S.W.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, these Concerts will cease from Oct. 31, 1908. Artists please note, and cancel dates.
Wm. Biggam, Sec., 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. Mascard, Manager.

WANTED, Monday, Nov. 2, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

PALACE, BOSTON.
WANTED, Nov. 2, 9, 16, Variety Artists all Lines, or Strong Combination Company. Ernest Cass, Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, for immediate and future dates. State lowest terms in first letter, and enclose samples of lithos. N.B.—Hall small; salaries must be in accordance. Address, A. E. Pickard, New Gaiety T., Clydebank.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Nov. 23, 1908, and onwards.
Apply, Manager, Britannia Theatre, Glasgow.

ALLIANCE THEATRICAL AND VARIETY AGENCY, LTD.,
18-20, Manchester-street, Liverpool.
Manager, Edwin W. Smith (late Parthenon and Haymarket Music Halls).
Tele., "Films, Liverpool." 'Phone 6782 Central.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, nothing too big. Wanted, Novelty and Speciality Acts.
Wanted, Artists to send full List of Bookings and absolute lowest terms.
Wanted, Artists for Alhambra, Belfast.
Wanted, Artists for Entertainments, Ltd.'s, Tour.
Wanted, High-class Artists for St. George's Hall, Belfast. Sole Agents for above, Alliance Theatrical and Variety Agency, Ltd., 18-20, Manchester-street, Liverpool, to whom all communications re Bookings must be addressed. Will Minnie Cunningham communicate?

HARRY SKIVINGTON'S AGENCY,
48, Brisbane-street, Greenock.
WANTED, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Greenock, Kilmarnock, Alloa, Dundee, Aberdeen, Artists for immediate and future dates. Send Bookings. Artists vacant Monday wire "Contracts, Greenock."

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA THEATRE, STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists, Immediate and Future Dates, good break going North. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Good Comedy Acts, Sketches, &c., for Nov. 9, 23, also many other Dates.
Sure Money; Comfortable Engagements.
Lowest combination terms,
The Dayton Family,
Coliseum, London.
Please accept silence as a polite negative.
Callers by appointment only.

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.
Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher.
Gen.-Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. Reginald Fletcher.
WANTED, Artists, Nov. 2, onwards. Call for Oct. 26, Percy Victor, Harry Arthur, Alice Lingard, Will Daniels, Eddie Clay, The Shamrocks, Beattie Howard, Arthur and Angus, Ruffell's Bioscope.
Rehearsals 1 sharp.
General-Manager, Towyn Thomas.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, for immediate Dates, also for 1909, 10, 11, 12.
Pacey's Agency,
186, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns doing Singles, two weeks, Nov. 9, 23, Dec. 7, onwards.
Charles A. James, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

PUBLIC HALL, WORKINGTON.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, from now onwards.
Lynch, 64, John-street,, Workington.

THEATRE ROYAL & HIPPO., SHREWSBURY.
Lessee and Director, W. Yates Gregory.
Resident-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.
WANTED, Artists, Nov. 16 (one week), Dec. 14, 21, 28. Gymnasts, Animal Acts, Sketches, Comedians, in fact anything with Drawing Powers entertained.
Applicants please mark replies "Variety."

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Artists in all Lines, now and onwards.
Can always fix Big Numbers any odd weeks.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076 Royal.

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.
Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher.
General-Manager, Towyn Thomas.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. Reginald Fletcher.
WANTED, Artists (not Aerial or Acrobatic), Nov. 2, onwards. Call for Oct. 26: Arthur and Angus, Will Daniels, Alice Lingard, Harry Lowe, Eddie Clay, Percy Victor's Dogs, Ruffell's Bioscope. Rehearsal 1 sharp. Signed, Towyn Thomas.

WANTED, Colonial Artists, of all Kinds, for a fortnight, from Nov. 12, for Liverpool, high-class and refined; but must be from British Colonies. No others need apply. Full details and terms, and address letters, Colonial, c/o "Shipping Gazette," 21, Water-street, Liverpool.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY — Artists for Immediate Dates and Dates onwards.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list and very lowest (this essential), and permanent addresses.

DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Telegrams: Grasbeste, Withington-Lancs.

DALTON'S AGENCY — Telephone: 193 Didsbury. Wanted, urgently, the address of Sydney and Partner, Cycle Act.

THE EMPIRE, BLAINA, MON.
Seventeen Miles from Newport.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Nov. 23, &c. Would entertain All Combinations. State lowest terms and full particulars, W. R. Ibs, Manager.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Nov. 2, onwards, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY,
1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.
WANTED, Artists Known to me, for Dalkeith Carnival, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4; also Scotland. Send full list bookings.

CHELTENHAM
NEW PALACE
THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.
WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

PAVILION, KIRKCALDY.
Notice to Artists and Agents.
WANTED, all Artists holding Contracts for Pavilion, Kirkcaldy, or Agents holding Contracts for Artists at above places, must have same endorsed by Mrs. Williams. All communications to Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy, Oct. 19, 1908.

WANTED, Stars and Specialities, for immediate and future dates, to communicate terms, &c., to Brooke's Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, for one week, Nov. 3, to Open at Wells, Somerset, a First-class Musical or Juggling Turn; must be smart. Address, with particulars, Anderton's Modern Show, The Green, Devizes.

WANTED, Talent, Nov. 2, on. Full list Bookings, lowest, and perm. add., or useless.
Keeble's Agency, Hippo., Wakefield.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, Big Star Attractions, Artists all Lines, Nov. 2, onwards, nothing too big; Share or Salary. Full particulars, lithos., &c., Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

BARNARD'S AGENCY,
SHAW-STREET, LIVERPOOL.
Telephone 2349 Royal.
WANTED, Big Attractions, for Immediate Dates, and onwards; also Panto. Artists, in all Lines. V.A.F. Office Copy.

WANTED, Specialities of all Kinds, Nov. 2, onward, for South Wales and district. Forward bookings and lowest terms, Martino's Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, for Nov. 2, onwards, Star Acts in all Lines.
Star Acts in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
Cadle's Agency, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Novelty and Speciality Acts and Artists in all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, &c., for immediate and future dates.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Nov. 2, Glasgow, Midlands, Yorkshire, South Wales, Variety Acts all Lines. Full Bookings imperative. Gannon, West Grove, Bristol.

NEW HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.
WANTED, for the opening, Nov. 9, onwards, Big Star Acts new to Rochdale.
Jackson, 150, Gt. Brunswick-street, Dublin.

WANTED, for Albert Hall, Jarrow, Nov. 2, good combination, or Drawing Turn, to follow Caban's French Circus. This week, Jamaica Choir. Wire, Manager.

CLIQUOT'S VARIETY AGENCY,
46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.
WANTED, a Big Top,
Wanted, a Big Top,
Wanted, a Big Top,
from £50 to £100,
from £50 to £100,
for Nov. 23.
for Nov. 23.
Artists all Lines (all dates).
Artists all Lines (all dates).
Notice.
I accepted Federation Office Copy.
Clients please keep me posted.
All communications address as above.

WANTED, Big Tops, Specialities, Comedians, Comediennes. Price no object; must be big. Send list of bookings and absolute lowest to J. Brown and Co., Variety Agents, 58, Chicksand-street, N.E. Tel. No. 1098 City. Seen by appointment only.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, for Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Xmas and New Year's week, Pantomime, twice nightly. Shares or salary. Frank Lynne and Co., 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, for immediate and future Dates, Costume Concert Parties, Pierrot Troupes, Single Entertainers, for Whitley Baths Pavilion. Address, J. Lindon Travers and Company, Rodney House, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, smart Young Ladies, for Sketch, sing and dance; also Principal Soprano. Photo. Rehearse Nov. 2. Add., T. C. Edwards, Stoneclough, near Manchester.

Illustrated Songs.
WANTED, Singers, with own Slides, for one or two weeks. Coutts, The Palace, Swansea.

WANTED, Sisters, Acrobats and Artists; suitable for Show run on Picture Lines, Nov. 9, 16, on. Hall small, so terms must be same.
Lens Bros., Empire, Rochdale.

WANTED, Smart Young Girls, able to Sing and Dance, Acrobatic preferred. Full particulars to Troupe, 78, Churchgate, Stockport.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Comedians, Vocalists, Specialities, &c., Nov. 2, 9, 23, later.
James Fight's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Ventriloquist, also a Marionette Show, for France, must speak French. Address, with full particulars and lowest salary, Laon, 33, Passage Jouffroy, Paris.

WANTED, Boy over 14, looking younger, with good voice, to sing Choruses. Apply at 6 p.m. to Miss R., 52, Woburn-place, Russell-square, W.C.

WANTED, Smart Trick Cyclist, to play Bicycle Polo.
Particulars, Box 5071, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Young Men with knowledge of Acrobating and Knockabout, to learn Trampoline. Age, height, and weight, tricks, and salary required. Box 5,073, "The Era."

WANTED, good Tumbler; Open at Once. Dresses found and fares. Wire terms, Douglas, Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, Groom, for Baboons; join Monday. Apply personally, Capt. Graham, Hippodrome, Richmond.

WANTED, Efficient Chronomegaphone Operators, also Bioscope Operator. Write, stating fullest particulars and salary expected, to A. Tetlow, Philharmonic, Cardiff.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator.
Address,
65, Whitechapel-road, E.

JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.
WANTED, good Picture Workers, Baggage Men, &c. Terms and refs., J. W. Poole, Philharmonic Hall, Southampton.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Nov. 9, onwards, Marguerite Miles and Co., in Quick-change Sketch. Singles if required. Original, Refined. 22, Copley-park, Streatham Common, S.W.

WANTED, by Marie Leonard, in Pictured Melodies, Nov. 2 and 9; Dec. 7 and 21, latest American Slides. Next week, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

WANTED, Monday, Lydia Dale (Banjo Queen), Trick Mandolinist, with Pictures, Great Novelty. Nov. 2, Pavilion, Northwich. This, Palace, Boston. Wire.

WANTED, Monday next, also Nov. 2 and 16, by Zelda, Novel Instrumental Lady. Big Act; also Wal Owen, Silent Comedy Act; two First-class Acts. Hippodrome, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Beanland (?), She of the Auburn Locks. Vacant Monday next, also Nov. 2, through hall closing. 6, Shakespeare-street, Halifax.

WANTED, Known, Queenie Lake and May, Refined Lady Gymnast, Contortionist and Speciality Dancing Artist, magnificent Silver and Electric Apparatus; costly Wardrobe. Just finishing comfortable Tour of 29 weeks; all Liberty from Dec. 14, 1908, till Jan. 18, 1909. Address, 127, Aughton-road, Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Mysterious Edith, the great Aerial Mystery, also Lilian Warren's Vocal Pictures, at Liberty Nov. 2 and 9. Proprietors and Managers requiring a Sensational Draw should secure these two distinct Acts. All coms. to Lilian Warren, Empire, Bolton.

WANTED, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Nov. 2 and 9, to follow Cork. This, T. R., Yarmouth; next, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Terry, Mimics, Vocalists, Dancers. Variety itself.—Press. At Lib. Oct. 26, Nov. 9. Communicate, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

WANTED, Known, Neddy Voices, Refined Comedy Musical and Patter Comedian, Liberty Oct. 26, Sept. 2. Wire, 15½ Moreton-st., Strangeways, Manchester.

WANTED, Nov. 2 and 9, by Rose Rink, Juvenile Comedienne and Dancer, age 18. Terrific success P., Halifax; next, P., West Hartlepool. Agent, David G. Bliss, Esq.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, Comedian and Champion All-round Dancer. 1 bar none. This week, Alexandra T., Pontefract; Liberty Monday, 26th, one week only. Wire after Sunday, 7, Poplar-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next and onwards, by Bob Gates, Eccentric Comedian and Dancer. Wire, 7, Newington-cres., Kennington Park-rd., London.

WANTED, Nov. 2, 9, and 30, Jean Macduff, Lady Scotch Comedienne; Reggy Lyndon, Dainty Musical Act. Wire, Members, Rathbone Gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, Known, Proprietors, Managers, take Notice of "Adverts." and "Notes" in "Stage," "The Era," "Performer," "Music Hall," &c., re Jean Macduff, Lady Scotch Comedienne.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Nov. 2, elaborate electric Stage effects. Concludes to-night, Gaiety, Leith; Monday, Crystal Palace, London.

WANTED, Nov. 2 and 16, by the Great Li Chang Hi, the Chinese Conjurer. Address next week, Theatre, Motherwell, N.B.

WANTED, by Leonbe, Acrobatic Comedy Juggler, Nov. 2, 9, 23; a Funny and Novel Act, introducing Marvellous Comic Posturing, Tumbling, Juggling, &c. Oct. 26, Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Monday next, Oct. 26, Kyoto, Jap. Contortionist, Juggler, Conjurer, and Dog; May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer. 15, Hasemere-avenue, Bridlington.

WANTED, Monday, on, Jack Sheppard, the World's Greatest Handcuff King and Prison Breaker; also Ruby Vesta, in the Greatest Trunk Illusion on the Stage. Big Challenges, Big Top. The Only Man who ever Jumped Handcuffed from Westminster Bridge.—Oct. 5, see Press. Wire or write, 108, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Nov. 2, by The Mosaics, Comedy Duo, in Screaming Sketch, "The Suffragette." This, Victoria Hall, Mansfield; Oct. 26, Queen's Theatre, Castleford, Pantomime settled.

WANTED, Monday next, also Nov. 2, 9, by Mike and Lena, Dutch Patter, Singing, Dancing, and Comedy. 154, Ellison-street, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by Taylor and Bridge, Singing Lancashire Mill Lads, Nov. 2, to follow Hastings. This week, Aquarium, Scarborough; next, Hippo., Hastings.

WANTED, Monday next, by Stylvo and His Dog; also Marion Collette, Soprano. Wire, 216, Long-row, Barrowhill, Chesterfield.

WANTED Monday next, by the Two Le Bruns, Novel Vocal and Juggling Speciality.
Wire, Irving Theatre, Seacombe.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Nov. 2, 23, Coliseum, London.
P. A., 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, S.W.

WANTED, Known, The Valdo Bros., Celebrated Eccentrics, Vacant Oct. 26, Nov. 2, in their Renowned Funny and Clever Speciality, "The Eccentric Motor 'Bus-men." A First-class Attraction. 19th, Empire, Islington. Coms., 13c, Lynn-street, Balham, London.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Boston Twins, Great Harmonising Vocalists, Funniest Comedy Act Extant. Screams of Laughter. Hip., Scarborough.

WANTED, Nov. 2, onwards, Bros. Almo, the Funniest Three-Bar Act before the Public. 34, Highfield-street, Beeston Hill, Leeds.

WANTED, Monday next, by Chant and Chant, Bright Vocal Comedy Duo.
Wire, 87, Wollaston-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Monday next, also Dec. 7, by Foley and Francis, Comedians.
Wire, Empire, Burnley; or Dalton's Agency.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Original Comedy Act, Monday next, Oct. 26, onwards. Wire, 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston, London. Wire.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Nov. 9, 30, the Milsted-Bell Trio, in Musical and Farcical Comedy, entitled "Three Sharps in a Flat." Full of laughs. Oct. 26, Pavilion, Liverpool.

WANTED, immediate dates, The Keppels, Harmonising Vocalists, Soprano, Baritone, Refined and Cultivated Singers, Doubles, Singles. 17, Kensington Park-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Ringling Trio, Acrobatic Comedians on Stilts, &c., Liberty Monday next and Nov. 2 and 9. Wire, Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

WANTED, for Nov. 2, Dates for Herko and Nobless, in a Refined Magical Act, "The Professor and the Pupil." Coms., 142, Newark-rd., Lincoln.

WANTED, Known. What a Draw! Four Cecilians Vacant, Oct. 26, Nov. 2. Wire or write, Winter Gardens, New Brighton. Two distinct acts.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, Sensational Gymnast, vacant Monday next.
Wire to Empire, Grantham.

WANTED, Known, Ted Moxon Trio, Acrobatic and Risley Eccentrics, vacant Nov. 2, 9, 16. Wire, this, Hippodrome, Brighton; next, Palace, Reading.

WANTED, Nov. 2, on, Da Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Palace, Boston.

WANTED, Monday next, and Nov. 2, by George Gulliver, World-famous Ventriloquist. Terrific Success this week, third visit. Wire, Empire, South Shields.

WANTED, Known, Valvo, Ventriloquist, is vacant one week, Nov. 16 (North); a smart one-figure Act. Address, Grand, Bolton.

WANTED, Monday, also Nov. 9, by Billy Rose and Co., greatest Boxing Act before the Public. Starring, Gaiety Theatre, Leith; Wire.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, Best in the Profession, Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28, also Jan. 18 and 25. Com., week Oct. 26, Alexandra Theatre, Greenock.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Rosini's Miniature Menagerie, Rosie, Fortune-telling Dog, and Educated Midget Pony. Kursaal, Southend-on-Sea; vacant Oct. 26, Nov. 2.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, vacant Nov. 2, 16, and 23.
Wire, East Theatre, Oxford.

WANTED, Nov. 16, also 23, Swift Duo (Lady and Gent.), Novel Bicycle Speciality.
Mon. next, Hippodrome, Preston.

WANTED, the Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists; Lillian Strafey, Gymnast; two acts, Vacant Nov. 2, 9, 16. Monday, Palace, Pentre, Wales.

WANTED, Known, Young Man at Liberty to join Comedy Acrobatic or Sketch Company; good refs. G. R. Shaws, c/o 339, Caledonian-road, S.S., Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Vacant for Troupe, Sketches, &c., Comedy Tumbler and Bearer. Address, Ernest Sharro, 32, Wilton-street, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Led. wishes to join Cycle Troupe; all Solo Riding, including Single Wheel and Riding on Railhead. Harry Nicol, 10, Canning-place, Townhead, Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private, Harmen's Royal Marionettes, also "Punch and Judy," with Dog Toby. 13, Paulton-st., Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Known, British Bioscope Co. can give Up-to-date Shows; no fancy prices. Write or wire, 25, Valmar-rd., Camberwell, London.

WANTED, Known, Lambert's Paragon Pictures, Vacant Oct. 26, on, electric or lime. J. Lambert, 5, Fordst., Wheatley Hill, Co. Durham.

WANTED, Known, Eddy's New Marionettes, with Model Orchestra, 12 performers, Liberty next week and on. Great draw. This week, Town Hall, Redhill.

WANTED, Immediate Engagement, by Operator, with up-to-date Bioscope and gas accessories; permanent preferred. W. G. Bailes, 10A, Oak-grove, Cricklewood, London, N.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz.
Write to-day for particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 360 miniatures to select from.
Minerva Automatic Co.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

BREWERS' EXHIBITION.
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, LONDON, N.
Oct. 17 to 23, inclusive.
WANTED, Known, we are this year repeating our usual offer to allow cost of cheap return fare from any point in the U.K. to all purchasers of goods to the value of £25 upwards at our stands 42, 43, and 43, Great Galleries, where we shall for the first time display epoch-making Novelties from the Mills' Factory.
Minerva Automatic Co., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C. Sole Agents to the Mills Novelty Co. Telegrams, "Minervauto, London." Telephone, Holborn 5705.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Greens, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, Tanor, Phinston, Bros., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402.
This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street,
and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.
CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c, and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. Leete and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Hoopla Packets, Fancy Boxes Confectionery, from 7s. per gross to 10s. gross; do not buy secondhand, buy of the maker, A. Bunn, 15, Dagnall-place, Brady-street, Whitechapel-road.

WANTED, Known, Slot Machines, genuine bargains, all kinds, Fortune, Loops, Punchballs, Phonographs, Pidezall, Picture Machines, &c. Mason, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Fiare Lamps, the only reliable are Stacey's Stars, 30 years' experience; all prices. 510, Kingsland-road, London, late Settles-street.

WANTED, Known, latest money-getter, Hindu Spirit-Writer, sure living anywhere, few to clear, £3; Slips, 12s. Advance, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Special Notice, Stacey's Showman Stores, removed to 510, Kingsland-road, London. Established 60 years. Everything for the fair. Lists free.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, an Assistant Secretary, for the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union.
Copies of testimonials and salary required to be sent to THOS. HURST (Secretary), Broadhurst, Clifton, Manchester.

WANTED, Good Novelties, and Flash, &c., to open Monday, Oct. 26, and onwards, half shows two weeks certain, Yarmouth to follow. Strong Shows, Wrestling Shows, and Fat Lady write. Fares advanced to the right people. Tenth season of BARRON'S Exhibition, Arcade, Lowestoft.

WANTED, at once, Freaks and Novelties. HUMBER'S Waxwork, George-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Freaks of Nature and Sensational Exhibits, immediate dates. Waxworks, Castle-street, Inverness.

WANTED, Freaks, Side Show Novelties, all descriptions. Photos., lithos.; sharing terms for No. 1 towns. L. LYONS, Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

WANTED, Novelties, good Flash for large Shop. Send dates, terms, &c., AMERICAN SWEETMEAT and AUTOMATIC COMPANY, 118, Rathbone-street, Canning Town.

WANTED, good Novelties, &c., for Shops and Halls, good positions, Brighton and other towns on South Coast. 43, Franklin-st., Brighton.

WANTED, Phrenologist or Character Reader. State terms. Prof. Buckley write. O'FLYNN, 156, Lake-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, for Auction Mart, good Singer and Comedian; good shop to steady man. Old hands, Rennard write. BLOOM, Haughton, Darlington.

WANTED, Lecturer, for Up-to-date Side-show; one able to invest small amount preferred. SALOME, 164, New King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Open for Engagement, J. H. Leroy, Australia's Highest Trapeze Performer; height no object; no nets used; own Aerial Apparatus. Also Novelty Performer. Address, M., 35, Lavender-road, Battersea, S.W.

WANTED, Known, that Tom Thumb, the World's Renowned Lilliputian, is open for Engagements, either Home or Abroad. Write direct, 83, Market-street, West Houghton, Lancs.

WANTED, Known, now appearing outside "Pharaoh's Daughter," Franco-British Exhibition, James Roberto, Unique Instrumentalist, at Liberty Oct. 31; Speciality, Cornet Solos, self accompanied on the Piano.

WANTED, Known, Harry Riley, Smart Pitch-getter and Floorman, at Liberty; good experience. 157, King-street, Great Yarmouth.

THE BIGGEST THING IN WALES.
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Opens Christmas Eve.

Absolutely the finest position in the town.

Brilliantly Illuminated.

Nearly 200ft. by 100ft.

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Big Attractions Already Booked.
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WANTED, Wanted, Known,
few Spaces available
for up-to-date

Side Shows, Games, and Stalls.
Side Shows, Games, and Stalls.
Side Shows, Games, and Stalls.

Early application should be made to
F. G. ROLLASON,
10, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, Spaces to Let, in Empire Trades Exhibition, for Fish Pond, Engraver, Working Exhibits, Daisy Needle, Mirrors, &c., any Novelty. LEIGH, Albert Hall, West Stanley.

WANTED, to Let, Ground for Good Picture Show; good position, Falcon-road, Clapham Junction. Apply, MANLEY, on the Ground.

ARCADIA DRILL HALL, PORTSMOUTH.
WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Stalls, Games, Novelties, Side-shows. Eighth year. Open Dec. 5. 5, Denning-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, Space in Touring Trades or other Exhibition for a good new Game.
Box 5,049, "The Era."

WANTED, Space in good Touring Trades Exhibition for cheap Jewellery, not Wire-work, Nov. 2, onwards. Box 5,050, "The Era."

WANTED, Space in Exhibitions, for Distorting Mirrors, &c.
Box 5,051, "The Era."

WANTED, Space in Touring or other Exhibition, for Jewellery and Engravings.
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EDINBURGH, 1908.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Bella and Bijou, Whit Cunliffe, Les Esdonians, May Henderson, J. L. Shine and Co., Mendel, Syd May, Mlle. Haydee, Johnny Walker, Bioscope, Ella Shields.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Horace Goldin, Frances McNulty, Tom Lloyd, Gaudsmidts, Gus Garrick, Tennyson and Wallis, Constance Mori, Barry Lindon, Bioscope, Mike S. Whallen.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Leonard Mortimer and company, in "The Little Captain," Walter Wade, Bioscope, Boden and Bell, Pat Rafferty, "The Magic Carpet," Alf Holt, Frank Leon, Lottie Lennox, Dutch Daly.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Hetty King, Frank Sylvo, Little Zola, Stein Eretto Troupe, Brown and Le Clerq Co., Lupino Lane, Sisters Morgan, Lupino Bros., Bioscope, "Casey's Court."

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Clark and Hamilton, George Auger and Co., Walter King, Goodwin's Piccaninnies, Gwennie Llewellyn, Millie Payne, Ten Zerbinis, Bennie Barrow, Bioscope, "That Brute Simmons."

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Milton Bode's No. 1 Company, in "A Chinese Honeymoon."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Vesta Tilley, Victor Newman, Four Figaros, Carlotta Levey, Chronomegaphone, Hermann Melot, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Lowenwirth and Cohan, Marie Santoi and Co.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Colonel Bordeverry, Alf Chester, Lily Langtry, Dare Austin and Co., Ten Ji Troupe, Ernie Mayne, The Mayvilles, Bioscope, Nellie Wallace,

PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Mark Sheridan, Boyd and Gilfain, La Danseuse, J. A. Wilson, Laurie and Beatty, Harry Rogers and Co., Five Olracs, Three Welsh Girls, Bioscope, George Formby.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Joseph Hart's "Futurity Winner," Gus Le Clerq, Ida Kathrina, Dubois' Baboon, Dumond Trio, Harry Bedford, Harry May Hemsley, Lottie Govell, Bioscope, Terry and Lambert.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.
Until Further Notice.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Master Leonard Athersych, Fred D. Jones, Hetty Hocking, Sabino, Bert Williams, Bioscope, &c.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Callahan and St. George, W. G. Webber, Maudie Francis, Victor Travers, Chas. Vincent, Maud Rochez' Monkeys, Billy McClain and Co., Leonie Dixon, Bioscope, Ray Wallace.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Gus Elen, Mme. Alice Esty, Les Voces, Frank Couch, Naughton and Gold, Imperial Russian Troupe, W. L. Murray, Bertha Winder, Bioscope, Tom Edwards.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Arthur Roberts and Co., in "Till Sunday," J. P. Carroll, Will English, Lee and Bentley, Ike and Will Scott, Ralph and Nellie Howard, Marie Empress, Bioscope, J. W Rowley, Frank L. Gregory Troupe.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Eugene Stratton, Johnson and Bert, Arabella Allen, Jennie Johns, Harry Tate's No. 1 company, in "Motoring," Narow Bros., Daisy James, Bioscope, Warsaw Bros.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
George Gilbey, The Craggs, The Delevines, Florence and Lillian, Coverdale, Kitts and Windrum, Venie Clements, R. H. Douglass, Bioscope, The Gothams.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Ella Retford, The Cromwells, Annie Laurie, Verno and Voyce, Kent and Keith, Fred Lincoln, Pictures, Dion Wade.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Machnow, Watson's Dogs, Fred Poplar, Eight of Hearts, Thorpe and Coe, Kitty Wager, Bioscope, Henry Coutts and Co.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Company as booked.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
Fred Karno's "Mumming Birds," Olive and Owen, Woolmer Young, Counsell and Mills, Hymack, Lena Verdi, Keir and Kempton, Orpheus, Ouida Macdermott, Bessie Butt, Bioscope, Ernest Shand.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Bastow, Percival and Morley, Ruth Lytton, Sinclair and Parr, Les Mattineks, Athlones, Three Cape Girls, Little Keeno, Bioscope, Arthur Lloyd Trio.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Berzac's Animal Act, Joan Deering, Madge Osmond, Lord, Murray, and Lord, Crown Trio, Ben Albert, Marie Goodwin, Pictures, Carney and Armstrong.

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Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

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NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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(Murray, Hilbury, and Lyle),
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Sung by Miss Vesta Tilley.

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"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"
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(Jerome, Schwartz, and Leigh),
Sung by Miss Harriett Vernon.

"LET ME BUT HOPE."
(Percy Edgar and H. E. Pether),
Sung by Miss Ethel Hayden.

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS" and "I'M HERE—IF I'M WANTED."
(F. Leo).
Sung by Wilkie Bard.

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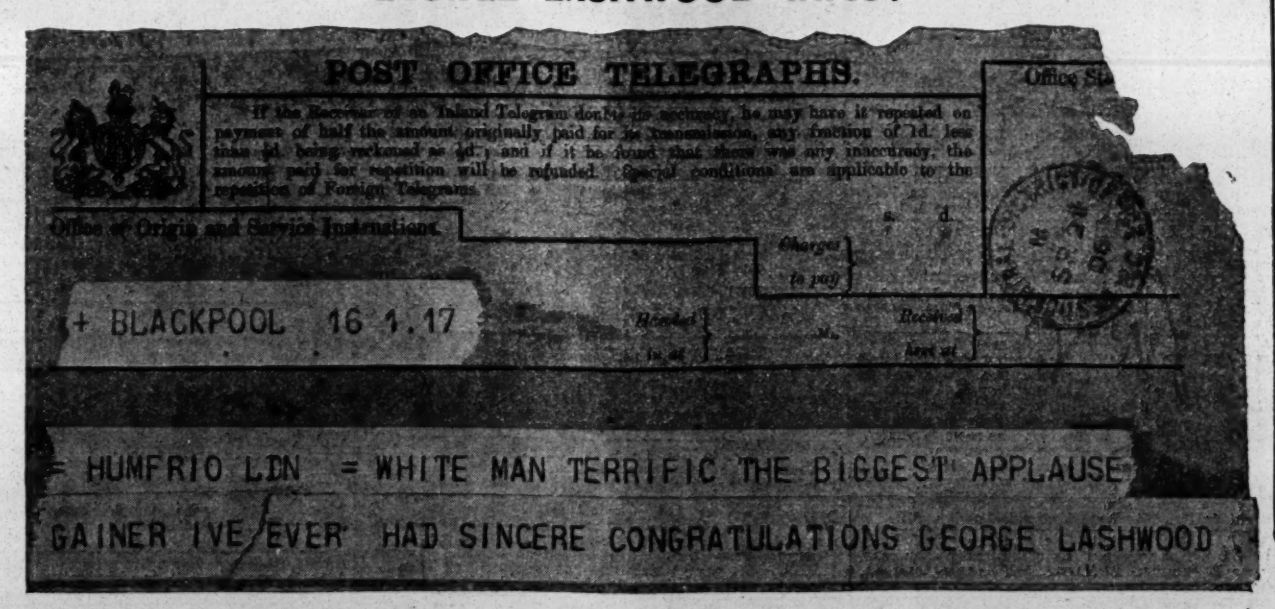

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PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Haley's Juveniles, Stidder and Dunbar, Gladys and Aiber, The Westwoods, Frank Cass, Molly Seymour, Cissie Curlette, The Kurios, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
The Motramos, Beaty and Blanche, Tony Black, Rich and Radford, Two Rubies, Fritz von Liston, Jackley Trio, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, &c.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Eight Lancashire Lads, Willie and Johnny, Steve Bartie, Talbot and Pearce, Rose Pink, W. H. Downs, Bains and Reed, Dan Whitley, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
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PALACE & HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal, 1 o'clock.
Carlotta De Yonsen and Co., Chas. Tuppen, The Davenports, Tom Yorke, Lily Eyton, Five Broadway Girls, Harvey's Juveniles, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE & HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Nat Clifford, Jessie Burnett, Dan Merrett, Munroe's Team, Happy Attwood, Keith and Merson, Three Royal Temples, Effie White, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

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"Mumming Birds," Gravetta and Parr, The Sivronis, The Smythsons, Letine, Bella Leaburn, Akbar, Ernest Rees, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Addie Dorina, Margaret Royce, Tony Iveson, The Princellas, Harvey and Holt, Leedham Stanley, Bros. St. Clair, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Flo Burnett, Beauty Competition.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée, every Monday.
Geo. Mozart, Thornbury, Violet Nunn, Raymond, Geo. James, Alpho, The Betsons, Bombays, Jessica Brooke, Sisters Florence, Lloyd Phillips and Co.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Edwards and Dacre, Sisters Brenton, Raymond, Irene Morton, Alice Hughes and Co., The Melbournes, Madge Allen, Hilda Mascott, Bernard Mervyn, The Forsythes, Ten San Tan Girls.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée, every Monday.
Hans and Lux, Marie Jones and Co., Lillie Soutter, Walter Clyde, Raymond, Clack and Clack, Leslie Lyn and Willis, Margaret Radcliffe, Norman Grant, Halma, The Winner, La Belle Maie.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday, 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Mme. du Rose, J. H. Hawtrey, Russell Carr, Raymond, Florence Yaymen, Josephine Crook, Elroy, Harry Picon, Astley's Circus, Beale and Broadway, Frank Vallance.

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THE STOLEN WATCH.

Code Word, "FAILLITE."

Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins are enjoying a day in the country. After lunch they go to sleep in the grass, and presently two ruffians come and strip them of their valuables. On waking up, the worthy townspeople are very sorry they ever thought of leaving their jewellery shop. They are just reckoning up what their day's outing has cost them when the actual thieves walk in, and offer them their own articles of jewellery for sale. There is no need to say that presently everything is restored to them, and the scoundrels delivered over to the police.

396ft. The Subject, **£6 12s. 0d.**

JERUSALEM.

Code Word, "DEMENT."

This is a lovely picture of the ancient city of Jehovah, made so picturesque by the crowd of quaintly-clad people who are at home in the streets. Jerusalem, being built on four mountains, forms four different quarters. St. Sepulchre's Church, surrounded by a folk of shopkeepers dealing in eatables, beads, weapons, &c., makes a fine show; then on Zion mountain is the "Tower of David," and in other parts of the town other remnants of the past splendour of the Holy City.

314ft. The Subject, **£5 4s. 8d.**

A FASHIONABLE WALTZ.

Code Word, "FANATISME."

The new waltz looks so attractive, represented as it is by a beautiful woman, that an artist buys it and begins waltzing in the street. Two policemen join in and whirl about. Then the artist asks a street organ-grinder for his instrument, and at the sound of the music everybody in the street, and carriages also, turn and waltz madly.

379ft. The Subject, **£6 6s. 4d.**

MY MA-IN-LAW BEATS THE RECORD.

Code Word, "FARINE."

Ma-in-law is not possessed of the sweetest of tempers, and her son-in-law is a grocer. During one of those stormy interviews which take place every day between them a motor-car stops at the door. The son-in-law packs his ma off in the automobile, and ma-in-law is now a runaway. She upsets a barrow, pulls down a barrier, &c., and finally stops in front of the goal of the New York-Paris race, where she is cheered by the crowd.

280ft. The Subject, **£4 13s. 4d.**

A SCIENTIST'S ADVENTURES.

Code Word, "FANFARE."

While pursuing a rare butterfly, Mr. Knowall forgets that he is on earth, and, as a consequence of it, he falls into a pool. Soldiers, however, have pity on him, and lend him one of their uniforms after taking him to the barracks. Yet, some soldiers, taking him for a recruit, play practical jokes on him, just the usual kind of thing in such circumstances, until the sergeant-major, having been acquainted with the facts, comes and delivers poor Mr. Knowall from his plight.

346ft. The Subject, **£5 15s. 4d.**

THE MOHAWK'S REVENGE.

Code Word, "FASTE."

Two cowboys, having killed a young Mohawk who had taken a draught out of their spirit bottle, are now being tracked by the tribe. Presently they are taken by the Red Indians, and smoked out in a cave in the rocks. This is a horrible punishment, no more cruel, however, than the groundless murder of the poor child.

445ft. The Subject, **£7 8s. 4d.** Toning extra, **15s. 0d.**

THE HEART OF A GIPSY.

Code Word, "FANGE."

Gipsies have been seen pilfering, and they are driven away by the infuriated peasants. A girl of their gang, having sprained her ankle, is taken home by a young peasant, and tended by the latter's mother. Now, the boy loves her for her beauty and gentleness of manners, and he entreats his mother to let him marry the gipsy girl. Presently she gives in, and they are all very happy.

495ft. The Subject, **£8 5s. 0d.** Toning extra, **18s. 0d.**

TWO OLD COLLEGE CHUMS.

Code Word, "FARINEUX."

John Durand and J. P. Bridge have been great chums at school, but while the former makes a success of his life, the other descends the rungs of the social ladder one by one. John Durand meets him in the street in the garb of a sandwichman. Yet, as one must always give one's fellow-creatures a chance, Durand takes Bridge home with him, and sees what he can do for him. Soon, however, John finds, to his dismay, that Bridge is only fit for being a sandwichman, and he sends him back to his old work with a kick.

510ft. The Subject, **£8 10s. 0d.**

FANTASTIC HEADS.

Code Word, "FAIX."

A wizard takes his own head in his hands, and throws it on the floor; but it is immediately replaced by another, which swells to an extraordinary size, while the magician seems to be coming from far away to the foreground of the picture. The wizard repeats this turn several times, then he opens his mouth very wide, and in it are seen miniature artists.

314ft. The Subject, **£5 4s. 8d.** Colouring extra, **£3 3s.**

THE HAPPIEST DAY IN HER LIFE.

Code Word, "EXCESSIF."

A little girl, on the point of making her first communion, is taken ill, and obliged to stay in bed. She is so sorry at the idea of missing the great fête that she gets up, and dresses in her white frock, then goes out into the street, and manages to reach the church door before her strength fails her. She is carried home, and a doctor is immediately summoned; he gives little hope, but she must drink a medicine he prescribes, and perhaps she will recover. The little patient is unwilling to take the beverage, and she excites herself so that she falls asleep. In her dream she sees the whole ceremony as it actually takes place, she finds herself among the other communicants, and she partakes of the Divine feast. What she has taken for the Holy bread is the medicine, which heals her, and the little dreamer is saved.

906ft. The Subject, **£15 2s. 0d.**

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Code Word, "FAITAGE."

The magician puts panes of glass on to water-jugs, which serve as supports. On top of these she places a casket from which issue grimacing faces; smoke of different colours rises from the ground, and there appears in a frame a young woman who takes the shape of a butterfly, whose shining wings flutter and shimmer in the light.

396ft. The Subject, **£6 13s. 0d.** Colouring extra, **£1.**

FEMININE HATE.

Code Word, "ETEIGNOIR."

An idle young lady has become interested in a handsome Bohemian, and she goes out with him. Yet a gipsy girl of his gang is in love with him, and as this rouses her jealousy she tells the young lady's father of her idyll; he shrugs his shoulders, and resumes his walk. The gipsy runs to the beach where she is sure to find the couple, and she endeavours to kill the other girl with her stiletto; but the stranger snatches a revolver from her side, and fires. The last picture shows the Bohemian crying over the body of the girl his fickleness has caused to be so badly injured.

445ft. The Subject, **£7 8s. 4d.**

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Code Word, "EXCITANT."

A very daring thief has been traced by the police, but as he always escapes when they least expect it, a reward of £1000 has been promised to the detective who can catch him. Our friends, Fritt and Plock, who have been given special instructions, see the man as he is enjoying his drink on the terrace of a café; but noticing that he is being watched the scoundrel jumps into a cab and drives to the station; just as the train is steaming out an old lady and a swell arrive in time to see that they are too late. Turning round, they recognise each other. Fritt boards a motor-car, and while he is preparing for the start Plock ties a small carriage belonging to a cripple to the rear of the automobile, and jumps in. And so forth, until at last they are both there to catch the thief in a curiosity shop, and shaking hands loyally they decide to share the reward.

626ft. The Subject, **£10 8s. 8d.**

SILHOUETTES.

Code Word, "FACTAGE."

Two Chinamen throw on the screen all sorts of personages that silhouette themselves on the dark background, then move and dance very prettily in a series of "tableaux vivants."

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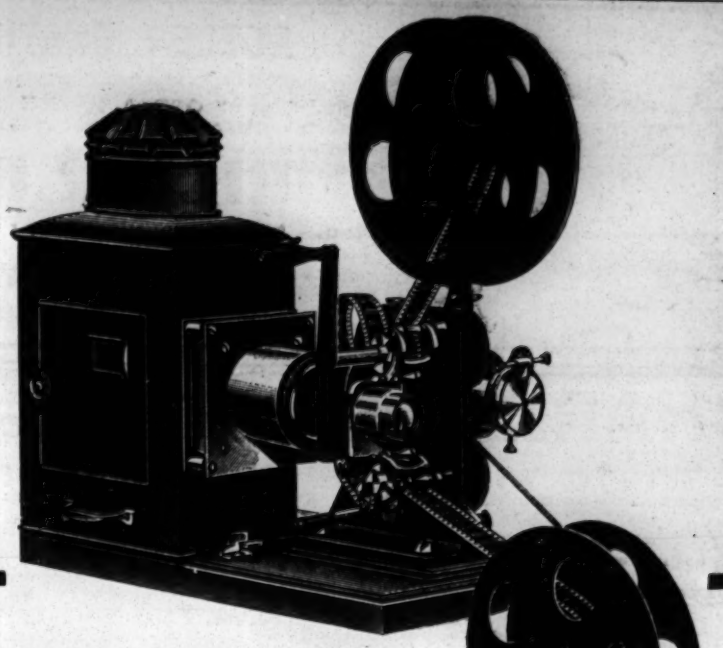

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No. **2278.** Code **"Flat."** Length **315ft.**

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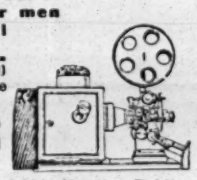

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Offers to be sent to the undersigned under sealed cover marked "Bandstand" not later than noon on Wednesday, 2nd December next.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept any offer sent in.

Dated this 17th day of October, 1908.

GEO. T. LEWIS,
Clerk to the Council.

Town Hall, Clacton-on-Sea.

GAIETY, BLYTH.

TO ALL CONCERNED.—After this date, Oct. 25, I am in no way connected with the above. Thanking artists for their applications and past favours.
(Signed) W. Yates Gregory,
Theatre Royal and Hippodrome,
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COPY OF TESTIMONIAL.

From Miss Marie Clavering, Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

Dear Mr. Harris, October 24th, 1908.

Velvet skirt received last night. This is a success. Looks lovely.

Yours truly, MARIE CLAVERING.

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"HIS WIFE'S FAMILY."

A Comedy, in Three Acts, by "George Egerton," Produced at Wallack's Theatre, New York, on Oct. 6.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Major Patrick Sarsfield Desmond, an aristocratic Irishman of the old school, whose devil-may-care light-heartedness and improvidence nothing can quench or cure, is the central figure of this comedy, and Mr. Arnold Daly, for whom the play was written by Mrs. R. Golding Bright, gives a representation of the character that is highly creditable to him. The comedy is rich in humour, and at times tenderly human and appealing. Certain Irish and English characteristics are contrasted in an entertaining and agreeable way, but there is one thing missing, and that is the conflict of interests that one expects to find in a three-act play. A feature of the performance that proved highly acceptable to the "old-timers" was the appearance of Mr. Edward Harrigan in the rôle of Corporal O'Carroll, the Major's manservant. Mr. Harrigan made the part stand out in bold relief, and was warmly applauded. His son William was also in the cast. Margaret Ellen Desmond has married Roderick Hay, an English gentleman of moderate means. The Desmond family become bankrupt, and the only thing for them to do is to "visit" Margaret Ellen. Accordingly they "drop in" one by one. The first to arrive is Bridget Casey, an old servant, who gives a happy-go-lucky account of the sale of Desmond Hall and the attending circumstances. Trixie Desmond, Mrs. Hay's sister, follows with still more humorous details of the domestic disaster. Next and last comes the father of the young women, Major Patrick Sarsfield Desmond, an elderly rollicking army man, who treats the whole affair as a huge joke. He insists upon mixing a punch, causing an immediate depletion of his son-in-law's resources in buying the ingredients for the beverage. From his son-in-law, too, he borrows the shilling with which he tips the boy who has carried the basket. By the time the Desmonds have quartered themselves upon their more fortunate relatives the story of their misfortunes has been told in every detail. The first act takes place in Roderick Hay's cottage near Richmond. The next is laid at the Major's lodgings in Guilford-street, London, eighteen months later. The fortunes of the Desmonds have steadily declined. Mrs. Hay has done her utmost to keep them in funds, but things have gone from bad to worse. Neither the Major nor his children can understand that they are expected to pay for anything they have. Their rent is in arrears, and they don't know how the next meal is to be provided, nor do they seem to care. The Major's servant, Corporal O'Carroll, has received no wages for five years; but he never presumes to mention the debt to the old officer, and to such straits is he reduced in caring for the family that he snares the pigeons that cluster about the British Museum and cooks them for the family breakfast.

Trixie Desmond is pursued by Captain Vesey Perry, another Irishman in London, with the idea of marriage, and she is half inclined to accept him, but the Major thinks she might do better. Margaret Ellen, familiarly known as "Maginel," drops in, and learns from O'Carroll that her relatives are "broke." She pawns her watch, buys a steak, and cooks a nice dinner, only to see Trixie and the Major dash off to dine with Captain Perry in response to his invitation. In the last act the Major receives an annuity from a relative, which proves to be a much smaller sum than he expected, as the principal is eventually to go to his son, Bryan, who of all the family has alone shown a disposition to do something for a living. The Major thinks he is entitled to live as "an Irish gentleman" should, and begins to fritter away his income, counting on his daughter Trixie to contract a wealthy marriage. He brings gifts for everybody, and arrays himself in the most expensive of fur motor-coats. Trixie weds Captain Perry, however, against the Major's wishes, and he splutters with rage every time his daughter's name is mentioned until he suddenly discovers a baby's shoe that Margaret Ellen has been treasuring in anticipation of a new arrival in the family. The Major's delight at having discovered this secret, even before it is known to Margaret Ellen's husband, brings forgiveness all round, and the play ends with a scene of general rejoicing. Mr. Edwin Arden as Roderick Hay and Miss Doris Keane as Margaret Ellen played their parts well.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 24.—Standard Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Leonard Rayne; Manager, Mr. Grant Fallowes.—*Oh, Susannah!* is being staged here this week, and good houses are the rule. Miss Freda Godfrey, who made her first appearance since her return from England, appeared as Aurora, and was extended a hearty welcome. She made a thorough success of the part. Mr. Chas. Howitt as John Sheppard caused endless laughter; Mr. E. Burton Seymour as Mr. Plant was excellent; the Lieut. Andrew Merry of Mr. Brough Pierce was a finished piece of acting; Mr. Tearle as Hon. Waverley Vane was satisfactory; Mr. Harry Paine as Tupper showed himself to be a first-rate comedian; Miss Susannah Shepherd was well accounted for by Miss Annie Leaf; and Miss Eva Speight gave a fine character-study of Mrs. O'Hara. Miss Esther Tearle as Flora was all that could be desired.

The Wheeler-Edwardes Gaiety company is at His Majesty's Theatre in *The Girl Behind the Counter*, which is being enthusiastically received.

At the Crystal Palace this week Mr. Charles Macdona's company has been winning golden opinions in *Are You a Mason?* Mr. Langdon Bruce as George Fisher creates very hearty laughter by his diverting performance; Mr. Frank Groom as Frank Perry acts with spirit and ability; Mr. E. H. Paterson is admirable as Amos Bloodgood; and Mr. G. P. Polson as Mr. Halton is very droll. Mr. Erskholme E. Clive as Hamilton Travers does good work; and Mr. Wilton Ross as Ernest Morrison is highly commendable. Miss Adelaide Grace as Caroline Bloodgood shows ability; and Miss Rita Narcelli as Annie is acceptable. Miss Dulcie Verney as Lulu deserves praise; and Miss Viola Garland as Mrs. Halton and Miss Mary Kilpack as Lottie are worthy of warm commendation. The play is appropriately mounted.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERAVON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. D. Jones; Manager, Mr. A. Burrows.—Perhaps the smartest thing seen at this theatre this season is Mr. Frank Stanmore's company in *The Gay Deceivers*. The cast included Messrs. Arthur Dennis, Douglas Phillips, Francis Chamier, Frank Stanmore, Pat Eden, and a capital comedian in Mr. Mark Lester; Misses Dorothy Chard, Kate Chard, Dora Lane, a graceful dancer in Miss Pauline Prim, and an excellent chorus.

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Beloved Vagabond* occupies the boards this week. Mr. Arthur Royston gives a fascinating portraiture of Paragot; and that brilliant actress Miss Nita Faydon makes a sweet and graceful picture as the strolling player; while Miss Kathleen Harrington is a captivating Joanna. Mr. Ramsay Macbeth plays powerfully as Asticot; and Mr. Alfred Drayton and Mr. Warburton Gamble cleverly represent Lord Rushworth and the Count Verneuil. The play is finely staged.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Miss Maud Mortimer makes a conspicuous hit this week with her vivacious and piquantly rendered songs; Signor Venturini's latest device, "The Mysterious Bedroom," is one of the most bewilderingly ingenious effects in illusionism that have been seen on the stage; Mr. John Donald fully justifies the high reputation he has earned as a vocalist; and among the other successful turns are those of Mr. Ben Harris, with his clever Nippers; Bellman and Moore, two delightfully original American burlesque artists; Mr. Archie Pitt, comedian; Miss Gertie Lewis, male impersonator and dancer; Miss Cissie Thompson, comedienne; and Bernard and Watson, a couple of excellent comedians and dancers.

Beach Pavilion.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. David Thomson.—A principal feature of the show last week was the Beauty Competition for men. One of the artists, that fine vocalist Mr. Jack Marson, came in third. The variety part of the entertainment is excellent, as usual.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. G. B. Lee.—The company here attracts crowded houses. Chief among the artists are Mr. Edward Stevens, a clever comedian and dancer; Miss Vesta Rae, a first-rate ballad vocalist, who accompanies the illustrated songs most sympathetically; and Gilroy and Gross, a pair of talented and versatile eccentric comedians.

Empire Music Hall.—Managers, Messrs. R. Caller and J. Montague.—A capital entertainment is provided by such accomplished artists as Miss Marie Rose, vocalist and dancer; Mr. Archie Murray, coon singer and banjoist; Prof. Montague, conjurer; Mr. Arthur Bright, topical vocalist and instrumentalist; and Mr. Henry Mitchell, gymnast. An amusing burlesque, *The Suffragette*, is cleverly played by the Empire sketch company.

The U.S.A. Animated Picture Company, which is under the experienced management of Mr. Victor Hamilton, opened for a short season in Aberdeen in the Music Hall on Monday. The first show was attended by a large audience, who expressed their entire satisfaction.

ABERTILLERY.—Metropole Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—The visit of Hardie and Von Leer's company to this theatre in *Two Little Vagabonds* attracted a crowded house at the opening performance. Mr. George Denham was a clever and effective George Thornton; Mr. Herbert Standing a successful Captain Darville; and Mr. Herbert Russell an excellent Bill Mullins. Miss Dora F. Harvey acted impressively as Marion Thornton; Miss Leonora Castelle was a thoroughly capable Barbara Scarth; and the waifs are presented in a pleasing and pathetic way by Miss Chrissie Francess and Miss Ethel F. Greene.

Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—In the interesting programme provided here the Zenarys give a smart entertainment as trick cyclists; Stanley Waller receives applause for his manipulation of the piano; a pleasing item is contributed by the Desmonds; a laughable sketch is given by John Holland and company; Irene Meldon is a dainty vocalist and dancer; a beautiful electrical scena is produced by the Broughtons; and Charcot's automatic man performs with great skill. The Bioscope is shown to advantage.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company are paying a welcome return visit with *Second to None*. Mr. Theo Balfour capably sustains the part of Sir Reginald Greystone; Mr. Leonard Williams as Harry Wilding gives a strong and forcible impersonation; Mr. Charles Halling plays with power and finish as Frank Wilding; Mr. Fred F. Lloyd as Capt. Philip Mannering is convincing; Mr. J. G. Maine admirably fits the part of Sergeant Jack Horseman; Mr. Arthur D. Layland acquits himself with credit as Lieut. Archie Ballater; Miss Dorothy Clifton acts with sympathy and charm as Nell Greystone; and Miss Mary Mallalieu merits praise as May Greystone. The play is excellently staged.

ALDERSHOT. — Royal and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—The Aldershot Operatic Society, who are "in possession" this week, are presenting the comic opera, *Paul Jones*.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—This week we have W. W. Kelly's company in the drama founded on Mrs. Henry Wood's novel, and called *The New East Lynne*. The piece receives intelligent treatment from Mr. Frederick Harker as Archibald Carlyle, Mr. W. H. Garbois as Francis Levison, and Mr. Richard Nugent as Murty O'Flynn, a typical Hibernian. Lady Isabel finds in Miss Beth Elliott an adequate representative of the erring wife; Miss Sophy Shenton is good as Cornelia Carlyle; Miss Josephine Gwynne as Barbara Hare is amiable and graceful; Miss Guinevere Shilton doubles the parts of Afy Hallijohn and Joyce Hallijohn with good effect.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H Broadhead and Sons.—Messrs. Teddy Braund and Bert Davies, the comedy merchants, open the ball of fun at each performance with humorous cross-talk; Fame and Fortune have gained a notoriety for their laughable absurdity; J. L. Cunliffe, on his native heath, gains much local popularity; an expert juggler is seen in Eugene; Barrie and Wood call for special commendation for their comedy and acrobatic dancing; the Three Behans (Arthur, Cissie, and Kitty) win favour in a quick-change comedy act; Edwin Adeler is a good singing funmaker; Ben Jackson a good banjo specialist; and a sketch is introduced by Thompson Carruthers, a sensational card-manipulating novelty called *The Master Card*. There are five character impersonations. Dunningarto, the master of the cards, is the leading actor in the scene, and as Powlo Delbosco creates considerable sensation with his acting. He is well supported by Fred H. Constable and Misses Ethel Arto, Bertha Clifton, and Ivy Chandos.

Picturedrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.—Some really good films are put on the canvas from week to week here. This week's list includes moving pictures of Yachting on the Solent, Catching a Tartar, The Guardian of the Bank, An Abduction (Louis XVI. reign), detective stories, balloon ascents, aeroplane (comic), and many other impressive pictures. George Christian, armless comedian, and Delmar and Denney also appear.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—An excellent programme here is contributed to by the following artists:—Pasquali Brothers, clever equilibrists and acrobats; the Three Orleans, harmonising vocalists and smart dancers; Denby and Dent, in a laughable comedy act; Natalia and Diana, smart aerial gymnasts; Mr. J. C. Price, baritone vocalist; Miss Rosie Dawn, Scotch comedienne and dancer; little Alice Maud, mimic and male impersonator; Mr. Walter Stanley, an acceptable comedian. The Attergraph pictures are also on view.

AYR.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company in the comedy *Merely Mary Ann* is here for a six nights' run. Mr. Paul Lovett as Lancelot and Miss Jessica Solomon as Mary Ann do ample justice to their parts; Mr. Stanley Logan as Lancelot's friend Peter gives a good rendering; Miss Violet Greville as the lodging-house keeper is excellent; and for a fine conception of the part of the Rev. Samuel Smedge Mr. Robert Entwistle is responsible.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company in *The Midnight Mail* forms the attraction here this week. Mr. George Harvard gives a fine impersonation of the engine driver, Harry Steyne; as Billy Brewer Mr. Grant Lytton's performance is decidedly clever; Mr. Charles H. Longden as Leonard Royle ably acquits himself; and Mr. C. P. Wentworth supplies an excellent sketch as Hussen Padisha. Miss Trissie Humphreys as Mary Steyne submits a sympathetic embodiment of the rôle; Miss Daisy Clifford is a bright Nancy Brewer; Miss Jeannie Weston gives a pleasing impersonation of Lady Phyllis Eustace; and Miss Marie Longden plays Miss Mildmay very naturally. Minor parts in a long cast all have capable representatives.

BARGOED.—New Hall.—Proprietors, Welsh Halls, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Popkin Calloway.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company in *Leah Kleschna* is drawing good audiences. Mr. William Clayton as Kleschna, Mr. Hamilton Deane as Paul Sylvaine, Mr. Gilbert Heron as Schram, and Mr. Algernon J. Hicks as Raoul Berton make a great impression. Miss Bessie Rignold's rendering of Leah Kleschna is a natural and finished performance; as Sophie Chaponniere Miss Dorrie Turner is very charming. The rest of the parts are in good hands.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Edward Marris's company in *The Dandy Doctor* is paying a return visit this week. Miss Florence Smithers keeps the house in roars of laughter by her inimitable acting as Jane "the general"; Mr. George Brentwood is very amusing as Melchisadek Brown; Mr. A. Leslie Martin has a part in Bertie Bolingbroke which suits him admirably; Miss Mollie Wynne is a charming Ivy Pendred, and Mr. Herbert Pearce does well as Colonel Pendred. Mr. C. Burrunston Williams is a capital Arthur Vandyke, M.D., and the minor parts are well sustained.

New Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—The Dunedin Troupe, acrobatic cyclists, who occupy premier place on the programme, are clever and sensational entertainers; the Emson Girls (Rita and Kitty) are accomplished duettists and dancers; Wyndham and Kitty provide a daring wire act; the Evalos appear in a novel juggling and gymnastic act; Bennett and Martell in a good turn entitled *The Shipwrecked Mariners* provoke laughter; the Burnells are well received in a musical and acrobatic turn; Flo Inman, descriptive vocalist, and "Mr. E." with up-to-date jokes, are heard to advantage. Some laughable pictures by the Palacescope conclude.

BARNSTAPLE.—Albert Hall.—Proprietors, the Barnstaple Town Council; Manager, Mr. O. J. Nicklin.—Mr. Joseph Poole's new Myriorama met with a hearty reception on Monday. In addition, the following artists are sustaining a capital programme:—Morritt, magician; Miss Alicia May, in song scena; the Blind Man of Memory; Vela, a smart equilibrist; Silly Selby, musical momus; the Veronas, lady dancers; Mr. Nat Abatt, guide and raconteur; the Cedrics, pattering comedians; Mme. Beulah in mental telepathy; Fil Gerard, with living portraits of "people we know"; Lieut. Chard's canine hippodrome; and Poole's Myriograph.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Joseph Bebb's company is here in *A Lion's Heart*. Mr. Henry Bedford plays the exacting part of Rizardo with success; Mr. Leonard Booker is a fine Dick Lorimore; the villainies of Colonel Robert de Villefort and Gaspard Doble are cleverly presented by Messrs. Archie Helsby and Stephen Scanlan respectively; as Marion Miss Ada Oakley is sympathetic; and Miss Madge Beresford as Bessie and Mr. Edgar J. Coyne as Jack Bealey are humorous.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company, in *Diana of Dobson's*, is here. Miss Emilie Polini is a delightfully vigorous Diana; and Mr. Frank Woolfe makes in interesting Capt. Bretherton. Mr. Edward Harrison is an excellent P.-C. Fellowes; and Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce a capable Sir Jabez Grinlay, Bart. Mr. Stewart Dawson is a typical waiter; Mrs. White Frazer is well drawn by Miss Clarissa Selwynne; and the Misses Eva Gould, Eva Lonsdale, Dorothy Garth, and Olga Esme are severally good as the remaining assistants.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The top of the bill is occupied by the Paxton Troupe, who give a very daring and clever acrobatic turn; the Sisters Warwick provide a really excellent trick cycle act; the Raymond Trio's musical turn, interspersed with pleasing step-dancing, is much appreciated; Noble and Nash are two good comedians; Annie Lang is a pleasing serio and dancer; Harry Marte is a quaint comedian; and Vernon's Bioscope concludes.

New Hippodrome. — Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A very excellent array of pictures is being shown here this week, and the programme is interspersed with several good vaudeville turns.

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Morton Powell presented *Greed for Gold* here on Monday to a good house. Mr. James Jarret, an excellent Jim Welstead, was well supported by Messrs. H. C. Warde, Wilson Gunning, Sydney Bryant, V. C. Rolfe, J. P. Marsden, and Misses Elma C. Turner, Jennie Hicks, May W. Knight, and Beatrice M. Hughes.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—On Saturday last the Bensonians concluded another successful annual visit, by presenting, at a matinée, *Henry V.* (when the house was crowded out), and *The Taming of the Shrew* in the evening. At the final fall of the curtain, Mr. and Mrs. Benson were the recipients of an ovation, the charming lady receiving a beautiful bouquet. Mr. Benson was called upon for a speech, and in returning thanks for the kind reception accorded the company gracefully referred to the unveiling of the tablet earlier in the week to the great orator, Edmund Burke, and trusted that Bath playgoers would erect in their memory a tablet of their own small efforts, and he wished to convey grateful thanks for the pleasurable time spent during their stay in Bath. On Monday *The Thief* commenced a week's engagement. Miss Marie Polini as Marise Chelford adds greatly to her reputation; Mr. Rupert Lister also enhances his popularity by his embodiment of Richard Chelford; the Leytons, husband and wife, find in Mr. Cyril Harcourt and Miss Jean Cadell excellent representatives, Harry being undertaken with discretion and ability by Mr. Owen Nares; Mr. Luke Forster as the detective Protheroe handled the part with much cleverness. A play in one act, *Too Happy by Half*, precedes.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Carl and Mary Ohm's miniature circus is quite an entertainment; the hand-balancing of Leo and Roland and the comedy acrobatic feats of Lacardo Bros. arouse interest and enthusiasm; Gold and Sterling score in their capital interlude, *The Welsh Girl and the Artist*; Phern and Phern present a clever musical act; Dave O'Toole meets with a rousing reception; and Ellis and Watts, comedians and dancers, go well, as does Harry Simms, light comedian.

Assembly Rooms.—Manager, Mr. Lawson Howes.—The Columbia Animated Picture Co. is in possession here for a season.

BATLEY.—Theatre.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—The attraction here this week is *The Girl Who Went Astray*, presented by Mr. Bulmer's company. Mr. John B. Shinton makes the most of the part of Captain Frank Julian; Mr. Fred Lloyd does well as Rupert Murdock, Mr. Evan Roland's Adolphus Boomer is smart; and Mr. Tod Squires ably portrays James Yellowsocks. Miss Ada M. Ryder is very successful as Violet, the heroine; Miss Gwynne Warren gives a forceful delineation of Zara, "the girl who went astray"; and Miss Mary Dalby scores as Molly Smart.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Mr. E. Graham Falcon's company is this week presenting the famous comedy *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Cyril Price Evans is an admirable Rev. Robert Spalding; Mr. Chas. Sims keeps the fun going as Mr. Cattermole; and Mr. Chas. Clayton gives a clever sketch of Mr. Gibson. Mr. Ben Barnett and Mr. Wentworth Fane act with much zest as Harry Marsland and Douglas Cattermole; Miss Josephine Richards is a charming Edith Marsland; and Miss Winifred Williamson a vivacious Eva Webster.

BELFAST. — Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—We are favoured this week with a return visit of the celebrated play *The Hypocrites*, presented by Mr. Charles Frohman's company. The rôle of Rev. Edgar Linnell was on this occasion presented by Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton, who achieved much success; congratulations are also due to Miss Gladys Harvey, who in the emotional and difficult rôle of Rachel Neve was thoroughly convincing; Mr. Alfred S. Barber would be difficult to excel as Mr. Wilmore, Lord of the Manor; and Mr. King Fordham as the erring son Leonard Wilmore furnishes a most satisfactory impersonation. Miss Amy Ravenscroft must be highly commended for her skilful interpretation of Mrs. Wilmore; humour was displayed by Mr. Cecil Brooking in his treatment of the rôle of the Rev. Everard Daubeney; Mr. Sydney Hamilton was the dignified Sir John Plugenet to the life; and Miss Gladys Purnell was charming as Helen Plugenet. Mr. Charles Harley's acting as Mr. Viveash calls for high praise. Other rôles were admirably sustained by Miss Florence Stevenson, Miss Greta Hahn, Miss Violet Harley, and Messrs. Hanworth, Browning, and Douglas Jefferies.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The leading attraction here is provided by Miss Amy Augarde and company, who present a Spanish episode entitled *La Carmencita*, Miss Augarde achieving quite a triumph in the title-rôle. Mr. Charles Baldwin's comedians return with their up-to-date absurdity *The Bank Clerks*, which creates roars of laughter, and a hit of no small magnitude has been made by Mr. Alfred Graham's Premier Juveniles in their vocal scena entitled *A Concert on the Lawn*, arranged and produced by Mr. R. L. Griffiths. Mr. Oliver Conroy's comic songs have been hugely enjoyed, and Mack Olive exhibits his well-known ability in his whistling scena. Mr. Charles F. Best as "MacBunker the Mountebank" succeeds in keeping the audience highly amused, and also on the programme are Miss Flo Cecil, comedienne and dancer, Mr. Billy Hubbard, comedian, and the Palace Pictures.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The chief attraction here is provided by Merrill and Ward, whose cycling feats are really remarkable; much fun has been created by Harry Tate's company, who produce their mirth-provoking sketch entitled *Fishing*; the comedy bar act and bicycle performance of the Vasilescu Troupe has created quite a sensation; and Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd appear to much advantage in their absurdity *The Tree of Truth*. Miss Kitty Collyer, described as the new star, made a big hit on Monday with her clever dancing, and also here are Percy Curry, comedian, Kit Keen, coloured comedian, Tray and Rich, comedians and dancers, Mr. Bert Lytton, swell comedian, and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Much disappointment was expressed here on Monday owing to the fact that Miss Ella Retford was unable to appear through indisposition; Verno and Voyce under the circumstances occupied the chief position, and appeared with much success in their comedy act. Dion Wade is one of the drollest of comedians, and his reception has been flattering; the Cromwells appear in what is aptly described as a novel and unique juggling act; Kent and Keith are a capable comedy duo; and also appearing are Mr. Will Knox, described as the world's champion diabolist, and the Bioscope.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Under the direction of Mr. Gerald Tweedie the following films have been exhibited: The Two Rivals, Unlucky Motor-Car, The Pardon, The Clown Doctor, Apple of Discord, &c. Deans and Wilton, comedy acrobats, appear with much success, also that droll Scotch comedian Mr. Dave Summerhill, whose songs have been encored.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Undoubtedly at this hall are exhibited some of the finest pictures imaginable, and this week the series shown include: A Reckless Horseman, Winner of the Lottery, Day at the Sports, &c. In addition, Mr. R. C. Note, a capital comedian with good songs, appears. Miss Marie Scott, winner of the ladies' competition, was accorded a flattering reception on Monday.

BILSTON.—New Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; General-Manager, Mr. S. Hadskiss Dawson.—*Man to Man*, presented by Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair's company, is attracting successfully. Mr. Edward Lloyd makes a vigorous George Gordon; Miss Louie Adair looks and acts well as Ethel Maythorne; and Mr. Frank Adair stands out prominently as Richard Ellerton, voice and appearance being admirably suited to the part.

BIRKENHEAD. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company in *The Midnight Wedding* is doing a good week's business here. Mr. Paumier appears to decided advantage in the important part of Paul Valmar, the impersonation being in every respect excellent; he is ably supported by Miss Vyonne

Orchardson, who in the dual rôle of Lieut. Karl Heisburg and Princess Astrea Von Strelsburg displays much skill and versatility. Mr. Mayor Cooke is a good Captain Rudolf von Scarsbruck; the Crown Prince Leopold is well impersonated by Mr. John Nesbitt; and Mr. A. F. Winnington Barnes is a capable Lieut. Eugene von Strelsburg. Miss Gwladys Faunce acquits herself with ability as Rozel; and the lighter passages of the play given are admirably sustained by Messrs. James E. Page, Harry Richardson, and Algie Spalding. Remaining characters are adequately filled, and the production is liberally staged.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Attention centres in the engagement of Miss Maidie Scott, a charming and talented comedienne, on a highly successful return visit; the Harvey Boys, in a well-sustained boxing sketch, go well; and Miss Marguerite Broadfoote, an accomplished comedienne, is a leading attraction. The Three Prestons are successful in their amusing act *The Liftman's Rise;* and Curwen and Bell, in a musical comedy; Godfrey James, the singing collier; Donal McDougal, Scotch comedian; Will H. Stopit, a humorous acrobat; and Brown's Royal Bioscope help to strengthen an excellent programme.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*Dorothy*, recently revived under the direction of Moss' Empires, is delighting both old and young playgoers here. Those two old favourites of the original production, Messrs. Hayden Coffin and Arthur Williams, appear as fresh as ever as, respectively, Harry Sherwood and Lurcher, the former singing in his best form, while the latter positively excels himself. Mr. John Coates supplies the hero, Geoffrey Wilder, in a very melodious guise; Miss Ruth Davenport sings sweetly and is dainty as Dorothy; and Miss Hebe Bliss as Lydia Hawthorne, Miss Emily Spiller as Mrs. Privett, and Mr. Colin Coop as the deep-chested Squire Bantam are each excellent. The scenery, by Mr. Julian Hicks, is very choice.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Jack Straw* is drawing the myriad devoted admirers of Miss Florence St. John, who as Mrs. Parker-Jennings has a rôle perfectly suited to her special gifts of comedy. Mr. Lionel Glenister carries out the title-rôle in just the right spirit. Bland and imperturbable as the pseudo waiter, with a dash of hauteur to temper the natural bonhomie of the Archduke, he scored all the time. Mr. A. T. Gullifer as Mr. Parker-Jennings, Mr. Frederick Moyes as Ambrose Holland, Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram as Count Adrian, Mr. Ernest Graham as Lewis Abbott, Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson as the Marquis, and Mr. Christmas Grose as Vincent are all very good; and Miss Lucy Milner as Ethel acts her little part graciously. The others include Miss Edie Graham, Miss Estelle Despa, and Miss Jessica Waters. The comedy is preceded by *A Long Journey*, which is well worth seeing.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*An Unwedded Wife* is received with great fervour here, Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty and company being greeted right royally. Mr. Whitty's appearance in the rôle of Police-constable Runyin is the signal for cheers and laughter galore; Miss Van Praagh's acting as Marion is distinguished by the utmost charm and sympathy; Mr. George Draper is applauded for his manly portrayal of Frank Hawthorne; Mr. Chas. Stirling's depiction of the villainous Philip Blackstone is conspicuous for its all-round excellence; Mr. Will Casey as Napoleon B. Boomer gives evidence of much ability; Miss Jessie Gillette imparts genuine humour to the rôle of Caraway Crumpet; and clever work is contributed by little Doris, Mr. R. Wilton Bedford, &c.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Sexton Blake* continues to attract the public here this week. Mr. Horace Hunter's style suggests the clever detective in all his actions, quite an ovation awaiting him at the dénouement. Mr. Billy Ross as his comic ally, Tinker, is very successful; Mr. William Felton brings out the character of Roger Blackburn to full advantage; Mr. Charles East enacts the rôle of Randolph Lovell very well; Miss Lily Hammersley makes a charming and amiable Marjorie; Miss East Robertson acts with fine dash and distinction as Philadelphia Kate; and Mr. John M. East gives a good piece of acting as the burglar, Faggas.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, with Mr. Charles Harrington's unrivalled company, is making a big success here. Mr. J. Carr again gives an admirable expression of benevolence to the character of Uncle Tom; Mr. Charles Harrington is well recognised as Phineas Fletcher; Mr. Frank Forbes Robertson proves very successful as St. Clair; Mr. Ernest Regent makes a popular rôle of George Harris; Messrs. H. Manley and Alf. Lafolle are responsible for the respective rôles of Legree and Haley; Mr. Walter Langford scores as Marks; Miss Hathaway's portrayal of Eliza is marked with much refinement; and the Misses Jenny Malcolm, Annie Watson, Kitty Bell, and a number of clever specialities support.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*The Conscience of a Judge* is depicted here by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company. Mr. Kenyon Musgrave in the titular rôle, Herbert Granstone, impresses the audience immensely with the power of his portrayal; Mr. Reginald Maurice does admirable work as Cecil Bentley; Mr. Sam Courtney acts cleverly as Sir Edwin Mervin; Miss Nelly Howitt is praised all round for her style and ability as Jessica Draycott; Miss Mabel Coleman shines in a graceful manner as Ethel Vaughan; and Mr. Walter Clarke, Miss Mona Dawlish, and Miss Elsie Isaacs are successful. The comedy parts are exceedingly well rendered by Mr. Frank Ayrton, Mr. F. W. Graham, and Miss Madge Seymour.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*A Wife's Triumph* is received with the greatest acclamation here, with Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company. Miss Ada Abbott shows clearly the trials and sufferings of the heroine, Bessie; Mr. Frank Stephens gives an engrossing study of the gambler, Frank Wilton; Mr. Abbott's personification of the Squire, Robert Dewhurst, is very popular; Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle well earns the execrations that follow his clever acting of Ellis Jordan; Mr. Edwin Keene enlivens the play with his humour as Ben Bradford; Miss Isabel Singleton supports vivaciously as Marjory; Miss Florence North is able and sympathetic as Alice Wilton; and there is plenty of other good support.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The principal item here is Loie Fuller's troupe of dancers in their effective *Ballet of Light*. Hubert Carter and his company present a sketch from *Davy Garrick*; the Cambodian Troupe of native dancers are a distinct novelty; Olive Armidale is applauded for her songs, and Nellie Ganthony is a clever entertainer. Other promient turns are those of the Cavolotti Brothers, Rhoda Paul, Harry Grey, and the Rawsons.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Chung Ling Soo is attracting crowded houses here; another big turn is that of the Musical Twelve, who have a new musical mélange, *The Bohemian Girl*, which is artistically rendered; a dramatic episode, *The Spy*, is presented by Ford and Webb's company; Collins' Eight Stella Girls sing and dance themselves into favour; Nettie Starr, Georgina Leno, Hunt and Thomas, Hall Hughman, and Les Marsumas complete an excellent programme.

HIPPODROME. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Edwin Boyne is at the head of the bill here; his songs are repeatedly encored; and George French also comes in for a big share of applause. The Walleys are smart jugglers; Cecile and François are expert acrobatic dancers; plenty of mirth is provided by the Mackweys; and the bill includes Billy Williams, Floretti and Elly, Hayes and Merritt, Sam Thompson, and the Sisters Brooke.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Fred Karno's company are delighting large houses here with their amusing sketch *Saturday to Monday;* Pipifax and Paulo do a daring knockabout turn; the Austral Trio have a pleasing musical mélange; Harry Leybourne is warmly applauded; Charles Russell, Jenny Hartley, Harry Edison's dogs, and Francis O'Flynn complete the company.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart and his company opened here to a capital audience on Monday in *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr. Stewart in the title-rôle is once again a huge success, his acting capacity being really wonderful; Mr. Arthur Shelton gives an effective portrayal of Dr. Watson, and an equal share of praise is due to Mr. Walter A. Chetham for his rendition of John Forman; Mr. Robert Gilbert plays the rôle of Professor Moriarty exceptionally well; Mr. Mark D. Draper (James Larabee), Mr. Douglas Murray (Sydney Prince), and Mr. Louis Alexander (Alfred Bassick) are very good; Master Thomas Russell pleases by his smartness as Billy, Sherlock Holmes' assistant; Miss Betty Fairfax as Alice Faulkner acts admirably as Madge Larabee; Miss Edith Vogne is undoubtedly fine; and Miss Elsie Goulding is good as Therèse. The scenic effects are praiseworthy.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. George Edwardes's company opened here on Monday with *The Merry Widow*. The theatre was crowded and enthusiasm ran high. In the title-rôle Miss Clara Evelyn won all hearts by her talented performance; Mr. Lionel Victor fairly revels in the part of Baron Popoff, and keeps the house in roars of laughter; Mr. Grafton Williams is a capital General Novikovitch; Mr. Tom Redmond is highly entertaining with his quiet, unforced humour as Nisch; Mr. Haigh Jackson sings delightfully as Viscomte Camille de Jolidon; Marquis de Cascada, M. de St. Brioche, and M. Khadja all find excellent exponents in Messrs. Albert Kavanagh, Lennox Coombs, and J. S. Durant; and Mr. Basil S. Foster quickly establishes himself a prime favourite and is seen to great advantage in his delightful rendering of Prince Danilo. Miss Mary Grey sings splendidly and acts with consummate charm as Natalie; and the parts of Olga, Sylvanie, and Prascovia are well played by the Misses Norah Barry, Susanne Selborne, and Mary Morrison. The chorus is strong and attractive, the dresses superb, and the scenery and mounting beyond praise.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The principal turn on the programme here is Atlas, athlete, and the beautiful Miss Vulcana, strong lady, together with the Sisters Atlas, strong girls. Valvo, military ventriloquist, with his obtrusive orderly; George Antill, comedian; France and Stewart in their racing comedy *The 100 to 1 Chance;* the beautiful Lillian, lady cyclist; W. J. Churchill ("Uncle Willie"), comedian; the Sohos, in a vocal and terpsichorean novelty; Harry Nelson, comedian; Starr and Leslie in a novel and clever speciality act; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope are included in the bill of fare.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—The Mysterious Lilith heads the bill here with her wonderful performance. The following clever turns also appear:—Marcus Boyle, funny comedian; Ada Whitton, male impersonator; Lillian Warren, pictorial songstress; the Florias, novel comedy wire and equilibristic speciality act; the Four Dorians, gymnastic athletes on trapeze and rings; Ada and Mervel Webb, queens of the crystal tank; Bert Danson, comedian; and Evelyn Taylor, comedienne, the Bioscope also doing duty.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The stock company is this week presenting the celebrated Irish drama *The Irishman*. As Captain Frank Delahurst Mr. Albert Sember is excellent; Miss Nina Vaughton as Kate Kearney is sweet and graceful; Father Kelly has a capital exponent in Mr. Cyril Grier; a convincing performance comes from Mr. Alfred D. Adams as the scheming Felix Blake; Nora Desmond, as played by Miss Kathleen Magee, is a praiseworthy delineation; Sir Owen Cavanagh is ably played by Mr. H. Arnold Allen; and Mr. Stanley S. Gordon gives a capital performance of Owen Cavanagh. Mr. Tom H. Solly causes hearty laughter as Larry O'Rourke; and is ably supported by Miss Effie Macintosh, who makes a pleasing and vivacious Molly O'Flaherty. Mr. Alfred Grenville gives a capital character study of Mickey Whelan.

BOSTON.—PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. H. Fountain; Manager, Mr. E. Cass.—We have a capital bill here. Leonoto gives a fine contortion act, together with comedy juggling; Lillie Keith is an admirable comedienne; the Two Clarkes submit a good show on the rolling globe; Harry Harvey is popular; Japanese juggling is given by the Balzens; the Sisters Delmore are favourites in their Wild West scena; Phil Lister, vocalist, introduces a smart instrumental turn and his singing mannikin; an amusing farce is entitled *The Spanish Bull-fight;* and the famous La Dor Troupe of acrobats, ladder wonders, and pyramid groupings also entertain.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. Edward Compton, a great favourite here, opened on Monday in *Davy Garrick*. Mr. Compton was seen to great advantage in the name-part, and fairly excelled himself in the drunken scene. He was strongly supported by Mr. H. Crocker as Alderman Gresham and Miss Kathleen Leigh, who was a great success as Violet Gresham. The comedy was preceded by *The Desperate Lover*, in which Miss Viola Compton greatly distinguished herself. During the week *The Rivals, The School for Scandal, The Gentleman in Grey, A Reformed Rake*, and *She Stoops to Conquer* were also staged.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—*The Thief* is being played here this week by Mr. George Alexander's company to large audiences. The applause which greets the thrilling scene between Richard Chelford (Mr. Stephen T. Ewart) and Marise Chelford (Miss May Congdon) in the second act is loud and prolonged. The acting, in fact, throughout is splendid. The characters above mentioned are impersonations of great power, and Mr. Gerald Ames, too, gives an excellent study of the part of Raymond Leyton; Mr. Alfred Lugg does not fail in impressing the audience as his son Harry Leyton; Miss Mary Dibley gracefully and sympathetically fills the part of Isabel Leyton, and Mr. Cyril Cattley is distinctly convincing as the detective, Mr. Protheroe. As a curtain-raiser Mr. Julian Field's *Too Happy by Half* is delightful, and is capitally played by Mr. Percy Marmont as Eric Verner, Mr. Lugg as Jack Fortescue, and Miss Irene Leonard as Maud Verner.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here this week with *The Christian*. The play has lost none of its absorbing interest. The audiences are large and very demonstrative, and Miss Doris Gilham's powerful and emotional acting as Glory Quayle evokes hearty applause. As John Storm Mr. Henry Renouf is as realistic and convincing as ever; the part of Horatio Drake Mr. Oswald Marshall impersonates effectively; Mr. G. R. Montfort's Lord Robert Ure is an able effort; Mr. B. Ling as Father Lamplugh and Mr. C. T. Turpin as Archdeacon Wealthy are both good, and the other parts, too, are in capable hands.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Fred Karno's company appear here this week in *G.P.O.*, their latest production, a notice of which appears elsewhere. Tom Child, Yorkshire tenor, contributes to the programme some well-known ballads in good style; good gymnastic work is done by Howe and Ardie in their comedy turn *Up in a Balloon;* delightful violin and harp solos, together with smart dancing, combine in making *The Itinerant*, by the Norman and Leonard Trio, very enjoyable; Fred Keeton, comedian, contributes acceptably; George Newburn returns with his clever mimicry with his usual success; there is some eccentric comedy and clever acrobatic work in the turn by Will Dacey and Nellie Lewis; the Delomes with their "Phantom Clogs" win applause for clever dancing, and the Bioscope shows some entertaining pictures.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Mr. John Humphreys and company contribute an amusing and piquant little farce, *Ancient Britons*, here; Cliff and Kean, comedy artists, sing and dance well; Baby Vi Davis, a winsome child actress and singer, quite wins her audience; a very marvellous performance by Irma Orbasany's cockatoos wins admiration and applause; Woodhouse and Wells are very entertaining comedians; *Fun in a Railway Station* is a most amusing turn by Farley, Rennie and Farley; as a comedienne Minnie Kirby is popular; a wonderful exhibition of thought and silent mental telepathy is given by the Mysterious Howards, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are very interesting.

BRIGHOUSE.—ALBERT THEATRE — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Charles H. Beanland.—There was a full house on Monday night and the attractive programme was highly enjoyed. Elmo and Rego as comedy acrobats keep the audience in a continual roar of laughter; the Bros. Obo, laughing comedians and patterers, are old Brighouse favourites; Fred Horsfall is a Tyrolean singer with a capital tenor voice; a smart combination of international dancers are the Royal Quintette; Sisters Clare are a neat pair of duettists and dancers; Gus Hindell is enthusiastically received in his song scena *Boys Will be Boys*, in which he is assisted by local lads; Bros. Lauri are clever and graceful acrobats; A. G. Spry, comedian, Sam Shipley, comedian, and animated pictures conclude.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Miss Ellen Snow's company is attracting large audiences here this week with *Why Men Love Women*. Miss Ellen Snow achieves complete success as the heroine, Violet Livingstone; Mr. Oliver Rogers gives an admirable impersonation of the hero, Gerald Fielding; Mr. Lionel Gadsden is forcible and convincing as the villainous Captain Staniloff; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter makes a capital Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert; Mr. Ernest Griffin is well suited as the Maharajah; and Mr. A. W. Norman ably sustains the part of the Rev. Arthur Gray. Much fun is afforded by Mr. Harwood Roberts as Orlando Figgins; Miss Nita Owen as Birdie, Miss Freda Vaughan as Baby, and Miss Beresford-Glynn as Orlando's better half.

ALHAMBRA.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is an excellent company here this week. May Moore-Duprez, America's jolly Dutch girl, is a great favourite; the Eight 'Varsity Girls are charming vocal entertainers; Charles Fisher's Pocket Opera Company, a trio of operatic singers, are very cordially received; Farr and Farland, "the humorous aristocrats," are very amusing patterers; Bruce Green, "the talkative dame," is diverting; Belle Braham is warmly applauded for her picture songs; Ada Martine, comedienne, wins hearty applause; Blanche and Powell are refined entertainers with song and dance; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. Bessie Slaughter, an accomplished contralto vocalist, is enthusiastically applauded for her songs; the Carmos are skilful and Herculean jugglers; Leonie de Lausanne, the world's champion lady shot, gives an excellent turn; the Reynolds Minstrel Quartette are highly entertaining; Hanvarr and Lee present *The Golfer and the Maid* with great success; Simms and Simms, old favourites, give a capital musical turn; the Troupe Lafaille are marvellous gymnasts and equilibrists; Kellie and Agnas, comedy duo, evoke hearty laughter; George Blunt and E. H. Knight's company, including Mr. Fred Powell as Simmonet, are powerfully effective in the dramatic sketch *The Grip of Iron;* Madge Temple, "London's musical-comedy queen," sings delightfully; and the Barrascope pictures are very interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Messrs. E. Taylor Platt and Trevor Lowe's company is here this week with *Arms and the Man*. Mr. George Howard gives a fine enactment of Nicola; Mr. Leslie Hamer is distinctly successful as Major Sergius Savanoff; Mr. J. Edward Pearce is well placed as Major Paul Petkoff; Mr. Trevor Lowe's Captain Bluntschli merits high praise; Miss Clara Earle displays marked ability as Raina; Miss Gwladys Morris as Louka and Miss Katherine Stewart as Catherine Tetkoff submit pleasing sketches.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Miss Grace Warner and company opened here on Monday with *Lady Audley's Secret*. Miss Grace Warner gave an excellent impersonation of Lady Audley; Miss K. Stewart was highly effective as Alicia Audley; Miss A. M. Corri made an admirable Phœbe Marks; Mr. George Gordon's Robert Audley and Mr. Roy Rhind's Sir Michael Audley were ably enacted; Mr. A. B. Lyons' Luke Marks was a good character-study; and Little Norah Bretton was a pleasing Prinella. The programme for the week also included *The Little Widow* and *My Artful Valet*.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The animated pictures exhibited here this week are interesting and amusing. Yusuf the Pirate is full of dramatic incidents; For His Sake conveys a pathetic drama; A Trip Through France and Our Banana Supply are highly picturesque; the Kind-Hearted Bootblack gives a pretty story; and very entertaining are Archie Goes Shopping, The Wonderful Fertiliser, and An Extraordinary Stickfast. Miss Rene Willoughby contributes ballads in pleasing style.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. George Dance's principal company is here for the week with *Miss Hook of Holland*, the musical play being well staged. Miss Marie Wilson is pleasing as Sally Hook, both acting and singing very effectively; Miss Mabel Sealby is vivacious and entertaining as Mina, her songs and dances meeting with approval; Mr. Arthur Reynolds displays much dry humour as Mr. Hook; Mr. Frederick Hobbs is a dashing Captain Adrian Paap; Mr. Lionel Scott makes the most of Lieut. De Coop; Mr. Power Pinder is highly successful as Bandmaster Van Vuyt; Mr. Percy Davidson makes an alert foreman as Ludwig Schnapps; Mr. Fred Lyne is amusing as the loafer Simon Slinks; and the remaining parts are all carefully taken. The chorus is exceptionally tuneful, the dresses are bright and tasteful, and the augmented band is ably conducted by Mr. Sydney Shaw.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—An interesting drama, *The Woman Pays*, is the attraction here. Mr. Phil Harper as Sid Armstrong and Miss Maud Russell as Madge Armstrong are both successful in presenting powerful and convincing expositions of their respective parts; Mr. John Davidson acts with much discretion the unpopular part of Roger Marchant; Mr. Frank M. Thorne (the author of the play and proprietor of the company) is amusing as Mike Maloney; Miss Florence Thorne makes a capital part of Tabitha; and other important parts are carefully taken by Miss Anena Walton, Miss Kate Blair, and Mr. Berresford Innes. The play is staged in a very effective manner.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—The Royal Tokio Company, Japanese equilibrists, &c., head the programme, their feats, especially the "three-ladder act," being very cleverly done. Phil Rees' Stable Lads present a novel racing act, songs and dances being introduced; Curtis and Piccaninnies, including little Sam Curtis, do a good turn; Flo Hilton, male impersonator, renders her songs in excellent style; the Sisters Brand are smart comediennes and dancers; Bert and Dora are entertaining comedy artists; Brothers Brooks, comedians, are successful, as also is Charles Rowen, comedian; and the performance concludes with interesting and amusing animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Six Brothers Luck and company head the bill with their new sketch *Lift-'Ems, Limited*, the comic sketch meeting with approval; Russell Wallett, "the lady in black," is exceptionally clever as a female impersonator; Madge Bryce, contralto comedienne, presents a pleasing turn; the Victoria Family excel as instrumentalists, vocalists, and dancers; Lambert and Butler, comedians, obtain applause; Fred Mulvey and Minnie Miriam are successful comedy entertainers; the Three Warners are good vocalists and expert dancers; the Errols do a smart tumbling and leaping act; the Langford Trio do well as vocalists and dancers; and Marie Blythe, comedienne, obtains much appreciation. The performance concludes with up-to-date animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—Ralph Pringle's animated pictures and variety entertainment still obtains good support. The pictures are changed every week, and amongst numerous attractive subjects special mention may be made of a magnificent length of films representing The Land of the Midnight Sun. There is also an excellent band.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. George D. Day's company, in Hall Caine's great play, *The Prodigal Son*, had a full house on Monday. Mr. Albert Ward was very fine as Oscar; and the self-denying Magnus was an excellent piece of work by Mr. H. J. Crane. Mr. Jackson Hayes cleverly portrayed Stephen. The ambitious Helga Neilson was ably acted by Miss Pearla Gardner; Miss Florence Lovell made a charming Anna Magnusson; Miss Kate Osborne was very droll as the crusty Aunt Anna; Miss Pauline Emeric as Thora, and afterwards as Young Elin, gave a charming performance in each character. Mr. James English (Oscar Neilsen), Mr. J. E. Savery (Dr. Olsen), Mr. A. J. Williams (the Pastor), Mr. R. C. Brooksmith (the Sheriff), Mr. Norman Liddell, and others also did well. The staging was excellent.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Burnley Amateur Operatic Society are in occupation here this week, performing Gilbert and Sullivan's tuneful and charming comic opera *The Gondoliers*. The proceeds are in aid of local charities, the Mayor's Distress Fund having prior claim. The various principal rôles are capitally represented, and the chorus is deserving of high praise. Mr. Henry Leffler, late of the Savoy Theatre, has again coached the company, and his patient and intelligent work is reflected in a smooth performance. The beautiful dresses are provided by Messrs. B. J. Simmons and Co., London, and the excellent scenic arrangements and properties by Mr. W. C. Horner. The resident staff, under Mr. John Ford, are to be complimented for their share in an excellent production.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The quality of the fare here this week is drawing good houses. The Enrico Martialo Trio, in a juggling and balancing act, perform a host of excellent feats demanding strength and skill; and Mephisto has a number of smart tricks of the vanishing girl order. Wood, Wells, and Wilkins are a capital vocal trio with beautiful renderings of good music; Thora is an exceedingly fine ventriloquist; Powell and Vesey introduce a laughable sketch which keeps the audience merry; Gladys Hooley, "the violin girl," plays several pieces delightfully; Master Richard May is a fine soprano vocalist; and W. G. Wesley is a funny character comedian. Good pictures are displayed by the Empire Theatroscope.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The extremely funny absurdity *Mumming Birds*, by the Karno troupe of comedians, causes hilarity throughout; Sivroni and Miss Amy Broughton in *Opera Gone Mad* prove themselves capable vocalists; as also does Bella Leaburn, a descriptive vocalist, whose song is well received; Gravetta and Parr give a novel entertainment of clay-modelling and quick changes; and the Smythsons, in *Love Germs*, cause much amusement; Albert Letine in his female impersonations is a great success; and Akbas, on the silver rings, is an expert performer; Ernest Rees, the popular comedian, highly pleases with patter and song; Raymond's Bio-tableaux concludes a capital programme. "The picture hour" has been a most pleasing feature, and large audiences have shown their highest appreciation of the films thrown on the screen. For this week seven of the newest films have been secured, and the dramatic element includes The Heart of a Hero and The Tragedy in a Stone Quarry. The Invincible Man is a pantomimical production, and four humorous films are Nurses on Strike, King for a Day, The Handy Man, and Music Hath Charms.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. F. R. Benson's (North) Shakespearean company is paying a welcome return here, presenting during the visit *The Merchant of Venice, Romeo and Juliet, The School for Scandal, The Taming of the Shrew, Faust*, and *Hamlet*. The first-named piece was presented on Monday, when a fine performance was witnessed by a crowded house. Mr. Hy. Herbert as Shylock is seen at his best, and gives a most finished and telling impersonation; Portia is in the hands of Miss Gladys Vandergee, whose acting is natural and finished; Mr. Barnard Limpus as Bassanio is sincere, and renders his part in a forcible manner; Mr. James Berry as Antonio invests the character with culture and ability; Jessica is sweetly enacted by Miss Jean Graeme; Miss Violet Fairbrother does well as Nerissa; and other parts are well played by Mr. A. Fayne, Mr. Chas. Trail, Mr. Vincent Holman, and Mr. R. Vanderlip. The dressing and mounting are first-rate.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The attraction this week is *The Power of the King*, presented by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton's principal company. Prominent in the cast is Mr. Travis Green, who as Prince Oscar gives an effective performance; Mr. Charles Whitlock is happily placed as the King of Vallambrosa; Mr. Gerald Blake is convincing in the part of Captain Rupert Landgrave; Miss Leila Zillwood is a charming Lady Annastasia, and succeeds in getting all possible out of her part. Lady Florina is strongly played by Miss Georgina France; and the other characters are in the capable hands of Messrs. Morton Wright, Wilton Drury, Fred Hughes, George Madden, Lionel Strong, John Campling, T. Granville, and Misses Ruby Sutherland, Violet Jarson, and Grace Barton. Costumes and staging are good.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Prominent in an excellently varied bill is Charles Norton in a racing sketch, introducing imitations of well-known artists; as equilibrists the Resna Troupe are clever, particularly on the wire; an excellent turn is that of the Mexzettis on the horizontal bars; Mildred Bryan possesses a good voice, which she uses to the fullest advantage; Blanco J. White dances and sings in a finished manner; and the glees of the L. and Y. Railway Quartette are enjoyable. Ottograph pictures conclude the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—*The Village Fire Brigade*, as presented by Ritchie Hearn, is responsible for much amusement; a dramatic episode entitled *The Usurer* is a big attraction, the chief parts being sustained by Sidney Mason and Theresa Moore; the Carney Brothers are excellent vocalists; Monty Walker, swell comedian, is decidedly smart, his songs and patter being well chosen; George Westland is a good Scotch comedian; the Miners' Quartette, Jack Truman (vocalist), Frank E. Ford (clog-dancer), and the bioscope pictures make up a good bill.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—An excellent evening's entertainment was provided on Monday night, when Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company opened with *The Dairymaids*. Mr. Nelson Keys always puts plenty of life into his parts, and his Sam Brudenell was no exception to the rule; Mr. Johnny Osborne's Joe Mivens kept the house in high good humour; Mr. J. A. Warden was very natural as Dr. O'Byrne; Miss Clare Marsden has a pleasing voice, and her Peggy was admirable; Miss Clarice Lockstone was also good as Winifred; Miss Gladys Silvani played Eliza to the life; and Miss Mabel Younge deserves unqualified praise for her dignified Lady Brudenell. The chorus was good and well conducted under the direction of Mr. Albert Bartlett.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Lovers of Shakespeare are well catered for this week by Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their company, and crowded houses have been the rule nightly. *The Merchant of Venice* was presented on Monday to a critical audience. Mr. Benson's impersonation of Shylock was most interesting; Mrs. Benson's Portia was all that could be desired; Mr. Murray Carrington as Antonio acquitted himself creditably; and as Bassanio Mr. Balliol Holloway displayed ability; Mr. G. Hannam Clark's portrayal of Gratiano being a carefully studied delineation; Mr. Geo. R. Weir was welcomed again in his clever impersonation of Launcelot Gobbo; Miss Helen Haye as Nerissa and Miss M. Bright Morris as Jessica gave two acceptable impersonations; Mr. E. A. Warburton as the Prince of Morocco and Mr. F. G. Worlock as Lorenzo were both excellent. On Tuesday and Saturday *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was billed, and *Macbeth, Julius Cæsar, The School for Scandal*, and *Twelfth Night* are also in the répertoire.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—This

About six weeks ago I was suffering with

PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE,

brought on probably by painting my face for my eccentric business. I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

VANISHED LIKE MAGIC,

and the scurf is entirely gone. I cannot tell you how thankful I am at having taken "Clarke's Blood Mixture," and I shall recommend it to everybody, as I think it only right that such a remedy should be known.—(Signed) JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnny," Llandudno's Popular Comedian, Thorndale, Llandudno, Feb. 24, 1908.

MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnnie," Llandudno's Popular Comedian (from a photo.).

CLARKE'S BLOOD MIXTURE,

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spacious building is just out of the hands of the decorators and painters, and now looks extremely beautiful, being a wonderful blend of perfect colouring. Before a large audience on Monday night a fine programme was presented, foremost in which was the American racing playlet entitled *Futurity Winner*. This capitally staged sketch is presented by a clever company of artists, and proves, with its exciting finish, a most interesting entertainment. A very popular turn was that provided by Terry and Lambert, whose character sketches of "English types through American eyes" won these two gifted vocalists much applause; a clever and humorous item is given by Harry May Hemsley, whose impersonations of children and amusing lightning drawing form a pleasant interlude; the Dumond Trio of instrumentalists and vocalists are distinguished by the remarkable violin playing of one of their members; Prof. Dubois' educated baboon causes considerable laughter; Harry Bedford's latest song adds to his popularity; and Gus Le Clerq, with his smart dancing, Ida Kathrena in a clever doll song, Lottie Govell in a pretty song and dance, and the Bioscope complete a programme of exceptional merit.

Theatre Royal.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—The drama put forward by Mr. Balmain this week is *The Great World of London*. Mr. Hugh Carmichael appears in a most successful rendering of Jack Clinton; Miss Rosie Ralph, as Mrs. Clinton, is stately and prepossessing; Richard Thornton, the villain, has a most reliable exponent is Mr. C. Baddeley; and Mr. Edgar Snow is a particularly dignified and imposing John Meredith; Mr. Naomi Hope and Mr. Andrew Emm as Sally and Tom Bates enact two comedy characters cleverly.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—First place on the programme here is given to Carlotta De Yonson and company in an exciting detective playlet entitled *The Red Triangle*. Miss De Yonson herself undertakes the only lady rôle of Leah Courcell with undeniable skill. Mr. C. Douglas Carlisle as Sexton Blake gives a portrayal which is equally meritorious. The Davenports, lightning magicians, are exceptionally clever; a most entertaining turn is provided by Harvey's American Boys and Girls; Charles Tuppen delights his audience with coach horn selections; the Five Broadway Girls are refined singers and talented dancers; and Tom Yorke is a character comedian of no mean ability; Lily Eyton is a charming character comedienne; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are popular.

CARLISLE.—H.M. Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—*The Tyrant* is being played this week by Miss Marie Dagmar's company. As Tisbe Miss Dagmar has a fine part, which she plays for all it is worth, and soon becomes a big favourite. Miss Margaret Frame's performance as Lady Katherine meets with well-deserved appreciation; Mr. Roy Fortescue in the title-rôle is sufficiently ferocious and brutal; and Mr. J. Sidney Pitts's powerful rendering of Homodei the Avenger is a big factor in the success.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Carter's Ten Dixie Girls are starring here in a bright, sparkling vocal and terpsichorean scena, *The Silver Coon*; V. L. Granville in his character impersonations displays histrionic ability; Conway and Leland are old favourites; Primavesi is an amusing juggler; Will Cornish submits a most enjoyable musical turn; and Lorne and Lorne are much appreciated in a smart sketch, *Capital and Labour*. George Rae and the Pepiscope complete the bill.

CASTLEFORD.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company is here, under the personal supervision of Mr. F. R. Gwyn-Richardson on a first visit with *The Breed of the Treshams*. The scenery and dresses are good, and the acting of a high order of merit. Mr. Sydney Bland makes a capital Lieut. Reresby; Miss Mildred Hodson is a natural and sympathetic Margaret; Mr. Howard Brenan plays Francis Tresham with distinct success; Mr. W. R. Winning depicts the malevolent Colonel Hungerford with power; Miss Grace Harlington is highly successful as Batty; Mr. Alfred Holles makes a dignified and imperious Viscount Dorsington; and Sir Henry Curwin is played with care and discretion by Mr. George Traill.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Travis.—A well varied programme is being presented here to large audiences. The Five Paulastas head the bill as eccentric acrobats; the three Sisters Urma are smart and daring in a gymnastic speciality act; Blarney and Kennard, in a comedy act, introduce a couple of waltzing dogs; Maston contributes an enjoyable turn of mimicry; Vowles and Bryan, in a pretty garden scene, are much appreciated; Sid Bandon's songs are an admirable blending of the humorous, the pathetic, and the dramatic; Nancy Renshaw, as a laughing comedienne and bone soloist, is well received; the Mosaics' speciality, *The Suffragette*, causes much laughter; and the Loyal Dominion's Animated Pictures are good.

CHATHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Miss Decima Moore is making a welcome reappearance here. This time she is playing the title-rôle in *Mrs. Dot*, and delights all with her clever impersonation; as James Blenkinsop Mr. Frank Lacy gives a finished performance; Mr. Philip Leslie is a very popular Freddie Perkins; and Mr. James Gelderd undertakes successfully the character of Gerald Halstane; Miss Ethel Grahame makes a pleasing Nellie, and Miss Emma Hutchison is a skilful Lady Sellenger. The company is toured by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison, under the able direction of the former. The comedy is admirably staged, and good houses prevail.

Barnard's Palace of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor, M. L. B. Barnard.—Bumper houses are attracted here nightly, the leading item being Zeynard's Lilliputians, who are creating quite a sensation with their midget circus performance. Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene and company are staging a dramatic episode, *At the Stroke of Twelve*, which finds much favour; Harry Barnes and company are well received in an act entitled *A School of Dancing*; Dale and Vale are smart dancers; Mlle. Bartinelli gives her novelty act on the golden column; and Terence Shine and Lacey's Erascope complete the bill of fare.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis.—Florrie Forde tops the bill here, and among other songs gives in excellent style "Oh, oh, Antonio"; Onra and Gillino execute neat feats on the silver wire; Winnie Winn has an interesting illustrated song entitled "Great Men"; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden are freely applauded for their duologue, *A Mare's Nest*; and the Edisonograph has some realistic films.

CHELTENHAM.—Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. Mouillot's No. 1 company introduced *Tom Jones* on Monday evening. Mr. Cyril Thompson is a beau-ideal hero in the title-rôle; Sophia has a captivating representative in Miss Alice Moffat, whose charming voice is heard to advantage in many tuneful numbers; Miss Florrie Saunders is a vivacious Honour, possessing a genuine gift of comedy, pleasing voice, a neat foot, and a delightful personality; Mr. George Elton is very clever and amusing as Benjamin Partridge; Mr. Fred Seymour gives a capital study of the bullying old ignoramus Squire Western; Squire Allworthy is suitably represented by Mr. A. J. Nicholls; Mr. Michael Dwyer contributes a comical study of Gregory; and smaller parts excellently played are the Blifil of Mr. Alfred H. Majilton, the officer of Mr. John Walker, the Lady Bellaston of Miss Olivia Eltone, and the Miss Western of Miss Florence McAvoy. The capable chorus and augmented orchestra are directed by Mr. Ernest K. Irving.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Poole's Myriorama opened a week's engagement here on Monday. The pictures are replete with all that is new and most interesting, and Mr. John R. Poole acts as cicerone. Some capital varieties are interspersed, among them being the Royal Banzais, including the prodigy Little Togo; Sydney Bach, the Welsh landlady, an amusing turn at the piano; the Seven Bramusas, in a juvenile brass band speciality scena; Eileen Russell, with illustrated songs; Harry Raymond, a clever dancer; and Willie Dean, a hard-working comedian.

Hippodrome.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Another of Mr. John Tiller's companies, viz., *Jolly Jack*, is here this week, and lacks nothing which one expects in the shows put on by Mr. Tiller. Among the strong cast may be mentioned Messrs. Will Lytton, C. Martinette, W. Martinette, Fred Danvers, and Sydney Vincent, and the Misses Cissy Iris, May Merry, Emmie Franks, and Madge Read. The piece is managed by Mr. Herbert Garside, and the conductor is Mr. Peter Flitcroft. A really smart and pretty item is the dancing by Signorita Papucci, which is much admired; Ivy Moore shines as a ballad vocalist; Harry Chester is a comedian of the vigorous type; Willie, Wallie, and Welby amuse as comedy sketch artists; and Sydney Vincent also contributes.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Lingford Carson's *Fight for a Throne* company is here. Mr. John S. Milward is well placed as Captain Fortescue; Mr. Gerald Byrne is an admirable Nicholai I.; Mr. Charles E. Linney a most creditable Prince Otto; as Lord Fitzmaurice Mr. Patrick Evans is really good; Mr. John Worth makes a powerful Lieut. Paul Rodna; and Mr. Tom Roydan an excellent General Rodna; Miss Dora Hammersley is well received as Princess Esmee, and Miss Margaret Tueski does well as Countess Waleska, and Miss Emmeline B. Lewis is an amusing Lady Pat.

CORK.—Palace Theatre, Ltd. — Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The leading turn here is Mlle. L'Incognita, the masked vocalist—a remarkable soprano; the Boccaccios, Italian singers and instrumentalists, provide a most entertaining turn; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco play a spectacular absurdity, in which Frisco—a mule—is very amusing; Kid Johnson and Maise Pelham supply an American pot-pourri act, in which the lady dances daintily; Zano Brothers, comedy triple bar performers, introduce plenty of fun; the Kramer Family of gymnasts contribute some clever tricks on rings and trapeze; the Bonanzas are skilful hand balancers; and Arthur Boyne, comedian, the Sisters Beatrice, duettists and dancers, and the Palascope are other attractions.

COVENTRY.—The Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—*An Abandoned Woman*, a stirring drama by Miles Wallerton and Francis Gilbert, is being presented with successful results at the above house this week. The chief character is that of Ninon Malvoisin, a French adventuress, of whom Miss Nellie Thorne Hallam gives an effective interpretation; the villain Phillipe is characteristically rendered by Mr. Wm. Fraser-Brunner; as the hero Herbert Seaton Mr. Herbert M. King is responsible for some very fine acting; the lighter side of the play is in the hands of Mr. Teddy Myles, who is an Irish humourist, and Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner, as Paddy Boyle and Sally Sloper respectively. Other admirably-played parts are those of Robert Saunders by Mr. Arthur Curzon, Sammy Sharp by Mr. Garnet-Vayne, Sir Marmaduke Seaton by Mr. Frederick Healy, and Eleanor Deane (Miss Lily Annesley).

Hippodrome Theatre.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—Messrs. Foy and company give a successful sketch entitled *The Yorkshire Lad in London*; James Willard and company appear in a very interesting episode entitled *The Ace of Hearts*; Houston, the "Chinese magician," shows some clever and extraordinary tricks; some good comedy juggling is performed by Harry Friskey. Other artists are Miss Sybil Lester, Miss Winifred Ward, Messrs. Walker and Lake, Mr. Chris Van Bern, and Miss Florence Shuberth. Some very interesting pictures are shown on the cinematograph.

Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—For the second anniversary of the opening of this popular house a programme of special interest is arranged, the chief item being a local and district brass band contest for fifty guineas in cash prizes. One of the best variety turns is that of Jay Laurier, who is a very droll comedian, and keeps the audience well amused; the Sisters Sprightly are seen to advantage in a Dutch character dance and song. Able acting is done by Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Leonard in a comedy skit entitled *Coming Home*; Welda and Wynne are responsible for some clever juggling and sand-dancing; Rose Reval is a pleasing singer and dancer; the Brothers Bradshaw are comedy acrobats; and Fred Land, comedian, and the bioscope complete the bill.

CREWE.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard. Messrs. Cowper Smith and Douglas Payne's company is here in *The New Girl*. Mr. Edward W. Colman is a capital Colonel Bullett, Mr. Ralph Lynn a brilliantly clever Bertie Holbrook, Mr. Harold Clemence a suitable Harry Harrow, and Mr. Kenneth Black, jun., a highly amusing Butler Brown. Miss Rose Bennett is bright and pleasing as Hilda Coleman; Miss Ivy Leighton a dainty Cerise; Miss Beatrice Sutherland in the dual rôles of Flossie and Jane shows exceptional ability; and Miss Victoria Douglas as Martha Grimm is a typical schoolmistress.

CROOK.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Wallace Davidson, Ltd.; Resident-Manageress, Mrs. Wallace Davidson.—The management have been fortunate in securing a welcome return visit of Mr. Walter Melville's stirring play *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Mr. Charles Franmore as John Meadows is capital; and Miss Hilda Beverley is an excellent Barbara Wade; the part of Jack Livingstone is in the capable hands of Mr. Jack Fortescue; and as Nellie Meadows Miss Nita Langford is clever.

CROYDON. — Grand Theatre. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Miss Mabel Love is making a success here in *Lady Frederick*, and is admirably supported by Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Mr. Patrick Quill is quite up to the mark as Sir Gerald O'Mara; Mr. Robert Minster scores all along the line in the rôle of Paradine Fouldes; Mr. E. F. Meads is sincere as Lord Mereston; Mr. Edward Bonfield acts carefully as Captain Montgomery; Captain Gerald Gambier is suitable in the part of Admiral Carlisle; and Messrs. John Orme, Harry Winton, and Bruce Smith make the most of the rôles of Thompson, Pierre, and Albert. Miss Elsie Irving is good as Lady Mereston; Miss Lynn Fontanne is a charming Rose; Miss Beatrice Grosvenor gives a faithful rendering of Mme. Claude; and Miss Rita Ward is pretty as Angelique. Miss Mabel Love fairly eclipses herself in the title-rôle, and is delightfully fresh and entrancing. The curtain-raiser is *The Peacemaker*.

Hippodrome and New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Mr. Harry Battersby's company in *The King of Crime* is here this week. Mr. F. B. Woulfe submits an admirable impersonation of Ronjarre; Mr. William Miller as Gandelu is seen to advantage; Mr. Claud Aymond plays the part of Simon the villain with intensity and power; Mr. William Melvyn as Louis Mascarot is good; and Mr. Sam Wilford's portrayal of Mick Maloney is vastly amusing. A word of praise is due to Mr. Willie Black, who appears as Tabaret; Mr. E. Morris as Bordogne and Mr. Cecil Stuart as Baptiste play their respective parts well; Miss Agnese D'Aragon capitally fulfils the rôle of Mere Crochard; Miss Nance Battersby as Mathilde is received with favour; Miss Edith Loraine ably represents Clarisse; and Miss Mildred Eversleigh plays the part of Henriette, Ronjarre's blind wife, in a sympathetic and convincing manner.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Milton Bode's company is this week producing the successful musical comedy *The Belle of Mayfair*. As Julia Miss Florence Imeson is a distinct success. Besides being an accomplished actress, she is a vocalist and dancer of the highest excellence. As Pincott, Julia's maid, Miss Blanche Astley scores heavily with her neat performance, and her singing and dancing are also meritorious; Miss Agnes Tandy as the Princess gives a pleasing rendering of her part; and Miss Aurelie de Loriere sings and poses as the Gibson Girl remarkably well. Mr. Harry Parker portrays Sir John Chaldicott in a most diverting manner; Mr. Percy Yorke is a realistic Earl, and is heard to advantage in the various numbers allotted to him; Mr. Edward Hugonnet plays Raymond with considerable ability; Mr. Lawrence Wensley as Meredith and Mr. Laurie Lisle as the Comte de Perrier are to be complimented on their respective impersonations; and the remaining characters are ably sustained by Messrs. G. McCloskie and J. Syme, Miss Nellie Cozens, and Miss Paula Fernan.

Palace. — Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—An excellent bill this week is headed by Florrie Gallimore, whose latest songs are a bigger success than ever. The Three Comedy Chanters in humorous and harmonious interludes are eminently successful; Harry Bickley, an eccentric comedian, causes much hearty laughter; Hughes and Elliott are clevers vocalists and neat sand-dancers; Rennie gives an entertaining ventriloquial turn, in which he is assisted by his intelligent dog, Popsey; the Sisters Barnes are charming comediennes and dancers; the Markies are responsible for a skilful musical item entitled *From Pavement to Stage*; and the Bioscope concludes with an amusing film.

DEVONPORT.—Theatre Metropole.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. Junius Booth and company are on a return visit with their dramatised version of *Monte Cristo*. Mr. Junius Booth successfully impersonates Edmond Dantes, Prisoner 17, Soloman Van Grippe, Abbé Busoni, and the Count, the various characters furnishing striking testimony of Mr. Booth's versatility. Miss Cecilia Dare as Mercedes is particularly graceful and attractive. By the kindness of the manager, a large party of Russian officers and seamen attended the performance on Tuesday.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The principal attraction for the week is Miss Violet Hope in "Salome" and "Cleopatra" dances; Damerell and Rutland have a particularly amusing sketch, entitled *House Full*; Shrillo is a really clever whistler; Ethel Dunford is a vocalist of ability; and Mark Merry's original style is much enjoyed. Johnson and Devere, finished cyclists, introduce smart comedy business; and the Canworths conclude the programme with skilfully-executed banjo selections.

DEWSBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—A cordial welcome has been accorded *The Fatal Wedding*. The whimsical Toto, as impersonated by Mr. Chas. Locke, has an innate and inexhaustible attraction; Mr. Frank Harrison depicts with very creditable realism the besotted intriguer, Robert Curtis; Miss Ethel Kay plays with womanly power and delicacy as Mabel Wilson; Cora Williams is represented effectively by Miss Elaine Vanbrugh; Miss Lulu Wohlmann plays Jessie prettily; and little Miss Ada Dews sings with delicious purity and sweetness.

DONCASTER. — New Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—Daintiness marked every unit in the cast of *His House in Order*, presented here on Monday. Golden opinions were created of the virile and convincing animadversions of Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont in the rôle of Hilary Jesson; and scarcely less capable was Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves in upholding Filmer Jesson. Mr. Langford Browne's assumption of Sir Daniel Ridgeley was well executed; and Mr. Randolfe Reade bestowed great care upon the interpretation of Major Maurewarde. Miss Aves Grahame was a refreshing Lady Ridgeley; and as Geraldine Ridgeley Miss Victoria Wray gave an exceptionally good account of herself, as did also Miss Katie Neville in her conception of Mlle. Thome. Miss Kitty Cavendish's treatment of Nina was artistic.

DOUGLAS.—The Empire Theatre.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Dare; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex Sugden.—Mr. Charles Dare's smart and up-to-date resident-manager keeps the programme at the Empire up to high-water mark. The animated pictures are excellent; the Two Warlocks are quaint comedians, their turn exciting laughter; another interesting turn is that of the Little Magician, which possesses originality.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—*The Girls of Gottenburg* is the centre of attraction here this week, and is played to large and appreciative audiences by Mr. George Edwardes's company. Mr. Edmund Payne in his creation of Max Moddelkopf is irresistibly funny and amusing, and keeps the audience in the highest of spirits; Happy Fanny Fields' embodiment of the innkeeper's daughter, Mitzi, invests the part with genuine ability, and she is vivacious and pleasing in her singing and dancing; Miss Maisie Gay gives an excellent portrayal of Clementine, and her vocalism is greatly admired; Miss Thelma Raye makes an effective Elsa; Mr. Leslie Holland gives a capital representation of Prince Otto, as does Mr. Fred Allandale in the part of the Captain of Dragoons; and the Burgomaster is ably played by Mr. Douglas Munro. Mr. A. Chentrens as the innkeeper and Mr. Louis Denver as the Town Clerk are both good. The College Girls officers of the Blue Hussars in their beautiful dresses and uniforms make a pretty picture. In the second act Miss Florence Phillips is accorded rounds of applause for her graceful and artistic dance. The choruses and orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Philip Braham, are admirable.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier and company entered on their second week here on Monday, when the new play *An Outsider* met with a flattering reception. In the part of General Mortimer Mr. Bourchier has plenty of scope to display his abilities, and wins the highest admiration. Miss Violet Vanbrugh distinguishes herself in the rôle of Lady Helen Caldwell; Mr. Charles Bryant is particularly good as the Hon. Richard Caldwell; and Miss Eva Killock makes an excellent Lady Vereker. Captain Ferningham has an able exponent in Mr. Bertram Forsyth; and Mr. Arthur Whitby is capital as Admiral Sir Thomas Farleigh. The part of the Right Hon. Sir John Craven is ably undertaken by Mr. F. Cecil; and Miss Henriette Watson is all that could be desired as Margaret Hepplestone. The remaining parts are well filled, and the staging and scenery excellent.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The pictures here this week are both interesting and amusing, the subjects shown including The Bandit King, A Mother's Voice, His Daughter's Voice, Black and White, The New Maid, The Vigilant Commissioner of Police, Hi, Hi, Stop! A Chase for a Husband, &c. The variety programme is well sustained by Miss Lilian, assisted by Clown Agouste and Bob Pearson, the popular humorist and guide.

Empire.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—A capital star turn is provided here this week by the Lukushima Troupe, sensational acrobats and gymnasts, whose feats are very smartly accomplished. The Jackson Family contribute a charming musical mélange, and are repeatedly recalled; and Lilian Lowe, the possessor of a tuneful soprano voice, renders several numbers with pleasing effect. The Brothers Redmond, acrobatic comedians, create great hilarity; and Phil and Nellie Peters are agreeable vocal entertainers. Spry and Austin are eminently successful in their vaudeville act; and Marion Scott, a dainty comedienne, has a good reception. Bert Williams, ventriloquist, is both clever and entertaining; and the Empire Pictures are, as usual, up to date.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Wilson and Waring head an excellent programme here this week with an exceedingly funny sketch, entitled *The Ugly Duckling*. "Another successful turn is that of the Bohemians (Will and Madge), instrumentalists and comedy artists; and Arthur Holland, character vocalist, is popular. Sandy McNab and company in their sketch *The Egyptian Mummy* cause no end of merriment; and Carr and Matey, comedy acrobats, are both clever and amusing. In a musical comedy act, *Two's Company, Three's* ——? Ferris and May merit applause; and Leolin, in a smart juggling act, is well received. Other entertaining turns are offered by Fred Carey, comedian, and Dancit, Queen of the Golden Clog. Wanted, a Son-in-Law, is the amusing subject shown on the Bioscope.

Round Room, Rotunda.—Poole's Myriorama, which entered on its last five nights here on Monday, after a most successful season, was patronised by a large audience. The programme was again greatly varied, one of its features being the number of attractive and amusing animated pictures which have been introduced. The excellent variety entertainment included the following: The Snow Family, expert skaters; Miss Phyllis St. Clair, ballad vocalist; Harry Dowsett, comedian; George French Troupe of Cyclists; Learto and his clever dog Babs; and Bert Gates, ventriloquist and guide.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—In addition to the cinematograph pictures, the following artists are appearing here: Harry Hewitt, ventriloquist; Miss Ada Brogden, soprano vocalist; George Millard, comedian; Queenie Vane, speciality dancer; and the Millars, refined comedy couple.

Pavilion, Kingstown.—This popular resort was successfully reopened here on Monday as a roller-skating rink and band promenade, under the management of Mr. Jack McDermott, and attracted a large number of patrons. The band of the Inniskilling Fusiliers played an excellent programme of music during the evening.

DUMFRIES.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Payne Seddon.—For three nights this week we had Mr. Thornton Powell's company in *When it was Dark*. The principal part was sustained in an able manner by Mr. Wilfred Lyndon as the Rev. Basil Goitre; Mr. Haldane Dalton played Constantine Schwabe most successfully; Mr. William H. Burton was very good as the Rev. Mr. Byers; Miss Marie Barrett as Gertrude Hunt was charming; and Miss Florrie Lyndon was sweet as Helena Byers.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*The Flower Girl* is presented here this week by Mr. Charles Bestic's company, and had a good reception from a large house on Monday. The effective scenery includes a representation of the Italian Garden at the White City—a very pretty piece of staging. Miss Dorothy Firmin gives a really clever impersonation of the title-rôle, her dainty acting, charming singing, and neat dancing winning her rounds of applause. The part of Joe Wheeler, the ex-'busman, is capitally played by that good all-round comedian Mr. Martin Adeson, whose wit and humour are of the best; he is ably assisted in the fun-making by Mr. Alfred Donnohoe as Johnny Wheeler. Mr. Norman Bowyer in the amusing rôle of Reginald Rackit has a lot to do, and does it unusually well; Mr. Robert H. Howard is distinctly good as the Hon. Billy Greenhill; and Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Florence Wilton as Alphonse and Lizette le Racquet respectively score in several smart songs and dances. Miss Jeannie Holmes makes a picturesque and pleasing Suffragette, and Miss Townley Lawrence is a vivacious Maisie Flirtington. Other parts are creditably performed by Misses Cassie King, Alice King, Phyllis Leslie, Kitty Hyde, and Messrs. L. Stanislaus, Arthur Carter, and F. Williams.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—At the head of affairs here are Harry Roxbury and company in their funny musical mélange entitled *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, which goes with a fine swing from start to finish. The Cheers introduce with much effect a troupe of highly-trained cats into their delightful scena *Dick Whittington*; an original ventriloquial entertainment is given by Barney Vox; and Charlie Pitt scores a big success as a comedian. Leslie Talmage, "the humoristical mysterio," does well; and Mabel Carr proves a very entertaining comedienne. A fine display of the art of Ju-Jitsu is provided by Frank Long, Omoyo San, and company, and several interesting pictures by the Bioscope conclude.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—An excellent bill is headed by that smart musical comedy, *King for a Day*. The Gem Operatic Trio give with much acceptance the prison scene from *Faust*; Cliff and Vanston are also successful in a brilliant musical act; Jack Easy, the quaint comedian, rattles off his comic patter in good style; Vera Mayne is a strong favourite; Hallam and Stanton present their sketch *A Broken Journey* with good results; while Phillips and Merritt appear with advantage in their well-worked musical mélange. The Five X-Rays in a remarkably smart and novel acrobatic turn complete a most enjoyable bill.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Franco-British Picture Co. entered upon their concluding week here on Monday evening, when another fine series of pictures was presented. The films include The Story of a Crime, A Kind-hearted Shoeblack, Hunting the Rat, The Two Fairies, &c. Arthur Harris, the popular actor-vocalist, also appears.

Newman's Picture Palace.—An interesting film was shown here on Monday evening of the Marathon Race from Linlithgow to the grounds of the Edinburgh Exhibition, with incidents on the way. Other pictures were A Woman's Revenge, Old College Chums, The Gipsy's Model, Only Plain Folk, Tricks of an Artist, The Dude's Dream, and The Demon Card-shuffler. A clever turn was provided by J. C. Heffron, comedian, and a "climbing the greasy pole" competition caused no end of amusement.

DUNFERMLINE.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts.—Mrs. Fred J. Kirke's company, on a week's engagement here, opened on Monday with *In Old Madrid*. Mr. O. B. Stanley displayed ability in the dual part of Frank Lyndhurst and Count Correglio; Mr. Franklyn Daly was a good Mendoza; Mr. G. H. Holloway acquitted himself with credit as Fernando Cassillis; Mr. W. T. Hybert is an amusing and clever Horatio J. Rodgers; Mr. C. Burns is successful as Marmaduke R. Fitzsimmons; Miss Edith Claris creates a good impression as Madeline Earlsmore; Miss Lily Seymour is well received as Martha Jane; and Miss Florrie Jackson is satisfactory as Lolo. Miss Francesca Strickland gives a dramatic and capable impersonation of Violet Hyndhurst; and the dancing of Misses Edith and Maude Gage is much appreciated. *The Naval Detective* and *Our Sailor Lad* complete the répertoire for the week.

EASTBOURNE. — Pier Pavilion. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's company is appearing here in *Charley's Aunt*. Mr. G. A. Seager as Lord Fancourt Babberley is able and painstaking, and creates endless amusement; Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Basil Lynton play breezily and brightly as Jack and Charley; Mr. Theo McCausland Stewart is a dignified and polished Colonel Chesney; Mr. Roy Byford gets many laughs as Stephen Spettigue; and Mr. Sydney Compton repeats his capital sketch of the college scout Brasset. Miss Vere Gerald is a handsome and regal Donna Lucia; Miss Olivia Glynn and Miss G. Denbeigh Russel are the pretty, attractive exponents of the parts of Kitty and Amy, and Miss Evelyn Grey is a very sympathetic Ela.

Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Mr. Harry Nicholls and his company are appearing here in *If We Only Knew*. Mr. Nicholls, serenely funny and excellently made-up, excites much genuine laughter as Slippery Sam; Mr. P. A. Gawthorn as Dick Steen does much and difficult work in a clever and pleasing manner; Mr. Ernest Young succeeds admirably as Ensign Wilmott; Mr. H. Benedick Butler is a happy and very effective Mr. Bignell; Mr. William Ames does well as Crampton; and Mr. George Page as Jackson, Mr. Henry Jessop as Naylor, and Mr. Alfred Wynne as the inn waiter give excellent assistance. Miss Sylvia Morris, with a sympathetic voice and appealing manner, is a capital Barbara Wentworth; Miss M. Van Hollister is a powerful Ruth Steen; Miss Kate Kearney is a most successful Priscilla; Miss Violet Langley, animated and bright, is a commendable landlady, Mrs. Thornhill; and Miss Cicely Nicholls as Hebe and Miss Lorna Treherne ably complete the cast.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Heading the bill here are the Attilla Brothers, whose strong show is given on novel lines; *Daddy's Boy* is a sketch excellently acted by Miss Florence Creagh, Mr. H. W. Hatchman, and company; Maddison and Webb gain many hearty laughs; the Bright Trio play particularly well as instrumentalists; Mr. Herbert Bates is a pleasing and popular tenor; Mr. Charles Ashdown is a clever legmania comedian; Miss Maudie Haile pleases as a comedienne, and new pictures are shown.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. R. Andrews.—The Three Coopers are clever; Jukes and Earle are amusing eccentric dancers; Zeta Grey and Wal Grace in *The Lancashire Lass* receive applause; Kingstone Trollope in dramatic monologue, "Only a Dream," is powerful; Frances Hanlon makes a dainty comedienne; Rousby and Rene in *Fine Feathers* submit a good performance; Angelina gives a smart juggling act; Margit and Lener are quite a success; Victor and Louis are responsible for a lot of fun; and Lovelace's pictures are exceedingly clear.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Fred Terry has been delighting packed houses with the bright comedy-drama *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. As Sir Percy Blakeney Mr. Terry is altogether admirable; Miss Miriam Lewes in the part of Lady Blakeney gives a fine performance; and the Chauvelin of Mr. Horace Hodges is a most effective study. The long cast is adequately filled, so that the production is agreeably artistic in its ensemble. Mr. Alfred Kendrick, Mr. Malcolm Cherry, and Mr. Frederick Groves in the several rôles of Sir Andrew Ffoulkes, Lord Dewhurst, and Lord Greville provide excellent support; and efficient aid is rendered by the De Tournai of Mr. Harry F. Wright, the St. Just of Mr. L. Race Dunrobin, and by Mr. A. E. Anson as the Prince of Wales. Well-contrasted character-sketches of the English and French rustic inn-keepers are given by Mr. D. J. Williams and Mr. J. Carter Edwards; and the Mère Brogard of Miss Marion Sterling is quite a bit of animated genre painting. The Comtesse de Tournai is portrayed in stately fashion by Miss Claire Pauncefort; Miss Katherine Doyle makes a most attractive Susanne; and Miss Mary Jennings is pleasingly natural as the inn-keeper's daughter. Careful attention is bestowed on the interpretation of all minor parts and in the details of stage setting, which are in every way complete.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Edinburgh playgoers renew pleasant associations in the visit of the Follies, who are appearing here this week. The first part of the entertainment consists of song, story, and "potted plays," into all of which the members of the company enter with zest, and the theatre rings with laughter during the evening. Mr. Pélissier is a host in himself, and whether in song, travesty, or musical accompaniment, he shows himself to be a thorough artist. Mr. Lewis Sydney, a comedian with a quiet, effective style, calls forth enthusiastic applause by his droll stories and imitations on the pianoforte; Mr. Norman Blume, a young Edinburgh man, acts easily and dances with exceeding neatness; and Miss Gwennie Mars, Miss Muriel George, Miss Dollis Brooke, and Mr. Dan Everard are buoyant and talented performers. The second part of the programme is devoted to the smart skit *Everybody's Benefit*. The theatre has been crowded every evening during the week.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—First honours this week are accorded to Mrs. Lewis Waller and company for their production of *The Admiral's Lady*, in which the rendering of the leading rôle by Mrs. Waller and the acting of Mr. Leonard Robson as the Admiral, combined with good support all round, raised the performance to a high standard of excellence. Mr. Hal Forde's success as a light comedian and singer of popular ditties is undoubted; Corman's Juveniles do good work in their pretty vocal scena, *The Waif*; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor prove themselves clever and versatile dancers; Farrell and Dunn submit a unique comedy act, introducing smart patter with tumbling and dancing; and Mr. Fred Russell shows a pleasing sense of humour in a ventriloquial turn with his automaton friend "Coster Joe." Stelling and his trained dog also provide enjoyable entertainment; Miss Lily Black sings a couple of taking songs very charmingly; Mr. Sidney Dolf displays considerable skill as a juggler; and the Bioscope has a good selection of pictures.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—*Charles—His Friend* is presented by Mr. Courtice Pounds and Miss Louie Pounds' company, and it affords Mr. Pounds the opportunity, of

Craven, Mr. Chris Walker, Mr. Frederick James, Mr. A. Corney Grain, and Miss Margaret Omar. The Carina Sisters provide a pleasing musical entertainment, in which they play with taste on piano, violin, and flute; Miss Emmie Ames finds favour in her pretty Christmas tree song; the Maples show themselves to be expert dancers in their sketch, *How to Treat a Burglar*; Mr. Harry Bancroft is very successful in his scena, *Fifty Long Years Ago*; Bellonini gives an exhibition of surprising juggling feats, and his assistant, Wal, proves himself to be possessed of much humour; the Cumberlands are daring, easy cyclists; Mr. Jock Mills, Scotch comedian, is a clear, tuneful singer; and the Bioscope has some funny films.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr Charles Frohman's company is here in *The Hypocrites*. Mr. A. B. Imeson is capital as the Rev. Edgar Linnell; Miss Laura Graves as Mrs. Wilmore is decidedly good; Miss Muriel Pope earns the sympathies of the audience in the difficult part of Rachel Neve; Mr. E. H. Ruston as the overbearing Lord of the Manor is amusing; Mr. Fred Morland's family lawyer is a good character-study; and the same may be said of Mr. F. G. Thurstans as the easy-going, well-fed Vicar. Miss Muriel Mason is charming as Helen Plugenet; and Mr. John Dennys ably sustains the part of Leonard Wilmore.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—This house is given up for the week to a variety entertainment (two houses nightly), with Yukio Tani, jujitsu wrestler, as star. An excellent all-round bill includes Rappo and Ella, who do some very artistic work in the gymnastic way; the Acmes, who provide much fun as "musical grotesques"; W. B. Raby, comedian, who is a great favourite; Jack Cobril and Annie Tate, comedy artists; Harry Carlton, character comedian and dancer; Billie Burford, comedienne; and the Swains, in a comedy act.

FOLKESTONE.—PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper are presenting *The Flag Lieutenant*, magnificently staged, to enthusiastic and crowded houses. Mr. Langhorne Burton makes a debonair Richard Lascelles, and gives a clever impersonation of the fine part created by Mr. Cyril Maude. Mr. Montague Love meets all the requirements of the difficult rôle of William Thesiger, the unfortunate Major of the Royal Marines; Mr. George Mallett as the Hon. Sir Berkeley Wynne, K.C.B., enacts the dignified admiral of the modern school with considerable credit; the pair of impish midshipmen are amusingly portrayed by Mr. Hugh Wakefield and Mr. Lyonel Watts; Miss Florence Jackson cleverly fulfills the part of Mrs. Cameron, being especially good in the scene in which she attempts to vindicate the honour of Richard Lascelles; both Mr. Yoldham and Miss Stella Leigh are seen to advantage as the mischief-making scandal-mongers General and Mrs. Gough Bogle; Miss Marjorie Chard and Miss Viva Birkett are delightfully sweet and natural as Lady Hermione Wynne and Viola Hood. Messrs. Harding and Cooper are to be congratulated upon securing such a powerful combination for the provincial tour of this popular play.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—For the last three nights last week we had a visit from Messrs. Taylor Platt and Trevor Lowe's company in Bernard Shaw's play *You Never can Tell*. Mr. Lowe as the waiter was perfect, and he was splendidly supported by Mr. J. E. Pearce as Crompton, Mr. Donald Calthorp as Philip, Mr. Leslie Horner as Valentine, and Mr. Charles Daly (McComos) and Mr. George Howard (Bohun). The ladies, consisting of Miss K. Stuart, Miss Gladys Morris, Miss Clara Earle, and Miss Ivy Fenton, were equally well placed. This week we had on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday Mr. Morton Powell's company in *The Woman Who Gambles*. Miss Laura Walker gave a powerful rendering of the title-rôle, and the Baron Cratzlaw of Mr. Norman Overton was equally effective. Mr. Reginald Fox was an earnest Karl, and Mr. Clifford Rean portrayed the part of Count Otto in a dignified manner.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Gainsborough Syndicate; Manager, Mr. Scott Alexander.—Mr. and Mrs. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company opened on Monday to two full houses with *A Merry Maid*. Mr. Wakeman as Larry made the most of his part and gave some excellent imitations; Master Wee George West as Bertie is one of the best child actors we have seen.

GATESHEAD.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—"Starring" here this week is Herbert Clifton, a "male soprano," whose voice is said to be insured for £1,000; J. W. Hall pays a return visit, and is successful with his talk on "Suffragitis"; Albert Wyndham and company, in the ever-welcome episode, *Prince Arthur*, are popular; the Kimberley Boys form another of the bright items on the programme; Harry Zetter, a quaint comedian and eccentric dancer, finds much favour; Les Zelovas, gymnasts, are warmly applauded; and Marie Neilson dances cleverly. Bella and Greta, duettists and dancers, and pictures by Vernon's Bioscope, make up a capital entertainment.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company, in *A Message from Mars*, has drawn large audiences to this house. Mr. Wallace Widdicombe's rendering of the part of Horace Parker leaves nothing to be desired; and an exceptionally fine messenger is presented by Mr. Wm. H. Brougham. The rôle of Minnie Templar is safely entrusted to Miss Rose Helene; and Miss Flora Hastings cleverly portrays Miss Parker. Other parts are in capable hands.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—HIPPODROME.—Lessees, The Electric Vaudeville Co.; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. White.—This building has now reopened for the season. A novelty for this district is the Chronophone singing pictures, which are introduced into the programme. The best of these is The Bedouin Love Song. Among the other films special mention may be made of the interesting picture A Tale of Two Cities. The programme is considerably enlivened with selections by the orchestra, under Mr. Harold Price.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphreys—Glasgow playgoers are enjoying a rare treat this week in the visit of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *Tom Jones*, and the house shows its keen appreciation of Mr. Edward German's tuneful numbers in no unmistakable manner. Mr. Harry Welchman in the part of Tom Jones submits a fine performance, his vocal efforts calling forth many evidences of appreciation. The Sophia of Miss Florence Smithson is a charming performance, her share of the music being rendered in a finished and artistic manner. Mr. Dan Rolyat as Benjamin Partridge is exceedingly entertaining. He gives a matured portrayal full of original business, and it tells accordingly. Mr. Ambrose Manning proves himself an able comedian as Squire Western; Miss Isabelle Dillon acts with much spirit as Honour; Mr. J. T. Macmillan gets plenty of humour out of Gregory; Mr. John Morley is an admirable representative of Mr. Allworthy; and Mr. Deane Percival is successful as Blifil. Miss Alice Appitz scores as Lady Bellaston. The chorus is well trained, and works briskly together.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—Those prime Glasgow favourites Mr. and Mrs. Kendal opened here on Monday in *The Elder Miss Blossom*, and both artists were in excellent artistic form and were given a hearty reception. Mr. W. M. Rutherford is a breezy and cheery Christopher Blossom; and a clever sketch is contributed by Mr. Bassett Roe as Major Twentyman. Mr. T. Holding acts pleasantly as the Rev. Arthur Leacroft, and his love scenes with Miss Jessica Thorne as Sophia were much enjoyed; Mr. Metcalfe Wood as Withers, Mrs. A. B. Tapping as Cooper, and Mr. F. C. Pool as Wells gave able support. Later in the week the Kendals were seen in two plays new to Glasgow—*The Whirlpool* and *The House of Clay*.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's principal company appears this week in *Florodora*, with Mr. Fred Eastman in the part of Tweedlepunch. Mr. Eastman's impersonation of the eccentric phrenologist is quaint and amusing throughout, and the fun is never unduly forced; Miss Maisie Ellinger is the Dolores, and, possessing a mellow and powerful voice, sings her numbers with irresistible effect; Mr. H. V. Cropton makes an excellent appearance in the baritone part (Abercoed), singing "The Sheltering Palm" in very pleasing style; as Gilfain Mr. Stanley White acts with dash and humour; a smart and good-looking Captain Donegal is seen in Mr. Herbert St. John; and Mr. Edwin Oxlee gives a melodramatic touch to the part of Leandro. Miss Edith Housley's Lady Holyrood is a particularly smart performance; as Angela Gilfain Miss Bessie Middleton acts with quiet grace; and the rôles of the typist and the maid are well filled by Miss Dora McLaskey and Miss M. Van Dieman. The chorus and orchestra are under the direction of Mr. J. Morton Hutchison.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Christie Grant.—Mr. Roland Yorke presents here this week *The Old Home*, one of the best-acted dramas we have had for some time. As Daddy Dean Mr. Harding Thomas presents a lifelike picture of the hardy and good-hearted old sailor; and his daughter Hazle is played with brightness and animation by Miss Nina Blake-Adams. The clergyman lover of Mr. T. W. Dunscombe is another finely-acted part, and forms a fitting contrast to the scoundrelly Lord Avondale of Mr. Roland Yorke. An extremely amusing type of longshoreman is played with infinite gusto by Mr. Fred L. Connynghame, and much enjoyed by the audience; as are also the witticisms of Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite as Biddy Donoghan. Mr. James L. Air as Timothy Twaddle gives a picture of a typical dude. The setting of the play is much above the average.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—A talented company appears here this week in *Her Road to Ruin*, which attracts good houses. The part of the heroic curate, Frank Temple, gets a good interpretation at the hands of Mr. Henry Wolston; while Miss Beatrice Edwards as Jess, the girl who went "the road to ruin," gives an excellent rendering; an attractive character charmingly played is that of May Willoughby by Miss Alice Bowes; Mr. Alex. Bradley as Philip Hardy makes a rather good-looking villain; Mr. Ernest Hague is excellent as Tom Wells; the pompous Bishop gets a fine rendering from Mr. Dane Clarke; and Miss Nellie Bonsor ably acts the part of Mary Dawson, the girl from Lancashire. The comic element is ably handled by Miss Marie Wright as Jennie Crackling and Mr. Harry Talbot as Billy Boots. The play is efficiently staged.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—The late Wilson Barrett's play *Claudian* is this week staged at the Metropole by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Maclaren, supported by a large and talented company. Mr. Maclaren gives a striking rendition of Claudian; and Miss Bandmann as Almida is admirable. Mr. Bernard Elliot as Thariogalus, Mr. Weston Hubbard as Alcares, and Mr. C. T. Chaloner as Belos are entitled to mention; Miss Ruth Trafford and Miss Nellie C. Bilbe as Edessa and Hera respectively are responsible for excellent work. On Wednesday the company gave a special matinée, the proceeds of which go to augment the Lord Provost's Unemployment Fund.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—*The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, a play founded on the late Charles Dickens' unfinished novel, provides the fare this week. Weirdness may be said to be the keynote of the whole performance, and in the hands of Mr. Morton Powell's company the play loses nothing. Conspicuous all through is Mr. Bartlett Garth, who as John Jasper gets through an amount of hard work with great success; Mrs. Morton Powell as Rosa Bud gives a charming picture of the troubled lover, and is well supported in the various scenes by Miss May Beatrice as Helena Landless. Mr. Richard Harris as Septimus Crisparkle acts with marked ability; Mr. Henry Twyford in the dual rôle of Neville Landless and Mr. Datchery is to be complimented; as also is Mr. David Phillips for his masterly representation of Durdles. The play is staged in a most effective style.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—George Lashwood in "Hang out the front-door key" makes a decided hit, and his other songs are catchy and up to date; the Brothers Egbert's comicalities and clever tumbling in *The Happy Dustmen* draw forth the plaudits of the audience nightly; Arthur Playfair, assisted by Eily Hélène, is responsible for a good racing sketch entitled *327 Finsbury*; a neat and pretty little song-scena is produced by Adele Crispen, who has the support of Tiller's Twelve Forget-Me-Nots, their singing and dancing making them immediate favourites; Edith Fink is dainty and sings well; a capital vocal and musical turn in which Olga and Elgar appear is very much above the average; Sydney Stern sings well; Nell Emerald is a cheery comedienne, whose dancing is highly appreciated; Frank Maura, the Mexican equilibrist, pays a return visit, and is well received; and the Bioscope proves interesting.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The programme this week is topped by Garland and Douglas's company in *A Trip to Coontown*, an operetta sustained by ladies and gentlemen of colour, whose voices blend charmingly in harmonious choruses; Yangar, the African wonder-worker, does some astonishing feats of natural magic; the Dancing Gilberts are graceful; Ormonde Penstone and Mlle. San-go present an entertainment in which sleight-of-hand and smoke painting are pleasantly blended; Daisy Meyer's stories are delightful mixtures of pathos and humour; *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law* is a sketch which provokes roars of laughter; the Three Fidardys contrive to give their clever acrobatic feats a comical complexion; Eileen Douglas gives a lively impersonation of a musical comedy girl; the Bioscope supplies an interesting series.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—R. A. Roberts, the famous protean actor, is the star turn here, and is giving his three sketches, *Dick Turpin*, *Ringing the Changes*, and *Lucinda's Elopement*. In the first he was enthusiastically received on Monday and Tuesday evenings. King and Benson are among the most popular comedy duos who visit here, and their singing and patter are the best of the kind; Fred Earle is another strong favourite, and his new songs go immensely well; Francini, Olloms, and Page give a smart acrobatic and musical turn, which is accorded a well-deserved ovation; Jane Eyre is a sweet singer, whose pantomime engagement here made her a favourite; Arthur Royce gives a smart show as a comedian and pianist; Estrella, a clever dancer, in a series of international dances, also shares in the honours of the evening.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—The principal item of this week's bill is Jake Friedman's *Happy Holland*, which was thoroughly enjoyed by the audience; Sanford and Lyons, comedians and dancers, are as smart as ever; and Irene Rose depicts an incident entitled *Her First Engagement*, which is well received; Helen Martin is an excellent vocalist; and Herbert La Martine gives a finished display of eccentric dancing; Harry Arnold sings some quaint Scotch comic songs; and the Bartholomew Girls are good singers and dancers; a series of up-to-date pictures is given on the bioscope.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The Boisset Troupe (Frank and Albert and company) are retained for another week, and their sketch, *The Bricklayers*, is greatly enjoyed; Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris's boxing sketch, *The Biter Bit*, is full of humour; the Great Lumars contribute an original acrobatic act; and Billy French, the wonderful wooden-shoe dancer, earns rounds of applause. Other notable artists include George Young, pianist and concertina soloist; the Lyric Quartette, harmonising vocalists with picture effects; Happy Tom Parker, eccentric comedian; Rosa Loader, comedienne; and the Bioscope, with a display of original pictures.

GAIETY, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Business is good. Joe Westley's Minstrels, a local combination, introduce some catchy songs and choruses, and in a sketch entitled *Capers at the Coast*, their efforts are greeted with roars of laughter; the Four Monte Carlo Girls give a smart singing and dancing turn; Joe Cookson is an original ventriloquist, and his speaking crayon sketches are a decided hit; Harry King renders some songs in fine style; Maddison Brothers, comedians, are responsible for a fine entertainment of patter and burlesque boxing. A fine series of animated pictures conclude.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Donaldson and Emslie give a diverting little sketch; East and West are a pleasing comedy duo; Rose Bower contributes two good songs; and Will Leslie is a Scotch comedian of ability. The bioscope, with a series of pictures, is a very strong item on this programme.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Reginald Dance's company is here this week in *Raffles*, which on Monday met with keen appreciation. Mr. Lewis Edgard delineates the amateur cracksman with consummate skill; Mr. Curtis Bedford, the shrewd and calculating detective, is finely presented by Mr. C. Kean; the portrayal of Harry Manders (Bunny) by Mr. Arthur Bell is admirable; Lord Amersteth is rendered in sympathetic style by Mr. P. Alexandra; Mr. Oswald Griffiths in the rôle of Crawshay is satisfactory; Mr. Rivers Bertram's Lord Crowley shows distinct merit; Mr. D. Grogson does well as Barraclough; and Mr. Chas. Baker is effective in the part of Merton. Miss Kitty Lofting sustains the part of Lady Melrose with dignity; Miss Winnie Radcliffe as Lady Ethel is captivating; Miss Frances Titheradge makes a charming Gwendoline; Miss Brenda Gibson as Mrs. Vidal is exceptionally fine; and Miss Eva Benington smartly interprets the part of Marie.

GLOUCESTER.—PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.—Jack Pleasants is first favourite with clever songs; the Derrington Family of cyclists accomplish some difficult feats; Vernando is an excellent ventriloquist; and Mlle. Renee, a real musician, does a clever act. Jack Hylton, comedian, who reappears, is well liked; Cora Caselli is seen to advantage in a Spanish song; Martin Henderson, the blind musician, is good; and Harry Kirk, comedian, is amusing. The Palascope interests with two good films.

KING'S HALL.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres.—The animated picture show here is now an institution, and the illustrated songs are a feature.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Miss Bonwin Carlton and company are paying a welcome return visit with *The Old, Old Story*, and met with a good reception on Monday. Mr. J. P. Dryden as Jas. Marlow portrays the villain to the life; Mr. Edward Surrey is exceedingly smart as Gimshaw, the detective; Mr. C. Wilson is very amusing as Bobby Blossom; Mr. A. P. Leo is successful as John Hazel; Mr. B. Martin enacts the rôle of Sir Humphrey Hazel in a thorough manner; Mr. T. Hadlin is seen to advantage as Hilton Thorpe; and Mr. Wilson Lowther is a capital Higgins. Miss Bonwin Carlton keeps the house convulsed as Tilly, the lady "bookie"; Miss Esther Lamont is well suited to the trying part of Janet Marlow; Miss Bernice Fielding is graceful and sympathetic as Netty Hazel; and Miss Kitty Maynard is a charming Jessie Hazel. During the week the company present *East Lynne*, *Poor Jo*, and *The Plucky Nipper*.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is appearing here this week in *A Royal Divorce*. Mr. Keith Fraser gives an excellent portrayal of Napoleon; Miss Margaret Watson elicits the sympathy of the audience as Josephine; Mr. George Hudson is a very humorous Grimaud; Talleyrand has a clever exponent in Mr. Percy H. Vernon; Mr. Stanley Harrison is good as Marquis de Beaumont; Mr. C. Jackson is a fine Lord Keith; Miss Winnie Tempest is good as Marie Louise; and Miss Maude Lacey is an excellent Stephanie.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Excellent pictures and variety turns are being presented for the third week of Mr. Victor Rowe's season. George Regan is a good comedian; Clarence Rayner's excellent chorus songs are very popular; Harlin and Hanlon are successful as cross-talkers; James Lawrence is a very funny comedian; and the Glovers have a cordial reception for their sketch, *Can You Do This?*

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert; Ring-Director, Mr. Leicester Cooke.—Lockhart's Elephants are topping the bill this week, and are a big draw; Aiston's White Stars appear in a unique entertainment, blending music with comedy; Leo Dryden, the well-known character vocalist, is very popular; Mlle. Lumière, fairy grotto dancer, is picturesque and entertaining; Addison introduces some cleverly-trained dogs; Frank Hartly is an excellent juggler; Charles Buval creates much merriment; Doodles is very funny in the laughter-raising sketch entitled *The Long-Lost Son*; and excellent pictures are exhibited on the Bioscope.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran—The series of pictures this week comprises Genevieve de Brabant, a historical and dramatic story in pictures; a number of comic scenes, consisting of The Sandwich Women, An Explosive Calf, Intruding Husband, and Mary is Dismissed. Beatrice Cenci, Catching a Tartar, A Mexican Love Story, and Hoisted with his Own Bomb are also shown. The song each evening is "Moon, Dear," an American hit.

GREENOCK.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—The premier turn here is provided by Miss Ella and her troupe of marvellously well-trained lions; Onda and Artell submit a novel gymnastic pot-pourri act; Mlle Sara's Marblesque Trio appear in a series of beautiful poses; Lily Davis is successful in illustrated songs; the Eltons contribute a capital turn on the horizontal bars; and others on the list are Neil Nelson, Scotch comedian; Florence Sharp, a pleasing contralto; Jack Macormack, comedian; and Jack Ramsay, the versatile Scot; the Alexandroscope pictures are much appreciated.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Miss Helen Kennedy's sketch company in *The Pride of the Heather* is a prominent attraction, and well merits the success achieved; the New Macs are entertaining; Spangles and Sawdust are highly successful in their aerial act; and other good turns include Beattie Bloom, comedienne; Allis and Casati, a clever comedy couple; Wisper, a smart juggler; and the Sisters Dorrell, duettists and dancers.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Mr. Arthur Watson, supported by an able company, presents in a highly capable manner a musical comedy sketch entitled *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*; the Four Regals submit some extraordinary feats of strength; Spry and Monti are deservedly successful with their clever and versatile comedy act; and Fanny Humber, instrumentalist and dancer; A. J. Gamble, Scotch comedian; Clivetto, dancing juggler; Jack Barker, light comedian; and Georgina Leonard, burlesque artist are also appreciated.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Alfred Sutro's play *The Walls of Jericho* is this week paying its third visit. Mr. Alfred Goddard is now seen as Jack Frobisher, and acts with commanding force and dignity; Miss Nancy Beresford is alike excellent when portraying the frivolous moods of Lady Alethea and when interpreting her deeper emotions; Mr. A. W. Tyrer is excellent as the society favourite, Harry Dallas; Mr. Russell Barry is a capital exponent of the genial Hankey Bannister; Mr. Ben Lewin shows a singular appreciation of the demands of the part of the Marquis of Steventon; Miss Elsie Ross charmingly plays Lady Lucy; whilst others who may be mentioned are Miss Ormonde Wynne as Lady Westerby and Miss Pauline Straus as Miss Mornington.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—The bright miniature musical comedy *The Belle of the Orient* is being presented by Joe Peterman's company; Harry Champion is repeating his former success; Nellie Lawrence is a talented double-voiced vocalist, and sings with pleasingly artistic effect; Czar's Royal Troupe give an interesting and animated exhibition of Russian national dancing; Mlle. Pollo submits a really clever display on the trapeze; C. H. Charlton, a conjurer, introduces his inexhaustible kettle; and Merton and Rydon appear in a vocal and comedy speciality.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—The theatre reopened this week with Mr. Ed. Marris' company in *As Midnight Chimes*. Mr. Charles Weir merits the highest praise for his histrionic handling of Dezzard; Dave Stannard in the hands of Mr. Cecil W. Parke is capably represented; a faithful portraiture is the Ezra of Mr. H. Le Maitre; Mr. James Spavin causes much merriment as Fat Spavin; Miss Nita Imeson is a bright and engaging Lizette; Miss Barbara Allison makes Ziamora specially interesting; Miss Elsie May is natural as Little Davy; and Miss Doris Digby cleverly realises the arduous rôle of Mary Stannard.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's company is here this week with *A White Man*. The drama is exceptionally well played. Mr. T. E. Petley's Captain Wynnegate is a capital performance; and the same artist's Jim Garston is a masterly rendering of a West Country rancher. Mr. L. Broughton as the Earl of Kerhill, Mr. F. W. Jackson as Sir John Applegate, and Mr. J. E. Lambert as Mr. Chiswick are good; and Mr. R. A. Brandon as Big Bill makes a fine, breezy, typical cowboy. Mr. T. Swem's Shortly, Mr. M. Henry's Andy, and Mr. T. W. H. Sarll's Grouchy are admirable delineations of cowboy life. Mr. Eric Hudson gives a fascinating rendering of the Indian chief, Taby-Wana; Mr. A. Gibbons and Mr. A. C. Hardie are well placed as Cash Hawkins and Bud Hardy; Miss Rosina White is good as Little Hal; Miss Rhoda Ray makes up well and plays to perfection the difficult part of Nat-u-rich; Miss G. Price as the dowager Lady Kerhill, Miss Nora Wadeley as Lady Mabel Wynnegate leave nothing to be desired, and Miss Eleanor May's Countess of Kerhill is a true delineation of an English lady.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—J. C. Piddock and company are here this week with *The Capture of Venus*. Mr. Piddock sings well, and is accorded a good reception. A series of entertaining pictures fill up the bill.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Tom Motramo creates roars of laughter with his genuine comedy in *Do You Reverse?* He is ably supported by Marie Motramo. The pair are, in addition, first-class musicians. Smith and Johnson, coloured vocalists, are well received; the Two Rubies are refined duettists and dancers; Fritz von Liston is a clever whistler and mimic; Beatty and Blanche are two good dancers; the Jackley Trio do some smart tumbling; and the whistling comedian, George, causes considerable amusement. The Meister Glee Singers are a quartette of capable and tuneful singers, with excellent voices.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Barton and Ashley, in their comedy duo, *Canal Boat Sue, Low Bridge*, are topping the bill here this week; Vere and Nelldon are excellent in burlesque song and dance; the Westbrooks prove popular in their novel dancing scena, *Two Little Maids from School*; the Corcoran Brothers are entertaining in a musical instrumental turn entitled *Sons of Toil*; Alex. Kendall is droll in the extreme; Benson and Rose do well in a bright little sketch, *Elizabeth's Baby*; Bessie Knight, comedienne and buck dancer; the Sisters Belmont, dancers; and the Faludy troupe of acrobats, together with the Bioscope, conclude.

HANLEY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here with *Lady Frederick*. Mrs. Brown-Potter is very popular; Mr. Philip Cuningham plays Paradine admirably; Mr. Herbert Garthorne gives a fine interpretation of Lord Mereston; Mr. W. Barnett Parker is decidedly clever as Sir Gerald; Mr. Cecil Bevan is decidedly strong as Captain Montgomerie; Mr. Shirley Lea as Admiral Carlisle gives a fine character performance; Miss Madeline du Val plays Lady Mereston with skill; Miss Edith Deverell is a charming Rose; Miss Phyllis Manners as Mme. Claude wins warm approbation; and Miss E. Nolan O'Connor makes a fine Angelique. *The Peacemakers*, the curtain-raiser, is well played by Miss O'Connor and Miss Deverell.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—The bill here is headed by Reano and his famous band, who win warm applause; the Sutcliffe Family make a big hit with a novel acrobatic, dancing, and musical act; Dot Hardy does well with some catchy songs; Raymond's Bio-tableaux are admired; Arthur Slater whistles cleverly; the Sisters St. Julian are decidedly smart; the Napoli Singers are enthusiastically recalled; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley are responsible for hearty laughter in a screamingly funny farce; and Jessie Buckle appears with success.

KING'S EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—The pictures here include Harry Lauder off to America, Wilbur Wright's Aeroplane Flight, The Tempter, All for a Drink, The Gladiator's Bride, Rag-picker Caricaturist, and The Magic Bust. Mme. Garabaldi supplies the vaudeville items successfully.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of this week Miss May Palfrey and company appeared in the famous light comedy *Mrs. Dot*. A very large audience was present on Monday, and the brilliant play went with a swing from start to finish. As Mrs. Dot Miss Palfrey came out with flying colours, and is to be heartily congratulated on her performance. She was capitally supported by Mr. F. Kinsey Peile, who was excellent throughout as James Blenkinsop; Mr. Hugh C. Buckler was good as Gerald Halstane, and Mr. Basil Hallam as Freddie Perkins soon established himself as prime favourite. Miss Ada Jenoure was excellent as the worldly Lady Sellenger, and Miss Beaumont was a pretty and pleasing Nellie Sellenger, while Mrs. Kemmis made all that was possible out of the small part of Miss Eliza Macgregor. A special word of praise is due to Mr. McIntyre Wicksteed as Charles the valet. The piece was beautifully mounted and dressed. For the remainder of the week Mr. Tree's company in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is billed.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney H. Carter; General-Manager, Mr. F. D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Parker.—Houses assemble here twice daily. Chief among the pictures this week are The Police Dogs of Paris, A Modern Don Juan, The Riding School at Saumur, and the Island of St. Kilda, and When the Cat's Away is a really funny picture. The Dunvilles appear in their comic musical act. Mr. Walter S. Pratt is an able accompanist.

THE KURSAAL.—General Manager and Musical Director, Mr. Julian Clifford; Assistant-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Eldrid.—This is the last week of the Harrogate season here. Early in the week the Alexandra Quartet appeared.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here this week in the comedy drama *From Slave to Princess*. Mr. Austen Milroy is an effective Prince Julian; Miss Dorothy Lart secures complete success in her impersonation of Vera; Miss Agnes Verity displays remarkable ability as the cruel-hearted and plotting Princess; Mr. Arthur Elwyn realises the traitorous character of Michael Bardoni; excellent fun is secured by the low-comedy acting of Mr. Harry Benson as Patrick O'Brien, who is supported by Miss Kitty Sinclair as Amelia; Mr. Dermont Fitzgibbon is a powerful Lieut. Alexis; and Mr. Arthur Estcourt plays the part of King Adrian capably.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Some very pleasing duets are sung by the Lancashire Mill Lads. The new Hipposcope is an attractive feature; the Musical Keiths perform very cleverly on a variety of instruments; a comic sketch, *The New Office Boy*, is introduced by Ingram and Irving; La Petite Carlina's international dances are very pretty; Hyram Travers delights the audience with his character impersonations, and creates much laughter by his patter; and Mr. John Alexander's burlesque, *The Actors*, concludes the programme.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Walter Payne's Bio-photoscope exhibits an excellent selection of films, A Bear Hunt in Russia being particularly effective. A pleasing soubrette vocalist is seen in Miss Tina Korrie, who is also a graceful dancer; the clever and amusing ventriloquism of Professor Golding is always appreciated; Miss Marie Caritta renders her illustrated songs attractively. The programme also includes some clever juggling by Romano, and Chin-Chin, the Japanese equilibrist.

PUBLIC HALL.—The People's Picture Palace Company's series of animated pictures this week includes a thrilling story of The Hunchback's Vengeance.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Walter Maclean, the well known actor, is presented by Mr. M. Russell Rosse in Sydney Grundy's interesting play *A Bunch of Violets*. The story is pathetically and well acted, and receives well-merited approval. The part of Sir Philip Marchant is assumed by Mr. Walter Maclean with never-failing ability and skill; Mr. Maurice Denham takes the character of Lord Mount Sorrel; a good sketch of Mark Murgatroyd is submitted by Mr. Henry Darrell; Mr. Prince Wells is good as the Hon. Harold Inglis; Jacob Schwartz is played with great judgment by Mr. W. J. Robertson; Mr. Robert Harcourt as Harker makes an excellent clerk; Miss Eveleen Mills is a most agreeable exponent of Lady Marchant; Mrs.

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Murgatroyd gets full justice at the hands of Miss Diane d'Orsey; and Miss Helena Parsons is a charming Violet.

HEREFORD.—Garrick Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. P. Barnsley.—Well billed, well managed, and well staged there is little wonder that Mr. Frank Pitt's play *£1000 Reward* retains its hold on the public. Miss Kathryne Eckart as Mme. Sanson is admirable; Mr. Fred Ingleford is ably interpreted by Mr. William Gibson; as Inspector Gilbert Mr. Frank Dallas thoroughly enters into the spirit of the character; Mr. J. Wilton satisfactorily undertakes the part of Gilbert Lisle; Mr. Frank Pitt as Vincent Rainsworth is commendable; Miss Marjorie Seymour sings and acts with pleasing freshness as Meg; Mrs. McCarthy by Miss Alice Clarke is a capital character study, and Miss Minnie Goepel as Kitty and Mr. Joe English as Dick provide much amusement.

HORWICH.—Princes' Theatre.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company in *Dare-devil Dorothy* (under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner) opened on Monday to a crowded and enthusiastic audience. Miss Dorothy Desmonde's impersonation of the title-rôle is capital, and her musical numbers received unstinted applause.; Miss Nellie Harcourt made her 2,637th appearance as Judith and created quite a furore, her singing and dancing being greatly enjoyed; Miss Nellie Valentine as Ruth Montrose played her part to perfection; Miss Florence Corri and Miss Daisy Holbrook as Polly and Rosy Ann danced themselves into great favour, their acrobatic business being very clever; Mr. Harry Ugar was responsible for the comedy element, and his quaint sayings, humorous songs, and clever dancing were greatly in demand; Mr. Walter Ashley played Capt. George Fielding in good style, his singing being good; Mr. Walter B. Nugent as Captain Edward Dudley played the part of the villain with distinction; Mr. Deane Cliffe gave a humorous portrayal of Featherstone Haugh; and Mr. Edward Aldworth as Hawkins acted ably.

HUDDERSFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—Messrs. Bennett and Wray's company is playing here this week the musical comedy *The Catch of the Season*. The part of the Duke of St. Jermyns is sustained with much vivacity by Mr. Charles Hanbury; Miss Gladys Guy is bright and winsome as Angela; Mr. H. C. Barry looks very funny as Isaac Isaacstein; and a clever little artist has been found in Master Peter Grata for the part of Bucket. The chorus is smart and well dressed, and the scenery satisfactory.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—A pleasing programme here this week includes Miss Carrie Laurie' clever troupe of juveniles; Miss Kate Cohen, vocalist; Jack Lane, in a diverting turn as a Yorkshire rustic; De Wynne Bros., a pair of smart and original athletes; Albert Christian, the well-known and popular baritone singer; Miss Kitty Kennedy Allen, comedienne; Messrs. Fred Winn and company in a touching sketch, *The Light in the Window;* and some good films on the Bioscope.

HULL.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—When in Hull last spring Miss Lily Brayton and Mr. Oscar Asche created the utmost enthusiasm by their Shakespearean productions, hence their return visit has awakened the utmost interest. They opened on Monday with *The Taming of the Shrew*, to which we made pleasant allusion on the last visit. On Tuesday night they took a further step into the public's good graces by the presentation of Frank Stayton's *Two Pins*. Miss Brayton realises the rôle of Elsa in no half-hearted spirit, and whether as girl or boy, she carries it through with wonderful artistry. Mr. Asche is the ideal Philip in physique and with all the attributes of the swashbuckling knight. The company does not consist simply of two star turns, but includes such fine artists as Mr. Kay Souper (Rudolph) and Miss Muriel Ashwynne (Rosaline), whilst Mr. Henry Frankiss is an actor who can sing as well as act. On Thursday night *Othello*, with Mr. Asche in the title-rôle and Miss Brayton as Desdemona, figured on the bill.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company in *Lucky Durham* hold the boards at the Royal. The play has been seen on several occasions in Hull. Mr. Herbert Humber is a very effective representative of the title-rôle, and has made his reading a very popular one in Hull; Mr. Arthur Leigh makes a clever character study of Reggie. The Mrs. Durham of Miss Beatrice Sinclair is a clever performance; Miss A. E. Belmore was all that one could wish as Hélène Vallerton. *Lucky Durham* is a play that has still strong wealth-producing power.

Alexandra Theatre.—Morton's, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—Mr. and Mrs. Walter Howard's stirring drama *Two Little Drummer Boys*, which is once more in our midst, is meeting with a very cordial reception. The General Kingsley of Mr. E. Bikker has been commented upon very favourably; Miss Maud Douglas and Miss Maggie English carry the house with them in their representation of the Drummer Boys; and Mr. Dick Seddon and Mr. Will Percy prove the possession of a fund of rich humour.

ILKESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Love of a Princess* is the attraction, the exponents being the company of Mr. T. Edward Ward. As Prince Conrad Mr. Wilson Coleman gives an interesting performance; Miss Ward plays with pathos as Princess Idalia; Miss Nellie Garside as Irene Ramona is charming; and Miss Helen Elmar is successful as Constantia. Mr. Graham Winsford as Lieut. Zaroff makes the most of his opportunities; the part of Josef, King of Ilarnia, is cleverly undertaken by Mr. E. H. Dobell; and the Prince Regent of Mr. W. F. Stirling is deserving of praise. Lieut. Orlans and Duke Scarfe are interpreted in good style by Messrs. Beckett Bould and George Antley; Mr. Edgar Morgan is an amusing Boris; and Mr. Ernest E. Imeson scores in the unpleasant part of Count Nicholas Danillo.

ILKLEY.—King's Hall.—Proprietors, The Ilkley Urban District Council; Licensee, Mr. Frank Hall.—Mr. Julian Graham's company in *The Gay Goddess*, a delightful musical comedy in three acts, occupied the hall on Monday and Tuesday evenings. Mr. Charles Leverton made a good solicitor's clerk; Mr. Fred Hammond was an amusing father-in-law; Mr. Richard Blake as the detective did his work well; Mr. George Watson as Anthony Summers was also good; the burglars, Messrs. W. Millard and Sam Baylis, played very well; Miss Fanny Morse was an amusing Mrs. Marie Strong; Miss Leah Howard a satisfactory Priscilla Strong, and Miss Dolly Shaw and Miss May Davis as the sisters Rivers were responsible for a fine performance. Miss Marie Carlisle played capitally as the Tivoli Garden dancer, and Miss Kate Graham Beck in a difficult rôle won appreciation.

IPSWICH. — Lyceum. — Miss Nora Carton's excellent company in *Captain Drew on Leave* opened here on Monday to a good audience. In the part of Captain Drew Mr. Charles B. Vaughan has a character eminently fitted to his versatile talents, and every point of the epigrammatic dialogue is well brought out; Miss Cynthia Brooke is a charming Mrs. Moxon; Mr. Wilcox Cadogan, Mr. Tom Mowbray, Mr. Gerald Venning are also excellent exponents of their respective parts. The part of Miss Mills was charmingly played by Miss Norah Carton, and Miss Lydia Hayward completes the cast.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Mr. T. E. Dunville appeared for the first time in Ipswich this week, and his inimitable patter, clever acting, and singing at once found the appreciation that was to be expected by a comedian so well known; Mr. George Brooks has added some excellent songs to his repertoire; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto perform astounding cycle tricks with an ease that excites the greatest admiration; Tiny Arnold is an agile dancer, and Lizzie Daniels both sings and dances well. Ernest Montefiore and company have a dramatic sketch entitled *The Little Colonel;* the Ellimans have a smart musical turn, and Miss Ada Coveto, a versatile comedienne, completes a strong bill.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. T. A. Jones and company are here with *When Other Lips*. Mr. Juan d'Alberti plays with force the part of Basil Cunningham; Mr. T. A. Jones is seen to advantage as Ted Daunton; Mr. Cecil H. Raymond does full justice to the rôle of Tommy Neccles; and Mr. Herbert Bentone is well placed as Phylocrates Jenkins. Miss Daventry gives a good account of the part of Ruth Linley; Miss Jane Watson is seen to advantage as "a woman in black"; and Kitty Topwash is in the capable hands of Miss L. Lennon.

JERSEY.—Opera House.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope. — This week Walter Melville's highly sensational play, *The Second Time on Earth*, is being presented here by Mr. Edward Marris's company. The cast is a good all-round one, and the staging is particularly worthy of praise. Special praise must be awarded to Miss Grace Murielle's dramatic and effective rendering of the part of Dora Grey, and to Miss Amy Wood's vivid and telling representation of the drunken mother. Miss Nita Imeson is a captivating Kitty Rosebud; Miss Nellie Mason appears as the maid; and Miss Doris Digby is successful as Laura Norman. Mr. Phil Le Sueur gives a finished and painstaking study of Jack Carlton; Mr. Charles Weir is a creditable Captain Norman; Mr. James Salter an amusing Teddy Butterfly; Mr. Percy Maitland a convincing villain; whilst the many minor rôles are ably undertaken.

KETTERING.—Avenue Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and company are presenting a round of popular plays this week. On Monday *The Royal Oak* was produced, with Mr. Frank Cellier as King Charles. He portrays the character most artistically, and Miss Harris gives a charming rendering of the part of Mildred Cavering. *The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet*, and *David Garrick* are billed for the remainder of the week.

KIDDERMINSTER. — New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Draycott's company commenced a week's engagement here on Monday in *The Shaughraun*. Mr. Chas. Draycott as Conn gave a clever and forceful display of acting, and Mrs. Chas. Draycott ably supported him in the rôle of Clara Ffolliott; Mr. George Steele ably portrays the part of Captain Molineaux. *The Octoroon, The Colleen Bawn, The Ticket-of-Leave Man, East Lynne*, and *A Stolen Birthright* are also billed. The plays are excellently staged.

KIDWELLY.—Town Hall.—Proprietors, The Corporation; Secretary, Mr. P. S. James.—The veteran Mr. Josh A. Hybert is here this week with *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and *The Prodigal Son*. In the latter the part of Sir John Fanshaw is exceedingly well taken by Mr. H. Clifford; Messrs. Philip Crotchett and Arthur Hayes as Harry and Jack Fanshaw are both very good; Mr. Hybert in the part of Bill Burke is most successful; Mr. D. A. Ward as Ralph L. Marsden does good work; as Margaret Marsden Miss Ruby Rosini is very sympathetic; Miss Mabel Vernon as Kellie Burke is capital; Miss Kitty Wood as Mary fills the part to perfection and is most clever, and little Miss Daisy Dawson makes an effective Dick, an outcast. In *Uncle Tom* Miss Kitty Wood scores greatly as Topsy, whilst Miss Daisy Dawson is a charming Eva.

KIRKCALDY.—Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Parke's Eton Boys and Girls are paying a visit this week; Rudge Whitworth is a versatile entertainer, and Ena Compton a dainty comedienne. The Brothers Danube, who occupy the bottom position on the bill, are deputised for by a smart instrumental turn and by Dan Hendry, comedian. The Gordon Shields troupe of dancers are also on the bill, and the pictures conclude.

LANCASTER. — Grand Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—The attraction this week is *Her Marriage Vow*, presented by Mr. Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles' capable company. As Ned Benton Mr. J. Forbes Knowles appears to special advantage; and he is ably supported by Miss Lillian Herries, who gives a painstaking portrayal of Kate Walters. Mr. Charles B. Bedells does exceedingly well as Gilbert Carlton; and the same may be said of Mr. Vincent Wardle as Daffy Dan. Mr. Wilford Bailey is successful as Eben Chubb, and the remaining parts are in commendable hands.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—At the head of affairs this week is Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister's sketch *The Sundowner*, which is exceedingly well presented. Hearne and Palmer win favour; Florence Raymond, ventriloquist, is very good; Frank Cumminger and Frances Colonna give a clever display of dancing; and Bert Bowden is a comedian up to date. Odeyne Spark sings nicely; Dora Poole and Fred Maguire are pleasing vocalists; and the Hippograph completes a first-rate programme.

LEAMINGTON. — Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—Miss Horniman's company appeared here the earlier part of the week, in a repertoire of plays by Charles McEvoy and Bernard Shaw. On Monday Charles McEvoy's *David Ballard* was played. A very intelligent representation of the title-part was given by Mr. B. Iden Payne; whilst Miss Ada King achieved an artistic triumph as Mrs. Ballard; Miss Hilda Bruce Porter endowed Mercy with much charm; and Miss Louise Holbrook played Lonisa with distinct success. The Percy Ballard of Mr. Lewis Casson, the Darwin Snodge of Mr. Jules Shaw, and the Gladys of Miss Penelope Wheeler were all performances of exceptional merit. The piece was preceded by *Gentlemen of the Road*. On Tuesday evening *When the Devil Was Ill* was played, and on Wednesday, at a matinée and evening performance, *Candida* and *Widowers' Houses* were given.

Royal Assembly Rooms.—Lessee, Mr. A. White; Acting-Manager, Mr. Francis Longberg.—Mr. Waller Jeffs's New Century Picture Co. is still doing good business. The finest picture this week is the one illustrating the tour of the Prince of Wales to Canada, the Tercentenary Celebrations on the Quebec Battlefield, and the Trip from the River St. Lawrence to the Niagara. Others worthy of mention are the Dieppe Motor Race 1908, Hypnotic Policeman, Paris Fire Brigade Drill. Miss Leah Pinnick's soprano solos are greatly appreciated, and Mr. Frank Fredalla, character-actor and mimic, gives four new character impersonations, which gain unbounded applause. Some good music is played at the piano by Bert Holmes.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—A large audience was moved to enthusiasm on Monday by the presentation of *The Sins of Society* by Mr. F. W. Bolam's company. Miss Grace E. Leslie presents a fine delineation of Lady Marion Beaumont; a clever impersonation of the stage villain is to be credited to Mr. C. F. Collins; Mr. E. Vassal Vaughan is effective as the hero; Mr. Blake Adams distinguishes himself in a prominent rôle; and Miss Mabel Murray, Miss Dorothy Giles, and Miss Pattie Brown also portray leading parts in pleasing style.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston. —*The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* is the attraction here, a capable company making the most of the many thrilling incidents with which the piece abounds. Miss Jessie Belmore again enacts the central part with great ability, and the work of Mr. F. Ronald Adair as the generous Will Mason carries conviction. On the humorous side Mr. Fred Ingram and Miss Marie Kildare are extremely effective.

Empire Palace.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex Galley.—Fred Ginnett's company are prominent here with the equestrian sketch *Dick Turpin;* the Donaldson Bros. are doing good business with their jungle farce; Albert Whelan adds to a big reputation; a capital turn is subscribed by Stewart and Morgan; and others who entertain are Sybil St. Elmo, Nora Emerald, Alf Maynall, Bob Hamilton, and the Sisters Grovini.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The principal item here this week is a sensational dramatic episode *A Society Woman*. A novelty by the Two Cabiacs goes extremely well; L. B. Athol proves to be a capable actor-vocalist; expert acrobatic entertainment is subscribed by Azelia Wilson, and there are also excellent turns by Coggin and Davis, Millie Denham, E. Budden, and Martinett Wallace.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—A humorous sketch *The Pawnbroker* presented by Joe Peterman's company, is a leading line here, and proves vastly amusing; Leonard Barry also does a comedy turn which takes well; Lawrence Barclay is another old favourite; acceptable comedy is subscribed by Ed. E. Ford, Dave Carter, and Harry Vardon; the Lyons Trio are popular with pantomime business; performing cockatoos are presented by Clotilde and Musto; and Flora Cromer is a pleasing vocalist.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—A popular turn here is Jack Lorimer, the versatile Scotch comedian. In a similar line Fred Barnes scores a pronounced success; Geoffreys and Benson are an entertaining comedy couple; the Vyponds are also favourite entertainers; those pleasing vocalists the Sisters Marion get a big reception; and the O'Gorman Bros. are also in the bill.

LEICESTER.—Royal Opera House.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—For the first three nights of the week Miss Ellen Terry and company were here on a first visit in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*, in which Miss Terry as Lady Cicely Waynflete was most charming. She is ably supported by her husband, Mr. James Carew, as Captain Brassbound; Mr. Max Montesole deserved high praise as Felix Drinkwater, and both Mr. Story-Gofton as the Rev. Leslie Rankin and Mr. George Fitzgerald as Sir Howard Hallam played with their accustomed ability; Mr. Frank Powell stage-managed and played well as Captain Hamlin Kearney. For the last three nights of the week Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's No. 1 company in *The Private Secretary* was billed.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—A capital attraction is presented here this week in Mr. Stephen Pritt's company in the domestic drama *His Wife No Longer*. Both Mr. E. Paul Neville as Harold Medworth and Miss Florrie Hayes as Marion Jefferies are suited to the parts, and Mr. Clavering Craig is effective as Anthony Merivale; Mr. C. Wordley Hulse is good as the Rev. Frank Willacy; Miss Rosa Mervyn deserves commendation as Mrs. Merivale; Mr. David McFarlane (under whose direction the tour is) is an amusing Tommy Oglethorpe, and Miss Nellie Lawson a vivacious Lucy; Mr. David Donaldson is capital as Daniel Trench; and Mr. Fred Wood deserves praise as P.C. Michael Flanagan.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Mark Sheridan, a thoroughly amusing comedian, stars this week; George Formby returns, and is again scoring a decided success with his really mirth-provoking and highly original drolleries; J. A. Wilson introduces his remarkably cleverly-trained dog Private Towser, to the delight of all; Edward Lauri and May Beatty present a delightfully smart and cleverly-enacted musical comedy protean mélange entitled *In Her Boudoir;* Harry Rogers and company are seen to advantage in the comedy and dramatic episode *Told in a Flat;* the Five Olracs create hearty laughter in a smart acrobatic display; La Danseuse, a young lady, scores a well-deserved success in her scena, *Santa Claus;* the Three Welsh Girls are heard to advantage in pretty illustrated songs; Boyd and Gilfain are an amusing and versatile couple; and the American Bioscope completes a good all-round show.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Topping this week's programme are Ford and Barras, who introduce since their last visit their new act, *The Boys in White and Gold*. They are having most hearty receptions, the dancing of Ford especially calling forth praise. A competition is also taking place in connection with the engagement. Another popular turn is Taree, the Australian musical bushman, a remarkably smart player on the mouth organ. There is also a competition in connection with this turn. The Florodora Girls are making a big hit with their smart and entertaining act, *Two's Company, Three's None*, in which plenty of merriment is evoked. Others entertaining are Edith Chantler, an excellent juvenile soprano; Harry Milton, Dutch comedian and clog dancer; Lily Hayes, comedienne and dancer; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is prominent with three good films.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt.—Splendid business continues here, the programme this week being well up to the usual high standard. The leading moving pictures are In a Submarine, The Quebec Pageant, Antiquary Burglars, A Quiet Inn, A Noble Jester, The Tempter, and Little Chimney Sweepers. The variety is supplied by Hector Castle, a fancy ball puncher of great cleverness, in connection with whose engagement a contest for three prizes is billed; Frank Stanert, a refined and entertaining musical comedian; and Ephraim Clarke, baritone vocalist, all of whom are accorded hearty appreciation. Mr. Gerald Hunt, the district manager, who is now in charge of this hall, is having the place redecorated.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. Charles W. Poole's myriorama is occupying the boards here with interesting tableaux representing Trafalgar; Harland and Rollison, eccentric musicians, appear in a much-appreciated musical act; the Four Craigs, society gymnasts, give a smart display; Anasis proves himself a magician of no mean order; Ray and Miles, comedy jugglers, are received with marked approval; Dai Davies, Welsh comedian, is a clever mimic and whistler; and Mr. Frank Lyndon deserves praise for his efforts as the guide and raconteur.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—*The Soldier's Wedding*, one of the most attractive and popular in the well-known series of Melville dramas, has been here on a return visit. Mr. Winggold Lawrence and Mr. Beresford Whitcomb repeat their sound and acceptable presentations of Jack Brown and Colonel Graham; Mr. Fred Yarnold is still seen in his happy character sketch of the old farmer; and the parts of David and Teddy Munroe continue to be successfully interpreted by Mr. Frederick Biron and Little Albert; Tommy Spratt is amusingly played by Mr. Johnny Chippendale; Mr. Gerald Jordan revels in the villainy of Charles Courtney, his accomplice, Julie de Beauvrais, being, as formerly, acted with great strength by Miss Marie Macaulay; and Miss Dorothy Richardson is winsome and convincing as Nancy Lee; while Lizzie Walker and Peggie Munroe find capable and earnest representatives in Miss Mattie Everett and Miss Mabel Lowe.

LICHFIELD.—St. James's Hall.—A crowded and enthusiastic house welcomed Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. J. C. Wray's company in *Miss Hook of Holland* here on Wednesday. The great success of the evening was undoubtedly Miss Carew, whose acting and singing as Mina took the house by storm. The Sally of Miss Ethel James was a very vivacious impersonation, and Mr. Edmund Russell as Mr. Hook invested his part with delightful humour. The Simon Slinks of Mr. Fred Dark, the Captain Paap of Mr. J. B. Fox, the Bandmaster of Mr. Adrian Burgon, who has a very charming tenor voice, and the Schnapps of Mr. R. Conray were notable impersonations. The chorus and stage band were both excellent, and the work of Mr. H. Richardson, who conducted, artistic.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—This city was afforded a first glimpse at the sterling dramatic romance *A White Man* on Monday, and the general opinion regarding the production was particularly favourable. Admirably staged and skilfully played, this story of life among the American cowboys made a distinct impression upon the attentive audience. The company was that of the London Lyric Theatre, and included Mr. Herbert Sleath, whose assumption of the heroic part of Captain Wynnegate was marked by dramatic intensity and manly spirit, the curtains to which the able artist had to respond being many. Miss Enid Sass gave a sympathetic and touching rendering of Diana; a perfect picture of the devoted Naturitch was provided by Miss Dorothy Dix, whose sorrows seemed to be shared by the audience; Mr. Harold Weston did the most with the Earl of Kerhill; a capital idea of the bluff, faithful leading cowboy, Big Bill, was given by Mr. George Fawcett; all the necessary fire and braggadocio of the cowardly Cash Hawkins were well brought out by Mr. Menifee Johnstone; the Dowager Lady Kerhill found in Miss Emma Gwynne a faithful exponent; and other satisfactory parts were in the good keeping of Messrs. A. G. Poulton (Sir John Applegate), Herbert Vyvyan (Malcolm Petrie), A. Plumpton (Baco White), A. S. Aspland (a dignified and altogether fine Indian Chief), Miss Evelyn Maxwell (Lady Wynnegate), and Messrs. Cecil Yapp, S. J. Warmington, and R. F. Symons (three lively cowboys). Miss Victoria May Harris played the child's part with sweet intelligence.

Shakespeare Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Here this week *Turtle Doves* was the curtain-raiser to a capital all-round production of *Peter's Mother*, presented by the Hutchison company. Miss Violet Ley made an admirable Lady Crewys; Mr. Vivian Gilbert did the most with the thankless part of Peter; as John Crewys Mr. Eille Norwood was noteworthy; Mr. Walter Russell acquitted himself as Canon Birch; a capital Sir Timothy Crewys was presented by Mr. Townsend Whitling; the baronet's sisters, Lady Belstone and Miss G. Crewys, were admirably impersonated by Miss Mary Griffiths and Miss Josephine Rae; Miss Hilda Sims pleased greatly as Sarah; and Miss Ada Rainey did justice to the rôle of Mrs. Hewell.

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—The popularity of *The Sign of the Cross* seems as great as ever judging by the large audiences that have this week filled this favourite theatre. Mr. William Greet sent his chief company, which is now in its eleventh year of tour. As Marcus Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee showed all the necessary dramatic strength, his performance being in every way a finished one; in the hands of Miss Constance Little the exacting rôle of Mercia lost none of its sweetness and point; Miss Edith Drayson made a most effective Stephanus; a well-rendered part was that of Nero by Mr. C. Yorke; Messrs. Charles Aldred and J. Weatherall showed to advantage as Tigellinus and Licinius respectively; the humorous Glabrio was capitally undertaken by Mr. F. Wood; Miss Lily Ward deserved praise for her masterly Berenice; and worthy support also came from Messrs. Walter Fleet (Favius) and Clifton Yates (Titus). The staging was very complete.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—The Melville dramas are always well supported in Liverpool, and this week *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*, presented at this theatre, met with the customary approbation. Mr. Fred Goddard showed much histrionic ability in the character of Jack Marshall, gaining considerable applause; Miss Louise Hampton sustained that of Bertha, with which she impressed her audience, who followed her work with deep attention; Miss Georgie De Lara filled the ungracious rôle of the villainous Val Raymond with judgment and tact; most enjoyable comedy was provided by Mr. Francis Hope (Tommy Biffin) and Miss Alys Eden (Lottie Primrose); Mr. Paul Barry Lewers as Leonard Kenyon was particularly good; and valuable were the efforts of Messrs. Will L. Clement, Herbert Goddard, Dick Evans, Norman B. Cannon and the Misses Ida Thompson and Lulu Bowes.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Good business has been done here during the week. The bill includes Bella and Bijou (who a few weeks ago could not appear owing to the illness of the latter), Whit Cunliffe, Ella Shields, and May Henderson, who all had flattering receptions. Les Esdonians present a clever dancing act; J. L. Shine and company render a delightful sketch, *The Actor's Art;* Mlle. Haydee pleases exceedingly with her miniature vaudeville theatre; Syd May amuses with a wrestling skit; and there also appear Mendel, the blind pianist, and Johnny Walker, comedian.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here this week we have had Mr. R. A. Roberts's company with *Straight From the Shoulder*.

Lyric. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—The programme here is headed by Charles Austin and company with the highly amusing trifle *Parker, P.C.;* Sterling and Love, an able couple of vocal and instrumental comedy artists, are well to the fore with their sketch *A Domestic Musical Squabble;* Barrett and Knowles show themselves to be a couple of smart versatile comedians; Josh Dixon makes everybody laugh; as comedy burlesque artists the Gallimore Trio acquit themselves capably; Harry Lavaine has some bright patter; and also in the list are Martine and Son, song illustrators; Maud Prenton, comedienne; and Langalow, rifle expert.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan. —Foremost here this week in an attractive bill are Freddie French and company with the screaming absurdity *The Policeman's Ballet; or, Votes, Votes, Votes!* Jan Rudenyi delights with his scena, *The Power of Music;* remarkable work with the skates is done by Willie Gardner; F. V. St. Clair gives some entertaining extempore songs; Cedar and Elgar cause much laughter with the skit *Ye Dayes of Olde;* the Three Panamas present a clever pot-pourri act; some amusing ditties and smart dancing come from Mike Nono; and the list also contains the names of Carr and Rose, comedians; and Joe Conway, comedian.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole. —*Black-Eyed Susan* has this week been given here by the stock dramatic company, the principal parts being undertaken by Messrs. R. Seath Innes (Captain Crosstree), David G. Noble (William), Cecil Ravenswood (Doggrass and the Admiral), Sydney Grant (Hatchet), Robb Wilton (Jacob Twigg), Miss Florence Palmer (Susan), and Miss Gertrude Entwistle (Dolly Mayflower).

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Welsker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the Bioscope pictures given here, the following artists appeared during the week:—Bertha Collins, comedienne and dancer; J. H. Wakefield, coon singer and dancer; and Bessie Travis, ventriloquist.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Horace Goldin topped the programme here this week, and, as usual, mystified his audiences with some remarkable illusions; the favourite Mike S. Whallen had a flattering reception; Tom Lloyd, well known in Liverpool, kept his audience in a merry mood; Gus Garrick brought his latest music-hall titbits; Tennyson and Wallis as comedians, patterers, and dancers proved an excellent turn; the Gaudsmidts, with their dog, went through some neat comedy acrobatic feats; and contributions also came from Frances McNulty, dancer, and Barry Lindon, "the Welsh Foli."

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—This latest place of amusement has now settled down in public favour, and good business is being done. Top of the bill this week is George Dance's company with the very funny comedy sketch *The Burglar's Ball*, which caused shouts of laughter; the favourite Ada Fawn brings her latest successes, including "Why does the world go round?" Gillin, the ventriloquial humorist, amuses greatly; Walter Buxton, possessed of an excellent baritone, sings several popular numbers in good style; the Milsted-Bell Trio presents a laughable trifle, *Three Sharps in a Flat;* and others who appear are George Lawrence, comedian; George Hall, whistler; Alf Drinkwater, comedian; and the Yokohama Troupe of jugglers and equilibrists.

LLANDUDNO.—Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. John Gerant's company appeared here the first three nights of the week in *At Duty's Call*. Mr. Gerant ably portrays Harold Alison; Mr. Chas. C. Calvert as Capt. George Alison renders a good account of himself; Mr. Ernest St. John is a typical General Gordon; Mr. J. Tilly Dillsen as Terry O'Hallaron creates amusement; and Mr. Frank P. Morton as Jack Spencer gives a good boxing turn. Miss Ada Roscoe as Salema is all that could be desired, and Dora Drummond is in the capable hands of Miss Beatrice Western.

Hippodrome.—The roller skating-rink closes today for the winter season.

LLANELLY.—Royalty Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Resident-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Another success is being recorded here this week with the visit of Mr. Lingford Carson's *The Power of the Cross* company. Mr. George A. de Grey powerfully enacts the part of Baron Carzola; Mr. Alexander Haviland as Dr. Leslie Fairfax and Mr. Robert Hall as Robert Fairfax are both excellent; Mr. Tyrone Power well fits the part of Timothy O'Dowd, and creates much amusement; and Mr. Francis Searle as Benjamin Hawk and Mr. Gilson Brook as Dr. Kingsley are both good; Miss Annie Hylton is sweetly sympathetic as Margaret Seaton; Miss Etta Timson as Dolly Grey is capital; the Blanche Kingsley of Miss Phillys Vaughan and the Kate Lascelles of Miss Stella Carmichael are both capable impersonations; and Mr. Dan Rose in the small part of the Postman is commendable.

LONG EATON.—St. James' Theatre.—An old favourite, Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer heads a large company here this week. Opening on Monday as the Duchess of Dantzig, Mrs. Palmer evinced a freshness and charm in that character that captivated the audience. For the 515th time she appeared as Hamlet, giving a wonderful performance, and was well supported by a capable company. *Nell Gwynn* and *East Lynne* were the other pieces.

The Palace.—This week we have Mr. L. Austin Millais, who presents Venus, in her new spectacular production. The company includes the Neilson Comedy Couple, Dan Dunville, Fred Christie, and Coombes and Webbe; while Miss Neale's dancing is very good. A sketch is greatly enjoyed. The pictures are good.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company in *The Female Swindler* has been occupying the boards with great success. Mr. Jerrold Heather as Jack Coulson deserved the applause he received; Miss Violet Ellicott as Lu Valroy, the female swindler, played with power; Mr. John Hichins in various rôles and Miss Bella Moody as Mary Ann Mee created genuine hilarity; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe as Geoffrey Warden acted with his customary ability; Mr. Fred Rignold as Mikestein personated the Jew very cleverly; Mr. Alfred Masters was responsible for the exacting part of Harold Travers, acquitting himself with honour; and Miss Beatrice Hone as May Andrews infused a great amount of pathos in the part.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Variety gives way to drama this week, *Who is She?* being staged for the first time locally. Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson (whose company is responsible for the production) does fine work as the Prince; Miss Violet Carlyle is decidedly clever in the name part; King Vladimar has a capital exponent in Graham Woods; and good support is given by Misses J. Boyne, Sinclair Holden, Arthur McCulloch, and the Misses Mabel Rignold and Mary Collier.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Splendid business continues at this popular house, and the programme presented this week maintains its usual excellence. At the top of the bill are the Seven Perezoffs in their clever juggling act "An Evening at Monte Carlo"; Aiston's White Arabs present a smart musical entertainment; and other capital numbers are furnished by Harry Tomlin, comedian; Jessie Star, Scotch comedienne; King Leo, "panto" act; the Two Maros on the triple bars; and the Voca Duo. The British Biograph Co. present a number of pleasing and instructive films, which are greatly enjoyed.

MACCLESFIELD. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. Stanley Carlton and company are presenting *London with the Lid Off* here this week; Mr. Stanley Carlton makes an admirable Rev. Allen Gordon; Miss Rubie Maude in the rôle of Astra Bell submits an artistic portrayal; Miss Amy Ellam acts with judgment as Madge Rendall; Gratton Gale is effectively played by Mr. Wm. G. Marshall; Mr. James Hart does well as Colonel; humour is provided by Mr. Lancelot Usher as Percy Plunker, and Miss Annie Montague does well as Mary Elliot. Mr. Marshall Meade is a capable Mr. Templeman; Miss R. H. Belasco a suc-

It's like playing "Hamlet" and leaving out the Prince of Denmark to use Pencarbon Books not supplied with Zanetic

cessful Mrs. Glandale; and Miss C. B. Ballinger a satisfactory Sarah Shatto.

MAIDENHEAD.—TOWN HALL.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—The Empire Animated Picture Company was here on Friday and Saturday last week, and the show gave great satisfaction. Mr. R. J. Golding supplied acceptable turns in sleight-of-hand and ventriloquism.

MAIDSTONE.—PALACE.—Manager, Mr. Stanley Baskerville.—Radford and Valentine are at the head of affairs here this week, and laughter loud and long greets their efforts to amuse, their juggling being clever as well as exceedingly funny; the Sisters Herbert are clever dancers; Marco is a smart illusionist; H. C. Lovell and company appear in the popular comedietta, *Mam'selle Pom-Pom*; Kitty Malone is a singer with some well-sung songs; and other attractions appearing are The Orchids, duettists; Harry Clifford; and the Palace Pictures.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres, Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—The Vedrenne-Barker combination occupies the stage here in a performance of Shaw's *Arms and the Man*. The company is practically the same as that seen recently in *Man and Superman*, which was so amply patronised and enjoyed by the playgoing public. Mr. Granville Barker heads the cast, and is seen to great advantage as Captain Bluntschli; Mr. James Hearn plays Nicolo with his usual finish; Miss Auriol Lee scores a considerable success as Raina; and, among other clever people, Miss Frances Dillon makes an excellent Louka. The play is preceded by *The Convict on the Hearth*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE. — Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Mrs. Madge Carr Cook and company, in Gaston Mayer's production of *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, had a most gratifying reception here on Monday night. The piece was followed with the keenest interest, provoking such laughter as has not been heard in the theatre for a long time. Mrs. Madge Carr Cook is, of course, the central figure, and she carried off the prime honours by her depiction of Mrs. Wiggs's motherly virtues and quaint philosophy. She was well supported throughout, especially by Mr. Frederick Forrest as Stubbins and Miss Rita Carlyle as Miss Hazy, who exploited the humour of their parts in capital style; Miss Mabel Durrant and Miss Violet Vivian were comic as Mrs. Elchorn and Mrs. Schultz; Miss Christine Rayner played nicely as Lovey Mary; and a variety of minor rôles, all more or less interesting, and all "in the picture," were cleverly handled by the remainder of the cast.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company is here this week in *The Girl with the Angel Face*, after a successful week at the Royal Osborne Theatre.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—The stage is given up this week to performances of *Rob Roy*, the Scottish national operatic drama, in support of the N.S.P.C.C. The play is depicted in three acts, comprising fourteen scenes, and is strengthened by a chorus of forty voices of the Manchester Scottish Choir, together with a full compliment of pipers and dancers. The cast is a long and capable one, the principal success being gained by Mr. Dickson Moffat as Bailie Nicol Jarvie, and, apart from the admirable object of the performances, the production is interesting, and very well equipped in point of dress and staging.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is here this week in a romantic military drama, *A Soldier of France*. The chief honours are divided by Mr. Percy Ballard, Miss Carlotta Anson, and Mr. Albert Guyon for their effective impersonation of the manly Corporal Jean, Pauline Lorraine, and the unscrupulous Judas Delara; while Mr. Edward Hobart is good in the dual rôle of Captain Lorraine and Lieut. Louis; and other strong parts are well depicted by Mr. Milton C. Curtis, Mr. Freddie Edwards, and Miss Jennie Clare.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company is again delighting local audiences in the fine drama, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, excellently played throughout.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The principal turns are provided here by G. H. Elliott, the chocolate-coloured coon, in his latest successes; and Albert Toft's statuary act, Makers of History. Charles R. Whittle, the well-known comedian, is also popular; and other good turns are Frank and Free, comedy artists; the Hartley Wonders, in their jumping speciality; Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing mill girl; Horace Pollock and company, in *Hester's Mystery*, a capital little comedy by Pinero; the New York Nippers, in their novel dancing act; the Musical Schafers, in *The Garden of Melody*; and Nellie Martell, comedienne and dancer. The pictures are good, as usual.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry. — Miss Evie Greene, the well-known musical comedy artist, is to the front here this week, and meets with a deserved great reception; George Leyton, the popular actor vocalist, scores a big success with his military scena, *The Last Muster*; and J. P. Ling, a smart comedian and mimic, makes a decided hit. Eli Hudson plays on the piccolo and flute in an expert manner, and wins great applause; whilst other excellent turns are those of Reichen and his dogs; the Four Jumels, in a pleasing muscial act; Bert Harrow, eccentric comedian; Bellew and Stock's Juvenile Entertainers, vocalists and dancers; and Maud Vera, a pleasing comedienne and dancer. Up-to-date Bioscope pictures complete.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—Arthur Prince, the well-known ventriloquist, tops the bill here this week with great success, his performance being exceptionally fine. G. H. Chirgwin amuses as of old; and Hall and Hall are highly entertaining in a comedy sketch entitled *Bertie and the Barmaid*. Other smart turns are offered by the Bros. Dean, excellent dancers; Maud Courtney, in song and story; Mr. C, who also sings and talks; Mike Cray, juggling comedian and his dog; Nita Glem, comedienne; and Charles Deane, in funny songs. Bioscope pictures complete.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Ethel Newman is here in her smart monologue, *Her Wedding Day*, and is well received; the Six Æolians are exceedingly good in an effective vocal and dancing act of much merit; Joe Mac is a highly amusing comedian and dancer; Georgina Delmar sings well; whilst others who offer good turns are Cliff Rock, baritone vocalist; Frank Coyle, the "continuous" comedian; Dolly Golden, speciality dancer; Marie Francis, comedienne; and Hayes and Watson, capital dancers. Ruffell's Bioscope Pictures are excellent, as usual.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. R. Trippett.—The Five M.P.'s are to the front here this week, in their delightful musical entertainment; A Ba Be's Picture Postcard Album shows some pretty living pictures; Leo Trainor, comedian, takes well; and Maxford and O'Neill are excellent laughter-makers. Other pleasing turns are those of Emil and Edies, banjoists; Carl Howard, comedy conjurer; Barfoot and Corson, comedians; Ada Parker, comedienne and neat dancer; A. E. Clifford, vocalist; and George Acre, character vocalist. Tommy and the Policeman's Whistle is an amusing film shown on the Bioscope.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Walter Ellis and company are seen to advantage here this week in that very amusing playlet, *The Sleepwalker*; the Wedburns have some smart business, and are well received; and Cecilia Gold is a neat burlesque artist. Other capital items are provided by Satani in a novel scena of magic; Victor Courtney, at the piano; Fred Athalan, a clever head-balancer; the Deuchars, duettists and dancers; Jack Walker, versatile comedian; Harry Russon, actor comedian; and Clifford Stuart, Lancashire comedian. Uncle's Picnic on the Bioscope is amusing.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son.—Signor and Mme. Borelli are an entertaining couple, and here this week are meeting with a hearty reception; Mabel Thorne, comedienne, has several taking songs; Herr Karoly Czynski is a fine instrumentalist; Cyclumina, a wonderful electric cycle act, produced by Herbert Adams, is excellent; J. H. Greener, the singing pit lad, is popular; and other smart turns are given by Dix, the necromancer; Francis Haskell, song illustrator; Kail Stern, comedian and eccentric acrobatic dancer; the Sisters Hardie, Scottish duettists and dancers; and Mark Henton, comedian. In a Stone Quarry is an interesting Bioscope subject.

RUSHOLME PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. Phillips.—Here this week Arthur Guilford, Scotch comedian, makes a big hit; Albert Chapman, baritone vocalist, is repeatedly recalled; Vernon Noble, a favourite light comedian, is capital; Rene Steadman is a pleasing comedienne; Annie Coxen, contralto vocalist, sings nicely; George Ford does well as a mimic and ventriloquist; and Fred Shepherd is excellent at the piano.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—*Man and Wife* is this week presented here by Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company, and was witnessed by a large audience on Monday. Mr. John F. Traynor gives a fine performance in the part of Paul Revere; Mr George Rammell is an able Colonel Latour; Mr. E. M. Hamilton is powerful as Captain D'Esparre; Mr. G. Overs is admirable as Jean; Mr. Ambrose Horton makes a fine Sergeant Jacques; the twin brothers Bimbo and Bambo are amusingly portrayed by Mr. E. Hall Eldon and Mr. George Vinning; Miss Kate Hallam is a refined and graceful Marcella; Miss Violet Temple does very well as the blind Mrs. Revere, and Miss Millie Doris is a sprightly and charming Rosette.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Edward Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Kenne.—*The Black Flag* has been presented here this week by the stock company. Mr. Tom Craven, who has been specially engaged, has appeared with great success as Sim Lazarus; Mr. W. Edwyn Holloway has played Harry Glyndon, the village vagabond, capitally; Mr. Frank Stone has scored as Owen Glyndon; Mr. Arthur Burne has been seen to advantage as John Glyndon; and Mr. Reginald H. Stephens as Augustus Scarem, Mr. A. C. Thornhill as Captain Handysides, and Mr. Louis Palgrave as Jem Seton have each done well in their respective rôles. Miss Rita Trekelle has made a favourable impression as Naomi Blandford; and Miss Dorothy Hullah as Ruth Glyndon, Miss Nora Hoffe as Topsy Carroll, and Miss Jessie Lothian as Ned have individually sustained the parts allotted to them most satisfactorily.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—George Marriott and company headed the bill this week with the dramatic sketch *The Maid of the Alps*. Mr. G. M. Marriott as Mother Pothard, the hag of the hills, played a repulsive character effectively; Miss Edith Finlay made an attractive Louise, singing her numbers pleasingly; Mr. Frank Seton as Sir Stratton Towers, Mr. Fred Conyers as Lucas, a brigand chief, Mr. J. A. Stimson, most amusing as Jeremy Biggs, and Mr. R. Albion as Nicolo, were each good in their respective parts. Other contributors to the programme have included Gladys Passmore, comedienne and dancer; Marlo, juggler; the Zampas, duettists and dancers; the Fitzroys, trapeze specialists; and Charles Gardener, dame comedian.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*Sergeant Brue*, presented by Mr. Harry Benet's company, is here. The title-rôle is played with much spirit and humour by Mr. Denis Lyndon; Mr. Harry Benet makes an effective Crookie Scrubbs; Lady Beckenhall is filled with ability by Miss Kay Anderson; Michael Brue is admirably played by Mr. Lester Morrah; Miss Daisie Dale is a delightful Aurora Brue; Miss Mabel Davis a lively Mabel; and Miss Stella Millar a smart Daisy.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The progrmme here this week is headed by the Brothers O'Brien in a fine display on the triple bars; the Brothers Zenary are clever acrobats, and Les Treppellos high-class musicians. The Itrams, in a pot pourri act; Charles Cardle, gipsy vocalist; Gibbon and Bell, in an acrobatic speciality; Mart and Pep, hand balancers and tumblers; and Mabelle May, vocalist and dancer, complete a first-class programme.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company in *Send Him Victorious* is a powerful attraction this week. Miss Marie Robson's delineation of the complex character of Countess Kara Von Mechlinberg was artistic, appealing irresistibly to the sympathy and intelligence of the audience; Miss Irene Munroe was sweet and natural as Ethel Hardinge, and Miss Cecilia Crawford was clever and amusing as Gretchen Holtz. Mr. Montague Beaudyn gave a strong and well sustained rendering of the part of Capt. Frank Allison; Mr. Jerold E. Reed played well as Colonel Kaufmann; Geordie Walker, as portrayed by Mr. Arthur Tomlin, was popular, and his jealousy of Major Strauss (Mr. John Baxter) caused much amusement; Mr. James Burt was a dignified Sergeant Max; and Mr. Frank Holyoake was haughty and austere as the King of Ravonia. Several smaller parts were in good hands. The play was excellently well staged. *The Power of a Wicked Woman* was billed for the last three nights of the week. The Gaietyscope continues popular.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's juvenile company is this week presenting the pantomime, *The House that Jack Built*. Miss Daisy Wood is a dashing Jack and Miss Dolly Dodds a charming Jill, the singing of both being thoroughly enjoyed; Miss Jennie Hughes is a pleasing fairy, and sings in good taste; Mr. Jimmie Watson is a capital dame; Squire Bounce has a clever exponent in Mr. H. Hillerby; Graham and Barron get through a lot of work as the broker's men. There are a number of pretty ballets and a tuneful chorus. Specialities are given by Jimmie Watson, Forget-me-Not Quartette of Dancers, and La Belle Annette, the latter and Miss Gladys Wyse being the solo dancers.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—A fine series of animated pictures this week include the following, amongst others:—The Quebec Pageant, The Ragpicker's Daughter, When Casey Joined the Lodge, A Brother's Sacrifice, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Joseph Edward Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—The visit of the Moody-Manners Opera Company is always looked forward to with much enthusiasm by Middlesbrough playgoers, and on Monday night the house was crowded to its utmost capacity. Verdi's charming opera *Aida* was presented, and at the fall of the curtain on every act there were loud calls, to which the artists had to respond. Mme. De Vere Sapio gave a flawless portrayal of the part of Aida, her magnificent soprano enabling her to meet with admirable ease the heavy calls made upon her; Mr. Philip Brozel proved himself to be a worthy successor to Mr. Joseph O'Mara, one of the most brilliant tenors in English opera. His singing in the second act was superb, and the exquisite beauty of Verdi's music could scarce have found more able or more sympathetic exponents than Mr. Brozel and Mme. De Vere Sapio. Miss Toni Leiter gave a fine interpretation of the difficult rôle of Amneris, and also had a reception. The play calls for exceptional strength to basses, and with Mr. Charles Manners, Mr. Charles Magrath and Mr. W. Dever, the company is well equipped in this respect. The work of the chorus was one of the features of the production, whilst there were some delightful passages by the orchestra, who were ably conducted by Signor Romuld Sapio. During the week the following operas have been produced:—*Il Trovatore*, *Lily of Killarney*, *Faust*, *The Meistersingers*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Maritana*.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Mr. Leonard Boyne and his company were received with the utmost cordiality on Monday when they appeared in *Raffles*. Mr. Boyne's portrayal of the title-rôle is one of his greatest successes. His impersonation of the amateur cracksman is a brilliant study, and he had a great ovation; Harry Manders is admirably represented by Mr. Harold West, and Mr. E. W. Thomas gives a very fine portrayal of the American detective, Curtis Bedford. Miss Hilda Moore is a charming exponent of Gwendoline Couran, and Miss Lilian Hallows is excellent as Mrs. Vidal. The play is nicely staged.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—W. D. Mackenzie and company occupy the star position here this week in an effective musical scena, "Moments with the Masters"; Livesey and Roseberry create roars of laughter in the skit, *Would-be Actors*, and Newco and Sulloe give a clever dancing turn; Richard Fineberg is pleasing in his character impersonations, as is also Albert Rees in instrumental imitations. Tamamoto, on wire and rope, is smart, and Marion Armitage, the comedy girl, is funny.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—Lafayette is again here this week, and scores a great success in his new sensational scena, *The Lion's Bride*. Jannette Hall is a cultivated baritone, and the Debreans give a clever Japanese entertainment; the Complins, in *A Dressing Room Interlude*, are good, and Ryan and Hall, eccentric comedians, and Miss Marie Collins, in her latest successes, are well received.

OXFORD.—Proprietor, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Geo. French.—Robbins and Cellier cause much laughter here this week in their comedy railway scena, *The Lady and the Porter*, and the Two Anartos also amuse the audience; Lucy Coventry renders some excellent dancing and singing; Edmunda proves himself a very clever ventriloquist, and Patrick Playfair (assisted by Miss Vera Davis), Geo. Burns, Billy Richardson, and Mark Daly also provide interesting turns.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Hales.—Dr. Walford Bodie, the famous bloodless surgeon, is paying a return visit here, and on Monday opened to a crowded house. Dr. Bodie gave his usual mystifying electrical and mesmeric turn, besides dealing with his various patients on the stage in full view of his audience. Miss Bella Skene is a charming and dainty burlesque actress; Little Dolly Robson sings a number of songs in a charming manner, and is encored; Francisco, juggler and equilibrist; the Brothers Baxter, comedians; Miss Mabel Martin, in a musical mélange; and Li Chang Hi, Chinese conjuror, who is assisted by the Princess Toko, conclude.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—This week Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod presented, for the first time here, *A Country Girl in London*. On Friday, Miss Bertha Kingston, who plays the title-rôle, had a benefit night, for which special attractions were arranged in the shape of a variety entertainment. The old Squire of Langdale was admirably played by Mr. Jno. S. Sheridan; and both Mr. Garrod and Mr. G. Moreton-Williams added to their laurels in the respective characters of Frank Gordon and Godfrey Clinton; Joe Smithers was capably treated by Mr. Clifford Marle; and Mr. E. W. Avery was distinctly clever as Heinrich Oppenheim. As Wilberforce and Adelaide Phuddyphat Mr. Seymour Perry and Miss Leslie Adair were both intensely humorous. Miss Kingston gave a touching delineation of Marjorie Hamilton; Miss Josephine Colona being equally successful in portraying Gwendoline Gordon.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—A programme of first-class turns is submitted this week and good business continues. Mr. Walter Curtis scores in his humorous songs and clever patter; Kendrick and Laura are wonderful dancers; Mr. F. A. Martell is responsible for a new and novel equilibristic performance; Mr. Walter Barratt has a warm reception for his cultured vocalism; Miss Ethel Thomas has a very nice appearance and sings well; Howard and Wallace cause roars of laughter with their sketch *Taming a Wife*, whilst Miss Lucy Gillet, child juggler, Little Dorris Druce, in impersonations, Mr. Robert Williams in dramatic scena, and the beautiful animated pictures complete the bill.

PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. Frank W. Nall.—Skating is still the rage here. The band plays afternoon and evening, and the attendance is satisfactory.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—A crowded and enthusiastic audience on Monday evening greeted the appearance of Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks in their successful musical play, *The Gay Gordons*. Miss Terriss in the rôle of Peggy Quainton is as delightfully charming as ever, and sings her various songs in a most effective and fascinating style. The irrepressible Mr. Seymour Hicks plays the part of the handsome Highlander, Angus Graeme, in a manner which carries everyone with him, and receives the heartiest appreciation from delighted audiences; Mr. Johnny Danvers, as Nervy Nat, the old showman, Mr. George Carroll as his son, and Sidney Fairbrother as his wife, contribute the major portion of the comic element, and are responsible for any amount of genuine amusement and laughter; and in this respect Mr. Will Bishop as Jack McPhrisky gives able assistance with his clever and eccentric dancing. As the American father, Mr. E. Lugg is seen to advantage; whilst Miss Coralie Blythe gives a charming and piquant study of Victoria Siddons.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Excellent business is the outcome of Miss Annie Hughes's return visit with *The Mollusc*. Miss Hughes sustains the rôle of Mrs. Baxter with complete success; Mr. Athol Stewart does excellently well as Tom Kemp; and Miss Lilias Waldegrave gives a delightful rendering of Miss Roberts, Mr. Alick Chumley being equally successful as Mr. Baxter. The curtain-raiser is *A Bit of Old Chelsea*.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—The attraction here this week is Mr. Fredk. Melville's company in *Married to the Wrong Man*. Mr. Oswald Cray gives a manly portrayal of Captain Gladwin; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff plays with force and skill the part of Captain Deering; and Mr. Charles Vivian gives an excellent interpretation of Jasper Skinner. Mr. Paige Lawrence is well placed as Archie Bird; Mr. Ray Raymond does full justice to the rôle of Sergeant Manners; and Miss Gertrude Boswell is responsible for a finished study of the heroine. Miss Mary Pemberton acquits herself admirably as Rose O'Connor. The comedy element is made much of by Mr. Syd Claydon as Timothy Clinker and Miss May Davis as Dolly Fritters.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—The attraction at this popular house this week is the late Henry Pettit's *Hands Across the Sea*. The company is headed by Mr. Cecil A. Collins, who appears as Jack Dudley, and gives a manly rendering of the character. Mr. Adam Alexander, in a quietly effective way, plays the part of Joseph Stillwood; while Mr. Frank Woodville is equally successful as Dick Melford; and Miss Beatrice Whitney and Miss Lilla Nordon appear as Lillian Melford and Lucy Nettleford respectively.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The queen of music-hall comediennes, Miss Marie Lloyd, is at the head of a fine bill here this week, and is receiving the most flattering reception for her smartly-written and musical songs, rendered in her own inimitable style, and is greatly appreciated. Cruikshanks, a talented musician and singer, enhances a clever turn with an abundance of smart and amusing patter, and also comes in for generous applause; whilst Leo Tell, a humorous mimic of musical instruments and animal calls, is seen to great advantage. Herbert Shelley gives a splendid entertainment in his protean play, *Dan the Outlaw*; whilst another pleasing turn is contributed by Agnes Tina, an exceedingly clever juvenile comedienne and mimic. The Three Brothers Huxter, who do some marvellous leaping; La Belle Nello, a lady contortionist of more than average merit; Charles Stevens, character vocalist; and Rousby's company in *Greater London*, a sort of panoramic display, all contribute to an all-round interesting programme, the Bioscope completing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. W. H. Boardman.—Mr. R. G. Knowles, the American comedian, tops the bill here this week, and other artists appearing are Heeley and Meeley, Hamid Alexander, the Hiatts, John Le Hay and company, C. D. Reekie, Violet Loraine, Rich. Taylor, and Karr and Mooney, the Barrascope completing.

EXHIBITION HALL, ROLLER SKATING RINK.—Manager, Mr. Crowe.—During the past week the numbers of skaters has been large enough to make the rink a most animated and attractive spectacle at every session, and there has been no more popular place of amusement. On Thursday is another "invitation" afternoon to members of the theatrical profession playing in the city.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Reginald Dance's company commenced a week's engagement here on Monday, with *Beau Brocade*. The piece is admirably dressed and mounted. Mr. Reginald Dance plays Capt. Jack Bathurst with spirit and tenderness; Miss Ruth Mackay is a sweet and charming heroine, Lady Patience Gascoyne; and Mr. Dalziel Heron is a bluff, honest John Stich. Miss May Brooke makes a bright Betty; the Duke of Cumberland is well played by Mr. R. Hayes; Mr. Frank Powell impersonates Sir Humphrey Challoner with credit; and Mr. A. E. Mayne as Squire West is a dignified study. Mr. Stanley Lathbury gives a capital character study of Mr. Mittachip; and humour is also provided by Mr. Edward Irwin as Jock Miggs, the shepherd; while Mr. H. Asheton Tonge is funny as Jeremiah Inch, the parish beadle. The piece is preceded each evening by the one-act play, *The Proof*.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—*The Old Neighbourhood*, in which the scenery is gorgeous, is presented by Callaham and St. George, in a very effective manner; and a very cleverly trained troupe of monkeys is put through an interesting and amusing series of performances, by Maud Rochez. Victor Travers is as eccentric as ever; Chas. Vincent's song is much appreciated; and Ray Wallace, the original lady mimic, gives good imitations of music-hall artists. Billy McClain and his happy blacks are amusing; W. G. Webber, who possesses a really fine bass voice, is warmly applauded; Maudie Francis sings and dances admirably; as also does Leoni Dixon. The Bioscope, showing a fine dramatic subject, Gentleman James, completes the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans; Musical-Director, Mr. Walter Ashton.—An excellent programme is headed by Lalie Brooke, in a scena, entitled *Girls, Past and Present*, which meets with great applause, the Gibson and the Sandow Girls being the favourites. The Lombards give a good display of athletic equilibrism; Eldra and his dog are both clever balancers; the Sisters Henderson give a diversified performance as harpists, drummers, and dancers; Petro and Leon present a smart and pretty gymnastic show on the flying wings; Royston and Royce are amusing lady and gentleman comedians; Harry Lawson tenders comic songs, with meet with loud approval; Nib Hinman, gipsy comedian, and the Palace pictures, which are interesting, still continue in favour.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Miss Emma Litchfield and company are here this week, with *A Clever Imposter*. In the rôles of Nora Grosvenor, Sarah Allen, Old Rebecca, and Molly O'Flynn, Miss Emma Litchfield makes the most of her opportunities; Mr. Stuart Cleveland gains much applause for his excellent portrayal of Manuel Teleira; Mr. Alf. Stretton as Captain Desmond does full justice to the part; Mr. Johnnie McElroy is funny as Jim Brightside; Mr. Fred Hawkes makes the most of Harris; Mr. C. A. Britton scores as Sir George Ashfield; and Mr. Arthur Derrick makes a satisfactory Stephen Grosvenor. As Maisie Grosvenor Miss Mabel Durham displays ability; Miss Nancy Blackwood proves an effective Margaret Grosvenor; and Miss Alice Granville makes a hit as Annie Pleasant.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The bill here is headed by Mr. Will Vay's Juveniles, who appear in *Life in the Slums*, which is greatly enjoyed; Mr. George Belrose and Miss Maude de Delin come in for a hearty reception; and Miss Gertie Cavagan, Dutch comedienne and dancer, is clever. Miss Dolly Cusdin, in illustrated songs, is much appreciated; Miss Mabel Brixton, speciality artist, is well received; Mr. Harry Bland, eccentric comedian, is popular; and the Mouldoscope interests with some capital pictures.

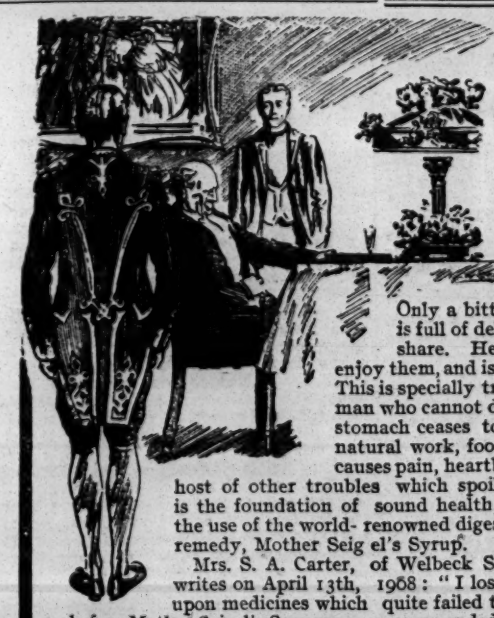
NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—*My Sweetheart* is proving popular here this week, presented by Messrs. Alwyne and Thompson's company. Special credit is due to Miss Violet Hurley, who makes a charming Tina; Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon renews his acquaintance with local theatregoers in the rôle of Tony, and proves to have lost none of his skill; Mr. Chas. Cameron as Dr. Oliver is a good type of the old-fashioned country practitioner; as Dudley Harcourt, Mr. M. Alwyne proves himself a comedian decidedly above the average; Miss K. Bratby plays Mrs. Fletcher in a quiet, convincing manner, and is ably supported by Mr. Stewart Quartermayne, in the disagreeable part of Harold Bartlett; Mr. A. W. Thompson looks and acts the broken-down husband, Joe Shotwell, to the life; Miss Belle Russell makes an excellent Mrs. Hatzell. The Empire Troupe of singers and dancers are clever.

PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—This house continues to draw packed audiences nightly. One of the most popular turns this week is Percy Victor's troupe of performing dogs; the Shamrocks are excellent vocalists, and their dancing is very skilful; Mr. Will Daniels is the cause of much merriment with his quaint patter; Miss Alice Lingard is a dainty soubrette; Arthur and Angus are clever comedians; Miss Beattie Howard was accorded well-deserved encores for her songs; Eddie Clay convulses the house nightly with his novel comedy musical act; and Ruffell's Bioscope is one of the most popular items.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. George Dance's excellent company is here this week performing *Miss Hook of Holland*. Mr. T. A. Shale is thoroughly humorous as Mr. Hook, and Mr. Tom Seymour equally so as Simon Slinks; Mr. George Idle as Capt. Adrian Paap and Mr. Frank Crimp as Van Vuyt are very good; Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun., as Ludwig Schnapps deserves mention; Miss Cissie Sephton as Mina secures an excellent reception for her singing and acting; Miss Alice Coverick as Miss Hook deserves every praise, and Miss Tattie Leonard is good as Gretchen.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—The Six Brothers Luck are here in their laughable travesty *The Demon of the Cellar*; Frances Letty gets a hearty greeting; Enid Errol and company in *The Magic Vase* are good; Princess Pauline is a popular comedienne; J. W. Gallagher, comedian, Pete and Juno, coloured comedians, Elton and Elma, knockabouts, and Abalo and Hurst, in a comedy act, are very satisfactory, and the Hippo-Bio is attractive.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Merry Widow* made her first appearance on Monday and had a flattering reception. The name part was played by Miss Constance Drever with delightful archness, and her perfect vocalism roused storms of applause; Miss Ethel Cadman gave a charming rendering of the music of Natalie; Miss Sylvia May sang and acted with the necessary vivaciousness as Olga, and Miss Kathleen Courtney supplied an artistic embodiment of Sylvaine. Mr. W. Talleur Andrews made a distinct hit as the Vicomte, singing with commendable vigour and taste, and Mr. Leonard Mackay's well-balanced voice was heard with effect in the songs of Prince Danilo. The quaint and quiet comedy of Mr. W. H. Rawlins was well exemplified in the part of Nisch, and as Baron Popoff Mr. Eric Thorne gave full rein to his exuberant humour. Mr. Norman Greene played St. Brioche on thoroughly amusing lines, and high praise is also due to Messrs. Somers Bellamy, Sinclair Cotter, and Theodore Leonard. The chorus num-



WHAT ARE MILLIONS TO THE MAN WHO IS ILL

Only a bitter mockery. The world is full of delights in which he cannot share. He can buy them but not enjoy them, and is poor despite his millions. This is specially true of the dyspeptic—the man who cannot digest his food. When the stomach ceases to effectually perform its natural work, food ceases to nourish and causes pain, heartburn, wind, acidity, and a host of other troubles which spoil life. Perfect digestion is the foundation of sound health, and that is assured by the use of the world- renowned digestive tonic and stomachic remedy, Mother Seig el's Syrup.

Mrs. S. A. Carter, of Welbeck Street, Castleford, Yorks, writes on April 13th, 1908: "I lost much time and money upon medicines which quite failed to cure me of indigestion before Mother Seigel's Syrup was recommended to me. But soon after I began to take that remedy a new world opened to me. I could again breathe freely, my appetite retu rned, and so did my old strength and energy."

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bers were admirably rendered, and the dainty dancing of Miss Vivienne Vowles was quite a feature of the performance.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—In *The Kiss of Judas* Hardie and Von Leer have a first-class drama, and have gathered together a capital company for its presentation. Mr. E. Howard Templeton, an actor of robust methods, represents the hero in a fine manly fashion and receives considerable assistance from Miss Jess Dorynne, who works hard from start to finish as Dorothy Marlow; Miss Catherine Clarke as Nancy Nollid does well in a difficult part, and Mr. Charles V. Sanford has a congenial rôle as Frank Sudley. A thorough-going villain is ably portrayed by Mr. J. H. Darnley as Captain Brandon, and the child part of Little Jack is prettily sustained by Miss Bertha Hanbury. The fun of the piece is amply provided by Mr. Henry C. Moreton as Parkiss and Miss Laura Dyson as Daisy. Mr. Herbert Leonard makes a satisfactory Jake Long and Mr. Herbert de Ville does well as the parson. Miss Isabel de Cresse is good as the Indian girl.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Mme. Alice Esty's glorious voice is heard in operatic selections and ballads, and audiences testify their high appreciation of this famous artist's work; the ventriloquial patter of Tom Edwards is always smart, and creates roars of laughter; W. L. Murray, winner of the Sandow statuette, delights his friends by the easy manner in which he manipulates unwieldy articles; the coster songs of Gus Elen are an undoubted attraction, and include his latest, "The Wrong 'Un's Bedroom"; Bertha Winder, who is quite a youngster, gives a remarkable exhibition of clog-dancing; Naughton and Gold add to the merriment by their cross-talking, and Les Voces are heard in several songs and duets. The Imperial Russian Troupe dance themselves into favour, and the programme also contains pictures on the Bioscope and Frank Cough, comedian.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Miss Kate Carney heads the bill here. She is supported by a large company that does the greatest credit to her two sketches, *The Postman* and *The Yiddisher Boy*. The impersonations of well-known actors by George Carncross are well done; Keen and Waller, a smart couple of knock-about comedians, keep the fun rolling; Vasey and Ramsey are equally at home in dancing or in humorous patter; the bijou animal circus of Charles Prelle is further helped by his clever ventriloquism; La Freya provides an artistic item, and the Zaid Trio of Spanish Moors supply a speciality act. The song of Michael Nolan and pictures on the Barrascope add to the general enjoyment.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. Fred J. Webb's company is this week presenting the stirring drama *The Hour of Her Triumph*. Mr. F. J. Webb as the villain, Eugene Harberry, plays with energy and resource; Mr. Will Henderson as Harold Clavering is well suited; Mr. Frank Wheatley as Jack Vernon and Mr. James Stuart as Roscenes Montmorency act in a manner highly creditable, and Mr. Louis Nanton in the rôle of Ben Brodie gives a fine humorous rendering of a typical Yorkshireman. Miss M. Danvers-Smith plays as Zelis Clairmont with marked success; Miss Lallah Price in the double rôle of Sal Soaker and Martha Jinks is entirely satisfactory; Miss F. MacInnes makes a vivacious Jenny Jinks; the pathetic Nellie Clavering is admirably portrayed by Miss Isabel Stevenson, and Miss Pauline Nanton wins much approval as Linda Denton.

OLDBURY.—Palace.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—The Sisters Holman have been retained another week, and are encored nightly; Mr. Dave Sands (late of Sands and Shipley) is a refined comedian and dancer; Little Dolly Monk has a good voice; the Kennards keep the house in one scream of laughter; Miss West is a good vocalist; and the pictures are A1.

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Hardie and Von Leer's company, in *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*, is here on a return visit. The sisters, Constance and Nellie, played by Misses Rosslyn Vane and Alice Defoe respectively, are both well acted; Miss Marguerite Trevosper is capable as Bessie Edmunds; Miss Marie Corri as the daughter Lucy is excellent; Miss Evelyn Shaw as Jane Adelaide is smart, and along with Mr. Chris Mason as Samuel Hallett causes hearty laughter; Mr. Herbert Pearson makes an interesting John Edmunds; and Mr. E. Rayson Cousens is capital as the Rev. Frank Selby. Mr. Fred Morgan is fully equal to the demands of the heavy character of Jonas Deane; Messrs. Jack Miller and Walter Walmsley as Jim Price and Ratty Gabbitt are well suited; and Mr. Dick Winslow makes a smart Dr. Gay. Mr. Ronald Clive as Jellaby and Mr. R. Elliston Bevens as Edward Langley are also very good.

Colosseum Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company, in *Her Forbidden Marriage*, has been attracting large audiences. Mr. Henry Lonsdale is a manly George Madison; his enemy, Charles Devereaux, being ably sustained by Mr. Louis Hector. Miss Geraldine Le Sage plays Lucy in a winning manner; Miss Grace Lester makes a powerfully vindictive Lady Lucretia; Miss Maud Merrick as Patty and Mr. Fred De Vere as Timothy cause much laughter; and Mr. Vincent Loraine also does well as Joe Lambkin. Mr. C. Davidson is good as Geoffrey Broughton; and Mr. H. Gomer May is a capable Sir George Lancaster.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Charlene and Charlene top the bill here in their clever musical and juggling act; Joe O'Gorman's Irish humour is infectious; Iben-Obed is clever in his equilibristic turn; Nada Moret, in her delightful entertainment, again proves her ability; Miss Georgette Thierry, Bernard Lieli, and company present a capitally acted sketch, *A Daughter of the Revolution;* Morrin and Cardiff introduce smart dancing; Minnie D'Aubyn sings good songs; and Harry Claff is capital in "The Demon and the Fairy."

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge.—*The Collar Stud*, played by Muir, Bartlett, and company, goes merrily, causing hearty laughter; Fred W. Millis is highly successful with his ventriloquial act; Jimmy Shields takes well in his songs and dances; the Sisters Casselli are smart dancers; Harris and Worth are amusing as sporting comedians; Nat Watkins is a capable eccentric; and the Dottoscope concludes.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—*Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* attracted excellent business here the latter half of last week; and Miss Madge Carr Cook's impersonation of Mrs. Wiggs was a triumphant success. This week, Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is playing *Brewster's Millions* to full and highly appreciative houses, the piece being represented so smartly that it completely carried the house with it, and there was a positive furore of applause atthe finish. Mr. Percy Hutchison was never better suited than as Monty Brewster, and plays in a natural free style that completely captures the house. He is ably supported by an excellent company, including Miss Cicely Stuckey as Peggy, a dainty and fascinating performance; Miss Lilias Earle (a great favourite here) as Mrs. Dan; and Miss Eva Stuart, who plays Barbara Drew in a satisfactory fashion. Mr. Percy Hutchison has every reason to be pleased with one of the most successful visits he has ever paid us.

East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Boswell's Royal Circus is proving a great attraction. The show, as a whole, is exceptionally good, and some very clever turns are given. Amongst those worthy of special mention are the marvellous spring-board leaping act by the clowns over a number of ponies; Charles Austin, a clever feet equilibrist; and Kame Yasuda, a smart little Jap, who does some skilful rope-walking and balancing. Among other items are Lily and Elsie Judge's cockatoos, the comic ponies, and the revolving table, which causes considerable fun and laughter. The performance concludes with fun in a circus riding-school, the riding machine being introduced on the stage.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*Arrah-na-Pogue* is being staged here this week by Mr. Chalmers Mackey and company. Shaun is excellently and humorously portrayed by Mr. Mackey, and as Arrah-na-Pogue Miss Nana Flensberg deports herself in characteristic style. A fine portraiture of Beamish McCoul is submitted by Mr. Percy Horton; Mr. Charles Homer essays with considerable success the part of Col. O'Grady; Mr. Henry Sainsbury gives a capital embodiment of Oiny Farrell; and as Michael Feeney Mr. St. John Stuart furnishes a splendid characterisation. Mrs. Chalmers Mackey as Fanny Power plays well; Miss Adele Liddon as Kitty Walsh scores a success, and as Eily O'More Mme. Constance Bellamy sings delightfully.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Charles Majilton and his company sustain the leading place on the programme this week, and in the sketch *The Trippers* are accountable for a vast amount of fun; Peter Bermingham, Scotch comedian, is as entertaining as ever and scores with new songs; the Three Orros give a marvellous demonstration of feats of strength and posing on the silver chains; Frand Harwood, actor-vocalist, delights with some excellent singing; Colin Bryce and company furnish an entertaining comedy act, *Are You a Socialist?* Rose Coleman as a comedienne and dancer is well received; Harry Conlin, comedian, sings very funny songs; George Probyn and Lydia Bates submit a clever pot-pourri act; and the Bioscope is interesting with new pictures.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—Mr. F. Chabôt's company is here this week, and on Monday and Tuesday *Only a Woman* was presented to packed houses. Mr. Leslie K. Manton earned much praise as Courtney Wallace; Mr. F. Green as Lieut. Richard Summerfield, R.N., filled the hero's rôle with good effect; Mr. Charles Wilton as Lieut. Rodney Summerfield proved himself a gifted stage villain; as Billy Bumpkins, a buttons, Mr. Geo. Willis is extremely funny, with a craze for Limericks and a love for Eliza Jane, Miss Flo Bevan filling the latter rôle admirably, and singing a good song; as James Dobson, a flunkey, Mr. A. Silvernie plays well. The child Harold is in the safe keeping of little Miss Jessie Burdett, who not only acts prettily, but also sings uncommonly well. The part of Violet Redgrave is admirably sustained by Miss Lily Ferris; Miss Violet Cranfurd, in the title-rôle (Marie Lestoc), acts almost to perfection, and is full of dramatic instinct; Marie's child (Grace) is well entrusted to Miss Rosie Field. On Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday *The Vengeance of Women* was presented.

PENTRE.—Tivoli Palace and Hippodrome, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping an excellent bill here this week are the Piccolinis (Liliputian wonders), whose marvellous wire-walking, acrobatic, and cycling feats evoke loud admiration; Viviana and company (who were engaged to replace the Ombardos, who were unavoidably absent) create screams of laughter in their funny sketch *The Toy Shop;* Slippere, the blind entertainer, performs with admirable skill and dexterity on the piano and other instruments; Percy Farrimond excites the admiration of the audience in his well-rendered solos; comedy boxing and wrestling is indulged in by Tom and Neil; a clever exhibition of clog and big-boot dancing is contributed by Macintosh and Royal; Bert Terrell, the Dutch comedian and vocalist, is cordially received; and the Tivoliscope with its series of up-to-date films completes the programme.

Workmen's Hall and Institute.—Secretary, Mr. D. Davies.—Will Stone's Twentieth Century Pictures are here for the season, and are well patronised. The films include the latest in every department, comic and otherwise, the Franco-British Exhibition being an exceptional draw. Sidney Parker, the blind male soprano, and Frank Parr, the Welsh comedian and tenor, in their successful acts, *Taffy and the Toff* and *The Rivals*, also prove an attraction.

PERTH.—Perth Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—*Dear Old Charlie* provides the entertainment here this week. Mr. George Lestocq in the title-rôle is very successful; Mr. C. Douglas Cox and Mr. R. S. Trelawny as Charlie's friends, Gabriel Peploe and Thomas Dumphie, assist largely in providing the fun of the piece; Mr. Duncan Young acts with dignity the part of Colonel Fishbourne; Mr. Stanley Arthur is quietly humorous as Purkitt; and Mr. G. Smythe gives satisfaction as the florist's boy. Miss Enid G. Forde as Agnes is very pleasing; Miss Leonora Braham gives a capital performance as Mrs. Fishbourne, the Colonel's wife; and Miss Viola Holland is good as the maid.

PETERBOROUGH.—New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards.—The leading turn here this week is provided by Edward Croslands' melody makers in their phantom scena, *The Burglar's Dream*, introducing Darren Llewellyn, the Welsh baritone; Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink's company in *St. George and the Dragon* is well worth seeing; T. G. Carroll is a comedian and dancer; Jennie Alexander is a very clever child comedienne and mimic; Sam Redfern is well received; Lytton and Bland give an up-to-date speciality act; and Stratton Mills and company are most amusing in an absurdity entitled *Fooled*.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The "first and last" visit of Sir John Hare has been an unqualified success, and notwithstanding a substantial increase in the prices large and fashionable audiences have nightly assembled to bear tribute to his popularity. On Monday in *A Pair of Spectacles* Sir John furnished a splendid character study of Goldfinch, while Mr. Charles Groves as the careful, calculating Uncle Gregory was hardly less successful. Mr. Ivo Dawson as Percy Goldfinch and Mr. Bertram Steer as Dick Goldfinch raised hearty laughter with their troubles as briefless barristers; Mr. W. J. Lovell as Lorimer introduced an element of pathos into the piece; Miss A. B. Thomas made a sympathetic Lucy Lorimer and Miss Mona K. Oram was a graceful Mrs. Goldfinch. In *A Quiet Rubber* Sir John's conception of the irascible, impecunious, yet proud, Lord Kilclare and the delineation of the warm-tempered, yet generous, Irishman, Mr. Sullivan, by Mr. Charles Groves were again received with unfeigned delight.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—George Hackenschmidt is paying his farewell visit to the West and continues to prove an enormous draw. The Tally-Ho Trio's musical contributions are worth going a long way to hear; Rene is a lady juggler whose feats of skill are followed with rapt attention; McDonald and Huntingdon are an amusing pair of American eccentrics, and Sandy and Carl furnish a first-rate pot-pourri comedy turn. Edwin Rutland, billed as the "cheerful idiot," Edith St. Claire, vocalist, and Roy Beavis, conjurer, add materially to the attractiveness of the programme.

PONTEFRACT.—Alexandra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—At the head of the bill this week are the Four Elwyns, who prove a perfectly balanced quartette, and give a dramatic and vocal sketch illustrative of an incident in a mine; they are really good. The Saletos are more than clever in hand and head balancing; the Bellevilles dance and sing daintily; and Henriette and Selina do a clever musical turn; Carl Bennie is a capable ventriloquist; and the Brothers Harrison are screamingly funny in their "patter." Wat Tyler sings well; the Rowntrees add to the hilarity; and Alf Passmore is a comedian of exceptional ability.

PORTH.—The Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping the bill we have Harry Blake in his patter songs and comedy scena *The Man in the Moon;* Mlle. Du Roche is accorded a good reception; Hyde and Cody are undoubtedly smart in their performance; Stanley's Urchins meet with great approval in their harmony, comedy, and dancing act; Ada Gatley gives a graceful performance on the slack wire; Winnie Derson scores as a comedienne; Tom E. Cliff is a capital comedian and dancer; Rita Rhylle is also well received; the Palascope has a series of up-to-date films; and Harry Anderson also appears.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company is here this week with *My Mimosa Maid*. Miss Marie Studholme as Paulette is charming, singing delightfully; Mr. Charles McNaughton is irresistibly funny as Victor Guilbert; Max Guilbert is divertingly played by Mr. Charles Paton; Mr. Percy Carr as M. Emilie Gerrard is admirable; Captain Louis de Laurier is capably enacted by Mr. John H. Goldsworthy; Mr. Arthur Jackson is amusing as Grove; Master Archie McCaig does excellent work as Bock; Miss May Garstang as Mme. de Piliane appears with success; Miss Eva Sandford ably impersonates Popitte, and Miss Ruby Gray is praiseworthy as Marcelle Pilaine.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*The Diver's Luck* is being performed here by Mr. Andrew Emm's company. Mr. Henry Cullenford cleverly sustains the part of Martin Fisher; Mr. Fred A. Marston as Barney Brawn does excellent and appreciated work; Tom Hall, alias Cranston, is ably delineated by Mr. William J. Miller; Mr. Fred Scarth depicts Maurice Wyngate with vigour and ability; and Pedro is played with success by Mr. Kendrew Milsom. Miss Dora Pass's Helen Wyngate is all that could be desired, and Miss Pearl Noyle admirably sustains the part of Peggy Mahoney.

King's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Mr. John Tiller's company is here in *High Jinks*. It is full of animation and "go," and pleases greatly. The Werds are a smart and spirited pair of knockabouts; B. Troba, strong-man juggler, does some wonderful tricks, and receives ample recognition; Lauri Wylie and his manikins please by capable imitations of popular artists; Fred Walmsley, comedian, in his latest success, "The Dotty Poet," causes plenty of laughter; the Three Comerfords are clever and score highly; W. T. Ellwanger and company in the comedy sketch *The Peacemaker* do an excellent turn; Myra Love and troupe, The Idlers, and animated pictures of more than usually diverting character fill up the programme.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Mr. Arthur Lennard is heading the bill here and meeting with unqualified approval; Musical Silvo gives an enjoyable performance on the musical glasses, &c.; Chenton and Chicks present a creditable entertainment in *The Children's Birthday Party;* Charles Carr, singing and dancing cowboy, submits an agreeable turn; Crissie Cross, a dainty comedienne, pleases all; Duncan and Godfrey are excellent in their coster comedy *Me and 'Er;* Payne's Bio shows some new instructive and amusing pictures; and Wild, Willie, and West with their extravagantly humorous sketch *The Three Bounding Navvies* are responsible for vociferous hilarity.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.—Miss Ethel Arden and George Abel score well here with their excellent sketch *Three of a Kind;* Les Vallis are a clever comedy acrobatic trio; Lillian Farrar, a smart comedienne and dancer, pleases all; Ross and Grayson, a comedy couple, submit a quaint musical turn, "Piano Playing Extraordinary," causing much amusement; Rex Fox gives a novel item, "Ventriloquism on the Wire"; the Wakeman Quintette are harmonious and take well in their musical comedy sketch; Athas and Collins are a popular comedy duo; Lester May does some attractive work; Miss Hilda Jacobsen is a dashing comedienne whose vocalisation is much admired, and the Hippo pictures conclude the entertainment.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. George Dance's company in *The Girls of Gottenberg* was welcomed by a crowded house on Monday, who thoroughly enjoyed this brisk and sparkling piece; Mr. Bertie Wright was immensely funny as Max Moddelkopf, and his every entry was the signal for much merriment; Mr. Tom Shelford as Otto also met with a hearty reception, which he well deserved; Mr. Howard Cridland as Brittl Bottl was responsible for much laughter; Mr. Hugh Henson was a capital Albrech; Mr. Morgan Rickards as the Burgomaster, and Mr. Edwin Stanley as Kannenbier were both good; and Mr. Tom Squire was a very droll Adolph. Miss Ellaline Thorne was a captivating Mitzi, and won loud applause for her excellent rendition of the part; much praise is due to Miss Annie Grey, who added greatly to the success of the piece by her capital rendering of Elsa; Miss Susie Bearden was a vivacious Katrina; and Miss May Marshall was deservedly applauded for her clever portrayal of Clementine. Miss Violet Romaine was a smart and effective Minna. The minor characters were all in good hands, and a most efficient chorus rendered the catchy musical numbers with excellent effect, under the able conductorship of Mr. Otto Manns. The dresses and scenery are excellent.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Lingford Carson and company, in *The Great White Chief*, is here this week, arousing enthusiasm. Leo Stanley (the Great White Chief) finds a powerful exponent in Mr. Mansell Fane; Mr. Lingford Carson's Reindeer (the Dumb Chief) is a clever bit of acting; Mr. George Butler as Hartley Deane, Mr. Norman Purnell as Black Forest, and Mr. Dobson Clyde as Sparrow Hawke are all good; Mr. Leonard Maitland as George Rupert Walker, and Miss Amy Ross Clyde as Martha Jane Curtley are responsible for much of the comedy element, which is thoroughly appreciated. Miss Dulcie Lawrence gives a strong rendering of the part of Hester Stafford, and, together with Miss Polly Denville as Latika, scores a decided success; Mr. Hugh Brady as John Warton, Jack Story as Ernest John Wallett, W. Melrose as Strong Arm, S. Elland as Dave Carter, and Hector Saunbly as Pierre, also do well. The play is capitally mounted.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Chief among the items of this week's bill are Tuby Edlin and a strong company in a merry little musical production, entitled *The Cowboy Millionaire*, produced by Mr. Harry Roxbury, which contains humorous situations, capital choruses, and is well staged and dressed. Ajax and George give a most original and daring gymnastic act; Arthur Bearle, the Lancashire comedian, meets with a good reception; Radie Forman is a great success as the Jolly Little Dutch Girl, her sabot dancing being really excellent; the Swift Duo, the lady cyclist and the inimitable gratesque, give a good turn; the Bros. Lydamore, vocalists, patterers, and dancers, are decidedly popular; George Prince, the crazy comedian, is funny without being in the least vulgar; Milner and Storey, a comedy duo, entertain with some capital duets and dances; and the Bioscope concludes.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Victoria Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—Admirable performances have been given on the evenings of the past week by Miss Mary Neil, Mr. George Kirk, and company in the effective drama *From Shopgirl to Duchess*, which tells a cleverly-written story in an interesting manner. Miss Mary Neil, in most accomplished fashion, plays Sylvia Grey, the shopgirl who afterwards becomes a Duchess, her acting being marked by fine dramatic force. Mr. Douglas Cecil handles with skill the character of the Duke of St. Baynum, and the other parts are represented in a manner which calls only for praise.

Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—Popular performances have been put on twice nightly during the week by the Palace Picture Co., whose exhibitions of animated pictures have been considerably appreciated. Variety turns intersperse the pictures, Derrick and Brereton being responsible for an amusing sketch entitled *An Unhappy Pair*.

Marina Theatre.—Interesting animal picture shows continue to give marked satisfaction to Marina audiences. The shows, which include vaudeville turns, are given twice nightly.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is here this week with *Two Little Vagabonds*. As the "little vagabonds" the Misses Alice Leon (Wally) and Denise Zaleski (Dick) give charming impersonations, their acting being most sympathetic; Miss Florence Dalton acts with true womanly feeling as Marion Thornton; and Miss Marion Fawcett gives an excellent interpretation of Barbara. Miss Ida Drayton as Nurse Randall submits an artistic portrayal; and Miss Marie Pritchard as Biddy and Mr. Martin Sands as Bill Mullins were responsible for the comedy of the play. Mr. Richard A. Greene is a clever and artistic George Thornton; as Captain Darville Mr. Arthur E. Melborne is most successful; and Mr. Joseph Brandon as John Scarth is everything that is desirable. The remaining characters are well sustained, and the staging all that could be desired.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. James Welch's company is appearing this week in the mirthful farce *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. Henry J. Ford as Sir Guy de Vere gives a clever impersonation; Mr. Vernon Sansbury as Isaac Isaacson and Mr. Cecil Clayton as Hon. Charles Widdicombe appear to advantage; Mr. William Lockhart is good as the Rev. Peter Pottlebury; Mr. George Rowlands ably enacts Sir Brian Ballymote; Miss Phyllis Back meets with success as Miss Sarah Isaacson; Miss Violet Graham as Lady Millicent and Miss Gretchen Yates as Lady Marjorie merit praise; Miss Adrienne Yates is accomplished as Kate Pottlebury; and Miss Bruce Joy as Lady Rowena is all that could be desired. The tour is under the direction of Mr. Arthur Whittaker.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr P. E. Draco.—Dolly Elsworthy and company, in the romantic sketch *The Orange Girl*, meet with unqualified success; Newham and Latimer, burlesque artists, are good; The Brewsters, banjoists and dancers, play and dance well; Ronald Bagnell is a good entertainer; the Moxon Trio of eccentrics are clever; and other good turns are Kate Marsh, comedienne; Lloyd Morgan, a light comedian; and the Palace Bioscope.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*The Prince of Pilsen* occupies the boards here this week. Mr. Harry Kilburn creates roars of laughter by his droll impersonation of Hans Wagner; Mr. Leslie Owen appears to advantage as Carl Otto; Mr. Arthur Geary possesses a good voice, and scores heavily as Lieut. Tom Wagner; Mr. Charles Rogers is amusing as the dude, Arthur Willoughby; and Mr. Ernest Gifford makes a capital François. Miss Dora Christian as Edith Adams vocalises in fine style; Miss Nellie Lomas sweetly enacts the part of Nellie Wagner; Sidonie is in the good hands of Miss Mabel Dent; and Miss Sophie Harriss is a host in herself as Mrs. Maddison Crocker.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Gertie Gitana tops the bill here this week with an entertaining vocal and dancing act; Morny Cash as "the Lancashire Lad" has a gratifying reception; Ernie Meyers is a comedian who always pleases here; Lily Lonsdale is an exceptional vocalist; Lavelle Brothers are clever comedy acrobats; and other artists appearing are Nellie Ridgway and Clown in pot-pourri act; Jack E. Dawe, comedian; and the Empire Bioscope pictures.

RUGBY.—Town Hall.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company presented the comic opera *The Dandy Fifth*. Mr. Percy Baverstock as the Colonel gave a clever and amusing rendering; Mr. J. Edward Frazer as Dick Darville, and also as Claude Duval, was a great success; as Sergeant-Major Milligan Mr. George Beverley created much amusement; Mr. Jack Crichton as Brown was much appreciated; Miss Pauline Hague as the Merry Madcap made a great success; Miss Nora Morra is a smart and piquant Polly; and the singing of the Male Quartette party is very fine; Miss Sadie Thompson's dancing is popular.

RUNCORN.—Public Hall Theatre.—Proprietors, The Public Hall Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. E. S. Lea.—Gustave Roselle's company of "Merry Zingaras" are attracting good houses here this week with a bright round of songs, dances, legerdemain exhibition, and pictures. The vocalists and dancers are Miss Vera Winston, Miss Violet Nana, Miss Nance Lewis, Miss Marjorie Rogers, Miss Ada Andrews, Mr. R. J. Goldston, Mr. Gus Burridge, and Mrs. Gustave Roselle. Prince Levvie introduces some novel sleight-of-hand work, and the Cinematograph display is up to date in subjects and working.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*For Love of a Woman* was followed with interest by a good audience on Monday, when Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Day's company commenced a week's engagement here. Miss May Day presented the heroine, Nance Manor, with ability; Ned Merrick was in the capable hands of Mr. J. Ord; Mr. Frederick Garratt made an excellent villain of Guy Manor; Mr. Eustace Day cleverly portrayed the blind old Allen Paget. Much laughter was contributed by Mr. C. Ninian as Major Hulmes, Mr. Leonard S. Harrison as the dude Albert, Mr. Fred Ramsdale as the would-be detective Sam Holland, and Miss Belle Victoria as the giddy Marjory Hulmes. Miss Nellie de Lacy as Nell Paget and Miss Eva St. Vincent as Jane Manor were charming; and Mr. Ernest Yandel (Tom Jones) and Mr. Brook Leicester gave good support.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Lady Mansell's Juveniles in their "Concert Rehearsal" are much enjoyed; the Dandies also give their smart musical act; Tom E. Hughes, comedian, much amuses with his songs; Mlle. Eldee's living picture poses are very pleasing; Doody and Wright, Australian comiques, keep the house in roars; Zetta, in her clever wire act; Lettie and Florence, duettists and dancers; Cline and Clark, clever speciality dancers; and the Haverleys, with their American illustrated songs, also contribute to the excellent programme.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—The Bouncing Dillons head a good programme this week, and get much applause; Billy Farrell causes amusement; Edwin Garth, the quaint dame, keeps the house highly amused; Vernon Harcourt's mimicry is much enjoyed; Coverdale and Huxley's Bijou Juveniles in musical scena, *Pansy's Birthday*, submit some good singing and dancing. Other meritorious turns include Will Sullivan, comedian and patterer; Baddow, ventriloquist; Dolly Ross, comedienne and dancer; Bros. Ford, in "The Poetry of Motion"; Ida Barr, burlesque actress; and Beau and Belle, in scena *Past and Present*.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Blind is the title of an excellent pathetic film, and other good pictures include Organ-grinder's Daughter, Detectives Fritt and Flock, Killing Remorse, Banana Industry, Poor Doggy, Living Blackbird, Nick Carter, Detective, Amorous Nurse, and His First Experiment in Chemistry. The illustrated song, "When the hills are white with heather," by Mr. Lester King, goes well.

SALISBURY.—County Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company opened here on Monday to a full house in *The Belle of Mayfair*, and had a good reception. As Sir John Chaldicott Mr. Sidney Burt deserves the greatest praise, Mr. Stephen Hall as the Earl of Mount Highgate is excellent; Mr. Michael Raven is clever as Hugh Meredith; the Raymond Finchley of Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft is much appreciated; Mr. A. Batting as Comte de Perrier is capable; Mr. Tom Lyle as the Bishop of Brighton is good; Miss Patricia Weldon in the rôle of the Princess both looks and acts in a charming manner; Miss Denny Fitzherbert makes a delightful Lady Chaldicott, and as Julia Chaldicott Miss Nellie Barnwell scores heavily; Miss Grace Mackay proves herself very smart as Lady Rosaline; and Pincott has a dainty exponent in Miss Dora Lyons.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Houses packed from stalls to gallery testify to the popularity of Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, which is fulfilling a successful engagement here this week in *With Edged Tools*. Sir John Meredith is a serious and convincing character as presented by Mr. J. A. Rosier, and the fine voice and style of Mr. William F. Grant are displayed to advantage in the character of Jack Meredith. Mr. Charles Hartopp takes advantage of every opportunity as Guy Oscard; the Victor Durnove of Mr. Campbell Goldsmid is a cleverly-conceived study in villainy; Mr. J. Pockett and Mr. F. Leyton fulfil easily the requirements of their respective parts, viz., Maurice Gordon and Lieut. Conynghame; Miss Phyllis Relph presents an interesting and pleasing study of Jocelyn Gordon; the difficult rôle of the young and pretty deceiver is powerfully enacted by Miss Marie Leonhard; the placid and peaceful style of Miss Isabel Grey embellishes gracefully the part of Lady Cantourne, a powerful contrast being afforded by the brisk and vivacious rendering of Lady Herries by Miss Violet Thorold; Marie is skilfully portrayed by Miss Frances Wolviston; and the remaining characters are all adequately represented.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is paying a return visit here with *The Face at the Window*. Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale portrays Lucio Delgado in his customary admirable manner; Mr. Scott Leighton is a resourceful Paul Gouffet; Lucian Cortier is agreeably presented by Mr. Arthur Beverley; Mr. Alfred Warne is a praiseworthy Henry de Brisson; as Peter Pottlebury Mr. Henri Stewart provokes much mirth; Miss Elsie Marriott Watson wins praise for her charming portrayal of Marie; and as Babette Miss Louie Lonora is popular.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge again presented his brilliantly-staged musical comedy production *The Dairymaids* to a large audience on Monday, when the familiar features of the play were received with hearty applause. That excellent dramatic artist Miss Edith Blanche again proved the value of a sound early training combined with inherited talent by her graceful and dignified acting in the part of Lady Brudenell; the character of Peggy was charmingly played by dainty and accomplished Miss Phyllis Dare; Winifred had a fascinating and tuneful representative in Miss Gladys Ivery; Miss Lottie Sargent was a pretty and vivacious Eliza, and, in company with Mr. Harry Dent as Joe Mivins, kept the house in a continuous ripple of laughter; Mr. E. Statham-Staples was first-rate as Lieutenant Brudenell; and Mr. Percy Marshall was, as usual, admirable in a comedy part. The chorus was good, and the costumes and scenery were magnificent.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*Oliver Twist*, a clever adaptation of Charles Dickens's famous story, is being acted to good houses by Miss Winifred Chalmers's special company.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*When London Sleeps* is being played this week by the following artists: Miss Mabel Scudamore, Miss Lilla Wilde, Miss Mona Hall, Miss Bella Power, Miss C. Middleton, Miss Doris Brereton, Miss H. Holmes, and Messrs. Edward E. Ashby, Harry Wren, E. C. Edwards, F. Thomas, Douglas Campbell, F. C. Pick, Frank Howard, C. Clements, Fred Bernardo, and the popular representative of Ezra Lazerack the Jew, Mr. Harry Emmerson. The drama is effectively staged.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The names of Arthur Roberts and J. W. Rowley on the bill arouse pleasurable memories in the minds of old music-hall habitués, and both of these "good old pros" were accorded the enthusiastic welcome typical of the Sheffield public—a public ever loyal to its deserved and well-tried stage favourites. "J. W." was as full of wholesome fun as

audiences. Munstead's Circus, combined with the original Colibris Midgets, makes an entertainment complete in all the familiar details of an equestrian establishment; Mr. Max Waldon's realistic female impersonations are loudly applauded, and his elegant dancing brings down the house; the Van Host trio are three clever, agile, and diverting eccentric acrobats; Herr Vandehoff does some artistic pictures at a rapid rate; Blake and Amber are a smart pair of American burlesque artists, and win deserved applause; the two Barraois are intrepid hand-balancers; the Summersons appear in a comic domestic sketch; and the Barrascope, with the production of an evening paper, the three Sisters Thurban, in a refined musical and Terpsichorean entertainment, and Mr. Jack Hayworth, vocalist, conclude the generous programme.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Winona and King, American rifle experts; Mr. Ryder Davis, vocal comedian; Miss Cissy Esdaile, burlesque actress; Miss Eva Ward, soubrette; the Raymond Animated Pictures, and an exciting shooting competition are amusing the many habitués of this popular "down-town" variety theatre.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co.—In addition to the moving pictures, Mr. Tom Kelso and his company are appearing in the funny sketch *The Haunted Servant*.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Lovers of Shakespearean plays have this week had an intellectual treat in the visit of Mr. Allan Wilkie's talented company, the bill of fare including *Macbeth, Romeo and Juliet, Julius Cæsar, The Merchant of Venice*, and *Hamlet*, with the addition of two classic plays, *David Garrick* and *She Stoops to Conquer*, and the tragic drama *The Sleigh Bells*. In *Macbeth*, admirably played on the opening night, Mr. Alexander Marsh was seen to advantage as Macduff, a part which he performed with power and talent; Mr. Allan Wilkie gave a very fine interpretation of the rôle of Macbeth; Miss Haidee Gunn as Lady Macbeth may be deservedly complimented upon her admirable acting; Mr. John Paley made a most capable Banquo; Mr. Ernest Digges had the advantage of a fine presence and excellent delivery in the character of Malcolm; Mr. Ivor Barnard was very successful as Donalbain; Mr. Sinclair Neill as Rosse acted carefully and well; Mr. Mark Turner as Lennox performed his part in a creditable manner; Master E. Burnley made a very good Fleance; Mr. F. J. Fay is deserving of praise as the physician; Mr. J. Phelps was a capital Sergeant; Mr. James Wood acted Seyton with ability; Miss Mildred Luiry played a gentlewoman in an artistic manner; and the rôles of witches and murderers all found capable exponents.

SMETHWICK. — ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is this week presenting the popular drama *The Sailor's Wedding*. Mr. C. W. Standing gives a powerful interpretation of Gordon Drake. As Sir Victor Lascelles Mr. Cecil Klein supplies a very clever study; Mr. William Seguin as Count Bellini quite realises the part, and Mr. Frank Gordon's portrayal of Giacomo is a strong and well studied piece of character. Messrs. Walter Pemberton as Jack Hawkins and Huntley Gifford as Bill Burns create much amusement; and are ably assisted in their efforts by Miss M. Sadie as Polly Clarke and Miss Celestine Bertram as Ninette; Mr. Hodgson Taylor plays with much ability as Giovanni Ferici; Miss Laura Hansen represents Countess Bellini with much success; Miss Dulcie Greatwich makes a sweet and womanly Mary; and Miss Winifred Pearson as Lenore de Gresac plays with dramatic force throughout. The scenes, which are laid in the district of Naples, are admirably set.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frederick Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Lively and novel fare is provided this week by Miss Lena Ashwell's touring company in *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Dorothy Green does remarkably well in the title-rôle; Mr. H. Grendon Bentley plays with quiet forcefulness as Captain Bretherton; Miss Mary Stuart is excellent as Mrs. Cantalupe; and Miss Georgette de Serville makes the part of Mrs. Whyte Fraser interesting and agreeable. Mr. Alfred Harris as Sir Jabez is good, and the other parts are all well played. On Thursday Mr. Cyril Maude and his London Playhouse company gave a flying matinée of *Toddles*.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Mr. Fred Maxwell and company are again proving a strong card, their drama *The Last Command* being well played. The Waldrons in their sketch *The Silly Burglar* are popular; Lew Lake's comedians, "Nobbler and Jerry," are entertaining; and others who do well are Cullen and Carthy, Burns and Bentley, Ethel Sheffer, Dolly and Elsie, and Marion Fletcher.

HIPPODROME.—Managers, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Consul, the man-monkey, is proving a tremendous attraction; Fred Ginnett's scena *The Hunting Morn* is once again well received; Dusty Rhodes excels as a comedy merchant; the Four Amaranths are accomplished acrobatic dancers; and the Gargany Trio of acrobats, Leah Arden, comedienne, and Arthur Hickman, tenor, complete a capital bill.

PHILHARMONIC HALL.—Joseph Poole's Myriorama is attracting crowded houses, and the entertainment is a capital one. Mr. Bert Berry is the guide, and the variety entertainment is exceedingly good.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE, LTD. Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nervey; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*Our Flat* commenced a week's engagement on Monday, and the company, under the management of Mr. Charles Steuart, gave a thoroughly enjoyable portrayal, and which provoked the heartiest laughter throughout. Mr. Steuart gives a talented impersonation of Reginald Sylvester, and Miss Daisy Atherton as his wife, Margery, submits a vigorous and creditable characterisation; Miss Louie Tinsley as Bella is mirth-provoking; Mr. Wilfred E. Shine as Nathaniel Glover and Mr. Fred Knight as Mr. McCullum also cause merriment; and Mr. G. P. Trevor is well suited as Clarence Vane. The Misses Kattie and May Yates ably sustain the characters of Lucy McCullum and Clara Pryout respectively. *The Vagabond Poet* makes a capital curtain-raiser. Mr. Robert Whittier, an American actor, who made his first appearance in England, was seen to every advantage in the name part.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—The Bioscope entertainments are well appreciated. This week's programme is replete with an interesting series of up-to-date and humorous films.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—*Mr. Popple of Ippleton* made his first appearance at this theatre on Monday evening, and met with a cordial reception. The company is that of Mr. Charles Macdona, who presented a capital all-round interpretation of this highly-diverting musical comedy. Mr. Charles Macdona, in the rôle of Freddy Popple is excellent in every way, his display of humour and versatility being greatly appreciated; Miss Nellie Hodson depicted the part of La Bolero with charming piquancy and effect; Miss May Hart presents a clever and very smart character sketch as the maid Louise; Platt, the servant, was effectively portrayed by Mr. Tom May; Miss Lilyan Lait was very successful as Mrs. Hennay; Mrs. Doring was well played by Miss Amy Singleton; Mr. Louis du Cane acquitted himself with credit as Norman Popple; Miss Marie Moss did full justice to the character of Violet Brintor; Mr. Eric Barrington appeared to advantage as Jacques Kenyon; other good impersonations were supplied by Mr. Nap Barry (George Hennay), Mr. James Stevenson (Henry Doring), and Mr. Edmund Russen (Lord Downe).

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here this week in *At Roaring Camp*. Mr. Henry Hare as Will Gordon gives a good reading; Miss Constance Elgin as the adventuress acts in powerful and convincing style; Tom Barnes is hit off in forceful fashion by Mr. C. E. Johnson; Mr. Roy Jackson is good as Gonzales; Miss May Foster makes a sweet Nell Curtis. The comedy parts are well represented by Mr. Clarence Ibbotson as Ebenezer, Mr. J. W. Braithwaite as Paddy McGinty, and Miss Gwen Clifford as Mrs. O'Flynn.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Berzac's comedy animal act proves a great attraction here; Carney and Armstrong sing, dance, and whistle themselves into favour; the Crown Trio are well received; Lord, Murray, and Lord contribute a gymnastic mélange, entitled *The Intruder;* Joan Deering, the vocalist-violinist, takes well. The remaining good turns are Marie Goodwin, comedienne; Madge Osmond, the immaculate dandy; Ben Albert, comedian; and the Bioscope.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Lambert and Hands, character sketch duettists, submit a pleasing turn, and are well received; Andy Fagan, Irish comedian, creates a good impression; and the Tivoloscope completes a good bill.

STAFFORD. — LYCEUM THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and Shakespearean company opened here on Monday with *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Frank Clewlow as the Duke of Venice and Prince of Morocco played the two parts effectively and with ability; Mr. Guy Cunningham gave a clever interpretation of Antonio; Mr. George Relph was an ideal Bassanio; Mr. Manning Sproston won universal approval as Lorenzo; and Mr. Ian Maclaren's Shylock was a clever performance, revealing much scholarly intuition; Tubal, Gratiano, and Salarino were well played by Mr. A. C. Wentworth, Mr. J. V. Bryant, and Mr. Charles Weldon; Miss Muriel Dole's Portia was praiseworthy in every way; Miss Claire Townshend was an excellent Nerissa; and Miss Constance Brook's Jessica was a meritorious performance. *The School for Scandal, David Garrick, She Stoops to Conquer*, and *Hamlet* are also in the week's bill.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—The popular play *Her Love Against the World* is being presented here by Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company. Mr. Fred Emery acts powerfully in the exacting rôle of Eric Earl of Strathmere; and Miss Rosie St. John makes a lovable boy of Lionel. The evildoing is in the hands of Mr. Lewis Gilbert, who takes the part of Ulric in a highly capable manner; Mr. W. H. Hallatt is well placed as Prince Othmar; and Mr. Victor Rowland also is excellent as Prince Maurice. Miss Grace Heywood, who appears in the character of Iris, is exceptionally pleasing. The lighter element is worked in by Miss Gertie Reid (Katinka) and Miss Hettie Fergusson (Gretchen), who, with Messrs. Henry B. Lewis and John Mill, are very effective.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—At the head of a big programme here is Fred Maitland and company in a laughable sketch entitled *Talked Out*. Leo Carle, a smart quick-change artist, presents a one-man drama *The Betrayed Professor;* the Four Scoreys are loudly applauded for their clever work; Miss Rose Atherton and company are amusing in *Murphy's Affinity*; Edie Veno is encored for her songs; and Olive and Vera, Frank Dunlop, and Phil Bransby provide capital turns. The special engagement of Bert Wickham is proving attractive.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—The representations of the comic opera *Amasis* have thoroughly amused and entertained large audiences here this week. As Pharaoh Mr. W. H. Denny is exceedingly humorous and talented; Mr. Edward MacKeown as Prince Anhotep has a fine presence and sings ably; Mr. Walter D. Brodie is distinctly funny as Sebak; Ptolemy is amusingly portrayed by Mr. Frank Attree; and Cheiro is admirably acted by Mr. Arthur Stroud. Miss Mabel Burnage as Princess Amasis sings delightfully, and a pleasing character is Natis, sustained by Miss Elsie Don. The chorus is excellent.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—A dramatic sketch of much interest, *The Girl and the Tough*, presented by John G. Brandon and company, is the chief attraction here this week; and included in an array of varied talent are the Three Sisters Tree, in their act *Hunting;* Bowman and Merton, in their burlesque, *She Loved a Policeman;* Horace and Olga's troupe of trained dogs and cats; Maggie Rimmer in pleasing songs; Frantz's Comedy Five in a clever acrobatic act; Lozelle, a smart gymnast; and Charlie Craston, a mirth-provoking comedian.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* has been presented here for three nights. Mr. C. H. Croker King in the part of John Jasper gave a fine interpretation; Edwin Drood was in the able hands of Mr. N. McLeod; Mr. Leslie Rea made a typical Mr. Crisparkle; Mr. Chas. Bruce as Neville Landless was very good; Mr. Lloyd Townrow was an amusing Durdles; Mr. Edward Thirlby a capable Mr. Grewgious; Miss Nita Charlton a charming Rosa Budd; Miss Gladys Jesson an attractive Helena Landless; and Mrs. William Mallalieu scored as the proprietress of the opium den. Mr. Edward Terry appeared on Thursday with *Sweet Lavender, Liberty Hall*, and *The Magistrate*.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company appears this week in *The Green Bushes*. Mr. Fred Terris as Connor O'Kennedy was excellent. Mr. E. Wingfield in the rôle of George O'Kennedy was also good.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie and company make a return visit in their absurdity *The House of Tinn*. Mr. J. Gar Kiddie as Jeremiah Jinks (the waiter) creates roars of laughter; Mr. J. W. Groves makes a good Miss Arabella Tinn; Will Owen, dame comedian, sings well; the Lannons, pedestal dancers, are well applauded; the Three Romas in a gymnastic head- and hand-balancing act give a brilliant performance; Gracie Lawn is a good comedienne and dancer; the Ramsey Trio take well in their screaming absurdity *Birdie's Welcome;* and the Columbia Comedy Trio are excellent. The Bioscope concludes.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—Joe Elvin, supported by his specially-selected company, presents two of his well-known sketches here, *Touched* being played for three nights and *King of the Castle* for three. Much amusement is caused by Mr. Elvin's comedy work in *Touched*, and his visit will be much appreciated. Terry and Bentley's conception is well received. The charming appearance and singing of the lady partner are certain to assure this. The Morander and Darius Trio now introduce their lightning gymnastic act with a short musical interlude, which much improves their show; Cliss Dixo, swell comedian, has two good songs, and knows how to render them; Flo Deighton is a pleasing vocalist; and Ariel and Astarte in a trapeze act, Dalton and Euston, patterers and dancers, Ruby Emmerson, and the Bioscope are also to be noted.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. F. Davidson; General-Manager Mr. A. Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Reach.—The engagement for this week of Miss Maud Hildyard and her company in *The Great Awakening* was appreciated on Monday evening by a crowded house. Miss Hildyard is seen to advantage as Lola, and goes through her part with commendable spirit; James Selby is successfully assumed by Mr. Wallis Clark; and Mr. Herbert Robinson is very good as Guy Rogan, the villain. Mr. Cecil Gray is responsible for excellent interpretations in his double rôle of Sir Henry Merton, Bart., and Jack Merton, his son; Miss Fay Garnet-Vane gives a sympathetic presentment of Molly Merton; Mr. Tracy Barrow as Billy Brass and Miss Cissie Podmore as Selina contribute humour in excellent style. Mr. Conrad Franklin as Captain Harry Lambert and Mr. Curtis as Richard Wilson are both excellent, and the other rôles are in able hands.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company in *The Lancashire Lad* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Alec Alexander gave a fine portrayal of David Elmore, "the Lancashire lad"; the part of his sweetheart Jesse was ably handled by Miss Stanley Burt; the villain, Max Carlton, was well done by Mr. T. G. Vane; his paramour, Lorna Wincote, was well delineated by Miss Nell Oliver; Mr. Wilton Reed's was a meritorious Jem Wincote; Misses Molly Monoghan (Mother Wardle) and Jenny Hallworth (Jane Alice Clitheroe) and Mr. Bob Anderson (John Willy Wardle), all typical Lancashire characters, created much amusement. Clever varieties are introduced.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—An interesting programme is headed this week by La Scala Opera Company, who provide an excellent musical entertainment. The singers are all talented vocalists, actors and actresses, and their turn was received with hearty applause. George Bastow scored a great success with his rollicking "Galloping Major"; the novel act of Les Martineks is another very smart turn; the Athlones give an attractive trapeze performance; the Three Cape Girls are remarkably clever dancers; Ruth Lytton is a delightful Scotch comedienne; and other artists contributing meritorious turns are Charles Perceval and Vena Morley, in their comedy duologue *Turtle Doves;* Little Keeno, juvenile comedian and dancer; and Sinclair and Parr, comedians and vocalists.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. L. Barry.—Jock Whiteford, the famous Scotch comedian, provides the star turn this week; he is as full of good humour as ever, and received a hearty reception. Binns and Binns are a very funny pair of vagabond musicians; Lieut. Travers' ventriloquial powers were fully appreciated; Clark's Nippers introduced some clever club swinging and dancing; Correze and Keith were very interesting in their juggling scena. Other turns were given in smart style by Lisbon and Barker, in their funny act *Extemporising;* Ethel Dove, comedienne and dancer; and Brothers Milford, comedians and dancers.

SWANSEA.—GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Beautifully dressed and presented in irreproachable fashion by Mr. George Edwarde's No. 1 company, *The Merry Widow* has taken Swansea by storm. Miss Mysie Devine's interpretation of the title-rôle was a triumph of artistic skill; no less successful was Mr. Frank Green as Prince Danilo; Mr. Edward D'Arcy, entrusted with the part of Baron Popoff, brings out the baron's witticisms in irresistible fashion, in which he receives grand support from Mr. Fred Fowler, a humorist of ability; Miss Ada Thomas uses her voice beautifully as Natalie, her duets with Mr. Ripley Evans as Jolidon being excellent.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Fred C. Somerfield's company is presenting here *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Mr. Paul Beckett is in happy vein as Felix Beverley, and Mr. Wilson Summers' delineation of Jack Stirling is clever; Mr. Robin Shiells does well as Colonel Miles; and the humour of Messrs. Percy Brown and Herbert Fuller as Thomas and Charles keeps the house well amused; Mr. Harland Brooks also distinguishes himself as Detective Banks; Miss Mary Lovett as Mary Langdon portrays the part in a natural and telling manner; and as Sweet Nancy Miss Kate Lever is clever. Miss Cissie Bellamy as the Hon. Mrs. Sands greatly distinguishes herself.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—An astounding performance is given by Colonel Gaston Bordeverry, whose skill with the rifle and pistol is wellnigh incredible; Nellie Wallace so delighted her audience on Monday that three songs were demanded from her; the Ten Ji Troupe give an unparalleled exhibition of juggling; and Lively Lily Langtry as usual has good songs, and her reception is as enthusiastic as ever. Ernie Mayne's parody on "Excelsior" is particularly good; Dare Austin in the duologue *His Wedding Morn* is well assisted by Frank Hawthorne; The Mayvilles, lilliputian entertainers; Alf Chester, comedian; and the Bioscope are other attractions.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—At the head of the bill this week is Leonard Anarto and Harry Rushworth's company in a musical comedy sketch entitled *The Mountain Belle*. Marcos Crespo is briskly taken by Mr. Bert Rolfe; Mr. Bay Russell makes much fun out of the part of Pedrillo; Mr. Edward O'Brien is good as Lionel Bernard; Miss Lena Maitland sings sweetly in the title-rôle; the characters of Don Jerome and Donna Lorenzo are respectively taken by Mr. Arthur Deane and Miss Edie McCarthy; and the chorus is well balanced. Francis and Alfred are smart jugglers; Charles Sloman, patterer and comedian, pleases; the Maximilian Trio are clever equilibrists; and Jack Selway, comedian, also appears. The Empire Pictures are amusing.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Wentworth Croke is this week presenting for the first time here Mr. Hall Caine's great drama, *The Bondman*. The principal and difficult rôle of Greeba is admirably sustained by Miss Georgina Wynter, who submits a capital study, portraying the varying phases of the part with conspicuous success; Mr. R. Scrope Quentin works hard and is deservedly applauded for his representation of Jason; and Mr. Lionel Atwill is equally successful as Michael Sunlocks, the two playing together harmoniously. As Adam Fairbrother, Mr. Oswald Lingard is well placed; and Miss Madge Lanerton does excellently as Mrs. Fairbrother. Mr. W. H. Rotherham makes a typical Father Ferrati, also provoking much fun by his impersonation of the grandfather in the first act. Mention should be made of the clever performances of Miss Gertrude Helene and Master Walter Neville as Mona and Danny respectively. General admiration is expressed of the scenery of the play, and particularly of the excellent Sulphur Mine scene in the third act.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Walton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—Hippodrome Season.—Mr. Will Van Allen, the tramp musician, scores a success here. Other excellent turns include Miss Maud Dennis, a Salome dancer; Alice Maple, comedienne; Harry Bent, mimic, in impersonations of well-known comedians; Mark Leslie, a coon comedian; and Hugo and Smidt in a smart horizontal bar act.

TYLDESLEY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. Ernest Vaughan and company occupy the boards here this week in the exciting drama *Man or Beast?* Mr. Charles D. Pitt gives a manly portrayal of the Hon. Jack Newton; Mr. Ernest Vaughan earns distinction by his acting in the title-rôle; whilst Captain Macdonald receives a praiseworthy rendering from Mr. Charles H. Phelps. Mr. Fred Gresham proves himself a clever comedian as Pat O'Brien; Miss Irene Carrington is a delightful exponent of Bella Newton; and Miss Phyllis Elton is well placed as Nurse Annetta. The other parts are in capable hands.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—The Wakefield and District Amateur Operatic Society occupy the stage this week, presenting the comic opera, *The Pirates of Penzance*, followed by *Trial by Jury*, for the benefit of local charities.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Maurin's Marvellous Fountains are highly appreciated; Mr. Harry Briggs, triple-voiced vocalist, has a good reception; the Three Pirmans are clever in a comedy pot-pourri act; Haley's Juveniles, a smart combination of singers and dancers, provide an interesting turn; the Two Yorkshire Mill Lasses sing well; Mr. Fred Bamford, whistling soloist, wins applause; and Mr. Harry Keeble, ventriloquist, is entertaining.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Reece.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here, with *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*. Mr. George Mudie as Mr. Ponderbury scores admirably; and Miss Annie Stalman as Mrs. Ponderbury wins the highest encomiums for her acting. Miss Florence Wellesley is a chic Ethel; and Miss Madge Elswick as Lady Baring, and Miss Florence Wix as Madame Modjiski are well placed. Mr. Drew Mackintosh is good as Mr. Mervyn Thorpe; Mr. George Child is a typical Naval Captain; and Mr. H. Burns as Sir Rover Baring, and Mr. James Michael as Dr. Oliver are commendable impersonations. The Peter of Mr. Alfred Iberson is a clever character sketch. A pretty curtain-raiser, *His Landlady*, is well received.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—There are some delightful pictures being shown here this week, those depicting the Salving of the Gladiator, and A Magistrate's Conscience being particularly good. Brady and Johnson are a clever pair of sketch artists; and Beattie and Babs an especially clever pair of juveniles.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D Bradbury.—Nat Clifford delighted a crowded house here on Monday, with his songs and patter; Effie White is a delightful kaleidoscope dancer; Jessie Burnett, a charming comedienne, sings her songs well; Happy Attwood is amusing; and the Three Royal Temples score in operatic selections, Madame Louie Gilbert singing in fine style; some wonderful execution on the drum is done by Dan Merrett; Keith and Merson are well received for their hunting absurdity, *The Meet;* and Munroe's Black and White Team sing several glees in delightful fashion.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. E. H. Knight's No. 1 company in the domestic drama *The Lighthouse Robbery* is paying a visit here. Mr. Henry Herne ably depicts the rôle of Tom Manly; whilst a characteristic portrayal of William Farren is ably presented by Mr. William Annersley. An excellent study of James Hammond is shown by Mr. Percy Beresford; and as David Morris Mr. Herbert Lewis is seen to advantage. Miss Hilda Baynton scores a decided success in the rôle of Rose Prescott; considerable enthusiasm is infused into the part of Ruth Manly by Miss Maggie Stewart; and as little Nellie, a waif, Miss Ethel Lovett proves quite a favourite.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company, which is producing *The Old Folks at Home*, by Mr. Campbell himself, has had a hearty and well-deserved reception. The part of Lord Howard Kenilworth is well taken by Mr. Frank Liston; Mr. Aidan Lovitt is excellent as Andrew Ross; Miss Maud Warburton makes a charming Dorothy Robin, afterwards Lady Kenilworth; and the other parts are admirably sustained. In the third act the Excelsior Quartette of glee singers introduce with great effect a number of old plantation glees, melodies, &c., and the Chronoscope pictures are decidedly good.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Variety entertainment is dropped again this week, its place being taken with musical comedy, Mr. Robert Macdonald's company producing that delightfully bright and charming play *The Dairymaids*. The company is a most capable one. Miss Carrie Lacy is excellent as Lady Prudenell; Miss Nellie Bowman as Eliza, Miss Empsie Bowman as Peggy, and Miss Vera Crichton as Winifred are all very charming, and their singing leaves nothing to be desired. Mr. Bernard Vaughan is a breezy Dr. O'Bryne; and Mr. Dan Agar is a great success as Joe Mivens. The play is finely staged.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—The building was packed in every available portion on Monday. Mr. William Jackson's Eight Lancashire Lads provide the star turn, and go well, their singing being only excelled by their clever dancing; the Japanese duologue *Yo-San*, by Talbot and Pearce, is a pretty act; Dan Whiteley's comicalities fully deserved the applause awarded; Baines and Reed, in their original act, *Humpsti Bumpsti*, take well; and other turns which meet with good receptions are those of Steve Bartle, vocalist and concertina soloist; W. H. Downs, ballad vocalist; Rose Pink, a lively singer and dancer; and Willie and Johnny, two coloured boys, in a smart exhibition of head and hand balancing.

GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is this week presenting *The Love that Women Desire*, and is being well received.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne. — Fabbro's electric singing pictures and vaudeville company are on a return visit. The pictures are exceedingly good, especially those by Pathé Frères. Two very comic films are those entitled Byker Does the Impossible and Mr. and Mrs. Brown and Baby. Ryche and Pore are humorous entertainers above the average; Miss Bessie Farrell, a pretty little lady, excels as a comedienne; a really good turn is the Columbia Quartette; Alice May and Cecil Bradley are praiseworthy and refined vocalists; and Bessie Farrell and Leslie Sears as duettists are warmly applauded.

WEYMOUTH. — OPERA HOUSE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Nobbs.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company played *The Belle of Mayfair* here recently. Sir John Chaldicott was in the capable hands of Mr. Sydney Bint, ably supported by Miss Denny Fitzherbert as Lady Chaldicott; Mr. Michael Raven gave a capital impersonation of Hugh Meredith; and Mr. Stephen Hall was thoroughly at home as the Earl of Mount Highgate; Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft was a very good Raymond Finchley; Miss Nellie Barnwell an excellent Julia Chaldicott; Miss Patricia Welldon was well suited with the part of the Princess; Miss Grace Mackay won rounds of applause with her song, "Why do they call me a Gibson girl"; and Miss Dora Lyons was charming as Pincott.

WHITEHAVEN.—MARKET HALL.—Lessees, The Edison Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. Victor Branford.—Another change of pictures is made this week, and success is gained. The list includes The Red Man's Child, Phantom Games, Northern Venice, The Churchill Wedding, The Adventures of Nick Carter, In Old Kentucky, and Suffering Suffragettes. Mr. Harold Berte also appears in illustrated songs.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—This week Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is here with *The Little Breadwinner*. Mr. H. B. Peppin is a good Lord Wm. Dorrington; Mr. Reginald Brown a distinctly good Richard Lawrence; Mr. Alfred Maurice plays with ability as Joseph Prior; Mr. Sidney Lynn gains kudos as Chas. Prior; Mr. Wallace Carey is sound as Doctor Chadwick; Miss May Richardson wins all hearts as Margaret Daventry; Miss Clara Hunt plays with ability as the warm-hearted Bridget; Miss Millie Ford does well as Kate Cherry; Miss Kitty Melville is responsible for the part of Ruth Cherry, which is very ably played; and Little Winnie Crisp is exceedingly well suited with the title-rôle, and plays with much intelligence. Miss Lissa Young is capital as Bobby Trott, a London street gamin. The play is nicely mounted.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's powerful company is here, in *The Silver King*. Mr. F. D. Davies's masterly portrayal of Wilfred Denver meets with hearty approbation; in the rôle of Daniel Jaikes Mr. E. J. George is given a hearty reception; as Nellie Denver Miss Ruth Goodall is conspicuously successful; Mr. A. H. Rooke cleverly interprets Geoffrey Ware; Mr. E. Stanton Sharp gives a capital impersonation of the Spider; and Mr. A. Wright does extremely well as the marine store dealer.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—The Achmed Ibrahim Arabs perform some remarkable tumbling feats with astonishing rapidity; Velanche's dogs have been very cleverly trained, and their football match is quite interesting and amusing; a musical turn is given by the Four Maisanos, who contribute some fine selections; Brull and Hemsley's scena, *Fun in a Music Shop*, is excellent, and their singing and dancing is very pleasing; Ted Waite causes quite an ovation with his humorous songs; Oakdene is an original comedy ventriloquist; and Selby and Myers are good dancers; Rose Elliott, Mint and Mart, and Bradley, trick cyclist, complete an excellent programme.

EMPIRE PALACE.—District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Pictures are again in evidence here this week, and include Days of Nelson, In Time of Rebellion, The Outcast, Never Forgotten Melody, Stop Those Barrels, The Baby Competition, Northern Venice, and Too Busy to Court. Vulcanet, the rope and iron king, gives a capital show.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer. — Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company opened here on Monday in *The Still Alarm* to a crowded house. Mr. Mathew H. Glenville gives a very creditable performance of Jack Manley; Mr. Fred Osmond scores heavily as Doc Wilber; Mr. Gerald Kennedy is effective as John Bird; and able support is given by Miss Beatrice Shirley as Elinor Fordham, Miss Hettie Zillwood as Carrie Wilber, Miss Mabel Veriton as Mrs. Manley, Mr. Lewis Gordon as Franklyn Fordham, and Mr. Tom Beasley as Willie Manley.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Neil Kenyon had a hearty reception here on Monday from a packed house. His best study was that of "The Village Postman," which gave ample scope for displaying that humour for which he is so justly celebrated. J. E. Finglass is one of the best delineators of coon songs seen here, and his dancing is quite out of the ordinary; Wilkie Bard's company, in "Let me sing" and "Zuyder Zee," catch on; other good turns are Bros. Lawrence, dancers; Charles Ulrich, barrel manipulator; Perceval, comedian pianist; and Lux's dogs.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. L. Warde.—The attractive variety programme given twice nightly here includes Princess Pocahuntas, an Indian vocalist of singular charm; Mr. Alfred Wellesley and Miss Beatrice Webb (assisted by Mr. F. Harris), in a dramatic sketch, *Uncle's Courtship;* and clever illusions are presented by St. George Sylvesta and Miss Vera de Courtney. The Hodginis, smart trick acrobats; Percy Mayne, whose appearance in female attire is droll; Pearce and Ward, highly amusing in their burlesque boxing; Charles Leighton, pianist; Leo Fields, comedian; and Lilian Hales, vocalist, also appear.

WORKINGTON.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Manager, Mr. Falconer Jackes.—A crowded house witnessed the performance on Monday of the Elliott-Savonas, and their musical entertainment and cycling feats caused enthusiasm. Other artists favourably received were Cling and Clancy, Senorita Eloina, the L.V.O. Trio, J. C. Scutter, Miss Florence, and Little Pan.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—A departure is made from the usual routine this week, the whole time being given to animated pictures, illustrated songs, &c. Until further notice, Sunday evening is to be devoted to a similar performance.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week the attractions have been the Levans, illustrated song demonstrators; the Reays, equilibrists and silver chain acrobats; and Fred Doran and Geo. Russell, comedians.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—*Happy Hooligan* provides W. W. Evans,

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE ADELPHI.

On Monday, Oct. 26, Revival of
"THE ONLY WAY."

The fascinating drama fashioned by Freeman Wills out of Dickens's "Tale of Two Cities," is one of Mr. Martin Harvey's most reliable attractions, and the full houses that have welcomed its revival this week would seem to justify its retention in the bill at the Adelphi for any length of time. The influence exercised by Mr. Harvey in the rôle of Sydney Carton, which he has made so essentially his own, is a powerful one, and playgoers in all parts of the auditorium have surrendered themselves wholly to its spell. His Sydney Carton remains the same finished exposition, and those who are easily moved to mirth by the grim comedy of its earlier phases, are as readily thrilled by the vigorous declamation of the tribunal scene or touched by the exquisite pathos of the later moments. Curtains innumerable have testified to the effect of Mr. Harvey's performance, which seems to have been refined to the most artistic degree. Miss N. De Silva, who has a cordial reception, repeats her admirable conception of Mimi. Her devotion to Sidney Carton is pathetically depicted, and the tender sentiment of the closing scene is delicately expressed. Miss Maud Rivers comes newly to the part of Lucie Manette, and is the personification of sweetness and innocence, her comely appearance and sympathetic delivery exercising equal charm. The veteran Mr. Fred Wright, sen., invests his old part of Dr. Manette with all his wonted impressiveness, his striving to forget the memory of a fearful past being wonderfully well conveyed. The rôle of Charles Darnay is fortunate in having an impersonator closely resembling his double in Mr. Leonard Craske, who acts with care and intelligence; and the bumptious Stryver is spiritedly played by Mr Philip Hewland. Miss Mary Rorke is a strikingly picturesque exponent of the Vengeance, and her vehement delivery adds to the effect of her lines. Mr. Charles Glenney invests with much intensity and well-varied action the rôle of Ernest Defarge, whom he makes a most terrifying personage. The Mr. Lorry of Mr. Percy Foster reflects some of the most amiable qualities of a Dickens conception The Public Prosecutor of Mr. Paul Barry is a fine performance; and Miss Bessie Elder gives a grim study of the old citizeress. The Marquis and Vicomte St. Evremond of the prologue are well embodied by Mr. Albert E. Raynor and Mr. Leslie Palmer; and among the French aristocrats the Comte De Fanchet of Mr. W. Abbey is conspicuous. Credit is also due to Mr. Alfred Mansfield, Mr. Denholm Muir, Mr. J. E. Fraser, Mr. H. Blake, Mr. Geo. Cooke, and others of a long cast. The atmosphere of the play is effectively preserved in the realistic stage effects secured by Mr. H. J. Loveday, and the mounting is in every way perfect.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Oct 26, the Play, by Mr. A. W. Pinero, entitled
"THE THUNDERBOLT."

The visit of Mrs. Patrick Campbell to the King's this week has proved highly successful. Assisted by a company which is really composed of West-end artists it is not to be wondered at that the audiences have been large and highly enthusiastic. Mrs. Campbell, seen in the part of Phyllis Mortimore, has not been fitted to the same extent as in some of her famous impersonations, but she has invested the character with such sincerity and power that the conscience-stricken woman becomes an absolute heroine, and it is needless to say that she obtains recall after recall. As the self-asserting builder, James Mortimore, Mr. Murray Carson has hardly ever been seen to so much advantage; he succeeds admirably and scores all along the line. Mr. Edgar Kent renders Stephen Mortimore incisively; while Colonel Ponting is capitally undertaken by Mr. Nigel Playfair. A very even, but rather restrained, representation of Thaddeus Mortimore is given by Mr. Julian Royce, an actor of no mean ability. Mr. J. D. Beveridge as the solicitor, Mr. Elkin, elevates the part into vast importance by his masterly style, and it is really one of the choice tit-bits of the piece. Mr. Vallance is well played by Mr. E. H. Brooke; and Mr. Charles A. Doran as the Rev. George Trist acts most effectively. Mr. Thos. N. Weguelin is good as Mr. Denyer; and Mr. E. Wensley Dale makes a capable Heath. Helen Thornhill serves to introduce Miss Stella Patrick Campbell to the London stage. Of attractive appearance, and with clear and distinct enunciation, Miss Campbell is likely to attain a foremost position on the stage, and her future career will be watched with interest. The Ann Mortimore of Miss Florence Farr is a clever one; and Miss Florence Kahn is an amusing Louisa Mortimore. Miss Florence Wells is a smart Rose Ponting. The two children of Thaddeus Mortimore, Cyril and Joyce, are very entertainingly played by Master Cyril Bruce and Miss Mignon Clifford. During the latter half of the week *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*, with Mrs. Patrick Campbell to repeat her early triumph, has resulted in huge and delighted audiences.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Oct. 26,
THE D'OYLY CARTE PRINCIPAL REPERTOIRE OPERA CO.

The D'Oyly Carte Company is appearing here this week, and on Monday night immediately secured an enthusiastic reception with *The Mikado*. The company, one and all, principals and chorus alike, are exceedingly capable, and their fine interpretation of this charming opera met with most cordial recognition. Mr. Leicester Tunks as the Mikado gave one of those admirable representations with which he has made us familiar in the past. His vocal numbers were finely rendered, his perfect enunciation being a particularly noteworthy feature; as Nanki-Poo Mr. Strafford Moss makes a decided success, his songs and concerted numbers, in spite of an apparent cold, being well rendered; as Pooh-Bah Mr. Fred Billington is really excellent, the Gilbertian satire being made the most of; Pish-Tush finds a capable exponent in Mr. Sidney Granville, his vocal efforts being much enjoyed, and Mr. Fred Drawater creditably portrays the part of Go-To; Mr. Charles R. Walenn is intensely funny as Ko-Ko. "They never would be missed" and "Tit-Willow" are his two great vocal successes, for which repeated encores are demanded. The charming vocalist and actress, Miss Mabel Graham, fills the rôle of Yum-Yum with grace and fascination, her numbers being sung with delightful ease and finish; the Misses Beatrice Meredith and Tessa Snelson, the other Little Maids, are effective; Miss Ethel Morrison as the elderly Katisha is the possessor of a clear voice, which she uses most artistically. Mr. T. Silver's name is a guarantee for the excellence of the orchestral work. *The Mikado* was repeated on Thursday, and on Tuesday and Thursday matinées *The Gondoliers* was successfully performed; and on Wednesday *The Yeomen of the Guard* was submitted, *Patience* being given on Friday night.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Farce, entitled
"WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD."

The hilarious progress of "Charles Marlowe's" merry conceit, *When Knights Were Bold*, with Mr. James Welch in the cast, is being continued at Notting Hill this week, and packed houses have given evidence of delight unlimited at the whimsicalities of the farce. Many among the audience must have enjoyed the play during its long run at Wyndham's, and every jape and jest was welcomed with a zest born of former pleasing recollections. Mr. Welch has broadened the fun of his part of Sir Guy De Vere, and is perhaps more alert and more resourceful; while piquancy is added to his dialogue by references to events of topical interest. The clever comedian steers clear of any tendency towards clowning, and his odd antics, his eccentricities, and his bright humour are kept artistically within the bounds of moderation. Incessant peals of laughter on Monday proved the power of the comedian, who works throughout with marvellous energy. The members of the Wyndham's Theatre company are all associated with the representation on tour. Miss Audrey Ford again plays Lady Rowena Eggington with stately elegance. Her delivery is marked by elocutionary grace, and her acting is a clever travesty of melodramatic fervour. The braggart Sir Brian Ballymote is invested with the requisite sinister attributes by Mr. Cecil Kinnaird; and Mr. Guy Lane's Dean Pottlebury is a suitably pompous creation, cleverly indicative of the little weaknesses of the "cloth." As the Hon. Charles Widdicombe, Mr. George Esmond acts the fop and the fool with equal ability, each rôle being diverting in its way, his jester song and dance obtaining much applause. A clever contrast of the modern Jew with the ancient is supplied by Mr. Arthur Grenville, who makes a study of make-up and accent as the wily stockbroker; and Miss Daisy Cordell gives beauty of face and power of expression to his daughter Sarah. The Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave is embodied by Miss Helen Palgrave agreeably with the requirements of the part, which are chiefly to look benign and gracious; and comely representatives of Lady Millicent, Lady Marjorie, and Kate are found in Misses Maer O'Hea, Gwendoline Rayne, and Annie Furrell. As the valet Wittle, Mr. George F. Tully supports Mr. Welch skilfully in many of his most effective scenes; and Mr. Gordon Tomkins represents the butler Barker in an exceedingly droll light. Miss Annie Chippendale makes a vivacious maid-servant; and the duties of the Herald are adequately undertaken by Mr. Leopold Profeit.

The performance on Monday was marked by the production, for the first time, of a comedy, in one act, by Matthias Alexander and Evelyn Glover, entitled

"A QUESTION OF TIME."

Jacob Rimmer ..... Mr. Harold Carson
Mary Rimmer ..... Miss Helen Palgrave
Esther ..... Miss Daisy Cordell
James Hassall ..... Mr. George Tully

Farce rather than comedy is the description that would be more applicable to the above new playlet, which has been suggested by an Old English recitation, but its production was justified by the abundant laughter it aroused. The humour of the situation is brought about by the visit of James Hassall, a young Lancashire workman, to his sweetheart, Esther, the daughter of old Farmer Rimmer. Between Esther's father and Jim's father a feud exists over the superiority of their pigs, and consequently the young man's suit is discouraged. His visit has to be made at night after the old folks have retired to rest, when Jim enters by the window. Scarcely has he made himself comfortable by the fire than the old man's footstep is heard, and Jim takes refuge in the old "grandfather's" clock which stands in the corner. Jacob had fallen asleep in his chair, and, thinking he heard voices, has returned to see that all was well. To Esther's dismay he closes the window-shutters and takes up his position by the fire, intending to enjoy a smoke. In vain Esther tries to induce him to retire, and at length Jim, cooped up in the clock, begins to play tricks with the works, striking the hours, and making the hands move rapidly round the dial. Jacob's fondness for his pigs is only exceeded by his superstition, and he views the eccentricities of the clock with terror, his daughter barely succeeding in preventing him from making an attack on the timepiece. The disturbance arouses Mrs. Rimmer, who comes down in her *robe de nuit*, with embellishments. Jim redoubles his exertions, and the clock chases the old couple round the room, until they flee upstairs in terror, thus enabling Jim to make good his escape. The playlet was taken in the true spirit of farce. Mr. George Tully is to be highly commended on his impersonation of the cheery young lover, Jim, employing the North Country accent with much success; and a clever character study of old Jacob Rimmer is furnished by Mr. Harold Carson. Miss Daisy Cordell displays very prettily Esther's affection for her sweetheart and perturbation at his embarrassments; and Miss Helen Palgrave causes a few moments of mirth by her appearance as the old lady. The little piece received a remarkable demonstration of approval, and the authors were loudly called, without, however, any response being made.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Drama, entitled
"ALONE IN LONDON."

Melodrama still continues to win immense favour with Shakespeare audiences, and the management is to be congratulated upon the engagement of Mr. J. F. Elliston's company in the popular drama *Alone in London*. At the opening performance on Monday the house was filled with an enthusiastic audience, who followed the piece with keen interest, and bestowed liberal applause on their favourites. The scenery, too, was of a very high standard, the setting of the Sluice Gate in the third act being worthy of special praise. Mr. Harry McClelland assumes with success the genial and benevolent style of the rich banker, Mr. Burnaby, and acts throughout with dignity; Mr. Blundell Fenton is well suited to the rôle of Walter Burnaby; and Mr. Lennox Meadows hits off exactly the character of Charley Johnson. Mr. Percy Rhodes gives an admirable interpretation of the swell mobsman Richard Redcliffe, and his vigorous acting is well in keeping with the rôle. His accomplice Spriggins has an excellent representative in Mr. Frank Sutherland; and Mr. Percy Bell contributes a well-thought-out character-study of the arrant rogue Jenkinson. Mr. W. S. Hartford is naturally well gifted for the embodiment of John Bibblecombe, and is the honest and resolute farmer to the life. In the arduous rôle of Nan Miss Theresa Osborne acquits herself with decided success, and the force and pathos of the acting appeals strongly to the sympathy of the audience. Miss Gertie Douglas is a pert Liz Jenkinson, and invests the part with comic significance; a sterling delineation of the Irishwoman Mrs. Malony is contributed by Miss Nellie Lauraine; and Miss Rose Grey is a charming Ruth Clifton. A marked success is achieved by Miss Mary Stafford Smith, whose impersonation of the crippled waif Tom Chickweed stamps her as an actress of considerable ability. Miss Elsie Clarke does well as Little Paul; and all the minor parts have capable representatives.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Play entitled
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."

The united efforts of Mr. James Bell's company are securing a responsive welcome at the hands of the patrons of this house. Written by Mr. Charles Darrell, the story of *The Idol of Paris* is interestingly told and adequately portrayed by a well-selected cast. The play is drawing excellent audiences nightly. Miss Annie Bell in the title-rôle as Flare-Flare, a variety star, has a part which suits her to a nicety, adapting herself successfully to the needs of the moment, whether it be gaiety or the more emotional parts. Mr. Gordon Robey essays the difficult character of Prince Sergius Zoresky in a capable manner, and assumes the necessary dignity; Mr. Wilson Howard displays much ability as Philippe d'Esterre, and maintains a strong hold; Victor Cashelle is ably undertaken by Mr. Leonard Aardale, who puts heart into his work; Mr. Frank H. Dale is amusing as Tatave, and affords much pleasure; Gustave is in the capable hands of Mr. Pringle Roberts, who makes a natural notary; Mr. Chris Roberts does justice to Theo Decline; Miss Phena Powell supplies a good study in the character of Mme. Sancterre; Olympe Sosage is aptly portrayed by Miss Grace Noble; Miss Annie Megson as Ann is the source of much merriment; and Miss Pharo Anderson also offers an acceptable characterisation as Rachael Bernhardt.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Oct. 26, Shakespeare's Tragedy
"MACBETH."

Lovers of the immortal Bard of Avon, and they are many in the Peckham district, are having a rare treat in the enjoyment of a visit from Mr. William Mollison and company in their répertoire of Shakespearean and other plays. On Monday the piece selected was *Macbeth*. Mr. Mollison, with his sonorous voice and commanding presence, makes an ideal Macbeth. He shows us most artistically the brave, rugged warrior and loving husband, who, misled by his wife's evil counsel and his own ambition, commits one crime after another, and at last, fate-haunted and crushed, falls in a delirium of despair beneath Macduff's sword. Mr. Mollison was warmly cheered throughout by a very large and enthusiastic audience. Miss Evelyn McNay plays very finely as Lady Macbeth, indicating, with rare art, throughout all her wickedness, her intense love for her husband. Her sleep-walking scene was particularly admirable. Mr. William Calvert makes a first-class Macduff, his grief at the news of the murder of his wife and family being most realistically portrayed. Mr. W. A. Mackersay is a King Duncan full of "the milk of human kindness"; Mr. Henry Deas is good as Malcolm; Mr. Harold Neville a dignified Banquo; Mr. Alex Jenner an excellent wounded soldier; and Mr. Whitford Kane an efficient Rossi. Mr. R. B. Drysdale provides the one gleam of comedy in the play as the drunken porter. Miss Edith Blair-Staples, Miss Josephine Woodward, and Miss Gladys Brandon Gower are appropriately impressive as the three witches, though their tones are not sufficiently senile. The scenery and effects are admirable, and the concluding fight most realistically managed. On Tuesday *The Merchant of Venice* was played; on Wednesday *The Bonnie Brier Bush*, with a matinée of *The Merchant of Venice*; on Thursday *Othello*, and on Friday *Hamlet*. To-day there will be a matinée of *As You Like It*, with *David Garrick* in the evening.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Comedy entitled
"WHAT THE BUTLER SAW."

It is almost needless to mention that the amusing comedy of *What the Butler Saw*, as presented by Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche and supported by a clever company, is received with every mark of favour, and that the laughter is loud and continuous throughout the three acts. The play is excellently dressed, and the mounting is a noteworthy feature. Mr. Lionel Rignold as Pink, the butler, is in his most merrymaking vein, and keeps the house in roars of laughter, and is accorded a hearty reception; Miss Ada Blanche shows her experience and command of comedy, and imbues the part of Mrs. Barrington with characteristic mannerisms and quaint utterances, and is extremely diverting and deserves the applause so freely bestowed upon her; Mr. Charles Fawcett as Jack Barrington is unfailingly humorous, and maintains the part with excellent ability; Sir Charles Foden is made the most of in the hands of Mr. Raymond Dudley; Abraham Weinstein is amusingly characterised by Mr. Harry H. Rignold; General Dunlop is ably undertaken by Mr. George Ascot; Mr. G. Nelson Wallace gives a careful rendering of Professor Shale; Vere de Bagyns is successfully sustained by Mr. Louis Lingard; Miss Christine Jensen stands out prominently in the character of Miss Foden; Miss Julie St. George gives a skilful impersonation of Mrs. Hake; while Miss Gladys Lloyd makes an acceptable Nora. The remaining members of the cast lend effective assistance in their respective rôles.

THE GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Musical Play,
by Hugh Morton and Gustave Kerker, entitled
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

The Belle of New York still has power to attract, although it has now attained to quite a respectable age, as things go. Possibly the secret of the attraction lies to some extent in its foreign origin and to some extent also to its possession of sundry original characters, which are not in the least of the machine-made order, such as Blinky Bill and the ineffable "polite lunatic." Mr. Musgrove's company gives an excellent representation of the piece, and it is admirably mounted and dressed. Mr. Arthur Ricketts' fine presence gives distinction to the rôle of Ichabod Bronson; Mr. James Watts makes a good representative of the racketty Harry Bronson; Mr. Jos. R. Tate, a delightful "polite lunatic," makes the most of that character; Mr. W. Hartigan is good as Snifkins; and Mr. Alec Godfrey is full of quaint humour as Kenneth Mugg. Of Mr. Frank Lawton one can say no more than that he is as good as ever, and his performance is quite inimitable. He dances as lightly and gracefully as of old, while his whistling has been developed into a fine art. His playing in the scene in the candy store, where he almost makes his whistle talk—so to say—is really delightful. Mr. Hal Kirke and Mr. Ray Cody make an excellent pair as the Portuguese Twins. Miss Hebe Kneller looks and sings well as Violet Gray; Miss Winnie Browne, a fine representative of Cora Angelique, both sings and dances well; Miss Dorothy Doria as Fifi Fricot is deservedly applauded for her excellent rendering of the song "When we are married," into which, hackneyed as it now is, she puts a considerable amount of freshness and charm. Miss Florence Hersee throws wonderful energy into her representation of Mamie Clancy, and dances excellently. The music is under the capable direction of Mr. B. G. Paterson, and Mr. Wilfred Esmond is business-manager for Mr. Bannister Howard, who "presents" the piece.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Musical Comedy,
by Seymour Hicks, entitled
"THE GAY GORDONS."

Mr. Peter Davey, the enterprising manager of the Kingston playhouse, was again fortunate in the bill of fare he placed before his patrons on Monday evening, when *The Gay Gordons* made their first appearance in the riverside town and quite captivated all those who were fortunate enough to make their acquaintance. There were bumper houses at each performance. Mr. Frank Lincoln made a hit in the part of Angus Graeme; Miss Maie Ash (Miss Ellaline Terris's understudy at the Aldwych) was equally successful as Peggy Quainton, her singing being especially appreciated, and her "Humpty and Dumpty" song always evoking an encore. The part of Nervy Nat, the showman, found a most capable exponent in Mr. Tom Graves, who was ably assisted by Mr. Edward Namby as Edmund and Miss Ida Laurie as Charlotte Siddons. The singing of Miss Gladys Deane was particularly noticeable. A word of commendation is also deserved by Miss Ida Mann as Janet Macleod, by Miss Kittie Lonnen as Victoria Siddons, by Mr. Norman Forrest as Corporal Smith, and Mr. Miss Nora d'Esterre and Messrs. G. Paulton, R. H. Vallis, A. Stowell, W. Terriss, and A. Bravo in other parts. It is needless to say that the costumes and the mounting of the play were all that could be desired.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Drama by G. Carlton Wallace, entitled
"THE VILLAGE BLACKSMITH."

This drama has an attractiveness that time does not wither, and at this house it is again doing exceedingly well. Mr. Sam Livesey still plays the title-rôle and is as good as ever. The part fits him like a glove, and he gets every particle of effect out of it. Mr. Livesey's performance is an excellent piece of acting. Miss Maggie Edwards, who plays Kate Strong, acts with much charm; Miss Lily Leicester, a clever little girl, fills the part of Harry; Mr. Albert Sinclair is particularly good as Capt. Leo, and Mr. Edwin Maydew does well as Lucas Marler; Mr. T. E. Marshall and Mrs. T. C. Livesey give highly commendable performances of Jeremiah Parkins and Sal Parkins, his wife, respectively, and both their "make-ups" are excellent; Miss Cassie le Grand in the pathetic character of Ruth Parkins is entirely satisfactory; a quaint and laughable country boy is the Billy Twigg of Mr. Fred Haming, and Miss Edith Giddens as Martha Mopps helps largely in the fun of the piece. The wrestling match between Capt. Leo and John Strong is most realistically worked and earns enthusiastic applause. The staging is really well done.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Play, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

The homely story detailed in the play of *The Prodigal Son* is evidently well suited to the taste of a Dalston audience judging by the applause which is greeting the representations of that popular play this week at the house named. Two principal characters are played by Mr. Gordon Mackintosh as Oscar Stephensson and Mr. Hugh Montgomery as Magnus Stephensson. The latter, the conscientious, long-suffering brother, has a truly excellent representative in Mr. Montgomery; Oscar, the wanderer, is equally well portrayed by Mr. Mackintosh, who, when occasion requires, imparts an amount of sympathetic feeling to the rendition of the part which impresses the audience. Mr. Charles Cooper plays Stephen Magnusson, Governor of Iceland; and Miss Barbara Gott succeeds very cleverly as Anna. Miss Valerie Crespin, who undertakes the dual rôle of Thora Neilson and Elin, acts with convincing power in certain scenes in the play; Mr. Philip Renouf is Oscar Neilson, the factor; and Miss Mildred Cottell as Helga, his daughter, makes a hit in the part allotted to her. Miss Marie Harcourt is also decidedly good as Margaret Neilson, the factor's sister. Mr. E. Christopher is a business-like Sheriff; and Mr. Ernest Rivarz is a pleasant Dr. Olsen. Mr. George W. Hewetson's pastor is a neat study; Miss Nellie Gilbert's Lady Slingstone is effective; and other characters find admirable exponents in Messrs. C. A. Maynard, G. Dickson-Kenwin, A. Hall, H. Dobson, F. Manners, F. Ritchen, and L. West; and Misses Gertrude Rose, Edith Delaney, and Una Gilbert.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Drama, by Emma Litchfield, entitled
"THE GUIDING STAR."

The production this week here of *The Guiding Star* has attracted crowded houses to this popular house. The play, which teems with thrilling incidents, allows the artists unlimited scope to show their abilities, and gives the scene-painter and costumier opportunities to produce effective pictures and charming dresses. Mr. H. Ryeland Leigh again scores as Harold Hagar, a character which suits him completely; his powerful build and voice make the part stand out prominently. Mr. Harry Tresham plays the devoted lover, Jack Hilton, in his accustomed earnest, manly fashion. Farmer Dean is well represented by Mr. Conrad E. Clerke; Mr. C. Allen Hineson is quite at home in the rôle of Martin Hardcliffe; Mr. Herbert Young scores as the "dude," Alan Allenby; Mr. Ivan P. Gore plays with marked ability the village know-all, Joe Slater, in the earlier scenes, and later appears with success as a French gendarme. The lighter portions of the play are in the capable hands of Mr. H. G. Brandon, who represents Bob Bowser humorously. He is ably assisted by Miss Florence Barnes as Dolly Dean, a pert little serving-maid. Congratulations must be bestowed upon Miss Lalla Stanhope for her most winsome and dainty portrayal of the dual character of the twin sisters, Madge and Gladys Goodwin. She wins the sympathy of her audience. Miss Etheyle Gordon Murray as Mother Hagar has a part that requires skilful handling, but is equal to all demands made upon her, and is rewarded with applause. Miss Edna Lester plays successfully as Patty Brown and Mrs. Slater. Mr. Fred A. Fowler is kept busy in his capacity of manager in attending to his numerous patrons, and is becoming exceedingly popular in the district.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Oct. 26, the Drama, entitled
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

This popular success of Mr. Walter Howard's was presented here on Monday evening, and met with a gratifying reception. Mr. Ivan Cleveland is capitally cast in the part of the cruel Hildred, Prince of Sylvania; Mr. Græme Campbell presents a clever impersonation of the deformed Prince Michael; Mr. Herbert Ford admirably sustains the rôle of the brave and handsome Prince Olaf; Mr. Edmund Lee gives a striking portrait of the brusque Colonel Wellenberg; and Mr. Francis Hawley is to be commended for his Bishop of Illyria. Mr. Lewin D. Mannering is very good as Capt. Hector; Mr. Kendal Chalmers is successful in providing amusement as Lieut. Karl Stronberg; Colonel Schwartz is well played by Mr. Ivan Ewart; and Mr N. Christie deserves praise for his Capt. Karaberg. That clever actress, Miss Annie Saker, again delights playgoers by her admirable acting as Monica, Princess of Illyria; Miss Dido Drake is very pretty as Viola; and Miss Isla Garnett-Vayne deserves to be highly praised for her impersonation of the beggar maid, Camiola. The play is nicely mounted and dressed, and the military uniforms are particularly fine.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

At the Students' Concert given at the Trinity College on Monday afternoon Mr. Ernest Palser gave a neatly-executed organ solo of Mendelssohn's Sonata in F Minor, No. 1. In Goring Thomas's charming song "A Summer Night" Miss Geraldine Anness displayed artistic feeling in her singing, but the introduction of a violoncello obbligato proved somewhat superfluous, although capitally played by Mr. Walter Britton. A very youthful pupil of Miss Maude Agnes Winter, Miss Eugenie Lenaerts, was much applauded in her piano solo "Grace," Op. 149 No. 5, by Charles Mayer; and Miss Mabel Staley, who possesses an excellent contralto voice, sang Handel's recitative "Frondi tenere" and aria "Ombra mai fu" with great intelligence, though a little more breadth of style would have been welcome, but that will no doubt come with greater experience. Miss Staley had a most hearty recall. Miss Bertha Tomlin played Chopin's "Berceuse" with care and expression; and Miss Florence McCarthy distinguished herself in "The gleaner's slumber song" of R. H. Walthew. Miss Dorothy R. P. Murray's pianoforte solo "Hexentanz," by McDowell, proved entirely successful; while Miss Gertrude Wallis greatly pleased the audience in her singing of "The Wren" and "The Yellowhammer," two songs of Liza Lehmann's.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News*.

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican*.

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun*.

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News*.

MATINEE AT THE KENNINGTON.

The cause of the little ones has been warmly taken up by the Mayor of Southwark, and in aid of his worship's fund for supplying meals to underfed children a concert was given on Tuesday afternoon at the Kennington Theatre, kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Robert Arthur. The matinée, which was under the patronage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, was liberally supported, the handsome theatre being quite filled in stalls, pit, balcony, and gallery alike. The audience included the Mayor of Southwark (Alderman A. G. Grantham, J.P.), and other aldermen and councillors, who attended in state. Mr. H. B. Brandreth, the popular manager, and the whole staff of the theatre gave their services free, the entire proceeds of the performance being thus available for the fund. Mr. E. T. Steyne, of the Apollo Theatre, had the direction of the stage for the occasion, and Mr. C. F. Parsley acted as chief of staff.

The entertainment differed in few respects from those presented under similar circumstances at the West-End, and many leading artists figured in the programme. A notable contribution to the concert was that of the orchestra of 110 instrumentalists, consisting of members of the Musicians' Union, who gave magnificent renderings of the overture from *William Tell* of Rossini, and of Tschaikowsky's "1812" overture, the immense volume of sound produced being quite thrilling. The orchestra was conducted by Mr. Jullien H. Wilson, who had repeatedly to bow his acknowledgments. An early appearance was made by Mr. Lionel Brough, who was warmly welcomed, and caused unlimited mirth by a number of stories told in his most effective style. Similar results were obtained by Mr. Malcolm Scott, who dilated on the subject of geography and kept his hearers in constant laughter. Mr. Rutland Barrington was in his drollest vein, and gave the story of a cannibal with irresistible humour, and the house roared continuously at Mr. J. J. Dallas' quaint rendering of his clever song, "In my mind."

A popular favourite was also found in Miss Ada Reeve, who had to respond to an encore for her archly-rendered song of a servant, and gave her piquantly pointed "Nursery Tales." A much-appreciated item of the bill was the sketch *Find the Lady First*, presented by Levey and Lilliput, in which Miss Adele Lévey submits some graceful sword play and joins a diminutive comedian in a mock melodrama. The Meister Singers' two unaccompanied glees were tastefully rendered and warmly applauded; Mr. W. Douthitt won much admiration for his cultivated singing; Mr. Reginald Leyland caused laughter by his travesty at the piano of grand opera; Miss Winsome Mayde danced picturesquely in an episode called *The Dagger Dance of Peshawar*; and Little Gladys Francis won protracted applause for her imitations, and responded with a dainty dance. Contributions to the programme were also made by Doroswami, an expert violinist; Miss Schwartz, a refined ballad singer; Mr. Hugh E. Wright, comic; and Master R. J. Heney, soprano. An appropriate item of the bill was found in a one-act piece specially written for the occasion by Frank Dix, entitled

"THE WAIF."

Auriol Raynor ..... Miss Elsie Evelyn Hill
Jasper White ..... Mr. Frank Dix
Mark Ellerton ..... Mr. George W. Cockburn
Jimmy Collins ..... Master Bobbie Andrews

It is a simple tale of a crossing-sweeper, who is given food and shelter during a snowstorm by a kindly clergyman. The charitable act is witnessed by a celebrated actress, who gives the minister money for the poor lad. She learns through the mouth of a blind pedlar that the boy is no other than her own son, whom years before her heartless husband had informed her was dead. The boy is brought out from the church in a fainting condition, and dies in his mother's arms. The little piece was well acted, the services of Master Bobbie Andrews being secured for the title-rôle, which he presented very naturally. Mr. George W. Cockburn gave a good study of Blind Mark; Mr. Frank Dix was a benign clergyman; and Miss Elsie Evelyn Hill played sympathetically as the young mother.

Towards the end of the performance the Mayor went on to the stage and thanked the audience for their kindness in coming there in spite of the inclement weather. He would thus be able to add approximately 165gs. to his fund for underfed children. His thanks were also given to Mr. Robert Arthur for placing his beautiful theatre at his disposal, which, coupled with the generosity of the artists and the fact that there had been no working expenses, would enable him to say that the gross takings for that most enjoyable entertainment would be handed over to the fund. He also tendered his thanks to the artists for their generosity in sacrificing their well-earned rest that afternoon to come down and give of their best. He added his most hearty thanks to Mr. Jullien Wilson, who, backed up by his splendid orchestra of talented musicians, had given such grand performances of beautiful overtures. He also thanked Mr. Steyne, who for the past week or two had been busily engaged in organising the group of artists who had done him such credit. Finally his worship thanked Mr. Brandreth, the manager of the theatre, and the working staff for their endeavours towards the success attained.

DEATH OF HERBERT FLEMMING.

A power in the theatrical world of the Antipodes has been removed by the death at Melbourne on the 23rd inst. of Mr. Herbert Flemming, the well-known Australian manager and actor. The deceased entrepreneur was sole director of the Herbert Flemming Comedy Company, and in that capacity controlled a good deal of the dramatic entertainments of the Australian stage. Mr. Flemming, who was fifty-two years of age, had a considerable amount of his early experiences in Australia. He came to London in 1892, and appeared as Krogstad in Ibsen's *Doll's House*, at the Avenue Theatre, in *The Primrose Path* at the Vaudeville, in *Strathlogan* at the Princess's, in *The Queen of Manoa* at the Haymarket, and in *Alexandra* and *Clever Alice* at the Royalty. As *jeune premier* at the Adelphi he supported the late Mr. Terriss and Miss Jessie Milward, appearing in *A Woman's Revenge* in 1893, and *The Cotton King* and *Shall We Forgive Her?* in 1894. After touring for some time in South Africa, Mr. Flemming four years ago entered into partnership with the late Mr. Robert Brough in Australia, and on his partner's death carried on the business with undiminished success.

Among Mr. Flemming's enterprises was that of conducting a two and a half years' tour of the Brough-Flemming company, from Western Australia to farthest north Queensland, and the length and breadth of New Zealand. The Brough-Flemming productions have included *Beauty and the Barge*, *The Walls of Jericho*, *Little Mary*, *Quality Street*, *Dr. Wake's Patient*, *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, *Peter's Mother*, *What Would a Gentleman Do?* *Village Priest*, *Niobe*, *Sowing the Wind*, and *Olivia*. It is a noteworthy fact that three of the productions were staged and ran concurrently with the London productions.

Mr Flemming's death was due to a chill contracted during a journey from Sydney to Adelaide.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—In your issue of last week your correspondent, in his notice of *The Flower Girl*, at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, says the company is mine. This is an error. It is Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company, and I am simply playing for him in the part of Joe Wheeler.—Yours faithfully, Martin Adeson, Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, Oct. 27, 1908.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Oct. 27. Present: Mr. Fred Grove (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Cecil Raleigh, Clarence Derwent, J. Sebastian Smith, Franklin Walford, Misses Marion Lind, and Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary)

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The following letter from the V.A.F. to the secretary of the Association was read:—"Dear Sir,—I am in receipt of your favour of Oct. 22, and on behalf of the Variety Artists' Federation in general, and of the Executive Committee in particular, I beg to thank the Council for the unanimous vote of sympathy with this organisation during the present crisis. We trust the time is near at hand when all sections of performers, both theatrical and variety, will be so organised that the grievances under which the performers have so long suffered will be redressed, and that they who are instrumental in drawing the public to the various houses of entertainment will have their just demands fully and absolutely recognised, and not be treated as humanised dividend-earning machines as heretofore.—Believe me, dear sir, yours faithfully, M. BAYLY, general secretary."

The hon. solicitors submitted the copy of a letter received from a member in reply to a letter from the solicitor. They reported that they had written to another member, and to a railway company again as to a claim made.

The chairman read a letter from various members, and the secretary was instructed to reply.

Miss Dorothy White was elected a member, and two ladies were nominated.

Mr. Raleigh read a letter from Mr. Leveaux suggesting that Mr. Sydney C. A. Bent, of Ravenslearond, Wandsworth Common, be made hon. medical officer to the A.A., and the secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Bent asking him whether he would be willing to serve.

The secretary reported the following engagements, namely: Henry Atwater with H. B. Irving, Henry Le Grand with Charles Stewart, Edwin Millind with Lawrence Gwen, Herbert Dickeson with Langford Reede, and Gertrude Le Sage with Langford Reede.

The Council discussed the question of the socials.

The following ladies are the committee for the Cinderella dance: Misses Georgina Hamilton, Marion F. Lind, and Joan Pereira.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place on the 22nd inst., when the following members were present: Messrs. A. Maitland Stapley (chairman), F. Rawson Buckley, Robert M. Taylor, Orlando Barnett, Gerald Mirrielees, Edward Y. Rae, Leslie Arthur, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

Letters were received during the week from Messrs. Geo. H. Child, Oswald Marshall, Jerrold Heather, Fred F. Loyd, Arthur Bawtree, George P. Lester, James English, Royce Milton, J. Hastings Batson, Edward Chester, Owen Roughwood, Frank Gerald, and H. Tripp-Edgar.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

The following were appointed to constitute the Finance Committee, a quorum to consist of three, and all cheques to be signed by any two of the Finance Committee and the general secretary: Messrs. Harry Paulton, jun. (hon. treasurer), Leslie Arthur, Gerald Mirrielees, Robert M. Taylor, and A. Maitland Stapley.

A vote of thanks to the president of the Actors' National Protective Union of America for his letter was passed, and the secretary was instructed to ask for a book of their rules and for a copy of their contract.

The secretary was instructed to appoint Mr. F. Halliday, Stanley Arms Hotel, Preston, and Mr. Tom Hazelhurst, De Silva's Hotel, St. John's-lane, Liverpool, agents of the A.U. in their respective towns.

A proposition that no more new agents be appointed until the new year was carried.

Owing to the fact that his time is so fully occupied, Mr. Owen Roughwood sent in his resignation from the committee, which the executive accepted with regret.

It was resolved that those members who have not bought a stamp on their last year's card be written to to the effect that unless an answer is received by Nov. 5 (first post) they will be struck off the books of the Union without further notice.

It was decided that the Finance Committee should form the sub-committee to enquire into the state of the Union, and make a written report to be laid before the Executive Committee.

Three new members were elected.

AN ACTRESS'S ACTION.

At Lambeth County Court on Wednesday Miss Dorothy Carlton, an actress, residing at Fairfax-road, Bedford Park, brought an action against Mr. Charles M. Bestic, theatrical manager, of Sidney-road, Stockwell, to recover one week's salary, the railway fare from Oldham to London, and £3 damages for wrongful dismissal.

The plaintiff informed his Honour Judge Cluer that in April she was engaged to go on tour with a company in *The Flower Girl*, a musical play. During a rehearsal at Birkenhead the stage-manager accused her of smiling, and ordered her off the stage. She was not allowed to perform again, and no salary was paid in lieu of notice. Her reappearance in the play was made conditional, but she refused to apologise to the stage-manager, not having anything to apologise for, and the result was that she was stranded at Oldham.

Cross-examined by Mr. Arthur Bolden, who defended, plaintiff said she was willing to perform, but was not allowed to. She was not dismissed, but simply ordered from the stage.

Miss Gladwys Smith and Miss Gertie Jackson, members of the company, denied that plaintiff's conduct at rehearsal gave cause for complaint. She was, in fact, one of the quietest members of the company.

Mr. Gliddon, musical-director of the piece, said plaintiff behaved frivolously in a solemn scene—the scene wherein an orphan girl was leaving home. He had noticed her laughing and chattering several times, and she was seldom ready to take up her lines, "Farewell to this dear girl." At the rehearsal in question she tittered, and turned her back when requested not to laugh, saying she would do as she liked. When requested to leave the stage plaintiff said, "With pleasure." She received her salary for that week, and was told she might resume her part if she would apologise.

In answer to Mr. H. W. Mote, solicitor for plaintiff, witness said that he did not know that the stage-manager had been very unpopular among the whole company: he had simply been very strict.

The Judge awarded the plaintiff one week's salary, the railway fare from Oldham to London, and the £3 claimed as damages.

IN response to numerous applications the committee of the Grenfell Club, 23, Bedford-street, Strand, have decided to admit a limited number of gentlemen connected with the various professions as associate members. The Thursday evening "At Homes" have become quite a recognised function, and a new drawing-room exclusively for lady members is being added.

THE KENNINGTON.

On Monday, Oct. 26, for the first time in London, the Play, in One Act, translated and adapted by Mr. P. G. Duchesne from *La Gouvernante* of M. Provins, and entitled

"THE NURSERY GOVERNESS."

Captain Trent .....MR. HARCOURT WILLIAMS
Mrs. Trent .....MISS JEAN STERLING MACKINLAY
Simpson Brigge .....MR. ASHTON PEARSE
Wilson .....MISS BARBARA HANNAY

Surely no region of the vast metropolis is better served in the matter of amusement than the south, and certainly no more beautiful theatre is to be discovered in any London district than the house that is so prettily situated near Kennington Park. Here Mr. Robert Arthur presents to his patrons all the greatest theatrical attractions from the West, and week after week Londoners across the bridges are treated to the best of fare. This week Mr. George Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh are to be seen in that clever piece of dramatic work *The Thief*, which was recently drawing large houses to the St. James's. The attractions of the chief piece have been strengthened by the addition of a curtain-raiser, *The Nursery Governess*, which does not suffer from its French origin. This is due to the skill of the adaptor, Mr. P. G. Duchesne, who has added a really funny piece with droll situations to the limited number of first pieces that have the precious quality of making one laugh. Captain Trent, for some flimsy cause, has been divorced from his wife—at the suit of the lady; and when the curtain rises on the piece Mrs. Trent has virtually become engaged again, and has adopted her maiden name of Hester Lorimer. The ex-husband and the prospective husband meet, the latter being an old-womanish, elderly prig named Simpson Brigge. On his departure Trent has an interview with his wife, who, though divorced, is still the *bonne camarade*, and it is evident that Brigge is not at all the sort of man that such an impulsive and unconventional woman is likely to put up with for long. Trent becomes quite friendly with Brigge—for his own purposes *bien entendu;* and artfully insinuates that Hester (Mrs. Trent) has had some love passages with a cousin, and is not altogether blameless in the matter of the divorce. There is a stormy scene between the wife and her suitor, while Trent goes to play with his children, and the quarrel becomes more acute when Brigge tells taradiddles concerning his youthful days and makes himself out to be quite a "dog." A question of the colour of the upholstery in the ménage that is to be brings matters to a climax, and with the departure of Simpson Brigge it is easy to see that the separated pair will never allow the decree nisi to become absolute. Miss Jean Sterling Mackinlay, who allies charm to comedy power, gives a delightful portrait of Mrs. Trent; and Mr. Harcourt Williams has quite an agreeable rattle as Captain Trent, keeping the audience in hilarious mood whenever he is on the stage. Mr. Ashton Pearse as Simpson Brigge portrays a typical old prig very cleverly; and the cast is completed by Miss Barbara Hannay as Wilson. The piece is received nightly with roars of laughter.

Mr. George Alexander as Richard Chelford and Miss Irene Vanbrugh as Marise Chelford hold the house in thrall during the second act in the most powerful and painful scene of *The Thief*, and the absorbed attention of packed houses has been the most eloquent testimony to the intensity of the acting of both these admirable players. Mr. Reginald Owen, a young actor of considerable ability, handles the character of Harry with rare tact and discretion; Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds makes an excellent Mr. Protheroe; Mr. Dawson Milward does effective work as Raymond Leyton; and Miss Nina Sevening's winsomeness is a great factor in her unquestioned success in the part of Isabel Leyton. Mr. Montague Wigan is irreproachable as the servant. Mr. Brandreth, the acting-manager for Mr. Robert Arthur, is a courteous and genial gentleman, whom it is a pleasure to meet.

"PIERRE OF THE PLAINS."

Dramatisation, in Four Acts, of Sir Gilbert Parker's Novel, "Pierre and His People," by Edgar Selwyn.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Selwyn scored a double success at the Hudson Theatre on the 12th inst., as his dramatic version of Sir Gilbert Parker's story was received with marked approval, and for his impersonation of Pierre he has been credited with a remarkably fine performance. Pierre is a half-breed and a gambler, and everybody mistrusts him, but he has the redeeming virtue of never forgetting a kindness. This brings him to old Galbraith's road house to give warning that the Canadian mounted police are on the trail of Val Galbraith for killing an Indian. He schemes with Val's father to get the fugitive over the Canadian border into Montana. Sergeant Tom Redding, of the mounted police, comes to the elder Galbraith's house, expecting to capture Val, but is put out of action by a few drops of laudanum. Val's sister Jen, the masterful little heroine, is in love with the brave but luckless Tom, and being ignorant of the fact that he is pursuing her own brother, she rides to the headquarters of the mounted police and delivers the orders that she finds in his pocket. This act of hers leads to the capture of her brother, and by the time Sergeant Tom has shaken off the effects of the drug Val has been taken prisoner and led back to the house. The girl is almost distracted when she learns what has happened. The police ride away with the prisoner to place him in a cell, and Pierre and Jen put their heads together, intending to set him free. Jen has struck him and called him an ugly name on learning that her lover has been drugged and taken, but now she has faith in Pierre and will go with him to take care of the horses. It is the first time anyone has trusted the half-breed, and he is duly grateful; but he forgets himself for a moment and starts to make love to her Then the gambler remembers. "It is not in the cards," he says, and besides, he is losing valuable time. They manage to release Val whilst his captors are asleep and escort him to a spot where it is an easy run to safety across the frontier. But the police are after Pierre, and Jap Durkin, a guide who has a grudge against the half-breed, has sworn to get him. The pursuers arrive, but Pierre has disappeared. The others ride on, but Durkin lingers. He catches sight of Pierre through the brushwood, and there ensues a realistic and exciting struggle, strongly suggestive of the fierce fight that occurs in *The Wolf*, another Canadian play that was recently described. The struggle becomes a hand-to-hand fight with knives. Durkin finds he is getting the worst of it and tries to run. Pierre follows him up a steep incline, and they grapple with each other at the summit. Finally Pierre puts all his strength into a mighty effort. His knife reaches his enemy's heart, and the guide falls backward down the rocks. This is a thrilling scene, and it evokes a storm of applause. To oblige his sweetheart Sergeant Tom allows Pierre to slip through his fingers. The pursuit goes on, however, and as the curtain falls Pierre shuffles his cards to find out from them whether the police will catch him before he gets over the border.

SEVERAL places of amusement in Liverpool have this week shown outside notices containing the following intimation:—"Children under fourteen years of age are not admitted unless accompanied by a parent or guardian." This action is the result of the hint thrown out last week by the Licensing Bench. Whether the new rule will prove of any effect is generally doubted, for it will be an easy matter for youngsters to pass the pay-box in the care of a sympathetic elder.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, OCT. 14.—Miss Maxine Elliott began an engagement at Daly's Theatre on the 5th inst., appearing in a three-act play entitled *Myself—Bettina*, by Miss Rachel Crothers, author of *The Three of Us*. Bettina Dean, the character assumed by Miss Elliott, has been in Paris for four years, studying singing, and when she returns to the straitlaced New England household she creates a stir. Bettina has had a girlish inclination towards John Marshall, the minister, but is not sure that she is really in love with him. Her sister Mamie, who lives as a member of the minister's family, is betrothed to the clergyman's brother, Lennox Marshall, who has wronged her. Bettina arranges to appear as Salome at a church entertainment. Her selection of this character angers the minister, and he lectures her severely. Highly indignant, Bettina decides to go to a village dance which she has previously promised not to attend, such things being regarded as sinful in the community. She is accompanied by Lennox Marshall, who, at the first opportunity, makes violent love to her. Bettina's sister overhears, and being discovered weeping, confesses her fault. Sympathy grows between Bettina and the minister through his ready forgiveness of the younger girl. He insists that his brother shall marry Mamie, but Bettina argues that such a union would mean unhappiness for both of them, having no genuine moral foundation, and the clergyman finally agrees with her. So Bettina sends her sister to Paris to study music in her stead, and stays at home to become the wife of the minister. The scene showing the rehearsal of Salome proved most diverting, although the dance was too brief to cause much excitement. Miss Elliott played Bettina with her accustomed ease and naturalness, and looked most charming. Mr. Julian L'Estrange was excellent in the rôle of the clergyman; Mr. Eric Maturin contributed a clever character sketch of the boyish scamp Lennox Marshall; and Messrs. Grant Mitchell and Thomas J. Kelly did well in important rôles.

"THE AMERICAN IDEA," a musical comedy in three acts, produced last week at the New York Theatre, is George M. Cohan's "latest." It satirises the doings of certain wealthy Americans in Paris, just as *The Yankee Prince* dealt with the adventures of the same sort of folk in London. What semblance of a plot there is refers to the troubles of a Dutch brewer and an Irish politician who live in Brooklyn, and decide to go to Paris to catch a French Count as a son-in-law. There are plenty of lively dances and catchy songs, the finale of the second act, "American Ragtime," being particularly good. Frankly frivolous, the piece is calculated to drive away dull care, and is therefore immensely popular with the great army of theatregoers who are not severely critical.

MR. JAMES K. HACKETT is appearing at his own theatre in a very successful revival of *The Prisoner of Zenda*, in which play Mr. Hackett distinguished himself during the days of the old Lyceum Theatre in Fourth-avenue. His fine presence and graceful bearing are personal advantages that go a long way in plays of this kind, and his expert swordsmanship gives those who witness it some most enjoyable thrills. Mr. Hackett has also revived *The Crisis*, one of the most popular plays in his répertoire. His company includes Miss Mabel Roebuck, Miss Alison Skipworth, Messrs. Arthur Hoops, Brigham Royce, Carl Ahrendt, John Dugan, and several other well-known players.

MISS MARY MANNERING is rehearsing a new emotional drama by E. B. Tilton called *Memory and To-Morrow*, in which she will play the part of a young girl who falls into the hands of an unscrupulous artist in London. He deserts her, and she emigrates to America, where she marries and endeavours to begin life anew. Eight years afterwards the artist crosses her path and threatens to expose her past life, and the play depicts the heroic fight of the woman for the happiness of herself and her family.

NEW YORK, OCT. 21.—*The Golden Butterfly*, a comic opera in three acts, has made a decided hit at the Broadway Theatre. The piece was written and composed by Harry B. Smith and Reginald de Koven respectively, and it deals with musical plagiarism, the jealousies of leading artists, and the vagaries and vanities of the green room. The central figure of the story is Ilma Walden, a chorus girl of the Buda Pesth opera, whose lover, Franz, goes to Paris to become a famous musician. Having spent his last sou and failed to win renown, he returns with a band of street musicians to find Ilma still waiting for her "chance" at the opera. In the meantime she has to eke out her income by teaching. His inadvertent confession that during their separation he has amused himself with other sweethearts excites his lady love to anger. She scorns him, and immediately after he learns that she is to replace the prima donna of the opera, who has fallen ill on the eve of the production of the opera written by the Baron von Affenkoff, one of the directors. Surprising them at rehearsal, Franz recognises in the supposed work of the Baron his own lost masterpiece. Meanwhile, the prima donna, scenting a rival, suddenly recovers, and Ilma's return to the chorus is inevitable when Franz, impersonating a Russian prince, persuades the prima donna to elope with him, and enables his sweetheart to win her triumph. In her despair at Franz's apparent perfidy, however, Ilma promises her hand to the Baron, but in the last act she escapes an undesirable marriage, and the lovers are brought together, while Franz wins recognition as a great composer. "Great Musicians," a humorous number with musical effects that illustrate the singer's story of the theft of his "original" compositions, made an immediate hit. His listeners are entirely wrong in crediting certain familiar strains to Verdi or Sullivan. They really belong to an opera composed by the Baron. Mr. Louis Harrison made the most of his opportunities as the Baron, and was particularly good in the song just mentioned. Miss Grace Van Studdiford, in the rôle of Ilma, easily upheld her position as a reigning favourite of light opera, and sang several pleasing numbers in a most delightful manner.

MR. DENMAN THOMPSON, who is appearing once more as Joshua Whitcomb in *The Old Homestead*, has just celebrated his seventy-fifth birthday. He has been playing this part for thirty-three years.

MR. LOUIS MANN is appearing at the Circle Theatre, under the management of Mr. W. A. Brady, in a four-act play called *The Man Who Stood Still*, by Jules Eckert Goodman. Johann Krauss, a kindly, old-fashioned man, who sells clocks and watches and cheap jewellery at his little shop in the Bowery, is the individual referred to in the title. When the story begins old Krauss is content. When he left the old country with his wife twenty years ago he found happiness in America. His wife is dead, but he has a daughter on the verge of womanhood; he has made friends, and he loves his business. But with the flight of time certain things happen which force the old man to realise that he is out of touch with the progressive spirit of the age. Cheap workmanship and cheap prices are in demand nowadays. The old Swiss movements, that to his mind represent the highest excellence in the art of watchmaking, are out of date, "a good watch for a dollar" having taken their place. Then the Russian immigrant he has employed from the day he landed in America goes over to his rival, and his rival's son disgraces his daughter Marie, and finally runs away with her. The old man is heartbroken. He has lived for his daughter, his clocks, and his old friends. Marie was to have married Fred Spiegel, the son of a neighbour whom Krauss has known for many years, and who plays pinochle with him every evening, but it was not to be. During their usual game one evening it comes out that Marie has borne a child and is not married. This is the hardest blow of all. Spiegel has sheltered the mother and child, but when he learns there has been no marriage his harshness severs the friendship that exists between him and the old watchmaker. In the final scene Krauss is moving away from the old shop. Only a few empty show cases remain and the pasteboard sign that tells of "a good watch for a dollar"—the article that has made such inroads into his business. Alone, Krauss comes to take a last look round. A little girl is playing with a cuckoo clock. She proves to be his daughter's child, and when she puts her arms around his neck the old man's heart is softened and Marie is forgiven. Fred Spiegel has already offered to marry the girl, and the Russian lad who used to work for Krauss puts the old man in charge of the jewellery department of his new store, so the fortunes of the man who "stood still" seem to be on the mend when the curtain falls. Mr. Mann has never done anything better than his representation of the old-fashioned watchmaker. Remembering the ludicrous dialect parts that he has chiefly played for a number of years, his delineation of the father's rage and grief in the second act when he learns that his daughter is gone was a remarkable exhibition of versatility and power. Mr. Robert A. Fischer was splendid as the irascible Spiegel, and, with Mr. Mann, was repeatedly recalled, their respective impersonations evoking frequent and hearty applause.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, SEPT. 14.—Mr. Frank Thornton is now playing what is to be his farewell season in Australia, and past and present generations of playgoers declare, in large nightly crowds at the Palace Theatre, that his Private Secretary is as funny and clever as ever. He has strong support in Mr. Harry Ashford, who acts Old Cattermole with rare judgment. The term "veteran" sits ill on Mr. Thornton's shoulders, for never was he livelier or more eager to make points as the self-effacing curate than now. The house is full to overflowing, and kept in a whirlwind of delighted laughter. Mr. Edwin Geach promises a revival of all Mr. Thornton's popular farces before he goes away, to our intense regret.

"MRS. WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH" has caught popular fancy with its consistent characteristics of the innocent life of up-country Americans. Recent Transatlantic fiction has schooled us in the idioms and slow-moving methods of these people, with their transparent hearts, so that we enjoy the philosophy of Mrs. Wiggs, as impersonated by Miss Ada Dwyer, with a wholesome heartiness. The rustic drama will run until the 25th, and next night Her Majesty's will see the Sydney *première* of *The Merry Widow*.

THE Tivoli has Mr. Harry Rickards's biggest bill for years. Wild enthusiasm greets the most marvellous and captivating performance of Abdullah's Moorish Arabs. Nothing like it has ever been seen here, and the performers fairly revel in the reception accorded to their efforts. Miss Nellie Wilson, now paying us her third visit, is a sterling favourite with every part of the house. She is always welcome. The Rigoletto Brothers, the Miles-Stavordale Quintette, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Meymott (capital sketchists), Bella Perman, Fanny Powers, Austin Rudd, Ted Kalman ("the boss laugh-maker"), Nita Leete, the rich-voiced contralto), Maud Florence, and Eileen Lyons are among Mr. Rickards' many-sided attractions.

SYDNEY, SEPT. 22.—*Peter Pan*, at the Theatre Royal, will be succeeded by a revival of *Dorothy Vernon*, in which Miss Tittell Brune and Mr. Thomas Kingston will occupy prominent places. Meanwhile, the revels of the Thespian juveniles continue to amuse their contemporaries.

MR. WILLIAMSON'S next venture is the Ada Crossley series of concerts, beginning on Oct. 1. The Australian contralto will be assisted by Percy Grainger, another Victorian, Mr. John Harrison, Mr. Hamilton Earle, and Mr. Leon Sametini.

THE Tivoli is crowded at every performance to see the wonderful troupe of Arabs, headed by Abdullah. This turn is the most attractive and talked-about of all the Harry Rickards importations. Last Saturday the fine programme was enlarged by the addition of Mr. Burt Shepard, from the Palace Theatre, London, and the Barnard Family, in *Dolls Alike*, an amusing sketch. Miss Nellie Wilson, on her third visit, is heartily welcomed every night; and Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott play capital sketches.

THE National Amphitheatre has added Florrie and Stella Ranger, two sterling favourites, and Denis Carney, a Yorkshire character actor. Tod Callaway, the clever Australian comedian; McKisson and Kearns, and a lot more clever artists, entertain at low prices.

AMUSEMENTS IN BRUSSELS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BRUSSELS, OCT. 27.—*Guillaume Tell* has been the attraction at the Opera House here. *Moreille, Faust, Carmen*, and *Siegfried* have also been successfully revived. The only novelty has been a one-act ballet by Ambrosiny entitled *Quand les Chats sont Partis* ("When the cats are away . .").

AT the Parc, La Duse has been seen in *Gioconda, Hedda Gabler, Rosmersholm*, and *Adrienne Lecouvreur* by crowded and enthusiastic audiences.

THE Mollière is at present our only operetta house. Audran's *Cigale* is on the bill, and has been favourably received, pending the promised novelties. Mlles. Delormes and de Brazy are the pretty cousins, and MM. La Banny and Georges and as Franz, the Duke, and Guillaume are fully appreciated.

LAVENDAN'S modern comedy *Viveurs* has had a good reception at the Alçazar. At the Galeries, Huguenet triumphs every night in *Le Roi*. Le Palais d'Eté is still offering a good entertainment. This week's programme includes Lesonia, a fantaisiste; Leo and Harry, comic bar performers; Franklin and Eros in their acrobatic act; Lamelet's trained monkeys; Giletta, a Parisian singer; Lily Flexmore, American eccentric dancer; the Verona Cycle Troupe; and two big stars—Carl Hertz, the illusionist, and La Belle Guerrero in a musical dumb play entitled *The Poniard and the Rose*.

AT the recent champagne luncheon given by Bass and Co., at the Brewers' Exhibition, Agricultural Hall, several amusing speeches were made. Mr. Thomas Ross, chairman of the luncheon and managing-director at Burton, stated that the pyramids of Egypt resembled the familiar triangle trademark of Bass's, and that the glummy look of the Sphinx was due to the fact of her not being able to obtain a bottle of the thirst-quenching Bass on a scorching hot day. Mr. W. George, of the firm of Strong and Co., made some humorous references to the triangle and its resemblance to the danger sign for motors. He explained that one sign warned the people of the danger of rushing a dangerous hill while the other warned people of rushing imitations of Bass down their throats.

MR. HENRY COUTTS, the well-known protean artist, stated that he was an Australian from Australia, and, besides representing the vaudeville stage on this occasion, he said he would like to be the representative of the whole of the Bass drinkers of the islands or states of Australasia. If his hearers were not already aware of it, he would like to tell them that Bass ale had reached the shores of Australia, but he was afraid that this news was on a par with the oft-quoted fact that the Dutch had taken Holland.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DIE FUR INS FREIE,"

Farce, in Three Acts, by MM. Blumenthal and Kahlenburg, Produced at the Lustspielhaus, Oct. 16.

Hinsberg .....HERR BECKMANN
Frau Hinsberg .....FRAULEIN HILLER
Fanny .....FRAULEIN CERIGIOLI
Malva .....FRAULEIN WENDT
Hohn .....HERR PAUL
Sinding .....HERR BACH
Vogt .....HERR SCHORNFELD
Frau Vogt .....FRAULEIN SERDA
Munck .....HERR RITTER
Kaethe .....FRAULEIN FELS
Weigand .....HERR SCHINDLER
Lili .....FRAULEIN LIMBURG
Haberland .....HERR PAULMULLER
Aurelie .....FRAULEIN MARSA
Zirbel .....HERR IMPEKOVEN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, OCT. 22.—The latest production of these ever-popular and most prolific collaborators was attended with considerable success. The audience was in excellent humour all the evening, laughed heartily at all the jokes—good, bad, and indifferent—and called the authors after each act to receive a goodly measure of applause. Unfortunately, the well-known playwright and humorist, Herr Robert Misch, declares MM. Blumenthal and Kahlenburg guilty of plagiarism, and has gone to law on that score. The issue of the case is being anticipated with much interest. It is true that the main idea is rather more original than are the plots of most of the collaborators' farces. In a little provincial town it suddenly transpires that all the marriage-knots tied by a former burgomaster are null and void. As there are some dozen couples tied up in this manner, "the door to liberty"—as the title has it—is unexpectedly opened, and out they go, reluctantly or merrily, as the case may be. Of course this affords scope for comic scenes innumerable, and all types of character are depicted: the wives take up their quarters in hotels, the men do the housekeeping or enjoy their liberty to the full. That all the pairs ultimately repair to the register office to be united over again, and more effectually, is equally a matter of course; in fact, the reconciliations become monotonous after a time. The acting was capital throughout, or the piece would not have made anything like such a hit as it did.

SIGNORA MIMI AGUGLIA is continuing her season, with her Sicilian company, at the Neues. She is a marvellous actress, of the hot-blooded Southern type, and understands how to curdle the blood of her attentive, though not very large, audiences, as perhaps nobody else does. In Luigi Capuana's horribly realistic play, *Malia*, the lady had full opportunity for the display of her great talents in this direction. She gives the rôle of Jana, a village girl who is betrothed to Ninu, but has fallen madly in love with Cola, who has just married her sister. Jana struggles against her infatuation, which borders on insanity, so that she is considered bewitched by the neighbours; her hysterical frenzies have, it is said, been studied by Signora Aguglia in clinics, where they are certainly more in place than on the stage. After Jana has thrown herself into Cola's embrace, she is overwhelmed with remorse, and confesses everything to Ninu, who, in a revolting scene, cuts Cola's throat. The Sicilian actress was once upon a time, by the way, in the same company as Signor Grasso (whose season at the Gastspiel has just terminated), but the two stars not assimilating they parted, and started each a separate company.

PUCCINI'S lyrical drama, *Manon Lescaut*, has been produced, for the first time in Berlin, at the Komische Oper. It met with a cordial reception, which, however, cooled somewhat towards the end. The interpretation was not so good as is usual at this theatre; the title-rôle was inadequately rendered, and the orchestra left much to be desired.

AT the Hebbel Theatre a five-act drama, by Friedrich Freksa, was favourably received at its first production on Wednesday last. It is entitled *Ninon de l'Enclos*, and deals in rather a drawn-out manner with the life and loves of that famous beauty. Fräulein Fehdmer was not quite satisfactory in the name-part, but the remaining rôles were well sustained.

CARUSO commenced his very brief season at the Opera House on Tuesday in *Bajazzi*. The house was crowded, and customary ovations greeted the famous tenor.

BARON VON MALTZAHN has just signed a contract with Mme. Meta Illing for her "English Theatre Company," to play four weeks every year in August at the Royal Theatre in Homburg. Thus another important step is taken towards the realisation of the eagerly-anticipated project.

THE BINGHAM HALL, CIRENCESTER.

This handsome building, which has been erected, equipped, and endowed, and presented to his native town by Mr. D. G. Bingham, of Utrecht, is the latest addition to our provincial places of amusement. Established by Mr. Bingham primarily for the use of the two local Boys' Brigades, and having a rifle gallery 100ft. long adjoining, which will be the headquarters of the Cotswold Rifle Club, the large hall will be available for all kinds of entertainments, and should especially appeal to theatrical caterers, for it has a permanent stage, with elegant proscenium, fireproof curtain, and every modern requirement, together with ample dressing accommodation in the rear. The Hall was formally opened on the 14th inst. by Mrs. D. G. Bingham (wife of the donor), but the initial performance on the stage took place on Wednesday evening, when a company of local amateurs gave an excellent representation of *The Runaway Girl*. Slight professional assistance was secured, this including the services of Mr. Philip D. Williams, who was responsible for the production, and also gave a most amusing rendition of the character of Brother Tamarind. Others whose efforts were entirely successful were Misses Winifred Ball (Winifred Grey), Christine Roy (Alice), Ethel Wynne (Carmenita), Messrs. E. Walford (Guy Stanley), Sydney Boulton (Flipper), Frank Stradling (Lord Coodle), Maurice Kingscote (Mr. Creel), J. S. Lawson, W. T. C. Paternoster, Edward R. Howard, and Clement Matthews (wandering musicians). Well supported by a capital little orchestra, conducted by Mr. Alfred Stradling, the songs and choruses were well rendered, encores being very prevalent. Messrs. Drury, of Brighton, provided the scenery.

There was a large and representative audience, which included the Earl and Countess Bathurst, Mr. D. G. Bingham, and Mr. Frederick Bingham (nephew of the donor), well known in theatrical circles as the author of *Counsel's Opinion*, *The Gipsy Princess*, and several other plays.

A PLEASING function took place on Monday at the Franco-British Exhibition when Mr. John Donald, the acting manager for Mr. Patrick Kirwan's entertainment there, was presented by the artists engaged with a handsome kit bag and an illuminated address, inscribed: "Franco-British Exhibition, 1908. This testimonial from the artists of the Irish National Theatre, Ballymacllinton, to their esteemed manager and friend, Mr. John Donald, on the anniversary of his birth Oct. 25, 1908. Greeting! For he is a man who wins the hearts of all and makes business a pleasure. Caed Mille Failthe." The address, which was signed by the entire company and orchestra, was presented by Mr. Louis Tussaud on behalf of the artists. Mr. Donald suitably responded.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham greatly diverted the proceedings at Bow-street on Thursday, when Mr. J. W. Lethbridge, the manager of the New Theatre, was summoned for employing a child named Rita Leggiero after 10.50 at night. On behalf of the London County Council, it was stated that the child was in the cast of *Bellamy the Magnificent*, which was produced at the New Theatre on Oct. 6, a licence for her appearance having been granted at Bow-street on condition that she left the theatre not later than 10.30. Afterwards, on the application of Sir Charles Wyndham, the magistrate extended the time limit to 10.50 o'clock. On two occasions since then, it was alleged, the Council's inspector, visiting the theatre, found that the child did not leave the stage until six or seven minutes past eleven.

Summoned for aiding and abetting, Sir Charles Wyndham, who occupied a seat at the solicitor's bench, said he had been rather ignorant of the precise amount of latitude that would be allowed to him. When he made the application for an extension of the time he suggested that the child might be kept ten minutes longer, and in that case he was curious to know whether he would be decapitated. The magistrate replied that that was an affair which concerned himself. He did not dream for a moment that he was expected to get the child out punctually to the very minute, any more than one expected a train to arrive to time.

Sir Charles added that his audiences had taken the strongest objection to his being killed in the last act, and in order to save their feelings matters had been so arranged that he was now allowed to live, which accounted for his being there that afternoon. The result of this was that the child was out at eleven o'clock on Wednesday night, and these conditions would be always existent during the remainder of the run of the play.

Sir Albert De Rutzen said the only wonder was that he was not joined in this summons, because he yielded, with rather bad grace, to the application that was made to him for an extension of the time. Physically, what had taken place was no great hardship on the child. Without recording a conviction he ordered each of the defendants to pay 23s. costs. On an application being made by Sir Charles Wyndham that the child should be allowed to perform up to eleven o'clock at night, the magistrate said that he had better consult the Council's representatives.

Mr. George Alexander, who concluded his provincial tour at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, on Saturday, was enthusiastically applauded at the close of each act of *The Thief*. On the conclusion of the performance there were requests for a speech, and Mr. Alexander, coming before the footlights, said: I am very grateful to you for the charming welcome you have given me on my return to your city after so long an absence—fourteen years, if my memory serves me well—and then my friend Miss Irene Vanbrugh was with me. Since then she has charmed many audiences in England and America by the spell of her beautiful art. Another member of my company, too, has been associated with Bristol in the past, Mr. Milward, for he tells me one of his ancestors, in order to escape the gallows, paddled his own canoe from Ireland to this port, and as he was a man of over 7ft. high I think Mr. Milward must be grateful to Bristol for finding room for so big a man in the churchyard.

"It is," continued Mr. Alexander, "a great joy to an artist when he finds his work is appreciated, and when his old friends rally round him. This, I feel, has been my good fortune during the past week. And I am hoping, too, that I have made some new friends, and that when they come to London they will find their way to the St. James's Theatre. I cannot conclude without offering my congratulations to Mr. Chute on his charming theatre. We, in our profession, are very proud of him, because he is not only a link with a glorious theatrical past, but fills his rôle of theatrical manager with success, and brings nothing but dignity to bear upon all his undertakings."

Miss Lena Ashwell is elaborating the scheme of music which has proved one of the most successful features of her management at the Kingsway, and from this evening onwards the curtain will rise on *The Sway Boat* at 8.45 p.m., instead of nine o'clock as formerly, and the present first piece will give way to a new and attractive series of orchestral selections. From 8.30 p.m. it is proposed to play either new MS. chamber music or works of great merit by British composers, whilst immediately preceding each rising of the curtain will be rendered new incidental music expressly composed by Mr. Stanley Hawley, Miss Ashwell's musical director, and intended intimately to suggest the atmosphere of the act which follows it. Thus the first programme will include an effective and rarely-heard piano quartette in E flat by Sir A. C. Mackenzie, German's delightful "Valse Gracieuse," Coleridge Taylor's Noveletten (Op. 52, No. 3), Elgar's Serenade (Op. 20), and the same composer's dignified "Chanson de Nuit" (Op. 15.).

Mr. Brandon Thomas, who is keenly interested in the advancement of "Actors' Day" Fund, may be congratulated on the fact that all the members of both his companies playing *Charley's Aunt* (with one exception) subscribed a full night's salary. In addition to this, Mr. Thomas added a substantial cheque for his royalties, and the resident-managers of the Opera House, Coventry, Messrs. William and H. G. Dudley Bennett, sent a cheque for a similar amount.

The programme for the matinée at the New Theatre (kindly lent by Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore) on Tuesday, Nov. 17, in aid of Miss Olive Christian Malvery's shelter for homeless and destitute women, promises to be attractive and novel. Miss Ada Reeve and Miss Marie George have generously promised songs and Mr. Henry Ainley a recitation. Miss Jean Alywin will appear as a comedienne in an historical one-act play, and some playlets founded on old Scripture stories are in active rehearsal.

A matinée is being jointly organised by Mr George Alexander and Mr. Forbes Robertson at the St. James's for Thursday, Dec. 3, on behalf of the Orthopædic Hospital. Among those who have already offered their services are Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude, Sir Charles Santley, Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. G. P. Huntley, Miss Ada Reeve, Miss Ethel Irving, and Miss Lydia Kyasht. Oscar Wilde's *Happy Prince* is to be read by Miss Gertrude Elliott, Miss Liza Lehmann, who has composed the incidental music, officiating at the piano.

A new play from the pen of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones and the appearance of a clever actress in a rôle distinct from that in which she has achieved such recent celebrity render the production at the Haymarket on Tuesday next of transcending importance. *Dolly Reforming Herself* reveals the lighter side of Mr. Jones's art, and gives Miss Ethel Irving an opportunity of displaying her comedy gifts anew. She will have the support of the talented artists who have been appearing in *Lady Frederick*, the cast including Mr. Robert Loraine, Mr. C. M. Lowne, Mr. Charles R. Maude, Miss Ada Webster, Mr. Gilbert Porteous, Mr. Herbert Bunston, Mr. E. Lyall Swete, and Miss Margaret Halstan. The action of the play passes in the drawing-room of a house at Crookbury Green, Surrey, in the afternoon of Jan. 1, 1907, and extends to the anniversary of that date.

Sir John Hare was quick to resent the slander on the stage which was reported to have been uttered by Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane in the trial of the action Witty *v.* Witty and Davidson in the Divorce Court last week. In a communication to the *Daily Telegraph* on Saturday Sir John writes:—"As a member of the dramatic profession I desire to protest against the reflections of Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane upon that profession in the course of the trial of Witty *v.* Witty and Davidson, an action for divorce. The arguments of counsel in such a case may be disregarded, but the utterances of a judge are of serious public importance. In your issue of the 24th inst. his lordship is reported to have asked Mr. Powell: 'Is it your suggestion that every theatrical manager should dismiss every person who is supposed to be of immoral character? I don't know what would happen to our stage if that was the case.'

"The self-confessed ignorance of judges is proverbial; but it is a lamentable instance of such ignorance that a judge, whose knowledge of life is coloured by the unhappy domestic differences in all classes of society that come within his jurisdiction, should, on what he considers the strength of that knowledge, attribute a deplorable laxity of morals and manners to the whole body of an honourable profession. Were not the matter a grave one, it would be amusing to reflect that Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane's sweeping censure was prompted on this particular occasion by allegations of misbehaviour on the part of a member of an obscure seaside concert party."

With a view no doubt of making reparation for a remark which it is charitably to be hoped was uttered without consideration, his lordship, in his summing-up on Monday, said the theatrical profession needed no defence, and he did not suppose it ever stood in a higher position than to-day. Its members were people whose reputations were deservedly high. They were men and women like the rest of us, they had their passions and feelings, and their proper ideas of right and wrong, and they themselves would not ask to be judged from a different standpoint from other people. It was all very well to say they might call each other by their Christian names, or give a chaste kiss to one another, but that was not what was told of in that case, of people sitting on each others' knees and kissing in private. Assuming that was true, his lordship was quite sure that no member of the theatrical profession, if questioned in the witness-box, would say that that sort of thing could be endured as the custom of the profession.

The funeral of the late Mr. Joseph Potter, coproprietor of the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, took place on the 22nd inst. Among the intimate friends of the deceased present were Mr. W. Johnson (his partner), Mr. Dudley Hart (solicitor, Manchester), Mr. John Lee (Lion Hotel, Manchester), Mr. Fred J. Reece (acting-manager, Royal Court), Mr. Jack Waters (acting-manager, Royal Theatre of Varieties), and the staff from the two theatres named. There were many floral tributes, whilst along the route to the cemetery manifestations of sympathy were numerous.

Distinguished artists have already kindly promised to appear at the forthcoming Actors' Church Union matinée, under the direction of the Rev. J. Stephen Barrass and Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory. Among those contributing to the programme will be Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Cyril Maude (who has also kindly lent the Playhouse for the afternoon), Miss Cissie Loftus, and Mr. Joe Elvin.

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton, who are concluding a successful provincial tour, begin their round of the suburban theatres at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, on Monday. They will present *The Taming of the Shrew* and *Othello*, supported by their fine company, which has never been disbanded since they commenced their partnership with Mr. Otho Stuart at the Adelphi Theatre. The management of the different suburban theatres offer special facilities to parties of scholars on certain days at reduced prices.

Mme. Kate Flinn gave a very interesting musical afternoon at her artistically-appointed home, 11, Henrietta-street, Cavendish-square, on the 22nd inst. Amongst her pupils who won success by their charming singing were Miss Mabel Hope, Miss Millicent Le Hay, who bids fair to be a second Margaret Cooper, and Miss May Hamilton, a very sympathetic soprano, who should do remarkably well under Mme. Flinn's tuition. Mme. Flinn is giving a musical at-home at the Hotel Metropole, Brighton, on Nov. 7, at which her Brighton and London pupils will appear.

The tribute by the British Stage to Adelaide Ristori, to which we referred in a recent issue, is taking practical shape, and a performance will be given at His Majesty's Theatre on the afternoon of Monday, Nov. 30. It is intended to honour the famous Italian actress by erecting a memorial at her birthplace, the village of Cividale. The Prince and Princess of Wales, and most of the foreign Amabassadors, are patrons of the performance, and the leading managers, actors, and actresses, with many famous artists, musicians, and authors, are members of the committee. The programme is being arranged by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, with the support of Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir W. S. Gilbert, Sir John Hare, and Sir Charles Wyndham, and will be contributed to by many of the greatest English-speaking dramatic and lyric artists.

Mr. W. Clarkson, the premier perruquier, was again in the van of the prize-winners at the fancy dress ball at Covent Garden on the 23rd inst. He was successful in gaining first prize for a dress entitled "Love me and the world is mine," a costume covered with coloured lights, and bearing on pink satin paintings of a Duke kneeling to an American heiress and two costers in a love scene. A bower of shaded roses and passion flowers with cupids either side holding up a string of pearls, to which arrows, diamonds, and gold were attached, formed the head-dress.

Second prize also fell to Mr. Clarkson for a dress entitled "Queen of the Dairy," which was of pale blue satin with paintings of Dutch scenes. The white satin cloak showed the interior of a Dutch dairy, on the shoulders were small cows and tiny windmills, and the headdress was a small Dutch lace cap surmounted by an illuminated windmill. Several other designs of Mr. Clarkson's included "Amasis" and "The Merry Widow." Among the prizes were a silver-mounted dressing bag and several entrée dishes. The music was supplied by Dan Godfrey's Band.

The members of the Gaiety Rowing Club, which consists of the company and staff of the Gaiety Theatre, and is affiliated to the National Amateur Rowing Association, decided the last race of the present season at Barnes on Sunday. The event was a four-oared race, and was rowed from Chiswick Ferry to Barnes Bridge. Mr. G. Applebee was starter and Mr. W. Cox judge. The result was as follows:—Blue—W. Robson (bow), C. H. Cannon, S. Fanning, W. Jenkins (stroke), W. Johnson (cox), 1st; red—R. Roberts (bow), G. Fanning, E. Willetts, R. Jenkins (stroke), A. Hogg (cox), 2nd; white—C. Douglass (bow), F. Turnbull, M. Collins, J. May (stroke), C. Dutton (cox), 3rd; yellow—J. Macleay (bow), A. Pickett, A. Nash, C. Rogers (stroke), 4th. It was a well-rowed race all the way. W. Jenkins' crew led well off the mark, and eventually won by a length, R. Jenkins' just beating May's crew by a foot.

The eleventh annual ordinary general meeting of the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane (Limited), was held on Monday at the theatre, Mr. T. H. Birch presiding. In moving the adoption of the report, which recommended a dividend of 10 per cent., the chairman said the accounts disclosed a very satisfactory state of affairs, notwithstanding the fact that the theatre, except the auditorium, was practically destroyed by fire in the early part of the year. There was no reason to suppose that there would be a large loss over the fire, but the directors considered it a wise and prudent course to set aside £10,000 to a reserve account, out of which any loss could be met.

They had succeeded in making a profit during the year of £20,651, which with the £2,097 brought forward from last year's account made a total available profit from all sources of £22,748. There was one very agreeable point in this year's balance-sheet to which he called their attention. On June 30, 1907, when their accounts were made up, they owed their bankers £16,000, but on June 30 of this year they had paid off every penny they owed to the bank, and in addition had a substantial balance, including £7,000 on deposit. He took the opportunity of denying most emphatically and without the slightest reservation the report that any member of the board had ever received one penny beyond the remuneration to which he was entitled.

Mr. Arthur Collins administered a rebuke marked by much clever satire to several gentlemen who had embodied some complaints in a circular issued by a recently-formed Shareholders' Association. For months, he said, they had been bombarded by circulars signed by Messrs. Paul, Beadle, Emanuel, and Lewis. These gentlemen did not formulate any demands, and the only conclusion to be drawn was that they desired to become directors in place of the gentlemen now holding such positions. If the shareholders thought these gentlemen could produce their dramas and pantomimes in a better manner than men who have spent their whole lives in the business, they should vote for them and turn the directors out.

When he read these circulars he began to wonder whether it was not he (Mr. Collins) who was responsible for the death of poor Dan Leno, whether it was not he who killed the everlamented Sir Henry Irving, whether it was not he who urged the London County Council to enforce an expenditure upon them of £30,000, and who, lastly, set fire to the theatre; and whether it was not Messrs. Beadle, Emanuel, Lewis, and Paul who produced the pantomimes and dramas, and earned the dividends for the company. He had worked day and night, week in and week out, with always one set purpose before him—the success of Old Drury. A loan at the bank of £16,000 transformed into a deposit of £7,000; £111,000 paid in dividends in eleven years—that was his answer to these gentlemen and their circular, and that was his vindication.

Mr. Paul stated that he was prepared to support every sentence contained in his circular, and although the chairman had in categorical terms denied the truth of the paragraph in the circular with regard to extra remuneration paid to the directors, he (the speaker) was quite prepared to join issue with him on the matter. He moved an amendment expressing the opinion of the shareholders that in any future agreement the salary of the managing-director should not exceed £2,500 per annum, to which sum a bonus might be added in the event of an exceptionally prosperous year. The amendment was negatived by a large majority, and subsequently, a poll being demanded, was rejected by 56,000 votes to 16,000.

The annual dinner of the Actors' Benevolent Fund will take place at the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Metropole on Sunday, Dec. 13. Mr. Cyril Maude will occupy the chair. It will be remembered that last year's dinner was twice postponed, first in November and again in March. It is hoped that by fixing upon Sunday for the dinner actors will be enabled more readily to be present at a function that is deserving of their unanimous support.

Mr. W. Wilson Blake has been released by Mr. Wm. Giffard, with whom he has been playing Arthur Brinthorpe and doing acting management in *Sunday*, to take over similar duties with Mr. Peter Davey at the County Theatre, Kingston, and to stage-manage his *Cinderella* pantomime next Christmas. Mr. Blake thus reaches his tenth engagement with Mr. Davey.

Mr. Douglas Gordon, who had the misfortune to contract a severe attack of fever while acting with the Bandmann Comedy Company in Cairo, is now convalescent. He sailed for England on Monday, and is due to arrive to-morrow (Sunday).

Mr. Geoffrey Berwick, who is playing Mr. William Gibson in Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company in *The Catch of the Season* this week at Huddersfield, was called to town on Sunday last by wire with the news that his wife (Miss Poppy Wilkinson) had presented him with a daughter. Mr. Berwick travelled to town on Sunday night, and finding his wife and child both doing well returned to Huddersfield the following morning in time to take up his part at the Theatre Royal, where he met with hearty congratulations from his fellow artists.

At the St. James's Theatre, on the 23rd inst., a copyright performance was given of *The Wreathed Dagger*, a drama in three acts by Margaret Young.

Miss Cicely Hamilton, author of *Diana of Dobson's*, will dwell upon "The Rights and Wrongs of the Critic," before the members of the O.P. Club, at the Criterion, on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 8 p.m. Mr. Carl Hentschel will preside.

Miss Lillah McCarthy will give two matinées of *The Bacchæ* of Euripides translated into rhyming verse by Gilbert Murray, on Tuesday, Nov. 10, and the following Tuesday, at the Court Theatre. The production will be under the direction of Mr. William Poel, and the net profits will be devoted to the Græco-Roman Branch of the Egypt Exploration Fund.

Miss Louie Adair, who has received offers to play principal boy, will be unable to accept pantomime engagement this year, owing to the fact that the new play, *The Heathen and the Christian*, will be produced early in January. Miss Adair, who will play the heroine, is having some delightful dresses and hats made for the new production.

Mr. J. W. Nightingale, proprietor of the Royal Aquarium and Theatre Royal at Great Yarmouth, has for the third time been elected a member of the Town Council for the Regent ward of that borough. This year Mr. Nightingale has been returned unopposed.

The popularity of Mr. William Coutts, the manager of the Star and Palace, Swansea, was well evidenced on the 22nd inst., when he took his annual benefit. The programme had been augmented, and there was a packed house. Mr. Andrew Melville having expressed his congratulations, Mr. Fixott, on behalf of the staffs, presented Mr. Coutts with a massive silver loving cup and silver-mounted flagon. Mr. Coutts feelingly replied.

The Princess of Wales and Suite honoured Miss Lena Ashwell by visiting the Kingsway Theatre on Thursday evening to witness the twentieth performance of *The Sway Boat*.

"Butterflies" fluttered gaily for the 200th time at the Apollo on Thursday, and in celebration of the occasion every member of the audience was presented with a copy of the full vocal score, handsomely bound. The house was crowded, and great enthusiasm prevailed. Miss Ada Reeve acted and sang with all her customary buoyancy and charm as the dainty Rhodanthe, winning many tokens of admiration. Mr. Lauri De Frece's drollery as Yorker was irresistible as ever, and similar distinction is to be given to the Christopher Podmore of Mr. George Giddens. The success of the performance was also maintained by, among others, Mr. Louis Bradfield, Miss Iris Hoey, and Miss Phyllis Monkman.

"Lady Frederick" attained the first year of a celebrated life on Monday, when a crowded house extended a hearty greeting to Miss Ethel Irving, to whose artistic performance of the title-rôle so much of the success of the piece is due. The play has served as the pioneer of the dramatic prosperity of Mr. Somerset Maugham, who is now represented at three London theatres, while his comedies are also winning triumphs in the provinces.

The occasion was marked by the presentation of a souvenir, which consisted of an illustrated programme, bearing a charming portrait of Miss Irving in character. The performance was keenly enjoyed, Mr. C. M. Lowne's highly-finished portrait of Paradine Foulde again winning general admiration. Miss Florence Wood, Mr. Gilbert Porteous, Mr. J. L. Mackay, and Miss Agnes Hewitt shared in the honours achieved. At the fall of the curtain Miss Irving, who, with the other members of the company, was almost hidden behind a bank of flowers, was called on for a speech, and after some hesitation she approached the footlights and said, "Thank you very much."

Sir Charles Santley has generously consented to sing at the performance in aid of the Veterans' Club Employment Bureau, at the Court Theatre, on Monday evening. The famous baritone will sing "Hearts of Oak" during one of the intervals between the one-act plays.

The Court Theatre, Warrington, which Mr. Joseph Beecham purchased last September, will be booked and worked in conjunction with the St. Helens Theatre and Opera House, of which Mr. Beecham is a director. The two theatres will be controlled by Mr. A. M. Loader from Monday next.

The King, attended by his suite, visited Drury Lane Theatre on Monday, and witnessed the performance of *The Marriages of Mayfair*. On the Yeoman Warder delivering the line: "God preserve King Edward," the entire audience rose and cheered, momentarily stopping the progress of the play. Royalty also honoured Mr. H. B. Irving on Tuesday, when Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein witnessed *The Lyons Mail* at the Shaftesbury Theatre.

"Toddles," the funny farcical comedy, which has had such a fine run in London, scoring over 350 consecutive performances, will start on a long tour at Christmas. The provincial rights have been secured from Charles Frohman by Murray King and Clark, whose *Blue Bell in Fairyland* and *Sweet and Twenty* companies were so successful in the country. Murray King will himself play Toddles, and everything will be done to make the production as complete as possible.

The Moody-Manners Opera Company paid a "flying matinée" visit to Ealing, on Wednesday, with *Madame Butterfly*, with a capable band of twenty-five and a chorus of thirty-five. The rendition of Puccini's exquisite little chrysanthemum tragedy was in every way excellent, and recalls were loud and frequent.

Mr. Martin Adeson is engaged by Mr. John Tiller for the part of Widow Twankey, in his forthcoming pantomime of *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, Leeds.

Mr. George D. Day's *Prodigal Son* company drew full houses each night on their return visit to Broughton. In spite of the all-round depression in the district 7,280 people paid for admission during the week.

Mr. Arthur Jefferson, of the Metropole, Glasgow, gave a matinée performance of *Claudian* on Wednesday, the 28th inst., for the benefit of the Lord Provost's Unemployed Fund. Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren and their able company gave their services free in aid of the good cause, and the performance was under the patronage of Lord Provost Sir William Bilsland, Bart., and the city magistrates.

Miss Louise Moodie has rejoined Sir John Hare to play her old part of Lady Owbridge in *The Gay Lord Quex* throughout his present farewell tour. This clever and artistic lady, it may be remembered, sustained the rôle during an eight months' tour in the States.

Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer is reorganising her company for her forthcoming Indian tour, which, through the kindness of Mr. John Hart in releasing her, she is enabled to start earlier than at first anticipated. She will open at her son's (Mr. Maurice E. Bandmann) new theatre in Bombay in January, proceeding thence to Calcutta, where she will appear at his new Empire Theatre in a series of Shakespearean revivals. Elaborate new costumes, scenery, and effects are in active preparation for this tour.

The company from the Theatre Des Arts, Paris, will take possession of Terry's Theatre on Monday for a short season, and will present during the week *Le Grand Soir*, a play which has been given for 225 nights in the French capital. The subject of this piece is the Red Riot in Russia, and on account of its political significance was banned for a time by the Parisian authorities.

The Musicians Company, of which the Lord Mayor-Elect is Master, is proposing to organise another competition among British composers for a piece of music for military band. Prizes to the value of nearly £100 will be offered.

The programme of Father Bernard Vaughan's charity concert in aid of poor children, to be held at the Albert Hall on Wednesday next, promises to be of an unusually attractive character. In addition to Mme. Patti, who will not be heard again in London for the next two years, there will be Miss Cecilia Loftus, Miss Carmen Hill, Miss Marie Wadia, Miss Margaret Cooper, Mr. Walter Hyde, Mr. Robert Radford, Mr. Herbert Brown, Miss Irene Scharrer, and Mr. Zacharewitsch. Mr. Wilhelm Ganz, Mr. Samuel Liddle, and Mr. Adolph Mann are to share the duties of accompanist. Father Vaughan will deliver a short address, taking for his subject "The Cry of the Starving Children."

In the match Fulham v. Wolverhampton, Division II., at Wolverhampton to-day, the Fulham team will be the same as that of last week. This afternoon also the Fulham Reserves meet Queen's Park Reserves at Fulham, the home team being represented by Fryer, Harper, Leigh, Prout, Waterson, Goldie, Carter, Barton, Freeman, Bradshaw, and Mouncher.

The Kennington Theatre will next week welcome *Dorothy*, the evergreen comic opera, with Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. John Coates, Mr. Arthur Williams, and Miss Ruth Davenport in the cast.

Mr. H. R. Smith, who reopens the Waldorf, redecorated and re-upholstered, on or about Saturday, Nov. 21, has decided slightly to modify the existing prices of admission, the pit being reduced to 2s., and other parts of the house, the gallery alone excepted, proportionately. A certain number of stalls will be available at 7s. 6d. The cast of *The Antelope*, with which Mr. Smith starts operations, will include Mr. Fred Wright, jun., who has resigned his position as leading comedian at the Paris Moulin Rouge, Mr. J. Farren Soutar, Mr. Fred Emney, Mr. Aubrey FitzGerald, Miss Kitty Gordon, in the principal female character, and Miss Maudie Thornton, who has won honours in Australia.

The fiftieth performance of *The Marriages of Mayfair* at Drury Lane was reached on Thursday. The evidences of popularity of the fine melodrama are as great as ever.

Miss Lily Iris wishes to thank, through our columns, numerous friends for their floral tributes, telegrams, and letters of congratulation received on Saturday last, the occasion of her début in musical comedy. Miss Iris's success as the engaging Mlle. Denise in *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's Theatre was unmistakable.

Mme. Melba was entertained to dinner on Monday in the Aberdeen Hall of the Gresham Hotel by the Dublin Corinthian Club. The president of the club, Sir Charles Cameron, C.B., occupied the chair, and proposed the toast of Mme. Melba in a highly eulogistic speech, which was enthusiastically cheered.

The son of the late Herr Meyer Lutz, the famous composer and musical-director of the Gaiety, is a member of the Catholic priesthood, and has recently been appointed rector of the Church of the English Martyrs, Rodney-road, Walworth. Father Lutz inherits in a considerable degree his sire's musical talent, being an accomplished organist, and has just established a fund to provide his church with a new organ.

Mr. Sam Livesey, who is appearing with his company at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, in *The Village Blacksmith*, was the recipient of a very handsome solid silver tantalus, suitably inscribed, the occasion being his birthday. Mr. Geo. E. Carleton, who made the presentation on behalf of the members of the company, spoke of the affectionate regard and esteem in which Mr. Livesey was held, and hoped he might live to enjoy many happy birthdays. Mr. Livesey, in a neat little speech, expressed his appreciation of the kindness which prompted the testimonial.

Master Reginald Leyland, the boy soprano with a register of over two octaves, was among the artists who gave their services at the Kennington Theatre on Tuesday afternoon in aid of the Mayor of Southwark's Fund for supplying meals to underfed school children. He was in capital voice, and delighted the large audience present by his artistic rendering of "The Chorister," and receiving an enthusiastic recall gave "Mamma's Baby Boy."

Mr. Patrick Kirwan's company from Ballymaclinton, Franco-British Exhibition, are giving an entertainment at the Bycullah Athenæum, Enfield, on Tuesday evening next, under the auspices of Father Atkins, in aid of the building fund of the R.C. Church at Enfield. An attractive programme has been arranged, and Mr. Patrick Kirwan himself is appearing in scenes from old English comedies.

Mrs. Brown Potter, who is making a tour round the provinces under the management of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison, will make her only appearance round London at flying matinées on Tuesday at the Hippodrome, Willesden, and on Wednesday at the Hippodrome, Ealing, when she will be seen in the title-rôle of *Lady Frederick*.

Mr. William Lockhart, who has played the Dean in *When Knights Were Bold* since the commencement of its first provincial tour, is suffering great inconvenience through letters constantly being directed to the wrong company (of which there are three on the road), and wishes once more to call attention to the fact that his address can always be found by referring to his private advertisement in *The Era*.

Miss Kitty Cavendish, who is playing Nina in *His House in Order*, received a graceful compliment last week in Wakefield. At the conclusion of the third act a very handsome bouquet was handed up, with a card attached bearing the words: "With kindest wishes from Mrs. Sherwood, who admires your charming performance."

Miss Mouillot begins her courageous campaign at the Court on Monday, and will make a commendable start by assisting the Veterans' Club Employment Bureau, to which the receipts of the special programme of the first evening and following afternoon are to be devoted. On Monday three one-act pieces will be presented: the first, *Pride of Regiment*, by Mr. F. D. Bone; the second, *A King's Hard Bargain*, by Major W. P. Drury; and the third, *Private Nobody*, also by Mr. F. D. Bone. On Tuesday *Pride of Regiment* will be replaced by *The Top-side Dog*, by the same author.

The Messrs. Maundy-Gregory announce that their forthcoming big production will be ready by February.

Sir Frank Burnand still carries on his mission of mirth by conducting in various parts of the country what he describes as his "Conference," consisting of personal recollections of Mr. Punch and his staff, literary and artistic, from early days almost up to the present. On Monday Blundellsands, near Liverpool, will be favoured with a visit, and it may be hoped that ere long the metropolis itself will be similarly honoured.

A finished representation is ensured for Miss Nora Keith's new three-act play *The Builders*, which is to be produced at the Criterion on Tuesday, Nov. 10. Included in the cast will be Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, Miss Maude Millett, Miss Vane Featherston, Mrs. H. Nye Chart, Miss Ierne FitzGerald, Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, and Mr. A. E. George.

Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks will be back in London next week, during which they will appear at the Coronet in *The Gay Gordons*. The popular artists may rely upon a cordial greeting.

A proposal for the formation of a Drama Society in Oxford is made by a number of professors and fellows of the University, who state in a circular that "there is lying about us unacted a considerable wealth of interesting and sometimes brilliant plays. Yet, owing to financial reasons, chiefly the 'long-run' system and the immense costliness of the London theatres, it is very difficult even in London to see many plays that can be placed at all on the same intellecutal standard as the best novels."

The suggestion is to form in the city a society of some 500 or 600 persons who will pay a subscription beforehand for their tickets, and get some good repertory company, such as Miss Horniman's, to visit Oxford for separate weeks in the year and give a series of three or four interesting plays. The approval of the Vice-Chancellor has been obtained for the scheme, which, it is said, would also be agreeable to the management of the New Theatre.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Miss St. Denis's Births.

Miss Ruth St. Denis, the new Oriental dancer, has been giving *M.A.P.* some facts about her career. She had two births—a temporal and a spiritual one. The former took place in the State of New Jersey, in America, on an old-fashioned country farm. A Western pony, an old swing in the barn, and the tops of pine trees—these suggest with sufficient plainness some of the ways in which she spent her hours on this old farm. In those days she had very long legs, a shock of tawny hair, and plenty of freckles. She made her first public appearance at a benefit given by some amateur actors in the neighbourhood to raise funds for the local school. The piece was *The Old Homestead*, and she played Whistling Joe in the play, and gave between the acts some movements which were called on the programme "Exercises in Delsarte."

Her Second Birth.

Her spiritual birth took place when she was playing in *Du Barry* with Mr. Belasco out West. In a little chemist shop in the city of Buffalo she saw a picture—a cigarette poster, the figure of an Egyptian Deity. This picture was the magic wand that touched the hidden strings of her art life and made them vibrate. She was so excited and exalted over the revelation this picture gave her that her friend had almost to feed her, and for several days they sat together in the gloom of their little bedroom looking at it as the plan unfolded itself to Miss St. Denis of expressing by movement the religion and customs of the Orient. "In a flash," she says, "a whole life was changed, a career opened from a hidden state of a struggling actress, singer, and dancer to the privilege of being able to give an entirely new development of art in movement."

Her Inspirations.

Her work, she considers, is both more and less than dancing, since dancing generally means movement to rhythm, whereas in expressing ideas by movement one need not always confine the gesture to the bounds of music. She remembers once hearing the death wail of a Jewish woman, and that wail, unmusical and unrhythmic, contained to her the whole Jewish nation. And once at a street corner she saw an Italian girl thrust out a clenched fist at another one a few feet ahead of her, who had evidently meddled with her love affairs. In that gesture was the passion and power of a whole tragedy. Miss St. Denis ventures to believe that when things like that appeal to the soul in that way it is the soul's business to *express*. It cannot be denied that, like Little Buttercup in *H.M.S. Pinafore*, Miss St. Denis "conveys her meaning" remarkably well.

Old Touring Days.

"During my engagement with the Kent and South Coast Company," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "we had a regular 'circuit,' and visited six towns annually, staying a month in each place, playing a selection of stock dramas, &c. It was on our visit to Hastings that the following little incident took place. We were located at the Market Hall (there was no theatre then in the town). Every Friday the corn merchants held their market there, and every Thursday night after the performance the fit-up, scenery, in fact, everything, had to be removed into an adjoining room. The market concluded at four o'clock in the afternoon, and we all had to assemble and lend a hand to put things right again; no easy task, but we lent ready hands and worked with a will, and only three hours to do it in—we began the performance at seven o'clock. On this particular night we were playing the melodrama *The Idiot Witness*, in which I sustained the heavy leading part, that of a most desperate villain who kills and slays right and left without the slightest compunction, and at the end receives his quietus. He is stabbed, and dies; but before shuffling off his mortal coil he has a long speech, and sees demons and all sorts of imaginary goblins coming to clutch him by the throat and drag him down to perdition. This was followed by the gorgeous pantomime of *Fair Rosamund; or, Harlequin and the Fairies*, in which I played the comedy part of Queen Elinor in the opening and changed for Harlequin in the harlequinade. On this night the fit-up had not been put up as securely as usual, for in the course of the pantomime the supports gave way, and the whole structure, scenery and all, came tumbling headlong into the auditorium, to the consternation of all concerned. A portion of the company dressed in the wings for want of sufficient dressing-room accommodation, and were discovered in all sorts of costumes clinging to the poles, struts, and ropes of the wreckage. The poor pianist was completely covered up by the scenery, and had to be extricated; but, fortunately, barring a few bruises, there were no injuries, and we merely had to postpone our performance for that night. On this tour 25s. a week was considered a fair salary and 30s. 'great'; but then living was much cheaper. Lodgings never exceeded 4s. per week, and everything else was in proportion. During our stay in each town the artists became favourites, and each had his or her admirers. Parcels were nightly left at the stage-door containing gloves, ties, ribbons, cigars, pipes, and other articles, and the principals had a benefit every year, which generally turned out a financial success."

Near but Far.

Mr. Rutland Barrington, in his most amusing book of experiences, says: "I was frequently asked 'Are you not at the Savoy?' for some year or two after I had severed the connection. I heard of an actor who met George Edwardes in the street one day, stopped and spoke to him, and George said, 'Come and see me, my dear boy; I think I can find you a part,' and he was much astonished when the actor replied, 'Why, Mr. Edwardes, I've been with you at the Gaiety for the last six years!'"

Stars and Smells.

"On arriving at my dressing-room in Glasgow one Monday," says the same humorous raconteur, "I found to my alarm and annoyance that it reeked with some overwhelming odour—(this is many years ago, and the theatre has since been thoroughly overhauled)—and naturally demanded to be moved; but it was the 'star' room, and there was nowhere to move me to. I foraged around, and discovered the possibility of screening off a portion of the very large property-room. This was done, and I was feeling happier, when the dresser who looked after the tenor of the company appeared with a polite request that he might join me, having been put into the room I had vacated. Of course, I consented, but as his presence cramped me I cast about for some means to be rid of him. On consulting Herbert Ross, he came to the conclusion that the best plan to gain my object would be to secure a supply of some even worse odour than the one we had fled from, and with the assistance of the property master this was done. On arriving the next night I was greeted with a smell that you could absolutely have hung a hat on. What it had been done with I never knew, but it was innocuous, and cost half a crown, and I am certain no one ever bought so much smell so cheaply. When the tenor arrived his face was a sight to watch (there were several of us doing it). He yelled out, 'My God, I shall die!' seized his clothes, and made a dash for the room he had previously declared unfit for a dog, but in which he gladly remained for the rest of the week, and consoled himself by prophesying all kinds of complaints for me."

"THE BELLE OF BRITTANY."

Comic Opera, in Two Acts, Written by Leedham Bantock and P. J. Barrow, Lyrics by Percy Greenbank, Music by Howard Talbot and Marie Horne, Produced at the Queen's Theatre, on Saturday, Oct. 24.

Marquis de St. Gautier	Mr. George Graves
Raymond de St. Gautier	Mr. Lawrence Rea
Comte Victoire de Casserole	Mr. Davy Burnaby
Poquelin	Mr. M. R. Morand
Old Jacques	Mr. E. W. Royce, sen.
Pierre	Mr. Frank Melville
Bertrand	Mr. Vere Mathews
Eugene	Mr. John Montague
Philippe	Mr. Harry Leslie
Vivien	Mr. Hamlyn Hamling
Baptiste Boubillon	Mr. Walter Passmore
Toinette	Miss Maudi Darrell
Mlle. Denise de la Vire	Miss Lily Iris
Mme. Poquelin	Miss Maud Boyd
Lucille	Miss Blanche Stocker
Miquette	Miss Cora Carey
Adele	Miss Alice Hatton
Mirette	Miss Blanche Carlow
Christine	Miss Minnie Baker
Rosalie	Miss Gladys Saqui
Babette	Miss Ruth Vincent

It would be "breaking a butterfly on the wheel" to criticise an entertainment like *The Belle of Brittany* with all the strict and severe analysis which is devoted to entertainments of a more serious nature. The only question which can be put concerning an entertainment of this sort is, "Does it fulfil its functions?" Does it delight the eye and the ear, make one laugh, and generally exhilarate? These three queries can be answered in this particular case in the affirmative. In the first place—and it is a matter of very great importance—the dressing and mounting of the play are exquisitely artistic. The plot is sufficient for the purpose, the dialogue is to the point, and the music is light, lively, and refined.

The scene of the first act is a daffodil farm in Brittany, near a mill belonging to an old fellow named Poquelin. In the distance, on an eminence, is the château of the Marquis de St. Gautier, an elderly and dissipated noble, who is in monetary difficulties. Hard-pressed for funds, he has mortgaged the château to Poquelin, who is about to foreclose on the day on which the action commences. The Marquis's only chance is a rich marriage between his son Raymond and the Marquis's ward, Mlle. Denise de la Vire. As the lady and Raymond are antipathetic, and as she much admires a fantastic dandy, the Comte Victorine de Casserole, the Marquis's scheme meets many obstacles. Worse still, Raymond sees and loves at first sight Poquelin's daughter, the pretty Babette, who is betrothed by her parents to Baptiste Boubillon, a famous Parisian *chef*. The first act is chiefly occupied with the comedy development of this situation, which is quietly and delicately treated. Jacques, an ancient clarionet player, who is an old friend of Babette's, gets possession of the agreement betwen the Marquis and her father respecting the property. This happens by accident, Poquelin, in a moment of confusion, putting the document by mistake into the pocket of Jacques's coat instead of into his own. The old man thus obviously holds the key to the situation. The climax of the first act is the announcement of the loss of the agreement and the refusal of Babette to be married to Baptiste. The act ends rather oddly and unexpectedly without the usual conventional culminating chorus, for which there seems good excuse.

In the second act we are at the château, to which the Marquis has invited the villagers for a harvest festival He flirts absurdly with Mme. Poquelin, and Raymond learns of Babette's love for him from Baptiste, who is finally refused by the girl. They come to an understanding, and as the trump card is in the possession of old Jacques, who wishes for the union of the young people, matters are easily and happily arranged.

The success of *The Belle of Brittany* is greatly attributable to the cast. Mr. George Graves is the "strong card" of the management, and well justifies his place at the head of the bill. As the Marquis de St. Gautier he is plentiful in "gag" and intensely humorous in method, and his dance with Miss Maud Boyd in the second act is excruciatingly funny. The fussy predominance of the Marquis, and his aristocratic self-importance, contrast irresistibly with the constant flow of quaint quip and up-to-date allusion which comes from Mr. Graves's lips. The success of his performance is absolute and complete. Mr. Walter Passmore, a humorous artist of oft-proved ability, is handicapped by the difficult and unthankful part of Baptiste Boubillon, though he works very hard in his attempts to make it amusing to an English audience. The glorified *chef* has long been a stock figure of French comedy, but the character is not appreciated here, where cooks are not "understood" as "artists." The cast is rich in female charm and beauty. Miss Ruth Vincent is very sweet and winsome as Babette, and her songs, "Daffodil time," "My wedding morning," and "The dawn of love" are treated in the most delicate and artistic style. She looks bewitchingly pretty in the Breton costume, and sings with her accustomed skill and clearness. Miss Maudi Darrell's delightful vivacity and bright alertness are employed with excellent results in the rôle of Toinette, which Miss Darrell plays with constant activity and gay and piquant spirit. She has a merry ditty, "I'm not that sort of picture," out of which she extracts every ounce of point and fun, and her share in the acting is taken in a very alluring and amusing manner. A handsome and aristocratic representative of the rôle of Mlle. Denise de la Vire is Miss Lily Iris, who wears Directoire dresses with grace and ease, acts with elegant repose and gentle dignity, and sings her song, "Country mice," capitally. Miss Maud Boyd plays the miller's wife with a quiet, refined humour which is very effective; and the daffodil gatherers speak their lines well and smartly, Miss Alice Hatton, Miss Blanche Carlow, Miss Minnie Baker, and Miss Gladys Saqui being specially commendable. Mr. Lawrence Rea is a manly and earnest lover, and sings the songs allotted to Raymond de St. Gautier in excellent voice and with good and just expression. He scores in different ways, but in each instance decidedly, in "A lot of little girls" in the first act, and in "The kingdom of a woman's heart" in the second. Mr. M. R. Morand plays the avaricious old miller in true low comedy vein; and Mr. E. W. Royce, sen., gives a flawless representation of the kind old clarionet player, Jacques. Mr. Frank Melville makes an effective appearance as the post-chaise driver; and Mr. Vere Mathews, Mr. John Montague, Mr. Harry Leslie, and Mr. Hamlyn Hamling do their work well as Raymond's friends, the artists. Mr. Percy Greenbank's lyrics are always neat, and his verses have a pleasant "lilt" and smoothness; and Mr. Howard Talbot and Miss Marie Horne's music, if not ambitious in orchestration or operatic effect, is always clever, lively, and agreeable. We have already alluded to the pictorial merit of the production, and for this Mr. Percy Anderson, the designer of the very pretty and artistic dresses; Mr. Julian Hicks, the painter of the sunlit set for the first act; and Mr. J. Harker, who has supplied a splendidly golden interior for the second, must all be heartily and warmly praised. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Howard Talbot, is excellent; and Mr. Tom B. Davis has certainly left nothing undone to make *The Belle of Brittany* a success.

"MRS. BAILEY'S DEBTS."

Comedy, in Three Acts, founded by Charles Eddy on his Novel of the same name; produced at a Matinée at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Peter Browser	Mr. Edward Sass
Sir John Basing	Mr. Sydney Paxton
Dick Currie	Mr. P. H. Clayton Greene
Mr. Chattock	Mr. W. R. Staveley
Bone	Mr. E. H. Wynne
Wilkins	Mr. Charles Cecil
Kitty Bailey	Miss Hilda Antony
Mrs. Hammersley	Miss Edith Cruickshanks
Julia Hammersley	Miss Esmé Hubbard
Laura Vansittart	Miss Florence Lloyd
Mrs. Ellis	Miss May Holford
Dawson	Miss Dorothy Edwards

For the benefit of Pearson's Fresh Air Fund, a matinée was given at the Garrick Theatre on Tuesday by kind permission of Miss Evelyn Millard, of a new piece by Mr. Charles Eddy, founded on his novel "Mrs. Bailey's Debts." Though neither the characters nor the story are new, both are treated with freshness, spirit, and zest which prevent the play from being tedious; and as it had the advantage of being perfectly well played the entertainment offered to the audience was an enjoyable one. The heroine is a feather-headed but attractive young widow, who has "outrun the constable" to the extent of many thousands of pounds, and has, by betting and other extravagances, got deeply into debt. She is beloved by and loves Dick Currie, a young barrister with a moderate income, and also by a wealthy stockbroker, Peter Browser, a typical "bounder" with much force of character and little refinement, whom she, of course, despises. Dick takes a situation in Browser's office in order to make money on 'Change, and so get Kitty out of her difficulties, but Browser buys up all her debts privately in order to earn her gratitude and get her into his power. Scandal is busy with Mrs. Bailey's name in consequence, and her relatives assure her that the only thing for her to do to save her reputation is to marry Browser. At first she refuses, and tears up the receipts of her ex-creditors; but later on she goes to him and offers to become his wife, though only in name. Browser draws back from the prospect of such a union; but Kitty presses him to carry out his proposals, under penalty of an action for breach of promise. Things seem at a deadlock, when the fortunate success of a racehorse on which Dick has put his whole private fortune, enables him to relieve Kitty from her liabilities and marry her, Browser putting a good face on his disappointment and wishing them joy.

The performance was excellent all round, even the smaller parts being played with striking care and cleverness. That able actor Mr. Edward Sass gave a very fine and forcible depiction of an overdressed, audacious, and vulgar stockbroker, and his comical lovemaking, his brutal directness, and his outburst of anger at the end of the second act were admirable. Mr. Sass had dressed the part with great care; and his sleek, well-groomed "flashiness" contributed greatly to the effect of his embodiment, which made a strong impression on the audience. Mr. Sydney Paxton was exactly suited to the rôle of the elderly High Court Judge, Sir John Basing. He looked it thoroughly, and his professional manner was admirably assumed. Mr. P. H. Clayton Greene suggested the suppressed indignation and angry anxiety of Dick Currie very cleverly; and Mr. W. R. Staveley drew a vivid picture of an old, deliberate lawyer, with arched back, slow and solemn utterance, and a profusion of "Dear me's!" A particularly neat and sharp performance was contributed by Mr. E. H. Wynne as the stableman Bone. His facial play when cross-questioned by Browser was very expressive; and he hit off the type exactly. Mr. Charles Cecil was comically pathetic as the sorrowful milkman Wilkins. Miss Hilda Antony, sweetly pretty and "more than common tall," made a bewitching widow, whose charm and vivacity won entire indulgence for her follies and extravagances, and quite accounted for the earnestness of her admirers. She played the part with a delicacy and grace which were very agreeable; and her style was essentially well bred and refined. A smooth, natural, and effective interpretation of the rôle of Mrs. Hammersley was given by Miss Edith Cruickshanks; and Miss Esmé Hubbard's originality and simple, straightforward method were utilised with excellent results in her rendering of the kind-hearted Julia Hammersley. Miss Florence Lloyd made a decided hit as a vulgar, mercenary, and bluntly aggressive young "woman of the people," over-dressed, and absurdly self-important and impulsive. Miss Lloyd's accent and manner were appropriate, and she was decidedly successful in a part which quite suited her. How much a skilled artist can make of an apparently unimportant part was proved by the roars of laughter evoked by Miss May Holford as a melancholy and affected cook. Her solemn demeanour, her absurd drawl, and her droll facial expression were irresistibly comical. Miss Dorothy Edwards hit off neatly all the little points in the personality of the parlourmaid Dawson. The play, produced by Mr. Hubert Druce, went very pleasantly, and laughter was frequent and hearty during the performance. Mr. Victor Leslie was the stage-manager for the matinée, which was quite well attended.

THE MATINEE HAT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—In deciding to try the experiment of prohibiting the wearing of hats by lady visitors to the Queen's Theatre during morning performances of *The Belle of Brittany*, I have been guided by the enormous publicity given to the question recently by the Press. I consider the act of purchasing a theatre ticket carries with it the right to an uninterrupted view of the stage. The question of ladies wearing hats in theatres has always been a burning one, but hats have reached such alarming proportions of late that the wearers of them in a place of amusement must of necessity prove a nuisance to many sitting behind these creations.

I sincerely hope my lady patrons will not think I am starting a crusade against the present form of millinery in its proper place. No one admires a well and fashionably dressed woman more than myself; but in my managerial capacity I must consider the comfort of the majority of my patrons, and I feel that most ladies object to the wearing of hats in theatres as strenuously as do men.

I have had mirrors placed in the auditorium and passages of the Queen's Theatre for the convenience of ladies, and, of course, there are the usual cloak-rooms for those who prefer them.

The great success of *The Belle of Brittany* makes it possible to prove conclusively whether the innovation meets with the approval of my patrons or not. All the stalls and two-thirds of the dress-circle seats have been secured by the libraries at evening performances for some weeks to come, so, should the matinées not be proportionately patronised, I shall know the fair sex have declared against the experiment.—Yours faithfully,

TOM B. DAVIS.

Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.,
Oct. 28, 1908.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"THE BURGLAR WHO FAILED."

A New and Original Comedy, in One Act, by Mr. St. John Hankin, produced at the Criterion Theatre on Tuesday, Oct. 27.

Mrs. Maxwell	Miss Kate Wingfield
Dolly	Miss Elfrida Clement
Bill Bludgeon	Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk

Mr. St. John Hankin, who adds much to the gaiety of British households by his contributions to *Punch*, proved some years ago by his "Dramatic Sequels" appearing in that journal that he had an entertaining pen. In the broader aspects of his work for the stage he has shown, especially in *The Return of the Prodigal*, a vein of humour that may be best qualified by the adjective Gilbertian. In his latest piece, *The Burglar Who Failed*, produced in front of *Lady Epping's Lawsuit* at the Criterion, he gracefully acknowledges that the idea for the little play emanated from the brain of a brother dramatist, Mr. H. M. Harwood, but it is in the treatment of the theme that the real originality lies. Bill Bludgeon, burglar, has entered the open window of the residence of the Maxwells, and is hiding under the bed of Dolly Maxwell, while that athletic and healthy young lady, dressed in her nighty and dressing gown, is having a quiet chat with her mother before retiring to rest. Scarcely has the elder lady said "good-night" when Dolly hears a noise under the bed, and then an ominous sneeze. Switching on the light, she jumps out of bed and discovers Bill the burglar. Arming herself with her hockey stick, she soon makes him drop his revolver, which she immediately seizes. Bill, who realises that the game is up, in a tone of whining timidity implores Dolly to be careful in handling the weapon as it is loaded. Emerging from his hiding-place, Bill, who leaves his jemmy behind, enters into a discussion with his captor concerning his profession. Removing a manifest red wig and whiskers, he owns to the name of William Simpkins, and confesses that he has only been a burglar for six weeks. It is a profession for which he has no liking, and for which he is quite unsuited. Originally a footman, Bill had lost his berth through his drinking propensities, but the horrid uncertainty of his present mode of getting a living is ruining his constitution. The game literally is not worth the candle; for during his experience of it he has only secured as loot one gold watch—a poor timekeeper, and he shudders as he thinks of the bite in his leg from a bulldog, which he had to shoot. He complains, too, of the comfortless nature of the occupation of the cracksman, and of his liability to catch cold—from which he is suffering severely—in draughty houses. Altogether burgling is a nerve-shattering business, and he is quite ready to give it up and return to his original occupation. Dolly promises to get Bill a character from her mother, who interrupts the conversation by a hurried re-entry necessitating Bill's concealment in a handy wardrobe. Dolly with little difficulty allays her mother's fears as to burglars, and obtains her promise that she will do her best for the ex-footman in whom the girl is interested. The intrepid and kind-hearted Dolly, it is to be hoped, will not be disappointed in her quixotic effort to reform so unpromising a character as "the burglar who failed." The piece is a pleasant and amusing trifle, and has many droll lines. Miss Elfrida Clement as Dolly Maxwell is just the bright, plucky, and interesting girl that the author intended, and Mr. Ferdinand Gottschalk brings out all the timidity and funk of the cracksman with whimsical results. Miss Kate Wingfield is an exemplar of matronly sweetness and dignity as Mrs. Maxwell. *Lady Epping's Lawsuit* is drawing crowded houses nightly to enjoy the excellence of the acting of Miss Mary Moore and her companions in a comedy that provides most diverting entertainment.

"SAMSON."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Henri Bernstein. Produced at the Criterion Theatre, New York, on Oct. 19.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

This is a very stirring play, and the interest attaching to anything that the author of *The Thief* might write was considerably increased by the reappearance on the metropolitan stage of Mr. William Gillette after an absence of two years. In the title-rôle of M. Bernstein's new drama he gave a powerful and impressive portrayal of a copper "king" who sacrifices his fortune of eighty million francs in order to ruin the man who has compromised his wife. Samson is Maurice Brachard, who has risen from a dock labourer through his iron determination to be the copper magnate of Paris. He has married the woman he loved, Anne-Marie, daughter of the effete Marquis and Marquise d'Andeline, not because she reciprocated his affection, for she could hardly bear his mere presence, but for the sake of her parents, who are as poor as their name is noble.

She turns in desperation for amusement, nothing more, to Jerome Le Govain, a social favourite, whom Brachard has regarded as his closest friend, and whom he has enriched through wise advice on copper. Govain, however, is a contemptible libertine, and seeks to deprive his uncouth friend of the only thing in the world he really prizes—his unresponsive wife. He succeeds in enticing her to a notorious café, and this fact is revealed to the copper king by a woman to whom Govain has been affianced, but whom he has cast aside after acquiring great wealth. Samson turns back from a business trip to London, the announcement of which has given his wife and his "friend" the opportunity they have been awaiting, breaks down the door of milady's boudoir, and finds that she is absent from home at one o'clock in the morning. Before he can follow her she arrives, pale, dishevelled, and horror-stricken at a disgusting brawl into which she has been thrust at the café and at her discovery of the baseness of Govain. After dragging from her a confession of her indiscretion, Samson locks his wife in his chamber and longs like a wild beast for the man who has sought to ruin his home. He lures him to the Hotel Ritz, after planning their mutual financial death, and with his hands choking the breath out of the villain gloats over his writhings at the news of his loss.

While his self-pauperisation turns from Brachard his every friend, including the parents of his wife, Anne-Marie, strangely enough, sees him then for the first time in his true light, realises that he has done all for her, and finds it in her heart to love him, thus making him far happier than could the restoration of all his wealth.

Miss Constance Collier, who made her American début in the rôle of Anne-Marie, the wife of the financier, created a very favourable impression by her unaffected and natural manner. Miss Pauline Frederick was conspicuously successful as Elise Vernette; Mr. Arthur Byron distinguished himself as Govain; Mr. Frederic de Belleville gave an excellent impersonation of the Marquis; and Miss Marie Wainwright as the Marquise was charming. At the close of the third act there were no less than twenty curtain calls accompanied by cries of "Speech!" Mr. Gillette bowed his acknowledgment again and again, but declined to speak. The newspaper notices of the play are by no means unanimous, but there seems to be a general impression that *Samson* will not prove as big a success as *The Thief*.

A DRAMATIC NOVEL.

Mr. Frank Harris's novel "The Bomb," which has just been published by John Long, is wonderful. One can understand Mr. Harris writing "Elder Conklin," "Montes the Matador," and *Mr. and Mrs. Daventry*. These are within the scope of the experience with which one, perhaps too carelessly, credits the editor of *Vanity Fair* and the ex-editor of the *Saturday Review* and the *Fortnightly*. But "The Bomb" bursts upon us astoundingly. By what exercise of imagination has the author—a man about town and a *bon vivant*—been able to jump into the skin of the teller of the tale, a young German-American, whom the wrongs and sufferings of the proletariat drive to become an Anarchist? The story is told in the first person; the sufferings are described with the ease and confidence of personal experience. The method followed is that of Zola, with the addition of a warm sympathy which is wanting in the somewhat "self-detached" French novelist. Thus, in the earlier part of the book we have a vivid description of the painful labours of a party of wretched workmen in a *caisson* of compressed air while excavating for the foundations of Brooklyn Bridge. It is impossible to read without burning indignation of the tortures which these wage-slaves endured, simply to save expenses for the contractors; for Mr. Harris tells us in a footnote that the illness of the men working in *caissons* has dropped from 80 per cent. every three months to 8 per cent. since the fresh air supplied to them has been increased from 1,500 cubic feet an hour to 10,000. This experience of the hero, Rudolph Schnaubelt's, is endured in New York. Then he goes to Chicago, where he falls in love with a girl of his own class. And now his conversion to Anarchism runs parallel with a passionate and tormenting amour. At the same time that Schnaubelt is falling under the influence of the Anarchist leader, Lingg, he is struggling with the temptation to seduce his sweetheart. His feelings in each case are elaborately depicted, in the latter with a reality which might put many a modern French novelist to the blush. We now approach the part of the book which may be called "historical." It deals with the incidents which preceded and followed the arrest of the celebrated Chicago Anarchists. A strike among the pig-packers is followed by a meeting, which is dispersed by the police with brutal violence. Schnaubelt asks Lingg to be allowed to throw the first bomb that is to revenge the wrongs of the people. The result is thus described:—

I saw the white clubs falling, saw the police striking down the men running along the sidewalk. At once my mind was made up. I put my left hand on the outside of my trousers to hold the bomb tight, and my right hand into the pocket, and drew the tape. I heard a little rasp. I began to count slowly, "One, two, three, four, five, six, seven"; as I got to seven the police were quite close to me, bludgeoning every one furiously. Two or three of the foremost had drawn their revolvers. The crowd were flying in all directions. Suddenly there was a shot, and then a dozen shots, all, it seemed to me, fired by the police. Rage blazed in me.

I took the bomb out of my pocket, careless whether I was seen or not, and looked for the right place to throw it; then I hurled it over my shoulder high in the air, towards the middle of the police, and at the same moment I stumbled forward, just as if I had fallen, throwing myself on my hands and face, for I had seen the spark. It seemed as if I had been on my hands for an eternity, when I was crushed to the ground, and my ears split with the roar. I scrambled to my feet again, gasping. Men were thrown down in front of me, and were getting up on their hands. I heard groans and cries, and shrieks behind me. . . . The street was one shambles; in the very centre of it a great pit yawned, and round it men lying, or pieces of men, in every direction, and close to me, near the side-walk as I passed, a leg and foot torn off, and near by two huge pieces of bleeding red meat, skewered together with a thighbone.

The rest of the book deals with Schnaubelt's escape to Bavaria, and with the awful suicide of Lingg in prison. Schnaubelt dies of consumption, happy in the belief that "in this world no unselfish deed is lost, or any aspiration, or even hope, die away without effect."

Our readers may judge from this account of the book of its originality, its poetry, and its power. It is inspired with the keenest sympathy for the sufferings of the poor and the oppressed, and with the most intense faith in the future of the great social democratic movement. It is dedicated to the Princess of Monaco, an old friend of Mr. Harris's, who was the first person to induce him to write, and who is the grand-niece of Heine. "The Bomb" will certainly create a sensation.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The college concert of Thursday evening, Oct. 22, commenced with Brahms' Quartet for Strings in C minor. Miss Marjorie Beer, Mr. Philip Levine, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Felix Salmond were the executants, and a very creditable performance was given, particularly of the second movement, Romanze. Mr. Felix Salmond, who played Boccherini's Sonata for Violoncello No. 6 in A major, may be warmly praised for his excellent tone and fluent execution in the two movements, and hearty applause followed his admirable rendering of the quaint and difficult Allegro. Beethoven's "Kreutzer" Sonata for Piano and Violin in A major was a somewhat ambitious attempt for the two scholars Miss Giulietta Motto and Miss Marjorie Adam, but they acquitted themselves ably in a difficult task, and although the violinists' tone was rather thin, her playing of the Finale showed considerable facility and command of her instrument. Miss Irene Robinson sang G. Henschel's "Morning Hymn" with fine expression and purity of voice, and after giving "Attente" (Wagner) received a hearty recall. Equally successful was Miss Viola Tree, a talented daughter of the distinguished actor, who had a most enthusiastic reception for her singing of Brahms' "Klage" and "Ständchen." Another clever vocalist was Miss Florence Taylor, heard in "Il mio bel foco" (Marcello) and Paisiello's "Nel cor più non mi sento." Th. Bubeck's organ solo, Fantasia and Fugue in F sharp, played by Miss Alice M. Ibbetson, was the last item in the concert of Thursday. The accompanists were Miss Joan Powell, Mr. Herbert A. Smith, and Miss Ellen Tuckfield.

ALEXANDRA PALACE.

Another successful promenade concert was given in the Central Hall on Saturday, the new and attractive bandstand being utilised by the band of H.M. 1st Batt. the Gordon Highlanders, with Mr. E. R. Pallant as conductor. Miss Maud Santley, who is no stranger to the Palace, has a pleasing voice, and her selections are always listened to with rapt attention. Her first number, Meyerbeer's recitative and aria, "Nobil Signor," in English, was excellently rendered, as were also the songs "Good night, dear heart" and "The first spring day," and by way of encore she gave Gerald M. Lane's catchy refrain "When the lights are low." Miss Ruby Helder, described as "the phenomenal girl tenor," rendered Gounod's Invocation song from *Faust*, "Loving smile of sister kind," exceedingly well; but her opportunity arrived when, as an encore to Blumenthal's song "The Message," she gave "Come into the garden, Maud," and so great was the applause that again she had to respond. Five times in the course of the evening did Miss Ruby Helder hold the attention of the audience. The concert was a most satisfactory one.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE BEDFORD.

Mr. B. P. Lucas is putting forward a very attractive programme this week, and, in addition, a beauty competition was announced for last night (Friday), when handsome prizes were to be awarded to the three prettiest young ladies, and this was sure to be a big attraction. The Eight Olympians are a big feature in the bill, and present a clever and interesting display of the Japanese methods of Ju-jitsu. There are three ladies who prove themselves to be veritable experts at the art, and the male members receive fairly severe handling. An exhibition of Ju-jitsu wrestling is also given, and one of the exponents offers to receive challenges. On the night of our visit he succeeded in throwing his challenger in six and a quarter minutes, after a very smart encounter, and he also conquered him in catch-as-catch-can style.

Mr. Fred S. Howard, styled "the Press Caricaturist," does some clever lightning charcoal drawings, his sketch of the London shop girl being particularly happy. He does several others, all of which prove his ability as a draftsman, and he is warmly applauded. Miss May Clarke, a charming comedienne, sings "Iris" prettily, and afterwards gives a fine rendering of "The Children's Home," evoking the utmost enthusiasm. The Players company present a bright comedy act, *Where's My Kilt?* Ferguson and Mack, an eccentric duo, utter jests that are funny, and their burlesque act of two young serios is extremely mirth-provoking. Dorothy Vernon, a clever character comedienne, raises many laughs with her song, "If I hadn't the dinner on the hob."

Phœbe Mercer and company appear in a bright little farce, *Mistakes Will Happen*, which relates the experiences of a lady who inadvertently finds herself in a matrimonial agent's office instead of a dog dealer's, with disastrous results, as may be imagined. The smart dialogue creates much diversion. Miss Mercer is particularly good as the lady, while the matrimonial agent is capitally played by an actor whose name does not figure on the programme. The Court Jesters, five in number, present a pleasing interlude. Their costumes are quite pretty, and their songs well chosen. Several concerted numbers are given, all of which are very melodious, the topical song being notably good and catchy. The whole turn is most entertaining, and gives the utmost pleasure. Jock Campbell has a lively chorus song, and some lively patter, which goes well; and Miss Frankie Manners uses a most tuneful voice to the best advantage, her song "Come back to Killarney" being charmingly rendered.

Binks's Blunder, a laughable comedy sketch, as played by the Harry Russell Trio, is a most successful item. It is one long laugh, and is capitally played. Charles Cardow, a light comedian with methods that meet with appreciation, has a song on the old topic, "Girls," which goes with a rare swing, and makes the singer a big favourite. Charles Santon, the double-voiced vocalist, displays his powers with skill, and sings "Sally in our Alley" delightfully. Captain Ellis and Son are a talented musical couple, Captain Ellis playing the cornet well and his son being an adept on the trombone. Esme Gallia, comedienne, is also on the bill, and the Bioscope completes it. Mr. Donald Brown, the acting-manager, is, as ever, at hand to see to the comfort of all comers, whom he welcomes with his accustomed courtesy.

QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

Novelty might be said to be the one all-searching quest of the management of the popular house in Poplar, and certainly they have of late been singularly well rewarded. In securing Miss Henriquette Maude for this week's programme they made a "hit" of unusual excellence. Miss Maude introduced herself as a wanderer about the world, and in graphic style depicted her journeyings with the aid of interesting slides. As an elocutionist this young lady would alone make a visit to the Queen's a pleasure; for she possesses a capacity for combining the interesting with the instructive, and is able to blend humour and pathos in such a manner as to bring her in immediate touch with her eager responsive listeners, and she is acclaimed with a warmth that is seldom associated with artists even of the strictly sentimental type.

Sentiment and remorse, the twin emotions, were the salient characteristics of *The Leading Lady*, played by Ashley Page and Marion Denvil. In presenting this sketch ample opportunity was given for a fine display of emotional acting of the subdued order, which is rapidly displacing the old nerve-racking type, and both Mr. Page and Miss Denvil were practically more at home in their parts than in anything they have been seen in for some time past. The theme may be somewhat well worn—that of the repentant divorced wife and the forgiving husband—the usual trend of events and sequences, the short-lived romance, the conquests, the amours, the return of the old lover and reconciliation. But reconciliation in this case took a surprising turn. Stricken with remorse, the erring wife turns to the drug and seeks her "lone paradise" in the other world, just as the husband she bewails presses home his forgiveness. Throughout a depth of feeling characterised the sketch, and it bristled with the sentimental aphorisms which weigh heavily in the appreciation of a metropolitan audience; and in consequence the efforts of Mr. Page and Miss Denvil were at this house exceedingly encouraged.

Fyne and Hurley gave an amusing skit on the dude and the coster; Elsie Roby was exceedingly entertaining at the piano; Max Gruber and Miss Adelina, with their trained and wonderfully docile and intelligent elephant, horse, and pony, gave an item which was both amusing and instructive; Frank Boyce sang a couple of sentimental songs with a singularly keen touch of feeling; Gladys Mavius, Dan Thomas, and Geo. Rapley also figured in the programme, and their respective items went a long way towards making up an entertainment of well-judged merit.

CHELSEA PALACE.

Mr. J. Norman Berlin, the popular manager of the Chelsea Palace, is presiding this week over a programme of sound attractions. The prettiest act in the programme is undoubtedly that of Miss Agnes Molteno, who appears in a song-scena, with living tableaux, entitled *An Old-time Story*. In this Miss Molteno, charmingly gowned in early eighteenth-century costume, enchants her hearers with her singing, to her own piano accompaniment, of "Don't cry, daddy." A man and his daughter are shown on a miniature stage, the former, with his head resting on his hand, apparently in a fit of depression owing to the loss of his wife, and the little girl trying to comfort him. She, too, sings to him in the words of the song already mentioned. The curtains are drawn together, and the lady at the piano continues with her song. Then they are drawn aside again, and we see another tableau in which the father is bending over the child in the roadway, she having seemingly been run over by a coach. In the third scene we see the father in his loneliness mourning the absence of his loved ones, and the small daughter appearing before him, as in a vision, singing "Don't cry, daddy." Miss Molteno's song-scena, which is beautifully mounted, is highly appreciated.

Mr. W. H. Clemart, the well-known ventriloquist, causes great amusement with his mechanical figures and the clever manner in which he brings about his vocal illusions. His imitation of the crying of a baby is exceedingly natural. The Albert and Edmunds Comedy Company offer some extremely laughable knockabout comedy in the sketch *Neighbours*; and Mr. Paul Vandy, the magical juggler, certainly arouses one's astonished curiosity as to how he performs some of his feats, the movements of his watch being most mysterious.

Mr. Leonard Teel is quaint and entertaining with his stories and his advice to the ladies in his character of "the suffering dame"; Miss Kathleen Gray, in a comely pantomime boy's costume, wins the good opinions of the audience with her delivery of the ditty "I shall lose the sunlight when I lose you." Mr. J. J. James, in pierrot costume, proves an immense favourite with the house. He is a wonderful whistler and imitator, and his mimicry of various persons—to wit, a Piccadilly Johnnie, a costermonger, a Scotsman, and a sifflleuse—under certain circumstances is capitally done. Wilman, the Australian instrumentalist, furnishes ample evidence of sound musical talents; and the Carlyles present some smart whirlwind dances. Mr. Mark Melford and company create merriment with the sketch *Nonsuited*, and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope displays an interesting series of pictures.

THE FORESTERS.

The genial resident-manager, Mr. Craig, and our old friend Mr. Faithfull extend a hearty welcome to friends and patrons at this cosy East End hall, so popular amongst the many toilers, who, for a small sum, are able to obtain a capital evening's amusement. Drama is still a great attraction, though it is of higher order than in days gone by, for we were given a sensational and thrilling one-act play by the versatile Geo. R. Sims, entitled *The White Hand of a Woman*, which is capitally acted by a first-class company. The plot centres around a certain Belle Bellingham, an assumed name, who is "wanted" for the murder of her husband in America, her real name being Fay Faringdon. The adventuress is now in England, at Riverview, Maidenhead, where her many attractions have fascinated Lord Farnleigh, who becomes attached to her. Captain Scarsdale, a guest, and also a friend of the murdered husband, has declared his intentions of tracking the culprit, which he does in a novel way, namely, by marrying her. By that move he would have the opportunity of recognising her by a certain scar on her chest. He is aware that he is doing a great injustice to Lord Farnleigh, also a great friend; but thoughts of revenge are uppermost with him. The finale is reached by the lady stabbing herself after having been denounced by her husband. Mr. Bernard Mervyn as Captain Scarsdale played perfectly throughout, being ably assisted by Miss B. Doyle, who, as Belle Bellingham, brings the scene to a close by a capital piece of acting. Miss Mamie Rendle as Lady Dunbar and Mr. Sydney C. Kearns as Lord Farnleigh win favour; and the minor characters are well portrayed by Mr. W. G. Blunt and Miss Lorraine.

Carter's Ten San-Tan Girls are talented young ladies who display their charming figures to advantage. They are all exceedingly good dancers and singers, the blending of voices in their numerous items being worthy of high praise. The item is well received. Edward and Dacre in a comedy duo provide much fun, the male partner impersonating the lady's ma-in-law and she in return masquerading as a male suitor in love with the wife. The many complications cause great amusement, and the pair are rewarded with a good share of applause. The Sisters Brenton sing a tuneful number, "Wait for me, Fritzy dear," their second item being an exceptionally well-executed skipping-rope dance in top-boots. The Melbournes supply an interesting and refined act, the business of the gentleman being truly funny. Singing, dancing, and smart repartee are included in the entertainment, and the audience receive in royal fashion this clever turn. The lady is most charming, and plays up well to her partner.

Alice Hughes and company in a musical comedietta entitled *Star of the Bazaar* provide an enjoyable turn full of rich comedy and a little drama. The lady plays the character of an actress who is officiating at the bazaar for the sake of charity, but in reality we find she is there with intent to steal, her efforts being frustrated by James, a part that is played by an exceedingly good comedian, Mr. Charles Dillon. Mr. F. R. Lurin was also successful. Miss Hughes made a charming actress.

Miss Madge Allen sang in good style "I'm in love with a London girl" and "In my Chateau," concluding with a smart quick-step dance which was greatly appreciated. The Forsyths in *A Tramp in a Nursery* are enjoyable, the speciality being the lady's able representation of a doll, while the gentleman's humour is very diverting. Irene and Morton, "the hobo and the maid," provide good singing, smart talk, and extraordinary dancing; Miss Hilda Mascot sings tunefully "Colon Town," concluding with a neat dance; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are interesting.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

At the top of a capital bill this week is Leonard Mortimer and No. 1 company in the "sensational laughing success" *The Little Captain*. The play turns round a characteristic adventure of the immortal mariner, and certainly proves to be an entirely acceptable production. Mr. Mortimer in the title-rôle admirably depicts the part, and is supported by a very capable and hard-working company. The production is on a most complete scale, the second scene particularly, representing the cabin of a steam yacht, reflecting great credit on Mr. Francis H. Bull. It is almost needless to add that the show was received with the greatest enthusiasm. Boden and Belle, juvenile vocal and dancing artists, are very smart, and received a good reception.

Lydia Yeamans, the baby impersonator, scored an immense success, the fidelity of her imitations being remarkable, very valuable assistance also being rendered by Mr. Frederick J. Titus at the piano. John Warren presents a new magical mystery in the shape of a play which is very smart and bewildering. He was well supported by Miss Mollie Wynter and Messrs. Frank Morton and F. G. Fenn, a well-deserved call being accorded at the close. Lottie Lennox, who is sharing the honour of the bottom of the bill, gave two songs, "Put on your old green bonnet" and "There'll be no war," both of which took the fancy of the audience, who were lavish in their applause.

Dutch Daly, who is also at the bottom, gives some capital solos on his concertina and tells some funny stories, his reception being as good as ever; Frank Leon, described as a character-comedian, submits some wonderful examples of clog dancing, and fully deserves the flattering reception accorded him. Others in the bill are Pat Rafferty, Alf Holt, and Walter Wade. The Bioscope is good with films of Wilbur Wright's flying machine. Mr. Greco's orchestra is, as usual, excellent, and Mr. Arthur Trussell is very courteous in the front of the house.

TOTTENHAM PALACE.

A capital audience filled this establishment twice on the night of our visit, and throughout the week full houses have been recorded. The many items of the programme have yielded obvious satisfaction to the patrons. The most popular turn here this week is Harry Tate "himself" in his side-splitting skit *Motoring*. When his number goes up loud applause testifies to the popularity of this prince among variety artists, and at the conclusion of his performance he is warmly applauded, and called before the curtain. Wal Robbins causes some amusement with his musical entertainment, and Dennis and Morris have been scoring successfully as patter artists, singers, and dancers, deputising for the Bollingers, the rag-pickers. Mr. Arthur Croxon, a mimic out of the ordinary rut, contributes funny stories, following on with a clever imitation of a village quartette. His mimicry of a little nervous girl singing "Won't you buy my pretty flowers," and a country lad reciting are excellently done. He fairly brings down the house with his concluding item, a stout young lady suffering from shortness of breath singing "Whisper and I shall hear."

Mr. Harry Thurston as a dame contributes an amusing song "For a dance," but his second item, an imitation of Mr. Harry Lauder singing "The saftest o' the family" is much more appreciated. Miss Dorothy L. Clark, apparently suffering a little from nervousness, proves by her rendering of "The Bubble and the Sunbeam" and "A tiny seed of Love" that she has ability. Her voice is rich and mellow, and she sings her songs with commendable expression. The Sisters Edwards, vocalists, dancers, and drummers, are specially clever in their manipulations of the drum, which they introduce in their first duet "The Sunday-morning Band." Their second item, "My Irish Rosie," is well rendered, a cleverly-executed dance following.

Dainty Daisy Dormer, comedienne, sings her striking melodies "Anywhere will do" and "Mr. Knight" with much charm, and she is a most attractive turn in an exceptionally strong programme. She is a hard-working artist, and thoroughly deserves the hearty applause which is accorded her. The Selbinis, in their bicycle performance, are wonderfully adroit in the manipulation of their machines, the lady artist being an especially charming and graceful performer. The troupe includes a very smart boy, who is the recipient of much praise, and who seems to be utterly fearless when engaged in the most hazardous of tricks. Not the least important item on the programme is that provided by Ruffell's Bioscope, with a series of animated pictures quite up to date and exciting withal. Mr. T. S. Mayne, manager, is to be congratulated on his excellent programmes, and the duties falling to the lot of the acting-manager are very capably performed by Mr. Harold Nuttall.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

There is a decidedly attractive bill here this week, and Mr. H. J. Brett, who looks after the front of the house so attentively, has had his hands full, and bumper houses have been the rule. The Society Quartette succeed beyond expectations, not that their show is one whit less meritorious, but that the members of the party excel in all they do. The step-dancing is neat and the harmonising true to a note; the unanimity of the verdict was unmistakable. The Society Four are a genuinely good turn. Surely there was something in Darwin's "Origin of Species" after all. The remark is evoked by the wonderful performance of Bostock's Baboons. There is an absence of timidity about these well-trained animals that speaks much for their humane training; as to their show, there appears to be little they cannot do. The balancing, bar sprinting, and general antics are not only amusing but clever; and a bout of fisticuffs between the leader and another of his race must be seen to be appreciated. That good music is keenly appreciated by the patrons of the halls we have frequently pointed out in the columns of this journal. Webb and Branstone are an example in point. Their first contribution, "Whisper and I shall hear," proved a veritable gem, and met with musicianly treatment at the hands of these very capable artists, who were greeted with a triple "call." The house laughed itself to tears at a Bioscope slide entitled A Troublesome Theft. It proved all that to the wretched snapper-up of unconsidered trifles. Substantial fare is provided by Mr. Walter Reynolds's company in a dramalette entitled *Sweet Innisfail*. There are all the ingredients of the popular drama here—love, hatred, jealousy, and despair. The piece was cleverly interpreted by a capable company, whose merits we should recognise here had their names been on the bill. As it is, we offer our congratulations to the entire company. Eccentric comedy finds a perfect exponent in Sam Mayo, whose merit lies largely in his unique method. "A Terrible Tale" was one of the funniest things of the evening. The Havanna Troupe demonstrated the amount of knockabout business it is possible to put up with ere the coroner is called. Their efforts generally were a success. Other interesting items included Aimée de Leska, brightest of comediennes; and Clarke and Hayden, droll gentlemen, and welcome.

Miss Maggie Bowman and Mr. Tom J. Morton have been engaged for pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bolton. Miss Bowman is having a special part written for her, and will work original numbers with Mr. Morton, who will appear as Abanazar. This talented duo are fully booked until November, 1909, and will, in the spring, produce a novelty vaudeville act, entitled *Mixed Pickles*.

What might have been a serious accident was avoided, in Broadgate, Coventry, on Monday afternoon, by Police-constable Smith (62) and Mr. Harry Lord, a comedian appearing at the Empire, Coventry, this week. A horse and trap, belonging to Mr. Reuben Fywham, of Gilbert Street, was being driven up Broadgate towards Hertford-street by him, when the horse slipped and fell down at the top of Smithford-street. The occupants, including the driver and a two-years-old boy, were thrown out, the boy getting under the horse's legs. When the horse regained his feet he made a plunge; but Police-constable Smith caught his head, and Lord, at great personal risk, snatched the boy away, thus avoiding serious injuries to him. No one was hurt, but the occupants suffered from severe shock.

The management of the Alhambra, Brighton, announces a special matinée of Mr. Cyril Maude and company, in *Toddles*, for Tuesday, Nov. 17. We understand from the manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard, that flying visits from other West End companies will follow.

Mr. Ronald Bayne and Miss Evelyn Hope are producing at the Bedford, Camden Town, next week, a pathetic domestic sketch, entitled *The Little Peacemaker*, written by Ivan Gore and Ronald Bayne, in which they well be assisted by a very clever child actress.

The many friends of Mr. Charley Chapman will be interested to learn that he has just completed twenty-two years of service as representative of the well-known firm of Richard Warner and Co.

The latest quotations for music-hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1½; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1½; ditto (10s. paid), 1; London Pavilion Ordinary, 3½; ditto, Preference, 4½; Metropolitan, 14s.; Moss Empire, 5; ditto, 5 per cent. Preference, 3½; Oxford, 6½; Palace, 18s. 6d.; Tivoli, 5½; Var. Cons. Theas., 10s.

The Furniture Trades' Musical Society have again entrusted the musical arrangements to Mr. Alfred H. Botwright for the ninth year in succession. The society exists in the interests of benevolence and sociability, and the concerts, which are of a bohemian character, are held at the Holborn Restaurant.

Indispensable! Rayne's "Pocket Date Book." Contents: Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance. Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list of brougham proprietors, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c. Price 1s., post free. The proceeds from the sale will be divided equally amongst the two great charities of the dramatic and musical professions, the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Home Fund. "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

A well-attended meeting of theatre and music-hall employees was held on Sunday, in the Victoria Inn, John Bright-street, Birmingham, for the purpose of forming a branch of the National Association of Theatrical Employees. Mr. F. G. Lees, secretary of the local branch of the Musicians' Union, presided. Mr. Wm. Johnson, general secretary of the N.A.T.E., addressed the meeting at length. A resolution was submitted approving of the formation of a branch, which was supported by Mr. J. V. Stevens, and carried unanimously. A provisional committee was appointed, which will meet next week at the Victoria Inn to proceed with the work of organisation. Mr. F. J. Lees has kindly consented to act as Secretary until the usual officers and the committee have been appointed.

A general meeting of the Middlesbrough branch of the N.A.T.E. will be held on Sunday evening, when the president of the branch, Mr. H. Andrews, will, on behalf of the National Executive Committee, present a gold badge to the branch secretary, Mr. A. E. Wright, for special services in helping to organise a branch of the society in Stockton-on-Tees.

Mr. Philip Sheridan, who was for many years electrician in charge at the Crown Theatre, has been appointed electrician in charge at the Waldorf Theatre, and will commence his duties on Monday week. Mr. P. Sheridan's late brother, Mr. T. Sheridan, was formerly in charge at this theatre.

A special meeting of the committee of the cinematograph operators' branch will be held on Tuesday next, at 2.30, at 29, Wellington-street, when all members in London are asked to attend.

The Employees' Concert Committee have been informed that Miss Dorothea Baird will give a recitation at the concert. Mr. Matheson Lang, who wrote to say he regrets he is engaged on that evening, sent a cheque for £1 1s. as a donation to the fund; Miss Lena Ashwell sent £1 1s. for a box; Mr. Alfred de Rothschild sent a cheque for £5 5s.; Mr. James Carew sent £1 1s.; and Mr. Arthur Cludleigh £1. Miss Ada Colley, who wrote expressing her regret that she would not be in town on Nov. 29, sent her best wishes for the success of the concert and a cheque for £2 2s. Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mr. Frank Glenister, Mr. Cyril Maude, and Mr. Forbes Robertson also give consent to add their names to the list of patrons.

BREACH OF CONTRACT.

On Wednesday, at Clerkenwell County Court, Charles Rezine, variety artist, of King Edward-street, Islington, sued C. A. Gardiner, theatre proprietor, of Aigburth Mansions, Chapel-street, Brixton, for £5 5s., as damages for breach of contract.

Mr. Lewis, solicitor, appeared for plaintiff, who said that he was engaged by defendant for thirteen performances at the Queen's, Poplar, in a piece known as *The Airship*. He attended the rehearsals, and appeared in two performances on Monday, Aug. 24. On the Tuesday he presented himself at the hall, but was told that *The Airship* sketch had been withdrawn. On returning home he found a telegram from the defendant, saying, "Contract cancelled. No performance."

Defendant: Did you strike one of the performers, knocking him against the telephone bell, by which he could not work for two and a half days?—No, he did it himself.

Did you do the anchor trick?—No one breathing could do it in the way you put it.

Did you do the propeller trick?—Yes, I went round two or three times at both houses.

Harold Brough, a fellow performer with plaintiff, called for the defence, said plaintiff struck him quite unintentionally. It was in the "gag," but the force of the blow knocked witness against the telephone and injured him.

Defendant said that he had to cancel the contract, as Brough, being injured by plaintiff, was unable to appear. He had paid into Court an amount to cover the two performances.

His Honour: But you cancelled the contract, and you had no right to, it seems to me.

Defendant: How could I go on when he had battered a performer so that he was unable to appear?

His Honour: Because one performer drops out I don't see that you are entitled to cancel the contract.

Judgment was entered in plaintiff's favour for £3 3s. and costs.

PROPRIETOR AND ARTIST.

Thomas St. Clair, one of a trio of trick cyclists, entered on October 17th, 1907, through a Liverpool agent, into an arrangement with Mr. T. Allan Edwardes, proprietor of theatres at Sheffield, Derby, and elsewhere, to perform on three consecutive weeks in August of this year at the Palace, Attercliffe, Derby, and Stoke. He had previously contracted with Mr. Stoll to appear at the Sheffield Empire in May of next year, and by a condition of that contract he could not accept an engagement within ten miles of that hall during a period of fifteen months preceding.

On this point being raised, the Liverpool agent, it was stated, declared that it did not matter, and that Mr. Edwardes said it would be all right. On the Saturday prior to the Monday on which the first performance was to be given at Attercliffe, Mr. St. Clair was threatened with an injunction by Mr. Stoll, in consequence of which he wired to Mr. Edwardes that he could not open on Monday, and Mr. Edwardes replied that he must open and risk the injunction, adding that he would indemnify him against all legal expenses, otherwise he should cancel all engagements and sue him for breach of contract.

Acting on that Mr. St. Clair presented himself at Attercliffe, but although he had a rehearsal he was not allowed to perform. It was for this alleged breach of contract that he now sued Mr. Edwardes, the amount claimed being £20, while Mr. Edwardes counterclaimed for £10, also for breach of contract.

Mr. Doughty appeared for the plaintiff and Mr. R. S. Clifford for the defendant, whose case was that in consequence of St. Clair saying he could not perform at Attercliffe he had to make other arrangements. Plaintiff only agreed to perform at Attercliffe after these arrangements had been made, his offer then being too late.

Judgment was given for Mr. Edwardes on both issues.

The London Society of East Anglians, of whom there are many in the profession, have again entrusted the programmes of the bohemian concerts to Mr. Alfred H. Botwright, a member of the society, whose native town is Bungay. The committee have decided to hold the concerts this season at the Holborn Restaurant, the room at the Great Eastern Hotel not being large enough comfortably to seat all those who attended last season. The first will be held on Dec. 7.

The Awards. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "The Era" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ON THE ROAD, NOV. 2.

Alone in London.—Broadway T., Deptford.
An Abandoned Woman.—Central T., Northwich.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Bristol.
Asche, Oscar.—Borough T., Stratford.
Bandmann-Palmer, Mrs.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Beloved Vagabond.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—T. R., Portsmouth.
Belle of New York (Howard).—County T., Kingston.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—Prince's T., Bristol.
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—Taunton.
Bondman, The (Croke).—Metropole T., Devonport.
Bourchier, Arthur.—T. R., Glasgow.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—Royalty T., Chester.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Preston.
Brewster's Millions.—T. R., Brighton.
Broken Heart, A.—T. R., Castleford.
Bulmer, Mr.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—Gaiety T., Hastings.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—Weybridge and Redhill.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Empire T. Oldham.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Aberavon and Abertillery.
Claudian.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Coal King, The.—T. R., West Stanley.
Compton's Comedy Co.—Grand T., Southampton.
Conscience of a Judge.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Convict's Daughter.—T. R., Sutton.
Country Girl in London.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (No. 1).—King's T., Sunderland.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (S.).—County T., Reading.
Dairymaids (Macdonald's).—Aldershot.
Dandy Fifth.—T. R., Hull.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Leigh.
Diana of Dobson's. (M.).—Stafford and Worksop.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
Donovan, Lydia.—Palace T., New Brighton.
Dorothy.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Driven from Home.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Eve of Her Wedding.—T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne.
Face at the Window.—Queen's T., Manchester.
Fatal Wedding.—T. R., Barnsley.
Flag Lieutenant.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
Flower Girl.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
For Love and the King.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Gay Gordons (Miss Dare).—T. R., Nottingham.
Gay Gordons (Terriss and Hicks).—Coronet T., W.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—Gaiety T., Dundee.
Girl's Cross Roads.—T. R., North Shields.
Girls of Gottenberg.—O. H., Leicester.
Girl Who Lost Her Character.—W. Hartlepool.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Grand T., Brighton.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—Carlton T., Birmingham.
Great Awakening.—T. R., Scarborough.
Great White Chief.—P. O. W., Salford.
Greed of Gold.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
Hands Across the Sea.—Metropole T., Devonport.
Her Love Against the World.—P. O. W., Great Grimsby.
Her Marriage Vow.—Queen's T., Longton.
Her Nameless Child.—King's T., Longsight.
His House in Order.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
His Wife No Longer.—Royalty T., Barrow.
Home, Sweet Home.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Honeymoon, The.—Globe T., Deal.
Horniman's, Miss.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Hughes, Annie.—King's T., Glasgow.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—Paisley T., Paisley.
Hypocrites, The (S.).—T. R., Torquay.
Irene Wycherley.—Grand T., Swansea.
Jack Straw.—Marlborough T., Holloway, N.
Kiss of Judas.—T. R., Smethwick.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Dungannon and Armagh.
Lady Frederick.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—New T., Oxford.
Leah Kleschna.—Grand T., Lancaster.
Lighthouse Robbery.—P. O. W., Mexboro'.
Little Breadwinner.—Oxford.
London with the Lid Off.—O. H., St. Helens.
Love of the Princess.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Love that Women Desire.—T. R., Crook.
Lucky 'Liza.—St. James's T., Long Eaton.
Man or Beast.—T. R., Colne.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Forfar and Falkirk.
Manxman, The.—St. George's T., Kendal.
Married to the Wrong Man.—Oldham.
Master Criminal.—T. R., Croydon.
Merely Mary Ann.—Castle T., Stockton.
Merry Widow (S.).—O. H., Coventry.
Midnight Mail.—Queen's T., Fleetwood.
Midnight Wedding.—Aquarium, Yarmouth.
Miss Hook of Holland (S.).—Oxford and Leamington.
Mollison, William.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Mother's Salvation, A.—Goole and Scunthorpe.
Moody-Manners Opera (A.).—Grand T., Hull.
Moody-Manners (B.).—T. R., Bath.
Moore, Miss Decima.—Bedford and Ipswich.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—Shakespeare T., L'pool.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—Grand T., Fulham, S.W.
My Mimosa Maid.—New T., Cardiff.
My Sweetheart.—Middleton and Macclesfield.
Mystery of Edwin Drood (H. M. Version).—T. R., Worcester.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—T. R., Norwich.
New East Lynne.—T. R., Bury.
Old Folks at Home.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Old Home, The.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Otto the Outcast.—Assembly Rooms, Durham.
Peter's Mother.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Power of a Wicked Woman.—Gaiety T., Ayr.
Prince of Pilsen.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Private Secretary.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—Crown T., Peckham.
Prodigal Son (Day).—T. R., Bolton.
Royal Divorce.—Eastbourne and Shrewsbury.
Sailor's Wedding.—T. R., Aston.
Second to None.—Grand T., Mansfield.
Send Him Victorious.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Sergeant Brue.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., York.
Sign of the Cross.—T. R., Stockport.
Silver King.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
Soldier of France.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Soldier's Honour.—Maesteg and Treherbert.
Starr, Harry.—Assembly Rooms, Durham.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Colchester.
Straight from the Shoulder.—T. R., Darlington.
Sunday.—O. H., Dudley.
Terry, Edward.—T. R., Belfast.
Terry, Ellen.—Crystal Palace Theatre, S.E.
Terry, Fred.—T. R., Newcastle.
Thief, The (N.).—O. H., Southport.
Thief, The (S.).—O. H., Cheltenham.
Tom Jones.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Tom Jones.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Traitor Prince.—Alhambra T., Stourbridge.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Rochdale.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—T. R., Merthyr.
Tyrant, The.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Vedrenne-Barker.—P.O.W., Birmingham.
Village Blacksmith.—Alexandra T., Sheffield.
Warning to Women.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Way of the World.—Star T., Swansea.
What a Woman Did.—Grand T., Nelson.
When It Was Dark.—Hippodrome, Todmorden.
When Knights Were Bold.—Court T., Liverpool.
When Knights Were Bold.—Grand T., Derby.
When London Sleeps.—T. R., Leeds.
When Other Lips.—Standard T., Hetton.
White Man, A (N.).—T. R., Birmingham.
White Man, A (S.).—T. R., Northampton.
Who is She?—Star T., Liverpool.
Why Men Love Women.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
Wife and the Woman.—T. R., Margate.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Bilston.
With Edged Tools.—Court T., Warringham.
Worst Woman in London.—T. R., Sheffield.
Woman and Wine.—Pavilion Theatre, E.
Woman Pays, The.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Woman Worth Winning.—Spennymoor.
Wrecker of Men.—New T. R., Bargoed.
You Never Can Tell.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Worthing.
£1,000 Reward.—Alexandra T., Hull.

During a performance of *Her Country's Enemy*, that wonderful little Crimean War sketch of Mr. G. P. Trevor's, which he and his company were playing at the Palace, Leicester, last week, a lady in the dress circle became so worked up, during a big scene in which the crafty Russian has the young Englishman's life in his hands, having stealthily procured the latter's pistol whilst his attention is attracted elsewhere, that she rose to her feet, and in a loud voice broke the stillness of the auditorium by calling out, "Oh, take care!—he's got it!" Mr. Trevor brings this sketch to London once more next week, when it will be seen at the Standard, Pimlico, at 10.20 nightly.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

Albert Allerton (Utah).—*You had better forward your letter to* The Era *Letter-Box, Strand, London, W.C.*

Harry Beacon.—*The lady was born in 1875, and made her first appearance on the stage with Charles Wyndham at the Criterion in 1892 at the age of seventeen. See notice above.*

R. Edgeter (Brockley).—*The manager of the New Cross Empire, Mr. Ernest Bridgen, has kindly answered our inquiry, and informs us that during the week ending Oct. 17 Harry Tate himself was performing at that house in the sketch* Fishing, *and not his understudy. See notice above.*

B. M. D. (Lancaster).—The Only Way, *a romantic play in a prologue and four acts, adapted by Freeman Wills from Charles Dickens's novel "A Tale of Two Cities," was produced at the Lyceum on Feb. 16, 1899. Mr. Holbrook Blinn played Jean and Ernest Defarge, Mr. Fred Everill was the Dr. Manette; Mr. Acton Bond, Marquis de St. Evremonde; Mr. H. Nye Chart, Vicomte St. Evremonde; a Peasant, Mr. T. Arthur Jones; Sydney Carton, Mr. Martin Harvey; Mr. Lorry, Mr. J. G. Taylor; Mr. Stryver, Mr. Sam Johnson; Charles Darnay, Mr. Herbert Sleath; President, Mr. F. Tyars; Public Prosecutor, Mr. Frank Vernon; Comte de Fauchet, Mr. Ben Webster; M. de Maury, Mr. Havard Arnold; Marquis de Boulainvilliers, Mr. E. Eardley Howard; Gabelle, Mr. Henson; Barsad, Mr. A. Lingley; First Citizen, Mr. Fred Powell; Second Citizen, Mr. Hawley Francks; First Juryman, Mr. Stone; Second Juryman, Mr. Herbert Innes; Lucie Manette, Miss Grace Warner; The Vengeance, Miss Marriott; a Citizeness, Miss Lizzie Webster; Mimi, Miss De Silva.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

Berwick.—On Oct. 25, at 123, Kennington-road, S.E., the wife of Geoffrey Berwick (née Poppy Wilkinson), of a daughter.

Ellwanger.—Oct. 25, the wife of W. T. Ellwanger, of a son.

Emerson.—On Oct. 24, at 54, Bath-row, Birmingham, Mrs. Walter Emerson (Gwennie Hasto), of a son. Both doing well.

Holloway.—Oct. 21, at Denbigh, N.W., the wife of Harold Holloway (Miss Nancy Newell) of a daughter.

Mackay.—On Oct. 21, the wife of Leonard Mackay (née Octavia Barry) of a son.

Starr.—On Oct. 26, at 9 Clare-street, Blackpool, the wife of Harry Starr (professionally known as Ida Outram), of a son.

Yettmah.—On Wednesday, Oct. 28, Mrs. Mabel Yettmah of a fine boy. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

Griffan—Brough.—On Oct. 26, at St. Augustin's Church, Liverpool, Geo. Griffan to Nell Brough.

DEATHS.

Darnley.—Oct. 22, at 21, Effra-road, Brixton, Alice, the beloved wife of J. H. Darnley, after a long illness.

Flemming.—Oct. 23, at Melbourne, Herbert Flemming, actor and manager, aged 52.

Sivado.—Oct. 25, suddenly at Bristol, from the bursting of a blood-vessel caused by phthisis, Robert Sivado (Brown), music-hall performer.

Wade.—Oct. 25, Tom Wade, late of Wade and Waller, music-hall performers, aged 47.

Warner.—On Oct. 21, 1908, at Boscombe Hospital, Harry Warner (Pratt), scenic artist, beloved and only son of May Bowerman and the late Fred Warner (Pratt). Great sufferings heroically borne.

In Memoriam.

Grahame.—In ever-loving memory of my dear brother, J. G. Grahame, who died Oct. 31, 1907.

Leno.—In affectionate remembrance of my late husband, Dan Leno, who entered into rest Oct. 31, 1904. Always held in loving memory by his dear children. Sleep well, dear heart.

Leno (Dan).—In loving memory of Dan, our dear brother-in-law, who died Oct. 31, 1904. Ever remembered by Will and Edie.

Transfield (Bellamina).—In loving memory of my dear mother, who passed away at Lincoln, Nov. 5, 1899. Never forgotten by her loving daughter, Tina (Mrs. Harry Elliott).

Vendome.—In tenderest memory of my loving and beloved husband, Sydney Vendome (late Four Vendomes).

Fell asleep in Jesus,
Oct. 28, 1907.

The Incorporated Stage Society will open their tenth season with the production of *The Last of the De Mullins*, a "tragedy of gentility," in three acts, by St. John Hankin.

The Actor is in much the same position as Royalty.

He has always to be at his best. Likewise the Actress.

Every night a houseful of critics hangs upon his every word, compares his every note. Everyday colds and indispositions, recognised in all other vocations, are not allowed to him. Whatever his real feelings may be, neither brain, nor voice, nor body must betray his indisposition, his hold on popular approval.

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Abex
Achurch, Miss J.
Albert, Mr. Arthur
Andre, Mr. Victor
Archer, Mr. T. F.
Artois, Mr. John
Ash, Miss M.
Ault, Miss Marie
Baines, Mr. Hamilton
Barclay, Miss Annie
Beadon, Mr. Valentine
Beckwith, Miss A.
Bellclair, Brothers
Beloe, Miss H.
Beltram, Mr. Sidney
Bert, Mr. R.
Biddall, Bros.
Blackburn, Miss A.
Boggetti, Mr. E.
Borthwick, Mr. Haines
Brantford, Mr. Thomas
Brewer, Mr. Joseph
Brownson, Mr. J. W.
Burgoyne, Miss J.
Busse, Miss M.
Caine, Mr. J. J.
Callaghan, Mr. T. C.
Callan, Mr. John
Campbell, Mrs. P.
Canning, Miss A.
Carlile, Mr. C. D.
Carlyle, Miss Hilda
Carlyon, Mr. F.
Carroll, Mr. T. P.
Castania, Mr.
Cedrics, The
Chirgwin, Miss Clara
Clare, Mr. Leslie
Clough, Mr. Dennis
Collins, Mrs. P.
Coma, Mr. Arthur
Cooke, Mr. C. F.
Cooper, Mr. Frank
Coram
Corri, Mr. Clarence
Coutts, Mr. G. H.
Crawley and Bishop
Crawley, Mr. Dan
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Curran, Mr. Fred
Cyclinis, The
Dacre, Mr. Louis M.
Davis, Mr. Chas.
Deans and Wilton
De Fontenay, Miss R.
De Gracia, Mrs. B.
Dene, Miss Gloria
Denton, Mr. J.
Derry, Miss Joan
Donaldson, Brothers
Dunedin, Miss Maudie
Dunmore, Mr. Tom
East, Mr. John M.
Edouin, Miss Rose
Edwin and Edwards
Elliston, Mr. Frank
English, Mr. Geo.
English, Mr. James
Esmond, Mr. Harry E.
Evans, Mr. A. R.
Felix, Mr. Tom
Fisher, Mr. Chas.
Foote, Mr. Barrington
Forsyths, The
Frace, Mr. J. M.
Francis, Miss Lilian
French, Mr. Gerald
Freshwater, Mr. E. O.
Gazetti, Miss C.
Geddes, Mr. J. D.
Glynn, Mr. P.
Goldin, Mr. Horace
Grattan, Mr. Harry
Grundy, Mr. Sidney
Haddon, Mr. Jack
Haill, Mr. G. J.
Hamilton, Mr. W.
Hare, Miss Winifred
Hargreaves, Mr. W.
Hatton, Mr. Russell
Hayman and Franklyn
Hill, Mr. J. Harrison
Holder, Mr. Edwin
Holland, Mr.
Homeyard, Mr. L. S.
Hopkins, Mr. Dick
Hughes, Mr. Tom
Hutchinson, Mr. J. N.
Ingleton, Mr. G.
Innes, Miss Iris
Jones, Mr. Guy
Kayes, Mrs. E.
Kelway, Mr. Vincent
Kessler, Madame
King, Mr. Claud
Kremo Troupe
La Martine, Mrs. Clara
Law-Brailsford, Mr. H.
Lee, Mr. Edgar
Lennox, Mr. C. Gordon
Leybourne, Mr. Arthur
Lilliputian Troupe
Linden, Mr. Arden
Llewellyn, Miss Hilda
Lloyd, Mr. Fred
Locraine, Miss Ruby
Matthews, Mr. E. H.
Maydew, Miss Alice
Melrose, Miss Alma
Merrilise, Miss H.
Merriman, Mr. Walter
Nation, Mr. H. C.
Norton, Miss Ruby
Nott, Mr. Will
Oliver, Mr. J. C.
Orr-Duncan, Mr. W.
Pardoe, Miss May
Patey, Miss Lola
Pearce, Mr. George
Phelps, Mr. C. H.
Phydora, Mr. Harry
Plant, Mr. Harry
Prince, Mr. Sidney
Purchase, Mr. A.
Raye, Miss K.
Reeves, Miss Edna
Reeves, Mr. George
Rice, Miss Rosie
Robini, Mr. Alf.
Rogers, Mr. Harry
Romer, Mr. Adrian
Roseno, Mr. Otto
Rowan, Mr. C. H.
Royce, Mr. Arthur
Russell, Mr. Harry
Sauteron Wonders
Scott, Miss Maidee
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Silvester, Mr. R.
Sivado, Mr. Chas.
Smith, Mr. Cecil G.
Smith, Mr. Clement
Staley, Miss G.
Stanhope, Mr. Frank A.
Starkey, Mr. Gordon
St. Clair, Mr. F. V.
Stelling, Mr. C.
Stevens, Mr. A. Victor
Stevenson, Mr. J. O.
Stewart, Mr. Charles
Stewart, Mr. Harry
Steyne, Mr. E. T.
Stratton, Mr. Eugene
Sugden, Mr. Chas.
Sultan, Mr. W. H.
Summers, Miss Julia
Temple, Mr. Fred.
Towle, Mr. W. Edwardes
Trappenell, Mr. P.
Vandyke, Mr. Chas.
Warren, Mr. F. Brook
Weldon, Mr. C.
Williams, Mr. C. H.
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Zoughmans, Misses

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BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Madge Crichton—Saturday, Oct. 31.
George Stone—Saturday, Oct. 31.
J. Leicester Jackson—Sunday, Nov. 1.
Irene Chapman—Sunday, Nov. 1.
Madge Brownie—Sunday, Nov. 1.
Mrs. William Lowe—Sunday, Nov. 1.
Herbert Shelley—Monday, Nov. 2.
Ida Heath—Monday, Nov. 2.
Winifred Hemming—Monday, Nov. 2.
Lewis Waller—Tuesday, Nov. 3.
Rosemary Rees—Tuesday, Nov. 3.
G. H. Elliott—Tuesday, Nov. 3.
Mayor-Cooke—Tuesday, Nov. 3.
F. R. Benson—Wednesday, Nov. 4.
Dollie Huntley—Wednesday, Nov. 4.
Edith Forrest—Wednesday, Nov. 4.
Fred Trussell—Thursday, Nov. 5.
Mrs. John Wood—Friday, Nov. 6.
J. P. Sousa—Friday, Nov. 6.
Pat Carey—Friday, Nov. 6.
E. Bosanquet—Friday, Nov. 6.

The management of the Hippodrome, Colchester, also announces a flying matinée. On the afternoon of Nov. 12 Mr. Herbert Sleath's company will present *A White Man*.

Mr. Fred Eustace, at the Palace, Camberwell, will play next week his new sketch, *The Family Name*, written for him by Walter Macnamara and Harry Pleon.

Miss Mabel Mavis, the eminent glassophone soloist and piano expert, has returned from the Continent, where she has demonstrated by her pronounced success that British talent can more than hold its own even in foreign lands. She has added to her répertoire the achievement of playing the mandoline at the back of the head while accompanying herself on the piano with her feet.

For the first time in its history there is to be a "Winter Session" at Earl's Court Exhibition. Hundreds of workmen have been engaged during the past month in reconstructing the Empress Theatre, and when the public is admitted on Thursday next it will be found that the most beautiful and the largest ball-room and skating surface has been built. Lit by fifty arc lamps and 3,000 small lights, on one side visitors can view the dancing and skating (which takes place simultaneously) from an auditorium furnished with tip-up seats on the one side, or from the Empress Club and smoking alcoves on the other. The tea rooms and refreshment bars also afford good views of whatever may be in progress. Dancing will take place every evening at 7.30 in a specially enclosed oval area, around which skaters will, at the same time, incessantly glide. All taking part must remove their hats. Dancers must have proper dancing shoes.

Many novelties will be introduced by the management from time to time, embracing skating Gymkhanas, the largest fancy dress balls and confetti carnivals ever held in London, sports on wheels, push ball, hockey, and polo. Novel competitions will be inaugurated. One of the first will be "Beauties on Skates," in which each lady will be required to let down her hair. The lady adjudged to have the finest head of hair will be presented with a pony and trap. The floor will cover an area of 22,000 square feet, and is unquestionably the finest in the world. Fifty of London's prettiest actresses will take part in the ceremony.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1908.

THE RISTORI MEMORIAL.

The announcement that an influential committee, at the head of which are Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM, Mr. BEERBOHM TREE, Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT, Sir W. S. GILBERT, and Sir JOHN HARE, has been organised to pay tribute to the memory of RISTORI, and that Mr. TREE has given the use of His Majesty's Theatre for a matinée in the autumn for the same object, reminds us of a great actress, who is still remembered by many of the present generation. ADELAIDE RISTORI, the Marquise Capranica del Grillo, was born at Civitale de Friuli, a small town in the Lambardo-Venetian territory, in the year 1822. When only four years old she played children's parts with success, and subsequently attempted ingénues and soubrettes. When only fourteen years of age she was entrusted with the rôle of Francesca da Rimini in the tragedy of that name; and the impression she made in the character decided her future. At the age of twenty-four she married the Marquis Capranica del Grillo, and on their union left the stage. But she still yearned after public triumphs; and when she heard that a theatrical manager whom she knew was in prison for debt, she gave three representations for his benefit. The enthusiasm they created was so intense that she was induced by it to return to the boards, from which she had been absent two years.

RISTORI justified the public demand by the tremendous success of her tragic performances. As Myrrha, as Mary Queen of Scots in the Italian version of SCHILLER'S tragedy of *Marie Stuart*, as Antigone in the play on that theme by ALFIERI, as Fair Rosamond, and as Octavia she especially excelled; but her Medea was the part in which she won her greatest fame. The version of *Medea* was written by ERNEST LEGOUVÉ for Mlle. RACHEL and for the Théâtre Français. RACHEL refused to play the part, asserting that it did not suit her; and LEGOUVÉ brought an action against her, and received 5,000 francs damages. RISTORI accepted the tragedy, and triumphed in it. The actress's great effect was made at the end of the play, when, in answer to Jason's enquiry who has killed his children, Medea replies, in a terrible voice, "Tu!"

RISTORI made her first appearance in Paris at the Théâtre des Italiens in 1855 in *Francesca da Rimini*. She also played Mirandolina in *La Locandiera*. "One should understand," says RISTORI in her Memoirs, "the coquettish (*sic*) of that school as it is very different from the present. The colouring must absolutely bend towards conversational naturalness. . . . I should like to have the actress who performs it now take notice of my remarks." After RISTORI'S performance as Myrrha, at the end of the fourth act, the foyer of the Italiens was invaded by celebrities of all sorts, ALEXANDRE DUMAS "kissing her mantle and her hands," and LEGOUVÉ, SCRIBE, and THEOPHILE GAUTIER showing enthusiasm which "reached almost a paroxysm." With regard to RACHEL'S rivalry with the Italian actress, the story went at the time that on a visit to the Italiens RACHEL, keeping at the back of her box, and unable to restrain her rage at her rival's triumph, tore into pieces the book of the play which she held in her hands, exclaiming, "This woman hurts me. I cannot stand her any longer!" and then left the house in a rage. However that may have been, RACHEL sent RISTORI a box for the Français, and the Italian actress duly witnessed and enjoyed RACHEL'S fine performance in *Phèdre*.

RISTORI came to London in 1856, and appeared at the Lyceum in the June of that year as Medea. On her return to London the year after she played in an Italian version of *Macbeth* at Covent Garden. "So thoroughly," she says, "did I enter into the nature of Lady Macbeth, that, during the entire sleep-walking scene, my pupils were motionless in their orbits, causing me to shed tears." Next came a visit to Warsaw, followed by a trip to Naples, where she fell right over the footlights when representing the delirium of Phèdre in a version of RACINE'S drama, deeply wounding her right arm with the broken glass of one of the globes around the oil lamps which were used by order of the Neapolitan Government.

While acting at the Larzuela Theatre, Madrid, RISTORI heard that a soldier had been sentenced to death for drawing his sword on his sergeant, who had struck him. The President of the Ministry happened to be at the theatre, and he advised RISTORI to beg the man's life of Queen ISABELLA. The interview took place in the royal box; and the Queen ultimately yielded to the actress's impassioned entreaties. The man was sentenced only to a term of imprisonment, which RISTORI managed to get greatly reduced. Her success was world-wide, and she endeared herself to her fellow-countrymen by her patriotism. As TOMMASSO SALVINI remarked in his "Discours en Commémoration," pronounced at the Theatre Argentina in Rome in the presence of the KING and QUEEN of ITALY, "The merit of RISTORI did not only consist in superior declamation, a dignified presence, gesture of the rarest refinement, and flashes of artistic genius; she was also endowed with a Raphaelesque beauty, a superb voice, the grand manner, a cultivated mind and an exquisite gift of conversation, an iron will, steady perseverance, and nerves of steel. Always strong and full of energy, she played successively and without a rest the parts of Medea, Judith, and Elizabeth, receiving visits between the acts from innumerable admirers of her genius; and she conversed with everybody in the same admirable and amiable way. She was an excellent mother, a good companion, and a Queen in her art. Her good works were many, she relieved hundreds of poor people, and she helped the cause of Italian freedom by winning the sympathy and friendship of foreign nations." We may add that she wrote clearly and pleasantly, and her "Memoirs and Artistic Studies" were translated into English and published in London last year. In 1902, at the age of eighty, she recited, through the telephone between Turin and Paris, a verse of LEGOUVÉ'S *Medea* into the ear of the venerable author, who was then ninety-five. She died at Rome in the October of 1906 without distress or pain. Truly a wonderful woman, and well worthy of a memorial.

"THE FLAG-STATION."

One-Act Drama, by Eugene Walter, produced at the Aldwych Theatre on Oct. 29.

Dick Anderson.....MR. J. W. DEAN
Charlie.....MR. J. COOK BERESFORD
Mary Anderson.....MISS FANNIE WARD

Miss Fannie Ward has put on, in front of *Fanny and the Servant Problem* at the Aldwych Theatre, one of the most thrilling and sensational one-act plays that have been seen on the stage for a long time. It has already had great success in America, and it was received by the audience at the Aldwych on Thursday with a tense interest which became almost painful at the conclusion, when the house was hushed into awed and anxious expectation. Dick Anderson, a telegraph operator at a station on a lonely mountain line in America, has been working continuously for three days without rest or sleep; for a snowstorm has prevented the usual "relief" reaching him. Unnerved by the strain and by the recollection of the suspicion which fell on him on a former occasion of having wrecked a train by an error, he is ready to collapse with fatigue, and does make a mistake in signalling by which a collision is rendered almost inevitable. He determines to die; but there is just one chance. One of the trains is late, and it is barely possible that the accident may thus be avoided. It is five minutes to eleven; at eleven o'clock he will know his fate, and that of his wife, Mary, who has consented to die with him. With revolver in hand, Anderson waits, listening for the whistle which will announce that the train has escaped. The clock ticks audibly, the hands move slowly round. Then the husband raises his pistol, and points it at his wife. But before he can fire the distant whistle is heard, and they throw themselves on the floor overcome by their emotion, while the light of the passing train shines on the embankment outside.

Assisted by the fine acting of Mr. J. W. Dean and Miss Fannie Ward and by some of the most realistic imitations of railroad noises ever heard in a theatre, *The Flag-Station* achieved great success. Mr. Dean depicted the harassed, agonised struggles of the overworked operator very broadly and powerfully; and Miss Fannie Ward acted with great sweetness and earnestness as the wife, her appeal to her husband to refrain from suicide being delivered with a deep and tender seriousness which touched the hearts of all. Mr. J. Cook-Beresford contributed a neat little character-sketch of a rough and kindly conductor.

MR. EILE NORWOOD has dedicated his pretty melody in G, which is played in the third act of *Peter's Mother*, to the authoress of that play, Mrs. Henry de la Pasture. The piece is receiving an excellent interpretation from Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Joseph Williams, Ltd., of 32, Great Portland-street, London, W., publish the melody at the price of 6d.

MANAGERS AND WATER RATES.

Several leading London managers took part in the meeting held at the Mansion House on Wednesday to protest against the excessive charges of the Metropolitan Water Board under the Act which came into force on April 1 last. Sir John Bell was in the chair, and amongst those present were Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. J. B. Mulholland, president of the Theatres Alliance, and a vice-president of the Theatre Managers' Association, Mr. Hedderwick, solicitor to the T.M.A., and Mr. Moverley Sharp, hon. secretary of the Alliance.

Sir ALBERT SPICER, M.P., moved the following resolution:—"That this meeting of ratepayers in the City of London deprecates the action of the Water Board in enforcing at the outset its maximum statutory powers, and protests against the largely increased charges for water in business premises on the basis of rateable value, having regard to the relatively small consumption of water on such premises when supplied otherwise than by meter, and that copies of this resolution be sent to the President of the Local Government Board, the Metropolitan Water Board, the Corporation of the City of London, the London County Council, and the Metropolitan Borough Councils."

Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM, in supporting the resolution on behalf of those interested in West-End theatres, said they felt very strongly that the tax which had been put upon them was a most unfair one. All places of entertainment in London were affected much in the same way. It was quite true that in certain respects music halls were better off than theatres, because the former could keep their doors open all the year round, whereas theatres were not in that happy position. He thought that no one would deny that the valuation of theatres for rating purposes was to a great extent upon a fictitious basis. A theatre was rated at a much higher figure than a corresponding piece of land with buildings erected upon it which were used for ordinary domestic purposes, but while the rating was very much higher, the consumption of water was very much lower. The average rating of a West-End theatre was not less than £5,000 per annum, and the Water Board had not met the theatre managers by giving them the benefit of the extreme abatement which they were able to give. The result was that the average amount which a London theatre had to pay for water was no less than £200 a year. How much water did they consume for this sum? The average consumption per year of a theatre was not more than 700,000 gallons, which worked out at no less than 5s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons, whereas the maximum price which the Board had a statutory right to charge by meter was 11d. Was that fair? He did not think that Parliament intended that by an accident of rating a consumer should be forced to pay such an excessive figure. When the Water Board was first considering this matter he (Sir Charles) approached them on behalf of his confrères, and begged them to charge them by meter. This was declined. Under the Act theatres were stated to be non-domestic, but the authorities apparently had them both ways. When a manager started to put his house in order, and asked the local authorities to remove the rubbish and refuse which collected in a theatre, he was at once told, "No, you are not a domestic concern; you must pay for removing this rubbish." On the other hand, the moment he turned on his water-tap to do his cleaning, he was told, "You are a domestic concern, and are not entitled to receive your water by meter." (Laughter.) There was not a theatrical manager who would not be quite prepared to pay a fair and proper charge for the water consumed, but he was asked to pay six times the amount of the maximum charge authorised by the Act. It was a hardship of which they were justified in complaining.

The resolution was carried.

Sir F. DIXON-HARTLAND moved:—"This meeting further urges upon the Corporation of the City of London, the London County Council, and the Metropolitan Borough Councils the importance of instructing their representatives on the Water Board to support a reduction of the present charges, or an increase in the rebate allowable under Section 9 of the Charges Act of 1907, thus affording some measure of relief to water consumers."

Sir FREDERICK BANBURY, M.P., the vice-president of the Theatrical Managers' Association and Theatrical Alliance, and vice-chairman of the Machinery Users' Association, supported the resolution.

Mr. J. B. MULHOLLAND, in also supporting the resolution, said: "I have the honour to attend on behalf of the Theatrical Managers' Association and the Theatres Alliance, two bodies which represent an invested capital of from fourteen to sixteen millions sterling in theatres—fortunately not all situated within the Water Board's area of control. And there is a special fitness in joining up our interests with those of the City in this matter of the Water Board's exorbitant charges, because the case of City banks, office blocks, &c., is analogous with that of the theatres, inasmuch as the rateable values on which the charges are based are out of all proportion to the quantity of water used.

"It is a notable fact in this connection that while the object and aim of the Act was the attainment of uniformity in water charges, its administration has resulted in the most glaring anomalies. There is no uniformity in the rating of theatres—not even in the systems under which they are rated in the several boroughs. Yet upon this foundation of anomaly the Water Board pretends to establish that uniformity which is the basic principle of the Act."

Referring to a list he had had prepared, Mr. Mulholland said: "The charges at my own theatre are doubled, at several they are trebled, and at some four and a half times what they were before the Act came into operation. I will not trouble you with detailed figures, but here is one theatre where at the beginning of the year the charges amounted approximately to £50 per annum, they are now over £230. The Water Board has the power under Section 24 to redress these wrongs, but seemingly it has not the will; and so the administration of the Act defeats the object of the Act.

"But, in addition to the maximum charge of 5 per cent. on the rateable value with the minimum allowance of 20 per cent., an exorbitant charge is sought to be made for the supply of water to hydrants, which is in effect not a 'supply,' inasmuch as the hydrants are sealed, and only usable in the event of a fire outbreak. The London County Council make it compulsory that a large—in many cases an excessive—number of hydrants shall be installed. Then the Water Authority arbitrarily says: 'You shall pay our charge in respect of each hydrant.' This, notwithstanding that the Board's mains are only tapped once for the alleged supply, and not in the case of each hydrant. Mr. Barnard, the chairman of the Water Board, has been boasting that water is supplied free for fire extinction, but he forgot to point out that, as every fire is small at first, it will probably be extinguished by the private hydrants, whereas, if it is not so extinguished and becomes a serious fire, then an enormous expenditure of 'free' water—that is to say, water from the street mains—will take place. In other words, the Board's water is saved at the manager's expense. But instead of the Board appreciating this, the manager is penalised by excessive hydrant charges.

"It seems to me that the policy of the Water Board as affecting our interests is based not upon Right, but on Revenue—and its motto might well be 'Raise revenue—honestly if you can; but no matter how you raise it, raise revenue.' I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution."

The resolution was carried, and a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor concluded the proceedings.

UNLICENSED MUSIC.

The case of the Camden Town Theatre came on on Monday at the Clerkenwell Sessions before Mr. Wallace, K.C. It will be remembered that some months ago Mr. Robert Arthur (theatre proprietor), Mr. Walter Gibbons (who is connected with a number of music halls), and Mr. W. H. Terrell (a manager) were bound over at the Clerkenwell Sessions, a jury having found them guilty of having carried on a music hall entertainment at the Camden Theatre without having a licence from the London County Council. It was now alleged that the terms of the recognisances of the parties had been broken, and therefore notice had been served upon them to attend the court to show why they should not be forfeited.

Mr. George Elliott and Mr. Basil Watson represented Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Terrell; Mr. R. D. Muir was counsel for Mr. Robert Arthur; and Mr. Horace Avory, K.C., and Mr. W. H. M. Knight appeared to support the contention that the recognisances had been broken.

Mr. Horace Avory said the defendants were convicted of June 19 last for having kept the Camden Theatre of Varieties for public music and dancing without any licence from the London County Council. The prosecution then stated that they only desired to establish the law, and the Court adopted that view, and bound them over in £10 to come up for judgment if called upon, and to be of good behaviour in the meantime. The house was closed after the conviction until Monday, Sept. 14, when, without any licence having been obtained from the London County Council, the theatre was opened for public entertainment, the licence of the Lord Chamberlain (since surrendered by Mr. Robert Arthur) then being in existence. It was reopened with an entertainment called the bioscope, or animated picture, entertainment, accompanied by music. According to bills displayed, it was "a combination of the latest developments in animated pictures, combined with music and effects." The entertainment, in fact, consisted of the ordinary display of the bioscope on the screen, with music, consisting of a selection during the interval, and an overture and music during the performance.

The music, counsel argued, was not incidental to or subsidiary to the entertainment, but was independent and substantial. This was shown by the fact that so soon as the selections ceased the gallery became noisy, and quietened down again when it restarted. These performances, said Mr. Avory, had been carried on ever since in breach of the Act of Parliament and of the recognisances of the defendants, and in defiance of the law, apparently. There was also this further aggravation of it. On the back of the programme was advertised "Sacred performances every Sunday at 2.30 and 7.30." In point of fact, the house had been open on Sunday for public entertainment—the same performance exactly as given on week-days. Some of the pictures were comic, others tragic, and popular airs from comic operas and other light music was given. The Sunday performance was a serious matter, because that was a fresh offence, as if they (the defendants) had held a licence under the London County Council that would not have allowed them to open the house on Sunday. The Statute which forbids that was 21 George III., Chapter 49.

Mr. Muir said his client, Mr. Robert Arthur, had had absolutely nothing to do with the place at all since the early days of the former proceedings.

Mr. Elliott did not dispute the facts stated by Mr. Avory, but disputed that what was done was an infringement of the Act.

Mr. Wallace: You boldly put it in this way. Assuming every fact stated to be true, you could not be convicted on this question if this was a fresh trial?

Mr. Elliott: Absolutely a police-inspector said when the music stopped the gallery cried out, "Wake up!" "Are you going to sleep?" &c.

Mr. Barnes, the solicitor for the prosecution, said the music was supplied by an electrical orchestral piano. The entertainment would have been a dull one with no music, because the intervals were very long. People joined in the choruses and sang.

It was stated that Mr. Arthur surrendered the Lord Chamberlain's licence on Sept. 17, and Mr. Muir, arguing that these proceedings were to punish contumacious persons, asked that, as Mr. Arthur had no desire to offend, he might be allowed to go.

Mr. Wallace: Certainly.

Witnesses were called by Mr. Elliott to prove that the music was a subsidiary part of the entertainment only. One said he thought it would be better without the piano.

Mr. Walter Gibbons, called on his own behalf, said he opened with this entertainment after consultation with his solicitors. He was not conscious at any time of having violated his recognisance. The public came to see the bioscope. The electrical piano never played more than half the evening, and was not part of the performance. The witness said arrangements had been made to give appropriate pictures on Sunday.

Answering Mr. Avory, witness said he had not a Sunday programme.

Mr. Avory: I have.

Mr. Wallace read the items as follows:

The Pneumatic Policeman. (Laughter.)
Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves.
The Sign of the Cross.
The Reluctant Dog.
Yachting on the Solent.

Is that a Sunday programme?

Witness: Yes; and they are all pictures which no one can object to on a Sunday.

Mr. Elliott said he complained of the action of the prosecution, which was part of a system of persecution done to prejudice his client's application to the London County Council for a licence for music and dancing.

In reply, Mr. Avory said music which accompanied an entertainment or exhibition of this kind must be public music within the statute. His answer to the suggestion that the proceedings were instituted to prejudice an application which might be made was that the prosecution were in duty bound to bring to the notice of the Court what they considered a flagrant breach of the recognisances.

Mr. Wallace (to Mr. Elliott): Is it intended to keep this place open if the decision of the Court is against you?

Mr. Elliott: Of course, we should stop the music at once.

Mr. Wallace: That is what I mean. I am of opinion that you have violated the law. I think the defendants Gibbons and Terrell have broken the law in connection with the matter and the terms of their recognisances, and I think they are liable to the penalty imposed in the particular case. I do not think they deliberately intended to violate their obligation, and I should not propose to impose a heavy penalty. The Sunday performances must cease. It is a burlesque of words to say "sacred performances."

Mr. Elliott stated that his clients would undertake to stop the music at the week-day performances and to give up the Sunday entertainments.

Mr. Wallace observed that on these undertakings he would fine the defendants 40s. each. He thought the defendants should pay something towards the costs of the other side.

Mr. Elliott replied that they were being sued for penalties of £400.

Mr. Wallace: The matter will be left where it was.

Mr. Wallace pointed out, in answer to Mr. Elliott, that it was open to the defendants to appeal to the Court of Criminal Appeal for their decision in the matter.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"L'OREILLE FENDUE,"

Play, in Four Acts, by M. Lucien Népoty, Produced at Antoine's on Oct. 16.

General Desarçone.....M. GEMIER
Le Colonel Gavotte.....M. JANVIER
De Malbot.....M. ROUYER
Marc.....M. GEORGES FLATEAU
Béraud.....M. CLASIS
Gilbert.....M. MAXENCE
Sanguin.....M. DALLEU
Mme. Charmillon.....MLLE. MARIE MARCILLY
Mme. Clergeot.....MLLE. JEANNE EVEN
Mathilde.....MME. RICHARD
Lucile.....MLLE. MADELEINE-LELY
Mme. Rémy.....MLLE. CASSINY
Victorine.....MLLE LAVIGNE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Oct. 22.—M. Lucien Népoty's four-act comedy *L'Oreille fendue*, produced at the Théâtre Antoine, was received with genuine enthusiasm. The public took to the piece immediately, and it will be surprising if subsequent audiences do not show a similar disposition. At curtain-rise we are in Algiers, at the house of General Desarçone de Lantoille, where we make the acquaintance of the principal personages in the piece—the General, on the eve of being placed on the retired list; his pretty daughter Lucile, his son Marc, a lieutenant; and his wife and mother-in-law. Gilbert Béraud, the son of a wealthy manufacturer, has lost his heart to Lucile, and asks here to become his wife. Lucile, who likes the handsome youth, is quite willing to become Mme. Béraud. But when she confides her secret to her grandmother that lady grows indignant, and tells the girl that a General's daughter would lose caste were she to marry a man engaged in "trade." The aristocracy of the sword does not allow such a mésalliance. Lucile knows that these ideas predominate in her set, and that her little love-idyll, therefore, has come to an end. In the second act things have undergone a change. The General, on half-pay, is living with his family in a modest apartment in Paris. Time weighs heavily on the hands of the old gentleman. His life in the various garrison towns—similar to that of most officers of the old school—has not developed his intellectual faculties. Like his comrade-in-arms Colonel Gavotte, also on the retired list, he seeks distraction in trifling occupations. Poor Lucile sees her marriage prospects dwindling away; and it is a hard blow to her when young Comte de Malbot, whom she secretly admires, declares his love, but with no honourable intentions. Where, however, Lucile's indignation boils over is when her brother Marc, to the delight of his scheming mother, engages himself to Mme. Charmillon, a divorced lady with a shady past and an immense fortune. In a spirit of revolt Lucile slights Mme. Charmillon, and having upbraided her mother and Marc for their greed and inconsistency, she leaves the house to throw herself into the arms of the fascinating De Malbot. In the final tableau a years is supposed to have elapsed. We are in Lucile's luxurious drawing-room, and, to her surprise, her father is announced. The old gentleman has been pining after his little Lucile, and having accidentally discovered her address, has gone straight to her house. The fact of her leading an immoral life has been mercifully concealed from him; and, sick of his entourage—especially of his new daughter-in-law—he seeks refuge with his beloved child. His son, however, has dogged his steps. He comes to take his father away, and on the latter refusing to accompany him he tells him, blandly, the truth by calling his sister a prostitute. The General's enfeebled mind is not proof against this blow. Seized with an apoplectic fit, he dies in Lucile's arms. M. Gémier's portrait of the General, gentle and kind to all, was admirable, especially in the death scene, wherein he thrilled the audience. M. Janvier furnishes an amusing sketch of the philosophical Colonel Gavotte. Mlle. Madeleine-Lély was a delightful Lucile; not a woman to be held up as a pattern, but one from whom we cannot withhold our sympathy. MM. Rouyer, Flateau, and Clasis, and Mmes. Marcilly, Even, and Lavigne also played very effectively.

"L'AGENCE LEGRIS,"

Drama, in Six Acts, by M. Jacques Roullet, Produced at the Ambigu on Oct. 16.

Legris.....M. SEVERIN-MARS
Anatole.....M. RANTE
Henri Delange.....M. MORGAN
Boudoule.....M. BELIERES
Charles Vautel.....M. JUVENET
Wischoff.....M. LIESIER
Germaine.....MLLE. PAULE ANDRAL
Bubuche.....MLLE. DE MERENGO
Mme. Boudoule.....MLLE. STELA DALY
Clara.....MLLE. JEANNE CLADO

M. Mathieu, the new manager of the Ambigu, has very sensibly gone back to melodrama of the old-fashioned sort, the kind of entertainment most suited to the taste of the frequenters of that popular house. *L'Agence Legris* seems to fulfil every requirement of an Ambigu audience. There is plenty of villainy and no virtue to speak of. M. Legris, the head of a swindling agency that bears his name, is a scoundrel of the deepest dye. Germaine Barbaroux, a beautiful woman, has poisoned her husband. The crime remained undetected, but Legris holds the proofs of her guilt, and he terrorises her until she becomes his slave. Henri Delange, Germaine's lover, is also one of Legris's agents, and helps him in his dark schemes, until Legris orders him to steal some documents concerning the French Navy, which documents are to be sold to Germany. Unwilling to become a traitor to his country, Henri commits suicide. But a gang of burglars enter Legris's office and carry off some valuable papers, among them the documents referring to Germaine's case. Legris is anxious to recover these at any price, and he traces Anatole, the head of the gang, to a low wineshop in Toulon, where we witness a blood-curdling scene. Assisted by the proprietor of the wineshop, Legris tortures Anatole by applying lighted torches to the soles of his feet, whereupon the burglar, unable to support the pain, confesses where the papers are hidden. After a series of exciting scenes Legris is killed by Germaine, and with the villain's death the play comes to an end. The drama is entertaining, but the author committed the mistake of not introducing a single character representing virtue in some shape or other. The only more or less respectable personage is Henri, and he departs this life at the end of the second tableau. As to Germaine, we are, of course, glad to see her escape from Legris's clutches, but it cannot be said that she is sympathetic, and we are almost sorry that she does not pay the penalty of the law for the crime she committed. We hear more "thieves' slang" than in any play that has come our way for a long time, and this strange lingo proved very welcome to the occupants of the gallery, who would have enjoyed the dialogue less had it been written in the language of Molière. The melodrama was well acted. M. Séverin-Mars made a most unmitigated villain; Mlle. Andral was a picturesque Germaine; M. Ranté was a sympathetic burglar; and MM. Morgan and Bélières and Mmes. de Mérengo, Stéla Daly, and Jeanne Clado also deserve favourable mention.

MR. HAROLD COPPING is holding an exhibition at the Art Gallery, 14, Brook-street, New Bond-street, W., from Nov. 3 to Nov. 11 of his original drawings for *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, a new edition of which is shortly to be published. Members of the profession can obtain admission on presentation of their visiting cards.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

The executive committee of the V.A.F. has sent an ultimatum to Mr. Walter De Frece in respect of the insertion of the deduction clause in his contracts. His reply will be considered by an adjourned executive meeting to be held to-morrow (Sunday) afternoon.

Mr. Oswald Stoll, in his reply to the letter of Mr. O'Gorman, to be found in another column, holds Mr. Walter De Frece guiltless of bad faith in respect of the marginal clause, which has caused the trouble. He thinks Mr. De Frece's offer to exactly adopt the form used by other circuits in the future is reasonable and sufficient, and recommends a reference to Mr. Askwith.

The L.C.C. Licensing Committee will sit on Friday and Saturday next at the Sessions House, Clerkenwell, at 10 a.m. on each day, for the purpose of hearing applications for licences, in order that a report may be made thereon to the Council, sitting as the Licensing Authority, at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, on Friday, Nov. 27, and the following day, if necessary, at 10 a.m. on each day.

Among the new applications is one by Arthur Algernon Wellesley Grist for a licence for the Lewisham Hippodrome, situate at Rushey Green. The district of Lewisham at present is very well served in the way of variety by the New Cross Empire, which has quite a middle-class constituency.

Miss Marie Lloyd has had a thrilling experience as a motorist. Leaving Edinburgh last Sunday, at twelve o'clock mid-day, she made for Dunbar, intending to visit friends on her way to Newcastle. Half-way along the road, her car broke down, which necessitated a wait of some four hours by the side of a desolate moor, with night approaching. After repairs by some friendly gentlemen of the road, she made a fresh start, but had not gone twenty miles before the powerful gasoline lamps gave out, and for many miles the car proceeded in the dark at a walking pace. This was continued all night over dangerous mountain passes. Newcastle was reached eventually at six o'clock Monday morning.

Mr. Herbert Shelley, who was the first to interview Miss Lloyd, writes that he could fill two columns with the stirring incidents experienced by "Our Marie." She came through her ordeal with characteristic pluck, and appeared with exceptional success that night.

Miss Vesta Victoria writes:—"You have all heard of the wonderful American contracts; well, mine is the most wonderful of all. I open in America on Nov. 30. My salary for the first few weeks will be £700 per week. During the remainder of the engagement I get £1,000 per week, and at the end of my engagement they present me with the theatre." As Artemus Ward used to say, "This is sarkassum."

The statement to the effect that Miss Vesta Victoria intends, after her present London engagements have expired, to spend her future life in America, is officially contradicted by Messrs. Beecham and Wheeler, her agents, who have pleasure in stating that Miss Victoria's return to the States is due to the tremendous success she made there, and though she has accepted a sensational salary for a brief engagement across the pond, she will return to London early next year to recommence her London engagements.

Miss Jessie Preston, happily recovered from her recent severe indisposition, is appearing this week with the greatest success at the Oxford and Crouch End. Her "Salome" song is greeted with shouts of laughter from start to finish, and Crouch End admirers are not satisfied with less than a twenty-five minutes' show.

Meier and Mora received a special invitation from the Government while playing at the Deutsches Theater, Munich, requesting them to bring their contract with them. They did so, and were surprised to find that the authorities needed 10 per cent. of their salary. They saw the American Consul about the matter, and he advised them to pay up and look pleasant. A tip for all artists visiting Munich, as they are all treated alike.

A warm welcome was given to Harry Fragson on Monday at the Tivoli, when the Anglo-French comedian made his reappearance. For a full half an hour he held the attention of a packed audience. His "Licensing Bill" song, which came late down the programme, was one of the choicest morsels of the evening, and "Is it you?" met with instant success. He also gave "The Employment Agency," "Billy Brown of London," and "Ah! qu'on est bien, mam'zelle," being loudly recalled.

The name of Mr. Joe Elvin is among those announced to appear at the Playhouse at the forthcoming matinée given on behalf of the funds of the Actors' Church Union. Mr. Elvin's appearances on the theatrical stage are exceedingly rare, though he is the son of an actor who did very useful work at the now defunct City of London Theatre.

So successful have been the efforts of Sydney Lee to entertain Palace habitués during the past four weeks that Mr. Butt has asked him to prolong the engagement, and Mr. Oswald Stoll has kindly consented to alter his dates. Mr. Lee was billed for Newcastle next week.

Mr. Hymack, whose amazing quick-change act will be at once recalled, has elaborated his performance to such an extent as to make it almost a new exhibition in protean wonders. He comes on Monday to the Empire, where *A Day in Paris* is beating all records, the sensational dance of the Apaches being received each night with the most extraordinary demonstration of enthusiasm.

In the action Cochran *v.* The London Pavilion, which was decided on Thursday, Mr. Hugh Astley gave evidence concerning a wrestling scene at the London Pavilion, which resulted in the tabooing of that form of entertainment at that house. He said that one gentleman thought it necessary to unhinge the electric lights and fling them among the audience. Another gentleman went to the orchestra, tore up the music, and flung it on the stage.

Mr. Charles Sydney Gover, a director, in giving evidence said that he thought that unless the "scene" was nipped in the bud it would have been a very serious matter. Twenty extra police constables were called in, four sergeants, and two inspectors. The audience had come to see a match. He thought they regarded what took place as a "take in." Judgment was entered for defendants.

Mr. Alfred Butt will make several important changes in the Palace programme on Monday, when he will present Bernardi in his unique quick-changing entertainment. Bernardi has taken the music hall for the subject of his burlesque, in which he impersonates about thirty characters. In the first scene we see the waiting-room of a music hall manager and the various performers waiting for interviews: a distinct novelty in quick-change work lies in the fact that the public will be able to see "how it is done," as Bernardi changes behind a transparent set of scenery. No fewer than ten tons of properties will be used.

"The Pride o' the Heather," the Scottish romantic sketch, opened at the Empire, Greenock, for the first time on Monday, and was an instantaneous success. It has a beautiful setting, and is full of good singing.

The Palace, Exeter (late Victoria Hall), opens on Monday under the management of George Gilbert and George Zalva. The company engaged for the opening week includes Harry Rochez's ponies and dogs, Harry Friskey, Brothers Webb, and Marlow and Manton in *Other People's Babies*. The house will be run on the one performance nightly plan.

Mr. John R. Huddlestone, who is a popular figure in the Lancashire amusement world, has just completed twenty-five years' service at the Blackpool Winter Gardens. For fifteen years he was secretary, and during the last ten years he has held the position of general-manager. He succeeded the late Mr. C. R. Brighten, who was the first manager of the present Oxford Music Hall.

Considerable interest was taken at Littlehampton on Tuesday in a local theatrical action at the Arundel County Court between Mr. Harry Joseph, a manager, and one of his former artists, Mr. Bruce Green. A sum of £30 was awarded the former as damages for breach of contract.

Mr. George Gilbert, the proprietor of the Hippodrome at Great Yarmouth has been returned, unopposed as a member of the Town Council for St. Peter's Ward of that borough. This is the first time Mr. Gilbert has sought municipal honours, and it is a testimony to his popularity in Bloaterland that he was allowed a "walk-over."

Meetings of creditors and shareholders were held on Thursday before Mr. H. E. Burgess, Assistant Receiver, in the Bankruptcy Court, under the winding-up order made against the Brighton Alhambra (Ltd.). The company was registered in 1893 under the name of the General Purposes Syndicate (Ltd.), to carry on a general financial business, and, in particular, to acquire the Brighton Alhambra. That property was purchased in October, 1893, for £28,000, of which £20,000 remained on mortgage. The failure was attributed to the action of the mortgagees. A liquidator will be appointed by the Court.

At several election meetings the opinion has been expressed that though the ratepayers favour the Brighton Palace scheme generally, they feel that persons whose property is likely to be prejudicially affected shall be given the right to place their cases before Parliament. In order to obtain a decisive vote in the Council, Mr. Councillor Yates moved on Thursday "That a clause be inserted in the agreement with the promoters of the proposed summer and winter palaces binding the promoters not to object to the *locus standi* of any ratepayers who may consider themselves prejudicially affected by the scheme, and who desire to appear before the Parliamentary Committee and urge the case."

It was contended that not only the proprietors of hotels and boarding-houses opposite the proposed site should have the right in question, but also the boatmen and those who own bathing machines. These people, it was said, would be ruined by the palace, and it would be un-English to deny them the right to state their case.

On the other hand, it was pointed out that the condition on which the promoters agreed to proceed with the scheme was that it should have the wholehearted support of the council. If the council proposed inserting any such clause in the agreement as was now suggested the promoters would retire. Having almost unanimously approved of the scheme it was maintained the council could not go back on its word. The motion was defeated by twenty-two votes to nineteen.

Monday evening saw the last of the Hartlepool Empress under the proprietorship of Councillor Everton, when a complimentary benefit was given to him. He was also presented with a handsome framed portrait of himself, a fully-equipped dressing-bag, and a purse of gold. Alderman Hunter made the presentation, and eulogistically referred to Mr. Everton's nine years' proprietorship of the theatre.

The programme was contributed to by the Imperial Lads' Brigade in an exhibition of bayonet and naval physical drill; Miss Vesta Dawson, a clever little mite, in song and dance; the Deva Quartette in selections; T. S. Edwards, a popular tenor vocalist; M. Spouse, bass; Miss May Thorne, a sparkling comedienne; the Morris Dancers; Master Harold Hutson, a clever pianist and vocalist; Miss Ada Laws, soprano vocalist; and Harold Mitschke, a favourite elocutionist.

Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards have purchased the Royal Public Rooms, Exeter, and have nearly finished reconstructing the same in a fashion that will make the new building one of the most up-to-date vaudeville houses in the provinces. The Royal Public Rooms occupied an ideal site, being practically in the centre of the town, and although the alterations have been of an extensive character the new management have hustled to such good purpose that the New Hippodrome will be ready for opening on Monday next.

The original intention of Messrs. Karno and Edwards was to pull down the existing structure altogether, but as this would naturally have meant deferring the opening until the present season had very considerably advanced, it was thought better to be content—for the present, at any rate—with less drastic changes. The necessary plans were prepared by Messrs. Commin and Sons, architects, and the elaborate furnishings are supplied by Messrs. Wolfe and Hollander, of London. There will be accommodation for some 950 people, popular prices of admission being charged. It is intended to run the new Hippodrome on the two-house system.

The fact that Mr. Fred Karno is a native of Exeter should add not a little to the popularity of the project, and his long and well-known connection with the variety stage is sufficient guarantee of the excellence of the fare to be provided. Mr. Karno is already associated with Mr. Edwards in connection with similar houses at Peterborough and Maidstone. Exeter, therefore, forms the third link in a circuit which it is intended to eventually run through the provinces. An excellent programme arranged for the opening night includes: The Dandies, Rabbit, Ivy Proudfoot, Bert Terrill, Archie Royes, Lenton and Lane, Rhudart, and Jack Pleasants.

Before Mr. Justice Channell, in Chambers, on Wednesday, motions were heard on behalf of Messrs. Richards and Burney (of the London, Collins's, and Cambridge), to injunct Arthur Rigby, Jordan and Harvey, John Lawson, Ernest Shand, Gus Harris, and Devon and Earle. Mr. Strong represented Messrs. Richards and Burney, who sought to restrain the artists from appearing at the Holborn Empire; Mr. Walter Gibbons was represented by Mr. Turner, instructed by Messrs. Amery Parkes; and Mr. C. Doughty held a watching brief on behalf of the V.A.F., Messrs. W. H. Clemart, Wal Pink, and Monte Bayly being also present. Mr. Justice Channell said he refused to be a party to interfering with the employment of the artists, and he dismissed the motions. Messrs. Richards and Burney he said must claim damages, if they sought a remedy; and, if they did this, the costs of the application would go with the costs of the action.

Mr. Harry Bawn, with his accomplished wife, has just returned from the States, on the Mauretania.

The help of Miss Cecilia Loftus has been secured by Father Bernard Vaughan for his concert in aid of poor children at the Royal Albert Hall on Wednesday evening next, when Mme. Adelina Patti and other eminent artists will also appear.

Mr. Auguste Van Biene, the famous 'cellist, and M. Henri de Vries, the Dutch quick-change actor, have accepted sketches written by Miss Ina Leon Cassilis, authoress of *The Red Beacon* and other pieces.

Miss Madge Temple's famous "Marathon" hat (made by Rita, New Oxford-street, London) will be sold by auction during the second house this (Saturday) night, at Barrasford's Hippodrome, Brighton. The entire proceeds will be devoted to local charities.

We are sorry to hear that Miss Marie Empress is lying ill with rheumatic fever, coupled with complete nervous breakdown. She has been obliged to give up her work on the Moss and Stoll tour, and is now at her home at St. Leonards-on-Sea. We wish this lady a speedy recovery.

We regret to announce the serious illness of Mr. Frank Heath, who succeeded Mr. William Bailey as hon. treasurer of the Music Hall Sick Fund. Mr. Pat Carey, the ex-president of the fund, has been appointed to act as hon. treasurer pro tem., as Mr. Heath is too ill to attend to any business matters.

When two such ingenious and resourceful producers as Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy and Mr. Frank Parker get together something wonderful may be expected, and although it is rather too soon to give an outline of the plot of *To-morrow*, the Christmas production at the Hippodrome, it may be said that it will be eminently adapted for children, and sure of great success.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Tom Wade, of Wade and Waller, negro boxing act, who passed away on Sunday, the 25th, at his residence in Kennington. He will be buried to-day at Tooting Cemetery.

Mr. William Ward, formerly provincial Press manager of the Moss and Stoll combine, now controls the Press bureau of that firm in London, a position recently vacated by Mr. W. A. Bennett, who has now opened an office at 22, Denmark-street, Charing Cross-road.

Mr. Fred Bowyer, who wrote "A little bit of sugar for the bird," a popular number in *The New Barmaid*, has just completed some capital lyrics, which will be set to music by Hermann E. Darewski, jun. A song so smart and diverting is not likely to be overlooked by comedians and principals boys.

Miss Maidie Scott, who is to play Jill in pantomime at the Marlborough, has just had a song specially written for her, and published by a well-known music firm. The song tells a story of a certain "Maidie," and Miss Scott intends to feature it in an original way. We also learn that the wide-awake Mr. Will Collins has secured all Miss Scott's vacant dates for the next five years.

Mr. George Fuller has been ordered away to the seaside by his medical man, and Mrs. Fuller (Miss Katie Lawrence) is taking him away at once to Eastbourne. The favourite comedienne is devoting her whole time to the invalid, and is, therefore, unable to fulfil engagements. Her future address is 10, Willowfield-square, Eastbourne.

Mr. Robert Sivado, a well-known music hall performer, died quite suddenly on Sunday. He had visited the Crown and Dove Hotel, Bristol, for refreshments, when he was seized with illness, and although medical assistance was procured as quickly as possible, he expired. The verdict at the inquest was "Death by the bursting of a blood vessel, brought about by phthisis."

Mr. Paul Murray's marriage to Miss Hardie Hood took place on Saturday. Mr. Will Bennett played the part of best man, and formed one of a merry party which subsequently assembled at the Villa-Villa Hotel, W. Mr. Murray is the young London representative of William Morris, the prominent American entrepreneur, of New York.

Mr. B. P. Lucas held an amateur carnival at the Bedford last week, when there was a large list of entries. The finals were decided at a late hour on Friday night, when the first prize was awarded to Miss Elsie Ward, comedienne, the second prize went to the Rose Trio, athletes; and the third to a couple of clever dancers, Buston and Phillips. In addition to the prizes, engagements were also promised. A number of consolation prizes were also presented.

Mr. Will Evans, from whom one never knows what to expect, has always a novelty to spring on his numerous admirers. His latest "gag" is in the form of a very catchy chorus song. He informs the audience that he has wagered £5 that he would make them sing a chorus the very first time they heard it. To ensure winning the bet he has concocted the most simple chorus ever written. It consists of the alphabet from A to Z. The melody being delightfully simple, everyone in the theatre feels compelled to help Mr. Evans to win his bet. Finally he sings the chorus backwards from Z to A with comical effect. Pantomime comedians should not miss this novelty. The Star Music Co. are the publishers.

The adjourned application of Mr. Arthur Edward Green, of the Royal Albert Music-hall, Canning Town, for a licence for music, dancing, and stage plays was further deliberated upon in camera at an adjourned special meeting of the West Ham Town Council, held at the Town Hall, Stratford, on Wednesday. Mr. Bodkin, who represented the Royal Albert Music-hall, was interviewed by the council. When the meeting was opened to the public, the mayor announced that the licence would be granted with certain conditions, among which were decisions that no bars be within the auditorium, that the rebuilding of the house be started within a month of the borough licensing justices sanctioning the plans, and that the work be completed before the end of May next.

On behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Home, Secretary Ben Woodger desires to thank the following ladies and gentlemen:—The Bros. Obo, parcel of clothes; W. Holloway, Royal Hippodrome, Eastbourne, 12s.; H. B. Raymond, Regent Theatre, Salford, £2 4s. 3d.; R. W. Duce, Granville, Walham Green, 10s.; Pan E. Draco, Palace of Varieties, Reading, 10s.; P. D. Elbourne, Hippodrome, Sheffield, £2 10s.; Rex Dooley, Lyric Theatre, Liverpool, £1 5s. 8d.; to H. G. Hibbert for donation of £2 2s.; and the M.H.A.R.A., donation of £50. Ted E. Box visited the Home on Sunday, and gave each inmate some tobacco. Thanks to Mrs. Egerton, Liverpool (per Wal Grace), for promise of help. Mr. Douglas Stuart and Miss M. May, secretary Ladies' Guild, visited the Music Hall Home, cheering the old boys up by presenting them with tobacco and kind words on Tuesday. The next Home committee meeting will be held at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday next, at 12 noon.

"Chums Till Death" is the alluring title of a dramatic sketch that is to be produced at the Canterbury on Monday, Nov. 23. It will be carefully acted and well mounted.

Miss Gwennie Hasto (Mrs. Walter Emerson), the famous dancer, has presented her husband with a son and heir. The interesting event has brought many congratulations.

Just now every proprietor in the country wants to book Charcot, and last week at Southport, where he played to great business, he was inundated with offers of dates by post and wire. He desires us to state that it will save a lot of time and trouble if all such communications are sent direct to Mr. George Barclay, his sole representative, who transacts all Charcot's business.

Miss Madge Temple is now booked solid until the end of 1912. The Syndicate halls, the Gibbons and Barrasford circuits, the Pavilion, Glasgow, the Bostock circuit, owing to the tremendous sensation this lady caused during her recent engagement at the London Coliseum, immediately filled in Miss Temple's open dates after her third Stoll tour, which she is now fulfilling. Next week, at Richmond, Miss Temple will sing a new number, "Wouldn't you like to be the bridegroom?"

Some nights back the genial Mr. Nelson Francis was chatting with Mr. Arthur Day, the husband of Miss Lottie Lennox, when the twain were approached by the chartered libertine in the jesting line who "walks the halls" for a big music-publishing firm, and gravely informed them that although their joint names panned out as "Francis and Day," it was useless for them to think of starting as publishers under that style and title, as they must not interfere with vested inerests. They would have to call themselves Day and Francis.

Dr. Walford Bodie finishes on Saturday a record three months' run in Scotland. Despite the great trade depression and the general bad business all over Scotland, he has been performing to record houses, and has proved over and over again that he is one of the biggest draws in the vaudeville world. His new and up-to-date act, with his gorgeous and costly printing, combined with his unrivalled showmanship, has carried everything before him. He opens on Monday at the Hippodrome, Coventry.

Miss Claire Romaine opened at Percy Williams' popular New York Colonial Theatre last week, when she received a very cordial greeting. She sang four songs with her accustomed heartiness, and very quickly renewed the friendly relations established during her previous visit a year ago. "When a fellow's in love with a girl" proved to be one of those characteristic ditties in which Miss Romaine excels, and "I only want to whisper in your ear" was full of pointed humour.

Miss Romaine had to sing the song that made such a hit the last time she was here, "I haven't told my mother up to now." The American gallery boys are a loyal lot, and they are not likely to grow tired of that song yet awhile if their present partiality for it is anything to go by.

Miss Daisy Lloyd began her New York engagements at the Lincoln-square Theatre, which was lately converted into a vaudeville house, and made an immediate hit. She pleases her audiences, and the papers speak well of her. At the Fulton Theatre, Brooklyn, last week she had to sing no less than six songs before the audience would allow her to retire. Her demure, girlish style is decidedly refreshing, and Miss Daisy may certainly be trusted to sustain the international reputation of the Lloyd family.

At a meeting of the members of the Islington branch of the Lifeboat Saturday Fund, held on Wednesday night at the Islington Town Hall, the Entertainment Committee reported that a deputation had interviewed the manager of the Islington Hippodrome (late Collins's) with a view to making arrangements for a matinée to be held there on behalf of the fund. It was suggested that the matinée should take place some time in December.

It was also announced that at a fancy dress ball and whist drive to be held on Nov. 5 on behalf of the fund the medals won by the attendants at the Holloway Empire on the occasion of the recent special performances given there will be distributed by Mrs. G. S. Elliott, the Mayoress of Islington.

Mr. Gus Elen, who has during the week been going great guns at Nottingham, has dropped some new and sage aphorisms into each of the choruses of the song which is the chief item of his amusing trifle *The Wrong 'Un's Bedroom*. The delighted audiences have been gravely informed nightly that "If you've got some comprehension you can 'sub' your Old Age Pension, And wait till the work comes round"; also "You can earn a night's enjoyment by a hard day's unemployment"; and likewise "While a pub is left to go to, or a landlord you can owe to" one can still await the alarming chance of work turning up with complacency.

On behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May, secretary, wishes to thank the following for donations:—The Duke of Norfolk, £1 (through Miss Freda Sharlotte); Miss Ida Morgan, Empire, Shepherd's Bush, kindly collecting 7s. 6d.; Mr. Wal Pink (roulette 9), 10s.; Miss Maggie Bowman (collection), 2s. 6d.; and Mrs. Vernon Cowper for useful parcel of clothing. Miss May would be grateful for gentlemen's as well as ladies' wearing apparel. Through helping so many the Guild is greatly in need of it. Friends of the charity are heartily invited and are sure of a welcome to the tea and receptions held every Wednesday, three to five o'clock.

The Balaclava matinée held last Saturday afternoon at the Alhambra, by kind permission and with the aid of the directors of that establishment, proved highly successful from every point of view. There was, of course, a very full programme, one of the principal items in which was furnished by Mr. Hubert Carter and company in *Punchinello*, Mr. Carter giving a most praiseworthy rendering of the title-rôle and Mrs. Calhaem delighting the house with her study of Nanon, others assisting being Messrs. Reade and W. Luff, and Misses Russell and Edith Carter. Mrs. Clement Scott, surrounded by survivors of the famous charge, recited Tennyson's poem on the subject, and Mr. Eric Williams aroused the enthusiasm of the audience with his "Ballad of Splendid Silence."

Mr. Lauri de Frece amused his hearers with Miss Ada Reeve's "And he'd never been upon a farm before." Miss Marie Dainton, Mr. Louis Bradfield, Miss Ada Reeve, and Miss Ida Rene also submitted excellent contributions to the programme. Other items were submitted by Mr. Arthur Royd, Mr. Nelson Hardy, the Imperial Glee singers—whose harmonious contributions were greatly enjoyed—Miss Violet Ludlow, Moran and Wiser, Miss Alice Ellison, Mr. George Giddens, Mr. John Bardsley, Mr. Leonard Barry, Mr. Arthur Strugnell, the Bonhair Troupe, Coram, and Mr. H. V. Surrey. Mr. T. H. Roberts, as is usual at what is now an annual function, was the organiser, and Mr. G. Highland and Mr. C. Hunt acted as stage-managers. Mr. H. Woodford was the business-manager and secretary.

Among Mr. George Dance's humorous sketches there is none more lively or diverting than *A Burglars' Ball*, a concoction that has a wealth of topsey-turveydom and fun. It causes shouts of laughter wherever it is presented.

At Colwyn Bay offers are invited for the season 1909 from al fresco entertainers for pitches at this famous North Wales seaside resort. Intending applicants should send in before Nov. 26 to Mr. James Amphlett, Clerk to the Urban Council, Colwyn Bay.

Signorina de Polo, of the Italian ladies' quartette, thanks Mr. Meuchen for giving her four months' engagement at "Pharaoh's Daughter," "Scenic Railway," and "Johnstown Flood Company" at the Franco-British Exhibition.

Miss Frances Letty, the "chorus queen," has published "Does anyone want a girl?" and "Have your ears been burning, Mr. Jackson?" with Francis, Day, and Hunter. Pantomime producers should hear these two numbers, which have proved such a success in London and the provinces.

Miss Rose Hamilton, who made such a big success at the Empire, Camberwell, last week, is topping the bill at the Palace, Dover, and her numerous songs and new costumes are the talk of the town. Monday next she returns to a scene of former triumphs at the Alhambra, Brighton.

Laddie Cliff made a big hit at the New York Colonial last week. His singing and dancing are decidedly out of the ordinary, and his bright, lively doings have made him a great favourite on this side. He was recalled again and again, and finally expressed his appreciation of the kindly way in which he had been received during his stay in America.

Not least important of the changes in the Palace Theatre programme on next Monday night will be the presentation for the first time of a striking new series of Urbanora scenes vividly illustrating a fight between a Lycosidaen spider (a veritable wolf in the ferocity of its nature) and an Egyptian scorpion, photographed at Smyrna. The subject teems with incident, for barely has the scorpion vanquished the spider than it is itself attacked and dispossessed of its prey by a larger member of its own species.

At the 582nd meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A., held on Wednesday afternoon, at the offices of the Association, Mr. Fred Herbert occupied the chair. There were also present:—Lieutenant Albini, Messrs. Marriott Edgar, Jack Collinson, Jack Crawley, and F. O'Malley. Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, the secretary, was instructed to invite nominations for the positions of chairman and vice-chairman of the Committee, and the weekly financial statement, showing twenty-nine new members and a cash total of £64 13s. 6d., was passed.

Aiston's White Stars have been undergoing the exhilarating and novel experience of working the two seaside towns, Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft, on the same evening, the feat being accomplished by a fast motor. They have been appearing in Bloater Town at 8.30, and have got to the Hippodrome, Lowestoft, in time for their turn at 9.40. At both places they have made striking successes. They have now discarded their Follies costume for an original one.

Carlton is producing at the Oxford on Monday an entertainment called *The Showman; or, A Hankey Homey Operatic Convulsion*, with full chorus of twenty people. The scene is a fair-ground in the days of Micawber, and in it will appear Carlton as the showman. Jock Walker, Scotch comedian, will help him to inveigle the country lads and lasses to enter the various sights of the fair. The production is entirely new, and is produced at considerable cost.

Consul, the educated chimpanzee, brought over from the United States early in the year for the Jungle at the Exhibition, Earl's Court, by Mr. Frank C. Bostock, has achieved a success little short of wonderful during the entire summer season, and it was with the greatest difficulty that one could approach sufficiently near to his three-roomed "flat" in order to obtain a proper view of his interesting and remarkable accomplishments. He is a living verification of the Darwinian theory, and Mr. Bostock is certainly to be congratulated upon possessing such a unique feature.

Entertained by the President of the United States, fêted by America's "Four Hundred," honoured by an appearance before His Majesty King Edward, presented to the Duke and Duchess of Connaught, and received within the past three weeks by the Mayors and Mayoresses of the towns of Bournemouth, Harrogate, and Southampton respectively, is certainly a record hard to beat.

Houdini comes to the Oxford on Monday next, Nov. 2. He has freed himself from every conceivable handcuff ever put on him, both single and in combination, even the famous shackles of Jack Sheppard. At the Oxford he will be placed in a galvanised iron can, nude, covered with water right up to the lid, and enclosed inside, the lid will be sealed, and members of the audience will be invited on the stage to witness the whole process, and, in addition, place padlocks, which will effectually lock the occupant in. In no time Houdini will be free before the eyes of the audience.

At the meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday the Finance Committee recommended that an application from the Stoke Newington Borough Council for sanction to the borrowing of £500 for the erection of an additional feeder booster at their electricity-transformer station be acceded to. The plant is required to remedy the present fluctuations of pressure in the neighbourhood of Stoke Newington Palace, and the consequent unsteadiness of the light in that district during performances at the theatre. The work has been put in hand as a matter of urgency. The recommendation was approved.

Fashions come and go, and we are threatened with a new style of feminine garb and deportment manufactured in America. Manchester is called upon to bear the first attack, for on Monday night next Miss Millie Hylton will introduce at the Hippodrome in that city a new creation from the States which is known as the "Brinkley Girl" gown. Miss Hylton maintains a reticence as to what she will exactly say and do in the character of a Brinkley Girl, but finds it necessary to stay in style at the Midland Grand, in Manchester, to give thoroughness to an impersonation which we are assured is the especial idol of the "Four Hundred" to-day.

Messrs. March, Billiter, and Fisher, of Clerkenwell, are organising concerts on Nov. 12, 19, 26, and Dec. 3, at the Northampton Institute, Clerkenwell, with a view of feeding about 3,000 little hungry children, dwelling in the districts of St. Luke's, Islington, and Clerkenwell. There is great poverty existing, and the organisers are appealing to the well-known and oft-tried generosity of the members of the variety profession to offer their services on either of the four nights mentioned. Artists who are willing to help the cause of the hungry kiddies should address the Secretary, the S.L.I.C. Concerts, 18, St. James's-walk, Clerkenwell.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Many a harassed theatrical musical conductor, whose rest of nights has already been disturbed by the thoughts of Christmas Eve or Boxing Night, and that bugbear the pantomime overture—the airs for which he is expected to select and possibly to arrange—will hail with supreme satisfaction the news of the imminent advent of the grand selection of popular melodies which Messrs. Francis and Day are, as usual at this time of year, issuing, and which this year is named "The Goldmine," for in it the multitudinous musicians now know they will have ready to their hand not only a seasonable pot pourri of the very latest and most favourite airs, but one that has been selected, welded together, and arranged for orchestra by that past master of his art Warwick Williams.

The selection, which will be greeted with equally pleasurable feelings by the noble army of variety orchestral chiefs, comprises the melodies of the following leading favourite songs of the day:—"Jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier," "Sue, Sue, Sue," "Let me but hope," "Bombardier," "Sweetheart days," "Mandy's Wedding," "The Gay Gordons," "I'm afraid to come home in the dark," "Rum-tiddly-um-tum-tay," "Who says he don't like girls?" "All Day," "Won't you come to me in Canada?" and "Oh! Oh! Antonio."

A quaint song, by Fred Murray and Charles Collins, entitled "Money in the bank; or, it ain't a-coming out for you," has just been acquired by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter.

Among new songs just about to be issued from the establishment of Messrs. Francis and Day are "There's an old-fashioned ferry" (sung by Miss Marie Kendall), by J. P. Long and Charles Hilbury; "Come down, Miranda," by Mellor, Gifford, and Lawrance; "A woman in the house" (Joe Archer), by Mellor, Gifford, and Lawrance; and "Mayflower," by A. Bagley and Donovan Meher.

Miss Vesta Tilley, who opens at the Hippodrome, Portsmouth, on Monday, and will introduce to the public her new number by Archie Mills (of Nottingham) and Maurice Scott, entitled "That's the time a fellow wants his ma," which was issued in sheet music form by Messrs. Francis and Day on Thursday, has just published with the same firm a notable song entitled "I'm obliging brother Bertie," by Worton David and Henry E. Pether. The latter well-known composer has just completed for the fair artist a polka song named "I really couldn't think of it for pa."

Miss Lottie Lennox on Wednesday evening sprang a new song on the audience of the Hackney Empire, and instantly found she was the lucky possessor of possibly the greatest chorus number the popular artist has yet essayed. It is by Pelham and Rule, and is called "It is the old love that is the gold love." Her second and last contribution, "There'll be no war while we've got a King like good King Edward," is also going very big indeed. It is from the same pens as the newer song, and is published by Messrs. Francis and Day, who have, we understand, secured "It is the old love."

That prince amongst swell comedians Mr. George Lashwood has just accepted a song, written and composed by Fred W. Leigh, entitled "I was the only gentleman there," and another from the pens of Dan Lipton and C. W. Murphy called "All hands on deck." Both are being issued by Mr. David Day's firm.

Mr. G. H. Elliott will on Monday open at the Tivoli, when his numerous admirers will again have an opportunity of renewing acquaintance with that tuneful song "Sue, Sue, Sue, I'm very much in love with you." This decided acquisition to Messrs. Francis and Day's catalogue has been secured for practically every pantomime in Great Britain.

Mr. John Hart has secured for the series of pantomimes to be produced by him the humorous domestic duet, "'Do you remember?'—'How can I forget!'" The name of Wallis Arthur on the item stamps it as free from the slightest vulgarity or coarseness, and the melody by Henry F. Greenfield is pleasing in the extreme, and therefore the publishers, Messrs. Francis and Day, are booking it to nearly all the foremost artists for Christmas.

Miss Daisy Dormer will feature immediately on the music halls Messrs. Francis and Day's splendid new number, "In the Land of the Kangaroo," a number by Fred Godfrey, Percy Edgar, and T. W. Thurban which will be greatly in evidence on Boxing Night.

Miss Vesta Victoria during the week, both at the Holborn Empire and the Empress, Brixton, has been receiving nightly that welcome which is only accorded to great and established favourites, and on Tuesday, at the latter hall, the clamouring multitude exacted no fewer than four songs from the fair singer, "Man! Man! Man!" "Is anybody looking for a widow? or, There's nothing like dealing with an old-established firm," "He used to come and court his little Mary Ann (now I have to call him father)," and her gigantic American success, "Poor John!"

A song that is likely to cause a stir this Christmas will be the "Cottage" song written and composed by Fred E. D'Albert. It is "claimed" for twelve pantomimes already.

The National Music Publishing Company, of 132, Charing Cross-road, W.C., are having no end of applications for the great chorus song "My Little Eva," and the 100-guinea song, "When the leaves are tinged with gold," sung nightly with tremendous success by Mr. Fred Elton. This is also being rapidly placed for pantomime.

They are also granting permission for Miss Victoria Monks' two chorus songs, entitled "I wish I had a pal like you" and "Call round any old time"; also Mr. George Lashwood's latest hits, "If it's a lady" and "Nicolo, Nicolo, play on your piccolo."

The National Music Publishing Company have just received a cable from Shapiro, music publisher, of New York City, informing them that Miss Claire Romaine has made a tremendous success with the song "Call round any old time." This is America's greatest success since "Waiting at the church."

The Star Music Company wish to apologise for the unavoidable delay in forwarding their pantomime book, but such an extraordinary demand was hardly expected, and the first edition was swallowed up two days after the announcement of issue. A fresh supply has been rapidly printed, and all bonâ-fide pantomime artists may now be sure of receiving this splendid collection of winners without further delay (postage 6d.).

Charles Whittle, who is at the Ardwick Empire this week, continues his phenomenal success with "I don't care if there's a girl there." It is not often that an artist is associated in consecutive seasons with two such hits as "Put me amongst the girls" and "I don't care if there's a girl there." Whether it is good luck or good judgment, Mr. Whittle is to be heartily congratulated.

(Continued on page 24.)

V.A.F. AND THE AGENTS.

Mr. Joe O'Gorman presided at a meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation, held on Sunday evening at the Bedford Head Hotel. The meeting was held subsequent to that of the M.H.A.R.A., and was well attended.

The Chairman, in his opening statement, said that the meeting had been called for the specific purpose of revoking the rule which prohibited members of the V.A.F. from acting as agents. That was practically the outcome of Mr. Doughty's advice at a private meeting held at his (the Chairman's) house a month ago. The only possible way for the artists to win in the fight with the agents was to create opposition by running counter agencies against the established agents of the day. With that idea, the executive committee thought that it would be most desirable to repeal the rule referred to, and allow a number of their members to carry a book and make engagements for brother and sister artists around the country, where they had the power and influence to do so, it always being understood that the agent, whoever it might be, must charge a maximum of 5 per cent.—no re-engagement clause and no splitting of commission with managers. Any of the new agents breaking this rule would be debarred from acting in the capacity, and would be also expelled from the Federation. The Water Rats had taken Mr. Doughty's advice, and had established an agency on V.A.F. lines. It was suggested that he (Mr. O'Gorman) should take up the management of the agency, and he had allowed himself to do this spade work, but had decided, for the time being at least, not to accept any remuneration. He had succeeded in bringing away a number of handsome contracts for some artists. Immediately the agents heard that he had had an interview with a manager, they sent a deputation to wait upon that gentleman. The latter, when next Mr. O'Gorman called upon him, stated that he wanted to book with the artists direct, and Mr. O'Gorman could make any arrangement with the artists for the payment of commission. Subsequently, Mr. O'Gorman met the manager's superior, who only confirmed what his subordinate had said. From experience he (the Chairman) had come to the conclusion that the least which had been deducted by the managers during the past few years was 5 per cent. and not 2½. The managers had realised that the agents had been getting an exorbitant sum out of the contracts. Proceeding, Mr. O'Gorman complained bitterly of the attitude of Messrs. Harry and Walter de Frece in the dispute. Mr. Walter de Frece had a clause in his contracts which ran as follows: "This engagement having been made through the agency of ——, it is hereby agreed that the management shall deduct and retain 10 per cent. from such salary, and pay the same to the said agent, less such proportion for this service as the management and agency may agree." That was a distinct contravention of the agreement arrived at with Mr. Askwith, of the Board of Trade, and Mr. de Frece would have to consent to the abandonment of the clause. Mr. O'Gorman had seen Mr. Tozer on this subject, and the latter gentleman had recommended him to write to Mr. Stoll. He did so, and pointed out the calamity which a strike would bring about. His letter to Mr. Stoll was as follows:—

"October 22nd, 1908.

"Oswald Stoll, Esq.,
"Cranbourn-mansions,
"Cranbourn-street, W.C.

"Dear Mr. Stoll,—In a conversation last night with Mr. Tozer I pointed out to him that Mr. Walter De Frece was now printing on the margin of his contract the following endorsement:—

> "'This engagement, having been made through the agency of —— it is hereby agreed that the management shall deduct and retain ten per cent. from said salary, and pay the same to the said agency less such proportion for this service as the management and agency may agree.'

"This is a distinct contravention of the agreement arrived at before Mr. Askwith at the Board of Trade, where we allowed ourselves to be persuaded to provisionally permit such clause to be inserted, always providing that the amount of commission was to be left blank for the artist himself to fill in, whether ten per cent., five per cent., two and a half per cent., or even to cross it out altogether, never imagining the unfair use to which this clause might be put.

"The printing of this clause by Mr. De Frece is a distinct violation of the concession we made, and our members are up in arms over it, and are determined at whatever cost not to tolerate it.

"Much as I abhor strikes, I feel I shall be unable to prevent our members taking the law into their own hands unless Mr. De Frece immediately agrees to the abandonment of this clause both in contracts already issued and in all further contracts.

"I mentioned this fact to Mr. Tozer last evening, and he advised me to write to you and ask you to use all the influence you possess to avoid bringing about such a calamity as another strike would be sure to prove.

"Yours faithfully,
"Joe O'Gorman."

Proceeding, the Chairman said:—Now, that is a moderately-toned letter; and I think Mr. Stoll will appreciate its moderation and its intention. The meetings round the country at which we took a plébiscite vote on this subject, numbering seventy meetings, were with us in the matter. I attended one in Leeds and Mr. Clemart attended one in Manchester. Why I went to Leeds was that a certain member, so I was told, was endeavouring to create dissension in our ranks. I arrived at the meeting and spoke to them, and they voted after I had left, because I had to get back to London. They voted absolutely unanimously. And I found that all this man, who had been, as I was told, creating this disaffection, wanted was information. He had been out of town for a long time, and was out of touch; and he felt that his interests and the interests of his comrades were not being looked after. He was perfectly honest. When I had explained the situation to him, and had answered several questions, he was sincere in his avowal of renewed confidence, not only in the Executive Committee, but in the whole working of the organisation. At first he said: "What good will it be? You are telling us not to go near the agents; yet we have all signed re-engagement clauses, and whether we book through the Water Rats' agency or the V.A.F. agency, or any other friendly agency, we shall have to pay the 10 per cent. on the re-engagement. Therefore, where is the utility of all this trouble?" The answer was quite simple. I said: "For thirty years you have been paying on re-engagements; you have got to pay once more, and then you have finished for ever." He said: "I never saw it in that light before." We all agree that the re-engagement clause has gone once and for all. As I said before, a plébiscite vote was taken of those seventy meetings; they were very fully attended, and out of all those seventy meetings there were only eight dissentients. Probably, had some member of our Executive Committee journeyed to those other five meetings, the vote would have been absolutely unanimous there also. It has been humorously stated, and, as usual, mendaciously stated, that this resolution has been placed on the agenda to meet the position that I find myself forced into. You don't want any assurance to the contrary. This was decided weeks before, and notice had appeared in the papers calling this meeting before the idea of my controlling the Water Rats' Agency had been mooted; and I am quite prepared at all times to look forward to this type of criticism. I am not allowing myself to be baited by anybody so unscrupulous as its author. Again, I find the *Referee* informs us that there is a split between the V.A.F. and the trade unions. That is only another "Refereeism." We are at the present moment on more friendly terms than we ever have been before with the trade union movement. We were invited only last Thursday to send a representative to a conference in Manchester on the subject of the cotton lock-out. Mr. O'Gorman went on to defend the variety profession against what he considered were the aspersions cast upon it by Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane. That gentleman should look a little nearer home. He (Mr. O'Gorman) did not claim that they were perfection, but he did claim that in all their faults they stood as high from a virtuous and honest standard as even the profession from which Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane emanated. Some of them might be very wicked; some lawyers might be very pure. Put all of them into the scale and he did not think the music-hall profession had anything to fear as to the result. Their profession was as honourable as the profession from which His Majesty's judges had sprung, and they were not going to tolerate such criticism. Seventy meetings had been held in the provinces. These had been well attended, and confirmation of the action of the executive had not been wanting.

Mr. W. H. Clemart proposed an amendment to paragraph 1 of Rule 4, which had hitherto read as follows:

"QUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

"Every self-dependent performer (or his business representative, not being a bonâ-fide agent), who has been a bonâ-fide performer for at least six months, and does not act in the capacity of manager, sub-manager, agent, manager's or agent's clerk or assistant, is eligible for membership. The term 'bonâ-fide' performer is to be interpreted to mean anyone actually engaged in entertaining music-hall, theatre, or circus audiences in individual acts. The term 'self-dependent' performer is to be interpreted to include every performer who accepts contracts for engagements over his own signature, or is a business partner of one so accepting contracts for engagements, and it shall also include principal members acting in individual rôles in troupes or sketches. No applicant who does not come within the above-named stipulations is eligible for membership, but exceptions may be made at the discretion of the Executive Committee."

Mr. Clemart's amendment was: Delete the words "not being a bonâ-fide agent," "agent," or "agent's" with the following addition after the words, "at the discretion of the Executive Committee." "That no existing member of the Federation shall transact agency business except by permission in writing of the Executive Committee."

In putting the motion, the speaker said that the question of amending the rule had not been considered with the object of benefiting Mr. O'Gorman, as had been alleged. The amendment meant that any member could, by consent of the committee, become an agent without losing any of his qualifications for being a good V.A.F. Referring to the dispute with Mr. de Frece, Mr. Clemart went on to say that the Federation would strike the De Frece circuit if it were necessary. He had been to Manchester and had informed a meeting there that the artists might have to strike certain halls. He expected that the committee would cause a letter to be sent to Mr. de Frece, giving him a few days to consider his position. If they failed to get a satisfactory reply, then they would send that gentleman an ultimatum. If a strike came about, the committee would make it their duty to pay the salaries of the artists thrown out of employment. Every week while the strike was on they would add up the amount of the salaries paid by the Federation and would present Mr. de Frece with the bill, and until it was paid they would continue the struggle. Every minute was now helping their cause. He was of opinion that the dispute would culminate in the extermination of the present-day agent.

Mr. "Dutch" Daly seconded the resolution, and after Mr. Charles Coborn and Mr. William Lee had spoken in support of it,

The Chairman put the motion to the vote of the meeting, when it was carried with one dissentient.

The Chairman, in moving a resolution confirming the emergency levy of 2s. 6d., said: It is necessary to be quite in order to confirm the 2s. 6d. levy. At a previous meeting a resolution was passed "that a levy of 2s. 6d. be made on each member of the V.A.F. to assist members who may be victimised during the present agency dispute." The agents are telling you that this affair is not affecting them at all, that they are doing more business than they ever did in their lives, said Mr. O'Gorman. Still, my old and esteemed friend, Bill Oliver, told us the other night that he was going to sue the Federation for ruining his business. During the two days preceding Friday I had seven applications for jobs from agents' clerks who have been suspended until the strike is over. The agents are trying to breed distrust in our ranks by saying that the artists are signing contracts galore. I have had artists come to me with contracts that certain agents had sent on to them. They would not go to the agent's office; they have written to the managers telling them that the concern I represent had the exclusive booking of the act, and, if the managers wanted it, would they kindly send me the contract at once. In every case I have had the contract. So you see that the agents are not the all-powerful people that they wish you to believe. It is necessary that this resolution be confirmed by a general meeting.

Mr. Neil Kenyon proposed, and Mr. Percy Delevine seconded, the resolution, and it was carried unanimously.

The Chairman stated that the following resolution had been placed in his hands:—

"That this general meeting hereby endorses the action of the Executive Committee in sending the letter to Walter De Frece, and pledges itself to assist by every means in its power any action the Committee deem necessary, and should a strike be inevitable, hereby authorises a five per cent. levy on the salaries of members during the continuance of the dispute with Mr. De Frece."

As it was not on the agenda, however, he would rule it out of order.

There is a serious dispute between the Variety Artists' Federation and the De Frece Circuit. In the margin of the De Frece contracts the following clause is inserted:—"This engagement having been made through the agency of ——, it is hereby agreed that the management shall deduct and retain ten per cent. from the said salary, and pay the same to the said agency, less such proportion for this service as the management and agency may agree." Mr. G. R. Askwith did not treat of commission in his Award; but the artists expressed their willingness to accept a managerial deduction clause in the contracts if the amount to be deducted was left open. The clause above quoted does not fulfil this condition.

The following letter in reference to the matter was sent by the V.A.F. on Saturday to Mr. Walter de Frece:—

"To Walter De Frece, Esq.

"Sir,—The action you have taken in printing on the margin of your contracts in red ink a clause binding the artists to pay ten per cent. commission, and refusing to confirm any contracts unless this clause is accepted, is an interference on your part in the dispute now existing between the artists and the agents, and is nothing more or less than an act of war.

"You have no power under the Award to insert such a clause, and we give you notice that we do not intend to await Mr. Askwith's return from Berlin. We have had enough procrastination, and we are now satisfied that the only way to deal with such tactics is to teach you a lesson which you will not be likely to forget. Unless you give instructions to immediately delete the clause referred to we intend to take drastic action without any delay whatsoever.

"Yours truly,
"Monte Bayly,
"General Secretary."

On Monday Mr. Jack De Frece sent the following letter to the V.A.F.:—

"Monte Bayly, Esq.

"Dear Sir,—In reference to the question which has arisen between the Federation and myself, in relation to the form of commission clause inserted in our contracts, I have had an opportunity of making inquiries into the Agreement as to the form of the clause come to before Mr. Askwith.

"I was unaware that a form of clause had been agreed upon, leaving the amount of commission to be stated or not in each case, and I only learned this morning that such Agreement, although not published in the Award, was arrived at at a subsequent sitting, and was never brought to my notice, but I am quite prepared for the sake of the uniformity which is desirable in contracts between artists and managers to follow in future, the form already approved by the Arbitrator, and to which you refer in your letter.

"Yours faithfully,
"Jack De Frece,
"General Manager.

"178, Charing Cross-road, W.C."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—May I claim your indulgence for space for a few remarks upon matters in dispute between the variety artists and agents?

There can be little doubt that the action of the agents in refusing to meet the artists, after agreeing to do so, has primarily had much to do with the acrimony which seems to pervade a matter, to my thinking, capable of adjustment in the course of an hour's discussion by a few level-headed men of business capability from both sides.

The agents, having promised to meet the Federation executive—good, bad, or indifferent—should have fulfilled that undertaking, and I am satisfied the better among them must deplore that error of judgment just as the better of the artists must the torrent of vituperation which has been indiscriminately poured upon the heads of the agents collectively.

Having decided to eliminate the re-engagement clause from my contracts, I have been characterised, in the columns of a contemporary—*The Encore*—as one of a number having "bent the knee to Joseph." I know nothing of, and care as little for, "Joseph," and arrived at my decision on three considerations: First, I considered the majority of the artists upon my books were above stooping to take any unfair advantage of the absence of the clause, and such as were, to quote Falstaff, "indifferent honest" would speedily be discovered and relegated to their proper sphere—the waste-paper basket; secondly, I had absolute confidence that the managements with whom I do regular business would give artists no encouragement to treat me otherwise than equitably; finally, I did not, from my own standpoint, attach the great importance to the re-engagement clause with which many among the agents seem to invest it.

While, however, I have still no reason to alter my view on these points, there can be no two opinions, where the power of reasoning exists, as to the conduct of operations by the Federation, and no condemnation too strong with regard to the methods adopted.

Take my own case, which I have reason to know is not an isolated one. Commissions due to me were detained by artists, Sept. 19, on the ground that I had failed to accept the Federation form of office copy. Sept. 24 (12.30 noon) I received the first intimation, dated Sept. 23, from the Federation that any change in my contracts was desired, so that, in effect, my commissions were detained on the ground that I had not complied with something five days before that something was placed before me for consideration. Then, observe! I am given twenty-three and a half hours to consider, decide upon, and advise the Executive of my decision, upon a question which even the most bigoted Federationist must allow merits considerable deliberation.

I wired, strongly protesting against the methods, but accepting the conditions, believing good faith would be observed as to those printed in the contract, and implied in a further letter received following my acceptance—namely, that the amounts detained would be forthwith paid, and no objection would be made to stoppage of my commissions where I deemed such stoppage advisable.

Up to this moment the commissions detained remain, with two exceptions, still unpaid, although my name appeared in two issues of the *Performer* as one of the consenting agents, and in one of which issues artists were advised that they were "permitted" to pay me (incidentally, they had been "ordered" not to), and all along the line stoppage has been strenuously resisted, I believe, without any exception.

Mr. Bayly was duly advised in two separate letters of the non-compliance of the artists with the agreed conditions, to which letters I have, so far, not received even the courtesy of an acknowledgment.

Mr. Clemart (Oct. 16) referred to my secession, and, to borrow from his speech, added, "I don't think this will be a great loss."

He may possibly be correct, and, it may be that this opinion prevailing with the Executive will be deemed an excuse for the absence of good faith, common courtesy, and business method in their relations with me; but Mr. Clemart, to fill with due dignity the mantle he has taken upon his shoulders, has much—indeed, everything—to learn, and I would advise, should he deem further public reference to me necessary, that he confine himself to matters of fact, without impertinent comment which he is not in a position to justify.

My conversations with many artists have confirmed me in the opinion that very few of them hear more than one side of the question, and have not the remotest idea of the methods adopted by the Executive—methods calculated only to widen and prolong the breach between two bodies who have everything to gain and nothing to lose by a mutual good understanding, to bring about which needs but the introduction of a very little tact, and about as much business acumen as might be expected in a well-advanced schoolboy.—Faithfully yours,

J. TYSOE-SMITH.

33, Shakespeare-street, Manchester, Oct. 28.

It is gratifying to notice the large amount of support the new management of the Albert, Brighouse, is receiving in their enterprise of running this newly-erected and excellently-appointed theatre on variety lines. First place in this week's programme must be given to the Royal Quintette of Scottish dancers, whose efforts are pleasing in the extreme. The Bros. Obo indulge in some humorous patter; whilst as a character comedian Sam Shipley is all that can be desired. Elmo and Rego are versatile comedy acrobats; and Fred Horsfall is a Tyrolean vocalist of the first grade. The Sisters Clare execute some spirited and graceful dancing; and the Lauri Bros. supply acrobatic and balancing feats that are simply marvellous; Gus Hindell is well supported by local children in his song-scena *Boys Will Be Boys*. A good show of animated pictures is given.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

ANOTHER GREAT PANTOMIME NUMBER.

"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO"

(By FRED GODFREY, PERCY EDGAR, and T. W. THURBAN).

Will be featured by MISS DAISY DORMER at the Halls and in Pantomime.

Principal Boys and Girls should secure this Number,

Which has just been added to the following Phenomenal List of Successes:

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"WHO SAID HE DON'T LIKE GIRLS?"
"L.S.D."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"SHADOWLAND."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL."
"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."
"ON THE CLIFFS OF NORMANDY."
"SWEETHEART DAYS."
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"BOMBADIER."
"MANDY'S WEDDING."
"ARE YOU THE LITTLE GIRL I MET THE OTHER EVENING?"

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

(*Continued from page 23.*)

Miss Evelyn Taylor, at the Empire, Bolton, and Miss Marie San Toi, at the Empire, Stratford, are both making successes with that melodious number "Ayesha, my sweet Egyptian," which is rapidly winning its way to popularity, and will be featured by many principal girls and boys in forthcoming pantomimes. A limited number of permits will be granted for music halls on application to the Star Music Co.

"Hurrah for the old-age pension" is a new song, treating the subject of old-age pensions in a serious yet joyful and merry manner. The music is very exhilarating and catchy. Messrs. Sheard have made this a free song, so anyone who wishes to sing it may do so. Records of the song for the phonograph, gramophone, and all disc machines are made by the Edison Bell Phonograph Co., Ltd., and coloured illustrated slides for it are supplied by J. Banforth.

Mr. Stanley Gordon's success as a composer of real bass and baritone songs is so remarkable and sustained that vocalists vote him to be the best present-day writer of songs of the "Foli" type.

Among his best-known songs may be mentioned the celebrated "When the ebbtide flows," "The last voyage," "Out of the night," and "Till I die," which are now being sung by all the principal bass and baritone vocalists.

The above songs are published by Messrs. Charles Sheard and Co., the publishers of "Asleep in the deep" and other well-known songs, who we understand have secured all Mr. Gordon's compositions for a term of years.

Ladies who are impersonating fairy queens during the approaching pantomime season cannot do better than write to Messrs. Sheard and Co. for a copy of Trotère's charming song, "Roses, roses everywhere," as it is a universal favourite, and goes well with all kinds of audiences.

Miss Winifred Hare has made arrangements with Messrs. Sheard for the pantomime rights for Dublin of Mr. Frank Stanley Smith's charming coon song, "My Limelight Lou." No doubt many principal boys will now hasten to follow the lead of this experienced and finished artist.

Songs with simple and ear-haunting melodies that readly lend themselves to staging effects, and to almost any situation, are undoubtedly the best kind of songs to secure for pantomime purposes. Messrs. Sheard and Co. are recommending two such songs in "Little silver moonbeam" and "Sweet bells of home." They have beautifully harmonised refrains, which can be sung with the most pleasing results, either on the stage or by an invisible chorus or quartet.

"Love the Cuckoo" is a vocal duet for boy and girl. It is of a light and gay character, and will be heartily welcomed by principals on the look out for a bright and melodious duet. Messrs. C. Sheard and Co. are the publishers.

Mr. Tom Dunville will shortly produce a *Hamlet* song-skit, written by Alf Ellerton—and Shakespeare. The last-mentioned gentleman is not concerned in Mr. Ellerton's novelty dame number that has lately been placed with Mr. Harry Randall. His collaborator in that song is A. Ellerton, jun., who is responsible for the melody of that catchy number, "Let's have a song about the boys," published by the Von Tilzer Music Co.

Among the many excellent pantomime songs that the Von Tilzer Music Co. are publishing this season, one may prophesy the following as certain successes for principal boys, "Let's have a song about the boys" (Miss Maude Mortimer's great success), "Put me a girl inside" (Arthur Lennard's big chorus hit), and "Saturday Afternoon" (George Lashwood's winner). These songs have particularly bright, catchy choruses, and all principal boys will do well to secure them at once. They have already been snapped up by Mr. J. F. Elliston and other prominent pantomime producers.

Mr. Dan Rolyat has secured the West-End (London) pantomime rights of the Von Tilzer Co.'s topical song success "What a terrible thing that would be." This capital number is being eagerly sought by comedians. Whit Cunliffe's comedy chorus song "I w-i-l-l, I w-o-n'-t" is also in great demand, and will be used in all Mr. John Hart's pantomimes.

The dame song of the year is "I'm wait-wait-waiting" ("All I want is the man"), which is also suitable for principal girls, possessing a very quaint swinging chorus. The publishers are the Von Tilzer Music Co., who are also exploiting a charming song for principal girls entitled "In a little wooden house in Norway."

Artists on the *qui vive* for descriptive and applause-gaining numbers should write at once to Feldman and Co. for Charles Collins and E. W. Rogers's successful song "What you've got look after."

Messrs. Mellor, Lawrence, and Gifford have just placed with Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. their latest compositions, "An old French bonnet" and "Come round on Sunday," about which we are going to hear great things in the near future.

One of the most instantaneous and sensational successes of recent time is being created by Miss Maude Mortimer on tour with the new song "A tiny seed of love," the Press in each town Miss Mortimer has so far reached with this item devoting long and eulogistic notices of the song and Miss Mortimer's superb rendition. Messrs. Feldman, who hope to have copies ready for the public in a few days, are being bombarded for large supplies.

Mr. George Lashwood, back again in the provinces, is repeating his great success with his topical item "A white man," which has already been secured from Messrs. Feldman by almost every principal boy of note for pantomime.

"Good-bye to Maudie," just introduced into the West End by Miss May Mars, should prove one of the successes of the year, and is being eagerly secured for Christmas productions. It is issued by B. Feldman and Co.

Charles H. Whittle, in a recent letter to Bert Feldman, writes:—"I open at the Oxford on Nov. 2, and unless something falls from the clouds I don't know how your song 'I want you to see my girl' can be beaten for pantomime." Artists and managers would be well advised to hear this number without delay.

Mr. Sidney James' Strolling Players, in their novel entertainment, are earning hearty applause, at the Hammersmith Palace. Their various numbers comprise the singing of many nursery tales to the tunes of recent popular songs, and another humorous concerted number on well-known quack remedies. One member also sings "Long ago in Alcala" excellently, and another, with "Jimmy Law, lend me your saw," as it would be sung in oratorio, makes a hit. Altogether they are a really good turn, and work their items cleverly, fully deserving the reception they get nightly.

THE OLYMPIA SKATING RINK.

Thousands of Londoners will be pleased to learn that a skating rink is to be opened at Olympia early in December. A company, bearing the title of the London Olympia Skating Rink Company, Limited, has been formed for the purpose of equipping and operating a roller skating rink in Olympia for the Christmas season of 1908-9. Olympia is so well known that it is unnecessary to describe it, except to say that when properly equipped it will provide the finest roller skating surface in the world, sufficiently large to accommodate 5,000 skaters with comfort. The principal adjuncts of the rink, namely, the maple wood flooring and the Winslow skates, will be purchased in America, and the floor will be surfaced by the American floor surfacing machine, which is the most efficient machine in the market. For some years roller skating completely disappeared in the United Kingdom until November, 1907, when Mr. Chester Park Crawford, who is a representative in England of the Samuel Winslow Skate Manufacturing Co., of U.S.A., and who has had a large and successful experience in equipping and operating rinks in America, opened as an experiment in November last the large hall known as the Tournament Hall, Edge-lane, Liverpool. The result was a phenomenal success, and from a pecuniary point of view has been eminently satisfactory to the proprietors. Since that time rinks have been successfully opened by Mr. Crawford and his partner Mr. Wilkins, in Llandudno, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sunderland, Edinburgh and Dublin, and others will be opened very shortly in Belfast, Birmingham, Leeds, Bradford, and Glasgow. The takings from the rinks now open give promise of large profits.

It is believed that a great number of people will be attracted by roller skating at Olympia, and though the season is a short one such a number of skaters can be accommodated that the promoters believe a large profit can be made. A lease of Olympia has been taken by Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins for a period of thirteen weeks, from Dec. 1, 1908, to March 1, 1909, at a rental of £2,600, and this lease will be transferred to the company.

As we stated last week, the Samuel Winslow Skate Manufacturing Co., Ltd., of Worcester, U.S.A., is the largest and oldest firm in this line of manufacture in the world, and their skates have enjoyed an unrivalled popularity for more than half a century. Their present speciality, the invention of Colonel Winslow, of the United States Army, is the ball-bearing roller skate. It might be well to explain a little as to the different kinds of "rolls" used in the manufacture of the skates.

In the ball-bearing skates the "web" steel rolls are the most durable ever manufactured. On account of the "web" form of construction and special steel used in their manufacture they will neither break nor fall apart. Fibre rolls have most excellent wearing qualities, and are being used with very great success in rinks in all parts of the world. These are lighter than steel, have more resiliency, no grain, will not crack nor chip, and will give long continued service. To supply the demand for boxwood rolls—which has been continuous since 1873—the firm has constantly on hand a supply of seasoned Asiatic Turkey boxwood. Fibre-covered rolls are constructed with Asiatic boxwood centres, pressed into rims of Winslow's "Special Fibre," which are pinned to the centres with wooden dowels. Rolls made of aluminium are both light and strong. Many experts think they "hold the floor" better than those made of any other material. For plain-bearing rolls black maple, Oriental hard wood, and homogeneous steel are the various substances employed.

There are not too many opportunities for healthy recreation in the winter months in this great city of ours, and the Olympia rink should be well patronised, and no doubt it will be. For the joys of roller skating on a large scale we have to thank our American cousins, whose enterprise in respect of this undertaking at least will surely not go unrewarded. It has been sufficiently well demonstrated that, operated on certain lines, roller skating rinks can be made not merely places of enjoyment for all classes, but first-rate profit-earning concerns. A band of musicians will be one of the special features at Olympia, and the programmes will include fancy dress carnivals. We wish the promoters of the enterprise every success.

MISS ELLA RETFORD'S CONTRACTS.

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—I notice in your last week's issue one or two paragraphs relative to Miss Ella Retford. The remarks therein mentioned are scarcely correct, and I am desired by my directors to ask you to be good enough to insert in your next issue the following letter, which I received on Oct. 20, 1907, from Miss Retford:—

Dear Mr. Lloyd,—Yours to hand. I had no intention of returning your contract unsigned, and was not aware that I had done so. If you are still agreeable, return it to me and I will sign it. You can have the option of my services for 1909 and 1910, *as my Glasgow dates with Mr. Stoll do not commence until 1911.*

(Signed) Ella Retford.

You will notice that Miss Retford herself admits not having any dates with the opposition house, and on Feb. 19, 1908, we booked her for one date in 1909 and one date in 1910. On the strength of her remarks we therefore felt justified in interdicting her from appearing in Glasgow until she had performed with us, as per the Award contract. To our utter surprise, when we arrived in Edinburgh we saw a contract signed by this lady with Mr. Stoll, made in 1904, for her to appear in Glasgow on Oct. 12 and in Edinburgh on the 19th.

I am quite sure that when these facts are made known to you, you will agree with me that it is time some steps were taken to make the artists themselves fulfil honourably all contracts, and not allow them to deceive managers in the above-mentioned fashion.—Yours faithfully,

SAMUEL LLOYD.

Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, Oct. 26.

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS."

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—Allow me to correct an error in your issue of Oct. 24. You state in the "Song-writers' column" that Mr. Wilkie Bard's song, "She sells sea shells," is by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford. Mr. Gifford, of "the clever trinity," is the composer, but the author is—Yours truly,

TERRY SULLIVAN.

Stylo, the clever hoop manipulator, has just returned from a successful tour on the Continent.

The Le Pages appear in an elaborately set scene at the Empire on Monday, and give a wonderful exhibition of jumping.

Among many important schemes on foot for providing a thoroughly attractive winter season at the Crystal Palace, a most welcome one is the provision of an entirely new asphalt rink. Skating at the Palace has every year been growing more popular, and the fancy dress skating carnivals and dances held from time to time have ranked amongst the biggest attractions in London. The Palace rink is the largest in the world, and, with the new floor, it should become the most popular. The Palace is the headquarters of the Amateur Rink Hockey Association, whose games, together with the extremely exciting Rugby matches on skates, always draw great audiences to Sydenham. Mr. Albert Bridge, the well-known professional skater, has been appointed rink superintendent. The season will open on Saturday, Nov. 28.

MR. WALTER REYNOLDS.

RESIGNATION FROM L.C.C. THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS COMMITTEE.

Mr. Walter Reynolds, L.C.C., who made himself very prominent amongst the Theatres and Music Halls Commitee of the London County Council, has now retired from that committee. That does not, of course, mean that he has given up his seat on the Council itself, for he intends to retain that. But, in conversation with our interviewer one day this week, Mr. Reynolds stated, in explanation of the step he had taken in dissociating himself from serving on the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, that he had found County Council life expensive, to say nothing of its arduous character. There had been weeks when he had had to put in the whole seven days at the work. Now he has found it convenient to be able to earn a little money again, being offered the opportunity of placing some sketches which he had written on the music hall stage.

"In accepting that money," says Mr. Reynolds, "I became, of course, once again financially interested in theatres and music halls in London and elsewhere, and in order that there should be no possibility of any stone being thrown at me from the opposition, I considered it wise to sever my connection with the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, which deals, of course, directly with the interests of places of amusement. This, however, will in no way interfere with my being able to help in both branches of the profession as before.

"My first sketch, which was produced by my own company on Monday evening at the Richmond

[*Photo by Durham, Ltd.*

MR. WALTER REYNOLDS.

Hippodrome, is a tabloid form of my old drama *Sweet Innisfail*, which was written in 1877, and which was produced at the Queen's Theatre, Sydney, New South Wales, in 1878. The play has been running ever since, and it is thirty years old this month. It set the Sydney theatre on its feet, running there for two months. It was revived in Sydney seven years ago by Miss Maggie Moore, the charming wife of Mr. T. C. Williamson. The piece has been seen wherever the English tongue is spoken, and has paid ten, eleven, and in some cases twenty visits to a town. I myself played the principal part of Denny Doon for eleven consecutive years."

In its condensed form as presented at the Richmond Hippodrome this week, *Sweet Innisfail* has proved most attractive. It is beautifully mounted, and in this direction Mr. Reynolds has introduced realism by copying from actual Irish scenes. The playlet was booked up on the night of production for four months ahead. Its success has been so pronounced as to encourage Mr. Reynolds to place more sketches on the halls at once, and everyone will wish him success in his new enterprise. Mr. Reynolds, by the way, is the author of no fewer than twenty-two plays and three pantomimes.

Mr. Reynolds' resignation from the Theatres and Music Halls Committee will no doubt be regarded with a feeling of considerable regret among managers of theatrical and variety establishments, and among those who have long realised the necessity of retaining on that committee the services of men with special knowledge and experience of stage affairs, such as Mr. Walter Reynolds undoubtedly possesses. However, he is not lost to the Council altogether, for he will still continue to speak in and to represent Hampstead on it.

PLAYLETS.

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—Variety theatres have undoubtedly come to stay. A mixed programme is that which the public seems most to desire, and as sketches form an important item in such programmes there is every reason that playlets—or so-called sketches—should be as well written, carefully acted, mounted, and prepared in variety houses as in first-class theatres. An interesting playlet—whether drama, melodrama, comedy, or farce—will always attract if well done. The plot can be a possible one, the story interesting, and the humour part and parcel of the scheme just as well in miniature as in a full-length play. Follow these lines, have the playlet well mounted and interpreted by capable artists, and it will be an innovation welcomed by all frequenters of variety theatres.

The public is keener than ever in its demand for the best, and managers are eager to gratify their patrons when they can find the necessary material. The difficulty up to the present has been the large number of variety theatres and the inadequate number of sketches that fulfil the requirements enumerated above. Let the drawing power rest with the play, the production, and the company, and not upon the exploitation of a name. To this end I have arranged—commencing November next—for the production of a series of interesting playlets, embracing drama, comedy, musical comedy, and farce.—Yours faithfully,

ALBERT MARSH.

St. Margaret's, Birchanger-road, South Norwood.

Many will be sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Ashley Richard's clever little terrier "Sprat," whose knowledge of music was wonderful. She accompanied her master into the orchestra at every performance, and would sleep under the conductor's chair until the first notes of the finale of each act, when she would get up, shake herself, and make for the door of the orchestra. Even after a lapse of two years she recognised the music which had once been used as the finale of a pantomime. She was well known and a great favourite with the orchestras of the majority of provincial theatres which she visited with H. C. Beryl's *Lady Slavey* company and Tom B. Davis's *Florodora* company, &c.

THE PALACE.

Had any doubt existed as to the drawing power of Miss Maud Allan, it would have been settled by the aspect of the Palace auditorium on Monday, not only in the stalls, but in other parts of the house. Yet Mr. Butt has an excellent list of attractions, and his introduction of a troupe of Spanish dancers in the characteristic peasant dances of the Iberian peninsula supplies a much appreciated novelty. The company numbers twelve, and a special feature is the picturesque national costumes of men and women, and the guitar accompaniments. The three dancers whose work on Monday evoked considerable applause are Señors Antonio de Bilbabo and Mogigongo, and Señorita Clavelita. The show is presented in the form of a sketch, entitled *El Amor en España*, with just a dramatic thread running through it. The Señorita Flamenca has two lovers, and the pair would extinguish the rivalry by the use of the knife, which each of them draws. The lady suggests in pantomime that she will give her hand to the best dancer. The competition is followed throughout by a clapping of hands, and it is evident that the comrades of the dancers are severe critics of the various steps. Indeed, it is step-dancing of a very remarkable character, first on the stage and then on a table. Neither of the competitors adopts the sinuous and gliding movements that are associated in our minds with the national dances that are of Mauresque origin, such as the seguidilla. Señorita Clavelita certainly does treat us to a bolero with the rhythmic beat of the castanets, and in the final quartet, in which the trio already spoken of are joined by another lady, we assist at a "figure" that is quite Castilian in character. The rhythmic footwork of the smaller male dancer is wonderful, and it occasionally reminds one of Lancashire clog-dancing. The dancers are accompanied by a couple of guitar players, who "thrum" with much vim and spirit.

Mr. Bert Levy, the Australian cartoonist, stipples out clever caricatures as well as portraits on a small disc, the whole *modus operandi* of the picture being shown up on a large white screen. On the night of our visit Mr. Levy commenced his entertainment by sketching an excellent portrait of Lewis Waller. The profound apathy of the audience towards the picture of so popular a stage figure evidently touched the artist to the quick, for he wrote on his disc the sarcastic comment, "Thanks for your loud applause," and he also put the question, "Was the drawing so rotten?" But he had nothing to complain of later on, and as an encore he sketched His Majesty the King. A most original and clever artist is Mr. Bert Levy. Another very original performance of its kind is that presented by Moran and Wiser, the wonderful hat-throwers. From the skilful hands of this couple Panamas float gracefully towards the flies, and then return, boomerang-like, to settle on the head of the thrower. This elaborate way of putting on one's hat is scarcely to be recommended to the man in the street, but its cleverness and the fun evolved in its accomplishment are very fresh and amusing. Indeed, so unique a turn is rare, and we should be glad to see more performers like Moran and Wiser.

Miss Margaret Cooper has some droll new songs. One of the best is "Janie," the story of a superior, but floppy, young lady. Another excellent number is "Hello, Martha." Messrs. Carlisle and Baker, two gentlemen of colour, are new to this country. They have the reputation of being popular vocalists and pianists, and also write and compose their own songs and duets, many of which have a great vogue in the States. With their backs to each other they play simultaneously on two pianos, and altogether are responsible for a clever performance.

The early portion of the entertainment is brightened by the songs of Miss Josie Delaine, who sings of "the land of the rising star"—not music hall land, but Japan, and is also particularly dainty as the cigarette-smoking Carmencita, a Spanish senorita whose heart is full of "the man who fights the bull." Miss Delaine dances delightfully, and her pirouettes are on the best Taglionic principles. Mr. Sydney Lee is one of the smartest card manipulators we have seen during a long experience, and his methods are particularly neat and unobtrusive. He is a favourite at the house in Shaftesbury-avenue, where his engagement, we are given to understand, has been lengthened. Miss Muriel Harding is concerned with facial impressions; and Malcolm Scott's patter is welcome. So is the dancing of the Palace Girls. Miss Lucette de Verby is also popular.

KING'S, KILMARNOCK, REOPENED.

The above theatre was reopened on Monday by Mr. J. Cummings, who for the past three years has run the Palace in the same town. A packed house on Monday highly appreciated the enterprise of the young amusement caterer, who placed before his patrons a strong programme of variety artists. Before noticing the entertainment we may say a word or two concerning the house, which is a well-planned and substantial stone building situated in the main thoroughfare. It has a seating capacity for over 2,000, with a commodious pit, comfortable orchestra stalls, a very fine circle, and a spacious gallery. The comfort of the audience is considered in its convenient ante-rooms. The stage is fully equipped, and, being very large, any production can be staged with all the elaboration required. There are nine spacious dressing-rooms, comfortable and well lighted, and the house is lighted by both gas and electricity.

There was a crowded house to acclaim and approve the enterprise of Mr. Cummings, who, during the course of the evening, came to the footlights and briefly addressed his enthusiastic patrons. He assured them that he had booked some of the best attractions for the King's Theatre, and they could always rely on having a first-class programme. He also informed them that he intended to still keep the Palace open, with a constant change of the latest and best animated pictures.

He was fortunate in securing for the opening week the services of Vonetta, a lady illusionist and marvellous protean actress, who has proved a sensational success. Vonetta is assisted by several smartly-attired attendants of both sexes, whose rapid transitions from one part of the stage to another in the various illusions cause great surprise. The Royal Scots, a quartette of lady vocalists and instrumentalists, fairly caught the favour of the audience with their part songs interspersed with light comedy and instrumental numbers. Another excellent item was that of Marguerita Ismay and her peerless White Coons, who gave well varied selections of songs and dances with pretty effects. Cosgrove and Burns, in a new refined drawing-room sketch, *At the Piano*, fairly convulsed the house with their witticisms; Jack Neil, Scotch comedian and patterer, kept the house in roars of laughter; and Miss Lina Leslie, a dainty comedienne, got hold of the gallery boys with her catchy choruses. Cumming's animated pictures brought the programme to a conclusion. An interesting programme of music was rendered by an efficient orchestra under the direction of Mr. Hayden Parker.

VARIETY THEATRES HAVE COME TO STAY!

That we all know.

We also know the time has come when

WELL WRITTEN,
SKILFULLY PREPARED PLAYLETS
CAREFULLY ACTED
and
BEAUTIFULLY MOUNTED,
will be
BOOKED BY MANAGERS IN PREFERENCE

To the Mediocre type of Sketch so frequently seen upon the Variety Stage.

"THE PLAY'S THE THING!"

Therefore, first get your play. Having got it, bring

LONG EXPERIENCE AND SOUND JUDGMENT

To bear upon the

PRODUCTION AND CAST OF CHARACTERS.

And the result will be an innovation

WELCOMED BY MANAGERS
and
THEATRE-GOERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

DIRECTORS and MANAGERS

Should not Fail to See

"CHUMS TILL DEATH."

THE CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.

Week Commencing November 23rd.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' RAILWAY ASSOCIATION.

GENERAL MEETING.

Mr. W. H. CLEMART, the president of the M.H.A.R.A., occupied the chair at the twelfth annual meeting of that body, held at the Bedford Head Hotel on Sunday evening. Amongst those present were Mr. Fred Herbert, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, Mr. Marriott Edgar, Mr. W. H. Atlas, Mr. and Mrs. W. Permane, Mr. Charles Coborn, Mr. J. O'Connor (Jack and Evelyn), Mr. C. C. Bartram, Mr. Wm. Brown, Mr. E. V. Lucas, Mr. Maurice Hoffman, Mr. Andy Kerr, Mr. Andie Caine, Mr. Harry Herald, Mr. James Foreman, Mr. H. E. High, Mr. Percy Stanhope, Mr. Vernon Cowper, Mr. Charles McConnell, and Mr. Charles D. Stuart (secretary).

After the secretary had read the notice convening the meeting,

The CHAIRMAN, in a brief address, said that he thought that the small meeting was a good compliment to the Association, as when affairs were in a satisfactory condition the members were content to stay away. The very full report left him (the chairman) nothing to say. He had looked through the balance-sheet, and he was of opinion that it was a very creditable one. The only black spot in it was the matter of refunds. In many cases the committee had had to pay over to the railway companies the monies which the members owed, and the deficit on the balance-sheet was accounted for by the monies that the members owed the Association. The committee had therefore decided that those members who did not behave themselves as they ought to do in this respect would not have their cards renewed until they had cleared their obligations to the Association. They could congratulate themselves on the continued success of the Association, for they had never been in a better position. They had an excellent committee, and there would be no necessity for an election. The existing committee of fifty-three would continue in office, the four new members would now come into power, and the committee would appoint the remaining three, to make up the total of sixty, at one of their own meetings. Mr. Arthur Rigby would stand as treasurer. The chairman concluded by tendering his thanks for the compliment that had been paid to him in allowing him to remain their representative.

The report and balance-sheet were as follow :—

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' RAILWAY ASSOCIATION.

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The executive committee in presenting this, their eleventh annual report, to the members of the Association have the gratifying announcement to make—as in every previous year—that the membership roll at the end of the financial twelve months has exceeded that of 1907 by 400, the total number of members on Sept. 30 being 6,876. The current account upon the above date at the London and South-Western Bank was £182 7s. 5d., the deposit balance at the Birkbeck Bank was £162 6s. 2d., while the reserve fund, which is invested in Consols, including the interest derived, amounted to £539 2s. 9d., while the petty cash at the head offices and branch offices was £44 6s. 6d., making a total in all of £928 2s. 10d.

The committee have, in addition to the £200 voted at the last annual meeting to be donated to the Railway and Music Hall Charities, given away a further sum of £126, and now recommend to the general meeting that the remaining surplus of receipts over expenditure should be distributed in the following manner:—£150 to be divided amongst the railway charities, £50 to be donated to the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, and £50 each to the Music Hall Home and Music Hall Ladies' Guild, also placing a sum of £40 to increase the reserve fund.

During the past year two special general meetings were held, the first at the Empire, Camberwell, in April, which was occasioned by the resignation, through business circumstances, of Mr. Douglas White, who had held the position of hon. treasurer to the Association since its formation, his resignation being received by the committee with deepest regret. At this meeting Mr. Arthur Rigby was elected as hon. treasurer, and it was further decided that the positions of president and treasurer should in future be always held by members of the variety profession. Mr. Joe O'Gorman also brought forward a suggestion that 1s. should be charged as an additional amount on all subscriptions, that sum to be handed over to the newly-formed Benevolent Fund. It was decided that this should commence from April 26, and since that date the scheme has resulted in the large amount of £126 19s. within the short period of five months, giving an average per month of over £25, or an estimated annual revenue of more than £300.

The other special meeting was held in May at the Bedford Head Hotel, and was convened to add to Rule 12 an addition that the committee, provided there be no list of candidates for election, should have power to co-opt by ballot any member they may deem fit and capable to serve thereon. This was unanimously carried, and a number of new members have since been thus elected with material benefit to the Association, as many of them have been regular attenders at the weekly meetings, thus enabling the business of the M.H.A.R.A. to be more expeditiously carried out.

The question of removing the London offices has been considered very thoroughly by the committee, in conjunction with that of the Federation, and after careful consideration and visiting a number of premises it was decided that, in view of the increased expenditure created by the new provincial branch offices, and the fact that the present offices are large enough for the working of the Association, no change be for the present entertained.

As desired by the members at the general meeting of 1906, two new branch offices have been opened during the current year, one at Manchester and one more recently at Liverpool, and although the initial expenses in connection with the starting of these—even though the Variety Artists' Federation has kindly contributed one half—have been considerable, yet it is felt by the committee that the cost is a right and justifiable one, as the offices have been much approved of and appreciated by the members as a convenience and benefit.

The annual dinner and dance of the Association was held at the Criterion in February, under the chairmanship of Mr. W. H. Clemart, the president, supported by Mr. Joe Elvin, president of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, in the aid of which institution it was held. The event was a conspicuous success, over 300 being present, and for the first time the dinner was a financial success, over £26 being obtained, in addition to nearly £900 subscribed on behalf of the Fund. It is intended to hold another dinner and dance early next year, when it is sincerely hoped that the entire music hall profession will again vouchsafe their patronage and support for so deserving a cause.

With respect to the railway concession, in spite of any rumours to the contrary, the committee has pleasure in authoritatively stating that, although the railway companies are undergoing a period of considerable depression, there is at the present time no thought of taking away the 25 per cent. reduction for members of the Association. There may perhaps, in the near future, be some alterations regarding free trucks and compartment accommodation, but these matters will only affect the music hall profession in a minor degree. Some trouble has arisen during the year between the Association and the Scottish railways, which are now united instead of being in rivalry. This monopoly has decided to abolish the privilege of the 12-mile radius as granted by the English companies for many years, and artists appearing in the neighbourhood of a large city cannot have the concession from that town, but must pay full fare if under the number of five. A deputation of the committee waited on the companies' representatives at Glasgow, who promised due consideration to the arguments advanced in favour of the rescission of the new rule, but subsequently a letter was received stating that it must be adhered to. A lengthy explanatory communication was then sent, signed by all the principal officers of the Association, asking for renewed consideration of the points raised, and to this no definite reply has been received. The matter is therefore still under negotiation.

The committee does not think it can do better than repeat the paragraph from last year's report as to the theatrical representatives and the railway companies, and all those who have worked gratuitously for the members during the past year, only adding that it exceedingly regrets that, in view of the branch office being established at Liverpool, the valuable services of Mrs. Egerton, who had acted as agent there for so many years, had to be dispensed with. "Once again, though no less cordially, does the committee return its thanks to the ever courteous theatrical representatives of the different railway companies, who have rendered such assistance to members of the Association in the way of comfortable travelling, and ever been ready to smooth over any little troubles that may have arisen; also to the hon. medical officers for their generous free advice; to all the honorary officers of the Association; and, lastly, to the provincial agents, whose duties have been considerably increased, but have yet been fulfilled with so much assiduity and attention."

The committee again desires to express its appreciation of the excellent work of the secretary, Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, throughout the past year, and thanks him on behalf of the members for the zealous and conscientious manner in which he has carried out his duties.

Although the refunds have decreased in number, the question, which is a very serious one, is still causing much trouble to the railway companies, and unless members are more careful to conform to the rules and arrangements made for them by the local agents, it is very probable that the valuable privilege of travelling by different trains and on different days (which during the year has been granted by the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway in addition to every line in England except two) will be taken away. The committee would also remind members that if they do not repay monies owing to the Association in cases where, through their own fault, differences in fare have had to be paid to the railway companies, their cards of membership will not be renewed until this is done. This also applies to members who neglect to explain their conduct or answer letters sent them by the committee.

Lastly, the committee sincerely congratulates the members upon the prosperity, increasing year by year, of their grand Association, an Association which deals solely and wholly with railway and kindred matters, leaving all affairs concerning music hall politics to the sister society, the Federation; an Association that, for a nominal annual fee, ofttimes received back the first week in concessions, secures its members a large number of privileges, benefits, and advantages; an Association that has a steady record of success, solid and substantial, and has during its career of twelve years been instrumental in donating between the railway and music hall charities the magnificent sum of over £3,000, thus, while benefiting those in work, aiding also the less fortunate members of the variety profession. Long may it flourish!

By order of the committee,
C. DOUGLAS STUART,
Secretary.

THE MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' RAILWAY ASSOCIATION.

Summary of Receipts and Payments for the Year ended September 30, 1908.

DR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To balance brought forward, Oct. 1, 1907		427 17 0
,, Subscriptions 256 at 2s. 6d.	32 0 0	
6620 at 5s.	1655 0 0	
6876	1687 0 0	
,, Entrance Fees (2054 at 5s.)	513 10 0	
,, Fines	60 19 0	
,, Lost Cards	6 7 0	
,, Badges Sold	5 15 0	
,, Refunds Recovered	90 1 2	
,, Insurance Claims Received (*see Contra*)	112 3 2	
,, Interest on Deposit and Consols	17 8 2	
,, V.A.B.F. Subscriptions (*see Contra*)	126 19 0	
		2620 2 6
,, Profit on Dinner		26 1 11
Total Fund—		
Reserve Fund .. £539 2 9		
Deposit Account 162 6 2		
Current Account 182 7 5		
Cash in Hand .. 44 6 6		
	£928 2 10	
		£3074 1 5

CR.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Insurance Premiums	504 2 7	
,, Subscriptions to Charities	526 5 0	
,, Badges Purchased	16 14 10	
,, Transfer to Reserve Fund	13 9 0	
,, Refunds paid out	131 13 3	
,, Insurance Claims paid out (*see Contra*)	111 17 2	
		1304 1 10
,, Printing and Stationery	96 3 5	
,, Advertising	81 18 9	
,, Postages	62 13 0	
,, Telegrams	14 14 8	
,, Telephone	18 10 0	
,, Expenses of General Meeting	6 12 2	
,, Miscellaneous Expenses	93 11 10	
,, Testimonials	22 0 0	
		396 3 10
,, Salaries of Secretary and Staff	473 4 0	
,, Honorarium to C. D. Stuart	10 0 0	
,, Rent	75 0 0	
,, Glasgow Office Expenses	119 19 6	
,, Manchester Office Expenses	118 3 8	
,, Liverpool Office Expenses	56 4 6	
		852 11 8
,, V.A.B.F. Subscriptions		126 19 0
,, ,, Sports Prize		5 5 0
,, Balance—		
Deposit Account	162 6 2	
Current Account	182 7 5	
Cash in Hand	44 6 6	
		389 0 1
		£3074 1 5

ARTHUR RIGBY, Hon. Treasurer.
C. DOUGLAS STUART, Secretary.

We have examined the above statement with the books and vouchers of the Association, and certify it to be correct. We have verified the Investment and the Balances at Bank and in hand.

JACKSON, PIXLEY, BROWNING, HUSEY, AND CO., Chartered Accountants, Auditors.
58, Coleman-street, E.C. Oct. 20, 1908.

Mr. ANDIE CAINE and Mr. HARRY HERALD were appointed tellers.

Mr. FRED HERBERT, in moving the adoption of the report, referred to the amount of money which they were giving to their own and various railway charities. In addition to the £200 voted at the annual general meeting, they had distributed £126, and they had also recommended the distribution of £300 equally between the railway and music-hall charities. Mr. O'Gorman had suggested at the last general meeting that the subscription should be raised by one shilling for the benefit of the V.A.F. fund. That would bring in £300, and would enable the fund to do a vast amount of good work. It was very desirable that they should get as much money as they could for the fund, as they had numerous applications for help each week. The speaker paid a compliment to those members of the committee who had been co-opted. Their attendance had been most regular.

Mr. MCCONNELL, who seconded, remarked that the Manchester and Liverpool agencies were conducted in a most businesslike manner.

The resolution was then put to the meeting and declared adopted.

Mr. MARRIOTT EDGAR proposed, and Mr. CHARLES COBORN seconded, the adoption of the balance-sheet. This, too, was carried unanimously.

Mr. W. H. ATLAS proposed, and Mr. PERMANE seconded, "That the words '*Entr'acte*' and '*Referee*,' in line 8 of Rule 24 be deleted." After some discussion the resolution was passed by the meeting.

Mr. ANDIE CAINE proposed, and Mr. FOREMAN seconded, a resolution to the effect that the rules should stand as they were, with the exception of the alteration referred to.

The election of officers for the ensuing year was then proceeded with, the results being as follow: Hon. president, Mr. W. H. Clemart; hon. vice-presidents, Sir James Bailey, Messrs. Albert Le Fre and Fred W. Mi'lis; additional hon. vice-president, Mr. Douglas White; hon. treasurer, Mr. Arthur Rigby; chartered accountants, Messrs. Jackson, Pixley, Browning, Husey, and Co.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a conclusion.

ALLEGED LIBEL ON AN ARTIST.

A motion in an interesting libel suit came before Mr. Justice Boyd on Wednesday in King's Bench Division, Dublin, when an application was made to serve the writ out of jurisdiction. The plaintiff, Ethel Rebecca Thackeray, a music-hall artist, known as "Ethel Ra Leslie," seeks to recover damages from her husband, Francis Henry Thackeray (Frank Travis), Streatham-hill, London, and William Armstrong, solicitor, Renfrew-road, Lambeth, for alleged libel published in a Belfast newspaper.

Plaintiff, in an affidavit, complained of an advertisement, which appeared in the *Belfast News Letter* on the 10th inst., signed by Mr. Armstrong, on behalf of the other defendant, to the effect that the plaintiff, the lawful wife of Francis Henry Thackeray, was no longer authorised by him to make any purchase or enter into any contract on his behalf, and that he would not be responsible for any of her engagements, or for any debts she might incur, she having left him and being now located in Belfast.

Mrs. Thackeray said that there was no truth in the allegations or innuendoes contained in that statement, and went on to state that she was entitled in her own right to leasehold premises in Sreatham-hill, and that Mr. Armstrong acted as her solicitor and had had possession of the deeds. Before separating from her husband she instructed the former to obtain a loan of £100 on the property. Some time later, while in Belfast, she received from Mr. Armstrong a letter enclosing a power of attorney empowering her husband to sell or mortgage the property. This she returned, as it was unnecessary, warning the solicitor not to let the deeds out of his possession. Some time afterwards her husband forwarded a letter from a firm of London auctioneers, intimating that he had sold the property. Plaintiff alleged malice against the two defendants.

Mr. Justice Boyd decided that as they resided in England, and there was a question as to the plaintiff's domicile, he would make no rule on the motion.

"THE ACTORS."

A Comic Absurdity, produced at the Hastings Hippodrome on Monday, Oct. 26.

Mr. Alwaysout ..... MR. FRED PERCY
Burbohm Jones ..... TOM PEMBERTON
Lady Ambitious ..... MLLE. CLARETTE
Warner Smith ..... JOHNNY ALEXANDER
Policeman ..... HARRY BAXTER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The scene is a theatrical agent's office, kept by Mr. Alwaysout. The servant announces Lady Ambitious, who is anxious to secure an engagement as a comedienne in a theatrical company. She is followed by Burbohm Jones, who displays his dramatic ability in a couple of recitations. After he has retired Warner Smith enters in a soiled and disreputable costume. He assures the agent that he has appeared in different characters with the great tragedians of the day. The accomplishments of the would-be actors are then put to the test. As Burbohm Jones is robing himself for the part of Macbeth, Warner Smith appears as Macduff, in Highland costume, and a terrible encounter with swords takes place. In the midst of the fray Lady Ambitious rushes up to separate the combatants, but gets slain herself. During the scrimmage the furniture is very roughly handled, and a policeman who comes in to secure order is similarly treated. The sketch is an extravagant burlesque from beginning to end. The acting of Mr. Alexander is capital, and Tom Pemberton as Burbohm Jones gives a truly comic study.

AN ARTISTIC FEAST.

There are few artists on the variety stage who have created more diversified criticism than La Milo, the originator of Breathing Marble. The management of the Portsmouth Hippodrome, with a finger on the pulse of the public, booked her for a week's visit, and those who so readily condemn this style of entertainment should certainly see it for themselves. There is from beginning to end nothing but beautiful and graceful posing, each tableau being a veritable artistic feast. The poses are delightful, but the climax is reached when Miss La Milo appears in her inimitable representation of Lady Godiva, and a picture is presented which absolutely vies with real statuary. The grace, charm, and natural pose of La Milo sent the audience into raptures, the applause continuing long after the curtain had descended. It is a fine classical exhibition, and the place will no doubt be packed all the week. Both houses last evening were crowded to the doors.—Evening News, Oct. 20, 1908.

THE Stoke Newington Palace Football Club played their first game in the Theatrical and Music Hall League competition last Sunday, on their ground at Bailey's-lane, Stamford Hill, before about 1,500 spectators, when they met the Tivoli, the present leaders in the League table. A splendid game resulted in a win for the Palace team by 4 goals to 0, scored by E. Rowe (2), J. Baxter, and R. Wheeler. Next Sunday the victorious team meet Stratford Empire on the same ground.

PRICE & REYNOLDS'
PANTOMIME SONGS.

"MAIDIE AND HER LITTLE TEDDY BEAR."
"RUN AWAY FROM OLD MAN GOBLIN."
"LITTLE MONEY SPIDER."
"BEAUTIFUL BRITTANY." "JEREMIAH."
"SHARE MY PAGODA." "FUNNIOSITIES."
"JESSIE THE FLOWER O' INVERNESS."
"MISS CARNATION." "MR. GOLLYWOG."
"IF I WERE A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT."
"MY WORD! IF I CATCH YOU BENDING."

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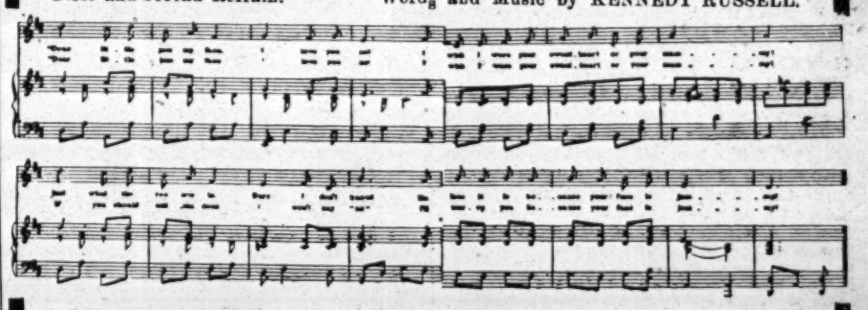
THE PANTO SONG OF THE YEAR.
"DEAR LITTLE JAMMY FACE."
First and Second Refrain. Words and Music by KENNEDY RUSSELL.



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POOLS.A.A.

"G.P.O."

Farcical Sketch, by Fred Karno, Fred Kitchen, and Frank Calvert, in Two Scenes, with music by W. Powell; performed at the Empire Theatre, Bradford, on Monday, Oct. 26.

Perkins ..... MR. FRED KITCHEN
Herbert Realstiff ..... MR. ALBERT BRUNO
Mr. Horton ..... MR. HERBERT SIDNEY
Gustave Achille Dumont .. MR. HERBERT LANDECK
Telegraph Boy ..... MR. TOM MCDONAGH
Adolphus Pycan ..... MR. H. LLOYD KING
Mary Wilson ..... MISS JESSIE CRAMMONDE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

This, probably the latest of the Karno productions, is like its predecessors, written around the inimitable comedian Mr. Fred Kitchen, who in the part of Perkins is supplied with unlimited scope and endless opportunities for the display of the eccentricities and quaint mannerisms which have made him so popular hitherto; and, needless to say, he makes the most of them in *G.P.O.*, which, by the way, is not all comedy, for there is now and then during its progress just a touch of real pathos which lends a bit of interest to the sketch. The first scene is the exterior of the G.P.O., where Mary Wilson, in a vain attempt to beg assistance from her vile betrayer Realstiff, is seen bemoaning her sad fate. Perkins enters; there are "hands" wanted at the G.P.O., and, after much hesitation and mature deliberation, he decides to apply. We see him duly appointed as a postman in a busy scene of the interior of the G.P.O., and he indulges in a song with a chorus by postmen and telegraph girls. The postmaster enters, and takes quite a fancy to Perkins, to whom he hands the key of the safe, £20 for temporary expenses, gives him entire charge of the office, and then goes on a holiday. Perkins makes his position felt both amongst the staff and with the funny customers who call, and he is tempted by sudden acquisition to wealth to have a bit on a "gee-gee" at long odds. There is an episode in Perkins's past known to the scoundrel Realstiff, by whom he is threatened; the conditions of silence are that Perkins shall hand over the safe key. This he does, and at night Realstiff is admitted. Mary Wilson's child has found a refuge in the office, and when Realstiff enters she is hidden behind the mailbags. As Realstiff is helping himself to the contents of the safe Perkins pushes him in and turns the key just as the postmaster returns. In presence of the staff Perkins is dramatically accused of taking something out of the safe, but he declares that he has put something in. The safe is opened, and Perkins becomes a hero.

The scenic effects are excellent, and the music is bright and sparkling. The initial performance went without a hitch, and the laughter was loud and prolonged. Some of the incidents in the production are very amusing, and it would be difficult to imagine anything funnier than the assumed dignity of Perkins, whose facial expressions and jokes fairly convulsed the audience. Mr. Albert Bruno was intensely dramatic and very vigorous as the scoundrel Realstiff; Mr. Herbert Sidney played the Postmaster well; the excitable Dumont was a good character-sketch by Mr. Herbert Landeck; Mr. Tom McDonagh as the Telegraph Boy and Mr. H. Lloyd King as Pycan made much of their few opportunities; and Miss Jessie Crammonde invested the part of Mary Wilson with pathos.

THE Achmed Ibrahim troupe will start their London season this year, on Nov. 16, at the London Hippodrome, with a tour of twenty-seven weeks to follow.

MR. ARTHUR CARLTON has this week opened the Empire Hall, Worcester, where there is a nightly display of good pictures, and he intends also to provide good-class sacred concerts on Sundays.

HARRY LAUDER IN NEW YORK.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

There was another "gathering of the clans" when Harry Lauder commenced his second American tour last week at the Lincoln-square Theatre, and the house was not large enough to hold all the people who wanted to hear him sing the Scottish character songs that have made him famous in the Old World and the New. Hundreds were disappointed on the opening day, and taxicabs were kept running between the American Theatre and the Lincoln-square to carry the disappointed ones free of charge to the other house, which became for the nonce a sort of overflow meeting of Harry Lauderites. The Scottish comedian is engaged for twenty weeks under the exclusive management of William Morris, Incorporated, and after three weeks at the Lincoln-square Theatre he will swing around the entire Morris circuit. A feature of the welcome he received was the presence in the audience of several hundred Scotsmen representing the Caledonian and Canadian Clubs of New York and other Scottish societies, many of them being clad in the tartans of their respective clans. They led the demonstration that greeted Lauder when he first appeared, and it was certainly "Scotch night" at the Lincoln-square Theatre, for the enthusiasm he aroused was spread over the entire evening. The Scotsmen "owned the house," and swarmed all over it, and while their varied tartans caught the eye, the Glesca' accent engaged one ear, Aberdeen the other, and Edinburgh broke in between times. To land here on Saturday and open on Monday hardly gives one time to get the kinks out of his legs and get over the feeling that the sidewalk is about to slant to port or starboard. But Lauder was as "fit as a fiddle" when he came on to sing "When I get back again to Bonnie Scotland," and in less than two minutes the audience was completely under the influence of his jovial personality. The song was new to this city, but it "caught on" immediately. Lauder's masterpiece, "The saftest o' the family," came next, and it had all of its old familiar charm. In another new song, "The wedding bells were ringing," the singer described, in his own inimitable way, the experiences of one McNabb. After the minister had tied the knot everyone dined, and then they wined, and the result of their indulgence was depicted in a highly-diverting manner. Someone objected to the bridegroom having his arm around the neck of the bride; when next seen it was around the neck of a bottle. Then everyone made a speech, and the best man said he knew a lot about the bridegroom, but wouldn't tell, as he believed in always sticking to a pal when he was down.

When Lauder sang "Mary, my Scotch bluebell" he had the house with him to a man. It is the best chorus song in his répertoire, and both the melody and the sentiment are delightful. At the evening performance he sang "We parted on the shore," and had to make two speeches before he was allowed to retire, having occupied the stage for over an hour. The police had considerable difficulty in handling the vast crowd that assembled outside the theatre.

ANOTHER effort to aid the Glasgow unemployed takes place to-day, at the Empire, Glasgow. It has been organised by a Glasgow lady, who has been markedly successful in the past with matinées for many deserving objects, and on this occasion she has secured the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll), Duke of Argyll, Duchess of Sutherland, Duchess of Montrose, Countess of Eglinton, Earl Rosebery, and all the best names of Glasgow and the west of Scotland. An attractive programme has been arranged, and all the indications point to a most substantial sum being raised for the fund.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR NOVEMBER.

ENGLAND.

2. Eastwood (4,368)
2. Heckmondwike (10,000)
2. Plymouth (107,509)
3. Rotherham (60,000)
4. Bradford (236,240)
4. Runcorn (16,000)
4. Swaffham (3,400)
5. Barwick Feast
6. Belper (11,300)
6. Beverley (13,200)
6. Bishop Auckland (12,000)
6. Cartmel (400)
6. Pontefract (13,400)
6. Portland (15,300)
6. Scarcliffe (1,162)
6. Easingwold (2,000)
6. Morpeth (6,200)
6. Mansfield (Statutes) (20,000)
7. Biddenden (1,300)
7. Romsey (4,200)
7. Alford (2,500)
7. Alnwick (6,700)
7. Biggleswade (5,000)
7. Bulwell (1,500)
7. Halifax (98,000)
7. Keswick (4,500)
7. Mansfield (Woodhouse) (2,820)
9. Darlington (44,500)
9. Kirkby Stephen (2,000)
9. Leeds (423,900)
9. Portsmouth (189,000)
10. Hucknall (13,325)
10. Lancaster (40,300)
10. Penistone (7,500)
10. Penrith (9,200)
10. Wakefield (36,000)
10. Wetherby (3,018)
11. Askam-in-Furness (3,300)
11. Brackley (2,500)
11. Cambourne (8,200)
11. Carlisle (25,500)
11. Chesham (7,300)
11. Melton Mowbray (7,500)
12. Alston (Cumb.) (3,300)
12. Chelmsford (12,000)
12. Loughborough (21,500)
12. Maryport (12,000)
12. Stamfordham (900)
12. Ulverston (10,000)
13. Cockermouth (6,400)
13. Epping (2,600)
13. Leek (15,500)
13. Stockton-on-Tees (51,476)
14. Brampton (2,708)
14. Egremont (Cumb.) (8,000)
14. Kendal (14,200)
14. Warkworth (1,100)
16. Bakewell (3,500)
16. St. Columb (60,846)
17. Andover (6,500)
17. Millom (10,400)
17. Yeovil (10,000)
18. Shaftesbury (3,000)
18. Skegby (3,160)
18 South Shields (97,300)
19. Rugby (17,000)
21. Dover (41,000)
21. Fakenham (3,200)
21. Guildford (16,000)
21. Martin Town (900)
23. Crowle (2,800)
23. Newark (14,500)
23. Pickering (3,500)
23. Richmond (Yorks) (4,000)
23. Ripon (8,200).
23. York (75,560)
25. Chesterfield (25,000)
25. Frome (11,000)
25. Ilminster (2,300)
27. Hartlepool (22,000)
28 Gloucester (48,000)
30 Ludford (714)
30. Melborne St. Andrews (1,000)

SCOTLAND.

3. Jedburgh (2,222)
4. Alyth (3,000)
12. Biggar (1,200)
14. Dumbarton (18,836)
16. Govan (76,351)
18. Langholm (3,142)
27. Inverness (21,193)

WALES.

6. Llangefeloch
7. Brecon (6,000)
7. Lydney (3,000)
9. Penmorfa (1,486)
14. Llandovery (2,234)
16. Aberystwyth (8,000)
17. Aberdare (43,009)
23. Aberystwyth (8,000)
26. Mountain Ash

Olympia.

Showmen will be interested to know that Olympia is once more available for their shows. Not quite under the same conditions, but showing greater advantages, in the fact that the crowd will be attracted there. The main building will be devoted to the uses of a skating-rink, under the management of Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins, the well-known pioneers of the skating-rink in this country. The Annexe will be used as a Fun City, to which the public using the skating-rink will be admitted free. The Fun City will be controlled by the New Olympia Co., Ltd., and under the management of Mr C. B. Cochrane, who so successfully managed the Fun City in 1906-7, to whom all communications should be addressed.

Bedford Fair.

News to hand of this fair is to the effect that it was largely supplied by Thurston and Sons, who exhibited many of their well-known concerns. These included the cinematograph theatre and the switchback motor-car set. The other shows and concerns included Biddall's royal bioscope, Sol Elliott's boxing saloon, C. Shaw's galloping horses, and other amusements by Messrs. E. Harris, Welsh, and Shaw.

The Roundabout Proprietors and Showmen's Union.

The Secretary of this important Trade Society requests that our readers' attention be drawn to the next meeting of the society, to be held at Rotherham on Tuesday next. (Duly advertised in our columns this week.) It is desired that a good muster of members may be available for the transaction of important business.

Guild Meetings at Rotherham Statutes.

Since the very early days of the "Van-dwellers' Society," it has been the custom to hold meetings at Rotherham Statutes Fair. This was largely owing to the fact that for some years after the foundation of the Guild the Honorary Chaplain (the Rev. T. Horne) was curate of Whiston, Rotherham. A good deal of local sympathy was evinced, and the cause of the persecuted showmen was well championed in the local press. Of late years, it has been a great pleasure to the Guild Chaplain to visit these scenes of the early strife against George Smith's Movable Dwellings Bill. It is a curious circumstance in the whirligig of time that the Guild Chaplain is once again rallying the public sympathy of Rotherham to the defence of the threatened showmen, who have again to face and to defeat a Movable Dwellings Bill.

The Mayor of Rotherham and members of the Town Council, the Vicar of Rotherham, and the Honorary Local Chaplain to the Guild (the Rev. H. Greenway, Vicar of St. Michael's) have been invited and are expected to attend the afternoon meeting.

Opposition to the Movable Dwellings Bill.

The Parliamentary Agent of the Showmen's Guild and the Organising Chaplain are closely watching the progress of the Bill. It appears on the Orders of the House of Lords as waiting for Committee, but no day is fixed for its appearance. The Executive of the Showmen's Guild are prepared, as soon as the day is fixed, to meet the Bill with immediate, vigorous, and (we confidently anticipate) successful opposition. The showmen's brief against the Movable Dwellings Bill, compiled by the Rev. T. Horne (which appeared in *The Era*, Oct. 17), has been issued in pamphlet form, and a copy of it (when the time for taking action arrives) will be placed in the hands of every Member of Parliament, both Lords and Commons.

Fortunately for the strengthening of the showmen's cause there is no chance of the Movable Dwellings Bill being rushed through the House. the congestion of public business being such that, in the present session of Parliament, no Bill introduced by a private member has the least chance of getting through. What may happen, however, is that if Lord Chudleigh is successful in getting the Bill through Committee in the House of Lords this session, it will have a better chance of a favourable hearing and acceptance when introduced again next year. The determination of the Guild Executive to oppose the Measure at every stage of its progress will be strenuously carried out, and the showmen are confident that the righteousness of their cause will find many friends in the House of Lords who will oppose, and we trust succeed, in defeating the Bill.

Guild Subscriptions, 1908.

Per Mr. J. Caddick, jun.: Mr. J. Chipperfield, £1. Per the Guild Secretary: R. J. Prideaux, 5s. 6d. Per Mr. Prideaux, collected from friends: Miss Hollamby, 2s. 6d.; W. Meadows, 1s.; S. G. Stone, 6d.; R. J. Adams, 6d.; G. H. Veal, 3d.; H. Webber, 3d.; S. P. Burden, 3d.; W. A. Rowland, 3d.; J. F. Miles, 3d.

A CHAT WITH HERBERT CROUCH

OF GLASGOW'S "WONDERLAND."

The most successful and the most deservedly popular of Glasgow showmen is Mr. Herbert Crouch, of the well-known "Wonderland" at 137, Argyle-street. He is the oldest waxwork proprietor in Scotland. For over thirty years his waxwork exhibition has been a source of special attention to Glasgow citizens and country visitors. Waxwork exhibitions are the lineal descendants of the old time "geggies," booths, and open-air exhibitions, and museums of the fair and showgrounds. In a day when pantomime did not exist and theatres and actors were frowned upon by the Church, the people's taste for the marvellous was ministered to by the wandering show folk, who went their rounds with freaks and fakes of animal and human nature, and exhibited each his marvel for a penny a head. The booth shows are disappearing rapidly, and in Glasgow, at any rate, the

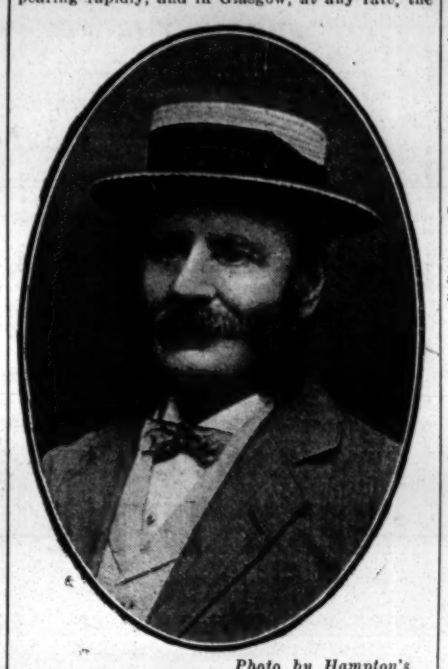


Photo by Hampton's.

MR. HERBERT CROUCH.

opportunities which the people have of witnessing such under-canvas exhibitions as still exist are few and far between.

But the Glasgow "Wonderland" has captured the declining art of freak exhibiting, and from time to time patrons of Crouch's exhibition have presented to them freaks and oddities as marvellous and alluring as any recorded in the days of old. Mr. Crouch is one of the most interesting men it has ever been an *Era* representative's lot to converse with.

"Yes, I'm proud—don't look surprised—of being a Cockney. I was born sixty-seven years ago in a house in Burton-crescent, behind old St. Pancras. I am a showman from choice and not of necessity. I was blessed at the start with a good education and business training. In the days of my youth I ran away from the grocery business and enlisted in the 4th Royal Artillery Brigade. When the Fenian Raid broke out in Canada I saw active service there. I remember the Rev. Henry W. Beecher, the American Congregational minister, looked upon the invasion as a religious judgment on the Britishers, but adjured his congregation to heap coals of fire on their enemies' head by arresting the Fenians—the Army of the Irish Republic—and thus return good for evil. After the rising had been quelled I bought my discharge at Montreal, and returned home to Old England. Eighteen months ago I received the Canadian General Medal and Clasp, 1866.

"I made my first acquaintance of show life when I joined the well-known peep-show proprietor, Hewitt, better known as 'Squeaking Betty,' and we travelled the large peep-show together. I came first to Glasgow Fair with this show. After we split partnership at Bury March Fair, outside Manchester, I returned to Glasgow on my own, with a large galvanic battery and ring boards. About this time I exhibited the first tinfoil gramaphone ever exhibited, in a shop in St. Vincent-street, Glasgow. Before Professor Forbes, of the Andersonian University, engaged me to exhibit the machine, he got me to speak into it 'round the rugged rock the ragged rascal ran.' This gramaphone created a great sensation at that time. After my engagement was finished I bought the gramaphone from Professor Forbes for £7 10s., and exhibited it at 137, Argyle-street. I next exhibited in Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Dublin, the sacred Brahma Bull—an animal with four legs and a human arm on the right side. After leaving the bull with its proprietor at Brighton, I returned again to Glasgow, and opened a shooting gallery in St. Enoch Wynd. Later, I opened a show in the Trongate, where I had a shooting-range and mechanical models. The models I bought from old John Anderson, of the Polytechnic. Anderson had at one time a waxwork and museum in Jamaica-street, in a building that had formerly been occupied by a circus. After four years in the Trongate, I opened a waxwork at 136, Argyle-street, and have remained in the building ever since. My first show consisted of mechanical models, French and German works of art, and the tableaux representing "The Last Supper," after the painting by Leonardo da Vinci. The price for admission was threepence. I have been continually adding to my collection, and my show to-day contains the finest collection of moving figures, French and mechanical models, and bronze statues in this country.

"'The Last Supper' is one of the largest of wax tableaux. It was bought by me for £250. Kings, queens, statesmen, divines, and notables of every degree find a place in my galleries. One interesting figure is that of Old Malabar, the showman juggler, who travelled over all parts of the United Kingdom attending fairs, race meetings, markets, and any public gathering where he had an opportunity of giving an exhibition of juggling. This figure originally belonged to Mr. Macleod, of the Waxwork in the Trongate. At the sale of the contents of this waxwork, a year or two ago, the figure was knocked down to me for £5. Mr. Macleod gave Malabar £20 and a new dress for the sitting to be taken in wax—a figure he showed at his waxworks for years. Yes; the best wax models are supplied from France. A good head, modelled in France, costs from £5 to £10, and sometimes £20; while the heads of English make can be had from 30s. to £2 15s. A good figure, fully dressed, might cost as much as £40.

"I have all along made a speciality of the freak department, and for over thirty years I have afforded the public many opportunities of seeing the strangest human freaks ever exhibited. Krao, the missing link; Frinsco, the three-legged Italian boy and a fourth growing; Castagno, the human skeleton or mummy-like man; Radica and Doodica, the remarkable twin sisters; the Brothers Tocci, the two-headed Italian boy; Stephan Bibzowskie, the boy with the lion's mane; Lin Loo San and Lin Tang San, the Chinese twins; and Mme. Polonawsky, the Russian bearded lady, are commemorated in wax in my show."

INVENTIONS.

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

21,525.—Frederick James Thomas, of Chertsey. Improvements in the construction of the pole and framework and roof of the game of ring- or hoop-throwing or pitching, known as the May-pole or hoop-la game.

21,787.—James Williamson and Colin Martin Williamson, of Brighton. Improvements in apparatus for imparting a positive intermittent travelling motion to cinematograph films.

21,788.—Samuel Alfred Nelson Deluce, of Manchester. Improvements in and relating to turnstiles and counting apparatus therefor.

21,801.—Arthur Bartram Snell, of Putney. Improved means for displaying or exhibiting dummy figures or other articles.

21,812.—Robert Hodges Bishop and William Danton Sandwell, of London. Improved safety aerial travelling swing.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATION ACCEPTED.

22,354.—Mitchell. Target practice apparatus.

2,038.—Purpura.—Illusory apparatus.

2,241.—Ostrovsky.—Exercising apparatus for use by violinists.

SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

21,069.—Lungren. Insulated projecting lantern.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

12,358.—Finger-exercising apparatus. A. Krizek, of Coburg, Germany.

A finger-exercising apparatus consists of a plate (*b*) which is fastened to the back of the hand by means of a strap (*a*) passing round the wrist, and a series of rods (*g*) sliding in sleeves (*d*), which are pivoted to the plate, the rods carrying loops (*f*) which are passed over the ends of fingers

FIG.1.

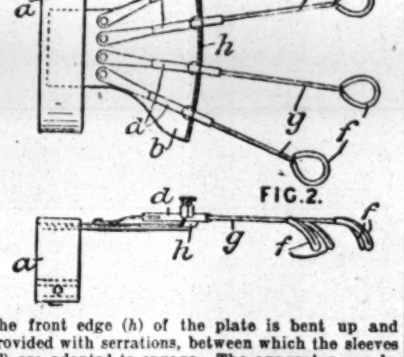


FIG.2.

The front edge (*h*) of the plate is bent up and provided with serrations, between which the sleeves (*d*) are adapted to engage. The apparatus can be used to spread the fingers laterally and to hold out of action one or more fingers so that the remaining fingers may be exercised.

12,401.—Railways for recreation. H. Wignall, of Manchester.

An aerial tramway or railway consists of a combination of straight and curved lines of rails (*b b*) fixed at an incline to vertical supports. Rods (*e*) suspended from the rails by means of rollers (*f g*)

FIG.1.

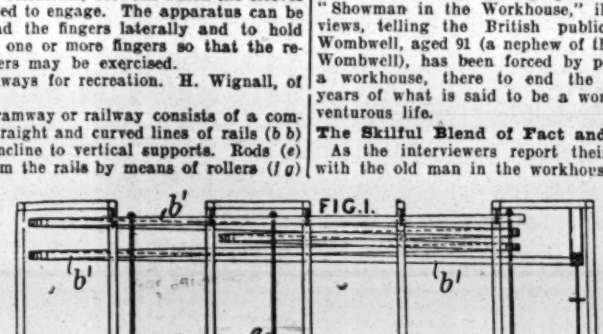
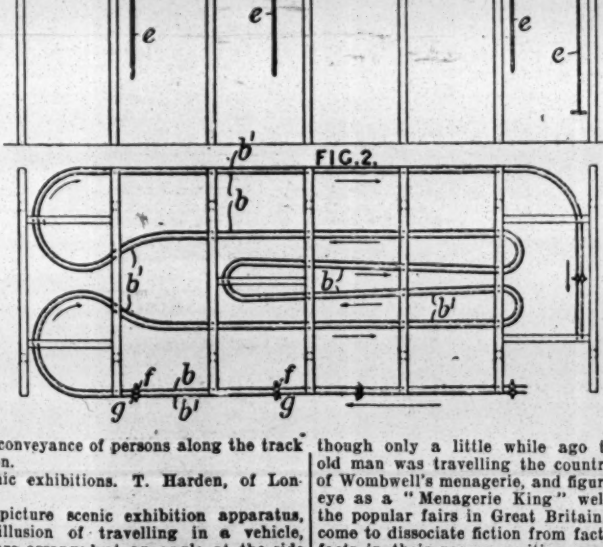


FIG.2.

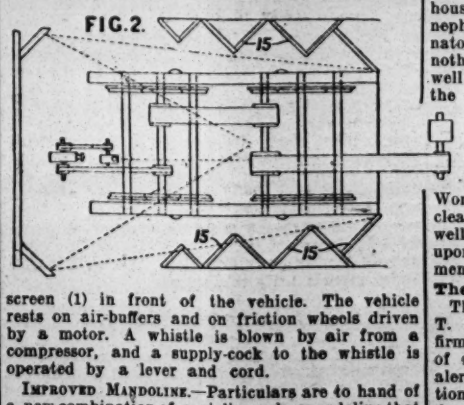


serve for the conveyance of persons along the track by gravitation.

12,800.—Scenic exhibitions. T. Harden, of London.

In moving-picture scenic exhibition apparatus, giving the illusion of travelling in a vehicle, mirrors (15) are arranged at an angle at the side windows of the vehicle (as shown in plan in Fig. 2) to reflect portions of the views thrown on the

FIG.2.



screen (1) in front of the vehicle. The vehicle rests on air-buffers and on friction wheels driven by a motor. A whistle is blown by air from a compressor, and a supply-cock to the whistle is operated by a lever and cord.

Improved Mandoline.—Particulars are to hand of a new combination of a violin and a mandoline that is being manufactured in Baltimore, U.S.A., which is said to combine the virtues and correct the faults of both. This new instrument takes the shape generally of a mandoline, with frets and fingerboard, but retains a body of violin construction, so that the back is constructed in one piece, side pieces are provided, and the belly is curved. The volume of sound produced is said to greatly exceed that of the ordinary mandoline, embodying all the richness of tone and vigour of a violin, while the jarring metallic sound caused by the celluloid pick is perceptibly diminished.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

A WOMBWELL "SENSATION."

How great is the power of a grand old historic name! What wonderful thoughts cling around the names of the great heroes of Britain's past! How we value anything that comes to light in connection with a Wellington or a Nelson, to go no further back in the great roll of Britain's heroes!

Something of the same kind of halo of renown attaches to the great names in showland. What thoughts arise in our minds as we recall the great enterprise of the men who have made British showlife famous—for example, the names of Astley, Richardson, Batty, Wombwell, Sanger! These are names to conjure with, names that never fail to provoke a warm fervour of appreciation, and (should such be necessary) never fail to evoke the warmest sympathy. We have a remarkable instance of this in what we can call nothing less than a "Wombwell boom" in the daily and weekly press. The Sunday papers, closely followed by the *Daily Mail*, the *Morning Leader*, the

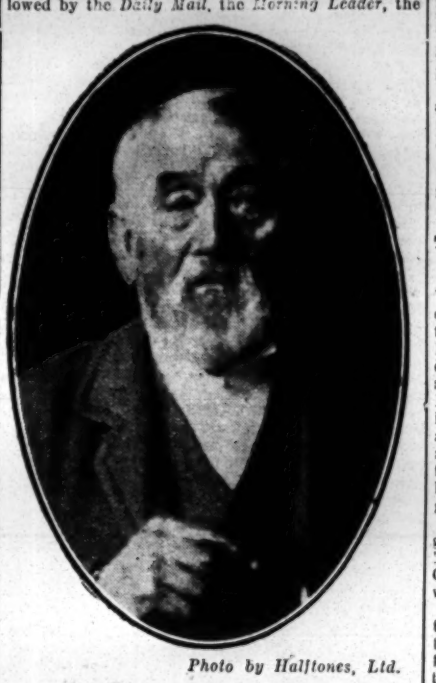


Photo by Halftones, Ltd.

MR. GEORGE WOMBWELL.

Daily Telegraph, the *Evening Standard* (with, of course, extracts from these papers in all the provincial Press), have graphic articles headed "Showman in the Workhouse," illustrated interviews, telling the British public that George Wombwell, aged 91 (a nephew of the great George Wombwell), has been forced by poverty to enter a workhouse, there to end the few remaining years of what is said to be a wonderful and adventurous life.

The Skilful Blend of Fact and Fiction.

As the interviewers report their conversations with the old man in the workhouse they read as though only a little while ago the unfortunate old man was travelling the country as proprietor of Wombwell's menagerie, and figured in the public eye as a "Menagerie King" well known at all the popular fairs in Great Britain. But when we come to dissociate fiction from fact and to put the facts in their proper position, we find that "the Wombwell boom" only rests upon this foundation, that the George Wombwell in the Edmonton Workhouse is indeed at the grand old age of 91, the nephew of the great George Wombwell, the originator of travelling menageries. But he has had nothing whatever to do with any of the Wombwell menageries since the time when, owing to the misfortuntes which he details, his own show (left him by his uncle in 1850) was dispersed. For more than fifty years this so-called menagerie king has ceased to be a showman and has earned his living as a bandsman.

It is only just to the proprietor of Bostock's Wombwell's Royal Menagerie to make this quite clear, as the life story of the George Wombwell at Edmonton may possibly cast a reflection upon the triumphant career of Wombwell's menagerie.

The Old Man's Reminiscences.

The Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild, the Rev. T. Horne, visited George Wombwell in the Infirmary at Edmonton, and, considering the burden of ninety years, found the old man wonderfully alert and capable. There were, of course, indications of the failure of the natural powers; he is deaf, and his memory is extremely precarious Without overtaxing the poor old man's powers, the Guild Chaplain was able to recall events of fifty or more years ago (the time when he was actually on the road as a showman) that completely proved the validity of his claim to be the nephew of the great George Wombwell. For example, he remembered and recalled the tragic incident of the death of Ellen Blight, the lion queen. He remembered William Manders, the menagerist, and Gregory and Buckley, the old showmen of those far-away days. He recalled the dramatic incident of how he stood with a naptha lamp in his hand whilst the coffin-maker was fashioning the coffin for his uncle, made from the wood of the wreck of the Royal George. He also remembered the grim joke of his uncle, who when rallied by a friend as he was drinking a glass of hot grog with the remark; "There you go, George, putting another nail in your coffin," replied, "No, I'm not, for there will never be a nail in my coffin; I'll take good care of that," and he did, for the coffin was dove-tailed together and the lid was finally fastened down with pegs made from the same wood as the coffin itself.

It was sadly pathetic to thus let the old man muse on with only a word now and then from the Chaplain in order to make the incident fit into its proper time. It is extremely satisfactory to testify, as the Chaplain does, to the great care and the most kind treatment that the dear old man is now receiving in the infirmary ward.

The Real History of the Matter.

The important points that we wish to emphasise are two. First, that when old George Wombwell died, in 1850, he left three menageries—No. 1 to his widow, No. 2 to his niece, afterwards Mrs. Edmonds, and No. 3, a small menagerie, to the George Wombwell who is the subject of this article. The No. 1 menagerie was dispersed in 1872, the No. 2 menagerie—Mrs. Edmonds'—came into the possession of E. H. Bostock, the present proprietor of Bostock's Wombwell's, the show that has never left the road. Mrs. Bostock, the mother of E. H. Bostock, was a niece of Wombwell the Great and sister to Mrs. Edmonds. Hence the unbroken continuity of the show, and its continual hold upon the affection of the English-speaking race. Our second point is, and we want this to be quite clear, that the small Wombwell's show bequeathed by the great George to his nephew, the old man at Edmonton, was very soon dispersed, and that for over fifty years George Wombwell the younger has been following the honourable but humble profession of a bandsman in military and other bands, mainly in and around London.

The great error of this, the latest newspaper boom, lies in the simple but most telling fact that it all happened *over fifty years ago*.

GENEROSITY OF MR. E. H. BOSTOCK.

TEN SHILLINGS A WEEK FOR LIFE FOR GEORGE WOMBWELL.

Although the aged nephew of the great George Wombwell has been out of the show business for over fifty years, and has not been in touch with the Bostocks or in any way connected with the Royal Menagerie, Mr. E. H. Bostock has promptly come to the aid of the old man bearing so close a relationship to the founder of the menagerie. Mr. Bostock writes to inform us that only once in his life has he seen the old man in question, and that was thirty years ago. It will be seen at once that no reproach can really be attached to the Bostocks for a state of affairs utterly unknown to them. We are glad to make public the generous offer of Mr. E. H. Bostock.

Under date Sept. 30 he sent the following telegram to "The Era":—"Supplementary to my letter of yesterday's date, if you are able to place George Wombwell in some comfortable home I will allow 10s. weekly for life to defray same."

We were quite sure that the distressed condition of the old man, and, indeed, his very existence, were unknown to Mr. Bostock, and in the face of the sensational and misleading nature of the newspaper accounts it is an additional pleasure to us to be the means of bringing an unavoidably painful incident to so satisfactory a conclusion.

Goole Fair.

This old-time fair was well maintained by the following well-known concerns: Messrs. Tuby and Sons' coliseum, Hobson's cinematograph theatre, and Kent and Wortley's novelty booths. The machines list included Tuby's four-abreast galloping horses, Relph and Pedley's flying porkers and razzle-dazzle, and park swings by Messrs. Pullen and Fisher. The other novelties, including Winchester ranges, bottle smashers, Emmas, cokers, &c., were by Messrs. Shaw, Fisher, Campfield, Farrer, Ling, Doubtfire, Humphries, Holdsworth, Clare, Norman, and Black.

Mr. Charles Cowell has been granted a licence at Carmarthen for his portable theatre, and will open the season at the Corporation fair-ground on Wednesday next, the 4th prox. Mr. Cowell was formerly heavy tragedian with Mr. Horton Hayes' company at the time his theatre was at Carmarthen some few years ago.

Notes from Wales.

Steel Parry's Bioscope opened at Neath for a few days on the fair-field. Some excellent pictures were shown nightly. Included were J. Danter's swings, bottle smashers, &c.

Hednesford Wakes.

There were a goodly number of attractions at this fair, which is on the Staffordshire back-end round, but travellers have been unfortunate in experiencing rather wet weather, which has considerably interfered with the business.

Mrs. S. Shepherd was represented by her racing motor-cars, three-abreast jumpers, park swings, and juvenile horses and motors; Wm. Davies' steam yachts and Messrs. Miller and Glisley's helter-skelter were also on the ground, and Rogers' Star Circus.

The shows present comprised Mrs. Flora Collins' No. 1 Wonderland (under the management of Mr. Walter Kelly), Horace Holloway's Grand Phantascope, Sedgwick's American menagerie, Ingram's Italian circus, and Mr. J. Birch's two shows, the swimming exhibition and the Midgets. Shooters, cokernut sheets, Houp-las, and pannum stalls were provided by Messrs. J. Cordwell, Hampton, J. Hall, F. Rodgers, T. Jerrison, Caddick, and others.

M. Beaute, the celebrated fasting man, concluded his forty-three days' fast at Humber's Waxwork Saloon, Aberdeen, on Monday evening. A vast crowd witnessed the unsealing operations. Since he went into captivity Mr. Beaute has lost 29lb. in weight. On being released he felt very weak, and he allows himself a week's rest before returning to his home in Glasgow.

Bridlington Fair.

For this important fixture Bostock and Wombwell's menagerie, Randall Williams' cinematograph theatre, Lewis's serpent jungle, and Westray's animal museum were the shows.

The machine list included Goldthorpe Marshall's motor cars, Monte Brothers' cake-walk machine, Waddington and Gavan's helter-skelter tower, Shipley's steam horses, and Carvill's swings. There were the usual attendant amusement caterers, with side shows and minor novelties, shooting galleries, and varieties.

Wigan Fair.

Despite the decreased spending power of the people owing to the Cotton Trade Lockout, business at this old fair was fairly good. The principal shows and machine novelties included Colonel Clarke's superb cinematograph theatre, Harry Kemp's similar concern, Gal. Hague's school of boxers, Leonard Harris's freak exhibits, John Green's motor-cars, W. Mitchell's, jun.'s, motor-cars, T. Hurst's racing birds, J. Green's cockerels, a novel bicycle track, and Harrison's Alpine glissade.

There were the usual and ample variety of throwing-games, pea-saloons, pannum and variety stalls, altogether making an extremely well-provided fair. Although this fair is no longer under Corporation management and control, and is held on private ground near the Great Central station, it has proved beyond all doubt that the agitation of a few years ago to abolish the people's fair was not supported by the people, nor in any sense justified by the circumstances of the case.

Cinderford Fair.

The October Fair at Cinderford was attended by W. C. and S. Hancock's superb cinematograph theatre; Marshall Hill's galloping horses, racing birds, park swings, and rifle saloons; Newman's swings and throwing-games; with toy and variety stalls by local caterers.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

THE POSTMAN'S DAUGHTER.—Here we have a drama full of strong situations, exciting incidents, and scenic loveliness, delightfully produced, excellently enacted, and perfectly photographed. A country postman insists upon his daughter going to school. She sulks and cries, but he is firm. He accompanies her to the door. No sooner has the postman gone than the girl emerges from the gate and plays truant. In a country scene the now happy child collects flowers in the wood, and then, in a secluded corner surrounded by enormous boulders, she begins her frugal lunch. Two ruffians surprise the child, and, after stealing her lunch, adjourn to a public-house for further refreshment. The postman arrives and gossips with the waitress, showing her a registered letter for delivery at some distance away. The villains listen and follow. In a lonely moor the ruffians waylay and rob the postman of his letter, leaving him senseless on the path. His anxious wife sends the girl to look for her father. She finds and restores him, afterwards leading him home. The robbers revisit the child's corner in the woods, and quarrel over the division of booty. There is a thrilling fight in which both sink to the earth unconscious. In his cottage the postman, bandaged and sore, bemoans the loss of his registered letter. The police arrive to make inquiry. The girl relates her experiences of the morning, and leads them to her embowered retreat. The final scene shows the discovery of the villains and recovery by the postman of the contents of the letter.

LOST AT SEA is an original marine picture story of unusual merit, full of picturesque incident, beautifully toned and set amidst delightful surroundings. Apart from the thrilling drama, the scenes themselves form a subject of intense spectacular interest and charm. The drama itself is cleverly enacted, and the situations are full of novelty. The order of the pictures is thus: Unable to pay her debts, the widowed mother of Joel is threatened with eviction. Joel, in despair, hires himself out as fisherman on the banks of Newfoundland. He is readily accepted, and, with the money received as bounty, satisfies the demands of the sheriff's officer. The crew sail for the foggy solitude of the fishing banks. Pathetic scene of separation between the sailors and their families. A wonderfully effective picture. Next we get the open sea. The crew are occupied in hauling the fishing lines when fire breaks out on board the vessel. To escape the flames the men jump overboard. Joel is borne by the current to an isolated rock, and tries to attract the attention of a passing vessel. The tide is rising dangerously high when he is rescued, and the thrilling scene is reproduced in a picture of great ocean beauty. The loss of the ship and all hands is reported at home, and Joel's mother is crushed by this new stroke of fate. The rescued Joel, however, returns to France, and while in search of employment saves from drowning an imprudent tourist, who royally rewards the brave fisherman. Joel returns home to find his old mother praying before the shrine of the Virgin. There is joyful reunion, and a touching scene of thankfulness.

SCENES IN BRITTANY.—In this series Messrs. Urban furnish many delightful scenes of picturesque French country. Typical Breton views of town, coast, and fisher life, and quaint and diversified episodes, refreshingly rendered and photographed with marvellous perfection, are presented to the admiring gaze of the spectator. Amongst the phases of life dealt with are marketing in a Breton town, fishing, harvesting seaweed, and burning the seaweed for fertilising purposes. A curious laundry is formed out of an open-air tank surrounded by a wall, where the women of the town pursue their avocation. The produce market presents scenes of great variety, of peasants and townsfolk, with wares bought and sold. Another interesting picture deals with lace-making in a Breton street. About twenty women, picturesquely garbed, and wearing lace caps of uniform pattern, are busily engaged with needle and tongue. A fine effect is produced in the concluding scene, as tremendous waves spend themselves against the rocks and cliffs, and the spray is dispersed in every direction.

Pathé Frères.

THE VAMPIRES OF THE COAST.—Everybody knows that in days gone by it was the custom along the coast in France, as well as in England, for the wreckers to lure the ships on to the cliffs during the storm in order to appropriate the spoil. This film depicts one of those savage deeds which too often took place in Brittany just on that bit of land where the waves of the Channel beat against those of the Atlantic Ocean, thus forming a very dangerous spot for the ships to venture on. During the storm the wreckers used to attract the vessels by means of a lantern tied to the horns of a limping cow which was taken by the people on board for another ship. It is that now obsolete custom which has been revived for the cinematograph, and the film ends, after showing a picture of the revelry of the wreckers, with the rescue of a young and noble lady by a young peasant and the marriage of the rescuer with the rescued.

A LIVING REFLECTION.—By means of a hitherto unknown process a young scientist can make shadows on a looking glass look like living things which follow and mimic every movement performed before the mirror. Yet if you wipe the looking glass every trace of the shadow disappears. Now the scientist is enjoying himself, for he is playing tricks on his friends and servants, who seem to be on the verge of losing their reason with surprise and amazement. All this is but a dream, however, created in the overtaxed brains of our friend, who has fallen asleep on his ponderous books.

THE AMBULANCE DOGS.—This little drama opens at Tangier. It is the coffee hour, and on one of the terraces at the French club several officers and their relations are engaged in merry conversation. Suddenly the news spreads that a "Mehalla" has been sighted a few miles distant. The officers jump on horseback and ride away hurriedly, while the ambulance dogs belonging to the Society of the Red Cross run to the outposts which are being attacked. We follow them in their mad rush though all sorts of dangers, some with their useful medical chests, others which have been put to the stretchers and will return presently with a wounded soldier to the camp. These poor faithful dogs, so good and reliable, are made to share the dangers of the soldiers and render goodly service to France.

CLOSING TIME TWELVE O'CLOCK.—This is a comical series. Young Toby, who was engaged by the firm yesterday, does not know that the closing time is twelve o'clock on Saturday, and for this reason he is locked up in the shop, where he puts everything upside down in the hopes of finding a means of egress. His numerous misfortunes, ending for him in a cold douche, will possibly make him remember on the following Saturday that the shop closes at twelve o'clock.

IN ZAMBESI (SOUTH AFRICA).—Here is shown a series of magnificent and imposing sceneries and landscapes of South Africa, with rapids and waterfalls, whose large volume of water tumbles down in heavy masses, forming sprays of white foam which descend from the top of the rocks like a deluge, and seem to disappear at the bottom in a whirl of water of snow-white appearance.

The Gaumont Company.

THE comic element is very strong in the current Elgé films, THE PRIZE CAMEL taking a leading place for originality. The beast is first prize in a lottery, and the unfortunate being who wins it, knowing nothing of the ways of camels, finds a great difficulty in mounting his steed, and when he succeeds in that is carried off at an enormous pace, and at last precipitated into the road. His efforts to remount are successful at last, but another accident unseats him, and he gives the beast to a person who, better acquainted with its ways, makes it lie down and then rides away in triumph.

THE CONSIDERATE CABBY is the hero of another Elgé number. This character is intensely devoted to his noble steed, and begins the day by repairing to the latter's stable and grooming it most carefully—concluding by spraying it with scent and holding up a mirror before its eyes. The real humour of the subject begins when cabby looks about for business. His first would-be fare is a big man, and cabby takes him off to a weighing-machine, and after inspecting the figures registered politely declines to accept him. A family then board his cab and decline to move, whereupon the hero takes the horse from the shafts and goes off to lunch with the latter, placing a napkin round its neck, and hiring two musicians to play while it eats. Next a young lady is accepted as a fare, and all goes well until a hill is reached, when cabby insists upon having the cab pushed up the hill by a number of labourers while the horse is behind. An appropriate conclusion shows him at night sharing his bed with the horse.

THE GUARDIAN ANGEL is a pleasing little pathetic story. Two workmen are dismissed by their employer, and in the night make their way to his house intent upon revenge. They enter the room in which his little daughter lies sleeping, and one is about to stab her when the figure of an angel appears at the bedside, and he is struck with remorse and leaves the house. Next day the two men are once more taken on by their old employer.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

THE LOVER'S GUIDE.—Having arrived at that time of life when all girls seem a divinity, our friend "Cholly" is a bit doubtful about his ability to woo, so he invests in a so-called "Love Guide." Satisfied with his acquired knowledge, he fixes a date for a picnic, and his selected bunch of beauties give him more to do than the "Guide" has taught. Although paying the piper the girls call the tune, and he has a rough time making fire, carrying water, and washing dishes. He cares not, however, because the girls are enjoying themselves. "After dinner rest awhile," and accepting this as a motto, the girls adjourn to various shady nooks to read; not so "Cholly," for, guide in hand, he tries his ability as a wooer. Each girl receives his attention in turn. Under hayricks, up trees, over bridges, and in the stream, all are the same to this ardent swain, until the girls set him to packing up. Taking so long to do this, the ladies leave him to finish on his own, and by the time he arrives at the station he finds they have unkindly gone off with a handsome stranger. "Cholly" is left a sadder and a wiser man.

A VOICE FROM THE DEAD.—Looking back through history we find find that there always have been labour battles. In this subject is featured a labour war, through which runs a love story, as well as an illustration of the value of the phonograph. Our story opens in the general office of an iron foundry, where, during an era of prosperity, there is unrest among the workers. The superintendent of the works visits his master's home, to give him the state of affairs, and, meeting his employer's daughter, she promises to visit the works. At the time of the visit a committee of the men is received, and the partners hold a meeting. As a result of the position taken up by the junior partner, heated words pass. During the excitement the senior partner has a paralytic seizure, and, believing him to be dead, the junior plots to overthrow the superintendent. He tells the superintendent that the firm's decision is unfavourable to the men, and the superintendent goes to tell the workers the news. In the absence of the junior partner and the superintendent, the senior partner revives, but, his cries being unavailing, he crawls to and dictates a message into a phonograph, then expires. The men having left work, the junior partner and the superintendent come to blows, and the latter, during a period of unconsciousness, is forced by the junior partner into a crucible, and left to his fate in a glowing pit. Nell, the foreman's daughter, whilst cleaning the windows of the superintendent's office, sees his terrible plight, so, taking a desperate leap, she closes the pit doors just in time to save his life. The police now suspect foul play in connection with the senior partner's death, and the junior accuses the superintendent, who is arrested on the strength of a pair of dividers belonging to him being found beside the body. During the trial the evidence is against the superintendent, but Nell, the foreman's daughter, has found new evidence, and the phonographic record is accepted. As a result of this "voice from the dead" justice triumphs.

Nordisk Films Company.

THE GNOMES.—This gives the story of an old legend. Two gnomes, Didrik and Vidrik, loved the same gnome girl. Quarrels arose often between them, when the girl, who did not want either of them, kept teasing them as they stood at their anvils. At last the old gnome mother meddled in the affair and declared that if the girl would not decide for one of the lovers she would be transformed into a human child and taken to the earth. The gnome girl laughed right in their faces, and one minute later she was transformed into a tiny baby, and Didrik and Vidrik made their way to the earth with her. In the nursery of the castle the nurse was fast asleep with the little baby of the house. The gnomes walked in with the troll child, changed the children, and took the human child away to the troll hill. Sixteen years passed. The troll child showed her real nature, and was a terror to all her surroundings. One fine day Didrik appeared in her chamber in order to take her back to the hill, but she liked to stay where she was too well, and did not want to go back again to the lower regions. One day she went for an excursion with a large, grand company. They passed the fairy-hillock, and a young and melancholy nobleman, Owe, wanted to rest there for a little while, while the rest of the company continued their road laughing and jesting. After a while the hill arose on four pillars, and the most beautiful woman came out, offering the young nobleman a drink from a golden cup. He flung the drink to the ground and drew the young woman to his breast, but the gnomes drew her back, and Hilda—the human child who was once changed and carried away by the gnomes—disappeared into the hill, which sank again. Darkness gathered over the forest, while the nobleman leaned his bewildered head against the hill. Stupefying vapours arose from the hill, fairy girls came out of the mists; they were dancing round him and drew him into the gnomes' world. As he found himself surrounded by all these strange beings he naturally looked to Helga, for whom he felt a strange affection, for protection, and she advised him to show the cross he was wearing round his neck to the gnomes. This he did, and all the gnomes fled with terror away from the holy sign. Only Didrik returned and offered to take the two back to their home. As by magic Didrik and the two young people now stood in the hall of Hilda's parents' castle, where a large party had just gathered. Their appearance created both amazement and anger, but Didrik and Sir Owe soon explained the whole affair, and when Didrik disappeared in a cloud with the changed troll child, who had for such a long time played lady of the house, scales fell from the eyes of everybody. The mother hugged her daughter, who was lost and now found again, in her arms, and the party congratulated the young couple, who had made an alliance for life.

LIVING FURNITURE is the title of a comic film issued by the same company.

NEW AMUSEMENT APPARATUS.

Gravity railways are nowadays a very important item to those who cater for amusements, and any invention in this line is always of interest. One of the chief difficulties in the way of this class of entertainment is the space required by the structure in order to get a good length of run. Mr. Lot Morgan, one of the directors of the Amusements Syndicate, Ltd., has, we learn, overcome this difficulty in a very ingenious manner. At three different parts of the track he has placed see-saws, on which, when the car runs its weight, causes the see-saw to tip immediately the car passes the centre, thus producing a direct slope down on to the rails. Immediately the car has left the see-saw, the latter, on account of a weight fixed beneath it, resumes its old position. On account of the impetus given to the car by the see-saw, its speed is maintained by a far smaller incline. Thus it is possible, it is claimed, to construct a railway nearly a mile and a half long in a space measuring 180 feet by 90 feet. Another feature of this railway is that by means of an arrangement of the rails the force of gravity is counteracted, and there is none of that uncomfortable leaning on one side when negotiating curves. A clever device, too, makes it possible for all the cars to be stopped by automatic brakes by the person in charge simply pulling a lever, so that all risks of accident are brought to a minimum.

Wantage Fair.

THE principal show at this fair was Buckley's trained animals and birds. The other novelties included steam roundabouts, big boats, rifle saloons, bottle batteries, and throwing games, and were provided by Messrs. Thomas, Saunders, Sperrett, Young, Smith, Traylen, and Mrs. Matthews.

Warminster Fair.

THE shows and other novelties at this fair were: J. Dooner and Son's electric coliseum and theatre of varieties, Professor Ruby with two shows—the X-ray novelty and freak show—Professor Wright and school of boxers, and W. Le Neve and Norah Sullivan, the Sandow experts of the ground booth. The machine novelties were: W. Symond's switchback and galloping horses, and Harris's steam roundabouts. The shooting concerns, bottle batteries, throwing games, and hoop-las were provided by Messrs. Gratton, Haynes, Harris, Nail, Stevens, and other caterers.

THE annual fair was held at Ilkeston on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th, the following being the chief attractions:—President Kemp, and Messrs. Holland and Crichton with picture shows, Pat Collins's roundabouts, &c.

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THE LOVER'S GUIDE. ***Synopsis of Scenes:***

A LOVESICK YOUTH—"Cholly" has arrived at the time of life when every girl seems a divinity—Uncertain of his powers, he buys an alleged "Lover's Guide."

INVITATIONS TO THE PICNIC—Anxious to try his knowledge, "Cholly" arranges a select picnic—Girls are "delighted" and eager to go.

"THEY'RE OFF"—"Cholly" burns midnight oil to finish his "education"—The happy day arrives—"Cholly," gallant but nervous—Girls ready—Give "Cholly" a few things to carry not mentioned in the "Guide."

IN THE COUNTRY—"Cholly" does his best—Rides in the rear.

THE WORST TO COME—Rocky roads, and hilly—"Cholly" takes a tumble—Girls, intent on a "Talkfest," do not miss him—But horses have to rest, and "Cholly" catches up.

"SUCH A LOVELY DINNER"—Girls allow "Cholly" to "set the table," make the fire, and wash the dishes—He is happy, nervous, and dirty—The girls have fun with him.

"CHOLLY HAS HIS INNING"—The girls seek shady nooks to rest, or read—"Cholly" gets busy—Makes love to each girl in succession—He works hard, but——

GUIDE BOOK IN HAND—He approaches Nellie—The mosquitoes rout them—Margie is up a tree—"Cholly" tries elevated love-making—Under a hay-stack he spies Dottie.

A DAMP GALLANT—A rickety foot-bridge o'er a stream—"Cholly" carries Mabel on his back—Not far; but such a ducking!—"Cholly" retires in disgrace.

HOMEWARD BOUND—Girls impatient—Drive off and leave "Cholly"—A mad rush to catch up—Arrives in time to see girls leave on the train with a handsome drummer.

No. 6383. Code, "Veltra." Length, 925ft.

A VOICE FROM THE DEAD. ***Synopsis of Scenes:***

CAPTAINS OF INDUSTRY—The general office of an iron foundry—An era of prosperity—A spirit of unrest among the workmen—A strike contemplated.

A PALATIAL MANSION—The Iron Master at home—Superintendent arrives to tell of intended strike—Employer's daughter interested—She promises to visit the Foundry.

AT THE FOUNDRY—Superintendent "does the honours"—Committee from the workmen received—The foreman's daughter, Nell (heroine) contrasted with the Iron Master's daughter—His daughter sides with the Superintendent.

THE DISAGREEMENT—Partners in consultation—Junior opposes conciliation—Senior partner has a stroke—Junior believes dead—Plots against Superintendent, his rival.

A WORK OF HATE.—Junior partner tells Superintendent that the decision is against the men—Junior partner takes pair of dividers—Places them at side of supposed dead man.

THE PHONOGRAPHIC RECORD—Senior partner revives—Cries unheard—Crawls to Phonograph—Dictates a message—Then expires.

THE STRIKE—Superintendent tells men of Company's decision—They quit work in a body—Junior partner upbraids Superintendent—A desperate fight between rivals—Unconscious Superintendent forced into a crucible—Left to his fate over a glowing pit.

NELL TO THE RESCUE!—Cleaning Superintendent's office—Makes a desperate leap—Closes the pit doors in the nick of time.

FALSELY ACCUSED—Finding the body—Police in charge—Junior partner accuses Superintendent—Superintendent arrested—Held for trial.

A VOICE FROM THE DEAD!—Superintendent battling for his life—Jury about to render a verdict of guilty—Nell rushes in with new evidence—Record admitted—Justice triumphs.

No. 6384. Code, "Velture." Length, 1025ft

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THE FRANK AYLMER CASE.

We append a letter from Mr. W. H. Wallis (of Tennyson and Wallis), who makes an appeal on behalf of Mr. Frank Aylmer (of the Two Sports). We are pleased to open the list, as Mr. Wallis desires.

"Olympia, Liverpool.
"Oct. 29, 1908.

"Dear Sir,—By publishing this letter you will assist an urgent and very deserving case. Frank Aylmer, of the Two Sports, is now lying for the fourteenth week in Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, having undergone two operations to his foot. It will be several weeks before he can be out and about again, and his wife, his only comfort, is in lodgings in Dublin with strangers, waiting till he is able to be out and working again. He was always a good boy whenever the hat went round for anybody else, and therefore if you will only open a list for him I am sure a lot of us together can do him a little bit of good. I enclose you P.O.O. for £5 9s., with names of donors. I shall be sending some more by Saturday.

"Thanking you in anticipation, yours faithfully,
"W. H. Wallis."

	£	s.	d.
Mendel	1	0	0
W. H. Wallis	0	10	6
J. Tennyson	0	10	6
Gus Garrick	0	10	6
Milke Whallen	0	10	6
Will Johnson	0	10	0
Whit Cunliffe	0	10	0
Carr and Rose	0	5	0
H. C. Gill	0	2	6
Humpsti	0	2	6
Bumpsti	0	2	6
Lovell Hurt	0	2	6
Masanio	0	2	6
Sisters Caselli	0	2	6
Crosby and Walker	0	2	6
Nellie Ridgway	0	2	6
Kit Keene	0	2	0

All subscriptions for this distressing case will be duly announced if addressed to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer, *The Era* Office.

LIONS FIGHT IN BOSTOCK'S JUNGLE.

A terrific fight between lions took place at Messrs. Bostock's well-known menagerie, which is located at the National Eisteddfod pavilion at Mountain Ash, where they are to remain during the winter months, the pavilion having been extensively fitted up for the purpose.

The show is the same as that which appeared at Earl's Court when it was brought over from America.

One of our representatives was courteously shown over the show on Tuesday by Mr. Miller, who readily volunteered information regarding the terrible encounter which terminated in a South African lion named Emperor, valued at £250, being killed.

Herbert Brooks, the night watchman, was on duty at the time, when, apparently owing to the chains holding the division bars between the compartments getting unhooked, nine big lions gained access to the cage of a big black-maned African lion, which was kept in another compartment, and no sooner had they got face to face than with a terrific roar they commenced their fearful operations.

The huge African beast stood his ground, and fought fearlessly. The night watchman, realising the hopelessness of trying to separate them, summoned Mr. Miller.

In the meantime, a regular battle royal was being waged, the lions gashing and tearing each other madly. In about four minutes one of the lions got his jaws firmly fixed in the throat of the African lion, and held on like grim death until the latter succumbed. The conquerors, however, did not escape unscathed, for they bore traces of the severity of the struggle.

When Mr. Miller arrived on the scene the fight had almost finished, and he experienced little difficulty in restoring order once more and getting the animals to their respective cages.

"He fought gamely against the nine other lions," said Mr. Miller, "and held his own for some time. It was a terrific encounter, and a fight between lions rarely ends until one has killed the other."

Just to prove the docility of the animals Mr. Miller then walked round the yard, petting and patting the beasts and playing with them through the bars of the cage, when they appeared as calm and dignified as if nothing untoward had happened.

There are altogether about two dozen lions, in addition to a large number of Polar bears, leopards, elephants, &c.

Amongst one of the most curious sights of the show is a lion which submitted to the ordeal of having a glass eye fixed in as a substitute for one he had lost, probably in a battle. The operation was performed in London.—*Western Mail.*

Lord John Sanger and Sons', Ltd., Royal Hippodrome and Menagerie, whose present tour will shortly close, visited Leicester on Saturday and Monday last, being located on their usual place in a large field at the junction of Aylestone and Welford Roads. The capital entertainment provided drew large crowds to the four performances given. The Maro Troupe of lady and gentlemen acrobatic equestrians give a marvellous display of agility and equipoise on horses and carriage whilst careering round the ring; the Austins, a couple of gentleman jockey-act equestrians, also give another really fine display of horsemanship, their various feats being well performed; the Airlees are aptly styled the "human flying machines," their feats at the top of the circus being of a most sensational nature, which are carried out with great coolness; Mr. Coleman's elephants show the acme of training, their various contributions to the programme evoking the admiration of all parts; Pimpo's canine wonders, including Snowflake, a marvellous leaping dog, are another clever feature; Miss Lina introduces her school horse Hawcombe, and puts it through various feats in a charming style; a great and special feature is the performance of Cyclo, who allows a fully-laden motor-car to drive over his body; Cordelia's twelve-horse manœuvre is another pretty and noteworthy act; Zampo and Clown, the elastic bounders, Hoffman's thought-reading pony, and La Belle Fondants in a new up-to-date wire act are among other clever features.

Harry Ford and Harry Boden's company will appear in a new comedy sketch, *The Cert*, at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday.

Miss May Audrey's success in South Africa, where she is just concluding her third visit, has been such that she has been detained for another two special weeks. She has had, therefore, to postpone her return until Saturday, Nov. 14, when she gets back to the old country, voyaging in the Armadale Castle. She opens on the following Monday at the Hippodrome, Coventry, and then goes to the Coliseum and other London houses.

Miss Florence Smithson, now playing the part of Sophia in the comic opera *Tom Jones*, gave a sacred concert with great success at the Barnsley Empire on Sunday (11th inst.), and the result enabled her father, Mr. Will Smithson, the managing-director of that house, to hand over to the Beckett Hospital the sum of 40 guineas. When residing at Merthyr the Smithson element was always predominant in every effort to get funds for charitable purposes, and many hundreds of pounds were raised by the charming vocalist. Wales's loss is Yorkshire's gain.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

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One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

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NO STAMPS.

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The Publisher,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publsiher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29 on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
March 8, 22, April 5, 12, May 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
Feb. 8, 15, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, 19, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
Nov. 16, April 5, 12, May 10, 17, 24, 31.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Nov. 23, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD
Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 22, April 5, May 3, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 1, 29, April 5.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, 19, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, 11, Feb. 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Nov. 16, Opera House, Leicester; and Nov. 23, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton and Leamington.
Wire, Milton Bode, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 25, March 1, 8, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7 (3 nights only), and Christmas.
Address,
E. G. Falcon, County Theatre, Bedford.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, March, 1910, onwards.
Excellent week with "Wrecker of Men." Re-booked This, "Hands Across the Sea"; next, "Claudian."
Can arrange for First-class Panto. or Musical Show for Holidays, 1909-10.
£1,300 has been taken in one week (New Year) with the latter.
Coms., Arthur Jefferson.
Wires, "Jefferson, Glasgow."

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
Nov. 16, 23, 30 (3 nights),
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, onwards.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Dec. 3 (3 nights), 7, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, onwards.
Apply for all above, Rowland, T., Folkestone.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Wanted, Attraction, for Dec. 14.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Front-rank Musical and Dramatic Attractions, March 22, April 19, May 3, and onwards.
Address, T. Allan Edwardes.

HOWARD and WYNDHAM, LTD.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dec. 7 and 14, Glasgow.
Address, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy or Drama, Nov. 16 (date transferred).
E. H. Page.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, big Attractions, nothing too big Share or Salary; Artists all Lines, Nov. 9, onward. Lowest terms, lithos., &c., Beanland and Emerson, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, SHREWSBURY.
Lessee and Director, W. Yates Gregory.
Resident-Manager, W. C. Dornton.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 30, Jan. 11, 18; only First-class Companies entertained. Easter onwards can be booked in conjunction with the Palace Theatre, Wrexham.

GRAND THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, for Dec. 7, 1908, Feb. 8, 15, 22, and March 1, 1909.
Reply, W. F. Crowe, Lyceum T., London, W.C.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LLANDUDNO.
WANTED, Company. Vacant Dates from Nov. 2. First three nights of the week only.
J. Ritson, Lessee and Manager.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractions, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Mar. 1. Holding capacity £100. Bookings "Prince of Pilsen," "Merry Widow," "Florodora," "Dairymaids," "Knights Were Bold," &c. J. P. Moore, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Special Attractions, for Nov. 30, Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 1, 8, March 8, 15, 22; also Open Dates for First-class Pantomime. Address, Horner, Victoria, Burnley.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, SHREWSBURY.
Lessee and Director, W. Yates Gregory.
Business-Manager, W. C. Dornton.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 5, 6, 7 (3 nights), Nov. 30 (6 nights), First-class Attractions only entertained. Easter, onwards, can be booked in conjunction with the Palace Theatre, Wrexham.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, for Nov. 23, 30, Jan. 18, and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, Thos. Swinton.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dec. 14, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, onwards.
Address, Norman H. Barger.

ROYAL PAVILION, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Good Panto., Good Panto., Good Panto., Good Panto., Musical Comedy, Musical Comedy. Reply, C. W. Jenkinson, Pavilion.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,
ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Gen.-Mans., Arthur Carlton and Sam Duckworth.
High-class Attractions only Entertained.
Vacant Dec. 7, 21, onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates,
Arthur Carlton, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

GREENWICH THEATRE, S.E.
Vacant Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, Jan. 11, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant Dec. 21, Feb. 22, April 5, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 7, April 12, 19, May 24, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant May 31, June 7, 14, onward with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Nov. 9, 26, 30, onward with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical Pieces; last three nights Drama).

Pantomime, "ALADDIN," Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA," Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "BABES IN THE WOOD," Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let, on Royalty,
Several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "In Sight of St. Paul's," "Prairie Flower," &c.

Arthur Carlton,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.
Telegrams, "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only.
We are prepared to guarantee Really Big Star Attractions.
All communications, Jno. Ed. Jowsey, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet." 'Phones 413, 426, 500.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, March 1, 22, 29, April 26, onwards.
Our Season's Booking, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," "Irene Wycherley," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Peter's Mother," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Jack Straw," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Cheat," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," Mr. Harry Nicholls, and Mr. G. Alexander's next St. James's T. production.
All coms., Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., Barrow.

F. W. BOLAM'S THEATRES.
GRAND THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.
QUEEN'S T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.
Dec. 14 Vacant.
WANTED, First-class Company, Address,
R. G. Elder, Gen.-Man.,
Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Dramas, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, the Best Dramatic and other Attractions, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, First-class Musical, and other London Attractions, Nov. 9, 16, and later.
Wire for Nov. 9 and 16.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL
Wanted, First-class Attractions, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 21, 28.
Re dates, Fred Granville, Queen's T., Liverpool.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, an Attraction for Xmas and New Year weeks. Vacant Dates apply, Cameron Burgess.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, Nov. 9, through Company going off the road, also 16th and 26th (three or six nights), W. E. Potts.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. Cummings.
WANTED, No. 1 Musical and Pantomimic Attractions, immediate and future dates. Now playing to crowded houses nightly.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31. First-class Companies only need apply.

WANTED, Companies, Drama or Musical. Change of bill. Share or small certainty, Nov. 9, 30, on. James Elphinstone, Theatre Stafford.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Exceptional Attractions, Dec. 28, Jan. 11, March 15. Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

WANTED, Répertoire, Drama and Musical Productions, Nov. 9, Dec. 7, 28. Ernest Cass, Manager, Palace Theatre, Boston.

PERTH THEATRE.
WANTED, Sound Attraction, for Nov. 30. Apply, J. H. Savile, Paisley Theatre.

WANTED, through disappointment, Co., Nov. 2, Radcliffe.
Wire, Sante, Radcliffe.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Nov. 30, Eastbourne (3), Hastings (3); Dec. 7, 14, 26, G. T., Hastings; Nov. 16, 23, Dec. 7, D.P.T., Eastbourne. Apply, Rowland, Theatre, Folkestone.

WANTED, through transferring, First-class Dramatic Attraction, Nov. 30.
H. Masterman, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. Ashton, Strand, Barnstaple.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 9, 10, 11, 23, 24, 30, Dec. 1, 2. Apply, Phillips.

WANTED, Sound Attraction (Musical preferred), Nov. 12, 13, and 14, Important Date. Share or certainty. Butler, St. George's Theatre, Kendal.

NEW STANDARD THEATRE, HETTON.
WANTED, good Dramas or Musical Shows, for Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14. Write, Chapman.

QUEEN OF LAKES PAVILION, KESWICK.
WANTED, Known, now Booking good Companies for New Year and next Season; Shares or Rental. McKane, Fitz Arcade.

WANTED, Smart Fit-up Panto., three or four weeks, commencing Boxing Day, "Babes," "Aladdin," or "Bluebeard"; or would hire. Full particulars to Panto., Prince's Theatre, Llandudno.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
Moss' Empires, Limited,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes for Nov. 16, 30, also Dec. 7, and Feb. 8, on, with exceptions.
All applications for dates to
Hugh Robertson,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, First-class Fit-up and Combination Companies, Nov. 9, onwards. Levy and Cardwell, Pavilion, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION
WANTED, Dec. 26 (seven nights), Jan. 11
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 12
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, 28.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 8.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Nov 16 Dec. 21, 28.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb. 1, 8, March 1.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 2, Dec. 26 (7 nights).
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Dec. 14, 21 (5 nights), or Dec. 28 (7 nights), Jan. 4.
Douglas Bruce, Grand Theatre, West Hartlepool.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
Andrew Melville, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, Feb. 1.
Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH," from the Haymarket and Apollo Theatres.
WANTED, Nov. 30 (to follow Hull), also Dec. 7, and First-class Town for Christmas.
Address, C. H. Bowmaker, Pier, Eastbourne.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, weeks of Jan. 11 and 25.
Wire or write to
W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, weeks of Nov. 23 and Dec. 14 and 21, for this Remarkable Success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to
W. W. Kelly,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 25, Feb., March 22, April 5, 12, on.
Charles Harrington,
Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, 18, March 15, 29, April 12.
All communications, J. W. Cordiner, Nov. 2, Theatre Royal, Bedford Leigh.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI and MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows: Feb. 22, April 19, May 3.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, Polini, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S CO'S.
WANTED Wanted, Theatres,
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS."
Vacant Dec. 26 (7 nights), Jan. 11, Feb. 1.
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, April 19, 26.
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."
Vacant Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 8, 22.
"THE KISS OF JUDAS."
Vacant Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4.
E. P. Clift, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANIES.
"£1,000 REWARD."
Jan. 11, Jan. 18.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts,
By Walter Howe.
To be produced Jan., 1909.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 26, May 3, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.
Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, Theatres. Managers with Vacant Dates for First-class Pantomimes, Jan. 25, onwards. Communicate at once with Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for "Pair of Spectacles," or Repertory, Nov. 9, 16, and 23.
Wire, Yorkshire Grey Hotel, St. Leonard's.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
Nov. 9, 10, 11 (three nights), Dec. 21, 28.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 8, 15.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 23, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 14, Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, March 1, 8.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 9, 10, 11, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 11, 25.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

E. OSWALD BROOKS
Re-presents
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
WANTED, No. 1 Dates.
Just started Booking Spring Tour.
Jan. 4. Grand Theatre, Swansea.
" 11.
" 18. —— (?)
" 25. Theatre Royal, Belfast.
Feb. 1. Opera House, Londonderry.
" 8. —— (?)
" 15. Shrewsbury and Crewe (3 each).
" 22. Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.
Mar. 1. —— (?)
" 8.
" 15. Opera House, Blackpool.
" 27. Theatre Royal, Leamington
" 29.
Apr. 5. Doncaster (?)
" 12. (B.H.), E. —— (?)
" 19.
" 26. —— (?)
May 3.
" 10.
" 17. —— (?)
" 24.
" 31. (B.H.), —— (?)
The Funniest Farcical Comedy on the Road.
Excellent Plant of Special Litho. and Letterpress Printing.
All coms., E. Oswald Brooks,
Sole Lessee and Manager, G. T., Swansea.
Telephone Central 278.
Tel. address, "Determined, Swansea."

FRANK STANMORE'S CO. OF COMEDIANS, in the new Musical Absurdity in two Acts,
"THE GAY DECEIVERS."
"THE GAY DECEIVERS."
Act. I.—Col. Dewar's Gardens at Shepherd's Bush.
Act. II.—The Franco-British Exhibition.
The Funniest and Brightest Musical Show on Tour.
Breaking all records in every Town visited.
Catchy Songs, Clever Dances, Uproarious Comedy, and Pretty Girls.
Star Cast of London Artists.
Enormous success at Eastbourne, Aldershot, and Brighton.
WANTED, First-class Theatres only, Nov. 23 (follow Opera House, Leicester), Nov. 30, also Xmas.
Wire, Stanmore,
To-day, Grand T., Aberavon; next, 4, Duke-st., Adelphi, W.C.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
by Walter Howard.
WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 11, 18, and 20.
To-day, Ellen Snow, Grand Theatre, Brighton.
Next, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, S.W.

"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, Winter, Spring, and Autumn, 1909.
Wire, F. Martin Morris,
Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee.
Letters to Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

H. HAMILTON STEWART'S CO'S.
"SHERLOCK HOLMES."
WANTED, First-class Theatre (North), Nov. 16.
Walter Bayliss, Wires, Eden, Bishop Auckland. Letters, T. R., York.

"TODDLES."
WANTED, Xmas, Spring, and Autumn Dates, for Murray King and Clark's Chief Company of "Toddles," which starts at Xmas. Murray King as Toddles. Address, M. King, Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. FRANK BATEMAN AND GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Feb. 1, Aug. 9 (?), 23, 30, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY"
Played by a Cast that spells Success.
Mr. John B. Shinton, Mr. Fred Lloyd, Mr. Evan Roland, Mr. Todd Squires, Mr. Fred Dalby, Mr. Edgar P. Melrose, Miss Ada M. Ryder, Miss Sybil Haughton, Miss Mary Dalby, Miss Freda Frederick, and Miss Gwynne Warren.
WANTED, Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 1, Easter.
Fred Bulmer, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

JULIAN MALVERN'S TOUR
"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 4, 11, 25, March 29, and on.
Address, Chas. M. Julian, R. T., Morecambe.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, at Christmas, for the Great Success,
"RAFFLES."
Apply to Mr. A. Bingham, 53a, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W. Telegrams, c/o "Dramatical, London." Telephone 1,255 Gerrard.

N.B.—A few Spring and Autumn Dates open.

"WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 1, 22; "The Fing and Unknown Woman," new production, Jan. 18, 25, and Feb. 1.
E. Hill-Mitchelson,
Star Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Theatres, for "WAS SHE TO BLAME,"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. Grand Production at the Junction, Manchester, Easter; no vacant dates until 1910. Apply, Kimberley, Green, and Hinton, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS" and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Nov. 9, through transfer, London or South, Jan. 4, Midlands.
Horace Stanley,
Weymouth; next, Worthing (return).

"MAN TO MAN."
Under the personal direction of Edward Lloyd and Clifford Bown.
WANTED, Theatre, Easter week, vacant Easter week, also March 29 and May 3.
Edward Lloyd, Court Theatre, Wigan.

Mr. H. F. MALTBY and HIS PLAYS.
WANTED, Nov. 16 (North), to follow O. H., Blackpool. Wire to-day, Wyn Weaver, London Hotel, Taunton; Nov. 2, O. H., Blackpool.

JUNIUS BOOTH
in
"MONTE CRISTO."
WANTED, Nov. 9.
Wire,
Metropole Theatre, Devonport.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
Frank M. Thorne, Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

WANTED, Theatre, "Second to None," the great Military Drama, by Walter Howard, Jan. 25, April 5 and 12. Address, T. H. Ward, Grand Theatre, Mansfield.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."

Fast Booking Autumn, 1909.

WANTED, Good Theatre, Aug. Bank Holiday.

Wanted, Aug. 9, in or near Wales.

Wanted, Sept. 27, between Sheffield and Burnley.

Wanted, Oct. and Nov., with exceptions.

Managers Wanting First-class Attraction,
Apply MISS HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., T. R., Accrington.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Wilson Barrett and Hall Caine.

WANTED, Nov. 16 and 30, Xmas vacant.
A Unique Attraction.
Alfred B. Cross as Pete; Miss Watersford as Kate.
Address,
Nov. 2, Theatre Royal, Radcliffe.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."

WANTED, Nov. 16, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Dec. 7, for this great Play.
Refer Alex., Hull, this week.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Wanted, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Feb. 8, 15,
One of the most powerful drawing plays on the road. Refer this week, P., Blackburn.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Dec. 7, Dec. 7, Dec. 26 (seven nights preferred). Racehorses toured; all new Scenery and Properties.

Wire for all Plays to
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Big Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell.

WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 28, also Jan. 4, 11, and 18, for either play.
Coms., GEORGE KIRK, Theatre Royal, Woolwich.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.

"ROLLICKING RORY."

WANTED, Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 1, 8, 15. March 1.
George Hotel, Paisley; next, Coatbridge.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."

WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 9, Xmas, Jan. 11, 25. Feb. 8, 15, April 12, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Queen's Theatre, Manchester.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."

WANTED, good Theatre, for Dec. 26 (seven nights), only vacant date this year; also Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, and 15.

MAUD HILDYARD, Theatre Royal, Scarboro'.

WANTED, through New Theatre not Opening,

Dec. 26 (seven nights),
for
ALLAN WILKIE,
and Company of Thirty-five Artists, in Shakespearean and Standard Plays.

Address,
ALBERT CAVANAH,
Nov. 2, Theatre Royal, Bilston.

"WOMAN AND WINE."

WANTED, First-class Theatre, April 12.
Everything carried.
Sixty People on the Stage.
E. VIVIAN EDMONDS,
Pavilion Theatre, Whitechapel, London, E.

Messrs. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON'S Principal Company,
"THE POWER OF THE KING,"
the Brilliantly-mounted Military Romantic Play by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.

WANTED, good Theatres for Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Only Vacancies till Whit, 1909. Wire or write, TRAVIS GREEN, this, T. R., Bury; next, Crown Theatre, Eccles.

"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."
Paumier and Howard's Principal Company.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 21, Feb. 1.
Wire, Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.
Next week, Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.

"A GOOD WOMAN'S LOVE."

WANTED, First-class Theatres.
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

"FROM COTTAGE TO MANSION."

WANTED, First-class Theatre, Xmas.
FRED BULMER, Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Feb. 22 (one week only), for Cullen and Carthy's Grand Money-making Production of "Babes in the Wood." This Show is well known as one of the biggest successes in travelling Pantomime. This date is to take the place of a date already booked, but to oblige a well-known Proprietor we shall be pleased to arrange First-class Theatres or Hippodromes.
Close on fifty in Company. Lovely Dresses from last year's production at Drury Lane.
Now who wants it?
Address next week,
CULLEN and CARTHY, King's Theatre, Portsmouth.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S COMPANY.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK,"
by Rass Challis.

WANTED, Nov. 16 and 23, and some in Spring, clear Stage only, perfect production. Address, Nov. 2, Avenue, Kettering, or MAURICE, Elephant and Castle Theatre, London.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."

WANTED, Feb. 15 and 22 (Wales), Easter Vacant (South), for this Great Success. Great Week at Mansfield: all previous Records Broken. Please refer,
DICKIE CLARE, St. James' T., Long Eaton.

WILLIAM A. ARMOUR'S COMPANY.
"THE BEST OF HER SEX."

WANTED, Nov. 9 (follow Portsmouth), 16, and onwards, with exceptions, first-class cast guaranteed. WILLIAM A. ARMOUR, to-day, T. R., Croydon; next, Prince's, Portsmouth.

"HER MARRIAGE VOW."

WANTED, Nov. 9, 23, Jan. 4, Feb. 15, March 8.
Wire for Nov. 9,
GARSIDE and KNOWLES,
To-day, Lancaster; Mon., Longton.

"FOR HER HUSBAND'S SAKE."

WANTED, Theatres, Vacant Nov. 9, 30, and Dec. 7. Only Vacant Dates till Autumn, 1909. Wire, wire, wire. MILLAR ANDERSON, Greenwich Theatre, S.E.

"AT CRIPPLE CREEK."

WANTED, Xmas, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, and on.
MARK BLOW, Theatre Royal, Chatham.

"UNDER TWO FLAGS."

WANTED, Xmas, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, and on.
MARK BLOW, Theatre Royal, Chatham.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, Xmas, for "Red Riding Hood."
GILBERT, 417A, Brixton-road, London.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.

WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c. The Directors of the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, have re-engaged them for seventeen weeks next summer. Their returns showed another 40 per cent. advance over their previous season, which was 50 per cent. over any preceding year.
Only Vacancies Next Summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onward.
Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON,
13, Alexandra-gardens, Folkestone.

ARTISTS WANTED.

Messrs. SUTTON and RAYNOR'S REPERTOIRE CO. (Second Year).

WANTED, Known, one or two Vacancies will probably occur in the above Co. shortly. Full particulars, with height, &c., to Mr. RAYNOR, O. H., Kidderminster.

WANTED, to Open Xmas, Leading Gentleman, Leading Lady, Comedian, Heavy Gentleman, Little Girl (to look ten, sing, dance). Terms, height, photos., references, MARK BLOW, Theatre Royal, Chatham.

WANTED, experienced Heavy Gentleman, tall (military part), Juvenile Gentleman (tall), and Utility Gentleman (latter combines Stage-Management), for Sketch. Address letters only, with references and experience, to F. W. PURCELL, Lingwood, Yerbury-road, Tufnell Park, N. Those at present in London need only communicate.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."

WANTED, good Juvenile Gentleman, tall. References, photos. (essential), and actual lowest terms; must dress well.
Miss MAUD HILDYARD, Theatre Royal, Scarboro'.

WANTED, Tall, Refined Actor, Long Tour, Sketch, rehearse immediately. Letters, SYDNEY MASON, Hippo., Queen's Park, Manchester.

WANTED, Lady and Gentleman, to Produce Dramatic and Comedy Sketches; must play in same. Those used to a good portable preferred. Also all kinds of Variety Acts write in, terms low, money sure, HANCOCK, Park Hotel, Pontypridd.

WANTED Lady, attractive, young, tall, for Soubrette-Juvenile, in Mr. Walter Reynolds' Sketch, "Sweet Innisfail." General Utility Gentleman and Reliable Baggage Man, to open immediately. Rehearse Tuesday in London. Letters, with recent photos., refs., and terms, RUSSELL NORRIE, 38, Tunley-road, Balham, S.W.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced Heavy Lady, young and tall, for Sketch. Write, with references, experience, and photographs (returnable), to F. W. PURCELL, Lingwood, Yerbury-road, Tufnell Park, N. Those at present in London need only communicate.

WANTED, Actor, Powerful Voice, Sketch Work, height about 5ft. 6in., for character parts, long tour. State age, lowest salary, photos., particulars, to A. R., Hippodrome, Ipswich.

WANTED, for immediate rehearsal, an experienced Low Comedian for Principal Character Part in a Sketch. Send full particulars, &c., to Box 5,091, "The Era."

WANTED, Vocalists, for a Series of Sacred Concerts, commencing Sunday, Nov. 8. Write immediately, stating lowest terms and particulars, to THE MANAGER, Greenwich Theatre, Greenwich, S.E.

WANTED, for Quartette, good Deep Bass, height 5ft. 7in. Monday, 2 o'clock, ED. BELL, Three Stags, Kennington-road, S.E.

BERT COOTE'S PRODUCTIONS.

WANTED, Immediately, a Smart and Attractive Girl, all-round numbers, a long engagement. Apply, personally, 150, Oxford-street, W.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL CLUB,
FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, Ladies only, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman, 22, seeks Engagement on Dramatic Stage in Touring Company. Quick Study and reliable in every way. Previously engaged in South Africa. Smart appearance. DAVEY COOPER, 27, Risbygate, Bury, Suffolk.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,"
"ALADDIN,"
"BABES IN THE WOOD."

WANTED, First-class Pantomime Artists, Prin. Boys, Prin. Girls, Dames, Knockabouts, Comedians, Good Producer for "Aladdin," Conductors "Demon King," also Wardrobe Mistress, the latter to open at once.
Terms, refs., full particulars, and where can be seen next two weeks, to
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
N.B.—Mark letters "Panto."

TILLER AND BACON'S
DRAMATIC, VARIETY, & MUSICAL AGENCY,
143, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

Telegraphic address, "Tiptoes, London."

Nat. Tel., 1881 Gerrard.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists,
Comedians, Principal Boys,
Chorus Ladies, and Dancers.

All communications as above.

WANTED, Principal Boy and Girl, Second ditto, Comedians, Chorus Ladies, Fairy Queen. Must send age, height, photo (stamp), refs., and terms first letter, or no notice will be taken (silence polite negative), to HARRY JOSEPH, Medina Hall, Newport, I.W.

WANTED, Pair of Comedians, for the Policemen in Pantomime of "Aladdin"; must be First-class. Terms and references, J. F. ELLISTON, Bolton.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, for Pantomime, not less than 5ft. 6in. Photos., terms, &c., EDITH ST. CLARE, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, for Panto. Call with song,
GILBERT, 417A, Brixton-road, London.

WANTED, several good Lady Acrobatic and Step Dancers, for Quartettes in Panto. State height, age, and lowest terms, with photo., to SIDNEY GEORGE, 37, Bury New-road, Bolton.

WANTED, for Pantomime, First-class All-round Dancers. SYDNEY T. RUSSELL, 4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London, W.C.

WANTED, Acrobatic Dancers, for Panto. Photos., terms, and all particulars,
EDITH ST. CLARE, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, for Pantomime, good Male Quartette.
Lowest terms and references.
J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Cullen and Carthy
wish to thank all who have written in for Principal Boy;

have settled.

Kindly accept this intimation.

Photos will be returned.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Tom Carrick will dispose of a few Rights for his Great Pantomime Dame Song and Patter Act. Address, 24 Archway-road, Holloway, N.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Madame Phasey, Ballet Mistress, from the principal Theatres Europe and America. 22, Moreton-place, S. Belgravia.

WANTED, by Crissie Cross, smart Singer and Dandy Dancer, at Liberty for Panto., Principal or Second Girl. Address, c/o 7, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Miss Poppie Howard, Dis., Panto., First or Second Boy, or Special Singing Part, Soprano Vocalist and Dancer, fine figure. Address, 16, Glen-st., Blackpool.

WANTED, Panto., by Gertrude Martini, Second Boy or Fairy Queen, powerful voice, good figure. Write perm., 24, Ackers-st., Oxford-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, by Lily Ashley, Comedienne and Banjo Coon Song and Dance Artist, Part and Speciality in Panto. or Variety; young, dress well; also Instrumentalist. Would join others. Letters, 91, Waterloo-road, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Principal Boy, by Miss Louie Harman. Last year, Alex., Sheffield. Perm., 7, Canonbury-avenue, London, N.

WANTED, Known, the Popular Sisters Terry, at Liberty for Panto., Second Boy and Girl. To-night Palace, Reading. Nov. 2, Queen's V., Castleford.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Du Cane, Duettists and Dancers, Vacant for Pantomime, First or Second Boy and Girl. Empire, Islington, Nov. 2 Time 6.40, 9.30. SAM HART, Agent.

WANTED, Panto., Three Sisters Geronde, Expert Dancers and Vocalists, Second Boy and Girl, &c., and Speciality. 2, Carr-place, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, The Kiros (two Ladies, one Gentleman), Double, Singles, and Comedy Sketches, open for Pantomime, Parts or good Picture Show. 17, Manor-st., Port Talbot, S. Wales.

WANTED, Panto., by Sam Leo, Cat, Dog, any Animal Part or Knockabout, Leaps, Traps, &c. This, Palace, Belfast; next, 5, Ely-terrace, Mile End-road, E.

WANTED, Known, Will Owen, the Favourite Dame Comedian, Vacant for Panto., Dame, also Nov. 30. This week, Hippo., Stockton-on-Tees; next week, Palace, New Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Fred Hallam, at Liberty for Pantomime, Page, Dame, Baron, Idle Jack. Nov. 2, Alhambra, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Jack Foley, at Liberty for Panto., Dame. Perm., 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Panto., Animal Parts, Goose a Speciality; have own skin.
ARTHUR, 8, Glenshaw-mansions, Brixton.

WANTED, Panto., Bros. Almo, Comedy Three-bar Act, First-class Speciality Act.
"Era" Office, London.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Denby and Dent, Comedy Panto., thoroughly experienced. Next week, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Pantomime Producer. Mr. Charles Daly, Writer and Producer of Pantomimes on any Scale, at Liberty after Dec. 5. Letters will be forwarded from permanent address, 9, Salisbury-house, Highbury Corner, London, N.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective, Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime Productions, or Stock. Good, effective work, reasonable prices. J. JACKS, 46, Holloway-rd., London, N.

WANTED, Known, T. C. Daly, Principal Scenic Artist, The Broadhead Theatres (6 years). Estimates given; Fair Prices. STUDIO, 31, Hinckley, Bradford, Manchester.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, town, provinces, Lib. shortly. Add., 26, Elgin-ter., Maida Vale, London.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Gentleman anxious to learn duties of First-class Stage and General-Management. Salary of £5 a week; could commence First-class London Hall. Premium £100.
Apply, Box 5,099, "The Era."

WANTED Smart Man, for Advertising and Press Department; must be a Hustler, and able to write copy for Show Business. Permanency to suitable man. Apply, stating age, experience, reference, and salary required. Abstainer preferred. A. E. PICKARD, Britannia T., Glasgow.

WANTED, good Scenic Artist, must be good Letterer, to paint Advertising Curtains.
Apply, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert T., Brighouse.

WANTED, Man, good Window-biller and Doorman, and make himself useful; long engagement; open at once. WILLIAMS, Mechanics' Hall, Dumfries.

WANTED, a competent Man, to take Entire Charge of Bars in a Suburban Music Hall. Previous experience necessary. Apply, with particulars, by letter only, to WILMOT EDSON, 24, Longacre, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, as Manager or Acting-Manager of Hall or Theatre, thoroughly experienced in all details, good disciplinarian, highest references, accountant. HAGUE, Entertainment Manager, Corporation, Scarborough.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Stage-Manager by practical man; reliable and steady; used to lightning programmes. For full particulars, Box 5,085, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Acting-Manager or indoor position, in Agent's Office, London, by late London Manager. Box 5,090, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Harry Pease, Acting and General Manager, Theatre and Music Hall, open for immediate Engagement. 25A, Queen-st., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Known, to Skating-rink Promoters. Experienced American Manager Open for Engagement; thoroughly understands laying of Floors, Skates, &c. Staff of Instructors; Mechanics at command. MANAGER, 14, Walton-road, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Joe Elam, Master Carpenter, Theatres or Fit-ups, own tools, at Lib. to-night. Wire or write, till Tuesday, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Engagement, Carpenter, own tools; tall, well-trained voice, able to play Dramatic Parts well. R. T. R., 31, Avenue-road, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, by Young Lady, Situation as Attendant with Programmes.
B. L., 91, Mostyn-road, Brixton.

WANTED, by Chauffeur-Valet, Situation; careful driver and good references.
F. L., 69, Royal-road, Kennington.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, to Open Monday, Nov. 2, Exeter, Conductor (Violin), Pianist, Flute, Bass, Cornet, Trombone, Drummer. Brightwell and Allen write. Wire lowest terms and instruments, DUDLEY POWELL, Empire, Sheffield.

WANTED, First-class Répétiteur, for Cunard Liner "Caronia," Yachting Trip, Nov. 5 until April, 1909; must be well used to hotel music. Audition necessary before engaging.
Conditions from
Mr. C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

HIPPODROME, ROCHDALE.

WANTED, Smart Leader, Violin, also 'Cello, used to Varieties; must be good, others save stamps. Apply with references, JACKSON, Manager.

WANTED, First-class Leader and Viola; open at once.
Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.

WANTED, to Augment Orchestra for Pantomime, Two Firsts, Two Second Violins, 'Cello, and Bass, Second Flute and Clarionet; also Pianist, for rehearsals, to combine second violin. Write references, terms, &c., GEORGE FORD, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Good First Violin, used to Standard, Overtures, &c., and Opera Work, Nov. 2. Terms and references, MUS. DIR., Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Violin, combine Clarionet, age 30; good refs.; open at once. Address, JACQUES, 14, Stourcliffe-street, Marble Arch, London, W.

WANTED, First Violin, to open immediately; only those experienced in Varieties need apply. Wire terms, references, &c., EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, for the Cheltenham Municipal and Opera House Orchestras, Two Violinists and a Double Bass; must be first-class experienced players, and young. Send references and terms. Twice a day, no Sunday work. HORACE TEAGUE, Musical Director.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, for District Empire, must be accustomed to Variety business. Apply by letter, marked "Cornet," stating salary expected, and giving names and addresses for references, to DISTRICT-MANAGER, Empire, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Clarionet, to Double Violin or 'Cello. Send particulars and references,
ALEX. CORRISON,
Conductor, Penzance Military Band.

WANTED, a good Euphonium Player, for Big Musical Act. Fares paid after joining. Permanency to a reliable man. State references, age, and salary required, to Box 5,099, "The Era."

WANTED, French Horn, as Principal, for good Regimental Band,
String and Military.
Also Required, good Principal String Bass; must enlist. Apply letter,
BASSCORNE, 12, Barrack-street, Portsmouth.

WANTED, good 'Cello, to open Nov. 9. Permanency. Apply, with age, terms, and refs., to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

WANTED, Solo Oboe Player, to join good Staff Band.
Young Player preferred.
Very good pay and good position offered.

Applicants will receive full details by writing to E. S., c/o Hawkes and Son, Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, W.

WANTED, Pianist; must be competent, and used to Variety Business. Age, experience, terms, and references, A. DOUGLAS WILLCOX, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Full Orchestra, to open Saturday, Nov. 21; must be thoroughly used to Circus and Variety. Lowest terms in first letter, also two recent references (copies only). All applications to be addressed to CONDUCTOR, c/o T. W. Cooke, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, for Police full Military Band.
Big Drummer, French Horn, and String Bass, 5ft. 9½in., not over 28 years.
Address,
Box 5,077, "The Era."

WANTED, Immediately, Experienced Lady Instrumentalists. Photos., terms, refs., &c., to MUSICAL DIRECTOR, 12, Heber-mansions, Queen's Club-gardens, Kensington, W.

WANTED, Ladies' Orchestra of six or seven, to travel with a Cinematograph Co. through France. State salary and full particulars. L. K. LEON, 33, Passage Jouffroy, Paris, France.

WANTED, Small Ladies' Orchestra, six performers, Nov. 16-28 inclusive. Apply, MANAGER, Third Annual Exhibition, 75-76, Pearl-buildings, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Musicians are requested before accepting any Engagement in Sunderland to apply for information to R. A. HOWARD, 6, Blackett-terrace, Sunderland.

WANTED, well-trained deep Contralto, to join Lady for Duets on Music Halls; experienced, young. Address, Box 5,054, "The Era."

WANTED Musicians to keep away from Munich, owing to dispute there.—A. SEITZ, Secretary International Confederation of Musicians, J. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER.
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster, "Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), large and valuable library. Pantomimes, Dramas, &c., composed and arranged. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged for First-class Variety Hall or good Theatre, Panto., &c., London or Provinces, Henry J. Sprake, jun., Musical-Director, three seasons North Tower Gardens Amusements, Crystal Palace, London; Palace of Varieties and Winter Gardens, Southport; Palace of Varieties, Tynemouth. Just terminated successful season Worthing; extensive Library. Address, Care of "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Variety Conductor, late with Barrasford; young, smart, and steady. LANCASTER, 3, Brightfield-road, Lee Green, Kent.

WANTED, by Gilbert Garahan, First-class Pianist-Conductor, Transpose, Memorise, &c. 48, Brook-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Leader or First Violin, First-class Variety; excellent references; three years present engagement. M. P. DUDDY, Leader, Palace, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Misses Clarice and Beesle Earle, Violin and Double Bass. Present address, 13, Marine-parade, Clacton-on-Sea. Open to offers.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Second Violin, Viola, young, reliable, experienced in Variety; good refs.; London preferred; Lib. Nov. 16. Box 5,086, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Violinist, young, good répétiteur, will shortly be at Liberty to accept Engagement at Hall or Hotel; good refs. Box 5,087, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as First Violin or Leader, concluding long season as Leader at Victoria Pavilion, Ilfracombe. Address to same, highest references.

WANTED, by Violinist, 32, through disappointment; steady; can open at once, any business. VIOLINIST, 9, Springfield-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Violinist; thoroughly reliable, abstainer.
H. SANGSTER, 5, Sprowston-road, Forest Gate.

WANTED, by a Dutch Violin-player, having worked in every branch of the trade, a place in an English Orchestra; also willing to make a voyage with an Orchestra; age 26 years; rather in London. Address, NVD. BERG, Violin, 28, Regeliersbreestr, Amsterdam, Holland.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Violin, thoroughly experienced. SAUNDERS, Royal Hippodrome, Dover. Monday, 20, Barcombe-avenue, Streatham Hill, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement by Solo Cornet, experienced, Military or Orchestral; excellent reader; any business; good refs. TOWNSEND, 11, Blackman-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly reliable Cornet, First or Second; can open at once, any Business. ROBSON, 2, Waterhouse-terrace, Upper Kirkgate, Halifax.

WANTED, Orchestral Engagement, by Cornet or Second Violin; reliable. £6 bonus offered; permanency. HAYS, 10, Stamford-buildings, South Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Bassoon at Lib., any Business, good ref. G. ROBSON,
3, Chalmers-buildings, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Bass (4-string); can join at once. Just finished season. BRYANT, Royal Victoria Pavilion, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Bass Player, any Line. F. W., 6, Foster-road, Formby, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoonist, any business, just finished season at Lofthouse. ALEX. BERTRAM, Alma, St. Leonards-avenue, Hove.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Trombone, any Business.
Address, TROMBONE, 17, Howard-street, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Known, Euphonium, Messrs. Bartle and Rimmer (Conductor, Southport Corporation Band) have pleasure in recommending Mr. T. M. Hughes to the notice of anyone requiring a good Euphonium Player. Address, T. M. HUGHES, 16, Scarisbrick New-road, Southport.

WANTED, Engagement by First-class 'Cellist, Hotel preferred; Disengaged on Nov. 8, 1908. O. HALLFARTH, 66, College-place, Camden Town, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Harpist, or would take Double Bass, long experience, steady and reliable. Add., J. F. STEWART, 2, Howden-terrace, Hyde Park, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, any Business; steady, reliable; good refs.; experienced. ROMERIL, 28, Argyle-road, West Ealing, W.

WANTED, Engagement as Accompanist to Instrumentalist or Vocalist, practice or otherwise; excellent sight reader. F. T., 49, Paulet-road, Brixton, S.E.

WANTED, by Lady, Engagements as Accompanist, Practice, or otherwise, to Instrumentalists or Vocalist; good sight-reader. Box 5,092, "The Era."

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, Organist, good Accompanist, quick Sight-reader, Engagements, hourly, daily, or weekly. 4, Wren-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement as Pianist, by Young Lady, for Concerts or Quadrille; good reader and accompanist; Disengaged London only. Apply, M. L., 54, Roden-street, Holloway, N.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums, any Business, at Liberty Nov. 16. EASON, 16, Stonebridge-road, South Tottenham, London.

WANTED, Permanent Engagement, by experienced Trumpynist; own Tymps., Drums, Glockenspiel, &c.; any Business. THE STANDARD, 3, Varistone-place, Walham Green, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Drummer Open for Deputy's work, in or near London only; any Business. DRUMS, 63, Buckingham-gate, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Herr Wilhelm Morgann's
Blue Hungarian Band.
Wilhelm Morgann's
White Viennese Band.
Wilhelm Morgann's
Blue Viennese Band.
Open for Good Offers, Season 1909.
Testimonials for record attendances at all public engagements, including the Exhibitions at Glasgow, Cork, Bradford, Birmingham, Sheffield, Middlesbrough, Edinburgh, White City, &c., &c.
Four Seasons, Victoria Pier, Blackpool; Three Seasons, Palace, Tynemouth; Three Seasons, West End Pier, Morecambe; Three Seasons, Crystal Palace, Sydenham; &c., &c., &c.
Recherché Uniforms,
Unique Programmes,
Continental Star Soloists.
All communications,
HERR WILHELM MORGANN, 95, Gloucester-road, Gloucester-gate, Regent's Park, London, N.W.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

LADIES' GRECIAN BAND OF HARPS AND LONDON ORCHESTRA, under the joint direction of Mr. and Madame Stockham.

WANTED, Known, just concluded fortnight's Engagement at Crystal Palace, London, also Exhibition, Darlington. The only Touring Band of Harps, Grecian Costumes of bright-hued satin. The Grove, Handsworth, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagements, by the Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, three to thirty performers. This week, Drill Hall, Darlington. Mme. NELLIE BAKER, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

WANTED, Known, Ladies' String Quartette, all brilliant Soloists, finishing season at "Pharaoh's Daughter," Franco-British, one Singer and one Comedienne, Concerts, Hotels, &c.; Gentlemen's Orchestra. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Known, High-class Ladies' Quartette or Trio, all Soloists, Vocalist, open for re-engagement, Hotel, Café, &c.; extensive répertoire. Box 5,060, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Sir Robert Fossett's Circus, Northampton (Winter Season), commencing in November, Circus Artist, Equestrians, Acrobat Troupes, Bar Performers, Trapezes, Clowns, Risley Act, also Useful People. R. FOSSETT, Ravensthorpe, Northampton. N.B.—Good steady Engine-driver write, one used to motor tractor.

WANTED, Young Man; must be close Back Bender, and able to do few tricks on hands. H. DOBSON, 24, Paris-st., Lambeth Palace-rd., London.

WANTED, smart Triple Bar Performer, also Lady Trapeze Artist. State tricks and particulars to MILTON, Hengler's Circus, Argyll-street, London.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Known,
that the
ROYAL OHMYS,
Favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark,
ROYAL OHMYS,
Favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark,
ROYAL OHMYS,
have made the Greatest
Success, Success, Success
ever known at the
Grand Circus (Bech Olsen), Gothenburg, Sweden.
After first show the Director offered
Re-engagement for another month.
THE ROYAL OHMYS
will arrive in England Nov. 16, and
open direct at
Gilbert's Grand Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth,
for finish of the season.
This is the Second Engagement in twelve months
at Gilbert's Hippodrome, Yarmouth.
Note,
THE ROYAL OHMYS
wish to thank Director Bech Olsen for the beautiful Gold and Diamond Medals he presented to them after their six months' engagement; also for contract for eight months next season.
THE ROYAL OHMYS
will be at Liberty Christmas with Six Good Acts.
For particulars and list of acts, address,
The Royal Ohmys,
Grand Circus, Gothenburg, Sweden.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, the late Buffalo Bill's Rough Rider, who presents his thoroughbred Mare in her Novelty Act, Racing Tricks. Apply, Maerdy, Glam., South Wales.

WANTED, Known, Mr. and Mrs. Anderson, Equestrians, own horse, at Liberty shortly for winter. 95, Hill-street, Garnet Hill, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Alec Condon, Tumbling, Talking, and Knockabout Clown and Agouste, Liberty Monday, also for Winter. 34, Broad-street, Sheerness-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Good Tumbler, Acrobat, will join good troupe or trio, comedy. Address, Brown, c/o Post Office, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. Spencer Bros., Ltd., 45a, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, these Concerts will cease from Oct. 31, 1908. Artists please note, and cancel dates.
Wm. Biggam, Sec., 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. Arthur Carlton, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. Mascard, Manager.

WANTED, Monday, Nov. 9, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, Kitchingman, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Good Specialities. Full particulars, with lithos., &c., for towns near Glasgow, Nov. 30, Dec. 7. West, G.P.O., Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, for immediate and future dates.
A. E. Pickard, New Gaiety T., Clydebank, N.B.

Agents come and Agents go,
They do, so help my never;
They flow and ebb,
But Edgar Stebb,
Goes booking dates for ever.

WANTED, Star Variety Artists,
Big Specialities, Novelties,
immediate and future dates.
Full list of Bookings, Lowest Terms,
Edgar Stebbings,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9261.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, to commence Nov. 23, Variety Artists in all Lines; must be Original and free from vulgarity. Address, Hamilton, Coliseum, Leeds.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Nov. 16 and onwards. Hall small, so prices must be in proportion. Apply to A. E. Pickard, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Nov. 9, for Theatre Royal and Hippo., Shrewsbury, First-class Variety Artists, nothing too big. Mark letters "Variety."
W. Yates Gregory.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists all Lines, Nov. 9, onwards. Lowest terms, Levy and Cardwell, Pavilion, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
William Mould, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, for immediate Dates, also for 1909, '10, '11, '12.
Pacey's Agency,
186, Brixton-road, S.W.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists, immediate and future Dates. T. C. Rawes, Proprietor.

JOHN TILLER and SIDNEY BACON'S DRAMATIC, VARIETY, & MUSICAL AGENCY.

WANTED, First-Class Artists.
Add., 143, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C. Tele., "Tiptoes, London." Nat. Tel., 1881 Gerrard.

WANTED, Artists, Monday next, onwards, for Town Hall, Longton, also Artists for Public Hall, Redditch, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7; also for Public Hall, Worcester, Dec. 26, for seven nights. Also two good Operators wanted; low salary for permanent situations. No stamped replies, no photos, no callers. Will William Watson write? All letters to Jack Barnes, Smethwick.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Nov. 9, on. 14, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

GRAHAM'S VARIETY AGENCY,
15a, Electric-avenue, Brixton, S.W.
Office Hours, 11 to 9.30. Telephone, 513 Brixton.
WANTED, Artists, all Lines. Amateurs and Beginners, if talented, may apply.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Nov. 9, onwards. Nothing too big.
Messrs. Claggers, Gaiety, Blyth.

BARNARD'S AGENCY.
Tel. 2349 Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists of all Descriptions, Pantomimes, &c. Mr. D. Barnard in London. Pleased to see Artists Working, view Pantomime. All communications, Head Office, Shaw-st., L'pool.

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.
Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher.
Gen.-Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. Reginald Fletcher.
WANTED, Artists (except Aerial), Nov. 9, onwards. Nov. 2, Call for Pavilion, Ashton-in-Makerfield, all concerned. Pavilion, Northwich: Alf. Passmore, Norman and Belle, Rennie Hirst, Barrie and Wood, Dorothy Kuit, Lydia Rale, Bert Bell. Rehearsals 1 sharp. General-Manager, Towyn Thomas.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
15, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Artists in all Lines, now and onwards.
Can always fix big numbers any odd weeks.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

PAVILION, ABERTILLERY.
PALACE, EBBW VALE.
WANTED, Big Variety Attractions, for Nov. 9, and onwards. Apply, with full particulars, to Leo Fritz's Variety Agency,
Cecil House, 41, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY	
DALTON'S AGENCY	
DALTON'S AGENCY	
DALTON'S AGENCY	Artists for
DALTON'S AGENCY	Immediate Dates
DALTON'S AGENCY	and Dates onwards.
DALTON'S AGENCY	
DALTON'S AGENCY	
DALTON'S AGENCY	
DALTON'S AGENCY	Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY	and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY	(this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY	and permanent addresses.
DALTON'S AGENCY	
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DALTON'S AGENCY	29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY	
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DALTON'S AGENCY	Telegrams:
DALTON'S AGENCY	Granbeste,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Withington-Lancs.
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DALTON'S AGENCY	
DALTON'S AGENCY	Telephone:
DALTON'S AGENCY	193 Didsbury.
DALTON'S AGENCY	Wanted, urgently,
DALTON'S AGENCY	the address of
DALTON'S AGENCY	Sydney and Partner,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Cycle Act.

PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
To all whom it may concern.
WANTED, Known.—There is an idea throughout the Variety Profession that, since the closing of the Tivoli Theatre, Grimsby, Mr. J. H. Curry has become interested in the management of the Palace. We wish it to be distinctly understood that Mr. Curry does not represent the management of the Palace Theatre in any capacity whatever, neither is he a director nor a shareholder. On the closing of the Tivoli, Mr. Curry asked if we would take over the Artists booked for the Tivoli, and we promised to do so whenever it was possible. We are, however, in no way bound to do so. The arrangement was quite an unofficial one, suggested by Mr. Curry with the sole object of avoiding, if possible, any Artist being thrown out through the unavoidable closing of the theatre under his management.
Signed,
The Grimsby Palace Theatre and Buffet, Ltd.,
F. Vernon Walford,
Secretary.
Oct. 26, 1908.

CHELTENHAM
NEW PALACE
THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Architect, Mr. Winstanley, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.
WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

WANTED, for Joseph Poole's Myriorama, Big Star Turns for Dec. 24, 28, Jan. 4, and onwards; must be first-class. Comedy preferred. Also Spectacular and Sensational Acts. Lowest terms to F. Mayer, Manager, Alexandra Hall, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, for Royal Albert Hall, Jarrow, good Drawing Turns or Combinations.
Sharing terms, Nov. 16 and onwards.
Business certain to good shows. Address, Manager.

WANTED, good cheap Turns, for Dumfries, Nov. 9 and onwards. Terms must be low.
Williams, Mechanics' Hall, Dumfries.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent, all Lines,
Nov. 16, 23, 30, later.
James Fioni's Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Nov. 9, onwards,
Star Acts in all Lines.
Star Acts in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
Cadle's Agency, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Novelty and Speciality Acts and Artists in all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, &c., for immediate and future dates.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, now and onward, South Wales and District, and North of England. Martino's Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

CHAS. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, for Xmas Seasons at Edinburgh and Sheffield, Smart Comedy Acts. Refinement absolutely necessary. J. R. Poole, Town Hall, Edmonton, London, N.

PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Specialities, Spectacular Shows,
Tops and Bottoms,
for Dec. and onwards.
State when last in Grimsby,
full particulars, and lowest terms, to
Manager, Palace Theatre, Grimsby.

CLIQUOT'S THEATRICAL VARIETY AGENCY,
46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.

WANTED, CLIQUOT'S AGENCY.	Big Tops,
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY.	Artists all Lines,
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY.	Artists all Lines,
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY.	for all Dates.
CLIQUOT'S AGENCY.	Coms. as above.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, for Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only. Stanhope and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Tops, Bottoms, Middles, now, onwards. Send lowest, list of Bookings, and perm. address, or useless. Keeble's Agency, Alexandra, Pontefract.

WANTED, Refined Entertainers, to accompany Picture Show; Double Acts entertained. State terms. E. Michel, 15, North-side, Clapham, London, S.W.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen, good Vocalists, Comedians, Serios, and Dancers, call with songs Monday, 8.30 (Audition Concert), or write, Gresham Agency, George Hotel, first floor, 57, Liverpool-road, Islington, N.

Illustrated Songs.
WANTED, Singers, with own Slides, for one or two weeks. Coutts, The Palace, Swansea.

WANTED, immediately, Juveniles, small, for Troupe. Letters,
Gray, 2, Lambeth Palace-road, S.W.

ANDREWS' PICTORIAL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, to open Nov. 9 (South), First-class Mezzo-Soprano, with clear and powerful voice, for Illustrated Songs; must be quick study; resident and permanent engagement if suitable. Lowest terms, refs., &c., first letter, to Andrews, Pictures, Northampton. Good Operator write in.

WANTED, Young Lady, with good figure, for New Speciality. Apply by letter only to J. Wilson, Lord-place, Hunslet, Leeds.

WANTED, immediately, two Clever Comedians, one for Foreign Waiter, must be stout; other for Military Dude, tall and slim. Sketch, West-End Hall. Terms and references, Box 5,093, "The Era."

WANTED, Boys and Girls, over fourteen, and small; must have good voices, for "Casey's Court," long tour. Apply, Murray, Empire, New Cross, 11 a.m., Tuesday.

WANTED, Smart Trick Cyclist, to Play Bicycle Polo.
All particulars, Box 5,096, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Smart Boy, from 14 to 16 years; one that can tumble a little preferred; height from 4ft. 9in. to 5ft. A good home; everything found. Address, J. C., 77, Kennington-road, S.E. Also Want to Buy, Blondin Donkey, in good condition, must be cheap.

WANTED, Smart, Useful Man, as Stage Assistant; sobriety essential. Experience, terms, references, &c., to A. E. Pickard, New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank, N.B.

WANTED, Cinématograph Operator, with own entire fit-up, including fireproof box, for Nov. 9. Letter only, Moxon, Bedford Music Hall, London.

WANTED, an Experienced Bioscope Operator, to open Monday next, Nov. 2.
Fred Gilbert, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Operator, with Machine. Wire lowest,
Coombs, The Cornish Baritone, St. Just, Cornwall.

WANTED, Smart Operator, must be thoroughly experienced in Electric and Lime. Those used to two hours' show need only apply. Jury's Imperial Pictures, 142, Long Acre, W.C.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mysterious Lilith, the great Aerial Mystery, also Lilian Warren's Vocal Pictures, at Liberty Nov. 2 and 9. Proprietors and Managers requiring a Sensational Draw should secure these two distinct Acts. All coms. to Lilian Warren, Empire, Bolton, or 23, Rumford-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Miss Rosaline Thorne, Contralto and Descriptive Vocalist. Illustrated Songs, Big Répertoire. A few Vacant Dates, November. 32, North-side, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Nov. 2 and 9, by Rose Pink, Comedienne and Expert Dancer. Terrific success this week, Palace, West Hartlepool, where wire.

WANTED, Nov. 9, follow Palace, Aberdeen, 30th, and Dec. 14, precede and follow King's, Edinburgh, Jean Macduff, Premier Lady Scotch Comedian, Peggy Lyndon, Dainty Musical Act. Wire, Melville, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello. Thanks for Contracts.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, in their refined Drawing-room Act, with Banjoes, Piano, &c. Nov. 2, Alhambra, Brighton; vacant Nov. 9, 23.

WANTED, by the Two Rubies, Duettists and Dancers, Nov. 23. This week, Halifax; Nov. 2, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Monday next, Sisters Beatrice, Duettists and Expert Dancers, also Nov. 9 and 30. Wire, Palace, Cork; after Sat., 23, St George's-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Terry, Mimics, Vocalists, and Dancers, Nov. 9, between Castleford and Kirkcaldy. Add., Nov. 2, Queen's Varieties, Castleford.

WANTED, Monday, by Sisters, Amy and Ada, Comediennes, Cross-talkers, in Great Novelty Comedy Act. Wire, 34, Warburton-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Edmund Caselli, the World's Recognised Banjo Expert, just returned from Continental Tour, through disappointment at Liberty Monday, also Nov. 9. Offers invited. Those wanting a real artistic act and sure success, wire, 153, High-street, Margate.

WANTED, Monday, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey; also Ventriloquial Act, if required. Wire, Empress, Morley, Yorks.

WANTED, by Allan Hanbury, Comedian, Monday next, also 16th.
Wire, 43, Brixton-road, London.

WANTED, Monday next, by Li Chang Hi and Assistant, Chinese Wonder-workers; D.C. Lithos., Electrical Effects. Wire, Chang, Theatre, Motherwell, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Magicians and Illusionist, Changing Programme. Write or See, Lester's, Aylesbury. Always Something New, and Right Up-to-date. Telephone 69.

WANTED, Monday next, also Nov. 9, 16. Wire, Hippodrome, Airdrie. The Great Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Comedy Juggler, Conjurer, and Dog; also May Geraldine, Refined Comedienne and Dancer. After Saturday, 15, Haslemere-avenue, Bridlington.

WANTED, Monday next, also 9th, 23rd, Capner and Steele (Will and Victoria), Character Duettists, Original Song Scenas. 1, Holden's-square, Nottingham.

WANTED, Nov. 2, by The Mosaics, Comedy Duo, in Screaming Sketch, "The Suffragette." This, Queen's Theatre, Castleford. Pantomime settled.

WANTED, Monday, on, The Mannikins (Harry and Maud), Living Marionettes; Elaborate, Novel Electric Show; also Double Comedy Singing Turn. Just the Show for Pictures. Pal., Shipley.

WANTED, Monday (wire), also Nov. 9 and 30, by Priestley and Lisle, "Tommy's Courtship," Comedy Protean Sketch. Wire, 88, Gwladys-street, Walton, Liverpool. Wire for Monday.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Vocalist; one or both. Wire, Empire, Bolton.

WANTED, Known, Liberty Monday, through hall closing, Camerons (Jim and Marie), Comedy Act, Plough Boy and Lady Guide. Wire, 21, Stafford-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, also 9th, by Ryder Davis, Comedian, Eva Ward, Comedienne, Grand, Sheffield; after Saturday, 41, Cambridge-street, Camberwell.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Nov. 23, Victoria Hall, Exeter.
P. A., 4, Speenham-road, Stockwell, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Ray and Lingard, Comedy Duologue Artists. Vacant Nov. 9 and 16.
Wire, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Known, Mouing and Cooney, Coloured Comedians, Rag-time Talkers. A big success everywhere. Nov. 2, 9, Wire, Monday, Palace, Staveley.

WANTED, Monday, also 9, 16, by Chant and Chant, Bright Vocal Comedy Duo.
Wire, 87, Wollaton-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, by The Comedians with a Contrast, Danton and Doyle, Comedians, Patterers, Dancers. Mon., Nov. 9, 16, also Vacant Panto., 1906 and '07, 1907 and '08, Capt. and Bo'sun, "Dick Whittington." All coms., 13, Gaisford-street, London, N.W.

WANTED, by Harlin and Hanlon, Smart, Original, Patter Comedians, Nov. 9, to follow T. R., Workington. This, T. R., Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Comedy and Dancing Speciality, Monday next, Nov. 2, onwards. Wire, 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston, London. Wire or write.

WANTED, Known, The Florias, Equilibrists and Comedy Wire Artists. Vacant Nov. 2 through not opening of Hip., Birkenhead. Wire, Empire, Bolton.

WANTED, Nov. 16 and 23, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe, five lady and gentlemen athletes, including the only real classic posing act before the public.
Always the Great Star Attraction.
26th, Grand, Bolton; 2nd, Hippo., Hulme.

WANTED, Nov. 9 and 16, by Stanley's Urchins.
Address offers to
Stanley, Tivoli Palace, Pentre, South Wales.

WANTED, Monday, Nov. 9, for Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globella, Juggling Speciality. Address, next week, Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Nov. 2, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct speciality acts. 30, Cheyney-st., Boston, Lincs.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, also Nov. 9 and 16, by Gulliver, World-famous Ventriloquist. This week, Topping the Bill, Hippo., Cambridge, and Doing Enormous. Encored every house. Wire, Hippo., Cambridge. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Valvo, Ventriloquist, is Vacant one week, Nov. 16 (North); a smart one-figure act. Address, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, Dates, three nights, Nov. 12, 13, 14 Thurs., Fri., Sat., 19, 20, 21, and all Dates December. The American Vaudeville Co., with the Great Sketch "Ojija," Real Indians, Real Cowboys, and Grand Vaudeville Programme, including the Beautiful Real-winged Flying Act. We are simply crowding the houses. Ask Mr. Carl Rosinsky, of Alexandra Theatre, Dovercourt, who says "Come again." This is the great cry, "Come again, and bring 'Ojija,' the Money Magnet."
Wire, Hatzau, Corn Exchange, Huntingdon.

WANTED, Nov. 23, by Tom Kelso Co., Comedy Absurdity, "The Silly Servant" (on the stage only). If you want laughs without vulgarity, you run no risk in booking the above. Thanks to Rassochin Agency for Offers for Russia, but it's too far to walk back to Nottingham. This, Central Hall, Sheffield; next, Gaiety, Birmingham; Nov. 9, Var., Oldham. Or ring up 193 Didsbury (Dalton's Agency); he'll tell you all about it. Panto. settled with J. F. Elliston, Esq.

WANTED, Nov. 9, 16, by Fred Monckton and Company of Comedians (Four Artists), in Screaming Farcical Absurdity, "The Man Who Did." Letters, 2nd, Foresters' Music Hall, London.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, Best in the Profession, Dec. 7, 14, and 28, also Jan. 18 and 25.
Com., week Nov. 2,
Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

WANTED, Known, Devereux's Great Dog Show, Lib. Monday, Nov. 2, only date till next May, Midlands and South preferred. Wire, Crystal Palace.

WANTED, Nov. 2 and 9, for Le Clair's Electric Canine Picture Gallery and Troupe of Dogs. A Sure Success. 9, Rosoman-st., Clerkenwell, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos vacant Nov. 2, 16, and 23. Wire till Saturday, East Oxford Theatre, Oxford; after see Cards.

WANTED, Known, Irma Orbasany's Cockatoo Pantomime, the Greatest Novelty in Animal Performance, open Jan. 25, Feb. 8, and onwards. Write for Press Notices and Pictorials. Week, Nov. 2, Warrington Palace. Permanent Address, 9, Alma-road, Sheerness.

WANTED by Hall and Wilson, Nov. 9, 16, 23 (Man versus Motor), and Roller Trick Cycling Speciality. This week, Big Success, Hip., Stalybridge; next week, Empire, Wrexham. Managers requiring a Draw, wire or write. Notice.—The Only Act of its Kind. Infringers, beware.

WANTED, Nov. 16 and 23, Swift Duo, Lady and Gentleman, Funny Cycling Speciality. Monday next, Hippo., Bury, Lancs.

WANTED, to join reliable Act, Young Man, with experience of Knockabout Comedy, and to look after Props.; must be sober and reliable; 30s. per week and all found for stage. Silence a polite negative. Address, Lambie, 48, Humber-street, Cleethorpes, near Grimsby.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, 5ft. 1in., at Liberty to join Comedy, Acrobatic, or Sketch Company; good refs. G. R. Shanks, c/o 339, Caledonia-road, S.S., Glasgow.

WANTED, Engagement, by Comedy Tumbler, &c., Troupe, Sketch, or Good Partner.
Coms., Tom Butt, c/o G.P.O., Burnley.

WANTED, Engagement, Public or Private, Harmon's Royal Marionettes, also "Punch and Judy," with Dog Toby. 13, Paulton-st., Chelsea, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Halls for London Picture Co. Full particulars and lowest terms for permanency (if suitable) to Percival, 31, Eldon-street, Douglas.

WANTED, Known, Operator, at Liberty Monday, onward, Electric and Gas, any make Bioscope; can throw in 3,000ft. of films if required. Wire best offers to 51, Staines-road, Hounslow.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Very Important,
that the next Meeting
of the British Roundabout Proprietors'
and Showmen's Union
will be held at the
Cross Daggers Hotel, Rotherham,
on Tuesday next, Nov. 3,
at 2.30 p.m.,
for the Transaction of Important Business.
A good muster of Members is requested.
Signed, T. Hurst, Sec.

WANTED, Known, to Auctioneers and Market-Workers, there's no mistake about it, I am giving the greatest value in Secondhand Watches in the Trade, and don't forget that my Watches are all in working order, and good condition. My Silver Alberts are splendid value at 2s. 6d. per oz. Write to-day for particulars,
C. G. Clacher, 22, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Original Stereoscopic Pictures of British Beauties, for Slots, &c.; most refined and bewitching. Send P.O. 1s. 6d. for 350 miniatures to select from.
Minerva Automatic Co.,
14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

BREWERS' EXHIBITION.
ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, LONDON, N.,
Oct. 17 to 23, inclusive.
WANTED, Known, we are this year repeating our usual offer to allow cost of cheap return fare from any point in the U.K. to all purchasers of goods to the value of £25 upwards at our stands 41, 42, and 43, Great Galleries, where we shall for the first time display epoch-making Novelties from the Mills' Factory.
Minerva Automatic Co., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C. Sole Agents to the Mills Novelty Co. Telegrams, "Minervauto, London." Telephone, Holborn 5705.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester Repeaters, 39s.; Globes, Targets, Water Balls. Greene, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, Taylor, Plinston, Bros., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent, No. 17402.
This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Parncombe-street,
and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.
CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Known, Hooplar Packets, Fancy Boxes Confectionery, from 7s. per gross to 10s. gross. A. Bunn, 16, Dagnall-place, Bradystreet, Whitechapel-road.

WANTED, Known, Hoops, Chocolate, Cigarettes, and all kinds of Hoop-La and Maypole Goods, can be purchased cheap from Charles Cain, 144, High-street, Deptford, London.

WANTED, Known.—Special Notice. Stacey, Showmen's Stores, New Address, 510, Kingsland-rd., London. Guns, Cartridges, Flare Lamps, Swing Ropes, Everything for the Fair.

WANTED, Market and Fair Workers to send for my Latest Money-getting Lines and Novelties list, suitable for Hoop-la and other Games. Simons, 100, 101, 102a, Houndsditch, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, to Jewellery Auctioneers, Shops, Stylish, Smart Worker wants Engagement, R.O., anything. Write, W. Brown, Post Office, Rugby.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Slot Machines, Splendid Bargains. Loops, 25s.; Ping-Pong, 20s.; Electrics, 30s.; Phonographs, £5; &c. Advance Co., 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, Known.—If you want a Real Novelty, try the Hindu Spirit Writer. Full particulars, Advance Co., 510, Kingsland-rd., London.

WANTED, Known, Habaz, the Hindu Spirit-Writing Automaton, with life-like movements, is manufactured and sold by Dr. Verr, Rue Saulnier, Paris, France.

WANTED, Known, Hindu Spirit Writer, slightly soiled, 4½gs.; Slips, 12s. 6d. 1,000, Capital Penny Novelty for Streets and Fairs. Particulars, Lester, Aylesbury. Telephone 69.

FUN CITY DRILL HALL, BATH.
Dec. 24, 1908, to Jan. 16, 1909.
The first Show of its kind ever held in Bath.
WANTED, Animal Shows, High-Wire Walker, Double Trapeze, Gymnasts, Side Shows, Novelties of every description. Apply, Carl Fredricks, 4, Brunswick-street, Bath.

WANTED, Novelties, good Flash, one or four weeks; also Doubles. Dates, &c., American Sweetmeat and Automatic Company, Rathbone-street, Canning Town.

WANTED, good Showing Novelty, to work Side-show; Giant Lady preferred; Wagon to live in. Hastings, Midget Show, Fair Ground, Rotherham, Yorks.

WANTED, Good Novelties, with Flash, to open Monday, Nov. 3, and onwards, on sharing terms. Strong Show and Wrestling write. Barron's Exhibition, Lowestoft.

WANTED, good Living Freaks and Novelties, Nov. 30 and onwards.
F. Stewart, The Waxworks, High-st., Edinburgh.

WANTED, good Freak or Novelty, for month, including New Year.
Fred Burnett, 55, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Monday, and onwards, Freaks, Novelties, &c., with good Flashes, for three shops. Bell, 157, High-street, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Lecturer, for Cinematograph; must be man of experience, good address, and character. Salary, particulars, Calvert, 38, Park-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, to Open Monday, Nov. 9, good capable Lecturer for Picture Show.
Write, Jeffs, Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Useful Doorsman, good Speaker, for Illusionist; height 5ft. 9in.; Nov. 4 to 21.
Laloo, Exhibition Drill Hall, Plymouth.

WANTED, Tattooer, Palmist, and Photographer, fine open shop, main market road, London. Box 5,098, "The Era."

WANTED, two Girls, for Fancy Stalls, in Collins's Fun City; used to Exhibition business, from Nov. 20 to April 3. Apply, Baker, 11, Gill-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, that Tom Thumb, the World's Renowned Lilliputian, is open for Engagements, either Home or Abroad. Write direct, 83, Market-street, West Houghton, Lancs.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Manager, Lecturer, and Vocalist, with permanent picture company, smart appearance, first vacancy in five years, excellent refs., Liberty Nov. 9. Wire or write, Percival, 31, Eldon-st., Southsea.

WANTED, Engagement, as Lecturer, or any responsible capacity. Wire, Sandiland, Baby Incubator Institute, Scottish National Exhibition, Edinburgh, till Tuesday.

WANTED, by Auctioneer, Engagement, capable worker of any stock; thoroughly reliable in every branch of the business. Box 5,088, "The Era."

WANTED, by Mdme. de Para, immediate Exhibition Bookings, Palmistry and original Profile Readings. Thanks Mr. King, Horsham, and Dorking, Xmas, Agricultural Hall. 34, The Drive, Fulham.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL EXHIBITION.
WANTED, Known, at Liberty for good Exhibition or Carnival, the Shooting Ranges from the above Exhibition, artistic and up-to-date.
Apply,
Arthur H. Parker, Scottish Exhibition, Edinburgh.

THE BIGGEST THING IN WALES.
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ANDREW'S HALL.
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Opens Christmas Eve.
Four weeks certain.
Absolutely the finest position in the town.
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Nearly 200ft. by 100ft.
The Snip of the Season.
The Snip of the Season.
Big Attractions Already Booked.
Big Attractions Already Booked.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
few Spaces available
for up-to-date
Side Shows, Games, and Stalls.
Side Shows, Games, and Stalls.
Side Shows, Games, and Stalls.
Early application should be made to
F. G. Rollason,
10, Throgmorton-avenue, London, E.C.

COUNTY OF LONDON.
To Showmen and Others.
Roundabouts, &c., on Open Spaces.
WANTED, Known, the London County Council invites Tenders for the privilege of placing Roundabouts, Ponies, Asses, Swings, Cocoanut Shies, Shows, and Refreshment Tents on Blackheath or Hampstead Heath or Wormwood Scrubs, for Hire, at Bank Holiday times, in 1909.
Tenders must be upon official forms, which, together with full particulars of the conditions to be observed, are to be obtained from the Chief Officer of the Parks Department, 11, Regent-street, S.W., and no Tender will be received after 11 a.m. on Jan. 1, 1909.
G. L. Gomme,
Clerk of the London County Council,
County Hall,
Spring Gardens, S.W.,
Oct. 29, 1908.

FUN CITY, DRILL HALL, BATH,
Dec. 24, 1908, to Jan. 16, 1909.
The Largest Hall in the Town, 125ft. by 80ft.
Thickly Populated Neighbourhood.
All Trams (Electric) Pass the Door.
The First Show of its Kind ever Held in Bath.
WANTED, to Let, Spaces, for Motor-car Roundabouts, Cake Walk Machine, Games, all kinds of Side Shows, Palmistry, Sketching, Photography, Monograms, Automatic Machines, Candy, Fairy Floss, Fancy Goods, Toys, &c., &c. Carl Fredricks, 4, Brunswick-st., Bath.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, Proprietors, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Third Annual Portsmouth Exhibition, Nov. 16-28. Space to Let for Engraver, Daisy Needle, Rifle Range, or Good Novelty Stall. Also Side-show Wanted; Fairy Fountain write. Manager, Exhibition Offices, 75-76, Pearl-buildings, Portsmouth.

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Pastimes, Ld., 55, Strand, W.C.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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Also Double Tube Shooting Gallery Living Waggon, Rifles, Fittings, &c., complete.

Large Yard, near centre of Dublin for sale, nearly 2 acres, containing one 2-storey iron furniture storing shed (built by Mains, of Glasgow, a couple of years ago), 150ft. by 25ft. by 26ft. high at centre. One Wood and Stone Paint Shop, 70ft. by 20ft.; one Furniture Stores (2-storey), 50ft. by 40ft., lease 99 years, rent £48 per annum; four 6-roomed Houses, situated Chelmsford-road, let at £38 per year, lease rent; 2 6-roomed Houses, situated Beechwood-avenue, let at £38 per year, lease rent; Oxford Lodge, Oxford-road, Ranelagh, Dublin, vacant, let at £36 per year, head rent £3 per year, lease 99 years.

Reason for selling the above, the eldest son of the late Wm. Toft coming of age, and is giving up part of the business, and part of the estate has to be realised.

Applications in reference to the above address, TOFT and TURNBULL, Roundabouts, Coleraine, Co. Derry; or to permanent address, 69, Upper Beechwood-avenue, Ranelagh, Dublin.

WANTED, to Sell, at a Sacrifice, (having no immediate use for same), an excellent and most serviceable Motor Tractor (Burrell's make), and Dynamo, complete (Crompton make), for Hauling and Electric Lighting Purposes.

A Real Genuine Bargain, and one Showmen, Contractors, &c., should know more about.

In sound working order.

Apply for appointment, (when tractor can be seen working) to LORD JOHN SANGER and SONS, LTD., Royal Circus, Burstow Lodge, Horley, Surrey.

WANTED, to Sell, that Magnificent Road Touring Living Carriage, the property of Lord George Sanger (retired), fit for a king; also Massive Carved Two-waggon Walk-up Bioscope Show Front, road or rail; to be sold, a bargain, or accept Partner; also Light-running One-horse Road Living Waggon, panelled and fitted, £18, very cheap; also splendid nearly new Shuttered Booth, cost £20, price £9. Wanted, to Hire or Purchase, Rail Living Waggon. Apply, TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office, London.

WANTED, to Sell, or Exchange for Anything Useful in the Show Business, or will accept Partner for a massive carved Two-waggon Road or Rail Walk-up Show Front, having splendid living accommodation; or will Let Out on Hire. Can be seen built up by appointment; or photo. 3d. Apply, 43, Franklin-street, Brighton.

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WANTED, to Sell, large Portable Theatre, Wagons, Waterproof Cover, Wood Roof; splendid seating accommodation; scripts, magnificent wardrobe. STACEY, 9, Low Skillgate, Ripon.

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WANTED, to Sell, Distorting Mirrors. Address, MIRRORS, 19, Marchmont-st., Russell-sq., London.

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WANTED, to Sell, Flare Lamps. The only real Flare is the "Star," Made only by STACEY, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

WANTED, to Buy, good Pullman Car, second-hand, cheap for cash. Send photo, with full particulars and size, to BARRON'S Arcade, Exhibition, Lowestoft.

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WANTED, to Sell, 20 h.p. Motor Car, 4 cylinders, M.O.V., Landaulette body. Luggage Carrier over Driver and at rear. In First-class order, £195. Apply, Box 5,085, "The Era."

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WANTED, to Sell, Tights, Symmerical Paddings, Animal Dresses, &c. H. BOXALL, Tight-maker, 166, Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

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WANTED, to Sell, Box Chamber, six Flats, 15 by 6, two Returns 15 by 2½, made to fold for travelling. Cash £3; must sell. DORINA, Pier, Southport.

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WANTED, to Clear, Large Quantity of Second-hand Films, Comedy, Dramatic, and Travel Subjects, all in good condition. Lists ready. JURY'S Imperial Pictures, 142, Long-acre, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, 5,000ft. First-class Cinematograph Films, Comic and Dramatic, good as new, 1½d. per ft. OPERATOR, 69, Randolph-street, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, to Sell, Films, cheap, and Films for Hire, up-to-date. THE BENDON TRADING CO., 75, Jamaica-st., Glasgow.

WANTED, to Sell, Films, Secondhand, guaranteed, excellent condition, perforations, perfect. Stamp for list. R. A. P., TRADING CO., 69, Campbell-road, Stoke-on-Trent.

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WANTED, to Sell, Stud of Horses and Ponies, full Circus. Circus, Wood Castle, Bordesley Green, Birmingham.

WANTED, Bandmasters to Know, 7,000 Orchestral Pieces, 60 Uniforms, 30 Stands, on hire; Music, Uniforms for sale. ALGERNON CLARKE, 28, Lonsdale-road, Barnes. Telephone 109 Putney.

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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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NOTICE.—No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

THE LONDON COLISEUM.

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—
Miss Cecelia Loftus, "Visions of Wagner," Poole and Maguire, Vaughan and Hyde, Dare's Minstrels, Russell Wallett, Lil Hawthorne, M. Volbert and Mlle. Sylve, Canty's Grotto, Bertha Winder, Bioscope, Miss Nina Wood, Fred Storey and Co. in "The Merchant of Venice."

THE FOLLOWING ARE BOOKED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE ABOVE:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
The Renads, in "Swiss Express," Fred Lincoln, The Cromwells, Terry and Tate,, Verno and Voyce, Kent and Keith, Alfred Warner, Pictures, Dion Wade.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Howard and Harris, Arthur Royce, Connie Mascot, Bert Williams, Tom Parker, Lilian Lowe, Pictures, Cumberlands.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Chung Ling Soo, Bessie Butt, Marsumas, Rhoda Paul, Imperial Russian Troupe, Naughton and Gold, Bioscope, Dubois' Baboon.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Vera Feare, Harry Lewis, Frank Edwards, Bioscope, &c.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Both Performances.
Fred Eustace and Co. in "The Family Name," Beatrice Willey, Wallace Lupino, Harry Weldon, Stacey and Williams, Alexandra Dagmar, Arthur Lennard, Musical Watsons, Olga Dore, Bioscope, Tom Foy and Co.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Reano's Band, Lord, Murray, and Lord, Coverdale, The Lumars, Agnes Tina, Harry Luck, Bioscope, Olga and Elgar.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Chas. Fisher and Co., Dorothy Sephton, Chas. Stevens, La Belle Nello, Will English, Hayes and Wynne, Leo Tell, Pictures, Thorpe and Coe.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced.

NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

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and "POOR JOHN!"
(Leigh and Pether).

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(Wilmott and Darewski),
Sung by R. G. Knowles.

"THE IDOL OF THE GIRLS"
(Murray, Hilbury, and Lyle),
and "NO GIRL'S A FAIRY"
(Leigh and Lyle),
Sung by Miss Vesta Tilley.

"WE'VE ALL BEEN DOING A BIT"
(T. W. Connor).
Sung by Dan Crawley.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"
(Murphy and Lipton),
Sung with unparalleled Success by
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"TAKE ME ON THE FLIP-FLAP"
(Wilmott and Darewski),
Sung by Miss Ella Retford.

"KISS YOUR SOLDIER BOY GOOD-BYE"
(Jerome, Schwartz, and Leigh),
Sung by Miss Harriett Vernon.

"LET ME BUT HOPE."
(Percy Edgar and H. E. Pether),
Sung by Miss Ethel Hayden.

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS" (Gifford and Sullivan), and "I'M HERE—IF I'M WANTED."
(F. Leo),
Sung by Wilkie Bard.

"ON THE CLIFFS OF NORMANDY"
(Lawrance, Mellor, and Gifford),
Sung by Miss May Mars.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY."
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski)
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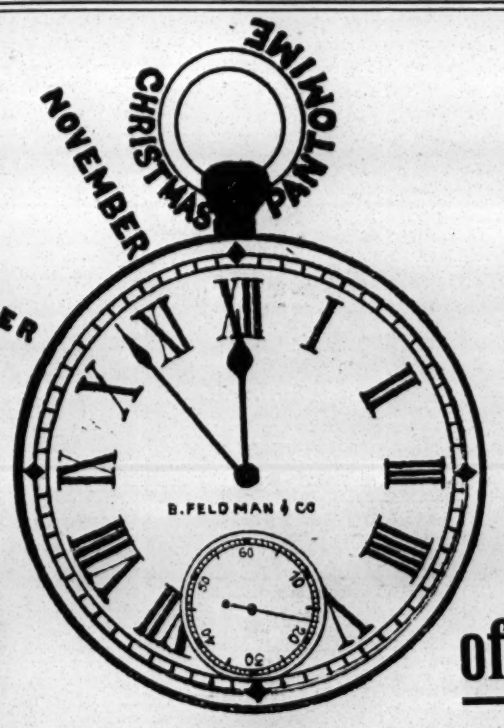

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OVER

A TINY SEED OF LOVE. A WHITE MAN.

I do like to be where the Girls are.
Come along up in the Flip-Flap.
Peggy, the Pride of the Mill.
I want you to see my Girl.
It's not so much the Waltz Dream as her Dreamy, Dreamy Eyes.
Shine, Little Moonflower.
It's Good-bye to Maudie.
Come round on Sunday.
I like your old French Bonnet.
What you've got, look after.
Tramcar.
Girls, study your Cookery Book.
Nancy.

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Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through, each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not re-booked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:

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All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.
All Artists carrying scenery must have same fire-proofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.
Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."
In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.
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CALLS

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Haley's Juveniles, Two Kays, Rich and Radford, The Miltons, Cestria, Babusio Bros., Rose Sartella, The Arntees, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
The Cottrell Powells, Gravetta and Parr, Sivronis, Elmo and Rego, Minnie Kirby, Taree, Yvonne Lamor, Bros. St. Clair, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
The Kurios, Farley, Rennie, and Farley, Woodhouse and Wells, Margaret Royce, Burnetti, August, September, and May, Clown Barker, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Nat Clifford, Osram Trio, Leo Trainer, Two Rubies, Francis Earle, Jack Neil, Cliff and Kean, The Westwoods, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Bernard Mervyn and Co., Bob Hamilton, Johnny Dwyer, The Howards, Gold and Sterling, Lily Eyton, Kurkamp, John Humphries and Co., Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, Tom York, Chas. J. Lewis, Alfonso, Fred Maxwell and Co., Winoria, Eva Roslyn, Leonas.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"Sapho" and "A Wife's Triumph."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"When London Sleeps."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Ross and Grayson, Marion Fletcher, Burns and Bentley, Five Broadway Girls, Moon and Morris, Chas. Tuppen, Elroy, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Goggin and Davis, Harry Simms, Three Prestons, Webb and Branston, Edith Chantler, Ellis and Watts, Cissie Curlette, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal, 1 o'clock.
Carlotta De Yonsen and Co., Lecardo Bros., Julian Ross, Leo and Roland, Fritz Von Liston, Ethel Sheffer, Harrigan and Holt, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Austral Trio, Mlle. Orbasany, Jack Rae, Letine, The Prinellas, Jackley Trio, Flo Burnett, Geoffreys and Benson, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Beauty Competition, Florence Schuberth, Stidder and Dunbar, Keith and Merson, Frank Long and Co., Carl and Mary Ohm, Happy Attwood, Steve Bartle, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
The Smythsons, Dott Moss, Auxetophone, Sisters Florence, Yettmah, Blanche Marion, Dan Merrett, Three Orleans, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Tom Collins, Nat Watkins, Lillie Soutter, Raymond, Beattie Lyndon, Halma, Glenroys, Harry Champion, Madge Morley and Co., Fergusson and Mack, D. W. Watson.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Ernest Rees, Fred Moule and Co., Hans and Lux, Marie Jones and Co., Mme. Eldee, Dorothy Clarke, Raymond, Leslie Lyn and Willis, Albert St. Clair, Margaret Radcliffe, J. E. Ford, Frank Vallance.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée, every Monday.
Florence Yaymen, Bains and Reed, Raymond, Adah Payne, The Forsythes, Russell Carr, The Gascoignes, Sisters Selwyn, Madge Allen, Karno's Football Match, Jimmy Laurie.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Rehearsal, Monday, 12 o'clock.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Mac and Hill, Clack and Clack, Josephine Crook, Raymond, Dorma Morgan, Olga Andre and Co., Marie D'Albert, Ten San Tan Girls, Walter Clyde, Mack Olive, Edwards and Dacre.

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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée every Monday.
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For continuation of Song Advts., see page 36.

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Code Word, "FEERIQUE."

Young Toby, who was engaged by the firm yesterday, does not know that the closing time is 12 o'clock on Saturday, and for this reason he is locked up in the shop, where he turns everything upside down in the hope of finding a means of egress. His numerous misfortunes, ending for him in a cold douche, will certainly cause him to remember next Saturday that the shop closes at twelve o'clock.

495ft. The Subject, **£8 5s. 0d.**

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Code Word, "FERME."

In the days gone by it was a custom along the coast for the wreckers to attract the vessels to the shore during the storm, and for so doing they tied a lantern to the horns of a limping cow, which was taken by the people on board for another ship. It is that now obsolete custom which has been revived by the cinematograph; and the film ends, after showing a picture of the revelry of the wreckers, with the rescue of a young and noble lady by a young peasant lad, and the marriage of the rescuer with the rescued.

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This film shows the weird and strange ideas which come into the head of a man whose brain is excited by the spirit he has just drunk.

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Code Word, "FEE."

Peasants do not like gipsies. One of the latter having stopped his van at the end of a field is ordered to go at once; but as the wanderer is a stubborn man he will not give in, and the farmer is obliged to ask the keeper to make him go. During the quarrel the peasant's son has seen the gipsy girl, and their case being that of love at first sight, they make an appointment for the evening. Her father seeing her with a man of the accursed race, is made more furious still at the recollection of the outrage of the afternoon, and he rushes upon the younger man with his knife in his hand. Yet his daughter, maddened at the idea of danger for her lover, snatches the knife from her father's hand, and plunges it into his heart.

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At Tanger. The coffee hour on one of the terrace at the French Club. Several officers and their relations, a young couple, all engaged in a merry talk. Suddenly the news spreads that a "Mehalla" has been sighted a few miles distant. The officers jump n horseback and ride away hurriedly, while the ambulance dogs belonging to the Red Cross Society run to the outposts which are being attacked. We follow them in their run through all sorts of danger, some with their useful medicine chests, others with the stretchers they have been put to, and which will return presently with a wounded soldier to the camp.

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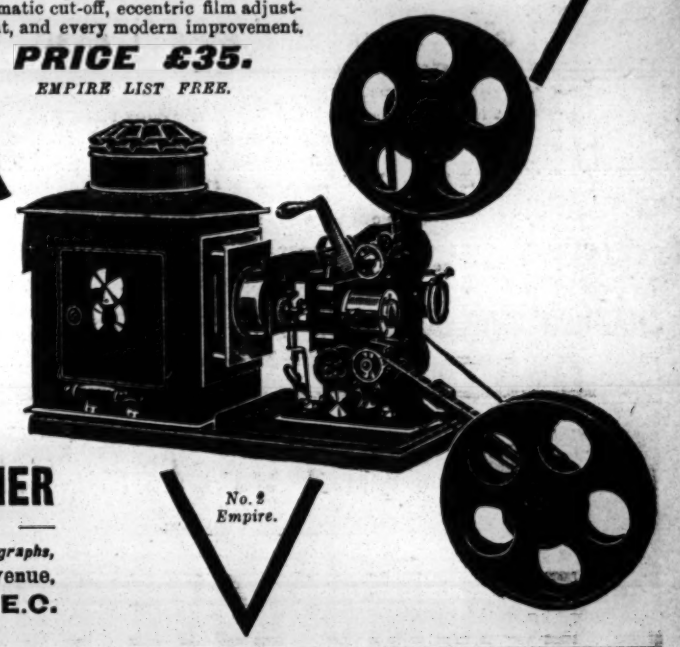

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But the greatest cause of fun was his soldier's cap and gun,
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I'm off to join the Army, Redcoats do not alarm me,
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Yours truly, Marie Clavering.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—New Theatre.—Proprietors, the Aberdare, Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—Miss Inez Howard's company is here this week, with *Her Love Against the World*. Mr. Leonard Yorke gave an earnest and manly portrayal as Eric; Miss Margaret Savill adorns the part of Princess Iris, acting with grace and emotion; Mr. Henry C. Cooper well sustained the rôle of Prince Ulric; and Miss Josie Beltram depicts Nello with much ability. Mr. Chas. A. Baker is successful as Prince Maurice; while Mr. H. Gordon Ingram as Prince Othmar is convincing; and other parts are well sustained by the various members of the company.

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—Messrs. Thompson and Courtneidge's adaptation of *Tom Jones* is the play this week. Miss Florence Smithson makes a sweet and charming Sophia; Miss Isabelle Dillon is a sprightly French maid; and Miss Alice Oppitz gives a strikingly effective portraiture of Lady Bellaston. Mr. Harry Welchman is an admirable Tom Jones, and Mr. Ambrose Manning's Squire is quite a triumph each evening. Mr. J. T. Macmillan is most amusing as Gregory; and Mr. John Morley is successful in the small part of the Squire. Much regret was caused by the fact that on Monday Mr. Dan Rolyat, who was suffering from a bad cold, which severely affected his throat, was obliged to retire at the end of the first act. His part of Blifil was capably taken by Mr. Walter T. Rignold.

Palace Theatre.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Harry Roxbury and company present a delightful musical comedy, *The Prince of Monte Carlo*. The piece is magnificently staged, and it is acted with conspicuous skill. Miss Jean Macduff, the noted Scotch comedienne, is warmly encored; Cruikshank keeps the house genuinely amused all the time he is on the stage; Barney Vox is an entertaining and versatile ventriloquist; the Brothers Lang contribute a funny knockabout turn; Mr. H. O. Wills, comedian, earns applause; and the Cheers appear in a popular scena, *Dick Whittington*, which introduces a remarkably well-trained troupe of performing cats.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—The programme this week is exceptionally bright and attractive. Among the best of the turns are those of Mr. Edward Stevens, a smart comedian and dancer; Miss Etta O'Hanlon, a vivacious comedienne and dancer; Mr. James Lamb, a fine tenor; and Gilroy and Gross, a pair of most resourceful and amusing burlesque artists; Mr. Lamb is also the soloist to the illustrated songs. Mr. Kennedy's display of cinematograms is well worth the seeing.

Empire Music Hall.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and L. Montague.—There is an exceptionally strong company here this week, including Scotch Criss, the well-known Scotch comedian; the Raymond Musical Quartet; Miss Marie Rose, the popular comedienne and dancer; Mr. Arthur Bright, topical vocalist; Mr. Archie Murray, coloured comedian; and Mr. James Montague, conjurer; Mr. Alexander Calder's cinematograph display is one of the most interesting features of the show.

ABERTILLERY.—Metropole Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—The return visit of Mr. Harry Benet's talented company in the popular musical comedy *Sergeant Brue* was marked by success. Mr. Harry Benet maintains his high reputation by the masterly manner in which he sustained the part of Crookie Scrubbs; Miss Ray Anderson gave an artistic portrayal of Lady Bickenhall; the title-rôle found a clever exponent in Mr. Denis Lyndon; and Mr. Crank was acted by Mr. T. G. Warren in a pleasing and natural manner. The minor parts were excellently sustained by clever artists. The remainder of the week is taken up with the production of the new version of *The Christian* by Mr. Wentworth Croke's powerful company.

Pavilion.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—The Piccolinis, the Lilliputian wonders, are an extraordinarily clever troupe of cyclists, acrobats, and wire walkers; Miss Beattie Benson is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Gala and Norris provide a pleasing musical sketch entitled *Down South;* the Three Langfords are a troupe of tricky dancers with songs and receive much appreciation; and Slippere, the blind entertainer, performs some clever feats on the piano. A pathetic sketch entitled *The Spy* is produced by Messrs. Ford and Webb's company, the artists showing great dramatic power; Mabella May is successful as a vocalist and dancer, and several excellent pictures are shown on the Bioscope

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company in *A Country Girl in London* was well received here on Monday. Mr. W. V. Garrod deserves high praise for his clever rendering of Frank Gordon; Godfrey Clinton is played by Mr. G. Moreton Williams with vigour and power; Mr. John S. Sheridan acts with earnestness as John Hamilton; Mr. E. W. Avery is genuinely humorous as Heinrich Oppenheim; and Mr. Seymour Perry as Wilberforce Puddyphat and Miss Lesley Adair as Adelaide both work hard to amuse; Marjorie Hamilton is a pleasing and accomplished effort by Miss Bertha Kingston; Miss Josephine Colona is a conspicuous success as the wayward Gwendoline.

ALDERSHOT. — Royal and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—Mr. Macdonald's company, in *The Dairymaids*, is on a return visit, but since the previous appearance some alterations have been made which have had the effect of adding, in no small measure, to the attractiveness of the performance, the clever introduction of specialities in dancing, vocal, and comic business further ensuring success. Mr. Dan Agar is one of the most versatile artists we have had the pleasure of seeing, and he again scores heavily as Joe; Mr. Richard Telford as Lieut. Sam Brudenell causes almost endless fun whilst on the stage with his quaint sayings and doings; Mr. Bernard Vaughan is capital as the Irish doctor, and he lends to the part an acceptable jovial personality; Miss Empsie Bowman's is a vivacious portrayal of Peggy, plenty of go and nimble dancing placing her rôle among the successes of the performance; Miss Nellie Bowman's Eliza is another well-played rôle, and with Mr. Telford she is encored again and again in the musical numbers; Miss Carrie Lacey gives a capable impersonation of Lady Brudenell; and Miss Lucy Edwin as the austere Penelope Prychace is excellent. Miss Vera Crichton as Winifred sings several numbers with ability. Mr. J. Scott Melville (Meredith), J. R. Mennill (Tim), Hugh Glendon (Brereton), and W. W. Westworth (Todgers) do well.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Mr. Wilson Benge's company is presenting here this week what is described as a picturesque domestic drama, called *The Eve of Her Wedding*. Mr. Benge as George Tremain is a prominent figure in the action; Miss Sadie Smith as Mavis Leverton invests the part with grace and sweetness; Misses E. Bartlett, Daisy Cook, and Amy Milstred win favour for their depiction of many feminine characteristics, especially forceful and able being the impersonation of Rene de Telle, an adventuress, by Miss Bartlett.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Heading the bill is Edie Veno, described as an eccentric comedienne; Doyle and Massey are good cross-talkers; Ted Evans exhibits comicality; the Deuchars, duettists and dancers, are a good turn; and a unique electric cycle act, called Cyclumina, is a prime feature of the programme; the Musical Palmers are expert in a refined military and society entertainment; the Cameos win unbounded applause for clever feats; Douglas and Gordon, a Scottish comedy couple, are refreshing and entertaining; Beau and Belle present a new scena entitled *Past and Present;* Geo. Prince, crazy comedian, also wins favour; and "Western Justice" is shown in a series of pictures on the Bioscope.

Picturedrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.—There is another attractive programme at the Picturedrome. Of the humorous cinematograph films submitted to good audiences we have this week The Economical Dinner, Mary is Dismissed, Tommy in the Country, and The Policeman's Dream.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—Picture entertainments are still drawing crowded houses here. This week's series include Grandfather's Birthday, Catch Me if You Can, When Other Lips, An Expensive Duck, Our Village Marathon Race, The Wild Goose Chase, and The Showman's Daughter. Mr. Glanmore Jones is retained as vocalist.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—The principal attraction of this week's programme here is furnished by Mephisto, who presents, with elaborate accessories, a number of original and surprising illusions, all of which are cleverly and smartly performed; adequate assistance is rendered by Miss Winifred Attondue. The Stowe Brothers are excellent in the head and hand balancing act; the Royal Temples are here again with their delightful vocalism; a pleasing comedy act is given by Mint and Mart, the lady member doing some clever paper tearing; plenty of fun is furnished by the sketch *Uncle Obadiah*, by Mr. Charles Dixton and his company; and good items of the bill are Mr. Fred Casburn, comedian; Miss Phyllis Seymour, pleasing vocalist and dancer; Mr. Dick Bradley, trick cyclist; and the Attergraph pictures.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stone.—Mr. Stephen Pritt's company is presenting his domestic drama *His Wife No Longer* here this week. Mr. D. McFarlane gives an excellent presentation of the Rev. Frank Willacy, a man of broad sympathies; the character of Anthony Merivale is a very strong one, and is played with much power and ability by Mr. Clavering Craig; Miss Rosa Mervin as Mrs. Merivale is very sympathetic, and played the emotional parts to perfection; Mr. Ernest Percival's Tommy Oglethorp is a dude of the first water. The remainder of the cast is in excellent hands.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is paying a very welcome return here with *Peter's Mother*. In the title-rôle Miss Violet Ley proves herself a talented actress, and achieves a great success. Mr. Townsend Whitting is thoroughly capable in the part of Sir Timothy Crewys, Bart.; Mr. Vivian Gilbert's Peter is a capital presentation; Mr. Eille Norwood displays considerable ability as John Crewys, Q.C.; and the remainder of the cast leaves nothing to be desired.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Carter's Ten Dixie Girls are the top of the bill here this week in a capital scena entitled *The Silver Coon*, and they had a capital reception, Miss May Carter being loudly applauded; J. W. Churchill is an exceedingly clever comedian, and convulsed his audience with his quaint sayings; Lilly Black is a very pleasing vocalist; Renot's impersonations of well-known comedians are capital; Leslie Talmage is a clever comedy juggler; and De Ora gives an exceptional trapeze act.

New Hippodrome. — Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Some capital pictures are to be been here this week, and good houses are the rule.

BARRY DOCK.—New Theatre and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company in *Home, Sweet Home* played to a capital house here on Monday. Mr. Arthur Hinton acted with telling effect the part of Stephen Armitage; Miss Lydia André as Joan is all that can be desired; Mr. David Beattie does well as Lucas Lyle; as David Armytage Mr. Fred G. Kay acts with telling effect; and real fun is caused by the light comedy acting of Mr. Victor G. Millard as the Hon. Percy; Miss Laura Wright as Sybil Fay is well received; Mr. Frank Brunell ably portrays the part of Dick Redmayne; Mr. Charles Clifford is a typical Duke of Ancaster; Miss Kitty Collinson works hard in the double parts of Gaffer and Lady Summerton; and Miss Hilda Vokes deserves special notice as Dora.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—The Moody-Manners B company are fulfilling their annual autumn season here this week, commencing on Monday with *Madame Butterfly*, which, not having previously been staged locally, aroused a good deal of interest. The leading principals were Miss Enriqueta Crichton, Mr. Charles Carter, and Mr. Marshall Vincent, each of whom added materially to their reputations as excellent vocalists of operatic music. On Tuesday *The Daughter of the Regiment* was put on, in which Miss Rosina Beynon, Miss Jessie Browning, Mr. John Child, and Mr. William Anderson sustained the chief rôles. *The Bohemian Girl, Carmen, Tannhäuser*, and *Faust*, with matinées of *Il Trovatore* and *Madame Butterfly* have also been given. A feature of this company is the splendid chorus and orchestra, numbering over seventy, and their share in the various operas has been greatly appreciated. The conductor of the present tour is Mr. Cuthbert Hawley, who keeps the forces under him in splendid control.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schuberth.—A capital bill is submitted this week, in which Ross and Grayson, in the comedy act, "Piano Playing Extraordinary," score a conspicuous success; Elroy, the armless wonder, comes in for a great reception for his really wonderful doings with his feet; Charles Tupper, the champion horn blower, deserves all the compliments that are showered upon his playing; Burns and Bentley, styled the premier dancing team, prove their title; an attractive turn is that of the Five Broadway Girls, singers and dancers; Marion Fletcher returns to charm her hearers with some excellent ballad singing; Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, as usual, are worth witnessing, and always give a good deal of amusement to old and young alike. Wright's orchestra maintains its position for a couple of well-rendered selections.

BATLEY.—Theatre.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—A capital house on Monday gave a hearty reception to Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company in the musical comedy in two acts, *A Merry Maid*. Mr. Vivian Wakeman as Larry O'Hooligan, Mr. Neil Hardy as the Hon. Cecil Toft, Master Wee George Wood as Bertie Vere de Vere, and Miss May Gibson as Peggy O'Hooligan are all capable, the singing of the latter winning well-deserved applause.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—A number of Bedford's talented amateurs are this week occupying the stage at the above, and on the opening night a large and fashionable audience witnessed with evident satisfaction the trial scene from *The Merchant of Venice* and Cecil Clay's comedy, *A Pantomime Rehearsal*, the proceeds to be devoted to the relief of the poor in Bedford.

BELFAST.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—On Monday Mr. Terry and company commenced a six nights' engagement here in *Fiander's Widow*. Mr. Terry gained an instantaneous success as Isaac Sharpe. No finer conception, in fact, of the shrewd farmer could be imagined. Miss Edith Coleman deserves to be congratulated on her treatment of the rôle of Mrs. Fiander; Miss Sophie Lingwood's assumption of the village charwoman, Mrs. Belbin, was good; and Mr. Edmund Hollick was certainly convincing as Richard Marshall. Mr. Kenneth Brampton was all that could be desired as Sam Belbin; and winsome impersonations of the two dairymaids, Susan and Betty, were furnished by Miss Evelyn Ormonde and Miss Ella Dixon. *The Telephone*, a comedietta in one act, was a most attractive curtain-raiser. On Tuesday *Sweet Lavender* was presented; and during the week *Liberty Hall, Kerry*, and *The Magistrate* have been given.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Garland and Douglas provide the leading turn here with their exceedingly smart musical mélange, *A Trip to Coontown*. Creo Brothers appear in their acrobatic scena, *The Gypsies*, which has scored a big success; and Miss Maidie Scott, a refined comedienne, is the happy possessor of some good songs which she knows how to sing; Mr. C. is paying a return visit; and a pleasing return visit is being paid by Miss Maud Courtney, the American girl. Also appearing are the Brothers Durant, with their burlesque aeroplane; Vandinoff, lightning painter; Mr. Charles Ulrick, the barrel king; and the Palace pictures.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fred Willmott and Will Sley; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The chief attraction here is provided by Mr. James Callahan and Miss Jennie St. George, who appear with the greatest success in their Irish character sketch *The Old Neighbourhood*. Leslie Brothers return with their clever eccentric musical act; and Mr. Leo Dryden fully upholds his reputation as a vocal character-actor. The Two Lillies appear to advantage in their novel mirror dance; and roars of laughter greet Sandy McNab and company, who produce their novel and funny sketch *The Egyptian Mummy*. Also appearing are Miss Anna Kenwick, comedienne and dancer; Mr. Frank Dunlop, comedian; Charters and Clare, comedians; and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The top of the bill here is occupied by Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris in *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp;* Mr. Bert Williams is one of the best ventriloquists that has been seen here for some time; and a good reception has been accorded Happy Tom Parker, eccentric comedian. Excellence is shown by the Cumberlands in their acrobatic cycling act; and the fine voice of Miss Lilian Lowe has been heard to advantage. Miss Connie Mascot, a charming comedienne and dancer, pleases all; Mr. Arthur Royce, although billed, does not appear; but, by kind permission of Messrs. Warden, Ltd., Miss Maud Courtney came over on Monday from the Palace, and at once installed herself a firm favourite with some capital stories. The Bioscope, under the direction of Mr. McGibney, exhibits a fine series of pictures entitled A Trip to Rome.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Another fine programme has been submitted by the popular manager, Mr. Will White, the series of pictures presented including the great Irish drama Shamus O'Brien, The Incendiary Foreman (a great picture), An Attractive Catch, Cat's Revenge, A Sinner, &c. In addition, Edwards and Ward, duettists and dancers, appear with success; also Mr. Leo King, who in song and story made a big hit on Monday.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The series of pictures presented here under the direction of Mr. Hugh Beckett is really beautiful. This week's programme includes Mr. Hayseed's Bargain, The Tempter, Doctor's Experiment, The Perjurer, Angelo, &c. In addition, Miss Edith Moore, a fine vocalist, appears with much success; also the famous Irvings in their wonderful mental telepathy. With characteristic enterprise Mr. Fred L. Arthur, the popular manager, intends introducing on Monday next a comic singing competition, which is certain to be a pronounced success.

BILSTON.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson.—On Monday Mr. Allan Wilkie and company appeared in *Othello*, and the excellent reputation which this talented actor has won for himself on previous visits here received fresh lustre on this occasion. His interpretation of the character of the Moor was very fine indeed. The Iago of Mr. Alexander Marsh was really excellent; Miss Haidee Gun was very successful as Desdemona, and her efforts were highly appreciated. Others who contributed largely to the general success were Mr. Frank Royde (Cassio), Mr. Ina Fleming (Roderigo), Miss Kily O'Dempsey (Bianca), and Miss Mildred Surrey (Emilia). Other pieces presented during the week were *Romeo and Juliet, Hamlet, Julius Cæsar, The Sleigh Bells, David Garrick*, and *Macbeth*.

BIRKENHEAD.—New Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Grant.—Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company is here in the musical comedy, *The Catch of the Season*. Miss Gladys Guy is a charming Angela; Mr. Charles Hanbury both histrionically and vocally acquits himself admirably as the Duke of St. Jermyn's; Mr. H. C. Barry plays Isaac Isaacstein with much humour and acceptance; Master Peter Grata scores heavily in the rôle of Bucket; Mr. William Gibson is admirably played by Mr. Geoffrey Berwick; the important part of Lady Caterham is splendidly enacted by Miss Grace Hampton; Miss Alice Hamilton as Lady Crystal, Miss Barry Eldon and Miss Kate Robertson as her daughters appear to decided advantage; Miss Claire De Vere is well suited as the Duchess. Other characters are likewise well sustained, and the comedy is lavishly produced. The full chorus and orchestra are under the direction of Mr. Ed. Petersen.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—An enjoyable programme is supported by Mr. Fred Karno's troupe of comedians in *Mumming Birds*, a sketch which always goes well here; the Waldrons, in *The Silly Burglar*, are repeating previous successes, as also is Miss Dora Lyric, whose vocal effusions are well received; Miss Winifred Ward, a male impersonator of exceptional ability, has made an unmistakable hit, and Crome and Hamilton in an act entitled *Artful Aladdin* are general favourites. Brady and Johnson, the comedy team, Miss Rosie Reval, comedienne and dancer, Mr. Fred Curran, a capital comedian, Mr. Fred Barnes, light comedian, and Brown's Royal Bioscope complete the company.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*A White Man* is drawing very well here, with Mr. Herbert Sleath and Miss Ellis Jeffreys and company. Mr. Sleath's portrayal of Captain Jim, the White Man, is very acceptable, especially in the third act, when he quite

"fetches" the house; Mr. Harold Weston plays well as the Earl; Mr. George Fawcett is in great favour as Big Bill; Mr. Menifee Johnstone is ready and clever as the truculent Cash Hawkins; Miss Dorothy Dix as Nat-u-rich acts with natural charm, and endears herself much to the audience; Mr. A. S. Aspland acts with the natural dignity of the Indian Chief; Mr. Jack Ellis displays an appropriately bluff spirit as the Sheriff; Miss Emma Gwynne enacts the part of the Dowager Lady Therhill capably; and Miss Ellis Jeffreys as the Countess shows real feeling and a sympathy that wins great applause.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—*Man and Superman*, performed by the Vedrenne-Barker company, commenced the week's fare on Monday, since when, *The Convict on the Hearth* and *Arms and the Man* have been played. On Monday Mr. Granville Barker's admirable study of John Tanner kept the audience laughing and applauding alternately all the night; Miss Francis Dillon acted the part of Ann with a full sense of its possibilities, coming out in the last scene with a fine piece of acting; Mr. Michael Sherbrooke makes much of the rôle of Roebuck Ramsden; Mr. Richard Haigh as Straker acts in a clever vein of humour; Miss Auriol Lee portrays the worldly-wise Violet Robinson admirably; and Messrs. Fredk. Lloyd, Jas. Hearn, and the Misses Wetherall and Rous are very excellent.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*Two Little Sailor Boys* is passing a welcome stay here, with Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company. Miss Blanche Steele in her character of Lola Grey shows what good acting can do to win an audience over; Mr. H. E. Herbert gets a good reception as Noel Tregarthen; Mr. Horace Booth scores well as Richard Redstone; Mr. H. M. Clifford creates great interest as Capt. Tom Yorke; Miss Muriel Deane has a pleasing, sympathetic style as Mildred Grey; and the Misses Effie D. Crawford and Ivy Millais act the parts of Cyril Grey and Tom Yorke (the two little sailor boys) with remarkable aptitude. Mr. Fred Acton proves an admirable humorist as Jack Jolly, and the Misses Lily Nicholls and Lizzie Chambers support well.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—*Hands Across the Sea* has made a most successful appearance here, with Mr. Cecil A. Collins and company. Mr. Collins is seen in the rôle of Jack Dudley, his manly way of acting the part being much admired; Mr. Adam Alexander acts with quiet force as Joseph Stillwood; and the son, Robert, is ably impersonated by Mr. C. Clifton Boyne; Mr. Forrester Harvey does every justice to the rôle of Tom Bassett; Mr. Frank Woodville is decidedly good as Dick Melford; Miss Beatrice Whitney devotes much care and study, obviously, to the part of Lillian Melford; Miss Lilla Nordon is successful as Lucy Nettleford; and the other parts are equally well played.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, daughter of the late Sir Augustus Harris, is starring here in a round of Shakespearean characters. The performances are under the patronage of the Hon. and Rev. James Adderley, vicar of Saltley, and the audiences have been large as well as fashionable. *Romeo and Juliet* on Monday furnished Miss Harris as the latter with some good opportunities, of which she availed herself well. Mr. Arthur Goodsell played Romeo in an approved fashion, and Mr. Frank Cellier made a notable Mercutio; Mr. Francis Roberts, Mr. Laurence Toole, Mr. J. Cassells Cobb, Mr. Horace Sinclair, Miss Madge Courtney, and Miss Janet Warden afforded some excellent support. *The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, As You Like It, Twelfth Night*, and the Drury Lane success, *The Royal Oak*, have been included in the répertoire.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*The Sailor's Wedding* has proved an all-powerful attraction here, and Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company are received with extreme favour. Mr. C. W. Standing makes a brave-looking and chivalrous Gordon Drake; Mr. Cecil Klein acts in an easy and yet ready style as his friend, Sir Victor; Mr. Cole Aspinall is an able representative of the Count; Mr. Hodgson Taylor enacts the villain's rôle, Giovanni Ferici, with full effect; and Mr. Finch Smiles plays his part as Giacomo well. Miss Laura Hansen's acting as the Countess is marked with both dignity and feeling; Miss Dulcie Greetwich acts the daughter, Mary, in a very charming manner; Miss Winifred Pearson has all the air of the adventuress, Lenore de Gresac; and the comedy of Mr. Walter Pemberton as Jack Hawkins and Miss M. Sadie as Polly Clarke is very good and funny.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Girl Who Wrecked His Home* is making its attractions felt here this week, big "houses" having applauded Mr. Walter Melville's production and company throughout the week. Miss Louise Hampton has established herself well with her poignant portrayal of Bertha Marshall; Mr. Fred Goddard's impersonation of Jack Marshall has many fine qualities, all of which go straight home to the audience; Mr. Paul Barry Lewers plays the rôle of the deceiver, Leonard Kenyon, in a powerful manner; Mr. Will L. Clement as the disreputable Crockett shines as heretofore; Miss Georgie De Lara endows the part of Val Raymond with much distinction; Mr. Francis Hope creates good diversion as Tommy Biffin; and the others do very well.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—This week Mr. Frank Lindo and company (including Miss Marion Wakeford) are here in *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Lindo is very successful as Stephen Armitage; Mr. Helsby Wright gives a good account of himself as Lucas Lyle; Mr. D. Lawrance Doyle (David Armitage), Mr. Archer Brown (Duke of Ancaster), Mr. Norton Shields (the Hon. Percy), and Mr. Richard Walsh (Dick Redmayne) display ability. Miss Wakeford is really charming, and gives a fine rendering of the part of Joan; little Miss Hilda Jackaway is excellent in the part of Dora, and as Sybil Fay Miss Maud Leslie-Cudd is capital. Mr. Tom Lewis is well received in his "Bones" speciality.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*The Adventure of a Lady Typist* is the title of the work submitted here this week by Mr. H. F. Maltby and company. Mr. Maltby assumes with considerable skill the rôle of Robert Jones, whilst Miss Mara Maltby very creditably plays the part of Ernestine Kershaw; the Rev. Stanley Kershaw finds a capable exponent in Mr. Bromber Wills, and Tommy Kershaw is carefully embodied by Mr. Norman H. Tracy; Miss Florence Wynn is very successful as Miss Butler, and Mr. Arthur Claremont merits commendation for his portrayal of Leslie Parkington.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—The temporary conversion of this well-known home of the legitimate into a variety house with two shows a night has aroused great interest, and so far has met with success. Joe Elvin tops this week's bill, which also includes Troba, the juggler; May Lilian Levey, a very popular character comedienne; Morrisey, a clever musical equilibrist; Edwin Gath, an excellent comedian; the Toreadors, burlesque artists; the Comedy Chanters, comical vocalists; Kahn and Kahn in a second-sight and magical act; and Dunning, the well-known ventriloquist.

HIPPODROME.—Manageress, Mrs. Fioni.—The International Pictures continue to be the principal attraction here. The variety artists engaged here this week are the Dunlops, trick cyclists; Lilian Sivado, a very clever lady gymnast; and the Travanic Troupe of vocalists and dancers.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—First comes Bransby Williams, who is right bang on the top of his form, and when that said greater praise there cannot be; then come the Griffiths Brothers, the irresistible mirth provokers, in a comical wrestling act; the Dardinis are wonderful comedy jugglers, and Henry Helme is a vocalist in the very front rank; Florence Esdaile is also a charming singer, whilst Mollie Seymour excels as a comedienne and violinist; Michel Brothers, gladiatorial athletes, Hubert Carter and company in a condensation of *David Garrick*, and George Phillips, comedian and dancer, are also well received. Vernon's Imperial Bioscope continues to show all the latest and best pictures.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—*Under Two Flags* is again being successfully presented by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company. In the principal parts of Bertie Cecil Royellieu and Cigarette Mr. Austin Milroy and Miss Agnes Verity are the recipients of hearty applause, good support being rendered by the remaining members of the company.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Tom Doyle.—The variety attractions here are supplied by the Three Markies, sketch artists; Mollie Malone, Irish comedienne; Grace Darling, in illustrated song; Andy Fagan, comedian; and the Bioscope.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Mr. Hall Caine's play *The Prodigal Son* is being performed here this week by Mr. George D. Day's company. The company is headed by Miss Pauline Emeric, who plays the parts of Thora and Elin. In the former character her acting is marked by much tenderness and feeling, and in the latter she presents a delightfully girlish picture. Mr. Albert Ward takes the part of Oscar Stephensson, and expresses the varying emotions of the prodigal son with considerable histrionic art; the domesticated brother, Magnus Stephensson, is portrayed with power by Mr. H. J. Crane; the Doctor Olsen of Mr. J. E. Savery is a good performance; Mr. H. J. Williams is well suited as the Pastor; and Mr. R. C. Brooksmith appears successfully as the Sheriff. Miss Pearla Gardner gives a spirited study of the rôle of Helga Neilsen. Good work is also done by Miss Florence Lovell as Anna Magnusson, and Miss Kate Osborne as Margaret Neilsen.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A welcome return visit of the Drury Lane pantomime favourite, Neil Kenyon, Scotch comedian, is being made this week. Frank Cumminger, sand dancer; Mabel Hind, a Bolton favourite comedienne; the Hodginis, in their novel revolving ladder act; Edith Muir and Herbert Barlett and company in a tabloid comedy, *The Collar Stud*; Arthur Slater, the whistling man in white; Lily Hayes, comedienne and dancer; Jack North, peculiar comedian; the Two Anartos, musical comedians; and the Imperial Bioscope are other attractions.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—The "star" turn here is Gertie Gitana, a clever artist, whose songs went splendidly, and for which her audiences gave her many recalls. Other turns are Jack Dawe, comedian; the Godfreys (Didie and Kate), black and white musical comedietta artists; McAskel, comedy conjurer; Mlle. Yetta, who appears in a refined wire speciality act; Frank Coyle, quaint comedian; Johnny Fuller, a smart performer on the wire; Nancy Renshaw, negro comedienne and bone soloist; O'Connor and Brady, a pair of amusing comedians, and the Bioscope.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Miss Lena Ashwell's principal company in *Diana of Dobson's* opened here on Monday to an appreciative house. Miss Dorothy Green well deserved the applause she got for her charming rendering of Diana. Her scene in the third act with Captain Bretherton, well played by Mr. Grendon Bentley, was splendidly done; Miss Mary Stuart was natural and convincing as Mrs. Cantelupe, while Mr. Alfred Harris, though inclined to overdo it, played the part of Sir Jasper Grindly remarkably well. Other capital performances came from the Misses Molly Tremaine, Kate Turner, Nannie Hume, Eva Leonard Boyne, Helen Vicary, Georgette de Serville, and Mr. Albert Wainwright. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* preceded the comedy.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is here with *The Merry Widow*. Miss Constance Drever, who sings and acts charmingly, fills the rôle of Sonia; and Miss Ethel Cadman is the able representative of Natalie. As Baron Popoff Mr. Eric Thorne is as funny as ever; and Mr. Leonard Mackay acts with much spirit and sings finely as Prince Danilo.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*Lucky Durham* is here this week, played by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company. The title part is ably sustained by Mr. S. Humber; as Lord Mountfallon Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood is very good; Mr. Leigh is commendable as Reginald Steighton; Mr. John Hartt is effective as Tasker; Miss Alice Esther Belmore represents Helen Vallerton very charmingly; and Miss Beatrice Sinclair as Durham's mother is impressive.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Horace Goldin, illusionist, assisted by Jeanne Fransioli, is here this week astounding all with his inexplicable tricks; and that funny quartette the Gothams are the recipients of hearty applause; Sidney Stern's well-sung song, "Redwing" is prettily illustrated; the Frank L. Gregory troupe give an expert and novel exhibition of hoop-rolling and juggling; in their sketch, *Military Mad*, Ralph and Nellie Howard combine humour with good cornet playing; *A Sure Thing* is a diverting sketch presented by Helen Lee and William Bentley; Adey Spencer as "The Girl from the Hat Shop" is good as a pianiste, and she dances well; Kisbey, "the call boy," is responsible for some entertaining patter and droll character sketches; and some very entertaining pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Haley's Prize Juveniles are filling the place of honour here this week, and their entertainment includes excellent dancing and some capital vocalism and variety business; Rose Sartella is a good vocalist and a charming comedienne; Rich and Radford are entertaining comedians; smart roller skating and good comedy are supplied by the Miltons; Cestria is a clever acrobat and a very funny comedy juggler; as head and hand balancers the Babusio Brothers are exceedingly smart; the Two Kays do a charming vocal and protean sketch, *The Cuckoo*; the Arntes, South Carolina duettists, submit a turn combining broad comedy and good dancing; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are particularly interesting.

BRIGHOUSE.—ALBERT THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Beanland.—A crowded house on Monday thoroughly enjoyed the capital bill of fare. At the head of affairs is Harry Reynolds' Minstrel Troupe, who recall pleasant memories of the old nigger business. They are fine vocalists with splendid concerted numbers, nimble dancers, and good humorists. Miss Effie White executes kaleidoscope dances with grace; the Zedoras are a couple of clever lady gymnasts; Tom Joy is a favourite with all parts of the house; Sarah Barnes has a cultured soprano voice, and is loudly encored for "Love me and the world is mine"; the Sauteron Wonders in a jumping act are well received; Maston's imitations of birds, dogs, sheep, and other animals are realistic; Eugene and Willie are a smart pair of tumblers and balancers, as well as clever violinists; the Brothers Hannaway amuse all with song, dance, and funny patter; and animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Company complete a most enjoyable programme.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and James Willard's company is here this week with *The Girl with the Angel Face*, largely founded on the recent Druce mystery. Miss Florrie Green gives a skilful enactment of Angel Leigh; Miss Phyllis Dailley imparts great sympathetic charm to her representation of Ena Wentworth; Mr. Fred G. Evison gives a good character study as Jasper Death; Miss Mildred Carr is highly successful as Mollie Maitland; Mr. Austin Mortimer's Stephen Arkwright is well played; Mr. Dobell Lyle makes a popular Rev. Gordon Cross; Mr. H. Naylor Grimston submits an effective embodiment of Sir John Wentworth; and others meriting praise include Mr. Dicky Bird as Jim Bates and Mr. Forbes Leighton as Matthew Cripps. The drama is admirably staged and mounted.

ALHAMBRA.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—Ernest Shand, comedian, achieves distinct success; Ian Colquhoun gives his baritone songs in good style; Pipifax and Panlo are a pair of eccentric and original comedy acrobats; the Brothers Brooks, comedians, afford unbounded fun; Rubie and Elsie Redfern sing and dance themselves into favour; Ouida Macdermott is a pleasing vocal actress; the Sisters Brand, dainty dancers and singers, are well received; Fred Hallam is a praiseworthy comedian; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—George Hackenschmidt's wrestling bouts are warmly appreciated; Princess Trixie, the celebrated educated horse, performs some surprising and interesting feats; Harry Taft is a capital comedian and siffleur; Jack and Evelyn, old favourites, are clever entertainers; Frank Hartley, boy juggler, is cordailly applauded; Diana Hope and company present the society episode, *Her Good Name*, with success; Henri Bekker, comedy juggler, submits a good turn, assisted by Mlle. Maie; Fioretti and Elby are distinctly skilful in their barrel and spade jumping act; Dora Brooklyn is a pleasing comedienne; and the Barrascope pictures are excellent.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Alfred West's naval and military animated picture entertainment is a great attraction here this week. Life in our Army and Navy is depicted in realistic style; the Quebec Tercentenary is admirably illustrated; the manœuvres in Hampshire, our Army in India, the doings of the Territorial Army; the King's inspection of the Duke of York's Royal Military School on Empire Day, and Haddon Hall are replete with interest, and other films are of a humorous character.

PALACE PIER.—Miss Lydia Donovan and company opened here on Monday with *Niobe*. Miss Lydia Donovan was charming in her enactment of the title-rôle; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford imparted much humour to his representation of Peter Amos Dunn; Mr. Frank Lennard was very successful as Cornelius Griffin; Mr. Alfred G. Raymond was thoroughly suited as Philip Innings; Miss Louie Walton made an aggressive and forcible Helen Griffin; Miss Maudie Lambert was a pleasing Hattie Griffin; and the remaining characters were ably sustained.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—The animated pictures exhibited here this week are interesting and amusing. A Woman's Fight for Honour, the Sicilian's Revenge, and A Jilted Woman's Revenge, and Poor Doggie convey powerfully effective stories; and great fun is afforded by The Shoemaker's Luck, The Virtuous Young Man, The Energetic Woman, Anything for a Drink, and A Night Alarm. Mr. Arthur W. Briggs merits warm praise for his highly descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to the pictures.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson commenced a week's engagement here on Monday last, when *The Merchant of Venice* was performed. Mr. Benson presented a scholarly and convincing exposition of Shylock; and Mrs. Benson was pleasing in every way as Portia, her speech in the Trial scene being most effectively delivered. Mr. Murray Carrington acted well as Antonio; Mr. Baliol Holloway was happily placed as Bassanio; Mr. F. G. Worlock made an interesting Lorenzo; Mr. G. R. Weir scored a success as Launcelot Gobbo; Miss Bright Morris was pleasing as Jessica; and the remaining parts were all in competent hands. On Tuesday evening *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was staged admirably. Mr. Benson played Lysander in excellent style; Mrs. Benson was charming as Titania; Mr. G. R. Weir was inimitable as Bottom; Miss Leah Hanman presented a clever exposition of Puck, her dancing being warmly applauded; Mr. Murray Carrington acted in clever and picturesque style as Oberon; Mr. F. G. Worlock did well as Demetrius; Miss Helen Haye acted effectively as Hermia, as also did Miss Olive Noble as Helena. The remaining parts were all carefully taken by other members of the company. Mendelssohn's music was well played by an augmented orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. G. R. Chapman; the chorus was effective, and about fifty local children, trained by Miss Leah Hanman, did admirable work in the way of evolutions, &c., as fairies. *Henry V.* is billed for Thursday's matinée.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—The interesting drama *An Unwedded Wife* is attracting good houses. Miss Ethel Van Praag presents a very fine and impressive exposition of Marian; Mr. J. Edward Whitty is amusing as Police Constable O'Runyin; Mr. Charles Stirling displays considerable power as Philip Blackstone; Mr. George Daiper acts in fine manly style as Frank Hawthorne; Mr. J. A. Grove makes the most of Martin Hallett; and the comic parts of Caraway Crumpet, Napoleon Boomer, and Kit are capitally taken by Miss J. Gillette, Mr. Will Casey, and Mr. R. W. Bedford. The play is staged in a very effective manner.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Violet Hope, a graceful dancer, is packing the house. The series of classical dances include Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," "Salome," and "Cleopatra," all attractive and cleverly executed, a live snake, said to measure 9ft., being used in the latter dance. Tom Costello scores with a pretty vocal scena *A Colonial's Vision of Home*; Bruce Green, comedian, has a good dame's song; Kelly and Ashby do a good act, *Fun in a Billiard Saloon*; Edith St. Clare is a pleasing comedienne; Charles Frazer and company successfully present an interesting speciality *The Enchanted Iona*; Takio, Japanese mimic of sounds, obtains applause; and the performance concludes with animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—John Henderson and company are successfully presenting a fine North-West Canadian dramatic sketch, *Amid Northern Lights*, the sketch being well staged and capitally played by Miss Millie Henderson, Messrs. John Henderson, Frank C. Mason, Philip Durham, T. C. Mayne, and Leonard Lorraine. Arthur Croxon, mimetic vocalist, does a good turn; Maude Haile, comedienne and dancer, is successful; Chris Baker, comedian, obtains applause; Luis Hardt does an excellent strong show; Hetty Lee, comedienne and dancer, is attractive; the Harvard sextette of vocalists and dancers deserve commendation; May Clarke has a nice voice, and is pleasing as a choral vocalist; and Griffin and Ardell are exceptionally expert and amusing as eccentric acrobats. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

COLSTON HALL.—This is the last week of Ralph Pringle's animated pictures, the chief attraction being a fine representation of The Life of Christ. There is an excellent choir, and Mr. George Riseley, the eminent Bristol organist, contributes his valuable services at the grand organ.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Another musical comedy (after a short interval) is here this week in the shape of *Mr. Popple of Ippleton*, and a splendid house on Monday welcomed Mr. Chas. Macdona, who ably sustained the title-rôle. Miss Nellie Hodson was a delightful La Bolero; Miss May Hart cleverly plays Louise; Mr. Louis Du Cane as Norman Popple, Mr. Nap Barry as George Henney, Mr. James Stephenson as Henry Doring each did excellent work. There were many evidences by the audience of the pleasure they experienced at the singing of the principals, and also of the pleasing choruses and dances. The chorus and orchestra were under the direction of Mr. George Jenkinson. The scenery was beautiful and the dresses were gorgeous.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—A well-filled house on Monday here welcomed the appearance of Mr. Seymour Hicks's company in *The Gay Gordons*. The audience was as appreciative as it was large, and the result was a distinct success. Miss Maie Ash is bright and sparkling in the rôle of Peggy Quainton, and Mr. Frank Lincoln as Angus is particularly pleasing, and is responsible for many laughs; Mr. Tom Graves is irresistibly funny as Nervy Nat, and Mr. Edward Nainby is good as Edmund; Charlotte Siddons is a very humorous character in the hands of Miss Ida Laurie, and Miss Nellie Lonnel is captivating as Victoria Siddons; Mr. Edward Beecher is convincing as Andrew Quainton; and the excellent chorus is under the capable directorship of Mr. Leonard Leslie.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Dayton Family in "Le Rendezvous" perform bewildering risley, pyramidal, and acrobatic feats. A capital turn is that of the De Breans, whose excellent shadowgraphy is a striking feature of their performance; Cline and Clark, black and white comedy artists, are loudly applauded, and O'Mara and Molly with cross-talk, patter, and dancing, meet with warm recognition; the Four Elwyns in their vocal act depicting colliers in a mine are loudly applauded, and Fred Dunstone, comedian, keeps the audience in humorous vein; Miss Mildred Bryan, mezzo-soprano vocalist, is heard to advantage, and Carl and Carr, in *A Drawing-room Interlude*, are very funny. The Story Told by Boots by the Empire Theatrescope is a laughable series.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—The principal attraction here is a beauty and hair competition, for which valuable prizes are offered. There is a good muster of competitors and the voting is very keen. Frank Long, champion ju-jitsu wrestler of Great Britain, and Miss Omoyo San exhibit and explain some of the most powerful holds and tricks, which prove highly interesting; Carl and Mary Ohm's animal circus is a collection of clever animals, who perform with precision, and Stidder and Dunbar, musical comedy artists, are very good; Happy Attwood is successful in "I'd rather remain as I am"; a good musical turn is Steve Bartle on concertina, and Keith and Merton in *The Hunt*, indulge in comical cross-talk; Miss Florence Schubert sings pleasingly; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux shows the comedy of Monte and his Motor.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Fred Karno's company in *Saturday to Monday* is appearing here for the week. John Willie Jaggs is comically represented by Mr. Gilbert Childs; and as Mr. Potts Mr. Harry Fischer is in evidence in the most comical situations. Tom Freeman and Alphonse de Gagge, in the hands of Mr. Victor mith and Mr. C. Allendale, are well portrayed; Miss Julia Bassett shows ability as Clarinda Dobbs; and Miss Ada Maskell is very funny as Belinda Dobbs. Miss Mary Young, an actress of ability, shines as Violet Perrin, and sings sweetly. Other parts are well placed.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Calling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—A capital audience gave a hearty welcome to Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *The New East Lynne* on Monday evening. Mr. Richard Nugent is genuinely funny in the rôle of Murty O'Flynn, and receives a splendid reception. As Lady Isabel, Miss Beth Elliott capitally portrays the varying phases of the part. Mr. Frederick Harker plays with much ability as Archibald Carlyle; Miss Sophy Shenton scores as Cornelia Carlyle; and the dual rôles of Aby Hallijohn and Joice Hallijohn are ably portrayed by Miss Guinevere Shilton. Mr. W. H. Garbois gives evidence of careful study as Francis Levison; as Richard Hare, Mr. Laurence Stevenson is talented; and Miss Josephine Gwinne is well suited in the part of Barbara Hare. The smaller parts are all well depicted by Messrs. Talbot, William Lorne, Byron Pedley, V. Barker; Misses Doris Denville, Una Wright, Flora Maybank, and Millie Dray.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—A welcome return visit is paid by Charlene and Charlene (Lily and Charles). The former gives a marvellous rendering of "Poet and peasant" overture on the xylophone, and the latter is an extremely smart juggler. Herbert Clayton, the man with a wonderful voice, gives a most enjoyable turn; Belle and Greta dance cleverly, and their singing is also much appreciated; Harris and Worth are highly entertaining patter comedians; and Walter Sutton's laughing songs are distinctly clever. Other good turns include Will B. Stopit, comedian; Millie Howell, singer of descriptive songs; and Lillie Hales, vocalist and dancer. This week's Ottograph pictures are good.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—Kadie Furman, "the jolly little Dutch girl," proves herself to be a very capable mimic and dancer. In a gymnastic display and feats of strength Ajax and George provide an excellent turn; Herr Karoli Czynski is a clever musician, introducing the cymbalon and xylophone; O'Malley and Brown, patter comedians, Swift Duo, in a cycling act, George Hall, whistler, Ida Barr, burlesque actress, and Edwin Adeler, comedian, all contribute to the evening's enjoyment. Uncle's Picnic, on the Bioscope, causes much laughter.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company in *The Dairymaids* drew crowded houses on the last three nights of last week. Mr. Norman V. Norman and Miss Beatrice Wilson came here on Monday in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*. Mr. Norman's portrayal of Sir George Sylvester adds to the list of fine performances he has given on these boards; Mr. Alfred Gray is well placed as the Earl of Hassenden; Mr. Sam Wilkinson is eminently successful as the Rev. Mr. Blimboe; and minor rôles are well sustained by Mr. R. P. Lambe, Mr. Norman Leslie, and Mr. P. Pimpernel. Miss Beatrice Wilson creates an excellent impression as Lady Ursula; Miss V. Malcolm Barnett is a pleasing Dorothy Fenton, and the Mrs. Fenton of Miss Ethel Coleridge is satisfactory. *The Swashbuckler* is also billed.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L. — The D'Oyly Carte Répertoire Company is here. On Monday *The Mikado* was presented. Mr. Fred Billington as Booh Bah is as stately and as funny as ever; Mr. Charles R. Walenn is received with delight as Ko-Ko; Nanki-Poo is safe in the hands of Mr Strafford Mop; Mr. Lester Tunks's part of the Mikado suits him admirably; Pish-Tush and Go-To are faithfully rendered by Messrs. Sidney Granville and Fred Drawater; Miss Clara Dow makes an ideal Yum-Yum, her cultivated voice being heard to advantage; Miss Ethel Morris as Katisha is very effective; Miss Beatrice Meredith as Pitti-Sing and Miss Mabel Graham as Peep-Bo are delightful.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Mr. Frank Curzon's company is here in *My Mimosa Maid*. The company is a very powerful one, and includes Miss Marie Studholme in a bewitching portrayal of Paulette. Quite as successful is Mr. Charles McNaughton as Victor Guilbert; Mr. Charles E. Paton gives a droll interpretation of Max Guilbert; Miss Eva Sandford makes a pretty Popitte; Miss Ruby Gray achieves exceptional success as Marcelle; and Miss May Garstang is seen in a delightful exposition of Mme. de Pilaine. As M. Gerard, Mr. Percy Carr is in the right place; and Capt. Louis du Laurier has in Mr. John H. Goldsworthy an imposing exponent; while the remarkably clever juvenile impersonation of Bock by Master Archie McCaig has been quite the talk of Cardiff.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Much interest has been centred this week in the appearance of Miss Evie Greene at the head of the Empire programme here; a breezy, laughable sketch, *The Cuckoo*, is rendered in first-class manner by Chas. Kitts and Rhoda Windrum; Parker and Parr, in their vocal act "Taffy and the Toff," put the house in good humour; Florence and Lillian have a charming and clever instrumental performance; Cliff Ryland is irresistibly funny with his droll remarks; and the Martineks give a novel act entitled *The Rag Doll*. Bessie Slaughter, contralto, Horace Jones, Welsh comedian, Ernest Clifford, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—The boards are occupied this week by *The Diver's Luck*, which is presented by Andrew Melville and company. As Martin Faber, Mr. Harry Cullenford presents a realistic impersonation, the villainies of Tom Hall are carefully portrayed by Mr. William J. Miller; Mr. Fred Scarth gives a dignified representation of Maurice Wyngate; Mr. Kendrew Milsom's Pedro is a piece of good acting; and a charming delineation of Helen Wyngate is submitted by Miss Dora Pass. Mr. Fred A. Marston and Miss Pearl Noyle are droll in the comedy of the piece.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—*The Case of Coiners* is presented this week, with Miss Carlotta De Yonson as Annette Coure and Mr. C. Douglas Carlile as Blake. Another successful number is the smart performance of Harrigan and Holt; Ethel Sheffer's illustrated songs are nicely rendered; Fritz Von Liston proves most entertaining with his whistling and mimicry; and Julian Ross, the light comedian, does some capital work. Others on the programme are the Lecardo Bros., comedy acrobats; and Leo and Roland, equilibrists and hand-balancers. Raymond's Bio-tableaux are interesting.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company, in the romantic drama, *Send Him Victorious*, drew a large audience on Monday. The piece is well put on, and the principal characters are well played. Of these Mr. William Allington as the hero, Mr. Jerrold E. Reed as Colonel Kaufmann, Miss Marion Robson and Miss Isabelle Hunt were chiefly conspicuous.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Albert Bellman and Lottie Moore, who top the bill this week, in their clever and quite original act, described as "A Bit of Vaudeville," give an interesting and popular performance, and thoroughly deserve the warm applause greeting their efforts. A shadowgraph show by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde, is deftly worked; Ruby Bijou repeats her favourite bare-foot dance; a miniature vocalist, Baby Vi Davis, acts and sings with confidence and ability; Ryan and Hall, on a return visit, are funnier than ever; Nash and Noel are also to the

fore as laughter provokers; and as cycling experts the Sisters Warwick display skill and nerve. The Pepiscope has some fine pictures.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman, J.P.—Mr. Harry Foxwell and company, in *A Broken Heart*, are here on a second visit. Miss Shella Walsh, as Mary Barnard is very sympathetic, her graceful manner and clear enunciation being highly appreciated; Mr. Stanley Bedwell is cast for the blacksmith, John Barnard, and his manly style fits him well for the character, which he plays in a telling manner; Mr. Frank Eaglesfield is cool and collected as Stephen Raylton, and makes just the sort of villain the "gods" love; Mr. Will Lindsay as Tony Tibbets supplies the comic element most successfully, together with Miss Dora Hargreaves, who plays with much vivacity as Sally Tavner. Miss Marguerite Thorne supplies a clever portrait of Mrs. Barnard; while Miss Daisy Rocheford shows much promise, and is pleasing and natural as Little May; Miss Eileen Bandford gains admiration for a capital impersonation of Grace; and Miss Ethel Grey makes the most of her part as Mrs. Kellet. Mr. Edward Rawlinson is good as Gash Gills; and Skrimp finds a clever exponent in Mr. George Addison. Mr. Harrison Tate and Chas. Grant are good in their respective parts.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will H. Emerson.—The Enrico Martialto Trio top the bill, and are making a huge success in their sensational juggling and balancing act, which includes a horse and trap; the Bros. Obvas, laughing comedians and patterers, give a brisk and whimsical turn, which compels laughter, without having a suspicion of vulgarity; George Antill, as a comedian and legmania artist, scores well-deserved applause; Miss Lilian Travellie's songs are rendered sweetly, and in a charming manner; the Sisters Terry are a graceful couple, and their duets and mimicry win warm appreciation; Gus Hindell, assisted by a number of local boys, in a song scena, appears with much success; warm praise is accorded Mueller and Coyne for their clever comic acrobatic novelty; Sam Dalton is also in popular favour as a vocal comedian; some beautifully coloured and humorous pictures by the Loyal Dominion Company conclude an enjoyable evening's entertainment.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—The Royal's patrons had a great treat on Tuesday afternoon, in the shape of a flying visit by Mr. Cyril Maude and the Playhouse company in *Toddles*. There was an excellent audience, and Mr. Maude, in the title-rôle kept the house in laughter from the rise to the fall of the curtain. Loyal support was rendered by a well-chosen company, and the general staging of the comedy was most complete. The attraction for the week is the sensational drama, *A Sailor's Sweetheart*, which is being performed by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, with Mr. Blow in the character of Lieut. Clive, R.N.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Harry Pleon is creating roars of laughter here with his songs, and a nautical piece of foolery, entitled *Interviewing the Lifeboatman;* Messrs. W. A. Haines and Allan Borthwick and company are repeating their success with the original farcical sketch, *Half a Dollar;* Devon and Earle dance together with marked precision; the Lizette Troupe are nimble acrobats; Conn and Conrad show considerable daring in their speciality, *The Quiet Burglars;* Molly Augarde, comedienne, the Sisters McCalla, vocalists and dancers, and pictures by Lacey's Erascope complete the bill of fare.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. F. Warden-Reed.—Fred Ginnett's sporting sketch, *The Hunting Morn*, tops the bill here, and is proving very popular; Valvero's Naval Bombardment is another acceptable item; Flo. d'Orville's low comedy songs and burlesque dances go well; Will MacIvor contributes some very pleasing ballads in easy style; Tess Lilley, comedienne, the Korries, in a varied musical scena, and Charles Lilburn, comedian, are in the bill, a leading item of which is the Edisonograph.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Leonard Boyne's company in *Raffles* appears here this week and is playing to large and delighted audiences. Mr. Boyne's impersonation of the amateur cracksman is worthy to rank as one of his greatest rôles; Mr. E. W. Thomas as Curtis Bedford, the Yankee detective, plays his part to perfection, and the portrayal of Harry Manders by Mr. Harold West is full of quiet effectiveness; Mr. B. Clair as Crawshay is realistic, and Mr. C. Brymer's Lord Crowley is a humorous delineation of a dude; Mr. A. Willoughby as the Earl of Amersteth is sympathetic and stately; Messrs. H. Allen, H. Perry, and R. Barbour represent Goldby, Merton, and Barraclough, and do justice to their respective parts; Miss Blanka Stewart as Lady Melrose sustains her rôle with becoming grace, and Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald's Lady Ethel is praiseworthy; Miss Lillian Hallows' Mrs. Vidal is an admirable study of a charming adventuress, and as Gwendoline Couran Miss Hilda Moore plays the heroine with great spirit and charm; the part of Marie is creditably interpreted by Miss D. Gordon.

CHORLEY (LANCS.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—*Sexton Blake, Detective*, is being presented here by a capital company under the able management of Mr. Alfred H. Grahame. The cast includes Mr. H. Hunter, whose particularly fine study of Sexton Blake was enthusiastically received; Tinker is capitally played by Mr. Billy Ross; Randolph Lovell being excellently rendered by Mr. Charles East. Mr. John M. East is decidedly successful as Simon Faggis; Mr. Algernon Syms is good as the Rev. Edward Gray; and Mr. William Fenton gives a fine rendering of Roger Blackburn. Miss East Robertson gives an artistic rendering of Philadelphia Kate; Miss Lily Hammersley charmingly presents Marjorie Lovell; and Miss Lena Delphine is vivacious as Euphemia Pattacake. Pedro is a particularly well-trained animal.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company in *The Still Alarm* opened a six nights' engagement here on Monday. The proprietors of the company figure respectively as Jack Manley and Doc Wilber with much success; Mr. Gerald Kennedy takes the heavy part in worthy style; Miss H. Zillwood and Miss Beatrice Shirley are prominent as Cad and Elinor; and the numerous minor parts are taken in good style.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Proprietors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—At the top of the bill this week is Sam Mayo, whose reception is a particularly flattering one; Tom Stuart in his impersonations is well received; Dick Kendall returns with old favourites; Mina Green, burlesque actress, is heard to advantage; Elfie Vincent, comedienne and dancer, is charming; Hugo and Schmidt, comedy bar performers, are clever; and Celest, bâton manipulator and slack wire equilibrist, scores a great success.

CORK.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD. — Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The leading turn is provided by a troupe of vocalists and dancers, who style themselves the Xentrix in "The Garden of Terpsichore," and give a pot-pourri of singing and dancing; Johnnie Walker proved himself a diverting comic singer; the eccentric comedy acrobats Deans and Wilton evoked hearty laughter; Hewson's Æolians sang and danced well; Max Sterling, illusionist, gave a finished exhibition; the rifle shooting by Langslow, assisted by two ladies, was greatly admired; Will Hebden, comedian, appeared to marked advantage; and the Robertys, equilibrists and jugglers, won hearty appreciation. The Palascope Pictures were very enjoyable.

CRADLEY HEATH.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Day's company is here with *For Love of a Woman*. Miss May Day undertakes the part of Nance Manor in a way that carries her audience with her; Mr. Jerrold Ord as Ned Merrick gives a very pleasing study; Mr. Frederick Garratt makes a first-rate Guy Manor; Mr. Eustace Day as Allen Paget gives a piece of acting above the average; Mr. Leonard J. Harrison as Albert St. Evremond causes much amusement; Miss Nellie de Lacy is excellent in her impersonation of Nell Paget; Miss Eva St. Vincent is quite at home as Jane Manor; Mr. Charles Ninian as Major Hulmes and Miss Bella Victoria as Marjory Hulmes are very commendable; Mr. Fred Ramsdale deserves special mention for his able performance as Sam Holland; Mr. Ernest Yandel is capital as Tom Jones; and Mr. Brook Leicester justifies his selection for the rôle of the Warder.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's juvenile pantomime company in *The House that Jack Built* is here. Miss Dolly Dodds is a bright and winsome Jill; Miss Daisy Wood a dashing Jack; Miss J. Marsden a capable Gretchen; Miss Jennie Hughes plays well as Twinkle Star; Miss Gladys Wyse is seen to advantage as Wee M'Gregor; Miss E. Major is well placed as Colin; and Miss O. Purcell is good as Tommy Tucker. As Aunt Purdy Mr. Jimmie Watson causes endless amusement, and is well supported by Graham and Barron as Scraggs and Scraggles.

CROYDON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is here in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* Miss Annie Saker deserves cordial congratulations for her artistic impersonation of Monica; Miss Isla Garnet-Vayne makes an enchanting Viola; and Miss Dido Drake shows high histrionic abilities as Camiola. Mr. Ivan Cleveland acts with precision as Prince Hildred; Mr. Graeme Campbell's assumption of Prince Michael has many good points; Mr. Herbert Ford submits a fine, scholarly performance as Prince Olaf; Mr. Edmund Lea is quite satisfactory as Colonel Wellenberg; Mr. J. E. Gardner is efficient as Nathan; Mr. Francis Hawley is impressive in the rôle of the Bishop of Illyria; Mr. D. Lewin Mannering has a real grip of the character of Captain Hector; and Mr. Kendal Chalmers is seen to advantage as Lieut. Karl Stromberg. The drama is splendidly mounted.

HIPPODROME AND NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Miss Winifred Chalmers's company in *The Master Criminal* is the attraction here this week. Mr. J. C. Carlyle plays the part of Telford Lestage with considerable force; Mr. Edward Avenal is a good representative of Philip Manners; Mr. Elmore Frith gives a fine impersonation of Ben Beaudy; Mr. Chas. Tolcher capably fills the rôle of Gentleman Jim; Mr. Harry Cooke as Tommy Dale proves himself an excellent comedian; and Mr. B. Hacking is well placed as Mr. Manners. Miss Violet Lytton makes the most of Mabel Manners; Miss Frances Trevelyan gives a pretty portrayal of Wilfred Manners; Miss Mabel Tremere very ably maintains the part of Peggy Perks; and Miss Winifred Chalmers, who plays Cecile, is an actress of talent.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Mr. R. A. Roberts' company in *Straight from the Shoulder* is here under the management of Mr. Charles Boult. Mr. Mathew Boulton as Dr. Francis Bedford submits a capital study; Mr. Leonard Clarke in the heavy part of David Gleeson gives a finished performance; Mr. Fred Beck as Jim Green humorously presents the character; Miss Beatrice Burdett is charming in the part of Millicent Grant; Miss Francis Bruce's clever work as Mary Gleeson is highly appreciated; Miss Edie Casson as Miss Brittle gives an agreeable embodiment; Miss Beatrice Moore plays with great spirit as Gladys Brittle; and the remaining characters are well filled by Mr. Cuthbert Dennison, Mr. Franklin McAvory, and Mr. George Fisher.

NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—King and Benson's singing is excellent and their comedy effective; Jenette Hall, the lady baritone, is a capital singer, and won loud applause; Mr. J. W. Rowley goes as strong as ever; and other good turns are Fred Horsfall, comedian; J. A. Wilson and his dog; the Athlones, athletes; the Pepiscope Pictures; and Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian and dancer.

DARWEN.—PUBLIC HALL, PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Henriette and Selina top the bill in their clever vocal and instrumental turn; Carrie Bowles is a smart comedienne and dancer; the Zanonis (Lily and Harry) give some excellent juggling and club throwing; and Bert Boden causes roars of laughter with his quaintness. The pictures on the Bioscope are well up to the usual high standard.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. James Welch's company are paying a welcome return visit with *When Knights were Bold*. The Sir Guy de Vere of Mr. Henry J. Ford is an exceedingly capable assumption, and Miss Bruce Joy, who plays Rowena, is as gracious as she is charming. Mr. Vernon Sansbury repeats his success as Isaacson; Mr. Cecil Clayton is capital as Widdicombe; Pottlebury has a clever exponent in Mr. William Lockhart; Ballymote is well played by Mr. George Rowlands; Mr. Talbot Homewood is successful as Wittle; and Mr. Reginald Hunter is equally good as Barker. Miss Phyllis Back figures most acceptably as Miss Isaacson, and Mr. Herbert Ranson is praiseworthy as Harold. The Misses Violet Garham, Gretchen Yates, Adrienne Yates, Bessie Walters, and Ethel Royale also merit special mention in their respective parts.

PALACE. — Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The attraction here this week are the Selbinis, a remarkably clever troupe of trick cyclists, whose novel feats gain all-round approval. Johnny Holland and company, who produce their farcical absurdity *My Friend Boots*, are as successful as ever; the Alskarno Trio are both neat and smart in their comedy Risley act; Walter Barrett, baritone vocalist, is responsible for several capitally rendered songs, and gains a hearty reception; Alice Melton is a promising child mimic, and gives some good impersonations of well-known music hall artists; Harley and Melton are entertaining comedians and dancers; and Harry Cotton scores well as an eccentric comedian. The Bioscope concludes with an interesting picture.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Bondman* is doing excellent business here. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin as Jason is excellent; Mr. W. H. Rotherham in the dual part of Father Ferrati and the grandfather creates a most favourable impression, and Mr. Lionel Atwill as Michael Sunlocks proves himself an actor of ability. Miss Gertrude Helene as Mona, Miss Emilie Mayhew as Christian Ann, and Miss Madge Lanerton as Mrs. Fairbrother aid the success.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The first position on the bill is allocated to Wilkie Bard's company in a diverting number; Enzer, late of H.M. Army, furnishes a sword display which is watched with critical eyes by the large contingent of service men with whom the "Hip" is prime favourite; Miss Clarice entertains with an interesting exposition of the art of ju-jitsu, and C. M. Daly's company in a sketch entitled *I Must Have It* tickle the risible faculties of the audience. Zeta Russell is a graceful and fascinating comedienne, Sandy and Carl supply an amusing burlesque on boxing, and A. G. Spry is a down-to-date and original comedian. Charles Wilson concludes the bill.

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—The week has been devoted to variety. The Sisters Belmoir, comediennes and dancers, give a sparkling contribution; George Young, blind musician, is a valuable asset to the combination; Thora, ventriloquist, is clever; *For the Honour of the Family*, a sketch by Arthur Alexder and company, is well presented; Rose d'Aulby, chorus vocalist, is dainty; Maurin's marvellous fountains are a splendid kaleidoscopic triumph; and Will Dalton, popular comedian, radiated a goodly proportion of the burlesque element.

DOUGLAS.—THE EMPIRE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Dare; Resident-Manager, Mr. Rex. Sugden.—The animated pictures displayed this week are much appreciated. Among other films are The Marathon Race and Whaling in the Irish Sea. Mr. Charles Coll, a versatile light comedian, has smart patter, and his efforts are well rewarded.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Chas. Hyland.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company commenced on Monday a fortnight's season here. *Carmen*, the opening selection, was under the conductorship of Mr. Walter Van Noorden, and an exceedingly good performance was given. Miss Doris Woodall in the title-rôle was charming, her singing throughout being irreproachable; Mr. Charles Victor was highly successful as Escamillo; a distinct hit was made by Miss Bessie Cartwright as Michaela; Mr. Edward Davies' fine voice proved of immense advantage as Don José; Mercedes was satisfactorily filled by Miss Christine Ritz; and Messrs. Frederick Clendon and William O'Connor as Remendado and Dancairo were both excellent. Miss Annie Walker was all that could be desired as Frasquita, and Mr. Alexander Richard was capital as Zuniga. *Cavalleria Rusticana, Faust, Rigoletto, Il Trovatore, The Bohemian Girl*, and *Lohengrin* are also billed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Mrs. Patrick Campbell and company occupy the boards here this week, and on Monday night *The Thunderbolt* was presented. Mrs. Patrick Campbell achieved success with her artistic and powerfully effective impersonation of Phyllis Mortimore; Mr. Julian Royce played with marked ability as Thaddeus; Mr. Murray Carson scored a popular success as James Mortimore; and as Mrs. Ann Mortimore Miss Florence Farr was capital. Mr. J. D. Beveridge did every justice to the character of Mr. Elkin; and Miss Stella Patrick Campbell exercised much charm as Helen Thornhill, Mr. Edgar Kent being also particularly good as Stephen Mortimore. Louisa Mortimore was well enacted by Miss Florence Kahn; Mr. Nigel Playfair handled the part of Colonel Ponting with credit; and Miss Florence Wells was excellent as Rose Ponting.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—Good houses and a popular programme are the order of the day here. The pictures include Monte Cristo, The King of the Cannibal Islands, Farman's Aeroplane, The Colonel's Story, How the Masher was Mashed, The Two Guides, Got a Penny Stamp? At the Cross Roads of Life, &c. The variety turns are Terris and Bewlay, comedians and whistlers, in a refined comedy act, entitled *No Flowers;* and Bob Pearson, humorist and guide.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Topping a good bill of fare, C. and F. Renad and company in the laughter-provoking sketch *The Swiss Express* win hearty and unstinted applause. Another entertaining turn is submitted by Verno and Voyce, the popular singing comedians; and a capital comedy act is presented by Kent and Keith (Julia and Alex). Terry and Tate, duettists and dancers, are eminently successful; the Cromwells in a novel and clever juggling act are deservedly applauded; Dion Wade is an excellent impersonator of popular variety artists; Alfred Warder provides a capital musical and vocal entertainment; Fred Lincoln is an acceptable comedian; and Films, Ltd., show some up-to-date pictures.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Secretary, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Harry Tate's No. 1 Company in the amusing sketch *Fishing* is the principal item of the programme here. France and Stewart in their racing comedy act *A 100 to 1 Chance* score a success; Miss Kitty Colyer's catchy chorus songs evoke hearty applause; Charles F. Best, the comedy mountebank, is humorous; Onda and Artell give a clever gymnastic act; Brayne and Lloyd in a diverting sketch entitled *The Tree of Truth* are well received; Cling and Claney are smart comedians and dancers; Bert Lytton, comedian, makes a hit; and Athalan, hand-balancer, and the Bioscope complete.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The change of programme here this week includes the Millars, refined comedy artists; Queenie Vane, speciality dancers; George Millard, comedian; Ada Brogden, soprano vocalist; Harry Hewett, ventriloquist; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—The first apearance of *Sunday* has created quite a sensation here, and Miss Ethel Ward in the title-rôle has captivated all hearts. Mr. Penington Gush as Colonel Brinthorpe acts in a highly polished style; Mr. Norman Walter as Tom Oxley is an actor of sterling ability; the four pards at Silver Creek—Towzer, Davy, Lively, and Jacky—are realistically represented by Messrs. James Skea, Cotton Holmes, James Hussey, and Alec Alves; and Miss Helen G. Edwins acts the chaperon, Mrs. Naresby, in a charmingly cultivated manner.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*The Beloved Vagabond* made a favourable impression here on Monday evening, when it was presented by Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's excellent No. 1 company. Mr. Arthur Royston played the rôle of Paragot in a thoroughly artistic manner; as the Comte de Verneuil Mr. Warburton Gamble looked and acted the part to perfection; Lord Rushworth was admirably presented by Mr. Alfred Drayton; Mr. Ramsey Macbeth appeared to advantage as Asticot; the Curé of Mr. Howard Leslie was another delightful study; Miss Kathleen Harrington acted prettily as Joanna; Miss Nita Faydon as Blanquette was sympathetic; and Misses Edith Hunter and Ruby Wyndham as Lady Rushworth and Mme. la Blanc respectively were both excellent. Miss Hettie Kenyon displayed ability in her rendering of Louisette.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Maud Mortimer is at the head of affairs here, and this versatile artist has to respond to repeated encores nightly. Eadie and Ramsden, the musical comedy duo, present an entertainment bristling with cleverness; Tom and Marie Motramo in their drawing-room sketch *Do You Reverse?* prove as popular as ever; while that rattling good comedy sketch *House Full*, presented by Damerell and Rutland, thoroughly merits the reception accorded to it. The turn of Godfrey James, the singing collier, calls forth enthusiastic applause; Bert Danson greatly amuses the audience by his funny ways and comic songs; Beaty and Blanche, duettists, contribute a pleasing turn; Marie Neilson proves a capable exponent of dancing; Lieut. Travis, the man of many voices, gives a remarkably clever entertainment; and the Bioscope adds interest to an excellent programme.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company occupies the boards here with *A Girl Redeemed from Sin*. Nancy Lee is presented capably by Miss Olive Fulton; Mr. Joe Monkhouse as Will May has force and pathos; and Miss Fanny Olive as Mrs. Lee and Mr. John G. Tomlinson as Samuel Lee contribute good character studies. Variety interludes are provided by the New Macs, comedians, and the Sisters Borelle, duettists and dancers.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Another remarkably good programme is given this week, the films including Picturesque Holland, The Heart of a Gipsy, A Comic Duel, The Tramp's Cycling Mania, Love's Way, When Breakers Roar, and The Warriors and the Pickets. The varieties include Harry King, who makes a big hit.

DURHAM.—ASSEMBLY ROOMS THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Rushworth.—On Wednesday we had a return visit of Mr. Harry Starr and his company, and *Otto the Outcast* was given. Mr. Harry Starr is all that could be desired as Otto; Mr. Alvin Sawyer plays his part well as Auguste Canotte; Roderique d'Estalier is ably portrayed by Mr. Will Hee; Miss Madge Blundell gives an excellent rendering of the part of La Spirituelle; Miss J. Hackett is good as Susette; and Miss K. Norris is efficient as Lara.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION. — Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—During the week Mr. Charles E. Bowmaker's company is appearing here in *The Education of Elizabeth*. Miss Blanche Lynd as Blanche Macyntyre sings capitally and acts with spirit; Miss Winifred Ingham as Elizabeth is able and effective; Miss T. Russel Spiers is an interesting and refined Lucy Middleton, and Miss May Norris a bright, pleasing Lily. Mr. Bert Morley is a success as Harry Fairfax, Mr. Ernest E. Norris is commendably prominent as Hankey, Mr. Fred Castleman does excellent work as Mr. Whitby, and the smaller parts are well played.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company was here for the first half of the week in *A Royal Divorce*. Miss Margaret Watson was sympathetic as the ill-fated Josephine; Miss Minnie Tempest did well as Marie Louise; Miss Maud Lacy, full of sparkle and vivacity, was an excellent Stephanie; Miss Nellie Lucas was a proficient Blanche; Miss Violet Hudson a satisfactory Angelique; Miss Loyale Frere a gentle, pleasing governess, and Miss Ethel Love plays prettily as the little King of Rome. Mr. Keith Fraser as Napoleon is impressive; Mr. Percy H. Vernon makes the part of Talleyrand prominent; Mr. W. T. Clifford displays vigour as Augereau, and Mr. George Hudson extracts much fun from the part of Grimaud.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway. —At the head of the bill are Mr. Leonard Mortimer and company in a thrilling sketch *Captain Cash*, which is nicely staged, and in which Mr. Mortimer works hard and well; Lloyd and Lane have an amusing and interesting farce *That's Torn It;* Mr. George Ridgwell pays a welcome return visit as vocalist and cornet player; Miss Addie Adell has a nice voice, heard in Irish songs; Miss Norah Stockelle is a pleasing comedienne; Mr. Jock Campbell a funny comedian, and new interesting films are added.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. R. Andrews.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton's company is presenting *The Power of a King*. Mr. Gerald Blake plays strongly in the rôle of Captain Rupert Landgrave; Mr. Charles Whitlock makes an ideal King of Vallambrosa; Mr. Travis Green acquits himself well as Crown Prince Oscar; Mr. P. Morton Wright is a capable General Stenovie; Mr. Wilton Drury and Miss Grace Barton in the respective characters of Fritz Tarlheim and Margot create a lot of fun; Miss Leila Zillwood enacts the part of Lady Annastasia with ability; and Miss Georgina V. France is clever as Lady Florina.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Those fine artists and old favourites with Edinburgh audiences, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, are filling an engagement of six nights here. Opening on Monday evening with *The Elder Miss Blossom*, Mrs. Kendal repeated her performance of the title-rôle, a part full of the subtle humour, sympathy, and tenderness which makes the character a notable one in the actress's long gallery of sweet and womanly portraits. Mr. Kendal, alert and easy as ever, was again admirable as Andrew Quick; Mr. Metcalfe Wood's impersonation of Withers was very droll; Mr. Bassett Roe was excellent as Major Twentyman; Mr. W. M. Rutherfurd did good work as Christopher Blossom, and that graceful, earnest actor Mr. T. Holding, made the most of the part of the Rev. Arthur Leacroft. Miss Jessica Thorne was charming and bright as Sophia; Mrs. A. B. Tapping gave point by her sound method to the character of Cooper, and Miss F. Noble as Mrs. Wells completed a capital cast. *The Whirlpool* was played on Tuesday to an enthusiastic house.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead. —*Florodora*, bright and sparkling, in spite of many visits, is being once more presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's No. 1 company to delighted audiences. Miss Marie Ellinger imparts by her charming appearance and cultured singing distinction to the part of Dolores; Miss Bessie Middleton is a singularly sweet representative of Angela Gilfain; and Miss Edith Housley is an attractive Lady Holyrood, and sings her topical song with immense spirit. That quaint comedian, Mr. Fred Eastman, is extremely droll as Tweedlepunch, and causes shouts of laughter by his humorous acting; Mr. H. V. Crofton, a conscientious actor, who is gifted with a most excellent voice, is an able Frank Abercoed; and amongst other members of an admirable company, mention must be made of Mr. Stanley White as Cyrus W. Gilfain and Mr. Herbert St. John as Captain Arthur Donegal.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—The programme here for the week has been an unusually popular one all round. Mr. R. A. Roberts, in his single-handed quick-change sketches, *Dick Turpin* and others, has almost excelled himself in the success of his many and rapid delineations, and his reception has been cordial in the extreme; Mooney and Holbein provide plenty of amusement with their comedy sketch; Mr. Henry Hallam and Miss Josephine Stanton are responsible for another lively scena; and Cosgrove and Burns succeed with a coon duet; Estrella dances neatly in several languages, so to speak; Miss Nelly Farrell also pleases her audience with her singing and dancing; Mr. Rudge Whitworth appears as a society entertainer; Mr. J. G. Aitken is favourably known among Scotch comedians; and Bioscope pictures complete.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—A splendid programme, characterised by all-round excellence and diversity, is presented here this week. The Boissets in their well-known rollicking farce, *The Bricklayers*, evoke their customary meed of applause and laughter; Mr. George Bastow's character sketches are done with unusual skill; Carney and Armstrong have much clever business and fresh jokes in their turn; the Eight Lancashire Lads provide an enjoyable series of smartly executed dances, and Mr. Ben Albert contributes several admirably humorous songs; Mr. Albert Christian, a prince of ballad vocalists, imparts dramatic power to his songs, and his selections are loudly encoerd; Miss Kate Cohen, a charming singer, Miss Madge Osmond, male impersonator, the Crown Trio of vocalists, and Bioscope pictures complete the entertainment.

EXETER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—That the visit of Mr. George Edwardes' company in *The Merry Widow* is a popular one was demonstrated on the opening night by the crowded and enthusiastic house. Miss Mysie Devine, who plays the widow with a most attractive presence, acts with charming grace; Mr. Frank Green's Prince Danilo is full of humour and spirit; Mr. Edward D'Arcy is comically funny as Baron Popoff; Mr. Fred Fowler, an old Exeter favourite, is an exceedingly funny Nisch, and Miss Ada Thomas a charming and vivacious Natalie.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. Fred Melville's company is here in *Her Road to Ruin*. Prominent in a powerful cast is Mr. Henry Wolston, who undertakes the part of the curate, which he plays with great skill; Miss Beatrice Edwards enacts as Jess with force and naturalness. Others who sustain parts of importance ably are Miss Alice Bowles and Miss Marie Wright.

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—We are this week being favoured with a visit from Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company in *A Soldier of France*. Mr. Percy Ballard as Corporal Jean acts throughout in a most praiseworthy manner; Mr. Percy Guyon as Judas Delara proves himself a very capable all-round actor; Mr. Edwards Hobart doubles the characters of Captain Lorraine and Lieutenant Louis, and in both parts is very successful; and Miss Carlotta Anson as Pauline Lorraine scores a great success, bringing out the pathetic side of the character with wonderful vividness. The play is admirably mounted.

FLEETWOOD.—CO-OPERATIVE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Thos. Robinson.—A fine set of pictures is being shown at this popular hall this week. The top of the bill is occupied by an intensely interesting film, Mary Stuart. Several other dramatic pictures earn hearty applause, and a host of funny films keep the audience in good humour. Variety turns are given at intervals.

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche with their London company appeared on Monday for three nights in the screamingly funny farce *What the Butler Saw*. Mr. Lionel Rignold was inimitable as Pink, the butler at Foden Wells Hydro, and his drollery caused roars of laughter; Miss Ada Blanche brilliantly upheld her reputation as a comedy actress in the part of Mrs. Barrington; as Jack Barrington Mr. Chas. Fawcett proved himself to be a typical son of the Emerald Isle, maintaining the brogue and mannerisms throughout; Harry K. Rignold as a Jewish magnate, and Mr. George as the irascible General were perfect studies; and Mr. G. Nelson Wallace as the genial Professor Shale was excellent, especially when appearing as a pre-historic man at the fancy dress ball; Mr. Raymond Dudley as Sir Chas. Foden made a delightful host; Miss Christine Jensen was a forcible maiden aunt of the new woman type, and cleverly introduced up-to-date "business."

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—The Poppies are reappearing for this week, with entirely new programme, including Mr. Harry, the popular humorist, and Mr. Will Tissington, the well-known mimic, Miss May Windsor, who delights the audience with her humorous songs and recitations, Miss Christine Roy, who sings superbly, and Miss Dora Clare, a clever young musical sketch artist, whose dainty songs at the piano are greatly appreciated.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—On the first three nights of the week we had a visit from Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray's company, under the management of Mr. John Eyre Massey, with *Miss Hook of Holland*. Mr. Edmund Russell gave a clever rendering of Mr. Hook; Mr. Adrian Burgon and Mr. Robert Corray as the Bandmaster and Schnapps respectively, sang well; Mr. Fred Dork was an amusing Slinks; and Mr. J. B. Fox made a majestic Captain; Miss Ethel James was a charming exponent of the title-rôle, and the rest of the characters were well played. The chorus is good, and dresses and mounting pretty and effective.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Managers, The Gainsborough Empire Syndicate.—A variety company here this week consists of Taka, who gives a clever exposition of ju-jitsu; Zooma, trapezeist; Belasco, musical turn; Whit Acre, comedian; and Isa Davis in imitations of music-hall celebrities; Bioscope pictures, and Tom Thumb, Turkish dwarf.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Sid Doody and Edie Wright in a screamingly funny comedy act head the list here this week. The Mezzetties are both sensational and amusing; John Donald, in a novelty scena, makes an undoubted hit; George French, a quaint comedian, is popular; and Willie and Johnnie, a pair of coloured boys, have a clever gymnastic act; the Cosman Couple have some refreshing comedy exchanges, and the Fordyces, Little Frankie, Scotch comedian, and pictures by Vernon's Bioscope are other attractive items.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company in *The Lancashire Lad* has aroused much interest here. Mr Alex Alexander as David Elmore is seen to advantage, and Mr. T. G. Vane displays much histrionic ability in his handling of Max Carlton; a very quaint character is John Willie Wardle, capitally portrayed by Mr. Bob Anderson; Jessie Wincote is cleverly treated by Miss Stanley Burt; and Miss

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—A return visit is being paid this week by Miss Annie Hughes in *The Mollusc*, in which she repeats her delightful impersonation of Mrs. Baxter; Mr. Athol Stewart takes the part of Tom Kemp, and throughout the three acts his acting is admirable; Mr. Alick Chumley shows a thorough grasp of the rôle of Mr. Baxter; and a really winning Miss Roberts is seen in Miss Lillias Waldegrave. The comedy is preceded by *A Bit of Old Chelsea*.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. H. G. Pélissier and The Follies need no blare of trumpets to pack their houses. This week they commenced a fortnight's run here, and seats in all parts have been at a premium.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Christie Grant.—Mr. Bulmer's company is here this week presenting *The Girl Who Went Astray*, for which a strong array of talent has been secured. Miss Gwynne Warren as Madge Harvey is vigorous; Violet is sweetly portrayed by Miss Ada M. Ryder; Captain Frank Julian has a good exponent in Mr. John B. Shinton; and villainy is ably expressed by Mr. Fred Lloyd as Rupert Murdock; Eleanor Merton is realistically played by Miss Sybil Haughton; and the comic business is ably handled by Mr. Tod Squires as James Yellowsocks, Mr. Evan Roland as Adolphus Boomer, and Miss Mary Dalby as Molly Smart; Sergeant John Harvey, the blind veteran, is excellently played by Mr. Edgar P. Melrose.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—The new domestic drama, *The World and the Woman*, is here, the production being in the hands of Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company. As Arthur Burleigh Mr. George H. Doyle shows special aptitude; Ludlow Burleigh is well represented by Mr. St. George Frere; a word of praise is due to Miss Amy M'Neill for her excellent exposition of Lady Marion Chalmers; Mr. and Mrs. Rice Cassidy, the one as Tut Harding and the other as Nelly (afterwards the Great Dorian), are responsible for both humour and pathos.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—*A Warning to Women* is being presented here by a company under the direction of the author, Mr. C. Watson Mill. Miss Blanche St. Albans as Moira Kennion contributes an admirably conceived impersonation; Mr. W. Chas. O'Connor creditably sustains the part of Fergus McNaughton; as the unscrupulous Dr. Marcus Dread Mr. Harry C. Robinson succeeds in obtaining the execrations of the audience; Mr. William Vane gains approbation for his portrayal of Shaun; Mr. Henry Rutland plays with discretion as Squire Kennion; Mr. W. Alex. Finlayson ably accounts for the Rev. Emmanuel Wallace; Mr. Leicester Jackson causes laughter by his quaint style as Lord Eversleigh; and Mr. W. Palliser Acock is an amusing Ferdinand. In the part of Mike McQuade Mr. Oscar Power is successful; while Miss Edith Rutland does very well as Myles O'Moore.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—A play with an attractive title, *The Conscience of a Judge*, is presented here by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company. Miss Eva Moss as Jessica gives a strong portrayal of an emotional part; Mr. Geo. W. Daneham as the Judge acts with excellent effect, and Mr. A. Lubinoff as Sir Edwin Mervin earns the reward of stage villainy; Mr. Frank Eden as the tramp provides lots of fun, and is ably assisted in this by Miss Bessie Frank as a servant; Miss Mabel Coleman as Ethel Vaughan acts with good effect, and the part of the little girl Kitty is specially well played by Miss Elsie Isaacs.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—The Elliott-Savonas in their magnificent musical speciality, *The Palace of Orpheus*, are accorded the welcome reserved for old favourites; Loie Fuller's Ballet of Light is a production of much beauty, the dancing and the lighting effects being particularly fine; the Rawsons are a clever young couple, whose musical items are cleverly given and much appreciated; May Henderson again proves her ability as a coon vocalist and long-boot dancer, and takes well; Maude Vera is a smart comedienne and dancer; Alf Maynall's ditties are cleverly sung; an enjoyable turn is provided by Mlle. Haydee's Marionette Theatre; the Lyric Quartette in illustrated songs are another good item; the Four Regals, in feats of strength complete a good company, and the Bioscope concludes the evening's entertainment.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—A novelty here this week is a Scottish musical drama under the charge of Miss Helen Kennedy, called *The Bride o' the Heather*, played by Corman's Juveniles; Annie Heath dances with grace and sings sweetly; the sparkling witticisms of Maxford and O'Neil cause ripples of laughter; Hearne and Palmer as Jew and Barman give a surprising show of comedy and acrobatics; the Resua Trio keep people in open-eyed wonder at their wire-walking feats; Fritz Kornan does great feats of whistling; Merton and Rydon are pleasing comedy artists; and the Bioscope fills up the intervals.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Arthur Roberts and his company in *Till Sunday* makes a good star turn, and the lively comedian is in fine fettle and keeps the fun going without a moment's pause; Brinn, in his sensational feats of balancing with guns and gun carriages, creates wonder and awe; Topsy Sinden, in her first appearance on the variety stage here, takes well in her clever dances, though her turn was unfortunately cut short on Tuesday owing to a fainting fit during her second song; Belrose and Dendin again prove themselves vocalists of a high order, and another excellent turn is that of Florence and Rose Showell, duettists; Ada Fawn takes well in her catchy songs; the Columbia Comedy Trio cause roars of laughter by their clever business and their singing is good; Raymond Trio contribute a smart singing and dancing turn; and Stelling and his trained dog also deserve a special word of praise.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—John Tiller's company in *The Queen of Monte Carlo*, on which is grafted plenty of humorous business, reflects credit on all concerned; Lou Lloyd sings two good songs; Alec Kendal has some amusing patter; Farris and May, in their musical comedy spasm *Two's Company, Three's—?* do very well; and Mabel Carr, comedienne, Wallan, juggler, Millie Denham, vocalist, Edgar Budden, in a clever step dance on roller skates, and Dolly Golden, danseuse, combine to make a most enjoyable programme.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—George Formby holds the premier position this week, and provides a quarter of an hour's genuine amusement. The clever protean sketch, *Who is Guilty?* in which Theo Bouwmeester performs seven characters, is much appreciated; and the Indian singing and dancing of the Cambodian Troupe proves interesting; a pleasing instrumental act submitted by the Carina Sisters; the duets and patter of Sinclair and Parr, and the descriptive songs of Harry Bancroft receive well-merited applause; Ruth Lytton, a Scotch comedienne, is a welcome novelty; and the Christmas tree song of Emmie Ames also displays originality. Gaumont's patent Chronomegaphone and the American Bioscope complete an entertaining programme.

GAIETY, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Amy Alnutt, comedienne—the star turn—fully maintains her reputation; Ted Waite's "spasms" tickle the audience; Cliffe Dixo, swell comedian, sings amusing topical songs; and other turns include Jack Roland, the American cowboy vocalist, and Alf Blydon, pedestal dancer. The pictures are a new and interesting series.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Jack Drew, comedian, contributes amusing songs; the Grenvilles are seen to advantage in *The Slavey and the Yokel*; and Cliffe and Vanstan, comedy artists, give some capital violin selections. Bob Alexander, Scotch character comedian, and the American Bioscope are other attractions.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott's high-class répertoire company opened on Monday with *The Shadows of a Great City*. Mr. Charles Draycott enacts with characteristic skill and ability Jim Farren, a ne'er-do-well; Mr. George Steel presents Tom Booker forcibly; Mr. George Arthur's portrayal of George Benson is convincing; Mr. Harry Scratcherd ably delineates Abe Nathan; and Mr. Chas. H. Herberte plays Arkwright the detective effectively; Mrs. Charles Draycott in the dual rôle of Annie and Nellie Standish is successful.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE. — Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Davenports, extremely clever conjurors; Mason and Hart, with a comedy gymnastic act; the Four Albertos, lady equilibrists; the Fyde and Cody trio in comedy tumbling; James Brady, eccentric vocal joker; Mr. W. G. Wesley, who is seen to advantage as a "dame"; the G. P. Hughes company in *The Concert Rehearsal*; Miss Rita Rhylle, comedienne and dancer; and the Palacescope make up an interesting bill.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The animated picture show continues to do well here.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Miss Maude Western and company opened on Monday in *A Mother's Salvation*. Reuben Smith is capitally portrayed by Mr. Percy Braithwaite; Mr. John Levey proves successful as Lynton Desmond; and Mr. E. Turner submits a fine piece of acting in the rôle of Leslie Mervyne (the owl); Mr. Carl Vallinder as Billy Bumpkin and Miss Maude Western as Becky keep the house in constant hilarity; Mr. T. Chapman is well placed as Joe Turntail; Miss Mabel Hall is a pleasing little Paul; Miss Ada Hender in the dual rôle of Miriam Mervyne and Naomi Lester plays with power and judgment; Miss Ella Powell gives a fine character study as Mother Turntail; and Miss Dolly Dallimore is a pleasing Daisy Deleval. For Wednesday *The Prodigal Son* was announced.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—*The Midnight Wedding* is occupying the boards here this week. Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes is a dashing Paul Valmar; Mr. John Nesbitt gives a clever character sketch of Crown Prince Leopold; Mr. Mayor Cooke is good as Captain Rudolph von Scarsbruck; the characters of Sergeant Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobo are excellently played by Mr. J. E. Page, Mr. Harry Richardson, and Mr. Algie Spalding; Miss Yvonne Orchardson displays ability as Princess Astrea and Miss Itua Herne is good as Rozel.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—A fine variety of pictures are being shown here this week with, in addition, some good variety turns. Lily Hayden is a pleasing comedienne; Lew Towers is successful as a vocalist; Cleaver and Cleeve have a good reception, and Jack Binns is a funny comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—Jock Mills, the Scotch comedian, gives first-rate character sketches; the Maros are excellent triple bar comedians; F. V. St. Clair is very popular as an extempore vocalist; the Selkirks, assisted by 100 children, appear with great success in a fine spectacular piece entitled *Bonnie Scotland*; the Leopolds are clever acrobats and Macintosh and Royal are first-rate dancers.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran.—An excellent set of pictures is being shown here this week including several comic incidents, and an illustration of Niagara Falls. The illustrated song "Far away in Australia" is sung with great success.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. William Maclaren and company are appearing here this week in *Claudian*. In the title-rôle Mr. William Maclaren plays with great dramatic power and distinction; Miss Lily C. Bandmann displays her great abilities in the rôle of Almida; must praise is due to Mr. Bernard Elliott for his finished impersonation of the treacherous Thariogalus; Agazil finds a strong and fitting representative in Mr. Douglas Earle; Mr. Weston Hubbard assumes the character of Alcares in capable fashion; and the part of Belos is well portrayed by Mr. Chas. T. Chaloner. Miss Ruth Trafford as Edessa, and Miss Nellie C. Bilbe as Hera are all that could be desired.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The leading attraction here this week is supplied by Jake Friedman and company in a musical sketch, entitled *Happy Holland*, which is received with hearty applause; Steel and Laing find favour in their comedy act; Jack Allison, negroistic entertainer and sand dancer, is well received; the Bros. Idento submit a novel juggling act, and Arthur Stacey scores as a comedian and eccentric dancer. The Bioscope shows some excellent pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—That clever illusionist and protean artist, Vonetta, tops the bill here, charming all with her varied work; the Four Burnells provide an hilarious comedy act; Mdlle. Du Roche renders two songs in pleasing style; an exceptionally clever acrobatic act by the Faludy Troupe is much enjoyed; Joe Cookson, ventriloquist, obtains appreciation, and Herbert La Martine excels in eccentric dancing. The Dromoscope is, as usual, most entertaining.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. J. W. Turner's opera company opened at the Royal on Monday with *Martha*. Mr. Turner took the part of Lionel, and gave evidence that he is still a tenor singer of merit; Mr. Tom Griffiths, a manly Plunkett, sang with fine effect; Mr. George Ridding and Mr. Arthur Fisher were good as Lord Tristan and the Sheriff; Miss Sarah Williams had a most encouraging reception as Lady Durham; and the part of Nancy fitted Miss Jessie Dennis like a glove. *The Bohemian Girl, Maritana, Il Trovatore, The Lily of Killarney*, and *Faust* have also been produced.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—The Jees are astounding the Grand audiences this week with their marvellous performance on the tight-wire; the Northcotes (Madge and Bella), two tuneful duettists, are taking well; Kitty Kennedy Allen is a refined and winning singer of tuneful songs; and the Bioscope shows several entertaining pictures.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The Kurios introduce rapid oil-painting and smoke drawing; Farley, Rennie, and Farley introduce clever acrobatic work; August, September, and May keep the house in a constant roar; Burnetti is a first-class musician; Woodhouse and Wells are clever dancers; Clown Barker has a troupe of highly-trained animals, which provide a diverting turn; and Margaret Royce, in songs at the piano, is a refined and talented lady.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Mr. Charles Majilton and company are topping the bill here this week in *The Trippers*; Peter Bermingham, a great local favourite, sings new songs; Frank Harwood, actor-vocalist, renders his songs in good style; the Orros execute some marvellous poses on the silver chains; Harry Conlin is a popular turn; Proybm and Bates are well received; and Rosie Coleman, comedienne, Fanny Humber, instrumentalist and song and dance artist, and the Bioscope conclude.

HANLEY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—A great epoch in the theatrical history of the Potteries, of which Hanley is the heart and centre, has taken place this week in the visit of Sir John Hare and company. Sir John makes a first and last visit. His coming had long been looked forward to with great eagerness. The Grand Duke Michael's party, including the Countess Torby, witnessed Monday night's charming performance of *A Pair of Spectacles* and *A Quiet Rubber*. On Tuesday a magnificent "house" witnessed *The Gay Lord Quex*. Sir John Hare was quite inimitable as the Marquess, and was compelled to take curtain after curtain during the play's progress. He had a tremendous ovation at the conclusion. Mr. W. T. Lovell made a good Sir Chichester; Mr. Bertram Steer played his part with distinct credit; Mr. Ivo Dawson made a powerful Valma; and Miss Ada Ferrar as the Duchess showed great ability, her playing in the third act being especially brilliant. Miss Louise Moodie played the aged Countess finely; Miss Mabel Adair was good as Mrs. Eden. Too much praise cannot be given to Miss Amy Brandon Thomas for her exquisite portrayal of Muriel; Miss Mona K. Oram, in the difficult rôle of the Manicurist, created a deep impression, and well deserved the special curtain which was demanded. Sir John Hare also includes in his répertoire *Caste* and *A Case for Eviction*. The general manager is Mr. Percy Burton, in whose hands everything is perfect. Mr. T. J. Chambers is acting-manager for Sir John, and Messrs. F. W. Permain and J. H. Brewer are the stage-managers.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—A splendid programme this week includes the Six Brothers Luck in a screamer, *Lift 'Ems, Ltd.*; Jock Whiteford, the Scotch comedian; the Carmos, who are responsible for a fine act; Little Ganty, a quaint comedian; the Sisters Cora, smart duettists and dancers; Vincent, the Arab tumbler; Madge May, a dainty comedienne; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

KING'S EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—Splendid pictures are exhibited this week, and the houses are packed to overflowing, notwithstanding two opposition picture shows in the town. The chief films are The Blind Woman, A Smell of Smoke, Joys of Roller Skating, The Diamond Thieves, &c. Mr. Percy Vale is a warm favourite with capital chorus songs.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of the week *Amasis* was in the bill. Mr. W. H. Denny as Pharaoh both sang and acted with vigour and aplomb; Mr. Edward McKeown as the Prince was as desirable a lover as could be imagined; Miss Mabel Burnege as Princess Amasis gave distinction to the part; and Miss Elsie Don as Natis was very dainty. Mr. Frank Attree was good as Ptolemy, and Mr. Walter D. Brodie was a host in himself as Sebak, the keeper of the crocodiles. *Beau Brocade* came on Thursday.

ST. JAMES'S HALL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney H. Carter; General-Manager, Mr. F. D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Parker.—A Tour Through Savoy is among the pictures here.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS.—Proprietor, Mr. C. W. Lovesy; General-Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—The premier turn this week is provided by Mostol, whose excellent manipulation of numerous instruments of different kinds and sizes is a treat; Miss May Thorne has been here before, and the frequency of her visits is evidence of her deserved popularity; Alfred Simpson, in pleasing voice, renders some capital songs; a capital selection of pictures is shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope Co., the steadiness and clearness of the films being particularly remarked upon by the crowded houses.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's company opened a three days' visit on Monday in *Charley's Aunt*, which proved as delightfully entertaining as ever. Lord Fancourt Babberley had a thoroughly satisfactory representative in Mr. G. A. Seager; the pompous fatuity of Spettigue, the Oxford solicitor, was excellently conveyed by Mr. Roy Byford; Jack Chesney and Charles Wykeham were alertly played by Mr. Hastings Lynn and Mr. Basil Lynton; and Spettigue's ward and niece had charming exponents in Miss Olivia Glynn (Kitty) and Miss G. Denbeigh-Russell (Amy); and Miss Vere Gerald had a regal appearance as Donna Lucia. Miss Evelyn Grey as the ingenuous Ella Delahay was pleasing; Mr. Sydney Compton as Brasset and Mr. T. McCausland Stewart as Col. Chesney completed the cast. *The Lancashire Sailor* preceded the comedy. For Thursday and the remainder of the week *What the Butler Saw* was billed, with Mr. Lionel Rignold and Miss Ada Blanche in the cast.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Madge Daly, who opens the programme, is an attractive vocalist; Wyllie, the tramp musician, is exceedingly clever on a variety of instruments; very good singing and dancing is done by Shamus and Kittie as Irish-American bog-trotters; Mlle. Telka renders ballads in finished style; Johnny Worman is a quaint comedian; Miss Nellie Verne demonstrates the Japanese method of self-defence; and an interesting wrestling bout is done by Jack Verne and Dick Webb. Some entertaining subjects are submitted on the new Hipposcope, and pretty dancing is executed by the juvenile sisters Herbert.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Messrs. Fred. J. Little and Fred Darcy's company is appearing in Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's drama *The Executioner's Daughter*. The play is well acted. Mr. John B. Murray as Mons. Roche, the executioner, gives a thrilling performance; Felix Marius, a thief and gambler, is cleverly embodied by Mr. S. Courtney; Mr. P. Coningsby as Kretch is an excellent sketch of a repulsive character. A good deal of amusement is created by the smart and diverting acting of Mr. Frank Ayrton as Tom Holmes, and Miss Madge Seymour as Sally King. An intelligent study of Paul Rovel is given by Mr. Chas. Loraine; Miss Enid Edoni plays the title-rôle with much finish; and Miss Nellie Howitt is an excellent representative of Felice.

PUBLIC HALL.—Lessees, The People's Picture Palace Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local Manager, Mr. H. W. James.—The animated pictures exhibited here attract large houses. The Treasure Island is a sensational story of sea piracy, and The Little Savoyard reveals an episode of much pathos. De Vere's Marionettes, in a novel song-scena, offer a welcome diversion.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—A series of interesting and very varied subjects are being shown here during the week by King's Royal Bioscope.

HEREFORD.—DRILL HALL.—Manager, Mr. A. Lovesey.—The Hereford Amateur Operatic Society is to be congratulated on the excellent way in which *Utopia, Limited* was staged on Tuesday. The society is very fortunate in having at the head of affairs such workers as Mr. George Banks (conductor), and Mr. Peyton Levason (stage-manager). Miss Lucy Saul, who has a very sweet voice, gave a charming impersonation of Princess Zara, though she seemed rather nervous in her love-making; Miss Lizzie Whitehouse gave a delightful interpretation of Lady Sophy, her clear enunciation, brilliant singing, and charm of manner combining to make her performance most enjoyable; Mr. Rea Powell (a professional artist) made an admirable Captain Fitzbattleaxe, his singing was excellent and his acting courtly; the society boasts three excellent comedians—Mr. Tim Palmer, a most diverting Scaphio, Mr. Garnet Marchant, whose Pantea was replete with comic versatility, and Mr. Whitby Smith, who, as the nimble Tarara, acted with conspicuous ability; another local artist, Mr. Peyton Levason, as King Paramount, displayed distinct merit as a singer and actor, keeping the house in a state of continual merriment; Mr. E. Amphlett Capel is to be highly commended in the part of Calynx; Mr. A. D. Briscoe was of value as Mr. Goldbury, his acting being natural and his singing effective; Messrs. F. Hagben and Edwin Stephens sang particularly well as Captain Corcoran and Sir Bailey Barre; Mr. L. T. Britton was a somewhat effeminate Lord Dramleigh, and his voice lacked volume. The chorus were exceedingly good and well-balanced. Mr. E. A. Capel is a hard-working and energetic secretary

HORWICH.—PRINCES' THEATRE.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. Evelyn A'Dell's company in *His Sister's Honour* is paying a return visit this week. New songs and dances have been introduced, and the scenery is appropriate and handsome. Mr. A'Dell gives a masterly impersonation of Frank Stanley, and his dementia scenes, though very striking, are not exaggerated; Mr. Walter Wilson as Sir Richard Redvers, the villain of the piece, gives a fine performance; Dr. Godfrey, asylum superintendent, is a fine study, and Mr. Edwin Clarke scores heavily in his efforts to play the part; Mr. Henry Carlton as Timothy Timid is responsible for the comedy element, and deserves the unstinted applause bestowed; Mr. S. Verner gives a capital rendering of P.C. Worthie; Miss Maudie Vincent as Maria, Dora's maid, has a part that fits her to a nicety, and her songs and dances are highly successful; Miss Flora Leslie wins sympathy in the part of Dora; Miss Ethel Ashleigh's Ivy Merton, a cripple, is an artistic effort. The minor characters are in capable hands.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—Baron Harriss's company is here on a return visit with *The Prince of Pilsen*. Much of the undoubted success of the piece is due to Mr. Harry Kilburn, whose gifts as a comedian find full scope in the part of Hans Wagner; Miss Sophie Harriss also is to be credited with a large share in the attractiveness of the piece as Mrs. Maddison Crocker; Mr. Leslie Owen is a dashing Prince of Pilsen; Mr. Arthur Geary plays well as Tom Wagner; Mr. Ernest Gifford is very active as Francois, the French waiter, and Miss Mabel Dent makes a vivacious maid of Sidonie. A well-trained chorus, tasteful dresses, and adequate scenery are provided.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The artists appearing are Tubby Edlin and company in a laughable mixture, entitled *The Prince of Monte Carlo*; Tennis and Laune, duettists; Sidney Delf, singer and juggler; Miss Ida Kessanley and her troupe of fox terriers; the Wakeman Quintette of vocalists, and Bass and Davis, patter comedians; some fine films are exhibited on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The Moody-Manners company is here. On Wednesday they gave *The Meistersinger*, the tenor rôle being in the hands of Mr. Philip Brozel. On Monday *Aida* was given, with Mme. de Vere Sapio and Mr. Brozel. It was a fine performance. On Tuesday Mme. Fanny Moody appeared in *Madame Butterfly* with great success. During the week *The Star of the North, Pagliacci, Cavalleria, Tannhauser*, and *Maritana* have been in the bill.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Boyne.—*The Dandy Fifth* is paying us a return visit here. Mr. Jack Crichton is an excellent Trooper Brown, Miss Pauline Hague was an excellent Kate Lorimer; the Colonel was well played by Mr. George Baverstock, and Miss Norra Mora was a charming Polly.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. George Morton.—*A Thousand Pounds Reward* is being played here. Miss Katherine Eckart filled the rôle of Widow Sanson with success, and Miss Minnie Gospel was a pleasing Kitty Springthorpe. Miss Marjorie Seymour achieved success with her song. The heavy character had a good exponent in Mr. J. Wilton, and Mr. Joe English appeared successfully as Dick Springthorpe.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—*The Cruise of the H.M.S. Victory* is drawing good houses. J. W. Hall is a comedian of sterling ability. Other artists include Nell Cotter, Harry Zetter, George Blakeney, Elsa Elvio, and Adams and Ward.

EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—A capital company is presented here, which includes Harwood's Juveniles, Mollie Wolstenholme, Globella, the Stanleys, Amy Bellwood and Frank Melville.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson-Besides.—Animated pictures are still running and "The Players" are re-engaged for another week.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer and company are occupying the boards this week, and opened with *Catherine, Duchess of Dantzig*. The title-rôle was taken effectively by Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer, and the part of Marechal Lefebvre lost nothing at the hands of Mr. Bernard Merefield; Mr. F. Owen Chambers was a successful Napoleon I., and Mr. Howard Rose as Lieut. Adrian Lefebvre gave a capital performance. The Misses Alice O'Dea, Carrie Hause, and Mary Morrell were suitably placed respectively as Princess Pauline, Mme. de Stael, Rosalie, and Fouche, Chief of Police, had an excellent representative in Mr. F. Skein. *East Lynne, Sapho, Mary Queen of Scots*, and *Jane Shore* are also in the bill.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—Messrs. Taylor Platt and Trevor Lowe's company occupied the theatre for three nights with George Bernard Shaw's play *You Never Can Tell*. The company is of high excellence, and includes Miss Katherine Stuart as Mrs. Clandon, Miss Gladys Morris and Miss Clara Earle as Gloria and Dolly Clandon; Mr. Donald Calthorp as Philip Clandon, Mr. J. Edward Pearce as Fergus Crampton, Mr. Charles Daly as Finch McComas; Valentine is in the hands of Mr. Leslie Hamer, and Bohun in those of Mr. George Howard. The waiter is admirably played by Mr. Trevor Lowe. *A Chinese Honeymoon* is billed for the latter half of the week.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The Six Brothers Luck, in their farcical sketch entitled *The Demon of the Cellar*, supply plenty of humour; Miss Frances Letty sings American songs with real Yankee humour, and is a very clever wooden-shoe dancer; a fresh item is *The Magic Vase*, in which appear Miss Enid Errol (an excellent dancer), and Mr. C. W. Anson and Miss Caroline Fenton; Princess Pauline is an old favourite in Ipswich, and her popularity has not diminished; Messrs. Elton and Elma are good gymnasts; and Pete and Juno give a droll nigger turn. *The Sport and the Shoeblack* is a pantomimic act by Abalo and Hurst; Mr. J. W. Gallagher is a humorous singer, and the Bioscope completes the bill.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is paying a visit with *A Fight for a Throne*. Mr. J. S. Millward gives a manly portrayal of Captain Jack Fortescue; Mr. G. Bryne is seen to advantage as Nicholai I.; Mr. Charles E. Linney portrays Otto with force and skill; Mr. P. Evans is excellent as the Hon. Percy Fitzmaurice; Mr. John Worth gives a good account of the part of Lieut. Paul Rodna; General Rodna is in the capable hands of Mr. T. Roydan; and Mr. Hughes causes much amusement as Tom Ferret. Miss Dora Hammersley is well received as Princess Esmee; Miss Emmeline B. Lewis is highly amusing as Lady Pat; Miss Margarette Tueskie does remarkably well as Countess Valeska; and the minor parts are in capable hands. Scenery and dresses are excellent.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Walter Melville's *The Worst Woman in London* is being presented here by Mr. Edward Marris's company. Miss Grace Murielle makes a sufficiently repulsive Frances Vere; Miss Nita Imeson excellently renders the part of Matilda Parker; and Miss Barbara Allison is charming as Ruth Milford. As Vincent Lyle Mr. Cecil W. Parke is first-rate in the rôle of the villain of the piece; Mr. James Salter is most amusing as Bob Goldfinch; Mr. Carr is good as Fred Thornborough; Mr. Helier Le Maistre gives a finished performance as James Milford; and Mr. Charles Weir plays smartly as Jack Felton.

KIDDERMINSTER. — NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—A visit is being paid this week by Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company, who produce several excellent plays, including *Moths, The Second Mrs. Tanqueray, Frou Frou*, and *Called Back*. In the first-named piece Mr. Raynor makes an excellent Lord Jura, and Mr. Cecil Wynne excels in the rôle of Prince Sergius Zanroff; Mr. C. Lodge-Percy is good as the Duke of Mull, and Mr. Chas. R. Bickell ably portrays the character of Boris; Miss Henrietta Schrier as Fuschia Leach and Miss Nesta Sandford as the Duchess de Sannaz give a pleasing display of acting. The plays are elaborately staged.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Herr B. Pareezer.—A capital company of Mr. Edward Marris's has been here this week, drawing good houses and causing endless mirth with the mirth-provoking musical farce, *The Dandy Doctor*. The fun is maintained at a high pitch throughout, and Mr. George Brentwood contributes largely by his personation of Melchisadek Brown; Miss Mollie Wynne is charming as Ivy Pendred; and Jane, "the general," as played by Miss Florence Smithers is an irresistible piece of comedy acting. Mr. Leslie Martin and Mr. Herbert Pearce as Bertie Bolingbroke and Colonel Pendred respectively are good, and the dancing of Mlles. Lidia Lovell, Zara Kreisberg, Nellie Streatley, and Maisie Wegen is especially to be commended. The piece is well staged.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The Five Bombays, harmony singers and dancers, are paying a visit this week; Allis and Cassati present a smart comedy turn; and a favourite is Miss Aline O'Connor, who as the original peasant girl is clever. Francisco, equilibrist and juggler, is worthy of particular mention; Philip and Merrit, society entertainers; and Mr. Harry Walker, comedian, are also on the bill. The pictures form an important part of the programme.

LANCASTER. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—*Leah Kleschna* is being presented here by Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's capable company. Mr. William Clayton is admirable as Kleschna; an effective representation is given by Mr. Hamilton Deane of Paul

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Sylvaine; Miss Bessie Rignold surmounts in artistic style the difficulties of the title-rôle; and Mr. Algernon J. Hicks as Paul Berton and Mr. Gilbert Heron as Schram do very well. The scenery is adequate.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—At the top of a first-rate programme is Ernest Ch. Gittin's operatic company with *The Daughter of the Regiment*, in which Mlle. Adele Prescott acts well and sings in good style; Mr. Fred K. Silverston is an excellent Sergt. Sulpice; and other other characters are in able hands. Frank Couch makes a decided hit with his localised songs; the L.V.O. Trio cause much laughter in a sketch *Those Troublesome Servants;* and Chas Leighton at the piano has a good reception. Wyndham and Kitty supply a daring wire act; Lena Leslie, comedienne, is recalled nightly; and Ena Richards sings and dances well. The Hippograph still proves an attraction.

LEAMINGTON. — **Theatre Royal.**—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—Miss Ellen Terry has been here with *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. Miss Terry gave a wonderful impersonation of Lady Cicely Waynflete, and the Captain Brassbound of Mr. James Carew was a performance of much merit. Mr. George Fitzgerald was excellent as Sir Howard, and the Felix Drinkwater of Mr. Max Montlesole was an amusing character study. Mr. David Hallam was very droll as Marzo, and Mr. Story Gofton's Scotch missionary was very entertaining. Other performances calling for special mention were Mr. Frank Powell's Captain Kearney, Mr. Herbert Lomas's Johnson, and the Moroccan dignitaries of Messrs. Sidney Travers, Hay Cameron, and Arthur Bachner.

LEEDS.—**Grand Theatre.**—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*The Girls of Gottenberg* makes its second appearance here this week, Mr. George Edwardes's company giving a very satisfactory presentation. Mr. Edmund Payne appears in his original part of Max, and is irresistibly funny throughout; Happy Fanny Fields encompasses the part of Mitzi in entertaining style, her "sabot" specialities taking especially well; Mr. Leslie Holland is very good in the character of Otto; Miss Maisie Gay's Clementine is a pleasing and popular effort; and Miss Florence Phillips is prominent with some novel and artistic dancing.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston—That old favourite *When London Sleeps* is this week presented by Mr. Lester Collingwood's company, and is still vastly popular. Miss Lilla Wilde acts with charm and sympathy the part of the heroine; Mr. Edward E. Ashby presents a big part with ability; Mr. Harry Wren makes an effective stage-villain; and Miss Mabel Scudamore gives a telling study of the adventuress. Mr. Douglas Campbell and Mr. F. Howard are responsible for some clever comedy work.

Empire Palace.—Moss Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Bella and Bijou get an enthusiastic reception here; Jenny Johns is another big favourite; Harry Tate's *Motoring* company is responsible for much merriment; Arabella Allen wins high praise for character impersonations; acceptable comedy is subscribed by Gus Garrick and Johnson and Bert; and Daisy James, a smart comedienne, the Warsaw Bros., and the Narow Bros. are also specially good turns.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—J. Gar Kiddie and company here present *The House of Tinn*, a farcical sketch, which is provocative of great merriment; the Vasilescu Troupe are doing a remarkably expert acrobatic novelty; Richard Finberg does some excellent character impersonations; Edie Gray and Boys please with vocal items; and there are good turns by Chas. Rose, comedian and dancer, Metz and Metz, simultaneous dancer, Ethel Dove, comedienne, and Charlie Deane, comedian.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—The Harmony Four take first place here, their music and comedy being thoroughly enjoyed; the Three Sisters Sprightly submit a new vocal item, and are as popular as ever; Hanid Alexander does a neat turn at the piano; Heeley and Meeley find a ready acceptance of their tumbling speciality; a pretty vocal and dancing scena is presented under the title of *The Maid and the Moon;* and there is other capital entertainment by Jordan and Harvey, Sisters Brooke, the Werds, and Cedar and Elgar.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—A clever turn by Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls is a popular lead here; Morny Cash again proves an amusing comedian; Walter Stanley is also doing well in a similar line; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley score with a comedy episode; a clever dancing turn by Brull and Hemsley goes well; as also do the vocal contributions of Alice Blandford.

LEICESTER.—**Royal Opera House.**—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. Charles Hermann.—A cordial greeting is being extended here to Mr. George Dance's company in *The Girls of Gottenberg*. Mr. Bertie Wright makes a hit with a really funny performance as Max Moddelkopf; and Miss May Marshall as Clementine is also very good. Mr. Tom Shelford both sings and acts with success as Otto; Miss Ellaline Thorne is a delightful representative of Mitzi, her singing calling for special praise; Mr. Howard Cridland is capital as Brittl Bottl; Miss Amie Grey as Elsa, Miss Ruby Carter as Lucille, Mr. Rugh Henson as Albrecht, Mr. Courtnay Comber as Fritz, Mr. Tom Squire as Adolph, Mr. Morgan Rickards as the Burgomaster, and Mr. Edwin Stanley as Kannenbier do full justice to their parts; and Miss Susie Beardon as Katrina and Miss Violet Romaine as Minna are good. Excellent service is rendered by the full chorus and augmented orchestra under Mr. Otto Manns; and Mr. G. E. Draco is a painstaking manager for the company.

Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—A welcome return visit is being paid here this week by Mr. James Bell's company, in the drama *The Idol of Paris*, in which Miss Annie Bell repeats with conspicuous success her impersonation of the variety star Flare Flare; Mr. Wilson Howard makes an excellent impression as Phillipe D'Esterre; and Mr. Leonard Aardale as Victor Cashelle is very good. Mr. Gordon Robey acts well as H.R.H. Prince Sergius Zoreski; Miss Phena Powell deserves much commendation as Mme. Sancterre; and both Miss Annie Megson as Ann and Mr. Frank H. Dale as Tatave are most amusing. Mr. Pringle Roberts is satisfactory as the notary, Gustave Langlois. The play is specially well staged and dressed.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—The ideal coon, Eugene Stratton, is the star this week. His superb dancing and his delightful rendering of his various songs are as good as ever, and he well maintains his great popularity with all sections of the audience. At the other end is that past-master of ventriloquism, Tom Edwards, who is making a big hit and creating roars of merriment; John Warren presents with the greatest success his military mystery, "The Magic Carpet," which leaves the audience in a state of bewilderment, so smartly and deftly are the tricks worked; the New York Nippers are very good in their comedy and dancing act, the antics and dancing of Inky calling for special praise; Little Pam is a smart youngster, whose turn is of a particularly bright and popular character; Stewart and Morgan score a well-deserved success in their high-class vocal speciality; Ross and Lewis, the Yankee comedy duo, are good, the dancing of the male partner being very clever; the Musical Schafers give an enjoyable and original musical speciality, *The Garden of Music;* Nellie Martell, comedienne and dancer, is also entertaining; the American Bioscope shows the Wilbur Wright Aeroplane.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Frederick Maxwell and Miss Lois Du Cane, the most popular sketch artists who visit this hall, are on a return visit with their company in the romantic military episode *The Last Command*, which is meeting with a most gratifying reception. Miss Lois Du Cane plays with her accustomed charm and ability as Lola; and Mr. Frederick Maxwell is now seen in the part of Colonel Yewlett, which he sustains in a manner leaving nothing whatever to be desired. They receive adequate support. The remarkable and sensational shooting of Winona and King is another special feature, in connection with whom a competition is taking place. The other artists are the Leonas, in a refined musical act; Charles J. Lewis, novelty ventriloquist; Tom Yorke, character and refined coster vocalist; Alfonso, the society foot equilibrist; Eva Roslyn, comedienne; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, depicting Our Banana Supply and A Night Alarm.

The Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt.—Among the leading films this week are The Never Forgotten Melody, The Baby Competition, In the Days of Rebellion, The Eucharistic Procession, In the Land of Gold Mines, A Perfect Servant, The Outcast, and Too Busy to Count. The variety portion is a strong one, including Fern and Fawn, in the really funny episode *The Conqueror;* George and Nell Greatorex, the clever, silent, and mysterious magicians and illusionists; Fred Mayne, comedian and patterer; and Dolly Howard, soubrette and balladist, all of whom are duly accorded a reception befitting their merits.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Stanyon.—A first visit is being paid here by the London Animated Picture Company, who are showing a series of leading films, including a number of beautifully coloured subjects, including Arabian Nights, Faust, Franco-British Exhibition, Pretty Typist, The Olympic Games, Carnival in Venice, &c. Interludes are given by Walter Arnold.

LEIGH.—**Theatre Royal and Opera House.**—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company is here with *Dare-Devil Dorothy*. Miss Dorothy Desmonde charmingly sustains the title-part, her singing being much appreciated. As Ruth Miss Nellie Valentine is satisfactory; Mr. Walter Ashley makes an excellent Harold Fielding, his songs being well sung; Mr. Walter B. Nugent ably depicts Captain Dudley; Mr. Harry Ugar as Silas Crump shows genuine humour, and is ably assisted by Miss Nellie Harcourt, who works hard as Judith. The dancing of Misses Daisy Holbrook and Florence Corri is keenly appreciated.

LEITH.—**New Gaiety Theatre.**—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's principal company give a very commendable presentation of the new romantic drama *Second to None*, by Mr. Walter Howard. Sir Reginald Greystone is well portrayed by Mr. Theo Balfour; the heavy part of Philip Mannering receives characteristic interpretation at the hands of Mr. Frederick F. Lloyd; the important rôles of Lieut. Archer Ballater and Sergt. Jack Horseman are admirably acted by Mr. Arthur D. Layland and Mr. J. G. Maine; and as the two brothers, Harry and Frank Wilding, Messrs. Leonard Williams and Charles Halling are in every way successful. Miss Ward gives fine effect to her rendering of Nell Greystone; and Miss Maud Merrick makes a pleasing appearance in the ingénue part of Mary Bright. Comic relief is provided by the Joe Ruggles and Norah of Mr. George H. Davis and Miss Clarrie Yandell; while both Mr. Allan Carruthers and Mr. Eric Wilde do well as Private Flutter and Private Bertie.

LINCOLN. — **Royal.**—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier's company in *The Walls of Jericho* is paying a highly successful return visit. Mr. Alfred Goddard makes a powerful Jack Frobisher; Mr. Russell Barry contributes an admirable picture of Hankey Bannister; Mr. Ben Lewin's Marquis is excellently done; Mr. Christopher Steele scores as Drayton; and Mr. A. W. Tyrer's Harry Dallas is thoroughly acceptable. The Lady Alethea of Miss Nancy Beresford is effective, and Miss Ormonde Wynne's Lady Westaby is charming.

Palace.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—Goggin and Davis contribute a remarkable acrobatic act; Cissy Curlette's mimicry catches on strongly; and the Three Prestons in *The Liftman's Rise* have a decidedly amusing item. Harry Simms, Edith Chantler, Ellis and Watts, and Webb and Branston are also completely successful. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux complete a strong bill.

LIVERPOOL.—**Royal Court Theatre.**—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—That exceedingly amusing conception, *When Knights Were Bold*, has this week attracted large audiences to the leading theatre. The able company presenting it was headed by Mr. James Welch, who, being Liverpool born, and well known in the Mersey city, had a most flattering reception, his efforts as Sir Guy de Vere provoking endless laughter. It was particularly noticed that the clever little comedian had brought his quips and gibes thoroughly up to date, even the eccentricities of the suffragists being alluded to. Altogether, the production was capital. Miss Audrey Ford gave the utmost satisfaction as Lady Rowena; that able actor, Mr. Arthur Grenville, was admirable as Isaac Isaacson, his accent and gestures being eminently suited to the part; Mr. Guy Lane deserved complimenting highly for his Rev. Peter Pottleberry; everything possible was extracted from Sir Bryan Ballymote by Mr. Cecil Kinnaird; Mr. Gordon Tomkins very ably represented Barker; Miss Annie Chippendale did justice to Alice Barker; Mr. George Desmond made several points with Charles Widdicombe; and Miss Daisy Cordell caused laughter with her Sarah Isaacson. The curtain-raiser was *The Changling*, in which Miss Helen Palgrave, Mr. J. H. Carson, and Mr. George Tully took part.

Shakespeare Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—The Hutchison company have been here this week delighting audiences with a capital representation of *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*, which provoked roars of laughter. The trials of Mr. Pondebury, as depicted by Mr. George Mudie, were exceedingly funny; Miss Annie Stallman was irresistible in the part of Mrs. Ponderbury; Mr. Drew Mackintosh showed high accomplishments as Mervyn Thorpe; a capital Captain Rumford came from Mr. George Child; Mr. Alfred Ibberson assisted greatly with the fun as the butler Peter; Mr. Charles A. Staite made a merry Hyacinth Grayling; and other well-held rôles were Ethel Penniston (Miss Florence Wellesley), and Mme. Polaca (Miss Florence Wix). The curtain-raiser was *His Landlady*, played by Messrs. Ibberson, Drew Macintosh, Miss Wellesley, and Miss Madge Elswick.

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—On a first visit to this city that excellent drama, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, received a very hearty reception, business being excellent. In the rôle of Prince Olaf Mr. Ernest Cox played with a feeling and force that earned for him unstinted applause; Mr. Meville Bickford made a powerful Prince Michael; Miss Ethel Bracewell acted with intensity the trying part of Monica; Mr. Alfred Brandon was prominent as Prince Hildred; and others who did good work were Messrs. H. Burton (Nathan), W. S. Hardy (Colonel Wellenberg), Reginald Payne (Lieut. Karl), Miss Jessica Black (Viola), and Miss Gertrude Branscombe (Camiola). The play was staged and costumed in Messrs. Paumier and Howard's well-known charming style.

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—The big attraction here this week has been *Who is She?* Mr. Hill-Mitchelson, the author, appearing with his special company. As Prince Bora he showed to great advantage, playing with that dramatic strength and point which has already earned for him a foremost place in the histrionic world. Mr. Graham-Woods was the King Vladamir, a manly part, well presented; Miss Violet Carlyle held the title-rôle in a most charming manner; Mr. Russell Bouge acquitted himself creditably as Chang Tee; a capital Captain Arthur Gower was presented by Mr. Sinclair Holden; Miss Alice Barber did well as Countess Ladori; credit was due to Miss Mabel Ronald for her neat picture of the Little King; and other acceptable artists were Messrs. Arthur McCulloch (Sergeant Metroff), C. H. Henderson (the Spy), Miss Muriel Inglis (Keta Noveitch), and Miss Mary Collier (Sarette). The play was admirably staged.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Foremost here this week was the American racing playlet, *Futurity Winner*, presented by Joseph Hart's company; Fred Earle had a cordial reception for his funny songs; a neat and pleasing entertainment was provided by the Lukushimas; the singing and dancing by the Eight of Hearts proved acceptable; Spry and Austin were as lively as ever; Herbert Shelley distinguished himself with his protean play, *Dan the Outlaw;* a brilliant musical act came from the Jackson family; the Brewsters submitted a clever turn as acrobatic speciality dancers, &c.; and Arthur Schofield, refined humorous entertainer, completed the list.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Mr. Alex. C. Grant's company have produced here a capital drama, entitled *The Woman from Scotland Yard*, which is full of thrilling interest. Mr. Grant distinguished himself as Paul Obanoff; Miss Gladys May held her audience as "the woman"; a capital Harry Stanhope was submitted by Mr. John L. Schofield; Miss Isabel Edbrooke pleased greatly as Lady Stanhope; Mr. Frank Congreaves showed that he understood the rôle of Boris Isaacowitch; Mr. Charles Graham made an excellent Sir James Stanhope; and the remainder of an able cast filled their respective parts satisfactorily.

Lyric.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—The bill presented here this week has been so good that the printer of it apparently experienced some difficulty in giving due prominence to several turns. Big type set forth the names of Lowenwirth and Cohen, the smart Hebrew comedians; Nightingale and Stigant, with the comedy duologue, *Two Sides to a Wall;* the Three Lloyds, smart bounding artists; Phil Bransby, coster comedian; Lotto, Lillo, and Otto, trick and comedy cyclists; and Wild, Willie, and West, with the laughable sketch, *The Three Bounding Navvies*. Needless to mention, all those artists gave the fullest satisfaction. The list also contained the names of V. L. Granville, who had some clever character impersonations; Jennie Hartley, soubrette; and Arthur Holland, a refined character vocalist.

Royal Hippodrome. — **Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.**—Top of the programme here this week we have had Merrill and Ward, smart comedy trick cyclists. Leonard Barry brought a new song-scena, "From unemployed to millionaires," which was much appreciated; roars of laughter followed the work of Blake and Amber, frivolity artists; Max Waldon, as a female impersonator and dancer, showed to advantage; some able hand-balancing was executed by the Barrois; a burlesque, *Bertie and the Barmaid*, submitted by the Haydons, provoked much merriment; and acceptable contributions also came from Walter Emmerson, comedian; the Brothers Bradshaw, eccentric acrobats; and George Carncross, character impersonator.

Royal Palace of Varieties. — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*The Master Criminal* has been staged here this week by the popular stock company. Included in the cast were Messrs. Sydney Grant (Telford Lestage). David G. Noble (Ben Beauday), Cecil Ravenswood (Mr. Manners), Robb Wilton (Tommy Dale), R. Seath Innes (Gentleman Jim), Miss Florence Palmer (Mabel Manners), and Miss Lilian Radbourne (Cecile). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed some excellent films.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred R. Welsker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the Bioscope pictures shown here during the week the following artists appeared: George Russell, comedian; the Levans, with illustrated songs; and Rappo and Ella, society gymnasts.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—One of the principal turns here this week was the favourite Lydia Yeamans, who, assisted by Frederick J. Titus, gave her customary excellent entertainment. The La Scala Opera Company, including Mrs. Arthur Rousby, Mr. Charles Le Sueur, and Miss Daisy Munn, pleased immensely with a grand selection from *Cavalleria Rusticana;* a wonderful performance was given by Colonel Gaston Bordeverry, who, with shots from a repeating rifle, played musical selections on chimes; a deal of laughter was aroused by the Brothers Redmond, a comical pair of acrobats; Phil and Nettie Peters provided a neat comedy entertainment; Lillian performed some clever feats on the bicycle; as acrobats, vocalists, and dancers, the three Sisters Lee pleased greatly; the Maples gave a richly enjoyable comedy act, *How to Treat a Burglar;* and Marion Scott, comedienne, also appeared.

Pavilion. — Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Excellent business has been done here during the week by reason of the good programme submitted. At the head was the capital dramatic sketch, *The Pawnbroker*, given by Joe Peterman and company; the always popular Harriett Vernon was received with great favour for her songs, which included "A Yuletide story" and "Sunshine and shadow"; a pretty and ably presented novelty, entitled *The Master Card*, was provided by the Thompson-Carruther's combination, in which were comprised Dunningarto, Fred H. Constable, Ethel Arto, Bertha Clifton, and Ivy Chandos; Primavesi had a most humorous juggling act; Carney Brothers made an impression with their vocal scena *Brothers;* and others in the list were Will Sullivan, comedian and patterer; Barfoot and Carson, comedians; Leslie Race, comedian; and J. C. Scatter, comedian. The Bioscope had some of the latest pictures.

Loughborough.—**Theatre Royal.**—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Record houses have been the order of the week, Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. C. T. Wray's company in *Miss Hook of Holland* being responsible for them. Mr. Edmund Russell as Mr. Hook created a deal of genuine fun; no less successful was Mr. Fred Dark as Simon Slinks; Mr. J. B. Fox as Captain Adrian Paap made a capital soldier, his singing being of a high order; Bandmaster Van Vuyt was cleverly played by Mr. Adrian Burgon; Mr. Robert Corray was eminently suited to the rôle of Ludwig Schnapps; Miss Muff Carew as Mina fairly brought down the house by her singing and acting; and Miss Ethel James as Sally (Miss Hook of Holland) sang and acted with power and expression.

LOWESTOFT.—**Marina.**—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Miss Lily Burnand is on a return visit in a number of pleasing ditties, includng her latest successes "My Sweet William" and "Honeymooning." The bill also comprises Jack Smiles, comedian; Mrs. Bennett's company and Edward Cranston in a sketch, *Poor Master;* Onra and Gillino, wire act; Frank Mortimer, vocalist; Whitworth Girls; Campkin, tramp cyclist; and Gwennie Teo in song and dance.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—A crowded audience gave a cordial welcome to Miss Marie Loftus on the occasion of her initial appearance here. The popular artist was in excellent form and scored a big success in her latest songs, in which she also introduced some wonderful gowns. In addition to this highly-attractive turn we have Mlle. Lumiere in *The Fairy Grotto;* Talbot and Pearce in their Japanese scena; C. H. Charlton, conjuror; Ray and Lingard in *The First of April;* and Little Bishop, humorist, &c. The British Biograph shows a new series of the latest pictorial subjects.

LUTON.—**Grand Theatre.**—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—Mr. Falcon has brought his own talented company in *The Private Secretary* here this week. Mr. Price Evans as the Rev. Rob. Spalding causes roars of laughter; Mr. Cattermole is ably characterised by Mr. Chas. Sims; Mr. Wentworth Fane as Douglas Cattermole does exceedingly well, as does Mr. Tom Taylor Vinson, the M.F.H., Mr. Marsland; and Mr. Ben Barnett ably portrays the character of Harry Marsland. As Edith Marsland Miss Josephine Richards wins favour..

MACCLESFIELD. — **Theatre Royal.** — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Messrs. Martin Alwyne, A. W. Thompson, and company are billed to occupy the boards here on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings with the musical comedy, *My Sweetheart*.

MAIDSTONE.—**Palace.**—Manager, Mr. Baskerville.—Rose and Calvert are presenting a smart mock drama scena here, in which both artists are well received; Miss Jennie Alexander is a clever juvenile mimic, her turn being encored; the Lombards are clever equilibrists; Barton and Ashley, in "Canal Boat Sal," do well. Also appearing here are Aida Martini, comedienne and dancer; Frank Blythe, vocalist; and Florrie Delamere, comedienne. The Palace Pictures are interesting.

MANCHESTER.—**Theatre Royal.**—Lessees, The United Theatres, Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmonstone Shirra.—Mr. F. W. Bolam presents here this week the successful drama from Drury Lane *The Sins of Society*. The company engaged is a large and capable one, but, as usual, the mere play, full as it is of sensational and striking incidents, is of subordinate interest to the wonderful sensationalism of the staging. This is carried out really well, and is of itself a show worth seeing. The principal parts, among many of which ensure variety and interest, are played by Miss Grace E. Leslie as Lady Marion, Miss Pattie Brown as Lady Goldbury, Mr. Blake Adams as James Hogg, and Mr. E. Vassal-Vaughan as the cool and calculating Sir Dorian Marsh.

Prince's Theatre. — Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—An audience pleased a fortnight ago by *Jack Straw* assembled here on Monday to witness another of Mr. Somerset Maugham's plays, to wit, *Lady Frederick*. It cannot be said that the audience was so well pleased by the fare provided on this occasion, but the company made a commendable endeavour to get the best possible result out of the material provided. Far and away the best performance was that of Mr. Robert Minster, who made an undoubted success as Paradine Fouldes, the man of the world. In the title-part Miss Mabel Love lost something in point of effect by her weak attempt at the Irish brogue, but otherwise acted nicely. Others deserving a word of praise were Miss Elsie Irving as Lady Mereston, Mr. E. F. Meads as Lord Mereston, and Mr. Patrick Quill as Sir Gerald O'Mara. The comedy was preceded by a clever curtain-raiser *The Peacemaker*.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—*Her Forbidden Marriage*, by Fredk. Melville, and played by the author's company, is a powerful attraction here this week. Mr. Henry Lonsdale as George Maddison has a strong part, and plays it well; and Miss Geraldine Le Sage as Lucy, who is forbidden to marry but eventually marries George, is equal to all the demands of the rôle. Mr. Louis Rector plays the scoundrel Devereux in good style; Mr. H. Gomer May is effective as Sir George Lancaster; and among other clever people of the cast Mr. Vincent Loraine as Joe Lambkin and Mr. Fred De Vere as Timothy Tuttutt are worthy of mention for their humorous efforts. The scenic sensations of the play are well carried out.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—The attraction here this week is Shaw's piece *Widowers' Houses*, played by Miss Horniman's company. Mr. B. Iden Payne repeats his smart impersonation of Lickcheese; Mr. Charles Bibby is as amusing as ever as Cokane; Mr. Jules Shaw's depiction of Sartorius is a remarkably virile piece of work; as Blanche Miss Mona Limerick scores a distinct success; and Mr. Lewis Casson plays Dr. Harry Trench in acceptable style. The minor parts are well handled by Mr. Basil Dean, Mr. Leonard Mudie, and Miss Louise Holbrook. This entertaining piece was preceded on Monday by a new comedy in one act, *The Dear Departed*, a notice of which appears in another column.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—The attraction here is *A Desperate Marriage*, a capital drama played in effective style by Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company. Mr. J. Knox-Orde as Dick Strong and Miss Winifred Whyte as Audrey Howard have the principal heroic parts, in which they score a marked success; Mr. E. W. Maule-Cole as the scoundrelly Clarence Woolmer, Miss Gertrude Gilbert as Miriam Elton, and Mr. Herbert Lloyd as Elijah Baggs very well sustain the evil element of the story. Admirable impersonations are added by Mr. Houghton Goddard as Dr. Frank Buxter and Miss Helen Anderson as Betty Mackenzie; while the comedy parts are cleverly developed by Mr. Walter Rousby and Miss Nellie Rousby. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Zeta Grey and Wal Grace are the principal attraction here in a musical comedy act *The Lancashire Lass;* Dolly Ross, comedienne and dancer, is very well received; the Three Coopers are entertaining as comedy vocalists; and Herbert and Linden, comedians and dancers, give a smart and popular turn. Other acceptable items include Edythe and Toto, in a speciality act; Evelyn Taylor, comedienne; Maddison Brothers, comedians and burlesque boxers; Walter Buxton, baritone vocalist; Leo D'Alvar, gymnast; Hilda De Grey, Tyrolean vocalist; and Pat O'Connor, comedian and dancer.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Marie Lloyd, the top star here, is exceptionally successful in a fine répertoire of songs; John Lawson and company in *Pigs in Clover* are also prominent, but the piece lacks grip. Neat and enjoyable turns are added by Millie Hylton, in her latest successes; Harry Grey, the Australian nugget; Billy French, a wonderful dancer; Olive Armidale, a dainty soubrette; Les Voces, accomplished singers; and the Sisters Grovini, in drawing-room acrobatics. On Monday Boyd and Gilfain, comedy artists, successfully deputised for Tennyson and Wallis, who were indisposed.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—The programme here this week is one of all-round excellence. Mike S. Whallen, the comet with many tales, is entertaining, as usual; dainty Madge Crighton, the popular musical comedy artist, sings several taking songs; Mendel, the blind pianist, gives his marvellous performance; the Gandsmidts are well received in their novel comedy acrobatic act; and Syd May is particularly good in his imitations, especially his wrestling skit. Excellent dancing is done by Frances McNulty and by Mabel Fairchild in scena *A Belfry Dream*, and La Danseuse in scena *Santa Claus*. Frank Maura, the expert foot equilibrist, repeats his wonderful act; Edith A'Vard plays well on the violin; and Boyd and Gilfain give a delightful turn. Algy's Yachting Party on the Bioscope is vastly amusing.

Palace. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—A capital programme here this week is headed by Chas. Austin's problematical production, *Parker, P.C.*, a concoction of comedy and comicalities; and T. E. Dunville, the popular eccentric comedian. T. E. Finglas gives a selection from his excellent coon sketches; Dave Carter, the Irish tenor, sings extraordinarily well; Herbert Rule, comedian, is well received; and the speciality of Hanvarr and Lee, *The Golfer and the Maid*, is a highly enjoyable item. Other good turns are added by Sarah Berry, an accomplished vocalist with a beautiful voice; the Four Sisters Victoria, instrumentalists; and Flo Cecil, comedienne and dancer.

Tivoli. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—J. G. Grahame and Zarline Harrington top the bill here this week in their highly effective episode *A Daughter of Pleasure*. Seeley and Rhodesia are good in a speciality act of juggling and music; G. W. Hunter is entertaining, as usual, with song and up-to-date patter; Fred Poweric and company are seen to advantage in a melo-dramatic playlet *An Unfinished Symphony;* Bowman and Morton are capital musical comedy artists; and Ruby Emmerson is a pleasing comedienne. Other smart turns are offered by Stuart and Evans, patter comedians; Alice Lingard, refined comedienne; J. H. Ellis, eccentric comedian; and Kitty Baughton, comedienne, with good songs. Ruffell's Bioscope pictures complete.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—A return visit of *Her Nameless Child* to Manchester audiences was welcomed here on Monday. Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company have the play in hand, and it is presented twice nightly with success. The principal parts are in the safe hands of Mr. J. W. Evelyn and Miss Pattie Hastings; while Mr. Larry Clements and Miss Renie Douglas are responsible for the humour.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Sydney Mason and Therisa Moore, ably assisted by H. Russell and Syd Leslie and company, are to the front here this week in a dramatic episode entitled *The Usurer*, which is exceedingly well played. Signor and Madame Borelli are entertaining, as usual, their cat chorus being exceedingly funny. The Lovelaces are pleasing song illustrators; A. E. Clifford, versatile vocalist, sings well; Ada Parker is a charming juvenile singer and dancer; Geo. Acre, character vocalist, takes well; and Frank E. Ford gains great applause for smart clog-dancing. A Fisherman's Daughter and the Manx Motor Racing are shown on the Bioscope.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley.—Miss Ada Colley, the well-known top-note singer, tops the bill here this week, and is accorded a great reception; Atlas and Vulcana, together with the Sisters Atlas, are graceful and finished athletes, and their turn is exceedingly fine; W. G. Webber, bass vocalist, has a good voice, and makes a decided hit; whilst others who provide good items are Cecilia Gold, burlesque artist; Forest and King, comedy acrobatic dancers; Three Sisters Tree, in a refined act *Hunting;* Lavelle Brothers, acrobatic comedians; Jack Waller, versatile comedian; Satani, in scena of magical surprises; and Daleno and Stream, comedians and dancers. The Masher on the Bioscope is funny.

Rusholme Pavilion.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Leslie; Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. Phillips.—Dick Tubb, who heads the bill here this week, is highly amusing; and Dick Thomas makes a hit as a Welsh comedian. Norman Osborne is a capital ventriloquist; Charles North, vocalist, has a good voice; Jessie Buckle, a pleasing comedienne, takes well; Lincoln Taylor, light comedian, is popular; and Bill Bailey is entertaining at the piano.

MANSFIELD. — **Grand Theatre, Ltd.**—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is here in *The Love of the Princess*. Mr. Wilson Coleman is an interesting Prince Conrad; Miss Nellie Garside a charming Irene; Princess Idalia is capitally portrayed by Miss Maisy Hanbury; and Miss Helen Elmar is successful as Constantia. Count Nicholas is well sustained by Mr. Imeson; and Mr. Edgar Morgan is a comical Boris. Messrs. Bould and George Antley are both excellent as Lieut. Orlans and Duke Scarfe.

Victoria Hall.—Lessee, Mr. A. Fox.—The Victoria pictures are again the chief feature here, and Hall and Bromley, comedy duo, complete a pleasing entertainment.

MARGATE.—**Theatre Royal.**—Managing-Director, Mr Edward Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—*The Wife and the Woman*, a play with a purpose, by Tom Craven, was played here on Monday evening, and has been repeated the rest of the week with success. Mr. W. Edwyn Holloway as William Fulcroft appears to advantage; and Miss Rita Trekelle also plays admirably as Helen Fulcroft. Miss B. Honnett as Nurse Whitmore, Miss Dorothy Hullah as Mrs. Patrick Newton, and Miss Jessie Lotillian as Miss Amelia Asa are good in their respective parts; and the comedy element is made the most of by Mr. A. C. Thornhill as Dick Filter and Miss F. Reckmound as Alice Inkleden, the servants.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—**Theatre Royal.**—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—Hardie and Von Leer's company in *Two Little Vagabonds* is here. Miss Chrissie Francess and Miss Ethel Frances Green as Dick and Wally present smart and effective performances; Miss Dora Frank Harvey is tactful as Marion Thornton; Miss Ethel Lodge gives a fine sketch of Biddy Mullins; Barbara Scarth has a good exponent in Miss Leonora Castelle; Mr. George Denham plays George Thornton in a manly and convincing manner; Mr. Harry Reynolds displays ability as John Scarth; Mr. Herbert Russell makes a capital Bill Mullins; and Dido Bunch and the Coughdrop are ably embodied by Mr. F. Litchfield, jun., and Mr. Hal Charlton.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—A well-played sketch, *A Daughter of the Revolution*, is presented here by Miss Georgette Thierry and

ley, in a pot-pourri speciality; Ryde and Beeman, acrobatic eccentrics; Florrie Conolly, Irish vocalist; and the Biograph.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is this week presenting *The Woman Who Gambles*. Miss Laura Walker as the Countess Natalie Steinbach plays a difficult part with marked success; Mr. Clifford Rean is seen to advantage as Count Otto Steinbach; Mr. Norman A. Overton gives an excellent portrayal of the unscrupulous Baron Cratzlaw; Mr. Reginald Fox as Lieutenant Ctzartoriski is remarkably good; Miss E. Conway's rendering of Cora Gouldhart is much appreciated; and Miss Brenda May is a capital Zanette. The remaining parts, in a long cast, are capably played. The scenery and dresses are elaborate. Some capital films are shown on the Gaietyscope.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. E. H. Knight's company is this week presenting *The Lighthouse Robbery*. Mr. Hy. Herne submits an intelligent and thoughtful rendering of Tom Manly; Mr. Percy Beresford is vigorous as James Hammond; a fine character-study of Uncle Davie is presented by Mr. Herbert Lewis; Mr. William Annesley does well as William Farren; Miss Hilda Baynton plays with charm and grace as the heroine, Rose Prescott; Miss Ida Millais is sympathetic as Mrs. Manly. Sparkling comedy is provided by Mr. Sammy Foster (Sam Kidder) and Miss Maggie Stewart (Ruth).

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter. —Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—Capital pictures this week include Wreck of H.M.S. Gladiator, Victim of Science, Mexican Love Story, Water Babies, Collecting Postcards, Wonderful Mirrors, Clown's Love Story, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Miss Violet Osmund and her company is presenting the musical play *The Belle of the Ball*. Miss Florence Somers in the part of Poppy proves a delightful comedienne; Mr. Robert Hyett is well suited in the character of Sir Francis Lake; Miss Ethel Bertram as Alice and Miss Corona L'Estrange as Mary are diverting; and Mr. E. W. Chawd as James Foster is responsible for a good impersonation. Miss Vera Graffon is charming as Lucy; Miss Flora Morris as Queenie Trevor does well; Mr. Chas. Adison is excellent as Farmer Jones; and Mr. Johnnie Schofield, jun., is amusing as Bobbie Fletcher. The success of the piece, however, is mainly due to Mr. Johnnie Schofield, who as Timothy Timkins keeps the audience convulsed with laughter from beginning to end. Some graceful dancing is given by Miss Rosie Wade as Little Red Riding Hood and Miss Mary Hawthorne as San Toi.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Mr. Charles Hawtrey's company occupies the boards here this week in the comedy *Dear Old Charlie*. The play is well staged, and an abundance of fun causes a continuous ripple of laughter. The title-rôle is taken in delightful fashion by Mr. George Lestocq, and Mr. C. Douglas Cox gives a lifelike impersonation of Gabriel Peploe. The character of Thomas Dumphie is well sustained by Mr. R. S. Trelawny, Colonel Fishbourne is adequately represented by Mr. Duncan Young; Miss Enid G. Forde makes a charming Agnes; Miss Leonora Braham is admirable as Mrs. Fishbourne; and Mr. Stanley Arthur as Punkitt, Mr. G. Smythe as the florist's boy, and Miss Viola Holland as Reeve are all that can be desired.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—Charcot provides the star turn here this week, and completely mystifies the audiences with his automatic man; Starr and Leslie give a clever exhibition of club swinging; Monti Conway causes much laughter with his humorous songs; and a smart display is given by the Czar's Russian troupe of dancers. Dottridge and Foster's company provide an amusing sketch entitled *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*; Eve is appearing in a series of artistic poses; and other popular turns are those of Mlle. Pollo and Grace Gray.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. A. E. Nicholls.—The charming La Milo gives her beautiful and artistic statuary performance; Drew and Alders create roars of laughter; Conway and Ieland are a pair of wonderful one-legged clowns; the Florodoras provide a pleasing song-scena; Cruikshanks, the lightning caricaturist, is well received; and Jessie Storr, Will Cornish, Charles Russell, and Mulvey and Miriam also do well.

OXFORD.—Proprietor, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. French.—Walker and Lake's comedians cause much laughter here this week; Edna Latonne is a clever male impersonator; the Sisters Marion, two clever little vocalists, win high approval; Sterling and Cashen give a pleasing dancing turn; and Ben Harris and his nippers do well in a varied act. Ada Varley, Leo and Jerry, Jack Hayton, and a laughable barrel boxing competition complete a capital programme.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is paying a return visit in *The Soldier's Wedding*. Mr. Wingold Lawrence is manly and convincing as Jack Brown; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb's interpretation of the rôle of Colonel Graham is deserving of commendation; Mr. Gerald Jordan aptly portrays the unscrupulous Charles Courtney; David Munroe, the deceived husband, is finely played by Mr. Frederick Biron; and an excellent bit of character acting is provided by Fred Yarnold as the old farmer Nathaniel Lee. Nancy Lee is prettily played by Miss Dorothy Richardson; Miss Mabel Lowe is altogether excellent as Peggy Munroe; and special mention should be made of Miss Marie McAuly for her restraint as Julie. The comedy business is capably exploited by Messrs. Chippendale and Abbot, together with Miss Mattie Everett.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Jones and Douglass.—Another good programme is presented here. Mr. Barry Lindon, basso, is nightly receiving enthusiastic applause; Mr. Cuthbert Rose proves himself a refined and clever humorist; the dogs introduced by Mr. Percy Victor show excellent training; the Lauri Bros. as hand-balancers go through a pleasing performance; and Mr. Carlo Rosan, Continental vocalist, Milner and Storey, in a vocal and dancing interlude, and Miss Vera Mayne, vocalist, complete the programme. The animated pictures are, as usual, of the best.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—The welcome reappearance of Mr. Fred Terry and company in the ever-popular *Scarlet Pimpernel* was received with the greatest enthusiasm on Monday evening. Mr. Terry gave his own inimitable rendering of that strangely complex character Sir Percy Blakeney, and was frequently called upon to acknowledge the warm applause of the delighted audience. In the absence of Miss Julia Neilson, Miss Miriam Lewes plays the part of Lady Blakeney. Her portrayal of this difficult character is an unqualified success, and her acting throughout is marked by a fine dramatic force, which greatly impressed the "house." Chauvelin, the French Government spy, receives most effective treatment by Mr. Horace Hodges, while Mr. J. Carter Edwards is responsible for a realistic study of Brogard, the innkeeper; quite successful, too, are the personations of Mr. Alfred Kendrick as Sir Andrew Ffoulkes, Mr. Malcolm Cherry as Lord Anthony Dewhurst, Mr. A. E. Anson as the Prince of Wales, and Miss Claire Paunceforte and Miss Kathleen Doyle as the Comtesse and Susanne de Tournai respectively. On Thursday *Henry of Navarre* was produced.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company in *The Flower Girl* is paying a return visit here. Mr. Martin Adeson is seen to advantage as Joe Wheeler; Mr. Alfred Donohoe is most amusing as Johnny Wheeler; and in the part of Reginald Racket Mr. Norman Bowyer has a part which suits him admirably, his dancing being very smart. Mr. Henry Adnes's portraiture of Alphonse de Racquist is highly successful; whilst Miss Dorothy Firmin is charming and bright in the part of Lily, (the flower girl). Miss Jeannie Holmes ably impersonates Miss Greenhill (a Suffragette), and Miss Florence Wilton proves an attractive Lizette de Racquist.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Miss Marie Dagmar and company, in the famous drama *The Tyrant*, is the attraction here. Miss Marie Dagmar is undoubtedly the success of the piece. Mr. Roy Fortescue gives a fine representation of Angelo (the tyrant), and Miss Margaret Frame is responsible for a capital study of the part of Lady Katherine; whilst Mr. Edward E. Louis's portrayal of Rudolph is manly and engaging. Equally good also is the impersonation of Homodei by Mr. James Sydney Pitt.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—*A Message from Mars* is presented here this week by Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company, and is proving a great draw. As the Messenger from Mars Mr. William H. Brougham gives a finished portrayal, and Mr. Wallace Widdicombe as Horace Parker is equally successful; Miss Rose Helene is sweet and natural as Parker's sweetheart; and other leading rôles are ably sustained.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—The chief attraction of a well-balanced programme is Albert Whelan, the Australian entertainer, who is responsible for a most pleasing and interesting series of "impressions" of various prominent artists; Mr. Fred Ginnet's company in the sketch *Dick Turpin*, in which is included the famous mare "Black Bess," proves a great attraction, and Lottie Lennox sings in her usual spirited style several tuneful and catchy refrains, which are quickly taken up by the house. The Egbert Bros., the jolly dustmen, cause any amount of merriment in their clever and amusing knockabout turn, whilst Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing mill girl, renders several songs in a most taking manner. The Brothers Corcoran, musical shipbuilders, Hartley Wonders in a jumping speciality, and Harry Lawson, eccentric comedian, all contribute good turns, and the Bioscope completes.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. W. H. Boardman.—Mrs. Lewis Waller and company in *The Admiral's Lady* contribute the chief item here this week, and other artists appearing are Hinton and Wooton, Willie Gardner, Wilton, Heriot and company, G. S. Melvin, Lyons Trio, and Ed. E. Ford.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Mouillot's company is commanding good houses here this week with the comic opera *Tom Jones*, which is brilliantly performed throughout. As Tom Jones Mr. Cyril Thompson charmed everyone with his magnificent singing; Miss Alice Moffatt, sweet and dainty, sings excellently in the part of Sophia Western; Miss Olive Eltone, who acts admirably, is a fascinating Lady Bellaston; and Miss Florrie Saunders as Honour, the maid, dances prettily. Mr. A. J. Nicholls well represents Mr. Allworthy; Blifil is capitally impersonated by Mr. A. H. Majilton; and Mr. Fred Seymour gives an amusing character study of Squire Western. Mr. Geo. Elton does justice to the part of Partridge; Messrs. Michael Dwyer, Cyril Lane, and Harry Courten are amusing as Western's servants; and Miss Marie Rogers and Miss F. McAvoy are excellent exponents of Hostess of the Inn at Upton and Miss Western respectively. The scenery is particularly attractive, and the dresses gorgeous.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. O. Stoll.—Alf. Chester is as popular as ever; Lily Langtry is accorded warm recognition; and Ernie Mayne, the thin comedian, creates roars of laughter. Nellie Wallace, an eccentric comedy artist, is distinctly original, earning marked appreciation; the Mayvilles are interesting; the Ten-ji Troupe provide a sensational turn in juggling; and Dutch Daly amuses with his patter. The Bioscope shows some good films.

NORTHAMPTON.—NEW PALACE THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Manager, Mr. Thos. A. Evans; Musical-Director, Mr. Walter Ashton.—Raie Walters, a chic comedienne, is doing well here; the juggling act of the Wallys is popular; those well-known comic opera artists Fancourt and Ruby are highly applauded in their musical duo "The Huntsman and the Waiter"; Kirk and Saraski, aquatic acrobats, in their electric aquarium, do a very pretty turn; the Beeasco Trio are successful in dancing and harmonised singing; Sylvene, assisted by Mlle. Florence, gives a strong equilibristic show; Bob Jones, female impersonator; Amos Howard, American dancing comedian, and Harry Vane, chorus vocalist, also provide good variety entertainment. The Palace Pictures provide a grotesquely humorous film The Living Blackboard, full of comical surprises.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—*A Girl's Cross Roads* has been presented here this week by Mr. Walter Melville's capable company. As Barbara Wade Miss Hilda Beverley gives an excellent portrayal; Miss Nita Langford as Nellie Meadows acts with marked ability; Miss Dorothy Hildebrande is appreciated as Constance Cornell; and Miss Daisy Meynard makes a smart Tilly Vane. John Meadows finds a capital exponent in Mr. Charles Franmore; Mr. Jack Fortescue as Jack Livingstone gives a masterly representation; Mr. Edward Chester proves a capable Cuthbert Lumley; Mr. Edward Valentine acquits himself satisfactorily as Doctor Watson; and Mr. Fred Hobson is an amusing Toby Turvy.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Monkl.—The star turn here is Miss Mabel Thorne, the popular comedienne, who has had a hearty reception; Mr. Ned Graydon, comedy instrumentalist, has also made a hit; and Miss Adeline Yohne and company, in their musical sketch, *Difficulties*, are much enjoyed. Mr. Tom Thelma and Miss Cissie Groves, in *A Lady Sculptor*, are well received; Messrs. Melford and Mars, comedy artists, are clever; Mr. Harry Blake, eccentric comedian, is funny; and the Mouldoscope is as much appreciated as ever.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden; Secretary, Miss E. Golden.—*An Abandoned Woman* is being played here by Mr. Harry Foxwell's company. Mr. Herbert M. King gives an excellent rendering of Capt. Herbert Seaton; Mr. W. Fraser-Brunner as Phillipe Malvoisin plays the part well; Mr. Arthur Curzon does ably as Robert Saunders; Mr. Victor Garnet-Vayne presents a life-like study of Sammy Sharp; and Mr. Teddy Myles convulses the audience by his humorous interpretation of Paddy Boyle. Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner is droll as Sally Sloper; Eleanor Deane is charmingly played by Miss Lily Annesley; and Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam gives a forceful representation of Ninon Malvoisin.

PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—Mr. Alf Pasemore is highly amusing here, and Dorothy Knit, singer and dancer, is appreciated; Lydia Raie, banjo queen, does a delightful turn; Norman and Belle are entertaining artists; Bert Bell is a good comedian; Rennie Hurst is a clever serio; Barrie and Wood are smart comedy artists and clever acrobatic dancers; and Raffell's Bioscope pictures are still very entertaining.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is here this week, presenting *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. Mr. Bartlett Garth as John Jasper is most successful. Mr. Ridgway Thorne is good as Edwin Drood; Mr. J. Henry Twyford does well as Neville Landless; Mr. David Phillips as Durdles creates much amusement; and Mr. Richard Harris deserves mention as Septimus Crisparkle; Mrs. Morton Powell charmingly acts the part of Rosa Bird; and Miss May Beatrice is good as Helena Landless. The other characters are suitably filled, and the play effectively staged.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Lady Mansel and her juveniles are much appreciated here this week, and their singing and dancing applauded; Harry Ford, comedian, is quite a favourite, and exceedingly droll; Roma and Romana display high art as musicians; Picton Roxborough and Fanny Wright are amusing in their "tabloid," "My little ones"; Lettie and Florence are neat duettists and dancers; the Haverleys as song-illustrators are a good turn; the Lorrisons are very successful; and Minnie de Aubyn is a pleasing vocalist; the Hippo. Bio. is attractive.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Gay Gordons*, now on its first visit here, is attracting large audiences. Miss Zena Dare as Peggy is most charming; Mr. Stanley Brett is well suited in the part of Angus; Mr. Edward Lewis, ably assisted by Mr. Wilfred Norman and Miss Nellie Dade, successfully support the fun of the piece; Miss Madge Vincent secures ample recognition by her singing and dancing in the rôle of Victoria Siddons; Mr. Ernest Torrence makes an assertive American millionaire; and in the small part of Corporal Smith Mr. Paul Plunkett does well. Miss Eugenie Vernie capably portrays the character of Janet McLeod, and Miss Ada Fraser plays Lady Millicent Graeme in a restrained but excellent manner. The eccentric dancing of Mr. J. Sims Woolley as Jack McPhriskey is very enjoyable.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Mr. Roland Yorke's company is giving a really interesting representation of *The Old Home*. The kindliness and benevolent nature of Daddy Dean is capitally drawn by Mr. Harding Thomas, and Miss Nina Blake Adams makes a delightfully fresh exponent of Hazle Dean; Mr. T. W. Dunscombe plays with force as the Rev. Eric Armstrong, and of the villainous rôle of Lord Avondale Mr. Roland Yorke gives a thoroughly convincing interpretation. As Bridget Donoghan humour comes from the lips of Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite with ease and volubility; Miss Mattie Crawford is amusing as Polly Popp; and Mr. Fred L. Connynghame looks the typical breezy longshoreman.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The jokes and witticisms of Mark Sheridan are rattled off with freedom and ease; a dramatic episode entitled *A Royal Heart* finds instant favour, as presented by Miss Margaret Omar and Messrs. Scott Craven, Chris Walker, Frederick James, and A. Corney Grain; an amusing performance is that of Maud Rochez's monkeys, which show decided cleverness and intelligence; the skilful acrobatic cycling of the Dunedin Troupe compels appreciative applause; and a musical act by the Four Jumels is both interesting and clever. The Coloured Meisters are accorded a gratifying reception, and Leonie Dixon proves an able exponent of dancing. Will Dacey and Nellie Lewis give a smart comedy act, while Little Keeno does well as a dancer and the Bioscope shows excellent films.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Nothing more astonishing has been presented to a Nottingham audience than the amazing illusions of the great Lafayette, whose versatility seems unbounded. The ventriloquial entertainment of Fred Russell, Horace and Olga's troupe of dogs and cats, the Van Host Trio in smart acrobatic feats, and the comedy element so well represented by Rosie Lloyd, Alf Lytton, and Dave O'Toole are among the attractions. The Barrascope pictures are also entertaining.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. F. R. Benson's North Shakespearean company is paying its annual visit here this week with *The Taming of the Shrew*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Richard the Third*, *Faust*, *Hamlet*, and *Julius Cæsar*. The house was well filled on Monday night for *The Taming of the Shrew*. Mr. Henry Herbert as Petruchio was seen to advantage; Mr. James Berry as Baptista was well suited; Mr. Bernard Limpus made a capital Lucentio; Mr. Fernley Bishopp as Vincentio and Mr. Victor Wiltshire as Gremio, played their respective parts exceedingly well; and the rendering of Biondello by Mr. Vincent Holman created much amusement. Miss Gladys Vanderzee as the shrewish Katherine was vigorous and natural; and Miss Violet Farebrother made a charming Bianca. The other parts were all well filled; and the dressing and mounting were first rate.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme. —*The Christian* opened here to large audiences, and Mr. Wentworth Croke's company has been heartily welcomed. Miss Doris Gilham in the part of Glory Quayle meets with much appreciation; Miss Sinna St. Clair acts in a clever manner as Mrs. Callender; Miss Margaret Brodie is excellent as Polly Love, and Miss Violet St. Clair is dainty as Jennie; Mr. Henry Renouf is a most capable and painstaking John Storm; Mr. Geo. R. Mountford as Lord Robert Ure and Mr. Oswald Marshall as Horatio Drake are both capital studies; Mr. Edwin Ling is a convincing Father Lamplugh, and Mr. Arthur E. Maskell as Parson Quayle is a success; Lord Storm is well acted by Mr. E. R. Hollway; Mr. C. Dickens as Rosenberg, and Mr. John Coghlan as Paul are very good.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*Married to the Wrong Man*, a drama which has not been here before, has been drawing large crowds to this popular house, and Mr. Fredk. Melville's company fully deserve their success. Miss Gertrude Boswell is heartily applauded for her splendid acting as Ruth; Miss Mary Pemberton is a most delightful Rose O'Connor; Misses Rosalie Notrelle as Nurse Manners and Violet Vincent as Mother Snaggs are both very good; Miss May Davis as Dolly Fritter and Mr. Syd Claydon as Timothy Clinker are responsible for smart comedy; Mr. O. Cray is a manly Jack Gladwin, his enemy, Captain Dering, being ably enacted by Mr. H. Lane Bayliff; Sergeant Manners makes a smart soldier as acted by Mr. Ray Raymond; Mr. Chas. ivian cleverly portrays the part of Jasper Skinner; Mr. Paige Lawrence as Archie Bird also does well.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—George Lashwood is delighting large houses with his capital singing; W. C. Fields, the juggler par excellence, is highly appreciated; the Bros. De Wynne are smart, refined acrobats; a laughable sketch, *The Broken Statue*, is very amusing as played by Chas. Harvey and company; the Bros. Dean present a very good dancing turn, and Edith Fink sings some capital songs very well; Master May, boy vocalist, is well received; and a good comedy acrobatic act is presented by the Havana troupe. The Dottoscope concludes with a good film, The Gipsy Model.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—John Dixon is a most amusing eccentric comedian; Frantz's Comedy Fire are good in an up-to-date novelty, *The Human Motor-car*; the King's College Boys provide excellent harmony; Fraser and French introduce some capital rag-time dancing, and Bert Woodward, coon cyclist, performs smartly; Victor and Louis are good refined comedians and vocalists, and Valvo does well as a ventriloquist; Nick Carter, Detective, is presented by the Dottoscope with success.

CENTRAL HALL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—At this hall this week (which was recently opened under the above management) the Franco-British new animated pictures continue to find favour, and matinées on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays are well patronised. Mr. F. Walker sings "Sing me to sleep" (illustrated), and the pictures include Organ Grinder's Daughter, Detectives Fritt and Flock, Banana Industry, Killing Remorse, Poor Doggy, Living Blackbird, Nick Carter, Detective, Amorous Nurse, and His First Experiment in Chemistry.

OXFORD. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—The latter half of last week Mr. B. Iden Payne's company gave most interesting performances of *Candida*, *Widowers' Houses*, and the *Hippolytus of Euripides*, and the reception given the last play by a densely-crowded house showed that the undergraduates appreciate good plays when presented as Mr. Payne's company presents them. This week Mr. George Dance is drawing packed and highly enthusiastic houses with *Miss Hook of Holland*, admirably played by the competent company. Mr. T. A. Shale fairly revels in the humorous part of Mr. Hook, and scores heavily right through the play; he is admirably supported by Mr. Tom Seymour, a droll Simon Slinks; by Mr. Frank Crimp, who sings delightfully and acts agreeably as the Bandmaster; and by Mr. George Mudie, jun., as Ludwig Schnapps—a bright performance. Miss Alice Coverick is a dainty and pleasing Sally, whose singing and acting are much to the taste of her audience; Miss Cissie Sephton scores heavily as Mina, her petticoat song being demanded again and again, while her clever dancing meets with due recognition; Miss Pattie Lennard is a handsome and pleasing Gretchen; and a strong and tuneful chorus adds much to the enjoyment and success of *Miss Hook*.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is here with *The Little Breadwinner*.—Mr. H. B. Peppin makes an excellent Lord William Dorrington; and Mr. Alfred Maurice is most successful as the hero, Richard Lawrence. Mr. Alfred Maurice is a typical villain as Joseph Prior; and Mr. Sidney Lynn supplies a fund of merriment and quaint humour as Charles Prior. Miss May Richardson is graceful as Margaret Daventry; Miss Clara Hunt is very natural as Bridget O'Flanagan; and Miss Millie Ford is a great success as Kate Cherry. Miss Kitty Melville makes a vivacious Ruth Cherry; Miss Lister Young is bright as Bobby Trott; and Little Winnie Crisp scores high honours as Meg, "the Little Bread-Winner."

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—For the first three nights of the week Mr. Charles Frohman presented *The Hypocrites*. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton contributed a fine piece of acting in the character of the Rev. Edgar Linnell; Mr. Charles Harley distinguished himself by an effective embodiment of Mr. Viveash; Mr. Alfred S. Barber was well suited to the rôle of Mr. Winmore; Leonard Wilmore was intelligently played by Mr. King Fordham; Mr. Cecil Brooking was seen to advantage as the Rev. Everard Daubeney; Mr. Sydney Hamilton impersonated Sir John Plugenet with ability; Dr. Blaney was faithfully portrayed by Mr. Hanworth Browning; and Mr. Douglas Jefferies was capital as Goodyer. Miss Amy Ravenscroft was responsible for an excellent presentment of Mrs. Wilmore; of the misguided Rachel Neve a sympathetic rendering was given by Miss Gladys Harvey; Miss Gladys Purnell was a refreshing Helen Plugenet; a characteristic embodiment of Mrs. Blaney was submitted by Miss Florence Steventon; Miss Grete Hahn gave a sweet rendering of Mrs. Linnell; and Patty was ably accounted for by Miss Violet Harley. Mr. Lawrence Brough and company in *The Lady of Ostend* were billed for the last three nights of the week.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—J. F. Elliston presents a funny sketch, *The Art of Deception*, in which Shuan Glenville, comedian, is seen to advantage; the Three Fidardys, acrobatic specialty performers, are smart and clever; Marguerite Ismay and her white coons contribute an entertaining vocal and dancing scena; Yangar, a West African illusionist, displays ability and dexterity; Daisy Mayer in her coon impersonations shows distinct merit; Arthur Woodville is a versatile comedian and dancer; Ormond Penstone and Mlle. San-Go contribute an illusionist pot-pourri full of novelties; Sheila McNeil, Scotch comedy artist, is very entertaining, and the Bioscope completes the bill.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—Large crowds are being attracted this week by Mr. Lingford Carson's company. On Monday the stirring drama *The Heart of a Hero* was presented. The title-rôle, Jem Readale (a Lancashire lad), is in the capable hands of Mr. E. J. Fare, a powerful and realistic actor. The two brothers Mark and Wilfred Marl are well characterised by Mr. J. P. Lallen and Mr. James Mailey; Jack Collinson, a young engineer, is ably enacted by Mr. Frank Kelland; Mr. Cuthbert Taylor gains much admiration as David Pritchard, a detective; Mr. David Donaldson proves himself a capital actor as an old miser; Mr. J. Harold as Chief of Police is very good. Plenty of fun is provided by Mr. Will White and Miss Frances Ferns in the respective parts of Timothy Heighno and Susie Slack; Miss Emma Rainbow is excellent as Mrs. Barker, and praise is due to Miss Madge Steeple and Miss Mabel Fare as Nell Resdale and May Ryder. For Thursday and Friday *The Modern Adventuress* was billed, and for Saturday *My Mother: God bless Her!* was announced.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Menotti in his great cycling act is the chief attraction here this week.

WORKMEN'S HALL.—Secretary, Mr. Dd. Davies.—Together with a fine series of animated pictures the Brothers Curran, in their comedy boxing and wrestling acts, prove a great attraction.

DRILL HALL.—Secretary, Major W. J. Jones.—Miss Inez Howard's company is here this week in *Driven from Home*, and is received by large and appreciative audiences.

PERTH.—THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Lawrence Brough's company presented *The Lady of Ostend* for the first three evenings of this week. Mr. Lawrence Brough as the Baron showed cleverness; Mr. Aubrey Cheshire was an effective Dick Whortles, Mr. Tom Mowbray a successful Joseph Carbury, Mr. William Macready a humorous Toby Knockitt, Mr. Hewson Elliott a good John Humbert, and Mr. W. Mayne Lynton as Thomson the clerk and Mr. Harry Collier as James the butler rendered capable support. Miss Maud Buchanan made a captivating Lady of Ostend, Miss Betty Park a charming Dorothy Whortles, Miss Edith Anderson an effective Jane, Miss Bessie Harrison a capital Matilda, and Miss Alice Leigh an excellent Millie. Mr. Charles Frohman's company in *The Hypocrites* occupied the Theatre during the latter half of the week.

PETERBOROUGH.—NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—Graham's Juveniles are appearing here this week, and are awarded a hearty reception. Other good turns are Frank Seeley, the popular comedian; Cissie Thompson, dainty comedienne; Ted Saunders, king of mimicry; the Three Panamas, in their clever pot-pourri act; Barney Stuart, character actor-vocalist and mimic; and Diamond and Hart, speciality vocal comedians, patterers, and dancers.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Miss Hook of Holland*, on a return visit, is doing excellent business. Miss Marie Wilson's acting and singing of the title-rôle are admirable; Mr. Fred Lyne gives a funny version of Simon Slink; Mr. Powis Pinder, a fine Van Vuyt, sets the house humming his tuneful march; Mr. Arthur Reynolds is particularly amusing as Hook, and Mr. Frederick Hobbs is a first-rate Capt. Adrian Paap. Miss Mabel Sealby as Mina renders her clever patter-song "A little pink petti from Peter" with all her former vivacity, and Miss Queenie Preston is fascinating as Gretchen.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—The Royal Tokio company, the accomplished Japanese performers, are the principal attraction here. L'Incognita, the masked vocalist, is responsible for some charming contributions; Randolph King in his quick-change scena presents cleverly a number of different characters; Ted Curtis and his piccaninnies earn popular approval; Bert and Dora, comedy artists, have an attractive number; Phil Rees' stable lads furnish an original contribution, and Flo Hilton is a successful male impersonator. George Lawrence (comedian) and Vernon's bioscope complete the programme.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Tom Diacoff.—The sensation of the week here is Miss Ella's group of forest-bred lions, which that lady puts through various performances. She has reduced these animals to the docility of the domestic "tabby," and treats them in a manner one would use with that pet. The Three Firmans introduce a distinct novelty into their pantomimic triple-bar show, and the lady is a decided acquisition to the clever act; Charles Cassell and Jack Heath are comedians who can both put roars of laughter to their credit; whilst Theodore Jones, in a picturesque setting, sings of the ways of the highwayman. Miss Babs Lloyd and Miss Daisy Silcott in their respective turns sing and dance charmingly; Harvey and Holt are an exceedingly funny couple; Yorkshire Tom has a marvellous faculty of mimicry, and the fidelity of all his illustrations is enthusiastically acknowledged. The pictures shown by the Bioscope maintain their popularity.

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PONTYPRIDD.—Royal Clarence Theatre.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction this week is Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company in *The Woman Pays*. Micky Maloney is capably portrayed by Mr. Thorne; Sid Armstrong is in the able hands of Mr. Phil Harper; Roger Marchant receives full justice at the hands of Mr. John Davidson; Cyrus Treadgold is ably assumed by Mr. Beresford Innes; Mr. Dunlop Stewart successfully portrays Mr. Luke Morland; Mrs. S. Forteous is good as Nurse Agnes; Miss Florence Thorne as Tibatha could not be improved upon; and Polly Stokes is ably characterised by Miss Anena Walton.

PORTH.—The Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The bill here this week is excellent. The Four Maisanos, eccentric musical specialists, give a most creditable turn; Cora Caselli, comedienne, is a good dancer; Vando, with his ventriloquial entertainment extracts much fun; Violet Gibson and company, vocalists and dancers, are well received; Eldra gives satisfaction in his performance, being assisted by the famous dog Prince; Jack Kylton is a capable eccentric comedian; the new and original scena introduced by Viviana and company is thoroughly appreciated; Harry Kirk scores well as a comedian; and the Palascope, with its latest films, never fails to please.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Milton Bode's company is appearing here in *The Belle of Mayfair*. Mr. Harry Parker sustains the part of Sir John Chaldicott in quaint and amusing fashion; Miss Florence Imeson as Julia Chaldicott sang, danced, and played charmingly; Miss Blanche Astley's portrayal of the maid Pincott was all that could be wished for; Miss Paula Fernan acted carefully and well as the Countess of Highgate; Miss Aurelie de Loriere scored as the Gibson Girl, and Miss Nellie Cozens depicted Lady Chaldicott in excellent style. Mr. Edward Hugounet played with sterling comedy the Hon. Raymond Finchley; Mr. Lawrence Wensley as Hugh Meredith was capital, singing admirably; Mr. Lauri Lisle enacted the Count de Perrier cleverly, and Mr. G. McCloskie as Dr. Lawrence did capable work.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*The Best of her Sex* is here this week, played by Mr. William A. Armour and company. As Philip Faringdon Mr. Percy Horton acts consistently and well; Mr. Henry Lloyd presents Leslie Verney powerfully; Mr. Armour gives an excellent study as the Rev. Stephen Maxwell; Messrs. J. W. Hooper as P.C. Peter Jorkins, Hume Fergus as Simon Downey, and Dan Mining as Holy Joe are amusing; Miss Alvina Mining impersonates Ruth Raeburn excellently; Miss Alice Buckland plays Polly Perkins in first-rate style, and Miss Dora Price in the rôle of Vera Delorme is vigorous and realistic.

King's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Mr. John Tiller's company is here with *A Trip to Paris;* Dolly and Elsie are a capable pair of dancers and duettists; Miss Teddy Edmonds and company in *The Lady Jockey* cause much hilarity; Bostock's baboons are popular and give satisfaction; Arthur Prince's Mascots in a novel and original act prove a pleasing variety; Cullen and Carthy, comedians, with Little Cluley, take well; Five Chalieys are extremely clever acrobats; Blanche and Powell, society entertainers, are amusing; Simms and Simms do an enjoyable musical turn, and animated pictures fill the programme.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A highly popular turn here is that of Whit Cunliffe, light comedian, who is received with cordiality; Lizzie Daniels, an attractive comediene, is applauded; Rowland Hill, a humorous comedian, scores well; Cissie Dryden, a dainty soubrette, is appreciated; the Great Northern Troupe of dancers are responsible for some agreeable terpsichorean items; Madeline Rossiter, comedienne and dancer, is very smart, and has a charming manner; the Vyponds, society entertainers, give a pleasing contribution to the evening's amusement; Foy Bros. and company in the diverting sketch *The Tea House of Pat in China* are vociferously recalled; George Brooks's quaint ditties are appreciated, and Payne's Bio has some fine films.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.—Miss Vesta Tilley is here for the week, and is charming all with her vivacious personality and graceful impersonations; Miss Alice Maple, comedienne and dancer, has an expressive manner and is appreciated; Marlo is a very clever and smart juggler; Mr. Arthur Hickman pleases with his sweet tenor vocalisation; the Three Dreadnoughts, expert rifle shots, give a trick shooting display; Mr. Arthur Boyne is quaintly funny and is applauded; Gargany's Trio of comedy acrobats do clever work; the Four Amaranths, acrobatic dancers, are a vigorous quartette, and Hippo pictures of very interesting character finish the performance.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—*The Breed of the Treshams*, as presented by Mr. Frank Bertram's principal company, is an undoubted success here this week. Mr. Sydney Bland as Lieut. Beresby (The Rat) proved himself admirably adapted to the part and secured many calls; Mr. Alfred Holles was a stately and dignified Viscount Dorsington; Mr. W. R. Winning was successful as the treacherous and dishonourable Col. Clement Hungerford, and Mr. Percy Robinson gave a capital representation of the cowardly Capt. Stanhope. Mr. George Traill and Mr. A. E. Johnstone, as Colonel Sir Henry Curwen and Colonel Bagshaw, did not have much to do, but did that little exceedingly well; Mr. George Jackson as Lieut. Willoughby and Mr. B. Benjamin as Captain Rashleigh were also good in their respective parts, while Mr. Howard Brenan gave a first-rate presentation of the manly young cornet, the Hon. Francis Tresham. The Hon. Margaret Hungerford found a winsome exponent in Miss Mildred Hodson; Miss Madge Cottier was good as Mrs. Bagshaw, and Miss Dorothy Duncan made a delightful Helena Pierpont. As Batty Miss Grace Harlington was most refreshing, winning much applause by her quaint sallies. The minor parts in the able hands of Messrs. R. A. Robinson, William Blake, Gwyn-Richardson, and George Scott were well portrayed. The mounting was really good.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company in *The Nihilist* is here this week. Mr. Joseph Millane as Ivan Nowasky gives a powerful portrayal; Mr. Cowell Clark is excellent as Karl Orloff; Mr. L. Neilson sustains the part of Prince Alexander, the villain of the piece, with considerable skill; Mr. Henry Wright succeeds in creating much mirth as Bobbie Smart, and is ably seconded in his efforts by Miss Jessica Ford as Katrina Zuidoff. Miss May Ediss is a clever child actress, and is capital as Little Alexina; Miss Edna Clare as Alexina Orloff wins applause; Miss Florrie Kesley both looks and acts Princess Olga in a manner that calls forth much applause. The rest of the characters are successfully presented by Messrs. O. Silverstone, Brunelle Harvey, Morgan Dale, S. E. Eugene, Edward Dowds, and James Hamilton. The uniforms and mounting are good.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Richie Hearn's company of comedians in *The Village Fire Brigade* provoke much merriment; Billie Barlow has some taking songs, which she renders with the same dash and go as of old; Angelina gives an exceedingly good juggling act; Marget and Lever, acrobatique eccentriques, give a novel and clever turn; the Wedburns, old favourites here, meet with a hearty reception, which they richly deserve, their patter being clever and always free from anything suggestive; the Miners' Quartette, including Billy Dewey, coloured vocalist, render some quartettes and solos excellently, and Billy Dewey proves himself to be an expert dancer; the Three Behans (Arthur, Cissy, and Kitty) have a novel quick-change comedy act; Baddow, ventriloquist, gives a good turn; Francis Hanlon is a dainty comedienne who both sings and dances well. Flash James on the Bioscope concludes.

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are scoring a success with *The Manxman*. As Pete Mr. Alfred B. Cross proves himself an actor of power; Mr. Harold B. Lewis as Philip Christian does good work; Mr. Fred Charles is responsible for much merriment as Ross Christian; Mr. Fred Mace is good as Cæsar Cregan and Mr. W. H. Dewhurst as Dr. Mylcrist and Mr. Arthur Jackson as Tom, the postman, both deserve a passing word. Kate Creegeen was well played by Miss Minnie Watersford, and Miss Nancy Mitchell deserves special mention for her rendering of Nancy.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Victoria Theatre.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—On Sunday evening Miss Natalia Janotha, the renowned pianist, gave a recital before a large audience, and was enthusiastically applauded. Other artists of talent contributed to the programme. For the next fortnight the theatre is given over for a trades exhibition.

Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—The animated pictures at the Palace Theatre have been greatly appreciated during the past week. The most recent events of public interest have been depicted, and films of a humorous character have been exhibited. Entertaining varieties have been supplied by the Sisters Grosvenor and Mr. Edward Casselli.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. B. Feather.—Mr. C. Watson Mill (the author) and company opened here on Monday in *For Love and the King*. He gave a thrilling and powerful impersonation as Jarval; Mr. John Burton was an excellent Michael; and as Vladimir Mr. Henry Gorleston was capital; Mr. Alfred Hilliard showed to advantage as Prince Uros, and Mr. Geoffrey Chate was also good as Duke Fernand; as King Kara Mr. Frank Lyndon gave a capital study, and Mr. Jim K. Woods made an excellent Carl Oppenheim, Kosta Marko being ably impersonated by Mr. Arthur Frail. Miss Rosalind Tate was a clever Princess Athene, and Miss Joan Ellis a delightful Natila. As Gazia Obrenovic Miss Marie Ault displayed considerable talent.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—*The Dairymaids* is here, by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company. The part of Peggy is very charmingly performed by Miss Clare Marsden, who is an excellent singer and graceful dancer; Miss Mabel Younge is good as Lady Brudenell; Miss Madge Avery is a clever representative of Miss Penelope Pyechase; Miss Gladys Silvani is highly diverting as Eliza; Miss Clarice Lockstone is effective as Winifred; Mr. J. Osborne is exceedingly amusing as Joe Mivens, A.B.; Mr. Harry Cottell has a good voice, and plays Tim Capes well; Mr. Nelson Keys as Lieutenant Brudenell and Mr. A. Wykes Ashdowne as his chum, Lieutenant Meredith, are both successful; Mr. J. A. Warden makes the most of the difficult part of Dr. O'Byrne, R.N.; and the three "Little Strangers" give some very clever impersonation sketches.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr P. E. Draco.—Bob Pender and company's pantomime comedy, *The Long and the Short of It*, is a decided novelty, and is well received here. Mr. Frank Lister and company provide a good turn in their sketch *The Sunflower;* Almon does some very expert hand-balancing feats; Percy Farrimond, Lancashire singing collier, has a good voice, and sings with effect; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard appear to advantage in their comedietta *Coming Home;* Cliff Glen, juvenile performer, is promising; Marie Blythe is a popular comedienne; Harry Clifford is very amusing; and Laurie Wylie imitates popular artists ably.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Hague.—*Two Lancashire Lasses in London* is the attraction here this week. The play is well staged, and finds much favour. Mr. Herbert Pearson appears to great advantage as John Edmunds; Mr. Chris Mason as the bluff and hearty Sam Hallett is a favourite; Mr. E. Ragson-Cousens is a typical hard-working curate as the Rev. Frank Selby; and Mr. Fred Morgan cleverly portrays the villainies of Jonas Deane; Miss Rosslyn Vayne and Miss Alice Defoe capably enact the sisters Constance and Nellie; Miss Marguerite Trevosper is sympathetic as Bessie Edmunds; and Miss E. Shaw is clever and amusing as Jane Adelaide Bloomfield.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Achmed Ibrahim Bedouin troupe of acrobats top the bill here this week with a bewildering series of evolutions evoking deserved appreciation; Nada Moret scores heavily as a vocal entertainer; Gus Barra is a clever and refined eccentric musician; Maggie Rimmer, vocalist, is a prime favourite here. Chas. Craston, comedian; Gicardo, juggler; Kenrick and Laura, vocalists and dancers; and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete the list.

RUGBY.—Town Hall.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company presented *The Dairymaids* here on Monday. The company is one of exceptional ability, the songs and choruses being extremely well rendered. Mr. Edwin Dodds as Joe Mivens, B.A., proved himself an excellent comedian, dancer, and vocalist; Mr. Sam Lysons caused much amusement as Sam Brudenell; Mr. Frank Manger as Lieut. Frank Meredith was excellent; and Mr. Frank Barclay was a success as Dr. O'Byrne. Miss Isa Bowman, who had an enthusiastic reception, quite won the hearts of the audience as Peggy. Miss Maud Lucy as Eliza gave a clever and humorous reading of the maid of all work; and Miss Dorothy Belmore was a charming Lady Brudenell. The Sandow Girls, in their dance and chorus, were much appreciated.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Lingford Carson (the author) had a good reception on Monday, when he excellently played the dumb chief Reindeer in his drama, *The Great White Chief*. Mr. Mansell Fane ably sustained the title-rôle, and his singing was much applauded; Mr. Geo. Butler made an excellent villain of Hartley Deane, and he was cleverly assisted by Miss Dulcie Lawrence as Esther Stafford; Miss Pollie Denville was a praiseworthy and charming Latika; much fun was caused by Mr. Hugh Brady as John Warton, Mr. Leonard Maitland as George Rupert, and Miss Amy Ross Clyde as Martha Jane. Mr. Norman Purnell (Black Forest) and Mr. W. Melrose (Strong Arm) also did well. The staging was very effective.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Ethel Ra-Leslie and company, in her scena *The Voice of the Nile*, gave a very pretty dancing and singing performance; the Three Brothers Huxter are very smart acrobats; Spangles and Sawdust (two ladies and two gentlemen) are both amusing and clever in their flying trapeze act. The other acceptable turns include the Brothers Hayes, in *Revels in a Billiard Saloon*, with smart sand-dancing; Kit Keen, coloured comedian and clever bone soloist; Dan Fraser, Scotch comedian; Sid Bandon, with two good songs; and Agnes Molteno, in "An old-time story," with living tableau.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—*The Sleepwalker* is a very amusing sketch by Walter Ellis and company; the Sages (Will and Jenny) also keep the house in roars with their comedy and dancing; Smith and Johnson give an enjoyable performance with "Just a little melody"; the ventriloquial act by Gillin is appreciated; Carl Howard, with his comic magic and conjuring; Emil and Ediss, clever banjoists; Monty Walker, swell comedian; Mark Henton, comedian; Kail Stern, comedian and eccentric acrobatic dancer; and Clifford Stuart, versatile comedian. The animated pictures also deserve special mention.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The pictures this week are very good, as usual, and include Camera's Terrible Fall, Learned Doctor, Spring Lock, Dirigible Airship, Organ Grinder's Luck, Life's a Game of Cards, Father's Luck, Othello (burlesque), Algy's Yachting Party, Desperate Woman, and The Page Boy's Joke. Mr. King's song (illustrated), "Not because your hair is curly," is well received.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Overflowing and enthusiastic audiences are in evidence here this week, where Mr. Lewis Waller's company, under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross, is presenting—with a cast of exceptional strength—the Lyric Theatre success, *Robin Hood*. The title-rôle is in the capable hands of Mr. Ethelbert Edwards, whose interpretation left nothing to be desired. No better portrayal of Lady Marion de Faux could be wished for than that presented by Miss Lillian Stenmis; and her maid, Adela, received a pretty rendering at the hands of Miss Laurie Flockton. Richard, King of England, is adequately depicted by Mr. J. M. Briant, his scheming and unscrupulous brother, Prince John, being cleverly brought out by Mr. H. Elliott Ball; Mr. Richard Fielding does well as Hugo de Longspee; and FitzAlwyne is skilfully played by Mr. Ernest Gray. The bulk of the comedy work is entrusted to Mr. Bruce Winston as Friar Tuck, and he is ably assisted by Mr. Alex. Begbie as Tracy and Mr. F. Clive Ross as John Little, afterwards Little John. The fine voice of Mr. Spencer Lloyd is much appreciated in his rendering of the numbers allotted to Allan A'Dale; and Mr. Laurence Tessier scores as Will Scarlet. Other artists deserving praise are Miss Gertrude de Burgh as Alison, Mr. V. Smart Gatlop as Sir Aymer de Babelle, and Miss Irene Mulvesyn as Eleanor, Queen Dowager. The scenery and effects are perfect.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company is here this week. On Monday and Tuesday *No Wedding Bells for Her* was staged. As Frank Hatherleigh Mr. Lomath is an established favourite; Mr. Percy Shaw as Dick Delver gives a smart portrayal; Montague Blair is effectively sketched by Mr. G. Harvey; Mr. H. Aynsleigh gives a convincing idea of the character of Abney Stone; Mr. George Herbert as the old actor, Fane, plays with much feeling; Mr. Harry G. Momber is very laughable in the comedy part of Simpkins; Miss Lizzie Montague (Mrs. Frank Bateman) wins hearty approval for her interpretation of Lola Delaspierre; as Doris Fane Miss Cicely Clutterbuck is charming; and as Marie Miss Ellen Owen is very capable. *Sapho* was also included in the week's répertoire.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Miss Lena Ashwell's personally selected company opened to a large house on Monday in *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Emilie Polini acted with her usual power, charm, and strong dramatic intelligence as Diana; Miss Clarissa Selwynne submitted an excellent study of a modern type as Mrs. Whyte-Fraser; Mr. W. K. Pearce's Sir Jabez Grinley was a fine study of character; Mr. Stewart Dawson was humorous as the waiter, and Mr. Edward Harrison was an admirable representative of Fellowes; the Misses Lonsdale Gould, Dorothy Garth, and Olga Esme were pretty shop assistants. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* was the preceding piece.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Worst Woman in London* is again pleasing Sheffield lovers of sensational drama through the medium of Mr. Tom Taylor's company. Miss Edith Blande shines resplendent in her splendid "confections" as the beautiful but wicked Frances Vere.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company is again appearing to large audiences in *The Village Blacksmith*. The characters are again sustained by Miss Maggie Edwards, Miss Cassie Le Grande, Mrs. T. Livesey, Miss Edith Giddens, Mr. Tommy Marshall (the humorous Jeremiah Perkins), Mr. Edwin Maydew, Mr. S. Hale, Mr. Bert Butler, Mr. A. Walker, Mr. A. Sinclair, Mr. George Wilton, Mr. Fred Haming, Mr. Gus Ratcliffe, Mr. E. Morris, and Mr. Sam Livesey, as John Strong. Miss Lily Leicester made a pretty and intelligent representative of Strong's little child. The scenery was much admired, and the specialities in the Empire scene were loudly applauded.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—After a considerable absence from Sheffield Miss Queenie Leighton appeared here to a crowded audience in her vocal and mimetic skit, *On and Off the Stage*, which proved a very welcome addition to her répertoire. The famous Craggs were loudly applauded in their original and smart acrobatic feats; the Three Cape Girls did some nimble step and big-boot dancing; Mr. Arthur Jefferson's farce company caused much merriment in a diverting absurdity, *The Return from the Honeymoon;* Miss Rosa Loader, "the slavey at the piano," provoked the house to mirth with her vocal imitations; and the celebrated Russian giant, M. Machnow, aroused general interest as he made a tour of the auditorium. Other popular features in the programme were Mr. J. P. Ling, humorous vocalist;; Herr Reichen's dogs, Mr. Bert Harrow, vocalist; and the Bioscope, with a photographic extravaganza, Our Village Marathon Race, which caused great amusement. A selection from *Tannhäuser* by Mr. H. Renton Gardner's splendid orchestra was enthusiastically applauded.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—After a spirited overture by the fine band, admirably conducted by Mr. Hahn, the following artists pleased a packed house on Monday: Mr. R. G. Knowles, the American lightning patterer; Mr. C. D. Reeke, an original and laughter-provoking dialect comedian; the smart Maximilian Trio in a funny and agile comic balancing act; Mr. B. Williams, vocalist; Velanche's wonderfully intelligent and well-trained sporting dogs in a novel spectacular sketch; Mr. George Rapley, the favourite vocal comedian and humorist; the Barrascope, with artistic new pictures; and the Hiatts, in a refined and well-staged musical interlude. The leading fun-maker this week is *Dinner-Time in a Carpenter's Shop*, a screaming pantomime, rattled through in a spirited manner by Mr. Ted Karno's comic-ballet troupe.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—The company appearing here includes Messrs. Grey and Welford, in a comedy entertainment; Miss Beattie Foster, comedienne; Miss Mamie Morris, serio-comic; and Mr. Wallace Whitney, eccentric character comedian. Some admirable pictures are provided by the Raymond Bio-Tableaux Co., including The Slave Chase, The Press-Gang, The Pneumatic Policeman, Mary Stuart, The Yacht Race, and other picturesque, humorous, and dramatic films.

Central Theatre.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—The Sisters Lytton, in refined duets; Mr. Sid Carlton, comic vocalist; the Milstead-Bell Trio, instrumentalists; with animated pictures of Sherlock Holmes's adventures are scheduled this week.

Pavilion.—Business-Manager, Mr. C. R. Wordsworth.—Some first-rate animated photos of topical and local interest, together with fantastic, comic, and romantic films, are delighting the habitués here.

Surrey Palace.—Manager, Mr. Frank Howson.—This renovated and redecorated hall, with an excellent little company, is doing good business under the genial direction of the popular Mr. Frank Howson.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; Licensee and Business-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Harold Montague, the jovial jester at the piano, and his entertaining vagabonds were here on the first three nights of this week.

SMETHWICK. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Hardie and Von Leer's company is presenting *The Kiss of Judas*. Mr. E. Howard Templeton makes an earnest, manly Philip Dunree; Mr. J. H. Darnley as the villain was excellent; Mr. Herbert Leonard, the author, made the rôle of Jake Long popular; Mr. Herbert De Ville was successful as the Rev. Barry Dillon; Messrs. Charles V. Sandford as Frank Sudley and Henry C. Moreton as Timothy Parkiss created much merriment, and were ably assisted in their efforts by Miss Laura Dyson as Daisy; Miss Bertha Hanbury was well placed as Little Jack; Miss Katherine Clarke as Nancy Nollid, the decoy, acted with dignity and pathos; and Miss Jess Dorynne as Dorothy expressed all the varying emotions of the rôle.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nervey; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*If We Only Knew* is presented by Mr. Harry Nicholls and a strong company, Monday's performance being well attended. Mr. Nicholls gives of his best in the comedy rôle of Samuel Scarper, otherwise Slippery Sam, his reception being most hearty and well deserved; Mr. P. A. Gawthorne impersonates the vagabond, Dick Steen, with both skill and force, and shares honours with Mr. Ernest Young, who gives a masterly exposition of Ensign John Wilmott; Mr. J. Benedict Butler sustains Mr. Bignell with credit; Miss Sylvia Morris displays marked ability in the important character of Barbara Wentworth; Miss Margaret Van Hollister makes a typical gipsy of Ruth Steen; Miss Kate Kearney is a commendable Miss Priscella Tompkins; and the Misses Cicely Nicholls and Lorna Treherne are successful as maids.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. George Alexander's company in *The Thief* is fulfilling an engagement here. Miss May Congden submits a fine impersonation of Marise Chelford; Mr. Stephen T. Ewart is thoroughly successful in the rôle of Richard Chelford; and a no less praiseworthy study is that of Mr. George Ames as Raymond Leyton; Isabel Leyton having a charming exponent in Miss Mary Dibley. Mr. Alfred Lugg is entirely satisfactory in the character of Harry Leyton, and Mr. Cyril Cattley does exceedingly well as the detective, Protheroe. The play is preceded by a bright curtain-raiser entitled *Too Happy by Half*.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—The boards here are occupied by Mr. F. Mouillot's No. 1 company in *The Girl Behind the Counter*. General Sir Wilkie Willoughby is cleverly interpreted by Mr. Kenedy Allen; Mr. Sam Lockridge as the hero, Sam Chetwyn, sings with good effect; Viscount Gushington is well accounted for by Mr. Ferris Pounds; Mr. F. Park is very funny as Adolphus Dudds; Miss Ida Stratham sweetly represents Winnie Willoughby; Miss Irene Vere makes a good Millie Mostyn. The minor parts are all in good hands. The principals are encored for their songs. The chorus is good, assisted by a capable orchestra under the direction of Mr. W. D. J. Damant.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. George F. Thompson.—The chief item is Charles Fisher's pocket opera company, who sing excerpts from *Il Trovatore*—Manrico, Mr. Chas. Fisher; Count Di Luna, Mr. H. F. Morton; Azucena and Leonora, Mlle. Zella Lusano; and an excellent reception is awarded them. Thorpe and Coe present a good comedy playlet, *My Burglar;* Will English, an old favourite, is welcomed. Some clever dancing is done by Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne; Leo Tell is a good mimic. The remaining turns are supplied by La Belle Nello, contortionist; Dorothy Sephton, comedienne and dancer; Chas. Stevens, comedian; and the Bioscope.

Tivoli, Laygate Circus.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—The top of the bill is Percy Curry, a clever comedian, who captivates the house; Kennedy and Emery contribute a good duologue, entitled *Turtle Doves;* an up-to-date sketch, *The Lady Barber*, is given by Ada Jenner; and the Tivoloscope provides the rest of the entertainment.

STAFFORD. — Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—For the first three nights of the week Miss Lena Ashwell's company presented *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Violet Varley, a gifted actress, was seen to advantage in the title-rôle; Captain the Hon. Victor Bretherton was played in a natural manner by Mr. Briscoe Owen; Mr. Philip Sanders submitted a careful study of Sir Jabez Grinlay; mention must be made of Miss Hilda Franks for the clever way in which she depicted the match-making Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss Margery Bland as an old woman was good; and Miss Violet Joyce, Miss Dorothy Bell, Miss Cicely Oates, and Miss Margaret Dudley as the shop girls were worthy of praise. The play was preceded nightly by the one-act comedietta, *A Fire of Straw*.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader.—*London with the Lid Off* is being presented by Mr. Stanley Carlton's company. Mr. Carlton himself appears as the Rev. Allen Gordon, and depicts the heroic young clergyman to the life. Mr. William G. Marshall presents a telling study of the blind burglar, Gratton Gale; and Mr. Edward Vincent is good as Sam Rendall. The character of Madge Rendall, a lady detective, is well brought out by Miss Amy Ellam; Miss R. Hamilton Belasco acts with stateliness as Mrs. Glandale; while Miss Charlotte Ballinger has a strong part in Sarah Shafto. Miss Rubie Maude's acting in the portrayal of the injured Astra Bell is to be highly commended.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Chanti's quick changes are wonderfully smart, and his performance is enhanced by a magnificent fit-up; Frank Cass sings some of his favourite songs, and is heartily applauded; Maud Prenton looks dashing, and sings in good style; Ariel and Astarte have something novel in their gymnastic act; and the Sisters Belmont are excellent dancers. Kloof and Ramsay play eccentric instruments in an amusing manner; and Clifton and Gibson and Sam Thompson contribute to an enjoyable programme.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Crowded audiences have this week witnessed with all-absorbing interest the representations of *The Sign of the Cross*, capably given by Mr. Wm. Greet's company. Mr. Cyril Austin Lee acts with marked power and ability as Marcus; Nero is effectively impersonated by Mr. C. Yorke; Mr. Charles Aldred ably fills the character of Tigellinus; and Glabrio is amusingly portrayed by Mr. F. Wood; as Mercia Miss Constance Little acts with grace and charm; Miss Beryl Hamilton is dignified as Poppœ, and Miss Lily Wood acts efficiently as Berenice.

Empire. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—Miss Lilian Dundas and company are presenting here this week an interesting episode, *The Doom of Delilah*, in capable style and with distinct success. Billy Farrell, comedian, with his pleasing songs and amusing jokes, is entertaining; Rene is a clever girl juggler; Les Belles Americaines are talented vocalists and dancers; Rose Gower's songs meet with much favour; Les Rubens in their fortune-telling act are very acceptable; Harry Drew, bass vocalist, repeats his former successes here; Roy Beavis is a pleasing conjuror; and the Rangers present a smart cycle act.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Castle Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company is here this week in the charming comedy *Merely Mary Ann*. In the title-rôle Miss Jessica Solomon submits a delightful interpretation of the simple maid; Mr. Paul Lovett displays ability of a high order as Lancelot; Mr. Stanley Logan, as Peter, gives a good rendering; Miss Violet Greville, as Mrs. Leadbatter, makes a typical lodging-house keeper; Miss Florence Radcliffe makes a good Rosie; Mr. Herbert Greville is very successful as Lord Tottenham; and Mr. Robert Entwhistle gives a fine conception of the part of the Rev. Samuel Smedge; Miss Ethel Carlyle as Countess of Foxwell does ample justice to her part; as also do Miss Mary Colquhoun as Lady Glyn and Miss Lester Stephen as Lady Chalmer.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week *East Lynne*. Mr. Ernest Wingfield is very successful as Archibald Carlyle; Mr. Fred Terriss ably represents Captain Levison; Mr. H. Hesselgrave, as Lord Mount Severn, is extremely good; Mr. A. Byron, as Mr. Dill, acts well; Miss Lilian Beaumont gives a fine representation of Lady Isabel, and Miss Lina Nazeby makes a capital Barbara Hare. Payne's Bio-Photoscope concludes.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Rousby's company heads the bill here this week, with panoramic views of London, which are well received by a large audience. Carrie Laurie's Juveniles make a big hit in their Kindergarten scene; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas, in their scenes from Dickens, act well; Miss Cissie Esdaile is an engaging comedienne; Allsopp and Beckwith sing and dance well; Cummin and Seaham, acrobats, are very skilful; W. B. Raby, comedian, sings in good style, and is very quaint; Sira, the one-legged acrobat, is very daring; and the Bioscope is up to its usual standard.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—Florrie Gallimore, charmingly gowned, is a great factor in the success of this week's programme, contributing four numbers which are heartily received; Captain Roberts, musician and athlete, assisted by Cart and Alexanders, appears successfully in his feats of strength; Harry Levaine, quaint comedian, scores well; Hughes and Elliott are pleasing in a refined singing and dancing act; Jamie Piper is a clever juvenile instrumentalist; and Ingram and Irving in sketch; the Dancing Gilberts, Rosie Dawn, and pictures are also to be noted.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. A. Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Reach.—Messrs. A. M. Thompson and Robert Courtneidge's company, in the attractive musical play, *The Dairymaids*, is appearing here this week to crowded houses. Mr. E. S. Staples interprets Sam Brudenell with great spirit; Mr. Hy. Dent as Joe Mivens keeps the house in high good humour; and Mr. Percy Marshall is very natural as Dr. O'Bryne. Miss Phyllis Dare likes the part of Peggy in her quiet, refined manner, and her singing is enthusiastically applauded; Miss Gladys Ivery is good as Winifred; Miss Lottie Sergant plays Eliza to the life; and Mrs. John Tully deserves unqualified praise for her dignified Lady Brudenell. The other rôles are in capable hands.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company is drawing large and appreciative audiences in *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. Miss Beatrice Horner is in the title-rôle, and gives a very sympathetic rendering of the part; Dr. Carr is well delineated by Mr. Gerald Nolan; Jack Merryman is cleverly played by Mr. Philip Darien; as the adventurer Hubert Gold, and his accomplice, Rose Courteney, Mr. Leyton Cancellor and Miss Gertrude Harrison make the most of their opportunities. They are well supported by Mr. Leonard Thackeray as Antonio Luchesi and Miss Violet Macaree as Morita. Mr. Freddy Bentley and Miss Nellie Jackson greatly assist towards the success of the performance by their humorous effects.

Empire Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The appearance of Reano and his famous band here this week is creating a sens

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company present *The Way of the World* at the Star this week. Playing with undoubted skill, Miss Sydney Crowe is excellent as Lady Adela Hardy; Miss Marie Fontaine as Kate Montague is a delightful heroine; Joe Sparrows (Mr. D'Arcy Kelway) is a clown of the merriest type; and Mr. Victor Slade is great as Captain Fred Hardy.

THE EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—An excellently varied bill is headed by Albert Tofft's "Makers of History"; the living statuary is faultless, and the whole turn original. Terry and Lambert prove themselves talented entertainers; Edward Lauri and May Beatty present a tuneful musical mélange that goes well; Harry Bedford's welcome is as warm as ever; the Dumond Trio are instrumentalists above the ordinary; Harry May Hemsley, with his combined child impersonations and lightning sketches, is a host in himself; Gus Le Clerq, as usual, goes well; whilst Lottie Govell and Ida Kathrena are pleasing artists. The Bioscope concludes.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—The programme here this week includes Maitland Marler and company in the successful musical comedy sketch *His Worship the Mayor*. Mr. Marler makes an amusing Septimus Harcourt. Grace Langley is a pleasing serio and dancer; Joe Conway, comedian, is very good; Carr and Rose are seen in a laughable comedy duo; Nellie Hewitt presents a clever musical novelty; Summerson's comedy sketch duo are applauded; a smart turn is that of Johnny and Charlie, eccentric tumblers; and the Empire Pictures are interesting.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. S. Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. F. G. Somerfield's company is this week presenting *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Mr. Paul Beckett gives a weirdly intense portrayal of Felix Beverley; a clever impersonation of Jack Stirling is furnished by Mr. Wilfred Cheetham; and in the name-part Miss Mary Lovett is all that can be desired.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Heading a good programme we have the troupe of Indian Fakirs from the White City; Martinett and Wallace are highly successful in their comedy and dancing act; Akbar is again well received. The chief picture represents a tour up the Zambesi River.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—A hearty welcome was accorded Mr. Charles Frohman's company in *The Hypocrites* on Monday evening. The rôle of Rachel Neve is excellently taken by Miss Muriel Pope, who gives a sympathetic rendering of the difficult part; Miss Muriel Mason must also be commended for a very charming impersonation of Helen Plugenet; whilst Miss Laura Graves is deservedly applauded for her refined and energetic representation of Mrs. Wilmour. Miss Madge Severn makes a typical Mrs. Linnell; whilst Miss Sybil Brooke provokes considerable amusement as Mrs. Blakey. Mr. John Dennys takes the trying rôle of Lennard Wilmour with great success; and Mr. E. H. Ruston as the hard and unyielding Mr. Wilmour acts with remarkable vigour and ability. Mr. Frederick Morland is a characteristic lawyer as Mr. Viveash; and Mr. F. G. Thurstans is the cause of considerable laughter as the Vicar of Weybury. The honours of the evening must certainly go to Mr. A. B. Imeson for a really good performance as the Rev. Edgar Linnell. His acting was conspicuously successful, and received quite an ovation at the end of each act.

TREHERBERT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company is presenting *A Soldier's Honour* here. Mr. Elan Meredith as Captain Deane portrays the military man to the life, his efforts being ably seconded by Mr. A. Arthur Ellis as Captain Gerald Temple; Doreen Illingworth, in the hands of Miss Mabel Rose, is dainty and charming; Mr. A. Money takes the part of Henry Thornton with dramatic effect; Miss Ruth Zilwood as Cora Lee is capital; and much humour is introduced by Mr. Harry Lyndon, Miss Lynn Darlington, and Miss Edith Mackie.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale; Manager, Mr. A. H. Burdett.—Hippodrome Season.—"Consul," the marvellous anthropoid ape, is causing a great sensation here this week. The programme is a strong, all-round one, Madge Grey, the clever vocalist and mimic, being specially well received; Le Strad's imitations of celebrated musicians; Chas. Gardner, the dame comedian; Gwen Francis, comedienne; the Zampas, duettists; and a local vocalist, Muriel Cameron, have also met with favour, and the Hippodrome pictures are as popular as ever.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. W. Brierley, A. Brierley, and W. German; Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. John H. Tomkinson's Royal Gipsy Company is attracting good houses here this week; La Vie creates admiration by her beautiful art panel poses; Elsie Rubina performs some wonderful feats on the wire; Wee Winnie makes a hit in her songs and dances; the Four Louberts in their comedy act *Uninvited*, display smart gymnastic work; Miss Cissie Madcap is a clever acrobatic and speciality dancer; the Sisters Leshmere are the possessors of good voices; Miss Grace Lindsay and Miss Elsie Howard score with their singing; Mr. Dan Lawley and Mr. Chas. Bradford convulse the audience with their humour; Mr. James Carr and Mr. Sam Paul are good vocalists; and some interesting pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

WAKEFIELD.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* is presented here this week. Mr. C. H. Croker-King gives an excellent study as John Jasper; Miss Nita Charlton as Rosa Budd acts with taste and dramatic intensity; Mr. Ridell Robinson ably depicts the rôle of Edwin Drood; Mr. Leslie Rea is commendable as Mr. Crisparkle; and Mr. Charles Bruce fills with distinction the part of Neville Landless. Mr. Edward Thirlby is effective as Mr. Grewgious; Mr. Lloyd Townnow is a humorous Durdles, and is assisted by Miss Irene Ross as Deputy. Miss Gladys Jonsin scores as Helena Landless; and Mrs. William Mallalieu is also well suited.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Albertus the First and Miss Jessie Millar are wonderful club manipulators, the latter also contributing some excellent cornet solos; Perrette and Mona, comedy artists, contribute a smart turn; Emilie Warren is a charming ballad vocalist; the Lannons are wonderful pedestal dancers, and earn hearty applause; Cade Burnett, actor-vocalist, is entertaining; Miss May Bass is a pleasing comedienne; and Chester and Lay's Marionettes prove popular.

WARRINGTON.—ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. J. Reece.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is here this week in the stirring play *With Edged Tools*, and a hearty reception has been accorded the talented company. Mr. William F. Grant as Jack Meredith infuses plenty of dramatic power into his acting of a difficult rôle; Mr. J. A. Rosier is natural as Sir John; and as Guy Oscard Mr. Charles Hartopp scores repeatedly. A really clever sketch of Victor Durnovo is that of Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; Mr. J. Pockett is well placed as Maurice Gordon; Mr. Aries Conway is a pleasing Lieut. Conynghame; Miss Marie Leonhard charms all with a delightful interpretation of Jocelyn Gordon; Miss Isabel Grey is capital as Millicent Cheyne; Miss Violet Thorold as Lady Cantonne is the personification of dignity; and Miss Frances Wolveston wins admiration as Lady Herries. The staging is good.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Mi Maron is a charming burlesque actress, and all her songs are well rendered; Martini and Son delight with their illustrated songs; and the Pictures are good, those depicting The Rivals being exceptionally fine.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—The Austral Trio have scored a big success here this week with their versatile and refined entertainment *A Musical Evening;* the Jackly Trio present a recherché drawing-room turn; Irma Orbasany's cockatoos are a set of well-trained birds; Geoffreys and Benson are clever sketch artists; the Prinellas do well with their farmyard scena; Flo Bennett is a delightful vocalist, and all her songs are encored; Albert Letone is a clever female impersonator; and Jack Rae an amusing gymnast. The pictures are good.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod are presenting *The Prodigal Parson*. The Rev. Tom Godley is manfully portrayed by Mr. Logan Darra, whilst the part of Enoch Juggins is left to the safe keeping of Mr. Alfred Northway; Mr. Chas. Ashwell's Ben Juggins is creditable, and artistic taste is also shown by Mr. Walter Vincent in the rôle of Ned Kettlepin. Miss Juliet Hammersley evokes appreciation for her performance of Fern Godley, and as Myrtle little Madge Gillard proves quite a favourite. Miss Ethel Cross does excellent work as Pomeroy, and an effective rendering of Gretchen van Crans is given by Miss Alice Buckland.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—In *Convict 99* West Bromwich theatregoers have this week a piece as full of incident and excitement as the keenest lover of the thrilling could desire. Mr. Frank Beresford as Lawrence Gray is a host in himself, and his acting is marked by much power; Miss Dorothy Milne as Geraldine Lucas is a finished actress who imbues the part with much ability; Mr. Benson North is good as Ralf Vickers; Mr. Edward Kipling as James Stinchcombe and Mr. J. Warris Lindon as Christopher Lucas are also clever; and the Maggie Mason of Miss Jennie Richards is excellent

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh. The management of this popular place of amusement have done well to secure so striking a play as *Raffles*, the amateur cracksman, and Mr. Reginald Dance's company, which is responsible for the production, is a very capable one. As Raffles himself Mr. Lewis Edgeard is very fine, depicting just such a polished and charming scoundrel as one would imagine Mr. Hornung's hero to be. Mr. C. Kean is good as Mr. Curtis Bedford, and Mr. Arthur Bell is a delightful Bunny. Miss Frances Titteradge is very charming as Gwendoline Conron, and Miss Brenda Gibson gives a capital representation of Mrs. Vidal. *Raffles* is preceded each evening by a delightful comedietta, *Jerry and the Sunbeam*.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company is appearing here, in *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Miss Violet Ennis Lawson take the rôle of the wronged woman, Mollie Vernon, with powerful effect; Mr. Richard Ferris does ample justice to the part of Captain Caversham; Mr. Edward Maclean faithfully portrays the character of the Rev. Robert Everton; and Miss Sybil Hare is a fascinating Rose Seymour.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Nat Clifford is paying a return visit; the Westwoods give a brilliant cycling turn; the Osram Trio are funny in their absurdity, entitled *Rent;* and an acceptable musical turn is provided by Francis Earle, banjo soloist. Cliff and Keen are capable comedy artists; and the Two Rubies also take well. Leo Trainor, comedian, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux complete the bill.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company opened on Monday, in *The Silver King*. Mr. Sidney T. Pease gave a powerful and most artistic interpretation of Wilfred Denver; Mr. Chas. Freeman was villainous without exaggerating the character of Captain Herbert Skinner; an exceptionally fine character sketch of Daniel Jaikes was given by Mr. Tom Paulton; Mr. Harry Colbeck humourously portrayed Henry Corket; a most praiseworthy performance was the Elijah Coombe of Mr. John Detliv; as Samuel Baxter Mr. Robert R. Ashby was decidedly successful; another clever piece of acting was the Cripps of Mr. Charles McCann; and Geoffrey Ware found a capable exponent in Mr. Claude Graveley. Miss Gladys Hastings-Walton showed much dramatic ability in her pathetic rendering of Nelly Denver; as Olive Skinner Miss Dorothea Black did exceedingly well; and Miss Dorothy Love was delightfully natural as Cissie.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Mr. J. Clifton Alderson and company are playing *The Coal King* here. Mr. Alderson takes the difficult part of Tom Roberts, the mine manager, and Mr. Ulrick is excellent as Reginald Hartford, the coal king. The other parts are all in capable hands.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Ranes; Stage-Manager, Mr. G. W. Montrose.—Burg, Haud, and Wise head a fine bill here in their acrobatic sketch, *Ye Old Brown Cow*. The programme also includes Phil Rae, Scotch comedian; Les Alvedos, Continental gymnasts; Stelling and Sterling, American entertainers; Billy Ross and company in their screaming absurdity *The Hot Member*, introducing boxing, dancing, and singing; and the Vicoscope concludes with the film The Kidnappers.

WHITEHAVEN.—MARKET HALL.—Lessees, The Edison Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. Victor Branford.—The series of pictures here this week include A Fight for Freedom, The Patriot, The Miners, The Missionary's Daughter, A Wild Goose Chase, and The First Experiment. A pleasing break in the programme is made by the Percys, duettists and dancers.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—This week Mr. Herbert Ralland's company is here with *His House in Order*. Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont wins all hearts by his delightful playing of Hilary Jesson; Mr. W. H. Hargreaves is an excellent Filmer Jesson; Mr. Langford Browne is responsible for a fine study of the hypocritical Sir Daniel Ridgeley; Mr. Dudley Stuart is equally successful as Pryce Ridgeley; Mr. Randolfe Reade is well suited with the part of Major Maurewarde; Mr. Richard Dalton is a sound Dr. Dilnott; Mr. Arthur Carlton is good as Forshaw; Miss Kitty Cavendish gives an original and entirely successful reading of the part of Nina; Miss Avis Grahame is a capital Lady Ridgeley; Geraldine is well played by Miss Victoria Wray; Miss Katie Neville is a satisfactory Mlle. Thome; and Miss Peggy Rae does well as Derek.

WIGAN.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Messrs. E. Lloyd and F. Adair and company are here in *Man to Man*. Mr. Adair as Richard Ellerton submits his brilliant portrayal of the unworthy son; Miss Louie Adair ably impersonates Ethel Maythorne; George Gordon finds an able exponent in Mr. E. Lloyd; the part of Matthew Ellerton is in the capable hands of Mr. H. Holland, and Mr. R. V. Shane as the mad parson is successful

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—George Leyton, the famous actor-vocalist, and his veterans, who are appearing here, are accorded a big reception in the scena *Lucknow;* St. George Sylvesta performs some clever tricks; Ernie Myers is as popular as ever; Lily Lonsdale receives quite an ovation for her songs; Gibbon and Bell deserve special mention for their comedy act, *Wanted, a Partner;* the Sisters Caselli dance themselves into favour; Zellini is a clever juggler; Nellie Lawrence is a vocalist and dancer of much merit, Fred Land an excellent singer of popular songs, and a pleasing turn is supplied by Lozelle.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—The pictures this week include The Wreckers, Drunken Pierrot, The Merry Widow Waltz Craze, Magic Ring, Grandfather's Pills, The Perjurer, Oh! that Umbrella, Mephisto's Son, The Dogs' Theatre, The Chauffer's Dream, &c. Charles Dance is a capital comedian and Le Warren introduces some smart ventriloquial numbers.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—The Wolverhampton Amateur Comedy Operatic Society, in *Iolanthe*, are giving their annual performances here this week.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Mr. G. H. Chirgwin has the premier position in the bill here; the Three Cunards, in songs and dances, make a hit; Tamamoto, in a wire and rope speciality, performs thrilling tricks; Curwen and Bell, burlesque artists, contribute a smart act; and Kitty Wager, comedienne, Billy Hubbard, comedian, and Fred Poplar, with some excellent films on the Empire Bioscope, are other attractions.

WORCESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—The Worcester Amateur Operatic Society, founded in 1892, are this week giving their twentieth performance, for which *The Vicar of Bray*, produced by them in 1898, has been revived. The society has to its credit a record of continued success which few amateur societies, operatic or dramatic, have had the good fortune to achieve. The opera has been admirably presented by a strong cast and an equally strong and well-balanced chorus.

WORKSOP.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. S. Goodman.—The latter end of last week Mr. Haldane Crichton's company appeared in *The Dandy Fifth*. Mr. Haldane Crichton's son, Mr. Jack Crichton, filled the rôle of Trooper Brown in inimitable style, and proved himself a gifted artist; Mr. Percy Baverstock gave a striking illustration of the despotic Colonel; Dick Darvillo was personated by Mr. J. Edward Fraser, who did full justice to his part; Mr. George Beverly was exceedingly funny in the rôle of Sergt. Milligan; Miss Pauline Hague as Kate Lorrimer, "the Merry Madcap," displayed more than ordinary talent; Polly was taken by Miss Nora Morris, whose vivaciousness was appreciated by all present. The staging was pretty and effective, and the choruses were well balanced.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John J. Scott.—This week there has been a big attraction, the programme being sustained by Scottie's variety combination, including *Napoleon at Waterloo*, a stirring military episode; *Whizzing the Whirl* and *The Roley Poley Pillow Fight*, introducing Dana Royal; an operatic ballet troupe; Miss Kitty Kearns, comedienne and dancer; Harry Kranlee, clog dancer; and the comedy couple, the Swaddies, military nondescripts.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart and company, in *Sherlock Holmes*, opened here on Monday. In the title-rôle Mr. Stewart could not be improved upon. His conception must be well-nigh perfect. Mr. Robert Gilbert as Moriarty gave a clever character study, replete with all the light and shade indicative of much study; Mr. Walter A. Chetham was particularly clever as John Forman; and Mr. Arthur Shelton did well as Dr. Watson; the Larabees had able representatives in Miss Edith Vogne and Mr. Mack D. Draper; and Miss Betty Fairfax was at once sympathetic and interesting as Alice Faulkner.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Lockhart's Elephants are a popular item this week, and are well received; *Aunt Matilda* is an excellent trifle, which causes much amusement; the Romps are a clever juvenile troupe, who do well; and Julian Mack never fails to amuse with his quaint sayings. Ambrose Thorne sings a couple of catchy songs in first-rate style; Russell Brandow is an excellent dancer; and Eva Compton, Doyle and Gibson, and the Bioscope complete a clever company.

"THE Earl of Oxford," says Grammont, in his Memoirs, "fell in love with a handsome, graceful actress belonging to the Duke's Theatre, who performed to perfection, particularly the part of Roxana in a very fashionable new play; insomuch that she ever after retained that name. This creature being both very virtuous and very modest, or, if you please, wonderfully obstinate, proudly rejected the presents and addresses of the Earl of Oxford. The resistance inflamed his passion; he had recourse to invective, and even spells, but all in vain. This disappointment had such an effect upon him that he could neither eat nor drink. This did not signify to him; but his passion at length became so violent that he could neither play nor smoke. In this extremity Love had recourse to Hymen. The Earl of Oxford, one of the first peers of the realm, is, you know, a very handsome man; he is of the Order of the Garter, which greatly adds to an air naturally noble. In short, from his outward appearance you would really suppose he was possessed of some sense, but as soon as you hear him speak you are perfectly convinced to the contrary. This passionate lover presented her with a promise of marriage in due form, signed with his own hand. She would not, however, rely upon this; but the next day she thought there could be no danger when the Earl himself came to her lodgings, attended by a clergyman and another man for a witness. The marriage was accordingly solemnised with all due ceremonies in the presence of one of her fellow-players, who attended as a witness on her part. You will suppose, perhaps, that the new Countess had nothing to do but to appear at Court according to her rank, and to display the Earl's arms upon her carriage. This was far from being the case. When examination was made concerning the marriage, it was found to be a mere deception; it appeared that the pretended priest was one of my lord's trumpeters, and the witness his kettle-drummer. The parson and his companion never appeared after the ceremony was over, and as for the other witness, he endeavoured to persuade her that the Sultana Roxana might have supposed, in some part or other of a play, that she was married. It was all to no purpose that the poor creature claimed the protection of the laws of God and man, both of which were violated and abused, as well as herself, by this infamous imposition. In vain did she throw herself at the King's feet to demand justice; she had only to rise up again without redress; and happy might she think herself to receive an annuity of one thousand crowns, and to resume the name of Roxana instead of Countess of Oxford."

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act affecting the employment of children on the stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, agents, entrepreneurs, and performers wishing to possess a copy of the complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"DER DEUTSCHE GRAF,"

Play, in Five Acts, by C. Vollmueller, produced at the Neues, Oct. 24.

Baron	HERR ZIEGLER
Baronin	FRAULEIN WINKLER
Ferté	HERR SCHMIDT HASSLER
Mme. d'Ursé	FRAULEIN GADEMANN
D'Estrée	HERR PAROW
Mme. d'Estrée	FRAULEIN REIMANN
Mlle d'Estanges	FRAULEIN LEVERMANN
D'Estanges	HERR SCHINDLER
Mme. de Prie	FRAULEIN REICHENBACH
Fitzgerald	HERR WERKMEISTER
Noailles	HERR SCHROTH
Richelieu	HERR ZIZOLD
Besenval	HERR ANDRESEN
Die Binetti	FRAULEIN MORELLA
Casanova	HERR CHRISTIANS
Graf Tott	HERR SCHMIEDEN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Oct. 29.—The author—who is known and esteemed for conscientious work—has not made a great hit with his latest play. Although the audience followed all with respectful attention, and even called the author at the close, they were obviously partially bored and partially irritated at the weaknesses of the hero—Graf Tott, the "German Count" of the title. Tott, who lives in Paris in the Louis XV. period, is so devoted to his friend Baron Feri that he sacrifices everything he possesses to him. His self-immolation goes so far that he relinquishes fortune and the woman he loves in favour of Feri, and after passing his days under various clouds—all to benefit his friend—he finally permits himself to be killed in a duel to save the honour, or rather reputation, of Feri's unworthy wife. To enter into details would be superfluous, as the piece—despite excellent acting—will scarcely enjoy anything approaching popularity.

OF stars of magnitude we have had several. At the Royal Opera Caruso celebrated customary triumphs, his three performances being crowded, at trebled prices. The Kaiser and other Royalties were present, and it would be difficult to say how many times the famous tenor was recalled or how many wreaths he received.

AT the Hebbel Theatre Mme. Sarah Bernhardt gave a series of six performances, which were, on the whole, poorly attended. Those that interested most were *Adrienne Lecouvreur*—the artist's own play—Porto Riches' *Le Passé*, and the good old favourite *La Dame aux Camélias*, in which Mme. Bernhardt was very finely seconded by M. Jean Angelo as Armand.

SIGNOR GRASSO and his Sicilian company have departed, after, it is to be feared, not a very successful season. The Sicilian dialect in which all the plays were acted is, I am told, difficult of comprehension to Italians themselves, so that what it presented in the way of difficulties to a German audience may be imagined. Signora Aguglia at the Neues Theatre did perhaps a little better business, but a great success did not result. The actress gave on one occasion the rôle of Santuzza in Verga's drama *Cavalleria Rusticana* (from which Mascagni drew the theme of his immortal opera), and in this she and her partner Majorana (as Alfio) made a decided hit. Perhaps the most successful was a wildly tragic play, *La Peccatrice*, by Guimera, in which Signora Aguglia has occasion to develop her remarkable powers. She carried her audience with her breathlessly, and was warmly applauded.

MME. DUSE plays at the Deutsches Chamber Playhouse to-night in Ibsen's *John Gabrielle Borkmann* for the first time, followed by a performance to-morrow of *Hedda Gabler*.

FRAULEIN DESTINN, who was announced to sing the rôle of Carmen at the Royal Opera last week, was unfortunately not sufficiently well to appear, and many hundreds were disappointed, more especially as the famous artist is so soon to leave us. Miss Geraldine Farrar and Signors Caruso and Scotti left Bremen on Monday for New York.

"DAS DORFG'HOAMNIS,"

Volks-Comedy, with Music and Dance, in Three Acts, by H. Werner, produced at the New Royal Opera, Oct. 29.

Bauer vom Ruppenhof	HERR DIRNBERGER
Kathrin	FRAULEIN ERHARDT
Ferdl	HERR GREINER
Lenzl	HERR RIENDL
Resl	FRAULEIN TEROFAL
Lisl	FRAULEIN R. TEROFAL
Hannei	HERR TEROFAL
Asinger	HERR WENGG
Die Huberin	FRAU DIRNBERGER
Die Wirthin	FRAULEIN REIL
Sepp	HERR SCHULLER
Sternsänger	HERR VOGELSANG

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, NOV. 5.—This lightly-put-together little work met with as cordial a reception as any other in the bill of the clever peasant company. It is in the Schliersee Tyrolean dialect—as are all the others—and requires one's whole attention to catch the swing of it at the beginning. When one is fully launched and the ear has become accustomed, there is nothing more delightful—by way of a complete change—than one of Xaver Terofal's plays, and this opinion is shared by the Kaiser, who has been twice to see them, and never misses attendance every season. The "village secret" (in High German "Das Dorf-Geheimnis")—in reality there are two secrets—is a very simple affair; it is not the plot, but the *milieu*—the natural peasant characters, the singing, dancing, and mountaineers' merriment—that carries the piece, to say nothing of the first-rate acting of the entire cast, with the "peasant" manager, Herr Terofal, and his family leading the way. Asinger, the village tailor, is bankrupt, and a fraudulent one into the bargain. Before being sold up he wishes to place several bales of stuff in safety, and to this purpose he takes the "Ruppenhof Bauer"—or peasant-owner of the little farm Ruppenhof—into his confidence, promising him a good sum of money to conceal the goods. This is secret No. 1. The second is of a more delicate nature. Kathrin, the Ruppenhof owner's only daughter, is hated by the farm-hands for her tyrannical, malicious nature, and, above all, because she is a thorough-paced hypocrite and bigot, posing as a saint before the village priest. Ferdl, the smart young farmer who works for the Ruppenhof Bauer, swears a horrible humiliation for poor Kathrin. He makes love to her, gains her heart and person, and leaves her alone to face the consequences. Both these secrets are discovered by Hannei, the village vagabond, who trades upon everyone concerned, making a nice little income by blackmailing. Being a comedy, everything comes right before the curtain falls; Ferdl discovers he loves Kathrin after all, and it turns out he is a natural son of the clever old rascal Hannei. All ends with customary jodeling and horn-piping, and the audience cheer their handsome favourite Terofal with unbounded enthusiasm. It is with general regret that we learn the Schlierseers will only be with us another week.

UNDER the title *Musik* one of the most distasteful plays it has ever been my lot to witness was produced on Saturday at the Kleines. Frank Wedekind—the author of *Spring's Awakening, Hidalla*, and other impossible dramas—is responsible for it. The author shows us a picture he would have us believe is—partly, at least—representative of certain phases of the musical world. The villain—Reissner is his name—is a singing-master, who ruins his talented pupil Clara. The girl is sentenced to a term of imprisonment, which is later on condoned, and she returns to Reissner, whose wife loads her young rival with civilities—why, is not quite apparent. This time Clara is eager to become a mother and bring up the child; but it dies, and she loses her reason. The villainous singing professor gets off scot-free, and preserves the utmost equanimity throughout. The bad piece was well acted, which was the only thing to be said in its favour. On alternate nights *Lady Frederick* pursues its successful career, reaching on Saturday its twenty-fifth performance.

HERR ALEXANDER GIRADI, the clever Austrian comedian, commenced a season at the Thalia last week in a new musical volks-play, entitled *Das liebe Ich*, by C. Karlweis. The piece is highly fantastic, but affords admirable scope for Giradi's versatile talents. He gives the rôle of a tradesman named Florian Heindl, who is a tyrant and an egotist and disliked by everybody around him. The fairies decide to convert him by a dream, which fills the whole of the second and third acts. Here he sees the consequences of his hard-heartedness: his family turn against him; his friends desert him—one takes his life on account of Heindl's persecutions. The poor wretch is consumed with horror and remorse, and finally becomes a wretched old beggar at his servant's door. In the fourth act comes the awakening—the glad return to the prosperous realities of life; and Heindl is another man. The lesson has been learnt. Herr Giradi acted each phase of the grateful rôle splendidly, and was rewarded by repeated bursts of applause by open stage. The Thalia company supported the star very adequately, and the mounting was all that could be desired. Eysler's operetta *Bruder Straubinger* has also been put in the bill for Giradi, who sings as well as he acts, and receives flowers in quantities that any prima donna might envy.

"DAS FRAULEIN IN SCHWARZ," Lothar Schmidt's new comedy, is still in the New Schauspielhaus bill. The lady in black is a circus dancer who in summer rusticates in the country, but in winter is famous in many capitals for the black tights she wears as a contrast to the whiteness of her skin. A very proper young gentleman falls in love with her in the country—but falls out again on seeing her in the winter at a circus. She aids him in this by saying farewell of her own accord to the prig, and marries a large-hearted adoring clown. It is a brightly-written little piece, the scene of which is laid in France, and it was thoroughly well acted and staged.

SIGNORA DUSE'S two performances at the Deutsches were well attended. The performance of *Hedda Gabler*, however, apart from the title-rôle, left much to be desired. As one of our best critics observes: "One wants to see the drama acted—not only the name-part."

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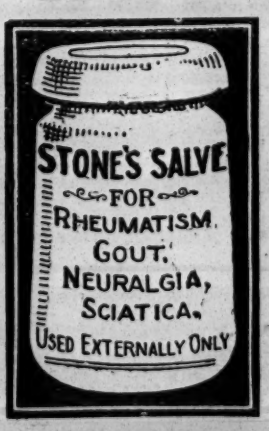

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CAMPAIGNERS AT THE COURT.

Beauty and valour were conspicuous at the Court on Monday, the former by leading actresses who sold programmes, and the latter by a number of grizzled veterans who officiated at the doors. The theatre was kindly lent by Miss Mouillot for performances on behalf of the Veterans' Club Employment Bureau, and the programme comprised three one-act pieces, in all of which the military or naval element was prominent. The first was the admirable little piece called *Pride of Regiment*, with which Mr. F. D. Bone recently achieved a name, and its presentation again aroused enthusiasm. Mr. Charles Rock repeated his sterling performance of the old martinet which he gave on the original production of the piece at the Haymarket; and Miss Cecily Richards admirably realised once more the patient and long-suffering wife, moved at length to desperation by the sore treatment meted out to her boy. Mr. Arthur Wontner drew an eloquently pathetic picture of the discharged soldier who "struck a sergeant," his make-up and delivery being equally skilful.

The other playlets were novelties, and the first to be presented was a play in one act by Major W. P. Drury, entitled

"A KING'S HARD BARGAIN."

James Vinnicombe .....Mr. Fisher White
John Collins .....Mr. E. W. Tarver
Mrs. Pagett .....Miss Mary Brough
Harry Quick .....Mr. Frederick Volpe
Joseph Pagett .....Mr. Louis Calvert
Loveday Yeo .....Miss Beatrice Ferrar
Pincher Martin .....Mr. Orlando Barnett
Albert Shillitoe .....Mr. Philip Knox
William Wix .....Mr. Clarence Derwent
Seth Penhelligan .....Mr. Guy Cary

Major Drury, as is well known, is the part-author of *The Flag Lieutenant*, which is going so successfully at the Playhouse, and the relation of the above-mentioned piece to the same class of dramatic art is evident. It is constructed in two scenes, and has an engrossing story, the climax of which, however, makes greater demands on the credulity of the audience than its value to the piece warrants. It tells how Joseph Pagett, an old Army reservist, has "mental sympathy" with Albert Shillitoe, a young Marine who is in service on H.M.S. Belligerant. Joseph, who is the landlord of an inn on the coast, goes to sleep, and in his dream is revealed an extraordinary scene on board the Belligerent, which has come into collision and is going down, with Albert and three of his mates shut up by mistake in a watertight compartment. Albert is a ne'er-do-well and one of the King's "hard bargains," but when he learns that the air in the compartment will last four hours and the lantern will burn for only ten minutes, he divides his supply of laudanum between his three comrades, who sink to sleep, leaving Albert to await death in the appalling darkness. The scene changes back to the inn, and shows Joe Pagett awakening to learn the news of the disaster and to give the tidings of Albert's self-sacrifice. The acting of the playlet was remarkable chiefly for the humorous acting of Mr. Louis Calvert as the reservist innkeeper, whom he represented with a wealth of power and comic expression, and for the old farm labourer of Mr. Fisher White, who gave a deliciously droll study which gained for him a special round of applause. Mr. Frederick Volpe made a hearty and rollicking bluejacket of Harry Quick; and merit was also conspicuous in the rendering of the title-rôle by Mr. Philip Knox, and in the Private Wix of Mr. Clarence Derwent. Miss Beatrice Ferrar played with much graceful sympathy as Albert's sweetheart, and Miss Mary Brough was the cause of merriment as the innkeeper's wife.

The second new piece was from the pen of Mr. Bone, and was called

"PRIVATE NOBODY."

The Corporal .....Mr. Halliwell-Hobbes
'Arry .....Mr. Morris Harvey
Billy .....Master Francis Walker
Clara .....Miss Beatrice Terry

A grimly humorous commentary on the petty tyranny of the non-commissioned officer in the Army is made in the above playlet, which has many clever lines, and can boast some originality. Misfortune has overtaken 'Arry the private, for someone has "done him a shot in the eye," by which he has incurred official displeasure, and is condemned to clean up his kit while the annual sports are in progress. Added to that, his sweetheart Clara is waiting outside the barrack-square for him to take her to the sports. With one of his two remaining half-crowns 'Arry bribes the Corporal in charge to pass his work, but his sacrifice is in vain. Clara, by no means pleased at being kept waiting, makes her appearance, and enters by the window. Before 'Arry has time to effect a reconciliation the Corporal returns and makes love to Clara. 'Arry resents such interference and there is a set-to, with the result that 'Arry is "knocked out," while the Corporal carries off his sweetheart. The Cockney oddities of speech were well assumed by Mr. Morris Harvey, who caused much laughter; and Mr. Halliwell-Hobbes was a comical specimen of a bullying Corporal puffed up by a sense of his own importance. Miss Beatrice Terry was a prettily coquettish Clara; and as a bugler boy Master Francis Walker was amusing.

The attractions of Monday's performance were added to by the appearance of Sir Charles Santley, who received an affectionate welcome, and sang "Hearts of Oak" with all the fire and finish of yore. He was warmly recalled, and for an encore gave the quaint ballad "Here's a health unto His Majesty." During an interval Miss Mouillot was called to the footlights, and, after being enthusiastically cheered, was presented with a handsome bouquet of roses by Major Arthur Haggard, who expressed the thanks of the committee of the Bureau. Major-General Sir Alfred Turner added his thanks to Miss Mouillot and to all who had assisted in the success of the performance. Sir Alfred said the members of the theatrical profession were more noted for their charitable works than those of any other calling, and applied the famous mercy speech from *The Merchant of Venice* to their abounding works of philanthropy.

The programme of Monday was repeated on Tuesday afternoon, with the exception that *Private Nobody* was replaced by a new one-act play by F. D. Bone entitled

"THE TOPSIDE DOG."

Pensioner Robert Boiler ..Mr. Edward Rigby
Pensioner James Bates ..Mr. Edmund Gwenn
Mrs. Boiler .....Miss Agnes Thomas

A familiar theme is treated with much freshness and vigour in *The Topside Dog*, which introduces Pensioner Robert Boiler, at one time the champion wrestler of his regiment, but now the downtrodden husband of a virago. He receives a visit from an old comrade, who plies him with whisky and induces him to rebel against feminine supremacy. Boiler asserts his claim to be "top-dog" with much success while his friend is present, and drives his wife to tears; but no sooner does he lose support than he capitulates, and is reduced to a state more abject than before. A cleverly coloured and irresistibly funny rendering of the hen-pecked old pensioner was given by Mr. Edward Rigby; and Mr. Edmund Gwenn furnished a breezy contrast as his old comrade. Miss Agnes Thomas gave a capital characterisation of the shrew. The pleasure of the audience on Tuesday was added to by the appearance of Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, who recited Rudyard Kipling's "Soldier, Soldier" with eloquent expression, and responded to an undeniable encore with the tale of George Washington and the cherry-tree as told to a youngster of an enquiring turn of mind. The intervals at both performances were rendered enjoyable by the playing by Lieut. Forrest's orchestral band of some well-chosen music.

"LITTLE NEMO."

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

Founded on Winsor McKay's cartoons in the comic supplement of a Sunday newspaper, and produced by Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger at their beautiful New Amsterdam Theatre on the 20th ult., this musical comedy, in three acts (book by Harry B. Smith, music by Victor Herbert), has scored a big success. Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger always do things on a sumptuous scale, and in this instance they have excelled themselves. A brilliant spectacle and a lively and amusing entertainment, *Little Nemo* will remain at the New Amsterdam for a long period.

The opening scene shows the playroom of the Little Princess in Slumberland. The Little Princess longs for a playmate, and the Candy Kid is sent by her father, King Morpheus, to help her to find one. They turn the pages of an immense picture-book, in which the various characters of fairy lore are disclosed, each one having a living representative, who emerges from the book as his or her name is mentioned in the song called "The happy land of Once-upon-a-time." Little Nemo is the one selected. King Morpheus has kept himself youthful by taking a certain elixir compounded by Dr. Pill. The Dancing Missionary, who does not approve of drugs, steals the elixir, and, by the tradition of Slumberland, it can only be recovered by a mortal child brought from earth. The second scene discloses the playground of a city park. Dr. Pill appears as a fairy policeman who, for past interference with children, is condemned to be good-natured and help them in their games. Flip, nephew of the Guard of Dawn, insists upon being leader, and Little Nemo thrashes him. The children are about to choose a Queen when the Little Princess enters in her chariot, drawn by "Teddy" bears, and the children choose her. She has come to take Little Nemo to Slumberland, but Flip thwarts her and persuades the youngsters to go to an automobile race. Little Nemo, however, falls asleep in the trunk of a hollow tree, where Dr. Pill finds him and takes the little dreamer home in his arms.

The scene changes to Little Nemo's bedroom, which is vacant. Mrs. Nemo sits by his cot, and wonders what has become of him. Dr. Pill enters and encounters Gladys the Cat. The doctor puts Little Nemo to bed, and proceeds to turn on all the noises because his charge is a New York boy, and cannot sleep unless there is plenty of noise Flip suddenly makes his appearance from a trunk, but the Cat chases him back and awakens Nemo, who lifts the lid of the trunk and discovers Flip. The intruder contrives to get Nemo into the trunk and slams down the lid. Then he puts on pyjamas and takes Nemo's place in the bed. The Candy Kid comes to guide Little Nemo to Slumberland, and is about to take Flip when the Cat opens the trunk and releases Nemo. Flip is driven off, and Nemo departs with his guide, the next scene representing the Land of St. Valentine, through which they must pass. Herein is encountered the Valentine Fairy, with her fascinating wares. One of the valentines discloses the Little Princess, who eagerly awaits her playmate, and the Candy Kid tells her that he has succeeded in his quest. Flip appears on the scene again, and tries to supplant Nemo, but is indignantly rejected by the Little Princess, who accepts Nemo, this ending the first act.

The second act begins in the office of the Weather Factory in Cloudland, which is in charge of the Barometer Girl and the Weather Vane. Flip appears, and takes the first opportunity of turning on a terrible storm to wreck the Ship of Dreams, on which Nemo has sailed for Slumberland. The wreck of the ship is shown, the next scene representing the Isle of Table d'Hôte, where Nemo and his party are captured by savages. The Cannibal King offers to spare them if they will provide him with some new amusement. Nemo brings to life a box of soldiers, and improvises a minstrel show, but the King is not satisfied, and is about to imprison the captives in the royal refrigerator when the animated soldiers come to the rescue. Dr. Pill, Flip, and Dr. Healem have been hunting in the jungle, and they describe their adventures. Noting the ennui of the King, they provide a wrestling match for his amusement and a travesty of the Olympian Games. Again the scene changes and shows Little Nemo in his bedroom, where he dreams of the "glorious Fourth," and joins in a joyous celebration of Independence Day. Thus the second act ends with a patriotic spectacle which includes a display of fireworks and the chiming of the Liberty Bell. Nemo and his companions are rescued from the cannibals by King Morpheus's battleship and become part of the crew. The deck of the ship is shown at the opening of the third act. Dr. Pill and the Missionary reach the ship by means of a balloon. After various adventures, Slumberland, the beautiful Country of Dreams, is reached in safety, and Nemo is welcomed by the Little Princess. And although Messrs. Klaw and Erlanger have called their production neither an extravaganza nor a pantomime, but a musical comedy, the time-honoured "transformation scene" crops up all the same at the end. In this case it shows what passes through the mind of old King Morpheus when he indulges in a few dreams on his own account.

Master Gabriel, who appears as Little Nemo, is a mere child in appearance, being less than three feet high, but he is twenty-six years old, and a cleverer little chap it would be hard to find. He is a host in himself, and sustains his rôle with the authority of an experienced actor three times his size. Neither dwarfish nor disproportioned, he merely appears to be a juvenile prodigy, and one enjoys his performance because there is nothing about him to suggest the unpleasantly unnatural. Messrs. Joseph Cawthorn, Billy B. Van, and Harry Kelly, who appear as Dr. Pill, Flip, and the Dancing Missionary respectively, are a lively and diverting trio, and thanks to their efforts the rich vein of comedy that runs through the entire production yields amusement not only to the youngsters but to the children of larger growth. Messrs. Collins and Hart perform as a pair of Olympian wrestlers, and Mr. Dave Abrams, who has not been long enough in America to be entirely forgotten in London, represents a cat, a bear, and a squirrel with his usual agility and cleverness.

Mr. Victor Herbert has composed a fine score, the opening chorus, "Give us a fleet," in the third act, being a particularly stirring and melodious number.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Miller Anderson, entitled

"THE ACE OF SPADES."

This is the second week of the visit of Mr. Miller Anderson and Miss Mabel Mannering to this theatre, and both have become warm favourites. *The Ace of Spades* is a good play well acted. Miss Mannering makes a great success as Marion, a part with which she thoroughly identifies herself. Miss Margaret Murch is an attractive Violet Harcourt; Miss Olive Lloyd is a vivacious Lucy; Mr. Miller Anderson is an excellent exponent of the rôle of Dick Beverley; Mr. Walter Long is very good as George Mitchell; Mr. Robert Faulken is a smart and convincing Paul Varley; Mr. Albert Rogers is very successful as Binks; and Mr. Finn Doyle is an excellent Mike O'Flagherty. Mr. Fred Elvin gives a capital performance of David Stock. The play is well dressed and mounted; and some excellent pictures are shown of the Bioscope.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

PROVINCIAL BUSINESS MANAGER.

MR. REX SUGDEN.

The popular actor-manager who controls the Empire Theatre, Douglas, in the interest of Mr. Charles Dare, has had a very strenuous career. He is a very clever and capable manager, has had great experience, and knows all the theatrical ropes. Mr. Rex Sugden, born in Yorkshire, was educated at Mirfield Grammar School, won a five years' scholarship, and having made up his mind to seek a career on the concert platform and the lyric stage, he studied under John Batchelder, the well-known voice producer in Manchester, for two years. During this period he was in the choir of the Church of the Holy Name when Mr. Leslie Stuart was the organist. Then Mr. Sugden got into touch with Mr. John Tiller, who secured him an engagement with Oswald Stoll's "Half Moon Minstrels," and as a member of the Wandering Minstrels Trio he appeared at all the halls piloted by Mr. Stoll. Next grand opera appealed to him, and he played the principal tenor parts with the Brescian Grand Opera companies, the Neilson combination, and Mr. Arthur Rousbey. Then musical comedy with Mr. Lawrence Daly's *Cissie* company, and next a season with Sam Hague's minstrels at the St. James's Hall, Liverpool, and tour. Then followed Mr. George Chirgwin's concert party, and six seasons with J. Gar Kiddie's pantomimes and burlesque. In 1903 Mr. Sugden produced the pantomime *Cinderella* for Mr. Will Sley. His next adventure was with Messrs. Adeler and Sutton, for whom he opened the Olympia Gardens, Rock Ferry. He was for a time general-manager at Collins's Music Hall; at the King's Theatre, Kirkcaldy, which he opened for Mr. R. C. Buchanan, and at the Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne for Mr. Hugh Robertson. Now he represents Mr. Charles Dare at the Empire Theatre, Douglas, which is the only place of amusement open all the year round in Hall Caine Land. Mr. Rex Sugden is young, and an enthusiast at his calling. He is *persona grata* to

MR. REX SUGDEN.

the Manx people, and the financial and artistic success of the Empire must be as gratifying to Mr. Charles Dare as to himself.

AMUSEMENTS IN ROTTERDAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ROTTERDAM, Nov. 4.—Since my last letter, Manager Van Eysden has put on two new programmes at the Grand Theatre, the first having been the bright and sparkling comedy from the German of Blumenthal and Kadelburg, given in Dutch, under the title of *De Laatste Vonk* (*The Last Spark*). The comedy is one of the recent successes of the Royal Schauspielhaus in Berlin, and no wonder, for it is most pleasing and amusing, partaking of the light comedy nature without degenerating to broad farce. Full justice was done to it by the different members of the excellent company of the Grand, the signal and special triumph being for Mr. de Yong in the leading rôle, that of a mature, and yet irrepressible, ladykiller. Mr. de Yong presented a most evenly, well-balanced conception of the character, displaying notable versatility and ease, his light comedy vein being at its happiest in the third and final act. The second production, and which now holds the boards, is *Echtscheiding* (*Divorce*), or, say, the new play of Bourget and Cury, adapted from Bourget's novel, "Un Divorce." The cast was all that could be desired, and good acting was done by Mesdames Van Eysden, Tartaud, and Coelingh, and Messrs. Tartaud, Lugt, Meisert, and Vervoorn. Praise is due to the scenic artist, Mr. Poutsma, for the exquisite setting of the last act.

The Dutch Dramatic Company of Amsterdam has presented two works of Heyermans, *De Meid* (*The Servant*) and *Het Feest* (*The Feast*). The first is a two-act play and the second a sketch of prison life in one act. The plot of *De Meid* turns on the hatred of a servant for her mistress. In the master's absence she gets possession of a letter which compromises the wifely honour of her abhorred mistress. Using this letter as an instrument, the designing creature holds the tortured wife in her power, taking every possible advantage of her position, until finally the husband discovers her base extortion, and, after forgiving his repentant wife, dismisses the intriguing menial. The scenes are strong and dramatic, in particular the one in which the wife makes her avowal to her heart-broken husband. There is a vein of caustic humour running through other scenes, as, for instance, that of the jollification held by the servant and her cronies while her master and mistress are out. The acting was capital. Mrs. de Boer van Ryk as the servant, Mrs. Van der Horst as the wife, and Mr. Post as the husband deserve unstinted eulogy.

Performances by the new Dutch Opera and Comic Opera Company have been given on "off nights" at the Grand. We have had the pleasure of hearing *Faust*, *Mignon*, and *De Fideele Boer*. In *Faust* the lion's share of the applause fell to Mrs. Engelen-Sewing as Marguerite and Mr. Orelio as Mephisto. In *Mignon* Mrs. Engelen-Sewing won a triumph as Philina, the "Polacca" of the third act being a brilliant bit of vocalisation. The merry operetta *De Fideele Boer* was appreciatively received, the music proving tuneful and catching. Successes were scored by Mrs. Buderman in the rôle of Annamirl and Mr. Kreeft as the fideele boer (the jolly peasant).

After a successful run of *Mrs. Warren's Profession*, Messrs. Royaards and Stumpff have added Gorki's *Nachtasyl* to their company's répertoire.

The Queen, accompanied by Queen Maud and the Princess Victoria, witnessed the performance of *The Marriages of Mayfair* at Drury Lane Theatre on Monday evening.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

In the presence of the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor (Sir John Bell), Miss Bell, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff F. S. Hanson, Mr. Sheriff J. J. Baddeley, J.P., and an enormous audience, the Guildhall students gave their annual concert and presentation of medals, prizes, and certificates in the Guildhall on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 31. The proceedings commenced with a short concert, in which the choir was heard to much advantage in Dr. Cummings' chorus "Domine Dirige Nos." Miss Audrey Richardson, a talented pupil of M. Johannes Wolff, and winner of the school violin prize 1906, the Tillie Gold Medal 1907, and the Tubbs Bow prize 1908, gave a beautifully-executed violin solo of Wieniawski's (Faust) "Fantasie"; while Miss Mary Anderson, the Lord Mayor's prize winner 1908, and pupil of Mme. Medora Henson, sang the florid music of Fesch's aria "Tu fai la superbetta" with delightful ease and purity of intonation. Another clever student was Miss Evelyn Harrison, whose admirably played piano solo "Etude en Forme de Valse" (Saint-Saëns) was greatly applauded. Miss Harrison is a pupil of Mr. R. Orlando Morgan and school prize winner 1904, the School Accompanying prize winner 1906, the Lady Mayoress prize 1907, and the Lady Jenkinson prize winner of 1908. Mr. W. H. Cooper, the School Baritone prize winner 1907, and the Lady Knight prize winner 1908, pupil of Mr. Franklin Clive, displayed an excellent and well trained baritone voice in the aria "Figlia del Ré," from Meyerbeer's *L'Africaine*; and Mr. Leonard A. Connabeer, pupil of Mr. Henry Such and school prize winner 1905, well deserved his hearty reception for a cleverly played violin solo, "Ballade et Polonaise" (Vieuxtemps). Mr. Connabeer was accompanied by Miss Lois Barker, School Soprano prize winner 1908 and the School Accompanying prize 1908, pupil of Mesdames Armstrong and Bath. The last item in the concert was an able rendering of the great aria "Cujus Animam" ("Stabat Mater"), by Mr. Alfred C. Steed, pupil of Mr. Isidore de Solla. Miss Jenny Hyman, who presided at the pianoforte, also took a school prize for composition on Saturday afternoon.

At the conclusion of the concert Dr. Cummings, the principal, gave his annual address, saying: "The past year has afforded ample evidence of the sound practical teaching given in our school. Public performers who have received their training in the Guildhall School are now engaged in all important festivals and concerts. Our students are diligent and eager to learn, our professors no less painstaking and persevering in imparting the results of their study and matured experience. One important feature in the past year's work has been the distinguished success of our dramatic and operatic classes. The revival of Gluck's opera *Iphigenia in Tauris* elicited high commendation from competent judges, including the critics of the London Press. We also thank the donors of various prizes, and the professional ladies and gentlemen who have kindly adjudicated in the competitions. Mme. Kirkby Lunn, who awarded the prizes to lady vocalists, was so pleased with the performance in one class that she at once gave an extra prize of three guineas. I should like to call attention to a prize which appears for the first time in our list. It is that for fencing, given by our late chairman, Mr. Paul Alliston." Dr. Cummings, who spoke of the great value of fencing as improving the breathing powers, the nerves, and general physique, had great applause when he mentioned that the prize was won by Miss Ethelmay Barwell-Holbrook, a most distinguished scholar, who had also obtained the opera and elocution prizes as well as a scholarship. Continuing his address, Dr. Cummings said that at a recent public competition of pianoforte players at the Portman Rooms there were sixty-seven competitors, and one of the students, Miss Lily Kennard, eight years old, was adjudicated the best performer and awarded a pianoforte valued at sixty-two guineas. In conclusion the principal remarked: "The Corporation of the City of London have good reason to be proud of the great music school established by them twenty-eight years ago." After the address, Miss Bell, in the absence of the Lady Mayoress through illness, presented the medals and prizes to a large number of the successful students. Among the associates the gold medal went to Mr. Gordon Burgess (for pianoforte), the silver medal for organ was gained by Mr. Joseph Haydn Lee, while Miss E. Robertson won the bronze medal for elocution. There were a host of other prizes, and after the awards Mr. Samuel Alderton, C.C., chairman of the Music Committee, moved a vote of thanks to the Lord Mayor and Miss Bell for their kindness in being present that afternoon. The Lord Mayor, in replying, spoke in a kindly manner of the early days of the Guildhall School of Music, and its present position as one of the largest and best of the music schools. After a vote of thanks to the Sheriffs the proceedings terminated.

In the concert given by the students on Wednesday evening, the first item on the programme was Miss Dorothy Ellis's neatly executed piano solos, "Nocturne," in B flat minor (Chopin), and Weber's "Moto continuo." Miss G. Nelson Ward has not as yet sufficient experience for Gounod's scena, "Far greater in his lowly state," from *La Reine de Saba*. Schubert's Sonatine for violin and pianoforte, in D, was cleverly played by Miss Florence Minns, who was associated with Mr. Mischa Levin, both performers receiving a hearty recall. Miss Effie Cook sang "Softly awakes my heart," from Saint-Saëns' *Samson and Delilah*, with ability, but in slightly dragging the time lost the dramatic effect. In Saint-Saëns' piano solo, "Toccata Op. III." Miss K. Ethel Harman, the winner of several prizes, besides the Knill Challenge Cup and silver medal, 1908, played with praiseworthy delicacy of touch, and was loudly applauded. Somewhat above the average in such attempts was Miss De Ferrars' rendering of Verdi's famous Aria, "Ah, fors è lui" (*Traviata*), the young vocalist having a bright, pure voice, and showing considerable skill in the florid music; but the most successful vocal item on the programme was "I hear you calling me," a simple but effective song by Marshall, which was so well sung by Mr. Reginald Crawford, who made such good and artistic use of his *mezza voce* that Dr. Cummings had to announce from the platform that encores were not allowed. Miss L. Budds, a blind but clever pupil of Mr. Johannes Wolff, had a warm reception from the audience after her able violin solo of Vieuxtemps' "Suite"; and Mr. William Miller displayed a pleasing voice in "Even bravest heart" (*Faust*) although the young vocalist must try and avoid a tendency to the *vibrato*. Miss Helen S. Gall, L.G.S.M., gave a finished performance of Chopin's piano solo, "Scherzo," in C sharp minor; while Miss Florence Dickinson sang "Abide with me," with considerable feeling and expression. A talented pupil of Mr. L. Cairns James recited Mercutio's speech, from *Romeo and Juliet*, being much applauded.

When Mrs. Griffiths' *Platonic Wife* was produced, before the first act was over it was seen to be a dead failure. At the end of the third act the performers grew more impatient than the audience; and at last Holland and Powell, thrusting their heads out from opposite sides of the stage, when the "drop" was down, earnestly entreated the spectators to prevent the heavy performance from going any further by damning it then and there.

Mr. William Boosey has contributed the sum of ten guineas to the Playgoers' Club Pantomime Fund for Poor Children.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

London.

Oct. 2.—*The House of Clay*, play, in three acts, by Herbert Swears, adapted from *La Maison d'Argile* of E. Emile Fabre (Comédie-Française, Feb. 27, 1907).—Coronet.
" 3.—*The Hon'ble Phil*, musical comedy, in two acts, book by G. P. Huntley and Herbert Clayton, music by Harold Samuel, additional numbers by Ralph Nairn, lyrics by Harold Lawson, additional lyrics by Bertrand Davis and Claude Aveling.—Hicks.
" 5.—*The Old Folks at Home*, drama, in four acts, by J. A. Campbell (originally produced at the Junction Theatre, Manchester, on Sept. 30, 1907).—Lyric, Hammersmith.
" 5.—*The Last Heir*, drama, in four acts, by Stephen Phillips, adapted from Sir Walter Scott's novel, "The Bride of Lammermoor."—Adelphi.
" 6.—*Bellamy the Magnificent*, comedy, in five acts, by Roy Horniman.—New.
" 9.—*The Treasure*, play, in one act, by Elizabeth Kirby, founded on a story by L. N. Becke in "The Smart Set."—Kingsway.
" 9.—*The Sway Boat*, play, in three acts, by Wilfred T. Coleby.—Kingsway.
" 12.—*Lady Epping's Lawsuit*, satirical comedy, in three acts, by Hubert Henry Davies.—Criterion.
" 14.—*Fanny and the Servant Problem*, play, in four acts, by Jerome K. Jerome.—Aldwych.
" 19.—*The Belle of the Ball*, musical play, in three acts, by L. Norden, with music by E. T. De Banzie and Michael Dwyer (first produced at the Opera House, Southport, July 27, 1908).—Crown, Peckham.
" 19.—*The Beggar Girl's Wedding*, drama, in four acts, by Walter Melville.—Elephant and Castle.
" 19.—*The Blackmailers*, a dramatisation of Emile Gaboriau by Mrs. T. P. O'Connor and R. Henderson Bland.—Royal County Theatre, Kingston.
" 24.—*The Belle of Brittany*, comic opera, in two acts, by Leedham Bantock and P. J. Barrow, lyrics by Percy Greenbank, music by Howard Talbot and Marie Horne.—Queen's.
" 27.—*Mrs. Bailey's Debts*, comedy, in three acts, founded by Charles Eddy on his novel of the same name.—Garrick.
" 27.—*The Burglar Who Failed*, comedy, in one act, by Mr. St. John Hankin.—Criterion.

Revivals.

Oct. 15.—*The Lyons Mail*, play, in three acts, adapted by Charles Reade from *Le Courrier de Lyon* (Paris Gaîté, March 16, 1850); English version, *The Courier of Lyons*, Standard Theatre, March 10, 1851; Princess's (Charles Kean's production), June 26, 1854; Henry Irving's revival, with title altered to *The Lyons Mail*, Lyceum, May 19, 1877. Opening of Mr. H. B. Irving's season.—Shaftesbury.
" 19.—*Iolanthe; or, The Peer and the Peri*, fairy opera, in two acts, by W. S. Gilbert and Arthur Sullivan (originally produced Nov. 25, 1882, at the Savoy).—Savoy.
" 18.—*The Maid's Tragedy*, by Beaumont and Fletcher (The Play Actors).—Court.

Provinces.

Oct. 5.—*Bringing It Home*, play, in one act, by H. M. Richardson.—Gaiety, Manchester.
" 5.—*Makeshifts*, "middle-class" comedy, in one act, by Gertrude L. Robins.—Gaiety, Manchester.
" 5.—*A Long Journey*, dramatic episode, by Marie Muggeridge. — New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.
" 15.—*The Outsider*, play, in three acts, by Mayne Lindsay and Robert Marshall.—Theatre Royal, Manchester.
" 19.—*The Kiss of Judas*, drama, in four acts, by Herbert Leonard.—Theatre Royal, Aston.
" 19.—*Griffith Gaunt; or, Jealousy*, drama, in five acts, adapted from Charles Reade's novel of the same name by Freeman Wills and the Rev. Canon Langbridge —Theatre Royal, Margate.

Paris.

Oct. 1.—*L'Auberge Rouge*, drama, in two acts, by Serge Basset.—Antoine.
" 1.—*Répudiée*, comedy, in three acts, by Mme. Louise Dartigue.—Antoine.
" 1.—*La Maison en Ordre* (*His House in Order*), comedy, by A. Pinero, adapted by Bienstock and Balzalgette.—Vaudeville.
" 7.—*Le Bon Roi Dagobert*, comedy, in four acts, by A. Rivoire.—Comédie Française.
" 7.—*La Revue de Cluny*, revue, in three acts and ten tableaux, by Ardot and Laroche.—Cluny.
" 9.—*L'Emigré*, play, in four acts, by Paul Bourget.—Renaissance.
" 10.—*Parmi les Pierres*, play, in four acts, by Sudermann, adapted by Rémon and Valentin.—Odéon.
" 13.—*Israël*, comedy, in three acts, by Henry Bernstein.—Réjane.
" 16.—*L'Oreille Fendue*, play, in four acts, by Lucien Népoty.—Antoine.
" 16.—*L'Agence Legris*, drama, in six acts, by Jacques Roullet.—Ambigu.
" 23.—*Crépuscule des Dieux*, by Richard Wagner, French libretto, by A. Ernst.—Opéra.
" 28.—*Arsène Lupin*, play, in three acts and four tableaux, by F. de Croisset and Maurice Leblanc.—Athénée.
" 28.—*L'Eveil du Printemps*, play, in three acts and fifteen tableaux, by Wedekind, adapted by Robert d'Humières.—Théâtre des Arts.
" 28.—*Monsieur Mésian*, farce, one act, by Pierre Veber.—Théâtre des Arts.
" 30.—*Le Passe-Partout*, comedy, in three acts, by Georges Thurner.—Gymnase.

Miss O'Neill's father was the manager of a small strolling company in Ireland. He was an eccentric of the first water. If any member of his company disappointed him, O'Neill had one speech—"Confusion burst his skull, a blackguard! What will I do? Here, give me a greatcoat, and I'll double his part with my own." The greatcoat was the universal panacea, whatever the general costume of the play might be. If the Ghost in *Hamlet* complained to Mr. O'Neill of the lack of armour in the wardrobe, the manager would shrug up his shoulders, and after a pause exclaim, "Oh, bother! sure if ye'll put on a greatcoat ye'll do very well." Matters of much greater moment he met with the same indifference. Once proceeding by a barge along a small river, the captain and O'Neill quarrelled, and in the scuffle O'Neill was knocked overboard. He swam to shore, and called out, "Confusion burst your soul! I suppose you thought I couldn't swim." A knot of novices once joined Mr. O'Neill, and having played some time without receiving their pay, they resolved to take proceedings against him. He met the charge with a counter-claim for a considerable sum due to him by them for spoiling all the plays and farces they appeared in. To avoid the exposé they abandoned the claim.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the council meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Nov. 3. Present:—Mr. Cecil Raleigh (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Jackson Wilcox, J. Sebastian Smith, Franklyn Walford, Miss Marion Lind, Miss Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr. Charles Cameron suggesting that Dr. Irwin Moore's name be put on the list of honorary consulting physicians, and the secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Cameron to the effect that if Dr. Moore is willing they will be very pleased to elect him one of the hon. medical staff, but there was no vacancy on the hon. consulting staff.

A letter was read from Mr. G. S. Gomme, clerk of the L.C.C., with reference to the registration of theatrical employment agencies, and asking whether the Association would send a deputation to the general sub-committee of the Public Control Committee of the L.C.C. at 3.15 on Friday, Nov. 20. The secretary was instructed to reply that the Council would be pleased to send a deputation consisting of Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Franklyn Walford, Miss Marion Lind, Miss Lucy Sibley, and Mr. John H. Mote, the hon. solicitor, and that Mr. Raleigh would be very pleased to speak on behalf of such deputation.

A letter was read from Mr. Kenneth Blackmore asking whether the Council would receive a deputation of three members of the committee of the A.U. to discuss certain instances of "cutting" salaries, and the secretary was instructed to reply that the Council would be pleased to receive a deputation on the following Tuesday at 4.30 p.m.

The hon. solicitors reported that they had had interviews and given advice in several cases.

The chairman read a letter from Miss Norah Mahone suggesting that some of the members of the French company playing at Terry's, some of which are personally known to her, be made honorary members of the A.A. during their season. The secretary received instructions to write to Miss Mahone for the names of the ladies and gentlemen, and say that the council would be very pleased to welcome them. The chairman also read a letter bringing to the notice of the Association the distressing circumstances of the Brothers Arnold, and the secretary received instructions to send the correspondence to the V.A.F.

Miss Pattie Brown, proposed by Cecil Raleigh and seconded by Fred Grove, was elected.

The following nominations were made:—Mary Hope, proposed by William Dobell, seconded by Madge Merryweather; Eva Neil, proposed by Langford Reede, seconded by Cecil Yapp; and Julie Galay, proposed by Italia Conti, seconded by Fewlass Llewellyn.

The standard contract was considered and adjourned until the next meeting.

The secretary informed the council that a play had been left with him by a member, asking whether he can place same. He received instructions to write to the member to obtain an authority to hand the play over to persons whom he thought likely to take it, and to free him of any responsibility in the event of loss, &c.

It was decided that members may be permitted to use the windows but not the balcony on Lord Mayor's Day.

The complaint of a member as to the insanitary state of a country theatre was considered, and the secretary was instructed to write to the local sanitary authorities on the subject.

The Council instructed the secretary to make known to the members that he had received instructions to write the following letter to the West-End Managers' Association, and had received the following reply:—

"DEAR SIR,—The council of the Actors' Association would like to ask if the West-End Managers' Association is not of opinion that the time has arrived for a settlement of the long outstanding difficulty of the standard contract. The council of the A.A. are most anxious to deal with the matter, and will be glad to hear the views of the West-End Managers' Association.—Yours faithfully,

"(Signed) HUBERT BLOUNT,
"Secretary."

Reply from the West-End Managers' Association:

"DEAR SIR,—I beg to inform you that your letter of Aug. 19 was read at our meeting yesterday, the 22nd inst., and I was requested to tell you that due note has been taken of the letter, but that the managers do not feel they are in a position to discuss the matter.—Yours faithfully,

"(Signed) J. VEDRENNE."

DRESSES AT THE PLAY.

In *Dolly Reforming Herself*, at the Haymarket, some exquisite frocks are displayed. Miss Ethel Irving's first gown, of white chiffon velvet, is moulded closely to the figure, fastened down the back with many buttons, and finished just above the waist-line with an Empire sash of pale blue velvet, drawn through a dull gold buckle, so that one wide end droops over the skirt at the side. The chemisette is of embroidery worked in blue and white silk and chenille, and outlined with a fringe formed of miniature loops of silver braid.

Miss Irving's costume in the second and third acts is of rich Ottoman silk in a soft shade of pale hyacinth blue, bordered at the hem of the skirt with sable, and arranged in becoming fashion, with a fine embroidery in blue and silver forming an Empire corsage. The draped berthe and long sleeves are of corn-coloured silk net, embroidered with large silk spots. In the last act Dolly carries on the salutary process of reform in a blue and green tartan skirt and a blue corduroy velvet shooting jacket, worn with a green silk blouse and a turban toque of pointed fox fur, with green Mephisto quills.

Miss Margaret Halstan's first entry is made in pale lilac cashmere, draped with statuesque folds, and trimmed on the bodice with straight bands of cashmere, embroidered in many shades of mauve, and arranged to border a vest of Balkan embroidery, worked in pale tones of pink, green, and gold. The chemisette and long under-sleeves are of tucked white net. Miss Halstan also has a very novel evening frock, with a long Directoire coat in pale pink moiré, over a skirt of finely embroidered silk lace, in a deep shade of cream colour. In the last act she is seen in a delightful coat and skirt costume, in grey cloth, braided with black, and arranged with a fuchsia pink waistcoat. Her grey velvet hat has a draped crown of pink silk beaver, and two very long pink quills.

WHEN G. A. Stevens was a first actor in the Norwich company he performed the part of Horatio in *The Fair Penitent*. The Calista was a Mrs. B——, who had been long the celebrated heroine in tragedy, and the lady in high life in comedy. Mrs. B——, in her decline, sacrified too often to the intoxicating god. In proportion as the action of the play advanced towards a conclusion, by endeavouring to raise her spirits with a cheerful glass, she became totally unfit to represent the character. In her last scene of Calista it was so long before she died that Stevens, after giving her several hints, cried out, "Why don't you die, you fool?" She retorted, as loud as she could, "You robbed the British mail, you dog!" This spirited dialogue so much amused the audience that much clapping ensued. The manager seeing no end to the merry business, dropped the curtain.

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PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. ERIC HUDSON.

Originally intended for commercial life, Mr. Eric Hudson spent three years in a merchant's office in the City, during which he obtained some theatrical experience as an amateur. He made his first appearance on the regular stage at the age of nineteen, with Miss Maggie Morton's company. Various other tours with "fit-ups" and minor companies followed, leading to an engagement with Mr. Lester Collingwood to play Old Tom in *After Dark*. The late Mr. Fred Cooke engaged him to create the part of Tom Hall in *The Diver's Luck*, the run of which lasted over 900 nights. Then came a long association with Mr. J. W. Whitbread and the late Kennedy Miller for heavy parts in Irish drama, which included the creation of Felix Blake in *The Irishman*. After this came several tours with Miller and Elliston as the Hop-picker in *In the Ranks* (one of his most successful impersonations), and in *The Grip of Iron*; tours as Archdeacon Jellicoe in Arthur Law's *Dick Venables*; Dr. Rank in *A Doll's House*; Lipinski in Sutton Vane's drama, *Vengeance is Mine*, at the Pavilion Theatre, E.; Baxter and stage manager, the late Charles Dornton's *Silver King*; the principal character part in *A Lucky Dog*; Svengali in a version of *Trilby*; and the heavy part in *Under Remand*, in which he had collaborated with the late Reginald Stockton. Mr. Hudson then joined Messrs. Dottridge and Longden, with whom he remained several years, producing and playing principal character parts in *Man's Enemy* and *Two Little Heroes*, in both of which dramas he collaborated with Mr. C. H. Longden. A tour with Mr. Walter Melville to manage and play Guy Brand in *Her Second Time on Earth* was followed by two and a half years with Mr. J. F. Elliston in leading character parts in *Old Kentucky* and *The Octoroon*; a tour with Mr. John Hart in *A Queen Without a Crown*, one with *None but the Brave*, one as the Maniac in *The World's Verdict*, and two with Mr. Blow and Miss Molesworth, *At Cripple Creek* (all leading character parts), and several special engagements in sketches in the variety theatres, which bring the list up to the present year. Mr. Hudson has also collaborated in several dramas with Mr. Arthur Shirley, notably in *The Gayest of the Gay*, which Mr. W. W. Kelly is now successfully touring, playing Tab-y-wana in Mr. Herbert

Photo by Corn.

MR. ERIC HUDSON
as Tab-y-wana, in *A White Man*.

Sleath's (South) *A White Man* company, and enjoys the distinction of being the first English actor to speak the "Ute" language on the stage.

MISS DOLLY HARMER.

Miss Dolly Harmer comes of a theatrical and musical family, her father being the well-known actor Peter Harmer, while her brothers were principal violinists with the late Sir Charles Hallé's orchestra, one brother still being in the orchestra, which is now under the conductorship of Dr. Hans Richter. Miss Harmer was practically born on the stage, and made her first appearance when she was three months old, being carried on in a piece called *Jessie Vere*, and—so the story goes—upsetting everyone by screaming incessantly. Her first speaking part was little Leah in the play of that name, and of course she played Willie Carlyle in *East Lynne* and all the usual children's parts. At the age of eleven she essayed the part of Desdemona to the Othello of the celebrated Scotch tragedian Henry Talbot, and had played a round of comedy old women's parts before she was twelve. Her first engagement, as a "principal"—chambermaid, however—was at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, under the management of the late Albert Fredericks. She played there for two years in the stock seasons, and declares that she has that theatre and the able stage-management of Mr. Fred Thomas to thank for most of her experience. At the conclusion of that engagement she joined Miss Janette Steer's company to play the Hon. Cecil Brookfield in *Lady Clare*—a part in which she revelled. Then came a tour as Bo-peep with John Levey's burlesque company, and after this she joined Mr. Fred Gould's *Black Flag* company, playing the cabin-boy, Ned. After four tours with this company Miss Harmer created the part of Merrie Prince Hal at the Sadler's Wells Theatre, under the management of "dear old Daddy" Fred Wright, in which play, Huntley, Bertie, and Mrs. Wright all appeared. A tour as Jack in *Jack-in-the-Box* was followed by several short stock seasons with the late Andrew Melville at the Standard Theatre London, and Grand Theatre, Birmingham, where she played one season entire lead, the next all the chambermaid parts. Then she created the part of Shrove Tuesday in *The Span of Life*, Sutton Vane's sensational drama, at the Grand Theatre, Islington, and made so great a success that after two English tours she was engaged to play the part in America, where she stayed two seasons, and had many excellent offers to remain. On her return to England she played Blades, a flunkey, in Fred Gould's *Father's Oath* company. But she had made up her mind to play in musical comedy, and secured an engagement with Mr. William Greet for the title-rôle in *The Lady Slavey*, a part she played with the greatest success for two years. She was then engaged by Mr. Alexander Loftus for the Lady Journalist in *The New Barmaid*, and played that rôle for four tours. Then she created the part of Susan in *One of the Family*, playing it for two tours; and following this came an engagement with Mr. Robert Courtneidge as Martha in the romantic opera *Ma Mie Rosette*, another part in which she scored greatly. After that she created the part of Lady Maud in *Her Majesty's Guests*, at the Kennington Theatre, with Mr. Fred Karno's company, and played it for two tours. In pantomime Miss Harmer was a well-known principal boy. She played Robinson Crusoe with Mr. Sidney Cooper for four years; then she was engaged by Mr. Brammall for Miss Marie Lloyd's part, Boy Blue, at the Theatre Royal, Leeds, and was re-engaged for the same character the year following at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, and Opera House, Belfast. She then returned to the Theatre Royal, Leeds, and played Selim in *Bluebeard*, Miss Minnie Palmer being the Fatima. Mr. J. F. Elliston engaged Miss Harmer for Ganem in *The Forty Thieves*, at the Theatre Royal, Bolton, and the following year she played Robinson Crusoe at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, in Oscar Barrett's Lyceum pantomime. Then came an engagement with Mr. Robert Courtneidge at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, as one of the Ugly Sisters in

Photo by Hana.

MISS DOLLY HARMER

Cinderella, and owing to her success she was re-engaged for the same part the following year at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham. At the conclusion of this pantomime Miss Harmer made her début in the variety theatres, opening at the Tivoli and Oxford and all the Syndicate halls, where she has appeared each Christmas until this year. Miss Harmer was also a well-known violinist, having played principal second violin in most of the ladies' orchestras. There have been many short special engagements with various managers, amongst them being Mrs. Kennion's *Nana* tours, Fred Jarman's *Little Widow* company, Ruth Edwin's répertoire company, and William Stuart's stock season. She has recently returned from South Africa, where she made a gratifying success, and has been re-engaged by Mr. Hyman to return there in June, 1909. From there she will proceed to Australia, under contract with Mr. Harry Rickards

MR. C. MILLEY DOYLE

The subject of this biography commenced his professional career shortly after leaving school with a variety company working the smalls, Mr. Doyle playing in sketches and doing a singing turn. His next experience was the somewhat painful, though very useful, one of "drying up" with a fit-up pantomime company in the Midlands. "After this little experience," he says, "I, for once in my life, took the advice of my friends, and secured a position in a house-agent's office in a South Coast watering-place. I managed to stick at this for a year, during which period I devoted most of my

Photo by Burnham.

MR. C. MILLEY DOYLE.

time and attention to running touring companies at the local public hall, and occasionally farming them round the district. This sort of thing, although highly interesting to me, was scarcely beneficial to the house-agency business; consequently, at the end of twelve months, I found it absolutely necessary to give up one pursuit or the other. So, coming to the conclusion, after due consideration, that myself and office work were not exactly cut out for one another, I obtained an engagement with 'The Arcadians,' a company of pastoral players touring the principal watering-places during the summer season." With this company Mr. Doyle played Sylvius in *As You Like It*, Salanio in *The Merchant of Venice*, Tom in Mr. H. V. Esmond's *One Summer's Day*, Zoram in Gilbert's *Palace of Truth*, &c. After this followed four tours with Mr. Harold V. Neilson's répertoire company, playing Tom Verinder in Sydney Grundy's *A Fool's Paradise*, Jacob Schwartz, and afterwards Harker, in *A Bunch of Violets*, Tom Stanhope in *The Glass of Fashion*, &c., also undertaking the duties of stage-manager. Then came another Shakespearean tour, this time stage-managing and playing Roderigo in *Othello*, Horatio in *Hamlet*, &c., and followed by a five months' spring tour on the music halls as business-manager for Mr. Charles S. Kitts and Miss Rhoda Windrum. The summer following this, Mr. Doyle was playing special engagements, including a fortnight with Mr. J. A. Thompson's stock company at Ilfracombe in *A Pair of Spectacles* and *She Stoops to Conquer*, and a week with Miss Lizzie Boone as Dudley Harcourt in *My Sweetheart*. Following on this came autumn and spring tours with Miss Hilda Hatton and Mr. Victor Gardom's company, in *Not Peace but a Sword*, playing General Wilford and doing business-management, after which he was engaged by Miss Maggie Morton for the part of Ernie Wodstone in *Life's Sweetest Sins*. At the conclusion of this tour he joined the stock company at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, and while there was engaged by Mr. Henry Chattell to play Willie in *Driven from Home* for his autumn tour. He then returned to London to undertake Lawyer Quills in *Red Riding Hood* pantomime at the Elephant and Castle, the management of which also engaged him for their spring stock season.

MR. HAWLEY FRANCKS.

It was in 1885 that Mr. Hawley Francks accomplished his first appearance on the stage, making his début with the Compton Comedy Company. During the two years he was with the Compton Comedy Company he essayed a variety of parts in *The School for Scandal*, *The Rivals*, *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Road to Ruin*, *Davy Garrick*, *Wild Oats*, and other plays. This included a six months' season at the old Strand Theatre. Soon afterwards he joined Miss Isabel Bateman as stage-manager and principal comedian, and stayed with that lady four years. The répertoire included *Jane Shore*, *Clarissa Harlowe*, *Leah*, *Jenny Deans*, *Green Bushes*, *East Lynne*, &c. Mr. Francks was with Ben Greet for a short time, playing Crabtree in *The School for Scandal*, Diggory in *She Stoops to Conquer*, and Adam in *As You Like It*. After a number of short engagements he joined Miss Fortescue for two seasons as stage-manager, playing Sir Oliver Surface in *The School for Scandal*, and a number of character and old men parts. Then he went to the Royalty, where he appeared in *Sir Ronan's Well* and *Lady of Lyons*. While playing there he had an offer to go to America with Arthur Lloyd in *Our Party*, and this engagement led to his staying five years in America. There he was engaged by Mr. Chas. Frohman to enact principal comedy in *Poor Girls*, after which he had a number of engagements in stock companies, playing upwards of fifty rôles. He was then engaged by Miss Julia Marlowe and the late Robert Taber for Sir Andrew Aguecheek (*Twelfth Night*), Polydor (*Ingomar*), Peter (*Romeo and Juliet*), Verges (*Much Ado About Nothing*), William and Corin *As You Like It*, Nella (*Romola*), &c. After two long tours and two seasons in New York with Miss Marlowe's company, and a tour and a season at the Fifth Avenue Theatre with Miss Carrie Turner, Mr. Francks returned to England, and was engaged by H. T. Brickwell, then manager of the Garrick Theatre, to play an American part and stage-manage in *Sue*. Mr. Francks was for some time stage-manager and principal comedian for Mr.

Photo by Chickering.

MR. HAWLEY FRANCKS.

Martin Harvey, being in some of his London productions, including that of *The Only Way* at the Lyceum, *After All* at the Avenue (now the Playhouse), *Don Juan's Last Wager* at the Apollo, and *Sweet Prue* at the Court, and also accompanied him on a number of his provincial tours. When Mr. J. H. Leigh produced *The Tempest* at the Court Mr. Francks was engaged to play Trinculo and stage-manage. He also repeated his old part of Peter there during the revival of *Romeo and Juliet*. Although generally known as a comedian, Mr. Francks has played serious parts with great success. Mr. Francks is also the author of several plays. His *Wanted, a Baby*, which was first produced in America, has been on two successful tours. He is part author of *From Shadow to Sunshine*. Numerous one-act plays and sketches have also come from his pen. He has, moreover, just completed a farcical comedy in three acts, and is now at work on a four-act drama.

MISS JESS DORYNNE.

The first engagement entered into by Miss Jess Dorynne was with Mr. Howard Coveney's Shakespearean and Old Comedy Company, and after that a stock season in Birmingham brought her plenty of experience. Miss Dorynne can say that she has played everything but pantomime—not excepting Ibsen or Bernard Shaw. She was the Mrs. Linden in Miss Janet Achurch's production of *The Doll's House*, and was with Mr. James Welch in South Africa, where she made a big success as Cousin Kate—her favourite modern part. Subsequently she was engaged by Mr. Benson to play Mistress Page, Queen, Constance Neville, &c., when the lady playing those characters fell ill. Last year Miss Dorynne understudied the woman in *The Sixth Commandment*, the curtain-raiser which created a strong impression on its production at Wyndham's Theatre in the autumn of 1906. Being then unable to obtain an engagement, Miss Dorynne decided to leave the stage, but at the critical moment an offer came from Mr. Benson for the leading parts in his new company, and she was afterwards engaged by him to understudy Mrs. Benson, and to play Hermia during his Belfast season.

THE following anecdote, doubly interesting in that it concerns the well-known actor, Thomas Sheridan, and the two celebrated beauties, is given in the "Diary of a Lady of Quality":—"Mrs. Gunning consulted Sheridan as to what she should do with her two beautiful but penniless daughters. He recommended that they should be presented at the Castle. Here a great difficulty occurred—by what possible means were they to procure Court dresses? This Sheridan obviated. He was at the time manager of the Dublin Theatre, and offered them a loan of the stage dresses of Lady Macbeth and Juliet. In these they appeared most lovely; and Sheridan, after having attended the toilet, claimed a salute from each as his reward. Very soon after this a most diabolical scheme was formed by some unprincipled young men: they invited Mrs. Gunning and her two daughters to dinner, and infused strong narcotics into the wine, intending to take advantage of the intoxication which must ensue to carry off the two young women. Fortunately, Sheridan discovered their base designs, and arrived just in time to rescue the ladies. He lived to see one of these girls Duchess of Argyll, and the other Countess of Coventry; and, it is melancholy to add, lived to see his application for admission to their parties rejected."

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place at 49, Bedford-street, on the 29th ult., when the following were present:—Messrs. Cecil G. Calvert (chairman), Robert M. Taylor, A. Maitland Stapley, F. Rawson Buckley, Leslie Arthur, Gerald Mirrielees, William H. Bulbeck (hon. solicitor), and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Letters were received from Messrs. Edward Chester, Arthur Bawtree, Jerrold Heather, W. Ruddle Brown, Fred F. Loyd, Frank S. Strickland, George P. Lester, Royce Milton, George H. Child, J. Hastings Batson, Harry Paulton, jun., Henry Bedford, and E. Howard Templeton.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

It was decided to invite Messrs. J. A. Bentham, Leonard Calvert, Robert Whyte, jun., and Walter L. Rignold to serve on the committee.

The hon. solicitor attended the meeting to report on four cases which had been submitted to him, and the secretary was instructed to advise the members concerned accordingly.

A complaint having been received from a member with reference to the insanitary condition of a theatre, the secretary was instructed to write to the proprietor and draw his attention to the matters complained of.

It was decided that the following letter written by the secretary to the office with reference to the Trades Union Congress at Nottingham be published:—

"Mechanics' Institution, Nottingham.
"Sept. 8, 1908.

"DEAR MR. ARTHUR,—I should like you to place before the committee on Thursday next the following facts which led up to my withdrawing the resolution standing in the joint names of the Artists' Protection League and the Actors' Union.

"It appears that directly after the election of the General Purposes Committee of the Congress the Variety Artists' Federation lodged a protest against the Artists' Protection League being allowed to sit, and its delegate was requested to attend before the General Purposes Committee, when an enquiry was held as to the bonâ-fides of the society, with the result that the credentials of its delegates were cancelled. It then rested with me to put the resolution to Congress, but it transpired that the Variety Artists' Federation would offer the strongest opposition to the motion, and would question my right to deal with matters concerning music halls, which, they contended, should be dealt with by their society, but that they would offer no opposition to the resolution if the words 'and music halls' were deleted. If this had been done, the whole point of our motion would have been lost, as it provided for free trade in amusements. The Variety Artists' Federation contended that the double licence would not be to their best interests as, in the event of a strike, the music hall managers would engage companies to play at the halls while the strike lasted, and would thus have defeated the objects of the movement. Then, again, it was pointed out to me that the resolution was badly worded, inasmuch as the work necessitated by it would fall almost entirely on the shoulders of the Parliamentary Committee, and we ought only to have asked for the assistance of the P.C. and not have left the spade-work to that body. Under the circumstances I did not feel justified in submitting the resolution to Congress. It would undoubtedly have been defeated, and, in the best interests of the A.U., I withdrew it.—Yours, &c.,

"KENNETH BLACKMORE."

The question of another A.U. dinner was held over until the following Thursday.

"THE DEAR DEPARTED."

A Comedy in One Act, by Stanley Houghton; Produced for the first time on any stage at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, on Monday, Nov. 2.

Mrs. Slater ..... MISS ADA KING
Victoria Slater ..... MISS ENID MEEK
Henry Slater ..... MR. HENRY AUSTIN
Mrs. Jordan ..... MISS LOUISE HOLBROOK
Ben Jordan ..... MR. JOSEPH A. KEOGH
Abel Merryweather ..... MR. EDWARD LANDOR

Mr. Stanley Houghton's little comedy, *The Dear Departed*, is a clever and humorous depiction of a phase in human affairs which the cynical, like himself, will admit takes place with sufficient frequency to justify its adoption as a theme for the enterprising playwright. As a matter of fact, it has been treated already in story form, but in a more serious and gruesome style, by a French writer. Nevertheless, it has enough freshness to be acceptable, as a new contribution to the stage, and Mr. Houghton may be congratulated on having dealt with his material in an entertaining and convincing style. The situation is simple enough. Abel Merryweather, a convivial soul, has just died, and two married daughters, Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Jordan, are very much concerned about the disposal of his effects. All the possibilities in this direction, as to the grasping character of the ladies and the value of the dear departed's belongings, are well exploited, and there are many humorous home threats which are calculated to "get right there" with the average audience. But it happens, much to their consternation, that Abel is, after all, not dead. He comes downstairs, and even takes tea with his daughters. The reaction in them is well depicted, and the defeat of their object, with all its little differences, is driven home by his announcement that he intends to get married again. Remarkably good work was put in by Miss Ada King and Miss Louise Holbrook as the sisters, Mrs. Slater and Mrs. Jordan; and as Abel Merryweather Mr. Edward Landor found a part well suited to his talents. Mr. Henry Austin, Miss Enid Meek, and Mr. Joseph A. Keogh each had opportunities in minor rôles, and the piece went well from first to last. The author was called upon to acknowledge the plaudits of a delighted house.

HENRY RUSSELL, the accomplished composer of some of the most stirring melodies in English music, was born about the year 1815. At an early age he exhibited a decided taste for the profession he subsequently adorned, which being remarked, induced his friends to send him to Italy, where, under the direction of the maestro, Rossini, he completed his musical education. Returning to this country, he married about the year 1836, Miss Lloyd, a granddaughter of the well-known Birmingham banker. He shortly after embarked with his young wife for America, where he commenced a series of entertainments. The novelty of these performances, coupled with the impressive, brilliant, and original songs introduced into them, and the great mimetic powers of the performer, conspicuously exhibited in his delineations of the Yankee, French, Italian, and Negro characters, speedily achieved a great reputation for Mr. Russell in the United States. On his return to England he found that the echo of his fame had preceded him. In the selection of the words of his songs, many of which are written by Mr. Charles Mackay, Mr. Russell showed considerable judgment; in them he always kept particularly the working classes in view—preaching in melodies wholesome maxims and wise truths; stirring hope by his "Good Time Coming, Boys!" repressing vice—the vices of drinking and gaming—by the tragical inspirations of "The Dream of the Reveller," and "The Gambler's Wife"; animating patriotism by his immortal "Britannia, the Pride of the Ocean"; and awakening the best feelings of the heart by such homely, soothing lyrics as "Woodman, Spare that Tree," "The Old Arm Chair," and by a host of other songs which recur at once to the memory at the mention of the name of Henry Russell.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Farcical Comedy, by C. H. Hawtrey, entitled
"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."

This perennial comedy appears to have lost none of its powers of attraction. It certainly shows little trace of age, and the misadventures of the mild and meek curate give rise to as much amusement as ever. Many artists since risen to fame have achieved success as the Rev. Robert Spalding, and the acting of Mr. Donald Price Evans in the part does not lose by comparison. His woebegone appearance and manner are in themselves funny, and are amply appreciated. A refreshing performance of Mr. Marsland, M.F.H., is given by Mr. Frank Stanley, and Mr. Andrew Wight is an excellent Harry Marsland. Mr. Wm. Hargreaves, who has played the character times out of number, is again a very droll and substantial Mr. Cattermole, the peppery uncle from India. As Douglas Cattermole Mr. Lawrence Grove succeeds admirably in giving a pleasant impersonation. Mr. Frederick Tyrell gives an exceedingly good representation of the Bond-street tailor, Sidney Gibson. Miss Ashford is well played by Mrs. Alfred Davis, and Miss Cecily Wade as the landlady is amusing. Miss Violet Darling makes a bright and pleasing Edith Marsland, and Miss Edith Savery is charming as Eva Webster. A short and boisterous farce, entitled *The Wild Man from Borneo*, capitally played by members of the company, serves to fill up a pleasant evening's entertainment.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Nov. 2, W. Somerset Maugham's Comedy,
"JACK STRAW."

On Monday this new comedy by Mr. W. Somerset Maugham was played here for the first time in the suburbs, to the manifest delight of a large audience. Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. W. Wood-Ingram (by arrangement with Messrs. A. and S. Gatti) are touring the play with the entire company from the Vaudeville Theatre, including Miss Florence St. John and Mr. Lionel Glenister. In this comedy the chief interest centres in the characters of Jack Straw and Mrs. Parker-Jennings, parts most admirably sustained by Mr. Glenister and Miss St. John. Mr. Glenister is singularly at home in his rôle. He has considerable scope and does not fail to make the most of his part. A very hearty reception was accorded Miss St. John on her entry, and the skilful way in which she interprets the part of Mrs. Parker-Jennings is very warmly appreciated. The highest praise must be accorded her for her portrayal, a character to which this artist lends herself admirably. Mr. Frederick Moyers is to be complimented on his depiction of Ambrose Holland, a very natural piece of acting. Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson is eminently successful as the Marquis of Serlo in Act II., specially winning general commendation from the audience in the scene with Miss Lucy Milner, who enacts the part of Ethel Parker-Jennings. Miss Milner makes the rôle a very lovable one, and gives a most delightful impersonation. As Mr. Parker-Jennings Mr. A. T. Gullifer gives a very amusing assumption, and Mr. Christmas Grose deserves special praise for his excellent delineation of the young upstart Vincent Parker-Jennings. It is a part that could be easily overdone, but Mr. Grose is careful not to overstep the mark. Mr. Ernest Graham is well placed as the Rev. Lewis Abbott, and Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram makes a capital H. E. Count Adrian von Bremer. Miss Edie Graham is another artist deserving of commendation. She very naturally portrays the part of Lady Wanley, a fine stage presence materially assisting her. Miss Estelle Despa is excellent as Mrs. Withers, and Miss Jessica Waters is to be complimented on her depiction of Rosie Abbott. The characters of Cora Bellevue, Servant and Head Waiter, are well filled by Miss May Poole, Messrs. Charles Randall, and Wm. Elliott. Magnificently mounted, the performance goes with a directness which pointed to well-placed artists and experienced stage management. The principals were repeatedly called before the curtain, and all concerned must have felt gratified at the conclusion of the initial suburban performance. For Messrs. Lionel Glenister and Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram, Mr. George Waters undertakes the business management, and to Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson are entrusted the duties of stage-manager. *Jack Straw* is preceded by *A Long Journey*, by Marie Muggeridge, and the characters are well represented by Miss Lucy Milner (Constance Ford), Miss Estelle Despa (Mme. Bontemps), Mr. Ernest Graham (Bobby), and Mr. Christmas Grose (Rex Hardy).

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE GAY GORDONS."

The Coronet Theatre, under Mr. Eade Montefiore's business management is rapidly becoming quite a West End theatre and severing its connection with suburbia altogether, except that the prices are more reasonable and a weekly change of programme is ensured. This week a crowded and enthusiastic audience welcomed Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks with their star company, very nearly identical with the one recently scintillating at the Aldwych Theatre in *The Gay Gordons*. Never has Mr. Seymour Hicks seemed in better form or in higher spirits. His brilliant mercurial method, his versatility and volatility are brought into ample play in the picturesque part of Angus Graeme, the gay Gordon who turns out to be the real Earl of Meltrose. The scene on the highland moorlands and again the spectacle of the Earl of Meltrose's welcome to his own castle is very stirring and exhilarating. Miss Ellaline Terriss is daintiness and grace personified as Peggy Quainton, the high-spirited Yankee heiress, and her songs, "Humpty and Tumpty" and "They all like me in London," among many other vocal *morceaux*, are charmingly and delightfully rendered with winsome and arch suggestiveness. Miss Sidney Fairbrother continues her triumphal progress as the showman's wife Charlotte Siddons, and her performance is quite an effort of genius in its rich humour and character portrayal. Mr. Johnny Danvers is full of unctuous humour as Nervy Natt, the old showman, her worser half, and he has a capital song, "It is, if she says so." Mr. George Carroll is quaint in the extreme as the microbe Edmund Siddons, who, with Viccy Siddons, completes this remarkable family group. Mr. E. Lugg is excellent as "Poppa" Quainton and Mr. Lawrence Caird contributes some capital fooling as Corporal John Smith. Miss Maud Milton is quite delightful as the dear old foster-mother Janet McLeod, and Miss Coralie Blythe as Victoria Siddons is both bright and pretty, nimble of toe, and a most capable comedienne. Mr. Will Bishop contributes some extraordinarily clever callisthenic exercises, and Miss Katie Butler sings and acts with verve and enthusiasm. The beauty of the "Hicks" girls is renowned, and the chorus is well up to the mark in elegance and attractiveness, and the noble lords are well represented by Messrs. H. Ulph, M. Florance, E. Dewey Gibson, H. Walter, and A. Metcalf, one of whom possesses an excellent voice. Mr. J. C. Buckstone is droll as the excited solicitor Archibald Speedy. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Frank Tours, Messrs. Harry Ulph and R. Chester stage manage the show, and Mr. C. E. Hamilton assists at the front of the house.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Play, entitled
"THE PRODIGAL SON."

This is by no means the first visit that *The Prodigal Son* has paid to the Crown, Peckham, but judging from Monday's audience it is still very popular. Mr. Wentworth Croke's company presents the play to the best possible advantage. Mr. Hugh Montgomery makes a fine, virile Magnus Stephensson, Mr. Gordon Mackintosh plays admirably in the difficult character of Oscar Stephensson, availing himself to the full of the opportunities offered by the author. Miss Valerie Crespin, who plays the dual rôles of the ill-fated young wife Thora Neilson and the child Elin, gives a pleasing and distinctive touch to each character. Mr Charles Cooper is a dignified Governor of Iceland, and Miss Mildred Cottell acts with much power as the evil genius of the play, Helga Neilson. Mr. Philip Renouf as Oscar Neilson, Mr. Charles A. Maynard as Nells Finsen, Mr. E. Christopher as the Sheriff, Miss Marie Harcourt as Margaret, and Miss Barbara Gott as Anna all supply excellent character sketches. The scenery and effects are admirable.

THE KENNINGTON.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Comic Opera, entitled
"DOROTHY."

The revival of *Dorothy* by Mr. Oswald Stoll's company, headed by Messrs. Hayden Coffin and John Coates, has been greeted with enthusiasm by the playgoing public, and its reception at Kennington this week has been no exception to the rule. Many may perhaps remember the unparalleled success which this play achieved upon its first appearance, and in its beauty and brilliancy the present setting rivals the original. Mr. Hayden Coffin as Harry Sherwood gives an accurate representation of a typical eighteenth-century gallant, his cultured voice securing for him a complete success. Mr. John Coates is received with wild enthusiasm in the rôle of Geoffrey Wilder. His voice, renowned for its extraordinary power, compass, and sweetness, is certainly heard at its best in several charming lyrics. As Dorothy Bantam Miss Ruth Davenport exceeded the highest expectations. Seldom is there to be seen a more artistic combination of beauty, grace, and talent. Her clear soprano voice, of excellent quality, seems particularly adapted to the beautiful plaintive airs to which this operatic comedy owes so much of its popularity. Miss Hebe Bliss as Lydia Hawthorne is a contralto of great power, and she displays her vocalisation to great advantage in her several duets with Dorothy. The inimitable Mr. Arthur Williams as Lurcher is eminently the jester of the piece, and throughout he keeps the audience convulsed; Mr. Colin Coop's Squire Bantam is a typical eighteenth-century country gentleman; Miss Aimee Roberts gives a prepossessing interpretation of the character of Philliss Tuppitt, in which she uses a capital voice to great advantage; Mr. Tim Ryley is seen at his best as Tom Strutt; the part of Mrs. Privett is admirably sustained by Miss Emily Spiller; Miss Primrose Harding as Lady Betty gives every satisfaction; and Mr. Fred J. Vigay handles the part of John Tuppitt with skill. The whole production is on a magnificent scale. The scenery is beautiful, and the piece is becomingly dressed in eighteenth-century style.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Nov. 3, the Play in Four Acts, entitled
"WHY, MEN LOVE WOMEN."

The attraction at the Shakespeare Theatre this week is the romantic play from the pen of Walter Howard, *Why Men Love Women*. Like other plays by the same author, the piece abounds with incidents of absorbing interest, and the story of love and intrigue is clothed with a cloak of romance that appeals strongly to the hearts of popular audiences, and rouses them to a state of enthusiasm. Warm applause was accorded Miss Ellen Snow's talented company at the close of the opening performance on Monday evening. The play, produced by arrangement with Messrs. Paumier and Howard, was capably enacted throughout, and the excellent scenery assisted the success of the performance. Mr. Oliver Rogers gave a masterly interpretation of the English artist, Gerald Fielding, his vigorous manner and earnestness being well suited to the part. Mr. Lionel Gadsden was very successful in the somewhat thankless rôle of the scheming Russian officer, Captain Staniloff, and acted throughout with dramatic force and energy. Another good performance was that of Mr. H. Carter Slaughter, whose delineation of Lieutenant Tommy Fitzherbert received hearty acknowledgment. A fine character study of the Maranajah of Balore was contributed by Mr. Ernest Griffen, whose bearing and manner of expression was well in keeping with the rôle. Mr. W. Norman made the most of his opportunities as the Rev. Arthur Grey, as did also Mr. Arthur Radford as Chundra Singh. The humour in the play is supplied by Mr. Harwood Roberts as Orlando Figgins, who is well supported by Miss Nita Owen as Birdie, Miss Freda Vaughan as Baby, and Miss Beresford Glynn as Mrs. Figgins. Miss Ellen Snow as Violet Livingstone was a great success, and effectively portrayed the varying emotions of the part. Her powerful acting held the attention of the audience throughout, and at the close of the performance was accorded an ovation. Miss Florence Nelson's impersonation of the passionate and revengeful Muriel Zoluski left nothing to be desired, and the minor parts were in capable hands.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Play, entitled
"THE FLAG LIEUTENANT."

Produced on lavish scale, *The Flag Lieutenant* is received with every mark of favour. Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper have got together a very powerful company, every member of the cast showing ability, and the rendering of the various parts meeting with cordial appreciation. The dresses and uniforms are excellent, and the general attention to detail is a noteworthy feature. Mr. Langhorne Burton gives a very breezy performance of the happy-go-lucky flag lieutenant, Richard Lascelles. Mr. George Mallett sustains the part of Vice-Admiral Sir Berkeley Wynne with dignity and the necessary semblance of authority. Mr. Montagu Love as Major Thesiger acts with sincerity, and is nicely suited to the character. Mr. Edward S. Petley offers a good study of a cool-headed doctor in the person of Walter Crutchley, surgeon, R.N. Mr. Hugh Wakefield and Mr. Lyonel Watts, in the respective characters of Horatio Hood and Edward Dormer Lee, offer mirthful representations. Mr. John Wheatman achieves distinction as the Irish telegraphist, Michael Palliser. Mr. William Gregson is good as James Sloggett. Mr. W. J. Teldham is happily suited as General Gough-Bogle; and the same may be said of Mr. Claude Little as John Penrose and Mr. Stephen Gatling as Christopher Neate; while Mr. Frederick Leister essays the rôle of Colonel McLeod in a natural manner. Miss Florence Jackson provides a clever study of Mrs. Cameron; Miss Marjorie Chard displays ability as Lady Hermione Wynne; and Miss Viva Birkett as Viola Hood. Miss Stella Leigh as Mrs. Gough-Bogle and Miss Evelyn Robson as Lady Dugdale are both capably undertaken.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Arthur Shirley and Benjamin Landeck, entitled
"THE KING OF CRIME."

The return visit of this piece to the Stratford Theatre Royal is attracting excellent audiences this week, and the many thrilling situations and exciting incidents elicit rounds of applause. Mr. Harry Battersby's company is responsible for the interpretation of the piece, which is staged and dressed very appropriately. Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Ronjarre, the king of crime, submits a very powerful performance, his fine physique and incisive acting suiting the part splendidly; Mr. William Miller supplies a well-defined sketch of the old miser, Grandelle; Mr. Claude Aymond plays in forcible style as Simon; Mr. William Mervyn is a manly and outspoken Louis Mascorot; Mr. Sam Wilford is always amusing as Mick Maloney, and Mr. Walter Hilton cleverly delineates Taberet. Miss Mildred Eversleigh is responsible for a sympathetic performance as Henriette; Miss Nance Battersby plays with charm and expression as Mathilde; Miss Agnes d'Aragon renders the old hag, Mere Crouchard, sufficiently vicious without exaggerating the part; and Clarisse is brightly played by Miss Edith Loraine. Other parts are in quite capable hands.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 2,
"OUR FLAT."

Had it been a new production, instead of one of our best-known dramatic "hardy annuals," this play could not have had a better reception than it did, and the reason is not far to seek, when one reviews the well-chosen company of artists who give point and power to every funny situation with which the play fairly bristles. Mr. Charles Stewart walked so easily and naturally through the part of Reginald Sylvester, the very hard-up author of unpublished tragedies, that some of his witty speeches had almost the appearances of after-thoughts rather than efforts to shine, and he was most ably supported by Miss Daisy Atherton, who looked charming in several pretty dresses. The manner in which she brought down the curtain in the first act when alone on the stage gave evidence of much dramatic power. Mr. Fred Knight as Mr. McCullum, the flinty-hearted father-in-law, was a clever study, and always in the picture. Mr. Wilfred E. Shine as Nathaniel Glover (Willie Edouin's old part) brought out all the eccentricities associated with this character and caused much mirth. Lucy McCullum was effectively embodied by Miss Katie Yates, and Mr. Kaye Brudell as Clarence Vane proved himself efficient. The servant-maid Bella, as acted by Miss Louie Tinsley was a "pure joy," her comically slovenly appearance and extremely clever impersonation of the domestic of the Sylvester flat creating roars of deserved laughter. Miss Irene Moncrieff was excellent as Madame Volant, and Miss May Yates was appropriately exuberant as little Clara Pryout. Mr. John Morris made quite a little character part of Stout, the hall-porter, and Mr. S. R. Mayne as the Scotch foreman of the hire-furnishing firm was good. The clever second act, where the seized furniture is replaced by an assortment of boxes, barrels, &c., covered with pillows and drapery, went as well as ever, and Mr. J. Bannister Howard can be congratulated on another successful engagement.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Drama, entitled
"THE SILVER KING."

A warm welcome was extended on Monday to the ever-green play of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, Messrs. Austin Melford and G. M. Polini, who are responsible for the production, have surrounded themselves with a first-class company, with the result that a satisfactory interpretation is provided. Mr. F. D. Daviss' capital acting as Wilfred Denver evoked loud applause, and his striking portrayal of the unfortunate hero is to be highly praised. Miss Edyth Goodall, admirably cast as Nellie Denver, was very pathetic, and successful throughout in realising the character. Mr. E. Stanton Sharp's acting in the rôle of the Spider is deserving of eulogy. Mr. E. J. George thoroughly realises the character of the devoted retainer Daniel Jaikes, Mr. A. H. Rooke cleverly depicts Geoffrey Ware, Mr. A. Wright is realistic as the marine store-dealer. Mr. George Belmore is well placed as Henry Corkett, Mr. Fred May does good work as Cripps, Miss Kathleen Maude admirably plays the part of Olive Skinner, and Miss Louie Hale is successful as Tabitha Durdan. The remaining characters are all well played. The scenery is throughout very appropriate, and the whole performance deserves warm praise.

THE GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Play by Anne Flexner, entitled
"MRS WIGGS OF THE CABBAGE PATCH."

Mrs. Wiggs is proving a powerful attraction at Fulham, for Mrs. Madge Carr Cook and the original company are paying a visit. The Cabbage Patch and its inhabitants are decidedly not English, and perhaps much of the charm of the piece is due to that fact, as well as to the delightful philosophy of Mrs. Wiggs herself. Mrs. Cook is, of course, inimitable in the title-rôle, and needs no further commendation. Miss Rita Carlyle gives rise to endless laughter by her amusing impersonation of the extraordinary Miss Hazy, and Miss Mabel Durrant as Mrs. Eichorn and Miss Violet Vivian as Mrs. Schultz are very successful in those character parts. Miss Christine Rayner is charming as Lovey Mary, and the same may be said of Miss Mary Deverell as Miss Lucy. Mr. Frederick Forrest displays rich humour in his acting of Mr. Stubbins, and Mr. Edward Coventry is very amusing as the matrimonial agent Hunkerdunkus Jones. Mr. Arthur Vezin and Mr. Sidney Carlyle act brightly and naturally as Billy Wiggs, and Chris Hazy, while Mr. W. M. Cameron strikes a deeper note as Mr. Wiggs. The various children all play their parts with great zest and naturalness, and the minor parts are well filled. The play has been received with every mark of approbation by good houses.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Drama, entitled
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS."

Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk and their company are this week providing most acceptable fare to the patrons of this theatre, who are ever ready to show their appreciation and offer a hearty response to a well-acted and liberally mounted play. *From Shop Girl to Duchess*, which by the way is from the prolific pen of Mr. Charles Darrell, fulfils these requirements, and consequently meets with the success that it deserves. Miss Mary Neil, in the character of Sylvia Grey, the shop girl, has a part which suits her to a nicety, and gives her plenty of scope to display her dramatic powers to the best advantage. Mr. Douglas Cecil essays the rôle of Arnold Vyvian in a spirited and manly fashion. Mr. Douglas Tremaine imparts much humour to the character of Pelham, and extracts much hearty laughter. Sir Morris Maitland, M.D., is very cleverly portrayed by Mr. T. Lionel Ellis, who scores highly as a kind-hearted doctor. Mr. F. S. Strickland undertakes the part of Gilbert Spate in a capable manner. Mr. Henry Gerald is diverting as Tommy Tinkler. Miss Florrie Grove shows aptness and a command of comedy, and is the source of much hilarity as Tilly Dobson. Miss Beatrice Hudson sustains the part of Lady Celeste Delamere in an able manner. Lady Cinderella Portcullis is amusingly portrayed by Miss Marie Clavering. Miss Amy B. Ellis submits a careful rendering of Isabel. The remaining members of the cast work well in their respective rôles.

PAVILION THEATRE, E.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Drama,
"WOMAN AND WINE."

The patrons of this popular East End theatre have a great attraction this week in Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck's striking drama, *Woman and Wine*, which is being presented in very good style by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds' company. As the woman who didn't care, Marcel Rigadout, Miss C. St. Elmo displays power in an altogether effective character. Mary Andrews is plaintively presented by Miss Violet Sims. La Colombe, the jealous demi-mondaine is enacted with force and vigour by Miss Octavia de Noel, while blunt Janet Marlow is made the most of by Miss Ethel Vinroy. The weak Dick Seymour is rendered by Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds in a manner which obtains the sympathy of the audience, and Mr. R. Foulis in the repulsive part of Alphonse Beaudet is very good. Professor Sauter, the geologist, is competently played by Mr. W. Manning, Charles Sauter being humorously depicted by Mr. Harry Harrop. Mr. J. Milne Taylor is excellent as the blind Hugh Seymour, and Mr. Frank Thomas is a capable Mark Parkins. The remainder of a long cast is in very capable hands, and in such scenes as the Longchamps Racecourse, Le Bal Masqué, quite a number of people are seen upon the stage. The scenery, dresses, mounting, properties, &c., are in admirable taste.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Nov. 2,
"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton have been so cordially received on previous visits to the Stratford Borough Theatre that the vociferous welcome they met with on Monday night was quite in the order of things. *The Taming of the Shrew* was in the bill, and with Mr. Asche and Miss Brayton in the principal rôles, supported by an exceptionally strong cast, and with the mounting on a lavish yet artistic scale, the performance gave unqualified pleasure to those who availed themselves of one of the dramatic treats which Mr. Fred Fredericks betimes presents to his patrons. Mr. Oscar Asche's performance as Petruchio, like Miss Lily Brayton's Katharina, has been so frequently lauded that further praise would be "painting the lily." Suffice it that at the conclusion of each act the curtain has to be raised again and again to acknowledge the clamorous plaudits of the audience. Mr. Herbert Grimwood plays with a sure touch and much fluency as Baptista; Mr. Kay Souper makes a handsome and gallant Lucentio; Mr. Caleb Porter admirably depicts Gremio; and Mr. R. Ian Penny is a buoyant and pleasing Hortensio. Mr. Henry Kitts is responsible for a very droll personation of Grumio; Mr. Tripp Edgar plays with much skill as Tranio; Mr. R. F. Anson is genuinely humorous as Biondello; and Mr. J. Fritz Russell's Vincentio is replete with ability. Miss Muriel Ashwynne very charmingly and appropriately plays Bianca; Miss Constance Robertson is successful as Curtis; and Miss Caroline Bayley plays a widow. At Wednesday's matinée, and on Friday evening, *Othello* was in the bill, while at the special matinée to be given to-day (Saturday) *The Taming of the Shrew* will be played.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Play, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE CHRISTIAN."

Mr. Wentworth Croke is presenting this week at the Dalston Theatre Hall Caine's play *The Christian*, and it is meeting with a very good reception. It is certainly ably acted. The company work well together, and the result is a performance which keeps the audience thoroughly well interested. There can be no two opinions concerning Mr. Roy Redgrave's impersonation of the character of the Hon. John Storm. Everyone who witnesses the performance can see that from the moment when, at his father's home, he renounces a political career for that of a Christian missioner, he is terribly in earnest. Apart from any other consideration the performance is a legitimate one from the actor's point of view. The Glory Quayle of Miss Daisy Scudamore impresses one as a character which is full of vigour, and that the actress succeeds in securing the good will of the audience is proved by the applause bestowed upon the performance. Mrs. Callender has a decisive representative in Miss Molly Hayden. Miss Cora Deane makes a thoroughly sympathetic Polly Love. Mr. Royce Milton is quite a dignified Lord Storm. A good deal that is bad so far as principle goes has to be done by Mr. Herbert Hewetson as Lord Robert Ure, but from the point of view of the artist he does it very well. Mr. Wilfred Noy is good as Horatio Drake, and the Father Lamplugh of Mr. Fewless Llewellyn is quite an interesting study, as is also the Archdeacon Wealthy of Mr. John Hooker, who is the self-satisfied, "established" cleric to the life. Miss Kitty Symons has quite the correct style as Lady Robert Ure; in fact, the chief merit of the representation is the natural way in which the members of the company settle down into the parts allotted to them.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the romantic Drama, by E. Hill Mitchelson, entitled
"THE ASSASSIN."

The Assassin is certainly one of the best dramas that has been written on life in Russia, and its return visit to the Lyric is meeting with much appreciation. Mr. Augustine Knight, in the character of Prince Demetri, has been succeeded by Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson, who makes a handsome and commanding Prince, and interprets the dastardly character excellently. Mr. George N. Newall as Ivan Ipanoff plays with much success. Mr. Edwin Lever does well as Duke Carl. Mr. Edwin Jenner is distinctly good as Captain O'Neil. General Nicol, the Chief of the Police, is capably acted by Mr. Eugene Santley. Miss Ella Vane, as the Assassin, Countess Wanda, is capital; the character is no easy one, and the duel with Prince Demetri is well worked. Miss Eva Trevanna is a pathetic Nita. As the American, Connie Jonathan, Miss Hettie Senior becomes a strong favourite, her blunt observations being much liked by the "gods." The serious interest in the play has plenty of contrast in the really funny comedy scenes. Mr. Edward Swinton causes roars of laughter as the eccentric fool, Baron Alphonse. Mr. Tom J. Taylor as Peter is also very laughable, and the "silent" character, Evangle, is well played by Mr. James Abbott. The maid Katrina is smartly played by pretty Miss Marie Robertson. The costumes, uniforms, and scenery are all quite up to Mr. Knights' usual high standard of excellence.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Musical Play, by Gustav Kerker, entitled
"THE BELLE OF NEW YORK."

Another visit of *The Belle* to Kingston on Monday was hailed with a crowded house, who gave the popular play a reception that showed unmistakably that Kingstonians have not yet had too much of a good thing. The tuneful numbers, the clever dancing, the fine dresses, and the mirth of the thing appealed to them as powerfully as when the musical comedy was first seen years ago. The company is sent out by Mr. Geo. Musgrove, under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister Howard, and they all acquit themselves with credit. Miss Hebe Kneller makes a charming Belle, and soon becomes a prime favourite in every part of the house; and an equally big hit is made by Miss Dorothy Doria as Fifi. The dancing of Miss Florence Hersee as Mamie Clancy is much admired; and Miss Winnie Browne makes a handsome and commanding Cora Angelique. Amongst the male members of the company, chief honours are awarded to Mr. Frank Lawton, who appears in his original part of Blinky Bill; the part of the polite lunatic is portrayed by Mr. J. R. Tate with much success; and good work is also put in by Mr. Arthur Ricketts as Ichabod Bronson, by Mr. J. A. Watts as Harry Bronson, by Mr. A. Godfrey as Kenneth Mugg, and by Messrs. H. Kirke and R. L. Cody as the Portuguese twins. The new waltz scene, "Carezzante," now introduced into the play, in which Miss Brown and Mr. Watts take part, is a great success.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE NEW VAGABONDS' CLUB.

DINNER TO MR. AND MRS. FORBES-ROBERTSON AND THE REV. R. J. CAMPBELL.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR, M.P., presided at the New Vagabonds' November dinner, held on Sunday evening at the Hotel Cecil. The guests of the evening were Mr. and Mrs. J. Forbes-Robertson and the Rev. R. J. Campbell. Among others present were Mrs. Jerome K. Jerome and Miss Jerome, Mr. Pett Ridge, Mr. and Mrs. Phillips Oppenheim, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Emanuel, Mr. G. B. Burgin, Mr. and Mrs. Walter E. Grogan, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lyons, Dr. Byrd-Page, Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. Douglas Sladen, and Mr. Tom Gallon.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing "The Club Guests," said they would always be glad to honour Mr. and Mrs. Forbes-Robertson, and they honoured them specially in the very remarkable play in which they were now appearing. The success of their guests was associated with one of the oldest and most respected members of the club, Mr. Jerome K. Jerome, author of *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*. He (the chairman) would at this time reveal a secret. He was a relative of Mr. Forbes-Robertson. He had had the honour of standing as sponsor for that gentleman's nephew. He knew a great deal about their guests. He first knew of Mr. Forbes-Robertson not as Forbes-Robertson, but as Johnston. It was not a mere coincidence that that actor had been selected by Mr. Jerome as the impersonator of the principal character in the play, for there was something in Mr. Forbes-Robertson's character that enabled him to carry out such a part. In private life Mr. Forbes-Robertson was a man of honour and duty. For many years his affections were divided between the stage and brush, and it could be believed that he would have made a great success in either profession. His artistic career was part of the history of the stage and of the drama of the present generation. Many parts were associated with his name. His Hamlet was an epoch even in the performance of that great part. All the tragedy of *Hamlet*, all the sorrows and perplexities of this sad world had come home to him (the chairman) under the spell of Mr. Forbes-Robertson's acting of the part, in a way that it had never done before. The play of which they were celebrating the success that night marked an epoch, and a glorious epoch, in the history of the stage. It carried out the movement which had been gaining repute and force for the last twenty or twenty-five years. It fulfilled the demand that the drama should deal with life as a whole, that it should not avoid the serious and solemn issues and problems of human existence, but should be as broad as other forms of literature, and that nothing that touched humanity should be strange to it. He failed, therefore, to see any spirit of irreverence in the dramatic representation of the most beautiful and the most potent personality in the history of the world. If religion was to be a reality, it must be with us in the smallest daily transactions no less than in the supreme moments of our lives; and Mr. Jerome's play showed it operating in the meanest circumstances among the most sordid human beings. Mr. Jerome was justified in showing that even the commonest details of a life could be sanctified and exalted by the symbolism of Christ. The Chairman concluded by paying a high tribute to the acting of Mrs. Forbes-Robertson.

Mr. FORBES-ROBERTSON, in responding for himself and his wife, referred to what the chairman had described as the beautiful symbolism of Mr. Jerome's play. He had been very proud to have had the opportunity of producing it. The script was read to him and Mrs. Forbes-Robertson by Mr. Jerome. They were deeply moved by it, and at the conclusion of the reading he was somewhat embarrassed as to what he should say. When he thought of the nobility of the motive he decided that they must try it. The theme was so great, so appealing, that he could come to no other conclusion than that it would appeal to the public. Well, it had appealed, and the people had come, and the play had made a very great impression. There had been a certain amount of adverse criticism. A member of the company while travelling in an omnibus had overheard a conversation between two ladies. One of them said that the opening of the play was extremely funny until "that Forbes-Robertson comes in, converts them all, and spoils my evening." Another criticism was to the effect that a theme so great and so noble, a symbolism so feeling and so deep, should have been administered to people in a higher grade of society. After eulogising Mr. O'Connor's eloquence, Mr. Forbes-Robertson remarked that it was very difficult for an actor who had for many years presented himself in various characters, and who was obliged to learn words more or less beautiful, and speak them as best he might, to give an extempore address.

The Rev. R. J. CAMPBELL said that he desired to add a short tribute to the qualities of Mr. Jerome's play and to the acting of it by Mr. and Mrs. Forbes-Robertson. The central idea of the play was one that he had been trying to preach through the whole of his public ministry. When he went to see the play he had a misgiving that to seem to impersonate a transcendent personality would be repugnant to his feelings, but from the moment Mr. Forbes-Robertson entered the stage all his fears fled, and he realised that in him Mr. Jerome had found an ideal actor for his purpose. He did not, however, believe that Mr. Jerome had sought to put the figure of Jesus of Nazareth on the stage. Mr. Forbes-Robertson's part was that of the deeper, better self which resided in every man, which, in nine cases out of ten, was called forth by one who shared his belief in it. The only thing wanting in the play, if he might say so, was the note of commanding moral authority. He urged Mr. Jerome to give them another book, and Mr. Forbes-Robertson to produce another play showing a majestic Christ who had power to make a small deed look small, and to subdue the selfishness of a small man, not only by appealing to his better self, but by showing him the towering, unimaginable influence of Christ himself. Continuing, Mr. Campbell remarked that he thought the critics should take their profession more seriously. Many of them were too much inclined to find fault. The function of the critic was to tell a busy public what was good in a play and why it was good.

THE WALDORF THEATRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—As there seems to be an impression abroad that I am in some way connected with the Waldorf Theatre, I think it only fair to Mr. Henry R. Smith to make it clearly understood that he is the sole manager of that theatre, and that the management is quite distinct from that of the Lyceum.

I am anxious that whatever credit may be due to anybody for the enterprise in question should go to the right party.—Yours faithfully,

ERNEST CARPENTER.

Lyceum Theatre, Strand,
London, W.C., Nov. 5.

A NEW one-act play, from the pen of D. Brandon, entitled *Winter Sport*, will be produced by Mr. Patrick Kirwan at a matinée at the Court Theatre on Wednesday, the 18th inst., in aid of the funds of the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond-street. A Georgian duologue, entitled *Priscilla*, and Mr. Kirwan's adaptation, called *The Fotheringay*, of certain incidents in Thackeray's novel "Pendennis," will also be included in the programme.

THE METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD CHARGES

AS AFFECTING THEATRES AND MUSIC HALLS.

BY E. BAILEY-DENTON, M.INST.C.E., M.A. (Oxon.).

(SPECIAL TO *The Era*.)

The Metropolitan Water Board, in succession to the eight Water Companies hitherto supplying the metropolis, was constituted in 1902, and it was provided in the Act by means of which it was formed that such Board should, within three years, introduce into Parliament a Bill securing a uniform scale of charges applicable throughout the entire limits of its supply.

This Bill was subsequently sanctioned by Parliament, and came into operation on April 1, 1908. It enacts that for all buildings liable to the inhabited house duty a uniform rate of 5% on their rateable value shall under all circumstances be charged. Thus all consumers entitled to such supply are treated with uniformity, and are not subject to the varying charges exacted by the late water companies. There are thus no differences, and everybody is charged on the same basis. The charge now made includes the supply for baths and water closets, and is only exclusive of water consumed in the washing of carriages and horses, and the watering of gardens. This portion of the Act is just in principle, for the ordinary citizen pays upon a fair basis either for water which he does consume or for water which under ordinary circumstances he should consume. But there is another side to the question.

Section 9 of the Act which came into force on April 1 last states that when water is supplied for domestic purposes to any building occupied solely for the purposes of trade, profession, or business calling, and not incurring the payment of the inhabited house duty, the same 5% rate shall be charged; but when the rateable value exceeds £300 a year a rebate may be made of not less than 20% and not more than 30%. Under these circumstances experience has proved that the owners of these properties pay for water they do not use and could under no circumstances ever use. This is most unfair.

It is needless to state that the objects of the formation of the Water Board were those of simplicity and economy, and it is equally needless to add that from the experience gained these desiderata have not been attained. The salaries attached to the single board as compared with those of the eight different companies may have been reduced to the extent of £5,000 per annum, but outside expenses have, instead of effecting a reduction of outlay, produced an increase. Whether this excess is or is not necessary does not at the present moment affect the question.

The object of the Act is, no doubt, good, and had it worked out as intended would have proved satisfactory to all concerned, because the poorer portion of our population would have been benefited in pocket whilst no unfairness would have been caused to those highly-rated dwellings of the metropolis which do not come under the inhabited house duty. The desired object has not been effected.

Until now the Board has not exercised its right of allowing a rebate of 30%, and has maintained the minimum rebate of 20%. Thus, though, of course, small householders have benefited in a large measure, city offices, theatres, and music halls have suffered an unnecessary loss, because it was never intended that the minimum rebate should be adopted until it became a matter of necessity. That the low-rated householder is a gainer is proved by the fact that on the New River section of the Metropolitan Water Board a person living in a residence rated at £40 a year saves 7s. 2d. per year. In all other districts practically the same result occurs, and thus, according to statistics, 1,000 people are benefited to one who is not, or who suffers loss.

I now come to the last-named, and will first mention the Bank of England, which employs a staff of about 1,000 non-resident employees. Sir F. Dixon-Hartland stated, at the recent meeting at the Mansion House, that whereas under the old régime their half-yearly payment to the New River Company was £83, which naturally means an annual charge of £166, their demand note from the Water Board for the last half-year was £1,573, or £3,146 per annum. These figures mean an increase of £2,980, which, in other words, is an excess of 1,792 per cent. From the payment demanded it would appear that the rateable value of the Bank of England is £74,500 per annum, and that whereas under the old régime their payment was less than ¼%, now it is 4¼%. The figures, as given by Sir F. Dixon-Hartland, are obviously under any circumstances grossly unfair, for, even if the maximum 30% rebate had been allowed, a reduction of only £375 would have been effected.

We now come to the question of theatres and music halls, taking, say, for the sake of example, the Garrick, the Gaiety, Wyndham's, and the Oxford. The average value of a London theatre may be taken at £100,000. According to Sir Charles Wyndham it may be taken to be rated at £5,000 per annum, whilst the consumption of water during that period is only 700,000 gallons. The rate payable to the Metropolitan Water Board averages £200 a year, which sum is equivalent to a charge of 5s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons. Under the old system with an average payment of 10d. per 1,000 gallons, as was customary, the payment would have been £30; therefore there has been an increase of 566% over and above what was contributed before, and this payment is made upon a commodity of life which is practically not utilised.

These figures are applicable to the adopted rebate of 20%, and even with the further rebate of 10% the saving effected is only £25, which saving is hardly worth effecting, and which then represents an increase of 450% upon the old rate.

I have endeavoured to show that under Section 9 the results achieved by the Metropolitan Water Board, although intended to be honest in themselves, have not realised expectations, and that their adoption has proved most detrimental to the financial interests of City offices, theatres, and music halls, which may be all dealt with upon the same basis.

Some alteration of the present inconsistencies with regard to the properties mentioned must be sought, and, as previously stated, the extra rebate of 10% is not sufficient.

The remedies are:—

1. The payment by meter for water actually consumed at an expense which cannot under any circumstances exceed 11d. per 1,000 gallons (see Section 16). In the majority of theatres this would result in a charge of 9½d. per 1,000 gallons, which represents an annual payment of £27 14s. 2d. instead of £200. That is to say, it would be a reduction to 14% of the present payment. The Metropolitan Water Board will probably not sanction this proposal, for they have refused it in the past and thus they are almost sure to do so in the future.

2. The charging of all residental houses over say, £200 a year a rate of 6% instead of 5% This would be contrary to the objects of the Act and in consequence would probably never be assented to; but if it were ever to become law small householders would save the same amount as they do now, and the necessary funds would be obtained to ensure an efficient service of water to London, bearing in mind the fact that though its present population is seven millions, it is steadily increasing, and will within the next thirty or forty years probably be fourteen millions. Such a reserve of funds would prove ample means for providing additional storage in the Thames Valley without incurring the additional expense of seeking water in Wales or in other distant parts of the country.

3. There thus remains only one practical and certain remedy, and that is the sinking of private wells or boreholes. There is, and always will be, a copious supply of water in the chalk beneath our feet, and it is in our power to raise it economically. The lower greensand water need not be considered, for it does not exist under London to any extent; but there are no districts in London (with the exception perhaps of part of Oxford-street and Holborn from the Circus to Farringdon Market, and a small portion of Hammersmith) where the water from the chalk would prove difficult or expensive to raise.

I now propose to discuss in detail the remedy referred to. The London Hydraulic Power Company are already provided with mains through practically all the main streets in the City, and in all districts within London where theatres and music halls are situated. The pressure of water from these mains can be distributed to all buildings at 700lb. per square inch; but it can, by mechanical means within its branches, be graduated to whatever pressure is required. This pressure ensures the extinction of fires, the raising of lifts, and the necessary power for the raising of underground water. Thus, comparatively speaking contaminated river water is rendered the means of raising pure water. Under existing circumstances water supplied by the Metropolitan Water Board is not delivered to the top storeys of high buildings at a greater pressure than 20lb. per square inch, but with the Hydraulic Company this could be increased to any desired extent, because the capabilities of the Company as to pressure are great.

The cost of sinking boreholes into the chalk, together with the necessary machinery, may, in round and average figures, be taken at £800 for either a theatre or a large City office. This is not an alarming figure, and could, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, be paid without inconvenience out of net income, although a loan on the sinking fund principle and spread over a given number of years is equally feasible.

A thousand gallons of "Power" water will raise 4,000 gallons of ordinary water from the standing water level in the chalk to the summits of high buildings, and the charge for it is 1s. 6d. Taking Sir Charles Wyndham's figures, therefore, with an annual consumption of 700,000 gallons, the total payment to the Hydraulic Company would be about £13, a saving of £187 with the existing 20% rebate, and of £165 with a 30% rebate.

Hydraulic power, then, is—because the working parts of the machinery connected with it are extremely simple, seldom getting out of order, and lasting practically for all time—vastly superior to motive power generated by gas or oil. It is likewise noiseless—a very great advantage—and eliminates all risk of fire.

I have proved, I trust, by the above figures, that it is greatly to the advantage of owners of theatres and large City offices to free themselves of the Water Board unless the latter either reduces its charges or sanctions the adoption of meters at the legalised rate or scale. Finally, it would always be advisable to obtain professional advice in addition to the services of the borehole sinker, because the latter is not always an adept in his art; and in the case of boreholes which have been stated to be failures, those failures have often been caused by inefficient work, and still more often from a want of geological knowledge. Even if he is, as will frequently be the case, a man of integrity, wide experience, and capability, he still, as a safeguard to himself, prefers assistance with regard to the description of machinery and corroboration as to accounts. Theatrical managers and property owners could then rest assured that they would receive proper value for the money expended.

AMUSEMENTS IN INDIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BOMBAY, OCT. 10.—BANDMANN'S THEATRE.—The newly organised comedy company opened here for a week with a selection from their répertoire of the newest and latest of London's successes, *Lady Frederick*, *Mrs. Dot*, *The Wrong Mr. Wright*, *A Royal Divorce*, *The Little Minister*, &c. Miss Florence Hamer again made a welcome reappearance in Bombay, and eclipsed all her previous triumphs; Mr. Chas. Vane made a decided success, especially as Paradine Fouldes in *Lady Frederick*, and was ably supported by the other members of the company. Mr. Gordon McLeod showed up brilliantly in *A Royal Divorce* as Napoleon, and Messrs. Douglas Vigors and Geach portrayed their different characters in a very pleasing manner. Mr. Chas. F. Cooke furnished some fine breezy acting in all his characters, and Miss Lucy Beaumont made a distinct success in all her various rôles. The whole of the plays were splendidly mounted throughout, reflecting the greatest credit on Mr. Thomas Sydney. His Snecky Hobart in *The Little Minister* was a realistic type of the "auld Scot," and he scored heavily in his other parts. Little Miss Dutchie Forsyth, the brilliant child actress, received quite an ovation in *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, and will be warmly welcomed when she makes her return visit. The smaller parts were all in capable hands. Mr. Neville looked after the business arrangements in his usual able manner. The company drew crowded houses nightly, and proved conclusively that the new theatre fills a long-felt want.

"Our Navy and Our Army," under the personal direction of Mr. Alfred West, jun., has been drawing crowded houses nightly. In Calcutta over 10,000 children alone visited this show, and Bombay has not been lacking in her appreciation of it. Each night sees some new series of films displayed, the most interesting of which is the yacht racing. Many members of the Royal Bombay Yacht Club have patronised the show, and a return will be eagerly looked for. During the interval nightly Miss Blanche Vaudon has been scoring with her charming series of dances.

THE BROADWAY, NEW CROSS.

On Monday, Nov. 2, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Robert Buchanan and Harriet Jay entitled

"ALONE IN LONDON."

This evergreen play is being admirably played here by an excellent company, headed by Miss Theresa Osborne, Mr. W. S. Hartford, and Mr. Percy Rhodes. Miss Osborne is well suited to the character of Annie Meadows, and acts throughout with power and sympathy; Mr. W. S. Hartford as the wealthy miller, John Biddlecombe, gives a fine performance of a fine part; Mr. Percy Rhodes as Richard Redcliffe is a suave and polished villain, and plays the part most convincingly. He is ably seconded by Mr. Frank Sutherland as Spriggins. Mr. Percy Bell repeats his well-known and most artistic assumption of Jenkinson; Miss Mary Stafford Smith is an excellent Tom Chickweed; Mr. Burnably has a competent representative in Mr. Harry McClelland; and Mr. Blundell Fenton is very good as Walter. Miss Rose Grey gives a capital delineation of Ruth Clifton; Mr. Lonnen Meadows is very amusing as Charlie Johnson; and Miss Gertie Douglas is a bright and clever Liz Jenkinson; and Miss Nellie Lauraine scores as Mrs. Maloney. Little Paul has a pleasing representative in Miss Elsie Clarke. Other characters are well sustained by Messrs. G. Yarmouth, F. B. Wayne, J. Foster, Henry Sibald, Alfred Moss, James T. Holt, E. Orme, and G. P. Greatrex; Miss Amy Stocks is a smart Susan.

CHAT WITH H. B. BRANDRETH.

We do not think we should be far wrong in asserting that there is no single profession or business which calls for such a variety of qualifications as the theatre manager must possess. First and foremost he must be a business man—and a good business man at that. Then he must be tactful in speech and action, for the people he has to deal with require very careful handling. He must be, too, a quick judge of public likes and dislikes, and be able to tell, almost instinctively, the varied and fickle movements of the pulse of the playgoers. Our manager must be thoroughly conversant with the intricacies of stage-craft, in order to regulate every detail connected with the production of a play or the appearance of a performer. And to these capabilities must be added the very necessary "eye" of discipline. There is a large staff to control, every member of which has assigned to him a certain work, and even in the nature of that work the manager should be in some degree versed.

That for Mr. Henry Barrett Brandreth, the manager of the Kennington Theatre, these virtues can be claimed we have not the slightest doubt. He combines in himself the good commercial qualities of a first-class business man with that social agreeableness which goes so far—especially in the theatrical world—to carry one's point and to create a feeling of satisfaction, and even confidence, in the minds of other people. The history of Mr. Brandreth's early and even more recent career gives ample evidence of that steadiness of character and culture which invariably culminates in the successful man. Some people might say that he has been fortunate, and perhaps he himself thinks so. But success is not gained in these days by merely sitting on a milestone and hugging a tom-cat; it involves a long, strenuous mental and physical struggle—sometimes lessened, it is true, by the character of the particular employment—that only the fittest, and they who keep themselves fit, can hope to overcome. Although Mr. Brandreth feels that he has always done what he considered in a broad sense to be his duty, he is modest enough, in the analysis of his advancement, to place in the background his own personal efforts before the many kindnesses and help he has received at the hands of various people prominently associated with theatrical affairs.

Mr. Brandreth was born in June, 1870, and therefore has not yet passed that line which separates modern youth from middle age. "I appeared," he told us the other day, "at the Cremorne Gardens at the age of three with my father, under the stage management of Mr. King. Later I was educated in part at Radcliffe College, near Leicester. Contemporary with me there were Mr. Richard Horgan, and later Mr. Seymour Hicks. I left this college at the age of twelve and toured the Continent with Joseph and Alfred Hamilton's panorama for some three and a half years. After studying at the college of Montlerz, near Paris, and returning to England in 1885, I was articled to a firm of solicitors. The life not suiting me, I answered an advertisement for a baritone to join a minstrel company at Scarborough in the Christmas of 1888. Almost immediately I received a wire asking me to join at once. I raised the money secretly for my fare, and throwing my legal career to the winds, made straight for Scarborough, with the result that I received at the end of my first week's engagement the magnificent sum of one and fourpence, to include my salary and fares, when the company broke up! During my route back I had ample time to reflect upon the advantages of the profession I had joined. Subsequently, however, I procured an engagement with Mr. William Greet's *La Cigale* company, later playing Louchard in *Madame Angot* and the Sergeant in *The Daughter of the Regiment*. I played at the Trafalgar-square Theatre in *The Wedding Eve* and *Dorothy*, and was then engaged by Mr. D'Oyly Carte for one of his touring companies, remaining nearly four years under that gentleman's management. On leaving him I came to London and was engaged by Mr. Alexander Loftus to play in the cast of *The New Barmaid*, subsequently appearing in the principal baritone part in the piece on tour. I created the character of Colavitch in *Black and White*, and then joined Mr. Tom B. Davis's company at the Lyric in *Little Miss Nobody*, *Cupid and the Princess*, and *Florodora*. I organised several companies of *Florodora* on tour for Mr. Ben Greet, Mr. Bannister Howard, and Mr. Wentworth Croke. I was subsequently appointed to take over the entire direction of the Bouffes Parisienne, Paris; and after managing several companies, I again returned to the boards, playing the Brigand chief in *The Medal and the Maid*. From this I rejoined Mr. William Greet's forces, stage-managing *The Earl and the Girl*, as well as playing the rôle Bunker Bliss. In 1904 I was for a short time attached to Mme. Sarah Bernhardt's company, and three years ago accepted Mr. Robert Arthur's offer to manage his Kennington Theatre."

We find the following anecdote in Pelham's "Chronicles of Crime":—"A gentleman, much dejected in his looks, called one day on Ross, when stricken with years, and told him that his father, a wealthy citizen in London, lay at the point of death, and begged that he might see him, or he would not die in peace of mind. Curious as this request appeared from a stranger, and in such extremity, the actor hesitated; but being much pressed by his visitor, he agreed to accompany him. Arrived at the house of the sick man, Mr. Ross was announced and soon admitted; but observing the family to retire, and being left alone with the patient, his wonder was again aroused. The dying penitent, now three score years and ten, casting his languid eyes upon Ross, said, "Can it be you who raised my fortune—who saved my life? Then were you young like myself—ay, and amiable, amid the direst misfortunes." Here nature, in a struggle with death, became overpowered; and as the sick man's head fell upon his pillow, he faintly ejaculated, "O, Barnwell! Barnwell!" We may conceive the astonishment of the player, whom age had long incapacitated from representing the unfortunate London apprentice. The feeble man, renewing his efforts to gratify a dying desire, again opened his eyes and continued: Mr. Ross, some forty years ago, like George Barnwell, I wronged my master to supply the unbounded extravagance of a Millwood. I took her to see your performance, which so shocked me that I silently vowed to break the connection then by my side, and return to the path of virtue. I kept my resolution, and replaced the money I had stolen before my villainy was detected. I bore up against the upbraidings of my deluder, and found a Maria in my master's daughter. We married. I soon succeeded to my master's business, and the young man who brought you here was the first pledge of our love. I have more children, or I would have shown my gratitude by a larger sum than I have bequeathed you; but take a thousand pounds affixed to your name." At the dying man's signal, old Ross left the room overwhelmed by his feelings.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act affecting the employment of children on the stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, agents, entrepreneurs, and performers wishing to possess a copy of the complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

A COPY OF "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

THE NEW GERMAN CONTRACT.

(FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

After several years' discussion, debate, and conference the two great bodies governing, and most immediately interested in German theatrical matters have at length agreed upon a uniform contract, which, consequently, will come into force on and after Jan. 31, 1909. Much annoying and costly litigation will be obviated by the adoption of this contract, which is the joint production of the German Actors' Association (founded in 1871 and numbering some 6,500 members) and the Union of Theatrical Managers (Deutscher Bühnen Verein), which is representative of all the important German stages. The greater part of the work in drafting and framing the new instrument was done by Baron Putlitz, of Stuttgart, and Privy Councillors von Barnay, Felisch and Hoppe.

The regulations which henceforth will govern all contracts, and which in all probability will do away with the necessity for fresh legislation as regards actors and theatres, are sub-divided under five general headings, comprising twenty-two clauses:—

I.—GENERAL REGULATIONS.

1.—YEAR OF CONTRACT.

The year of contract comprises a period of 365 days—in leap year 366 days. If a stage contract is made for a shorter period, the same regulations apply as for the entire year. In any contract for longer than one year the first 365 (or 366) days are to be counted as a year. The days for preliminary rehearsals are always to be included as part of the year of contract. Time of playing, or season, is the period during which a member has to fulfil his duties, deducting the time of the stipulated furlough. If the season is shorter than eight months, the contract has to be regarded as a season's contract, and not as a yearly contract. If such contract be made for more seasons than one the minimum duration of each season has to be stated, and the date of commencing the following season has to be notified to each member on every first of February.

2.—NOTICES.

Notice is only counted as duly given if it reaches the other party before the expiry of the proper period. Should an unforeseen delay occur in the delivery of a notice which was despatched in good time the sender must be immediately notified, otherwise the notice will be counted as duly served.

3.—LOCAL PROVISOS.

Any contract made with a subventioned State theatre does not come into force if the ruler of the State or his representative should refuse to sanction the ratification of the contract. The management must notify such refusal to the member immediately on its receipt.

II.—RATIFICATION OF THE CONTRACT.

4.—ENGAGEMENTS, &c.

1. If the ratification of a contract is made dependent on several performances as "guest," these should be so arranged that two such "guest" evenings take place within three days, and three such performances within five days.

2. Within ten days of the last "guest" evening the management may notify the actor in writing that the contract will not be ratified. The same applies if a "guest" performance cannot be arranged within a stipulated period.

3. If such performance does not take place owing to the fault of the actor, the management has the right to enforce the contract, retaining a right of giving notice, conjointly with an executive appointed for the purpose. (See IV. 15.)

4. If such performance does not take place owing to the fault of the management the latter has to pay the actor a fine amounting to the aggregate maximum salary arranged for such "guest" nights, which annuls the contract.

5. If neither party is at fault for such performance not taking place, the management is at liberty to rescind the contract within fourteen days. If such notice is not given the contract comes into force.

5.—LICENCES.

If the management does not obtain its licence at the latest four months before the opening day, notice of the state of affairs must be given to the President of the Actors' Association, and the management must deposit, if required, two months' salary with the local police authorities. In default, the actor may rescind the contract by giving notice per registered letter. The deposit is to be regarded as security for the payment of any damages on the part of the management.

6.—DURATION OF CONTRACT.

Every contract must be made for a definitely expressed period. All qualifying adjectives are inadmissible. If the actor is obliged to take part in preliminary rehearsals, the contract dates from the day on which such obligations commence.

7.—PRELIMINARY REHEARSALS.

1. The actor receives for each of the first five days of preliminary rehearsals one quarter, for every subsequent day of rehearsal one half of his salary as computed *per diem*. The actual salary is counted from the day of the first performance.

2. The previous paragraph is null and void if the actor is in receipt of a retaining fee.

III.—RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

8.—SCOPE AND NATURE OF EMPLOYMENT.

The actor is under obligation to take part in all rehearsals and performances, ballets, prologues, concerts, living pictures, or other artistic representations if ordered by the management. The management has free disposal of the actor's occupation provided it be within that branch for which he has been engaged. The list of parts handed in by the actor must only contain such parts as he has already played in or has thoroughly studied. If the actor is not given suitable employment from motives of malice he can, a month after having applied for a suitable part, rescind the contract. The same in case he is not given anything to do for three months.

9.—SALARY, BENEFITS, PENSIONS.

All monthly salaries must be paid at the latest on the second day of the following month; in the case of yearly contracts they are payable quarterly. In the case of two performances in one day, unless special proviso is made, one half of the salary as computed *per diem* has to be added. Deductions in cases of a benefit, unless previously agreed upon, are inadmissable. Pensions are only granted where specially mentioned in the contract.

10.—COSTUMES.

Every member must find his own modern dress, gloves, footwear, tights, and underwear, unless uniformity is required. Wigs, paint, &c., to be provided by the actor at his or her own expense. Historical costumes are furnished by the management.

11.—ACTING ON TOUR.

All fares and luggage to be paid for by the management. The journey is counted as completed with the arrival of the conveyance. Where no travelling expenses are specified the amount of salary as computed *per diem* is reckoned as basis for daily expenses. On tours lasting longer than three days salaries must be advanced on demand up to the day of departure.

12.—FURLOUGH.

If the actor is granted furlough between May 1 and Sept. 15, without salary, notice must be given four weeks in advance. If the actor is under notice he can demand a furlough of five consecutive days for obtaining another engagement. No member is allowed to take part in any performance outside his own theatre other than sanctioned expressly by the management. This restriction does not apply to private theatricals.

13.—ILLNESS, INDISPOSITION, &c.

In cases of indisposition or illness notice must be given to the management immediately, and a medical certificate forwarded within twenty-four hours. In every case of illness the member must submit, if requested, to the medical examination of the management's confidential doctor. If a member is absent through illness for a period not exceeding fourteen days he is entitled to his full salary; in cases of protracted illness a sliding scale is provided.

IV.—TERMINATION OF THE CONTRACT.

14.—CLOSURE OF THEATRE.

(*a*) If the theatre be destroyed by fire or through some other catastrophe, or if in case of war, political disturbance, or other events the theatre be closed for an indefinite period, the management is entitled to annul the contract without notice.

(*b*) If the theatre be closed officially on account of national or Court mourning or on account of structural alterations for a period of not more than three days the management must pay full salaries.

(*c*) If, however, the period of closure exceeds three days, the salaries paid on and after the fourth day are reduced to one-third.

(*d*) If the official closure of a theatre exceeds the period of one week the management, except as specified above under (*a*), may terminate the contract after giving a week's notice within three days and paying one-third of the salaries.

(*e*) If the theatre be closed by the management and not by the official authorities on account of war, political disturbances, epidemics, &c., a week's notice must be accompanied by full payment of all moneys due.

15.—NOTICES.

All notices must be given in writing. In exceptional cases a committee composed equally of representatives of both parties may issue a notice within the first three weeks of an engagement. This committee has power to adjudicate between the management and the actor. In cases of contracts extending over three or five years, the management has the right to give notice after the expiry of the second and third year, but not later than on Jan. 16. No such proviso must be made in the case of re-engagements after the third year.

16.—MARRIAGE OF ACTRESSES.

If an actress wishes to marry she must notify the management at least one month prior to the day of the wedding. By undertaking not to appear professionally elsewhere she is then entitled to terminate the contract. Similarly, the management has the right to give notice, on payment of all moneys due up to the day of the wedding. If the marriage takes place surreptitiously the management may give a week's notice. Should the married actress wish to return to the stage, she must first offer her services to her former management under pain of heavy fines; should her offer be declined she is then at liberty to take an engagement elsewhere.

17.—ANNULLING THE CONTRACT.

The principal causes which entitle the actor to rescind the contract are non-payment of salaries within three days of falling due, being incapacitated through illness, and any proved dishonourable act on the part of the management. The latter may annul the contract if the actor spoils the performance through not being word perfect or similar causes, if the actor repeatedly refuses to follow out instructions, if he contravenes the bye-laws, if he spreads defamatory rumours, if he shirks his duty by shamming sickness, if proved guilty of a dishonourable action, if affected with chronic disease, or if he made any false declaration as to age or name on signing the contract.

18.—ACCIDENTS.

If through no fault of the management the memory, hearing, or sight of the actor are impaired, the former may give two months' notice. Where such accidents are due to culpable negligence on the part of the management, however, the actor is entitled to his full salary during the term of his contract, without prejudice to any subsequent claim for damages.

19.—BREACH OF CONTRACT.

The actor is guilty of a breach of contract if he does not arrive punctually on the appointed day, or exceeds his furlough or travels without leave of absence; if by his behaviour he intentionally makes himself objectionable; if after the conclusion or during the term of his engagement he appears without the management's permission in the same town or within a radius of 15 kilometres. If the management dismisses a member for breach of contract and the subsequent lawsuit results in favour of the actor he may be indemnified up to the amount of the fine stipulated in the contract, in addition to salary and other moneys due.

The management is guilty of a breach of contract by dismissing a member without legal justification, by making the actor's existence unbearable, or by any wilfully misleading statement as to concession or licence of the theatre. If the management is found guilty of a breach of contract, the payment of the stipulated fine annuls such contract.

V.—SPECIAL REGULATIONS.

20.—TRANSFER OF SERVICES.

Transfer of the rights embodied in the contract can take place under certain circumstances. In the case of the death of the manager the actor has the right to give notice for the end of the current season within two weeks of learning the news of such death. The legal successor has the same rights within two weeks of assuming office, but only so far as giving notice to the entire company—not any one individual—is concerned.

21.—FINES.

Fines, not exceeding in any single case the amount of one month's salary, nor throughout the year or season two months' salary, may be imposed and deducted by the management. The actor has the right to appeal to the Actors' Court of Arbitration or to the Civil Courts. The managemen has to pay all such sums towards the philanthropic institutions connected with the stage.

22.—SUBSCRIPTIONS.

All members of the Actors' Association or the Artists' Home (Künstlerheim) are obliged to pay their subscriptions monthly, and the managements are obliged to deduct such sums from the monthly payments and to remit them to the Associations mentioned.

THE *Gentleman's Magazine*, Tuesday, Feb. 6, 1739, says: "At Covent Garden Theatre one John Somerford tumbled from the upper gallery into the pit, being ten yards, without receiving any hurt. When the play was over, he told Mr. Rich that he had made himself free of the gallery, and hoped he should have the liberty of going into it when he pleased. To which Mr. Rich consented, provided he never again came out of it in the same abrupt manner."

WHEN some one was lamenting Foote's unlucky fate in being kicked in Dublin, Johnson said he was glad of it. "He is rising in the world," added he; "when he was in England, no one thought him worth kicking."

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham has secured a success well in keeping with the title, and *Bellamy the Magnificent* seems likely to stay at the New until Mr. and Mrs. Fred Terry take up their tenancy at Christmas. In order to meet the demands to witness Sir Charles's superb performance a Wednesday matinée has been put on in addition to the usual Saturday afternoon performance. Meanwhile, Mr. Robert Loraine having gone to the Haymarket, his part of Stevens in *Bellamy* is being played by Mr. Edmund Maurice.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree is adding appreciably to his theatrical activities by housing at His Majesty's a new institution, to be known as the Afternoon Theatre, at which plays by modern English dramatists and foreign masterpieces will be produced. Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons will be devoted to the productions, which will be mounted with the liberality that distinguishes everything that Mr. Tree takes in hand. The enterprise will be inaugurated on Tuesday, Dec. 8, with the production of Hauptman's *Hannele*, to be repeated on the following Thursday and Friday. *Hannele*, in the original, was included in the programme of the German season at the Royalty in the early part of 1904, and a very workmanlike adaptation into English by Mr. William Archer was presented by the Play Actors at the Scala last April.

Mr. George Alexander will be welcomed back to the metropolis on Wednesday, when he will produce at the St. James's Mr. Alfred Sutro's new play *The Builder of Bridges*. Mr. Alexander, in the principal part, will have sterling assistance from Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Mr. Dawson Milward, Mr. Harcourt Williams, Mr. William Farren, Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds, Miss Florence Haydon, Miss Barbara Hannay, and Miss Dora Sevening.

Mr. Martin Harvey's revival of *The Only Way* at the Adelphi, as we predicted, is filling the theatre at every performance, two extra rows of stalls having had to be added. On Saturday the curtain had to be raised no less than fifty-four times, and at the end of the performance Mr. Harvey had to respond with a short speech of thanks.

Mr. Harvey's plans for the immediate future are pregnant with interest, including as they do the production of two new plays adapted from the Spanish. The first of these, at present entitled *The World and His Wife*, which Mr. William Faversham has produced in America with extraordinary success, is an adaptation of Echegaray's *El Gran Galeoto*, and will be staged by Mr. Harvey at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, during the week of Dec. 7. The second novelty is entitled *Marta of the Lowlands*, adapted from the Spanish *Tierra Baja* by Angel Guimera, and will be produced by Mr. Harvey in the course of next year.

Preparations for the command performance of *The Corsican Brothers* at Windsor are keeping the carpenters, scene painters, &c., busy at the Adelphi, for the scenery and properties used at that theatre were found to be too large for the Royal Stage at Windsor Castle. The King, however, expressed so great a desire to see the play there that extensive alterations are being carried out so that the King and his Royal guests, the King and Queen of Sweden, may not be disappointed. Mr. Harvey, it may be added, has strengthened the cast by the engagement of Miss Maud Hoffman and Mr. William Haviland, who will play Emelie de Lesparre and Chateau Renaud respectively.

Miss Lena Ashwell, whose divorce from Mr. Arthur Playfair, granted, on her petition, six months ago, was made absolute last week, was married on Saturday morning to Dr. Henry J. F. Simson, of 36, Grosvenor-street, W. The ceremony was quite private, only two friends being in the secret. Dr. Simson is the eldest son of Mr. Robert Simson, of the Bengal Civil Service, and was formerly at the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond-street. He took his M.B. degree in Edinburgh in 1895, was made a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, in 1899, and a M.R.C.P. of London in 1901. Mr. and Mrs. Simson went to Dover on Sunday morning, and returned to town the following day in time for the popular actress to take up her part in *The Sway Boat* at the Kingsway.

Miss Ashwell, on her return from her very brief honeymoon, comprising about thirty hours at Dover, entertained the Kingsway company and staff at a wedding supper on Monday at midnight at the Piccadilly Hotel. Her two sisters, her brother (Mr. Roger Pocock, founder of the Legion of Frontiersmen), and one or two medical friends of Dr. Simson's were present. The health of the happy pair was the onl ytoast given, and this, it is almost needless to state, was received with enthusiasm.

A sitting for public examination was held on Wednesday in the case of Mr. William Bailey, the lessee of the West London Theatre. The liabilities were returned at £5,940, of which £855 was expected to rank, against assets estimated to produce a surplus of £1,240. Mr. Bailey attributed his failure to competition, to general depression in trade, and to falling-off in takings, due to the removal of costermongers' stalls from Edgware-road to Church-street, and to the depopulation of the neighbourhood by the construction of the Great Central Railway, but more particularly to pressure by one of the mortgagees. The examination was concluded.

Mr. J. B. Mulholland, who attended the meeting at the Mansion House called by the Lord Mayor last week to protest against the charges of the new Water Board, was appointed, in conjunction with Mr. Tree, to represent the Theatrical Managers' Association. He explained to the meeting that Mr. Tree was unavoidably absent because of the matinée on that day at His Majesty's, and also referred to Mr. Edward Terry, who, as a ratepayer in, and a Freeman of, the City, as well as a theatre proprietor, would have been present, but for the fact that he was playing in the North. Mr. Mulholland also represented the Theatres' Alliance, of which active body he is president.

At one time the fight against the excessive water charges by the new authority was maintained almost wholly by the Alliance, but as a result of the strong attitude consistently maintained by that body, the theatres now show a united front. How often has *The Era* advocated combination for such a purpose! But necessity is the mother of—unity.

Mr. William Farren, sen., who died on Sept. 25, left estate of the gross value of £4,922, of which the net personalty has been sworn at £3,522. Probate of his will has been granted to his daughter by his first marriage, Miss Florence Helen Farren, of The Mount, Inchbrook, Stroud, Gloucestershire, to whom he left the whole of his property absolutely.

Mr. Henry R. Smith has finally fixed upon the evening of Saturday, the 28th inst., for his opening of the Waldorf with *The Antelope*, the new musical play by Mr. Adrian Ross and Dr. Hugo Felix. The cast will include Mr. Fred Wright, jun., Mr. J. Farren Soutar, Mr. Fred Emney, Mr. Aubrey FitzGerald, Miss Kitty Gordon, Miss Maudie Thornton, Miss José Collins, Miss Stewart, and Mr. J. Brabourne.

Mr. Cyril Maude commissioned Mr. Bruce Smith to paint new scenery for the command performance of *The Flag Lieutenant* that is to be given by Mr. Maude at Sandringham. In order to fit the Sandringham stage all the scenery has been made 6ft. smaller everywhere than the original, and some of it is about half the original size. The special scenery has been delivered at the Playhouse, and on Tuesday it will be sent to Sandringham, with the stage carpenter and two men, and Mr. John Harwood, the stage-manager, will also go down to superintend its arrangement. On the morning of the performance all the property men and scene shifters will leave St. Pancras at 7.20 in order to have plenty of time to get things straight. The company, including Mr. Cyril Maude and Miss Winifred Emery, will leave St. Pancras at 12.20 on Friday, the 13th inst. Lunch will be served on the train, and they will dine at Sandringham about seven o'clock in the evening. At ten o'clock the curtain will rise on *The Flag Lieutenant*, and the performance will finish about midnight. The company will then have supper, and will travel back to St. Pancras during the night, arriving in London at six o'clock on Saturday morning. Both the matinée and the evening performance will be given the same day at the Playhouse as usual. The total number of people whom Mr. Turner takes to Sandringham for the performance will be between sixty and seventy. The ladies of the company will have entirely new costumes for the command performance. These costumes will be seen in London on the 200th performance of the play.

Mr. Willie Clarkson has returned from Cambo les Bains, where he has been submitting dresses to M. Edmund Rostand for the much-postponed play *Chanticleer*, in which M. Coquelin is to play the principal part, that of Coq Gallic, and all the characters are to represent birds and beasts. M. and Mme. Rostand were extremely pleased with the dresses, and one of Mr. Clarkson's men was dressed in the bird costume and walked round the grounds, in order that the effect in different attitudes could be noted. The play is due early in the New Year at the Théâtre Porte St. Martin.

Miss Evelyn Millard will commemorate her first season of management and the hundredth performance of *Idols* by presenting every visitor to the Garrick Theatre on Monday, Nov. 30, with an artistic souvenir. The theatre was on Tuesday honoured by the presence of Queen Alexandra, the Queen of Norway, Princess Victoria of Wales, and the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch.

The leaders of the dramatic profession are interesting themselves enthusiastically in the movement to associate the British stage with the memorial to Adelaide Ristori, and a programme unique in its proportions is assured for the matinée organised by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree at His Majesty's Theatre for Nov. 30. Among the celebrated artists who have promised to perform are Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Lily Brayton, Miss Gertrude Elliott, Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Evelyn Millard, Mrs. Tree, Miss Viola Tree, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Geneviève Ward, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Oscar Asche, Mr. Dion Boucicault, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. Ben Davies, Mr. Charles Glenney, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Sir Charles Santley, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, and Mr. Hermann Vezin.

Signor Salvini, the famous tragedian, was invited to be present at the Ristori matinée arranged by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree at His Majesty's Theatre for Monday, Nov. 30, and replied in the following terms:—"I am very much indebted to you for not having forgotten me in your memory, and for the honour which the committee for the Ristori matinée wish to bestow on me at the memorable matinée for the benefit of the monument to be erected to the memory of such a great and never-to-be-forgotten artist. I have done, and should like to continue to do, everything to pay homage to my most beloved friend Adelaide Ristori, and should have loved to accept your invitation to be on the stage of His Majesty's Theatre the day that such tribute is paid by the foremost English artists; but, alas! such a great wish cannot be fulfilled, as I am practically an invalid, and the doctor will never allow me to undertake such a journey in my eighty years. It is with the greatest sorrow I am compelled to renounce the pleasure to satisfy our common wish, but if I am not present personally, I shall certainly be there with my heart and soul.—Tommaso Salvini."

Mr. Lewis Waller has made a very interesting engagement in that of Miss Fay Davis for the part of Chorus in *Henry V.*, which he will revive at the Lyric after the termination of the run of *The Duke's Motto*. Another noteworthy selection made by Mr. Waller is that of Mr. Louis Calvert for the parts of Pistol in *Henry V.* and Falstaff in *Henry IV.*

Mr. Seymour Hicks, the ranks of whose companies have suffered severely from the onslaughts of Cupid, has made a tempting offer to the maidens of merry England. To the twelve prettiest girls selected by the readers of the *Express* he has offered engagements to appear in his company, provided, of course, that they have the requisite vocal accomplishments.

Mr. George Edwardes has made an offer founded on a similar principle, and gives a guarantee to engage for his next production at the Gaiety a given number of young ladies who shall be decided by the readers of the *Daily Mirror* to possess the appearance and gifts necessary to secure them positions in the chorus at the Gaiety. Mr. Edwardes confesses himself, however, a sceptic in the matter. "Through my auditions at the Gaiety, and by the exhaustive tests which my lieutenants have made for me," he says, "the percentage of really clever clever girls we have discovered is woefully small. Still, I am ready to be convinced that talent may be found in other ways, through wider channels, and I challenge the *Daily Mirror* to find these talented ladies for me."

Mr. Charles Frohman, who returned from America a few days ago, leaves for Paris to-day to make the acquaintance of Henry Bernstein's new play *Israel*, recently produced at the Réjane Theatre. During Mr. Frohman's brief stay in London he disclosed some new projects, the most interesting of which is his arrangement with Mr. Seymour Hicks, by virtue of which his accomplished wife, Miss Ellaline Terriss, will reappear in London at the head of her own company in a play to be produced by Mr. Hicks. The actual character of the work is not yet decided upon.

Mr. Frohman expresses a keen personal satisfaction at being able to place Miss Terriss in a position to which, as he says, "the refined and imaginative quality of her work more than entitle her, and which every member of the playgoing public will acknowledge she has won by right of conquest. The delicacy and tenderness of her art are of the kind that appeal directly to women and children, but it is even upon broader grounds that I claim for her the right to fill the position which I am glad to have been instrumental in securing for her."

"A March Hare," a comedy by Mr. Harold Smith, was produced, for copyright purposes, on Saturday last, at the New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison, who have been conspicuous this autumn by having so many successes in the provinces and the suburbs, presented *Lady Frederick* on Monday last at the Prince's, Manchester, where Mr. Somerset Maugham's play has succeeded in creating much interest on this its first visit to the cotton centre. The Hutchison management have brought themselves to the front rank by their unfailing attention to every detail regarding the productions under their control. Every play being sent out of London is personally rehearsed by Mr. Percy Hutchison, who for many years was stage-manager and producer for Sir Charles Wyndham. The title-rôle in *Lady Frederick* is played by Miss Mabel Love, who is supported by Mr. Robert Minster and a strong London cast.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Asche (Miss Lily Brayton), who are this week appearing at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, go to Australia next May for a six months' tour, under the management of Messrs. Meynell and Gunn. Their first production at the Antipodes will be the new play which Mr. Norreys Connell, in conjunction with Mr. Asche himself, has adapted from Mr. Stanley Weyman's popular novel "Count Hannibal." A company of twenty-five people and the accessories for six different productions will be travelled.

It is agreeable to learn that Rugby is at length to have a first-class theatre, built on up-to-date lines, and run by the well-known management of Mr. Wentworth Croke, who has purchased the site for a new Opera House. The theatre will be situated in the heart of the town, and will have a double frontage. The plans have been approved by the Urban District Council, and a provisional licence has been granted by the magistrates on the completion of the building.

The theatre will consist of pit, stalls, dress circle, gallery, and ten private boxes, and will be capable of seating one thousand persons. The proscenium opening will be 26ft. square, and the stage will afford accommodation for first-class touring companies. Fifteen dressing-rooms will be provided, in a separate block at the back of the stage. Arrangements have been made by which the pit and stalls floor may be raised level with the stage, in order to afford facilities for fancy dress or Hunt balls. With Mr. Wentworth Croke at the head of affairs, the patrons of the new Rugby Opera House can rest assured that they will be catered for in a style equal to any theatre in the provinces.

The "standard contract," which the Actors' Association sought some time ago to establish between manager and actor, is, it seems, not yet to become *un fait accompli*. In a letter from the West-end Managers' Association, which the council of the Actors' Association at their meeting on Tuesday ordered to be made known to the members, it is stated that managers "do not feel that they are in a position to discuss the matter."

On the invitation of the clerk to the County Council, the Association is sending a deputation to the general sub-committee of the Public Control Committee on Friday, Nov. 20, with regard to the matter of the registration of theatrical employment agencies. The deputation will consist of Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Franklyn Walford, Miss Marion Lind, Miss Lucy Sibley, and Mr. John H. Mote, the hon. solicitor, with Mr. Raleigh as spokesman.

"The Boatswain's Mate" was the one-act piece (by W. W. Jacobs and H. C. Sargent) revived at Wyndham's Theatre on Saturday in front of *The Early Worm*, and caused abundant mirth. The three parts are acted with a keen sense of humour by Miss Evelyn Vaudray as the buxom widow and by Mr. Cecil Burt and Mr. J. A. Bentham as the conspirators whose schemes are so ruthlessly overthrown.

A new number has been added by Mr. Tom B. Davis to *The Belle of Brittany* entitled "I am not a lady's maid." The song, which is sung by Miss Maudi Darrell in the first act, has been composed by Mr. Howard Talbot and written by Mr. Percy Greenbank. As a remarkable instance of advance booking it may be added that every reserved seat at the Queen's Theatre has already been sold for Boxing Night.

The "At Homes" which have hitherto been held on Thursday evenings at the Grenfell Club will, by special request, in future be held on Friday evenings.

After the performance of *Are You a Mason?* at the Crystal Palace Theatre on the evening of the 30th ult., a presentation was made to Mr. E. H. Paterson, who on Monday was installed as Worshipful Master of the Asaph Lodge of Freemasons. The presentation, which was made on behalf of the other members of the company by Miss Adelaide Grace, took the form of the "clothing" appertaining to the office of Worshipful Master.

"The Builders," the new play by Norah Keith, which will be produced at a special matinée at the Criterion on Tuesday, will be acted by Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, Mr. A. E. George, Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, Miss Maude Millett, Miss Vane Featherstone, Mrs. H. Nye Chart, Miss Ierne Fitzgerald, Mr. Heath Haviland, and Miss Haviland. The play will be produced by Mr. Charles Rock, who officiates by permission of Miss Millard.

Miss N. de Silva, Miss Mary Rorke, and Mr. Henry Ainley, in *A Tragedy of Truth*, will be included in the programme of the benefit matinée to be given for Miss Dolores Drummond at the Playhouse on Nov. 20. The little piece is by Rosamund Langbridge, and was received with enthusiasm at the Adelphi last month. Mr. Norman O'Neill, the composer of the incidental music, has kindly consented to conduct the orchestra.

All records of Mr. George Edwardes's *Merry Widow* company on tour were beaten last week at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham. Upwards of 16,000 people saw the comedy, hundreds being turned away each night, and the enthusiasm was unprecedented. A large staff of policemen was necessary each night to regulate the enormous queues.

Miss Georgie Corlass has been engaged to play Miss Ada Reeve's part in *Butterflies* on tour during Miss Reeve's absence for pantomime.

Mr. Eardley Turner embarked yesterday on his second trip to Australia, where he is specially engaged by Mr. J. C. Williamson. Mr. Turner's work out there four years ago—when he was principal comedian with Mr. Beerbohm Tree's répertoire company, proved much to the liking of Australian playgoers, and his success under Mr. Williamson's management seems equally certain.

Poole's Opera House, Treherbert, assisted by Messrs. Frank Brunel, William Bailey, and Charles Clifford, of *Home, Sweet Home* company, beat Treherbert Association Football Club by four goals to two on Saturday. Goals for the winners were scored by A. Kento, D. Duncan, F. Brunel, and Charles Clifford. The game was a most exciting one from start to finish. The Opera House team consisted of W. Brooks (goal), D. Coutts, F. Horsfell, W. Bailey (backs), F. Brunel, T. Morgan (half-backs), F. Kinton, Charles Clifford (right wing), Walt Nation (centre), A. Kento, and D. Duncan (left wing).

Miss Alma Murray, who has not, we think, been seen on the London stage for the last eighteen months, has been warmly welcomed back by her admirers at the Aldwych Theatre in Mr. Jerome K. Jerome's comedy, *Fanny and the Servant Problem*. The amount of life, incisiveness, and firm artistic style with which she manages to invest the small part of Jane Bennet is, indeed, wonderful, yet not surprising, when it is recalled that from childhood she has appeared in a variety of parts in pantomime, farce, drama, comedy, and tragedy. Among Miss Murray's specially great successes may be mentioned: Jessica, Portia, Julie de Mortemar, Annette, Daisy, Ruby—all with Sir Henry Irving—Sophia, Clara Douglas, Grace Harkaway, Kate Hardcastle, Juliet, Phœbe, Celia, Rosalind, Titania, Raina (*Arms and the Man*), and Rachel (*Held by the Enemy*). That London playgoers never forget their favourites has been amply proved by the greeting extended by Press and public to Miss Murray.

During the season of opera in English at Covent Garden, lasting for four weeks after Jan. 16, three complete cycles of *The Ring of the Niblungs* and *The Mastersingers of Nuremberg* will be given, conducted by Dr. Hans Richter. The works will be carried out in their entirety, and under the same conditions as are usual in the summer season, excepting that the performances will begin later, and that there will be no long interval after the first act.

The répertoire will include an entirely new opera by Dr. E. W. Naylor (libretto by C. Thornely), which gained the £500 prize offered by Messrs. Ricordi for the best opera by a British composer. It is also proposed to produce *Madame Butterfly* and Gounod's *Faust*. Among the artists already engaged are Mesdames Marie Alexander, Edith Clegg, Florence Easton, Rachel Green, Caroline Hatchard, Dilys Jones, and Gladys Roberts, and Messrs. Frederic Austin, Hans Bechstein, D. Bindon-Ayres, Albert Garcia, and Peter Cornelius. The chorus will consist entirely of English singers, and the orchestra will be made up of English instrumentalists.

The entire production of *Le Grand Soir*, which is reviewed in another column, is to be transferred from Terry's Theatre to the Court on Nov. 9, by Miss Andrews, the manageress of the Paris house. Only a flying visit can be paid, as Miss Andrews requires her company back in Paris.

Queen Alexandra, the Queen of Norway, Princess Victoria, and the Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch witnessed Mr. H. B. Irving's performance of Lesurques and Dubosc in *The Lyons Mail* at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Wednesday evening.

"Are You the Man?" is the title of Mr. Frank Price's new play, which Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod will produce next year. Romance and mystery are blended in the new piece, and the introduction of a military element will give scope for the display of picturesque uniforms. *A Country Girl in London*, by the same author, is the greatest success yet achieved by this management, although *The Prodigal Parson* has achieved

Miss Ward, who has been playing the Princess in Mr. T. Edward Ward's *The Love of the Princess* play, was on the evening of the 30th ult. the recipient of a beautiful floral presentation made by the members of the *Princess* company on the occasion of her leaving them to resume her old part of Nell in *Second to None*.

"Lady Frederick," with Mrs. Brown-Potter in the name part, favoured Ealing with a visit on Wednesday afternoon, when Mr. Somerset Maugham's brilliant play was presented by Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Mr. Philip Cunningham supported Mrs. Brown-Potter as Paradine Fouldes, and a powerful cast ensured success, which was testified in many recalls.

Mr. Jack Rowland, personal manager to Mr. J. Maundy-Gregory, will in future drop his nom-de-plume and be known by his real names of J. Rowland Sales. Mr. Sales for some time was lessee of various places of entertainment on the South Coast.

Mr. Charles Constant, proprietor of the Theatre Royal, Ryde, is producing his *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, Bolton, on Boxing Day for a run of four weeks. The pantomime will be produced by Victor Stevens, who will play his favourite part of Widow Twankee, supported by a powerful company. Mr. Constant's bright and funny production of *Bluebeard* will again go on tour, and will probably run up to Whitsun. His *Florodora* company is still meeting with great success on tour.

Mr. Herbert Leonard informs us that as certain objections have been raised to the title of his new play, *The Kiss of Judas*, it has been decided to re-name it. The new title chosen is the more attractive one of *The Girl I Love*.

Miss Mildred Blanchard has arranged with Messrs. Sullivan and Morris to return to America in October, 1910, and appear under the management named in the principal cities in the United States and Canada. Miss Blanchard will play in *Cleopatra*, *Macbeth*, *Leah*, and *Fedora*, supported by a company of English and American artists.

An experiment will be made at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, on Monday, when Mr. Peter Davey will commence a series of high-class variety entertainments on the "two-houses-a-night" principle. A big star company has been engaged for the first week.

Mrs. D'Oyly Carte proposes to revive *The Pirates of Penzance* at the Savoy on Tuesday, Dec. 1. *Iolanthe* will not be played after Saturday, Nov. 28, up to which date it will be given in conjunction with *The Mikado*.

The cast of *The Bacchæ* of Euripides, to be played at Miss Lillah McCarthy's matinées at the Court Theatre on Nov. 10 and 17, will consist, in addition to Miss McCarthy, of Messrs. R. A. Beaton, Esmé Percy, William Fazan, George Ellis, Percy Anstey, and Sivori Levey, and Misses Mary Saker, Winifred Mayo, Juliet Hardinge, McHardy, Helen Macdonald, and Ethel Rhys. Dances will be performed by Misses Maie Hoey, Rubini, and Ruth Bower.

Mme. Patti received a greeting overwhelming in its warmth at the Albert Hall on Wednesday, when she sang to a vast audience in behalf of Father Bernard Vaughan's fund in aid of poor children. No less than seven numbers were exacted from the celebrated diva, her selections, with the inevitable encores, consisting of Handel's "Angels ever bright and fair," Lotti's "Pur Dicesti," Mozart's "Voi che sapete," Tosti's "Serenata," the Bach-Gounod "Ave Maria"—sung twice, with violin and organ obbligatos by Mr. Zacharewitsch and Mr. Adolph Mann—and "Home, Sweet Home," all rendered with the exquisite charm for which Mme. Patti is renowned. Contributions to the programme were also made by Miss Cecilia Loftus, Miss Marie Wadia, Miss Violet Elliott, Mr. Walter Hyde, Mr. Julien Henry, Mr. Robert Radford, Miss Irene Scharrer, and Mr. Zacharewitsch. Father Vaughan expressed his sincere thanks to Mme. Patti and all the artists who had given him their valuable help, and to Mr. N. Vert, who had undertaken the management of the concert

Mr. Charles Collette will "present" his Dickens sketch, *Micawber*, which has already achieved considerable success, on Monday and during the week at the County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames. Mr. Collette appears in his old character of Micawber, supported by Messrs. J. A. Howitt (Uriah Heap) and Frederick Jacqués, and Mesdames Scott-Lauder, Lena Denton, and Joan Derry. Mr. Angelo Asher, musical director of the Chelsea Palace, has composed special music, and new costumes are provided.

Sir C. Hubert H. Parry, who is retiring from the presidency of the Musical Association, occupied the presidential chair for the last time at the annual dinner, held at the Criterion Restaurant on Tuesday. A large company included Dr. W. H. Cummings, Principal of the Guildhall School of Music, who succeeds to the office of president, Sir Charles Villiers Stanford, Dr. Maclean, Dr. Southgate, Mme. Rose Koenig, Mr. E. E. Cooper (chairman of the Royal Academy of Music), Mr. J. F. R. Stainer, Mr. Frank Pownall. Mr. Alfred Kastner, and Mr. J. Percy Baker (secretary). Sir Charles V. Stanford, proposing "The Musical Association," said it was in itself a record of the homogeneity and solidarity of the British school of music, which embraced all sides of music with impartiality and with a just appreciation. The Association was one of the pillars of that spirit.

Dr. W. H. Cummings, in proposing the chairman's health, said Sir Hubert Parry had endeared himself in the affections of all who knew him, whether personally or through his very fine and elevated music. They all most sincerely regretted his inability to continue in the office of President of the Association. Sir Hubert Parry, in responding, said he was proud to enjoy the kindly sympathy of the Musical Association, which looked at things seriously, had intellectual intentions, and judged all things in their verities. The members of the Assocation were not concerned with things which were not worth knowing, but endeavoured as specialists to unravel matters which might be to the better advantage of the art which they all served. He was confident that the broad-minded line taken up by the Association would be maintained and encouraged under its new president.

The interior of the Cork Opera House has undergone a complete transformation, and visitors to the house will be agreeably impressed by the change that has been effected. Attention is arrested immediately on entering by the new ceiling, with its appropriate decoration, the silk panels in the walls, the richly-mounted mirrors between artistic pilasters, the floors covered with mosaic marble, and the happy blending of colours in the whole decorative scheme.

The alterations include new exit doors for the pit, a new outlet for the orchestra stalls, through which a centre passage now runs, and a new platform and movable floor for the orchestra. The old winding staircase which afforded exit from the stalls is done away with, and the space which it occupied is thrown into one of the boxes. The dress-circle, enlarged to about twice its former size, is richly ornamented, and is provided with an elegant lounge. To the second circle seventeen new seats have been added, and a spacious promenade has been arranged at the back, with a new bar. Additional exits, a lady's cloak-room, and a store-room are also noticeable in this part of the house. The gallery now has two new centre passages, a new floor, bar, and lady's cloak-room.

New ventilating shafts for the dress circle, second circle, and pit have also been installed. The improvements reflect considerable credit on the enterprise of the directors, as well as on the manager of the Opera House, Mr. Richard J. Bell, who personally superintended the work.

Miss Marie McAulay, who has been seriously ill for the past month suffering from appendicitis, has now recovered, and has resumed her part of Julie de Beauvrais in *The Soldier's Wedding*.

The new Grand Opera House, Oldham, is nearing completion, and it has been decided definitely to open at Christmas, when Mr. Ernest Dottridge will produce a new version of *Aladdin*. Much interest is being manifested in the magnificent building, whose imposing appearance will compare with any theatre in the provinces. The stage has been made by that expert in this particular work Mr. Cawdrey, and it will be found sufficiently large to produce the biggest effects travelling.

That highly-promising young actress Miss Margaret Murce, has accepted a very excellent offer from Mr. F. W. Purcell to star in his new dramatic episode, by Luke Jellings, entitled *What Women do for Men*, on the Stoll Empires circuit.

The evergreen drama *Man to Man*, now playing to crowded houses at the Court Theatre, Wigan, will be toured by arrangement with Mr. William Bourne during the spring and autumn of next year, under the personal direction of Edward Lloyd and Clifford Bown. The bookings are in the hands of Mr. Lloyd, who has already arranged dates with most of the principal drama houses of the United Kingdom.

Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, in the new version of *The Christian*, which has been playing to full houses at the Dalston Theatre this week, will be at the Theatre Royal, Woolwich, on Monday next.

Mr. Frank Adair, wishing to devote his entire attention to his new production, *The Heathen and the Christian*, will sever his connection with *Man to Man* at Christmas.

"The Arab Gardener," a Tunisian play, in one act, adapted from the French of P. Elezear by Gladys Unger, will be put on in front of *Jack Straw* at the Vaudeville on Thursday next. All the characters are Arabs, and will be represented by Mr. H. R. Hignett, Mr. Percy Goodyer, Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., Mr. Charles Troode, Mr. E. Maturin, and Miss Mona Harrison. The scenery is from the expert brush of Mr. Walter Hann, the costumes designed by Miss Edith Craig, and the incidental music specially composed by Mr. Edward Jones.

Mrs. Emma Powell died on Monday last, aged eighty-five. The deceased lady had resided for many years in Jersey, and had been an annuitant of the Royal General Theatrical Fund for the past twenty-five years.

The Play Actors' programme at the Court tomorrow (Sunday) will consist of four little pieces. The first is *The Sentimental Bray*, by F. D. Bone, which will be acted by Messrs. W. Lawson Butt, Jackson Wilcox, Reginald Rivington, Harold Chapin, P. Percival Clark, Norman Trevor, Norman MacOwan, Ivan Berlyn, and A. E. Filmer, Miss Sybil Ruskin being the only lady member of the cast. Then comes *Tilda's New Hat*, by George Paston, with Miss Agnes Thomas, Miss Mabel Hackney, Miss Lorna Laurence, and Mr. Ashton Pearse in the cast.

The third novelty will be an incident, entitled *Maraquita*, by Michael Merrick, in which the characters will be sustained by Mr. Norman MacOwan, Mr. Edmund Waller, Mr. P. Percival Clark, Miss Nancy Grogan, and Miss Rita Milman. The evening will be concluded with *A Dear Bargain*, by L. C. Fenn, in which Mr. Edward Rigby, Miss Ida Phillips, Miss Rita Tomkins, Mr. Murri Moncrieff, and Mr. Patric Curwen will appear.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Miss Ashwell's Antecedents.

MISS LENA ASHWELL, who has since Saturday received the congratulations of hosts of friends on her marriage with Dr. Simson, comes, according to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, of a family whose connection with the sea and ships has been long and intimate. Miss Ashwell is the daughter of a naval officer, Captain Pocock, R.N., and in that beautiful old house at Westminster, almost in the shadow of the Abbey, in which she has lived of late years, there hangs a portrait by Beechey of a seaman great-uncle of the popular actress—one Captain Francis Cole, who distinguished himself in the great French wars, and took the red Cap of Liberty from the masthead of one of the ships of the Republic, a cap that was long preserved as a souvenir by Miss Ashwell's mother. Another forebear was Nicholas Pocock, a Bristol master-mariner, who accustomed himself to make sketches of anything of interest seen by him on his voyages, and ultimately abandoned the active service of the sea to become one of its most popular painters and an original member of the Old Water Colour Society.

A Manager of Experiences.

THE same paper says:—"M. Richepin, who, it is surmised, will succeed M. Claretie in the direction of the Théâtre Française, has had a pretty variegated career in the course of his sixty years of life. He began by cutting the Ecole Normale in favour of journalism, and it was while he was on a Bordeaux paper that he elected to become one of Bourbaki's irregular soldiers. The end of the war sent him back to a newspaper office again—several newspaper offices, in fact. Then he tried the stage, and found some favour at the then Tour d'Auvergne Theatre. His next appearance was as a café-reciter in the Quarter. And then he bounded into notoriety as the author of the notorious "Chansons des Gueux," a publication that eventually was considered fit to deprive its author of the rights of citizenship. Meantime he had gone to sea—'De tanguer et de rouler j'ai connu la secousse,' as he has told us. When he had had enough of that, he bloomed out again on the Boulevard as the author of 'La Glu'—the character which Mme. Réjane subsequently made so famous when the story was produced in stage-play form. It is to M. Richepin also that the French stage owes a most realistic prose version of *Macbeth*, while the house of Molière knows him already as a dramatist. His *M. Scapin* dates there from twenty years ago."

Cicely's Clever Quips.

MISS CICELY HAMILTON is as witty as her authorship of *Diana of Dobson's* would lead us to expect. In the paper which she read to the members of the O.P. Club at the Criterion on Sunday night, she remarked:—"The attitude of the critic is inevitably that of the superior person." "His attitude does not necessarily coincide with that of the public." "The theatre-going public is composed of persons who have not seen many plays. The stalls on the first night are occupied by people who have usually seen too many." "Dramatic criticism is the only profession in the world which is best carried on by men who don't know their business." "The actor is generally handled more leniently than the author." "It is a better thing for an author to cower in a box on a first night than to sit in the seats of the scornful—the stalls." Mr. Carl Hentschel occupied the chair, and amongst those who took part in the discussion were Messrs. Edward F. Spence, Sidney Dark, F. D. Bone, J. D. Johnston, T. McDonald Rendle, and Max Pemberton.

A Troubled "Tag."

"IN a great many of the old plays and farces," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "the principal character speaks outside before he enters on the stage, such words as "Upstairs, is he?" or "Never mind, I'll introduce myself." I was once with a very peculiar and eccentric manager who always spoke outside before he entered, and I have seen him after he spoke applaud himself in the wings, and then bounce on and enjoy his reception. There was a custom among certain actors in the dressing-rooms of chaffing younger actors who had certain lines to deliver, and make them alter the meaning, and sometimes to turn them into ridicule. We were performing *Black-Eyed Susan*, in which William is condemned to be hanged for striking his officer, and in the last scene is about to be strung up, when the captain enters and exclaims, 'Hold! If the prisoner is executed he is a murdered man! I alone am guilty, for I would have dishonoured him! I had written for his discharge; villainy kept back the document. 'Tis here, dated back. When William struck me he was not a King's seaman; I was not his officer.' The captain had been teased about this speech in the dressing-room, and when he rushed on at the finish, he exclaimed, "Hold! If the prisoner is murdered he's an executed man! When William struck me he was not a King's seaman, and I was not an officer or a man!' I need not repeat what the manager said to that young gentleman. Whilst at Southport during a stock season, the Lancashire Hussars had their annual training, and one night gave their 'bespeak,' and all the officers attended in mess dress, including their Colonel, Lord Skelmersdale (now Earl Lathom). We were giving *Still Waters Run Deep*, and a lady London star was playing Mrs. Sternhold. During the very dramatic scene between Mrs. Sternhold and Captain Hawksley, in turning up the lamp it toppled over, and a portion of the oil was spilt on the lady's dress. The affair was soon settled, thanks to the presence of mind of the Captain Hawksley, and the play proceeded. The officers, who were all seated in the stalls, witnessed the accident, and at the conclusion of the play, in the most tactful and graceful manner, presented the lady with ten sovereigns to purchase a new dress. The next morning she told us that a shilling bottle of benzine had removed all trace of the stains on her dress, and it looked as good as new."

Hat and Hair.

AT the Queen's Theatre, the other evening, says the *Mail*, when the experiment was made of prohibiting the wearing of matinée hats, a lady on her way to the stalls, told by an attendant that she must remove her headgear, seemed embarrassed, and said "I cannot." A man accompanying her remonstrated, whereupon she took him a few steps aside, and said in an audible whisper, "You stupid! Some of my curls are fixed to my hat!" The couple left the theatre. The inscription, "Hats and bonnets not allowed," is stamped on the tickets sold at the theatre, but it was not on the lady's tickets, which were bought at a library.

French Theatres.

"IT is odd," says an evening paper, "that the French, being the greatest theatre-goers, are contented with the worst theatrical accommodation. They sit without murmur in airless theatres, on hard and uncomfortable seats, and submit to a series of petty exactions from elderly harpies which would drive any other people to an eager protest. With a single exception—the theatre consecrated to the genius of Sarah Bernhardt—there is no temple of Thespis where the conditions approach those of English houses. In between the acts the public passes cheerfully over your toes, and during the progress of the piece your personal comfort is absolutely sacrificed to the desire of the management to crowd as many seats into a given space as possible without absolutely causing the rows to touch. It must be because of this that the French acting is so superior—otherwise the theatres would be empty.

"DOLLY REFORMING HERSELF."

Comedy in Four Acts, by Henry Arthur Jones, produced at the Haymarket Theatre, on Tuesday, Nov. 3.

Mrs. Harry Telfer .....MISS ETHEL IRVING
Harry Telfer .....MR. ROBERT LORAINE
Matthew Barron .....MR. C. M. LOWNE
Capt. Lucas Wentworth..MR. CHARLES R. MAUDE
Peters .....MISS ADA WEBSTER
Criddle .....MR. GILBERT PORTEOUS
The Rev. James Pilcher..MR. HERBERT BUNSTON
Professor Sturgess .....MR. E. LYALL SWETE
Mrs. Sturgess .....MISS MARGARET HALSTAN

Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's comedy is decidedly amusing, though it must be admitted that it is more amusing in some parts than in others. Fortunately, the fun is most fast and furious just at the right point in the play, *i.e.*, in the third act of the four into which the comedy is divided. This act, or rather the latter portion of it, is a "slice out of life," a realistic reproduction of a domestic duologue which evidently went straight to the hearts of the audience on Tuesday. The truth of the representation was warmly recognised, and the scene in which Mr. Harry Telfer "passes"—or rather, protests violently against "passing"—his wife's dressmakers' bills is alone enough to make the success of a piece.

If there is a moral to the play, it is that people cannot reform themselves by mere effort of will. Professor Sturgess, a scientist, maintains, indeed, that our actions are dictated by the condition of the "grey matter of the brain." The scene is a country house in Surrey, and the local vicar induces everyone at Mr. Harry Telfer's house on New Year's Day to form good resolutions for the coming year. Mrs. Harry Telfer ("Dolly"), whose fault is extragavance in dress; Mr. Harry Telfer, who is inclined to be overbearing and profane; and Captain Lucas Wentworth, who is philandering with Mrs. Sturgess, the young wife of a learned and elderly professor, all promise to turn over a new leaf. Mrs. Sturgess is too self-satisfied to imitate them; and in order to put a stop to the dangerous intrigue Mrs. Telfer turns the Captain out of the house, after some amusing opposition on his part. Then Mrs. Telfer prepares for the ordeal of presenting her husband with her "bills" for the year. The examination ends in both of them becoming violently angry, and calling in poor Mr. Barron, Mrs. Telfer's father, as a mediator. A year elapses, and some amount of improvement is visible. Telfer has decided to tolerate his wife's extravagance, and the "philandering" has gone no further, though it has not been abandoned, for the Professor intercepts a compromising letter from the Captain to Mrs. Sturgess, and threatens proceedings for divorce. But the others turn the tables on him by quoting from his great book about the non-existence of free-will, and he is obliged to forgive Mrs. Sturgess under penalty of "eating" his own (printed) words.

Miss Ethel Irving played Dolly Telfer with all the quick keenness and earnest alertness of which she has proved herself the mistress in so many popular performances. The highly-strung, nervous temperament of Dolly and her slightly plebeian style were shown by many little touches, too small to enumerate; but the result, in the aggregate, was very effective. There is nothing of the spirit of compromise about Dolly; she is the essence of downright decision and hot partisanship. Miss Irving has all the force and energy necessary for such a character, and she plays her part for all that it is worth, especially in the scene of the bills. Here there was no need for finesse or high polish. Husband and wife laid aside the veneer of civilisation, and attacked each other with "prehistoric" violence and frankness. Miss Irving scored immensely in this scene, the gradually growing excitement of the woman, her feminine tricks and wiles, her resort to tears, and her final angry appeal to her parent being rendered with a vigour and vitality that quite carried the audience away. She was ably assisted by Mr. Robert Loraine, whose strong, straightforward style well suited the rôle of the hot-headed, warm-hearted Harry Telfer. His treatment of his share in the great scene was strikingly artistic; and his embodiment had a well-bred and manly flavour which made it increasingly amiable. That always easy and accomplished actor, Mr. C. M. Lowne, gave an unimpeachable performance as the easy-going much-harassed Matthew Barron, acting with a mellow geniality that was very agreeable, and with a quiet, unforced humour warmly to be praised. A very neat, quiet, and polished performance of the part of Captain Lucas Wentworth was contributed by Mr. Charles R. Maude, the repose of his manner and the calm yet clear and sharp way in which he made his points—and not one of them was slurred or missed—being in the true spirit of comedy. He managed to hit exactly the right note, and his touch was light yet firm throughout. The very unobtrusiveness of the rendering and its freedom from all exaggeration redoubled its value. Mr. Herbert Bunston as the Rev. James Pilcher gave a capital notion of the hearty, earnest, country Vicar, with plenty of predominance, but always agreeable and in harmony with his surroundings. Mr. E. Lyall Swete as Professor Sturgess supplied one of those ponderously quaint embodiments in which he excels, his make-up being admirable, and his costume characteristic down to the trouser straps. The dry, solemn drollery of the Professor was irresistible, and his sonorous delivery of scientific arguments "told" immensely. Great success was won by Miss Marguerite Halstan, whose figure and style were well suited to the rôle of Mrs Sturgess, her graceful bearing and delicate diction greatly assisting her. Added to this was a delightfully humorous appreciation of the comedy of the part, which showed itself in complete freedom from over-emphasis, and a thoroughly serious treatment of Mrs. Sturgess's sentimental outpourings. The piece was mounted in the style which we always expect and obtain at the Haymarket, and, under the attentive stage management of Mr. Harry Norton, it went with great smoothness. The artists were called and recalled, and, had the enthusiasm which prevailed at the end of the third act been maintained to the end, the author would certainly have been summoned.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

H. B. IRVING ON PLAYS.

The striking success of the revival of *The Lyons Mail* by Mr. H. B. Irving suggests hopeful anticipations. Mr. Irving is an artist of great achievement and still greater possibility. With a voice, physique, and facile "mask" which are wonderfully reminiscent of his late father, he combines the culture of the college and the mental training of the Temple. In the prime of artistic life—he is just thirty-eight—and with over seventeen years of stage experience, he is ripe and ready to take up a leading position on the London stage. And he is certainly one of the most interesting personalities connected with the drama.

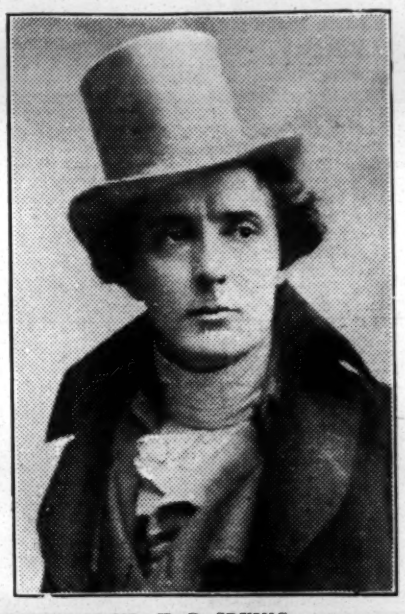
"No, I really have not the least sympathy with criminals," says Mr. Irving, alert and awake, though interviewed at an unreasonably early hour at his pleasant house in Upper Woburn-place.

"I fancied after reading your 'Life of Judge Jeffreys' and your 'French Criminals of the Nineteenth Century' that you held somewhat cynical views on the subject."

"Not in the least. I consider that all the rascals mentioned in my second book richly deserved all they got; and as for Jeffreys, all I wanted to do was to clear away from the common estimate of him all the undeserved abuse which was showered on him by party writers of his time. He was certainly a very violent-tempered man, and suffered from a most painful disease; but to describe him as a 'monster' because he carried out energetically his Sovereign's orders as to the ruthless punishment of the Somersetshire rebels is absurd. I never wished to whitewash him, as the cant phrase goes."

"But crime evidently interests you?"

"Yes, certainly. In studying a criminal case we get as near as possible a nakedly complete view of the motives that influenced the criminal. They are laid bare to us is a manner which we cannot



MR. H. B. IRVING.

attain to in any other way. We get, in short, a post-mortem on the disease from which they suffered. You must remember that I wrote these books when I was reading for the Bar."

"There is nothing psychological about Dubosc."

"No, he is the common or garden criminal, just as Lesurques is the ordinary honest man. There is no apologising or whitewashing in *The Lyons Mail*. Indeed, on that account some may consider it a little old-fashioned."

"Yet it is an immense success at the Shaftesbury."

"I am glad to say that it is. It shows that the elements of popularity are much the same as they were in my father's time."

"I noticed in your performance of Lesurques and Dubosc, and especially in the latter, that, while what I may call the broad lines of the business were adhered to, many of the details were different—at any rate, as far as my memory serves me."

"Your impression was correct. I did not see my father act in the piece often enough to 'memorise' all the minor details of his reading. You must remember that after I joined John Hare's company at the Garrick in 1901 I was a great deal in the provinces. Before that I was at Oxford, or reading for the Bar. Besides, at that time I never thought of playing in *The Lyons Mail*. Of course, I have adhered to the 'traditions' of the part. I am a great believer in tradition. I remember when my father was accused of taking certain 'business' from Charles Kean, how he used to say that there were certain scenes that could only be played in one way, because that was the right and true way in which to play them; and that, when a situation had been analysed and stage-managed once for all by a man of genius, it was mere vanity to change the business for the sake of novelty. Tradition, I consider, must always exercise an advantageous influence on the stage. It is only by tradition that we can gain anything like a school of acting. I don't mean an academy, you know. The school of dramatic art may be—in fact, is—of great value in taking the rough edges off the aspirant, and thus saving the manager a great deal of trouble. But, in the end, it comes to him to form the young artist, to impart to him his methods, to inspire him with some of his genius. My father used to say that he kept a dramatic school for thirty years."

"And a school of dramatic art may be of great use in weeding out the impossible aspirants?"

"Undoubtedly. The curse of the stage at present is the great rush of incapable people to get upon it. We have no official means of stemming this rush. Many of these incapables have influence, audacity, and obstinacy. And I am afraid that in the bustle and press of the struggle modest merit too often is thrust aside or trampled underfoot."

"I suppose an 'outsider' can have no idea of the amount of incapacity that exists?"

"I should say not. Take play-writing, for instance. We are always being told that we never read plays, and that genius knocks in vain at the door of the manager's room. Well, I *do* read plays—I am always reading them. But I never find the gold I am hoping for. It is astonishing what dreadfully silly stuff people who are undoubtedly clever in other ways will send in to a manager as a 'play.' They must think the stage a very silly place."

"You are correcting a number of my false impressions. I had an idea that managers never read plays."

"Some people have an idea that you belong to the hyper-intellectual, morbidly analytic modern school of thought brought into fashion by French writers like Brieux and others?"

"Whatever I may think of the artistic merit of their works, I am absolutely certain that they will never attract the English public. They may be produced as English curiosities, but they are out of the question for the manager of a theatre which appeals to the regular playgoer. The public will not have pessimism at any price. They do not mind a melancholy ending. What they will not stand is a cynical one. Look at *Lights Out*: there was an 'unhappy ending,' if you like! But it was a success, because it was neither pessimistic nor cynical. The public does not object to being made to shed tears; but they must be tears of sympathy, not tears of hopelessness. Within these limitations, I do not believe that any play can be 'too good' for them. Anything that is poignant, human, and strenuous they appreciate, however finely the thread be spun. But they will not be made miserable, and they will not have pathology at any price. I think myself that the stage should be a teacher, but that it should exercise its functions indirectly and unobtrusively. And, first and foremost, the drama must be good *as a play*. It must be effective as a dramatic entertainment first, and didactic afterwards. That is why I have chosen *The Lyons Mail* to open my season at the Shaftesbury."

"When are we to see you in *Cæsar Borgia*, *Louis XI.*, *Charles I.*, *The Bells*, and *Becket?*"

"There is no need to talk of that yet, *The Lyons Mail* is 'going' so strongly. Sufficient for the day, you know, is the success thereof."

MR. BOURCHIER AT RATHMINES.

The second annual prize distribution in connection with Rathmines College took place recently at the Parochial Hall, Belgrave-square, Dublin. Professor Dowden, LL.D., presided over a large attendance, which included Mr. Arthur Bourchier, M.A., and Sir Chas. A. Cameron, C.B., M.D.

The Headmaster having presented his report, Mr. Arthur Bourchier said he would like to talk to them as a schoolboy. He was afraid when he was at school he was a naughty boy—it was a way boys had. At his school they taught nothing useful. They were taught to be ornamental and to study erudite works and all sorts of dead masters, but they were never allowed to do anything useful except mathematics. Latin and Greek were very good foundations, but when modern languages were an "extra" and music was rigidly excluded that was wrong. He had always been very fond of music, but he could get none at school without paying extra. Music was one of the most beautiful things God had given, and when, at school, they were not encouraged to love music he felt—he was certain, in fact—that that was wrong. Therefore it was a great joy to him to find that day that at Rathmines College the rising generation were encouraged in music. Of course dead languages were valuable; but, as Mr. Logan had said, a child's education began when he was taught to think for himself, and it was very difficult for a child to think in Latin or Greek. He felt, with Mr. Logan, "that the main defect in our present system of education was that it aimed at imparting knowledge rather than training capacity and character, and that a boy leaves school burdened with a store of facts rather than with a quickened perception." It was vital in the struggle of life that children should be taught as soon as possible to know their own minds. How could they know their own minds if they were perpetually being taught subjects in which they could take no interest? If a boy had a taste for mechanics why should he be put to do a hundred lines? If he had a boy he would rather send him to Rathmines College than to many others he knew. (Applause.) Mr. Bourchier, in conclusion, apologised for the absence of his wife, Miss Violet Vanbrugh. Acting took a lot of nervous force out of one, and women were not as strong as men—they were, he believed, stronger in the House of Commons at present, but not elsewhere. (Laughter.)

Mr. Bourchier then distributed the prizes.

The Rev. Dr. Logan moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Bourchier, and it was heartily passed.

Mr. Bourchier, in replying, announced that next year he would be pleased to give a prize for the best work in elocution, and he wished that the prize should take the form of a copy of Professor Dowden's "Mind and Life of Shakespeare."

"PLAYLETS, LIMITED."

A duologue with the above title was produced at the Rehearsal Theatre on Wednesday afternoon. It is the work of that clever writer Mr. Victor Stevens, and its object is the exhibition of the versatile talent of Miss Margaret Lynhart, a bright and vivacious artist, who works with unflagging energy throughout. The scene is the rehearsal-room of a musical agency, where Molly Millington and her admirer, Percy Vere, find themselves. After some bright and casual conversation, Molly consents to give Percy proof of her skill; and thus are introduced a series of clever imitations. There is a skit on the moat scene in *The Duke's Motto*, and another on the extravagancies of the Sicilian Players. In these both artists engage, and then Miss Lynhart, as Molly, imitates Yvette Guilbert quite cleverly, singing her song beginning "I will give you the gates of Heaven" with faithful mimicry of the French artist. Next Molly gives a reproduction of a scene from Mme. Sarah Bernhardt's performance in *La Dame aux Camellias*, the passionate emotion and subsequent collapse of Marguerite being shown with thrilling effect. This is followed by an imitation of Miss Maude Allan in her "Spring Song" and "Salome" dances. In these Miss Lynhart does not don skirts as diaphanous as those worn by the great Palace *poseuse*, but she catches the spirit of Miss Allan's performance quite cleverly. Miss Lynhart also imitates Mr. Harry Lauder in one of his Scotch songs. The sketch winds up with a dashing dance in tricolour costume with a song about Paris. In this Mr. Clevedon Woods joins with Miss Lynhart, and also bridges over the inevitable interval caused by one of her costume changes with a comic song, which he renders very neatly and drolly. The sketch is full of refined fun and smart activity and intelligence, and it had a cordial and appreciative reception.

MISS ADA McKENZIE AND MISS ALYS TURNER'S RECITAL.

Miss Ada McKenzie and Miss Alys Turner gave a successful recital at Steinway Hall on Saturday evening, Oct. 31. They were assisted by M. Edouard Garceau and Miss Ethel Bauer. The concert, which was under the direction of Miss Alice E. Joseph, commenced with a pianoforte solo by Miss Ethel Bauer, who gave an admirable interpretation of Schumann's "Aufschwung" and "Airs de Ballet (Gluck-Saint-Saëns). In two recitations, "Cheering up an Invalid" and "Our Traveller," Miss Alys Turner displayed a bright and effective style and clear enunciation. Miss Ada McKenzie, who has a pleasing soprano voice, was first heard in "The Nightingale Trill" (Ganz) and Arne's "Where the bee sucks," and later on in the concert sang "O cessate di piagarmi" (Scarlatti) with success. Miss Mackenzie made an excellent impression and her contribution to the programme was greatly enjoyed. M. Edouard Garceau greatly pleased the audience with several Chansons des Cabarets de Montmartre, which were sung with appropriate and expressive gestures; and Miss Alys Turner in her excellent recitations of "An Old Fool" (G. R. Sims), "The Idyll of Battle Hollow" (a characteristic sketch by Bret Harte), and "Bric-à-Brac" received warm applause. The other recitations given by Miss Turner were "What They Do at the Springs" and "A Lesson with the Fan." Miss Turner is an elocutionist of real dramatic power, and her well-chosen selections were greatly enjoyed. M. Garceau was again heard in his clever French songs, and Miss Ethel Bauer received an encore for a brilliant performance of Chopin's "Polonaise in A flat."

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

Once more we take pleasure in reminding our readers of the forthcoming dinner which is to be held on Sunday evening, Dec. 13, at the Hotel Metropole, in aid of the Actors' Benevolent Fund. And in performing this agreeable office, we have to associate with it the name of Mr. Cyril Maude, who will take the chair on the occasion referred to. Mr. Maude's interest in charitable work is well known, and, furthermore, is well appreciated. He has recently addressed the following letter to many prominent people in theatrical and other circles:—

"The Playhouse,
"Northumberland-avenue,
"Charing Cross, Nov. 9, 1908.

"Dear Sir,—I have been honoured by a request from the president, Sir Charles Wyndham, and the committee of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, to take the chair at the annual dinner which is arranged to take place on Sunday, Dec. 13, at the Whitehall Rooms, Hotel Metropole, at 7.30 p.m.

"I sincerely hope that you will find it in your power to be present on that evening. The poverty and distress among the less successful of our comrades in the theatrical profession is very great, and very hard for them to bear. The Actors' Benevolent Fund has for many years done an enormous amount of good, and is thoroughly deserving of support, helping, as it does, those who are sinking, rescuing many who would otherwise "go under," and supporting the aged and helpless among us.

"The dinner has been fixed for a Sunday evening, in the confident hope that many actors who have hitherto been prevented from attending the banquets will find it possible to come.

"Earnestly begging your kind presence and support,

"I remain, yours faithfully,
"CYRIL MAUDE."

Speaking on the subject to our interviewer, Mr. Maude stated that to his own personal knowledge the amount of good done by the fund was enormous. "Several old actors," he said, "have been, and are being, maintained by it in their old age, and a great deal is spent every week in relieving urgent cases of necessity. This fund, I need hardly tell you, had the warmest approval and support of the late Sir Henry Irving, and Sir Charles Wyndham, the present president, takes a very considerable interest in it. It is owing to the latter's request that I am taking the chair at this year's dinner. There has not, by the way, been a dinner for two years. I shall on this night announce the amount of money that has been collected for other charities than theatrical through the agency of actors at special performances. I think the statement I shall have to make on the subject will astound the public. That is why I have no compunction in asking aid for the Actors' Benevolent Fund from people who are, or might be, interested in other charities, nearly all of which are helped in one way or another by actors and actresses. I have a rule at my own theatre whereby I demand five per cent. of the receipts at a charity performance for the Actors' Orphanage Fund, of which I am president. That fund, by the way, is in a very healthy condition. We have special homes for the children, and we see that they attend good schools.

"Whenever I look at a crowd of unemployed, I at once think of the miserable condition of some of the people in my own profession who are unable to organise a 'hunger march,' and who suffer more than the outside public have any idea of. The distress seems to get more and more acute every year, for the reason that the profession gets more and more crowded. And yet men and women who take up the acting profession and afterwards find themselves unfitted for it relinquish it much more readily than was formerly the case.

"Sometimes actors come to me and complain that the Actors' Benevolent Fund does not look after people in the provinces. If such an impression exist in any one's mind, it is quite an erroneous one. The fund helps all genuine cases, and those cases that are not helped are ignored for very good reasons. I have never watched a committee work with a greater sense of humanity and kindly feeling than does the committee of the A.B.F. Every application is considered most thoroughly, and, speaking personally, I have never known of a case of urgent necessity that has not been satisfied at once. I think that the remarks which have been sometimes passed by actors against the fund have been made with the wish that there might be founded some other fund which would not examine so rigidly the antecedents of the applicants for relief. But everybody must realise the necessity for the employment of discrimination and discretion in the granting of aid from a fund which does so much good in assisting genuine members of the profession who are, temporarily or permanently, in a distressful financial condition.

"As the dinner this year takes place on a Sunday evening, it is hoped that many actors who have been hitherto unable to attend these annual functions will be able to come and prove by their presence and support their interest and belief in this benevolent society. For myself, I feel a tremendous responsibility in taking the chair on behalf of people who are suffering in silence, and who are unable to walk about with banners and parade their poverty in the public thoroughfares. I might mention, incidentally, that one method I put into force to assist the Actors' Orphanage is to charge every actor and actress who obtains a free seat in the Playhouse the small sum of sixpence. In that way we get a decent little sum of money every year. The same system might be put in operation at the other theatres in London and throughout the provinces for the benefit of the Actors' Benevolent Fund."

One aspect of the beneficent work of the Fund is, that no player nowadays, when the hand of death has put an end to his earthly labours, will be permitted to be laid to rest in a pauper's grave, but will be buried at the expense of the A.B.F. in the event of his having died in poor cidcumstances. Surely this is a benefit which cannot be lightly overlooked for the self-respect of the profession. Then, were every guarantee needed as to the bona-fide and just distribution of the money at the command of the executive committee of the Fund, it would be found in the list of names of eminent and responsible actors comprising that committee. Thus, Sir Charles Wyndham is the president, and Mr. Tree, Mr. George Alexander, and Mrs. D'Oyly Carte are vice-presidents; while the committee includes Messrs. Harry Nicholls (treasurer), Edward Terry, Cyril Maude, Robert Courtneidge, Lionel Rignold, Algernon Syms, Isaac Cohen, Harry Loveday, Morris Abrahams, J. D. Beveridge, M. R. Morand, J. Bannister Howard, Charles Cruikshanks, Arthur Williams, Fred Wright, Akerman May, A. B. Tapping, Lionel Brough, E. H. Bull, and Sydney Paxton, the trustees being Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. Tree, and Mr. Edward Terry. Before passing from this subject, one can fittingly bestow a word of appreciation to the well-directed labours of the secretary, Mr. C. I. Coltson.

AT the close of the Motor Show, Olympia is to be converted into a gigantic roller skating rink. The promoters intend to do everything on a lavish scale, and before Christmas Olympia will contain one of the largest maple floors ever constructed. London is not, however, to be entirely deprived of its Fun City, for an up to date show, on the lines that have proved so popular at Olympia during the last two winters, will completely fill the annexe at Olympia, and will be under the guidance and management of Mr. Charles B. Cochran.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

It is gratifying to know that Mr. Forbes Robertson has kindly consented to lend the use of Terry's Theatre for a meeting in connection with the Provident and Share-out Fund which the Executive Committee of the National Association of Theatrical Employees has for some time past had under consideration.

The committee, recognising that a large section of employees—men and women—are not eligible to join any of the existing theatrical or music hall societies, propose to establish a fund open to any man or woman employed in any capacity in a theatre or music hall in the Metropolitan area. They feel confident that with a large membership—which is not only possible, but highly probable—much larger benefits can be assured than any existing society of employees can give. It may be remembered, when details were published in this column, that it was proposed to assure during sickness of a member 15s. per week for thirteen weeks and 7s. 6d. for a further thirteen weeks if necessary, covering a period of sickness during six months in any one year and providing a possible sum of £14 12s. 6d. for sick pay alone. It is also proposed that on the death of a member a levy of 6d. per member be paid, and on the death of a member's wife a levy of 3d. per member. These sums on a membership of 2,000 would yield for the widow the very substantial sum of £50 and for the member £25. When it is admitted that the present funeral allowance (so called) provided by many societies is barely sufficient to meet the funeral expenses, and that the dependants of a member are generally immediately face to face with the want of the means of subsistence, the value of this proposal will be apparent. It is proposed that the contribution shall be 6d. per week, and—what is of special interest—the surplus funds at the end of each year shall be shared out in equal proportions among the members, thus combining with an insurance fund the additional benefits of a savings bank.

It is understood that all these questions as to contributions and benefits are subject to confirmation by the members, but as to the necessity of some such fund and its utility for all engaged in the work of the theatre and the music hall there cannot be two opinions. It should be noted that membership is practically open to all connected with the stage working staff—stage-managers and nightmen, all in the advertising and billing departments, the box-office, attendants inside and outside, back and front, supers, firemen, cleaners—in fact, anyone, man or woman, who can show they have, as an employee, a *bond-fide* connection with a theatre or music hall.

The prospects for an efficient and economical management, which is of the greatest importance, are everything that could be desired. The Executive Committee for the time being of the National Association of Theatrical Employees will be the responsible governing body. A reference to the names of the men composing this body will justify this conclusion. The office and staff of the committee will also be placed at the service of the new fund, and it will thus commence under trained and experienced auspices.

The meeting arranged to be held in Terry's Theatre will take place on Sunday evening, Nov. 15, at seven o'clock. Mr. James Cullen, master carpenter of the St. James's Theatre (president of the N.A.T.E.), will preside, and he will be supported by Mr. G. H. Dyball, stage-manager of the London Pavilion; Mr. C. T. Cory, master carpenter of the Vaudeville Theatre; Mr. Arthur Palmer, master carpenter of the Comedy Theatre; Mr. William Barbour, electrician of the St. James's Theatre; Mr. H. J. Powell, property master of Hicks Theatre; Mr. Philip Sheridan, electrician of the Waldorf Theatre; Mr. J. Reid, president of the Carpenters' Society; Mr. Charles Thorogood, president of the No. 1 Branch N.A.T.E.; Mr. J. N. Hunt, New Theatre; Mr. G. Pickering, Duke of York's Theatre; Mr. J. H. Radford, Comedy Theatre; Mr. H. Lane and Mr. Ed. Stow, Savoy Theatre; Mr. A. Spaull; Mr. A. Jones, of the Royal Opera House, and a host of well-known men connected with other theatres and music halls.

Mr. Wm. Johnson, general secretary N.A.T.E., will submit the proposal to the meeting on behalf of the committee. The rules will provide an age limit, but it is proposed to admit all otherwise eligible, without regard to age, who apply at once, at, or after, the meeting. It is therefore important that all interested will attend the meeting so as to hear the whole conditions of membership and to avail themselves of the special terms offered to those who join at once. It is to be hoped that employees generally will avail themselves of this opportunity to provide against unavoidable privations due to sickness and death and the irregularity of employment inseparable from this business. It is also suggested that the "Open" Fund now conducted by the above committee be handed over to the new fund and maintained as a permanent aid to its members. If the employees as a body show by joining this fund that they are willing to mutually aid one another in times of individual need, they are likely to get far more assistance for their Benevolent Fund.

The following additions to the list of patrons of the employees' concert on Nov. 29 have been received:—Mr. Oswald Stoll, £3 3s.; Mr. Eric Lewis, £1; and Mr. H. B. Irving. Miss Marie George has very kindly offered to help in selling programmes. Tickets may now be obtained from the following, and as no money can be taken at the doors of the theatre on the evening of the concert, it will be necessary to sell all tickets before the day:—Mr. James Cullen, master carpenter, and Mr. Wm. Barbour, electrician, St. James's Theatre; Mr. T. Swift, Alhambra Theatre; Mr. Arthur Palmer, master carpenter, Comedy Theatre; Mr. R. Andrews, master carpenter, Prince of Wales's Theatre; Mr. G. T. Dalgarno, Empire, Leicester-square; Mr. W. C. Weaver, Shaftesbury Theatre; Mr. G. H. Dyball, stage-manager, London Pavilion; Mr. H. J. Powell, property master, Hicks Theatre; Mr. David Sheridan, electrician, Scala Theatre; Mr. G. Pickering, Duke of York's Theatre; Messrs. Honour and Hepden, Wyndham's Theatre; Mr. J. H. Hunt, New Theatre; Mr. G. Dyer, Drury Lane Theatre; Mr. R. Roger, Holborn Empire; Mr. G. Poynton-Applebee, electrician, Gaiety Theatre; Mr. W. Beavington, Aldwych Theatre; Mr. P. Sheridan, electrician, Waldorf Theatre; Mr. A. George, master carpenter, and Mr. C. Terry, Lyceum Theatre; Mr. A. Beasley, Terry's Theatre; Mr. Ed. Stow, Savoy Theatre; Mr. C. T. Cory, master carpenter, Vaudeville Theatre; Mr. W. Grant, Adelphi Theatre; Mr. W. Pullinger, master carpenter, Garrick Theatre; Mr. H. J. Kemp, His Majesty's Theatre; Mr. H. Hildyard, stage-manager, Hippodrome, Balham; Mr. P. Barry, Islington Hippodrome; Mr. Sturgess, Olympia, Shoreditch; Mr. H. G. Brooke, stage-manager, Paragon; Mr. W. Yates, Britannia, Hoxton; and Mr. H. Bowmer, Gaiety Theatre.

The General Staff Branch (London) of the N.A.T.E., whose committee will meet on Wednesday next, have made arrangement for the use of a room at the Roundtable Inn, St. Martin's-court, St. Martin's-lane, which will be used by members in want of work and where men can be secured any evening except Sundays, from seven o'clock to nine o'clock by those wanting men for odd shows or regular employment. Those who have occasion to run about to find a man to fill an unexpected vacancy and those who have to hang about stage doors in inclement weather will appreciate the advantages of this arrangement. The arrangement comes into operation on Monday evening next. At the last meeting of this committee seventeen applications for membership were granted.

At the last meeting of the Heads of Departments Association Committee Mr. J. Cullen, the President, in the chair, five applications for membership, including two from stage managers, one master carpenter, one electrician, and one property master, were granted. The consideration of the annual dinner of the society was deferred until after the annual concert.

Employees in Birmingham are reminded that the Provisional Committee appointed at a recent meeting to form a branch of the N.A.T.E. meet to-day at 3 o'clock in the Victoria Inn, John Bright-street, when applications for membership will be received and any information desired given to those interested.

A general meeting of members of the Middlesbrough Branch of the N.A.T.E. was held in the Black Lion Hotel last Sunday. A number of members of the newly formed branch in Stockton-on-Tees were also present, there being the largest gathering of members since the formation of a branch in this district. Having regard to the energy and tact displayed by the local secretary, Mr. A. E. Wright, the committee in London sent a gold badge which they requested Mr. H. Andrews, the branch President, to present in the names of the National Executive to Mr. Wright. Mr. Andrews in making the presentation said it was equally pleasing to all the members of the branch to know that the services of their secretary were as much appreciated by the committee in London as by the committee and members of the branch. They all respected and felt confidence in Mr. Wright, and he was glad to be the medium of handing to him this gold badge, the first presented to any member, as a token of their goodwill and regard.

The Vice-President and other members, including Mr. J. Patton, the delegate of the branch, and Mr. Grainger endorsed the remarks made by the chairman. Mr. Wright, in replying, said the presentation came as a great surprise to him. He would prize the badge very much, and as it was given as a badge of merit he would always endeavour to deserve it. He thanked the chairman and the members for their support and goodwill and also the committee in London for their appreciation of his efforts on behalf of the Society. A vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

The Committee of the N.A.C.O. met on Tuesday at 29, Wellington-street, Mr. E. Catlin, President, in the chair. It was decided to send out examination papers to all members and applicants for membership who had not yet had them and to arrange for a meeting of examiners next week. The question of pay to operators who give assistance to artists outside their own work was again considered, and a decision deferred to the next meeting. The secretary was instructed to send out a report to members on several important matters and to urge members in need of any engagement to keep the office informed, as several applications for operators had been received during the past week.

The committee will, with the kind assistance of an exhibitor, provide all the necessary apparatus for showing animated pictures at the Benevolent Fund concert on Sunday, Nov. 29.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

Mr. Joseph Carter's Ten San-Tan Girls have been secured to open on the Continent, on completion of their pantomime engagement.

Wullie Frame of "Hooch aye" fame, who is never out of fashion, will have a hearty welcome from the fisher-folk at Great Yarmouth in the Hippodrome on Monday.

Little did the public think on Monday night while witnessing the new Scottish sketch, *The Pride o' the Heather*, at the Zoo-Hippodrome, Glasgow, that Miss Helen Kennedy, who played the title-rôle so brightly, was oppressed by a sad bereavement, having buried her father that afternoon.

By special request the British Imperial Band will give the overture "1812" with full effects at the Coliseum concert on Sunday evening, under the auspices of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union. As the band contains 100 musicians, with Mr. W. Davin as conductor, the performance ought to be worthy of the composer. Miss Cicely Gleeson-White is to be the vocalist, and Stedman's Boys' Choir will also be in evidence.

Mr. Bransby Williams, in selections from his répertoire of characters from Shakespeare and Dickens; Senor Varez, the well-known Spanish tenor from the Royal Opera House, Madrid; the Dunedin Troupe of cyclists; Ernie Mayne; and Harriet Vernon, in her original scena, *A Yuletide Story*, are due at the Coliseum on Monday. Miss Cecilia Loftus still continues to draw admiring crowds.

A writer, in 1840, commenting on the state of the drama, asserts that the first blow to the destruction of the great theatres has been the extraordinary increase in the demands of all kinds of actors; and to illustrate the injustice of the salaries then given, gives the following statistics of the payments made to actors of a preceding generation:—Munden, Fawcett, Quick, Edwin, Jack Johnstone, and their class, received £14 a week; William Lewis, a superb comedian, £20 a week; Mathews, in 1812, wrote, "Now to my offer, which I think *stupendous* and *magnificent*, £17 per week;" John Kemble, £36 a week; Miss O'Neill, after achieving a good provincial reputation, received £15 at Covent Garden, and never more than £25; Cooke was paid £20 a week; Mrs. Jordan, £31 10s. a week; Dowton, £12, and never more than £20 a week; Miss Stephens £20 a week. All these actors were first-rate. But looking down the list we find Macready, in 1839, receiving £25 *a night*; Power (1840), £120 a week! Farren, at the same period, £40 a week. Liston, who began at £17 a week, ended by receiving £20 a night; and Miss Ellen Tree, "certainly a pretty and popular actress, was engaged by the Drury Lane manager, when lessee of both theatres, to play at both for £15 a week. She then went to America, returned after two seasons, and even after this rustication she comes, demands, and even actually obtains £25 a night!" The same writer says that, were it not for these heavy demands upon the treasury of the management, the dramatic author would receive larger sums for his plays; and instances the money paid to authors in the days of Kemble and Suett by quoting Colman, who received £1,000 for *John Bull*; Morton, £1,000 for *Town and Country*; Mrs. Inchbald, £800 for *Wives as they Were*; and Reynolds, for two works in one season (*The Blind Bargain* and *Out of Place*), £1,000.

TRIALS WITH A TELEPHONE.

"No. 999," one of the articles included in Mr. Edward Turner's book, which has recently been published by Smith, Elder and Co., is a good example of the humorous recitation. The above numerals, says the writer, do not represent the inscription on my front door, or my distinguishing mark at Portland, or an uncivil cabman whose card I have demanded—but my Telephone Number.

I was very proud of it at first. I had it printed on my note-paper, I mentioned it to my friends, and regarded the telephone as a splendid invention, and to me, personally, a mighty convenience and facility in business.

Mind, I don't say it is not so even now. I only wish to remark that it is not an unmixed blessing, and that I am the dancing, running, grovelling slave of that instrument from 9.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. You see there is no toying with it. When it begins to buzz, I have to go to it immediately if I don't want to be buzzed mad, because it won't stop till I do go: and whether I am writing something that needs all my little stock of brains, or am in the middle of a most confidential interview—it is all the same.

Imagine this sort of thing:—

Me (*giving advice in my most expressive tones*): "I have thought most anxiously over the matter, and, in my opinion, your best course will be"—

Telephone: Buzz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz—

Me: "Excuse me one moment while I just speak to some one at the telephone."

I go to the telephone, and find that it has been set in motion by my wife at the Civil Service Stores in sheer wantonness of mischief, and that she is sniggering at the other end as she asks me how I am. I dismiss her with a dignified rebuke, which loses some of its majesty because of my inability to make her appreciate the *tone* in which it is uttered, and resume.

"As I was about to say, I think your best course will be to write Jones—"

Telephone: Buzz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz—

Me: "Pray forgive me for a minute, but I hear the telephone again."

I return to the instrument, and identify as the assailant Brown, who asks me whether I shall be in at four. I tell him that I shall, and retrace my steps.

"I was just remarking that after very anxious consideration I see nothing for it but a letter to Jones to the effect—"

Telephone: Buzz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz—

Me: "I must really apologise for the interruption, but there is some one else at the telephone."

I go back once more to the telephone and inquire who it is. *Answer*: "Are you No. 979?" *Reply*: "No, I am No. 999." *Rejoinder*: "Then they've put me on to the wrong number."

Once more I begin.

"As I just pointed out, the matter is an extremely anxious one, and I have left great difficulty in coming to a conclusion, but on the whole—"

Telephone: Buzz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz-zz—

Me: "I am really very sorry, but there is somebody at the telephone again."

I am about to rise, but my visitor can stand it no longer, and fells me to the earth with his umbrella in a passion. So I don't go to the telephone that time.

From various causes my telephone does not always render a conversation very distinctly. Sometimes the gentleman at the other end speaks too near to the instrument, in which case I hear sounds which seem to indicate that he is trying to swallow a baked potato at one mouthful. Sometimes he speaks too far from the instrument, in which case I hear nothing Sometimes the wire gets in contact with another wire, and then I get a mixture of what my friend is saying to me, and some one else's friend is saying to him, and am left in uncertainty as to whether Robinson wishes to see me about an important matter of legal business, or is anxious to know my views on the subject of pig iron or shirting.

I am not naturally selfish, but I could wish to keep my telephone a little more to myself. I don't mean that I want to talk at both ends; but that it is occasionally put to irreverent use by young and frivolous persons associated with me. I can best illustrate this by another example.

I am pouring out stores of wisdom to a client, and he is hanging upon my every word.

Me: "I base my conclusions upon three grounds: First—I think it is clear—"

Preternaturally Distinct Voice *of an articled clerk at the telephone in the next room*: "Have you got three good Dress Circles in the front row for Thursday night?"

Me: "I think it is clear—"

Same Voice: "Well, then, can I have them for Tuesday?"

Me: "Clear—"

Same Voice: "Are they in the middle?"

Me: "I say quite clear—"

Same Voice: "Then why the dickens didn't you say so?"

Up to this point my visitor and I have listened to these remarks in a kind of stupor; but his face gradually assumes an expression of gentle reproach, as if to say, "I really was not aware that you kept a Box Office." I smile a sickly smile, and say, in faltering tones, that I rather think I hear a voice at the telephone. I leave the room, and when I get outside—well, I won't say what happens, because a man is presumed to be innocent until he is proved to be guilty, and they have never been able to bring home to me the death of the young articled clerk who was last seen alive when he went to the telephone that day, though I have always been suspected.

The myrmidons whose duty it is to place me in communication, through the telephone, with other people, and other people with me, are evidently of opinion that brevity is the soul of wit, for they wax very impatient if my conversation is at all prolonged, and interpose frequently in the middle of it with the inquiry—"Have you finished?" to which I reply in tones of asperity, which increase with every repetition, "No!" The following conveys some faint idea of how the interview might be taken down by a shorthand writer, if he were able to catch the words without distinguishing the voices:

"I wanted to tell you that I called on Souser yesterday, and he seemed quite willing to—Have you finished? No!—act with us; but he wished to be quite clear that we were at one with him, and he said—Have you finished? *No!*—he would put down his ideas in writing for our consideration; and I replied to this—Have you finished? NO!—that it was a very good idea, and we would consider his memorandum carefully, and let him know as soon as possible whether it expressed our views also, and he added—Have you finished? NO!—that he should be quite willing to guarantee all expenses up to the limit of—Have you finished? NO!—but I assured him that we did not require this, and our only anxiety was—Have you finished? NO!"

At this point I have grown purple with rage at the repeated interruptions; and the attendants on their side feel that I am presuming too far on their good nature. So they cut me off in my prime—telephonically—and Jones remains listening at the other end; but never another syllable does he hear, for the very sufficient reason that my telephone and his are no longer on speaking terms.

I should like, in conclusion, just to mention—I am sure I beg your pardon, but my telephone is buzzing furiously, and I really must go to it. I will be back in the next leaf.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

ON THE ROAD, NOV. 9.

An Abandoned Woman.—Court T., Bacup.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Stratford.
Ashe, Oscar.—Marlborough Theatre, N.
Assassin, The.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
At Duty's Call.—Public Hall, Scunthorpe.
Beau Brocade.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
Belle of Mayfair (Bode).—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—T. R., Birmingham.
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—T. R., Lincoln.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—Burnham and Wells.
Bondman, The (Croke).—Borough T., Stratford.
Bourchier, Arthur.—T. R., Glasgow.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—T. R., Birkenhead.
Breed of the Treshams.—Court T., Warrington.
Brewster's Millions.—T. R., Hanley.
Broken Heart, A.—T. R., Sunderland.
Bulmer, Mr.—Opera House, Perth.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—Canterbury and Deal.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—Tonbridge and Ashford.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—G. T., Southampton.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—T. R., Woolwich.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Monmouth and Tiverton.
Claudian.—New Gaiety T., Ayr.
Coal King, The.—T. R., Leicester.
Compton Comedy Co.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Conscience of a Judge.—Princess's T., Glasgow.
Convict's Daughter.—H. M. T., Barrow.
Country Girl in London.—Junction T., Manchester
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (No. 1).—Grand T., Leeds.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (S.)—Crown T., Peckham
Dairymaids (Macdonald s).—Crewe and York.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Aston.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—Mansfield and Peterboro'.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—T. R., Manchester.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—County T., Bedford.
Donovan, Lydia.—Palace Pier, Brighton.
Dorothy.—Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.
Driven from Home.—King's T., Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Eve of Her Wedding.—T. R., Bedford Leigh.
Face at the Window.—Grand T., Nelson.
Fatal Wedding.—Hippodrome, Todmorden.
Fight for a Throne.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Flag Lieutenant.—T. R., Brighton.
Floradora.—King's Theatre, Sunderland.
Flower Girl.—T. R., Edinburgh.
For Love and the King.—T. R., Castleford.
For Love of a Woman.—Pontycymmer.
From Shop Girl to Duchess.—T. R., Bristol.
Gay Gordons (Miss Dare).—O. H., Leicester.
Gay Gordons (Terriss and Hicks).—Kennington.
Gay Gordons (Miss Ash).—O. H., Northampton.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—Gaiety T., Dundee.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Girls of Gottenberg.—T. R., Bradford.
Girl Who Wrecked His Home.—Clapham Junction.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Lyric T., Hammersmith, W.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—T. R., Leamington.
Great Awakening.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Greed of Gold.—New T., Aberdare.
Hands Across the Sea.—Grand T., Luton.
Her Love Against the World.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Her Marriage Vow.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
Her Nameless Child.—St. James's T., Long Eaton.
His House in Order.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Home, Sweet Home.—T. R., South Shields.
Honeymoon, The.—East Oxford T., Oxford.
Horniman's, Miss.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Hughes, Annie.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Hypocrites, The (S.).—T. R., Plymouth.
Irene Wycherley.—West Pier, Brighton.
Jack Straw.—Grand T., Croydon.
Kiss of Judas.—Grand T., Luton.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Knight in Armour.—T. R., Edmonton, N.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Sligo and Portadown.
Lady Frederick.—Grand T., Derby.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—Prince's T., Bristol.
Leah Kleschna.—Queen's T., Manchester.
Lion's Heart.—T. R., Sheffield.
Little Breadwinner.—Pier, Eastbourne.
London with the Lid Off.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Love of the Princess.—T. R., Barnsley.
Lucky 'Liza.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Man and Wife.—T. R., West Stanley.
Man from Mexico.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Queensferry and Stirling.
Manxman, The.—T. R., Colne.
Maude, Winifred.—Empire T., Blaina
Merry Maid, A.—T. R., Stockport.
Merry Widow (S.)—Grand T., Hull.
Merry Widow.—O. H., Torquay.
Merry Widow (N.).—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Midnight Mail.—Grand T., Radcliffe.
Midnight Wedding.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Miss Hook of Holland (S.).—Grand T., Doncaster.
Mollison, William.—T. R., Belfast.
Mother's Salvation, A.—P. O. W., Mexborough.
Moody-Manners Opera (A.).—T. R., Bolton.
Moody-Manners (B.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
Moore, Miss Decima.—T. R., Bath.
Mr. Popple.—T. R., Rochdale.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—Grand T., Middlesbrough.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—T.R., Newcastle.
My Mimosa Maid.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Mystery of Edwin Drood (H. M. Version).—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—T. R., Worcester.
New East Lynne.—Grand T., Fulham.
Nihilist, The.—T. R., Crook.
No Wedddding Bells for Her.—Ashington.
Old Folks at Home.—Queen's T., Keighley.
Old Home, The.—T. R., Hyde.
Otto the Outcast.—T. R., Hebburn.
Peter's Mother.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Power of the Cross.—Grand T., Mansfeld.
Power of a Wicked Woman.—T. R., Glossop.
Power of the King.—Metropole T., Manchester.
Prince of Pilsen.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Private Secretary.—O. H., Southport.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Bilston.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—T. R., Norwich.
Prodigal Son (Day).—T. R., Halifax.
Prodigal Son (Western).—P. O. W., Mexboro'.
Robin Hood.—Castle T., Stockton.
Rollicking Rory.—P. O. W., Salford.
Royal Divorce.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Sailor's Wedding.—Court T., Wigan.
Second to None.—T. R., Barnsley.
Send Him Victorious.—T. R., Blyth.
Sergeant Brue.—Clarence T., Pontypridd.
Sexton Blake.—Empire T., Oldham.
Sherlock Holmes.—T. R., South Shields.
Sign of the Cross.—T. R., Dewsbury.
Silver King.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
Sins of Society.—King's T., Glasgow.
Soldier of France.—Rawtenstall.
Soldier's Honour.—T. R., Swansea.
Starr, Harry.—T. R., Hebburn.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Chatham.
Straight from the Shoulder—T.R., Seaham H'rb'r.
Sunday.—Palace T., Bordesley.
Terry, Edward.—O. H., Cork.
Terry, Fred.—Court T., Liverpool.
Thief, The (N.).—Victoria O. H., Burnley.
Thief, The (S.).—Lyceum T., Newport.
Tom Jones.—Exeter.
Tom Jones.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Traitor Prince.—Maestag and Treherbert.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Sheffield.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—T. R., Jarrow.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—O. H., Dudley.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—Leeds.
Tyrant, The.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—Lancaster.
Under Two Flags.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Vedrenne-Barker.—T. R., Dublin.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Chesterfield.
Walls of Jericho.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Warner, Grace.—Palace T., Ramsgate.
Warning to Women.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Way of the World.—Pembroke Dock.
What a Woman Did.—Empire T., Cradley Heath.
What the Butler Saw.—Crystal Palace T., S.E.
When It Was Dark.—York and Gainsborough.
When Knights Were Bold.—New T., Cardiff.
When Knights Were Bold.—O. H., Aldershot.
When London Sleeps.—T. R., Rotherham.
When Other Lips.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
White Man, A (N.).—T. R., Portsmouth.
White Man, A (S.).—Cambridge and Ipswich.
Who is She?—Colosseum, Oldham.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Wednesbury.
With Edged Tools.—O. H., Wakefield.
Worst Woman in London.—Grand T., Walsall.
Woman Pays, The.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
Woman Worth Winning.—T. R., Consett.
Woman Who Gambles.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
World and the Woman.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Wrecker of Men.—T. R., Merthyr.
You Never Can Tell.—Bury St. Edmunds and K. Lynn.
£1,000 Reward.—Avenue T., Kettering.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "The Editor," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "The Era," Ltd., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433, Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

H. Guillaume.—*You will find full directions given in Strong's "Law of Copyright" on all the points mentioned in your letter.*

J. M. G.—His Excellency the Governor *was produced at the Court Theatre, on June 11, 1898.*

X. Y. Z.—*If the novel is not already dramatised no consent is necessary. But the* Little Lord Fauntleroy *case lays it down that if the very words of the novel are taken and copied for the purposes of rehearsal this may be an infringement of the author's copyright.*

C. Avery.—*The New Albion Theatre ceased to be a dramatic house in the year 1880, when it was called the Queen's Arms Palace of Varieties by Mr. Fred Abrahams. This title was shortened to the Queen's Palace, Poplar, in 1882 or thereabouts. You might glean further particulars concerning the hall by writing to Mr. Fred Abrahams, c/o Queen's Palace, Paplar, E. See notice above.*

Nemo.—*Try French's, Southampton-street, Strand. Charles Kean played Louis the Eleventh in an adaptation of Casimir Delavigne's play at the Princess's on Jan. 13, 1855; Henry Irving, March 9, 1878. We only know of the character of Charles the First appearing in one play, that by W. G. Wills, produced by Henry Irving, at the Lyceum, on Sept. 28, 1872. In* Cromwell, *by Colonel A. B. Richards, produced in December of the same year, the "martyred King" was only seen in a vision. George Rignold played the great Ironside.*

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Sept. 29, 1908.—Mr. J. C. Williamson sent away *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* from Her Majesty's, and replaced her with *The Merry Widow*. The first night saw a packed house, hundreds having waited outside all the afternoon. The bright book and melodious music captured the audience as nothing else has done for long since, and Mr. Victor Gouriet made a most auspicious *entrée* into Sydney. He is a genuine comedian of the crusted port kind—rich and racy without effort, funny in perfect unconsciousness of his funniness. His Baron Popoff is a rare treat. Another newcomer is Mr. Andrew Higginson, a clever actor, singer, elocutionist, and dancer, as Prince Danilo. The musical success of the night was made by Miss Florence Young, and her Natalie was superb, and some are inquiring why she was not cast for Sonia? Mr. W. S. Percy was Nisch, a creation which did the clever comedian infinite credit. Mr. Reginald Roberts was Jolidon, and sang the music like an artist; Mr. E. Nable was the tear-dropping Baron; and Mr. George Castles played a small part, M. le St. Brioche; and the ever-genial Claude Bancock made the most of the Marquis of Cascada. The scenery was beautifully painted by Mr. John Gordon, and Mr. Williamson put on a gorgeously-dressed chorus.

Mr. Frank Thornton has revived *Charley's Aunt* at the Palace under Mr. Edwin Geach's direction. The farewelling comedian looks younger than ever, and acts with all his old finesse. He is amply helped by Mr. Douglas Hamilton and Mr. Harry Ashford (Chesney and Spettigue) and Miss Harriett Trench as Donna Lucia.

"Peter Pan" will run until Oct. 2, and the next night the Theatre Royal will see a revival of *Dorothy Vernon*, for which Mr. J. C. Williamson has engaged Mrs. Robert Brough, Miss Emma Temple, and Mr. Thomas Kingston to join Miss Tittell Brune in the principal rôles.

The Tivoli is crammed every night, the star attraction being Abdullah's troupe of Arabs, whose performances have created quite a furore in the city. The Barnard Family, Mr. and Mrs. H. Meymott, Austin Rudd, Burt Shepard, Fanny Powers, Nita Leete, the Four Rosebuds, Rochfort and Hart, and several other artists up to the Harry Rickards's standard, are participators in a most attractive programme.

Miss Ada Crossley is here, and the combined musical societies of the city invited a large concourse of musical and social entities to give her a public welcome yesterday at the Town Hall. The place was packed in the unmannerly way so peculiar to Sydney, and speeches were made by the representatives of the societies. The tour is under Mr. J. C. Williamson's direction, with Mr. Henry Bracy as manager.

Mr. Adam Cowan, one of the most popular theatrical and concert managers in Australia, died suddenly in a private hospital on the 26th, and was buried in Waverley Cemetery yesterday. The funeral was attended by many men prominent in theatrical matters, the Rev. G. North Ash performing the burial ceremony. Mr. Cowan is deeply lamented by all who ever knew him.

THE ACTORS' CHURCH UNION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—The Actors' Church Union has proved itself a valuable and agreeable society, and by the many tactful services it has rendered—I don't refer to Church offices—it has substantiated its claim fully for a matinée. A noisy machine of any sort is becoming out of date: that the Actors' Church Union works on with silent tyres is surely no reason against its machinery being renewed. Many leading members of the profession have seen fit to support my friend, the Rev. Stephen Barrass, and myself in organising this matinée, and I shall have the pleasure of shortly publishing a valuable list of patrons, including many well-known people, who also seem to think the Society worthy of consideration.—Yours faithfully,

J. MAUNDY-GREGORY.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

STEVENS.—On Nov. 4, 1908, at Trays Hill Hall, Hornsey-lane, N., Cissy Pelzer, wife of Ernest Stevens, of Marlborough Theatre, London, of a son.

WIGLEY.—On Oct. 30, the wife of John Wigley, of a daughter. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

HARDEN—PARKER.—On the 30th ult., at Christ's Church, Woburn Square, by the Rev. Prebendary Nash, Herbert Harden, of Tavistock Place, W.C., to Margaret, daughter of the late James Parker, of St. Martin's-lane.

HARDEN—PARKER.—Oct. 30, at Christ's Church, Woburn-square, Herbert Harden, of Tavistock-place, W.C., to Margaret, daughter of the late James Parker, of St. Martin's-lane.

RIDLEY—HARKER.—On Oct. 31, at St. Luke's, Wandsworth Common, Frank Ridley, to Dora, second daughter of Joseph Harker, Esq., of Spencer Park, S.W.

SIMSON—POCOCK.—On Saturday, Oct. 31, Henry J. F. Simson, M.R.C.P., F.R.C.S., Ed., eldest son of the late Robert Simson, Bengal Civil Service, to Lena Ashwell, younger daughter of the late Capt. C. A. B. Pocock, R.N.

THWAITES—CURTIS.—Nov. 3, 1908, at St. John's Church, Leeds, by the Rev. Canon Longbottom, Arthur Percival, only son of the late Colonel Thwaites, V.D., J.P., of Harrogate and Brdford, to Elsie, only daughter of Walter Curtis, Leeds.

DEATHS.

COWAN—Sept. 26, at Sydney, N.S.W., Adam Cowan, theatrical and concert manager.

MILTON.—Nov. 5, at Plymouth, age 21, the beloved wife of Hal Milton (skater). "Thy will be done."

TOMKINSON.—On Nov. 4, 1908, at 2, Tyneham-road, Lavender-hill, Annie Tomkinson, aged 57, the dearly-loved mother of Lena and Emilie Tomkinson, Lily Macmillan, and Nora Cameron. Interment Tuesday, Morden Cemetery, 2.30. Funeral service Ascension Church, Lavender Hill, 1 o'clock.

IN MEMORIAM.

ALLEN.—In loving memory of Thomas Allen (Equestrian), who died Nov. 6, 1898. Never forgotten by his family.

J. H. KAVANAGH (comedian), who died suddenly, Nov. 1, 1907. Never forgotten by his dear wife, Ellen Kavanagh, professionally known as Nelly Ward, and his two children, Johnnie and Nelly. Not my will, but Thine, O Lord.

KINGHORNE.—In fondest recollection of Mark Alexander Kinghorne, who passed away Nov. 4, 1905. Interred at Forest Hill Cemetery. "There shall be no more pain."

SCUDAMORE.—In loving memory of F. A. Scudamore, died Nov. 1, 1904. Ever remembered by his wife and children.

TRANSFIELD.—In loving memory of Bellamina Transfield, wife of T. G. Transfield, who died Nov. 6, 1899. Never forgotten by those she left behind.

FOR SYMPATHY.

MRS. DUDLEY CLINTON (Miss Edith Leyland) wishes to sincerely thank her many professional friends for their kind sympathy in her bereavement. As Mrs. Clinton believes that several friends are wanting her address, she would be pleased to receive letters through the medium of this paper. Mrs. Clinton is at present very unwell, owing to her many worries, but hopes to be amongst her friends, professionally, ere long. 28, Alberta-street, Kennington, S.E.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen :—

Maude Millett—Sunday, Nov. 8.
H. Burrows Smith—Sunday, Nov. 8.
John Hastings-Batson—Sunday, Nov. 8.
Agnes Fraser—Sunday, Nov. 8.
Fred Terry—Monday, Nov. 9.
Lionel Rignold—Monday, Nov. 9.
Marie Dressler—Monday, Nov. 9.
Fred Thorne—Monday, Nov. 9.
Jeannie Holmes—Monday, Nov. 9.
Ernest De Vere—Monday, Nov. 9.
J. B. Mulholland—Wednesday, Nov. 11.
Nannie Goldman—Wednesday, Nov. 11.
Mabel Durrant—Wednesday, Nov. 11.
Margaret Murch—Thursday, Nov. 12.
Ogilvy Keith—Thursday, Nov. 12.
Amy Elvira—Thursday, Nov. 12.
May Henderson—Friday, Nov. 13.

EARLY DELIVERY.

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible :—

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35

WHEN Catalini visited Hamburg, Schevenke, the chief musician there, criticised her somewhat severely. She answered by abusing him roundly, saying, "When God has given to a mortal such marvellous talent as I possess, people ought to applaud and honour it as a miracle, and it is a sin to depreciate such a gift from heaven."

THE Fulham Football Club will meet Oldham this afternoon at Fulham, the kick-off being at three o'clock. The team will consist of Skene, Lindsay, Charlton, Collins, Parsonage, Suart, Millington, Dalrymple, Harrison, Brown, Lipsham. Fulham Reserves and Clapton Orient Reserves also contest to-day for the South-Eastern League trophy at Clapton.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Altons, the Two
Anger, Mr. Geo.
Anslie, Mr. Theo.
Archer, Mr. T. F.
Armitage, Miss M.
Artois, Mr. John
Ash, Miss M.
Ashcroft, Mr. W. J.
Baines, Mr. Hamilton
Barker, Mr. J.
Beaufort, Mr. G.
Beckwith, Miss A.
Beckwith, Mr. W.
Bellclair, Brothers
Beloe, Miss H.
Beltram, Miss J.
Bernard, Mr. Bert
Biddall, Bros.
Blackburn, Miss A.
Borthwick, Mr. Haines
Brantford, Mr. Thomas
Brewer, Mr. Joseph
Brownson, Mr. J. W.
Burgoyne, Miss J.
Busse, Miss M.
Campbell, Mr. J. M.
Campbell, Mrs. P.
Canning, Miss A.
Carlyle, Miss Hilda
Carr, Miss P.
Carroll, Mr. T. P.
Castania, Mr.
Charlton, Mr. Will
Chirgwin, Miss Clara
Clare, Mr. Leslie
Clements, Mr. F.
Cleugh, Mr. Dennis
Collins, Mrs. P.
Cooper, Mr. Frank
Coram
Corri, Mr. Clarence
Coutts, Mr. G. H.
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Crawley, Mr. Dan
Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Culeen, Mr. James H.
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Currie, Mr. B.
Dacre, Mr. Louis M.
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Denton, Mr. J.
Derry, Miss Joan
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East, Mr. John M.
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English, Mr. Geo.
Esmond, Mr. Harry E.
Evans, Mr. A. R.
Felix, Mr. Tom
Fisher, Mr. Chas.
Foote, Mr. Barrington
Fossett, Miss H.
France, Mr. J. M.
Francis, Miss Lilian
French, Mr. Gerald
Freshwater, Mr. E. O.
Garbois, Mr. W. H.
Gazetti, Miss C.
Geddes, Mr. J. D.
Glynn, Mr. P.
Goldin, Mr. Horace
Grattan, Mr. Harry
Gray, Mr. Alfred
Green, Mr. Dick
Grenville, Miss H.
Grundy, Mr. Sidney
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Leybourne, Mr. Arthur
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Llewellyn, Miss Hilda
McKinnel, Mr. L.
Merrilise, Miss H.
Merriman, Mr. Walter
Murray, Mr. G. C.
Murry, Mr. W.
Nation, Mr. H. C.
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Neille, Mr. S.
Neville, Mr. J.
Norman V. Norman, Mr
Noti, Mr. Will
Oliver, Mr. J. C.
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Reeves, Mr. George
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Roadnight, Mr. C.
Roberts, Capt.
Robini, Mr. Alf.
Romer, Mr. Adrian
Roseno, Mr. Otto
Rowan, Mr. C. H.
Rowley, Mr. J. W.
Roy, Miss Gracie
Sansbury, Mr. V.
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Scott, Miss Maidee
Seymour, Mr. George
Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Silvester, Mr. R.
Sivado, Mr. Chas.
Smith, Mr. C.
Smith, Mr. Clement
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Starkey, Mr. Gordon
St. Clair, Mr. F. V.
Stevens, Mr. A. Victor
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versus
PATRICK COLLINS.
1908. G. No. 2.108.
In the High Court of Justice,
King's Bench Division.
Mr. Justice Channell, Judge in Chambers.
Stamp 10.
Upon hearing the Solicitors on both sides, and by consent, the Plaintiff waiving his claim for damages,
It is ordered that the Defendant, his Servants, and Agents be restrained from using, exercising, or vending the invention of the Plaintiff for improvements in Amusements Apparatus described under No. 20,695 of 1908, and commonly called the Haunted House or Haunted Castles, and that the costs of this action be taxed and paid by the Defendant to the Plaintiff. Dated this 3rd day of November, 1908.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1908.

A UNIFORM LICENCE.

Mr. WALTER REYNOLDS, L.C.C., is indeed an interesting personality. Like Mr. A. E. W. MASON, the member for Coventry, he has been an actor, and in 1875 played the Count de Rochefort, an emissary of Richelieu's, in a version of *The Three Musketeers*, finishing up the evening with a performance of Abel Quick in the farce of *A Regular Fix*. He was also seen as Gabriel in *Guy Mannering*, as Captain Dudley Smooth in *Money*, and as Alcibiades in *The Marble Heart; or, The Sculptor's Dream*, and he enacted the wicked squire in *Eileen Oge; or, Dark's the Hour before the Dawn*. He was the Benvolio to Miss WALLIS'S Juliet, and also played Sir Rowland Trenchard in the Strand burlesque of *Little Jack Sheppard*. Then he became a manager and a playwright; and finally one of the "shining lights" of the London County Council.

The "chat" with Mr. REYNOLDS, which we print elsewhere, on the motion which has been placed on the agenda of the Council by Mr. JOCELYN BRANDON is extremely interesting. And the time chosen for the proposal of the alteration is quite opportune. Whenever the theatres have been doing badly—the result, as we have often pointed out, of unattractive entertainments—the blame has been thrown upon the music-halls, with their "advantages" in the way of smoking and drinking. The present theatrical season is notoriously prosperous, the result of a remarkable "output" of clever pieces, and a vigorous search for rising talent by managemesses and managers. The admission into the productive circle of Mr. W. SOMERSET MAUGHAM and Mr. ROY HORNIMAN, and the adherence to the employment of Mr. J. M. BARRIE, Mr. JEROME K. JEROME, Mr. HALL CAINE, Mr. HUBERT HENRY DAVIES, and other provedly expert playwrights, has had its natural effect. As an instance of the way in which managers are inspired by necessity to assist our playwrights, we may point to the genesis of *The Flag Lieutenant*. Each of those clever authors, Major W. P. DRURY and Mr. LEO TREVOR, was writing a play intended for Mr. CYRIL MAUDE. He conceived the idea of a collaboration, and persuaded the two dramatists to join forces; and the result was the triumphantly successful naval drama now being presented to full houses at the Playhouse. The prosperity of the dramatic stage depends upon the power of its attraction, not on the presence or absence of "variety" competition. When a dull piece is produced at a theatre, the people who would have gone to that establishment do not revenge themselves by going to a music-hall. They simply spend the money in some other way. The restriction as to smoking, in theatres under the authority of the County Council, has made no serious difference in the constitution of the audiences at these houses. Competition in amusements is a mere "bogey," invented by the inexpert and unenterprising to account for their ill-success. We have had two Exhibitions open in London this season; and yet the theatres, taking them all round, have seldom done better business.

The adoption of a "uniform licence" would certainly make our arrangements more logical. Our present arrangements work smoothly, on account of the excellent understanding which exists between the Lord Chamberlain and the County Council. But it is always better to avoid anomalies, if they can be removed without causing any inconvenience. As Mr. REYNOLDS says, there is at present no power which would enable a "uniform licence" to be granted in London. That object could only be attained by granting two licences, one for music and dancing and one for dramatic performances. The present situation has settled down into general satisfaction. It has been discovered that the music-hall patron was not to be turned into a playgoer by allowing him to smoke, and that the lover of variety would not tolerate anything more than what we may term a "pressed-meat sandwich" of drama, or a boiled-down farce of a kind not now produced at a playhouse. The music-halls have taken just the part of a theatrical entertainment which is useless to the theatre, and have given temporary employment to excellent actors out of work. But trouble is caused, or was caused until lately, by the uncertainty which was created by our anomalous arrangements. As Mr. REYNOLDS says, before recent rulings in the case of the Camden Theatre and the Empress, Brixton, an impression prevailed in many quarters that the Lord Chamberlain's licence covered everything in London, so that a man who held this licence could play whatever he liked in his own building. This idea has been completely upset. As Mr. REYNOLDS pithily puts it: "We refused the Empress management a music and dancing licence. They immediately obtained an unrestricted licence from the Lord Chamberlain, but when the Lord Chamberlain discovered that his regulations were being violated—in such ways, for instance, as the presentation of an unlicensed programme and the permission to smoke—he withdrew his licence. When the Camden Theatre was turned over to the Gibbons Syndicate, the management of it gave music-hall performances under the Lord Chamberlain's licence, which Mr. ARTHUR already held. The London County Council did not interfere. The Lord Chamberlain did not interfere. But the outside public stepped in and invoked the 'protection' of the Act of Parliament, and the Court decided that the premises must not be kept open for music and dancing without a music and dancing licence. The Camden Theatre and the Brixton Empress had to deal with two different authorities, and between the two stools they fell." Mr. REYNOLDS, on the 28th ult., put the following motion on the agenda of the Council: "That it be referred to the General Purposes Committee and the Theatres and Music Halls Committee to consider and report as to the advisability of providing, by an amendment of standing orders or otherwise, for music or music and dancing licences to be granted, as in the case of stage plays licences, at any time during the year." This is a mere act of justice, and cannot long be postponed.

The masterly manner in which Mr. REYNOLDS sums up the situation, and his action in all matters connected with amusement, shows the advantage of having on the County Council a gentleman practically acquainted with, and experienced in, the working of a theatre. Half the trouble that used to arise between the County Council and the managers was created by ignorance of the subject in those in authority.

A FLYING matinée of *Madame Butterfly* was given by the Moody-Manners Opera Co. at the Empire Theatre, Swindon, on Saturday. A hearty reception was accorded Mr. Charles Carter as B. F. Pinkerton, and Miss Enriqueta Crichton was enthusiastically applauded for her rendering of the title-part. Mr. Charles Moorhouse was in fine voice as Sharples, and Goro was ably taken by Mr. R. Brookes. Miss M. Dennis gave a clever impersonation of Susuki. The minor characters were in capable hands, the chorus excellent, and the augmented orchestra admirable.

"LE GRAND SOIR" AT TERRY'S.

Play, in Three Acts, by M. Léopold Kampf, French version by M. Robert d'Humières, produced by the company from the Théâtre des Arts, Paris, on Monday, Nov. 2.

Vasili	M. KARL ROGER
Anton	M. DUBEC
Tantale	M. CARL BAC
Gregor	M. CARL BAC
Ivan Pavlowich	M. SAULIEU
Le Capitaine de Gendarmerie	M. SAULIEU
Sasha	M. MARTINET
Le Docteur	M. LIETRY
Le Commissaire de Police	M. LIETRY
L'Etudiant	M. DALLET
Le Portier	M. ST. OBER
Le Banquier	M. DUFRENY
Masha	MLLE. MARIE KALP
Arina	MLLE. MARIE KALP
Sofia	MLLE. ARNOUS RIVIERE
Barbara	MLLE. ARNOUS RIVIERE
Maria	MLLE. SUZANNE THERAY
Nathalia	MME. MONTOUT
Tanya	MLLE. HELENE FLORISE
Anna	MLLE. VERA SERGINE

After a run of 225 performances at the Théâtre des Arts, Paris, where it was produced on Dec. 22, 1907, *Le Grand Soir*, through the enterprise of Miss Andrews, has come to Terry's from la ville lumière, and is being played in the Strand by those actors and actresses who have been associated with its success across the Channel. The piece is a series of dramatic pictures that quicken the pulses of the most blasé playgoer. So cleverly written is it, and so admirably is it acted that immediately on the rising of the curtain we take a supreme interest in the aims and ambitions of Russia's educated thinkers. We are impressed deeply by their firm faith in a free Russia, and we become supremely interested in the day-dreams of the preachers of the gospel of murder as a panacea for the official assassination of patriots.

In the garret of the fierce and uncompromising Anton is printed secretly the revolutionary organ *The Light*. The press is working in a small outhouse—seemingly a storehouse for empty boxes—while the women, Sofia (Anton's wife) and Masha, are folding the sheets in the inner apartment. Two other members of the society are expected—Vasili, who is bringing a passport for Tantale, an escaped prisoner hiding in Anton's apartment, and Anna, who helps to circulate *The Light*. Vasili is in love with Anna, but dares not confess his love, for he feels that she is devoted to the Cause, to the exclusion of all personal feelings. Anton lives in a continual dread of a visit from the police. Soon after the departure of Vasili and Anna his apprehensions are confirmed. There is a loud knocking at the door, and the police proceed to force an entrance. Rather than fall into their hands a second time Tantale shoots himself. The gendarmes enter, seize the press and some copies and place Anton and his companions under arrest. The captain of the party reads sarcastically the title of the paper. "*La Lumière!*" says he, "eh, mon ami, la lumière est soufflée!"

In the second act, at a meeting of Nihilist students Vasili is present. A great pacific demonstration of students and artisans is arranged for that afternoon; they are to meet at different churches, and to march through the streets singing hymns. It is agreed that the Governor shall be killed by a bomb the following day if he orders the soldiers to interfere. Vasili begs for the privilege of throwing the bomb, for he feels that he can no longer be a true brother to the Cause on account of his love for Anna. Anna has been in hiding since the discovery of the printing press and the arrest of her unfortunate companions. Impelled by a desire to see Vasili she ventures out to meet him. They mutually confess their love, and are stirred to fresh enthusiasm by hearing the people singing. For many of them it is a song of death! The cruel shots ring out, and the swelling anthem of freedom is drowned by the groans of the wounded and dying and the indignant shouts of those who would avenge their comrades.

The Governor, who has ordered this wholesale murder, must die, and Vasili is to be his executioner. The patriot rushes to the window, and in his agony cries aloud, "Assassins!" Man and woman in their unutterable grief are for a time silent. Vasili knows within himself that the Cossack volley is his own death knell; that love is over for him; and that the beautiful girl who soothes him with her endearments and would hush his sobs like those of a child must be given up for the Cause. In the last act Anna, who has taken refuge with her aunt, agrees to give her lover the signal when the Governor is leaving the opera. From her window she can see the door of the Opera House, where there is to be a special fête, and if the Governor's carriage departs from that door she must hold up the lamp. Anna feels she has not strength enough to send the man she loves to his death, but the love of the woman is absorbed in devotion to the Cause, and she overcomes her hesitation, grasps the lamp, and holds it up before the window. An explosion follows; the bomb has been thrown; and the girl, with uplifted hands and a transport of emotion, declaims the battle cry of the Cause.

Such acting as that of M. Karl Roger and Mlle. Vera Sergine is rare on any stage. The voice of the actress, a queenly figure, vibrates with passion, and in the great scene of the second act she is inexpressibly tender. Mlle. Sergine should add lustre to the Paris stage, and we hope to see her again. M. Karl Roger is natural and forcible as Vasili; and the other parts were all well filled, the ensemble being excellent.

In front of the principal piece is given the comedy, in one act, by Robert de Flers and G. Caillavet, entitled

"LE CŒUR A SES RAISONS."

Jacques Artenay	M. SAVOY
Lucien de Jullianges	M. SAULIEU
Françoise Vernières	MLLE. SUZANNE THERAY
Une Femme de Chambre	MLLE. HELENE FLORISE

Jacques Artenay is bashful and retiring; he has been in love with Françoise Vernières for some time, but has not dared to tell her so. He calls at her house and meets there his friend Lucien de Jullianges, for whose tact and knowledge of the fair sex he has a great admiration; he begs him to plead his cause with Françoise, and arranges that if the result is successful, Lucien, on his return, shall hand him one glove; if not, both gloves. Like Miles Standish, Lucien takes the opportunity to press his own suit, and arranges to take Françoise out to dinner and to the Opera. The lady, when left alone with Jacques, is touched by his excessive modesty. She encourages him and extracts a proposal, and when Lucien returns informs him she has decided to spend the evening with Jacques. The latter, delighted with his success, borrows money from the exasperated Lucien to pay for the dinner with Françoise. The chief success is scored by MM. Savoy and Saulieu in the rôles of Jacques and Lucien.

MISS MAUD HILDYARD is at the Theatre Royal, Scarborough, this week in *The Great Awakening*, which is drawing good houses.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"L'HEURE DE LA BERGERE,"

Comedy-Vaudeville by M. Maurice Ordonneau, Produced at the Palais-Royal on Oct. 24.

François	M. CHARLES LAMY
René Froberville	M. LE GALLO
Docteur Brugg	M. HURTEAUX
Sabourdin	M. DIAMAND
La Goulaine	M. BARRAL
Rose	MLLE. MARCELLE YRVEN
Mme. Brugg	MME. GUITTY
Mrs. Blossom	MLLE. DICKSON
Estelle	MLLE. PAULE EVIAN
Hélène Sabourdin	MLLE. PIERVAL
Betty	MLLE. RAYMONDE ARIEL

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Oct. 29.—If pungent spices are sufficient to make a farce a success, M. Ordonneau's *L'Heure de la Bergère* is likely to have a long run, for it contains enough cayenne-pepper to suit the palate of the most case-hardened frequenter of the Palais-Royal Theatre. The *risqué* plot is as follows:—René Froberville is what is called here *un homme à bonnes fortunes*—in plain English, a lady-killer. His conquests are numerous, and he is aided in his love adventures by François, his old valet, who, having suffered conjugal misfortunes, delights in seeing other husbands meet with the same fate. When the story opens René has just entered into a liaison with a young woman he met in the underground railway, who has refused to tell him her name. René discovers, by accident, that the fair incognita is no other than Mme. Sabourdin, whereupon, to the lady's astonishment, he at once tells her to leave his rooms. Sabourdin was one of his former chums. The lady has scarcely left him when he comes across a charming young milliner. She is quite willing to throw herself into René's arms; but—oh, horror!—she is Sabourdin's mistress, and he packs her off as he did Mme, Sabourdin. René then thinks of marriage. He has fallen in love with a Mrs. Blossom, and wants her to become his wife. Mrs. Blossom is the widow of an American. The latter, many years her senior, gave her very few of the joys of life; and the young widow has sworn not to embark again on matrimony except with a man who will not walk in the late Mr. Blossom's footsteps. But the interesting widow feels neurasthenic, and goes to Lucerne to take a rest "cure" in the establishment of Dr. Brugg, an idiotic old doctor. René, of course, follows her, to the disgust of François, who does not want his master to renounce bachelorhood. René meets Mrs. Blossom. She is fascinated by him, and promises to become his wife provided he proves himself an ideal husband. And here I must draw a veil over the scenes that follow. Sufficient to say that Mrs. Blossom has at first serious doubts about René, but that these doubts are ultimately set at rest, and she changes her name to that of Mme. Froberville. The naughty farce was capitally played. M. Le Gallo's drolleries evoked much laughter; M. Charles Lamy was equally funny as François; Mlle. Yrven gave a delightful portrait of Rose, the servant in love with her master; and the other parts were most satisfactorily taken by MM. Hurteaux and Diamand, and Mmes. Guitty, Dickson, Evian, and Pierval.

"ARSENE LUPIN,"

Play, in Three Acts and Four Tableaux, by MM. F. de Croisset and M. Leblanc, produced at the Athénée on Oct. 28.

Le Duc de Chamerace	M. ANDRE BRULE
Gournay-Martin	M. BULLIER
Guerchard	M. ESCOFFIER
Le Juge d'Instruction	M. ANDRE LEFAUR
Le Commissaire	M. NARBAL
Sonia Kritchnof	MLLE. LAURENCE DULUC
Germaine	MLLE. JEANNE ROSNY
Victoire	MLLE. GERMAINE ETY
Jeanne	MLLE. MAUD GAUTHIER

The plot of this play hinges on the performances of Arsène Lupin, an expert thief. Arsène has made the acquaintance of the rich young Duc de Chamerace, whom he accompanies on an expedition to the South Pole. The Duc dies on the journey, whereupon Arsène not only appropriates that gentleman's papers, but on his return to Paris passes himself off as the Duc, whom he resembles closely. Arsène sells the Duc's country mansion with its furniture and rare works of art to Gournay-Martin, a millionaire parvenu, and engages himself to that man's daughter, Germaine. The wedding draws near, and costly presents are pouring into the Château de Chamerace. It is discovered that a valuable pendant is missing, and the thief is no other than Sonia, a Russian girl, Gournay-Martin's secretary. Sonia has fallen in love with Arsène, who has also lost his heart to her; and his next exploit is to save the girl from the clutches of the police. Three years before the story begins thieves broke into the ex-Duc's country mansion, and this time Gournay-Martin receives a telegram informing him that his Paris house will be visited by burglars. When, however, Gournay-Martin and his family hurry back to the capital to protect their property, they find the place already ransacked. The robbery creates a tremendous sensation; yet neither the idiotic Juge d'Instruction nor the equally silly Police Commissary can throw any light upon the affair. It is then that Guerchard comes upon the scene. Guerchard is an experienced detective. By clever deduction he arrives at the truth, and in an amusing scene expresses his doubts to Arsène as to his being the Duc de Chamerace. He wants to arrest him, but Arsène escapes, and Guerchard starts hunting the criminal, who continually gives him the slip. At last Guerchard is fortunate enough to pounce upon his quarry in the latter's apartment. The overjoyed detective promptly clasps the handcuffs on his prisoner; but Arsène frees his hands and escapes with his beloved Sonia by a patent lift, cunningly concealed behind a wardrobe. And virtue is triumphant, because Arsène, sick and tired of being a criminal, wants to lead an honest life. The work was spiritedly played by a good all-round cast.

"L'EVEIL DU PRINTEMPS" is the title of a very curious play brought out at the Théâtre des Arts. It is by M. Wedekind, the well-known German author, and is called by him "a tragedy of adolescence," showing us young boys and girls striving to penetrate into the mysteries of life, which, on their part, leads to terrible results. The object of the play is to show the mistakes of laws made by society and the necessity of opening children's eyes to the laws of Nature. The introduction of two gloomy cemetery scenes jarred somewhat on the audience, but the work is decidedly clever, although it is more suitable to be read than to be performed on the stage.

"LE PASSE-PARTOUT,"

Comedy, in Three Acts, by M. Georges Thurner, Produced at the Gymnase on Oct. 30.

Lionel Régis	M. DUMENY
Eugène Régis	M. GASTON DUBOSC
Brézin	M. LEUBAS
Lambert	M. JEAN DAX
Taupin	M. TUNC
Chomel	M. ALERME
Jacqueline Helloin	MLLE. MARTHE REGNIER
Mme. Régis	MME. HENRIOT
Henriette Rigaud	MLLE. FONTENEY
Suzette Lilas	MLLE. CLAIRVILLE
Mme. Lambert	MLLE. PREVALLES
Mme. d'Allonval	MLLE. D'AMIROFF
Aurélie Couturier	MLLE. CLAUDIA

PARIS, THURSDAY, Nov. 5.—In *Le Passe-Partout* the author, M. Georges Thurner, portrays scenes from the life of a great French newspaper, which pleased the audience, who received the work very warmly. Lionel Régis is the proprietor and editor of the *Passe-Partout*, a huge blackmailing sheet. Selfish and unscrupulous, he does not offer the slightest help to his struggling family. Yet his sister Henriette is eking out a scanty living as a shop girl, and his brother Eugène has been compelled to accept a post as clerk to M. Brézin, a shady financier. In the opening act Jacqueline Helloin, a young widow, arrives from Limoges to seek employment in Paris. She has been recommended to the Régis family, and Lionel engages her as secretary. But M. Brézin discovers accidentally that Eugène is the brother of Lionel, the notorious blackmailer, and he discharges the luckless Eugène, who deplores that Lionel's shocking reputation should blight the happiness of those connected with him. The second act takes place in the offices of the *Passe-Partout*; and here the public are initiated into what purports to be the inner working of a great modern newspaper. We witness some strange practices as regards the manufactory of articles that are to appear. Brézin is announced. Smarting under the attacks of the *Passe-Partout*, he has come to horsewhip Lionel. But the worthy couple soon come to terms. The financier pays two thousand pounds to the paper, and the two men shake hands. Thus far Lionel has only taken little notice of Jacqueline. Suddenly he declares his passion to her, and the young widow, fascinated and bewildered, consents to become his mistress. Fortunately for her, Eugène arrives at this critical moment. He warns her against his brother and asks her to become his wife. Jacqueline, evidently the slave of the last speaker, promises to leave the paper, and asks for a little time to reflect on Eugène's marriage proposal. When Lionel hears that Jacqueline has gone away he flies into a terrible rage, and in a violent scene Eugène overwhelms him with well-deserved reproaches. The two brothers are even on the point of coming to blows, but Lionel, in a rather sudden fit of repentance, sees the error of his ways. He will now devote himself to the happiness of his family and befriend Eugène, who becomes the husband of Jacqueline. In the rôle of the wicked Lionel M. Dumény played with his accustomed skill; M. Dubosc was a convincing Eugène; M. Leubas very cleverly impersonated Brézin; Mlle. Marthe Regnier was a most fascinating Jacqueline; and the minor rôles were also excellently sustained.

THE old fairy play *La Chatte Blanche* has been revived at the Théâtre du Châtelet. Brought out in the year 1854 at the Théâtre Impérial, it had a phenomenal run in the days of the Second Empire, when, if I am not mistaken, that charming actress Mlle. Céline Montaland played the rôle of Blanchette. The work, of course, has been modernised, but it nevertheless has retained a rather antiquated flavour, and drags considerably in certain parts. Violente, a wicked fairy, wants Blanchette, the young heroine, to marry the ugly king, Mignonnet. Blanchette's lover, Pimpondor, intervenes, whereupon the king has the youth thrust into a cage to remain imprisoned for life. Blanchette, disguised as the Prince Fidèle, wants to release him. Aided by her faithful followers, she arrives, after many adventures, at the king's palace and runs away with Pimpondor. But they do not run far. The wicked fairy changes Blanchette into a white cat, whilst her lover is thrown into the sea. He is, of course, miraculously saved, and finds his way back to his father's palace. It is now his turn to rescue Blanchette, and he does it by chopping off the head of the white cat, whereupon Blanchette is at once transformed into a woman. They marry and live happily. The wicked king becomes the husband of the fairy Violente, but their union turns out less successful. The work is not particularly well mounted, but it seemed to please the easily-amused audience.

WE may expect several lawsuits in the course of the next month. The most important among them will be the action brought by M. Samuel, manager of the Variétés, against M. Alfred Capus, the well-known playwright. The latter, it appears, undertook to write three plays for the before-mentioned theatre, the first of which was to have been delivered in the beginning of the present year. M. Samuel did not receive the manuscript he expected, and as M. Capus supplied another house with a new piece, M. Samuel is bringing this action, claiming £1,200 damages. M. Capus, on the other hand, says that M. Samuel, by reviving *Les Deux Ecoles* in January last, gave clearly to understand that he did not intend to wait for a new Capus play. But the playwright does not explain why he handed his last production, *L'Oiseau Blessé*, to the Renaissance. He says he will enter into that question when the case comes into court.

THE BELFAST BRANCH of the British Empire Shakespeare Society opened its season on Wednesday with a reading by Mr. J. H. Leigh, the well-known elocutionist, of *The Merchant of Venice*, given in the Ulster Minor Hall. Mr. Leigh gave a masterly exposition of the play, in the delivery of which some notes of originality were evident. At the conclusion of the reading a vote of thanks to Mr. Leigh, proposed by Professor Lindsay, was passed by acclamation.

THE ARGONAUTS are preparing a plethora of playlets, and on Friday afternoon next will give four one-act pieces at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane. The programme will consist of *The Renewal*, by Ben Phillips (Miss Rosina Filippi), played by Miss Maud Magrath and Mr. Herbert Dansey; *The Black Devil*, by Carlo Broggi, represented by Miss Janet Alexander and Mr. Lauderdale Maitland; *Jealousy*, a pantomime arranged by Mme. Cavallazzi, and mimed by Miss Brozel and Mr. Ayrault; and *An Action for Breach*, by M. E. Francis, in which Miss Minnie Griffin and Mr. Fred Volpe will appear. The last-named will be produced by Mr. Duncan McRae.

IN the Court of Bankruptcy on the 30th ult., the public examination was held of Lawrence Christopher Rainbow, concert agent, described as of Pond-street, Hampstead. The debtor's statement of affairs showed liabilities £1,622 and assets £246. It appeared that the debtor in 1904 entered into partnership with another person in a concert agent's business. He was afterwards for many weeks prevented by serious illness from attending to business, and on his return he found that his partner had disposed of all the portable property and left the premises. The defendant had since been interested in other concert agencies, and attributed his failure to the disappearance of his late partner, want of capital, and other causes. The examination was concluded.

THE programme for the private performance at the New Theatre on Tuesday, Nov. 17, in aid of Miss Olive Christian Malvery's Shelter for Homeless and Destitute Women, is growing in interest. In addition to songs by Miss Marie George and Miss Ada Reeve, and recitations by Mr. Henry Ainley and Mrs. Beerbohm Tree, there will be several violin and pianoforte solos by Miss Bristol, Mr. Rousby Woof, Mr. L'Estrange, and Mr. Spencer Dyke; also songs by Miss Edith Dinorben. Miss Jean Aylwin will appear as Nell Gwynne in a one-act historical piece, with Mr. Charles Quartermaine as Charles II. and Miss Edyth Olive as the Duchess of Portsmouth. Miss Lewis, who has organised the matinée, will also give some little playlets on Scripture stories, in which Mr. John Napper, Mr. W. St. Auburn Bentley, Mr. Holliday Attley, Mr. Ned Llewelyn, Mr. Basil Osborne, Miss Beatrice Bevan, Miss Catherine Robertson, and Miss Pax Robertson will appear. Miss Olive Christian Malvery will add a few words on her "Experiences when walking the Embankment, disguised as a Tramp."

VARIETY GOSSIP.

THE London, Provincial, and Continental Vaudeville Combination, the latest combine, is the title that marks the linking up of the Gibbons and Barrasford enterprises. The co-managing directors are Mr. Walter Gibbons and Mr. Thomas Barrasford. The former gentleman will devote his attention to the London halls, and the latter, who has established English variety entertainments in Paris and Brussels, will have the chief control of the Continental and provincial halls.

THE new combine will open the Palladium, London (the new name for Hengler's Cirque), on or about August Bank Holiday, 1909; and another new establishment contemplated is the London Casino, which is announced to be opened at the end of November next year. The precise locality of this house is not yet to be revealed.

THE halls that are building that are the property of the new combine are the Ilford Hippodrome and the Kilburn Empire. When the contemplated new homes of vaudeville are erected the circuit will be spread over no fewer than thirty-two theatres. A new addition to the London Circuit of the combine is the Palace, Hammersmith, which has been successfully run as a one-man hall for several years by Mr. J. C. Coe, whose retirement—we hope it is but temporary—will cause much regret in professional circles. Eventually seventeen houses will form the London and suburban circuit of the Gibbons-Barrasford houses.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA, who is departing for America on Saturday next, has kindly consented to appear on Thursday at the matinée in aid of the Poor Children's Christmas Dinner Fund, which is being organised by Messrs. March and Co. She has generously given a cheque for ten guineas to the fund. Next week Miss Victoria will take a temporary farewell of London audiences at the Islington Empire and the Paragon.

A VERY pleasant function took place on Thursday evening at the Boulogne Hotel, viz., the first annual dinner of the Cranbourn Amateur Athletic Association, whose patrons are Sir Edward Moss and Oswald Stoll, Esq., and its popular president Frank Allen, Esq.

MR. ALLEN presided as chairman, and amongst those present were Messrs. W. S. Gordon Michie, Alan W. Young, Sam Gething, T. Gerald Morton, Albert Bulmer, John Christie, Hatton Wharton, A. Mitchell, B. G. Maclachlan, Chas. Wilson, L. Johns, H. Nokes, J. Hayman, W. Agnew, H. Cox, H. Mitchell, P. Wilde, G. V. O'Connolly, and W. Ward.

IN reply to the toast of "The Chairman," Mr. Allen in a neat speech dealt with the early days of the Empires in the North. He drew a comparison between the humble beginnings of the firm and the position is now holds—a position the greatest of its kind in the world. The secret of their success, he said, was that they were all "triers"—Sir Edward Moss, Mr. Stoll, and Mr. Thornton. And they were all "triers" still, and always would be. After the various toasts a short entertainment was provided by Mr. S. Gething, Mr. Wynne, and Mr. Maclachlan contributing songs, Mr. Sidney Lee, the "gay deceiver," a sleight-of-hand performance, Mr. Willie Bass, violin selections, and last, but not least, the Lady in Black, Russell Wallett, sang funny ditties.

M. EDOUARD ESPINOSA is already busy in inventing ingenious arrangements for the ballet scenes in the Lyceum Christmas production of *Little Red Riding Hood*. There will be some startling surprises in Toy-land. Miss Dorothy Craske, who was so successful last year as Robinson Crusoe, will again play principal boy, and Miss Frances Cameron, who has been appearing in America as the Merry Widow, will play principal girl. A comic part is to be given to Julian Rose, also from America. He is a genial Hebrew whose patter has made him an immense favourite at the music halls on this side. He made his London début back in the summer at the Coliseum.

THE removal of Will Oliver from the familiar Spot Lodge, Brixton-road, after close on twenty years' occupation, is notified in our columns today. Will now requires more suitable accommodation, which he believes he has found at his new address, 28, Trent-road, Brixton Hill, S.W., which he desires all and sundry to make a note of. He will be much missed in the Brixton-road.

THE Middlesex anniversary is one of the few celebrations of the kind that are left to us; and while the popular "Jimmy" Graydon, the pioneer of lightning entertainments, holds control of the historic Drury-lane establishment we should be sorry to hear of its discontinuance. There will be mirth and merriment and conviviality from early eve to the witching hour of midnight.

MME. ALBANI, in the course of a few weeks, will grace the boards of a variety theatre, the distinguished Canadian singer having just signed a contract to appear for a fortnight at the Pavilion, Glasgow. For her fortnight's services Mme. Albani will be paid £1,000. The famous singer hopes to appear at vaudeville houses in other large towns.

THE concert hall which it is proposed to erect at Tooting on the east side of the High-street will have accommodation for about 1,440 persons. The plans of Messrs. Emden, Egan, and Co. have been approved, and the promoters of the scheme intend applying for a music and dancing licence.

MISS MARGARET PARKER, the well-known sketch comedienne, was quietly married at Christ Church, Woburn-square, on the 30th ult., to Mr. Herbert Harden, of Tavistock-place, W.C., a member of her company. The happy couple are spending a short honeymoon at Brighton. The bride will not retire from the stage, as she holds contracts with Mr. Oswald Stoll that extend into 1910.

LA MILO is this week paying a visit to the Middlesbrough Hippodrome, and in order to satisfy themselves as to the character of her performance a number of the Licensing Justices witnessed a special performance on Monday afternoon. At its conclusion, after a brief consultation, the Mayor (Colonel Poole) announced that the justices were absolutely unanimous that it was one of the finest shows they had ever seen, and they were surprised that anyone could take exception to it.

GUNNER MOIR, the champion of England, is prepared to accept a limited number of engagements to produce his grand pictorial and boxing entertainment, including his unique representation of his great fight with Tommy Burns. His exhibition boxing is superbly staged, with an elaborate set of heavy silk curtains, sashes, trophies, white and gold ring, &c. His business is in the hands of George Manning, of 169, Stamford-street, S.E.

The Variety Artists' Federation received on Saturday a reply to the ultimatum which they had issued to Mr. Walter de Frece regarding the action of the management of the De Frece circuit of ten halls in inserting in contracts with artists a clause stipulating that the management should retain 10 per cent. of the salary as commission payable to the agents. The Federation had demanded from Mr. de Frece the deletion of the clause, and received the reply that he would agree, under protest, "that the clause to which you refer shall be taken out of all contracts issued from this office."

THE opening date of the new Hippodrome, Rochdale, has been altered to the 16th.

THE new Palace, Oldham, is to open on Monday. Two houses nightly will be the order of the day, and popular prices will rule. Mr. Fred Thorne, the resident manager, has already engaged a full working staff, and patrons will be welcomed with every courtesy. Messrs. Will Sley and Walter De Frece are the directors, and the house will be run in conjunction with the De Frece circuit.

MR. WILLIAM MOULD, lessee and manager of the Central Palace, North Shields, was elected a councillor for the Dockwray Ward of the Tynemouth Council on Monday last.

Mr. D. J. Clarke, the much-esteemed manager of the Argyle Theatre of Varieties, Birkenhead, was a candidate for municipal honours at the recent elections in that town in the Conservative interest. It speaks volumes for his popularity that he was triumphantly returned by a handsome majority.

AN experiment will be made at the Royal County Theatre on Monday, when Mr. Peter Davey will commence a series of high-class variety entertainments on the "two-houses-a-night" principle. A big star company has been engaged for the first week.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland has been pleased to appoint Charles A. James, Town Councillor of Washington Hall, Merrion, co. Dublin, and proprietor of World's Fair Varieties, Henry-street, Dublin, to his Majesty's Commission of the Peace for the Borough of Dublin.

MR. F. W. FITT, manager of the Hippodrome, Norwich, was returned by a good majority as councillor for the Ber-street Ward of that city on Monday last. Much opposition was brought to bear against his candidature, and since his return congratulations have poured in from both sides. On the day of the election Mrs. Fitt, to secure her husband's return, made strennous efforts, in which Miss Dorothy Fitt assisted.

AT a "smoker" held at the Lawrenson Hotel, Hartlepool, on Saturday evening, Mr. Charlie Ferrier was the recipient of a handsome gold watch and a purse of gold, the gift of the many patrons of the Empress Theatre, Hartlepool, where his geniality has gained him so many friends during the five years he has held the position of assistant manager.

THE Chairman, Councillor Everton, in making the presentation, spoke in complimentary terms of Mr. Ferrier's abilities as a manager, especially during the absence of Mr. Harry Burns, and expressed every good wish for Mr. Ferrier's future career.

LIVERPOOL is to try the new experiment of giving musical comedy, comic opera, &c., twice nightly, and the Tivoli Theatre of Varieties in Lime-street will be reopened on Monday week by Mr. James Kiernan, the biggest debenture holder, with a condensed form of *Florodora*. It is stated that the name of the theatre is to be changed to that of the New Gaiety. The last time the word "Gaiety" was used in the city on the Mersey was in regard to a variety house in Camden-street, London-road, a place of entertainment that was controlled by Mr. (now Sir) Charles Wyndham, in the early seventies.

A SPECIAL meeting of the Oldham Watch Committee was held on Wednesday to consider the application of the Palace Hippodrome Co., Ltd., for a dramatic licence for the new variety house in Union-street. Mr. Armstrong, solicitor, who made the application on behalf of the company, said that if the committee granted the dramatic licence he could assure them the excise licence would not be imposed upon.

THE Chief-Constable said he had received a letter from Mr. Dottridge, manager of the Empire Theatre Co., Oldham, complaining that the new company had adopted the name "Hippodrome," which was the name of his theatre in Union-street. He said it would lead to considerable confusion. Mr. Armstrong pointed out that the syndicate he represented were the originators of the name "Hippodrome." Mr. Dottridge had changed the name of his theatre from "Gaiety" to "Hippodrome" in the last eighteen months, when he knew that the new company were about to build. The committee decided to grant a full dramatic licence on the usual conditions. The theatre will be named the Palace.

AN unfortunate incident occurred in the Pavilion, Glasgow, on Tuesday during the first house. Miss Topsy Sinden collapsed in a hysterical swoon during her second song, and the curtain had to be lowered. She had been well received for her military song and dance, and was in the middle of the first verse of her "Baker's daughter" song when her nerves got the better of her. She was able to appear in the second house.

As proof of the popularity attained in Glasgow by Mr. Samuel Lloyd, manager of the Pavilion there, it may be mentioned that he was asked by several influential people to allow himself to be proposed as a candidate for the Glasgow Town Council. Though flattered by the offer, Mr. Lloyd's multifarious duties precluded him from accepting, and so Councillor E. H. Bostock is still the only professional representative on the Council of Scotland's commercial capital.

THE Cardiff Empire is now beautiful in its new decorations. The scheme of colour is biscuit tint and rose du Barri, relieved with delicate touches of blue and pink, and brightened by English gold. The alabaster proscenium frame has been repolished, new curtains and drapery have been hung, and the floors re-carpeted. Marble has been substituted for the stone steps at the entrance, a new fireproof curtain has been erected, and altogether about £2,000 has been spent.

MRS. ADNEY PAYNE, widow of Mr. George Adney Payne, succeeded on Thursday in her action in Mr. Justice Phillimore's Court against her husband's administrator to recover £109—the amount paid to the estate by an insurance company in respect of damages to a motor-car, which, she said, Mr. Payne had given to her. Notice of appeal was given.

AT the recent transfer sessions at Middlesbrough, Mr. J. W. R. Punch requested that the music and singing licence should be transferred from Rene Pepi, the present licence-holder, to Albert Ernest Nicholls. He expressed the opinion that Mr. Nicholls was a person to whom the Chief Constable had no objection as a man, but there were certain requirements of the Justices which had not been fulfilled on the last occasion, and he believed that the Chief Constable would confirm the statement that these requirements had now been carried out.

THE Chief Constable agreed, but explained that he had other matters to bring to the notice of the Bench. On the occasion of the visit of Inspector Hird to the Hippodrome, he was stopped by an employee, and told he would not be admitted. He, however, went on to the stage, and found one of the hydrants completely blocked up. Signor Pepi was requested to see that the matter received attention; but the officer was told that he was not required to teach Pepi his business; that the stage was let to Lafayette, and no one had any right there. Mr. Punch said his clients were quite ready to apologise, and after hearing further statements, the Bench granted the application on the usual conditions.

To the Camden Theatre, on the application of Mr. Sidney Marler, was granted a music and dancing licence on Friday (yesterday) by the Licensing Committee sitting at the Clerkenwell Sessions House. The licence was granted subject to the conditions that intoxicants were not to be sold. Mr. B. P. Lucas, represented by Mr. Horace Avory, K.C., opposed, and counsel for the applicant was Mr. George Elliott. The local clergy were also in opposition. Mr. Walter Gibbons will run the house on the two-houses-a-night plan.

MR. HERBERT HYMAN, the resident manager of the Empire, Johannesburg, will arrive in London to-day from the Cape on a three months' visit combining business and pleasure.

MR. MONTE BAYLY, who succeeded Mr. Frank Gerald as secretary of the Variety Artists' Federation, has tendered his resignation, which has been accepted. Mr. J. E. Barry is acting temporarily as general secretary.

MISS LENA VERDI has been specially engaged by Mr. Fred Fredericks for a principal part in the forthcoming pantomime at the Borough Theatre, Stratford.

WE regret to announce that there is no improvement in the condition of Mr. Frank Heath, hon. treasurer of the Music Hall Sick Fund. Mrs. Heath has received many sympathetic messages since the announcement of her husband's serious illness appeared in these columns.

HYMACK was unable to open at the Empire on Monday owing to illness, caused, to no small extent, by overwork upon his new introduction and change. He returns to America for a five months' season, opening in New York at Christmas, but hopes to obtain London's opinion of his new work before sailing.

MR. CHARLES HECTOR, the manager of the Queen's, Poplar, was so impressed with the success of Miss Jessie Preston in her "Salome" song, that he had special bills printed on Tuesday morning notifying the fact. It is, without doubt, one of the funniest "skits" to be seen in London, and a certain winner for "dames" in pantomime.

NEXT week the Empire Theatre Bioscope will present some remarkable pictures of Italian cavalry at practice, going across country at top speed. Hedges and stone walls are negotiated, streams are forded, deep precipitous inclines are descended at full gallop, and, in the final photograph, men and horses are seen charging down a huge perpendicular slope, and turning somersaults in dire confusion at the bottom.

As a result of the sale of Miss Madge Temple's Marathon hat at Brighton, Mrs. Thomas Barrasford has had the pleasure of sending the following cheques to the respective charities:—Sussex County Hospital, £5 5s.; Children's Hospital, £3 3s.; Women's Hospital, £2 2s.; Brighton and Hove Dispensary, £2 2s. The highest bidder proved to be Mr. J. H. Pearson, of Clarendon-mansions, Brighton, who offered £12 10s., which amount has been distributed as above. Mr. Tom Chapman officiated with the hammer.

MR. WALTER REYNOLDS has the following motion on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting of the London County Council:—"That it be referred to the General Purposes Committee and the Theatres and Music Halls Committee to consider and report as to the advisability of providing, by an amendment of standing orders or otherwise, for music or music and dancing licenses to be granted, as in the case of stage plays licenses, at any time during the year."

AT the 583rd meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A., held at the offices on Wednesday, Mr. Fred Herbert occupied the chair. There were also present Messrs. Fred Millis (vice-president), Arthur Gallimore, Marriott Edgar, Horace White, Jeff Vendome, T. C. Callaghan, Charles Preston, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary).

THE following gentlemen were declared elected on a ballot of the members of the committee to fill the three vacancies in their ranks:—Alf. Herald, H. Herald, and Harry Clifford. The nominations for the position of chairman of the committee were:—Messrs. Fred Herbert and Albert Voyce, and Harry Blake for the office of vice-chairman. As Mr. Voyce did not desire to stand, Mr. Herbert and Mr. Blake will fill the positions.

MR. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS (instructed by Smith, Rundell, and Dodds), on behalf of the Hackney and Shepherd's Bush Empire Palace (Limited), on Monday asked leave to make an *ex-parte* application to Mr. Justice Channell in an immediate matter. His application was against Mr. George Robey. Mr. Justice Channell stated that he and Mr. Justice Bucknill were going to hear in chambers an application against some other comedian, and it would be better that they be heard together. The application was accordingly adjourned to chambers.

AT the football match, Tivoli v. Karno's, which was played at Tooting on Sunday, Nov. 1, Mr. George Robey, who was assisting the Tivoli, played a great game, and scored the only goal for his side, which was defeated by two goals to one. On Monday the famous comedian presented a new coloured jersey to each of the team—a kindly action that is much appreciated.

THE results up to date of the Music Hall and Theatrical League matches place the Stoke Newington and Tivoli clubs at the head of the list with four points. The Broadway, New Cross, and the Holborn Empire are debited with two points, and four other clubs have no points in their favour. At the finish of the season the winners of the League Cup will play "the rest," and the proceeds of the match will be divided between the V.A.B.F. and the Actors' Benevolent Fund.

IT is refreshing to hear on the variety stage so cultured a singer as Miss Annie Schuberth, who has been presenting her song scena, *The Deputy*, to audiences at the Euston. Miss Schuberth represents the humble understudy who is suddenly called upon to take the place of the operatic star. Previous to "going on" she tries a few solos "off," and secures a very gratifying reception in "Scenes that are brightest," from *Maritana*, and in the popular American numbers, "Loveland" and "Love me, and the world is mine." Her voice is rich and clear, and of excellent compass; she sings with ease and expression, and the Eustonians have been delighted.

AT a recent meeting of the Actors' Union it was decided that a letter written to that Union by Mr. Kenneth Blackmore, the secretary, with reference to the Trades Union Congress at Nottingham be published. It appears from a statement in that letter that the Variety Artists' Federation contended that the advocacy of the double licence would not be to their best interests as in the event of a strike the music-hall managers would engage companies to play at the halls while the strike lasted, and would thus defeat the objects of the movement. The resolution advocating the double licence was in the name of the Actors' Union and the Artists' Protection League, and as the twofold permit obtains at the Willesden and Ealing Hippodromes, the Richmond Theatre, the Walthamstow Palace, and other suburban variety houses, its universal application cannot long be delayed.

THE L.C.C. Licensing Committee on Friday decided to recommend the renewal of the Coliseum licence, on condition that no intoxicants be sold.

HINTS in regard to the reopening of the Franco-British Exhibition buildings next year were given at the sitting of the L.C.C. Licensing Committee at Clerkenwell, when Mr. Imre Kiralfy was granted a renewal of the music and dancing and stage plays licence in face of vigorous opposition.

THE Dunedin Troupe of cyclists, owing to their great success in the provinces, have been telegraphed for by Mr. Oswald Stoll to open at the Coliseum on Monday.

DON JUAN CAICEDO, the wire king, will sail from the States on board the Lucania on Nov. 11, arriving at Liverpool on the 17th and beginning at Sunderland on Nov. 23, with Glasgow, Manchester, Liverpool, and London Hippodrome to follow.

BEFORE about 2,000 spectators on Sunday last at Bailey's lane, the Stoke Newington Palace team played the Stratford Empire, scoring three goals in the first half and two in the second, the final score being five to two in their favour. The first of the Empire goals was scored from a penalty. Next Sunday the victors meet the Holborn Empire at Tooting.

MISS MAUDIE MAY MURRAY, the beautiful electrical dancer, at Curzon Hall, Birmingham, on Saturday, concluded a three weeks' most successful engagement, and seldom has such a reception been given to any dancer as that which greeted Miss Murray on her final appearance. She was recalled again and again, and her clever, bewildering dances will long be remembered in Birmingham. She has been specially engaged for pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bolton.

THE novel features of the Fun City in the Olympia annexe will be the free variety show and the free cinematograph, which are to take the place of the time-honoured circus. The programme will be changed weekly, and competitions of a novel character will be continually run. Messrs. Relph and Pedley will provide a magnificent set of porkers, and many other well-known showmen will be represented.

As has always been the rule of the Olympia show, several novelties will be introduced to London for the first time, notably the Human Roulette Wheel, which has been the biggest money-maker at Coney Island for the past two years. Another novelty, bearing the timely title of the Suffragettes' Circus, is the invention of Mr. C. B. Cochran, who will have entire control of the Fun City for the owners of the building, the New Olympia Co., Ltd.

THE magnificent main hall will be transformed into a fairyland skating rink, and under the management of Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins, who so successfully control similar undertakings in the provinces, is sure to feed the Fun City with large crowds of good-class patrons. It must not be supposed, however, that the Fun City in the annexe will depend upon the skating rink, as there is to be a separate entrance in the Blythe-road, where an admission of sixpence will be charged, and with the countless attractions presented, the turnstiles are bound to be kept busy. The show will be ambitiously advertised, and no trouble or expense is to be spared to make it a winner.

LORD ROBERTS has written a delightful letter to J. Francis Barron and H. Trotère accepting the dedication of the song respectively written and composed by the twain, and entitled "Three Jolly Lightbobs (Jim, Joe, Jack)." Both the author, whose "Trumpeter" and "My Old Shako" are so justly acclaimed as tours de force, and the celebrated composer are veteran soldiers, for a quarter of a century since Mr. Barron was in the Queen's Bays and Mr. Trotère in the Rifle Brigade.

MISS HELEN TRIX opened at the Oxford for a four weeks' stay on Monday last, and, as her countrymen would say, "made good right away." Looking as dainty as a fairy in white, she seemed quite at her ease as she removed her hat and gloves, singing the while quite a novel number inquiring "What's the use?"

MISS TRIX says she likes everything in London except the trains. Two weeks ago she had occasion to journey from Waterloo to Clapham Junction. She inquired of porter after porter as to the right train, and entered one indicated. "Somebody had told me that Clapham was only four miles or so, and I was quite surprised when we went along at quite a pace for an hour or more. When we stopped at last it was at Basingstoke, and I had had 7s. worth of ride for 5d." The adventure might have had awkward consequences, for the last train back had gone and the hotels were shut. As it was, Miss Trix made herself as comfortable as circumstances permitted in the ladies' room until the first train back to town.

A STRIKING instance of the Bioscope's great task of recording history in life-motion pictures will be seen at the Palace Theatre on Monday, when Urbanora will include for the first time the veritable scenes of The Destruction of Hyderabad, to take which Mr. Charles Urban received special and exclusive permission from His Highness the Nizam. It will be remembered how, little more than a month ago, the River Musi burst its banks and swept away this picturesque capital of Southern India. Fifty thousand persons perished in the torrent; the city bridges, the ancient temples, and the dwellings of the populace were wiped out of existence; trees were uprooted, embankments demolished, and desolation spread throughout the land.

Mr. W. H. Clemart writes:—"One of the reasons I have for not answering at length the long letter from Mr. Tysoe-Smith is that all my spare time is occupied in dealing with the giants. I have no time for others. His opinion is of no importance to anybody but himself. When Mr. Tysoe-Hyphen-Smith proves to me that to be a clerk to a gentleman occupying a small office in the Barton-arcade, Manchester, where the banjo and guitar were taught, is sufficient qualification for becoming a music-hall agent I will talk to him. My only hope is that he has increased his knowledge of our business since he addressed a letter to me at the London Pavilion, to *Mile End-road, Whitechapel, E.*"

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT, who has been starring on a Stoll tour, has this week returned to illuminate the metropolis with his bright and buoyant coon creations, and is appearing at the Tivoli and the Balham Hippodrome. The latter house, where Mr. E. W. Hancorne James has returned to his former post of manager, was crowded to excess on the occasion of a recent visit, and the welcome accorded to the "chocolate coloured coon" was quite affectionate in its warmth. Attired in a suit of the hue associated with his title, Mr. Elliott sang of "Sue" with all his old vigour and tunefulness, the haunting refrain being taken up with zest in the auditorium. The dusky dude was speedily changed into a veritable denizen of the cotton-fields, who gave "I want to go to Idaho," and supplemented the song with a smart dance marked by incredible lightness of foot and many varieties of stepping. An eloquent testimony of Mr. Elliott's popularity is found in the announcement that he has no vacancies till 1917.

THE ordinary monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road, on Wednesday next, at 4 p.m. Members of the committee who are in town are invited to attend.

GEORGE BURTON'S Professional Diary and Datebook is a compact, neatly-bound volume that goes easily into a breast pocket. It is published at 5, Milner's Chambers, Fargate, Sheffield, and can be had post free for 1s. 1½d. The receipts and expenses pages for every week in 1909 will be found extremely convenient and complete in detail, and there is a mass of information concerning posters and letterpress, commission rates, percentages, &c., that should be extremely valuable to the profession.

MR. ARTHUR ROBERTS was the defendant in an action in the Marylebone County Court on Thursday, in which the plaintiffs were Messrs. Kingham and Hobbs, motor and general engineers, of Edgware-road. It was an action remitted from the High Court to recover £21 18s. 6d., the balance of a sum of £57 2s. 1d. originally sued for in respect of an account against the defendant for repairs to motor-cars and garage rent. The defendant, who is now on tour in Scotland, did not appear. Judgment was entered for plaintiffs, both on the claim and counter-claim, with costs.

A VERY large crowd witnessed a rather smart motor wedding on Tuesday at St. John's Church, Leeds, between Arthur Percival, only son of the late Colonel Thwaites, J.P., of Harrogate and Bradford, and Elsie, only child of Walter Curtis, the humorous entertainer, of Vernon-street, Leeds.

AMONGST the donors of numerous presents were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Randall, silk cushion; Miss Nell Emerald, Parisian sequin coatee; Mr. T. Gerald Morton (Empire, Leeds), set of furs; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Whiteman (Leeds), candelabra; Miss Annie Schuberth, eider-down quilt; Mr. Fred Kitchen, case of wine; Mr. Charles Porter (Norwich), bookcase; Mr. and Mrs. William Child (Old Bill) (Leeds), case of fish knives; Mr. and Mrs. William Bolland (Cleethorpes), large silver shoe-horn; Miss Jennie Johns, large photo frames; Mr. Tom Sherwood (Opera House, Wakefield), silver pin tray; and Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne (Hardie-Von Leer Co.), silver and glass jam dish. Mr. Fred W. Wood, Queen's Theatre and City Varieties, Leeds, kindly provided the motor-cars.

LA MILO, who has for the last three years been constantly at duty with her act, with which she recently completed her fourth successful tour of the Moss-Stoll circuit, and subsequently a tour of the large provincial centres under her own management, has just returned from a well-earned holiday on the Continent. Going over to Berlin, she put up at the Hotel Adlon, the well-known rendezvous of all that is famous in the world of art and letters. She soon became the chief attraction, resulting in her introduction into the most exclusive circles of Continental society, being invited to that Imperial function known as the Kaiser Breakfast, over which the Kaiser presides, and which is reserved for the élite of the world's talent.

ONE of the chief attractions of the Imperial city is the Kaiser's War Museum, which appealed strongly to La Milo as the daughter of a highly-placed British officer. But the greatest feast for the poseuse was the sculpture section of the Galleries of Art, in which she showed almost emotional interest. Before leaving Berlin, La Milo received many Continental offers at very high salaries, but she had to decline them owing to her work at Liverpool, where she is adding many new features to her act, and being already heavily booked, she has also had to decline, for the present anyhow, considerable value in American bookings.

LEAVING Berlin amidst regrets caused by her short stay, La Milo made her way to Paris, where amongst the leaders of art and letters she was soon in receipt of the eulogies which Paris knows how to express to its affinities as the accepted of the nobility and chief citizens of France. Proceeding to the shrine of her old love, La Milo stood in emotional admiration before the chipped and mutilated Venus di Milo, the beloved of the art world and the pride of France; the mortal became weak in the presence of the sublimity of its idol, and, visibly affected to tears, was gently led from the noble creation with whose inspiration she has electrified the whole world.

RETURNING to England, full of the enthusiasm gained from her short holiday on the Continent, La Milo went direct to Liverpool, where, in her large studio and works, assisted by her staff of expert mechanics, she evolves the ideal in breathing marble whose classical truth to detail has made her name a household word in the homes of England, where she has decided to permanently settle, not as a flash-in-the-pan feature, but as a solid institution of Art on the foundation of popular appreciation so generously shown by the public to the ideal and magnificence of classical art.

MESSRS. JOHN FULLER AND SONS have for the present abandoned vaudeville, and are now open to tour first-class attractions through New Zealand either on share or certainty. They also undertake to manage any companies on a tour through Australia, and are at time of writing running a company of the Messrs. Macmahon. Miss Florence Baines opens at Christchurch in November, and after touring the Dominion plays Christmas at Auckland. Negotiations are proceeding with a prominent dramatic manager in Australia. In New Zealand good companies can be sure of doing good business from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31. Audiences, too, are catholic in their tastes; and anything from Grand Opera to a picture show does business according to merit.

A SPECIAL matinée, promoted by Signor Pepi, in aid of the Veterans' Relief Fund, was held in the Darlington Hippodrome on Thursday afternoon. It was under the patronage of the Mayor (Mr. C. W. Starmer) and Corporation, and in addition to the usual full programme there were turns by local ladies and gentlemen, and artists from the Middlesbrough Hippodrome. The Florodora Girls introduced an acceptable novelty with their fishing song, and landed a good catch of silver and copper, amounting to £2 5s. 8d. The other artists giving their services were King and Benson, J. W. Rowley, J. Bowman, Mrs. Hartley, J. A. Wilson and his performing dog, Jimmy Shields, C. J. O'Dowd, Sterling and Love, F. Seamore, the Athlones, F. Horsfall, C. Russell, Janette Hall, W. Richmond, and Will Finlay.

THE Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the L.C.C. recommended on Tuesday that the provisional licence for music and dancing granted on Nov. 22, 1907, to Imre Kiralfy for the Franco-British Exhibition be confirmed; that notice of such confirmation be endorsed on the licence; and that the seal of the Council be affixed to such endorsement. The Rev. Stewart Headlam asked the chairman of the committee whether he would take immediate steps to get proper lavatory accommodation for women and the girls employed at the exhibition. Mr. Greenwood replied that the licence would be before the Council on the 27th, when the Council could decide any details as to the conditions. The reception of the recommendation was opposed, and had therefore to stand over,

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MR. DAVID DAY on Saturday last (Hallowe'en) received the following expressive cable from New York: "We're havin' a gran' nicht.—Harry Lauder, Annie Lauder, Alice Lloyd, Tom McNaughton, Fred McNaughton, John Abbott, Jerome Kern, May Dreyfus, Victoria Dreyfus, Louis Dreyfus, and Fred Day."

MISS HELEN TRIX is making a great hit in town with two of Messrs. Francis and Day's numbers, "So what's the use?" by Fred Day, and "I don't want nuthin' but you," by James Brachman.

THAT delightful artist Miss Topsy Sinden has a new song entitled "Hi! Yi! Yoodle-Oodle-Oo," which Messrs. Francis and Day are placing on the market. It is by Douglas Townshend, and the striking air has been composed by Herbert E. Haines, of *Catch of the Season* fame.

"GOOD-BYE, POLLY; OR, I MIGHT COME BACK SALOON" and "The old love is the gold love," Miss Lottie Lennox's two newest successes, have been published by Messrs. Francis and Day. They are by Paul Pelham and Herbert Rule.

ONE of the reasons given in the Bankruptcy Court for the failure of Mr. Bailey, of the West London Theatre, Marylebone, was the removal of costermongers' stalls from Edgware-road to Church-street.

MISS NINA WOOD at the Coliseum has made a great success by her artistic rendering of Kennedy Russell's song, "Dear little jammy face," which Messrs. Lublin publish. Miss Wood possesses a cultivated voice, a fine touch whilst accompanying herself, and an agreeable presence.

AMONG new songs shortly to be issued by Messrs. Francis and Day are "An 'orrible state of affairs," by Reg. Low, and "Tommy's ready—all's well!" by Alf Ellerton, the music by Alf Ellerton, jun.

AFTER an interview with Mr. Lester Barrett, the great song expert and manager of the professional department of the famous song providers Messrs. Francis, Day and Hunter, London, we learn that "Oh! Oh! Antonio!" the song which caused such a furore at the seaside, where it was sung by Miss Florrie Ford, is bound to make a furore this Christmas. This story deals with an Italian ice-cream merchant who has deserted his little Italian maid. Both words and music are exceedingly catchy. The refrain runs as follows:—

"Oh! Oh! Antonio. He's gone away;
Left me alone-i-o, all on my own-i-o.
I want to meet him with his new sweetheart,
Then up will go Antonio and his ice-cream cart."

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT, who is playing at the Prince of Wales's Theatre pantomime, will be responsible for all Birmingham whistling, humming, and singing his latest song, "Sue, Sue, Sue," which has already taken all London and the provinces by storm. This song promises to outrival his well-known "If the man in the moon were a coon."

THE pantomime production for special lighting effects will be Miss Madge Temple's great London Coliseum success, "Come be my Rainbow," which was introduced with the greatest possible success at the above theatre by Miss Temple. So catchy is it that one will quite unconsciously find oneself humming or whistling it.

MR. GEORGE LASHWOOD'S "Hang out the front door key" and Miss Hetty King's "I'm afraid to come home in the dark" are sure first favourites for Christmas. "K-I- double T-Y" is a very striking novelty number, in which the singer will be assisted by five girls with the five letters in floral decorations—one worn by each girl. The letters will be finally lit up with small electric lamps hidden in the floral design—forming the word "Kitty."

EVERY pantomime must have a "march" number, and honours of the many published during the year fall to the great chorus song "Bombadier." In this number everybody will be on the stage. In the first verse the lights will be on full, in the second, which tells of the girl picturing her lover on the battlefield, red lighting effect will be most prominent, and for the last verse, telling of their wedding, some fine drilling will be seen, swords and sabres crossed, and a very small "bombadier" and his bride in bridal costume will be seen marching under the crossed swords amid a shower of confetti.

THIS year the song about girls is taking new phase. For years past every song has been in praise of the fair sex; so is this one, which is entitled "Every fellow's in love with a girl, and quite right, too," but the novel treatment it has received takes it entirely away from the ordinary song "about girls." This clever lyric, wedded to a catchy melody, is bound to stand out above all others of the same kind.

THE ballad is essential in pantomime. This year it will be "Sweetheart days," which has already been extensively popularised by Mr. Arthur Aldridge and Mr. Harry Claff. "Shadowland" is the title of another charming ditty, in which some fine visionary effects will be introduced.

ANOTHER charming number, with an irresistible refrain, is "On the cliffs of Normandy." "Mandy's Wedding" is a characteristic number for solo and chorus, and has been a very big feature in all the seaside programmes.

"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL" will surely appeal to all the northern pantomime audiences. The costumes for this will give strong local colour. The chorus is ear-haunting, and we feel sure that when the singer comes to the phrase "Eh! by gum! she's a champion" he or she will have plenty of assistance from the audience, who will be unable to refrain from joining in.

THE comedians, of course, are well provided for in the way of comic songs which have already been extensively popularised in the music halls by our leading star comedians. "'Do you remember?'—'How can I forget?'" is sure to form one of the principal duets between the dame and the comedian, the words being extremely funny.

OTHER prominent numbers will be R. G. Knowles's "L.S.D.," Mr. Harry Simm's "Who said he don't like girls?" Miss Hetty King's "Are you the little girl?" Miss Annie Braddan's "Far away in Australia," Miss Millie Legarde's "Who's the lucky boy?" and Miss Madge Temple's popular "Esau" song.

THE National Music Publishing Company, of 132, Charing Cross-road, W.C., are having no end of applications for Lowenwirth and Cohan's great chorus song, "My little Eva," which has already been settled for almost every pantomime in Great Britain. Among the other numbers they are making free for pantomime are George Lashwood's two latest successes, "If it's a lady" and "Nicolo, Nicolo, play on your piccolo"; also Miss Victoria Monks' two big winners, "I wish I had a pal like you" and "Call round any old time." With the latter number Miss Claire Romaine is making a tremendous success in America."

MR. J. P. LONG is the author of all Ernie Mayne's new numbers, with which he returns to town on Monday next at the London Coliseum.

(Continued on page 26.)

A LADY GLOBE TROTTER.

We have had celebrated lady globe-trotters—English, American, and colonial—before Miss Henriquette Maude set her foot on the shores of the Motherland and accomplished one of the much-desired goals of her self-imposed journey through the hemispheres. Others of her sex have in a limited sense earned the title of globe-trotter, by which we designate her, but their wanderings have been accompanied by opulence. They have had every facility for pursuing their journey, and any difficulty they may have met has been smoothed over by the higher diplomacy or backsheesh. Miss Maude had none of these advantages. Almost without purse or scrip—she had only a few pounds when she started—she left her home at Napier five years ago; but she had a large reserve of grit, pluck, and determination. With her favourite golf stick in her hand she embarked at Wellington for the new republic, Australia, and thus commenced her world's journey of 55,000 miles. A love of adventure seems to have been implanted in the nature of this engaging little traveller, and the fact that she was kidnapped soon after she was born, and not recovered for months afterwards, may have had no little influence on her youthful imagination. Her father, a famous New Zealand judge, traced her to a Maori encampment; and in this connection we may let Miss Maude tell us of a curious coincidence. "When I was appearing last week at the Queen's,

MISS HENRIQUETTE MAUDE,
The Little New Zealand Travelling Girl.

Poplar, curiously enough, an old Maori chief came to the hall to see me. His 'prah' is only about seven miles from my home. I know the tribe very well. He is in private employment at the moment, but I am contemplating bringing him into my act to dance a 'haake,' an old Maori war dance. It has never been seen on the English stage, and ought to prove a draw—the more especially as this native's ancestors were the most notorious cannibal tribe of old New Zealand."

During her travels Miss Maude has, wherever it has been possible, worked for charity, and a remarkable instance of her kindness of heart is her personal advocacy of the cause of a jockey at Melbourne. Seriously injured by a fall with his mount, he was left unattended by those in control of the meeting. By giving a series of recitals at a local hall she raised a large amount. When she arrived at Sydney, N.S.W., she had but two pounds, and at Melbourne she possessed but a few shillings. Since then she has travelled Afghanistan, China, Africa, America, on trackless prairie, lonely veldt, or arid desert, entirely alone, carrying a revolver—which she has never had to use—and her golf cleek—her mascot. A fragile figure and a soft voice scarcely reveal the will-power of this self-possessed little woman, about whom there is no suspicion of mannishness. She tells us that her travels have been prompted by sheer curiosity to learn something that the man in the street knows nothing about, and to satiate a love of adventure. After traversing the South Sea Islands—prior to which she had received a present from the Hon. Richard Seddon, the Premier of New Zealand—she made her way to Thursday Island, Samoa, Honolulu, and Tahiti, and at last got to Vancouver, where she joined a company of opera singers. Going across to Canada, she entered the States, and gave private entertainments in order to make a living for herself and to give occasional help to some deserving object.

In Chicago she was stranded, but with her knowledge of languages and her ability to play the piano she managed to obtain employment as foreign correspondent at a big organ builder's. Here she received sixteen dollars a week. The work, however, proved too irksome, and had to be given up, after a two months' engagement. She then rented a small hall, gave a magic lantern entertainment, played the piano, sang, and recited, netting a goodly sum, two-thirds of which were devoted to hospital funds. At San Francisco in a dramatic competition, entered by 500 people, she won a gold medal, which was presented to her by President Roosevelt. On her journey to Los Angeles she performed perhaps the most extraordinary undertaking ever accomplished by a woman alone. With her knapsack and two pairs of spare boots strapped on her back, she traversed the Texan desert. In the course of her tramp she was four times held up by footpads; and eventually, from sheer weakness and exhaustion, due to want of nourishment and clean water, she had to stop. A party of Texas cowboys discovered her and took her to their ranch, where she was ill for nearly six weeks, being attended by an old Indian squaw, and treated medically by native methods. The admiration of the cowboys for her pluck and endurance resulted in their sending her measurements to San Francisco and ordering the very suit of regulation mocassins and jumper in which she now appears on the stage. Of Miss Maude's performance we need say very little, because we have already explained that, in addition to the lantern slides taken by her in the course of her travels, her description of thrilling experiences is quite unique. She is a most interesting conversationalist, because she relates her stories of the wilds of Texas and of the isles of the Southern Seas simply and naturally, and without any striving after effect.

"THE LITTLE PEACEMAKER."

By Ronald Bayne and Ivan Gore, produced at the Bedford on Monday, Nov. 2.

The Father .....MR. RONALD BAYNE
His Daughter .....MISS EVELYN HOPE
Her Child ..... LITTLE DORA

This slight episode, which was produced on Monday last, is only what may be termed an incident, but it is extremely well written and capitally played. It is Christmas Eve, and the old father is alone. It seems that some years before his only daughter had got into trouble, and, having abandoned her child, has been leading a dissolute life. The father has rescued his grandchild, whom he has since tended with the utmost care. His daughter returns home, and after a pathetic scene with her stern parent is about to go away again. At this moment the child enters, and is recognised by her mother, who demands that she shall go with her. The grandfather asks the child to decide. The child pleads for them all to stay together, and so the erring daughter is forgiven. Miss Evelyn Hope, as the daughter, plays in a most sympathetic manner; Mr. Ronald Bayne submits a fine portrayal of the father; and Little Dora is very natural as the child. The play, which is well staged, has been cordially received.

MR. TED E. BOX is making his way surely in public favour, and his continued gratifying successes in his comedy whistling should speedily bring him to the forefront of star turns.

CARL AND CARR'S new act is scoring a huge success, being booked for Moss and Stoll tour, including London Coliseum. They have also had numerous offers for pantomime, but have settled at Theatre Royal, Worcester, to play special parts in *Puss in Boots*.

DR. WALFORD BODIE made his reappearance at the Hippodrome Theatre, Coventry, on Monday, and was greeted with loud cheers. Several of his patients that were cured a year ago by him were shown on the stage. A good turn is given by a clever horse Billy. Other artists who appear during the evening are Gladys and Alber, in a potpourri act; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, the popular sketch artists; Stephens and Rennior, ragtime dancers; Bella Skene, burlesque actress; Dolly Robson, a pleasing songstress; Iben Obed, Arabian equilibrist; and Lew Loman, vocal comedian.

BEFORE Mr. Registrar Linklater, in the Court of Bankruptcy, an application for discharge was made on Tuesday by Alfred Wood, who filed his own petition on July 21 last, describing himself as of Brixton-road, S.W., song-writer. The debtor stated that he had only one liability of £102 0s. 5d., which was secured to the extent of £90, and there were no assets. His real name was Alfred James Scott Dodd, but he assumed the name of Alfred Wood when he entered the theatrical profession in 1893. In 1898, with a capital of £500, he began to tour in the provinces with his own company, and in 1903 he ran a musical comedy called *The Terrible Tomboy*, which proved a costly failure, and over which he lost about £400 in two months. His Honour suspended the order of discharge for two years.

GOLF CLUB FOR ACTORS AND VARIETY ARTISTS.

MR. WILL EVANS'S SCHEME.

What would the actor of Kean's time, or even of the late Sir Henry Irving's struggling days, have thought had it been suggested to him that he should spare some of his leisure for athletic pursuits? Would he not have indignantly ridiculed the proposal as an absurd new-fangled idea? He might even have considered it beneath the dignity of one of his profession to run for a ball on a cricket field! As for kicking a leathern case filled with air—gadzooks! such a piece of physical flippancy was irreverence when one thought of the sock and buskin! And yet to-day, what happens? Most of our leading actors play an important part in the sports and pastimes of the age. Practically every theatrical touring company has its little coterie of enthusiastic cricketers or golfers who compete with the local teams in the towns that are visited. And not infrequently the result of the contest is not flattering to the "home team." So among London actors there is a recognised body of athletes who are to be seen during the summer months winning laurels other than of the Thespian order at Lord's or the Oval. Altogether, it is a gratifying feature of the modern play-actor's life, and its accomplishment is one, surely, that should impart to him greater zest in the performance of his more serious work of entertaining the public. And that is not all.

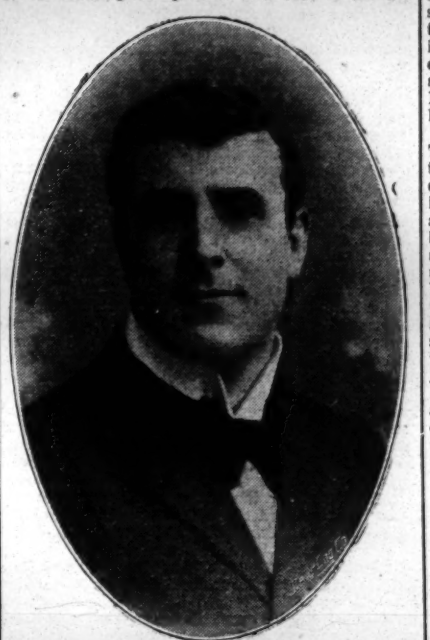

Photo by Tear and Son.
MR. WILL EVANS.

Manly exercises of the kind indicated breed in those who engage in them an *esprit*, a spirit of tolerance and a discipline that are not merely admirable in themselves, but tend to a better feeling among, and a kinder understanding of the members of a company in particular, and the members of the profession in general.

For these reasons, and for others which will be quite apparent to the reader, a scheme which has just been initiated by Mr. Will Evans, the well-known comedian, should find great favour in the sister professions—the "legitimately" theatrical and the music-hall. Some time ago Mr. Evans, during one of his health-seeking peregrinations, found his way to Mitcham. There he saw a house surrounded by ample and beautiful grounds. These he purchased, and there he made his abode. At the back of his garden he espied a tract of field some 50 acres in extent, and having an access from the main road. Those 50 acres he snapped up, for here he foresaw the possibilities of the formation of an excellent golf and sports club. His plan now is to form such a club, the members of which would be drawn from the best class of theatrical and variety artists and other select folk who would be chosen. The membership roll would not be allowed to exceed 200, and the committee would probably be quite content with 150. There would be sufficient space of ground for a nine-hole golf course, a bowling-green, and lawn tennis and croquet courts. Of course, ladies would be welcomed as members. The subscription would be on such a scale as would preclude the likelihood of any undesirable people joining the club, and this, in conjunction with the process of selection of members, would be an adequate guarantee as to the respectability and suitability of the men and women with whom one would come in contact on the grounds. The successful materialisation of Mr. Evans's scheme would involve the erection of a pavilion in which tea and refreshments of all kinds would be available. The club would be open on Sundays, and this might solve the question of healthful weekends. Mr. Evans has already the support of twelve gentlemen, among whom is Mr. Herbert Blackmore; but a committee has yet to be formed. Mr. Evans will be pleased to hear from any lady or gentleman who would like to become members, and he will furnish any information on the subject that may be desired, if inquiries are addressed to him at Graylands, Sutton-road, Mitcham. The grounds for the proposed club are situated on the Ravensbury Park Estate at Mitcham, and an entrance to them is gained from the Sutton-road.

A PROTEAN COMEDIAN.

It was formerly a reproach against protean actors from Italy that each was so much like the other—the one but a reflex of his predecessor; but Mr. Alfred Butt's latest newcomer, Constantino Bernardi, who takes chief place in the Palace programme, is more cosmopolitan in his art, and presents an entertainment that is remarkable by reason of its versatility and its originality. Constantino Bernardi opens with an amusing exposition of an opera rehearsal, impersonating basso, tenor, and soprano. No sooner has he finished the cadenza of an Italian basso that he gets behind a screen. Then a clever arrangement—a not by any means palpable substitution of a dummy for the performer—enables the latter to take up the rôle of the tenor, who, in his turn, is replaced at the piano by another dummy, thus enabling the soprano to assert herself always, *bien entendu*, through the medium of Bernardi, who, by a slight use of ventriloquism, keeps the trio going.

At his retirement the dummy device is exposed. The more important part of his act comes with the complete exposure of his methods of quick-change through transparent scenery—a departure in protean acts that has been exploited recently at the London Pavilion. The scene is a music-hall, and the personalities presented include the manager, the stage-manager, a porter, a policeman, an elderly lady and her daughter, and an Italian signorina. In the music-hall performance which follows, Bernardi appears first as a clown musician playing the sleigh bells, on which he shows considerable proficiency. In the lighter vein he impersonates a hypnotiser with a "subject" who is supposed to be in a cataleptic state. Here we have a droll travesty of such performances, and, incidentally, the levitation feat is accomplished. Bernardi's attempted explanation of the *modus operandi* of this popular trick is completely drowned by the band. The tricks of the American eccentric—a "tramp" champion shot, wearing innumerable medals—are parodied with much drollery, the various mechanical "notions" of the tatterdemalion comedian from "across the pond" being introduced. The washing the baby business is scarcely so entertaining as the trick-shooting burlesque. Miss Foller, a "queen of light," another creation of Bernardi's, dances in a very elaborate and beautiful scene, and we see "the butterfly," "the bed of the ocean," "the fire," an "illuminated fountain," and "the snow" produced by means of chromatropic effects. Bernardi winds up his entertainment by appearing as Chung Ling Foo, the illusionist. The show is received with considerable favour, and is a decided attraction.

Another newcomer in the Palace bill is Señorita Maria Vinent, an artist from the Opera House, Madrid. Mlle. Vinent, who is a charming brunette, has benefited greatly by the vocal culture of Mme. Marchesi, and sings with a volume of tone and expression, also dancing the farandole in graceful fashion. Marie Dainton's mimicry needs no praise. Marguerite Cooper, at the piano, sings "Janie" and "Hello! Martha" with her usual success, and, in response to an encore, gives the familiar "Dingle Dongle Dell." Others contributing to the programme are Sydney Lee, Bert Levy, Nancy Thornton, the Palace Girls, Moran and Wiser, and Josie Delaine. Mr. Hermann Finck's orchestra is heard to advantage in "L'Entente Musicale," the instrumental interlude.

A DIMINUTIVE comedian of great cleverness has been discovered for the Continent, and is now at the Alhambra, Paris.

MISS RAY MASKELL, the clever comedienne and dancer, has just finished with big success as top of the bill at the Apollo, Berlin.

THE many friends of Mr. Frank Weston, resident-manager of the Empire Palace, Wolverhampton, will be pleased to hear that he is now convalescent after a severe attack of influenza.

AT the Queen's Palace of Varieties, Poplar, Messrs. Abrahams have started a series of Sunday entertainments, the profits of which are handed over to the Poplar Hospital.

ON Thursday Oct. 29, in aid of the Universal Bread and Coal Society, a performance was given at the Paragon. During Mr. Phil Ray's entertainment he kindly gave a guinea towards the funds.

THAT rising young actor Mr. Phil Le Sueur has been specially engaged by Mr. Edward Marris for his sketch *The Dandy Millionaire*, which is being produced at the Surrey Theatre next Monday. Mr. Le Sueur is a Jersey man, and his fellow islanders seem likely to have cause to be proud of him.

MR. ALFRED H. BOTWRIGHT has appointed Mr. Edgar Curtis, the well-known comedian, his assistant-manager for the forthcoming series of concerts promoted by him at the Public Hall Baths, Wimbledon, which commence on the 14th inst., and which will comprise a strong variety show and the Walturdaw Bioscope.

THE sapient remarks which appeared in the *Daily Telegraph* on Saturday have caused the greatest amusement to prominent song-writers who have read them. Such fees as those mentioned are rare; and retaining fees only come to about three or four bards.

MR. SYD GODFREY has settled panto with one of John A. Thomson's companies, playing Mrs. Sinbad. Miss Irene May, a niece of Mr. Godfrey's, plays Zorilda in the same production. Miss May's versatility as a performer extends to juggling, and she recently won a prize in a beauty competition in Birmingham.

SENORITA MARIA VINENT, the Spanish singer and dancer at the Palace Theatre, was born in the palace of the Marquis of Palomares de Duero. Her grandfather was Antonio Vinent, Marquis of Palomares de Duero. He was immensely rich, and left a beautiful palace in Seville in Mauresque style, with sculptures looking like lace from top to base. The war with Cuba ruined the Vinent family, and Maria had to work. She diligently studied Italian, singing, and music with the well-known Mme. Marchesi, and began at the Lyric Theatre of Milan at the age of seventeen in the following operas:—*Philémon et Baucis* (Gounod), *Pagliacci* (Leoncavallo), and *Manon* (Massenet). Manon is one of her best interpretations. Her répertoire has been largely increased since those early days, and she has fulfilled engagements in Russia, Constantinople, Madrid (1903-4), and Oporto.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

ANOTHER GREAT PANTOMIME NUMBER.

"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO"

(By FRED GODFREY, PERCY EDGAR, and T. W. THURBAN).

Will be featured by **MISS DAISY DORMER** at the Halls and in Pantomime.

Principal Boys and Girls should secure this Number,

Which has just been added to the following Phenomenal List of Successes:

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"WHO SAID HE DON'T LIKE GIRLS?"
"L.S.D."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"SHADOWLAND."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL."
"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."
"ON THE CLIFFS OF NORMANDY."
"SWEETHEART DAYS."
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL.'
"BOMBADIER."
"MANDY'S WEDDING."
"ARE YOU THE LITTLE GIRL I MET THE OTHER EVENING?"

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

(*Continued from page 25.*)

A new song of Sam Mayo's, entitled "The wind blew hard from the north-south-west," has just been published by the Von Tilzer company in their one-shilling edition. These publishers have also secured Mr. Mayo's "Listen to me and I'll prove that I'm right," which they will issue shortly, together with a big chorus song, "A message from England," by Worton David and R. Penso.

There is an unprecedented demand for the Von Tilzer Music Co.'s topical pantomime number "What a terrible thing that would be." Applications come in by almost every post from all parts of England, Ireland, and Scotland. The pantomime rights have been disposed of for Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle, Dublin, and Belfast, and Mr. Dan Rolyat has secured the West-end (London) pantomime rights for the Adelphi.

Mr. George Lashwood's hit, "Saturday Afternoon," will also be a pantomime winner this year, having been disposed of for Mr. Robert Arthur's, Mr. John Hart's, Mr. J. F. Elliston's, and numerous other big pantomimes.

Mr. George Burton, the well-known pantomime librettist and musical director, has written a certain hit in "Men who were born, not made." The well-turned verses deal with celebrities of all degrees and periods, and the music is tuneful and catchy. Mr. James Kiddie has secured the rights for his three pantomimes.

Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe continues to increase his popularity at the London Pavilion nightly. This hall is hardly what one would call "a chorus singing house," nevertheless, the audiences find it impossible to refrain from singing the chorus of Mr. Sutcliffe's song "Have you got another like Mary?" This number will be heard in nine out of every ten pantomimes on Boxing Night. The Star Music Co. are the publishers.

That ubiquitous ditty "Carolina Brown of Chinatown" seems to be the favourite pantomime number amongst principal girls and those who want a semi-coon song, and in this line there appears to be a great lack of good numbers this season. Miss Daisy Dormer, Miss Ella Retford, Miss Minnie Mace, and others continue to go great guns with this catchy number, which was such a feature at the seaside during the past summer. The Star Music Co. are now making this a free song for the halls.

Mr. Ambrose Thorne has been featuring no less than six of the Star Co.'s numbers in South Africa. Of these, his greatest hits were "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "Meet me under the clock." Mr. Thorne has been singing the above two numbers during this week at the Empire, York, to hurricanes of applause

Considerable credit is due to Mr. John Lloyd with the Harmony Four for his effective rendition of "I'm wearing my heart away for you." This song is certain to be extensively used by principal boys and others during the forthcoming pantomime season, as it fits any situation. It is published by Charles Sheard and Co.

Another principal boy song that Messrs. Sheard are recommending is H. Trotère's delightful new song "I love you more," as it is sure to please both vocalist and audience.

A sequel to "I'm wearing my heart away for you," written by Messrs. Clifton Bingham and Marcus Hope, will shortly be published by Messrs. Sheard, who confidently anticipate a greater success with it than with the original song even.

Mr. T. W. Thurban was so impressed with the tricky effects he introduced into the orchestral score of his latest composition, "The war-whoop rag," two step and march, that he couldn't resist committing his delightful feelings to paper in a letter to Messrs. Sheard, saying: "This will be a great big hit for you! Bigger than my 'Mumblin' Mose.'"

Pantomime musical directors should write Messrs. Sheard for band parts of "The war-whoop rag" and of their two newest waltzes—"Charme," by Th. Pinet, and "My dreamy," by Constance V. White. They are both delightful waltzes.

Mr. Harrison Brockbank, who recently made an enormous hit with Rudyard Kipling's "Follow me 'ome" at Devonshire Park, Eastbourne, where he had the able assistance of the Duke of Devonshire's orchestra, created a perfect furore and absolutely thrilled his audience with the same song at the first concert of the season given by the Association of Lancastrians on Monday evening last at the Hotel Cecil.

So great was Mr. Harrison Brockbank's success that he will sing "Follow me 'ome," by special desire, on Sunday evening, the 15th inst., at His Majesty's Theatre, with the London Symphony Orchestra, at the concert given by the Playgoers' Club in aid of the Poor Children's Pantomime Fund. Mr. Brockbank will also continue to sing the song at all his numerous engagements. It is published by Messrs. Chas. Sheard and Co.

Mr. W. Ward-Higgs is to be congratulated on his admirable setting of Mr. Kipling's new barrack-room ballad, "Follow me 'ome," the spirit of which he has caught to a nicety. The orchestral effects of the closing lines of the vocalised symphony—

"For it's 'Three rounds blank' an' follow me,
'An' it's 'Thirteen rank' an' follow me;
Oh, passin' the love o' women,
Follow me—follow me 'ome,"

with muffled drums and rattle of the rifle volleys, is simply electrifying and truly dramatic. What a song for capable baritones! who should make a point of hearing Mr. Brockbank's magnificent rendering.

"Tommy's Ready—All's Well!" is the title of a fine stirring patriotic song, written by A. Ellerton, and melodised by A. Ellerton, jun. It has been accepted for immediate publication by Mr. David Day. The present European unrest quite justifies the theme of this promising number, which should be a great pantomime hit.

"A Tiny Seed of Love" is becoming such a rapid favourite for pantomime, that no fewer than three artists in four different productions say they will either sing it or not appear. No doubt they will reconsider their present attitude. However, Messrs. Feldman have now decided to place this song definitely with the first artist that comes along for it, and thus save managers and producers endless trouble.

Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. claim to have achieved a record, having settled this week George Lashwood's great success, "A White Man," with thirty of Great Britain's principal boys for production in pantomime. This exceeds their experience with their former world-wide successes, "By the side of the Zuyder Zee" and "Put me amongst the girls."

Mr. Charles Whittle returned to town, and opened at the Oxford on Monday, and created an instantaneous success with Messrs. Feldman's new song, "I want you to see my girl," which will doubtless became as popular as his former triumph, "Put me amongst the girls."

"FREE TRADE" IN THEATRE AND MUSIC-HALL LICENCES.

CHAT WITH MR. WALTER REYNOLDS, L.C.C.

"*That, in the opinion of the Council, it is unnecessary to differentiate between the licences granted to theatres and to music halls; and that it be referred to the General Purposes Committee to consider and report what amendments should be made in the standing orders of the Council with the view to granting a general and uniform licence to all places of entertainment licensed by the Council, under which it would be optional for the licensee, subject to such restrictions as may be considered desirable, to give either dramatic or what are known as variety entertainments.*"

So runs a notice of motion in the name of Mr. Jocelyn Brandon on the agenda paper of the London County Council, and regarding it our interviewer sought the opinion of Mr. Walter Reynolds, L.C.C., the other day.

"There is no doubt," said Mr. Reynolds, "that Mr. Brandon's desire, as expressed in this notice of motion, is a perfectly logical one, and I think that the opinion of the Council generally would be in favour of 'free trade' in theatrical licences. I see no reason why we should not grant the same licence to all applicants, whether they be owners or managers of theatres or of music halls. We now give those licences solely on the ground that the buildings satisfy our requirements as theatres or music halls. Whether or not they are wanted is a question that is not within our purview. When a man wants to open his building, we ask him, 'Which licence will you have?' and he chooses one or the other. The logic of it is—Why should he not have both, since we are ready to grant him either? To put the matter shortly, let a man put up a building which satisfies us, and it is a matter of indifference to us whether he produces four-act plays or presents a music hall programme. But difficulties arise in other directions, chiefly caused by the rivalry existing among all types of managers, the theatre manager arguing that the music halls are getting all the ha'pence while the theatres are getting all the kicks. Well, undoubtedly, at the present moment everything in the nature of drama on the halls is illegal. In fact, it is doubly illegal, for one-act plays are constantly being represented in variety houses without being licensed by the Lord Chamberlain and without being put on in a dramatically licensed building.

"The cause of our troubles is that legislation has not been brought up to date, for when the Act for regulating theatres was passed in 1843, the music hall, as we understand it to-day, did not exist, and there is no modern legislation in existence to cover music hall performances. Therefore, the L.C.C. is compelled to go back to the disorderly house Act of George II., passed in 1751. Part of one clause in this antediluvian survival is as follows:—

"'And whereas the Multitude of Places of Entertainment for the lower Sort of People is another great Cause of Thefts and Robberies as they are thereby tempted to spend their small Substance in riotous Pleasures, and in consequence are put on unlawful Methods of supplying their Wants and renewing their Pleasures: In order, therefore, to prevent the said Temptation to Thefts and Robberies, and to correct as far as may be the Habit of Idleness which is become too general over the whole Kingdom, and is productive of much Mischief and Inconvenience: Be it enacted by the Authority aforesaid, that from and after the First Day of December One thousand seven hundred and fifty-two any House, Room, Garden, or other Place kept for public Dancing, Music, or other public Entertainment of the like Kind, in the Cities of London and Westminster, or within Twenty Miles thereof, without a Licence had for that Purpose from the last preceding Michaelmas Quarter Sessions of the Peace shall be deemed a disorderly House or Place; *and no such licence shall be granted at any adjourned Sessions*, nor shall any Fee or Reward be taken for any such Licence; and it shall and may be lawful to and for any Constable or other Person, being thereunto authorised by Warrant under the Hand and Seal of One or more of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace of the County, City, Riding, Division, or Liberty where such House or Place shall be situate, to enter such House or Place, and to seize every Person who shall be found therein, in order that they may be dealt with according to Law; and every Person keeping such House, Room, Garden, or other Place, without such Licence as aforesaid, shall forfeit the Sum of One Hundred Pounds to such Person as will sue for the same, and be otherwise punishable as the Law directs in Cases of disorderly Houses.'

"You will note that according to this old Act the licence is to be granted at the Michaelmas Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and it is only at that period of the year that licences are now granted. We grant them about the first week in November. I have set myself the duty of rectifying this cast-iron irrationality, and I shall not rest until the music hall manager is put on the same level of justice as the theatrical proprietor, so that he shall be able to secure a licence at any time of the year, instead of only at one period of the year as at present.

"As a beginning of my crusade, I have placed the following notice of motion on the current week's agenda paper:—'That it be referred to the General Purposes Committee and the Theatres and Music Halls Committee to consider and report as to the advisability of providing, by an amendment of standing orders or otherwise, for music or music and dancing licences to be granted, as in the case of stage plays licences, at any time during the year.'

"There is no power at present which would enable a uniform licence to be granted in London. That object could only be obtained by granting two licences, one for music and dancing and one for dramatic performances. So far as the theatres under the jurisdiction of the Lord Chamberlain are concerned, the settlement of the question would be a matter for agreement between the London County Council and the Lord Chamberlain. The way is made easier for us in the Council, in those places which are entirely under our authority, by the abolition of the rule prohibiting smoking. We have removed the restriction as to smoking, so that in this respect both licences are equal, and the Lord Chamberlain has in many cases followed our lead.

"Another peculiar anomaly is that the same Act of Parliament (of 1843) obtains all over Great Britain, and it has been the custom, under the dramatic licence outside of the London area, to give every kind of performance, music hall or dramatic, without let or hindrance to the manager. It was thought very largely that the Lord Chamberlain's licence covered everything in London, so that a man who held that licence could play whatever he liked in his own building. But the case of the Camden Theatre, and previously of the Empress, Brixton, upset the prevalent idea altogether. We refused the Empress management a music and dancing licence. They immediately obtained an unrestricted licence from the Lord Chamberlain, but when the Lord Chamberlain discovered that his regulations were being violated—in such ways, for instance, as the presentation of an unlicensed programme and the permission to smoke—he withdrew his licence. And now the Camden Theatre case has quite destroyed preconceived notions that the Lord Chamberlain's authority covered everything. When that theatre was turned over to the Gibbons Syndicate, the management gave music hall performances under the Lord Chamberlain's licence, which Mr. Arthur already held. The London County Council did not interfere. The Lord Chamberlain did not interfere. But the outside public invoked the 'protection' of the Act of Parliament, and the Court decided the other day that premises must not be kept open for music and dancing without a music and dancing licence. Thus it would appear that divided authority is the cause of most of our troubles in London. The Camden Theatre and the Brixton Empress had to deal with two different authorities, who licence at different times, and between the two stools they fell.

"I do not see many difficulties for the music hall in Mr. Brandon's proposition, for the variety establishments already play drama without permission, and have music, singing, and dancing, and I do not think that, for a few years to come, there is much likelihood that music hall managers will want to play drama all the evening, as that form of entertainment is somewhat out of fashion just now. In getting a dramatic licence the new music halls would be at no disadvantage, for they are not allowed to sell intoxicating drink now as music halls and they would not be allowed to sell drink as theatres. This would be no loss to them. On the other hand, the poor theatre, when turned into a music hall, has to suffer a penalty for the change without any compensating benefit, for once it becomes a variety house, it loses its drink licence for ever.

"A great hardship would fall upon a certain class of the profession if an all-round licence were granted. Our structural requirements as regards theatres and music halls are identical—if our demands are not complied with a licence is refused—but if we were to grant all-round licences indiscriminately to places such as concert halls and small entertainment establishments, even to the rooms where penny readings are given, we should immediately compel these to comply with our structural regulations, and they would have to come into line with all our stage play licence restrictions. This would have the effect of throwing out of existence hundreds of public halls. It has been suggested that under an all-round licence the regular theatres might fill up a few weeks now and then with variety, particularly at such times as the present, when good dramatic attractions are so plentifully lacking; but it is very doubtful whether they could secure a sufficiently good variety show to fill up even a few weeks, for the reason that the variety syndicates could not afford to allow them to have the talent.

"The difficulty in regard to the drink question is that if the theatres did furnish music hall programmes for a few weeks in the year, they would most likely, speaking from experience, lose their licence to sell intoxicants. They could not go back a month later and say, 'Well, I am now going to play drama, and I want to sell drink again.' The Council would not allow it, because, to take the extreme case of a man playing variety one week and drama the next, it would be absurd for him to take out his drink licence every alternate week, even granting that in opening as a music hall he had not destroyed his qualification for a licence by the mere fact that his theatre had become a new music hall. The London County Council has not granted a drink licence to a new music hall since 1897, and apparently it will never grant another.

"And while speaking on the subject of drink, I may be permitted to say that the two-houses-a-night system as applied so successfully to music hall entertainments has been an immense influence in the direction of temperance—a far greater influence than all our legislators and all our 'temperance' orators and 'temperance' societies have ever brought to bear. These music halls are more attractive than the public-houses, for in them a man and his wife can get a decent lounge seat for sixpence, and a comfortable seat in some for twopence. Indeed, the modern demand for comfort has been largely created by these music halls, and any fresh buildings of the kind or any old buildings that are modernised will have to be erected, appointed, and furnished on a similarly luxurious scale.

"Theatre managers make a great many complaints as to the music hall people acting illegally in giving their entertainments, but so far as the London County Council is concerned, the theatre managers have got all they have asked for, and if they want anything more it is for them to press for it. If they desire to put the law into operation in regard to the production of sketches on the halls, it is perfectly open to them to do so. But, of course, if they don't move, they cannot expect the Council to move for them."

THE EXETER HIPPODROME.

Exeter's new Hippodrome is the spacious building known in the past as the Royal Public Rooms, and it may safely be said that Mr. Fred Karno and Mr. A. H. Edwards, the proprietors, need have no fear of the success of their venture. The success is all the more creditable having regard to the rush—a word that surely describes accurately the preparations—with which the Hippodrome was finally presented to the public. The man in the street had hardly heard of it before the date of the opening night was announced, and the bold enterprise which has been shown in this strenuous mode of preparation is just the kind of thing to win popular favour. Though, so far as the interior of the building is concerned, a few final touches are yet to be added, something of a record has already been made in the establishment of Exeter's Hippodrome.

On Monday night there were crowded audiences at the two houses. The orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Dudley Powell, is a well-balanced one, and the general arrangements are excellent. Bert Terrell, in Dutch outfit, first that of the Dutch peasant lad, made an original opening turn, and his best hit was his mimicry of the singing of his Dutch maid. Archie Royer, a Yankee comedy acrobat, is quite above the ordinary, and his magic-like knee-somersaults have seldom been attempted. A versatile little artist, Archie Royer has sufficient of the comedian's spirit to give a quaint, original touch to his exceptional acrobatic skill. Ivy Proudfoot, the third turn, met with a cordial reception, for she has already been a favourite pantomime artist in Exeter. Austin Lenton and Agnes Lane, in their comedy concoction *Unconsidered Trifles*, were responsible for some smart topical patter; and a lot of cheering in all parts of the house announced the next turn, Exeter's favourite "Rabbits." The same old "Rabbits," he delighted his audience with many of the drolleries with which the name of "Rabbits" is inseparable. Ruhart, an amusing comedian and trickster, assisted by La Belle Rosalind, provoked continuous laughter. Jack Pleasants, who impersonates the adult "Simple Simon," and tells of a "converted Scot in hallelujah kilts," is quite an original turn; while The Dandies, presented by Mr. Henry J. Corner, and including Miss Margaret Mackintosh, Miss Josephine Gordon, Mr. Edward Whitehall, and Mr. Stephen Fitzgerald, are essentially the star turn of the week. As vocalists they are par excellence, but their contribution owes its main strength and effectiveness to its variety. It is the best turn of its kind we have seen. Excellent Bioscope Pictures wind up a programme of exceptional merit.

"Connemara," Messrs. Lawrance, Gifford, and Mellor's latest number, will add more fame to the Feldman firm, and will be everywhere Christmas.

At the Hippodrome, Scarborough, the Five Jolly Bakers give a fine acrobatic exhibition which goes well; Gracie Graham sings her songs delightfully, and is an artist with a future before her; Tray and Rich submit a turn which is full of humour; Archie Pitt is amusing in his songs; and Rousby and Rene make a decided success of their sketch *Fine Feathers*. Iris Banfield, comedienne, and Cavalli, ventriloquist, also appear.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, Mr. R. A. Robinson (chairman) presiding.

STEAM ORGANS, &c.

The Local Government Committee reported as follows:—

"On July 19, 1898, the Council made a bye-law which provides that no person shall in any street or on any land adjoining or near thereto keep or manage, or cause to be kept or managed, a shooting gallery, swing boat, roundabout, or any other construction of a like character, so as to cause obstruction or danger to the traffic of any such street.

"This bye-law is in the same terms as a bye-law in force in Middlesex, and it will be observed that the offence consists in the causing of obstruction or danger to the traffic in any street. The Camberwell Metropolitan Borough Council has asked the Council to amend the bye-law so as to make it an offence to keep or manage a shooting gallery, swing boat, roundabout, or any other construction of a like character, in such a manner as to cause annoyance to, or disturbance of, residents or passengers; and the request is supported by twelve other metropolitan borough councils.

"When the existing bye-law was under consideration, the Secretary of State expressed the opinion that care should be taken to avoid interfering with the amusements of the poorer classes, except for strong and substantial cause. Having carefully considered the request of the metropolitan borough councils, we have arrived at the conclusion that a sufficiently strong case has not been made out to warrant an extension of the scope of the bye-law in the way suggested. We recommend—'That the Council does not see its way at present to amend its bye-law in regard to steam organs, shooting galleries, roundabouts, &c.; and that the Camberwell Metropolitan Borough Council, which requested the Council to amend the bye-law, and the metropolitan borough councils who supported the request be so informed.'"

The recommendation came before the Council after 7 o'clock, when only unopposed business was taken, and being opposed, the consideration was adjourned until the next meeting.

NEW MEMBER.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee recommended that the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Walter Reynolds be filled by the appointment of Dr. J. Davies. Agreed to.

EMPRESS THEATRE, BRIXTON.

The Theatres Committee reported that they had considered a drawing submitted by Mr. B. Crewe, showing a proposal to heat the stage at the Empress Theatre, Carlton-grove, Brixton, by means of coils of hot-water pipes extending round the walls, and to thicken the walls of the scene-dock.

The recommendation was approved.

FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION

The Theatres Committee reported:—

"The Council on November 22, 1907, granted to Mr. Imre Kiralfy a provisional licence for music and dancing for the Franco-British Exhibition. The Exhibition opened on May 14 last, when the arrangements were to some extent incomplete, and could not be considered altogether satisfactory from the point of view of public safety. We were consequently not in a position to advise the Council to confirm the licence, although at the same time we did not consider it necessary to recommend the prohibition of the opening of the Exhibition, as the licensee gave us his assurance that any work required by the Council would be done without delay. In consequence of additions being continually made to the exhibits it was necessary to make repeated additions to the requirements. The arrangements may now be regarded as practically satisfactory, but some of the requirements originally made have been modified or waived on account of the special circumstances connected with the present Exhibition, and the inauguration of an enterprise of such magnitude. The whole question will therefore have to be reconsidered if the buildings are used another year, so that the Council may be fully satisfied with the arrangements before the buildings are again opened to the public, and an intimation to this effect has already been given to the licensee. We recommend—'That the provisional licence for music and dancing granted on Nov. 22, 1907, to Imre Kiralfy for the Franco-British Exhibition be confirmed; that notice of such confirmation be endorsed on the licence; and that the seal of the Council be affixed to such endorsement.'"

The recommendation was opposed, and Sir John Benn, M.P., asked the chairman of the Committee if he was aware of certain scandals that had arisen in connection with the Exhibition.

Mr. Greenwood, chairman of the Committee, in reply, said he was not aware of any scandals at the Exhibition in connection with public health, and he ventured to think that the reports with regard to alleged inconveniences had been enormously exaggerated. It was absolutely impossible for adequate provision to be made for a varying attendance of between 10,000 and 300,000 people.

Sir John Benn said he would take an early opportunity of fully setting forth the case.

LONDON PAVILION.

The Committee reported they had considered a drawing, submitted by Messrs. Wylson and Long, showing proposals to remove one box on each side of the balcony, to remove a refreshment bar on the prompt side of the balcony, and to extend the saloon bar at the London Pavilion. They recommended, "That the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted." Agreed to.

KILBURN VAUDEVILLE THEATRE.

The Committee had considered a drawing, submitted by Mr. W. G. R. Sprague, showing a proposal to provide a limelight room on each side of the auditorium at the grand circle level at the Kilburn Vaudeville Theatre, High-road, Kilburn. They recommended, "That the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted." Approved.

CONCERT HALL AT TOOTING.

The Committee had considered drawings, submitted by Messrs. Emden, Egan, and Co., showing a concert hall proposed to be erected on the east side of Tooting High-street, and to the south of Selincourt-road, in respect of which hall it is intended to apply for a music and dancing licence. The hall will have accommodation for about 1,440 persons. They recommended "that, provided the works shown on the three drawings submitted be commenced within six months, the Council will be prepared to grant a certificate under section 12 of 41 and 42 Vict., cap. 32, to the owner of such building, on being satisfied that the premises have been completed in accordance with the drawings referred to and the regulations of the Council." Carried.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

The Committee had considered a drawing, submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing proposals to construct a counter for the sale of refreshments and to fix a dividing rail in the waiting-room at the Shepherd's Bush Empire. They recommended, "That the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted, provided that the whole of the work be executed in fire-resisting materials and completed in detail to the satisfaction of the Council." Approved.

VARIETY THEATRES HAVE COME TO STAY!

That we all know.

We also know the time has come when

WELL WRITTEN,
SKILFULLY PREPARED PLAYLETS
CAREFULLY ACTED
and
BEAUTIFULLY MOUNTED,
will be
BOOKED BY MANAGERS IN PREFERENCE

To the Mediocre type of Sketch so frequently seen upon the Variety Stage.

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Therefore, first get your play. Having got it, bring

LONG EXPERIENCE AND SOUND JUDGMENT

To bear upon the

PRODUCTION AND CAST OF CHARACTERS.

And the result will be an innovation

WELCOMED BY MANAGERS
and
THEATRE-GOERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

DIRECTORS and MANAGERS

Should not Fail to See

"CHUMS TILL DEATH."

THE CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.

Week Commencing November 23rd.

Telegrams, "Playlet, London."
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ALBERT MARSH,
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LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE OXFORD.

A triumphant American tour of nearly four years, with recent Continental successes of considerable moment, forms a most agreeable retrospect for Houdini, the man of manacles and the world's greatest exponent of handcuff freeing, and when he returned to the Oxford on Monday he had a reception in every way worthy of his high reputation. The qualities that strike one about such a performer is his complete lack of pretence, his absolute calm, his tremendous energy, and his remarkable pluck. To see him wriggling on the floor of the stage to get rid of a strait waistcoat is a lesson on the virtue of will power directed by an acute and alert brain. He freed himself in the space of 3min. 2sec. A greater and an absolutely original feat was his second, to see which a large committee of spectators was invited on to the stage. A large galvanised iron vessel was filled with water, and after trying complete immersion for a minute or so, Houdini crept into the narrow space a second time, his head being completely covered by water. Attendants then fastened down the lid, by means of six padlocks, and one of them stood with axe in hand ready to prize open the can—now hidden by a tent-like structure—in case of accident. In the space of two minutes Houdini reappeared, the padlocks having been unlocked. He invited members of the audience to bring their own padlocks, stipulating, however, that they shall be quite workable.

Carlton, one of the few illusionists who are funny on the stage, presented for the first time on Monday an interlude that he terms an "operatic agony," entitled *The Hankey-homey Showman*. The lyrics are from the pen of George Burnley, and the scenery has been painted by George Boden, who has realised with much cleverness the details of a fair ground. Here we see Carlton as a showman—a modern Autolycus—who sells cough-lozenges, and has an amusing conversation with a Scotchman, played with a deal of pawky humour by Mr. Jock Walker. As a "saftie" Mr. Walker adds many mirthful moments, and the magician Carlton has found in him a valuable ally. The tricks of Carlton are performed with that conjurer-comedian's usual facility and bonhomie, and the fun of the whole thing is increasing every night. The stage is brightened by the singing and dancing of sixteen smart and attractive chorus girls.

We have recently noticed Mr. Will Evans's *Mrs. Morgan's Cure*, which is rousing shouts of laughter nightly. Mr. Charles R. Whittle is displaying the value of a good chorus song in "I want you to see my girl," and Miss Alexandra Dagmar, bright and handsome, has a ditty that is quite up to date, to which she lends the charm of an excellent voice. Miss May Mars holds her own, too, in chorus songs of a most attractive type; and Miss Jessie Preston, mirthful and merry as usual, revels in burlesque and comedy. She is always welcome at the Oxford. Mr. Harry Randall as the "parlour queen" repeats patter nightly to an accompaniment of loud laughter; and other turns include the Carlyles, the O'Gorman Brothers, the Poluski Brothers in *Pictures*, Miss Helen Trix, Miss José Collins, Mr. Phil Ray, Tate and Tate, Mr. George Robey, and Howard and Collinson. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, with fine films, completes a programme upon which Mr. C. Blyth-Pratt, the astute and courteous manager, may be heartily congratulated.

THE STANDARD.

Standard audiences, always well catered for in the matter of sketches, during last week extended a flattering reception to the playlet, *Only an Actor*, an entertaining little version of the popular play, *David Garrick*, excellently enacted by Mr. Frank Fenton and company. The principal scene is, of course, that in which Garrick, in fulfilment of a promise to Simon Ingot to cure his daughter, Ada, of her infatuation for the actor, simulates drunkenness, much to the disgust of that lady and the annoyance of the extravagantly-attired Selina Rumbelow and her intoxicated spouse, "naughty little Rummy." Mr. Fenton gave an easy and finished representation throughout of the arduous rôle of Garrick, particularly praiseworthy being his acting in the more serious portions of the playlet, and he was loudly acclaimed at the conclusion. Ada Ingot had a refined and quietly impressive representative in Miss Phyllis Vaughan; Simon Ingot, the prosperous but prejudiced old merchant, who is obliged to finally admit that it is possible for an actor to be a gentleman, was admirably portrayed by Mr. Edgar L. Hocking; Miss Warrington made a droll figure of Selina Rumbelow; and Mr. George Thursby also contributed to the humour of the sketch by his mirth-provoking behaviour as Samuel.

The enterprising burglar is frequently encountered as a prominent character, both in theatrical and music hall playlets, and he is again the principal figure in *A Midnight Call*, a dramatic incident for which Mr. Arthur Page and company are responsible. The cracksman in this instance is caught in the act of purloining valuables by an ingenuous youngster, who turns out to be his own daughter, but he is prevailed upon to depart without disclosing his identity. Mr. Page made a grimly humorous burglar, and the other parts were ably played. A comedy duologue that evoked almost continuous hilarity was *La Belle Florita; or, Will "He" be My Wife?* humorously enacted by Brierley and Franklin, an excellent female impersonation being given by one of the twain, his companion contributing a droll representation of an amorously-inclined theatrical manager. Shirley and Ransome submit their entertaining trifle *Arf-a-Quid* with very successful results, and Mr. Lew Lake and his "colossal company of cunning conspirators," in the well-known episode *My Pal Jerry*, are immense favourites.

Mr. Will Harris, a hard-working comedian, has a funny number in "I planted it in the garden," and evokes laughter also in another nonsense song; and Mr. George Rapley early in the programme creates merriment with a medley composed of many popular songs. Miss Amy Marsden contributes a ludicrous burlesque of the "Salome" craze, her other low-comedy contribution, "The mocking birds were singing on the tree," also being responsible for hilarity; and Mr. Sid Penna, musical comedian, extracts melody from pickle-jars, property cigars, &c., indulges in spoof conjuring, and employs many ingenious devices to entertain his auditors, and always with success. The Edisonograph has three particularly laughable films in Chase for a Bike, Fido's Taking Way, and Schoolboys' Revolt, and also shows many other interesting subjects; and other entertaining items in Mr. T. S. Dickie's well-diversified bill are given by Miss Queenie West, comedienne, the Northern Troupe of International Dancers, the Sisters Allen, and Stacey and Williams. Mr. Maurice Volny is the courteous and assiduous manager, and Mr. Frederick Allwood conducts the excellent orchestra, the *entr'acte* on the night of our visit, a selection of the most popular melodies in the répertoire of Mr. Harry Lauder, being much enjoyed.

CROUCH END HIPPODROME.

The excellent programme provided here by the management this week is attracting crowded houses each night. A feature is always made of the orchestral selections, which, under the direction of Mr. Archie Howells, continue to prove a delight to the ear. Metra's "The White Queen" and a selection from "The Casino Girl" are two items given in the current bill. The Sisters Earle afford genuine entertainment with their well-rendered duet "Come back to Erin." Chas. Banks causes considerable diversion by his singing "La diddley," following on with some amusing patter, and concluding his turn by introducing his wonderfully trained dog "Woof," one of the cleverest canines performing on the boards. The refined and dainty comedienne Daisy Hicks is a success, and her rendering of "If you don't want lots of gold" and "I've no right to love you" is very catchy and smart. Harry Rogerson provides about fifteen minutes' genuine fun as a tramp. His burlesque of a drama, in which he enacts (with the aid of a scarecrow), the hero, heroine, and villain is screamingly funny, and although the idea is not new, it is quite one of the best of melodramatic parodies. Adelaide Waldorf, a charming Australian vocalist, puts much artistic feeling into her two songs "Eileen" and "If I should plant a tiny seed of love," and scores a great success.

Another item upon the programme which earns the hearty appreciation of the audience is contributed by Will Morsa, juggler and equilibrist, whose tricks are clever and neatly performed. Much amusement is provided by his comical assistant. The Four Sisters Gilbey appear in a refined musical entertainment, comprising selections on the banjo, guitar, xylophone, piano, and sleigh bells, their turn concluding with a song by one of their number, entitled "Old man moon," followed by a neatly-executed dance. They are one of the most popular features of the programme.

Daisy Jerome sings "Temptation," which gains hearty applause, but appears to better advantage in her comic ditty "A pat of butter" and her latest chorus hit "Do-re-me-fah-so-lah-te-do." Although contributing three songs, the audience clamoured for more, but Miss Jerome, although willing, was unable to comply owing to her other engagements elsewhere. Bi-Bo-Bi, the eccentric musician, is here, and fully merits the applause accorded his turn. C. Emlyn Jones and Co. are appearing this week in a comedy mélange entitled *The Harmonic Crank*, and the parts are well performed. Special mention should be made of the lady portraying a "slavey," whose comical antics provide much merriment, and also of the artist who appears as a page-boy, with dancing that is clever and neat. Robbie Roy scores as a Scotch comedian, and Clark and Hayden in their musical comedy duologue go extremely well. They are a pair of talented artists, and the lady has a very good voice, and renders her song in an able manner. The concluding item of the programme is the ever-popular Bioscope, with new films.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

Casey's Court heads the programme here, and evokes roars of laughter from large audiences, its many amusing incidents and situations being greeted with warm applause. Mr. Ernest Cadle's entertainment is altogether a huge success. The Lupino Brothers, with a contribution entitled *The Musician and His Poodle*, win much approval for their excellent comedy business; the Stein Eretto troupe of acrobats and hand-balancers arouse enthusiasm with their clever feats so smartly and neatly executed. Miss Hetty King did not appear, much to the disappointment of visitors, but her place was ably filled by Alexandra and Hughes, whose entertainment went with a brightness and smartness that was most enjoyable; the Sisters Morgan, looking most attractive as a sailor and Japanese lady respectively, made a considerable hit with their song entitled "A girl from Japan," and their clever dance won prolonged and well-deserved applause.

Clarke and Hamilton come next on the programme, and this clever couple prove their versatility in patter, song, and dance, which all win general approbation. Clever little Zola comes next with "Four foot two and a bit" and "Whoever would have thought it?" a well-arranged song arranged on nursery rhymes, which caused much amusement. Frank Sylvo, aptly billed as "the quaint comedy juggler," amply justified this description, his clever tricks being executed with neatness and precision, and his business being novel and effective—a fact quickly and generously recognised by the onlookers. Lupino Lane, the clever boy comedian, singer, and dancer, gave his song "Take me on the flip-flap" in capital style, and danced really well. Big Ben Brown and little George Le Clerq appeared with their usual success in the quaint and amusing sketch entitled *Black Justice*, and were rewarded with unstinted laughter and applause. The Prince Milner Trio are exceptionally good acrobats, and their excellent turn includes hoop-manipulation and wire-walking. Some capital pictures were exhibited on the Bioscope, including a series illustrating the smuggling of opium. The evening's entertainment was a most enjoyable one, and quite up to the high standard of this popular hall, so ably managed by Mr. Ernest Bridgen, who is always courteous and attentive to the patrons of the establishment. He has a capable assistant in Mr. C. Young; while the excellent orchestra is presided over by Mr. Forbes Russell.

RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

No one can complain of the *plats* served up this week for the delectation of Richmond audiences. The attractions are numerous and there is not a "turn" that fails to win the approval of the audience. Pretty Violet Nunn sings her coon ditties in the now established coon fashion; quite daintily, yet plaintively, she assures the audience she is "Waiting to be given away"—we doubt it. Violet dresses her songs and self artistically. Terpsichore is strongly represented by the Three Sisters Aiston, who sing with no little success and who dance both daintily and cleverly. Their query "Isn't it nice to have someone to love you?" seemed to win an affirmative. Their show is quite good of its kind. The Cabiacs, who deputised for an absentee, immediately "caught on." Really a remarkable couple of contortionists are they; no movement seemed too difficult, and many of their tricks were quite beyond the average. They won a complete and legitimate success, and deserved the triple call they got. Tom Jones, who comes from Cambria, has a fine voice and a good stage presence. Both these he brings to bear on a ditty in which he tells of his matrimonial intentions, and the audience seemed quite to enter into it all and took immediate interest in "Jenny Parry" who was invited "to come downstairs and kiss her Harry," and although Jenny did not respond, the audience sent a salvo of applause along which proved quite as satisfactory. His second ditty dealt with the eccentricities of a Welsh fortune-teller. Tom Jones is a Wag in his way, and proved an acceptable addition to a good bill. *The Betrayed Professor* is a clever one-man sketch enacted by Leo Carle. In less than ten minutes he makes no less than nine lightning changes, all of which amaze and amuse the audience to a pitch of wonderment and enthusiasm. Leo Carle proves as clever an instrumentalist as he is an artist. An immense amount of interest was centred in the appearance of Miss Madge Temple, the lady who has won a reputation for marvellous confections in hats. This is not quite within our province; but let it be said that Madge has a wonderful voice, and can rely on success without adventitious aid. Her first contribution, "Esau," was splendidly given, the audience joining heartily in the chorus. Her second ditty, "Come, be my rainbow," was capitally done, but scarcely worth the attention of so fine a voice—this by the way—for the audience literally devoured it, and got to work on the chorus in fine form, thanks to the lantern screen. Madge's "hat" came on as an encore. Wonderful! The "king of all strong men on this earth" is naturally an attraction. His name is John Grun Marx, and without doubt this modern Hercules can hold his own against all comers. To watch Marx trifling with an atom 125lb. in weight is worth seeing; nothing seemed to come amiss to him—chains, horse-shoes, and such-like trifles were snapped by him with comparative ease: a fine turn is John Grun Marx. His final feat was to toy with such trifles as twenty-five men, after which no one would have been surprised had he lifted the theatre (we don't want to tempt Marx). Sammy Shields' humour proved irresistible, and his patter is original; this is saying much. His exposition on the Directoire gown is one of the funniest items of the evening. Sammy gossiped pleasantly on spring, dresses, music and kindred topics, and caused roars of laughter. The Bros. Ashley and the Bioscope complete a fine bill. In the front of the house is Mr. H. J. Brett, who is the quintessence of courtesy, and who works hard and is deservedly popular.

HAMMERSMITH PALACE FESTIVAL.

Again we record the passing of another year in Mr. John C. Coe's proprietorship of the above house, and this time, in addition to the congratulations to him on his continued success, comes to one's mind a strong feeling of regret as we understand that this will be the last celebration of the kind under his control. The house is shortly to be taken over by the syndicate over which Mr. Walter Gibbons is the presiding genius.

Each year it has been Mr. Coe's custom to engage a specially strong bill to celebrate the anniversary week, and this year he has outdone all previous bills. On the night of our visit (Tuesday) Mr. Malcolm Scott was away, owing to indisposition. Miss May Moore Duprez, the jolly little Dutch Girl, with her song, "Gretchen they're shouting all the day," her funny patter, clever dancing, and, above all, her infectiously happy personality, proved a great favourite and earned an enthusiastic encore. Miss Marie Kendall has three good chorus songs, "Can't you say nothing else but well?" "Oh, kiss the girl if you're going to," and "She came home on a taximeter cab," all of which proved much to the liking of the audience. Athas and Collins are as good as ever. The dancing of Athas and the singing of Miss Collins evoke a storm of applause. Another most popular pair are The Poluskis, their patter and the song "We're two bashful bounders from Bermondsey" are very funny. The Ten Loonies, in their musical sketch *Dotty*, give some particularly good playing and much laughable nonsense. Mr. Mark Melford with his company are performing that prime old favourite sketch, *My Wife Won't Let Me*, which adds much to the evening's enjoyment. That clever and winsome little lady Miss Minnie Mace sings two songs, entitled "Oh, Johnny, there's a locket in your pocket" and "I mean to take her to the Isle of Jamaica," in excellent style. La Freya's artistic visions, with the aid of limelight, are most impressive. A particularly clever balancing act is performed by the Woodwards. The act includes the balancing on the shoulders of a man of a lady on a ladder and on a cycle fixed on the end of a ladder. Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe's song "Have you got another girl like Mary?" has a catchy chorus and goes well. Mr. Will Johnson is rightly described as "lively," and his two songs, "I left a piece behind" and "I'm going to see," are both decidedly good. Some delightful singing is given by Hunter and Marris, their duet "I love you—there's nothing else to say" and the male partner's song "Rose of my life" were both received with great applause. The Celtics are a trio who combine some humorous fooling with the singing of "Sally in our alley." Mr. Steve McCarthy sings "My word, if I catch you bending" and performs a really clever eccentric step-dance. Brierley and Franklin are good in "La Belle Florita," and Mr. George Lennard is an acceptable turn. The Edisonograph presents some excellent films. The orchestral selections are well rendered. That genial gentleman Mr. Manager Lewis Vincent is particularly busy this week looking to the comfort of the extra large crowd of patrons that the above programme is attracting.

GILBERT'S PALACE, EXETER.

Mr. George Gilbert, in conjunction with the British Biograph Company, has recently acquired for a long season the Victoria Hall, and opened on Monday last to a crowded house. For years past Gilbert's Circus has always filled a gap in the entertainment side of the life of Exeter during the winter months. This year Mr. Gilbert resolved to do away with the circus portion of the programme and provide merely a bill of varieties, a movement which was thoroughly justified by Monday night's approval. The hall has been comfortably fitted up to suit all classes, besides being brilliantly illuminated.

Introduced by a capital orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. H. Wilson, an exhibition of the biograph was given. The Bros. Webb, clever musical clowns, amused the spectators for some time, and the audience could not have enough of them. The exposition of American illustrated songs by the Desmonds appealed in an unmistakable manner; and a comedietta, entitled *Other People's Babies*, full of amusing incidents, was given by Mr. Harry Marlow and Miss May Manton. Mr. Harry Friskey proved himself a comic juggler of no mean order. The second half opened with an exhibition of Rochez's ponies and dogs, direct from the London Hippodrome, and the performance showed in a marked degree to what a state of perfection animal training can be brought. Mr. Harry Marlow was encored for a couple of comic songs; and the Tennessee Guards, in a scene from camp life, introduced lightning drill and wall scaling. Mr. George Zalva is an excellent manager.

CHARLES AND FREDERICK RENAD IN DUBLIN.

C. and F. Renad and Co., in their farce entitled "The Swiss Express" top the bill at the Empire Theatre this week, and last night a packed house greeted them with warm applause.—The Freeman's Journal, Nov. 3.

Messrs. C. and F. Renad and Co's sketch "The Swiss Express," in three scenes, was the chief turn at the Empire Theatre last night. The staging, acting, and scenery of this production was splendidly done, and the piece proved a decided hit.—The Irish Independent, Nov. 3.

The big piece was, of course, left till the end, because there is a good deal of elaborate scenery required. It is the production by C. and F. Renad and company of an extravaganza called "The Swiss Express," in which there are three scenes—Boulogne-sur Mer and outside a railway station, which brings us to a representation of the Swiss express travelling at a high speed. The piece is full of diverting incidents from start to finish, there being plenty of knockabout "business" and any amount of rollicking humour.—The Daily Express, Nov. 3.

C. and F. Renad and company afforded great amusement in their clever sketch entitled "The Swiss Express." The company is composed of fully a dozen good artists, and their performance, which largely partakes of the character of a pantomime sketch, is rendered the more interesting by the employment of some daring stage accessories, such as a char-à-banc drawn by a horse and a railway train. There were some rather pretty scenes, including Boulogne-sur-Mer, Outside the Railway Station, &c. The story is woven round the adventures of a honeymoon party. There is plenty of incident, and all is effectively used for the purpose of amusing the audience. The sketch, which was received with very great favour, will, no doubt, prove a considerable source of attraction throughout the week.—The Irish Times, Nov. 3.

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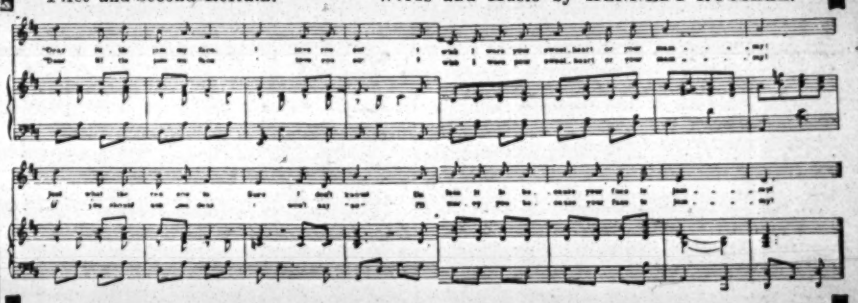

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PIRATED MUSIC.

Henry Bradley, 35, a licensed pedlar, of Grosvenor-street, Camberwell, was charged at Lambeth on Monday with having in his possession for sale ninety-nine pirated copies of various musical works. The prisoner was also proceeded against on a summons in respect of the seizure of some hundreds of copies of pirated music.

Mr. Arthur Preston, chief agent to the Music Publishers' Association, stated that on Saturday evening, in company with Detective-Inspector Ferrett, Detective-Sergeant Hearn, and Mr. F. Mabe, another agent of the association, he kept observation on the prisoner in Camberwell-road. After meeting several well-known hawkers of pirated music in a public-house, the prisoner went to a house. After a time he came out again, and walked into Camberwell-road, where he was stopped and told he would be charged with being in the possession of pirated music. He denied that he had any music upon him, but when he was searched ninety-nine copies of pirated music were found.

Detective-Sergeant Hearn stated that after the prisoner's arrest his room at Grosvenor-street was searched by virtue of a search warrant, and 634 copies of pirated music found. At an address in the Borough, at which the prisoner was accustomed to receive parcels, another 213 copies were found in a portmanteau, making in all 847 copies.

Mr. Hopkins: That is outside the ninety-nine?

Sergeant Hearn: Yes, your worship.

Mr. Preston: This man is a wholesale distributor whom we have been endeavouring to catch for some time.

Prisoner: I have not been selling it wholesale.

Mr. Hopkins: 946 copies strike me as pretty wholesale.

Prisoner: Granted; but you have to buy a lot like that. You can't buy one copy of pirated music. I am only a small man. Mr. Preston knows that some men buy thousands and thousands of copies.

Mr. Hopkins ordered the prisoner to pay fines and costs amounting to £12 2s.

Prisoner: And that settles all the case, sir?

Mr. Hopkins: I am afraid it does. I don't see how to charge you any more.

Upon the application of Mr. Preston, the magistrate made an order for the destruction of all the copies seized.

THE AWARDS. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "THE ERA" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

NEW PALACE, OLDHAM.

Another addition to the list of variety houses of entertainment is to be opened to the public on Monday. It is known as the Palace, Oldham, Ltd., of which Mr. Walter De Frece is the managing director, and Mr. Will Sley, the well-known agent, is also a director. The plans were prepared by Mr. Bertie Crewe, of 75, Shaftesbury-avenue, the well-known theatrical architect, and the structure has been erected by Messrs. W. Brown and Son, of Salford.

The new building is situate in a commanding and central position in Union-street, and of easy access to all parts of the town. Constructed on thoroughly up-to-date principles, the new house will be in every way comfortable and convenient. A perfect view of the stage can be obtained from every part of the auditorium, and the reserved accommodation will include four private boxes, twelve rows of stalls, and thirteen rows in grand circle. The patrons will be able to lounge in richly upholstered tip-up armchairs. Sixteen rows of seats in the pit and fourteen in the gallery will complete a total seating capacity for 2,354 people.

The building has been erected in red brick faced with terra-cotta, and the safety of the public has been studied in every way, in regard both to the construction of the building and its appliances. The interior decorations are of Louis Seize, and the colour scheme will be of very handsome effect. There are refreshment buffets for each part, viz., stalls, pit, circle, and gallery. The theatre will be electrically lighted, while a system of gas-lighting is also laid on in case of failure of the electricity.

The ventilation is on the most approved system, by electric exhaust fans and ducts, and the heating of the auditorium is by gas steam radiators, while that of the stage is low-pressure hot water. There are two distinct exits to each part of the house, there being eight in all, each one leading direct on to the street, thus enabling the audience of all parts to be clear of the house well under three minutes. There is an automatic asbestos fire-proof curtain to the proscenium opening, with a water sprinkler attached. The stage has also a huge skylight, which opens automatically in case of fire.

The auditorium is 70ft. wide and 80ft. deep from curtain to back wall, while the stage is 70ft. wide by 35ft. deep, with a height to grid of 50ft., so that elaborate productions can be accommodated. The artists have also been studied by the provision of ample dressing rooms, which are all well heated, lighted, and ventilated, so that the building generally is one of the most comfortable and convenient of the character in the district.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are: Darlington, on the North Eastern; Kirkby Stephen, on the Midland and North Eastern; Leeds, on the London and North Western, Great Central, North Eastern, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Western; Portsmouth, on the London Brighton and South Coast and London and South Western; Hucknall, on the Great Northern and Midland; Lancaster, on the London and North Western and Midland; Penistone, on the Great Central; Penrith, on the London and North Western; Wakefield, on the Great Central, London and North Western, Lancashire and Yorkshire, Midland, and Great Western; Wetherby, on the North Eastern; Askam-in-Furness, on the Furness; Brackley, on the London and North Western; Cambourne, Carlisle, on the London and North Western, Midland, North Eastern, Maryport and Carlisle, North British, Glasgow and South Western, and Caledonian; Chesham, on the Metropolitan; Melton Mowbray, on the London and North Western, Midland, and Great Northern; Alston (Cumberland), on the North Eastern; Chelmsford, on the Great Eastern; Loughborough, on the Great Central, London and North Western, and Midland; Maryport, on the Maryport and Carlisle; Stamfordham, on the North Eastern; Ulverston, on the Furness; Cockermouth, on the Cockermouth, Keswick, and Penrith, and Maryport and Carlisle; Epping, on the Great Eastern; Leek, on the North Staffordshire; Stockton-on-Tees, on the North Eastern; Brampton, on the North Eastern; Egremont (Cumberland), on the London and North Western and Furness; Kendal, on the London and North Western; Warkworth, on the North Eastern; Bakewell, on the Midland; Biggar, on the Caledonian; Dumbarton, on the North British; Penmorfa, on the Cambrian; Llandovery, on the London and North Western and Great Western Railways.

Great Marlow Fair.

The picturesque town of Great Marlow held its annual fair last week. This fair is divided into two parts, one being held on the "Crown" field, and the other at the far end of the town, in Mr. Porter's meadow. The principal concerns were Ball's cinematograph theatre and palace of varieties and Biddall's Royal bioscope. The machines were Beech's galloping horses and Thomas's steam roundabout; park swings, highfliers, and aerial flights, &c., by various caterers. The other novelties included big wheel, Winchester ranges, bottle batteries, cokers, roll-up boards, &c., by local amusement caterers.

Wellingborough Fair.

This fair was well maintained by Charles Thurston's superb cinematograph theatre and variety exhibition, Barker and Thurston's motor-car track, Charles Shaw's gallopers, Mrs. Hearn's steam horses, and Elias Harris's big boats. The other novelties were Winchester ranges by Westrop and Hearn, rifle saloons, bottle smashers, Emma and coker sheets, houp-la's, and all the fun of the fair, by Messrs. Westrop, W. Hearn, Norman, Westrop, Harris, and Johnson.

Kidwelly "Mop."

This ancient (St. Luke's) fair was held on Oct. 29. The weather this year was fine, and there was a good attendance. The shows were the cinematograph theatre and palace of varieties by Steel Barry, Professor Leon's school of boxers, and D. Boswell's novelty booth. Messrs. H. Studt and Sons were again present with their switchback, gondolas, galloping horses, and motor-car set; White's steam yachts, swings, and big boats; and park swings by D. Boswell. Amongst the smaller novelties were W. North's Winchester range, rifle saloons, and bottle batteries, &c.

Sid White's Carnival at Maerdy.

In addition to the well-known novelties and fairground varieties of this combination, Mr. White is introducing in the electric bioscope theatre Pathé's latest production—living pictures of the Franco-British Exhibition, including realistic presentations of the flip-flap, the scenic railway, the Elite Gardens, the Court of Honour, and a beautiful picture of the motor-boats on the circular lake. Amongst the variety turns, and still going very strong, is Mazzoni, the handcuff king, in a new mystery and great barrel act; and Walter Gibbons, vocalist, in song illustrations. The living pictures are described by Mr. Ted Holloway, whose long dramatic experience and stage ability enables him to illustrate the pictures with dramatic force. Mr. Alf. Shirley, advance business-manager, was at the piano.

George Wombwell.

The whole of the London and provincial Press acknowledge with gratification the immediate steps taken by *The Era* to place before the general public the true state of affairs with regard to George Wombwell, the nonogenarian showman, and nephew of the great George Wombwell. It is recognised with unanimity that Mr. E. H. Bostock has done not only the right thing, but the generous thing, in taking the matter up in the adequate manner he has done. It gives us great pleasure to record that, quite spontaneously and without any knowledge whatever that action was being taken in the matter, Mrs. Flora Collins, who is travelling with the No. 1 Wonderland show, wired to her husband, who was at Rotherham Fair with some of their big machines and other concerns, asking him to immediately obtain old George Wombwell's release from the infirmary, and that she would put him in a home and provide for him for life. The generosity of this action is not only a warm testimony to the good heart of Mrs. Collins, but it is another proof amongst ten thousand of the comradeship of the road and the kindly and practical charity which animates the showman world. Of course Mr. E. H. Bostock, whilst appreciating the expression of kindly anxiety and sympathy to the old man, will reserve to himself the duty of providing for the remaining days of the old showman's life.

Guild Subscriptions, 1908.

Per Mr. E. Farrar: W. Hart 5s., F. Hunt 5s., G. Kent 5s., D. Hyman 5s., E. Morley 5s., A. Illingworth 5s., R. Lewis 5s., R. Suett 5s.; per secretary: M. Whatmore 5s., P. Lewis 7s. 6d.; per Mr. Geoghegan: J. H. Geoghegan 10s. 6d.

The World's Fair, 1908-9.

By reference to our advertising columns, we note Mr. T. E. Read, the enterprising lessee of the popular World's Fair, is endeavouring to add the exhilarating pastime of skating to his otherwise numerous attractions this season. This is another up-to-date move, and keeping pace with the times; and skating enthusiasts, unable to skate on rivers, lakes, and ponds, consequent on the vagaries of the weather, will find ample opportunity to do so at the World's Fair skating rink, where possibly a series of carnivals will be arranged.

The big sale of the working plant and animals of the Wild West show, at New Brighton, will be of special interest to the circus world. The sale itself is dealt with at length in our advertising columns in this issue.

Kinematograph regulations respecting the use of the kinematograph in theatres and halls, also the regulations respecting the use of limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 8, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the kinematograph or limelight should possess a copy of these regulations.

THE SHOWMAN'S GUILD AT ROTHERHAM FAIR.

The annual public meeting of the Guild at Rotherham Statutes Fair is regarded by the people of the good old town as an event of considerable importance. Almost immediately after the foundation of the Guild meetings were held at the "Statutes," and without a break have been continued to the present time. Very valuable support has been given to the Guild by the people of Rotherham, for in the times of great anxiety, when George Smith and his supporters were endeavouring to penalise the showmen's life and business, Rotherham took a very strong line in defending the showmen against the attacks of the puritanical party.

The meeting this year was more than usually successful, owing to the extremely fine weather. For several years past bad weather has prevailed, with the inevitable consequence that in point of numbers the meeting suffered. This year, however, Mr. G. H. Kemp's magnificent new show, the Cinema Theatre Unique, was crowded with a highly-appreciative audience to listen to the Rev. T. Horne's address on the work of the Guild. The Mayor of Rotherham (Dr. G. H. Lodge) had intended taking the chair, but was prevented being present when the meeting was timed to commence; he, however, arrived shortly afterwards. In the absence of the Mayor Mr. R. T. Heath was elected as chairman, and in introducing the Guild Chaplain, referred in very complimentary terms to the record of good work which Mr. Horne had left behind him in Rotherham and the surrounding district. He felt confident that the very fact that Mr. Horne was announced to address a Rotherham audience had revived memories of the strenuous work Mr. Horne had carried on during the time that he was curate of Whiston.

They all rejoiced to have Mr. Horne amongst them again; but not only because they appreciated the work he had done in their own town, but on account of the great work he was carrying on throughout the country amongst the showpeople. Here was a great work to which their old friend had so thoroughly committed himself as to win their entire sympathy. He was quite sure that in the address which he would now call upon the Guild Chaplain to deliver they would have interesting patriculars of the great good the Showmen's Guild was accomplishing under his leadership and direction. (Applause.)

The Chaplain on the Origin and Work of the Guild.

On rising to deliver his address Mr. Horne was received with cheers, and after a humorous allusion to the flight of years and to the fact that he was growing grey in the service of the Guild, expressed the great pleasure it was to him, year by year, to renew acquaintance with his many friends and former neighbours in Rotherham. The growth and development of the Guild, and its many departments of useful work, were closely connected with the meeting, which had been held for well nigh twenty years past at their Statutes Fair; they would all remember that in its essential constitution the Guild is a Trades Union. It was started, and is still maintained, for the necessary work of trade protection. It was the persecution of mistaken faddists and fanatics twenty years ago that drove the showmen into combination.

That, however, was ancient history. There were, however, two extremely interesting developments of the work of the Showmen's Guild that actually originated at Rotherham Fair.

The Education of the Showman's Child.

The first of these two great enterprises concerned child life at the fairs, and it was to obtain justice for the parents of show children that an appeal was made to the then Education Minister to open the schools and to afford educational facilities to the showman's child. Here he felt compelled to again explain that the great bulk of the children of showmen and fairground traders were educated in the ordinary way at the schools of the towns where the showpeople had their permanent homes, for it must never be forgotten that 90 per cent. of the amusement caterers travelling from fair to fair, had two homes—the one on wheels, which was really part of the working plant of the show, and their fixed home, just like other people, in some town that experience had proved to be the best centre for their yearly circuit of the fairs. It was at these permanent homes that the showmen's children were kept until they had passed their standards at school like other children.

There were, however, a few children for whom the possibility of reasonable facilities to attend school when they were compelled to travel with their parents, was desirable. When he was stationed at Whiston, Rotherham, the Right Honourable A. H. Dyke-Acland was Educational Minister and Member for Rotherham, and, in the interests of the few children that necessity compelled to be with their parents at the fairs from time to time, he wrote to the Education Minister, and explained the hindrances that the parents had met with by having the school door closed against the children. Under the old code only the children who were able to attend regularly and to pass examinations were able to earn the school grant.

Increased Facilities for the Showman's Child.

The injustice which existed under the old code was practically dealt with by Mr. Acland, and the code was so altered by the abolition of the old method of payment by results only after individual examination that school managers were encouraged to admit casual scholars because every attendance, however casual, was counted for additional grant, and the examination was by chosen scholars from each division in the school, and not of necessity the examination of every child on the register. This, they would see at once, opened the doors of the schools and encouraged school managers to give the showman's child a little education by the way. (Applause.)

He well remembered the bad old days when every school door in the country was closed against the casual or occasional scholar. A child who did not count for increased grant was rigidly excluded. It had always been to him a gross injustice, and adding insult to injury, when the would-be reformers of the showman's life in the early days of their organisation, had held up the showman to public contumely as being a negligent parent, densely ignorant himself and not caring for the education of his child; the real fact of the case being that until Mr. Acland altered the code, every school in the country refused occasional scholars.

Guild Services at the Fairs.

Another department of the Guild's work of great moment also originated at Rotherham Statutes, and that was the starting of showmen's services at the fair. He well remembered the very first service held in a show booth, with the sanction and blessing of the Archbishop of York and the co-operation of the then Vicar of Rotherham. In the year 1891, on the Rotherham Statutes Sunday, the showmen at the fair chartered brakes, and drove over to Whiston, and quietly took possession of the church, and just as ordinary worshippers took part in the morning service. They had given no notice of their intention, but it was a spontaneous act of recognition on their part of some little work which he had been permitted to do for them. That desire on their part to identify themselves with the Church of God led him the following year to enlist the co-operation of the Vicar of Rotherham and to organise a service on the fair ground in a show booth. That was the commencement of the spiritual ministries which he was proud to render to the showpeople. That was the inauguration of the Guild services on the fair grounds. (Applause.)

The Showmen's Appeal for Public Support and Sympathy.

Proceeding, the Chaplain asked for the support and sympathy at that public meeting with regard to another attack on the showmen's character and life. It was George Smith's Movable Dwellings Bill twenty years ago, and the persecution arising out of the agitation against show life which Smith and his supporters then raised that forced the showmen to combine in a Trades Union. He was present again, and, after twenty years' work amongst the travelling showpeople, was there to ask their sympathy in a similar emergency as the one of twenty years ago—to beg their support against a similar proposal—another Movable Dwellings Bill—introduced into the House of Lords during the present Session of Parliament. All the bad proposals of George Smith's Bill were repeated in the new measure, with additional clauses of a more tyrannical and injurious nature.

Briefly stated, the Movable Dwellings Bill sought to impose insulting and invidious restrictions upon the domestic and business life of vandwellers. The greatest injustice of all was that van-dwellers were held up to public reprobation as being outlaws—a class apart from the ordinary sanctions and securities of the law of the land. The greatest outrage of all was taking the administration of the Sanitary and Health Laws from the expert officers competent to deal with the questions of health and sanitation, and making the County Police the authority to administer the laws of health and sanitation with regard to vans and tents, and not the Medical Officer of Health and the Sanitary Officer. They would see at once that this was class legislation of the worst possible kind, for, under existing law, every movable dwelling was as much under the control of the local authorities for both health and sanitation as immovable ones.

The Resolution Against the Bill.

Knowing full well as he did the kindly feeling towards the travelling showmen in the town of Rotherham, and that public opinion upon many previous occasions had expressed itself strongly against class legislation, he concluded by asking the meeting to approve of the following resolution: "That this public meeting, held at Rotherham Statute Fair, heartily approves of the work of the Showmen's Guild. Furthermore, it strongly deprecates legislation like the Movable Dwellings Bill now before Parliament as being not only invidious and class legislation, but as an invasion of the rights and liberties of showpeople."

The resolution was seconded, supported, and carried unanimously.

The Complimentary Votes.

The Mayor of Rotherham, in rising to propose a vote of thanks to the Rev. T. Horne, regretted that he had not been able to arrive in time to take the chair; that, however, was not the loss of the meeting, but entirely his own, as they had had an admirable chairman in Mr. Heath. He desired to express the great pleasure he had had in being present and hearing Mr. Horne's exiremely interesting address. He, like all those present, had known of Mr. Horne and his work for many years, and he was confident that he was only expressing the general desire of the meeting when he expressed the hope that that work might grow and prosper and be a continued blessing to the show people, to whose interests Mr. Horne had given so much of his life. It was to him a pleasure to move that the best thanks of the meeting be accorded to the Guild Chaplain for his admirable address that day. (Applause.)

A working-man, in the body of the meeting, in a highly eulogistic speech, bearing a special reference to the work Mr. Horne had done when Curate of Whiston amongst the colliers, seconded the vote; a work, he said, which he and his fellow-miners would never forget. (Cheers.) They were proud to have Mr. Horne again amongst them, and year by year they eagerly looked for his presence and encouraging words at the Guild meeting on the fairground. He heartily seconded the vote of thanks proposed by the Mayor. (Great applause.)

Other speeches were made of a complimentary character in support of the resolution, which was put to the meeting and carried with acclamation.

The Rev. T. Horne suitably responded, and moved a similar compliment to the Chairman, which was carried unanimously, and the meeting terminated.

Guild Service on the Fair Ground.

The organising chaplain to the Guild preached at St. Michael's Church, Rotherham, at the morning service, and again assisted at evensong at the same church. In accordance with custom, the choir of St. Michael's, with the members of the orchestra attached to the church, very kindly assisted the Rev. T. Horne in the Guild service on the fairground after evensong. Kemp's show was crowded from end to end by a most attentive and devout congregation, including a great number of the showpeople at the fair. The musical part of the service was well rendered by the church choir and St. Michael's orchestra; the organist of the church accompanied on a portable organ. The singing of the glorious hymns by the great congregation was most impressive, and the memory of the service will linger long in the minds of those who were privileged to take part in it. The honorary local chaplain, the Rev. H. Greenway, is suffering from a serious breakdown in health, and is ordered away for a long rest. The result was that for the first time his most valuable assistance at the service was keenly missed. The Rev. T. Horne, Guild Chaplain, conducted the service throughout, and preached a sermon on the Holy Gospel for the day (the Festival of All Saints), taking for his theme the "Beatitudes" as the rule of citizenship for the Commonwealth of the Saints of God.

Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Kemp not only placed their show at the disposal of the Guild, but the working staff generously rendered every possible help in making both the afternoon and evening gathering of the Guild the great success that they undoubtedly were. It is such gatherings as these that brings the showman and his life into nearer union and fellowship with the life of the nation.

The commanding feature facing the crowd at the end of the avenue we have just described was President George Kemp's entirely new show—the cinema theatre de luxe—the very last and greatest thing in portable cinematograph theatres. The whole equipment of this show is entirely new. The superbly beautiful orchestraphone front, with massive brass balustrade entrances, is a perfect gem amongst the many gems from the same atelier. Mr. Kemp is to be complimented on his up-to-date enterprise, and Ch. Marenghi et Cie, of Paris, on the perfect artistry that this front displays. The recherché and sumptuous fittings and decorations are delightful, the greater part of the interior being furnished with comfortable seats upholstered in rich plush velvet, and so constructed that it makes a perfect auditorium, every visitor having a good view of the stage. Down to the very smallest detail Mr. Kemp has provided a theatre second to none in the United Kingdom.

The Line of Shows, Big and Little.

Next to Kemp's new show stood Mr. P. Collins, jun.'s magnificent concern, the Marenghi orchestraphone, front equal in artistry and beauty of design and finish with the one we have already described was a special feature of Mr. Kemp's show; it has additional dignity and spaciousness of aspect in the beautiful porphyry pillars with richly carved and floriated capitals, that fitly frames the beautiful front. Here, again, we have a show that marks the very best and the most up-to-date features of modern enterprise on the fair ground. If ever it is true that comparisons are odious, it is certainly doubly true when you have at the same fair (as were seen at Rotherham) four of the most complete and up-to-date portable theatres now before the British public—all of them new within the last twelve months. Next to Collins's show stood the two splendid concerns (in all their glory of rich carved gilt work, beautiful paintings, and orchestraphone organs) of Messrs. Farrar and Tyler, the No. 1 and the No. 2 concerns of this enterprising firm. We are only expressing the most elementary truth when we say that these four shows are enough to draw any town, and to make, as they made at Rotherham, an irresistible attraction that crowded the fairground every night they were open.

Most Interesting Side Shows.

A delightful show, and one that deserves a special word of commendation from us, is the mechanical promenade of Mr. Pattison. We should rejoice to see many more exhibitions of this character at our fairs, and we congratulate Mr. Pattison, not only on the intrinsic worth and originality of his show, but on the enterprise which led him to bring it on to the fair grounds. It consists of a dozen or more moving models, worked by electric motors, and illustrating the working of coal mines, deep sea diving, river and ocean dredging, and other industries. Together with these, Mr. Pattison exhibits interesting miniature model groups, taken from tragic historical incidents. There are also models in wax of famous statesmen, national heroes, and notabilities.

The Westwood giant children were again a great attraction at Rotherham. Master Wilfrid, the astounding giant boy, and Miss Ruby, his giant sister, held receptions, and much amazement was provoked when these extraordinary children were seen on the platform with the rest of the members of the Westwood family.

Mr. J. Hastings' midget marvels still delight the British public wherever they are exhibited, and that charming little lady, Princess Lilliput, exhibited by Professor E. Ball, was also again a triumph in public favour.

Professor and Mme. d'Osta have provided a new sensation by giving their second-sight demonstration, with Mme. d'Osta in a den of lions. This is one of the most remarkable achievements of occultism now before the public. After the second-sight séance young Maccomo put the lions through a most realistic performance. This show is another example of the up-to-date enterprise that marks our fairs.

The other side-shows were a Haunted Castle, Mr. T. White's two ground booths—the animal jungle and the fine art gallery—and that remarkable freak of nature, the French giant youth "humain Coloss."

The Galaxy of Riding Machines.

In the centre of the ground stood the following high-class roundabouts and machines:—John Collins' four-abreast galloping horses, the razzle-dazzle or Japanese airship, and the twin ships in the air; P. Collins' Gordon-Bennett motor-car set and the latest novelty, the rollicking porkers; A. Richards' Brooklyn cake-walk machine; Morley's bike track; Beach's aeroplanes; W. Shaw's steam swings; and Dunwell Johnson's steam swings.

The other sides of the fairground were occupied by the bazaars of Messrs. Gledstone and Parkinson, Gunthorpe's photo saloon, and throwing games by Messrs. Peters, Townend, Middlebrook, Whatmore, Illingworth, Gallagar, Cooper, and Fawcett. The juvenile horses were by Middlebrook and Johnson; pannum stalls by Mrs. Ryland Wright, and others; and refreshment saloons by Hutchinson and many local caterers.

Special Benefit for the Guild Funds.

By arrangement with the lessee and the principal show proprietors at Rotherham Fair, benefit performances were given at all the shows and upon all the machines. The general understanding was that the shows should give one performance and the machines one full hour's takings. Although the time fixed upon was a slack hour at the beginning of the evening on the last day of the Fair, it resulted in the very acceptable and useful sum of £20 1s. 8d. being added to the amount of the Parliamentary Defence Funds for the purpose of opposing the Movable Dwellings Bill. We venture to express the hope that the good example of giving benefit performances set by Messrs. Collins Brothers at Rotherham and other fairs, and by Messrs. George Green and Wilmot in Scotland, will be followed by other lessees and show proprietors, and that all interested in the maintenance of the business of the fairground will co-operate in this most obvious method of strengthening the defence funds of the Trade Society.

THE LATE FRANK MACKLIN AND JOHN HUGHES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—Having only this afternoon heard of the death of my old friend and comrade, Mr. Frank Macklin, the old-established, well-known, and esteemed amusement caterer and roundabout proprietor of Kent and Sussex, I herewith ask you, through the columns of *The Era*, to convey to all the family, relatives, and friends of the deceased my sincere regret and heartfelt sympathy with them in their irreparable loss, knowing as I do, after twenty-five years of his friendship, jovial, yet at the same time modest and God-fearing, disposition, that I am not the only one by a great number that will miss him. He was undoubtedly one of the best. I am also greatly grieved to hear, at the same time, of the death, at so early an age, of that well-known and promising athlete, Mr. Johnnie Hughes, who up to the time of his unexpected death, had, indeed, promise of a great future before him. My deep sympathy and regret also goes out to the father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hughes.

(Signed) TOM NORMAN ("Silver King").

Nov. 5, 1908.

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THE LAW AFFECTING THE SAME.

BY

WILLIAM JAGO, F.I.C., F.C.S., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

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ROTHERHAM STATUTES.

Although the origin of this fair is well nigh lost in the mists of antiquity, there still remains, even under most modern conditions, a great amount of its ancient privilege. For example, it is still, although in a diminishing quantity, a real "statutes" or hiring fair. Although South Yorkshire is fast becoming the greatest centre of the coal industry in the county of "many acres," there still remains a considerable agricultural industry, and farm servants are in great demand. In this matter, it is interesting to note that for many years past the possible evils of the gathering together of young men and women at a "hirings" fair are provided against by a committee of ladies, who kindly provide a large room where the young women may be seen and hired, instead of taking the usual course of standing in the open market place until someone hires them.

The Compelling Power of a Great Tradition.

The custom of attending the hirings fair, whether to be hired or not, is so deep-rooted in the mind and in the habits of life of the common people that upon the actual statutes day (always the Monday nearest to the festival of All Saints) the whole of the great works, whether engineering shops, steel iron foundries, or coal mines, are set down, and the entire working population, together with the agricultural labourers, "hastes to the fair."

"Heigh ho, and away we go,
Off to the 'Statties' vall in a row."

Up to thirty years ago the fair spread itself along the main streets of the quaint old town, gaily decked stalls stretched along Westgate, High-street, the Market-square, and other thoroughfares on the direct route to the old Corporation fair ground. From the picturesque point of view, those were indeed the palmy days of the statute fair. On the old fairground itself year by year were found some of the best shows travelling the country.

The Passing of the Fair from Corporation Control.

The growth of municipal trading and enterprise compelled the Corporation of Rotherham to absorb a large portion of the old fairground, in order to erect gas-works. Other important developments of Corporation enterprise, demanding a central situation, year by year enroached upon the fair ground, until at last, some dozen years ago, there was hardly enough ground left to erect half a dozen concerns. In the meanwhile the Corporation had forbidden the erection of stalls in the streets. Under these conditions, for lack of ground space the fair was threatened with speedy extinction.

Foreseeing this contingency, Messrs. P. and J. Collins secured a short lease of a large piece of ground in Greasboro'-road. This spacious fair ground, during the time that the Corporation held the fair, driven by their own necessities to absorb the old ground, saved not only the people's fair from gradual extinction, but also secured what was to the workers a greater consideration, another of their fast-dwindling local holidays.

The Removal of the Fair to Station-road.

By an extremely fortunate circumstance, when the Greasboro'-road site was becoming very difficult to retain for fair ground purposes Mr. John Collins secured the lease of a most admirable site for the annual fair in the very centre of the town, on a vacant plot of land near to the Great Central Railway station. From every point of view it is impossible to imagine a better situation, or one less likely to provoke opposition from the residents in the immediate neighbourhood, than the splendid fair ground under Mr. John Collins's sole control.

The fair of 1908, with regard to weather, has been a record one; and also, when we take into consideration the serious element of unemployment and working short time in the staple industries of the district, it has been good from a business point of view. When we visited the fair, on the last night, a night that is usually but thinly attended, it was impossible to get along, except by being carried in the surging stream of people spreading like a vast flood along the main arteries of the fair. It was also satisfactory to notice that during the busy hours of the evening everyone seemed to be doing good business. The larger shows and machines were thronged with eager patrons, and long queues of people were waiting their turn for the next performance or the next exciting spin round on the machine novelties.

All the Jolly Fun of the Fair.

Entering the fairground at the Station-road avenue, the visitor passed along a well-ordered line of gingerbread stalls, shooting galleries, throwing games, and toy bazaars, stretching the whole length of one side of the great square of the ground. These were provided by Wright and Co., G. Wright, Mrs. Mulherne, J. Fossett, G. H. Cornwell, W. Ratcliffe, T. Lever, W. Pullen, J. Johnson, J. W. Turner, W. Stewart, W. Shaw, Mrs. Seed, and other caterers.

W. C. Burns, the well-known experienced caterer, concluded the long period of eight months with his fine picture show at Cook's Circus, Edinburgh, on Saturday last, Oct. 31, which says a good deal for his enterprise and energy. Friday, the 30th, was set down for Mr. Burns' benefit, on which occasion he was assisted by twenty-five turns, most of which were his contest pupils during the season. The huge building, capable of accommodating 3,000 persons, was packed with a most orderly and appreciative audience, who sought admission as early as 5.30, the programme, on account of its inordinate length, running without a break from 7.30 to 11.40. Fireworks from roof of circus announced the opening of the doors at 6.15. A fine orchestra also discoursed excellent music in accompaniment to the pictorial items. Mr. Burns, although suffering from a very bad cold, which detained him indoors for four previous days, appeared and sang in fine style some classical character songs, his appearance being the signal for prolonged—several seconds—applause. Mr. Burns also presented the first thousand persons entering with a very finely-executed cabinet photograph of himself, along with his song-book.

During the evening Mr. John Henry Cooke, the proprietor of the circus, stepped upon the stage, and amidst exciting applause presented Mr. Burns with a valuable silk umbrella, accompanying same with laudatory compliments as to his conduct of the pictures and contests for such a long period, so successful in the face of such heavy opposition during all the summer. Unique floral tributes were also handed to Mr. and Mrs. Burns on the stage from the Cook family and several other local admirers, and amidst many manifestations of regret the season thus terminated on Saturday, Oct. 31.

Mr. Burns continues as manager (his second season) with Mr. Cooke during his equestrian season, which opens upon Saturday, Nov. 21. It might also be noted that the sensational excitement created by Mr. Burns' Marathon races (Sept. 26 and Oct. 17) through the streets—seven miles—will not be soon forgotten, he being the only entertainer ever even to think of, let alone organise and carry out, such a novelty.

Now ready. Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906. Effect on theatres and music halls. By Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor. Price 6d. Published at *The Era* Offices, 8, Tavistock-street, W.C.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

THE SUBSTITUTE.—There is plenty of fun in this film. Young Blunderer is a merry student, who does not want to get married yet, in spite of a letter just received from a wealthy aunt, who practically commands him to marry a girl of her own choice whom she is sending him from the country, accompanied by her father and mother. Blunderer, who is just having a lady friend to dinner, does not know what to do, until a happy idea makes him take the place of his servant, while the man is to receive the uninvited guests and play the master's part. But Jack takes advantage of the situation and orders Blunderer to serve the dinner. Blunderer thinks he will have a fit of rage, but as there is nothing else to do he does as he is bidden. Suddenly there come from a cupboard knocks and cries. The guests look at each other in bewilderment, and then the mother opens the door, just in time for the lady friend to throw her arms round the would-be servant's neck, thus giving to the astonished people, who were already turning up their noses and ready to leave the room, the explanation of her presence in the house. Blunderer thinks he has had enough of this little game, and he explains his plight to two policemen. But the evidence of the family causes Blunderer to be marched off, whereas the man they suppose to be the real nephew is enjoying the situation to the full.

THE QUARRYMAN.—This film shows first a workman in his happy home; but this scene, full of freshness, is soon replaced by one of horror and misery, for the father is made hopelessly blind by an accident in the quarry. To this is added presently the feeling of the blind man that his wife is not true to him. In his state of utter despondency he thinks that the only way out of his wretchedness is to seek oblivion in death, and he asks his son to take him to the river. He has just thrown himself into the water, when his wife, made anxious by his long absence, runs after him and saves him. This providential incident makes her leave the downward path and atone for the past.

CHARLOTTE CORDAY.—This film conjures up a period of the French Revolution which is full of interest to the public. Charlotte Corday designs in the silence and solitude of an old Norman town to rid France of Marat, who symbolises for her the wrong side of the Revolution; perhaps also to avenge the Comte de Belzunce, who has just been arrested, and with whom she was very friendly, as we see at the beginning of the story. She starts, gentle and terrible at the same time, and arrives in Paris, where she finds out Marat's whereabouts. A violent discussion has just taken place at the house of the people's friend between Robespierre, Danton, and Marat. Left alone, Marat has a bath in order to subdue the fever which runs through his veins. Charlotte finds her way to him and kills him. She is arrested, and the last tableau represents the horrible scene of the guillotine and Charlotte ascending the steps with head erect and a firm step.

ELECTRIC HOTEL.—The hotel of the future is the Electric Hotel. You need only touch an electric button and immediately you have what you require. Do you want a brush up? You press the button and the brush comes by itself and performs its work. Do you want your hair to be done up, or your husband a shave? You are attended to in a tick. This system gives you comfort, hygiene, and discretion. If the distribution boards get out of order, however, there is a general confusion throughout the hotel, but one has always to pay the ransom of progress. All that we see in this film.

PADDY HAS BEEN EATING HORSEFLESH.—Paddy is very hungry, and it is a pleasure to see him eating the enormous horseflesh steak on the table before him. Gradually an unknown and irresistible strength comes to him. He gets up, cuts capers, goes downstairs in a hurry, and seeing in the street a heavy cart, he puts himself to and starts off. By and by he increases his speed, and, like a runaway horse, he upsets everything which stands in his way. At last he is stopped and taken to the hospital between two policemen. In the operating-room, where he has to undergo an operation, the surgeons take from him a little wooden horse. After this Paddy is very pleased, and he expresses his gratitude to the doctors.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

THE DESTRUCTION OF HYDERABAD.—The public can always see pictures of cities and capitals secured in the ordinary way, but a State capital in ruins and at the same time densely populated presents a unique and most unusual spectacle. There has been nothing in the recent history of India to compare with this disaster. All the terrible destruction was caused by the development of an unusual storm in the Bay of Bengal, which brought many days' continuous rain to the State of Hyderabad. On the already-saturated soil 15in. of rain fell in thirty-six hours, or one-half the seasonal rainfall in a day and a half. This brought such an overwhelming flood into the river Musi that it seemed as if no limits to the danger zone could be imposed. The city of Hyderabad, with its half million of people, lies in a shallow basin, and for the low-lying parts there was no escape; the flood swept away whole quarters of the town and 40,000 inhabitants in a few hours, while the material loss was £15,000,000 sterling. The Assistant-Resident's house, the barracks, the Afzul Ganj hospital, and the Begum Bazar—the granary of the Deccan—shared the fate of the homes of the wealthy Hindu and Mahomedan bankers, lawyers, and jewellers, but it was upon the poorer section of the community that the blow fell with the greatest severity. The river, swollen into an enormous torrent, burst its banks, the stream rising over 60ft. and above the roadway on the bridges, which collapsed, all four going one after another.

IN the Urban picture secured the day after the calamity, the colossal Afzul Ganj bridge presents a most curious and interesting spectacle, the huge piers having been tossed about like matchwood, while a large island of silt rests in the centre of the river. Houses collapsed like packs of cards, and thousands of the inhabitants fled panic-stricken before the roaring avalanche. The chief Urban operator was quickly on the spot, and, by virtue of concessions readily granted by His Highness the Nizam, made the most of the exceptional opportunities, and from the source of the river Musi, twenty miles above the city, to the limit of the affected district, secured a series of pictures of grand photographic quality which form the only life-motion record of the great disaster. Scenes of watery desolation above Hyderabad are succeeded by striking panoramic views of the city itself, where whole districts, thickly inhabited, were wiped out in a few hours, rich and poor suffering equally in so far that the homes of all classes were swept away. The havoc wrought was terrible, and the pictures realistically convey, in a manner impossible by any other means, a clear and convincing idea of the calamity, and the steps immediately taken to combat the attendant evils In spite of the squalor and distress, picturesque scenes are plentiful throughout the series, those of the rebuilding operations calling for special notice. Strangely enough, the picture has no gruesome features, and by reason of its very unusualness presents aspects of native life which are seldom possible to secure. The Charles Urban Trading Co. are exceptionally fortunate in that their operator was practically on the spot. This fine film will be shown for the first time at the Palace Theatre on Monday evening.

CHRISTMAS, FROM THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.—This is a beautifully conceived and charmingly executed life-motion picture story of the Nativity, and its celebration in different countries at various epochs of the Christian era. Immense pains have been bestowed upon this new subject, and no expense has been spared to make a really living picture from the material at the company's command. Months of preparation, months more of actual work in arranging, photographing and colouring the scenes have been spent, and long journeys undertaken by the whole staff engaged to secure the accurate surroundings and congenial atmosphere of the various episodes depicted. The colouring of the whole subject is superb, pleasing, soft, effective, and artistic; the winter scenes, with the numerous harmonising contrasts, the flare of torches and braziers, the cloud, smoke and snow effects introduced being especially noteworthy. The interior scenes are no less excellent, the furniture, dress, and appointments of the periods and countries having been carefully copied. The setting of the picture is, in fact, as perfect as experience, skill, and means can produce, while the enactment of the various scenes has been entrusted to accomplished and experienced artists who—reverent where the nature of the subject demands, jubilant by reason of the season and the particular occasion depicted—have risen to the occasion and worked together in perfect harmony to produce one of the most remarkable and fascinating pictures that have been published since the introduction of the kinematograph; a picture which will especially appeal to every audience in every country which has even a rudimentary knowledge of what Christmas implies. In our next issue we shall give further particulars of this remarkable film.

The Gaumont Company.

A GREEK SLAVE is a dramatic effort from the same studio. It unfolds the story of a slave girl, who, forsaking a lover of her own station to marry her master, is poisoned by the former on her marriage morning. The story is well worked out, the various scenes giving the Gaumont stage managers an opportunity of striking effects which they utilise to the full. Those who used Gaumont's previous series, OUR INDIAN EMPIRE, will be glad to hear that its success has led the company to prepare a further film on the same subject, which is issued this week, and is fully up to the high standard set by the first in quality and interest. We understand that under the title SAVED FROM THE SEA, Gaumont's have in preparation a subject for which they anticipate as good a demand as for some of their most memorable bits of the past year. This film will be ready for publication shortly, and full details will be published in an early issue of this paper, or may be obtained from the company on application.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

THE BRIDGE OF SIGHS.—"Far from the madding crowd" this dramatic film subject opens in a peaceful country home, wherein we see the devoted father and daughter interrupted by a stranger at the gate. Hospitality is extended to the stranger, during which the flatters the girl, much to the father's annoyance. The girl is, however, flattered, and, being infatuated, contrary to her father's wish she meets the stranger clandestinely. During one of these meetings she is persuaded by his vows of eternal constancy to elope to the town. Here she sees that "all is not gold that glitters," and is deserted. Alone in a great city, without food, without experience, friendless and helpless she seeks work. A homeless wanderer, she sees her lover and his new mistress, but all her appeals are roughly turned aside. Resting, weakened by starvation, bitter memories haunt her so that the rushing tide invites her to rest. Plunging in she is borne along by the river, and when, rough but sympathetic hands lift her from the water she is past all human help. The clergyman reverently crosses her hands as the cold moonlight streams through the windows of the morgue across her face, and as the moonlight fades the vision of Christ appears in an attitude of infinite pity and a look as of benediction.

EX-CONVICT No. 900.—Upon his release from prison, Convict No. 900, although handicapped by poverty, disgrace, and weakness, resolves to start life afresh and hastens to see his wife and child. Their happiness is his sole interest, and, obtaining a place as a shipping clerk, he does well until he receives his dismissal as a result of a visit from detectives. Hoping against hope, he fights bravely on. Whilst out one day seeking work to enable him to get medical aid for his sick child there is wild excitement in the street. Seeing a runaway team about to dash a child to death he risks his life to save the little thing, and amidst the confusion he disappears, a nameless hero. After a weary struggle he has to confess he is beaten, and, every man's hand seemingly against him, he chooses a likely house, gets his tools, and returns to the old life. Obtaining an entrance to a banker's residence he starts to pack the loot, of which there is plenty, when he is covered by the banker's revolver. Whilst the police are being summoned, the banker's child enters the room to look for her dolly and recognises Ex-Convict 900 as the man who saved her from the horses. The banker is amazed at the cordial greeting of the child and sends the police away. The ex-convict is then given a helping hand and all ends well.

Nordisk Films Company.

ON GUARD AT THE POWDER-MAGAZINE.—Here we have tragedy and romance, and this is the story told. It was a beautiful sunny day; the Caroline lay loaded at the harbour, ready for sea, as the shipowner appeared with his wife and his daughter. He begged the young captain to take good care of his daughter and see her safely to her family in the foreign country, where she was going to spend some time. Everything seemed to come off well, the first half of the road was already passed, when one day a pirate craft was encountered. The crew were armed and everything made ready to meet the attack. The pirates boarded the merchantman and a wild fight followed on the deck, which was, however, soon finished, the pirates gaining the victory. The killed or wounded men were thrown on the deck and the young lady was taken to the cabin. The leader of the pirates had just passed the captain on his way to the cabin when there appeared aft a sailor-boy. During the fight he fell overboard with one of the pirates without getting hurt, and now he had climbed up the stern, determined to save the captain and the vessel or to die. He quickly released the captain, and both hurried downstairs and burst open the door to the captain's cabin. The pirate chief was fighting with the young lady, who was struggling hard to defend herself against him. The captain was just in time. He stretched the pirate to the ground with a blow and the sailor-boy killed him with the pirate's own knife. They then went to the powder-magazine, where Peter placed himself with a burning torch in his hand, while the captain went to the second in command, asking him to round the ship at once towards land if he did not wish himself and the crew to be blown up. In order to prove that he was in earnest the captain led the robbers to a hatchway, through which they could see Peter sitting with his torch at the powder-magazine. One glance was sufficient to show them that the case was serious. The vessel was immediately turned round and the course shaped for the shore, with the captain and the young lady at the helm. Near the shore the robbers were allowed to go on board their own vessel while the captain and Peter were keeping watch with loaded revolvers in their hands. One by one they left the ship. On his return home the captain obtained a beautiful bride.

OTHER interesting Nordisk productions are SUMMER SPORT and BELGRADE, CAPITAL OF SERVIA.

A Boxing Film.

Two gentlemen representing the Chicago Film Exchange, and now staying at the Hotel Cecil, have brought to England the most perfect set of pictures ever taken of a boxing contest. Messrs. Lewis and Krone, the gentlemen in question, showed to a party of managers and others this film, representing the great contest that took place on Sept. 9 at Colma, California, between "Battling" Nelson and Joe Gans. Twenty-one rounds were fought in strenuous style, and the pictures depict every detail with a clearness and accuracy that are remarkable. They have been seen at Oscar Hammerstein's, where they commanded a salary of £200 a week. Many bookings were at once obtained for the films by Mr. Hugh J. Didcott.

THE AWARDS.—The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, K.C., the official arbitrator appointed to the music hall dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at *The Era* Offices. Copy, including postage, three-halfpence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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Weary of breath,
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Gone to her death!"

Hood's well-known poem of the above title, so universally appreciated, has inspired a picture that grasps the heart, compels our sympathies, and draws the ties of the human family closer.

No. 6385. Code, "Veluntinous." Length, 991ft.

EX-CONVICT NUMBER 900.

Released from prison, "Convict 900" begins a new life. Every hand is against him. Rebuffed on every side, he takes up his old career as a burglar. He is caught in the act of robbing a house, but is recognised by the little daughter of the banker as the man who has saved her life in a runaway accident. Restored to his home, family, and happiness.

No. 6383. Code, "Velverette." Length, 905ft

LATEST SUBJECTS.

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No. 6378 BUYING A TITLE.
No. 6379 THE LEPRECHAUN.
No. 6380 POCAHONTAS, A CHILD OF THE FOREST.
No. 6381 TEN PICKANINNIES.
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INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

22,117.—Marius Auguste Ginoux, of London. Improved cinematograph.

22,127.—John William Mackenzie, of London. Sectional modulating attachment for musical instruments. (The Autopiano Company, United States).

22,208.—Percy Arthur Frank Pratt and Charles James Pratt, of London. Improvements relating to narrow-gauge railways used for public amusement.

22,226.—Bert Henry Anslow and David Dumbleton, professionally known as Elliott and Wood, of London. Collapsible motor-car for stage purposes.

22,415.—Casimir de Proszynski, of London. Pneumatic apparatus for effecting the synchronisation of a kinematograph and a phonograph.

22,538.—John Frederick Duke, of London. Improvements in and relating to horns and resonators for phonographs, gramophones, and like instruments.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

16,340.—Macculloch. Race game or recreation apparatus.

28,641.—Petry. Targets and markers' mantlets.

2,649.—Taylor. Machine for the amusement of the public.

10,074.—Bland and Lake. Apparatus for recreation and amusement.

11,968.—Mallet. Cinematograph apparatus.

SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

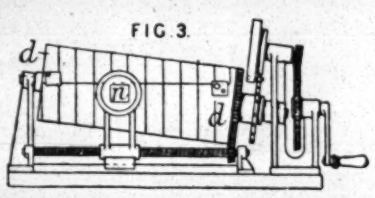
18,940.—Duchatellier. Apparatus for modifying the shape of the nose.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

13,407.—Kinematographs. Voss, H., and Simon, H., of Hamburgh, Germany.

A picture sheet having a series of pictures in successive rows is wound round a cylinder, *d*, so that the whole series forms a helix, which is displayed by the intermittent rotation of the cylinder,

FIG. 3.

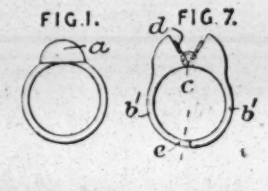


a lens, *n*, for projection or direct viewing being adapted to be moved along the cylinder at a suitable rate. The picture sheet has flanges by which it is held in a slot in the cylinder.

13,789. Finger-exercising apparatus. Bowman, W. W., of London.

Loaded finger-rings or clips are employed to develop the muscles used in playing on musical instruments. The rings may be solid, as in Fig. 1,

FIG. 1. FIG. 7.



and carry lead weights, *a*, and they may be lined with non-slipping material. In the form shown in Fig. 7, parts *b* are hinged at *c*, and closed by a spring, *d*, a small tongue, *e*, making a finished point. In other slight modifications, the arms, *b*, are made of spring metal, or one is hinged to the other and joined by a bracelet snap.

12,667.—Targets. Whitehouse, J. E., and Whitehouse, H. J., of Oakham.

In targets moved from the firing-point into position at the end of a miniature range by an endless wire, the uprights, *a*, *a*, are supported by struts, *b*, *g*, the target carrier consists of an iron frame, *k*, clamped to the upper part of the wire, and provided with guide-rollers, *l*, above and below the lower part of the wire, and the pulley, *h*, is carried by a sliding frame, *n*, which is adjustable by screws, *p*, and provided with a stop-piece, *o*.

FIG. 1.

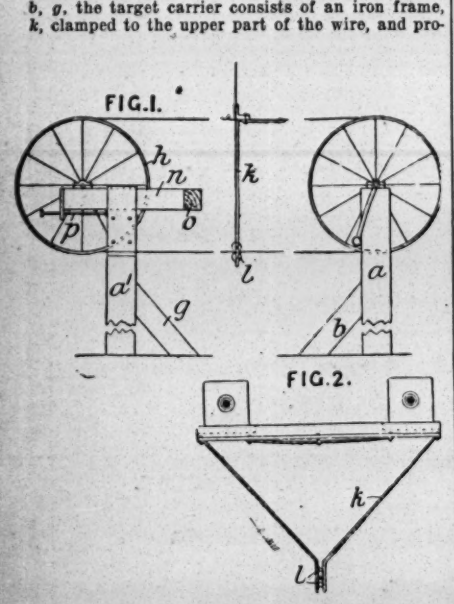
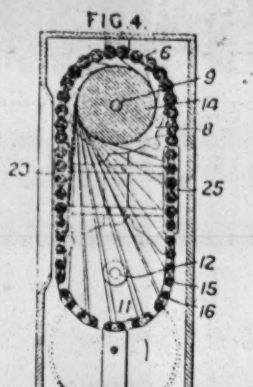


FIG. 2.

13,399.—Displaying. Newton, P. A., of London (Kinetoplane Display Co., of New York).

Relates to picture display machines, in which a number of display aprons are moved across a display opening, whereby different surfaces on the aprons are presented to view during the passage of the aprons. The machine comprises a number of spring-actuated, &c., reels, on which the aprons are wound, means for attachment of the aprons off-set from the reels, and means for moving the reels in an endless, or other, common path. The apparatus may be arranged so that the spring tension on any two reels equidistant from the support may be counterbalanced. The aprons may be provided with designs which coact and produce a changing effect as the reels are moved across the display opening, or the designs may be arranged to produce changing effects as the reels are moved continuously or intermittently. In the construction shown, the display aprons are wound on reels, 15, 16 (Fig. 4), carried by spindles non-rotatively mounted in pairs in the links of endless chains, 6. The chains are carried by sprocket-wheels, 8, loose on a shaft, 9, and wheels, 11, fixed to stub-shafts, 12, driven at the same speed by a motor through suitable reduction gearing. The ends of the aprons may be attached to a support arranged eccentric of the endless path, or to the drum, 14, fixed to the shaft, 9, as shown. This shaft is driven from one of the stud-shafts by gearing arranged so that during one revolution of the drum a reel makes a complete circuit. By this means the reels are either wound or unwound during their passage

FIG. 4.



across the display aperture. The pair of reels in each link are preferably wound in opposite directions. Guides are provided to steady the chains.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE BLACK PIERROT."

A Musical and Dramatic Scena, written by Austin Fryers, with music by Denham Harrison, produced at Hengler's Circus on Monday, Nov. 2.

Baron de Perignac .....Mr. C. H. Douglass
Master Sweep .....Mr. A. Terriss
Boy Sweep .....Master Henry
Innkeeper .....Mr. J. Buer
First Actor .....Mr. W. Yardley
Tragedian .....Mr. A. G. Uno
Comedian .....Mr. Edgar Cooke
Coachman .....Mr. J. Child
Actress .....Miss Bella Bashall
Fairy Queen .....Miss Lilian Kendall
Baroness de Perignac .....Miss M. Russell

In *The Black Pierrot* the versatile Mr. Austin Fryers has written a little fairy romance which has already found immense favour with his patrons, and especially with that section of them which may be classed as juvenile. The scene opens with a merry party of children dancing and singing an old English roundelay outside the Mermaid Inn. Presently there arrives a party of strolling players, and these, having no money, offer to entertain the landlord of the inn, provided he will give them food and accommodation. He agrees to do so, and thus we are treated to songs and dances and clowning. When they have quitted the open space in front of the hostelry, in order to partake of the hospitality of the innkeeper, a drunken sweep comes upon the scene, dragging along with him and beating his apprentice, a lad. The latter appeals for mercy, and an actress emerges from the inn, intervenes on his behalf, persuades his ruffianly master to leave him, brings him food, and cheers him by telling him a story of a good fairy who performs wonders for poor boys. The little sweep then goes to sleep on a stone bench. In the darkness the Fairy Queen and her followers surround him, and the night is made melodious by their sweet singing. With the breaking of dawn the boy awakes, to discover a magical transformation in his appearance. He is no longer the unhappy sweep in rags. The fairies have attired him in a beautiful dress—the dress of a prince. He can scarcely realise what has happened. And to fill his cup of happiness the Baron and Baroness de Perignac drive up in their coach and recognise him as the son who was stolen from them a few years previously. The abductor, of course, was the drunken sweep, who gets severely handled by the players. The playlet is, on the whole, well acted by the various members of the cast. The music is pretty and tuneful, the songs, "Sock and buskin" and "Sleep on," being particularly well rendered. The lighting effects, which present a difficulty in an arena, have been extremely well arranged.

The rest of the programme is characterised by variety and cleverness. Capital turns are furnished by Hengler's clowns and equestrian performers, and others contributing interesting items are Miss Florence Transfield in her fancy horsewomanship act; Daisy, the educated pony; Signorinetta, in a comical equestrian show; Milton and Spring, expert horizontal bar performers; Miss Iona Ginnett, equestrienne; Platter, comedy juggler; Master Sam Mark, a talented boy actor in Dickens impersonations; Spanghaletti's trained dogs and baboons; Aerian and Ostara, in a daring trapeze exhibition; Cooke and Shadow in a comic interlude; and Frank Stephenson, in a jockey act, the entertainment concluding with illustrated songs and animated pictures.

Miss Frances Letty, the chorus queen, achieved a great success at Ipswich this week, the audience singing her choruses with such gusto and enjoyment as to stamp these songs as positive pantomime winners. Miss Letty's business is now in the hands of the energetic Tom Claxton, who has secured engagements for her at a big figure well into 1911. Her songs, which are her sole property, are published by Francis, Day, and Hunter.

Mr. Charles Whittle's appearance at the Oxford on Monday was the signal for a most cordial reception. After the first chorus of "I don't care if there's a girl there" had been sung, there was never a doubt as to the phenomenal success of the number; it seemed to grip the packed house from the start, and there was no half-hearted success. Mr. Whittle has kindly consented to grant a few permissions for this great song to be sung at music hall. Apply to the Star Music Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Compton (Miss Miriam Holt) conclude a lengthy engagement with Mr. Arthur Jefferson's sketch on the Moss and Stoll tour at Nottingham next week. Mr. Compton has managed the sketch for Mr. Jefferson, and played the "dude" part with great success, Mrs. Compton being the young bride. They will probably return to the threatres for a while.

At the Aquarium, Scarborough, the principal artists in this week's bill are the Merrions, who are old favourites here; Robins and Collier, in *The Lady and the Porter*, give a delightful entertainment full of humour and new jokes; Clive and Vera are good, as also is Alman Corrize in a juggling scena. J. S. Walker is a comedian of merit; and the Rymros sing Welsh songs in finished style. Denby and Dent submit entertaining sketches in up-to-date style.

"THE CERT."

A Comedy Sketch, produced on Monday, Nov. 2, at the Queen's, Poplar.

Bob Havadash .....Mr. P. Waddock
Mr. Timothy Graball Mr. Arthur Charrington
Jack Ardupp Bodger .....Mr. A. B. Allen
Hilda Havadash .....Miss Edith Winbrook
Mrs. Anastatia Pepperton Miss Evelyn Shelley
Smuts .....Miss A. Lowrie

The prologue of *The Cert*, a tirade against the complaining and fault-finding wife, was familiar to most of those who patronised the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday. Afterwards came the sparkle into the production and, the harangue ended, the attention was soon arrested. The perplexed husband drew an envelope from his pocket. His rich uncle had doubled his allowance! Hysteria ran riot, and gesticulation was a relief. Pressing bank notes into his wife's hand he jostled her out to shop, and—to himself—he speculated wildly on the prospects of his increased fortune. Horse racing, his pet passion, appealed to him, and he ran down the list of runners with avidity. "Staked," "doubled," and "cummered" as mathematical problems solved themselves with remarkable quickness. His pile was made if he "clicked." He wrote out his slip and put it into his pocket, donned his hat, and rushed into—his ma-in-law. Argument clouded his memory; he forgot his errand to the bookmaker, and pacified her with kisses—a strange departure which captivated her and convulsed the audience. A boy cried a paper ouside, a shilling changed hands, and the first horse had won—his tenner was a hundred. An old friend with abject despair written on every line of his face sauntered into the room. Thirty pounds would free his finances—he had it, and a gold watch, diamond pin, and ring on top of it—generosity was wonderful. The servant pounced into the room, her salary was doubled, her leave extended. The second horse had won—the hundred had trebled. Mr. Graball, the landlord, made his appearance, accompanied with the intelligence that horse No. 3 had won; the arrears were paid, the purchase of the house negotiated. Wild confusion reigned. Excitement got the better of the backer's feelings. On the 'phone he ordered diamond rings by the dozen, cases of champagne, and a medley of goods and chattels enough to fill a dozen flats. The plumber made his appearance; he knew the latest betting news. The fourth horse had won! The lucky informant had a new rig out, to return a few minutes later inebriated. A newsboy cried the result of the next race—wonder upon wonders, he had won again; the modest tenner had reached a mild £6,300 by a method of mathematics rather difficult to explain. Round the room the frantic backer pranced, tearing down curtains, overturning chairs and tables—his pile was made. One by one in quick succession housemaids, hall porters, and handymen filed in laden with objects of furniture and articles of various kinds. The shopping wife had returned, the ma-in-law grew curious and demanded an explanation. She had it, and just as the excited company were giving vent to their natural jubilation, the wildly gesticulating backer fingered his pocket, and—oh, horror! the slip—he had forgotten it. His face was a study, the wife and ma-in-law looked glum, the audience rocked. They had been surprised, the drastic finale gave the point to the whole humour of the sketch, and they clapped with vigour, and the curtain dropped on *The Cert*. The production had won a singularly brilliant reception. The acting was very good, a close study of the characters presented being manifest. As the speculative backer Bob Havadash Mr. P. Waddock was the essence of vigour and comic earnestness; whilst in sober contrast to his activities and eccentricities the Timothy Graball of Mr. Arthur Charrington sounded exactly the right note of light gaiety, and possessed the necessary "point." The ma-in-law of Miss Evelyn Shelley and the Hilda Havadash of Miss Edith Winbrook were both exceedingly good. In securing the sketch at this hall for initial production the management, Messrs. F. and M. Abrahams, have achieved another success.

THE FRANK AYLMER CASE.

We append a letter from Mr. W. H. Wallis (of Tennyson and Wallis), who makes an appeal on behalf of Mr. Frank Aylmer (of the Two Sports). We are pleased to open the list, as Mr. Wallis desires.

"Olympia, Liverpool.
"Oct. 29, 1908.

"Dear Sir,—By publishing this letter you will assist an urgent and very deserving case. Frank Aylmer, of the Two Sports, is now lying for the fourteenth week in Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, having undergone two operations to his foot. It will be several weeks before he can be out and about again, and his wife, his only comfort, is in lodgings in Dublin with strangers, waiting till he is able to be out and working again. He was always a good boy whenever the hat went round for anybody else, and therefore if you will only open a list for him I am sure a lot of us together can do him a little bit of good. I enclose you P.O.O. for £5 9s., with names of donors. I shall be sending some more by Saturday.

"Thanking you in anticipation, yours faithfully,
"W. H. Wallis."

	£	s.	d.
T. Allan Edwardes	1	1	0
Mendel	1	0	0
W. H. Wallis	0	10	6
J. Tennyson	0	10	6
Gus Garrick	0	10	6
Milke Whallen	0	10	6
Tom Pacey	0	10	6
Will Johnson	0	10	0
Whit Cunliffe	0	10	0
Chas. Austin	0	10	0
Carr and Rose	0	5	0
Syd May	0	5	0
May Henderson	0	4	0
Tom Lloyd	0	5	0
Josh Dixon	0	5	0
H. C. Gill	0	2	6
Humpsti	0	2	6
Bumpsti	0	2	6
Lovell Hurt	0	2	6
Masanio	0	2	6
Sisters Caselli	0	2	6
Crosby and Walker	0	2	6
Nellie Ridgway	0	2	6
Kit Keene	0	2	0

All subscriptions for this distressing case will be duly announced if addressed to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer, *The Era* Office.

Testimonials Up to Date.—From Mrs. Decar, 11a, Church-road, Landport, Portsmouth. Nov. 4, 1908.—Mr. Harris, Dear Sir,—Goods received safely yesterday, and I am exceedingly pleased with the way you have dyed Gibson coat; it is a lovely colour. Also plush coat and hat are beautifully cleaned. I shall recommend you wherever I may go, and send you all my goods in future.—Thanking you very much, I remain, yours faithfully, Mrs. Decar.——From J. W. Cordiner, Theatre Royal, Aston. Oct. 21, 1908.—Dear Mr. Harris,—Servants' livery to hand. Many thanks for quick despatch. The work is done, as usual, perfect. Kind regards.—Yours faithfully, J. W. Cordiner.——From Hamilton Deane, Theatre Royal, Norwich. Oct. 26, 1908.—Am extremely pleased with mackintosh received to-day; it is exceptionally well cleaned.—Hamilton Deane.——From R. Petherbridge, 118, City-road, E.C. Oct. 26, 1908.—Dear Sirs,—My friend is highly pleased with the way in which the work has been done.—Yours faithfully, R. Petherbridge.

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Of all BOOKSELLERS and BOOKSTALLS.

1909.

FORTY-SECOND YEAR OF PUBLICATION

1909.

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MASONS AT WORK.

Many years have passed since the consecration of the Lodge of Asaph, and all those who were privileged to be present on Monday last at the installation of the thirty-ninth Master were to be congratulated, inasmuch as they had gathered together to once again witness the admirable working of the Lodge and afterwards to betake of the sumptuous banquet which always marks the beginning of a new year and the incoming of a new Master. At 1.30 the members and their friends assembled at the Gaiety Restaurant, Strand, and at once proceeded to the business of the day. Mr. Herbert Chenery in a most impressive manner presided over the conclave, and was listened to with rapt attention whilst he performed with due observance of ceremonial law the ancient rite of installing his successor, Mr. Ernest Huntley Paterson. Throughout the delivery of the various addresses evidences of careful thought and earnest study were apparent, and Mr. Herbert Chenery may be congratulated upon the crowning act of his year of office, during which he has maintained and upheld the best traditions of the Lodge. Mr. Paterson appointed and invested his officers as follows: Messrs. Herbert Chenery (I.P.M.), A. B. Tapping (S.W.), Chris Hilton (J.W.), Chas. Cruikshanks (Treasurer), James W. Mathews (Secretary), Albert Le Fre (S.D.), Frank Lister (J.D.), W. Lestocq (D.C.), J. E. Hambleton (Organist), Antoine Clotens (Assistant Organist), Rev. W. P. Besley (Chaplain), E. Wesley Woolhouse (I.G.), Tom Clare (First S.), W. Edwyn Holloway (Second S.), Edward A. Pickering (Third S.), George H. Dyball (Fourth S.), and J. Gilbert (Tyler).

The customary charges were delivered by Mr. Chenery with fervency and spirit, and the impressive ceremony being concluded, the ordinary business was proceeded with, a noteworthy item being a proposition brought forward by Mr. Charles Cruikshanks:—"That the hearty congratulations of the members be offered to Mr. J. D. Beveridge, a Past Master of the Lodge, who has been elevated to the dignity and distinction of London Rank, and, as an appreciation of the respect shown to our worthy and esteemed brother, a record of the circumstance be entered on the minutes." The resolution having been seconded by Mr. James Weaver, was carried *nem. con.*

The labours of the day being ended, the members proceeded to the Banqueting Hall, where an elegant repast was supplied and done justice to.

The various toasts were received with enthusiasm, and accorded Masonic recognition. The Chairman, Mr. Paterson, was particularly happy in his various speeches, as the following brief extracts will show:—

"The King." "The quotation ('Was ever King so grieved for subjects' woe?' *Henry I.*, Part 2) which appears under this toast seems to me to express those great qualities which are especially his Majesty's, and I cannot help but think it is partly because within his breast there beats a true Freemason's heart, and partly because he has so firmly implanted in his crown those two bright masonic jewels, 'Benevolence and Charity.'"

"Grand Officers." "You are perfectly well aware what the Grand Lodge is to us—it manages our central affairs—and to it and the Grand Officers we are all, as we ought to be, everlastingly grateful."

"The I.P.M." "His exposition of the ritual culminating with what you have heard this afternoon has been a treat to listen to. I am proud to see you, Mr. Chenery, as my immediate predecessor, and in presenting you with this handsome Past Master's jewel in recognition of your valuable and highly appreciated services to the Lodge."

"The Visitors." "The pleasantest toast of the evening. In the Lodge of Asaph we have not so many opportunities of seeing our brethren of other lodges as we could wish, and so it is perhaps because of that we, as a body, always look forward with pleasure to this toast at installation banquests. Among the visitors I see many old masonic friends—their presence here is the greatest satisfaction to us. Their worth is warrant for their presence, and once more, in the words of the Bard, 'From first to last a hearty welcome' to them all."

The toast of the "Worshipful Master" was given by Mr. Herbert Chenery, and having been duly honoured was responded to in fitting terms by Mr. Paterson.

The responses to the various toasts were extremely hearty, and in most instances to the point.

Grand Lodge was represented by Messrs. Thomas Fraser, P.G.Treas.; James Weaver, P.G.Std.B.; Henry Times, D.G.D.C.; Percy Fitzgerald, P.G.Std.B.; and Charles Cruikshanks, P.A.G.Std.B.; and the following members were also present:—Albert Alexandra, W. L. Barratt, R. P. Black, J. F. Carradous, N. Coviello, R. Douglas Cox, F. W. Crellin, J. J. Dallas, F. D. Daviss, Frank Desprez, John Geary, O. Grimaldi, James Groves, F. Hachenberger, Hale Hambleton, James C. Hambleton, G. Henderson, W. J. Holloway, R. F. Howgill, J. Stanford Hughes, Edward Humphrey, Nelson Jackson, Harry Lockett, W. Charlton Mann, George Mozart, C. H. Phillips, Chas. B. Powell, Louis de Reeder, H. B. Saunders, A. J. Shorter, G. W. Clement Smith, C. J. Taylor, Chas. E. Tinney, E. W. Whitmore, and Edmund Woolhouse.

Amongst the visitors were Messrs. N. R. Fulton, Ellis Wavell, A. H. Kendall, A. J. Cooper, J. H. Calcott, J. N. Strachan, Henry Ainley, H. B. Wooldridge, Stanley L. Powell, A. L. Weber, E. W. Hinchcliffe, E. F. Hustler Hinchcliffe, Paul M. Hasluck, Shad Frost, W. S. Lyon, Haswell Turner, J. Powell, W. Waterman, H. G. Danby, A. Ashton, W. J. Harvey, A. W. Morgan, A. G. Duck, Orton Bradley, G. Wigley, and R. P. Middlemast.

An excellent programme of music, &c., was provided by Mr. J. Edward Hambleton, to which contributions were given by Miss Winifred Lestocq (a sweet singer with a winning style), and Messrs. Gwilym Wigley, Orton Bradley, Arthur W. Payne, J. Edward Hambleton, Tom Clare, R. Perris, Ernest Cameron, and Capella, assisted by Messrs. George Mozart and Albert Le Fre, and Miss Le Hay (a talented daughter of John Le Hay).

A particularly happy inspiration was the presentation to the Master of the insignia of his rank in collar and apron with the customary adornments by the members of the *Are You a Mason?* company, of which Mr. Ernest H. Paterson is manager and principal comedian.

IN our last week's notice of the Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy, we omitted the name of Mr. Dan Fraser, comedian, who appeared with much success.

A MEETING of citizens is shortly to be held, with the object of organising a pageant at Bath, at the end of next June. The city lends itself admirably to such a scheme, being so rich in historical associations. The tableaux would probably commence with the time of King Bladud, and extend down to the zenith of the reign of Beau Nash.

THE secretary of the Music Hall Home, Mr. Benj. Woodger, desires to thank the following ladies and gentlemen:—Mr. E. Dottridge, of Oldham, for placing collecting boxes at his halls (per Mr. F. W. Millis); Mr. Leo Fritz, for placing box in his new offices; Mr. H. Cole, Empire Theatre, Liverpool, for box collection of £1 4s. 6d.; Mr. W. H. Boardman, Pavilion, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for collection of £1 13s. 6d.; Miss Melinda May, for parcel of playing cards for inmates; also the M.H.A.R.A., cheque for £50 to the fund. The next committee will be held at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday, Nov. 19, at 12 noon.

WORLD'S LARGEST SKATING-RINK.

On Thursday afternoon the Empress Theatre, Earl's Court, was opened to the public. The huge area has been entirely reconstructed and redecorated, and two separate maple "floors" have been laid down at a cost of £3,000. One will be used for skating, the other for dancing. Both amusements can be simultaneous.

A merry party of pretty actresses assisted the directors to "open the show." These included the Mesdames Madge Temple, Millie Payne, Lelia Moore, Lil Loraine, Ivy Williams, Tessie Hackney, Annie Braddan, and many more. Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Mozart were there, as were also Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Alexander, of Savoy fame, the Ginnett family, and the Bostocks.

Mr. Will Bennet, on behalf of the directors, asked the assembled company to drink success to "the world's greatest ballroom and skating area." He then called upon "Bobby," otherwise Mr. R. J. Aginton, known in every civilised capital as "the human top," to give a display of fancy skating. Mr. Aginton can, when put to it, do as many as 180 revolutions a minute on skates. This constitutes a world's record.

Mr. A. E. Court, the manager of the Empress Hall, told the writer that Aginton was "born skating" in New York City, and in the rinking world the opening of a new rink is not considered complete without an exhibition by him. Mr. Aginton has been present at the opening of skating rinks at Paris, London, Brighton, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Chicago, Boston, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Katomba, and Buenos Ayres. He is the only man in the world who has ever succeeded in safely skating down the entire length of the water chute at Earl's Court.

During the afternoon and evening many novel displays were given. A mile handicap on skates was run, there was an obstacle race, and a hockey match was indulged in. 6,422 passed through the turnstiles.

Lit by fifty arc lamps and 3,000 small lights, visitors can view the dancing and skating (which takes place simultaneously) from an auditorium furnished with tip-up seats on the one side or from the Empress Club and smoking alcoves on the other. The tea-rooms and refreshment bars also afford good views of whatever may be in progress. Dancing will take place every evening at 7.30 in a specially enclosed oval area, around which skaters will, at the same time, incessantly glide. All taking part must remove their hats, and dancers must have proper dancing shoes. The programme will be changed daily, and each event will be depicted in huge letters on a bioscope screen at the top end of the hall.

Many novelties will be introduced by the management from time to time, embracing skating gymkhanas, the largest fancy dress balls and confetti carnivals ever held in London, sports on wheels, push ball, hockey, and polo. Novel competitions will be inaugurated. One of the first will be "Beauties on Skates," in which each lady will be required to let down her hair. The lady adjudged to have the finest head of hair will be presented with a pony and trap. The floor will cover an area of 22,000 square ft., and is unquestionably the finest in the world. For the convenience of patrons there will be three sessions daily: 11 to 1, 2.30 to 5.30, and 7.30 to 10.30. 8,000 pairs of skates by the best English firms have been stocked, among the chief being Richardson's cushion frame, anti-jar, ball-bearing skates—a splendid equipment for a skater. Those wishing to learn skating may use the Learners' Annexe, where the assistance of twenty skilled instructors will be at their service. The rink is thoroughly warmed and carefully ventilated, brilliantly lit and tastefully decorated.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, SEPT. 29.—STANDARD THEATRE (Lessee, Mr. Leonard Rayne; Manager, Mr. Grant Fallowes).—*The Flag Lieutenant* was staged at the above theatre this week, under the personal direction of Mr. Leonard Rayne, who has spared no expense in making the production of as high a standard as lies within the power of a producer in this country. Mr. Rayne's attempt has been crowned with success, full houses being the rule nightly. As Flag Lieutenant Lascelles Mr. Rayne gained yet another success, putting a large amount of vitality into the part; Mr. Chas. Howitt made an admirable Vice-Admiral Sir Berkley Wynne, K.C.B., speaking his lines in an able manner; as Major Thesiger Mr. Norman Partriege was excellent; a capital representation of the Admiral's secretary was given by Mr. G. Castle Morris; Colonel McLeod was in the capable hands of Mr. Clarence Bigge; the Sergeant Steel of Mr. Burton Seymour was a well-finished study; Miss Freda Godfrey undertook the rôle of Lady Hermione Wynne, and her dainty acting gained her endless applause; Miss Gertrude Godart as Mrs. Cameron was entirely at home in the part; Mrs. Gough Bogle and Violet Hood were well accounted for by Misses Annie Leaf and Naomi Rutherford.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE (Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. J. Woodward).—The above company staged *The Girl Behind the Counter* for the first time in Johannesburg on Thursday. As Winnie Willoughby Miss Elsa Partiss scored a decided success; Miss Chrissie Ralland was thoroughly at home as Susie, singing her numbers daintily; Miss Florence Vie was seen to advantage as Lady Willoughby, her conception of the part being very clever; first honours fall to Mr. Foster Courtenay as General Sir Wilkie Willoughby, his originality of method being agreeably marked; as Dudd Mr. Alf. Beers caused endless amusement; Mr. Arthur Cartwright played and looked the part of Charlie Chetwynd to a nicety, his fine voice doing justice to all the numbers that fell to him; Mr. H. E. Pearce gave a very humorous reading of Viscount Gushington; and Mr. Jack Morrison was good as Rudolph. All the minor parts were in capable hands, and the chorus and scenery left nothing to be desired.

MISS MAUD ASTON, who has been specially engaged to fill the place vacated by Miss Maudie Thornton, arrived in Johannesburg this week, to join the Wheeler-Edwardes Gaiety company as lead.

DURBAN, OCT. 3. — HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE (Lessees, Empire Theatre Co., South Africa, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. C. Hyman).—The star turn here is furnished by the Kaufmann Troupe of cyclists, whose feats are astounding; May Aubrey has caught the public taste; Ambrose Thorn continues as popular as ever; Lyons and Caller, pot pourri entertainers, are good. Other turns here are Edith Burn, Caswell and Arnold, Hawa and Wyatt, and Estelle Stapley.

WOLFRAM'S Bioscope at the Town Hall is receiving a good reception.

THE Woods-Williamson company are at Port Elizabeth. Mr. Woods and Miss Williamson have gathered around themselves an exceptionally versatile company with a large répertoire. This week they are playing *Jim the Penman*.

MISS MAUD ALLAN is rapidly recovering from the effects of her accident, and it is hoped that she will be able to return to the Palace in about a fortnight.

MR. ERNIE MAYNE, who has been winning golden opinions on the Moss-Stoll tour, returns to town on Monday, playing four turns. He has been re-engaged by Mr. Stoll up to 1914. Christmas sees him for the first time in a London pantomime at the Borough Theatre, Stratford.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, OCT. 28.—Mr. William Collier has a new play called *The Patriot*, which he will presently bring to New York. It was written by himself in collaboration with Mr. J. Hartley Manners. The scenes of the first and third acts are laid at Bull Frog, Nevada, while the second act takes place in a fashionable part of London. The central figure, portrayed by Mr. Collier, is an up-to-date young mining engineer of English birth, and the story deals with the incidents attending the progress of a young Englishman who finds himself for the first time in a Western American mining country.

MISS ADELINE GENEE, after fulfilling a very successful engagement at the Grand Opera House in this city, journeyed to Boston, where her dancing in *The Soul Kiss* is now delighting large audiences at the Colonial Theatre. According to the newspapers, a bronze-painted plaster statue of Miss Genée was erected by her Press agent on Boston Common, where it attracted a big crowd. It was afterwards removed to the lobby of the Colonial Theatre. As a clever advertising scheme, the work of this particular Press agent is considered to be "the limit."

"WHAT EVERY WOMAN KNOWS," a new play, by J. M. Barrie, with Miss Maude Adams in the leading rôle, was performed for the first time in America at the Apollo Theatre, Atlantic City, on the 18th inst., before a crowded house. The newspaper reports indicate that the play will be a success. Miss Adams will begin her New York engagement in January.

MRS. GEORGE C. HOWARD, formerly Caroline E. Fox, a well-known actress some years ago, died at Cambridge, Mass., on the 15th inst. She was born in 1829, and was one of the original members of the famous Boston Museum Company. Her second husband was the first to produce the accepted version of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, and Mrs. Howard appeared in the original cast as Topsy on the opening night, Sept. 27, 1852.

MR. GEORGE M. COHAN, whose unique stage offerings have been aptly characterised as "Cohanesque," is to retire from the stage for a year and travel. His sister Josephine will shortly "star" in a new musical play called *The Christmas Doll*.

"THE SERVANT IN THE HOUSE," by Charles Rann Kennedy, is being played once more at the Savoy Theatre, where it has already enjoyed a long run. In the meantime the company has toured the larger cities of the West with uniform success. Mr. Edmund R. Kennedy, brother of the author, now appears as the Vicar, succeeding Mr. Charles Dalton in that rôle. Miss Edith Wynne Matthison, Miss Mabel Moore, Mr. Tyrone Power, Mr. Walter Hampden, and Mr. Arthur Lewis repeat the success they made when the piece was first produced here. This remarkable play caused no little discussion during its previous engagement, and its return has been welcome by large audiences.

MR. CHARLES KLEIN has written a drama of everyday life in New York, called *The Third Degree*, in which an attempted robbery and the conduct of the police in the case figure conspicuously. Mr. Edmund Breese and Mr. Ralph Delmore will play prominent parts.

MR. DE WOLF HOPPER recently fell to the stage whilst swinging by a wire in the new musical play, *What Happened Then*, in which he appeared as the Pied Piper of Hamelin, and sustained such injuries as compelled him to close his season and rest for a few weeks.

MISS BILLIE BURKE, *in Love Watches*, continues to delight large audiences at the Lyceum Theatre. Miss Gertie Millar and the captivating *Girls of Gottenberg* have established themselves as popular favourites at the Knickerbocker. *Jack Straw*, with Mr. John Drew, is in the seventh week of its success at the Empire, and *The Mollusc*, with Miss Alexandra Carlisle and Mr. Joseph Coyne, is still going strong at the Garrick.

HARRY LAUDER is in the third and last week of his engagement at the Lincoln-square Theatre, which has been crowded to the doors at every performance. Lauder's songs have aroused the greatest enthusiasm, and if he didn't "put his foot down" in his own characteristic way he would have to exhaust both himself and his répertoire to satisfy all demands. Not until he has sung "Rocked in the cradle of the deep" does the storm subside.

CLARICE MAYNE made her American début at Percy Williams's Colonial Theatre last week, and made an immediate hit. She sang several good songs and gave some excellent imitations of Marie Lloyd, Vesta Victoria, Vesta Tilley, and other English artists.

AMELIA BINGHAM made her first appearance in vaudeville at the American Theatre last week, and scored a decided success in *Big Moments from Great Plays*. Assisted by competent players, Miss Bingham enacts striking scenes from *Mlle. Marni*, *Mme. Sans-Gêne*, *A Modern Godiva*, and *A School for Husbands*. Only one stage setting is used, the costumes of the players being changed to fit the various parts. The act is excellent in every detail, and is warmly applauded.

BLAKE AND GRANBY are sailing to-day for South Africa, under engagement made by Mr. Tom Pacey with Mr. S. M. Hyman.

THE latest quotations for music hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra, 1 5-16; Canterbury, ¼; Empire (15s. paid) 1¼, ditto (10s. paid) 1; London Pavilion Ord. 3⅜, ditto pref. 4¼; Metropolitan, 14s.; Moss' Empire 5⅛, ditto 5 per cent. pref. 3⅝; Oxford, 5⅛; Palace, 18s.; Tivoli, 5⅜; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 10s.

JEAN MACDUFF, the well-known lady Scotch comedian, is this week appearing with her usual success at the Palace, Aberdeen, where she is featuring two of her latest successes, one a military kilty song, entitled "Dandy Sandy," and another in full male Highland costume, entitled "I'm getting married in the morning," in which song she introduces a pretty girl neatly dressed in white, with tartan hat and plaid.

THE following letter has been sent to Mr. C. Douglas Stuart, general secretary of the M.H.A.R.A., by Mr. Albert Voyce:—"Dear Mr. Stuart,—Now that I have practically concluded my term of office as chairman of the M.H.A.R.A. Executive Committee, I feel that it is necessary that I should publicly acknowledge your constant courtesy and attention not only to myself but to every detail of business connected with my office. Thanks in a great measure to yourself, the position has been both easy and pleasurable. Accept from me every good wish for your future prosperity, and the sincere hope that you may long be spared to occupy the position of general secretary to the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association.—Yours as ever, ALBERT VOYCE."

ON behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to thank the following ladies and gentlemen for gifts: Miss Aitken, Misses Walker and May, Mme. Haydee, Mrs. Ernest Collins (for parcels of useful clothing), M.H.A.R.A. (for generous donation of £50), Mrs. Herbert Shelley (for baby's woollen jacket), Mr. Leopold Rothschild (for letter towards helping a poor sufferer into a home for consumptives), and the Rev. Arthur Brinckman (for a valuable work, entitled "Register and Digest"). Miss May would be grateful for gentlemen's as well as ladies' wearing apparel. Friends of the charity are heartily invited every Wednesday from three to five o'clock.

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MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29, on
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.
Jan. 25, March 8, 22, April 5, May 10, 17, on.
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
Feb. 8, 15, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, 19, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
April 5, 12, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Nov. 23, Feb. 1, 15, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 22, April 5, 26, May 3, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 6, 13, 20, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 25, March 1, 8, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14 (3 nights only), and Christmas.
Address,
E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, March, 1910, onwards.

Emphatic success of the Special Matinée in aid of the Lord Provost's Unemployed Fund. The élite of the City delighted with the performance and the building. Lady Bilsland paid a well-deserved personal compliment to Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren upon their respective performances at the conclusion of the play.
The Metropole Directorate are pleased to express their deep obligation to Mr. and Mrs. William Maclaren and the members of their company for their generous services; to the relatives of the late Wilson Barrett for cheque value £20 (per Mr. and Mrs. Maclaren) towards the fund; to Miss Florence Smithson for donation in addition to paying for box; to the numerous Touring Managers for liberal response to the appeal—a circumstance the generosity of which was fully realised and warmly commented upon by the Lord Provost; as also to the various City trade firms concerned and the Theatre Orchestra and Staff, in all departments, for loyal free services.
Copy of "final," when completed (delay in ticket sale acknowledgments), will be duly posted to contributors.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Nov. 16, 23, 30 (3 nights),
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, onwards.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Dec. 3 (3 nights), 7, onwards.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, onwards.
Apply for all above, ROWLAND, T., Folkestone.

BRIXTON THEATRE.
WANTED, Wanted, Attraction, for Dec. 14.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

F. W. BOLAM'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Dec. 14 and 28.
METROPOLE T., GATESHEAD-ON-TYNE.
Dec. 14 and 21.
Address, R. G. ELDER, Gen.-Man., Metropole Theatre, Gateshead.
Telegrams, "Lutanist, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Nov. 23, Dec. 14, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 15, 29, April 5, 19, 26.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Front-rank Musical and Dramatic Attractions, March 22, April 19, May 3, and onwards.
Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Nov. 30, Jan. 18, and onwards, with exception.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

THEATRE ROYAL, MERTHYR.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Unexpectedly vacant three nights, Dec. 17, 18, and 19,
Thursday (early closing day) and Saturday night.
A Certainty given for a Good Show.
MANAGER, Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, Really First-class Attractions, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, 15, April 5, 19, 26.
JAMES BELL.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED First-class Companies, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, and various dates onwards.
Address, G. HAYES.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies.
Address, ROLLO BALMAIN,
Pay-box Attractions only.

PALACE PIER THEATRE, BRIGHTON.
WANTED, Good Comedies and Musical Pieces, from Nov. 23. Xmas open.
Now booking spring and summer dates.
All letters to J. E. COWELL.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LONGTON.
WANTED, good Attraction, three nights, Dec. 14, 15 16. H SHERRIFF HOWARD.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE, GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM, BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS, and GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

Address, with full particulars, terms, &c. where can be seen, to Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Dec. 28, Jan. 25, March 15.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only.
We are prepared to guarantee Really Big Star Attractions.
All communications, JNO. ED. JOWSEY, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet." 'Phones 413, 426, 500.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Nov. 30, also Dec. 7, and Feb. 8, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return), Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," &c.
All applications for dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attraction, Nov. 23, Nov. 23, Nov. 23, STAR THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Communications, Telegraphic Address, "Applause, Liverpool."
HARRIS FINEBERG, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

WANTED, Sound Attractions, Nov. 16, 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15. In spite of the cotton strike business good; crowded houses this week. Refer Tomkinson, Royal Gipsy Co. W. W. BRIERLEY, Theatre Royal, Tyldesley.

THEATRE ROYAL, STOCKPORT.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Company, for Dec. 14.
Address, CHARLES REVILL.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Nov. 30, Eastbourne (3), Hastings (3), Dec. 7 (3). Gaiety, Hastings, Nov. 16, 23, D. P. T., Eastbourne. Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Musical Comedy or Drama, Dec. 14.
E. H. PAGE.

WANTED, Special Attractions, for Nov. 30, Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 1, 8, March 8, 15, 22; also Open Dates for First-class Pantomime. Address, HORNER, Victoria, Burnley.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales' Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies for Dec. 7, 21, Jan. 4, 11, 25, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

LYCEUM THEATRE, GOVAN, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Good Attractions, for Dec. 7 and 21.
Address, RICH. WALDON, as above.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
WANTED, good Companies, Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 4, Musical preferred.
Wire, MACDONA.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, BRADFORD.
WANTED, very big Attraction, for April 12 (Easter), which is unexpectedly vacant. State where visit for next three weeks. Impossible to answer every reply, so please consider silence a notification that date is filled. Address, FRANCIS LAIDLER, Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, an Attraction for Xmas and New Year weeks. Vacant Dates apply, CAMERON BURGESS.

KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION, WESTON-SUPER-MARE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Nov. 16, 17, 18, 30, Dec. 1, 2. W. PAYNE.

WANTED, Attractions, Dec. 14, Grand, Radcliffe; also Dec. 14, Grand, Chorley.
SANTE, Radcliffe.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME, STALYBRIDGE.
WANTED, First-Class Twice Nightly Pantomimes.
JAMES FIONI, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Companies, with change of Bill preferred, Nov. 23, and on; Share or small Certainty. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum T., Stafford.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31. First-class Companies only need apply.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, Musical Comedies and High-class Variety Companies, Nov. 16, onward. Twice Nightly. Fullest particulars, MANAGING-DIRECTOR, Empire Hippo., Gainsborough.

WANTED, No. 1 Musical and Pantomimic Attractions, immediate and future dates. Now playing to crowded houses nightly King's Theatre, Kilmarnock, Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dec. 14, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 11, and 18.
Plays with Good Comedy preferred.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

CORN EXCHANGE THEATRE BANBURY.
WANTED, First-class Panto. or Musical Show, 3 nights, Dec. 26, 28, 29. Large stage. Full particulars to MANAGER, 24, Danson-street, Small Heath.

WANTED, First-class Fit-up and Combination Companies, Nov. 16, onwards. LEVY and CARDWELL, Pavilion, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester.

COMPANIES WANTED.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.

WANTED, Companies, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, March 1, 22, 29, April 26, onwards. Our Season's Booking, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," "Irene Wycherley," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Peter's Mother," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Jack Straw," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Cheat," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," Mr. Harry Nicholls, and Mr. G. Alexander's next St. James's T. production.
All coms., CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
GREENOCK,
MOTHERWELL,
COATBRIDGE,
AYR,
LEITH,
FALKIRK.
Managing-Director, R. C. BUCHANAN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for the following Dates:—
Nov. 9 (?), 30,
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 (New Year's week),
Jan. 4, 11, 25,
Feb. 1, 15.
Apply to R. C. BUCHANAN,
102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, three nights, Nov. 12, 13, 14; 26, 27, 28; Dec. 14 (3 or 6), Jan. 18 (?), 21 (?), and 25, Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on. W. E. PORTS.

ARCADE THEATRE, COWDENBEATH.
WANTED, First-class Company, Jan. 4, 5, 6.
W. E. PORTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
WANTED, First-class Touring Pantomimes Address, ROLLO BALMAIN.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
WANTED, Known, possibly Vac. for Big Attraction Nov. 30. Address, ROLLO BALMAIN.

WANTED, good Fit-up Companies, for P. Hall, Newbridge (twelve miles from Newport), Mondays, Tuesdays, also Fridays, Saturdays, commencing Nov. 16, 17, and 20, 21, on, with exceptions. Hall holds over 1,000. Address, LEWES, 13, N. Gladstone-street, Abertillery.

THEATRES WANTED.

WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION
WANTED, Jan. 11.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Dec. 7.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, 28.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 8.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres Dec. 21, 28.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb. 1, 8.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 26 (seven nights).
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21 (5 nights) or Dec. 26 (7 nights).
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, Feb. 1
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH," from the Haymarket and Apollo Theatres.
WANTED, Nov. 30 (to follow Hull), also Dec. 7, and First-class Town for Christmas. Address, C. H. BOWMAKER, O. H., Cheltenham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, weeks of Jan. 11 and 25.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, weeks of Nov. 23 and Dec. 28, for this Remarkable Success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 25, Feb., March 22, April 5, 12, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Grand Theatre, Lancaster.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, March 15, 22 (?), 29, April 12.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Nov. 9, Theatre Royal, Aston.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI and MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:
Feb. 22, April 19, May 3.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, good Theatre, for Dec. 26 (seven nights), only vacant date this year; also Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, and 15.
MAUD HILDYARD,
Theatre Royal, West Bromwich.

"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF." Any Manager desirous of making money, book "The White Chief."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, 28, 1908, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 8, 15, 22. Forty People on Stage. L. Carson in Cast. All coms., L. CARSON, Royalty, Barrow.

"CLAUDIAN."
WANTED, Feb. 8 and 15 (North), April 19, 1909. WILLIAM MACLAREN, New Gaiety Theatre, Ayr, N.B.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 21, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 23,
Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 14, Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

FRANK STANMORE'S CO. OF COMEDIANS,
in
the new Musical Absurdity in two Acts,
"THE GAY DECEIVERS."
"THE GAY DECEIVERS."
Act. I.—Col. Dewar's Gardens at Shepherd's Bush.
Act. II.—The Franco-British Exhibition.
The Funniest and Brightest Musical Show on Tour.
Breaking all records in every Town visited.
Catchy Songs, Clever Dances, Uproarious Comedy, and Pretty Girls.
Star Cast of London Artists.
Enormous success at Eastbourne, Aldershot, and Brighton.
WANTED, First-class Theatres only, Nov. 16 now settled at Opera House, Leicester.
Wanted, Nov. 30 (Midlands or South), also Dec. 26 (7 nights), and few odd Spring Dates.
STANMORE, 4, Duke-street, Adelphi, W.C.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S CO'S.
WANTED Wanted, Theatres,
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 1.
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, April 19, 26.
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING,"
Vacant Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 22.
"THE KISS OF JUDAS,"
Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED. Wanted, Dates,
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
This, Jarrow; next, Spennymoor.
Wanted, Nov. 23, Nov. 23 Nov. 23, Nov. 23.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8, March 1, 15.
Wire for Nov. 23. Wire for Nov. 23.
Re both Plays,
GEO. A. DE GRAY, Nov. 9, Grand T., Mansfield.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Nov. 16 and 30, Shakespearean and Classical Répertoire, also "The Three Musketeers," "It's Never Too Late to Mend," "Jeanie Deans," Mary Warner, "East Lynne," &c. Wanted, Nov. 16 and 30. Wire, Theatre Royal, Hull.

"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, Winter, Spring, and Autumn, 1909. Wire, F. MARTIN MORRIS, Tyne T., Newcastle. Letters to Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.

MR. E. H. KNIGHT'S No. 1 CO.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
The Beautiful, Spectacular Drama. An Established Success. Thanks to many Managers for Contracts. Booked at all the best theatres.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 15, 22, 29, April 12, and onwards, with exceptions.
E. H. KNIGHT, 7, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Aug. 2, First Vacant Date,
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Gorgeous Revival. Vacant Jan. 11.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
A play that draws.
Refer Hull, Eccles, Methil, Ayr, Bristol.
Vacant Nov. 23, Nov. 23, Nov. 23.
Vacant Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 1. Wire for Nov. 23. Wire for Nov. 23. "A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," Touring 1909. Wires, Stourbridge; letters, T. H., Maesteg.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15 and 22, Wales, for this great success.
DICKIE CLARE, T. R., Ilkeston.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
FRANK M. THORNE, Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK,"
By Rass Challis.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan., and on, everything carried, clear stage only required, special peal of bells. MAURICE, Elephant and Castle Theatre.

Mr. SAM DUCKWORTH'S CO.
"THE CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE."
WANTED, Theatres, this Powerful Attraction, Nov. 23, 23, Nov. 23, 23. Wire, SAM DUCKWORTH, Tonypandy; FRANK EDEN, Lyceum, Govan; next, Princess's, Glasgow.

CHARLES LINTONE and VICTOR HUNTER PANTOMIME, "ROBINSON CRUSOE."
Company of Forty; Eight Specialities.
WANTED, Feb. 8, 15, March 1 and 29. Write, VAUDEVILLE CLUB, Charing Cross-rd., London.

"THE PRODIGAL PARSON."
WANTED, Theatre, Nov. 16, 17, and 18, vacant through misunderstanding.
Mr. W. V. GARROD, Junction Theatre, Manchester.

WANTED, good Theatres, Nov. 9 (?) and 16, for "The Woman from Russia." Wire, HILL and AYRTON, Palace Theatre, Boston.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Dec. 21, Jan. 11, 18, 25.
Admitted to be one of the Biggest Money-makers Touring.
Miss ANNIE BELL as FLARE-FLARE.
Address, JAMES BELL,
T. R., Darlington.

CHARLES CONSTANT'S PANTOS.
"ALADDIN"
will be produced at Theatre Royal, Bolton, Boxing day, and run of four following weeks. Magnificent production. Will be produced by Victor Stevens, who will play Widow Twankey and be supported by a powerful and first-class Company. Full London Chorus. Speciality Turns, Troupe of Dancers. A Panto. suitable for the Best and Largest Theatres. Wanted, Big No. 1 Theatres, when a Big Show can take Big Money on its merits, Jan. 25 (to follow Bolton), and onwards.

"BLUEBEARD."
Not the Biggest, but the Brighest and Funniest on the Road. Will run up to Easter, and probably Whit Week. Wanted, First-class Theatres. Jan. 25, Feb. 22 (3 nights), March 22 (between London and Brighton preferred), April 5 (four first nights only), and after Easter. Re dates apply to CHARLES CONSTANT, Theatre Royal, Ryde, I.O.W.

"FLORODORA."
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Nov. 16, near Liverpool preferred.
Wire or write to CHARLES CONSTANT,
17, Burleigh-mansions, Charing Cross-road, W.C.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Nov. 16 and 30, also Seven or Thirteen Nights Dec. 26, for Repertory.
Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

"THE HEATHEN AND THE CHRISTIAN."
WANTED, April 5 and May 31. Only Vacant Dates until December, 1909.
FRANK ADAIR, Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
Present Bookings include:—
Star, Swansea; T. R., Bristol;
Alexandra, Birmingham; Alexandra, Sheffield;
Gaiety, Burnley; Metropole, Gateshead;
T. R., Seaham Harbour; Eden, Bishop Auckland;
Grand, Brighton; &c., &c., &c.
WANTED, Good Theatre, August Bank Holiday, 1909.
Wanted, Aug. 9, Sept. 27, Nov. 1, 8, 15. and on, with exceptions.
Miss HILDA BEVERLEY, Prince's Theatre, Accrington.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S TOURS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, refer re play and business to H. Robertson, Esq., of Jarrow.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Wanted, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Dec. 21.
For this great attraction; refer C. Poole, Esq., Gloucester, re play at his Theatres this week; new scenery, furniture, carpets, &c.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, Dec. 7, 21, 28, Jan. 18, 25, for this great success; racehorses toured, new scenery, &c.
Wire for all plays to
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Big Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 28, also Jan. 4, 11, and 18, for either play.
Coms., GEORGE KIRK, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Wilson Barrett and Hall Caine.
WANTED, Nov. 16 and 30, Xmas vacant.
Alfred B. Cross as Pete; Miss Watersford as Kate.
Nov. 9, Theatre Royal, Colne.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
WANTED, Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 1.
T. R., Coatbridge; next, P. O. W., Salford.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Christmas, Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, 15, May 17, 24, onwards, for the above attraction. Address,
ARMADALE and WARREN, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
Played by a Cast that spells Success.
Mr. John B. Shinton, Mr. Fred Lloyd,
Mr. Evan Roland, Mr. Todd Squires,
Mr. Fred Dalby, Mr. Edgar P. Melrose,
Miss Ada M. Ryder, Miss Sybil Haughton,
Miss Mary Dalby, Miss Freda Frederick, and Miss Gwynne Warren.
WANTED, Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 1, Easter.
FRED BULMER, Opera House, Perth.

MESSRS. KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON'S CO., "THE POWER OF THE KING."
The brilliantly successful Romantic Military Play. Playing to packed houses nightly, and acknowledged the finest production touring.
WANTED, Theatres, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Spring 1909 fully booked till Whit. Wire for Nov. 30.
TRAVIS GREEN, this, Crown, Eccles; next, Metropole, Manchester.

"WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 1, 22; "The King and Unknown Woman," new production, Jan. 18, 25, and Feb. 1.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON,
Colosseum Theatre, Oldham.

WANTED, the weeks of Nov. 16 and 30, for Sutton Vane's successful Sporting, Musical, and Domestic Drama, "A Wife's Triumph," now in fourth year of Tour. Bill can be changed during the week if desired.
Wire for Nov. 16, E. R. ABBOTT, to-day, T. R., Chesterfield; next, O. H., Kidderminster.

S. RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTION.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World" Co., Dec. 7 (between Newcastle and Elephant and Castle Theatre, London), Xmas, New Year, Jan. 4, onward. "How Women Ruin Men," Production Nov. 9, 1908. Victoria, Broughton. Xmas, Jan. 4, onward. Complete Productions, good Casts.
G. M. COPPING, Victoria, Broughton.

"MAN TO MAN."
1909 Tour under Personal Direction of Edward Lloyd and Clifford Bown.
WANTED, March 22, April 26, May 3.
EDWARD LLOYD,
Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. FRANK BATEMAN AND GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Feb. 1, Aug. 9 (?), 23, 30, Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Theatres, for "WAS SHE TO BLAME,"
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. Grand Production at the Junction, Manchester, Easter; no vacant dates until 1910. Apply, KIMBERLEY, GREEN, and HINTON, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

ERNEST R. ABBOTT'S "SAPHO" COMPANY.
WANTED, weeks of Nov. 16 and 30, for this certain draw; reserved for Mr. Abbott by some forty Managers. No greater success travelling than this popular and artistic version of "Sapho."
Wire for Nov. 16, ABBOTT, to-day, T. R., Chesterfield; next week, O. H., Kidderminster.

WANTED, Nov. 23, only vacant date till Spring,
JUNIUS BOOTH AND HIS COMPANY
In "MONTE CRISTO."
Wire, Nov. 9, Ashton-under-Lyne;
Next, Stourbridge.

WANTED, for Cullen and Carthy's Grand Moneymaking Production,
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
Feb. 22, '09.
Acknowledged to be one of the Funniest and most Attractive Pantomimes Travelling.
The following are among the Cast:—
Bessie Cohen (Principal Boy), Ruby Roya (P.G.), Arthur Stratton, Tom Drew, Les Belles Americaines, Cullen, Carthy, and Cluley, and a Company of close on Fifty Performers.
This date is already booked near Leeds, but to oblige a well-known Manager we will treat with First-class Theatres or Hippodromes.
Coms., J. CULLEN, Hippo., Leeds.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c. The Directors of the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, have re-engaged them for seventeen weeks next summer. Their returns showed another 40 per cent. advance over their previous season, which was 50 per cent. over any preceding year.
Only Vacancies Next Summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onward.
Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON,
13, Alexandra-gardens, Folkestone.

WANTED, First-class Theatres, for the Greatest Vaudeville Co. Travelling, including Miss Ella's Lion Show, Group of New Imported Forest Bred Lions, Greatest Draw Ever Seen. Also Blanche and Diacoff, in their Great Cycle Whizz. Dates required, Dec. 7, between Lowestoft and Birmingham, also Dec. 28. Communications, TOM DIACOFF, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract, Yorks.

LAMBERT AND GLOVER'S STAR VARIETY AND PICTURE CO.
WANTED, good Theatres or Halls, Share or Certainty, Nov. 30 Dec. 14, Wales; also Dec. 28, Jan. 4, North or Midlands.
Address, Empire, Islington.

THEATRES WANTED.

MURRAY KING AND CLARK'S CO.
of
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
"TODDLES."
By arrangement with Charles Frohman, will Tour at Christmas.
Murray King will Play Toddles.
Murray King will Play Toddles.
WANTED, Good Theatre, for Christmas.
Wanted, Good Theatre, for Christmas.
Also Spring Dates.
Wire or write,
Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANIES.
"£1,000 REWARD."
Jan. 11, Jan. 18.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts,
By Walter Howe.
To be produced Jan., 1909.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 22, March 1, 8, 29, April 26, May 3, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.
Nov. 9, Avenue Theatre, Kettering.

"THE 10,30 DOWN EXPRESS."
WANTED, Monday next, through transfer, London or South, Jan. 4, Midlands.
HORACE STANLEY,
Theatre Royal, Worthing.

WANTED, for Mark Blow's latest Success, "At Roaring Camp,"
Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.
MARK BLOW, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

WANTED, "Under Two Flags," Xmas, Jan. 25, Feb. 15, 22, March 1, 8, 22, 29.
MARK BLOW, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

WANTED, "At Cripple Creek," Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 8, 22, March 22.
MARK BLOW, Gaiety Theatre, Hastings.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, good Theatres, Dec. 7, 14, and 21, for this great success.
HENRY L. OSMOND, Theatre Royal, Croydon.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for a grand Spectacular Equestrian Drama,
"MAZEPPA, AND THE WILD HORSE OF TARTARY,"
Written up to date, retaining all the effects of that never-known-to-fail Production; everything new, Scenery, Costumes, &c., A1,
and the highly-trained beautiful white horse, Countess,
Bred and Trained by Lord George Sanger.
This magnificent animal stands alone for beauty and high training, with other effective introductions in the shape of wild horned cattle, and the concluding Scene,
Mazeppa's Great Fight on Horseback,
beating down all opposition. Has never been seen on any stage; the horse sinks beneath his late victim, and the wild horse of Tartary, that has been the implement of torture, becomes in the closing scene the messenger of Vengance, with a good night and everybody pleased.

Miss London, the Canadian Actress, being the only person engaged up to the present time, Wanted, for the great Production, Mazeppa, a Tyrant Father, must be a bold speaker, a doting Dribbler; Khan of Tartary, a conspiring Villain and a sound Actor, with good voice and above the average height of man; and a few other useful people.
Wanted, for the same Production, a Young Lady, of good appearance and experience; also a young man Comedian, that can shuffle off the Sailor's Hornpipe.
Address,
LORD GEORGE SANGER,
Park Farm, East Finchley, London, N.
N.B.—Three days' silence please accept as a polite negative.

WANTED, Artists, Edmund Tearle's Company. Important Vacancies in December. All particulars with terms, Theatre Royal, Hull.

WANTED, Entire Company for "The Cingalee" (except Cham and Lady Pat); commence Xmas; rehearse Dec. 7. Those who have made successes in it preferred. Another Company starts Easter. Address, JACK CRICHTON, Crystal Palace Theatre, London, S.E.

WANTED, Lady to play Title-rôle, Musical Comedy, also Soubrette, and good Comedian. Send full particulars, MANAGER, 101, Shepherd's Bush-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, really First-class Star Heavy Lady; must dress exceptionally well. Full particulars, photo imperative, MONTAGUE BEAUDYN, T. R., Glossop.

WANTED, Smart Soprano, to take Leading Part in New Production. Apply, JOSEPH CARTER, 40, Fitzwilliam-road, Clapham Old Town, S.W.

WANTED, Trial Performance, Liverpool, 13th, Strong Emotional Actress, young, dress well. Height, experience, photo., terms, YOLANDE, 69, Orford-avenue, Warrington.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Good Character Actor, for Lawyer and Stage-Management, rehearse, and open immediately. Address, with full particulars, refs., &c.,
JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

"WHEN LONDON SLEEPS." No. 1 CO.
WANTED, First-class Heavy Gentleman, for Capt. Rodney Haynes, to rehearse New Cross Nov. 19, three weeks special. Full particulars, age, height, and actual lowest terms, LESTER COLLINGWOOD, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, good smart Heavy Man, Juvenile (small part); must look young; rehearse immediately.
Wire, SAM DUCKWORTH,
Theatre Royal, Tonypandy.

"CLAUDIAN" Co.
WANTED, tall, experienced Declamatory Actor, also good Responsible Gent.; long tour. Lowest terms, latest refs., recent photos., age, height, &c., WILLIAM MACLAREN, Gaiety T., Ayr.

R. A. ROBERTS'S COMPANY.
"STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER."
WANTED, Sound, Romantic Leading Man, young and tall, rehearse South Shields Nov. 17. CHARLES BOULT, Theatre Royal, Seaham Harbour.

WANTED, immediately, for a Sketch, a Young Man, for Military Character; Salary £2 a week. Reply, E. F., 24, Brunswick-square, W.C.

WANTED, Baritones and Tenors; must be young, willing do trial show Wednesday; nominal expenses; bring song, Bedford Head, Maiden-lane, to-day, Saturday, 1.30. Rehearse immediately. Apply, ALEC S. CLUNES.

WANTED, Baritone, Baritone-Comedian, and Contralto for Long Tour; young and of smart appearance. State height. Box 5,105, "The Era."

WANTED, at Once, Young Smart, Powerful Baritone; wear military uniform to advantage. F. MAJOR, Vaudeville Club W.C.

WANTED, Smart Young Girls, good Dancers, and able to Sing, for London and Continent. Apply daily, 2 till 4, Madame PHASEY, Hotel Provence, Leicester-square, W.C.

WANTED, Dancers, Male and Female, Eccentric and Acrobatic, for Long Tour. State salary and experience. Apply at once, Box 5,104, "The Era."

WANTED, smart, pretty Acrobatic or Buck Dancers; good voices; dress well off, for R. Bainbridge's New Productions. Apply, White Swan Hotel, Great Swan-alley, Coleman-street, or Moorgate-street, City, 4 till 7.

WANTED, at once, First-class All-round Dancers. SYDNEY T. RUSSELL, 4, Arthur-st., New Oxford-st., London, W.C.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Smart All-round Dancers. Rehearse next week, open Nov. 30. Call, practice dress, S., 116, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Amusing Readers, about 2 hours, Sunday evenings. Appointment, or full particulars, terms, &c., to SECRETARY, R. M. and D. S., c/o Ruskin Hotel, Manor Park, Essex.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL CLUB,
FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, Ladies only, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Dora Blanche, Child's part in Drama, to look 11 or 12 years old; boy preferred. Address, 30, Woodland-road, Upper Norwood, S.E.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, CORLISS CLAFLIN.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

WANTED, Comedians for Baron, Page, Abanazar, Vizier, and Emperor, also Trio or Quartette of Acrobats for Demon Scene; Chorus Ladies. Age, height, references, lowest terms, ladies' photos., E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford. Raynor Brothers write.

WANTED, for Louis Elgar's "Jack and the Beanstalk" Fit-up Tour, Principal Boy and Girl, Second Boy. Send lowest fit-up terms, photos., &c., East Theatre, Oxford.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for Pantomime,
Artists, to take part of
Wishy Washy,
Abanazar,
and others.
Apply,
MANAGER, Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Fifty Chorus Girls,
Fifty Chorus Girls,
Fifty Chorus Girls,
F. Haddon's Pantos.,
commencing Dec. 14.
Apply,
WILLIE EDELSTEN, 209, Brixton-road, S.W.

WANTED, Fifty tall, handsome Chorus Ladies, who can Sing. Rehearse for Pantomime; near Manchester. Photo and lowest terms, GUSTAVE, Worple Hall, Wimbledon.

WANTED, Principal Solo Dancer, for Pantomime.
Terms and references to
JAMES KIDDIE,
Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, for Pantomime, good Male Quartette.
Lowest terms and references.
J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

WANTED, Lady, two Gent. Amateurs, Panto. Co., Annual; also Gent. to learn Business-Management. Address, TERRISS, Public Hall, Winslow, Bucks.

WANTED, Artists Engaged for JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES,
"ALADDIN,"
"CINDERELLA,"
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
to send present address, so that Parts may be forwarded.
Address,
Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Crissie Cross, smart Singer and Dandy Dancer, at Liberty for Panto., Principal or Second Girl. Address, c/o 7, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Edna Cragge, an Ideal Principal Boy. An Artist and a Vocalist. Last year, "Robin Hood," Carlton T., Birmingham. 1a, Arlisford-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Louie Hurman, at Liberty for Panto., Principal Boy, last year Alex., Sheffield. Perm., 7, Canonbury-av., London, N.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Du Cane (Cissie and Bobs), High-grade Vocalists and Dancers, vacant for Panto., Second Boy and Girl. This week, Empire, Shoreditch.
21, Balmuir-gardens, Putney.

WANTED, Known, the Popular Sisters Terry, at Liberty for Panto., Second Boy and Girl. To-night, Queen's, Castleford; Nov. 9, 2, Baltic street, Dundee.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Silcott at Liberty Pantomime; three years with Fred Little, Abdallah, Ganem, Morgiana. 66, Lilford-road, Camberwell.

WANTED, Known, Will Owen, the Favourite Dame Comedian and Comedy Dutch Vocalist. Vacant Panto., Dame, also Nov. 30. Hit of the Bill, this week, Palace, New Brighton; next week, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

WANTED, Known, Percy Curry, Liberty Panto., any Principal Part.
Address, Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, Panto., by Sam Leo, Cat, Dog, any animal, Knockabout Part or Leaps, Traps, &c. Per. address, 5, Ely-terrace, Mile End-road, E.

WANTED, Known, Harold H. Hastings, Vocal Comedian, at Liberty for Panto., Baron, Emperor, &c. Address, TOM HAY and Co., Gloucester.

WANTED, Known, Charles Kay, the Topical Talker (Stoll-Payne-Gibbons Halls), free for Panto (6ft. 3in.), Emperor, Baron, Original Songs, Sure Success. Applications, C/o BROOKS'S Agency, 36, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

WANTED, Known, Jack Heath, Eccentric Comedian, Liberty for Panto., Damé or Comedian. This, Alex. T., Pontefract; next, City Var., Leeds.

WANTED, by Syd H. Morton, to Produce and Play. Sole Producer, Grand, Islington, 1905-6, 1906-7; Devonport, 1907-8. 128, Western-road, Brighton

WANTED, Known, Jack Foley, at Liberty for Panto., Dame.
Perm., 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Maxford and O'Neill.
First-class Theatre only.
Nov. 9, Hippodrome, Paisley.

WANTED, Known, Kloof and Ramsay, Vacant Panto. (misunderstanding), play Boy, Girl, Fairy Queen, and Comedy Parts, with Starring Speciality. Nov. 9, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, Known, Nash and Noel, the Comedians, are Free for Panto. This, Palace, Carlisle; next, Palace, Darlington.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Denby and Dent, Comedy Parts, thoroughly experienced.
Address, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Singing Part in Panto., in or near London, powerful Baritone voice.
E. FIELDING, 104, Kew-road, Richmond, Surrey.

WANTED, Known, The Alexander Troupe (seven) of Juvenile Pedestal Clog Dancers, the only Act of its kind. A guaranteed success. Photos. 26, Great Southsea-street, Portsmouth.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery. First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective, Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, or Stock, good effective work guaranteed. Price all right, cheap; staff of Artists for retouching or new work, quick, reliable. Particulars, J. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery of every description; high-class work.
H. MASTERMAN, West Riding Studio, Castleford.

WANTED, Known, if you want any First-class and Artistic Scenery made or painted, I am the man. Scenery Stored, 2s. 6d. per load per week; large quantity of Secondhand Scenery for Sale. Set of Tubular Bells, 50s.
CHARLES SHARP, 272, St. James'-road, Old Kent-road. Tel. 497 Hop.

WANTED, Known, First-class Quick Scenic Artist (as per highest references) offers services for £2 per week. Open immediately. Box 5,113, "The Era."

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract; Town or Provinces. Address, 26, Elgin-terrace, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Known, New Year's Contracts, kindly address all communications to
CHARLES G. COOKE, Royal Princess's T., Glasgow.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, commence immediately, thoroughly competent, reliable, and steady man, for Engagement in Office, Management and Secretaryship of Theatrical Touring Companies; permanency. Applicants must have good knowledge of Theatrical business and understand Book-keeping, Shorthand, and Typewriting. References required from last two employers. Full particulars, photo., terms, age, height. HENRY CHATTELL, Theatrical Stores, Dartford.

WANTED, Known, Young Gentleman, with £200 to £300 to invest; good opportunity of learning Music Hall Management. Capital returned as salary. Negotiations through old-established firm of solicitors.
Box 5,128, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Mechanical Electrician, used all kinds installations, can work at bench, make or repair mechanical models, transform 1d. for ½d. slots. State wages, experience. Inexperienced save stamps and time. Box 5,106, "The Era."

Again, to whom it may Concern.
WANTED, Known, W. C. Burns, General-Manager and Cicerone, the Orient Life Motion Picture Company, Cooke's Circus, Edinburgh, thanks the twenty-five Extra Turns who appeared at his Benefit, on Friday, Oct. 30; also tenders sincerest thanks to Mr. and Mrs. John Henry Cooke and Family, for very superb floral tribute and valuable other present, presented amidst voluminous applause by Mr. J. H. Cooke on the stage; also other friends, for other floral tributes. Please Note.—Prices trebled on the above occasion; hundreds waiting for admission at 5.30. Programme 7.30 to 11.40, without a break (including Pictures, thirty-five items). The huge building packed with a delighted crowd, who greeted Mr. Burns in his own turn with thunders of applause, lasting several seconds. All the above shows the appreciation and respect—please observe, respect—of his endeavours to cater satisfactorily for all classes during the thirty-one weeks (just closed, Oct. 31), and up against the Exhibition for six months. Many thanks for offer of my numerous friends to put me up for Lord Provost, but no time, as my business precludes the possibility of acceptance of same. Engaged (second season) as Manager for John Henry Cooke, Esq., during his Equestrian Season, commencing Saturday, Nov. 21. My second Marathon Race (seven miles), Dalkeith to the Circus, another unqualified success, supported thoroughly by the police, on Saturday, Oct. 17. I am the first and only manager who ever thought of such an event. An opportunity occurs for several would-be proprietors to learn their business, at terms to be agreed upon.

WANTED, Known, Harry Pease, Acting and General Manager, Theatre and Music Hall, open for immediate Engagement. 25A, Queen-st., Wolverhampton.

WANTED, by one of the Smartest and Cleverest Music Hall Stage-Managers in the Provinces, Engagement. Excellent references. Who is wanting him? For all particulars, apply, Box 5,110, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, smart Stage-Manager, at Liberty; used to Lightning Programme, twice nightly. Address, MANAGER, 45, New York-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Management of Theatre or Variety House, by Advertiser, well known; long experience. Address first instance, Z., 62, Catherine-street, Doncaster.

WANTED, by Advance Agent or Manager, a Shop, for India and East; good Shows only; 30 years' experience here; cheap. Address, BABINGTON and Co., Post-master, Bombay.

WANTED, Known, Fred Lewis, Circus and Dramatic Agent, America, Great Britain, and Ireland, seeks Winter Engagement. C/o Andexser, 39, Earl-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Engagement, as Clerk, Cashier, or place as Secretary or Assistant, age 22; experienced, excellent references. Write H. F., 60 Plains of Waterloo, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Master Carpenter, Bench Hand, age 36, height 5ft. 6in.; 16 years' practical experience. Good offers. WOOD, wire 10, Coventry-place, Leeds.

WANTED, Re-engagement, as Carpenter; good tools; can touch up; Resident or Tour. Best of references; abstainer. HARRIS, 31, Hornsey-rise.

WANTED, Situation, as Stage-Carpenter; own tools; Resident or Tour; 20 years' experience; good references. W. COOKE, Bristol-street, Malmesbury.

WANTED, Known, Young Man who can Draw and Paint and do Carpentering, also good Voice, desires work. C. T. F., 53, Redcliffe-rd., S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Assistant, Dresser, or Baggage, by Smart Amateur Scotch Comedian; abstainer; 7 years' personal references; take small part; 5ft. 10½in. Terms moderate. Box 5,123, "The Era."

WANTED, by a Youth, 20, Shop as Assistant; good refs.
WILL RAVENS, 113, Burlington-street, Ashton.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, the following First-class Musicians: Leader (Solo Violin and Conductor), Pianist, 'Cellist and Bass, for Booth Line, Dec. 23; permanency to suitable Musicians; Flute, Clarionet, 2 Cornets, and Trombone, for White Star Line Mediterranean Cruise, Jan. to April; Répétiteur and 'Cellist, for Mauretania, Jan. to April; Leader (Solo Violin), Répétiteur, Pianist, 'Cellist, and Contrabassist, for Cunard Line, Jan., 1909. Audition necessary in London or Liverpool before engagement. Applicants state age and give two references as to character and ability, to
CHAS. WM. BLACK,
14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Musical-Director, Violinist, for Blackpool; open Nov. 9 or 16. Apply, GENERAL SECRETARY, Amalgamated Musicians' Union, through Branch Secretary.

WANTED, First-class Musical Conductor, for Pantomime. References and full particulars,
CHAS. ELDERTON,
Theatre Royal, Hebburn-on-Tyne.

WANTED, First-class Violin-Conductor, for Twice-Nightly Variety House; good reader; extensive répertoire. Box 5,101, "The Era."

WANTED, to open Nov. 16, good Variety Leader. Terms, age, and references to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Grand Theatre, Hanley, Staffs.

MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.
WANTED, Leader, for Palace, Southampton; must be thoroughly competent in Variety. Wire, stating lowest terms and last engagement (or apply personally) to C. HAMLIN, Foresters', Cambridge-road, London, E.

WANTED, Good Leader, also First Violin, to open the 16th; must be thoroughly experienced, permanent if suitable. References, age, and terms, to GEO. CLOUGH, Conductor, Hippodrome, Coventry.

WANTED, Young Lady Violinist, also Young Gentleman, Cornet Player, to Tour with Musical Act. State age, height, salary, and photo. DIRECTOR, Tivoli, Pentre.

WANTED, Lady Violinist, to sit next Leader; must be good, and reside near Salisbury. CONDUCTRESS, Winshill, Howard-road, Newbury.

WANTED, two First Violinists, for Army Staff Band, London, double-handed men preferred, good band pay, &c., every facility for advancement; men for re-engagement entertained.
Apply, ALFRED HAYS, 26, Old Bond-st., London, W.

WANTED, Good First Violin, to open Monday next, used to opera work, standard overture, &c. Wire, CONDUCTOR, Lyceum, Newport, Mon.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL CIRCUS, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, to complete Orchestra, good Solo Cornet and Viola, terms must be stated, and two written references (copies only) enclosed. No stamped envelopes, please. Opening date Nov. 21.
Apply to H. WAMBA, Conductor,
Leeside, Viewforth-square, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, to open Monday, Nov. 16. Apply, terms and references, to J. W. GLEGHORN, Musical-Director, Hippo., Devonport.

WIMBLEDON BOROUGH BAND.
WANTED, at once, Solo Cornet, Solo Clarionet, Bombardon, Pitching, Shares; good prospects. BANDMASTER, 25, Effra-road, Wimbledon.

PALACE, DUNDEE.
WANTED, Cornet Player, accustomed Varieties. State salary to MUSICAL-DIRECTOR.

WANTED, Clarionet Players, between the ages of 18 and 25, a good opportunity for a smart young player to enlist in a first-class line regimental band; Pianist also wanted, same age.
Apply, B. Y.,
Care of Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly Circus, London.

THE ROYAL ITALIAN CIRCUS.
WANTED, good Orchestral Clarionet; sober and reliable; open Nov. 16. Permanent shop for good man. R. NIBLETT, Mus.-Dir., Baths Hall, Bradford.

WANTED, for P. Staff, Worcester Regiment, reliable Solo Clarionet Player. Testimonials to J. KNIGHT, Bandmaster, Worcester Regiment, Norton Barracks, Worcester.

WANTED, French Horn, as Principal, for good Regimental Band,
String and Military.
Also Required, good Principal String Bass; must enlist.
Apply letter,
BASSCORNE, 12, Barrack-street, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Good Oboe Player.
WILL SMITHSON,
Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, Good 'Cello, to open Nov. 16; permanency. State age, terms, and refs., to C. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

WANTED, good Viola Player, permanency. Apply, with age, terms, and references, to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre Royal, Hanley, Staffs.

THE JOSEPH POOLE'S MYRIORAMAS.
WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, and Trombone; must wear evening dress and assist with fittings. J. W. POOLE, Assembly Rooms, Bognor.

WANTED, for the New Palace Hippodrome, Oldham, good Flute, 'Cello, and Viola Players, to commence Monday, Nov. 9. References, J. SOUTHWORTH, 30, Hyde-road, Gorton, Manchester.

WANTED, Worthing Town Band, Double Drummers. Others please write. Terms, shares. Permanency to suitable men. Silence polite negative. WRIGHT, 4, Liverpool-terrace.

WANTED, a good Double Drummer, for Grand Theatre, Stockton-on-Tees, to commence Nov. 16. A.M.U.

WANTED, for Police
full Military Band.
Big Drummer, French Horn, and String Bass, 5ft. 9½in., not over 28 years.
Address,
Box 5,077, "The Era."

WANTED, Musician Attendants (Solo Flute and Piccolo and Euphonium), Single, aged 25 to 35 years; salary £29 a year for first six months, then, if satisfactory, rising to £31 a year, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; after twelve months' service (from date of confirmation) the wages rise by £1 a year to £40 a year. Band money amounts to about £3 10s. per annum. Weekly leave one whole day and one half-day per week; annual leave for first fifteen months from date of entering service six days; the following twelve months 12 days; each successive twelve months fourteen days. Forms of application can be obtained from the MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, Colney Hatch Asylum, New Southgate, N.

WANTED, Lady Instrumentalists, Violin, Flute, and Cornet, used to Choirs, also Gentleman Pianist, able to sing Baritone song; can join at once. Lowest terms, age, and references to HARRY STEWART, Town Hall, Wellington, Salop.

WANTED, Complete Boys' Military Band, immediately. Apply, JOSEPH CARTER, 40, Fitzwilliam-road, Clapham Old Town, London, S.W.

WANTED Musicians to keep away from Munich, owing to dispute there.—A. SEITZ, Secretary International Confederation of Musicians, J. B. WILLIAMS, General Secretary Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), large and valuable library. Pantomimes, Dramas, &c., composed and arranged. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, Composer-Conductor Offers week's salary to anyone fixing him for Xmas; excellent refs. Address, M. C. C., 11 Goldhawk-road, W.

WANTED, Known, Disengaged for First-class Variety Hall or good Theatre, Panto., &c., London or Provinces, Henry J. Sprake, jun., Musical-Director, three seasons North Tower Gardens Crystal Palace, London; Palace and Winter Gardens, Southport; Palace of Varieties, Tynemouth. Just terminated successful season Worthing; extensive Library. Address, Care of "The Era."

WANTED, by thoroughly experienced Military Bandmaster, position with Volunteers or other Band, Solo Cornettist, &c. ALBERT STRINGER, 55, Belvedere-road, Lambeth, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or Conductor or Solo Violin, through termination of season. LEADER, Victoria Pavilion, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, Known, Misses Clarice and Bessie Earle, Violin and Double Bass. Present address, 13, Marine-parade, Clacton-on-Sea. Open to offers.

WANTED, by Violinist, experienced Theatre business; steady; can open at once. VIOLINIST, 9, Springfield-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, by brilliant Violin Soloist, experienced Ensemble Player, Engagement, Conductor for Hotels, Cafés. LEADER BLUE HUNGARIANS, Grand Central Hotel, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, Violinist, good all-round, very steady, London or S.E. Suburbs preferred. VIOLIN, 259, Holmesdale-road, South Norwood.

WANTED, Engagement, or Deputising, by experienced Violinist; thoroughly reliable; abstainer. HUGH SANGSTER, 6, Sprowston-road, Forest Gate.

WANTED, Orchestral Engagement, by Cornet or Second Violin; reliable. £6 bonus offered; permanency. HAYS, 10, Stamford-buildings, South Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement, reliable, experienced Cornet or Violin, doubled if required; excellent references. THOS. BURROWS, 74, Winchelsea-road, Tottenham, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Bassoonist, any business, just finished season at Lofthouse. ALEX. BERTRAM, Alma, St. Leonards-avenue, Hove.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass; thoroughly experienced, any Business. Best references. W. E. SMITH, 27, Charles Holden-street, Bolton.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Basso; thoroughly reliable; can open at once, any Business; would Tour. Good references. FARQUHAR, Hippo., Kirkcaldy, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contra Bass, experienced in all branches, Conductors wanting a reliable man address Box 5,107, "The Era." References.

WANTED, to commence at once, as Bassoon, any business, good refs.; steady and reliable. W. WEBBER, 3, Sundridge-terrace, South Ealing, W.

WANTED, by First-class Trombone, combine Euphonium, Engagement, experienced; good refs. At Lib. Nov. 23. GEORGE GRUBER, 45, Wynyard-road, Hillsborough, Sheffield.

WANTED, Situation, by good Trombone; experienced in Theatre or Variety business; good references. J. L., 54, Mall-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Trombone, good soloist; any business; can commence at once. Address, TROMBONE, 83, Kingsland-road, London, N.E.

WANTED, by good Trombone, Engagement, any business; thoroughly reliable.
W. J. SLAUGHTER, 159, Queen's-rd., Peckham, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by a thoroughly experienced Second French Horn; steady, reliable; highest references; permanent or Pantomime Season. ROBERTS, Watercroft, Almondbury, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo 'Cellist; experienced in all branches; can combine piano; references. Full particulars, Box 5,119, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced 'Cello; can open at once; any business.
'CELLO, 194, Cornwall-road, Notting Hill.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ethel Litolff, 'Cellist, and Miss Jennie Murdoch, Violinist, Disengaged Nov. 14. King's Hall, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex.

WANTED, Engagement, as Harpist or Double Bass, or would join Violinist; steady and reliable; any business. J. STEWART, 2, Howden-terrace, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Flute and Piccolo, Disengaged, any Business; would deputise; experienced; steady, reliable; good refs. ROMERIL, 28, Argyle-road, West Ealing, W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo, experienced all Lines, steady and reliable; good refs. FLAUTIST, 15, Treherne-road, Brixton, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly reliable Flute and Piccolo; good references. FLAUTIST, c/o Mrs. Howard, 32, Upper Tulse-hill, London, S.W.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, competent of any business; reliable; excellent refs. THOMAS HURN, 9, Upper Aberdyberthi-street, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, Constance Upstone, A.T.C.L., Solo Pianist, Soprano Vocalist, good Accompanist, First-class sight reader, Liberty Dec. 5. 11, Willoughby-park, Tottenham.

WANTED, Known, Pianist, Violinist, Composer of well-known Songs (Lady), desires Engagement, or would sing own songs; Patriotic, &c.; splendid new King Edward song. Address, Box 5,120, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist, good Accompanist and Sight Reader, or Ladies' Orchestra; well recommended. M. SCULLEY, 84, Holland Park-avenue.

WANTED, Known, Pianist, Orchestral, Concerts, &c.; combine G Trombone or Euphonium; at Liberty. H. B., 17, Schubert-street, Seaforth, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums, own Timps, Glock, E Flat Tubular Bells, combined Viola. NEVILL, 163, St. Leonard's-road, Windsor.

WANTED, by Drums and Tyms., Engagement, any Business; experienced all Lines; excellent references. CALVERT, 42, Alfred-street, Bury.

WANTED, Permanency, by Tympanist and Double Drummer, own Tymps., Drums, Glockenspeil, &c.; eight years' reference. TYMPANIST, 77, St. Michael's-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Algernon Clarke's Orchestras and Ladies' Bands, Exhibitions, Concerts, Dinners, Dances. Uniforms and Music for Sale or Hire. 28, Lonsdale-road, Barnes. Telephone 109 Putney.

WANTED, Known, Ladies' String Quartette, Brilliant Soloists, 4 months Franco-British, one well-known Singer, one Comedienne, Ladies' and Gentlemen's Orchestra, all Venetian Costumes. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

WANTED, Known, High-class Ladies' Quartette or Trio, all Soloists, Vocalist, open for re-engagement, Hotel, Café, &c.; extensive répertoire. Box 5,111, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Pier Managers, &c., requiring First-class Orchestra, Season 1909 (Royalty Orchestra), Open for Engagement. Particulars from CONDUCTOR, 25, Osbourne-street, Blackpool. Only First-class Engagements Entertained.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL CIRCUS
AND HIPPODROME,
EDINBURGH.

WANTED, big Drawing and Sensational Numbers, Troupe Acrobats, Animal Acts, &c., to open Saturday night, Nov. 21, 1908, and on.
Apply, with full particulars, terms, and lithos., T. W. COOKE, Representative.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Connor's Circus.
Connor's Circus.
Wanted, for the Winter Season,
Equestrians in all Lines,
also good Tumbling Clowns.
Apply,
FRED J. CONNOR,
Vaudeville Club, Charing Cross-road, London.

WANTED, a good Top-mounter, to join well-known Troupe; must do forwards and backs; weight 7st. to 8st. G. A., 3, Rushcroft-house, Rushcroft-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Known,
that the
ROYAL OHMYS,
Favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark,
ROYAL OHMYS,
Favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark,
ROYAL OHMYS,
have made the Greatest
Success, Success, Success
ever known at the
Grand Circus (Bech Olsen), Gothenburg, Sweden.
After first show the Director offered
Re-engagement for another month.
THE ROYAL OHMYS
will arrive in England Nov. 16, and
open direct at
Gilbert's Grand Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth,
for finish of the season.
This is the Second Engagement in twelve months at Gilbert's Hippodrome, Yarmouth.
Note.
THE ROYAL OHMYS
wish to thank Director Bech Olsen for the beautiful Gold and Diamond Medals he presented to them after their six months' engagement; also for contract for eight months next season.
THE ROYAL OHMYS
will be at Liberty Christmas with Six Good Acts. For particulars and list of acts, address,
THE ROYAL OHMYS,
Grand Circus, Gothenburg, Sweden.

WANTED, Known, Col. Foster's Splendid Troupe of Performing Lions, four in number, are at Liberty for the Forthcoming Winter Season, Nov. 23, onwards;
suitable for Carnivals, World's Fairs, Halls, Circuses, or any Amusement Organisation whatever.
For terms, apply to SIR EDWARD HANNEFORD, 27, Third-av., Consbrook-av., Strandstown, Belfast.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, the late Buffalo Bill's Rough Rider, who presents his thoroughbred Mare in her Novelty Act, Racing Tricks. Apply, Maerdy, Glam., South Wales.

WANTED, Nov. 9, on, The Flying Orenjus's, Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts, in their Phenomenal Flying Act. The Only One of its Kind. 24, Foxley-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, Goliath, the Human Enigma, in his Original Herculean Exhibition. Vac. Dec., Panto., on. Coms., 41, Brunswick street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Nov. 16, and on, by Chas. Selbin, Expert Juggler, Plate Spinner, and Balance Master. Wire or write, this, G.P.O., Milford Haven; next, G.P.O., Carmarthen.

WANTED, by Miss Ada Webb's Water Wonders, the most scientific Aquatic display in the world. Terms and vacancies, ADA WEBB, Empire, Greenock.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, these Concerts ceased Oct. 31, 1908. Artists please note, and cancel dates
WM. BIGGAM, Sec., 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. MASCARD, Manager.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S VAUDEVILLE COS.
WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Comedy Acts, Nov. 23, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield, comfortable Engagement, six performances, sure money, all must be new to mentioned town. Artists having written before, please write again, and in all cases state this week's, next week's, and permanent address. THE DAYTON FAMILY, Empire, Burnley. Monday next, Albert Theatre, Brighouse; Monday, Nov. 16, Palace, Blackpool. Wanted, a good Comedy Act, Double Turn, Patter Comedians, Dancers, Boxers, &c., for Brighouse, Monday next. Wire or write, and state whether quite new for mentioned town. Silence a polite negative pro tem. Impossible to answer all.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Christmas, onwards, Variety Artists,
Novelties, Specialities, &c., &c.
Nothing too Big.
Lowest terms, lithos., &c., &c., to
Mr. THOS. F. O'BRIEN,
Manager, Palace Theatre, Cork.

The Tree from which the Branches sprang.
WANTED, Star Variety Artists,
Big Specialities, Novelties,
immediate and future dates.
Full list of Bookings, Lowest Terms,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9261.

WANTED, Monday, Nov. 16 and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

KING'S, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Big Star Attractions. Nothing too Big.

WANTED, Variety Artists, for weeks April 12, May 17 and 24.
FRED MCCREA, Gloucester.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, to commence Nov. 23, Variety Artists in all Lines. Silence a polite negative. Letters only, Coliseum, Leeds.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists and Sensational Turn, for Leeds Hospital Gala, Aug. 2 and 3, 1909. Send terms, and where Act can be seen, to WALTER WORMALD, 3, Park-square, Leeds.

CLIQUOT'S THEATRICAL VARIETY AGENCY.
WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines,
for all Dates.
for all Dates.
Nothing too big
Address, 46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Dec. 14, 21, 28, for Theatre Royal and Hippo., Shrewsbury, First-class Variety Artists. Nothing too big. Mark letters "Variety." W. YATES GREGORY.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Nov. 23 and onwards. Hall small, so terms must be in proportion. Apply to A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	Artists for
DALTON'S AGENCY	Immediate Dates
DALTON'S AGENCY	and Dates onwards.
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
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DALTON'S AGENCY	Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY	and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY	(this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY	and permanent addresses.
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
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DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	Telegrams:
DALTON'S AGENCY	Granbeste,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Withington-Lanca.
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	——
DALTON'S AGENCY	Telephone:
DALTON'S AGENCY	193 Didsbury.
DALTON'S AGENCY	Wanted, urgently,
DALTON'S AGENCY	the address of
DALTON'S AGENCY	Sydney and Partner,
DALTON'S AGENCY	Cycle Act.

PACEY'S AGENCY,
186, Brixton-road, London, S.W.
TOM PACEY, Sole Proprietor.
WANTED, Artists, of all Kinds.
None too Big for this Firm.
Artists of all Grades treated fairly.
No objectionable Re-engagement clause.
Pay only for work done.
PACEY'S AGENCY
can book everywhere.
Never mind what you hear.
Pacey is barred nowhere.
But still, remember,
the man without an enemy
is a nonentity.
If you want dates,
send your full list of bookings and price,
PACEY'S AGENCY.
Sole Proprietor, TOM PACEY.
186, Brixton-road, London.
'Phone, 87 Brixton.
Telegrams, "Pacey's, London."
Telegrams, "Pacey's, London."
186, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Artists who have control
of their own affairs,
with new acts (no small items),
to communicate to
my new address,
Spot Lodge, 28, Trent-road, Brixton-hill, S.W.
Will only be seen by appointment.
Make a Special Note of this fact.
Full for Sketches at Present.
W. O., Spot Lodge, 28, Trent-rd., Brixton-hill, S.W.

EMPRESS THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
HARTLEPOOL.
WANTED, all Artists holding Contracts at above Theatre, to Note that this place has been sold, and that Contracts are therefore null and void, as per Arbitrator's Award.
Signed,
EVERTON and CRAGG,
late Proprietors.

WANTED, for immediate and future Dates,
Artists of every description.
Artists of every description.
Those of exceptional merit
can have a guarantee of forty weeks
out of fifty-two.
HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
Head Office, Hartlepool.
Wires, "Chosen, Hartlepool."
'Phones 231 and 231A.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists all Lines, Nov. 16, onwards. Lowest terms, LEVY and CARDWELL, Pavilion, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester. Bert Serone wire or write immediately.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from LOW onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. Scott,
Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Song Illustrators with own slides write. Hall very small; terms low. AUBREY, Victoria Hall, Rhymney, Mon.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns doing Singles, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 4; Single Turns also for the latter dates. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Artists, Dec. 7, onwards. Call for Monday, Nov. 9:—Alma Curzon, Tom Conroy, East and West, Frank Horton, Daly Male, Doyle and Massey, and Ruffell's Bioscope. Rehearsal 1 sharp. General-Manager, TOWYN THOMAS, Pavilion, Northwich.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Nov. 16, on. 1A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Artists in all Lines, now and onwards.
Can always place big numbers any odd weeks.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2,076 Royal.

WANTED, Known, all Clients are requested to post us their full bookings at once.
FRANK LYNNE and Co., 77, Angell-rd., Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Talent, all Lines. Send full list of bookings, perm. address, and absolute lowest terms. Artists vacant Monday next send house address. KEEBLE'S Agency, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract (pro tem.). London Office, 281, King-st., Hammersmith.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Novelty and Speciality Acts and Artists in all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, &c., for immediate and future dates.

CHAS. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, for Xmas Seasons at Edinburgh and Sheffield, Smart Comedy Acts. Refinement absolutely necessary. J. R. POOLE, Town Hall, Edmonton, London, N.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Acts of all Descriptions for Twenty-five Music Halls. When writing, please state if V.A.F., to save confusion. Immediate dates waiting. Call Monday for own Co., Prince of Wales's Theatre, Nuneaton:—Devereux's Dogs, Taylor and Bridge, Lodge, Maro Duo, Bros. Hannaway, Massona, May Foxley, Nat Bishop, Barnes' Bioscope, and Judge's Cookatoos. All coms., DAN NOBLE'S Agency, Prince of Wales's T., Nuneaton.

PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Specialities, Spectacular Shows,
Tops and Bottoms,
for Dec. and onwards.
State when last in Grimsby,
full particulars, and lowest terms, to
MANAGER, Palace Theatre, Grimsby.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, big Star Attractions, nothing too big, anything able to follow Dayton Family, Le Diabelo, Ella's Lions, Venetta, &c.; Share or Salary; also Artists of every description, Nov. 16. Full particulars, lithos., &c.,
BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Animal Acts and Novelties of every description. Send photo., lithos., bookings, to HENRY LESLIE, Agency, 23, King's-terrace, Southsea.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.

To all whom it may concern.

WANTED, Known.—There is an idea throughout the Variety Profession that, since the closing of the Tivoli Theatre, Grimsby, Mr. J. H. Curry has become interested in the management of the Palace. We wish it to be distinctly understood that Mr. Curry does not represent the management of the Palace Theatre in any capacity whatever, neither is he a director nor a shareholder. On the closing of the Tivoli, Mr. Curry asked if we would take over the Artists booked for the Tivoli, and we promised to do so whenever it was possible. We are, however, in no way bound to do so. The arrangement was quite an unofficial one, suggested by Mr. Curry with the sole object of avoiding, if possible, any Artist being thrown out through the unavoidable closing of the theatre under his management.

Signed,
THE GRIMSBY PALACE THEATRE AND BUFFET, LTD.,
F. VERNON WALFORD,
Secretary.

Oct. 26, 1908.

CHELTENHAM
NEW PALACE
THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Architect, Mr. WINSTANLEY, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, for Dec., Jan., and on,
Star Turns,
Comedians,
Serios,
Gymnasts,
Acrobats,
Bar Performers,
and
Any New and Novel Acts,
also Comedy Sketches.

Those not willing to pay usual 10% commission save stamps.

Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Variety Turns, Ladies' Serios, and Sisters, Comedians, also Lady Pianist, 12 months' Tour, through Gibraltar, Malta, Egypt, and India. Apply, Mr. MACKENSEY, 32, Roupell-street, off Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Variety Turns, for Dumfries, Nov. 16 and onwards. Lowest terms and particulars to KEYFORD, Mechanics' Hall, Dumfries.

WANTED, Two Good Turns, Nov. 16 and 23, for Lancashire. No sketches. Lowest terms in first letter (no wires). BOSWELL'S, Lyceum T., Stafford.

WANTED, for Royal Albert Hall, Jarrow-on-Tyne, First-class Combinations and Artists, with drawing power. Packed houses with following companies: six weeks, Dr. Seaton's Animated Pictures, Leoni Clarke, Jamaica Choir, Caban's French Circus. Apply, MANAGER.

WANTED, Novelties, Artists in all Lines, for few weeks in Scotland in December.
ARTHUR ROBY, Theatre Royal, Cardiff.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, for Tops and Bottoms of Bills, several dates this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, at once, two Young Ladies, for Low Comedy (Music Halls), Soprano and Contralto, Soprano must be very tall. Apply by letter only to FORDE, 40, Wyke-gardens, Clapham-road, S.W.

WANTED, Young Lady for Illustrated Songs, do Turn, also for Tour. Refs., terms, RAYE, 66, Bridge-road, Hammersmith, London.

WANTED, Young Woman, to work Comedy; one that can Tumble. State terms, particulars in first letter. Address, MADAM, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, very High Tenor, for Top Line, and Second Tenor or Light Baritone; both to do a little comedy; for Quartette. Good Amateurs write. Box 5,125, "The Era."

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Comedians, Comediennes, Specialities, &c.
Nothing too big.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, really First-class Comedian, also Smart Comedienne and Dancer; must be used to High-class Concert Party Work. Versatility and refinement absolutely essential. Can offer Long Engagement; commence Easter. Send full particulars, to Box 5,112, "The Era."

WANTED, Top-mounter, about 8st., for Well-known Troupe; must be well up in his business. Terms, tricks, and particulars, first letter, ACROBAT, Sun Inn, St. Thomas-street, Scarboro'.

WANTED, small Coloured Boy, between twelve and fourteen years of age, must dance well, a good home and long engagement for a suitable boy. Full particulars to HARRY STELLING, Apollo Theatre, Vienna, Austria.

WANTED, Youth, Trick Cyclist, to play Bicycle Polo.
Particulars to Box 5,126, "The Era."

WANTED, Artist with Cino Machine and Films, to join First-class Animal Show; and others. TOM PERMANE, 74, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Bioscope Operator, with Latest Machine, to assist Manager. Permanent. References and experience, MANAGING-DIRECTOR, Empire Hippo., Gainsborough.

WANTED, Operator, own machine, everything, Lime, Nov. 16 (six nights); also Variety Turns. FRED CLYDE, 33, Denison-street, Leeds.

WANTED, First-class Bioscope Operator, alternating current, long throw, two hours' show twice nightly, also Sunday show and matinée, in Provinces. Apply, Mr. C. B. COCHRAN, 14, Great Swan-alley, Moorgate-street.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Nov. 16 and 30, by Zelda, the Novel Instrumental Lady. Elaborate Stage Setting and Wardrobe. Also Wal Owen, Silent Comedy Act. Two First-class Acts. Address, Empire, Stockport.

WANTED, by Marie Leonard, Monday next, Dec. 7 and 21, Pictorial Melodies latest American slides. Wire, 128, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Mysterious Lilith, the great Aerial Mystery, also Lilian Warren's Vocal Pictures, at Liberty Nov. 9 and 16. Proprietors and Managers requiring a Sensational Draw should secure these two distinct Acts. All coms. to LILIAN WARREN, Empire, Bolton, or 23, Rumford-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Lolo and May, Speciality Gymnasts and Dance Artists, at Liberty, through obliging Manager, Nov. 30; also Dec. 14, 21, 28. Address, 127, Upper Aughton-rd., Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Nov. 30 (precede King's, Edinburgh), Dec. 14, 21, Jean Macduff, Premier Lady Scotch Comedian; Peggy Lyndon, Musical Act. Wire, MELVILLE, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello. Thanks Oswald Stoll, Esq., Messrs. Rosen and Bliss, for Contracts.

WANTED, Known, the Dresden Girls (Amy and Ada), vacant Nov. 9 also 16. This, making good Picturedrome, Ashton-under-Lyne.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Les Riscos, introducing Acrobatic Dancing, Singing, and Eccentric Cycling, at Liberty Nov. 16, also Panto. Apply, Queen's Palace, Shipley.

WANTED, Monday next; Martin Melia, Comedian and the World's Artistic Dancing Masterpiece. Arrived in England after 12 months' Tour in India. Wires, 32, Roupell-street, Waterloo-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Edmund Caselli, the World's Recognised Banjo Expert, who entertains an audience twenty-five minutes; the real goods, vacant Nov. 30 and few weeks following. Terrific success this week, Palace, Ramsgate. Nov. 9, Opera House, Workington. Offers invited.

WANTED, for Nov. 9 and 16, by Chas. Rest, Sleight-of-Hand Expert and Patterer. Panto. settled. 10, Loughborough-rd, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, by Harry King, "the man in blue," Swell Comedian and Vocalist, Nov. 16, 23. Still successful. This week, Empire, Dundee; after Sun., BAYLEY, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Nov. 16 and 23, 30, Volto, Man-Monkey Act and Comedy Gymnast; always a success. 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Monday next, Nov. 9, by Bert Lytton, the Swell Comique.
Wire, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Monday next, Nov. 9 (wire, Queen's Theatre, Glasgow), Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Speciality Act; May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer.

WANTED, Monday, on, The Mannikins, Harry and Maud, Living Marionettes, Novel Electric Show, also Double Comedy Singing Turn. 8, Chantry-street, Edge-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, Nov. 30, on, the Original Musical Mintos (Lady and Gentleman), Eccentric Musical Act and Sketch Artists. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, immediate Dates, by Stylo, Wonderful Hoop Juggling Effects, and Beatrice Bonnie, Artistic Comedienne. Address, 25, Clifford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Nov. 9, 16, by Fern and Fawn, in Shriekingly Funny Episode, "The Conqueror"; also Singles, Comedian, Soubrette. Empire, Leicester.

WANTED, Nov. 9 and 16, Lancashire District, by Ward and Davis (Howard and Louie), Com. Singing and Dancing Duo, in "Wanted, a Typist." A guaranteed success. Only vacancies. 63, New-street, West Bromwich.

WANTED, by E. W. Selman, Refined Comedian, and Ivy Gallard, Smart Comedienne (Panto. settled), Nov. 16 and 30. Letters, Palace, Battersea, London.

WANTED, by Clive and Vera, Monday next, also Nov. 16, in their Refined Comedy Act, "The Squire and Dairymaid." Wire, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Nov. 16, 23, 30, by Salida and Vone Creole Comedy Singers and Dancers. Address, 5, Fairborn-grove, Kennington-lane, S.E.

WANTED, Monday next, by Chant and Chant, bright Vocal Comedy Duo. Thanks offers last week. Wire, 87, Wollaton-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Nov. 23.
Address, Tivoli, Barrow-in-Furness.

WANTED, Monday, Nov. 16, onwards, by The Nevilles (Bert and Will), Comedians and Patterers; also good Singles, Picture Show, &c. Any distance. Wire or write, G.P.O., Tralee, Ireland.

WANTED, by Les Rallis, The Artist and His Monkey, one week, Nov. 16, to follow Empire, Camberwell. Wire, 25, Horsedge-st., Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Sterling and Cashen, Military Comedy Duo and Champion Dancers, Liberty Nov. 9, 16. Wire, Oxford Palace, Middlesbrough

WANTED, Monday, for Walker's Would-be Acrobats; Globella, Juggling Speciality.
Wire, Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Monday next, Nov. 9, by Stanley's Urchins.
Wire, STANLEY, Tivoli, Pentre, South Wales.

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"The Human Pillars,"
have returned,
after a
twelve months' tour
on the Continent.

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All communication to
ARTHUR SAXON,
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WANTED, 16th and 23rd, by the Atlas and Vulcana Troupe, introducing the Only Really Classic Posing Act Extant, by the Beautiful Vulcana. 9th, Albert H., Jarrow.

WANTED, Known, Four Dorians, Premier Gymnastic Athletes. An Act entirely on its own. For terms, dates, &c., Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Dec., on, by Goliath, with a Refined Athletic Act, concluding with the Greatest Motor Sensation of the age. Vac. Panto. Coms., 41, Brunswick-st, Blackpool.

WANTED, the Musical Palmers, Vacant Nov. 16 and 23. Offers invited for these valuable dates. Big success of new and original numbers. Conclude to-night three starring weeks with Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son, Hippodrome, Ashton. Monday, Palace Theatre, Blackpool.

WANTED, Nov. 9, 16, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct speciality acts. 32, Main-ridge, Boston, Lincs.

WANTED, Nov. 9, and further on, The Three Hodginis (two young ladies, one gentleman), with their Great Sensational and Novelty Breakway Ladder Act. New for England. Apply to the HODGINIS, this week, Grand Theatre, Bolton. Perm. add., 61, Cooksey-road, Small Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, The Three Sisters Urma, Premier Triple Trapeze Artists,
Vacant Nov. 9, 16, 23, 30.
All communications, 38, Hyde Park-road, Leeds.

WANTED, by Bessie Travis, Queen of Ventriloquists, in New Act, Nov. 9 and 16. Any reasonable offers entertained. 39, Sidney-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, 14, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Big Success again this week. Top of Bill, Albert Hall, Jarrow.
Monday, Vic. T., West Stanley.

WANTED, Monday next, by Billy Ross and Co., greatest Boxing Act before the Public. Competitions nightly. Starring, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Durham, Wire.

WANTED, Dates, by the Incognito Concert Party for 1908-9, with or without Orchestra. For terms, apply Box 5,103, "The Era."

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Lion Show, best in existence, Dec. 7, 14, 28, between Lowestoft and Grimsby. Com., week Nov. 9, Theatre Royal, Grantham.

WANTED, Known, Eldra and Dog Prince, the Greatest Canine Speciality Act.
This week, Palace, Perth, South Wales;
next week, Empire, Barnsley.
Vacant Nov. 16, 23, and 30, '08.
Vacant Nov. 16, 23, and 30, '08.

WANTED, by Irma Orbasany's Unequalled Cockatoo Pantomime, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, and onward. Write for Press notices and Pictorials. The Era, Oct. 31, 1908: A very marvellous performance by Miss Irma Orbasany's cockatoos wins admiration and applause. Palace Theatre, Blackburn. Perm. address, 9, Alma-road, Sheerness.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, vacant Nov. 16 and 23, Dec. 7 and 21.
Wire, Prince of Wales's Theatre, Nuneaton.

WANTED, by Hall and Wilson, Nov. 9, 16, 23, Man versus Motor, and Roller Trick Cycling Speciality. This week, Big Success, Empire, Wrexham. Manager requiring good Draw should secure this Act at once. Wire or write. Notice.—The Only Act of its Kind. Fully protected. Infringers beware.

WANTED, Nov. 16 and 23, Swift Duo, Lady and Gentleman, Funny Cycle Act. Monday next, Theatre Royal, Grantham. Wire.

WANTED, Known, vacant Monday, on, with exceptions, Living Marionettes (Single and Double), big Speciality and Fit-up, Musical and Farcical Duologues, Humorous Songs and Monologues, &c. Reasonable terms. M., 53, Linton-st., Islington.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

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This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
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ROYAL AGRICULTURAL HALL, LONDON, N.,
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WANTED, Known, we have this year repeated our usual offer to allow cost of cheap return fare from any point in the U.K. to all purchasers of goods to the value of £25 upwards at our stands 41, 42, and 43, Great Galleries, where we the first time displayed epoch-making Novelties from the Mill's Factory.
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WANTED, an Assistant Secretary, for the British Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union.
Copies of testimonials and salary required to be sent to THOS. HURST (Secretary), Broadhurst, Clifton, Manchester.

FUN CITY DRILL HALL, BATH.
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The first Show of its kind ever held in Bath.
WANTED, Animal Shows, High-Wire Walker, Double Trapeze, Gymnasts, Side Shows, Novelties of every description. Apply, CARL FREDRICKS, 4, Brunswick-street, Bath.

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WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, &c., now and onwards; good Flashes; six weeks certain for money-takers, for Shops and Booths. AMERICAN SWEETMEAT AND AUTOMATIC COMPANY, 118, Rathbone-street, Canning Town, or 157, High-street, Walthamstow.

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WANTED, to Join Auction Mart, at once, Good Vocalist, one used to horses preferred. Send references and wages, to 25, Station-terrace, Hucknall, Notts.

WANTED, Nov. 9, Candler and Knox, Punch and Judy Artists. Address, Drill Hall, Wrexham; wire for Mon. The talk of Wrexham.

WANTED, Known, Johnny Trundley, the Peckham Fat Boy, Liberty Nov. 16 to Dec. 14; age 10, weight 17st. STEWART'S Waxworks, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, by Jack Norton, Exhibition and Tour or Resident Lecturer, Advance or Bill Inspector. Thanks M. Herlich, Esq., for present and offer for next season, who certifies that I have worked entirely to his satisfaction. Wire, 10, White-park, Georgie-road, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, that C. Hand is at Liberty as Baggage Doorsman, Effects, &c.; good Lecturer for Pictures. Write, Mount Zion, Dalton, Huddersfield.

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SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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FOR NOVEMBER.

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7. Biddenden (1,300)
7. Romsey (4,200)
7. Alford (2,500)
7. Alnwick (6,700)
7. Biggleswade (5,000)
7. Bulwell (1,500)
7. Halifax (98,000)
7. Keswick (4,500)
7. Mansfield (Woodhouse) (2,820)
9. Darlington (44,500)
9. Kirkby Stephen (2,000)
9. Leeds (423,900)
9. Portsmouth (189,000)
10. Hucknall (13,325)
10. Lancaster (40,300)
10. Penistone (7,500)
10. Penrith (9,200)
10. Wakefield (36,000)
10. Wetherby (3,018)
11. Askam-in-Furness (3,300)
11. Brackley (2,500)
11. Cambourne (8,200)
11. Carlisle (25,500)
11. Chesham (7,300)
11. Melton Mowbray (7,500)
12. Alston (Cumb.) (3,300)
12. Chelmsford (12,000)
12. Loughborough (21,500)
12. Maryport (12,000)
12. Stamfordham (900)
12. Ulverston (10,000)
13. Cockermouth (6,400)
13. Epping (2,600)
13. Leek (15,500)
13. Stockton-on-Tees (51,476)
14. Brampton (2,708)
14. Egremont (Cumb.) (8,000)
14. Kendal (14,200)
14. Warkworth (1,100)
16. Bakewell (3,500)
16. St. Columb (60,846)
17. Andover (6,500)
17. Millom (10,400)
17. Yeovil (10,000)
18. Shaftesbury (3,000)
18. Skegby (3,160)
18 South Shields (97,300)
19. Rugby (17,000)
21. Dover (41,000)
21. Fakenham (3,200)
21. Guildford (16,000)
21. Martin Town (900)
23. Crowle (2,800)
23. Newark (14,500)
23. Pickering (3,500)
23. Richmond (Yorks) (4,000)
23. Ripon (8,200)
23. York (75,560)
25. Chesterfield (25,000)
25. Frome (11,000)
25. Ilminster (2,300)
27. Hartlepool (22,000)
28 Gloucester (48,000)
30 Ludford (714)
30. Melborne St. Andrews (1,000)

SCOTLAND.

12. Biggar (1,200)
14. Dumbarton (18,836)
16. Govan (76,351)
18. Langholm (3,142)
27. Inverness (21,193)

WALES.

7. Brecon (6,000)
7. Lydney (3,000)
9. Penmorfa (1,486)
14. Llandovery (2,234)
16. Aberystwyth (8,000)
17. Aberdare (43,009)
23. Aberystwyth (8,000)
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WANTED, Known, Mr. George Sloan will Sell by Auction, on Wednesday, Nov. 11 next, commencing at 12 o'clock noon (if not previously disposed of by private treaty), in the Grounds of the New Brighton Tower, New Brighton, the Valuable Stock and Effects.
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Mme. Alice Esty, George Bastow, Florence, Thora, Gittin's Opera Co., Henry Coutts and Co., Wilson and Waring, Madge Osmond, Bioscope, John Warren and Co.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Mrs. John Lawson and Co., in "The Devil's Sunday" and "The Woman and the Apple," Allis and Cassati, Corcoran Bros., Chronomegaphone, Eight Lancashire Lads, Lord, Murray, and Lord, Rohda Bros., Crown Trio, Bioscope, Ben Albert, Cruikshank.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
W. W. Kelly's Co., in "A Royal Divorce."

ARDWICK EMPIRE, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Minerva, Pete and Minnie Lee, Herbert Shelley, Lumars, Hunt & Thomas, Stewart & Morgan, Bros. Redmond, Marion Scott, Bioscope, Tom Edwards.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Mark Sheridan, Lukushimas, Phil and Nettie Peters, Gwennie Llewellyn, H. O. Wills, Madge Temple, The Maples, Bessie Butt, Bioscope, Machnow.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Fred Karno's Co., including Fred Kitchen in "G. P. O." Fred Keeton, Norman and Leonard Trio, Tom Child, Dacey and Lewis, Delomes, Bioscope, Lancashire Singers, George Newburn.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Vesta Tilley, Tom Moore, Mlle. Haydee, Harry Luck, Ten Zerbinis, Coloured Meisters, Alf. Chester, Illustrated Song, Bioscope, Fisher White's Co., in "A Royal Heart."

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
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GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Formby, Kent and Keith, Dubois's Baboon, Wyndham and Kitty, Charlene and Charlene, Sinclair and Parr, Elton Black, Bioscope, Lil Hawthorne, Geo. Leyton in "The Last Muster."

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
George Gray and Co., in "The Fighting Parson," Fred Lincoln, Dion Wade, Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, Verno and Voyce, Cambodian Troupe, Dolly Denton, Bioscope, Ella Retford.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Zeynardt's Lilliputians, Vanando, Arthur Schofield, Imperial Russian Troupe, Griffiths Bros., Dennis Drew, George Brooks, Lizzie Daniels, Bioscope, Fred Edwards and Co., in "Kleptomaniacs."

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Gus Elen, Sybil St. Elmo, Nora Emerald, Stella Girls, M. Volbert and Mlle. Sylve, Harry Herbert, Fred Wilkinson, Nettie Starr, Bioscope, Donaldson Bros. and Co.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Frank A. Gotch and Co., Alf. Holt, J. W. Hall, Pat Rafferty, Marie Santoi and Co., Campbell and Barber, Shirley and Ransome, Walter Wade, Bioscope, Madge Crichton.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Alfred Paumier's and Walter Howard's Co., in "The Prince and the Beggar Maid."

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Fred Karno's "Dandy Thieves," Sisters Morgan, Little Zola, Stein Eretto Troupe, Brown and Le Clerq Co., Lupino Lane, Frank Sylvo, Lupino Bros., Bioscope, Foreman and Fannan.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Nellie Wallace, Dutch Daly, Tennyson and Wallis, Arabella Allen, Narow Bros., The Rawsons, Maud Rochez's Monkeys, Johnson and Bert, Bioscope, Jennie Johns.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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Until Further Notice.
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Whit Cunliffe, Adey Spencer, Kisbey, Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Ralph and Nellie Howard, Maud Stuart, Three Welsh Girls, Jack Smiles, Bioscope, The Gothams.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
"The Swiss Express," Johnny Walker, Ruth Lytton, Carney and Armstrong, Gladys Witton, Carina Sisters, Pictures, Nell Emerald.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
Rehearsal at 12 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Harry Quiningborough, Vera Feare, Harry Lewis, Bioscope, &c.

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EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Joseph Hart's "Futurity Winner," Starr and Leslie, R. H. Douglass, Hartley Wonders, Maggie Walsh, Hayes and Wynne, Will English, Rosa Loader, Bioscope, Syd May.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
"The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory," Harry Bancroft, Emmie Ames, Agnes Tina, Chas. Coverdale, Phillip Levard, Pictures, Bert Williams.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.—Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have Band Parts for at least Twelve different Instruments for the Orchestras. Matter for Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to CO-OPERATIVE OFFICES, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

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NOTICE.—Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

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(Fred Day), and
"I DON'T WANT NUTHIN' BUT YOU"
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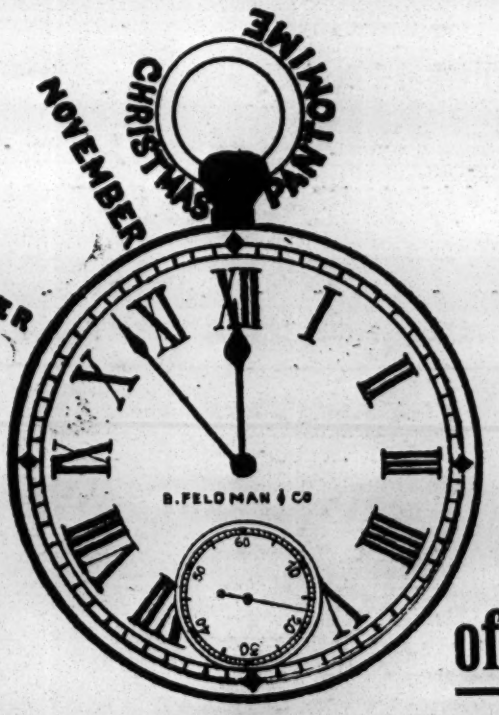

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It's not so much the Waltz Dream as her Dreamy, Dreamy Eyes.
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Gretna Green.
It's Good-bye to Maudie.
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Tramcar.
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Nancy.
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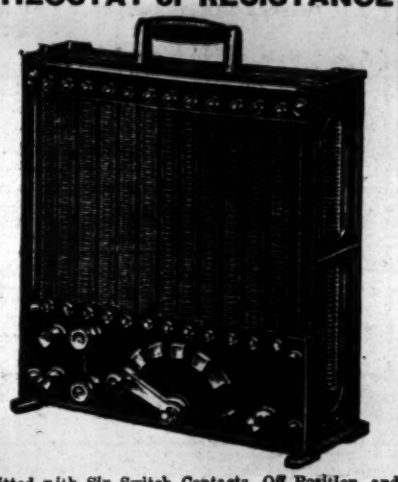

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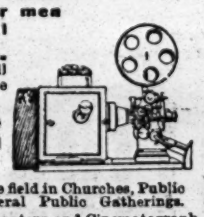

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Aberdare Public Hall, Theatre, and Billposting Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—*Greed of Gold* is being successfully presented here by Mr. T. Morton Powell's company. In the parts of Tom Wolstead and Dora Mr. James Jarrett and Miss Elma C. Turner are the recipients of hearty applause.

ABERDEEN.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Hypocrites* is excellently played this week. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton looks the part of the ascetic curate, and acts almost perfectly; Mr. King Fordham shows restrained power as Leonard Wilmore; Miss Gladys Harvey gives an arresting portraiture of Rachel Neve; Mr. Charles Harley's lawyer is convincing; Mr. Alfred S. Barber's study of the elder Wilmore is distinctive; and Mr. Cecil Booking imparts much genial humour into his representation of the the Vicar; Miss Amy Ravenscroft's performance as Mrs. Wilmore is undoubtedly very fine; Miss Gladys Purnell makes a charming Helen Plugenet; and Miss Florence Stevenson is a clever and amusing Mrs. Blancy.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—M. Brinn's marvellous turn is rapturously applauded; the Motramos appear in an exceedingly bright and attractive drawing-room sketch *Do You Reverse?* Eadie and Ramsden are highly successful with their comedietta *Charlie's Visit;* Mr. Bert Danson shows much vivacity as a comedian; Lieut. Travers is as successful as ever in his ventriloquial act; and among the other members of a capital all-round company are Mr. Godfrey James, a fine vocalist, known as the "Singing Collier"; Beaty and Blanche, dainty duettists and dancers; Mr. Louis Kerno, a lively coon impersonator; and Miss Marie Neilson, a graceful dancer.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—The company this week includes Mr. Alf. Walker, a very good coon comedian and dancer; the Handleys, a pair of entertaining comedians; Mr. Alexander Smith, a first-rate baritone vocalist, who also acts as soloist to the illustrated songs; and the Real Mackays, two of the smartest juvenile dancers and singers now appearing on the stage. The cinematograph display is admirable.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—The attractive programme is sustained by Scotch Kriss, a clever and versatile comedian; Miss Marie Rose, a fine singer and dancer; Mr. Archie Murray, an entertaining coon comedian; Mr. Arthur Bright, a superior vocalist and instrumentalist; and Mr. James Montague, an exceedingly resourceful entertainer. The farcical sketch, *The Haunted Hotel*, as played by the Empire Sketch Company, is a source of great amusement.

ABERTILLERY.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company is playing the powerful drama *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* to good houses. The title-rôle is sustained in a very realistic and natural manner by the charming actress Miss Mary Lovett; Mr. Paul Beckett gives a capital impersonation of Felix Beverley; Miss Cissie Belamy is a capable Mrs. Sands; and the minor parts are taken by clever artists. The mounting is exceedingly good.

PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Clifton and Gibson are very good comedians; the Wallys give a clever display as jugglers; the Paul Hesse Trio, in their excellent acrobatic and wire-walking feats, are successful; Fred Hallam provides a treat in his parodies of songs; Lidden and Hayward, in their pretty scena, give a very pleasing turn; and excellent films on the Bioscope terminate a very interesting entertainment.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is paying a welcome return visit here this week in *A Girl's Cross Roads*, and is again attracting good houses. Miss Hilda Beverley submits a well-studied and clever portrayal as the degraded Barbara Wade; Miss Dorothy Hildebrande is refined and sympathetic as Constance Cornell; Miss Nita Langford is most interesting and attractive as Nellie Meadows; and Miss Daisy Meynard plays vivaciously as Tilly Vane. Mr. Charles Franmore wins much appreciation as the old farmer, John Meadows, and Mr. Jack Fortescue is to be commended upon his forcible acting as Jack Livingstone. As the unscrupulous Cuthbert Lumley Mr. Edward Chester is deserving of praise; Mr. Edward Valentine plays with ability as Dr. Weston; Mr. Fred Withers is very successful as Luke Ramsden; and Mr. Fred Hodson is extremely humorous as Toby Turvey.

ALDERSHOT. — ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—Mr. James Welch's talented company is presenting *When Knights Were Bold* here this week to large audiences. Bristling as this farce does with cleverly conceived humorous situations, there is an almost continual roar of laughter, caused by the funny sayings and doings of those entrusted with the interpretation. Mr. Henry J. Ford is an actor of considerable resource, and his conception of the baronet, Sir Guy, is simply "side-splitting"; Mr. Cecil Clayton's Hon. Charles Widdicombe is helpful as an additional element of humour; Mr. Wm. Lockhart is excellent as the jovial Dean Pottlebury; Mr. Vernon Sansbury, as the Jewish Isaac, with an eye to "bishness," is clever; and Mr. Geo. Rowlands is good as Sir Brian; whilst Messrs. Talbot Homewood (Whittle) and Reginald Hunter (Barker) do well. Miss Bruce-Joy's is a talented enactment of the romantic Lady Rowena; Miss Phyllis Back's Miss Sarah is ably played; Miss Ethel Royale gives a capital portrayal of the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave; a charming impersonation of Lady Millicent is that of Miss Violet Graham; and Misses Gretchen Yates, Adrienne Yates, and Bessie Walters are good as Lady Marjorie, Kate, and Alice respectively. The farce is excellently staged.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—This week Mr. Junius Booth and company are producing here a new version for the stage of Dumas' romance, *Monte Cristo*. The adaptation is one by Mr. Booth, who himself sustains with admirable skill and great energy the part of Edmund Dantes. Miss Cecilia Dare's Mercedes was replete with womanly feeling; Danglars had a representative of great skill in Mr. H. Bannister; and Mr. F. Martin's clear and distinct delivery greatly assists the audience in comprehending the explanations of Abbé Fara; De Morcef found in Mr. John Howden an excellent representative; Mr. Conrad Heywood conscientiously devoted himself to the portrayal of M. Nortier; Mr. Herbert Colley as Caderousse, an innkeeper, and Miss Alice West as La Caronte completed the list of principals.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Joe Conway, the pocket comedian, does a good "turn" here; the mysterious Raffes Satani has a novel scena of magical surprises; the Miners' Quartette, including Billy Dewey, the coloured vocalist and dancer, appear in a number of tuneful part songs; Cyril Jephson, "the man in the billiard suit," sings a number of taking songs; the Coopers, comedy and harmonising vocalists, are a humorous trio; the Kymros, the Welsh comedy duo, are rich in oddity and comicality; Evelyn Taylor is a songstress of the approved variety order. In addition to the foregoing there is a good Tyneside comedian in J. C. Scotter; the Merrions (Will, Harry, and Fred) appeal with good effect; Tom Morris is an expert whistler; and A Fisherman's Daughter is the subject of the Bioscope.

PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.—The change of artists and pictures for the week here brings the charming variety turn, the Sisters Maudsley, clever girls in song and dance, and Tony Freedman, a smiling comedian, artistically got up, whose songs evoke much applause. The pictures include the play of Macbeth admirably done, An Indian Romance, Naval Battle, A Day of Robberd's, Hiring a Son-in-Law, and other amusing and entertaining pictures. The Farmer's Daughter is a very touching episode.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—This week's series of interesting and laughable pictures, includes The Desperate Woman, A Dauber's Whim, When Knights Were Bold, The Night Alarm, A Dog's Revenge, and Our Banana Supply. Popular chorus songs are ably rendered by Mr. Charles Verner.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—This week's diversified programme is headed by Mr. John C. Brandon's company, in *The Girl and the Tough*, in which Mr. Brandon impersonates Tod Delaney, "the Tough," most effectively; Miss Rosie Dane is sympathetic and winsome as Norah Dalton; and Mr. Leslie Tyler is good as the Detective. The Toreadors evoke laughter by their burlesque bull fight; a hearty reception is accorded to Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard, in a laughter-provoking scena, *Coming Home;* and other attractions are given by Miss Leoville, wire-walker; Mr. Harry Cotton, comedian; Miss Flo. Warner, vocalist; Chiko, equilibrist and contortionist; Aeolia, in a clever trapeze act; and the Attergraph pictures.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—The theatre was crowded on Monday night when a company, under the pilotage of Mr. William Maclaren, produced *Claudian*, with Mr. Maclaren in the title-rôle. His acting of the part is impressive and full of pathos. Miss Lily C. Bandmaan acts Almida with rare histrionic talent; Mr. Bernard Elliott made Thariogalus the Tetrarch appropriately detestable; Mr. Chal. T. Chaloner was particularly amusing as Belos; and Mr. Douglas Earle powerfully portrayed Agazif. Miss Ruth Trafford as Edessa played cleverly. The staging was complete in every detail, the dresses being beautiful. In the scene of Claudian's palace Mme. Dorin performs a skilful cymbal dance.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is here with the drama *An Abandoned Woman*. The title-rôle is entrusted with perfect safety to Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam; Mr. Herbert M. King infuses the true spirit of manliness into the part of Captain Herbert Seaton; Mr. Frederick Heley is a dignified Sir Marmanduke Seaton; Mr. Fraser-Brunner as Phillipe Malvoisin ably assists in the villainy of the plot; Mr. Victor Garnet Vayne is a characteristic Sammy Sharp; and as Paddy Boyle Mr. Teddy Myles causes endless amusement; Miss Lily Annesley as Eleanor Deane supplies a pleasing performance; and Miss Queenie Fraser-Bruner is a lively Sally Sloper.

BARNSLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company present *The Love of the Princess*. Mr. Wilson Coleman gives an earnest and manly portrayal of Prince Conrad Ramona, Miss Maisie Hanbury commendably sustains the part of Princess Idalia, acting with grace and emotion; W. Ernest E. Imeson is a satisfactory Count Nicholas Danillo; Mr. E. H. Dobell does well as Josef King of Ilarnia; Mr. W. F. Stirling is an able representative of Prince Regent of Narava; Mr. Beckett Bould enacts the villain, Lieut. Orians, with full effect; Mr. Graham Winsford plays Lieut. Zaroff well; Miss Nellie Garside is a charming Lady Irene Ramona; and Mr. Edgar Morgan gives a good account of himself as Boris.

NEW EMPIRE PALACE.—Proprietors, The Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—King's College Boys head a capital programme; Eldra, assisted by his dog Prince, provide a clever turn; Arthur Croxton, mimetic comedian, comes in for a cordial reception; Kloof and Ramsay appear in a comic musical novelty; the Three Delaries in the demon grotto are clever trapezists; the Society Quartette provide a good singing and dancing turn; and other good items are those of Arthur Holland, character vocalist; Metz and Metz, comedians; and U. C. Ugo, in a magical scena, entitled *Mirthful Mysteries*. New films are shown by the Palacescope.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Great White Chief* is here. Mr. Mansell Fane in the title-rôle does well, and Mr. Lingford Carson makes an effective Reindeer; Mr. George Butler is a sufficiently villainous Hartley Deane, and Miss Pollie Denville an attractive heroine Latika; Miss Dulcie Lawrence is a clever Hester Stafford, and Mr. Leonard Maitland a humorous George Rupert Walker.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company in *The Convict's Daughter* is here. He himself as Convict 89 and other disguises, gives a capital performance, and Miss Lillian Dene as Edith is interesting; Mr. William Burgess is good as Frederick Neville, and Mr. Walter Graham a successful Harold Trevelyan; the scheming Jaspar Thorne is well done by Mr. Escott Robson, and Miss Nellie Waddington a pleasing Marion Thorne.

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Conway and Leyland (the merry monopedes) are the premier turn here this week, and they give a remarkable and clever performance; the turn by the Brothers Webb is really a musical treat; the Debreans give a skilful shadowgraph entertainment; Jannett Hall has a capital voice, and sings some good songs; the Florias are very good in a wire act; Harry Morris is a comedian with some smart patter; Ruby Bijou is a pleasing barefoot dancer; and Vernon's Bioscope has some interesting pictures.

NEW HIPPODROME. — Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Roulledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A fine programme of new pictures is presented here this week. Miss Jennie Kendall adds some good songs to the programme.

BARRY DOCK.—NEW THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Lingford Carson presented here on Monday and Tuesday *The Heart of the Hero*, and on Wednesday and Thursday *The Modern Adventuress*. Mr. Ernest J. Fare in the chief rôle of *The Heart of a Hero* scored a success, and was ably assisted by Messrs. J. P. Lannen, James Malley, Will. White, Frank Holland, Cuthbert Taylor, and David Donaldson, Misses Emma Rainbow, Mabel Fare, Francis Ferina, and Shirley Dalton.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Mrs. Dot* company is appearing here. Miss Decima Moore is seen to advantage in the title-rôle; Mr. Frank Lacy renders valuable support as James Blenkinsop; Mr. James Gelderd puts in some good work as Gerald Halstone; Freddie Perkens is cleverly undertaken by Mr. Philip Leslie; and a warm welcome is accorded Miss Emma Hutchison as Lady Sellenger. Miss Nellie Grahame makes an excellent Nellie Sellenger. *Her Dearest Friend* is the curtain-raiser.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Harry Gratian, supported by Mr. T. Taylor and Mr. A. B. Edwards, is creating the greatest merriment here in *Man, the Brute*. Johnny Dwyer renders some new songs with his usual effectiveness; the Donatos, one-legged clowns, return to amuse by their cleverness and agility; Margaret Royce charmingly gowned, sings songs at the piano; Ethel Sheffer does well in illustrated numbers; Julian Ross, comedian, knows how to make his ditties go; and Ethel Arundell, comedienne, and Alice Maydue are also in the bill, which is completed by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BATLEY.—THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitly; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—Mr. J. W. Turner and his English Opera company are this week proving a great attraction, and on Monday a crowded house heartily enjoyed Wallace's opera, *Maritana*. The company includes several talented artists whose efforts were highly appreciated. The chorus is a well-balanced combination of good quality, and the orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. T. Lawton do well. The programme for the week also included *The Bohemian Girl, Faust, Lily of Killarney*, and *Il Trovatore*.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*Diana of Dobson's*, presented by Miss Lena Ashwell's company, is doing good business. The piece is admirably staged. The leading rôle is in the hands of Miss Dorothy Green, who gives a charming and finished performance. Mr. H. Grendon Bentley gives a military touch to the character of Capt. Bretherton, and Miss Kate Turner is seen to great advantage as Mrs. Whyte Fraser. Miss Mary Stuart is an excellent Mrs. Cantelupe, and Mr. Alfred Harris as the self-made Jabez Grindley and Mr. Albert Wainwright as a constable are both good. *The Bishop's Candlesticks* is an interesting "curtain-raiser."

BELFAST. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. William Mollison's company opened here on Monday in *The Merchant of Venice*. As Shylock Mr. Mollison presented a clever conception of the grasping old Jew, his acting especially in the trial scene being worthy of the highest possible praise. Miss Evelyn McNay must be congratulated on her delightful impersonation of Portia, whom she invested with much charm; and Mr. Whitford Kane's impersonation of the Prince of Morocco reflected considerable credit on this able actor. As Bassanio Mr. Archie W. Chappell was entirely effective; and an admirable impersonation of Antonio was submitted by Mr. William Calvert. Jessica was skilfully portrayed by Miss Edith Blair-Staples; and Mr. Henry Deas was all that could be desired as Gratiano. Old Gobbo and Young Gobbo were successfully sustained by Messrs. Harold Neville and R. B. Drysdale. A meed of appreciation is due to Miss Gladys Brandon Gower for her pleasing interpretation of Nerissa; and Mr. Clifford Morgan acquitted himself with high distinction as Lorenzo. Other rôles were cleverly sustained by Messrs. Leslie Lingham, H. Owen Taylor, and Alexander Jenner. During the week *Hamlet, The Bonnie Brier Bush, The Troth* (a sketch in one act by Rutherford Mayne), *David Garrick, Macbeth, Othello*, and *Richard III.* have also figured in the week's bill.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Mr. Joe Peterman and company top the bill, with *The Pawnbroker*. The sweet tenor vocalism of Mr. Dave Carter has delighted many admirers; Mr. Jock Whiteford is undoubtedly one of the most humorous Scotch comedians on the stage; Mr. Charles Deane's comic songs have been much enjoyed; Mr. T. E. Finglass presents some coon studies with admirable effect; Friscari's juggling feats are very smart; and the Sisters Victoria are clever instrumentalists and dancers. Also here are Stevens and Rennior, comedians and dancers; and the Palace Pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The star here is Mr. R. G. Knowles, the famous American comedian, who delights crowded houses with his funny songs and inexhaustible patter. The feats exhibited by Ida Kessanley's Royal Fox Terriers are marvellous; France and Stewart return with their smart sketch *The 100 to 1 Chance;* and the Quality Quartette must be commended for their capital vocalism. Also appearing are Miss May De Rowse, comedienne and dancer; Cling and Clancy, American comedy artists; Rappo and Ella, gymnasts; Mr. Cliff Dixon, swell comedian; and the Hipposcope.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—C. and F. Renad's company has achieved a great success in their capital sketch *The Swiss Express*. Miss Winnie Stanhope is a charming comedienne with good songs and first-class dancing; the fine contralto voice of Miss Gladys Wilton has been heard to advantage; and Carney and Armstrong have made a big hit with their capital songs and dances. The musical act submitted by the Carina Sisters is a feature of the programme; and also appearing are Mr. Johnny Walker, comedian, and Miss Ruth Lytton, Scotch comedienne, who made a big hit on Monday. The Bioscope exhibits a fine picture, Dwellers in Flats.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The Trainer's Daughter, Washing Day, and In a Submarine are among the pictures here this week. In addition Lisbon and Barker, clever comedians, appear; and the Godfreys, who present their musical and comedy act with great success.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Another fine exhibition of pictures is being presented here. The series include Niagara Falls in Winter, Don Juan, The Ragpicker's Daughter, Dr. Cornelius, Dressmaker's Dummy, His First Chemistry Experiment, &c. A comic singing competition was inaugurated on Monday, when there were many competitors.

BILSTON.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-Manager, Mr. S. Hadskiss Dawson.—*The Prodigal Parson* is being presented here by Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company. Mr. Logan Darra makes a vigorous Tom Godly, and Fern Godly is feelingly portrayed by Miss Violet Hammersly; Mr. Alfred Northway is successful as Enoch Jaggins; and amusement is caused by Mr. Owen Remonde and Miss Alice Buckland

BIRKENHEAD. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—An initial visit from Mr. Leonard Boyne's company, in *Raffles, the Amateur Cracksman*, has proved highly attractive. Mr. Boyne gives a finished and debonair rendering of the central figure; the detective, Curtis Bedford, is capitally impersonated by Mr. E. W. Thomas; the Earl of Amersteth is carefully played by Mr. Arthur Willoughby; and Mr. Harold West displays considerable skill as Bunny. Miss Hilda Moore is a graceful and interesting Gwendoline Conran; Miss Lilian Hallowa is effective as Mrs. Vidal; and prominent in an excellent cast are Mr. Cecil Brymer, Mr. Buckstone Clair, Mr. Robert Barbour, Miss Blanka Stewart, Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald, and Miss Dorothy Gordon. The production is staged with every care and liberality.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Crowded houses are the rule here. Mr. Niel Kenyon, the popular Scotch comedian, is on a return visit, meeting with all his accustomed success; and Mr. Fred Karno's comedians in *Early Birds* are continuing

a most successful engagement. Miss Carrie Lanrie's Kindergarten again achieves pronounced success; August, September, and May are clever comedians; Mr. Walter Stanley is a versatile comedian; and Miss Cissie Curlette a pleasing comedienne and dancer. The Dancing Gilberts, in a well-sustained act; Mina Denvil, juvenile comedienne; Mr. Frank Cass, a comedian of ability; and Brown's Royal Bioscope also add materially to the success of the entertainment.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr Philip Rodway.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson met with a very encouraging reception here on Monday, when they opened in *Hamlet* to a comfortably filled house. Mr. Benson's personation of the "melancholy Dane" was again marked with those erudite qualities that have raised it to a plane of its own, and the ovation at the end was obviously sound and sincere. Mrs. Benson as Ophelia gives a performance full of tender as well as strong points; Mr. H. O. Nicholson gives much zest to the speeches of Polonius; Mr. G. F. Hannam Clark is imposing as Claudius; and Miss Helen Haye as the Queen, Mr. Murray Carrington as Horatio, Mr. Baliol Holloway as Laertes, and Mr. G. R. Weir as the First Gravedigger all distinguish themselves. *Julius Cæsar, Taming of the Shrew, Merchant of Venice, Richard III., School for Scandal,* and *Macbeth* have also had fine receptions.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—There has been a big run on *The Mollusc* here this week, Miss Annie Hughes and her company being the attractive power. Circumscribed though the cast be, it is quite sufficient to hold the attentions of the house from beginning to end. Miss Hughes plays Mrs. Baxter, the titular rôle, with a fine sense of its humour, and quite captivates the audience, besides amusing it. Mr. Athol Stewart as Tom Kemp is both breezy and tender as the part requires, impressing the "house" very pleasantly; Mr. Alic Chumley adapts himself well and ably to the part of Baxter; and Miss Lillias Waldegrave makes the rôle of Miss Roberts one of much beauty and distinction. *A Bit of Old Chelsea* puts the audience into the best of good humours at the beginning, and for this Mr. Alic Chumley, Mr. C. A. White, Mr. F. Hartley, and Miss Hughes are responsible.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*The Assassin* is meeting with its usual big success. Mr. Augustine Knight's portrayal of Prince Demetri fetters the audience from the commencement, his acting throughout being studded with cleverly made points and thrusts; Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson makes a very popular rôle of the Prince's rival, Ivan Ipanoff; Miss Eva Trevenna as Wanda, "the Assassin," shows the force and intensity of the character admirably; Miss Maudie Steeples plays a pathetic part as Nita very touchingly; Miss Hettie Senior as "America's best," i.e., Connie Jonathan, stirs the audience into outbursts of applause; Mr. Edwin Jenner is highly popular as Captain O'Neill; and Mr. Edwin Lever, Mr. Edward Swinton, Mr. Edward Fryer, Mr. Tom J. Taylor, Mr. James Abbott, and Miss Marie E. Robertson are able supporters.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company and production are drawing the public well here with *Married to the Wrong Man.* Miss Gertrude Boswell makes many admirers with her clever enactment of Ruth, the dumb girl; Mr. Oswald Cray acts in a fine manly style as Jack Gladwin; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff shows both force and skill in his treatment of the character of Captain Deering; Mr. Charles Vivian does much good work in the rôle of Jasper Skinner; Mr. Paige Lawrence is agreeably situated as Archie Bird; Mr. Ray Raymond is very effective as Sergeant Manners; Miss Mary Pemberton lends herself cleverly and completely to the rôle of Rose O'Connor; Mr. Sid Claydon works admirably in the comedy vein as Timothy; Miss May Davis scores vivaciously as Dolly, and numerous others support cleverly.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*The Idol of Paris* is meeting with its accustomed success. Miss Annie Bell's portrayal of Flare-Flare continues to gather in force and charm, and her popularity has been considerably enhanced by this week's work; Mr. Wilson Howard as the ignoble lover Philip d'Esterre could scarcely be improved upon, his acting being always effective; Mr. Leonard Aardale scores in the congenial and more sympathetic rôle of the cousin, Victor Cashelle; Mr. Gordon Robey is prominent as Prince Sergius; Miss Phena Powell acts in the proper style as Mme. Sancterre; Miss Annie Megson makes an amusing part of the daughter Ann; Mr. Frank H. Dale shows due appreciation of the part of Tatave; and there are others who are good.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—*Dare-Devil Dorothy* takes the public again well here, Mr. Henry Swinerd's company coming in for some fine receptions. Miss Dorothy Desmonde acts well and sings sweetly in the title-rôle; Miss Nelly Valentine acquits herself admirably as the sister Ruth; Mr. Walter Ashley gives a manly and melodious version of the hero Captain George Fielding; Mr. Walter B. Nugent renders a capital portrayal of the "enemy," Captain Dudley; Mr. Edward Aldworth shows ability as Hawkins, and Mr. Dean Cliff makes the most of his rôle of Featherstone Haugh. Mr. Harry Ugar is a highly popular and towering character throughout as Crump; Miss Nellie Harcourt (her 2656th appearance in the rôle) sings and dances with great skill and success as Judith; and there are some very clever specialities.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*Sunday* has charmed all hearts here, the change for the nonce from ordinary melodrama, with no reflection on the latter, being undoubtedly welcome. The company is Mr. Louis Calvert's, under the direction of Mr. T. Norman Walter, whose work as Tom Oxley also is extremely well done. The sweet character of Sunday is brought out in a wholly delightful manner by Miss Ethel Ward; Mr. Pennington Gush indicates the lofty nature of the Colonel with fine distinction; Mr. James Skea serves the author admirably well as Towzer; Mr. A. Cotton Holmes's conception of Davy is quite perfect; Mr. James Hussey affords an engrossing picture as Lively; Mr. Alec Alves imparts the necessary warmth and energy to the rôle of Jacky; and Mr. Thos. Nixon, Mr. Harry Lenton, Miss Helen G. Edwins, and Miss Lila Barclay complete the cast.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Mr. Arthur Roberts is appearing here with his company in a farcical sketch, *Till Sunday,* which is brightly written and well acted throughout, Mr. Roberts being well applauded. Fred Earle is another amusing comedian; his songs are good, and he knows how to make them go. The Prince Milner Troupe are well applauded. The statuary poses of Les Marbres are fine. Other prominent turns include the Mayvilles, Bertha Winder, Morris Harvey, Little Keeno, and the Chronomegaphone.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Vesta Tilley, Birmingham's greatest draw, is here. There is also an excellent bill provided. The Coloured Meisters are on a return visit, their operatic selections being loudly applauded. A dramatic episode, *A Royal Heart,* is well played. The Ten Zerbinis have a musical scena, *The Enchanted Glen.* Mlle. Haydee presents her Miniature Vaudeville Theatre. Tom Moore, Alf Chester, and Harry Luck conclude the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—There is a capital programme here, the principal item being George Dance's musical sketch *The Burglars' Ball,* which is most amusing. Jack and Evelyn are exceedingly bright and entertaining, while the Haydons give an amusing sketch, *Bertie and the Barmaid.* Henry Bekker gives a clever juggling act. The Brothers Bradshaw are acrobats with plenty of humour. Harry Taft was well applauded for his whistling.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—May Henderson, the "Dusky Comedy Queen," is topping the bill here, and is loudly encored for her dancing. Frank Bernard and company have an amusing sketch, *Hello!* The Avartos are comedy musicians. The bill includes Alec Kendal, Winifred Ward, Roland Hill, Brothers Smart, Frank Seeley, and Kennedy's Kiddies.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—This popular hall is attracting crowded houses. "Sacco," the fasting man, is now in his fifth week of fifty-two days' fast. The pictures this week are very good, especially The Only Way and A Night Alarm.

CURZON HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Walter Jeffs.—The New Century Pictures are attracting full houses here. A Day at the Races is an interesting film, and one well worth seeing. The principal scenes from *Faust* are also depicted. The Cecelias are an excellent turn.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair's company is paying a return visit here in *Man to Man.* Mr. H. Holland as Matthew Ellerton is clever; and Mr. Frank Adair is a great success as Richard Ellerton; Mr. Edward Lloyd gives an excellent portrayal of George Gordon; Mr. R. Val Shane as Rev. Philip Ormonde, Mr. Bruce Williams as Samuel Plumtree, and Mr. Clifford Brown as Bill Burkley play their parts in good style; as Miss Lavina Dove Miss Adeline Lester is capital, and the same may be said of Miss Evelyn Ward as Gipsy Madge; Miss Louie Adair is a delightful Ethel Maythorne.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*A Desperate Marriage* is set forth here this week by Mr. Fred Mouillot's company. The very arduous part Dick Strang is most efficiently played by Mr. J. Knox-Orde; and Clarence Woolmer is ably depicted by Mr. E. W. Maule Cole. Mr. Walter Rousby as Tom Stripe and Mr. Herbert Lloyd as Elijah Boggs also give entire satisfaction; a painstaking and natural impersonation of Miriam Elton is supplied by Miss Gertrude Gilbert; whilst Miss Winifred Whyte contributes a faithful portrayal of Audrey Howard. The excellent staging of the play adds not a little to its general success.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Dora Lyric, the popular comedienne, tops a capital bill here this week. Captain Roberts, musician, athlete, and balancer, also gives a good turn; Les Belles Americaines, vocalists and dancers; Fred Dunstone, comedian; Alskarno Trio, risley artists; Carr and Rose, in a sketch; Charlie Rose, vocalist; Brady-Johnson Comedy Team; and Bennett and Martell, "The Shipwrecked Mariners," complete the programme.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Another big programme is submitted here this week, and the contributors include old favourites and newcomers. J. A. Wilson, comedian and dancer; Ernie Myers, comedian; Frank Hardie and company, in an excellent sketch, entitled *For the Honour of the Regiment;* Sisters Caselli, duettists and dancers; the Musical Palmers; Percy Hannan, vocalist; Mabel Bardine and company, in a sketch; the Two Errolls, tumblers; Dale and Vale, vocalists; and Chummie La Mara, comedienne, are responsible for its success.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Moody.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company with *Send Him Victorious,* opened on Monday night to a good audience. To Mr. Jerrold E. Reed every praise is due for a powerful interpretation of the part of Colonel Kaufman; and Mr. William Allington did justice to the part of Captain Frank Allison; Miss Isabel Hunt as Ethel Hardinge and Miss Marie Robson as the Countess Kara von Mechlinburg made their respective parts stand out with prominence.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Olaggus.—Caban's French circus of ponies, donkeys, and goats give a clever performance; Florence Curlow, dancer; Mi Naren, comedienne; Frankford and Maine in comedy and melody; John Ivor in illustrated song; Zas Ma, gymnast; and a pictorial show make up an excellent programme.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Tom Doyle.—A gigantic picture programme, augmented by capital variety turns, succeeded in drawing good houses to the "Drome."

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—The annual visit of the Moody-Manners Opera Company, Ltd., is being made this week. On Monday evening a fashionable audience assembled when Gounod's *Faust* was presented. Mr. Seth Hughes sang the rôle of Faust in a most artistic manner; Mr. Charles Manners gave his accustomed piquancy to the part of Mephistopheles and Mr. Lewis James was very good as Valentine; Mme. De Vere-Sapio scored a big success as Marguerite; Miss Bessie Weir made a delightful Siebel, and Miss A. Worth sang well as Martha. Other principals who appear with the company are Messrs. William Dever, Philip Brozel, Charles Magrath, Lewis Laurier, and Misses Toni Selter, Kate Anderson, Marie Louise Roger, and Mme. Fanny Moody. The orchestra and chorus have respectively been under the batons of Signor Romualdo Sapio and Herr Richard Eckhold. Other operas staged during the week are *Madame Butterfly, Il Trovatore, The Star of the North, The Meistersingers, Tannhäuser,* and *The Bohemian Girl.*

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A return and farewell visit prior to his Australian tour is being made here by Chung Ling Soo, the magician, who is presenting a series of amazing and bewildering illusions. He is well supported by Dora Martini, lady gymnast, on the trapeze, rings, &c.; the Comerfords, comedy acrobats; the Calcots, singers, dancers, and instrumentalists; the Camplins, in their screaming absurdity, *A Dressing-room Interlude;* Les Voces, operatic singers; Carozi and Keith, juggling and comedy speciality artists; Arthur Gill, vocal comedian, "the man with four voices"; the Brothers Dean, dancers; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. A. Harrison.—A good programme here comprises Binns and Binns, "the vagabonds," in comedy and music; Mlle. Pollo, lady gymnast; Corri and Foote, song-and-dance artists, in their latest creation, *A Double Birthday;* A Ba-bo's picture postcard album, being a series of quick changes by a young lady; Gus Barra, up-to-date eccentric comedian; the Lannons (Will and May), duettists and dancers; Joe Oliver, vocalist; Munroe's Black-and-White Comedy Team; and the Empire Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The stock company is this week presenting the sensational melodrama, entitled *The Rich and Poor of London,* by Max Golberg. Miss Nina Vaughton plays the part of May Braithwaite in a highly creditable manner; praise is due to Mr. Stanley S. Gordon, who is well suited as Dr. Leonard Morton, also to Mr. Albert Sember as Spider Jack. Mr. Alfred D. Adams is a powerful Mark Standing; and the comedy is well taken care of by Mr. Tom H. Solly as Gussie Lambe and Miss Effie Macintosh as Polly Philipots. Other principal characters are portrayed by Mr. Cyril Grier, Mr. Alfred Grenville, and Misses Kathleen Magee and Louie Heathfield.

BOSTON.—PALACE.—Lessees, Messrs. Holloway and Fountain; Business-Manager, Mr. Ernest Cass.—This building was occupied this week by Fabbro's Royal improved electric singing and talking pictures and grand variety company. Fabbro's improved singing and talking pictures are controlled by a series of electric motors, the plant toured by the company weighing over 2½ tons. They have also a strong variety company, including the Columbia Trio; Bessie Farrell, comedienne; Leslie Sears, character comedian and impersonator; Cecil Bradley, tenor; and Ryche and Pere.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—On Monday Mr. George Edwardes's company appeared for the first time here in *The Girls of Gottenberg.* As Max Moddlekopf Mr. Edmund Payne is quaint in the extreme; and Happy Fanny Fields is bright and buoyant. Mr. Leslie Holland (Otto), Mr. Fred Allandale (Albrecht), Mr. Fred Payne (Britti Botti), Mr. Jocelyn Hope (General the Margrave of Saxe-Neirstein), Mr. Douglas Munro (Burgomaster), and Mr. Louis Denver (Adolf) do much to keep the fun going; and Miss Thelma Raye daintily fills the part of Elsa, Clementina being very brightly played by Miss Maisie Gay.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—A return visit of Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's company with *Her Love Against the World,* is again providing acceptable fare for Mr. Laidler's patrons. Mr. Hallatt gives an excellent performance of the part of the aspiring Prince Othmar; as the valiant Lieut. Strathmere Mr. Fred Emery again wins favour; Mr. Louis Gilbert acts finely as Prince Ravensburg; there is much majesty in the bearing of Mr. Victor Rowland as Prince Maurice of Saxonia; Princess Idalia is charmingly played by Miss Grace Heywood; and the other parts in the play are in excellent hands.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Eugene Stratton is on a welcome return visit; and the accomplished Jackson Family of musicians are again delighting audiences. The Three Cape Girls, dancers of ability, once more win approval; and Reichen again presents his remarkably trained dogs. Daisy James, comedienne, sings a humorous song of "The matinée hat" brightly; Sydney James's Strolling Players are entertaining; Bert Harrow is a diverting comedian; and there is humour in J. O. Ling's turn as a mimic. Fine and interesting pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—The amusing comedians, the Six Brothers Luck, are entertaining the audiences here nightly with their latest sketch *Lift-'Em's, Limited;* the Two Rubies present a good turn as duettists and dancers; Webb and Branston acceptably contribute operatic duets; Clown Barker's cleverly-trained animals are put through a remarkable and humorous performance; Flo Burnett's vocalism is of an excellent quality; Jack Rae's gymnastic feats are of a novel kind; the Florodoras provide an excellent musical comedy sketch, *Two's Company, Three's None;* and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are very entertaining.

BRIGHOUSE.—ALBERT THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Beanland.—The Dayton Family, gymnasts, give a marvellous performance; the Three Milfords are a trio of exceedingly clever triple trapeze performers; Howard and Wallace amuse with their smart duologue, *Taming a Wife;* Chas. Chard, of pantomime fame, goes well; and the same applies to Miss Annie Casey. The interlude presented by Matt Wilkinson comically depicts the troubles of a Registrar; the Cecilia Family score repeatedly; Morimura, assisted by Miss Miako, is very entertaining in a novel Japanese conjuring act; Minnie Wigan, comedienne and dancer, with a bright new series of animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co., complete the bill of fare.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's company is here this week, with *The Executioner's Daughter.* Miss Enid Edoni gives a charming impersonation of Annette, whose sister, Felice, has a forcible representative in Miss Nellie Howitt; Mr. S. Leigh Courtney's Felix Marius, and Mr. George Porteous' Kretch are admirable enactments; Mr. John B. Murray's Mons. Roche and Mr. Walter Clarke's Paul Rovel merit warm commendation; and much amusement is afforded by Miss Madge Seymour as Sally King, Mr. Frank Ayrton as Tom Holmes, and Mr. Fred P. Carlton as Vivian Ormonde. The drama is well staged and mounted.

ALHAMBRA.—Manager and Secretary, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. R. A. Roberts, the protean actor, appears with distinct success in the dramatic sketch, *Dick Turpin,* and the comic farce, *Lucinda's Elopement;* Walker and May are a popular pair of coloured singers and dancers; Gladys Mavius, the Canadian girl, renders her songs in delightful style; the Firmans win hearty applause in their scena, *The Fire Station;* Gladys Archbutt is a pleasing comedienne; Le Nora Walker, the American girl, sings admirably; May Marton, comedienne, is well received; Charles Lilburn, comedian, gives a capital turn; Will Cornish contributes a good musical bell act; and the Alhamrbrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—There is a capital company here this week. Launceston Elliott, the "British Hercules," performs some amazing feats of strength; Mr. Charles Parker's Six Æolians are very successful in a refined song and vocal act; the Van Host Trio are clever comedy acrobats and tumblers; Laurie Wylie and his mimicking mannikin give an entertaining turn; the Athos Troupe are skilful ball manpulators and novelty acrobats; Yuko Tani, the famous ju-jitsu wrestler, wins enthusiastic applause in his wrestling bouts; Johnny and Charlie are eccentric acrobats; Harry Rogerson, the "tired comedian," is entertaining; Welda and Wynne display good juggling and dancing in their comedy speciality; F. Boyce, character comedian, Geo. Carncross, actor and character vocalist, and Flora Cromer, comedienne, are well received, and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—The Monckton-Hoffe comedy company opened here on Monday, with *Irene Wycherley.* Miss Maude Henderson submitted a finished portrayal of Irene Wycherley; Mr. Charles Garry was excellent as the neglectful husband, Philip Wycherley; Mr. Ralph Hutton's Sir Peter Wycherley was finely played; Mr. Forbes Watts made an earnest Harry Chesterton; Miss Phyliss Stuckey was a lively Muriel Wycherley; Miss Maud Linden displayed great skill in her enactment of Lily Summers; Mr. Claude Haviland acted with vigour as Charles Summers; and the remaining characters were ably sustained.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—Miss Lydia Donovan and company, continuing their engagement here, are appearing in *My Soldier Boy.* Miss Donovan's versatility is charmingly exemplified in her rendering of the character of Lydia Mendle; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford proves very entertaining as Montague Mendle; Mr. Frank Lennard is admirably suited as Captain Culender; Mr. J. Croudance's Colonel Roscoe is a clever enactment; Mr. C. E. Lambert as Jonas Toddenham, and Miss Louie Walton as Amelia Morrison, merit praise; and Mr. Alfred G. Raymond as Private Michael O'Docherty, and Miss Nellie Lambert as Martha, are amusing. The programme for the week also includes *East Lynne.*

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The animated pictures exhibited here this week are very attractive. The Mohawk's Revenge conveys a thrilling drama; Around Beautiful Brussels is very interesting; Living Reflections is a clever trick picture; The Little Magician is amusing; and great fun is afforded by Impossible to Lunch, Ma-in-Law Breaks the Record, and The Troublesome Trombone Player.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's principal company, including Mrs. Brown Potter, is here for the week, with *Lady Frederick,* the play being nicely staged. Mrs. Brown-Potter obtained much appreciation on Monday, for her clever impersonation of Lady Frederick Berolles; Mr. Philip Cuningham acted admirably as Paradine Foulder; Mr. W. B. Parker did well as Sir Gerald O'Mara; Miss Madeline Du Val was sincere and effective as Lady Mereston; Mr. Herbert Garthorne represented with much discretion the difficult part of Lord Mereston; Mr. Cecil Bevan, Mr. Shirley Lea, Miss Edith Deverell, and Miss Phyllis Manners were all satisfactory in their respective parts of Captain Montgomerie, Admiral Carlisle, Rose Carlisle, and Madame Claude; and the remaining characters were carefully taken by Mr. C. T. Doe, Mr. Dudley Walton, Mr. F. Trumper, and Miss Nolan O'Connor. The one-act comedy, *The Peacemaker,* was capitally performed by Miss Nolan O'Connor, Miss Edith Deverell, Miss Phyllis Manners, Mr. Cecil Bevan, and Mr. W. B. Parker.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk's company is here with the interesting drama, *From Shop Girl to Duchess,* the play being well staged. Miss Mary Neil displays considerable power as Sylvia Grey; Mr. Douglas Cecil acts effectively as the Duke of St. Baynum; Mr. Frank S. Strickland makes the most of the part of Gilbert Spate; Mr. T. Lionel Ellis acts cleverly as Sir Morris Maitland; Miss Amy B. Ellis displays dignity as the Dowager Duchess; Miss Georgie Hawkins is decidedly good as the Countess of Norman Towers; and the comic parts of Tommy Tinkler and Tilly Dobson are capitally taken by Mr. Henri Gerald and Miss Florrie Grove.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Weldeman.—Dr. Walford Bodie is packing the house nightly. He relieves paralysed persons at each performance, and sees patients gratuitously daily at the Palace. Bella Skene is a pleasing burlesque actress; Le Grens amuse with eccentric dancing, &c.; Greener, the "singing pit lad," obtains applause; Lozelle does good work as a gymnast; Little Dolly Robson sings in pretty and sympathetic style; Nevill Graham and company have a good sketch, *The Man in the Street;* George Laurence, actor-vocalist, obtains applause; and animated pictures conclude.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Herbert Darnley and company score with the musical comedy sketch, *The Brigands of Tarragona,* some excellent dancing being introduced; Carlotta Levy obtains applause for her latest successful songs; Alfred Graham's Juveniles please with national songs and dances; the Rose Trio of acrobats and contortionists do some clever feats; the Sisters Melba, juvenile vocalists, obtain applause; Elvio, Ross, and Elvio amuse with their absurdity, *Those Troublesome Slaveys;* Jenny Hartley is a pleasing soubrette; Will Nesam, coon vocalist, is appreciated; and Ellis and Son do an acceptable musical act. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Messrs. Sidney Rennef and G. M. Copping on Monday presented a new domestic drama of thrilling interest by T. G. Bailey, particulars of which are on another page, under the name of *How Women Ruin Men.*

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*The Thief,* presented by Mr. George Alexander's company is attracting capital audiences. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart is a powerful Richard Chelford; Miss May Congdon displays power in the rôle of Marise Chelford; Mr. Gerald Ames is a convincing Raymond Leyton; and Mr. Alfred Lugg as Harry Leyton is good; Miss Mary Dibley is a charming Isabel; and Mr. Prothero is admirably represented by Mr. Cyril Cattley. *The Thief* is preceded by *Too Happy by Half.*

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The principal attraction here this week is Charcot and his automatic man, which successfully bewilders the audience; the Maningoes gives a smart and graceful performance of equilibristic feats; the Achmed Ibrahim troupe of Bedouin Arabs perform their characteristic acrobatic, tumbling and pyramid-building tricks, which evoke loud applause; the Frantz Comedy Five give a smart turn of acrobatics; and P. Rhodes, singing collier, wins applause; Lillian, lady trick cyclist, gives a pretty performance; and Richard Finberg, in character studies, proves himself a clever actor; Stelling and his clever dog please greatly, and the pictures by the Empire Theatrescope are good.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—A dainty, musical scena is given here by Bellew and Stocks' juveniles, who are named The Eleven Romps—all girls; the Jackley Trio are responsible for a funny turn; Frances Haskoll is much appreciated for illustrated patriotic songs; Cliff and Kean give a capital exhibition of dancing; and Pop Dearley sings a couple of love songs; Gracie Hunt, comedienne, is good; and Nat Clifford also appears. Raymond's Bio-tableaux completes the bill.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's company with *Are you a Mason?* is drawing good houses here. The idiosyncrasies of the bogus masons are most amusingly portrayed by Mr. E. H. Paterson (Amos Gloodgood) and Mr. Stanley Groome (Frank Perry); Mr. H. Langdon Bruce's presentation of the chic shop girl is irresistibly funny; Mr. G. R. Polson is capital as the bluff countryman; as is also Mr. Erskholme H. Elive (Hamilton Travers) and Mr. Wilton Ross (Ernest Morrison). The dictatorial mother-in-law is admirably played by Miss Adelaide Grace.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here this week with *The Love that Women Desire.* As Sybil Thornburn Miss Aimee Gratton Clyndes has a part which suits her to a nicety, and she is particularly effective in the emotional scenes; Mr. Sidney Leyton successfully portrays Philip Carnaby, and quickly establishes himself a favourite; Mr. J. Stewart ably fills the part of Squire Abingdon; Frank Hardy, an outcast, is intelligently played by Mr. Hugh Wallace; and Mr. Morris Maud is good as Richard Abingdon. The comic parts are in the capable hands of Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke and Miss May Neilson as Patty Swift, the whimsicalities of the former provoking much laughter. Able assistance is given by Mr. Gilbert Elvin as Dr. Brandeth, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson as P. C. Sowerburry, Mr. Sidney Rudge as Arnold Gathorne, Miss Jessie Elvin as Madge Abingdon, and Miss Dorothy Northmore as the Indian maiden Manquinha. The scenery is excellent.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The Woodwards, trick cyclists, are a big attraction, their wonderful balancing feats being watched with keen interest; the De Winn Bros.' head balancing is marvellous; in humorous and harmonious interludes the Three Comedy Chantlers win favour; and the quaint patter of Lola Patey, Merry Dutch girl, and Mark Daly, Scotch comedian, is most amusing; good items are supplied by Dolly Golden, dancer; Stuart Sisters, juvenile dancers and duettists; St. Ruth and Conyers, operatic vacalists; and the Ottograph pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. S. Garner.—A return visit is paid by Miss Ada Colley, the well-known prima donna, who is heard in a series of songs; Chris van Bern gives a clever turn, his imitations on the banjo being unique; Hemsley and Ambrose are responsible for an amusing motoring sketch; and Barfoot and Carson display versatility as comedians, dancers, &c. Enjoyable turns are also presented by Forrest and King, dancers; Cecilia Gold, comedienne; Dolly Ross, dancer; Jack Waller, comedian; and Pueblo and Cropp, coloured artists, in song and dance. The Bioscope pictures are up to the usual standard.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—The attraction this week is *You Never Can Tell,* and Messrs. Taylor Platt and Trevor Lowe's company are responsible for a first-class presentation of the play. Mr. Leslie Hamer plays Valentine with much distinction; Finch McComas is capitally enacted by Mr. Charles Daly; excellent performances of Philip Clandon and Fergus Crampton are given by Mr. Donald Calthorp and Mr. Edward Pearce; Mr. George Howard is good as Bohun, and Mr. Trevor Lowe displays clever acting as the waiter; warm praise is due to Miss Katherine Stuart for her refined portrayal of Mrs. Clandon; Miss Gwladys Morris does full justice to the rôle of Gloria, and Dolly is a delightful hoyden in the hands of Miss Clara Earle; Miss Ivy Fenton is a satisfactory parlourmaid.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Herbert Sleath's company in *A White Man* opened here on Monday for a first visit. Mr. Frank B. Petley as Jim was very fine, his acting throughout the piece being received with applause; Miss Margaret Fairleigh as Nat-u-ritch invested the part with a strong personality; Miss Eleanor May (Countess of Kerhill) rendered the part with conviction and feeling; Mr. H. Wilmot Jackson made the most of Sir John Applegate; Mr. Eric Hudson portrayed Tab-y-wana in a splendid "make-up"; Mr. Arthur Gibbons was sufficiently strong as the villain, Cash Hawkins; and Messrs. Lewis Broughton, G. T. Lambert, William Gomer, William Dempsey, Percy Pitt, and Mesdames Rosina White, Gertrude Price, Nora Wadeley, Kathleen Mervyne, Cissy Delroy, and Sybil Sarll made up a very strong company.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—A packed house on Monday night gave complete evidence of Mr James Welch's popularity and that of *When Knights were Bold.* Mr. Welch is seen in his famous rôle of Sir Guy de Vere, an impersonation which stamps him as a born comedian; Miss Audrey Ford gives a delightful rendering of Lady Rowena, and a more charming and impressive Marah Isaacson could scarcely be desired than that of Miss Daisy Cordell. One of the successes of the piece is undoubtedly the faithful portrayal of the Jew, Isaac Isaacson, by Mr. Arthur Grenville; while Mr. George Desmond as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe is suitably placed; the difficult rôle of Wittle is carefully undertaken by Mr. George F. Tully; and Mr. Guy Lane (Rev. Peter Pottlebury) and Mr. Cecil Kinnaird (Sir Bryan

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES. (from a photo.)

Ballymote) are both reliable exponents. Miss Helen Palgrave does well as Mrs. Waldegrave. The piece is preceded by a cleverly-acted play, entitled *The Changling*, in which Mr. J. H. Carson and Mr. Geo. Sully prove capable artists.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—This hall, which now looks beautiful after the recent redecoration, has been well patronised this week. The chief item on the programme is the novel sketch, *Jack, the Giant Killer*, in which the Brobdignagian actor, Mr. George Auger, and his midget assistant, cause much fun and amazement; Herman Melot, the marvellous conjuror, is accorded flattering applause; Victor Newman adds to his former triumphs by his skilful studies from Shakespeare and Dickens; a particularly laughable sketch is that entitled *Ancient Britons*, presented successfully by John Humphries and company; a pleasing comedienne is found in Miss Rhoda Paul; Marjorie Lawrence is equally as captivating in the same line of business; E. J. Sheldon lays good claim to being something new in comedians; the Eight of Hearts are always popular; and uproarious applause is accorded the eccentric musician, Bi-bo-bi; the Bioscope pictures are interesting.

Theatre Royal.—Under the Management of Mr. Rallo Balmain.—Mr. John Leopold's company proves an attraction here this week. *New Frivolity* occupies the major portion of the bill of fare, while *The Houseboat* is also in the menu. The well-known original Leopolds naturally are responsible for the bulk of the success of the two pieces with their skilful acrobatic performance.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—*The White Hand of a Woman* is performed by a really talented company. Mr. Bernard Mervyn is the making of the piece as Captain Scarsdale, and Miss B. Doyle as Belle Bellingham proves herself a powerful actress. An item on the programme which has taken very well is that of the American shooting speciality of Winona and King, a pair who are undoubtedly experts with firearms. A shooting contest nightly is causing much excitement. The Five Paulastos, acrobatic eccentrics, show exceptional ability in their comedy act; and Sammy Shields, Scotch comedian, causes considerable laughter with his funny patter. A delightful evening's entertainment also includes Happy Attwood, a droll comedian; Burns and Bentley, the premier simultaneous dancing team; Mabelle May, comedienne and dancer; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

Carlisle.—H.M. Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—The first visit of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in the successful comedy, *Peter's Mother*, drew a large audience on Monday. As Lady Mary Crewys Miss Violet Ley easily gained chief honours; Miss Mary Griffiths as Lady Belstone was a great success; Miss Josephine Rae got a lot of fun out of the Spinster Sister, and Sarah was smartly played by Miss Hilda Sims; Mr. Townsend Whitting gave a powerful and effective impersonation of Sir Timothy Crewys; the Peter of Mr. Vivian Gilbert was a fine study; Mr. Eille Norwood has a part as the K.C. which fits him admirably; and Mr. Walter Russell, Mr. Edward Jephson, and Miss Ada Rainey contributed finished and creditable performances.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Maurin's marvellous fountains are pretty and lovely; the Athlones give a fine "strong" act; W. J. Churchill's patter, songs, and business are unusually good; Wee Mona Vivian is an accomplished comedienne; as comedy cyclists, Henry and Tyler have a clever act; Valvo is a skilful ventriloquist; Lily Black is a charming singer; and some excellent pictures complete a much-appreciated programme.

Castleford.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman, J.P.—*For Love and the King* on its first visit to this theatre is being presented by Mr. C. Watson Mill and company. The bold, manly demeanour of Jarval is cleverly and intelligently realised by Mr. C. Watson Mill; Miss Rosalind Tate wins much favous as Princess of Athens; Mr. Henry Earlesmere gives an admirable portrayal of Vladimir; Mr. Jim K. Woods makes a hit with his comicalities as Carl Oppenheim; Natila, the ill-used victim, is safely entrusted to Miss Joan Ellis; and as Grazia Miss Marie Ault is both energetic and amusing, the same remarks applying to Mr. Geoffrey Chate as Duke Fernand; Mr. John Burton plays Michael Obrenoire with care and judgment; and Prince Uros finds a manly and telling representative in Mr. Alfred Hilliard.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will. H. Emerson.—Reynolds' Minstrel Quintette is most popular, and their efforts are rewarded with hearty applause; Jack Hylton keeps the house in continuous roars of laughter; the Kimberley Bros. evoke considerable merriment; the Sauteron Wonders give a marvellous exhibition as jumpers; Angelina, juggler and cannon-ball manipulator, provides an interesting item; Tom Bassett scores a big success as a Shakespearean comedian; Frances Manlon sings sweetly and dances gracefully; Leslie and Player, with songs and patter, are much applauded; George Tempest is a quaint humorist; and the Loyal Dominion company's animated pictures are still kept up to a high level of excellence.

Chatham. — Barnard's Palace of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Ted Curtis and Piccaninnies prove nimble dancers; Nora Stockelle infuses plenty of go into her songs; Ben Nathan and company give *Filby the Faker* most successfully; Hugo and Smit score in their acrobatic bar act; Russell Wallett's up-to-date impersonation of the Lady in Black is one of the best-liked in the programme; W. T. Thompson and company have a screaming farce, entitled *Watch the Chalk*; Lacey's Erascope projects an interesting film; and Johnny Cecil and Ada Gatley complete the bill.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. F. Warden-Reed.—Marie Lloyd, who heads the programme here, is drawing bumper houses; Natalia and Diana are a smart couple of trapeze artists; Allan and Hart are back again; Sylvesta succeeds in thoroughly mystifying his auditors; the Pasquali Brothers prove particularly neat equilibrists; Ella Lane is a comedienne with a nice style; George Lamard's songs go well; and the Edisonograph has an amusing film, entitled The Cold-water Maniac.

Cheltenham.—Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—*The Education of Elizabeth*, presented by Mr. C. H. Bowmaker's company was well received on Monday. Nothing could be neater than the Elizabeth of Miss Winifred Ingham, an unformed, untrained little hoyden in the first act, transformed in the second to a demurely correct little miss. Miss T. Russell Spires charmingly studies the part of the pleasant woman of the world, Mrs. Middleton; Miss Blanche Lynd cleverly represents the frankly vulgar, yet good-natured Blanche Macyntire; Mr. Bert Morley does well as the hero, Harry Fairfax; Reggie Hankey is admirably represented by Mr. Ernest Norris; Mr. Fred Castlemain is an interesting villain as Whitby; Mr. Carlton Holt is very good as the French waiter; Mr. Hugh W. Peel is capital as the gendarme; and Miss May Norris is a quiet power as Lily Kerr.

Colchester.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's excellent company is performing *The Midnight Wedding* here, and its reception on Monday was marked by extreme cordiality; Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes was capitally suited to the heroic rôle of Paul Valmar; able support was accorded him by Miss Yvonne Orchardson as Astrea; Mr. Mayor Cooke efficiently portrayed the villain, Captain Rudolph; Messrs. Algie Spalding, Harry Richardson, and James E. Page proved a really humorous trio as Bobo, Otto, and Max respectively; and Miss Ada Champion as Kathie added to the fun.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Company; General-Manager, Mr. Jack de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The Johnston Flood, which is being shown here this week, is decidedly out of the ordinary run. Ted Karno and company in the pantomimical absurdity *The Dinner Hour*, introduce some capable knockabout artists; the Brothers Montes work extremely hard in their athletic act; Zena Pana gives a versatile entertainment at the piano, excelling with ballads; Gwen Francis is a charming comedienne; Billy Hubbard is paying a return visit; and Bert Marsden displays his whistling powers effectively. The film, A Bird of Freedom, constitutes in itself an attractive item. On Thursday Mr. Herbert Sleath's company performed *The White Man* at a flying matinée.

Consett.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—The attraction here this week is *A Woman Worth Winning*, produced by Mr. A. B. Mackay and his excellent company. Mr. George Edwin Clive is a capable exponent of the part of Fergus Lovinsky; and as General Borinski Mr. A. B. Mackay deserves every praise; Mr. Carthage Caldcleugh is a really creditable Ivan Bardoff; and the comedy element is ably sustained by Mr. Ernest Kendrick and Miss Ida Mackay; Miss Chrissie Dunbar, who is a native of Consett, received quite an ovation on her appearance as Roma Pauloff, and gave a rendering of the part that was most effective; Mr. Louis Newman is a suitable Bertie Scribbles; and good work was done by Messrs. Standing and Sydney Burton. The piece was capitally mounted.

Cork.—Opera House.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Mr. Edward Terry opened an engagement here on Monday in *Fiander's Widow*, and had a most hearty reception. Mr. Terry acts with his usual great skill as Isaac Sharpe, and it is pleasant to listen to him rolling the broad, rippling dialect of the English shire off his tongue. He wins many a laugh in this healthy comedy. The company renders good support. Miss Coleman is an attractive actress, and plays in convincing style; as the young lover, Richard Marshall, Mr. Edmund Hollick plays in incisive style, and the village charwoman of Miss Sophie Lingwood is a capital study of its kind. Other members of the cast were Miss Evelyn Ormonde, Miss Ella Dixon, Mr. Kenneth Brampton, Mr. Poole Kirwood, Mr. William Dexter, Mr. George Byrne, and Mr. C. Macmanus, who all filled their parts well. The comedietta *The Telephone* forms the curtain-raiser. The alterations and decorations in the theatre, which looks practically like a new building, are very much admired.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—Flo Banks sings two songs, and receives much applause; Wilson Blockledge at the piano entertains for ten minutes, and creates a great deal of laughter; Sid Cotterell and company play a farce, *The Substitute*, which brings forth much merriment; Alfred Warner, who sings and plays on the violin, wins applause; the Three Auzonias are skilful performers on a steel ladder, and are very clever hand-balancers; Harry Wenburn, comedian, sings comic songs most successfully; Garland and Douglas's company of coloured vocalists give a musical comedy of great merit, and their vocalism is of a high order, and the Palascope gives new pictures.

Coventry.—The Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Wm. Bennett.—*Amasis* is being presented at the above this week by Messrs. Frederick Fenn and P. M. Faraday. Some of the musical numbers are excellently rendered and the choruses good. Mr. H. W. Denny makes a jovial Pharaoh; Mr. Edward McKeown as Prince Anhotep possesses a good tenor voice; Miss Mabel Burnege gives a charming impersonation of Princess Amasis; other well-rendered characters being Mr. Frank Attree as Ptolemy; Mr. W. Brodee Sebak; Mr. F. Hudson Nebanchairi; other smaller characters are suitably represented.

Hippodrome Theatre.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—The top turn here this week is Miss Lottie Lennox, who is encored several times; the Bensons are good in a comedy act, entitled *The Page and the Maid*; Harry Nelson is a quaint comedian; John Beauchamp and a clever company give a farcical absurdity, entitled *The Schoolmaster's Mistake*; the Great Northern Troupe do some capital dancing; Elton and Elma are good in a triple-bar act; and Dot Hardy and the Sisters Brooke also contribute to the bill.

Empire Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The star turn here is Miss Maud Dennis in the sensational dance "Salome"; another pleasing turn is Clothilde, who presents her performing cockatoos; Freddie French and company appear in *Policeman's Ballet; or, Votes for Woman*; Diana Hope and company appear with success in a dramatic episode, *Her Good Name*; other well-rendered items are La Freya in her posing electric novelty; Hinton and Wootton, trick cyclists; C. D. Reekie, patter comedian; the Bioscope pictures concluding.

Crewe.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Robert Macdonald's company in *The Dairymaids* is here this week. Miss Empsie Bowman is a captivating Peggy; Miss Edie Martin a clever Eliza; Miss Vera Crichton a dainty Winifred; and Miss Carrie Lacey an elegant Lady Brudenell; Miss Doris Dickens is suitably placed as Helen; Mr. Dan Agar plays Joe Mivens, and his appearance is always the signal for an outburst of laughter; Mr. Richard Telford portrays Lieut. Sam Brudenell effectively; Mr. Bernard Vaughan is an excellent Dr. O'Byrne, R.N., and Mr. J. Scott Melville a commendable Lieut. Frank Meredith.

Croydon. — Grand Theatre. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—On Wednesday there was a special flying matinée and farewell visit of Sir John Hare and company in *A Pair of Spectacles*. During the week Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. W. Wood-Ingram are presenting *Jack Straw*, preceded by *A Long Journey*. Mr. Lionel Glenister makes a good impression with an exceptionally fine performance of Jack Straw; Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram exactly fits the rôle of H.E. Count Adrian; Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson is excellent as the Marquis of Serlo; Mr. Ernest Graham's efforts are rightly directed as the Rev. Lewis Abbott; Mr. Frederick Moyes is admirable as Ambrose Holland; Mr. A. T. Gullifer is creditable in the part of M. Parker-Jennings, and Mr. Christmas Grose is commendable as Vincent Parker-Jennings. Miss Edie Graham is satisfactory as Lady Wanley; Miss Lucie Milner is praiseworthy as Ethel Parker-Jennings; Miss Estelle Despa deserves a word as Mrs. Withers, and Miss Florence St. John gives a sound and accomplished performance in the rôle of Mrs. Parker-Jennings. The curtain-raiser is well played by Mr. Christmas Grose (Rex Hardy), Mr. Ernest Graham (Bobby), Miss Estelle Despa (Mme. Bontemps), and Miss Lucie Milner (Constance Ford).

Hippodrome and New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Miss Ellen Snow's company in *Why Men Love Women* is here this week. Mr. Oliver Rogers gives an effective rendering of Gerald Fielding; Mr. Lionel Garsden ably portrays the villain, Capt. Staniloff; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter as Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert deserves praise; Mr. Ernest Griffin gives an excellent representation of the Maharajah of Balore, and Mr. Harwood Roberts as Orlando Figgins is a talented comedian. Miss Nita Owen and Miss Freda Vaughan as Birdie and Baby are received with favour, and Miss Ellen Snow's impersonation of Violet Livingstone is one that stands out conspicuously.

Empire Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—That inimitable comedian George Robey is causing a sensation here; Claud Feldman's Beau Ideal troupe of prize juveniles make a big hit; Cole and Rags are unflagging eccentric jugglers; Horace and Olga's table troupe of cats and dogs are uncommonly good; Arthur Melrose is a clever whistling comedian; Larry Lewis submits a couple of droll songs; Mabel Green is a charming musical comedy artist; Dan Thomas, comedian, is in first-class form just now; Charles Santon has an exceptionally fine voice; Edie King, comedienne and dancer, brings down the house; Violet Stockelle is a bewitching comedienne, and Ruffell's Imperial animated pictures complete the bill.

Darlington.—Theatre Royal—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Mr. Stephen Pitts company is here in *His Wife No Longer*. Miss Rosa Merveyn as the heroine, Mrs. Merivale, has a part that suits her excellently; Mr. Clavering Craig as Anthony Merivale gives an able impersonation; Mr. E. Paul Neville as Harold Midworth acts with vigour; Mr. David McFarlane as the Rev. Frank Willacy is convincing; Mr. David Donaldson does well as Daniel Trench; Miss Nellie Lawson plays Lucy Hooper in smart style; and Mr. Fred Wood and Mr. Tom Wheeler in the parts of Police-constable Flanaghan and Tom Oglethorpe are amusing.

New Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—This week's attraction is La Milo as Lady Godiva. She is most charming in her impersonations. Leslie Bros. in their act *Music Mad* cause great excitement; Frank Cumminger and Frances Colonna in their singing and dancing act win popularity; Marguerite Broadfoote is a dainty comedienne; Nash and Noel, versatile comedians and dancers, are good; and other good turns are Baby Vi Davis and Nell Brough, whistling comedienne.

Darwen.—Public Hall, Palace of Varieties.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—The Sisters Henderson give a clever and refined vocal and instrumental act; Allan McAskell is a smart comedy juggler; Vennie Velden pleases with her dainty dancing; Will Willis, an eccentric comedian, evokes much laughter. The usual excellent pictures conclude the bill.

Derby.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company occupies the boards here this week with *Lady Frederick*. In the title-rôle Miss Mabel Love acquits herself with consummate ability, and is successful throughout; Mr. Robert Minster gives an accomplished rendering of Mr. Paradine Fouldes; Mr. Patrick Quill makes a fine Sir Gerald O'Mara; and Mr. B. F. Meads is capital as Lord Mereston. Captain Montgomery is ably accounted for by Mr. Edward Bonfield; Miss Elsie Irving is a delightful Lady Mereston; and Miss Lynn Fontanne is good as Rose Carlisle. Mme. Claude is capably enacted by Miss Beatrice Grosvenor. The play is preceded by *The Peacemaker*, in which Miss Rita Ward, Miss Lynn Fontaine, and Messrs. Quill and Bonfield appear to distinct advantage.

Palace. — Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The programme this week is headed by Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, whose exhibition of trick and comedy cycling is received with all-round approbation. The Martelloni Family of lady acrobats and tumblers provide a good turn; Harry Levaine keeps the house amused with his amusing patter and songs; Geo. Dixton's company is successful with the comedy sketch *Uncle Obadiah*; the Three Royal Temples, operatic vocalists, are accorded a hearty reception; the Stowe Brothers are skilful novelty equilibrists; and Babs Lloyd is a pleasing juvenile comedienne. The Bioscope, with an historic film, also adds to the entertainment.

Devonport.—Theatre Metropole.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company are presenting the emotional drama *A Life for a Life*. Mr. Lester impersonates Josh Harker, the deserted husband, and gives an excellent version of same. Miss Beatrice Anderson as Aulalia acts capably, and Mr. Richard Bosco as Pedro is a villain of the first water. Little Irene, an actress of tender years, is particularly noticeable as Veretta, and Mr. H. T. Wood and Miss D. Riddell as Kit Oswald and Kate Evelyn respectively are deserving of favourable mention.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Bellman and Moore prove themselves genuine humorists, and entertain large audiences with an exceedingly amusing skit on a modern drama. Kelly and Ashby extract plenty of merriment out of their extravaganza, *Fun in a Billiard Saloon*; Mike Gray performs some clever comedy juggling, in which he is materially assisted by his dog; Dooley and Flo Hilton present some excellent masculine impersonations; Archie Glen is a clever dancer; Lillian O'Gorman excels as an eccentric dancer; and Edward Cranston and Mrs. Bennett materially add to the attractiveness of the programme with the sketch *Poor Master*.

Doncaster.—Grand Theatre and Opera House, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*Miss Hook of Holland* was the delightful musical comedy provided on Monday. Mr. T. A. Shale was capable as Mr. Hook; Mr. Geo. Mudie, jun., was happy in his presentation of Ludwig Schnapps; Mr. George Foley gave a comprehensive interpretation of Hendrick Dreak; Simon Slinks fared well in the hands of Mr. Tom Seymour; and the title-rôle was daintily upheld by Miss Alice Coverick; Miss Cissie Sephton being sprightly as Mina.

Dover.—Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. W. Holford.—The *pièce-de-résistance* this week is *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, admirably played by Mr. Henry Doughty and company. Some attractive dancing is given by the Harvard Sextette; and Norah Noble, comedienne; Bert Welsh, venriloquist; Dan Doyle, comedian; and the Langford Trio of dancers, together with several interesting pictures on the Bioscope, complete the programme.

Dublin.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company entered on their second and last week here on Monday night, when *Tannhäuser* was presented. Mr. Hanns Robert as Tannhäuser scored a distinct success, his singing and acting being all that could be desired; Miss Beatrice Miranda, who has a voice of excellent power, played Elizabeth brilliantly; Mr. Dillon Shallard as Wolfram well deserved the hearty appreciation bestowed; and Mme. Marie Alexander sang beautifully in the rôle of Venus. Mr. Frederick Clendon sang and acted with ability as the Landgrave; the part of the shepherd boy was ably undertaken by Miss Annie Walker; and Mr. William O'Connor made an excellent Walther. The choruses were well sung, and the orchestra, under the bâton of Mr. Edward Goosens, was admirable. *Don Giovanni*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Maritana*, *Esmeralda*, *Faust*, and *Carmen* are also in the week's répertoire.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The Vedrenne-Barker company opened a fortnight's season here on Monday with *Man and Superman*. Mr. Granville Barker as Jack Tanner acted with convincing sincerity; as Ann Whitefield Miss Frances Dillon proved herself a capable actress; Mr. David Powell was commendable in the rôle of Octavius Robinson; Violet Robinson found an able representative in Miss Auriol Lee; Mr. Michael Sherbrooke was successful as Roebuck Ramsden; and Mr. Frederick Lloyd as Hector Malone and Mr. James Hearn as Mr. Malone were capital in their respective parts, Miss Helen Rous carefully playing the rôle of Mrs. Whitefield and Mr. Richard Haigh making an effective Henry Straker.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The change of pictures here this week continues to draw capital houses. The films shown include—A Gipsy's Love Story, £100 Reward, The Trunk Mystery, A Rough Journey, The Colonel's Orderly, A Marble Man, At the Stage-door, &c. In addition, Miss Lilian (vocalist and acrobatic dancer), Antonio Savarro (bird mimic and whistler), and Bob Pearson (humorist and guide) contribute successfully to the variety programme.

Empire.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Charles Fisher's Pocket Opera Co. in selections from popular operas is delighting large audiences here this week. Harry Tate's No. 1 company in *Motoring* keeps the house in a continual roar of laughter; a capital reception is accorded Nellie Moore, character impersonator; the Four Cumberlands are loudly applauded for their clever acrobatic cycling act; Happy Tom Parker, eccentric comedian, keeps the audience highly amused; Howard and Harris in *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp* create much merriment; Connie Mascot imparts much spirit to her song and dance; and Arthur Royce, comedian, makes a hit. The Empire pictures are, as usual, interesting.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The bill is headed here this week by Jan Rudenyi and company in their musical romance *The Power of Music*. The Brooklyn Four in a comedy vocal act are entertaining; Morrin and Cardiff are smart dancers; the Two Lillies, vocalists and dancers, are well received; Sill and Sillcott create considerable amusement in the railway skit, *Lively Luggage*; Anna Kenwick is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; a novel act, entitled *Fun in a Garden*, is presented by Rell and Butt; Max Stirling, illusionist, scores a success; and Annie Lang, comedienne and dancer, and the Bioscope, depicting Love in a Telephone Box, conclude.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The change of programme here this week include the Les Poupees, duettists and dancers; Miss Violet Nava, soprano vocalist; Miss Marjorie Rogers, comedienne and dancer; Little Hatch, the "little lump of fun"; Johnny Trundley, the Peckham fat boy; and the Cinematograph.

Dundee.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*Tom Jones* is presented here this week by Mr. Robert Courtneidge's excellent company. Miss Florence Smithson as Sophia scored a veritable triumph. Mr. Harry Welchman as Tom Jones rendered his music most tunefully and artistically. Mr. Dan Rolyat simply revelled in the part of Partridge. As Squire Western Mr. Ambrose Manning was also a source of much merriment. Very humorous also were Messrs. J. T. Macmillan, Walter T. Rignold, and Lionel Braham as the Squire's servants. Miss Isabelle Dillon was a sprightly Honour; Lady Bellaston was portrayed to the life by Miss Alice Oppitz; and Miss Mary Southwell was effective as Miss Western.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—The Elliott-Savonas, whose name is a household word in Dundee, are proving a great attraction; their show seems to be even greater and better than ever. Marie Collins infuses plenty of life into her turn; Ina Lorimer is a clever little Scotch comedienne and dancer; the Fordyces, vocalists and tricky dancers, present a really enjoyable turn; Ingram and Irving score in an amusing sketch; Josh Dixon with a fine budget of songs and patter goes big; a very pleasing comedienne is found in Jessie Star; Little Frankie is a decided favourite; while the Bioscope further adds lustre to an excellent programme.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—*The Princess and the Vagabond* is being staged here this week by Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company, and proved a remarkably fascinating play. The staging is excellent and the dresses magnificent. As the Crown Princess of Urania Miss Mary Fulton made a great impression, her acting being faultless. Mr. J. Monkhouse in the dual parts of Prince Rupert and the Vagabond gave a powerful rendering. Mr. John E. Tomlinson as King Roderick was well placed, and Miss Olive Fulton (the author) appeared to advantage as Countess Sybil. Bruno, a cripple lad, was cleverly enacted by Miss Nan Spinner. In addition, Mr. James Stillwell, a great favourite here, appears with conspicuous success in his celebrated dramatic recitals.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Another excellent display of animated pictures is given here by the Franco-British Cinematograph Company. The films include:—I Know Everything, Music Mad, The Demon Shuffler, A Musical Number, A Tale of the Revolution, Lost at Sea, The Guardian of the Bank, The Fatal Hour, and a very interesting picture depicting the great Manx Motor Race. The comedy element of the programme is of the usual high-class order.

Newman's Picture Palace.—A fine programme of pictures and varieties is given by Mr. Fred Newman this week. The Musical Morrels provide a musical treat, and Mr. James Miller, a baritone singer of much ability, scores a big success, as does also Mary Easson, a little local girl, who is possessed of a remarkably good voice.

Kinnaird Hall.—Prince Edward's Animated Pictures are located here this week. All the latest novelties are shown by Mr. Sydney Prince, who graphically explains the various films. Miss Grace Prince provides a bright interval with her amusing and clever impersonations.

Eastbourne. — Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company is appearing here in *The Little Breadwinner*. Miss Winnie Crisp is a clever child actress, and in the name-part soon gains the sympathy of the audience, and also their praise for her capital step and operatic dancing; Miss May Richardson is a strongly appealing Margaret; Miss Clara Hunt is a big favourite as Bridget; Miss Nellie Ford very adequately fills the part of Kate Cherry; Miss Lisza Young is a bright and interesting Bobby Trott; and Miss Kitty Melville does well as Ruth; Mr. Sidney Lynn displays exceptional ability as Charles Prior, for he is equally successful in fun and pathos; Mr. Alfred Maurice is a subtle and penetrating villain Joseph Prior; Mr. Reginald Brown is an interesting and pleasing Richard Lawrence; Mr. H. B. Peppin is a dignified, effective Lord Dorrington; Mr. Wallace Carey is a satisfactory Dr. Chadwick; and the remaining parts are well filled. The scenery is admirable and elaborate.

Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—A notice of *The Man from Mexico* appears elsewhere.

The Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Miss Beaumont Collins and company head the bill here with a sensational dramatic sketch, *The House of Terror*, which is excellently staged; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor return with their amusing and popular novelty *The Dancing Master*; the Rizarelis give a very clever and novel revolving trapeze act, and gain much applause; the Recar Trio are well received in their smart gymnastic display; Miss Queenie May sings with feeling; Mr. Fred Walker is a funny and popular comedian, Miss Frankie Manners pleases as a descriptive vocalist; Mr. Chris. Baker is a good patter comedian, and new films are added.

Eccles.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Primavesi, in a juggling act, is excellent; the Wedburns cause hilarity; George Hall's whistling turn is good; Daleno and Stream keep the audience merry; Hilda De Grey, Tyrolean vocalist, is pleasing; Mlle. Edythe and Toto perform with various sized hoops and tubs; Dex gives a good exhibition of sleight of hand; Langslow is clever on the slack wire, and also a deadly shot with the rifle; Jimmy Shields, the one-legged comedian and dancer, is a success; and the Bioscope depicts Chauffeur's Nightmare and The Elixir of Life.

Edinburgh.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. M. Downie.—*The Merry Widow* shows no waning in popularity. The play is being presented here by Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company to crowded and enthusiastic houses. The personnel of the company has undergone some changes since it was last in Edinburgh, but the present members act with a completeness which is well-nigh perfect. Miss Constance Drever as Sonia is most acceptable both as singer and actress, singing with culture and expression and acting with power and charm; Mr. Leonard Mackay deserves special praise for his impersonation of Prince Danilo, in which he shows originality, and sings with much effect. Mr. Eric Thorne is highly entertaining as Baron Popoff; and Mr. W. Talleur Andrews is excellent alike as vocalist and actor, and receives a warm recall for his fine solo in the first act. That capital comedian Mr. W. H. Rawlins exhibits genuine humour as Nisch; Mr. Theodore, a first-rate actor and dancer, is a lively if somewhat ebullient General; and other capable actors in an admirable cast comprise Miss Ethel Cadman as Natalie—a graceful actress and good singer; Miss Sylvia May as Olga, and Miss Vivienne Talleur, who, as Frou-Frou, dances with extreme neatness and elegance. The play is beautifully mounted.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead. *The Flower Girl* was seen in Edinburgh some months ago; and the cordiality of the reception then given to the piece has resulted in an early return visit. Mr. Martin Adeson bulks largely in the production as Joe Wheeler, a rôle out of which he forces a fair amount of amusement, particularly with his burlesque operatic scenas. Mr. Alfred Donohoe as Johnny Wheeler and Mr. Norman Bowyer as Reginald Rackit also succeed in adding to the humorous element; while Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Florence Wilton are particularly funny as Alphonse and Lizette de Racquet; and Miss Jenny Holmes makes the most of Miss Greenhill, the suffragette. As Lily, the flower girl, Miss Dorothy Firman creates a pleasing impression; and with Mr. Robert H. Howard, who plays the serious rôle of the Hon. Billy Greenhill, finds much favour with the audience. The songs and dances are, almost without exception, encored in a manner which bespeaks the popularity attained by this youngest of new and original musical comedies.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—At this house Miss Maude Mortimer is a great favourite with her catchy songs, which she renders charmingly and expressively; Miss Ada Fawn is successful alike in comedy and pathos, and is seen to great advantage in her selections; the Yokohama Troupe are clever jugglers and daring in their balancing feats; a dainty sketch entitled *My Lady Betty* is admirably acted by Mr. Frank Elliston and company; Mr. Bruce Green in a humorous sketch introduces some really funny patter; the Valdo Brothers are distinctly droll in their act *The Eccentric Motor 'Bus Men*; the Russian "Whirlwind Dancers" give an exposition of their art, which is exhilarating to the audience; Mr. David James submits art studies from Burns and Scott; and Misses Florence and Rose Showell, duettists, and views shown by the Bioscope add interest to the bill.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—A capital programme here includes *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, which is being presented by Mr. Fred Ginnett's company; the Bros. Egbert are extremely clever as "The Happy Dustmen"; Mr. George Gilbey is a quaint comedian, and his turn is much enjoyed; Leo Tell gives wonderful imitations of musical instruments; Rousby's company present an interesting spectacle, *In Greater London*; Mr. Charles Stevens, comedian, sings some excellent songs; La Belle Nello is an exceedingly expert contortionist; and Mr. Harry Lawson, eccentric comedian; the Lyric Quartette, and pictures by the Bioscope complete.

Exeter. — Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Mr. Mouillot's company, with *Tom Jones*, is drawing large and appreciative houses. In the title-rôle Mr. Cyril Thomson scores a big success, acting and singing well; the Benjamin Partridge of Mr. George Elton is most amusing; Miss Alice Moffatt gracefully acts the part of Sophia, being recalled for her singing; Miss Florrie Saunders is a vivacious Honour; Mr. F. Seymour admirably suits the part of the old English squire; and Miss Olivia Eltone is good as the lady of fashion, Lady Bellaston. Messrs. Michael Dwyer, Cyril Lane, and Harry Courten are amusing as Squire Western's menservants; Miss Florence McAvoy ably sustains the part of the old maiden aunt; and Miss Marie Rogers is all that could be desired as the Hostess of the Lupton Inn. The scenery is particularly attractive, and the dresses are gorgeous. The augmented orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. Ernest K. Irving.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. H. Kendall.—Since the opening of the Hippodrome last week various finishing touches have been added, so that there is now very little left undone to make the house one of the most comfortable and up-to-date homes of vaudeville entertainment in the provinces. The fare provided this week is all that can be desired, and crowded houses are the result. The bill is topped by Miss Evie Greene, and the enthusiastic reception this famous artist was accorded was an eloquent tribute to her varied talents. She gave four items and won repeated recalls. A humorous opening turn was provided by Lovell Rowland; Chrissie Leonard, a graceful comedienne, rendered a couple of catchy songs in excellent style; and the witticisms of Leonard Teel proved irresistible. Ariel and Astarte contributed a tasteful and clever gymnastic act; Mr. H. A. Moore met with a well-deserved reception in his impersonations of various well-known artists; the Great Selbo, with his dextrous club swinging and juggling act, won unstinted applause; and the Hippodrome pictures wound up a most enjoyable programme.

Gilbert's Palace, Victoria Hall.—Manager, Mr. George Zalva.—An excellent programme this week is patronised by crowded houses. Miss Annetta Coutts sings "Angus Macdonald

acrobatic feats of strength are clever; Bostock's baboons' performance is an interesting example of the aptitude of these peculiar animals; and the Desmonds are talented singers of illustrated songs. Lumière is extremely clever in her marvellous electrical dances, and the stage presents a brilliant spectacle produced by electrical contrivances during her performance. The British Biograph Company intersperse the turns with pictures above the general level.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Falkirk audiences seem to have a passion for the Melville series of dramas, and this week they have again had much to their liking in *The Soldier's Wedding*. Miss Marie McAuley comes out prominently in her powerful acting in the part of Julie de Beauvrais, Miss Dorothy Richardson, a graceful and charming Nancy Lee, shows much ability; and Miss Mabel Lowe is particularly engaging in the part of Peggy Munroe. Mr. Wingold Lawrence makes a strong and chivalrous Jack Brown; Mr. Beresford Whitcombe acts the part of Colonel Graham with appropriate dignity; Mr. Johnny Chippendale imparts much gaiety to the play in the character of Tommy Spratt; and Mr. Fred Yarnold makes a typical Nathaniel Lee.

TOWN HALL. — Mr. John Clyde and company appeared on Saturday evening at this place of entertainment in Wilson Barrett's version of Hall Caine's *The Manxman*, in which the well-known Scottish actor took the chief part of Pete, and played with great histrionic skill. Mr. Clyde was assisted by Miss Kate Sennen as Kate Cregeen, and Mr. H. Macaulay (stage manager) as Cæsar Cregeen.

FLEETWOOD.—QUEEN'S THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Harry J. Snelson.—Mr. Snelson is here with his company in *Called Back*. Mr. Charles Lincoln as Gilbert Vaughan worthily upholds the part of the hero; Mr. Max Coutts is especially well adapted to the rôle of villain, his interpretation of Paoli Macari being excellent; Mr. Jack Lander gives a clever rendering of Dr. Ceveri, and Petroff is undertaken by Mr. Valmar Shain with distinct credit. Mr. Snelson himself takes the leading comedy part, to the endless amusement of the audience, his rendering of Archibald Bland being funny to a degree; Miss Gladys Hawthorne enacts Pauline March with becoming reserve, and Mrs. Snelson as Ruth Vaughan is very popular. The songs and dances of Miss Nancy Doris (Mary Ann) are well received. On Wednesday Mr. Snelson took his fifth annual benefit, when in addition to the above a host of artists gave their services, prominent among these being Miss May, who brought down the house with her popular songs, and Mr. William Pim as the "Galloping Major."

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—Miss May Palfrey and company are here in Mr. Maughan's charming light comedy *Mrs. Dot*, which has played to full and appreciative houses. Miss Palfrey as the fascinating Mrs. Dot acts gracefully and in her well-known vivacious manner; Mr. F. Kinsey Peile as James Blenkinsop gives a typical reading of the hardened, cynical bachelor, man of the world; Mr. Hugh C. Buckler as Gerald Halstane has a thankless part to play as the irresponsible lover, but acts admirably throughout; Mr. Basil Hallam as Freddie Perkins is most amusing; the name of Aida Jenours is sufficient guarantee that the part of Lady Sellenger is portrayed with brilliancy; as Nellie Sellenger Miss Evelyn Beaumont is dainty and acts with ease; a word of praise must be given to Mrs. G. Kemmis for clever acting and make-up as Miss Eliza MacGregor.

LEAS PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. D'Arcy Clayton.—Harold Montague and his Vagabonds are drawing good houses at this increasingly popular hall.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—Mr. Norman V. Norman's company appeared here the latter half of last week in *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, *David Garrick*, and *Nell Gwynne*. In the former piece Miss Beatrice Wilson gave a charming and clever rendering of Lady Ursula, and the Sir George Silvester of Mr. Norman was effective. Mr. Sam Wilkinson gave a good character study of the Rev. Blimboe, and the rest of the characters were well filled by Messrs. Alfred Gray, Norman Leslie, R. P. Lamb, Cosson Frere, &c., and Misses V. Malcolm Bennett and Ethel Coleridge. The dresses, &c., were on a lavish scale.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Managers, The Empire (Gainsborough) Syndicate.—A musical comedy entitled *Dainty Lady Dorothy* is here this week. Mr. Edgar Dereve plays the principal comedy part of Jinks, and other characters are filled by Miss Eva Darrell, Mr. Frank Lester, and Mr. W. H. Montgomery. Dances are introduced by Misses Jessie Barron and Nellie Barry.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold. — The Bros. Horne in *The Biter Bit* present a very laughable turn; Harvey's Boys and Girls are graceful dancers and tuneful singers; the Three Romas give an exhibition of strength which is taking; Chas. Rowen, a quaint comedian, is highly successful; the Cheers, with trained cats, are popular; and other items in the bill are Gracie Lawn, comedienne, Will Bell, comedian, Mildred Bryan, vocalist, and pictures by Vernon's Bioscope.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company in *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* has drawn large audiences to this house during the week.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—HIPPODROME.—Lessees, The Electric Vaudeville Co.; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. White.—The animated pictures continue to find favour here, and another excellent series of films is shown again this week. Chief interest is centred in the films depicting The Drama of Life. The singing pictures in the programme are also well received. Excellent items are also given by Mr. Cyril Rothery in his descriptive songs, and Miss Kitty Douglass in some good light comedy songs and dances.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh entered on the second week of their engagement on Monday, when *The Bishop's Move* was enthusiastically received. The comedy, which was beautifully and effectively staged, proved very interesting throughout, and was excellently presented by the company, whose work met with repeated rounds of applause. Mr. Bourchier as the Bishop of Rance contributed an admirable reading. It is one more great part in a truly fine actor's répertoire. As the Duchess of Quenton Miss Vanbrugh's quiet, earnest, and convincing manner never failed to command due appreciation; Mr. Bertram Forsyth's acting as Francis Hericourt was highly commendable; Miss Winifred Bateman gave a natural performance of Barbara Arreton; Miss Mary Weigall as Mrs. Hericourt did particularly well. The comedy was followed by *A Marriage Has Been Arranged*, in which Mr. Bourchier as Harrison Crockstead and Miss Vanbrugh as Lady Aline represented their parts in excellent style. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday *The Wells of Jericho* was again given here, and met with even greater success than it achieved on its previous visit.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—*The Sins of Society* is drawing crowded houses here this week. Miss Grace E. Leslie gives an admirable rendering of Lady Marion; Miss Pattie Browne is excellent as the lively Lady Goldbury; and Miss Dorothy Giles makes a charming Lady Gwendoline; Mr. Blake Adams as James Hogg, the ex-bookmaker, gives a telling portrayal of the part, and Mr. C. F. Collings is good as the unscrupulous Noel Ferrars; the stern money-lender is well represented by Mr. Frederick Annerley as Mr. Morris. Conspicuous parts are those of the Hon. Mrs. Murgatroyd by Miss Mabel Murray; Mr. Thesiger by Mr. Arthur Ransom; and the Rev. Martin Hope by Mr. Edwin Palmer. The hero, Sir Dorian March, is finely played by Mr. E. Vassal Vaughan. The drama is adequately staged, the scenes on the Thames and on board the troopship being perfect.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—The Follies are giving a lot of new business, and alike in the *Potted Plays* and *The Benefit of Sarah Judkins*. Mr. H. G. Pélissier and his clever coadjutors give smart burlesques of things theatrical and vaudeville.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *A Royal Divorce*, although having paid regular visits to Glasgow for a great many years, never fails to draw. Mr. Keith Fraser as Napoleon presents a striking figure all through, and among the many who have essayed the part he deserves a prominent place. Miss Margaret Watson as the Empress Josephine gives a very pleasing performance. Her pathetic passages with Napoleon showed fine command of emotion. The pompous Marie Louise was excellently portrayed by Miss Winnie Tempest; Mr. Percy H. Vernon made an ideal Talleyrand, equally in voice and gesture; Mr. Stanley Harrison as Marquis de Beaumont and Mr. Harold S. Standing as Marshal Murat gave satisfying representations; Mr. Walter T. Clifford as General Augereau and Miss Maude Lacy as Stephanie were very entertaining in their humorous passages; and special mention must be made of Mr. Geo. Hudson as Gramand, the innkeeper, whose antics in Act IV. were greeted with roars of laughter. The dresses and staging leave nothing to be desired.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*The Conscience of a Judge*, which Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company gave at the Lyceum, Govan, last week, is this week being introduced to Princess's audiences, and the stirring incidents and powerful situations are accorded their due meed of praise.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—The stirring military drama *Second to None* is paying a first visit here this week, and proves to be a production of more than ordinary merit. The company is Mr. T. Edward Ward's principal one, with Miss Ward in the part of Nell Greystone, a rôle which she interprets with a wonderful amount of feeling; Mr. Theo. Balfour plays Colonel Sir Reginald Greystone with fine distinction; while the thankless task of representing Captain Mannering is creditably accomplished by Mr. Frederick F. Loyd; as Lieut. Ballater Mr. Arthur D. Layland makes a smart officer; the Sergeant Horseman of Mr. J. G. Maine is a realistic study; the parts of Harry and Frank Wilding have promising exponents in Messrs. Leonard Williams and Charles Halling; Miss Mary Mallalieu gives a charm to the rôle of May Greystone; Miss Clarrie Yandell is smart as the housemaid Norah; and the humorous business is capitally sustained by Mr. George H. Davis as Joe Ruggles and Mr. Allan Carruthers as Private Flutter.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—*The World and the Woman* is the drama being produced here this week by Mr. and Mrs. Rice Cassidy's company, and is full of interesting items. The charming Mrs. Cassidy as Nelly shows great histrionic ability, and praise is also due to Miss Amy McNeil as Lady Marion Chalmers, Miss Alice Inman as Litty, and Miss Rita Hestolk as Martha; the very youthful Miss Violet Parker as Nina, Lord Hartington's child, is all that could be desired; and Mr. Cassidy's representation of Tut Harding is quite a polished piece of work. All the other parts are admirably sustained. The scenery is most effective.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Manners.—Star honours are shared this week by Miss Alice Esty, who contributes several operatic and ballad selections, and Mr. George Bastow, who is going strong with "Varmer Giles" and "The Galloping Major." Mr. Ernest Ch. Gittins presents a scena from *The Daughter of the Regiment*, with a clever quintette of vocalists, including Mlle. Adele Prescott as Marie; a smart protean sketch is given by Mr. Henry Coutts, in which he cleverly impersonates eight characters with elaborate changes of costume; Thora's ventriloquial business is extremely good and very popular; Florence again shows her ability as a mimic in several life-like impersonations; Wilson and Waring are a most entertaining couple, and make a big hit in their comedy and dancing act; John Warren's magical turn is full of surprises, and is neatly and dexterously carried through; Madge Osmond is an original comedienne; and the Bioscope pictures are new and entertaining.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Mlle. Vonetta, illusionist, tops the bill, and does many wonderful sleight-of-hand, conjuring, and quick-change specialities; Peter Bermingham, Scotch comedian and patterer, is most popular; other notable artists include La Belle Greta, a clever Spanish singer and dancer; Brayne and Lloyd, in an absurdly amusing act, *The Tree of Truth*; Nellie Ridgway, a pleasing comedienne and slack-wire artist; Stanley and Vandyke, in a laughable musical comedy, *A Broken Promise*; Arthur Stacey, eccentric comedian and dancer; Selby and Myers, comedians and dancers; and the Bioscope, with a good set of pictures.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—The farcical sketch *The Prince of Monte Carlo* occupies a large portion of the programme here, and the eccentricities of Harry Roxbury cause roars of laughter; Velanche's football dogs in their energetic display create great excitement and, in combination with the leaping feats of the greyhounds, form one of the best dog turns ever given here; a dainty show is that of Roma's Six Juggling Girls, whose neat and graceful feats of club swinging and throwing are heartily applauded; the Krags contribute a daring and graceful series of feats on the trapeze, &c.; Lillian Lowe sings several ballads in cultured style; Fred Land as an eccentric comedian takes a high place here; and his turn is greatly enjoyed; Ed. E. Ford's facial contortions are marvellous, and his songs go well; Elsie Steadman, comedienne, and Rosie Reval, in her songs, complete a good programme.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The chief attraction here is John Tiller's bright and amusing production *Jolly Jack*, in which the title-part is sustained with sprightly grace by May Merry and the part of principal girl prettily filled by Cissy Iris while as the strolling players Will Lytton and K. Martinette are responsible for most of the fun; Harry Freeman upholds his reputation with several humorous ditties; Dan Conroy's songs and stories go exceedingly well; the local pantomime favourites Misses Fraser and Haley again score with their duets; and Fanny Humber's versatile talent is fully appreciated; a smart light comedian is seen in Arthur Woodville; Valloni proves an expert juggler; the rest of the evening's programme being ably sustained by Stewart and Evans, comedians, and Maude Jester, vocal comedienne.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Large audiences were attracted on the opening night by Mrs. John Lawson's company in *The Devil's Sunday*, which was greatly appreciated. The variety items include Corcoran Bros., a pair of pleasing instrumentalists; Allis and Cassati, comedians and dancers; the Chronomegaphone, with selections of well-known artists; the Eight Lancashire Lads, a combination of clever singers and dancers; Crown Trio, vocalists, who were specially favoured; Lord, Murray, and Lord, comedy gymnasts and ball punchers; Ben Albert, comedian and patterer; Cruickshank, droll comedian and musician; Rhoda Bros., gymnasts; and the Bioscope, with a series of entertaining pictures. Later in the week Mrs. Lawson's company gave a sketch, entitled *The Woman and the Apple*.

GAIETY, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Sid Bandon receives well-merited applause for his efforts; Poole and Poole in their display of pedestal dancing meet with deserved appreciation; the sketch submitted by Rich and Rare was well received; Fred. Herbert made a specially good impression with his up-to-date topical songs; a very good show of animal training was given by Currie and his performing dog; Beattie Brand, comedienne and dancer, and Nellie Dean, comedienne, also contributed to an excellent programme. During the evening some very fine pictures were shown by the cinematograph.

BRITANNIA.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Bristol and Hull are most amusing and Merry and Lyons are very entertaining; Bert Brecon is a comedian of merit; Flo Du-Barrie does well as a male impersonator; and the Bioscope contributes a most enjoyable entertainment.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—The attraction this week is Mr. Montagu Beaudyn and company in the successful drama, *The Power of a Wicked Woman*. Mr. Montagu Beaudyn makes the most of his opportunities as Philip Casey; Mr. Gordon E. Kingsley is particularly good as Horace Winter; Mr. Arthur Cresswell, in the rôle of Guy Oliphant, creates a favourable impression; and Mr. James Burt as Lord Arthur Darnley and Mr. Bert Goodwin as Bransby are responsible for sound impersonations. Miss Mildred Blanchard, in the rôle of Helen Terraire, displays ability; Miss Irene Munroe renders sympathetically the part of Denise Casey; and Miss Phyllis Rae is an effective Nellie Montague.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Faludy Troupe of Hungarian acrobats top the bill, and the bottom position is worthily assigned to the Four Maisanos in an eccentric musical speciality. Mr. A. G. Spry again demonstrates his abilities as a comedian, and Violet Gibson and company prove good vocalists and dancers; Miss Fanny Robina, the clever burlesque artist and vocalist, does well with new business, and Mr. Billie Bint goes capitally; Miss Florrie Cooper sings a couple of songs tastefully and sympathetically, and Barlee and Smith, in a musical comedy duologue, do well. The Four Figaros, International vocalists and dancers, and the Palacescope also entertain.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. T. Rea.—Up-to-date pictures supplemented by illustrated songs continue to do well.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Messrs. Martin Alwyne and A. W. Thompson's company in the musical comedy *My Sweetheart* opened here on Monday for three nights. Miss Violet Hurley acts with admirable go and vivacity as Tina; Mr. Wilfred E. Brandon simply revels in the part of Tony; Miss Kathie Brathy is a charming Mrs. Fleeter; Mr. Martin Alwyn gives a bright amusing portrayal of Dudley Harcourt; Mr. Miller-George is a clever Joe Shotwell; Mr. Charles Cameron ably presents Dr. Oliver; and Mr. A. W. Thompson is very successful as Harold Bartlett.

GRAVESEND.—GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—The Kirbys, on a welcome return visit, are meeting with renewed applause; Will Brockton, a versatile vocalist, is much appreciated; May Fayre, soubrette, has been going strong; Major and Mac, cross-talking and singing comedians, create a deal of laughter in *Off Duty*; Fred Locking, tenor, contributes two good songs with illustrations; Little Sprot does well; and the Korries, in their musical and dancing act, delight one and all. The Edisonograph has fresh pictures.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor. J. W. Nightingale.—Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E Vivian Edmonds's company in *Woman and Wine* is paying a welcome return visit. Miss C. St. Elmo gives a convincing performance of Marcel; and Miss Octavia de Noel is responsible for a clever portrayal of Colombe. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds is a manly Dick Seymour; Mr. R. Foules plays well as Alphonse Beaudet; Mr. Edwin T. Kisby gives a clever character sketch of the Caliban of the market; Miss Violet Sims is a charming May Andrews; and Mr. J. Milne Taylor an excellent Hugh Seymour.

THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Excellent pictures are being shown here. Maude Verne is a charming singer and dancer; Tom Rose's funny songs are popular; Lydie Raie is a smart instrumentalist; and the Daintons' comedy duologue is well applauded.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—Frame, the famous Scotch comedian, is topping the bill here this week, and is a huge attraction; Captain Bedine and his Gordon Highlanders give a fine exhibition of athletics; Marie Glenn is the possessor of an excellent voice and charming manner; Charlton delights everyone with his magic kettle; Everard is a first-rate equilibrist; Bishop and Winkies appear in a comic interlude; the Three Orros are smart in athletics; Fred Barnes is a clever light comedian; Addison introduces cleverly-trained dogs; and Doodles is responsible for laughable episodes.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, The Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran.—The principal film here, For a Crown, is of a highly-dramatic character.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Miss Dinah Morris and company head the bill this week in the light opera, *A Village in Dahomey*; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in their spectacular absurdity, *Trafalgar-square, London, 4 a.m.*, are a decided success; Paul Cavalli performs some wonderful feats of strength; and others entertaining are Monsieur Lemere, comedy gymnast; Lily Sergeant, acrobatic dancer; Colvil and Tate, comedy couple; Alice Grey, ballad vocalist; Hal Croueste, versatile comedian; and Farrell and Dunn, comedians and dancers.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The Four Dorians, the clever gymnastic athletes, are meeting with well-deserved success here this week; Ada and Marvel Webb submit a neat and clever aquatic performance; Maud Vera, comedienne and dancer, pleases greatly; Wilkie Bard and company, Wallan, a smart juggler, and Amy Allnutt, the comedy queen, together with an extra turn, complete the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Chas. Majilton and company, in their absurdity, *The Trippers*, are causing roars of laughter here; Cleland is extremely good as a comic juggler; Frank Hardwood, actor vocalist, is well received; Fritz Kornan scores with his whistling; J. K. Macfarlan, Scotch comedian, obtains considerable applause; and Ena Compton is successful as a comedienne.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—Mr. Arthur W. Pinero's comedy, *His House in Order*, is here again, presented by Mr. Herbert Ralland's company. Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont is a distinguished exponent of the genial Hilary Jesson; Miss Kitty Cavendish realises the emotional characteristics of Nina with complete success; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves impressively plays Filmer Jesson; Mr. Randolphe Reade is successful as Major Maurewarde; the pompous Ridgeley family are cleverly portrayed by Mr. Langford Browne as Sir Daniel Ridgeley, Miss Avis Grahame as Lady Ridgeley, Mr. Dudley Stuart as Pryce Ridgeley, and Miss Victoria Wray as Geraldine Ridgeley; Mr. Richard Dalton capitally impersonates Dr. Dilnott; Miss Peggy Rae gives a clever portrayal of the boy Derek; Miss Katie Neville is successful as Mlle. Thome; and Mr. Laurence Seth Wallis is good as Harding.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Bella and Bijou, on their return to the Palace this week, retain all their former popularity. They present a trio of excellent sketches, the most successful of which perhaps is *The Suffragette*. Herbert Clifton is popular; Alice Maud is a pleasing child mimic; Farley, Rennie, and Farley appear in an amusing railway burlesque; Tom Joy is a comedian with good songs and stories; the Claymores are smart step-dancers and club-manipulators; and Harry Bold is an entertaining American humorist.

GUERNSEY. — THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S. — Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Hearty indeed has been the reception accorded this week to Mr. Ed. Marris's company in *The Worst Woman in London*. Mr. Charles Weir cleverly portrayed the part of Jack Felton; James Milford found an able exponent in Mr. Helier Le Maitré; Mr. Cecil W. Parke proved successful as the rascally Vincent Lyle; Mr. Percy Maitland was of signal service as Hugh Drayton; and Mr. A. Fellows Bassett as Philip Armstrong brought out his small part conspicuously. The comic element was amusingly supplied by Mr. James Salter as Bob Goldfinch, ably assisted by Miss Nita Imeson; Miss Barbara Allison brightly and engagingly played the rôle of Ruth Milford; and special praise is due to Miss Grace Murielle for her artistic handling of Frances Vere. Watkin Mills and concert party are billed for the end of the week.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Mr. George D. Day's company is playing *The Prodigal Son* here. The principal parts are taken by Mr. Albert Ward (Oscar Stephensson), Mr. B. J. Crane (Magnus Stephensson), Mr. J. H. Leigh (Neils Finsen), Miss Pearla Gardner (Helga Neilsen), Miss Florence Lovell (Anna Magnusson), Miss Kate Osborne (Margaret Neilsen), and Miss Pauline Emeric (Thora and Elin). The play is well put on.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are still drawing big houses. The variety turns include Charley Harvey and company in a farcical sketch, *The Broken Statue*; Beanland, "She (?) of the golden locks," is causing considerable amusement at each show. Beanland is a good female impersonator, and makes up well.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Edith Chantler, a juvenile soprano with a sweet, strong voice, opens the programme; the Two Kays appear in a vocal scena, *The Cuckoo*; Albert Letine keeps everyone in good humour as a female of the early Victorian period; Carl and Mary Ohm's animal circus consists of some highly-trained ponies, dogs, monkeys, and bears; the Five Vernons give some popular selections; the Damms give an acrobatic tumbling display; Eileen Douglas as the musical comedy girl charms the whole house; and Dave O'Toole, comedian, and the pictures complete.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Mr. J. F. Elliston this week presents Mr. Shaun Glenville, supported by Miss Ada Tilley and Mr. Augustine Symonds, in a laughter-evoking sketch *The Art of Deception*; Yanger West African wonder-worker, performs several mystifying illusions; Marguerita Ismay and her white coons are deservedly popular; Billy Hobbs is a quaint coon comedian and dancer; Corman's Juveniles in their scena, *The Waif*, and medley of song and dance business are a decided hit; Daisy Mayer furnishes something out of the ordinary in her coon stories with music; and the Three Fidardys in an eccentric acrobatic turn, Lytton and Bland in *A Lesson in Love*, together with the Bioscope conclude an excellent programme.

HANLEY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*Brewster's Millions* is here this week, played by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Mr. Percy Hutchison as Monty Brewster acts with decided credit. He works hard, and is genuinely successful. Mr. Cyril Rawdon makes a capital Charles; Mr. Robert Forsyth is good as Mr. Grant; Mr. A. Andrews' Colonel is clever; Mr. Henry Hampson is good as McLeod; Mr. Charles Esdale is fine as Frank; Mr. Douglas Greet as Smith is successful; Mr. Otho Hazelwood plays Horace well; Mr. G. Salver makes a capital Captain; Miss Lilias Earle is delightful as Mrs. Dan; Miss Frances Davie as Janet Armstrong is good; Miss Eva Stuart plays Barbara beautifully; Miss Sybil Walsh as Trixie Clayton is well suited; Miss Mary Seton plays Miss Boynton well, and Miss Cicely Stuckey plays Peggy charmingly.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—A splendid all-round programme is attracting large audiences. Mr. Ernest Shand is the star attraction, and as of yore makes a terrific success; the so-called Paxton Trio, which really consists of five artists, also star and make a big hit; May Mars wins great favour with a couple of clever songs; Jack Pleasants also is reluctantly allowed to retire; Sandy and Carl introduce a smart show; Sergt. Brennon is simply marvellous with his manipulation of a diabolo spool. The picture shown is Pa Among the Girls.

KING'S EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—Business continues brisk here, where splendidly chosen films are well screened by Mr. Weatherburn, the new operator. This week's series include:—The Lady Clerk, Put Pa Among the Girls, The Kentuckian, A White Man, The Slippery Pickpocket, The Wreckers, New Discovery in Chemistry, The Rocking Chair, and The Guardian of the Bank. Mr. Chas. Clifford, harpist, supplies the vaudeville items.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—For the first three nights of the week Mr. F. Mouillot's No. 1 company appeared in *The Beloved Vagabond*. Mr. Arthur Royston as Gaston gave a sympathetic study of the artistic temperament; Miss Nita Faydon as Blanquette played with admirable intensity; Miss Kathleen Harrington gave womanly emphasis to her portrayal of Joanna Rushworth; Mr. Warburton Gamble cleverly depicted the man of failing health and accumulated fortune, the Comte de Verneil; and Mr. Ramsay Macbeth as Asticot played well up to the lead of Gaston. For the last three nights of the week Mr. J. A. Batley's company appeared in *Dr. Wake's Patient*.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS.—Proprietor, Mr. C. W. Lovesy; Manager, Mr. Albert Matham.—Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope pictures are a decided attraction here. Steady, clear films are shown depicting picturesque Holland, Fiji and the South Sea Islands, A Corsican's Daughter, all of which are particularly interesting. A host of intensely amusing pictures are also shown, and Idento Bros. in eccentric comedy juggling provide an attractive turn.

HASTINGS.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company is here this week in the sensational play *A Sailor's Sweetheart*. A characteristic portrayal of Lieut. Charles Clive, R.N., is ably presented by Mr. Mark Blow, and considerable enthusiasm is infused into the rôle of Grace Mayland, the heroine, by Miss Adah Barton, who proves quite a favourite. Miss Ida Ernest plays smartly as Phœbe Pembury, and along with Mr. Arthur Lenville as Tim Kelly, A.B., makes much laughter; Mr. Clarence Ibbotson as John James is responsible for much of the comedy of the play, and contributes a well-rendered song and imitation of a 'cello obbligato thereto, and he has able assistance in comedy business by Miss Nell Gilmour in the humorous rôle of Mrs. Pembury. A clever study in villainy is provided by Mr. Arthur Elwyn as Philip Pemberton; Mr. Charles Johnstone as Stephen Lucas is a well-conceived rôle; and Mr. Arthur Rodnel hits the popular fancy as the Rev. Robert Clive.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Isa Davis impersonates some well-known music-hall artists; Belasco is a clever musician on a variety of instruments; the Alhambra pictures on the bioscope are an attractive feature; some clever juggling is shown by Enzer, the sword expert, assisted by Miss Clarice; the imitations of female dancers by Percy Maye are smart and original; popular melodies are sung in a pleasingly melodious manner by the Grosvenors, and C. Emlyn Jones and a bright little company engage in an exceedingly laughable comedy-melange entitled *The Harmonic Cranks*.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. J. D. Hunter and his small band of artists are appearing in the farcical comedy *A Phenomenon in a Smock Frock*. The little piece provides the necessary framework for a good deal of fun. Mr. Hunter brings all his natural humour to the part and fills the title-rôle with the happiest touches; Mr. Charles Hawker as Barker shows his customary ability; Mr. Arthur Dennis takes the character of Sowberry admirably; Miss Vera Dudley is a charming Mrs. Barker, and Betsy Chirrup is delightfully played by Miss Blanche Bayley. Payne's Bio-Photoscope displays varied selections of pictures.

PUBLIC HALL.—Lessees, The People's Picture Palace Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local Manager, Mr. Harry W. James.—The pictures this week are attractive and amusing. Much interest is centred in The Football *Star*, which shows the evolution of a sporting paper, and a good selection of humorous subjects keep the audience merry.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—King's Royal Bioscope is still the attraction here. During the display songs and pianoforte selections are given by Miss Bertha Felsing.

HORWICH.—PRINCES' THEATRE.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—This week Mr. Ernest Vaughan's company, under

WHAT ARE MILLIONS TO THE MAN WHO IS ILL

Only a bitter mockery. The world is full of delights in which he cannot share. He can buy them but not enjoy them, and is poor despite his millions. This is specially true of the dyspeptic—the man who cannot digest his food. When the stomach ceases to effectually perform its natural work, food ceases to nourish and causes pain, heartburn, wind, acidity, and a host of other troubles which spoil life. Perfect digestion is the foundation of sound health, and that is assured by the use of the world- renowned digestive tonic and stomachic remedy, Mother Seig el's Syrup.

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the direction of Mr. C. H. Phelps, is appearing in *Man or Beast*. The piece is full of very stirring situations, and the plot very carefully worked out. Mr. Ernest Vaughan's Sir Richard Tremere (the Beast) is a very fine performance of an unprincipled scamp; Mr. J. W. Boyling as the Hon. Jack Newton, a fine, manly character, is excellent; Mr. Chas. D. Pitt gives a capital rendering of Col. Bruce Anderson; Mr. Chas. H. Phelps as Captain Donald Macdonald, a woman-hater, created roars of laughter, his conversion at the hands of Rosie being one of the features of the evening. Mr. Alfred Grant plays Christopher Sharp, solicitor, in a very dignified and consequential style; Mr. Alf Kitson's Pat O'Brien is full of genuine comedy; Mr. Fred Newland as Lord Newton, Mr. Frank Rogers as Dr. Watson, and Mr. J. C. Gray as Inspector Gresham render great assistance. Miss Phyllis Elton as the Indian nurse, Annetta, plays with great force a very heavy part; Miss Irene Carrington furnishes a most artistic rendering of Bella, Jack's twin sister; Miss Madge Douglas makes a delightful Rosie Newton, a fine, vigorous, happy young lady who captivates both the man-hater and everyone she comes in contact with.

HUDDERSFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. J. Phillips.—*The Walls of Jericho* is meeting with warm approval. The Jack Frobisher of Mr. Alfred Goddard is a masterly performance; Miss Nancy Beresford is a thoroughly satisfactory representative of the smart Lady Alethea; Mr. Russell Barry is seen to advantage as Bannister; Mr. Ben Lewin does good work as the Marquis of Steventon; Mr. Bland plays with effect in the part of Dallas; and Miss Elsie Ross is natural as Lady Lucy.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the top of the bill is Miss Helen Roberts in the "Salome" and other dances; Miss Ailsa Douglas, comedienne; Fraser and French, a nimble pair of rag-time dancers; Edward Lauri and Miss May Beatty, in their sketch *In Her Boudoir*; Walter Munroe, comedian; Miss Josie Mooney, comedienne; Martino, the Man-Frog, the Three Laurels, in an original and daring performance on the spring table, and some good films on the Bioscope complete the list.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Though it is two years since *The Merry Widow* was produced, Hull theatre-goers have had their first opportunity of seeing it this week. Mr. Basil S. Foster carries off with Mr. Lionel Victor the honours amongst the gentlemen, the former as the Prince, the other as the irrepressible Popoff. Nothing has been seen for a long time so funny as Mr. Victor's contribution in the latter rôle. Mr. Tom Redmond is a very good Nish; Mr. Hugh Jackson is a vocalist of merit. An excellent impression is created by Miss Clara Evelyn in the name part. Her acting is delightful and singing charming. Miss Mary Grey is capital as the wife of Popoff; Miss Mary Monson has a far too small part as Prascovia. The play is sent out in Mr. George Edwardes's best style.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—Mr. Ed. Tearle and his company opened here for a week's engagement on Monday with a répertoire which includes *The Three Musketeers, Jeannie Deans, East Lynne*, and *It's Never Too Late to Mend*. Miss Kate Clinton has been seen in several of the leading rôles, and shown in each the same conspicuous merit; Mr. Tearle is a fine representative of the old school of actors; Miss Mary Campbell has also some excellent parts allotted to her. The company includes, amongst others, Mr. Arthur W. Jones and Mr. B. Turner.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Tyrant* is a piece that fulfils all the requirements that the patrons of this house look for in a popular play. Miss Marie Dagmar as Tisbe is good, and Mr. J. Sydney Pitt gives ample evidence of his power as Homodei; the Prince de Roma by Mr. Ed. Louis was a fine piece of work; the Lady Katherine of Miss Margaret Frame is characterised by many pleasant touches.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Ryder Sloan tops the bill in some good character songs; Ben Harris and his Nippers provide some clever boxing; the Sisters Marion, in their harmonising duets, make a very welcome reappearance; the Westwoods are smart cyclists; H. C. Lovell and company, Walker and Lake, and Will Daniels complete.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—The animated pictures are drawing well here under the management of Mr. J. Mayo.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. Dickie Clare and company in *Lucky Liza* are entertaining here this week, Mr. Clare himself achieving marked success as Silas Slim, the Judge, and the French Waiter. Miss Madge Brownie's singing and dancing as Eliza Bird are heartily applauded; Miss Vesta Brownie as Virginia Blatherwick is good, her dancing being particularly smart; Miss Evelyn Wood as Sadie Potts sings nicely, and the Astor Trio are clever dancers. Mr. T. W. Benson gives an acceptable reading of Peter Pettitoe, and Paul Pettitoe is ably represented by Mr. Norman H. Lee. Mr. Harry George is a suitable Barnaby Blatherwick, and Mr. J. W. Forrest scores as Biffins.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—*Dear Old Charlie* occupied the theatre for three nights. The company included Miss Enid C. Forde, Miss Leonora Braham, Miss Viola Holland, Mr. George Lestocq, Mr. C. Douglas Cox, Mr. R. S. Trelawney, Mr. Duncan Young, and Mr. Stanley Arthur. Mr. Herbert Sleath's company in *A White Man* fills the remainder of the week.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Roma and Romano open with a clever musical act, both vocal and instrumental. Lady Mansel and her company of juvenile performers are paying a welcome return visit; Harry Ford is as versatile and humorous as ever; Picton Roxborough and Fanny Wright have a humorous duologue entitled *My Little One;* the Haverleys have some catchy American songs, which are illustrated by the lantern; and Lettie and Florence, vocalists and dancers, Minnie d'Aubyn, vocalist, and the Lorrisons complete the bill.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—The attraction here is F. G. Kimberley's company in *Two Little Drummer Boys*. The title-rôles are in the capable hands of Miss Meggie English and Miss Maudie Douglas. Miss Patricia Connaughton is quite at home at Molly Meadows; Mr. Will Percy as Quincy O'Quirke and Mr. Dick Seddon as Timothy Trimer cause much amusement; Miss Mary Ainslie gives a capital account of Alma Kingsley; and Miss Violet Ingram makes the most of the part of Margaret Rivers. Mr. Edward Bikker is an interesting General Kingsley; Mr. Harry Scott does full justice to the part of Captain Frank Carsdale; Captain George Darrell is in the capable hands of Mr. Oswald Douglass; and Mr. Geoff. Sutherland plays the part of Lieutenant Allen Kingsley creditably.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—Lessee, Dr. Seaton.—The above hall is reopened by Dr. Seaton, and is showing some excellent pictures and several variety turns, which are well received. Atlas and Vulcana in a strong act prove very attractive; Miss Marie Colmore is an excellent comedienne, and Miss Vulcana does some pretty and interesting posing.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—This week *The Silver King* is being presented by Mr. Edward Marris's stock company, with Mr. Charles Weir in the name part and Miss Grace Murielle as Nellie Denver, whilst the difficult rôle of the Spider is in the hands of Mr. Rawson Buckley. On Friday evening the boards were occupied by Mr. Watkins Mills and concert party, including Miss Ada Forrest, the distinguished South African prima-donna, and Signor Aldo Antonietti, the Italian violinist. Liza Lehmann's famous Nonsense Songs from Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland" were well rendered.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. S. Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's latest production, *The Old Folks at Home*, is here this week. Mr. Frank Liston gives a fine impersonation of Lord Kenilworth; Mr. Aidin Lovett acts with marked ability as Andrew Ross; an able exponent of the old farmer, Christopher Robin, is found in Mr. Henry Nelson; Mr. Vernon Proctor is a good Hugh Lovell; Mr. Frank Caffrey as Ben Jolly is very humorous; and Mr. Leslie Crowther also scores. Miss Clara Santley as Martha is much appreciated; Miss Kate Froud gives a fine study of Patricia Bathurst; Dorothy Robin receives sympathetic treatment from Miss Maud Warburton, and her performance is much enjoyed.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—This week we have a return visit from Mr. Ernest R. Abbott and company. The following plays have been produced:—Monday, *Lady Audley's Secret;* Tuesday and Wednesday, *Sapho;* Thursday, *East Lynne;* Friday, *Trilby*. In the first-named play Mr. Vincent W. Carlyle ably portrays the character of Sir Michael Audley, while Mr. Frank Stephens was equally good as Robert Audley; George Talboys was in the capable hands of Mr. Ernest R. Abbott; Miss Ada Abbott made an ideal Lady Audley; and Miss Ethel Tinsley was good as Clara Talboys. The plays are well mounted.

KING'S LYNN.—NEW ROYAL THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Herr B. Pereezer.—A well-staged production of *Miss Hook of Holland* by the capable company of Messrs. Dudley Bennett and T. C. Wray has been drawing large audiences here this week. Miss Ethel James made a vivacious Sally; the Mina of Miss Muff Carew was excellent low comedy; Mr. Edmund Russell was responsible for an exceedingly clever Mr. Hook; the Simon Slinks of Mr. Fred Dark caused endless amusement; Mr. J. B. Fox both acted and sang well as Captain Paap; the Ludwig Schnapps of Mr. Robert Corray was smartly taken; and Mr. Adrian Burgon rendered a good account of himself as Bandmaster Van Vuyt.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—A capital comedy turn is being presented this week by the Four Burnells in a sketch *Playmates*. The Musical Acmes give a pretty and clever musical contribution; and a favourite is Mr. Arthur Ashill, whistling mimic. Hans, the club manipulator, who is deputising for Vowles and Bryan, is making a hit; Mr. Geo. Phillips is a successful comedian and dancer; and the appearance of Mr. Geo. Walker, the popular manager, in a song-scena, "The Flower o' Inverness," is creating musical interest. Mr. Walker is surprising his patrons by his undoubted talent. The pictures conclude.

ADAM SMITH HALL.—Proprietors, Kirkcaldy Corporation.—An excellent entertainment under the auspices of the Corporation Concerts Committee is provided by Cassells' Geisha Boys. This company of well-selected artists includes Mr. J. A. Cassells, comedian; Chorley and Connor, comedians and dancers; Little Venus, dancer; Mr. Dave Dunlop, conjuror and ventriloquist; and Mr. W. T. Macdougall. Miss Bessie Atwell is successful at the piano.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—After a lapse of several years *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is again visiting us, the company this time being that of Mr. Chas. Harrington's, a special feature being the introduction of several negroes. In the title-rôle Mr. J. Carr appears with much success, and the part of Phineas Fletcher is decidedly well taken by Mr. Chas. Harrington.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—The star turn this week is Miss Lilian Dundas and company in *The Doom of Delilah*, which is exceedingly well presented. Ted Waite, comedian, an old favourite, is recalled nightly. Hallam and Stanton are successful in a sketch *A Broken Journey;* Twin Sisters Anderson are clever dancers; and Probyn and Bates sing and dance nicely. Gladys Auber, comedienne, and the Hippograph complete a first-rate programme.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—A répertoire of Shakespearean plays is this week being performed here by Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, and her company, including Mr. Frank Cellier. On Monday evening a very intelligent representation of *Romeo and Juliet* was given. Miss Glossop-Harris was an interesting Juliet; whilst Mr. Arthur Goodsall's Romeo was a careful study. Mr. Frank Cellier was a spirited Mercutio; and Mr. Murray Kinnell an excellent Paris. Other characters worthy of special mention were the Benvolio of Mr. Percival Madgewick, the Tybalt of Mr Francis Roberts, the Capulet of Mr. Laurence Toole, the Lady Capulet of Miss Gertrude Tate, the Montague of Mr. Leslie Gordon, the Lady Montague of Miss Mary Goulden, the Nurse of Miss Janet Warden, and the Friar Lawrence of Mr. J. Cassels Cobb. Other pieces preformed during the week included *As You Like It, Hamlet, Merchant of Venice*, and *Taming of the Shrew*.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*The Dairymaids* is on a third visit to this theatre, and on this occasion Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company includes Miss Phyllis Dare, who pleases all with a captivating impersonation of Peggy. Harry Dent appears as the irrepressible Mivens, and from start to finish his humour is irresistible; Mr. E. Statham Staples, too, is quaintly amusing as Lieut. Sam Brudenell; and in conjunction, Miss Lottie Sargent distinguishes herself with a clever and amusing effort as Eliza.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—The ever-popular *Two Little Vagabonds* is once again proving a big attraction. Miss Denise Zaleski plays Dick and Miss Alice Leon Wally in pleasing style; Mr. Richard A. Greene is manly and effective in the part of George Thornton; Captain Darville is ably presented by Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne; the principal female rôle is undertaken with conspicuous success by Miss Florence Dalton; Mr. Benston Kleve gets an ovation nightly for a fine presentation of the Gaffer.

EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Fred Karno's sketch, *The G.P.O.*, is chiefly welcome in that it brings that popular comedian, Fred Kitchen, who is scoring success in his own inimitable style; Tom Child is a favourite with vocal items; the Eighteen Lancashire Singers are a well-liked turn; George Newburn once again delights with clever impersonations; a pleasing musical turn is subscribed by the Norman-Leonard Trio; and good entertainment by Fred Keeton, Dacey and Lewis, and the Delomes is much enjoyed.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Bush.—Deane, Tribune, and Co. prove a popular lead here, with a very amusing sketch; Agnes Molteno makes a decided hit as picture songstress; W. L. Murray does wonderful feats of strength; there is a neat trick cycling speciality by Johnson and Devere; and of the rest Tray and Rich, Hyde and Cody, and the Miltons effectively hit the popular taste.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—A tuneful turn by the Courtiers is deservedly popular; a novel and expert acrobatic exhibition by Hayes and Merritt arouses enthusiasm; Dusty Rhodes again proves a favourite comedian; Blake and Amber score with an amusing burlesque; a vocal turn by Helen Martin is well received; and of the rest good success is achieved by Cullen and Carthy, comedians; the Hiatts, musical speciality; Keen and Waller, expert tumblers; Harris and Worth; and Dollie and Elsie.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—F. V. St. Clair, the topical composer-vocalist, is having a week of good success; Russell Brandow sings and dances in clever style; Don and Mabel are entertaining in a vocal scena; Nellie Farrell is a comedienne and dancer above the average; whilst Teo and Tee; and Sim Maree are also contributing good turns.

LEICESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and his excellent company are making their first appearance here, in the interesting drama, *The Coal King*. Mr. A. Clifton Alderson plays with marked success as Tom Roberts; and Mr. Ulick Burke as Sir Reginald Hartford, the "Coal King," is also to be highly praised; Mr. Leslie Vyner is good as Walter Hartford; Miss Joan Wellman is always excellent as Mad Ann; Mr. Frank Dalton is capital as Dick Shirley; and Miss Winifred Love as the schoolmistress, Grace Shirley, is seen to considerable advantage; Mr. Sam Roberts as Jim Williams and Miss M. Hinton as Araminta Green are also deserving of commendation. The drama is effectively staged.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—The top of the bill this week is divided between Nellie Wallace and Dutch Daly. The former is a particularly smart and clever eccentric comedy artist, and well maintains her great popularity; and Dutch Daly makes a decided hit with his delightful solos on his inseparable concertina and his humorous stories. Jennie Johns, a smart soubrette, with a good voice, scores a well-deserved success in her scena, *A Middy in the King's Navy;* Maud Rochez presents a very clever show with her monkeys, consisting of a variety theatre entirely controlled by her pets, who are remarkably well-trained; Tennyson and Wallis are comedians who are always mirth-provoking and successful; the Great Narow Bros., besides creating continuous laughter in their comedy acrobatic act, are expert in their feats on cycles; Arabella Allen, the Dickens Girl, is extremely good in her portrayal of various character sketches; Johnson and Bert are funny in their comedy tumbling act, *A Queer Customer;* the Rawsons (Miss Margaret and Master John) submit an entertaining musical act, entitled "Harmony." The Bioscope is also a feature with the dramatic film, Gentleman James.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Mr. Frederick Maxwell's new production, *Give a Man a Chance*, is mentioned *in extenso* in another column. The McKenzies (Jack and May) are making a successful first appearance here, and are creating great merriment in their comedy sketch, *Married for Money;* Grey and Welford, comedians and comedy boxers, are scoring their usual success with a very good turn; Margaret Radcliffe is extremely popular in her well-rendered illustrated songs; J. E. James is an excellent bajo, tambourine, and bone soloist; Dott Moss, comedienne and dancer, makes her first appearance, and goes well; Mamie Morris is a capital comedienne and dancer; and Dandie Clinton, male impersonator, is also on the bill; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is a special feature, with A Jilted Woman's Revenge and The Bewitched Tricycle.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt.—The usual well-assorted and clearly-shown array of pictures are submitted this week, which include such favourites as The Wreckers, The Magic Ring, Grandfather's Pills, The Perjurers, Chauffeur's Dream, and Troublesome Theft, and a large number of other comedy and dramatic films. The variety portion of the programme is again a strong one, and includes Empress, the lady handcuff manipulator, &c., whose entire show is cleverly performed; Percy Victor's dog minstrels and canine band, who create roars of laughter and show wonderfully clever training; and Eddie Clay, a laughter-compelling comedy musician, in a novel act.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wallace Childs.—Mr. Wilson Benge and company are presenting *The Eve of Her Wedding*. As George Tremain Mr. Wilson Benge acquits himself with ability; Mr. Wallace Campbell portrays Dean Clifton effectively; Giovanni is cleverly enacted by Mr. Fred Rivers; Jack Herne is capitally undertaken by Mr. Arthur E. Holland; Miss Eppie Bartlett is quite equal to the trying rôle of Renie de Telle; Miss Sadie Smith is an engaging Mavis Leverton; Miss Daisy Cook is well placed as Gwendoline Younger; and a deal of capital humour comes from Mr. Henry Danson as Dick Leverton and Mr. Charles Digby as Rudolph Earle.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The juvenile rôles of Frank Temple and Tom Wells, in Fredk. Melville's drama, *Her Road to Ruin*, are acceptably played by Mr. Henry Wolston and Mr. V. R. C. Moors; strong support being given by Miss Alice Bowes and Miss Beatrice Edwards as May and Jess Willoughby. Mr. Dane Clarke's presentation of the Bishop is an effective study; and the part of Philip Hardy is acted for all it is worth by Mr. Alex. Bradley; while Mr. Harry Talbot's Billy Boots and Miss Marie Wright's Jennie Crackling provide some amusing comedy. Miss Nellie Bonser being unfortunately laid aside by illness, her part of Mary Dawson has been taken by an earnest understudy; Mr. Frank Powell does able work as Charles Cholmondeley; and the many minor rôles in a long cast are suitably filled.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Here this week we had a return visit of *The Scarlet Pimpernel* by Mr. Fred Terry's excellent company. It was regretted that Miss Julia Neilson was unable to appear, but Miss Miriam Lewis proved an admirable substitute, and as Lady Blakeney gave her audience every satisfaction. The rich histrionic gifts of Miss Lewis were particularly shown in the third act, her work earning great applause. Mr. Terry repeated his fine picture of Sir Percy; as Chauvelin the ability of Mr. Horace Hodges was seen to great advantage; Mr. A. E. Anson made a dignified Prince of Wales; Mr. R. Easten Pickering was an amusing Vicomte Tournai; as the landlords Messrs. D. J. Williams and J. Carter Edwards were capital character studies; and worthy supporters were Messrs. Alfred Kendrick (Sir Andrew Ffoulkes), L. Race Dunrobin (Armand), Miss Kathleen Doyle (Susanne), and Miss Mary Jennings (Sally Jellyband).

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*The Christian* occupied the boards here during the week, the company presenting it being sent by Mr. Wentworth Croke. Mr. Henry Renouf was again the John Storm; Miss Doris Gilham repeated her fine assumption of Glory Quayle; Mr. George R. Mountford made an acceptable Lord Robert; Mr. Edwin Ling handled the character of Father Lamplugh with distinction; Parson Quayle was efficiently represented by Mr. Arthur E. Maskell; and the remainder of the cast acquitted themselves with credit. Yesterday (Friday) Miss Marie Hall, the renowned violinist, and a concert party gave a matinée.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here this week Mr. Douglas Bruce gave a capital production of *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Miss Violet Ennis Lawson was the Molly Vernon, which she played with much feeling and effect, her audience frequently testifying their appreciation; Mr. Edward Maclean was a manly clergyman with a good, telling delivery; Mr. Harold Macartney found much favour in the part of Jack England; Mr. Richard Ferris distinguished himself as Captain Caversham; Mr. George H. Asquin made a merry Dick Punch; Miss Lydia Mannington did well as Marian Franklyn; and praise was due to Miss Sybil Hare (Rose Seymour) and Miss Mary Poulton (Isabella Jones).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Although *Lucky Durham* has made many visits to Liverpool its popularity is as great as ever. Mr. S. Herbert Humber gave a particularly good rendering of the character of John Durham; Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood afforded satisfaction with Lord Mountfallon; Mr. Arthur Leigh was again the excellent Reggie; Miss Beatrice Sinclair played Mrs. Durham in a sympathetic manner; Mr. W. F. Clitherow was amusing as Verstein; and satisfaction was also given by Messrs. William Heilbronn (Mr. Vallerton), John Hartt (Tasker), Miss Alice Esther Belmore (Helen), and Miss Rosabel Dodd (Lady Mountfallon).

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—The quaint George Formby topped the programme here this week, and had a rousing reception; George Leyton and company delighted everybody with the military scena *The Last Muster*, in which a number of local veterans assisted; Lil Hawthorne met with as much favour as ever; that able couple Sinclair and Farr were given a cordial reception for their delightful singing; Charlene and Charlene pleased with an expert show of juggling, &c.; Kent and Keith brought a funny comedy, which caused roars of laughter; some sensational work on the wire was done by Wyndham and Kitty; and further contributions to the programme were Elton Black, Scotch comedian; and Professor Dubois, educated baboon.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here during the week we have had Mr. Morton Powell's company with *The Woman Who Gambles*. Miss Laura Walker was successful in the trying role of Countess Steinbach; as Count Otto Mr. Clifford Rean gave every satisfaction; Mr. Norman A. Overton was a powerful Baron Cratzlaw; Miss Brenda May made a pleasing Zanette; the efforts of Miss E. Conway as Cora Gouldhart were appreciated; and valuable support also came from Messrs. Reginald Fox (Lieut. Karl) and Ernest H. Clarke (Chief of Police), Miss Lily Malvern (Stella), Miss Lillian Rignold (Zila), and Mr. Victor T. Raymond (Bertie Bray).

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Hetty King, a great favourite in this city, particularly at the above popular house, has headed the programme here this week, and had a cordial reception for her new and old successes. Reull as an instrumentalist found great favour; Roze and Calvert were an amusing couple; a capital all-round show was given by the Stavordale Quintette, their banjo and harp playing being loudly applauded; Harry Conlin proved a funny comedian; George Westland, with his Scottish songs and jokes, caused much laughter; the turn given by the Onyx Couple (Ruth and Ima), was neat, particularly the quick change; and Edie Veno, comedienne, kept her audience in a merry mood.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Miss May Moore Duprez's jolly Dutch songs have proved very enjoyable; the Hilgert-Arkas combination of acrobats, &c., went through a most clever show; Billy Williams, "the man in the velvet suit," pleased with his latest songs; Simms and Simms, old favourites, kept their audience in a merry mood with their artistic and funny performance; Hafid Alexander gave a neat entertainment at the piano; the Four Rio Bros. were seen in a clever gymnastic turn; the Summersons gave an enjoyable sketch, *His Better Half;* and also in the bill were Charles Sloman and Sam Thompson, comedians.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—*Lady Godiva* has been given here this week by the stock dramatic company. In the title-rôle Miss Florence Palmer acted with distinction; Mr. David G. Noble did excellently as Tom; Mr. Robb Wilton was a funny Robin Shacklebolt; Mr. Sydney Grant made a powerful Algar; and other well-held parts were Lady Aldyth (Miss Lillian Radbourne), Leofric (Mr. Cecil Ravenswood), Muwolf (Mr. R. Seath Innes), and Edgar (Mr. Leo Montgomery). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the pictures shown here this week the following artists appeared:—Hughes and Cooper, comedians and dancers; Albano, clog dancer; and Dan Tandy, comedian.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Top of the bill here this week are George Gray and company with *The Fighting Parson;* Ella Retford brought her latest songs, and had a flattering reception; endless laughter followed the efforts of Livesey and Rosebery with the skit *Would-be Actors;* Dion Wade scored as a comedian and mimic; Fred Lincoln presented a neat scena, *My Pal Jemmy;* that amusing pair, Verno and Voyce, gave their burlesque *The Fly-far Man;* a most interesting and appreciated entertainment of singing, dancing, and conjuring was submitted by the Cambodian Troupe; and Dolly Denton, comedienne, also appeared.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—A most amusing sketch, *The Village Fire Brigade*, has been received here this week with genuine satisfaction; Mr. C. is a patterer who kept his audience in a good humour; the Waldrons had a funny trifle, *The Silly Burglar;* a very acceptable turn was given by the Sages (Will and Jenny), comedy and burlesque artists; Billie Barlow was heartily received for her songs; Gracie Grahame sang with taste; Maud Courtney's talk caused much amusement; Herbert and Linden proved themselves an able couple of comedians and dancers; and also in the list were Kail Stern, the Colombo coon; and Carl Howard, with his funny conjuring.

LONDONDERRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Payne Seddon; Manager, Mr. Alec Jeffries.—This week's variety programme is immensely popular. R. C. Note, the clever comedian who scored a great success the previous week, was, at the request of patrons, retained this week with gratifying results. The Mysterious Irvings gave a marvellous exhibition of mental telepathy; while Signor Bandoni proved himself a versatile and accomplished musician. Others who contributed excellent turns were Will Hughes, the popular Eton boy; Jack Drew, comedian; Chas. Howarth and the Glenvilles in sketches; and Daisy Cordelia, comedienne and dancer. The Dalyscope pictures were admirable.

LONG EATON.—ST. JAMES'S THEATRE.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company present the heart-stirring drama *Her Nameless Child*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn is admirable as the blacksmith; Miss Pattie Hastings takes the part of the heroine Phillis Ford; and Mr. Arthur E. Pringle appears as Lord Henry Woodville.

THE PALACE.—Mr. Alf. H. Smith, with Mr. Crisford Garton as assistant, presents Miss Maud Haywood and Mr. Chris Shott's company this week in several dramas and playlets.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Joshua Dyson's Gipsy Choir, Dioramas, and Animated Pictures have been occupying the boards here. Mysterious Parker, lightning change artist, provided plenty of fun.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Winifred Hare, the talented burlesque artist, heads the bill this week; and others appearing are Fred S. Peake and company in *The Hypocrite;* Three Sisters Jerome; Lambert and Butler, comedians and dancers; the Itrams; Flo d'Orville, and Edward Morton.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—A grand spectacle, *The Gathering of the Clans*, is arousing considerable interest this week. Mr. W. Selkirk is responsible for the production, in which over 100 local children take part. Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister appear in a clever dramatic sketch *No. 99;* and Macintosh and Royal prove expert dancers. The Spress give a smart scena, *Twickenham Ferry;* and some fine pictures are shown by the British Biograph Company. The business constitutes a record at this highly-popular place of amusement.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. R. Gatley.—Harry Tilbury and company present *His Dishonoured Wife* here. Mr. Victor Rae gives a masterly representation of Frank Lindon; Mr. Horatio Sinclair acts forcibly as Lord Devant; Miss Belle Tilbury in the title-rôle displays great ability; Mr. Harry Tilbury's Micky Doolan is irresistibly funny; Mr. Fred Owen is responsible for sterling work as Neil Locksley; Mr. Edwin Brown is successful as Tom Redman; Miss Phyllis Spalding makes an energetic Mabel Lindon; Miss Arline T. George a pretty and fascinating Alice; and Miss Etta Spalding a vivacious Araminta.

MAESTEG.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—Mr. Montagu Beaudyn's company presented *A Traitor Prince* the first three nights of this week. In the title-rôle Mr. Geo. M. Montanini gave a powerful interpretation; Miss Florence Wilson showed dramatic ability as Vashti; Lieut. Frank Derrick was manfully portrayed by Mr. Dudley Wynton; Miss Netta Mitchell acted efficiently as Lola Vane, and the other parts were well filled. For the latter part of the week *The Gamester of Metz* is billed.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres, Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—A second visit of Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's* was welcomed here on Monday by a good house. Miss Emilie Polini gave a highly satisfactory rendering of the rôle of Diana; and Mr. Frank Woolfe plays Capt. Victor Bretherton with a fine appreciation of the part. Miss Gwynneth Galton as Mrs. Cantelupe and Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce as Sir Jabez Grinlay figure to advantage; and the remaining characters are all in good hands. The comedy is preceded by a powerful one-act drama, *The Bishop's Candlesticks*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE, LTD.—Licensee, Mr. John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—*My Mimosa Maid* is here this week, with a very capable company, including Miss Marie Studholme, who plays Paulette with her usual charm; particularly successful is Mr. Charles McNaughton as Victor, his comedy and dancing being excellent; Miss Eva Sandford, a very clever artist, sings and dances delightfully; Mr. Charles E. Paton is capital as Max; Master Archie McCaig makes a hit as Bock; Mr. Percy Carr is good as M. Emile Gerrard; and Mr. Arthur Jackson as Groue is amusing. Others who do well are Misses Ruby Gray and May Garstang and Mr. J. H. Goldsworthy. The chorus is excellent and the scenery pretty.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company is here this week in *A Country Girl in London*. It is a capital play, very well appreciated by good houses. Mr. W. V. Garrod as Frank Gordon, the farm bailiff, is exceptionally good; and artistic work is added by Miss Josephine Colona as Gwendoline, Frank's sister. The trio of villains are strongly depicted by Mr. G. Moreton-Williams as Godfrey Clinton, Mr. Clifford Marle as Job Smithers, the ne'er-do-well, who afterwards repents, and Mr. E. W. Avery as Oppenheim, who is funny as well as unprincipled. In the title-part (Marjorie Hamilton) fine abilities are displayed by Miss Bertha Kingston; and others who do well are Mr. Seymour Perry as the humorous Wilberforce Puddyphat and Miss Lesley Adair as Adelaide, his wife.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—Mr. St. John Hankin's play, *The Charity that Began at Home*, is given here with great success this week. Described as a comedy for philanthropists, it is finely written and strong in characterisation. Miss Sybil Thorndike as Lady Denison is the large-hearted humanitarian to the life; Miss Hilda Bruce Potter plays charmingly as Margery; and Miss Darragh as the worldly Mrs. Eversleigh scores a distinct success. Mr. Basil Dean presents an excellent idea of the cynical, but manly, Verreker; Mr. Jules Shaw as Basil Hylton offers an interesting and well-studied contrast in altruism; Mr. Charles Bibby as the loquacious General Bonsor is always entertaining; as Miss Triggs, the German Governess, Miss Ada King shows cleverness; and Mr. Edward Landor adds a striking depiction of the personal traits of Soames, the domesticated butler. The remaining parts are uniformly well played. The one-act play, *Reaping the Whirlwind*, precedes.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—*Her Forbidden Marriage*, played last week at the Grand Junction Theatre, is attracting good audiences to this popular house. Mr. Fredk. Melville's company have the play in hand.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Messrs. Kimberley, Green, and Hinton's company is here this week in their successful drama, *The Power of the King*. It is played twice nightly, the principal parts being in the capable hands of Mr. Gerald Blake, Mr. Charles Whitlock, Mr. Travis Green, Miss Dorothy Clifton, and Messrs. Georgina V. France; while the humour is well exploited by

week, and is screamingly funny with his smart, up-to-date patter and breezy style; Machnow, the Russian giant, is another "big" turn; Madge Temple, she of the big hat, sings delightfully; the Maples are responsible for an exceedingly smart comedy act of great merit; Gwennie Llewellyn sings remarkably well, and is loudly applauded; the Lukushimas, including Otara San, a very clever lady, give a wonderfully clever act; Phil and Nettie Peters are well-received comedy entertainers; and Bessie Butt sings and dances nicely. Stewart and Morgan, fine singers, appeared for H. O. Wills, indisposed, on the night of our visit.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Fred Leighton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—The popularity of Georgs Hackenschmidt was amply attested here on Monday, when he received a tremendous welcome, and pleased the house by the celerity with which he defeated a couple of doughty opponents. Prominent on the bill is Edouard José, the French actor, who gives a powerful depiction of the Blacksmith in Coppée's dramatic episode, *The Strike;* Ross and Grayson, the comedy couple, are always funny and well received; Maidie Scott, comedienne, sings and acts nicely; and other good turns are Ulrick, the barrel king; George Reeves, comedian; Vandinoff, lightning painter; and Harry Zetta, comedian and dancer.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Florrie Gallimore, with her capital songs, meets with a good reception here this week; Fred Cary scores as an eccentric comedian; El Bassos Trio, consisting of the famous Hungarian violinist, Willy Bass, Valentino Burato, who extracts melody from a natural ivy leaf, and Evelyn Fowler, at the piano, are responsible for a refined musical act; Johnny Holland and company are excellent in an amusing sketch, *The Boat Builder;* Jennie Lynwood is a pleasing comedienne, who sings nicely; Arthur Leslie imitates Wilkie Bard well; Mark Stuart, comedian, is good; the Monte Carlo Troupe are spirited dancers; Nellie Burton dances well; and Gicardo is a promising juggler.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—The top turn here this week is provided by Signor and Mme. Borelli, the "cat"-chy comedy couple; while the next important item is that of Radie Furman, the jolly little Dutch girl, who sings and dances cleverly. Walter Ellis and company give their comic playlet, *The Sleepwalker,* with distinct success; and other entertaining turns are those of Mark Henton, comedian; Earle and Jukes, comedians and dancers; the Three Sisters Tree, in their "Hunting" act; Baddow, ventriloquist; the Three Behans, in a quick-change comedy act; and Pat O'Connor, comedian and dancer.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Fred Karno's company in *Saturday to Monday* is the big attraction here this week. Mr. Gilbert Child is highly successful as John Willie Jaggs, and is very ably supported; Mabel Thorne, with her catchy songs, is greatly appreciated; Milner and Storey, comedy duo, are good; Barrie and Wood are smart acrobatic tumblers and comedy artists; Smith and Johnson, coloured duettists, sing well; McCann is a wonderful roller-skate dancer; Eugene pleases with juggling and jumping; and Monty Walker and Mark Merry are capital comedians.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley.—Jake Friedman, supported by an excellent company, is to the front here this week with *Happy Holland;* Thompson Carruthers presents the sensational card-manipulating incident, *The Master Card,* in which Dunningarto especially scores; Oceana, handcuff expert, give a wonderful performance; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier, makes a big hit, his singing being greatly appreciated; whilst other good turns are Frank E. Ford, a marvel in clogs; Walter Buxton, vocalist; George Acre, vocalist; Arthur Albert, light comedian; Douglas and Gordon, Scottish comedy couple; and Braund and Davis, comedians. Bioscope pictures complete.

MANSFIELD. — GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is here this week with the *Power of the Cross.* Mr. G. A. de Gray invests with much intensity the part of Baron Carzola; Mr. Alexander Haviland as Dr. Leslie Fairfax and Mr. Robert Hall as Robert Fairfax are both excellent; Mr. Tyrone Power as Timothy O'Dowd creates much amusement, and Mr. Francis Searle as Benjamin Hawk and Mr. M. Gibson Brook as Dr. Kingsley are both very good. Miss Annie Hylton is a sweetly sympathetic Margaret Seaton; Miss Ettie Turner a capital Dolly Grey; the Blanche Kingsley of Miss Phillys Vaughan and the Rita Lascelles of Miss Stella Carmichel are both capable impersonations, and Mr. Dan Rose in the small part of the Postman is worthy of note.

VICTORIA HALL.—Lessee, Mr. George Fox.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company opened here on Monday with the successful play *Diana of Dobson's.* Miss Violet Vorley enacts the name part in clever and confident style, her comedy acting being especially admired; the Captain Bretherton of Mr. Briscoe Owen is a very satisfactory effort, and Mr. Philip Sanders is thoroughly successful with the rôle of Sir Jabez Grinlay. Praise is also due to Miss Hilda Franks, whose Mrs. Cantelope is a clever character study.

MARGATE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr Edward Michael; General-Manager, Mr. W. W. Keene.—An up-to-date version of the old comedy *Milky White* has been excellently presented this week by a company including Miss Mary Brough and Mr. Tom Craven. Miss Mary Brough has sustained in an altogether admirable manner the amusing rôle of Mrs. Sadrip. Mr. Tom Craven has also been an unqualified success as Milky White, his impersonation of the old cowman keeping the house in a roar of laughter. Mr. Frank Stone in the part of Dick Dugs acted satisfactorily; and Miss Rita Trekelle made a pleasing Annie White. The comedy has been followed each evening by the new operetta *The Dragon,* noticed in another column.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree. —The almost-man monkey Consul has been the principal turn here this week, and the clever manner in which he has been trained has created considerable astonishment. Fred Ginnett's sketch *Hunting Morn* has also proved a popular feature. Other contributors to the entertainment are Lilian O'Brien, comedienne; the Bros. Durrant, in their burlesque aeroplane act; Arthur Hickman, a capital tenor vocalist; the Sisters Allen, duettists and dancers; and the Louisana Trio of coloured vocalists and dancers.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*A Wrecker of Men,* presented by Mr. C. Watson Mills, is here. As Risca Mallinson Miss Florence Melrose Millett gives a powerful representation; Mr. Eric Campbell plays well as Jim Murley; Mr. Milner Noble is effective as Pharosaphus, and Miss Gwendoline Talbot is bright and animated as Doris Melville. A capable performance is given by Mr. J. Ansdell Wilson as Railton, and Mr. Thompson Carruthers as Eric Melville and Mr. Millar Willson as Reggie Verniscourt are also good.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—The star turn here this week is Van Biene, a great favourite with Merthyr audiences; the Five Whiteleys, Continental speciality artists, are well received; Slippere is paying a return visit, and other enjoyable turns are provided by Mac, mimic and siffleur; Henry Hilton, card manipulator; the great Vincent, acrobatic table expert; Gala and Morris in a musical duologue, *Down South,* and Harry Kirk, comedian. The pictures are varied and interesting.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—*A Heart's Desire* is presented here this week by Messrs. Elliman's company. The part of Lord St. Ives is well portrayed by Mr. R. F. Stacey; Mr. Edward Leroy as Luke Forest is very effective; Mr. Norman Clifton is highly successful as Coombes, the aged butler; Miss Lily Prescott renders the part of Olga with much feeling; and Miss Blanche Leroy is good as Elsie Beresford. Comic relief is provided by Mr. Herbert Lawrence as Bertie Beresford and Miss Hilda May as Gwendoline Ross. The other parts are capably filled, and excellent films are shown on the Gaietyscope.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Miss Maud Western and company are this week presenting a double bill. On Monday night *The Prodigal Son* was played, Mr. Percy Braithwaite earning distinction as Jack Fanshawe. Mr. W. Buckstone was a soldierly Capt. Fanshawe; a vigorous rendering of Ralph Marsden was submitted by Mr. Edwin Turner; and a dramatic portraiture of Bill Burke was given by Mr. John Levey. Miss Dolly Dallimore treated with sympathy the rôle of Nellie Burke; Miss Ada Hender was an effective and refined Margaret Marsden; and Miss Maude Western was an interesting Mary. For the last three nights *Queen's Evidence* formed the bill.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter. —An exceptionally good programme this week includes The Emigrants, In a Submarine, In Brazil, The Mummy, and Walter, the Rural Postman.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* is being presented here by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. The audience is kept in a constant roar of laughter by Mr. Geo. Mundie as Mr. Ponderbury, the henpecked husband. Mrs. Ponderbury is an admirable performance by Miss Annie Stalman. She is irresistibly amusing, and fits the part to perfection. Mr. Alfred Ibberson gives a fine impersonation of Peter; and as Mr. Mervyn Thorpe Mr. Drew Macintosh is exceedingly good. Miss Florence Wise is a charming Mme. Polacca and Miss Florence Wellerby delightful as Ethel Penniston. *His Landlady* is the curtain-raiser.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—*Beau Brocade* is being presented for the first time here by Mr. Reginald Dance and company. Mr. Reginald Dance in the title-rôle is excellent; Miss Ruth Mackay fills with grace and charm the part of Lady Patience; Mr. Frank Powell gives a satisfactory performance as Sir H. Chaloner; Mr. Dalziel Heron is good as John Stick; Miss May Brooke is a pleasing Betty; and Mr. Frank Darch does well as the Earl of Stretton. *The Proof* is a pleasing curtain-raiser.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—The visit of Mrs. Lewis Waller in her condensed version of *The Admiral's Lady* has long been looked forward to, and on Monday night she had repeatedly to bow her acknowledgments to the large audiences. The comedy is an admirable medium for the display of Mrs. Waller's artistic genius, and the production as a whole marks a distinct advance on the dramatic side of husic hall entertainment. G. W. Hunter is an amusing raconteur; Harry Thorpe and Zoe Coe in their comedy *My Burglar* create roars of laughter; Wilton Heriot and company are good; and other items are given by Barrett and Knowles, comedians; Sybil Montague, vocalist; the Three Rubies, contortionists; and Kit Keen.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—King and Benson are here with their singing and amusing patter; J. W. Rowley is as droll as ever; Bosanquet and company contribute some fine musical selections of a novel character; Sterling and Love create roars of laughter in a domestic musical squabble; Arthur Slater performs some clever whistling; and other turns are given by Alice Blandford and Robb Gilmore.

OXFORD.—Proprietor, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Ormesby French.—The principal turn here this week is given by Wild, Willie, and West, the three bounding navvies. Little Ganty, another comedy artist, is also responsible for much merriment; the Missionic Bros. provide some clever athletic feats; Helm and Cozens are very successful in their skit; and Frank Whiteley sings and dances in fine style.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and company are paying a welcome return visit, and on Monday opened with *The Lady of Ostend.* Mr. Aubrey Cheshire is excellent as the volatile Dick Wortles; Mr. Robert Bolder is the embodiment of staid respectability—with occasional leanings towards the lighter side of life—as Joseph Carbury; excellent indeed is Mr. Lawrence Brough as the Baron de Longueville; Mr. William Macready is good as the prizefighter, Toby Knockitt; and Mr. Hinson Elliott makes the most of his small opportunities as Thompson, which remark also applies to Harry Collier as the butler. Miss Bessie Harrison is delightfully amusing as the frigid mother-in-law; Miss Bessie Park is refreshingly natural as Mrs. Dicky Wortles; and Miss Alice Leigh looks pretty and acts well as Millis Grace. An apt exponent of the title-rôle is found in Miss Maud Buchanan, and Miss Edith Adeson is bright and part as Jane. For Thursday and Friday *The Saucy Sally* is billed.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—That delightful American comedy *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* is attracting good houses here this week. Mrs. Madge Carr Cook, in the title-rôle, gives her usual finished interpretation of that most kindly and lovable character, and implants herself a firmer favourite than ever with the delighted audiences. The other members of the Wiggs family are ably played by Miss Ruhumah Catton, Miss Mollie Shiells, Miss Alma Lee, and Mr. Arthur Vezin. Miss Rita Carlyle as Miss Hazy scores a decided hit, and shares with Mrs. Carr Cook the honours of the entertainment; Miss Mabel Durrant as Mrs. Eichorn, Miss Violet Vivian as Mrs. Schultz, Miss Christine Rayner as Lovey Mary, and Miss Mary Deverell as Miss Lucy all contribute creditable portrayals; whilst Mr. Frederick Forrest gives a capital interpretation of the "heroic Stubbins." Other parts are ably sustained.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—The Hayden Coffin and John Coates company, in *Dorothy,* under the direction of Moss' Empires, Ltd., is here this week. A crowded audience on Monday evening enthusiastically welcomed the return of an old favourite. Mr. Hayden Coffin played the rôle of Harry Sherwood with all his accustomed artistry and finish, and made an instant hit with the "Queen of my heart" ballad, which was encored again and again; Mr. Arthur Williams, in his original part, Lurcher, is as funny as ever, and keeps the house in a continual roar of laughter; Miss Ruth Davenport, in the title-part, is charming, and sings in her usually delightful style. Mr. John Coates being slightly indisposed, his part as Geoffrey Wilder was played by Mr. Lester Carey, who met with much success. Mr. Colin Coop carried out his task as Squire Bantam with marked ability; and Miss Hebe Bliss takes the part of Lydia Hawthorne to perfection. Other parts are in the safe keeping of Mr. Fred J. Vigay, Mr. Tim Ryley, Mr. R. White, Miss Aimee Roberts, Miss Emily Spiller, and Miss Primrose Harding. The chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Frederick Rosse, are also worthy of praise.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is here in *The Female Swindler.* Mr. Jerrold Heather's portrayal of John Coulson is very manly and engaging, and accordingly very popular. In the title-rôle, Miss Violet Ellicott proves herself to be an actress of exceptional ability; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe is particularly successful in depicting the villainies of Geoffrey Warden, and is well supported by Mr. Fred Rignold as Abraham Mikestein. Miss Beatrice Hone presented, with grace and dignity, the part of May Andrews; while Mr. A. Kenyon Gray did well as James Oliver; and Mr. John Hitchins provided plenty of amusement as Billy Binks.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—After a lengthy absence, *Under Two Flags* was presented here before a large audience on Monday evening. The company is of all-round excellence, and Mr. Austin Milroy as Louis Victor gives a remarkably fine performance; whilst Miss Agnes Verity is responsible for a piquant portrayal of Cigarette. The other leading rôles are capably represented.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—It is a long time since a prettier or more charming spectacle has been seen here than on Monday evening, when Miss Loie Fuller presented her troupe of dancers, who immediately took the popular fancy, and received the heartiest applause. The second star is Col. Gaston Bordeverry, who performs many amazing feats with pistol and rifle. The eccentricities of Tom Lloyd, and the aeronautic exploits of Harry Grey, the Australian Nugget, are other novelties in an excellent and varied programme. The Sisters Grovini, lady acrobats and tumblers, are graceful and clever; and other contributors to the entertainment are Albert Christian, baritone; Olive Armadale, a dainty soubrette; the Scottish comedians, Naughton and Gold; and Kate Cohen, an acceptable ballad vocalist; whilst a feature of the bill is the interesting Bioscope pictures.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. W. H. Boardman.—The wonderful Colibris Midgets head an all-round bill here this week, and other artists appearing are Leonard Barry, Cecile and François, Vasey and Ramsey, Austin and Cowan, Maximilian Trio, Cedar and Elgar, and Dan Filmer, the Barrascope completing.

SKATING RINK EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.—General-Manager, C. P. Crawford; Resident-Manager, Mr. T. Crowe.—The pleasing pastime of roller skating continues to grow in popularity, and the manhgement are sparing no pains to keep up the interest. On Thursday a gymkana is being held, one of the many features being a mile amateur speed race. Handsome and valuable prizes are provided for the various events.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Geo. Alexander's company is producing *The Thief* here. In her impersonation of Marise Chelford Miss Marie Polini scores a success; Mr. Rupert Lister as Richard Chelford exhibits power of restraint; and Mr. Cyril Harcourt puts a lot of realism in the part of Raymond Leyton. Mr. Owen Nares plays naturally as Harry Leyton; and Miss Jean Cadell makes a graceful Isabel Leyton. As the detective, Mr. Prothero, Mr. Luke Forster shows ability. *Too Happy by Half* precedes.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Ida Kathrena, the human doll, affords much amusement with her clever performance; Gus Le Clerq is a good comedian; and Lottie Govell executes some pretty dances. Harry Bedford introduces an absurdity, "Salome, or a Sheep's Head and a Tin Tack"; John Macauley is a decided success as a ballad vocalist; and the Dumond Trio, in their musical mélange, "Parisian Street Singers," provide a pleasing performance. Parker and Parr, Welsh artists, are accorded a well-deserved recognition; the sketch, *Billy,* given by the Craggs, is a turn that is fully appreciated; Terry and Lambert, in their humorous sketch, *English Types through American Eyes,* give amusing impersonations; and the Bioscope, with some fine pictures, completes.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart and his capable company occupy the boards here this week with *Sherlock Holmes,* which has had an enthusiastic reception. In the title-rôle Mr. Stewart gives an admirable impersonation; Mr. Arthur Shelton is clever as Doctor Watson; and Mr. Walter A. Chetham proves a capital John Forman. Mr. Robert Gilbert ably sustains the part of Professor Moriarty; Mr. Mark D. Draper does well as James Larabee; Mr. Douglas Murray makes the most of Sydney Prince; Mr. Louis Alexander scores as Alfred Bassick; Mr. S. Barnet is seen to advantage as Lighfoot McTague; and Master Thomas Russell proves an entertaining Billy. As Alice Faulkner Miss Betty Fairfax is worthy of the highest praise; and Miss Edith Vogue achieves complete success as Madge Larabee; and Miss Elsie Goulding makes a smart Therese.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Three Hodginis, gymnastic wonders, provide the star turn here this week, and introduce a very smart act. Mr. Will Doran's company, in *An Inventor's Trouble,* cause hearty laughter; and the Brothers Obo, comedy artists, are as popular as ever. Mr. Chandos George, with the song-scena "The Desert," has made a great hit; Mr. Andy Fagan, comedian and dancer, is warmly applauded; Messrs. Thompson and Lambert, speciality artists, are much enjoyed; and the Mouldoscope adds to the enjoyment of the evening.

NORTHWICH.—PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—Excellent business continues to be done here, where capable variety artists can always be seen. East and West give a good double turn, and their patter is clever; Miss Alma Curzon receives a good welcome, and her topical songs are warmly applauded; Mr. T. P. Wood is clever on the banjo; Daly Male is a capable comedian; and Doyle and Massey are skilful dancers. The pictures by Ruffell's Bioscope maintain a high standard.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—An excellent company, under the management of Mr. Wentworth Croke, is here this week in Hall Caine's spectacular melodrama, *The Prodigal Son.* Mr. Gordon Macintosh gives a skilful repreesntation of the part of Oscar Stephenson, and Mr. Hugh Montgomery is equally good as Magnus Stephenson; Mr. Charles Cooper is admirable as Stephen Magnusson, and Miss Barbara Gott as Anna Magnusson and Miss Marie Harcourt as Margaret Neilson are very good; Miss Valerie Crespin deserves praise in the double rôle of Thora and Elin, and Miss Mildred Cottell acts admirably as Helga Neilson. The scenery and dresses are elaborate.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. B. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Marie Loftus proves the star turn this week, and is deservedly well received. Her songs are greeted with enthusiasm, and she is especially well received in "Singers past and present." Helen Charles, the daughter of the late Mme. Lennard Charles, is much appreciated as a pianist, vocalist, mimic, and siffleuse; Maude Elliston and company create hearty laughter in their sketch, *Dobson's Day Off;* the Sovereigns are clever one-legged equilibrists and chair jumpers; the Brontes are well received in their duologue; Harry Leaton is a good vocalist; the Four Jumels are entertaining musicians; and Almon, the upside-down marvel, is well received. The Hippo Bio is good.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*Miss Hook of Holland* is being presented by Mr. George Dance's company. The quietly-humourous manner of Mr. Arthur Reynolds invests the character of Mr. Hook with interest; and the sweet voice and engaging manner of Miss Marie Wilson as Sally compel admiration. Miss Mabel Sealby as Mina dances through the piece in her own vivacious fashion; Mr. Frederick Hobbs as the Captain and Mr. Lionel Scott as the Lieutenant both do well; and Mr. Powis Pinder makes a satisfactory Bandmaster. Mr. Percy Davidson causes lots of fun by his quaintness in the rôle of Schnapps; and a conscientious piece of work is presented by Mr. Fred Lyne as Slinks. Misses Amy Preston and Maudy Jennings are good as Freda and Clara.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—A welcome change of fare is provided by Baron Harriss's company in *The Prince of Pilsen.* Miss Sophie Harriss is the life and soul of the comedy. Possessed of a charming soprano voice, she uses it perfectly, whilst her breezy manner, combined with a perfect technique, makes her portrayal of the part of Mrs. Crocker most enjoyable. Mr. Harry Kilburn as Hans Wagner is full of fun; Miss Nellie Lomas acts with daintiness as Nellie Wagner; Mr. Leslie Owen does well as the Prince; Mr. Arthur Geary acts and sings with commendable taste in the rôle of Lieut. Wagner; and Mr. Charles Rogers (Earl of Shrimpton) and Mr. Ernest Gifford (François) work hard. Miss Dora Christian as Edith and Miss Mabel Dent as Sidonie give creditable performances; and Miss Marion Ryder is a smart Call-boy.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan. — Reano and his band are giving the greatest delight to crowded houses; Ray Wallace is scoring in imitations at the piano; a farcical sketch, by Arthur Jefferson, is provocative of much laughter; the Gaudschmidts present a clever acrobatic performance; Lily Langtry is as vivacious as ever; and the eccentricities of Victor Travers afford merriment. As a concertina soloist, Percy Henri deserves his hearty reception; Howe and Ardie supply a comical acrobatic item; and Charles Vincent adds to the fun. Interesting films are shown on the Bioscope.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Lafayette had been engaged for another week, but was unfortunately summoned to the death-bed of his father, his place being creditably filled by Mr. Bellclaire; Max Waldon's impersonation of a female character is exceedingly well done; the Three Donals' acrobatic turn is much above the average; Miss Teddy Edmond, capably assisted by J. Rous, causes peals of laughter in a sketch, entitled *The Lady Jockey;* Gus Harris gives a quaint illustration of Hebrew characters; and Tony Black, in Scotch songs, and Ted Cowan, comedian, are duly rewarded. The Barrascope shows interesting pictures.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—A variety company is here this week, and the bill contains several good turns. Captain Devereux scores with his troupe of performing dogs; the Maro Duo, triple bar comedians, give a clever and amusing performance; Taylor and Bridge, the singing mill lads, are well received; the Brothers Hannaway are responsible for some smart clog-dancing; Lily and Elsie Judge, with their performing cockatoos, are accorded a cordial reception; Codge, the whistling newsboy and human lark, brings down the house; and animated pictures form the concluding item.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme. —*Sexton Blake* is the title of the drama staged here this week, and a good reception has been accorded the company. Mr. Horace Denton as the detective Sexton Blake was the recipient of much well-earned applause; Mr. Wm. Fenton acted the part of Roger Blackburn in fine style, and Mr. Brian Daly was a forcible Farmer Blackburn. Mr. Stephen Nicolls was excellent as Squire Lovell; Mr. Charles East was capital as his rascally nephew, Randolph Lovell; Miss East Robertson as Philadelphia Kate was a great success; Miss Frances Holmes was a sympathetic Marjory, and Miss Ruth Woodhouse was good as Mrs. Blackburn. Miss Lena Delphine as Euphemia Pattacake and Mr. Billy Ross as Tinker caused much amusement. Mr. Algernon Syms as the Rev. Edward Grey and Mr. John M. East as Simon Faggis acted most creditably. The remaining characters were well placed.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson and his talented company presented here on Monday the new romantic drama entitled *Who is She?* and large audiences have been attracted nightly. The title-rôle is ably acted by Miss Violet Carlyle, and she gains much applause; Mr. Graham Woods is manly in the fine character of Prince Vladimir; his arch-enemy, Prince Bora, is acted in forcible style by Mr. Hill-Mitchelson, his accomplice Keta Noveitch being ably portrayed by Miss Muriel Inglis; Miss Mabel Ronald is clever as the little King; Miss Alice Barber as Countess Ladori and Mr. Sinclair Holden as Capt. Arthur Gower are responsible for some clever comedy; Mr. J. Russell Bogue as Chang Tee is very smart, and Mr. Arthur McCulloch makes a fine Sergt. Metroff.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow. —George D'Albert and company head the bill in a capitally acted dramatic episode *It's Never Too Late to Mend;* Chanti, the protean marvel, earns much applause; Gertie Gitana delights the audience with her capital singing and dancing; Henry Helme uses his fine voice with telling effect, and This Quartette cause much amusement with their comedy singing act. Ruby Emerson is a smart comedienne, and Curtis Leo in a drawing-room act is well received. New pictures on the Dottoscope conclude.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Tom Kelso and company in their screaming absurdity *The Silly Servant* cause hearty laughter; Fred Hastings is a smart comedian and sings well; the Bros. Leotard as hand balancers and hat throwers take well; Shenton and Chicks sing and dance well; George Young is an expert blind musician, ably assisted by Mme. Louise; Ferriss and May in a "musical comedy spasm" also do well, and Burley and Burley make merry in "twist and tangle." The Dottoscope concludes with a good picture.

OXFORD. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—*Lady Frederick,* with Mrs. Brown Potter in the title-rôle, and Mr. Philip Cunningham as Fouldes, proved a big attraction here the latter half of last week, Mrs. Brown Potter's powerful acting meeting with keen appreciation. On Monday the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company commenced a week's engagement here with *The Gondoliers.* Before the company reached Oxford every seat in the theatre had been booked for every performance, so that the increased holding capacity of the theatre is this week being tested to its uttermost, and long rows of people stood for hours to get a chance of booking a seat right through last week, till the booking office was closed on the Friday. Needless to say *The Gondoliers* had a splendid reception from the densely-crowded house on Monday. Mr. Walenn was a striking success as the Duke of Plaza Toro, his quaint humour being very effective; Mr. Strafford Moss and Mr. Leicester Junks gave splendid renderings of Marco and Guiseppe, singing well and acting with humour; Mr. Fred Billington repeated the unctuous performance of the Grand Inquisitor, which has stamped him such a prime favourite here; and Mr. Sidney Granville was an excellent Luiz; Miss Clara Daw and Miss Beatrice Meredith as Nanetta and Jessa sang delightfully and acted and danced with much grace; Miss Ethel Morrison was an admirable Duchess, and the part of her daughter was well sustained by Miss Mabel Graham. The chorus was strong, fresh, and tuneful, and a better all-round performance has not been heard in Oxford. During the week's engagement *Iolanthe, The Yeomen of the Guard, Patience, H.M.S. Pinafore,* and *The Mikado* will all be played, and it is certain that the week's takings will head all records at this theatre. Mr. H. Bellamy is still the popular and able manager of the company.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Gilbert Payne's company is here with *The Honeymoon.* As Nathaniel Noodle, around whom the chief interest of the play centres, Mr. Gilbert Payne is irresistibly funny; he is ably assisted by Mr. Leslie Erle as Jack Armstrong, Mr. Edward Ray as Archie Washington, and Mr. H. F. Housden as Colonel Vandyke; Miss Hettie Lind is graceful and sings well as Madge Armstrong; Miss Myra Douglas is very effective as Stella Le Brunn; and Miss Connie Meadows works well as Emeretta Noodle. Clever speciality dances are introduced by the Godfrey Girls, and Mr. Leslie Erle contributes an excellent instrumental turn.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—*A Warning to Women* is being presented here this week by Mr. C. Watson-Mill's company. Mr. Harry C. Robinson plays Dr. Marcus Dread with success; as Shaun, Mr. William Vane acts skilfully; Mr. Charles O'Connor as Fergus McNaughton acquits himself satisfactorily; a humorous portrayal of Lord Eversleigh is supplied by Mr. W. Leicester Jackson; Mr. Henry Rutland as Squire Kennion is admirable; Mr. Alec Finlayson makes an excellent Rev. Emanuel Wallace; Mr. Oscar Power is to be complimented in his impersonation of Mike McQuade; and as Ferdinand de Joules Mr. W. Palliser Acock distinguishes himself. Miss Blanche St. Albans displays ability as Moira Kennion; Hildred is given a sound portrayal by Miss Marie Ramus; Miss Ellen Beverley plays strongly the part of Molly O'Moore; as Sheila Kennion Miss Winifred Rutland acts intelligently; and Miss Edith Rutland does well in the rôle of Myles O'Moore.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Mooney and Holbein score a great success here this week in their comedy sketch, *Oysters a Shilling a Bucket;* T. E. Dunville, the quaint comedian, is popular and entertaining; the Resua Trio are applauded for their marvellous Continental wire act; Maxford and O'Neil are very funny patter comedians and singers; a capital and versatile entertainment is provided by Merton and Rydon; Sandy M'Nab and company present the funny sketch, *The Egyptian Mummy,* which creates no end of merriment; Elsie Earle makes a decided impression in her song scena, "The Garden of Flowers"; as hand-balancers Hearne and Palmer present a clever and humorous turn; and the Bioscope concludes.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—With a company of high excellence Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin are presenting *The Way of the World* here. Miss Sidney Crowe as Lady Adela Hardy is excellent; Miss Marie Fontaine as Kate Montague acts in a delightful manner; Miss Violette Vivienne as Mlle. Bellini makes a characteristic strong woman, and Miss Marie Marah is very good as little Eric Malyon. Mr. Victor Gordon as Captain Fred Slade is capital, as also is Mr. Herbert Skardon as Cecil Hardy. Matthew Malyon is powerfully portrayed by Mr. Clarence Temple; Mr. D'Arcy Kelway is mirth-provoking as Joe Sparrow, and Mr. Pat Quin fills the rôle of Sir John Hardy in a capable manner.

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TEMPERANCE HALL.—The inimitable Tom Owen is as popular as ever with his funnyisms, and he is well supported by a good variety programme, including an amusing sketch entitled *Checkers*.

PENTRE.—WORKMEN'S HALL.—Will Stone's Twentieth Century Pictures continue to do good business here. Miss Florrie Conolly, Irish vocalist, is a decided draw.

TIVOLI.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. C. W. Poole; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Gunn.—A monster bill is presented here this week, and large crowds are attracted.

PENZANCE.—ST. JOHN'S HALL.—Mr. J. Bannister Howard's *The Belle of Mayfair* company has appeared here for two nights. Miss Nellie Barnwell as Julia and Miss Dora Lyons as Pincott were happily placed; Miss Danny Fitzherbert as Lady Chaldicott entered thoroughly into the spirit of her part; and Mr. Sidney Burt as Sir John Chaldicott was irresistibly funny. Miss Patricia Weldon made a charming Princess; and Miss Grace Mackay's Gibson Girl and Miss Kitty Holmes's Lady Violet Gussop were both finished representations. Mr. A. Batting as Comte de Perrier showed marked ability; and Mr. Stephen Hall as the Earl was sufficiently peppery.

PERTH.—THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—*The Girl Who Went Astray* is presented here this week by Mr. Bulmer's company. As Captain Frank Julian Mr. John B. Shinton scores a success; Mr. Fred Lloyd is good as Rupert Murdock; Mr. Evan Roland is very clever as Adolphus Boomer; Mr. Todd Squires displays ability as James Yellowsocks; and Mr. Edgar P. Melrose as Sergeant John Harvey, V.C., Mr. R. Ashton as Dr. George Wilson, Mr. Edwin Williams as Gussie Seymour, Miss R. Mainwaring as General Sir Hugh Finnigan, and Mr. A. Wardroper as P. C. Johnston, all contribute to the effect of the piece; Miss Ada M. Ryder meets with much favour as Violet, the heroine; Miss Gwynne Warren in the title-rôle gives a capital performance; and Miss Sybil Haughton as Eleanor Merton, Miss Mary Dalby as Molly Smart, Miss Mabel Sinclair as Flo Fortesque, and Miss Freda Fredericks as the Nurse, play satisfactorily.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—*Still Waters Run Deep* was presented here on Monday by Mr. Norman V. Norman and Miss Beatrice Wilson's company. Mr. Norman himself in the part of John Mildmay was a distinct success; Miss Beatrice Wilson was most successful as Mrs. Sternbold; Captain Hawksley was capitally played by Mr. Alfred Gray, and Miss V. Malcolm Barnett was admirably suited to the part of Mrs. Mildmay.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—Louie Tinsley and Fred Knight top the bill here in their original duologue sketch entitled *Betsy's Burgle*. The Piccolinis are clever acrobats and wire walkers, and other good turns include:—Frank Blyth, vocal comedian; Beatrice Willey, vocalist; the Six Albyns in comedy act, *The Squire's Hunting-Party*; Jack Barker, Yorkshire comedian, and W. H. Moss, a singer of comic songs.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Hypocrites*, at the Royal this week, creates a profound impression. Mr. A. B. Imeson as the Rev. Edgar Linnell gives a capital rendering of this upright and self-sacrificing parson; Mr. E. H. Ruston is correctly bombastical as the pharasaical and self-opinionated Mr. Wilmore; Mr. John Dennys acts with commendable reserve as Lennard Wilmore; Mr. F. G. Thurstans is genuinely funny as the Rev. Everard Daubeney; Mr. Fredk. Morland as Mr. Viveash makes a keen legal man-about-town; and Mr. Charles Tyrel is aristocratic as Sir John Plugenet. Miss Muriel Pope furnishes an excellent study of the unfortunate Rachel Neve; Miss Laura Graves makes a motherly Mrs. Wilmore; Miss Sybil Brooke as Mrs. Blaney raises much laughter by her puritanical style and mien; and Miss Eva Turnour as Patty gives an amusing version of a somewhat inquisitive domestic.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Miss Florrie Forde, the star for the week, furnishes three numbers, the refrains of which, as might be expected, are taken up with great gusto in all parts of the house; Aiston's White Stars have a particularly clever and original number; Luis Hardt performs some wonderful feats of strength; Takio, a Japanese mimic, furnishes much amusement by his struggles with the English language; and Tom Costello, Matthews and Brown, and Zenora also entertain.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—At the head of an exceptional bill this week are the Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese, whose entertainment wins popular appreciation; May Lilian Levey, of fine proportions, has plenty of "go," and with good songs soon gets on excellent terms; the Musical Keiths have some novelties in the way of instruments; the Rangers submit a unique cycle act, and other comedy turns are provided by Will Owen Elmore and Evans, Blanco and Enilie, Jim Topping, and Lucretia and Josephine.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Mr. Harry Benet's company is here this week with *Sergeant Brue*. The title-rôle is capably portrayed by Mr. Denis Lyndon; Michael Brue is ably assumed by Mr. Lister Morrah; Aurora Brue is capitally played by Miss Daisy Dale; Mr. Harry Benet surpasses himself as Crooky Scrubbs, and a strong cast also includes Mr. E. B. Davies as Gerald Treherne, Mr. Langdon Guy as Inspector Gorringe, Mr. F. Lionel as Matthew Habisham, Mr. Percy Goold as the Rev. Lamb, and Mr. T. G. Warren as Mr. Croup.

PORTH.—THE PALACE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—The programme here is exceedingly bright and attractive. Mason and Bart top the bill in a clever gymnastic display; Ivy Aberdare as a dancer is delightful; the Davenports, illusionists, are exceedingly smart; Lalie Brooke in a new and original scena, entitled *Girls Past and Present*, meets with a cordial reception; James Brady, eccentric joker, is responsible for much fun; Bliss and Bliss are smart patter comedians and dancers; Ellis and Watts, swell comedians, in catchy songs, &c., meet with great approval; and the Four Albertos, lady equilibrists, give a very neat and smart turn. The Palascope, with its fine pictures, is a treat.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*A White Man* made its initial appearance here on Monday. Mr. Herbert Sleath and Miss Ellis Jeffreys, with an efficient company, are responsible for its most excellent presentation. As the Countess of Kerhill Miss Jeffreys acted with impressiveness and natural charm; Mr. Sleath played with power and sympathy in the rôle of Captain James Wynngate; Mr. George Fawsett as Big Bill gives an excellent study; Cash Hawkins is ably taken by Mr. Menifee Johnson; Miss Dorothy Dix as Nat-u-ritch acts with thrilling energy; Miss Emma Gwynne is most praiseworthy as the Dowager Lady Kerhill, and other parts deserving of mention are Messrs A. G. Poulton (Sir John Applegate), Cecil Yapp (Shorty), S. J. Warmington (Andy), R. F. Symonds (Groughy), A. Plumpton (Baco White), A. S. Aspland (Tab-y-wana), and E. Plumpton (Nick).

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Mr. Frank Thorne, with a well-selected company is staging here for the week the strong human play *The Woman Pays*. Mr. F. Thorne, the author, taking the part of Micky Maloney, gives an extremely well-studied rendering of the rollicking Irishman; Mr. John Davidson as the rascally steward Roger Marchant is decidedly good; Mr. Phil Harper sustains the character of Sid Armstrong with excellent effect; Mr. Beresford Innes is well placed as Cyrus Treadgold; Miss Maud Russell's portrayal of Madge Armstrong is vigorous and well sustained; Miss Kate Blair ably depicted the steward's victim, Nell Morland, and Miss Anena Walton makes a capital Polly Stokes.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney in a thrilling tragic episode entitled *No. 009 West* gain unstinted appreciation for a well-presented and artistically played act; Chas. Banks, comedian, and his dog "Woof" are interesting; Mabel Mavis, society entertainer, is a most skilful musician, and gives ample proof of her versatility; Susie and Protti in a graceful terpsichorean Parisian act gain much applause; Smaun Sing Hpoo, Burmese midget, has a smart acrobatic performance; the Three Ranamas are responsible for an amusing pot-pourri act, and Princess Trixie, the educated horse, makes her bow for the first time here. Yvonne Samor, comedienne, and animated pictures by the Barrascope conclude.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—The programme for the week here includes the Smart Set, a company of humorous entertainers, in song and dance; Billie Burford, a taking comedienne with chorus songs, does well; Cestria, eccentric juggling waiter, is quaint; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, is droll; Ouida Macdermott sings tunefully; J. W. Ellison, light comedian, scores well; the Simms in a vocal and dancing scena prove diverting; the Five Juanitos, Spanish acrobats, give an extremely clever performance, and Payne's pictures conclude.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.—Mr. Wilkie Bard, the bard of mirth, heads the programme and causes plenty of amusement; the Tintos in "African Gambols" are diverting; Bromley and Fontein in musical interlude take well; Miss Lily Burnand, a brisk and charming comedienne, submits two up-to-date numbers; Miss Addie Dorina in her protean act *Dr. Spot's Patients* is decidedly clever; Lux's French poodles give evidence of cleverness in their performance, and Miss Amy Sullivan, comedienne, Arthur Reece, and a series of interesting and instructive Hippo pictures complete the bill.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. F. Mouillot's No. 1 company, in the successful musical comedy, *The Girl Behind the Counter*, is attracting good houses this week. Mr. Kennedy Allen as General Sir Wilkie Willoughby proves himself to be a laughter-provider of the first water, and keeps the audience in a continual roar; excellent fun is also provided by Mr. A. Moore and Mr. William Amery as waiters; Mr. Ferris Pounds is excellent as the vapid Viscount Gusington; and Mons. Claude Dampier gives a first-class presentation of the excitable Mons. Duval. Mr. Frederick Park as Adolphus Dudds is responsible for much of the merriment; Mr. Sam Lockridge, who possesses a fine baritone voice, finds plenty of scope as Charles Chetwyn, and wins loud applause; Rudolph, the commissionaire, is ably undertaken by Mr. Geoffrey Allsopp; Miss Winifred Knightly makes an excellent Lady Willoughby; Miss Irene Vere is a vivacious and fascinating Millie Mostyn; Miss Eileen Clanford is a very engaging Ninette; and Miss Irene Lavington is an established favourite as Susie. In the title-rôle Miss Ida Stratham leaves nothing to be desired, both her singing and acting calling forth the highest praise. The chorus, an exceedingly strong one, is under the direction of Mr. W. D. J. Damant. The dressing and mounting of the piece are thoroughly good.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Charles Draycott's répertoire company is in possession this week. In *The Shaughraun* Mr. Charles Draycott excels as Conn, and receives an ovation; Mr. George Steel makes a manly Captain Molineux; Mr. Wilfred J. Short as Robert Ffolliott also comes in for a share of the applause; Mr. Chas. H. Herberte as Father Doolan gives a fine portrayal of the kindly-hearted priest; Mr. Geo. Arthur is good as Corry Kinchela; Mrs. Charles Draycott as Clare Ffolliott is admirable; Miss Eva Norman is an excellent Moya; Miss Issa Steel is also to be commended as Arte O'Neele; and Miss Louise Millward as Mrs. Kelly, Miss May Vincent as Bridget Madigan; and Miss Grace Russell as Nancy Malone deserve much praise. *A Stolen Birthright*, *The Octoroon*, *The Colleen Bawn*, *East Lynne*, and *Shadows of a Great City* are also in the bill.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Edwin Adeler, comedian, has some capital songs, which he renders well; Devon and Earle are well described as the wooden-shoe wonders, their dancing being particularly good; Emil and Ediss play some classical selections on the banjo, and prove themselves masters of the instrument; Fred Curran has some quaint songs and parodies; Coverdale and Huxley's Juveniles, in a musical scena, *Pansy's Birthday*, give a really good turn; Beau and Belle have a pathetic little scena, *Past and Present*, which is exceedingly well rendered; "Cyclumina" is a wonderful electric cycle act, produced by Herbert Adams; the Denwartz Troupe of juvenile lady acrobats perform some very clever feats of hand-balancing; W. G. Webber, who sings "Asleep in the deep," has a fine voice; and Herr Karoly Cgyuski, cymbalone, xylophone, and drum soloist, proves himself a musical expert. A Sporting Husband, on the Bioscope, puts the finishing touch to a good programme.

RADCLIFFE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company is receiving a great welcome here on their return visit. Mr. George Harvard as Harry Steyne plays an important part in a praiseworthy manner; the lively gag of Mr. Grant Lytton as Billy Brewer keeps the house in a good humour; Mr. C. N. Longden as Leonard Royle is good; Mr. C. P. Wentworth as Hassan Padisha is creditable; and Mr. J. Wilkinson deserves praise for his rendering of Sergeant O'Flynn. Miss Jeannie Weston leaves nothing to be desired as Lady Phyllis, and Miss Trissie Humphries is interesting as Mary Steyne; Miss Daisy Clifford also as Nancy Brewer proves attractive.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—During the week Miss Grace Warner and company have been appearing in a répertoire of dramas. On the first two nights *The Scarlet Clue* was produced. Miss Warner made a successful appearance as Sal Scarlett and Mr. George Gordon scored heavily in the rôle of Michael Stanton. The other parts in a heavy cast were taken with much ability, and special mention should be made of Mr. Claude Morton as Billy the Potter. On Wednesday and Thursday evenings appreciative audiences witnessed the presentation of *Lady Audley's Secret*. Miss Grace Warner here assumed the character of Lady Audley in a manner calling for complimentary reference and Mr. George Gordon was seen to advantage in his personation of Robert Audley. For last (Friday) night *East Lynne* was billed, and to-night's repetition of *The Scarlet Clue* will conclude the company's engagement at Ramsgate.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—This week we have Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company in *A Soldier of France*. As Corporal Jean, Mr. Piercy Ballard was very good indeed; Mr. Albert Guyon as Judas Delara made an excellent villain; Mr. Edward Hobart as Louis Lorraine (father and son) was interesting; Mr. Freddie Edwards as Jollyboy was most comical in his witticisms; as Duke D'Laval Mr. Milton C. Curtis showed to advantage; Miss Carlotte Anson was a capable Pauline Lorraine; as Rita Miss Maggie Hobart was indeed a charming and accomplished artist; whilst Miss Jennie Clare as Margot was full of life and gaiety.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. Robert Buchanan and Miss Harriett Jay's company are here this week in the favourite drama *Alone in London*. Miss Theresa Osborne appears very successfully in her well-known impersonation of Nan, the flower girl; Mr. Percy Rhodes is an able representative of Richard Redcliffe; and the other rôles are well sustained.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr P. E. Draco.—This week's attractions include Joe Peterman's company in a laughable musical sketch, *The Belle of the Orient*; Raie Walters, comedienne; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire comedian, who gives an exceedingly good performance, his piano playing and singing and the smartness of his witticisms being all very commendable; and the Four Juggling Breens give a humorous exhibition of juggling; Spry and Monti provide a smart turn; Guy Ryder, light comedian and wrestler, is well received; the Sisters Warwick, a troupe of five clever cyclists, introduce a series of novel and interesting feats; and the Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*Mr. Popple (of Ippleton)* makes its first appearance here this week. A capital company comes with the play, which goes with a jolly swing throughout. Mr. Charles Macdona is an ideal Freddy Popple, and holds the audience with his fine impersonation; Mr. Louis du Cane makes the most of Norman Popple; Mr. Nap Barry and Mr. James Stephenson are effective as George Henney and Henry Doring and Mr. Tom May is a capital Platt. Miss Amy Singleton enacts with skill the part of Mrs. Doring, whilst the part of Mrs. Henney is admirably played by Miss Lilyan Lait. Miss Marie Moss is a charming Violet Brinton; Miss May Hart is a piquant and vivacious Louise; and Miss Nellie Hodson delights the audience as La Bolero.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves. Hanvarr and Lee are clever and amusing in *The Golfer and the Maid; Two Wicked Maids*, a comedy operetta is presented by a trio whose names do not transpire; Marie Blythe finds great favour with her descriptive vocalism. Other artists appearing include Mlle. Yetta, in an up-to-date wire act; Florence Schuberth, burlesque artist; Boden and Bell, vocalists and dancers; Drum and Major, "the comedy people"; Kitty Allen, comedienne; and the Empire Bioscope pictures conclude.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's well-known company is here on a welcome return visit with *When London Sleeps*. The last act has been brought quite up to date, and is laid at the "White City." Mr. Edward E. Ashby gives an able portrayal of David Engleheart and Mr. Harry Wren as Captain Rodney Haynes is effective. Mr. Douglas Campbell and Mr. F. Howard are successful in the comedy portions of the play; Miss Mabel Scudamore receives well-deserved applause for her representation of Queenie; and Miss Lilla Wilde enacts her part cleverly.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Another sensational turn heads the bill at this house in the famous athlete John Grun Marx, who performs some feats of strength which appear almost impossible; the Avocas give a clever musical scena, *The Reckless Miner*; C. J. Johnson is highly successful as a song and dance artist; the Three Pirmans are responsible for a highly finished gymnastic display; Little Lassah is a petite comedienne and dancer; Mr. Horace White gives a finished ventriloquial turn at the piano; Margit and Lener find ready acceptance in their tumbling speciality; and Mlle. Henriette and Selina give a refined selection of musical and vocal items. Pictures by means of the Hipposcope complete.

RUGBY.—TOWN HALL.—Entertainment-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Dyson's Gypsy Choir and animated pictures opened on Monday night to a packed house. The songs and choruses are rendered in first-class style, and the sketch is good. The pictures are of great and varied interest.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—*Rollicking Rory* proved on Monday a very enjoyable musical play for a full house. In the title-rôle Mr. Chalmers Mackay is a host in himself, his witticisms provoking endless laughter. He has a charming *vis-à-vis* in Miss Nana Flensburg as Rosie. Mr. Percy Horton gives a manly representation of Captain Ashleigh, and also as General Ashleigh. Mrs. Chalmers Mackay is very effective as Mrs. Ashleigh, and afterwards as Rosaleen Ashleigh. Stephen D'Arcy's villainy is well brought out by Mr. Fred. W. Leonard; Mr. Chas. Homer makes an excellent Desmond Fitzgerald; Miss Constance Bellamy, as Peggy O'More, and also as Queen of the Fairies, gives much pleasure with her singing; the other characters are well sustained.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—The mad musical sketch, *Dotty*, by the Ten Loonies, keeps the house in roars; Creo Brothers do some marvellous acrobatic feats. The programme also includes Della Sisters, comediennes; Cromo and Hamilton in sketch, *Artful Aladdin*; Manson and West in "Telling the Tale"; Herbert La Martine, eccentric dancer; Adele Roze, comedienne; and Edie Gray and boys in harmony and song.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Six Brothers Luck, Ltd., company take up a lot of the bill with two sketches, *Hotel Grande* and *The Demon of the Cellar*, and keep the house in roars; Jack Truman has some pleasing tenor songs; *The Usurer* is a sketch cleverly presented by Sydney Mason and Teresa Moore, assisted by Syd Leslie, E. J. Harris, H. Russell, and Harry Arnold; Sylvio, comedienne; Lavello Bros., acrobatic comedians; and Maddison Bros., comedians, also appear.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Twice nightly Mr. Lester King has the audience joining with him in the chorus of "Sing me to sleep"; and the full houses revel in the pictures, including: The Face on the Barroom Floor, Opium Smoker's Dream, War Episode, Living Reflections, Evils of Spiritualism, Gipsy Life in Europe, Gnomes, Considerate Cabby, and Eggs with Care, &c.

SCARBOROUGH.—THE AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—Shirley Liggins and company, the coloured quintette of vocalists, head the bill here, and are well received; J. W. Groves gains unstinted applause for all his songs; as do the Bodens, two juvenile vocalists and dancers; McCann's dogs are very clever; Reg Bolton is exceedingly funny as *The Editor's Imp*; and the Seven Wulfrunas are acrobats of no mean order; C. H. Gould and company in the sketch, *A Matchless Match*, are very good; some excellent pictures are shown on Vernon's Bioscope.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock.—Lockhart's elephants take first place, and Captain Taylor, their owner and trainer, is to be highly congratulated on the marvellous exhibition they give; Dora Barrington, in her operatic scena, *Sentiment and Jest*, and Beattie Foster, in her songs, are both excellent in their turn; Wallace Whitney, a humorous comedian, is responsible for much merriment, and Shrillo is very good; other good turns are given by Tennis and Zaune, and Doyle and Gibson, and some exciting pictures are shown.

THE SPA.—Manager, Mr. Fras. Goodricke.—A new vocalist has appeared here each evening, each artist acquitting himself admirably. The company's band, under the conductorship of Mr. Chas. Godfrey, jun., supplies excellent music.

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kierman.—Mr. Charles Constant's company is paying a visit here this week with the popular musical comedy *Florodora*. Anthony Tweedlepunch is hit off with conspicuous success by Mr. Gus Danby; Cyrus G. Gilfain is invested with much quiet humour by Mr. Jack Parker; Mr. Martin D. Pitt as Frank Abercoed, Mr. Stanley Bartram as Captain Arthur Donegal, and Mr. Emlyn Davies as Leandro are all good. Miss Louie Danby gives an animated impersonation of Angela; the Dolores of Miss Daisy Lake possesses some pleasing points; and Miss Lillie Blythe (Lady Holyrood), Miss May Phillips (Valleda), the Misses Oliva Stewart, Mircia Russell, Violet May, Florrie Weber, and Little Daintry as the Florodorean Girls give general satisfaction.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—*Straight from the Shoulder* occupies the boards here this week, the company presenting it being Mr. R. A. Roberts'. As Dr. Francis Bedford Mr. Caspar Middleton merits distinction; Mr. Leonard Clarke submits a convincing portrayal of Major Lucas; as Jim Green Mr. Fred Beck proves a popular comedian; Fred Stafford is smartly played by Mr. George Fisher; Mr. George H. Child is painstaking as the Rev. John Armitage; Millicent Grant is admirably presented by Miss Beatrice Burdett; Gladys is smartly played by Miss Beatrice Moore. Miss Edie Casson is a popular Miss Brittle; and as Mary Gleeson Miss Frances Bruce merits praise. The scenery is commendable.

SHEFFIELD.—LYCEUM THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal had a warm welcome from a good audience on Monday when they appeared in *The Elder Miss Blossom*. Mrs. Kendal submitted an artistic portrait of a sweet womanly woman as Miss Blossom, and was cordially applauded at the end of each act. Mrs. A. B. Tapping, whom middle-aged local playgoers remember with esteem and affection as the youthful and charming leading lady of the Alexandra stock company, acted with her wonted grace and intelligence as Mrs. Cooper; Mr. Kendal gave a cleverly natural reading of the part of Andrew Quick; Mr. Bassett Roe, a sound and experienced actor, was good as the Major; the part of Sophia was acted with dainty charm by Miss Jessica Thorne; and other characters were excellently played by Mr. Metcalf Wood, Mr. W. M. Rutherford, Mr. T. Holding, and Miss F. Noble. *The Whirlpool* was performed on Tuesday and Thursday. Both plays were mounted tastefully.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Hemfrey Aldred.—Mr. Henry Bedford is a special favourite with local lovers of melodrama, and good business is the pleasing result of his engagement at the Theatre Royal this week in the picturesque and pathetic drama, *A Lion's Heart*. Mr. Bedford repeats his powerful impersonation of Rizardo, the gallant lion-tamer, and he is supported by a well-selected company.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Two Lancashire Lasses in London* was acted to a large and enthusiastic house on Monday by Hardie and Von Leer's company. Some artistic new scenery was provided, and the principal characters were well represented by Mr. Herbert Pearson, Mr. Chris Mason, Mr. E. R. Cousens, Mr. F. Morgan, Mr. F. E. Bevens, Mr. Jack Miller, Mr. Roland Clive, Mr Watler Walmesley, Mr. Dick Winslow, Miss Rosslyn Vane, Miss Alice De Foe, Miss Marguerite Trevosper, Miss Marie Corri, and Miss Evelyn Shaw.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The artistic, pleasing, and educative statuary entertainment, "Makers of History," arranged by the well-known sculptor, Mr. Albert Toft, was received with enthusiastic applause on Monday. Other turns on the programme were given by Mr. Mike S. Whallen, with funny stories; Mr. Gus Garrick, a mirth-provoking eccentric comedian; Mendel, the wonderful blind pianist; Miss Nelly Martell, a pretty serio-comic vocalist; Callaghan and St. George, in their Hibernian sketch, *The Old Neighbourhood*; Spry and Austin, diverting duettists and fun-makers; Mr. H. Rogers and company, in a comedy sketch; the Bioscope, with popular films; and the smart New York Nippers, dancers, &c.

THE HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—The talented and thoroughly enjoyable humorist and ventriloquial entertainer Mr. Arthur Prince is once more starring here, and others who are delighting crowded houses this week are Messrs. Healy and Meely, the comical acrobatic tramps; the three Sisters Sprightly, in a musical-comedy absurdity; Mr. C. S. Melvin, vocalist; Mr. Walter Emmerson, comic and character impersonator; Paulton and Doley, in a smart and laughable cycling act; Ajax and George, expert and graceful gymnasts; Mr. Will Gardiner, speciality dancer; and the Barrascope, with new pictures.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Mr. Ronald Bayne's company, including the prepossessing and clever young dramatic artist, Miss Evelyn Hope, opened to a good audience on Monday in the effectively-mounted costume play, *An Emperor's Divorce*. In addition some fine photos of up-to-date events, &c., were shown on the screen, including the Salving of the Gladiator, a realistic picture. Variety artists also appeared, and the programme gave general satisfaction.

ALBERT HALL.—The Messrs. Goole's superb London and Paris animated pictures (including Samson and the opera of *Faust*) are drawing crowded audiences.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Licensee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—A welcome innovation, and one that bids fair to become exceedingly popular, is the introduction at this theatre of a periodical vaudeville session, inaugurated this week with marked success—an agreeable change after continuous runs of "legitimate" drama. The star turn, and a most attractive one, is that of Harry "Curly" Beaumont and the Rochez ponies and dogs, the best feature of the evening. The animals are highly trained, and their evolutions on a somewhat small stage are indeed surprising. The Four Scoreys give a most diverting and entertaining musical show; Wragge and Wragge, military athletes, with their fine foil play; the Sisters Holman, agile and highly trained dancers; Vic Verney, an accomplished artiste; Miss Lesta Lowe, a pleasing comedienne; Vowles (W. R.) and Bryan (Edith), in a capital contribution; and the pictures form an excellent list of attractions.

SMETHWICK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is here in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. Prince Hildred, Mr. Alfred Brandon; Prince Michael, Mr. Melville Bickford; and Prince Olaf, Mr. Ernest Cox are played in a manner that makes criticism superfluous, the acting of all three being in the highest degree artistic. Captain Hector is played in good style by Mr. W. S. Mills; the light comedy is effectively provided by Mr. Reginald Payne as Karl and Miss Jessica Black as Viola; Mr. Kenneth Black is a capable Bishop; and Mr. H. Burton is suitably cast as Nathan; Miss Ethel Blackwell gives a well restrained and highly effective portrayal of Princess Monica; Miss Gertrude Branscombe undertakes Camiola, the beggar maid, charmingly. The scenery and effects are splendid.

SOUTHAMPTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. Milton Bode's company is appearing in *A Chinese Honeymoon*. Miss Gwennie Harcourt is still appearing as Fi-Fi with her customary success. Mr. Rudolph Kloss scores as the Emperor; and Miss Veronica Brady (Mrs. Pineapple), Mr. J. W. Hooper (Mr. Pineapple), Mr. P. Allerton Turner (Chippie Chop), Mr. Harry Jennings (Tom Hatherton), and Miss Maud Adams (Mrs. Brown), all help the fun merrily along.

PALACE.—Director-General, Mr. Frank MacNaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Fred Karno's *Football Match* is the star attraction here with Harry Weldon as Stiffy; the Five Broadway Girls, singers and dancers; Belle Braham, pictorial songstress; Lecardo Bros., comedy acrobats; D. W. Watson, cornet soloist; Jimmy Laurie, comedian; Walter Clyde, vocalist; and Jack Hayworth, Scotch comedian, are also in the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—This hall presented quite a gala appearance on Monday in honour of the King's Birthday. The proceedings opened with the National Anthem, charmingly sung by Miss Bellamy, and great enthusiasm reigned; jovial Joe Elvin is seen in the old favourite sketch *Touched*, and during the time he occupies the stage the fun waxes fast and furious; Edwin Boyde, comedian; the Three Royal Dreadnoughts, rifle shots; Fred. Poplar, comedian; Kitty Wager, comedienne; Harry Nation, comedian; Three Cunards, vocalists and dancers; and Jules Kiaro, equilibrist, are also of the company.

PHILHARMONIC HALL.—Messrs. Andrews have returned to the scenes of their former triumphs, and will provide the animated picture fare for the next few months. A capital band is in attendance here, and the pictures are interspersed by vocal contributions by Miss May McPherson.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. Eugene Stafford's company is this week paying a farewell visit with *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Donald Price submits a capital all-round impersonation of the Rev. Robert Spalding; Mr. Frank Stanley enacts the part of Mr. Marsland, M.F.H., with great credit; Harry Marsland is capitally depicted by Mr. Andrew Wight; Mr. W. Hargreaves played the rôle of Caftermole with great humour, and repeated his former success; Mr. Lawrence Grove is a most commendable exponent of Douglas Cattermole; Sidney Gibson was very well played by Mr. Frederick Tyrrell; Mrs. Alfred Davis is seen to much advantage as Miss Ashford; Miss Cicely Wade presents a diverting character-sketch as Mrs. Stead; Edith Marsland had a piquant and pleasing representative in Miss Violet Darling; and Miss Edith Savery was very chic and smart as Eva Webster. As a curtain-raiser a short enjoyable farce, entitled *The Wild Man from Borneo*, was presented.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Frank Lindo and company appear this week in *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Lindo enacts Stephen Armitage in a breezy and convincing manner; Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle gives a good interpretation of David Armitage; the Duke of Ancaster finds an able exponent in Mr. Norton Shields; Mr. Helsby Wright is powerful in the villainous part of Lucas Lyle; Mr. G. Rogers is successful as the Hon. Percy; the Joan of Miss Marion Wakeford is sympathetic; Miss Maud Leslie-Cudd makes a clever Sybil Fay; and Dora, the child, is charmingly impersonated by Miss Hilda Jackaway.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—At the head of the bill is Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and their troupe in *The Cruise of the Victory*, which is enthusiastically received; good dances are included by the Vera Troupe; Bert Williams, ventriloquist, has an excellent reception. A rapid-fire comedy act is introduced by Coverdale, whose ridiculous antics cause merriment; Little Agnes Tina is a clever juvenile actress; Emmie Ames was good as the original toy-worker. Illusions were contributed by Philip Levari, assisted by Miss Lillie Gene. Harry Bancroft, actor-vocalist, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—The chief attraction is provided by the Three Markies, who gain applause in their musical scena *From Pavement to Stage*; La Clair is very successful in her illustrated songs; Randolph Slater is a versatile artist of ability, and is accorded a welcome. The Tivoloscope shows interesting films.

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are well played by an all-round excellent company. The staging and effects are capital.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The Humpsti Bumpsi, by Pipfax and Paulo, is a clever and amusing piece of tumbling; Ike and Will Scott do not fail in their efforts to create laughter; V. L. Granville's turn is of a refined order, and is well applauded; Millie Howell is encored for her songs; Estrella dances gracefully into favour; and Frisco, in wonderful make-up, juggles expertly. Curwen and Bell are smart in the sketch *The International Club*.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company provides an enjoyable entertainment in the musical comedy burlesque *A Merry Maid*. Mr. Vivian Wakeman, who excels in some clever imitations, capitally impersonates the character of Larry O'Hooligan; Mr. Neil Hardy, as the Hon. Cecil Toft, is an amusing dude; Mr. Howard Lawrence acts and sings ably as Thady Clancey; Mr. Harry Leander makes an ideal Dutch servant, Van Swank; and commands applause for his ability on the Milanese pipe; Angela is charmingly portrayed by Miss Fanny Adamson; Mr. W. S. Hutchinson provokes abundant laughter as Biddy O'Hooligan; Miss May Gibson sings sweetly as Peggy; Miss Ray Watson is very pleasing as Flossie; and Mr. C. E. James makes the most of the part of Sharp Scrivener.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —Harry Tate's *Fishing* provokes boisterous laughter; the Three Brothers Huxter are smart acrobats; the realistic acting of Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas in *Scenes from Dickens* is a thoroughly enjoyable feature; Cline and Clark are capable vocalists and dancers; Ambrose Thorne's songs meet with favour; Zelda gives a clever musical entertainment; Wal Owen, the silent comedian, is cordially greeted; and the Reays, in their acrobatic act, are highly successful.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company in *Robin Hood* is here this week. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards, in the title-rôle, proves himself admirably adapted to the part; Mr. J. M. Briant makes a good King Richard; Mr. H. Elliot Ball, as Prince John, does well; Mr. Ernest Gray, as the High Sheriff of Nottingham, acts with dramatic skill; Mr. Richard Fielding, as Hugo de Longespee, furnishes an interesting portraiture; the Abbot of Jorvaux is in the able hands of Mr. Lambert Plummer; Mr. Alex. Begie, as Tracy, does well; Mr. C. Clive Ross's John Little is an excellent study, and causes intense merriment; John Herdman, as Much, is very successful; Mr. Spencer Lloyd appears in the rôle of Allan A'Dale, and sings in good style; Miss Lilian Stennis, as Lady Marion, gives the utmost satisfaction; Miss Laurie Flockton makes a good Adela; and Miss Gertrude de Burgh, as Alison, is very pleasing.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week *The Duke's Motto*, which is well received. Payne's Bio-photoscope shows some excellent films.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—The wonderful masked singer, L'Incognita, heads the bill here this week, and her singing being of a high standard was well received; Ted and May Hopkins, Welsh humorists, make a return visit, and create much laughter; the Sisters Geretti are skilful trapeze artists; the Five Bombays are clever dancers; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley in a sketch, *Mrs. Summerson's Baby*, have a gratifying reception; Victoria Carmen, soubrette, is very pleasing; Fred. Horsfall, comedian, is very funny; R. A. Griffiths, vocalist, proves that he possesses a fine voice; the Bioscope concludes an excellent programme.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney. —Viviana and company in *The Toy Shop* present a most novel and original dancing scena; Le Diabelo appears in the sensational Looping the Revolving Wheel; Walter Barrett renders his songs in good style; an amusing little skit, *Captain Cupid*, is capably presented by George Doughty and Co.; Zellini performs some funny tricks in his comedy juggling act; Tiny Arnold is a clever miniature artist, her efforts being much appreciated; Harley and Melton's *Married Men's A.B.C.* is smart; and J. H. Carney and the pictures are also to be noted.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. A. Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Reach. —*Florodora* is being given this week by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company to large and enthusiastic audiences. Mr. Fred Eastman, who takes the part of Anthony Tweedlepunch, is as full of humour as ever, and caused roars of laughter; Mr. H. V. Cropton's qualities as an actor and vocalist are fully evidenced in his depiction of Frank Abercoed; Mr. Stanley White is seen in the rôle of Cyrus W. Gilfain to great advantage; Mr. Herbert St. John does excellently as Capt. Arthur Donegal; Miss Edith Housley is received with especial favour as Lady Holyrood, and carries the part through in charming style; Miss Maisie Ellenger interprets Dolores with great emotion, and her duets with Mr. H. V. Cropton win tremendous applause; Miss Bessie Myddleton as Angela Gilfain has many opportunities of showing her excellent qualities, of which she makes good use. The choruses and dances are also worthy of special note.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton.—A crowded audience welcomed Mr. Harry Foxwell's company in *A Broken Heart*. Miss Sheila Walsh gave a sympathetic rendering of the exacting rôle of Mary Barnard; Mr. Stanley Bedwell took the part of John Barnard in excellent style; Mr. Geo. Newall was good as Stephen Rayiton, an adventurer, and his rascally assistant Gash Gills was well done by Mr. Edward Rawlins; Miss Eileen Bamford was seen to advantage as Grace Fanshawe; Miss Daisy Rocheford is a clever juvenile; Miss Marguerite Thorne did well as Mrs. Barnard; and as Tony Tibbet and Sally Tavner Mr. Will Lindsay and Miss Dora Hargreaves introduced the lighter vein.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—*The Futurity Winner*, Joseph Hart's American racing playlet, which is the chief item of the bill this week, is a very thrilling production, and all the artists participating are well worthy of the enthusiastic reception given to them. Syd May causes great amusement by his clever imitations; R. H. Douglass, who burlesques various styles of love-making, is very popular, as is Will English, the irresistible coloured comedian; Starr and Leslie are entertaining in their mixture of singing and juggling, and Kitty Trewhitt wins much favour with her sentimental songs. Others who contribute to the success of a good programme are the Hartley Wonders in their marvellous jumping act, Hayes and Wynne, two step dancers, and Rosa Loader, a clever musical mimic.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director.—Mr. Alfred Moul; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—The favourite singer Rose Elliot is at the top of the bill this week with her popular songs; Doody and Wright give a funny and enjoyable act; Hal Forde is enthusiastically applauded for his singing and witty extracts from his "Up-to-date Doomsday Book"; the Mezettis are clever and humorous in their horizontal bar act; and the remainder of an excellent bill was taken up by Geo. Prince, "the crazy comedian," Pearce and Ward in their boxing burlesque, the Cosman couple, comedy artists, and Fred Tenby, eccentric comedian.

SWANSEA.—GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Mr. Ian Maclaren is at the Grand this week with an excellent répertoire, consisting of *The Merchant of Venice, David Garrick, Twelfth Night, Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet, As You Like It*, and *Othello*. In the first piece on Monday night Mr. Maclaren as Shylock had a great reception in the part; Miss Muriel Bois's Portia was also a fine effort; Mr. George Ralph was seen to advantage as Bassanio, and Mr. Guy Conringham was equally successful as Antonio. A carefully-selected company rendered adequate support.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company occupies the Star this week with *A Soldier's Honour*. Miss Mabel Rose makes an interesting heroine as Cora Lee; Miss Ruth Lillwood creates a good impression; Captain Dean is faithfully portrayed by Mr. Elan Meredith; and Mr. Andrew Money is also good as Henry Thornton.

THE EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—A really refined programme is given at the Empire this week. Queenie Leighton, who shares pride of place with the La Scala Opera Company, submitted old and new numbers with much charm. The selections from *Cavalleria Rusticana* given by the La Scala Opera Company, stamp them as accomplished vocalists; Cliff Ryland's turn is one of the features of the night; Horace Jones is a first-class Welsh comedian; and Bessie Slaughter, contralto, the Marlincks, in a doll act, Florence and Lilian, in a musical repertoire, Chas. Kitts and Rhoda Windrum, Ernest Clifford, with song and dance, and the Bioscope are other attractions.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—At the head of the bill Arthur Prince's Mascots appear in a refined entertainment; George Ripley, comedian, does well; a pleasing turn is given by E. St. Clare, serio; the Bremans are seen in an artistic dancing act; S. and G. Auer introduce a novelty from America entitled *Jumps, Bumps, and Rags*; H. Russell and company present a sketch *Binks' Blunder*; the Two Cabiacs, French acrobats, give a clever performance; and the Empire Pictures complete.

G.W.R. MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—Secretary, Mr. H. J. Southwell.—The Amateur Theatrical Society is playing here this week *The Bells of Haslemere* in aid of local charities.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's fine drama *With Edged Tools* pays a second visit here this week. Mr. William F. Grant gives a powerful delineation of the part of Jack Meredith; Mr. J. A. Rosier is excellent as Sir John Meredith; Mr. Charles Hartopp gives an able representation of Guy Oscard; the part of Durnovo finds a fine exponent in Mr. Campbell Goldsmid; Mr. J. Pochett is well suited as Maurice Gordon; and Mr. F. Layton does full justice to the part of Lieut. Conynghame. Miss Phyllis Relph gives a charming rendering of Jocelyn Gordon; Miss Marie Leonhard is delightful as Millicent Cheyne; and Miss Isabel Grey admirable as Lady Cantonne.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Corbin's troupe of well-trained dogs give a clever performance; the Arthur Gallimore Trio, comedy artists, have a capital reception; Mr. Frank Melville, descriptive vocalist, sings well; Miss Lillie Haines, comedienne, is a good dancer; the Kimberley Boys provide an amusing turn; and the Two Le Bruns, jugglers, and Miss Ethel Dove, comedienne, ably contribute.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiler.—The new proprietor took possession of this place on Monday night, and a hearty welcome was accorded the management. Mr. Frank Bertram's company are appearing in *The Breed of the Treshams*, and have scored another big success. The company is almost identical with that which won such high laurels when last here, and Mr. Sidney Bland as The Rat again won the greatest praise for his portrayal; Miss Mildred Hodgson is again a charming Hon. Margaret Hungerford; and a really clever study of Batty is that submitted by Miss Grace Harlington; Mr. Alfred Holles scores as Viscount Dorsington, and the unscrupulous nature of Colonel Hungerford is fully developed by Mr. W. R. Winning.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. W. R. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jack Waters.—There is another capital entertainment here this week, and the pictures are a decidedly good assortment. The Sisters Belmont are charming duettists and dancers, and J. W. Crawley's songs are all encored, his patter being decidedly refreshing.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Mr. Harry Roxbury is presenting that clever comedian Tubby Edlin in his musical sketch, *The Cowboy Millionaire*, rightly heads the top of the bill this week. The play is a merry mixture of mirth and melody, and the versatile artist scores in his portrayal. He is ably assisted by a number of chosen artists. Morny Cash, an old favourite with Warringtonians, has further established himself in favour with good songs and up-to-date patter; Maggie Bowman and Tom J. Morton delight all in their smart sketch, *She Loved a Policeman*; Burnette is a clever musician and capital quick-change artist; Elmo and Rigo cause endless laughter in a comic acrobatic turn; Maston is a good mimic, and Stiddo and Dunbar are seen to advantage in a novel musical turn. The pictures are good.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. Allan Wilkie's Shakespearian company, including Mr. Alexander Marsh and Miss Haidee Gunn, is paying a return visit here. *Othello* was successfully played on Monday, with Mr. Allan Wilkie in the title-rôle, his acting being exceptionally clever and artistic; Mr. Alexander Marsh's delineation of Iago met with hearty approval; Mr. Houston Meharry made the most of his opportunities as the Duke of Venice; Brabantio by Mr. John Paley was all that could be desired; a well-rendered part was that of Cassio by Mr. Frank Royde; and Roderigo and Montano were ably presented by Mr. J. Fleming and Mr. Sinclair Neill respectively. Miss Haidee Gunn's Desdemona stamped her as a most talented artist; Miss Mildred Surrey did good work as Emilia; and as Bianca Miss Ely O'Dempsey scored a success. *Romeo and Juliet, Julius Cæsar, The Merchant of Venice, The Sleigh Bells* and *David Garrick*, and *Macbeth* are in the répertoire.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—West Bromwich theatregoers have this week the opportunity of witnessing for the first time in the borough the attractive play, *The Great Awakening*, which is being very admirably produced by Miss Maud Hildyard, one of the authors, who herself fills with great distinction the part of Lola Selby, alias Lady Merton, and she is surrounded by a very excellent company, which includes Mr. Wallis Clark as James Selby; Mr. Cecil Gray, who fills the dual rôles of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton, his son; while Miss Elsie Capel is a sweet Molly Merton and Miss Cissie Podmore is very successful as Selina Worts. The play is excellently staged.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Drama continues to occupy the boards at this place of amusement, and there are attractions enough this week to satisfy the most fastidious, no fewer than three plays, all of entrancing interest, being staged. Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday *Moths* has occupied attention, Wednesday and Saturday *Camille*, and on Friday evening *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray*. Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company is responsible for the production, and including as it does such artists as Miss Henrietta Schrier, Mr. Cecil Wynne, and Mr. Raynor, does its work to perfection.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—*Her Marriage Vow* is being presented by Messrs. Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles' company. A capital portrayal of the somewhat trying rôle of Kate Walters is given by Miss Lillian Herries; Mr. Charles Bedells is successful in the character of Gilbert Carlton; Mr. John W. Ryder as William Walters, Mr. Wilford Bailey as Eben Chubb, and Mr. Vincent Wardle as Daffy Dan are to be complimented upon their acting in the respective rôles; and capital comedy is judiciously interspersed by Mr. H. Vernon as Larry Leary and Miss Winifred Barton as Maggie Clair.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Prominence is being given this week to a beauty competition. Taree, the musical Australian bushman, in a novel act, introduces mouth-organ and autoharp; in manipulating the first-named he is quite an adept, and makes of it a charming musical instrument. Two clever patter and dance artists whose names are not given, deputise for No. 5 turn, and have a good reception; the eccentricities of the Lyons Trio of pantomimists and dancers are very amusing; the Bros. St. Clair, bicycle footballers, and Ryan and Hall, eccentric acrobats and wrestlers, are old favourites whose performances are thoroughly enjoyed; Dan Merrett's manipulation of the drumsticks is clever, and, indeed, novel; and some good pictures are shown by Raymond's Biotableaux.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—*Man and Wife* is this week being presented here by Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company. Mr. John F. Traynor gives a fine performance of Paul Revere; Mr. G. Rammel is an able Colonel Latour; Mr. E. M. Hamilton is powerful as Captain D'Esparre; Mr. G. Overs as Jean is excellent; and Mr. Ambrose Horton is a fine Sergeant Jacques. The twins, Bimbo and Bambo, are amusingly portrayed by Mr. E. Hall Eldon and Mr. George Vinning; Miss Kate Hallam is a refined and graceful Marcella; Miss Violet Temple does very well as the blind Mrs. Revere; and Miss Millie Doris is a sprightly Rosette.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Ranes; Stage-Manager, Mr. George W. Montrose (late Moody-Manners Opera Co.).—Harry Blake tops a good bill here. Gulliver, a fine ventriloquist; Reme, the girl juggler; Roy Beavis, in his fine sleight-of-hand performance; Tony Iveson, the ragman at the piano, assisted by David Hornsby; the Neales, tumblers and acrobats; and the Vicoscope complete the bill.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—*The Sailor's Wedding* fills the bill. Miss Dulcie Greatwich as Mary and Miss Winifred Pearson as Lenore de Gresac act in praiseworthy style; and Miss M. Sadie is a vivacious Polly Clarke. Mr. C. W. Standing presents the part of Gordon Drake in a vigorous and manly fashion; and other capable performers are Mr. Hodson Taylor, Mr. F. Finch-Smiles, and Mr. Walter Pemberton.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Charles T. Aldrich, the well-known versatile entertainer, is an exceedingly smart protean artist, and causes much merriment as a tramp juggler; Rex Fox has an original wire-walking and ventriloquial act; Rousby and Rene cause much merriment with their sketch *Fine Feathers*; Fame and Fortune are amusing as burlesque boxers; George Antill is a good comedian and dancer; the Lovelaces' songs are heartily applauded; Carney Brothers, duettists, are well received; the Brothers Milford dance themselves into favour; and Phern and Phern contribute several excellent musical selections.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—Phil Lister in an acceptable musical and vocal act is accorded a hearty reception by large audiences, and another pleasing turn is provided by Fred Hadley, comedian, vocalist, and dancer. The pictures have again been carefully chosen by the management, some of the most entertaining being Two Travelling Bags, Saved by a Telegraph Code, The Poor Blind Woman, and The Baby and the Ne'er-do-Well.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company is appearing here in the romantic drama *Two Little Sailor Boys*. Mr. H. E. Herbert gives a creditable performance of Commander Noel Tregarthen; Miss Muriel Dean makes a delightful heroine; Mr. Horace Booth is good at Lieut. Richard Redstone, and Mr. C. W. Spencer effective as Admiral Grey; Mr. H. M. Clifford gives a praiseworthy representation of Captain Tom Yorke; Mr. Sydney Fiennes as Jim Royston both looks and acts the part perfectly; and Miss Blanche Steele as the adventuress, Lola Grey, displays ability. The comic relief is in the capable hands of Mr. Fred Acton (Jack Jolly), Mr. Tom E. Sinclair (Ben Baxter), and Miss Lizzie Chambers (Lucy Wilson). Miss Effie D. Crawford as Cyril Grey and Miss Ivy Millais as Tom Yorke are able exponents of the title-parts.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Mr. Ivan Berlyn's company in a dramatic sketch entitled *Fagin* heads the bill this week. Mr. Ivan Berlyn gives a clever portrayal of the name-part, and is ably supported. Chris Richards does numerous tricks with a hat and some legmania dancing; the Amaranths, sensational acrobatic dancers, score a success; the Wakeman Quintette sing pleasing glees, &c.; Marlo is a smart juggler; and Phil Parsons and Arthur Boyne, comedians, are also in the bill.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Secretary, Mr. W. E. Barnett. —Mr. Waller Jeff's New Century pictures are paying a welcome return visit and drawing good houses. Chief amongst the films exhibited are those of the Franco-British Exhibition, Wolverhampton Floral Fête, and A Bull-fight at Barcelona. Miss Dora Kingsley, who has a capital contralto voice, is also engaged, and her songs find much favour with the audience.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. Morton Powell's company appeared on the first three nights of the week in *When it was Dark* with success. Mr. Wilfrid Lyndon gives a natural portrayal of the Rev. Basil Gortre, rendering the lines with telling effect; Mr. Haldane Dalton's declamatory powers stand him in good stead, and in the rôle of Schwabe Miss Ethel Griffiths is easy and graceful as Gertrude Hunt. Helen Byars has a charming representative in Miss Marie Barrett. *The Dairymaids* was promised for the concluding portion of the week.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—Daisy Jerome, as fresh and winning as ever, is the bright star this week, and her many friends have given her a hearty reception; the funniosities of Rich and Rich are greatly enjoyed; Botello and Virginia are clever gymnasts who present an exciting turn; Nellie Hewitt's musical act is marked by much grace; Elsie Robey's sketch *The Slavey* is good; Tom Gott tells some funny Yorkshire stories; Frances Letty scores heavily in her popular songs; Bonnitti and Corrie are expert jugglers, and the Bioscope completes the list.

THE YOUNGER KEMBLE.

On the morning of Nov. 12, 1854, expired, at his residence in Saville Row, Charles Kemble, the last survivor of a triad of artists, whose names are written indelibly in the annals of dramatic art.

The life of an actor, so far as it is an object of public interest, closes with his scenic farewell, wrote the late Mr. William Bodham Donne. The decease of an actor, and especially of one long withdrawn from the stage, might therefore attract little notice at any time beyond the circle of his immediate friends, and at the present moment of anxious anticipation is more than ordinarily liable to pass from the register of the living with merely a brief expression of regret. Johnson indeed declared that the death of Garrick eclipsed the gaiety of a nation. But this was a friendly hyperbole: the nation laughed or wept as before, although the mighty master no longer touched the chords of its emotions. The actor's task is fulfilled when the curtain descends upon his last impersonation.

The youngest by nearly twenty years of a family who for almost three generations formed the central group of all that was excellent on the stage, Charles Kemble was indebted for his eventual position as much to the discipline he underwent as to the dramatic powers which he shared or inherited. Nature had been bountiful to him in its gifts; his form was noble, his features classical and expressive, his voice, although not strong, remarkably melodious. But it was the diligent cultivation of these gifts which finally earned and secured for him his later and mature fame. His brother—who from the difference of their years stood to him also *in loco parentis*—knew well that there is no royal road to histrionic excellence. Hence he imposed upon the young *débutant* a probation as strict and regular as he was in the habit of prescribing to the least gifted of his associates. Charles Kemble was for some years an actor of third and fourth-rate parts, both in public and professional estimation, and for many more was entrusted with only secondary characters.

Throughout his career, Charles Kemble reflected the influences of his early discipline. He was, in the first place, a veracious actor, neither adding to nor falling short of the conceptions of his author. He was, moreover, a most industrious and painstaking actor, thinking nothing done while aught remained to do; inspired with a high ideal, assiduously striving to reach it, and probably in his own conception—for such are the feelings of every genuine artist—never wholly attaining it. Unlike Macready, he loved his vocation with all his mind and with all his strength.

His career as an actor began in one generation and terminated in another. It commenced at Sheffield in 1792, and closed at Covent Garden Theatre in 1840. The earlier impersonations of an actor who rises gradually in his profession are rarely remarked at the time or remembered afterwards. We have, however, Mr. Boaden's testimony to the "poetry of Charles Kemble's acting" in Guiderius, and his princely demeanour in Malcolm. But it was as the representative of second parts that his powers were first manifested. Those who are old enough to remember the Hamlet, Macbeth, and Coriolanus of his majectic brother; or the Lady Macbeth, Volumnia, and Mrs. Beverley of his matchless sister, will also recall the younger Kemble's chivalrous energy in Macduff, the classical grace of his Aufidius, and the pathos he ingrafted upon Lewson. We do not select these characters as among his best, but merely as illustrations of his powers as an auxiliary to the mature artists of his youthful days. In secondary parts he was indeed at all times unsurpassed, and he continued to perform them long after he occupied the foremost station in the ranks of scenic artists. How full of winning grace and good humour was his Bassanio, how humorous and true his drunken scene in Cassio, how fraught with noble shame after Othello's dismissal of his "officer"! He was the only Laertes whom it was endurable to see in collision with Hamlet, the only Cromwell worthy of the tears and favour of Wolsey.

We have great pleasure in calling in the evidence of an excellent judge of acting to support our own recollections of Charles Kemble.

"I never," (says Mr. Robson, in his *Old Playgoer*), "saw an actor with more buoyancy of spirit than Charles Kemble; Lewis had wonderful vivacity, airiness, and sparkle, but he was finicking compared with Charles. Who ever played a drunken gentleman as he did? His efforts to pick up his hat in Charles Oakley were the most laughable, the most ridiculous, the most natural that can be imagined. I have seen him perform the character of Friar Tuck, in a dramatic version of Mr. Peacock's *Maid Marian*, with such an extraordinary abandonment and gusto that you were forced back to the 'jolly greenwood and the forest bramble.'"

But the continued labour, the earnest study, and unwearied self-examination pursued for many years were rewarded by greater achievements than these.

The names of Faulconbridge and Marc Antony instantly evoke the person, the tones, and the looks of Charles Kemble. In the one we had before us the express image of the mediæval warrior, in the other that of the Roman triumvir. His Faulconbridge bore us back to Runnymede and the group of barons bold who wrested the great charter from the craven John. His Marc Antony transported us to the Forum and the Capitol.

If he had no equal in Benedick, neither had he in Jaffier; if his Leon and Don Felix were unsurpassed, so also were his Edgar in *Lear* and his Leonatus in *Cymbeline*. He was the most joyous and courteous of Archers, Charles Surfaces, and Rangers. His Jack Absolute was the most gallant of Guardsmen: his Colonel Feignwell a combination of the best high and the best low comedy, as he successively passed through his various assumptions of the Fop, the Antiquary, the Stock-broker, and the Quaker. In young Mirabel again he united the highest comic and tragic powers. In the first four acts he revelled in youth, high spirit, and lusty bachelorhood: in the last his scene with the bravoes and the "Red Burgandy" was for its depth of passion equalled alone by Kean's agony and death in Overreach. His Shylock has been commended by no incompetent judge for "its parental tenderness"; but the infusion of tenderness into Shylock's nature we conceive to have been an error. Shylock may have been attached to Jessica as a wolf to its cub; but if he loved her at all, he loved gold and revenge more; and Shakespeare has, in our opinion, afforded no hint of this palliating virtue in his Jew. On the contrary, in her presence Shylock's language to Jessica is harsh and peremptory; and after she has forsaken him, his lamentations are rather for his ducats and Leah's ring than for his daughter. Again, Mr. Kemble's Moor was certainly of a noble and loving nature, and his form and bearing afforded a good excuse for Desdemona's preference of him to the "curled darlings of her nation." But his Roman features and his elaborate manipulation of the character were not so well suited to the rapid alternations of Othello from absorbing love to consuming anger, from profound tenderness to yet more profound despair, from faith to doubt, from accomplished though erring retribution to overwhelming and fathomless remorse. His impersonation of the Moor was too statuesque, and, beside the quickening spirit of terror and pity which Edmund Kean infused into the part, seemed unreal, and was ineffective.

Macbeth again was a character in which Mr. Kemble, if it be compared with his other impersonations—for we are now contrasting him with himself in various parts—was less distinguished. Perhaps the recollection of his brother's pre-eminence in the Thane of Fife acted as a drawback upon his own conceptions.

Between the impersonations of Edmund Kean and Charles Kemble there was a fontal opposition arising from the opposite nature of their respective temperaments. Kean never played a part thoroughly: he disregarded unity altogether—probably he was incapable of forming for himself a complete or harmonious idea of any dramatic character. He acted detached portions alone, but upon these he flung himself with all his mind and soul and strength, moral and physical. For such abrupt and spasmodic efforts he possessed extraordinary physical qualifications.

His performance of Hamlet was perhaps Charles Kemble's highest achievement as an actor. Of the relations which it may have borne to his brother's impersonation of the philosophic prince we cannot speak, but of its superiority to all contemporary Hamlets we entertain no doubt. His form, his voice, his demeanour, his power of expressing sentiment, his profound melancholy, his meditative repose, were all strictly within the range of his physical and intellectual endowments, and had all been anxiously trained up to the highest point of precision and harmony. His performance of this arduous character indeed left nothing to desire except that occasionally the harmony of the execution had been broken by the disturbing forces of passion. Nothing could exceed Kemble's picture of loneliness of soul as he stood encircled by the Court of Denmark; what a gleam of joy beamed forth in his welcome of Horatio! Now at least he has one faithful counsellor and friend; he is no longer all alone. Nothing was ever more exquisite or touching than his "Go on, I follow thee," to the Ghost. Perfect love had cast out fear; faith prevailed over doubt; he will go, if need be, to the bourne of death and the grave: he will dive into the heart of this great mystery, but not in the spirit of despair, or at the summons of revenge, or in bravery, or in stoical defiance, but in the strength and in the whole armour of filial love. We have seen actors who fairly scolded their father's spirit, and others who quailed before it; but, except in Charles Kemble, we have never seen one whose looks and tones accorded with the spirit of that awful revelation of the prison house and the concealed crime and its required purgation, and expressed at once the sense of woe endured, anticipated, and stretching onward through a whole life.

We should not be rendering full justice to the memory of Charles Kemble were we to omit mentioning his exertions in the cause of the historical drama by restoring to it, or affording if for the first time, its proper scenery and costume. His brother had expunged much of the neglect and barbarism in these matters which had disgraced the stage of Betterton, Quin, and Garrick. He had rescued Othello from his footman's garb, Macbeth from his brigadier's uniform, and Brutus and Coriolanus from their surplices and slippers. But the younger Kemble went many steps further; and in his representations of the Moor of Venice, King John, and Henry IV., put upon the stage the senators and captains of the Signory, and the Barons of England, even in the very garb worn by them when their Dukes wedded the Adriatic, or Hotspur and Worcester fought at Shrewsbury. His "revivals" have indeed been eclipsed; but the drama owed much to Charles Kemble. His fine and cultivated taste was displayed in the skill with which he enlisted the arts in the service of the drama. His acquirements in literature were considerable. He spoke fluently and with elegance several modern languages; he was well versed in the masterpieces of their literature. Although not perhaps a deep classical scholar, he was familiar with the best writers of ancient Rome; and as the amusement of his declining years and comparative seclusion, he renewed his early knowledge of Greek, and prosecuted its difficult study with the zeal and energy of an aspirant for University honours.

Charles Kemble departed from us in the fulness of days, and attended by the respectful affection of a numerous circle of friends. His name will endure as long as the records of the stage retain their interest, and wherever the genius of the actor is held in honour.

MR. ALBERT MARSH produced at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, last Tuesday, for copyright purposes three playlets, *The Little Champion, Domestic Insurance*, and *Chums Till Death*. The first two were by Ben Landeck and the last-named was adapted and written by Mr. Marsh.

ONE of the finest theatres in India is the Empire Theatre, Bombay. It is newly constructed with up-to-date improvements, electric lighting, and fans, and its capacity at ruling prices is £200 and £300 respectively, on rental or share. The business arrangements are in the hands of Soundy and Co., Ltd., theatre and concert agents, Bombay.

RENAN'S dramatic arrangement of the Biblical epithalamium, "The Song of Songs," is to be given in aid of the National Tuberculosis Conference at the Cavendish Rooms, Mortimer-street, Regent-street, on Wednesday evening, Dec. 2. The poem will be recited by Mme. San Carolo, and the text illustrated in dumb show by her company.

A DRAMATIC choral symphony, entitled "Homage to Edgar Allan Poe," written by Joseph Holbrooke, was produced with great success by the Leeds Choral Union on Wednesday. The symphony is composed of settings of four of Poe's poems, "The Haunted Palace," "Hymn," "The City in the Sea," and "The Valley Nis." The soloists were Miss Agnes Nicholls, Miss Effie Martyn, Mr. Lloyd Chandos, and Mr. C. Knowles.

BI-LINGUAL and Irish plays will be included in the entertainments at the sixth annual Industrial Exhibition and Sale of Irish Manufactures and Produce at the Royal Horticultural Hall, Vincent-square, Westminster, from Tuesday to Saturday next, inclusive. The exhibition is organised by the Gaelic League in London, with the object of bringing before the public the commodities produced in Ireland, and to afford opportunities of testing their merits.

INTERESTING reminiscences are recalled by a Berlin writer in connection with the 500th performance of *Le Nozze di Figaro*, which was first performed on Sept. 24, 1790. The tickets were obtainable from Frau Frischmuth, "the wife of the Herr Kapellmeister," and a box for four persons cost about 6s. 6d. The orchestra of the National Theatre consisted of six violins, two violas, a 'cello, and a double bass, two oboes, two flutes, two bassoons, and two horns. Only three male singers and two ladies formed the operatic company, and the rest of the cast was recruited from the dramatic staff. The highest salary paid was about £3 10s. a week.

THE death took place at Leeds on the 5th inst. of Signor A. Romilli, musical-director of the Grand Theatre in that city. Signor Romilli, who was Italian by birth, was a brilliant accompanist and formerly officiated in that capacity for Madame Patti. He was conductor at Covent Garden under the late Sir Augustus Harris. Many charming compositions have come from his pen, among the most recent being *The Maid and the Motor Man*, which was toured by Mr. John Hart. The deceased composer was buried at Leeds cemetery on Sunday, the chief mourners being Mme. Romilli and her daughter (Mrs. Frank Lacy). The remains were followed to the grave by the whole of the staff and the orchestra of the Grand, Mr. Wynn Miller, the general-manager, representing Mr. John Hart.

THE PLAY-ACTORS.

Four one-act plays comprised the programme presented by the Play Actors on Sunday evening at the Court Theatre. So far as authorship is concerned, the premier honours must be given to the lady who was responsible for

"TILDA'S NEW HAT,"

A Comedy, in One Act, by "George Paston."

Mrs. Fishwick .....Miss Agnes Thomas
Tilda .....Miss Mabel Hackney
Daisy Meadows .....Miss Lorna Laurence
Walter Emerson Mr. Ashton Pearse

Although the author's name is given as "George Paston," *Tilda's New Hat* affords ample evidence of the hand of a woman. It seems, too, that the authoress of another of the playlets produced the same evening endeavours to hide her identity under a masculine name. This is rather a pity, because it is perfectly easy to detect the feminine mind, and if these lady dramatists imagine that they are successful in deceiving the playgoer as to their sex they are very much mistaken. But the authoress of *Tilda's New Hat* gives us a very entertaining half hour or so. It is a study of low life. Tilda Fishwick, a young woman employed in a jam factory, is very much in love with a compositor, Walter Emerson, and concerning him she is speaking to her mother at the opening of the piece. Mrs. Fishwick takes quite a secondary position in her own home, for she is ruled by her daughter, though she grumbles not a little at having to obey the behests of her own offspring. On this evening in particular Tilda is making a new hat, while the older woman is putting the finishing touches to a blouse which is to grace Tilda's comely figure. Mrs. Fishwick engages in a nagging conversation, telling her daughter that when she was her age she had a bust like a bandbox, to which Tilda retorts that she at any rate prefers to be able to see her feet! More biting repartee is indulged in until Emerson calls to see Tilda, who promptly bustles her mother into another room in order that she may be able to hold proper converse with her sweetheart. The latter is a weak-minded and harmless specimen of humanity who belongs to "improvement societies" and expresses a desire to "form" Tilda's mind—a proposition that does not altogether meet with that young lady's approval. He leaves for a few minutes, and in his absence there enters Daisy Meadows, with whom he had formerly "walked out." She upbraids Tilda for having stolen her sweetheart from her, and Tilda, in her blunt, good-humoured, kind-hearted way shows her how to bedeck herself and to arrange her hair so as to catch a young man's fancy. She even lends her new hat for the purpose, and arranges to trim Daisy's old one while the latter is wearing Tilda's magnificent confection. Emerson returns from his errand, and Daisy's changed appearance excites in him a rapture of admiration. He and Daisy go out together, and then Tilda realises that her lesson to her rival in the art of feminine titivation has resulted in a self-sacrifice. However, she partly consoles herself with the discovery that Emerson's legs are crooked, and that he is, after all, a noodle.

Miss Mabel Hackney acted with delightful freshness and buoyancy as Tilda; and Miss Agnes Thomas was seen in an altogether admirable study of the nagging, grumbling, yet for all that affectionate mother. Miss Thomas was capitally made-up, and she furnished a very natural characterisation of a type of woman in lowly circumstances we have all met. Mr. Ashton Pearse as Walter Emerson submitted a clever piece of character acting in a part which somewhat resembles our old friend Uriah Heep. Miss Lorna Laurence gave a commendable portraiture of Daisy Meadows.

Another item on the programme was

"THE SENTIMENTAL BRAY,"

A Play, in One Act, by F. D. Bone.

Sergeant-Major Hunter ..Mr. W. Lawson Butt
Colour-Sergeant Bray ....Mr. Jackson Wilcox
Sergeant Best .....Mr. Reginald Rivington
Sergeant Sparkes .....Mr. Harold Chapin
Sergeant Dash .....Mr. P. Percival Clark
Sergeant Renny .....Mr. Norman Trevor
Coxswain .....Mr. Norman MacOwan
Cerizola .....Mr. Ivan Berlyn
Azopardi .....Mr. A. E. Filmer
Sis .....Miss Sybil Ruskin

In this we were treated to a strong dramatic situation. The scene is the "Sergeants' Mess-room at Hong Kong." Sergeant Renny is head-over-heels in love with a little native girl Sis, concerning whom there is some bartering between two half-breeds, Cerizola and Azopardi. Renny arranges to take the girl away in a pinnace at night, but his plans are foiled by Cerizola and Azopardi, who demand the assistance of Sergeant-Major Hunter, who is in the power of the two men by reason of his having accepted bribes from them for contracts. However, Colour-Sergeant Bray's sentiment, aided by his knowledge of the dishonest transaction, triumphs over the unscrupulous schemes of the contractors, the other members of the mess agree to stand by Renny, and Sis is taken care of by the wife of one of the sergeants until her lover can safely leave with her. Mr. Bone may be congratulated on an excellent piece of dramatic writing. Mr. Norman Trevor as Sergeant Renny, Mr. W. Lawson Butt as Sergeant-Major Hunter, Mr. Jackson Wilcox as Colour-Sergeant Bray, and Messrs. Ivan Berlyn and A. E. Filmer as Cerizola and Azopardi respectively acted most effectively; while Miss Sybil Ruskin made a pathetic figure as Sis.

"MARAQUITA,"

An Incident, by "Michael Merrick."

Miguel Carmeno .....Mr. Norman MacOwan
Pedro .....Mr. Edmund Waller
Avaristo .....Mr. P. Percival Clark
Senorita Inez .....Miss Nancy Grogan
Maraquita .....Miss Rita Milman

This is an unconvincing and unsatisfactory piece of work. The playlet is drawn out to a wearisome length. To the living-room of Miguel Carmeno's hut in a camp farm in North Argentine there comes Maraquita, the wife whom he had deserted. The campers are in dire straits for water. Maraquita, who is disguised in male garb, has some liquor in her leathern flask, and she permits Miguel's assistant Pedro and Avaristo, a carrier, to a drink of it; but she refuses to extend the same courtesy to Miguel. His thirst maddens him, and he kills the woman just as he is told that rain is falling. The piece was done sufficient justice to by the members of the cast.

It is not possible to bestow a high meed of praise upon

"A DEAR BARGAIN,"

A Comedy, in One Act, by L. C. Fenn.

Mr. Armstrong .....Mr. Edward Rigby
Mrs. Armstrong .....Miss Ida Phillips
Maria .....Miss Rita Tomkins
German Rug-Seller ....Mr. Murri Moncrieff
Police Sergeant .....Mr. Patric Curwen

This needs much curtailment; indeed, it needs more than that, for it ought to be re-written. It is the story of a young couple who desire to commemorate the anniversary of their wedding by giving a present to each other. A German rug-seller calls at the house, receives a pound from the wife for a rug which he had stolen from a neighbouring residence, and then, in the wife's temporary absence, sells the same article to the husband. A police sergeant who is seeking the vendor recognises the rug as stolen property, and indulges in pertinent remarks as to the liability of the receivers thereof. Both deny that they have purchased it, and when the sergeant has gone the thief emerges from his hiding-place in an ante-room—whither he has been placed by the husband to avoid his being seen by the wife—and as both continue to deny that they purchased it from him he tells them that he may reasonably conclude that the rug belongs to himself, and away he goes with it and with the two sums of money paid for it. Mr. Edward Rigby was amusing as the husband and Mr. Murri Moncrieff was highly entertaining as the German. Miss Ida Phillips submitted a pleasing impersonation as the wife.

"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN."

A Drama, in Four Acts, by T. G. Bailey, produced at the Victoria Theatre, Broughton, on Monday, Nov. 9.

Jack Fairclough.....
Maurice Fairclough..... Mr. Sidney Rennef
Bruno Schlag .....Mr. Richard Vane
Major Bagstock .....Mr. Stephen Langton
Freddy Fonheart ....Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne
Jimmy Chucket .....Mr. Walter Dale
Dr. Methin .....Mr. Matt. Russell
Karl Swartz .....Mr. Fred Astley
Earl's Court Attendant.....Mr. John Blyth
Sylvia Grey .....Miss Doris Brookes
Mercy Grey .....Miss Conyers Radcliffe
Belle Plantin .....Miss Dorothy Dewhirst
Mrs. Meadows .....Miss Annie Brunnette
Jennie Chucket .....Miss Kitty Russell

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

How Women Ruin Men gives many evidences of the resourceful dramatist, and from the way the drama was received it may be concluded that the piece has commenced a long and successful career. Nothing appeared to have been overlooked in the stage-management, and it went with the smoothness that indicated careful rehearsal.

About twelve months prior to the opening of the play Lieut. Jack Fairclough had been engaged to Sylvia Grey, a young lady of a wayward disposition, who had supplanted her sister Mercy. The latter was passionately in love with Jack, but was unable to demonstrate her affection, and Jack was fascinated by Sylvia. Having encountered Bruno Schlag, a very plausible person, and reputed wealthy, Sylvia perceived a means of gratifying her desires of "enjoying life." She consequently threw over the poor lieutenant and arranged to go abroad with Schlag to teach German girls the English language, Schlag having managed in London to get hold of £10,000, which he embezzled. The play opens in a room in Schlag's house in Berlin, where at 2 a.m. he and Sylvia arrive from a gaming table, and he tells her he is "broke." They had during the last twelve months been married, and lived at a great rate, and now the question was what should they do? Schlag had been able to steal some plans of fortifications which would be of great value to the French Government, but no means of realising the "property" were apparent. In their desperate plight Sylvia and Bruno decide to shoot themselves, but are disturbed by the entry of a servant, who brings a letter from Jack Fairclough, whose uncle had just died and left him a large fortune. Thinking Sylvia was true to him, Jack renews his offer of marriage. Schlag and his wife thereupon agree that Sylvia shall marry Jack, but first have £20,000 settled on her, while the plans of the fortifications are to be so placed that Jack shall be arrested as a spy.

Seven days later Jack and Sylvia arrive after their marriage, Jack having the intention to sail for England on the morrow. Mercy has succeeded in tracing her sister, and comes to warn her that she knows she has committed bigamy, and high words pass between them. Bruno in the meantime is playing his part, and the act ends with the arrest of Jack as a spy. For several months Jack remains in prison, where he receives affectionate letters from Sylvia, who is all the time staying with her husband Bruno. Jack's friends eventually prove his innocence, and succeed in getting him out of prison. He repairs to Bruno's flat in search of his supposed wife. Seeing Jack, Sylvia obtains a revolver and hands it to Bruno. She reveals to Jack the fact that she is not his wife, but the wife of Bruno. The two men engage in a struggle, but Sylvia stuns Jack with a poker, and the villainous pair are about to throw their victim through the window to his death on the pavement below when Mercy appears with some gendarmes, and claims the supposed corpse.

The third act finds Jack in his lodgings in London, broken down in health and spirits, with Mercy, disguised as a nurse, in attendance upon him. Jack gives Mercy a message for his brother Maurice, who is expected shortly from New Zealand, but he arrives in time to find that Jack, overcome by his tribulations, has hanged himself. Having learned the cause which prompted the rash act, Maurice vows never to rest until he avenges his brother's death.

Sylvia is next seen at the Earl's Court Exhibition, where, thirsting for more money, she manages to be introduced to Maurice. In furtherance of his plot against Sylvia and Bruno, Maurice suggests elopement to Paris, and Sylvia agrees, leaving her husband to do as he likes. A card dropped by Maurice tells Bruno where they have very likely gone, and he follows. The last scene is a bedroom in Le Leo d'Or, Paris, where Sylvia finds out that she has been duped by Maurice, and that her husband has threatened to kill her. Bruno arrives, and Sylvia endeavours to elude him; but he catches her, and in a mad rage cuts her throat. Mercy appears with Maurice, when Bruno confesses to having murdered his wife, and is arrested, and the piece ends with the mating of Mercy and Maurice.

Miss Doris Brookes as Sylvia displayed remarkable talent, and acted with effect; Mercy Grey, the devoted sister, was excellently presented by Miss Conyers Radcliffe; Mr. Sidney Rennef duplicated the brothers Jack (the ruined man) and Maurice (the avenger) with sterling effect; Mr. Richard Vane's Bruno Schlag was a most convincing piece of work; the bombastic Major Bagstock was ably portrayed by Mr. Stephen Langton; Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne was also amusing as Freddy; Mr. Walter Dale as Jimmy Chucket and Miss Kitty Russell as Jennie Chucket have a lot of comedy incidents at their disposal to which they gave excellent effect, their songs being several times encored. Mr. Matt. Russell as Dr. Methin, Mr. Fred Astley as Karl Swartz, Mr. John Blyth as the attendant, Miss Dorothy Dewhurst as Belle Plantin, and Miss Annie Brunnette as Mrs. Meadows all did well. The singing of "Distant faces" in the fourth act by Miss Clare Wolverson was much appreciated. The scenery and dresses were pretty and effective.

A week's season of Yiddish plays began at the Pavilion Theatre on Monday, when the Jewish tragedian Sigmund H. Feinman presented a fine impersonation in the drama *Hear, O Israel*. During the week Mr. Feinman has given representations of his favourite characters, which have already been noticed in these columns. The Yiddish audience received his efforts with enthusiasm.

Children on the Stage. The Act affecting the employment of children on the stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, agents, entrepreneurs, and performers wishing to possess a copy of the complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

AMATEURS AT ALBERT HALL.

A sharp contrast, if nothing more, was secured in the presentation of two new playlets by the Pivot Amateur Dramatic Club in the West Theatre of the Albert Hall on Saturday evening. The first on the programme was a comedietta by E. Rynd and Amy Nankivell, entitled

"MR. RIGGLES JOINS THE CHOIR."

Mrs. Riggles .....Miss Sylvia Dawson
Mrs. Smith .....Miss Helena Keatley Moore
Miss Margaret .....Miss Ruby Ginner
The Curate .....Mr. Jack Hulbert
Mrs. Williams .....Miss Dorothy Topham

A shrewd sense of character is revealed by the authors of the trifle, but the drift of the dialogue, which contains a certain amount of mild humour, is by no means clear. It essays to tell how the young curate of a village church, who is about to be married, calls upon one of his parishioners, Mr. Riggles, an estimable member of his congregation, but a questionable vocalist, who makes it a strict custom always to be a bar in front of the choir, to beg him not to sing during the celebration service. Mr. Riggles is not at home, so the delicate matter has to be settled with his wife and his sister, who is called in for the purpose. In the process the curate is so confused by the volubility of the ladies and their wilful misinterpretation of his meaning that when he leaves it is with the understanding that Riggles is actually to be asked to join the choir! The characters, supposed, we took it, to be inhabitants of a country village, were all more or less invested with a decided cockney accent, especially in the case of Mrs. Riggles, a part acted with much quaintness by Miss Sylvia Dawson. Riggles' solemn and strong-minded sister was ably portrayed by Miss Dorothy Topham, whose metallic utterance and characteristic make-up were invaluable in the part. A more pretentious piece was found in the fantasy, in two acts, by Gabrielle Festing and Dorothy Hart, entitled

"ST. JOHN'S EVE."

Duke Silvio .....Mr. Alec Dyer
Gualdrado .....Mr. Jack Hulbert
Zapata .....Mr. Walter Armstrong
Countess Anna .....Miss Chick
Princess Primavera .....Miss Joan Edridge
Attendant .....Mr. Hockin
Silence .....Miss Doris Marzetti
Dawn .....Miss Isobel English
Dusk .....Miss Vivienne Honey
Summer .....Miss Ruby Ginner
Echo .....Miss Irene Hayter

A well-imagined fairy story is told in *St. John's Eve*, which, however, would not lose by the elision of half the characters and two-thirds of the dialogue. There was once a witch who revenged herself on maids of honour for any little offence by turning them into statues, which come to life for one hour every St. John's Eve, but at the end of that brief period have to return to stone unless someone is found who will take their place. Up to the rising of the curtain on Saturday five maidens, with the symbolical names of Silence, Dawn, &c., had been thus transformed, and at the witching hour the quintet moved off their pedestals in the cypress glade, and, after chanting weird incantations, began to dance. The Princess Primavera chances to pass, and preferring comparative extinction to wedding a man whom she detests, changes places with Silence and becomes inanimate. The maiden thus released obtains the love of the Duke Silvio, but when St. John's Eve comes round again, and the Princess returns to life, Silence feels it incumbent upon her to resume her statuesque position. She and the Duke take an affecting farewell, and Silence is about to return to her place beneath the cypress when the Duke's uncle, who for some reason which the actor by his indistinctness would not allow us to hear, is the victim of a settled melancholy, takes the place of Silence on the pedestal, leaving her to live happily ever after. The performance revealed at least two performers of talent in Miss Doris Marzetti, who was a pretty and well-spoken Silence, and Mr. Alec Dyer, who possesses a fine speaking voice and made a gallant and regal Duke, the love scene between the pair being admirably carried out. Miss Joan Edridge prattled prettily as the Princess; and Miss Chick revealed comedy gifts in the part of a buxom Court lady. The piece was elaborately mounted, and the performance, which included songs and a recital of Browning, was under the direction of Miss Elsie Fogerty.

A CLEVER SCENIC ARTIST.

By the courtesy of the stage-manager (Mr. Crocker) of the Coliseum we have lately viewed a beautiful scene of the Old Market Place, Plymouth, painted by Mr. George Tweddell, a recent production of that accomplished scenic artist. Under a blue summer sky the fine spire of Plymouth church is seen rising over the ancient houses grouped round the market-place, while in the foreground the old-world shops, innocent of plate-glass windows, are filled with a profusion of vegetables, fruit, flowers, and fish. In the centre of the picture is an old cross, surrounded by flowers, and behind the cross is a huge old wagon, evidently just in from the country. Such is a simple description of Mr. Tweddell's charming picture of Plymouth in the Past, which is seen to advantage on the fine stage of the Coliseum; but it gives little idea of the rich colours, and what artists call "atmosphere," of the scene, or the delightful play of light and shade among the quaint old roofs of the over-hanging shops in the market-place, or the loving care and finish with which the artist has painted the flowers, fruit, vegtables, and fish in the immediate foreground, not to mention a particularly fine and realistic crab in the fishmonger's shop on the right hand of the scene. Mr. Tweddell's scene does not require much assistance from the side wings; but the addition of one, or at the most two, real stalls set up on the stage would add greatly to the effect; they are picturesque in shape and easily made by any stage-carpenter. In most old market towns in England they are seen, and the pattern seems to have altered little in a hundred years or more.

Looking at Mr. Tweddell's well-painted Market Place, one wondered how, in the past, the idea was formed that stage scenes, when not seen at a great distance, were unsightly daubs, and the scenic artist only a sort of superior kind of house-painter. Were not such men as Salvator Rosa, Inigo Jones, and Stanfield scene painters, and do not some of the greatest artists of our day lend their aid in any important production? Granted the various details are on a large scale and boldly painted, and also its distance (and electric light) that "lends enchantment to the view," the modern scene-painter is an artist in the truest sense of the word. Tempera, or distemper colours, to use a more homely term, is a most difficult pigment to use, as it has a nasty trick of drying a different shade; while blues and greens require much experience, as they must be true in effect by artificial light. Mr. Tweddell's Market Place does not require a story to be written round it on the immortal "Crummles" plan, but would do admirably for any play of a slightly nautical subject, and there are scores of such written. It must also be remembered that Plymouth was the port for a huge number of the wooden walls of Old England, and the sailors' costumes of that period were most picturesque, and the old market-place would form a charming background for a pretty ballet in a comic opera; therefore, Mr. Tweddell's clever scene would do admirably for a minor theatre or touring company. Mr. George Tweddell has had many successes in the past, and his work has been warmly praised in the London and provincial Press.

"THE MAN FROM MEXICO."

A Farcical Comedy in Three Acts, by H. A. Du Souchet. Played for the first time in England at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, on Monday, Nov. 9.

Benjamin Fitzhugh .....Mr. Stanley Cooke
Roderick Majors .....Mr. George Willoughby
William Loveall .....Mr. Walter Gay
Von Bulow Bismark Schmidt Mr. Fred Lewis
Edward Farrar .....Mr. Hugh Ardale
Richard Dornton .....Mr. Rupert Stutfield
Timothy Cook .....Mr. Ernest A. Douglas
O'Mullins .....Mr. James Schnapper
Googan .....Mr. Arthur Cornell
Louis .....Mr. Walter Champney
Clementine Fitzhugh .....Miss Emily Fitzroy
Sally Grace .....Miss Fyfe Alexander
Nettie Majors .....Miss Amy Francis
Miranda .....Miss Doris Digby

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

A farce which has set two continents, America and Australia, laughing has a good claim to produce considerable laughter in England. On Monday evening *The Man from Mexico* was well received and the audience laughed merrily. The main story has several side issues, and in outline is as follows:—Mr. Benjamin Fitzhugh is a New York citizen in easy circumstances. He has a charming daughter, whose engagement to a rising young architect, Richard Dornton, is to be announced at a festive gathering. During the absence of Mrs. Fitzhugh on a supposed visit to her mother, Fitzhugh takes the opportunity of paying a visit to the Cleopatra, a club of somewhat shady reputation. Mrs. Fitzhugh is suspicious of her husband, and instead of visiting her mother pays a visit to the club in order to prove the guilt or innocence of her husband. She is heavily veiled and has been seen by only one man, a waiter, Louis, at the club. On the very evening of the visit the club is raided by the police. Mrs. Fitzhugh gets away without being recognised and without seeing her husband. Fitzhugh, however, falls into the hands of the police, and under a false name he is sentenced to thirty days' imprisonment, chiefly because of his impudence to the judge. Early in the opening of the play we find Mr. Fitzhugh recovering from his unfortunate night's carousal, and Cook, the detective, calls to take him to gaol to serve his thirty days.

Roderick Majors, a well-intentioned but muddling friend, sees the judge and tries to get the sentence altered; but all to no purpose, and in desperate straits he breaks off his daughter's engagement to Dornton in order to obtain the influence of another admirer of hers, Edward Farrar, a nephew of the judge who gave Fitzhugh thirty days. Farrar, however, can do nothing, and poor Fitzhugh sees there is no alternative to serving his time in prison. To account for his absence he proclaims to all and sundry that he proposes to take a trip to Mexico. Mrs. Fitzhugh announces her intention to accompany her husband, but the ever-faithful friend Majors dissuades her from this.

We now see Fitzhugh in the striped garb of the American convict. He has considerable difficulty in living up to the strict discipline of the prison, but Majors again comes to the rescue, and introduces his friend Loveall, the warden of the prison, to convict 77. A friendship springs up between warden and convict, and the former undertakes to deliver a letter dated from Mexico to Mrs. Fitzhugh, and to say he has met her husband in Mexico. At length the thirty days are served, and in order to welcome the traveller home Mrs. Fitzhugh, her sister, Sally Grace, and their friend Nettie Majors, dress in Mexican fashion, rub up their Spanish, and order a dinner of Mexican dishes. Fitzhugh arrives home in all the splendour of a Spanish costume, and he makes but a weak attempt to understand the Spanish language in which he is addressed. He describes a bull-fight in very unconvincing manner, and he has to live up to so many lies and deceptions that his wife grows suspicious. Her suspicions are confirmed by remarks heard from Cook, the detective, Louis, the waiter (a fellow-prisoner with Fitzhugh), and Loveall, the warden. Benjamin Fitzhugh confesses that his visit to Mexico was a myth, and in reality he has been to prison, and to his surprise he learns from his wife that she, too, was at the Cleopatra on the night of the raid. Explanations follow; Dornton becomes really engaged to Sally Grace, Farrar finds a sweetheart in the friend, Nettie Majors, and everyone is happy and satisfied.

The piece was well played by Messrs. Robert Arthur and George Willoughby's company. On Monday evening laughter prevailed, and the audience were evidently delighted. Mr. Stanley Cook as Benjamin Fitzhugh worked hard, and was conspicuously successful; Mr. George Willoughby did smart and effective duty as the well-intentioned friend, Roderick Majors; Mr. Walter Gay was an animated and pleasing Warden Loveall; Mr. Fred Lewis contributed a very clever and funny sketch of the voluble German, Von Schmidt; Mr. Hugh Ardale was a polished Edward Farrar; Mr. Rupert Stutfield played carefully and earnestly as Richard Dornton; particular praise was due to Mr. Ernest A. Douglas for a quiet but ably effective performance as Cook, the detective; while Mr. James Schnapper as O'Mullins, Mr. Arthur Cornell as Googan, and Mr. Walter Champney as Louis did capital work in smaller parts. Miss Emily Fitzroy, attractive and pleasing, was a very successful Mrs. Fitzhugh; Miss Fyfe Alexander was a graceful and very charming Sally; Miss Amy Francis infused much vivacity into the part of Nettie Majors; and Miss Doris Digby was satisfactory as Miranda.

THE SHAKESPEARE VARIORUMS.

We have received from the J. B. Lippincott Company a copy of their fine edition of "The Tragedy of Richard the Third." It has been edited by Horace Howard Furness, jun., and is the sixteenth volume of the New Variorum Edition of the Works of William Shakespeare. The editor has used as a basis the text of the first folio edition of 1623, incorporating the additions of the quartos, and recording omissions and transpositions in the textual notes, together with a commentary containing criticisms from the days of Pope to the present day. The appendix contains the stage history of the play; discusses the text, the date of composition, and the source of the plot; with criticisms by English and German authors too voluminous to be included in the Commentary. This admirably-edited volume will be a treasure and a joy to all students of Shakespeare. The scholarship, industry, and knowledge used in its preparation must have been extraordinary, and it is superbly printed and excellently well "got up."

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The Awards. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "The Era" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

SHAKESPEARE'S SCHOOLING.

Happily John Shakespeare was at no expense for the education of his four sons, writes Mr. Sidney Lee in his "Life of William Shakespeare." They were entitled to free tuition at the grammar school of Stratford, which was reconstituted on a mediæval foundation by Edward VI. The eldest son, William, probably entered the school in 1571, when Walter Roche was retiring from the mastership in favour of Simon Hunt, B.A. Hunt seems to have been succeeded in 1577 by one Thomas Jenkins, whose place was taken in 1579 by John Cottom, of London. As was customary in provincial schools, the poet learned to write the "Old English" character, which resembles that still in vogue in Germany. He was never taught the Italian script, which at the time was rapidly winning its way in fashionable cultured society, and is now universal among Englishmen. Until his death Shakespeare's "Old English" handwriting testified to his provincial education. The general instruction was mainly confined to the Latin language and literature. From the Latin accidence, boys of the period, at schools of the type of that at Stratford, were led, through conversation books like the "Sententiæ Pueriles" and Lily's grammar, to the perusal of such authors as Seneca, Terence, Cicero, Virgil, Plautus, Ovid, and Horace. The eclogues of the popular renaissance poet, Mantuanus, were often preferred to Virgil's for beginners. The rudiments of Greek were occasionally taught in Elizabethan grammar schools to very promising pupils; but such coincidences as have been detected between expressions in Greek plays and in Shakespeare seem due to accident, and not to any study, either at school or elsewhere, of the Athenian drama.

Dr. Farmer enunciated in his "Essay on Shakespeare's Learning" (1767) the theory that Shakespeare knew no language but his own, and owed whatever knowledge he displayed of the classics and of Italian and French literature to English translations. But several of the books in French and Italian whence Shakespeare derived the plots of his dramas—Belleforest's "Histoires Tragiques," Ser Giovanni's "Il Pecorone," and Cinthio's "Hecatommithi," for example—were not accessible to him in English translations; and on more general grounds the theory of his ignorance is adequately confuted. A boy with Shakespeare's exceptional alertness of intellect, during whose schooldays a training in Latin classics lay within reach, could hardly lack in future years all means of access to the literature of France and Italy.

With the Latin and French languages, indeed, and with many Latin poets of the school curriculum, Shakespeare in his writings openly acknowledged his acquaintance. In *Henry V.* the dialogue in many scenes is carried on in French which is grammatically accurate if not idiomatic. In the mouth of his schoolmasters, Holofernes in *Love's Labour's Lost* and Sir Hugh Evans in *Merry Wives of Windsor*, Shakespeare placed Latin phrases drawn directly from Lily's grammar, from the "Sententiæ Pueriles," and from "the good old Mantuan." The influence of Ovid, especially the "Metamorphoses," was apparent throughout his earliest literary work, both poetic and dramatic, and is discernible in *The Tempest*, his latest play (v. i. 33 seq.). In the Bodleian Library there is a copy of the Aldine edition of Ovid's "Metamorphoses" (1502), and on the title is the signature "Wm. She.," which experts have declared—not quite conclusively—to be a genuine autograph of the poet. But, although Ovid's Latin text was certainly familiar to him, his closest adaptations of Ovid's "Metamorphoses" often reflect the phraseology of the popular English version by Arthur Golding, of which some seven editions were issued between 1565 and 1597. From Plautus Shakespeare drew the plot of the *Comedy of Errors*, but it is just possible that Plautus's comedies, too, were accessible in English. Shakespeare had no title to rank as a classical scholar, and he did not disdain a liberal use of translations. His lack of exact scholarship fully account for the "small Latin and less Greek" with which he was credited by his scholarly friend, Ben Jonson. But Aubrey's report that "he understood Latin pretty well" need not be contested, and his knowledge of French may be estimated to have equalled his knowledge of Latin, while he doubtless possessed just sufficient acquaintance of Italian to enable him to discern the drift of an Italian poem or novel.

Of the few English books accessible to him in his schooldays, the chief was the English Bible, either in the popular Genevan version, first issued in a complete form in 1560, or in the Bishops' revision of 1568, which the Authorised Version of 1611 closely followed. References to Scriptural characters and incidents are not conspicuous in Shakespeare's plays, but, such as they are, they are drawn from all parts of the Bible, and indicate that general acquaintance with the narrative of both Old and New Testaments which a clever boy would be certain to acquire either in the schoolroom or at church on Sundays. Shakespeare quotes or adapts Biblical phrases with far greater frequency than he makes allusion to episodes in Biblical history. But many such phrases enjoyed proverbial currency, and others, which were more recondite, were borrowed from Holinshed's "Chronicles" and secular works whence he drew his plots. As a rule his use of Scriptural phraseology, as of Scriptural history, suggests youthful reminiscence and the assimilative tendency of the mind in a stage of early development rather than close and continuous study of the Bible in adult life.

Shakespeare was a schoolboy in July, 1575, when Queen Elizabeth made a progress through Warwickshire on a visit to her favourite, the Earl of Leicester, at his castle of Kenilworth. References have been detected in Oberon's vision in Shakespeare's *Midsummer Night's Dream* (II. i. 148-68) to the fantastic pageants and masques with which the Queen during her stay was entertained in Kenilworth Park. Leicester's residence was only fifteen miles from Stratford, and it is possible that Shakespeare went thither with his father to witness some of the open-air festivities; but two full descriptions which were published in 1576, in pamphlet form, gave Shakespeare knowledge of all that took place. Shakespeare's opportunities of recreation outside Stratford were in any case restricted during his schooldays. His father's financial difficulties grew steadily, and they caused his removal from school at an unusually early age. Probably in 1577, when he was thirteen, he was enlisted by his father in an effort to restore his decaying fortunes. "I have been told heretofore," wrote Aubrey, "by some of the neighbours that when he was a boy he exercised his father's trade," which, according to the writer, was that of a butcher. It is possible that John's ill-luck at the period compelled him to confine himself to this occupation, which in happier days formed only one branch of his business. His son may have been formally apprenticed to him. An early Stratford tradition describes him as "a butcher's apprentice." "When he kill'd a calf," Aubrey proceeds, less convincingly, "he would doe it in a high style and make a speech. There was at that time another butcher's son in this towne, that was held not at all inferior to him for a naturall witt his acquaintance, and coetaneu, but dyed young."

"The Law of Copyright," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday. There were present Mr. Cecil Raleigh (in the chair), Messrs. Fred Grove, Franklyn Walford, Jackson Wilcox, Clarence Derwent, and Fewlass Llewellyn; Misses Lucy Sibley, Marion Lind, and Mr. Hubert Blount, secretary.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr. Robson Paige expressing his willingness to again serve on the Council if elected, and the secretary was instructed to notify Mr. Paige to this effect.

The question of Sunday performances in theatres having been brought forward the Council addressed a letter on the subject to the Lord Chamberlain, and have received a reply from him suggesting that the Council should seek the information of its legal adviser on the matter. Pending Mr. Mote's reply the discussion was adjourned.

The honorary solicitors reported having written letters and advised members.

Two nominations for election were made, and the secretary received instructions to forward a list of members to the candidates asking whether they could not find someone to propose and second them.

Election of new member: Miss Marie Pera, proposed by Mr. Cecil Raleigh, and seconded by Mr. Fred Grove, was elected.

The agency reported the engagement of Mr. Arthur Dennis with Mr. Hunter, Mr. Edwin Coates with Miss Hancock, Miss Ethel St. Barbe with Mr. Herbert Ross, Miss Florence Harcourt with Mr. Herbert Ross, and Mr. J. Knox Orde with Mr. Fred Mouillot.

The standard contract was again discussed and adjourned until the next meeting.

The Council received a deputation from the A.U., and Mr. Kenneth Blackmore spoke on behalf of such deputation. A long and interesting duscussion about the minimum wage ensued.

Miss Beatrice Chester asked the secretary to inform the Council that she had lost her basket at a music hall, and to ask the hon. solicitor whether he could do anything in the matter. The secretary was instructed to ask Miss Chester to forward a full statement of the facts to Mr. Mote.

The secretary informed the Council that several members of the French company lately playing at Terry's Theatre had taken advantage of the invitation to become hon. members of the A.A. during their visit, had made use of the rooms, and had expressed their thanks to the Council for the hospitality extended to them.

CONVEYANCE OF STAGE SCENERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The number and persistent reiteration of enquiries concerning the exact conditions which govern the entry of theatrical effects into the United States of America led us to recently make special investigations into the whole question through our American connections; and, as the information which we have received is of vital importance to artists who may be contemplating a tour of the States, we venture to believe that its insertion in your columns in extenso will prove a boon to those of your readers to whom it is of peculiar interest.

Messrs. Davies, Turner and Co., of 24, Whitehall-street, New York, make the following observations:—

"With reference to theatrical traffic. This may be divided into three classes, such as costumes as are of the period, which are generally admitted free as passengers' luggage if they accompany such passenger and are for his use and convenience, the incidental use of the stage not being considered a reason for charging duty; costumes of other periods, or fancy costumes; props and scenery.

"Where the goods in the second category accompany the passenger it is usual to send them to public stores if the aggregate valuation exceeds $100.

"Scenery, props., and such costumes as are on the manifest have to be entered in the regular way. If they are the property of the passenger an exhibition bond may be given, in which an obligation is taken to either pay the duty or to export goods within six months. This bond on application may be extended by the Secretary of the Treasury for another six months, but after that time export or payment of duty must take place.

"For such goods as have been entered on invoice, we have been able to arrange up to the present to have examination take place at the theatre, and goods are taken immediately from the dock to the theatre by bonded trucks, and examination usually takes place within a day or two, depending on what is required by the consignee. For example, if we had to make entry in the morning and it was necessary to use the goods that night, arrangements could be made with the examiner to go there that same day. If, on the other hand, they were not intended to be used for some weeks, then he would go at his leisure.

"It is very important to impress on your friends if they should be sending over productions which they expect to enter in bond that evidence of use be shown on the goods. For example, if boots were received in the original packages from bootmakers and showed no evidence on the soles of having been used, very likely the Customs would exact duty; the same thing with costumes. The law does not require any extensive use, but there must be some.

"The ordinary exactions with reference to invoicing of merchandise are required, too, with theatrical goods. Contents of each package should be specified separately, and value of each article detailed. With properties and costumes the material of which they are composed should be mentioned, so that they can be classified; if of wool the weights should be given."

Should any of your subscribers require advice upon this matter, we need hardly say that our services and the result of our long experience will gladly be placed at their disposal.

The intricate formalities and the peculiar method of preparing documents render it absolutely essential for some expert aid to be enlisted; and, as this has been a special feature of our business during the period of nearly forty years in which we have been established, we have no hesitation in asserting that the best means of minimising trouble and preventing difficulties from arising, with the consequent loss of time and money, is to consult—Yours faithfully,

HAROLD DAVIES.

52, Lime-street, E.C.
Nov. 9, 1908.

"THE GIRL I LOVE."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—I note from a paragraph appearing in last week's issue of *The Era* that Mr. Herbert Leonard is changing the title of a new piece of his from *The Kiss of Judas* to *The Girl I Love*. A play of mine by the title of *The Girl I Love* was produced by me at the Theatre Royal, Workington, in June, 1904, and was duly licensed; therefore, I claim the title to be mine. I have played it frequently since, and am shortly arranging to send same on tour.

If Mr. Leonard would like to communicate with me, I can satisfy him as to my legal claim. My address is 17, Sydney-street, South Kensington.—Yours faithfully,

FRED MAXWELL.

Pavilion, Leicester, Nov. 12, 1908.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the A.U. took place on the 5th inst. at 49, Bedford-street, and the following were present: Messrs. Gerald Mirrielees (chairman), Robert M. Taylor, A. Maitland Stapley, Orlando Barnett, Leslie Arthur, Cecil G. Calvert, E. Y. Rae, H. Tripp-Edgar, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

Letters were received from Messrs. Geo. P. Lester, J. Hastings Batson, Fred F. Loyd, Frank S. Strickland, James English, Jerrold Heather, Henry Bedford, Edward Chester, Oswald Marshall, and Frank Gerald.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

It was stated that Mr. Walter L. Rignold has accepted the invitation of the Executive to serve on the committee.

The secretary was instructed to inform the sanitary authorities of the condition of a provincial theatre, and to ask them to investigate the matter.

A member who was out of benefit having applied for a loan, the secretary was instructed to inform him that as only members in benefit are entitled to make applications for loans, the committee regret they are unable to accede to his request.

A member having reported that a provincial company were playing fourteen performances for one week's salary, the secretary was instructed to notify him that, as no complaint had been received from an A.U. member in the company, nothing could be done in the matter.

Dr. Courtenay Dunn, of Fairview, Castle-road, Torquay, was appointed one of the hon. medical officers for that town.

The secretary was instructed to send particulars of a case, on behalf of a member, to the hon. solicitor, and to ask him to write a letter to the management in question.

A member having written from Australia with reference to an insurance scheme, the secretary was instructed to inform him that the Union cannot take the matter up.

A member having written from America asking for certain information, the secretary was instructed to comply with the request.

One new member was elected.

Mr. H. Naylor Grimson presided at the usual weekly meeting of the Actors' Union held on Tuesday afternoon at Hummum's Hotel. Among those present were Messrs. Leslie Arthur, Orlando Barnett, J. W. Braithwaite, Frank Gerald, Edgar L. Hocking, D. Lewin Mannering, Frank Melrose, E. Y. Rae, Langford Reed, and Mr. A. Maitland Stapley; and Mesdames W. Bentley, Florence Creagh, May Conrade, Maud Henley, Irene Moncrieff, Kitty Marion, Mildred Silvestre, Rosaline Thorne, and Laura Vernon.

An announcement was made by the Secretary (Mr. Kenneth Blackmore) to the effect that a general meeting of the Union would be held on Dec. 1 to consider the advisability of altering the present method of payment of subscription. It has been thought that it might be more convenient for the members to pay the sum of 1s. 8d. at the end of each month instead of 6d. a week for forty weeks. It was also announced that the third annual dinner of the Union would be held on Sunday, Dec. 18.

Mr. Leslie Arthur proposed the following resolution:—

"That this meeting of the Actors' Union strongly condemns the action of Mr. George Edwardes and Mr. Seymour Hicks in engaging artists through the *Daily Mirror* and the *Daily Express*, as the profession at the present time is very much overcrowded."

Mrs. Walter Bentley seconded, and the resolution was carried unanimously, after a brief discussion, in which, among others, Mr. Frank Gerald took part.

It was suggested that an address-book containing information as to suitable apartments in the provinces should be kept in the offices of the Union.

NEW PLAYS IN BERLIN.

OCT. 3.—*Lady Frederick*, three-act comedy, by M. Maugham—Kleines.
,, 8.—*Freiheit*, play, in four acts, by Karl Boettcher—Luisen.
,, 9.—*Erotik*, three-act farce, by Gustav Wied—Berliner.
,, 9.—*Ein Erinnerungsfest*, one-act farce, by G. Wied—Berliner.
,, 9.—*Herr Paragraph*, four-act drama, by P. Albers—Bernhard Rose.
,, 10.—*Juan José*, four-act play, by J. Dicenta (Signor Grasso's season) — Gastspiel Theatre.
,, 14.—*Ninon de l'Enclos*, five-act play, by F. Freksa—Hebbel.
,, 15.—*Malia*, drama, in four acts, by Luigi Capuana (Signora Aguglia's season)—Neues.
,, 15.—*Das Fräulein in Schwarz*, three-act farce, by R. Lothar—New Schauspielhaus.
,, 16.—*Manon Lescaut*, lyrical drama in three acts, by Puccini—Komische Oper.
,, 16.—*Die Tür ins Freie*, three-act farce, by MM. Blumenthal and Kadelburg—Lustspielhaus.
,, 17.—*Vater*, four-act comedy, by MM. Guinon and Bouchinet—Lessing.
,, 17.—*Kümmere Dich um Amelie*, farce, in three acts, by G. Feydeau—Residenz.
,, 19.—*La Peccatrice*, four-act play, by Guimera (Aguglia's season)—Neues.
,, 20.—*Cavalleria Rusticana*, two-act tragedy, by Verga (Aguglia's season)—Neues.
,, 20.—*Der Köhler*, two-act tragedy, by A. Oriano (Aguglia's season)—Neues.
,, 23.—*Le Passé*, three-act play, by Porto-Riche (Bernhardt's season)—Hebbel.
,, 23.—*Der Clown*, comedy, in four acts, by H. Bataille—Berliner.
,, 23.—*Der Fidele Bauer*, three-act operetta, by Leo Fall—Des Westens.
,, 24.—*Der Deutsche Graf*, drama, in five acts, by Vollmoeller—Neues.
,, 27.—*Das Dorfg'hoamnis*, three-act volks-play, by H. Werner (Schliersee Peasant Company's season)—New Royal Opera.
,, 30.—*Stolz der Stadt*, three-act comedy, by Gustav Wied—Luisen.
,, 30.—*Eine Heiratsgeschichte*, three-act farce, by M. Gogol—Chamber Plays.
,, 31.—*Musik*, play, in four acts, by F. Wedekind—Kleines.

THE FISHER FAMILY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—During the greater part of the nineteenth century there existed in the Eastern Counties a dramatic company known as the Norfolk and Suffolk Company of Comedians, managed by various members of the well-known Fisher family. There were at least four generations of these Fishers, and some of them, notably David, sen. (who died in 1858), and David, jun. (who died in 1887), appeared on the London stage with considerable success. The latter had a son, also on the stage, of whom I have no record later than that given in Pascoe's Dramatic List, published in 1880.

Can you, or your readers, inform me whether this gentleman is still living, or whether any members of this talented family are now in the dramatic profession? If so, I should esteem it a favour if you could furnish me with their address.—Yours faithfully,

RUTH CARVER (*née* Fisher).

Newholme, 390, Unthank-road, Norwich.
Nov. 7, 1908.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. WILLIAM HAVILAND AND MISS EDYTH LATIMER.

One of the finest actors on the stage, Mr. William Haviland excels especially as an elocutionist, and for this reason Mr. Tree selected him some two years ago for the difficult part of Prospero in his production of *The Tempest*, a rôle which, in the hands of any but the most accomplished master of the art of speaking blank verse, would prove tedious in the extreme. Last year, moreover, Sir Squire Bancroft appointed Mr. Haviland to the post of Instructor of Elocution at the Academy of Dramatic Art. Mr. Haviland was educated in perhaps the best of all Shakespearean schools, that of Sir Henry Irving, whom he joined to "carry a banner" in 1883, and with whom he remained for twelve years, working his way slowly but surely from the bottom rung of the ladder of Irving's répertoire to the topmost step, his last appearances with his old chief being as Merlin in *King Arthur* and the Fool in *King Lear*. A great deal of Mr. Haviland's best work has been done south of the equator, and he has been entitled "the Irving of South Africa," which country he has visited no fewer than six times since he first went there in 1896, the year of the "Raid." Mr. Haviland was in Johannesburg during that exciting

Photo by Robertson.

MISS EDYTH LATIMER.

episode, and was enlisted as a special constable. A year later he was again in the Golden City, and one Sunday evening he sat next to Woolf Joel at a Jewish performance at the Gaiety Theatre. The next Monday morning the financier was shot dead in his office. During his numerous visits to South Africa Mr. Haviland has produced and played the principal parts in the following plays, amongst many others:—*Othello*, *Hamlet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *The Tempest*, *David Garrick*, *The Bells*, *Resurrection*, *Oliver Twist*, *The Man Who Was*, *Leah Kleschna*, *The School for Scandal*, and *Trilby*. When Mr. Tree decided to send his unique Shakespearean répertoire company of "all star" artists on tour, he appointed Mr. Haviland "director," with the parts of Marc Antony, Malvolio, Ford, and Prospero.

In 1905 Mr. Haviland was at his wits' end to find a leading lady to accompany him to South Africa, as two artists he had been negotiating with failed him one after another. He was within a fortnight of sailing without having found the young and beautiful actress with whom he could entrust such parts as Katusha in *Resurrection*, Leah in *Leah Kleschna*, Portia, Ophelia, Lady Macbeth, and Nancy in *Oliver Twist*. In this dilemma Miss Edyth Latimer, then at the ripe age of twenty, applied for the engagement: it was the first time that she and her future husband had ever met, and he had only seen her act once, with Wilson Barrett in Manchester, but he was immediately struck with her winning personality and beautiful voice, backed by a strong recommendation from Mr. Ambrose Manning, who pledged himself as to her great ability. Miss Latimer was offered the engagement immediately, and the extraordinary popularity she won in South Africa during that and a subsequent tour proved the wisdom of Mr. Haviland's choice. Miss Latimer became Mrs. William Haviland in 1906. This talented lady, it is of interest to add, was the last Mercia to play to Wilson Barrett's Marcus.

EARLY DELIVERY.

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35

A VERY successful concert was given in Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee (kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Robert Arthur), on Sunday evening last, in aid of the National Incorporated Waifs and Strays Association, in connection with the Barnardo Saturday Fund. An excellent programme was contributed to by Mr. Louis Karpe, manager of Her Majesty's, and included Auxetophone selections by Messrs. Paterson, Sons, and Co.

FOOTE was once walking in Paris with a conceited Frenchman, who had been boasting his country's superiority over England. Coming to the Seine, he pointed to it, saying, "Now, as to a river, you have nothing like this in London." To which Foote replied: "We had just such another lately (alluding to the Fleet-ditch), but we have filled it up, not having any use for it."

"VIA WIRELESS."

Drama, in Four Acts, by Paul Armstrong and Winchell Smith.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

The New York public has been trained to expect great things of Mr. Frederic Thompson, who produced the play under notice at the Liberty Theatre in this city on the 2nd inst., and up to this writing the public has never been disappointed. Luna Park, at Coney Island, and the New York Hippodrome are monumental examples of Mr. Thompson's enterprise and ingenuity. Then he gave us *Brewster's Millions* and *Polly of the Circus*, both containing big scenes to set the public talking, and now we have *Via Wireless*, which shows in one of its scenes the interior of a Pittsburg steel foundry, where a naval officer's invention is purposely cast in such a way that it explodes and kills half a dozen men, as the story afterwards relates; and in another the interior of the "wireless" operator's room on a Ward liner, running between New York and Porto Rico. Lieutenant Sommers, of the United States Navy, has invented a new type of marine gun, which is to be cast at the Durant Steel Works in Pittsburg. George Durant, the proprietor of the works, is a typical American millionaire, "who has earned everything he owns." His daughter, Frances, who is eighteen, is in love with the Lieutenant. Edward Pinckney, the general manager and junior partner of the Durant firm, seeks to advance himself socially and financially by marrying Miss Frances. Pinckney controls the patent rights of another gun invented by one of his subordinates, which, if the Lieutenant's invention is a failure, will be foisted on the Government at a big profit to Pinckney. Accordingly, he perfects a scheme to ruin the Lieutenant's gun in the making. Hearing of the scheme, Frances makes a midnight visit to the forging-room, with the intention of informing the unsuspecting inventor. Lieutenant Sommers finds her there with Pinckney, and his unjustifiable suspicions lead to a falling out between the lovers. As they leave the works, the Lieutenant's gun is lifted from the furnace and plunged into its oil bath in view of the audience. During the preliminary test the gun explodes, killing and maiming several. The misunderstanding between the Lieutenant and Frances still existing, she promises her hand to Pinckney. In San Juan she meets the Lieutenant just as he has been ordered to proceed to Washington to explain why he should not be court-martialled for not giving proper care to the casting of his gun. Lieutenant Sommers, at the invitation of Miss Durant, returns to the States on board of her yacht with a Secret Service agent, who is investigating the case. During a storm the yacht runs on a reef, and is rapidly going to pieces, when aid comes from a passing steamer, the appeals for assistance being made by means of wireless telegraphy. In this scene the storm effect of *Brewster's Millions* is outdone. A poker game has been in progress among the hands on the steamship, when suddenly the "wireless" apparatus begins to flash out messages of distress above the howling and tumult of the storm. Thanks to the heroism of Lieutenant Sommers, the unfortunates are rescued, although the ship pitches and rolls, and everything seems to be against them. The scene on the opening night sent a thrill of excitement through the audience, and provoked an outburst of applause which lasted for several minutes. In the last act Pinckney's scheme is laid bare, the naval lieutenant wins back his reputation and his sweetheart, and Pinckney makes his exit in the custody of the Secret Service officer.

The play was admirably acted, and the performance was a complete success for all concerned. Among those who contributed to this happy result were Mr. Edwin Arden as Lieutenant Sommers, Miss Vera McCord as Frances Durant, Mr. Joseph Kaufman as Harling, the "wireless" operator, Mr. Robert McWade as George Durant, the ironmaster, and Mr. Frank Monroe as Bradley, the Secret Service man. Numerous other characters were represented, the cast comprising twenty-four persons.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

On Wednesday evening the students of the Royal College of Music gave an interesting concert, which attracted a large audience. In Beethoven's Quartet for Strings in G major, op. No. 2, played by Mr. Thomas Peatfield, Miss Amy R. Rydings, Miss Sybil Maturin, and Mr. Cedric Sharpe, the beautiful second movement, Adagio cantabile, Tempo Primon, was admirably rendered. Although the Duo Concertant for Piano and Clarionet is not a particularly interesting work of Weber, it was most skilfully performed by Mr. Ioan Powell and Mr. Clifford Foster, who were warmly applauded at the close. A very cleverly-played piano solo, Rhapsody in G minor (E. Dohnanyi), by Mr. A. E. Ouseley Norman, was another pleasing and attractive feature in Wednesday's concert. Miss Dora Arnell, who has a beautiful mezzo-soprano voice, was heard to great advantage in two difficult songs of R. Strauss, "Das Rosenband" and "Heimliche Aufforderung," receiving a most enthusiastic recall. The other vocalists were Miss Ethel Richardson, who sang Mozart's air, "Dein bin ich" (Re Pastore), with a well-played violin obbligato by Miss Marjorie K. Beer, and Miss Marjorie Hopcraft, who gave two songs of Coleridge-Taylor, "When I am dead, dearest," and "Unmindful of the roses," with much ability. It is somewhat a pity at these interesting concerts that fine quartets or trios are not occasionally sung, as they would be a capital means of utilising the no doubt fine voices of those modest and retiring male vocalists of the College, while they would also be attractive items in the programme. The concert on Wednesday evening concluded with an excellent performance of Brahms's Quartet for Piano and Strings in A major, the executants being Mr. William Murdoch, Miss Esther Capel-Cure, Miss Sybil Maturin, and Mr. Felix Salmond. Miss Alice Cotton, Miss Constance Stockbridge, and Miss Alice Tuckfield were the accompanists.

THE programme of the massed bands of Saturday last at the Alexandra Palace was an enticing one. The bands consisted of H.M. Coldstream Guards, full strength—conductor, Dr. Mackenzie Rogan, M.V.O., Hon. R.A.M.; H.M. Royal Horse Guards, Blues—conductor, Mr. Manuel Bilton; H.M. Scots Guards—conductor, Mr. F. W. Wood; the pipers of Scots Guards; drums and fifes of 2nd Coldstream and 2nd Grenadier Guards. The grand overture "Solennelle" (1812), with the usual pyrotechnic effects by Messrs. James Pain and Son, met with the same enthusiastic reception as on former occasions. Jullien's "British Army Quadrilles" was another popular item. Miss Violet Ludlow and Miss Marie Yelland opened the proceedings by the former singing the first verse of "God save the King" and the latter the second, the audience, massed bands, organs, drums, &c., being responsible for the third. The vocal numbers chosen by these ladies were all rendered with excellent taste. Mr. Edwin Goodship, the secretary and manager, wired to Sandringham wishing many happy returns of the day from the immense audience to His Majesty the King, who, through Lord Knollys, likewise replied by telegram.

THE selection from Mr. Coleridge Taylor's *Faust* music, now being played in Mr. Tree's production at His Majesty's Theatre, is shortly to be published as a pianoforte solo by Messrs. Boosey and Co. The song, "A King there lived in Thule," used in the same production, is also in course of issue by the same firm.

"THE WORLD AND HIS WIFE."

Drama, in Three Acts, by Charles Frederic Nirdlinger. From the Spanish of José Echegaray.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. William Faversham, who has been absent from the New York stage for a year or two, made his first appearance as an actor-manager in the play under notice, and complete success attended his return to the metropolis. Mr. Faversham has provided himself with a strong play and a fine company, and his season at Daly's has begun most auspiciously. With Mr. Faversham are Miss Julie Opp (Mrs. Faversham), Mr. H. Cooper Cliffe, Mr. Charles Harbury, Miss Olive Oliver, Mr. Morton Selten, Mr. Harry Redding and Mr. Lionel Belmore. The all-round excellence of the performance given by these experienced players was suggestive of the old days when a permanent stock company occupied the stage of this theatre and their representations were held up as examples for all other companies to follow. Mr. Faversham's announcements seem to promise a revival of these conditions during his tenure of Daly's Theatre, and what he has accomplished at the outset is a very good earnest of his endeavour.

The Spanish title of the play is *El Gran Galeoto*, and the story is as follows:—Don Julian, a rich banker of Madrid, and his wife, Teodora, have in their luxurious household Don Ernesto, a true friend to both. The gossips of Madrid misconstrue this friendship, and assert that Don Julian is a complaisant husband. The three friends laugh at the calumny, but the seed of doubt is sown. It is nourished by Don Severo, Julian's brother, a man of the world, proud of the family name, jealous of the reputation of his family. Don Ernesto's political rival, who has been instrumental in spreading ugly stories, forces the issue in a public place. The result is to be a duel between the two men. The husband hears of it, and naturally asserts that it is his place and no other man's to defend his wife's name. Consequently, it is Don Julian who faces the calumniator's sword in a studio adjoining the young man's apartments. And he comes forth, badly wounded, to discover his wife in Don Ernesto's chambers, whither she has come misled by the belief that he and her husband have had a violent quarrel. In view of what appears to be unquestionable evidence of their duplicity, Don Julian loses faith in both. He is to see them once more, and only once, after Don Ernesto has killed the man who caused the trouble and come to Don Julian's house in the hope of convincing him that he—Don Ernesto—and Teodora are innocent. But first Don Ernesto will see Teodora. When he does see her she orders him to go. The brother enters and insults him. Don Julian comes in, denounces Don Ernesto and Teodora, and retires. Don Severo orders Don Ernesto from the house. The wife tells him to stay—it is her house. But Don Severo points to the adjoining room and tells her that he is the master. She glances into her husband's chamber, and turns away pallid and trembling: Don Julian is dead. Then it is that Don Ernesto asserts himself. In an impassioned speech he arraigns Don Severo and the world, which has forced him and the wife of his friend into each other's arms. They have never sinned, but now he declares his love for her, and bears her off to share his life. "Love, honour, happiness, all gone!" he cries. "You and your kind have given her to me."

Quick in action and direct in the telling, the dramatic intensity of the play kept the audience closely interested until the end. Mr. Faversham was at his best as Don Ernesto, and Mr. Cooper Cliffe was admirable as the sacrificed husband, Don Julian. Miss Opp as Dona Teodora acted the earlier scenes with much charm and the emotional passages with genuine feeling; Mr. Selten appeared as Captain Beaulieu, an old attaché of the British Embassy, and did well; Mr. Harbury's Don Severo was a capital representation; and the other members of the company did full justice to their respective rôles. The audience was demonstrative in its approval.

DEATH OF FREDERIC TOPHAM.

With deep regret we record the death of Mr. Frederic Topham, which occurred suddenly on Tuesday night. Mr. Topham suffered from a weak heart due to a bad attack of rheumatic fever as a boy, and latterly had to be wheeled to his office in Bedford-street in a Bath-chair. As late as the afternoon preceding his death he was engaged at business. He retired to bed at nine o'clock, but woke at eleven, and passed away peacefully in his wife's arms. Born in the Isle of Wight in 1858, Mr. Topham began work in a bank. After some experience as an amateur he obtained a professional engagement, and made his first appearance on the stage in 1887. His record comprises a variety of parts, mostly Shakespearean, including Peter, Apothecary, and Capulet in *Romeo and Juliet*, Dromio and Pinch in *The Comedy of Errors*, Antonio and Verges in *Much Ado About Nothing*, Shallow, Slender, and Sir Hugh Evans in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, Fabian and Sir Andrew in *Twelfth Night*, Polonius and Osric in *Hamlet*, Gonzalo and Stephano in *The Tempest*, Hardcastle in *She Stoops to Conquer*, Sly and Vincentio in *Taming of the Shrew*, and Launcelot in *The Merchant of Venice*. For some years past Mr. Topham had been manager of Mr. Ben Greet's academy in Bedford-street, where many pupils have had the benefit of his valuable tuition. He was a strong supporter of the Actors' Association, and was a familiar figure at the performances by the Play Actors, of whose council he was chairman. Mr. Topham leaves a wife and three children (two sons and one daughter), to whom we extend our sincere sympathy. The funeral took place yesterday morning at Brompton Cemetery. All the children of the deceased being abroad, Mrs. Topham was the only representative of the family present. There were also at the grave Mr. and Mrs. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. Shad Frost, Miss Dora Hole, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Bannister Howard. Wreaths were sent by Mr. Ben Greet, Mr. and Mrs. J. Bannister Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Atkey, Mr. and Mrs. Shad Frost, Mr Ernest Russell, Miss Dorothy Fane, Mr. and Mrs. Wright, Mrs. Malchy, Mrs. Brown, the Pupils of the Ben Greet Academy, Mrs. Pitcher, Mrs. Barrett, Miss Dora Hole, Dr. and Mrs. Kean, the Play Actors, Mrs. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. H. Vigers, Mr. Read, and the Fortitude Lodge of Freemasons, No. 12.

WHILST Garrick was one night performing the part of Hamlet, and when he was arrived at one of the most affecting scenes in that tragedy—the audience all mute attention—when even a pin might have been heard falling to the ground—all at once, to the astonishment of the spectators, Garrick was seen to burst out into a violent fit of laughter, and run suddenly off the stage: in a moment all the players followed his example. The audience, amazed at the strangeness of his conduct, cast their eyes around every corner of the house, when they immediately discovered the cause of Garrick's merriment. A jolly round-faced butcher was seated in the front row of the pit, wiping his bald pate, from which the sweat flowed in copious streams: his sagacious mastiff, no doubt eager to enjoy, as well as his master, the admirable performance of the prince of tragedians, had placed his fore-feet upon the front rail of the orchestra, and was looking eagerly upon the stage, his grave phiz dignified by his master's full-bottomed wig. The audience found it impossible to retain their gravity at this ludicrous sight; the loudest peals of laughter burst from the pit, the boxes, and the galleries; and it was a great while ere the performers could again resume that gravity necessary for performing a tragedy so deeply interesting.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Musical Comedy entitled
"THE GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG."

A large audience crowded the King's on Monday evening to greet *The Girls of Gottenberg*, and a bright and lively host of young ladies they proved to be, quite to the satisfaction of patrons in front. Messrs. Grossmith and Berman's comedy is an amusing affair, and the manner in which the Blue Hussars obtain their transference from Rottenberg to Gottenberg—where the girls are—placed the audience on good terms very early in the play. The music of Messrs. Ivan Caryll and Lionel Monckton, though unpretentious, is in places tuneful, and the lyrics of Messrs. Adrian Ross and Basil Hood certainly deserve honourable mention. Most of the fun is provided by Mr. Bertie Wright, who in the character of Max Moddelkopf works with unbounded energy and succeeds in inducing hearty laughter at his comical efforts. An extremely able performance of Otto is given by Mr. Tom Shelford, whose dude-like style and dress evoke applause. Mr. Howard Cridland obtains praise as Sergeant Brittl Bottl, and Mr. Hugh Henson renders Albrecht, the Captain of Dragoons, very cleverly. Mr. Rudd Allen is a meritorious Margrave of Saxe-Nierstein, and Colonel Finkhausen is played—as a German commander is popularly supposed to be—with the necessary brusqueness. Mr. Morgan Rickards is a stolid Burgomaster, and Mr. Tom Squire is good as Adolph the Town Clerk. Mr. Edwin Stanley is a characteristic Kannenbier the innkeeper, and Mr. James Cook renders good service as the policeman. Miss Ellaline Thorne delights everyone by a dashing performance of Mitzi, in which her singing is altogether charming. As the "only girl in Rottenberg" Miss Susie Beardon is bound to be a success, but she also deserves it. Miss May Marshall as Clementine is a clever comedienne, and her flirtations with Max are highly diverting. Elsa is vivaciously represented by Miss Annie Grey, and Miss Ruby Carter dances gracefully as the maid to Elsa. The chorus is well trained and acts excellently, and the orchestra is ably directed by Mr. Otto Manns.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Nov. 9, Oscar Asche, Lily Brayton, and company.

The management has again secured the services of Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton in a capital repértoire of plays this week, and a very hearty reception was accorded them on Monday when they presented *The Taming of the Shrew*. This is the third visit of these talented artists here this year, and the second occasion on which *The Taming of the Shrew* has been staged, and, judging by the heartiness of the reception, it is not wanting in popularity. The stirring performance of all concerned riveted attention from start to finish. Mr. Asche repeated his vigorous performance of Petruchio in his accustomed masterly fashion, and Miss Brayton handled the rôle of Katherine with all her customary skill. The piece was repeated on Wednesday and Thursday evenings, and will be presented again to-night. On Tuesday Mr. Frank Stayton's comedy of the Middle Ages, in four acts, entitled *The Two Pins*, was given to a full house. It is a bright, sparkling, and charmingly picturesque play, and is magnificently mounted. The acting throughout is most artistic, calling forth hearty and well-merited applause, the curtain having to be raised several times at the conclusion of each act. The beautiful stage pictures have been specially painted by Joseph Harker, and include the Battlements of Valma Castle, the Great Hall of Knoden Castle, and an exceptionally fine sylvan scene, the Woods at Valma. To Mr. Alfred Wigley's admirable stage-management we should like to bear tribute. Strength and artistic resource are the prominent features of Mr. Asche's performance of the overbearing Phillip, which stands out as a bold and virile portrait of a domineering lord of the Middle Ages. Excellent, too, is the Rudolph of Mr. G. Kay Souper, whose lines are spoken with an ease and appreciation of his rôle born of sound and varied experience. Mr. Kay Souper's performance was justly appreciated by the large audience of Tuesday night. Excellent likewise in make-up and deportment was Mr. Henry Kilts as Baron Gruntendell, who caused much merriment with reminiscences of his prowess with the sword in the Holy Land. The part suited him admirably. Mr. Tripp Edgar also rendered good service as Cyril, and was largely responsible for the humorous element. Messrs. Reginald Davis (Conrad), Caleb Porter (Detrichstein), A. V. Bramble (Gregory), J. Fritz Russell (Karl), G. Roberts (Wilhelm), and Evan Brooke (Servant at Knoden) very ably filled their respective parts, nor must we forget Mr. Herbert Grimwood, who gave a good interpretation of the Messenger from Knoden. Miss Lily Brayton's assumption of Elsa is very fine. Momentary reflection is needed only to realise the disastrous effect on the play were the part but weakly filled. Thanks to Miss Brayton's splendid conception of the part, the play gains in interest, and this clever artist must have felt that her work received warm appreciation at the hands of her audience. Miss Muriel Ashwynne gives a very commendable interpretation of Rosalie, and Mr. Henry Frankiss capably plays the part of Francis, the jester, acquitting himself with distinction, both with his acting and singing. Mr. B. A. Meyer is the general-manager, and to Mr. Ernest Charles Gittings are entrusted the duties of acting-manager. *Othello* was presented at the Thursday matinée and last Friday night.

CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 9,
"THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL."

On Lord Mayor's Show Day, which is synonymous with the celebration of the King's Birthday, Mr. Edward Compton and his justly celebrated Compton comedy company started their week's season at the Coronet with Sheridan's evergreen comedy, *The School for Scandal*. *She Stoops to Conquer*, *The Rivals*, *A Reformed Rake*, *Davy Garrick*, and *A Desperate Lover* are among the pieces which form the week's répertoire. Monday night's was the 1,039th performance by Mr. Edward Compton of the part of the reckless Charles Surface. It is a fine part, full of gaiety and spontaneous ebullitions of good spirits and frolic, and Mr. Edward Compton avails himself to the full of his opportunities, his rendition of the famous ditty "Here's to the maiden" being capitally given, and indeed the scene of the auction of the pictures is quite one of the best in the piece. Miss Viola Compton does excellently well as Lady Teazle, her wit and innocent raillery, her fervent desire to be in the fashion, and eventually her contrition and repentance are most agreeably and naturally portrayed, and altogether she makes "a palpable hit" in the part. Mr. Henry Crocker's performance as Sir Peter Teazle is replete with humour and perspicuity, and is a well-balanced, well-matured bit of character acting. Mr. Philip Gordon, as the genial and forgiving uncle, Sir Oliver Surface, excels in the part, which suits him to a nicety. Mr. Henry Worrall handles the difficult part of the hypocritical Joseph very deftly, indicating his fascinations as well as his foibles. Mr. Wallace Johnston very cleverly doubles the parts of Crabtree and old Moses, the Israelitish moneylender, and Mr. Ivan Leslie is amusingly absurd as his precious nephew, Sir Benjamin Backbite. Mr. J. W. Austin gives a brief but pleasing portraiture of Galeas, and Mr. Neville Clifford is good as Charles's valet, Trip. Miss Kathleen Leigh makes a pretty and consistent Lady Sneerwell, and Miss Marie Hassell is exceedingly good as Mrs. Candour, who points the moral of the character in no uncertain fashion. Miss Constance Merton is duly meek and insipid as the ward Maria, and all the other parts, including the Rowley of Mr. Lawrence Meade, are well done. The minuet at the end of Act. 1 is a pleasing feature of the entertainment. Mr. Henry Crocker is stage manager and Mr. Graham Morrison business manager for Mr. Compton.

THE KENNINGTON.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Musical Play, entitled
"THE GAY GORDONS."

Mr. Seymour Hicks and his charming wife are paying a welcome visit to Kennington Theatre this week in *The Gay Gordons*, one of the merriest of musical comedies, and the place they hold in the affections of the playgoing public has been amply demonstrated by overflowing and enthusiastic houses nightly. Mr. H. B. Brandreth, the astute acting-manager at Kennington, has not had a seat vacant from Monday onwards, and the house would have had to be of much larger capacity to accommodate all who sought admission. *The Gay Gordons* is a brilliant and sparkling production, overflowing with humour, containing many tuneful melodies, and abounding in bright and picturesque situations. The fame of the principals is too widespread to need lengthy reference, but Mr. Hicks is not content with his own versatile genius and the delightful grace and vivacity of his wife to make the piece a success. He has gathered round him a company of sterling merit, he has dressed and mounted the play on a lavish scale, and he has a rattling good chorus. Everything, therefore, goes with a swing throughout, and on Monday curtain-calls were numerous. As Peggy Quainton, Miss Ellaline Terriss scored a huge triumph with her two songs, "Humpty and Tumpty" and "Everyone likes me up in London," and as for the rest, she looked as lovely and acted as cleverly as ever. Mr. Hicks was at his best as Angus Græme—frolicsome, humorous, smart—and captivated everybody. Mr. Johnny Danvers was exceedingly good as the quaint old showman, Nervy Nat; and Miss Sidney Fairbrother gave a remarkably effective study of the part of the showman's wife. Mr. Johnny Carroll displayed great gifts of comedy in the rôle of the showman's son; while as Victoria, the showman's daughter, Miss Coralie Blyth was quite happily placed. It was on these four, after Mr. Hicks and Miss Terriss, that the burden of the play fell, and they proved to be an ideal combination for musical comedy. Mr. E. Sugg was a dignified Andrew Quainton, the affectionate father of the lovable, but headstrong, Peggy; and Miss Maud Milton was an admirable foster mother to Angus Græme. Mr. Lawrence Caird sketched the part of Corporal John Smith with considerable ability; and Mr. Will Bishop was clever as Jack McPhrisky. As Lady Millicent and Lady Græme respectively Miss Katie Butler and Miss Rosie Chesney were attractive figures, and were supported by a bevy of other beautiful girls. The five members of the peerage were adequately impersonated by Messrs. H. Ulph, M. Florance, E. D. Gibson, H. Walter, and A. Metcalfe; while Mr. J. C. Buckstone was entrusted with the interesting part of Archibald Speedy, the excitable lawyer. Miss Nell Carter was an excellent Mary McLeod. There were gay Gordons galore in all their military glory, and nothing was wanting to keep the entertainment up to the high level of the Hicks-Terriss standard—nothing perhaps except the pet dog of the company, Brandy, who was lost on Saturday while being escorted from Notting Hill, and has not yet been recovered. He was safely understudied on Monday, and still retains his place in the pretty souvenir of *The Gay Gordons*, which Miss Betty Hicks is credited with having prepared.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE BELLE OF THE BALL."

This new musical play, which only a few weeks ago was seen at the Crown Theatre, Peckham, reached here on Monday evening, and received a hearty welcome. Miss Violet Osmund has a smart company to interpret the play, which is produced under the experienced direction of Mr. Alexander Loftus. Mr. Robert Hyett scores as the Squire, Sir Francis Lake; in the character of Timothy Timkins Mr. Johnnie Schofield causes roars of laughter; Mr. Llewellyn C. Hughes is very amusing as Bobbie Fletcher; and Mr. Chas. Adeson is good as Farmer Jones. Mr. W. E. Chewd deserves praise for his impersonation of James Foster; Miss Florence Somers makes a delightful belle of the ball as Poppy; and Miss Flora Morris as Queenie Trevor is to be highly commended. Miss Rosie Wade is an engaging Red Riding Hood, and Miss Mary Hawthorne a pretty San Toi, both ladies dancing gracefully. Miss Ethel Bertram is most diverting as Alice; and Miss Corona L'Estrange successful as Mary. A powerful orchestra and chorus do good work under the control of Mr. J. D. Rogers. The dresses and appointments are gorgeous, and special mention must be made of the set of pretty miniature ponies.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Play in Four Acts (founded on Mrs. Henry Wood's novel), entitled
"EAST LYNNE."

Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is playing at Fulham in a new version of *East Lynne*, by Edmund Gurney. The new version differs in many respects from the more familiar ones, and appearances would indicate that it has yet to demonstrate its superiority to its predecessors. Mr. Fred Harker is an excellent representative of Archibald Carlyle—very much more human than some of those we have seen. Mr. W. H. Garbois plays the villain Levison rather on conventional lines. Mr. Richard Nugent is well suited to the comic part of Murty O'Flynn, and extracts much laughter from it. Mr. M. Talbot plays with dignity as Lord Mounsevern, and Mr. William Lowe does well as Justice Hare. Mr. Byron Pedley is well in the piece as Lawyer Dill. Miss Josephine Gwynne is satisfactory as Barbara Hare. Miss Sophy Shenton scores as Cornelia Carlyle, a lady with a most uncompromising tongue. Miss Guinevere Shilton shows some power as Affy (and Joyce) Halijohn, and Miss Doris Denville takes the difficult part of Willie Carlyle with success. Miss Beth Elliott does not appear to have been given much scope for displaying her dramatic powers in the earlier scenes, and in fact the second act went very sedately, but the later ones were an improvement. The piece is well staged and dressed.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Musical Comedy entitled
"THE BELLE OF MAYFAIR."

The members of Mr. Milton Bode's company, presenting this week at the Dalston Theatre the musical comedy entitled *The Belle of Mayfair*, are meeting with a cordial reception. The music of the piece, for which Mr. Leslie Stuart is responsible, is, at times, particularly tuneful, and the augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Frank Seddon, accompany the vocalists and the performance generally with an amount of efficiency which helps towards the complete success of the production. Mr. Percy Yorke puts a lot of go into the part of the Earl of Mount Highgate, his rendering of the song "A military man" being particularly noteworthy both for the energy displayed and for the dancing which is introduced. Mr. Edward Hugonnet plays a popular part as the Hon. Raymond Finchley, and has the advantage of some excellent scenes with Miss Florence Imeson, who as Julia Chaldicott successfully assists him in several musical numbers, prominent among them being the duet entitled "To-morrow." Mr. Harry Parker is responsible for a good deal of the fun of the piece as Sir John Chaldicott. He keeps the ball of mirth continually rolling, and the song, mostly topical, called "In Skyland," goes as well as ever. Miss Nellie Cozens is excellent as Lady Chaldicott, as is also Miss Paula Fernau as the Countess of Highgate. Miss Agnes Tandy scores a decided success as Princess Carl; her stage presence is admirable and her singing acceptable. Pincott, Julia Chaldicott's maid, has a fascinating representative in Miss Blanche Astley, who is the very embodiment of vivacity, and is a graceful dancer. Her song about "Bells" goes well. Miss Aurelie De Loriere as Lady Rosaline Rookesley and the Gibson Girl creates a favourable impression. Miss Nan Holmes as Lady Violet Gussop and Miss Millie Graham as Sophie are interesting. Mr. Lawrence Wensley is a great favourite as Hugh Meredith, and his song in praise of the glories of youth is evidently much appreciated; Mr. Laurie Lisle is excellent as Comte de Perrier; and Mr. G. McCloskie as Dr. Marmaduke Lawrence and Mr. H. Brown as Captain Theobald are seen to advantage. Messrs. Oscar Cooke, L. Wigley, F. Tennant, and L. Buckland are also in the cast. It should be added that the quartette "Come to St. George's" takes as well as ever.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

Monday, Nov. 9, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"THE KING OF CRIME."

Mr. Henry Battersby has engaged a capital company to represent this powerful drama, which has drawn excellent houses. Mr. F. B. Woulfe gives a forcible and clever impersonation of Ronjarre, the King of Crime, and by his fine elocution scores a success. Mr. William Miller furnishes a graphic delineation of the old miser Grandelu; Mr. Claude Aymond acts well as Simon, Mr. William Melvyn is good as Louis Mascoret, Mr. Sam Wilkinson is an amusing Mick Maloney, Mr. William Collins is praiseworthy as M. Folgat, and Mr. Lionel Levere is an effective Pergignan; Mr. William Hilton is a competent Jaberet, Mr. E. Morris and Mr. Cecil Stuart are well suited to the parts of Bordogne and Baptiste. The Hag, Mére Crouchard, is safe in the hands of Miss Agnese D'Aragon; Miss Nance Battersby is a charming Mathildé Handrey, Miss Edith Loraine is a vivacious Clarisse, Miss Lillie Lawrence is commendable as Mme. Mouriet, Miss Grace Evelyn is a smart Mimie Patenlair, and Miss Mildred Eversleigh plays Henriette with sympathetic womanliness and charm.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Drama, by James Willard, entitled
"THE GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE."

This new and quite original drama on the "Druce" mystery idea is being toured by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard with great success, and its visit to the Lyric this week is drawing excellent business. Mr. H. Naylor Grimson as Thomas Wentworth acts with good effect; as Stephen Arkwright Mr. Austin Mortimer is particularly capable; Mr. Arthur Gilroy makes a satisfactory lawyer as Mark Fenning; Mr. Fred G. Evison gives an excellent study of Jasper Death; Mr. J. L. Mann does well as Martin Flood; as the Rev. Gordon Cross Mr. Dobell Lyle is a typical young parson; and Mr. Henry Lee contributes a clever character study of James Govett. In the title-rôle, Miss Florrie Green plays with remarkable success. For so young an actress to essay a part like Angel Leigh must require much pluck, and Miss Green has proved herself a young lady of much ability. Miss Mildred Carr is really excellent as Mollie Maitland, and as Ena Wentworth Miss Phyllis Dailley plays sympathetically. Miss Winifred Delevanti as Nellie does clever work. All the scenic effects were built and painted at the Lyric studio, and the highest praise is merited by the staging of the piece.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Musical Comedy entitled
"THE DAIRYMAIDS."

We have a great attraction here this week in a return visit of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's clever company in the delightful musical piece *The Dairymaids*. Miss Clare Marsden is extremely successful as Peggy; she looks very fascinating, and renders her various musical numbers with great ability, "The Sandow Girl" and "Hello! Little Stranger!" being especially notable. Miss Clarice Lockstone scores well as Winifred, and sings very sweetly an interpolated song, "Little Boy Blue." Mr. Nelson Keys makes a dapper little naval officer as Sam Brudenell, singing well and dancing neatly. Mr. Johnny Osborne is the life and soul of the piece as the sailor Joe Mivens. His comicalities excite roars of laughter, and he executes some very agile dancing. Mr. John A. Warden is capital as the rollicking Irish Doctor O'Byrne; and Mr. A. Wykes Ashdowne does well as Lieut. Frank Meredith. Miss Gladys Silvani presents a capital character-sketch as Eliza; and Miss Mabel Younge is a most aristocratic Lady Brudenell. Miss Madge Avery is good as the austere Miss Penelope Pyechase. The chorus is large and efficient, and the bright music, pretty girls, and attractive scenery all cause the production to be received with the utmost cordiality. Mr. Percy J. Purdey is the general-manager for the company, and the orchestra is under the bâton of Mr. Albert Bartlett.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Nov. 10, the Play in Four Acts, by Walter Melville, entitled,
"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."

The Girl Who Wrecked His Home was successfully presented here on Monday by Mr. Walter Melville's company. Although there is nothing new or startling about the plot, Mr. Melville strikes a note of homeliness without undue striving after effect. Miss Louise Hampton is responsible for a powerful impersonation of the misguided Bertha Marshall. Miss Hampton gives a touching delineation of the unhappy girl who is tempted from home, portraying the emotions of the character with great judgment, and fully eliciting the sympathies of the audience. An extreme contrast is the adventuress Val Raymond, presented in a sufficiently abandoned manner by Miss Georgie de Lara. Miss Lulu Bowes is responsible for a charmingly unaffected assumption of Winifred Marshall, and Miss Alys Eden is effective as Lottie Primrose. The love scenes of Miss Ida Thompson as little Winnie Marshall, and Master Dick Evans as Master Billy Stevenson are prettily acted, and Miss Lily Belding does all that is possible in the part of Sally Thompson. Mr. Fred Goddard scores a decided success in the rôle of Jack Marshall, and acts throughout with a dignity and force that carry conviction. Mr. Paul Barry Lewers depicts with due effect the callous nature of the scheming Leonard Kenyon, and acquits himself with credit. Mr. Norman B. Cannon renders good support as William Stevenson, and Mr. Harry Arnold does well as Bertie Clements. Mr. Herbert Goddard is to be congratulated on his excellent rendering of the part of Henry Stevenson, a brewer, and Mr. Geo. P. Lester is satisfactory as the detective Brockbank. Mr. Francis Hope is responsible for much humour in his presentation of Tommy Biffin, and Mr. Will E. Clements plays well in the rôle of Josh Crockett. The scenery and effects are up to the high level of excellence usual with Mr. Melville's productions.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Drama entitled
"THE SILVER KING."

Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's ever-successful and highly attractive drama *The Silver King* still continues its prosperous career, and under the generalship of Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford loses none of its aforetime interesting qualities. The mounting of the play leaves nothing to be desired, and the numerous members of a long cast are well placed. Mr. Fred D. Davis supplies a clever study of that unfortunate individual Wilfred Denver, and deserves praise for an impressive rendering. Miss Edyth Goodall gives a good delineation of the character of Nellie Denver, finely touched with pathos. Daniel Jaikes is in the experienced hands of Mr. Edward J. George, who displays much ability. Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp infuses much dramatic effect into the part of Captain Herbert Skinner; Henry Crocket is capably undertaken by Mr. George Belmore; Mr. Arthur Wright gives a good account of himself as Elijah Coombe; Mr. Arthur H. Rooke maintains the character of Geoffrey Ware with ability; Mr. E. Stidwell as Samuel Baxter merits commendation; Miss Kathleen Maude is successful as Olive Skinner; and Miss Louie Hall scores in the part of Tabitha Durden. The remaining members of the cast do well in their respective rôles.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 9,
"THE DANDY FIFTH."

Mr. Clarence C. Corri presented his own successful and popular military comic opera to good houses here this week, and himself wielded the conductor's bâton at each performance. As the book of this play is by Mr. G. R. Sims, it goes without saying that there is a plot and plenty of witty dialogue and good lyrics.

Mr. Percy Baverstock gave a most spirited rendering of the very irascible Colonel of the regiment from which the opera takes its name. In the part of the hero, Dick Darville, as played by Mr. J. Edward Fraser, became a dashing blade of a cavalryman, with plenty of go and a good voice to back it up. Mr. Jack Chrichton as Private Augustus Brown, and Mr. George Beverley as Sergt.-Major Milligan kept the house in fits of laughter from start to finish.

Miss Pauline Hague, who has played the part of Kate Lorrimer, the merry madcap, over 1,000 times, makes a sweet heroine, singing with great feeling the numbers which fell to her share, and was most helpful to the success of the production. Miss Nora Morra as Polly, a very cheerful and irresponsible person, was excellent in all she undertook, more especially when sharing her mirthful endeavours with Mr. Jack Chrichton. Mrs. Von Blitzen, the Colonel's sister, was admirably portrayed by Miss Maude Nichols, and made it a thoroughly amusing part. Miss Florence Spurgeon revealed a good voice and manner as Antoinette, the maid to Kate Lorrimer. Mr. Harry Ed. Ray as Sir Victor acted well, and was a nimble dancer. Messrs. C. Bellard and J. Pierrepoint as the troopers, Jones and Robinson, played smartly and looked soldierly. In the Fancy Dress Ball scene Mesdames Sadie Thompson, Grace Desmond, and Edie Burton appeared in pretty costumes, and helped to make this part of the play bright and lively.

THE BROADWAY.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Drama, entitled
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company opened here on Monday in the Lyceum success, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, and the large audience assembled frequently testified to their satisfaction by loud and prolonged applause. The play is capitally acted and generously staged. Mr. Herbert Ford made an instant success by his forcible yet natural portrayal of Prince Olaf. Miss Annie Saker's Princess of Illyria was a finely-conceived part admirably acted. Miss Dido Drake was a charming Camio (the Beggar Maid). Miss Isla Garnet Vayne presented an excellent portrayal of the character of Viola. Master W. Beasley made a manly little Bugler. Prince Hildred of Sylvania had a capital representative in Mr. Ivan Cleveland, and the character of his brother, Michael, was in the capable hands of Mr. Graeme Campbell. Mr. Edmund Lea made an impressive Colonel Wellesley. Mr. Ivan Ewart was very good as Colonel Schwartz. Mr. Richard Lane's Lieut. Hapsburg merited praise, as did Mr. Williams's Captain Keller, and Mr. William Coates's Major Wessler. Equally good impersonations were those of Captain Ardenne by Mr. E. A. Ball and Lieut. Felsburg by Mr. Albert Carlton. A fine performance of Captain Hector was given by Mr. Lewin Mannering. Mr. Kendal Chalmers was very good as Lieut. Karl Stromberg, and the Nathan of Mr. J. E. Gardiner and the Bishop of Mr. Francis Hawley were capitally acted parts. The last-named gentleman is the capable general manager, and Mr. Chalmers the stage-manager of the company, Mr. Bertram Iles is the popular resident-manager, and Mr. Clarke Richardson the musical director of the excellent Broadway band.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Play entitled
"THE CHRISTIAN."

A capital company, under Mr. Wentworth Croke's organisation, is presenting here this week the new version of *The Christian*, by Mr. Hall Caine, which is received in a very flattering manner by interested and attentive audiences, who are completely carried away by the deep emotions depicted from life and the sentimental and dramatic situations introduced in the story by the author. The play is admirably mounted and carefully portrayed. Mr. Roy Redgrave offers a very realistic (as judged by the novel) and a powerful study of the Hon. John Storm, delivering his lines with excellent effect. He keeps a firm hold of his hearers. Miss Daisy Scudamore essays the difficult character of Glory Quayle with equal success, and her acting is characterised by judicious blending of frivolity and pathos. Horatio Drake is capably undertaken by Mr. Wilfred Noy; Mr. Herbert Hewitson does ample justice to the disagreeable part of Lord Robert Ure; Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn gives a clever impersonation of Father Lamplugh; Mr. John J. Hooker produces an excellent impression as Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. Royce Milton is good as Lord Storm; and the same may be said of Mr. Bruce Lindley as Parson Quayle. Polly Love has a talented exponent in Miss Cora Deane; Miss Florence Hunt displays much ability as Black Meg; Mrs. Harriett Russell and Mr. Fred Goodyer as Mother Kent and Bert respectively share equal honours; Miss Molly Hayden makes an effective Mrs. Callender; Miss Kitty Symons scores highly as Lady Robert Ure; and Liza is successfully impersonated by Miss Ada Rose.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Melodrama, by E. Hoggan Armadale, entitled
"LONDON'S CURSE."

The patrons at this house have been greatly interested this week in the production of *London's Curse*, a drama that deals very strongly with drink. It is depicted in the usual able manner by the stock company engaged. The most important character is George Montgomery, played by that excellent actor Mr. Harry Tresham, a character that gives him ample opportunities. The scene where he has the delirium tremens is well played, and he is seen at his best and well deserves the applause bestowed upon him. Mr. Carter Bishop is well placed as the banker, John Redfern. Mr. Herbert Young gives an excellent interpretation of the Rev. Ernest Langton. Mr. H. Eyeland Leigh gives a realistic performance as the rascally solicitor Abraham Scroby. An excellent character study of the escaped convict was presented by Mr. C. Alan Hineson. Considerable amusement was caused by Mr. Ivan Pat Gore for his mirth-provoking interpretation of Rory Drummond. He is ably assisted by Mr. H. G. Brandon, who gives a good performance as Mussels, Scroby's clerk, and adds considerably to laughter-making. Mr. J. D. Hennessey is an ideal public-house keeper, and plays the part quite naturally. Miss Lalla Stanhope invests the character of Mabel Montgomery with a sympathetic touch which is required in this part, and receives the applause of her audience. Miss Etheyle Gordon Murray, who has not a very important character to delineate, nevertheless plays with her usual ability and success. Miss Florence Barnes deserves credit for her interpretation of Lottie Smithers. Some excellent pictures are shown on the Barrascope. The orchestra introduce some tuneful interludes during the evening, including a pretty overture composed by Mr. F. W. Hatley, the resident conductor.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Drama, by Edward Jewry,
"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."

A capital reception was accorded to Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company in *An Unwedded Wife* at the Theatre Royal on the opening night of the week, and the favourable impression the piece made on its former visit was thus fully endorsed. The piece is plentifully embellished with comedy business, which has the advantage of being directly connected with the story, and the action is briskly maintained from start to finish. As Marion, the unwedded wife, Miss Ethel Van Praagh's performance suffers nothing from long familiarity with the part, and the sympathies of the audience are enlisted throughout. Mr. George Daiper is a manly and outspoken Frank Hawthorn; and Mr. Charles Stirling portrays the blackguardly Philip Blackstone on sound lines. Mr. J. Edward Whitty as the good-hearted, free-and-easy P.C. O'Runyin, always on the spot to thwart villainy, is very entertaining and interesting; Mr. Will Casey supplies a clever delineation of Napoleon B. Bloomer; and Mr. R. Milton Bedford is a very able exponent of Christopher Lennox. Miss Jessie Gillette makes a bright and amusing Caraway Crumpet, and a word of praise is due to Little Doris for her intelligent performance as Reggie. Other parts are in capable hands, and the piece is appropriately staged.

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Nov. 9, the Drama, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE BONDMAN."

Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in this Drury Lane success is paying a welcome return visit here this week, and on Monday night a large and appreciative audience witnessed the performance. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin is well endowed physically for the part of the rugged, unpolished, determined Jason, and his acting is forcible, virile, and convincing. As the more nurtured, ambitious Michael Sunlocks Mr. Lionel Atwill plays with fluency and ease, and looks the part well; Mr. W. H. Rotherham supplies a graphic and well-defined sketch of the clerical outcast, Father Ferrati, in addition to playing the grandfather of the first act very realistically; Mr. Alfred Fisher plays with power and expression as Governor Testa; and Mr. Fred J. Waller handles the rôle of the scheming Doctor Boni with tact and judgment. Mr. Oswald Lingard is excellent as Adam Fairbrother; Mr. George R. Austin does well as the Marshal of Police; Miss Georgina Wynter makes a very charming Greeba, and her acting is always sympathetic, agreeable, and interesting; Miss Madge Lamerton is a very natural Mrs. Fairbrother; Miss Lilian Mayne makes the most of her opportunities as Martha; Miss Emilie Mayhew plays Christian Ann appropriately; and Miss Bessie West smartly enacts Maria. The piece is exceedingly well mounted and dressed.

"THE DRAGON."

A New and Original Operetta, in One Act, Written and Composed by James M. Gallatly, and Produced at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Monday, Nov. 9.

The Enchanter ..... Mr. John Le Hay
The Gaoler ..... Mr. Reginald Crompton
The Prince ..... Mr. Frank G. Dunn
The Princess ..... Miss Ruby Melbon

The operetta is made the vehicle for the exposition of some very tuneful and pretty music. The scene is laid at "Castle Perilous," at a time when, to quote the words of Tennyson,

"Knights sliced a red life—bubbling way
Thro' twenty folds of twisted dragon."

There seems to have been a quarrel between the Prince and Princess, the latter resenting his suggestion that his "knightly vows bid him think all damsels fair." She is immured in "Castle Perilous" by her parents, where she is guarded by the Enchanter and the Gaoler, until such time as a suitable prince shall come to claim her hand. The aspirant has, at the same time, to run the gauntlet of a fiery dragon, "Launcelot," who is the outside custodian of the castle. The Enchanter has become tired of his occupation, from which he wishes to retire, but he cannot release himself until there comes a prince bold enough to gain admission to the Princess's presence. The necromancer, therefore, resorts to strategy. The once-favoured Prince being willing to return to his lady-love, the Enchanter arranges that the dragon shall be kept in conversation with a nagging woman at the tradesmen's entrance. By this device the Prince succeeds in gaining admission to the Princess's apartments. But the necromancer's scheme nearly fails, because the wooer reiterates in her presence that his knightly vows bid him think all damsels fair, and he narrowly escapes again being sent from her presence. There is, however, a reconciliation, and the usual happy ending.

Of the many numbers, all of them excellent, premier honours must be given to the Princess's appeal to the gaoler, "I deign to kneel, good gaoler, see, on bended knee." Another was the unaccompanied madrigal, "Here's a tale of vain endeavour," and again the Prince's song, "Though in your indignant eyes." Miss Melbon sang sweetly and acted delightfully throughout, and Mr. Frank Dunn was good in the tenor solos. The gaoler, perhaps unfortunately, has only one solo, which is a very good one and well sung by Mr. Reginald Crompton, an old Savoyard, who did, as might be expected, remarkably well. Mr. John Le Hay, the celebrated comedian, was the life and soul of the piece, and his humorous presentment of the Enchanter kept the house bubbling over with infectious merriment. His best effort vocally was in a song, "That people should impute to such a genial creature the motives of a brute." His interpolated business was extremely funny and his dancing capital. The operetta was personally conducted by the composer, was produced under the direction of Mr. W. W. Keene, and at the close was loudly applauded.

MR. GODFREY NUTTING'S CONCERT.

A highly successful concert was given by Mr. Godfrey Nutting of his own compositions at Æolian Hall on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 5. The programme consisted of some twenty pianoforte pieces and songs, in all of which Mr. Nutting displayed graceful and tuneful melody, while some of his songs, given for the first time, met with a most cordial reception from the large audience. Mr. Nutting was assisted by Miss Katherine Jones, Miss Eva Bevis, Miss Beatrice Eveline, and Mr. Philip Simmons. Miss Katherine Jones, who sang "With you," with organ obbligato, and "My dream," received a hearty encore; and Miss Eva Bevis, a clever pupil of Mme. Kate Flinn, also had an enthusiastic encore for her clever singing of "A Dutch lullaby" and "Stolen fruit," the latter being a very bright and effective song. Mr. Philip Simmons, who has a very pleasing tenor voice, was heard to great advantage in "Midsummer love song" and "The garden I love." In the instrumental portion of the programme Mr. Godfrey Nutting played several of his own compositions, "Romance," "Arabesque," and "Sea Pictures," for the piano with marked ability; while Miss Beatrice Eveline contributed some excellent 'cello solos by Moskowski and other composers. Mr. P. Mavon-Ibbs was the organist and accompanist.

DEATH OF VICTORIEN SARDOU.

M. Victorien Sardou, the great French dramatist, who died in Paris on Sunday morning from congestion of the lungs, was born in that city in 1831. He was intended for the medical profession, and while studying for it was in great poverty. In 1854, when he was twenty-three, his comedy *La Taverne des Etudiants* was accepted for production at the Odéon, but was received with hisses. His marriage to Mlle. de Brécourt gave him a footing in the dramatic world, and he was associated with the successes of Déjazet in his vaudevilles *Monsieur Garat* and *Les Premières Armes de Figaro*. In the early sixties he produced *Piccolino*—which has twice been used as the basis of a comic opera libretto—*Les Pattes de Mouche* at the Gymnase, and *Nos Intimes*. In 1863 his *Les Diables Noirs* was prohibited by the Censors. It was followed by *Les Vieux Garçons* and *Nos Bons Villageois*. In 1869 he wrote the drama *Patrie*, which afterwards became the basis of Paladilhe's opera, produced for the first time at the Paris Opera House in 1886. The play was revived at the Comédie-Française in 1901. *Rabagas*, first staged in 1872, was a political satire in support of Napoleon III. In 1873 *L'Oncle Sam*, of which the production at Paris was forbidden by the Censors for diplomatic reasons, on account of its references to the institutions and people of America, was presented for the first time in New York, and in the following year was put on in Paris. In 1874 the drama *La Haine*, which was the first of the long series of elaborately-mounted Sardou plays, was taken off after a run of three weeks. *Divorçons* won great popularity, Mme. Réjane creating the leading part. In 1877 Sardou was elected a member of the Académie Française. In 1882 began M. Sardou's association with Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, and *Fédora* was produced at the Vaudeville on Dec. 12, 1882. The series also included *Théodora*, *La Tosca*, *Cléopâtre*, and *La Sorcière*. *Théodora*, produced at the Porte St. Martin on Dec. 26, 1884, ran for 200 nights, Massenet providing the incidental music. In November, 1887, Madame Bernhardt returned to Paris after her tour abroad, and presented Sardou's *La Tosca*, which was played 125 times. Sardou's drama was used as the basis of the libretto of the opera by Puccini, which was produced at Rome in 1900, and *Fédora* was made the subject of the libretto of Giordano's opera of that name. In October, 1890, Mme. Bernhardt appeared at the Porte St. Martin in the title-part in *Cléopâtre*, by M. Moreau and M. Sardou. The piece ran until the following January. In 1891 Sardou presented *Thermidor*, a drama dealing with the Revolutionary period. The performance of the play was forbidden, for political reasons, after its third representation.

In October, 1893, Sardou collaborated with M. Moreau in *Madame Sans-Gêne*. Mme. Réjane made a great hit in the title-part. A few years later the piece was translated into English by Mr. H. B. Irving, and produced by Sir Henry Irving at the Lyceum in April, 1897. In 1899 *Robespierre* was specially written for the great English actor by Sardou. His comedies, *Marcelle* and *Paméla*, were more or less successful, as also was the drama *Gismonda*, written for Mme. Bernhardt. *Spiritisme*, produced at the Gymnase by the same actress in 1897, dealt with the difficult subject of occultism. In 1903 Sir Henry Irving produced a translation of the *Dante* of Sardou and M. Moreau, written specially for the English actor and translated by Mr. Laurence Irving. *Dante* was produced at Drury Lane on April 30, 1903, and ran during the whole Drury Lane season. Later dramatic productions of Sardou were *La Sorcière*, produced by Mme. Bernhardt at her own theatre, and *L'Affaire des Poisons*, the run of which was recently resumed at the Porte St. Martin with M. Coquelin as the Abbé Griffard. The piece was a great success at His Majesty's Theatre this summer.

Sardou's literary work included a novel, "La Perle Noire," and a volume entitled "Mes Plagiats," defending himself against accusations of plagiarism. M. Sardou received in 1906 the Grande Croix of the Légion d'Honneur.

The funeral took place on Wednesday. At the late dramatist's residence orations were pronounced by M. Doumergue, the Minister of Public Instruction and Fine Arts, in the name of the French Government; by M. Vandal, the Director of the French Academy; and by M. Paul Hervieu, in the name of the Society of Dramatic Authors, of which M. Sardou was an ex-president. There were present, besides the members of the French Academy, M. Clemenceau and other Ministers, General Gallifet, and M. Raymond Poincaré. The funeral cortège proceeded to the Church of St. François de Sales with a military escort. The body of M. Sardou was conveyed to Marly in the afternoon.

BRITISH EMPIRE SHAKESPEARE SOCIETY.

Princess Louise-Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein distributed, on the afternoon of the 6th inst., at the Shaftesbury Theatre, kindly lent by Mr. H. B. Irving, the prizes and certificates gained at the examinations for elocution and essay-writing held by the above society. The prize-giving was preceded by an entertainment. Mr. Shakespeare Stewart rendered Horn's "Crabbéd Age and Youth" and Sir Henry Bishop's "Bid me discourse" cleverly; Mrs. Emile Mond sang "Should he upbraid" and an old setting of the Willow Song; Mr. John E. Munro contributed Schubert's "Who is Sylvia?" and Sargent's setting of "Blow, blow, thou winter wind"; and Miss Christine D'Almayne was heard to advantage in "Sigh no more, ladies" and "It was a lover and his lass." Mr. Basil Gill and Mr. Lyn Harding gave a spirited rendering of the Quarrel scene from *Julius Cæsar*, Mr. Gill as Brutus and Mr. Harding as Cassius, being equally effective.

Mr. Sidney Lee, in opening the prize-giving, said the recent development of the society was largely due to the energy and resolution of Mr. Acton Bond. Mr. Henry Arthur Jones proposed a vote of thanks to the Princess Louise-Augusta. The theatrical profession, he said, owed a heavy debt to the Royal Family for the interest they took in plays and the support they gave to theatrical charities. Miss Morritt seconded the vote in a loyal speech.

Mr. J. T. Grein proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. H. B. Irving for lending the theatre. Mr. Acton Bond, in seconding the motion, referred to the help rendered to the society by Mr. H. B. Irving in the provinces. The Princess, he said, had kindly promised to be present at a performance of *Twelfth Night* at Bethnal Green on Thursday afternoon, Nov. 26. A development of the Reading Circle method as a preliminary to public Dramatic Readings was being made by the society in London. He hoped that there would again be a permanent Irving Theatre in London.

Mr. H. B. Irving, in returning thanks, said that he regarded acting proper as the principal part of his work. He highly commended the help given by the society to Shakespearian study in the great cities.

HINTS as to the way to prevent or cure sore throats or hoarseness, which are unusually prevalent just now, should be very valuable. That eminent throat specialist, the late Sir Morell Mackenzie, M.D., who was consulting physician to the late Emperor of Germany, always recommended patients suffering from sore throat or hoarseness to gargle with Condy's Remedial Fluid largely diluted with water, and we are able to bear personal testimony to the fact that a speedy cure attends those who follow this advice. Condy's Remedial Fluid can be obtained from all chemists and stores.

"HENRY OF NAVARRE."

Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by William Devereux, produced at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Thursday, Nov. 5.

Charles IX. .....MR. MALCOLM CHERRY
Henry de Bourbon .....MR. FRED TERRY
Henry (Duc de Guise) .....MR. A. E. ANSON
Henry (Duc d'Anjou) ..MR. HARRY F. WRIGHT
Arthur de Mouhy .....MR. WALTER EDWIN
Cosmo Ruggieri .....MR. HORACE HODGES
Marshal de Tavannes ..MR. J. CARTER-EDWARDS
Duc de Biragues .....MR. GEORGE DUDLEY
Duc de Retz .....MR. MAURICE TOSH
Duc de la Rochefoucauld ....MR. C. R. GIBSON
M. des Valles .....MR. MAURICE ELVEY
M. de Besme .....MR. PHILIP MERIVALE
Nançay .....MR. SYDNEY PORTER
Page .....MR. R. EASTEN PICKERING
Catherine de Medici ....MISS MARION STERLING
Marie Belleforet .....MISS KATHLEEN DOYLE
Charlotte de Sauve .....MISS GLADYS GARDNER
La Belle Dayole .....MISS MARY JENNINGS
Mlle. de Montmorenci ....MISS GWEN THOMAS
Mlle. de Torigni .....MISS BEATRICE MANNING
Marguerite de Valois .....MISS MIRIAM LEWES

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Mr. Fred Terry and all concerned gained hearty congratulations on the initial performance of *Henry of Navarre*, which took place at Newcastle-on-Tyne on the evening of the 5th inst. The author has been happy in his choice of a character for an actor of the arts and graces of Mr. Fred Terry for, beyond the limits of our own English heroes of history, there are few men who have been so indulgently lauded in song and story as King Henry of Navarre. The play opens with a scene at the Louvre, where is hatched a plot to draw the Huguenots to Paris on the occasion of the marriage of Marguerite de Valois and Henry of Navarre. Few but Henry himself regard the proposed union as a case in which love is to count for anything, King Charles being a cowardly party, reluctant perhaps, but conscious, to the massacre inspired by Catherine de Medici. There is a capital scene between Henry and Margot, when the affianced parties meet for the first time since childhood, and Henry convinces his betrothed, much to her surprise, that he really loves her, and she begins to realise that here is the man for whom she had hoped. The dawn of their happiness, however, is marred by a hint of the woman's complicity in the plot which is to rid France of the Huguenots for ever.

In the second act the marriage has been accomplished, and Henry, more in love with his wife than ever, learns of the devices by which the Queen-Mother hopes to compass his death, but a staunch friend is found in Ruggieri, as astrologist, by whose means Henry is able to detect the poisoned cup that is meant for him, and by an artful subterfuge he is at the same time to betray the secret of the crafty and vengeful Catherine.

A romantic intrigue is allied to the political interests of the third act, which depicts the outcome of a failure of Margot to fathom the depths of her husband's resource in circumventing his enemies; and Henry surprises the Duc de Guise, when he is bent upon dishonouring Margot. It is Henry who saves the Duc, for the King, entering the chamber to trap the Duc and rate his sister, discovers that the man in hiding in the room is none other than the devoted husband, who has been enabled at one stroke to save his wife's honour, to humiliate his enemy, and to further ingratiate himself with the King, who had always admired his manly brother-in-law. The fourth act finds the King depressed by the prophecies of Ruggieri, who foretells his death and the eventual accession of Henry to the throne of France, whilst at the same time Catherine tries to hasten the hour of the massacre. The King gives the order that every Huguenot having a white band on his arm and a white cross in his cap shall be safe—the rest must die. The idea of the massacre in the streets is realistically conveyed, and meanwhile in the Louvre there are stirring doings, Henry again having the better of his difference with Guise, and for a time, at any rate, owing his life to the trick whereby Margot makes him the unwitting wearer of the white cross. The play closes with the King's remorse as he realises the horror of the night's massacre, and Henry and Margot are at last brought together in perfect love. The end is reached effectively. Ruggieri, the astrologer, assures Henry that his star is shining brightly:—"It first shone at your birth, but never so brightly as now. Your perils are past; sire, you will be king." Margot, turning to her husband, hails him as "My King!" and Henry greeting her as "My Queen! My queen of Marguerites!" the curtain falls.

From his first appearance in the Ante-Room of the Louvre to the final scene in the apartments of his wife, Marguerite de Valois, Mr. Terry delighted his admirers by the masterly manner in which he handled his new rôle, and his Henry of Navarre may be recorded as one of his finest studies. Miss Miriam Lewes, in the absence of Miss Julia Neilson, shared with Mr. Terry the honours of the evening, and as Marguerite de Valois her charm and graceful delineation of the character was warmly appreciated. The weak and vacillating yet passionate King Charles was admirably portrayed by Mr. Malcolm Cherry; whilst Mr. A. E. Anson (Duc de Guise), Mr. Walter Edwin (De Mouhy, a Huguenot leader), and Mr. Harry F. Wright (Duc d'Anjou) sustained their respective rôles with ability. Mr. Horace Hodges as Ruggieri (an astrologer) played with his usual incisive force; and Catherine de Medici, the Queen-Mother, as interpreted by Miss Marion Sterling, was an able study. Miss Kathleen Doyle as Marie, Marguerite's maid, gave a piquant and charming personation; and other leading characters were capably filled. The fashionable audience which filled the theatre proved kindly from the first, and at the end recalled Mr. Terry again and again until he expressed his thanks.

STEINWAY HALL.

The Misses Nella Gunning, Kato van der Hoeven, and Johanna Heymann gave an afternoon concert at Steinway Hall on Wednesday, which was largely attended. In Beethoven's Trio for piano, violin, and 'cello, No. 1, in E flat major, the three ladies were associated with excellent results, the fine echerzo and lively finale being particularly well played. Miss Kato van der Hoeven gave Marcello's Sonata, G minor, for violoncello, in which her performance of the largo was most successful. Miss Johanna Heymann is a brilliant executant, but in her piano solo of Schubert's Impromptu in B flat hardly realised the poetry of that masterly work, her best efforts being the charming "Minuet" from Edward German's *Merrie England* Dances and Two Pieces for the Harpischord (Scarlatti). The old Italian composer Nardini was represented in the programme by his Sonata in D major for violin, played by Miss Nella Gunning with good effect, although the clever young performer produced a somewhat rough tone. In the larghetto and quaint allegretto grazioso Miss Gunning proved herself a facile executant, and was heartily applauded. Miss Kato van der Hoeven, the 'cellist, also played "Tre Giorni" (Pergolese), Minuet (Valensin), and Max Bruch's popular "Kol Nidrei," and Miss Johanna Heymann was again heard in Chopin's Nocturne, Op. 27, No. 1, and Valse, A flat major (Moszkowski). Mr. Reginald Clarke was the accompanist.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

A CHAT WITH MR. W. YATES GREGORY.

"So, Mr. Gregory, you have taken over the control of Shrewsbury Theatre Royal, and purpose not only to give 'Proud Salopians' the best dramatic and variety fare available, but by bringing your long experience to bear upon the undertaking, to make the concern a sound and progressive commercial success?"

"Such is my intention if it be within the bounds of possibility to do so."

"May I ask, Mr. Gregory, having regard to your successes elsewhere, what lines you purpose going on here?"

"That depends largely upon circumstances: human life is largely a matter of environment, and experience of the world, particularly in matters theatrical, has taught me to be cautious in speculation. I am fully aware that in an old town like Shrewsbury one has to carefully consider local conservatism and provincial susceptibilities when introducing innovations; but it is my intention to periodically provide a brighter form of entertainment than the usual run of drama; in short, to please the public with bright vaudeville shows, pretty, artistic, and, above all things, clean. One of my chief ideas is to run two shows a night, which, I think, will prove cheaper and more attractive to the public while at the same time more remunerative alike to the profession and management."

"That will certainly be an innovation at Shrewsbury."

"Yes; and in my judgment, born of experience, I am convinced that it will sooner or later—sooner than later I think—prove that my opinion is the correct one. It is thus: times have changed—whether for better or worse I do not pretend to say. Problem plays do not appeal to the average public; Shakespearean and classical plays cease to attract the many; melodrama with the inevitable vicious villain, impossible hero, and hysterical heroine, have, I should imagine, almost had their day; and to cater successfully for all classes one must put on bright witty musical trifles; not fourth-rate, mind you, but the best that can be obtained upon remunerative terms, and I am convinced that such talent is available. Nay, I have elsewhere proved that such is the case: it is only a matter of judgment in selection. I have been an enterpreteur for very many years, and I am able to engage people—not necessarily acknowledged professional stars—who have sufficient talent and discrimination to give the public a bright, healthy, and up-to-date performance which they will thoroughly appreciate and willingly pay for: a light form of entertainment, chiefly perhaps song and dance, quip and crank, something that does not make folk think or weep. Life to-day is gloomy enough in all conscience: there is drama and to spare in the world, why 'tear the passion to rags' on the stage? People will come to be amused if you can give them bright and healthy shows, in proof of which I have only to recall the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. That, of course, is but an illustration of my meaning. We English are a stoical people as compared with the French, and we take our pleasures sadly, but the public in this country are beginning to appreciate lighter forms of entertainment than the plays which have been going the rounds year after year. Let me, however, say again, and most emphatically say, that while introducing this class of entertainment, it is my absolute intention that what I am responsible for putting on shall be of the cleanest, brightest, and best that it is in my power to secure."

"I am delighted to hear you say so, and I heartily wish you success."

"Now it would, I am sure, interest many readers of *The Era*, more particularly those who are in the profession, to know something of your career and your experiences. How long have you been connected with the theatrical profession?"

"All my life practically, and my family before me. My grandfather was for forty years acting-manager of the Theatre Royal, Birmingham; my cousin, the late Mr. Mercer H. Simpson, was lessee of that theatre, and for six years I was his acting-manager. My father was manager for Day's Concert Hall, and at that time there were but three recognised music halls in the country, the others being the Star, Liverpool, and the Scotia, Glasgow. I assisted my father in the managemnt of Day's, Birmingham. Later, I was for six years manager for Miss Ada Alexander for all the South Wales Hippodromes, and I have travelled with my own productions through the provinces, one of my most successful ventures being *The Veterans*, which went well in many of the principal halls. Among other concerns I am at the present time manager for Hale's Tours of the World, holding the rights in connection with the same in Ireland and the Isle of Man. These are now running at New Brighton, Belfast, and elsewhere. A new enterprise in which I am largely interested, financially and otherwise, as managing director, is the New Palace Theatre, Wrexham, now being built, which it is hoped will be completed in the early part of next year, and which will be one of the finest appointed and best equipped theatres in the provinces."

"You evidently have your time fully occupied, Mr. Gregory, but, of course, have reliable gentlemen to assist you in the management of these enterprises?"

"Yes, fortunately that is so. Mr. Thomas Baugh here is my general manager, and he has wide experience of variety entertainments.

"With regard to my latest undertaking, Shrewsbury Theatre Royal and Hippodrome, we obtained the sanction of the magistrates for certain structural improvements, and these have already been made; while I am having better electric lighting arrangements and new scenery painted.

"I understand, Mr. Gregory, that you are retaining the services, as resident-manager, of Mr. W. C. Dornton, who has been manager of Shrewsbury Theatre for five years, and who has family connections here?"

"Quite right. Mr. Dornton comes of an old theatrical family, and I have known him for nearly twenty years. We first met at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, his father then being lessee, and the former was acting-manager. I sincerely trust that our business connection may prove mutually advantageous, and that the new venture will be permanently successful. I am determined that so far as lies in my power I shall endeavour to make it so.

"In conclusion, I will say just one word to my colleagues, the brotherhood and sisterhood of the profession. While 'business is business,' I intend to have due regard to the comfort and well-being of touring companies and variety entertainers who may be in Shrewsbury, and I shall make it my personal duty to cater adequately for their requirements."

DE QUINCEY wrote of Helen Faucit (Mrs. Theodore Martin) in 1845: "Then, suddenly—oh heavens! what a revelation of beauty!—forth stepped, walking in brightness, the most faultless of Grecian marbles, Miss Helen Faucit, as Antigone. What perfection of Athenian sculpture!—the noble figure, the lovely arms, the fluent drapery! What an unveiling of the ideal statuesque! Is it Hebe? Is it Aurora? Is it a goddess that moves before us? Perfect she is in form; perfect in attitude:

'Beautiful exceedingly,
Like a ladye from a far countrie!'

It flattered one's patriotic feelings to see this noble young countrywoman realising so exquisitely, and restoring to our imagination the noblest of Grecian girls!"

"GIVE A MAN A CHANCE."

Romantic Episode, by Frederick Maxwell, produced for the first time at the Leicester Pavilion Theatre, on Monday, Nov. 9.

Hal Kenyon }
Jack Kenyon } .....MR. FRED MAXWELL
Mr. Darsay .....MR. MURRAY YORKE
Willie Darsay .....MR. DENNIS CLYDE
Joe Hooker .....MR. FIELD FISHER
Wang .....MR. FRED DARNTON
Loanda .....MISS LOIS DU CANE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Leicester audiences expect much from Mr. Frederick Maxwell, and on Monday evening there were two big houses, in anticipation of this author-actor's new production, *Give a Man a Chance*. The verdict as to the popularity of his latest venture was never in doubt, as it met with a most enthusiastic reception from all sections of the delighted audiences, thus adding another to the many successes this gifted gentleman has achieved. The story is well told and is of a thoroughly interesting nature.

The scene represents the office of the new River Saw Mills in British Columbia. Mr. Darsay, the owner, receives a visit from Joe Hooker, who is about to marry a negress (his landlady), but not enjoying the prospect of matrimony, expresses his determination to commit suicide after the ceremony. Upon this incident a strong vein of comedy is introduced. Willie (Mr. Darsay's son) arrives from Silver Falls with the news that his uncle, Mr. Darsay's brother, has been found murdered, and that a man known as Rodney Dene is wanted for the crime. A masked cowboy is seen to enter and hide. Loanda, an Indian girl whom Mr. Darsay has befriended, and who has been betrothed, is left alone in the office, when the cowboy comes from his hiding-place, and, taking off his mask, reveals himself to Loanda as "Rodney Dene." Now it appears that Mr. Darsay has an overseer and general manager of his mills, one Jack Kenyon, whom Loanda loves. This Jack Kenyon is a twin-brother of "Hal," known as Rodney Dene, and the man wanted for shooting Mr. Darsay's brother. Loanda believes that Jack Kenyon—who found her at the point of death some months previously—is her former lover, Rodney Dene, and she has been content and happy to be near him at the mills. Seeing now Kenyon (as she thinks), she is perplexed to find him hiding and attired in cowboy's dress, with his face masked, in Mr. Darsay's office. Hal, or "Rodney Dene," realises that she mistakes him for his brother, and decides not to reveal his identity. He tells Loanda that Mr. Darsay's brother had betrayed his wife at Silver Falls, and that she and his child had been drowned in flying from his home. For this he had shot Mr. Darsay's brother, and had sworn to take similar revenge on Darsay himself, but discovering Darsay to be a really good and just man at heart he decides not to kill him; but to enable him to make a fresh start in life he proposes to Loanda that they shall fly together with the money Mr. Darsay has placed in the safe. This Loanda stoutly refuses to do, and Dene, enraged, fires, and she falls wounded. Realising what he has done, Hal is overcome with remorse. He conceals the cash in his brother's desk, and hides in the store-room, in the hope of being able to escape later. Mr. Darsay enters, discovers Loanda unconscious, and is demanding where Kenyon, his overseer, is, when Jack Kenyon arrives, Loanda recovering, dumbly indicates to Kenyon (believing him to be Dene) that she will not betray him. Kenyon cannot understand her manner, and Mr. Darsay, finding suspicious evidence and noting Loanda's manner, accuses Kenyon of robbery. At this Willie enters, and, seeing Kenyon, denounces him as the murderer, Rodney Dene. Loanda, realising that her lover is accused, in a frenzied passion threatents to kill any who try to arrest him, and Kenyon entreats them to give him a chance of proving his innocence. Mr. Darsay agrees, and, at Kenyon's request, is left alone in the office. Kenyon, realising that this is really the work of his twin brother, Hal, decides to help him out of it, in fulfilment of a promise he had made to their dying mother. Loanda returns, stealthily, and entreats Kenyon to escape, when she is amazed to see Rodney Dene emerge from the store-room and go to his brother, and demand the money which he has placed in Jack's desk. Jack refuses, and Hal strikes his brother senseless, and escapes with the gold. Jack, recovering, reveals the truth to Loanda; but, to save his brother, decides to take the guilt upon himself by secretly leaving the mills. Meanwhile Hal has been caught in the act of escaping, and is hotly pursued, and hunted back to Mr. Darsay's office, where he confesses his guilt, explaining the circumstances under which he took the life of Mr. Darsay's brother. Realising that Hal has been deeply wronged, it is now resolved to save him from the military. Joe Hooker, anxious to escape from his coloured bride, seizes the opportunity to take Hal's place, and is carried off by the military after a desperate struggle. Thus Joe Hooker escapes his wife, and Hal Kenyon gets another chance.

We have nothing but the highest praise to bestow upon Mr. Frederick Maxwell for his powerful character-acting in the dual rôles of Hal Kenyon and Jack Kenyon, in which he throughout scored a conspicuous success. He was admirably seconded by Miss Lois Du Cane (Mrs. Maxwell) as the Indian girl, Loanda. She played in a charming manner a strong part, and looked very attractive in her picturesque Indian dress. Mr. Field Fisher, in the comedy part of Joe Hooker, kept the ball of merriment rolling, and did excellent work. Mr. Murray Yorke was very good as Mr. Darsay, and Mr. Dennis Clyde deserves special commendation as Mr. Darsay's son, Willie. Mr. Fred Darnton made a capital impression as Wang.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

At the concert given by the students on Wednesday evening, Mr. J. B. Molyneux's organ solo, Concerto No. 2, in B flat (Handel), received well-merited applause, and Miss Florence Simpkins was equally successful in her violoncello solo, Sonata in A (Boccherini). "My Ships," sung by Miss Constance Cuthbert with praiseworthy finish and purity of intonation, gained for the young vocalist a hearty recall. A very youthful and clever mandoline pupil of Madame Waldahoff played Ten Have's "Allegro" with admirably neat execution, and had a most enthusiastic greeting from the large audience. The passionate sentiment of Coleridge-Taylor's song "Eleanöre" was cleverly interpreted by Mr. Eric R. Cooper, and Miss Bessie Hayward gave an excellent account of Schubert's charming song "Who is Sylvia?" In the first movement from Beethoven's Sonata, No. 1, Op. 31, for piano, Miss Florence B. Minnis did great credit to her professor, while Miss Gladys McAusland's two violin solos, "Adagio" (Ries) and Mlynarski's "Mazur" were very attractive features in the programme. Other clever students were Mr. G. J. Allbright, who played W. Faulkes's "Air and Variations in G" for organ, and Miss Edith White, who was set down for the song "I long for you" (Bischoff). The concert was agreeably varied by a clever recitation, "The Cattle Thief" (Pauline Johnson), given by Miss Annie Walden, a pupil of Miss Kate Rorke. Miss Jenny Hyman was the accompanist.

THE Duke of Schleswig-Holstein and Princess Louise-Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein witnessed at the Adelphi on Monday evening the performance of *The Only Way*.

THE ADVERTISEMENTS REGULATION ACT, 1907.

CONFERENCE AT SPRING GARDENS.

A Conference between representatives of the London County Council and the Metropolitan Borough Councils was held at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, on the 5th inst. The Conference considered the draft by-laws under Section 2 of the Advertisements Regulation Act, 1907.

These draft by-laws, which had been prepared with the view of affording a basis for discussion, and have not been submitted to or approved by the Council, were as follows:—

Draft by-laws under Section 2 (1) of the Advertisements Regulation Act, 1907, for the regulation and control of hoardings and similar structures used for the purpose of advertising when they exceed twelve feet in height.

Definitions.—1. In these by-laws unless the context otherwise requires:

"advertisement hoarding" means any hoarding or similar structure, or any part thereof, exceeding 12 feet in height, on or over any land, house, building, structure, street, or public place, and used for the purpose of advertisement.

"advertisement" means any word, letter, model, sign, placard, board, notice, device, or representation, in the nature of or employed wholly or in part for the purpose of advertisement, announcement, or direction.

"height" in relation to any advertisement hoarding means the measurement taken from the general level of the ground beneath such hoarding to the top of such hoarding.

"street" includes any highway, and any road, bridge, lane, path, footway, mews, square, court, alley, or passage, whether a thoroughfare or not.

"metropolitan borough council" means the metropolitan borough council in whose district an advertisement hoarding is erected or fixed or intended to be erected or fixed.

2. No person shall erect or fix or cause to be erected or fixed any advertisement hoarding without first obtaining the approval in writing of the metropolitan borough council to the construction thereof and to the manner in which such hoarding is to be erected or fixed.

3. No person shall erect, fix, or retain or cause to be erected, fixed, or retained any advertisement hoarding so as to be at a distance from any street less than the height of such hoarding above twelve feet from the level of such street. Provided that this by-law shall not apply to any advertisement hoarding affixed to the external wall of any building, and not projecting on or over the public way.

4. No person shall erect, fix, or retain, or cause to be erected, fixed or retained, any advertisement hoarding so as to project or be on or over the public way or more than three inches beyond the general line of buildings in any street or part of a street, place, or row of houses.

5. No person shall erect, fix, or retain, or cause to be erected, fixed, or retained, any advertisement hoarding to a greater height than twenty feet.

6. The owner of and any person in receipt of any rents or profits from the use of any advertisement hoarding shall maintain such hoarding in a proper state of repair and security, and in all respects to the satisfaction of the metropolitan borough council.

7. No person shall exhibit, or cause to be exhibited, on any advertisement hoarding, any advertisement which is illuminated by artificial light either continuously or intermittently.

8. No person shall exhibit, or cause to be exhibited, on any advertisement hoarding, any advertisement that is not placed on, or upon, or affixed to such hoarding in a neat and orderly manner and is not surrounded with a suitable plain margin of a width not less than one-fourth of the least dimension of such advertisement.

9. Where the metropolitan borough council is satisfied that any advertisement exhibited on any advertisement hoarding is so unsighly, torn or defaced that it should be removed from such hoarding, the person exhibiting such advertisement, and, in his default, the owner of and any person in receipt of any rents or profits from the use of such hoarding shall on receiving notice in writing to that effect from the metropolitan borough council remove such advertisement within such time as may be specified in such notice.

10. The owner of and any person in receipt of any rents or profits from the use of any advertisement hoarding shall when required by the metropolitan borough council furnish the name and address of any person exhibiting any advertisement on such hoarding.

11. Any advertisement hoarding in use at the time of the making of these by-laws and any advertisement exhibited at such time shall be exempt from the operation of these by-laws for a period of five years from the date of the confirmation thereof.

12. Nothing in these by-laws shall apply to any hoarding used for the purpose of any advertisement in pursuance of a licence granted by a metropolitan borough council or other authority under any statutory powers in that behalf, or to any hoarding erected or set up for the purpose of any building operation so long as such hoarding is used for such purpose.

13. These by-laws shall apply to the whole of the administrative County of London excluding the City of London.

Draft by-laws under Section 2 (2) of the Advertisements Regulation preventing the exhibition of advertisements so as to affect injuriously a public park or pleasure promenade or to disfigure the natural landscape.

1. In these by-laws unless the context otherwise requires: "advertisement" means any word, letter, model, sign, placard, board, notice, device, or representation, in the nature of or employed wholly or in part for the purpose of advertisement, announcement or direction.

2. No person shall exhibit any advertisement so as to affect injuriously the amenities of any public park or pleasure promenade, or so that such advertisement or any hoarding or similar structure on which such advertisement is exhibited may be seen by any person in or on such places.

3. No person shall exhibit any advertisement so as to disfigure the natural beauty of any landscape.

4. Any advertisement exhibited at the time of the making of these by-laws shall be exempt from the operation of these by-laws for a period of five years from the date of the confirmation thereof.

4. These by-laws shall apply to the whole of the administrative County of London excluding the City of London.

NOTE.—Under Section 10 of the above-mentioned Act, if any person acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any by-law made under the Act, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a penalty not exceeding five pounds and to a penalty not exceeding twenty shillings for every day during which the offence is continued after his conviction thereof.

The Conference sat about three hours; there was an animated discussion, and numerous proposed alterations were brought forward, which will in due course be considered by the Building Act Committee in the light of the opinions expressed at the Conference.

A number of gentlemen interested in the matter under discussion were present at the Conference.

THE Central Theatre, Northwich, is closed for the next two or three weeks for extensive alterations.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM has been elected first president of the Eccentric Club, and will occupy the chair at the anniversary dinner to be held at the Hotel Cecil on Sunday next. Sir Charles, it is interesting to add, has decided to give one more representation of his version of *David Garrick* at the New Theatre on Thursday next. Miss Mary Moore will also be in the cast.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE will keep Christmas at His Majesty's by the production of a seasonable play called *Pinkie and the Fairies*. The fantasy is in three acts, and is written by Mr. Graham Robertson, whose pen has been pleasantly employed in some charming picture books, and the music is by Mr. Frederick Norton, the entertainer. The action is divided between London suburbs and Fairyland, so that it may be presumed that an agreeable mixture of the real and the fanciful will be presented. Miss Iris Hawkins and Master Philip Tonge will play the two principal juvenile parts, and a strong cast will be engaged in the representation, in which, however, Mr. Tree will not himself appear.

PREPARATIONS for the institution of the Afternoon Theatre at His Majesty's Theatre are actively proceeding, and rehearsals have begun of *Hannele*, which is to be the initial production. The title-rôle will be played by Miss Marie Löhr, whose youth, beauty, and delicacy should ensure a rendering of exquisite effect. The first performance, it may be added, is fixed for Tuesday, Dec. 8, and the play will be repeated on the afternoons of the following Thursday and Friday.

MR. CYRIL MAUDE was the first of the trio of London actor-managers to fulfil the series of "command" performances. Three vanloads of scenery for *The Flag Lieutenant* went by road to Sandringham on Wednesday, and the properties, uniforms, and costumes, filling two covered vans, were sent by train yesterday in time for the performance in the evening. The programme that confronted the company from midday yesterday was a formidable one. The arrangements were as follows:—Leave St. Pancras 12.20 p.m., lunch on train 1 p.m, arrive Wolferton 3.30 p.m., arrive Sandringham 4 p.m., rehearsal 5.30 p.m., dinner 7.45 p.m., performance 10 p.m., supper 12.30 a.m., leave Wolferton (Saturday) 2 a.m., arrive St. Pancras 4.35 a.m., matinée at Playhouse 2.30 p.m., evening performance 8.30 p.m.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER and Miss Violet Vanbrugh will return to the Garrick on Feb. 2, when Henry Bernstein's four-act play *Samson* will be produced. The piece was a great success at the Paris Renaissance, where it was seen last year by Mr. Charles Frohman, who invited Mr. Bourchier to join him in producing it in London, with himself and his wife in the leading parts. The adaptation into English was made by Mr. William Gillette, who is making a great success in the title-rôle at the Criterion Theatre, New York. The scenes are all laid in Paris, and the action is described as taking place in that city "not long ago." The London production of *An Outsider*, which Mr. Bourchier recently tried in Manchester, has been deferred till after the run of *Samson*.

MISS LENA ASHWELL will bring to a close the present run of *The Sway Boat* at the Kingsway Theatre with the two performances on Saturday next, and will produce on the following Tuesday a new play by H. Herman Chilton, entitled *Grit*. In addition to Miss Ashwell, the cast will consist of Miss Kate Rorke, Miss Frances Ivor, Miss Nannie Bennett, Mr. C. M. Hallard, Mr. Dennis Eadie, Mr. Ernest Cosham, Mr. H. Athol Forde, and Mr. Norman McKinnel. Booking for *Grit* has already begun, playgoers availing themselves largely of the convenience that seats may be reserved in all parts of the theatre.

MR. EDWARD TERRY brought a highly successful visit to Belfast to a close at the Theatre Royal on Saturday night, when the house was crowded, and the reception accorded the performance was of a most enthusiastic character. The programme consisted of *Kerry* and *The Magistrate*. In answer to demands for a speech, Mr. Terry expressed gratitude for the sympathy shown to him in his "dilapidated and undignified condition as a magistrate." "I must, however," he added, "discharge a very pleasant function, and that is to thank you very heartily for the way you always receive me and my company. It is always a great pleasure to me to give something of a novelty, and I think you thoroughly appreciated *Fiander's Widow*. I may be allowed to say, as an admirer of the piece myself, if you did not appreciate *Fiander's Widow* you are no Irishmen. If I am allowed to come back again, and to cement our acquaintance—and that cement is not likely to become broken—I hope in the future I shall always receive that kind, friendly, and loving greeting which I have at all times received at your hands."

MISS CARRIE MOORE, who is playing Sonia in *The Merry Widow* in Australia, was quietly married on Sept. 29 to Mr. P. P. Bigwood, a young Englishman who recently settled in New Zealand. When asked by a local reporter as to what her intentions were, Mrs. Bigwood said: "Of course, I'm going to leave the stage; not immediately, but at the conclusion of *The Merry Widow*. I am already under engagement to appear in Christchurch, and at a pantomime at the Adelphi Theatre, London. Consequently, I will have to fulfil that first. I will fill the principal rôle in the pantomime, and then it is 'Good-bye' to the stage for ever."

MISS MOORE was born in New South Wales, and had the distinction in Australia of being the youngest singer who ever appeared in leading parts in Sydney and Melbourne, where she played with J. C. Williamson's Comic Opera Company. As a girl of fourteen she appeared in the Sydney pantomime *Djin-Djin* in 1896, and three years later sang Maid Marian in *Robin Hood*, with Miss Florence Perry as Annabel. Miss Moore came to England in the August of 1903, and immediately went on tour with Mr. George Edwardes's *San Toy* company.

THE September of the same year witnessed her début in London, when she replaced Miss Letty Lind as Ellen in *The Girl from Kay's* at the Apollo. She played Naitooma in *The Cingalee* through its long run at Daly's, and Millicent Leroy in *The Blue Moon* at the Lyric, and was one of the fascinating pair in *The Dairymaids* produced at the Apollo in 1906. Her success as Honour in *Tom Jones* at the same theatre is of recent memory. Last Christmas Miss Moore played the Prince in *Cinderella* at Birmingham, and, as indicated above, will be in this year's pantomime at the Adelphi. Miss Moore sailed with her husband for England on the 4th inst.

MR. SEYMOUR HICKS is offering a substantial reward for the recovery of the greyhound which has played throughout the run of *The Gay Gordons* and was to have been with him at the Kennington Theatre this week. After playing at the Coronet on Saturday night last, the animal was being taken to the Kennington Theatre in charge of the keeper, when it became frightened by a rapidly-driven motor-car, and bolted. The dog answers to the name of Brandy, and the search should consequently be a "spirited" one.

LIBERAL support is assured to Mr. Cyril Maude, when he takes the chair at the eighteenth annual dinner of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, in the Whitehall Rooms on Sunday, Dec. 13. Mr. Maude has fixed upon a Sunday in order that the members of the theatrical profession may be able to attend, and no effort is being spared to make the gathering a record one.

MISS DOLORES DRUMMOND, who is to be given a benefit matinée at the Playhouse on Nov. 20 upon her retirement after a stage career of over half a century, was originally intended to be an artist, but she took to the stage at eighteen. Speaking of her childhood days she said: "I used to read Shakespeare to my mother. We were not exactly rich; in fact, all day long, perhaps, I had to be content with half a dozen biscuits and a glass of water. But I got to know my Shakespeare nearly by heart, and when the leading lady in a touring company fell ill I was able—after a fashion—to play Ophelia at a moment's notice."

PLENTY of hard work has fallen to the lot of the estimable actress, who first appeared in London at the Standard with Mr. W. H. Pennington as Hermione in *A Winter's Tale*, in November, 1874. "In those days," she said "we used to be satisfied with anything from £3 to £6 a week, and make our own clothes into the bargain. Many a time I sat up all night making a dress and learning a part at the same time. Nowadays gorgeous dresses are supplied, and many people draw very large salaries." The programme for the matinée will include many leading West-end artists.

MR. ARTHUR COLLINS has signed a contract with Mr. Cecil Raleigh and Mr. Henry Hamilton by which they are retained for next year's autumn drama at Drury Lane, and an option upon their services is secured for a similar production the following year. Mr. Raleigh and Mr. Hamilton have arranged to spend Christmas together in Portugal, in order to facilitate the acquirement of fresh material and local colour for their new piece for the Lane.

THE Managers' Club committee held a meeting at their rooms, Savoy Mansions, Strand, on the 6th inst., when there were present Mr. Leveaux (in the chair), Messrs. Paumier, Lambert, Weathersby, Carey, Graham Falcon, Howard Kelly, Muskerry Tilson, hon. solicitor, and Martin, secretary. The following gentlemen were elected members:—Mr. F. Payne-Palmer, Mr. A. H. Bennell, Mr. Ralph W. Hutton, Mr. Ivan Cleveland, Mr. C. T. Doe, and Mr. Harry Joseph.

A MEETING of the committee of the Touring Managers' Association was held at the Club on the same day. Present:—Mr. M. V. Leveaux (in the chair), Messrs. Weathersby, Falcon, Phillips, Lambert, Kelly, Paumier, Howard, Muskerry Tilson, hon. solicitor, and Martin, secretary. The secretary reported an interview he had had with the theatrical representative of the Great Eastern Railway, in reference to Mr. Percy Hutchison's complaint, and was instructed to ask the Great Northern and Midland Joint Company to communicate on the matter with the Great Eastern Railway, so that the trouble should not occur again.

MR. LEVEAUX brought forward the question of traders' tickets, and it was decided to write to the Clearing-house Association and the railway companies, to ask if the privilege of travelling at three-quarter fare cannot be extended to managers of touring companies when visiting the towns in which they are performing.

THE secretary was instructed to write to the Lord Chamberlain in reference to the new clause, *re* Sunday Entertainments, introduced into theatrical licences, and to ask if public performances would be permitted under the licence, and under what circumstances.

THE ninth annual dinner of the O.P. Club will take place at the Criterion on Sunday, when Miss Hilda Trevelyan and Mr. Gerald Du Maurier will be the guests of the evening. Miss Lillah McCarthy will respond on behalf of "The Ladies," and Mr. Sidney Dark will propose the toast of Mr. Max Pemberton, the chairman.

MR. W. CLARKSON again scored a triple event at Covent Garden Ball on the 6th inst., when he gained first prize for a dress entitled "The Dainty Firework," second for "Queen of the Balkans," and third for "Christmas Greetings to our Colonies." Each confection reflected the ingenuity of the popular costumier and won general admiration.

A MODIFICATION has been made by Mr. Tom B. Davis of his rule regarding the matinée hat at the Queen's Theatre, and in future ladies over fifty will be allowed to wear bonnets, providing they are close fitting and do not obstruct the view of others. The concession was in deference to a letter received from an elderly lady, who preferred, in the interests of her health, to leave the theatre last Saturday rather than remove her small bonnet.

THE campaign in Italy has at length been brought to a conclusion, and the downfall of the Brobdingnagian bonnet is assured. The Prefect has re-enforced an ancient by-law, according to which all ladies witnessing public entertainments in theatres and music halls from any part of the house, with the sole exception of private boxes, are obliged to remove their headgear under penalty of expulsion. The management, on its part, is obliged to make suitable provision for the storage of ladies' hats free of charge.

THE full cast of *The Antelope*, by Adrian Ross and Hugo Felix, with which Mr. Henry R. Smith will inaugurate his tenancy of the Waldorf Theatre on Saturday, the 28th inst., will consist of Messrs. Fred Wright, jun., Farren Soutar, Fred Emney, John Brabourne, and J. Cannot, and Misses Maudie Thornton, Florence Lloyd, Hilda Stewart, Kitty Gordon, Jose Collins, Vivienne West, Ethel Oliver, Dorothy Monkman, Beatrice Read, and Lily Mills. The three acts will be laid respectively at the reception room of the Antelope Agency, at an artist's studio at Kensington, and at a houseboat on the upper Thames.

"THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE" will be revived by Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, at the Savoy, on Tuesday evening, December 1. Mr. Rutland Barrington will be again seen in an original creation, that of the Sergeant of Police, and other Savoyards will take part in the performance. The cast will include Mr. C. H. Workman, Mr. Henry A. Lytton, Mr. Leo Sheffield, Mr. Henry Herbert, Miss Dorothy Court, Miss Jessie Rose, Miss Beatrice Boarer, Miss Ethel Lewis, and Miss Louie René. *Iolanthe* will be played up to Saturday, Nov. 28, the theatre being closed on the following Monday.

MISS ROSE MONCRIEFF writes:—"In the interest of other companies who may be booked at the Hippodrome Theatre, Mansfield, shall feel obliged if you will insert this letter. On June 2 I received a contract from Mr. Herbert Darnley for my *Bells of Old York* company to open at above six nights Nov. 9. On Oct. 26 my business-manager forwarded plots, copy for day bill, printing, &c., with the result the former were returned a week later by the caretaker unopened and written on the back 'Closed; no dramatic licence.' It was then too late to book another date, so have consequently had to pay my company being out the week. I have since ascertained that this place was closed on July 4, and the management have not in any way intimated the fact."

"BREWSTER'S MILLIONS," as played by Mr. Percy Hutchison and his clever company, continues to meet with unvarying success everywhere. The company finished on Saturday a most successful week at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, where for the fifteenth time in succession all previous Hutchison records were broken. The same thing occurred at Cambridge the preceding week, hundreds of undergraduates being turned away on the Saturday night. Next week the play pays its first visit to the suburbs at Croydon, and later will be at the Coronet and Kennington theatres, when Londoners will be able to renew acquaintance with one of the most mirthful and remarkable plays of the day. *Brewster's Millions* is booked well into 1910, and the play has been secured for the Easter attraction at the Court Theatre, Liverpool, and for the following year for Nottingham.

MR. D. BRANDON will give a special matinée at the Court Theatre on Wednesday, in aid of the funds of the Hospital for Sick Children. The programme will include *Priscilla*, a Georgian duologue, by Patrick Kirwan; *Winter Sport*, a new one-act play, by D. Brandon; and *The Fotheringay*, an adaptation by Patrick Kirwan from Thackeray's novel "Pendennis."

MR. W. MONTGOMERY MARTIN, the secretary of the Touring Managers' Association, having asked the Lord Chamberlain for a more explicit reply to their letter requesting him to state exactly the meaning of the new clause about Sunday performances which has been introduced into his license, has received the following reply:—"Sir,—The Lord Chamberlain desires me to thank you for your letter of the 7th inst., and to explain that the clause with regard to Sunday entertainments, which he has inserted in the regulations attached to his license does not refer to the public performance of stage plays on Sundays, which is not permitted under any conditions in theatres licensed by him.—Yours faithfully, Douglas Dawson, Col., Comptroller."

MME. KATE FLINN'S opening reception of the season at the Hotel Metropole, Brighton, on Saturday afternoon, was attended by a select and fashionable gathering. Mme. Flinn is a polished exponent in the art of voice culture, and the effect of her tuition was reflected in many charming numbers rendered by her pupils. Praise must be awarded to Miss Ruby Cobbett for the masterly rendering of the gavotte from *Mignon*, for which she was encored. In response she gave "Rose in the bud" charmingly, and also delighted her hearers with "The Valley of Dreams," an as yet unpublished song. Miss Barbara Battishill sang with great sweetness and effect the two bird songs from the well-known cycle by Liza Lehmann, and for an encore sang "The night and you" in finished style. An old Italian aria also won a hearty recall, "Eyes that used to gaze in mine" being given in response. Miss Marguerita Lowinska's flexible voice was heard to much advantage in Solveig's song, with "Tu Commandes" (Chopin) for an encore, her later contributions being "April Morn," which merited a warm recall, and Liza Lehmann's "Prince Charming."

ENCORES were indeed the order of the afternoon, and a double one was conferred upon Miss Elsom, who possesses a fine voice of great promise, and rendered "Nobil Signor," from *Les Huguenots*; entertaining and clever were Miss Le Hay's songs at the piano; delightful contributions were given by Miss Nelson and her sister, Miss Gladys Nelson; Miss Chard gave a tasteful rendering of "Two Kisses"; Miss Holman added a well-executed violin solo to her vocal selections; and Miss Shroeter was exceedingly pleasing with a fairy-like chansonnette, entitled "Dainty Little Maiden." The pianoforte solos by Miss Shaw were "Scherzo" (Chopin) and "Pappelons," both evincing first-class execution. The function was brought to a close by some perfectly charming songs by Mme. Flinn, who was greeted in the warmest fashion, the audience being loath to part with her after a double encore.

MISS DORA PASS, who is playing the part of Helen Wyngate in *The Diver's Luck* at the Theatre Royal, Cardiff, last week was the recipient of several lovely bouquets and beautiful baskets of flowers from numerous friends in the town.

A GENERAL meeting of the Actors' Union has been called for Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 2.30, at the Hummums Hotel, Covent Garden, to consider the advisability of altering the method of subscription. The third dinner of the Union has been fixed for Sunday, Dec. 13. It may be pointed out that the date chosen is identical with that of the Actors' Benevolent Fund dinner.

A ROMANTIC play in four acts, entitled *The Risen Dead*, by Ridley Ryott, was produced at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, last Saturday, for copyright purposes.

MR. H. LOUIS WILSON has been engaged by Mr. Wentworth Croke as stage manager for *The Prodigal Son* second company.

MISS DOROTHY CLIFTON, who on Oct 31 terminated a successful three months' engagement with Mr. T. Edward Ward as Nell Greystone in Mr. Walter Howard's drama *Second to None*, is a young actress of great charm, whose natural, refined, and sympathetic acting has won for her many warm admirers. Although quite young, she has already played several leading parts with much success, her well-modulated voice and clear delivery winning much commendation. Brought up and educated abroad, she is an excellent linguist, and excels as a musician, singer, and dancer.

MISS MARIE LOHR, the youngest Margaret who has ever graced the English stage, reached her 75th performance at His Majesty's Theatre on Tuesday night. The charming young actress is enamoured of her part, which she considers a wonderful one. It is interesting to recall that Miss Lohr's mother, Miss Kate Bishop, who is now playing at Terry's in *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*, played Margaret when she was about twenty-five in Melbourne.

REMARKABLE scenes of enthusiasm were witnessed at the Grand Theatre, Lancaster, last week, the occasion being the first visit of H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's *Leah Kleschna* to the town. The house was crowded nightly, and at the close of the performance on Saturday night the curtain had to be raised over and over again before the audience finally dispersed.

MR. THOMAS THORNE will recommence touring with the evergreen *Our Boys* on Monday next at the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, under the management of Mr. Russell Rosse.

THE Robert Arthur Theatres Company held its eleventh annual general meeting on Monday at 24a, Regent-street, Mr. Robert Arthur (chairman and managing-director) presiding. The statement of accounts submitted showed the net income for the year to be £25,586, an increase over last year, and with £5,147 brought forward the total to be dealt with was £30,733. The sinking fund was £5,500. A sum of £8,027 was written off for depreciation and repairs and renewals to stocks and £1,365 on the re-upholstering and redecorating of the various theatres. The directors propose to declare dividends of 5 per cent. on the ordinary shares and 6 per cent. on the preference shares, add £1,000 to reserve—making that item £4,000—and carry forward £3,048. The report and accounts were adopted.

THE new comedy by Mr. C. Haddon Chambers entitled *Sir Anthony* will replace *The Early Worm* at Wyndham's on Saturday, Nov. 28, a date, it may be mentioned, that has been selected by Mr. H. C. Smith for his opening at the Waldorf. Gratifying success has already attended *Sir Anthony* in America, where it was produced a little more than a year ago. The principal part is to be played here by Mr. Weedon Grossmith, and included in the cast will be Miss Nina Boucicault, Miss Suzanne Sheldon, Mr. Edmund Maurice, and Mr. J. D. Beveridge.

MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL appeared in the title-rôle Mr. W. B. Yeats' poetic play *Deirdre* at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, on Monday, when a large and fashionable audience accorded the eminent actress a flattering reception. Mr. Fred Donovan filled the part of Fergus with credit, Miss Sara Allgood enacted the rôle of the First Musician excellently, and Mr. Arthur Sinclair was successful as Concobar. The minor parts were well filled. *The Rogueries of Scapin* preceded.

AT the close of the performance, Mr. Yeats, who was received with applause, said:—I can only say very few words, after one of the greatest experiences which can ever come to a writer—that is, to hear his words perfectly spoken and perfectly acted. It is for these experiences that we write; for these that we live. I am profoundly moved, and so you must permit me to remain silent.

MR. HUGH FLEMING will conclude at the end of this month an eight years' continuous engagement with *The Belle of New York* and *Prince of Pilsen* companies as advance manager.

MR. M. RUSSELL ROSSE has arranged with Messrs. French, Ltd., to give some special performances of *Caste* in the larger towns, anterior to its lapse of copyright. A special production will be made on Dec. 7 at the King's Theatre, Glasgow. Mr. David James will be the Eccles.

THE Guildhall School of Music Elocution Prize was gained by Miss Anais Holbrooke, and not by Miss Ethelmay Barwell-Holbrooke as was inadvertently stated. It is to Miss Holbrooke too that Mercutio's speech from *Romeo and Juliet*, which was so warmly approved at the recital last week, should have been attributed.

MR. SIDNEY COOPER sent a congratulatory message to the King on Monday morning and received the following telegram in reply: "Please convey the King's sincere thanks to your orchestra, staff, and members of Mr. George Alexander's company for their loyal congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of his Majesty's birthday.—KNOLLYS."

WE regret to learn that Mrs. F. M. Paget (née Patty Chapman) lies seriously ill at her residence at Eversleigh, Frances-road, Windsor. Much sympathy, we feel sure, will be extended to both Mr. and Mrs. Paget by their numerous friends.

MR. DAN ROLYAT has now quite recovered from his severe cold, and, like Richard, is himself again. The droll comedian is in extra good form this week, and had a terrific reception at Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, on Monday evening.

MR. ERNEST CH. GITTINS who until recently was the able acting-manager of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company for many years, has been engaged in the same capacity for Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton's company. Since his retirement from the Carl Rosa company Mr. Gittins has been successfully touring a condensed version of *The Daughter of the Regiment* and other operas on the music halls, and the company, with Mlle. Adele Prescott, the well-known soprano, as prima donna, is now playing the Moss and Stoll tour.

THE presentation of Oscar Wilde's *Salome* has been prevented in St. Petersburg by the intervention of the Holy Synod. That body at first forbade the performance altogether on the ground that it was blasphemous, but subsequently gave permission for the production if Salome were turned into an Indian Queen, if John the Baptist's head were made a king's corpse, and if Salome's dance were performed by the Queen and her dames. This mutilated version was to have been given on Wednesday last, but hardly had the performance begun when the Synod once more changed its mind, and the police stopped the play, driving the audience from the theatre. It is stated that the management will lodge a complaint against the Holy Synod for the arbitrary withdrawal of the licence issued in the regular way by the dramatic censor.

MISS DUNDAS SLATER, the eighteen-year-old daughter of the popular manager of the Coliseum, at an hour's notice was called upon to play Miss Olive May's part of Tita in *Havana* at the Gaiety Theatre on Monday night, and will retain the part during Miss May's recovery from a sprained knee. Miss Dundas Slater made the most of her opportunity, and gave a very bright and charming rendering of the character. Her experience on the boards has not been restricted to musical comedy, for she has appeared as Lady Orreyed in *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* and as Tow-Tow in *Sweet Nancy*.

MR. ERIC WILLIAMS has arranged to repeat his patriotic recital in aid of Lord Roberts's Veterans' Relief Fund, at St. Leonards on Thursday afternoon, the 26th. Major-General Sir John Campbell, Bart., C.B., has promised to attend on behalf of the veterans, and Mr. Val. Marriott's orchestra will supply the musical numbers.

THE ermine coat worn by Miss Ethel Irving in the last act of *Dolly Reforming Herself*, at the Haymarket Theatre, is composed of furs valued at more than £300, and considerable interest is attached to its acquisition by the management. When the play was first put on the coat was only hired, but the anxiety attendant upon its safety impelled the Haymarket authorities to buy it outright and insure it for nearly its full value. After each performance the coat is securely locked up in a safe.

THE pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, will be produced early in December by Mr. Robert Arthur for Mr. Fred Wyndham. The subject will be *Cinderella*, and the cast includes Mr. George Robey, Mr. Harry Dent, Mr. Willie Garvey, the Brothers Obo, and Misses Nancy Langtyre, Iris Hoey, and Meg Hamylton.

MISS ETHEL VAN PRAAGH completed her six hundredth performance of Marion in *An Unwedded Wife* on Wednesday evening at the Theatre Royal, Stratford. The performance given by the talented actress has won widespread admiration throughout.

"THE ONLY WAY" will remain in the bill at the Adelphi Theatre during next week, such a demand for seats for this revival having been made that Mr. Martin Harvey determined not to replace it with *The Breed of the Treshams*, as he had originally intended. His determination was strengthened by the fact that his time, together with that of his whole staff, is fully occupied with the numerous details of the command performance of *The Corsican Brothers* at Windsor on the 18th. The whole Adelphi staff are daily engaged at Windsor rehearsing the various effects on the stage of the Waterloo Chamber, which has had to be extensively altered in order that the various picturesque effects may be properly rendered.

A MATINÉE, organised by Miss Catherine Lewis, will be given at the New Theatre on Tuesday, in aid of Miss Olive Christian Malvery's Shelter for Homeless Women. The programme will include a one-act comedy, called *Nell Gwynne, the Player*, with Miss Jean Aylwin as Nell Gwynne, Mr. Charles Quartermaine as Charles II., and Miss Edyth Olive as the Duchess of Portsmouth. Recitations will be given by Mrs. Beerbohm Tree and Mr. Henry Ainley, and songs by Miss Marie George and Miss Ada Reeve. Songs, violin and pianoforte solos will be contributed by Miss Jessie Bristol, Miss Dinorben, Mr. Rousby Woof, Mr. Arthur L'Estrange, and Mr. Spencer Dyke, &c.

MR. HUGH MONTGOMERY has been invited to impersonate the Second Player to Mr. Forbes-Robertson's Hamlet, on the occasion of the Ristori matinée at His Majesty's on Nov. 30. Mr. Montgomery supported Mme. Ristori during both of her last English tours, and was the recipient from her of a handsome gold breast-pin.

MR. NORMAN V. NORMAN and Miss Beatrice Wilson, who were motoring with a party of friends the other day, met with an unpleasant experience, the car suddenly breaking down in the wilds of the country several miles from the nearest town. After a delay of some hours another car came to the assistance of the party, and took them in tow, Mr. Norman and Miss Wilson arriving at the theatre just in time to rush upon the stage.

AT the Gaiety Theatre, Ayr, last week Miss Irene Munroe took up the part of the Woman in Montague Beaudyn's company, *The Power of a Wicked Woman*, at twenty-four hours' notice with great success. She was highly complimented by the management.

BY the courtesy of Mr. Wentworth Croke in releasing him for the run of the pantomime, Mr. Reginald A. Hunt will be enabled to stage-manage Mr. Robert Arthur's *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle. The cast will include such favourite artists as Miss Violet Lloyd, Happy Fanny Fields, Mr. Malcolm Scott, Mr. Harry Tate, and Regan and Ryan.

IN consequence of so many members of *The Flower Girl* company being engaged for pantomime, Mr. Charles M. Bestic has decided not to run through Christmas. The successful musical comedy will resume its tour in the early spring, for which some excellent bookings have been secured.

A NEW three-act comedy entitled *The New Governess*, founded by Walter Frith on a story by Mr. G. S. Layard, will be produced at Malvern on Thursday next. Mr. Leon M. Lion, who has recently been appearing at His Majesty's, will play the principal part, and the cast will also include Mr. Rudge Harding, Mr. E. H. Kelly, Mr. H. de Lange, Mr. C. Derwent, Miss Roxy Barton, Miss Vivian Reynolds, and Miss Ina Pelly. Mr. Frith, it will be remembered, is the author of *The Man of Forty*, produced at the St. James's by Mr. George Alexander.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN returned on Wednesday from Paris, having secured the English and American rights in MM. de Croisset and Maurice Leblanc's four-act drama *Arsène Lupin*, produced at the Athénée on Oct. 28, and fully noticed in our last issue. Mr. Frohman also arranged to take up his option on Henry Bernstein's latest play, *Israel*, and secured from MM. de Caillavet and Robert de Flers, authors of *Love Watches*, their comedy to be produced shortly at the Gymnase.

EXQUISITE dresses are worn by Miss Irene Vanbrugh in *The Builder of Bridges* at the St. James's. Of simple but charming design is Miss Vanbrugh's white cloth costume in which the new draped skirt is seen at its best. In front the short tunic is buttoned down the left side for a few inches and then left open, the buttons and buttonholes being continued to the hem; while at the back it is draped from the waist in full folds which fall to the edge of the skirt. The Princess bodice is cut low in front, and is filled in with a guimpe of white net over which is buttoned a tiny vest of net of a thicker texture, gold buttons being used to fasten it. A narrow belt of the cloth finishes the dress at the waist, and is clasped by an Egyptian buckle.

THE second act finds Miss Vanbrugh in an elegant coat and skirt of rose-coloured poplin. The coat is plain at the back, and in front it has small revers of satin, and is fastened with black velvet buttons. When thrown open it shows a single-breasted waistcoat of beige-coloured moiré, fastened with the same buttons; and the long sleeves are turned back with tiny cuffs of satin. The skirt is short and plain, except that it is cut in two pieces joined with wrapped seams.

MISS VANBRUGH'S third confection is made of Delft-blue satin draped with chiffon in a most graceful manner. The most distinguished mark of the robe is the way in which the chiffon is brought over one shoulder, there to merge with the draperies in the front of the corsage. The guimpe is made of finely-tucked-net overlaid with straps of satin buttoned in their place, and the tightly-fitting sleeves are relieved by means of bands of lace insertion passed round the arms. The blue moiré antique cloak of a darker shade of Delft-blue which is worn with this high-necked and long-sleeved evening dress has a collar touched with gold embroidery ending in tasselled stoles at the waist, and at the sides the material is draped, leaving room for the arms to pass through, and again weighted by means of large tassels.

GRIM humour was sometimes associated with Sardou's early struggles in Paris when, as a poor and friendless medical student, he was seeking to augment a scanty allowance by teaching Latin to wealthier but less gifted fellow-students. Then he tried his hand at writing, and hawked three of his plays round Paris theatres. "But managers with one exception," said he, "were too busy to see me or to read my plays. One gentleman condescended to read my productions, and he pronounced them rubbish. The sequel is soon told. A few years later I had no difficulty whatever in disposing of all three without having altered a single line."

PRETTY sentiment is contained in the story of the water-carrier—for in the days of Sardou's youth they carried water through the streets of Paris for domestic use—to whom the embryo dramatist owed the sum of sixty francs. "I cannot pay you," he said, frankly, to the honest porter, "and I know not when I can." The good fellow replied, "Never mind; I know you will succeed: I see your industry every time I come. Pay when you can."

AN amusing story is related in connection with Sardou's children, who were brought up at Marly in such constant contact with souvenirs of Louis Quatorze, and who heard such frequent reference to what the "Grand Monarque" said or did, that they firmly believed him to be alive. They were out for a walk one day with their father and a friend, and, as usual, there was talk about Louis Quatorze. Passing one of the old houses on the wooded hillside, Sardou pointed out a great avenue of elms, and remarked, *passim*, that at one time there had been arbours at the side, but that these had been cut away when Louis Quatorze died. As the party turned back Sardou noticed some of the children crying. "What is the matter?" asked Sardou. "Because Louis Quatorze is dead," said the children, almost inconsolable.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Comyns Carr's Reminiscences.

MR. J. COMYNS CARR'S autobiography, "Some Eminent Victorians," recently published by Duckworth and Co., and very beautifully illustrated, is entirely interesting and agreeable, and a most amusing, various, and vivaciously written volume. There is not a dull chapter in the book; but our readers will, of course, turn with eagerness to that entitled "Men of the Theatre," from which we pick some plums of anecdote.

Tennyson's Thirst.

"IT was while Irving was rehearsing *Becket* that he told me a story of Tennyson that has both a pathetic and humorous significance. In the earlier days, when *The Cup* was in preparation, he had been to see Tennyson in the Isle of Wight to discuss his ideas for its presentation. After dinner, as he told me, the dessert and the wine were set out upon a separate table, and when they were seated the poet asked Irving if he would like a glass of port. 'Yes, I like a glass of port,' replied the actor. Upon which Tennyson, taking him at his word, poured him out a glass of port, and all unconsciously finished the remainder of the bottle himself. At a later time, when *Becket* was to be presented, Tennyson was suffering from gout and was under a strict régime. But the same graceful little ceremony was observed, and again his host inquired of Irving whether he would like a glass of port, but on this occasion, as Irving related to me, the positions were reversed, for poor Lord Tennyson was only permitted a single glass, and Irving finished the bottle.

"NEXT morning the actor had to leave early, and had therefore taken leave of his host overnight. But he had scarcely awakened when he saw Lord Tennyson sitting at the foot of his bed. 'How are you this morning, Irving?' he inquired, anxiously. 'Very well indeed,' was his guest's reply. 'Are you?' came the response, with just a tinge of doubt in the tones of the voice. 'You drank a lot of port last night.'

Posing a Critic.

"HENLEY, for all the valorous spirit that was in him, was not always proof against sudden attack. One night when we were gathered at the Savile after some public dinner where we had all been present, Irving was of the party. Irving had a trick of waiting for his foe, and on this particular occasion, as I recall it, he was chafing under a criticism which had been delivered by Henley upon his impersonation of Macbeth. Henley appeared to be well aware that the matter in difference between them would come under discussion before the evening was ended, and was obviously ready with all the destructive weapons that were arrayed in his critical armoury. But quick and vigilant as he was as a fighting force, he nevertheless proved himself unready for the kind of attack which Irving had designed. Very quietly and almost deferentially the actor came to his point. After much genial interchange of cordial sentiment on one side and the other, Irving suddenly pounced upon his man.

"'I NOTICE,' he said, speaking to Henley in that tone of reverie which with him always concealed an imminent blow, 'that you do not approve of my conception of Macbeth. Tell me now, for I should be interested to hear it, how would you play Macbeth if you were called upon to present the character on the stage? What is your conception?' Henley was hardly prepared for such an invitation, and as we sat in expectation of what he would have to say, it was easy to see that the critic's destructive method, which at that time was uppermost in him, could not suddenly readjust itself to the task of offering any coherent appreciation of the character which Irving, according to his allegation, had misinterpreted.'

Sarah's Sentiments.

"WHEN Sarah Bernhardt was in London she was a constant guest at Irving's little suppers at the Lyceum, where she evinced the warmest admiration for the genius of Miss Ellen Terry. One evening, when Miss Terry was protesting that she was no longer young enough to undertake some rôle that Irving was pressing her to interpret, Sarah leant across the table and said, 'My dearling, there are two peoples who shall never be old—you and me.'

Sardou in England.

"I AM sincerely sorry to hear of Sardou's death," says Mr. Laurence Irving to a *Daily Chronicle* representative. "I well remember going over to see him three or four years ago about the translation of *Dante*. He used to see me every morning at seven o'clock. Describing to me how he used to map out his day, he said that from 8.30, when I left, until 11 he was occupied with the scene painters. From 11 to 12 he filled in with his own business, after which he allowed himself a brief half hour's rest. Two hours and a half he spent with the musicians, going over the whole programme of details. He filled in the rest of the afternoon seeing Sarah Bernhardt about a new play he was writing, and then at dinner I saw him again. During dinner he talked the whole time, brilliantly and in the most amusing strain. Sardou would have made a tremendously great actor. He did not look at all a powerful man, or one able to stand the severe strain which he put upon himself. A curious point which I noticed about him was the marked resemblance he bore to my father in the upper part of his face, whilst his mouth and chin was that of Wagner. He was Napoleonic in his arbitrariness, whilst his conversation was undoubtedly stamped with the impress of Voltaire."

A Large Amount.

"THERE was once a well-known actor living in Liverpool," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope. "We will call him the 'Lark.' He was always dressed in a black frock coat, well worn and greasy, a pair of dark trousers very much frayed at the bottoms, but always well brushed and kept as neat as possible. His collar and cuffs were always of the cleanest, but well worn at the edges, and if his boots were patched, they always were nicely polished. He was continually getting into scrapes, but with his usual smiling, easy-going nature and bonhomie he got out of them again. He was once entrusted with the part of a foreign Count in a new piece; and he had to tell an old gentleman that he was commissioned to give him five thousand pounds which he—the 'Lark'—had in his breast pocket. The audience simply roared at the idea of the actor, in his present get-up, having five thousand pounds, for he had been to the wardrobe keeper and got a military braided coat, much too large, and a striped pair of trousers greatly the worse for wear. This rather nettled the 'Lark,' who drew himself up and said, 'Ay, you may laugh! But I *have* five thousand pounds here in my pockets, and it's *all in coppers*."

Miss Terry's Escape.

"'KING ARTHUR' was produced under conditions that were exceptionally trying. At one of the rehearsals, as Arthur Sullivan and I stood upon the stage listening to his setting of the 'May Song,' the high platform upon which Queen Guinevere and her maids were standing suddenly gave way, and to our horror fell with a crash to the stage. For the moment we thought that some grave disaster must have occurred, but with sudden instinct Miss Terry had flung herself prone upon the pedestal where she had been standing, and escaped with nothing more serious than a few bruises."

"THE BUILDER OF BRIDGES."

Play, in Four Acts, by Alfred Sutro, produced at the St. James's Theatre on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

Edward Thursfield ....MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER
Arnold Faringay .....MR. DAWSON MILWARD
Walter Gresham ....MR. E. HARCOURT WILLIAMS
Sir Henry Killick .....MR. WILLIAM FARREN
Peter Holland .....MR. E. VIVIAN REYNOLDS
Dorothy Faringay .....MISS IRENE VANBRUGH
Mrs. Debney .....MISS FLORENCE HAYDON
Miss Closson .....MISS BABARA HANNAY
Minnie .....MISS DORA SEVENING

Considering the habitual unpunctuality of a large number of first-nighters, it was, perhaps, a matter for congratulation that the earlier part of the first act of *The Builder of Bridges* was chiefly occupied in exposition. Only when the usual disturbances in the stalls had subsided was it possible to inform oneself that Arnold Faringay, an engineer in the office of Sir Henry Killick and Partners, had embezzled the money of the firm to the extent of several thousands, and was in imminent danger of arrest and imprisonment. His sister Dorothy, who adores him, has determined to save him; and though she is engaged to a showy and sentimental young man named Walter Gresham, she has gone to an hotel at St. Moritz purposely to bewitch a prominent member of the firm, Edward Thursfield, who has just returned from big bridge-building abroad. She has completely succeeded in her project. Not only, however, did she fascinate the engineer; she fell in love with him at first sight herself. Hence arise many misunderstandings. At first Dorothy intended to get Thursfield to make good the deficit, and then to throw him over; but her growing love for him makes the task difficult. She has already applied to the wordy but ineffectual Walter for the three thousand pounds needed to make good her brother's embezzlement; but he has refused, with plausible protestations. Faringay confesses his theft to another member of the firm, Peter Holland; and Thursfield at once decides to pay the money out of his own pocket with most of the savings of his life. As his reward he has the gratitude of Dorothy, who tells him he may call on her next day, when she will give him her answer as to whether she will marry him.

Dorothy, since seeing Thursfield, has grown to loathe her bond to Gresham, but has not been able to face the thought of his distress if she broke it off. She determines to obtain the money from him—he does not know of Faringay's theft—and she again begs him very earnestly to let her have it. The young man still makes excuses and objections, on which Dorothy breaks off their engagement, and tells him not to call on her again. Having got rid of the old love, she receives the new one cordially; and Thursfield is just sitting down to tea with the family as Dolly's fiancé when in bursts Gresham with promises to pay the money and much violent eloquence. This, of course, upsets all Dorothy's arrangements. Thursfield, severely indignant at the discovery of the concealment and trickery that have been going on, coldly leaves her, after a few calm but well-chosen words; and she is too much overpowered by the sense of her duplicity to speak a word in her defence.

In the last act Thursfield is going out to Rhodesia, and is left alone in his office, to which Dorothy comes at dead of night to give him an explanation. She tells him that she loved him from the time they met; and, convinced on that essential point, he takes her in his arms, and the curtain falls.

The story is handled with Mr. Alfred Sutro's usual skill; and the scenes between the engineers and the whole business of the office of Sir Henry Killick and Partners are admirably managed. The play is well written, and the interest is poignant, thrilling, and intense.

The Builder of Bridges gave opportunity for some very good acting by the company. Mr. George Alexander as Edward Thursfield had one of those characters of reserved force and deep resolute energy in which he excels. In the earlier acts, while Thursfield's power is still restrained, Mr. Alexander already gave an idea of the steady and strenuous purpose of the engineer; and in the second, in the scenes between Thursfield and Faringay, he acted with deep humanity and hearty manliness. It was, however, in the third act that Mr. Alexander found his most complete success. The time during which he was on the stage was short; but he managed to compress into it an immense amount of tense expression. The bitter suffering which underlay the engineer's stern self-control was made evident; and the strength with which he grasped the situation was shown, as it could only be shown, by an actor of Mr. Alexander's authority, ability, and experience. In the last act he had the ungrateful task of depicting a man who repels a woman's advances; and he tackled the difficulty boldly and with the best results. Altogether, it may be said of the part of Edward Thursfield that it was peculiarly fitted to Mr. Alexander's style and idiosyncrasy, and that it demanded no less an exponent for its complete demonstration. Mr. Dawson Milward was very happily selected to embody Arnold Faringay, a character of some complexity. Mr. Milward kept the tone of his performance quiet and low, except in the third act, when Faringay indulges in one savage and bitter burst of self-reproach. Here Mr. Milward showed that the smoothness of his style was not incompatible with emotional power. A very artistic representation of Walter Gresham was supplied by Mr. E. Harcourt Williams. Exactly the right note was hit; and Mr. Williams deserves warm praise for the tact with which, while avoiding exaggeration, he suggested very clearly the unreal ring of the effusive, but only half-sincere sentiment of the flamboyant youth. Mr. Williams was personally suited to the part, which could hardly have been better played. A fine, broad, bold, and vigorous rendering of the rôle of Sir Henry Killick was supplied by Mr. William Farren, whose manner and make-up as the irascible but affectionate old "Chief" were admirable. The embodiment stood out in its rugged power as an excellent example of the excellences of the old school of acting. It was a noble stage portrait, and one to be remembered. Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds was completely successful in his performance as Peter Holland. Its absolute unconsciousness, its concentration on the business of the scene, and its acute alertness made the rendering worthy of the warmest praise. It was effective from its very naturalness and unobtrusiveness; and the make-up was very neat and in genious. Miss Irene Vanbrugh, in her rôle of Dorothy Faringay, had to win back the good opinion of the audience which had been lost on the announcement of Dorothy Faringay's premeditated treachery; and, by her sensitive and highly-strung acting she succeeded in her most difficult task, the pathos of the woman's utter dejection in the later acts being very touching and affecting. Miss Vanbrugh was particularly successful in the scenes of quick nervous anxiety which were so frequent in the part; and her dramatic activity kept the audience in a state of unflagging excitement while she was on the stage. It was a trying task, loyally attacked and completely conquered by the perseverance and ability of the artist. Miss Florence Haydon was unimpeachably easy and agreeable as the "harmless necessary" Aunt, and Miss Babara Hannay contributed a crisp and neat bit of acting as the smart typewriter, Miss Closson, Miss Dora Sevening doing intelligent work as Minnie. The scenery by Mr. Raphael was excellent, the engineer's office being particularly realistic and well arranged, and the Temple Chambers wonderfully built up. *The Builder of Bridges* had an enthusiastic reception, and will doubtless add another to the list of Mr. Alexander's successes at the St. James's.

"THE BACCHAE" OF EURIPIDES.

Translated into English rhyming verse by Gilbert Murray, produced at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 10.

Dionysus .....MISS LILLAH MCCARTHY
Cadmus .....MR. R. A. BEATON
Pentheus .....MR. ESMÉ PERCY
Agâve .....MISS WINIFRED MAYO
Teiresias.....MR. WILLIAM FAZAN
A Soldier .....MR. GEORGE ELLIS
A Messenger .....MR. ANSTEY
A Herdsman .....MR. SIVORI LEVEY
Chorus ..... MISS MAY SAKER, MISS JULIET HARDINGE, MISS FLORENCE MCHARDY, MISS HELEN MACDONALD
Maiden .....MISS EDITH RHYS
Dancers ..... MISS MAIE HOEY, MISS RUBINI, MISS RUTH BOWER

Pentheus, son of Echion and Agâve, was king of Thebes in Bœotia. His refusal to acknowledge the divinity of Bacchus was attended with the most fatal consequences. He forbad his subjects to pay adoration to this new god; and when the Theban women had gone out of the city to celebrate the orgies of Bacchus, Pentheus, apprised of the debauchery which attended the solemnity, ordered the god himself, who conducted the religious multitude, to be seized. His orders were obeyed with reluctance, but when the doors of the prison in which Bacchus had been confined, opened of their own accord, Pentheus became more irritated, and commanded his soldiers to destroy the whole band of the bacchanals. This, however, was not executed, for Bacchus inspired the monarch with the ardent desire of seeing the celebration of the orgies. Accordingly he hid himself in a wood on mount Cithæron, from whence he could see all the ceremonies unperceived. But here his curiosity soon proved fatal, he was descried by the bacchanals, and they all rushed upon him. His mother was the first who attacked him, and her example was instantly followed by her two sisters, Ino and Autonoe, and his body was torn to pieces. Euripides introduces Bacchus among his priestesses, when Pentheus was put to death; but Ovid, who relates the whole in the same manner, differs from the Greek poet only in saying that not Bacchus himself but one of his priests were present. The tree on which the bacchanals found Pentheus was cut down by the Corinthians, by order of the oracle, and with it two statues of the god of wine were made, and placed in the forum.

The above interesting information is supplied by Lempriere, who also reminds us that the *Bacchæ* was one of Euripides posthumous works. The play has been done into English rhyming verse by Mr. Gilbert Murray in a manner which leaves no room for adverse criticism. It is a masterly bit of literary workmanship. The production at the Court Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, under the management of Mr. A. E. Drinkwater, was intelligent and artistic. The acting was excellent all round; and the stage management remarkably effective, considering the limits of the Court stage. Miss Lillah McCarthy played Dionysus with her usual thoughtful delicacy and firm refinement, delivering the lines allotted to the god with excellent inflexion and emphasis, and maintaining the proper sense of supernatural elevation. Miss McCarthy's symmetrical figure was picturesquely displayed on a pedestal at the close of the piece, when she made a pretty "living picture." Mr. Esmé Percy played Pentheus with admirable energy and vigour. He delivered the lines allotted to the indignant monarch in strong and spirited style, and personally reproduced a fine type of ancient Greek virility. His performance gave weight and contrast to what was otherwise a rather inactive drama. Mr. R. A. Beaton put plenty of plaintive dignity into his impersonation of Cadmus; and Mr. William Fazan's elocution and bearing as the aged Prophet Teiresias were excellent. Miss Winifred Mayo was an expressive Agâve. Mr. George Ellis enacted the Soldier of the Guard ably; and Mr. Anstey rendered with praiseworthy distinctness and endurance the long and trying descriptive speech of the Messenger. Mr. Sivori Levey was commendable as the Herdsman; and Miss Edith Rhys was a pleasing and graceful Maiden. The chorus was well supplied by Miss Juliet Hardinge, Miss Florence McHardy, and Miss Helen Macdonald, whose sonorous utterances gave intermittent solemnity to the proceedings. Miss Maie Hoey, Miss Rubini, and Miss Ruth Bower were agile and supple dancers, and their evolutions had evidently been carefully rehearsed under the direction of Miss Hoey. The costumes, designed and made by Miss Jennie Moore, were most artistic, the dress of Pentheus being especially handsome; and the mounting, though simple, was sufficient. The net profits of the performance, which was under the direction of Mr. William Poel, were devoted to the Egypt Exploration Fund.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

"A BRIDGE TANGLE."

Society Comedy, in Four Acts, by Mrs. Frank Wright and Mrs. Caleb Porter, produced at a Matinée at the Court Theatre on Thursday, Nov. 12.

Lord Baintree .....MR. FRANK COOPER
Sir Charles Dereham .....MR. EDWARD FERRIS
Colonel James .....MR. CHARLES GOODHART
Captain Bell .....MR. MAX LEEDS
Wolf Steinbach .....MR. S. A. COOKSON
Jim Travers .....MR. ARTHUR WONTNER
Parker .....MR. J. WILLES
Lady Dereham .....MISS GERTRUDE KINGSTON
Hon. Mrs. Desmond .....MISS GRANVILLE
Mrs. Blaine .....MISS CLAIRE HAMILTON
Mamie Vanderfelt .....MISS VIOLET K. COOPER
Mignon .....MISS PHYLLIS EMBURY

The pretty play which Mr. Frank Cooper "submitted" to a friendly audience at the Court Theatre on Thursday afternoon is out of the question as an acting drama; but there is so much neat and pleasant writing in it, it shows so much quiet observation and such a nice sense of social atmosphere that the authoresses would probably produce practicable results if they took into their councils someone acquainted with the requirements of the stage. The piece is very naïvely constructed, and the story is simplicity itself. The scene of the first act is a riverside hotel, where Colonel James and his daughter Mignon are staying. The Colonel is a gouty old campaigner, who, after recent extravagance in Monte Carlo and Paris, finds the necessity of retrenchment. A motor belonging to Lord Baintree, a much-admired but elderly peer, breaks down near the hotel, and his lordship and his intimate friend, Lady Dereham, stay long enough at the inn to enable Baintree to "remark" Mignon, and to manœuvre Lady Dereham into inviting the young girl to her country house, much to the distress of the penniless young Jim Travers, between whom and Mignon a boy-and-girl engagement exists.

In the second act Mignon goes down to Dereham Court, and Lord Baintree opens a flirtation with her. This act is merely anecdotic, and only lasts for a few minutes. Mignon challenges Baintree to run a race on the lawn, and he kisses her. 'He's lost his head!" cries Lady Dereham jealously. "No," says her friend Mrs. Blaine, "he's only lost his heart!"

In the next act Mignon loses £100 at bridge, which Baintree pays for her, through the medium of a fashionable dressmaker, the Hon. Mrs. Desmond. There is a long and painful scene between Lady Dereham and her beloved Baintree when she discovers that he intends to marry Mignon. Jim Travers calls at Dereham Court, finds Mignon indifferent to him, and breaks off the engagement; and Baintree proposes to the girl, and is readily accepted. There is a great deal in the play which, received in a cynical spirit, would be humorous; but we cannot credit the authoresses with intentional irony: they evidently take their story quite seriously. *A Bridge Tangle* was dressed, acted, and mounted a great deal better than its intrinsic merit deserved, Miss Gertrude Kingston distinguishing herself by a brilliant study of a *grande amoureuse* in the toils of Cupid which would have been memorably effective in a really dramatic piece. The "moods and tenses" of the type were very cleverly suggested. That accomplished actress Miss Granville played a society milliner very acutely and cleverly; and Miss Claire Hamilton treated with a light and firm touch the little rôle of Mrs. Blaine. Mr. Frank Cooper made Lord Baintree as solid and as insinuating as the part required, and gave an admirably balanced and most artistic performance; and Mr. Arthur Wontner's Jim Travers was a natural and ingenious embodiment of shy and affectionate youth. Mr. Charles Goodhart contributed a sharp and emphatic interpretation of the character of Colonel James; and the stage was gracefully and intelligently furnished by personages represented by Mr. Max Leeds, Mr. S. A. Cookson, and Miss Violet K. Cooper. Mr. J. Willes was a blameless butler; and Mr. Edward Ferris was acceptable as the neutral husband, Sir Charles Dereham. Miss Phyllis Embury's Mignon was the essence of sweet ingenuousness and fresh and delicate beauty; and her artless innocence was very winning and charming. Mr. Fred Conyers deserves a word of praise for his careful stage management, the piece going quite smoothly throughout.

Irving's Salary.

"IT was on one evening during the first rendering of *The Bells*," says Mr. Comyns Carr in "Some Early Victorians," that I found myself seated there in company with a few genial spirits including Henry Montague, Toole, and Tom Thorne, when we noticed that Irving's manager, Mr. Bateman, had entered and was gazing round the room as though in search of someone he had appointed to meet. It occurred at once to the mischievous spirit of Toole to turn the occasion to account. In a whispered sentence he made the rest of us co-conspirators in the little drama he had suddenly devised, and as Mr. Bateman, still scanning the visitors assembled, advanced from box to box, he and Montague, in tones designedly pitched so that all might hear, began an animated discussion as to Irving's rightful claims to a larger salary than he was at that time receiving.

"I BELIEVE, in fact, that Irving's remuneration was something like £15 a week, which represented a substantial advance upon the payment he had received during his engagement for *The Two Roses* at the Vaudeville Theatre; but Montague and Toole vied with one another like competing bidders at an auction in loud proclaim of his larger worth. '£15 a week!' said Toole 'Why, he's worth £20 at any rate!' '£20!' retorted Montague. 'Nonsense! He's worth £30 if he's worth a penny!' And then Thorne, topping Montague, said he would be perfectly willing to give him £40 if he would return to the Vaudeville; and as the voices grew louder in the increasing estimate of Irving's value, Bateman, attracted by the discussion, drew nearer and nearer to the box in which we sat, until at last, leaning with his elbows upon the mahogany partition, he leant forward with lowering brows, no longer able to contain the indignation which these comments had provoked. And then at last Toole, always incorrigible in humorous mischief, topped all previous bidders by the emphatic announcement that Henry Irving was worth £50 a week if he was worth a shilling, to which Bateman, now incensed beyond measure, retorted, 'Yes, and you are the scoundrels who would put him up to asking it.'

Oxenford's Experience.

"JOHN OXENFORD, when recalling to me some of his earlier experiences as dramatic critic of the *Times*, told me that he had very early learnt his lesson not to endeavour to intrude his own opinions into the columns of the *Times*. Near the beginning of his career he had indulged in some unfavourable comment upon the performance of the orchestra, which provoked an angry letter of remonstrance from the player of the trombone—a letter of remonstrance that in its turn called down a sharp rebuke upon the critic from the great editor, Mr. Delane. 'I wish it to be understood,' he curtly intimated to Oxenford, 'that the *Times* has no desire to be embroiled in controversy with trombone players.'

"THE BUILDERS."

A new and Original Play, in Three Acts, by Norah Keith, produced at the Criterion Theatre on Tuesday afternoon, Nov. 10.

Adrian White, K.C. .....MR. C. AUBREY SMITH
David Gilbert .....MR. A. E. GEORGE
Mrs. Cray .....MISS EVELYN D'ALROY
Celia White .....MISS MAUDE MILLETT
Edith Haines .....MISS VANE FEATHERSTON
Nini .....MISS DORIS WALKER
Lady Sarah Sparkes .....MRS. H. NYE CHART
The Hon. Mrs. Trent ..MISS IERNE FITZGERALD
James .....MR. HEATH HAVILAND
Perkins .....MISS HAVILAND

Miss Norah Keith has written a play that pulsates with humanity, and though it was presented on Tuesday afternoon to a critical and discriminating audience of hardened playgoers, it not only gripped and held their attention, but won their favour. As the text of her theme she quotes a passage from Beatrice Harraden's great novel "Ships that Pass in the Night":—"'I have long ceased to build my bridge,' the disagreeable man said. 'It is an almost unconscious process' she answered." The "builders" of the bridge in the play are Mrs. Adrian White—who by her absorption in the Women's Suffrage movement sinks the foundations; Adrian White, the famous K.C.; and his client, Mrs. Cray, whose gratitude he has earnt by his masterly speech in the Divorce Court, by which he had disposed of certain counter-charges preferred by the scoundrel of a husband against whom a decree nisi has been pronounced. The "bridge" threatens to become a *via dolorosa* for all three; for we readily discover that the K.C.'s sympathy has gone out to the unhappy petitioner, who is impelled for the sake of retaining possession of her child to undergo a distasteful ordeal of publicity. To Adrian she is a divinity. His mental comparison of the woman and the wife—the latter in a constant state of agitation, irritability, and unrest, the sequelæ of her brainy activities in the cause of political enfranchisement for women—can have but one result. He yearns for the sympathy of a nature whose every fibre vibrates with the sacred instincts of motherhood. The danger to his domestic peace is foreshadowed by his friend David Gilbert, a practising barrister, and when Mrs. Cray calls to express her heartfelt gratitude to the man who had so completely established her innocence, she does so with such touching sincerity that the barrister begins to take an affectionate interest in her future.

In the second act, three months after the divorce trial, we find Adrian at Mrs. Cray's cottage at Hampstead romping with Nini, the child, to whom he has become a devoted slave. It is evident that he is a constant visitor, but as yet his wife has not called. She, however, does so, not expecting to see her husband, whose presence is tactfully explained by his friend David Gilbert. David sees the drift of things, and appeals to Mrs. Cray to "destroy the bridge" by going out of the life of the man whose future has now become bound up in hers. She recognises her duty, and in the last act is preparing for her departure abroad when her packing is interrupted by Adrian. He passionately avows his love, and learns that it is returned. Her great resolve is weakened; but to carry out her determination to save Adrian from himself she declares that the counter-charges made by her husband were only too true. "Say that you lie" he cries in his despair; but the sacrifice has to be made, and the brave woman does not flinch. The wife had taken her to her arms and kissed her, and there is every hope, as the curtain falls, that Adrian will return to a wife awakened to a sense of duty and with a nobler outlook on life. A subsidiary interest is the amusing courtship by David Gilbert, the kindly cynic, of Mrs. Haines, whose nature is sweet and lovable. Miss Keith, in dealing with the Suffragist movement, is rather superficial, but a scene so powerful and tender as that in the last act between Adrian White and Mrs. Cray is rare even in the best dramatic work. It has the sure touch, and rings true in every line.

Miss Keith had the best possible aid to success in the very fine cast representing the piece. Mr. C. Aubrey Smith roused the enthusiasm of the house by his fine powerful treatment of the part of Adrian White, K.C., and he tackled the difficult situation in the last act with remarkable success. Miss Evelyn d'Alroy, a young actress of considerable charm, played with a rare depth of tenderness in the first scene between Mrs. Cray and her barrister champion, and she had completely won over the house at the end of the first act. Still, we were not prepared for the sustained power and wonderful truth to nature of her agitated and poignant sentences in the scene of parting in the last act. It was a triumph for the actress as well as the dramatist. Miss Maude Millett was more than equal to her responsibilities as Mrs. White, whose awakening to a sense of wifely duty was cleverly suggested by the actress. The scenes between Mr. A. E. George as David Gilbert and Miss Vane Featherston as Mrs. Haines are cleverly written, and were admirably played; and the slight comedy relief was also added to by Lady Sarah Sparkes, a character divertingly treated by Mrs. H. Nye Chart; and by the Hon. Mrs. Trent, in which Miss Ierne Fitzgerald most unmistakably scored. Miss Dora Walker played prettily as the child, and Miss Haviland and Mr. Heath Haviland lent adequate aid in minor characters. The play was produced for Miss Norah Keith by Mr. Charles Rock, who did excellently well.

Toole's Sense of Humour.

"TOOLE, on the death of his wife," says Mr. Comyns Carr, "asked me if I would drive with him to the funeral, and I called for him at his house in Maida Vale, where we sat silently side by side in the little room adjoining the hall awaiting the arrival of the carriage. The tears were slowly coursing down his cheek, and I knew that many painful memories were thronging his brain, for his son and his daughter had already passed away, and by this final loss the last link with his domestic life was severed. And yet suddenly, as we were sitting there, a smile flitted across his face, and a laughing light came into those affectionate brown eyes that only a moment before had been filled with tears. 'I don't know why it has come into my mind now, Joe,' he said; 'I suppose it ought not to, but I must tell you. I was having dinner once at Dumfries in a company of commercial travellers, and before the covers were removed the chairman rose and said, "Mr. Macfarlane, as you are nearest the window, perhaps you will ask God's blessing on this feast."'

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, Mr. R. A. Robinson (chairman) presiding.

THE FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

The Council proceeded with the consideration of the following recomendation of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee:—

"The Council on Nov. 22, 1907, granted to Mr. Imre Kiralfy a provisional licence for music and dancing for the Franco-British Exhibition. The exhibition opened on May 14 last, when the arrangements were to some extent incomplete, and could not be considered altogether satisfactory from the point of view of public safety. We were consequently not in a position to advise the Council to confirm the licence, although at the same time we did not consider it necessary to recommend the prohibition of the opening of the exhibition, as the licensee gave us his assurance that any work required by the Council would be done without delay. In consequence of additions being continually made to the exhibits it was necessary to make repeated additions to the requirements. The arrangements may now be regarded as practically satisfactory, but some of the requirements originally made have been modified or waived on account of the special circumstances connected with the present exhibition, and the inauguration of an enterprise of such magnitude. The whole question will therefore have to be reconsidered if the buildings are used another year, so that the Council may be fully satisfied with the arrangements before the buildings are again opened to the public, and an intimation to this effect has already been given to the licensee. We recommend—That the provisional licence for music and dancing granted on Nov. 22, 1907, to Imre Kiralfy for the Franco-British Exhibition be confirmed; that notice of such confirmation be endorsed on the licence; and that the seal of the Council be affixed to such endorsement."

Mr. P. A. Harris moved that the recommendation be referred back. He had no hostility to the committee, but did so as a protest against the disgraceful scandals in relation to the lavatory accommodation provided by the exhibition authorities. The state of things which had existed had been a disgrace not only to London but to Great Britain and the Empire, especially as the exhibition was of an international character. He thought it was an unfortunate coincidence that the Medical Officer of Health for Hammersmith was also acting in a similar capacity for the exhibition, or, at any rate, for the large firm of caterers. He did not suggest that this gentleman had used his dual position for unworthy purposes, but the situation was an extremely awkward one, and one which, in the public interest, should not be allowed to continue. It was pure cant to say that the exhibition was simply for the benevolent purpose of welding England and France together, for it was in reality a money-making concern for many people, and should therefore be treated like any other establishment that came up for a licence.

Mr. H. H. Gordon seconded the amendment, pointing out that the exhibition had been carried on without a licence at all, and now it was closed the Council were asked to grant a full licence. That he regarded as a ridiculous position. The scandals with reference to the want of proper sanitary accommodation continued up to the very last, and throughout the whole time the exhibition remained open complaints were being received by the Public Health Committee. He could not help thinking that the Theatres Committee had been somewhat lax in carrying out their duties.

Mr. Easton hoped that the recommendation would not be taken back. No one anticipated there would be such a great attendance at the exhibition, and it was only in its early days that there was any deficiency in sanitary accommodation.

Sir John Benn was in favour of the amendment. He thought that the Council should make it clear that a certificate would not be given to the exhibition authorities unless there was a binding undertaking on their part that there would be provided free and ample accommodation for all workpeople engaged there.

Mr. Isidor Salmon denied that there was any truth in the suggestion that Messrs. J. Lyons and Co. had been guilty of increasing their dividends by making their staff pay for sanitary accommodation.

Mr. H. J. Greenwood, the chairman of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, said it was a matter of some surprise to him that an endeavour should be made to attach a condition to the licence for an exhibition which was now over. He regretted that the report should have been presented so late, but that was due to the fact that his committee went on making requirements from time to time, and it was therefore impossible to bring up at an earlier stage anything in the nature of a complete report. With regard to the question of sanitary accommodation, he was inclined to think that there had been a great deal of exaggeration, although he did not suggest that at the earlier part of the exhibition there had not been a very great cause for complaint in that respect. Three reasons seemed to contribute to that result. In the first place, like many other parts of the exhibition, the sanitary work was incomplete at the opening; secondly, the attendants had not made themselves acquainted with the geography of the grounds; and thirdly, the places were not sufficiently indicated to be of full use to the public. In all large undertakings where the number of persons present varied from 5,000 to 380,000 a day it would be quite impossible for any management to provide sufficient accommodation for the days of great pressure. He believed that his committee were justified in thinking that the accommodation shown on the original plans would have been quite sufficient, but he was now prepared to admit that on certain days they had been wholly insufficient. His committee had taken steps to impress upon the licensee their determination to see all requirements in the future complied with, and in view of that he failed to see any advantage in discussing what was now past. When the new licence came before the Council sitting as the licensing authority on the 27th inst. there would be ample opportunity to take any action which might be necessary for the future.

The amendment was lost on a show of hands.

Sir J. Benn then moved as a further amendment to add to the licence for the last exhibition the words, "subject to a guarantee as to ample free accommodation for all employees being provided in the future."

The Hon. H. Johnstone seconded the amendment, which, on a division, was defeated by 65 votes to 46, and the recommendation of the committee was adopted.

PARKHURST THEATRE.

On the reception of the report of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, the Rev. F. Hastings asked whether the chairman of the committee's attention had been drawn to the character of the cinematograph entertainments given on Sunday at the Parkhurst Theatre, Holloway-road.

Mr. Greenwod replied in the negative, but promised to have inquiries made with reference to the entertainments.

Foote, Garrick, and Johnson once went together to Bedlam. Johnson, who was much affected at the sight of so much human misery, withdrew to a corner to meditate, where he threw himself into so many strange attitudes, and drew his face into such odd shapes, that Foote whispered to Garrick to know "how they should contrive to get him out."

THE IRISH NATIONAL THEATRE.

The Gaelic League, writes Signor Mario Borsa in "The English Stage of To-day," was founded in 1893, and during the same period and the years succeeding it many other societies and institutions saw the light in Ireland, all animated by the common ambition of co-operating in the intellectual Renaissance of the country. In 1892 there was formed in Dublin the National Literary Society; in 1893 both the Irish Literary Society and the Irish Text Society, having as their object the revision and publication of Irish texts; and, finally, in 1899, there was founded the Irish Literary Theatre, which was afterwards transformed into the Irish National Theatre.

The first attempt, that of the Irish Literary Theatre, failed because the actors were English, and were wanting in intelligent sympathy both for their authors and their public. But in 1902 this institution, which owed its origin to the initiative of Yeats, Edward Martyn, and George Moore, was transformed into the Irish National Theatre. A talented Irish actor, Mr. W. Fay, gathered around him a company of Irish amateurs, and repeated with generous ardour and notable success the experiment made by Antoine with his Théatre Libre.

Its early stages were beset with difficulties. The Irish National Theatre, destined to give expression to the dramatic genius of the race, lacked a playhouse! This was a small matter. At first the company toured from town to town, playing in halls and private drawing-rooms, without either stage, scenery, or stage dresses. Yeats suggested one or two costumes which could be adapted to all the parts in all the historical plays. The actors had no stage experience. This also was a small matter! Since Racine wrote two of his most famous tragedies for schoolgirls, the youthful authors of the Celtic Renaissance might well write for amateurs.

This course they pursued for two years, until, in 1894, Miss Horniman, an Englishwoman and a friend of Ireland, undertook, at her own expense, the restoration of the old theatre of the Mechanics' Institute in Dublin, and made a present of it to the Society of the Irish National Theatre. The entire labour of restoration and decoration was undertaken by Irish craftsmen. The stained glass in the vestibule was the work of an Irishwoman, Miss Sarah Purser. The large brass frames were supplied from the Irish workshops at Youghal, and all the other accessories were the work of Irish hands.

Thus did Ireland obtain her national theatre. As to the repertory, as the result of four or five years' work it contains not less than forty plays, written by poets, men of letters, young girls, and even priests. These works are, for the most part, comedies or dramas in one act. Their dialogue is sound and true to nature, but their construction is usually crude, feeble, and primitive. Some of them are written and played in Gaelic, others in English. Their subjects vary, but their tone is always either serious or satirical. Some are of a political nature, and form part of the Nationalist propaganda, as, for instance, that written and played on the occasion of King Edward VII.'s visit to Ireland, and another dealing with the emigration problem. Those of the latter class are the least meritorious. Next come the tragedies and plays of a national and historical character, animated by the same patriotic spirit that inspired the dramatic work of G. B. Niccolini. There is no lack, also, of poetical and symbolical works, but the best are those which reproduce scenes and types of peasant life, such as the works of J. M. Synge. The latter are at once the most sincere, the most natural, the most original, and the most interesting, constituting as they do a species of perspective illustration in dialogue of Irish folk-lore.

Of a very different character from the English stage, this Irish National Theatre has no commercial aims or ambitions. It commenced its existence with a capital of forty pounds, and rubs along as best it can. Its object is not to amuse, but to educate. It appeals, not to the eye and the senses, but to the heart and the intellect. It aims at setting forth all the hollow irony and the melancholy sweetness, the dreams and the memories, the loves and the sorrows that diversify the lives of the people, for whom and by whom it first saw the light. In short, it aspires to be above all a pure expression of the noble and the beautiful.

Yeats thus defines his own æsthetic principles: "We have to write or find plays that will make the theatre a place of intellectual excitement—a place where the mind goes to be liberated" (from every other preoccupation). "If we are to do this, we must learn that beauty and truth are always justified of themselves, and that their creation is a greater service to our country than writing that compromises either in the seeming service of a cause. . . . Such plays will require, both in writers and audiences, a stronger feeling for beautiful and appropriate language than one finds in the ordinary theatre. St. Beuve has said that there is nothing immortal in literature except style, and it is precisely this sense of style, once common among us, that is hardest for us to recover. . . . But if we are to restore words to their sovereignity we must make speech even more important than gesture upon the stage. I have been told that I desire a monotonous chant; but that is not true. . . . An actor should understand how to so discriminate cadence from cadence, and to so cherish the musical lineaments of verse or prose that he delights the ear with a continually varied music. . . . We must simplify acting, especially in poetical drama, and in prose drama that is remote from real life. We must get rid of everything that is restless, everything that draws attention away from the sound of the voice, or from the few moments of intense expression, . . . we must from time to time substitute for the movements that the eye sees the nobler movements that the heart sees, the rhythmical movements that seem to flow up into the imagination from some deeper life than that of the individual soul. Just as it is necessary to simplify gesture that it may accompany speech without being its rival, it is necessary to simplify both the form and the colour of scenery and costume. As a rule the background should be but a single colour, so that the persons in the play, wherever they stand, may harmonise with it and preoccupy our attention. In other words, it should be thought out, not as one thinks out a landscape, but as if it were the background of a portrait. . . . Even when one has to represent trees or hills they should be treated in most cases decoratively, they should be little more than an unobtrusive pattern. There must be nothing unnecessary, nothing that will distract the attention from speech and movement. An art is always at its greatest when it is most human. Greek acting was great because it did everything with the voice, and modern acting may be great when it does everything with voice and movement. But an art which smothers these things with bad painting, with innumerable garish colours, with continual restless mimicries of the surface of life, is an art of fading humanity, a decaying art."

William Butler Yeats is not merely the æsthete of the new movement; he is its very soul and symbol.

Ireland has never possessed a poet who has revealed with greater truth, and at the same time with greater discretion, her secret and intimate charm—that mournful longing for the indefinite outside the vision of this world, that painful groping after all that is beyond expression by word or deed, that invincible disdain of reality which finds an outlet either in irony—which signifies looking at things from a superior height, or in a dream—which means not looking at them at all! "In the dim kingdom there is a great abundance of all excellent things. There is more love there than upon the earth; there is more dancing there than upon the earth; there is more treasure there than upon the earth. In the beginning the earth was perhaps made to fulfil the desire of man, but now it has got old and fallen into decay. What wonder if we try and pilfer the treasures of that other kingdom!"

BUILDING A DRAMA.

A drama, like a house, is builded, writes Mr. William H. Fleming in "Shakespeare's Plots." What are the laws of its construction?

The laws which govern the construction of a drama are not empirical, capricious. They are not the dictum of any man. Like the laws which govern the material world, the motion of a star, the growth of a flower, a bird, they are natural. They inhere in the nature of a drama, and in the nature of the human mind which creates the drama, and which understands and appreciates it when it is read or acted. They are, as Pope says:—

"Those rules of old discover'd, not devised,
Are Nature still, but Nature methodis'd."

The artist does not create his materials. For these he goes to the great storehouse, Nature. The architect, sculptor, obtain marble from the quarry, out of which the former creates a cathedral, the latter a statue. The painter uses pigments with which he portrays the varying moods of landscape, ocean, man. The musician who creates beauty born of sound imitates the tones of winds, waters, the singing of birds, the sob of the child, the shout of the man. The dramatic poet portrays the experiences of men as recorded in histories, legends, stories. The originality of the artist is not in the creation of the materials he uses, but in the selection and use made of them.

To apply this fact to a drama, and to Shakespeare as an example of dramatists, with the possible exception of three plays—*The Tempest*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Love's Labour Lost*—Shakespeare did not invent the stories he dramatised. His plays belong to the romantic drama. Sciolists have therefore said he was not original. Is this opinion well founded? What is originality in art-production? "But, in general," is the opinion on this subject of the great poet of the Restoration, "the employment of a poet is like that of a curious gunsmith, or watchmaker; the iron or silver is not his own; but they are the least part of that which gives the value; the price lies wholly in the workmanship." Originality "may be defined," says Newman, "as the power of abstracting for one's self, and is in thought what strength of mind is in action." Walter Savage Landor says: "Creativeness may work upon old materials; a new world may spring from an old one." With this dictum Morley concurs: "As high a degree of originality may be shown in transformation as in invention, as Molière and Shakespeare have proved in the region of dramatic art." In his "Essay on Walton" Lowell asserts that Walton did not open new paths to thought or new vistas to imagination, but that he suffused whatever he wrote with his own individuality. "This constitutes literary originality. Whatever entered his mind or memory came forth again plus Izaak Walton." On this subject nothing more forceful has been written than the words of Professor Royce:—

"As a fact, originality and imitation are not in the least opposed, but are, in healthy cases, absolutely correlative and inseparable processes, so that you cannot be truly original in any direction unless you imitate, and cannot imitate effectively, worthily, admirably, unless you imitate in original fashions The greatest thinker, artist, or prophet is merely a man who imitates inimitably something in the highest degree worthy of his imitation."

The dramatist does not invent all of the incidents used in his plays. Æschylus said his dramas were but "dry scraps from the great banquets of Homer." The sculptor does not invent his subject, *e.g.*, Laocoön; nor does the painter, *e.g.*, The Madonna. An enormous receptive and assimilative power is a characteristic of genius. As the life within the seed appropriates nourishment from the earth, light, atmosphere, and grows into a lovely flower, so Shakespeare appropriated stories, histories, old plays, and by his creative genius produced from them his dramas. To speak metaphorically, the base metal he found in Plutarch, Boccaccio, Holinshed, the *Gesta Romanorum*, is transmuted by him into the pure gold of his Roman plays, his delightful comedies, his great tragedies. And, so doing, he, like other artists, is original. Each is a creator. Each, ont of material which he has borrowed, creates the work of Art, putting into it his own thoughts, emotions, life. Each

"Makes new hopes shine through the flesh they fray,
New fears aggrandise the rags and tatters:
To bring the invisible full into play."

In doing this Shakespeare exercised the primal faculty of the artist, viz., the power of artistic selection. It is this faculty which enables the dramatist to perceive the capabilities of his material; to select those incidents, those characters, which are suitable to representation on the stage.

Only certain actions, certain characters, admit of dramatic treatment. Not only the life, but also the form of a poem, is contained in the subject-matter. The form in which a poem is written is to the thought and emotion of the poem, to its life, what a man's body is to his mind and spirit. When Milton began to write "Paradise Lost" he put it in the dramatic form as a Miracle Play. He modelled it after the Greek drama, with a chorus. He wrote part of the poem in this form. Finally, however, as the result of long meditation and fresh inspiration, he was convinced his subject was not dramatic, but epic. He therefore changed the form of his poem, and made it not a drama, but an epic.

A history, ballad, poem, story, to be dramatised must possess the following qualities:—

1. It must have a theme, *e.g.*, ambition, love,
2. It must be such as can be imitated by action, for a drama is imitation by means of action.
3. It must be probable.
4. It must be organic, *i.e.*, every detail, every incident must be in vital connection with the Main Action
5. The characters must be typical.

Having selected his subject, the dramatist proceeds to outline his Plot or scheme of action.

Aristotle considered Plot the supreme element in tragedy. He calls it "the final aim," "the soul," "the central principle" of tragedy. Plot is design. It is the skilful arrangement of incidents, of actions, by means of which the thoughts and emotions of the *dramatis personæ* are expressed, and those of the spectators are appealed to. The architect takes the blocks of white marble, and out of them, by means of his plan or design, which is in strict accordance with the laws of beauty, constructs the grand cathedral. Likewise the dramatist takes individual actions, and by skilful use of them, by means of Plot or design, constructs the great drama. The beauty, the grandeur, of the cathedral is not in the marble, but in the plan; that of a drama is not in the incidents, but in the Plot, by means of which they are artistically fused.

IRVING AND THE CRITICS.

Irving's popularity, says Mr. Austin Brereton, in his "Life of Henry Irving," was unbounded in the provinces as well as in London, and his fame was world-wide. But he was subject to more petty annoyance in the way of cruel caricature by pen and pencil, in pictures and in printed matter, than any other actor who has ever lived. He had patience and he endured, until at last he attained a position in public estimation which was absolutely unassailable. Even with his death, the attacks upon his acting did not cease. He despised the majority of the small-minded people who could not see his point of view because it was not their own, and he treated the writers with the contempt which they deserved. He respected criticism which was sincere and decorous. But he held in derision anything that was either cruel in intention or in effect. When it touched his honour as a man—as in the *Fun* libel—he took action. When his acting was the only concern, he could afford to let time settle the account. For instance, the pamphlet which was industriously circulated when he was touring the country in 1877 only assailed his acting, and, for this reason, his hands were tied. But if such an effusion were perpetrated in the present time—granted that a publisher could be found to take the risk of issuing it—the object of its attack would, in all probability, seek the protection of the law. It was issued anonymously, in a brown paper cover, with a cruel caricature of Irving as Mathias outside. It was called "a criticism, with ten illustrations." Its "criticism" was simply an onslaught upon Irving the actor, and its illustrations were caricatures which were all the more hurtful because they were so ingenious. Some six years later, one of the authors, Mr. William Archer, recanted—in part—for some of his remarks in this brochure; his co-author was the late Robert William Lowe, subsequently a great student of English dramatic literature, an authority on the history of the stage, and, personally, a kind and delightful companion. The young men—Mr. Archer was only twenty-one—meant no harm but such skits as this have power to wound and should not be indulged in lightly.

Irving's great offence, in the eyes of these young writers, seems to have lain in the fact that he was not "a heaven-born actor like Salvini," and that he did not slavishly follow tradition. After an attempt to explain his great position with the public, they indulged in a long essay in extenuation of their argument, which was "merely to prove that he is a very bad actor." There is no occasion to wade through the diatribe, but the opening statement may be quoted as an indication of the abuse—there is no other word for it—which follows: "No actor of this, or indeed of any other, age has been so much and so indiscriminately belauded as Mr. Henry Irving. For more than five years he has been the 'bright particular star' of the British dramatic firmament. Night after night has he filled the dingy old Lyceum, from the front row of the stalls to the back row of the gallery, with audiences which applauded every jerk, every spasm, every hysteric scream—we had almost said every convulsion—in which he chose to indulge. In the provinces he has met with the same success and the same laudation. Newspaper 'critics' have ransacked and exhausted their by no means limited vocabulary in the search for words in which to express his greatness. He is, we are told, the resuscitator of the past glories of the British drama, with the addition of new glories peculiarly his own. He is the 'interpreter of Shakespeare to the multitude,' the apostle of popular dramatic culture. Criticism has not been entirely silent, it is true, but its voice has been drowned in the plaudits of enthusiasm. Men of science, men of learning, poets, philosophers, vie with each other in singing his praises. Bishops eulogise him in after-dinner speeches; statesmen 'tap him on the shoulder while walking down Bond-street,' and introduce themselves to him with expressions of enthusiastic admiration; peeresses engage the stage-box night after night to gaze at his contortions." It is a curious thought that Irving could have been described as "one of the worst actors that ever trod the British stage" in so-called "leading characters" by these impetuous youths. It seems incredible that they could have written of him as possessing, among other disqualifications for the stage, "a face whose range of expression is very limited." Many people, even then, must have been surprised to learn that "abject terror, sarcasm, and frenzy are the only passions which Mr. Irving's features can adequately express." Again, "his figure utterly precludes the possibility of dignity, grace, or even ease: some of his most effective attitudes might well be taken for a representation of the last stage of Asiatic cholera—total collapse." As for the great scene with Ophelia, these superior young gentlemen could not find any merit in it. "We should be inclined to apply to it a shorter and uglier term"—than their own, "psychologically subtle"—"and call it vulgar." There was much more of the same sort of "criticism," and although the pamphlet was directed against Irving, the captious critics forgot that Miss Bateman was a woman and an artist, and thus dismissed her Lady Macbeth: "If the actual Lady Macbeth was in any way like Miss Bateman's representation of her, one cannot wonder that her unhappy husband was driven to the most horrible of crimes, only that suicide would certainly have been his first idea." They described Irving's Hamlet as "a weak-minded puppy," his Macbeth as "a Uriah Heep in chain armour," his Othello as an "infuriated Sepoy," and his Richard as "a cheap Mephistopheles." There is no occasion to quote further from an indiscreet pamphlet which, doubtless, its authors afterwards regretted.

THE GRANVILLE.

This cosy little hall enjoys well-deserved popularity in Walham Green, which is not to be wondered at, considering the excellence of the companies provided weekly by the enterprising management. This week the bill is headed by that versatile Scotch comedian Mr. Jack Lorimer, and the various songs he sings are artistically handled and most favourably received; Miss Madeline Rossiter is a most graceful dancer, and sings delightfully, one of her songs, "Dainty little Dora with the dimple," being most archly rendered. Mr. Will Johnson in aptly described as a lively comedian, and he has a good rousing number in "I'm going to see"; the Warsaw Brothers, in their comedy musical act, are worth going a long way to see; and Mr. Billy French is a real live wonder as an exponent of the art of wooden shoe dancing. Miss Agnes Asher sings very effectively, and she has a good descriptive song in "The man I mean." Bert Brantford is quaintly amusing, and his confidential style of ditty always meets with approval; Miss Adelaide Waldorf, a charming Australian vocalist, appears instead of the Five White Comedy Minstrels, and one of her songs, "A tiny seed of love," is well worth hearing.

America's great singer of coon songs, Miss Ella Shields, has some very goey items in her répertoire, the most successful being perhaps "Do you want any coal?" which instantly catches on. Mr. Ernie Mayne, "the Simple One," is better than ever, and his parody of "If those lips would only speak" is extremely mirth-provoking, which is not to be wondered at when Ernie's quaint delivery is taken into account. Some very good pictures are also shown, and some good music is played by the orchestra, under the skilful bâton of Mr. Frank Thomas; whilst Mr. Robert W. Duce is most assiduous and courteous in front of the house.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

ON THE ROAD, NOV. 16.

An Abandoned Woman.—Prince's T., Horwich.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Loughborough.
Archie, Oscar.—New Theatre, Cardiff.
Assassin, The.—Metropole T., Devonport.
At Duty's Call.—O. H., Dunfermline.
Beau Brocade.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Belle of New York.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—T. R., Dewsbury.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—Bridgwater and Shepton Mallet.
Bondman, The (Croke).—T. R., Smethwick.
Bourchier, Arthur.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—New T., Cambridge.
Breed of the Treshams.—O. H., Burton-on-Trent.
Brewster's Millions.—Grand T., Croydon.
Broken Heart, A.—Colosseum, Oldham.
Bulmer, Mr.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—T. R., Belfast.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—T. R., Norwich.
Chinese Honeymoon (Bode).—T. R., Bournemouth.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Court T., Wigan.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—King's T., Hammersmith, W.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Penzance and Cambourne.
Claudian.—Opera House, Perth.
Coal King, The.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Compton Comedy Co.—Oxford and Reading.
Conscience of a Judge.—Prince's T., Accrington.
Country Girl in London.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (No. 1).—T. R., Birmingham.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (S.).—T. R., Brighton.
Dairymaids (Macdonald's).—Queen's T., Keighley.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—T. R., Bradford.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—O. H., Northampton.
Dorothy.—Royal Court T., Liverpool.
Driven from Home.—P. O. W., Salford.
Eve of Her Wedding.—O. H., Doncaster.
Face at the Window.—T. R., Croydon.
Fatal Wedding.—Osborne T., Manchester.
Fight for a Throne.—H. M. T., Carlisle.
Flag Lieutenant.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Flower Girl.—Theatre Royal, Glasgow.
For Love and the King.—King's T., Longsight.
From Shop Girl to Duchess.—T. R., Cardiff.
Gay Deceivers, The.—O. H., Leicester.
Gay Gordons (Miss Dare).—Grand T., Derby.
Gay Gordons (Terris and Hicks).—Prince's T., Bristol.
Gay Gordons (Miss Ash).—T. R., Leamington.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—Opera House, Ferndale.
Girl Redeemed from Sin.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Imperial T., Bordesley.
Girls of Gottenberg.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Girl with the Angel Face.—T. R., Bristol.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—Lyceum T., Stafford.
Great Awakening.—T. R., Barnsley.
Great White Chief, The.—Court T., Warrington.
Greed of Gold.—Jersey and Guernsey.
Guilty Gold.—Globe T., Walmer.
Her Love Against the World.—Star T., Liverpool.
Her Marriage Vow.—O. H., Wakefield.
Her Nameless Child.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
His House in Order.—T. R., St. Helens.
Home, Sweet Home.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Honeymoon, The.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Horniman's, Miss.—T. R., Preston.
Hughes, Annie.—Gaiety T. Manchester.
Hypocrites, The (N.).—H. M. T., Dundee.
Hypocrites, The (S.).—Theatre Royal, Bath.
Irene Wycherley.—Grand T., Middlesbrough.
Kiss of Judas.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Lurgan and Banbridge.
Lady Frederick.—Grand T., Fulham.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—Court T., Liverpool.
Leah Kleschna.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Little Breadwinner.—T. R., Leicester.
Love of the Princess.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Lucky 'Liza.—T. R., Macclesfield.
Man and Wife.—T. R., Stockport.
Manxman, The (Clyde).—Callander & Dunfermline.
Manxman, The.—T. R., Tyldesley.
Maude, Winifred.—Treherbert and Maestag.
Merry Widow (S.).—Empire T., Oldham.
Merry Widow.—King's T., Glasgow.
Midnight Mail.—Grand T., Chorley.
Mollison, William.—O. H., Cork.
Mother's Salvation, A.—Court T., Bacup.
Moody-Manners Opera (A.).—Palace T., Blackburn.
Moody-Manners (B.).—Southampton.
Moore, Miss Decima.—T. R., Hanley.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—Castle T., Stockton.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—G. T., Leeds.
My Mimosa Maid.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Mystery of Edwin Drood (H. M. Version).—O.H., Leicester.
New East Lynne.—Chesterfield.
Nihilist, The.—Grand T., Lancaster.
Old Folks at Home.—T. R., North Shields.
Otto the Outcast.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Peter's Mother.—T. R., Middlesborough.
Power of the Cross.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
Power of a Wicked Woman.—T. R., Batley.
Power of the King.—Hippo., West Bromwich.
Prince of Pilsen.—T. R., Aldershot.
Prodigal Parson.—New Gaiety T., Worksop.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—T. R., Worcester.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Hippodrome, Todmorden.
Prodigal Son (Western).—Court T., Bacup.
Robin Hood.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
Rollicking Rory.—Grand T., Falkirk.
Royal Divorce.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Sailor's Wedding.—Theatre Royal, Bury.
Second to None.—T. R., Sunderland.
Send Him Victorious.—T. R., Lincoln.
Sergeant Brue.—Hereford and Chesterfield.
Sherlock Holmes.—King's T., Sunderland.
Sign of the Cross.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Silver King.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Soldier of France.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Soldier's Honour.—New Hall, Bargoed.
Starr, Harry.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Still Alarm.—Grand T., Brighton.
Straight from the Shoulder.—T. R., S. Shields.
Sunday.—King's T., Sunderland.
Sutton and Raynor's Repertoire.—Grand T., West Hartlepool.
Terry, Edward.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
Terry, Fred.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Thief, The (N.).—T. R., Bolton.
Thief, The (S.).—Grand T., Swansea.
Tom Jones.—O. H., Torquay.
Tom Jones.—T. R., Newcastle.
Traitor Prince.—Pavilion, Abertillery.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Woolwich.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—Crown T., Eccles.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—Alexandra T., B'ham.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—Grand T., Mansfield.
Tyrant, The.—Queen's T., Longton.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—O. H., Coventry.
Under Two Flags.—Grand T., Newcastle.
Vedrenne-Barker.—T. R., Dublin.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Leeds.
Warner, Grace.—Bulford Camp.
Warning to Women.—T. R., Jarrow.
Way of the World.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
What a Woman Did.—T. R., Barry Dock.
When It Was Dark.—T. R., Rotherham.
When Knights Were Bold.—T. R., Nottingham.
When Knights Were Bold.—Crown T., Peckham.
When London Sleeps.—Broadway T., Deptford.
When Other Lips.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
White Man, A (N.).—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
White Man, A (S.).—T. R., Chatham.
Who is She?—T. R., Rochdale.
Why Men Love Women.—Alex. T., Hull.
With Edged Tools.—T. R., Hull.
Woman Pays, The.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
Woman Worth Winning.—Miners' T., Ashington.
Woman Who Gambles.—Pavilion Theatre, E.
World and the Woman.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Wrecker of Men.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
You Never Can Tell.—County T., Bedford.
£1,000 Reward.—Greenwich Theatre, S.E.
10.30 Down Express.—Globe T., Walmer.

The Awards. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "The Era" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Children on the Stage. The Act affecting the employment of children on the stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, agents, entrepreneurs, and performers wishing to possess a copy of the complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

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Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433. Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. V. W.—*The report of the Camden Theatre case appeared in our issue of June 27, 1908. The theatre was opened with variety on May 4 previous. No action was taken by the Lord Chamberlain or the County Council.*

"READERA" *inquires:*—"*Could any of your readers inform me where I could procure a song entitled "Sucking cider through a straw"? The lines are written in couplets.*

M. PLEVINS (Coventry).—*The piece is being toured in America. It is probable that it will be again toured in this country.*

E. ROWLAND.—*Send your communication to Lloyd's Newspaper. They make a speciality of discovering lost relatives, next-of-kin, and heirs to property. In reference to your mother, you might make inquiries by means of an advertisement in our "Wanted" columns.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

CLEMENTS.—Nov. 8, 1908, Miss Edith Wallis (Mrs. W. G. Clements), of a son.

ROYER.—To Mr. and Mrs. Archie Royer, a son, on the King's birthday, Nov. 9. Mother and baby doing well.

MARRIAGES.

TOFT—ASHLEY.—Nov. 4, at St. Peter's Church, Aungier-street, Dublin, by the Rev. S. F. Robinson, William Henry Toft, eldest son of the late William Toft, to Elizabeth Mary, only daughter of Herbert and Nellie Ashley.

DEATHS.

COOTON.—On Tuesday, Nov. 2, 1908, at 47, Drummond-crescent, N.W., Charlotte Beatrice Cooton (professionally known as Beatrice Spence), the beloved wife of Frank Cooton, suddenly, of heart failure, aged 44. At the inquest a verdict of natural causes was returned. Interred at Finchley Cemetery. R.I.P.

FORTH.—On Nov. 4, 1908, at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Eric Forth (Fred Osterstock), son of W. F. Osterstock, of St. Mary's Cottages, Friargate, Preston.

KEITH.—On Nov. 9, 1908, at Baden-Baden, after a serious operation, Madoline Marie Keith (Hayden), the dearly beloved wife of Edward H. Keith, aged 24 years.

LUPINO.—Nov. 12, 1908, Arthur Lupino, aged 44, of consumption, at his residence, 32a, Yukon-road, Balham. R.I.P.

ROMILLI.—On Nov. 5, at Leeds, Alessandro Romilli, suddenly, of heart failure, the husband of Mme. Leonora Romilli, of 25, Upper Bedford-place, W.C.

TOPHAM.—Nov. 10, suddenly, of heart disease, Frederic Topham, actor and teacher, aged 50.

IN MEMORIAM.

COURTNEY.—In loving memory of our darling mother Margaret E. Courtney, who died Nov. 9, 1906. Sadly missed.

DONOUGH.—In loving memory of Lottie, beloved mother of Sisters Stratton, who died Nov. 14, 1907. 161, Canning-street, Falkner-square, Liverpool.

LITCHFIELD.—In memory of my darling mother, Emma Litchfield, who fell asleep Nov. 14, 1905. Dearly loved by her daughter Emma.

THE FRANK AYLMER CASE.

We append a letter from Mr. W. H. Wallis (of Tennyson and Wallis), who makes an appeal on behalf of Mr. Frank Aylmer (of the Two Sports). We are pleased to open the list, as Mr. Wallis desires.

"Olympia, Liverpool.
"Oct. 29, 1908.

"DEAR SIR,—By publishing this letter you will assist an urgent and very deserving case. Frank Aylmer, of the Two Sports, is now lying for the fourteenth week in Mercer's Hospital, Dublin, having undergone two operations to his foot. It will be several weeks before he can be out and about again, and his wife, his only comfort, is in lodgings in Dublin with strangers, waiting till he is able to be out and working again. He was always a good boy whenever the hat went round for anybody else, and therefore if you will only open a list for him I am sure a lot of us together can do him a little bit of good. I enclose you P.O.O. for £5 9s., with names of donors. I shall be sending some more by Saturday.

"Thanking you in anticipation, yours faithfully,
"W. H. WALLIS."

	£	s.	d.
T. Allan Edwardes	1	1	0
Mendel	1	0	0
W. H. Wallis	0	10	6
J. Tennyson	0	10	6
Gus Garrick	0	10	6
Milke Whallen	0	10	6
Tom Pacey	0	10	6
Will Johnson	0	10	0
Whit Cunliffe	0	10	0
Chas. Austin	0	10	0
Carr and Rose	0	5	0
Syd May	0	5	0
May Henderson	0	4	0
Tom Lloyd	0	5	0
Josh Dixon	0	5	0
H. C. Gill	0	2	6
Humpsti	0	2	6
Bumpsti	0	2	6
Lovell Hurt	0	2	6
Masanio	0	2	6
Sisters Caselli	0	2	6
Crosby and Walker	0	2	6
Nellie Ridgway	0	2	6
Kit Keene	0	2	0

Collected at Hippo., Liverpool, by Mr. F. V. St. Clair: F. V. St. Clair, 5s.; Willie Gardiner, 1s.; Tom Barrasford, jun., 1s.; Freddie French, 2s. 6d.; Jno. D. Saunders and Dora De Winton, 2s. 6d.; Cedar and Elgar, 2s. 6d.; Mike Nono, 1s. Total, 15s. 6d.

All subscriptions for this distressing case will be duly announced if addressed to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer, *The Era* Office.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Anslie, Mr. Theo.
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Bale, Miss F.
Barker, Mr. J.
Barrett, Mr. Cecil
Beaufort, Mr. G.
Beckwith, Mr. W.
Bellclair, Brothers
Beloe, Miss H.
Bernard, Mr. Bert
Biddall, Bros.
Borthwick, Mr. Haines
Bosco, Mr. A. P.
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Brewer, Mr. Joseph
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Cooper, Mr. Frank
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Crawley and Bishop
Crawley, Mr. Dan
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Cronin, Mr. M. F.
Culeen, Mr. James H.
Cunliffe, Mr. Whit
Currie, Mr. Byden
Dacre, Mr. Louis M.
D'Albert, Mr. Alan
Deomer, Mr. H.
Derry, Miss Joan
Devereux, Captain
Doyle, Mr. C. M.
Dyer, Miss Lily
Ebrahim, Mr.
Eckhert, Miss K.
Edwards, Mr. Karl H.
Edwin and Edwards
Ellanger, Mr. W. F.
English, Mr. Geo.
Esmond, Mr. Harry E.
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Geddes, Mr. J. D.
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Hunt, Mrs.
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Kirk, Mr. Geo.
Krone, Mr. J. W.
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Law-Brailsford, Mr. H.
Le Bruns
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Lennol, Mr. Jack
Lennox, Mr. C. Gordon
Levante, Miss M.
Leybourne, Mr. Arthur
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Lupina, Mr. G.
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Macdonald, Mr. J.
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Shrapnel, Mr. L.
Silvester, Mr. R.
Sims, Miss Violet
Smith, Mr. Clement
Sprone, Mr. James
Staley, Miss G.
Stevenson, Mr. J. O.
Stewart, Miss Nellie
Sugden, Mr. Chas.
Transfield, Mr. T.
Trappenell, Mr. P.
Vandyke, Mr. Chas.
Verzen, Mr. Herman
Vincent, Miss C.
Viner, Mr. Leslie
Volpi, Mr. B.
Walsh, Mr. H. A.
Warren, Mr. F. Brook
Watts, Mr. W.
Weldon, Mr. C.
Weston, Mr. Bert
White, Miss Kitty
Whitehouse, Mr. J. H.
Williams, Mr. Robert
Willis, Mr. Alfred
Wright, Mr. Harry

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Alfred Paumier—Saturday, Nov. 14.
John Cecil—Saturday, Nov. 14.
Joe Haynes—Saturday, Nov. 14.
Mrs. Arthur Aiston—Saturday, Nov. 14.
Grace Lester—Saturday, Nov. 14.
Clara Nisbet—Sunday, Nov. 15.
Charles Cruikshanks—Sunday, Nov. 15.
G. B. Bigwood—Sunday, Nov. 15.
John Brill—Monday, Nov. 16.
Georgie Corlass—Monday, Nov. 16.
Herbert Waring—Tuesday, Nov. 17.
Ettie Stratton—Tuesday, Nov. 17.
Annie Floradora—Tuesday, Nov. 17.
Sir W. S. Gilbert—Wednesday, Nov. 18.
Carlotta Levey—Wednesday, Nov. 18.
W. S. Penley—Thursday, Nov. 19.
Daisy Halling—Thursday, Nov. 19.
Carter Livesey—Friday, Nov. 20.

THE AWARDS. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "THE ERA" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CALENDAR.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

THEATRICAL, MUSICAL, AND EQUESTRIAN OBITUARY FOR 1908.
See THE ERA ANNUAL 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Daily Express:—
An interesting illustration of the proverb, "Brevity is the soul of wit," is given in some correspondence between Mr. Robert Arthur, the theatrical manager, and Mr. Lennox Pawle, published by the latter in "The Era" Annual for 1908.

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THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT
FOR
ACTOR AND COMPOSER,
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ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).
Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his textbook on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 1908.

THE LATE VICTORIEN SARDOU.

The only fault of the French dramatist who died last Sunday was that he had outlived his day. SARDOU was a disciple of SCRIBE; but SCRIBE never attempted or pretended to "hold the mirror up to Nature." His plays were carefully constructed machines, made to run a certain time; and, as long as his vogue lasted, they certainly did so. SARDOU combined with SCRIBE's expert construction a veneer of reality that, for a time, was deceptive. His simulation of insight into humanity was so clever that the impression of it lasted long enough to influence an audience of his day for the hours that they remained in the theatre; and that answered the playwright's purpose with his contemporaries completely. We are too apt to forget how rapidly the hands of the theatrical clock move on; and how the "startling novelty" of to-day becomes the played-out effect of next season. This fact is well illustrated by the case of *Nos Intimes*. In this piece SARDOU revived the situation of the young wife with an elderly husband who is physically unattractive. The lover has been staying in the house, and the usual climax is at hand. Problem: how to save the worthy husband from disgrace and annoyance, and how to "cure" the wife of her tendency to infidelity. Nowadays the French dramatist would go to the root of the matter. The wife would take up her stand on broad philosophic grounds, and would argue the husband into subjection. He would possibly be persuaded to connive at his own shame; or the wife might experience one of those great convulsions of spirit which we hear of in connection with the Salvation Army. SARDOU shirked the serious side of the situation characteristically. He saved the wife from exposure by a kind of dramatic practical joke. She listens for the shot which she supposes is about to slay her would-be lover; and then, bang goes a gun outside, and the husband runs in carrying a fox which he has been staying up all night to shoot. It will hardly be believed, in these days of "daring" dénouements, that SCRIBE pronounced *Nos Intimes* "foul to a degree," and asked "what the drama was coming to." What would he have said had he been able to foresee some of the modern French plays?

SARDOU was the type and acme of the manufacturing dramatist. He had the sense of the theatre as it was understood in the early sixties. He had the art, so rare and so valuable, of knowing exactly how intelligent to be for any given purpose. He went just far enough into things and no farther. His construction was not a matter of exits and entrances, but a vision of a field perfectly laid out, of an idea divided into acts and subdivided into scenes, each taking its share in the advancing and assistance of the whole. A letter picked up on the sanded floor of a shop suggested to him a whole scheme of incident and intrigue; a scent served as a clue to a criminal. For, with SARDOU, the theatre always came first. Unfortunately for SARDOU's later years, the theatre of his old age was no longer the theatre of his youth. In his earlier days SARDOU was really, though it is difficult to realise it, a pioneer and an innovator. Compared with SCRIBE, indeed, he was a daring realist. He appears to have had no particular feelings, no individual convictions. His *Rabagas* was a special pleading for the rotten régime of the Second Empire, just as his *Robespierre*, intended for English audiences, gave the British conventional idea of the Revolutionist and the Reign of Terror. But art is a matter of technique almost as much as a question of imagination; and the line which divides the great craftsman from the great artist is a thin and vague one. SARDOU, besides knowing his trade perfectly, had an enormous industry and a passion for external realities. He revelled in archæological details; and his controversy as to whether forks were used in the Byzantine period was most interesting. There was always a basis of knowledge in his treatment of a period; and he took infinite pains with his accessories. Probably his most enduring works will be found to be his comedies.

It is very easy indeed to point out the decline and fall of SARDOU; as if he had not shared the fate of every theatrical luminary. The wonder was that he lasted so long; a result that was only attained by his remarkable power of adapting himself to the circumstances of the moment. If it comes to that, what about IBSEN, MAETERLINCK, and other authors whose faults certainly are not those of SARDOU? Where is IBSEN now? Is it not strange, remembering the "boom" that followed his introduction to English audiences, remembering the prophesies of his "financial success," not long, we were told, to be delayed, that he is already so entirely "laid on the shelf," as far as London is concerned? How is it that IBSEN-lovers and the "curious" cannot, in the whole year round, see a cycle of his plays performed in London? Is the "Master" as dead as all that? If so, SARDOU is certainly in no worse a plight as far as Great Britain is concerned. It was all very well for ZOLA to foam at the mouth in denouncing SARDOU's absurdities and imperfections; but what came of the portentous directions, and predictions, and layings down of the law in ZOLA's essay? Have actual results come up to realist expectations? Let us lay the earth reverently on the Great Constructionist. We have had too much of late of lame and straggling plots apologised for by brilliant eccentricities, of wild imagination and poor technique, of plays that are not plays at all, but merely "go-as-you-please" extravagances. There is no risk that we shall revert to the conventional and the mechanical view of drama. The danger is the other way; that we may forget that, first and foremost, a play must excel as a coherent entertainment of the stage, under penalty of extinction at the conclusion of the "craze" that at first obscured its defects.

"THE PRIEST OF THE TEMPLE" is being given at the Opera House, Treherbert. Mr. Chas. March's acting as Valerius is capable; Decius is admirably sustained by Mr. William Bradford; Præstantia, in the hands of Miss Una Lane, is a charming impersonation; and comedy of a vivacious kind is introduced by Spencer Allwood as Asquatus. Miss Ethel Crawford as Polita is effective.

AT the Alexandra Theatre, Widnes, Mr. T. Arthur Jones is presenting *When Other Lips*. Mr. T. Arthur Jones does sound work as Ted Daunton; Mr. Juan D'Alberti is a truculent Basil Cuningham; Mr. Cecil Raymond is sound as Tommy Neccles; Mr. Richard Webb has made a close study of the character of Duddle Topwash; Mr. Herbert Bentone is an amusing Phylocrates Jenkins; and Mr. Albert H. Clarke is well placed as Robert Lingley; the Jew of Mr. Dick Everton is better than the average; Mr. Robert Lawin handles the part of Sharkey with ability; Mr. Arthur A. Felton is a good Ginger; Miss Agnes Collier wins much sympathy by her capable acting as Octavia; Miss Lizzie Lennon as Kitty Topwash wins many laughs; and Miss Marie Daventry is a winning heroine.

"MR. BUCKSTONE has talents, Mr. Buckstone has humour, Mr. Buckstone has much waggishness, but Mr. Buckstone has no refinement," wrote a critic in 1862. "A double entendre lurks in each eye; his smirk is a hint of an unclean presence. The pit is always on the grin before him; but the boxes, whilst they applaud, are troubled lest the wag that sets them in a roar should commit himself. His voice is in perfect keeping with his person: it suggests a distillation; it seems to lazily flow from a mind charged with fat thoughts and unctuous conceits. He has the true low-comedy air in his walk and gesture; his face looks dry and red with long roasting before the footlights. He is the son of Mirth and Vulgarity. His mind is a machine which manufactures afresh the stuff it is fed on; what is wholesome and plain is reproduced in a new form, with a different colouring and an original aroma. The downright speaking of the old dramatists can never offend or shock when spoken by refined lips; but to such downright speaking Mr. Buckstone takes care to impart a meaning of his own, and makes plain speech a sort of intellectual perspective for the satyr who leers with dewy eyes upon the spectator, and whilst he forces him to laugh, compels him to despise the occasion of his merriment." No libel action followed.

"IN AN ARAB GARDEN."

A Comedy in One Act, by Gladys Ungar, adapted from the French of P. Bizear, produced at the Vaudeville Theatre, on Thursday evening, Nov. 12.

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Ali .....MR. E. MATURIN
Messaouda .....MISS MONA HARRISON

Miss Gladys Ungar, the authoress of *Mr. Sheridan*, produced and favourably commented on some time ago at the Garrick Theatre, has given us a pleasing curtain-raiser, on somewhat novel lines, in *In an Arab Garden*. The only fault one need find with it is that it is rather too long, and the earlier part of the play could, with advantage, be considerably cut down. The scene is the house of Ramdan Ben Ramdan in Hammanet, near Tunis. Ramdan is an elderly lawyer, who some time previous to the period at which the play opens, had indicated to Messaouda, the beautiful daughter of a merchant, that he desires to make her his wife. But soon afterwards he appears to have repented his advance to the lady and withdrew his suit. Then a few months later he changes his mind, and now decides that he will really marry her. But there is a legal obstacle in that Ramdan having once slighted the girl by repudiating his proposal, has forfeited his right to again seek her hand. The astute lawyer, however, after much hard thinking, discovers a way out of his difficulty which he considers the law will permit. He will marry Messaouda to his gardener, Mahamoud, draw up a deed nullifying the marriage, which the gardener shall sign, and then he (Ramdan) will be able to claim his Messaouda for ever. To legalise the marriage Mahamoud and the girl must stay under the same roof for one night, and so Ramdan arranges to place them in different rooms in his own house. The young and good-looking gardener is in a very troubled state of mind. He had fallen in love with a lady with whom he was not acquainted, and he signs the document relinquishing his right to Messaouda, and accepts the bribe from Ramdan without realising that Messaouda and the unknown woman are the same. Ben Hassin, a patriarchal lawyer and a friend of Ramdan—the two, by the way, are preparing a history of the law since the time of Mahomet—ridicules Ramdan's pretended love affair. However, during the night Messaouda comes to the door of her sleeping apartment, and the poor gardener recognises in her the girl whom he had seen but once, and for whom his heart was yearning. The end of it is Ben Hassin tears up Ramdan's document, and Mahamoud and Messaouda walk slowly off through the garden together—their poverty is nothing—they have love!

Mr. H. R. Hignett acted with sincerity and feeling as Mahamoud, and Mr. Percy Goodyer furnished a really excellent study of the legal dotard, Ramdan. Miss Mona Harrison was quite delightful as Messaouda, and as her half-inebriated father, Mr. Charles Trood was seen in a clever bit of characterisation. Mr. Robert Whyte, jun., as Hassin, and Mr. E. Maturin as Ali (servant), also rendered good support. The playlet is beautifully mounted and the interior of Ramdan's house forms a very pretty scene.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, OCT. 6.—Mme. Ada Crossley, singing better and with fuller voice than ever, is giving highly successful concerts under Mr. J. C. Williamson's direction at the Town Hall.

MR. J. C. WILLIAMSON removed *Peter Pan* last Thursday from the Royal stage, and revived *Dorothy Vernon* on the Saturday. Mr. Thomas Kingston is Sir John Manners; and Miss Tittell Brune again enacts Dorothy Vernon. The cast is most decidedly strengthened by the placing of Mrs. Robert Brough as Queen Elizabeth, the virago of English history; and Miss Emma Temple comes in very handy as Lady Vernon. The ill-fated Marie Stuart falls to Miss Nellie Calvin with anything but Calvinistic flavour. Mr. Maurice Dudley made Perkin Megister stand out in favourable prominence; and Mr. Gregan McMahon posed as Sir Malcolm Vernon most forcibly.

"THE MERRY WIDOW" is having phenomenal booking at Her Majesty's. On Wednesday afternoon Miss Ivy Scott most successfully replaced Miss Carrie Moore as Sonia. The reason for Carrie Moore's absence on Wednesday was that she was quietly married that morning to a young English sportsman, Mr. P. P. Bigwood. The next morning a writ was served on the bridegroom by an English lady, Miss Ivy Salvin, for breach of promise. The lady's solicitor also seized the Bigwood motor-car, which Miss Salvin says was bought with her money from the departing Governor-General, Lord Northcote, for 420 guineas. Miss Moore reappeared on the night of her bridal, and is still the Sonia, "a merry widow."

MESSRS. MEYNELL AND GUNN'S production of *The Belle of Mayfair* at the Criterion is a notable one. The cast is very strong, for, besides the established favourites, Miss Ruth Lincoln, who plays the Princess, Miss Essie Perrin (Pincott), Mr. Roland Bottomley (Raymond), Mr. Edwin Brett (Sir John), Mr. William Cromwell (Hugh Meredith), Mr. Tom Payne (Simpson), Mr. Arthur Appleby (Comte de Pierier), and Mr. Fred England (the Bishop), "the firm" has added a dainty, graceful actress in Miss Gracie Sinclaire, who is a charming Julie Chaldicott.

MR. FRANK THORNTON'S farewell season is fast drawing to a close, only four more nights remaining. These will see packed houses at the Criterion to enjoy the comedian's unique performance as Lord Babberley, in *Charley's Aunt*. We shall miss the utterly conscientious actor, who has given us so much wholesome fun, and our best wishes go with him whithersoever he goes.

THE Tivoli has Abdullah's Arabs as the greatest of the Harry Rickards attractions. The theatre, often half-full at curtain rise, is packed when these marvellous artists appear, and loud applause greets them every night. Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Meymott change their sketches, which are always attractive and well acted. The Barnard Family, Nellie Wilson, Tod Lowen, Little Gertie Cremer, Little Willie, Rochfort, and Hart, and Burt Shepard are in the bill; Miss Nita Leete, the rich-voiced contralto, is singing a new song by Mr. Bert Rache, the Tivoli conductor, entitled "Only to love you I live," with pictures to illustrate it.

MR. DUDLEY CLINTON died at Perth, Western Australia, on the 30th, and was buried in the Jewish Cemetery there. He came to Australia with Miss Nellie Stewart to play in *Sweet Nell of Old Drury*, toured America with that lady, and returned to Sydney engaged by Mr. J. C. Williamson.

"THE ANCIENT SUFFRAGETTE," a long while after Coleridge, is by Mrs. A. C. Helen Meredith, sister to Sir Robert Laurie Morant, K.C.B., Secretary to the Board of Education. Mrs. Meredith is also the author of *The Taming of Venus*, a poetical play, which she has sent to Mr. F. R. Benson for his perusal.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"MICHAEL KRAMER,"
Play, in Four Acts, by Gerhart Hauptmann, Produced at the Lessing Nov. 7.

Michael Kramer .....HERR SAUER
Frau Kramer .....FRAU LEHMANN
Michaline .....FRAULEIN HERTERICH
Arnold .....HERR ACHTERBERG
Lachmann .....HERR MARR
Frau Lachmann .....FRAULEIN EBERTY
Liese .....FRAULEIN WUEST
Schnabel .....HERR MARX
Zehn .....HERR RICKELT
Quantmeyer .....HERR ZIENER
Krause .....HERR PAULI
Berta .....FRAULEIN STOLLE
Fritz .....HERR BOROWSKI

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Nov. 12.—This work of the eminent playwright is not new, but it was a novelty to the majority of the audience. It was produced by the same management eight years ago at the Deutsches Theatre, and since then has not been performed here. The reception accorded it last week was most cordial, and Herr Hauptmann, who was present, had every reason to be gratified. *Michael Kramer* is an essentially German play: it is human, convincing, and frequently sentimental. The hero bears the name of the title. He is a painter and professor at a Royal School of Art. He is a hunchback and the reverse of handsome, but he is not embittered by his misfortune. Michael Kramer is a bit of a philosopher and a good deal of an amateur parson, and he talks like a book. His son Arnold has inherited his father's physical deformity, but not his beautiful soul. In a word, Arnold is a thorough-paced "bad lot," who rewards the goodness of his parents with dire ingratitude, who passes his time in doubtful "pubs" in low company, and whose untimely end we cannot deplore. The last act affords splendid scope to any actor of the name-part: in the tirade of the broken-hearted father there is much to move the most hardened playgoer. Herr Sauer gave the rôle in his best manner, which is saying a good deal, and his supporters were all admirable. It is very safe to prophesy a good number of performances.

THE Royal Schauspielhaus produced a new historical tragedy a few nights ago. It is by Christian Grabbes—an author who has written several similar plays—and bears the title of *Kaiser Heinrich der Sechste*. The five acts are very long, the whole play taking four good hours, so that—especially as the plot and its development are interesting to very few—the patience of the audience was exceedingly tried. One critic heads his notice with "Heinrich der Langweilige" (the bore). It is a lamentable fact that our one State theatre seldom produces any novelty that is not boring. The acting was excellent, and the mounting also; but it was an unnecessary expenditure of conscientious work all round.

"DER STOLZ DER STADT," a three-act comedy by Gustav Wied, has made a hit at the Luisen. It is one of the famous Danish writer's early works, and, though somewhat crude, is thoroughly entertaining. The "pride of the town" is Hans Seeport, a talented young painter, whose art studies have been paid for by the authorities of the small town, where Hans' father had unluckily gone bankrupt. The artist, covered with honours, returns to his native place, and horrifies the goody-goody citizens by bringing his model, the star of a travelling circus, with him. The lady lodges with Hans' landlady, and the town rises up in arms against the "immorality" of the thing. The now famous painter turns the tables upon his former patrons with a vengeance. He has discovered that his father's ruin was caused by the villainy of several of the town's magnates, and in a very strong scene he throws their evil deeds in their faces. Then he shakes off the dust of his native town for ever, and departs with his model. The grateful rôle of Hans Seeport was well acted by Herr Schneeweiss, and the remainder of the cast was satisfactory. The reception was so cordial that the manager was compelled to appear on behalf of the absent author.

AT the Schiller O. a "German play," in five acts by H. Lilieufein was produced with success last Saturday. It is entitled *Der Schwarze Cavalier*, and is of the fantastic order. The action passes during the Thirty Years' War in a solitary corner of Germany. The "Black Cavalier" is the Plague, who is invited to a wedding feast by a degraded soldier to be revenged upon the guests. There is also a witch in the piece and various other shady persons, and the whole has been put together with a good deal of dramatic talent.

"PELLEAS ET MELISANDE," a musical drama, in five acts and fifteen scenes, by Debussy, text by Maeterlinck, was the great event of the week at the Komische Oper. Director Gregor and his capital staff took every pains to make the work a success, and their efforts were not in vain. The opera has been heard in Germany before—in Dresden and Frankfort—but never under such good conditions. Cast, orchestra, and mounting were alike deserving of unstinted commendation.

MR. GEO. EDWARDES'S company is at the Theatre Royal, Torquay, in *The Merry Widow*. Miss Mysie Devine makes a charming and fascinating widow; Miss Ada Thomas does well as Natalie; an admirable representation of Frou-Frou is given by Miss Katie May, her dancing being much appreciated; Mr. Frank Greene takes the rôle of the Prince with success; and Mr. Fred Fowler provokes continuous merriment as Nisch.

AT the Theatre Royal, Tyldesley, *His Sister's Honour* is being presented this week by Mr. Evelyn A'Dell's company. Mr. Evelyn A'Dell is powerful and convincing as Richard Stanley; Sir Richard Redvers has a praiseworthy exponent in Mr. Walter Wilson; Mr. Edwin Clarke gives a successful portrayal of Dr. Godfrey; Mr. S. Verner is an efficient Police-constable Worthie; and Mr. Tom Armitage a humorous Timothy. Miss Flora Leslie fills the part of Dora Stanley in a capable manner; Miss Ethel Ashleigh does well as Ivy Merton; and Miss Maudie Vincent is a lively Maria.

IN the Football League, Second Division match, at Clapton this afternoon, Fulham will be represented by Skene, Charlton, Lindsay, Collins, Parsonage, Stuart, Millington, Dalrymple, Harrison, Brown, and Lipsham. The kick-off is at three o'clock. Fulham Reserves will oppose Norwich City in connection with the South-Eastern League, at Fulham this afternoon, when the home team will comprise Fryer, Harper, Leigh, Rogers, Waterson, J. J. Radnage, Threlfall, Freeman, Barton, Bradshaw, Duff. Kick-off, 2.45.

A WARM tribute to Sir Hubert Parry was paid by Sir Walter Parratt, the new Professor of Music at Oxford University, in the course of his inaugural lecture in the Sheldonian Theatre on Wednesday, the subject being "Appreciation in Music." After kindly reference to former professors, Sir Walter asked: What should he say about his dear friend and immediate predecessor, Sir Hubert Parry? He was so various. There was the country gentleman managing his estates with minute care and an attractive tinge of Socialism; the country magistrate who fined the offender five shillings, and probably rushed round to pay the fine himself; the ambitious motorist, the fearless yachtsman, the minor historian, the director of the Royal College of Music, where he was adored by the whole staff from the teachers to the office boy. There was the Professor of the University, whose questions were the very poetry of examination papers.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA PATRONNE,"
Comedy, in Five Acts, by M. Maurice Donnay, produced at the Vaudeville on Nov. 6.

Nelly Sandral .....MME. JEANNE GRANIER
Adrienne Destrié .....MLLE. BRESIL
Mme. Bayanne .....MLLE. CECILE CARON
Ginette Faegis .....MLLE. DE MORNAND
Mme. Falconnet .....MLLE. DHERBLAY
Nedia Meynard .....MLLE. DELIA
Mme. Tasselin .....MLLE. FARNA
Vincent Le Hazay .....M. ABEL TARRIDE
Henry Fargis .....M. LERAND
Sandral .....M. ARQUILLIERE
Docteur Mourgeuil .....M. JOFFRE
Robert Bayanne .....M. PUYLAGARDE
Jacques Latrille .....M. ROGER VINCENT

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Thursday, Nov. 12.—It is a chastened Maurice Donnay who revealed himself in his five-act play *La Patronne*, a severe, academical Donnay, applying the lash to the shoulders of mondains and mondaines. But in his zeal to punish vice the gifted playwright put on the black colour a little too thick, and thereby spoilt an otherwise fine picture. The curtain rises on a soirée at the house of the Sandrals. We see beautiful women in tasteful toilettes, distinguished-looking men—an "All-Paris," unprincipled, frivolous crowd. Sandral, a rich manufacturer, has engaged as secretary Robert Bayanne, a youth of about twenty, the nephew of Nelly, his wife. Nelly is no paragon of virtue. In fact, she has kept pace with the other ladies in her set; but the moment Robert comes to stay with them she becomes a different woman. Robert is inexperienced and naive; and her rôle is to watch over him with motherly care. Unfortunately she cannot prevent the youth from falling in love with Adrienne Destrié, a heartless coquette, and becoming that woman's lover. A year elapses. Adrienne calls on Nelly, and informs her that she has given Robert to understand that she has grown tired of him. But the boy takes things tragically, refuses to return her letters, and threatens to fight his rival. Nelly then takes Robert in hand. She patiently listens to the outpouring of his grief, and finally prevails upon him not to raise a scandal, and to return Adrienne's letters. Another year elapses. Adrienne takes it into her head to pay a visit to her victim Robert, a risky experiment that might have led to serious trouble, and after a violent scene the lady leaves in a great rage, with her dress slightly torn. But a new visitor is announced, Jacques Latrille, a "society commission agent," of whom Nelly says that he is not a gentleman, but a "gentle-muffle." Latrille knows that Robert is heavily in debt, and he tempts him to sell one of his employer's secrets. Sandral notices that his papers in his private room—to which only Robert has access—have been tampered with. He tells his wife that he suspects Robert, and on the eve of the youth's treachery being discovered, Nelly, his good angel, once more intervenes. She makes him confess that he took a few notes, but had not yet parted with the secret; and she impresses upon him the fact that Paris is fatal to him, and that he had better return to his mother in his native provincial town to clean his mind from all the dirt that has accumulated there. Excellent acting and many pretty women adorn the piece. Mme. Jeanne Granier was perfection itself; Mlle. Brésil, who only had to look lovely, gave every satisfaction in that respect; M. Lérand as a tipsy old scientist; M. Arquillière as the scheming Sandral; M. Joffre as a "society doctor," and M. Puylagarde as Robert all did splendid work.

IN *L'Oreille fendue*, M. Népoty's comedy now running at Antoine's, the rôle of Mme. Charmillon, created by Mlle. Marcilly, has been given to Mlle. Alice Barton, a talented young actress of Anglo-Saxon descent. Mlle. Barton, who not long ago made a very successful début at the Théâtre de l'Œuvre, has come quickly to the fore, and is fast becoming a great favourite with Paris audiences. The rôle of Mme. Charmillon—an American lady with a shady past, who, thanks to her millions, becomes engaged to Marc, a lieutenant, the son of a retired general—is by no means an easy one. But the clever artist came triumphantly through the ordeal, and scored immensely in the great scene between her and her *fiancé's* sister. Mlle. Barton, who speaks English fluently and imparts a peculiar charm to all she does, may be expected soon to make her appearance in one of the London theatres.

THE newspapers all over the world have brought lengthy notices on Victorien Sardou, the ablest master of stage-craft, who has just passed away at the age of seventy-seven. It, therefore, is not necessary for me to enlarge on M. Sardou's career. Sufficient to say that during half a century of incessant work he tried all styles, from farce to comedy and tragedy, even operetta and "fairy" plays. Many of these are forgotten, whilst others are likely to retain their hold on the masses. M. Sardou was successful from the very start; for his *Famille Benoiton*, produced in 1865, at the latter end of the Second Empire, proved such a gold-mine that out of the profits he bought his beautiful estate at Marly-le-Roi, near Paris. Many years ago I had occasion to introduce to M. Sardou an eminent English playwright who was anxious to have the great French dramatist's opinion on a new play to be brought out on a London stage. Sardou, in his usual blunt way, gave some excellent advice, for which my friend was extremely grateful. I wonder whether the eminent English playwright still remembers the incident.

THE plot of MM. Xanrof and Chancel's three-act operette *S.A.R.* produced at the Bouffes-Parisiens, for which M. Yvan Caryll supplied the music, is the same as that of *Le Prince Consort*, with which English playgoers are familiar. It will be remembered that Cyrill, the son of a reprobate old king dethroned by his subjects, marries the young Queen Sonia. Cyrill, however, is only Prince Consort, and is not allowed to interfere with State affairs. His position of a Royal companion is so humiliating that he is driven into open rebellion and gives the Queen a lesson which nearly leads to divorce. Fortunately, the young couple are very much in love, and they not only become reconciled, but Cyrill obtains the privileges which he claims, whilst Xenofa, Sonia's meddlesome, amorous aunt, marries the reprobate old king. M. Yvan Caryll's music is bright and melodious, but the public were a little disappointed, because it does not bear the typical English stamp which appeals so strongly to Parisians. "C'est joli, mais cela n'a pas le cachet Anglais," is the verdict of the majority of the critics. For all that, the work met with a decided success, and many couplets had the honour of an encore. Mlle. Deval as the elderly aunt was the "strong card" in the cast, and scored a tremendous success; M. Henri Defreyn, the happy possessor of a sweet tenor, was a manly Cyrill; and Mlle. Dumesnil presented a winsome Sonia. Special praise is also due to the orchestra and to its able conductor, M. Lassailly.

PRINCESS HENRY OF BATTENBERG and Princess Patricia of Connaught, with the Earl and Countess Beauchamp, were present at the performance of *The Only Way* at the Adelphi on Thursday.

MR. EDITOR.—SIR,—I notice in your last issue a report of *Straight from the Shoulder*, at Darlington, in which your correspondent mentions my name as playing Dr. Francis Bedford. I did not play the part at Darlington.—Your truly, MATTHEW BOULTON, Grand Theatre, Swansea, Nov. 10.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MR. WALTER GIBBONS, Mr. H. Blackmore, and Little Tich have consented to act as committee members of Mr. Will Evans's proposed Sports Club. Mr. Arthur Lennard, Mr. and Mrs. George Foster, Mr. Arthur Godfrey, Miss Adele Levey, Mr. Phil Ray, Mr. Harry Masters, Mr. Chas. Reed, Mr. Harry Tate, Mr. Wilkie Bard, Mr. Geo. Arthurs, Mr. Sam Mayo, Mr. Edward Lewis, and Mr. Fred Wyndham have become members of the club.

THE directors of the Oxford have declared an interim divided at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum. The business at the favourite hall is enormous, and "standing room only" is the cry at the box office every evening.

"THE BOATSWAIN'S MATE," by W. W. Jacobs and Herbert C. Sargent, which, under the direction of T. V. Vaughan and John Lawson, was given as a sketch at the Tivoli, has returned to its original home, Wyndham's Theatre, where it is evoking roars of laughter nightly. It has been booked by Mr. Oswald Stoll for thirty-two weeks, and Mr. Walter Gibbons has secured it for eighteen.

THE position of musical adviser to the Moss and Stoll Amalgamation has been accepted by Mr. Alfred Dove, formerly musical director of the Lyceum, and recently London representative for Maurice E. Bandmann—a position that he has just resigned.

MR. ALFRED MOUL will present at the Alhambra on Monday *Apaches and Grigolettes*, introducing the sensational Apache dance from the Moulin Rouge, Paris, performed by M. Volbert and Mlle. Sylve. Another item will be the Ten Ji Troupe of Japanese magicians, who will give some wonderful juggling feats. On Wednesday evening the Australian football team were the guests of the Alhambra directors.

MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD, Mr. George Barrasford, and Mr. Walter Gibbons were at the Alhambra, Paris, on Sunday, having journeyed from Brussels. They witnessed the house packed—not even standing room at the matinée—and a very fine programme. Among the many artists who are creating a furore at every performance and becoming popular Paris favourites are Les Cattaneos, La Rola, Ray Maskell, Wright and Lawson, and Ted E. Box. It is understood that Messrs. Barrasford and Gibbons are in treaty for a couple more theatres in Paris.

MISS DUNDAS SLATER, the eighteen-year-old daughter of the popular manager of the Coliseum, at an hour's notice was called upon to play Miss Olive May's part of Tita in *Havana* at the Gaiety Theatre on Monday night, and will retain the part during Miss May's recovery from a sprained knee. Miss Dundas Slater made the most of her opportunity, and gave a very bright and charming rendering of the character. Her experience on the boards has not been restricted to musical comedy, for she has appeared as Lady Orreyed in *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* and as Tow-Tow in *Sweet Nancy*.

VESTA VICTORIA, as clever and versatile as ever, has made a hit at the Holborn Empire and Canterbury. The termination of her engagement at the Canterbury on Saturday evening was marked by a somewhat pathetic incident—the sequel to another of a like kind. Some considerable time ago when in Liverpool Miss Vesta Victoria was walking with a lady friend when she was attracted by the cry of "Flowers, lady." Thinking the face of the flower-seller familiar, she made inquiries, and found that it was the mother of a pro. whose name some years ago used to be a household word.

THE poor woman was stranded and practically destitute. Miss Vesta Victoria at once made arrangements to bring her back to London, but our fair artist's generosity did not end there. The incident had been forgotten until Saturday evening, when a small cardboard box was left at the stage-door of the Canterbury. Upon being opened it was found to contain two simple home-made artificial flowers with this note attached:—"To Miss Vesta Victoria in remembrance of your kindness to me in Liverpool." Needless to say, the simple offering will not be the least treasured of Miss Vesta Victoria's possessions. Miss Vesta Victoria leaves for America to-day.

THE Joint Board of the Federated Trade Unions and the Labour Party has considered all the correspondence relating to the position of the Artists' Protection League, and the following resolution has been unanimously adopted:—"That, in the opinion of the Joint Board, the Artists' Protection League is not eligible for affiliation to either the Trade Union Congress, the General Federation of Trade Unions, or the Labour Party."

MR. GLAZIER, who shared the duties of *chef d'orchestre* at the Empire with Mr. Cuthbert Clarke on the re-opening of that house in 1905, has lately been occupying the conductor's seat at the Alhambra, Brussels (Mr. Barrasford's house). He has now transferred his services in a like capacity to the King's Southsea, where he commenced his duties on Monday.

THE Tivoli v. Stratford Empire Music Hall and Theatrical Football League match was played on Sunday, Nov. 8, when a pleasant game ended in a well-deserved victory for the Tivoli, by three goals to one. The Tivolians, who are a very keen lot, now head the competition, which promises to be a most interesting one. Stoke Newington went down before the strenuous play of Holborn Empire, who also gained the verdict by three goals to one. The Holborn men now tie with the Newingtonians, who are second on the list.

THE monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road, on Wednesday. Mr. W. J. Wainratta presided, and there were also present Messrs. Pat Carey (hon. treasurer pro tem.), F. D. Harris, H. E. High, G. Fredericks, W. Brisco, T. Dunlo, T. Carney, T. B. Brydge, and Douglas White and Jesse Sparrow (trustees).

It was stated that Mr. Frank Heath, who had been compelled to resign the post of hon. treasurer through serious illness, was in about the same condition, and a hope was expressed that an improvement would speedily take place.

A HEARTY vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Pat Carey for giving his services as hon. treasurer, and after other business had been transacted, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

THE removal from Spot Lodge having been successfully accomplished, Will Oliver is now installed in his new home at 28, Trent-road, Brixton Hill, ready to spot anything attractive in the amusement world.

FOR the Empire Theatre Life-boat matinée on Tuesday, Nov. 24, an attractive programme has been arranged. Miss Ada Reeve, Miss May de Sousa, Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mr. Robert Michaelis, Miss Valli Valli, Mr. Sydney Valentine, Mr. Hymack, Miss Kate Cutler, Mr. Harry Fragson, Mr. George Graves and Miss Maud Boyd, Mr. W. H. Berry and Miss Kitty Hanson, have all promised to appear in special features from their respective répertoires; and Miss Beatrice Collier, Mr. Fred Farren, Miss Phyllis Bedells, and Miss Lydia Kyasht will give dances from the Empire ballet, *A Day in Paris*.

THE Liverpool Tivoli will not, as announced, be re-opened on Monday next. Arrangements are postponed.

MR. BARRASFORD'S new Hippodrome at Aston New Town, Birmingham, is now in a state approaching completion, and is expected to open on either Monday, Dec. 7 or 14. Mr. Thos. H. Middleton, assistant-manager and cashier at the Birmingham Hippodrome, is appointed manager.

THE eleventh annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Palace and Derby Castle (Limited), Douglas, Isle of Man, will be held at Derby Castle on Wednesday next at 8 p.m. There is a balance of £8,433 available for distribution, and it is proposed to pay a dividend of 5 per cent. both on the ordinary and preference shares. One thousand pounds will be carried to the reserve (now amounting to £2,500), and £933 is to be carried forward.

THE annual report of the Margate Entertainments Committee, presented to the Council on Monday, shows the handsome profit of £2,488 on the season's municipal amusements. This constitutes a record, but the profits have been rising steadily year by year. Although the committee has been established only a comparatively short period, it has handed over £10,477 for the relief of the rates and town improvements.

THESE profits are derived solely from outdoor amusements and entertainments. Notwithstanding unfavourable weather conditions during part of the season, the receipts compare favourably with those of any other year. The receipts of one concert party alone were £2,324, and the party takes half that sum.

ON Monday the Hastings Hippodrome Syndicate forwarded a message of congratulation to King Edward on the anniversary of his birthday, to which His Majesty graciously responded through his private secretary. During the evening a life-sized portrait of the King was shown by the Bioscope, when the audience rose and sang the National Anthem, assisted by the band.

THE following influential gentlemen will serve on the board of the proposed Brighton Summer and Winter Palace, viz.: Viscount Duncannon, Mr. John Waddington (who is next year's High Sheriff of Sussex), Sir Francis Laking, M.D., M.V.O. (the King's physician), the Hon. Cyril Ponsonby, Mr. Wm. Forbes (general-manager L. B. and S. C. Ry.), and Mr. Joe Lyons, who will act as chairman.

ON Tuesday night the Theatrical and Music Hall Committee, who were responsible for the matinée performance held for the benefit of the Chief Constable's Poor Children's Clothing Fund, met in the Blackpool Palace board-room to receive the balance-sheet for the performance held last month. Mr. Geo. H. Harrop presided.

THE balance-sheet, read by the hon. secretary (Mr. T. Brunskill) showed that the total realised was £572 4s. 11d. The cost of advertising, printing, &c., amounting to £22 10s. 2d., was defrayed by the Tower Co., and the only sum deducted from the income was 2½ per cent. upon matinée receipts for the Variety Artistes' Federation Benevolent Fund, which sum amounted to £5 5s. 6d., leaving £566 19s. 5d. to be handed to the Chief Constable.

THE Chairman said he would content himself by presenting the cheque for £566 19s. 5d. to the Chief Constable as an evidence of the great interest taken by the public of Blackpool in his very good work. The Chief Constable, in acknowledgment, referred in eulogistic terms to the great generosity of the Tower-Palace directors, and Mr. Geo. Harrop, the manager, in giving the free use of the building, and bearing all the expense.

MR. OSWALD STOLL, the managing-director of the Leicester Palace Theatre, kindly gave permission for two concerts to be held there on Sunday last, in aid of the Poor Children's Boot Fund and the Police Recreation Society's Fund. The admirable programme was arranged by the Leicester Choral Combination. The mayor and mayor-elect were present, and Mr. C. Finch-Hatton, the acting-manager, recited "The Revenge" (Tennyson) and "The Road to Ruin" (illustrated) (G. R. Sims).

MR. STOLL, owing to the great distress through unemployment in Leicester, has generously come to the rescue till such time as the Town Council get to work to aid the unemployed, by allowing collections to take place among the patrons at the doors at the close of the performance, and last week, when they commenced, the substantial sum of £19 10s. 7½d. was contributed.

THE report of the directors of the Pavilion, Glasgow, is entirely satisfactory. After providing for all charges, and making provision for depreciation on theatrical properties and electric light plant, the directors propose to pay a final dividend at the rate of 50 per cent. per annum, making, with the dividend already paid, 40 per cent. for the year. Mr. Lumley retires from the directorship, but offers himself for re-election.

ALTHOUGH the result of the season's working is not as financially successful as was the case in 1907, there is still a very satisfactory balance to the credit of the Amusements Committee of the Ramsgate Corporation. The profit was £253 4s. 7d. after discharging all liabilities. It has been resolved that the balance of £356 16s. at the Committee's disposal be allocated to the capital account to meet the expenses incurred by the installation of the electric light at the East and West Cliff bandstands and in Ellington Park, and also for awnings and ironwork erected on both cliffs.

A NUMBER of representative men having interests in the Regency Ward, Brighton, met informally on Tuesday night to exchange views respecting the proposed summer and winter palace on the front. A majority of those present were in favour of the project, but Councillor Hastie objected to the scheme, and expressed the belief that the railway company would bring visitors to Brighton, whirl them in taxi-cabs to the palace, and transport them back to London without benefitting trade in the town.

ON the other hand, Councillor Parry, one of the representatives of the ward, said that the scheme should be welcomed in the interests of boarding-houses. Up to the present, he added, most of the opposition had come from people who are well off. They found Brighton sufficiently prosperous for them, and saw no reason why it should be pushed forward. This scheme would advertise the town throughout the world, and induce many visitors to remain. Reference was also made to the success of Mr. Joseph Lyons's enterprise.

DR. WALFORD BODIE is repeating his great Scottish success since he came over the Border last week. Despite the fact of it being his third visit to Coventry within twelve months (a record for any star), he has played to enormous business. On Saturday night money was refused, the huge building being packed to the doors at early-door prices. This week he is again breaking all records on his sixth visit to the Palace, Bristol. Many of his old cures have appeared nightly to testify to the lasting result of his treatment. The doctor has signed again with Mr. Oswald Stoll for several of his leading halls, and is fully booked up this year and next. He returns on Monday next to the Palace, Plymouth.

THE anniversary of the Camberwell Palace will be celebrated on Friday next with a special programme. Two performances, beginning at 6.15 and 9.5 respectively, will be given.

MISS KITTY COLYER opens immediately at the London Pavilion, where she will be heard in her new and graceful chorus song, "My little snow house." The lady, who is booked up for years, has been cheered to the echo nightly during the current week at the Woolwich and Rotherhithe Hippodromes. She has had a big offer to appear in pantomime in the West End.

THE general meeting of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild takes place at the Oxford on Wednesday, Nov. 25, at two o'clock sharp. All members and friends of the profession are heartily invited. Members of the M.H.L.G. are especially requested to attend.

A SPECIAL general meeting of the Terriers will be held at the Three Stags Hotel, Kennington-road, S.E., on Friday, Nov. 20, at 1.30 o'clock in the afternoon, to consider the advisability of (1) expelling a member under Rule 22, or cancelling his membership under Rule 14, and (2) changing the place of the Sunday meetings.

THE numerous friends and admirers of Mr. Arthur Lennard will be glad to hear that his wife (Miss Lizzie Fletcher) successfully underwent a rather serious operation at a West-End nursing home on Tuesday.

MR. PETER DAVEY has secured Miss Bessie Butt as his principal boy for the forthcoming pantomime of *Cinderella* at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.

TED E. BOX, who is now going great guns at the Alhambra, Paris, has been secured for the Syndicate halls for dates extending into 1914, through the agency of Will Oliver.

MISS BESSIE BUTT returns on Monday to the Coliseum, where it will be remembered she made such a success as the Black Pearl in Leslie Stuart's song, which was originally produced by Eugene Stratton at that house. This will be Miss Butt's first appearance at the Coliseum as a single turn.

THE Dunedin Troupe of cyclists, whose skill and daring have been highly appreciated in the provinces, have returned to London. They performed last week at the Coliseum and Hippodrome a wonderful exhibition of endurance when one takes into account the strenuous nature of their turn and the immense difficulties that they set themselves to overcome. Truly a fine show!

THE committee of the M.H.A.R.A. met on Wednesday, when Mr. Marriott Edgar, who has just been initiated as a Water Rat, was in the chair. Messrs. Jeff Vendome, T. C. Callaghan, Harold Finden, H. Cee Mee, Albert Schafer, J. Alexander, Chas. Preston, Albini, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). The agency at Gloucester was transferred to the Fleece Hotel, and a new agency was opened at the Black Horse Hotel, Greenock. The weekly statement showed an increase of thirty-five new members and receipts amounting to £58 8s.

MR. ERNIE MAYNE, the well-known comedian, rejoices in bookings up to the year 1914, "the simple one" having signed contracts with Messrs. Moss and Stoll, Messrs. Gibbons, and Barrasford, and the Tozer, Payne, and Gros halls. Mr. Mayne's peculiar personality and his fund of humour will be evoking shouts of laughter at the Borough Theatre, Stratford, where he will make his first appearance in a London pantomime. This week he is at the Coliseum, where great crowds rock with laughter at his drollery.

WE regret to announce the death, after a painful illness, of Mr. Arthur Lupino, who passed away on Thursday, leaving a widow and three daughters (Lily, Cissy, and Dora) to mourn his loss. A son of the late George Lupino, sen., of the Original Lupino Family, Arthur had played all the principal music halls with his brother Harry, as the Lupino Brothers, also all the principal theatres during the Christmas season. He was the original Nana, the favourite retriever of the Darlings in *Peter Pan*, at the Duke of York's Theatre, where he had the pleasure of playing before His Majesty King Edward the Seventh.

THE deceased comes from an old theatrical family, and the Chevalier Lupino, who in the early days of the nineteenth century fled from the sunny South before the Napoleonic wars, and became costumier at the King's Theatre, in the Haymarket, was an ancestor. With his brothers, George and Harry, he learnt his business as a member of the Lupino Family, which was engaged for pantomime openings and harlequinade. He became an accomplished exponent of grotesque pantomime, and, of late years, has been associated with animal parts.

SPACE is rapidly being booked for the Fun City in the Annexe of Olympia, but Mr. C. B. Cochran has taken the precaution to reserve a few central positions for novelties that may come along at the last moment. Every effort is being made to secure first-class variety novelties for the free show, which will be given on the stage three times daily. There will also be several other free features, which will constitute an entirely new departure in fair amusements. Prizes will be given weekly for beauty shows, wrestling and boxing competitions, and all sorts of interesting and amusing games.

A NOVEL form of advertising Fun City will be a four-page newspaper, to be called the *Fun City News*, which will be gratuitously distributed at every house within an area of four miles of Olympia. The publication will be edited by a well-known journalist, and will contain much interesting matter in regard to the various shows and showmen in the Fun City.

MR. E. A. CAMEO, of the Cameo Troupe, on Tuesday had a message to open at the Hippodrome, Burnley, on the same night. With his troupe he caught the 6.43 p.m. train from Manchester (Victoria), due to arrive at Burnley at 7.58. Though the train was ten minutes late, the troupe were able to appear in the first house, thanks to the able assistance of the manager and the smartness of their baggage man.

MISS FLORRIE GALLIMORE, who is making a big success on tour with Murphy and Lipton's "My girl's a Yorkshire girl," resumes her part of Dick in Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's highly-successful *Dick Whittington* company, Christmas. We are pleased to see this popular lady has fully recovered from her recent illness, and is looking her charming self again and in excellent form.

MISS JOSIE DELAINE (Miss Gallimore's daughter) closes her second six weeks' engagement to-night at the Palace Theatre and the Gibbons' tour, and goes on a short provincial run until Dec. 14, when she also returns to Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company, to play Alice to her mother's Dick Whittington. It is rather unusual, we believe, for mother and daughter to play principal boy and girl together. Miss Delaine, who is not yet nineteen years of age, has made rapid strides in her profession since her first appearance a little over three years ago. She is booked at all the principal London halls, including Oxford and Tivoli, and has received a very tempting offer for Russia.

MR. J. L. GRAYDON, the doyen of proprietors, who lifted the flag of wholesome entertainment for the people at the Middlesex as far back as the seventies, was heartily congratulated by proprietors, managers, and agents on Thursday evening on the continued prosperity of his hall. It was anniversary night, and as is the agreeable custom at such celebrations, the boxes looked pretty in their tasteful floral decorations and bouquets, were presented to all the lady artists. The house was packed to the corners, and great shouts of welcome went up when any particular favourite appeared behind the footlights.

THE company of the week included Tom Foy and company in *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, Jack Lorimer, McConnell Trio, Cora Casselli, Bert Terrell, Harding and Preston, Master Frisby, Carl and Carr, the Avrignys, Rose and Wold, Tom Collins, Gladys Nelson, and Graydon's picture programme, which has become quite a popular feature. Mr. Tom Rice managed the stage. These were reinforced by a host of other attractions, including the Palace Girls. Mr. Graydon, in his speech from the footlights, referred to the embargo by the Federation, and thanked his supporters for their continued favour.

REGAN AND RYAN are scoring well this week at Clapham and Camberwell in a good chorus song from the pen of Will Hyde, entitled "Walking down the street."

MR. ARNOLD BELL will shortly produce in London a weird romantic episode entitled *Under a Spell*, written by himself and Brien McCullough.

THE Dunvilles, who sent birthday wishes to the King, received the following wire:—"Dunvilles, Circus, Hull. The King commands me to thank you for your good wishes.—Knollys."

MME. MAURICIA MORICHINI, the Brazilian operatic artist; the Orchestra Espagnole, a band corresponding to the English "Black Dyke"; and Frank A. Gotch, the wrestler, and company, in a comedy sketch, *All About a Bout*, are the new turns at the Coliseum on Monday next.

MISS LIL HAWTHORNE concluded a most successful engagement at the London Coliseum last week, her songs, "Just some one," "My castle in Spain," and "The boy who stuttered and the girl who lisped," meeting with hearty approval from the vast audiences. Miss Hawthorne has a few weeks' provincial tour, then returns to town.

THIS week at Burnley Charcot has again created the greatest excitement by his blindfold drive. Several thousands of people lined the streets to see the performance, and all traffic was brought to a complete standstill. Packed houses have resulted, and on several nights money has been turned away.

ANOTHER brilliant success by Frederick Maxwell is to be recorded in his latest production, *Give a Man a Chance*, produced for the first time at the Pavilion, Leicester, on Monday. The scene is laid in Western America, and the mounting and dresses are all that could be desired. Mr. Maxwell and his company commence a season of twenty-five weeks in London on Monday, opening at the Surrey Theatre.

A VERY funny farcical sketch of fifteen minutes' duration entitled *Bertie's Week-end* (by Stewart D. Wright, of Glasgow) was produced for copyright purposes last week at the Theatre Royal, Inverness, by Mr. John Clyde's company. This playlet, the plot of which is laid at a seaside hotel, teems with funny situations from the rise to the fall of the curtain, and was smartly presented by Mr. H. Macaulay (Mr. Clyde's stage-manager), Mr. David Blair, Mr. McIntosh Clyde, and Miss Jeannie Clyde.

OF interest to music-hall artists was the case heard at Stockton on Tuesday, when T. Kelso and company, sketch artists, sued John Batty, proprietor of the Grand Variety Theatre, Stockton, for breach of contract. Plaintiffs contracted to appear at defendant's theatre in August, but in March the defendant, under a clause in the contract, closed the theatre owing to the North-East Coast engineers' strike, and gave notice that future contracts were off. A month after, however, the theatre reopened with a stock dramatic company. Plaintiffs gave notice of their intention to fulfil the engagement, but the defendant refused to receive them.

THE defence relied upon a clause in the agreement which made the performance of contract devolve upon the defendant remaining in occupancy of the theatre. Defendant said he had let the theatre to Mr. Montgomery, Liverpool, upon lease, for the production of dramas.

MR. C. J. DOUGHTY, barrister, who was instructed by the solicitors to the Variety Artists' Federation, said it was a test case, and stated that music-hall artists were seeking to put a stop to music-hall proprietors engaging artists long dates ahead, barring them from appearing in the meantime within a certain radius, and failing to fulfil their contracts. His Honour said artists had their remedy; they should not sign such agreements. Judgment was entered for the defendant, with costs, leave to appeal being refused.

ON behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May, secretary, wishes to thank Mrs. Wallace Northern for her collection of 6s.; Miss Dora Gregory, *St. George and Dragon* company, for her collection of 5s.; Mr. Tom Fancourt for his collection of 2s. 6d.; Miss Irene Rose, for collecting towards children's Christmas tree, 1s. 9d.; Mr. E. Luke (Southsea), for parcel of books for Christmas tree; Miss Lottie Albert, for donation of 2s. 6d. and basket of clothing; for two parcels of gentlemen's clothing, posted Kennington (anonymous); Mrs. Vernon Cowper, for parcel clothing; Miss Louie Davis, parcel of babies' clothes; Mrs. J. N. Caldwell, "Coloured Masters," parcel gentlemen's clothing.

MISS MAY acknowledges with thanks the following donations:—Mrs. Henry Muff, 10s.; Mrs. Bradgate, 7s. 6d., and V.A.B.F., £1; Mr. Henry George Hibbert 1s. 6d towards the fund raised to help a poor sufferer in a home for consumptives. Proprietors and managers please note that should they require scene hands, caretakers, women as cleaners, dressers, or to help in wardrobes, the same can be sent with excellent references. Miss May would be grateful for gentlemen's as well as ladies' clothing. Friends of the charity are heartily welcome to tea and reception held every Wednesday from 4 to 5 o'clock.

AT the Westminster County Court on Wednesday, Miss Carrie Fraser sued Mr. Phillip Williams for damages for wrongful dismissal. The plaintiff, a vocalist and accompanist, was engaged to appear in defendant's troupe at Hythe, commencing on July 15, until the end of September. The show opened as a matter of fact on July 25, and plaintiff was put on as the second item in the first part of the programme, and in the same position in the second half. There were very few people present when she gave her first song, but she got an encore for her second. On the 28th she was dismissed for incompetence. She is now acting as accompanist to Miss Cissie Loftus at the Coliseum. His Honour Judge Woodfall said that the charge of incompetence had not been made out, and he found for the plaintiff for £21 9s. 11d.

PEOPLE who were astir on Sunday morning in the Old Trafford neighbourhood of the Manchester Ship Canal were much astonished to see a lady, dressed in a pretty bathing costume, climb on to the balustrade and allow herself to be handcuffed.

AFTER a call to the men in the boat to "be ready," she gracefully dived thirty feet into the inky stream, beneath the surface of which she remained for twenty-four seconds. When she reappeared her hands were free of the shackles, and with an easy breast stroke she swam to the boat.

THE lady, it transpired, was Oceana, who made her first professional appearance in this country at the Hulme Hippodrome. She is described as "the champion high diver of Germany," and the "handcuff queen." Another Oceana, who also came from Germany, performed many years ago at the Covent Garden Circus and afterwards at the Trocadero.

MR. CHARLES D. HICKMAN has just completed special commissions for the following ventriloquists:—Miss Maude Edwards, Tom Edwards, Coram, and for Arthur Croxon and the Scottish Meisters. Norman Osborne, Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's new ventriloquial find, who comes to London shortly, will work Mr. Hickman's dialogues exclusively.

MISS MADGE TEMPLE, who took her huge matinée hat with her to the Manchester Hippodrome this week, has scored a great success. She opens at the Liverpool Empire on Monday. Miss Temple's new song, "Come, be my Rainbow," will be featured by Mr. Wyndham this year in all his pantomimes. Miss Temple's husband, Mr. Hermann Darewski, has also booked his two great song successes "Bombardier" and "Sue, Sue, Sue," for the Royal, Manchester, and the Court and Shakespeare Theatres, Liverpool.

CHARLES JAMES JOHNSON, known on the music-hall stage as "the Black Diamond," was sued on Wednesday in the Sheriff's Court at Birmingham for damages for slander. The plaintiff, Mr. William Edward Johnson, a jeweller and pawnbroker, who said he had extensive dealings with the theatrical profession, said the defendant handed him a ring at the Empire, Birmingham, and asked him to give him a quotation for one like it.

AFTER the return of the ring the following night the defendant accused him of having changed one of the stones, and persisted in the allegation, notwithstanding the plaintiff's repudiation and demand for withdrawal. Miss Helen Long, one of the plaintiff's assistants, said the defendant's ring was in her custody all the time it was on the plaintiff's premises, and there was no ground for suggesting that it had been interfered with. One of the stones was smaller than the others, and she pointed this out to the plaintiff when he instructed her to match them. The jury assessed the damages at £5, and judgment was entered for this amount with costs.

HENRY MARTIN, otherwise Davis and Webster, was brought up on Wednesday from Brixton Prison, on remand, before Mr. Hopkins at Westminster, charged on summonses at the instance of the Music Publishers' Association with being in possession for sale purposes of large quantities of pirated music. Mr. A. Preston, an agent of the Association, deposed that on the evening of Nov. 3 observation was kept on the prisoner, who was seen to leave Rowton House, Newington Butts, with large parcels. Prisoner was followed, and then stopped by the police, who found the parcels to consist of pirated music.

SEARCH warrants were afterwards obtained, and in lockers which prisoner had at different lodging-houses nearly 1,000 pirated copies and hundreds of catalogues were discovered. Prisoner was a wholesale distributor, and worked for his brother, the printer of the music. Mr. Hopkins fined prisoner £15 and three guineas costs. He ordered the pirated music to be destroyed. Mr. Preston remarked that prisoner had a banking account.

AN arbitration case under the Workmen's Compensation Act was brought last week at Gloucester County Court. It arose out of the death of a German lion-tamer's attendant, Joseph Hasselmann, who was fatally mauled by a lion in the Gloucester Palace Theatre on Sunday, July 18, 1907. The applicants were the parents, and the respondents were Messrs. C. W. Poole and J. R. Poole, music-hall proprietors, of the Palace Theatre, Gloucester, and Mrs. Ella Jensen, a lion-tamer known as Mme. Ella.

MRS. JENSEN and her lions arrived at the Palace Theatre on the afternoon of Sunday, July 28, and the cages were taken into the theatre in readiness for a performance on the Monday evening. While Mrs. Jensen was away on Sunday, one of the lions was found in the theatre dressing-room. Hasselmann tried to get it back into its cage, ultimately throwing two chairs at it. Thereupon it sprang upon him, and inflicted injuries from which he died the same evening. After the accident Hasselmann said it was his own fault, and that he wanted to get the lion back into its cage before Mme. Ella returned, so that she should not know what had happened.

ON behalf of the respondents it was contended that Hasselman let the lion out of its cage into the dressing-room himself (which he had no right to do) to try a little lion taming on his own account. Consequently, the accident could not be said to have arisen out of or in the course of his employment. Messrs. Poole could not be held liable in any case, as their contract with Mme. Ella did not commence until the Monday. His Honour agreed, and gave judgment for the respondents. Mr. Hogg's application for costs against Mrs. Jensen was refused.

DROPPING into the Poplar Hippodrome, on Saturday evening, we had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with Mr. William Doland's latest enterprise, as indicated by the very delightful performance of the Ten Taxi Girls. It is a somewhat novel show, which should be seen for some time to come. The music is bright and catchy, and the libretto (both from the pen of Mr. H. Barron) up-to-date. Miss Queenie Grey, who leads the ten girls out of a big yellow taxi-cab, was particularly smart in a number entitled "Flip-Flap." Miss Dora Marsden's rendering of the Cockney Carol called "London" immediately caught on with the gallery, and Miss Connie Chevelier sang "Let me teach you how to love me!" charmingly, and looked an ideal taxi-driver.

A SENSATIONAL incident took place a few days ago in the Scottish Zoo, at Glasgow. It was a fight between two huge pythons in the snake-house. While on a round of inspection, the night watchman observed the two reptiles engaged in a fierce struggle. He made several attempts to separate the combatants, but these only intensified their fury. Finding that all his efforts were futile, the watchman telephoned to Mr. E. H. Bostock, who soon appeared on the scene, and by the aid of pronged instruments and the attendant's assistance succeeded in removing one of the reptiles to another house. The house in which the fight took place contains a large number of other reptiles of large proportions, and nearly all were greatly excited, and were with much difficulty kept from joining in the fray. The combatants were much exhausted after their conflict, and have since remained in a comatose state.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

AMONG Christmas and New Year dance music none is likelier to have a greater vogue than "London Life," the new set of lancers just issued by Messrs. Francis and Day. They have been arranged by Warwick Williams on melodies just lately made popular on the halls by such high lights as Misses Vesta Tilley, Marie Lloyd, Vesta Victoria, Hetty King, Kitty Rayburn, Ella Retford, and Florrie Forde, and Messrs. R. G. Knowles, George Lashwood, Dan Crawley, Charles Whittle, Harry Simms, &c., and will help to brighten many a variety programme either as overture or selection, including, as they do, the following favourite airs, "Oh! Oh! Antonio!" "Take me on the Flip Flap," "I'm afraid to come home in the dark," "Jolly good luck to the girl who loves a soldier," "Hang out the front door key," "Mandy's Wedding," "Won't you come to me in Canada?" "Musette" (intermezzo Parisienne by Neil Moret, of "Poppies" and "Silverheels" fame), "Don't get married any more, ma," "We've all been doing a bit," "Rum-tiddley-um-tum-tay!" "Come and have a drink with me," and "Who said he don't like girls?"

MR. WALLIS ARTHUR'S humorous husband-and-wife sarcastic duet, "'Do you remember?'—'How can I forget?'" is being added to Messrs. Francis and Day's "Sixpenny Pops."

MISS FANNY ROBINA is making an enormous success with her song "The Land of Promise," written by Billie Bint and composed by Miss Florry Cooper. This song will be issued next week by Mr. David Day. All pantomime artists should secure this number if they want a certain winner

A NEW song published by B. Feldman and Co., from the pen of Macdonald and Tate, is entitled "The Bubble and the Sunbeam." Startling effects are promised with this number (particulars appeared in *The Era*, on Oct. 17 last). We should advise every principal girl to at once secure this song for pantomime.

"A TINY SEED OF LOVE," also written and composed by Macdonald and Tate, and published by Messrs. B. Feldman and Co., is, the publishers inform us, the most sensational song this country has ever known. During all the successful years this firm has been in existence they advise us that they have never had any song approaching the success of this. It is already secured for innumerable pantomimes. "Too late" is an unfortunate remark for artists to have to make.

MR. CHARLES WHITTLE has introduced this week what the audience at the South London in one voice declared to be the "girl" song of the year. The round of well-merited applause he got after the first verse last Monday, the evening of its first production, at that hall must have been very gratifying to the artist, and the pleasure he gave them in this song, entitled "I want you to see my girl," by Godfrey and Castling, was testified by the hearty way in which the whole house sang it, and their applause at the end. This is a "top-liner" of Messrs. Feldman and Co., for pantomime.

ANOTHER big success comes from the pen of Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, this time in the shape of an Irish song, which B. Feldman and Co. have secured. Within a few weeks the country will ring with this melody, which is acknowledged by everybody who has heard it to be the greatest Irish song written for years. Principal boys, please note.

Do you want a dainty number
For your coming pantomime?
Go for "Little Silver Moonbeam"
Sheard and Co. are there this time;
With its pretty four-part chorus,
If you sing this sweet new song,
I am sure you won't regret it,
And the audience won't forget it,
When old Christmas comes along!

"I CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THE GIRLS," now that two strong verses have been added to it, is certain to be the great principal boy and comedians' song for pantomimes. Its melody is bright, melodious, and catchy, and fairly takes the place of last year's hit, "Put me among the girls." It has no rival among the girl songs of this season, being streets in front of all others.

MR. CHARLES SHEARD informs us, that during the forty years' experience he has had since taking over the reins of management from his father, he does not remember an instance when an entirely new song has been so much sought after for pantomime and general stage purposes as the simple and captivating number, "Little Silver Moonbeam," by Gilbert Adair and Marcus Hope. Mr. Sheard considers the prospects of "Little Silver Moonbeam's" success as almost unprecedented.

ITS charmingly simple words, its ear-haunting melody, its harmonised refrain, for invisible chorus, its adaptability to almost every situation, and, above all, its easy and inexpensive staging—a moon shining on a calm sea—all go to explain Mr. Sheard's confident anticipation. It is especially suitable for *Dick Whittington*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Sindbad the Sailor*, and *Aladdin*.

MESSRS. CHARLES SHEARD AND CO. have been fortunate enough to secure for publication Messrs. Gilbert Adair and Marcus Hope's latest composition, entitled "If I were a fairy queen." It is now in the press, and will be ready in a day or two. It is an ideal song for Cinderellas, and tells a pretty story. The music, also, is delightfully melodious and catchy.

THE LOVELACES, the popular song illustrators, have recently secured a charming set of slides from Messrs. Sheard and Co. for their song, "A sweeter story still," which they are now working with the very best results in Lancashire. So pleased are they with the success of the song, that they will keep it on for a considerable time.

PANTOMIME "Demon Kings" (there must be a "Demon King"!) invariably fall back upon old songs. They need not do so this season, if they consult Messrs. Sheard and Co., the publishers of "Asleep in the deep," and ask to see Stanley Gordon's newest bass songs—"When the ebbtide flows," "Queen of my dreams," "Out of the night," "The last voyage," and others. They are all dramatic and strong, both in words and music, and a "Demon" who has these in his répertoire need not fall back upon the old worn-out "bass" songs.

THE author of "Sleep and forget" (Mr. Clifton Bingham) was one day recently asked by Miss L. V. White, the composer, if he had an idea. He promptly replied, "Yes; why not do a reply to our song?" No sooner said than done. In a few hours "Wake and remember" was written and composed, and it will shortly be published by Messrs. Charles Sheard and Co. It is quite as melodious as its predecessor, and possesses all the elements of popularity that have made "Sleep and forget" so well known.

MR. ROWLAND HILL has purchased three big, original numbers, viz., "The Shepherd," "Britannia," and "The Diver," which he will produce shortly.

(Continued on page 26.)

V.A.F. AND THE AGENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Though I am of opinion that this question is of no paramount interest to the public, yet as statements have appeared continuously in the Press—mostly one-sided—while the dispute has been raging between the V.A.F. and the agents, and the statement has been made that managers extract large commissions from artists—a serious reflection upon the conduct of managers and proprietors, and likely to prejudice them in the eyes of the public—I make bold to ask you to permit me to give a statement of facts which I believe to be correct and truthful. As a good deal of this matter was placed before the arbitrator by me, and not controverted in cross-examination, your readers will be enabled to judge on whom rests the responsibility for disturbing an industry by which a large number of people get employment, and in which a great many of the public are interested as shareholders. They will be able to realise how much justification exists for creating such disturbance, and threatening various managers with all sorts of pains and penalties, in order to coerce them and hamper them in the legitimate exercise of their business.

From my point of view, it is impossible to carry on the variety business without reputable agents. Imagine an artist coming into my office to offer his services, and that I should have to criticise his work, or his capacity, or talent, to him in person, and offer him less money, and bargain with him. As for my booking I require about seventy-five artists weekly, I would have to interview about one hundred per day, whereas, when an agent comes into the office with his book I can book ten, twenty, or thirty turns with him. I can bargain, and in my sixteen years' experience I have found the agent is the man who defends the artist's value and price. He is more responsible for the high salaries of artists than anybody else. The grievance against them is that they get ten per cent., and that they ought to do their business on the same terms as a banker, who lends other people's money, getting more interest for their capital than he allows the depositor who leaves it with him.

I further say that while the agents get all the abuse, artists cause more trouble because they will not confine themselves to one reputable agent, but trouble managers by having two or three different agents working for them, and frequently at different prices. When it comes to the commission clause—of which, in some instances, we get a portion—and the general status of the agent, as I was the only manager who dealt with that subject before Mr. Askwith, I wish to call attention to my evidence before that gentleman, if your space permit. I did so on account of the many misleading statements made in the public prints during the strike by the other side.

COPY OF STATEMENT BEFORE ARBITRATOR.

It has been stated that contracts are made by managers prejudicial to artists' interests, and of a nature so stringent as to prevent their general employment. I thought it might be advisable to show the necessity for some of the clauses that are in dispute, in a typical contract like the Metropolitan Music Hall, the first clause being the commission clause:—

"*The engagement having been made through an agent, it is agreed that the company shall deduct and retain ten per cent., and pay the same to the said agent, or as he may direct.*"

In lieu of the words, "or as he may direct," I think it should distinctly state "of which two and a half per cent. shall go to the company towards the cost of book-keeping, &c., and trouble of collecting." The objection by artists is puerile; there is no hardship for them. When they only pay their agent five per cent. there is nothing stopped. There is considerable trouble in keeping these accounts, and the agent gives the company two and a half per cent. People may be perfectly honest and take a considerable time to pay their debts, but the fact remains, the agents have had great losses in the past. It is a claim that is not easily recoverable when an artist is unfortunate, or dies, or travels for a long time on the Continent or in the Colonies, and agents who are business men have consented to give two and a half per cent. for this collection in order to get their money promptly.

The artist appends his signature to the contract, and is a party thereto, and, in many instances, prefers it, as he knows exactly the amount that is coming to him. It has been advanced that Mr. Stoll has ceased to collect this amount, but that is no reason why it should be abolished, because the Moss' Empires, which was the first company—at the request of agents, I believe—to introduce this system, is a very huge concern, and they may have found that two and a half per cent. did not pay them for the trouble of collecting.

The statement made that in some instances the agent claims a further commission from the artist I can scarcely credit, and I doubt if any reputable agent could be produced who has done so, and certainly none who have obtained it. But if such has been done the names of the agents ought to be published. I venture to suggest that one or two members of the Agents' Association should be heard on this.

Cross-examined by Mr. Doughty:—

Q. You probably agree to this extent, that the agent is the agent of the artist, and not of the manager?

A. The agent is the agent of the artist, and is the primary culprit. He has run salaries up for the artist, and has made salaries excessive.

Q. Never mind that. He is the agent of the artist, there is no doubt about that?

A. Undoubtedly.

Q. And it is usual in all other businesses for the principal to pay his own agent?

A. They do that now.

Q. Directly?

A. Directly. Well, I gave you my statement on that, you know, very succinctly, and can only refer you to that. I say that the agent is a business man, and that it pays him better to give us a fourth share of his commission to get his money promptly. I do not want to sit here and throw the slightest aspersion upon artists, amongst whom there are a great many men and women whom I respect. I come into daily contact with them, and have lived on terms of business amity with them, but the agents evidently think it pays them, and they ought to be the best judges. I can give you one instance of an artist—

Q. You cannot argue from single instances.

A. I would rather not, but it is a question like this: the two and a half per cent. deduction entails a certain amount of work. I can show my salary books. The commissions are all put down on one side, and lodged in the bank on the Monday, and at the end of the month cheques are drawn for them; and it stands to reason—it answers itself—that if the agent says "It pays me better to give you two and a half per cent. off my earnings than to wait until I get paid," he must have a reason for this.

Q. Do you suggest that if artists paid their agents directly the agent would lose a quarter of his remuneration?

A. I would rather not say.

Q. I would like you to answer.

A. You are asking me to throw an aspersion upon a certain number of people. I have put it in as nice a way as I could. It is a debt that runs on, and is not easily recoverable. Some of the commissions in former years ran into hundreds of pounds before they were paid.

Q. They were paid, I suppose?

A. If an artist dies and there is no estate they are not paid.

To place the entire examination before your readers would occupy too much of your valuable space. Suffice it to say that after my evidence some agents were called as witnesses, and that Mr. Askwith, notwithstanding the very strong complaints on this subject by the V.A.F. Executive, did not disturb it by his Award. I venture to think this speaks for itself.—Thanking you in anticipation, I am, yours faithfully,

HENRI GROS,
President of the Entertainments Association.
1, Durham House-street, Strand, W.C.
Nov. 12.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—With reference to the number of letters that have been appearing in your paper of late respecting the Agency dispute, I beg to place the following particulars before you, and shall be glad if you will give publicity to the same.

It is now some years since a discussion arose between the proprietors, directors, and managers, and the principal artists as to the various clauses in their agreements—the artists complaining of great injustice, especially emphasising the "barring clause" and removals from one hall to another at the option of the proprietor; also changing the times of turns without consulting their convenience, as well as introducing matinées, for which they were not paid, no mention of same being made in the original contract.

The following Christmas a number of music-hall artists formed themselves into a Federation—the time chosen to do this was most inopportune, as most of the leading artists were in pantomime, but in spite of this they decided to strike, the strike lasting about four weeks. Some of the artists made great sacrifices in order to meet this so-called Federation, and eventually the matter went to arbitration. This arbitration lasted about three or four months (Mr. Askwith was the Arbitrator) and caused great injury to the music hall business; in some cases practically suspending business; but this was eventually settled by a special contract being drawn up.

I would specially draw your attention to the fact that during the whole of this time the agents were never mentioned—they being left in a neutral position.

The agents, seeing that their business was being interfered with by the Variety Artists' Federation, convened a meeting, at which it was agreed that the present rate of commission should remain unaltered, although, at the same time, the agents would be pleased to consider any suggestions the Variety Artists' Federation might care to make with respect to the re-engagement clause of the agents' office copy.

In order to be fair, an agreement was arrived at on Aug. 27, 1908, between a sub-committee of the Variety Artists' Federation and a sub-committee of the Variety Agents' Association, wherein both bound themselves to accept the re-engagement clause—the agents maintaining that it was a protection to their business against unscrupulous artists, and insisting on a commission on re-engagements. Further, the agents agreed to make a great sacrifice on such engagements, reducing the time-limit to three months. This proposition was accepted by the sub-committee.

The question then arose as to the artist who got his re-engagement through the manager or proprietor direct during the time he was playing his engagement, on a promise that he was paying his agent (which promise was very rarely, if ever, kept), and it was decided that this matter should be left to the members for settlement. So far, the matter was settled, the chairman of the Federation—Mr. Joe O'Gorman—confirming all that had passed at the meeting. In confirmation of this statement, I will give you an exact copy of the minutes of this meeting:—

"A meeting was held at the Variety Artists' Federation offices, 28, Wellington-street, Strand, W.C., on Aug. 27, 1908, at 12 noon, called by the secretary of the V.A.F.

"Present—representing the Variety Artists' Federation—Messrs. Joe O'Gorman, C. Bartram, Clemart, G. d'Albert, Monte Bayley (secretary to the V.A.F.).

"Present—representing the Variety Agents' Association—Messrs. F. Napoli, F. Reeves, E. Granville, E. Warner, P. Bauer, S. Bury, D. Cohen, H. Wieland, E. Cadle, H. Milburn, T. Shaw, E. Edelsten, G. Peel, I. Somers, G. Foster, E. Brown, and Sydney M. Hyman (secretary *pro tem.*).

"Mr. Joe O'Gorman acted as chairman.

"Mr. Tom Shaw acted as vice-chairman, and spoke on behalf of the agents.

"The chairman explained fully the meeting, and while admitting the commission note might be made not to exceed 10 per cent., the majority of the members were against this, and considered 5 per cent. sufficient. The chairman said that the agents present could take it that he would get the mass meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation—to be held on Sunday, Sept. 6, 1908—to agree to whatever he (the chairman) put before them.

"A suggested office copy of the Variety Artists' Federation was put before the meeting and fully discussed, the chairman explaining that some of the clauses in it might not meet with approval of the agents, and therefore it would be advisable to take each clause separately.

"After a lengthy discussion it was agreed by the agents present to accept an office copy on the lines only of that suggested by the Variety Artists' Federation, but with the following important alterations:—

"1. That the amount of commission should be left blank, to be followed by the words 'not to exceed 10 per cent.'

"2. That there be an absolute re-engagement clause of three months if made direct with the proprietor by the artist.

"3. The other clauses, being of minor importance, should be left in abeyance.

"The chairman pointed out that he had a very difficult matter to place before the Variety Artists' Federation meeting as regards the re-engagement clause, but he thought that with his influence and that of the executive committee, and in view of the way in which the agents had expressed themselves, he would be able to get the office copy passed with the alteration as suggested—in fact, they could take it from him that this would be done.

"The meeting then adjourned."

The meaning of Clause 2, referred to above, and which seems to be misunderstood by most of the music hall artists, is that any artist is allowed to make the re-engagement through any agent he wishes; but the stipulation the agents make is that for three months after the conclusion of any engagement the artist binds himself not to make the re-engagement direct with a proprietor.

The great protection that the artist has in this clause is that in no instance will he have to pay more than 10 per cent. commission; and should his own agent, or any other agent, be unable to make the re-engagement in the time stated, the artist is at liberty to go direct to the proprietor and make his re-engagement himself.

The following Sunday a meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation was held, presided over by Mr. Joe O'Gorman, who, in spite of his promises, persuaded the members of the Variety Artists' Federation to eliminate the whole of the re-engagement clause. This being adverse to the arrangements already arrived at, the agents had no alternative but to refuse to listen to such proposals.

At this point the agents thought it best to hold a meeting amongst themselves, and it was resolved they should not attend the meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation to be held on Sept. 17. It was further decided that the agents should see some of the proprietors and place the whole of the facts before them.

A letter was sent to the Variety Artists' Federation stating that the agents could not meet them on the face of their decision at their previous meeting, whereat the artists decided to accept an office copy with a three months' re-engagement clause in, and in reply the agents received a most insulting letter.

In spite of this rebuff and insult after insult from the Variety Artists' Federation, the agents wrote stating they were still open to consider the matter on a fair basis, and suggested that the matter should go to arbitration—this was as regards the re-engagement clause (the only point in dispute as far as the agents were concerned, although the Variety Artists' Federation had already agreed to this). The reply they received was a blank refusal on the part of the Federation. Further than this, the letter contained threatening consequences unless the Federation's proposals were accepted.

After this letter had been considered by the majority of agents, they decided to form themselves into a combine, which, I might mention, is comprised of every agent of note within the United Kingdom, its membership numbering just on seventy agents. This also includes a number of agents who do a large business abroad.

The Federation at this point thought it advisable to hold another meeting, and in the report of their proceedings in the *Performer* (a music-hall organ published by the Variety Artists' Federation in which to air their one-sided arguments, and so arouse bad feeling between the agents and artists, and, being a trade-union journal, is protected when making libellous statements), they gave a list of agents who were said to have accepted their terms, but on investigating the same, little or nothing was known of the agents (?) mentioned. Certainly they have never been missed.

To meet this the Federation issued a manifesto to all its members forbidding them to pay the commission owing to agents—it was of no consequence whether the commission was for past or present contracts. "Let them sue you in court—plead poverty—ask for weekly payment order" were amongst the many subterfuges offered by the Federation to its members.

Now, when you come to think that some of these artists are booked years ahead, the question of commission becomes an important one.

There are many artists belonging to the Variety Artists' Federation who would be only too pleased to withdraw their membership, but are afraid of being treated as "blacklegs," and so hounded out of the profession.

Why is it that some of the so-called agents who are reputed to be members of the Federation are asking to be allowed to become members of the Variety Agents' Association?

In conclusion, I might say that this Association has been very reticent to entertain the public with their grievances, but in justice to themselves they are obliged to publish their side of the question for public consideration.

I may mention that many so-called good V.A.F.'s and some of them members of the Executive Committee of the Variety Artists' Federation, are signing the office copy of the Variety Agents' Association every day, and I am certain most of them will do so as long as the salaries are according to their liking.—Yours faithfully,

A. L. FRANCIS CLARE,
Secretary, the Variety Agents' Association.
29, Leicester-square, W.C.
Nov. 11, 1908.

THE COLISEUM.

Those who love their Dickens—and who does not?—will have a refreshing experience when they see Mr. Bransby Williams, a remarkable character impersonator as well as a sound actor, who puts almost a touch of genius in his sketches. Seated at a table, he makes up rapidly in front of a mirror, and with a few touches changes from Micawber to Bill Sikes—a wonderful transformation. Then comes a tenderer touch, and the figure of the justly indignant Dan'l Peggoty, full of bitter thoughts for the dead man who has robbed him of his Little Em'ly, and made her a wanderer on the face of the earth. We do not suppose the young actor ever saw Sam Emery in the character; but he followed some of the traditions of that famous actor, and herein he is right. At any rate, he deeply interests us, the impersonation being wholly sympathetic and appealing. As an encore, Mr. Bransby Williams appears as an old showman, who announces his own appearance as Hamlet, and that the part of the first gravedigger is to be represented by the living skeleton, "who will perform a spade dance at Ophelia's grave."

Mr. Ernie Mayne, who is making his first appearance at the Coliseum, is the fortunate possessor of a quaint personality, and his humour is of that genial, sunny type which is a sure cure for melancholia. He is already a favourite with the patrons of the fine house in St. Martin's-lane, who laugh consumedly over his burlesque of the "Excelsior" duett by Balfe. Mr. Mayne gives it with the comedian of the cast for the baritone part, and his introduction of comic songs makes the "business" very diverting. We shall be seeing Mr. Mayne again at the Coliseum, and his future engagements are likely to add appreciably to the gaiety of London.

An intrepid cycling act is that of the Dunedin Troupe, members of a family that has added lustre in all parts of the world to the reputation of Britishers as exponents of difficult evolutions on the wheel. Their position has been won by the fine training of Mr. James E. Donegan, who has splendid material in his boys and girls. They are good to watch, and their extraordinary coolness and cleverness in the accomplishment of tricks beset with tremendous difficulty bring down the house. There is a warm welcome for Miss Harriet Vernon, who is adding to her high reputation as an actress-vocalist by her presentation of her pretty scena *A Yuletide Story*. Christmas festival is so full of suggestion for domestic sentiment that the author has had no difficulty in writing verses that are both sympathetic and appealing. The music, too, is good; and Miss Vernon, looking as handsome as ever, does complete justice to the theme, and is the recipient of many compliments.

Miss Cecilia Loftus is pursuing her triumphant career at the Coliseum, and large audiences are daily and nightly enjoying the charm of her imitations. The force of her versatility is great, as may be easily proved by the mere repetition of the subjects chosen by her:—Sara Bernhardt, Yvette Guilbert, Harry Lauder, Ethel Irving, Lily Elsie, Caruso, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Vesta Victoria, Marie Dressler, and Josephine Sabel. Much diversion results from her mimetic sketch, *The Lady, the Little Boy, and the Tramcar*. Luis Alvarez is announced as a famous tenor from the Royal Opera House, Madrid; but by the way he sings "Songs of Araby" he has learnt English uncommonly well. He is a charming singer, and is loudly encored. The Pender Troupe rouse shouts of laughter by their "giant" business; and other turns in the fine bill directed by Mr. Dundas Slater are the Ellimans, Harry Marte, Nina Wood, a young and clever entertainer at the piano, who has a charming mezzo voice; Tom Hearn, the laziest juggler on earth, and one of the funniest; and *Visions of Wagner*. The Bioscope is always up to date.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

ANOTHER GREAT PANTOMIME NUMBER.

"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO"

(By FRED GODFREY, PERCY EDGAR, and T. W. THURBAN),
Will be featured by **MISS DAISY DORMER** at the Halls and in Pantomime.

Principal Boys and Girls should secure this Number,
Which has just been added to the following Phenomenal List of Successes:

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS."
"WHO SAID HE DON'T LIKE GIRLS?"
"L.S.D."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"SHADOWLAND."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL."
"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."
"ON THE CLIFFS OF NORMANDY."
"SWEETHEART DAYS."
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"BOMBADIER."
"MANDY'S WEDDING."
"ARE YOU THE LITTLE GIRL I MET THE OTHER EVENING?"

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

(Continued from page 25.)

Messrs. Fred Bowyer and Hermann E. Darewski, Jun., have just completed one of the funniest of acting duets. This item will be a prominent feature in many pantomimes.

The following numbers represent Mr. H. E. Darewski's successful songs that will be heard in almost every pantomime this year:—"Sue, Sue, Sue," sung by G. H. Elliott, and "Every fellow's in love with a girl," "Bombardier," "£ S. D.," and "Are you the little girl I met the other evening?"

Miss Florrie Forde, the great chorus singer, makes her reappearance at the Oxford on Monday next, when her feature song, "Oh! Oh! Antonio!" will be heard, sung by its original singer. This song will be the rage of the country ere many weeks are over.

Miss Evelyn Fowler, of the Bassos, at the Tivoli, Manchester, is one of the finest accompanists heard for a long while. She certainly is the main feature in the trio.

Messrs. Joseph Williams, of 32, Great Portland-street, W., have just published two pretty songs. The first is entitled "Sweet Constancy," words by Miss Rutherford and music by the well-known composer Florian Pascal. There is a pleasing sentiment in "Sweet Constancy," while neither the song nor piano accompaniment is too difficult for amateurs. Another advantage in this song, Miss Ruth Rutherford's verses are printed separately. If publishers would only print the verses of a song on a loose sheet the drawing-room tenor or soprano would be great benefited. Even the great Sims Reeves once forgot a verse in a popular song, and had to stop until it was shouted to him from all parts of the house.

The other song bears the title "Over the sea." Again the pleasing words are by Miss Ruth Rutherford, to the music of Esting Wayland. One of the verses:

"Hand in hand, let us watch the tide.
The gifts, my darling, scatter them wide;
But keep a heart full of love for me,
That is my treasure from over the sea"

give a good idea of the subject in "Over the sea," which, like "Sweet Constancy," contains a pleasing and appropriate melody.

One of the Von Tilzer Co.'s daintiest chorus songs for principal girls, entitled "Come to my Ivory Palace with me," has recently sprung into favour, and, judging by the number of pantomime permissions granted during the last week or two, this bright little number promises to become a big pantomime favourite. Numerous managers and producers have already secured this song for their "girls," notably Mr. J. F. Graham.

The Von Tilzer Music Co. are making a special feature of slide songs this season. Among those recently issued are "Since Daddy's been taken away," a pathetic ballad, and "You're my girl in the Springtime," which are special favourites, followed closely by two of these publishers' successful chorus ballads, "Don't forget, Mignonette," and "Not because your hair is curly," to both of which they have issued excellent sets of slides. Other numbers in preparation are "Let me return to Dreamland," "Just across the Bridge of Gold," and "Memories," which will be ready in a few weeks.

"Keepsakes" is the charming title of an equally charming little love ditty, which is steadily gaining in popularity among fairy queens and principal girls. The song possesses a very pretty melody, excellently adapted to the verses, and is altogether a capital little ballad. It is on the Von Tilzer Co.'s catalogue.

Lowenwirth and Cohan's great chorus song "My Little Eva," published by the National Music Publishing Co., will undoubtedly be a pantomime winner, having already been secured for almost every pantomime in Great Britain.

Fred Elton is making a gratifying success with the 100-guinea song, "When the leaves are tinged with gold." This number is going free for pantomime. The National Music Publishing Co. are the publishers.

Among other numbers being made free for pantomime by the National Music Publishing Co. are Geo. Lashwood's "If it's a lady" and "Nicolo, Nicolo, play on your piccolo"; Miss Victoria Monks' two big hits, "I wish I had a pal like you" and "Call round any old time"; and Will Godwin's "When I've a hundred pounds." The National Music Publishing Co. are the first to have a song on the coming roller-skating craze, entitled "Kate, won't you roller-skate?" This has an ear-haunting melody and a swinging chorus.

OPENING OF THE PALACE, OLDHAM.

On Monday evening the latest addition to the De Frece Circuit was opened to the public. The building has been erected from the plans of Mr. Bertie Crewe, of Shaftesbury-avenue, London, by Messrs. W. Brown and Sons, Salford, and presents a fine appearance. The interior bears a most cosy and comfortable aspect. The decorations are in the Louis XIV. style in white and gold, and the scheme of colour is dainty and attractive. There is seating accommodation for 2,380 in boxes, stalls, pit, and gallery, every person having an uninterrupted view of the stage. The stalls and centre are upholstered in red plush, the furnishing and carpets having been provided by A. R. Dean and Sons, of Birmingham. The scenery has been painted by Messrs. Wilkins, of Liverpool. The fireproof curtain and hydrants have been installed by Messrs. Strode and Co., London, and for the mosaic work Diespeker and Co., London, are responsible. The stage dimensions are 70ft. by 35ft., and the mechanical arrangements provide ample room for any kind of variety production. From stage to grid the height is 57ft.

At the opening on Monday were Mr. Walter de Frece, Mr. Jack de Frece, Mr. Will Sley, Major Savage, Mr. Bertie Crewe, Mr. C. Place, and others. Long before the time of opening large crowds were present, and a most animated scene was witnessed. When the doors were opened the crowd quickly filled the spacious building, and were heartily delighted at the appearance it presented. Mr. J. H. Southworth presided over a well-balanced orchestra.

A capital company is appearing for the opening week. At the head is Chas. Austin in a problematical production, *Parker, P.C.*, and hearty laughter is caused by the many funny situations. The Harmony Four in their original musical comedy provided a diverting entertainment; Les Aribos in a sensational acrobatic act gain a hearty reception; Fred Russell is effective in his ventriloquial act; Alf. Gibson is quaint in his own original way; Flo Cecil is a charming comedienne and dancer; Fyne and Hurley, "the coster and the swell," introduce smart boxing into their turn; Maid and Moon are capital in a very pretty scena; and Ruffell's Bioscope depicts a very amusing picture.

At the Empire Music Hall, Wrexham, Will Hebden has drawn good houses, and proved himself as successful a comedian as ever; Syd Crossley, the "long eccentric one," met with a good reception; Miss Bessie Willow is a clever burlesque artist and ballad vocalist; and Shavo is a very comical juggler. The pictures, too, are a great attraction.

BOW PALACE.

Had any evidence been necessary to establish the great hold a piece of fine sentimental acting has upon a London music hall audience it would have been found this week at the Bow Palace, where Mr. Albert Wyndham has been presenting his well-known playlet *Prince Arthur*. Anything more deeply pathetic than this little drama cannot well be conceived. A short dialogue takes place between Hubert and the French Ambassador, in which the mode of putting out the eyes of the captive Prince is outlined. The fierce determination of Hubert, the cringing of the serf, the conflicting emotions—all impress the audience in the first scene. When the curtain rises on the second—the Prince's chamber in the Tower—we see at a rude altar the kneeling form of Arthur, and the rich notes of his voice are in strong contrast to the deep tones of his gaoler, who bursts in upon him and in cold tones bids him prepare for the torture. Stern and unrelenting, Hubert stands, but cowers before the innocent trustfulness of the boy. The irons are heated and the callous gaoler faces his young charge, who pleads passionately for his sight. All through the piece there is a depth of feeling, an undisguised pathos, which evokes warm applause. As Hubert Mr. Albert Wyndham's fine emotional power makes the part impressive, and Miss Paula Shephard is responsible for a touching representation of the young Prince Arthur. Chatellion, the French Ambassador, in the hands of Mr. Chas. Whitley, and the Executioner (Mr. L. Deveridge) and the Herald (Miss F. Pateman) showed care.

Malcolm Cumming's company appeared in a new dental burlesque on Monday, entitled

"A TOOTH FOR A WIFE."

Nicholas Poolhard .....Mr. Edmond O'Grady
Dora .....Miss Madeleine Sylvester
Ferdinand Algernon Fitz Bang Byngs
Mr. Malcolm Cumming

The scene is a dentist's surgery. The dentist, a particularly irascible person with a charming daughter to dispose of in the matrimonial market, has acted upon his own avaricious impulses and pledged his daughter's hand to the rich son of his bosom friend, old Mr. Byngs. The daughter has, however, secretly plighted her troth to the good-looking suitor who is familiarly termed Ferdinand—and Ferdinand only—the wonderful surname never coming to light in the harangue between father and daughter. Leaving the self-willed daughter in the midst of her heated denunciations of the rich aristocrat of her father's choice, the dentist goes out to find the beau he has selected, and just as Dora is giving way to depression, the chivalrous Ferdinand makes a dramatic appearance on the scene. Of course the "passage-at-arms" is of the familiar type, and well-worn epithets associated with the "smitten"; but just when the lovemaking is at its height the dentist is heard returning. Too late to pass out by the front door, the window too high to drop, the daughter impulsively presses the now very timorous Ferdinand to pass himself off as a patient. Checkmated at either hand, the unfortunate Ferdinand is under the circumstances forced to submit.

The dentist enters in a rage. His mission to the rich suitor has been unsuccessful, and he turns to upbraid his defiant daughter, only to let his gaze fall on the emaciated form of Ferdinand in the operating chair. "A tooth to be drawn? Yes, it must come out." And poor ill-used Ferdinand struggles heroically in the powerful grasp of the dentist and the forceps. Dora, with her natural aversion to agony, quits the room, and, left alone, dentist and patient go through a pantomimical succession of contortions rich with originality and humour. After a period of suffering which to Ferdinand might be gauged by the expression of his countenance, the tooth is at last drawn, and through the window at lightning speed he disappears, fearful lest an instant's delay might bring about a repetition of the torture. Dora now reappears on the scene, and boldly asks where her beloved Ferdinand is. Perplexity is now the order, but just as the confusion is at its greatest Ferdinand returns for his hat. His full identity now transpires. The dentist is dumbstricken: "Ferdinand Algernon Fitz Bang Byngs?" he asked, querulously. "My name," murmurs the soft-voiced Ferdinand. "What, the son of my old friend Byngs?" The similarity is compared. "Why, old fellow," is the dentist's soothing consolation, "you're the very boy I've been in search of. Take the girl, my boy, you've earned her." "Yes," somewhat cheerfully responds the smiling Ferdinand, "a tooth for a wife is a fair exchange."

For a piece of really vivacious humour, the sketch is very high in excellence. The pantomimic gyrations reveal an originality which is sustained in every feature. Bright, bracing, and refined, with a complete disregard of the low order of buffoonery which is so much in evidence in comedy sketches of this kind. The selection of the characters disclosed keen judgment, and the reception of the sketch was enthusiastic.

Albert St. Clair is an entertaining double-voiced vocalist; and the items of Moon and Morris, the Sivronis (burlesque artists), and the Gascoignes (jugglers) are all much appreciated. The Selwyns are capital vocalists and dancers.

Sweet Innisfail, an Irish comedy-drama, is well played by the Walter Reynolds company. The sketch is picturesquely mounted; but as it is supposed to represent the present-day sobriety, it cannot in justice be described as anything short of the flighty product of some admirer of Charles Lever. Happily this view of things was not reflected, and a mild applause greeted the efforts of the company. *Bouncing a Burglar* was diverting, and a good exhibition of animated pictures also figured in the programme. Zeta Russell,—her hall-mark "Refinement"—charmed all. Her song and dance, both characteristic of natural daintiness, delighted everyone.

"ALL AT SEA."

To the Editor of The Era

Sir,—In your issue of Oct. 17 I read that Messrs. Edward Foster and Guy Jones intend exploiting in the music halls a short musical comedy entitled *All at Sea*,

I wish to call your attention to the fact that the same is the title of a two-act three-scene musical comedy by me, the undersigned, which made two provincial tours under the management of Mr. Alex. Keith, with Mr. Harry Phydora and Miss Julia Kent in the principal parts. As I am at present in negotiation with a firm of New York vaudeville managers for the production of a condensed version of my own *All at Sea*, with a probability of booking the same for London, I shall feel greatly obliged if you will publish this letter in your valuable paper in justice to myself and to notify all whom it may concern.—Yours faithfully,

EDWARD A. PAULTON.

The Lambs, 130, West 44th Street, New York.
Nov. 1.

Mr. Walter Stanton writes us from Marseilles, where the ss. Omrah touched on Nov. 6, en route to Sydney. Mr. Stanton says his four trained roosters are quite the admiration of the passengers.

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Direction
HAROLD L. HILLIARD.

CONSUL THE GREAT,
the almost Man.

Pupil of
FRANK C. BOSTOCK,
The Animal King.

In his living exemplifications of the Darwinian Theory, as given before his Majesty the King.

NO VACANT DATES.

"ALL ABOUT A BOUT."

Sketch, in Three Scenes, by Irving B. Lee, Produced by Frank Gotch at the New Cross Empire, on Monday, Nov. 9.

Frank Conroy .....Mr. Frank A. Gotch
Atlas Stetzel .....Mr. Emil Klank
Bill Goggin .....Mr. George Porter Smith
Pittsburg Snow .....Mr. Joseph Burton
Walter Alan Lucas .....Mr. Ralph Stewart
Grace Conroy .....Miss Louise Carter
Aunt Susan .....Miss Maude Mullery

A very large audience assembled at New Cross Empire on Monday night to witness the production, for the first time in London, of the athletic sketch written round the wrestler Frank A. Gotch. The plot is of the slightest, but it is clear and intelligible. The hero, Frank Conroy, belonging to Yale University, is a famous strong man. He has an Aunt Susan, who is opposed to all sport, and in particular to anything which might reflect on the honoured name of Conroy. Frank also has a sister named Grace, who is her brother's confidante, and who firmly believes that whatever he does is right. It is proposed that he shall meet and wrestle with Atlas Stetzel, the "holder of the title," for a large sum. Aunt Susan vigorously opposes, but Grace persuades her that the money is necessary to him, as they are ruined, and the old lady finally gives way. In the meantime Bill Goggin has interviewed Frank, and told him that he has staked all he possesses on his success. Frank gives in, and goes to meet Stetzel. Scene 2 shows the front of Madison-square Gardens, New York. The family serving-man, Pittsburg Spow, arrives first. He is soon followed by Grace Conroy and Aunt Susan, who have come to witness Frank's success. Scene 3 shows the arena, where the last bout is just commencing, two having already taken place, one being credited to each man. The wrestling is followed with close attention, and proves Gotch to be smart and clever. He also plays the part of Frank Conroy with ease and self-possession. He is ably assisted by Mr. Emil Klank, who does well as Atlas Stetzel, the Austrian strong man. Mr. George Porter Smith is very good as Bill Goggins; Mr. Joseph Burton makes an amusing Pittsburg Snow; Miss Louise Carter is a bright and taking Grace Conroy; and Miss Maude Mullery is excellent as Aunt Susan.

There were some dissentient voices at the fall of the curtain on Monday, but Mr. Ernest Bridgen appeared and restored order by showing on the Bioscope the original tussle between Hackenschmidt and Gotch.

Influential support is being obtained for next year's attraction at Earl's Court—"The Golden West and American Industries Exhibition"—and already the Exhibition Commissioners in America report that the leather, oil, carriage, and motor sections promise to be of great importance, whilst the number of the various States and corporations which desire to be represented is growing daily.

The lighter side will be judiciously welded with the serious aspect of the exhibition, and contracts have been made with American impresarios—amongst many, the great Coney Island attractions of "The Deluge" and "The Spirit of Niagara," whilst in the Empress Hall an arenic Red Indian spectacle will be the prominent feature.

A roller-skating rink will be opened on Tuesday in Cliftonville-road, Belfast, by a syndicate, of which Mr. C. P. Crawford and Mr. F. A. Wilkins are managing-directors. The skating area will be 300ft. long and 120ft. wide, and an excellent maple flooring has been imported from America in order that a good surface may be secured. A military band will contribute music at each session, of which there will be three daily.

ACROBATIC DANCERS' ACTION.

"The Two Primroses," whose names off the music-hall stage are the Misses Edith Mary and Florence Elizabeth Atkinson, claimed compensation on Tuesday from the Surrey Vaudeville Theatre Company, Ltd., for an accident which happened at the theatre in Blackfriars-road two years ago.

Their case, as presented to Mr. Justice Ridley and a special jury, was that, as a result of the accident, Edith sustained permanent injuries to her spine, which would leave her a cripple for the rest of her life, and Florence received a blow on the right side of the head which interfered with her work.

In defence the Macnaghten company denied negligence, and contended that Florence was not injured, and that Edith fell as the result of delicate health and exhaustion. It was further urged that, if there was negligence on the part of the company's servants, they and the Two Primroses were in common employment.

The sisters, it was stated, began on the halls at a very early age, Florence being only six. On Oct. 30, 1905, they were engaged to perform at the Surrey. Theirs was the first "turn," and they sang and danced for about five minutes, "finishing with a high kick." Just as they were concluding their performance the curtain fell upon them—and the curtain in a theatre is an exceedingly weighty affair. Mr. Dobb, who narrated this on their behalf, mentioned that the girls had tried to get compensation earlier, but they were non-suited in the early part of this year without prejudice to their commencing a fresh action.

It was argued between counsel for the sisters and Mr. Rawlinson, K.C., for the company, that it was unnecessary for Edith to be examined. Mr. Dobb said she could be carried into Court if it was thought desirable she should formally substantiate her sister's assertion that the curtain struck them. Mr. Rawlinson said he was prepared to infer that she would swear that, but he would not admit that it was a correct explanation of how she was injured.

Miss Florence Atkinson then told the Court how the curtain fell. In answer to questions she said theirs was an exhausting "turn." She had to put her foot behind her head and twist round, her sister going through her contortions "on the floor" at the time. She did not consult a doctor because she was nervous of them.

Mrs. Atkinson, mother of the plaintiffs, who was at the side of the stage, said she saw the stage-manager go towards the switchboard, and at that moment the curtain fell.

Mr. Rawlinson was putting questions to the mother with reference to the general health of herself and Edith, when the lady exclaimed: "Do I look delicate?"

Mr. Rawlinson: If you ask me—but I must not pay compliments here.

A large model of the Surrey stage was produced in Court to illustrate points in the evidence, and among witnesses examined during the afternoon was Dr. Baldwin. He expressed the opinion that Edith Atkinson would not again be able to follow her occupation as an acrobat, her spine having been seriously injured.

At the commencement of Mr. Rawlinson's speech for the defence on Wednesday, Mr. Justice Ridley intimated that he need only address himself to the question whether or not the plaintiffs were struck by the curtain. He need not address the jury on the plea of common employment.

In summing up, his lordship said the main question for the jury was whether or not there had been negligence on the part of the defendants which would entitle plaintiffs to recover damages. Did defendants' servants negligently let down the curtain so that it knocked over both the plaintiffs, Edith in such a way that she was severely injured, and Florence only slightly? In his opinion, although it was for the jury to decide, there was no evidence of damage at all in regard to Florence.

After being absent for over an hour and a half, the jury announced that they found that the accident was caused by the fall of the curtain, and they awarded Edith Atkinson £705 damages. They were not satisfied that the evidence showed that Florence Atkinson received any injuries from the fall of the curtain, but she was entitled to damages for the loss of employment through her sister's accident, and they awarded her £12 16s. 3d.

Mr. Dobb asked for judgment for the plaintiffs.

His lordship said he could not give him judgment until he had heard the arguments upon the question of common employment. On this point he thought judgment ought to be entered for the defendants.

On Friday the question of common employment, raised by the theatre company, was argued before Mr. Justice Ridley. After hearing counsel for the plaintiffs on this point the Judge found that the doctrine of common employment applied, and that therefore the plaintiffs could not maintain their action, and he accordingly directed judgment to be entered for the theatre company, with costs.

Counsel for the plaintiffs were Mr. Harry Dobb and Mr. Wynn Werninck (instructed by Mr. A. E. Cubison) and for the defendants Mr. J. F. P. Rawlinson, K.C., M.P., and Mr. Harold Brandon (instructed by Messrs. Amery, Parkes, Macklin and Co.).

Miss Amy Augarde appealed on the 6th from an order of Mr. Justice Coleridge in chambers granting an interim injunction restraining her from performing in a sketch entitled *La Carmençita*, adapted for the music halls by Mr. Louis Cohen, plaintiff in the action, without his name appearing on the playbills and programmes as the author. On behalf of the appellant, Mr. Charles Doughty said that Mr. Cohen sold the copyright of the sketch to Miss Augarde for £50. At the time of that transaction it was understood that Mr. Cohen's name should appear on the bills and programmes. It was possible that on some occasions his name had been omitted; but, counsel submitted, under the agreement lately entered into as a sequel to the variety artists' strike, managers must not be dictated to in such matters as the one in question. After hearing argument by counsel in support of the order, Lords Justices Moulton and Farwell held that the case was not one for an interim injunction, and they discharged it, making the costs the costs in the action.

Lafayette, illusionist, had a wire on Tuesday at Nottingham to say that his father, residing in Germany, was dangerously ill. Under these circumstances he was released by Mr. Thomas Barrasford and hurried abroad.

Mr. Charles Leighton on Monday forwarded a telegram of congratulation to His Majesty the King upon the occasion of his birthday, and on Monday evening was honoured with a telegram of acknowledgment which reads as follows:—"Sandringham, Nov. 9, 1908. (To) Charles Leighton, Vaudeville Club, Charing Cross-road, W.C.—King commands me to thank you for your loyal congratulations and good wishes.—Knollys."

J. Cameron and Co., variety, dramatic, and musical agents, have opened offices at All Saints' Chambers, 46, Sydney-street, Manchester. They use the V.A.F. office copy.

VARIETY THEATRES HAVE COME TO STAY!
That we all know.
We also know the time has come when
WELL WRITTEN,
SKILFULLY PREPARED PLAYLETS
CAREFULLY ACTED
and
BEAUTIFULLY MOUNTED,
will be
BOOKED BY MANAGERS IN PREFERENCE
To the Mediocre type of Sketch so frequently seen upon the Variety Stage.

"THE PLAY'S THE THING!"
Therefore, first get your play. Having got it, bring
LONG EXPERIENCE AND SOUND JUDGMENT
To bear upon the
PRODUCTION AND CAST OF CHARACTERS.
And the result will be an innovation
WELCOMED BY MANAGERS
and
THEATRE-GOERS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

DIRECTORS and MANAGERS
Should not Fail to See
"CHUMS TILL DEATH."
THE CANTERBURY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Week Commencing November 23rd.

Telegrams, "Playlet, London."
'Phone, 909 P.O., Croydon.
ALBERT MARSH,
St. Margaret's,
Birchanger Road,
South Norwood.

MUSIC HALL LICENCES.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee of the London County Council sat at the Sessions House, Clerkenwell, on the 6th inst., for the purpose of hearing applications for licences for music, music and dancing, and stage plays. Mr. H. J. Greenwood presided, and the other members of the committee present were Lord Duncannon, Mr. Jocelyn Brandon, Dr. John Davies, Mr. E. E. Wild, Mr. R. C. Phillimore, Mr. J. A. Dawes, and Mr. F. Briant.

The committee had to deal with 220 applications for renewals, eight applications for transfers, three applications for removal of restrictions, and twenty-two applications for new licences, on the north side of the Thames; and 102 applications for renewals, nine applications for transfers, and seven applications for new licences on the south of the Thames.

FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION.

Mr. Irme Kiralfy applied for a renewal of the music and dancing and stage-plays licences of the Franco-British Exhibition.

The application was opposed by Mr. C. Rambeau, of 40, Arminger-road, Shepherd's Bush, on the grounds that the buildings of the exhibition are only temporary and unfitted for a licence, and that the continued existence of an exhibition at the site in question would be detrimental to the neighbourhood, and not likely to be of benefit to the public generally.

Mr. C. Pinhorn, secretary of the London United Temperance Council, also opposed the renewal, on the ground that the sale of intoxicating drink is not necessary or desirable in a place of public entertainment.

Mr. Horace Avory, K.C., and Mr. Moyse Thomas appeared on behalf of Mr. Rambeau.

Mr. A. H. Bodkin supported the renewal on behalf of Mr. Irme Kiralfy.

Mr. C. Gill, K.C., said he appeared to oppose on behalf of Exhibitions (Limited).

Mr. Bodkin: We have received no notice of opposition from them.

The Chairman: Neither has the committee. Consequently we cannot hear Mr. Gill.

Mr. Gill: Then I suppose I must be content with watching.

Mr. Horace Avory said that a provisional licence, granted in November last, had never been confirmed or made good by the Council. Therefore the place had been conducted illegally in that sense. There had been a liquor licence in force, granted in February last by the Kensington magistrates, and that licence was obtained from the Bench on the statement, repeated over and over again, that it was only intended to occupy these buildings for the purpose of the Franco-British Exhibition, and that at the expiration of that exhibition the buildings would be removed. The opposition to the liquor licence was induced to withdraw on the ground that the licence should be granted for one year only, whereas now it seemed to be a permanent exhibition and a permanent nuisance in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Pinhorn pointed out that there would be no Franco-British Exhibition next year, and consequently this should be treated as a new application.

Mr. Avory: I would also point out that some of the conditions on which the provisional licence was granted have never up to this time been fulfilled.

The Chairman: Are you going to call any witnesses?

Mr. Avory: No; I understand Mr. Rambeau is not here.

The Chairman: Then Mr. Bodkin has no case to answer, but we should like to ask Mr. Kiralfy a few questions.

Mr. Imre Kiralfy then went into the witness-box.

The Chairman: With regard to a stage play's licence, for what purpose are you requiring it?—I was under the impression that it was necessary, but I understand now that it would not be required.

There has been no building suitable for a stage-play's licence. If it is required you can apply for that at any time?—Yes, I understand that now.

In view of the past exhibition I should like to point out that, suppose the licence is granted, it must be understood that any modification which may have been made or conditions waived during the present year will not apply to any future exhibition, and that in every detail the committee would have to be satisfied regarding the buildings before any opening is possible. Nothing that has been done in regard to the Franco-British Exhibition will tie the committee in any way in dealing with the future. It was common knowledge that the sanitary conveniences were wholly insufficient. There would probably be a considerable increase in the requirements made by the committee in that direction.

Mr. Kiralfy: I will undertake to comply with any requirements the committee may make.

The Chairman: The committee will also make a condition that there shall be increased facilities for obtaining drinking water.

Mr. Kiralfy: I have already done that.

The Chairman: Subject to an undertaking on the points I have mentioned, the committee will recommend the Council to grant a provisional licence for music and dancing.

Mr. Avory: May I ask Mr. Kiralfy for what purpose this licence is required?

The Chairman: No, you cannot go into that.

THE COLISEUM.

Mr. Oswald Stoll applied for the removal of the following restriction attached to the present music and dancing licence of the London Coliseum, namely, "That no intoxicating drinks shall be sold or consumed on the premises."

Mr. Gill, K.C., who supported the application, said this was the only place of public entertainment such as a theatre or music-hall in London, as distinguished from the suburbs, where the restriction was enforced. The directors felt that this was most unfair, especially as they catered for a superior class of audience, many of whom came from a long distance in the suburbs. There appeared to be no logical reason why this house and the Hippodrome should be selected for forcing upon people a restriction whereby they were bound to leave the premises if they wanted to obtain that which they were perfectly entitled to obtain. In order to test what was really the demand for intoxicants by the patrons of the Coliseum, Mr. Stoll had a record made on Oct. 17, and it was found that during the interval no fewer than 544 persons left the hall. This application was not made for the purpose of adding to the dividends of the shareholders, for the directors were willing to give an undertaking that an accurate account should be kept of the takings of the three bars, and that the whole of the profits should be given to any charity which the committee might nominate.

Mr. Oswald Stoll then went into the box, and, in answer to Mr. Gill, said his patrons were very seriously inconvenienced by the restriction, especially those of them who objected to going into public-houses.

Mr. Gill: I have stated that you are willing to take any steps with regard to the sale of intoxicants, so that the profits might be applied as the committee may direct?—Yes. The board has passed a resolution to that effect.

The Chairman: Did you watch to see whether all the people who went out during the interval went into public-houses?

Mr. Stoll: Anybody could see that by the state of the adjoining public-houses during the interval.

The Chairman: They might have left the theatre for the purpose of getting fresh air.

Mr. Stoll: It was perfectly obvious where they went.

Mr. G. B. Walker, district superintendent of the United Kingdom Alliance, opposed the removal of the restrictions on the ground that the sale of intoxicating drink was not necessary or desirable in a place of public entertainment, that the neighbourhood was well supplied with licences for the sale of intoxicating liquor, and that, therefore, the licence should only be granted on the condition that no intoxicating drink be sold on the premises. He further contended that the committee ought not to be influenced by the inducement held out that the profits of the bars would be devoted to charity.

The Chairman said the committee would hear the application for the removal of the restriction in the case of the Hippodrome, and then retire to consider their decision in both cases.

THE HIPPODROME.

Mr. Gill said he appeared on behalf of Sir Horace Edward Moss for a removal of a similar restriction, and all he had to add to his former statement was that when the Hippodrome was built it was anticipated that an unrestricted licence would be granted, and in fact it was granted, and it was only in the following year that by one vote only on a snatch division the restriction was made.

Mr. Walker said he opposed for the same reasons as in the case of the Coliseum.

Mr. Pinhorn also opposed on behalf of the London United Temperance Council.

The committee then retired, and on returning to court,

The Chairman stated that in the case of the Coliseum the committee would recommend the renewal of the licence subject to a condition that no intoxicants should be sold or consumed on the premises. With regard to the Hippodrome, the committee would recommend that the licence be renewed subject to a condition that no intoxicants be sold or consumed in the auditorium.

LEWISHAM HIPPODROME.

Mr. Arthur Algernon Wellesley Grist applied for a music and dancing licence for premises to be erected at Rushey Green, and to be known as the Lewisham Hippodrome.

The application was opposed by the Rev. W. W. Hough, the Rev. F. C. Bainbridge-Bell, and the Rev. R. W. Harding, on the ground that in their opinion a music hall was not needed, that it would be objectionable to the inhabitants, and that it would tend to lower the character of the neighbourhood.

The Chairman said a notice had been received to the effect that the opposition would be withdrawn subject to the licence being granted with the restriction that no intoxicating liquors should be sold or consumed on the premises. The Council would, therefore, be recommended to grant the licence in that form.

CROWN THEATRE, PECKHAM.

Mr. George Elliott applied, on behalf of Mr. Cecil Paget, for a music and dancing licence for the Crown Theatre, Peckham. He said Mr. Paget had held the Lord Chamberlain's licence for some years, and had provided high-class theatrical entertainments, but, unfortunately, the local residents had not given him that encouragement which would justify those entertainments being continued. He therefore wanted to exchange the Lord Chamberlain's licence for a music and dancing licence, and he was prepared to surrender the Excise licence.

The Chairman said the licence would be granted, subject to the usual condition that no intoxicants should be sold or consumed on the premises.

CAMDEN THEATRE.

Mr. Sidney Marler applied for a music and dancing licence for the Camden Theatre, High-street, Camden Town.

Mr. George Eliot, in support of the application, said the Camden was a very fine building, and was one of the most commodious in London. What the proprietors desired to do was to relinquish the Lord Chamberlain's licence, and in taking up a music and dancing licence under the Council the liquor licence would be abandoned.

Mr. Marler said his only desire was to carry on an ordinary performance of a music hall, such as Mr. Walter Gibbons carried on in several parts of London.

Mr. Avory, K.C., who opposed on behalf of Mr. B. P. Lucas, the managing-director of the Bedford Palace of Varieties, asked if it was intended to give two performances each evening. The witness said he thought that was the idea of the management, but it would be left in the hands of Mr. Walter Gibbons.

Mr. Travers Humphreys opposed for Mr. J. H. Freeman, of 53, Oakley-square, St. Pancras, on the ground that those responsible for the management of the Camden Theatre had been giving and continued to give entertainments on Sundays and weekdays consisting of animated pictures combined with music, which were a source of great annoyance to the inhabitants of Oakley-square.

Mr. Avory said there were two grounds on which he opposed on behalf of Mr. Lucas. The first was that the Bedford Palace of Varieties was only 289 yards away, and that there was no public need for another music hall there; and, secondly, that the Committee ought not to grant a licence to any man who had been concerned in simply carrying on a music hall without a licence.

Mr. Bodkin opposed on behalf of a number of local residents, and in support of his opposition he called the Rev. H. S. Beard, vicar of St. Matthews, Oakley-square, the Rev. A. Butcher, of the London Central Wesleyan Mission, and Mr. W. L. Taylor, J. P., one of the guardians of the poor for St. Pancras.

The Chairman announced that the committee would recommend the granting of the licence subject to a condition that no intoxicants be sold or consumed on the premises.

FINSBURY PARK EMPIRE.

Mr. Oswald Stoll applied for a music and dancing licence for the Finsbury Park Empire, which it is proposed to erect at the junction of St. Thomas's-road and Prah-road.

Mr. Gill, K.C., who supported the application, reminded the committee that on a former occasion they recommended that the licence be granted, but when it came before the Council the voting was equal, and the licence was accordingly not granted.

Mr. Stoll, in reply to Mr. Gill, said in the event of this licence being granted he was prepared to surrender the licence of the Holloway Empire.

Several witnesses were called by Mr. Gill to state that the erection of the proposed hall, so far from injuring the surrounding property, would be a great improvement. All these witnesses were owners of property in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Mr. George Elliott opposed on behalf of local residents, and called the Rev. L. L. Edwards, vicar of St. Thomas's, Finsbury Park, who stated that he considered it unfair to the neighbourhood to plump a place of public entertainment in the midst of dwelling-houses off the main road, and away from the business thoroughfare; and also that it was unfair to the neighbourhood to build a house which would professedly cater for people who came from rough neighbourhoods.

Mr. J. J. Shrosbree, of 30, Gloucester-road, Green-lanes, gave it as his opinion that the value of adjacent property of which he is the owner would be greatly depreciated, and that the quiet character of the neighbourhood would be disturbed.

Mr. Elliott, in addressing the committee, urged that Finsbury Park did not want a music hall, because the people who lived there could get easy access to any part of London where music halls exist. He put in a petition containing 1,735 signatures against the granting of the licence.

Mr. S. S. Christey, one of the Hornsey borough councillors, opposed on behalf of the local Ratepayers' Association, and on the ground that the granting of the licence would seriously injure the prospects of the Alexandra Palace, which had been purchased at a cost of £150,000 by the local authorities.

The committee retired for consultation, and on returning,

The Chairman announced that the licence would be recommended to the Council to be granted subject to the usual restrictions that no intoxicants be sold or consumed on the premises.

[*Photo by Halftones.*

THIS IS "PIGGY," THE PICCANINNY WHO HAS ENTERED MISS MARIE LLOYD'S SERVICE AS "TIGER."

PADDINGTON EMPIRE.

Mr. Austin Heyes applied for music and dancing licences for the Paddington Empire, proposed to be erected on the sites of 68, 68a, and 68b, Harrow-road. Mr. W. Stevenson opposed on several grounds, among them being that the applicant was acting as agent on behalf of the proprietor of an existing place of entertainment, and that he was not acting bonâ-fide in his own right, and that there were already more than sufficient places of entertainment in the neighbourhood.

Mr. Henri Gros, the licencee and managing director of the Metropolitan Palace of Varieties, opposed on the ground that the proposed hall would be only 560 yards from the Metropolitan, which had been this year rebuilt and enlarged at a cost of £10,000

The Rev. R. Roberts, minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Westbourne-grove, and the Rev. W. E. Clemens, curate of St. Paul's, Harrow-road, also opposed on the usual religious grounds.

The Borough Council of Paddington also opposed the application.

After hearing several witnesses on both sides the committee recommended the Council to refuse the application.

This concluded the whole of the licensing work of the committee, and this was the first occasion on which both sides of the river were dealt with in one day.

THE Merry Brooklands have returned from America after three months' successful engagements. They open on Monday at the Hippodrome, Stockton, with a new scena.

THE latest quotations for music hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra 17-16, Canterbury ½, Empire (15s. paid) 1½, ditto (10s. paid) 1½, London Pavilion Ordinary 4½, ditto Preferred 5½, Metropolitan 15s., Moss' Empire 5½, ditto 5 per cent. Preferred 4½, Oxford 6½, Palace 19s., Tivoli 5½, and Variety Consolidated Theatres 12s.

SIMON SILVERMAN, 21, a Russian subject, but speaking fluent English, was charged with wilful damage at the Shoreditch Empire, and further with assaulting Mr. H. Pitt, the manager. About 10.30 on Friday night, the 6th, there was a disturbance in the upper balcony, and attendants sent up had to order the prisoner to leave. As he did so he flung back one of the heavy doors with such violence that it was broken from its hinges. An attempt was made to detain him, whereupon he struck Mr. Pitt a blow behind the ear. In defence, Silverman denied the disturbance being his fault, but Mr. Pitt said he had known the prisoner for some time as leading a "claque," whose only object was to create trouble if they were not recognised and "arranged with." Prisoner, who was fined 40s., or fourteen days, went to prison

"INFANT" ARTIST'S CONTRACT.

At Westminster County Court, on Thursday, Mr. Thomas Claxton, variety agent, of Charing Cross-road, sued Miss Norah Mabel Stockelle, music-hall artist, for £5 12s. 6d., being five per cent. commission on an egagement he obtained for her to play in South Africa, at a salary of £12 10s. a week. Defendant admitted the signing of the contract, and did not dispute the amount, but pleaded that she was under age at the time.

Mr. Nicholson, for the defendant, called Mrs. Mary Stockelle, who produced her daughter's birth certificate, which showed that she was born in 1889; the contract was signed in August, 1907. Witness admitted that her daughter had toured this country without a chaperone.

Mr. Page, for the plaintiff, argued that the contract was for the defendant's benefit, and that, therefore, she was liable.

His Honour Judge Woodfall: I do not think anyone would say that it was good for this young lady to go out to South Africa without a chaperone. But I think the Court may look at the whole of the contract and say whether it was for the infant's benefit, and I think it is entirely restricted to the financial benefit of the contract, and, as far as I know, no Court has ever interfered on moral grounds.

For the plaintiff, Mr. Sydney Hyman, variety agent, said that every three weeks he sent out parties of artists to South Africa. All fares were paid both ways, and there was an hotel where the artists could go at a uniform charge of £3 a week. He paid in travelling expenses alone about £10,000 a year. Whenever a young girl was going out to perform under contract, he always arranged that she should be looked after by a married couple or some responsible person. The defendant would have gone out to South Africa in the company of Miss Florence St. John and Mr. and Mrs. Roxburgh, and the same company would be together for the fifteen weeks of the tour.

His Honour, in giving judgment, said he was clearly of opinion that this contract was for the girl's financial benefit, and he was also of opinion that she was quite competent to act for herself in making an advantageous contract in her own profession. It was inconceivable that she should have entered into the contract if it had not been for her benefit, and she would have gone to South Africa had not her mother objected. It was very much to defendant's credit, but it did not affect the legal rights of the plaintiff, who had earned his commission, which defendant must pay. There would be judgment for the plaintiff, with costs.

Mr. Nicholson asked for leave to appeal, and mentioned that he represented the Variety Artists' Federation.

His Honour expressed surprise that the Federation were appearing in the action, and refused the application, pointing out that there would be the usual stay of execution, and defendant must apply again.

MISS MABEL SINCLAIR IN AMERICA.

ENGLISH GIRL MAKES A HIT AT ORPHEUM.

Beyond doubt Miss Mabel Sinclair is one of the greatest ventriloquists in the world, and it is doubtful if any other woman ventriloquist ever surpassed her in the art by means of which she has become famous.—Butte Intermountain, Sept. 1, '08, U.S.A.

Miss Mabel Sinclair is announced as the foremost lady ventriloquist of England; she is more than that, if she has an equal anywhere, lady or gentleman, the people of Butte will have to wait a while longer to see it; Miss Sinclair does the little trick most cleverly, and her amusing talking doll sings popular songs while she is smoking a cigarette.—The Anaconda Standard, Montana, Aug. 30, '08.

The programme is varied by a smart ventriloquial trick by Mabel Sinclair, an English human with a natural voice and articulation which American women would do well to hear and imitate. Her ability as a ventriloquist both in speaking and singing is of a very high order, and her turn on the programme is well worth seeing.—Seattle Daily Times, Washington, Sept. 15, '08.

Miss Mabel Sinclair, a ventriloquist direct from London, has for her dummy the figure of a costermonger, and her bright line of patter in the coster dialect is humorous and catchy, though the concluding feature of her performance, and one that is wildly commented on, is that of smoking a cigarette while she does the entire act with a strong spotlight focused upon her, and not a single muscle of her throat is seen to quiver.—Spokane Review, Washington, Sept. 6, '08.

Miss Mabel Sinclair, the English ventriloquist, is delightfully entertaining with her bright little act. While she throws her voice she smokes a cigarette to prove the wonderful control she has over the vocal chords.—Salt Lake Evening Telegram, Monday, Oct. 5, 1908.

Some novel experiments in clever ventriloquism are given by Miss Mabel Sinclair, who has an act that is easily worth while.—Salt Lake Herald, Oct. 5, 1908.

Miss Mabel Sinclair, who smokes a cigarette on the stage to show the control of her vocal chords, is a most clever ventriloquist. She is fresh from London, and is a valuable acquisition to the Orpheum circuit.—The Republican, Salt Lake, Oct. 5, 1908.

As a ventriloquial artist Mabel Sinclair did the best work in ventriloquism ever seen here, and her dummy appears to be almost human, so perfectly does she do her work.—Salt Lake Tribune, Oct. 5, 1908.

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"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"

Miss FLORRIE FORDE'S LATEST SENSATION.

OH! OH! ANTONIO!

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The fairs ahead for next week are: Bakewell, on the Midland; St. Columb, on the Great Western; Andover, on the London and South-Western; Millom, on the Furness; Yeovil, on the Great Western and London and South-Western; Shaftesbury, on the London and South-Western; Skegby, on the Great Northern; South Shields, on the North-Eastern; Rugby, on the London and North-Western, Great Central, and Midland; Dover, on the South-Eastern, and London, Chatham and Dover; Fakenham, on the Great Eastern, Midland, and Great Northern; Guildford, on the London and South-Western, South-Eastern, and London, Brighton and South Coast; Martin Town; Govan, on the Glasgow and South-Western, and Glasgow and Paisley Joint; Langholm, on the North British; Aberystwyth, on the Cambrian, and Manchester and Milford; and Aberdare, on the Great Western and Taff Vale Railways.

Pontefract Hirings Fair.

The great shows here were the cinematograph theatres of Tuby and Sons and Farrar and Tyler's No. 1. The side shows were The Haunted House, Westray's dome museum, Wortley's working model of a coal mine, and Kent's giant crustacean. The machines, motor-cars, and four-abreast gallopers were provided by Tuby and Sons. Swings, shooters, and varieties in grand order and array by Messrs. Pullen, Rutter, Doubtfire, Lewis, Norman, Harris, and others.

Wakefield Fair.

The shows, machines, and fair-ground novelties here were B. Howden and Son's coliseum, Farrar and Tyler's cinematograph, Westwood's giant children, E. Balls's midget princess, and Pattison's model show, B. Howden and Sons' motor-cars, Mrs. Waddington's switchback, W. Waddington's ostriches, Richard's cakewalk, Morley's bike circle, and R. H. Williams's circular railway, Cornwell's shooters, Holdworth's bottle battery, Gledstone's bazaar, and throwing games and stalls by Messrs. W. Steward, S. Doubtfire, and other caterers.

Leek Fair.

The amusements at this Fair were provided by Messrs. Harold Hibbert, Holland, Bates, Rowley, Beech, Connor, and local stall-holders, the principal attractions being the galloping horses and steam roundabouts of H. Hibbert and Holland.

Mansfield Statutes.

This old-time Midland county fixture was a big success. The cinematograph theatres were provided by A. Twigdon Proctor and Holland and Sons, the machine novelties were by Messrs. Twigdon, Hall, Proctor, and Holland. Houp-la games, circles, and stalls by Messrs. Holmes, Hancock, Walker, and many others.

Hindon Fair.

This fixture was entirely in the hands of the local caterers. Roundabouts, swings, and shooters were by Messrs. Haines and Weldon, a novelty side-show by Matthews, and throwing games, &c., by Haines, Weldon, and others.

Carlisle Fair.

This Border town always attracts the best concerns on the Scotch, as well as the North round. Here were Biddall's circus, George Green's coliseum, T. Paulo's cinematograph, W. Wilson's similar show, Chapman's performing birds, Wood's school of boxers, and Tomkinson's freak show; George Green's motor-cars and helter-skelter tower, James Wilmot's motor-cars, T. Day's galloping horses, Mitchell's steam roundabouts, and children's motors and swings by A. Broughton, J. Slater, J. Wilmot, and S. Biddall; big boats and swings by Palmer, Mitchell. Day, and Broughton; shooting concerns by Strand, Dawson, Black, Mitchell, Day, Palmer, Biddall, and Slater; throwing games (new and old styles) in endless variety by Messrs. Macintosh, H. Irvin, F. Marshall, G. W. Shields, G. H. Ross, R. Downie, A. Palmer, G. Wheatley, Gaudy, J. Sheekey, Dawson, Black, H. Irvin, jun., W. Slater, J. Palmer, Illingworth, Whiston, Longstaffe, Stockwell, Cottam, J. Hilton, Thomas, Foster, Gibson, Kelly, Fleming, Connor, Hastings, Little, Cross, Voltah, Korns (Hammond's photo booth), Cooper, Johnson, Hiscoe, Moulden, J. Day, T. Day, Merrick, and Blockley.

Maryport Fair.

The entertainments at this Fair were provided by Messrs. Manders, Cottrell, Biddall, and Johnson with up-to-date cinematograph theatres; Buckley and Biddall with animals; Messrs. Caris, Cottrell, Wingate, and Cross with riding machines, shooters, and swings; and throwing games were by Messrs. Lawrence, Lowther, Lawson, and Wingate.

Darlington November Fair.

The concerns at this Fair are: Randall Williams and W. Murphy's big shows; Relph and Pedley, H. Cariss, W. Murphy, Baker, and Newsome's machines; the shooting ranges and variety stalls are by Messrs. Hascock, Sheeran, Harris, Smith, Cariss, and others.

Penrith Fair.

Shows by Paulo and Broughton; machines by J. Wilmot, T. Day, Broughton, Palmer, and S. Biddall; shooting concerns, variety frames, and games by Hughes, Day, Biddall, Macintosh, Gaudy, Hiscoe, Palmer, Blockley, and Broughton.

Wigston Feast.

Our Leicester representative writes:—"Wigston, a thriving and rapidly-growing town, within four-and-a-half miles of the county borough of Leicester, held its annual feast on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday last, when satisfactory business is to be recorded all round. The fairground is just inside Old Wigston, off the Leicester road, and presented an animated appearance, the principal attraction being Charles Thurston's new Royal show, where some first-class pictures are displayed under the management of Mr. James H. Norman. Professor Elliott's boxing show was another popular feature. Other showmen and caterers on the ground included Thurston's racing electric motors, A. Neal's galloping horses, G. Neal's juvenile motors, A. Neal's swing boats, Charles Thurston's flip-flap, houp-la games by Barnett and Charles Thurston; shooters by W. Morgan, G. Neal, J. Neal, &c.; skittle alleys by T. Neal, &c.; cokers by Essoms, Godden, &c.; and gingerbread by T. Neal, H. Stokes, &c. At the termination of the feast part left for Loughborough and part for Melton Mowbray."

New Brighton Wild West.

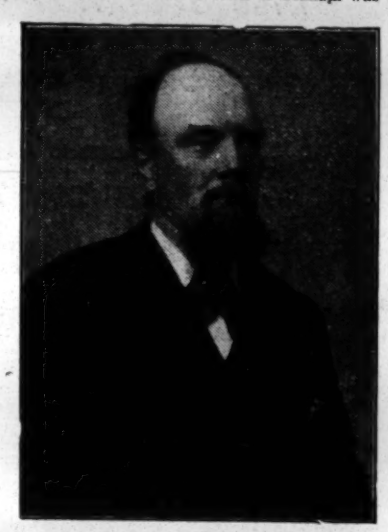
On Wednesday, in the presence of a large attendance, the stock of ponies, weapons, cowboys' riding suits, camps, and effects belonging to the Cummings Wild West show, which during the summer put in a season at New Brighton Tower Grounds, were sold by auction. The majority of the property was purchased at very reasonable figures, the American mail coach, which was used in the Indian attack, being knocked down for 35s. The result of the season's work was not, we understand, altogether satisfactory, while a number of horses had to be destroyed through an outbreak of glanders.

A SHOWMAN WORTHY.

THE LATE WILLIAM SHUTTLEWORTH.

There passed away on Oct. 13, after a short illness, a showman worthy, whose unblemished life and sterling example has been a gospel of good works for many years upon the road. William Shuttleworth started business as an amusement caterer thirty-five years ago, his first enterprise being a large set of park swings. Prospering in his business he added smaller swings, overboats, and gem horses to his working plant. Three years ago, at the very commencement of their great popularity, he introduced his latest machine—the racing juvenile motor-cars. For many years past Mr. Shuttleworth has specialised as the provider of children's machines and swings, and, in fact, it is claimed for him that he was the oldest juvenile amusement caterer on the great Lancashire round of fairs and wakes.

Realising the possibilities of the business some years ago, he began to originate and to establish new "wakes," in the fast-growing industrial district, of which his native town of Oldham was the



THE LATE MR. WILLIAM SHUTTLEWORTH.

great centre. Born in Oldham in February, 1849, he passed away to his rest in his sixtieth year. He had not been so well in bodily health and strength, but was active and energetic up to five weeks before his death. He succumbed to chronic catarrh of the stomach, his last moments being comforted by the presence of his family at their permanent address, 44, Eldon-street, Oldham.

For many years past Mr. Shuttleworth has exercised a great influence amongst his fellow-showmen at the fairs he travelled, and for five years past has been a hard-working member of the executive committee of the Showmen's Guild. In that period of time he has enrolled over one hundred new members, and in every possible way has kept the claims of the Trade Defence Society before the people for whom it works.

It is such hard-working, thoroughly sincere, and unassuming men as William Shuttleworth, that give honour, dignity, and respect to the trade and business of the fairground. The Executive Council of the Showmen's Guild will sorely miss his sound business sense, breadth of view, and enduring charity, and it is to us to whom has fallen the melancholy task of recording the story of his life a source of the greatest possible satisfaction that we have been identified so long and so helpfully (on his part) in great enterprises for God and for good amongst the showmen of the Empire.

The Funeral.

The last solemn obsequies were from the home address of the family, and the interment took place in the family vault, Greenacres Cemetery, Oldham, on Oct. 16, 1908. The coffin was of solid panelled oak, and was conveyed in an open glass hearse, and there were six mourning coaches containing the family and intimate friends. In the first coach were Mrs. Shuttleworth (widow), Miss L. H. Shuttleworth (daughter), Mr. Harry Shuttleworth (son), Mr. Harold W. Shuttleworth (son), and Mr. Ernest Shuttleworth (son). In the second coach were Mr. and Mrs. John Cottam (daughter and son-in-law), Master John Cottam (grandson), Mr. Samuel Shuttleworth (brother), Mr. and Mrs Clave (sister and brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs Kay Clegg (sister and brother-in-law). In the third coach were Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Kay (sister and brother-in-law), Mr. and Mrs. Cheetham (sister and brother-in-law), Mr. Charles Taylor (brother-in-law), and Mrs. George Andrews (cousin). In the fourth coach were Mrs. Hough (Bolton), Mrs. Morrison (nurse), Mr. John Redford (Swinton), Mr. Solomon Clark (representing Colonel Clark and family), and Mr. John Jackson (Oldham). In the fifth coach were Mr. Henshaw (Wigan), Mr. Domenic Fisconia (Leigh), Mrs Harrison (Oldham); and in the sixth coach was the Rev. James Lees, of Salford.

The funeral service throughout was conducted by the Rev. James Lees. The service was of a most impressive character, and was witnessed by considerable numbers of friends and neighbours of the deceased, and on the way from the home of the family to the cemetery the solemn *cortége* evoked a great amount of public sympathy.

The bearers were Messrs. Samuel and Herbert Mellor (Messrs. R. H. Mellor and Son, Oldham) and W. H. and J. W. Price (Oldham). The funeral arrangements were in the capable hands of Mr. George Barlow, of Oldham.

To Mrs. Shuttleworth and family and to their numerous circle of relatives and friends, we tender our sincere sympathy, quite sure that we are only expressing the conviction of every showman of fairground caterer to whom William Shuttleworth was known either personally or by well-won repute. Mrs. Shuttleworth desires us through the medium of "The Showman World" to thank their numerous friends for their most sympathetic telegrams and letters of condolence.

Amongst the many floral tributes sent were the following: Harp, with broken cord, by Mrs. Shuttleworth (widow), and wreaths by sons and daughters, brothers, and sisters, Mr. and Mrs. John Cottam, Colonel Clark and family, Mr. and Mrs. W. Mitchell, jun., Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Mitchell, Mr. and Mrs. S. Appleton, Mr. and Mrs. D Fisconia, Mrs. Henshaw and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hough, Messrs. R. H. Mellor and Sons, and the Rev. James and Mrs. Lees, Salford.

A good programme of pictures at Whitehaven Market Hall includes:—The Jewel Affair, A Tragedy of Japan, The Face on the Bar-Room Floor, Behind the Scenes, Monty Buys a Motor, The Unfortunate Lovers, The Convict and the Dove, Naval Life in China, &c. T. E. Johnstone, topical vocalist, provides a pleasing turn.

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THE FIGHT FOR MITCHAM FAIR.

ANOTHER PROPOSAL TO ABOLISH IT DEFEATED.

Following the startling revelations concerning the purchase of the Fair rights at the last meeting of the Board of Conservators, we have now an important discussion at the Parish Council on the same subject.

The matter is exciting the deepest interest in Mitcham, and every day is making it more evident that the action of the organised showmen in defending the Fair was the right thing. The agitation that led up to the people of Mitcham demanding to know why their Ancient Fair Rights were to be taken from them has led to the present searching enquiries into all the circumstances attending the scheme to abolish the Fair.

We are indebted to the *Mitcham Herald* for the report we now give of the discussion at the Parish Council.

At the monthly meeting of the Mitcham Parish Council, in the Vestry Hall, on Tuesday evening, Mr. C. H. Dant presided, and there were also present Messrs. W. M. Bland, T. Taylor, J. R. Chart, W. H. Parslow, G. J. Dale, J. D. Drewett, J. M. Leather, T. W. Aldwinckle, A. Dandy, A. Mizen, F. L. Baker, P. F. Kensett, and Dr. de Caux.

The Fair Green.

Mr. Aldwinckle moved the following:—(1) That this Council request the Board of Conservators of Mitcham Common to at once undertake the improvement of the Upper Green on the general lines of the proposed scheme and particulars submitted to the Commons Committee to provide a permanent recreation ground for the people (said scheme to include, if possible, the requisite widening of the surrounding roads), with a view to giving work to the Mitcham unemployed.

(2) That in the event of this Council receiving such an undertaking from the Board of Conservators, a sum of money equal to half the cost of such scheme (not exceeding the sum of £200), towards the general expenses of the Conservators, be contributed by the Council.

(3) That, as this proposed improvement of the upper Green into a recreation ground will be of such a nature that no "Fair" can be held thereon in future, a copy of these resolutions be forwarded to the Secretary of State for home affairs, together with an epitome of the facts which led up to, included, and followed the purchase of the Fair Rights.

That scheme, he said, was brought before the Commons Committee privately last June. That being before the Fair it was thought fit to take everything in private and to exclude the Press. At the time he thought that was the correct thing to do. (Mr. Bland: Shame.) But since then he had thought that he had made a great mistake. The scheme he was proposing was to turn the present waste called the Upper Green into a permanent recreation ground for Mitcham. To do that it would be necessary to put posts and rails round the Green, then about 10ft. of shrubs or rockery, then tar paths, and then turf. The result would be that they would turn that Upper Green, which at present was an eyesore, into a thing of beauty and a joy to the people of Mitcham. At the same time they would have to consider the widening of the roads. Those roads that went round the Fair Green were on some sides narrow, and they would ask the Conservators to give up certain land to be taken over by the District Council. The work that the scheme involved would be to a great extent labour. It was necessary for him to touch upon that much discussed £400. There was no mystery about it and never would be one. That Council chose to vote £400 for the improvement of the Upper Green. The total cost of that improvement would be £1,250. £950 went to the buying of the Fair rights, and another £300 would go in the scheme that he was proposing to them that night. Having voted that, was it not logical to go on with the scheme and carry out what he was proposing? He did not object to the Fair as a fair, but he objected to its being held on the Upper Green, necessitating an arid waste and an absolute eyesore, the first thing they saw when they came into Mitcham.

Mr. Drewett seconded, and said the Fair Green was too limited in area now for the holding of a fair.

Mr. Baker moved that "Though willing to do any work in reason for the employment of the unemployed, this Council absolutely refuses to vote any money to the Conservators which may tend to deprive the inhabitants of their right to hold the Charter Fair." If the Mitcham Fair Green were surrounded by posts, those posts would come down as soon as they were put up. That was only part of a scheme, and Mr. Aldwinckle—although, he (Mr. Baker) was willing to admit, unconsciously—was playing the game of the Conservators.

Mr. Leather asked if they could vote any money towards the purchase of the franchise of a fair.

The Clerk: No, you cannot.

Mr. Bland asked if Mr. Aldwinckle did not misrepresent the whole affair.

The Clerk said the money was voted to the Conservators in view of their obtaining the franchise.

Mr. Bland seconded the amendment.

Dr. de Caux said it had not been proved that Mitcham had any right to buy a franchise. It seemed to him that, under the glamour of finding work for the unemployed, Mr. Aldwinckle had rather taken advantage of that council. There was no necessity for the present Upper Green to look so barren as it did. Would it not be possible to rail it round and make it a children's recreation ground without turfing it? He would like to modify Mr. Baker's resolution and move that a certain amount of money be spent upon the Upper Green in making it presentable in the form of a children's playground.

Mr. Leather said he would vote against Mr. Aldwinckle until such time as the fair had been done away with by the Home Secretary. Money spent on the Fair Green would be absolutely wasted.

In answer to questions Mr. Mizen said the £400 was spent in one sum and there was no balance of £100. On Dec. 5, 1905 (he was speaking from memory), that Board made a grant of £400 to the Conservators. It was paid into their account on Dec. 13, and on Dec. 28 it was drawn out of the account of the late Mr. Alderman Foss towards the purchase of the Fair rights.

Dr. de Caux said that if that was granted with a view to the purchase of the Fair rights they were committing an illegal act.

The Chairman said he would support the amendment, and in the course of his remarks said he agreed with those members who said the Fair would take place annually, and he found himself entirely in disagreement with those who said that the Fair Green was not the right place for the fair. The motion had been brought forward as a subterfuge to get rid of the fair under the guise of helping the unemployed. He agreed with Mr. Mallaby Deeley when he said that the Council had been unable to get satisfaction from its own representatives on the Board of Conservators.

Mr. Dale and Mr. Chart also made a few remarks and stated it as their firm conviction that they voted their money for the improveemnt of the Upper Green, not for the purchase of the Fair rights.

The amendment was carried by five votes to three.

Another Development.

That the people of Mitcham are not without remedy in the matter, and what is of equal importance, leadership, is seen from the fact that a Parish Meeting has been duly summoned.

The following is the text of the bill calling the people together in local parliament (that is the theory underlying local governing), to put right the things that some of their representatives have blundered about:—

PARISH OF MITCHAM.

Notice is hereby given that a Parish Meeting will be held at the Vestry Hall, on Friday, the 13th day of November, 1908, at eight o'clock in the evening precisely, for the transaction of the following business:—

(1) Mr. F. L. Baker to call attention to the question of the unemployed in Mitcham, and to move a resolution.

(2) Mr. W. M. Bland to call attention to the following resolution passed by the Mitcham Parish Council on Oct. 13, 1905:

"That the sum of four hundred pounds (£400) be contributed by the Council towards the expenses of the Mitcham Common Conservators, in view of that body acquiring the rights of the Fair held annually on the Upper Mitcham Green, the acquirement of such rights enabling the Conservators to improve the aspect of such Green."

and to move:

"That the President of the Local Government Board be earnestly requested to hold an enquiry into the legality of the Council's action in thus voting £400 of the ratepayers' money and into the circumstances surrounding the whole transaction."

(Signed) C. H. Dant,
Chairman of the Parish Council.

Dated this 6th day of November, 1908.

We shall give our Showmen readers next week a full report of this important gathering.

SHOWMAN'S MARRIAGE.

Mr. William Henry Toft, eldest son of the late Mr. William Toft, one of the largest pioneers of the showmen of Ireland, celebrated his coming of age when, on Nov. 4, at St. Peter's Church, Dublin, a large party of relations and friends were present to witness the interesting ceremony of his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Mary (Cissie) Ashley, only daughter of Mr. Herbert and Nellie Ashley, both of whom are well known in the theatrical world. The bride was given away by her brother, Mr. William Ashley, and Mr. George W. Sutton acted as best man.

Mr. Harry Toft, as he is best known to all, has been managing the business in Dublin in conjunction with his uncles, Mr. David Turnbull (of Belfast) and Mr. John Toft (of Galway), who are also the trustees of the estate.

MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM HENRY TOFT. [*Photo by D'Arcy.*

The presents were costly and numerous, and included from bridegroom to bride gold curbed bracelet, with diamonds; bride to bridegroom diamond and turquoise pin; and the bridesmaids were presented with watch bracelets. Mr. David Toft, set of furs and portmantau; Mr. James Toft, table cutlery; Mr. Thomas Toft, silver hair brush, mirror, and fountain pen; Miss May Toft, set of china; Miss Agnes Toft, eiderdown quilt; Mr. William Ashley, Gladstone bag and Limerick lace; Mrs. Ashley, Oriental rug, shaving outfit, pendant, and gold chain and hair comb; Mr. and Mrs. and Miss John Toft, silver teapot; Mr. Johnny Toft, shaving outfit; Mr. and Mrs. and Miss David Turnbull, silver cream jug, sugar basin, and tongs; Mr. David Turnbull, gold sovereign case; Mr. and Mrs. John H. Freear, silver teapot; Mr. and Mrs. C. Clarke, silver sugar basin; Brothers Silvester, silver gong and stand; Mrs. M. Dewhurst, case of silver spoons; Miss M. Dewhurst, silver jam spoon, butter knife, in case; Mrs. B. and C. Dewhurst, silver cake stand; Mr. J. Simpson, case of silver fish knives and forks; Messrs. Smith and Patton, silver-mounted umbrella; Mr. Joseph Power, set of bed linen; Mrs. Manley, silver mounted cabinet and toilet set; the Misses Brannigan, dinner service; Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Mason, barometer; Mr. and Mrs. Jones, coal scuttle; and the Dublin employees, gold mounted timepiece.

A reception was held at Beechwood-avenue, Ranelagh, Co. Dublin, where the toast of the health and prosperity of the bride and bridegroom was most heartily enjoyed, amongst those attending being Mrs. Ashley, Mr. William Ashley, Miss C. D'Arcy, Misses May and Agnes Toft (bridesmaids), Mr. and Mrs. and Miss John Toft, Mr. John H. Toft, Mr. and Mrs. David Turnbull and Miss Turnbull, Mr. P. L. Browarigg (solicitor), Mr. David Toft, Mr. James Toft, Mr. Thomas Toft, Brothers Silvester, Mr. Harry Lee, Misses Dewhurst (three), Mrs. Smith, the Misses Brannigan (three), Mrs. Feely, Miss Ethel D'Arcy, Miss K. McCold, Mrs. and Miss Jones, Mr. John Jones, Mrs. O'Toole, Mr. Louis Smith, Mr. Mackie, Mr. John Williams, Mrs. Cochrane, Mrs. and Miss Walsh, Mr. George W. Sutton, Miss O'Toole, Mr. Joseph Power, Mr. Robert Balbirnie, and Mr. Charles G. Freear.

Messrs. Wm. Haggar and Son have paid a successful visit at Mountain Ash. They have a delightful series of pictures, under the direction of Mr. Walter Haggar. Mr. Felix Testo, at Ammanford, drew good houses. His clever marionette performance is well worthy of a visit. Messrs. Brewers' Bioscope had a few days at Bridgend. Many new pictures are on the programme.

Messrs. Hancock are extending their visit at Pontypridd, many new varieties being on the bill.

Messrs. Bostock's Jungle at Mountain Ash draws good crowds daily.

Brecon Fair was held in delightful weather, and attracted record crowds, and our showmen friends did good business.

Although the ancient fair has been threatened to be curtailed, by inquiries I made in the town the majority are in favour of it being kept on as usual.

Among the many attractions, Messrs. Dooner and Son had a good programme for their many patrons. The pictures, as usual, under the direction of an old Brecon favourite, "Gus," were ably depicted. The Misses Dooner go through a graceful set of dances on the front. Messrs. Wadbrooke had all up to date pictures and varieties, under the guidance of Mr. Jeffries and Mr. Glover, who both work hard to ensure success. A smart musical turn is a young lad, Joseph Rock. The Leon Troupe of male and female acrobats go through a capital performance.

In the machine list are Mr. John Studt's beautiful motors and Marshall Evans's racers. The Hoopla game has caught on, and was catered for by the following:—Prince Samouda, Gage E. Clarke, Marshall Evans, T. Butlin, J. Davies. Cokernuts, swings, Mollies, &c., by Marshall Evans, T. Butlin, Chas. Gage, E. Clarke. Photos by Turner. Our old friend Mr. Punch was capably represented by Mr. H. Hayes.

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FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.

CHRISTMAS FROM THE BIRTH OF CHRIST TO THE 20TH CENTURY.—We take pleasure in giving a few further particulars concerning this beautiful coloured film. The first scene opens with a picture depicting the angels announcing the birth of Christ. Gracefully grouped and artistically coloured, the figures ascend amid falling snowflakes with charming effect. Then we come to Bethlehem's manger and its Divine occupant, a realistic scene introducing Mary, the infant Jesus, and Joseph; the shepherds, to whom the angelic announcement was made, arrive and prostrate themselves; and the wise men from the East presenting offerings of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to Jesus and His mother. Scenes representative of the early Christian era open with a charming river view, the banks overhung with graceful trees. On the right are priests awaiting a party of warriors, to conduct them to a grove where an altar has been prepared for worship. The following scene depicts the landing of the early Christians, who march in procession to the grove. As the devout people are worshipping, the rude altar is mysteriously dissolved into a vision scene of the manger at Bethlehem and the Holy Family. The vision remains for a few seconds, then becomes fainter, and vanishes, the altar remaining as before.

A FURTHER portion of the film shows Fra Angelico, the artist-monk, seated on a platform, ready to paint a fresco of the Holy Family at Bethlehem. He is overpowered by sleep. Angels appear, and with the tools of his craft rapidly paint the picture. Angelico awakes, and, astounded to find the work complete, falls down in worship. The apparition of St. Joseph, a Flemish legend, comes next in order. Villagers arrive at the gates of a mansion to celebrate the festival. According to custom the lord of the manor escorts a lady who bears in her arms a cradle in which reposes an image of the Child Jesus. The villagers present their offerings and do reverence. Suddenly from the outskirts appears an aged man, who approaches and takes the image in his arms. The Child comes to life and is carried away by the traveller, in whom the worshippers recognise Joseph, the husband of Mary. This scene represents the flight into Egypt to escape the massacre of the innocents commanded by King Herod.

AFTER treating the spectator to the highwaymen's legend, the picture proceeds to describe an Alsatian Christmas celebration, with worshippers on their way to midnight Mass through picturesque snow-covered streets. In the interior of the church the priest celebrates Mass in front of an altar enriched with golden vessels. The congregation worships, and the choir sings from the organ-loft set high in the sacred edifice. This is a beautiful and realistic scene, which reproduces every phase and feature of the service. Christmas in the seventeenth century (France) commences with a view of the exterior of a country mansion—a winter scene; long, graceful flight of steps, lit by torches, at the foot of which the host welcomes his guests. The interior shows the Christmas party assembled, attired in exquisite costumes, delightfully coloured. Santa Claus arrives in the decorated hall, and his burden consists of two dancers, who lead the festivities. The dance over, the guests witness a vision of the Infant Jesus, which occupies the centre of the room, while the spectators, filled with reverence, prostrate themselves. Passing over three hundred years, we witness a Christmas festival in the France of to-day.

A PLEASING and romantic picture is that depicting an old-fashioned English Christmas. The scenes include the decorating of a baronial hall, with its armour-bearing oak walls, the bringing in of the Yule log—a striking scene, most effectively reproduced in colours, the Christmas dinner, the plum-pudding, the lighting of the brandy, the servants' Christmas, festivities in the hall, the dancing, &c. The film concludes with a scene of a belfry, and the ringer blessing the bells before giving the Christmas peal.

Pathé Frères.

BENVENUTO CELLINI.—This film puts before our eyes a curious episode of the life so full of adventures of Benvenuto Cellini. One day Cellini receives at his studio the following letter:—"A great lady of the Court wishes to sit to you, but on the strict understanding that you never seek to discover who she is." The artist greets with surprise the unexpected model, whose features are masked, and carves out from same the graceful statue known as the "Nymph of Fontainebleau." Yet, in spite of the entreaties of Cellini, who is curious to know who his nymph is, the lady refuses to make herself known. Cellini and his pupil, Ascanio dei Gaddi, decide to unravel the mystery. They follow the lady, and kidnap her at night. She keeps silent, and defends herself with a fierce courage. Prayers, threats, entreaties are all in vain. King Francis I. comes to the studio, and, after admiring the artist's work, he expresses his desire to know the model who sat for the nymph, and the artist introduces him to the masked lady. It is the Duchess of Etampes, the King's favourite. In his wrath, the King banishes Cellini from France.

HEAD-DRESSES IN BRITTANY has quite an educational aspect. The titles of the different scenes are:—Ironing a Pont-Aven Collar, One Tuck per Plait of Straw, A Maiden's Head-dress, A Bride's Head-dress, A Widow's Head-dress, and Various Head-dresses.

IN LAPLAND.—Here we are introduced to some interesting open-air scenes—The Shepherd's Camp, Food Storage Reserves, Reindeer in Pasture, Branding the Young Reindeer, and Lassoing the Reindeer for Domestic Purposes.

A TROUBLED SOUL.—In this film clever trick scenes are brought to our notice. A Scottish gentleman goes to sleep after drinking a good portion of a bottle of whisky. His soul, leaving his body, goes to a land of light. St. Peter, whom he recognises by the keys he is carrying, puts him several questions and then sends him off to a place where drunkards generally go. The poor gentleman sinks into the ethereal regions, and back to the clouds and earth again. A curious thing is that, although he has taken back his usual form again, he sees tram-cars, carriages, passers-by, go through his earthly body without doing him any harm. Yet, Satan, appearing to him, wraps him in his fire cloak, and the poor man tumbles down into an abyss. Then he wakes up, and realising that the whisky is the cause of all this nightmare, promises never to drink a drop of it again—till the next time.

SWEET DREAMS INTERMINGLED WITH NIGHTMARES.—This is another "trick" series. Near a lake, amidst picturesque surroundings, a young Princess falls asleep on a stone bench. She dreams, and the spirits of the lake come forth from the depths of the water and take her away with them to their grottoes, where dwarfs and goblins mean to burn her alive. At this moment the Princess wakes up, to fall asleep again a little while later. This time it is the Water Fairy who comes and pays her a visit. She walks in a park full of fragrant flowers, and a Prince Charming whispers in her ears sweet things. But dreams vanish, and instead of the young Prince Charming it is a very old Marquis who comes and pays her his respects, as she leaves Dreamland and wakens to our world again.

A DISCIPLE OF VIDOCQ.—A canary has been stolen from its cage while its mistress was asleep, by an unknown person. On waking up she misses her bird, and, in spite of her grief, she nerves herself for the ordeal of gathering the first clues. She finds a few yellow feathers, scattered about, and this makes her think that there has been not only theft, but actual crime. She calls upon the famous detective Frick Barker second to none except the best, and puts the case before him. Mr. Barker, after closely examining the little tufts of yellow down, declares that they are actually canary's feathers, and, this first point understood, he goes with his magnifying-glass to the place where the crime has been perpetrated. A careful examination and a few feathers lead him to the dwelling of the culprit. Without a moment's hesitation he climbs on to the roof, goes down the chimney-flue, and arrests the culprit, who has just eaten the bird. Mr. Frick Barker has not finished yet. With the aid of a large knife he extracts the live bird from the culprit, and gives it back to its delighted mistress.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

LEW DOCKSTADER IN MINSTREL MISHAPS; OR, LATE FOR REHEARSAL.—Dockstader is billed to appear in a certain town, but, missing his train, he is obliged to have a special. To make things run smooth he uses a lot of "palm oil," yet in spite of all his tips he has no time to spare, so he takes a cab. The steed, however, would sooner sleep than work, but by using some persuasion he goes off at a mad gallop, with the result that one of the wheels strikes, and our minstrel is forced to get on the run himself. He manages to reach the theatre as the show is about to commence, so he disrobes on his way, dresses, and makes up at the same time. Rushing on the stage, the red-haired manager refuses to let the minstrel go on, and, after a wordy warfare, the manager, with the assistance of the other actors, chases him all over the stage. Rushing out of the stage-door, many funny incidents occur whilst he is being chased "up hill and down dale." Getting tired of this hare-and-hounds business, our minstrel spies a big drain-pipe, into which he dashes, and is quickly followed by the crowd. Dockstader gets out first, and, slipping on one side, sees the mad manager and the yelling crowd go headlong into the water. This cools their ardour, and, having become wiser, Dockstader wins, and "all's well that ends well."

A FOOL FOR LUCK.—Having read an advertisement with regard to a detective correspondence school, Hiram Plowboy decides to become a detective, and enrols as a student. Studying very hard, he soon passes his examination, and they send him his diploma, badge, handcuffs, and a revolver. Having got so far, he decides to start work, and betakes himself into the city. Surrounding himself with an air of mystery, he impresses everyone by the display of his badge. So that there shall not be any chance of failure at a critical moment, he takes a dummy from his baggage, and practises the art of handcuffing. He next tries some revolver practice, with the result that the occupant of the next room objects, and has Plowboy arrested. The treatment he receives at the hands of his fellow professionals does not impress him, and, having to pay damages, he decides to alter his methods and copy that celebrated master in the detective art Sherlock Holmes. Perusing the newspaper, he sees a reward offered for the capture of a notorious criminal, and rushes off to secure the reward. Calling at the detective agency, he is given three photographs—different views of the same man—but, Hiram thinking that they are three different criminals, swelling with pride, starts out on his hunt. After many experiences and strenuous efforts, he captures three men, and, taking voluminous notes and many measurements, he pays officers to lock them up. Making a dash for the detective offices to claim his reward, he has a warm time with the manager, who tells him someone else has captured the real criminal. Poor Plowboy is very sad, and is just trying to get out of the way as easily as possible, when he gets a big surprise. A police officer rushes in with a note from police headquarters, complimenting him on the capture of three well-known criminals, all long wanted, and offers Hiram position as detective sergeant. Needless to say our hero accepts, and thus realises his life's dream.

Nordisk Films Company.

THE STEPMOTHER.—Sir John is kneeling by his wife's death-bed with his children. The good woman blesses her dear ones, and falls back dead on the pillow. A year later the young and light-hearted Sir John marries Lady Helen, who is not quite young, but still beautiful. She and her daughter ill-treat the poor little children by the first marriage. The two little ones are shut up in a dark tower-room, and the grown-up daughter soon after has to join them, as the stepmother is afraid that, with such exquisite beauty, she would draw away a young nobleman's attention from her own daughter. During the dancing in the hall the child puts her little brothers to sleep on the straw bed; then she falls off to sleep herself. In her dreams she sees the spirit of her mother blessing the little children, and pointing with her white hand threateningly towards the hall. In the end the schemes of the wicked stepmother are upset, and the children by the first wife are made extremely happy.

KASAN.—Kasan is a town in the northern part of Russia. It is situated by the River Wolga, and has about 200,000 inhabitants. This film gives an excellent idea of this old town, with the marked old-Russian varieties of people, the special life in the streets, the peculiar national customs, which are strongly impressed by the religious character of the people. Very characteristic is the regular migration to the churchyard on Sundays and the multitude of beggars, who do a thriving business outside the church, while they are constantly making the sign of the cross. It is amusing to see the hairdresser, who is working on the pavement, the bootmaker also working in the open air, and the tramps, who are lying about carelessly in rags on the doorsteps with the inevitable bottles.

THE SICILIAN FAMILY is an intensely thrilling Nordisk film, which tells an absorbingly interesting little drama.

Inkerman Day at Curzon Hall, Birmingham.

In celebration of the anniversary of Inkerman Day a benefit performance of animated pictures and variety acts was given on Nov. 5 by Mr. Waller Jeffs and a company of entertainers in aid of the funds of the Birmingham Military Veterans' Association. A number of interesting and suitable films were submitted, and during the evening a tableau of the Birmingham veterans was arranged. The musical and vocal portion of the programme was in keeping with the occasion, and Sergeant-Major Dawes, wearing the full uniform of the period, recited "Inkerman." A contingent of the Nottingham military veterans was present, including Sergeant-Major Watson and Trooper Matthew Holland, who is the sole Nottingham survivor of the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. These veterans were accompanied by Mr. H. Seely Whitby, hon. secretary of the Nottingham and Notts Military Veterans' Association, and Mr. Pochin, of Nottingham. During the evening the curtain was raised, disclosing a well-arranged group of the Birmingham veterans in their full uniform, decorated with a background of national flags. In the centre of the stage was Councillor R. C. Marsh, who occupied the chairman's seat, and made a speech on the subject of the good work done in Birmingham by the Military Veterans' Association, particularly thanking the audience for the hearty support they had always given to these entertainments for this good cause. Mr. Marsh voiced the regret of everyone present at the unavoidable absence, through ill-health, of the secretary, the Rev. W. J. Clarke, who has always been a familiar figure at these gatherings and to whom so much of the success of the association is due. Mr. Seely Whitby, the secretary, responded, and expressed the pleasure of himself and his comrades at being present. Mr. Whitby then introduced Mr. Pochin, a member of the committee of the Nottingham veterans and a well-known philanthropist in Nottingham, who presented on behalf of the Nottingham military veterans a gold medal to Mr. Jeffs in remembrance of his efforts on behalf of the men in that part of the country. The flags and decorations were kindly lent by Mr. George Legg, and the stage arrangements were directed by Mr. Fred Jeffrey, general manager for Mr. Jeffs.

INDISPENSABLE! Rayne's "Pocket Date Book." Contents: Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance. Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list of brougham proprietors, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c. Price 1s., post free. The proceeds from the sale will be divided equally amongst the two great charities of the dramatic and musical professions, the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Home Fund. "THE ERA" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

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MINSTREL MISHAPS, or Late for Rehearsals.

Seated in a comfortable seat, watching the antics of "Bones," laughing at the corner-man's jokes, one rarely realises that there may be scenes and incidents back of the footlights that surpass any seen from the front. This subject is an unusual one, and for that reason should prove a top-liner. The principal character is Lew Dockstader—the famous American Ebony King—and the film tells a mirth-provoking story of the mishaps that befell him whilst trying to reach the theatre in time for rehearsal.

No. 6387. Code, "Vendevole." Length, 830ft

A FOOL FOR LUCK.

Of an ambitious nature, and desirous of making his mark in the world, Hiram Plowboy—after reading an alluring advertisement of the Detective Correspondence School—decides to take a course of lessons. In a very short time he receives his diploma, badge, handcuffs, and revolver, and immediately betakes himself to the City. Being anxious to display his ability, he naturally gets into trouble with the police when he commences operations. However, by a piece of pure luck, he captures three noted crooks, and is immediately attached to the force as a detective sergeant.

No. 6388. Code, "Vendible." Length, 990ft.

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INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

22,665.—Herbert White, of Belper, Derbyshire. Improvements in a machine or apparatus for amusement, recreation, and instructive purposes, and the like.

22,716.—Albert Johann Swanson, of London. Improvements in and relating to automatic music leaf-turners.

22,924.—Lot Morgan, of London.—Improvements in gravity railways and apparatus therefor for amusement.

22,925.—Lot Morgan, of London. New or improved combined gravity and hoist railway, with apparatus, for amusement.

22,970.—William Norman Lascelles Davidson, of Southwick, Sussex. Improvements in and relating to kinematography or moving pictures in colour.

23,067.—Ludwig Josef Hofmann, of London. Improvements in stage scenery.

23,149.—May Day, of London. Finger and hand-controlling device for use in practice on musical instruments.

23,153.—William George Barker and William Cecil Jeapes, of London. Improved means for securing synchronous movement in moving picture and talking machines.

23,274.—Alfred Duskes and Duskes' Kinematographen und Film-Fabriken, G.M.B.H., of London. Means for angularly adjusting the feed-drums of cinematographs with Maltese cross-feed mechanism.

23,275.—Alfred Duskes and Duskes' Kinematographen und Film-Fabriken, G.M.B.H., of London. Means for securing automatic adjustment of the shutters of cinematographs coincident with the adjustment of the picture strip relative to the shuttered aperture..

23,276.—Alfred Duskes and Duskes' Kinematographen und Film-Fabriken, G.M.B.H., of London. Improved method of and means for controlling the conjoint action of cinematographic and sound-recording apparatus for the purpose of securing synchronism.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

24,157.—Kamm. Film-gates for kinematograph machines.

28,357.—Newman. Apparatus for displaying pictorial representations, advertisements, and the like.

SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

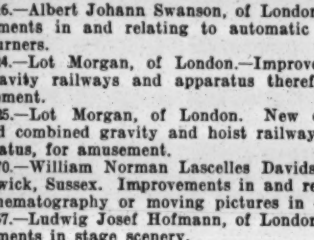
28,764.—Geisler. Apparatus for taking photographs in colours and causing them to appear stereoscopically.

22,716.—Swanson. Automatic music leaf-turner.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

14,056.—Kinematographs. Wrench, A., of London.

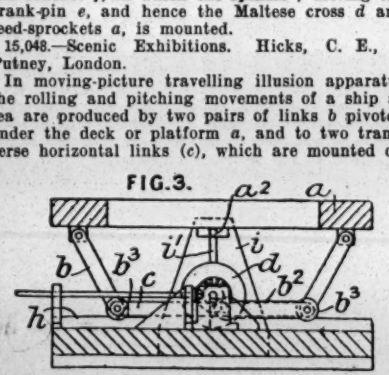
In kinematographs in which the intermittent motion of a film is obtained by a Maltese cross actuated by a crank-pin, the cross and crank driving device are immersed in an oil-bath, so as to obviate the tendency to jam caused by expansion due to the heat generated by friction between



them. The drawing shows a sectional plan of the device. The portion *h* of the oil casing *g* is formed by an extension of the bracket *c*, in which the spindle of the feed-sprockets *a* is mounted. The other portion *i* of the casing is integral with the bracket *j*, in which the spindle *f* driving the crank-pin *e*, and hence the Maltese cross *d* and feed-sprockets *a*, is mounted.

15,048.—Scenic Exhibitions. Hicks, C. E., of Putney, London.

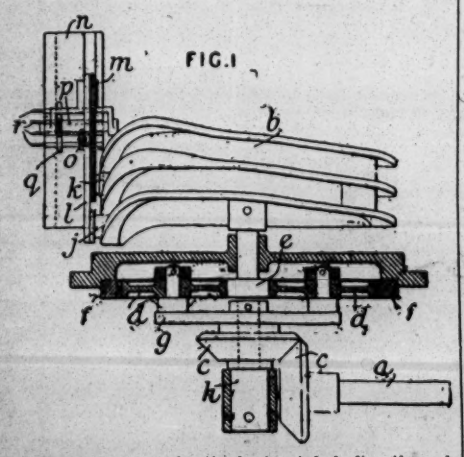
In moving-picture travelling illusion apparatus the rolling and pitching movements of a ship at sea are produced by two pairs of links *b* pivoted under the deck or platform *a*, and to two transverse horizontal links (*c*), which are mounted on



rollers *b3*, on rails *h*, and are moved to and fro by crank discs *d* and connecting-rods *b2* operated by a motor or other driving mechanism. Guide-pins *a2* at the ends of the platform move in vertical slots *i1* in end guide-plates *i*.

14,058.—Kinematographs.—Moy, E. F., and Bastie, P. H., of London.

Intermittent motion is imparted to the film by mechanism actuated by a double cam which is driven through an epicyclic train of wheels. The drawing shows a side elevation of the device. The



cam *b* is driven by the horizontal shaft *a* through bevel wheels *c* and an epicyclic train *d*, *e*, *f*. Of this train the wheel *f* is fixed to the body of the machine, and is provided with teeth on its inner circumference; and the wheels *d* are carried by an arm *g* fixed to the shaft *h*. The cam is provided with two grooves in which work rollers *j*, *k*, one roller (*j*) being attached to a plate *l*, and the other to a plate *m*, both of which work in guides *n*. The plate *l* carries a pinion *o*, which engages teeth in the plate *m*, and also a rack *p*, which carries a plate *q* on which are pins *r* for engaging the perforations of the film. The grooves on the cam are not parallel throughout their length, but are so shaped that the plates *l*, *m*, move together until the roller *j* reaches its highest point. This roller then remains stationary for a time; as the other roller continues to ascend, the pinion *o* is caused to revolve, and the pins *r* engage the film. The rollers then descend together and the film is drawn down; when the downward motion of the roller *j* ceases, however, the roller *k* continues to descend, and thus the pins *r* are withdrawn. The rollers are then in a position to commence another cycle. The cam may be mounted on a horizontal axis and the grooves cut on its face, or two separate cams may be used. Any form of gearing may be used for driving the cam.

Natural Colours in Cinematograms.—Particulars are to hand of the recent invention of M. Barricelli, an Italian painter, by which he reproduces cinematographic scenes in their natural colours. The colouration of the films is obtained by means of the three-colour process. A rapid succession of images gives the inventor the desired result, each of which is coloured in one of the three fundamental colours (red, yellow, blue) which, being projected one after the other on the screen, will, in virtue of the well-known phenomenon of visual persistence, reconstitute on the retina of the eye the complete three-colour image. In order, then, to reproduce a given scene with its natural colours it is sufficient to photograph the object three times through conveniently coloured screens, each of which will allow only the light-rays of a given colouration to pass, thus obtaining three analytical colour negatives. The corresponding positives derived from these negatives in black and white will have to be projected in rapid succession on a white wall, each through the same colour screen as has been used in obtaining the negative, when the eye will perceive a multi-coloured image corresponding to nature, provided the rate of succession be such that the individual impressions due to the various colours on the retina may superimpose themselves on one another. Thus the length of the photographic film, together with the speed of succession, should be three times as great as in an ordinary cinematograph. M. Barricelli's system for insuring the succession of the various colour screens in front of the objective while taking the views and during projection is said to be of extreme simplicity. He rotates a glass disc divided into three coloured sectors, according to the fundamental colours, red, yellow, blue, in front of the objective, so as to exchange the screen at each movement of the cinematograph shutter.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

The Royal County Theatre, which for about eleven years has been the home of comedy, drama, and musical plays, was on Monday night turned into a music hall, Mr. Peter Davey, the enterprising managing-director, having decided to depart from the usual order of things, and to cater for the wants of a large section of the patrons of the theatre. A first-class programme of varieties was provided, and it was undoubtedly highly appreciated by the audience, but old habitués of the cosy little playhouse could not help a feeling of regret at the change.

The bulk of the programme consisted of first-class music hall turns. Miss Violet Beatrice, the clever boy impersonator, was first on the list of artists, and made a favourable impression. Mr. Ted Honeyman next gave some clever imitations of popular performers, and the Sisters Herbert, who followed, were loudly applauded in their juvenile duets and dances. Ford and Hanson, "the American musical millionaires," showed great cleverness on many novel musical instruments and in delineation of some famous composers and *chefs d'orchestre*. Miss Providence Leslie sang some Irish songs very sweetly, and Mr. Walter Bellonini, the well-known juggler, excited general admiration for the remarkable dexterity he showed in his art. In the second part Mr. Frank Gee, the comedian, caused no end of amusement by his quaint drolleries. A series of pictures by the Graphic Cinematograph Company was also much enjoyed, and the programme closed with a performance of *Micawber*, an adaptation of Charles Dickens's "David Copperfield," in which Miss Joan Derry appeared as David Copperfield, Mr. J. A. Howitt as Uriah Heep, Mr. Frederick Jacques as Mr. Wickfield, Miss Lena Denton as Agnes, Miss Scott Lauder as Betsy Trotwood, and Mr. Charles Collette as Wilkins Micawber. The latter performance, approaching, as it did, to the old order of things, was very much enjoyed by many of those present. The theatre will be conducted as a music hall on the two-houses-a-night principle for several weeks yet, after which there will be a return to drama.

PUTNEY HIPPODROME.

Visitors to the Putney Hippodrome on Monday night just prior to the second show must have been struck with the long lines of people patiently waiting the opening of the doors, and on getting inside saw that a large proportion of the house was already either reserved or occupied by early door and box office patrons. A briskly played overture started the ball rolling, and seemed to put the attendant Putneyites in a merry mood. This was followed by a prepossessing young comedienne, Miss Nora Guy, who sang of the "Congo River," her voice being tuneful and sweet. Conan and Doyle succeeded with a patter song and some amusing dialogue, finishing up a creditable turn by a neat exhibition of dancing. The Sisters Pine were seen to advantage in a golfing song and sketch, one of the pair acting as a capital foil to the other. The Selbini troupe of cyclists won rounds of applause by a clever combination of riding, balancing, and ground tumbling, each and every trick being performed without the slightest hitch or slip.

Miss Dorothy Gould, a lady possessing a soprano voice of remarkable range, gave a couple of songs at the piano, and concluded with "Love me and the world is mine," bringing down the house. Ruffell's Bioscope presented a series of pictures illustrative of two juveniles who were stolen by a band of gipsies and afterwards made their escape and returned to their home, having many exciting adventures during the journey. Mr. John Grahame and Miss Zerlina Harrington scored in their popular Parisian sketch *A Daughter of Pleasure*. The trifle was well dressed and smartly played. Mr. Will Musgrave and Martin Conway created considerable amusement. The latter has a decidedly comical make-up and speaks his lines in a broad Lancashire dialect. Miss Topsy Sinden was responsible for a refined turn, which included a couple of songs and an exceedingly pretty dance. She received a well-merited recall, and repeated her dance, to the evident delight of the house. Wilman, who styles himself the Australian Instrumentalist, gave solos on the posthorn, cornet, and French horn, his double-tonguing in the cornet solo being very clever. The celebrated Harry Tate was expected to give his well-known piscatorial skit *Fishing*. Mr. Foster C. Marner, the manager, however, appeared before the footlights and apologised for Mr. Tate's absence, explaining that it was owing to a motor accident.

MASONS AT WORK.

The pressing emergencies of his public avocations preclude the possibility of an actor, or manager, being able to be always at his post when his Masonic duties call for his presence in the Lodge, and in few places is it more noticeable than at the meetings of the Green Room Lodge; but, thanks to the zeal and assiduity displayed by many of the lay members and the fact that there is a goodly roll of Past Masters to call upon in cases of emergency, the brethren in no appreciable way suffer in consequence, and although it was regrettable that the reigning Master, Mr. E. H. Bull, was unable to be present at the twenty-eighth meeting, which was held last Friday at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent-street, it is pleasurable to record that his place was most admirably filled by Mr. Akerman May, the immediate Past Master, who was supported in a thoroughly efficient manner by the officers as follows: Messrs. Douglas Gordon, acting as S.W.; Hubert Willis, J.W.; Chas. Cruikshanks, Secretary; Ernest H. Paterson, acting as S.D.; Edward Jones, acting as J.D.; W. Lestocq, D.C.; Albert E. Raynor, acting as Organist; and J. Cooke Beresford acting as I.G.

Messrs. Lauri de Frece and John Cabourn had the advantage of receiving the final privileges of their novitiation; and Mr. Henry Ainley having proved in the most convincing manner his proficiency was advanced a stage in his Masonic career.

Messrs. Leslie Carter and Robert Loraine were nominated as candidates for election as members of the Lodge.

Apologies for non-attendance were received from Messrs. Fred Annerley, Alban Attwood, E. H. Bull, Louis Calvert, H. Nye Chart, Chas. Doran, Wilfred Draycott, Dermot Fitzgibbon, Richard Green, Lytton Grey, Chas. Macdona, Harry Nicholls, E. Vivian Reynolds, Charles Rock, Julian Royce, J. H. Ryley, Herbert Shelley, and Stephen Wentworth.

There were present in the Lodge throughout the proceedings, besides the members who acted as officers, Messrs. Walter Maxwell, Sydney Lawrence, Frank Harding, Daniel McCarthy, J. W. Macdonald, M. T. Toke, Spencer Trevor, Lyn Harding, and Luigi Lablache, and visitors, Messrs. L. Barlet, John Smith, Frank Foulsham, and Henry de Frece.

The meeting was an auspicious one, and one might almost be allowed to call it a "red-letter" day, for in the Lodge a motion was, upon the proposition of Mr. Chas. Cruikshanks, seconded by Mr. Hubert Willis, carried with enthusiasm, "That the hearty congratulations of the members be offered to Mr. Akerman May, P.M. of the Lodge, who has been elevated to the dignity and distinction of 'London Rank,' and, as an appreciation of the respect shown to our worthy and esteemed brother, a record of the circumstance be entered on the minutes"; and at the banquet which followed the proceedings in the Lodge, Mr. W. Lestocq, the first Past Master, on behalf of the members, presented Mr. May with the insignia of the office, accompanying the gift with the heartiest expressions of goodwill and kindly feeling. Mr. May acknowledged the tribute paid to him, and in a felicitous manner thanked the brethren for the handsome token of their esteem, not only because it was a mark of distinction, but on account of its being the outward and visible sign of the honour conferred upon the Lodge by the selection of one of its Past Masters as a recipient of the dignity.

The toasts, "The King" and the "Master in the Chair," were the only ones put before the brethren, and consequently after-dinner speeches were conspicuous by their absence, nor were there any vocal or instrumental selections to while away the hour, and yet the omission of any post-prandial entertainment did not weigh heavily upon the light hearts gathered together to enjoy the pleasure of each other's society. Messrs. Gerald Maxwell, E. Vivian Reynolds, Alien Thomas, Ernest Cameron, Thalberg Corbet, and A. E. George were amongst the company dining.

The Master, Mr. E. H. Bull, sent the following telegram:—"Affectionate greeting to the acting-Master and brethren; exceedingly sorry that I cannot be with them."

CAMBERWELL PALACE.

The novelties at the Camberwell Palace this week include the introduction to London of a song-scena in which Miss Zona Vevey renders a number of selections accompanied by Herr Max Erard, a conductor and composer. The act takes place amid a sylvan scene called My Lady's Bower, an elaborate setting representing a profusion of flowers and foliage, a grand piano being cunningly introduced into the scheme. Herr Erard has the distinction of being both author and composer of Miss Vevey's songs, and shines the more conspicuously in the latter department, the words being, as a rule, of a commonplace character. "Have you seen Wee Macgregor?" in which a Scotch bagpipe player renders assistance, is followed by a song in which a farmer's boy sings the praises of his sweetheart. The ballad is tunefully written, and a grandly harmonious effect is secured by the introduction of a church bell obbligato, which secured an enthusiastic encore. Herr Erard is a skilful pianist, and gave great pleasure by his playing of one of his marches as a solo. Miss Vevey wears some effective costumes and sings with brightness and vivacity. A vocal scena, in which a lady shines, is also that of the monologue *In Andalusia*, rendered by Miss Sylvia Du Barry, who has a cultivated soprano, and is heard in a Spanish love ballad, which gives way to the Habañera song from *Carmen*, the second verse being accompanied by a bull-fight scene depicted on the cinematograph.

A welcome of the most cordial kind is extended to Mr. Tom Woottwell, who has found his low comedy talents to have eclipsed the effect even of his loose-legged whimsicalities. His new songs include one of a particularly funny character called, "What did I do?" delivered in the drollest possible manner. Mr. Woottwell is also happily suited in his lyric with the refrain "Keep it as quiet as you can," to which he is compelled by the enthusiasm of his hearers to add many additional verses. Miss Sadie Simpson is heard in "Ayesha, my sweet Egyptian" and in "When a girl that you want, wants you," and pleases by her style, her neat costume, and the distinctness of her singing. She is also an expert dancer, and the long and intricate series of steps which she adds to her latter selection gains admiration from keen judges of the art.

The picturesque singing of coon songs adopted by Miss Ella Shields renders them always acceptable, and the comely comedienne is welcomed with heartiness. The popularity of her well-known song "Do you want any coal?" is being emphasised by loud applause and a praiseworthy effort on the part of the audience to join in the captivating chorus. The pathos and sentiment of the sketch, *The Little Colonel*, played by Ernest Montefiore and company, never fail in their appeal, Mr. Ernest Rees adds piquant patter to his songs; Billy Farrell, who is billed as "the Encyclopædia of coonology," justifies his title by a varied entertainment in which singing, dancing, talking, and imitations play a diverting part; and the programme also comprises Miss Emma Don, character comedienne; Will Johnson, lively comedian; the Brothers Warsaw, Australian musical comedians; and Vernon's Bioscope. Mr. Philip A. Lennon still occupies the post of manager with every credit.

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LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

LONDON PAVILION.

Burlesque though somewhat out of the fashion as a theatrical attraction is never likely to lose its hold upon the public, and especially upon the present-day variety-loving public, which appreciates clever parody as much as audiences did in the old days of the Strand Theatre and the Brothers Brough, who furnished the male and spindle sides of the casts playing their pieces with lines, pointed in their satire, humorous, and yet without bitterness. In a minor degree these qualities are to be found in the skit now given nightly at the London Pavilion by Miss Ida Rene, who, using her gifts as a comedienne to great advantage, is burlesquing Miss Maud Allan's classic dancing at the Palace Theatre. Miss Rene is daintiness personified when she appears in the shortened diaphanous garments which belong by prescriptive stage management to the Greek nymph. The main idea of her "autumnal song," as she calls it, is to assert that the real *raison d'être* of classic dancing is the dress, or, rather, the undress. If you wish your dance to impress, you must really wear but little dress—is slily hinted, and the proceedings of the Manchester Watch Committee are also referred to in the verses, during which Miss Rene ambles about the stage and waves her arms in the manner that may be termed Allanesque, with just the touch of exaggeration necessary. The lines are smartly written, and in wedding them to the melody of Mendelssohn the author makes the satire as complete as it is captivating. No one could possibly raise an objection to so good humoured a travesty, which goes with unwavering swing and verve from first to last.

Mr. Harry Claff and Miss Alice Tremayne are associated in another burlesque production, bearing the title of *The Demon and the Fairy*, which is evidently an excerpt from pantomime, and of value in the exploitation of the talents of a clever pair. Chorus songs always have a certain vogue at the Pav., and a great success is scored with the tuneful number "Have you any more girls at home like Mary?" which is bound to be heard in most Christmas productions if we can gauge with any judgment the potent influences of a catchy melody and amusing verses. It is sung by Mr. Arthur Sutcliffe, a newcomer to the West-End, whose success is such that he is securing "returns" in more senses than one. Another Arthur—Mr. Aldridge, the Pavilion tenor—is also winning much favour with his patriotic song "Long live the King," which made a special appeal on Monday—the King's birthday—to the crowd of loyalists listening.

Laughter holding both its sides is the attitude of those in front while Mr. Harry Tate goes through the experiences of the josser fisherman who may be said to be angling for "contrapuntal" effects. He has an angry dispute with an enthusiastic devotee of the gentle craft, who has been disturbed by Harry's indiscriminate throwing of bread as "ground bait." "You're a liar" asserts the angry novice. "I'm not," is the reply. "Then you ought to be if you're a fisherman" is the rejoinder. But so amusing an episode needs no words of commendation on our part. Neither does the favourite sketch, *My Wife Won't Let Me*, presented by Mr. Mark Melford and company on a return visit. Another return is Mr. Albert Whelan, who is favoured with much applause in his mimicry and whistling. Mr. George Mozart is the stock comedian of the "Pav.," and a humorist who always gets there; but Little Tich is not so familiar a fun-maker on the boards of the house, the last time he appeared there being at a special matinée of the Rats. He is excellently served by his "Park-keeper" song, of which the drollery is an increasing quantity. Mr. Malcolm Scott as the Woman Who Knows is quite a sciolist in social ethics; Miss Ethel Walker's songs at the piano are highly appreciated; and the Marriotts give an interesting exhibition of their powers in mental telepathy. Miss Collins and Mr. Athas exploit some smart dancing and burlesque business; Vesta and Minnie Pine display hereditary ability in their item *The Golf Girl and Caddie;* and Mr. Maynard Dakin is making his way as a variety comedian. Mr. R. A. Speedwell's lightning cartoons are highly popular; the Glenroy Troupe of international dancers are responsible for some neat dancing and clever evolutions; and the society gymnastics of the Fitzroys are very smart and effective. Kartelli is a wonderful wire-walker; and other attractions in Mr. Glenister's fine bill include Mr. Larry Lewis, Brull and Hemsley, Mike Nono, and Elton and Edwin. On the selections and accompaniments great care is lavished by the excellent corps of instrumentalists under the able direction of Mr. Bond-Sayers.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Mr. Pete Murray, the acting-manager of Sadler's Wells Theatre, has an interesting list of artists this week. A very attractive act is that of Mack Ollive, who appears in his original scena, as performed by him over a thousand times in *The Belle of New York*, entitled *The Candy Scene*. In this Mr. Ollive is assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry, and the outcome of their combined efforts finds great favour with the audience. The Sisters Brenton are duettists and speciality dancers of considerable merit, and their chorus, "Master Fritz," goes very well indeed.

Miss Marion Armitage, "the comedy girl," delights the house with her rendering of "Too-raladdie," and the Melbournes present an extremely smart comedy musical act. Bernard and Weston exchange some most entertaining cross-patter, and their song, "Looking for work," proves highly acceptable; and Miss Connie Mostyn, a comedienne who has won immense favour at Sadler's Wells, sings in a most expressive manner her ditty, "You've got another girl." Leslie's Comedy Cadets, including Mr. George Curzon (baritone), Messrs. Vernon Noble and Jim Pullin (comedians), and Mr. Harry Leslie (ventriloquist), appear in their military scena, *After Lights Out*, which wins golden opinions from the spectators, the songs "Lindy" and "Baby on the sands" being given in fine style. Ferguson and Mack, who claim to be America's funniest eccentric comedians, are introducing this week their latest absurdity, "The Dimple Sisters," which really proves very laughable. In the second part of their programme they play the rôles of acrobatic ballet girls, and the "scena" is appropriately enough entitled "Pretty as a Picture." Altogether, Ferguson and Mack are capital merry-makers. Gold and Sterling, "the Welsh girl and the artist," also furnish a pleasing turn, the singing of "Alice, where art thou?" being particularly commendable.

On the dramatic side, Mr. Leonard Mortimer and company are seen and heard to advantage in a revival of the sensational banking-house playlet, *Captain Cash, the New York Cracksman*. In this Mr. Mortimer once more repeats his fine study of the part of Tom Morrison, *alias* Captain Cash; while Miss Ida Clifford charms the audience with her presentation of the character of the banker's ward; and Miss Hazel Head gives ample evidence of tragic ability as Vesta Lander, the adventuress. Mr. E. G. Howard as the New York banker, Mr. E. J. Collins as the detective, and Mr. Hal Brough as the Dutch thief, all submit able impersonations. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux include Wedded Against Her Will.

THE EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

One of the greatest successes of the evening here is supplied by Jordan and Harvey, the popular Hebrew comedians, who are deputising for Dale and O'Malley. Their amusing patter and cross-talk cause roars upon roars of laughter. Daisy Dormer is, as usual, scoring heavily with a couple of her old favourites, viz., "Good-night, Mr. Knight; Mr. Knight, good-night" and "Anywhere will do." She then treats the audience to some dainty dancing, and it is undoubtedly due to her exceptional ability in this direction that much of her success is due.

Low Lake and company are presenting their old winner, *My Pal Jerry*, the popularity of which does not yet appear to be on the wane. Enough has already been written in these columns about this to render detailed criticism unnecessary. It is sufficient to say that it went with a swing from start to finish. A very pretty Japanese scena is that of Talbot and Pearce entitled *Yo-San*. In this they introduce Lily Harold's greatest success "Cherry." The fine voice of Arthur Aldridge, the popular Pavilion tenor, is heard to advantage; the Carlyles, described as whirlwind dancers, certainly do not belie the description given them, and all parts of the house express their approval in a most hearty manner. F. Gratwick, a juvenile boy comedian, sings two capital songs. They are "Down in the tuppenny tube" and "Dear old Brown." Tom Drew, an eccentric comedian, is well named, his "I'd be much better in a home" being well above the average.

Miss José Collins, daughter of the celebrated Lottie, is well suited with her songs, and her neat and graceful dancing is much appreciated. The youthful voice of Helene Roberta possesses charm, and her rendering of two songs earns for her much applause. The Elduns, the lady of whom has an excellent voice, scores heavily; and Herbert Waller, a light comedian, should be heard of in the near future. Miss Kitty Alma, a chic comedienne, has certainly not spared any pains to make her turn a success, and her two numbers go with a swing from start to finish. Leaflets containing the words of these are enclosed within the programmes, and the choruses are heartily taken up. In her second number, "My Angel of Los Angeles," she enters on horseback attired as a cowboy. Dismounting, she sings this in a most telling manner, and brings her turn to a conclusion with some neat dancing. A pleasant evening is brought to a conclusion by some amusing pictures on the Bioscope. Mr. Francis Winchcombe, the popular acting-manager, does all in his power for the comfort of his patrons.

THE SURREY.

Substantial samples of musical comedy and romantic drama are contained in the current bill of fare at the Macnaghten hall in the Blackfriars-road. The former is exemplified in a new production called *The Dandy Millionaire*, the action of which passes on Brighton Pier. At this salubrious resort Major Paget is taking the air, when he receives news of the intended visit of a money magnate from the States, who comes with the intention of finding a wife. The Major immediately determines that his daughter shall be the rich American's bride, in spite of the fact that she is engaged to a young doctor who has just taken his degree. While the Major has gone in order to avoid meeting the doctor, whom he has never seen, the American millionaire arrives, and the Major's girl and the housemaid having changed clothes, the domestic is mistaken for the daughter. The beauty of the real "slavey" is of a character that does not appeal to the millionaire, who informs the Major that he will choose the suppositious servant, thus allowing the doctor to step in and obtain the real daughter for his bride. The piece has a number of songs and choruses, is elaborately mounted and dressed, and is smartly interpreted by Mr. Edward Marris's company. A feature of the production is the embodiment by the ladies of the chorus of a number of musical plays, the various leading characters coming forward and making a comely collection.

The drama is represented in the sketch *Nana*, taken from a well-known French source, which has supplied more than one play for the regular stage. Miss Dolly Elsworthy plays the title-rôle, that of the young actress who sacrifices her love and her life in order that her sweetheart's father may maintain the dignity of his house. Miss Elsworthy has in Nana a part a little removed from those to which she has lately accustomed us, and though her liveliness and gaiety are evident in the earlier scenes, she grows intensely pathetic in the later, and the cough of the consumptive girl is distressingly realistic. Miss Elsworthy is well supported by her company, which includes Mr. Adderley Howard as Duval Père, Mr. John Richter as Armand, and Mr. D. Steele as Alphonse Prudhomme. The sketch is elaborately mounted, and several calls are bestowed on the leading lady.

A high place in favour is occupied by Mr. George Mozart, whose merry monologue diverts all parts of the house. Miss Dorothy Clarke sings in refined style the romance of a soap-bubble, which is greatly appreciated; and Kurkamp, the "sing conductor," delivers from his place in the orchestra a couple of tuneful ballads in a robust tenor voice, and wins general approval. *The Tramp in the Nursery* allows the Forsyths to appear in a comedy and musical act, in the course of which the bells are prettily played, and a lady impersonates a doll with much skill. Miss Madge Allen is a prepossessing comedienne and a neat dancer; Leslie Lyn and Willro are justly described as "three funny fellows"; and the programme to which Edwards and Dacre, comedy sketch artists, and Frank Vallance, magician, contribute, is concluded by a picture on Raymond's Bioscope, representing the Mohawk's Revenge, in which some thrilling scenes are depicted.

EALING HIPPODROME.

The tide of prosperity in theatrical affairs set flowing by the Franco-British Exhibition has not failed to reach Ealing, and Mr. J. A. Molloy, who directs the fortunes of the Hippodrome, has had real reason to congratulate himself on the result. Included in the great Gibbons-Barrasford Combine, whose advent we announced last Saturday, a full measure of the upwards of 300 artists tabled in the staff notices will always be allotted to this house. Chirgwin, the great and only "White-eyed One," is here this week, and there is no mistake in the sound of his welcome, which commences the instant that his number goes up. He has the happy knack of not only getting across the footlights, but, so to speak, right into the hearts of his admirers. His bonhomie never deserts him, from the first squirl of his bagpipes—through all his quips and jokes—to the last notes of the ever-popular "Blind Boy."

How an imagined baby, a mare, and a mis directed letter may be made the medium of side-splitting fun is cleverly shown by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden in their playlet of *Two to One*. The mare, the baby, and the letter are exploited for all they are worth, and well serve their purpose as merriment-raisers. The Eight 'Varsity Girls form a winsome octette of little lassies who are responsible for a happy pot-pourri of song and dance, and while their solos and concerted numbers are melodiously rendered, their dancing is excellent and refined. The Brilliants, old favourites at Ealing, are expert xylophonists, who never fail to please. The overture to the *Poet and Peasant* loses none of its vim under their nimble execution, but the gem of their répertoire is undoubtely the except from "Morning, Noon, and Night," every dainty nuance being exquisitely interpreted.

Terry and Bentley warble merrily of how "In time of peace prepare for war." The turn is well staged, and the scarlet coat of the gentleman forms an admirable foil for the exceedingly becoming white Hussar uniform of his handsome and vivacious comrade, who, in addition to figuring as a graceful dancer, sings archly of "Don't be shy and bashful, sweetheart." Alburtus the First and Jessie Millar have some merry moments in their "Fairground." Miss Jessie introduces herself with a cornet solo of "Killarney," and afterwards presides over the cocoanuts. Her first and only client is Alburtus, who fails to score a win, but there is no failure about their subsequent club display, which wins them storms of applause. The Austral Trio have a melodious medley in their *Musical Evening*, the success of which is greatly assisted by a member of the trio, who is a nimble dancer. Miss Mandie Ford daintily sings of far-off Mandalay; Miss Ada Cerito, gowned in a beautiful Empire creation, carols of her "Fickle young man"; Mr. Harry Thurston repeats his latest absurdity, *The Merry Widow;* while the overture, also from the same source, is excellently rendered by the Hippodrome band, under the bâton of the musical director, Mr. A. M. Park. As usual, some fine films are shown on Ruffell's Bioscope.

THE PARAGON.

Previous to her departure for America Miss Vesta Victoria has been delighting the patrons of this house with her latest numbers, which are certainly excellent. Her first item, dealing with the favourite subject of "Men, men, men," is far above the average of numbers of that description. In the character of a young widow, the comedienne offers herself for marriage, with the recommendation that the suitor will have the advantage of negotiating with an "Old-established firm." Forced to respond to an encore on the night of our visit, Miss Victoria submitted the amusing song "Father," which, it is almost needless to say, is treated in the artist's own inimitable style.

Mr. Dan Crawley, one of the old style comedians, but none the less popular on that account, sings "Sailing merrily on" and "One or two more of 'em." The last, given in dame dress, evokes much laughter. Mr. Herbert Lloyd, "the King of Diamonds," is responsible for a most enjoyable entertainment, consisting of dancing, juggling, comedy, &c., the smart changes being very clever. Cardow's Merry Yachtsmen form a quartet of capital entertainers, their business being refined, bright, and amusing. Their final concerted number is capitally rendered. Carlton causes great laughter with his droll gags whilst manipulating his pack of cards, which he seems to place just where he wishes. His dice and box trick is bewildering, especially to those gentlemen who command him to "open all de four." Messrs. Tate and Tate, "the Barmaid and her Eccentric Customer," are decidedly clever acrobats, the male partner performing many difficult feats. He is ably supported by the young lady, who also proves herself an able tumbler. Mr. Harry Clifford sings a tuneful song, viz., "Oh, Johnnies, there's a locket in your pocket," which possesses a catchy refrain, and another, "When I get home from work," which is also well received. Miss Mayme Cannon, a talented young lady, sings a difficult song, imitating three voices, whilst accompanying herself on the piano. She also plays on the instrument with her wrists, elbows, &c. The Four Mexicans give clever exhibitions in the art of lasso-throwing and lariat-manipulating, and certainly excel in the business, the lady being extremely gifted.

Phil Ree's Stable Lads provide an enjoyable turn of tuneful singing, dancing, and all-round fun, which is kept well going by the two youngsters. They are all bright boys, each doing his respective "bit" perfectly. The Lyric Mummers, lady and gentleman, render some excellent duets, the voices blending to a nicety. The Paolias perform difficult athletic feats, for which they are warmly applauded; Miss Daisy Dormer, the daintiest of dancers, gives "Anywhere will do" and "Good-night, Mr. Knight," concluding with a fancy dance. Other turns include Miss Venie Clements (child impersonator), Robbie Roy (Scotch comedian), and Miss Ida Barr, a charming burlesque actress with a couple of good songs. Ruffell's Bioscope completes an excellent programme, upon which Mr. Chas. Mark, together with his courteous lieutenant, Mr. Pierre Cohen, may be congratulated.

BATTERSEA PALACE.

A programme of exceptional attractiveness is submitted this week to the patrons of the Battersea Palace. Sketches are always a staple item, and this feature is strongly in evidence. The principal is *Married for Revenge*, smartly played by Mr. Fred Moule—who gives a fine performance of the Rev. Cuthbert Belveton—and his capable company. It is well mounted and artistically dressed.

Another very prominent item is an amusing musical comedietta, entitled *The Star of the Bazaar*, by Miss Alice Hughes and company. The Vicar of a certain parish has given an entertainment to his congregation, and engaged a professional to recite to them, but who is unable to appear. In her place a well-known musical comedy actress is sent, who gives the curate a specimen of her abilities in song and dance, much to his undoing. In the meantime the congregation are waiting, and the servant recognises the actress as a member of a gang of diamond thieves of which he was formerly a member. Her object is to relieve the vicar of his diamonds, &c., but the scheme is frustrated by the servant, who forces the lady to leave the house without carrying out her mission. This amusing trifle is well played by Miss Alice Hughes, who, as Dulcie Darenot, scores a success for her singing and sprightly dancing. Mr. F. R. Larin presents the Rev. Willie Wood in the recognised stage fashion, and Mr. Chas. Dillon does well as the faithful servant James, whose continual interruption with the phrase, "the congregation's waiting," causes much laughter.

The remainder of the programme is up to the usual high standard of this hall. Mr. Edward Kay, an excellent comedian, sings "Why should I work?" in an agreeable manner; Miss Eva Roslyn is a charming comedienne and dancer; the Cromwells present a novel and unique juggling act; La Belle Maie submits a good performance on the tight wire; Mr. E. W. Selman creates an excellent impression by two ditties, "If you want to choose a girl, choose her in the morning" and "Kitty, isn't it a pity?"; Miss Josephine Crook scores her usual success in two illustrated songs, entitled "The skirl of the pipes" and "Far away in Australia"; Bains and Reed give an original speciality *Humpsti Bumpsti*, introducing some clever acrobatic feats; and the Melburns, deputising for Mme. Eldee, are a smart duo of cross-talkers. The programme is brought to a close by a good picture exhibited by Raymond's Bio-tableaux, entitled Sherlock Holmes. Mr. James McCarthy, manager, is gaining great popularity in this district.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

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JOHN DAVIS, of Beresford-road, Canonbury, was summoned at the North London Police-court on Thursday for keeping a dog without a licence. The defendant said that he was fireman and night watchman at the Holloway Empire. He took out a licence (produced) for this dog last year, but had since kept the animal at the Empire, and was under the impression that he was exempt from a licence for a watch-dog. Mr. Bros: You are not exempt, but I will take your excuse into consideration, and only order you to pay costs, 2s.

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WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON. Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 15, 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29, on DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E. Jan. 25, March 8, 22, April 5, May 10, 17, on. COUNTY THEATRE, READING. Feb. 8, 15, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, 19, on. OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER. April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31. ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER. Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m. GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON. Feb. 1 15, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, on. THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD. Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 22, April 5, 26, May 3, on. OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON. March 29, April 5, Sept. 6, 13, 20, on. THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER. April 12, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, on. THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON. Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, 15, on. Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, onwards. GRAND THEATRE, LUTON. Dec. 26 (7 nights), Jan. 4, 18, 25, Feb. 8, March 8, onwards. THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY. Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7 (3 nights only), and Christmas. Address, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, March, 1910, onwards.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE, Nov. 23, 30 (3 nights), Dec. 7, Jan. 18, onwards. GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS. Dec. 3 (3 nights), March 1, 8, 15. PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE. Dec. 7, Feb. 1, 8, March 1, 8, 15. Apply for all above, ROWLAND, T., Folkestone.

F. W. BOLAM'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, GRAND T., NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. Dec. 14, May 3, on. METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD. Dec. 14, 21, Feb. 22, April 19, May 3, on. Address, R. G. ELDER, Gen.-Man., Metropole T., Gateshead. Telegrams:—"Lutanist, Gateshead."

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Dec. 14, Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 15, 29, April 5, 19, 26. Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

WANTED, Special Attraction, for Dec. 14, at H. M. Theatre, Dundee. Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-st., S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, BELFAST.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 7 and 14. Address, FRED W. WARDEN.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
WANTED, Companies, for 1909 dates, for Pay-box Attractions only.
Address, ROLLO BALMAIN.

NEW PRINCE'S THEATRE, BLACKBURN.
WANTED, Big Attraction, Musical Comedy or Drama, Dec. 14 and 28, through termination of Tour. E. H. PAGE.

HIPPODROME THEATRE, STOCKTON-ON-TEES.
WANTED, a No. 1 Attraction, for five nights, week of Dec. 21, 1908, or three nights could be arranged; only vacancy; Share or Certainty. Preference given if can play twice nightly.
Send full particulars, HARRY BURNS, Lessee and Manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Sound Attraction, for Nov. 30, Nov. 30, Address, THOS. SWINTON.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attraction, Dec. 14 (unexpectedly vacant), March 22, April 12, onward, with exceptions. Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER.
WANTED, First-class Drama, Dec. 10, three nights. STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Dec. 14, 21 (three nights). Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for Feb. 15, March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31. First-class Companies only.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 11, 18. Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 11, 18. Dramas with good Comedy and Music. Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

LYCEUM, NEWPORT.
WANTED, owing to alteration of arrangements, best Attractions only for Jan. 4, 18, and 25, and May 3. Particulars to SIDNEY COOPER.

WANTED, Pantomime, Jan. 11 (week), for Theatre Royal, York, Comedy Companies for Jan. 25, Feb. 8, 15, 22, for Londesborough T., Scarboro'. Address, WADDINGTON, Theatre, York.

WORTHING THEATRE.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Xmas; can also arrange for Special Flying Matinées. All communications to SEEBOLD, as above.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME, STALYBRIDGE.
Twice Nightly.
WANTED, First-class Pantomimes. JAMES FIONT, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE, GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM, BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS, and GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS. Vacant Dates, April 26, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE. Vacant Dates, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM. Vacant, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW. Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

Address, with full particulars, terms, &c. where can be seen, to Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C. Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON. The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Nov. 30, also Dec. 7, and Feb. 8, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return), Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," &c.
All applications for dates to HUGH ROBERTSON, Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, good Companies, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7.

THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
Wanted, good Picture Shows, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP.
Vacant Dec. 7 and 14, and Xmas. Last three days only.

TOWN HALL, RUGBY.
Vacant Xmas, Jan. 4 and 25.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK.
Vacant Nov. 23 (last three days only Hawick).

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Vacant Jan. 11, 18, and 25.

THE SPA, WHITBY.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
GREENOCK, MOTHERWELL, COATBRIDGE, AYR, LEITH, FALKIRK.
Managing-Director, R. C. BUCHANAN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for the following Dates:—
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28 (New Year's week), Jan. 4, 11, 25, Feb. 1, 15.
Apply to R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.
FRED GRANVILLE, Managing-Director.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, Musical and other High-class London Attractions, Nov. 30, Dec. 21, Jan. 4.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, Dramas and Musical Attractions, Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Good-class Attractions, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
Re Dates, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Dec. 7, 14, and various dates onward. Please apply, G. HAYES, Pier, Eastbourne.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Dec. 21, Jan. 4, 11, 25, and intermediates on. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Nov. 30, Eastbourne (3), Hastings (3); Nov. 23, Dec. 7, D. P. T., Eastbourne. Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Dec. 14, Jan. 11, and few onwards. Good Panto. write. Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Inverness, an Attraction for Xmas and New Year weeks. Vacant Dates apply, CAMERON BURGESS.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, No. 1 Musical and Pantomimic Attractions, immediate and future dates. Now playing to crowded houses nightly King's Theatre, Kilmarnock, Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Big Dramatic Attraction, Dec. 26, seven nights; Special Change from Variety. Popular prices. E. A. SMITH, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 23, 24, 25, Nov. 30, Dec. 1 and 2, onwards. Apply, PHILLIPS.

WANTED, Companies, three nights, Nov. 26, 27, 28, Dec. 14 (3 or 6), Jan. 18 (?), 21 (?), and 25, Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on. W. E. PORTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

THEATRE ROYAL, HEBBURN.
WANTED, First-class Pantomimes or Musical Comedies, for Jan. 4, March 1 and 8. CHARLES ELDERTON.

NEW THEATRE, WATFORD.
WANTED, for the Grand Opening, Dec. 14, 1908, a good A1 Company, Musical Comedy preferred, share or certainty.
The Hall is newly erected, and the only suitable building in Watford for First-class Companies to visit. Fitted with all modern appliances. Good stage accommodation. First-class Orchestra, and every comfort provided. Apply at once to T. M. SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, London, W.

BORO' THEATRE, HEYWOOD.
WANTED, good Company, weeks of Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and dates in Feb. JONES, Queen's, Manchester.

WANTED, good Companies, Combinations, Panto., Xmas, Sharing terms; vacant Nov. 23, onwards. MANAGER, Kilburn Empire, London, N.W. 'Phone Paddington 3672.

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, RUNCORN.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 23, 30, also big Attraction Xmas and few other dates. EDGAR LEA.

ARCADE THEATRE, COWDENBEATH.
WANTED, First-class Company, Jan. 4, 5, 6. W. E. PORTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

COMPANIES WANTED.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.

Seating capacity 3,500.

Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District

Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only.

We are prepared to guarantee Really Big Star Attractions.

All communications, Jno. Ed. Jowsey, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

Telegrams, "Magnet." 'Phones 413, 426, 500.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.

WANTED, Companies, Dec. 7, 14, March 1, 15, 22, 29, April 26, onwards.
Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Jack Straw," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Cheat," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," Mr. Harry Nicholls, "The Beloved Vagabond," "Diana of Dobson's" (return), and Mr. G. Alexander's next St. James's Theatre production.
All coms., Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., Barrow.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.

WANTED, Companies, Xmas, Dec. 26, Seven Nights, possibly vacant, to oblige a manager.
No Drama. Only Musical or First-class West-end Successes Entertained.
The best date of the year.
Calvert Routledge, H. M. T., Barrow-in-Furness.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Dec. 28, Jan. 25, March 15.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic Attraction, five nights, Dec. 21.
H. Masterman, Theatre Royal, Castleford.

WANTED, Attraction, Dec. 14, Grand, Chorley, also Dec. 14, Grand, Radcliffe.
Sante, Theatre, Radcliffe.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 9.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Dec. 14, Jan. 4.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 14, 21.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 12.
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 26 (seven nights).
Walter Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 8.
Frederick Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 14, 21, Jan. 4.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb. 15, 22, March 22, 29.
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 26 (seven nights).
Tom H. Taylor, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, April 5, Aug. 2, Nov. 15.
Douglas Bruce, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."

WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11.
Andrew Melville, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."

WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, Feb. 1.
Andrew Emm, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH," from the Haymarket and Apollo Theatres.
WANTED, Nov. 30 (to follow Hull), also Dec. 7, and First-class Town for Christmas.
Address, C. H. Bowmaker, Gaiety T., Hastings.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of Jan. 11 and 25,
Weeks of Jan. 11 and 25,
Weeks of Jan. 11 and 25.

Wire or write to W. W. Kelly, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."

WANTED, weeks of Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, for this Remarkable Success,

which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.

Wire or write to,

W. W. Kelly, New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 25, Feb., March 22, April 5, 12, on.
Charles Harrington, Theatre Royal, Coventry.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, March 22 (?), April 12.

All communications, J. W. Cordiner, Nov. 16, Theatre Royal, Wolverhampton.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI and MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows: Dec. 26 (7 nights), April 19, May 3.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, Polini, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Theatre, Nov. 30, "CHARLEY'S AUNT."
Address, Cecil Barth, Theatre Royal, Norwich.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 8, for "The Cingalee." Wire, Haldane Crichton, Crystal Palace; next week, Sheerness.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. FRANK BATEMAN and GEORGE CONQUEST'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Feb. 1, Aug. 9, 16; Sept. 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, Nov. 1, 15.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 21, 28.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Nov. 23,
Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 14, Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
Morton Powell, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.

WANTED, Theatres, for this unique Attraction, Dec. 7, 21, and 28 (only vacant dates). Nov. 16, T. R., Tyldesley, Six Nights.
Mr. A. B. Cross as Pete. Miss Watersford as Kate.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
WANTED. Wanted, Dates,
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Nov. 23, Nov. 23 Nov. 23, Nov. 23.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8, March 1, 15.
Wire for Nov. 23. Wire for Nov. 23. Re both Plays.
Geo. A. De Gray, this, Grand T., Mansfield; next, King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.

"ROLLICKING RORY."
"ROLLICKING RORY."

WANTED, Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 1.
P. O. W., Salford; next, Grand, Falkirk.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY, TRAVIS GREEN, and ARTHUR HINTON'S Principal No. 1 Co., in the Brilliant Romantic Military Play, "THE POWER OF THE KING."
WANTED, Theatre, Dec. 7. Only Vacancy till Whit, 1909. Fast Booking Autumn, 1909.
Doing Enormous Business this week at Metropole, Manchester. Wire or write for Dec. 7 (Successful Visit guaranteed). Travis Green this, Metropole, Manchester; next, Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
By Walter Howard.
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Dec. 14 and 21,
Dec. 14 and 21,
Jan. 11, 18, and various on.

Miss Ellen Snow, Alexandra Theatre, Hull.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S CO'S.
WANTED Wanted, Theatres,
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 1.
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, April 19, 26.
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING,"
Vacant Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 22.
"THE KISS OF JUDAS,"
Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4.
E. P. Clift, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Aug. 2, First Vacant Date.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE."
Vacant Jan. 11, March 1, 15.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN,"
A Play that Draws.
Thanks P. Broadhead, Esq., five Contracts.
Vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 25.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," Touring 1909.
Wires, O. H., Treherbert. Letters, Pavilion, Abertillery.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, Managers having vacant dates from Jan. 25, onwards, for First-class Pantomimes, to communicate at once with
Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, a First-class Theatre at Xmas, for the Great London Success,
"RAFFLES"
(The Amateur Crackaman.)
Apply to Mr. A. Bingham, 53a, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W.

A Few Spring and Autumn Dates Vacant.

WANTED, for Mark Blow's latest success, "At Roaring Camp," Jan. 25 (to precede Alex., Sheffield), Feb. 15, 22, March 22, 29. Mark Blow, Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

WANTED, "Under Two Flags," Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 15, 22, March 22.
Mark Blow, Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

WANTED, "At Cripple Creek," Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 8, 22, March 22.
Mark Blow, Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for Repertory, Dec. 26 (7 or 13 nights). Russell Rosse, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 18, 25 (Midlands).

Horace Stanley, Globe Theatre, Walmer (Deal). Third visit.

WANTED, Nov. 23, for JUNIUS BOOTH and HIS COMPANY, in "MONTE CRISTO."
Wire, wire for Nov. 23.
This, T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne; next, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

WANTED, Xmas and New Year, for "Dandy Fifth." Wire, Clarence Corri, Crystal Pal.; next week, Sheerness.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
Frank M. Thorne, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Dec. 7, 14, 21.
Henry L. Osmond, Garrison T., Bordon, Hants.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.

WANTED, good Theatres, Jan. 11, 25, March 29 (Midlands). April 12.
Address, C. M. Julian, R. T., Morecambe.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
By Russ Challis.
WANTED, good Theatres, Jan. and on; everything carried; clear stage only required. Special peal of bells. Maurice, Brixton T., London.

"HIS DISHONOURED WIFE."
WANTED, Feb. 1, March 15, South or Wales.
Tilbury, Theatre, Macclesfield.

"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF." Any Manager desirous of making money, book "The White Chief."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 28, 1908, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 8, 15, 22. Forty People on Stage. L. Carson in Cast. All coms., L. Carson, Court Theatre, Warrington.

"CLAUDIAN."
WANTED, Feb. 8 and 15 (North), April 19, May 17, 1909. William Maclaren, Opera House, Perth N.B.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
Third Year of Consecutive Tour.
An acknowledged Consistent Financial Success. There is not a finer all-round played, staged, and dressed piece now touring. Change of bill if required.
WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 1, May 3, on. Wire, E. A'Dell, Boro' T., Heywood (R.).

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY, in "A DESTROYER OF MEN."

Present Bookings include:—Star, Swansea; T. R., Bristol; Alexandra, Birmingham; Alexandra, Sheffield; Gaiety, Burnley; Metropole, Gateshead; T. R., Seaham Harbour; Eden, Bishop Auckland; Grand, Brighton, Southend-on-Sea, &c., &c., &c.

WANTED, Good Theatre, August Bank Holiday, 1909.

Wanted, Aug. 9, Sept. 27, Nov. 1, 8 and on, with exceptions.
Miss Hilda Beverley, Palace Theatre, Bordesley.

ARMITAGE and LEIGH'S COMPANIES.
Only One Company of Each Play—the Best.
The Triumph of the Artistic.
Wilson Barrett's last and greatest play.
"LUCKY DURHAM"
(fourth year of continuous tour).
WANTED, Nov. 30 (N), Dec. 28, and few onwards,
Charles Frohman's Greatest Success,
"LEAH KLESCHNA."
Ran one year London, third year of tour.
Vacant Dec. 21 (S), Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 15, March 29, April 12,
Henry Seton's Merriman's Greatest Work,
"WITH EDGED TOOLS."
Adapted from the Great Novel, which has been read by over 2,000,000 people. Passed the 200th performance, and recognised as one of the best plays sent out.
Vacant Nov. 30 (N.), Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, Mar. 15.
All communications, H. Armitage, Manager for Sir Charles Wyndham, New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane, London, W.C.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
WANTED, Dec. 7, Dec. 7, Dec. 7, for this great success, between Sheffield and Accrington. Special Cast and Band.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Wanted, Dec. 21, Feb. 8, March 15, only vacant dates until Autumn, 1909. Refer Star, Swansea, this week re business and play.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, Dec. 26, Seven Nights preferred. Racehorses toured, new scenery and properties, special cast. Wire for all plays to Kimberley, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists.
Each member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Easter (Only 1909 Holiday Date Vacant). Fred Bulmer, Lyceum T., Govan.

S. RENNEF'S and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World" Co., Xmas, New Year, Jan. 4, 11, 18, onward. Easter and Whit settled.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN."
Produced Monday, Victoria Theatre, Broughton, with Great Result.
Wanted, Xmas, Jan. 4, 11, onward. Splendid Productions and Strong Casts. G. M. Copping, Broughton; next, P. O. W., Mexboro'.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts,
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 22, March 1, 8, 29, April 26, May 3, 17, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.

Nov. 16, Greenwich Theatre, S.E.

"THE FLOWER GIRL,"
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, Spring and Autumn, 1909. Wire, F. Martin Morris, Theatre Royal, Edinburgh. Letters to Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Christmas, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 15, May 17, 24, 31, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, Armadale and Warren, Hippodrome and Theatre Royal, Croydon.

"WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 1, 22.
"THE KING AND UNKNOWN WOMAN."
New Production, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, and March 22.
E. Hill-Mitchelson, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

'THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, good Theatres, Dec. 26 (seven nights, South), and Easter week (South).
Maud Hildyard, Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

"MAN TO MAN."
1909 Tour, under personal direction of Edward Lloyd and Clifford Bown.
WANTED, March 22, April 12 (Easter) (?), and 26.
Edward Lloyd, Theatre Royal, Blyth.

KIMBERLEY, GREEN, AND HINTON'S.
WANTED, Known, "Was She to Blame?" by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. Grand Production at the Junction, Manchester, Easter. No vacant dates until Spring, 1910.
Write, Vauxhall, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

CHARLES CONSTANT'S PANTO.
"ALADDIN."
First-class Production will be produced by Victor Stevens at Theatre Royal, Bolton, on Boxing Day, and run of four weeks. Powerful and First-class Company, including Victor Stevens as Widow Twankey, Full London Chorus, Speciality Turns, Troupe of Dancers, &c.
WANTED, Big No. 1 Theatres Only, where a Big Show can take Big Money, Jan. 25 (to follow Bolton), Feb. 1, 15. There is not a Theatre in England which is too big or too good for this Production.

"BLUEBEARD."
Not the Biggest, but the Best, Brightest, and Funniest Panto. on the Road.
Wanted, First-class Theatres, Jan. 25, Feb. 22 (3 nights).
Re dates for above apply to C. Constant, Theatre Royal, Ryde, I.O.W.

H. HAMILTON STEWART'S CO'S., "SECRET SERVICE" (by arrangement with Chas. Frohman).
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 22 (North). Walter J. Bayliss, Royalty T., Barrow-in-Furness.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c. The Directors of the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, have re-engaged them for seventeen weeks next summer. Their returns showed another 40 per cent. advance over their previous season, which was 50 per cent. over any preceding year.
Only Vacancies Next Summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onward.
Mr. D'Arcy Clayton, 23, Brockman-road, Folkestone.

WANTED, Halls and Theatres, for Permanent Picture and Variety Entertainment, by Firm of Repute. Reply, first instance, Box 5,131, "The Era."

WANTED, a good Hall, for Xmas, one or two weeks, must have ample seating, good stage required for a First-class Company (not Dramatic). Bonus offered to person settling date. Address, Box 5,137, "The Era."

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists willing to invest capital under limited liability in important enterprise, ensuring permanent and pleasant engagement, with good income. State fullest experience and amount available.
Box 5,156, "The Era."

WANTED, Chambermaid, to Rehearse Immediately. State terms and full particulars, W. E. Melville, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S TOURS.
"THE BETTER LAND."
WANTED, First-class Heavy Leading Man. Recognised Leading Lady (emotional), capable of pathos and strong mad scene; Romantic Leading Man (must be sound actor and of good appearance); Heavy Lady; Powerful Character Actor, to double; Funny Comedian; Bright Chambermaid; Responsible Man; also clever Child for Boy's part. N.B.—Boy or girl, boy preferred, must be over ten years of age.
For Tour, Rehearse Nov. 23.
Particulars, references, terms, and photos. to Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
Mark envelope "Better Land."

"TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS."
WANTED, for above, Comedy Actor, for Jack Jolly (Sailor); also Heavy Actor for Jim Royston (short but important part); rehearse Manchester Nov. 24, play London Nov. 30, one week only. Terms, height and build (important, for Sailor's suit), age, references. W. H. Hallatt, 1, Ellesmere-st., Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, at once, Young Lady Soprano, for Low Comedy. Apply by letter, Ford, Wyke-gardens, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, a Little Girl for Eva, "Uncle Tom's Cabin," age 14 (look 10), fair golden hair, slight. Terms, photo., height, particulars, Charles Harrington, Theatre Royal, Coventry.

WANTED, for Spring, Clever, Refined Child Actress, to look about 8, for small part in front piece; also Responsible Lady. Address, letters only, Stanley James, 10, Aberdeen-park, N.

WANTED, Clever Child Actress; must be 14, and small. Rehearse at once. Terms, references and photos., Henry L. Osmond, Garrison Theatre, Bordon, Hants.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
WANTED, Powerful Leading Man of Repute. Artists in other Lines may also write in. Tour starts Xmas. Photos. and all particulars, C. M. Julian, R. T., Morecambe.

WANTED, immediately, Gentleman, for small parts, also Lady to do struggle.
H. Leslie Bell, 15, Windsor-rd., Holloway.

WANTED, immediately, Trial Show Sketch, Comedian, short, part à la Fred Kaye. Call Monday 12, 4, Chester-house, Upper Marylebone-street, Great Portland-street, W.

WANTED, a Comedian, Fiery Old Colonel, in Sketch, open Nov. 30, rehearse 23rd, London. Letters, Tran, 9, York-buildings, Adelphi, W.C.

WANTED, for Comedy Sketch, Special Week, Nov. 30, London, Short Cockney Comedian, à la E. Payne; also Tall Fine Burlesque Actress. Box 5,155, "The Era."

WANTED, Lady and Gentleman, immediately, for famous London Sketch, few lines. Tuition fee 2 guineas. Expenses to commence. Grindley, 44, Peckham Park-road.

WANTED, for Sketch, tall experienced Actor, combine Rough Character and Gentleman. Rehearse London. Letters only, lowest terms, full particulars, Manager, 35, Winchester-street, London, S.W.

WANTED, Known, the New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription yearly £1 1s.; or paid weekly, 6d. No entrance fee. Temporary membership, and use of room for interviews. Rehearsals, &c., by arrangement. Members have use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, and theatrical papers, and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey's-buildings.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, THE GRENFELL CLUB, FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, 23, Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, Ladies only, from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, Second Leading Lady or good Comedy and Character Parts. Willing to invest small sum for share. Write, Box 5,158, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Known, Francis Gramaldie, Short Comedian and Violinist, height 4ft. 6in., at Liberty for Sketch, Drama, or join a Partner. Write or wire, 335, Hyde-road, Ardwick, Manchester.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, Corliss Claflin.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, smart Principal Boy and Girl, Dame, Producer (for "Aladdin"), and Conductor. Terms, &c., Fred Granville, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Barnard's Agency, Shaw-street, Liverpool ('Phone 2349 Royal), still wants Panto. Artists, Principal Boys, Girls, Dames, and Knockabouts; also Variety Artists, all Descriptions. Please send bookings and Vacancies.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, for Pantomime.
Call 12 o'clock Tuesday, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham Junction.

KIDDIE'S KOMEDY KOMPANIES.
WANTED, Chorus Ladies, for Pantomime, must be young, pretty, and refined. Send photo., height, age, with lowest terms and stamped envelope, to J. Gar Kiddie, 9, Thomas-street, Widnes.

WANTED, for Pantomime, a few more All-round Dancers, a few more All-round Dancers.
Engagements waiting for those suitable.
Apply, Mr. Sinclair, 118, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, two good Dancers (Acrobatic and Step), Panto. Lowest terms, photos., age, references, Lowther, Hippodrome, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Boy, with Good Voice, for Pantomime; must be over fourteen, and small.
Letters, F. M., Circus, Bury.

WANTED, for Pantomime, First-class Producer. All particulars, William Martin, Darrell's Agency, 415, Strand, London, W.C.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Known, Rehearsal for Principals in Pantomime, Monday, Nov. 30, at 11 o'clock prompt. No excuses.
Rich. Waldon.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Crissie Cross, smart Singer and Dandy Dancer, at Liberty for Panto., Principal or Second Girl. Address, c/o 7, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, Disengaged Panto., Principal Boy. Offers invited.
39, Gateley-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Miss Louie Hurman, at Liberty for Panto., Principal Boy; last year Alex., Sheffield. Perm., 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Miss Daisy Silcott. Last three years Principal Boy Grand T., Islington, Grand T., Nottingham, West London T.

WANTED, Known, Edna Cragge, an Ideal Principal Boy, an Artist and a Vocalist, last year Robin Hood, Carlton T., Birmingham. 1a, Arlesford-rd., Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, by Fanny Robina and Florry Cooper, Principal Boy and Fairy Queen. Proprietors wanting a Top and Bottom of Bill and a successful week, we are at Liberty Nov. 23, 30. Address, Palace, Porth.

WANTED, Known, the Popular Sisters Terry, at Liberty for Pantomime, Second Boy and Girl. Nov. 16, Hippodrome, Kirkcaldy Scotland.

WANTED, Panto. by Mike and Lena Johnson, late Musical Comedy, Drama, Sketches, Pantomimist, Troupes, &c. Wishee-Washee and Slave of Lamp, 1903-4, Gaiety, Dundee. Address, Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, Known, Jack Heath, Eccentric Comedian, Liberty for Pantomime, Comedian or Dame. This, City Var., Leeds; next, Hippodrome, Hull.

WANTED, George Casey, the Popular Pantomime Comedian, Vacant Xmas, any comedy part, Dame last year, Carlton, Birmingham. Add., Queen's T., Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Percy Curry, Liberty for Panto., any Principal Part.
Address, Hippo., Blyth. Sing, Dance, Patter.

WANTED, Known, Will Owen, the Favourite Dame Comedian and Comedy Dutch Vocalist, vacant for Panto., Dame, also Nov. 30 vacant. This week, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract; next, Public Hall, Darwen.

WANTED, Known, Jack Foley, at Liberty for Panto., Dame. Perm., 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Nash and Noel, This, Hip., Darlington; Next, City Varieties, Leeds.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. Leete and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Good Scenic Artist, for Pantomime Work.
Terms and references,
Address, James Kiddie, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. Cecil E. Hicks, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. Fred Wilkins and Bro., Ltd., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime Productions or Stock; good, effective work. Moderate terms. J. Jacks, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective, Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. Charles Sayer, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery of every description; high-class work.
H. Masterman, West Riding Studio, Castleford.

WANTED, Contracts for every description of Scenery, Pantomime, Stock, &c.
Scenic Studio, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. Robinson, 170, King's-road, S.W

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract; Town or Provinces. Address, 26, Elgin-terrace, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Known, C. H. Frampton, at Liberty, Scenic Artist; quick; abstainer.
8, Richmond-place, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, William Hemsley, Disengaged Nov. 16, Scenic Artist and First-class Master Carpenter, Touring or Resident; highest refs.; abstainer. 49, Brook-road, Irlam-rd., Bootle.

WANTED, Known, K. J. McLennan, Scenic Artist, can arrange Engagement for First-class Theatre, or accept Contracts. Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Scenic Artist, Engagement in London or Suburbs; good and long references. Address, Artist, 17, Hearne-rd., Chiswick, W.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, W. Bernasconi, Scenic Artist, 53, St. James's-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Stafford, Scenic Artist; best references.
24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Gentleman, to thoroughly learn Stage-Management, Acting-Management, and Business-Management, in First-class Operatic and Comedy Company, well established, and booked at least 20 weeks; must be a gentleman in every way, to mix in best society. Premium required £100; salary paid £3 per week for 20 weeks, and all fares paid. Proprietor holds first-class position in theatrical circles.
Write, Box 5,144, "The Era."

WANTED, a Stage-Manager, thoroughly accustomed to produce Pantomime in the Provinces. Apply, personally, C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

WANTED, Stage-Manager, for twice nightly Variety Hall; must be thoroughly competent, and used to working lightning programme. Fullest particulars, A. E. Pickard, New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.

WANTED, Stage-Manager; one who is capable of controlling Entire Production on a large scale, "Babes in the Wood." Apply by letter only, stating lowest salary, to "Pantomime," Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, Acting-Manager, must be experienced and able to find a guarantee of £200; no others need apply. State lowest salary for Pantomime Engagement only, by letter, to Pantomime, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, Smart Man as General Assistant; must be able to touch up scenery properly. Send references, terms for home and abroad, with photo. Stamped envelope for return. Letters only, which must contain fullest information, to Mr. R. A. Roberts, 40, Upper Bedford-place, Russell-square, W.C.

WANTED, Gentleman who has been with successful Pierrot or Concert Party, touring Halls; only one who is thoroughly experienced and who could book, manage, and be useful member of one need apply to T., 121, Constantine-road, Hampstead.

WANTED, for Few Weeks, Agent-in-Advance; must work, not talk. If suitable, may be re-engaged in spring. Norman V. Norman, Theatre Royal, King's Lynn.

WANTED, immediately, Smart Electrician and Operator, thoroughly conversant with lime, alternating and direct current; must be steady and reliable, and prepared to commence on receipt of wire.

Apply, John Dawson, c/o Mrs. Stewart, 165, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Wardrobe Mistress. Apply, C. St. John Denton, 34, Maiden-lane, Strand.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Engagement, by young, smart, and thoroughly experienced Acting-Manager, Dramatic or Variety; all requirements and details back and front, accountancy, advertising, bars, &c., &c. Highest references; moderate salary. Box 5,129, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement as Resident or Assistant-Manager; experienced Dramatic and Variety, Advertising Bars, &c. HARRY PEASE, 25A, Queen-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED. — Liberty, Smart, Experienced Variety, Stage, and General-Manager, combine both, used to lightning programmes. L., 13, N. Gladstone-st., Abertillery.

WANTED, by Advance Agent or Manager, a Shop, for India and East; good Shows only; 30 years' experience here; cheap. Address, BABINGTON and Co., Post-master, Bombay.

WANTED, Known, Expert Lady Typist desires Re-engagement (permanency); shorthand, 130 words per minute. Highest refs. F. H., Hazelmere, Chadfield-road, Dumfield, Derby.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, for Four Nights, Nov. 25, 26, 27, and 28, at Dalston Theatre, Musical-Conductor thoroughly conversant with "Chinese Honeymoon." Apply with terms, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, good Musical Conductor, for Panto. State lowest terms, references, &c., to C. CONSTANT, Theatre Royal, Ryde.

WANTED, Musical Conductor (Pianist), for Pantomime.
Terms and references to
JAMES KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, to open Monday, for long Music Hall Tour, experienced Conductor. Apply, Saturday next, at 12 o'clock, to CRANBOURN ENTERTAINMENT Agency, 44, Cranbourn-street, W.

MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.
THE PALACE, WESTGATE-STREET, CARDIFF.
WANTED, to open Monday next, a First-class Leader, must be thoroughly experienced in Variety. Apply, stating age, salary required, and giving names and addresses of last two references, to ARTHUR BURTON, as above, or wire.

WANTED, First-class Leader and Solo Violin, to sail Nov. 26.
and remain on the
White Star Line Mediterranean Service
until April.
CHAS. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, to open Nov. 30, Violin, Flute, Cornet, Clarionet, and Pianist, to combine Viola. Apply, stating terms, references, to A. M. LOADER, Court Theatre, Warrington.

HIPPODROME, GREENOCK, SCOTLAND.
WANTED, First-class Clarionet and Trombone, A.M.U.; permanency if satisfactory. Terms and references to J. CARTMELL, Musical-Director, Lady Bank, Gourock, Scotland.

WANTED, Double Bass Player, also Double Drummer, open Nov. 23. State age, references, lowest terms, J. H. OAKDEN, Lyceum T., Govan, Glasgow.

WANTED, Trombone and Flute, immediately.
only reliable men required.
Particulars and terms,
J. TILNEY, Palace, Ebbw Vale.

WANTED competent Euphonium Player, must be sober and reliable, for the Bristol City Band. Permanency. Apply, WILKINSON, 68, Old Market-street, Bristol.

WANTED, at Once, for Solo Euphonium, for Town Band. Terms, shares. Sobriety indispensable. Address, BANDMASTER, 4, Richmond-avenue, High-street, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, good Viola, to open Monday, Nov. 23.
Apply,
H. F. PETERSEN, Palace, Walthamstow.

WANTED, immediately, Harpist (Gentleman), for refined Act. Booked solid Music Halls. State lowest terms, experience, &c. L., 10, Little Pulteney-street, Shaftesbury-avenue.

CHAS. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, to open at once, good Flute and Piccolo, must assist with fittings. Apply, FRED MANN, Skipton, Yorkshire.

NEW CENTRAL HALLS.
"WORLD IN MOTION" CO.
WANTED, for our seven new Halls, opening shortly, Pianists, who can sing to Illustrated Slides, Bioscope Operators, Single and Double Turns. Address, GEN.-MANAGER, Head Office, 6, Queen-street, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, Lady Pianist for Smoke Room of Hotel, South Wales; must be a good vamper. Age, references, photo., and lowest terms to live in, H. DENTON, G.P.O., Aberdare.

WANTED, First-class Pianist, used to Varieties and Pictures.
Apply, REX SUGDEN, Empire, Douglas.

WANTED, Side Drummer,
to enlist
in Crack Rifle Corps.
Apply, P. S.,
c/o Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus,
London, W.

WANTED, for Bostock and Wombwell's Royal No. 1 Menagerie, a good Double Drummer. Address, J. MILLS, Sat., Normanton; Mon., Featherston; Tues., Cudworth; Yorks.

WANTED, for Season 1909, open Easter, Tympanist and Drummer, experienced; must have own tymps, drums, glockenspiel, and all effects (tube bells provided), seaside engagement. Address, Box 5,153, "The Era."

WANTED, the following First-class Musicians: Leader (Solo Violin and Conductor), Pianist, 'Cellist and Bass, for Booth Line, Jan. 1, permanency to suitable Musicians; Flute, Clarionet, 2 Cornets, and Trombone, for White Star Line Mediterranean Cruise, Jan. to April; Répétiteur and 'Cellist, for Mauretania, Jan. to April; Leader (Solo Violin), Répétiteur, Pianist, 'Cellist, and Contrabassist, for Cunard Line, Jan., 1909. Audition necessary in London or Liverpool before engagement. Applicants state age and give two references as to character and ability, to
CHAS. WM. BLACK,
14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

FUN CITY DRILL HALL, BATH.
Dec. 24, 1908, to Jan. 16, 1909.
The first Show of its kind ever held in Bath.
WANTED, Ladies' Band, Shooter, Fish Pond, Ring Board, Games, Cocoanuts, Novelty Side-shows. Apply CARL FREDERICKS, 4, Brunswick-street, Bath.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
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"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

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"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), large and valuable library. Pantomimes, Dramas, &c., composed and arranged. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, as Conductor or Leader in good Orchestra; last ten years: four years Conductor County Theatre, Reading; two years Conductor Alex., Hull; four years Leader Principal Musical Comedies; thoroughly reliable. ALF RHODES, 16, Costin-street, Bedford.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Variety Conductor, late with Barrasford; young, smart, and steady. LANCASTER, 3, Brightfield-road, Lee Green, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, by Conductor, Pianist (good Orchestra if required), from Franco-British; any business; large library; evening dress or uniforms. DIRECTOR, 88, Oaklands-road, West Ealing.

WANTED, immediate Re-engagement as Leader or First Violin, Theatres, Restaurants; London suburbs. OSCAR CREMER, 10, Caithness-road, Mitcham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or Conductor or Solo Violin, through termination of season. LEADER, Victoria Pavilion, Ilfracombe.

WANTED, by Leader, Engagement; used to Variety; good Violinist, and reliable.
Address, VIOLINIST, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by brilliant Violin Soloist, experienced Ensemble Player, Engagement, Conductor for Hotels, Cafés. LEADER BLUE HUNGARIANS, Grand Central Hotel, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violin, combine Clart.; age 30; good refs.; open at once. Address, BURTON, 14, Stourcliffe-st., Marble Arch.

WANTED, Engagement, Violin or Viola, any business; experienced.
C. M., 34, Eversholt-st., Camden Town, London, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Chas. Croft, good Violinist; six years His Majesty's, Carlisle. 7, Summerson-street, Hetton.

WANTED, Known, at Lib. Nov. 23, Second Violin, any business. C. DAVENPORT, 2, Gardner's-square, Bengeworth, Evesham, Worc.

WANTED, by Violinist, experienced Theatre Business; steady; can open at once.
VIOLIN, 29, Alma-place, Oxford.

WANTED, Known, Jennie Murdoch, Violinist; Ethel Litolff, 'Cellist. Disengaged Nov. 29. Exhibition, 75-76, Pearl-buildings, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Miss Hilda Kent, Cornet, and Miss Minnie Kent, Trombone, Disengaged from Nov. 16. 23, Moring-road, Tooting Bec, S.W.

WANTED, Orchestral Engagement, by Cornet or Second Violin; reliable. £6 bonus offered; permanency. HAYS, 10, Stamford-buildings, South Lambeth-road, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, Military or Orchestral; just completed twelve years' Army Bandsman; good refs. A. WARNER, 38, Cambridge-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Engagement, First or Second Cornet, capable performer, Variety, Dramatic, or Opera; excellent references. J. H. EAMES, 12, Hastings-road, Brighton.

WANTED, by Cornet (good), Engagement, Music Hall or Theatre.
G. L., 100, Eversleigh-road, Battersea.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Solo Cornet; highest references; now at Liberty.
C. THOMAS, 71, Eswyn-road, Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by good reliable Cornet or Violin; first-class references. THOS. BURROWS, 74, Winchelsea-road, Philip-lane, Tottenham, N.

WANTED, by Cornet, Double Bass and Drummer, separate or together; Disengaged through closing of West-End Theatre; London preferred. Apply, 89, Camden-street, N.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by reliable Clarionettist, through reducing Orchestra; excellent refs.; any business. Can commence at once. H. C. GARNER, Hippodrome, Greenock, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly experienced Clarionet Player, any business; could join at once; first-class references. Box 5,147, "The Era."

WANTED, by BB Flat Bass Player, late Cornettist, age 22, eight years' experience with Royal Field Artillery Volunteers, would play in return for work or enlist in good Regimental Band; highest refs. J. E. PARKER, 20, Wellington-street, Redditch.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contra Bass. Conductors wanting a thoroughly experienced, steady, reliable man, please apply. Box 5,141, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Bass Player, up in all branches of the business; can join at once; would tour; good. FARQUHAR, Basso, Hippo., Kirkcaldy.

WANTED, Engagement, by Trombonist, good and reliable performer; excellent refs.
H. S. TAYLOR, 12, Portobello-road, Bayswater, W.

WANTED, Engagement, permanency, First Horn; six years' experience in Orchestral Business; commence at once. Write, FRENCH HORN, 86, Richmond-road, Dalston, London, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by a thoroughly experienced First Horn; highest references; permanent or Pantomime. E. CUCCHI, 28, St. Paul's-road, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by 'Cellist; good refs.
Address, R. SORTIN,
54, Torrens-buildings, City-road, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Viola, Double Second Clar., Military Band. Dis. Nov. 14.
F. DAY, 105, Hydethorpe-road, Balham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by well-known Oboist. Refs., &c., Henri Gros, Esq., 1, Durham-house, Strand. DAVIES, 7, Craven Park-road, Harlesden, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Flautist, experienced, good refs.; Disengaged Dec. 20. Box 5,134, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Flute and Piccolo, Disengaged 16th; good refs.
HILLIER, c/o Dickson, 3, Dickson-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagement, by reliable Flute and Piccolo; experienced in all Lines; would Deputise. THOMAS CLEMENTS, 93, Goldsmith-road, Leyton, Essex.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist, Solo, good Accompanist, First-class Sight-reader, or Ladies' Orchestra, or few hours weekly; experienced. Also Banjo. Box 5,140, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Accompanist, for Practice or Concert Work, &c; good Sight-reader and Transposer. Address, Box 5,135, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer, own Tymp. and all Effects; used to all Business; good refs. J. E. CLEGG, 58, Greek-street, Soho-square. London only.

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums; own Tymps., Glockenspiel, E flat Tubular Bells. NEVILL, 163, St. Leonard's-road, Windsor.

WANTED, Engagement, experienced Tympanist, Double Drums, and Effects, own Tymps, Glockenspiel. SLATTER, 19, Station-road, Hastings.

WANTED, Engagement, by Amy Vetta, Double Drummer; thoroughly experienced. Salary 30s. weekly. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Algernon Clarke's Orchestras and Ladies' Bands, Exhibitions, Concerts, Dinners, Dances. Uniforms and Music for Sale or Hire. 28, Lonsdale-road, Barnes. Telephone 109 Putney.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton. Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagements, Red Bohemian Ladies' Band, any number. Terms, &c., MADAME OLIVER, Ashmoor, Leigh-on-Sea.

WANTED, Known, Ladies' String Quartette, brilliant Soloist, good Vocalist, just finished four months' Engagement; pretty costumes; Hotels, Clubs. 12, West Hill-road, Wandsworth.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Hengler's, Glasgow, First-class Specialities and Comic Acts, Nov. 28, onwards.
Apply,
GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
Gilbert's Palace, Exeter.

WANTED, Acrobats, Three-bar, Wire, Aerial, and all Latest Novelties (Artists doing Double Acts preferred, for Easter Monday, April 12, Whit Monday, May 31, and August Bank Holiday. Send sample lithos. (if any) and lowest terms to WILDERS, Agents, Gt. Francis-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, Easter Week, and Whit, Sensational High and Ground Artists. I can fix you. Lithos., memos., full bookings, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Tumbler and Top Mounter. Full particulars, LEOPOLD JAMES, 43, Chingford-road, Walthamstow, Essex. Edgar Marshall write.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Circus Proprietors, Hippodrome Managers, and Agents to Know that The Royal Ohmys, favourite riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, the great acrobatic bare-back riders on one, two, and three horses, at Liberty Christmas. Just concluded seven months' engagement with Circus (Bech Olsen) in Denmark and Sweden, re-engaged to return for eight months next summer. The Royal Ohmys, favourite riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, arrive in England to-day (Saturday), Nov. 14, and open at Gilbert's Grand Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth, Monday, Nov. 16. Second engagement in twelve months. At Liberty Christmas with six good acts and three or five horses. For particulars and list of acts, address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Gilbert's Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, the late Buffalo Bill's Rough Rider, who presents his thoroughbred Mare in her Novelty Act, Racing Tricks. Apply, Maerdy, Glam., South Wales.

WANTED, Known, Miss Hodgini, Equestrienne, Horse and Funny Joe, Clown and Rider, at Liberty. 61 Cooksey-road, Small Heath, Birmingham.

WANTED, by good Comedy Gymnast, would join for Knockabout Bar Show or Rings; own apparatus if wanted. Communicate, Box 5,145, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Agnes Beckwith, Premier Lady Swimmer of the World, with Original Human Fish, Ethel and Maud. Dis. Nov. 30. Exhibition, Drill Hall, Plymouth.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 45B, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Mr. W. Reginald Dainty, now Booking Shows, Fêtes, Galas for his Sensational Parachute Descents. Coms., South Side, Mansfield Woodhouse, Notts.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, these Concerts ceased Oct. 31, 1908. Artists please note, and cancel dates
WM. BIGGAM, Sec., 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. MASCARD, Manager.

KING'S, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Big Star Attractions. Nothing too Big.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Novelties, and Specialities, Nov. 23, onwards. Hall small, so no fancy prices. Particulars, lowest terms, LOUDEN, Hippodrome, Airdrie, N.B.

WANTED, Star Variety Artists, Big Specialities, Novelties, immediate and future dates.
Full list of Bookings, Lowest Terms,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9261.

WANTED, Monday, Nov. 23, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Nov. 30 and onwards; Hall small, so terms must be in proportion. Apply to A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists (nothing too big), for Monday next and onwards, Harrogate, York, and Scarborough. Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK. Silence a polite negative.

THEATRE ROYAL, SHREWSBURY.
WANTED, for Nov. 30, Variety Artists. Nothing too Big.
Com., W. YATES GREGORY, Lessee and Director.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Acts with Drawing Powers (Nothing too Big), Nov. 16, onwards. CLAGGERS, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Gaiety, Glasgow, Artists in all Lines, also Pantomimes
and Musical Comedies.
Share or Certainty.
HARRY BOWERMAN,
General-Manager.

WANTED, for immediate and future dates, Artists of every description.
Those of exceptional merit can have a guarantee of forty weeks out of fifty-two.
HARRY BURNS'S Agency,
Head Office, Hartlepool.
Wires, "Chosen, Hartlepool."
'Phones, 231 and 231A Hartlepool.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns (Lady and Gent.), doing Singles, Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11. Single turns also the latter dates. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Variety and Pantomime Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big. All particulars, CAMERON and Co., Variety Agents, All Saints'-chambers, 46, Sydney-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Artists in every Line, big and small. Artists coming North will do well to write me for immediate and later dates.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, Nov. 15 and on. Hall very small. Terms must be low. AUBREY, Victoria Hall, Rhymney, Mon.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S ADVANCED VAUDEVILLE COMPANIES.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, for Macclesfield, Castleford, Doncaster, Barry Dock, Worcester, Bath, Boston, Lincoln, Halifax, Warrington, &c.; all must say whether appeared in any of the mentioned towns before. Comfortable Engagements; sure money; no commission. Communications and lowest Combination Terms to O. MAUS DAYTON, The Dayton Family, Albert Theatre, Brighouse; Monday, Nov. 16, Palace, Blackpool; Monday, Nov. 23, Opera House, Macclesfield; Monday, Nov. 30, Empire, Middlesbro'. Silence a polite negative pro tem. Impossible to answer all. All state permanent address. Members of the V.A.F. only apply.

O. MAUS DAYTON'S ANGLO-CONTINENTAL VARIETY AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists all Lines, for the Continent, also for England. Terms, 5 per cent. on work done and V.A.F. Office copy. Members of the V.A.F. preferred. Send list of bookings, sample of lithos and photos. Do not send your lowest terms. Do not mention your terms at all. If you send your list of Bookings I shall send my Secretary to see your Act, and if your Act is suitable we shall ask you for terms. O. MAUS DAYTON, The Dayton Family, Albert Theatre, Brighouse. Monday, Nov. 16, Palace Variety, Blackpool. Continental representative, Mr. ERNEST MAUS, 30, Schulterblatt a 1. Etg., Hamburg/Altona, Germany.

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines.
Good Acts known to me please
send full list of bookings (including
engagements played throughout 1908)
and actual lowest terms in each instance.
Artists not known to me state when
and where Acts can be seen.
No Acts submitted unless seen and approved.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.
Permanent address, 36, Craster-road,
Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
Week commencing Nov. 16, address,
SMYTHSON, Hippodrome, Wakefield.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Nov. 23, on.
Nothing too Big.
State bookings, terms, &c.
We can place you.
Bookings include every hall of note.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone, 2076 Royal.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Nov. 23, on. 1A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and Future Dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.
Proprietress, Mrs. P. E. FLETCHER.
Gen.-Manager, Mr. TOWYN THOMAS.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. REGINALD FLETCHER.
WANTED, Artists (except Aerial), Nov. 23, onwards. Nov. 16, Call for Pavilion, Ashton-in-Makerfield, all concerned. Pavilion, Northwich: Nancy Renshaw, Rosie Meldon, Jack Uty, Sisters Reilly, Stanley Maye, Florrie Binns, Rowlands and Ford, Bioscope. Rehearsals 1 sharp.
General-Manager, TOWYN THOMAS.

"Want of luck generally means want of pluck."
WANTED, Artists, for immediate Dates, also for 1909, '10, '11, '12.
PACEY'S Agency,
186, Brixton-road, S.W.
Manager, S. C. FRANCIS.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, 1909 Provincial Vacancies, all Lines. Send vacancies, lithos., bills of recent engagements, and lowest terms, ARTHUR WARWICK, Bax-road, Manchester.

CHELTENHAM
NEW PALACE
THEATRE OF VARIETIES.
Architect, Mr. WINSTANLEY, St. Anne's-on-Sea.
A magnificent new building, situated in High-st.

WANTED, Known, Plans have been approved by Magistrates. Due notice of opening date will be given.

EMPIRE, GRANTHAM.
WANTED, Known, this Hall will be closed the weeks of Jan. 11 and Feb. 8. All Contracts cancelled as per Rule 11 Award Contract. Signed, J. A. CAMPBELL.

NEW THEATRE, WATFORD.
WANTED, for the Grand Opening, Dec. 14, 1908,
First-class Variety Talent of every Description.
Good Top-Liners, Sensational Attractions, and any Novelty with Drawing Power.
Artists when quoting terms should bear in mind that the town is small and will not stand fancy prices.
Apply in first instance to
T. M. SYLVESTER, 217, Piccadilly, London, W.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent all Lines, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21, and later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Talent all Lines. Send full list Bookings, perm. address, and absolute lowest. If vacant Monday state house address. Big Numbers with odd weeks write in. Few Doubles doing Singles for small Picture Shows. KEEBLE'S Agency, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

VENTOM SWIFT'S AGENCY,
1, West Tollcross, Edinburgh.
WANTED, First-class Talent, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, on, for Glasgow, Dalkeith, Dundee, Edinburgh. Note.—10%; others save Memos.

WANTED, Big Star Acts,
Nothing too Big.
Artists all Lines state if ever appeared in Castleford or Pontefract and districts.
Thanks to all those who have written; impossible to answer all.
First-class Pantomimes communicate.
All communications, TOM DIACOFF,
Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

DEETRICH'S VAUDEVILLE BUREAU,
31, ISLINGTON, LIVERPOOL,
WANTED, Big Acts for immediate Dates. Latest Bookings, Reano's Great and Only Band, Charles Austin's "Porker, P.C.," Act. Kindly communicate.

NORTHERN COUNTIES AGENCY,
Carrill-grove,
Levenshulme.
WANTED, Star Comedy Acts, free for Manchester. Dec. 14, Jan. 11, 25. Can place Star Numbers having odd weeks after Manchester.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, commencing Dec. 21, for Birmingham and Dundee, First-class Comedy Acts; must be absolutely free from vulgarity. Something able to follow "Motoring." Walton and Lester, Bros. Ethairien. Address, Coliseum, Leeds.

WANTED, for Nov. 23, onward,
Star Acts in all Lines.
Star Acts in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Nov. 23, on, Star and Top of the Bill Acts. I can fix you.
Full Bookings, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Acts all Descriptions. Full list of bookings, with permanent address. La Dor Troupe, Nora Doone, Fred Lyndo, and James Tower communicate. DAN NOBLE'S Agency, Palace, Exeter.

WANTED, good Knockabout Comedy Act, for West Stanley, Durham, Dec. 7. Good break going North. LOTTO, Hippodrome, Yarmouth.

WANTED, Sensational Acts, Dumb Shows, Wild Animal Acts, Anything with Drawing Power, for Portsmouth "Arcadia." LESLIE, "Arcadia," Park-crescent-place, Brighton.

WANTED, for King's Lynn, Dec. 14, Troupe of Acrobats, Knockabout Comedians, Sisters, Acrobatic Dancers, do Single. DICE, 36, Trafalgar road, Camberwell.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, for Dec., Jan., and on, Star Turns,
Comedians,
Serios,
Gymnasts,
Acrobats,
Bar Performers,
and
Any New and Novel Acts,
also Comedy Sketches.
Those not willing to pay usual 10% commission save stamps.
Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Star Turn, Nov. 13.
WILL SMITHSON, Empire, Barnsley.

PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Specialities, Spectacular Shows, Tops and Bottoms, for Dec. and onwards.
State when last in Grimsby, full particulars, and lowest terms, to MANAGER, Palace Theatre, Grimsby.

NEW LEIGH GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.
Grand Opening, Dec. 14, 1908.
WANTED, Star Specialities, all Lines, First-class, Dec. 14, and onwards. Quote absolute lowest terms, and where Act can be seen. Communications, WILLIAM BENSON, Man.-Dir., Hippodrome, Leigh.

WANTED, First-class Specialities in all Lines, Nov. 30 and onwards.
A. E. PICKARD, New Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank.

GILBERT'S PALACE,
GILBERT'S PALACE,
GILBERT'S PALACE,
EXETER.
EXETER.
EXETER.
WANTED, Nov. 23, onwards, big Attractions and Artists of every description.
Must be new to the Town.
Full particulars and lowest terms.
Can be Booked direct.
Apply, GEO. GILBERT,
or Geo. Zalva, General-Manager.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, the Greatest Attractions possible; Nothing too Big. Share or salary. Anything that can follow Dayton Family, Le Diabelo Vonetta, Ella's Lions, &c. Artists all lines. Full particulars, lithos., &c., BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

PAVILION, ABERTILLERY.
PAVILION, ABERTILLERY.
PALACE, EBBW VALE.
PALACE, EBBW VALE.
WANTED, the Greatest Attractions that money can procure.
Apply, with full particulars, to
LEO FRITZ'S Variety Agency,
Cecil House, 41, Charing Cross-road, W.C.
Telephone 982 Gerrard.
Telegrams, "Evelyncia, London."

WANTED, a Big Top, also Artists all Lines, for Nov. 23, 30, for Midlands and North.
I issue Federation Office Copy.
CLIQUOT, 46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.

PALACE THEATRE, READING.
WANTED, for Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

VENTNOR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
ROYAL VICTORIA PIER PAVILION.
WANTED, Known, the Council invite offers from the Proprietors of
Concert Parties,
Concert Parties,
Concert Parties,
Concert Parties,
Concert Parties,
for Bookings on Sharing Terms, at the Pier Pavilion during the Season 1909.
WILLIAM TOZER,
Clerk to the Council.
Town Hall, Ventnor.
Nov. 10, 1908.

WANTED, Refined Entertainment, suitable for an Irish Exhibition, opening London, Dec. 21, and Touring large Provincial Towns, also Small Orchestra. Fullest particulars to MANAGER, Box 5,143, "The Era."

W. DOLAND'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, for the Ten Taxi Girls, and other Troupes),
Young Ladies with Powerful Voices,
Soprano and Contralto. Voice trial, 12 o'clock, Monday, at Chandos Hall, Maiden-lane, W.C.

WANTED, Humorists, Vocalists, and Entertainers of every description, for Concerts and Summer Enterprises. Interviews by appointment only. Particulars to CRANBOURN ENTERTAINMENT Agency, 44, Cranbourn-street, London.

WANTED, immediately. Trial Show. Sketch, Comedian, short, part à la Fred Kaye. Call Monday, 12, 4, Chester-house, Upper Marylebone-street, Great Portland-street, W.

WANTED, immediately, good Baritone, used to Picture Show, Illustrated Songs, own Slides preferred. Répertoire, refs., absolutely lowest terms, &c., MANAGER, The Gordon Picture Co., Victoria Hall, Glossop.

WANTED, Smart Juggler, for Good Pantomime, Wallys, Wallua, Halma, wire address; also Artists New to Greenock, Dec. 7. DAN MAXFORD, Hippodrome, Hamilton.

WANTED, Young Man (22), height 5ft. 9in., to join Sketch, straight part; first-class appearance. Only first-class offers entertained. FREDERICK, Hippodrome, Burnley.

WANTED, Seven Smart Boys, with good Voices, height about 5ft., age over 14; also Tenor, Baritone, and Bass Vocalists, for Scena (Music Halls), Booked London and Tour.
Apply, with lowest terms,
JOHN CALLAN, 9, Gower-place, London, W.C.

WANTED, small Coloured Boy, between twelve and fourteen years of age, must dance well, a good home, and long engagement for a suitable boy. Full particulars to HARRY STELLING, Apollo Theatre, Vienna, Austria.

WANTED, immediately, smart, respectable Coloured Boy, to assist Conjurer; long engagement to suitable boy. State age, height, salary required. Box 5,152, "The Era."

WANTED, two Lady Trick Cyclists, to work in combination with a new Motor Act. Apply, G. ALEXANDRA TROUPE, Grand Music Hall, Sheffield.

WANTED, Youth, to play Bicycle Polo. All particulars to Box 5,151, "The Era."

WANTED, a Boy Apprentice, age 13 or 14, who has a slight knowledge of Tumbling, for well-known Troupe; Professional's son preferred. Apply, 193, Brixton-hill, London.

WANTED, for Tour, reliable Modern Bioscope Operator, with Fireproof Machine and Stock Films. One who can describe preferred. Terms, refs., MICHEL, 15, North-side, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Expert Operator, Electrician, both current, for Electrical Dance Act. Panto. season. Address, MAUDE MURRAY, 23, Mall-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, First-class Bioscope Operator, Open Monday.
Address, WILL ONDA, Temperance Hall, Preston.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Mysterious Lilith, the great Aerial Mystery, also Lilian Warren's Vocal Pictures, at Liberty Nov. 23. Proprietors and Managers requiring a Sensational Draw should secure these two distinct Acts. All coms. to LILIAN WARREN, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Miss Rosaline Thorne, Contralto and Descriptive Vocalist. Illustrated Songs, Big Répertoire. 32, North-side, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, Jean Macduff, the Premier Lady Lauder; Peggy Lyndon, Dainty Musical Act. Wire, MELVILLE, Rathbone Gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, by Miss Alice Oakley, Comedienne, Monday next, 16th; also 30th, Dec. 7, 14. Wire, 9, Croft-road, Blyth.

WANTED, 16th and 23rd, by Marie Colmore, the young rising Star Comedienne. Wire Sat., Albert Hall, Jarrow; after to P. A., 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, by Connie Mascot, the Comedienne with a Voice, Monday and 23rd. Wire, Empire, Dublin. Perm. add., 3, New-square, Cambridge.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Mawdley beg to thank Charles Deetrich for immediate work after asking bookings. Next week, Hippodrome, Belfast. All communications, please, DEETRICH'S Vaudeville Bureau, 31, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Matthews, (the one-man Drama), Mimic, Impersonator, Scotch or Irish, comic, take any part in Sketches, Dramas; open for Engagements any time, Variety or Dramatic; known as the Human Phonograph. Terms, address, Post Office, Thurles, Ireland.

WANTED, Nov. 16, 23, 30, Babs Lloyd, Star Artists, Always Successful; and Nellie Vance, Comedy Artist and Dancer. Wire, Palace, Derby; after Saturday, B., 172, Wilton-road, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey, Nov. 23, also Panto.
Wire or write, Hippo., Margate.

WANTED, Monday, by Percy Maye, between Hastings and Scarborough. Wire, Hippo., Hastings; after Saturday, 29, Tenison-street, York-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Will Bell, Irish Entertainer and Eccentric Dancer, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, King's Theatre, Gateshead.

WANTED, Dec. 14, 28, Jan. 11, onward, Rodin, Eccentric Knockabout and Acrobatic Cycle Act, also Comedy Juggling Speciality, own Company, Cirencester. Wanted, two Refined Turns. Address, G.P.O., Cirencester.

WANTED, Known, Goliath, the Human Enigma. Undisputed, the Leading Athletic Act now Touring. Introducing the Greatest Motor Sensation of the Present Century. Vac. Dec., Panto., on. Coms., 41, Brunswick-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese Conjurer, Nov. 23 and 30; D.C. Lithos and Electrical Effects. This, Starring, Gaiety, Clydebank; next, Hippo., Airdrie.

WANTED, by Rozel, Sensational Speciality Act, through postponements, Nov. 16, 23, and 30. Address, 119, St. Domingo-vale, Liverpool.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, 21, the Great Kyoto, Japanese Sensational, Mysterious, and Humorous Act, Contortionist, Juggler, Conjurer; and Clever Pug Dog; also Miss May Geraldine, a refined Comedienne and Dancer. Monday, Empress Palace, Morley, Leeds.

Novelty, Novelty, Novelty.
WANTED, Known, The Two Le Bruns, Unique Vocal and Juggling Speciality, Edgar (Equilibrist) and Edie (the great and only child Juggler and Vocal Gem), vacant Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7. Address, Opera House, Workington.

WANTED, Early Bookings, Liston and Lumley's Duos, Songs, Mimicry (twenty to sixty minutes), Concerts, Halls. Can Book Tours for Concert and Fit-up Companies. Coms., P. O., Bishop Auckland.

WANTED, Monday next, Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Impersonator. Wire one or both, 35, Rumford-street, C. on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Nov. 23, a Funny Dutch Comedy Act, away from all others; Masters of Dutch Dialect. Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, by the Bros. Webb, Nov. 23.
Address, Palace, Carlisle.

WANTED, Nov. 23, 30, S. Wales preferred, by Chant and Chant, the original bright vocal comedy act. Coms, 87, Wollaton-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, Monday next, and 23rd, Alex and Jolly, Smart Clever Comedy Three-bar Act. Wire 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, Dec. 7 and 14, by Folay and Francis, Comedians. This, City Var., Leeds; next, Drill Hall, Clay Cross. Direct, or DALTON'S Agency.

WANTED, by Wright and Elton, Nov. 16, 23, on. Wire for a First-class Comedy, Dancing, and Tumbling Speciality, to 83, Lenthall-road, Dalston, London.

WANTED, Monday next, Nov. 16, by Stanley's Urchins." Wire offer to STANLEY, 18, Ackers-street, Manchester.

WANTED Known, Wanted, Known,
STAFFO,
STAFFO,
The Comedy Talking Juggling Butcher Boy.
The Comedy Talking Juggling Butcher Boy.
A Great Novelty Act.
A Great Novelty Act.
A Great Novelty Act.
Juggle and Patter, Original. Juggle and Patter.
Vacant Nov. 16, 23, and 30 only.
Wire, 10, East-view, Hanley, till Monday.
Perm. add.,
71, Battersea-rise, London, S.W.

WANTED Monday next, by Avrignys, great Jap. Juggling Number, free for Pantomime. Middlesex Music Hall, 9.25. Address, C/o "Era."

WANTED, Nov. 23, Dec. 7, 14, 21, by Harl, the Juggling Expert. Always Something New on view. Next, Empire, Douglas.

WANTED, immediate dates, by Stylo, Wonderful Hoop Juggling Effects; and Beatrice Bonnie, Artistic Comedienne. Address, 25, Clifford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, also Panto., by Dennis and Dene (Joe and Kitty), the Popular Comedy Entertainers. Always successful. Wire, 66, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester. Wire.

WTNTED, Mon. 16, by The Hispanas, in their beautiful Musical Act. This week, return date, Bottom of Bill, Hippo., Hyde. Perm. address, 10, Glebe-road, Middleton, near Manchester.

WANTED, Nov. 16, and further on, the Three Hodginis, Breakway Ladder Act. Wire to THREE HODGINIS, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, 16th, and 23rd, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe (5). Best top of bill extant. Wire till Sat., Albert Hall, Jarrow; after, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, Ringling Trio, Acrobatic Comedy, on Stilts, &c., Liberty Monday. Wire, Pier Pavilion, Southport; after Saturday, 8, Chaucer-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, that the Three Sisters Urma, Premier Triple Trapeze Artists, just returned from the United States, after 15 months' Successful Tour with the Orpheum Circuit, and Barnum and Bailey Circus, are at Liberty Nov. 16, 23, 30, and Dec. 7, prior to recommencing the Stoll Circuit.
Perm. add.,
38, Hyde Park-road, Leeds.

WANTED, Nov. 16, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Theatre, Grantham.

WANTED, Nov. 23 and 30, Swift Duo, Lady and Gentleman, Funny Novelty Cycle Act. Mon. next, Theatre Royal, Bury St. Edmunds. Wire.

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WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, the greatest and most up-to-date Trampolin performance now before the Public is given by the
PEPS
PEPS
(late Granadas).

We give a performance, and play the characters in comedy and straight attire, doing wonderful tricks and double somersaults that would baffle most of the best performers of to-day to do the same in silks. Own original Act and Scenery. Agent wanted that can book a good Act, that can make its mark on any Programme and can please any class of audience. The money we want is only a little of our worth. Special Scene Act for Pantomime, and a Novelty Act for Palace Scene. Manager, EDWARD DILLON (organiser and trainer of the Flying Dillons), 64, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, Monday next, by Gulliver, First-class Ventriloquist, big hit this week, Vic. Theatre, West Stanley, Durham. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Munroe's Black and White Comedy Team,
Vacant Dec. 7, 14, 21, 1908.
Address,
Nov. 16, Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Nov. 16, 23, onwards,
"DICK TURPIN'S RIDE TO YORK,"
Four Horses,
Ten Characters.
Direct or through V.A.F.
GINNETT,
59, Nichols-square,
Hackney-road, London.

WANTED, Nov. 23, for "Uncle Obadiah," Top Line Comedy Act, six Artists, between Hip., Stoke, and Hip., Glasgow. Wire, DIXTON, Palace, Derby; next week, Hippodrome, Stoke.

WANTED, Nov. 23 and Dec. 7, by Tom Kelso and Co., 15 minutes' Screaming Absurdity, "The Silly Servant." Specially engaged Widow Twankey, Nottingham. This, Hippo., Oldham; next, Hippo., Wigan.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Lion Show, best and most elegant in the Profession, Vacant Dec. 7, 14, 28, between Lowestoft and Grimsby.
Com., week, Nov. 16, Palace, Boston, Lincs.

WANTED, Nov. 16, 23, 30, Le Clair's Electric Picture Gallery, with Troupe of Dogs. LE CLAIR, 9, Rosoman-st., Clerkenwell, London, E.C.

WANTED, 23rd, 30th, Percy Victor's Dog Minstrels, the drawing card; Eddie Clay, the laughing hit. Next, Palace, Long Eaton.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, Vacant Nov. 16 and 23. Wire Saturday, Prince of Wales' Theatre, Nuneaton. After, see Cards.

WANTED, by Irma Orbasany's Cockatoo Pantomime, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, and onwards. A Refreshing Novelty; quite new for England. Palace Theatre, Halifax. Perm., 9, Alma-rd., Sheerness.

WANTED, Known, two Young Men, good Hand-to-Hand Balancers, wish to join Troupe or Comedy Act. Address, THOMAS MILSON, 36, Kirkpatrick-street, Bridgeton, Glasgow.

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WANTED, Known, British Bioscope Co. can give Up-to-date Shows; no fancy prices. Write or wire, 25, Valmar-rd., Camberwell, London.

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This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees,
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The Public put Pennies in the Slots,
but
I take Sovereigns from the Cash Boxes.

The above was the recent remark of an operator of
"The Magical Mills Machines."
"The Marvellous Mills Machines."
"The Money-making Mills Machines."
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that I have
arranged with Mr. Fred Ginnett about his
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for
"Haunted Castles,"
and have acquired the Licence and Sole Right
of Building
these Money-making
Amusement Devices.
Prospective Buyers are advised to write in early, as the demand is sure to be large.
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and users of Unlicensed Castles
will be severely dealt with.
P. COLLINS,
Gondola Works,
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Also Double Tube Shooting Gallery Living Waggon, Rifles, Fittings, &c., complete.

Large Yard, near centre of Dublin, for sale, nearly 2 acres, containing one 2-storey iron furniture storing shed (built by Mains, of Glasgow, a couple of years ago), 150ft. by 25ft. by 25ft. high at centre. One Wood and Stone Paint Shop, 70ft. by 20ft.; one Furniture Stores (2-storey), 50ft. by 40ft., lease 99 years, rent £48 per annum; four 6-roomed Houses, situated Chelmsford-road, let at £38 per year, lease rent; 2 6-roomed Houses, situated Beechwood-avenue, let at £38 per year, lease rent; Oxford Lodge, Oxford-road, Ranelagh, Dublin; vacant, let at £36 per year, head rent £3 per year, lease 99 years.
Reason for selling the above,
the eldest son of
the late Wm. Toft coming of age,
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part of the estate has to be realised.
Applications in reference to the above address,
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ANDREW'S HALL.
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Opens Christmas Eve.
FOUR WEEKS CERTAIN.
Absolutely the finest position in the town.
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ONLY FEW SPACES AVAILABLE.
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Spaces can now be arranged; Rental or Sharing terms, for Novel Riding Devices, and Attractions of a Modern Kind;
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Thickly Populated Neighbourhood.
All Trams (Electric) Pass the Door.
The First Show of its Kind ever Held in Bath.
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Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

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Entire Production, Magnificent, Armour, with L'Entente Cordiale Ballet, as produced at the Alhambra, London.
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For Scale of Charges see Leader Page.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.

Weekly Times and Echo, Jan. 19:—"The Era" Annual for 1908 has just come out, and is as full of matter relating to the theatrical world as its many predecessors. In addition to the interesting facts, which form a unique *vade mecum*, there are several entertaining stories by well-known members of the profession, including Messrs. Lionel Brough, Arthur Collins, Richard Green, Arthur Williams, Sydney Valentine, Lennox Pawle, and very many others. The obituary of the year is illustrated by thirty-two portraits.

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The Gothams, The Craggs, Rosa Loader, Kisbey, Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Radie Furman, Ralph and Nellie Howard, Adey Spencer, Bioscope, Fisher White's Co. in "A Royal Heart."

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Three Sisters Lee, R. H. Douglass, Millie Payne, Witty Watty Walton, Elton Black, George Young, Bioscope, "That Brute Simmons," Warsaw Bros.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Walter Melville's Co. in "A Girl's Cross Roads."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Bransby Williams, Madge Crichton, Arthur Schofield, Ida Kathrina, Joe Almasio, Ted and May Hopkins, John Macaulay, Bioscope, Dutch Daly, Gertie Gitana.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
Machnow, Marjorie Lawrence, Victor Newman, Eight of Hearts, Rhoda Paul, Bi Bo Bi, Tom E. Conover, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Hermann Melot.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Eugene Stratton, Jeannie Mackay, Lyric Quartette, Percy Honri, Ray Wallace, Hayes and Wynne, Fred Keeton, Maud Vera, Bioscope, "The Magic Carpet."

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Miss Evie Greene, Arthur Kenny, Bros. Horne, Howard and Harris, Jack Pleasants, Rohda Bros., Thora, Florence, Bioscope, George Gilbey.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Loie Fuller's "Ballet of Light," Three Delaires, Ruth Lytton, Bros. Egbert, Madge Temple, The Cumberlands, Tom Parker, Corcoran Bros., Bioscope, George Bastow.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE, STRATFORD.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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PALACE, LEICESTER.
Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—
Marie Lloyd, Dacey and Lewis, Lily Langtry, Norman and Leonard Trio, Henry Coutts and Co., Victor Travers, Bennie Barrow, Bioscope, Chas. Vincent.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.
Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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Rehearsal at 3 for:—
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EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
Lil Hawthorne, Nellie Wallace, Fred Wilkinson, Ross and Lewis, Dumond Trio, Alf. Chester, Chronomegaphone, Coverdale, Dolly Denton, Bioscope, "Makers of History."

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Whit Cunliffe, Les Voces, Daisy James, The Maples, Herbert Shelley, Lukushimas, Frank Seeley, Tennyson and Wallis, Bioscope, Laurie and Beatty.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Laurence Irving, Mabel Hackney and Co. in "009 West." Elsie Roby, Bert Harrow, James's Strolling Players, Reichen's Dogs, Rich and Rich, Three Cape Girls, J. P. Ling, Bioscope, Callahan and St. George.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.
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George Formby, Little Keeno, Johnson and Bert, May Edouin, Albert Christian, Kate Cohen, Bioscope, Queenie Leighton.

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Rehearsal at 12 for:—
Harry Quinningborough, Vera Feare, Harry Lewis, Bioscope, &c.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.
Rehearsal at 1 for:—
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Rehearsal at 2 for:—
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EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Rehearsal at 2 for:—
Wilkie Bard's Co., Leo Fields, The Clarkes, Baker and De Sales, Hartley Wonders, Maggie Walsh, Pictures, Lilian Dundas and Co.

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(Jas. Brachman).
Sung by Miss Helen Trix.

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Sung by Dan Crawley.

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(Wilmott and Darewski),
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(Percy Edgar and H. E. Pether),
Sung by Miss Ethel Hayden.

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(F. Leo).
Sung by Wilkie Bard.

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Code Word, "FECONDITE."

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Code Word, "FEU."

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Code Word, "FILIGRANE."

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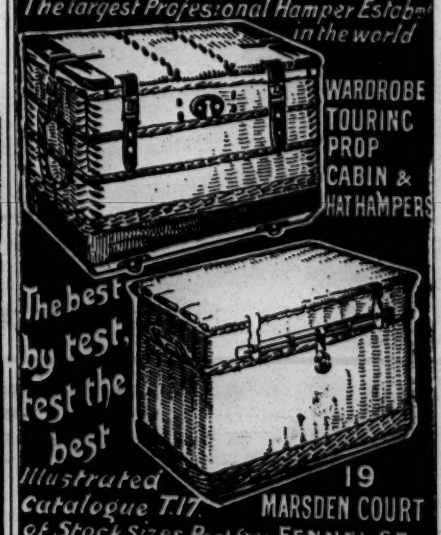

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MR. HERBERT MORGAN, Heavy Lead, in Mr. W. Melville's latest success, "The Beggar Girl's Wedding." P. T., Bradford.

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MR. ARTHUR B. MURRAY, Comedy, Character. Disengaged. 73, Mysore-road, Lavender-hill, S.W.

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MR. GEORGE TAWDE, Charlie Gayfly, "When It Was Dark." Theatre Royal, Leeds.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

[*Provincial correspondents are requested to forward with their next week's reports a full list of the theatres and music-halls in their respective towns; also the names of the present lessees and managers, for insertion in "The Era" Annual, 1909.*]

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*A Royal Divorce* is the play this week. Mr. Keith Fraser gives a skilful conception of the Emperor Napoleon; and Mr. Percy H. Vernon is successful as Talleyrand. Miss Margaret Watson is a sympathetic and dignified Josephine; Marie Louise is well played by Miss Winnie Tempest; Mr. Stanley Harrison shows conspicuous skill as the Marquis Beaumont, as do also Mr. Walter T. Clifford and Mr. Herbert S. Standing in the parts of General Augureau and Marshal Moreau. The play is finely staged.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. Leoni Clarke and his menagerie of cats, monkeys, and rabbits do wonders this week; Mr. Hal Forde, comedian, is encored again and again; Miss Marie Collins is heartily welcomed; Mr. Josh Dixon shows great humour and agility as a comedian; Little Frankie, the Highland laddie, is rapturously applauded; and among the other distinctive turns should be mentioned those of Miss Jenny and Mr. Will Fordyce, duettists and dancers, and Mr. Charles Rowen, a smart comedian. The Mezzettis show themselves masters of the art of blending comedy with smart acrobaticism.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. G. B. Lee.—The programme this week is of distinctive merit. Among the best of the turns are those of Mr. Alf. Walker, an excellent comedian; the Handleys, superior comedians; the Real Mackays, exceptionally graceful juvenile dancers and singers; and Mr. Alexander Smith, a first-class baritone vocalist, who also acts as soloist to the illustrated song-pictures.

Empire Music Hall. — Managers, Messrs. K. Calder and J. Montague.—Large audiences are the rule in this popular house. Mr. Jack Marson, who excels both as a vocalist and a raconteur, is the principal turn, and among the exceedingly capable artists who support him are Miss Marie Rose, vocalist and dancer; Mr. James Montague, entertainer and conjurer; Mr. Arthur Bright, topical vocalist; and Mr. Archie Murray, coon comedian.

ABERTILLERY.—Metropole Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*The Way of the World* is being played to good houses by Messrs. Herbert Skardon and Sherwood Martin's talented company. Mr. Skardon gives an excellent impersonation of Cecil Hardy, and gains applause for his powerful acting; Miss Sydney Crowe effectively portrays the part of Lady Adela Hardy, and wins high appreciation. The minor parts are in capable hands, and good comedy is produced. The scenery and effects assist to make the production a great success.

Pavilion.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—The chief feature of this week's bill is *A Traitor Prince*, by Montague Beaudyn's powerful company, each artist of which shows great dramatic powers. The mounting is especially good. The Della Sisters are an excellent pair of vocalists; and the Katos in the *Komical Kidgets*, delight the house; the Three Krakes provide much amusement in their absurdity, *Electric Tramcar Conductor;* Miss Jessie Wilton is a pleasing comedienne, and interesting films are shown on the Bioscope.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company in *The Conscience of a Judge* was well received here on Monday. Mr. Douglas C. Phelps is excellent in the part of Judge Granstone; Mr. A. Lubinoff acts with ability as Sir Edwin Mervin; Mr. Martin Pedler gives a clever study of Cecil Bentley; and Mr. Norton Kelly as Geoffrey Granstone is all that can be desired; Mr. Dalton Bosher as John Summers and Mr. Frank Eden as Horatio Winters are responsible for much hilarity in the comedy parts, being ably assisted by Miss Bessie Frank as Mary Wilson. Miss Eva Moss acts with sympathetic charm as Jessica Draycott; Miss Mabel Coleman fills the difficult rôle of Ethel Vaughan to advantage; and Miss Elsie Isaacs proves herself a capable artist as Little Kitty.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—Baron Harriss' company is on a return visit with *The Prince of Pilsen*. Miss Sophie Harriss is again seen to advantage as the widow, and Mr. Harry Kilburn sustains the rôle of Hans Wagner.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Revill, jun.—The Levy-Cardwell company of comedians and soubrettes is presenting a two-act comedy-burlesque, entitled *A Merry Maid*, here. Miss May Gibson as Peggy O'Hooligan is brimming over with fun, and dances herself into favour; Mr. Vivian Wakeman is most comical as Larry Hooligan; Thady Clancy, Peggy's sweetheart, is a "broth of a boy" in the hands of Mr. Howard Lawrence; and as the "English Johnny," the Hon. Cecil Toft, Mr. Neil Hardy is well cast. The acting of the precocious boy, George Wood, is undoubtedly the prime feature in the piece, and Miss Fanny Adamson is also excellent in the character of Angela.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—Lockhart's elephants, a remarkable performing troupe, do some remarkable acts under the direct control of Capt. J. Taylor, the proprietor; Jack Waller, a good exponent of comedy, mixes music and sentiment with good effect; Hemsley and Ambrose, comedy duo, introduce their original absurdity on the results of motoring; the clever acrobatic skate-dancer, McCann, also secures the ear and eye of the house; under the name of Herr Karoly Czynski will be recognised an artist well known here, as he was formerly the expert drummer of the resident orchestra of the Empire. On his varied instruments—the cymbalom, xylophone, and drum—he is undoubtedly an artist. Cecilia Gold is aptly described as a dainty exponent of burlesque and song; Smith and Johnson, society coloured duo, are favourite nigger performers here; Jack Truman, tenor, sings some favourite ditties; O'Malley and Brown give a comedy sketch, *You're Still a Friend of Mine*, with ability; and the Bioscope shows the vagaries of the Tramp's Daughter.

Picturedrome.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.—New cinematograph pictures for the week include A Chase for a Husband, The Silent Hotel, The Music Teacher, and many other scenes. Perhaps the most vivid and exciting scene enacted in several parts is A Gipsy's Revenge, and A Mexican Tragedy is positively nerve tingling in its apparent reality. A young lady gives a couple of tuneful songs, including the popular "Lily Bell," and is aided by a pretty coloured picture, and a clever and expert juggler entertains the audience. There is a baby-show competition

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprieor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—Topping the bill this week is Captain Roberts, who gives a most extraordinary performance as musician, athlete, and balancer. He has the assistance of Curt and Alexander, two comical acrobatic boys. The Musical Keiths (lady and gentleman) are deservedly applauded for a pleasing act; Miss Cara Magda gives a smart gymnastic exhibition; a laughter-provoking farce, *The Millionaire*, is given by Mr. Johnny Holland and company; Mr. R. C. Clayton's pictures are still a popular feature; other turns are provided by Miss Nellie Walton, the "singing mill girl; Mr. Harry Levaine; and Diamond and Hart, comedians. During the week a "beauty show" for ladies is being run, and substantial prizes are offered by the management.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Miss Maud Western and company are here this week, and on Monday and the following night appeared in *The Prodigal Son*. Jack Fanshaw is played in capital style by Mr. P. Braithwaite, who is ably supported by Mr. W. A. Buxtone as Captain Harry Fanshaw. Mr. John Levey as Bill Burke is responsible for some fine acting; Mr. Edwin Turner appears as the villainous Ralph Marsden, and plays the part with considerable ability; Mr. F. Dudley does full justice to the character of Sir John Fanshaw; as Margaret Marsden Miss Ada Hender is very natural; and Miss Doris Dallimore acts with much feeling as Bill's sister, Nellie. Mr. Carl Vallinder as Larry M'Gehan and Miss Maud Western as Mary keep the house well amused. *A Mother's Salvation* and *Queen's Evidence* are billed for the remainder of the week.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—*The Great Awakening* is being presented here by Miss Maud Hildyard and company. Miss Hildyard in the rôle of the adventuress, Lola Selby, plays with her usual ability and success; Mr. Herbert Robinson depicts the blackguardly Guy Rogan satisfactorily; and Mr. Cecil Gray is responsible for Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton (his son), and acquits himself with credit; Mr. Conrad Franklyn renders good support as Captain Harry Lambert; and Miss Elsie Capel is effective as Molly Merton. Mr. Tracey Barrow is responsible for much humour in his presentation of Billy Brass, and Miss Cissie Podmore scores as Selina Werts.

New Empire Palace.—Proprietors, The Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—The chief items on the programme here are T. E. Finglass, the ideal coon; Edmund Casselli, an expert on the banjo; Viviana and company in a novel dancing scena; and the Martelloni family of acrobats; the Three Pirmans are amusing and clever in a gymnastic act; Mlle. Lucretia in songs and dance is pleasing, and Gravetta and Parr, American novelty artists, and the Palacescope conclude.

BARNSTAPLE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Long Bridge Trustees; Manager, Mr. Harry Ashton.—Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company, with *The Sorrows of Satan*, was the attraction here for three nights this week. As Prince Lucio Mr. Lester invested the part with a strenuousness and diabolical suavity that left nothing to be desired; Mr. Harry T. Wood made a vigorous and successful Geoffrey Tempest; Mr. Horace Buckley provided comedy as Morris; Mr. Chris. Felton and Mr. Richard Bosco gave due effect to the respective parts of Lord Lynton and Amiel. Miss Dorothy Riddell created an excellent impression with her dignified and forceful acting as Mavis Clare; and Senorita Bianca Fernandez as Lady Sybil provided an admirable representation of the wayward wife. *The Bank of England* and *A Life for a Life* were presented by the same company.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — Royalty Theatre and Opera House.—Lessee, and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone. —Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart's company, in *Sherlock Holmes*, is here again. In the title-rôle Mr. Stewart gives a most interesting performance; and Mr. Arthur Shelton as Dr. Watson is conspicuously successful. Mr. Mark D. Draper as James Larabee and Mr. Douglas Murray as Sydney Prince are effective and Miss Betty Fairfax is successful as Alice Faulkner.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's No. 1 company, in *The Beloved Vagabond*, is here. Mr. Arthur Royston makes a distinguished Paragot and Miss Nita Faydon plays Blanquette with exceptional ability. Miss Kathleen Harrington is an artistic Joanna Rushworth and Mr. Ramsey Macbeth is a capital Asticot. The Comte de Verneuil has a capable exponent in Mr. Warburton Gamble.

Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar Laban.—At the top of the bill here is a comedy act entitled *Music Mad*, by the Leslie Brothers, in which they cause roars of laughter. Harrigan and Holt are capital comedians; Baby Vi Davies is a very popular turn; Stirling and Love give a pleasing musical sketch; Arthur Woodville, comedian and dancer, has a capital reception; and Vernon's Bioscope is quite a success.

New Hippodrome.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. C. Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—Pictures of a popular character are to be seen here.

BARRY DOCK. — Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Messrs. F. Marriott Watson and Sanderson Moffat have presented the musical drama *What a Woman Did*, which was very well received by a crowded house. Chief honours go to Miss Florence E. Florence, whose acting as Elise de L'Orme was an exposition of dramatic skill and elocution; Mr. Sanderson Moffat as Conrad was really excellent; the same remark applies to Mr. Marriott Watson as Raffaele Durnc, ably assisted in his villainous schemes by Mr. Reg. Kloof as Black Pitou; as Fritz Mr. C. Elton Morgan scored; Mr. Owen Edwin as Peter Pippin was very eccentric; Miss Phyllis Hamilton acted the part of La Papillon admirably; Mrs. Violet Sheridan as Bella was loudly applauded, her singing and dancing being decidedly good; Miss Nora Waylett as Nanette was highly diverting; the Clancy Girls deserve notice, their dancing especially being good. The production is well staged.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*The Hypocrites*, with its strong moral lesson, is arousing no little stir amongst local playgoers here this week. Mr. Chas. Frohman's company, under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey, present the play with excellent results. Mr. A. B. Imeson scores a legitimate success as the Rev. Edgar Linnell; Mr. Ernest H. Ruston is well cast as Mr. Wilmore; Mr. F. G. Thurstans has done nothing better than the Rev. E. Daubeney; and Mr. Charles Tyrel as Sir John Plagenet has an easy task for so good an actor. Mr. Frederick Morland enacts Mr. Viveash with capital emphasis and the Lennard Wilmore of Mr. John Dennys has much to commend it. First honours amongst the ladies is deservedly won by Miss Laura Graves as Mrs. Wilmore; Miss Muriel Pope as the erring, but more sinned against, Rachel Neve acts with becoming grace; and a pleasing Helen Plagenet is found in Miss Muriel Mason. Miss Sybil Brooke as the ever-suspicious Mrs. Blaney is very amusing. Others in the cast who must be accorded praise are Mr. Fred Lake (Dr. Blaney), Miss Madge Severn (Mrs. Linnell), and Miss Eva Turnour (Patty).

Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—A surprisingly clever duo are the Davenports, who, as magicians and illusionists, present a remarkable interlude here this week. John Humphries, the well-known comedian, appears in a "farcette," entitled *Ancient Britons*, which causes many a laugh; Lily Eyton proves herself to be a comedienne in a couple of pretty ditties; the Four Cecilians meet with quite an ovation in their musical act; Walter Clyde, tenor vocalist, comes in for a good reception; Jimson's dogs are well trained, and cause endless amusement; Sadie Simpson, comedienne and dancer, is on a return visit; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux unfold new and interesting films.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Messrs. Taylor-Platt and Trevor Lowe's company is presenting two of Bernard Shaw's comedies, *You Never Can Tell* and *Arms and the Man*. In the first-named, which is billed for the first part of the week, Mr. Leslie Hamer as Valentine showed real power; Mr. Trevor Lowe gave a clever impersonation of the Waiter; Mr. Edward J. Pearce was an admirable exponent of Fergus Crampton; and Mr. Charles Daly caused much fun as Finch McComas; Miss Katherine Stuart made a dignified Mrs. Clandon, and Miss Calar Earle a vivacious Dolly Clandon. Mr. Donald Calthrop was good as Philip, and grace and distinction marked Miss Gwladys Morris's portrayal of Gloria.

BELFAST. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The annual visit of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company is eagerly anticipated by Belfast playgoers, and a large audience greeted the opening performance on Monday, when *Carmen* was presented. In the title-rôle Miss Doris Woodall achieved a triumph by her delightful impersonation, her acting and singing being worthy of the highest praise; Don José was done full justice to by Mr. Edward Davies, his vocalism being much admired; and the part of Micaela was satisfactorily sustained by Mme. Ina Hill. Mr. Hebden Foster must be congratulated on his fine assumption of the rôle of Escamillo, his capital rendering of the "Toreador" song gaining him a terrific reception. Miss Annie Walker and Miss Christine Ritz were excellent as Frasquita and Mercedes; and Mr. Alex. Richard appeared to advantage as Zuniga. Other rôles were sustained by Messrs. William Rousell, Albert Felton, and Fredk. Clendon. Mr. Walter van Noorden acted as conductor, with his usual efficiency. On Tuesday *Faust* was presented, with Miss Elizabeth Burgess and Mr. Walter Wheatley in the cast; and *Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, The Merry Wives of Windsor, Tannhäuser, The Marriage of Figaro*, and *The Bohemian Girl* are also in the week's bill.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Arthur Roberts and company top the bill here, and provide amusement with the farcical sketch *Till Sunday;* M. Edouard José presents *The Strike*, a dramatic episode, with much success; and a hit has been made by Ross and Grayson, the musical comedy couple, in their "piano playing extraordinary." Excellence in dancing is exhibited by the Brothers Dean; and Mr. Bert Kemble, comedian; Miss Marie Glenn, Scotch vocalist; and the Palace Pictures, are also in the bill.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The star here is Mr. Charles Aldrich, a smart American entertainer, whose humorous character impersonations are very successful; Jan Rudenyi appears to much advantage in *The Power of Music*, his performance on the violin being loudly encored; the Society Quartette please all with their vocalism and smart dancing; and Thorpe and Coe, duologue artists, take honours with their humorous sketch. The Sisters Maudsley are charming duettists and dancers; and the programme also includes Mr. Harry Curwen and Marie Belle, burlesque artists, Mr. Chris Masters, comedian, the Maningos, equilibrists, Rell and Butt, and the Hipposcope.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Lyd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The premier attraction here is furnished by Mr. Charles Fisher's Pocket Opera Company, who present with great success *Il Trovatore*, the vocalism of the members of the company being first class. Will and Alice Vokes gain a good reception for their dancing display; and Miss Nellie Moore, an actress of much merit, exhibits exceptional ability in her character impersonations. As a male impersonator Miss Madge Osmond is worthy of special mention; and Mr. Jack Smiles is a versatile comedian with good songs. The Crown Trio, speciality vocalists, who gain an enthusiastic reception, Miss Lily Rigby, comedienne, and the Bioscope, complete the programme.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The following films have been exhibited:—The Mill Girl, The Spider, When Other Lips, They Would Play Cards, Mystery of a Mountain, &c. Scotch Kriss, a capital ventriloquist, is appearing with success; and Mr. Fred Fosco is a good descriptive vocalist.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The series of pictures this week includes The Castle Ghost, Brigand's Last Exploit, An Attractive Catch, Fountains of Versailles, and Quebec to Niagara. In addition, Mr. Malcolm Mercer, descriptive vocalist, appears with success; and Mr. Will Hughes, the Eton Boy, does well in song and dance.

BIRKENHEAD. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's *A Message from Mars* company, on a welcome return visit, is deservedly doing big business. On the present occasion Mr. Wallace Widdicombe gives a fine rendering of Horace Parker; Mr. William H. Brougham in the title-rôle displays a thorough grasp of the character; Mr. Norman Clark as the Tramp acquits himself with marked ability; Miss Parker is admirably impersonated by Miss Flora Hastings; Miss Rose Helene is well suited as Minnie Temple; Mr. Robert Grey, Mr. Eric Ward, Mr. Eustace French, Miss Peggy E. Yeomen, and Miss Mary Glenbrane accord most valuable assistance, and the piece is liberally staged, the illusionary and electrical effects being excellently managed.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke—Mr. Ernest Shand, the popular comedian, is again scoring heavily here; Miss Ella Retford is a charming and accomplished comedienne, and a universal favourite; Haines and Borthwick, in the sketch *Half a Dollar*, are a prominent success; and the Arthur Bedini Trio of clever pantomimists have made a hit. A really excellent company also includes Miss Millie Howell, a talented vocalist; the Sisters Marion, vocal duettists; Bliss and Bliss, amusing patterers; Miss Kitty Kennedy Allen, comedienne; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr Philip Rodway.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's *The Dairymaids* company has been making merry audiences here. Miss Phyllis Dare, out pantomime favourite of last season, plays Peggy in a style that shows she is making rapid progress in her art, every effort being crowned with success and rapturously applauded; the companion rôle, Winifred, is represented with much charm and distinction by Miss Gladys Ivery; Lady Brudenell is played with fine authority by Miss Edith Blanche; the humours of the comic lovers, Eliza and Joe, derive full effect from the efforts of Miss Lottie Sargent and Mr. Harry Dent; and Messrs. B. Statham Staples, Fred Leslie, jun., Percy Marshall, and Mrs. Rose Edouin Lewis play the other principal rôles with the biggest success imaginable.

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PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal are once more rejoicing their admirers with their annual visit. On Monday, *The Elder Miss Blossom* was seen to conquer again, and on Tuesday, the new play, *The Whirlpool*, was presented. In this, Mrs. Kendal as Constance brought many charms to bear on the audience. There was laughter in her voice, and tears, which were very catching; Mr. Kendal's acting as Elijah was without a single flaw, as might be expected, and gratified his admirers intensely. Mr. Edmund Gurney was a strong card as the eccentric Ephraim; and Mr. Bassett Roe, Mrs. A. B. Tapping, Mr. W. M. Rutherford, and Miss Ethel Dane yielded goodly support. *The House of Clay* was presented on Thursday.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—The delightful pathos of *Two Little Vagabonds* is exercising all its old power to charm and fascinate this week. Hardie and Von Leer's company is excellent all-round. The splendid camaraderie of the titular rôles, Dick and Wally, is acted in spirit and in truth by the Misses Denise Zaleski and Alice Leon; Mr. Richard A. Greene plays the hero in a fine manly fashion as George Thornton; Mr. Arthur E. Melbourne makes a very adequate Captain Darville; Mr. Joseph Brandon is successful as Scarth; Mullins and his confederates, Bunce and "The Coughdrop," are represented in their true colours by Messrs. Benson Kleve, Stanley Field, and Fred Archer; and Miss Florence Dalton, Miss Marion Fawcett, and Miss Marie Pritchard are good in the other prominent rôles.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. Frederick Melville's company has by no means outstayed its welcome during the twelve nights that *Married to the Wrong Man* has been played, on the contrary, business has increased these last few nights appreciably. The play loses nothing on acquaintance, and the company shines as before. Miss Gertrude Boswell continues in her forceful and pathetic portrayal of the heroine; and others include Miss Mary Pemberton, Miss May Davies, Mr. Oswald Cray, Mr. H. Lane Bayliff, Mr. Chas. Vivian, and Mr. Sid Claydon.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Large audiences have applauded the course of Mr. E. H. Knight's production here, *The Lighthouse Robbery*. Miss Hilda Baynton has elicited the warm sympathies of the house by her clever acting of the ward, Rose Prescott; Mr. Henry Herne's natural and fine embodiment of the fisherman, Tom Manly, is applauded with zest; Mr. Percy Beresford extracts every particle of value from the rôle of James Hammond; Mr. William Annesley shows fit capabilities for that of Squire Hammond, otherwise William Farren; Miss Alice Francis has a congenial rôle as Ruth Manly; Miss Ida Millais is very clever as Mrs. Manly; Little Ethel Lovatt acts prettily as Nellie; and the characters of Sam Kidder, David Morris, and the Rev. George Medhurst are rendered capably by Messrs. Sammy Foster, Herbert Lewis, and Chas. Mackay.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—Messrs. Paumier and Howard's latest romantic production, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, is making its mark here, such audiences and such enthusiasm being rare, even for this prosperous home of the drama. The acting of Mr. Alfred Brandon, in the part of Prince Hildred, is full of good points; Mr. Melville Bickford shows great discrimination in his acting of the Prince Michael; Mr. Ernest Cox displays the chivalrous qualities of Prince Olaf to much admiration; Miss Ethel Bracewell acquits herself as the pseudo beggar-maid, really the Princess Monica, in quite the proper spirit and feeling; Miss Gertrude Branscombe, as the beggar-maid herself, Camioli, is all that the character could be; and the others are exceedingly fine.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*A Girl's Cross Roads* is drawing well-pleased audiences here, praise being general for Mr. Walter Melville's excellent company. Miss Hilda Beverley's portrayal of the hapless girl, Barbara, is a study from life, and furnishes a wholesome lesson; Miss Dorothy Hildebrande is prepossessing and sympathetic as Constance; Mr. Edward Chester gives a sound study of the unscrupulous Cuthbert Lumley; Mr. Jack Fortescue bears himself with dignity and spirit as Jack Livingstone; Mr. Chas. Franmore makes an interesting picture of John Meadows; Mr. Fred Withers is at home as Luke Ramsden; Mr. Fred Hodson shows much humour as Toby Turvy; and clever character studies are furnished by Mr. Edward Valentine as Dr. Weston, Miss Nita Langford as Nellie Meadows, and Miss Daisy Meynard as Tilly Vane.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The place of honour here was occupied by Mr. Bransby Williams, whose study of Dickens' characters was of a high order of merit. Gertie Gitana delighted her audience with her clever turn; Witty Watty Walton deputises for Madge Crichton, who was indisposed; Ted and May Hopkins with their Welsh patter and songs were highly appreciated; and Dutch Daly, Ida Kathrena, John Macauley, Arthur Schofield, and Joe Almasio completed the bill.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Fred Ginnett's company in their popular sketch *Dick Turpin's Ride to York* was the principal item here. Witty Watty Walton was, as usual, in the best of spirits, and amused his audience with his quaint songs and patter; F. W. Pursell's company have a bright sketch, *That Brute Simmons*, in which Julian Cross and George Delafore were in the cast; and the Warsaw Bros., musical comedians; George Young, blind musician; the Three Sisters Lee, acrobats and dancers; Millie Payne and Elton Black, comedians; and R. H. Douglas in his monologues were prominent in the bill.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Munsteds's Liliputian Circus, introducing the Colibris Midgets, supply a remarkable entertainment. There are also liliputian ponies, liliputian riders, and clowns. Winfield Blake and Maud Amber do a pleasing turn in *Sowing the Little Smile Seed*, and are applauded, as also are Simms and Simms. Other popular artists appearing here are Mlle. de Rose, baritone vocalist; Harry Vardon, ventriloquist; and the Barrois, clever hand balancers.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Mrs. Lewis Waller is here with her sketch *The Admiral's Lady*, which is much appreciated; the sketch *The Prince of Monte Carlo* is artistically mounted, and the company includes Harry Roxbury, the Melba Twins, the Stella Quartet, Starr and Jerome, Flora Cromer, Ida Rose, and the Zaid Trio.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company is here in *Her Nameless Child*. Mr. J. W. Evelyn is remarkably clever as Anthony Ford, and equal praise is due to Mr. Sidney C. Cranston (Arthur) and Mr. Arthur E. Pringle (Lord Henry Woodville). Mr. Larry Clements is very funny as Tom Rivers, and is effectively assisted by Miss Renie Douglas as Bessie Brooks; Miss Mona Gray is charming as Sibil Woodville, and Miss Pattie Hastings is a delightful Phillis Ford. The scenic effects are admirable.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Mr. Edwin F. Fysher's company is playing *Called Back* here this week. Mr. Charles Lincoln plays Gilbert Vaughan in an acceptable manner; whilst Mr. Harry J. Snelson is seen to advantage in the dual rôle of Archibald Bland and Bertie. Paoli Macari is creditably portrayed by Mr. William Pimm; Miss Gladys Hawthorne gains distinction in the part of Pauline March; and minor parts are in efficient hands.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. T. Sergenson; Lessee and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Miss Helen Roberts, in her Salome dance, tops this week's bill. Other good turns are rendered by Marie Wilson, comedienne and dancer; Godfrey James, the singing collier; Sisters Transfield, very charming instrumentalists; Foy Brothers and company, in a sketch; Sam Redfern, the black philosopher; Steel and Laing, in a comedy act; and Miss Georgette Thierry's company, in a playlet entitled *A Daughter of the Revolution*.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The Dayton Family are contributing a capital turn here this week, their acrobatic feats evoking the most hearty applause; Fred Herbert is an up-to-date vocalist; Dot Moss is a charming comedienne of tender years; Frank Lister scores a great success in an Australian sketch; Charles J. Johnson is a genuine "darkie" who can sing; the Three Rubys are clever contortionists; Dolly Golden is encored for her dancing; Hunter and Maris are comical comedians; Master Ed. Frisby is a popular boy soprano; and Theresa De Silva is also a pleasing vocalist.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Fioni.—Besides the pictures, which are always a special feature here, Patrick Playfair, the marvellous paperographist; and Elsie Claire, a popular ballad vocalist, are included in the programme.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Playgoers in Bolton have this week been afforded a rich treat in the first visit of Mr. George Alexander's excellent company with *The Thief*. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart's masterly acting of the part of Richard Chelford and Miss Mary Congdon's irresistible power as Marise Chelford hold the audience spellbound; Raymond Leyton is played with dignity and seriousness by Mr. Gerald Ames; Isabel Leyton is effectively taken by Miss Mary Dibley; Mr. Alfred Lugg displays ability as Harry Leyton; and the detective, Mr. Protheroe, is well sustained by Mr. Cyril Cattley. The piece is preceded each evening by the one-act play *Too Happy by Half*.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—This week's bill is composed of the following excellent turns: Chanti, in his marvellous quick-change act; Kitty Marion, refined vocal comedienne; Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian; Miss Violet King, pianist, composer, and violinist; Cliff Rocke, vocalist; Cestria, comedy tumbling waiter; Robert Spicer, champion jumper; Miniature Samson, strong boy; the Carney Brothers, in their scena *Brothers*; Harry Tate's No. 1 company in *Motoring*; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—The principal item here is Jake Friedman's powerful company of thirty performers in an artistic Dutch operetta, entitled *Happy Holland*. Other turns are Horace Monto (late of the Scots Fusiliers), in his sketch *Tommy Atkins at Play*; Miss Florence Schuberth, burlesque comedienne; Miss Maggie Rimmer, comedienne; Drum and Major, comedians; Jack Rae, novelty comedy gymnast; Charles Craston, quaint comedian; the Llewellyns, operatic vocalists; and the Empire Bioscope.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Mr. Sydney Carter's New Century Company opened here for a short season on Monday last with all the latest productions in animated pictures. Variety turns are given by Gordon Illingworth, boy comedian, and Maxwell Edwards, baritone. Mr. Arthur Northrop is the manager.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—The sensational drama *The Bellringer*, by Sutton Vane and Arthur Shirley, is being played by the stock company this week. Mr. Albert Sember gives a fine performance of the title-rôle; and good support is accorded by Messrs. Alfred D. Adams, Stanley S. Gordon, Cyril Grier, Tom H. Solly, and Arnold Allen; also Misses Nina Vaughton, Kathleen Magee, and Effie Macintosh.

BOSTON.—PALACE.—Lessees, Messrs. Holloway and Fountain; Business-Manager, Mr. Ernest Cass.—Crowded houses are patronising this week's programme. The chief attraction is the daring performance given by Miss Ella with her newly-imported lions; Gus Mack scores a great hit as an actor-vocalist and comedian; Violet Beatrice is a dainty boy impersonator; Matt Wilkinson, laughter maker, appears in the laughable comedy *The Registry Office*; the manager, Mr. E. Cass, sings "Thora," suggested by Hall Caine's *Prodigal Son*; Mlle. Gabrielle de Bonheur and company appear in their comedy, *On the Flip-Flap*; and Sam Shipley is a smart comedian.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Mr. Milton Bode's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon* opened on Monday to a capital house. Although seen here several times before, this musical comedy went as well as ever. Mr. Rudolph Kloss is a really capital Hang-Chow; Mr. J. W. Hooper a mirth-provoking Mr. Pineapple; and as Mrs. Pineapple Miss Veronica Brady sings and dances excellently. Chief honours must be accorded to Miss Gwennie Harcourt as Fi-Fi; Mr. Allerton Turnour as Chipple-Chop and Mr. Leonard May as High-Lung handle their respective characters cleverly; and Miss Elsie Skillings, who on Monday undertook the part of Soo-Soo at short notice, came through with success.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company scored a veritable success here with *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Emilie Polini's impersonation of the outspoken Diana Massingberd was clever and thoroughly convincing; Miss Gwynneth Galton's Mrs. Cantelupe was an excellent effort; Mr. W. Kingsford Pearce was capital as the pompous, vulgar baronet, Sir Jabez Grinlay; and Mr. Frank Woolfe, as the useless member of society, the Hon. Victor Bretherton, submitted a capable study. *The Bishop's Candlesticks*, a curtain-raiser, proved particularly interesting, and was admirably acted by Mr. Kingsford Pearce as the gentle Bishop and Mr. Woolfe as the irreclaimable convict.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. William Greet's company is here this week with *The Sign of the Cross*, which well maintains its attractive power, the audiences being large and enthusiastic. The play is finely staged. Mr. Cyril Austin gives a vigorous and artistic performance of Marcus Superbus; the servile Tigellinus is ably represented by Mr. Charles Aldred; the fiendish Nero is a well-studied effort by Mr. C. Yorke; Mr. J. Weatherall does well as Licinius, and Stephanus is effectively played by Miss Edith Drayson. As the gentle Mercia Miss Constance Little wins sympathy, and Miss Lily Ward as Berenice, Miss Cissie Carlton as Dacia and Miss Beryl Hamilton as Poppæa are also worthy of notice.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mike S. Whallen is on a return visit here with his budget of humour, which arouses hearty laughter; interest also centres in the local hero, Police-Constable Whiteley (injured for life in an act of bravery), who performs well on a cornet recently presented to him by his sympathetic brother officers; Mendel, the blind pianist, is again winning great applause with his remarkable performance; Gus Garrick is entertaining with his "Music Hall Tit Bits"; a return visit of the New York Nippers (agile dancers) proves acceptable; Spry and Austin are vivacious vaudeville entertainers. A stirring sketch, *Told in a Flat*, is exceedingly well acted by Harry Rogers and company; Dion Wade, as comedian and mimic, submits an acceptable turn; prettily harmonised songs with illustrations by the Three Welsh Girls find favour; Nellie Martell is a pleasing comedienne; and there are fine pictures shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Chas. Lewis, the ventriloquist, introduces a distinct novelty here this week into an entertainment which is decidedly clever; Marion Fletcher, vocalist, has a sweet voice; Mr. Yettmah, a humorous Japanese, performs some remarkable feats in conjuring and sleight-of-hand; as a big drum soloist Dan Merrett is wonderfully expert; in their turn, *From Street to Stage*, Ford and Barras win applause for some very clever dancing, accompanied by their street organ; Nat Clifford is a broadly comic and agile comedian; the Four Kellys give a smart and daring acrobatic performance; Mlle. Leoni de Lausanne (as deputy for Iben Obed, Arabian equilibrist) gives a remarkable performance as a rifle shot; and there is a fine and interesting show in Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

BRIGHOUSE.—ALBERT THEATRE.—Lessees Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Chas. H. Beanland.—A crowded house witnessed a fine bill of fare at this popular theatre on Monday, Le Diabelo Looping the Devil's Wheel being the principal attraction. His daring feats fairly roused the audience. Tom Bassett, Shakespearean comedian, met with a great reception, as also did the Boston Twins; the Mosaics present a skit on the suffragettes; Angelina is a lady juggler of merit; Cookson causes fun with his dummy; Jack Hilton is a lively comedian; the Darntons are loudly encored; Frances Hanlon dances herself into favour. Animated pictures are also an attraction.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is here this week with *The Still Alarm*. Mr. Glenville gives a very fine representation of the hero, Jack Manley, whose sweetheart, Elinor Fordham, has a charming exponent in Miss Beatrice Shirley; Mr. Gerald Kennedy is powerfully effective as the villainous John Bird; Miss Mabel Veriton makes a warm-hearted Mrs. Manley; Mr. Fred Osmond is amusing as the bibulous Doc Wilber; Mr. Tom Beazley as Willie Manley and Miss Hettie Zillwood as Carrie Wilber are admirably suited; and others who merit praise include Mr. Lewis Gordon, Mr. J. Sutton Pateman, and Mr. Ernest Hamilton. Some pleasing vocal numbers are contributed by the Lyric Comedy Four and Miss Zillwood. The play is superbly staged, and is attracting crowded audiences.

ALHAMBRA.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—There is an excellent company here this week. Tom Foy and company achieve distinct success in *The Yorkshire Lad in London*; Conn and Conrad, "the twentieth-century burglars," are very humorous entertainers; the McConnell Trio are capital vocal comedy sketch artists; Onda and Artell are warmly received in their sensational gymnastic and pot-pourri act; Nellie Nora appears in a dainty instrumental act; Beatrice Willey, artistic vocalist, is especially effective in a medley of old flower songs; Eily Adair is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Victor Courtney, "boots at the piano," gives a good turn; Carlotta Levey, comedienne, submits her latest successes admirably; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—A capital programme is sustained here this week. Freddie French and company prove highly amusing in *The Policeman's Ballet*; W. Louis Bradfield, the popular musical comedy star, wins enthusiastic applause for his finely-rendered songs; Max Waldon, female impersonator and dancer, gives a turn which is warmly appreciated; Ed. E. Ford, "the Australian sundowner," sings in good style; the Hiatts appear in an excellent musical comedy mélange; Walter Emerson, of "Another off to America" fame, is well received; Karr and Kooney are entertaining comedians; the Four Aces display clever acrobatic work in their Continental speciality act; Sam Thomson is a pleasing Scotch comedian; the Wallys win applause for their juggling act; and the Barrascope pictures are amusing.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Chas. H. Williams and company are here this week with *Dear Old Charlie*. Mr. Geo. Lestocq submits an excellent impersonation of Charles Ingleton; Mr. C. Douglas Cox and Mr. R. S. Trelawney as Charlie's friends, Gabriel Peploe and Thomas Dumphie respectively, are admirably placed; Miss Enid G. Forde gives a charming portrayal of Agnes; Miss Leonora Braham displays great skill in her treatment of the rôle of Mrs. Fishbourne; Mr. Duncan Young makes a capital Colonel Fishbourne; and Miss Viola Holland is a pleasing Reeve.

PALACE PIER THEATRE.—A varied entertainment is provided here this week. The farcical sketch, *The Beetles*, is submitted by Messrs. Brett and Brankston's company. Mr. Harry Brett makes an amusing Jonas Jay; Mr. Arthur Brankston as Silas Fagg acquits himself admirably; Miss Viola March's Mrs. Jay is well played; and able support is rendered by Master Bertie Baxter as Pickles and Mr. Walter Uridge as Tom Turtle. The programme also comprises a series of animated pictures shown by King's Royal Bioscope. Among the subjects depicted are The Legend of the Ghost, The Incendiary Foreman, Moonlight on the Bosphorus, and Coney Island by Day and Night.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Fred Bauer.—A splendid series of animated pictures is exhibited here this week. Italy's Marvellous Cavalrymen is a masterpiece in animated photography; dramatic stories are conveyed by A Coward's Death, A Fight for Next-of-Kin, Daddy as of Old, and The Cobbler's Daughter; while great fun is afforded by The Electric Bell, The Moth Hunter, The Nipper Nipped, and The Prize Camel. Mr. P. Yelland Padovan contributes songs in good style; and warm praise is due to Mr. Arthur W. Briggs for his admirably descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to the pictures.

ARCADIA, Lewes-road.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Gerald Leslie.—Afternoon and evening exhibitions are given here daily this week, interspersed with illustrated songs rendered by Mr. J. O. Clarke.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. Seymour Hicks and his London company are here with the successful musical play, *The Gay Gordons*. The staging is very picturesque, the dresses and uniforms are exceptionally rich and tasteful, and the whole entertainment is bright and attractive. On Monday evening the house was packed in all parts, the attendance being well maintained during the week. Mr. Hicks has a capital part in Angus Græme, and he makes the most of it, always lively and amusing, whether acting, singing, or dancing. Miss Zena Dare is a charming exponent of Peggy Quainton, acting, singing, and dancing in excellent style; Miss Coralie Blythe is in every way pleasing as Victoria Siddons; Miss Sidney Fairbrother is quaint and amusing as Charlotte Siddons; Miss Maud Milton acts well as Janet McLeod, as also does Miss Doris Macintyre as Mary McLeod; Mr. Johnny Danvers and Mr. George Carroll are amusing as Nervy Nat and Edmund Siddons; Mr. B. Lugg makes the most of Andrew Quainton; and the remaining parts are all very carefully performed. The chorus is attractive and tuneful, and the augmented orchestra is ably conducted by Mr. Frank Tours. On Monday night a pretty comic souvenir was presented to persons reserving seats or entering through the early doors.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company is here with *The Girl With the Angel Face*, an interesting and well-staged drama founded on the Druce mystery. Miss Florence Green displays considerable power in her exposition of the title-rôle, Angel Leigh; Miss Phyllis Dailey acts in sympathetic style as Ena Wentworth; Miss Mildred Carr is sufficiently vivacious as Mollie Maitland; Mr. Fred G. Evison acts excellently as Jasper Death; Mr. Austin Mortimer is efficient as Stephen Arkwright; Mr. H. Naylor Gibson is successful in the dual parts of Sir John Wentworth and Thomas Wentworth; Mr. Arthur Gilroy hits off the lawyer, Mark Fenning, in good style; Mr. Dobell Lyle makes a typical clergyman of the Rev. Gordon Cross; and Mr. J. L. Mann is effective as Martin Flood. The remaining characters in a somewhat long cast are ably taken by other members of the company. The play emanates from the prolific pen of Mr. James Willard.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Alec Hurley and company are here with the successful comedy scena, in three scenes, entitled *The Costers' Beano*. Bostock's Baboons do many funny tricks, and give evidence of admirable training; Zenora, hand-jumper and equilibrist, is very expert; Matthews and Brown, coloured comedians, amuse with song, patter, and dancing; Rowland Hill, comedian, obtains appreciation; Daisy Morell is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Slippere, blind entertainer, deserves commendation; the Two Lillies are clever speciality dancers; and the performance concludes with interesting animated pictures.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Lafayette is highly successful here, his mysterious productions, &c., obtaining much appreciation; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor have a good comedy act, *The Dancing Master*, the trio (two ladies and a gentleman) introducing some clever and graceful dancing; the Sisters Herbert, two juvenile duettists and dancers, do a pretty turn; Fred Walker, comedian, obtains appreciation; the Menzies amuse with their duologue, *The Suffragette*; Dora Daley is a pleasing character-vocalist; Jock Campbell, comedian, obtains applause; and the performance concludes with animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*The Walls of Jericho* was presented by Mr. Arthur Bourchier's principal company, under the direction of Mr. Sylvanus Dauncey and Mr. V. Leveaux, to a crowded house on Monday. Jack Frobisher was portrayed by Mr. Alfred Goddard with much success; Miss Nancy Beresford was an excellent Lady Alethea Frobisher; and a charming Lady Lucy was presented by Miss Elsie Ross. Mr. Russell Barry did good work as Hanky Bannister; and the Earl of Steventon was very creditably portrayed by Mr. Ben Lewin. Mr. Henderson Bland effectively represented Harry Dallas; and smart work was done in support by the other members. The scenery and dresses are effective.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company with *The Breed of the Treshams* is the attraction here this week. Dramatic intensity interspersed with flashes of quaint humour mark the impersonation of Mr. Sydney Bland as the Rat; Mr. W. R. Winning is entirely successful as the traitorous Colonel Hungerford; Mr. Howard Brenam (Francis Tresham), Mr. Alfred Holles (Viscount Dorsington), and Mr. George Traill (Sir Henry Curwen) are excellently placed; Miss Mildred Hodgson is a graceful and natural Margaret Hungerford; while Batty, the loyal little friend of the Rat, is a spirited character sketch by Miss Grace Harlington.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—*The Sailor's Wedding*, presented by Hardie and Von Leer's company, met with a hearty reception on Monday. Miss Winifred Pearson gives a clever portrayal of Lenore de Gresac; and Mr. Hodgson Taylor is seen to distinct advantage as Ferici. Mr. C. W. Standing gives a manly impersonation of Lieutenant Gordon Drake; Miss Dulcie Greatwich is a charming heroine; and Countess Bellini is cleverly portrayed by Miss Laura Hansen. Miss Celestine Bertram and Miss M. Sadie prove themselves clever character actresses in the rôles of Ninette, a French maid, and Polly Clarke respectively. Sir Victor Lascelles is cleverly handled by Mr. Cecil Klein; as is also Count Bellini by Mr. Cole Aspinall; Mr. Walter Pemberton is humorous as Jack Hawkins; and Bill Burns is well played by Mr. Huntley Gifford. The remaining parts are ably filled by Mr. F. Finch Smiles (Giacomo) and Mr. Ernest Wallace (Father Gianelli).

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The Brothers Miller are this week providing a burlesque wrestling and comedy bar act, which is entertaining crowded houses; Miss Sarah Berry's singing quickly establishes her as a favourite; Gladys and Alber are capital dancers; and Rose Harvey shines as a descriptive vocalist. An enjoyable comedy item is given by Fred Mulvey and Minnie Miriam; the patter of Stuart and Evans is decidedly clever; and the turns of the Rangers (cyclists) and Lauri Brothers (gymnasts) are most entertaining. New films are shown on the Ottograph.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. S. Garner.—Morny Cash tops the bill, and is a clever comedian, his songs finding great favour; Bean and Belle merit commendation for their singing in their scena *Past and Present*; the Three Behans are capable quick-change and comedy artists. Mark Henton, comedian; Cyril Jephson, character vocalist; Ben Jackson, banjo trick soloist; Three Sisters Tree, in a musical number; Billie Barlow, comedienne; and the Alares, gymnasts, &c., complete a good programme.

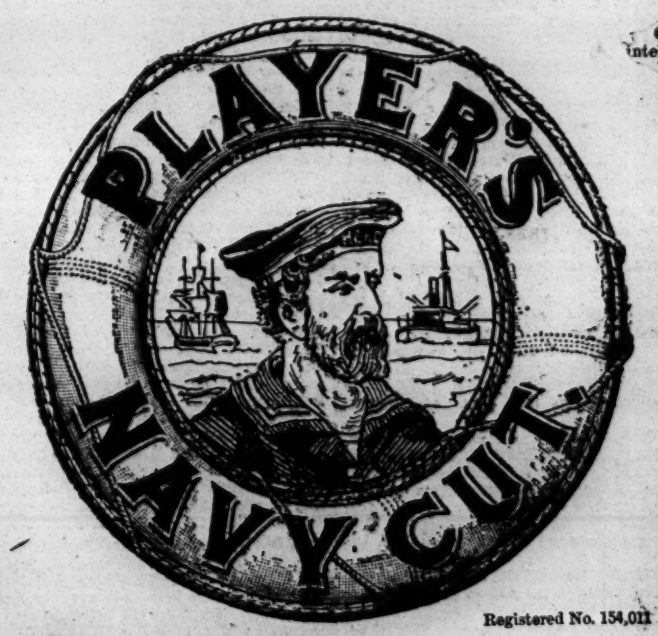
CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—Mr. Leonard Boyne was heartily received here on Monday when he made a welcome return visit with *Raffles*, in which he played the title-rôle with all his old charm and success. Miss Hilda Moore played with sincere feeling as Gwendoline Coran; Miss Lilian Hallows depicted Mrs. Vidal cleverly; Mr. E. W. Thomas as Curtis Bedford, the detective, sustained the part with plenty of dash; Mr. Harold West was remarkably good as Bunny; and Mr. Buckstone Clair made a capital Crawshay; Mr. Arthur Willoughby's Earl of Amersteth, Mr. Cecil Brymer as Viscount Crowley, and Miss Blanka Stewart as Lady Melrose deserve special praise.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—After the favourable impression made six months ago by Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton it was expected that the return visit being made this week would prove most popular, and the reception given on Monday night to these two prominent artists in *The Taming of the Shrew* fully confirmed this anticipation. Mr. Asche was in capital form as Petruchio, and Miss Brayton was, if possible, more delightful as Kathrina than before, and flattering applause was accorded the gifted artists. Miss Muriel Ashwynne as Bianca submitted a particularly sweet delineation; Mr. Tripp Edgar's interpretation of Tranio was one of the most successful portrayals of the production; Mr. G. Kay Souper did exceptionally well as Lucentio; and Mr. Caleb Porter displayed undoubted capability as Gremio; Mr. Herbert Grimwood (Baptista), Mr. R. Ian Penny (Hortensio), and Mr. R. F. Anson (Biondello) are all actors of ability, while the amusing interpretation of Grumio by Mr. Henry Kitts showed him to be the possessor of rare histrionic powers. *The Two Pins* and *Othello* were also presented during the week, both drawing large and appreciative audiences.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Madame Alice Esty, the well-known prima donna, is at the head of the Empire programme, and rendered on Monday night four numbers from her ballad and operatic répertoire in the sweet and clear tone which has made her famous. *The Brigands of Tarragona*, submitted by Herbert Darnley, is notable for beautiful music, elaborate scenery, and wholesome comedy, the "shining light" of the frivolous side being Mr. Chas. H. Bell, whose clever antics caused unrestrained laughter. The Ten Zerbinis, Continental musical speciality artists, obtained much applause for their talented instrumental act, *The Enchanted Glen*; Walter King, a droll comedian, is distinctly amusing; Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies gain applause for their expert dancing, and the assistance of pretty Miss Lily Vine makes a charming performance. One of the best "heavy" jugglers is Enzer, who shows great ability with the sword. Others on the bill are Arthur Astill, smart whistling mimic; Harry Luck, comedian; and Kitty Clinton, comedienne and dancer; a realistic and interesting bioscope picture, showing the destruction of Hyderabad, completes the bill.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the Management of Mr. Rallo Balmain.—For the first time in Cardiff Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk present the new drama, *From Shop Girl to Duchess*, and good houses have been the rule. Miss Neil's portrayal of Sylvia Grey is undertaken in a calm but forcible manner quite in keeping with the part. Mr. Frank S. Strickland is a capital Gilbert Spate; and Arnold

"Beautifully Cool and Sweet Smoking."



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Vynlan is thoroughly delineated by Mr. Douglas Cecil. A dignified impersonation of Doctor Maitland is given by Mr. T. Lionel Ellis; and Lord St. Orbatrude is in the capital hands of Mr. Douglas Tremayne. Mr. Henri Gerald (Tommy Tinkler) and Miss Florrie Groves (Tilly Dobson) are responsible for good comedy. The company all round is an exceptionally strong one.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—A capital sketch is the pièce de résistance at the Palace this week, Mr. Harry Gratton and Co. presenting *Man—the Brute* with more than average success. The Donatos, one-legged clowns, prove remarkably clever in an acrobatic act; Will Douglas' Five Jolly Bakers arouse enthusiasm; Ellis and Watts "go" well with their excellent comedy and dancing; and others on the programme are Johnny Dwyer, a versatile comedian; Flo Inman, descriptive vocalist and dancer; Steve Bartle, vocalist and concertina soloist; the Gelders, conjurors; and Ivy Dean, a pleasing comedienne.

CARLISLE.—H.M. Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—*A Fight for a Throne* attracted a large audience on the opening night. As the hero Mr. John S. Millward scored heavily; Mr. Gerald Byrne as the King of Saxovinia made the most of his opportunities; Mr. Chas. E. Linney as the Prince and Mr. Patrick Evans contributed sound performances; and the comedy relief, in the hands of that excellent comedian, Mr. Charles H. Hughes, was welcomed with warm approval. Miss Margarette Treskie as a foreign spy acted throughout with fine effect; Miss Dora Hammersley's Princess was a performance full of merit; and Miss Emmeline B. Lewis made the most of her part.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—Chung Ling Soo, the celebrated Asiatic conjurer, is on a return visit; George Ridgwell is brimful of versatility; Fred Spencer found no difficulty in amusing his audience; and Marguerite Broadfoote proved herself a comedienne of merit. The Bros. Webb are funnier than ever; a fine turn is provided by the Florias, equilibrists; and some excellent pictures are seen on the Pepiscope.

CASTLEFORD.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P. — Mr. Stephen Pritt's company, under the direction of Mr. David McFarlane, is paying a visit with *His Wife No Longer*. Mr. Clavering Craig's portrayal of Anthony Merrivale is replete with vigour and earnestness; Miss Rosa Mervyn looks charming as Mrs. Merrivale; Mr. Ernest Percival is to be commended for a laughable interpretation of Tommy Oglethorpe; Lucy Hooper finds a lively exponent in Miss Nellie Lawson; Mr. Donald Donaldson is an excellent Daniel Trench; the Rev. Frank Willacy is intelligently represented by Mr. David McFarlane; Mr. E. Paul Neville is an effective Harold Medworth; and Miss Frances Ferina makes a sympathetic Marion. Mr. Harry Harral, with a delightful Irish brogue, causes amusement as P.C. Michael Flanaghan.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will. H. Emerson.—The leading feature in this week's well-varied programme is August and September, assisted by May, with their droll entertainment; Alman Correze's tricks as a juggler and balancer are effected with astonishing dexterity; Miss Flo Hilton as a male impersonator has a distinct individuality; Eugene and Willie perform some difficult acrobatic feats; the Sisters Draycott (Eva and Tessie), daintily and artistically costumed, sing well-rendered duets; Billy Melia dances in excellent style; Tom and Florrie Poole execute some smart trick dancing; Nellie Brough's songs and whistling solos take immensely; and a strong attraction is found in the Animated Pictures of the Loyal Dominion Co.

CHATHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—A fine treat is afforded local playgoers this week in the shape of a visit by Mr. Herbert Sleath's company of English and American artists in the Lyric success *A White Man*. Mr. Frank E. Petley gives a well-studied and powerful impersonation of Jim Carston, and proves the hero of the evening; his cousin, the Earl of Kerhill, finds a satisfactory representative in Mr. Lewis Broughton; Mr. William Dempsey is quite natural as Malcolm Petrie; Mr. Henry Hare as Big Bill looks and interprets the part thoroughly; and as Cash Hawkins Mr. Arthur Gibbons displays considerable skill and energy. One of the hits of the production is Mr. Eric Hudson's Tab-y-wana; and Mr. A. C. Hardie is effective as Bud Hardy. Miss Eleanor May acts creditably as Lady Diana; and Miss Margaret Fairleigh makes many admirers by her pathetic portrayal of the character of Nat-u-rich.

CHELTENHAM.—Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sydney Cooper's company introduced *The Flag Lieutenant* on Monday to a crowded and heartily-appreciative audience. Mr. Langhorne Burton is well suited in style and physique to the rôle of the hero, Richard Lascelles; Mr. H. Montague Love as Major William Thesiger being an excellent foil. Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Berke-, K.C.B., has an excellent representa- George Mallett, whose style is finished Messrs. Hugh Wakefield and Lyonel of spirits and mischief as two Middies"; Miss Florence Jackson realises the emotions of the charming , Mrs. Cameron; Lady Hermione Wynne is efully and sympathetically played by Miss argery Chard; and Miss Viva Birkett is most engaging as Viola Hood. Messrs. W. S. Stevenson, H. Gallop, Edward Mervyn, and Harry Haste are delightful comedians as the centre group of Tommies and handy men; and minor parts in the naval picture are well played by Messrs. Claude Little and Stephen Gatling. Mr. Fredk. Leister does good work as Colonel McLeod, and is well seconded by Mr. Gordon Hamilton as Captain Munro; Mr. E. S. Petley acts naturally as the surgeon, Walter Crutchley; and Mr. Ian Chasserean is effective as Memeti Salos. Mr. W. J. Yeldman is excellent as the fussy, gossip-loving General Gough-Bogle; and Miss Stella Leigh is good as his equally terrible wife. Mr. John Wheatman neatly plays the part of Michael Palliser.

CHESTER. — Royalty Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The Royal Tokio Troupe of Japanese entertainers display great skill as equilibrists, and their triple ladder balancing feat thrills the audience; Harris Coonie, a real coon, is an exceedingly nimble dancer; the Sisters Stuart sing and dance well; Marie Jones, assisted by Ernest Munro, cleverly impersonates six distinct characters in the duologue *The Way to Win a Bet;* the McAleavey Marvels give a finished exhibition of trick and barrel jumping; Eva Chadwick is a pleasing soprano; and Harry Nelson, comedian, provokes much mirth. The bill concludes with some excellent pictures by the Premier Imperial Biograph.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company is paying us a visit with *The Midnight Mail*. Harry Steyne is excellently portrayed by Mr. Geo. Harvard; Mr. Grant Lytton gives an exceptionally fine rendering of Billy Brewer; Mr. C. H. Longden is good as Leonard Royle, as is also Mr. C. P. Wentworth as Hassan Padisha. Mr. J. Wilkinson capitally plays Sergt. O'Flynn; Miss Trissie Humphries charmingly enacts Mary Steyne; Lady Phyllis Eustace is attractively rendered by Miss Jeannie Weston; Miss Daisy Clifford vivaciously interprets Nancy Brewer; and Miss Marie Longden is good as Miss Mildmay. The drama is well staged.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's *Mr. Popple* company is here this week. Mr. Macdona himself in the part of Freddy on Monday night received an ovation, his acting being intensely droll; Miss Nellie Hodson (Mrs. Chas. Macdona) imparted a deal of dash to the character of La Bolero; Miss May Hart was delightfully chic as Louise; Mr. Tom May acted drolly as Platt; Mr. Louis du Cane did well as Norman Popple; Messrs. Nap Barry and Jas. Stephenson appeared suited to the parts of Geo. Hennay and Henry Doring; Miss Amy Singleton depicted the irascibility of Mrs. Doring with ability; and the sufferings of Mrs. Hennay found a capable exponent in Miss Lilyan Lait. Miss Marie Moss looked very captivating as Violet.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Co., Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Fred Ginnett's production *The Hunting Morn* is paying a return visit, and this refined musical and spectacular episode is received again with cordiality; the Great Albas, phenomenal wire equilibrist, affords at once a sensational and yet highly clever act; Les Rallis in the comedy speciality act *The Artist and His Monkey* afford a novel and able turn; Iris Banfield, chic comedienne, sings with great expression; Clive Watts dances in capital style; Wyotti, the witty juggler, is most amusing; and the Louisiana Trio, coloured vocalists and dancers, excel in the latter branch of their business.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Chas. Draycott and his répertoire company are paying a welcome return visit here this week, and opened in *The Shaughraun* on Monday. As Conn Mr. Chas. Draycott was irresistibly funny, and kept the house in roars of laughter; Mr. Geo. Steel was an able and accomplished Captain Molyneaux; Mr. Wilfred Short was good as Robert Ffolliot; Mr. Geo. Herberte was an excellent Father Doolan; and as Harvey Duff Mr. Harry Scratchard was typical of the part. Carey Kinchela was in the able hands of Mr. Geo. Arthur; Mrs. Chas. Draycott was a pleasing Clare Ffolliot; and as Arte O'Neal Miss Issa Steel was very clever. Miss Louise Millward as Mrs. O'Helly and Miss Eva Norman as Moya sustained their respective parts most creditably. *The Octoroon, The Colleen Bawn, Ticket-of-Leave Man, East Lynne,* and *A Stolen Birthright* are also in the bill.

New Town Hall.—The Royal Canadian Picture Co. opened here to a good house on Monday night. Among the films A Gentleman Burglar, The Chieftain's Revenge, and Over the Sticks were the most popular.

CORK.—Opera House.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Mr. William Mollison and company opened a week's engagement on Monday in *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Mollison's study of Shylock is all that can be desired; Mr. William Calvert as Antonio gave a cultured rendering; Mr. Archie W. Chappel as Bassanio and Mr. Henry Deas as Gratiano were very effective, and the Portia of Miss Evelyn McNay was a sympathetic and finished representation. Miss Edith Blair-Staples made a good Jessica, Mr. Clifford Morgan an effective Lorenzo, and Mr. Whitford-Kane as Prince of Morocco and Mr. W. A. Mackersy as the Duke of Venice both acquitted themselves well. The play was preceded by *The Troth*, by Rutherford Mayne. *Macbeth, Othello, Hamlet, Richard III.*, and *The Bonnie Briar Bush* are in the répertoire.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The programme here is very good this week. Joe Peterman and company in *The Belle of the Orient* provide a good half-hour's amusement; the Five Saxonias give a musical turn; the Faludy Troupe of acrobats are the cleverest seen here for many years; the Graysons are a clever lot of jugglers, and J. H. Crew, comedian, pleases. Miss Connie Mascot, comedienne and dancer, Oliver Conroy, comedian, and Cling and Clancy, dancers and patterers, also entertain.

COVENTRY.—Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—That ever-welcome piece *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is again presented here with great success. The company is a capable one, under Mr. Charles Harrington, and includes a large number of coloured artists. The leading parts are admirably portrayed. Mr. J. Carr successfully undertakes the part of Uncle Tom; Miss Hetty Johnson plays ably as Little Eva. The piece is well mounted and the scenery excellent.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. J. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—The top turn at the above place of amusement is La Pia, who charms the audience with her dancing, which is effectively aided by coloured lime-lights; Leonard Barry is very successful in his song-scena entitled *From Unemployed to Millionaire;* the Creo Brothers give a marvellous acrobatic display; Miss May Audrey's songs receive hearty applause; the Sisters Bartholomew give much pleasure with their entertainment as *The Smart Boy and Dainty Girl*. Other artists are Farr and Farrland, Carl and Carr, and Miss Ina Lorrimer. A good set of pictures are also on view.

Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—Owing to popular prices being introduced, this house is nightly packed, and the programme is greatly appreciated. Carrie Laurie and her Kindergarten head the bill with a pleasing turn, the juveniles being very clever; the midget Smaun Sing Hpoo also appears, and is very successful; Heeley and Meeley are a couple of versatile and clever comedians; Gus Barra, the musical motorist, is a skilful instrumentalist; Paul Vandy keeps the audience amused as a comedy juggler; Teddy Edmunds and company appear in a successful farcical sketch, *The Lady Jockey;* Dan Filman, comedian, and the Bioscope concluding.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John H. Morton.—This week Mr. Allan Wilkie is here with his company in a round of Shakespearean plays. On Monday *Hamlet*, on Tuesday *Othello*, on Wednesday *Macbeth*, on Thursday *Merchant of Venice*, on Friday *Richard III.*, and on Saturday a new version of *The Two Orphans of Paris*. In *Othello* Mr. Allan Wilkie in the title-part was admirable; as Desdemona Miss Haidee Gunn made a highly favourable impression; Mr. Alexander Marsh's Iago was excellent; we must praise highly the Emilia of Miss Mildred Surrey, and as Cassio Mr. Frank Royde gave an adequate and impressive representation. Mr. John Paley as Brabantio played with dignity, and as Roderigo Mr. Ian Fleming did well. The mounting was effective.

CREWE.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company is the attraction here this week in *The Convict's Daughter*. Mr. Bertram appears with his usual success as Weary Willie, Michael Grahame, and Convict 89; Mr. William Burgess gives a good account of himself as Frederick Neville; Mr. Escott Robson's rendering of Jasper Thorne is powerful; Mr. Walter Graham is an excellent Harold Trevalyan, Mr. Willie Black a clever Patrick O'Laragan, and Mr. H. Loye Staples a suitable Inspector Harper. Miss Lillian Deane as Edith gains the sympathies of all; Miss Nellie Waddington is good in the rôle of Marion Thorne; and Miss Amy Randolph is bright and gay as Betty Hyne.

CROYDON. — Grand Theatre. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in *Brewster's Millions* is causing a sensation here, the great Yacht scene winning unstinted applause. Miss Cicely Stuckley is delightfully fresh in the rôle of Margaret Grey; Miss Mary Seton is well placed as Miss Boynton; Miss Sybil Walsh makes a pretty Trixie Clayton; Miss Eva Stuart is reliable as Barbara Drew; Miss Frances Davie deserves a word as Janice Armstrong; and Miss Lilias Earle is seen at her best as Mrs. Dan de Mille. Mr. Percy Hutchison works hard and successfully as Monty Brewster; Mr. Cyril Rawdon distinguishes himself as Charles Harrison; Mr. Robert Forsyth is effective as Mr. Grant; Mr. A. Andrews speaks his lines well as Colonel Drew; Mr. Henry Hampson is commendable as Archie Golding; Mr. Aubrey Mather is accurate both in speech and gesture as Joseph McLeod; Mr. Charles Estale is meritorious as Frank Bragdon; Mr. George Salver is invaluable to the piece as Captain Perry; Mr. A. P. Kaye gives a capital sketch of Mons. Bargie; and useful assistance is rendered by Messrs. Douglas Greet, Otho Hazlewood, U. S. Haye, and Frank Hill.

Hippodrome and New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company in *The Face at the Window* is the attraction here this week. A convincing performance is given by Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale as Lucio Delgado; Mr. Scott Leighton submits a first-class impersonation of Paul Gouffet; Mr. Arthur Beverley gives a powerful rendering of Lucian Cortier; Mr. Bert Ellis is responsible for the humorous element; and Mr. Geo. P. Greatrex is seen to advantage as Le Blanc. Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson acquits herself well as Marie de Brisson; and Miss Rose Conroy gives a spirited performance of Babette.

Empire Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Harry Tate heads the bill here, and is very funny in the sketch *Billiards;* the racing playlet *An Outside Chance* is capitally rendered by Messrs. Bellew and Stock's company, including quaint little Edward Garratt; Florrie Forde, comedienne, is cordially received; Sinclair and Gracie Whitford are droll in the comedy act *Getting Even;* Alick Lauder and company are first-rate in the sketch *The Christening;* Lucy Coventry, comedienne, is praiseworthy in song and dance; Will Musgrave is an amusing comedian; Lew Lake's vocalists are interesting; Kitty Colyer is a neat comedienne and untiring dancer; and Billy French is a clever dancer.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—*Amasis* is attracting full houses this week. Mr. W. Denny is a humorous Pharaoh; Miss Mabel Burnege a charming Princess; Mr. Fred Hudson a clever High Priest; Mr. Edward McKeown as Prince Anhotep provokes much applause with his fine tenor voice; Mr. Frank Attree as Ptolemy is most amusing; Mr. Frank Woods gives an exceptionally smart performance of the Captain of the Guard; Miss Elsie Don sings and dances well in the part of Natis; and Mr. Walter D. Brodie as Sebak, with quaint singing and dancing, causes much laughter.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Miss Jennie Johns, well placed at the head of the bill, is the brightest of soubrettes; the Delevines, in their novel act, *Flipp and Flopp*, score a success; Miss Dot Hardy, comedienne, and Miss Ruby Bijou, barefoot dancer, are on a return visit; and other attractions are Mr. Churchill, comedian; Burley and Burley, acrobatic comedians; Recco, burlesque acrobat; Henry and Tyler, cyclists; and the Peposcope pictures.

DARWEN.—Public Hall, Palace of Varieties.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—In addition to a capital set of pictures on the Bioscope, Will Owen, dame comedienne and Dutch vocalist, is most amusing; Leolin gives a praiseworthy exhibition of juggling and club-throwing; and Mabel Wray, comedienne and dancer, is well received. Stratton, described as "the lady with a voice," is also billed, but was indisposed on Monday.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company are paying a welcome visit here this week, with *The Gay Gordons*, the first time this pronounced success has been seen locally. Miss Maie Ash easily secures premier honours as Peggie Quainton, and both vocally and histrionically scores all along the line. Her bright and breezy rendering of the rôle is in every way as refreshing as it is refined, and praise in a large measure is distinctly her due. The Angus Græme of Mr. Stanley Brett is another outstanding feature of this popular production, and of his impersonation also it is impossible to speak in terms too commendatory; Miss Connie St. Clare figures most acceptably as Victoria Siddons, her portrayal being both praiseworthy and picturesque; Charlotte Siddons is capitally accounted for by Miss Nellie Dade; and Miss M. Stapleton feelingly and effectively interprets the part of Mary McLeod. Mr. Edward Lewis as the old showman, Nervy Natt, is a comedian of a high order of excellence, and in the way of merriment is a host in himself; while Mr. Wilfred Norman gives a decidely quaint and droll depiction of Edmund Siddons. Mr. Ernest Torrence as Andrew Quainton is to be complimented upon a manly, and in no sense overdrawn, impersonation; and the Mr. Speedy of Mr. Buchanan Wake should also have special mention. Miss Eugenie Vernie appears to advantage as Janet McLeod; and Miss Ada Fraser does very well indeed as Lady Millicent Græme. Mr. Paul Plunkett acquits himself well as Corporal John Smith, and Mr. J. Sims Woolley is entertaining as Jack McPhrisky. Other characters are well sustained by Mr. John Wooley (Lord Dalesbury), Mr. Edward Leith (Viscount Belstairs), Reginald Adair (Lord Elmington), Mr. J. Carlisle (Lord Merisham), and Miss Marea Selma (a peasant woman). There is an augmented orchestra under the accomplished baton of Mr. Arthur Spittle.

Palace.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The attraction here this week is Dora Lyric, with some new and charmingly rendered songs; the Three Calbas are responsible for some cleverly executed acrobatic feats; Boyd and Gilfain score well in their diverting operetta, *Sunny Spain;* Dan Kennedy has amusing songs and patter; the Saletos give a clever head and hand balancing turn; the Hannaway Bros. are praiseworthy comedians and dancers; and La Danseuse appears to advantage in a characteristic scena. The Bioscope concludes a good all-round entertainment.

DEVONPORT.—Theatre Metropole.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*The Assassin* abounds with sensational incident, to which full justice is done by the capable company performing at the "Met" this week. Mr. Augustine Knights, who impersonates Prince Demetri, submits an interesting study; Miss Ella Vane as the Countess Wanda, shows much ability; and Mr. H. Wilson is a finished Ivan.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Menotti, the Stockholm Wonder, is here, performing feats of hairbreadth daring on a wire; Livesey and Rosebery create shrieks of laughter with their sketch, *The Would-be Actors*, and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde are heartily appreciated for some excellent shadow shows; Tom Bryce, assisted by Miss Price, is entertaining in a musical sketch; Leo and Roland introduce some sensational ladder feats; Sam Williams's songs are taken up by the whole house; and Gladys Mavius and Adah Payne are also in the bill.

DEWSBURY. — Theatre Royal.—Lessees, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—The F. R. Benson company, under the management of Mr. W. H. Savery, has gained added prestige here this week with their répertoire of Shakespearean and standard plays. *Hamlet* was staged on Monday, when Mr. Henry Herbert impersonated the title-rôle artistically, the soliloquies being exceptionally well declaimed; Mr. James Berry gave a sympathetic exposition of Claudius; Mr. Arthur Fayne played with ease and effectiveness as Polonius; Miss Gladys Vanderzee's Ophelia was a sincere and refined impersonation; Miss Violet Farebrother gave a thoughtfully conceived interpretation of Gertrude, Queen of Denmark; the rôles of Horatio and Laertes were capably filled by Messrs. Everard Vanderlip and Bernard Limpus; Rosencrantz and Guildenstern were undertaken with creditable ability by Messrs. Vincent Holman and Patrick Lewis. The scenic equipment of the répertoire is on a liberal scale.

DOVER.—Royal Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. W. Holford.—The comedy element is this week supplied by Miss Violet Lloyd and Mr. Horace Lane in a duologue entitled *That's Torn It*. A sketch of a very different type is *The Light at the Window*, a tragic episode presented by Mr. Fred Wynn, assisted by Miss Kate Kearney, Agnes Paulton, and Mr. C. H. Maxwell. Will Nosan, a study in chocolate and white, sings pleasantly of "My Garden in Sweden"; Miss Raie Walters is heard in "Fishing" and "I want to catch you little birdie"; Queenie May, a character vocalist, has on Old Age Pension song; an acrobatic and contortionist act of some merit is given by the Rose Trio, and the Hippodrome pictures conclude. During the illness of Mr. W. G. Eaton, the musical director, his place has been filled by Mr. Wilde, leader of the orchestra.

Palace and Hippodrome.—Lessees, the Vaudeville Syndicate; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Holt.—A very pretty turn here is *A Ba Be's Picture Postcard Album;* Takio has wonderful powers of mimicry; Daisy De Roy, comedienne; the Lovats, lady vocalists; Percival, comedian at the piano; Queen Dell, comedienne, and Fred Southern and company in a nautical sketch, complete the bill. Raymond's Bioscope has two excellent pictures.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Edward Terry and company opened here on Monday in *Fiander's Widow*. Mr. Terry is most humorous and diverting in the rôle of Isaac Sharpe; Miss Edith Coleman makes a fascinating and interesting Mrs. Fiander; the part of Richard Cross has an excellent representative in Mr. C. MacManus; and Miss Sophie Lingwood as Mrs. Belbin submits a capital study. Mr. Edmund Hollock gives much satisfaction in the part of Richard Marshall; and Miss Evelyn Ormonde as Susan and Miss Ella Dixon as Betty are both good in their respective rôles. Mr. Kenneth Brampton does full justice to the part of Sam Belbin.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The second week of the Vedrenne-Barker company commenced here on Monday with *Arms and the Man*. Mr. Frederick Lloyd gave a commendable representation of Captain Bluntschli; Miss Auriol Lee portrayed the rôle of Raina with exceptional ability; Major Paul Petkoff was cleverly enacted by Mr. Michael Sherbrooke; and Miss Frances Dillon successfully filled the rôle of Louka. Nicola had an able exponent in Mr. James Hearn and Miss Frances Weatherall was well placed as Catherine Petkoff. Mr. David Powell did full justice to the part of Major Sergius Saranoff and the part of the Russian officer was played in a satisfactory manner by Mr. William Wade. The play was preceded by *The Convict on the Hearth*.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones. — The change of pictures here this week is attracting full houses nightly.

Empire. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The centre of attraction here this week is the Horace Pollock company in Pinero's *Hester's Mystery;* the Sisters Carina give a musical performance of exceptional merit; and Carney and Armstrong score a success as comedians and dancers. A special feature of the programme is the beautiful moon scena, "The Voice of the Nile," presented by Ethel Ra Leslie and company; and Miss Gladys Witton, contralto, is accorded a hearty reception. Johnny Walker is a mirth-provoking comedian; and Connie Stanhope, a charming comedienne and graceful dancer, is deservedly encored. Fred Dunstone, comedian, makes a hit; and Films, Ltd., are showing some entertaining pictures.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, fairly brings down the house with his songs and patter; the Three Laurels, in their acrobatic act, provide a big attraction; and some beautiful illustrated songs are contributed by Miss Lillian Warren. Sid Cottrell and company, in the amusing sketch *The Substitute*, evoke roars of laughter and May Rowse sings capitally and dances with much grace. The marvellous training of Ida Kessanly's fox terriers is nightly applauded and Miss Florrie Connolly sings Irish songs with success. Fioretti and Elly supply a smart barrel and spade jumping turn and Cliff Dixo is a capital character comedian. The Bioscope depicts an amusing picture, entitled Tomkins Buys a Donkey.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The following artists are appearing here:—Amy Bayne, coon vocalist; Jack Murray, quaint comedian; Marjorie Rogers, descriptive vocalist; Little Hatch, the little lump of fun; Violet Nava, soprano vocalist; the Morrisson's Comedy Duo; and the Cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's London company, in *The New East Lynne*, is here this week, and the old play seems as popular as ever. Chief interest centres round Miss Beth Elliott, who, as Lady Isabel, plays with pathos and sincerity; Mr. Richard Nugent is full of rollicking fun as Murty O'Flynn; Mr. Frederick Harker gives a refined rendering of Archibald Carlyle; and the villainous Francis Levison is realistically played by Mr. W. H. Garbois. Miss Josephine Gwinne shines out conspicuously as Barbara Hare.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. B. Peberdy.—The Michel Bros., aptly described as "The Roman Gladiators," top the bill with a clever performance; Marlow and Manton, in a comedy duologue, give a pleasing turn; Herr Zellini's tricks cause shrieks of laughter; excellent dancing is given by Lester Bros.; Johnny Worman, popular comedian, has good songs and patter; Childie Stuart, is a "lively" comedienne, with "lively" songs; and Madge Daly, Arthur Harris (actor-vocalist), and the Empire Pictures are other attractions.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*The Hypocrites* is presented here this week, by Mr. Charles Frohman's company. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton deserves special praise for his telling performance of the ascetic curate; and the difficult rôle of Lennard Wilmore is carefully undertaken by Mr. King Fordham. Miss Gladys Harvey makes a great impression by her admirable rendering of Rachel Neve; and Miss Amy Ravencroft is likewise successful as the scheming Mrs. Wilmore. A better Helen Plugenet could scarcely be desired than that of Miss Gladys Purnell; and as the Curate's wife, Miss Grete Hahn is a complete success. The parts of Dr. and Mrs. Blaney are humorously enacted by Mr. Hanworth Browning and Miss Florence Steventon; the pompous Mr. Wilmore is cleverly played by Mr. Alfred S. Barber; Mr. Charles Harley is suitably placed as the not too scrupulous lawyer; a distinguished Sir John Plugenet is found in Mr. Sydney Hamilton; and Mr. Cecil Brooking gives a delightful study of the soft-spoken, plausible Vicar. Miss Violet Harley and Mr. Douglas Jefferies, in smaller rôles, give good accounts of themselves.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Topliner here is Brinn, in his sensational act, "Pastimes on a Battleship"; Rose Elliott pays a welcome return visit; George Prince, "the crazy comedian," repeats his former success; and Fred Tenby, a comedian of a different style, likewise meets with approval. Alice Blandford uses her particularly sweet and musical voice to good advantage; Naughton and Gold, in their absurdity act, *The Hat*, are clever and amusing; Pearce and Ward's burlesque boxing act is also the source of hearty laughter. A very enjoyable turn is that of the Cosman Couple; and Currie and his well-trained dog still delight. The Bioscope, as usual, completes a varied and interesting bill.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A capital bill of fare is supplied this week, the chief attraction being Jordan and Harvey, Hebrew comedians. A funny sketch, *Oh, that Major*, in which Mr. James Stillwell and Mrs. R. A. P. Williams appear to much advantage, is another attractive item; Wild, Willie, and West, the "Three Bouncing Navvies," give an acrobatic act remarkable for its cleverness; Mlle. Du Roche is a vocalist with taking songs and a good voice; while Nellie Ridgway, besides being a charming comedienne, is a very clever wire walker. Rudge Whitworth, society entertainer, is a big success; Selby and Myers score as comedians and dancers; Edward Benson is a decidedly clever actor-vocalist; and the Monte Carlo Girls, in their catchy songs and tricky dancing meet with warm appreciation.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Prince Edward Picture Company pays a welcome return visit here, with all the newest and most up-to-date films. The variety programme includes Master Leno, a promising vocalist, and Jules Kiaro, who presents a clever and novel equilibristic act.

Newman's Picture Palace.—Mr. Fred Newman has an excellent programme of pictures on tap this week. In addition, a very enjoyable turn is provided by the Musical Morrells.

EASTBOURNE.—Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray, King, and Clark.—Miss May Palfrey and a particularly able company completed their engagement here on Saturday evening with *Mrs. Dot*. Large and enthusiastic audiences were delighted. During this week Mr. Russell Rosse and company are appearing in *Our Boys*. Mr. Thomas Thorne was billed to play the part of Middlewick, but owing to severe indisposition he was unable to do so, and Mr. David James undertook the rôle at short notice. Mr. Russell Rosse carries out well the duties assigned to Sir Geoffrey Champneys; Mr. George Mudie, jun., deserves the highest praise for his effective work as Talbot; and Mr. Howard L. Tracey is a capable Charles. Miss Gertrude Le Sage makes a fine Clarissa, Miss Helena Parsons a pleasing Violet Melrose, Miss Ida Chapman a satisfactory Mary Melrose, and Miss Edith Hesketh a quaint Belinda.

Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Joseph Poole's renowned Myriorama is paying a visit here. The pictures are, as usual, excellent; and a capital variety entertainment is added. Mr. Loudon Cameron and Miss Maud Dunham mystify the audience with smart conjuring; Miss Frederica has an interesting dog and pony show; the Seddons are a clever lady juggler and a funny comedian; Mr. Steve Cooke sings funny songs in good style; Eileen and Maynie, in a pleasing musical turn, dance neatly; and the Tissots give an entertaining and pretty marionette show. A fine series of animated pictures is shown, and Mr. Bert G. Berry proves a very interesting and distinct guide.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the head of a capital bill are the Armanis, in a most artistic scena, *A Night in Naples;* Mr. Bert Albert is a capable comedian; Captain Ellis and Son are versatile as dancers and instrumentalists; Mr. Bert Welsh is a mimic and ventriloquist of ability; the Three Warners are good vocalists and whirlwind dancers; Mr. J. W. Elliston gives his songs with much feeling; Miss Hettie Lee is a dainty and shapely comedienne, and the pictures complete the bill.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley are presenting the drama entitled *Two Little Drummer Boys*. Mr. Edward Bikker makes a manly General Kingsley; Mr. Harry Scott plays a strong part as Captain Frank Carsdale; Mr. Oswald Douglas does full justice to the rôle of Captain George Darrell; Lieut. Allen Kingsley is ably depicted by Mr. Alexander Knight; Mollie Meadows, the regiment's sweetheart, is tactfully portrayed by Miss Patricia Connaughton; Miss Mary Ainslie is sympathetic as Alma Kingsley; and Miss Mona Townsend fits the impersonation of Margaret Rivers capably.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—A large and fashionable audience crowded this house last Monday evening, when Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, and company began a six nights' engagement. The play chosen for the opening performance was Mr. Alfred Sutro's strong comedy, *John Glayde's Honour*, of which the actors gave a vivid, effective representation. Mr. Bourchier played John Glayde admirably, in the restrained, yet powerful, style which completely realised the character; the part of Muriel Glayde is an unsympathetic one, but the art of Miss Violet Vanbrugh, and the charm of her acting excited the admiration of the audience, and made the impersonation an exceptionally clever piece of work; Miss Henrietta Watson was one of the successes of the evening in her perfect portrayal of the Princesse de Castagnary—the lighter scenes were delightfully rendered, and her pathetic scene in the third act moved the audience to loud applause. Miss Mary Weigall hit off neatly the frivolous character of Lady Lerode; Miss Winifred Bateman was a girlish, graceful Dora Longman; and Miss Pamela Gaythorne was an excellent Mrs. Rennick. Mr. Charles

melodrama, have been duly recognised here during the current week, and the interpretation of the piece by all concerned leaves little to be desired. Miss Grace E. Leslie has a good grasp of the part of the reprehensible Lady Marion Beaumont; and the malevolent plotter, Noel Ferrers, is portrayed with full effect by Mr. C. F. Collings. Sir Dorian Marsh finds an excellent representative in Mr. E. Vassall-Vaughan; his young fiancée, Lady Gwendolen, being nicely played by Miss Dorothy Giles; while due distinction is given to the rôles of the Hon. Mrs. Murgatroyd and the Duchess of Danebury by Miss Mabel Murray and Miss Janet Hodson. In the hands of Mr. Frederick Annerley the part of Mr. Morris receives sterling treatment; and amusing character sketches of a policeman and an old servant are given by Mr. George A. Brandram and Mr. Edwin Palmer. Outstanding work is done by Mr. Blake Adams and Miss Pattie Browne as James Hogg and Lady Goldbury, their pleasant comedy rippling along very merrily through the scenes in which they appear. The scenic effects are altogether admirable, and the stage-management deserves high commendation.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—An interesting programme, particularly noticeable on its vocal side, is submitted here this week. Miss Ada Colley charms her hearers by her expressive singing, and is enthusiastically recalled nightly; Miss Lilian Lowe is another finished vocalist, and contributes greatly to the pleasure of the audience; Miss Edie Veno, a comedienne with a bright manner, gives a very entertaining turn; and Miss Rosie Reval proves herself a smart dancer. Mr. Dave Carter, Irish tenor, sings very sweetly, and secures hearty applause; Mr. H. A. Griffiths and Miss Victoria Carmen present a clever sketch, *A Tea-Room Tête-à-Tête;* Mr. Frank Elliston and company are extremely amusing in a laughable farce, *Aunt Matilda;* the Krags give a daring gymnastic exhibition; Mr. Billy Hobbs is an expert dancer; and the Bioscope shows a pretty series of films.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—George Auger easily tops the bill this week with his original and novel version of *Jack the Giant-Killer*, a playlet, in which the tallest work is done very deftly by Ernest Rommel, and a small, non-speaking part is made almost immense by the acting of Lottie Chamberlain. Out of a combination of patter and business and instrumental music Tom and Marie Motramo make up a broad comedy sketch, entitled *Do You Reverse?* and in *Nell of the Halls* Mabel Bardine and company find the materials for an effective little drama, very acceptably presented. Syd May does doubly well with his imitations of variety stars and his amusing wrestling skit; and other popular prolonged turns are contributed by Cruikshank, with songs pathetic and humorous; and by Will English, with coon lyrics and eccentricities; while Harry Drew, the Welsh basso, Lottie Lennox, in sundry ditties, and J. J. James, in a whistling and ventriloquial interlude, all secure full appreciation of their efforts; and the Bioscope, as usual, has its allotted place on the programme.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The boards here are occupied this week by Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company in *The Outcast of the Family*. Mr. Miles Platting is decidedly good as the Squire; Mr. Cecil A. Elgar makes a manly hero; Miss Gertrude Morella as Ruth captures the sympathies of the audience; Mr. C. H. Coleman is all that can be desired as the Squire's nephew; Miss Lilian Ross does well as the Squire's ward; Mr. Bert Atherton creates merriment as a farm servant.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. H. Kendall.—For this week the management have at the top of the bill Miss Louie and Mr. Courtice Pounds in an amusing sketch entitled *Charles His Friend*, in which they are assisted by Mr. Beresford Cooke and Miss Pearl Keats. Miss Lola Lee appears in a series of Indian dances; Ritter and Foster are responsible for clever dancing; the Seymons quickly establish themselves as favourites with an equilibristic juggling act; Gilbert Girard proves himself a clever animal mimic; Harry Marte is a comedian and dancer much above the average; Dorothy Sephton is a chic comedienne; Tom Taylor, the singing collier, sings well; and the Hippodrome pictures close an all-round show.

GILBERT'S PALACE, VICTORIA HALL.—Manager, Mr. George Zalva.—For their patrons this week the management has an excellent programme. The star turn is provided by the Seven Perezoffs, whose juggling pantomime *A Supper at Maxim's* is both laughable and clever. Aiston's Stars in their original entertainment also score a success; Mr. Allan Hanbury with story and song soon catches on; Mr. Dan Noble is well received; and the Desmonds, in illustrated songs, receive well merited applause. The pictures are both amusing and entertaining.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—This week sees a change from the Melville dramas to the musical play *Rollicking Rory*, produced by Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey. Mr. Mackey as Rory provokes roars of hearty laughter; Mrs. Mackay plays the dual characters of Mrs. Ashleigh and Rosaleen Ashleigh with great success; and other more notable characters in a really enjoyable play are those taken by Mr. Fred W. Leonard, Mr. Charles Horner, Mme. Constance Bellamy, and Miss Nana Flensberg.

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—For the first three nights of this week Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. W. Wood ingram presented *Jack Straw* with a company including Miss Florence St. John, who received a warm welcome at the hands of her numerous admirers in Folkestone. She played with all her old brilliancy the part of the parvenu Mrs. Jennings, winning abundant tokens of admiration. Mr. Lionel Glenister possesses the necessary sang-froid for the difficult rôle of the adventurous Prince, and acted in a manner than enhanced his reputation. Valuable support is given by Mr. A. T. Gullifer and Mr. Christmas Grose as the snobbish Parker-Jenningses, their work greatly adding to the success of the performances. Mr. Frederick Moyes as Ambrose Holland, Mr. Edgar Stevenson as the penniless Marquis of Serlo, and Mr. Ernest Graham as the Rev. Lewis Abbott, fitted their parts admirably. Mr. J. W. Wood Ingram was a courtly Ambassador. As the only refined member of the Parker-Jennings stock, Miss Lucie Milner delighted everyone with her graceful appearance and skilful acting, her love scenes with Jack Straw and the Marquis of Serlo being very meritorious; Miss Edie Graham makes a captivating Lady Wanley, her costumes being superb. The play is preceded each evening by a clever little tragedy, *A Long Journey*. The management are to be congratulated upon securing in such a brief space of time productions of three of Mr. Somerset Maugham's brilliant modern plays, which have, in every instance, drawn large houses.

TOWN HALL.—Mr. Ernest Mansell's animated pictures of naval and military life are attracting enormous crowds every evening.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—A beauty and hair competition, for which an entry of 300 has been received, forms the strong attraction at this house this week. Fifty pounds is being offered in the way of prizes, and the public has been greatly interested. Frank Long and Omoyo San in their exposition of the ju-jitsu art are welcomed warmly; Lieut. Travis, a clever ventriloquist, is one of the favourites; and a big hit is made by Florence and Rose Sherwell, a pair of tuneful singers. Adeline Yohle and company in the musical comedy interlude *Difficulties* are very entertaining; the Sisters Geretti display commendable smartness in the accomplishment of difficult trapeze work; and Alec B. Thorne, Scotch comedian, and the pictures by Vernon's Bioscope make up a good bill.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elden.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in *Under Two Flags* proves a great attraction at this house. Not for some time have we seen an actress of the ability of Miss Agnes Verity, whose depiction of Cigarette will be gratefully remembered. Mr. Austen Milroy, too, scores a triumph as Bertie Cecil; Rake is well looked after by Mr. Harry Benson; the character of Colonel Chanteroy is well sustained; and Mr. Dermot Fitzgibbon capably fills the rôle of Lord Rockingham. Miss Dorothy Lait is a queenly Venetia Corona, and other parts are in excellent hands.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—HIPPODROME.—Lessees, The Electric Vaudeville Co.; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. White.—This week the films given are greatly to the liking of the patrons, especially the one entitled Vampires of the Coast. The Chronophone has some good songs, which are appreciated by those who are unable to hear the original singers. An excellent turn is also given by Mr. Walter B. Freer.

GLASGOW.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphrys.—*The Flower Girl*, by Wm. T. Gliddon, and under the direction of F. Martin Morris, pays a return visit to the city. As a musical comedy it is interesting and amusing. The chorus is powerful and well balanced, and the staging up to date. In the title-rôle Miss Dorothy Firmin is a success, her singing being thoroughly enjoyable; Mr. Martin Adeson, a capital Joe Wheeler, sings several good songs; the part of Johnny Wheeler is in the capable hands of Mr. Alfred Donohoe, a smart little comedian; Mr. Robt. H. Howard appears with much acceptance as the Hon. Billy Greenhill; Miss Jeannie Holmes gives an excellent portrayal of an up-to-date Suffragette; Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Florence Wilton respectively present the parts of Alphonse and Lizette in a pleasing manner; in Mr. Norman Bowyer the company has an acquisition. To him is entrusted the drolleries of Reginald Rackit, and no better artist could be desired for the part, his dancing and general eccentricities bringing forth much applause.

KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—This week *The Merry Widow* is here for the second time, affording delightful entertainment to crowded houses. The title-rôle is now played by Miss Constance Drever, whose admirable range and quality of voice finds ample scope in the part; Mr. Leonard Mackay is also a newcomer, and his gay and spontaneous acting as the Prince wins all hearts; Mr. Eric Thorne repeats his highly-diverting study of Baron Popoff; and as Vicomte Jolidon Mr. W. Talleur Andrews again sings and acts with fine dramatic effect; the Nisch of Mr. W. H. Rawlins is as smart and amusing as ever; Miss Ether Cadman gives charm to the part of Mme. Popoff; and the other diplomatic ladies are attractively represented.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. Lewis Waller's company is here on a return visit with *Robin Hood*. The part of the chivalrous outlaw is finely played by Mr. Ethelbert Edwards; Miss Lilian Stennis is an exquisite Lady Marion; Miss Laura Flockton a charming Adele; and Alison is pleasingly depicted by Miss Gertrude de Burgh. Mr. Bruce Winston gives a suitable rendering of Friar Tuck; Little John is ably portrayed by Mr. F. Clive Ross; the truculent Prince John is well handled by Mr. H. Elliott Ball; Miss Irene Malvesyn making a dignified Queen Dowager. The High Sheriff FitzAlwynne is cleverly represented by Mr. Ernest Gray; and King Richard gets a suitable interpretation from J. N. Briant.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant. — Mrs. Brown Potter in *Lady Frederick* is paying a quick return visit to Glasgow, and the wit and sparkle of this clever comedy are much enjoyed. The company organised by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison is a good one, and, in addition to Mrs. Brown Potter as the warm-hearted Lady Frederick, it includes Mr. Philip Cunningham as Paradine Foulds, Mr. Herbert Garthorne as the young lover, and Miss Madeline Du Val as Lady Mereston. Mr. C. T. Doe is a breezy old Admiral; and his daughter is charmingly played by Miss Edith Deverell. Miss Phyllis Manners is specially good as the Society Dressmaker; and Miss E. Nolan O'Connor acts with excellent effect as the French maid, Angelique. Mr. Cecil Bevan does well in the part of Captain Montgomerie. *The Peacemaker* is given in front.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch. — A large and appreciative audience turned out to welcome the first visit here of the thrilling melodrama, *Convict 99*, by Marie Connor Leighton. The piece is exceedingly well got up, is of the sensational order, and was followed throughout with intense interest. The principal parts are cleverly portrayed.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. Harry Starr and company opened here on Monday with *Otto the Outcast*. Mr. Harry Starr displayed versatility in his handling of Otto, the outcast; and the part of Lara was tactfully played by Miss Katie Morris. A smart character-sketch of the unscrupulous Roderique D'Estalier emanated from Mr. Will Hee; and the Marquis Marcella de Laporte was forcibly portrayed by Mr. Edwin Firth. *Carl the Clockmaker* is also in the bill.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—*The Girl Who Went Astray* is interesting the patrons of the Lyceum. Miss Gwynne Warren shows a fine conception of the leading rôle; Mr. John B. Shinton makes an excellent impression as Captain Frank Julian; Miss Ada M. Ryder as Violet Harvey is the essence of refinement; Mr. Fred Lloyd as Rupert Murdock makes a successful appearance; and the parts of James Yellowsocks and Molly Smart are in the capable hands of Mr. Tod Squires and Miss Mary Dalby respectively.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Prominence is given here to George Gray, whose *Fighting Parson* always draws good audiences. His company is carefully selected, and the show passes off without a hitch. Than Colonel Gaston Bordeverry it would be difficult to find a greater marksman, both with rifle and pistol. His exhibition is faultless. The Brewsters prove warm favourites, their drilling with lance, club, and cutlass being superb. Their dancing is clever and neat, while their singing and instrumental work is exceptionally good. La Belle Nello is an exceedingly clever contortionist; Wyndham and Kitty prove expert wire artists; in a comedy duologue, entitled *His Wedding Morn*, Dave Austin is seen to great advantage; Jack Hayworth is an amusing Scotch comedian; and Charles Stevens takes well. Amusing films on the Bioscope terminate a good all-round show.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—The bill is topped this week by Shaun Glenville, assisted by Miss Ada Tilley and Mr. Augustine Symonds, in the amusing sketch, *The Art of Deception;* an interesting turn is that of Miss Lillian Lea, whose fine soprano voice is heard in several numbers; Harry Zetter is a good dancer; Cedar and Elgar in *Ye Dayes of Olde* present some comical samples of English, ancient and modern; Harry Blake, in "The Man in the Moon," comments comically on what he sees in this sublunary sphere; the Four Delawares combine dancing and athletic feats; Margaret Ismay and her White Coons combine sweet singing with neat dancing; Howard and St. Clair evoke roars of laughter in their sketch, *Do You Want any Coke?* and several interesting scenes from Bostock's Animal Arena in London are shown on the Bioscope.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—An excellent company is crowding this house to overflowing, the leading attraction being Margaret Cooper, in her clever and entertaining sketches at the piano; Frank Fenton and company give with good effect a condensed version of *David Garrick;* Lily Lonsdale is a vocalist of much merit, and her songs were heartily received; Arthur Slater as a whistler occupies a high place; Gracie Grahame gives her various songs with much vivacity; Ernie Myers as a comedian is very popular here; and a quartette with the enigmatical title of "This" Quartette add to the humour of the evening. The Burnells in their speciality, *Playmates*, complete an excellent programme.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Miss Maude Mortimer, the popular pantomimist, the star turn here, submitted several new songs on Monday, when the audience testified their appreciation of her abilities most enthusiastically. Harry Tate's *Fishing* sketch is another notable item; Berzac's comedy animal act includes a well-trained and droll donkey; other artists include Cleland, juggler; Mons. Argo, farmyard mimic; Lily Black, vocal comedienne; Hargadon and Cole, comedy sketch artists; and Louis Kerno, coon impersonator.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette. — The American racing sketch, *Futurity Winner*, provides lots of excitement, and is much enjoyed; Lydia Yeamans again gives her inimitable imitation of a little girl's début, and contributes several of her best songs; Rousby's Panorama of Old and New London, with its picturesque lighting effects, is a marvellous and interesting display; the Three Sisters Grovini give a smart acrobatic display; Leonie Dixon is a particularly neat dancer; Marie Clissold contributes an illustrated song in good style; and Harry Lawson takes well as an eccentric comedian. The mimicry of Leo Tell is wonderfully good; James Eadie and Cissie Ramsden give a clever comedy duo, with dancing and acrobatics introduced; the Bioscope is kept well up to date.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The Three Eltons display wonderful skill in their triple-bar act; and Barney Vox as a ventriloquist is inimitable. Rene Raie acquits herself well as a hand-bell ringer and skipping-rope dancer; the Marblesque Trio, in living pictures, give a praiseworthy performance; and May Garry, a singer of chorus songs, Little Louie, cornet soloist, and Allan Gordon, Scotch comedian, contribute to a capital programme.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Rich and Rare, the top variety turn, successfully submit a comedy sketch. Edie May, comedienne and dancer; Alf. Blydon, comedian and dancer; Agnes Waring, in illustrated songs; and Jack M'Nair, Scotch comedian, complete a capital variety programme. There is the usual display on the Bioscope.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—*London With the Lid Off* is presented this week by Mr. Stanley Carlton's company. Mr. Cralton himself gives a clever portrayal of the Rev. Allan Gordon; Mr. William G. Marshall renders the part of Gratton Gale, a blind burglar, in excellent style; Mr. Marshall Meade makes a typical city jeweller; and Mr. Edward Vincent as Sam Rendall and Mr. James Hart as the keeper of the gambling den are successful; Mrs. Glandale is forcibly enacted by Miss R. H. Belasco; Miss Charlotte E. Ballinger delineates in convincing style the unscrupulous Sarah Shafto; Miss Ruby Maude is responsible for a sympathetic rendering of Astra Bell, the persecuted heroine; and Madge Rendall, "the female sleuthhound," is in the capable hands of Miss Amy Ellam. A spice of humour, which is keenly appreciated, is introduced by Mr. Lancelot Usher (Percy Plunker) and Miss Emily Lewis (Dolly). *The Dairymaids* was billed for Thursday.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Robins and Collier, in their railway station scena, are clever; Ivy Aberdare sings and dances smartly; Pip, Powell, and Kate Vesey, in *A Perfect Woman*, are good; and Dan Whitley, comedian, catches on; Otto and Olga, in mock opera and musical act, are talented; and Emil and Ediss, banjoists, play the overtures to *William Tell* and *Carmen;* Harley and Melton, with new gags, are funny; the Sisters Beatrice, duettists and dancers, render a couple of duets; and U. C. Ugo, comedy magician, has quite a novel dice box. The Palacescope concludes.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is appearing here this week in *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*. Miss Louise Hampton gives a sympathetic rendering of Bertha Marshall; Miss Georgie de Lara ably depicts Val Raymond, the adventuress; Mr. Fred Goddard portrays Jack Marshall with credit; Mr. Paul Barry Lewen is excellent as Lionel Kenyon; Mr. Francis as Tommy Biffins is humorous; and Mr. George Lester is good as the detective.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—Leonard Durrell, log-rolling act in the water, displays considerable skill; the Victas are very clever as barrel jumpers; Sylvene is an accomplished artist; the Three Ohmys appear in a smart equestrian act; the Bros. Graham are excellent comedy acrobats and jugglers; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto are expert cyclists; Miss Amy Raisden is a smart comedienne; and Doodles and Bishop create lots of fun.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochram.—Excellent films are being displayed here this week, the one illustrating the Catholic Congress being worthy of special mention. The illustrated song "Alice, where art thou going?" is very popular.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. John Gerant and company in the military drama *At Duty's Call* are here this week. Mr. John Gerant ably portrays the part of Harold Alison; Mr. Ernest St. John is seen to advantage as General Gordon; Mr. Charles C. Calvert is successful as Capt. George Alison; Mr. Frank P. Morton is good as Jack Spencer; and Mr. J. Telly Dillsen is amusing as Terry O'Halloran. Miss Beatrice Western was charming as Dora Drummond; Miss Ada Roscoe was equally effective as Salema; and Miss Eva Belle as Mary was quite capable.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—The principal attraction is provided this week by Mrs. John Lawson and company in two powerful sketches, *The Devil's Sunday* and *The Woman and the Apple*. The former, which occupied the first three evenings of the week, attracted a crowded house on Monday, and proved most popular. The variety includes the Czar's Royal Troupe of Russian whirlwind dancers; Little Dolly, a dainty comedienne; Joan Deering, vocalist and violinist; and Tom Joy, comedian and raconteur. New pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—This week the bill is topped by the Yokohama Troupe of Japanese performers, who give a marvellously clever turn, and are loudly applauded. Fritz performs a series of mystifying illusions; Nellie Coleman scores as a male impersonator; and others appearing are Dome, an amusing clay modeller; Maxey and Pete, trick cyclists; Stephens and Rennoir, comedians and sand-dancers; the Sisters Belmoir, comediennes; and Avon and Crest, comedy artists. The Dromoscope pictures are much appreciated.

TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, the Greenock Corporation.—Bennell's B.B. Pictures are here this week. The films include A Texas Cowboy's Elopement, Sherlock Holmes, Dowry Hunting, Sunshine after Storm, The Boating Party, and Buried Alive. Variety turns are contributed by Miss Peggy Lynden, instrumentalist, and Miss Jean Macduff, comedienne.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The annual opera week is being fulfilled by the J. W. Turner Opera Company. The week opened with Vincent Wallace's ever-popular *Maritana*. Mr. Turner himself sang as Don Cæsar, and was accorded an enthusiastic welcome; Miss Jeanne Jeune appeared as Maritana, and her voice was admirably suited to the charming gitana ballads falling to her lot; Mr. Tom Griffiths as Don José sang with his customary artistic effect; Mr. Sidney Clifford played the King of Spain with dignity, and also won vocal honours; and Miss Jessie Dennis was quite successful as Lazarillo. On Tuesday, Gounod's *Faust* was staged. Mr. Charles le Sueur sang with appropriate ardour as Faust; Miss Sarah Williams gave a noteworthy rendition of Marguerite, admirably realising the emotional character of the music; Mr. Sidney Clifford was impressively dramatic as Mephistopheles; Mr. Frank Clarke installed suitable pathos into his singing as Valentine; and Miss Jessie Dennis creditably undertook Siebel. Other operas presented during the week were *The Lily of Killarney*, *Martha*, and *Il Trovatore*.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—The return of the Eight 'Varsity Girls is a very popular booking. They are a troupe of talented and versatile young ladies, who sing and dance in highly artistic fashion. Walter Munroe's Irish comedy is greatly amusing the audiences; F. V. St. Clair retains his popularity to the full, and his original songs, with interesting local allusions, are well received; the Westwoods give a clever exhibition of trick cycling; Miss Josie Mooney is a pleasing vocalist and dancer; Gertie Lewis is a smart male impersonator; and Fox and Melville contribute capital illustrated songs.

GUERNSEY. — THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S. — Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Entertainment has been furnished here by Mr. Ed. Marris' company, in *The Silver King*. Mr. Charles Weir's Wilfrid Denver is marked by power and intensity; Mr. Helier Le Maistre acts Jaikes with decided success; Mr. Rawson Buckley is realistic as The Spider; Mr. Cecil W. Parke is capitally placed as Geoffrey Ware; Mr. James Salter is diverting as Henry Corkett; Mr. J. Manville effectively depicts Elijah Coombs; Mr. A. F. Bassett is an admirable Baxter; and Mr. Walter Manfree represents Cripps with ability; Miss Barbara Allison wins favour as Olive Skinner; and Miss Grace Murielle enlists the sympathy of the audience by her clever and sympathetic acting.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Crowded houses are the rule this week at the Royal, the attraction being Miss Vesta Tilley. Miss Tilley is a great favourite here. She is scoring all along the line in her new songs. *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, a screamingly funny sketch, is beautifully staged and finely played by a company of clever artists, supported by a tuneful chorus; Jack Martin is a singer of merit; Richard Finberg gives character studies from famous plays; J. W. Rowley's songs and business create roars of laughter; and Campkin and the Whitworth Cycling Girls are clever. Harold Heath is an elaborately-dressed dancer.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are still the attraction at this house, augmented by a couple of variety turns—Stanley and Greenop, expert banjoists, and Bert Dansie, light comedian.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Harry Sims, a well-dressed light comedian, has a tuneful voice; the Florodoras (three ladies) produce *Two's Company, Three's None*. The introduction on the stage of a young man from the audience, who is prevailed upon to dance with the ladies, creates roars of laughter. Cliff and Kean, comedy artists, are a couple of expert dancers; Carter's Ten Dixie Girls, in *The Silver Coon*, are a troupe of good singers and graceful dancers; Chris. Richards causes considerable amusement with his eccentric dancing; the Miltons, give a laughable skating act; Cissie Curlette's comedy is of a high order; Irma Orbasany's highly-trained cockatoos give an entertaining performance; and Raymond's pictures conclude.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Mooney and Holbein are topping the bill here this week in funny sketch; another good sketch, *The Mummy*, is provided by Sandy M'Nab and company; Mlle. Merton and George Rydon are tuneful and energetic in a bit of burlesque business; Hearne and Palmer are excellent in an acrobatic turn; and the Resna Trio in a wire act. Elsie Earle in her song scena, *A Garden of Flowers;* Fritz Konnan, whistler; Mexford and O'Neill, patter comedians; and the Bioscope conclude.

HANLEY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Miss Decima Moore is captivating the Potteries' playgoers as "Mrs. Dot." The company is that of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison. Mr. Frank Lacy's interpretation of James Blenkinsop stands out boldly; Miss Emma Hutchison is a dignified Lady Sellenger; Miss Ethel Grahame plays Nellie cleverly; Miss Celia Gordon is well suited as Miss Macgregor; Mr. James Gelderd works hard as Gerald; Mr. Philip Leslie as Freddie is a faithful representative, and the Charles of Mr. William Midgley is admirable.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Miss Winifred Hare returns to the scene of former triumphs and makes a deeper impression than ever; the Tally-Ho Trio win loud plaudits for a clever act; the Waldrons have an original show, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux shows two clever films. The Athlones are very smart indeed; the Great Northern Troupe of Dancers are clever; Phil W. and Nettie Peters, comedy entertainers, win much favour; Cline and Clarke are superior dancers, and Fred Curran is decidedly humorous.

KING'S EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—The chief films here are A Tale of Two Cities, Poor Doggie, The Runaway Camel, The Hypnotic Policeman, A Night Alarm, A Girl's Fight for Honour, Heard on the Telephone, &c. Miss Lily Haines is also entertaining.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith.—A reversion has this week been made to variety on the two-houses-a-night system. The headliners are the Brooklyn Comedy Four, who prove very popular; the Ramsey Trio are good knockabouts; and Zenary Bros. are clever balancers. Bomnetti and Corrie are funny in an eccentric juggling act; Fulbrook and company appear in an absurdity, *Astronomy;* and Nellie Hewitt, assisted by Elsie May, in a musical act, in which Miss May manipulates clubs, provides excellent entertainment.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney Carter; General-Manager, Mr. F. D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Parker.—This popular place of amusement draws large houses twice daily, and no wonder, with the excellent fare provided. Mr. Felix Rimmington is a refined comedian. Mr. Fred Parker sees to the comfort of those in front.

HARTLEPOOL. — EMPRESS.—Proprietor, Mr. C. W. Lovesy; Manager, Mr. Albert Matham.—Another capital series of pictures is being shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. The principal film, depicting Life on the Island of St. Kilda, is remarkably clear and interesting, and amusement is caused by A Magnetic Removal, Ma-in-Law Beats the Record, The New Paris Policemen, and An Energetic Woman. Alfred Warner, comedian and instrumentalist, provides a turn on the programme.

HASTINGS. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Mr. Ernest E. Norris and company opened a three days' engagement on Monday in the pleasing comedy, *The Education of Elizabeth*, and attracted a crowded house. Miss Winifred Ingham gave a clever and agreeable performance both of the unregenerate Elizabeth and of the charming and refined girl of the later acts; Miss Blanche Lynd gave a clever performance as the vulgar, but good-hearted, Blanche Macyntyre, and carried out the Quarrel scene in the third act very effectively; Mr. Bert Morley gave a finished performance as Harry Fairfax; Mrs. Middleton was played by Miss T. Russell Spiers with an appropriate air of good breeding and womanly sympathy; the disagreeable rôle of Mr. Whitby was well played by Mr. Fred Castleman, who cleverly indicated its sinister attributes; the brainless and inoffensive Reggie Hankey was an amusing embodiment by Mr. Ernest E. Norris; Miss May Norris and Messrs. Fred Carter, Hugh Peel, and C. Holt added to the effect of the performance in lesser rôles.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Miss Nellie Sheldon is an attractive serio and dancer; an excellent exponent of American magic is seen in Mr. X; Charles Banks introduces his highly-trained dog, Woof; a comic turn is given by Arthur Boyne, comedian; Mr. Harry May Hemsley is an amusing entertainer and artist; as an Eastern sorceress Miss Cora Caselli is very successful, and her Spanish dances are light and graceful; "The Roadside Tinkers," Minnie Olive and Bob Owen, introduce some tuneful and pretty melodies in their vocal comedietta.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—*Robert Macaire* is being well patronised. The piece is admirably acted by Mr. A. B. Tapping and a numerous company. In the title-rôle Mr. Tapping gives a gentlemanly rendering of the character of the professional thief; mine host, Dumont, is well represented by Mr. Herbert Cotter; Mr. Augustus Wheatman gives a faithful sketch of Germenil, a wealthy farmer; as Jacques Strop Mr. J. D. Hunter is highly amusing; Mr. Charles Hawker gives a very natural impersonation of the head waiter, Pierre; Charles, the adopted son of the innkeeper, is intelligently represented by Mr. Edmond Beresford; Louis has a capital exponent in Mr. Henry Elton; Marie is pathetically presented by Miss Eva Bayley; and Clementine is rendered with much refinement and delicacy by Miss Vera Dudley. The play is preceded by Mr. Hunter's little company in the laughable farce *Turn Him Out*.

PUBLIC HALL.—Lessees, The People's Picture Palace Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local-Manager, Mr. Harry W. James.—Pre-

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vious engagements occasioned a break in the regular entertainment, which was resumed on Thursday with an entire change of programme.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION.—Entertainment Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Mr. Leigh Lovel and company are on a visit here in Ibsen's play *A Doll's House*. Miss Octavia Kenmore as the misunderstood Nora Helma submits a well-studied and clever realisation of the author's creation; Mr. Leigh Lovel is no less happy in his portrayal of Torvald, and affords the necessary character contrasts; Mr. Claud W. Sykes is forceful as Nils Krogstadt; Miss Katherine Maynard ably enacts Mrs. Lindon, and good assistance is given by Mr. E. Stanley-Yorke as Dr. Rank. The smaller rôles are suitably filled, and the play is prettily staged.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Barnsley.—Mr. Harry Benet and his talented company are providing a treat this week by their performance of *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Benet, with a fine representation of Crookie Scrubbs, is the cause of much hearty laughter; Miss Ray Anderson invests Lady Bickenhall with a handsome presence, and her cultured voice is heard to advantage; Mr. Denis Lyndon is responsible for some excellent comedy as Sergeant Brue, and no small measure of the evening's success is due to his efforts. Miss Daisie Dale, a charming Aurora Brue, is successful with her dancing and singing; Mr. Lister Morrah as Michael sings and acts admirably. An exceptionally well-drilled chorus, under the direction of Mr. Ernest Wolfe, and lavish mounting, add to the attractiveness of the performance.

HORWICH.—PRINCES' THEATRE.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company, under the direction of Mr. Teddy Myles, provides the attraction this week in *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Nellie Thorne Hallam's interpretation of Ninon Malvoisin, the abandoned woman, is a masterly performance, representing the almost incredible acts of a terrible creature in a perfectly natural style; Miss Lily Annesley gives a very sympathetic rendering of Eleanor Deane, the persecuted wife of Captain Seaton; Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner as Sally Sloper takes every opportunity of showing her ability in the chambermaid rôle; Mr. Herbert M. King as Captain Herbert Seaton has a part eminently suitable to him, and his efforts receive full appreciation; Mr. Arthur Curzon plays Robert Saunders in good style; Phillipe Malvoisin, chief of French thieves, has an admirable exponent in Mr. William Fraser-Brunner, his diabolical deeds under Ninon's direction being very cleverly depicted; Mr. Joe Birch plays Pierre, one of the gang, with vigour; Mr. Victor Garnet-Vayne in Sammy Sharp, the waif, gives an admirable account of himself, and Mr. W. E. Montaigne is a typical French waiter; on Mr. Teddy Myles' shoulders rests the responsibility for the bulk of the comedy element, and his efforts as Paddy Boyle, policeman, &c., create roars of laughter, his songs and quaint expressions receiving full attention. The minor characters are in good hands.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr N. M. Robinson.—An excellent and varied programme includes Bellonini, the well-known juggler; Miss Lily Esplin, low comedy artist; Rastus and Banks, duettists and expert dancers; Bros. Brooks, comedians; Miss Emma Don, a neat and refined character comedienne; the Woodwards, trick cyclists and equilibrists; Munroe's clever troupe of juvenile entertainers; Sisters Brand, duettists; the original Four Regals, in a wonderful exhibition of strength; and the unique film of the Balancing Bluebottle on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Chairman, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—Sir John Hare and his talented company are paying their first and final visit to Hull, and the city has had its opportunity of seeing his incomparable performances in *A Pair of Spectacles*, *The Gay Lord Quex*, and *Caste*. In his company are such talented people as Miss Mona K. Oram, Miss Ada Ferrars, and Miss Brandon Thomas, Messrs. Ivor Dawson, Bertram Steer, and W. T. Lovell. The efforts of the worthy knight have been most enthusiastically received, and Hull has had an artistic treat.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's play *With Edged Tools* is on a return visit. The company is very much the same as at the start, with the exception that Miss Phillis Relph figures in the rôle formerly associated with Miss Haidee Wright. Miss Marie Leonhardt has even bettered the rôle of Millicent, of which we have already spoken in praise; Mr. W. F. Grant is still to the fore as Jack Meredith, and the Victor Durnovo of Mr. Campbell Goldsmid is improved. The remainder of the cast work very well.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.— *Why Men Love Women* is a striking melodrama that has been seen previously in the city and always met with a deservedly hearty reception. Miss Ellen Snow plays the heroine with much taste and considerable skill; Mr. Oliver Roger is a very satisfactory hero. There is considerable fun furnished by Miss Nita Owen and Miss Freda Vaughan in company with Mr. Harwood Roberts.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and company are occupying the boards this week, with *The Coal King*. Miss Winifred Love is an acceptable Grace Shirley; and Mr. A. Clifton Alderson ably sustains the rôle of Tom Roberts. Mr. U. Burke is a suitable Sir Reginald Hartford; the same remark applying to Mr. Frank Dalton as Dick Shirley. The lighter side of the piece is represented by Mr. Sam Roberts (Jim Williams) and Miss M. Hinton (Araminta). Mr. G. Hanbury as Walter Hartford plays the villain adequately.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—Mr. Reginald Dance's company opened here on Monday with *Beau Brocade*. Mr. Dance gave an excellent representation of Captain Jack Bathurst; Mr. Frank Darch did well as the fugitive Earl; Mr. Frank Powell as Sir Humphrey Challoner, and Mr. Stanley Lathbury as Mittachip, the lawyer, were well suited to their parts; John Stitch, the village smith, was admirably played by Mr. Dalziel Heron; Mr. Edward Irwin as Miggs, the shepherd, and Mr. Aston Tonge as the Beadle were both humorous; and Mr. Ashton Thomas made the most of the part of Duffy. Miss Ruth Mackay gave an admirable rendering of the arduous character of Lady Patience Gascoyne, being well supported by Miss May Brooke as the vivacious maid, Betty. The play is excellently staged and dressed.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Miss Marie Loftus occupies star turn in this week's bill, and the versatile and popular comedienne gave the greatest possible pleasure to a large audience on Monday, and well deserved the enthusiastic applause which greeted each item. Her burlesque of "Singers—past and present," with a number of quick changes, is very smart and extremely funny. The Brontes have a smart duologue, entitled *Saucy Maud*; the Four Jumels are good musicians; and Almon does some wonderful feats on his hands. Miss Helen Charles has good abilities as singer, mimic, and siffleuse; the Sovereigns, one-legged performers, are possessed of great strength of arm; and *Dobson's Day Off* is an amusing sketch, presented by Maud Elliston and company.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. C. Watson Mills's company is here this week with *A Warning to Women*. Mr. H. C. Robinson gives a powerful rendering of Dr. Marcus Dread; Mr. W. Vane is quite at home as Shaun, a wandering minstrel; and Mr. C. O'Connor is well placed as Fergus McNaughton. Mr. L. Jackson makes the most of the part of Lord Eversleigh; Mr. Henry Rutland looks and plays Squire Kennion to perfection; and Mr. W. Palliser Acock causes much amusement as Ferdinand de Joules. Miss Edith Rutland gives an ideal performance of Myles O'Moore, the cripple; Miss Ellen Beverley is equally praiseworthy as Molly O'Moore; Miss Blanche St. Albans as Moria Kennion proves herself a most capable actress; and Miss W. Rutland handles the part of Sheila Kennion with great care. The mounting is excellent.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Dr. Seaton.—A change of pictures is provided at this place of amusement, which continues to be well patronised. Miss Margaret Lisle gives great satisfaction in her illustrated songs, and Sabino, the musical minstrel, also appears. Tom Lancaster, the middle-weight champion boxer, and Bernard Davis are engaged for a special night this week.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. E. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Mr. Edward Marris's company gave on Monday night a farewell performance of *As Midnight Chimes*, when that old Jersey favourite Mr. Jimmie Salter received quite an ovation. On Tuesday night Mr. T. Morton Powell's company opened here in the sensational drama *The Greed of Gold*, in which a real model of a working beam engine is shown. Amongst the sensations provided are The Murder by a Monkey, The Great Fight for Life, The Opium Den Scene, and The Dumb Man's Pantomimic Description of the Crime, excellently done by Mr. James Jarrett.

KEIGHLEY.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. S. Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. Will Carson.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, with *The Dairymaids*, provide an excellent bill of fare this week. The show is a merry one, and provocative of much laughter. Mr. Dan Agar is a host in himself, and his humorous business convulses the audience; he is capably supported by Mr. R. Telford as Lieutenant Sam Brudenell. Miss Empsie Bowman's Peggy is realistic, and her performance throughout is effective; Mr. Bernard Vaughan, an accomplished actor, scores as Dr. O'Byrne; Eliza has an able exponent in Miss Edie Martin; Miss Vera Crichton's numbers are nicely rendered; and Miss Carrie Lacey invests the rôle of Lady Brudenell with dignity. The staging is very effective.

KIDDERMINSTER.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. P. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—Miss Lena Stanton and Mr. Harry Josephs' company is appearing here in *The Bluecoat Boy*. In the title-rôle Miss Lena Stanton is a success, and Miss Gertie Lovedale ably supports her as Dolly. Mr. Sid Dean is funny as Mrs. Dickory, and Mr. Rex Kempton as Jack Lively is clever.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Ingram and Irving form the principal attraction this week in the funny sketch, *Office Boys*; the Three Sisters Thurban are smart instrumentalists; and a pretty little turn is Miss Daisy Taylor, comedienne. The Bros. Curran and Neil Logan are amusing in a boxing act; the Sisters Terry are popular comediennes and dancers; and Mr. J. G. Aitken, Scotch comedian, has a warm reception. The pictures form an important item.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—The attraction this week is *The Nihilist*, presented by Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's capable company. Mr. Joseph Millane as Ivan Nowasky appears to special advantage; Mr. Cowell Clark does remarkably well as Karl Orloff; Mr. O. Silverstone makes the most of Pierree Petoff; Miss Florrie Kelsey is successful as Princess Olga; and Miss Edna Clarke gives an excellent portrayal of Alexina Orloff. The comic element is supplied by Mr. Henry Wright and Miss Jessica Ford as Bobbie Smart and Katrina Zindoff respectively.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Another first-rate programme is presented here. The Jees' Musical Smithy heads the bill; Tom Moore, comedian, an old favourite, has a warm reception; Shriller is a remarkable whistler; Lisbon and Barker, comedians, cause roars of laughter; and Renee Graham is pleasing. The Lorrisons, in song and dance; the tuneful and attractive Lyric Mummers, operatic singers; and the Hippograph complete the bill.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—An excellent attraction is this week provided for the races, Mr. Seymour Hicks' company appearing in *The Gay Gordons*. Mr. Frank Lincoln gives a clever representation of Frank Graeme; whilst Miss Madge Vincent is a charming Peggie Quainton. Mr. Tom Graves' impersonation of Nervy Nat is quite a character-sketch in itself; and the Edmund Siddons of Mr. Edward Nainby is most amusing. Miss Ida Laurie is a quaint Charlotte Siddons; Miss Nellie Lonnen sprightly as Victoria Siddons; whilst the Andrew Quainton of Mr. Edward Beecher also calls for special mention. The other characters are all ably sustained; and an excellent chorus and augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Leonard Leslie, adds much to the success of the production.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—A welcome visit of that quaint piece *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* is being paid this week. Mrs. Madge Carr Cook impersonates Mrs. Wiggs in such perfect style as to compel enthusiasm. Miss Rita Carlyle very faithfully depicts the character of Miss Hazy; Miss M. Durrant is to be complimented on her Mrs. Eichorn; Miss V. Vivian finds the rôle of Mrs. Schultz well within her capabilities; Mr. Frederick Forrest wins general approval of his work as Mr. Stubbins; and other parts are cleverly cast.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—The engagement of Messrs. Dottridge and Longden's company with *The Village Blacksmith* is proving very popular here. Mr. Sam Livesey gives an effective representation of the blacksmith hero; Mr. Albert Sinclair distinguishes himself in a clever portrayal of the villainous Captain Leo; whilst the much-abused heroine is a pleasing and popular effort by Miss Maggie Edwards. Mr. Fred Haming takes full advantage of the great scope for humour in the part of Billy Twigg.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The dramatic sketch *'Tis Never Too Late to Mend*, by Geo. D'Albert and company, is voted a good lead at this hall. Frank Harwood scores well with a versatile turn; Corman's Juveniles have a pleasing vocal speciality; some clever equilibristic work is done by the Brothers Rowland; and of the rest Leo Trainer, Leah Arden, and Lytton and Bland are doing particularly well.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—The Gotham Comedy Quartette are strong favourites again; expert acrobatics by the Craggs arouse great enthusiasm; there is a big reception for the dramatic episode *A Royal Heart*, in which Mr. Scott Craven is the principal actor; and a novel hoop specialty by the Gregory Troupe is well liked. Rosa Loader achieves a big success at the piano; Kisbey is again vastly entertaining, and there are also special good turns by Radie Furman, the Howards, and Adey Spencer.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Arthur Prince constitutes the star attraction here. Joe Peterman presents another entertaining burlesque, *The Singing Servants*; some wonderful acrobatic work by the Hilgert-Arkas company arouses enthusiasm; Billy Williams has made a reputation as a comedian; Charles Sloman and Dan Filmer are doing well, and there are also excellent contributions by Lillie Lassah, Rosie Archer, and Grace Langley.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—King and Benson head a good programme with a clever musical burlesque, which is well liked; Taree, the musical bushman, gets a rousing reception nightly; and the Cheers score well again with their novel speciality.

LEICESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—A first-rate attraction this week is Mr. J. A. Campbell's company, in the homely drama *The Little Breadwinner*. Little Winnie Crisp is a great success in the title-part; Mr. Alfred Maurice is most effective as Joseph Prior; Mr. H. B. Peppin plays well as Lord William Dorrington; Mr. Reginald Brown makes an excellent impression as Richard Lawrence; and Miss May Richardson is good as Margaret Daventry. Mr. Sidney Lynn deserves praise as Charles Prior; Miss Clara Hunt is a popular Bridget; Miss Millie Ford is a capital Kate Cherry; Miss Lissa Young as Bobby Trott plays, sings, and dances in a praiseworthy manner; and Miss Kitty Melville as Ruth Cherry and Mr. Willace Carey as Dr. Chadwick are also to be commended.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—The one and only Marie Lloyd, as bright and vivacious as ever, is the great attraction here. The queen of comedy has to sing four songs, including her famous success, "The Directoire Girl." Her reception is most enthusiastic; Henry Coutts is a remarkably smart protean actor; Charles Vincent, the parody comedian, creates much merriment; Lively Lillie Langtry is brimful of merriment and vivacity; the Norman and Leonard Trio are good in their musical incident, *The Itinerant*; Bennie Barrow, a native of Leicester, with a good baritone voice, is making a success in a couple of well-rendered songs; Will Dacey and Nellie Lewis are amusing in their eccentric comedy; and Victor Travers, eccentric comedian, is also entertaining. The Bioscope is still retained.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Mr. Bernard Mervyn and Co. are to be complimented on their sensational one-act play, *The White Hand of a Woman*, by G. R. Sims; Miss B. Doyle, as Belle Bellingham and Mr. Bernard Mervyn as Captain Scarsdale are seen to advantage. Metz and Metz, simultaneous dancers, Elmo and Rego, comedy acrobats, the Two Rubies, refined vocalists and dancers, Chas. Denton, comedian, Margaret Radcliffe, pictorial songstress, Lily Ray, comedienne and dancer, and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope are other attractions.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—A full programme of pictures is again being shown here, the principal ones being Vision of Death, Saved by a Telegraph Code, Two Travelling Bags, The Secret of the Iron Mask, The Poor Blind Woman, The Jack of all Trades, and The Baby and the Ne'er-do-Well. Successful first appearances are being made by Harry Blande, in "Song and Story," and Roma Wray, in English and American illustrated songs.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Stanyon.—Mr. Will Catlin's Royal Pierrots opened their usual month's season here on Monday. They present a delightfully refined entertainment, the songs, sketches, concerted numbers, duets, and trios evoking unstinted applause. The great popularity of this troupe is well maintained by Mr. Catlin, who believes in, and does present, artists of undoubted ability, whose efforts, whether as vocalists, dancers, or comedians, are of a thoroughly amusing and entertaining character. The troupe consists of Will Catlin, Will Ambro, Sid Frere, George Houghton, Tom Catlin, Charles Paulson, Jackson Browne, Harry Glynn, and Harry Taylor. The sketch, entitled *Suffragettes*, is extremely funny, Mr. Will Catlin as Mrs. Pancake creating roars of laughter.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company is this week presenting *Two Little Sailor Boys*. Miss Blanche Steele is a strong exponent of Lola Grey; and is well supported by Mr. Horace Booth as Lieut. Richard Redstone. Mildred Grey, the heroine, is excellently portrayed by Miss Muriel Dean; Commander Noel Tregarthen is impersonated capably by Mr. H. E. Herbert; and as the two little sailor boys, Cyril Grey and Tom Yorke, Miss Effie D. Crawford and Miss Ivy Millais acquit themselves admirably.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—In *The Old, Old Story* the comedy element is agreeably developed by Miss Bonwin Carlton and Mr. C. Wilson, in their respective rôles of Tilly and Bobby Blossom, a couple of bookmakers; and as the detective, William Grimshaw, Mr. Edward Surrey does excellent service. The evil genius of the piece, James Marlow, and his accomplice, Jacob Lanham, lose nothing in their renderings by Mr. J. P. Dryden and Mr. T. Macdonald; hero and heroine contend successfully with adverse fortune in the persons of Hilton Thorpe (Mr. T. Hadlin) and Netty Hazel (Miss Berenice Fielding); Miss Kitty Maynard gains sympathy for the child, Jessie Hazel; and the parts of John Hazel and Janet Marlow are carefully acted by Mr. A. P. Lee and Miss Esther Lamont; the less exacting rôles in the cast being also adequately filled.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company is presenting drama this week. *Send Him Victorious* was staged on Monday. Mr. W. Alington as Allison, Miss Marie Robson as Kara, and Mr. Edward Lowrie as Max shone in the leading parts. *A Beautiful Fiend* fills the bill for the rest of the week.

PALACE.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—Beauty competitions and contests for the best head of hair, for prizes amounting to £25, are drawing the people in. Besides this, there is a strong variety programme. The Jackley Trio present a screamingly funny burlesque and acrobatic turn, good enough for any bill; Clark and Hayden have a laughable duologue, as have Stidder and Dunbar; while the Antes, coloured artists, score with song and dance. Gracie Hunt sings acceptably, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux win high favour.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—Under the direction of Moss' Empires, Ltd., the Hayden Coffin and John Coates's company appeared here during the week in a revival of *Dorothy*. It was disappointing on Monday evening that Mr. Coffin was unable to be in the cast, owing to a cold he contracted whilst on a journey from Newcastle, where the comic opera was given last week; but, at very short notice, Mr. E. Strathmore stepped into the breach, and, under the circumstances, did very well with the part of Harry Sherwood. Mr. Arthur Williams delighted as of old with his original Lurcher, the audience at times rocking with laughter; Miss Ruth Davenport proved a winsome Dorothy, and sang in a manner that earned for her great applause; Miss Hebe Bliss as Lydia was an excellent companion; Mr. John Coates pleased exceedingly with the part of Geoffrey Wilder, his singing being particularly acceptable; as the Squire Mr. Colin Coop proved entirely successful; and the chorus and orchestra deserved praise for their work. On Wednesday evening Mr. Hayden Coffin took up his part, and was appreciatively received.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—A visit of Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company has been enjoyed here this week. On Monday evening there was introduced to Liverpool a dramatised version of *Don Quixote*. In the title-rôle, Mr. Benson displayed dignity and pathos, his histrionic skill and judgment carrying him safely through some difficult work; Mr. George R. Weir proved eminently successful with Sancho Panza; Miss Helen Haye made a sweet Antonia, playing with much feeling; Mr. Baliol Holloway did every justice to the rôle of the Barber; a natural type of Innkeeper was portrayed by Mr. Warburton; and Miss Olive Noble creditably held the part of the Duchess. Needless to say the staging and accessories were admirable. During the remainder of the week the plays presented were *Twelfth Night*, *Merchant of Venice*, *School for Scandal*, *Henry V.*, *Hamlet*, *Coriolanus*, and *Richard III.* In the last two mentioned the veteran actress Miss Genevieve Ward appeared as Volumnia and Queen Margaret.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*Lucky Durham*, presented last week at the Star Theatre, has been given here this week, and, although the distance between the two places is only about one mile, the popular Rotunda has had large audiences, who thoroughly enjoyed Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's capital production.

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—An important booking here this week was the Lyceum success, *Her Love Against the World*, which drew big audiences. Messrs. Hallatt and Howard's company included Miss Grace Heywood, whose assumption of the trying rôle of Iris reflected upon that accomplished artist every credit; Mr. Fred Emery distinguished himself as the manly Eric; Mr. Louis Gilbert made a fine Ulric; as Prince Othmar Mr. W. H. Hallatt acted with much power; Mr. Victor Rowland did every justice to the character of Prince Maurice; and the remainder of the cast acquitted themselves to everybody's satisfaction. The drama was staged and costumed in high-class style.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Foremost here this week is Miss Evie Greene, to whom was accorded a most gratifying reception for her popular songs; George Gilbey proved as amusing as ever; Billy Howard and Kathryn Harris submitted a very diverting trifle, *The Adventures of a Happy Tramp*; great laughter followed the comedy boxing of the Bros. Horne; Jack Pleasant was received with much favour for his merry songs and patter; Thora gave a neat ventriloquial sketch; and contributions also came from Arthur Kenny, who went through some sensational cycling; the Rhoda Bros., with a gymnastic act; and Florence, lady mimic.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—*A Country Girl in London* has been presented here during the week, for the first time in Liverpool, by Messrs. Alfred Northway and W. V. Garrod's company.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—The favourite Horace Wheatley has been here this week with his latest songs and funny patter; Coram gave an interesting ventriloquial turn; Fred Hastings delighted everybody with his humorous songs; the Haydons caused roars of laughter by means of the burlesque, *Bertie and the Barmaid*; some smart dancing was executed by the coloured comedian, Russell Brandon; as comedy duettists Cosgrove and Burns proved very entertaining; Mlle. Pollo gave a clever exhibition on the trapeze; and also in the list were Mi Narom, with latest comedy successes; the great Vincent, acrobatic table expert; and Bert Wickham, athlete.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—The educated horse, Princess Trixie, introduced by Mr. W. Harrison Barnes, gave a most interesting show here this week; the always popular Jack and Evelyn had a hearty reception for their latest songs and business; a novel and smart turn was that given by Hinton and Wooton, who went through a football match on bicycles; some neat acrobatic work was shown by the Three Antonias; Lawrence Barclay made everybody laugh heartily; some pleasing and appreciated songs were rendered by Miss Helen Martin; Henri Bekker, assisted by Mlle. Maie, delighted his audience with smart comedy juggling; a cordial reception was given to Harry Taft, comedian and silfleur; and the Maximilian Trio of equilibrists presented a turn that was watched with close attention.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The drama given here this week by the stock company was *Secrets*, from the pen of Max Goldberg. Mr. David G. Noble as the manly Lieut. Markham acted with judgment; Mr. Sydney Grant made an impressive Caliph; Mr. Robb Wilton amused with his Peter Wilkins; Miss Florence Palmer was favourable as Ismalia; and good work also came from Messrs. Leo Montgomery, E. D. Allen, R. Seath Innes, Cecil Ravenswood, Miss Lilian Radbourne, and Miss Gertrude Entwhistle. Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—Top of the bill here this week were the Pardoes, with their comedy speciality act; the male impersonations of Lizzie Round were appreciated; Dora and Dorma had a neat song-scena, *A Husband's Reform*; Salmon, a smart trick and musical cyclist, pleased immensely; Lottie Holland's bright new songs were favourably received; Howe and Kessler (Harry and Mabel) had a capital musical and vocal turn; George Heitman proved an amusing comedian; and the Bioscope had some interesting pictures.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Top of the programme here this week was Loie Fuller's group of dancers in the *Ballet of Light*, a turn that was remarkable for its charming effects; a rousing reception was bestowed upon George Bastow, who gave his amusing "Varmer Giles" and "The Galloping Major"; those exceedingly funny comedians, the Brothers Egbert, were as excellent as ever; Madge Temple, with the big hat, sang several songs in pleasing style; the Three Delaries presented an able speciality act, *The Demon Grotto*; Ruth Lytton, Scotch comedienne, met with much acceptance; happy Tom Parker sang and danced to everyone's satisfaction; some remarkable acrobatic cycling was gone through by the Cumberlands; and the Corcoran Brothers had a capital musical act, *The Sons of Toil*.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Principal here this week are Joe Peterman's company with the merry sketch, *The Singing Servants*, which provoked great laughter; Randolph King, "the one-man programme," was received with loud applause; the Bouncing Dillons are expert novelty gymnasts; Devon and Earle as wooden-shoe dancers showed much talent; a pleasing comedienne is Evelyn Taylor; Morrin and Cardiff danced and sang to the general satisfaction; Barrie and Wood, comedy artists and acrobatic dancers, proved a capital turn; Harry Kirk brought some popular songs, which he rendered in good style; and also in the list are Edwin Adeler, comedian; Deuchars, duettists and dancers; and Miss Anileda, who, assisted by her amusing "eccentric," gave a capital show.

LLANDUDNO.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Mr. F. G. Chabot's company appeared here on Monday for three nights in *Only a Woman*. Courtney Wallace is capitally sustained by Mr. Leslie K. Manton; Mr. Fred Green (Lieut. Richard Summerfield) and Mr. Chas. Wilton (Lieut. Rodney Summerfield) were well placed; Mr. George Wrillis was an amusing Bill Bumkins and Mr. A. Silvernie a stolid James Dobson. Miss Rosie Fields as Grace was effective; Miss Lily Lewis as Violet Redgrave gave a capital representation; and Miss Violet Crauford as Marie Lectoc ably portrayed a difficult rôle.

LONDONDERRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Payne Seddon; Manager, Mr. Alec Jeffries.—Mr. Chas. M. Daly's variety programmes continue to attract crowded houses twice nightly. The bill this week includes Les Valdores, a celebrated troupe of Continental jugglers and equilibrists; Palette and his clever dog "Max" in a novel turn, entitled "A Busy Time at the Zoo." Millard Brogden, comedy entertainers; Akbar speciality gymnasts; Geo. Milliard, comedian; Sisters Hula, vocalists and dancers; Bella Leaburn, comedienne; and the Brothers Robson, comedians; and the admirable Dalyscope picture.

LONG EATON.—ST. JAMES THEATRE.—Passing from the serious drama we went to the musical this week with *The Dairymaids*. Miss Isa Bowman takes the chief part of Peggy, while Mr. Edwin Dodds figures as the able seaman, with Miss Maud Lucy as Eliza; The well-balanced company is musical and provocative of mirth and merriment. *Diana of Dobson's* opened on Thursday night, Miss Violet Vort figuring as Diana.

THE PALACE.—Mr. Smith has a good variety company with his picture show. Professor Garton, the manager, gives two shows nightly.

PEOPLE'S HALL.—Professor Wood has a big picture show with variety business by a talented company. This place is competing with popular prices.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Fred Bonner and company are presenting a capital sketch, *The Little Stowaway*. Included in the bill are the Kroney Bros., comedians; Blanche Vincent, burlesque artist; Nellie and Kate Lewis; Will McIvor; Nib Hinman; and John Stevenson, a local Scotch vocalist.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—The return visit of the popular Scotch comedian, W. F. Frame, drew a packed audience on Monday. His vocal numbers were received with tremendous enthusiasm, and the popular artist held the boards for more than half an hour; J. J. Mannix's coon songs and dances were warmly applauded; Sira, a one-legged acrobat, also appeared in some highly clever business; and Harry Wright, the well-known vocalist and composer, was well to the fore in his own particular style. Also included in the bill are Les Currys, musical experts; Nellie Gannon, in charming songs and dances; and Marie Fenton. The British Biograph Co., as usual, contribute to the general success.

LUTON.—GRAD THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—The Luton Dramatic Society is this week playing to full houses. The pieces selected are *The New Boy* and *The Second in Command*. The proceeds, after nominal expenses are given to local charities.

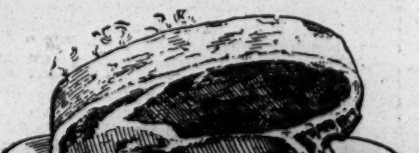
MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—This week Mr. Dickie Clare and company are paying a visit with *Lucky 'Liza*. Miss Madge Brownie, in the title-rôle, plays with gaiety; Mr. Dickie Clare as Silas Slim, the judge, and the French waiter, shines prominently; Miss Vesta Brownie makes a vivacious Virginia; Miss Evelyn Wood a winning Sadie; Mr. J. W. Forrest is a great success as William Biffins; the Paul Pettitoe of Mr. Norman H. Lee is a satisfactory effort; Mr. T. W. Benson is capital as Peter Pettitoe; and Mr. Harry George does justice to the part of Barnsley Blatherwick; and Miss Helen Douglas is a prim Marie Pettitoe. The Astor Trio are exceptionally clever dancers.

MAESTEG.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—Mr. Ernest Vaughan's company with *Man or Beast?* opened here on Monday night to a full house. Mr. J. W. Boyling gave an effective rendering of the Hon. Jack Newton; Mr. Ernest Vaughan was commendable as Sir Richard Tremere, the villain; Mr. Chas. D. Pitt was a manly Colonel Bruce Anderson; as Captain Donald Macdonald Mr. Chas. H. Phelp was exceedingly funny; Mr. Fred Gresham was also responsible for a deal of laughter as Pat O'Brien; Miss Irene Carrington as Bella Newton acted in a delightful manner; Miss Phyllis Elton displayed ability as Annetta; and Miss Madge Douglas played smartly as Rosie Newton. For the last three nights of the week *The Convict* and *Stowaway* are billed.

MAIDENHEAD.—THE PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. G. Gude.—This week's entertainment consists principally of animated pictures, of which some of the best are shown. The Superintendent's Night Out, Trick Matches, and The Magnetic Removal are highly entertaining, and an excellent film is that depicting Canadian scenery and the grain industry. Variety is afforded by Raynor and Reece, who, besides appearing separately, also are in a musical duologue introducing clever step-dancing.

MAIDSTONE.—PALACE.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—The bill is headed by V. L. Granville, who appears in a clever quick-change sketch, *'Twixt Dawn and Daylight*; Stratton Mills and company are responsible for hearty laughter in the sketch, *Ananias the Second*; J. H. Milburn has good songs and patter; Sergeant Brannan, diabolo juggler, submits a novel act; and Tinsley and Knight, duologue artists; and the Three Orleans, after nominal expenses, are given to local charicomedian; and the Bioscope are also included in a good programme.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres, Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—This week a third example of the work of Mr. Somerset Maugham is offered to local playgoers, namely, *Mrs. Dot*, in which



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Miss May Palfrey renews her acquaintance with Manchester, after an absence of five years. Needless to say, Miss Palfrey's depiction of the title-part is a piece of excellent comedy, and was appreciated as such on Monday by an audience which quickly recognised the entertaining quality of the play. Mr. Basil Hallam also plays admirably as Freddie Perkins, and considerable help is forthcoming from Mr. F. Kinsey Peile as Blenkinsop in the second and third acts. Others who do well are Mr. Hugh C. Buckler as Gerald Halstane and Miss Aida Jenoure as the scheming Lady Sellenger. The comedy is preceded by *A Lively Dinner*, by H. de Lange.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee, Mr. John Hart; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—*My Mimosa Maid*, second week.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Mr. Fredk. Mouillot's company is still entertaining local audiences with the strong and exciting drama *A Desperate Marriage*.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—The attraction here is *The Mollusc*, played by Miss Annie Hughes and company. Miss Hughes represents Mrs. Baxter in creditable style; and the airy development of the piece is well assisted by Mr. Athol Stewart as Tom Kemp, Mr. Alick Chumley as Mr. Baxter, and Miss Lillias Waldegrave as Miss Roberts. *A Bit of Old Chelsea* precedes.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Mason.—Mr. Percy Williams's company is here this week, in *The Fatal Wedding*, which is attracting good houses. The piece contains both humour and pathos, and is well played throughout. Miss Lulu Wohlmann, as Jessie, "the little mother," stands out conspicuously; Mr. Cecil A. Melton acts with sincerity and strength as Howard Wilson; the part of Robert Curtis, the man about town, is in the able hands of Mr. Frank Harrison, whose partner in crime, Cora Williams, is ably portrayed by Miss Elaine Vanbrugh; Mabel Wilson is sympathetically depicted by Miss Ethel Kay; Miss Ethel Sarjient gives a clever impersonation of Bridget, the lady cook; and others who do well are Mr. Charles Locke, Mr. Cyril Melton, Mr. Frank Ashley, and Mr. J. Newton.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—The programme here this week is headed by the Imperials, ju-jitsu wrestlers, including Jack Madden, and Tom Pearce, who give an interesting turn; the Spanish Juanitos perform some wonderful acrobatic feats; Coverdale and Huxley's Bijou Juveniles are very pleasing in a musical scena, *Pansy's Birthday*; and the Wedburns are smart comedians. Good turns are also given by the Miners' Quartette, including Billy Dewey, coloured vocalist and dancer; Kingston Trollope, in dramatic monologue; Jimmy Shields, one-legged comedian and dancer; Joe Conway, pocket comedian; Adela Crispin, musical comedy artist; and George Edney, character vocalist.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The sensation here this week is a film reproducing the Gotch *v.* Hackenschmidt wrestling match, in America; C. and F. Renad's comedians are also prominent in a brisk version of *The Swiss Express*; Julia Kent and Alec Keith, comedy duologue artists, are exceptionally well received; Percy Ford and G. W. Webb's company give a capital performance in their American war-drama, *The Spy*; and much amusement is caused by Les Marsumas, clever comedians on wheels. Other enjoyable items are added by Lord, Murray, and Lord, in their comedy gymnastic mélange; George Platt, a very pleasing baritone vocalist; Fred Lincoln, in *My Pal Jemmy*; and Alf. Maynall, comedian.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—The Elliott-Savonas are the attraction here, in their wonderful musical scena, *The Palace of Orpheus*, and meet with a deserved big reception; *The Capture of Venus*, excellently presented by J. C. Piddock and company, including Gus Oxley, as Jolliboy, is highly diverting; and Charles Steuart's company, including Nellie Bowman, are very good in *The Water Cure*. Charlene and Charlene are excellent as juggler and xylophonist; Horace White is entertaining as ventriloquist and pianist; Prince Schaboo, bass vocalist, has a fine voice; George Newburn, an exceedingly smart mimic, is well received; Verno and Voyce are popular singing comedians; and Yathe Mandelbom plays well on the violin. Bioscope pictures complete an all-round excellent programme.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—The big turns here this week are Wilkie Bard, who is excellent in his new songs, and the Arthur Saxon Trio, who perform some wonderful feats of strength. Besides these, Addis Dorina shows great cleverness in her protean act, *Dr. Spot's Patients*; Friscary, the hat juggler, is remarkably expert; Rosie Lloyd, comedienne, sings well; and other good turns are Harris and Worth, the sporting comedians; Addie Adell, vocalist; the Wakeman Quintette of accomplished song harmonisers; and Nellie Stratton, comedienne, who assists her husband, Wilkie Bard, in his policeman "siesta" song.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Daisy Jerome, that clever comedienne, tops the bill here this week, and is accorded a big reception; Dickson, Moffatt, and company are seen to advantage in *The Major and the Widow*; charming Josie Delaine sings and dances nicely; Edna Latonne scores as a male impersonator; Walker and Lake are smart patterers; Flo Lister, ballad vocalist, sings well; whilst other good items are those of Anna Kenwick, coon singer and dancer; the Lutinas, in a gymnastic act; the Claymores, dancers and club jugglers; Julia Reeves and company, in comedy and dramatic wordless play *Love is Blind*; and Harry Bold, comedian. Ruffell's Bioscope pictures are high-class, as usual.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—The fare provided here this week is *For Love and the King*, a romantic drama, played by a company under the direction of Mr. C. Watson Mill. Mr. Mill is seen to great advantage in the important rôle of Jarval, a soldier of fortune, and he is admirably supported by Miss Rosalind Tate as Princess Athene; while clever and interesting work is added by Miss Joan Ellis as Natila, the beggar-maid, and Messrs. John Burton and Henry Earlesmere as the two Obrenovics, a rascally father and son. Other parts are well enacted, and the play is presented twice nightly with success.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—The Six Brothers Luck present here, in a very capable manner, a melodramatic absurdity, entitled *The Hemit*, the principal parts being particularly well acted; Ajax and George are clever in a gymnastic act; Lavelle Brothers are smart acrobatic comedians; Pueblo and Cropp are good sand dancers; Walter Buxton, baritone vocalist, sings in a high-class style; Carl Howard is a "komic" conjurer; Cyclumina, in an original electrical cycle act, takes well; Braund and Davis are good cross-talkers; and Little Tichbourne is a quaint oddity. When Cats are Away is an amusing film shown on the Bioscope.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—The Denwartz Troupe of juvenile lady hand-balancing acrobats are here this week, and go through a surprising performance; Ada Fawn is also here, and is successful, as usual; Sylvia, in a series of dances, is excellent; J. C. Scatter is a vastly funny comedian; George Laurence scores as a light comedian; Evelyn and Nome are good in comedy sketch, *Set a Thief* ——; Gillin, ventriloquist, makes a hit; Frank Solbey, as child mimic and novelty comedian, is capital; Doyle and Massey, comedians, take well; and Mark Merry is an amusing comedian. Flash James, the Bioscope subject, is excellent.

MANSFIELD. — GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—There was a large audience on Monday to see Hardie and Von Leer's company with *Two Little Vagabonds*. The Misses Chrissie Frances and Ethel Green made interesting "boys"; Mr. George Denham as Gerald Thornton acted with sound judgment; Mr. Herbert Standing, jun., was well suited as Captain Darville; Miss Dora F. Harvey made a sympathetic Marion Thornton; the part of Barbara Scarth was in the capable hands of Miss Leonora Castelle; Miss Mabel Cooke was a pleasing Sister Randall; and much laughter was occasioned by Mr. Herbert Russell (Bill Mullins) and Miss Ethel Lodge (Biddy Mullins).

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—The Seven Xentrix, in their smart vocal and dancing scena, provide an attractive turn this week; and the Johnstown Flood is realistically depicted, on similar lines but in reduced facsimile, to the one recently shown at the White City. Cambo, the musical monkey; Gwen Francis, comedienne; Harry Russell and company, in the comedy sketch, *Binks's Blunder*; Alice Vincent, comedienne and dancer; and Dick Kendall, comedian and eccentric dancer, also contribute to an all-round programme.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's Shakespearean company is paying a welcome return visit this week. On Monday *Hamlet* was the selection, and in the title-part Mr. Maclaren gave a masterly reading, which was followed with intense interest throughout. Ophelia was charmingly undertaken by Miss Muriel Dale; Miss Marion L'Estrange was effective as the Queen; Mr. F. Stafford Dawson was admirable as Polonius; and Laertes and Horatio had able exponents in Mr. George Relph and Mr. Guy Cunningham. Also billed are *Romeo and Juliet*, *Othello*, and *The Merchant of Venice*.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Rex Fox, ventriloquist on the wire, provides an acceptable turn; the Four Maisanos gain hearty appreciation for their eccentric musical act; the Wartana Trio are expert jugglers; the Lovelaces, in illustrated songs, are paying a return visit, and secure a hearty reception. Other popular items are presented by Alfonzo, foot equilibrist; Bertha Norwood, soubrette and dainty dancer; and Kenneth and Kane, comedy duo. The Biograph shows a capital series of up-to-date films.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—Messrs. Neville and Carnaby's company is paying a first visit here with *Napoleon's Divorce*. Miss Kate Randolph gives a touching rendering of Josephine, and Mr. F. H. Neville deserves high praise for his masterful portrayal of Napoleon. Mr. Terence Nerry is very effective as Count D'Arville; Mr. J. Sodon is responsible for a capital study of Joseph Bonaparte; Mr. J. Holt as Pierre le Blanc is much appreciated; Miss Marion Mayne makes a charming Jeanette, and Miss Veronica Clinton is good as Marie Louise. The other characters are suitably filled and the play very effectively staged. Some capital films are again shown on the Gaietyscope.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Sydney Rennef and G. M. Copping are this week presenting *Love Rules the World*. Mr. Richard Vane gives a dignified rendering of Harold Kingston; the despicable Stephen Blight is capably presented by Mr. Stephen Langton; Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne does well as Paul Carruthers; Mr. Sydney Rennef submits a clever interpretation of Jim Dixey; Miss Conyers Radcliffe imparts dignity and refinement to the character of Maud Carruthers as the villain's accomplice; as Flo Morton Miss Constance Medwyn plays with ability; bright comedy is submitted by Mr. Walter Dale as Billy Binks, and Miss Kitty Russell as Kitty Snowdrop.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—An excellent programme this week includes, among others, The Nihilists, Mr. Fitzy, The Pretty Girl Farmer, Saved by a Horse, The Sculptor's Dream, Haunted House, &c

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*Irene Wycherley* is being produced here this week by the Monckton Hoffe Comedy company. Miss Maude Henderson in the title-rôle acquits herself admirably in a most trying part; Mr. Chas. Garvy as her husband gives a powerful representation; Miss Muriel Cannel submits a delightful performance of the part of Linda Hetheridge; and as Lady Wycherley Miss Beatrice Mervyn is exceedingly good. Miss Grace Illingworth as Carrie Hardinge, Miss Evelyn Cecil as Hilda Preston, Miss Phyllis Stuckey as Muriel Wycherley, Miss Maud Linden as Lily Summers, and Mr. Claude Haviland as Charles Summers are all that can be desired. The play is preceded by an amusing comedietta, *Petticoat and Perfidy*, by Sir Chas. L. Young, Bart.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—The charming play *Peter's Mother* is being presented here this week by Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company. Miss Violet Ley as Lady Mary gives an excellent portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr. Vivian Gilbert presents the character of Peter in a most artistic manner; and the part of Sir Timothy Crewys is ably performed by Mr. Townsend Whitting. Miss Mary Griffiths and Miss Josephine Rae create endless amusement by their capital representation of Sir John's two sisters. The other characters are all ably represented. The play is preceded by an enjoyable and entertaining curtain-raiser entitled *Turtle Doves*.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—Herbert Terry and company provide a capital sketch here this week entitled *Wanted*. Dave Samuels, the Hebrew comedian, scores a great success; and Stewart and Morgan are exceedingly good in their vocal speciality act. Ferris and May cause much amusement in a comedy act; and the Australian conjurers Sid Doody and Edio Wright are very laughable. Yolande Noble proves a clever comedienne; as does also Odeyne Spark; Young Gicard's juggling is both clever and original.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—A musical extravaganza, *A Trip to Paris*, is admirably played here this week by John Tiller's company. Mr. Bob Selvidge is responsible for much laughter; and the Coloured Meisters give a most artistic singing turn; Bert Williams is a clever ventriloquist; and Yvonne Lamor is a dainty comedienne. Frisky, a comedy juggler, and the Royal Delomes, dancers, also do well.

OXFORD.—Proprietor, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Ormsby French.—The Bensons score a great success here this week with their vivacious singing and dancing; Effie White presents a brilliant and effective scena; Tom Casey is a clever singer and whistler; and Ryder Slone wins popularity. The other turns, Fern and Fawn, Steeley and Dawton, Mark Lemon, and Boy Glen complete an excellent show.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Miss Dinah Morris and company are here in the musical scenario, *A Village in Dahomey*.

MUSSELBURGH.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston.—A stock season commenced here this week. On Monday *The Grip of Iron* was given, and a capital house gave Mr. Kingston (in the part of Jagon, the strangler) a warm welcome. He was ably supported by Messrs. Edgar Thorne as Ribas and Smiler; Bertram Croucher as Paul Blanchard; H. Croma Osborne as Dodot; and Richard Asche as Belford. Miss M. Moseley played Sophie Blanchard, and Marie Guerin was in the hands of Miss May B. Barratt.

TOWN HALL.—Mr. Durward Lely and his company paid their annual visit on Friday and Saturday, the 13th and 14th inst., and gave performances of *The Bonnie Briar Bush* and *The Power of Gold*. In the former Mr. Lely appeared as the Rev. John Carmichael, and during the evening sang some Scotch songs. Included in the company were Messrs. George Hunter as Lachlan Campbell; Harry Egan, Posty; Stuart Vinden, Lord Hay; and Lowe Mackenzie, Dr. MacLure; Misses Emily Peel, Margaret Howe; Georgian V. Clifford, Flora Campbell; and Mrs. Durward Lely as Kate Carnegie.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company is paying another visit with *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, and crowded houses welcomed the production. The company is a particularly strong one, and the scenery brilliant and effective. Mr. Edward MacLean's presentation of the clergyman is fine; Mr. H. Macartney sustains the dual characters of Jack England and Private Johnson with much merit; whilst the evil machinations of Captain Caversham are powerfully portrayed by Mr. R. Ferris. As the repentant forger Mr. Geo. Mitchell performs a difficult part with much success; Mr. Geo. H. Asquin is one of the best comedians who has played here this season, and he receives valuable assistance from Miss Mamie Thorpe. In the title-rôle Miss Violet Ennis Lawson acts with rare charm and grace of manner; Miss Sybil Hare is tasteful and pleasing in her characterisation of Rose Seymour, the heiress; Miss Lydia Mannington makes an agreeable and convincing Marian Franklyan.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—An excellent programme is again submitted at this popular place of entertainment, and good houses rule at every performance. Morinnuna, a smart illusionist, gains loud applause; Mr. Reg Bolton in an original comedy scena causes roars of laughter; the Onyx Duo, two clever young ladies, score in a quick-change act; Mr. Albert Chapman proves himself a fine baritone vocalist; the Sisters Rivers sing, whistle, and dance acceptably; Mr. Tony Freedman sings two humorous songs capitally. Capner and Steele also appear. The animated pictures give immense satisfaction.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—*Tom Jones*, the attraction here, is playing to big houses. Miss Florence Smithson takes the part of Sophia, and imbues it with all that delicate charm which has made her such a favourite. Her various songs are rendered in a most delightful manner. As Partridge Mr. Dan Rolyat meets with his usual success, and though evidently suffering from a severe cold is still as entertaining and diverting as ever; Mr. Ambrose Manning retains his original part of Squire Western, and proves decidedly successful, whilst Mr. Harry Welchman in the title-rôle gives a manly and spirited portrayal. Other leading characters are ably filled by Mr. John Morley as Mr. Allworthy, Mr. Deane Percival as Blifil, Messrs. J. T. MacMillan, Walter L. Rignold, and Mr. Lionel Braham, as Gregory, Grizzle, and Dobbin respectively, and Miss Isabell Dillon as Honour.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—A more than usually strong attraction is provided this week in D'Oyly Carte's principal répertoire opera company. On Monday evening *The Mikado* was presented to a large and enthusiastic audience. Mr. Fred Billington as Pooh-Bah received a hearty welcome, his portraiture of that unctuous character causing roars of laughter; Mr. Charles R. Walenn creates endless amusement as Ko-Ko, rendering his songs in his usual acceptable manner; Mr. Strafford Moss sang sweetly as Nanki-Poo, and Mr. Leicester Tunks did full justice to the rôle of the Mikado. Miss Clara Dow made a winsome Yum-Yum, and Miss Ethel Morrison as Katisha acted and sang capably. Miss Beatrice Meredith's Pitti-Sing was charming, and Peep-Bo was cleverly portrayed by Miss Mabel Graham.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Walter Melville's new production *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* is attracting big business here this week. Miss Vashti Wynne as Bessie Webster (the beggar girl) makes a charming and dainty heroine; Mr. Otto Minster as Jack Cunningham acts in an impressive and manly way, and another skilfully acted part is that of Gilbert Lindsay, in which Mr. H. Morgan is seen to advantage. Maud Villiers is effectively represented by Miss Olive Warne, Robert Grimshaw by Mr. Ellis G. Preston, and Mr. Ernest G. Batley as Norman Marsh acts with earnestness. Mr. Willie Garvey as Dicky Storm in conjunction with Miss Eva Dare as Tina Torkington add in no little measure to the success. Miss Doris Whyte is well suited as Elsie Cunningham.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—Mr. James Bell's company in *The Idol of Paris* is the attraction here this week. The company is of all-round excellence, including that talented actress Miss Annie Bell, and is proving a huge success.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mr. Eugene Stratton is the premier turn on a capital bill. The "Magic Carpet" is another particularly noteworthy feature of the programme, in which John Lawson and company succeed in mystifying the audience with some very clever illusions; a most amusing comedian is Mr. Fred Keeton, whose contribution of the "daft lad" variety makes a decided hit. whilst Miss Ray Wallace, the lady mimic at the piano, provides a clever and entertaining turn; Percy Honri, the celebrated concertinist, is also well received, whilst Hayes and Wyne, singers and dancers, Maude Vera, comedienne, Lyric Quartette, vocalists, and Jeannie Mackay, "The Lavender Girl," all contribute capital performances, the Bioscope completing a splendid bill of fare.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Georg Hackenschmidt, the world-famed wrestler, heads the bill here this week, and, as usual, proves a great draw. Other artists appearing are Keen and Waller, Kurkamp, Lennard and Vereker, Four Sisters Gilbey, Midley Barret, Stark and Leslie, and Three Sisters Sprightly.

ROLLER SKATING RINK, EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.—Manager, Mr. T. Crowe.—This popular and fascinating pastime continues to draw crowds of enthusiastic skaters. The gymkhana held on Thursday last proved an immense success, the various events receiving good entries and providing splendid sport for both skaters and onlookers. This week a graceful skating competition is announced, for which valuable prizes will be given by the management.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*The Worst Woman in London*, presented by Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company this week, is attracting good houses. The principal part, Frances Vere, is well taken by Miss Edith Blande; Mr. Arthur Preston as Vincent Lyle is most effective; and Mr. Geo. Gaisford as Jack Felton does capitally in the love scenes. Mr. F. Vernon Travers as James Milford is well placed; Miss Dorothy Haigh as Ruth Milford is natural and womanly; and Mr. H. W. Monte as Hugh Drayton and Mr. Frank Litchfield as Philip Armstrong contribute to the success. Miss Polly Marsh as Matilda Parker and Mr. Willie Scott as Bob Goldfinch are responsible for the humour.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—A most amusing item in this week's bill is the military sketch *The Cuckoo*, presented by Chas. Kitts and Rhoda Windrum. The Martineks, French comedians, one of whom represented "The Rag Doll," gave a surprise at the conclusion; Florence and Lillian, clever musicians, are applauded, and Bessie Slaughter, contralto, is accorded a warm reception; Horace Jones, the Welsh comedian, causes no end of fun in his description of a Welshman at a match; the Lancashire Singers give delightful renderings of selections; and Ernest Clifford, comedian, and Cliff Ryland, a droll personality, together with the Bioscope, complete the bill.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company with *The Old Folks at Home* is meeting with much approval here this week. Mr. Frank Liston appears as Lord Howard Kenilworth, and gives a masterly performance; Mr. Aidan Lovett proves an interesting Andrew Ross; and Mr. Vernon Proctor is well placed as Hugh Lovell; Christopher Robin finds a capable exponent in Mr. Henry Nelson; and Mr. Frank Laffrey makes a hit as Ben Jolly. Miss Maud Warburton gives a highly satisfactory rendering of Dorothy Robin; Miss Clara Santley is seen to advantage as Martha; Miss Kate Froud creates a good impression as Patricia Bathurst; and Miss Amy Rudd makes the most of Bonita Durham.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Seven Walfrunus in *Fun in a Café* top the bill here, and have made a great hit; the Frohmans, musical duettists, present an act which is greatly relished; Mr. Ted Rushforth, ventriloquist, is very funny; Miss Jessie Starr, Scotch comedienne, has many admirers; Mr. Will Bell, comedian and eccentric dancer, is clever; Messrs. Kloff and Ramsey, musical and burlesque artists, are popular; and the Mouldoscope is, as usual, very interesting.

NORTHWICH.—PAVILION.—Proprictress, Mrs. P. E. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—The programme provided this week is a varied and attractive one. Miss Nancy Renshaw on Monday was vociferously encored for her singing and bone solo. Miss Rosie Meldon, a dainty soubrette, Jack Uty, a funny entertainer, the Sisters Reilly, dancers, Stanley Maye, a quaint Scotch comedian, Florrie Binns, vocalist, Rowlands and Ford, in good dancing, and Ruffell's Bioscope are also among the attractions.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's No. 1 company in *Charley's Aunt* is here this week, winning appreciation. Mr. G. A. Seager as the Aunt is very good; Mr. Hastings Lynn as Jack Chesney, Mr. Basil Lynn as Charley Wykeham, with Miss Olivia Glynn as Kitty Verdon, and Miss G. Denby Russell as Amy Spettigue fill their respective parts admirably; Mr. Thomas McCauseland Stuart as Sir F. Chesney does well, and Mr. Roy Boyford as Spettigue and Mr. Sydney Compton as Brassett are efficient. *The Lancashire Sailor* made a capital curtain-raiser.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. R. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—The Ten Loonies head the bill this week, and their absurdities convulse the audience with laughter; the Three Orros display herculean strength upon the silver chains; Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre is a very pretty turn; the Frank and Free Trio are clever comedy artists; Stacey and Williams are good in patter, as in songs and dances; Charles Wilson is a champion jumper; Delefore is a clever xylophone soloist, and Madge Allen is a pleasing vocalist and dancer. The Hippo. Bio completes a capital programme.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*When Knights were Bold* first saw the light at this theatre, and the return visit of Mr. James Welch and company is receiving a warm welcome. As the dapper little earl Mr. Welch still continues to extract the maximum of hilarious fun, and laughter reigns supreme while he dominates the stage; Miss Audrey Ford plays Rowena with commendable force and expression, and Miss Helen Palgrave makes a dignified Mrs. Waldegrave; Sir Brian Ballymote is admirably sketched by Mr. Cecil Kinnaird, and Mr. Guy Lane supplies an acceptable portraiture of Pottlebury; a ludicrous performance, but well thought out, of Widdicombe is given by Mr. George Desmond, who is also excellent in the "Jester" song; Mr. Arthur Grenville acts naturally as Isaacson; valuable help is rendered by Misses Daisy Cordell, M. O'Hea, and Gwendoline Rayne, and the part of Wittle gains by Mr. George F. Tully's long connection with it.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company in *Leah Kleschna* is attracting appreciative audiences. Mr. Hamilton Deane makes a fine, manly Paul Sylvaine, and in the title-rôle Miss Bessie Rignold early secures the sympathy of her hearers, and achieves a distinct success; Mr. William Clayton assumes the character of Kleschna in a capable manner, and the Schram of Mr. Gilbert Heron is well conceived; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks makes a capital Paul Berton, and Miss Emmie Wallace looks charming; Mr. Charles Barrett does well as the General, who finds a sweetly sympathetic wife in Miss Ethel Russell. The other characters are well portrayed, and the whole production is very meritorious.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—An artistic exhibition of living statuary is staged this week, designed by Mr. Albert Toft, the mounting and dressing being the perfection of art; Lil Hawthorne comes with new successful songs that are quickly caught up by the audience; Nellie Wallace again demonstrates her resourcefulness in quaint humour and song; Rose and Lewis give an eccentric dancing turn, and the comedy of Charles Coverdale arouses laughter; the illusions of Fred Wilkinson are exceedingly clever; instrumental items by the Dumond Trio prove attractive; a song by Dollie Denton, comedy by Alf Chester, and films on the Bioscope call for praise, and the chronomegaphone supplies interesting selections.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—*The Burglar's Ball* makes a capital attraction as played by Mr. George Dance's company, and uproarious laughter greets it on all sides. Beatrice and Babs are a thoroughly smart pair of youngsters; Diana Hope and company present a pleasing sketch, entitled *Her Good Name*; the acrobatic dancing of the Amarantha creates unlimited applause, and the Aribos prove both clever and amusing in their acrobatic feats; the Comedy Chanters add to the pleasure of the house by melodious singing and humorous by-play; Harry Rogerson is responsible for an amusing imitation of a tragedian; the cross-talk of Austin and Cowan earns its reward; George S. Melvin dances with vigour, and films are shown on the Barrascope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—This week Mr. T. Arthur Jones's company is presenting *When Other Lips*. Mr. T. Arthur Jones as Ted Danton plays with ability; Miss Marie Daventry fills the rôle of Ruth Lingley in a charming and natural manner; Mr. Juan

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I find it easy to keep well and happy. I find it easy to keep my children well and happy. I find it easy to keep disease at bay.

But it is not easy for everyone. I know some people who are always very ill and very unhappy. I know still more who are always out of sorts and never quite happy. I know many more people who are like barometers—set fair one day, cloudy and depressed the next. I suppose there are many people always well always fit, but if you look around, you will be surprised how few you know.

Are *you* well, fit, bright, day after day, week after week? Do you pay for every bright day by a week of depression? If you are like this, you are wasting your life. You do not count life by the days you are ill or ailing, dull or depressed. You count it by the days in which you are splendidly vigorous, calm, clear-headed, and confident. And if you count life this way it is surprising how short life is to some people.

If you could lead an active, outdoor life you would be better. That is the up-to-date doctor's remedy for nearly all the ills—he has more faith in it than drugs. But you cannot buy exercise and fresh air in a bottle. It is a delightful remedy, but to the worker it is simply impossible. The average man cannot hunt or golf three or four days a week, or follow cricket, yachting, or mountaineering. He is lucky if he gets two or three hours' cycling a week, and even then it must be very mild exercise, for sedentary habits make serviceable exercise impossible.

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Mind, I don't decry exercise. I am an ardent advocate of the fresh air, the open window, and exercise, but it isn't within everyone's means to obtain Nature's benefits.

Every inch of your skin is covered with tiny pores—there are millions of them. They are not there by accident. Their free action is just as vital to your existence as your heart, or kidneys, or any other organ. Each day the skin should perform its share of the work of cleansing the body, of eliminating a variety of poisons and waste products set up in the blood. Other organs take a share in this cleansing process—the lungs, the liver, the kidneys, and the bowels, but they only take a share. If the skin does not undertake its fair share in the cleansing process, you cannot be well—for one or more of the other organs are overworked.

When your skin is not acting freely, many things happen to you. From the minor ills which make life a discomfort to the serious ailment which turns life into a curse, nearly every trouble is due to sedentary and unhealthy habits. The constant feeling of being under par, easily tired, slightly depressed, afraid of vague dangers—dangers which cannot be put into words—are first signs. Tendency to colds is another.

Diseases due to acids in the blood—gout, rheumatism, sciatica lumbago—are more serious manifestations. Neuralgia, headache, intense nervous distress, and all the troubles due to a poisoned nervous system, which, if allowed to progress, lead to complete nervous breakdown, arise from a blood-supply improperly cleansed.

I do not have days of weariness and discomfort. I seldom have aches and pains. I do not constantly catch colds, and spend uncomfortable days nursing them. I do not have days of depression. I do not go about with a head like lead. I do not feel as if the roof of my head were coming off. I use the Gem Cabinet regularly. If I am tired after a hard day, the Gem Cabinet restores me. If I have a symptom of chill or cold, the Gem Cabinet checks it in the first stage of development. If I have a hint of muscular trouble, the Gem Turkish Bath Cabinet drives it away and leaves muscular freedom and strength in its place.

My Gem Turkish Bath will do the same for you, for your family, for all who are ill. It assists Nature in a reasonable, logical, practical way. No filthy drugs, no temporary alleviation. It is not an anodyne for pain. It's a cure. And after it has cured, it is a pleasant, revivifying habit which keeps you well all the time.

Count up your doctor's bills, your drug bills, your going away expenses—chasing the health you never find—that elusive quality which means happiness. The pounds you spend—the pounds you work so hard to make. And the hours you waste in dreary, depressing, painful days and nights—hours at work which might be done better and made more profitable, hours of precious leisure which you cannot enjoy, hours when you should sleep, but which you spend in unreasoning terror, waiting for the dawn. My Gem Cabinet costs only 30s.—less than a tiny doctor's bill, less than a week-end away, less than your bill at the chemist's for drugs which do you no good. You cannot do without my Cabinet, for it will make you a better man or woman every week of your life. You will wonder how you lived without it, when you have had the Cabinet in your home for a fortnight, or you will marvel at something more wonderful still—the sheer joy which comes to a constantly ailing man or woman who gets well—right well—radiantly, confidently, splendidly well—for the first time.

And if it will help to convince you, let me tell you that hundreds of physicians use and recommend these Cabinets.

I meant to tell you about my Gem Still. But that will keep—space does not allow of it here. But you should know more about my two Specialities—the Gem Turkish Bath Cabinet and the Gem Still. Write for full particulars, mentioning THE ERA, or call and inspect them. It costs you nothing to know all about them. It might mean your physical salvation. There is nothing of the "confidence trick" about any of my health specialities. You can reason out anything for yourself, and decide safely whether these good things are of any good to you.

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D'Alberte as the villain is successful; Miss Agnes Collier is well suited as Octavia; and Miss Jane Watson as a Woman in Black does well. Mr. Albert H. Clarke gives an effective portrayal of Robert Lingley; in the hands of Mr. Cecil H. Raymond as Tommy Neccles, Mr. Richard Webb as Duddle Topwash, and Miss Lizzie Lennon as Kitty Topwash, the humour is capably presented.

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—*The Merry Widow*, played by Mr. George Edwardes's company, has been attracting large audiences. Miss Clara Evelyn sings and acts in a captivating manner as Sonia; Miss Mary Grey uses her excellent voice with good effect as Natalie; Mr. Basil S. Foster as Prince Danilo invests the character with much vim; as Baron Popoff Mr. Lionel Victor scores a big success; and Mr. Tom Redmond as Nisch is equally popular; Mr. Haigh Jackson sings well as Vicomte Camille; Miss Dora Langham is seen in some smart dances as Frou Frou, and Misses Norah Barry, Suzanne Selborne, and Mary Morison are excellent as Olga, Sylvanie, and Prassovia respectively. Mr. Harrison Frewin ably directs a powerful chorus and augmented orchestra.

Colosseum Theatre.—General Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. Harry Foxwell and company are here on a return visit in *A Broken Heart*. Mr. Foxwell plays John Barnard in a forcible manner; Miss Sheila Walsh is all that can be desired as Mary Barnard; Mr. Geo. Newall as Stephen Rayton is a capable exponent of villainy; Mr. Geo. Addison is smart as Skrimp; Mr. Edward Thomas does well as the Rev. Mr. Staunton; Mr. Edward Rawlinson as Gash Gills is good; Miss Marguerite Thorne is a sympathetic Miss Barnard; Miss Daisy Rocheford is clever as Little May; Miss Eileen Bamford is excellent as Graco Fanshawe; and Miss Dora Hargreaves as Sally Tayner and Mr. Will Lindsay as Tony cause hearty laughter.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Tom Edwards scores here in his ventriloquial act; James and Jenny Lee are well received in their original jumping and cycling act on the revolving wire; Marcel and Boris are clever in a smart equilibristic turn; Marie Empress is a dainty comedienne; Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, are vastly amusing; and Arthur Croxon is a good comedian. G. W. Hunter is as amusing as ever, the Avolos give a sensational performance, and a good picture is depicted on the Dottoscope.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager.—Mr. J. Nuttall.—Maurice de Riaz, the Swiss wrestler, heads the bill; Chas. Chard, comedian, sings in capital style; Prof Dubois introduces his well-trained baboon; Mozetto and Page perform some smart juggling feats; Annie Casey is quite popular with her singing; Gibbon and Bell are excellent in their speciality, *Wanted, a Partner;* Maudie Kay sings and dances capably; and Harry Rayley, comedian, and an amusing picture on the Dottoscope complete.

Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, the Palace Hippodrome, Oldham, Ltd; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne.—Fred Karno's *Dandy Thieves* causes roars of laughter; Geo. Hestor appears with success as Sergt. Lightning; Frank C. Bostock introduces the famous trained animal Consul, whose performance is almost human; Frank Gee is a smart comedian; the Primrose Quartette are heard in harmonious songs; Bellman and Moore are clever; Will Driscoll is a good comedian and dancer; Clothilde and Musto's trained cockatoos give an excellent show; Ethel Loftus is a dainty comedienne; and Cummin and Seaham are smart acrobatic comedians.

Central Hall, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The Franco-British new animated pictures this week include The Face on the Bar-room Floor, Opium Smoker's Dream, Living Reflections, War Episode, Gipsy Life in Europe, Gnomes, Evils of Spiritualism, Considerate Cabby, and Eggs, with Care. Mr. F. Walker's singing of the illustrated song, "Daddy, you're my sweetheart," is much enjoyed.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—On Monday Mr. Edward Compton began a three nights' engagement here with his company in *Davy Garrick*. On Tuesday *The School for Scandal* drew an appreciative house. Mr. Edward Compton repeated his finished performance of Charles Surface, which has so often delighted his many admirers here, and had a most flattering reception. Mr. Henry Crocker made an excellent Sir Peter; Mr. Philip Gordon was a good Sir Oliver; and Mr. Henry Worrall's Joseph was most successful; and Crabtree, Sir Benjamin Backbite, Careless, and Rowley found efficient performers in Messrs. G. W. Johnston, J. Leslie, J. W. Austin, and L. Meade. Miss Viola Compton scored a genuine success as Lady Teazle, her finished performance and clever acting in the great Screen scene winning universal praise; while Lady Sneerwell, Maria, and Mrs. Candour were well played by Misses Kathleen Leigh, Constance Merton, and Marie Hassell. On Wednesday *The Gentleman in Grey* was the attraction.

East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—A vaudeville programme is provided by the management here for this week. The items include a series of topical and up-to-date animated pictures; Miss Daisy Carlton, comedienne; Les Henris (Sport in the Electric Garden), who give a clever turn, exhibiting some marvellous feats of strength; and Miss Lydia Raie (illustrated songs). Some amusing sketches are given by Hook and Eye, and Charles M. Daly's company of comedians.

PAISLEY.—Paisley Theatre.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. and Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy's company is here this week in *The World and the Woman*. Mr. George H. Doyle interprets the part of Arthur Burleigh with ability; Ludlow Burleigh is portrayed effectively by Mr. St. George Frere; Mr. J. Rice Cassidy as Tut Harding causes much amusement; as Terry O'Harris Mr. Rolf Leslie gives an able representation; Mr. Henry Compton is good as Sir Francis; Mr. Harry Hoyland is successful as the Hon. Willy; as is also Mr. G. Kay as Hike. Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy deserves a tribute to her charm and ability in her impersonation of Nelly; Miss Vara Hern as Gwendoline plays convincingly; Nina is intelligently enacted by Miss Violet Parker; and Miss Amy McNeil contributes a capital embodiment of Lady Marion.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Wilton Heriot and company give the greatest pleasure here in their clever protean comedy sketch *An Anglo-American Alliance;* La Belle Greta's dancing proves very popular; the Hyde and Cody Trio of eccentrics create much merriment; very entertaining is the sporting sketch *Clever Mr. Fugg*, sustained by Damerell and Rutland; Mr. Harry Ford, comedian, is popular; Arthur Stacey, comedian and dancer, scores a success; Stanley and Vandyke submit a humorous comedy, *A Broken Promise*, which is well received; an absurdity, *The Tree of Truth*, is presented by Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd; and the Hippodrome Bioscope completes.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—*Under Two Flags, The Woman from Russia*, and *The Gambler's Daughter* have been presented here this week to packed houses by Hill and Ayrton's company. In the first-named drama Mr. Robert Ayrton acts well as Louis Victor; Col. Chateaury, "the Black Hawk," is effectively portrayed by Mr. Harry Robins; Mr. Harry Ellis as Ezra Paroni, the moneylender, does very well; and Mr. James Firth as Rake is amusing. Miss Adria Hill makes a great hit as Cigarette; Miss Maud St. John fills the rôle of Countess Corunna with grace and charm; whilst Maria, her maid, is safely entrusted to Miss Rose. The other characters are well sustained.

Temperance Hall.—In connection with the local centre of the London College of Music, certificates were distributed here on Wednesday afternoon by Mrs. H. C. Kingsford, of Admiralty House, H.M. Dockyard, preceded by a juvenile concert. In the evening Mr. T. G. Hancock's Pupils' Concert was held, when the operetta *A Dress Rehearsal* was performed with much success.

PENTRE.—Workmen's Hall.—Manager, Mr. Charles Charlton.—Will Stone's animated pictures continue to do good business here, and the Days, telepathists, also prove attractive.

PERTH.—Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—*Claudian* is being presented here this week. Mr. William Maclaren, who appears in the title-rôle, gives a powerful rendering of the part; Mr. Bernard Elliott ably represents Thariogalus; as Belos Mr. Chal. T. Chaloner is very humorous; and Mr. Douglas Earle's Agazil leaves nothing to be desired. Miss Lily C. Bandmann is very effective as Almida; Miss Ruth Trafford gives a good account of herself as Edessa; and Mlle. Stella Dorin's cymbal dance is very pleasing.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr J. Langdon Lee.—Mr. Chas. Macdona's No. 1 Company is this week presenting *Are You a Mason?* As Amos Bloodgood Mr. E. H. Paterson is extremely funny; Mr. Stanley Groome as Frank Perry also furnishes material assistance; Mr. G. P. Polson cuts a fine figure as the burly John Halton; and Mr. E. E. Clive is amusing as the heavy tragedian; Mr. H. Langdon Bruce as George Fisher is an entertainment in himself; Miss Adelaide Grace makes an excellent Mrs. Caroline Bloodgood; Miss Mary Kilpack admirably assumes the part of the Irish servant Lottie. The curtain-raiser, *An Old Maid's Corner*, is mentioned in another column.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Dr. Walford Bodie, with his wonderful magnetic appliances and bloodless surgery, forms the principal attraction for the week. The other items are also of a highly interesting description. Lozelle's gymnastic feats earn hearty approbation; Archie Pitt is a particularly quaint character comedian; Arthur Sutcliffe an accomplished vocalist comedian; the Le Crens excel as burlesque dancers; Little Dolly Robson, described as one of "Dr. Bodie's cures," sings a pretty ballad in a pathetic manner; Bella Shere finds plenty of appreciation as a burlesque actress; and Greener takes with his song, "Down the Maypole Mine."

PONTEFRACT.—Alexandra Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—The Tennessee Guards in their lightning drill and wall-climbing are at the head of the bill this week, and provide agreeable excitement; the Three Bordellas introduce a decided novelty in their trapeze act; Lily Belle does a graceful dancing act and sings daintily; Kavados does what he will with a cannon ball, which might be a tennis ball from the way he juggles with it; the Sisters Kilner sing and dance with grace; Little Lily Shaw, a diminutive child, gives a fair imitation of Vesta Tilley; and Jack North and Ryde and Beemap provide the comic element in the bill. Flo Melville is a dainty comedienne with some capital songs. There are of course the pictures in addition.

PORTH.—The Palace.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Marie Kendall, comedienne, tops the bill here in her latest successes; the Four Figaros, International vocalists and dancers, are exceedingly clever; Florrie Cooper is an excellent singer, and richly deserves the applause she receives; Steve McCarthy, expert dancer, deserves special mention; Fanny Robina, vocalist, is noted for her fine singing; Barlee and Smith, musical comedy duologue artists, give a most pleasing turn; the Paul Hesse Trio, in their marvellous equilibristic, acrobatic wire pot-pourri performance, are decidedly smart; A. G. Spry, comedian, takes well; and Billie Bint, another capital artist, pleases everyone.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. George Musgrove's principal company, under the direction of Mr. J. Bannister Howard, is here with *The Belle of New York*. Miss Hebe Kneller is a most charming and piquant Violet Gray; Mr. Frank Lawton appears in his original part of Blinky Bill with his usual success; the polite lunatic is taken by Mr. Jas. R. Tate in capital fashion; Mr. Arthur Ricketts as Ichabod Bronson makes the very best of the part; and Mr. J. A. Watts ably enacts his son Harry Bronson; Messrs. Godfrey as Kenneth Mugg, M. C. Appleby as Doc Snifkins, and Hal Kirke and Ray L. Cody as the Portuguese twins all do good work; Miss Dorothy Dorill makes a smart and successful Fifi; Miss Florence Horsee as Mamie Clancy is admirable; and Miss Winnie Browne as Cora Angelique takes the part in first-rate style.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*A Sailor's Sweetheart* is being played here this week. Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company doing the popular play full justice. Mr. Mark Blow takes the part of Lieut. Charles Clive, R.N., with great success. He is ably supported by Miss Ada Burton, who portrays Grace Mayland with excellent effect. Mr. Arthur Elwin plays Philip Pemberton with capital judgment; Mr. Arthur Senville is first-rate as Tim Kelly, A.B.; Mr. Clarence Ibbotson as the bailiff, Moggins, is praiseworthy; Messrs. Arthur Eastcourt and Arthur Rodnell are very good in their respective parts of Captain Mayland and the Rev. Robert Clive; Miss Nell Gillmore as Mrs. Pembery is natural and amusing; and Miss Ida Ernest takes the part of Phœbe Pembury with much ability.

King's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Miss May Moore Duprez, the jolly Dutch girl, scores with her original songs and witticisms; Zeta Grey and company are very good in the nicely-played comedy scena, *The Lancashire Lass;* Mr. Charles Parker's Six Æolians submit a brisk and graceful vocal and dancing act; Paulton and Doley, in an exhibition of daring trick bicycle riding, gain unstinted applause; Frank Hartley as a juvenile juggler is a wonder, his tricks being done with celerity and smartness; the Columbia Comedy Trio give an excellent turn; Joe Peterman and company in *The Pawnbroker*, convulse the audience with laughter; the Brennans, in a neat and artistic dancing act, and the Bio pictures complete the bill.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—George Lashwood, the very popular light comedian, who is the star turn here for the week, is in fine form, and his songs are much appreciated by good houses; the Sisters Allen, dainty duettists and speciality dancers, please greatly; Frank Boyce, vocal comedian, has a cordial reception; Edith Fink, a charming comedienne of refined style, is much applauded; Talbot and Pearce, in musical Japanese duologue, *Yo San*, are very good; Patty Yole, comedienne and dancer, gains many plaudits; Maudie Ford is a chic soubrette and danseuse; Regan and Ryan, versatility comedians with new patter and business, do well; and Payne's Bio., with capital pictures, concludes.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Colonel Roberts, V.D.—Mr. Joe Elvin and his company are the principal attraction here, and give, with entire satisfaction the mirth-provoking farce, *Touched;* Mr. Mike Cray, the comic juggler, is rewarded with much applause; Miss Kitty Wager, vocal comedienne, has a taking and pleasing appearance; Three Cunards are smart in a vocal and dancing act; Grahames juveniles please greatly in their vocal scena, *A Concert on the Lawn;* Mr. Fred Poplar is a most amusing comedian, and well appreciated; Mr. Marriott Edgar, vocal comedian, does able work; the Borghetti Troupe of acrobats, in their meritorious entertainments, are vociferously applauded; and the Hippo. pictures are interesting. For Thursday a special flying matinée of the Moody Manners Opera company, with *Madame Butterfly*, was announced.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—A welcome return visit is being made by Miss Horniman's company, under the direction of Mr. B. Iden Payne. On Monday the three-act comedy *David Ballard*, by Charles McEvoy, was given. Mr. B. Iden Payne sustained the part of David in a manner which calls for the warmest praise; Miss Ada King's impersonation of Mrs. Ballard was equally praiseworthy; Miss Penelope Wheeler as Gladys Ballard also provided a finished bit of acting; Miss Louise Holbrook as Louisa extracted much humour from the part; Miss Hilda Bruce Potter was an excellent Mercy Hainton; Mr. Charles Bibby a clever and natural Percy; and Mr. Lewis Casson a good Simon. Mr. Jules Shaw as Darwin Snodge, Mr. Leonard Mudie as Leo, and Mr. Basil Dean as Rosace were all most capable. The comedy was preceded by a tramp sketch by Chas. McEvoy, *Gentlemen of the Road. Candida, Widowers' Houses, When the Devil was Sick*, and *The Vale of Content* are also in the repertoire.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Walter Melville's play *The Soldier's Wedding* is drawing good houses here. The company, a good one, includes Mr. Wingfold Laurence as Jack Brown; Mr. B. Whitcombe as Col. James Graham; Mr. J. Chippendale as Tommy Spratt; Little Albert as Teddy Munroe; Mr. Chas. Davy as John Marks; and Mr. Edward Wright as George Pherson. Miss Dorothy Richardson as Nancy Lee; Miss Mabel Love as Peggy Munroe; Alice Campbell as Mrs. Hatherton; Marie McAnley as Julie de Beauvais; and Mattie Everet as Lizzie Walker, all of whom work hard. The scenery is also good in every particular.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—A good programme is provided this week, and plenty of variety is presented. Thompson Carruthers presents a sensational novelty, entitled *The Master Card*, in which Dunningarto displays some clever card manipulating; and others in the cast are Miss Ethel Arto, Bertha Clifton, Ivy Chandos, and Fred H. Constable. It is well acted and excellently staged. Harrison Brockbank, baritone, is heard to good advantage in some capital songs; Monty Walker, swell comedian, is appreciated; Frank E. Ford is a clever coloured clog-dancer; Satani gives a decidedly novel performance in a new and novel scena of magical surprises; the Merrions (Will, Harry, and Fred), vocal and instrumental comedy entertainers, give a capital turn, which is fully appreciated; Barfoot and Carson are a couple of entertaining comedians; Dolly Ross, comedienne and dancer, has a good voice; George Acre, character vocalist, is well received; the Sages (Will and Jenny), comedy and burlesque artists and dancers, also provide a good turn; the Royal Automobile Club Races in the Isle of Man on the Bioscope concludes.

RADCLIFFE.—Grand Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company, in *The Love that Women Desire*, is proving attractive. Mr. Hugh Wallace as Frank Hardy, an outcast, does able work; Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke is to be commended; and Mr. J. O. Stewart makes a stately and pompous Squire Abingdon. Mr. Morris Maud proves equal to the part of Richard Abingdon, and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson as P.C. Sowerbury causes much laughter. The emotional part of Molly is played to advantage by Miss Violet Young, and Miss Jessie Elvin gives ample evidence of dramatic power as Madge Abingdon. Miss May Neilson deserves praise as Patty Swift, and the minor parts are good throughout. The scenic effects are realistic.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—On each evening of the past week Mr. Tom Craven's company have occupied the boards at the above theatre, producing an up-to-date version of the famous old comedy *The Milky White*. In the rôle of the cowkeeper, Daniel White, Mr. Craven himself appears to much advantage, whilst Mr. Frank Stone is quite successful as Dick Dugs, a real country yokel. Mr. W. E. Holloway, Miss Mary Brough, and Miss Rita Trekelle also add appreciably to the merit of the presentation. A pastoral comedy in one act, *The Prank*, by Mr. T. Craven, is in the bill as a curtain-raiser. On Monday next the management revert to the "two-shows-a-night" principle, when Mr. Ernest Mansell will present Gale and Polden's well-known series of animated pictures, The King's Service—Afloat and Ashore. Variety turns will also be introduced. On Sunday evening last a large audience attended the theatre, a splendid programme of music being rendered by the band of the 21st Lancers, from Canterbury, under Mr. Edmund Hinton. Vocal solos were also given by Mr. Fred Noakes (of the Canterbury Cathedral Choir).

Marina Theatre of Varieties and Excelsior Picturedrome.—Manager, Mr. W. J. Attack.—Large audiences continue to be attracted to the above place of amusement, where an exceptionally fine series of animated pictures are shown twice nightly.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levey and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's capital juvenile company is here this week with *The House that Jack Built*. Miss Daisy Wood is full of vivacity, and sings and dances most enjoyably; as Jill Miss Dolly Dodds is as charming as ever, and sings delightfully; Mr. Jimmie Watson makes a capital Aunt Purdy; Miss Gladys Wyse is exceedingly clever as Wee M'Gregor; Mr. H. Hillerby is good as Squire Bounce; and as the knockabouts, Scraggs and Scraggles, Messrs. Graham and Barron are highly amusing. Miss J. Marsden makes a charming Gretchen, and also sings prettily; whilst Miss E. Major is an excellent Colin; Miss Jennie Hughes as the Fairy Queen sings in excellent style.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. Millar Anderson's company appeared here for the first three nights of the week in *For Her Husband's Sake*. The play was put on the stage in good style, and the characters well impersonated. Miss Mabel Mannering gave an artistic rendering of the part of Estelle Beaudel; Miss Margaret Murch acted with power and pathos as Marie Dene; Mr. Millar Anderson gave an excellent impersonation of the unscrupulous Herbert Grey; Mr. Robert Faulkner acted with spirit as Lieut. Jack Seymour; Mr. Alfred Rogers, Mr. Finn Doyle, and Miss Olive Lloyd filled the comedy parts very creditably. For the remainder of the week Mr. Edward Compton and his celebrated comedy company are occupying the stage, *The School for Scandal* being played on Thursday, *A Reformed Rake* on Friday, and *Davy Garrick* on Saturday.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr P. E. Draco. Dottridge and Foster's company create great diversion in their comedietta *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law;* Ghita Corri possesses a voice of great compass, and sings excellently, her rendering of "Caller Herrin'" being especially good; Wyndham and Waters are highly amusing in their sketch *The Professor and His Pupil;* Eileen Douglass and Nancy St. John are both accomplished comediennes; Alix Lukos appears with much success in a protean scena, *The Language of Fate*, in which he gives clever imitations of celebrities and characters from Dickens; Anthony, who is described as "the swankiest swanker of all the swanks," gives a very clever comedy juggling exhibition; and the entertainment concludes with some good Bioscope pictures.

REDDITCH.—Public Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. T. E. Field.—*Driven from Home*, played by Miss Inez Howard's company (under the direction of Mr. H. Chattell) met with a big reception here on Monday. The scenery and effects are in keeping with the drama, and the parts are well sustained.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sam Barton.—*Who is She?* is the attraction here this week. The play is finely staged and some capital acting is presented. Mr. Graham Woods submits a powerful impersonation of King Vladamir; Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson cleverly portrays the part of Prince Bora; Mr. Sinclair Holden is effective as Captain Arthur Gower; and Mr. Arthur Mc. Clulloch is all that could be desired as Sergeant Metroff. Miss Alice Barber enacts with skill the part of Countess Ladori; and Miss Violet Carlyle in the title-rôle acts with power and distinction.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Charcot and his "Automatic Man" top the bill here this week with a mystifying performance; Towyn Thomas's Royal Welsh Entertainers submit an enjoyable performance; and other artists appearing include Marion Scott, comedienne; Joe Oliver, comedian; Will and May Lannon, duettists and dancers; Bros. Redmond, acrobatic comedians; W. L. Murray, as the "Roman Gladiator"; and Phil Bransby, coster comedian; together with the Empire Bioscope pictures.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company is here this week, obtaining gratifying support with *When It Was Dark*. Mr. Wilfred Lyndon continues to give a lifelike portrayal of the Rev. Basil Gortre and Constantine Schwabe is realistically played by Mr. Haldane Dalton, ably seconded by Mr. Charles Brandon as Sir Robert Llewellyn; Mr. W. H. Burton scores as the Rev. Mr. Byars and Mr. George Tawde is very smart as the Hon. Charles Gayfly. Mr. Alfred Collingham is seen to advantage as Harold Spence, and Mr. Charles Grandley is deserving of mention as Ionides. Miss Marie Barrett is pleasing as Helena Byars, and Miss Tessa Myers is a clever Gracie Goldeye. Miss Ethel Griffies as Gertrude Hunt gives a highly-finished rendition of a very difficult rôle. The other parts are capably enacted.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Maurin's Marvellous Fountains are at the top of the bill. Mr. J. P. Carroll gives a smart tambourine turn, and Miss Rosa Sartella is a finished comedienne. Miss Agnes Molteno, assisted by Mr. T. T. Edwards and Little Dolly, is responsible for a very effective scena and tableaux, *A Dolly and a Coach*. H. C. Lovell and company have an amusing sketch, *Mam'selle Pom-Pom*, and Frivola and Deep provide an excellent acrobatic turn. George Belrose and Maud de Velin, C. D. Reekie, the Lancashire comedian, and Messrs. Tray and Rich are also deserving of mention.

Drill Hall.—The London Animated Picture Co. are here for a short season, and receive well-deserved patronage. Special turns are introduced by Mr. Walter Arnold, who sings with great success, and Mr. Preston Holmes, a clever manipulator of the handbells and xylophone.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—The sensational drama *Driven from Home* has lost none of its popularity with the patrons of this theatre, who turned up in good numbers on Monday. Mr. Felix Pitt was in his usual excellent form as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. Percy Dawsone made a good study of the outcast Willie; Miss Nancy Roberts ably sustained the dual rôle of Walter Hatherleigh and Laura Raybrook; Geoffrey Waring was a fine piece of acting by Mr. Charles Burdon. Most of the comedy was contributed by Mr. Fred C. Imbert as John Anderson, Mr. E. Finlay as Dick Saunders, and Miss Kate Walfred as Fanny Jones. Mr. P. George Beresford as Walter Hatherleigh and Miss Lizzie Ingles as Barbara Ashdown were also successful. The staging was realistic.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Mephisto, assisted by Miss Winifred Attendue, gained much applause for his smart illusions; Wilson and Waring in their comedy act *A Bit of Nonsense* kept the house in roars; Dorma Morgan, dainty American comedienne, gave much pleasure with her songs in her charming and pleasing voice; *Miss Summerson's Baby*, by Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley, caused much laughter; Payne's Wanderers, vocalists, dancers, and comedians, Edwards and Dacre in *What a Lie*, Ambrose Thorne, comedian, and H. E. High, comedian and roller skater, also gave very acceptable turns.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Signor and Mme. Borelli head a varied programme and gain much applause for their musical act; W. G. Webber is in excellent voice in his bass songs; Milner and Storey are a smart comedy couple; Chris Van Bern, eccentric comedian and illusionist, gives a very neat performance; Milsted-Bell Trio are amusing in *Three Sharps and a Flat*. Other clever turns included Three Coopers, comedy and harmonising vocalists, Gala and Norris in *Down South*, Percy Farrimond, singing collier, Jack Crawley in musical act, *Lights Out*, and Belasco Trio in harmony singing and dancing.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Several very good films are shown (twice nightly) this week, and include My Son the Curate, Paddy Eats Horseflesh, Hunting Sea Lions, Nancy, the Burglar's Daughter, Master of Mystery, Tomkins Buys a Donkey, Coiners, Pyrenees, &c. The illustrated song by Mr. Lester King "Down by the stream" is also appreciated.

SCARBOROUGH.—The Aquarium.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—Arthur Watson, Flo Stanley, and company in the musical comedy-sketch *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory* head the bill here. The sketch is well staged, and all the artists are capable. Walter Barrett, baritone, possesses an excellent voice, and is well received; Charles Ulrick, the barrel king, and Pietro, the human lizard, are interesting in their respective turns; Jack Keeble, the triple-voiced vocalist, sings well; Fred Lyndo, comedian, is amusing; Bert Danson causes roars of laughter with his songs; and some good pictures are shown on Vernon's Bioscope.

The New Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Tully.—The winter season commenced here on Monday night, the occasion being marked by the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress and the Deputy-Mayor, supported by a number of well-known public men. The programme, which was greatly appreciated by a crowded house, consisted of Johnson and De Vere, comedy cyclists; the Five Vernons, xylophone specialits; the Sisters Dorrell, duettists and dancers; the Werds Bros., comedy tumblers; Frances Letty in new songs and dances; Vandinoff, the lightning artist; Sandy and Carl, eccentric comedians; Tom Gott, comedian; and the New Macs, comedians and dancers. Pictures on the Kinematograph concluded.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—*A Soldier of France* gained great approval here on Monday, as presented by Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company. Corporal Jean is submitted in masterly style by Mr. Percy Ballard; Judas Delara's villainy is ably depicted by Mr. Albert Guyon; Mr. Freddie Edwards as Jollyboy is a popular comedian; Lieut. Louis is smartly played by Mr. Edward Hobart; Mr. Milton C. Curtis supplies a dignified Duke D'Laval; Miss Carlotta Anson gains hearty approval for her rendition of Pauline Lorraine. An artistic Rita is submitted by Miss Maggie Hobart; Margot is vivaciously drawn by Miss Jennie Clare; as Quassie Miss Alice Arthur does well; and as Master Louis Little Gertie Renand is much appreciated.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—There was a large and evidently delighted house on Monday when Mr. George Edwardes's Gaiety Theatre company opened with *The Girls of Gottenberg*. The picturesque scenery, lovely dresses, and catchy music made a brilliant *ensemble*, and the efforts of the talented performers were applauded with enthusiasm. Mr. Edmund Payne, whose first appearance in Sheffield since his welcome visits to the Royal in *Faust up to Date* has been eagerly anticipated, was given a hearty welcome on his first entrance as Max, and he kept the audience in roars of laughter. Happy Fanny Fields was a delightfully vivacious Mitzi; Miss Maisie Gay was a pretty and graceful representative of Clementine; Mr. Leslie Holland's singing and acting were much appreciated; Miss Florence Phillips danced in a graceful and artistic manner; and the other characters were all cleverly played. The band and chorus were first-rate.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey-Aldred.—A play replete with excitement, pathos, and homely humour is *A Lancashire Lad*, and it obtains success with a popular audience. All the characters are in safe hands, and the scenery and effects are admirable.

Alexandra Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Walter Melville's company began a return visit on Monday in the domestic drama *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*. Adequately mounted and well acted, this interesting story was watched with the keenest attention by a large audience. Mr. Ronald Adair repeated his natural impersonation of the gallant tar, Will Mason; Miss Jessie Belmore was a pretty and interesting Sophia; Miss Zoe Davis was a womanly Lucy Coventry; and other characters were excellently represented by Messrs. Sydney Sarl, Frank Robinson, Fred Ingram, Frank Denis, Frank Barnard, James Green, Raymond Wood, Miss Marie Kildare, Miss Lily Trounsell, and Miss Nannie Meade, the handsome Vesta Le Clair, a "mysterious lady."

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The following artists are appearing here this week:—Mr. Whit Cunliffe, light comedian; Les Voces, operatic vocalists; the Maples in a lively piece of comicality, introducing Parisian dancing; Mr. Frank Seeley, burlesque actor and comic singer; Messrs. Tennyson and Wallis in their skit *The Komical Koppers;* and Miss Daisy James, a smart comedienne, who cleverly satirises *The Merry Widow* hat craze. First-rate speciality acts are done by Mr. Edward Lauri (a true "chip off the old block") and Miss May Beattie, a charming opera-bouffe artist, who appear in a whimsical burletta, *In Her Boudoir*, supported by a clever company; the Lukushimas Troupe, the marvellous posturers, &c., who bring down the house; and Mr. Herbert Shelley in his well-acted protean drama *Dan the Outlaw*, in which he impersonates several characters. Pictures conclude the entertainment.

The Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—A first-rate all-round programme was submitted to a crowded and enthusiastic audience on Monday. The Harmony Four reappeared in their screaming vocal comicality; Messrs. Cullen and Carthy with their mirth-provoking little assistant made a great success with song, dance, and business; Dolly and Elsie sang and danced gracefully; and a refined little musical scena, *The Maid and the Moon*, was deservedly applauded. The wrestling bouts of Yukio Tani and local champions caused great excitement; Mr. Gus Harris in stirring song vocally vindicated the Jewish race; a very clever and original bending, acrobatic, and comedy performance was given by the Bros. Bradshaw, two experts in their special line; Miss Hanid Alexander sang and danced with her usual vivacity; and the programme was completed by Dusty Rhodes, eccentric comedian, and the Barrascope, with a diverting adventure picture The Magic Scarf.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—The Raymond Bio-Tableaux continues a popular feature here, and the variety company is up to the usual standard.

Central Theatre.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—Here animated pictures, songs, and sketches continue to please the audiences.

Albert Hall.—Manager, Mr. J. Peace.—The Bros. Gooe's artistic London and Paris pictures continue to delight and educate large audiences.

The Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. C. R. Wordsworth.—Moving pictures still form the main attraction here.

Surrey Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Howson.—An able little variety company is here, and business continues good.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh; Licensee and Resident-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Messrs. Adeler and Sutton's well-known and highly popular pierrots are here this week, with a show that is delightfully varied and refined. Mr. G. W. Sutton is a comedian of the first water; Miss Edna Barrett a graceful soubrette and danseuse; Mr. Frank Dunlop contributes plenty of wholesome fun; "The Territorial Army," a concerted item, goes with swing and finish; Miss Harriett Fawn is an accomplished comedienne; Mr. Charles Harvey works hard and successfully to amuse and entertain; Mr. Francis Rayne

with Madame Fanny Moody in the title-rôle. Mr. Chas. Carter was a huge favourite as Pinkerton, and Mr. Marshall Vincent scored as Sharples. The chorus is a well-balanced one, and the orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Cuthbert Hawley, does well. The programme for the week also includes *Tannhauser*, *Bohemian Girl*, *Faust*, *Carmen*, and *Maritana*.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Mr. Leonard Mortimer and company are scoring in *The Little Captain*, Mr. Mortimer himself appearing as Captain Kettle. Pipifax and Panto excel in a smart tumbling act, which evokes continuous laughter; Bromley and Fontein's sketch, *The Man Behind the Drum*, is funny; and other turns are given by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden in *Two to One*; Goggin and Davis, acrobats; Julian Ross, comedian; and Ethel Arundell, comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Managers, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Ivan Berlyn, a clever actor, is seen to advantage as Fagin; Lily Burnand and Arthur Reece, both old favourites, prosper well; Queenie Essex is a dainty singer; and others who do well are Chas. Guyer and Ida Valli in a merry comedy act; Les Cabiacs, acrobatic dancers; Amy Sullivan, comedienne; and Wyze and Adna, duettists.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nervey; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard provide an attractive programme with *The Midnight Wedding*. Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes as Paul Valmar displays ability; Miss Yvonne Orchardson is an accomplished impersonator of the Princess; Mr. Mayor-Cooke is an interesting exponent of Captain Rudolph; Mr. Forbes Harrison as Lieut. Eugene Von Streisburg gives able assistance; and Mr. John Nesbitt is well suited as the Crown Prince Leopold. Miss Ada Champion as Kathie, and Mr. Algie Spalding as Private Bobo create amusement, to which Messrs. James E. Page (Sergeant Max) and Harry Richardson (Corporal Otto) contribute.

PIER PAVILION.—Lessee, Mr. H. E. Angless; Manager, Mr. Stanley E. Angless.—This popular rendezvous is again converted into a skating rink for the winter season, and, judging by the splendid start made at the opening on Monday, roller skating will prove a great attraction. The floor, which is available morning, afternoon, and evening, is in good condition, and already races are in contemplation. Bioscope pictures will be a supplementary attraction.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company, in the popular musical comedy *The Catch of the Season*, forms the attraction here this week. Miss Gladys Guy essays the rôle of Angela artistically, alike in dramatic and vocal sense; Mr. William Greene is very successful in the part of the Duke of St. Jermyns; Isaac Isaacstein has a meritorious and clever exponent in Mr. H. C. Barry; Mr. Peter Grata is highly diverting as Bucket, the page; Sir John Crystal is characteristically portrayed by Mr. Franklin Miles; Miss Grace Hampton does exceedingly well as Lady Caterham; Miss Claire de Vere plays capitally in the character of the Duchess of St. Jermyns; and other good comedy sketches are supplied by Mr. Geoffrey Berwick as William Gibson, Miss Alice Hamilton (Lady Crystal), Miss Barry Eldon (the Hon. Honoria Bedford), and Miss Kate Robertson as the Hon. Sophia Bedford.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—*Straight from the Shoulder* is being presented here by Mr. R. A. Roberts' company. Dr. Francis Bedford finds a good exponent in Mr. Henry Herne; Mr. Leonard Clarke as David Gleeson is seen to advantage; Mr. Cuthbert Dennison is good as Donald McGregor; good comedy is introduced by Mr. Fred Beck as Jim Green; the Rev. John Armitage is well portrayed by Mr. George H. Child, and Mr. Franklin McAvory is successful as Henry M. Grant. Miss Beatrice Burdett ably depicts the part of Milicent Grant; Mary Gleeson is strongly represented by Miss Frances Bruce. Other rôles are sustained by Miss Edie Casson, Miss Beatrice Moore, Mr. George Fisher, and Mr. George Paradise.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Miss Lilian Dundas and company are appearing here in *The Doom of Delilah*; Wilkie Bard's company are well received; the Clarkes being unable to appear their place was filled by Miss Elsie Foster, who sang and danced well; the Hartley Wonders contributed some clever jumping feats; Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing mill girl, impressed her audience; a laughable turn was contributed by Baker and De Sales; Leo Fields, a capital comedian, and the Bioscope completed the entertainment.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—The chief attraction here is provided by the Three Hodginis in a clever revolving ladder act; E. W. Barret, a smart comedian, keeps the house in high merriment; Mike and Lena, Dutch comedians, sing and dance well; Marquis and Truly in a specialty act are excellent, and the Tivoloscope completes a strong bill.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—Mr. Harry Conlin, patter comedian, proves very entertaining; Billy, the human-brained horse, gives evidence of careful training; Spangles and Sawdust, comedy gymnasts; Percy Johnson, comedian; Welda and Wynne in a pot-pourri act; Rosie Coleman, comedienne and dancer; Francis and Francis, acrobatic comedians, and others combine in producing a very enjoyable entertainment.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. E. Johnson.—Mr. Herbert Ralland's company is producing *His House in Order* before appreciative houses. Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont makes a realistic Hilary Jesson; as Filmer Jesson Mr. W. Hy. Hargreaves is quite successful; Mr. Langford Browne in the part of Sir Daniel and Miss Avis Grahame in that of Lady Ridgeley give delightfully characteristic studies, and Miss Victoria Wray as Geraldine Ridgeley acts in a most finished manner. Miss Kitty Cavendish as the slighted wife, Nina, deserves high praise for her acting; Miss Peggy Rae makes a capital Derek Jesson, and Miss Katie Neville is distinctive as Mlle. Thome. Major Maurewarde is ably represented by Mr. Randolfe Reade, and Mr. Dudley Stuart does good work in the part of Pryce Ridgeley. The play is exceedingly well mounted.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—Florrie Gallimore is the star turn this week, and her songs are received with uproarious applause; Barrett and Knowles are most amusing in their patter, and Roze and Calvert in their sketch are absurdly funny. Rappo and Ella's feats are again welcome; Bodea and Bell dance well, and Joe Nightingale and Arthur Stigant produce a sketch, *Two Sides of a Wall*.

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*Man and Wife*, a sensational drama, forms the attraction here this week. Mr. John F. Traynor acts in manly style as Paul Revere; Captain d'Esparre is effectively impersonated by Mr. Edward M. Hamilton; Mr. George Overs portrays the character of Jean with power and ability; Mr. George Rammell makes a capital Colonel Latour; and Bimbo and Bambo are two comical soldiers amusingly played by Mr. E. Hall-Eldon and Mr. George Vinning. Miss Kate Hallam displays exceptional merit in the character of Marcelle; and Rosette is pleasingly impersonated by Miss Millie Doris.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—An interesting military episode, *For the Honour of the Regiment*, ably presented by Frank Hardie and company, has been pleasingly greeted here this week; Halma is a marvellously smart juggler; Kahn and Kahn, illusionists and second-sight artists, are very entertaining; Marie Blythe's songs were much appreciated; Fred Maitland, assisted by Annie Beaumont, appears in an amusing skit, *Should Women Have Votes?* Dunning is a mirth-provoking ventriloquist; Yetta a clever wire-walker; and Amy Bellwood, a successful vocalist and dancer.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here with a capital representation of *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*, which is drawing crowded houses. Mr. George Mudie as Mr. Ponderbury is exceedingly funny; Miss Annie Stalman plays Mrs. Ponderbury to perfection; Mr. Drew Mackintosh shows high accomplishments as Mervyn Thorpe; Mr. Alfred Ibberson is droll as the butler, Peter; Miss Florence Wix as Mme. Polacca Modjeski is eminently suited to her part; and Miss Florence Wellesley does well as Ethel Penniston. Mr. Charles A. Staite ably portrays the character of Hyacinth Grayling. An excellent one-act comedy, *His Landlady*, precedes.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company presents here this week an exciting drama, *The Master Criminal*, which is drawing crowded houses. Payne's Bio-Photoscope is vastly amusing.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—The Five Mowatts, club jugglers, who head the bill here, are very smart; H. O. Wills, comedian, is quaint; Mildred Bryan, with a fine soprano voice, takes well; Ike and Will Scott, comedians, are graceful dancers; Ryan and Hall are comic acrobats; W. E. Hilton, Scotch ventriloquist, is popular; Mostol does well in a musical act; the Brooklands, comediennes and dancers, meet with a cordial reception; and the Bioscope concludes.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—Arthur Dando's company presents the new musical burletta, *The Phonograph Belle*. Mr. Dando, in the low comedy part of Crookie Shanks, is funny; Miss Eva Fairleigh fills the part of a retired Gaiety actress with grace; and they are ably supported by a full and competent chorus, &c. Two other sketches of an amusing nature are presented—*Uncle Obadiah* by Chas. Dixton and Co., and *Coming Home* by Mr. and Mrs. G. Leonard. The vocal efforts of the Three Royal Temples are highly appreciated; Les Belles Americaines are fine dancers; the Bros. Stowe are smart equilibrists; and also here are Harry Cotton and Marie Clifton. The pictures conclude.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. A. Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Reach.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company is appearing this week in *Sunday* to large audiences. The title-rôle is a most exacting one, but Miss Ethel Ward is an artist of exceptional power and skill, who quite fulfils all the demands of the character; Mr. James Hussey as Lively introduces strong emotional acting, and causes great amusement in his more humorous scenes; Mr. T. Norman Walter makes an excellent Tom Oxley; Mr. Pennington Gush is successful as Colonel Brimthorpe; Mr. Alec Ives is well suited as Jacky; and Mr. J. Skea and Mr. A. C. Holmes as Towzer and Davy both take their parts in rousing style befitting to the rôle.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—*Second to None*, played by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company, has had a most enthusiastic reception. The rôle of Nell Greystone needs a capable actress, and Miss Ward does full justice to the part. Her lover, Harry Wilding, is given a good portrayal by Mr. Leonard Williams; Frank Wilding is cleverly handled by Mr. Chas. Halling; Philip Mannering, a rascally captain, is excellently done by Mr. Frederick F. Lloyd; Mr. Theo. Balfour displays great ability as Sir Reginald Greystone, V.C.; Mr. J. G. Maine gave a good representation of the hideous, deformed ex-sergeant, Jack Horseman; Mr. Arthur D. Layland is a funny Lieut. Archie Ballater; and Miss Maud Merrick is a vivacious May Greystone. Miss Carrie Yandall and Mr. Geo. H. Davis cause a great deal of amusement as Norah and Joe Ruggles.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—The popular Scotch comedian Neil Kenyon has scored a gratifying success. The operatic sketch *The Daughter of the Regiment*, presented by artists who are members of the Carl Rosa Opera Co., is a very fine production. The title-rôle is taken by Mlle. Madele Prescott. Harry Grey gets as much fun as ever out of his songs; Arabella Allen gives some excellent impersonations from the works of both Dickens and Shakespeare; the Eight Lancashire Lads show great ability as clog-dancers; and other very interesting turns are given by the Prince Milner Trio in their acrobatic display; the Mayvilles, liliputian novelty artists; and Tom Lloyd and Olive Armidale, who both sing excellently.

PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—The genial Mark Sheridan heads the bill this week, and is in great form. He goes through his songs in excellent style, and rattles off numerous topical witticisms in a manner that still further increases his great popularity. Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, the talented impersonators of Dickens, give artistic reproductionns from some of his works; Margit and Lener are amusing eccentrics, the tumbling feats of Lener moving the audience to enthusiasm; the Five Bombays prove themselves clever step-dancers; Tony Iveson and an assistant contribute an enjoyable comedy and singing act. Others who greatly help towards the success of the programme are Venturini, who submitted an amazing illusion; the Clares, two ladies, who give a cleverly-constructed song scena; and Allsop and Beckwith, in a vaudeville entertainment.

SWANSEA. — GRAND. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Mr. George Alexander's company visit Swansea with *The Thief*, and give a perfect reading of this thrilling play. Mr. Hubert Listor's Richard Chelford is one of the finest pieces of character acting seen here; as his wife Miss Marie Polini enraptures the audience with the naturalness and grace of her delineation; as Harry Leyton Mr. Owen Nares shows great ability in his reading of a really difficult rôle; Mr. Cyril Harcourt as Raymond Leyton acts with distinction; and Miss Jean Cadell as his wife is effective. Mr. Luke Forster is, as Protheroe, a detective of detectives. A really excellent curtain-raiser, *Too Happy by Half*, precedes *The Thief*.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. Andrew Emm's company presents realistically *The Diver's Luck* at the Star this week. As Martin Faber, the diver, Mr. Harry Cullenford is to be congratulated upon a high-class performance, and Miss Dora Pass wins all hearts with her portrayal of Helen Wyngate; Mr. W. T. Millar as Tom Hall is a genuine villain; Mr. Fred Marston as Barny Brawn and Miss Pearl Kayle (Peggy Mahoney) provide good humour.

THE EMPIRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—The bill here this week is rightly "topped" by Machnow, the Russian giant, whose 9ft. 3½in. draws big crowds; Hermann Meiot again visits us, with a wonderful series of conjuring tricks; Bi-Bo-Bi provides a really enjoyable eccentric musical turn; and Tom E. Conovor has good songs and clever gags. Rhoda Paul presents a new scena, *It's the Gay Gordons*, in very taking fashion; Victor Newman, in character studies of famous tragedians, is much appreciated; Majorie Lawrence scores with some excellent dancing; and the Eight of Hearts, in American songs and artistic poses, do well, as does also E. J. Sheldon. Bioscope pictures maintain a high standard.

PALACE.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—An excellent exhibition of Bioscope pictures is presented this week, chief of which is Jane Shore. An agreeable musical programme is also submitted by Miss Kate Eaton, Mr. Alf. Thomas, and Master James Northey.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—The management are announcing a dramatic and musical comedy season, and have for this week's attraction Mr. Charles Constant's company, in *Florodora*. Mr. Gus Danby as Anthony Tweedlepunch causes unlimited fun; Frank Abercoed is in the capable hands of Mr. Martin D. Pitt; Mr. Jack Parker portrays Cyrus Gilfain effectively; Mr. Stanley Bartram does well as Captain Arthur Donegal; and Mr. Emlyn Davis as Leandro is good. Miss Lillie Blythe makes a graceful Lady Holyrood; Dolores is pleasingly taken by Miss Daisy Lake; and Miss Louie Danby is seen to advantage as Angela. The smaller characters are well sustained, and the chorus and dances deserve mention.

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION.—Secretary, Mr. H. J. Southwell.—Miss Harriet Greet's company, in *The Sign of the Cross*, is billed here for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, with Mr. Wallace G. Court as Marcus and Miss Vera Crichton as Mercia.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. Lingford Carson's No. 1 company is here with a répertoire of plays. On Monday *A Modern Adventuress* was staged, the title-rôle being cleverly assumed by Miss Mabel Fare. Mr. F. Kelland scored heavily as Harry Delby; Mr. C. Taylor was well cast as William Delby; and the Vivette of Miss Shirley Dalton was sympathetic.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Captain Devereux's troupe of dogs are cleverly trained; the Musical Korries are most entertaining; Dolly and Madge McAlla pay a welcome return visit; and the pictures are interesting.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—An enthusiastic house greeted the first appearance on Monday of Mr. Mouillot's company in *Tom Jones*. Mr. Cyril Thompson is seen to great advantage in the title-rôle, and Miss Alice Moffat's sweet soprano singing wins her frequent applause. As Honour Miss Florence Saunders does excellently, her charming manner being quite refreshing, and Miss Oliva Eltone makes a very attractive Lady Bellaston. Mr. Fred Seymour is an amusing Squire Western, Mr. A. J. Nicholls a typical Mr. Alworthy, and Mr. Alfred H. Majilton does well as Blifil. Mr. Michael Dwyer is extremely amusing as Gregory, and Mr. George Elton provokes continual merriment by his antics as Partridge.

TREHERBERT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. W. Bynorth; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—Miss Winifred Maude is appearing to large audiences this week in *The Convict*. Mr. Victor du Cane directs the company, and an admirable effect is produced; Mr. J. M. Olivert portrays Jack Britton with a freedom and ease which is pleasant to witness; whilst Miss Winifred Maude is a charming Dora Renshawe. Mr. St. Clair Forbes as Captain Hurley supplies a good interpretation. All the other parts are cleverly sustained. Messrs. Chas. Phelps and Ernest Vaughan's company occupy the boards during the latter part of the week in *Man or Beast?*

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee Mr. Welton Dale.—Hippodrome Season.—The programme this week is proving very popular. It includes Le Clarr's troupe of performing fox terriers; Vere and Royal, in a capital comedy sketch; Ted Saunders, in clever imitations of variety stars; Archie Roger, in his acrobatic jumping act; Jennie Reeves, in archly-rendered song; and Trolia, in his equilibristic feats of skill and strength. The Hippodrome pictures continue very popular.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—A welcome visit is being paid here by Mr. Alfred Cross and company in *The Manxman*. Mr. Alfred Cross realises capably the part of Pete; Mr. Harold B. Lewis wins applause for his excellent Philip Christian; Mr. Fred Charles is effective as Ross Christian; Cæsar Cregeen has a clever exponent in Mr. Fred Mace, and Miss Minnie Watersford is natural and sincere as Kate.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—The boards here this week have been occupied by Messrs. Edward L. Garside and J. Forbes Knowles' company with *Her Marriage Vows*. Mr. Charles Bedells made a most creditable Gilbert Carlton; Miss Lillian Herries earned the sympathies of the audience by her able acting as Kate Walters; Mr. J. Forbes Knowles was a manly Ned Benton, and Mr. John W. Ryder made the most of William Walters. Mr. Wilfrid Bailey played in capital style as Eben Chubb; Mr. H. Vernon in the comedy part of Larry Leary, ably supported by Miss Winifred Barton as Maggie Clair, caused roars of laughter, and Mr. Vincent Wardle was successful as Daffy Dan, Miss Nellie Shirley being a pleasing Hester Norton.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The programme this week includes:—Bros. St. Clair, clever comedy cyclists; the Smythsons in an amusing sketch, *Love Germs*; Sim Maree, a wonderful contortionist; Ryder-Davis, actor-vocalist, an acceptable turn; Crosby and Walker, amusing patter comedians; Bros. Idento, comic jugglers; Miss Minnie D'Aubyn, character vocalist, and Miss Eva Ward, comedienne.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Beecham; Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company in *The Great White City* is proving a great attraction here this week, and a crowded house gave the talented artists an enthusiastic reception on Monday night. The drama is full of interest, and all the exciting episodes are faithfully developed. Mr. Lingford Carson submits a fine portrayal of Reindeer, the dumb chief, and his acting is always marked with an earnestness which wins hearty approval; Mr. Mansell Fane is an excellent Leo Stanley; and Mr. George Butler as Hartley Deane is an unscrupulous villain; Mr. Norman Furnell as Black Forest submits a clever character sketch; and Mr. J. Dobson Clyde is exceptionally good as Sparrow Hawk. Miss Amy Ross Clyde as Martha Jane Curtley is very amusing, and Latika has an able exponent as Miss Pollie Denville. The minor parts are all well sustained, and the staging is very effective; whilst there are several numbers sung in effective style.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—George Russell is a capital comedian, and his songs are well rendered; the Levans sing several beautifully-illustrated songs, and are loudly applauded. The pictures are a splendid collection, those depicting Retribution, His Wedding Morn, and Prize Camel are very good.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—One of the best vocalists heard here is Herbert Clifton, whose versatility has no limit. His songs are capitally rendered, and his imitation of several well-known leading lights are masterpieces. Clown Baker and his carefully-trained animals again score a big success; Dave Toole is a quaint comedian, whilst Edith Chantler has a delightful soprano voice, and her songs are well selected; Pop Dearly is an amusing comedian; and Edmunda an expert ventriloquist; Willie and Johnson are capital acrobats; and W. H. Downs is a charming ballad vocalist. The pictures are good.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. Gilbert E. Payne's company in the musical comedy *The Honeymoon* is being received here this week with every success. The play is full of original humour, and the music is interesting. Mr. F. H. Housden as Col. Vandyke Brown and Mr. Leslie Erle as Jack Armstrong keep the house in continuous roars of laughter. Excellent amusement is also contributed by Mr. Edward Roy as Archie Mashington, Mr. Gus Tomlin as Victor L. Estrange, Mr. Gilbert Payne as Nathaniel Noodle, Miss Lily Godfrey as Dolly, Miss Carrie Godfrey as Amy, and Miss Trixie Godfrey as Violet. A specialty turn by the Godfrey Girls is successful.

WELLINGBOROUGH. — EXCHANGE HALL.—The visit of *Miss Hook of Holland* has been looked forward to for some time, and we were not surprised to find full houses on Tuesday and Wednesday to witness the admirable performances of Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company. The name-part was fascinatingly played by Miss Ethel James; Miss Muff Carew's rendering of Mina was throughout received with rapturous applause; Mr. Edmund Russell's performance of Mr. Hook was first rate; and Mr. Fred Dark as Simon Slinks would have been difficult to beat. Captain Paap was capably played by Mr. J. B. Fox; and Mr. Adrian Burgon scored well with his vocal items. Mr. R. Corray as Schnapps was quite satisfactory; which may also be said of the remainder of a good company, and of the dresses and mounting.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is producing *The Love of the Princess*, a romantic story cleverly told and admirably staged. Miss Maisie Hanbury is very charming as Princess Idalia, and fills the part with much distinction; Miss Nellie Garside is excellent as Lady Irene Ramona; and Miss Helen Elmar is a sweet Constantia; Mr. Wilson Coleman as Prince Conrad Ramona of Uldersburg has a part which he fills with distinction; the Chronoscope pictures continue to be a feature of the theatre performance.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Drama continues to fill the bill at this place of amusement, and good audiences have welcomed Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, Messrs. Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton, who have been producing the romantic military play, *The Power of the King*; Mr. Travis Green is a great success as Crown Prince Oscar; Mr. Charles Whitlock as King of Vallambrosa has a part well suited to him; Miss Ruby Sutherland as Phillipe, Miss Violet Jarson as Rosa, and Miss Dorothy Clifton as Lady Annastasia do capable work; and the play is elaborately staged.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—The visit of Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company in *Moths*, *Camille*, and *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* is a welcome one. In the first-named play, presented on Monday, Mr. Raynor as Lord Jura won approval; Miss Henrietta Schrier achieved success in her portrayal of the Duchess de Sonnay; Miss Dorothy West-Symes did well as Vere Herbert, and as Fuschia Leach Miss Nisa Coleman was entirely successful.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—The principal item on the programme is Carl and Mary Ohm's remarkably well-trained animal circus; the Two Kays have a charming and graceful style; in female impersonations Albert Latine is effective; some capital humour is provided by Frank F. Street; Webb and Branston in operatic selections give entire satisfaction; Bessie Travis, a lady ventriloquist, is amusing; Tom Yorke does well in coster songs, and some fine pictures are shown by Raymond's bioscope.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Mr. Fred Melville's company in the drama *The Ugliest Woman on Earth* is appearing here to crowded houses. The artists play their respective parts to perfection.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Ranes; Stage-Manager, Mr. G. W. Montrose.—The Three Markies, in their clever vocal and instrumental comedy sketch; Jones and Joyce, duettists and comedians; Fred Horsfall, comedian and mimic; Clive and Vera, speciality artists, in comedy act, *The Squire and the Dairymaid*; Bock Pylades, facial mimic; the Knowsleys, the Scotch speciality artists; and the Vicoscope, compose a good show. The house was crowded at both performances on Monday.

WHITEHAVEN.—MARKET HALL.—Lessees, The Edison Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. Victor Branford.—The pictures here are constantly changed, and chief amongst this week's novelties are Flash James, The Juggling Fiend, A Woman's Revenge, Born Tired, An Indian's Romance, and Black and White. Miss Gertie Gordon, a pleasing comedienne and dancer, is well received.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—This week Boswell's Royal stage circus holds the boards here. The performing ponies—twenty in number—are a great attraction. Clever jumping feats are performed by the Bros. Austin; Kame Kasuda, a Jap, does one of the cleverest turns ever seen locally, his slide from the roof of the theatre, balancing on a rope, is very sensational; the Musical Palmers do their well-known turn with general acceptance; Charley, foot equilibrist, wins much applause, and the clever act by dogs on a rapidly revolving table, is popular.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The new version of *The Christian* is being submitted to crowded audiences by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company. Miss Doris Gilham gives a portrayal of Glory Quayle which displays exceptional talents; Mr. H. Renouf interprets the rôle of John Storm with great power; Horatio Drake finds a clever exponent in Mr. Oswald Marshall; and as Lord Ure Mr. G. R. Montford is equally successful. The character of Father Lamplugh is in the capable hands of Mr. Edwin Ling; Mr. C. T. Turpin shows great ability as Archdeacon Wealthy; and Miss M. Brodie submits a capital study of Polly Love.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Albertus and Millar, who top the bill, present their sketch *A Scene at the Fair Grounds*, which is highly appreciated; Drew and Alders make a big hit in their comedy act, *The Coastguards*; Tom Hughes causes quite an ovation with his songs; the Violas, second-sight artists, bewilder the audience; Ada Parker and Harry Willats are excellent comedians; Harvey's American Boys and Girls sing and dance themselves into favour; Tom Kelso and company cause much amusement with their sketch, *The Silly Servant*; and Richardson Taylor also supplies a favourable turn as a whistling ventriloquist.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company is paying a return visit here in *Dare-Devil Dorothy*, which wins much popularity. Miss Dorothy Desmonde in the title-rôle sings and acts admirably and soon makes herself a favourite, whilst the part of her sister Ruth is well played by Miss Nellie Valentine; Mr. Walter Ashley has a good voice, which he uses to advantage as Captain Fielding, and Mr. Walter B. Nugent makes a polished villain as Captain Dudley. Mr. Harry Ugar as Silas Crump and Miss Nellie Harcourt as Judith are responsible for some effective comedy. Mr. Deane Cliffe as Featherstone Haugh makes the most of his part, and Mr. Edward Aldworth is successful as Hawkins. Some good specialities are introduced in the last act.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston—A bill of all-round excellence here this week is headed by Edwin Boyde, who simply convulses the house; another turn that causes roars of laughter is that of the Gallimore Trio; Tom Costello is as funny and popular as ever; Mlle. Renee contributes a refined instrumental number; Mr. C. talks and sings amusingly; Maud Courtney provides an interesting item; the Falcons are skilful acrobats, and Flo Cecil is a charming comedienne and dancer.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Secretary, Mr. W. B. Barnett.—Mr. Waller Jeff's New Century pictures are extending their stay here another week, and packed houses are the rule. Chief amongst the films is that of the Marathon race from Birmingham to Wolverhampton on Saturday last, and an entertaining musical turn is provided by Messrs Ford and Hanson.

WORCESTER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—The presentation for the first time in Worcester of Hall Caine's *The Prodigal Son* has proved a great attraction to theatre-goers throughout the week, and Mr. Wentworth Croke's powerful company has provided an excellent representation of the drama. The play, following as it does the main lines of the novel, though substituting a happy for a tragic ending, affords many thrilling situations, and the wide scope for picturesque staging and magnificent costumes is taken full advantage of. Mr. Gordon Macintosh, in the title-rôle, provides a powerful psychological study and exhibits the necessary versatility and melodramatic power. As the brother, Magnus Stephenson, Mr. Hugh Montgomery, exercises well-calculated restraint, but never fails to impress; Miss Valerie Crespin doubles the parts of Thora Neilson and her daughter Elin with eminent success; and Miss Mildred Cottrell, possessed of a fine stage presence, is admirably suited to the part of Helga Neilson; Mr. Charles Cooper is well suited as Stephen Magnussum, and Miss Barbara Gott gives a convincing impersonation of his wife, Anna. The Oscar Neilson of Mr. Philip Renouf is a noticeable impersonation; and Miss Marie Harcourt is excellent as Margaret Neilson; Mr. Ernest Rivarz is a capital Dr. Olsen; and Mr. E. Christopher, the sheriff; while innumerable small parts are adequately represented.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John J. Scott.—This week a strong company is here. The Allans prove themselves clever musical speciality artists; Sydney Baker's sketch company is amusing in the farcical production, *Who Died First?*; Miss Sylvia Norman sings catchy songs; James O'Connor is a smart Hibernian comedian; Morelli and Moore do an amusing eccentric act; and Fred Brooks gives a laughable stump speech, and sings comic songs in a taking style.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is appearing here in *Honour Thy Father*. The drama is well staged, and the following artists appear to advantage:—Mr. Henry Troyford, Mr. Bartlett Garth, Mr. David Phillips, and Mrs. Morton Powell.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—George French is again being heartily received; Wallace Whitney's witticisms go down well; Lalie Brooke's novel and beautiful scena goes well; the Bros. Bright are clever athletes; Dora Barrington and Miss Lesley Grey give operatic selections with much skill, and the Havannas in their comedy act are an enjoyable item. Fremel and Fremel, Lily Hayes, Beattie Foster, and the Bioscope complete the list.

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PANTOMIME GOSSIP.

The coming of King Pantomime is being heralded by signs of activity all over the land, and the arrangements already made for his advent give promise that the Christmas of 1908 will compare with that of any former year in respect to the number and importance of its productions. The West End is to be well supplied with pantomime, three being again presented in the neighbourhood of the Strand.

The Lyceum will be the first of the London pantomimes, and will start the season on Wednesday, Dec. 23, when Messrs. Smith and Carpenter will produce their second annual, *Little Red Riding Hood*. Miss Dorothy Craske will, as last year, be the principal boy, and Miss Frances Cameron, who has been appearing in America as the Merry Widow, will play principal girl. A comic part is to be given to Julian Rose, also from America, who made his London début back in the summer at the Coliseum. M. Edouard Espinosa has invented ingenious arrangements for the ballet scenes, and there will be some startling surprises in Toy-land.

Drury Lane will, as is its wont, reserve its annual until the evening of Boxing Day, when *Dick Whittington* will be produced on the scale of magnificence for which Mr. Arthur Collins and his supporters are so justly renowned. The treatment of the tale by Mr. Hickory Wood and Mr. Collins will be on novel lines, the action passing mainly in England. The story begins at once in Eastcheap on St. Valentine's Day, and after stirring scenes passes to Highgate-hill, where the Spirit of Wealth rises from a pond. In his sleep Dick has a vision of commerce and travel, culminating in a superb picture of a fairy Guildhall, with Dick himself as Lord Mayor of London.

The second part opens in the Harbour of Fantasia, a beautiful set, full of life and bustle, and after a scene in which Dick rids the town of the rats after the fashion of the Pied Piper of Hamelin, Dick returns, a millionaire, to London, and the next great effect is Whittington receiving the freedom of the City of London. The Fitzwarren Stores provides the principal comic scene. The chief parts in the cast are allotted to Miss Queenie Leighton, Miss Truly Shattuck, Mr. Wilkie Bard, Mr. Neil Kenyon, Mr. Arthur Conquest, Miss Marie Wilson, Miss Marie George, Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald, and Mr. Ali.

Children will be delighted to hear that again this Christmas there will be at Drury Lane Theatre a real old-fashioned harlequinade to wind up the pantomime. Good clowns are scarce, and Mr. Arthur Collins was so pleased with Bob Pender and his troupe in their performance last year that he has re-engaged them.

The Adelphi will start operations on Christmas Eve, when *Cinderella* will be staged by Mr. George Edwardes and Mr. Robert Courtneidge. The book is by the latter gentleman and Mr. A. M. Thompson, and the story will be found to be a fantastic and engrossing one, relieved by comic interludes inseparable from a Christmas piece. Opportunities for scenic display will be taken in the transformation of winter into spring, which arises out of the story, but the chief spectacle will be that in which Cinderella is robed in dazzling white, amid surroundings of crystals, pearls, and flowers of snowy hue, the picture being completed by the arrival of Cinderella's coach of crystal, illuminated by glittering gems, and drawn by six snow-white ponies with attendant postillions and grooms. The heroine will be played by Miss Phyllis Dare and the Prince by Miss Carrie Moore. Mr. Dan Rolyat will have a part in which his comic abilities will shine, and the dame will be played by Mr. John Humphries.

The twelfth annual pantomime at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, this year will be *Cinderella*, and the arrangements for its production on Boxing Day are already well advanced. Mr. Davey, the managing-director is determined that the pantomime at Kingston this year shall be an even more gorgeous affair than any of the eleven pantomimes that have preceded, and no expense is being spared to accomplish this. The pantomime has again been designed and arranged by Mr. Davey, whilst the libretto and music have been written by Mr. Hugh Mytton. Mr. Rignold, the theatre chef d'orchestre, has again selected and arranged the music, whilst some magnificent scenery has been painted by Messrs. J. Harker and Geo. Miller, and Mrs. Davey is busily employed in designing and fashioning the handsome costumes. Amongst the principal artists engaged are:—Messrs. Lauri Wylie, Arthur Carlton, Bobbie Hall, George Hirste, C. Kingsley, and F. Percy Cann; Misses Bessie Butt, Alice Coverick, Dolly Grassdorf, Hilda Vining, Edith Deverell, and Nellie James. There will be a chorus and ballet of sixty performers, and the whole will be produced under the direction of Mr. Davey.

The subject chosen for the pantomime at the Elephant and Castle this year is *The Babes in the Wood*, which will be produced on Christmas Eve by Mr. Lester Collingwood. Miss Kitty Clinton will be principal boy, Miss Alice Maple principal girl, Mr. Charles Clarke Baron, Mr. Will Lorenzi Dame; and in the cast will also be the Sisters Morgan, Miss Grace Mortimer, Miss Hester Reeve, Miss Violet Roumaine, and Miss Lilian O'Brien.

Mr. William P. Sheen, the author of last year's successful pantomime at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, *Cinderella*, has just completed this year's annual, *Dick Whittington*, for the same theatre.

Mr. Robert Arthur's eleventh Kennington pantomime will be *Red Riding Hood*. Boxing Day, the occasion of the production, is practically booked up.

The pantomime at the Grand, Glasgow, will be *Cinderella*, and Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Stevens produce it for Moss' Empires, Ltd., on Dec. 9. The company includes Miss Violet Halls and Miss Queenie Finnis as principal boy and girl; Messrs. Whit Cunliffe, George French, Tom Conway, and Barry Lupino will provide lots of humour; Misses Kate Walbran and Nellie Cozens will be the elder sisters of Cinderella; and Fairy parts will be played by Misses Olive Tempest and Edie Docherty. The Lottie Stone Troupe of Dancers are also engaged.

This year's pantomime at Belfast will be *Jack and Jill*, and will be produced on Christmas Eve. The libretto is by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, and Mr. Samuel P. Swanton will be responsible for the composition and selection of the music. The cast will include Miss Dorothy Ward, Miss Minnie Cunningham, Miss Stella de Marney, Messrs. George Lashwood, John A. Warden, Harry Trevanion, Fred Conquest, George Miller, &c. The costumes will be designed by Comelli, executed by Miss Agnes Scott, with the assistance of Alias, London, and the entire production will be under the experienced direction of Mr. Fred W. Warden, managing-director of the Theatre Royal and Palace, Belfast.

Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton have again arranged with Mr. G. Brydon Phillips to produce pantomime at Chester, and the latter has secured the following ladies and gentlemen to interpret their annual:—Mesdames Ethel Dunbar, Mavis Hope, Maggie Allwood, Kitty Vivian, Sisters Milburn and Dane; Messrs. Tom Ashby, Bernard and Weston, Harry Lomas, H. Langlois, Lester Digby, Eugene and Willie. Mr. George Beverley will stage-manage, and Mr. W. T. Gliddon will look after the musical department. Mr. Phillips, who has many friends in Chester, will personally superintend the production.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

The meeting of employees at Terry's Theatre last Sunday evening was fairly well attended, but considering the importance of the subject to be considered one would have expected the house to be crowded out. Mr. James Cullen, master carpenter at the St. James's Theatre, presided, and among others on the stage were Mr. G. H. Dyball, stage-manager at the London Pavilion, Mr. P. Sheridan, electrician at the Waldorf Theatre, Mr. J. Reid, president of the Carpenters' Society, Mr. Wm. Barbour, electrician at the St. James's Theatre, Mr. Charles Thorogood, president of the General Staff Branch N.A.T.E., Mr. H. Lane, of the Savoy Theatre, Mr. J. N. Hunt, of the New Theatre, and others.

The chairman, on rising, said he welcomed those present on behalf of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, and he felt sure they would agree that the purpose of the meeting was one deserving the most careful consideration, and, he ventured to say, the hearty support of all who, in any capacity, were employed in the work of the theatre or the music hall. The struggle for existance was hard enough in any occupation, but it was harder in this business by reason of the uncertainty and irregularity of employment. It was, therefore, very desirable that employees should make provision for the ills which arise out of the want of employment, a want that was so productive of ill-health and misery to a man and his dependants. Employees could do by mutual aid what it was impossible to do by individual effort. The larger the number of those who co-operated for mutual benefit the lighter would be the tax upon the individual and the greater the benefit it would be possible to provide for each member.

The chairman said he did not propose to go into the details of the scheme; the secretary would do that, but he strongly recommended the proposal for their acceptance. The chairman then called on Mr. Wm. Johnson, general secretary of the National Association, to submit the scheme recommended by the committee. Mr. Johnson addressed the meeting at length. He read letters from Mr. Edward Terry and Mr. Forbes Robertson relating to the use of the theatre for the meeting, and expressed the hope that, as they met in "The Third Floor Back," where the appeal to the better self of men and women so effectively removed the distrust and envy that made life so unwholesome, it would be a good omen for this meeting. Mr. Johnson dealt with the present state of affairs and the sufferings caused by the neglect of men to make some such provisions as they now proposed. He had nothing but praise for the many house sick clubs and slate clubs with which various sections of the employees were connected, but their usefulness was very limited, and, owing to their small membership, could not provide adequate benefits during sickness or at death. In most cases the allowance at the death of a member was £10—a sum barely sufficient to pay the cost of the burial—and in very many cases the death of the breadwinner left his dependants in debt and face to face with destitution or very severe privations. They did not suggest that any scheme they could devise could provide work for members—and work was the main thing—but until the workers' charter, "The right to work," had been won, they could at least make provision for the sickness caused by want of work and worry, and place a member in the position of securing for his widow and dependants a substantial sum.

The scheme he had to submit aimed to provide, for a contribution of 6d. a week, sick pay as follows: 15s. a week for thirteen weeks, and, if necessary, 7s. 6d. a week for a further thirteen weeks, or a total of £14 odd during a period of six months in each year. The sum assured at death would be met by a levy of 6d. per member on the death of a member, and 3d. per member on the death of a member's wife. On a membership of 2,000 this would give £50 to the widow and £25 to the member on the death of his wife. Nothing like these benefits could be got elsewhere. It was also proposed that the surplus funds at the end of each year, less a small sum per head to carry on the fund, would be divided in equal proportions and shared out among the members. It must not, therefore, be assumed that the contribution of 6d. per week would be spent. If the sick claims were numerous the members would get the benefit, if they were few in number a portion of the contributions would be returned to the members. The committee proposed that until the rules were adopted and the fund opened no age-limit should be fixed, although when necessary a medical certificate of health would be required. This offer was of vital importance to the older men, who were now shut out of any sort of sick or funeral fund: many of them regretted their neglect in the past, and they should lose no time now in applying to join this fund. Members would be entitled to half benefit after three months' membership and full benefit after six months' membership; but it was proposed that no levy for death benefit be imposed in the case of any member with less than six months' membership. The committee had seriously considered the position of women employees, and while they were anxious to devise some method by which the women could participate in the movement, there were obvious reasons why sickness in their case would have to be treated on a special basis. It would rest largely with the women themselves to indicate what measure of support they were willing to give to the scheme, and whether they would prefer a different scale of contributions and benefits and a section of their own.

Mr. Johnson said he wished it to be understood that these suggestions and observations were subject to the confirmation of those who would join the fund. The committee of the National Association would be the governing body to administer the fund, and the office and staff of the Society would be utilised to secure economical and efficient management. All stage employees who were, or became, members of the National Association, resident in the Metropolitan area, would be eligible to join, and any other employee bona-fire connected with the work or management of a theatre or music hall in the Metropolitan area, such as box-office staff, billing and advertising staff, attendants, hall-keepers, firemen, dressers, supers, &c., would be eligible to join, and with a large membership a great deal of good would be done. They could not get the best result for their means and efforts without centralising their means and efforts, and he hoped that the proposal would receive general support.

Mr. J. Reid, president of the Carpenters' Branch, made an effective speech in support of the proposal. Mr. G. H. Dyball followed, and referred to the practice of circulating collecting sheets among the staffs of the theatres and halls, which this proposal would put an end to. Mr. J. N. Hunt also spoke in support of the proposal.

A number of questions were asked by Mr. Cooper of the Vaudeville, Mr. W. Clements of Hackney Empire, Mr. C. A. Keeble of the Coliseum, Mr. Mitchell of the Scala, and others, but they mainly related to matters outside the scope of the meeting.

The chairman, in concluding the proceedings, urged all those present to obtain a supply of forms from the stewards, and induce those in their various halls and theatres to fill them in and return them to the secretary, so that they could be notified of a further meeting. A hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Edward Terry and Mr. Forbes Robertson for the use of the theatre was agreed to with cheers, and the meeting terminated.

It may be stated, in answer to a suggestion made at the meeting that the proposals of the committee were too good to be possible, that there are over 100 theatres and music halls in the Metropolitan area, and on a moderate average of twenty members from each the possible total suggested—2,000—would be reached. As a matter of fact, including, as the scheme does, all sections of employees, there are from 3,000 to 4,000 eligible to join. The estimate of the committee is, therefore, a reasonable one.

We understand that many applications and enquiries have been received since the meeting, although very few women have as yet applied. Those interested are asked to get a list of others willing to join and to distribute membership forms, which may be obtained from Mr. Wm. Johnson, 29, Wellington-street, Strand. The committee are considering the issue of a further circular and arrangements for several meetings.

A meeting of members of the Theatrical Carpenters' Branch of the N.A.T.E. will be held on Sunday evening in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane, at 8.30. A matter of special importance will be submitted. A report will be given on the annual concert and the share-out fund. A deputation, consisting of Messrs. H. Porter, W. Beavington, G. Pickering, E. Arnott, Ed. Stow, J. Hunt, and Wm. Johnson, from the No. 1 Branch, will attend the meeting on a matter concerning the members of the society.

A meeting in connection with the Birmingham Branch of the N.A.T.E. will be held in the Victoria Inn, John Bright-street, on Sunday evening. Several representative trade unionists will attend. All employees connected with theatres and music halls are invited.

The arrangements for the employees' annual concert at His Majesty's Theatre are almost completed. Miss Ethel Irving and Mr. Sydney Valentine have added their names to the list of patrons. Mr. George Edwardes has kindly given permission for Miss May de Sousa, Miss Jessie Broughton, and Mr. Alfred Lester to appear. Mr. Walter Gibbons has kindly given permission for Miss Eva Lewis to appear. Mr. F. Glenister has kindly given permission for a number of artists from the London Pavilion to appear. The full list of artists is as follows:—

Mme. Alice Esty	Mr. Alfred Lester
Miss Dorothea Baird	Mr. George Mozart
Miss Ida Rene	Mr. Cyril Clensy
Miss Alexandra Dagmar	Mr. Tom Clare
Miss Marie George	Mr. Thorold Waters
Miss Ada Lewis	Mr. Dutch Daly
Miss Emilie Hayes	Mr. John Phillips
Miss Tessie Hackney	Mr. Harry Claff
Miss Alice Tremayne	The Marriotts
Miss Jessie Broughton	and
Miss May de Sousa	Mr. G. H. Chirgwin.

Animated pictures by the Raymond Bio-tableaux, &c. Miss Dorothea Baird will recite "Day Dream" from the legend of "The Sleeping Beauty," by Lord Tennyson, and Miss Mary Carmichael will play the pianoforte accompaniment for Miss Baird.

KINGSTON THEATRE CO.

The twelfth annual ordinary general meeting of the shareholders of the Kingston-on-Thames Theatre Co., Ltd., was held at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, on Wednesday afternoon, under the presidency of Mr. Wm. Millwood, chairman of the directors.

The balance-sheet and profit and loss account showed the receipts for the period to have been £11,764 15s. 2d., and the expenses £11,128 10s. 4d., leaving a balance of £636 4s. 10d. After paying mortgage interest there remained a sum of £397 12s. 5d., to which was added £104 4s. 11d. brought forward from last year, making an available balance of £501 17s. 4d. From this amount an interim dividend at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum to March 31, 1907, had been paid on the preference shares, the directors now recommending the payment of the final dividend, making 6 per cent. for the year, and that the balance, £68 19s. 4d. be carried forward.

In moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, Mr. Millwood referred to the recent conversion of the theatre into a music hall. He said:—"It is with some feelings of pain that I address you to-day, for, after having striven for eleven years, and striven very hard, to keep this theatre open as a profitable concern, on purely legitimate lines, it has not proved a brilliant financial success, although it has held its own and earned on the average 5 per cent. on its issued share capital; but this, Gentlemen, is all that we have been able to do, so we have decided on a partial change of policy, and, as you are doubtless aware, we are now in the middle of our first season of 'two-houses-a-night varieties.' Although in making this change we have fallen into line with so many other theatres, we most sincerely hope that we shall not permanently become a music hall, and so lose touch with any of our regular patrons, for we still hope to run our usual pantomime season, and during certain seasons of the year to continue to bring to Kingston the best dramatic and other attractions.

"There are various causes that have led us to adopt this 'variety' innovation—first and foremost the extreme difficulty that Mr. Davey has experienced, a difficulty that has become greater and greater each year, of securing a sufficient number of good companies to attract the public. Theatrical business all over the country has been so bad that many of the leading touring managers, gentlemen on whom, a few years ago, we could depend on to fill several of the weeks of the year, have either ceased to send out tours altogether, or have reduced their speculations to one, or possibly two, companies where they used to send out a dozen; and, moreover, the tours that used to run from August Bank Holiday till Christmas, and again from February to Whit Week, are now reduced to about eight weeks in the autumn, and even less in the spring. We have carried out every requirement of the County Council to the entire satisfaction of its officials. As you can see for yourselves, the theatre is improved in every way, and Mr. Davey, on behalf of the Kingston-on-Thames Theatre Company, is now the holder of practically every possible licence."

Mr. Peter Davey, the managing-director, replying to a vote of thanks, said although the profits had been small, yet they had earned profits, and that was more than could be said of 80 per cent. of the theatres throughout the country, and that was one of the reasons why so many theatres had been turned into music halls. Whether Kingston wanted a music hall remained to be seen. Directly opposition in the town took a practical form he thought it his duty to advocate that the theatre should become a music hall for certain seasons of the year, but it was entirely against his own personal inclinations that he did so.

The retiring director, Mr. F. W. Jones, was re-elected

Mr. Fred Terry with his New Theatre company is playing *The Scarlet Pimpernel* at the Kennington Theatre during next week.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Nov. 11.—*The Boys and Betty*, a musical play, in three acts, by George V. Hobart and Silvio Hein, has restored prosperity to Wallack's Theatre after a rather long interval, in which nothing seemed to hit the mark, several productions having been tried and found wanting. The personal popularity of Miss Marie Cahill, who plays the principal part of Betty, is an important factor in the success of the new attraction, for Miss Cahill always provides herself with some capital songs, and, what is more, she has a clever way of singing them. In this instance, the delightful melody of her final number, "An Arab love song," charms the ear and refuses to be forgotten, and there are other enjoyable numbers. "Take plenty of shoes" is about a farmer who gives his son some useful advice when he leaves the farm for the metropolis. He'll be a long way from home and may have to depend on "Shank's mare" in coming back, so he is warned to "take plenty of shoes." When Miss Cahill sings "I love to go shopping," she becomes a shop-girl at the ribbon counter of a department store, and waits on invisible customers, gossiping with an invisible friend the while, and gushing when her sweetheart comes along. "A little farther" is a topical song, with encôre verses innumerable, and "Auf Wiedersehen" is pretty and pleasing. As a musical "show" *The Boys and Betty* is decidedly out of the ordinary, being commendably free from the conventional tricks and hackneyed methods of this kind of entertainment.

Betty, an American girl, while studying abroad, marries Casimir Barbeau, a French orchestra leader, who believes himself to be a musical genius, but who meets with very little success. In their humble circumstances Betty's existence is brightened by a coterie of lively friends, including four boyish art students, an American millionaire and his daughter, and Paul Gerard, who is fonder of Betty than any of her other friends. Barbeau lords it over his wife in such a disagreeable way that she finally leaves her home in Monte Carlo and goes to Paris, where she makes a success as a fashionable florist, with the assistance of Major Gordon, a Southern officer who knew her father "before the war." On Christmas Eve, a year later, her husband appears on the scene and demands an interest in the business under the French marriage laws. Betty refuses to accept the advice of her friends and obtain a divorce, although it is suspected that Barbeau is too friendly with Nanon Duval, a young woman with a hankering for the stage. To rid herself of Barbeau Betty agrees to pay him a thousand francs to go away and not molest her. In the last act Betty and her friends are spending a week at Major Gordon's villa in a suburb of Paris. In the midst of the festivities Barbeau and Nanon come up the river bank, not knowing whose grounds they are in. They are pursued by a notary, and the loud talking attracts Betty from a summer-house near by. The notary appeals to her, and when she identifies her husband and Nanon the fact is disclosed that the notary has just married the pair in a neighbouring town, and they have left without paying the fee. Barbeau is forced to sign the necessary papers for a divorce from Betty in order to escape being prosecuted for bigamy, and Betty is affianced to Paul Gerard.

Miss Clara Palmer as Nanon wore some beautiful gowns and danced very gracefully in her "Folies-Bergère"song. Mr. Eugene Cowles as Major Gordon, Mr. John E. Kellerd as Casimir Barbeau, and Mr. Edgar Atchison-Ely as Paul Gerard were entirely successful in their respective rôles. The chorus was beautifully gowned, and the scene in the Paris flower shop, the bright interior contrasting with the snowstorm outside, was very effective. The last act opens with a realistic picture of a sudden summer shower that ends with a rainbow.

"The Great Question," described as an American play of modern life, in four acts, by Frederick Paulding, is the current attraction at the Majestic Theatre. It reminds one of Dion Boucicault's drama, *The Octoroon*, as it deals with the racial problem. Alicia, daughter of Judge Savernex, of the United States Supreme Court, arrives at womanhood without knowing that she is the child of a "mixed marriage," and has negro blood in her veins. She is engaged to a magnanimous young fellow, Philip Infield, an Assistant Attorney-General. Certain unscrupulous officials try to bribe Savernex in the interests of a railroad, but he refuses to sell his decision in the case at issue, and an attempt is made to influence him by communicating the truth about her parentage to Alicia. She tells her fiancé, and he immediately declares that it makes no difference. Alicia disagrees with him on that point, however, and sends him away, although he tells her that he will continue to wait and hope. Thus the "great question" is answered in the negative in this case, and the conventional "happy ending" is conspicuous by its absence. Miss Jessie Bonstelle plays Alicia with convincing sincerity and naturalness, and the other characters are well represented.

Mr. Henry E. Dixey has succeeded Mr. Edwin Stevens in the title-rôle of *The Devil* at the Garden Theatre, and his interpretation pleases the large audiences that attend the performances of this unusual play. Mr. Savage has sent the original company "on the road." At the Belasco Theatre, where Mr. Fiske's production of Molnar's play is prospering, Mr. George Arliss's subtle and effective representation of his satanic majesty is one of the most interesting characterisations of the hour.

"The Patriot," the new comedy by J. Hartley Manners and William Collier, is to be presented in London next May by Mr. Collier and an American company. In order that Londoners may be warned in time, notice is hereby given that the play (according to the Press agent) is "an unflinching American view of the average Englishman and of English frailties."

Mr. John Drew, according to recent announcements, is tired of appearing in modern society plays, and is anxious to return to the Shakespearean and old English comedy rôles, in which he won distinction many years ago at Daly's Theatre. At the conclusion of his present engagement in *Jack Straw* at the Empire Theatre, Mr. Drew will begin a long tour, that will take him across the Continent to San Francisco, and will include British Columbia. After that he contemplates appearing as Benedick in a sumptuous revival of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Miss Eleanor Robson is appearing in a new play called *Vera, the Medium*, by Richard Harding Davis. Spiritualism is its theme, and in the climax at the end of the third act there is "a striking and mysterious illusion."

Miss Annie Russell, in John Valentine's comedy *The Stronger Sex*, is to be the next attraction at Weber's Theatre. *Paid in Full*, now running there, will close its eight months' engagement on Broadway on the 21st inst.

"The Struggle," by Edwin Tilton, in which Miss Mary Mannering appeared last week at the Providence Opera House, bears a resemblance to *The New Magdalen*, as it tells the story of a wronged woman, named Helen Dare, who tries to blot out her past by assuming the identity of a young widow who suddenly expires at a moment when Helen and no one else is present. Helen appropriates the dead woman's papers and goes to America, where she becomes the wife of a rich Kentuckian, and enjoys eight years of happiness. But her former companion and betrayer turns up, and proves to be her husband's brother. He threatens to divulge her secret, but meets with a fatal accident, and the wife's past is hidden for ever.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

SYDNEY, Oct. 13.—Messrs. Meynell and Gunn have taken the Palace Theatre, and on the 10th they produced *Two Little Sailor Boys* with an almost complete cast of *Australians*. This is the third of Walter Howard's dramas staged by the enterprising firm, and it was as well mounted as the others. Miss Lilian Meyers, handsome and clear speaking, was Lola Yorke, and she made a distinct success in the part. Miss Lorna Forbes made a charming Mildred Grey. The boy Cyril was admirably portrayed by Mis Louise Carbasse, and Miss Maisie Maxwell scored a distinct success in her portraiture of Tom Yorke, a most meritorious and conscientious performance. Jack Jolly, the cheery tar, had a capital representative in Mr. Harry Halley, and he joined Mr. Leo Chateau (Benjamin Baxter) in providing the comic element. Miss Maud Chetwynd gave pretty Lucy Wilson a prominent place in the story, and the hero Noel Tregarthen had a manly actor, Mr. Conway Wingfield, to do him justice. Mr. Arthur Cowley (Lieutenant Redstone), Mr. Wilson Forbes (Admiral Grey), and Mr. James Lindsay (Jim Reyston) completed an excellent group of honest workers for an artistic success.

Mr. Frank Thornton made his farewell appearance in Sydney at the Palace on the 9th, and was enthusiastically sent off, speeches and "Auld Lang Syne" accentuating the fact that we have seen for the last time a genuine artist who made roaring fun without raising a blush. Sydney playgoers send best wishes with Mr. Thornton whithersoever he goes.

"Sunday" was revived by Mr. J. C. Williamson at the Royal with Miss Tittell Brune in her first and best impersonation as the honest girl on the diggings. Mr. Thomas Kingston was Colonel Brinthorpe, and in the last act he played most tactfully. Mr. Leonard Willey portrayed Arthur Brinthorpe with considerable credit. The rugged diggers had Mr. T. W. Lloyd (Jackey), Mr. Fred Cambourne (Davy), Mr. Frank Harcourt (Towzef), and Mr. Maurice Dudley (an excellent Lively) as their reflexes, and Mr. Roland Stavely was a good Tom Oxley. As the highborn Mrs. Naresby the management had secured Mrs. Robert Brough, and Miss Emma Temple was secured to play the Nun. Suffice it that these ladies did full justice to their respective rôles.

"The Belle of Mayfair," as presented by Messrs. Meynell and Gunn at the Criterion, is an artistic and financial success.

"The Merry Widow" is enjoying phenomenal booking, the "plan" counter at Paling's being crowded every day, and it is a very fine performance with Miss Florence Young, Mr. Gouriet, Mr. Reginald Roberts, and the rest in good music, amid beautiful scenery and wearing rich costumes. The matinee performances are crowded equally with the representations at night, and J. C. Williamson must be coining money with the comedy.

The Tivoli welcomed Osborn and Brooks, musical comedy artists, heartily, and cheered and laughed all through their nameless sketch. Abdullah's Arabs still remain the chief attraction. Mr. and Mrs. H. Meymott have a new farce, *The Coon's Revelry*, a cleverly-acted bit of fun. Burt Shepard, Fanny Power, Tod Lowen, Ted Kalman, Rochfort and Hart, Little Gertie Cremer, Bella Perman, and the rich contralto, Miss Nita Leete give a show which keeps Mr. Harry Rickards' reputation as selector of "good things" up to his high standard.

Madame Ada Crossley, coming back so soon after her last season, and following a long list of great concert stars, is, nevertheless, doing wonderful business. The Town Hall is crowded at every performance, and the "encore" element has reached the position of a real scandal. The demands made by a noisy minority, chiefly young people, now treble the programme, and the cries of "shame!" from the respectably-behaved portion have no effort on a Sydney general audience. The assisting artists, Percy Grainger (piano), Sametini (violin), John Harrison (tenor), and Hamilton Earle (bass), are all prime favourites, and a return series of Crossley concerts is anxiously looked forward to.

MELBOURNE, Oct. 13.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. E. J. Tait.—After a successful season, Shakespeare's comedy, *The Taming of the Shrew* was withdrawn on Friday night, and on Saturday evening *Camille* was revived for a brief season, with Miss Margaret Anglin in the name part. Miss Anglin's acting throughout was forcible and convincing. Mr. Henry Kolker was well placed as Armand Duval, while the rest of the company filled their various rôles satisfactorily.

Bijou Theatre.—Lessee, Miss Florence Baines.—A large audience on Saturday evening assembled to renew their old laughing acquaintance with *Miss Lancashire, Limited*, the merry farce which served some months back to introduce Miss Florence Baines to the Melbourne public. Miss Baines's impersonation of the lass from Lancashire is as good as ever, and the fair and buxom Mary Ellen has apparently lost none of her power as a premier laugh-maker. Miss Baines is well supported by Miss Kitty Henningham, Mr. John Hesford, and the other members of her company. Miss Muriel Johnston, who is still with Miss Baines as private secretary, has proved by time, the best of all tests, that women are quite as much in their element in front of the house as men.

King's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business Manager, Mr. Julius Grant.—The sensational drama, *The Gayest of the Gay*, is still running to good houses. Saturday night saw a packed house, which fully appreciated every incident in the play. On Saturday evening next *The Bank of England* will be staged for the first time in Melbourne.

Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon.—The great Marconis (lady and gentleman) made their first appearance on Saturday evening, and astonished a packed house with their clever performance, which consists of some marvellous experiments with electricity. The audience was mystified and delighted. Other new items were included in the programme. Goodfellow and Gregson, who reappeared after a long absence, were highly amusing; the Sisters Reno danced cleverly; Miss Mignonette Kokin is an established favourite; Galetti's dogs and baboons keep the house in roars of laughter with their extraordinary antics; Fred Bluett is back with some new ditties; the Miles Stavordale Quintet charm all with their remarkable performance on their banjos, while the rest of a particularly strong company all contribute interesting and amusing "turns."

West Pictures at Wirth's Olympia are as popular as ever.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special newspaper express services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—Rugby, 4.30 a.m.; Coventry, 4.54 a.m.; Birmingham, 5.20 a.m.; Crewe, 6.5 a.m.; Manchester, 6.50 a.m.; Liverpool, 7 a.m.; Chester, 9.3 a.m.; Doncaster, 6.10 a.m.; York, 7 a.m.; Hull, 8.20 a.m.; Darlington, 8.58 a.m.; Scarborough, 10.5 a.m.; Newcastle, 10.10 a.m.; Leeds (Central), 6.58 a.m.; Huddersfield, 7.37 a.m.; Bradford (Exchange), 7.47 a.m.; Harrogate, 7.50 a.m.; Halifax, 8.17 a.m.; Burnley, 9.28 a.m.; Leicester, 4.36 a.m.; Nottingham, 5.10 a.m.; Derby, 5.35 a.m.

MASONS AT WORK.

It is gratifying to record that there is no apparent diminution in the interest taken by the members of the Dramatic Mark Lodge, and those of the Dramatic Royal Ark Mariners, in the immediate affairs of their respective coteries; and this fact was emphasised on Thursday, the 12th, when the Mark Brethren met to elect their Master for the ensuing year, as the reign of the present Master, Mr. J. Edward Hambleton, is fast drawing to a close. Before the Mark Lodge was opened the Royal Ark Mariners met, under the commandership of their first principal, Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, and proceeded to elect the commander for the ensuing year, the ballot being unanimously in favour of Mr. W. S. Lyon, a highly-esteemed member of the Chelsea Lodge. Mr. Clarence Coggin was again elected Treasurer, and Mr. W. Englefield Warden. Mr. Cruikshanks was ably assisted in his arduous duties by Messrs. Harry Nicholls, Clarence Sounes, and others.

Shortly after the closing of the Royal Ark Mariners Lodge, the Brethren met in the Mark Masons' Hall, and transacted the business of the day. Mr. J. Edward Hambleton was supported by his officers, as follows:—Clarence Coggin, I.P.M.; Geo. A. Keen, S.W.; Randulph J. Corbet (acting), J.W.; W. J. Keen, M.O.; W. H. White, S.O.; S. S. Percival, J.O.; Chas. Cruikshanks, Treasurer; Dr. Hotten George, R.M.; Harry Nicholls, Secretary; Chris Hilton, S.D.; J. H. Ryley, J.D.; Alfred Ellis, I.G.; Clarence Sounes, S.; and W. Englefield, T., and Messrs. W. Cree, H. G. Danby, H. C. de Lafontaine, A. G. Duck, Thomas Fraser, Douglas Gordon, W. J. Holloway, Ed. Humphrey, W. Laurence, Jas. Powell, and Lud. Simon, and Dr. E. Reynolds, a visitor.

Mr. C. Wyndham-Quin, of the Tuscan Lodge, was unanimously elected as a joining member, and upon the ballot being taken for the election of Messrs. George Mozart and G. C. Elliot as candidates for advancement to the degree of a Mark Master Mason, it proved to be successful, and they were accordingly admitted and conducted through the very impressive ceremony in accordance with the ancient rites, the work being performed in the most skilful and masterly manner by all concerned.

The election of the Worshipful Master for the ensuing year next engaged the attention of the Brethren assembled, and their choice with one accord fell upon Mr. Geo. A. Keen.

Mr. Charles Cruikshanks has held the office of Treasurer of the Lodge since December, 1899, and the Brethren re-elected him for the coming year. Mr. W. Englefield was re-elected Tyler, Mr. R. J. Corbet and the Rev. W. Cree were elected as members of the Audit Committee, and notice was given that at the next meeting a proposition would be made that Major G. S. Beeching should receive the benefits of advancement to the degree.

It was unanimously agreed that a Pastmasters' Jewel should be presented to Mr. J. E. Hambleton by the Lodge, to mark the appreciation of its members of the work so ably carried out by him during his year of office.

The dinner that followed the proceedings of the day was given at the Hotel Cecil, and the Brethren assembled in goodly numbers. After the removal of the cloth, Mr. Harry Nicholls, the oldest Past Master present, took the chair, Mr. Hambleton being called away on business. A delightful evening was spent, the speeches being interspersed with excellent contributions by Messrs. Alfred Ellis, Chris Hilton, Edward Humphrey, George Mozart, Harry Nicholls, James Powell, Ludwig Simon, Clarence Sounes, Will Sparks, W. H. White, and the Rev. W. Cree.

Messrs. Geo. Mozart and G. C. Elliot responded to the toast of "The Advancees," and in fitting terms expressed the pleasure they each felt in being admitted as members of the fraternity.

The Dramatic Lodge 571, Glasgow, held its usual monthly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 12, W. Bro. Alexander Cameron, R.W.M., occupying the chair. Also present were W. Bro. J. Hill, I.P.M., W. Bro. S. B. Hay, P.M., and Bro. J. Stewart, S.M. The artists were represented by Bros. Sid Bandon, Harry Roxbury, J. Phillips, A. Devonport, and W. Bro. Henry Coutts, W.M. of the Chelsea Lodge, London. Bro. R. T. Mackintosh, of the Coliseum, Glasgow, was recommended for nomination as R.W.M. for the ensuing year, and W. Bro. S. B. Hay, P.M., as secretary. The other office-bearers were then recommended, after which Alexander Sutherland was initiated into Freemasonry. During the afternoon the R.W.M. stated how pleased he was to see the ruler of the Chelsea Lodge, London, present, namely W. Bro. Henry Coutts, and, referring to the Chelsea as a sister Lodge, invited Bro. Coutts to occupy the chair of the Glasgow Dramatic, which honour was accepted, and afterwards gratefully acknowledged by W. Bro. Coutts. Bros. Bandon and Phillips afterwards had the Mark degree conferred on them, W. Bro. Hay performing the ceremony in a magnificent manner.

"OLD MAID'S CORNER."

One-Act Piece, by Maud Thompson, produced on Monday, Nov. 16, at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

Miss Letitia .....MISS ADELAIDE GRACE
Miss Sophia .....MISS VIOLA GARLAND
Irene .....MISS RITA JOHNSON
Emma .....MISS RITA NARCELLI
Briggins .....MR. G. P. POLSON
Rev. Mr. Thursfield .....MR. E. H. PATERSON
Dick Thursfield .....MR. WILTON ROSS

The above curtain-raiser was presented for the first time at the Royal, Plymouth, on Monday last, and met with an excellent reception. The plot is admirably conceived, and the dialogue is smart and witty. Irene, a young lady living with two maiden aunts, Miss Letitia and Miss Sophia, has conceived an attachment for Dick Thursfield, which, by reason of her guardians' animosity to the sterner sex, has perforce to be nurtured clandestinely. The ultimate discovery of her secret would in all probability be somewhat disastrous for her, were it not for the broad-minded exposition of her case pleaded by the Rev. Mr. Thursfield, which ultimately obtains her aunts' consent to the match. As the old maids, the Misses Adelaide Grace and Viola Garland are excellent, both costume and style being all that could be desired; Miss Rita Johnson is vivacious and attractive as Irene; and Mr. Wilton Ross makes a manly Dick Thursfield. The smart retorts of the Rev. Mr. Thursfield, played by Mr. E. H. Paterson, are heartily appreciated; and the smaller parts of Emma and Briggins receive careful treatment from Miss Rita Narcelli and Mr. G. P. Polson.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

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PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MR. ALFRED S. BARBER.

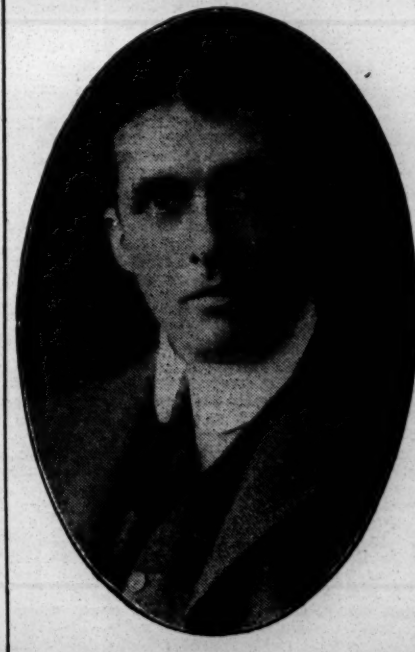
Mr. Alfred S. Barber is an Anglo-Canadian. He was educated at Haileybury and Keble College, Oxford, and started his professional career with Mr. Ben Greet, playing in the Drury-lane drama, *Hearts are Trumps*, for two years. Following this he was engaged by Mr. Weedon Grossmith for the production of *The Night of the Party*, and played Captain Blearey in that successful farce throughout the run at the Avenue Theatre, subsequently appearing as Alderman Hargen, Mr. Sydney Paxton's original part. He also played Captain Archie Drummond in *Between the Dances*, at the same theatre. Following a tour with *The Case of Rebellious Susan* and *A Woman of no Importance*, under Miss Madge McIntosh and Mr. Charles V. France, Mr. Barber was engaged by Mr. Beerbohm Tree to support Miss Maude Jeffries in the original tour of *The Eternal City*, in which Mr Barber played the Public Prosecutor, and also sang

MR. ALFRED S. BARBER.

Mascagni's Serenade. Deserting comedy for a time for singing parts—he had studied under those well-known teachers Mr. William Shakespeare and Mr. Alderson—he played the parts of Antonio in *La Toledad* and Bryan Molyneux in *Three Little Maids*, visiting the principal northern towns. After playing in Mr. Mostyn T. Pigott's comedy, *All Fletcher's Fault*, at the Avenue Theatre, and touring in this piece with Lord Rosslyn, he was engaged to produce the comic opera, *The Island of Pharos*, and played the juvenile part in the subsequent tour. This was followed by an engagement to understudy the late Mr. Denis O'Sullivan, when *Peggy Machree* was produced at Wyndham's Theatre at the end of 1904. In the spring of 1905 Mr. Barber again reverted to comedy, being engaged by Messrs. Dauncey and Leveaux as Hankey Bannister in *The Walls of Jericho*, a part he played some 500 times all over England, and also in the company which visited the state theatres of Holland in January, 1906. After creating the part of Sir Greville Fanshawe in Mrs. B. M. Croker's comedy *Terence*, he was engaged by Mr. Lionel Glenister in the spring of 1907, to support Miss Decima Moore in *All-of-a-Sudden Peggy*, in which he appeared as the spider-hunting Lord Crackenthorpe. His next part was a French one, M. Dupré, in Mr. Michael Morton's charming comedy *My Wife*, with which he toured in the autumn of 1907. Mr. Barber has just terminated a long and successful engagement in Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's powerful comedy *The Hypocrites* as Mr. Wilmore, the part originally portrayed by Mr. J. H. Barnes. Mr. Barber is married to Miss Bella Graves, who was once, like her sisters, well known on the London stage, and who may, perhaps, ere long forsake a country life to make her re-appearance behind the footlights. Mr. Barber's recreations are cricket, hockey, rowing, lawn-tennis, billiards, bridge—and acting.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD.

When Mr. A. S. Homewood first started his career on the professional stage, after several seasons amongst amateurs, he determined on a fixed policy, namely, to go for répertoire. The



[*Photo by Warschawski.*

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD.

first eight years of Mr. Homewood's work, starting early in 1891, have already been outlined in *The Era*, and included many tours with Miss Isabel Bateman and Ben Greet, as well as sundry summer stock seasons. He recalls with gratification that he had to learn the ropes thoroughly with Miss Bateman. As an instance of this he cites the *Green Bushes* nights—the repértoire consisted of six or eight plays—when, after appearing in a leading part in the opening farce, he played an Irish peasant and an English soldier in Act I., a Red Indian in Act II., and wound up the evening with an old blacksmith and a white-wigged servant in the last act—five parts in the drama and one in the farce. This, with the assistant stage management, filled up his time and really taught him something. There were many similar positions in which he found himself, but all the time he was slowly and surely rising in salary and position through Shakespeare—in which he owns to have played some forty parts—and old and modern comedy, until he was at last engaged to visit America. This was with Miss Olga Nethersole for the season 1898-99—répertoire again. In the late winter of 1900 Mr Homewood acted at the Comedy Theatre, playing in a new piece by Edna Lyall, *In Spite of All*, in which Miss Edith Wynne Matthison and himself appeared in the leading parts, these two artists also enacting Lady Teazle and Charles Surface, Rosalind and Orlando in revivals at the same theatre of *School for Scandal* and *As You Like It*. Then came quite a new departure; a short tour with Drury-lane drama, *Hearts are Trumps*, followed by a return to répertoire—Mr. E. S. Willard's this time—and America. With Mr. Willard he remained four years, visiting America again and again, and also playing through a season at the St. James's Theatre in *The Cardinal*, *Tom Pinch*, and *The Professor's Love Story*. Mr. J. M. Barrie then selected him for the name part in that charming little play *Pantaloon*, and to support Miss Ellen Terry in *Alice Sit-by-the-Fire* through a tour of the larger towns of the English provinces. At the same time Mr. Homewood was running a company of his own, in conjunction with Mr. Cecil Barth, and gaining more experience. When the tour with Miss Terry was over, repértoire once more claimed him. This time it was for South Africa with Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler. The engagement had not been long in working order, although some half-dozen plays had been produced, when a cabled offer to rejoin Mr. Willard led to Mr. Frank Wheeler kindly releasing Mr. Homewood from his contract after a stay of only seventeen weeks in Africa. One more tour in America followed, bringing the record down to the spring of 1907. All the ensuing summer he was engaged in pastorals—a form of summer work he had formerly been much in touch with but had dropped out of for some time. Exactly a year ago Mr. Homewood left England for the Antipodes as the leading man of Mr. Herbert Flemming's Comedy company, and when last we heard of him he was in New Zealand, having completed a long and successful season at Melbourne, playing such parts as Marcus (*Morals of Marcus*), John Crewys (*Peter's Mother*), Thornhill (*Olivia*), D'Orelli (*The Mummy and the Humming Bird*), &c. Mr. Homewood says that when he does succeed in getting back to England, he hopes to stay. No doubt if he makes up his mind to it he will, for surely actors of real all-round experience should be at least as welcome in their own country as they are abroad.

MISS ELEANOR GILBART.

The début of Miss Eleanor Gilbart was made in the spring of 1894, on the stage of the amateur society attached to the St. Nicholas Club, which was founded by the late Professor Shuttleworth. She was first cast for Pamela Pinchbeck, in *Home;*

[*Photo by Langfier.*

MISS ELEANOR GILBART.

but before the performance of that piece a hitch occurred in the rehearsals of another, which was to be played at an earlier date, and Miss Gilbart was asked to take up, at forty-eight hours' notice, Mrs. Nye Count Smythe, an American character part, in *Well Matched*. No announcement was made that it was Miss Gilbart's "first appearance on any stage," and so easy and natural was she that everybody concluded that she was an experienced performer, an opinion which her rendering of Pamela Pinchbeck, three weeks later, strengthened. She followed up her success by joining the late Miss McLoughlin's School of Dramatic Art. Two years later, at a public examination, she won a first-class certificate for elocution, awarded by the late Mr. Franklin McLeay. About the same time (June, 1896) she obtained, under the name of Ena Graham, her first professional engagement, which was at a special show in a hall at Loughton. On this occasion she received the munificent remuneration of 5s., which is the only detail connected with the event she can recollect, the name of her part, and even of the play, having escaped her memory. Since then she has played dozens of parts, under many and various managers, including Mr. Frederick Harrison, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, Mr. Lionel Rignold, Miss Ada Blanche, Mr. Wilfred Esmond, Miss Louie Freear, Mr. Broughton Black, Mr. Laurence Brough, and Mr. Frank Harding. Some of Miss Gilbart's favourite parts are Mme. Vinard in *Trilby*, Alicia Green in *The Brixton Burglary*, Mrs. Rollitt in *Woodbarrow Farm*, and Miss Foden, in *What the Butler Saw*. She has on more than one occasion, been asked, at about six o'clock, to play a part the same evening, and has done so *without a prompt*. She was engaged by Messrs. Alfred Wareing and Michael Sherbrooke for their recent tour of *Mollentrave on Women*, in which she played with much success the part of Mrs. Martelli.

ROBERT BRADBURY commenced life in his native town, Manchester, as a carpenter, got engaged at the theatre as scene-shifter, with Riley, the author of the "Itinerant." A clown falling sick during the run of the pantomime, brought the young carpenter forward, and Bradbury very soon appeared before a London audience at the Surrey, and became the great buffo after Grimaldi. Bradbury is mentioned in the "Life of Grimaldi." It says: "He was engaged at the Wells to fill Joey's place in the pantomime during his absence in the country on a trial." In the interim Bradbury so gained on the good folks of Clerkenwell, that when the renowned Joey returned, the managers told him it would be a dangerous experiment to make any change, and thought it would be as well to let Bradbury finish the season. "Then," exclaimed Grimaldi, "I am ruined."

MISS MAIMIE BRICKWELL'S MARRIAGE.

A cable from Cape Town, South Africa, announces that Miss Maimie Brickwell, who retired from the stage in April last, was on Tuesday, Nov. 17, married to E. C. Wright, Esq., S.A.G.I., of Pretoria. The many friends of the bride will be pleased to hear that the happy couple will return to this country early next year, to permanently reside. Miss Maimie Brickwell sailed for South Africa in the November of 1906, under contract to Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler, to play the leading parts in a répertoire of musical plays, including *The White Chrysanthemum*, *The Dairymaids*, *The Beauty of Bath*, &c. Miss Brickwell is a daughter of Mr. H. T. Brickwell, for many years lessee of the Garrick, Globe, and Court Theatres, and made her first appearance as one of the little schoolgirls in the revival of *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown* at the Court Theatre some four years

Photo by Wood.

MISS MAIMIE BRICKWELL.

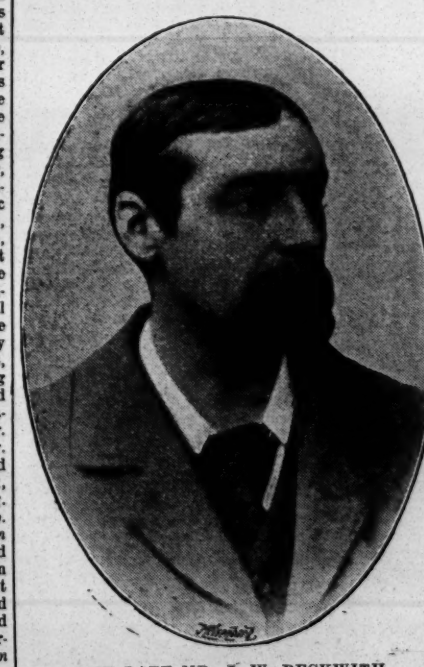
ago. Since then, despite the fact that she aspired to play comedy parts, she drifted into musical comedy, having played leading parts in Mr. George Edwardes's *San Toy*, *Kitty Grey*, and *Three Little Maids* companies on tour with great success. Miss Brickwell was accompanied on her journey to South Africa by her sister Eva, who is under engagement to the same management, and who plays under the *nom de théâtre* of Eva May.

DEATH OF J. W. BECKWITH.

The Savoy Theatre has sustained a great loss by the death of Mr. J. W. Beckwith, which occurred last Saturday. Mr. Beckwith has been connected with the theatre for about twenty-five years. Originally acting-manager with the late Mr. Michael Gunn in Dublin, he joined Mr. D'Oyly Carte in 1879 as manager of one of his touring companies Some few years later he became treasurer of the Savoy Theatre, and in 1885 he succeeded Mr. George Edwardes as acting-manager there when the latter joined the late Mr. John Hollingshead as half proprietor and manager of the Gaiety. Since then, except for a short time with Mr. W. Greet, Mr. Beckwith had been almost continuously at his old home, the Savoy, for which he had so great an affection that, even though ailing lately, it was impossible to get him to rest for long from his work there. He was in the theatre till Thursday night in last week, when he went home, and the end came quite unexpectedly on Saturday evening.

Mr. Beckwith was one of the best, kindest, and most courteous of men, absolutely devoted to his duty and the interests of his employer. He was loved and respected by all connected with the Savoy, and the old habitués in the audience will miss his kindly smile of welcome. To Mrs. D'Oyly Carte the loss is not only that of a most faithful helper, but of a deeply valued old friend, associated with all the past history of the theatre.

The funeral took place on Thursday at the Kingston, Norbiton, and Coombe Cemetery, when



THE LATE MR J. W. BECKWITH.

many of his old friends from the Savoy attended. A beautiful floral harp with a broken string was sent by the company and staff of the Savoy Theatre, and a wreath from the D'Oyly Carte Répertoire Company, and one from Mrs. D'Oyly Carte; also wreaths from Miss Coleman and Mr. Owen Smith, of the Savoy Hotel, who were formerly employed in the Savoy Theatre.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act affecting the employment of children on the stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, agents, entrepreneurs, and performers wishing to possess a copy of the complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

A WINTER GARDEN THEATRE.

On Monday the Theatre Royal Winter Garden, Dublin, will be opened. It is proposed to open the premises three times daily. The first period will last from about one o'clock till three. Visitors between these hours can be served with light luncheons, coffee, chocolate, &c., and will, it is understood, be admitted free of any initial charge, not from the theatre, but from a separate entrance in Hawkins-street. Music will be supplied by an orchestra, and the charges for refreshments will be arranged on a moderate scale. The second period will last from about 3.30 till six o'clock or so. On the days when there are no matinées at the theatre there will be a cinematograph display. This performance will take place in the theatre, and the moderate admission charge of one shilling will enable the visitor to witness the animated pictures and partake afterwards of tea or other light refreshments in the winter garden, without extra charge. On matinée days, generally Saturdays, the garden will be open only to patrons of the theatre. The same rule will apply to the evening performances. On both these last-mentioned occasions admission can be had only through the theatre entrance. At night the garden will be simply a promenade, available for the use of the dress circle, and presumably the occupants of the parterre, and both after the matinée and evening performances at the theatre it will be kept open for half an hour after the fall of the curtain, for the service of moderately-priced light refreshments.

The winter garden consists of a large apartment, 124ft. long by 64ft. in width, and is lighted mainly from the roof. It stands on the site of the old gymnasium, which formerly stood alongside the Leinster Hall. Before the opening of the gymnasium, the premises had for a time been used as a waxworks exhibition, run by a son of the celebrated Mme. Tussaud. After the present Theatre Royal Company took over the Leinster Hall, and raised on the site of the old Theatre Royal the present stately building, the portion of the space now devoted to the winter garden was used as a store room. Subsequently it was felt that the cloak rooms, refreshment rooms, &c., for the accommodation of the nine hundred persons who can be seated in the parterre was rather limited, and it was partly out of that consideration that the idea of a winter garden originated. The interior has been beautifully decorated with an artistic trellis-work design, in green and light buff, which gives a most agreeable air of brightness, pleasantly toned down by the emerald hues which form a conspicuous feature in the decorative scheme. A broad flight of stairs, leading from the theatre, gives access to the floor space. At each end of the apartment there is a gallery, for the use only of the orchestra. Underneath are refreshment counters, where the luncheons, &c., will be served. Running along each side of the garden are a row of beautifully decorated pillars, springing into graceful arches overhead. Within these pillars on one side is a third refreshment counter, fitted up with a trellis-work porch after the manner of an old English country inn. Horticultural decorations on an elaborate scale have been provided. Between the arches will be suspended baskets of flowers, ferns, and other plants, and at the base of each pillar there will be ornamental vases, containing ivy and creeping plants, which, no doubt, will in time help still further to beautify the interior. The galleries set apart for the use of the orchestra at each end of the garden will be adorned with palms, &c.

The heating and lighting are arranged on the latest principles. A brilliant electric installation has been provided, and with 500 amber-coloured lights the effect ought to be exceedingly pretty. The heating comes from twenty-four very large radiators. Elaborate ventilation arrangements have been made. The roof lights are ingeniously constructed. They consist of a double layer of glass separated by a wire network, so that should a stone or other missile break the outer glass no inconvenience can be experienced by visitors either through fragments dropping to the floor or by the rain entering at the fracture. The opening of the garden synchronises with the visit of Mr. R. Courtneidge's company, who will present the musical comedy *Tom Jones*.

RICHARDSON, the great showman, made his bow at Smithfield. His stage and theatrical fittings were at first of a very rude character. The first floor of a public-house was turned into a theatre, and the platform or parade, which was fitted up outside the window, formed an arch over the stalls of the sellers of gingerbread nuts and fried fish, which stood below. The audience had to reach the theatre by means of a ladder, communicating from the platform to the fair. Twenty-one times a day were the unlucky performers called upon to go through their parts. The audiences were not very fastidious, and as long as they had a broad-sword combat and a ghost, the actors were at liberty to play all sorts of tricks with the drama. The length of the performance was indeed usually regulated by the number of people waiting to enter the show. When it was thought that there was a sufficient quantity of visitors outside to form another audience, some one would be sent in to inquire in a loud voice if John Audley was there. This was a signal to the actors to cut the part short; and to abridge a performance is very commonly called to "John Audley" it. This trick was first practised by Shuter at his booth in 1759. Whatever may have been the cause, it is certain that at first, curses, loud, deep, and comprehensive as that of Ernulphus, were heard from Richardson's retreating patrons; but it was not long before he installed himself in popular favour. The performances of Bartlemy were repeated at Edmonton and other places, and at the end of the year our showman found himself the possessor of a good sum of money. With this he built himself two or three caravans ("carrywans" was his pronunciation) in which he could convey his company and properties from one place to another. . . . His show became one of the principal features of many of the fairs of the kingdom—Bartlemy and Greenwich being his headquarters—but it was not until after many years, and many hardships, that he was enabled to give his show that appearance of splendour which we were accustomed to associate with it in our younger days.

SIR JOSHUA REYNOLDS was quite enchanted with Mrs. Dora Jordan, who ran upon the stage as a *play*-ground, and laughed from sincere wildness of delight. He said, "she vastly exceeded everything that he had seen, and really *was* what others only affected to be." The friend to whom he thus expressed himself had but just arrived in town, and, struck by his enthusiasm, said to him, "What, sir! greater than your friend, Mrs. Abington?" "Yes, sir," said Sir Joshua, "greater than Mrs. Abington, wherever she challenges comparison." "Well," rejoined his friend, "at all events you must not forget the more extended range of Mrs. Abington—her fine lady." "I do not forget the fine lady of Mrs. Abington; it is never to be forgotten—I spoke of the two actresses where they challenged *comparison*. But as to more extensive range, I do not know that you can make out your point; for opposed to these fashionable ladies, you have the fashionable *men* of Mrs. Jordan, and the women who would *pass* for men, whether Wildairs or Hypolitas in comedy, and the tender and exquisite Viola of Shakespeare, where she combines feeling with sportive effect, and does as much by the music of her melancholy as the music of her laugh."

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Play, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE CHRISTIAN."

The new version of *The Christian*, played by Mr. Wentworth Croke's chief company, commenced a week's visit to the King's on Monday evening, with every prospect of success, the piece being received with acclamation by a large audience, which devoted earnest attention to the great and serious problem so ably propounded by Mr. Hall Caine. The author, with his usual outspokenness, calls a spade a spade, and his vigorous language put into the mouths of his clerical characters appear as so many sermons delivered from the pulpit. In the new version we think more attention is directed to the social problem, and there is no doubt a good deal to be said in favour of Mr. Hall Caine's propositions. The company engaged may be aptly termed first-class, for each character is capably handled. Mr. Roy Redgrave is a brave and manly Hon. John Storm, ably conducting himself as the high-souled enthusiast, and winning success all through; Horatio Drake is excellently played by Mr. Wilfred Noy; Mr. Herbert Hewetson as the cynical and blasé Lord Robert Ure is capital, no better impersonation being possible; Father Lamplugh, played by Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn, is a typical representation of the sincere and earnest working priest; Mr. John J. Hooker as the sycophantic Archdeacon Wealthy gives a clever and amusing phase of the society clergyman; Mr. Royce Carlton as Lord Storm is good; and the Parson Quayle of Mr. Bruce Lindley deserves praise. The odious Bert is well realised by Mr. Fred Goodyer; Mr. Thomas Barry acts easily as Rosenberg; Mr. Buckley, the theatrical manager, is rendered in good style by Mr. T. Ellis; and Mr. John Blake makes a favourable impression as Paul. Miss Daisy Scudamore, experienced actress as she is, hardly realises our expectations as Glory Quayle, but on the whole she attains success. The Polly Love of Miss Cora Deane is as delicate and finished a piece of acting as could be wished, and the actress must be complimented thereon. Her bearing when parting with her child moved many among the audience to tears. Miss Molly Hayden gives able assistance as Mrs. Callender; Miss Florence Hunt displays power as Black Meg; Mrs. Harriet Russell is a sufficiently repulsive Mother Kent; Miss Stella Campbell is effective as Jennie; and the flighty sisters Betty Belmont and Letty Belmont are pleasantly depicted by Miss Muriel Marsden and Miss Minnie Willett. The scenery by Mr. Ernest Howard is most elaborate.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE GIRLS OF GOTTENBERG."

Mr. George Dance's company in *The Girls of Gottenberg* has been accorded a very warm reception here this week, and it says much for the ability, versatility, and popularity of Mr. Dance's company that they sustain the great success of the Gaiety production by filling this large house night after night. Foremost among the ladies is Miss Ellaline Thorne as Mitzi, the innkeeper's daughter. She infuses plenty of life into her part, and is very successful in her numerous songs and dances, winning especial favour for her rendering of "Berlin on the Spree." Mr. Bertie Wright's energy as Max Moddelkopf, ex-barber, valet, and masquerading Envoy, is unflagging in a part which affords him numerous opportunities of distinction. Mr. Wright is very successful in his share in two ditties "The birds in the trees" and "Two little sausages." Mr. Tom Shelford causes no end of amusement by his clever delineation of Prince Otto, his song "In Jericho" being encored five or six times. Messrs. Rudd Allen (the General), David Miller (Col. Finkhausen), and Hugh Henson (Albrecht) all give a good account of themselves. Britti Bottl is capably personated by Mr. Howard Cridland, and Mr. Morgan Richards contributes a satisfactory performance as Burgomaster. Miss Annie Grey acts prettily and sings sweetly as Elsa, and Miss Ruby Carter deserves great credit for the smart manner in which she plays the part of Lucile, her dancing being one of the hits of the evening. As Clementine Miss May Marshall is delightfully piquant, and Miss Susie Beardon is a perky Katrina. The Misses Violet Romaine (Captain of the College), M. Allen, Nellie Taylor, and B. Gordon as heads of the Alemannia, Saxonian, and Borussia Corps are well adapted for their respective parts. Mr. Edwin Stanley successfully portrays that of Kannenbier, and Mr. Tom Squire contributes a little amusement as Adolph, the Town Clerk. Other minor parts are capably filled, and the tuneful music is rendered by the Marlborough orchestra in excellent style, under the direction of Mr. Otto Manns, and leadership of Mr. Chas. Elcock. The chorus is strong and the scenes are decidedly artistic.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama, in Four Acts, by S. Buchanan-Rogerson, entitled
"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."

After a week of Yiddish performances, this popular East End playhouse has once again reverted to English drama, the selection of the management for the current week being the striking play of *The Woman Who Gambles*, the action of which takes place in a supposed kingdom on the Adriatic Sea. The story is of an exciting character, and deals largely with the passion of gambling inherent in the Countess Natalie Steinbach, a part that is powerfully played by Miss Laura Walker, who gives evidence of high artistic merit in the scene terminating the third act. Mr. Clifford Rean, who looks well in his uniform, gives a striking portrayal of Count Otto Steinbach, and is seen to great advantage in Act IV; and Mr. Ernest H. Clarke, as the Chief of Police, is excellent throughout. Mr. Norman A. Overton as Baron Cratzlaw is sufficiently villainous; Miss Lily Malvern as Stella and Miss E. Conway as Cora each give a satisfactory representation of their respective parts, and Mr. Arthur Brandhurst fills with dignity the character of George Orloff. A fine rendition of Karl Czartoriski is presented by Mr. Reginald Fox, whose resonant voice is heard throughout the building; and the remaining parts in a long cast are in excellent hands. More than a passing word must be given to the admirable scenery, some of the stage settings being of great beauty. The costumes and uniforms are in correct taste.

THE CORONET THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Play, entitled
"THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL."

Mr. Fred Terry and his clever London company are this week holding the boards (and eke the entranced audience) at the pretty Coronet Theatre, with Baroness Orczy and Montague Barstow's thrilling pl , *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Unhappily, Miss Julia Neilson is unable to enact her part of Lady Blakeney, and we miss her charming personality, even though an excellent substitute is found. The daring adventures of the little band of humanitarians, headed by their marvellous, intrepid, and resourceful leader, hold the audience spellbound with wonder and delight, and the picturesque and exquisite scenery, depicting Lord Greville's ball and Sir Percy's Richmond domain, are things of beauty, and a joy for everyone who beholds them. Truly, this play improves on acquaintance, and will bear seeing many times. Mr. Fred Terry seems to improve every time we see him, and he has what is termed "fitted into the skin of the part," as Sir Percy Blakeney, leader of the dauntless little band of blockaderunners, who flouted the red Republic of France. His elegance and courtliness, his air of authority, his elegant indifference and apathy, succeeded by brief periods of tense activity, appear to be natural characteristics of the man, so deftly and subtly are they suggested. Miss Miriam Lewes is a fine actress, and excels in the more tragic episodes of the play, her best scene being where she discovers the identity of "The Scarlet Pimpernel" with her husband. Mr. A. E. Anson is excellent as the elegant and gracious Prince of Wales; Messrs. Alfred Kendrick and Malcolm Cherry do good service as the fellow conspirators, Sir Andrew Ffoulkes and Lord Anthony Dewhurst. Mr. Horace Hodges repeats his excellent assumption of scheming baseness as Chauvelin, the French envoy, and acts with quiet consistency and strength. Of the others, who comprise a long cast, we may mention especially Mr. R. Easten Pickering as the excitable young Vicomte de Tournai, Mr. D. J. Williams as the landlord of "The Fisherman's Rest," Mr. J. Carter-Edwards, who gives a very telling performance as Brogard, landlord of the "Lion d'Or," Miss Claire Pauncefort as the Comtesse de Tournai, and Mr. Frederick Groves as Lord Grenville, though where all are so good it is difficult to individualise. Mr. John R. Turnbull, assisted by Mr. Goodwin Nock, stage-manages under the direction of Mr. Fred Terry, and Mr. Arthur Garrett assists the indefatigible Mr. Eade Montefiore, resident-manager for Mr. Robert Arthur, at the front of the house.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Musical Comedy entitled
"THE BELLE OF MAYFAIR."

Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company with *The Belle of Mayfair* is paying a welcome return visit here, and playing to good business nightly, with a largely augmented orchestra and full chorus. Mr. Stephen Hall makes a good deal out of the part of the Earl of Mount Highgate, the haughty father of the hero, and Mr. Sydney Burt's Sir John Chaldicott is in sharp contrast, with his "elegant perversions" and parvenu airs. Although there is no song associated with this character there is no lack of merriment, especially in the scenes with Lady Chaldicott, admirably played by Miss Denny Fitzherbert. Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft as the Hon. Raymond Finchley looks, acts, and sings well, as should become a young hero of romance. Mr. Michael Raven is gifted with a mellow voice, which enables him to secure plenty of applause in the part of Hugh Meredith. The Comte de Perrier is convincingly Continental as portrayed by Mr. A. Batting; and Mr. Tom Lyle gives a clever little sketch of the Bishop of Brighton. Miss Nellie Barnwell, who is no stranger to Crystal Palace audiences, gives a pretty rendering of Julia Chaldicott, the heroine, singing and acting with much taste and skill. Miss Dora Lyons as Pincott, Julia's maid, looks charming, and her dancing is of the kind to make one wish for more. As Lady Rosaline Rockesley, "the Gibson Girl," Miss Grace Mackay, has many opportunities, none of which were neglected, and many encores fell to her share. Miss Patricia Weldon gave a very refined and sympathetic rendering of the Princess Ehrenbreitstein, singing her songs with archness and point, and Miss Madeline Keats as the Countess of Highgate well filled the part. The piece abounds in concerted songs and all in Mr. Leslie Stuart's best style, and the success of these was secured by a talented and well-selected company of ladies and gentlemen, quite equal to the demands made upon them.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Musical Play, in Two Acts, entitled
"THE DAIRYMAIDS."

After many weeks of popular dramas, a return was made here on Monday to lighter fare, and no better choice could have been made than that of the successful musical play, *The Dairymaids*, which achieved such a success at the Apollo and Queen's Theatres. It has lost none of its charm and freshness, and, in the hands of Mr. Robert Courtneidge's talented company, is as pleasing and diverting an entertainment as could possibly be desired. The scenery is of a very high standard, and the dresses are worthy of special mention; but apart from the staging there are a swing and a "go" about the whole production which make an enthusiastic reception certain. At the end of the first act this was unreservedly accorded from every part of the house, and again when the curtain fell at the close. Miss Mabel Young, a stately Lady Brudenell, acts the part with much charm; Miss Clare Marsden, a bewitching and vivacious Peggy, scores a decided hit. Her songs, cleverly rendered, are received with keen enjoyment, especially one in which three clever youngsters are introduced with a burlesque of the "Salome" dance and the matinée hat. This provoked roars of laughter, and is one of the most effective numbers in the play. Another good performance is that of Miss Clarice Lockstone, whose bright and engaging performance of Winifred gained her many admirers. For her pretty song, "Boy Blue," an encore was demanded. Miss Hazel Saqui, a prepossessing Helen Brudenell, makes the most of her opportunities; Miss Madge Avery is sufficiently prim and austere as Miss Pyechase; and minor parts are capably sustained by Miss Louie Lockner, Miss Dorothy Grassdorf, Miss Lily Cameron, Miss Flora Hayden, Miss Mabel Bradley, Miss Kate Bartlett, Miss Kathleen Sayer, and Miss Irene Raye. On the shoulders of Mr. Johnny Osborne falls the arduous rôle of Joe Mivens, and it is sufficient to say that his irresistible, droll, and quaint antics keep the audience in a continued state of merriment. An excellent foil to him is found in Miss Gladys Silvani, whose Eliza stamps her as a comedienne of considerable ability. Mr. J. A. Warden, a breezy and natural Dr. O'Byrne, R.N., contributes a performance of which it would be difficult to speak too highly. Mr. Nelson Keys is an energetic Lieut. Sam Brudenell; and Mr. A. Wykes Ashdowne does well as Lieut. Frank Meredith, R.N. In the second act their clever acting, when disguised as girls, causes much laughter. Mr. Harry Cottell as Tim Capus, Mr. Boris Bellew as Lieut. Brereton, and Mr. Fred Foster as Togers, also render good support. The chorus is pleasing and tuneful, and the augmented orchestra is under the capable direction of Mr. Albert Bartlett.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama, entitled
"THE SILVER KING."

This fine old drama is packing the Lyric nightly, and the excellent company engaged meets with a most enthusiastic welcome. Wilfred Denver is played by Mr. Fred D. Davies, a most worthy successor to the late Mr. Wilson Barrett; Miss Edyth Goodall's sweet expression is well suited to the character of Denver's wife Nellie; Mr. Edward J. George gives an exceedingly good performance as the worthy old Daniel Jaikes; Denver's two children are prettily played by Miss Flossie Hale Daviss and Master Eric Dene, the first-named doing particularly well; Mr. George Belmore draws a humorous picture of Henry Corket; another clever study is that of Mr. Arthur Wright in the part of Elijah Coombe; Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp makes a polished villain of Captain Herbert Skinner; Mr. Fred May does well as Cripps; Geoffrey Ware is capably played by Mr. Arthur H. Rooke; and Mr. B. Stidwell is good as Samuel Baxter.

THE WEST LONDON.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Henry Merriman, entitled
"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."

After the long spell of animated pictures it was pleasing to find the legitimate drama once again in possession of the boards of this historical Marylebone playhouse, and Mr. William Bailey's patrons were decidedly appreciative. Miss Winifred Chalmers's company is headed by that powerful and painstaking actor Mr. Henry L. Osmond, whose rendering of Telford Lestage is a thoroughly convincing and well-thought-out one. Mr. Edward Avinal enacts Philip Manners in manly fashion; Mr. Russell Yorke portrays James Dawney satisfactorily; Mr. J. C. Carlyle as the Scotland Yard man, Ben Blandy, is always alert and vigorous, his whole bearing being quite in keeping with the character played; and Mr. Charles Tolcher as Gentleman Jim and Mr. Harry Cooke as Tommy Dale are two comedians of amusing versatility. Miss Violet Lytton sustains the rôle of Mabel Manners in a gentle, womanly way that wins all hearts; Miss Frances Carlyle does well as Mrs. Manners; Miss Mabel Tremere is decidedly bright and cheery as lively Peggy Perks; Miss Frances Trevelyan is full of pleasing intelligence and promising ability as little Wilfred Manners; and Miss Winifred Chalmers sustains the important rôle of Cecile, *alias* Lady Trevennes, with conspicuous skill. The play is well mounted and staged, and Mr. H. Elmore-Frith is the pushing business manager.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Farce, by Charles Marlowe, entitled
"WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD."

Mr. Cecil Paget is rejoicing in the sight of crowded audiences, who are nightly assembling to give a cordial greeting to the popular *When Knights were Bold*, from Wyndham's Theatre. Mr. James Welch's company all take their respective rôles with much ability. Mr. Henry J. Ford, who plays Mr. Welch's original part of Sir Guy De Vere, is a capital comedian, and depicts the varying moods of the character with much cleverness. Miss Bruce Joy looks very handsome as Lady Rowena, and gives a clear cut portrait of the high-spirited girl. Miss Phyllis Back is a fascinating dark-haired Jewess heiress as Sarah Isaacson, and her father, the Hebrew financier, Isaac Isaacson, is well played by Mr. Vernon Sansbury. Mr. William Lockhart is good as the pompous Rev. Peter Pottleberry, D.D., and Mr. Cecil Clayton as the would-be humorous dude, the Hon. Charles Widdicombe, and afterwards as the old-fashioned jester, makes a distinct hit. Miss Violet Graham, Miss Gretchen Yates, and Miss Adrienne Yates, make up the bevy of pretty girls who are guests at "The Towers," and the three domestics—Whittle, Barker, and Alice Barker—are excellently rendered by Mr. Talbot Homewood, Mr. Reginald Hunter, and Miss Bessie Walters. Miss Ethel Royale is a stately Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave. Mr. George Rowlands as the boastful Sir Brian Ballymote and Mr. Herbert Ranson as the Herald ably complete the admirable cast. The scenery and the various "dream" effects are all that could be desired. The *lever de rideau* is an amusing duologue, *The Wrong Side of the Road*, which is merrily rattled through by Miss Phyllis Back and Mr. Cecil Clayton. Mr. E. H. Bull is the general-manager of the company for Mr. James Welch.

THE KENNINGTON.

On Monday, the Drama, by Edward Milton Royle, entitled
"A WHITE MAN."

A White Man, a romance of the American West, by Edwin Milton Royle, is responsible for a full house every night this week at Mr. Robert Arthur's Kennington Theatre, where the loud and prolonged ovations which mark the termination of each act fully testify to the delight of the audience and to the excellence of the production. Mr. Herbert Sleath, who, with the American artists, played for two seasons at Wallack's Theatre, New York, and afterwards with the English artists in the company during the run at the Lyric, is admirable as Capt. James Wynnegate, V.C.; as the Earl of Kerhill Mr. Harold Weston is seen to advantage; Mr. A. G. Poulton is excellent in the part of Sir John Applegate; the character of Malcolm Petrie is ably sustained by Mr. Herbert Vyvyan; Mr. Harold Richardson as the Dean of Trentham makes a good impression; the part of Big Bill is played in fine style by Mr. R. A. Brandon; Mr. Menifee Johnstone puts plenty of dash into the character of Cash Hawkins; and as Tab-y-wana, an Indian chief, Mr. A. S. Aspland makes a decided hit. Mr. Alfred Plumpton as Baco White, an interpreter, and Mr. A. W. Jack Ellis as Bud Hardy, both deserve special mention; while Messrs. Cecil Yapp, S. J. Warmington, and Richard F. Symons do full justice to the parts of Shorty, Andy, and Crouchey respectively. The highest praise is due to Miss Ellis Jefferys for her charming impersonation of the Countess of Kerhill; in the rôle of the Dowager, Miss Emma Gwynne gives an excellent account of herself, as also does Miss Enid Sass as Lady Mabel Wynnegate. Particularly pleasing is the acting of Miss Dorothy Dix in the part of Nat-u-Rich. The scenery and stage effects are superb, and the costumes exquisite.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Comedy, entitled
"LADY FREDERICK."

One of the excellent Hutchison companies is performing at Fulham, in Mr. Somerset Maugham's successful comedy, *Lady Frederick*. The piece is well staged and the dresses are admirable. The rôle of Lady Frederick is taken by Miss Mabel Love, who is building up a considerable reputation in these light comedy parts. Her acting is thoroughly bright and piquant, and she is equal to the occasion when it demands power and passion. Her brogue may or may not be faultlessly correct; but it cannot be denied that it is particularly charming. Mr. Robert Minster as Paradine Foulides is a great success, and is responsible for a highly finished and powerful performance that was much appreciated. Mr. Patrick Quill plays Sir Gerald in a bright and lively manner; and Captain Gerald Gambier makes an excellent representative of Admiral Carlisle. Mr. E. F. Meads, with his handsome face and quiet manner, makes an attractive figure in the part of the ingenuous Lord Mereston, and plays as well as he looks. Mr. Edward Bonfield makes the most of the part of the objectionable Capt. Montgomery; Miss Elsie Irving does well as Lady Mereston; and Miss Lynn Fontanne plays with the necessary spirit of youthfulness as Rose Carlisle; Miss Beatrice Grosvenor acts with effect as Madame Claude; and Miss Rita Ward is an eminently satisfactory maid. The other parts of the servants are well played. *Lady Frederick* is preceded by a good sample of a curtain-raiser, in the shape of *The Peacemaker*, by E. M. Bryant, in which Miss Rita Ward, Miss Lynn Fontanne, Miss Beatrice Grosvenor, and Messrs. Patrick Quill and Edward Bonfield take part.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama, entitled
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."

Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company is presenting this week *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*, which is proving very attractive, good business being done. The story, which is of a stirring nature, is well acted, and the numerous points of pathos and humour are brought into judicious contrast. The mounting of the play is excellent, and the scene representing Jago Court is noteworthy. Mr. Herbert Pearson as the unfortunate inventor, John Edmunds, maintains a strong hold on the audience, and achieves distinction; as Constance and Nellie, the sisters from Lancashire, Miss Rosslyn Vayne offers a very good performance in the former part, while Miss Alice Defoe contributes an effective rendering of the latter. Mr. E. Rayson Cousins stands out prominently as the Rev. Frank Selby, and soon gets on good terms with the audience; Mr. Fred Morgan is quite satisfactory as the speculator, Jonas Deane, playing the part in a capable manner; Samuel Hallett is humorously essayed by Mr. Chris Mason, who obtains distinction; Miss E. Shaw is also diverting as Jane Adelaide Bloomfield; Mr. R. E. Bevans makes a forcible villain; Mr. Dick Winslow scores well as Dr. Gay; Jim Price and Ratty Grabbitt are suitably represented by Mr. Jack Miller and Mr. W. Walmsley respectively; and Mr. Ronald Clive makes the most of Jellaby. Miss Marguerite Trevosper as Bessie Edmunds supplies a good delineation, and instils the necessary amount of emotion into the character; and Miss Marie Corri as Lucy merits commendation.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama entitled
"ALONE IN LONDON."

The incidents in *Alone in London*, now being presented at the Dalston Theatre, are of an interesting nature, and, the piece being remarkably well played, the attention of the audience is riveted from first to last. A character almost continually on the stage is Redcliffe, a double-dyed villain, who ill-treats his wife, has no objection to commit bigamy, or, in fact, to vary his career of ill-doing by any crime whatsoever. This character is played by Mr. Percy Rhodes with such efficiency that, although he is such a bad lot, one cannot fail to admire his histrionic abilities. Nan, the ill-fated wife, finds a sympathetic representative in Miss Theresa Osborne, who "has the audience with her" throughout the entire performance. Tom Chickweed, a true friend to Nan, is a part extremely well played by Miss Mary Stafford Smith; Mrs. Maloney, a spirited Irishwoman, has a realistic representative in Mrs. Nellie Lauraine. Another clever impersonation is that of Mr. Percy Bell as Spriggins, a thief and a bit of a philosopher, whose quaint mode of carrying out villainous details makes his performance highly entertaining. Liz Jenkinson is played with zeal by Miss Gertie Douglas; and Mr. Lonnen Meadows as Charlie Johnson fully establishes himself a favourite. Miss Elsie Clarke plays intelligently as Little Paul; and Mr. Harry McClelland is quietly dignified as Mr. Burnaby; Mr. Blundell Fenton is Walter Burnaby, his son; and Miss Rose Grey admirably sustains Ruth Clifton, an heiress.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama,
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

The management here have secured Messrs. Paumier and Howard's company in the above fine play as the attraction this week, and an enthusiastic reception has been given by delighted audiences. Miss Annie Saker is simple and natural in the character of Monica, Princess of Illyria. She is admirably supported by Mr. Herbert Ford as the Prince and Mr. D. Lewin Mannering as the faithful soldier and friend, Captain Hector. Mr. Ivan Cleveland and Mr. Graeme Campbell are well cast as Prince Hildred and Prince Michael, the latter being an arduous part, acted most consistently throughout. A good study of the dumb Nathan, Mr. J. E. Gardner, and Mr. Francis Hawley as the Bishop of Illyria plays this subtle character in a dignified manner. Miss Dido Drake is a fascinating, pathetic little figure as the Beggar Maid, and Miss Isla Garnet Vayne makes a very charming Viola. Mr. Kendal Chambers does well as Lieut. Karl Stromberg.

THE BROADWAY.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama entitled
"WHEN LONDON SLEEPS."

Mr. Lester Collingwood's company is appearing here this week in Charles Darrell's phenomenally successful play *When London Sleeps*, which is proving very attractive. The admirably chosen company work smoothly together, the result being an excellent entertainment, greatly appreciated by the patrons of this handsome theatre.

The character of Rodney Haynes is played with skill and power by Mr. Harry Wren. David Engleheart has a manly and pleasing representative in Mr. Edward E. Ashby, who is a prime favourite with the audience. Mr. Ernest C. Edwards plays Furnaby Fuller with dignity and impressiveness. Mr. F. E. Thomas is a capital Bob Jones, and his "missis" is humorously enacted by Miss Bella Power, their daughter Carrie having a charming representative in Miss Mona Hall. Queenie Carruthers is in the capable hands of Miss Mabel Scudamore, who makes her very attractive by her womanly and sympathetic acting. Miss Lilla Wilde looks and acts Hilda Carrode admirably; Miss Christine is a bright and pleasing Maudie; Little Lila is very prettily and naturally played by Miss Ida Lovett; and Miss Helen Holmes is good as Adele. Mr. Douglas Campbell scores heavily as Sammy Blythe; Mr. Harry Emmerson is very good as Mark Blackwood; Mr. Fred Bernardo wins well-earned applause for his excellent portrait of Police-Constable Stone; Mr. Otto Clayton is good as Stephano; and other parts are well filled by Messrs. C. Clements, F. C. Pick, Fred Walters, and George Paul. Last, but by no means least, we must specially commend the Hon. Bertie Broomhead, an artistic and clever performance by Mr. Frank Howard, the acting-manager of the company. Mr. Bertram Iles, the resident acting-manager, looks well after the comfort of the patrons of the theatre.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama, in Four Acts,
"SEXTON BLAKE."

The glamour attached to the stage representation of characters made famous in works of fiction is being strikingly illustrated at the Stratford Theatre Royal this week, where *Sexton Blake*, a detective play founded on a series of stories obviously suggested by the success of *Sherlock Holmes*, is being performed. "House Full" is the order nightly, and this popular melodrama theatre—so ably managed by Mr. Sam Fredericks—is apparently assured of a highly successful week's business. An exceptionally strong cast has been engaged, and the deeply interesting story is done adequate justice to. Mr. Horace Benton as the cool, calculating, deducting detective, Sexton Blake, plays with an ease and fluency which carries conviction with every line he utters, and he looks the part well. Mr. Brian Daly's acting as Farmer Blackburn is very natural, and has the true ring of sincerity; while Roger Blackburn has a virile and vigorous exponent in Mr. Wm. Felton. Mr. Charles East handles the rôle of the villainous Randolph Lovell with a realistic touch and much latent strength; and Mr. John M. East supplies a grim and well-defined sketch of Simon Faggas. Mr. Algerhon Syms is an earnest and dignified Parson Grey; and Mr. Stephen Nicholls makes the most of his opportunities as Squire Lovell. Mr. Billy Ross as Tinker, the free-and-easy and, at times, rather obtrusive "Buttons," is very amusing and entertaining; and Mr. Herbert Ravenscroft smartly enacts Inspector Widgeon. Miss Bertha Francis plays with sympathy and charm as Marjorie Lovell; and Miss East Robertson depicts the adventuress Philadelphia Kate with much tact and expression. Miss Lena Delphine plays brightly as Euphemia Patticake; and Miss Annie Travers is a very able exponent of Sally Brill. Other parts are all played with intelligence and care. Owing to the success of the piece a special matinée is to be given to-day (Saturday).

BOROUGH THEATRE, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Musical Play,
"MISS HOOK OF HOLLAND."

Mr. George Dance's company in *Miss Hook of Holland*, which is paying a return visit, is the attraction here this week, and the good business ensuing is well emphasising the strong *penchant* local playgoers have for musical compositions. Its bright and tuneful music is as alluring as ever, and the pretty and picturesque dresses and scenery are most pleasing to the eye. Mr. Dance's company is of all-round excellence, and the large and well-trained chorus render the concerted numbers with distinction. Mr. Arthur Reynolds as Mr. Hook is a clever actor with a keen sense of humour, and his performance is highly effective; Mr. Frederick Hobbs makes a handsome and military Captain Adrian Paap, and is very successful vocally; Mr. Powis Pindar acts and sings in manly and pleasing style as Bandmaster Van Vuyt; Mr. Percy Davidson is a brisk and alert Ludwig Schnapps; and Mr. Lionel Scott is an admirable Lieutenant de Coop. Mr. Fred Lyne as Simon Slinks is delightfully droll, and his performance is an outstanding feature. In the title-part Miss Marie Wilson acts very gracefully and charmingly, albeit her singing is scarcely powerful enough for the part; Miss Mabel Sealby is deliciously quaint and piquant as the little Dutch maid, Mina, and the success of her songs is undoubted; Miss Queenie Preston makes a very prepossessing Gretchen; and Freda and Clara Voos are well represented by Miss Amy Preston and Miss Maudy Jennings respectively. The augmented orchestra is this week under the direction of Mr. Sydney Shaw, who secures an excellent *ensemble*.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama, by Fred Darcey, entitled
"THE NEW WORLD."

The drama submitted at the great theatre is entitled *The New World*, and it is packed with incidents that are familiar in plays having America for their locale. It is well acted by Mr. Montgomery's company, and is smartly and effectively staged, the dresses adding considerably to its picturesqueness. The hero, Jack Hawley, is capably represented by Mr. Harry Tresham, who scores a success; Mr. H. Ryland Leigh is to be congratulated on his really good interpretation of the scoundrel, Jim Rawlings. An excellent performance of Joe Williams is given by Mr. Conrad C. Clerke, an actor of ability. A good character study of a Mexican greaser, the confederate of the villain, comes from Mr. C. Alan Hineson; Mr. John D. Hennessey is again seen in a character that suits his personality—Colonel Bigor Clayton. The humorous portion of the drama receives capable treatment at the hands of Mr. H. G. Brandon, who is responsible for an amusing impersonation of an actor of the old school—Brutus Brown; Mr. Herbert Young, who is a typical quack doctor, and Mr. Ivan Gore as Pete Sweet, a nigger. Miss Edna Lester plays well as Samantha Clayton; Miss Ethyle Gordon Murray makes the most of her opportunities; and an undoubted success is achieved by Miss Florence Barnes as Jennie Williams. A word of praise must be bestowed on Mr. Brandon for the effective manner in which the dramas are produced week by week.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 16, the Drama, entitled
"WOMAN AND WINE."

This week the powerful play of *Woman and Wine* is occupying the boards of the Artillery Theatre. Written by Mr. Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck, the story is of a soul-stirring nature, and is filled to the brim with attractive incidents and emotional situations. The production is on a large scale, and is excellently presented by Miss Mary Austin and Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds. The two scenes, Le Bal Masque and The Flower Market, are noteworthy. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds provides a powerful study of the student, Dick Seymour, and works upon the feelings of the audience with artistic ability; Mr. R. Foulis in the unsympathetic part of Alphonse Beaudet infuses dramatic effect, and is successful; Mr. W. Manning undertakes the part of Professor Sauter in a capable manner; Mr. J. Milne Taylor does ample justice to the character of Hugh Seymour; an amusing portrayal of Charles Sauter is supplied by Mr. Harry Harrop; Mr. Frank Thomas is favourably placed as Mark Parkins; Miss C. St. Elmo assays the rôle of Marcel Ragadout, the woman who didn't care, in a pronounced manner, and is effective; Miss Violet Sims depicts the part of Mary Andrews pathetically; Miss Octavia de Noel gives a forcible rendering of the jealous La Colombe; Miss Ethel Vinroy deserves praise for her characterisation of Janet Marlow; and the remaining members of a long cast lend admirable assistance.

THE WEST LONDON THEATRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The announcement that the West London Theatre will be offered at auction on Wednesday has been referred to by some papers, and a sketch of its history, not by any means accurate, given. Presuming that you may take some notice of it, I send you particulars as under, and, having been associated with this house, directly or indirectly, for fifty years, you may rely upon their authenticity. The theatre was built by my father, the late John Loveridge, and was opened on Dec. 12, 1842, under the name of the Royal Marylebone Theatre, by John Douglas the elder, who afterwards built and conducted the Standard Theatre. It retained this name until 1868, when, by Royal permission, it was entitled the Royal Alfred, and was reopened in the presence of H.R.H. the late Duke of Edinburgh. Its original name, the Royal Marylebone, was resumed in 1873 under the second management of Mr. J. A. Cave, who altogether successfully conducted it for twenty years, and who is now having a well-deserved rest as an inmate of the Charterhouse. In 1893 the house was purchased by Mr. Wm. Bailey, and opened by him as the West London, although not then aware that this was the name given to a smaller house on the same site some years before the erection of the present building. This small theatre was named successively The Portman, The Pavilion, The West London, and finally, in 1837, The Royal Marylebone. Most of the leading actors of the second half of the last century have appeared here, including Macready, Wallack, Anderson, Vandenhoff, Chas. Mathews, Irving, Toole, Ben Webster, Keeley, Buckstone, Paul Bedford, Emery, Mrs. Warner, Mrs. Nisbett, Mme. Celeste, Mrs. Mowatt, Fanny Vining, Amy Sedgwick, &c.—Yours faithfully,

G. A. LOVERIDGE.

3, Alma-square, St. John's Wood, N.W.
Nov. 12, 1908.

MR. CHARLES FRY'S MATINEES.

Mr. Charles Fry revived Shakespeare's *Tempest* at a matinée at the Court Theatre last Saturday. The play was presented in excellent style, the elocution being especially commendable. Miss Nellie Innes assumed the part of Ariel at short notice, owing to the illness of Miss Dora Keith, and played it with airy grace and ease, her singing of "Where the bee sucks" being charming. Miss Olive Kennett was a sympathetic and sweet Miranda; and Mr. Hughes Jones was a manly and spirited Ferdinand. Mr. Patrick Munro embodied Prospero with befitting dignity and with fine delivery of the verse; and Mr. Fry made Caliban a savage and grotesque monster, acting very graphically and picturesquely. Mr. C. Francis was a droll Trinculo; and Mr. T. M. Cottam as Stephano was humorous and effective. Mr. F. Haldane as Gonzalo, Mr. H. A. Rourke as Alonso, Mr. Jules Corthesy as Sebastian, and Mr. J. K. Maclean as Antonio all did good work. Miss Minifred Hamilton made a magnificent Juno, and Miss Dorothy Hammett as Iris and Miss Aida Humphris as Ceres were both acceptable. The dance was arranged by Miss Lily Sturman. The whole performance was careful, intelligent, and artistic.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the Council meeting, held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Nov. 17. There were present Mr. Clarence Derwent (in the chair), Mr. Henry W. Mote (honorary solicitor), Messrs. Fred Grove, Fewlass Llewellyn, Frank J. Arlton, Jackson Wilcox, Franklyn Walford, Cecil Raleigh, Misses Marion Lind, Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

A letter was read from the secretary of the Play-Actors with reference to the suggested prohibition of Sunday performances by the Lord Chamberlain, saying that, as far as they are concerned, they would rather the A.A. took no further steps in the matter. A letter was read from Mr. F. Bateman with regard to the proposed theatrical association stores, and instructions were given to the secretary to write to Mr. Bateman saying that the Council regretted that they would be unable to assist the scheme financially, but that they wish it every success.

The minutes of the previous Council meeting were read and confirmed.

The hon. solicitor reported having secured £2 compensation claimed by a member from a railway company.

The suggested letter, as drafted by Mr. Cecil Raleigh, to be sent to the Lord Chamberlain, was discussed at great length, and the question of sending same being put to the vote, three members voted for and three members against, and the chairman gave his casting vote against the sending of the letter. The question of publication of the correspondence of the Lord Chamberlain was then discussed, and it was decided to publish the first letter sent to the Lord Chamberlain and his reply, which were as follows:—

"My Lord,—During the last few years several semi-literary societies have been formed for the purpose of presenting plays of a literary rather than of a commercial character, and of affording to young and unknown actors and actresses appearing therein opportunities that would not occur to them in the ordinary pursuit of their calling.

"These societies are maintained by the subscriptions of their members, the performances that they organise are of a private nature, admission to them being attained by ticket only. No money is taken at the doors. But the performances are usually given in licensed theatres, and frequently on Sunday evenings. It is posible, therefore, that they will be affected by your lordship's recently-published regulation regarding Sunday performances.

"As a number of our members have arranged to appear in the plays to be given under these conditions during the coming winter, I am directed by the Council of the Actors' Association to respectfully inquire whether your lordship would be so very good as to give the Council, for the guidance of the members, some indication of your view with regard to the Sunday performances of such societies as I have mentioned, more especially in connection with the possible representation at private Sunday performances of plays that have not been submitted for, or have actually been refused, your lordship's licence.

"The matter being of considerable importance to many of our members, the Council trust that your lordship will excuse their importunity in directly addressing you.

I am, my Lord,
Your obedient humble servant,
(Signed) HUBERT BLOUNT, Secretary."

His reply:—

"Sir,—The Lord Chamberlain desires me to acknowledge your letter of the 2nd inst., in reply, to express his regret that he is unable to give you any opinion on the question you raise.

"The matter appears to him to be one as to which it would be best for you to seek the advice of your solicitors.—Yours faithfully,

"(Signed) DOUGLAS DAWSON, Comptroller."

The hon. solicitor advises as follows:—

The hon. solicitor is of opinion that the authority of the Lord Chamberlain is practically absolute for the theatres licensed by him. Although the Act which gives to the Lord Chamberlain his powers does not almost exactly specify everything that the Lord Chamberlain may do, it endows him with a discretion from which there is no appeal. He is also of opinion that it is almost impossible to imagine a condition which the Lord Chamberlain could not impose upon an applicant before granting a licence, and that the mere indication of the Lord Chamberlain's wish conveyed to the holders of his licences would put an end to private performances upon a Sunday in the theatres licensed by him. The hon. solicitor cannot help us in any way to anticipate what view, or what action, the Lord Chamberlain will take with regard to Sunday performances mentioned in our letter. The hon. solicitor is of opinion that it is eminently advisable that a more definite opinion should be expressed by the Lord Chamberlain. The Council having received the before-mentioned letter of the Play-Actors, decided not to proceed with this question for the present.

Miss Sibley made a finance report, and made several recommendations to the secretary.

Mr. Manville Morton, proposed by J. Knox Orde and seconded by Charles Boult, was nominated for election.

Miss Mary Hope, proposed by William Dobell, seconded by Madge Merryweather; Miss Eva Neil, proposed by Langford Reede, seconded by Cecil Yapp; and Miss Julie Golay, proposed by Italia Conti, seconded by Fewlass Llewellyn, were elected.

The resignations of Mr. Jack Rowland and Dr. W. Warburton Wingate were announced.

The question of the registration of agents was discussed, and Mr. Raleigh gave his views in support.

A member interviewed the Council with reference to the conduct of another member, and the secretary received instructions to ask the person complained of to appear before the Council on Tuesday next.

It was decided to eliminate all names in the publication of the solicitor's report in future, excepting where cases are *sub judice*, and in such cases to publish names only after permission has been obtained.

The Council passed a unanimous vote of condolence with Mrs. Topham on the loss of her husband.

The Council passed a unanimous vote of congratulation to Sir Anderson Critchett on his elevation to a baronetcy.

TOM CRAVEN'S "MIXTURE."

"In placing before you these pages," says Mr. Tom Craven to his readers in his preface to his little book of recitations and monologues, called the "Tom Craven Mixture," which has just been published by Samuel French, Ltd., "I have grave misgivings as to the sentence you will pass upon me. My previous effort in a similar direction, 'The Dear Reader "Gag Book,"' has done five years' hard labour, and looks like being committed for trial again and again. This time I may get off with a nominal fine and a warning. I have administered the following doses of doggerel myself on all sorts and conditions of patients, who have swallowed them, and are now seeking a 'Rest Cure.' They have laughed at my sentiment and shed copious tears over my comic 'offences.' If they have been favourably received when delivered by me, how much better will their reception be when spoken by your honied tongues?" There are no less than twenty-one items in the collection. They show the genial humour, the ready wit, the bright invention, and the power of facile composition possessed by the author, whose "Mixture" is likely to be as popular as his "Gag Book."

A TRIO OF NOVELTIES.

Three new one-act plays formed the programme at the matinée given by Mr. and Miss Creagh-Henry at the Queen's Gate Hall on Tuesday, when a full and friendly audience took evident pleasure in the proceedings. The first essay, which was from the pen of May Creagh-Henry, was

"DIOGENES AND THE DAMSEL."

Diogenes .....Mr. S. Creagh-Henry
The Damsel .....Miss Creagh-Henry

Humorous satire of a pungent character is found in the little piece, which consists simply of a dialogue between a young lady, who falls asleep in her garden, and the ancient philosopher named, who appears to her in a dream. The conversation that follows is of the kind made familiar in *Pygmalion and Galatea* and other pieces, and comprises a succession of "cross-talk" in which Alexander the Great is confused with Alexander the Actor, and the ancient and modern are agreeably mixed. The trifle was divertingly acted, Mr. Creagh-Henry, realistically made-up, being a drolly sententious Diogenes, and Miss Creagh-Henry acting and speaking in agreeable light comedy fashion as the Damsel.

Pathos plays an important part in the second piece, which was also by Miss Creagh-Henry, and entitled

"LIZ."

Liz .....Miss Creagh-Henry
Jim Dodson / Gerald Howard .....Mr. Creagh-Henry

The laws of probability are greatly strained in the drametta, which, however, is interestingly written. Liz, an artist's model, has fallen in love with a philosophising painter, who has treated her kindly. She has an admirer in Jim Dodson, a coster, who gives way to drink, but vows to sign the pledge on condition that Liz promises to marry him. The girl remembers that the artist has said that it is better to secure the happiness of others rather than that of oneself, and consents. Scarcely, however, is the picture finished than the artist asks Liz to be his wife, whereupon she tells him of her promise to Jim Dodson, and of her reason for it. The artist commends her for her self-sacrifice, and destroys his picture—which is that of a nun—declaring it does not represent his highest ideal. Miss Creagh-Henry gave a telling and sympathetic rendering of Liz, and made a picture of sweet simplicity in the dress of the nun; and Mr. Creagh-Henry represented the coster and the artist with equal care and effect.

The final playlet was by Mr. Creagh-Henry, and was called

"A PASTORAL POSTPONED."

Lady Julia Lavender .....Miss Creagh-Henry
Colonel Cavanagh .....Mr. Creagh-Henry

Humour of a mild sort is extracted from the above piece, and is gleaned from the attempts of two aristocratic personages to study the play of *As You Like It*, which is in preparation for a fashionable parden-party, but is abandoned owing to the failure of the principals to attend rehearsal. Mr. Creagh-Henry, who played an Irish officer, but very soon dropped all trace of the brogue, was amusing, and Miss Creagh-Henry made an elegant personage of the lackadaisical Lady Julia, who cannot understand why the character of Rosalind may not be omitted from *As You Like It*, and spoke her lines in a manner that emphasised their point. Mr. and Miss Creagh-Henry are both clever performers, and the audience, composed mostly of ladies, gave frequent evidence of their enjoyment of the playlets, which, though hardly fitted for the regular stage, would be sure of acceptance in the drawing-room.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 21.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees, B. F. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Woodman.—The success of *The Girl Behind the Counter* as played by the Edwardes-Wheeler Gaiety company does not show signs of finishing, and it can be safely said there are very few playgoers on the Rand who have not seen this winning little lady. Miss Maud Aston, in the title-rôle, has made a distinct success.

Standard Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Leonard Rayne; Manager, Mr. Grant Fallowes.—That clever naval play, *The Flag Lieutenant*, still meets with every encouragement. Extra interest has been added to the piece on two nights this week owing to Admiral Sir Percy Scott and four hundred blue-jackets being present to witness the production. Mr. Leonard Rayne as Flag-Lieutenant Lascelles was as good as ever, and Miss Freda Godfrey still gives a fine representation of Lady Hermione Wynne.

Empire.—Proprietors, Empire Theatres, Ltd., South Africa; Manager, Mr. Sydney Hyman.—La Belle Tortajada, an old favourite on the Rand, is the star here, and she meets with every encouragement. Lawson and Namon, pot-pourri entertainers, are an amusing pair, the male partner being a smart trick cyclist, whilst the lady gives a clever exhibition of ball-punching. Miss Daisy Yates, comedienne and dancer, renders all her numbers in a catchy style. Others here are the Dixie Trio, Clara and Pastor, Morris Cronin and Troupe, Rose and Challoner, Amber Austa, Louis Zetland, and Will Haines.

DURBAN, Oct. 23.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees, Empire Theatres, South Africa, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Aubrey Hyman.—A good programme is being presented at this popular house of entertainment this week, most of the artists being warmly received. Undoubtedly the most prominent turn is Mlle. Liane D'Eve, who receives quite an ovation for her charming turn; Miss Marie Reeve is a dainty little lady with a style entirely her own; Miss May Audrey entirely wins the hearts of her audience, her song "Take me on the Flip-Flap" catching the public taste. An exceptionally clever xylophone performance is that given by the Musical Johnstons; the Blessings, acrobats, execute some daring feats. A welcome turn is Miss Dorothy Drew, who is the possessor of a well-cultured voice, and Willie Walker, Scotch comedian, takes well.

Scott's Theatre, Pietermaritzburg, is occupied this week by the Godwin Williams comedy company, under the personal direction of Mr. Godwin Williams, in *The Private Secretary*. Mr. Godwin Williams himself enacts the rôle of the Rev. Robert Spalding, and causes endless hilarity.

ACTORS' UNION.

The weekly committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place on the 12th inst., at 49, Bedford-street, and the following were present:—Mr. Paul Lovett (chairman), Mr. H. Naylor Grimson, Mr. J. W. Braithwaite, Mr. Gerald Mirrielees, Mr. A. Maitland Stapley, Mr. H. Tripp Edgar, Mr. D. Lewin Mannering, Mr. Leslie Arthur, and Mr. Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

Letters were received from the following:—Messrs. Edward Chester, George H. Child, George P. Lester, and F. Rawson Buckley.

The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed.

The secretary reported that Mr. Leonard Calvert regretted having to decline the seat offered him on the committee, owing to his being unable to attend the meetings. The question of inviting other members was held over until the 19th inst.

Mr. McGregor, of the Bon-accord Hotel, Market-street, was appointed agent for Aberdeen.

The secretary was instructed to place the particulars of an insanitary theatre in the hands of the sanitary authorities of the town.

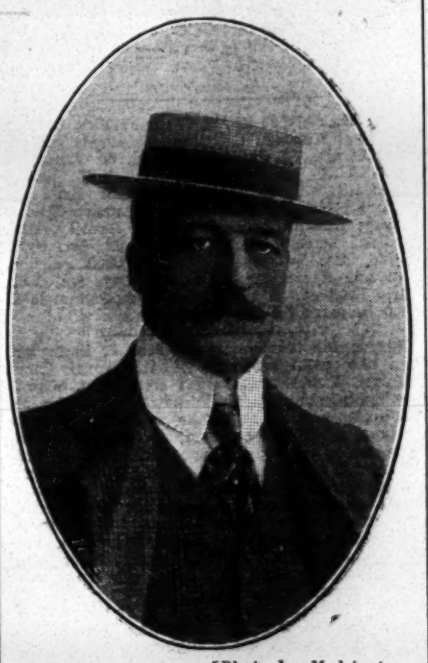
The secretary was instructed to inform a member that advance managers were ineligible for membership of the Union.

The secretary was instructed to approach the L.C.C. with regard to the licensing of agents.

A new member was elected.

DEATH OF MR. CORY-THOMAS.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Lambert Cory-Thomas, which took place at Eastbourne on Saturday last. Mr. Cory-Thomas's first experience of the footlights was when at school in Germany and France, where Molière's comedies (without scenery and other accessories) were given. Returning to England, he shortly commenced professionally under Mr. Wilson Barrett's régime, playing small parts and understudying on tour. After two or three short stock seasons he joined Miss Fortescue for Leucippe, in *Pygmalion and Galatea*, and the late Miss Lingard for the Colonel, in *Sister Mary*, and the Comte De Varville, in *Camille*. A thirty-three weeks' tour with Miss Melnotte and Frank Wyatt's *Barrister* was followed by a long tour of *Bootles' Baby*, in which Mr. Cory-Thomas played the military hero, Bootle, no less than 935 times. He was then general-manager at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, for six months, but returned again to the footlights to take up Mr. Charles Warner's part in *A Million of Money* (another military part). Mr. Fred Kerr's part in Mr. Pinero's comedy *The Amazon* followed. He then joined Mr. Tapping for Captain Redwood in *Jim the Penman*, and the American, in *The Idler*. At the Adelphi in *The Fatal Card* he had a small part, and understudied Mr. Abingdon. Leaving London, he played another military part, the hero, in *The Trumpet Call*, after which dramas and comedies on alternate nights on a South African tour gave him plenty of study. On his return to England he business-managed a tour of the late Robert Buchanan's *Wanderer from Venus*. After a short tour as George D'Alroy in *Caste*, he played the Irish major in *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown*. In 1898 Mr. Cory-Thomas appeared as Jediah in *The Daughters of Babylon*. He



[*Photo by Medrington.*

THE LATE MR. L. CORY-THOMAS

then returned to the military hero in *The Trumpet Call*. At the Olympic he embodied Archibald Carlyle in *East Lynne*. This was followed by three tours with Miss Ada Blanche's *Telephone Girl* company as the Russian Prince. In *Lady Huntworth's Experiment* he played the part of Capt. Dorvaston. He was then engaged by Mr. Bourchier for the season at the Garrick, playing and understudying in Mr. Pinero's *Iris* and Mr. Anthony Hope's *Pilkerton's Peerage*. During the indisposition of Mr. H. B. Warner he played Jack Pilkerton. He also acted for two years in America with Miss Maxine Elliott, Miss Virginia Harned, and Mrs. Fiske. Mr. Cory-Thomas was an athlete, sprint runner, jumper, and walker; when a member of the London Athletic Club he only occupied 5hrs. 5min. in a thirty miles race. His last regular engagement was as Sir Brian Ballymote with Mr. James Welch's *When Knights Were Bold* company. He appeared with Mr. Edmund Waller in a sketch at Manchester for a week, and his throat being already weak, lost his voice entirely, and last August had to cancel all engagements and become an inmate of the King Edward VII. Sanatorium at Midhurst, Sussex. On the 5th of this month he went to Eastbourne, but on the 13th inst. he was found to be in the last stage of consumption, and died at 9.30 p.m. on Saturday. The funeral took place at Ocklynge Cemetery, Eastbourne, on Wednesday.

A THEATRICAL EMPLOYEES' CLUB.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—At the meeting at Terry's last Sunday evening the speakers dwelt upon the unity of the theatrical employee. In response to the invitation of the chairman, I made a few remarks in favour of the proposal, and suggested the formation of a Theatrical Employees' Club and Institute, which I thought would be of advantage in relation to the proposed share-out club. Had I not been ruled out of order by the chairman I might have explained more fully, as we seldom have meetings, and even when we do it is a difficult matter to get an audience. If you will allow me to ventilate the subject through your valuable columns a large number of my fellow workers would feel grateful. The suggestion is that a penny a week subscription should be started; representatives in theatres and music halls should collect same, and that you, sir, should be asked to kindly act or appoint a treasurer. When the funds are sufficient to start a convenient room, a meeting of the subscribers could be convened and the necessary officials appointed. While we have been considering this question for years, other sections of the profession have already founded their club. So why not the theatrical worker?

I also would appeal to my fellow-workers who are in good daily occupations and are in night work to remember their less fortunate brethren, who, perhaps, may have been tramping about all day with no luck. True, there is a room at an inn where one can wait till wanted, but comment is needless as to the utility of that. They only lean on rushes who trust to the support of others, so I would say, don't wait for someone to give us something, but start on our own, and show that we are in earnest. Then, I feel sure, our efforts would not go unaided in our endeavours to help ourselves and to make our lives brighter and our surroundings more pleasant.—Yours faithfully,

CHARLES A. KEEBLE.

Battersea.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

"A REFORMED RAKE."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Pelham Hardwicke and Walter E. Grogan, played for the first time in London at the Coronet on Friday, Nov. 13.

Harry Jasper .....Mr. Edward Compton
Mr. Thornton .....Mr. Henry Crocker
Adolphus Thornton .....Mr. Ivan Leslie
Frederick Adderley .....Mr. Henry Worrall
Andrew Wylie .....Mr. Wallace Johnston
Matthew .....Mr. Philip Gordon
Binks .....Mr. J. W. Austin
Markham .....Mr. Neville Clifford
Mrs. Constance Thornton
Miss Constance Merton
Joyce Thornton .....Miss Kathleen Leigh
Miss Arabella Mountstuart
Miss Viola Compton

On the occasion of Mr. Edward Compton's benefit on Friday, Nov. 13, the new comedy, *A Reformed Rake*, by Pelham Hardwick and Walter E. Grogan, was given, this being Mr. Edward Compton's 105th performance of the part of Harry Jasper. The piece was produced at Edinburgh on Feb. 27, 1902. It is a story of the good old days, the period being 1820:

"Whose style still breathed a faint and fine perfume
Of old-world courtliness and old-world bloom;
When speech was elegant and talk was fit,
For slang had not been canonised as wit."

Some of the scenes are very fresh, naïve, and convincing, and the faults are, after all, only trivial ones. It is a pretty and picturesque play, redolent of the period of gallantry and reckless dissipation. The story concerns the reformed rake's desire to justify his father's old friend's trust in him by guarding the honour of his house, and putting to flight his enemies. Cleverly welded with this material is Jasper's love at first sight for Thornton's pretty daughter, Joyce. Jasper's original idea was *pour passer le temps* as tutor to a green young enthusiast surrounded by musty old fogeys and eccentric servants, whom he could afterwards hold up to ridicule in the Press. Mr. Thornton's reception of him and trust in him, however, coupled with the fact that it is quite a conventional household governed by a shrewd and kindly city merchant, cause Harry Jasper to change his mind, and enter heart and soul into the business of setting "the house in order." He sets about his duties in most unconventional fashion, and earns the goodwill of his pupil, Dolly Thornton, by affecting to treat him as a man, and he earns more than the goodwill of portly Mistress Joyce by his handsome good humour and *bonhomie*. There are rifts within the lute which must be repaired, however. Firstly, old Thornton is unmistakably in the power of a rascally moneylender, Andrew Wylie, and, secondly, Frederick Adderley, an unregenerate reprobate, is making hot love to old Thornton's pretty young wife. Gradually, step by step, Harry Jasper traces the identity of Wylie and Adderley with "Jones and Company," a firm of defaulting Leeds bankers, and he also contrives to break off the engagement between Dolly and one Arabella Mountstaurt, *alias* Georgiana Gentilt, a lady of doubtful reputation, whom Adderley has jilted and consoled by engaging her to Dolly under false pretences as to his age and his means. The price Harry Jasper contemplates paying for "the whistle" is the sacrifice of his love for Joy. But after much machiavellian intrigue and complicated strategy, the bill is destroyed, Jasper's own debt to Wylie is paid off by Thornton, the letters which Mrs. Constance Thornton had written to Adderley are put in the fire, and he is summarily dismissed; while, to crown all, old Thornton smiles on the union of hearts of Harry Jasper and his daughter Joy, and the curtain is rung down to the tune of prospective wedding bells.

Mr. Edward Compton simply revels in the part of the reformed rake, Harry Jasper, and as the "agreeable rattle" and man-about-town turned tutor, lover, and guardian angel of the Thornton *ménage*, he has excellent scope for his versatility and power of gripping the audience with his winsome personality. Miss Kathleen Leigh as the fair, dimity Mistress Joyce Thornton most charmingly depicts the youthful innocence and *espièglerie*, and the fresh young beauty of the girl of the period. Mr. Henry Crocker, who stage-manages, contributes a sound, sterling performance of the honest, straightforward city merchant, Mr. Thornton. Mr. Henry Worrall plays the part of the unreformed rake, Frederick Adderley, with tact and circumspection, and brings the natural charm as well as the villainy of the man into strong prominence. Mr. Wallace Johnston gives a most quaint and unique embodiment of the moneylender, Andrew Wylie, a part which must tax his powers to the utmost to render as consistently as he does. Mr. Ivan Leslie cleverly creates the correct impression as the green young enthusiast, Dolly Thornton. Mr. Philip Gordon is very good as the time-serving butler, Matthew. Miss Constance Merton is well suited by the small part of the pretty doll-like Mrs. Constance Thornton. Miss Viola Compton creates a favourable impression in her brief appearance as Miss Arabella Mountstuart, the lady from Vauxhall. Altogether, it is a refreshing and exhilarating study of "ye goode olde tymes."

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

On Tuesday afternoon Sir Frederick Bridge gave a recital to inaugurate the fine new (four manual) organ erected by Messrs. H. S. Vincent and Co. Sir Frederick Bridge, who is organist of Westminster Abbey and Chairman of the Board of Trinity College of Music, greatly amused the large audience by saying at the commencement of his recital that "he was out of practice, but would do his best." What Sir Frederick's best is all the world knows. The programme was well selected to show off the many fine qualities of the new organ. Schumann's delicate and refined "Three Sketches" were followed by a Fugue in G major by the unsurpassed composer for the organ, J. S. Bach. Sir F. Bridge also played the Andante, Introduction and Fugue from his own Sonata. Sir Frederick Bridge has long been known as a talented composer in addition to his splendid abilities as organist. An oratorio, "Mount Moriah," a cantata "Boadicea," church music, the sonata given on Tuesday, as well as other works testify his ability, and we congratulate the Trinity College on having such an accomplished musician as chairman of their Board. Other works given in the programme were a beautifully rendered Largo, perhaps the finest movement in Dvorák's "New World" Symphony, a charming Elegy and "Chant du Berger" (Merkel), and Lully's lively Rigaudon. Sir F. Bridge at the close of his recital had a most enthusiastic reception, and the tone and quality of the new organ were much admired. Two songs were included in the programme, the vocalist, Mr. Horace Witty, greatly distinguishing himself by his excellent singing of "O that we two were maying" and F. H. Cowen's "Border Ballad." Mr. Leonard Gordon was the accompanist.

Miss Beatrice Felsted is engaged by Messrs. Ashton and Mitchell's Royal Agency to sing her two new sacred songs by Wynyard Ryde, entitled "Peace be still" and "Far from my heavenly home," at the Palace Pier, Brighton. Mr. Hamilton Weller will accompany on the organ. The Horse Guards Band (Blue), by kind permission, will also appear. Miss Felsted will be heard at the Albert Hall early in the spring before resuming her long tour through the provinces.

"WINTER SPORT."

A Play, in One Act, by "D. Brandon," Produced at the Court Theatre on Wednesday Afternoon, Nov. 18.

Rex Gascoigne .....Mr. Patrick Kirwan
Harold Johnson .....Mr. Gerald Venning
Jessie Pickering .....Miss Isabel Fladgate

The authoress of *Winter Sport* is the lady who, under the name of "D. Brandon," organised the matinée held on Wednesday at the Court in aid of the funds of the Hospital for Sick Children, Ormond-street. And as the playlet under review was produced with a benevolent object, and as, moreover, Charity covereth a multitude of indiscretions, we feel somehow that we ought not to be too critical, or even critical at all. Therefore we will content ourselves with saying that *Winter Sport* is extremely amateurish, and that it betrays an ultra-feminine mind. There are, however, indications in the play that the authoress has ideas, but we find it rather difficult to encourage her in continuing to write for the theatre. In the title itself she has a very happy notion, as, in the piece under review "winter sport" means flirtation in Switzerland. Rex Gascoigne and Harold Johnson are discussing in the reading-room of the Hotel Schishorn, at Landplatz, the pseudo love-making which is being indulged in by the guests at the hotel, and Johnson warns his companion as to his attentions to one Jessie Pickering. A ring has been found which bears the inscription, "To my future wife," and not one of the young ladies will admit that it is hers. However, the initial letters of the four stones in the mounting of the ring gives Gascoigne the clue as to the owner—a lady whose Christian name might be Jess. Miss Pickering admits that it was presented to her by her fiancé in England, and Gascoigne undertakes to get it from the elderly woman who discovered it by telling her that it was returned to him by a lady who jilted him. Gascoigne now asks Jessie whether she likes him better than her fiancé, and the girl, believing, of course, that he has serious intentions towards her, writes a letter to her sweetheart, breaking off the engagement and returning the ring to him. Then Gascoigne shows what a despicable cad he is—after flirting with the girl himself, and inducing her to break off her engagement—by finally telling her that he is married! And, of course, this mean-spirited hypocrite only wanted to teach the girl a lesson! His humbugging pretension to affection towards Jessie Pickering was actuated, forsooth, by his desire to point a moral! We might venture to tell the authoress of the piece that it would be difficult to find Gascoigne's counterpart outside of her imagination. As to the acting, all we need remark is that Mr. Gerald Venning, in the insignificant rôle of Harold Johnson, was the only one who had a consistent part to play, and he did it full justice.

Miss Isabel Fladgate showed greater ability in the rôle of Priscilla in Mr. Patrick Kirwan's Georgian duologue of that name than she displayed as Jessie Pickering in *Winter Sport*. Mr. Kirwan's study of Ralph was quite unconvincing. The afternoon's entertainment concluded with Mr. Kirwan's adaptation from an incident in Thackeray's "Pendennis," entitled *The Fotheringay*, in which the author and Messrs. Wm. J. Stack, John Cabourn, Gerald Saffery, and Miss Rose Temple took part.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

Mr. Gabriel G. Cleather on Wednesday afternoon gave a lecture on "The Drum and Its Capabilities." Mr. Cleather, in illustrating his lecture, had four kettle-drums on the platform, the accompaniment on the organ being played by the talented pupil of Dr. Jordan, Mr. F. J. Massey. In introducing the lecturer, Dr. Cummings said he was sorry not to see a larger audience, and hoped the concert hall would be full at the next lecture. In commencing his lecture Mr. Cleather asked why the drum was treated with such neglect. Even at the Guildhall School, where every branch of music is taught, there is no special teaching of the drum nor are any prizes or scholarships given for that instrument. The lecturer wished some rich man would come forward and found one. Mr. Cleather said, amidst applause from the audience, that he would offer £20 towards that object if others would join him in the good cause. In speaking of the drum, the lecturer said the side-drum, much used in the Army, was not to be confounded with the kettle-drum, which is considered by musicians as the most perfect; nor is the title "drummer" correct, as it should be tympanist. Dr. Richter says the drum is a most difficult instrument to write for in an orchestra. The drum is usually considered noisy, but that is not entirely true, while one great advantage was that much of the practice for that instrument could be done silently. Mr. Cleather spoke of the importance of rhythm in musical study, and said in many cases the drum might precede other studies. As an illustration of the different modes of playing triplets Mr. Cleather gave same fine examples first in Brahms's "Requiem" (second movement) and then in Meyerbeer's "Fourth Fackel-Tanz." The lecturer, to show the power of the drum, gave a long roll, softly at first, but ending with the full strength of the largest kettle-drum on the platform. Mr. Cleather said, however, the chief beauty of the drum was in piano passages, and, assisted by Mr. Massey on the organ, he gave a fine example in Schumann's "Four-Pedal Piano Sketches." The lecturer also spoke of the difficulty of keeping the drum in tune, saying in some cases it would not remain so more than five minutes. An excellent performance of Mendelssohn's beautiful "Funeral March" by Mr. Massey and Mr. Cleather concluded the lecture.

On Wednesday evening the concert commenced with a piano solo, "En Courant" (Godard), ably played by Miss Edith Soole. Miss Lottie Minns was hardly equal to the dramatic air "Lord of our chosen race," from Sullivan's *Ivanhoe*; nor had Miss Elsie M. Hart experience enough for Gounod's song "There is a green hill," although both young ladies sang with care and intelligence. An undoubted success was Miss Winifred Johnson's violin solo of Sarasate's "Zigeunerweisen," which was capitally executed; while of almost equal merit was Miss Margery Holden's playing of Beethoven's violin solo "Romance" and "Guitare" (Lolo), both students being loudly applauded. Miss Jessie Willis displayed a delicate and expressive touch in her piano solo "Impromptu" in A flat (Chopin); and Miss Dorothy Holden, evidently an advanced student, gave quite a brilliant performance of Saint-Saëns's difficult "Etude en forme de Valse," Op. 52, No. 6. Mr. W. H. Cooper used his good bass voice with much effect in "It is enough" ("Elijah"); while Miss Bertha Brown sang "Ah! Rendimi" (Rossi) with considerable skill. Verdi's aria "Pace, pace, mio Dio," from *La Forza del Destino*, was a fairly successful though ambitious attempt for Miss Ettie Spice; but Mr. Harold Batt, who has a somewhat small voice, should not as yet sing such a work as Blumenthal's popular air "The Message," at one time so enchantingly sung by Sims Reeves. The concert ended with a recitation "Awkward Questions," by a clever pupil of Mr. L. Cairns James, Miss May Farnell. Miss Jenny Hyman was the accompanist.

On Monday evening Mr. E. R. Abbott's company presented *Sapho*, from the pen of Miss Ada Abbott, at the Victoria Opera House, Burnley. Miss Abbott sustains the title-rôle cleverly; and Mr. V. W. Carlyle is good as Jean. Other parts are capitally portrayed by Mr. C. Tring as Flamant, Mr. Fred Stephens as Uncle Classaire, and Mr. A. Britton as Jones.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham's second presidency at an annual dinner of the Eccentric Club, at the Hotel Cecil, will be marked on Sunday next, by a new departure at these artistic functions. Mr. Charles Urban is an enthusiastic member of the Club, and will contribute to the after-dinner concert a liberal selection from "Urbanora's" brilliant and almost limitless repertory. "The Eccentric Club March," composed by Mr. Norfolk Megone, and comprising some original effects, will be performed by the orchestra, under the composer's direction. An attractive entertainment has been prepared to follow the dinner.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has added to the importance of the cast for the new fairy play *Pinkie and the Fairies*, which he will produce at His Majesty's Theatre on Dec. 19, by the engagement of Miss Ellen Terry. Other principal parts will be played by Miss Marie Lohr, Miss Viola Tree, Miss Alice Beet, Mr. Frederick Volpe, Miss Stella Campbell, Miss Iris Hawkins, and Master Philip Tonge.

Lady Bancroft, we are glad to hear, has quite recovered from her recent severe attack of bronchitis. Last week was a "lucky one" for Lady Bancroft, for it was on Nov. 11, 1865, that T. W. Robertson's comedy *Society* was produced at the Prince of Wales's, with Miss Marie Wilton as Maud Hetherington and Mr. Bancroft as Sidney Daryl. As Sir Squire Bancroft said in his "Narrative," the production of *Society* "had a marked influence on his future theatrical life."

Mr. George Alexander has received the King's command to assist at the festivities consequent on the Queen's Birthday at Sandringham on Dec. 1. The play selected is *The Builder of Bridges*, now running so prosperously at the St. James's.

Mr. Cyril Maude's command performance of *The Flag Lieutenant* at Sandringham on the King's birthday was completely successful, and there was a hearty demonstration of applause, led by His Majesty, at the close. The performance was attended by the King and Queen, Queen Maud of Norway, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria, and the whole of the Sandringham house-party. Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude, Mr. C. Aubrey Smith, Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, and one of the part authors, Mr. Leo Trevor, who also played a small part in the production, were afterwards presented to the King. The company travelled back to town at five o'clock in the morning, and arrived in time to give a matinée followed by an evening performance at the Playhouse.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Alfred Standen (Alfred), for many years assistant stage manager at the Gaiety Theatre. The funeral took place on the 13th inst. at Tooting. The respect in which the deceased was held was evidenced by the numerous wreaths, which included one from Mr. George Edwardes. Others who sent floral tokens of sympathy were:—Mr. J. A. E. Malone, Mr. A. E. Dodson, Mr. C. H. Cannon, Mr. E. W. Royce, Mr. Harold Lonsdale, Mr. George Gregory, Mr. Frank Hector, Miss Kitty Mason, Miss Jean Aylwin, Miss May De Sousa, and Miss Mabel Russell, Electrical Staff and Rowing Club, Gaiety Theatre, Members of *The Girls of Gottenberg* Company, Staff of Property Department, Gaiety Theatre, Some of his Friends, Gaiety Theatre, Principal Gentlemen, Gaiety Theatre, Carl Kiebert, and the Gaiety Orchestra, Chorus Boys, Gaiety Theatre, Ladies of the Gaiety Theatre, the Dressers, Gaiety Theatre, the Working Staff, Daly's Theatre, and Housekeeper's Staff, Gaiety Theatre.

Mr. Martin Harvey duly fulfilled his "command" performance given by the King in honour of the King and Queen of Sweden in the Waterloo Chamber at Windsor on Wednesday, and the care with which the production had been prepared was evidenced by the smoothness of the rendering. The King and Queen were present with their Majesties of Sweden in places of honour, and other royalties in attendance included the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duchess of Albany, Princess Victoria, Prince Arthur of Connaught, Princess Patricia of Connaught, the Duke and Duchess of Argyll, Prince and Princess Christian, and Princess Henry of Battenberg. The Premier was also among the guests.

Mr. Harvey and his company were entertained at supper in the Presence Chamber, after which they returned to town by special train. The full cast on the eventful occasion consisted of Messrs. Martin Harvey, William Haviland, Albert E. Raynor, George Cooke, Alfred Mansfield, Charles J. Cameron, Bernard Sloane, J. Barber, Fred Wright, sen., Philip Hewland, Leslie Palmer, Percy Foster, Denholm Muir, H. Watson, R. Allen, and D. Holm, and Misses Maud Hoffman, Mary Rorke, Maud Rivers, Bessie Elder, Marjorie Field, Ethel Patrick, and Madge Fabian.

For the last two weeks of his season at the Adelphi Mr. Harvey will revive *The Corsican Brothers*, which goes into the bill on Monday next. Mr. William Haviland and Miss Maud Hoffman will resume the parts they played in the command performance at Windsor. *The Conspiracy* will be played in front of *The Corsican Brothers*, with Mr. Martin Harvey and Mr. Charles Glenney in their original rôles. Mr. Harvey has decided upon the title of *Slander* for the adaptation of Echegaray's play which he will produce at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on Dec. 9. On that occasion he will be supported by Mr. William Haviland, Ben Webster, Miss Mary Rorke, and Miss N. de Silva.

Miss Lena Ashwell will be surrounded by many of the artists associated with her in her recent successes at Kingsway Theatre on her production there, on Tuesday, of the new play by H. Herman Chilton, entitled *Grit*. The popular actress will be supported by Messrs. C. M. Hallard, Norman McKinnel, Dennis Eadie, W. Lemmon Warde, H. Athol Forde, Charles Francis, Ernest Cosham, and Patrick Grey; and Misses Frances Ivor, Kate Rorke, Margaret Murray, Nannie Bennett, Mercia Vancelle, and Olivia. The play, which is in four acts, will be produced by Mr. Norman McKinnel.

Miss Genevieve Ward will appear as Lady Macbeth in the Sleep-walking scene at the Ristori matinée at His Majesty's on Monday, Nov. 30, and will wear the identical costume worn by Adelaide Ristori in the same part at Drury Lane Theatre many years ago. The historical dress is one of the treasures of Mme. Ristori's family, and is being sent over from Italy specially for the occasion.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison are in close vicinity to the West End this week with two of their brilliant successes—*Brewster's Millions*, with Mr. Percy Hutchison as Monty Brewster, being at the Grand, Croydon, and *Lady Frederick*, with Miss Mabel Love in the title-rôle, at the Fulham Theatre. Both companies are receiving excellent support from the respective patrons at Croydon and Fulham, and the wonderful stage effects produced by the mechanical and electrical appliances (all of which are travelled by Mr. Hutchison) have called forth rapturous applause during the *Brewster* Yacht scene. *Lady Frederick* has also received appreciative recognition, Miss Mabel Love being favoured with many calls at the termination of each act.

Mr. Cyril Maude and the London Playhouse company paid a flying matinée visit to the Brighton Alhambra on Tuesday, and gave performances of *Toddles* and *French as He is Spoke*, which were enthusiastically appreciated by the large audience. Mr. Maude as Toddles and as Peter, "the interpreter," gave masterly portrayals, and received excellent support from his company.

Mr. Cairns James, the well-known professor of elocution, lectured to the London section of the Incorporated Society of Musicians on Saturday night. Mr. Cairns James maintained that modulation or inflexion in speech was founded on a wholly musical basis. Numbers of people would say they were not musical, but whether they knew it or not they were accustomed to use musical effects in the ordinary inflexions of the voice. All speech was musical, although in many cases it did not seem to be so. The ordinary individual who made use of the upward inflexion in asking a question was actually producing a musical variation of tone.

A great deal, he continued could be learned from the close observation of children's speech. Children employed speech naturally, and used a most astonishing amount of modulation or inflexion. Music appropriate to the sentiments of a speech was easily heard and appreciated by the audience. According to the inflexions of the voice so the speaker suggested the thoughts to his audience, and if he insisted on not using proper inflexions, he could not hope to make the audience feel that what he said had any conviction in it whatever.

At Her Majesty's Theatre, Dundee, on Wednesday afternoon, a special matinée was given, in aid of the unemployed fund of the town, by kind permission of Mr. Robert Arthur. The programme was a peculiarly attractive one, and the theatre was crowded, the audience including Lord Provost Urquhart and the magistrates of Dundee, the Right Hon. Winston Churchill, and Mr. Wilkie, the members of Parliament for the city. Mr. Charles Frohman's company presented an act of *The Hypocrites*, which occupies the boards of the theatre this week, followed by Frankfort Moore's one-act comedy, *Kitty Clive*, undertaken by three of Dundee's amateurs. Next followed two of the finest scenes in Lytton's *The Lady of Lyons*, in which their many friends were interested to see Mr. and Mrs. Louis Karpe, in company with Miss McDiarmid, a local favourite. The programme was also reinforced by songs by Miss Joan Keddie and Mr. W. S. Hamilton, while the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. H. Everitt Loseby, rendered several selections.

A "comedy in capsules" was a feature of the afternoon, and proved to be a monologue written by Miss Grete Hahn, of *The Hypocrites* company, and a promising actress. The monologue is spoken by a would-be actress who has just received an engagement. The young lady is all excitement; she wonders what her part may be; and she begins impersonating some likely stage characters—a Cockney slavey, an American girl, an Irish colleen, a French maid, a German serving-girl, and a love-sick Spanish beauty. The characters are cleverly sketched, and were interpreted by the clever authoress herself in brilliant style, which won enthusiastic applause.

An interesting programme is announced by Miss Horniman for her Christmas season at the Gaiety, Manchester. There will be a matinée each day of *Alice in Wonderland*, and the evening bill will be occupied by Beaumont and Fletcher's *Knight of the Burning Pestle*. Mr. William Greet's company will perform *Alice in Wonderland*, which will be essentially the same as that given at the Lyric Theatre a year ago. *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* will be played by Miss Horniman's company, with notable additions for some of the more important parts. The piece, which was originally produced in 1613, abounds in genial fun, and the narrative of the adventures of Ralph, the grocer-'prentice knight, is pregnant with satire of surprising modernity.

The aristocratic alliances formed by members of the theatrical profession were added to on Thursday, when Miss Ethel Kendall, whose professional name is Eileen Orme, was married to the Hon. Maurice Nelson Hood, eldest son of Viscount Bridport, and a lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve. The bride is a cousin of Miss Denise Orme, who some months ago became the wife of Captain Yarde-Buller, and was herself a member of Mr. George Edwardes's company at Daly's, where, as one of the chorus, she appeared in *The Merry Widow*. The wedding took place in St. Martin's Church, Trafalgar-square, and after the ceremony luncheon was served at the Carlton Hotel. Miss Denise Orme was herself present at the wedding, with her husband. After the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Hood left for the south coast in a motor-car.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell will begin a series of matinées at the New Theatre on Friday, Nov. 27. Mr. W. B. Yeats's legendary verse-play, *Deirdre*, which she produced last week at Dublin, and Hugo von Hofmannsthals' original tragedy in one act, *Electra*, founded on the old Greek story, and translated into English by Mr. Arthur Symons, will be in the bill.

Miss Dorothea Baird will make her first West End apearance as Iolanthe in *King René's Daughter* this afternoon at the Shaftesbury. The adaptation is that of G. W. Wills, and was produced at the Lyceum in May, 1880, under the title of *Iolanthe*. Another version of Heinrich Hertz's piece was made by Sir Theodore Martin. *The Lyons Mail*, before which *King René's Daughter* will be played for the rest of its run, is doing sufficiently well to justify Mr. H. B. Irving keeping the piece in the bill for the whole of his tenancy, which ends with January.

At the Grove, Hanwell, on Sunday, the Gaiety Theatre (Strand) Football team played their second League match, their opponents being the King's, Hammersmith. The latter team played well throughout, but were powerless against the Gaiety's forward line, who put in some effective work, being greatly assisted by their backs, Messrs. Wood and Fraser, and scoring a decided victory by 10 goals to one. This splendid result places the winning team in a very favourable position for the League Cup.

The souvenir to be presented by Miss Evelyn Millard to every visitor to the Garrick Theatre on Monday, Nov. 30, the occasion of the hundredth performance of *Idols*, will take the form of an artistically bound copy of Mr. W. J. Locke's book, from which Mr. Roy Horniman adapted the powerful drama. On the Wedgewood-blue cover will be found a medallion of Miss Millard, and the letterpress will be interspersed with photographs of the company and scenes from the play.

It is pleasant to record the success achieved by the management of the Hasting Gaiety Theatre. When, three years ago, Mr. H. W. Rowland, general-manager, and Mr. C. E. Scutt, resident-manager, were respectively appointed, the company's finances were at a low ebb, but at the annual meeting on the 11th inst., the balance-sheet showed receipts of close upon £11,500 for the past year, an increase of £2,993 on the gross takings of three years ago. A dividend of three per cent. was announced. The report and balance-sheet were adopted.

The celebrated French actress, Mme. Favart, who died on Nov. 11, became a member of the Comédie Française in 1848, when only fifteen. Her first appearance there was made in Scribe's *Valerie*, and she remained there till 1881, when she resigned, owing to a disagreement. She appeared in most of the plays in the répertoire of the Theatre of Molière, and sustained leading parts in Dumas fils' *Fils Naturel*, in Girardin's *Le Supplice d'une Femme*, and in *La joie fait peur*. She won great success in Pailleron's *Faux Ménages*, and her fine acting with Delaunay in Alfred de Musset's comedies, particularly *La Nuit d'Octobre* and *On ne Badine pas avec l'Amour* was an exquisite treat to the playgoers of her prime. In her thirty-three years' stay at the Comédie Française Mme. Favart played 165 parts. The funeral of the deceased actress took place on the 13th inst.

"The Prince and the Beggar Maid," Mr. Walter Howard's latest Lyceum success, achieved a record at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross on Saturday last, when more people paid for admission than on any one night in the previous annals of that theatre. The play has met with extraordinary success, both in the suburbs and in the provinces, and, together with *Her Love Against the World* and *The Midnight Wedding*, from the pen of the same author, proves that Mr. Howard is able to cater for the public with unerring instinct.

Mr. Tom Craven will produce another play from his prolific pen, at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Monday. It is a melodrama of an elaborate character, and bears the attractive title of *When a Lass Loves*.

Mr. Allan Wilkie's Shakespearean company is to occupy the King's Hall, Ilkley, the week after Christmas, for a six nights' engagement. The Ilkley Urban District Council are responsible for the visit, and, as this is the first company engaged by them on shares, the event will be of much interest.

A special matinée in aid of the building fund of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital will be given at the St. James's Theatre, on Thursday, Dec. 3. A brilliant programme will include Madame Albani, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Louis Bradfield, Miss Lily Elsie, Miss Gertrude Elliott, Madame Liza Lehmann, Mr. G. P. Huntley, Miss Winifred Emery, Mlle. Lydia Kyasht, Mr. Cyril Maude, Miss Evelyn Millard, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Ada Reeve, Sir Charles Santley, and Miss Marie Tempest. A special souvenir programme is being prepared for the occasion.

During the four years Mr. Fred J. Reece has been the acting-manager of the Royal Court Theatre, Warrington, he has established himself thoroughly in the hearts of the patrons of the theatre, and evidence of his popularity was forthcoming at a supper given in his honour on his severing his connection, consequent upon change of proprietorship, with the theatre. Mr. G. D. Bradbury (manager of the Palace and Hippodrome) presided over a large company, including the whole of the staff of the Royal Court Theatre, Mr. S. Smiley (new assistant-manager), Mr. Tubby Edlin, and Mr. Richards, of the Theatre Royal. Opportunity was taken to present Mr. Reece with an illuminated address, expressive of a feeling "beyond ordinary respect," and a purse from the staff of the theatre and friends. In making the presentation, Mr. Richards spoke highly of Mr. Reece's abilities, and said he had won respect from all with whom he had come in contact.

Mr. Reece, in reply, said that events such as that did not occur in the annals of every man's history, but when they did, the remembrance of them must stand out like landmarks. He would not forget that evening, and he thanked all present for honouring him as they had done. He wanted to take the opportunity of saying that during the period he had been in Warrington he had been most comfortable and happy. During that time he had enjoyed the confidence of his proprietors, Messrs. Johnson and Potter. Mr. Reece said he would like to inform the staff that if it suited their own arrangements they would all be retained by the new proprietor, and he was sure they would serve Mr. Beecham as diligently as they served the old management.

Mr. Mayor-Cooke reaches his 100th performance of Captain Rudolph, in *The Midnight Wedding*, at Brixton on Monday. This is the second Lyceum success, by Walter Howard, with which Mr. Mayor-Cooke has been associated, he having created the part of Prince Ulric, in *Her Love Against the World*.

After three weeks' record business in the Black Country, Mr. Allen Wilkie returns to the Lancashire district for a month's run on Monday. A novel and magnificent set for the first act of the *Merchant of Venice* is shortly to be added to the scenic accessories of Mr. Wilkie's productions.

Miss Marie Tempest, Sir Charles Santley, and Mr. Ben Davies will sing at the Ristori Matinée at His Majesty's on Nov. 30.

Mr. J. Ernest Courtney, who for the past sixteen years has been connected with the Press, is returning to the stage, and will devote himself to the duties of business or acting-management.

The School Tenor Prize at the Guildhall School of Music has been won by Reginald T. Crawford, a pupil of Mr. Albert Reakes. The Alliston Fencing Prize was gained by Ethelmay Barwell Holbrook, pupil of Mr. Mortlake Mann.

The Marlborough Theatre will next week be occupied by Mr. Wentworth Croke's principal company in the new version of *The Christian*, by Hall Caine, which enjoyed such success at the Lyceum and Shaftesbury Theatres. New scenery and effects are carried.

A four-act play by Mr. Gerald Lawrence, entitled *Into the Light*, will be produced for the first time in London at the Court Theatre on Monday, Nov. 30. The music for this play has been composed by Mr. Lawrence, who will also play a principal part.

Mr. Stewart D. Wright, the energetic manager ahead for Mr. John Clyde and company in Hall Caine's great play, *The Manxman*, has just relinquished this engagement after a most successful tour of eighty-four towns in Scotland. Considering the scarcity of money and bad trade in the provinces, such a record speaks volumes in favour of so capable a pilot.

Mr. Harry P. Towers, who was associated with Messrs. Vedrenne and Barker during their management of the Court and Savoy Theatres, has been appointed acting-manager at the Savoy.

Eminent artists will take part in a concert which is to be given on Friday afternoon, the 27th inst., at Queen's Hall, in aid of St. George's Hospital and the Central London Ophthalmic Hospital. The concert is under the patronage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, and among those who have promised to contribute are Mme. Donalda, Mme. Kirkby Lunn, Miss Marie Tempest, Miss Cecilia Loftus, Mr. John McCormack, Sir Charles Santley, Mr. Maurice Farkoa, M. Jean Gerardy, and Mr. Malcolm Scott.

An imposing list of leading artists has been secured for a special matinée in aid of the Infants' Hospital, Vincent-square, Westminster, which will be given on Thursday, Nov. 26, at the Playhouse, under the immediate patronage of Queen Alexandra and other distinguished people. Sir Charles Wyndham, Miss Mary Moore, and Mr. Robert Lorraine will play a scene from *Still Waters Run Deep*, Mr. Cyril Maude and the Playhouse company will be seen in the one-act play *French as he is Spoke*, Mr. Henry Ainley, Mr. Leslie Faber, and Miss Lilian Braithwaite will appear in a new one-act play by Ella Hepworth-Dixon called *The Rosalba*, and Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Dorothy Fane, and Mr. Aubrey Smith will also present a new one-act play called *St. Martin's Summer*, by Cosmo Hamilton. Miss Marie Tempest, Mr. Forbes Robertson, Miss Ruth Vincent, and Miss Marie Dainton will also take part in the attractive programme.

Miss Jeannie Holmes, who has scored a great success as the Society Suffragette in the new musical comedy *The Flower Girl*, will probably appear in a principal part in one of the London pantomimes this Christmas.

The Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, was packed from floor to ceiling on Tuesday last with a distinguished audience, including several ex-Mayors, Aldermen, and Councillors of Hammersmith. Mr. Wentworth Croke, the proprietor, had given his entire theatre free for that night to the West London Philanthropic Society to witness the performance of *The Silver King*, played by Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company. The whole of the receipts, which were secured at double the usual prices, were handed over to the society, who received a handsome and record cheque to add to their funds.

In the Dublin Court of King's Bench on the 11th inst. the case of the Provost and Fellows of Trinity College *v.* Madame Henrietta de Selby was concluded. The matter at issue was an alleged lease in respect of portion of the Queen's Theatre premises, of which plaintiffs as the landlords sought to recover possession, the lease, as they alleged, having expired. The motion was refused with costs.

"Tess of the D'Urbervilles," made into an opera by Frederick D'Erlanger, from a libretto by Signor Illica, was produced at Milan on Saturday at the Teatro dal Verme, and achieved a great success. Mr D'Erlanger is an English composer and has four operas to his credit, viz., *Jéhan de Santré*, *Inez Mendo* (which has been performed at Covent Garden), *Noel* (which has been accepted by the Opera Comique, Paris), and *Tess*.

Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man* has been made into an operetta under the title of *The Brave Soldier*, with text by Herr Jacobsohn, and music by Oscar Strauss. It was produced with success at Vienna on Saturday, the composer and artists being repeatedly called before the curtain.

A Shakespeare Service to be held at the Southwark Cathedral is to be a feature of next year's birthday celebrations, and will take place on April 23. The poet resided for many years and wrote some of his finest works within a few hundred yards of St. Saviour's Church, by which name the cathedral was then known. The committee appointed to consider what form the service shall take includes Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, Mr. A. W. Pinero, and Mr. Sidney Lee.

A short time ago Viscountess Galway wrote *King Harry's Revel*, an historical play, which was produced in the East Gardens at Serlby Hall. The aristocratic authoress has just completed two little plays, entitled *My Lady's Garden* and *His Wedded Wife*, and intends to produce them in her small theatre at Serlby Hall on the afternoon of Dec. 16.

"The Man from Mexico," a farcical comedy, by H. A. Du Souchet, which enjoys a record of over 2,000 performances in America and Australia, where it has been described as "the funniest farce that ever happened," will have its first London production at the Coronet Theatre on Monday. The piece is in the hands of Mr. Robert Arthur and Mr. George Willoughby's company, which includes Mr. Stanley Cooke, the well-known impersonator of Charley's Aunt.

The farce will be preceded by *His Living Image*, an original little Dutch play (with music), written by Stanley Cooke, who is also responsible for the lyrics. The little piece contains some quaint musical numbers composed by Arthur Wood. Special scenery from the brush of Philip Howden, and Dutch costumes made from designs of those actually worn by the inhabitants of the Island of Marken, Holland, in which place the action occurs, will be provided. The three parts of which the cast is composed will be sustained by Mr. Lytton Grey, Mr. Fred Lewis, and Miss Amy Francis.

Mr. Granville Barker, we regret to learn, is lying ill at Dublin, suffering from an attack of typhoid fever. On receipt of the sad news his wife, Miss Lillah McCarthy, at once proceeded to the Irish capital.

Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's *Way of the World* company has been meeting with extraordinary success during the past few months, and managers who have not booked it will do well to see the piece, which is, with one or two exceptions, booked right up to 1911. It is at the Star, Liverpool, next week, and thence proceeds to Greenwich, Dalston, Woolwich, Aldershot, and other dramatic centres.

Mr. William Lockhart, who is just concluding an eighteen months' engagement with Mr. James Welch, celebrated this week his twentieth anniversary in connection with theatrical life. It is, indeed, just a score of years since Mr. Lockhart started to build the ill-fated Metropolitan Theatre in Denver, Colorado.

"Beau Brocade," the highwayman, the latest dramatic work by the famous authors of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, is paying a return visit to the Devonshire Park Theatre, Eastbourne, on Monday, the engangement of Mr. Reginald Dance and his company continuing throughout the week. Originally produced at this theatre on May 4, the cordial reception it then met with has been repeated at every London and provincial house since visited. The company is much the same as in the initial production, and besides Mr. Reginald Dance as the hero-highwayman and Miss Ruth Mackay as the heroine, includes Mr. Dalziel Heron, Mr. Edward Irwin, Mr. Stanley Lathbury, Mr. Frank Powell, Mr. Asheton Tonge, Mr. F. C. Darch, and Miss May Brooke. Mr. E. Cecil Price is the business manager.

The Annual Children's Booklet of the pantomime at Drury Lane Theatre will this year take a novel form. The subject, *Dick Whittington*, has been humorously treated by Miss Winnie Burnand, who has written the story and designed the illustrations for the volume. In addition to this there will be a packet of picture postcards further illustrating the well known nursery legend of the industrious apprentice who was thrice Lord Mayor of London. This pretty souvenir may be obtained by any child in London who forwards an application on a post card addressed to the Manager, Drury Lane Theatre.

Mr. Charles Frohman has obtained from Mr. W. Somerset Maugham a new play destined to follow the same brilliant author's *Mrs. Dot*, when it shall have run its lengthy course at the Comedy. The novelty is a light comedy in three acts, at present named *Penelope*, and the scenes are laid in London. Miss Marie Tempest will have the part of a young wife.

Miss Florence Imeson, the talented young comedienne whose career we reviewed in our issue of Feb. 19 last, has been engaged by Mr. T. B. Davis to play principal girl to Miss Ada Reeve's principal boy at the Shakespeare, Liverpool, this Christmas. Miss Imeson has just concluded a successful tour under Mr. Milton Bode's management, playing Miss Edna May's part in *The Belle of Mayfair*.

A musical festival will be held next spring in Liverpool under the auspices of the Musical League. In accordance with the objects of the League, the programme will include works consisting partly of new compositions, both English and foreign, and partly of older works of musical interest.

The autumn conference of the Girls' School Musical Union will be held, by permission of Sir Hubert Parry, this afternoon at the Royal College of Music. The objects of the society are to further the progress of music in secondary schools for girls throughout the British Empire, to provide teachers with the stimulus of social intercourse among professionals, and to offer facilities for the introduction of new ideas and the consideration of methods. Mrs. Moberly Bell will occupy the chair this afternoon, when a lecture will be given by Mrs. Rosa Newmarch on "Russian Music."

Miss Mouillot will make a welcome revival at the Court at Christmas, when *Little Lord Fauntleroy* will be presented, by arrangement with Mr. Will Dennis, who himself will play the part of the Earl of Dorincourt. The reproduction will take place on the afternoon of Boxing Day. Meanwhile *Isaac's Wife*, the new three-act play in which Mr. F. D. Bone is collaborating with Mr. W. Teignmouth Shore, will be produced at the Court on Dec. 6. The cast will include Miss Lucy Wilson, Mr. Charles Rock, Mr. Holmes Gore, Mr. H. Stephenson, Mr. Basil Mercer, and Miss Margaret Yarde.

Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl, son of Mr. H. Cecil Beryl, who was associated with his father as acting-manager and treasurer of the Theatre Royal, Brighton, for some years, and who since the latter left the Brighton theatre has been touring with Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Mrs. Dot* company as business-manager in advance, has been selected by Mr. Robert Arthur as his acting-manager for his pantomime season at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. It is interesting to know that Mr. Arthur is Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl's godfather, and that the Glasgow engagement will take him back to the scene of his boyhood days and of his father's triumphs in pantomime.

"The Flag Lieutenant" company paid a wonderfully successful visit to the Theatre Royal, Brighton, last week, playing to the packed houses usually associated with musical comedy. On the Thursday afternoon the house compared with some of the flying matinées of London successes to Brighton, a result which must have been very gratifying to Mr. Lyn Harding, who occupied a box on that occasion. Return dates have been arranged for all the towns already visited, and by next autumn a third company will be on the road.

"For Wife and Kingdom," a romantic drama, in four acts, by Ward Bailey, was produced for copyright purposes at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on Thursday, Nov. 19. "Ward Bailey," it may be added, is the pen-name of the son of the proprietor of the West London.

Mr. Cecil Brooking, at the conclusion of *The Hypocrites* tour, has been engaged to play for two weeks in Mr. Cyril Harcourt's *The Reformers*.

On Sunday last the Broadway Theatre, New Cross, were defeated at football by the Stoke Newington Palace by six goals to nil. For the losers, Martin, the goalkeeper, played a capital game, but unfortunately had to retire in the second half through an injury to his shoulder. To-morrow Broadway meet Grand, Fulham, at Garrett-lane, Tooting, and a good game is anticipated.

At St. Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Wednesday last, Miss Daisy Lindon Travers, daughter of Mr. Lindon Travers, was married to Mr. Theodore W. Holzapfel, merchant, of Newcastle-on-Tyne. After the ceremony a reception was held by the bride's father and mother in the Old Assembly Rooms, at which about 120 guests assembled. The presents were very beautiful, and numbered 119.

Mr. Fowler Thatcher, who has successfully played principal comedy parts in fifteen pantomimes at the Crystal Palace, the Grand, Croydon, Liverpool, Birmingham, Manchester, &c., is not yet definitely fixed for this year. Last year he settled his pantomime engagement on the Friday evening, travelled on the Saturday, and on the Monday played the Page, and Clown in the harlequinade. Mr. Thatcher has just finished twenty weeks' "Stoll" tour in one of the two comedy parts in Arthur Jefferson's *Home from the Honeymoon* company.

His Majesty the King, hearing of Mrs. F. M. Paget's serious illness, has honoured Mr. Paget with a letter from Windsor Castle, in which he commands Lord Knollys to ask Mr. Paget to express to his wife his sincere sympathy. We are happy to report that, although at one time Mrs. Paget's life was despaired of, the crisis has passed, and there are hopes of eventual recovery.

Mr. Julian Rutt has just completed the words and music of a coon serenade, entitled "Loo, Loo, come and bill and coo." It was sung for the first time on Thursday evening at the Theatre Royal, Colchester, by Miss Nellie Hodson, and met with great success.

The benefit matinée to Miss Dolores Drummond, announced for yesterday at the Playhouse, had, we regret to say, to be indefinitely postponed, owing to the fact that the booking was not sufficiently great to justify the performance being proceeded with. Miss Drummond's fifty-two years of service to the stage have been marked by such sterling work that it is incredible that the public should have been so lacking in support. The veteran actress expresses her thanks to her brother and sister artists, and especially to Mr. Lionel Brough, who had so readily come forward to assist at the matinée.

Imminent engagements for the Fulham football teams are as follow:—Fulham v. Leeds City, at Fulham this afternoon (kick-off 2.45). The home side consists of Skene, Lindsay, Charlton, Collins, Parsonage, Suart, Millington, Dalrymple, Harrison, Brown, Lipsham. South Eastern League: Fulham Reserves v. Portsmouth Reserves, at Portsmouth to-day. Southern Charity Cup: Fulham v. Luton, at Fulham, Nov. 25. Kick-off 2.45.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Lydia Thompson's Popularity.

"My friend, Mr. Fred Grove Palmer," says Rooty Tooty in the *Sporting Times*, "writes to remind me of an incident connected with Lydia Thompson's first appearance at the Strand Theatre, in William Brough's clever burlesque *The Field of the Cloth of Gold*. Lydia was playing Lord Darnley, and her first line was:—

"'Have I done right in coming to this place?'

"This was greeted with such a shout of 'Yes' that the progress of the piece was delayed for what seemed many minutes. The meaning of the couplet was almost forgotten by the time the next line—

"'Where I shall meet King Henry face to face' was spoken."

Toole and the Boy.

"NUMBERLESS occasions of idle hours spent in Toole's company I could recall," says Mr. Comyns Carr in "Some Eminent Victorians," "but they must all be shorn of the presence of the comedian himself, whose incomparable temperament as a humorist gave them point and zest. One day I remember, a day of an early spring, he had a fancy that we should journey towards Hampstead, and accordingly we drove till we reached the well-known tea-gardens of the Spaniard's Inn on the road towards Highgate. The gardens were deserted, and a bleak wind was blowing through the empty bowers, inhabited on that morning only by a little boy, who, with a small, and, as it seemed to us, inadequate little broom, was dusting the seats in preparation for the influx of visitors that would come later in the season.

"THIS small boy was of almost forbidding mien and decidedly surly in manner, but these external evidences of discouragement seemed only to fire Toole in his desire to make his better acquaintance. He complimented the urchin upon his dexterous use of the broom, a compliment to which the surly boy vouchsafed no audible reply. Toole, entirely undaunted, persisted in his overtures of friendship. 'That's right, my lad,' he cried, 'use your broom, and when you go to bed at night hang it up by the side of your bed.' This injunction, so entirely unsolicited, seemed to rouse the boy's ire, and his dormant powers of speech suddenly returning, he inquired of Toole, in tones that were almost indignant, 'Why should I?' 'Because,' answered Toole, with a persuasive manner that seemed to convey a convincing argument, 'if by chance you should wake in the night, there's your little broom.'

"The boy, to do him justice, seemed by no means appeased by this obvious explanation, and reverted again to his aimless occupation of dusting the vacant seats of the untenanted bowers of the tea-gardens. Whereupon Toole, still undefeated, attacked the citadel from another quarter. 'When is your birthday?' he inquired, and the boy, entirely taken off his guard, replied, 'Tomorrow,' and then, again entrenching himself safely behind his bastion of surly reserve, demanded in trenchant tones, 'What's that got to do with you?' 'Oh, nothing, nothing,' replied Toole, 'only I thought I'd like to know if there was anything in particular you'd like for a birthday present.'

"THE boy, at first obdurately silent, at last yielded under pressure, and confessed that the dream of his life was to possess a bicycle. 'Why not?' said Toole. 'There's nobody going to give me no bicycle,' replied the boy, although his mood was now obviously melting under the infectious influence of the comedian's good-humour, and as we went towards the gate to get into our carriage the boy followed us, as though under some kind of spell induced by Toole's suggestion, 'that you never knew who might send you the present you wanted.'

"IT chanced that just at the entrance of the tea-gardens two bicycles were leaning against a hedge, and their two owners, flushed with exercise, were seated in jerseys beneath a tree quaffing a pot of ale. 'Why,' cried Toole, in tones of wondering amazement, as though he saw before him the fulfilment of his own prophecy, 'there is your bicycle!' The boy was bewitched. Without halt or pause he seized one of the vacant machines, and before interference was possible had mounted it and was riding down the road to Highgate, the owner, roused from his refreshment, starting in pursuit. In a moment he returned, drawing his machine with one hand and holding the boy by the collar with the other. 'This is your fault,' he cried indignantly to Toole, 'you encouraged him.' 'Well,' replied Toole, with the blandest of smiles, 'you can't blame the boy, he was only trying if it fitted him.' The poor little fellow, now almost in tears, looked ruefully at us as we drove away. But there is a pretty ending to the story, for I happen to know that on the next day, which was his birthday, Toole sent him a little bicycle for his own."

Irving's Addition.

"ONE incident," says Mr. W. H. Pollock in his "Impressions" of the late actor, "is a proof of Irving's readiness to hear and to profit by reasoned objections. Many actors, when they have to depict emotion without speech assigned by the author, find it a help to murmur to themselves words illustrating the feeling by which they are to be animated. Sometimes, instead of murmuring, they speak unconsciously so loud as to be audible in front. I am pretty sure that Irving did not habitually resort to this device for soothing the way of by-play, but he used it during the war of wits with Beatrice in the masked scene, and, by an oversight, fell upon employing an entirely modern phrase to express his discomfiture. The words caught my ear on the first night with a momentary impress of uneasy surprise; but I regarded the matter as an accident and gave it no further thought.

"FOR one reason and another it was some time before I paid another visit to the theatre, and, meanwhile, I heard from Clifford Harrison, an admirer of Irving and a keen Shakespearean student, that, on the night of his visit, the same words had been audibly spoken and had disturbed his sense of the fitness of things. Upon this hint I spoke, hurrying my next visit to the Lyceum on purpose to do so. Irving was genuinely surprised and distressed by what I told him. 'Do I say that really?' he asked. 'Quite wrong of course, quite wrong and out of place. Must be seen to at once.' The piece had then been running so long that I suppose he would have found it very difficult to drop altogether the habit of the aside which was no aside; but from that moment he brought its phraseology into consonance with the surrounding text."

Tennyson on the Drama.

MR. HALL CAINE, in "My Story," quotes a letter from the late Lord Tennyson on the failure of *The Promise of May*. The poet wrote:—

"'I should feel myself very ungrateful if I did not write my thanks for your kind and sympathetic letter.

"'I meant Edgar to be a shallow enough theorist. I never could have thought that he would have been taken for an "ordinary free-thinker."

"'The British drama must be in a low state indeed if, as certain dramatic critics have lately told us, none of the great moral and social questions of the time ought to be touched upon in a modern play.

"'A. TENNYSON.'"

O.P. CLUB DINNER.

Miss Hilda Trevelyan and Mr. Gerald du Maurier were the honoured guests of the O.P. Club at its ninth annual dinner held on Sunday evening at the Criterion Restaurant. Mr. Max Pemberton, the president of the club, presided over a very large gathering of members and friends, amongst whom were Miss Lilian McCarthy, Mrs. Gerald du Maurier, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hentschel, Miss Helena Millais, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Desprez, Mr. and Mrs. Louis N. Parker, Mr. Sydney Valentine, Miss Marie Dainton, Mr. Alfred Robbins, Mr. Harry Randall, Miss May Baskerville, Miss Irene Goulston, Miss Beatrice Lindley, Mr. W. H. Berry, and Mr. T. McDonald Rendle.

The CHAIRMAN proposed the toast of "The Drama." He expressed the opinion that the drama of to-day owed much to its exponents—the actors and actresses—who were in the main true servants of their art, and who showed themselves to be fully conscious of the great traditions that governed the stage-presentation of dramatic works.

MISS HILDA TREVELYAN, replying to the toast, said: I understand, ladies and gentlemen, that you want me to tell you to-night what is to be the future of the drama. The future of the drama, ladies and gentlemen, lies in the hands of woman. Do you know what we women are going to do in the drama? We are going to throw off the mask. Heaven help you, O men! Up to now you men have so amused us in the drama—there has been such a pathetic side to your misunderstanding of us—that we haven't had the heart to undeceive you. It seemed such a shame to take away your rattles. The things you make us do in drama, so that you should do better things! The holes you pushed us into, so that you should lift us out! And we've pretended it was all just so, because, O, gentlemen, you are our one joke. It is said we haven't much sense of humour, because we don't laugh at your jokes. Gentlemen, *our* joke is such a good one that we have no time to bother with yours. Every woman knows that. Well, we have decided to tell the truth about woman in the drama. Of course you will put the police on us, but we don't care. We are to begin with Shakespeare—to tell the truth about *his* women. Incidentally this will include telling the truth about *men*. That is why you will put the police on us. The first play is to be *The Taming of the Shrew*, and I am to be Katherine. I'm to give a new reading—with the hidden meaning. For it's quite true that there is a cryptogram in Shakespeare's plays, which tells, among other things, who was the real author of them. Kate wasn't a shrew. Women are never shrews. No! She was the gentlest little thing—quite the average woman—and when she heard that a roaring blade had come to Padua, swearing that he feared no woman, she took his measure at once. She saw immediately that he was just the kind of man that any girl can turn round her finger. All you have to do is to make them think they are the master, and when she fooled him in this way at their first meeting, he roared out that he would marry her on Sunday, which was the day she had already fixed on. From first to last he played into her hands. She had a bet with Bianca that she would make him carry her in his arms out of the house. Then she said to him, "You mustn't carry me out of the house." He hadn't thought of it, but he immediately roared "I will"; and he did. He was as simple as that. Then when they got to their home and he wouldn't give her any food! She took his behaviour pretty well, didn't she? But the scene takes on a new meaning when I tell you that, unknown to him, she had half a chicken and a bottle of wine in her dressing bag. And then her clothes! The gowns and things he would not let her wear, and tore to pieces, because *she* liked them. Gentlemen, the explanation is that she *didn't* like them. They weren't new; they were some last year things she had stuffed into her trunks, saying to her father, "I'll pretend to dear Petruchio that I am fond of them, then he will destroy them; then he will be so proud of having shown himself my master that he will buy me a new trousseau." You remember when they were returning to Padua, they met a young man, and Petruchio said, "What a pretty girl!" Kate didn't contradict him, she only said, "Don't make me embrace her." Then Petruchio at once roared, "By heaven you shall!" and she did. She had planned it that way as soon as she saw the boy. He was an old lover of hers, and she wanted to be nice to him for the last time. That is how we are to give the play at the Duke of York's; and if you re-read it carefully you will find that we shall be able to do it without altering a line. Of course, Kate never told Petruchio the truth about the affair. Sometimes she meant to, but when she saw him so proud of himself she couldn't. And Shakespeare never knew the truth about it either. He thought—he really did—that it was a story of the triumph of man. Of course Ann Hathaway knew, but she wouldn't hurt her husband. And when he read out the last scene to her, she just stroked his hair, and smiled and said, "My divine William"—with an emphasis on the divine. She was the first to call Shakespeare "The divine William." Every woman knows why.

MR. GERALD DU MAURIER, responding to the same toast, said that nowadays acting, as at some trading stores, was a question of department. Supposing an actor made an enormous success as a crippled Welsh dentist, that was the end of him. He might play some other part very creditably, but would be told by the critics that he had struggled hopelessly with a rôle not in his line. It was a lamentable thing that the actor or actress should be expected to paint one picture year in year out, or rather one year in and two or three years out. If he was a specialist he got a job once in two or three years; if he was a general practitioner he probably never got a job at all.

Mr. F. D. BONE, the vice-president of the club, in proposing "The Ladies," said that in the dramatic world the sexes met on equal terms. Woman, whether as dramatist, actress, or playgoer, was welcome in the fascinating life of the playhouse, for she introduced into its general spirit her three most characteristic virtues—patience, mercy, and tolerance.

Miss LILLAH MCCARTHY, in responding, said women had a distinct grievance as far as the theatre was concerned. The census returns showed that they were in a vast majority over men, yet the cast of the average play contained, as a rule, about six men to one woman. The dramatist who would remedy this evil would earn the thanks of all actresses.

MR. SIDNEY DARK proposed the health of the chairman, to which Mr. MAX PEMBERTON responded in an amusing speech, and read a short letter of compliment which he had just received from Mr. J. M. Barrie.

The entertainment was contributed to very agreeably by Miss Marie Dainton, with clever burlesques and imitations, Miss May Baskerville, Mr. Arthur Grover, Miss Irene Goulston, Miss Beatrice Lindley, Mr. W. H. Berry, Mr. Whitworth Mitton, Mr. Wilson James, Mr. John Wightman, and Miss Ruby Wilson. Mr. Sinclair Mantell and Mr. Herman Finck were the accompanists.

"HAVANA," at the Gaiety, reaches its 200th performance to-night.

THE Liverpool Haymarket, in Beau-street, which for some years has had ups and downs, is to be reopened by Mr. Frank Emery, to whom a licence was granted on Tuesday. Mr. Emery was well known to Liverpool playgoers in the early eighties, when he held the lease of the Prince of Wales's Theatre.

DEATH OF LYDIA THOMPSON.

Miss Lydia Thompson, who died on Wednesday at the age of seventy-two, was a link with a past generation of playgoers. At the height of her fame she was a popular idol. In some of the European capitals she was serenaded by torch-light; the bootblacks of Cincinnati subscribed their dimes and presented her with a silver wreath; and the thrashing which she administered to a Chicago editor who had written lightly of her troupe of "blondes" was one of the sensations of the seventies. Miss Thompson in her prime was the essence of graceful gaiety and light frivolity, and was one of the "shining lights" of the palmy days of British burlesque.

She made her professional début as a principal in the ballet at Her Majesty's Theatre, in 1852. The following year (Dec. 26) Lydia Thompson began her career in that line of dramatic business in which afterwards she took the lead in London in acting Little Silverhair, in the Christmas piece produced at the Haymarket Theatre, entitled *Little Silverhair; or, Harlequin and the Three Bears*. In 1854 she took part in a "pretty dance" in the production at the St. James's Theatre, under the management of Mrs. Seymour, of the drama by Tom Taylor and Charles Reade entitled *The King's Rival*, in which Toole appeared as Samuel Pepys; and in the same year she played Little Bo-Peep in the Christmas piece of that title produced at the Haymarket. In the winter of 1856 she paid a visit to Germany, where she successfully appeared as a dancer in many of the principal theatres. In 1859 (Nov. 16), Miss Thompson was again at the St. James's, assuming various disguises in a piece by Leicester Buckingham entitled *Cupid's Ladder*; and afterwards, still at the St. James's, she enacted Cygnetta, in a fairy spectacle entitled *Swan and Edgar*. At the same theatre, the following year, in a "ballet-cum-burlesque" entitled *My Name is Norval*, she played the part of Young Norval. On Monday, April 9, 1860, Miss Thompson appeared at the Lyceum Theatre in a burlesque, originally played by members of the Savage Club for a charitable purpose, entitled *The Forty Thieves*; and subsequently, Nov. 5, 1860, as Fanchette, in *The Pets of the Parterre*, written by Stirling Coyne. In 1861, Aug. 19, first performance at the same theatre of Falconer's play *Woman; or, Love Against the World*, she acted the character of Norah; and in an afterpiece, by the same author, entitled *The Fetches*, the part of Mary Brady. But Miss Lydia Thompson is best remembered as a sparkling and extremely clever actress in burlesque, in which for many years few excelled her on the London stage. Perhaps the best examples of her excellence in this department of

[*Photo by London Stereoscopic Co.*

THE LATE MISS LYDIA THOMPSON.

the histrionic art have been witnessed in such pieces as *Der Freischütz*, H. J. Byron; *The Field of the Cloth of Gold*, W. Brough; and *Blue Beard*. Miss Lydia Thompson met with well-deserved success on the American stage. It was in October, 1868, that she made her début at Wood's Theatre and Museum, New York, in F. C. Burnand's burlesque, entitled *Ixion; or, the Man at the Wheel*. Although her intention was to remain in America only six months, she stayed there for about six years. She made her reappearance on the London stage at the Charing Cross Theatre, afterwards called the Folly, and, subsequently, Toole's. Her husband, Mr. Alexander Henderson, had become the lessee of this house, and on Sept. 19, 1874, Miss Thompson appeared as Selim in H. B. Farnie's burlesque, *Blue Beard*, the other principals being Lionel Brough, Blue Beard; Mr. Willie Edouin, who made his first appearance in this country, the Heathen Chinee; Mrs. Edouin (the late Alice Atherton), Blue Beard's "buttons"; Mr. Alfred Bishop, Ibrahim; Miss Kathleen Irwin, Fatima; and Miss Topsy Venn, Hassan. On Nov. 11, 1876, she appeared in the title-rôle of Farnie's burlesque *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss Thompson was afterwards seen at the Globe, the Royalty, the Criterion, the Crystal Palace, and in the leading provincial theatres. She was the Morgiana in the famous amateur burlesque at the Gaiety in 1877. It was in the year 1871 that Miss Thompson raised the large sum of £1,000 in New Orleans by her personal exertions at a benefit for the succour of the French actors and actresses in Paris starved out by the Commune. For this she was made a life honorary member of the Parisian Actors' Benevolent Fund.

In 1895 she was engaged for a small part in *An Artist's Model* at Daly's. On May 2, 1899, she had a benefit at the Lyceum Theatre, when *The First Night*, the third act of *London Assurance*, and the second act of *The Wedding March* were given, Miss Thompson playing the Marchioness of Market Harborough in the last-named selection, and reciting an expressive address written by Mr. W. S. Gilbert, and Sir Henry Irving saying a few kindly words of his "old friend and comrade." Her last appearance was made on Feb. 11, 1904, at the Imperial Theatre in Mr. John Davidson's adaptation of *Ruy Blas*, entitled *A Queen's Romance*. The funeral will take place at Kensal Green Cemetery at half-past twelve on Monday.

AT the morning performance of *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's Theatre on Saturday an elderly lady—dressed girlishly—asked the attendant if it was necessary to remove her hat. The attendant, thinking the lady was well over the age limit, replied, "No, madam; the rule does not apply to ladies over fifty." "You are most insulting!" exclaimed the lady; "of course I shall remove my hat."

MR. WALTER DEAN, the acting-manager and treasurer of the Grand, Swansea, will in January next take the road for seven months, as busines-manager for Mr. E. Oswald Brooks's company, who will tour with *The New Housemaid*.

CHARITY MATINEE AT THE NEW.

It was unfortunate for the cause that Miss Olive Christian Malvery has so much at heart that the matinée in aid of her Shelter for Homeless Women, for which she was responsible at the New on Tuesday, was so poorly attended. Into the cause of this meagre support it is not necessary to inquire, but even the excuse of charity did not justify the presentation of two plays from the pen of Miss Catherine Lewis, plays which should never be seen outside a schoolroom. It appears that under the title of "England's Throne," Miss Lewis has written a history of England in dramatic form, and the series dealing with the Wars of the Roses, from the death of Henry V. to the coronation of Henry VII., comprises no fewer than fifty-four short playlets. We can understand the extreme usefulness of these works in training a class at a girls' college, but their value for the stage is nil. *The Love Story of King Edward the Fourth*, an historical episode in two scenes, which was given without scenery, is quite correct in its historical data, and there is some chance for the "players" in the meeting of the King and Elizabeth Woodville, but its representation on Tuesday was amateurish, the only noticeable point about the acting being the imitation—possibly unintentional—by one of the young actors of Mr. Tree. *Edward the Fourth's Marriage, and Rupture with Warwick, the Kingmaker*, formed the sequel to the above playlet.

Something more dramatic and interesting came with the production of Miss Catherine Lewis's one-act comedy,

"NELL GWYNNE, THE PLAYER."

Nell Gwynne ..... MISS JEAN AYLWIN
Charles II. ..... MR. CHARLES QUARTERMAINE
Duchess of Portsmouth ..... MISS EDYTH OLIVE
Call Boy ..... MR. BASIL OSBORNE

Charles the Second comes behind the scenes of Old Drury, where Nell Gwynne is playing, and is followed by the Duchess of Portsmouth, who watches with jealous eye the growing passion of the "merry monarch" for the "orange girl." Nell in her amour makes a distinction. She is content to love Charles; the Duchess owns her passion for the King, who is in the heyday of his infatuation for the actress. The Duchess is eventually snubbed most unmistakably, and Nell goes off in her rival's chair to sup with the King at Whitehall. Miss Jean Aylwin, who looked pretty as a picture, gave the saucy speeches of Nell with much effect, and infused some pathos into Nell's account of the self-sacrifice of a link-boy, her first love. Miss Edyth Olive struggled bravely with the unsatisfactory part of the Duchess; and Mr. Charles Quartermaine made a courtly gallant of the reckless Charles.

To the "incidentals" Mrs. Tree contributed a recitation of "Lorraine, Lorraine Loree," and added Scott's poem of "Lochinvar," being very heartily received, Mr. Henry Ainley recited a short poem by James Whitcomb Riley, "Just as mother makes it"; but this was much too short, and, the audience demanding more, the popular actor gave a pathetic poem, entitled "Don't cry, little girl," with a touching simplicity that reached all hearts. He then responded again to the applause by reciting as a poem the German song, "The Millwheel," otherwise "In Sheltered Vale," playing the well-known melody as his own accompaniment to an admirable delivery of the verses. Miss Maude Smithers also accompanied herself, and showed marked ability in her recitations, "Queen Mab" and in "Little Urchin" stories. Miss Dinorben obliged with "Ma cœur s'ouvre a ta voix," from Saint-Saëns's *Samson et Dalila*, and "Love is meant to make us glad"; and a lady with a charming contralto voice and an excellent style gave "The sweetest flower that blows" and other songs. Miss Jessie Bristol, a young pianist of much ability, scored by her rendering of Liszt's "Ballade in B minor" and Paderewski's "Variation in A major." Mr. Arthur L'Estrange accompanied artistically and played a couple of solos; and there were other soloists whose names were not on the programme. Mr. Edmund Waller stage-managed. At the conclusion of the entertainment, on behalf of Miss Olive Christian Malvery, a lady officer of the Salvation Army, and one prominently associated in its rescue work, said a few words concerning Miss Malvery's endeavour to found and endow a 2d. night shelter, which will give 200 women a clean resting-place. The speaker told harrowing tales of the cold and hunger and disease endured by women and children uncared for—the flotsam and jetsam of the richest city in the world. Miss Ada Reeve and Miss Marie George, who were announced on the programme, were unable to appear.

£61 14s. was earned as a result of the matinée. Of this, the Shelter receives £34 13s.. Miss Lewis's expenses were £27 1s. She will meet the deficit of £7 15s. 6½d. herself.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The students' Chamber Concert at Queen's Hall on Wednesday afternoon, as usual, attracted a large audience. Several new compositions by students were given, but the most important was an Elegy, for twenty-four violins and organ, by Mr. F. Corder, performed by Professors and students of the Royal Academy of Music, in memory of Master Victor Harris, a clever pupil who died this year, aged thirteen years. Mr. Corder's Elegy proved a distinct success; it is well written and very impressive in effect, while the solemn tones of the organ introduced towards the close are most cleverly managed, and aid in giving a rich and full sound to the Elegy. In the Coda the "Dresden Amen" is combined with the first subject. Mr. Corder, in the programme, modestly says the Elegy "may suggest thoughts of earthly strife and heavenly rest—or it may not. Much depends upon the listener." Under the direction of the composer, the Professors, Messrs. Josef Blahá, Philip Cathie, Spencer Dyke, Alfred Gibson, W. Frye Parker, Hans Wessely, and Louis Zimmermann, with the students, gave an excellent performance of the Elegy. The Trio (MS.) in E for violin, violoncello, and pianoforte, by Miss Ethel F. Woodland, played by Miss Irene Richardson Le Brun, Mr. John Mundy, and Miss Elsie Jones, is a cleverly-written, even if somewhat colourless, work. The best movement was the Finale Allegro Vivace. The Five Preludes for piano, by Miss Olive Turner, also proved a worthy and talented composition by a student; they were admirably played by Miss Kathleen Thomson, and much applauded by the audience. In two new songs, "Strew on her roses" and "A Song of March," Miss Alma Goatley, the composer, displays talent, although the sombre and slightly morbid character of the first and better song was depressing. Miss Dorothy Webb was the vocalist. Miss Gertrude Inglis used her pleasing voice with a fair amount of success in Puccini's song "Si, Mi, chiamano Mimi," from *La Bohème*, and Mr. Barry Coney was equally effective in his song "Young Dietrich" (George Henschel); while Miss Elsie Owen received warm applause for her fine performance of Vieuxtemps's violin solo Fantasia Appassionata. Allegro ma non troppo and Andante con moto (Elégie), from Dvorák's Quartet in E flat for two violins, viola, and 'cello, was ably rendered by Mr. Henry O. Parsons, Miss Elsie Owen, Mr. Edwin Quaife, and Mr. John Mundy. In Max Bruch's "Ave Maria," Mr. John Mundy produced a full, rich, and expressive tone from his violoncello, and Miss Eugénie Ritte may be heartily commended for her careful singing of Rossini's "Non più mesta." Sir A. C. Mackenzie's lively air, "The Pedlar's Song," was capitally sung by Mr. Robert Veevers. Other clever students were Miss Evelyn Dawkin, heard in Five Studies—pianoforte, by Poldini; and Miss Dot Lyons, who gave a harp solo of John Thomas's "Winter."

THE ARGONAUTS.

The Argonauts' Society gave an entertainment on Friday afternoon, the 13th inst., at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane. A novelty in the programme was a tragedy acted in "dumb show." This was

"JEALOUSY,"

A new wordless Play, by Marc Aubry,
with music by Lucien de Flagny.

Pierrot ..... MR. QUENTIN AYRAULT
Le Beau Léandre ..... MR. ERIK STIRLING
Sylvette ..... MISS SHEBA BROZIL

It must be confessed that the audience did not give evidence of any great appreciation of Mr. Aubry's piece, and we are afraid that they would have been lacking in judgment had they done so. However, we will give the story of the piece. Sylvette, a milliner, is busily engaged in preparing a meal in honour of her lover, Le Beau Léandre. She is thinking how she first met him at a fair and how he caused her to forget her former lover, Pierrot. She is interrupted in the midst of her reflections by the sound of the Angelus, which reminds her of an errand she has forgotten, and she departs. Pierrot, in high spirits, enters and discovers the meal laid for two. His suspicions are aroused, but hearing the approaching footsteps of Sylvette, and hoping to surprise her, he conceals himself. Sylvette enters and lights the lamp; Pierrot steals behind her and kisses her. She imagines that it is Léandre, and is horrified to find in his place Pierrot. Getting no explanation of her strange attitude, Pierrot turns and sees the picture of Léandre; everything is now clear to him. She protests her innocence, but Pierrot, suspecting her deceit, discovers the cloak of the soldier in the cupboard. Beside himself with rage, he seizes the knife and is about to kill her when Léandre enters. The soldier threatens Sylvette, but Pierrot interposes himself between them. Léandre enraged, draws his sword; Pierrot seizes the knife, at the sight of which Léandre collapses. Pierrot breaks the sword in two and turns Léandre out of the house. Sylvette, furious, refuses to fly with Pierrot, and taking off the locket he gave her throws it at his feet, bidding him go alone. Pierrot conceals the knife and tells Sylvette he is willing to go, but begs for one kiss. She, glad to be rid of him, consents, and as she approaches he stabs her. Horrified at his deed, he falls insensible across her dead body. The playlet, which was produced under the supervision of Mme. Cavalazzi, failed to bring glory to any of its interpreters.

Another one-act play was

"THE BLACK DEVIL."

The Sicilian tragic episode, by Carlo Broggi,
translated and produced by Herbert Dansey.

Toto ..... MR. LAUDERDALE MAITLAND
Don Luigi ..... MR. HERBERT DANSEY
Police Officer ..... MR. A. THOMPSON
Tresa ..... MISS JANET ALEXANDER

In this we had a much more satisfactory production. "The Black Devil" is one Toto, a reckless, but manly village dare-devil who has found Tresa, whom he loves very dearly, refuge in his cottage. Tresa has compromised herself with a rich young landlord, Don Luigi, at a time when she believed in his promise to marry her. Accordingly she was dishonoured in the eyes of the villagers, and her family turned from her. To Toto's cottage there arrives Don Luigi, who announces to Tresa his approaching marriage, and endeavours to mollify her by the offer of money, which she indignantly refuses. As Luigi is passing from the cottage, Tresa calls to Toto to shoot, and the Black Devil obeys her with fatal result to the Don. The curtain falls on a scene in which Toto and Tresa are joined in a loving embrace. Mr. Lauderdale Maitland acted magnificently as the Black Devil, and in speaking of the wrongs of the poor and their oppression by the rich reached a high degree of tragic intensity. Miss Janet Alexander was also eminently successful in the rôle of Tresa, and Mr. Herbert Dansey furnished an appropriate characterisation of the heartless Don Luigi.

The other item was

"THE RENEWAL."

A Comedy, in One Act, from the Italian,
By Ben Phillips.

Donna Paola Monteforte.. MISS MAUD MAGRATH
Maria ..... MISS MAIMIE STUART
Gaspare ..... MR. ALEXANDER
Count Malatesta ..... MR. HERBERT DANSEY
Umberto ..... MR. QUENTIN AYRAULT

Donna Paola Monteforte and Count Malatesta had loved each other in long days gone by, but had quarrelled over the way in which the minuet should be danced, and had not seen each other for more than a score of years. They meet again, the count a widower with a son who falls in love with Donna Paola's niece. History repeats itself, for the two young people also quarrel over the steps of the minuet as their elders had done. However, everything ends happily in a dance, and we learn that there is going to be a double wedding. The performances of the different characters were quite adequate.

Madame Menzies and Little Olivia also contributed to the afternoon's entertainment by song and dance respectively.

BANDMANN'S THEATRE, BOMBAY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Ellis Opera Company has occupied the boards here during the last fortnight in a well-selected répertoire of the latest London successes, *The Girl Behind the Counter, Amasis, Blue Moon, The Belle of Mayfair*, &c. The company, which tours twenty-five artists strong, has covered the whole of the various stations in India, and has earned an enviable name as one of, if not the most, compact little show that has toured India. Certainly no pains has been spared in mounting the various pieces.

Mr. Fred Ellis is personally a host in himself, always keeping the house in a roar of laughter with a succession of topical jokes, which rarely fail to reach their mark.

On Wednesday the garden of the theatre was invaded by a huge army of locusts, they being attracted by the brilliant arc lights. During one of Mr. Ellis's scenes he was continually being interrupted by one of the unwelcome insects, which had got inside the theatre. It was captured at last, and the audience were given an exhibition of jumping by it, accompanied by a host of witty remarks by the exhibitor. It was a tremendous hit, and the whole audience roared with laughter.

Mr. Rooney, a pleasant tenor, and W. P. Morgan, baritone, were always strong in their respective parts, whilst the old favourites, Messrs. Chas. Osborne and Pat Sullivan, were again accorded a warm and hearty welcome to Bombay. Mr. Osborne has made a great success in his portrayals of foreign characters, especially the German, whilst the songs and dances of Mr. Sullivan livened up the various shows. Coming to the ladies, Miss Lizzie Primmer is a really talented little lady, and one the company must indeed be proud of. In each and every part she played the audiences were captivated, and numerous encores were demanded each evening. Miss Doreen O'Connor made some specially brilliant performances, notably in *The Blue Moon* and *The Gay Parisienne*. She is an artist who always gets right into the Bombay theatre-goer's heart, and he always welcomes "Doreen" in a manner peculiarly his own.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at The Era Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

A VOICE TRIAL.

The following description is taken from Mr. C. H. Dudley Ward's intense and deeply-felt stage story "View Thy Trespass," just published by John Ouseley:—

"At last Mary was outside the stage door. There were a good many girls waiting. Mary eyed them for a moment, then thinking that they might not be going to the trial she decided to go boldly up to the door and enquire. There was a grey-haired, red-faced, bleary-eyed porter there, reading a dirty copy of the *Daily Mail*.

"'I want to go to the voice trial,' she said.

"'All right, miss. Just wait outside for a minute, you're a bit early yet,' answered the porter, looking up from his paper, but keeping his forefinger on the line he was reading.

"Mary stood outside with the other girls. She looked at them sharply, analysing them, examining their dresses, wondering who they were. They all carried rolls of music, and she noticed that none of the rolls were tied up, and as hers was, she occupied herself in taking off the string. Just as she had finished, the red-faced porter said to the girl nearest to the door, 'You can go in now.'

"Immediately there was a move in the little crowd for the door. Mary hung back a bit, so that she could have someone to follow. They went along a narrow passage and through another door, and found themselves on the stage. Mary was all eyes and ears. She was struck with the deserted look of the stage. The walls at the sides and the back were of yellow brick, not even plastered or painted. This was unexpected, although Mary had never given the matter a moment's thought, and would have been puzzled had she been asked to describe what she imagined a stage to be like from behind. There was some scenery leaning up against the back wall and a few baskets in one of the corners. High up over her head was lots more scenery hanging by ropes and packed close together—great pieces of canvas one behind the other.

"The curtain was up, so that she could see the auditorium, which, with its rows of empty seats and the decorations of the circles and boxes protected from dust by sheets, had a most forlorn appearance. On the stage, near the footlights, was a piano, and near it two men were talking. When all the girls had trooped in one of them took a step forward.

"'Now then, ladies, we will start. Who is the first?' Then, as nobody moved, each one desiring to avoid being first, he said, pointing to a big fair girl, 'Now, then, miss, hurry up! What's your name?'

"'Florence Langfier.'

"'What are you? Got a song? Right! Now start, please.'

"This girl sang rather well, and when she had finished her song the man nodded his head and said, 'Just run over a scale.'

"Mary listened, noting everything.

"'Ah, ha, ha, ha, ha,' sang the girl, running up the scale.

"'Langfier,' said the man, writing in a book. 'What address?'

"The girl gave it.

"'Now, next, please,' said the man, and the next girl came out and went through her song. Mary noticed that he did not ask everyone to sing a scale, and hoped he would not ask her. The thing seemed to be simple enough to her now, so she presently slipped closer to the end of the row of girls, so that her turn might come sooner.

"'What name?' said the man at last.

"'Mary Chaffers,' she replied, in her Cockney voice.

"'What are you?'

"'Soprano,' she replied, boldly handing over her song.

"'Killarney,' he read out. 'Thank the Lord, we've had five "Violets" already, and although this is not exactly new, it's a bit of a change.'

"Mary sang it through with credit. Her voice was not big, and could not be considered good, but she did sing in tune, which was more than most of the girls could do.

"'Now, then, a scale, please.'

"Mary gave a sigh. She was afraid of this, but pulling herself together she started, imitating as well as she could the big fair girl who had sung first.

"'That will do,' said the man, as she began to scream at the top notes, and Mary retired after giving him her address.

"'You're in luck,' said one of the girls.

"'Why?' she asked.

"'It generally means you will be engaged when he asks you to sing a scale.'

"'Does it! When will he let me know?'

"'Oh, you'll get a letter if he wants you,' and she advanced to sing her bit.

"Mary went home well pleased with herself."

THE LAW AND THE LIBRETTOS.

At Bloomsbury County Court, before Judge Bacon, the case of Cramer and Co. *v.* Otho Stuart was heard. The plaintiffs, Messrs. J. B. Cramer and Co., of Oxford-street, sought to recover from Mr. Otho Stuart, theatre proprietor, the sum of £21 17s. 6d. for 1,500 librettos of "Hoffmann's Tales," supplied by them to the defendant's order in April, 1907.

Mr. McCaskie was counsel for the plaintiffs and Mr. Bucknill for the defendants.

The defence was a denial of liability, the order, it being alleged, being given on behalf of a person other than the defendant.

The case for the plaintiffs was that they received an order for 1,500 librettos over the telephone by Mr. Leyel, the manager for Mr. Otho Stuart. Accounts were sent in, and the defendant denied liability.

Judge Bacon said that, in the ordinary way, Mr. Leyel giving orders as Mr. Otho Stuart's manager would bind him. The plaintiffs had put forward their claim, but it had been repudiated by the defendant, and that repudiation had been supported by evidence. In face of the testimony of Mr. Otho Stuart and Mr. Leyel, the plaintiffs had failed to substantiate their claim, and he gave judgment for the defendant, with costs.

Mr. Editor.—Sir,—Your notice in *The Era*, dated Nov. 14, 1908, re Lyric Theatre, Liverpool, should have read, Renée, as an instrumentalist, found great favour.—Yours faithfully, Mlle. Renee.

Price 3s. 6d. Post free 3s. 10d.

THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT FOR ACTOR AND COMPOSER.

By ALBERT A. STRONG, LL.B. (Lond.).

Chapter I.
COPYRIGHT AS OPPOSED TO PERFORMING RIGHT.

Chapter II.
PERFORMING RIGHT.

Chapter III.
INFRINGEMENT AND REMEDIES.

Chapter IV.
MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.

Chapter V.
INTERNATIONAL AND COLONIAL COPYRIGHT.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette.

Published at "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

THE POETRY OF RACINE

When David painted his vast "Apotheosis of Homer," writes Mr. G. L. Strachey in the *New Quarterly*, he represented, grouped round the central throne, all the great poets of the ancient and modern worlds, with a single exception—Shakespeare. After some persuasion, he relented so far as to introduce into his picture a *part* of that offensive personage; and English visitors at the Louvre can now see, to their disgust or their amusement, the truncated image of rather less than half of the author of *King Lear* just appearing at the extreme edge of the enormous canvas. French taste, let us hope, has changed since the days of David; Shakespeare would doubtless now be advanced—though perhaps chiefly from a sense of duty—to the very steps of the central throne. But if an English popular painter were to choose a similar subject, how would he treat the master who stands acknowledged as the most characteristic representative of the literature of France? Would Racine find a place in the picture at all? Or, if he did, would more of him be visible than the last curl of his full-bottomed wig, whisking away into the outer darkness? There is something inexplicable about the intensity of national tastes and the violence of national differences. If, as in the good old days, I could boldly believe a Frenchman to be an inferior creature, while he, as simply, wrote me down a savage, there would be an easy end of the matter. But alas! *nous avons changé tout cela*. Now we are each of us obliged to recognise that the other has a full share of intelligence, ability, and taste; that the accident of our having been born on different sides of the Channel is no ground for supposing either that I am a brute or that he is a ninny. But, in that case, how does it happen that while on one side of that "span of waters" Racine is despised and Shakespeare is worshipped, on the other Shakespeare is tolerated and Racine is adored? The question is perplexing, and it has lately been illustrated in a singular way. Mr. J. C. Bailey, in his recent volume of essays entitled "The Claims of French Poetry," has discussed the qualities of Racine at some length, has placed him, not without contumely, among the second rank of writers, and has drawn the conclusion that, though indeed the merits of French poetry are many and great, it is not among the pages of Racine that they are to be found. Within a few months of the appearance of Mr. Bailey's book, the distinguished French writer and brilliant critic M. Lemaître published a series of lectures on Racine, in which the highest note of unqualified panegyric is sounded uninterruptedly from beginning to end. The contrast is remarkable, and the conflicting criticisms seem to represent, on the whole, the views of the cultivated classes in the two countries. And it is worthy of note that neither of these critics pays any heed, either explicitly or by implication, to the opinions of the other. They are totally at variance, but they argue along lines so different and so remote that they never come into collision. Mr. Bailey, with the utmost sang-froid, sweeps on one side the whole of the literary tradition of France. It is as if a French critic were to assert that Shakespeare, the Elizabethans, and the romantic poets of the nineteenth century were all negligible, and that England's really valuable contribution to the poetry of the world was to be found among the writings of Dryden and Pope. M. Lemaître, on the other hand, seems sublimely unconscious that any such views as Mr. Bailey's could possibly exist. Nothing shows more clearly Racine's supreme dominion over his countrymen than the fact that M. Lemaître never questions it for a moment, and tacitly assumes on every page of his book that his only duty is to illustrate and amplify a greatness already recognised by all. Indeed, after reading M. Lemaître's book, one begins to understand more clearly why it is that English critics find it difficult to appreciate to the full the literature of France. It is no paradox to say that that country is as insular as our own. When we find so eminent a critic as M. Lemaître observing that Racine "a vraiment 'achevé' et porté à son point suprême de perfection la *tragédie*, cette étonnante forme d'art, et qui est bien de chez nous: car on la trouve peu chez les Anglais," is it surprising that we should hastily jump to the conclusion that the canons and the principles of a criticism of this kind will not repay, and perhaps do not deserve, any careful consideration? Certainly they are not calculated to spare the susceptibilities of Englishmen. And, after all, this is only natural; a French critic addresses a French audience; like a Rabbi in a synagogue, he has no need to argue and no wish to convert. Perhaps, too, whether he willed or no, he could do very little to the purpose; for the difficulties which beset an Englishman in his endeavours to appreciate a writer such as Racine are precisely of the kind which a Frenchman is least able either to dispel or even to understand. The object of this article is, first, to face these difficulties, with the aid of Mr. Bailey's essay, which sums up in an able and interesting way the average English view of the matter; and, in the second place, to communicate to the English reader a sense of the true significance and the immense value of Racine's work. Whether the attempt succeed or fail, some important general questions of literary doctrine will have been discussed; and, in addition, at least an effort will have been made to vindicate a great reputation. For to a lover of Racine, the fact that English critics of Mr. Bailey's calibre can write of him as they do brings a feeling not only of entire disagreement, but of almost personal distress. Strange as it may seem to those who have been accustomed to think of that great artist merely as a type of the frigid pomposity of an antiquated age, his music, to ears that are attuned to hear it, comes fraught with a poignancy of loveliness whose peculiar quality is shared by no other poetry in the world. To have grown familiar with the voice of Racine, to have realised once and for all its intensity, its beauty, and its depth, is to have learnt a new happiness, and to have discovered something exquisite and splendid, significant beyond the boundaries of art. For such benefits as these who would not be grateful? Who would not seek to make them known to others, that they too may enjoy, and render thanks?

M. Lemaître, starting out, like a native of the mountains, from a point which can only be reached by English explorers after a long journey and a severe climb, devotes by far the greater part of his book to a series of brilliant psychological studies of Racine's characters. He leaves on one side almost altogether the questions connected both with Racine's dramatic construction and with his style; and these are the very questions by which English readers are most perplexed, and which they are most anxious to discuss. His style in particular—using the word in its widest sense—forms the subject of the principal part of Mr. Bailey's essay; it is upon this count that the real force of Mr. Bailey's impeachment depends; and indeed it is obvious that no poet can be admired or understood by those who quarrel with the whole fabric of his writing and condemn the very principles of his art.

Miss Nellie Sheldon, the daughter of Nellie Wilson, is delighting the audiences at Hastings with her smart turn.

Three Dublin photographers have ordered 9,000 picture post-cards of Miss Winifred Hare, who is principal boy this coming Yule at the Royal in that city. Miss Hare is a great favourite in the Irish capital, and on the occasion of her last visit the local stationers could not supply the demand for her picture. Hence the record orders now.

ADELPHI RECOLLECTIONS.

In "My Musical Life and Recollections," the late Jules Rivière writes:—"Business became slack at the Adelphi in 1865, and Benjamin Webster, who was always a man of resource, cast about for novelties. With this object in view, he went to Paris, where he bought the English rights of *La Belle Hélène*, which had just created a great stir in the French capital. This complete change of programme was one that gave me immense satisfaction, for I was beginning to get a little tired of writing what is called illustrative music of a stormy or melancholy kind, for blood-and-thunder or pathetic dramas; and it seemed to me that Offenbach's lively and graceful strains would be as welcome to the patrons of the theatre as they were to me—a surmise that events fully justified. Whilst Webster, therefore, was busy engaging a fresh set of artists for the operetta, I increased my orchestra, and engaged a good chorus, and the work of replacing melodrama by French comic opera was proceeded with. In spite of numerous rehearsals, as the first performance drew near, I could see that the choruses, which worked well enough when the pianoforte accompanist was with them, would be singing out of time if left to themselves, and at my suggestion, therefore, Webster adopted the French plan of having a prompter's box for the chorus master erected in the centre of the stage, and in front of the conductor's desk. This had to be hurriedly constructed to be in time for the inaugural performance, but a perfect *ensemble* was the result, and I rejoiced accordingly.

"Signor Lago, who was then a very young man, was the chorus master I have just referred to. I had chosen him for the post out of my orchestra, because he was a brilliant pianoforte player, and a very capable all-round musician. The circumstances under which I made the acquaintance of Signor Lago, who has since made a name for himself, are perhaps worth relating. He had visited Lafleur's shop in Green-street, for the purpose of buying a flute for one of his pupils, and as he was unable to speak English, the shopman appealed to me to interpret what the customer said. In the conversation that ensued, I learnt that Lago had just come from Madrid in search of an engagement, and upon ascertaining that he was a good pianist and an efficient violin player, I resolved, if possible, to give him a position in the Adelphi orchestra. It so happened, however, that a principal viola was the only vacancy I then had, and though Lago had to own to never having played the instrument (which, as musicians will know, is simply a change of key with the violin), upon his readily expressing his willingness to master the little difficulty at once, terms were soon arranged, even to the sale of the viola, which, I suggested, he should pay for by weekly instalments, his exchequer at the time being a very modest one. After a fortnight's practice Lago was principal viola in my orchestra, to our mutual satisfaction, I know. He proved so assiduous a worker, in fact, that when I came to compose the music for the *Octoroon* I gave him a viola solo, accompanied by stringed instruments, that proved a great success. Lago, in short, was a general favourite at the Adelphi, and during his engagement he was testimonialised by the artists and chorus singers for the assistance he had rendered them during the run of *La Belle Hélène*. The compliment was well deserved, and it was this probably (for the matter was fully reported in the theatrical papers),) that led to Signor Lago being noticed by Frederick Gye, who offered the young musician the post of second prompter at the Italian opera at Covent Garden, an engagement he was glad to accept. Lago, however, was not a man to remain long in a secondary position, and when the principal *suggestore* had to be replaced, it was my young *protégé* and friend who was promoted to the post, which is an important one. And so Lago went on, year after year, improving his position in England, and filling in his time in the winter with engagements in St. Petersburg, returning to London only for the season. Subsequently he travelled with Madam Patti, and, at a comparatively recent date, in partnership with his countryman, the Spanish tenor, Gayarré, Signor Lago was at the head of affairs for a season at Covent Garden, with very good results. Since then he has been *impresario* alternately in St. Petersburg and London, gaining the esteem and friendship of artists everywhere. His more recent exploits only call for passing mention from me, for it will be fresh in the public mind that it was to Signor Lago the musical world in London was indebted, in 1890, for his introduction in our midst of the sisters Ravogli, in Glück's opera, *Orfeo*. It was also to his enterprise in 1891 we owed the first production in England at the Shaftesbury of Mascagni's opera, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, that has since attained unprecedented popularity. Lago's unfortunate season at the Olympic, in 1892, though it ended in disaster for him, will also be pleasantly remembered by musical amateurs owing to the novelty recorded in connection with it. I refer to the production of Tschaikowsky's *Eugène Onégin*. This clever and talented musician has for years been honoured by the patronage of Queen Victoria, who, besides summoning him two years ago to Windsor for a performance of *Cavalleria Rusticana*, was graciously pleased to take the Royal box for the entire series of performances, during his two last seasons of opera.

"Of Jullien junior, who flourished (if he can be said to have flourished at all) at about the time that Lago was beginning to make a name in London, there is not the same record of success to chronicle, and yet he enjoyed the advantage, and not an inconsiderable one, of being the son of a gifted father. I well remember when he returned to London, after serving his time as kettle-drummer in the band of a regiment of French Lancers, his conceiving the idea of following in the footsteps of his father, an idea that was fostered, naturally enough, by Madam Jullien. For a time young Jullien, who replaced Antony Lamotte at the Argyll Rooms, succeeded well enough, for it is not a difficult matter to conduct dance music in a capable manner. But it was altogether different when he was appointed conductor of a large orchestra at Her Majesty's, the theatre having been taken by Mr. Bignell for a series of promenade concerts, to be carried out on the same lines as those rendered popular by the great Jullien. A large orchestra and first-rate singers were engaged, and money was spent lavishly on decorations, but the discovery was soon made that this graceful conductor of dance music was not equal to his new position, and the scheme resulted in pecuniary loss.

"Promenade concerts were fast growing in popularity in London about this time, for we had Alfred Mellon at Covent Garden in 1865, with Carlotta Patti as his leading soprano. Signor Bottesini, the great contrabassist, was also an attraction; and Levy was attracting notice as solo cornet in the orchestra. One of the features of these concerts was a grand selection from *Faust*, arranged by Mellon, and played nightly with immense success by the orchestra and the band of the Coldstream Guards. Mellon had in his orchestra a Frenchman named Cordier, who assumed the name of Ali Ben Mustapha, and who, dressed as a Turk, played some wonderful solos on the saxophone. He soon became the lion of the season. Young Jullien, of course, set about getting a rival Turk to play saxophone solos, and one of his clarinette players, a man named Tyler, was speedily converted into an Orientalist, and in a few days the Turkish-attired Tyler blossomed forth into Ali Ben Jenkins. The public, however, wearied of the joke, and young Jullien's first series of promenade concerts was his last. He went to America, and, as far as I know, has not since been heard of."

A JAPANESE PLAY.

"Kyoto court-life of the twelfth century, painted for posterity in the famous, interminable pages of 'Genji Monogatari,' one of the oldest achievements of the lady-novelist, has," writes Mr. Osman Edwards in "Japanese Plays and Playfellows," "found less tedious and equally faithful presentment in such dramatic miniatures as 'Aoi no Uye,' Prince Genji's long-suffering wife. Jealousy is the keynote of this lyrical play—that insatiable, self-torturing jealousy which is the hardest of demons to expel. Again I noticed a piece of curious, silent symbolism. The poor, demoniac wife, who gives her name to the play, does not appear, either as a person or figure: in her stead a long strip of folded brocade, suggesting a bed of sickness, lies immediately behind the footlights. Thus, though sub-conscious of her entity, the spectator is compelled to focus all attention on the apparition, which takes double form. First comes the spirit of the Princess Rokijo, who takes vengeance on her false lover (Genji is the Don Juan of Japan) by haunting the helpless Aoi in the shape of a pale wailing woman. A *miko*, or Shinto priestess, is summoned to exorcise the intruder. In vain she rubs her green rosary, muttering fervid prayers: the spirit wails more loudly, more intolerably, and only yields at last to the fiercer spells and rougher wrestling of soul with soul on the part of a mountain-priest. But his victory is short-lived, for a terrible phantom, the Devil of Jealousy, wearing the famous Hanja mask, replaces Rokujo. Inch by inch the priest falls back, as the grinning demon with gilt horns and pointed ears slowly unveiled from a shroudlike hood glides forward to smite him with menacing crutch. To and fro the battle rages beside the prostrate Aoi no Uye; neither holy man nor devil will give way; the screaming and shrill fifing of the musicians rise to frenzied pitch; adjuration succeeds adjuration, until the evil spirit is finally driven away. Nothing can exceed the realism of this scene, so masterfully played that the hardiest agnostic must be indeed fancy-proof if he cannot feel something of the awe inspired into believers by this terrific duel. Moreover, this is exactly the sort of incident which exhibits to the full extent of their potency the peculiar characteristics of *No* drama. What human face, however disguised and distorted, could rival the malignant horror of a Japanese mask? What mincing and gibing Mephistopheles could compare for a moment with the devilish ingenuity and suspense of this posture-pantomime, with its endless feints and threats and sallies and retreats? And now the anguish of battle is enhanced by the 'barbaric yawp' and sharp, intermittent drum-taps, which excite without distracting the spell-bound audience! So abrupt and discreet is the interjected cry of the immobile musicians that one might easily take it for the defiant or hortative outburst of an invisible spirit attracted to the ghostly combat. Indeed, all that is wild and primitive in these *enfants sauvages* of Melpomene is chastened into harmony by the innate sobriety of Japanese art. The creative instinct works within small limits by small means, but with these means it contrives to project on its tiny stage a vital suggestion of the largest issues. The gods become marionettes for an hour, without wholly losing their godhead.

"Good-humoured drollery, of which the gods come in for a fair share, is no more alien to the Japanese than it was to the Greek temperament. And if one had to guess which divinity or divinities are regarded with more affection than awe by such light-hearted worshippers, one would certainly name the Rokujizo, or six Jizo. While Buddha and Kwannon, Tenjin and Inari, dwell in small or stately temples, augustly apart, the six Jizo sit sociably in a row by the roadside or on the outskirts of a shrine, protected (if protected at all) from the weather by a plain wooden shed. For they belong to the class of open-air minor deities familiarly known as 'wet gods.' Yet they play a large part in the emotional life of the people. Patrons of travellers, women, and children, they bear the semblance of a shaven priest with benevolent countenance, whose neck is generally encircled with a child's bib of coloured wool, while his hand holds an emblematic jewel, a lotus, a pilgrim's staff, an incense-box, a rosary, or sometimes an infant. In most villages and near many schools will you find the six Jizo, for the country people, loving their children, cherish the children's patron-saint with particular attachment. The amusing *kiogen* named 'Rokujizo' seemed to please the younger members of our audience infinitely more than the romantic and spectral dramas which preceded it. A pious farmer, anxious to attest his gratitude for a good harvest, resolves to put up six Jizo effigies in his fields, and, seeking a sculptor to carry out his design, falls in with a knavish fellow who boasts that he can carve statues more quickly than anyone else in the world, and promises that the six shall be finished by the following day. The bargain is concluded. Then the pseudo-sculptor persuades three confederates to personate Jizo, entrusting them with the jewel, the staff, and the other symbols. As soon as they are well posed as living statuary he brings the farmer to admire them, and, pretending that the other three are at the opposite end of the field, sends the extemporised gods by a short cut to anticipate the buyer's arrival. He, however, though duly impressed, desires to see the first three again, and then again the second three, until the impersonators tired with running backwards and forwards, forget what pose and what emblem to assume, entirely destroying all illusion by their ridiculous perplexity. The farmer discovers the trick, and administers a sound drubbing to the fraudulent artist, while the Jizo make their escape. The humour of this naturally depends on the 'business' of the performers, since no pretence is made to literary merit in the dialogue, which is couched in colloquial Japanese of the same period as the lyrical dramas themselves—that is, from the fourteenth to the sixteenth century.

"The most important, if not the most interesting, item in the programme was a little historic play in two scenes, entitled 'Funa Benkei; or, Benkei at Sea.' No figure in Japanese annals is so popular as Benkei, the devil youth (*Oniwaka*), credited with eight feet of stature, unless it be Yoshitsune, the valiant boy, who vanquished the giant in single combat on Gojo Bridge in Kyoto, and thus acquired a loyal and invincible henchman."

"ALL AT SEA."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—My attention has been drawn to the letter from Mr. Edward A. Paulton, of New York, in your issue of the 14th inst., wherein that gentleman lays claim to the title of a one-act musical comedy, which has been licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, and copyrighted by me at the Alexandraa Theatre, Birmingham, bearing the name of *All at Sea*.

Whilst being most tenacious of my rights, I am the first to retire from an untenable position, and I beg to assure Mr. Paulton that, as the author of the book and lyrics of the piece tentatively entitled by the name to which he has the prior claim, I will see that his territory is not encroached upon. I have no desire to qualify for the reputation of a wolf among the lambs—not excepting those of New York.—Yours faithfully,

EDWARD FOSTER.

Grand Theatre, Birmingham,
Nov. 16, 1908.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

ON THE ROAD, NOV. 23.

An Abandoned Woman.—T. R., Glossop.
An Unwedded Wife.—T. R., Woolwich.
Aschr, Oscar.—Grand T., Croydon.
Assassin, The.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
At Duty's Call.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Beau Brocade.—T. R., Glasgow.
Beloved Vagabond.—Crystal Palace, S.E.
Belle of New York.—Grand T., Southampton.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—T. R., Manchester.
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—Grand T., Walsall.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—Warminster and Andover.
Bondman, The (Croke).—Queen's T., Manchester.
Bourchier, Arthur.—P.O.W., Birmingham.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—Grand T., Derby.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Mansfield.
Brewster's Millions.—T. R., Plymouth.
Broken Heart, A.—T. R., Leigh.
Bulmer, Mr.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—T. R., Belfast.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—New T., Cambridge and Oxford.
Charley's Aunt (No. 2).—Harrow and St. Albans.
Christian, The (Croke N.).—T. R., Nottingham.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—Marlboro' T., Holloway, N.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Falmouth and Brixham.
Claudian.—New Gaiety T., Leith.
Coal King, The.—Aquarium T., Yarmouth.
Compton Comedy Co.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Conscience of a Judge.—Gaiety T., Methil.
Convict's Daughter.—T. R., Leicester.
Country Girl in London.—P.O.W., Mexbro'.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (No. 1).—Prince's T. Bristol.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge)(S.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
Dairymaids (Macdonald's).—Seacombe.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—T. R., Smethwick.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—O. H., Huddersfield.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—O. H., Leicester.
Dorothy.—Theatre Royal, Edinburgh.
Eve of Her Wedding.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Face at the Window.—Hippodrome, Barry.
Fatal Wedding.—Junction T., Manchester.
Flag Lieutenant.—T. R., Bath.
Flower Girl.—P.O.W., Nuneaton.
Florodora.—T. R., Dewsbury.
For Love and the King.—Royalty T., Barrow.
From Shop Girl to Duchess.—Elephant and Castle Theatre.
Gay Deceivers, The.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Gay Gordons (Miss Ash).—Royalty T., Chester.
Gay Gordons (Miss Dare).—Borough T., Stratford.
Gay Gordons (Terriss and Hicks).—New T. R., Cardiff.
Girl's Cross Roads.—O. H., Coventry.
Girls of Gottenberg.—Court T., Liverpool.
Girl with the Angel Face.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—Lyceum T., Stafford.
Great Awakening.—Grand T., Glasgow.
Great White Chief, The.—Queen's T., Farnboro'.
Guilty Gold.—T. R., Stratford, E.
Her Love Against the World.—Alex. T., Sheffield.
Her Marriage Vow.—T. R., Barnsley.
Her Nameless Child.—Pardoe's T., Middleton.
His House in Order.—O. H., Burnley.
Home, Sweet Home.—T. R., Consett.
Honeymoon, The.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
Horniman's, Miss.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Hughes, Annie.—Shakespare T., Liverpool.
Hypocrites, The (N.)—O. H., Southport.
Irene Wycherley.—Theatre Royal, York.
Jack Straw.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Junius Booth.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—T. R., Bradford.
Kiss of Judas.—Imperial T., Bordesley.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Newry and Dundalk.
Lady Frederick.—Grand T., Swansea.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
Leah Kleschna.—Empire T., West Bromwich.
Little Breadwinner.—T. R., Ashton.
London with the Lid Off.—Todmorden.
Love of the Princess.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Lucky 'Liza.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Man and Wife.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
Man to Man.—P. O. W., Salford.
Manxman, The.—Carlton T., Saltley.
Merry Widow (S.).—T. R., Hanley.
Merry Widow.—Tyne T., Newcastle.
Midnight Mail.—New Hall, Bargoed.
Mollison, William.—T. R., Dublin.
Moody-Manners Opera (A.).—T. R., Hanley
Moody-Manners (B.).—T. R., Exeter.
Moore, Miss Decima.—O. H., Northampton.
Mrs. Pondersbury's Past.—O. H., Kidderminster.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—King's Th., Glasgow.
My Mimosa Maid.—T. R., Birmingham.
Mystery of Edwin Drood (H. M. Version).—Wolverhampton.
New East Lynne.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Nihilist, The.—T. R., North Shields.
Norman V. Norman.—T. R., Hull.
Old Folks at Home.—O. H., Wakefield.
Old Home, The.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Otto the Outcast.—O. H., Perth.
Peter's Mother.—Castle T., Stockton.
Power of the King.—O. H., St. Helens.
Power of the Cross.—T. R., Hyde.
Prince of Pilsen.—Broadway T., Deptford.
Prodigal Parson.—St. James's T., Long Eaton.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—O. H., Cheltenham.
Prodigal Son (Day).—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Queen's Evidence.—Prince's T., Llandudno.
Rollicking Rory.—O. H., Blackpool.
Royal Divorce.—H. M. T., Dundee.
Sailor's Wedding.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Second to None.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Send Him Victorious.—County T., Bedford.
Sergeant Brue.—Lyceum T., Crewe.
Sherlock Holmes.—King's T., Sunderland.
Sign of the Cross.—Empire T., Oldham.
Silver King.—Grand T., Brighton.
Soldier of France.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Soldier's Honour.—T. R., Merthyr.
Starr, Harry.—Opera House, Perth.
Still Alarm.—Theatre Royal, Bristol.
Straight from the Shoulder.—T. R., Aston.
Sunday.—Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.
Sutton and Raynor's Repertoire.—Queen's T., Manchester.
Terry, Edward.—Grand T., Leeds.
Terry, Fred.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Thief, The (N.).—H. M. T., Barrow.
Thief, The (S.).—Oxford and Cambridge.
Tom Jones.—County T., Reading.
Tom Jones.—T. R., Dublin.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Folkestone.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—T. R., Sheffield.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—Grand T., Fulham.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—T. R., Chesterfield.
Tyrant, The.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Vedrenne-Barker.—T. R., Newcastle.
Village Blacksmith.—T. R., Rotherham.
Warner, Grace.—Weston-super-Mare.
Warning to Women.—T. R., West Stanley
Way of the World.—Star T., Liverpool.
What a Woman Did.—Pontypridd.
When It Was Dark.—T. R, Leeds
When Knights Were Bold.—Prince's, Manchester.
When Knights Were Bold.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
When Knights Were Bold.—Worksop.
When London Sleeps—Gaiety T., Hastings.
When Other Lips.—Greenwich Theatre, S.E.
White Man, A (N.).—T. R., Brighton.
Who is She?—T. R., Halifax.
Why Men Love Women.—Alexandra T., Birmingh'm.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—Grand T., Nelson.
With Edged Tools.—P.O.W., Grimsby.
Woman Pays, The.—T. R., Edmonton.
Woman Who Gambles.—T. R., Cardiff.
Worst Woman in London.—Oldham.
Wrecker of Men.—O. H., Weymouth.
You Never Can Tell.—Lyceum T., Newport.
£1,000 Reward.—T. R., Aldershot.
10.30 Down Express.—T. R., Stratford, E.

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"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

GEORGE.—*The price for the Tivoli gallery at the Saturday matinées is sixpence.*

DERRICK.—*The first Saturday morning performance at the Oxford was on Saturday, May 14, 1870.*

CHICAGO.—*We have not heard of the title over here, and it is not in our list of plays in* The Era Annual.

THESPIS (Sunderland).—*There are readings from Dickens published in numerous books of recitations and in books for schools. There are also condensed versions of "Christmas Carol," "The Chimes," and other of his stories. Consult a good bookseller in your town. He could give you all the information you require. For plays adapted from Dickens write to French's, Southampton-street, Strand, W.C.*

OLD TIMER.—*Milton's* Masque of Comus *was performed at Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, in March, 1842, under the direction of Mme. Vestris, who played the part of Sabrina; Miss Rainforth (the original Arline in* The Bohemian Girl*) was the Spirit; Mrs. Walter Lacy the Lady; and Mr. John Cooper was seen in the title part.*

BERT HUGHES.—*You should have the piece produced at a place of dramatic entertainment duly licensed for stage plays, then register both the copyright and the performing rights at Stationers' Hall. If you write to the Registrar, Stationers' Hall, London, E.C., for the necessary forms, he will send them. The fee is 5s. for each registration.*

CAMERON (Paris).—*Write to the London office of the* New York Dramatic Mirror, *care of Pall Mall American Exchange, London, W.; or to the London representative of the* New York Dramatic News, *Mr. Max Eliot, 3, Queen's-gate Terrace, London, S.W.; or to the* New York Clipper *London office, 14, Leicester-street, Leicester-square, W.C.*

A LAMBERT JUGGLER.—*Herbert Campbell sang the song* Naughty, naughty, naughty!

ARTHUR LYON (Bristol).—*His Excellency was produced at the Lyric on Oct. 27, 1894. It has not been presented at the Savoy.*

FREDERICK CHARCOT.—*The only way you can protect your act is by registering it at Stationers' Hall, both the copyright and the performing right. For this purpose write to the Registrar at Stationers' Hall, and ask him to forward the necessary forms. These should be duly filled up, and 5s. sent in respect of each.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Wallace Davidson—Saturday, Nov. 21.
Percy Baverstock—Sunday, Nov. 22.
George Battle—Sunday, Nov. 22.
George Leglere—Sunday, Nov. 22.
Sir Gilbert Parker—Monday, Nov. 23
C. Blyth-Pratt—Monday, Nov. 23.
Edith Finlay—Monday, Nov. 23.
Thomas Thorne—Monday, Nov. 23.
G. H. Asquin—Monday, Nov. 23.
Marie Loftus—Tuesday, Nov. 24.
Mabel Scudamore—Tuesday, Nov. 24.
Nellie Wilson—Tuesday, Nov. 24.
G. W. Anson—Wednesday, Nov. 25.
W. W. Walton—Wednesday, Nov. 25.
H. F. Maltby—Wednesday, Nov. 25.
Wyn Weaver—Wednesday, Nov. 25.
Louie Freear—Thursday, Nov. 26.
Vesta Victoria—Thursday, Nov. 26.
Jesse Sparrow—Thursday, Nov. 26.
John F. Lambe—Thursday, Nov. 26.
Acton Bond—Friday, Nov. 27.
Lottie Stratton—Friday, Nov. 27.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH

Oct. 1. John Weston.
" 3. Arthur Forrest, aged 50.
" 3. Francis Daniel Wallace Percival.
" 4. Alfred Benone.
" 5. Minnie Blake.
" 5. Isaac Snape (Harry Lester), aged 48.
" 11. Lila Doyle (Gould).
" 15. John Melville, aged 20.
" 18. William Congo.
" 19. Mrs. T. P. Haynes (Rosie Lewis)
" 19. Joseph Potter, aged 64.
" 21. Harry Warner (Pratt).
" 22. Mrs. J H. Darnley.
" 23. Herbert Flemming, aged 52.
" 25. Robert Sivado (Brown).
" 25. Tom Wade, aged 47.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

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Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

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BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

FORSTER.—On Thursday, Nov. 12, at 79, Clopton-lane, Stratford-on-Avon, the wife of R. Halford Forster (Miss Mildred Howard-Jones), of a daughter.

MCNEIL.—On Nov. 13, at "Pentilley," Fortescue-road, Bournemouth, to David and Grace McNeil, a son.

MARRIAGES.

BAYLY—JOHNSON.—On Nov. 13, 1908, at St. Saviour's, Pimlico, Frank G. Bayly to Katie Johnson.

HOOD—KENDALL.—Nov. 19, at St. Martin's Church, Trafalgar-square, the Hon. Maurice Nelson Hood, eldest son of Viscount Bridport, to Ethel Kendall (Eileen Orme).

WRIGHT—BRICKWELL.—Nov. 17, at the Roman Catholic Cathedral, Cape Town, Edward C. Wright, eldest son of E. C. Wright, of Dublin, to Annie (Maimie) Brickwell, eldest daughter of H. T. Brickwell, of London.

DEATHS.

BECKWITH.—Nov. 14, J. W. Beckwith, theatrical business-manager.

CORY-THOMAS.—Nov. 14, at 71, Langney-road, Eastbourne, Lambert Cory-Thomas. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing wife. R.I.P.

FAVART.—Nov. 11, Mme. Favart, of the Comédie-Française, aged 75.

KEATS.—Nov. 17, at 33, Mackeson-road, Hampstead, Sydney Carl Keats, aged 24, dearly-loved brother of Gladys and Madeline Keats.

KENNEDY.—Nov. 12, at Cavan, Ireland, Gertrude Lovel, aged 40, of 18, Madeira-park, Tunbridge Wells, widow of the late H. A. Kennedy.

LANNER.—Nov. 15, of heart failure, at 40, Northside, Clapham Common, Mme. Katti Lanner, première danseuse and instructress, aged 80.

LICHTENSTEIN.—Nov. 15, at Bruges, Belgium, at the residence of her mother, Ethel Catherine Martin Lichtenstein, wife of Frederick William Moritz Ross Lichtenstein (Frederick Rosse).

PALMER.—On the 15th inst., at her residence, 7, Middle Market-road, Great Yarmouth, Harriett Ann Palmer (Mrs. A. P. Boswell), professionally known as Miss Florence Hayes; aged 52 years. Deeply lamented by all who knew her.

LYDIA THOMPSON (Mrs. Alex. Henderson).—Nov. 17, at 48, Westminster-mansions, Great Smith-street, Westminster, after a short illness. Funeral at Kensal Green on Monday, 23rd inst., at 12.30.

SIMMONS.—Nov. 9, at the Eagle Inn, Churchgate, Loughborough, William Arthur Simmons (professionally known as Little Simmy).

WEIGHT.—On Saturday, Nov. 14, at Stamford, Lincs., Hannah Louisa, the dearly loved wife of Charles Weight, senior, aged 56 years. Never forgotten by her sorrowing husband and children.

IN MEMORIAM.

BASSANO.—In loving memory of Nance (Nancie James), who was taken from us Nov. 21, 1904. God bless you.—FRANK and ENID.

PREECE.—In loving remembrance of dear Edie, who passed away at Malta, Nov. 24, 1899. Eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Terriss (Emily Stevens), and sister of Josephine and Winifred Preece.

READ.—In ever-loving memory of our dear father, Henry Read, late joint partner of Messrs. H. and T. Read and F. Bailey, World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, London, who passed away Nov. 21, 1898, who is more than missed by his loving wife and family.

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CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
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THE ERA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1908.

THEATRES AND WATER-RATES.

On Dec. 9 last a deputation of London managers, under the auspices of the Theatrical Managers' Association, waited on the committee of the Metropolitan Water Board to protest against the system of water-rating theatres. Before that date managers of theatres had paid so much a year for each water hydrant on their premises, and on their consumption of water as estimated by meter, or by a percentage on agreed yearly value. Under the law which came into force on April 1 last it was arranged to rate theatres like ordinary buildings—*i.e.*, 5 per cent. on the rateable value. The managers naturally objected to this, and claimed to be treated as manufacturers and charged for the amount of water used in carrying on their business.

As Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM put it, "there is nothing domestic about a theatre. The water used is mainly used by the public. A theatre is generally used only for about three hours in the evening, the same at one matinée, occasionally for rehearsals, and not at all on Sunday. In a private house water is used all day, every day, for baths, kitchen, scullery, and all domestic purposes. In a theatre the use is comparatively trivial. Four thousand pounds a year is probably an average rateable value for a London theatre; some are, of course, rated higher than this. At 5 per cent. this would make a charge for water of £200 a year, or, with an abatement of 30 per cent., which it is understood might be made, £140 a year. There are also sundry extra charges made for hydrants, &c. In two theatres which at present measure the water used by meter, the amount used, at a charge of 1s. per 1000 gallons, comes to about £32 and £40 a year.

The case of a theatre is not even "on all fours" with that of business premises, on the rating of which a 30 per cent. reduction is allowed to be made. In the case of business premises, there are usually a number of clerks or other employees in the building during the day, using water in various ways. In a theatre the consumption of water is very small.

What the managers asked last December was to be charged by meter for the water they actually used, as is done in the case of water consumed for "trade purposes," and they were willing to guarantee a minimum consumption.

The result of the deputation in December last was not satisfactory to the suppliants; and any plan for the solution of the problem must be hailed with hearty welcome by all readers of *The Era*. The thoughtful and well-informed article by Mr. E. BAILEY-DENTON, which we published on the 7th inst., is worthy of the most careful consideration. The average value of a London theatre, says Mr. BAILEY-DENTON, may be taken at £100,000, rated at £5,000 per annum, whilst the consumption of water during that period is only 700,000 gallons. The rate payable to the Metropolitan Water Board averages £200 a year, which sum is equivalent to a charge of 5s. 6d. per 1,000 gallons. Under the old system, with an average payment of 10d. per 1,000 gallons, as was customary, the payment would have been £30; therefore there has been an increase of 566 per cent. over and above what was contributed before, and this payment is made upon a commodity of life which is practically not utilised.

Mr. BAILEY-DENTON, after reviewing all the proposed remedies, comes to what he calls the "only practical and certain one"—*i.e.*, the sinking of private wells or boreholes. There is, and always will be, a copious supply of water in the chalk beneath our feet, and it is in our power to raise it economically.

The cost of sinking boreholes into the chalk, together with the necessary machinery, may, in round and average figures, be taken at £800 for a theatre. This could, Mr. BAILEY-DENTON thinks, be paid out of net income or by a loan on the sinking fund principle spread over a number of years. The method of raising the pure water by the use of ordinary river water, which is employed by the London Hydraulic Power Company, would be applicable to the elevation of water for use in a theatre.

"A thousand gallons of 'Power' water," says Mr. DENTON, "will raise 4,000 gallons of ordinary water from the standing water level in the chalk to the summits of high buildings, and the charge for it is 1s. 6d. Taking Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM'S figures, therefore, with an annual consumption of 700,000 gallons, the total payment to the Hydraulic Company would be about £13, a saving of £187 with the existing 20 per cent. rebate, and of £165 with a 30 per cent. rebate."

There is a fascination in the idea of escaping for ever from the toils of the Water Board which must appeal to everyone who realises the present unjust system of rating theatres and music-halls. The improvement of theatrical property by the sinking of such wells would be great; and it is only fair that the cost should be, at any rate, divided between the lessees and the owners of the theatres, who would benefit in perpetuity by the existence of such wells. It seems quite hopeless to expect any real reform of the Water Board's charges. All that can be done in the way of appeal and argument has been tried; but the Board shows the impenetrability to ideas which is characteristic of almost all official bodies. The only thing left for theatrical proprietors and managers to do is to render themselves independent of the Water Board altogether. The experiment could most reasonably be tried by some manager who is the owner of the theatre with which he is connected; and then, if the result was satisfactory, his example might safely be followed by his brother-managers. We hope to see the sinking of "private wells or boreholes" commenced in various quarters before long, so that the plan so eloquently advocated by Mr. BAILEY-DENTON may be put prosperously into practice.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

"ON Sept. 30, 1826," says Haydon in his biography, "I met Jack Bannister by accident in Chenies Street, Bedford Square. His face was as fresh, his eye as keen, and his voice as musical as ever. I had not seen him for years. He held out his hand just as he used to do on the stage, with the same frank, native truth. As he spoke, the tones of his favourite Walter pierced my heart. It was extraordinary the effect. 'Bannister,' said I, 'your voice recalls my early days.'—'Ah,' said he, 'I had some touches, had I not?' He told me a story of Lord Egremont. Bannister bought at Sir Joshua's sale the Virgin and Child. He sent it to a sale at a room for £250. Lord E. told the seller he would give £200. It was agreed to. Lord Egremont afterwards said to Bailey, 'I have bought Reynolds' Virgin and Child.' 'Ah,' said Bailey, 'it was Bannister's picture. You gave £250.' He said nothing, but the same day wrote to Bannister he was ashamed to have offered less, and sent him a cheque for the £50 owing. I said to Bannister, as Napoleon said to Talma, 'We are talking history; I shall put this down.'—'Shall ye though?' said he, as his face flushed. 'That I will,' said I; and he hobbled off with a sort of wriggling enjoyment."

CHARLES BANNISTER had a fine voice, a fine taste, and a copious recollection of traits and tones. His song became an imitation, sometimes serious, oftener burlesque, of the principal singers of the period. In both he was excellent. Garrick once took Giordini, the famous violinist, to hear his imitations of Tenducci and Champneys. The violinist declared the imitation perfect; sarcastically remarking, however, that "it had one fault—the voice of the mimic was better than that of the originals." He was a capital wit, and always in difficulties. A pleasantry of his told both. At the time when all the world were talking of the death of Sir Theodosius Boughton in 1781, who was poisoned by laurel-water, "Pooh," said Charles, "don't tell me of your laurel leaves. I fear none but a bay-leaf." (bailiff). His wit was so redundant that he could afford to throw it away on his son. But Jack was a seedling of the same stock, and knew how to throw back the pleasantry fresh pointed. Once when he had caused his father some slight irritation the offence was marked by "Jack, I'll cut you off with a shilling." "I wish, father," said Jack, "you would give it to me *now*." His father, delighted at the kindred spirit, gave him much more than he had asked.

"MACBETH" AT MASKELYNE'S.

Agreeable little playlets have for many years formed the medium for presenting the startling surprises associated with the Home of Mystery, but Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant have now taken it upon themselves to show how much may be gained by the introduction into a ready-made play of the magic art in which they deal. *A Message from Mars* and a few other pieces have owed much of their success to the ingenious effects supplied by Mr. Maskelyne, and the wonder is that more advantage is not taken on the regular stage of his invaluable aid. An evidence of the effect of his ingenuity in a play of Shakespeare was given at the St. George's Hall on Friday, the 13th, when he produced a combination of Scene 5 Act 3, and Scene 1 Act 4 of *Macbeth*, under the title of

"THE WITCHES OF 'MACBETH.'"

Macbeth	MR. GORDON BAILEY
Lennox	MR. E. S. ELTON
First Witch	MR. J. N. MASKELYNE
Second Witch	MR. CHAS. GLENROSE
Third Witch	MR. E. MOREHEN
Hecate	MISS CASSIE BRUCE

The scenes lend themselves admirably to illusionary purposes, and the result was a most awesome and imposing display, in which all the weird effects possible were obtained. The setting is that of The Blasted Heath, with the Witches' Cave conveniently at hand, though the posts which support the cave impede the view of the "ghosts" said to be produced on an entirely new principle. Hecate makes her charge to the three beldames and disappears, soaring away into the air in true Mother Shipton style. The old cronies prepare their infernal stew with much elaboration, and then Macbeth appears to learn his fate. Amid the raging of the storm, Macbeth sees the grim array of spectres of the past and the visions of the future rise from the depths of the earth, each in succession appearing from nowhere, and melting as mysteriously into space. The storm effects could scarcely have been better managed, the vivid flashes of lightning, the resonant claps of thunder, and the moaning of the wind being appallingly realistic. The acting of the excerpt was of the highest order. That fine young Shakespearean Mr. Gordon Bailey bore the burden of the title-rôle, and acquitted himself in excellent fashion. The power and intensity of Macbeth's anguish was artistically expressed, and though there was perhaps a tendency to force the pace, Mr. Bailey's performance was so admirable as to induce a keen desire to see him in the other portions of the rôle. Mr. Maskelyne himself headed the trio of witches, who presented a terror-inspiring appearance, either concocting their malicious spells or dancing round in ferocious glee. Mr. Chas. Glenrose and Mr. E. Morehen were equally forbidding as the Second and Third Witch respectively, while Mr. E. S. Elton was a vigorously expressive Lennox. The designing Hecate was a comely maiden as personified by Miss Cassie Bruce, whose dramatic talents were invaluable in the part. Her cultivated singing was very enjoyable, and indeed the song in which an accompaniment is furnished by invisible voices proved weirdly beautiful. The piece is mounted with an elaboration superior even to that to which Mr. Maskelyne has accustomed us, and will undoubtedly form one of the most appetising dishes in the menu at Maskelyne's for many months to come.

The well-stocked programme has been embellished by the addition of the performance of M. Louis Nikola, a master of sleight-of-hand, who does some bewildering feats of conjuring, keeping up a running fire of humorous comments that amuses all. Mr. Nelson Jackson's cheery "Society Snapshots" at the piano keep the audience thoroughly entertained, and an encore is responded to by an apropos song of "Macbeth," quaintly written and as quaintly rendered. Essman continues to give dexterous and diverting feats as the juggling waiter; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Marriott amaze again with their experiments in "Technopathy"; and the comedy of marvels, *The Philosopher's Diamond*, brings to a conclusion a unique entertainment that amuses large audiences twice daily.

"THE EMPTY CRADLE."

A new Domestic Drama, in Four Acts, by St. Clair Forbes, produced at the New Royal, Bilston, on Monday, Nov. 16.

Kenneth Bloodworth	MR. CLAUD H. SEATON
Carnaby Bloodworth	MR. ST. CLAIR FORBES
Sir Carnaby Bloodworth	MR. D. URQUHART
James Boswell	MR. FRED WELLS
Hon. St. Clair Selby	MR. KENNETH SCOTT
Misery	MR. WALLACE BLACK
Mary Barton	MISS FLORENCE TRELVOIR
Sarah Puddicombe	MISS CONNIE MEADOWS
Martha Boswell	MRS. TOM WILSON
Ida Boswell	MISS NANCE BATTERSBY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Ida Boswell, a gipsy girl, is being wooed by Kenneth Bloodworth, the scapegrace son of Sir Carnaby Bloodworth, but the girl has already succumbed to the more polished and attractive manner of his brother Carnaby, who, having won her trust only to betray it, casts her off. Kenneth learns of her disgrace, but offers her and her unborn child the shelter of his name. The offer is refused, and Kenneth is sent away in despair. When her child is a few months old Ida demands of his father that he shall do his duty towards his offspring. This Carnaby is in no way inclined to do, but seeks a means of being rid of it for ever, and enlists the help of the unscrupulous housekeeper Mary Barton. The mother is rendered unconscious and the child taken away to be put to death and afterwards buried by Mary Barton in the adjoining coppice. When the mother regains consciousness and enquires for the child Carnaby declares that he has sent it away to be brought up in more suitable surroundings. A poor cripple called Misery and the Hon. St. Clair Selby have caught a glimpse of Mary Barton carrying a spade in the coppice, and when they hear that Ida's child has disappeared they become suspicious, and watch the movements of both Mary and her accomplice. These suspicions are also communicated to Kenneth, who has become a clergyman. Mary is at last driven into a corner, and endeavours to set matters right. She confesses to having been the mistress of Sir Carnaby Bloodworth, and declares that Misery, the cripple, is Sir Carnaby's rightful son and heir, and the one known as Carnaby Bloodworth is her son. Ida Boswell's child, which Mary had not killed, is restored, and Kenneth at last wins his reward in the consent of Ida to become his wife.

Although the plot is laid upon somewhat orthodox lines, it is keenly interesting and full of vigorous movement. Mr. D. Urquhart did capable work as Sir Carnaby Bloodworth; Mr. St. Clair Forbes depicts cleverly the unprincipled character of Carnaby Bloodworth; and Mr. Claude H. Seaton made a manly vigorous Kenneth Bloodworth. Miss Nance Battersby was a decided success as Ida Boswell, the gipsy girl, her acting being easy and natural. She was especially effective in Act III., where Ida grieves over the empty cradle. Mr. Fred Wells and Mrs. Tom Wilson were very successful as James and Martha Boswell. The cripple Misery was well portrayed by Mr. Wallace Black; and Miss Florence Trelvoir made the most of the part of Mary Barton. Miss Connie Meadows was amusing and original as the servant Sarah Puddicombe; and Mr. Kenneth Scott was successful as the Hon. St. Clair Selby. The piece went very well on Monday, and if the verdict of the audience on that occasion is any criterion, then *The Empty Cradle* should add to the list of touring successes.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"ERDE."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by Karl Schoenherr, Produced at the Hebbel Theatre, Nov. 12.

Grutz	HERR HERZFELD
Hannes	HERR LICHO
Mena	FRAULEIN BERTENS
Trine	FRAULEIN MAYER
Eishofbauer	HERR WLACH
Totenweib	FRAULEIN RICHARD
Totengräber	HERR BERG
Tischler	HERR LICHTENBERG
Arzt	HERR BEYERLE
Oberknecht	HERR KARSTEN
Rossknecht	HERR PRAGER
Konrad	HERR MUELLER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Nov. 19.—The author is a man of parts, and winner of the Schiller Prize for excellence in literary work. He is, therefore, entitled to respect, and his latest production was followed with much attention. While, however, its reception was cordial, it did not create the impression that many anticipated. The reason is, to my thinking, not far to seek; there is far too much dallying with the subject of death, which, however playfully handled, is never a tasteful one to the average theatre-goer. A few words will suffice for the plot, which is extremely meagre. The old farmer-peasant Grutz clings to life with a tenacity that is astonishing in a man of over three-score, and which causes great inconvenience to everyone. His son Hannes, instead of becoming master of the little farm, grows grey in the capacity of farm hand, without the wherewithal to marry. Mena, the particularly rough and brutal housekeeper, sees her hopes of catching the heir frustrated, and the old man—who is more than a bit of a tyrant—grins at them all. Being given up finally after a bick from a horse, and even after he has been measured (in the presence of the audience) for his coffin, he revives, and hobbles downstairs as well as ever, to everybody's disgust and his own grim amusement. The play was admirably acted, Fräulein Bertens playing the rôle of Mena splendidly.

THE Deutsches has made a hit with Nestroy's burlesque, *Revolution in Krähwinkel*, a work more than fifty years old, but brimful of laughable moments. The scene is laid during the revolutionary period of 1848 in a tiny corner of the Fatherland known as Krähwinkel (crowcorner). All the characters are more or less caricatures, as is Nestroy's custom, but the fun is undeniable, despite the almost utter absence of plot. Costumes and scenery were accurate and delightful, as they always are under Herr Reinhardt's régime, and the acting was about as faultless as it could be.

AT the Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches *Seine Hoheit* three-act comedy by MM. von Schlicht and Turszniski, was produced last week with satisfactory results. It is rather a poor work, considering it emanates from so experienced an author as Baron Schlicht (pseudonym for Count Wolf Baudissin), but it makes up in easy jokes what it lacks in action. His Highness is a princeling named Hans Albrecht von Totzau-Kremmingen, the heir to the throne of that mythical little State. Having gone the pace in the capital as a cavalry officer, the Prince is sent by his father to a remote station and exchanged into an infantry regiment. After anticipated improvement in morals, Hans Albrecht is to return and marry Princess Olga, the bride selected for him by the State. His Highness, nevertheless, falls deeply in love with his colonel's daughter, pretty Countess Dagmar, and will have no other. After some show of opposition the reigning Prince relents, and all ends happily. This is the whole plot, which is the reverse of exciting as will be readily comprehended. The acting, too, might easily have been brisker.

THREE one-act plays were produced for the first time here at the Neues on Saturday last. The only serious one is *Ahasner*, by the Dutch dramatist Heijermans, and is an early work. It is the tragic story of a Russian Jew who in the days of persecution kills his son because he denies his religion. The power of one of the scenes is undeniable, but the whole does not come up to the author's later works. The second piece, *Besuch*, by Adolf Grabowsky, is a confused "dream" play, saved only from failure by the introduction of some humorous scenes. In the third piece the audience let themselves go, and laughed heartily. It is from the French, and excellently translated, under the title of *Silberfischchen*, by Sigmund Lautenburg. An inexperienced young lawyer puts an end to a lawsuit by bringing about a reconciliation of the parties. Considering the fact that his father-in-law and another advocate have lived and flourished upon the proceeds of the said suit for the space of fifteen years, the indignation of the firm may be imagined. The young partner, seeing his error, now endeavours, with the experienced elder rogues to aid him, to make the clients fall out once more, and in the course of time succeeds. All three pieces were capitally acted and staged.

A CLEVERLY-WRITTEN mythological play in four acts, entitled *Auteros*, met with a cordial reception at the Fredrich Wilhelm Städtisches last Tuesday. The author, Erich Korn, was called and warmly applauded.

AT the New Drill Hall, Durham, on Monday and Tuesday, Miss Inez Howard's company, presented *The Midnight Wedding*. Mr. F. W. Freeman sustained the part of Paul Valmar, sword-master of the Royal Hussars, excellently; Mr. W. J. Rea gave a well-studied reading of Lieut. Von Strelsburg; Mr. C. H. Matthews was a capital Captain Von Scarsbruck; Mr. W. H. Baker gave a performance of Prince Leopold, marked by admirable self-restraint; Messrs. W. Charlton, A. Richards, and W. Glaze showed some excellent humour as Sergeant Max, Corporal Otto, and Private Bobbo; Mr. J. Winter was good as Father Gerard; Miss Ethel Savill, in the dual rôle of Princess Astrea and Lieut. Helsburg displayed much skill and versatility. Considerable fun was caused by Miss Elsie Dene as Kathie; Miss Ruth Wingrove was good as Satanella. The production was well staged, and Mr. H. Gordon proved an efficient musician.

ONE morning a letter was brought to David Garrick at Southampton-street, introducing Tate Wilkinson, who wished to go on the stage. Garrick received him kindly, listened to his declamation, which was poor enough, and comforted the aspirant by telling him that his shyness was a very good sign of success. This young fellow had hung about the green-room in Covent Garden, and for all his shyness was a pert, forward, impudent *gamin*, whose precocious talents of mimicry had been overpraised by friends. He offered to "take off" some of the well-known actors, to show the manager his gifts. "Nay, now," said Garrick, in his peculiar mixture of hesitation and repetition, which made his "talk" a favourite subject of imitation. "Nay, now, sir, you must take care of this; for I used to call myself the first at this business." But the young fellow knew the manager's weak place. He began, leading off with Foote. The likeness amused the manager immensely, and the performance was repeated. "Hey, now! now—what—all," went on Mr. Garrick. "How—really this—this—is—why, well, well, well, do call on me on Monday, and you may depend on my doing all I can for you." . . . On the Monday the youth came again, and was welcomed warmly. He was told that inquiries had been made about his widowed mother, and that he was to be put on the books at thirty shillings a week—a fortune indeed.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"DIX MINUTES D'AUTO,"

Farce, in Three Acts, by MM. Georges Berr and P. Decourcelle, produced at the Nouveautés on Nov. 13.

Jacqueline	MLLE. BLANCHE TOUTAIN
Mme. Bosson	MME. ROSINE MAUREL
Brigitte	MLLE. SANDRY
Gilberte Chalandrin	MLLE. HERROUET
Mme. Mathias	MME. JENNY ROSE
Potiche	M. GERMAIN
Laloucagne	M. DECORT
Tournenville	M. BARON FILS
Duverdier	M. LANDRIN
Tranquille	M. ARDOT
Margan	M. HARDOUX
Maxime	M. LENOIR

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Nov. 19.—The idea of this farce is funny enough, but it has been worked out so badly as to become tedious in parts. A chemist, called Folletourte, has bequeathed his immense fortune to his friend Laloucagne, provided the latter consents to marry Folletourte's widow, Jacqueline. Laloucagne by no means objects to this clause, inasmuch as Jacqueline is young and remarkably pretty. At curtain-rise we are in Laloucagne's brilliantly-lighted salon. He and Jacqueline have been married that morning, and the young couple are receiving congratulations not only from friends and relations, but also from the lodgers in the house, whose landlord Laloucagne has become. Among the latter is Gilberte Chalandrin, a demi-mondaine who has a liaison with Tournenville, a doctor, and with the idiotic creature Duverdier. But a letter is brought to Laloucagne by the family lawyer, a communication from the late M. Folletourte, who had deposited it with the lawyer, to be handed to his successor on his wedding day at the stroke of ten p.m. In that letter the deceased gentleman calls his successor a fool for having thought that he would have inherited a fortune and a pretty wife unless there had been a screw loose somewhere, and in plain terms he tells Laloucagne that his wife is not a virtuous woman. The horror-stricken man cannot read further, for Potiche, in an excess of zeal, snatches the letter from Laloucagne's hands and starts burning it at the lighted candle. Who is Potiche? He is Laloucagne's half-brother. That gentleman's father had made love to his cook, and Potiche is the result. Potiche is also Laloucagne's valet and confidential friend, and when his master rushes forward to save the document from the flames it is too late. The part referring to Jacqueline's guilt has been burnt, and the maddened husband does not know which way to turn. During the next two acts Laloucagne is seen feverishly hunting for the missing proofs. He suspects every man he meets, especially Tournenville and Duverdier, the demi-mondaine's lovers, and at last he discovers the truth. Jacqueline, it appears, had gone with her late husband, M. Folletourte, to the "Bal des Quat'z' Arts," her husband disguised as a Doge. Towards three in the morning her husband told her it was time to go home. She followed him into the motor-car, and, to her surprise, he began to make violent love, and gave her very strong proofs of his affection. Feeling sleepy, she retired to her room, and the next morning she discovered to her dismay that a stranger, disguised and masked like her husband, had taken advantage of her. Folletourte knew the pretty story, and, as he did not believe in his innocence, he wanted his successor to become acquainted with it. But it turns out that this enterprising stranger was no other than Laloucagne, who had gone that night to the "Bal des Quat'z' Arts" and had fallen in love with the masked lady; and, as he wore the same costume as that lady's husband, he successfully carried out the scheme. If the farce flagged at all, it was not through any shortcomings on the part of the exponents. They worked with a will, and gave as much life as they could to the shadowy personages in the piece.

RIPPLES of laughter greeted *L'Enfant de ma Sœur*, the three-act vaudeville by MM. Mouezy-Eon and Robert Francheville, brought out at the Théâtre Déjazet. The smartly-written farce met with a tremendous success. Achille Gabarron, a young law-student anxious to pass his examination, asks Napoléon Premie, a waiter who has seen better days, to impersonate him before the examiners. For Gabarron has not attended to his work, and he promises £50 to Napoléon if he helps him over the difficulty. Gabarron has lost his heart to the daughter of Maçon-Parthenay, a professor at the Paris University. The latter has never seen Gabarron, but he knows that the youth has a millionaire uncle, and he, therefore, is anxious that his daughter should become Mme. Gabarron. The waiter's examination is shriekingly funny, and so are the other scenes, which baffle description. Part of the success of the piece is attributable to the splendid cast, which comprised MM. Max-André, Vilder, Wagman, and Lecomte, and Mmes. Rolle, Maïa, and de Massel.

THERE is trouble between M. Maurice Maeterlinck and the Opéra management. As I have informed you already, the Opéra had accepted M. Maeterlinck's *Mona Vanna*, for which M. Février has written the music. M. Maeterlinck insisted on the title-rôle being sung by Mme. Georgette Leblanc. MM. Messager and Broussan, however, decided otherwise, and gave the part to Mlle. Bréval. The great Belgian author, a peaceful man, would willingly have let events take their course; but he had to reckon with Mme. Leblanc, who, rightly or wrongly, considered that she alone could impersonate the heroine. When M. Maeterlinck heard that the work had been actually put into rehearsal, he sent a lawyer's letter to the Opéra forbidding them to produce it. MM. Messager and Broussan, on their part, took counsel's opinion. In fact, they consulted M. Millerand, the ex-Minister, who assured them that they were legally justified in ignoring M. Maeterlinck's prohibition, because M. Février, the musician, had allowed the production. According to M. Millerand, the musician is, where operas are concerned, the chief collaborator, and he can over-rule his partner's decision. There the matter stands at present, but everybody here deplores the attitude taken up by M. Maeterlinck.

RICHARD ESTCOURT, born at Tewkesbury in 1668, and educated in the Latin school there, stole from home at the age of fifteen to join a travelling company of comedians at Worcester, and, to avoid detection, made his first appearance in women's clothes as Roxana, in *Alexander the Great*. He was discovered, however, pursued, brought home, carried to London, and bound prentice to an apothecary in Hatton Garden. He escaped again, wandered about England, went to Ireland, and there obtained credit as an actor; then returned to London, and appeared at Drury-lane, where his skill as a mimic enabled him to perform each part in the manner of the actor who had obtained chief credit by it. His power of mimicry made him very diverting in society; and as he had natural politeness with a sprightly wit, his company was sought and paid for at the entertainments of the great. "Dick Estcourt" was a great favourite with the Duke of Marlborough, and when men of wit and rank joined in establishing the Beefsteak Club, they made Estcourt their *providore*, with a small gold gridiron for badge, hung round his neck by a green ribbon.

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VARIETY GOSSIP.

Mr. Alfred Butt, we regret to hear, is suffering from throat trouble, which keeps him in bed. We trust that the indisposition is only ephemeral. Mr. Jack Edgar the manager of the Metropolitan, is also on the sick list, and is confined to his room.

Miss Marie Lloyd, on Friday, the 13th, was entertained to luncheon by Miss Marie Fitzgerald, a popular Press representative of New York, on the eve of her departure for America. The merry little function was quite impromptu, and the small party spent a most enjoyable time. Miss Marie Lloyd is now on tour until Christmas.

Mr. Ernest Shand's appearance at a recent charity matinée at the Hackney Empire has resulted in his expulsion from the Variety Artists' Federation. The executive committee announces that no resignations will be accepted until the settlement of the dispute with the agents.

Mr. John Lawson has been elected vice-president of the Kennington Conservative and Unionist Association, his colleagues being Alderman Capt. C. W. Andrews, J.P., and Councillor Budge. Mr. Lawson is a staunch supporter of all Conservative interests in the South-Western districts.

Mr. Harry Randall has been absent from the Tivoli through indisposition, and another absentee from the Tivoli during the week has been Mr. Harry Tate, who has been unable to fit the time in consequence of his numerous engagements. Mr. Joseph Wilson has been fortunate in securing the services as deputies of Mr. George Mozart and Bull and Hemsley.

Dan Leno, jun., has been engaged by Mr. Frank Wheeler to play leading comedy parts in his juvenile opera company for a tour of six months through South Africa. He will sail to-day by s.s. Kenilworth Castle.

Mr. George Robey has been secured by the management of the Theatre Royal Glasgow, for the production of *Cinderella*, the first of the pantomimes. Mr. Robey, who will replace Mr. Harry Lauder, is already developing a braw accent, and it will be a "bricht nicht" for the Glaswegians on Dec. 3, the date fixed for the production.

Mme. Katti Lanner, whose obituary notice will be found in another column, is to be buried to-day at 11.30 at the South Metropolitan Cemetery, Norwood. Previous to the interment—at 10 o'clock—Mass will be celebrated at St. Mary's Church, Clapham Common. Several wreaths have already arrived at the residence of the deceased lady, North Side, Clapham Common, one being from Mme. Cavalazzi-Mapleson, the famous mime, whose fine artistic work at the Empire will be well within the recollection of our readers. Another floral trophy is from Herr Rudolph Knoll, ballet master at Hamburg.

The deceased ballet mistress retired from her post at the Empire at the conclusion of the run of *Sir Roger de Coverley* on Saturday, Sept. 28, 1907. The production of *The Belle of the Ball* on the following Monday was under the direction of Mr. Fred Farren. Mme. Lanner did much for the art she adorned and loved, and of which she was so artistic an exponent, and besides her work as an arranger she wrote several admired ballets. That she maintained a high standard of dancing may be judged best by the excellence of the fine corps at the Empire. At the advanced age of seventy-six she naturally felt the need of rest, and she carried with her into her retirement the respect and esteem of her directors and the love of her pupils.

Mr. Alfred Moul announces that he has secured from Messrs. Pathé Frères the exclusive London rights for the Alhambra of the representation of a new series of cinematograph pictures. Each of the series will be a complete drama, comedy or opera—acted by such eminent artists as Sarah Bernhardt, Réjane, Coquelin, Le Bargy, Lambert, and Severin.

Mr. Auguste Van Biene, on Wednesday, the anniversary of his discovery by Sir Michael Costa forty years ago, received a cable from Mr. Percy Williams to play in New York for $1,000 a week. He also received a batch of contracts from Mr. Oswald Stoll for 1912.

After his discovery by the famous conductor of the Covent Garden Italian Opera, M. Van Biene vowed that on this anniversary of his deliverance from poverty and starvation he would play again in the streets. The money he collected on Wednesday—15s. 2d. in all—with a five-pound note from the musician's own pocket, has gone to the Variety Artists Benevolent Fund.

M. Van Biene, in a shabby black frock coat, a flowing black tie, and slouch hat, took with him on his pilgrimage of remembrance the original old 'cello he played in the gutter on that bleak November day when Sir Michael gave him his first chance.

With reference to the recent decision of the Theatres Committee of the London County Council in respect of the Hippodrome and the Coliseum, Mr. Oswald Stoll points out that this is the second occasion on which the committee have made a recommendation in favour of the Hippodrome, and hopes that the Council at their full meeting on the 27th prox. will accept the committee's suggestion.

"It is," he says, "common knowledge that the Hippodrome was erected under a provisional licence which contained no restriction, and that, but for the delay of a few weeks between November, 1899, and January, 1900, in the building operations, the Hippodrome would have been opened with that unrestricted licence in operation." New variety houses, Mr. Stoll argues, should be placed upon the same footing as theatres, where no intoxicants are permited to be sold in the auditorium, and the conditions of sale and consumption are entirely free from objection.

The result of the Music Hall and Theatrical Football League matches on Sunday brings the Holborn Empire and Stoke Newington teams to the top of the list with the Tivoli, each having scored six points. The Gaiety comes next, with two points, but as yet they have only played two games. The matches are exciting considerable interest, and the competition for the possession of Mr. Harry Tate's cup threatens to be very keen.

For the Empire Theatre Lifeboat Matinée on Tuesday a strong programme has been arranged. Miss Ada Reeve, Miss May de Sousa, Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Mr. Robert Michaelis, Miss Valli Valli, Mr. Sydney Valentine, Mr. Hymack, Miss Kate Cutler, Mr. Harry Fragson, Mr. George Graves and Miss Maud Boyd, Mr. W. H. Berry and Miss Kitty Hanson have all promised to appear in special features from their respective répertoires. Miss Beatrice Collier and Mr. Fred Farren will give the amazing "Danse des Apaches," Miss Phyllis Bedells will appear in her now famous skipping-rope dance, and Mlle. Lydia Kyasht will perform her "Danse Russe"—all from the Empire ballet *A Day in Paris*. Mr. G. P. Huntley, Miss Julia Sanderson, Miss Maudi Darrell, and Mr. Gordon Cleather have also to be added to the list of entertainers. The Prince of Wales, the Duke of Connaught, and the Duke of Argyll head a long list of distinguished patrons of the matinée.

The Birkenhead Hippodrome (occupying the site of the Metropole) has been purchased by Messrs W. Sley and Walter De Frece, who will shortly open it as a variety house. The building, which is entirely new, has a big holding capacity.

At the Leeds Grand Theatre on Monday evening last Mr. Henri Jaxon took his place as musical-director in succession to the late Signor Romilli, and received a cordial welcome.

In order to be present at the opening of the Rochdale, the Jackson Family (proprietors) had to postpone their engagement at the Grand, Birmingham, which they were able to do by the kind permission of the Moss-Stoll directorate.

The Torquay Town Council are inviting tenders for the supply of a first-class military band consisting of seventeen performers (sixteen men and conductor), to play in the Princess Gardens for a period of ten weeks commencing Monday, July 5. Tenders should reach Fredk S. Hex, Town Clerk, not later than Dec. 3 next.

The general-manager of the Kursaal, Harrogate (Mr. Julian Clifford) requires a secretary and assistant-manager for the Kursaal and Spa Rooms. He must be between 30 and 45. The salary is £150 per annum. Applications must be made to Mr. J. Turner Taylor, Town Clerk, Harrogate. Further particulars may be found in our advertisement columns.

Mr. John Henry Cooke will reopen his circus at Fountainbridge, Edinburgh, for the season on Saturday with a talented company, which includes many old favourites. Mr. Cooke, whose alert, upright figure is well known in Edinburgh, has provided the public for many years with a bright, wholesome entertainment. He is regarded by all classes with a respect which borders on affection, and the veteran equestrian always gives of his best to his audiences. Mr. W. C. Burn, the energetic manager of last season, will be at his old post.

Mr. Charles R. Craig, so well known and respected under the Macnaghten régime in London, having been both at the Foresters' and Surrey, has been appointed by Mr. F. R. Griffiths, of the New Bioscope Trading Company, as the acting-manager of the Empire, Wharf-street, Leicester, where he is now installed, and, to all appearance, with every success.

Mr. Tom McHugh, mine host of the Antelope, Hanley, agent for the Actors' Union, the V.A.F., and M.H.A.R.A., presided on Tuesday at a farewell dinner given to Captain F. Shaw, manager of King's, Hanley, on his leaving for similar duties in South Staffordshire. The captain has made a host of friends in the Potteries, and his departure is much regretted. The dinner was at the Angel Restaurant.

Messrs. Plews and Sons, Ltd., the owners of the Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland, and Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd., the lessees, have decided to accede to the request of numerous patrons, and use the house for variety entertainments on the two performances a night principle. At the conclusion of the existing contracts, therefore, the theatre will be turned over to variety. The booking of the artists will be placed entirely in the hands of a London agent.

Mr. R. H. Eldrid, Mr. Julian Clifford's popular and able lieutenant at the Kursaal, Harrogate, has been offered, and accepted, the management of the Pavilion, Colwyn Bay. What is Harrogate's loss will be Colwyn Bay's gain. Mr. Eldrid is to be accorded a benefit at the Kursaal on Saturday next, when a host of talent is billed to appear Among them are Mr. F. W. Godley, baritone, Miss May Procter, Mr. Donal Speedy, Scotch comedian, Mr. John Bridge, violinist, Dr. Lynn, the well-known illusionist, and Miss Mignonne Eldrid, in speciality dances, &c.

At the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, it was resolved, on the motion of Mr. Jas. Duff, the chairman of the company, to pay a dividend for the half-year ended Oct. 31 at the rate of fifty per cent. per annum (free of income-tax) on the paid-up capital, making, with the dividend already paid, forty per cent. per annum, free of income-tax. Mr. F. A. Lumley was re-elected a director, and Messrs. Moores, Carson, and Watson, C.A., were re-elected as auditors.

Mr. George Harrop's remarks on Tuesday evening, the 10th, with reference to the Variety Artists' Federation, on the occasion of the presentation of the Blackpool Palace matinée cheque for £566 to the Chief Constable for the poor children's clothing fund, have provoked a reply from Mr. Edwin Adeler in defence of the Federation's attitude towards artists and charity performances.

Writing from the Pavilion Theatre, Liverpool, Mr. Adeler says:—"Permit me to point out that Mr. Harrop has made a slight error. The peppercorn percentage of 6d. in the £ demanded by the Federation is handed over in its entirety to the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund, one of the most admirably administered charities in this country. Having regard to the fact that artists invariably gladly give their services to all sorts of charities in which they can have no possible interest, I feel that Mr. Harrop will agree, on reflection, that the Federation's rule is a perfectly reasonable one."

On Saturday the directorate of the Empire, Sheffield, again lent their magnificent theatre company and staff for the augmentation of the funds of the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The special matinée was honoured by the presence of the Lord and Lady Mayoress of Sheffield, the Master Cutler, and other notabilities of the town and district, and the prices were trebled, so no doubt the sum realised will be a handsome one.

Mr. Alan Dunbar, the popular manager, worked hard in the good cause, and the band and staff acted with characteristic Empire *esprit de corps*. The augmented band, conducted by the talented *chef d'orchestre*, Mr. H. Renton-Gardner, played several classical and operatic selections, and the special turns included Mr. Mendel, the blind pianist; Mr. and Mrs. Theo Gilmer's pupils, in society and other dances; Mr. Albert Toft's refined and artistic living statuary, "Makers of History"; Mr. H. Kent Marples, in "Studies from Dickens; Miss Nellie Revell, Mr. Charles Turner, &c., &c. A warm vote of thanks was returned to the Moss' Empires Co., to Mr. Alan D. Dunbar, the artists, the staff, and the orchestra for their valuable help and services.

The promoters of the Lifeboat matinée (the tenth in aid of the Fund) at the Bradford Empire on Tuesday have every reason for thankfulness. The total receipts of £105 were £10 higher than on any previous occasion, and the success was all the more remarkable as the artists engaged during the current week at the house for the most part were V.A.F.'s, and did not appear; nor was the enthusiasm of the audience lessened by the fact that two of the turns announced to appear did not do so. No explanation was given for the absence of one of them, Dion Wade, but in the case of the Gothams—just prior to their leaving Leeds for Bradford their band parts were hidden or removed, by someone.

Miss Jessie Preston is bidding a temporary good-bye to England, and sails for America on Wednesday next by the s.s. Kaiser Wilhelm II.

The Montpelier Palace, Walworth, which has had a chequered career of late years, is now closed owing to L.C.C. requirements. All contracts signed by Mr. F. A. Fullagar are declared to be null and void.

The Meymotts (Jack and Ada) having completed their highly-successful tour with Mr Harry Rickards, are now on their way to England, and will arrive on Saturday, Dec. 19. They start the Stoll tour on the Monday following at Cardiff.

Miss May Audrey arrived on Saturday last by the Armadale Castle. She met with great success during her six weeks' stay in Johannesburg and five weeks in Durban. On her return she found the Gibbons tour awaiting her. This takes her up to 1911. She returns to town on Monday to the Canterbury and Coliseum.

Mr. Arthur Were has been elected secretary of the Terriers' Association, and the initiation ceremony and investiture took place on Sunday last. All communications respecting the Association should be forwarded to the Secretary, 69, Kennington-road, S.E.

Mlle. Ghita Corri, who only last week returned from Spain, where she has been presenting her popular song-scena, "Character Types," exclusively in French and Italian, is this week at the Palace, Reading, giving the same act in English. Next month she leaves for the Continent again to fulfil engagements in Paris and Bordeaux, returning, however, to this country early in the New Year.

Miss Florrie Forde returned to town after a most successful ten weeks' tour, finishing up at Plymouth, where she was presented with a most beautiful bouquet from Mr. David Bliss. Opening at the Oxford and Croydon on Monday night, she met with a most flattering reception. At the former hall she was presented with another beautiful bouquet from Mr. David Day, of the firm of Francis, Day, and Hunter. Her latest song rage, "Oh, oh, Antonio," immediately caught on, and was sung at both halls with great gusto.

Undoubtedly this is the great pantomime song of the year. Miss Forde is noted for chorus songs, and has produced a few of the finest during the last few years, viz., "Has anyone seen a German band?" "Down at the Old Bull and Bush," "She's a lassie from Lancashire," and last, but not least, "Oh, oh, Antonio."

Miss Bessie Butt, who has been making a big success with her song, "Sunshine Soo," at the London Coliseum, goes to the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, for pantomime. Mr. Peter Davey saw this clever little lady at the Hippodrome, Eastbourne, during the summer, and at once secured her for his principal boy. This will be Miss Butt's fourth consecutive year in the pantomime of "Cinderella," she having played the title-rôle for three seasons.

We regret to have to record the sudden death of Mr. "Teddy" Mosedale, which occurred a day or two since at the Lord John Russell, Queensbury-street, North London, of which hostelry he was proprietor. Mr. Mosedale, who was seventy years of age, was a good comedian, and few could excel him at dancing, so nimble and light on his feet was he, even at an advanced age. His song, "The Basher King," a parody of "The Masher King," one of Charles Godfrey's successes, was quite a hit in the early eighties.

The deceased gentleman was one of the earlier coster comedians, and did something in the agency business. His daughter, Amy, became associated as partner with Miss Maud Leach, a daughter of Gus Leach, for a long time the chairman of the Middlesex, and afterwards a proprietor of the Hoxton Varieties. The two ladies were known professionally as the Sisters Lyster (Maud and Amy). Amy Lyster afterwards blossomed into a successful burlesque actress. She was married to George Fairburn, comedian and mimic.

In aid of their Pantomime Fund for poor children the Playgoers' Club organised an evening concert, which was successfully carried out at His Majesty's Theatre on Sunday night. An interesting musical programme was provided, in which Miss Perceval Allen, Miss Gleeson-White, Miss Myra Hess (pianoforte), Miss Marie Wadia, Miss Maria Vinent (from the Palace), Mr. Walter Hyde, Mr. Robert Radford, Mr. Harrison Brockbank, and Mr. Marcus Thompson took part. Others who undertook to contribute to the programme were Miss May de Sousa, Mr. Lawrence Rea, Mr. Roy Collier, and Mr. Lionel Brough.

With Mr. Arthur W. Payne as conductor, the London Symphony Orchestra supplied some of the accompaniments and performed an excellent selection of instrumental pieces. The pianoforte accompaniments were undertaken by Mr. F. A. Sewell and Mr. Cyril Towsey. Well-known actresses who sold souvenir programmes were kept busy by the demands for autographs, and seemed successful in securing large sums for the children. The secretary announced that £200 had been added to the fund by the concert.

Mme. Albani is the principal singer on Sunday at the evening concert at the Coliseum under the egis of the Amalgamated Musicians' Union. The Imperial Military Band of 100 performers is another attraction.

Great strides are being made in the preparations for the opening at Christmas of the Edmonton Empire, of which Mr. Harry Bawn is chairman and director. The plastic decorative work is now in hand, and everything is shaping satisfactorily. This latest suburban pleasure palace is to have tip-up seats in every part.

The Mozart-Wilson family and Amati Orchestra, forming an excellent vaudeville amalgamation, are now in the tenth year of tour. Music of a delightful kind and dance are most artistically presented. Mr. Mozart Wilson, the head of the combination, and its pianist and director, is recuperating in Ireland after a severe attack of influenza.

A Toy City and Fun Fair will be open at Earl's Court twice daily from Dec. 10, 1908, until Feb. 6, 1909. The attractions will consist of a grand circus, a fairy pantomime, and a variety show, all free. Up-to-date side shows, stalls, and games may apply to Arthur Coomber, manager, "The Toy City," Earl's Court.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1 7-16; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1½; Empire (10s. paid), 1¼; London Pavilion Ord., 4½; London Pavilion Pref., 5½; Metropolitan, 15s.; Moss' Empires, 5½; Moss' Empires 5 per cent. Pref., 4½; Oxford, 6½; Palace, 1; Tivoli, 5½; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 12s.

The columns of this journal are likely to be responsible for the introduction of the greatest novelty likely to be seen in pantomimes this coming season. The effects that can be produced by the aid of the "Bubble Fountain" can be imagined, but not described. Pantomime producers should see one of these fountains working at Feldman's, music publishers, Arthur-street, Oxford-street. Last week the Invicta Works shipped to New Zealand a machine capable of producing 50,000 bubbles per minute.

Max Darewski, the famous boy composer, has signed to appear at Karno's Hippodrome, Exeter, for one week, through Tom Pacey's agency.

Mr. R. G. Knowles finishes to-night at the Holborn Empire a successful English tour arranged by Tom Pacey, who is already fixing dates for this famous artist for 1909 and 1910.

Mr. Albert Marsh will produce at the Canterbury on Monday a thrilling story of the goldfields, called *Chums Till Death*. There is strong human interest in this playlet, and every value will be given to it by an exceptionally powerful cast. The scenery is by Mr. Alfred Terraine, and the music by Mr. W. T. Gliddon.

Mr. Will Bennet, who, until recently, was Mr. Oswald Stoll's Press manager, has been secured by Mr. Robert Arthur to do similar work for his theatrical productions. Mr. Bennet now represents in newspaper-land the Earl's Court "Rinkeries," the Chicago Film Exchange, and several star artists.

Mr. William Johnson, secretary of the N.A.T.E., wishes to thank the V.A.F.'s who have kindly volunteered their services for the sixth annual concert of the theatrical employees, which is to take place at His Majesty's Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 29. Mr. Johnson would be pleased to hear from a few more lady turns who will volunteer their services.

By arrangement with the proprietors of the Margate Hippodrome, Mr. Eric Williams is reciting Mr. G. R. Sims's "Lifeboat," in costume, at both performances to-night (Saturday), when a collection will be made on behalf of the widows of the poor fellows just lost at sea off the Margate coast.

No fewer than 249 applications for space for Salome dances have been received by the management of Fun City, to be held in the Olympia Annexe. As only one entertainment of a kind is allowed, the manager will organise a Salome competition one week before the opening of the display on Dec. 7, when Miss Maud Allan will be asked to act as judge. The winner will be given, free of cost, an allotment of space worth £100.

Dr. Walford Bodie finished another record week at the Palace, Bristol. Despite the fact of it being his sixth visit, he played to packed houses nightly, finishing on Saturday night amidst scenes of wildest enthusiasm. In the second house the Doctor was inundated with floral offerings from many of his old cures. Before concluding his demonstration, the Captain of the City of Bristol Marine Ambulance Corps, accompanied by three other officers, walked on the stage, and, in a neat speech, thanked Dr. Bodie on behalf of the citizens of Bristol for the great good he had done.

Five years ago the doctor had given them £25—the first subscription towards the purchase of a new ambulance brougham. At a later visit he handed them another handsome cheque, and during the present visit had repeated his great kindness. Their excellent friend, Dr. Bodie, had already been decorated with the badge of the corps, and he would have the pleasure of pinning another decoration on to his breast The captain did this amid cheers again and again renewed. Dr. Bodie will star at the Coliseum, Glasgow, next week.

At the close of the ordinary business on Thursday at the Brighton Town Council meeting the Mayor read a letter from the promoters of the Brighton Kursaal, Messrs. Joseph Lyons and William Forbes, in which they said:—"As, unfortunately, it is now too late to settle the little differences that have arisen between us with regard to the form in which the Bill for the promotion of the summer and winter palace at Brighton shall be presented to Parliament, we have determined not to proceed with the scheme during the forthcoming session. They had been influenced in coming to this decision by the opposition to the scheme, which they did not desire to force unless it met with the general approval of the inhabitants."

The principal subject of difference that has arisen related to the site. At first the promoters wanted a fifty years' lease, at the expiration of which the site and buildings on it were to revert to the corporation. Last month the promoters considered that if would facilitate matters in Parliament if, instead of the lease, they were granted the freehold, but with a "reverter" to the corporation, as before, after the expiration of fifty years. The corporation have taken counsel's opinion on the point, and were to have met on Tuesday next to receive the opinion and give their decision, but the promoters' letter now renders this course unnecessary.

Mme. Albani, who is to appear on the variety stage, is of Canadian birth. Marie Louise Cecile Emma Lajeunesse was born at Chambly, about fifteen miles south-east of Montreal, on Nov. 1, 1852. She began music at the age of four, and has been at it ever since. She made her first appearance in public when she was eight years old at Montreal. So successful was she that she had to give three concerts, and on each night the stage was strewn with flowers thrown at her feet. Later Miss Lajeunesse went to Paris, where she studied singing for a year under the celebrated tenor, Gilbert Louis Duprez. Thence to Milan, where she became a pupil of the renowned teacher, Francesco Lamperti, a prince of singing-teachers.

Mlle. Albani—as she then was—made her first appearance in opera at the Opera House, Messina, in 1870, as Amina in *La Somnambula*. Her success was instantaneous, and it was not long before she was engaged for the Royal Italian Opera season. In the character of Amina she also made her first appearance in England on the stage of Covent Garden Theatre, under the late Mr. Frederick Gye's management, on April 2, 1872. In 1878 she was married to Mr. Ernest Gye, eldest son of her impresario, and thenceforth took up her abode in England.

To Mr. Percy Ford, the acting-manager of the Camberwell Empire, a benefit was accorded on Tuesday evening, when a programme of some seventy turns was announced. Midway in the proceedings the curtain rose on the beneficiaire, surrounded by the members of the committee. Mr. Jesse Sparrow, introducing Mr. Ford to the audience, eulogised his work, both before and behind the stage, adding that his services were greatly appreciated by the staff and management. In conclusion, Mr. Sparrow made a presentation to the beneficiaire of a cheque on behalf of himself and friends. Mr. Bert Chapman, of the Lava Skating Rink, also made a handsome gift to Mr. Ford. Mr. Ford effectively voiced his thanks. Notwithstanding the friction in the variety world with the V.A.F., the latter's chairman, Mr. Joe O'Gorman, was on the stage during the presentation.

The fine programme put forward was contributed by the following artists:—Kitty Alma, Chas. Bignell, John G. Brandon and company, Happy Harry Brown, Burnetti, the Cliffs, Master Clark, the Danbys, Tots Davis, Marie Elsie, Alf Fry, Hans and Lux, Hamilton Hill, Horace Herman, Herald Comedy Four, Jeapes's Animated Graphic, Charles Lilburn, Adele Levey and Frank Lilliput, Little Ikey Moe, Molly Maguire, Peggy Pryde, Bob Pender and company, the Pems, Lew Peterman, Leedham Stanley, Sisters Slater, Dan Thomas, Voldam Bros., Azella Wilson, Ford and Maxwell, and Mitchell and Mace. Messrs. Richard Cass and W. Nutt stage-managed.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Sley will celebrate their silver wedding on Saturday next, Nov. 28. It is a happy coincidence that twenty-five years since Mr. Sley commenced business as a variety agent.

The second general meeting of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild takes place at the Oxford on Wednesday next at two o'clock sharp. All friends of the profession are cordially invited, and members are especially requested to attend. The meeting will be opened by Mrs. H. Maud Gamble (Lady Mayoress of Chelsea).

Carta and Mirtziana, in their new creation, have made a most gratifying success at the Apollo, Paris, where they were immediately re-engaged after their first night. Their new act is being fast booked up for England.

The Achmed Ibrahim Troupe made their first appearance at the London Hippodrome on Monday, and secured a warm reception.

Mr. James Brady, the well-known eccentric vocal joker, will in future be known under the name of J. B. Good, the change of name being found necessary in consequence of the existence of several other James Bradys.

Miss Kitty Colyer, already an established favourite at the Oxford and other West End music halls, made her initial bow on Monday to a London Pavilion audience, scoring an instantaneous success. Miss Colyer, with her particularly delightful and happy way of rendering her songs, greatly pleased the packed house, and the wonderful speciality dance with which she concluded her performance was received with enthusiasm.

The 585th meeting of the Executive Committee of the M.H.A.R.A. was held at the offices on Wednesday afternoon, with Mr. Arthur Rigby (hon. treasurer) in the chair, and there were present Messrs. James E. Donegan, Jeff Vendome, Bernard Stavordale, Fred W. Mill (V.P.), G. B. Sinclair, H. Herald, John Alexander, W. H. Atlas, Ryder Slone, Lieut. Albini, and C. Douglas Stuart (secretary). It was decided that next week's meeting be held at twelve noon, to enable members to attend the general meeting of the Music-hall Ladies' Guild.

The secretary announced that the Isle of Wight Railway had now come into line with the other companies regarding the three-quarter fare concession. The G.E.R. have agreed to issue single tickets, and the S.E.R. is now the only company insisting upon all members travelling securing their tickets at the same time.

Mr. Oswald Stoll's generosity in allowing collections to be taken at the doors of the Leicester Palace Theatre after the performances has proved a most gratifying success. The collections are made owing to the great distress at present prevalent in the town, and although it is only the second week over 500 families (300 each week) have had substantial meals, &c., on the Sunday. The recipients are selected from the most deserving cases by the local Distress Committee.

On behalf of the Committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-st, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to thank Mrs. George Jennings (collection 10s.), Miss Fanny St. Clair (St. Clair and Howard) (collection £1 2s. 8½d.), Miss Maggie Bowman (collection 2s. 6d.), Mr. Ernest Korrie (collection 2s. 6d.), the Three Rubys (collection 2s. 6d.), the Misses McNeill, Edinburgh (parcel of clothing), Mrs. Bradgate (ladies' boots), Miss Belle Elmore (parcel of hats), Mrs. V. Cowper (gentlemen's underclothing), Miss Nellie Wallace (subscribing and collecting 7/6 towards helping a poor sufferer into a home for consumptives), Mr. Edward Luke (Southsea) (gift and collecting 5s.), and Miss McNeill (2s. 6d. for the same good cause).

Miss May would be glad to hear from proprietors and managers who have vacancies for caretakers or cleaners, having several women and men on her books with excellent references. She hopes with the approach of Christmas and its attendant extra work that occupation can be found for the willing and deserving, also sewing work in the pantomime wardrobes. Friends of the charity are heartily welcome to the tea and reception, held every Wednesday four to five o'clock. Mr. Henry George Hibbert gave 7s. 6d. towards fund for consumptive patient, not 1s. 6d., as stated last week.

Mr. Richard Cass, the well-known South London variety and dramatic agent, has suffered a severe bereavement by the death of his father, Mr. James Poulton Cass, at the age of 63, which sad event occurred on the 12th at his residence, Glen Rothay, 9, Mundania-road, Camberwell. The deceased gentleman was a singer of repute, and for many years had been greatly interested in the South London Choral Association, of which he was a prominent member.

For forty-nine years he had been connected with Messrs. Lloyd, Attree, and Smith, of Wood-street, E.C. The funeral on Tuesday at Forest Hill Cemetery was largely attended, the firm being represented by Mr. G. Smith, one of the partners, and Mr. F. Rourke, an old colleague of deceased, and others. The choice and numerous wreaths included those sent by the widow, sons, and daughters, Messrs. Lloyd and Smith, town and country travellers, colleagues at Wood-street, South London Choral Association, and many others.

Strange it is that when the glamour of pantomime is over the land, little or nothing is heard of the workers to whose genius a great part of the effect is due—namely, the composers of the music. For a long time past these gifted people have been hard at work, and none more so than Mr. Henry W. May, the brilliant conductor of Shepherd's Bush Empire, to whom so many pieces in the past have owed their success. This season he is responsible for the music of the following Milton Bode productions—to wit, *Cinderella*, at the New Theatre, Cardiff; *Aladdin* at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton; and *Jack the Giant-killer* at the Opera House, Leicester.

"Barmaids" is the title of a farcical episode that scored an immediate success in Melbourne at the Opera House, where it was produced on Saturday, Oct. 3, by those clever people, Mr. Harry Lowther and Miss Hulo Hodgson. The gentleman's impersonation of the butler, a benevolent marplot, is one of the funniest sketches that has been seen by the Cornstalks for some time. The situations, too, are most humorous, and the uncontrolable laughter of a crowded audience on the first night augurs well for an enthusiastic reception from the playgoers of Sydney, where it is to be given by the above-mentioned pair, who form one of the chief attractions in Mr. Harry Rickards's brilliant speciality company.

Mr. Manager Harvey came before the curtain during the interval at the Palace, Bow, E., on Saturday night, and, in the course of a few remarks, told his audience that a representative of "our leading London music hall paper" [*The Era*] had visited the hall during the week, and had expressed his pleasure at the orderliness and attentive conduct of the Palace patrons in appreciating the high-class fare provided there. He referred to Mr. Albert Wyndham's *Prince Arthur* and other especially refined items, including Mr. Malcolm Cumming's company in *A Tooth for a Wife*. Mr. Harvey concluded by assuring his patrons that the management would continue their endeavours in the future as in the past to place before them the pick of the variety market.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Miss Florrie Forde on Monday last at the Oxford introduced to a thronged house her tremendous hit "Oh! oh! Antonio!" and created something like a furore. Never was the talented artist's powerful voice heard to greater advantage, and the song was joined in by the entire audience Mr. C. W. Murphy, the composer, who was present, received many congratulations. Practically every pantomime in Great Britain has secured this tried success—a success that sent the Isle of Man crazy when Miss Forde first introduced it there in the summer. Messrs. Francis and Day are the publishers.

Mr. G. H. Elliott at the Tivoli, at Hammersmith, and at the Metropolitan has during the week swept all before him with that tuneful number "Sue, Sue, Sue, I'm very much in love with you." The genial artist has been inundated with requests from pantomime artists to be allowed to "break it in" at variety palaces before Christmas, and has in certain instances granted the requests. Messrs. Francis and Day have in this song one of the foregone conclusions of the year in the way of a success.

Mr. R. G. Knowles, who will soon be leaving these shores, is going great guns at the Holborn Empire with his amusing song "L. S. D." and Messrs. Francis and Day, the publishers, have had a great number of applications from prominent artists for rights for pantomime.

Miss Madge Temple has this week set all Liverpool humming "Come, be my rainbow," which suits her rich and cultured voice to a nicety. The song, which lends itself to spectacular effects, will be featured in many Christmas productions. It is published by Mr. David Day's firm.

Miss Winifred Hare, who at Christmas will be setting susceptible Irish hearts aflame in Dublin, has during the week at Hanley been received nightly with acclamation for her artistic rendition of Hermann E. Darewski's "It's better than being a Carnegie." The principal boys who know the value of a rousing chorus have long since noted this popular item in Messrs Francis and Day's catalogue.

Mr. George Lashwood at Southport has nightly had again and again to come before the curtain, so persistent and vociferous has been the applause evoked by "Hang out the front door key," which Messrs. Francis and Day publish. His old favourite "In the Twi-twi-twilight" still retains its wonderful hold on the affection of the masses.

Messrs. Francis and Day's number entitled "Every fellow's in love with a girl" will be found to be a big surprise packet at many foremost theatres on Boxing Night, and the number of artists applying for rights in the song is daily increasing.

Mr. David Day's firm has just secured for publication Miss Kitty Colyer's great successes, "My little Snow House," by Will Hyde, and "Oh! Dolly, are you coming out to-night?" The charming artist's speciality dance has evoked thunders of applause during the week at the London Pavilion and at Croydon.

The first large edition of Messrs. Francis and Day's humorous sarcastic husband-and-wife duet "'Do you remember?'—'How can I forget!'" in "Sixpenny Pop." form, has been bespoken by the music trade. There has been a great inquiry for the duet from low comedians and dames.

The talented Miss Kitty Colyer is climbing to the top of the tree with quite extraordinary rapidity. Her latest successful songs, "My little snowhouse," written and composed by Will Hyde; "Oh, Dolly!" by Will Hyde and T. Robson; and "What's the use of popping round," by Will Hyde and Will Haines, have all been secured for publication by Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter, and bid fair to become the most popular songs of the day.

"Put me among the boys" is being featured with phenomenal success by winsome Miss Lena Verdi this week at the Ealing Hippodrome, and no doubt this clever comedienne and eccentric dancer will make it her *pièce de résistance* in her forthcoming special engagement in the pantomime at the Borough Theatre, Stratford.

Illustrated song vocalists will be pleased to hear that they can now obtain from Messrs. Fullager and Co. a set of coloured lantern slides for Messrs. Sheard's pretty rustic ballad "Jennie! don't swing on the gate."

Miss Fanny Sinclair, of Howard and Sinclair, selected "Jennie! don't swing on the gate" and "Little Silver Moonbeam" on a recent visit to Messrs. Sheard's establishment for immediate production.

Handel, the Australian tenor, writes Messrs. Sheard that he is very pleased with the set of slides they sold him for "When the sunrise paints the distant hills with rose," and that he cannot speak too highly of the song, which always gains him encores from all kinds of audiences.

Currie and Beatie introduced "Little Silver Moonbeam" on their Scotch tour on Monday last. The song proved a great success with them, the audience singing the chorus, which is decidedly catchy and pleasing.

Mr. J. W. Hill (tenor) and Mr. W. B. Robinson (baritone) write Messrs. Sheard that they have lately been singing the fine duet "The Merry Vagabonds" with great success, and that it never fails to secure an encore.

The new rustic ballad "Jennie! don't swing on the gate," is the work of Messrs. Philip Wingate and H. W. Petrie, who a few years since gained so much popularity with their child's song "I don't want to play in your yard." Messrs. Sheard have also just published Petrie's latest "kid" song, "I have lots of fun that you don't," which should become popular very quickly.

Miss Yolande Noble's music hall and theatrical rights in her popular number "Who'd like to pay for my holiday?" lapse on Dec. 16. It therefore becomes entirely unrestricted for pantomimes, &c., from that date.

"A New Year's Version" is now printed with Messrs. Sheard's song, "Hurrah for the Old Age Pension!" The two first editions were in the future tense, but this "New Year's Version" is in the present. Singers can therefore continue to sing the song for as long as they like after the Act comes into force.

It will be welcome news to scores of bass and baritone singers to hear that Messrs. Sheard and Co. have just printed the orchestral band parts to their celebrated bass song "Asleep in the Deep" in F as well as in D.

Miss Annie Purcell makes her reappearance in town at the Coliseum next Monday, and will introduce an entirely novel song-scena entitled "My Girl from Italy." Artists in search of a novelty would be well advised to hear what Miss Purcell considers another "Zuyder Zee." The song is published by Messrs. B. Feldman and Co.

(Continued on page 28.)

DEATH OF KATTI LANNER.

In connection with the ballets produced at the Empire Theatre, the name of Katti Lanner will always be associated, and the news of her death, which occurred on Sunday, at her residence, 40, North-side, Clapham Common, in her seventy-eighth year, will be heard with regret in both theatrical and variety circles, in which the deceased ballet mistress was highly esteemed and respected. For years she was a familiar figure at the Empire on first nights, invariably appearing with the chef d'orchestre, to take the honour of a call at the conclusion of the brilliant productions for which the younger Leicester-square home of ballet has been famous for the last twenty years. She made her first bow to the public as a *maîtresse de ballet* on the opening night of the Empire as a variety theatre, being responsible for the choreographic arrangements of *Sports of England* and *Dilara*. During her twenty years' association with the house she was responsible for forty productions founded on poetic, classical, melodramatic, and modern themes. In these the deceased lady's ingenuity, resource, and appreciation of *mise-en-scène* found endless opportunities, and it was with considerable regret that the London public heard of her retirement a short time since, and the compliment paid to her at the time had all the significance of an affectionate farewell of one who in her day had done much, by her teaching and example, to raise the standard of the art and status of the ballerina.

Katti, or Katharina Lanner, who was born in Vienna on Aug. 15, 1831, must have had the love of dancing inculcated in her earliest years; for her father Joseph Franz Karl Lanner may be considered the founder of our present dance music. His galops, quadrilles, polkas, and marches, but especially his waltzes and *ländler*, bear traces of the frank, genial disposition which made him so beloved. All his works are penetrated with the warm, national life of Vienna. He dedicated many of his waltzes to crowned heads and distinguished persons. Thus the Victoria-Walzer was dedicated to the late Queen, and the Troubadour-Walzer to Donizetti. As a mark of distinction he was appointed capellmeister of the Bürger Regiment.

The deceased dancer commenced her training at an early age, and was confided to the care of the Viennese Imperial Court ballet master, Campilli. She commenced her public career when she made her first appearance at the Court opera in Vienna in 1845, when she was barely fourteen years of age, in a *pas-de-deux* with Frédéric Zoli. A two years' engagement followed at the Imperial Opera, Vienna. After a brief interval Katti determined to seek fortune in Germany, and at a State fête held in Munich she was publicly complimented by King Max of Bavaria. During the four succeeding years she took up her residence in Hamburg, being appointed there Mistress of the Ballet, in which capacity she invented several ballet scenarios. Flying visits to Scandinavia and Russia, together with a twelve months' engagement at the Grand Theatre, Bordeaux, followed; while at the San Carlos Theatre, Portugal, where she fulfilled two different engagements, the King himself on the occasion of one of her benefits not only congratulated her personally, but presented her with a magnificent diamond necklet. Her first visit to England, made at the invitation of Mr. Mapleson, took place in 1871, when she appeared in *Gisella*, during the Italian opera season. Carlotta Grisi, one of the greatest dancers of any

[Photo by Lambert, Weston, and Son.

THE LATE MADAME KATTI LANNER.

time, had made a great triumph in this graceful work by Adolphe Adam in the forties, and referrring long afterwards to the event, Madame Lanner declared, "I may say that the task before me at the time—namely, to win success—was not exactly a light one, inasmuch as I had to follow such favourites as Taglioni, Cerito, Carlotta Grisi, and Lucille Grahn, whose triumphs were still fresh in the minds of the public, which is ever jealous and conservative concerning its favourites. It is, however, at the same time always willing to extend a welcome hand to any newcomer whom it may consider worthy of notice. That I made a success, then, at Drury-lane, must be attributed largely to this sentiment." Of course, this was Madame Lanner's modesty, for her first London season, during which she produced several of her own ballets, was completely satisfactory. After a triumphal tour through the States she returned to London, where she rejoined Mr. Mapleson at Drury-lane for the 1875 opera season. As Elena in *Robert le Diable* she made a great hit.

In 1876 Mr. Mapleson founded the National Training School for Dancing, with which Mme. Lanner's name will be for ever connected. With the end of this year her brilliant career in character on the stage ended. Henceforth, she devoted herself to the labours of direction of ballet, combining therewith the duties at her school. For Mr. Mapleson, for Carl Rosa, for Sir Augustus Harris, first in pantomime, and then for his Italian opera season, and at Drury-lane and Covent Garden, with their great terpsichorean spectacles; for the Crystal Palace management, for the Alexandra Palace management, for the Empire management—for these and many more of lesser importance quite beyond enumeration, she carried on her unrivalled work.

In 1905, when the Empire reopened after important structural alterations had been effected, the following tribute was paid to the deceased lady:—"In connection with the ballets produced at this theatre, the name of Katti Lanner will always be associated, she having from the earliest days of the premier variety theatre of the world assisted in the perfection of these productions, bringing her unexampled experience to bear upon some of the most beautiful spectacles Europe has ever seen."

"THE LAST HALT."

Episode in One Act, Produced at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday, Nov. 16.

Captain Marakoff ..... Mr. Harry Gilbey
Lieutenant Kosky ..... Mr. S. H. Long
Prince Paul Lerkoff .. Mr. Wilfred H. Benson
Rebecca Marstein ..... Miss Mabel Wynn

This sketch adds one more to the many dramatic pictures of Russian tyranny. An officer named Paul Lerkoff, more humane than his companions, saves a prisoner, Rebecca Marstein, from the persecution of his brother officers, who are maltreating the Jewish women. Paul then discovers that Rebecca is his mother, and plans to become British Ambassador and take her with him to England; but the shock of finding her long-lost son kills the poor creature, and she makes a "last halt" in his arms. Mr. Wilfred H. Benson played Paul Lerkoff with earnestness and feeling, and Miss Mabel Wynn enacted the unhappy Rebecca with skill and power. The rest of the characters were in good hands.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"

Miss FLORRIE FORDE'S LATEST SENSATION.

THE SONG OF THE YEAR.

OH! OH! ANTONIO!

The following will Positively be Featured in the Principal Pantomime Productions in the Kingdom:—

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS."
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."
"MANDY'S WEDDING."
"ARE YOU THE LITTLE GIRL I MET THE OTHER EVENING."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"BOMBADIER."
"WHO SAID HE DON'T LIKE GIRLS."
"SHADOWLAND."
"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO."
"L.S.D."

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER.

THE AGENCY QUESTION AND THE V.A.F.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

Sir,—The ninth week of this dispute unfortunately finds both parties in the above contest still at variance, with no outward sign of any settlement. That the Agency Question needed attention is acknowledged by both parties, and the want of a uniform "office copy" was universally admitted. Much has been written and said on the matter, yet the most important point seems to have been lost sight of, viz., the draft of office copy as submitted to the general meeting of the V.A.F. on Sunday, Sept. 6. In plain English it meant as follows:—

A maximum of 10 per cent. commission on work done.
No re-engagement clause;
And a three months' bar on direct booking,
Thereby giving freedom of agency.

All the agents, with the exception of Mr. Granville (Fortune and Granville) present at the conference were unanimous as to the abolition of the re-engagement clause, but in order to safeguard the agents' interests (and rightly so) the three months' bar on direct booking was inserted in the "proposed" office copy. For example, an act is booked for Monday next at the Varieties, Leeds, by Day's Agency; it makes good, and on the Tuesday and subsequent mornings the act interviews the management for its return date, Day's Agency in the meantime having no possible chance of negotiating the return, not from laxity of their office arrangements, but because they are unable to personate Sir Boyle Roche's famous bird. Now, with the three months' bar on direct booking, the agent is safeguarded to a certain extent; but it also acts in a far better manner for the artist, as he is able to go to any one of the seventy agents and ask him to negotiate the return date, and thus make the original agent more alive to his business of attending to his clients' wants.

The situation at present is a deadlock, and the business is in a very uncertain condition. That the managers are taking sides with the agents is certain. "'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis 'tis true." This is not to be wondered at, yet the managers should remember that a Federation is absolutely necessary both in the interests of the industry, the proprietors, and the artists. It is necessary to deal collectively; it is necessary that such an organisation should exist to protect managers from suicidal barring clauses; it is necessary that the artists themselves should have a society capable of looking after and redressing just grievances *Revenons à nos moutons*. The V.A.F. officially declare that nothing will satisfy but 5 per cent. on work done, no deduction of commission, no re-engagement clauses (this to be prospective and retrospective), and the payment of all legal costs incurred by the V.A.F. to date. The Agents' Association require 10 per cent. and a three months' re-engagement clause, and deduction of commission. Both sides are determined not to budge. So be it. But who are suffering? Not those acts who are fairly well booked—they are signed and bound to office copies, to pay 10 per cent. on this and *all* re-engagements. Whatever happens they are on a something-to-nothing chance. If by a process of wearing down the Federation gains the day, they win. If the agents gain the day (by the disruption of the V.A.F.) the acts quoted above lose nothing, as their then condition remains *in statu quo ante*. We venture to state that were a ballot taken of the entire membership of the V.A.F.—some 3,750—and were that ballot secret, the aspect of the present situation would be changed to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned. It will be said the "votes of confidence," &c., have been carried unanimously. That is not doubted. It is easier to vote with the many—it saves a lot of argument—but the voter at the same time exercises the Jesuitical reservation and acts accordingly. Yet the way out is perfectly constitutional, yet needs courage. Rule 37 of the Book of Constitutions "Referendum": Any member or members declaring their disapproval of any resolution passed at a general meeting can, upon presentation to the Executive Committee of a petition signed by 100 members in good standing, demand that a ballot of the entire Federation shall be taken on the resolution."

Therefore, if the members of the V.A.F. are dissatisfied with the present deadlock, let them proceed constitutionally. Both sides want their own way; let neither have it; but as a compromise revert back to the office copy as submitted to the general meeting on Sept. 6, 1908, viz.:

10 per cent. for work done, no re-engagement clause, and a three months' bar on direct booking.

Both sides would then be unable to claim a victory. As a step to finality and uniformity the above solution has its advantages. And, after all, let us analyse the numerical strength of those who voted for the 5 per cent.—800 odd—and yet these are to bind the hands of the rest. True, the remainder seem indifferent to their fate; but does this indifference mean that they are V.A.F.'s only as far as their subscriptions go, and that their loyalty is *non est*? We know that any solution other than the "official solution" will be entirely unacceptable to the powers that be on the V.A.F. executive; yet even they must realise that the situation is fraught with many, many dangers, and if, in the furtherance of this movement they are inspired by any thoughts of malice towards individuals, they must remember that this is a situation which will have far-reaching effects on "the smaller fry." It is good to be loyal and true, and none are more true than "the smaller fry"; they who do the real hard enthusiastic work; they who unfortunately are often valorous to the verge of foolhardiness, and all because of their loyalty. It is good to be loyal, but how hard, especially when the hunger blears your eyes and your throat seems incapable of movement. The emergency fund is absolutely incapable of repaying the moral and financial damage of contracts that could have been accepted had the trouble been taken in hand after the fourth or fifth week of the dispute. Take example from the labour world as recently seen in the great Cotton Lock-out. Both sides refused arbitration; both sides were equally determined not to budge; and after a trial of strength sweet reasonableness at last prevailed. No shouting of victory, but both sides satisfied. There is a bigger danger ahead—a reactionary movement—and that means ruin!—Yours faithfully,

JANUS.

London.
Nov. 20, 1908.

At the Empire Theatre of Varieties, Burnley, May Mars is appearing with her beautiful song scena, "In the shadows of the Pyramids"; John Lloyd's Gondolier Glee singers, including Miss Helen Bourne, lady tenor, meet with a flattering reception; and Shenton and Chicks, in a pot-pourri of song are most acceptable; Grapho and Jackson, *In a Restaurant*, are very funny; and Dancit is applauded for clever footwork; Botello and Virginia pay a welcome return visit in gymnastics; and the Morans, with quick electrical scenic effects, are clever musicians. The picture by the Theatroscope is The Rural Postman.

A comic song by Wagner, consisting of twelve verses, both words and music being written by the composer, is announced to be put up for auction in Berlin shortly. The song was dedicated to the landlord of a Leipzig hotel.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

(Continued from page 25.)

So great is the demand for the new Irish song "Connemara" that it is quite impossible to satisfy all comers, much as Messrs. Feldman would like, and to save further disappointment it would be wise for ambitious artists to secure this sure success without delay.

"A Tiny Seed of Love," immortalised by that charming and versatile artist Miss Maude Mortimer, will bring fame and fortune to the Feldman house. Never have they had anything approaching the success of what they term the song of a lifetime.

When Boxing Night arrives and the success of pantomime songs is being chronicled, the dark horse of the year will unquestionably be Charles R. Whittle's "I want you to see my girl," which up to three weeks ago was an unknown quantity. From all parts of the country Messrs. Feldman and Co. are daily inundated with requests for permission for pantomime rights, and, needless to say, are very elated over their good fortune.

The National Music Publishing Company have lost no time in placing their latest winner, entitled "Put me upon an Island where the girls are few," having already reserved it for Jack Pleasants, Harry Grey, Barney Armstrong, Pete Birmingham, Will Letters, and a host of others, for several of the leading pantomimes.

The National Music Publishing Company will be well represented in the Glasgow pantomimes this year, Robert Arthur having already secured several of their numbers, amongst which are the 100-guinea song, "When the leaves are tinged with gold," and George Lashwood's great success, "If it's a lady."

The National Music Publishing Company, among the songs they have made free for pantomime, and which have been placed with the leading managers and producers all over the United Kingdom, are Lowenwirth and Cohan's chorus song, "My little Eva"; Victoria Monks' two winners, "I wish I had a pal like you" and "Call round any old time"; Will Godwin's latest hit, "When I've a hundred pounds," and George Lashwood's novelty song, "Nicolo, Nicolo, play on your piccolo."

"Kate, Kate, won't you roller skate?" is a very appropriate title, as undoubtedly roller-skating is the present rage. The National Music Publishing Company have already received at least fifty-six applications for this song, and have placed it with a great many pantomime managers and producers.

Miss Ella Shields is scoring a success at the Holborn with her coon song, "Do you want any coal?" This is a capital number for pantomime, and forms one of a trio of excellent principal girl songs which the Von Tilzer Music Company are exploiting this season, the others being "In a little wooden house in Norway" and "Keepsakes."

Mr. Harry Ford is featuring as his principal song on his provincial tour, "Your mustn't do that, naughty boy," which bids fair to eclipse his "I wonder." The publishers, the Von Tilzer Company, are receiving demands from the music dealers right along Mr. Ford's tour. Another success published by the same firm is Sam Mayo's "The wind blew hard from the north-south-west."

Mr. Arthur Lennard has just accepted for early production from the Von Tilzer Music Company a new song, entitled "Is there no message from England?" The publishers will give out a few permissions as soon as the song is issued.

Will Evans is just now exploiting one of the funniest, simplest, catchiest songs heard for a long time. It is entitled "A B C," and the refrain consists of the alphabet from A to Z, ingeniously arranged to form a positively irresistible chorus. The ditty has some really comic verses and most amusing patter, and is equally suitable for dame or any other comedy character in pantomime. Comedians who are on the look-out for a ready-made winner cannot do better than secure a copy from the Star Music Co.

There seems no longer any doubt that the popular principal boy song in forthcoming pantomimes will be the Star Music Co.'s top-liner, "I don't care if there's a girl there." Through the courtesy of Mr. Charles Whittle a few other permits have been granted, and the result has been a complete, overwhelming, and instantaneous success. During the week Mr. Fred Barnes wired: "Am simply storming them with 'I don't care if there's a girl there,' five and six curtains each house." Practically the same news was received from L. W. Haines, Arthur Sutcliffe, Harry Simms, Maude Esmond, and others.

The Star Music Co. have had scores of applications from principal boys and girls for permission to sing the catchy chorus number, "Have you got another girl at home like Mary" in various pantomime productions. Others in great demand are "Ayesha, my sweet Egyptian," "Don't put your umbrella up before it starts to rain," "My pretty little piece of Dresden china," "Won't you waltz the 'Merry Widow' waltz with me?" "Carolina Brown, of Chinatown," and "Molly Maloney."

Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have this week purchased Miss Kitty Colyer's "My little snow house" and her tuneful chorus song, "Oh, Dolly!"

"MY LANCASHIRE WIFE."

A Comedy Sketch, produced at the Middlesex Music Hall on Monday, Nov. 16.

The Husband .....Mr. Albert Brasque
The Wife .....Miss Cora Duncan

My Lancashire Wife is the title of a quiet little comedy sketch which we saw for the first time on Monday evening at the Middlesex. It is presented by Miss Cora Duncan and Mr. Albert Brasque. The playlet consists of a conversation between a Lancashire mill-owner and his wife. Only a few years previously the position in life of both of them was of a most insignificant and humble character, the man holding a mean appointment and the girl being a mill hand. The husband has succeeded in educating himself to a certain extent, and has acquired a little of the culture necessary to the social existence of a man in good financial circumstances. His great anxiety now centres round the behaviour of his wife, who speaks in the broadest Lancashire dialect, and whose ignorance in matters of common knowledge is as profound as her lack of what is usually considered proper etiquette at the table. But she is in heart and mind a good woman, and is able to retort that some of their aristocratic acquaintances are not all that they should be. Her criticism of two of them finds confirmation in a newspaper reference to an approaching divorce suit, and the husband, to whose notice it first comes, decides that after all his Lancashire wife's homely ways are infinitely preferable to the moral code of some members of the "upper ten." Miss Cora Duncan gives a characteristic and amusing study of a Lancashire woman, and Mr. Albert Brasque furnishes a consistent and admirable portraiture of the husband. The little piece has been well received. It is distinctly refined and altogether pleasing.

MESSRS. FELDMAN'S PANTOMIME SONGS.

Messrs. B. Feldman and Co., the well-known music publishers, of Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, have some very delightful songs for the pantomime season. Mr. Bert Feldman tells us that he has never known such a busy season, and he is quite enthusiastic concerning the "numbers" his firm is now publishing.

What may be considered Messrs. Feldman's *magnum opus* for this year is a song, entitled "If I should plant a tiny seed of love in the garden of your heart." It is written by Mr. Ballard Macdonald, and the music is by Mr. James W. Tate. Mr. Feldman describes it as "the sensation of my career." The first verse of the song—which, by the way, was originally "produced" by Miss Maude Mortimer and immediately caught on—runs thus:—

Busy little honey bees were buzzing to and fro,
Humming in the summer air,
Gathering the honey and the little drops of dew,
That lay within the blossoms fair;
A youth and a maid thro' a garden stray'd,
And the youth seem'd out of sorts,
So the maid with a smile just to tease him said,
I'll give a penny for your thoughts;
I was wondering said he:

CHORUS.

If I should plant a tiny seed of love,
In the garden of your heart,
Would it grow to be a great big love some day,
Or would it die and fade away?
Would you care for it and tend it ev'ry day,
Till the time when all must part,
If I should plant a tiny seed of love,
In the garden of your heart?

Another capital song issued by the same enterprising firm is called, "I want you to see my girl." It has been written and composed by Messrs. Harry Castling and Fred Godfrey, and has been "featured" by Mr. Charles Whittle. The ditty is characterised by a haunting refrain, and the chorus is as follows:—

"I want you to see my girl,
What a girl, what a girl, what a pearl!
I want you to see her eyes,
Oh! her eyes, dreamy eyes, mesmerise!
I want you to see my girl,
She would set all your hearts in a whirl,
Put your hats and jackets on, and come along, come along
I want you to see my girl!"

A song that Mr. Feldman anticipates will be rendered by every "principal boy" in the approaching pantomime season is "A white man," written by Messrs. Arthur Wimperis and Walter Davidson, with music by the latter gentleman. The melody is a most pleasing one, and is bound to become very popular. In this topics and people of the day are introduced. Thus we get references to Tommy Atkins, "Jack, the Handyman," Mr. Joseph Chamberlain, Free Trade, King Edward, and Mr. Lewis Waller. This is the opening verse:

There's a brand-new drama,
With a dusky charmer,
That is making quite a hit;
It's all about the Wild and Woolly West,
And the hero's at his best—
He is played by Lewis Waller—
He's a bold Vaquero,
He's a cowboy hero,
And he's got a title too;
But he chucks his earldom, all to wed his Indian girl,
For he's a white man through and through!

CHORUS.

He's "The White Man," yes, and he's the right man too,
And Waller in the part is quite sublime;
Though he loves a lady
Who in colour's rather shady,
He's a white man all the time.

Still another enormous Feldman success is "Connemara," which has for a sub-title, "In the dear old Emerald Isle," the work of Messrs. Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford. We give the chorus:—

Come, come back to Connemara,
To your own acushla dear,
Won't you come, come back to Connemara?
I'm so lonely here.
Since you went away from Connemara,
I have miss'd your loving smile,
And begorra, it's true,
There's a welcome for you
In the dear old Emerald Isle.

Other songs which are bound to win for the firm no small fame are "The bubble and the sunbeam," by the authors of "A Tiny Seed," "Peggy, the pride of the mill," and "It's good-bye to Maudie" and "Come round on Sunday."

"THE AFRICANDER MAID."

The interest which is always felt in South African history, and the affection of the British public for a beautiful woman and a well-trained horse, have been skilfully exploited by Miss Adele Fillis, in her new sketch, *The Africander Maid*, an incident of the Zulu war, which has been presented at the Middlesex Music Hall this week. Miss Fillis comes of a famous equestrian stock, and her pony, Zarif, is indeed a most obedient and intelligent animal. The sketch opens with the murder of an English officer by three Zulus, emissaries from a tribe which has succeeded, by strategy, in cutting him off from his friends at a neighbouring fort. As he is dying, an Africander maid rides up on a grey pony, and undertakes to convey to the fort certain very important despatches. The maid's sweetheart, a lieutenant in the British Army, is at the fort in question. On her way thither she is shot at and wounded by the Zulus, and falls fainting on the veldt. Her pony takes her hat in his mouth, goes to a neighbouring stream, and brings her water. He also repels the attacks of some marauding Zulus by rushing at them as they approach, and lies down sympathetically by his mistress's side. Then, going to the body of a dead Zulu, the pony takes from it a Union Jack, which the savage has secured as a trophy, and waves it in the air, thereby attracting the attention of the occupants of the fort, the maid's sweetheart arriving to her rescue with a party of British soldiers, who carry her off on a stretcher. The effect of the sketch is increased by two well-painted scenes, realistically reproducing South African scenery, and the introduction of three Zulu chiefs greatly assists the illusion. Miss Adele Fillis, who rides in masculine fashion, in a picturesque costume, depicts very expressively the emotions which sway the Africander maid, her acting in the second scene being very pathetic. She rides, of course, with absolute ease and grace, and her pony, Zarif, quite justifies the allusion to him in the dialogue as having "more sense in his head than most men." Miss Fillis is well supported, and *The Africander Maid* is a decided success.

Miss Daisie Morell has been secured by Mr. J. H. Savile to play principal boy in his Christmas production of *Puss in Boots* at the Paisley Theatre.

Our Leeds correspondent in his notice last week of the City Varieties omitted to mention Folay and Francis, comedians, who did exceedingly well.

The Awards. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "The Era" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC-HALL CELEBRITIES.

MISS RAIE WALTERS.

Miss Raie Walters, the clever comedienne, better-known as "The Fishing Girl," was born in 1889. Since the early days of childhood she has always displayed a strong feeling for the stage, and when but eleven years of age obtained an engagement in the chorus of the pantomime at the old Lyceum. After the pantomime was at an end, her ambition for the stage was greater than ever, and she was so infatuated with all the actresses that she resolved to be an actress, too. She begged her parents to put her on the stage, but they only laughed at her and said when she grew older they would gratify her request. That, however, did not satisfy the embryo artist, and one day, whilst on a visit to her grandparents, whom she invariably amused with singing and dancing, she asked them to try and get her on the stage. Her "grandad" complied, and secured several engagements at concerts, and was so delighted with her success that he took her to an agent. Miss Walters's first appearance at a music hall was made at the Washington, Battersea. She was engaged for one week, but made such a success that they kept her on for another. Messrs. Hyman and Hyman, who booked her, were so gratified with her turn that they booked her for several other small halls. "Since then," says the young artist, "I have had a great struggle to get on, and have met with many disappointments in common with most artists—one week's work and a good many out, and it is only by dint of perseverance I have succeeded. I may also mention that I have never had a lesson in my life, either in singing, dancing, or the working of my songs, neither have I had the assistance of anyone who has any influence in the profession, with the exception of my present agent, Mr. Ernest De Vere. I owe my success to my own ability, and

Photo by Perkoff.
MISS RAIE WALTERS.

I am most happy to say I am rapidly climbing the ladder." Miss Walters's success may be gauged by the fact that she is now able to say with pardonable pride, "No vacancies."

ACTION BY ARTISTS.

Otto and Olga, the music hall artists, who were represented by Mr. C. J. Doughty, sued Signor Rino Pepi, managing-director of the Middlesbrough Hippodrome, at the Middlesbrough County Court on Monday, for £18, in respect of a contract to perform at the Hippodrome for the week beginning Aug. 3 last. On that date the hall, a new one, was not completed, and in consequence the plaintiffs could not perform there.

His Honour (Judge Templer) eventually gave judgment for the defendants, with costs, but gave leave to appeal.

Mr. Doughty, in opening the case, handed in a form of contract which was not stamped. A consultation ensued, and the case did not proceed until Mr. Doughty gave a personal undertaking to be responsible for the penalty for non-stamping.

Mr. Doughty said that the contract was entered into in May, 1907. He read from the contract the words: "In the event of the hall closing for any purpose whatever, it is distinctly understood that this agreement shall be immediately cancelled," and said that the point was whether those words were sufficient for Mr. Pepi to get out of the contract.

Mr. Mundall, who appeared for the defence, said that his most important point was as to the general law. The plaintiffs knew at the time of the contract that it was for a new building which might or might not be completed. It was not the management's fault in any way, and he submitted that the terms of the engagement must be taken to imply "contingent to its being ready for use." There was another clause which read: "The engagement to be void if the performance be stopped for any cause over which the management have no control," and he said that in this case they had no control.

Signor Pepi next gave evidence as to contracting with the plaintiffs through Will Oliver, their agent. He informed the agent by letter that the Hippodrome was not completed, and he did not tell him whether or not it would be finished. He told him that, roughly speaking, it would be open about August Bank Holiday. In July he found that it could not be opened by then, and he informed Mr. Oliver of that by letter, and he said he would be pleased to give plaintiffs another date.

In cross-examination Signor Pepi said that he expected that the hall would be finished by August Bank Holiday until July this year.

The agent, Mr. Will Oliver, then gave evidence, in which he said that the contract was made at Carlisle. The contract was made along with others, and Signor Pepi said that he thought the Hippodrome would be finished, but if it was not they would have to take another date.

Mr. Doughty, in replying, said that the contract was clearly signed for Aug. 3, and expressed a clear agreement to take the artists for the week whether the hall was opened or not. He pointed out that from May 1907, to July, 1908, the two artists had been kept by the "barring" clause out of Middlesbrough and Stockton entirely, and that was a serious limitation of their opportunities of earning their living.

Mr. W. F. Frame, the genuine Scot, who has just set Norfolk folk on the "Hooch aye" with his "Hielan' Rory," will appear at the New Cross Empire on Monday, Nov. 30.

The management of the Earl's Court "Rinkeries," besides holding gymkhanas every Wednesday, will hold a beauty show, in which one thousand ladies will compete, on Dec. 9, 10, and 11. As a Christmas attraction, a skating horse—the only one of its kind in the world—will be brought from Norway to perform in the Empress Hall.

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"MY FANCY" AT SHEERNESS.

A HIGH STANDARD OF MERIT.

The art of step-dancing has reached perfection in the person of "My Fancy," the famous danseuse, who is delighting audiences at the Hippodrome this week. If you can imagine a succession of speedy and difficult movements executed in breathless haste, but yet well ordered and in perfect time and rhythm, then you have an idea of the art of which "My Fancy" is so able an exponent. Her dancing is unlike that which is at present taking London by storm. She executes no dream waltzes, no gliding, fantastic movements; there are no wave-like ripples of the arms, no poetic motions. The key-words of "My Fancy's" dancing are rhythm and vigour. With her body perfectly rigid and her arms practically motionless, she trips out fleet and airy measures, and great applause is hers. For here we have the art of step-dancing pure and simple, without any tendency to the over-worked, flogged-to-death legmania. "My Fancy's" performance is something more refined. After all, is not expert fleetness of foot a poetic attainment; is not the never-faltering rhythm danced out by toe and heel something which deserves a position amongst the high arts? But as a sand danseuse "My Fancy" is still more expert. With a medley of minute movements, with a never-flagging vigour, she taps out the rhythms of the measure, and is, of course, recalled by the fascinated audience.—The Guardian and East Kent Advertiser, Nov. 7, 1908.

"AT BREAK OF DAY."

A Dramatic Sketch, produced at the Hammersmith Palace, on Monday, Nov. 16.

Sir Charles Meridith.....Mr. Fred S. Peake
Roland Murray .....Mr. Edwin Morton
Carson .....Mr. Wallace Bosco
Margaret Murray .....Miss Dora Davis

This is a costume sketch, and the scene is Sir Charles Meridith's study, where he and three guests sit playing at cards. The game has not far progressed when one of the most youthful of the party, Roland Murray, springs up and calls his host a cheat. Sir Charles insists on a duel there and then, although Murray is the worse for drink. Of course the sober man has the better of the encounter, and the other players leave Murray bleeding in an armchair. The wounded man continues to threaten Meridith, and as he tries to drag himself out of the room Sir Charles shoots him dead. Murray's mother comes to seek her son, and Meridith tells her he is in the house, and will never gamble or drink again. The mother expresses her thanks, and pays Sir Charles £150 to clear the supposed debts of her son, the baronet then retiring to prepare for flight abroad. Mrs. Murray discovers her son's dead body, and swears to kill Sir Charles. He returns, and in a duel "at break of day" she effects her purpose by aid of the Murray thrust, known only to her late husband, herself, and her dead son. All the above artists do well in their respective parts.

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THE EMPIRE.

That sprightly ballet *A Day in Paris* is drawing full houses to the Empire Theatre, and Mr. H. J. Hitchins has his hands full to provide for the crowds who throng the portals of the popular establishment in Leicester-square. Mr. Fred Farren's Jacques Bonnair is as admirable as it was on the production of the ballet; and Mlle. Lydia Kyasht repeats her pretty and vivacious performance of the parts of La Gloire de Paris and L'Arc-en-Ciel. The variety portion of the programme includes the names of those extravagantly absurd drolls and acrobats Pichel and Scall, who create roars of laughter by their ridiculous doings with china plates and tin dishes. The broad fun of their turn is keenly appreciated. A strong attraction is the entertainment provided by the Great Le Pages, whose jumping is something extraordinary. After the lady of the trio has taken up her position in a big barrel placed on a chair, the two gentlemen jump into it also; and the barrel is held on high by the female artist while one of the males leaps through it with the aid of a long pole. The lightness of foot of the Le Pages is proved in various ways. They hop on and off a number of eggs placed in a basket upon a table; upon the sharp edge of a short sword; on a handbell standing on the lady's head; and on the sword when held by her upon an apple on her hand, cutting the apple exactly through without injuring the lady's palm. The Le Pages conclude their entertainment by playing "God save the King" on handbells which are arranged on tables, the jumpers striking them in their passage over the pieces of furniture. A quaint and diverting exhibition is the "Bulldogs' Music Hall," in which, by the aid of some realistic "dummies" and mechanical contrivances a semblance of a canine orchestra is supplied. Miss Mary Bailey and her dogs are called at the conclusion of the show. Miss Josephine La Barte, attired in attractive evening dress, accompanies herself on the piano while she renders, with telling spirit and energy, two "taking" Irish songs. Miss La Barte secures her success by the archness of her expression and by her crisp, smart delivery of her ditties. She is loudly applauded, and gets a call at the conclusion of her turn. Mr. Hymack has developed his amazing manœuvres with cuffs, ties, and other articles of attire with the aid of a thread of "story," a fashionable youth being the victim of the power of hypnotism possessed by a friend, who, by the aid of the "'fluence," makes Hymack rant passages from Shakespeare and entertain his own valet as a personal friend. The absurdities of "Mr. Blenkinsop" in his mesmerised state are very diverting, and Mr. Hymack's profusion of adornments, his mysterious methods of making them appear and disappear, and his sudden appearance in a complete grey suit and white hat are very startling indeed. Hymack's entertainment is certainly unique; and the scenery and accessories are very liberally and ingeniously supplied. Amongst the pictures shown by the Bioscope are representations of daring feats of horsemanship by Italian cavalry and views of the recent Motor Exhibition at Olympia. That thrilling dramatic episode *After the Opera* is admirably enacted by Mr. Robert Pateman, Mr. Vernon Steel, Miss Evelyn d'Alroy, and their supporters. The selections played by the excellent band, under the direction of Mr. Cuthbert Clarke, are as well chosen as ever, and are rendered with the musical feeling, spirit, and accuracy of attack for which the Empire orchestra is famous. Mr. Spencer Barry's stage direction secures a smooth succession of items; and Mr. A. Aldin's superintendence of affairs in front is unimpeachable.

THE ALHAMBRA.

Mlle. Britta, the new dancer at the Alhambra, has become a great favourite, and her impersonation of Paquita, with its passionate outburst in the second scene with her series of charming solos, appeals to the lovers of the ballet that nightly foregather to enjoy Mr. Alfred Moul's excellent programme of varieties. Since our last visit the bill has been enriched with several new attractions. Of surpassing merit are the finely-built and charmingly graceful Sisters Athletas, a trio of Parisian girls who display their fine proportions in maize-coloured costumes that set off their dark beauty to perfection. They are making their first appearance in this country, and are nightly proving what a complete misnomer is the phrase "weak woman" by their feats with weights of considerable avoirdupois. One Hebe with a smile of ineffable calm and just a suspicion of big biceps toys with a huge dumbbell which she drops on to her shapely arms. A pair of them back to back—the rearmost head downward—succeed in raising the same dumbbell from the floor; and another trick in which two are concerned is when one of the sisters, standing on the knees and neck of another, raises the heavy weight aloft, the "bearer" taking it quite easy. One of the sisters lifts a few mere men as if they were trifles light as air, and the show never lacks prettiness or grace, two qualities that are often absent from such exhibitions.

Hoop juggling and hoop rolling are not new to this country, but there is a most agreeable spice of novelty in the show sponsored by Messrs. Muller, Chunn, and Muller, who accomplish more in the manipulation of their circlets than has been seen on any variety stage here. The trio twist them round legs, arms, and neck, and the rapid throwing of the hoops to each other is very smart. The stage absolutely swarms with hoops, which are often spun with quite a puzzling break. A pretty show, and one that affords immense delight, the trio of artists being called and recalled a number of times. Ernesto, juggler and instrumentalist plays a concertino solo, and balances a lighted lamp on his head while going up a staircase, and throws and catches plates most deftly.

The Apache dance comes from Paris, and is a capital exempar of the manner of the *canaille*—with a poetical gloss, *bien entendu*. M. Volbert brings out by many artistic touches the brute realities of the gutter "freebooter," a term that may be literally applied, and his partner Mlle. Sylvo ably assists him in the remarkable dance which takes place where the boon companions drink, quarrel fiercely, and "make it up." The item is a great success.

The Ten-Ji Troupe of magicians are from that wonderful country, Japan, and have nothing to learn from European necromancers. The most surprising of their tricks is the immediate creation of fountains from the edges of swords or from the heads of the members of the combination. Mr. Leonard Russell opens the programme, which still retains the fascinating ballet *The Two Flags*. Mr. Henry Helme also sings.

At the Palace Theatre and Hippodrome, Burnley, a return visit is being paid by Fred Karno's comedians, in *The Football Match*, which proves as funny as ever; Frank Cass, vocal comedian, is immediately successful with "How long will you be"; and a pretty spectacular turn is provided by the Vocal Chameleon. Harry Bancroft, actor-vocalist, has a good reception; and Baker and Balfe, with xylophones, are very pleasing. The sketch presented by Bowman and Marton is a good one; and Emmie Ames sings charmingly. The Adventures of a Watch are shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

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"I WANT YOU TO SEE MY GIRL."

GEORGE LASHWOOD'S

"A WHITE MAN."

MISS MAUDE MORTIMER'S

"A TINY SEED OF LOVE."

"CONNEMARA."

"IT'S GOOD-BYE TO MAUDIE."

"THE BUBBLE AND THE SUNBEAM."

"I LIKE YOUR OLD FRENCH BONNET."

"PEGGY, THE PRIDE OF THE MILL."

"SHINE LITTLE MOONFLOWER."

MISS FLORRIE FORDE'S

"GIRLS, STUDY YOUR COOKERY BOOK."

PHIL RAY'S

"TRAMCAR."

"IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE WALTZ DREAM AS HER DREAMY, DREAMY EYES."

"WHAT YOU'VE GOT LOOK AFTER."

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MARIE LOFTUS
AT THE IPSWICH HIPPODROME.

VISIT OF MARIE LOFTUS.

For over half an hour the audience at the first-house performance at the Ipswich Hippodrome, on Monday night, heard Marie Loftus, an artist who has achieved a popularity not even excelled by Marie Lloyd. In fact, the programme described her as England's greatest comedienne; whether this be so or not, it is certain that no one has ever given greater pleasure at this house of entertainment, and at the conclusion of an exacting turn Miss Loftus was cheered to the echo. It cannot be said that the lady is endowed with strong vocal powers, but it's "just her way" that makes for success. In a wonderful directoire creation, she opened with a typical comedienne's song, "Hullo, I've been looking for you," following with two others relative of the visit of country lasses to the metropolis. The first of these, "And she lithped when she said, 'Yeth, yeth,'" was provocative of much laughter, and the second, "How ashamed I was," given in West Country dialect, was even funnier. Good and versatile as Miss Loftus was in all these three items, she excelled herself in her latest burlesque of "Singers—Past and Present." By a series of quick-changes, imitations of a lady in crinoline, a shy "young" lady of forty summers, an Irish singer, a coon singer, and Scotch comedian, were given in verse, and her clever sketch concluded with a particularly smart burlesque melodrama, in which Miss Loftus played both the heroine and the villain, whilst attired as half-lady and half-gentleman. By rapid turns she effected a wonderfully smart illusion, and her business throughout was extremely funny.—East Anglian Daily Times, Nov. 17.

MARIE LOFTUS AT THE HIPPODROME.

The Hippodrome management are to be congratulated upon their enterprise in engaging Marie Loftus for a brief stay in Lowestoft. Coming to the town with such a great reputation, it was not surprising that she was accorded a welcome of the heartiest description from a crowded house. Her vivacity was indeed boundless, whilst her art was perfect. Selecting from her following latest successes, "The Directoire Girl," "The Country Girl," "The Irish Girl," "The Wee Scotch Girl," and "Singers—Past and Present," and introducing the latest crazes, the directoire and scabbard dresses, Marie took last night's house by storm, being awarded an unprecedented ovation for her final submission. Besides demonstrating her skill to thoroughly entertain the audience, Marie Loftus proved a remarkably quick change artist, and expressions of approval continually burst from the audience. She was recalled many times ere the house considered it had paid sufficient tribute to her talents.—Eastern Evening News.

It is doubtful whether any artist who has visited Lowestoft has made such a great success as that achieved by Miss Marie Loftus, who has been appearing at the Hippodrome. Her engagement at Lowestoft was originally made for three nights only, and she was to have appeared at Yarmouth for the remainder of the week. Our neighbours will have to wait, however, for Marie has been scoring so immensely, and has established herself such a favourite, that the Hippodrome management are obliged to retain her services for the remaining three nights. For considerably more than half an hour nightly she has been enrapturing the thousands of Hippodrome patrons, and even then the audience has clamoured for more. The cream of her acting is seen in "Singers—Past and Present," in which she impersonates the serio of the crinoline period, and passes by easy stages to an exceedingly clever travesty of the style of kilted comedian so popular on the music-hall stage to-day. This sketch alone is a delightful satire, given in delightful fashion.—Eastern Daily Press.

Marie Loftus stars the bill at the Hippodrome this week, and that her visit is welcome could be readily gauged from the enthusiastic reception she was accorded by two capital houses last evening. Marie Loftus has a way with her, and her versatility and vivacity does the rest. She is a variety artist from the tips of her toes to the latest creation she affects in hats, and no one knows better how to secure popularity. Her songs last evening went well, but her greatest success was her effort, "Singers—Past and Present." In this she was particularly droll, whilst her make-up was of the funniest possible description. She was recalled times out of number, and when the curtain finally fell upon the turn the comedienne had scored a big success.—Lowestoft Press.

ROCHDALE HIPPODROME OPENED.

The New Hippodrome, Rochdale, which has been built on the site of the old Circus of Varieties, was opened on Monday evening before an enthusiastic audience. Seating accommodation has been provided for about 2,500, and from every seat there is an unobstructed view of the stage. The scheme of colouring is cream and gold, with red draperies and upholstering. The proscenium is 32 feet in width and 24 feet in height, the dressing-rooms have been constructed on the American system, and the lighting is by electricity. Up-to-date accommodation has been provided throughout, and the desire of the proprietors to supply a comfortable and cosy place of entertainment appears to have been accomplished.

At the opening the full company of artists joined in the singing of the "National Anthem," Madame Bale taking the solo. Miss Jenny Lynwood, comedienne, had the honour of contributing the first turn, her songs being greatly appreciated. The Jackson Family provided the *pièce de résistance*. Their exceptional musical talents were demonstrated by a clever and refined performance on various musical instruments. George Leyton fairly brought down the house in his military scena *Lucknow*, ten local veterans accompanying him on the stage. The other artists appearing included Mysticas; Pat Lynch, dancer; the Calcotts, in *Rags and Tatters*; the Garricks; Fame and Fortune, speciality comedians; and the Hippodrome pictures.

During an interval Mr. Jackson thanked the audience for their support, saying that their intention was to provide a wholesome entertainment. As proprietors, they would be only too pleased to lend the use of the hall to raise money for charitable purposes. Mr. Albert Ball, J.P., of Nottingham, who presided at the stone-laying, responded with a felicitous speech. The proprietors are the Jackson Family, the business-manager is Mr. John Jackson, and the resident-manager Mr. James Jackson, sen.

FRANK AYLMER'S THANKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Will you allow me through the columns of *The Era* to sincerely thank W. H. Wallis, F. V. St. Clair, and all kind friends who have forwarded their donations towards the list you so kindly started on my behalf.

I am still confined to bed (seventeen weeks now), and it will be many more weeks before I shall be up; then an artificial appliance has to be made and fitted on me before I shall be able to walk about.—Yours truly,

FRANK AYLMER.

Mercers' Hospital, Dublin,
Nov. 16, 1908.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Fairs Ahead.

The Fairs ahead for next week are:—Crowle, on the Great Central; Newark, on the Midland and Great Northern; Pickering, on the North-Eastern; Richmond (Yorks), on the North-Eastern; Ripon, on the North-Eastern; York, on the Great Central, North-Eastern, Great Northern, London and North-Western, Great Eastern, and Midland; Chesterfield, on the Midland; Frome, on the Great Western; Ilminster, on the Great Western; Hartlepool, on the North-Eastern; Gloucester, on the Midland and Great Western, Ludford, on the Great Western; Milborne St. Andrews, on the Midland and London and South-Western; Inverness, on the Highland; Aberystwyth, on the Cambrian and Manchester and Milford; and Mountain Ash, on the Great Western and Taff Vale Railways.

Ulverston Hirings.

The principal concerns and fairground novelties were provided by M. Hoadley, who exhibited steam galloping horses and rifle gallery; J. H. East, with galloping horses; Holland, with swings, shooters, and throwing games; Helm, with bicycle track; Casey, with park swings and shooter. The other entertainers were Messrs. Rostron, Wilson, Taylor, Broughton, Freer, and Towers, with variety games, stalls, &c.

Bulwell Feast.

On the Corporation ground were the following concerns:—J. Proctor's palace of light and up-to-date filmograph; Hall and Procter's motor-car set, and the No. 2 machine, the razzle-dazzle; juvenile roundabouts, houp-la frames, and other varieties were provided by Messrs. Barnes, Chapman, and C. Warwick. There were shows, machines, and other novelties on private pitches, altogether making an attractive and successful Fair.

James Leo, the Mystery Man.

This expert showman, occultist, and esoteric magician, has been exclusively secured by Messrs. P. Collins and Son. Leo's latest experiment in white magic is a most bewildering variation of the difficult experiment known as the "suspended lady." Leo's adaptation, entitled "Lilla, the Suspended Maiden," is being given as a separate turn on the stage of No. 2, Wonderland. We had the pleasure of seeing this mysterious experiment at Rotherham Fair, and we could not help noticing the particularly deft performance and the inexplicable way in which it was enacted, completely baffling and amazing the audience. "Lilla" is brought on to the stage and is placed under hypnotic influence by Professor Leo. The maiden reclines upon a couch; further hypnotic passes are worked by the Professor upon his unconscious subject, and then without any visible support, in answer to the waving of the professor's hands the body rises from the couch and is seen suspended in mid-air. The usual tests are applied, demonstrating that no concealed mechanical appliances whatever can be supporting "Lilla." The particular feature of this performance is the fact that it is done on the open stage in the full glare of half a dozen powerful arc lights. There is no mysterious dark curtain, no attempt to blind and perplex the eyes and mind of the audience, and to all intents and purposes it is done with the ordinary appliances of a lady's boudoir. We congratulate Professor Leo and his charming assistant "Lilla" on an extremely interesting experiment in up-to-date magic. We also congratulate Mr. Patrick Ross Collins on his enterprise in giving such splendid and novel turns between the pictures.

CONSUL. THE ALMOST MAN. TRAINED BY FRANK C. BOSTOCK.

NO VACANT DATES.

Morpeth November Hirings.

For this Northern fixture the following caterers attended:—H. Millar, with galloping horse set, rifle saloon, and throwing games; G. W. Newsome, with variety games and coker sheets; and Franklin, with roll-up boards, stalls, &c.

The Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union.

An important meeting of this trade society takes place on Tuesday next at their headquarters, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford, Manchester. Members of the Union will find time of meeting and other important matters in our advertising column.

The Organising Chaplain in Manchester.

The Rev. T. Horne hopes to be in Manchester for a day or two, beginning on Monday next week, his intention being to get an emergency committee of the Guild together on the Tuesday evening after the meeting of the Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union. In trying to arrange a meeting then he is entirely guided by the fact that a number of the principal members of the Guild Committee are likely to be in Manchester for the meeting of the Union. Notices will be sent to committee men in and around Manchester. The Chaplain hopes that committee men reading this notice will try to meet him at the Black Lion Hotel on the evening of Tuesday next. The business before the emergency committee will be—(1) Parliamentary opposition to the Movable Dwellings Bill, and (2) to consider and adopt the annual report.

THE FIGHT FOR MITCHAM FAIR.

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD INQUIRY.

As indicated in our reference to this matter last week, another important victory has been won by the sturdy local champions of the Fair. This time it is the solid vote of the people in their highest court of authority (a properly-called Parish Meeting) that has utterly condemned the methods of their would-be masters—the Parish Meeting summoned for the express object of voicing the indignation of the ratepayers, whose money to the extent of £400 is now sunk in a scheme to abolish the people's old Charter Fair.

Now the People Know.

Let us get away from all the plausibilities and the casuistical niceties of the endeavour to prove that *black is white*, or that both together *make no colour at all*. He would be a clever lawyer, indeed, who could convince the average man that £950 actually paid in exchange for a given article (in this instance the "Fair Franchise") can be said to be not used for that purpose, but to obtain another object—confessedly a much less expensive one—the so-called improvement of a small portion of the people's common.

Now the people of Mitcham know exactly where they are and what financial interest they have in the movement to abolish their old-time fair and holidays. The significance of the Parish Meeting lies in the fact that now that the ratepayers know where their £400 has gone they emphatically disapprove of the vote of their representatives in 1905.

The Parish Meeting.

The Vestry Hall at Mitcham was crowded to its utmost capacity on Friday, Nov. 13. Among those present were Messrs. C. H. Dant (in the chair), T. W. Aldwinckle, G. J. Dale, W. M. Bland, F. L. Baker, T. L. Davey, W. H. Parslow, E. J. Mizen, J. M Leather, J. D. Drewett, Dr. de Caux, the Rev. T. Horne (chaplain), and Messrs. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, Alfred Ball, J. Manders, and Swales Forrest, representing the Showmen's Guild.

The Chairman (Councillor C. H. Dant) called upon the clerk to the Council to read the minutes of the previous meeting. After these were approved the clerk read the legal notice convening the meeting.

Councillor Dant indicated the serious nature of the two specific resolutions before them, and clearly indicated that both matters should be, as far as he was able to apportion the time, fully and fairly dealt with.

The first resolution concerning work for the unemployed of Mitcham was moved in a masterly speech by Councillor F. L. Baker, was duly seconded, and carried with acclamation. The second resolution (the one that concerns our readers particularly) was moved by Councillor W. M. Bland, a gentleman who has won the enthusiastic admiration of the working people of Mitcham for his fearless advocacy of their right to know how their money is spent, and also, with that right, some voice in the matter as to the objects upon which public money shall be spent. In the pursuit of this most laudable object he faced his constituents and the whole body of ratepayers at the Parish Meeting, and called attention to the resolution passed by the Mitcham Parish Council on Oct. 13, 1905, which was as follows:—

"That the sum of Four Hundred Pounds (£400) be contributed by the Council towards the expenses of the Mitcham Common Conservators, in view of that body acquiring the rights of the fair held annually on the Upper Mitcham Green, the acquirement of such right enabling the Conservators to improve the aspect of such Green."

He moved:—

"That the President of the Local Government Board be earnestly requested to hold an enquiry into the legality of the Council's action in thus voting £400 of the ratepayers' money and into the circumstances surrounding the whole transaction."

In the course of an exhaustive review of the history of the grant of £400 by the Parish Council, he quoted extracts from the minute book of the Council, from letters sent in acknowledgment of the grant by the late chairman of the Board of Conservators, and also from the newspaper reports of their Council meetings, and other transactions. The sum total of these researches, he said, went to prove his position, the position denied by his opponents, that £400 of the ratepayers' money was voted to the Conservators in order that Mitcham Fair should be abolished. (Shame.)

Some of Mr. Councillor Bland's statements were challenged by members of the Council on the platform and in the hall, the objectors wanting to prove that the money was voted not to abolish the fair, but to improve the Fair Green. Mr. Bland quoted from the official acknowledgment sent to the clerk of the late chairman of the Board of Conservators ample proof that the £400 and other moneys subscribed were actually accepted by him and used by him for that very purpose, to purchase the fair rights, and, amidst great applause, obtained from the clerk the opinion that the Parish Council had no power to vote money to purchase fair rights. In concluding his speech he drove home again his principal point. "We have," he said, "the word of the clerk to the Council that the Council could not vote money to buy up fair rights." That opinion of their clerk only made the matter a greater mystery than ever. But they knew that the money was voted, and he could say what for, because he held in his hand a receipt for the money—(applause)—and anyone could see it. It was headed "Mitcham Fair Franchise," and was from the late Mr. Foss. It stated: "I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter received on the 11th inst., and on behalf of my colleagues and myself I have pleasure in tendering thanks to the Parish Council of Mitcham for the liberal contribution they have offered. I sincerely trust that this contribution, with others we have in view, will be the means of effectually stopping the holding of the fair at Mitcham." There they had it plain enough, and he confidently moved his resolution. He ridiculed the idea that the money was voted to improve the Fair Green. (Cheers.)

Dr. de Caux seconded, and praised Mr. Bland for the enthusiastic manner in which he had kept the matter before the public, although he had received much abuse. He noticed that the Councillors who voted the £400 did not attend that night. He quoted from the 1905 issues of the *Mitcham Herald* to show that the Conservators asked the Council to support them financially in their effort to purchase the fair franchise, and the money was voted for that purpose. He contended that the ratepayers had been robbed, and that their consent had never been obtained for it. He quoted the *Mitcham Herald* of a later date to show that, although it had been denied at the Parish Council meeting, the Rural District Council contributed £100 towards the purchase of the fair rights. He had not the faintest idea where the £400 was, and he did not think the Conservators had.

Councillor Aldwinckle said he was not a member of the Council which voted the £400. (A Voice: "Then you sit down." Loud laughter.) He had investigated the matter, and he was convinced, after looking at the minutes, that the matter was quite regular. He asked them to pause before they voted for the resolution, because if they did not they would make themselves ridiculous in the eyes of the Local Government Board. (Disorder.) The accounts of the Parish Council had been passed by the Local Government Board auditor, and they were asking that authority to inquire into the action of their own officials. (This remark was greeted with great disorder and cries of "West Ham.") When he was again able to make himself heard Mr. Aldwinckle said that in a few weeks the rights of the Fair would belong to the Conservators; they never had belonged to the people of Mitcham. ("Rot" and disorder.) The money went to improve the aspect of the Green. The Fair rights cost £950, and a total of £1,250 was to be spent, £300 of which was to go in making the Green into a recreation ground.

Councillor Dale said, as one of the old Councillors, he was not afraid to attend, and although he voted the money, he supported the resolution because he welcomed the inquiry. He was sick of hearing about it, because he told them emphatically that the money was not voted to the purchase of the Fair rights, but for the improvement of the Green. (Dissent and interruption.)

Councillor De Caux quoted the *Herald* to show that Mr. Dale was reported as saying that, as one who knew something about the Fair, he was overjoyed that something was to be done to stop it. (Loud laughter and booing.)

Councillor Dale said he did not care a snap of the finger for newspaper reports. He strongly supported the resolution. He did not care a jot whether they returned him or not at the next election. He considered that an entirely wrong construction had been put on the resolution.

Councillor Baker, in supporting Mr. Bland's resolution, warned the ratepayers of the serious nature of the matter before them. It was the constitutional aspect that most interested him. He boldly asserted that the democratic principle in local government was at stake. Were the people to rule in parish matters, or were some interested groups of residents to govern the whole mass of the people? That was the real question. (Cheers.) He had strenuously opposed the abolition of the Fair, because the people wanted their Fair to remain. This scheme to purchase the Fair Rights and to extinguish the Fair under the pretence that it was to improve the old Fair Green, was, in his opinion, a scheme to get behind the people, and to abolish the Fair in spite of them. It was the scheme of the minority to use the money of the majority to do things that the majority did not want. (Cheers) As one of the people, he wanted the Fair. Yet his money and their money had been given "to do away" with it without their consent. Now was their proper opportunity as ratepayers to seek to right the wrong, and to teach their would-be masters that the will of the people must prevail. (Great applause.)

The Chairman as a Ratepayer Protests.

Councillor Dant, in a well-reasoned short speech, claimed to exercise his right as a ratepayer to speak in support of the resolution. He was a ratepayer at the time when the money was voted, money spent in securing a property that their own clerk informed them their Council possessed no powers to spend money upon. Surely, he insisted, that was a fit matter for a Local Government Board inquiry. (Cheers.)

He asked them to dismiss from their minds any anticipations of revelations like those at West Ham and other places. He was absolutely certain that no one handled the money for his own benefit. He should vote for the resolution because he strongly held the opinion that the payment was an illegal one. He had gone thoroughly into the matter, and, amongst other things, there was the fact that Councillor Leather at the actual time did not vote for the grant of £400, because he felt it was an illegal payment. They had a perfect right, in these circumstances, to go to the Local Government Board, and ask for the whole matter to be investigated. (Cheers.) He was quite certain, despite all that Councillor Aldwinckle had told them, that they would not appear ridiculous; but that all right-thinking men would agree that they were well within their rights in the action they were taking. (Great applause).

The motion was then submitted and carried, amidst cheers again and again renewed, only two persons voting against it.

The chairman was accorded a hearty vote of thanks, and the proceedings terminated.

Death of a Well-known Midland Showman.

We regret to record the death of Mr. J. Wright, the well-known Midland and Yorkshire caterer of fairground amusements. He was buried at Warston-road Cemetery, Birmingham. A great number of Yorkshire showpeople attended the funeral, which was marked by many expressions of public sympathy and esteem. We tender our sincere condolences to the family thus bereaved. Mr. Wright's chief enterprises were roundabouts, swings, shooting galleries, and throwing games.

Doncaster Hirings.

The shows and concerns of this fair included Tuby and Sons' (the local caterers) superb cinematograph theatre, their grand set of motor cars, their four-abreast galloping horses, and range of park swings; Farrer and Tyler's grand electric coliseum (the No. 1 concern); the Westwood family and Colonial giant children; and Ling's fine art gallery; the other entertainers providing swings, shooters, throwing games, and varieties were Messrs. Pullen, Rutter, Fossett, Lever, Illingworth, Walser, Norman, Appleton, Smith, and Lewis.

"LADY LETMERE'S JEWELLERY."

A REMARKABLE GAUMONT FILM.

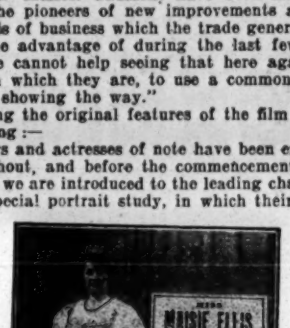
This week we have the opportunity of dealing with what we must necessarily describe as one of the most important film subjects which has ever been placed on the market up to the present date. Many far-seeing business men in the cinematograph trade have said that the time must come when the authors and owners of copyrights, which have been so frequently plundered for cinematograph stories, would find out for themselves that there was a fruitful source of profit in this industry.

The Gaumont Company, with their characteristic enterprise, have been the first to carry this idea to fruition by co-operating with Mr. Geo. R. Sims in the production of a high-class series of authorised cinematograph films.

Before we proceed with the description of the picture itself, we would draw attention to the very important business aspect of this new departure. Messrs. Gaumont have been more than once the pioneers of new improvements and new methods of business which the trade generally has had the advantage of during the last few years, and we cannot help seeing that here again is a case in which they are, to use a common expression, "showing the way."

Among the original features of the film are the following:—

Actors and actresses of note have been employed throughout, and before the commencement of the picture we are introduced to the leading characters, as a special portrait study, in which their names,



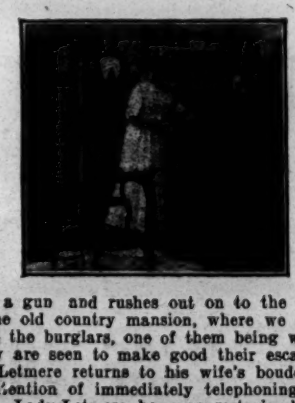
together with the parts they play, are stated. The picture closes with a portrait of the author, Mr. Geo. R. Sims, and in this way the Gaumont Co. for the first time produce in a film subject an entire play, in which the audience actually made the acquaintance of the author's presence and personality, as well as that of the actors and actresses.

We are given to understand that, owing to the special nature of this important film, and the conditions imposed by Mr. Sims, the Gaumont Co. are unable to offer it for sale in the ordinary way, and it will be necessary to keep it for hire purposes only. The length of the subject is 1,105 feet, and we can state that we have never sat through a quarter of an hour of such a thoroughly interesting and delightful cinematograph display. Certainly if our leading authors are going to assist and co-operate with our best manufacturers in producing film subjects of this nature, a new vista opens out for the cinematograph never previously contemplated, and one which leaves us gasping at its possibilities and potentialities

Lady Letmere's Jewellery is a highly interesting and ingenious story written by Mr. Geo. R. Sims. The plot is highly original, and one which will hold the audience throughout. It shows how a well-known society beauty, Lady Letmere, in a moment of temptation, robs her hostess, the

Countess Ravenhurst, of her beautiful pearl necklace. In what we may term the following chapter we are introduced to Spence Gray, the solicitor of Lord Letmere, into whose dealings a strong light is thrown by the fact that no sooner has his distinguished client, Lord Letmere, left him, than an unfortunate widow comes upon the scene begging for the return of her trust funds, which Spence Gray has speculated with and lost.

In the next scene we return again to Lady Letmere's boudoir, where we see her ladyship returning after an evening at the theatre with her husband, and, after her jewels are removed by her maid, retiring for the night. An instant later, the maid, who has been in collusion with burglars gives the signal, the house is entered, and the jewels stolen, not, however, before Lady Letmere gets the alarm. She returns to find the jewels missing, calls her husband, who immediately

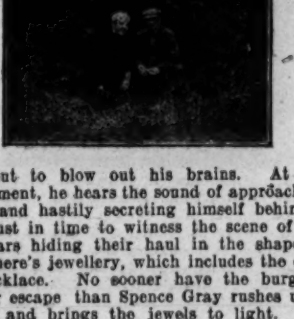


seizes a gun and rushes out on to the lawn of his fine old country mansion, where we see him fire at the burglars, one of them being wounded.

They are seen to make good their escape, and Lord Letmere returns to his wife's boudoir with the intention of immediately telephoning to the police. Lady Letmere, however, restrains him with the dramatic words, "The police must never know. I stole Countess Ravenhurst's necklace, and it is amongst the jewels which the burglars have taken. My honour is at stake." By sub-titles and other devices the story is made absolutely clear throughout the whole film, and the anguish of mind both

of Lord and Lady Letmere is vividly portrayed. The agony of Lady Letmere in having to make such a confession, and the horror of her husband on hearing such an astounding avowal of dishonesty, are as keenly felt by the audience as though the actors and actresses were before them on the stage.

Meanwhile we follow the picture and see the burglars continuing their escape. One of them being wounded and also being in great fear of further pursuit, they decide to bury the treasure in the wood, an act which we see them carry out. By the coincidence of fate, Spence Gray, the defaulting solicitor, rendered desperate by his rash speculations, has decided to take his life After writing a hurried note, which is thrown upon the screen, informing us that he sees no way of repaying the widow her money which he has lost, he leaves his office, revolver in hand, and turns into a lonely wood, where, sinking upon his knees,



he is about to blow out his brains. At the crucial moment, he hears the sound of approaching footsteps, and hastily secreting himself behind a bush, is just in time to witness the scene of the two burglars hiding their haul in the shape of Lady Letmere's jewellery, which includes the celebrated necklace. No sooner have the burglars made their escape than Spence Gray rushes upon the scene, and brings the jewels to light. He abandons immediately all idea of suicide, for it is obvious that the jewels are worth many thousands of pounds. He returns to his office, and there meditates on the best way of realising the fortune which has come into his hands and making restitution to the widow. While thus engaged, Lord Letmere, whose first thought after the previous scene has been to consult his solicitor and get the best advice possible as to how he should act under the painful circumstances of his own heavy loss, and the still more agonising discovery of his wife's dishonesty, comes in. Spence Gray receives him cordially, listens to the whole story with a great show of distress, and finally undertakes to obtain the jewels and return them to Lord Letmere within a short period. The conditions are: No questions to be asked, and a reward of £10,000 is to be paid, the jewels to be delivered into Lord Letmere's hands within three days. His lordship imagines that the solicitor will make use of private sources of information or employ private detectives to recover the jewels. He little dreams that the jewels are at the very moment reposing in the drawer of the lawyer's desk, within a few inches of his own hands.

The rest of the story is soon told. At the appointed time, Spence Gray arrives at Lord Letmere's house and returns the jewels, receiving a cheque for £10,000, the reward in question. Lord Letmere immediately insists that his wife shall make restitution of the stolen necklace to the Countess Ravenhurst, and we see this latter article come into the hands of the Countess with an anonymous note praying for forgiveness from a penitent sinner.

Lady Letmere receives a brief sermon from his lordship on the evils of covetousness, and she shows that her narrow escape from publicity has taught her a lesson.

We see Spence Gray hurriedly depart in a cab to cash Lord Letmere's cheque, and equally hurriedly arrive in the "nick of time"—just as the brokers are removing the unfortunate widow's last belongings—to save the situation. The picture finishes up with the satisfaction of seeing Spence Gray hand the £10,000 in Bank of England notes to the widow. Thus all wrongs are

righted, and the story, which is of unusual interest, finishes with the satisfactory feeling of everything having been put right, except, perhaps, for Lord Letmere, who has had to pay £10,000 for his wife's folly.

It is hardly necessary to state that the fullest precautions for protecting the copyrights, both dramatic and photographic, of this film have been taken, and it is the full intention both of the author and the publishers to take every care to prevent infringements at all costs.

Stockton November Hirings.

The leading amusements at this fair are provided by Messrs. William Murphy, Relph and Pedley, Paine, Harry Carris, Arthur Newsome, J. Robinson, Baker, and others.

Stories of Showman Life.

Owing to the great pressure upon his time by the necessity of the Parliamentary work, the Rev. T. Horne, chaplain and organiser of the Showmen's Guild, has been unable to finish his promised book of "Short Stories" earlier. We are glad to be able to announce that the matter is now in the printer's hands, and that the first edition of the book will be out in a few days. It will be published at *The Era* offices, and will be issued at the popular price of sixpence. This first selection of "Short Stories" contains twenty-one of Mr. Horne's much appreciated sketches of show life.

Lord Mayor's Rival Show.

There were very animated scenes in West London on Monday last, a cavalcade consisting of a huge herd of elephants—one of which greatly exceeded the size of the now defunct "Jumbo," the elephantine wonder of his period—and a herd of camels, while native attendants, in their quaint costumes, were mounted on the backs of the elephants and camels, accompanied by others, walking, in charge, and followed by a great number of huge pantechnicons of special jungle scenery and effects, and other specimens of the animal kingdom brought up the rear of a most interesting procession. Its destination was Islington, and it formed the first portion of a new feature which will be seen in the coming World's Fair, opening at the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, for its thirtieth consecutive year. Mr. T. E. Read, the lessee, has arranged for large premises wherein this vast collection will take up their quarters pro tem., till Thursday, Dec. 24, when the World's Fair will open on the largest and most up-to-date scale ever seen.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

THE BRIGADIER'S STRIPES.—Drama and comedy are intermixed in this film in a most interesting manner. Gendarme Cope wishes ardently to see in the near future the stripes of a brigadier on his sleeve. Meanwhile he lives happily with his two children and his wife, Gertie. The latter has just given a beggar in the street a meat sandwich, which the poor man is thinking of enjoying squatting down in a field, but a tramp, who happens to be a dangerous character, deprives the old man of his piece of bread, which he commences eating with all the signs of ravenous hunger. The gendarmes and Cope have been warned of this, and they go in search of the thief, whom they discover between two stacks of hay. Before surrendering, the villain wounds Cope with a scythe, but as he is marched off Gertie recognises him as the man who has been the despicable hero of an adventure the secret of which the poor woman keeps locked in her breast. That man had made love to her long ago, and after laughing at her, had left her. This is the first time she has met him face to face since, and in spite of the righteous anger which his presence calls forth she has pity on him, and goes stealthily to his cell to give him a file wherewith he will be able to escape. What Gertie has not foreseen is that her husband recognises the tool as his own, and looks at it with great foreboding. One look at his downcast wife throws on the enigma a very vivid light. Gertie at last tells the whole story and she shows to Gendarme Cope the letter in which the scoundrel explained that he had to go away. Little John, frightened by his father's attitude, throws himself on his knees, like his distracted mother, and begs for her forgiveness. But, as the whole thing happened before they were married, and Gertie has been a good and faithful wife, Gendarme Cope, after a terrible struggle with himself, folds his wife and son in his arms, in a touching impulse of pity and kindness. Presently, several gendarmes arrive, and announce to Cope that, for his gallant conduct while arresting the dangerous tramp who has wounded him so severely, he has been promoted to the post of brigadier, and the long-coveted stripes are now his. This piece, enacted by excellent artists, Arquillière, of the Vaudeville Theatre, specially, is excellently arranged, very simple, and easily understood. It surely marks one more step towards artistic cinematography. Its well-defined characters, skilfully placed in their picturesque surroundings, recall to the mind some of Richepin's or Maupassant's beautiful sketches of the humble.

THE MARTYRDOM OF LOUIS XVII.—Messrs. Pathé have produced in this an interesting historical film. The first pictures have been taken at Versailles and represent in the pretty scenery of Trianon the Royal Family enjoying a happy security. What a strange contrast it is to the sombre days of the Revolution which is so close at hand!—the people in revolt against the Government, on the point of assaulting the Palace of Versailles and clamouring for the head of the King—the Royal Family conveyed to the Feuillants—the gruesome vision through the iron bars of the Temple of the head of young and unfortunate Princess of Lamballe—the touching parting of Queen Marie-Antoinette from her son, and at last, in the house of Simon the cobbler, the martyrdom of the innocent child who dies in one of the dungeons of the Temple, a victim to consumption, and in his mind the horrible vision of the scaffold.

VENICE IN A GONDOLA.—Here we are treated to a series of scenes, including the famous marble palaces along the Grand Canal, the Casa d'Oro, one of the most magnificent palaces of the Grand Canal, the Rialto Bridge, the end of the Grand Canal, the Madonna della salute, the Royal Palace, the Piazzetta and its two columns, the Palace of the Doges, and the prisons.

AN UNWILLING SERVANT.—Thus is the story told. The two lovers are disturbed by the unexpected arrival of the husband. What will they do? She has a brilliant idea; she dresses up her lover as a servant, and introduces him to her husband as such. Having found that Arthur is likely to prove a good servant, Mr. Hubby tells him to make ready to accompany him at once to Birmingham, where he has to go on business. The unwilling servant is obliged to comply, although he is enraged at the idea, and he wires to his wife: "Obliged to go to Birmingham; important business. Taking first train down." "There is something fishy about this," says Mrs. Arthur, and without delay she drives to the station, where she finds her husband disguised as a servant. But her amazement is greater still when she understands that he does not want to relinquish his new job. Well, Mrs. Arthur will get at the bottom of all this, and in so doing she boards the same train as her husband, and sits down in a first-class carriage with the master, after giving the servant a most ironical little laugh. Arthur is in a rage in his third-class carriage, in which his duties as a servant oblige him to travel. But this is nothing compared to his feelings when at the hotel he has to serve his wife and new master at table, while Mrs. Arthur seems to be amusing herself immensely. This is too much for him; he writes a few words on a scrap of paper: "Crime discovered. Let us flee," and takes it to the police-station, stating that he has found it in his master's pocket. Mr. Hubby is so bewildered at first that he lets the police arrest him, while Mr. Arthur takes his wife away and explains to her that he has been playing the part of a detective all along. The last picture shows the two couples reconciled and happy.

THE FISHERMAN'S HATE.—On account of his love for a girl, a fisherman tries to get rid of the man she has chosen as her future husband. In the long silence of the night, while out on the sea fishing, he perpetrates his crime by pushing his rival overboard, having as sole witness of his black deed the mighty ocean. So he thinks, but he is mistaken, for the young woman is at that moment sweeping the sea with her powerful glasses. She follows anxiously every phase of the drama, and then, as she sees that her lover is going under, she throws herself into the water, and swims vigorously to his rescue. The one helping the other, they both reach the coast at last, and in the meantime the would-be murderer spreads the news of the accidental death of his rival, but suddenly there appears before him the very man he was so eager to rid himself of, who is ready to make it even with him now.

A MYSTERIOUS THIEF.—A thief, by means of a hitherto unknown process, reduces his body into an effigy, which, according to circumstances, passes through the chinks in the doors, or rolls itself up into a tiny ball of paper. Having entered a bank in this way, the strange person pays his respects to the safe, and, thanks to magnetic passes, he succeeds in taking away with him the whole contents of same. Two policemen are sent after the bold burglar. The chase which ensues is most thrilling and exciting, but the invisible man makes his pursuers aware of his presence each time he takes it into his head to give them a thrashing. After a long struggle the two policemen wake up at the police-station. They have just both had the same dream, in which, fighting in a hand to hand struggle, they thought they had caught the daring house-breaker at last. Messrs. Pathé may be congratulated on a clever trick film.

Mr. Alfred Moul has secured from Messrs. Pathé Frères the exclusive London rights for the Alhambra of a series of novel and interesting moving pictures. Each of the series will be a complete drama, comedy, or opera—acted by such eminent artists as Sarah Bernhardt, Réjane, Coquelin, Le Bargy, Lambert, and Severin, to mention only a few who have given their services. The records by the cinematograph of the work of these great players are most vivid and lifelike, and a private exhibition at the Alhambra took place yesterday afternoon.

Gaumont Company.

LADY LETTMER'S NECKLACE, an interesting production by the Gaumont Company, is fully dealt with in another column.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

THE ARMY OF TWO is the title of an historical film dealing with an incident in the American Revolution. During a wave of patriotism the old lighthouse-keeper teaches the girls to play fife and drum and to shoot straight, little knowing that it would ever be necessary to put their knowledge to use. Five years after, whilst walking along the cliffs, the enemy put in an appearance, and watching a landing party, the girls find the lighthouse defenceless, so prepare for attack. Attempting to scale the cliff, the opposing party are repulsed. Planting the "Stars and Stripes" the girls play "Yankee Doodle" on fife and drum, and after further attack the enemy retire. An officer, however, gains the top of the cliff, but is wounded and then taken prisoner. He is nursed by one of the girls, and falls in love with her. His offers of marriage, however, are refused until he swears allegiance to the enemy's flag, which he does, and so all are happy.

A FOOTBALL WARRIOR.—Our picture tells the story of Strongheart, an all-round good fellow, son of an Indian chief, student in an Eastern College, who becomes the idol of the football team. Whilst going through a course of preparation for the game, a horse runs away with its rider—who is the belle of the college—and our hero displays his courage by rescuing the girl from the dangerous position. The admiration she shows and the gratitude she expresses to our hero causes an intense rivalry between her lover and Strongheart. During the progress of the great game of the year with another college, Strongheart is forced to retire owing to a treacherous blow from his rival. Carried to the training quarters he is nursed by the heroine, who keeps him informed of the progress of the game as she stands at the window. The game is going against the home team, so with one great effort Strongheart rushes on to the field and scores a point, and thus saves the game. Carried once more to the training quarters, the doctor finds a knife thrust under his arm. Strongheart refuses to give information as to the culprit, but—with Indian stoicism—bides his time, and at the supreme moment, when facing his rival for the woman he loves, he gains a victory.

Nordisk Films Company.

THE FALSE SUPERINTENDENT.—One fine morning Mayor Juel gets a telegram saying that his superintendent is coming the same day on inspection. He gives instructions to have everything ready, so that he can invite the superintendent for dinner, but as he needs a servant, the jailer proposes to set Willy free, the only prisoner in jail, and let him act as a servant. The Mayor finds this to be a good idea; Willy is washed, dressed in evening clothes, and instructed as to his duties as servant. Unfortunately a very important telegram calls the Mayor away from the house, and Willy remains alone in the room. The superintendent arrives, Willy takes his card and his overclothing, and then leads him to the jail, which he himself lately was occupying. Then he locks the door on the surprised gentlemen and hurries back to the entry. There he dons the superintendent's clothes, takes his visiting card and introduces himself as superintendent to the lady of the house, who had never before seen her husband's superior officer. Willy now dines with the invited guests, and some very comical acts are played, and the amusement culminates as the false superintendent falls under the table very much the worse for liquor. Fortunately the Mayor comes home and clears up the mistake. The real superintendent is released, and is noble enough to take his adventure from a comical point of view.

THE TWO VIOLINS.—Sandro and Filippo are scholars of the famous old violin maker, Thadeo. Each of them is making a violin, and when that is finished they have served their apprenticeship. The violins are to be judged by the Town Council of Cremona, in the presence of the citizens of the town, and he who has made the best violin is honoured with a golden chain, and is hailed all over the town as master. Old Thadeo has promised to give his daughter Giannia to the winner of the prize. This promise is the best stimulus to the two scholars, as they are both in love with the beautiful Giannia. Filippo is the more talented of the two; his soul is noble and beautiful, but his body is sickly and deformed. Sandro's artistic merits are much less, but he is stately and good-looking. Only for one short, happy moment the poor misshapen Filippo believes that Giannia returns his feelings towards her, but as soon as he has confessed his great love to her, he understands at once that she does not love him, but was only admiring his art, and pitying his poor, misshapen body. She also tells him that she loves Sandro, and Filippo's sorrow is beyond description. He soon, however, pulls himself together. He knows his violin to be the better of the two, and in order to make Giannia happy, he changes the violins on the evening before the contest, so that Sandro would be playing Filippo's instrument, and thus be enabled to win the prize as well as the bride. But, unfortunately, Sandro himself spoils Filippo's generous doings. Without knowing that the instruments were changed already, he sneaks in during the night in order to acquire Filippo's work and take advantage of his skill, but he now only obtains his own violin back again. The day for the contest arrives. Sandro is standing in front of the judges, and is now going to play the violin, which he believes to be Filippo's. But now it dawns upon him how villainously he has behaved, and he confesses his crime; but when Filippo declares that he has done the same, though out of other motives, the contest goes on with the expected result that Filippo gains the prize. On their return to the house Thadeo fulfils his promise to give his daughter's hand to Filippo. But Filippo takes the golden chain, hangs it round Sandro's neck and says: "I give you the victory and the love. My love is now my violin."

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"Peace hath her victories no less renown'd than war," and the victories of peace call for heroism as great as that of war. Our picture tells the story of "Strongheart," an Indian college student, who is the idol of the football team. Being a rival with a fellow member of the team for a girl's affections, two attempts are made on his life, but they fail, and finally "Strongheart" wins both his life and the girl he loves.

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LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE METROPOLITAN.

Much romance attaches to the career of Auguste Van Biene, the actor-musician, who is presenting, with extraordinary success, his pathetic playlet, *The Master Musician*, to crowded houses at the Metropolitan. Forty years ago a penniless youth, with scarcely any knowledge of our language, Van Biene came from Holland, and set foot in London, the Mecca of the artist. He brought his beloved 'cello and an academic reputation, but, unknown and friendless, he could not get an engagement. By a lucky chance, when playing in the street for bread, he had as listener Sir Michael Costa, the composer and musical director of Covent Garden, who recognised at once the ability of the "poor player," and becoming interested, placed him in Covent Garden orchestra. The chief character in the above-named piece deals with a poor old maestro, Heinrich Klein, who earns a bare subsistence by his talents as a composer and 'cellist. His staunchest friend is the little lodging-house slavey, who shares her breakfast and appropriates coal and wood belonging to the old cat of a landlady, in order that the poor old man should have some warmth. He can only reward this devotion by playing to her the melodies that he hopes to publish when brighter days shall dawn. His rescue from poverty is accomplished by a rich young lady pupil, who turns out to be his niece. He will spend the remainder of his days in comfort, but the little slavey will not be left behind, but will commence a brighter existence away from the sordid surroundings of the lodging-house. Mr. Van Biene plays a solo of his own composition with great expression and a rare facility of technique, and hushes the house to silence when he renders the simple phrases of "Home, sweet home." The success of the sketch is quite remarkable

Early in the evening Miss Lilian Elfreda shows her talent for mimicry by giving counterfeit presentments of Marie Kendal, Marie Lloyd, Kate Carney, and other lady variety stars; Miss Esme Gordon has the house entirely with her when she warbles of "Mary"; and another heroine, "Sue," is the theme of a coon love song, given by that bright, sweet-voiced, and agile artist Mr. G. H. Elliott, who is acclaimed with the enthusiasm that is only accorded to the greatest favourites. The "chocolate-coloured coon," as Mr. Elliott styles himself, has been extremely fortunate in reaching at an early age the top rung of the ladder, and instances are very rare of so youthful an artist having, as it were, music hall audiences at his feet.

The Romps are a troupe of talented girls in their teens, who in their burlesque of opera give snatches of *Carmen*, *La Tosca*, and *La Bohème*. They possess good voices, but some of the "harmonising" effects might be improved. One of them is heard to advantage in that popular ballad of the halls, "Love me, and the world is mine," and the turn has a swing and go about it that are irresistible. Mr. Ian Colquhoun is by no means well suited with his latest song, and Mr Bert Errol, the latest female impersonator, announces that he will give a "slight idea" of Miss Ruth Vincent singing "Little Princess, look up," from *Amasis*. In the circumstances our sympathies are with the charming lady mentioned, whose singing of the melody was one of the chief successes of the Fenn-Faraday musical play. Mr. Errol has a talent for burlesque, nevertheless, and his appearance is so deceptive that he exhibits his trousers amid the laughter of the gallery. Mr. Allis and Miss Cassati are responsible for a lively *quart d'heure;* and Miss Millie Hylton, looking superb in a lovely confection of grey, sings of the "Nell Brinkley Girl," who has ousted the "Gibson Girl" from her pride of place.

The Houseboat is a lively concoction, which forms a vehicle for the antics and practical fun of John Leopold and his clever company of comedians. The name of Leopold is always a guarantee for excellent humour, and audiences at the Met. have any amount of excuses for mirth during the progress of events on "the houseboat." Jack Lorrimer, the versatile Scottish entertainer, justifies that title; and interesting films are shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope. We were sorry to hear from Mr. Leslie Gooch, the courteous acting-manager here, of the severe indisposition of the popular manager, Mr. Jack Edgar.

THE SOUTH LONDON.

Old favourites are to be found in the programme with which Mr. William Payne is entertaining the usual large audiences at the South London. One of the most welcome appears in the farcical absurdity *The Schoolmaster's Mistake*, an adaptation to the requirements of the variety theatre of a comedy which has enjoyed many years of continued popularity. The little piece forms the medium for the advent of yet another theatrical notability to the music-hall stage in Mr. John Beauchamp, who, as the schoolmaster of the title, repeats an impersonation of which he was the creator. His acting, as the strict yet kindly Dr. Sampson, is as genial and amusing as of yore, and the artistic skill and elocution of the actor are justly admired. Mr. Bunker, the "new boy," has a quaintly amusing exponent in Mr. Willie Atom, whose small stature lends additional effect to the funny situations of which he is the central figure, and each of his lines is accompanied by a hearty laugh. Mr. Eric Lugg, the son of the well-known musical comedy actor, has a particularly good appearance, and proves himself a comedian of excellent promise as the bullying Blogg; and Mr. Murray Moore does sterling work as the ferocious French tutor. The anxieties and perturbation of Mrs. Bunker are cleverly suggested by Miss Gertrude Aylward, and Miss Mather plays prettily as the flirtatious Daisy. All the best and most humorous features of the original are preserved, and laughter is abundant during the representation.

Pleasant memories are also revived by *The King's Counsel*, a sketch which has furnished much entertainment to music-hall audiences. Sentiment and humour are nicely blended in the piece, in which the efforts of a lawyer to save a coster girl's lover from being convicted of murder are attractively told. Mr. Wm. Lee plays effectively throughout as the irascible but philanthropic K.C., and is ably assisted by a lady whose name does not appear in the bill. A hearty welcome is extended to Mr. Charles Bignell, a favourite of long-standing, who sings with all his customary vigour and effect. In his song the phrase "A bit too strong" is humorously applied to several topics, notably to that of a sausage, out of which an enterprising hen has succeeded in hatching a puppy dog. Miss Jessie Preston cuts a comely figure in the tartan plaid of a Highlander to sing of "Dear Loch Lomond," a ballad of an agreeably tuneful character. A travestie of a popular dancer is supplied in her skit on "Salome," in which the eccentricities of the comedienne are employed to much purpose and arouse unlimited mirth.

A new departure is made by Mr. Dan Thomas, whose pantomime dame has long been a familiar figure. He still wears feminine habiliments, but it is as "The Duchess of Seven Dials," a "fallen star," who sings of her former successes, and despite her age and infirmity is still able to execute a dance. Mr. Thomas also impersonates an Irish jaunting-car keeper who drives on in the vehicle peculiar to the Green Isle, and sings of Mollie Malone, who presently appears and joins the comedian in an exhilarating dance. Miss Eleanor Lorraine renders high-class ballads in a melodious and cultivated mezzo-soprano, and scores a complete triumph; Miss Kitty Upton is a refined singer of chorus songs; and Dale and O'Malley divert the house with their cross-talk. Mr. Martin Henderson, the blind musician, succeeds in playing Suppé's "Light Cavalry" on a concertina, and also manages to play a duet on that instrument in combination with the piano—one hand to each—a feat which wins him loud applause. The Five Whiteleys win warm eulogy for their marvellous acrobatic and tightrope performance; and Ruffell's Bioscope includes in its exhibit capital pictures of Yachting on the Solent.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

A well varied and bright programme is being presented at this popular hall, and business is accordingly very good. Fred Karno's company is appearing in the well-known creation *The Mumming Birds*, in which certain well-known types of music hall performers are amusingly burlesqued, the laughter being continuous, a result for which two members of the troupe, playing the rôles of a boy and a swell, are in no small degree responsible. Haig and Novel, in a refined comedy turn, do well, the gentleman being an expert tumbler and the lady a clever dancer. Bert Coote's Yankee Doodle Girls submit a bright turn, consisting of singing and dancing, and are well received.

W. T. Thompson and company in a comedietta, *Watch the Chalk*, gain a good reception, the show playing smartly. Harold Hughman, in imitations, proves himself to be particularly good, and gains a well-deserved call. Miss Ethel Beech, in a song and dance, does well Rapoli, the conjurer, scores as big a success as ever, his feats being amazing and very deftly performed. Needless to say, his reception was very complimentary. Madoline Rees displayed a good voice to advantage in a ballad, being much applauded. Tiny and Bentley, in comedy business make a good impression, the act meeting with great favour. The Brilliants, xylophonists, prove themselves to be skilful performers, a selection from the "Poet and Peasant" overture being rendered with good effect, the compliment of a call being accorded them.

J. F. Preston and company are at the bottom of the bill in Max Goldberg's racing episode *A Ride to Win*, which is admirably adapted for music hall audiences. The production is on an elaborate scale, comprising three scenes and three racehorses, the conclusion being reached with a realistic steeplechase at Sandown Park. Mr. Preston himself as the bookmaker is the backbone of the show, and acts with power and effect. He is capitally supported by the remaining members of the company, Mesdames Mabelle F. Barlow, Ethel Rainforth, and Messrs. W. H. Barlow, Horace Custin and F. C. Bailey. The sketch went with the greatest success, several curtains being accorded at the end. The Bioscope is good this week, and Mr. Petersen's capable orchestra contribute to the pleasure of the evening. Mr. B. Adams, the manager, is very courteous in front of the house.

SHOREDITCH OLYMPIA.

Excellent fare is being provided this week for the patrons of this elegant and well-conducted hall. Topmost on the bill is Mr. Will Evans, who appears in his merry concoctions with marked success. Entering in his usual boisterous manner, he squeezes every atom of fun out of his mirth-provoking song "A B C," and as the chorus of this is supposed to be the chief feature, he makes good and amusing use of his assistants. Later he appears with equal success as "The Villain of the Piece," and creates laughter at every turn. His efforts are much appreciated.

Ara, Zebra, and Vora show considerable skill in their performance "Indian Pastimes." Remarkable acrobatic feats are accomplished by all three, including the rather difficult task of turning somersaults whilst skipping. Their contribution is rewarded with the loud applause it deserves. Martin Conway, a quaint comedian, supplies an amusing rendering of his latest success; the Five Grebneiffs show remarkable ability as Continental dancers, most of their dances showing agility and grace of movement. Miss Cassie Walmer is a clever comedienne and dancer; her first song, "Always add a little to the little bit you've got," goes with a swing, and the chorus is quickly taken up by the audience. In her second number, of a coon type, she shows how various types of people, including an English girl, an American, a coster, a member of the upper classes, and a Jew would sing "Good-bye Ebenezer."

A Daughter of Pleasure, as enacted by Mr. J. G. Grahame and Miss Zerlina Harrington, is a fascinating and exciting playlet, of which we have already given the story. Mr. Grahame carefully enacts the part of the man easily cajoled by a fascinating woman, and Miss Harrington cleverly performs her task as the Parisienne. Mr. Chas. Carr, a rising young comedian, sings with taste "My Prairie Flower," and dances with ease and skill; the U.S.A. Boys give pleasure with their fine dancing, and Miss Irene Meldon renders admirable service with her song, "My little wild rose, I'm leaving you." In her second contribution, a song and dance, she deserves high praise for her neat steps Billy McClain and his happy blacks appear in a Southern scena with marked success; their capers amusing to a high degree, and their singing and dancing worthy of special mention.

The Family Name, as performed by Mr. Fred Eustace and company, is a decided acquisition to the bill. It proves beyond a doubt that a marriage of convenience is rarely to be desired. The various members of Mr. Eustace's company make the most of their respective parts and secure an interpretation of much interest. The management of the hall is left in the capable hands of Mr. H. H. Ketteman, and an energetic acting-manager is Mr. Albert Victor Adams

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

The big attraction at this fine hall this week is the "Master Mystery," presented by Mr. and Mrs. Tomson. It will be remembered that this turn caused considerable sensation when it was first introduced to London some few months ago at the Alhambra. It must be admitted that the "Master Mystery" really deserves its name, for one can scarcely imagine anything more inexplicable. Mrs. Tomson enters an empty cabinet, which is put together on the stage, attired entirely in black garments. A curtain is drawn across the front of the cabinet, which is otherwise open to the audience. There is a slight pause, it is drawn back again, and Mrs. Tomson has produced, apparently from nowhere, a white parrot. The business is repeated, and a large spray of real and fragrant flowers is produced. The curtain is drawn again, there is a slightly longer pause, and Mrs. Tomson appears attired entirely in white. A very simple, but very wonderful, show.

It should be mentioned that a committee of ladies, selected from the audience, is responsible for the truth of the assertion that the lady enters the cabinet wearing nothing but black, and that a committee of gentlemen, likewise obtained from the audience, has free access to the cabinet and its surroundings. A quaint comedy juggling turn is provided by Frank Sylvo; and the Sisters Morgan achieve much popularity as duettists and dancers. Little Zola is as funny as ever, going very well; and Lionette Roberty and her transformation dancers contribute quite a charming turn. Big Ben Brown and Little George Le Clerq appear in the famous old farce *Black Justice*, every line almost of which gets a shout of laughter. Lupino Lane, the boy comedian, does very well, both as a singer and as a dancer, his eccentric dancing being remarkably good. The Lupino Brothers, in a turn which is entitled *The Musician and His Pupil*, quickly find the favour of the audience; and, as usual, the American Bioscope proves one of the most popular items in the whole programme.

The humorous sketch *Casey's Court* winds up an excellent entertainment. *Casey's Court* is quite a unique item, and the roars of laughter it draws forth are of the heartiest. The clever youngsters who take part in it deserve very high praise; as also does Mr. Will Murray, who plays the rôle of Mrs. Casey. Mr. E. P. Morgan is as courteous as ever as the acting-manager, and he is ably assisted by Mr. Herbert Mack.

WOOLWICH HIPPODROME.

Visitors to this spacious house of entertainment continue to be well provided for, and the efforts of the management to provide delectable fare for their patrons are well repaid, as agreeably with what has become an invariable custom, full houses are the order of the evening, while the comfort of all is well looked after by the courteous manager, Mr. Herbert H. Laidman. The leading feature in the bill for the current week is Lew Lake's company in a sketch, entitled *Five Years Later*, written by Fred Omar, which offers excellent opportunities for those two noteworthy comedians—Lew Lake and Bob Morris—as Nobbler and Jerry respectively, to provide fun in their own particular style, and they take every advantage of the chances supplied them. Other members of the cast are Mr. Harry Lavers, Miss Kitty Wilmore, Mr. Dave Bentley, and Mr. Ernest Webb, who lend valuable assistance. The sketch is presented in three scenes, the final one representing a "Fancy Dress Ball," having a lavish setting. The sketch is well received.

Tom Leamore is accorded a hearty welcome, his song describing the tribulations of a life insurance agent producing hearty laughter, while his characterisation of a "seedy" swell gains well-merited applause. The Selbinis are seen to great advantage in their trick cycling act, and several novelties are introduced, and some daring feats successfully accomplished, and they receive a flattering reception. Mr. Chas. Penrose keeps the audience amused in a laughing song, and he is also the possessor of a very mobile countenance, which he uses to good advantage. Miss Alice Hollander is gifted with an excellent deep contralto voice which she displays in an artistic and effective manner, and in Tosti's well-known song "Good-bye." puts forth strong claims to popular favour. Doyle and Gibson, in patter, song, and dance, are in their happiest vein, and are diverting and score well. The Raymond Trio supply a good turn and show ability in banjo and mandoline playing, which is well received, their dancing also meeting with approval. The burlesque conjuring of Walton and Lester, who are described as the "world's worst wizards," provokes roars of laughter. The Bioscope, with an interesting film, depicting the people and birds of the island of St. Kilda, brings the performance to a fitting conclusion.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

An exceptionally strong company, the second combination of varieties since the riverside playhouse was temporarily turned into a music-hall, has been appearing at the Royal County Theatre this week, and at each of the two houses large audiences have been seen. So far the experiment of the theatre management has been a success, but regular patrons are hoping that a variety programme will not permanently displace drama, comedy, or opera. The opinion of the management on this subject will be found in another column.

The chief attraction at the theatre this week is Sahib Gustav Fasola, whose marvellous illusions take the audience by surprise and fairly hold them spellbound. The Sahib's tricks are all executed with a skill that defies the closest examination. Wisper, the clever comedy juggler, is also in the bill, and Tom Fancourt and Jennie Rubie give an amusing sketch, entitled *The Huntsman and the Waiter*. Miss Fifi Gordon and her troupe appear in the new song scene, *My Tiny Firefly*, and in a pleasing Dutch operetta. In addition appear Mr. Arthur Melrose, humorist and sifflеur; Miss Beattie Bloom, comedienne; the Sisters Jerome in the sketch, *Auntie's Maid;* and the programme concludes with an exhibition of animated pictures by the Graphic Cinematograph Company. The programme on Monday night was witnessed by Dr. W. E. St, L. Finny, the new Mayor of Kingston, and several members of the Kingston Corporation.

"THE G.P.O."

Mr. Fred Karno has certainly scored another success with the above burlesque, which was produced at the Paragon on Monday. The story has been jointly concocted by Messrs. Fred Karno, Fred Kitchen, and Frank Calvert, and is greatly assisted by some catchy music by Mr. W. Powell. The scene is the outside of a post office, with a board which is inscribed: "Hands Wanted." Several "out-of-works" apply for the berths, amongst them being Perkins, who is engaged as temporary postman. He opens the second scene, the interior of the office, with a tuneful number entitled "The girl at No. 62," assisted by four colleagues. The Postmaster is called away on urgent business, and as the next in charge is unable, through pressure of business in his own department, to take the responsibility, an able substitute is found in Perkins. The keys of the safe are passed over to him, together with £20 petty cash. His first outlay being £2 each way on Cocksure II. and £1 for drink, he is then £15 to the good. A little pathos is infused into the story when a poor outcast child is deposited amongst the parcels by its mother, who is forced to that resource owing to the fact that the father of the child refuses to give any assistance. Perkins discovers he youngster, and, placing it safely, proceeds to admit the male parent, who is on burgling intent. Perkins opens the safe and invites the robber to help himself, and whilst he is doing so the key is turned and the thief locked inside. The Postmaster returns with the police, the former upbraiding his deputy for acting dishonestly, but a capital finale is reached, and explanations made, the would-be burglar being arrested, and Perkins being allowed to take possession of the deserted child. All honours are due to Mr. Fred Kitchen for his droll rendering of Perkins. Almost the whole time Mr. Kitchen was on the stage—and he was seldom absent—there was a continual ripple of laughter, which frequently broke into a roar. Great assistance was rendered by Messrs. Albert Bruno, Herbert Landeck, W. H. Morgan, and Miss Jessie Grammonds. The sketch is one of the best Mr. Karno has ever produced.

"POOR ARTHUR."

Farcical Comedy, Produced at the Richmond Hippodrome on Monday, Nov. 16.

Poor Arthur	MR. A. RODNEY
Ralph	MR. R. HARGREAVES
Mrs. Gillibrand	MISS E. CRUIKSHANK
Mrs. Hummingtop	MISS M. FLYNN
Daisy	MISS ESTELLE
Rosa	MISS N. SHEFFIELD.

"The latest farcical comedy"—we quote from the programme—*Poor Arthur* is merely a tabloid version of *The Arabian Nights*, originally produced at the Comedy Theatre. As there is no attempt made to disguise the piece, it seems perhaps a pity it does not bear its original title. The usual methods are adopted, and many of the lines are from the original text. All the familiar characters are here—the Caliph, the Gutta Percha Girl, the mother-in-law, Mrs. Gillibrand—and *Poor Arthur* was favourably received, and created considerable amusement. Whether it will suit the tastes of the variety audience remains to be seen. Mr. A. Rodney was a boisterous Arthur, and worked hard to win a favourable verdict; Mr. R. Hargreaves did fairly well as Arthur; excellent was the Mrs. Gillibrand of Miss E. Cruikshank; and Miss Estelle was a bright, vivacious Daisy. Miss N. Sheffield as Rosa, the Gutta Percha Girl, caused roars of laughter; and Miss M. Flynn was charming as Mrs. Hummingtop. The comedy will improve with rehearsal.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

23,336.—Frank Mitchell, of London. Improvements in and relating to mechanism for dealing playing-cards and the like.

23,342.—John Henry Matthews, of London. Improvements in portable apparatus for use in playing clock golf.

23,370.—William Heath, of London. Improved display cabinet.

23,371.—George Murch, of London. Improvements in machines for dealing playing-cards.

23,409.—George Page, of Crawley. New indoor game.

23,411.—Patrick Collins, of Walsall. Improvement relating to roundabouts.

23,434.—Alexander Bryson Bartholomew, of Glasgow. New game.

23,539.—William Samuel Pile Holmes, of London. New game and means for playing the same.

23,557.—John William Chapman, of London. Improved form of dumb-bell.

23,563.—James Davenport, of London. Improvements in games.

23,640.—Lincoln Jefferies, of Birmingham. Improvements in targets for use in air-rifle and other shooting practice.

23,707.—Sidney Thomas Oldridge, of London. Improvements in or relating to card games.

23,811.—Alfred Duskes and Duskes, Kinématographen und Film-Fabriken, G.M.B.H., of London. New or improved means for guiding the films in cinematographic apparatus.

23,842.—Edward Tilston, of London. Improvements in puzzles and games.

23,845.—Obe Millsum, of Swindon. Improvements in bird cages for show and travelling purposes and combination of show-cage and travelling-case.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

27,928.—Newell. Means for advertising or exhibiting announcements, pictures, or the like.

1,568.—Dugard. Apparatus or appliance for displaying images of natural and other objects on screens.

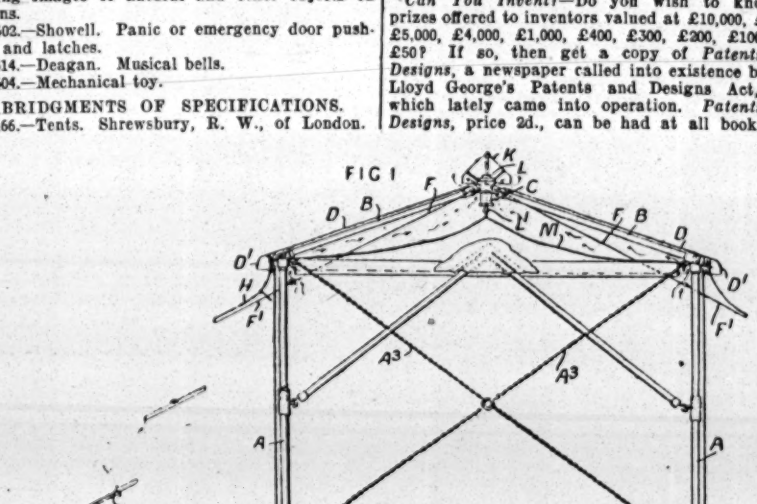
13,602.—Showell. Panic or emergency door push-bars and latches.

14,514.—Deagan. Musical bells.

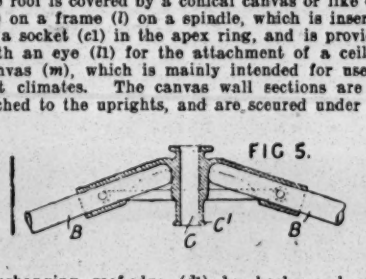
21,604.—Mechanical toy.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

14,166.—Tents. Shrewsbury, R. W., of London.



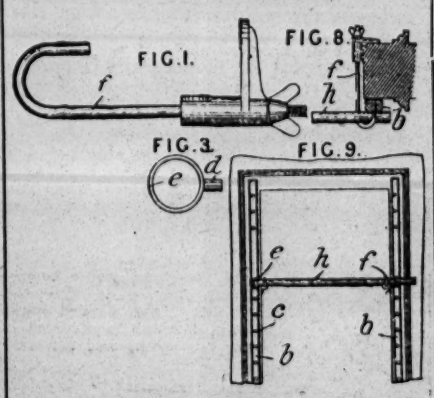
A roof frame is constructed of light radial rods (*b*), supported by peripheral uprights (*a*), and inserted in sockets in or hinged to a central apex ring (*c*), which is drawn downwards by opposite chains or ropes (*f f1*) by a central weight, or by a central vertical cord attached to a ground peg, the central pole being dispensed with. Spreading apart of the uprights (*a*) by the downward pull on the apex ring is prevented by diagonal chains (*a3*) between the uprights, or by stays between the lower ends of the roof-rods, or by the canvas (*d*) of the roof. A ventilating aperture in the apex of the roof is covered by a conical canvas or like cap (*k*) on a frame (*l*) on a spindle, which is inserted in a socket (*c1*) in the apex ring, and is provided with an eye (*l1*) for the attachment of a ceiling canvas (*m*), which is mainly intended for use in hot climates. The canvas wall sections are attached to the uprights, and are sceured under the



overhanging roof-edge (*d1*) by hooks and eyes. A horizontal triangular awning with triangular side flaps is supported in front of the tent on two light rods, which are connected to the front uprights (*a*), and are inserted in pockets in the front edge of the canvas awning. Roof extensions (*h*) are secured under the roof-edge (*d1*), and are extended by guy ropes. The uprights may be pointed to enter the ground, and may be inserted through holes in the corners of a ground sheet. The roof-covering may be secured to the lower ends of the roof-rods (*b*) by pockets or loops, or may fit loosely on the roof-bars.

14,313.—Gymnastic apparatus, swings. Goesmann, F., of Osnabrück, Germany.

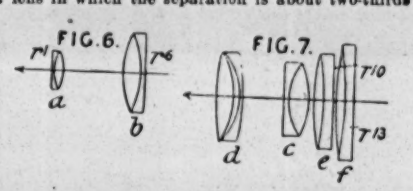
A gymnastic apparatus for home use consists of a horizontal bar and means for fixing it in doorways or the like. Laths (*b*), backed with rubber,



&c., pads, are drilled with holes (*c*) to receive studs (*d*) on tubular rings (*e*), Fig. 3, for holding the bar (*h*), the bar and laths being secured to the door-frame, &c., by means of hooked clamps (*f*), Fig. 1. The tubular rings may be dispensed with and the bar held in place by means of the hooked clamps alone, as shown in Fig. 8, the hooked ends of the clamps being engaged in the holes (*c*). The bar may be used to support a swing.

5,504.—Kinématographs, lenses. Ives, R. A., of London.

In using projection lenses working without stop, and collecting a convergent beam from a lantern condenser, a sufficiently wide angle of picture is obtained by bringing the light to a focus sooner, either by separating the back from the front member a distance equal to at least half the focal length of the front member, or by making the power of the back member large compared with that of the front combination. Fig. 6 shows a lens in which the separation is about two-thirds



the focal length of the front member (*a*), and both members (*a*, *b*) are achromatic with their plane surfaces (*r1*, *r6*) outwards. In Fig. 7 a lens is shown consisting of a reversed Petzval (*c*, *d*), with one or more positive achromatic combinations (*e*, *f*) having their plane faces (*r10*, *r13*) towards the film interposed between it and the film. The achromatic lenses consist of dense flint and hard crown glasses. Particulars of the lenses used are given.

NOVEL ADVERTISING.—Any real novelty in the world of advertising is pretty sure to reap success. A little device that Mr. R. S. Brooke-Hitching is causing a flutter with in theatrical circles in the provinces is a programme sealing slip that requires to be broken before the contents of the programme can be ascertained. Suitable advertising matter is displayed upon the gummed slip. Mr. Brooke-Hitching informs us that the sealing slip is provisionally protected, and that he is open to offers for sale. We shall be pleased to put any reader of *The Era* into communication with him.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Roller Skating at Liverpool.

THE Tournament Hall at Edge-lane, Liverpool, is regularly patronised by enormous numbers of skaters, three sessions being held daily. The rink retains its high social level, only the better class of people attending. Lately roller skating has become popular with the theatrical profession, and frequently well-known actors and actress engaged in and near Liverpool are to be seen enjoying the exhilirating pastime. Last week the members of Mr. Fred Terry's *Scarlet Pimpernel* company visited the rink.

Carmarthen Fair.

CARMARTHEN November Pleasure Fair, on Saturday, was somewhat marred by inclement weather during the morning, but about mid-day the weather cleared, and pretty good business was done during the remainder of the day. The chief attractions were Messrs. H. Studt and Son's grand electric motor-cars, Jarvis's helter-skelter, and Messrs. Haggar and Son's electric Bioscope. The "Houp-la" stalls of Messrs. Haggar, J. North, Booth, and D. Boswell were well patronised, as well as Dai Evans, J. North, Booth, and Boswell's cokernut shies, aquariums, and shooting galleries. Vi Letta, the champion lady boxer, and her consort, were also in evidence, and attracted good audiences. The fair was continued on Monday evening, being visited by large numbers of townspeople.

Loughborough Fair.

OUR Loughborough correspondent writes: "Our annual has again taken place, drawing, as usual, large crowds of pleasure-seekers. This year's fair is in all respects quite equal to the previous one. There is in one respect a notable and gratifying advance, and that is the outside appearance and the inside comfort and perfection of the shows. Amongst the larger concerns were Arthur Twigdon's Royal Elysium, exhibiting an excellent range of animated pictures, Charles Thurston's similar concern, with a very imposing showfront and an excellent selection of up-to-date films. In addition to the show Mr. Thurston exhibits motor cars and other attractions.

"THE redoubtable Collins is, as usual, to the fore in providing for the public. The elaborately-decorated show front, splendid pictures, and variety turns make his exhibition undoubtedly a 'wonderland.' In addition to the big show Mr. Collins exhibited a Gordon Bennett motor car set and the cake-walk machine. The last machine being quite new, it took on immensely.

"PROCTER'S bioscope was another great attraction, a superb collection of films, and the chronomegaphone, giving selections of Harry Lauder in picture and song, is a very special feature. Procter's razzle-dazzle was well patronised, and there was the usual quantity of shooting galleries, variety stalls, throwing games, &c. All well patronised, everything passing off with the greatest éclat."

KINEMATOGRAPH regulations respecting the use of the kinematograph in theatres and halls, also the regulations respecting the use of limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the kinematograph or limelight should possess a copy of these regulations.

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

TOLD BY THE CHAPLAIN.

[Copyright.]

A SHOW GIRL'S LETTER FROM SCHOOL.

"I want to go back to Daddie,
To the dear old home on wheels,
To see once more my Daddie,
Where the show-front organ peals.

The days pass slowly here away,
Away from the life most dear;
I long to be back there day by day,
In the land that's bright and clear.

I fancy I can hear the drum
I've heard since I was born;
That seems to me a loving chum
Now I am left forlorn.

I try to do my duty here,
'Cause Daddie says I must;
But I shed many a silent tear,
Though I know 'tis right and just.

I know the showman's child must learn,
Same as other children do;
Then some day I shall take my turn
At the dear old pay-box, too.

I've never known a mother's care,
But Daddie's been all to me,
And never let me miss my share
Of a mother's love, not he.

An angel brought me home one day
To that place of love and peace,
And left me for a while to stay
Till life for me should cease.

He took my mother back with him,
And left us here alone;
My Daddie dear, with eyes so dim,
Has told me not to moan.

So I must be a brave, true girl,
And help him all I can;
He calls me his sweet little pearl,
Does my own dear old man.

Sweet Christmas-time will soon be here,
Then I'll home to Daddie go,
To spend with him that time of cheer,
For God has will'd it so.

A merry Christmas I hope 'twill be,
To Daddie dear and all.
Peace and Goodwill I wish to thee
My friends whate'er befall."

ROLLER SKATING IN BELFAST.

On Monday last the new roller skating rink at Cliftonville, Belfast, was opened to the public. The large and commodious building will be conducted on the same lines as those adopted at Liverpool, Sunderland, Llandudno, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leeds, and Dublin, and, judging by the attendance at the opening, the roller skate has come to stay. The American syndicate, of which Mr. C. P. Crawford and his partner, Mr. F. A. Wilkins, are at the head, have already captured the British public in large centres of population, and there is every reason to believe that the Belfast enterprise will be no less successful than the others so fortunately embarked upon. The floor space available for skating purposes has an area of 30,000 square feet, and the rink is some 300ft. long by 120ft. wide. The finely arched roof is well equipped with ventilating appliances, and a noteworthy feature in connection with the structure is the number of emergency exits, which at a moment's notice can be thrown open in case of any alarm of fire, although this contingency is exceedingly remote. The flooring is of maple, the wood having been imported from America at great cost, and the surface is capable of being polished like glass. Indeed, the difference between the wood laid down and ice is really negligible so far as skating is concerned, and by the aid of a patent electric sandpaper machine the floor can be rendered delightfully smooth. The Samuel Winslow steel ball-bearing roller skates will be used exclusively, while a staff of thoroughly capable instructors has been engaged to teach patrons the higher accomplishments of the art. The scene at the opening was extremely gay and picturesque, and to the strains of a first-rate military band the visitors promenaded or skated, as they felt inclined. The attendance numbered about 8,000, and of this number fully 1,000 were on the floor at one time, amongst them being several very fine skaters, whose graceful movements were viewed with admiration by the spectators. The Lord Mayor (Sir Robert Anderson, J.P.) arrived at nine o'clock, and graced the proceedings with his patronage. Mr. Simmons, the well-known American champion fancy skater, gave an exhibition which demonstrated to everyone present the ease and grace with which the patent skates can be used. His performance on stilts 4ft. in height was very clever, while the comedy and fancy acts were amusing and interesting. Colonel Frederick T. Cummins is local manager, and Mr. John F. Farrell, who has had charge of the construction of the building, is to be congratulated upon the outcome of his work, and the manner in which the effective decorations were planned for the opening night could not have been improved upon. A military band will be in attendance, and the rink will be illuminated each evening with charming electrical effects.

South Shields Fair.

A GREAT array of up-to-date machine novelties visited this fair. These were provided by Relph and Pedley, J. Murphy, Hoadley, Williams, Grey, Thwaites, and Glendinning.

Notes from Wales.

A GREAT number of the best shows and entertainments of the Welsh round were present at Aberdare Fair. The cinematograph theatres were the concerns of Messrs. Wadbroke, Dooner, Haggar, and Studt. Frank Gess and a school of boxers gave expert demonstrations in fistiana. The machines, three in number, consisting of motor cars, galloping horses, and the Brooklyn cakewalk, were by Mr. John Studt. The other entertainers with all the fun of the fair were Messrs. Scott, Freeman, Wright, Butlin, Samouda, and others.

SID WHITE'S amalgamation continues its successful tour of the Welsh towns, and is concluding a two weeks' visit to Tylorstown. The bioscope entertainment and the fairground varieties continue to attract crowds of ready patrons.

News from the North.

AT Alnwick were Walter Murphy's fairground concerns, and the machines, shooters, and other novelties of Messrs. Baker and Son, Toogood, Miller, and Mrs. Knight.

IN connection with the annual conference of Conservative Associations at Cardiff, a demonstration was held in the pavilion at Mountain Ash on Tuesday, at which the principal speaker was Mr. Bonar Law. The building, which was filled with an audience numbering 8,000, is at present leased to a menagerie company, and the vast concourse of people was surrounded by the caged animals lately housed at Earl's Court. Throughout the evening the speeches delivered from the balcony were punctuated from time to time by the cries of the lions and tigers, whose cages were shrouded with tarpaulins.

CAINE ON COLLINS.

"I did not know Wilkie Collins long," says Mr. Hall Caine in "My Story," "but I knew him well. He had written saying that I should be welcome to call upon him, but must be prepared to find him suffering the domestic agonies of moving from one place of abode to another.

"'If you don't object to a room without a carpet or a curtain, I can declare myself still possessed of a table and two chairs, pen and ink, cigars, and brandy-and-water, and I should be delighted to see you.'

"I found him in the heart of London, for he was then living in Gloucester Place. The house was large and rather dingy. The walls were panelled, the stairs were of stone, the hall was cold, the whole house cheerless. The door had been answered by a man-servant, whose nervousness and diffidence told a long story in advance of the habits of close retirement observed by the master I had come to see. On the walls of the room that I was shown into hung pictures of the greatest interest. There was an etching of Dickens, that I had never seen anywhere else, showing a healthier and handsomer face than the one familiar to the public, without any signs either of the days of 'Hungerford Market' or of the death's hand that lay heavy on it at the last. Then there was a portrait of Collins himself in the earliest years of his manhood, boyish, even girlish, almost childlike in its simple expression, and with the forehead that belonged to Collins alone—round, protrusive, and overhanging heavily. There was another portrait of the author by Millais, and a photograph by Sarony of New York, representing Collins when the boyish face was half-hidden by an abundant beard, and the youthful head had grown leonine.

"I had first seen Wilkie some years before, when he was pointed out to me by Rossetti. It was on one of our melancholy drives for fresh air and exercise, through the streets and parks of London, usually with the windows of the carriage up, and the poet thrust back into the corner of the carriage, behind the folds of his Inverness cape and under the shadow of his broad-brimmed hat, pulled low over his face. The hidden eyes that missed nothing saw a figure that they recognised walking past us on the footpath.

"'That must be Wilkie Collins,' said Rossetti; and I looked and saw a small, elderly man, grey-haired and grey-bearded, large-eyed and lion-headed, round-shouldered and stooping heavily. That was my first glimpse of Collins, and swift as it was it left its vivid impression, so that when he came into the room to welcome me I remembered in a moment that I had seen him before.

"But he had grown feebler in the interval, paler in the face, and more flabby. His eyes at that time were large and protuberant, and they had the vague and dreamy look that is sometimes seen in the eyes of the blind. Perhaps I should come near to giving the right impression if I were to add that the expression of Collins's eyes at this period of his life was that of a man to whom chloroform had just been administered. They fixed my attention instantly, and Collins saw that it was so. Perhaps he suspected that I read their strange look by the light of my experience with Rossetti; perhaps he was loath to trust me then as he trusted me later; but before we had been talking long, he interrupted the conversation, and said:

"'I see that you can't keep your eyes off my eyes, and I ought to say that I've got gout in them, and that it is doing its best to blind me.'

"I found him a good and animated talker, never spontaneous but always vigorous and right. His voice was full and of even quality; a good voice, not at all a great one. In manner he was quiet, a little nervous, and not prone to much gesture. He sat, while he talked, with his head half down, and his eyes usually on the table; but he looked into one's face from time to time, and then his gaze was steady and encouraging, and one never felt for a moment that his eye was upon one.

"Indeed, without being the most 'magnetic' of men, Collins was a man to set one at one's ease, to get the best out of one, to send away with a comfortable feeling towards oneself; and yet a man with a proper sense of personal dignity. You never knew it for dignity, and that was exactly where its strength lay. The same large grasp of fact and command of detail which one found in the novels one found in the novelist. If his conversation was not luminous and large, if his outlook on life was not wide, if his horizon was not far away, neither were they little and narrow and near. His insight was sure, his memory unfailing, and his invention strong.

"'At that first meeting we talked on many subjects. I remember that I wanted information on the copyright law, for the plot of one of my novels had been taken by some dramatic thief, and I had a mind to fight him. Collins was very full, very precise, and very emphatic on that subject, having paid bitterly for special knowledge over two of his own stories, 'The Woman in White' and 'The New Magdalen.' He was quite sure that I had not a leg to stand on, though of course he joined his wail with mine over the iniquitous law that recognised a copyright in words and none in ideas.

"Then we talked of French writers, and he said something that I cannot remember of how he met with Victor Hugo, whose plays, no less than his novels, he admired. But the older Dumas among French novelists was clearly the god of his idolatry, and 'The Three Musketeers' was his ideal of a great story. He has been many times in the way of meeting Dumas, but had never done so. Then he talked of Scott, whom he valued beyond words of appraisement, thinking 'The Bride of Lammermoor' the greatest of all prose tragedies. Something he said, too, of Dickens, but only in the character of a near and dear friend, with a perceptible sinking of the soft voice and a noticeable melting of the gentle eyes. Charles Reade was also mentioned in relation to a memoir that had then been lately published, and the impression left with me was that the rougher side of Reade's character had never been seen by Collins except as the whole world saw it in the squabbles of the newspapers.

"I seem to have dwelt too long on this first interview, but, indeed, it was the type of many interviews that followed it. I consulted him on schemes for novels, and discussed with him the structure of several of my stories. He was always kindly, always alert, always enthusiastic, always capable of entering into the hopes and aims of a younger literary colleague.

"His letters were as full of pith as his conversation. Nothing appeared in them more frequently than his boyish delight in his work. It was not done easily, but with great and often grievous labour—labour of conception, of construction, and of repeated writing and re-writing—and yet he held to it, clung to it, and when torn from it by sickness, he returned to it in health with the fiercest eagerness of the literary aspirant. Never was authorship less of a trade to any author, though he was a competent business man, and knew how to make the most of his market. To write stories was a passion to him, and he was as much a slave to it when he was beginning the story which he left unfinished at his death as he had been five-and-twenty years earlier, before fame had come to him or fortune was within his grasp."

THE AWARDS. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "THE ERA" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address, The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

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COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
Feb. 15, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 3, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Feb. 1, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, May 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 8, 15, 22, March 22, April 5, 26, May 17, 24, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 6, 13, 20, 27, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, 19, May 17, 24, 31, June 7, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 15, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Jan. 4, 18, 25, Feb. 8, March 8, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 4, 25 (3 nights only), and Xmas. Add., E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Nov. 30 (3 nights).
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, onwards
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
Dec. 3 (3 nights), March 1, 8, 15.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Dec. 7, Feb. 1, 8, March 1, 8, 15.
Apply for all above, ROWLAND, T., Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, Ltd.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, March, 1910, onwards.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

WANTED, First-class Attraction, for Dec. 14,
H. M. Theatre, Dundee.
Apply, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24A, Regent-st., S.W.

THEATRE ROYAL, MARGATE.
WANTED, good strong Attractions, Jan. 4 and onwards, with exceptions.
Apply, W. W. KEENE.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
WANTED, Strong Attraction for Dec. 7.
Dec. 7,
Unexpectedly Vacant.
Wire immediately,
"Hustler,' Birkenhead.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Select and Attractive Companies only, theatre elegantly equipped, holding capacity £100, Vacant 3 nights, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 1909; March 1, 15, 22, and Easter. Bookings include "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. All coms., J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, Wanted, for CASTLE T., STOCKTON-ON-TEES.
A First-class Attraction, week commencing Dec. 7.
Also three nights, Dec. 22, 23, 24.
Communications to
J. CHAS. IMESON, Theatre Royal, Middlesbrough.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.
WANTED, First-class Company, for Dec. 3, 4, 5 (three nights), Harrogate.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Dec. 7, 14 (?),
Jan. 11, and various dates onwards.
Apply, G. HAYES.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Nov. 30, Eastbourne (3), Hastings (3); Dec. 7, D.P.T., Eastbourne; Dec. 7, P.G.T., Folkestone. Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for Feb. 15, March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31. First-class Companies only.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Nov. 30 (through breach), Dec. 21, Jan. 4 and 11. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Musical Comedy, April 12.
Note.—The Conference of the National Teachers' Union is held in Morecambe during Easter.
Also Vacant, July, Aug.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, onwards, with exceptions.
Wire, PHILLIPS.

WANTED, Companies, Dec. 7, on, Share or small Certainty; also Pantomime or strong Attraction for Christmas. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, York, First-class Company, Dec. 14; Pantomime, Jan. 11; also Company for three nights, Feb. 1, 2, 3. Apply, WADDINGTON and SONS, Stonegate, York.

WANTED, for Londesborough Theatre, Scarboro', Comedy Companies, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, 15, and 22. Apply, WADDINGTON and SONS, Stonegate, York.

LYCEUM, NEWPORT.
WANTED, owing to alteration of arrangements, best Attractions only for Jan. 4, 18, and 25, and May 3. Particulars to SIDNEY COOPER.

GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER.
WANTED, First-class Drama, Dec. 10, three nights.
STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, Companies, three nights, Nov. 26 27, 28, Dec. 14 (3 or 6), Jan. 18 (?), 21 (?) and 25, Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on. W. B. POTTS Opera House, Dunfermline.

WANTED, First-class Company, Dec. 7.
Wire,
W. B. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Vacant Dec 7, 21, Jan. 11, onward with exceptions.
Re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, June 14, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 28, April 12, 19, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant May 31, June 7, 21, onward with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Nov. 26, Dec. 8, 14, onward with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical Pieces; last three nights Drama.)

Pantomime "ALADDIN," Feb. 8, 1909, onward.
Pantomime "CINDERELLA," Feb. 8, onward.
Pantomime "PUSS IN BOOTS," Feb. 8, onward.

ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only.
We are prepared to guarantee Really Big Star Attractions.
All communications, JNO. ED. JOWSEY, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet."
'Phones 413, 426, 500.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, good Companies, Dec. 7 and Jan. 4.

THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and Jan. 4.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP.
Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14, and Xmas.
Last three days only.

TOWN HALL, RUGBY.
Vacant Xmas, Jan. 4 and 25.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK.
Now running twice nightly only.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Vacant Jan. 11 and 18.

THE SPA, WHITBY.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
W. PAYNE SEDDON,
Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. BUCHANAN.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for the following towns:—
Leith,
Ayr,
Greenock,
Motherwell,
Falkirk,
Coatbridge,
Dec 7, 14, 21, 28 (New Year week),
Jan. 4, 11.
Apply, R. C BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH, BOLTON.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, for following Prime Season Dates, Dec. 28, Jan. 25, Feb. 1.
Must be Big Atractions for these weeks.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, for Dec. 14,
Dec. 14,
also various dates onward.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, for Variety Theatres, First-class Pantomimes, to play twice nightly. Dates in Feb. and March. Address, with full particulars, T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROOK.
WANTED, Companies, March 29, Easter, April 19, May 10.
WALLACE DAVIDSON, Victoria Hall, Huddersfield.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
The Only Theatre in the Town. Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons, Birmingham. Stage dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn, 1909. All communications,
WALTER R. WALLIS, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

WANTED, Big Attraction, Dec. 14, Grand, Chorley.
Address, SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

PAVILION, ABERTILLERY.
PAVILION, ABERTILLERY.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, for Dec. 14.
Terms and full particulars to
E. PRYCE, Pavilion, Abertillery.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
WANTED, good Musical Attractions, Jan. 4, March 1, 15, Easter. Apply, F. GRAHAM MACDONA, Lessee and Manager.

WANTED, Company, Dec. 14, owing to cancelling.
Address,
A. M. LOADER, Court Theatre, Warrington.

WANTED, for Nov. 30,
First-class Drama Co.
Address, ELLISTON, Bolton.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Wanted, Companies,
Vacant through obliging,
Nov. 30, Nov. 30.
Also Dec. 26, seven nights.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

SELWYN THEATRE, WISBECH.
WANTED, Good Company, either for Dec. 3, 4, or 5, or 10, 11, and 12. Xmas still vacant.
GATES.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEDNESBURY.
WANTED, good Dramas or strong Attractions, Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 11, 25 (?), onwards. Address, H. BATTERSBY.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

WANTED, No. 1 Musical and Pantomimic Attractions, immediate and future dates. Now playing to crowded houses nightly King's Theatre, Kilmarnock, Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

COURT THEATRE, BACUP.
Lessee, DENMAN WOOD.
WANTED, Drama, Musical Com., Variety, Good Combination, or Bioscope, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Dec. 14, 21 (five nights), Jan. 4. Wire, Nov. 30, DENMAN WOOD, Court Theatre, Bacup. Later dates, letters.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, April 25, May 10, May 17, 24, 31.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, April 5, May 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant, March 22, May 3, 10, 17.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 12, 19, May 10, 24, 31.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Nov. 30, also Dec. 7, and Feb. 8, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return), Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," &c.
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

WANTED, a Travelling Panto., for London Theatre, Xmas, two or three weeks, on sharing terms; also Good Halls, suitable for Picture Shows and Variety. GRAHAM'S Agency, 15A, Electric-avenue, Brixton.

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, RUNCORN.
WANTED, Class Attraction, for Xmas, 4 or 7 nights, also Nov. 30, Dec. 8 (5 nights), Dec. 14, Jan. dates to 23rd, with exceptions. EDGAR LEE.

TOWN HALL THEATRE, AYLESBURY.
WANTED, Attractions, Monday, Nov. 30, and Dec. 14, Jan. 4, and on, one or two nights only, good business for recognised Attractions. CHARLES E. ARTHUR, 72, Blandford-st., Baker-st., London.

WANTED, Companies, Albert Hall, Jarrow, good Combinations or Picture Shows, from Dec. 7; Shares or Rental; good business to good Companies. Apply, MANAGER.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL, WREXHAM.
WANTED, First-class Comedy Pantomimes, for Dec. 21 and 28. J. J. SCOTT, Proprietor.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 9.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Dec. 14, Jan. 4.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 14, 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 25 (seven nights).
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 8.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 14, 21, Jan. 4.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb. 15, 22, March 22, 29.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 26 (seven nights).
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, April 5, Aug. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Osborne Theatre, Manchester.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH," from the Haymarket and Apollo Theatres.
WANTED, Dec. 7, between Lincoln and Ipswich.
Address, C. H. BOWMAKER, Grand Theatre, Hull.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, Weeks of Jan. 11 and 25.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, weeks of Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, for this Remarkable Success, which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, March 22 (?), April 12.
All communications, J. W. CORDINER, Nov. 23, Theatre Royal, Smethwick.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI and MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows: Dec. 26 (7 nights), April 19, May 3.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and E. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 11, 25, March 29, April 12.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, R. T., Morecambe.

"TODDLES."
WANTED, Jan. 4 and 11, Midlands or North, MURRAY KING, Devonshire P. T., Eastbourne.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for Repertory, Dec. 26 (7 or 13 nights). RUSSELL ROSSE, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 28, 1908, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 8, 15, 22. Forty People on Stage. L. Carson is Cast. All coms., L. CARSON, Queen's T., Farnworth.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 8, 15.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 21 (3 nights), Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 21 (3 nights), Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"HONOUR THY FATHER."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 1, 8, 15, on.
Morton Powell, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN,"
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.

WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, 21, and 28. Nov. 23, Carlton T., Saltley.
Mr. A. B. Cross as Pete. Miss Watersford as Kate.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
"ROLLICKING RORY."
WANTED, Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 1.
Grand, Falkirk; next, Opera House, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, "Was She to Blame?" by Mrs F. G. Kimberley. Grand Production at the Junction, Manchester, Easter; all Holiday Dates booked up to Whit, 1910; no vacant dates in 1909. Write for 1910 to Kimberley, Green and Hinton, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts,
By Walter Howe.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 22, March 1, 8, 29, April 26, May 3, 17, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by
David Allens and Moody roBs.

Nov. 23, Theatre Royal, Aldershot.

E. OSMOND BROOKS'S No. 1 COMPANY, in
"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
Funniest Farcical Comedy of Twentieth Century.

WANTED, Feb. 8 (between Scotland and Shrewsbury), March 1, 8 (follow Gaiety, Dublin), March 29 (follow Leamington), April 5, and Easter
E. O. Brooks, Lessee and Manager,
Grand Theatre, Swansea.

WANTED, for Mark Blow's Latest Success, "At Roaring Camp," Jan. 18, 25 (to precede Alex., Sheffield), Feb. 15, March 22, 29.
Mark Blow, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

WANTED, "Under Two Flags," Jan. 18, Feb. 8, 22, March 22, 29.
Mark Blow, Theatre Royal, Worthing

WANTED, "At Cripple Creek," Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 8, 22, March 29.
Mark Blow, Theatre Royal, Worthing.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
By
Walter Howard.

WANTED, Good Theatre, for Christmas Week, Good Theatre, for Christmas Week.
Also Jan. 11 and 18.

Ellen Snow,
To-day, Alex., Hull; next, Alex., Birmingham.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, April 19, 26, for "The Cingalee."
Haidane Crichton, Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.

"LUCKY 'LIZA."
WANTED, Dec. 14, between Birmingham and Liverpool.
Dickie Clark, T. R., West Bromwich.

"THE FLOWER GIRL."
A Genuine Musical Comedy.
MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, Spring and Autumn, 1909.
Wire, F. Martin Morris, Theatre Royal, Glasgow. Letters to Prince of Wales's Theatre, Nuneaton.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. FRANK BATEMAN and GEORGE CONQUEST'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Feb. 1, Aug. 9, Sept. 6, 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, Nov. 1 and 22.
Apply, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK,"
By Rass Challis.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 1, 15, April 5, 12 (Wales), May 10 (between Aberdare and Llanelly), June 14 (to follow Stratford). Address, Brixton Theatre, London, S.W.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS."
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 18, 25 (Midlands).
Horace Stanley,
Globe Theatre, Walmer.
Next, T. R., Stratford, E. (seventh visit).

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
WANTED, Feb. 1, Aug. 8 and 30.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

"THE MIDNIGHT MAIL."
WANTED, March 1, Aug 2.
Address, E. Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

The Play of Many Merits.
"A WOMAN WORTH WINNING."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, Feb. 8 various, for this Box-office Success.
Apply, A. B. Mackay,
To-day, M. T., Ashington; next, S. T., Hetton.

WANTED.—Managers with Vacant Dates in February and March will hear of something to their advantage by communicating with J. F. Elliston, Bolton.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Christmas, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 15, May 17, 24, 31, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, Armadale and Warren, Theatre Royal, Barry Dock.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Dec. 21.
Refer to Jackson Withers, Esq., re piece at Merthyr.
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, Dec. 21, 28, for this great Sporting Play. New Scenery, Properties, &c., Racehorses Toured.
"TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS."
Vacant March 22, April 5, 12, only vacant dates until Aug. 2. Wire for all plays, Kimberley, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, Feb. 1, 22.
"THE KING AND UNKNOWN WOMAN,"
New Production, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, and March 22.
E. Hill-Mitchelson,
Theatre Royal, Halifax.

'THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, good Theatres, Dec. 26 (seven nights, South), and Easter week (South).
Maud Hildyard, Grand T., Glasgow.

WANTED, Jan. 4, on (owing to continued success of up-to-date version), for "Dandy Fifth." Wire, Corri, Hippo., Sheerness; next, A. T., Woolwich.

WANTED, Nov. 30, Xmas, New Year vacant. "Beneath the Stars." Strong Co., magnificent Pictorials; everything sound. Coleman Davies, Theatre, Fleetwood.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
In
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."

Present Bookings include:—
Star, Swansea; T. R., Bristol; Alexandra, Birmingham; Alexandra, Sheffield; Gaiety, Burnley; Metropole, Gateshead; T. R., Seaham Harbour; Eden, Bishop Auckland; Grand, Brighton, Southend-on-Sea, &c., &c., &c.

WANTED, Good Theatre, August Bank Holiday, 1909.

Wanted, Aug. 9, Sept. 27, Nov. 1, 8 and on, with exceptions.
Miss Hilda Beverley, Opera House, Coventry.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Theatres.—Only vacant dates for either play: Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 1 and 8, March 29, April 5, May 10 and 24.
Coms. to
George Kirk,
Elephant and Castle, S.E.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED Wanted, Theatres,
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 1.
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, April 19, 26.
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."
Vacant Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 22.
"THE GIRL I LOVE,"
Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4.
E. P. Clift, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard.

ARMITAGE and LEIGH'S COMPANIES.
Only One Company of Each Play—the Best.
The Triumph of the Artistic.
Wilson Barrett's last and greatest play.
"LUCKY DURHAM"
(fourth year of continuous tour).
WANTED, Nov. 30 (N), Dec. 28, and few onwards,
Charles Frohman's Greatest Success,
"LEAH KLESCHNA."
Ran one year London, third year of tour.
Vacant Dec. 21 (S), Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 15, March 29, April 12,
Henry Seton's Merriman's Greatest Work,
"WITH EDGED TOOLS,"
Adapted from the Great Novel, which has been read by over 2,000,000 people. Passed the 200th performance, and recognised as one of the best plays sent out. Vacant Nov. 30 (N.), Dec. 28, Jan. 4 Feb. 1, Mar. 15. All communications, H. Armitage, Manager for Sir Charles Wyndham, New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane, London, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists.
Each member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Easter (Only 1909 Holiday Date Vacant). Fred Bulmer, Theatre, Paisley.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
Frank M. Thorne, T. R., Edmonton, N.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c. The Directors of the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, have re-engaged them for seventeen weeks next summer. Their returns showed another 40 per cent. advance over their previous season, which was 50 per cent. over any preceding year.
Only Vacancies Next summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onward.
Mr. D'Arcy Clayton,
23, Brockman-road, Folkestone.

BOSWELL'S STAGE CIRCUS.
BOSWELL'S STAGE CIRCUS.
WANTED, through misunderstanding, a Good Theatre or Hall, for Xmas, Share or Rental, A Sure Draw.
James Kiddie, Tuesday night, said: "Boswell, this will be a record week. I am delighted. So are my patrons. Your Circus is excellent in every respect. It is funnier than even a Pantomime. Return visits confirmed."

Wire or write,
Boswell, Grand Theatre, Chorley.

WANTED, immediate Dates, South of England, for Glennie's Royal Marionettes; 20min. to 2 hours. Wire, Glennie's Marionettes, Rotting dean, Sussex.

ARTISTS WANTED.

SOUTH AFRICA.

LEONARD RAYNE'S COMPANY.

WANTED, Wanted, Lady,
to sail Dec. 12.
Must be young,
of good appearance,
and capable of playing
Leading Parts in Répertoire.
Apply (letters only), giving references, particulars, and terms,
also enclosing recent photographs,
with stamped directed envelope
for return of the latter, to
George Rayne,
Portugal House, Portugal-street, London, W.C.

MRS. BANDMANN-PALMER'S TOUR.
WANTED, for India, experienced Actor, to combine Stage Management, capable of assisting in producing series of Shakespearean plays; also experienced young Actor and young Actress, well versed in Répertoire work. Address, 36 Gloucester-road, Kew, Surrey. No interviews except by appointment.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, for Above,
to rehearse Nov. 25, at Smethwick,
pretty young Juvenile Actress for Ruth;
height not less than 5ft. 5in.;
must have good Singing Voice (Contralto or Soprano), and possess fashionable wardrobe.
State age, exact height, and send
two last references (which will be applied for), photos., and lowest terms, to J. W. Cordiner, T. R., Wolverhampton; next, T. R., Smethwick.

WANTED, for Powerful Dramatic Sketch, New Production, Dec. 7, London,
Recognised Leading Man (à la Frank Cooper); must be 5ft. 11in. Juvenile Lady; must be young and pretty, capable of intense emotion.
Responsible Man for Character part; Carpenter capable of small part. Letters only, with full particulars, references, photos, and terms, to
J. G. Grahame and Horn Conyers,
9, Manor-gardens, Holloway, N.

G. CARLTON WALLACE'S CO'S.
WANTED, First-class Artists, in all Lines, for Spring Tour. Send full particulars and recent photo. No interviews unless by appointment. Address, 107, Esmond-rd., Bedford Park, W.

PAUMIER AND HOWARD'S TOUR.
WANTED, a First-class Heavy Man, also a Leading Lady, for Satanella, in "The Midnight Wedding." Apply, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

WANTED, Ladies and Gentlemen of experience and reliability, for Dramatic Stock Season, at the Haymarket Theatre, Liverpool. Address, with lowest terms, &c., Frank Emery, Man.

WANTED, for Monday next, Nov. 23, smart Lady and Gentleman, for Responsibles, for Stock. H. Lewis write. Manager, Theatre, Greyhound Hotel, Cheadle, Staffs.

WANTED, Kate, Brown, Sir Victor, and Chorus, for "Dandy Fifth."
Clarence Corri, Artillery Theatre, Woolwich.

WANTED, First-class Heavy Actor (tall, emotional), also Conscientious Young Actor, for small part and assistant stage-management, probably London. Photographs, references, and fullest particulars to Z., c/o Deane and Russell, 32, Regent-st., W.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Tall, Gentlemanly Actor, for the Parson, also for Doctor; Long Fit-up Tour, open Dec. 23. Terms, references, Rushbury, Lesmahagow.

WANTED, for a West-End Trial Show, First-class Bass Baritone, 6ft.; must be good Actor. Apply, 4 till 5, 1, Kenbury-mansions, Camberwell.

WANTED, Good Baritone Chorus Gentleman, also Boy Chorister. Lowest terms,
Arthur Carlton, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by young experienced Dramatic Leading and Heavy Lady, Engagement, Sketch in Halls; invest small sum if necessary. Address, Box 5,166, "The Era."

WANTED, by Dora Blanche, Child's part in Drama, to look 11 or 12 years old, Boy preferred. 30, Rylett-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED J. LITTLE'S
MUSICAL, DRAMATIC, AND VARIETY AGENCY,
4, Arthur-street, New Oxford-street, London W.C.
Telegraphic Address, "Wontiod, London."
'Phone 1626 Gerrard.
Representative, Corliss Claflin.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Comedians for Dames, Pages, Atkins, Principal Boys, Principal Girls, Chorus Ladies and Gentlemen, and big Specialities.
All communications as above.

Pantomime.
WANTED, for Pantomime, Xmas next, two First-class Comedians, for the Policemen in "Aladdin," also a well-known Comedian, for Will Atkins, in "Robinson Crusoe."
Terms, full particulars, to
Ernest Dottridge, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, good Pantomime Comedian. Send names and addresses, last two references, age, height, lowest terms. Arthur Carlton, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for Provincial London Pantomime, First-class Comedian; also for London Production, Child Actress, must be very small. Apply immediately, C. St. John Denton, 34, Maidenlane, Strand.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists all descriptions, for Fit-up Pantomime; long tour. Photo., lowest terms, to Hargreaves, Town Hall, Dawley, Salop.

Chorus Ladies
WANTED, for Pantomime.
Call 12 o'clock, Tuesday,
Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham Junction.

WANTED, Acrobatic Troupe Lady Dancers, Fairy Queen, Palace Speciality, Chorus Ladies, for Tour. Call, Weathersby's Agency, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

WANTED, for Panto., and Long Engagement to follow, young, pretty Acrobatic and Step Dancer. Apply (practice dress), Saturday and Wednesday, at 10 o'clock. Browning, 4, Pimlico-road, S.W.

WANTED, Artists Engaged for
JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES,
"ALADDIN,"
"CINDERELLA,"
"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
to send present addresses, so that Parts may be forwarded.
James Kiddie, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Crissie Cross, smart Singer and Dandy Dancer, at Liberty for Panto., Principal or Second Girl. Address, c/o 7, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, Disengaged Panto., Principal Boy. Offers invited.
39, Gateley-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Babs Lloyd, Star Artist, vacant for Pantomime. This. Public Hall, Barnsley; next, Nov. 30, Grand T., Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, Miss Connie Irwin, Panto., Principal Girl or Fairy Queen. Last year enormous success "Forty Thieves," Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dundee. 12, Rugby-road, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Miss Louie Hurman, at Liberty for Panto., Principal Boy, last year Alex., Sheffield. Perm., 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Edna Cragge, an Ideal Principal Boy, an Artist, Vocalist, and Dancer. Last year, Robin Hood, Carlton T., Birmingham. 1a, Arlesford-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Lillie Hales, Queen of the Wooden Shoe. Vacant Panto., Second Girl. This, King's, Hanley; next, Grand, Manchester.

WANTED, by Young Girl, 16, Pantomime Chorus, or Child Part in Drama; not experienced, but capable. Now travelling. Ward's Variety Co., Post Office, Cramlington.

WANTED, by Jimmy Edgar, Knockabout Pocket Comedian, Panto; last season with E. Graham Falcon, Esq.: also Ida Verne, Character Sketch Artists and Vocalist, Second Girl or Boy. Joint or Single. C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Panto, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina), Dame preferred.
Starring, Empire, Wigan.

WANTED, by Bert Warner, good Posturer and Pantomimist, Engagement in Panto., Animal Part preferred. Coms., 113, Herbert-road, Manor Park, E.

WANTED, Known, Jack Foley, at Liberty for Panto., Dame.
Perm., 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Pantomimist and Knockabout Comedian; used to Animal Parts, Leaps, &c. M. D., 31, Trinity-square, Brixton.

WANTED, by Leo, Panto.; Play any Comedy Parts or Speciality; Play Clown and produce Harlequinade as I produced at Drury Lane. Address, Leo Gilbert, Palace, Exeter.

WANTED, Panto., by Cambo, the Musical Monkey. Address, this week, Hippodrome, Margate; next, Hippodrome, Dover.

WANTED, by Harry Kirk, Panto. Engagement. Will Atkins, Baron, Billy Crusoe (tall); Facial Speciality, Vocalist and Patter. This, Pav., Liverpool; next, King's, Manchester.

WANTED, Dates, for the Most Wonderful Trampoline Act on the Stage. Special Scene Act for Pantomime. Success with any class of Audience. Acrobatic Dog Prince, with brains. The Pets, 54, Upper Sutton-street, Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED Known, World-famed Young Colossus. 19 years of age, 35st. weight; at Liberty Nov. 30 for Panto. Offers. Pook, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Pantomime, by
Nash and Noel.
This, City V., Leeds; next, Pavilion, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Blarney and Kennard, Vacant Panto.; thoroughly experienced, Parts and Speciality. 33, Stafford-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Pantomime, The Altons, Demon Contortionists; also Tella and Gardelle, Gymnasts; two distinct Specialities. 6, Victoria Park-road, London.

WANTED, Pantomime Parts and Speciality, by Malone and Conley. Comedians and Comedy Boxers; five years with F. J. Little. Wire, 163, Scholefield-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Read and Wright, Vacant Panto., Second Boy and Dames, or Principal Comedian. A Sure Success. Perm. add., 4, Royley-street, Old-street, E.C.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, The Dandy Droits, Versatile Vocalists and Dancers, Vacant for Panto. with their New and Original Speciality Dutch Scena, entitled "Tulip Time." Pretty Stage Effects with 1000 Tulips. Wire or write, 18, Herndon-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED.—Returned from Continent, after Enormous Success, and Free for Panto., or otherwise. An exceptionally Clever and Attractive Troupe of Six Smart, Fine Girls (not children), Acrobatic, Spanish, or any Kind of Dancing and Singing. Can be seen in London. Address for appointment. Manager, 24, Rochester-square, London, N.W.

THE FOUR DELAWARES,
in their most Novel Knockabout Act.
"REVELS IN A BILLIARD SALOON."
WANTED, Pantomime, Parts and Specialities, four people. Enormous Success this week, Zoo, Glasgow; next, 33, Wynford-st., Eccles New-road, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Pantomime, the Greatest Sensation of the Century,
Le Diabelo, Looping the Devil's Wheel,
Three Successful Seasons Looping the Loop and this Act with Arthur Gibbons, Esq.
Address, 37, Chipley-street, New Cross, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by H. Quinette, for Palace Scene in Pantomime or on Variety Stage, with Pony and Troupe of ten Performing Dogs. Address, Quinette, Bryntirion Farm, Rhyl.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

Scenic Artists.
WANTED, two for Touching-up; must be quick and capable. If suitable, long engagement. Write, enclosing references and lowest salary, to "Scenic," London Exhibitions, Ltd., Earl's Court.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. Cecil E. Hicks, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions. Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. Fred Wilkins and Bro., Ltd., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for every description of Scenery, Pantomime, Stock, &c.
Scenic Studio, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. Robinson, 170, King's-road, S.W

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective, Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. Charles Sayer, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
W. Bernasconi, Scenic Artist,
53, St. James's-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, K. J. McLennan, Scenic Artist, can arrange Engagement for First-class Theatre, or accept Contracts. Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract; Town or Provinces. Address, 26, Elgin-terrace, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Stafford, Scenic Artists. First-class references and designs. 24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

MISCELLANEOUS.

EMPIRE, EDMONTON.
WANTED, Known, the above Theatre will Open about Christmas. All applications to be addressed to Managing-Director, 18, Adam-street, Strand, W.C.
Please state qualifications and references to save unnecessary delay.

WANTED, an experienced
Dramatic Author
who understands French,
to collaborate with Advertiser.
Address,
Box 5,164, "The Era."

WANTED, a First-class Author, to write up Advertiser's idea for Sketch.
Only one capable of writing a really clever and witty dialogue need apply.

T., 121, Constantine-road, Hampstead.

JAZON and NIGHTINGALE'S ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, to Open Dec. 7, Resident Acting-Manager (young), Shorthand-Typist preferred. State age, salary (lowest), references in first letter. Society or other guarantee required. T. R., West Bromwich.

WANTED, a thoroughly Experienced Business-Manager, to take entire charge of Musical and Dramatic Business. Apply, Fred Karno, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, a First-class Manager, also two Advance Agents for Pantomime. Particulars, refs., &c., to Edith St. Clare, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, Two Young Acting-Managers; must find guarantees. Write, giving full particulars in first place, to Pringle's Picture Palace, Glasgow.

WANTED, Smart Organiser of Minstrel Troupe on New Lines. Send copy refs. and state salary.
W. Yates Gregory, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury.

WEST BROMWICH HIPPODROME.
WANTED, First-class Billposter, not afraid of work. Apply to Will Collins, Hippodrome, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Good Advertising Canvasser. Last two references.
Arthur Carlton, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, a Competent Man, to take entire charge of Bars in a Suburban Music Hall. Previous experience necessary. Apply, with particulars, by letter only (no callers) to Wilmot Edson, 24, Cranbourn-street, W.C.

WANTED, Maid, Personal, and Experienced, for an Actress; must be of fair education, neat in appearance, under thirty, and Protestant, must speak English and German (or French), to travel in Germany immediately.
Call, Scala Theatre,
Stage Door, to-day 3 to 5 and Sunday 10 to 12.

WANTED, for Panto., Open at Once, First-class Wardrobe Mistress. Send copy of references and state lowest salary, to
Manager, Theatre Royal, Merthyr.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Resident or Assistant-Manager; experienced Dramatic and Variety, Advertising Bars, &c. Harry Pease, 25a, Queen-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Situation, by smart, experienced Stage and General Manager; combine both; used to Lightning Programme; twice nightly L., 13n, Gladstone-street, Abertillery.

WANTED, by Advance Agent or Manager, a Shop, for India and East; good Shows only; 30 years' experience here; cheap. Address, Babington and Co., Post-master, Bombay.

WANTED, Known, Lady Expert Shorthand Typist desires Re-engagement; thoroughly experienced Theatre Work, &c.; highest refs. Miss Hearnden, Hazelmere, Chadfield-road, Dumfield, Derby.

WANTED, by Practical Property Master and Carpenter, Engagement, permanent or good Touring Co. Wire or write, E. Limcar, 15, Manor-street, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, Amy Samwells, First-class Wardrobe Mistress, Costumier and Renovator, Disengaged through disappointment. Address, 8a, Electric-avenue, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady's Maid and Wardrobe Mistress; good refs., last four years. Dis. early Dec. Duke, 28, St. Paul's-road, Kennington.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, one more Conductor, for Pantomime Tour. Those not receiving replies to last enquiry please write in again.
Address, J. F. Elliston, Bolton.

WANTED, steady and reliable Musical-Director (Violinist); must be used to First-class Variety Business (twice nightly). Apply, stating age, and with latest references, to H. F. Miller, Hippodrome, Stoke.

WANTED, Violin, Conductor; good, steady and reliable; used to Variety, Drama, and Pantomime. References, lowest permanency (resident), Williams, Gaiety, Dundee.

HARRY ROXBURY'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, First-class Musical Conductor-Pianist, able to arrange, open immediately, sobriety indispensable, long engagement to reliable man. Terms, refs., photos., &c., Harry Roxbury, Empire, Edinburgh.

WANTED, First-class Leader and Solo Violin, to sail Nov. 26,
and remain on the
White Star Line Mediterranean Service
until April.
Chas. W. Black, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First-class Leader and Solo Violin, Pianist and 'Cellist, for Hotel in Jamaica. Engagement from Dec. 8 until April, 1909.
Terms and conditions from
Charles Wm. Black, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, First Violin immediately, used to Variety; must be First-class Player, or useless. Wire lowest terms, Edwardes, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, for Tivoli, Dublin (twice nightly), competent Leader, and Double Drummer with Effects. Send references, terms, &c., Musical-Dir.

WANTED, an experienced Solo Cornet.
Apply, with latest references, to
Mus.-Dir., H. M. Theatre, Aberdeen.

WANTED, at Once, Lady Cornet and Drums, with Tympani if possible. Send lowest terms and refs. to Musical-Director, Hippodrome, Mechanics' Hall, Dumfries.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, must be First-class Player, open Nov. 30. Age and refs.
Frederic Braham, Regent Theatre, Salford.

WANTED, Solo Cornet, for Pitching, in London (West End). Terms Shares. Bandmaster, 15, Shroton-street, Lisson-grove, London, N.W.

WANTED, Clarionet, Cornet, Horn, Euphonium, for Pitching.
77, Carlisle-street, Edgware-road.

WANTED, for the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company, First-rate Bassoon Player, thoroughly experienced in Grand Opera, and possess a Flat pitch instrument; also a thoroughly experienced Bass Chorister.
Apply to Walter Van Noorden, Theatre R., Belfast.

WANTED, First-class Trombonist, for Musical Show, now on tour; must be good Sight-reader, and able to play a second instrument, either reed or string (all the three preferable). Reply, with full particulars of age, height, &c., to Moran, 44, Grafton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, good 'Cello, to Open Nov. 30, permanency. Apply, with age, terms, and references, Chas. Elphinstone, Theatre R., Hanley.

WANTED, immediately, for Important Concert Party, fully booked now and onwards, young and attractive Lady Pianist; must read and accompany well; one with voice preferred. Apply, personally, 12 o'clock Saturday, Blackmore's, 11, Garrick-street.

WANTED, Pianist, Violin, Clarionet, Long Run, Fridays till Mondays, four nights, commence once. Lowest terms, Mr. Phillips, Public Baths, Barking.

DUNDEE PALACE THEATRE VARIETIES.
WANTED, Pianist, to open Nov. 30.
Terms to Musical-Director.

PARAGON THEATRE OF VARIETIES,
LONDON, E.
WANTED, Double Drummer, with all Effects, to open Monday, Nov. 30; must be well up in Variety business.
Terms and references to Conductor.

WANTED, Season 1909, Seaside, six months, commencing Easter, Tympanist, Drums, and all Effects; experienced Concert Work; also Pianist and Accompanist, combine Viola; both combine Librarian. Box 5,177, "The Era."

WANTED, Mandolinist, smart Young Lady, immediately, quick reader and memoriser; long Engagement. Letters, Box 5,176, "The Era."

WANTED, the following First-class Musicians: Leader (Solo Violin and Conductor), Pianist, 'Cellist and Bass, for Booth Line, Jan. 1, permanency to suitable Musicians; Répétiteur and 'Cellist, for Mauretania, Jan. to April; Leader (Solo Violin), Répétiteur, Pianist, 'Cellist, and Contrabassist, for Cunard Line, Jan., 1909.

Audition necessary in London or Liverpool before engagement.
Applicants state age and give two references as to character and ability, to
Chas. Wm. Black,
14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED, to open Dec. 21, at Birmingham, Violin, Trombone, and Double Drummer, with all effects; must have good appearance, wear evening dress, and be absolutely steady and reliable. Lowest terms and references, Coliseum, Leeds.

WANTED, for Dumfries shortly, for large Ladies' Orchestra; Full Strings, Flutes, Clarionets, Oboe, Bassoons, Cornets, Trombone, Drums with Tympani. Send lowest terms, refs., &c., to Musical-Director, Hippodrome, Mechanics' Hall, Dumfries.

FUN CITY DRILL HALL, BATH.
Dec. 24, 1908, to Jan. 16, 1909.
The first Show of its kind ever held in Bath.
WANTED, Ladies' Band, Shooter, Fish Pond, Ring Board, Games, Cocoanuts, Novelty Side-shows. Apply Carl Fredericks, 4, Brunswick-street, Bath.

WANTED, experienced Lady Orchestral Players immediately; must be Sight-readers. Apply, Dare, 151a, Windmill-road, Brentford.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A Grateful Musician.'"

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"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, Philip Germann, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the Publisher, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), large and valuable library. Pantomimes, Dramas, &c., composed and arranged. Victoria Theatre Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, by Musical-Director, same capacity, in Restaurant, Theatre, or Music Hall, 18 years' practical experience, Brilliant Violinist; extensive and up-to-date Library. Apply, Box 5,159, "The Era."

WANTED, by Conductor, Appointment, good Music Hall or Theatre, 20 years' London experience best Orchestras. CONDUCTOR, 20, Sutherland-terrace, Pimlico, London.

WANTED, immediate Re-engagement as Leader or First Violin, Theatres, Restaurants; London suburbs. OSCAR CREMER, 10, Caithness-road, Mitcham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement as Leader or First Violin, at Liberty, owing to Theatre closing. Address, JOSEPH HARGREAVES, Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, by Leader, good Violinist, used to Variety business, and reliable, Lancashire district preferred. Address, VIOLINIST, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, as Leader or First Violin; experienced Variety and Dramatic. Address, A. PARISI, 31, Grafton-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Known, Edythe Reeve, Violinist, Now at Liberty to accept Engagements, any Business. 60 Kimberley-gardens, Green-lanes, Harringay, N.

WANTED, Known, Hetty Austin, Violinist, just finished five months' engagement; Ada Austin, Pianist and Accompanist. 152, Herbert-road, Plumstead, S.E.

WANTED, by Second Violin, Engagement, Only moderate wage desired. Box 5,161, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as First Violin; can combine First Cornet if required. F. ASBURY, Eastchurch, Sheerness.

WANTED, Known, Jennie Murdoch, experienced Violinist, Disengaged Nov. 29. Exhibition, 75-76, Pearl-buildings, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Engagement, good reliable Violinist, thoroughly experienced; excellent references. T. REEVE, 11, Kenilworth-villas, Ruckholt-road, Leyton, London.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, Second Violin, any Business. C. DAVENPORT, 2, Gardners-square, Bengeworth, Evesham, Worcs.

WANTED, Engagement, as First Violin, Variety Business, Dances; or would deputise, &c. VIOLINIST, 6, Bryan-place, Caledonian-road, London, N.

WANTED, Engagement, good Solo Cornet, highest references, now at Liberty. C. THOMAS, 71, Eswyn-road, Tooting, S.W.

WANTED Engagement as Cornet; experienced and reliable. Theatre or Music Hall. BENNETT, 9, Belhaven-street, Grove-road, E.

WANTED, an Engagement, by a Solo Cornet; thoroughly experienced, any Business; Open at Once. NUTTALL, 45, Mount-street, Derby.

WANTED, Known, Cornettist, good; excellent references; at Lib. any time; 15 years' experience; abstainer. JOHANNIDES, Shady-grove, Alsager, near Crewe.

WANTED, by Clarionet, Combine Violin, would play in return of work, just finished 16½ years in Navy. H. S., 20, Hetton-st., Hammersmith.

WANTED, Engagement, reliable Double Bass; experienced Grand Opera, Musical Comedies, Standard Overtures, &c.; 5 years' good reference. C. CHUPPT, 7, Brighton-road, Aldershot, Hants.

WANTED, Known, Bassoonist, at Liberty Nov. 28, for Oratorios, Musical Comedies, Theatre, or any Business. C. E. SHAW, 7, Winifred-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Bassoonist, Open for Engagements, Military or Orchestral; age 27; A.M.U.; good references; sober and reliable. Address, 7, Sutton-st., Holloway Head, Birmingham.

WANTED, Engagement, String Bass, any district; used to Variety; refs. J. REEVES, 9, Melling-st., Plumstead Common, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoon, Pantomime, Variety, or any other business. Excel. refs. Address, Box 5,173, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Double Bass, well experienced, orchestral or variety business. Box 5,178, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone, thoroughly experienced, steady and reliable; refs.; any business. S. SMITH, 7, Cross-street, Hove, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Trombone or Euphonium; thoroughly experienced. Address, J. J. HUTCHINSON, 1, Greek-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombonist; experienced and reliable; Theatre or Music Hall; could join at once. PEEL, 20, Warley-street, Parkinson-lane, Halifax.

WANTED, by Euphonium, Engagement, in any Band; willing to work; good references. J. WILLIAMS, Oxford View, Junction-road, Cowley, Oxford.

WANTED, by experienced Euphonium, Engagement; can open at once; any business; excellent refs. CHARLES GRICE, c/o Post Office, Worcester.

WANTED, Engagement, permanency, First Horn, 6 years' experience in Orchestral work, commence at once. Write, FRENCH HORN, 86, Richmond-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Smart Young 'Cellist; Soloist; experienced in Hotel work. 'CELLIST, Grand Central Hotel, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ethel Litolff, experienced 'Cellist, Dis. Nov. 29; completed long engagement. Address, Exhibition, 75-76, Pearl-buildings, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lilian Sexton, Violoncellist, is at Liberty for Engagements or Deputising; Experienced. Address, 11, Kelross-road, Highbury, N.

WANTED, Known, Viola, Double Second Clar., Military Band. Disengaged. F. DAY, 105, Hydethorpe-road, Balham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo Player; experienced, steady, reliable, any business; excellent refs. FLAUTIST, 15, Trebernerd-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flautist, well experienced in any business. Box 5,163, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, competent of any business, reliable, excellent references. THOMAS HURN, 21, Gerald-street, Swansea.

WANTED, Engagement, by Pianist, thoroughly experienced in Variety and Dramatic business. L. MAJOR HORNSEY, 9, Temperance-terrace, Ushaw Moor, Durham.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist, good Accompanist, and Sight-reader, or Ladies' Orchestra. Well recommended. M. SCULLEY, 12, Stockwell Park-road.

WANTED, Engagement, experienced Tympanist, Double Drums and Effects, Glockenspiel, Xylophone; highest refs.; can open at once. Address, G. PAUL, 2, Wood-street, Oxford.

WANTED, Engagement, Double Drums, used to Variety work. H. GRAR, 249, Eversleigh-road, Battersea.

WANTED, Engagement as First-class Drums, own Tymps, Glockenspiel, E Flat Tubular Bells. NEVILL, 163, St. Leonard's-road, Windsor.

WANTED, Engagement, Drums and Tympani, any Business; excellent refs. E. CALVERT, 42, Alfred street, Bury.

WANTED, Engagement, by Double Drummer, own Tymp. and all Effects; used to all Business; good refs. J. E. CLEGG, 58, Greek-street, Soho-square, London only.

WANTED, Engagements, Red Bohemian Ladies' Orchestra, any number. Apply, MADAME OLIVER, Ashmoor, Leigh-on-Sea.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, First-class Orchestra, is open to Re-engagement, Hotels, Restaurants, &c., &c., any number; good Répertoire. Terms moderate, Box 5,175, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Algernon Clarke's Orchestras and Ladies' Bands, Exhibitions, Concerts, Dinners, Dances. Uniforms and Music for Sale or Hire. 28, Lonsdale-road, Barnes. Telephone 109 Putney.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Engagement, small Brass Band (or any number), all reliable, at Liberty Nov. 23 and on; terminating fifth season Fossett's Circus. RICHARDS, c/o Mrs. F. Ferris, Defford, Worcester.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

HENGLER'S,
HENGLER'S,
GLASGOW.
GLASGOW.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, a Good Comedy Act, to open Saturday, Nov. 28, for one month or longer.

Address, with full particulars, Mr. HENGLER, Grand Cirque, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Hanneford's Circus, World's Fair, Royal Agricultural Hall, London, good useful Circus Artists in all Lines, for the Season, to communicate at once to Sir EDWARD HANNEFORD, 27, Third-avenue, Consbrook-avenue, Strandtown, Belfast.

WANTED, Equestrians, males and females, also Great Attractions, for Continent; great vacancies. Appointment only. GUISE, 25, Bonham-road, Brixton. Silence polite negative.

WANTED, Acrobats, Three-bar, Wire, Aerial, and all Latest Novelties (Artists doing Double Acts preferred, for Easter Monday, April 12, Whit Monday, May 31, and August Bank Holiday. Send sample lithos. (if any) and lowest terms to WILDERS, Agents, Gt. Francis-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, for London, Dec. 7, onward, Acrobats, Gymnasts, Comedy Jugglers, Eccentrics, Cyclists, and First-class Specialities; also any Dumb-shows, suitable for Ring or Stage. Absolute lowest terms and vacant dates to SAM L. BURY'S Agency, 35, Park-hill, Clapham Park, S.W. Artists unwilling to pay 10% need not apply.

WANTED, Easter, Whitsuntide, Aug. Bank Holiday Fêtes. Star Lofty and Ground Acts. Lithos., Memos., T. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, an Acrobatic Troupe (Males), four or five in number, Winter Season Engagement, London. Apply, Box 5,171, "The Era."

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Circus Proprietors and Hippodrome Managers, to Know that THE ROYAL OHMYS, the great Acrobatic Bareback Riders, have returned to England after eight months' engagement in Denmark and Sweden. Opened last Monday at Gilbert's Grand Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth, and made the greatest success ever known at that Circus; after first performance was re-engaged by Mr. Gilbert till end of January. THE ROYAL OHMYS, Royal Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, will be at Liberty Feb. 2, with six good Acts and five Horses. For particulars address, THE ROYAL OHMYS, Gilbert's Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, the late Buffalo Bill's Rough Rider, who presents his thoroughbred Mare in her Novelty Act, Racing Tricks. Apply, Maerdy, Glam., South Wales.

WANTED, Known, Ada Webb's Water Wonders, still scoring. This, King's Theatre, Kilmarnock; next, Town Hall, Falkirk.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, Known, these Concerts ceased Oct. 31, 1908. Artists please note, and cancel dates WM. BIGGAM, Sec., 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big. A. MASCARD, Manager.

KING'S, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Big Star Attractions. Nothing too Big.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Dec. 7 and onwards. Hall small, so terms must be in proportion. Apply to A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Star Variety Artists, Immediate and Future Dates. Bookings and lowest terms first letter. Fête and Galas, Season, 1909. Sensational and Big Novelties. Send lithos., terms, and permanent address, EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 261.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, all Lines, Novelties, Specialities, &c., Nov. 30, onwards. Hall small, so no fancy prices. Lowest terms, particulars, LOUDEN, Hippodrome, Airdrie, N.B.

WANTED, Monday, Nov. 30, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Acts with Drawing Powers (Nothing too Big), Nov. 23, onwards. CLAGGERS, Gaiety, Blyth.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists (nothing too big), for Monday next and onwards, Harrogate, York, and Scarborough. Apply WILLIAM PEACOCK. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Big Top for Nov. 30, for Midlands and North. No Act too big. Artists all Lines for all dates, address CLIQUOT, 46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, immediate dates, Star Sensational Act. Wire for Monday, Share or Salary. MANAGER, Hippodrome, Gainsborough.

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.
Proprietress, Mrs. FLETCHER.
General-Manager, Mr. TOWYN THOMAS.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. REGINALD FLETCHER.

WANTED, Artists, Dec. 14, onwards. Call for Monday next, A. W. Thompson and Co., Comedy Sketch, "Missing 300." Fred Ford, Ivy Dane, Bert Rayburn, Miss Bell Russell's Dramatic Co. in "The Convict's Revenge," Alf Brookes, Ruffell's Bioscope. Rehearsal 1 sharp. Gen.-Man., TOWYN THOMAS.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates. WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and Future Dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns (Lady and Gent.), doing Singles, Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11. Single turns also the latter dates. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

Want of luck generally means want of pluck.
PACEY'S AGENCY,
186, Brixton-road, London, S.W..
TOM PACEY, Sole Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists of all Kinds. None too Big for this Firm. Artists of all Grades treated fairly. I charge 10 per cent. No objectionable Re-engagement clause. Pay only for work done. PACEY'S AGENCY can book everywhere. Never mind what you hear. Pacey is barred nowhere. But still, remember, the man without an enemy is a nonentity. If you want dates, send your full list of bookings and price, PACEY'S AGENCY. Sole Proprietor, TOM PACEY, 186, Brixton-road, London. 'Phone, 87 Brixton. Telegrams, "Pacey's, London." Telegrams, "Pacey's, London." 186, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Good Acts known to me please send full list of Bookings (including Engagements played throughout 1908), must have list of Bookings, or useless writing. Kindly remember I know your real market value, so no "tricks on travellers," but actual lowest London and Provincial terms in each instance. Good Novel Acts not known to me state when and where can be seen. No Acts submitted unless seen and approved. Silence a polite negative pro tem.

Permanent address, 38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W. Week commencing Nov. 23 address, 40, Scarboro'-street, West Hartlepool.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Nov. 30, on 1a, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards, Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in every Line, big and small. Artists coming North will do well to write me for immediate and later dates.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, now and on. Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2075 Royal.

WANTED, all Star Artists and Big Acts for Leading Music Halls, also Knockabout Comedians, Fitzwarren, Principal Girl for Pantomime. Photos., bookings, terms, &c., YATES, Agent, Gaiety, Dundee.

WANTED, Artists of all Description, for immediate Dates. Bigger the Better. J. CAMERON and Co., Variety Agents, All Saints' chambers, 46, Sydney-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Barnard's Agency, Shaw-street, Liverpool. 'Phone 2349 Royal. Artists in all Lines. Please send vacancies and bookings. Want Big Turns and Specialities.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines. If not known, send photographs, ANDREW MELVILLE, Metropole T., Birmingham.

GEO. GILBERT'S PALACE, EXETER.
Twice Nightly.

WANTED, First-class Artists, in all Lines, Nov. 30, onward. Apply, lowest terms, &c., GEO. ZALVA, General-Manager.

WANTED, Artists wishing to do a Trial Show at Empire, Shoreditch, Nov. 30, write to SAM HART, Agent, 7, Lancaster-house, Rushcroft-road, Brixton, London.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

WANTED, Artists holding Contracts for Hippodrome, Spennymoor, to Note, the above Hall is Closed. KEEBLE'S Agency, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

WANTED, Nov. 30, onwards, Stars, Novelties. Specialities, Artists in all Lines, Doubles doing Singles, &c., for Londonderry, Hawick, Dumfries, and other towns. Absolute lowest in all cases, and fullest particulars, DALY, Opera House, Londonderry.

WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, for Dec., Jan., and on, Star Turns, Comedians, Serios, Gymnasts, Acrobats, Bar Performers, and Any New and Novel Acts, also Comedy Sketches.

Those not willing to pay usual 10% commission save stamps.

Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester." Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, good cheap Turns for Hippodrome, Dumfries, Nov. 30 and onwards; must be good. Address, KEYFORD, Hippodrome, Dumfries.

MUNROE'S AGENCY. MUNROE'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Star Turns, to send full particulars. V.A.F. Office Copy. WALTER F. MUNROE (Lauder's Agent), Nov. 23, Hippodrome, Exeter.

WANTED, Big Star Turns, Greatest Acts in the Business. Something to follow Ella's Lions, Tokio Troupe. Communications, TOM DIACOFF, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

WANTED, First-class Talent, all Lines, Immediate and Future Dates, for every Town of Note.

Artists please Note. This Agency is not on the "Endorsed" List, therefore 10 per cent. must be paid. JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." Telephone, 1686 Royal.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO., 31, Islington, Liverpool. Gen-Manager, WM. LUND. 'Phone 1269 Royal. Wires, "Deetrich, Islington, Liverpool."

WANTED, Known, Always Vacancies for First-class Acts. Communicate with full list of bookings and rock-bottom terms, &c.

WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, onward, Animal Acts (not Dogs), Acrobats, Jugglers, Gymnasts, Hand Acts, Sensational Dramatic Sketches, nothing too big in Lines named. Please note.—I have nothing to offer for any other Line of Business. MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-st., Grimsby.

HARRY WARD AND CO.,
ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL VARIETY AGENCY,
24, Buckingham-st., Strand. Tel. 6474 Gerrard.

WANTED, Immediately, Big Star Variety Acts, Tops, Bottoms, for immediate and future bookings; also Artists, in all Lines. Send full list of vacancies, &c., where can be seen working. Letters only.
Notice to whom it may concern.—That Mr. A. Hampel is no longer connected with above firm.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Sensational Acts, Dumb Shows, Wild Animal Acts, Anything with Drawing Power, for Portsmouth "Arcadia." LESLIE, "Arcadia," Park-crescent-place, Brighton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note. Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY I can book you
DALTON'S AGENCY Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY and
DALTON'S AGENCY Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY also
DALTON'S AGENCY weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY address.
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY ? —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —
DALTON'S AGENCY — —

I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.

WANTED, Nov. 30, on, Star and Top of the Bill Acts. I can fix you. Brinn write. Full Bookings, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.

WANTED, commencing Dec. 21, at Birmingham, Big Comedy Act; must be absolutely free from vulgarity. Address, Coliseum, Leeds.

WANTED, for Nov. 30, onward, Star Acts in all Lines. Star Acts in all Lines. Full up for smaller items. CADLE'S Agency, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Special Dumb Shows of all Descriptions, from December and onwards. Apply, with full particulars and absolute lowest terms to HUGH JAY DIDCOT, LTD., 6, John-st., Adelphi, W.C.

PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.
PALACE THEATRE, GRIMSBY.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Specialities, Spectacular Shows, Tops and Bottoms, for Dec. and onwards.

State when last in Grimsby, full particulars, and lowest terms, to MANAGER, Palace Theatre, Grimsby.

NEW LEIGH GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME,
Grand Opening, Dec. 14, 1908.

WANTED, Star Specialities, all Lines, First-class, Dec. 14, and onwards. Quote absolute lowest terms, and where Act can be seen. Communications, WILLIAM BENSON, Man.-Dir., Hippodrome, Leigh.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.

WANTED, the Greatest Attractions on the Road. Nothing too Big. Always Vacancies for Star Novelties, Star Dumb Acts, Star Comedians, Star Comediennes, Star Specialities. Share or salary. Artists of every Description. Artists who have written before write again. Everything booked direct. No agents. Will make a journey to see any Novelty. Full particulars, lithos., &c., BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

PAVILION, ABERTILLERY.
PAVILION, ABERTILLERY.
PALACE, EBBW VALE.
PALACE, EBBW VALE.

WANTED, the Greatest Attractions that money can procure. Apply, with full particulars, to LEO FRITZ'S Variety Agency, Cecil House, 41, Charing Cross-road, W.C. Telephone 982 Gerrard. Telegrams, "Evelyncia, London."

WANTED, for the Joseph Poole's Myriorama, Big Attractions, to commence Dec. 24, at Bristol; also big Comedy and Sensational Acts, for Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, and Feb. 1. Nothing too big; must be good. Add., POOLE, Drill Hall, Tiverton.

TEMPERANCE HALL, MERTHYR.

WANTED, the Greatest Attractions in the Profession, immediate and future Dates. Nothing too Big. State absolute lowest, and where acts can be seen. Apply, ISRAEL PRICE.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 14, 21, and 28, Animal Acts; in fact, anything that will Draw. Mark "Variety" when replying. W. YATES GREGORY, Theatre Royal and Hippo., Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Vocalists (good), Ladies and Gentlemen, for three nights, fit-up, Towns, for Picture Show. Only First-class Vocalists entertained. State lowest salary. All fares paid after joining. SECRETARY, Churchgate House, Stockport.

WANTED, Bass and Soprano, for small parts in Sketch, near Sheffield, for Nov. 30. JOHN LLOYD, Empire, Burnley.

WANTED, Gent., must be small; sing good Sentimental Song, for New Original Music Hall Show; good salary; £50 will be required (returnable), under your own control. Letters first to W. F., 109, Angell-road, Brixton.

WANTED, for "The Collar Stud," special week, Lancaster. Rehearse there Sunday, Man to speak six lines. Wire, BARTLETT, 63, Ham Park-road, West Ham.

WANTED, for Panto. and Long Engagement to follow, young, pretty Acrobatic and Step Dancers. Apply (practice dress), Saturday and Wednesday, at 1 o'clock. BROWNING, 4, Pimlico-road, S.W.

WANTED, at Once, Smart Midget Woman; must be well formed and perfect in proportion. Reply by letter, enclosing photo., to GEORGE AUGER, Empire, Edinburgh; next, E., Newcastle

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, Comedians, Specialities, &c., Dec. 7, 14, 21, and later, Big Attractions, to follow Dr. Bodie, Harry Roxbury's Companies, &c., on Share or Certainty. JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-street, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool." Telephone, 1686 Royal.

WANTED, Good Funny Comedian, for Castleford, Monday next; must be new to the town. Wire absolute lowest, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Clever Boys and Girls, small, over 14, able to Sing and Dance, for well-known Troupe. Apply HARRIS, 2, Malmesbury-road, Bow. Letters only. Photos. (if any) will be returned

WANTED, to join at Once, a Smart Youth, slight build, to assist Lady Illusionist. Send particulars, NAVEEDA, 32, Cavendish-street, Manchester.

WANTED, small Coloured Boy, between twelve and fourteen years of age, must dance well, a good home and long engagement for a suitable boy. Full particulars to HARRY STELLING, Apollo Theatre, Vienna, Austria.

WANTED, Bicycle Polo Team, to communicate with MANAGER, South Parade Pier, Southsea.

WANTED, smart Trick Cyclist, to play Bicycle Polo. Address all particulars, Box 5,174, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Boy, for Apprentice, age 16, to learn Trick Cycling. Photo, G. R., Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, Wales.

WANTED, good Bioscope Operator, with own Apparatus, to join Gentleman in Refined Entertainment. Also good Conjurer, young. Write Box 5,160, c/o "Era."

WANTED, Bioscope Operator who understands Electric Arc working, about 50 ampères. Lowest wages, qualifications, LESLIE, Arcadia, Park Crescent-place, Brighton.

WANTED, for Electrical Dance Act, smart Lantern Operator, Electrician, both currents. MAUDE MURRAY, 23, Mall-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known.—Proprietors, Managers, Agents, please note. Mlle. Lumière's Electrical Fairy Grotto Dances, Vac. Dec. 14, also Panto. Wire or write, share or certainty, Nov. 23, return, Empire, Dudley; Nov. 30, return, Albert Hall, Southport; Dec. 7, return, Hippo., Wigan.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, the Greatest Mystery of Modern Times, Lilith, in her beautiful Palace of Roses, at Liberty Monday next, also Nov. 30. For a Sure Draw, wire, LILIAN WARREN, Tivoli, Dublin; after Saturday, 32, Cavendish-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Miss Rosaline Thorne, Contralto and Descriptive Vocalist. Illustrated Songs, Big Répertoire. 32, North-side, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, Miss Beatrice Felstead, Concert or Illustrated Songs, vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 7, March 15, on. Specially engaged this week. ASHTON and MITCHELL, Royal Agency, Palace Pier, Brighton.

WANTED, by Connie Mascot, the Comedienne with a Voice, Monday and 30th. Sure success. Wire, Palace, Cork, or CLAXTON.

WANTED, by Little Dolly Brough, Refined Comedienne and Clog Dancer, Monday, wire, wire. Great success this week, Victoria Hall, York. Vac. Panto.

WANTED, 23rd and 30th, by Marie Colmore, the New Low Comedy Star. Wire, 17, Waterford-road Fulham.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, Premier Lady Banjoists, Drawing-room Act with Piano, Singing, Dancing, &c., vacant Nov. 23 and 30. 60, Denmark-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, to follow Merthyr Tydfil and precede Northampton. Offers invited.

WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 28, Jean Macduff (the Lady Lauder); Peggy Lyndon's Musical Act, Sure Success. Wire, MELVILLE, Rathbone Gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, Known, Chief among which must be classed the Musical Silvo, than whom there is no more popular entertainer. His whole turn is a model of musical excellence.—Bath Herald, Oct. 20, 1908. Musical Silvo at Liberty Nov. 30. Address, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy, S. Wales.

WANTED, next week, and Nov. 30, Xmas, on, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina). This, Starring, Empire, Wigan.

WANTED, Known, Will Dell, Irish Entertainer and Dancer, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, a few immediate dates, George Battle, Actor-Vocalist. Write or wire, 2, King John-street, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Nov. 30 and Dec. 6, by Mark Daly, the Funny Scot. Wire offers, 82, Brook-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Harry Hurry, Comedian, Speciality, Vac. Monday; also Panto. Offers, Regent Theatre, Salford. Last year, Marlborough Theatre, London.

WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, also Panto., by Jack W. Veitch, Versatile Comedian and High-class Dancer. Wire, Waterloo Rooms, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Pat O'Connor, Comedian and Dancer, Liberty Monday, 23rd, and 30th. Offers invited. Wire, 7, Poplar-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Nov. 30, onwards, Paul Cavalli, two distinct Specialities, 6-sheet and D.C. lithos. Nov. 23, Starring at the Paragon Music Hall, London, E.

WANTED, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, North or Scotland, also Dec. 21, by Li-Chang-Hi and Assistant, Chinese Illusionists. Next week, Hippodrome, Dumfries, N.B. D.C. Lithos.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers to Know, Mr. G. Louden, Proprietor Hippo., Airdrie, has trebled his receipts this week. Why? Li-Chang-Hi, the Star Attraction.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, by Tom Levine, Double Table Acrobatic Equilibrist. Wire, 2, Pembroke-street, Aberdare, South Wales.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, 21, by Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Conjurer, Juggler, and Dog; May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer. Monday, Queen's Theatre, Castleford.

WANTED, immediate dates, by Stylo, Wonderful Hoop Juggling Effects; and Beatrice Bonnie, Artistic Comedienne. Nov. 23, Hippodrome, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Monday next, by Henshall and Forster. Terrific success Foresters' this week. Sketch, "Bouncing a Burglar," good single, Serio. Wire, 27, Merchant-street, Bow, E.

WANTED, Nov. 30, on, Clark and Clare, "The Tramp and Girl"; Comedy, Harmony, and Good Singing. Also two Good Singles. Managers who require Clever and Reliable Artists communicate. 60, Lysons-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, next week, by Fern and Fawn, in Shriekingly Funny Episode, "The Conqueror," Singles, Comedian, Soubrette. Big Hit Oxford. Wire, 1, Romney-street, Middlesbrough.

WANTED, Nov. 30, by Ryder Davis, Comedian; Eva Ward, Comedienne; one or both, any distance; suit any Show. This, Hippo., Wakefield; 23rd, Empire, Hull.

WANTED, Nov. 23 and 30, by Wisper, Original Comic Juggler; also Beattie Bloom, serio, with own Songs. Wire, County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Monday next, also 30th, by the Two Le Bruns, Edgar (Equilibrist), Edie (the Incomparable Girl Juggler and Vocal Gem). A Unique and Novel Speciality. Wire, Opera House, Workington.

WANTED, Monday next, also Nov. 30, on, by Chant and Chant, Bright, Refined, and Vocal Comedy Duo. Wire, Post Office, Rhymney (Mon.).

WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14, by the Cumming Trio, in Burlesque Act, "Tooth for a Wife." C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known.—What a Draw Four Cecilians are! Storming Palace, Bath, this. Make inquiries. Next, Hip., Macclesfield. Vacant Dec. Don't want the earth.

WANTED, Known, Ringling Trio, Acrobatic Comedy Act on Stilts, &c., Vacant Monday next, Nov. 30, Dec. 6. Wire, 43, King-st., Southport.

WANTED, Monday next, by The Four Delawares, Comedians, Vocalists, Dancers, and Comedy Billiardists, in most Novel Act. Wire, Hippo., Glasgow.

WANTED, Nov. 30, by Herman and Evelyn, smart and refined Wire Act; also Cosselly, in his great Acrobatic Table Act. For one or both Acts, for a sure success, write Empire, Hull; next, King's Hall, Birmingham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by The Florias, Comedy Wire and Equilibristic Speciality Act, vacant Dec. 7 and 14. Write or wire, Hippodrome, Middlesbro'.

WANTED, Nov. 30, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Theatre, Grantham.

WANTED, Four Dorians, Premier Gymnasts. Continued success this King's Theatre, Kilmarnock; next, Town Hall, Falkirk.

WANTED, by Bros. Almo, Smart Comedy Three-Bar Experts, Engagements, from Nov. 30. Workington Star, Oct. 23, 1908.—Queen's Opera House. This is certainly one of the finest turns ever seen here, and those who miss it miss a big treat. Address, Hippodrome, Blyth, Northumberland.

WANTED, 23rd and 30th, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe (five), Great Star Attraction. Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Monday, also 30th, by Bessie Travis, England's Premier Lady Ventriloquist, in New Act (two people). Wire, Palace, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Jan. 4, 25, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illusionist); two smart Acts. Offers invited. Monday, Palace, Cork.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, and 28, by Geo. Gulliver, Ventriloquist; First-class Original Act. Address, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Nov. 30, GiHin, Unique Ventriloquial Humorist. Hippo., Hulme; next week, Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Monday next, by Leo, the Popular Ventriloquist. Original Act. Wire, Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Known, Valvo, Ventriloquist, Vacant Dec. 7 and 14. A Draw Guaranteed. This week, Queen's, Gateshead; next, Grand, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, ROYAL IMPERIAL ENTERTAINERS, last three years Pier Gardens, Cleethorpes. Originators of a Class Troup at Same. Will open at Cleethorpes coming summer.

WANTED, Known, Munroe's Black and White Comedy Team, vacant Dec. 7, 14, 21, 1908. Address, Nov. 23, ZALVA'S Hippodrome, Exeter.

WANTED, Agents and Managers to Know, PICITT and LIZETTE conclude their fourth Continental Tour Dec. 3, and open Dec. 7 at Hippodrome, Nottingham. PICITT and LIZETTE, Illusionists and Pantomimists, in their great Magical Extravaganza, "THE CRAZY COOK."

A Big Animal Act. A Big Illusion Act. A Big Dumb Comedy Act. All in one. 50 Birds and Animals. 50 Original Illusions worked like Lightning. The most Realistic Kitchen Set ever Staged.

The talk of Paris last month. Conclude this week, Palais De Cristal, Marseille. Last Act on the Programme, following a strong Bill, with a fifteen minutes Entr'acte before our Turn. The only Act to wait for; and packed audiences wait fifteen minutes nightly to see it. "THE CRAZY COOK." "THE CRAZY COOK."

We carry everything, including Scenery, good Lithos. If you want a big and absolutely original Novelty, book "The Crazy Cook." We have Jan. 11 vacant (owing to Maidstone fire), to follow London Coliseum, also Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, and a few odd dates later. Address, until Nov. 26, Les Nouveautes Theatre, Toulouse; then, till Dec. 3, Bouffes-Bordelais, Bordeaux.

WANTED, Monday next, Alex., Pontefract, also Dec. 7, by Tom Kelso and Co., Screaming Absurdity, "The Silly Servant." Wire, Hippo., Wigan; after Saturday, 286, Kingsland-rd., London, N.E.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show (most elaborate props. and fit-up in the profession), Dec. 7 (between Yarmouth and Scarborough), Dec. 28, Jan. 18 (for Midlands). Address week, Nov. 23, Hippo., Lowestoft.

WANTED, to thank the following Proprietors for kind offers for Monday next:—Rosen and Bliss, for Dundee; J. Cummings, Esq., Kilmarnock; Beanland and Emerson, Brighouse; Tom Diacoff, Esq., Pontefract. Still at Liberty. Leoni Clarke's Cats, Opera House, Burton-on-Trent. Also Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 7.

WANTED, Known, Judge's Cockatoos, Vacant Nov. 23, Dec. 7 and 28. Wire, 47, St. John's-park, Upper Holloway, London, N

WANTED, Nov. 23, onwards, Swift Duo, Novelty Cyclists. Wire, Hippodrome, Bury St. Edmunds; after Sat., 89, Bristol-st., Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Le Diabelo, Looping the Devil's Wheel, vacant Monday and Dec. 7; Share or Certainty. 37, Chipley-street, New Cross, London.

WANTED, Known, Francis Gramaldie, Short Comedian and Violinist; height 4ft. 6in.; at Liberty shortly for Sketches, Drama, or join a Partner. Offers invited. Write, 335, Hyde-road, Ardwick, Manchester.

WANTED, by good All-round Knockabout Comedian, Engagement with Troupe or Sketch, or Character Old Man part (Miser). GODDALL, 26, Richard-street, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, by Bert Warner, good Posturer and Knockabout, at Liberty to join good Sketch or Troupe. Coms., 113, Herbert-road, Manor Park.

WANTED, Known, Young Man, Good All-round Tumbler wishes to join Tumbling Troupe or Comedy Act. Address, WALTER STEWART, c/o McCaig, 96, Crail-street, Parkhead, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, Fanning's Royal Court Mannikins, at Liberty Xmas and New Year, through disappointment, three Pantomimes. HARRY FANNING, P.O., Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, with Gaumont's Chronophone (Singing Pictures). For terms, apply COHEN, 63, Whitechapel-road, London, E.

WANTED, by experienced Operator, with Latest Machine and Bottles, complete outfit, for gas; can open at once. Wire, OPERATOR, G.P.O., Manchester.

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WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, The Public put Pennies in the Slots, but I take Sovereigns from the Cash Boxes.

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WANTED, Known, all over the Kingdom, is the best house for Hooplar prizes, large variety of new lines, Fancy Goods, Perfumery, Toilet Soap, Chocolate and Confectionery, Boxes, &c.; also suitable Novelties for Market and Fair Workers. Write for sample and list. KENNEDY'S Wholesale Depot, 28, Houndsditch, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Hooplar Packets, Fancy Boxes Confectionery, from 7s. per gross to 10s. gross. A. BUNN, 16, Dagnall-place, Brady-street, Whitechapel-road

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, Important.—That the Next Meeting of the BRITISH ROUNDABOUT PROPRIETORS' AND SHOWMEN'S UNION will be Held at Headquarters, The Black Lion Hotel, Salford, on Tuesday, Nov. 24, at 3.30 p.m., for the transaction of Important Business. Signed T. HURST, Secretary.

Established 1899.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman (Silver King, registered), Showman's Auctioneer, Expert and Authority, Valuer, Commission and Variety Agent. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the business (privately or publicly), send to TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK. WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World, Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent No. 17402. This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability. It is a Record Money-maker. Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street, and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E. CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, that I have arranged with Mr. Fred Ginnett about his Patent Rights for "Haunted Castles," and have acquired the Licence and Sole Right of Building these Money-making Amusement Devices. Prospective Buyers are advised to write in early, as the demand is sure to be large. All infringers of the patent rights and users of Unlicensed Castles will be severely dealt with. P. COLLINS, Gondola Works, Walsall.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, J. Shambrook, the Showmen's Decorator's address is 60, Sixth-avenue, Bush Hill Park, Enfield, N. Gilding, Scrolling, and Lettering of every description. Distance no object.

DUDLEY TRADES EXHIBITION, January, 1909. WANTED, Side-shows, Illusions, Shooting Range, Fish-pond, or any Novelty. Apply MARSTON, Priory-street, Dudley.

WANTED, Big Side-shows, Stalls, &c., for Big Carnival in Drill Hall, Dumfries, New Year. Address, WILLIAMS, Hippodrome, Dumfries.

FUN CITY, OLYMPIA ANNEXE,

Ten Weeks, Commencing Dec. 10.

A Few Small Spaces Reserved for Novelties.

WANTED, Freaks, Giants, Midgets, and Sensational Acts.

Apply, Mr. C. B. COCHRAN, 14, Gt. Swan-alley, Moorgate-st., London, E.C.

WANTED, to open Monday, First-class Novelties for First-class Positions, Shares or Rental. Wire, SHOWMAN, 21, Edward-st., Brighton.

WANTED, Dudley Trades Exhibition, Jan. 18 to 30, 1909, Cinématograph Pictures as Side Show, every fifteen minutes, room 26ft. by 14ft., 3 to 5 and 6 to 10 p.m. Apply, MARSTON, 4, Priory-street, Dudley.

WANTED, First-class Marionette Show, from Dec. 25 to Jan. 9. Applications, with particulars, to MANAGER, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

Palmistry.

WANTED, Lady Palmist, on half cash takings, established two years; permanency. Box 5,168, "The Era."

WANTED, Photographer, Tattooer, Wire Worker, &c.; main road; large shop; share or rent. MANAGER, 104, High-street, Walthamstow.

WANTED, immediately, good Auctioneer; must have thorough knowledge of Secondhand Jewellery. Apply, 14, Grove-mansions, The Grove, Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, good Auctioneer, for large Travelling Auction Mart, with good firm, on wages; must be steady, and a good worker. Idle men no room for. Box 5,181, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Rollo, King of the Air, Sensational Trapeze and Slack Rope Performer. Monday next, Collins's Fun City, Gill-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, the World-famed Continental Fat Boy is at Liberty from Nov. 30, on. Offers invited. POOK, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, by Miss Genevieve Gwen, Scientific Palmist and Physiognomist, Christmas Engagement; salary preferred. Address, 65, Coningham-road, Shepherd's Bush, London.

WANTED, to Hire, on Rental or Shares, immediate, a large variety of up-to-date Automatics, &c., suitable for Admission Free Exhibition; also Space to Let for Novelties for Side Shows, Photos., Darts, Tattooist, &c.; no other in town. Wire, 21, Edward-street, Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, Space in Trades Exhibition, for Distorting Mirrors, Stereo Peep Show, Automatic Machines. Box 5,179, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, to Let, on Shares or Rental, Large Shop, good position for Admission Free Automatic Exhibition, Space also for Photos., Darts, Shooting, Tattooist, &c., no opposition, Electric and Gas; also Wanted, to open at once, First-class Novelties. 21, Edward-street, Brighton, Sussex.

WANTED, to Let, large Shop, 60ft. by 20ft., 15ft. high, with Gallery round, main thoroughfare, centre of Bedminster.

Large population; suit Auctioneers or Small Shows. Apply, CLEVERDON and SON, Bedminster, Bristol.

WANTED, to Let, Shop, main road, North London, for Bioscope Exhibition. Share or rent. 510, Kingsland-road, London.

FUN CITY, DRILL HALL, BATH, Dec. 24, 1908, to Jan. 16, 1909. The Largest Hall in the Town, 125ft. by 80ft. Thickly Populated Neighbourhood. All Trams (Electric) Pass the Door. The First Show of its Kind ever Held in Bath. WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Side-shows, Sketching, Photography, Monograms, Pens, Candy, Fairy Floss, Shooting Gallery, Fish Pond, Ring Board, Fancy Goods, Toys, Sharpener, Toffee Making, &c., &c. Apply, with full particulars, CARL FREDERICKS, 4, Brunswick-street, Bath.

WANTED, Known, to all Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallholders, and others, that I open Rochdale Cattle Market for the Christmas Fair, commencing Dec. 18, to Dec. 26, 1908. N.B.—I still have that large plot of land that I had last Easter, behind the Victoria Baths, Rusholme, Manchester, to hold a Great Easter Fair for 1909. All applications to WM. MITCHELL, SEN., 53, Hindhill-street, Heywood.

ARCADIA DRILL HALL, PORTSMOUTH. WANTED, to Let, Spaces for Stalls, Games, Novelties. Open Dec. 5, 8th year. LESLIE, "Arcadia," Park-crescent-place, Brighton.

WANTED, to Let, Spaces for New Year's Carnival in Drill Hall, Dumfries. Gigantic Attractions, Skating, &c. Address, DIRECTOR, Hippodrome, Dumfries.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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WANTED, Showmen to Know, Messrs. Relph and Pedley have leased the building known as Ginnett's Circus and Olympia, also the plot of land adjoining, right in the hub of Newcastle, where they intend to hold their ANNUAL FUN CITY AND CARNIVAL, commencing on or about Dec. 5, and will continue through the Winter Season.

Spaces can now be arranged; Rental or Sharing terms, for Novel Riding Devices, and Attractions of a Modern Kind; also a First-class Display of good Money-taking Automatic Machines.

All applications to Messrs. RELPH and PEDLEY, Autodrome, Market-place, Darlington, until Nov. 27; then, Olympia, London.

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WANTED, to Sell, Set of Porkers (8 loads), Set of Motor Cars (10 loads), Set of Steam Yachts (4 loads); all Savage's make. Also one Cake-Walk Machine. All in First-class Condition and Good Money-takers. Don't want all the money down from responsible buyers, but parties only requiring cheap information please save stamps. P. COLLINS, Gondola Works, Walsall.

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WANTED, to Sell, Harp, by Grosjean and Williams's Serial No. 337, perfect tone, double action. Accept £50, worth double. Railway fare allowed to purchaser. Address, MANAGER, Hippodrome, Oxford-street, Manchester.

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WANTED, to Sell, Cramer Portable Piano, 5 octaves, listed £21, good condition. Seen by appointment. £10 cash. F. W. B., 45, Mysore-road, Clapham.

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WANTED, to Sell, the Entire Production of the "Prince of Pilsen." One of the Finest Productions on the Road. Can be seen playing from the 23rd until the 28th inst. at the Broadway Theatre, London. For particulars, apply, BARON H. HARRISS, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

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WANTED, to Buy, 10,000ft. of Films, Good Comic and Dramatic; must be in very good condition, must be good and cheap. THE DAYTON FAMILY, this week, Palace, Blackpool; Nov. 23, Theatre Royal, Macclesfield. P.S.—Send complete list of films you can offer us.

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"The Sands o' Dee," Carl Reinsch, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe, Four Holloways, Alexandre and Hughes, Three Meteors, Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Antigua Pep's Spanish Band, Four Keetons, Fratellinis, Pathégraph, Horace Goldin and Jean Fransioli.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—

Elliott Savonas, Sisters Morgan, Naughton and Gold, Hartley Wonders, Ray Wallace, Hayes and Wynne, Maggie Walsh, Three Sisters Grovini, Bioscope, Harry Roxbury and Co. in "The Prince of Monte Carlo."

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Bioscope, Johnny Walker, Prince Milner Trio, Ted and May Hopkins, Syd May, Mabel Bardine and Co., "The Water Cure," Chas. Santon, Marie Clissold, Lottie Lennox.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Dr. Bodie, Sidney Lee, Three Delaries, Watson's Dogs, Chas. Fisher and Co., James Stewart, Jack Smiles, Bioscope, Lilian Dundas and Co. in "Nance Arden."

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Miss Maud Hildyard and Co. in "The Great Awakening."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Joseph Hart's "Futurity Winner," Wyndham and Kitty, Rauschle, Stratton Mills and Co., Tom Parker, Lily Langtry, Rohda Bros., the Brewsters, Bioscope, Howard and Harris.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

"The Volcano," Florence, Athlones, John Macaulay, Nellie Wallace, George Bastow, Bros. Egbert, Mena Denvil, Bioscope, Bransby Williams.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Laurence Irving, Mabel Hackney and Co. in "009, West," Three Cape Girls, Rich and Rich, Strolling Players, Cumberlands, Reichen's Dogs, J. P. Ling, Bioscope, Elsie Roby, Colonel Bordeverry.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

La Scala Opera Co., Winifred Hare, Cliff Ryland, Florence and Lillian, Goggin and Davis, The Master Mystery, Arthur Kenny, Ernest Clifford, Bioscope, The Renads in "The Swiss Express."

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Hardie and Von Leer's Co. in "The Kiss of Judas."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

George Formby, Dacey and Lewis, Terry and Lambert, Dumond Trio, Bessie Slaughter, Pete and Minnie Lee, Fred Wilkinson, Kisbey, Adey Spencer, Bioscope, "Casey's Court."

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—

Bella and Bijou, Ralph and Nellie Howard, George Newburn, Fred Earle, Kitts and Windrum, Delomes, Thora, Leonie Dixon, Bioscope, L'Incognita.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

George Auger and Co., Bertha Winder, Chas. Vincent, Victor Travers, Humpsty Bumpsti, Ross and Lewis, Henry Coutts and Co., Mayvilles, Bioscope, Mendel.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Marie Lloyd, Lyric Quartette, G. W. Hunter, Daisy James, Carina Sisters, Les Marsumas, Tom Jones, Bioscope, the Boissets in "The Bricklayers," Albert Christian, Kate Cohen.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Bioscope, Horace White, Carney and Armstrong, W. J. Churchill, Leo Tell, Lord, Murray, and Lord, Ike and Will Scott, Alf Maynall, Wee Mona Vivian, Fisher White's Co. in "A Royal Heart."

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Courtice and Louie Pounds, Harris Coonie, Harry Luck, Tom Child, Campbell and Barber, Jackson Family, Lily Burnand, Edie Endon, Bioscope, George Leyton and Co. in "The Last Muster."

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Fred Karno's "The Casuals," Gus Le Clerq, Robertys, Morris Harvey, Witty Watty Walton, Harrison Bros., Sisters Grosvenor, Lottie Govell, Bioscope, Maud Rochez's Monkeys.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Zeynardt's Liliputians, J. P. Carroll, Dennis Drew and Boys, Griffiths Bros., Imperial Russian Troupe, Vanando, George Brooks, Lizzie Daniels, Bioscope, Fred Edwards and Co. in "Kleptomaniacs."

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Baron H. Harris's Co. in "Prince of Pilsen."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—

Miss Cecilia Loftus, Miss Evie Greene, Talbot and Pearce, Robb Gilmore, Miss Marquiss, Gwennie Llewellyn, Menotti, Annie Purcell, La Danseuse, Boyd and Gilfain, Bioscope, Whit Cunliffe.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Gus Elen, Sybil St. Elmo, Dion Wade, Stella Girls, Donaldson Bros. and Co., Harry Herbert, Nora Emerald, Nettie Starr, Bioscope, Tom Foy and Co.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Ella Retford, Callahan and St. George, Les Voces, Herbert Shelley, Brown and Le Clerq Co., the Maples, Tennyson and Wallis, Bioscope, Lukushimas.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Herbert Darnley's "Brigands of Tarragona," Enzer, Walter King, May Edouin, Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies, Arthur Astill, Kitty Clinton, Bioscope, Ten Zerbinis.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Little Keeno, Burnetti, the Kirbys, Bessie Butt, Frank Sylvo, Bioscope, Lancashire Singers, Queenie Leighton.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Until Further Notice.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Fred D. Jones, Bert Williams, Hetty Hocking, Bioscope, &c.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Machnow, Tom E. Conover, Victor Newman, Eight of Hearts, Rhoda Paul, Bi Bo Bi, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Hermann Melot.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Frank Gotch and Co., Musical Courtiers, Millie Payne, Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Harry Bedford, Nell Emerald, Ida Kathrina, George Young, Bioscope, "That Brute Simmons."

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Neil Kenyon, Fred Lincoln, Blanche Vincent, Mason and Bart, Phil and Nettie Peters, Bros. Redmond, Marion Scott, Bioscope, Charlene and Charlene, Bros. Horne.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Mike S. Whallen, New York Nippers, Spry and Austin, Gus Garrick, Lauder's Chronomegaphone, Harry Rogers and Co., Marie Empress, Nellie Martell, Bioscope, Laurie and Beatty.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

John Lawson (himself) and Co. in Repertoire, Alf Holt, Sisters Lee, J. W. Hall, Pat Rafferty, Adams and Ward, Marie Santoi and Co., Les Martineks, Walter Wade, Bioscope, Dunedin Troupe.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

"The Belle of the Orient," Ethel Dove, Madge Osmond, Crown Trio, Frank Mortimer, Lilian Rigby, Bert Terrell, Pictures, Will and Alice Vokes.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Frank Lister's Co. in "No. 99," Chas. Stevens, La Belle Nello, Ella Dean, Eight Sunrays, Fred Dunstone, Pictures, J. W. Rowley.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Fred Karno's "Football Match," Harry Lawson, R. H. Douglass, Kioto, Bennie Barrow, Bioscope, Joe Almasio.

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THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

G. H. Elliott, the Poluskis, Geo. Antill, Dora Daley, Carlotta Levey, Bob Hanlon Troupe, Ten San Tan Girls, Sinclair and Parr, Stavordale Quintette, Pictures, Mark Melford and Co.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Clark and Hamilton, Fred Keeton, Eadie and Ramsden, Walter Munroe, Norman and Leonard Trio, Caicedo, Madge Temple, Illustrated Song, Bioscope, Lil Hawthorne

EMPIRE, PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Lydia Yeamans, Maud Vera, Jeannie Mackay, Tom Lloyd, Percy Honri, Three Rochesters, Pictures, Delevines.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
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N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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"I'M WAIT-WAIT-WAITING." (All I want is the Man.)
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All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

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Singing Competititon, Harrigan and Holt, Edith Chantler, Four Garricks, Pop Dearley, Cambodian Troupe, August and September, Harry Pleon, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Hayes and Watson.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Foreman and Fannan, Dan Merrett, Sisters Darnton, Archie Pitt, Nat Clifford, The Bensons, Two Kays, Carl and Mary Ohm, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Ross and Grayson, Marion Fletcher, Jim Cheetham, Bowman and Morton, Three Temples, Tom Yorke, Bromley and Fontein, Raymond's Bio-tableaux; Gaudsmidt Bros.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Chris Richards, Floradoras, The Smythsons, Marguerite Ismay, Harry Simms, Clark and Hayden, Alice Maydue, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Gunner Moir, The Davenports, Sisters Brenton, Phern and Phern, Olga Audre and Co., Ellis and Watts, Happy Attwood, Haley's Juveniles, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Julian Ross, Pictures, Leccardo Bros., Devereux Dogs, Lil Hartley, Beal and Broadway, Red Triangle, Kirk and Saraski, "Star Football."

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"The Village Blacksmith."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
"Two Little Vagabonds."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"When it was Dark."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

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The Avolos, Clifton and Gibson, Flo Burnett, The Armtes, Stidder and Dunbar, Walter Clyde, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, W. Benson and Co.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
Lyona Trio, Frank Cass, Woodhouse and Wells, Cissie Esdaile, Chas. Banks and Don, Ford and Barras, Gracie Hunt, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Elray.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Vonetta, Chas. Lewis, Dora Barrington, Taree, Babusio Bros., Minnie Kirby, Bernardo, Clown Barker, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Kurkamp.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Mdlle. Orbasany, Gladys Witton, Frank F. Street, Leslie, Lyn, and Willie, Lillie Luraine, Harry Cotton, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Kinnard, Albert Letine, Viviana.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée, every Monday.
Ernest Rees, Fred Moule and Co., Bains and Reed, Madam Eldee, Raymond, Alice Hughes, Marion Armitage, The Melbournes, La Belle Mail, Leslie Bell and Co., Hilda Mascott.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Burns and Bentley, Keith and Meraon, Fanley, Renée, and Fanley, Raymond, Leslie's, Cadets, Les Zélovas, Gold and Sterling, Sweet Innisfail, Mack Olive, Vera Crackles, Karo and Co., Violet Clare.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée, every Monday.
Tom Collins, Fred Maxwell and Co., Herbert Rule, Nat Watkins, Sisters Edwards, Raymond's, The Cromwells, Pender Troupe, Reid and Power, Freda Fern, Moon and Morris, Eva Roslyn.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
Bernard and Weston, Albert Wyndham and Co., Albert St. Clair, Raymond, The Gascoignes, Dolly Elsworthy and Co., Burglar and the Beetle, Norman Osborne, Sisters Bronsen, Lily Ray, Josephine Crook.

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All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
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Sung by **Miss HETTY KING** and **R. G. KNOWLES.**

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"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
SOMETHING NEW FOR PRINCIPAL BOYS

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Code Word, "FOC."

The first picture of this subject has been taken at Versailles, and represents in the pretty scenery of Trianon, the Royal Family enjoying a happy security. Not long after, however, the people of France, having revolted against the Government, are storming the palace, and clamouring for the surrender of the King. The Royal Family is then conveyed to the Feuillants. Queen Marie-Antoinette has to part from her son, the young Louis XVII., who is taken to the house of Simon the Cobbler, and eventually dies in a dungeon of the Temple prison with, in his mind, the horrible vision of the scaffold.

676ft. The Subject, **£11 5s. 4d.** Colouring **£6 15s. 0d.**

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Code Word, "FORAIN."

Gendarme Cope wishes to see the stripes of a brigadier on his sleeve. Meanwhile, he lives happily with his two children, and his wife Gertie. The gendarmes, having been warned of the presence of a man known as a dangerous character in the neighbourhood, they go in search of the thief, who wounds Gendarme Cope before he is arrested. Gertie recognises him as the man who, long ago, before she even knew her husband, deserted her after promising to marry her. In spite of this, however, she has pity on him, and she drops into his cell a file wherewith he will be able to escape. Cope, recognising the tool as his own, is very suspicious, and his wife's attitude enlightens him. At last he yields to her entreaties and those of his small son, and forgives her. At the same time he learns through some of his friends that he has been granted the coveted stripes for wounds received at the hands of the despicable individual. This little piece has been enacted by excellent artists, such as Arquillière, of the Vaudeville Theatre, Paris, &c.

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Code Word, "FAROUCHE."

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Code Word, "FESTON."

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Code Word, "FICELLE."

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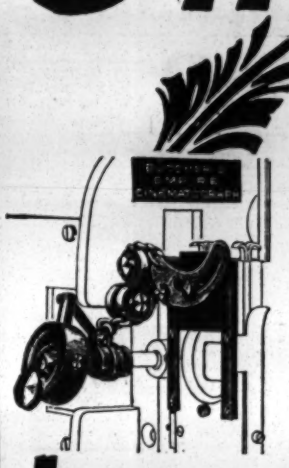

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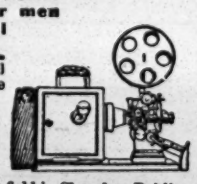

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Canvassing directly or indirectly will be considered a disqualification.

J. TURNER TAYLOR,
Nov., 1908. Town Clerk, Harrogate.

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MR. RICHARD A. GREENE, Lead, "Two Little Vagabonds," No. 1. Good offers invited. Dec. 7, T. R., Wolverhampton.

MR. HERBERT GREVILLE. Disengaged. 9, Adelaide-road, London, N.W.

MR. HARRY A. GRIBBEN, Rehearsing Pantomime. Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. FRED GROVE, Disengaged in Dec. 50, Gresham-road, Brixton, S.W

MR. & Mrs. F. R. GWYN-RICHARDSON (Miss Grace Harlington), Xmas, "Second to None," term. second "Treshams" Tour. Bath.

MR. A. H. HALLATT, Helgar and S.-M., "Her Love Against the World." Nov. 30, T. R., Middlesbro' (six nights).

MR. A. C. HARDIE, concludes Engagement with H. Sleath, Esq., Dec. 7. Disengaged. Grand, Fulham, 30th.

MR. W. HENRY HARGREAVES, MISS MAY DALLAS. At Liberty Dec. 7, T. R., Huddersfield.

MR. FREDERICK HARKER, Archibald Carlyle, "The New East Lynne." His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen.

MR. CHARLES HARLEY, concluded "The Hypocrites" tour. Dis. Add., Actors' Association, 353, Strand.

MR. MURRAY HATHORN, Disengaged. Address, Fairfield Villa, Quedgeley, Gloster.

MR. FRANCIS HAWLEY, General Manager, "The Prince and the Beggar Maid," Pavilion Theatre, E.

MR. T. P. HAYNES. Address all communications, Royalty Theatre, Dean-street, W.

MR. JERROLD HEATHER, Disengaged. Palace Theatre, Bordesley, Birmingham.

MR. H. E. HERBERT, Starring with Mr. W. H. Hallatt's Co. Disengaged Dec. 7. Nov. 30, Brixton Theatre, S.W.

MR. ARTHUR E. HOLLAND, Special Char. and Comedy, Shakespeare, &c. Nov. 30, King's Lynn; Dec. 3, R., Grantham.

MR. COTTON HOLMES, Davy, "Sunday," Mr. Louis Calvert's Co. Nov. 30, Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

MR. A. S. HOMEWOOD, Touring Australia and New Zealand. Glenhaven, Cloudesley-road, St. Leonard's-on-Sea.

MR. FRANK HOWARD, Disengaged Spring. Thanks T. E. Ward, offer, "Second to None." P. O. W., Nuneaton.

MR. and MRS. WILSON HOWARD (Miss Carlotta Anson). Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland.

MR. and MRS. REGINALD A. HUNT, R. A. H., Stage-Manager, "The Bondman." Florence Hunt, Black Meg, "The Christian" (S.).

MR. JAMES HUSSEY, Lively and S. M., "Sunday" Co. Nov. 30, Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

MR. RALPH W. HUTTON, Disengaged Dec. 21. Sir Peter Wycherley. Nov. 30, Grand Theatre, Derby.

MR. A. B. IMESON. Disengaged end of Mr. Frohman's "The Hypocrites" Tour. 16, Albert-st, Regent's Park.

MR. POWELL JAMES, Business-Manager, "Leah Kleschna" Co. Address, Star Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. WILFRED JESSOP, Arthur Dicey "Message from Mars" Co. This, Grand, Mansfield. Vacant Dec. 7.

MR. S. MAJOR JONES. Stage-Manager, Lyceum Theatre, W.C.

MR. F. JOYNSEN - POWELL. Address, 29, Oxberry-avenue, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. OGILVY KEITH. Address, 15, Cornfield-terrace, Eastbourne.

MR. CLAUDE KING. Disengaged. 50, Ashburnham-mansions, Chelsea.

MR. J. POOLE KIRKWOOD, Stage-Man. for Mr. Edward Terry. Nov. 30, Prince's T., Manchester. Disengaged Dec. 12.

MR. HENRY KITTS, At Liberty Dec. 14 and onwards. Address, King's Theatre, Hammersmith.

MR. and MRS. FRED KNIGHT (Miss Louie Tinsley), L.T., Panto., Plymouth; F. K., Dis. 21, Rattray-road, Brixton, S.W.

MR. RICHARD HENRY LACE. Address, 353, Strand, London, W.C. Perm. add., 19, Parkfield-drive, Liscard.

MR. FRANK LACY, James Blenkinsop, "Mrs. Dot" Co. Nov. 30, Grand Theatre, Swansea.

MR. JAMES R. LA FANE. Manager, Stage-Director, Mr. Mouillot's "Tom Jones" Co. Oxford and Cambridge.

MR. and MRS. CHARLES LANGLEY, Disengaged. 72 Camden-street, N.W.

MR. A. D. LAYLAND, Juv., Char., Thanks T. E. Ward, Esq., for offer re-eng. Dis. This, Jarrow; next, T. R., North Shields.

MR. MARK LESTER, Comedian. On Tour, "The Gay Deceivers." Panto., T. R., Brighton. 23, Waldemar-mans., Fulham.

MR. D. LEWIN-MANNERING, Capt. Hector, in "The Prince and the Beggar Maid" (S.) Co. Nov. 30, Pavilion T., Mile End.

MR. H. LAWRENCE LEYTON. Address, 10, St. Andrew's-mansions, West Kensington.

MR. GEORGE H. LIOT, Address, 67, Curzon-street, Mayfair.

MR. FRANK LISTER, "No. 99." Empire, Dublin.

MR. and MRS. FRANK LISTON (Maud Warburton), Leading Bus. and Mangt. 30th, Crown, Eccles; or Managers' Club.

MR. and MRS. SAM LIVESEY. (Miss Maggie Edwards.) "The Village Blacksmith." G. T., Nottingham.

MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN, at Liberty Dec. 14. 28, Chelverton-road, Putney, S.W.

MR. CHAS. F. LLOYD, Dis., Char., Intense, or Comedy, Old Men. Address, 17, Renfrew-road, S.E.

MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART. Address, T. F. Chatham.

MR. and MRS. WILLIAM LOWE. Mr. L., Justice Hare, "New East Lynne" Co. Address, 7, Bridson-st, Liverpool.

MR. HENRY LUDLOW, Gen. Ivanoff, "The Broken Melody." T. R., Hull. Permanent, A.A.

MR. WILLIAM LUGG, Disengaged. 7, Swift-street, Fulham, S.W.

MR. GEORGE LYTTLETON, Disengaged. Heavies, Character, &c. Radcliffe; next, 22, Osborne-terrace, S.W.

MR. and MRS. A. B. MACKAY, "A Woman Worth Winning" Co. Nov. 30, Queen's Theatre, Keighley.

MR. and MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY, Own Tour, "Rollicking Rory." En route, or "Ashdale," Poulton-le-Fylde.

MR. and MRS. DREW MACKINTOSH (Miss Annie Stalman). Disengaged Dec. 5. G. T., Hastings (3), D. P. T., Eastbourne (3).

MR. JERROLD MANVILLE, Disengaged for Panto, Baron or Friar Tuck. 105, Allison-road, Harringay, N.

MR. PERCY MARSHALL, Disengaged till Dec. 21. Address, 16, Mill-lane, Hampstead, N.W.

MR. H. SHERWOOD MARTIN, Theatre Royal, Manchester. Next, Empire, Oldham.

MR. CYPRIAN H. MATTHEWS, Concluded Tour, re-engaged Spring, "Midnight Wedding" Co. 19, Prince's-avenue, Liverpool.

MR. MAYOR - COOKE, Rudolph, "Midnight Wedding." O. H., Northampton.

MR. ERIC G. MERRIE, 4th Year General-Manager for Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow. Globe Theatre, Deal.

MR. GEORGE MILLER, Address, 409, Edgware-road, W.

MR. G. M. MONTANINI. All communications, Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

MR. G. MORETON - WILLIAMS, Disengaged Dec. 5, Heavy Lead. Nov. 30, T. R., Glossop.

MR. HERBERT MORGAN, Heavy Lead, in Mr. W. Melville's latest success, "Beggar Girl's Wedding." P. G. T., Folkestone.

MR. LEONARD MUDIE, As Hippolytus, Special Matinées. Dec. 1 and 2, Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MR. ARTHUR B. MURRAY, Comedy, Character. Disengaged. 73, Mysore-road, Clapham Common, S.W.

MR. KENYON MUSGRAVE. Address, Court Theatre.

MR. ALFRED NORTHWAY, "The Prodigal Parson" Tour. Nov. 30, Hippodrome, Todmorden.

MR. and MRS. JERROLD ORD (Miss Cissie Bellamy) invites good offers. Carlton Theatre, Saltley, Birmingham.

MR. ERNEST OWTTRIM, At Liberty, Nov. 30. 49, Dalston-lane, N.E.

MR. GUS OXLEY Address, Empire, Greenock.

MR. LEONARD PAGDEN, Disengaged. 28, Dinsmore-road, Balham, S.W.

MR. EDWIN PALMER, as Father Martin, in "Sins of Society" Co. Next, Tyne, Newcastle; at Lib., Char., Bus., Dec. 7.

MR. DOUGLAS PAYNE. Disengaged. Business or Stage Management. 1, Elmfield-road, Bromley, Kent.

MR. WILFRED E. PAYNE, Ross Christian, in "Pete." At Lib. Dec. 14. Address, Lyceum T., W.C.

MR. HERBERT PEARSON, Leading Business. At Liberty Dec. 7. Address, Elephant and Castle Theatre, S.E.

MR. F. W. PEDGRIFT. Baritone, M. de St. Brioche, "The Merry Widow" Tour. Nov. 30, Cambridge and Leamington.

MR. EDWARD S. PETLEY, "The Flag Lieutenant" Co. Next week, Grand, Southampton.

MR. and MRS. FRANK E. PETLEY, Dis. 7th Dec. This, County T., Kingston; next, G. T., Fulham.

MR. WILLIAM PRINGLE, At Liberty. 13, Gordon street, W.C. Tel. 7248, Central.

MR. RULE PYOTT, Disengaged Dec. 6. Nov. 30, Theatre Royal, Hull.

MR. ARTHUR S. RADCLIFF, Dick Darville, "The Dandy Fifth." Nov. 30, T. R., Aldershot; Dec. 7, T. R., West Bromwich

MR. W. E. RICHARDSON, Disengaged now and for Xmas. Address, 114, Latchmere-road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

MR. ARTHUR RICKETTS, termination of tour. Disengaged for Panto. or otherwise. Address, A. A., 353, Strand, W.C.

MR. HARRY H. RIGNOLD Disengaged, Panto., Tour, or Sketch. Address, 260, King's-road, Kingston-on-Thames.

MR. CHAS. ROAD - NIGHT, on Tour. Playing Wittle in "When Knights Were Bold." Address, c/o "The Era."

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MR. STANLEY ROGERS. Address all Communications, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

MR. & MRS. CALVERT ROUTLEDGE (Mary Jocelyn), His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. BAY RUSSELL, engaged by George Dance, Esq., "Havana." Address, Solent Cliffs, Bournemouth.

MR. JAMES SALTER, Principal Comedian. Nov. 30, Sadlers' Wells. Perm. add., 14, Upper Tooting-road, S.W.

MR. WILLIE SCOTT, Offers invited for Pantomime. Address, Prince's Theatre, Bradford.

MR. ARCHIE SELWYN Special Re-engagement with M. Auguste Van Biene. Nov. 30, T. R., Hull.

MR. TOM E. SINCLAIR, Prin. Comedian. Nov. 30, Brixton Theatre, S.W. Pantomime, Theatre Royal, Brighton.

MR. JAMES SKEA, Character-Actor, "Sunday" Tour. Towser, Sketches for sale. Theatre Royal, Barnsley.

MR. E. STANTON - SHARP. Nov. 30, Dalston Theatre, N.E.

MR. JAMES STILLWELL. All arrangements complete. Address Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

MR. CHARLES STIRLING, Leading and Heavy Business. Nov. 30 Grand Theatre, Brighton.

MR. GEORGE STONE, Resident-Manager (fifteenth year). Royalty T. and Opera House, Barrow-in-Furness.

MR. STORY - GOFTON Concludes third consecutive tour with Miss Ellen Terry Dec. 3. At Lib. Add., c/o "Era."

MR. WALLACE STRANACK, Business Manager for G. P. Huntley. The Hicks Theatre, W.

MR. HENRY SWINERD, MR. J. W. CORDINER. Nov. 30, Grand Theatre, Walsall.

MR. GEORGE TAWDE, Charlie Gayfly, "When It Was Dark." Empire Theatre, Blaina.

MR. ALFRED A. TAYLOR. Resident Manager, Batley Theatre, Batley.

MR. HODGSON TAYLOR, Hardie and Von Leer's "The Sailor's Wedding" Co. Theatre Royal, Leeds.

MR. MALCOLM TEARLE. 2nd year with the L. Rayne Dramatic Co., South Africa.

MR. and MRS. EDWARD THANE (Louise Hampton). E. T. Disengaged. 15, Mount Pleasant-lane, Upper Clapton, N.E.

MR. E. W. THOMAS, Curtis Bedford, in "Raffles." Dis. Dec. 12. Mr. Leonard Boyne's Co. Nov. 30, T. R., Coventry.

MR. RAYMOND THOMAS, At Liberty for Heavy Lead or Character. Address, 19, Heygate Avenue, Southend-on-Sea.

MR. TRUEMAN TOWERS, Christmas arrangements complete. Mr. George Edwardes's Co., Prince's, Bristol.

MR. LLOYD TOWNROW, at Liberty for special weeks until Dec. 18. Comedy, Char., Stage Management. 19, Acre-lane, Brixton.

MR. and MRS. HOWARD L. TRACY. H. L. T. thanks R. Rosse, Esq., for offer of another week. Vacation. 25, Dollar-st., Cirencester.

MR. GEORGE TRAILL, Disengaged Dec. 7, "Breed of Treshams." Theatre Royal, Bath.

MR. CHARLES VANE, Jack Straw, Paradine Fouldes, James Blenkinsop, "Silver King," T. R., Calcutta.

MR. and MRS. CHAS. B. VAUGHAN (Miss M. Lewes). Mr. Vaughan at Liberty. 12, Mentone-mansions, Fulham, S.W.

MR. PERCY H. VERNON. Talleyrand, "A Royal Divorce" Co. Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

MR. FREDERICK VICTOR, Bill Stephens, "The Sands of Dee." The Hippodrome, London.

MR. A. N. VINCE, Advance Manager. Engaged by George Dance, Esq. 6, Ranelagh-gardens, Hurlingham, S.W.

MR. BUCHANAN WAKE, Archibald Speedy, "The Gay Gordons." Marlborough Theatre.

MR. ALBERT WARD, as the Prodigal Son, and Stage-Manager, Mr. George D. Day's Co. Nov. 30. T. R., Rochdale.

MR. HYLTON WARDE, Spec. Engaged by Crofton and Salisbury, Prin. Comedian, Tour, S.A. 17, Doris-road, Norwich, or A.A.

MR. W. LEMMON WARDE, Kingsway Theatre.

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MR. CHARLES WEIR, at Liberty. 45, Powis-square, Bayswater, W.

MR. C. A. WHITE, at Lib. Dec. 7, Character, Comedy, or Stage-Management. Address, Opera House, Cheltenham.

MR. WILL WHITE, F.O.S., General Manager, Alhambra, Belfast.

MR. & MRS. TOWNSEND WHITLING (Miss Violet Ley), Crystal Palace.

MR. LEONARD WILLIAMS, Lead, "Second to None." Theatre Royal, North Shields.

MR. BREMBER WILLS and FLORENCE WYNN, H. F. Maltby's Plays. At Liberty Dec. 13. A.A.

MR. and MRS. DICK WINSLOW Commencing 5th year of comfortable engagement with Hardie and Von Leer's Cos.

MR. GRAHAM WOODS, Lead, Mr. E. Hill Mitchelson's "Who is She" Co. Address, T. R., Dewsbury.

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MR. DUNCAN YARROW, Archie Goring (original part), "Into the Light." Court Theatre, S.W.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

[Provincial correspondents are requested to forward with their next week's reports a full list of the theatres and music-halls in their respective towns; also the names of the present lessees and managers, for insertion in "The Era" Annual, 1909.]

ABERDEEN.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The Walls of Jericho* increases in popularity with every visit. It is admirably played this week. Mr. Alfred Goddard most skilfully represents the part of Jack Probisher; and Miss Nancy Beresford gives a highly artistic portraiture of Lady Althea. Miss Elsie Ross makes a charming Lady Lucy; and Miss Ormonde Wynne is gracious and dignified as Lady Westerby. Mr. Russell Barry throws an infinite amount of geniality into his portraiture of Hankey Bannister; Mr. Ben Lewin's Marquis could hardly be improved on; and Mr. Henderson Bland shows much ability as Harry Dallas. The play is finely staged.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—A fine series of representations of Greater London is given by Mr. Rousbey's company. The views are all admirable, and their interest is greatly increased by the skilful manner in which they are shown. Miss Rose Elliott had a most enthusiastic reception. She is, in fact, deservedly one of the most popular artists who come North. Messrs. Charles Majilton and company appear in a capital sketch *The Trippers;* and among other members of a thoroughly good company are Miss Alice Blandford, a splendid soprano; Mr. George Prince, the "crazy comic"; Mr. Fred Tenby, comedian; George and Nellie Cosman, comedians; and Pearce and Ward, in an amusing burlesque boxing act.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair.—General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—Mr. Wallace Muirhead, a fine tenor, delights the house this week; the Whimsical Wilberts appear in a most amusing comedy act, *The Rehearsal,* which introduces Little Madge, a graceful and clever juvenile comedienne and dancer; and the Sisters Werner show themselves to be about as expert Highland dancers as any on the stage; Mr. Muirhead acts admirably as soloist to the illustrated songs. Mr. W. C. Kennedy's display of cinematograph films is in every way excellent.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Manager, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—Miss Marie Rose sings with all her customary grace and skill; Mr. Archie Murray is really clever as a coon comedian; Mr. Robert Williams is highly popular as a humorist; and Gilroy and Gross provide a most enjoyable eccentric turn. An amusing sketch is also, as usual, played by the Empire Sketch Company. Many of the pictures shown are new.

ABERTILLERY.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*The Woman from Russia* is played to good houses in excellent style by Adria Hill and Robert Ayrton's able company. The title-rôle is excellently portrayed by Miss Adria Hill, who receives high appreciation from the audience. Mr. Robert Ayrton invests his part of Frank Haldane with great dramatic force; Miss Edith Tempest makes a capital Edith Haldane, Frank's sister; and Ezra Caroni, a Jew, is sustained by Mr. G. Mortimer Hancock in amusing style; effective comedy is provided by capable artists. The scenery and effects are decidedly good. The same company produce *Under Two Flags* the latter end of the week.

PAVILION.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—A programme full of amusement is being presented to good houses. The Denwertz Troupe are a smart set of acrobats, and perform very successfully some clever feats; Lillie Soutter amuses in song and patter; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde are very successful in their hand-shadow scena; Ivy Aberdare is seen to advantage in song and dance; Bert and Dora provide plenty of fun as comedy artists; L. B. Athol is a very natural actor-vocalist; and Harry Hilton performs several mystifying conjuring tricks to the appreciation of the audience; the Bioscope shows some excellent films.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company in the late Mr. Wilson Barrett's play *Lucky Durham* is drawing crowded and enthusiastic audiences. Mr. S. Herbert Humber as John Durham acts in finished style; Lord Mountfallon is portrayed convincingly by Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood; and Mr. Arthur Leigh revels in the part of the Hon. Reginald Steighton; Mr. William Heilbron and Mr. J. H. Gerald, in the respective parts of Mr. Vallerton and Mr. Arthur Walcombe, are excellent; and Mr. W. F. Clitherow as the money-lender, Ben Verstein, gives a satisfactory presentation; Miss Alice E. Belmore as Helen Vallerton acquits herself in a manner worthy of the highest praise, her expressive voice and charm of manner fitting her admirably for the part; Miss Beatrice Sinclair makes a capable exponent of the rôle of Mrs. Durham, and Miss Florence Dulhunty plays Margaret with care; Miss Rosabel Dodd is a creditable Lady Mountfallon, and Miss Elsie Mayne a pleasing Miss Premore.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company is here in *£1,000 Reward.* Mr. J. Wilton gives a good conception of the villainous Gilbert Lisle; Mr. Edward De Vere is clever as Fighting Jepps; Mr. Wilson Roberts as Fred Ingleford does well; and Dick Springthorpe has a lively impersonator in Mr. Joe English with songs and dance. Mr. Frank J. Pitt gives a capital portrayal of Vincent Rainsford; and Mr. F. Dallas is also capable as Inspector Gilbert. Miss Marjorie Seymour uses a powerful voice to advantage as Meg; Miss Kathryne Eckart as Mme. Sanson does well; Miss Minnie Goepel as Kitty is suitably placed, and Miss Alice Clarke is the landlady of the Flying Scud. The drama is capitally staged.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—The return of Mr. Campbell's company with *The Little Breadwinner* has been welcomed by good audiences. The title-rôle, Meg, is admirably played by little Winnie Crisp, a winsome girl, who displays the power of emotion as well as comic ability; Mr. Reginald Brown as Richard Lawrence well depicts the varied phases of the man whose lot has fallen in "stony" places; Mr. Sidney Lynn's Charles Prior is a very able character study; Miss May Richardson as Margaret, the distressed and wronged wife, portrays the part with moving pathos; Mr. Alfred Maurice depicts with skill the villainy and hypocrisy of Joseph Prior; Mr. H. P. Peppin is good as Lord William; Miss Clara Hunt is amusing and self-assertive as the worthy Bridget; Miss Millie Ford as Kate Cherry, Miss Lissa Young as Bobby, and some minor parts are suitably interpreted.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The chief feature of the week is found in the wonderfully expert performances of the Spanish Juanitos acrobats, five in number, who astound the audience with new daring flights; the Three Sisters Tree, appearing in a refined hunting act, attract with their nimble stepping and fine dressing; as comedians, Barfoot and Carson, comic singers and cross-talkers are amusing; Edwin Garth may claim to have devised something clever in his song and patter; a dramatic scena, written and composed by Will Letters, called *The Protector,* is also interesting; Sylvia, Dutch and buck dancer and acrobatic artist; George Acre, character vocalist; Miss Ada Colley, prima donna; and Little Tichbourne, a comical little fellow, in song and dance, fill in with some attractive "specialities." The Bioscope illustrates A Pierrot's Drunkenness and Broken Hearts.

PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Welsker Bros.—The pictures, as usual, are full of character and incident. First, a dramatic episode is illustrated, The Gold Prospectors, in colours. Feminine Hate is also an effective set, and March Winds, Amateur Balancer, The Tramps Cyclomania, Miss Pimpernel's Gown, Flick and Flock. Another French motor race series displays some picturesque scenery. The Sisters Pardoe, tuneful duettists, and Leyton, a youthful ventriloquist, add successful turns.

ATTERCLIFFE. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—The drawing power of "picture entertainments" here is evidenced by the large audiences at every house. The series this week include, amongst others, Poverty and Probity, A Bewitched Tricycle, Queen's Love, A Day of Robbery, and The Sheep Stealer. Mr. Charles Verner's "chorus songs" are very popular.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—Topping this week's "bill" is Mr George Marriott's well-balanced company in a dramatic playlet founded on Charles Dickens's "Oliver Twist," the characters being taken by Mr. George Marriott (Fagin), Mr. Fred Conway (Bill Sikes), Mr. John A. Stimson (Artful Dodger), Miss R. Dane (Oliver Twist), Miss Maude Fergusson (Rose Maylie), and Miss Edith Finlay (Nancy). A clever and novel performance is given by Les Henris, gymnastic equilibrists, the heaviest share falling to the lady member. Other turns are given by Miss Frances Hanlon, vocalist and dancer; Mr. Jack Hayton, quaint character comedian; Angelina, smart lady juggler; Poole and Poole (lady and gentleman), pedestal dancers; Mr. Harry Goodburn, light comedian; Lydmore Bros., comedians and expert dancers; and Mr. Clayton's pictures, The Coiners. The success of last week's Beauty Show has induced Mr Dent to run a competition this week for the "Ugliest Woman" for a substantial prize, and the competition is proving a big draw.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Walter Melville's play, *The Soldier's Wedding,* forms a strong attraction here this week. Mr. Wingold Lawrence gives a natural impersonation of Jack Brown; David Munroe is cleverly undertaken by Mr. Frederick Biron; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb gives a true military rendering of the part of Colonel James Graham; Mr. Gerald Jordan as Charles Courteney portrays the character with good effect; and he has an able accomplice in Miss Marie Macaulay as Julie de Beauvrirre. Mr. Fred Yarnold submits a lifelike impersonation of Nathaniel Lee; Mr. John Chippendale causes endless amusement as Tommy Spratt; and Little Albert is a precocious Teddy Munroe. Miss Dorothy Richardson as Nancy Lee is a charming and graceful heroine; Miss Mattie Everett a humorous Lizzie Walker; and Peggy Munroe is pathetically presented by Miss Mabel Love.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS. — ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. C. Watson Mill's company, in *For Love and the King,* is here. He himself, as Jarval does conspicuously good work; and Mr. John Burton is a clever Michael; Mr. Henry Earlesmere is a successful Vladimir; and Mr. Alfred Hiltiard as Prince Uros and Mr. Geoffrey Chate as Duke Fenand do well. Miss Joan Ellis as Natila and Miss Frances Tierney as Edith Meredith give dramatic representations; and Miss Rosalind Tate is a clever Princess Athene.

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. George Alexander's company, in *The Thief,* is here. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart makes an exceptionally clever Richard Chelford; and Mr. Gerald Ames portrays Raymond Leyton capitally; Harry Leyton is well presented by Mr. Alfred Lugg; and Miss May Congdon as Marise Chelford, and Miss Mary Dibley as Isabel Leyton play with much charm. Mr. Cyril Cattley is a capable Mr. Protheroe. The curtain-raiser is *Too Happy by Half.*

TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The chief item on the bill here this week is Chung Ling Soo, on a return visit. Morny Cash, Miss Violet Kay, Burley and Burley, Fred Spencer, and Vernon's Bioscope are other attractions.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A capital pictorial entertainment is provided here this week, interspersed with recitations by Mr. Tom Bland, and songs by Mr. Tom Chorley.

BARRY DOCK. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren presented on Monday *The Face at the Window.* Mr. Scott Leighton admirably sustained the part of Paul Gouffet; the rôle of the Wolf was played with success by Mr. Hogan Armadale; and the comedy parts in the hands of Mr. Bert Ellis and Miss Ruth Glyn left nothing to be desired.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—*The Flag Lieutenant* is securing hearty approval here. Mr. Lyn Harding and Mr. Sidney Cooper, who produce the piece, have done so in lavish style, and have cast the play with care; Mr. Langhorne Burton gives a breezy and devil-may-care rendering of Richard Lascelles; Mr. H. Montagu Love as Major Thesiger does exceedingly well; Mr. George Mallett as Vice-Admiral Wynne upholds his reputation; Mr. Edward S. Petley portrays the ship's surgeon, Walter Crutchley, cleverly; Mr. Hugh Wakefield and Mr. Lyonel Watts are effective as Horatio Hood and Dormer Lee; Miss Florence Jackson as seen to considerable advantage as Mrs. Cameron; and a more charming Lady Hermione Wynne than Miss Marjorie Chard it would be difficult to conceive. Miss Viva Birkett, who hails from the West Country, makes a delightful Viola Hood; Mr. W. J. Yeldham and Miss Stella Leigh as the gossiping Gough-Bogles make the most of their chances; as does Miss Evelyn Robson as Lady Dugdale.

PALACE THEATRE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—Ashley's Stage Circus is the leading draw in this week's programme; Will Douglas's Five Jolly Bakers, in their acrobatic and Risley act, come in for an immense ovation; as also does Steve Bartle, a clever concertina-player. Cissie Carlette, with her demure style and amusing songs; the Simms, in a song and dance turn; the Three Prestons, who create hilarity in *The Liftman's Rise;* Flo Inman, comedienne and dancer; and Raymond's Bio-tableaux, are also attractions.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—Herbert Skardon's drama, *Send Him Victorious,* is being played by Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company. Mr. Wm. Allington is entirely satisfactory as the hero; Mr. Jerrold E. Reed is an excellent Col. Heinrich Kauffman; Miss Marie Robson an admirable Countess Kara; Miss Isabelle Hunt a sympathetic Ethel Hardinge; and the humorous element is supplied by Miss Cecilia Crawford as Gretchen and Mr. Arthur Tomlin as Geordie.

BELFAST. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company commenced on Monday the second and last week of their engagement here, when *Lohengrin* was produced with a large measure of success. In the title-rôle Mr. Hanns Robert achieved a triumph with his artistic impersonation, his fine voice being heard to the utmost advantage; as Elsa Miss Elizabeth Burgess gained an unqualified success, her vocal numbers being a keen source of delight; Mme. Marie Alexander must be congratulated on her finished interpretation of Ortrud; and other principal rôles were capably sustained by Messrs. Dillon, Shallard, and Arthur Winckworth. Mr. Eugene Goossens conducted with his accustomed ability. On Tuesday evening *Don Giovanni* was produced, with Mr. Charles Victor in the title-rôle, and during the week *Maritana, Esmeralda, Carmen, Faust,* and *Il Trovatore* have also been performed.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Freece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Mr. George Gray and Company, Ltd., top the bill and produce with much success *The Fighting Parson.* The title-rôle is admirably enacted by Mr. Gray, and his support is thoroughly adequate; the Five X-Rays appear in their unique speciality act, entitled *Fun in a Gymnasium,* which has been accorded a hearty reception; and Mr. James Brady's comic songs have been much enjoyed; Miss Mina Green is a charming comedienne, and more than a passing word of praise is due the Markies for their capital quick-change musical act. Mr. Will Driscoll, comedian; Mr. Harry Zetta, comedian and dancer; and the Palace pictures complete.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—The leading attraction here is supplied in Makers of History, comprising artistic living statuary, including Lord Beaconsfield, Mr. W. E. Gladstone, Sir Henry Irving, &c., introduced with great success by Mr. C. L. Delph; Mr. Harry Roxbury presents Edward M. Heanley and company, who produce their powerful piece, *What Women Do;* and Mr. Albert Le Fre, a smart comedian, appears to much advantage in his speciality act; Mr. Tony Black is a capital Scotch comedian; and Coverdale submits his clever and amusing act; the Three Laurels, in their speciality act; Zenary Bros., novel acrobats; Mr. Fred Arthur, entertainer; Floretti and Elly, barrel and spade jumping act; and the Hipposcope complete.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—Mr. Fred Kitchen and Mr. Frank Lester provide the leading attraction here with their American sketch, *No. 99,* which is replete with exciting incidents, and has been most successful; Mr. J. W. Rowley, the evergreen comedian, has been accorded a terrific reception, and the Eight Sunrays are undoubtedly good vocalists and capital dancers; Miss Ella Dean renders several songs in a satisfactory manner; and the remarkable equipoise feats of La Belle Nello have aroused much enthusiasm; Mr. Fred Dimstone, comedian; Mr. Charles Stevens, character vocalist; and the Bioscope complete the programme.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The following films have been exhibited:—Mary Queen of Scots, A Race for Millions, The Trombone Player, Playmates, The Patriot, &c.; Moneta and Ford, acrobats, and McAskell, the comic conjuror, who has been very successful, also appear.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Among many excellent films may be mentioned A Tale of the Sea, Father's Lesson, Rival Cyclists, and On the Riviera; also appearing are Mr. Joe Best, vocalist and dancer; and Mr. Will Batey, character comedian. By kind invitation of the management, the children of the Belfast Workhouse attended the performance on Tuesday last.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—General-Manager, Colonel Frederick T. Cummins.—Enormous success has attended the opening of the new skating rink here, thousands having patronised the building. Many novelties have been introduced.

BILSTON.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-Manager, Mr. S. Hadskiss Dawson.—Mr. Stuart Lomath and Mrs. Frank Bateman's company is here this week with *No Wedding Bells for Her.* Miss Lizzie Montague thrills the house with her vivid and realistic impersonation of the unscrupulous and vindictive actress, Lola Delaspierre; Mr. H. Ansleigh makes a typical stage villain as Abney Stone, a city wastrel; Mr. Stuart Lomath is again excellent as the clergyman, Frank Hatherleigh; and the remaining parts are all admirably filled. For Wednesday and two following nights *Sapho* forms the attraction.

BIRKENHEAD. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Considerable interest centres in the return visit of Mr. Louis Calvert's company, under the direction of Mr. T. Norman Walter, in the successful play *Sunday.* Large audiences have been simply entranced by the finely natural and unaffected rendering of the title-rôle by Miss Ethel WARD, a performance received with the utmost enthusiasm; Colonel Brinthorpe is well embodied by Mr. Pennington Gush; Mr. T. Norman Walter is a splendid Tom Oxley; and the "Boys" are admirably represented by Mr. James Skea, Mr. A. Colion Holmes, Mr. James Hussey, and Mr. Alec Alves. Miss Helen G. Edwins is well suited as Mrs. Naresby; Miss Lila Barclay played with care the small part of a nun; and Mr. George Marriott, jun., acquitted himself with ability in the thankless rôle of Arthur Brinthorpe. The production has well maintained its favourable reputation in this town.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke. — Mr. George Lashwood, the popular comedian, is fulfilling one of many successful engagements here; Mr. Tom E. Finglass, a clever coon vocalist; Mr. Jack Pleasants, comedian; and Millar Bros., horizontal bar performers, are leading attractions. Miss Beatrice Harris, an exceptionally clever comedienne, is a decided acquisition. A strong company also includes Flo Burns and James Danvers, variety entertainers; Pip Powell and Kate Vesey, duologue artists; Julian Mack, female impersonator; Miss Edith Fink, a smart comedienne; and Miss Gertrude Martini, descriptive vocalist. Brown's Royal Bioscope also adds variety to the programme. Mr. Ernest Denney is musical director.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—*My Mimosa Maid,* with Miss Marie Studholme's pretty talents and wiles to give proper importance to the rôle, is keeping up the run of the season well. Miss Studholme's artless way of acting, her pretty looks and costumes, and her mellifluous singing have all been noted and applauded with enthusiasm. Mr. Frank Curzon's company includes Mr. Chas. McNaughton as the sweep who becomes a millionaire, Victor Guilbert, the part being played with a power of humour and fine tact. Mr. Chas. Paton does the brother's part well; Master Archie McCaig as the sweep's assistant makes a most amusing figure; Mr. Arthur Jackson essays the waiter's rôle in a smart fashion; Miss Eva Sandford is well applauded for the good part she takes as Popitte; and the efforts of Mr. Percy Carr, Miss Ruby Gray, Mr. Jno. H. Goldsworthy, and Miss May Garstang are successful.

TO REMIND THE PROFESSION!

The Only "BODEGA" Addresses in BIRMINGHAM are:—
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PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh and company are here, and this time their visit is extended to a fortnight, satisfaction naturally being great thereat. On Monday *John Glayde's Honour*, by arrangement with Mr. George Alexander, showed Mr. Bourchier in the self-renunciating rôle of John Glayde, which he made one of intense power and interest. Miss Vanbrugh's acting as Muriel was quite a triumph of the histrionic art, putting the best possible complexion on the rôle; Miss Henrietta showed fine emotional qualities in her brief opportunities as the Princess; Mr. Chas. Bryant gave a strong portrayal of Trevor Lerode; Mr. Arthur Whitby made a hit with the character of Chris Branley; and the support all round was perfect. A performance of *Sixes and Sevens* followed, in which both Mr. Bourchier and Miss Vanbrugh appeared.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—The drama *Why Men Love Women* has attracted fascinated audiences for Miss Ellen Snow and her company, Miss Snow's personation of the heroine Violet Livingstone being quite a clever as well as a most charming piece of acting. She is well supported, Mr. Oliver Rogers proving a popular and spirited hero as Gerald Fielding; Mr. Lionel Gadsden, in the unpopular rôle Captain Staniloff, realises all its possibilities; Mr. N. Carter Slaughter gives a capital reading of Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert; Mr. Ernest Griffen brings out the rôle of the Maharajah of Baloro into full prominence; Miss Florence Nelson plays Muriel Zoluski in a creditable style; Mr. Harwood Roberts makes the character of Orlando Figgins one of fine humour; and the rest of the characters come out well.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company are playing *The Love of the Princess* here, and enthusiastic as well as large audiences have testified to the acceptability of the play. Mr. Wilson Coleman as the resuscitated Prince shows a fine voice and vigorous style as well as a manly presence, and his efforts are applauded heartily; Miss Maisie Hanbury as the Princess acts in a way that brings the character home to the hearts of all; Mr. Ernest E. Imeson plays the exacting rôle of the traitor, Count Nichola, with fine skill; Mr. E. H. Dobell is excellent as Josef; Mr. Beckett Bould is to be commended as Lieut Orlans; and Messrs. Graham Winsford, W. F. Stirling, Francis Serle, Edgar Morgan, and the Misses Nelly Garside and Helen Elmar play important rôles with every success.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are proving the popularity of *The Manxman* in a most unmistakable manner, large audiences applauding the former's splendid realisation of the unsophisticated but noble-hearted Pete with pleased energy. Miss Minnie Waterford makes the part of Kate a very telling one in all its phases; Mr. Harold B. Lewis gives a clever performance as Philip Christian; Mr. Fred Charles puts in many effective touches as Ross Christian; Mr. Fred Mace's delineation of Cæsar Cregan is evidently well studied; Miss Nancy Mitchell is a bright and capable Nancy; and the remainder of the characters are in exceedingly good hands.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—Mr. R. A. Roberts's play, *Straight from the Shoulder*, is making a fine success here, with the author's own company. Mr. Henry Herne is now the falsely-accused hero, Dr. Bedford, and his really fine acting of the part inspires loud applause and cheers; Mr. Leonard Clarke still plays the "rotter," Gleeson, and the storm of groans and hisses that greet him are fine testimony to his effectiveness; Miss Beatrice Burdette repeats her fine portrayal of the heroine, Millicent; Mr. Fred Beck lends admirable humour as Jim Green; and the other more notable characters are played by Mr. Geo. H. Child, Mr. George Fisher, Miss Frances Bruce, Miss Edie Casson, and Miss Beatrice Moore.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—Mr. Herbert Leonard's clever and already popular play, renamed *The Girl I Love* (formerly *The Kiss of Judas*), is repeating its success here. Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company still includes that strong actor of the villain's rôle Mr. J. H. Darnley, the exultant and unscrupulous Brandon being realised fully; Mr. E. Howard Templeton embodies the hero Dunree with complete success; the author's acting as Jake Long creates a very pleasant sensation; Miss Katherine Clarke's beautiful embodiment of Nancy Nollid continues to charm; Miss Ida Millais has taken up the rôle of Dorothy with gratifying results; Miss Laura Dyson's pretty engaging looks and clever, vivacious acting as Daisy are a pleasant diversion to the play; the rôle of Little Jack has many pretty passages, prettily played by Miss Bertha Hanbury; and the cast otherwise is without a flaw.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The long programme submitted here this week is headed by George Formby, whose Lancashire ditties cause roars of laughter; the Dumond Trio are a smart set of Parisian musicians, and are loudly applauded; *Casey's Court* comes in for a good share of applause; Pete and Minnie Lee have a bright comedy sketch; the rich contralto voice of Bessie Slaughter is heard to advantage; plenty of laughter is caused by Terry and Lambert; and other prominent turns are those of Fred Wilkinson, Will Dacey and Nelly Lewis-Kisby, and Adey Spencer.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Miss Winifred Hare has had a big reception here, her songs being vociferously encored. The La Scala Opera Company, with Mrs. Arthur Rousby, Miss Alice Rena, and Messrs. Edward Arthur and Leslie Austin in the cast, present *Cavalleria Rusticana*, which was received with loud applause. Florence and Lilian are clever instrumentalists; C. and F. Renad's company in their world-renowned sketch *The Swiss Express* are a big attraction; the Tompsons present their illusion "The Master Mystery," which mystifies their audience; and other popular turns are those of Cliff Ryland, Goggins and Davis, Ernest Clifford, and Arthur Kenny.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—May Moore Duprez is pleasing large audiences here with her jolly Dutch songs and mannerisms; Joe Peterman's company is responsible for an excellent sketch, *The Pawnbroker*; the Hectors have a juggling act which is both neat and clever; as also is the comedy acrobatic act of the Three Comforts; Helen Martin's singing and Hanid Alexander's piano playing are features of the entertainment; and Lawrence Barclay, Mike Mono, George Melvin, and Hinton and Wooton are in the bill.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Joe Elvin is here, and his sketch, *The King of the Castle*, is a laughter-maker. Paul Kramar's troupe of head-balancers are very clever, and Martha Kramar's feats of strength are remarkable; the Sisters Lytton sing and dance well; the Four Jumels present their musical turn, which is loudly applauded; and Stella Stahl, Charlie Deane Fred Herbert, and Jack Lorrimer, whose Scotch songs are well encored, conclude the programme.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—Some excellent pictures are shown here, The Brigands of Calabria and Nick Carter being especially good. Hermann and Evelyn, George Castrey, and Cosetti are prominent artists, while Sacco continues his fast, to-day being his forty-eighth day.

CURZON HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Waller Jeffs.—Motoring Over the Alps is a fine series of pictures presented here; Ford and Hanson have a humorous musical act which is well applauded; and the illustrated songs rendered by Dulcie Saunderson are a feature of the entertainment.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and J. E. Cardwell's company is here this week in the musical comedy *A Merry Maid*. Mr. Vivian Wakeman as Larry O'Hooligan is remarkably clever, and his celebrity turns are especially noticeable; Mr. Neil Hardy (the Hon. Cecil Toft), Mr. Howard Lawrence (Thady Clancey), and Mr. H. Leander (Von Swank) are excellent, the latter's pipe solo being well received; Master Wee George Wood as Bertie Vere de Vere was very diverting, his songs being capital; Miss Fanny Adamson is very good as Angela Vere de Vere, and Miss May Gibson plays the title-rôle charmingly and sings well. Miss Ray Watson as Flossie Trixie is very good, and the same might be said of Mr, W. S. Hutchinson as Biddy O'Hooligan. The scenic efforts are unique and the chorus is strong.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—Another visit is being paid here this week by Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey and company, with *Rollicking Rory*. Mr. Mackey continues to carry all before him in the title-rôle; whilst Mrs. Mackey is charming as ever as Mrs. Ashleigh. Mme. Constance Bellamy plays Peggy O'More, and sings several popular ballads in her usual pleasing manner. Other parts are in efficient hands, the singing of Mr. Charles Homer and Miss Nana Flensberg being warmly applauded.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Another good programme is provided for the patrons here this week. The place of honour is occupied by Mr. Arthur Dandoe and company, with a musical burletta entitled *The Phonograph Belle*. Other good turns are contributed by the Three Orleans, wooden shoe dancers; Dan Kennedy, comedian; Dalton and Dalton, comedians and dancers; Valvo, ventriloquist; Clark and Glenney, in a sketch; Ray Ford, comedienne; Elton and Elma, gymnasts; and Sisters Florence, duettists and dancers.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Geo. H. Harrop Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller. — The two shows-a-night system has been adopted here this week, and so far has met with complete success Without any very great stars, the bill is one of all-round excellence. The New Macs, comedians; My Fancy, the supreme dancer; Marcel and Boris equilibrists; Howard and Collinson, a pair of screamingly-funny comedians; Roze and Calvert in a comedy act; Sisters Darrell, duettists and dancers; Resna Trio, Continental artists; Albert Mackelvin, Scotch monologist; and Margaret Radcliffe, comedienne, all meet with the most cordial reception.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager Mr. Arthur C. Moody. — Mr. and Mrs. Charles Draycott have paid a successful visit with their répertoire company in a round of popular dramas. In *The Shaughraun* Mr. Draycott gave a pleasing performance as Conn, and was ably supported by Mrs. Draycott and the company. *The Octoroon*, *The Colleen Bawn*, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*, and *The Stolen Birthright* have also been included in the bill.

GAIETY.—Lessees, Messrs. Claggers.—Coverdale and Huxley's Juveniles, in a musical scena, Hive and Mora, in comedy, Tourance, gymnast, J. Scanlan, comedian, and the Osrani Trio submit good turns.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Tom Doyle.—The Almos Bros. and the Four Sisters Gilby are the chief attractions here, in addition to the pictures.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr John Moncur.—A long looked for engagement is this week being filled by the eminent actress, Miss Ellen Terry, who is appearing in *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*. Miss Terry's natural and charming impersonation of the part of Lady Cicely Waynflete won repeated recalls; Mr. James Carew gave an artistic performance as Captain Brassbound; Mr. George Fitzgerald was dignified as Sir Howard Hallam; Mr. Story-Gofton was good as the Rev. Leslie Rankin; and Mr. Max Montesole's Felix Drinkwater was a fine piece of character; Mr. Frank Powell as Captain Kearney, U.S.N., Mr. Sydney Travers as Sidi, Mr. H. Hay Cameron as the Cadi, and Mr. David Hallam as Marzo ably filled their respective parts.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A strong attraction here is Van Biene, the actor-musician, who is renewing his acquaintance with Bolton, and appearing as Heinrich Klein, in the one-act playlet, *The Master Musician*; he is assisted by Miss May Mannering as Jenny, a New York slavey. Other turns in the programme are Miss Minnie Fenton, Scotch comedienne; Rich Taylor, whistling ventriloquist; Bert Harrow, comedian; Vernon and Voyce, singing comedians; H. O. Wills, "the Water Rat"; Sid Doody and Edie Wright, Australian comiques; Halma, Scottish society entertainer; W. B. Raby, comedian; Luigi Salvino, boy instrumentalist; Conway and Leland, "the Merry Monopedes"; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—A strong bill here is headed by Mr. Jackson's Eight Lancashire Lads, excellent singers and dancers. Also contributing to the programme are Sheila McNeil, Scotch comedy artist; Phil Bransby, coster comedian; J. H. McCann, comedian and acrobatic roller-skate dancer; Martinett and Wallace, American musical comedians; Victoria Dagmar and Clown, in an artistic gymnastic display; Shrillo, operatic whistler; Wally, in his great juggling act; and the Bioscope.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—The New Century Picture Company are this week presenting another good series of pictures. Excellent turns in musical and comedy sketch are supplied by The Players.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. and Mrs. Kendal (who are supported by an admirable company) appeared here on Monday, in *The Elder Miss Blossom*. The reception accorded the popular artists was very cordial. Mrs. Kendal's gracious bearing and naturalness as Dorothy Blossom quite won her audience; and Mr. Kendal submitted a clever and convincing performance of Andrew Quick, F.R.S. The cheery Christopher Blossom was capitally played by Mr. W. M. Rutherford; Mr. Bassett Roe filled the part of Major Twentyman humorously; as the Rev. Arthur Leacroft, Mr. T. Holding was good; Mr. Metcalfe Wood's Withers was a most diverting performance; and Miss Jessica Thorne brightly and with winsome grace represented Sophia Blossom. On Tuesday evening *The Whirlpool* was presented, with Mr. Kendal as Elijah D. Tillottson and Mrs. Kendal as Miss Constance Livingstone, and again a large audience cordially greeted the performance. The two plays constitute the bill for the week.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—Mr. Walter Melville presented *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* here on Monday. It was finely staged, and its representation by a capable company elicited hearty approbation. Mr. Otto Minster handles the exacting part of the hero, Jack Cunningham, with consummate skill; as Bessie Webster Miss Vashti Wynne wins sympathy; in his rendering of the part of Gilbert Lindsay, Mr. Herbert Morgan is distinctly effective; and Miss Olive Warne as Maud Villiers aids him finely. A good character sketch of Fagin is supplied by Mr. Harry Playfair; and as the Dodger Mr. Horce Renny does well. Miss Doris Whyte gracefully fills the part of Miss Cunningham; and as Norman March Mr. E. G. Batley is excellent.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Callahan and St. George contribute a delightful entertainment here, comprising vocalism, instrumental music, and humour; Ella Retford is a great singer and dancer; some sensational work is done by the Lukushimas Troupe of Japanese acrobats; Fred Whiteley, crippled police hero, contributes his cornet solos with success; the solos and duets by Les Voces are very enjoyable; *Black-faced Justice* is a screaming absurdity by Brown and Le Clerq; Herbert Shelley's protean play *Dan the Outlaw* is clever and intensely dramatic; a pleasing turn is done by the Maples in *How to Treat a Burglar*; Tennyson and Wallis, comedians, are clever; and some excellent pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Pop Dearley is a capital comedian and dancer; Edith Chantler, a girl soprano, has a good voice, and sings with taste; the Royal Cambodian Troupe from Southern Asia, with their weird native dancing and conjuring furnish a distinct novelty; with their potpourri of songs and dances the Four Garricks are entertaining; Harrigan and Holt are capital comedians; Hayes and Watson dance cleverly; Harry Pleon, comedian, with his burlesque scena, *P.C. Pudden*, assisted by Celia Kent, is intensely funny; much fun is created by the eccentrics, August, September, and May; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are again an interesting feature of the evening's amusement.

BRIGHOUSE. — ALBERT THEATRE. — Lessees, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. Chas. H. Beanland.—Novelties follow in quick succession here, and this week Jean Seul, the great Indian mystery, is attracting good houses with his wonderful entertainment; the Bros. Corcoran, in a musical speciality, *Sons of Toil*, introduce some excellent music and marvellous quick-change business; Gulliver, a ventriloquist, causes much merriment; Ryde and Beeman are very funny acrobatic grotesques; Syd Herman is well received for his scena, *The Hebrew Fugitive*; a novel cycle balancing act is presented by the Woodwards, who do some clever feats; Tom Griffiths possesses a fine bass voice, and sings "The Raft" and "Rocked in the cradle of the deep," with beautiful illustrations; Harry Bent mimics several London star artists, including Eugene Stratton, Harry Lauder, J. W. Rowley, Gus Elen, &c.; the Animated Pictures, by the Loyal Dominion Company, conclude a fine programme.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Messrs. G. M. Polini and Austin Melford's company is here this week with *The Silver King*. Mr. Fred D. Daviss submits a very fine portrayal of Wilfred Denver; Miss Edyth Goodall imparts great charm and expression to her impersonation of Nellie Denver; Mr. Edward J. George repeats his excellent and well-known representation of Daniel Jaikes; Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp is admirably suited as "the Spider"; Mr. George Belmore makes an entertaining Henry Corket; Mr. Arthur Wright's Elijah Coombe is a good character study; Mr. Fred May as Cripps, Mr. Arthur H. Rooke as Geoffrey Ware, and Mr. E. Stidwell as Samuel Baxter merit praise. The two Denver children have pleasing exponents in Miss Flossie Hale Daviss and Master Eric Dene.

ALHAMBRA.—General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Ernest Lepard.—Peggy Pryde is as versatile and attractive a comedienne as ever, and is enthusiastically received; Dean Tribune and company are very amusing in the absurdity, *The Cheerful Idiot*; the Boccacios contribute an excellent vocal and instrumental act; Les Rallis give a novel turn, including a clever imitation of an ape; Tom Fancourt and Jennie Rubie are popular comedy artists; Boden and Dell sing and dance themselves into favour; Dolly Golden is a clever dancer; Mike Cray, accompanied by his well-trained dog, proves diverting with his comedy juggling; Maudie Ford is a dainty comedienne; and the Alhambrascope pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—Munstedt's Liliputian circus, introducing the Colibris Midgets, with their remarkable feats and acts, is warmly appreciated; the Three Sisters Silcott are smart vocalists and dancers; Hayes and Merritt are wonderful bounding trampolinists; Cruikshank is "a fellow of infinite jest and variety"; Herbert La Martine is an eccentric dancer; Ernest Montefiore and company achieve much success in the dramatic and musical sketch, *The Little Colonel*; Alburtus and Millar appear in *A Scene at the Fairgrounds*; the Summersons are entertaining in the comedy act, *His Better Half*; Harry Vardon is a capital ventriloquist; the Haydons are diverting in the burlesque, *Bertie and the Barmaid*; and the Barrascope pictures are excellent.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Miss Jennie Lee and company opened here on Monday with *Jo*. Miss Jennie Lee, who met with a very cordial reception, give an artistic enactment of the title-rôle; Miss Kathleen Russell made a stately Lady Dedlock; Miss Calypso Valetta was a pleasing Esther; Mr. F. G. Bayley did well as the unctuous Mr. Chadband; Mr. J. S. Day's Mr. Tulkinghorn; Mr. C. A. Collins's Mr. Bucket, John Braithwaite's Mr. Snagsby, and Miss Rose Vernon's Mrs. Snagsby were ably portrayed; and the remaining characters were effectively represented. The play was admirably staged.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The exhibitions of animated pictures here this week are very attractive. A very exciting story is conveyed in A Nobleman's Pleasure; The Miners is a story of love and heroism; Building of a Bridge is interesting; The Romance of a Lady Clerk proves very stirring; and much amusement is afforded by Lady or the Lions, Polly's Excursion, Oscar is Kidnapped, and His First Frock Coat.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is here with the farcical musical play *The Dairymaids*. The scenery, costumes, and accessories are highly commendable, and the play is performed by a very competent company. Miss Phyllis Dare is very pleasing in all respects as Peggy, acting, singing, and dancing well; Miss Gladys Ivery deserves much commendation for her pretty performance of Winifred; Mr. Charley Harvey and Miss Lottie Sargent are capital in their respective parts of Joe Miven and Eliza, they working admirably together; Miss Edith Blanche is a stately Lady Brudenell; Mr. E. Statham Staples and Mr. Fred Leslie, jun., are amusing as Sam Brudenell and Frank Meredith; Mr. Percy Marshall makes a fine part of Dr. O'Bryne; and Miss Rose Edouin Lewis is sufficiently prim and precise as Miss Penelope Pyechase. All the remaining parts are very satisfactorily taken, the chorus is strong and tuneful, and the augmented orchestra is ably conducted by Mr. Arthur Wood. There was a packed house in all parts on Monday evening, the attendance being well maintained during the week, and on that evening an artistic souvenir was given to all persons in the reserved seats and those entering through the early doors to the upper circle.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. C. Alty.—Messrs. Glenville and Osmond's company are successfully presenting the interesting drama *The Still Alarm*, the play being well staged. Mr. Matthew H. Glenville acts excellently as Jack Manley; Miss Beatrice Shirley is in every way pleasing as Elinor Fordham; Mr. Gerald Kennedy displays considerable power as John Bird; Miss Mabel Veriton is a kindly and motherly Mrs. Manley; Mr. Fred Osmond makes a capital part of Doc Wilber; Miss Hetty Zillwood acts in excellent style as Carrie Wilber; and Mr. Tom Beazley does well as Willie Manley. Acceptable variety turns are contributed by Miss Zillwood and the Lyric Comedy Four. The Central Fire Station, with the two trained horses, and the Burning House scenes are exceptionally realistic.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Mark Sheridan, comedian, heads the programme, his songs and patter obtaining much appreciation. Paul Vandy, juggler, &c., does an expert act; the Four Figaros provide a pleasing musical and dancing act entitled *Ten Minutes on the Continent*; Bertha Norwood, comedienne and dancer, presents a refined and attractive turn; Cissie Thompson, comedienne, is entertaining; Vasey and Ramsey amuse with smart dancing and patter; Lambert and Hands are successful in a vocal scena; and Woolmer Young, vocal comedian, has some good songs. The performance concludes with animated pictures.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Jake Friedman and company are successful in the Dutch operetta *Happy Holland*. The scenery is appropriate, representing a fishing village near Rotterdam; there are about thirty performers, and many pretty songs and dances are introduced. The De Breans do a good turn as comedy shadowgraphists and jugglers; the Verno Reed Trio amuse with their comedy act *What Buttons Did*; the Atilla Brothers do a fine gladiatorial act; Maude Beaumont is a pleasing burlesque actress; Queenie Essex, vocal comedienne, does an excellent turn; Bert Welch amuses as a ventriloquist and mimic; Will Musgrove, comedian, is appreciated; and Nora Noble is a smart comedienne and dancer. Interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—*Her Forbidden Marriage*, by Frederick Melville, is full of sensational surprises, keeping a full house on tenterhooks all through the five acts. Mr. Henry Lonsdale plays well in the strong part of George Maddison; Miss Geraldine Le Sage is equal to the demands of the onerous rôle of Lucy. The villainous Charles Devereux is played in good style by Mr. Louis Hector; Mr. H. Gomer May effectively portrays Sir George Lancaster; Mr. Vincent Loraine as Joe Lambkin, Mr. Fred De Vere as Timothy Tuttut, and Miss Kitty Merrick as Patty Lovejoy furnish plenty of fun. Mr. C. Davidson (Geoffrey), Mr. Henry Milton (John William), Mr. Conrad Stratford, Mr. James Raymond, Mr. W. Brooks, Mr. George Elsworthy, Mr. Leslie Nutter, Miss Grace Lester, Little Lucy, and Miss Agnes Imlay also do well in their respective studies.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—*His House in Order*, capitally performed by Mr. Herbert Ralland's company, is here. Mr. J. Herbert Beaumont is a clever exponent of the rôle of Hilary Jesson, and Miss Kitty Cavendish does some fine acting as Nina. Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves is an excellent Filmer Jesson; Mr. Langford Brown as Sir Daniel Ridgeley is convincing; Pryce Ridgeley is well represented by Mr. Dudley Stuart; Geraldine is interestingly performed by Miss Victoria Wray; and other performances deserving of praise are those of Major Maurewarde by Mr. Randolph Read, Lady Ridgeley by Miss Avis Graham, and Derek Jesson by Miss Peggy Rae.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Miss Violet King is a violinist and pianist of undoubted ability; Miss Ena Compton wins favour with "What you've got, look after"; Mr. Eric Johns, character tenor, is heard to advantage; Rell and Butt in *Fun in the Garden* introduce good patter and acrobatics; Gale and Morris are very good in a musical duologue; warm recognition is accorded to Mme. Roma's Six Imre Juggling Girls; and E. D. Nicholls and company appear in a burlesque drama *The Dreadful Detective*, which causes much laughter.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Vonetta, a wonderfully versatile lady, gives an interesting performance of illusions and dances. A novel turn is that of Taree, Australian musical bushman, whose performances on a sixpenny mouth-organ evoke applause; Clown Barker's well-trained dogs are most enjoyable; Kurkamp, singing conductor, delights with his songs; the Two Babusio Brothers are clever hand-to-head balancers; Chas. Lewis, a novelty ventriloquist, shows capital control of face; Bernardo, juggler, creates roars of laughter with well-studied fun; a pretty musical scene is presented by Miss Dora Barrington and Miss Netta Grey; and Minnie Kirby, comedienne, is good. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux conclude with a good picture.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Leoni Clark tops the bill with his wonderful performing cats, rabbits, monkeys, rats, canaries, &c.; the Two Le Bruns give a clever and refined juggling speciality; some clever and novel work is submitted by the Dunlops, trick cyclists; Sam Shipley is a good character comedian; Lilian Sivado, in a graceful gymnastic performance, is well received; much fun is caused by the Two Daniels, negro comedians and stilt dancers; Miss Beattie Bloom does well; and Mint and Mint, speciality artists, meet with a cordial reception.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—With an excellent cast and magnificent scenery Walter Melville opened here on Monday with *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*. Miss Louise Hampton has a part which suits her splendidly in Bertha Marshall; and Mr. Fred Goddard is a manly Jack Marshall. Josh Crockett is cleverly enacted by Mr. Will Clement;; and Miss Georgie de Lara does well as Val Raymond. Mr. Barry Levers is a creditable Leonard Kenyon.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—As a singer of tuneful songs, Miss Jennie Johns is most successful, and is proving a big draw; the high pedestal dancing of the Lannons is popular; and excellent comedy is supplied by Julia Kent and Alex Keith. *Her Good Name*, a dramatic sketch, presented by Miss Diana Hope's company, is admirably acted; W. G. Webber pleases with several songs; clever trapeze work is submitted by Mlle. Azella; and the Bros. Milford, comedians, Three Bros. Huxter, tumblers, and the Ottograph Pictures are other attractions in a good bill.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. S. Garner.—This week's bill is proving popular, Joe Peterman's Singing Servants being the principal item. Other capital turns are given by Will and Archie Frohman, musical duettists; Evelyn and Norrie, in a sketch, *Set a Thief* ——; Cyclamina, trick cyclist; Mark Merry, comedian; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier—a great success; Will Harvey, comedian; the Wedburns, comedians and dancers; and the Bioscope Pictures.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste M. Peuleve.—Mr. H. F. Maltby's company on Monday presented *The Youngest of Three* to a brilliant audience. Mr. Maltby assumes the rôle of George Wendover with great success; as Gerald Wendover, Mr. Arthur Claremont displays good acting; a capital Philip Radford is found in Mr. Wyn Weaver; Mr. Brember Wills and Mr. N. H. Tracy giving satisfactory aid as John and Joshua Pyne; Miss Mara Maltby's winsome acting as Lucy Dulley fully justifies her reception; the parts of Anne and Florence Dulley and Jane being ably played by Miss Maddocks, Miss F. Wyn, and Miss Kathleen St. George. *Fraud* and *Sir George of Almack's* are also billed.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — The programme here includes Eily Florence, a comedienne of refinement; Edward Mortimer, lightning artist and entertainer; George Hope, the singing collier; Josephine Ellis, a pretty singer and dancer; and the Swift Duo, clever trick cyclists.

BUXTON. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, The Buxton Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Arthur Willoughby.—For the first three nights of this week we had Mr. Robert Macdonald's capable company in *The Dairymaids*. Miss Dorothy Belmore was particularly good as Lady Brudenell, and Mr. Sam Lysons scored as Sam Brudenell; Mr. Frank Manger capably played Lieut. Meredith, and stage-managed, and Mr. Frank Barclay was most efficient as Dr O'Bryne; Mr. Edwin Dodds was very amusing as Joe Mivens and Miss Isa Bowman was a delightful Peggy. The remaining parts were admirably handled, and the play well staged.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L. — Mr. Brandon Thomas's company, with the ever-welcome *Charley's Aunt*, opened on Monday, and the farce proved as amusing as ever. Mr. G. A. Seager as Lord Fancourt Babberley had a gratifying reception; Mr. Ray Byford was most successful as Stephen Spettigue; Mr. Hastings Lynn, Mr. Basil Lynton, Mr. Theo, Mr. Causland Steward, and Mr. Sydney Compton gave great assistance; Miss Vere Gerald was excellent as Donna Lucia; Miss Evelyn Gray made a delightful study of Ella Delahay; Miss Olivia Glynn and Miss G. Denbigh Russell interpreted their parts in a natural way.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—We are favoured with a welcome return visit of the breezy musical play *The Gay Gordons*, with Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Marie Ash in the cast. Mr. Hicks as Angus Graeme is as cheerful and as enthusiastic in his work as ever, and his clever portrayal won him a host of admirers; Miss Marie Ash's bewitching manner, captivating personality, and delightful acting and singing as Peggy Quainton delights all; Miss Coralie Blythe ably fills the rôle of Victoria Siddons; Miss Maud Milton capably delineates Janet McLeod, and Mary McLeod is faithfully represented by Miss Doris Macintyre; as Nervy Nat Mr. Johnnie Danvers is exceedingly smart and humorous; Miss Sidney Fairbrother as Charlotte submits a rendering of exceptional skill; and Mr. George Carroll as Edmund Siddons completes a remarkable trio of comedians; Mr. W. Lugg (Andrew Quainton) and Mr. Lawrence Caird (Corp. Smith) give praiseworthy expositions. The beautifully-gowned chorus ladies and the charming scenic effects have been universally admired.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. L. Dring.—A welcome return visit is being paid by Fred Ginnett's company in his well-known equestrian sketch, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*. Quite deserving of the tumultuous applause evoked are the Lancashire Singers, conducted by Thos. Grundy, the part songs rendered by this company blending with delightful effect. Queenie Leighton is an old Cardiff favourite, and her latest up-to-date songs increase her popularity; a couple of smart comedy artists are the Kirbys, who are decidedly entertaining with their burlesque performance; one of the most pleasing items of the evening is Bessie Butt, in a sweet song and charming dance; Burnette, quick-change character musician, is exceptionally talented in his line; Frank Sylvo is a quaint and clever comedy juggler; and Little

About six weeks ago I was suffering with

PIMPLES

ALL OVER MY FACE.

I was also suffering with SCURF IN THE HAIR. Being rather alarmed, I asked a friend's advice, and he recommended me to take "Clarke's Blood Mixture." I purchased a 2/9 bottle, and within a week I found marked improvement. The pimples

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and the scurf is entirely gone. I cannot tell you how thankful I am at having taken "Clarke's Blood Mixture," and I shall recommend it to everybody, as I think it only right that such a remedy should be known.—(Signed), JOHN HENRY JONES, known as "Little Johnny," Llandudno's Popular Comedian, Thorndale, Llandudno, Feb. 24, 1908.

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, (from a photo.)

Keeno, boy comedian and dancer, and the American Bioscope complete.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—A drama of exceptional interest is *The Woman who Gambles*, presented at the Royal this week by Mr. Morton Powell's company. The piece is finely staged and elaborately costumed, the uniforms being quite striking. Mr. N. A. Overton plays Baron Cratzlaw in a vigorous manner; as the woman who gambles, Countess Steinbach, Miss Laura Walker's rendering of a difficult part is all that could be desired; Mr. Clifford Kean as Count Otto Steinbach makes a manly hero; and Karl Ctzartoriski is capitally impersonated by Mr. Reginald Fox. Quite an important part is allotted to Miss E. Conway, who gives an effective rendering of Cora Gouldhart. The comedy is in the hands of Miss Brenda May (Zanette) and Mr. V. T. Raymond (Hon. Bertie Bray), who considerably enliven the piece. All the other parts are well played.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—A capital sketch, entitled *The Last Halt*, is the pièce de résistance this week, and is effectively presented by Mr. Wilfred H. Benson's company; Mr. Benson as Prince Lerkoff and Miss Mabel Wynn as Rebecca Marstein undertake the important rôles with success. The marvellous acrobats, the Avolos, submit their clever performance with their usual skill; Clifton and Gibson, two gifted comedians, do well; Flo Burnett receives a flattering ovation for her capital vocalism; and others who contribute excellent turns are Stidder and Dunbar, musical comedy artists; Walter Clyde, vocalist; and the Arnotes, "South Carolina Sunbeams."

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos Courtice.—Miss Horniman's company from the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester, paid a flying visit on Saturday afternoon. Mr. Hermann Suderman's play, *The Vale of Content*, was the piece produced, and the performance gave the greatest delight to a full and appreciative audience. Miss Darragh as Elizabeth displayed emotional gifts, and her powerful and judicious acting was generally admired; as the blind girl, Helene, Miss Hilda Branch easily gained the sympathy and support of the house; Miss Penelope Wheeler's Bettina and Miss Ada King's Frau Orb were also sound performances. In the principal rôle Mr. Jules Shaw was impressive and distinctly effective, his fine delivery and refined acting being big factors in the success of the performance. Mr. Edward Lauder as Doctor Orb contributed an excellent study, and Mr. Henry Austin played with good effect as Wiedemann; Mr. Basil Dean in a small part was also conspicuously successful. The minor rôles were well filled. This week the Carlisle Philharmonic Society occupy the boards in the successful opera *Dorothy*.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—The Leslie Bros., in their clever act, entitled *Music Mad*, top the bill this week, and meet with unqualified approval; Bosanquet, "the Human Violin," gives a unique and highly successful turn; Florence Jaymen caricatures coon songs in eccentric style; and De Ora shows remarkable skill and daring on the trapeze. One of the most popular turns is contributed by Bert Danson, a clever comedian; Adeline Zoull and company produce a comedy sketch, which is brightly played, and thoroughly delights the audience; Leslie Talmage, a smart and up-to-date conjurer, is a favourite; and some capital pictures by the Pepiscope complete.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—We are having a second visit from Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company with *The Female Swindler*. Miss Violet Ellicott as Lu Valroy displays much ability; Mr. Jerrold Heather gives a capital study of the cool criminal investigator, John Coulson; Mr. Stanley Radcliffe scores a success as Geoffrey Warden; Miss Beatrice Hone is a charming May Andrews; Harold Travers is well played by Mr. Guy P. Ellis; Mr. John Hitchens as Billy Binks is responsible for many funny situations; Miss Bella Moody does some excellent work as Mary Ann Mee; Abraham Mikestein is admirably delineated by Mr. Fred Rignol; and Mr. A. Kenyon Gray is an admirable James Oliver.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will. H. Emerson.—A capital sketch, *The Dummy*, by the Gregson Comedy Trio, heads the bill; Wishart thoroughly mystifies his audience by escaping from a giant bottle; the Four Musical Watsons, in vocal and instrumental efforts, meet with approbation; the Laurie Brothers as society acrobats show wonderful strength and skill; George Roland scores heavily with a couple of songs; Kyoto as a contortionist and juggler works hard, and Dan Hendy as an eccentric acrobatic comedian is very popular; May Geraldine sings in capital style and dances gracefully, and the animated pictures of the Loyal Dominion Company are as popular as ever.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company is here again in *The Dairymaids*. The Misses Mabel Younge and Madge Avery are still appearing successfully as Lady Brudenell and Miss Pyechase respectively, and Mr. Johnny Osborne is repeating his amusing representation of Joe Mivens. Among the newcomers Miss Clare Marsden is quite a favourite as Peggy and Miss Clarice Lockstone does particularly well as Winifred; Mr. J. A. Warden makes an efficient Dr. O'Byrne, Messrs. Nelson Keys and Wykes Ashdowne sustain their respective rôles with plenty of energy and go, and Miss Gladys Silvani is in every respect an excellent Eliza.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Harold Nuttall's company, including Mr. Martyn Roland, is scoring a hit with a well-staged version of *The Ghost of Jerry Bundler*. Gerard's skilful display of muscular power is capitally relieved by the antics of his comedy man; Lupino Lane is enthusiastically applauded; and others appearing are Chris Baker, comedian; Lambert and Butler, neat dancers; the Sprees in a scena, *Twickenham Ferry*; and Chas. Russell, vocalist. Lacey's Erascope has fresh films, including *A Virtuous Young Man*.

GAIETY THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. F. Warden-Reed.—Here we have Little Gladys Nelson, a taking little mimic; Harry Bickley's songs and patter are well worth hearing; May Brilliant scores with "Mandy"; the Three Romas present in an artistic manner some novel feats of strength; Carl and Carr give satisfaction in their comedy episode, *A Drawing-Room Interlude*; the Edisonograph has a smartly worked film, A Living Reflection; and Jessie Lee, vocalist and dancer; Philip Levard, conjurer; and Gracie Lawn, comedienne and dancer; all do well in their respective lines.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company appeared here in *The Prodigal Son* on Monday. Mr. Hugh Montgomery as Magnus played with powerful style and fine elocution; Oscar was successfully realised by Mr. Gordon Macintosh; Miss Valerie Crespin acted with emotional intensity as Thora, doubling the part with a pretty and dainty impersonation of Elin; Helga Neilson was represented with cynical emphasis by Miss Mildred Cottell; Mr. Charles Cooper looked and acted well as the Governor; Miss Barbara Gott was very pleasing as Anna; Mr. Philip Renouf as Oscar Neilson was well placed; and Miss Marie Harcourt as Margaret did well. Mr. E. Christopher was a manly Sheriff; Mr. Ernest Rivarz played Dr. Olsen with effect; Mr. Charles A. Maynard was successful in the rôle of Neils Filsen; and Mr. G. Dickson Kenwin was sufficiently sinister as the Director of the Casino. Mr. G. W. Hewetson as the Pastor and Mr. Arthur Hall as Eric Arnasson did well.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Mr. Seymour Hicks's company is drawing good houses this week with *The Gay Gordons*. Mr. Frank Lincoln as Angus Græme plays with verve and wit; Mr. Tom Graves as Nervy Nat convulses the audience with his quaint antics; and the Edward Siddons of Mr. Edward Nainby is grotesquely amusing. The Andrew Quainton of Mr. Edward Beecher is worthy of special mention; Miss Madge Vincent as Victoria Siddons acts with charming vivacity; and Charlotte Siddons is amusingly portrayed by Miss Ida Laurie. The Mary McLeod of Miss Gladys Deane is rendered with emotion and power; and Miss Nellie Lonnen captivates all by her spirited acting and singing.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé. — Boswell's Royal Stage Circus here this week is an exceedingly pleasant change, and was on Monday evening welcomed by a capital house. The following artists also appeared :—Kame Yasuda, in a brilliant acrobatic and juggling turn; the Bros. Austin, capital exponents of chair tumbling; Comical Walter, an entertaining clown; Charlie, in a clever feet equilibrist act; and last, but not least, the Five M.P.'s (Musical Palmers), with delightful musical entertainment.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—A variety company appearing twice nightly occupies the boards here this week. Heading the bill is Miss Dinah Morris's company in *A Village in Dahomey*, in which Mr. Sam Morris as Col. Martin Muggs creates a huge success, and Miss Morris as Dinah proves a great attraction; Miss Bessie Morris gives a clever impersonation of the Captain of Brigade, and Mr. Moore admirably enacts the Stranger from Russia. Mr. R. C. Note, a popular vocal comedian, receives much applause; Miss Frances Drew as a ballad vocalist would be hard to beat; Mr. George Reeves, eccentric comedian, keeps the house in roars of laughter; Miss Chummie La Mara brings the house down in her latest hit, "Harrigan"; Miss Alice Gray, descriptive vocalist, is well received; Messrs. Hearne and Palmer, eccentric acrobats, cut some queer antics; Miss Nellie Elliene as a serio comedienne is much applauded; Signor Bandoni gives an admirable exposition of the One-Man Band; Burt provides an enjoyable entertainment with the Service rifle; and last, but not least, Mr. N. C. Bostock is a great favourite.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Chas. Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. J. C. Wray's company is presenting *Miss Hook of Holland* here this week to good houses. Mr. Edmund Russell as Mr. Hook furnished a droll picture, and created great fun; Mr. Fred Dark depicted the eccentric Simon Slinks to a nicety; Mr. J. B. Fox, an artist of imposing stature and good voice, appeared to great advantage as Captain Adrian Paap; Mr. Adrian Burgon was a suitable Bandmaster; and Mr. Robert Corrag was nicely placed as Ludwig. Miss Ethel James made a most becoming Sally; and her popularity was shared by Miss Muff Carew as Mina. Miss Molly Trœvor was good as Gretchen; and the choruses worked in a very harmonious manner under the able direction of Mr. Harry Richardson.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Co.; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The premier turn this week is Edward Crosland's Melody Makers, in a musical, vocal, and dancing scena, entitled *The Burglar's Dream*. The combination comprises a quintet of very capable pianists and vocalists, together with a capital sand and eccentric dancer. Le Clarr's Troupe of Fox-terriers is welcomed by the lover of animal turns; Lillian O'Brien possesses a tuneful voice and sings attractive chorus songs, the words of which are thrown upon the screen; Charles Ashdown creates a deal of laughter with his eccentricities; Vere and Royal are a hard-working comedy duo; Frankie Manners is a capable burlesque artist; and the films are loudly applauded.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—*Home, Sweet Home*, is presented here this week by Mr. Frank Lindo and company. As Stephen Armitage Mr. Lindo is agreeably prominent; Mr. Lawrence Doyle submits some fine acting as David Armitage; and Mr. Norton Shields is excellent as the Duke of Ancaster. As Lucas Lyle Mr. J. Heremann has a difficult part, but he sustains it with ease and effect. The fun introduced by Mr. Geo. Rogers and Miss Maud Cudd as the Hon. Percy and Sybil Fay respectively is appreciated; Miss Marion Wakeford sustains the part of Joan (Armitage's daughter) very well indeed, and Miss Jackaway as Dora is praiseworthy.

CORK.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The entertainment here this week is of exceptional merit. Charles T. Aldrich presents a humorous and entertaining turn as "the Tramp Juggler," which is very laughable; Captain Roberts, assisted by two ladies and two youths, presents a musical athletic and balancing act which is most original and difficult; the Two Sarony Sisters are clever American acrobatic song and dance performers; Mons. de Lil is a clever illusionist; Sid Bandon, comedian, contributes two emotional songs with success; Oak and Elms, knockabout comedians, are very amusing; Professor Hulbert's ventriloquism causes immense amusement; Guy Ryder, a clever siffleur, renders difficult operatic selections and imitates birds; the Four Netherlands in *The Tale of the Stockings* contribute good songs and dances; and the Palascope continues to amuse.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—*A Girl's Cross Roads* is at the above house this week. Miss Hilda Beverley plays most realistically the difficult part of Barbara Wade; John Meadows is admirably presented by Mr. Charles Franmore; and Miss Nita Langford sustains the part of Nellie Meadows admirably.

HIPPODROME THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—A very good programme is provided this week. King and Benson, vocal comedy entertainers, head the list in *Just for Fun*; Sims and Sims give some musical selections on various instruments; Gladys Mavius has a dashing style; Paul Edwards and Louie Dacie give a comedy duologue entitled *Man versus Woman*; Rex Fox gives a marvellous ventriloquial and musical act on a slack wire; and other artists are Arthur Holland, character vocalist, Maud Jester, and Baby Sophie.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Kay Draco.—The great Lafayette was announced to appear all this week, but owing to the death of his father he had to cancel his engagement on Monday morning. This was a great disappointment to the many people who had booked seats in advance, but the enterprising manager put on for his patrons a very good programme. Velanche's Football "Boys," a clever troupe of dogs, give a very novel entertainment; the Olmars are good acrobats; Thomas and Taylor appear in a comedy act entitled *The Guard and His Passengers*; the Primrose Quartet render some glees very finely; and the Ramlo Troupe of comedy gymnasts, Annie Lang, serio and dancer, and Beattie and Babs, two juvenile performers, are also on the bill.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Mr. Harry Benet's company is here in *Sergeant Brue*. Mr. Denis Lyndon scores a success in the title-rôle; Mr. Lister Morrah admirably sustains the part of Michael Brue; Mr. Harry Benet as Crookie Scrubbs earns well-merited applause for his clever work; Mr. T. G. Warren is a capable Mr. Crank; and Mr. E. B. Davies a commendable Gerald Treherne. Miss Ray Anderson gives a natural performance as Lady Bickenhall; Miss Daisie Dale is a charming Aurora; and Miss Mabel Davis a bright and attractive Mabel.

CROYDON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—There is great satisfaction amongst Croydon playgoers this week at the visit of Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton in *The Taming of the Shrew*. Miss Brayton is a consummate actress, and as Katharina she has a great part that calls her best powers into play, and Mr. Asche submits a fine, scholarly performance as Petruchio that gives unmitigated pleasure; Mr. Herbert Grimwood's efforts are rightly directed as Baptista; Mr. J. Fritz Russell gives a consistent performance as Vincentio; Mr. G. Kay Souper exactly fits the rôle of Lucentio; Mr Caleb Porter is great in his business as Gremio; Mr. R. Ian Penny hits off to a nicety the rôle of Hortensio; Messrs. Tripp Edgar and R. F. Anson do well as Tranio and Biondello; Mr. Henry Kitts makes a whimsical Grumio; and Miss Muriel Ashwynne is an enchanting Bianca. Minor rôles are adequately rendered by Messrs. Arthur Trantom, Reginald Davis, Gordin Harker, and Misses Constance Robertson and Caroline Bayley. The incidental music is admirably rendered by the augmented orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Christopher Wilson; and the excellent scenery is a noteworthy feature. During the week *Othello* and *The Two Pins* are being also staged.

HIPPODROME AND THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—A capital series of animated pictures are being exhibited here this week, and include A Dash for Liberty, The Runaway Horse, Her Great Mistake, Her First Bike Ride, The Stray Dog, The Pretty Typist, and The Phlegmatic Gentleman.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Fred and Arthur Conquest score in their farcical sketch *Something for Nothing*; Phil Ray causes much laughter; David Poole is an ingenious ventriloquist; Clive Watts is uncommonly good in song and dance; the Brilliants, xylophonists, are applauded; Maude Francis is a commendable juvenile vocalist and dancer; the Five Grebneiffs are Continental dancers of great skill; Terry and Bentley, comedy duo, win encomiums; Nellie Lunelle is an exhilarating comedienne and dancer; Johnny Fuller gives a marvellous turn as a cat on the wire; and Ruffell's animated pictures are up to the mark.

DARWEN.—PUBLIC HALL, PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Charles Field, juggler, tops the bill here this week; the Sisters Ford give a capital character duo; Edmunda is a clever ventriloquist; Hart and Hart are excellent dancers; and the pictures on the Bioscope are enjoyed.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Leonard Boyne's company is here this week with *Raffles*. In the title-rôle Mr. Boyne acquits himself in a manner that might be expected of so experienced and gifted an actor; Mr. Harold West does exceedingly well as Harry Manders; Mr. Buckstone Clair gives an admirable reading of the character of Crawshay; and in the capable hands of Mr. E. W. Thomas Curtis Bedford is accounted for in a way which leaves nothing to be desired. As the Earl of Amersteth Mr. Arthur Willoughby submits a dignified presentment; and Mr. Cecil Brymer plays amusingly as Viscount Crowley. The Gwendoline Conran of Miss Hilda Moore is exceptionally charming; and Miss Lilian Hallows is in every way successful as Mrs. Vidal. Miss Blanka Stewart makes a capital Lady Melrose, and Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald and Miss Dorothy Gordon as Lady Ethel and Marie, the French maid, respectively also merit special mention.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—An entertaining programme here this week is headed by Kennedy's Kiddies, whose singing and dancing meet with all-round approval. Les Belles Americaines are clever vocalists and dancers; Arthur Boyne, comedian, causes much amusement; Ailsa Douglas, a pleasing vocalist, is deserving of praise; the Wambas perform some skilful feats on the trapeze; Diamond and Hart are smart patter comedians; and Lily and Albert are a commendable comedy duo. The Bioscope concludes.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—This week's programme is quite a change, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. John Walter's company in the pantomime *Babes in the Wood*. Very good business has been done, the company being large and well-balanced, and the scenic effects and properties all that could be desired.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—The *pièce de résistance* is Captain Felix Bedini's Gordon Highlanders, whose smartly-performed evolutions and gymnastic feats evoke the heartiest applause. Mr. E. H. Bostock's baboons are watched with extreme interest; Helm and Cozens provide plenty of fun in *The Doctor and the Patient*; and Cestria's comedy jugglery and acrobatic dancing are excellent. Jock Campbell, comedian; Estrella, a graceful dancer; the Sisters Allen, accomplished comediennes; and George Ridgwell are other attractions.

DONCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—*Robin Hood* has lost none of its attractiveness. Mr. Ethelbert Edwards is a fine, breezy Robin Hood; Mr. J. N. Briant's presentment of Richard is dignified; Prince John is cleverly conceived by Mr. H. Elliott Ball; and the efforts of Mr. Ernest Gray as Fitz Alwynne are appreciated. Mr. John Herdman is thoroughly conversant with the rôle of Much, the miller; Mr. F. Clive Ross deserves recognition as John Little; Mr. Bruce Winston's Friar Tuck is simply inimitable; Miss Irene Malvesyn is a queenly Eleanor of Acquitaine; Miss Laurie Flockton as Adela is chic; and Miss Gertrude De Burgh as Alison's wife secures warm admiration. Beauty, charm, and grace distinguish Miss Lilian Stennis as Lady Marion.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. William Mollison and his excellent company commenced a week's engagement here on Monday, when *Macbeth* was presented to a crowded audience. Mr. William Mollison rendered the title-rôle in a masterly manner. Miss Evelyn McNay distinguished the character of Lady Macbeth by her clever acting; Banquo had a good representative in Mr. Harold Neville; Mr. W. A. Mackersy played with much acceptance as Duncan; and Mr. Fred Ellis acted with studied effect as the Physican. The three Witches were played with success by Misses Edith Blair-Staples, Josephine Woodward, and Gladys Brandon Gower. Mr. Henry Deas as Malcolm and Mr. Lewis Newton as Donaldbain were also satisfactory in their respective parts, and Miss Freda Wright was effective in the rôle of the Gentlewoman. On Tuesday *Hamlet* was successfully played. *The Bonnie Briar Bush*, *David Garrick*, *Richard III.*, and *The Merchant of Venice* were also announced.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The attraction here this week is the popular comic opera, *Tom Jones*, which is delighting large audiences. In the title-rôle Mr. Harry Welcham achieves distinct success by a clever and artistic performance; Miss Florence Smithson submits a charming portrayal of Sophia, her vocal numbers being much admired; Mr. Dan Rolyat as Benjamin Partridge is untiring in his efforts to amuse; Miss Isabelle Dillon as Honour is all that could be desired; Mr. Ambrose Manning gives a humorous impersonation of Squire Western; Miss Alice Oppitz is strikingly effective as Lady Bellaston; Mr. J. Macmillan is highly diverting in the rôle of Gregory; and Mr. Walter Rignold as Grizelle and Mr. Lionel Braham as Dobbin are good. The choruses and orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Edwin Thornton, are excellent.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The pictures here this week include :—The Night of Terror, The Quiet Hotel, Billy's on Fire, The Sailor's Joke, The Baronet Cowboy, Sherlock Holmes, The Twin Brothers' Joke, and Around New York in Fifteen Minutes. The variety artists appearing are Bill E. Calvert, coon comedian and expert dancer; Pallette and his clever dog, Max; and Bob Pearson, humorist and guide. Good houses are the rule.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The big attraction here this week is the charming musical comedy sketch entitled *The Belle of the Orient*, presented by Joe Peterman and company. Will and Alice Vokes in their dancing absurdity are a smart pair; as speciality vocalists the Crown Trio are eminently successful; Frank Mortimer, comedian, meets with a warm reception; Ethel Dove, comedienne, sings and dances with animation; as a male impersonator Madge Osmond makes a decided hit; Bert Terrell, Dutch vocal comedian, is high in favour; Lilian Rigby in her dancing and musical speciality submits a pleasing turn; and Films, Ltd., depicting Honesty Rewarded, Wanted : A Nice Young Man, and Training a Fighting Bull, complete the bill.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—A capital programme is headed by the Eight 'Varsity Girls, whose vocal and dancing scena, *A Musical Evening*, wins great appreciation. The Lutinas in their gymnastic act are a distinct success; as a character vocalist Chris Masters is capital; Thorpe and Coe, duologue artists, contribute an acceptable turn; Maude Kaye, comedienne, is much admired; Curwen and Belle in their novel conception, *The International Club*, are highly amusing; the Three Cunards score successfully in a smart dancing act; as a ventriloquist Gillen provides an entertaining turn; Max Merlin impersonates the "human crocodile"; and the Bioscope, depicting His First Experience in Chemistry, concludes.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The programme consists of Dandie and Danby, comedians and patterers; Charles Reed, light comedian; Jolly Jack Murray, quaint comedian; Miss Amy Bayne, ballad vocalist; Tony Regan, comedian; the Morrisons, vocal duettists; and the Cinematograph.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*A Royal Divorce* still retains its drawing power, as was shown by its reception at this house on Monday. Miss Margaret Watson played with emotional power as Josephine; Miss Maude Lacy was a delightfully bright and graceful Stephanie; Miss Winnie Tempest a dignified Marie Louise, and Miss Ethel Love was exceptionally good as the little King of Rome. Mr. Keith Fraser gave a realistic impersonation of the great Napoleon; Mr. Percy H. Vernon as Talleyrand cleverly portrayed the character; Mr. Stanley Harrison appeared to much advantage as the Marquis de Beaumont; Mr. Walter T. Clifford made a handsome and dashing General Augereau; Mr. Harold S. Standing was a dignified Marshal Murat; and Mr. Geo. Hudson as the drunken innkeeper proved very humorous. Mr. J. L. Barry, who is well known here, is the energetic and courteous manager for Mr. W. W. Kelly.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S McIntosh.—Guyer and Valli, in an exceptionally clever comedy act, and the Three Sisters Sprightly, in their bright, brisk, up-to-date turn, occupy places of honour on this week's bill, and both turns are thoroughly enjoyed. Tony Iveson, "the Ragman at the Piano," has a rousing reception from his many admirers; and the Mezzetis, in their laughable tit-bit, *The New Recruit*, show marvellous dexterity on the horizontal bars. Hal Forde and Charles Rowen, comedians; Rene, the girl juggler; Roy Beavis, in his clever conjuring act; and the Bioscope complete.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Topping the bill here are the Musical Johnstones, who contribute a very enjoyable turn. Mr. James Stillwell and Mrs. R. A. P. Williams create a furore in a one-act play, *Dream Faces*, which receives capital treatment at the hands of these accomplished artists; Ada Cerito is a delightful comedienne; the Brothers Curran, in their boxing act, introduce smart acrobatics; the Ramsey Trio create laughter in their absurdity *Birdie's Welcome*; the Three Sisters Thurban, vocalists and instrumentalists, provide capital entertainment; Lina Leslie is a dainty comedienne; Elsie Earle delights everyone with her picturesque song-scena *A Garden of Flowers*; and Lotto, Lilo, and Otto, trick cyclists, give a clever exhibition.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. R. A. P. Williams; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—A very fine film, Ingomar the Barbarian, depicts in fourteen beautiful scenes the play by Mrs Lovell. Among the humorous films The Ardent Follower evokes much merriment; and Clever Poodle is another funny picture. The variety part of the programme is taken by Campbell's Scottish Lads and Lassies, a troupe of juvenile performers, who interest and amuse with singing and dancing.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—Mr. Fred Newman's house maintains its popularity, and continues to attract large crowds. This week in addition to up-to-date pictures on the Bioscope a very pleasant entertainment is provided by the Musical Morrells.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Williams a company is appearing in *Dear Old Charlie*. In the title-rôle Mr. George Lestocq gives a capital performance in a quietly effective manner; Mr. C. Douglas Cox, full of buoyant spirit, is a happy Gabriel Peploe; Mr. R. S. Trelawney contributes clever work and is an excellent Thomas Dumphie; Mr. Duncan Young gives satisfaction as Fishbourne; and Mr. Stanley Arthur is an efficient Purkitt. Miss Enid G. Ford is a bright, animated, and attractive Agnes; Miss Leonora Braham as Mrs. Fishbourne is natural and very capable; and Miss Viola Holland helps ably as Reeve. *The Cause* precedes, and in this commendably fine work is done by Miss Braham as the mother and Mr. Cyril Vernon as the son.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Mr. Reginald Dance and his company are paying a return visit here with *Beau Brocade*. Miss Ruth Mackay repeats her pretty, romantic, and engaging performance as Lady Patience; Miss May Brooke is again an eminently satisfactory Betty; Mr. Reginald Dance is a very able and praiseworthy Beau Brocade; Mr. Frank Powell is a characteristic and penetrating Sir Humphrey Challoner; Mr. Frank Darch succeeds admirably as Earl Stretton; Mr. Dalziel Heron, keen and incisive in all his work, repeats a capital contribution as Stitch; Mr. Edwin Irwin as Jock Miggs is again one of the successes of the evening; Mr. Stanley Lathbury and Mr. Albert Thomas provide plenty of fun as Mittachip and Duffy; Mr. H. Asheton Tonge does good service as Jeremiah Inch; and other parts are well played.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the head of the bill here is a very human and thrilling dramatic episode, entitled *The Light in the Window*, finely and cleverly played by Mr. Fred Wynn and company, Mr. Wynn displaying great power and feeling as the convict. The Two Errols are remarkably smart and clever tumblers and jumpers; the Three Langfords are excellent in a well-varied dancing act; Mr. Reg. Beauchamp works ably and cleverly as a comedian; Mr. Fred S. Howard is a smart caricaturist and patterer; Miss Nelly Neil is a good singer, dancer, and bâton swinger; Mr. Will Nosam is a refined and tuneful coon impersonator; Miss Mabel Leroy is a graceful comedienne; and new pictures are shown.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Edwin Adeler is funny; Percy Curry, the original candy man, is responsible for humour; George Griffin gives a good account of himself; Ajax and George are clever gymnasts; Pueblo and Cropp, versatile artists, amuse; and Ada Jenner, the lady barber; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, in the spectacular absurdity, *Trafalgar Square*; Maurin's fountains; and Romeo and Juliet, on the Bioscope, are other attractions.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie. — Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company brings Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's entertaining comedy *Lady Frederick* to Edinburgh this week. The piece is admirably cast, and is performed with care and completeness. Mrs. Brown Potter, in the title-rôle, acts in her customary forceful style, and obtains a distinct success in her adroit handling of the dressing-room scene. Mr. Philip Cunningham's wide experience is of the greatest service in the part of Paradine Fouldes, which he plays in an easy, natural style, with a touch of feeling; Mr. Cecil Bevan is appropriately brusque as Captain Montgomerie; and an intelligent impersonation of the youthful Lord Moreton is given by Mr. Herbert Garthorne. A clever sketch of Mme. Claude, the dressmaker, is presented by Miss Phyllis Manners; and excellent work is done by Miss Medeline Du Val, Mr. C. T. Doe, and Mr. W. Barnett Parker. The piece was cordially received on the opening night, and the actors were frequently recalled. The play is preceded by Miss Ella Bryant's bright little comedy, *The Peacemaker*.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Whitehead.—Lovers of musical comedy cannot fail to be delighted with the performance of *Dorothy*, which is being played here this week under the direction of Moss' Empires, Ltd. As Geoffrey Wilder Mr. John Coates is excellent, and his songs are repeatedly encored; Mr. C. Hayden Coffin gives an artistic representation of Harry Sherwood, his fine singing being greatly appreciated; Mr. Arthur Williams keeps the house in a continual roar of merriment with his droll rendering of Lurcher; and Miss Ruth Davenport makes a charming Dorothy Bantam, and sings very sweetly and tastefully. Miss Hebe Bliss as Lydia Hawthorne is also very successful; Mr. Colin Coop portrays the jovial Squire Bantam; while a capital study of Mrs. Privet is given by Miss Emily Spiller. The other parts, including Miss Aimée Roberts as Phillis Tuppitt, Mr. Fred J. Vigay as John Tuppitt, and Mr. Tim Ryley as Tom Strutt, are all carefully played.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—A programme of more than average interest is crowding this house nightly. Miss Margaret Cooper, the charming entertainer, who has again received a Royal command, arouses much enthusiasm by her dainty and humorous rendering of songs at the piano, and the brilliant singer is recalled again and again. Mr. T. E. Dunville, with a budget of new songs and amusing patter, acts with genuine humour, and the theatre rings with laughter while he holds the stage; Mr. Brinn, a performer of surprising strength, gives a wonderful entertainment in his sketch, entitled *Pastimes on a Battleship*. His concluding feat, in which he supports a chair on which a man is seated, who fires a quick-firing gun, is an extraordinary exhibition of muscular power and nerve. Miss Nellie Merton and Mr. George Rydon are very successful in their sketch, in which some clever dancing is introduced; Mr. J. K. McFarlane, a Scotch comedian with a quiet, effective manner, is decidedly amusing, and earns a special call; Mr. Cull Pitt is an entertaining conjurer; and other contributors to the programme are Miss Gracie Grahame, a smart comedienne; Miss Alice Danby; and the Bioscope, with several beautiful films.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—The musical mélange, entitled *The Prince of Monte Carlo*, and carried through in lively fashion by Harry Roxbury and company, bulks largely on this week's programme, and proves extremely diverting; and another strong and extended musical turn is provided by the Elliott-Savonas, in their latest creation, *The Palace of Orpheus*. Naughton and Gold contribute some well-seasoned patter and smart dancing; Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne sing and dance in a remarkably vigorous style; the Hartley Wonders perform some marvellous jumping feats very cleverly; the Three Sisters Grovini uphold their renown as lightning tumblers and acrobats; the Sisters Morgan are commendable duettists and dancers; Miss Maggie Walsh greatly pleases the audience with her singing; and imitations of music-hall notables are given by Miss Ray Wallace most successfully in a quite delightful manner. Bioscope pictures round off the bill.

COOKE'S CIRCUS. — Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—Mr. Cooke had provided an extremely interesting programme for the opening of his equestrian season last Saturday evening. The circus has been entirely redecorated during the recess, and additional lights have been introduced, with the result that the house presents a splendid combination of colour and brightness. There was an outburst of enthusiasm when Mr. Cooke made his appearance in the ring, and the popular equestrian, in a neat little speech of acknowledgment, mentioned that the present season marks the thirty-third year of his management in Edinburgh, where he has always found the most generous support. Miss Ernestine Rosa Cooke evoked loud applause in her act, introducing her cake-walking horse, "Kentucky Beau," a performance noteworthy for the high degree of skill shown by the fair trainer; dashing feats of horsemanship were given by Mlle. Marietta, Mr. Frank Stephenson, and

Groves, and the Two Barelles keep the fun going with unflagging vigour; and with an admirable roller-skating performance by the Ashley Team, and a series of pictures shown by the Orient Life-Motion Picture Co., the programme lacks no element of piquancy, freshness, and excellence. Mr. W. C. Burns's many friends were glad to see him once more in the management of the house, a position he filled so well last season.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company opened here on Monday with *Madame Butterfly*, with Mme. Fanny Moody in the title-rôle. Needless to say, she scored a great success on her first visit to this town, and was called before the curtain again and again for her magnificent singing and acting. Mr. Charles Carter became a great favourite as Pinkerton; Mr. Charles Moorhouse was distinctly good as Sharples; and Miss M. Dennis was an excellent Suzuki. The chorus is a well-balanced one, and the orchestra, under the able direction of Mr. Cuthbert Hawley, does well. *Cavalleria Rusticana, Pagliacci, Faust, Lohengrin, Carmen,* and *Maritana* are also in the repertory.

GILBERT'S PALACE OF VARIETIES, VICTORIA HALL.—Manager, Mr. George Zalva.—Mr. Walter George's entertainers, The Smart Set, top the bill this week, and are loudly applauded for their refined entertainment. Mr. Fred Horsfall is a clever mimic and double-voiced vocalist; as a ventriloquist King Leo is decidedly good; Clown Loe introduces some dogs, who do some very clever things; Zenora is a hand equilibrist of no mean order; Hinson Brothers are a pair of comedians and dancers above the average; Munroe's Comedy Team provides plenty of humour and harmony; Miss Fanny Humber makes herself a favourite with her musical and dancing speciality; and the Palacescope pictures are interesting.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and company are this week appearing in two of Sir Francis Burnand's plays, *The Lady of Ostend* and *The Saucy Sally*. The former was played on Monday. Mr. Lawrence Brough as Le Baron has much to do with the success of the production, and his impersonation of the Frenchman who is for ever complicating the marital relationships of others never fails to make the desired hit. Mr. Aubrey Cheshire makes an admirable Dick Whortles; Mr. Wm. Macready a striking and amusing Toby Knockitt; Miss Maud Buchanan in the title-rôle acts with much grace and power; and Miss Betty Park makes a charming Dorothy Whortles. *At the Rising of the Moon* figures as a curtain-raiser.

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—The attraction for this week is Hardie and Von Leer's company in the dramatic success, *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*, which was played to excellent houses. John Edmonds (the inventor) was in the capable hands of Mr. John Pearson; and in the low comedy part of Samuel Hallett (from Lancashire) Mr. Chris. Mason excelled himself. The evil genius, Mr. Jonas Deane, was cleverly enacted by Mr. Fred Morgan, who was ably supported by the two burglars, Messrs. Jack Miller and W. Walmsley. Mr. Dick Winslow was the kind-hearted doctor to the life; the two Lancashire lasses were sympathetically played by Miss Rosslyn Vayne and Miss Alice Defoe. As Jane Bloomfield Miss E. Shaw frequently aroused the enthusiasm of the audience.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stead.—For the last three nights last week we had Fabbro's electric singing animated pictures. These were excellently produced, and in the entertainment were also included the Columbian Trio, singers and dancers; Miss Bessie Farrell, comedienne; Mr. Cecil Bradley as the Vagabond, &c.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Directors, the Gainsborough Empire Syndicate.—The principal turn of this week's bill is supplied by Judge's cockatoos, which give their clever exhibition of bird training. The Gondolier Glee Singers, Swift Duo (trick cyclists), Fred Watson, and pictures are also in the bill.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Leading the way this week are Albert Bellman and Lottie Moore, in some artistic vaudeville; Venturini, a Continental illusionist, has some novelties; Ryan and Hall are grotesque acrobats; Mlle. de Rose, the lady Foli, assisted by a dainty young soprano, Hilda Claremont, form one of the hits of the bill; J. H. Hawtrey is an actor-vocalist of more than average ability; Allsopp and Bekwith are amusing; the Two Clares, in the song-scena *Troubles of a Motor-car* find favour; and Edith St. Clair and Vernon's pictures complete the entertainment.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. James Bell is presenting *The Idol of Paris* here. Miss Annie Bell makes the most of the opportunities afforded in the part of Flare Flare; Mr. Leonard Aardale is a satisfactory Victor Cashelle; and Mr. Wilson Howard effectively portrays Philip D'Esterre. Other parts are in good hands.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. H. Macfarlane.—A crowded house on Monday welcomed *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, and the wit and wisdom of the character as so graphically portrayed by Mrs. Madge Carr-Cook were accorded enthusiastic plaudits of a delighted audience; Miss Rita Carlyle as the eccentric Miss Hazy and Mr. Frederick Forrest as Stubbins contribute two clever studies of character; Miss Mabel Durrant as the grim Mrs. Eichorn, and Miss Violet Vivian as the stout Dutch lady Mrs. Schultz gave well contrasted parts; a pathetic and touching performance was the Lovey Mary of Miss Christine Rayner; Mr. Gerald Henson and Miss Mary Deverell made an attractive pair of lovers; Mr. Arthur Vezin was very good as Billy Wiggs; and the young members of the cast all acted with genuine humour and appreciation of their parts; Mr. Walter M. Cameron gave due effect to the part of the erring Mr. Wiggs. The setting of the play is most picturesque in its homely fidelity.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—The D'Oyly Carte Répertoire company enter on their autumn engagement here this week, and on Monday night opened with the *Mikado* to a full house. Mr. Chas. R. Walenn's interpretation of the part of Koko was well received; and as Nanki Poo Mr. Stafford Moss's singing was good; that old favourite, Mr. Fred Billington, fully sustained his already high reputation as Pooh-Bah; and Miss Clara Dow made a fascinating Yum-Yum; as the Mikado, Mr. Leicester Tunks was highly successful; and Miss Ethel Morrison made an excellent Katisha. The other parts of Pitti-Sing, Peep-Bo, Pish-Tush, and Go-To were capably rendered by Miss Beatrice Meredith, Miss Mabel Graham, Mr. Sydney Granville, and Mr. Fred Drawater. The *Mikado* was repeated during the week, and the programme also included *The Gondoliers, Patience,* and *H.M.S. Pinafore.*

GRAND.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District Manager; Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—Miss Maud Hildyard is appearing here this week in *The Great Awakening*. The rôle of Lola Selby is very ably played by Miss Hildyard; as Molly Merton Miss Elsie Capel acts with grace and simplicity; and Mr. Manning Sproston is a gentlemanly Captain Lambert; James Selby is portrayed with weird effect by Mr. Wallis Clark; Mr. Cecil Gray cleverly doubles the roles of Sir Henry Merton and Jack; and Mr. Herbert Robinson gives a polished delineation of Guy Rogan; Mr. David Curtis fills the part of Richard Wilson with credit; and in the character of Billy Brass and Selina Worts Mr. Tracy Barrow and Miss Cissie Podmore well sustain the comic relief.

PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company opened here on Monday in *From Slave to Princess*. Mr. Austen Milroy's acting throughout as Prince Julian is excellent, and his efforts are warmly applauded. He is well seconded by Miss Dorothy Lart, who, as Vera, is admirable; Mr. A. Elwin as Michael Bardoni grasps every point of the part as Lieut. Alexis; Mr. Dermot Fitzgibbon makes the character stand out prominently; a powerful performance is supplied by Miss Agnes Verity as Princess Claudia; Patrick O'Brien is made amusing by Mr. Harry Benson, and he and Miss Kitty Sinclair as Amelia cause much laughter.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. John Gerant and company are here playing *At Duty's Call*, in which Mr. Gerard gives a strong delineation of Harold Alison; and Mr. Charles Calvert supplies good impersonation of the hero, Captain George Alison; Miss Beatrice Western is pleasing as the heroine Dora; and Miss Eva Belle as the Maid Mary gives a lively impersonation; Salema is finely played by Miss Ada Roscoe; Mr. Ernest St. John presents a stately picture of General Gordon; Mr. Forester Harvey as Terry O'Halloron is funny; Mr. Frank P. Morton as Jack Spencer gives an exciting display of boxing, with Mr. Calvert as his opponent.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Here this week is the *New East Lynne*, presented by Mr. W. W. Kelly's company. Miss Beth Elliott as Lady Isabel gives an affecting impersonation of the character; and the part of Archibald Carlyle is capitally filled by Mr. Frederick Harker; Mr. Richard Nugent as Murty O'Flynn provides much amusement, and is ably seconded by Mr. Byron Pedley. Other notable members of the cast are Messrs. W. H. Garbois, M. Talbot, Lawrence Stevenson, and Misses Sophy Shenton, Josephine Gwynne, and Guinivere Shilton.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Another capital programme includes the name of Lottie Lennox, who is very popular; Syd May is decidedly successful in his wrestling skit; Mabel Bardine and company present *Nell of the Halls*, a dramatic playlet by Marion Russell, and are cordially received; Chas. Steuart's company is responsible for a capital turn in *The Water Cure*; in this Miss Nellie Bowman appears with much success. Ted and May Hopkins, Welsh humorists, are very amusing, and their little comedy act, *Wedding Bells*, is pleasing; Chas. Stanton, double-voiced vocalist, takes well and is much appreciated; the Prince Milner Trio are clever hoop manipulators, and their wire-walking display proves of equal interest; Marie Clissold has a sweet voice, and sings well; Johnny Walker is a comedian of ability and takes well; the match between Gotch and Hackenschmidt is finely depicted on the Bioscope.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Lady Mansel and juveniles top the bill here this week, and present an amusing turn; Sandy M'Nab is assisted by Miss Bessie Arthur in a side-splitting sketch called *The Egyptian Mummy*, Sandy impersonating one of the defunct Pharaohs; Dorothy Dundas sings pleasingly; she has a good soprano voice. Lettie and Florence, duettists and dancers, please both the eye and the ear. Maxey and Pete do some surprising feats of trick cycling; beautifully illustrated songs are sung by the Haverleys; Bert Weston, with witty jokes and topical songs, does well; Kloof and Ramsay discourse sweet music from odd instruments; Roxborough and Wright present a humorous sketch called *My Little One;* and the Bioscope winds up a pleasing entertainment.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—R. G. Knowles is in excellent form here; Frank Elliston and company cause roars of laughter in the farce *Aunt Matilda;* a clever little girl is Baby Vi Davis, who contributes three diversified songs; Dave Carter, Irish tenor, sings with much credit; Mooney and Holbein contribute a quaint turn, and are enthusiastically received; Nash and Noel are a smart couple of "cross-talkers" and neat dancers; Don and Mabel give a Scotch vocal scena, *Sandy's Return*, which is well received; and Ted Cowan is a clever comedian.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—Arthur Roberts heads the bill here and creates undounded fun in the farcical sketch *Till Sunday;* Miss Ruby Celeste and Mr. Wm. Rokeby give able support. George D'Albert is a great favourite, and his clever topical songs go well; Marie Collins secures a good share of appreciation; the painting and ventriloquial turn of Professor Thornbury is exceedingly smart; a neat, clever, and daring trapeze act is that of the Sisters Geretti; Ruby Bijou is a smart dancer, her bare-foot dance being particularly clever; the operatic duets of Webb and Branston are excellently sung; and new Bioscope pictures conclude an attractive programme.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Dr. Walford Bodie's performance here is both instructive and amusing. His bloodless-surgery experiments with the assistance of electricity are truly wonderful, and his hypnotic display is simply side-splitting. Lilian Dundas and company appear in a playlet of the pathetic order, entitled *Nance Arden;* Lilian Dundas sustains the title-part with great success and is well supported. The Three Delaries give a clever performance on trapeze and rings; a good vocal turn is done by the Chas. Fisher Pocket Opera company, who render some excerpts from *Il Trovatore* in excellent style; Watson's Royal fox terriers are introduced by Ida Kessanly, and play an exciting football match; Jack Smiles, comedian and dancer, is well received, his dancing being specially enjoyed; James Stewart, the tramp at the piano, wins favour; and the conjuring performance by Sydney Lee fully merits the appreciation of it shown. Some fine pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—The Three Pirmans' thre-bar act proves them to be athletes of merit; Maxford and O'Neill create much amusement by their eccentricities and cross-talk; the Sisters Belmoir sing "catchy" duets in fine style, and conclude a good turn with a clever skipping-rope dance; the Twin Sisters M'Lean are well received, and their top-boot dancing is much appreciated; Marquis and Mignonette provide a refined comedy act which causes great merriment; and a series of animated pictures conclude an interesting and attractive entertainment.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—Ring and Clear are extremely clever and amusing, and do well here; Douglas and Clarke's efforts are crowned with success; and Ethel Dancy is a delightful ballad vocalist; and Marion Blake is a clever comedienne. The Bioscope, with the Irish Fairy film, The Leprechaun, completes an entertaining programme.

GLOSSOP.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's powerful company, under the direction of Teddy Myles, was here the first three nights of the week with the drama *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Nellie Thorne-Hallam in the title-rôle scores a well-merited success; Mr. Frederick Healey presents Sir Marmaduke Seaton in dignified style; the rôle of Captain Herbert Seaton is in the capable hands of Mr. Herbert M. King, who gives a manly portrayal; Mr. Wm. Fraser-Brunner as Philippe Malvoisin, the unprincipled Frenchman, is a great success; the irrepressible Paddy Boyle is rendered by Mr. Myles himself in characteristic style; and Mr. Arthur Curzon as Robert Saunders and Mr. Victor Garnett Vayne as Sammy Sharp are all that could be desired. Of Eleanor Deane Miss Lily Annesley gives a sympathetic study; little Frances Maddocks is a pathetic Mona Deane; and Miss Queenie Fraser-Brunner adds the necessary spice of humour as Sally Sloper. *A Message from Mars* was billed for Thursday.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—Miss Marguerite Broadfoote makes a first appearance and a decided hit here. Tiny Arnold is also a favourite; Henry and Tyler have a sensational trick cyclist act; Miss Lallie Brooke is an excellent protean performer; Arthur Royce, comedian at the piano, goes well; the Paul Hesse Trio, in acrobatic wire act, are good; Johnson and Best, in *A Queer Customer*, are applauded; Joe Dale, chorus vocalist, is well assisted by the audience; and Nell Brough, comedienne and sifflleuse, is smart. The Palacescope concludes.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. R. T. Rea.—The picture show here increases in favour.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Fred Greaves.—Animated pictures were presented here on Monday to a packed house by the Franco-British Filmograph Co. A capital variety turn is provided by Miss Lillie Le Main, a clever comedienne and dancer, whose singing and dancing are loudly applauded.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. W. Nightingale; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Nightingale.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company is appearing in *The Coal King* this week. In the title-rôle Mr. Ulick Burke is excellent; Mr. A. Clifton Alderson makes a manly hero, and acts well; Mr. Leslie Vyner excellently depicts the villain, Walter Hartford; Mr. Sam Roberts is very humorous as Jim Williams; Miss Hinton also sustains a good comedy part; Mr. Frank Dalton gives a clever character study of Dick Shirley; and Miss Winifred Love displays ability as Grace Shirley.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—A crowded house on Monday greeted the excellent turns presented here this week. Leonard Darrell, the Canadian log-roller, is repeating his success of last week; the Three Ohmys, bareback equestrians, give as good an exhibition of horsemanship as anyone could wish; Miss Lily introduces a highly-trained performing horse; Les Currys appear to advantage in a musical speciality; Harry Wright is successful with his songs; Nelly Gannon is a pleasing comedienne; Sira is a very clever one-legged acrobat; Arian and Ostara are daring Gymnasts; Doodles and Bishop are as funny as ever; and the push-ball match in the arena lake is very popular.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, the Great Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran.—An excellent series of comic and dramatic pictures are being shown this week. The illustrated song "Not because your hair is curly" is very popular.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—*Her Road to Ruin* is being produced by Mr. Fredk. Melville's company. The play is admirably staged, and the cast is an exceptionally strong one. Miss Beatrice Edwards appears to great advantage as Jess Willoughby, the girl who went "the road to ruin"; Mr. Henry Wolston acquits himself with distinction in the rôle of Frank Temple, the heroic young curate; Mr. Alex. Bradley plays with excellent effect the unpopular part of Philip Hardy; May Willoughby is charmingly enacted by Miss Alice Bowes; Mr. V. R. C. Moors submits a clever study of the poor journalist, Tom Wells; Miss Nellie Bonser lends herself admirably to the part of Mary Dawson, the girl from Lancashire; the comedy parts of Billy Boots and Jeanie Crackling are capably taken by Mr. Harry Talbot and Miss Marie Wright; and others of the cast are successful.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Wild, Willie, and West, who top the bill here this week, prove very amusing in their acrobatic scena *The Bounding Navvies;* a combination of vocalists, who style themselves "This" Quartette, win wide popularity with harmony and fun combined; Miss Lily Lonsdale, soprano, renders her numbers with true musical talent; Ernie Myers, comedian, meets with well-merited applause; Jules Kiaro is a clever equilibrist; Billy Hobbs, coon impersonator and dancer, is good; and pictures by the Bioscope make up a capital entertainment.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Mr. and Mrs. Berzac present several performing ponies and an unridable mule. The animals are well trained, and their various tricks afford great amusement. O'Malley and Brown create continuous laughter with their sketch *You're Still a Friend of Mine;* Fraser and Haley are pleasing vocalists; Bugler Carr executes some difficult feats, which have been enthusiastically received; the Brothers St. Clair are popular trick-cyclists; Argo excels as a mimic of animal sounds; and some capital pictures by the Dromoscope complete.

TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, the Greenock Corporation.—Bennell's B. B. Picture Company commenced their second week on Monday. The pictures, which are both instructive and amusing, are keenly appreciated by large audiences, and the instrumental selections by Mr. Willie Hayward are also a feature of the entertainment.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—The very interesting dramatised version of H. S. Merriman's novel "With Edged Tools" is being presented by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh's company. Mr. William F. Grant portrays the fine English character of Jack Meredith with impressive force; Mr. Chas. Hartopp admirably realises Guy Oscard; Mr. J. A. Rosier makes a dignified Sir John Meredith; Mr. Campbell Goldsmid accomplishes sound acting in the difficult part of the scheming Victor Durnovo; Miss Phyllis Relph as Jocelyn Gordon achieves complete success in the emotional scenes that fall to her lot; Miss Marie Leonhard is equally good as the frivolous Millicent Cheyne; and Miss Isabel Grey as Lady Cantourne, Miss Violet Thorold as Lady Herries, Miss Frances Wolveston as Marie, and Mr. J. Pockett as Maurice Gordon also contribute good work.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Dave Samuels's mixture of Scottish and Hebrew comedy is both entertaining and original; the King's College Boys' solo and harmonised items are alike excellent; Mlle. Yetta is a clever performer on the wire; Miss Mamie Morris is a pleasing vocalist and dances prettily; Orpheus, a talented musician, performs on a variety of instruments; the Whittakers appear in a laughable burlesque, *Dick Whittington and His Cat;* and Harry Levaine, an eccentric comedian, retains his popularity.

GUERNSEY. — THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S. — Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. T. Morton Powell's company in *Greed of Gold*. Mr. H. C. Ward capitally sustains Harry Hood; Mr. W. Gunning is Arthur Erroll; Mr. Sid Bryant divertingly represents Culey Snig; and the arduous rôle of Tom Welstead is cleverly depicted by Mr. James Jarrett. Miss J. D. Hicks (Mrs. Maxwell), Miss Turner (Dora), Miss Hughes (Cecil), and Miss M. W. Knight (Patty) are all successful.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling. — Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's company is here this week with *Who is She?* Mr. Graham Woods gives an intelligent rendering of King Vladimir; Mr. E. Hill-Mitchelson's acting as the scheming Prince is finished; Mr. Sinclair Holden is successful as Captain Gower; Mr. Arthur McCulloch's Sergeant Metroff is a soldierly interpretation; Mr. J. Russell Bogue's Chang-Lee a good character study; and Miss Violet Carlyle is a decided success as the heroine. Miss Mary Collier is a sprightly Sarette, Miss Muriel Inglis an impressive Keta, and Miss Alice Barber is resourceful as the Countess.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are pleasing big houses this week. Cosgrove and Burns, two humorous artists, and the Sisters Vera, two clever juveniles, are also in the bill.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The Gaudsmidt Bros. are making their first appearance in England at the Palace this week. They are a couple of clever and agile tumblers and balancers, assisted by two highly-trained acrobatic dogs. Their turn is smart and well received. Marion Fletcher, a charming young ballad singer, has a capital voice; the Three Royal Tempels, vocalists, are another good turn; Bowman and Morton appear in a comedy duologue, *She Loved a Policeman;* Bromley and Fontein score a success in *The Man Behind the Music Stand;* as a boy whistler and bird mimic, Jim Cheetham is entertaining; Ross and Grayson introduce some extraordinary piano playing; and Tom Yorke, character comedian, and the Pictures, conclude.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Wilton Heriot and company are exceptionally good in a protean comedy sketch, *An Anglo-American Alliance;* La Belle Greta is excellent in spirited Spanish dances; the Hyde and Cody Trio are clever and amusing in an acrobatic comedy turn; Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd evoke laughter in their sketch, *The Tree of Truth;* and Damerell and Rutland are warmly applauded in their sketch, *Clever Mr. Fugg.* Harry Ford, comedian; Stanley and Vandyke, in a musical comedy sketch, *A Broken Promise,* and Arthur Stacey, comedian and dancer, together with the Bioscope, complete the bill.

HANLEY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*The Merry Widow* is here, played by Mr. George Edwardes' company. Miss Clara Evelyn, who plays the Merry Widow, is extremely fascinating; Mr. Basil S. Foster plays Danillo ably; Mr. Lionel Victor is good as Baron Popoff; Mr. Haigh Jackson as Jolidon is excellent; Mr. Tom Redmond is decidedly funny as Nisch; Mr. Albert Kavanagh as Cascada is commendable; Mr. Lennox Coombs is a smart Brioche; Mr. Grafton Williams is capital as Novikovitch; Mr. J. S. Durant makes a good Khadja; Mr. Ernest Spalding is a quaint waiter; Miss Mary Grey as Natalie sings and acts finely; and Miss Dora Langham sings and dances charmingly; Miss Nora Barry, Miss Suzanne Selborne, and Miss Mary Morison are well cast. Mr. Douglas Millar is general-manager, and Mr. Harrison Frewin is a most capable musical-director.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Freddie French and company are here, in a farce called *Votes;* and Florence St. Schuberth, burlesque actress; Bert Lytton, who sings a catchy ditty; Milner and Storey, who make a tremendous hit; Arthur Saxon Trio, in a marvellous act; Regan and Ryan, comedians with really smart business; Tom Edwards, who makes his original ventriloquial show; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, in a screaming farce, *A Mare's Nest;* Lily Esplin, comedienne; the Saletos, in a decidedly clever head and hand balancing act; and Fred Bronte, comedian. The Bioscope is interesting.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith.—Conn and Conrad, who top the bill, are a clever and amusing pair; Mostol contributes a pleasing musical act; and Lauri Wylie, with his living marionette, proves a great favourite; Walter Ellis and company appear to advantage in a sketch, *The Sleepwalker;* Vandinoff is a very clever lightning artist; and Edie Tennis and Gertie Laun are pleasing duettists in really tuneful songs; Fremel and Fremel are eccentrics; and Jessica Brooke completes the bill.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney Carter; General-Manager, Mr. F. D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Parker.—Several very interesting films are on view here this week, notably the Eucharistic Congress Procession from the Westminster Cathedral, Our Indian Empire is an instructive series, and there are several comic "screamers." Master Gordon Illingworth is a clever boy comedian.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Lessee and General Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—Another series of pictures is this week being shown to well-filled houses.

HASTINGS. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—Messrs. Glenister and Wood-Ingram's company attracted excellent houses on its visit last week in the amusing comedy *Jack Straw*, the centre of attraction being Miss Florence St. John, who submitted an admirably rendered embodiment of the vulgar and rich Mrs. Parker-Jennings. The comedy was preceded by *A Long Journey*. This week we have the first visit to Hastings of Mr. Lester Collingwood's company in the realistic play *When London Sleeps*, written up to date. It is staged with every attention to detail under the management of Mr. Fred Bernard, who also gives an effective impersonation of Police-constable Stone, A42. Miss Mabel Scudamore obtains well-deserved applause for her attractive performance as Queenie Carruthers; Miss Lilla Wilde acts cleverly as Hilda Carode; Miss Bella Power is very humorous as the Signorina; Miss Mona Hall is charmingly vivacious as Carrie Jones; Mr. Edward E. Ashley as David Engleheart gives a popular presentment; Mr. James Hare plays forcefully as Captain Rodney Haynes; Mr. Ernest C. Edwardes acts well as Mr. Furnaby Fuller; and Bob Jones has a good exponent in Mr. F. E. Thomas. The comedy provided by Mr. Douglas Campbell as Sammy Blyth and Mr. Frank Howard as the Hon. Bertie is clever.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Mr. E. W. Selman, a humorous comedian, opens the programme. An amusing sketch is given by Miss Maude Cliffe and Miss Eveline Vanstan; a clever male impersonator is seen in Miss Georgie Mansell; the Bioscope provides some interesting Alhambra pictures; Billy Ross and company are successful in their Irish comedy act, *The Hot Member;* the Yokels introduce a laughable musical sketch, *Ye Village Revels;* Mr. J. H. Milburn is a burlesque actor and comedian of marked ability; Slyvene goes through an extraordinary series of feats as an equilibrist, assisted by Mlle. Florence; and some clever mimetic sketches of music hall celebrities are shown by Miss Lill Elfreda.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Joseph Poole's pictorial productions are attracting good audiences. London Cameron and Maude Durham, Johnny O'Rourke, the Sisters Eileen and Maynie, Steve Cooke, the Seddons, the Tissots, Miss Frederica's performing terriers, and Mr. Bert G. Berry as guide add much to the evening's enjoyment.

PUBLIC HALL.—Lessees, The People's Picture Palace Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local Manager, Mr. Harry W. James.—The animated pictures exhibited here this week are proving very interesting to large audiences.

ST. LEONARDS PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. Elvey Thomas.—Ibsen's interesting play *The Master Builder* is being produced here by Mr. Leigh Lovel and Miss Octavia Kenmore's company. It held the boards for the first three matinées of the week only. In the title-rôle Mr. Leigh Lovel was excellent; a good sketch of Dr. Herdal was given by Mr. Vernon West; a capital character study of the architect was submitted by Mr. Claud W. Sykes; Mr. E. Stanley Yorkes acquitted himself admirably as Ragnar Brovik; for a quiet study of Aline Solness Miss Katherine Maynard was responsible; and as Hilda Wangel Miss Octavia Kenmore played with grace and finish, and Miss Gladys Morris was dainty and charming as Kaia Fosli.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Barnsley.—Mr. Ian Maclaren's company occupy the Garrick this week with a round of Shakespearean plays, presented with the scholarly insight and good taste for which their work is celebrated. Monday night was devoted to *The Merchant of Venice*. Mr. Ian Maclaren's appearance, his command of passionate expression, and his long practice in Shakespeare served to make his Shylock one of the most interesting; Mr. J. V. Bryant, a handsome Gratiano, submitted a fine piece of work; Mr. George Relph scored in the character of Bassanio, being both powerful and realistic; Mr. Stafford Dawson gave a very amusing reading of Launcelot Gobbo; Mr. Matthew Boulton was remarkably good as the Prince of Morocco; and Mr. Guy Cunningham was admirable in his portrayal of the much-enduring Antonio. Miss Muriel Dole was a delightful and engaging Portia, speaking her lines with due regard for effect and finish. The play is well dressed and mounted, Mr. Stafford Dawson being a highly efficient stage-manager.

HORWICH.—PRINCES' THEATRE.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. Harry Tilbury is paying a return visit this week with *The Blind Foundling*. Mr. Victor Rea plays Gerald Dalton with feeling; Mr. Fred Owen as Parson Ray makes an ideal curate; Mr. Horatio Sinclair's Mark Redman is painted sufficiently black; Jasper Waterford is safe in the hands of Mr. Edward Brown; Jaikes Romano is played well by Mr. Geo Walkley; and Mr. Tilbury as Dick Dobbins has a part that suits him to perfection. Miss Annie Newall plays Viola Waterford, the curate's lover, with great feeling; Miss Arline T. George as Winnie Dobbins helps to keep the comedy going; and little Phyllis as Fairy, the blind foundling, is delightful, her efforts being very natural. Miss Belle Tilbury as Isabel does full justice to the part.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—Houses packed from floor to roof are nightly cheering the one and only Vesta Tilley, whose second visit if possible has been marked by even greater enthusiasm than the first. The famous male impersonator expressed her appreciation in a graceful and aptly-worded little speech on Monday night. Others appearing are Arthur Croxon; Miss Mildred Bryan; Miss Barbara Babington, comedienne; Mulvey and Miriam, comedy entertainers; the Two Cabiacs, acrobats; and some interesting films on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*The Education of Elizabeth* is the *pièce de résistance* at the Grand this week, and Roy Horniman's play has created a good impression. Miss Winifred Ingham fills the title-rôle with distinction; as Harry Fairfax Mr. Bert Morley plays with success; Mr. E. E. Norris scores heavily as Reggie; Mr. Whelby is well delineated by Mr. Fred Castleman; the Lucy Middleton of Miss T. Russell Spiers is an effective piece of work. *A Brother's Portrait* precedes *The Education of Elizabeth.*

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; General-Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—Mr. N. V. Norman's company opened here on Monday with Stanley Graham's *Under the Red Robe*. Gil de Berault was a fine picture presented by Mr. Norman, the various nuances of the character being finely brought out; Miss Beatrice Wilson was a delightful Renie; the Richelieu of Mr. Alf. Gray was a piece of good work; and Miss Malcolm Barnett shone in the rôle allotted to her. *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* is also billed.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Morton's, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*The Sailor's Wedding* has proved a centre of attraction at this popular house this week. Mr. C. W. Standing played the part of Lieut. Drake with fine finish; Mr. Hodgson Taylor was an acceptable Giovanni Ferici; the Mary Bellini of Miss Dulcie Greatwich being a good performance also. Mr. Cecil Klein did his best as Sir Victor Lascelles, and pleased the

house; the Ninette of Miss C. Bartram was a good piece of acting; and Mr. Walter Pemberton was a lively enough son of the sea. The remaining rôles were well filled.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Tom Lunn.—Effie White in her very pretty kaleidoscope dances, and Miss Violet Hope in effective classical dances, are the leading items here this week. The Tintos introduce a clever speciality; the Louisana Trio, coloured coon dancers, Robins and Collier, Harry Nelson, Minnie Warner, and Maddison Bros. complete a good company.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Appearing here are the Four Regals, Bros. Idento, Sim Maree, Minnie D'Auban, Eva Ward, Ryder Davis, and the Neilsens.

THE CIRCUS.—Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—The run of the animated pictures here, under the management of Mr. May, is drawing to a close. K. Scott Barrie is specially engaged this week.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—*The Diver's Luck*, is being presented by Mr. Andrew Emm's company. Miss Dora Pass as Helen Wyngate presents a careful study of the part; the rôle of Martin Faber loses nothing in the hands of Mr. Harry Cullenford; Mr. Fred A. Marston gains favour as Barney Bawn, and is capitally worked up to by Miss Pearl Noyle as Peggy Mahoney; and Mr. William J. Miller has been aptly chosen for the part of Tom Hall.

IPSWICH.—LYCEUM.—Mr. George Edwardes company with *The Merry Widow* is here the latter part of the week.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The Ten Loonies are paying a return visit, and are as amusing as ever; the Three Orros perform some marvellous and graceful feats on their silver chains; Haydee's Marionettes, in the miniature vaudeville theatre, are cleverly manipulated; Frank and Free have some amusing patter and a very novel dance; Stacey and Williams have a duologue illustrative of family squabbles; Charles Williams claims to be the champion all-round jumper; Madge Allen dances and sings well; and Delafoire gives a turn with the xylophone. The Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company is here with *Second to None*. Mr. T. Balfour makes an interesting Sir Reginald; Mr. F. F. Loyd plays with force the part of Captain Philip Mannering; Mr. Layland is quite at home as Lieut. Archer Ballater; Mr. J. G. Maine gives a good account of Sergt. Jack Horseman; Mr. Williams as Harry Wilding is all that can be desired; Mr. Halling carefully handles the rôle of Frank Wilding; Miss Ward plays Nell Greystone successfully; and Miss Carrie Yandell is good as Norah; Mr. Allan Carruthers as Private Flutter and Mr. Geo. H. Davis as Joe Ruggles keep the audience in good humour.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Dr. Seaton.—This place of amusement is drawing good audiences with a change of pictures. Miss May Lewis, comedienne; Mr. J. E. Waldow, clog and top-boot dancer; and Jack Shepherd, handcuff expert, assisted by Miss Ruby Vesta, supply the variety.

KETTERING.—AVENUE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—The attraction this week is Mr. E. H. Knight's company in *The Lighthouse Robbery*. The hero, Tom Manley, is admirably portrayed by Mr. Broughton; Mr. Percy Beresford makes a capital villain, and is well supported by Mr. Wm. Annesley as William Farren. Mr. Arthur Beaufort contributes some excellent comedy as Sam Kidder; Miss Hilda Baynton gives a charming rendition of Rose Prescott; and Miss Lillian Bales is deserving of praise for her acting as Ruth Manley.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Mr. George Robertson's company appeared the first three nights this week in *A Message from Mars*. The part of Horace Parker was taken in capital style by Mr. Gordon Starkey; the Messenger was impressively represented by Mr. Lionel Yaldwyn; and Mr. Percy Tyler did well as the Tramp. Miss Edith King played artistically as Minnie Templer; and the other parts were well impersonated. *Turn Him Out* was the farce.

HIPPODROME.—Miss May Mars, a very pleasing vocalist, heads the bill here; Messrs. Muir and Bartlett appear in a clever comedy sketch, *The Collar Stud*; Mr. J. A. Wilson, comedian, and his dog "Towser," are once more with us, and are as popular as ever; Crosby and Walker, comedians, are also paying a return visit; George Lawrence, comedian; Cleland, comedy juggler; Bessie Lind, comedienne; and the Hippograph, depicting *The White Suit*, complete the bill.

LEAMINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—The management here are this week providing their patrons with a vaudeville programme, and the excellent houses show that the change is most acceptable. A good all-round bill is headed by Mephisto, whose remarkable performance of original illusions is loudly applauded. Lisbon and Barker appear in a clever act entitled *Extemporising*, which evokes roars of laughter; Vestor, termed "master musician," is quite a host in himself. Bert Bowden, quaint comedian, provides much amusement; and amongst other turns are Renee Grahame, a charming vocalist; Aake and Alexander, entertaining comedy artists; and Cliffe Rock, an excellent baritone. The Premier Imperial pictures add interest to the programme.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. Edward Terry was accorded a most enthusiastic reception here on Monday when he opened a week's visit after a long absence. *Fiander's Widow* was the play, and Mr. Terry's conception of the character of Farmer Sharpe will rank among his best efforts. The name-part is a really clever study by Miss Edith Coleman; whilst Mr. William Dexter, Mr. Edmund Hollick, and Miss Sophie Lingwood, amongst others in a strong cast, may be mentioned for exceedingly good work. *The Telephone* was presented as curtain-raiser, and was well received. *Sweet Lavender* and *The Magistrate* are also billed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—Sensational dramatic fare continues here, Mr. Morton Powell's company this week presenting *When It Was Dark*. A strong central figure is that of the clergyman hero, the Rev. Basil Gortre, and in this character Mr. Wilfred Lyndon achieves success; Mr. Haldane Dalton is a strong and effective figure as the millionaire villain, Schwabe; and Miss Ethel Griffies interprets the part of Gertrude Hunt in a style which leaves little to be desired. Mr. J. Armitage, Mr. Charles Brandon, and Miss Marie Barrett are also prominent with good work.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—At this hall the Seven Perezoffs indulge in a clever and novel juggling exhibition, which arouses enthusiasm; Lillian is a dancer and expert cyclist of merit, and wins prolonged applause; Belrose and De Velin are delightful duettists; Tom Gott is a humorist of merit; and that clever pair Barrett and Knowles are also high in popular favour. Of the rest, the Stowe Brothers and C. E. Stelling are very prominent.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Very welcome is the visit of that talented couple Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney, and their contribution, a duologue entitled *009 West*, is a much-enjoyed feature of the programme. Colonel Bordeverry is doing a sensational shooting exhibition; the Strolling Players are strong favourites with a neat vocal turn; Rich and Rich and J. P. Ling subscribe capital humorous entertainment; acrobatic feats and clever trick-cycling are the specialities of the Cumberlands; Elsie Robey is vastly amusing at the piano; and the Three Cape Girls, in a big-boot dance, and Reicheu's dogs are also very popular turns.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—That wonderful mare "Princess Trixie" is the star attraction here, and her remarkable exhibition is arousing the liveliest interest; Jack and Evelyn live up to their reputation as comedy entertainers; a laughable farce, *Poor Arthur*, by Fred Sinclair's company, goes well; and Henri Bekker once again pleases with a mystifying turn. Harry Taft and Dave O'Toole are popular in different styles; and good entertainment is also subscribed by Lennard and Vereker, the Brothers Bradshaw, the Four Rios, and Dolly Harmer.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Tom and Marie Motramo lead here, and once again score heavily with vocal comedy; Fred Curran is very popular with vocal efforts; Chas. J. Johnson, comedian, also does well; there is an entertaining novelty by Walker and Lake; and Steel and Laing, Tom Joy, and Beatty and Blanche also contribute much-enjoyed items.

LEICESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—The popular domestic drama *The Convict's Daughter* is being presented here this week by Mr. Frank Bertram's company on a return visit. Mr. Bertram displays great versatility and cleverness in his delineation of Weary Willie, Michael Grahame, Convict 99, and "A Mystery"; Miss Lillian Deane as Edith gains the sympathies of the audience with a portrayal of special merit; Mr. Escott Robson is thoroughly effective as the evil genius Jasper Thorne; Mr. Walter Graham is a success as Harold Trevelyan; Miss Grace Emery as Betty Hyne and Mr. Willie Black as Patrick O'Laragan are very good in the comedy parts, creating plenty of merriment; Miss Nellie Waddington is capital as Marian Thorne; and Mr. William Burgess as Frederick Neville is also to be complimented. The scenic effects are well worked.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Topping this week's excellent programme are Bella and Bijou, the diverting and extremely smart comedy duo, who create roars of merriment, especially with *The Suffragette*. At the other end is L'Incognita, whose remarkable powers as a soprano vocalist earn for her a fine reception. George Newburn gives lifelike imitations of various stars, and scores a well-deserved success; Thora is seen and heard to considerable advantage in a delightful ventriloquial sketch, *The Lady and the Page*; Charles Kitts and Rhoda Windrum score their usual success in their mirth-provoking and well-worked military contretemps, *The Cuckoo*; Fred Earle, a first-class comedian, maintains his popularity in a couple of funny songs; the Delomes dance in a manner rarely seen in Leicester; Leonie Dixon is an entertaining comedienne and speciality dancer; Ralph and Nellie Howard are also to be complimented on their comedy musical act *Military Mad*; and the Bioscope depicts the dramatic episode The Old Schoolmaster.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The popular sketch artist, Miss Carlotta De Yonson, and her company, star here this week, producing *The Red Triangle*, founded on the adventures of Sexton Blake. The plot is well conceived, and keeps the attention of the audience throughout interested. Miss Carlotta De Yonson as Lilla Gray, Mr. C. Douglas Carlile as Sexton Blake, Mr. Charles A. Carlile as Foster, and Master Lee Gilbert as Tinker, are all good. A smart aquatic display is given by Kirk and Sarasaki, the lady acrobats under water; Captain Devereaux returns, and scores a well-deserved success with his clever and novel dog sensation, *Canine Streets of London*; Beal and Broadway are capital vocalists and smart dancers; Julian Ross is a popular light comedian; Lil Hartley, descriptive vocalist and comedienne, is also entertaining; Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is a special feature with the Star Football pictures, The Stone Quarry, and The Village Marathon Race.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. R. Craig.—A liberal complement of moving pictures here this week includes such interesting films as A Free Pardon, Niagara Falls in Winter, An Attractive Catch, A Motherless Child, The Tramp's Daughter, and Paper Tearing. Harry King, light comedian and chorus singer, is starring here; and Sam Herbert, vocalist and bone soloist, also appears.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Stanyon.—Mr. Will Catlin's Royal Pierrots are meeting with well-deserved success here. This week they are introducing for the first time in Leicester a new musical comedietta, by W. Catlin, entitled *The Military Dandies*, which occupies the second part of the programme. The dresses are smart, like the show; and Will Ambro, Will Catlin, Sid Frere, Harry Glynn, Chas. Paulson, Jackson Browne, George Houghton, and Tom Catlin introduce songs and dances with gratifying success.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is on a welcome return visit here with *A Broken Heart*. Mr. Harry Foxwell submits a masterly impersonation of John Barnard; Mr. Geo. Newall displays ability in the rôle of Stephen Railton; Mr. Edward Rawlinson is an admirable Gash Gills; Miss Sheila Walsh a charming Mary Barnard; Miss Eileen Bamford a winsome Grace Fanshawe; and the humour of the play is well looked after by Mr. Will Lindsay as Tony Tibbets and Miss Dora Hargreaves as Sally Tavner.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr John Darlison.—A visit from Mr. William Maclaren, with his production of *Claudian*, has been one of the chief attractions of the season. The title-rôle is impressively acted by Mr. Maclaren, and Miss Lily C. Bandmann invests the part of Almida with due effect. The Holy Clement is well represented by Mr. George Roberts; Mr. Bernard Elliott fittingly portrays the Tetrarch Thariogalus; Mr. Douglas Earle as Agazil does sterling work; and Mr. C. T. Chaloner misses none of the humour of Beloe. Miss Ruth Trafford is quite commendable as Edessa, and Mlle. Stella Dorin's cymbal dance lends charm to a very realistic scene; while the many remaining characters are adequately interpreted, and the play is carefully mounted in all its details.

LINCOLN.—ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ernest Pope.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company, in *Diana of Dobson's*, scored a triumph on Monday, and business has been big. As Diana Miss Violet Vorley presents a very thorough piece of work, always absorbing and convincing; Mr. Briscoe Owen's Bretherton is a cleverly worked-out study; and Miss Hilda Francks creates much amusement as the designing Aunt. Mr. Philips Sanders as Grimlay and Mr. George Wyley as Fellows are very effective. *A Fire of Straw* precedes.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. R. R. Black.—*The White Hand of a Woman*, strongly played by Bernard Mervyn and company, is the top line this week, and makes a great impression; Leo and Roland present a very good equilibristic act; and Johnny Dwyer enhances his big reputation as a local favourite, as do the Donatos. The Evalos here are amusing, and Mr. E. has a novelty act of merit. Cliff and Kean, Francis Earle, and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux also please.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—An excellent presentation of *The Girls of Gottenberg*, has been given here during the week, delighted and large audiences revelling in the eccentricities of Mr. Edmund Payne, who, as Max, was in fine form. Happy Fanny Fields, with her lively, merry style, had a flattering reception, and earned encores for her songs; another entirely acceptable character was that of Clementine, represented by Miss Maisie Gay; Mr. Leslie Holland acted and sang with sound judgment in the part of Prince Otto; Miss Thelma Raye made a pleasing Elsa; and Miss Florence Phillips as Lucille danced in a manner that earned for her rounds of applause. The staging, dresses, and chorus were all excellent.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—*The Mollusc* paid another visit here this week, Miss Annie Hughes repeating her delightful picture of Mrs. Baxter; Miss Lillias Waldegrave distinguished herself as Miss Roberts; and the parts of Mr. Baxter and Tom Kemp were worthily undertaken by Messrs. Alick Chumley and Athol Stewart. The curtain-raiser was *A Bit of Old Chelsea*, in which Miss Annie Hughes and Messrs. Chumley, C. A. White, and F. Hartley took part.

ROTUNDA THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Here this week we have had *The Prodigal Son*, presented by Mr. George D. Day's company. Mr. Albert Ward played the part of Oscar Stephensson with much effect; Magnus found an able exponent in Mr. H. J. Crane; thanks were due to Miss Pauline Emeric for her exceedingly able impersonations of Thora and Elin; Miss Pearla Gardner agreeably presented Helga; and good work also came from Messrs. Jackson Hayes (Stephen), James English (Oscar Neilsen), Norman Liddell (Director of Casino), Miss Florence Lovell (Anna), and Miss Kate Osborne (Margaret Neilsen).

STAR THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—*The Way of the World* has proved a strong attraction here this week, Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company having presented it. A matinée was given on Thursday. Commendation was earned by Mr. Herbert Skardon for his able Cecil Hardy, a part which met with general acceptance; Miss Sidney Crowe delighted everybody with her charming picture of Lady Adela Hardy, the audience frequently showing their appreciation by applauding loudly; Mr. Victor Gorden made a powerful Captain Fred Slade; Mr. Clarence Temple was well placed as Matthew Malyon; Mr. D'Arcy Kelway amused greatly with his Joe Sparrow; and others worthy of mention were Messrs. Pat Quin (Sir John Hardy), Augustus Hammond (Horatio Bluff), Miss Marie Fontaine (Kate Montague), Miss Violet Vivienne (Pollie Belle), and Miss Edith Wynne (Waitress).

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Large audiences have visited this place during the week to hear Marie Lloyd, who, among her latest songs, brought "The Directoire Girl"; the Boisset Troupe of comedians again amused with *The Bricklayers*; G. W. Hunter was accorded a hearty reception for his songs and stories; Daisy James proved a favourite, her songs being received with much satisfaction; the Carina Sisters went through a clever and refined musical mélange; uproarious laughter followed the funny business of Les Marsumas; Tom Jones, the popular Welsh comedian, was as welcome as ever; the Lyric Quartet, with their harmonised picture songs, were an excellent turn; and Wee Mona Vivian, juvenile vocalist, mimic, and dancer, also appeared.

LYRIC.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—A rousing reception has during the week been given to the ever-welcome Wilkie Bard, who brought his latest; Coram, an exceedingly able ventriloquist, put in another six nights, presenting a new and novel act; the dancing by the Great Northern Troupe pleased immensely, and the applause was great; a clever and much appreciated entertainment of mimicry, dance, and song was given by Claude Fieldman's Troupe of juveniles; Jack Crawley had a novel turn, "Lights Out"; as a comedienne, Emmie Ames afforded general satisfaction; an amusing duologue, entitled "Miss Summerson's Baby," was given by Mr. and Mrs. Shelley; some exceedingly expert work as gymnasts was shown by Ariel and Astarte; and Harry Bancroft sang several numbers in pleasing style. On Thursday next Mr. Arnold will celebrate his eleventh year as lessee and manager by taking a benefit.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—A farewell visit of the celebrated wrestler, Hackenschmidt, has proved a strong attraction here this week, and large crowds have assembled in the popular Hippodrome to witness his bouts with local men; roars of laughter were aroused by the antics of Heeley and Meely, with their merry scena, *Two Lucky Tramps*; Paulton and Daley proved exceedingly diverting as cycling comedians; merriment also followed the work of the smart musical couple, Ferris and May, whose "spasm," entitled *Two's Company, Three's* ——, was particularly good; Dusty Rhodes met with a cordial welcome; Grace Langley sang and danced to everybody's satisfaction; and appreciated contributions also came from Dan Filmer, comedian and dancer; Rosie Archer, a smart and accomplished mimic at the piano; and George Rapley, comedian.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—Here this week the able dramatic stock company gave *The Red Signal*, the principal parts in which were taken by Messrs. Sydney Grant (Sir Otto Darkwood), David G. Noble (Jack Darkwood), Robb Wilton (Sammy Say), Cecil Ravenswood (Peter Sorrel), Miss Florence Palmer (May Sorrel), and Miss Lilian Radbourne (Florence Culver). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the bioscope pictures shown here, the following artists appeared during the week:—George Mantle, eccentric comedian; Alexander Lyner, vocalist; the Orchids, a comedy couple, with song, patter, and dance; and the Sisters Belmont, vocalists and dancers.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Foremost here this week has been Mr. Fisher White's company, in a clever dramatic sketch, entitled *A Royal Heart*, Mr. Scott Craven filling the leading rôle; W. J. Churchill proved as amusing as ever; Leo Tell gave a smart exhibition of mimicry; a laughable gymnastic comedy mélange, *The Intruder*, was presented by the lively trio, Lord, Murray, and Lord; Ike and Will Scott, with their singing dancing, and patter, pleased generally; a neat turn as ventriloquist and pianist was given by Horace White; Carney and Armstrong afforded real enjoyment; Alf. Maynall as a comedian did well; and credit was due to Wee Mona Vivian, juvenile vocalist, mimic, and dancer. A fine Bioscope film, showing the Gotch *v.* Hackenschmidt American wrestling match, was watched with keen interest.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—Here this week the famous Reano Band has delighted big audiences, the applause bestowed upon the capable combination of instrumentalists being great; Chris Van Bern as a comedian aroused much laughter; an especially funny turn, entitled *After the Matinée*, came from the Four Pawles; Agnes Molteno and company received a cordial reception for their charming tableaux; Cumminger and Colonna gave a capital exhibition of dancing; the Miners' Quartet were well received; Douglas and Gordon were a merry couple who kept their audience in a good humour; and also in the list were Arthur Albert, comedian; and Miss Helen Charles, vocalist, &c.

LLANDUDNO.—PIER PAVILION.—Secretary, Mr. Sam Hughes.—Poole's Myriorama is on its annual visit, and is as well attended as ever. Some ex cellent pictures are shown, and bioscopical interludes are much appreciated. The performance on the Myriophone well merits the unstinted applause which results; the educated dog and its owner are clever in a musical turn; and the Snow Family are a good skating item. An excellent orchestra adds to a first-class programme.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—*Queen's Evidence* has played here for three nights to crowded houses. Mr. W. A. Buckstone as Sir Frederick is good; Mr. John Levey as Walter Wynford is well placed; Mr. Percy Braithwaite capitally portrayed a dual part; Mr. Edwin Turner is excellent as Matthew Thornton; Mr. Carl Vallender is above the average as a Jew; Miss Mabel Hall is a typical Arthur; and Miss Ada Hender as Kate Medland gives a good impersonation of a difficult part. The scenic effects are excellent.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company in *An Unwedded Wife* has been occupying the boards at this theatre, their efforts being well received. Miss Ethel Van Praagh as Marion, the unwedded wife, held the house in breathless silence by her emotional acting; Mr. George Daiper as Frank Hawthorne played admirably; Mr. Charles Sterling as Philip Blackstone made a capital villain; Mr. J. A. Grove was fully equal to the rôle of Martin Hallett; and Mr. Will Casey as Napoleon B. Boomer was most successful; Little Doris as Reggie played remarkably well; Mr. J. Edward Whitty as P.C. O'Runyin created hilarity by his clever acting. The scenery and appointments were excellent.

MACCLESFIELD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Mr. O. M. Dayton's variety company occupy the boards here this week. The Dayton Family give a remarkable performance, and elicit well-deserved applause; the Four Elwyns are effective in their song-scena, "The Miners"; Matt Wilkinson and company are successful in their sketch, *The Registry Office*; the Four Cecilians give a clever act, in which some skilful dancing is seen; Fred Doran, a refined comedian, is well received; Violet Beatrice scores with her songs; and the Three Milfords execute capital feats. Capital films are shown on the Bioscope.

MAESTEG.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company opened a three nights' engagement here on Monday in *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. The Jack Stiling of Mr. Wilson Summers was an effective performance; Mr. Paul Beckett played with expression as Felix Beverly; Mr. Wilfred Cheetham did well as Geoffrey Langdon; Mr. Robert Sheills was an excellent Colonel Miles; Mr. Arthur Lowry an effective Arthur Belairs; and Miss Mary Lovett gave a good delineation of Mary Geoffrey. The Hon. Mrs. Sands was cleverly portrayed by Miss Marion West.

MAIDENHEAD.—THE PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. George Gude.—The animated pictures this week, which are most amusing, include The Obstinate Umbrella, Algie Goes Yachting, and The Blackleg. Scott and Murphy supply acceptable turns with singing and eccentric dancing.

TOWN HALL.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—*Charley's Aunt* visited here on Friday, Nov. 21, and a good house proved that she still retains her attractiveness.

MAIDSTONE.—PALACE.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Selbo, a clever club juggler, is well received; the Alberto Troupe of lady equilibrists do some novel feats of strength; Leonard Teel, with a Suffragette song, is popular; and the bill also includes Vendome and Chase, international dancers; the Seymons, equilibrists and jugglers; Miss Lily Arthur, popular comedienne and dancer; Jack Collinson and Selina Seaforth and company, and the Palascope.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres, Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and their Shakespearean company are here this week in an excellently-arranged répertoire of plays. *The Taming of the Shrew* was given on Monday, Mr. Benson playing Petruchio and Mrs. Benson Katharina, both in capital style, and with adequate assistance from the remainder of the cast, among whom Miss Olive Noble as Bianca played nicely and Messrs. George R. Weir and Baliol Holloway as Grumio and Lucentio gave distinguished impersonations. On Tuesday a performance of the new play *Don Quixote* was submitted. This is not in the spirit of Cervantes, but it affords opportunities for work of an individual kind, which Mr. Benson made the most of in the melancholy title-part. Mr. George A. Weir's Sancho Panza most nearly approximated to the original conception, and was deservedly appreciated. Wednesday's matinée of *The Merchant of Venice* was successfully done, and the evening performance of *Twelfth Night* left nothing to be desired. On Thursday Miss Genevieve Ward made an interesting and welcome reappearance as Volumnia in *Coriolanus*; on Friday a fine performance of *The School for Scandal* was well attended; and a matinée of *Henry V.* on Saturday precedes the last production of the week, *Richard III.*, in which Miss Ward is to appear as Queen Margaret. The company and their productions are excellent.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—Mr. James Welch and his company are a big attraction here this week in Charles Marlowe's phenomenally successful farce *When Knights Were Bold*. The piece has been seen in Manchester before, but its novelty and humour are none the less striking and enjoyable. Mr. Welch's performance as Sir Guy de Vere is roaringly funny, and effective work is done also by Mr. Arthur Grenville as Isaacson, Mr. Cecil Kinnaird as Sir Brian Ballymote, Miss Audrey Ford as Lady Rowena, and quite a number of other clever people in the cast. The piece is preceded by a one-act play, *The Changeling*, in which Miss Helen Palgrave, Mr. J. H. Carson, and Mr. George Tully appear successfully.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G Hewitt.—*The Fatal Wedding*, played last week at the Royal Osborne Theatre, is the attraction here.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Miss A. E. F Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—*Windmills; or, The Amateur Socialist*, by W. Kingsley Tarply, was played here on Monday by Miss Horniman's company. It is distinctly entertaining, and one may be equally amused by both sides of the question without committing one's passing opinion to either. Mr. Henry Austin as Sir Hubert, the experimenting aristocrat, has the big chance of the play, and he certainly makes the best of it. Very good also are Miss Ada King as Lady Pennefeather, Miss Hilda Bruce Potter as Evelyn Rivers, Mr. Basil Dean as young Stephen, and Mr. Jules Shaw as Mr Moberley; while as Sergeant Fell and Inspector Bott Messrs. Edward Landor and Charles Bibby are highly amusing. Among others, Miss Penelope Wheeler as Cora Moberley and Miss Darragh as Lady Mabel Wriothesley display great tact and experience, and Mr. Lewis Casson makes the most of the part of the Hon. Philip Wykeham. The comedy is preceded by Charles McEvoy's grim play, in one act, *His Helpmate*, in which Miss Mona Limerick is especially successful.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Mason.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company is paying a return visit here with *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. Mr. Harold Macartney as Jack England and Mr. R. Ferris as the villainous Capt. Caversham have much to do with the smart development of the story, as also have Miss Violet E. Lawson in the title-part, Miss Lydia Manning-ton as the questionable Marian Franklyn, and Miss S. Hare as Rose Seymour; while light rôles are capitally filled by Mr. G. H. Asquin, Mr. John Wilson, and Miss Mamie Thorpe. The play is entirely to the taste of patrons, and the scenery and effects are excellent.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—A good programme here is headed by the Six Brothers Luck in their *Demon of the Cellar*, and Caban's French Circus is also a prominent and excellent turn; Herr Karoly Czynski is an expert musician, and Arthur Bearle, comedian, is very amusing. Other good turns include those of Beau and Belle, in a song-scena, *Past and Present*; Fred Athalan, in a balancing act; Victor Courtney, the "Boots" at the piano; Mark Henton, the mirthful one; and Carl Howard, in comedy magic.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—Joseph Hart's *Futurity Winner* is the top turn here, and the wonderful illusion of the race is something worthy to be seen. Howard and Harris, the tramp comedian and the clever lady, are also markedly successful; while capital business is added by Stratton Mills and company, in *Ananias II.*; Happy Tom Parker, comedian and dancer; Lively Lily Langtry, the volatile comedienne; Wyndham and Kitty, sensational wire artists; Rauschle, celebrity impersonator; Rohda Brothers, in their popular gymnastic act; and the Brewsters, acrobatic and speciality dancers. The Bioscope is highly entertaining, as usual.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Bransby Williams, a past-master in the art of character portraying, meets with a deserved big reception here this week. Highly amusing and clever are the Brothers Egbert in their famous *Happy Dustmen* act; and Nellie Wallace is successful, as usual, as an eccentric comedienne. John Macauley is excellent as a character vocalist; Florence imitates Happy Fanny Fields with skill; and good items are offered by the Athlones, society athletes, and Mina Denvil, vocal comedienne. Happy Tom Parker, a capital comedian and dancer, appeared as deputy for George Bastow, who, we regret to hear, is seriously ill. That wonderful production, *The Volcano*, is also in the bill.

PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Cartor.—That sterling comedian Edwin Boyde is here this week, and causes no end of amusement; Frank C. Bostock presents Consul, the "almost man," to an interested audience; the Tokio Troupe of Japs go through a remarkable performance; and Ritter and Foster, American duo, are exceedingly clever dancers. Other pleasing items are offered by Mlle. Renée, instrumentalist, and Leah Arden, vocal comedienne; whilst smart deputies appeared for Crosby and Walker, patter comedians; Lillie Lassah, comedienne, and Jose Collins, comedienne, who did not appear on the occasion of our visit. Pictures complete.

TIVOLI.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Leslie and Stevens sing delightfully in their neat act *Love Levels All*; Alf Gibson scores, as usual, with quaint style and songs; Tom Moore, character comedian and vocalist, is appreciated; charming Lily Black sings nicely; and Maud Prenton is a comedienne with a *chic* style. Dolly and Madge McCalla are very pleasing singers and dancers; J. Warren-Foster, vocalist, sings well; the Alaskas are smart in a comedy acrobatic act; and others who please are Lily Dyer, the bâton girl, and Probyn and Bates, in comedy skit, *The Dude and the Soubrette*.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Thompson Carruthers' company is here this week in *The Master Card*, a sensational card-manipulating novelty, with Dunningarto in the cast. Satani is smart in a scena of magical surprises; the veteran comedian Charles Coborn is entertaining, as usual; and Kendrick and Laura are capital in a neat interlude. Monty Walker, swell comedian, takes well; the Sages are smart comedy artists and dancers; Langslow is a rifle expert on the wire; and other good turns are given by Will Walton, comedian; Harry Kirk, comedian; Joe Conway, pocket comedian; and George Hall, whistler.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—A great treat is provided here this week in Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's production of *Moths*, presented in first-rate style by an all-round excellent company. Mr. Raynor's impersonation of Lord Jura is nothing short of excellent, and Miss Dorothy West-Symes as Vere Herbert is very pleasing; Mr. Cecil Wynne plays Prince Zouroff with skill; Miss Henrietta Schrier is a powerful Duchess de Sonnaz; and Miss Lisa Coleman as the impulsive and vivacious American plays with vim; whilst good work is added by Miss Frances Waring, Mr. Leonard Laurence, Mr. C. Lodge-Percy, and Mr. Chas. R. Bickell.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—Mr George Dance's company top the bill here in the successful musical comedy sketch *The Burglar's Ball*, in which Mr. Rolando Martin, Miss Madge Soutter, and Miss Florence Hylton are particularly good. Harrison Brockbank sings in his usual excellent manner, and is well received; Randolph King, the one-man programme, makes a hit; Smith and Johnson, coloured duo, are capital; and Devon and Earle are exceedingly good dancers. Others who provide good turns are the Three Krakes, in funny act; W. G. Wesley, comedian; Sam Thompson, Scotch character comedian; Jimmy Shields, clever one-legged comedian and dancer; Dolly Ross, comedienne; and Geo. Edney, vocal comedian.

MANSFIELD.—GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—Mr. Frank Bertram's company in *The Breed of the Treshams* is playing to good houses. Mr. Sydney Bland impersonates the character of Lieut. Reresby with power; Batty is skilfully portrayed by Miss Grace Harlington; Miss Mildred Hodson makes a graceful Margaret, Mr. Alfred Holles a spirited Viscount Dorsington, and Mr. W. R. Wining a satisfactory Clement Hungerford; Mr. G. Trail distinguishes himself as Sir Henry Curwen; and Mr. Howard Brenan is an admirable Francis Tresham.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—*A Soldier's Honour* is presented by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company. Mr. Elan Meredith successfully undertakes the part of Captain Deane; Mr. T. Arthur Ellis is good as Captain Gerald Temple; and Richard Thornton is convincing

work as Cora Lee; Jemima Eliza is capitally played by Miss Edie Macklin; and Miss Mabel Rose is excellent as Doreen Illingworth.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Heading a fine programme is Smaun Sing-Hpoo, from Burmah, who is an expert ring performer; Lambert and Glover are very amusing in farcical duologues; Richard Fineberg presents excellent character-studies from famous plays; the Days give a pleasing exhibition of mental telepathy; and other popular items are contributed by Charles Leighton, society entertainer; the Paolias, in a refined athletic act; the Mays, burlesque artists; Morrisey, musical equilibrist; and animated pictures.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—*The Conscience of a Judge* is presented here this week by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company. Mr. Stanley Bedwell plays the rôle of Herbert Granstone in a telling manner; as Sir Edward Mervin, the villain of the piece, Mr. Frank Eaglesfield gives a good character study; Cecil Bently is carefully played by Mr. Martin Pedlar; Mr. Cecil Renton is well suited to the part of Geoffrey Granstone; as Horatio Winters Mr. Frank Eden supplies the comic element, ably supported by Mr. Dalton Boser as John Summers and Miss Bessie Frank as Mary Wilson. Miss Eva Moss as Jessica Draycott meets with much appreciation; Miss Mabel Coleman makes the most of her part of Ethel Vaughan; and Miss Elsie Isaacs as Little Kitty is very pathetic. The minor parts are in capable hands.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod are this week presenting *A Country Girl in London*. Mr. Garrod imparts distinction to the character of Frank Gordon; the unscrupulous Godfrey Clinton is played with force and ability by Mr. G. Moreton-Williams; Mr. J. S. Sheridan is very impressive as John Hamilton; the ne'er-do-well, Job Smithers, has an able exponent in Mr. Clifford Marle; and Mr. E. W. Avery is genuinely funny as Heinrich Oppenheim. Miss Bertha Kingston is graceful and accomplished as Marjorie, a country girl; Miss Josephine Colona cleverly typifies the wayward Gwendoline; and Miss Lesley Adair is an interesting Adelaide Puddeyphat.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—A leading feature in this week's programme is The Castle Ghost, and other good films are:—Piracy in the days of Nelson, The Gipsy's Daughter, A Difficult Flirtation, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. F. W. Bolam's company is this week presenting *The Sins of Society* to large audiences. The production is mounted in a costly manner, and the company is both numerous and talented. Miss Grace Leslie gives a pleasing interpretation of the rôle of Lady Marion, the victim and dupe of the unscrupulous Noel Ferrars, who is ably represented by Mr. C. F. Collings; Mr. E. Hassell-Vaughan does full justice to the part of Sir Dorian March, and Miss Janet Hodson as Caroline, Miss Dorothy Giles as Lady Ashley, and Miss Mabel Murray as the Hon. Mrs. Murgatroyd are all that can be desired. A notable figure is Mr. Blake Adams as James Hogg, and his ardent courtship of Lady Goldbury, capitally taken by Miss Pattie Browne, gives a light and agreeable touch to the performance.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—*His Wife No Longer* is staged here this week by Mr. Stephen Pritt's company. Mr. Clavering Craig gives a very natural portrayal of Anthony Merivale, and Miss Rosa Mervyn submits a charming impersonation of Mrs. Merivale; Miss Frances Ferina is delightful as Marion Jefferies, and Messrs. E. P. Neville, D. McFarlane, and D. Donaldson, and Miss Nellie Lawson acquit themselves creditably.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—Ernest Shand is paying a visit here this week, and keeps the house convulsed with laughter; Mr. E. C. Gittins' company of operatic artists score a great success in a condensed version of *The Daughter of the Regiment*; Harry Blake is very amusing, as is also Josh Dixon; Doughty and company are good in a comedy, and other turns are provided by Jessie Merrilees and Minnie Dare, comedienne and dancer.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. E. C. Nicholls.—Some artistic poses are submitted here this week by Mlle. Irma Lorraine. Miss Maud Mortimer sings some catchy songs, and Harry Edson introduces two wonderfully trained dogs; the Smarte Bros. do some clever acrobatic tricks; Alf Chester causes much laughter; Baker and De Salis are very funny with their cross-talk, and the Florias are clever equilibrists.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf Graham; Manager, Mr. Ormesby Trench.—Jack Neil, eccentric Scotch comedian, maintains his reputation here; excellent singing and dancing is rendered by Corman's Juveniles in their vocal scena, *The Waif*, and also by Ted Curtis and his piccanninies; C. H. Charlton is a first-class conjurer, and J. C. Scatter, Tyneside comedian, is very popular.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—A dramatic version of *Convict 99* is being presented here this week. Mr. Frank Beresford admirably sustains the title-rôle; the unscrupulous character of Ralph Vickers is realistically portrayed by Mr. Benson North; Mr. G. Warris Lindon submits a careful study of the elderly business man; and excellent low comedy work is furnished by Mr. P. J. Gullian as Jimmy. The emotional acting of Miss Dorothy Milne in the rôle of Geraldine Lucas calls for special mention; Maggie Mason has an apt exponent in Miss Jeannie Richards; and mention should be made of Miss Mabel North as Mrs. Smedley.

NELSON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. T. Greenwood Croft; Business-Manager, Mr. Geo. E. Mudd.—Mr. Allan Wilkie, supported by a talented company, is paying a welcome return visit here this week, during which a number of Shakespeare's works are being presented. On Monday *The Merchant of Venice* attracted a capital house; the following night *The Sleigh Bells* and *David Garrick* were produced; on Wednesday Hamlet, Thursday *Macbeth*, Friday *Julius Cæsar*, and Saturday *Othello*. The principals were Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Alexander Marsh, an old favourite here, and Miss Haidee Gunn. Mr. Wilkie's portraiture of Shylock proved him to be a tragedian of a high order, and his power and truth in portraying the tragedy of the part completely gripped the audience; as Bassanio Mr. Marsh fully maintained his reputation; and Mr. John Paley's Antonio was well conceived and faithfully acted; Mr. Ian Fleming gave a capital account of himself in the character of Launcelot Gobbo; and Gratiano, as presented by Mr. Frank Royde, and Lorenzo, by Mr. Ernest Digge, met with much approval; Miss Haidee Gunn, who appeared, owing to the indisposition of Miss Carrie Baillie, created a very favourable impression in the rôle of Portia, and she is a talented actress, and has been the leading lady with Mr. Edward Compton; Nerissa was effectively played by Miss Mildred Surrey; and Miss Hunter Watts made a charming Jessica.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—A bright and sparkling programme is again submitted to the frequenters of the Winter Gardens. The Cheers are responsible for a dainty little scena, entitled *Dick Whittington*, in which they introduce their very clever performing cats. Another excellent turn is given by Miss Anileda and her two eccentric French artists, who cause roars of laughter; Mlle. Benita has a fine soprano voice; Mr. J. H. Carney in quick-change and stilt dance is a big favourite; and Mr. Noel Sylvester proves that it is possible to hold an audience deeply interested with a recitation. The animated pictures are very fine.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Great interest is evinced this week in the performances of Bernard Shaw's plays by the Vedrenne-Barker company, and on Monday evening *Man and Superman* was presented before a large audience. The principal rôle of Jack Tanner, in the absence of Mr. Granville Barker, was undertaken with great success by Mr. Frederick Lloyd, who was quite equal to the difficulties of this unconventional character; Octavius Robinson was handled in masterly style by Mr. David Powell; and the simple-minded old Roebuck Ramsden received adequate treatment in the hands of Mr. Michael Sherbrooke. Miss Frances Dillon made a delightful Ann Whitefield; and Miss Auriol Lee gave a convincing study of Violet Robinson. Other characters were ably played by Mr. Richard Haigh, Mr. Hubert Harben, Miss Helen Rous, and Miss Wetherall.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Mr. George Edwardes' company is paying a welcome return visit with *The Merry Widow*, and was enthusiastically received on Monday by a large audience. Miss Constance Drever gives a charming and artistic rendering of Sonia, and delights the house with her exquisite singing and dancing; the rôle of the irresponsible Prince Danilo is admirably enacted by Mr. Leonard Mackay, who sings and dances in excellent style; as Baron Popoff Mr. Eric Thorne proves himself as great a favourite as ever, and is well supported by Mr. W. H. Rawlins, who is very amusing as Nisch; while Mr. W. Talleur Andrews sings and acts the rôle of the perfidious lover, Vicomte Camille de Jolidon, to perfection. Miss Ethel Cadman vocalises with much power as Natalie; and Mr. Theodore Leonard ably plays the part of General Novakovitch. Miss Sylvia May as Alga, Miss Kathleen Courtney as Sylvaine, Mr. Norman Greene as M. de St. Brioche, and Mr. Somers Bellamy as Marquis de Cascada, all do well in their respective parts. The principals are supported by augmented orchestra and chorus.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Mr. Walter Melville's company appeared here on Monday evening before a large audience in *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*. Miss Jessie Belmore as Sophie Coventry, in the title-rôle, was excellent; and Miss Zoe Davis as Lucy Coventry displayed rare dramatic power. Mr. Ronald Adair as Willie Mason invested the hero of the piece with all necessary dash and fire; Mr. Sidney Sarl was admirably suited to the part of Bill Slater; and Mr. Frank R. Robertson made a capable Jack Fenton. Other rôles were in capable hands.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—*In Holy Russia*, by Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy, was presented here on Monday before a large audience. A strikingly dramatic performance is given by the authoress, who is admirably supported by a strong company. For Thursday and Friday evenings *The World and the Woman* was announced.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—An amusing up-to-date travesty on pantomime, entitled *Jack the Giant Killer*, is presented here this week by George Anger and company. Mr. Anger, who is 8ft. in height, is described as the tallest actor on earth, and quite justifies this distinction; Mendel, the blind musician, contributes a musical turn of exceptional merit, which wins hearty applause; *Humpti Bumsti*, an eccentric acrobatic act by Pipifax and Paulo, is also greatly appreciated; whilst Victor Travers, a comedian of the legmania type, proves extremely amusing. Charles Vincent, comedian; Henry Coutts, in a clever protean act; Bertha Winder, step dancer; Ross and Lewis, American entertainers; and the Mayvilles, lilliputian novelty artists, all contribute acceptable turns.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Arthur Prince, the inimitable ventriloquial entertainer, heads an all-round interesting bill here this week; and other artists appearing are Rastus and Banks, the Three Krags, Billy Williams, Rosie Reval, Chas. Sloman, Lanos and Montes, and Henry Pollock and company.

ROLLER SKATING EXHIBITION HALL, St. Mary's-place.—Manager, Mr. Fred B. Crowe.—The round of festivities which is making this one of the most popular resorts is continued this week, a Cinderella being announced for Thursday.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*You Never Can Tell* is being played here under the direction of Messrs. Taylor, Platt, and Trevor Lowe. In the rôle of Mrs. Clandon Miss Katharine Stuart gives a performance that is full of grace, without overdrawn emotion; Miss Gwladys Morris is convincing as Gloria Clandon; and Miss Clara Earle makes a bright Dolly Clandon; while as Fergus Crampton Mr. J. Edward Price acts with vigour. Mr. Chas. Daly plays in restrained style the part of Finch McComas; and as Valentine Mr. Leslie Hamer is seen to advantage in the rôle of a humorous lover. Mr. Trevor Lowe makes a hit as the waiter; Mr. Geo. Howard is well suited to the part of Bohun; and the character of the parlourmaid is well sustained by Miss Ivy Fenton.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Machnow, the great Russian giant, astonishes crowded houses here; Eight of Hearts are a bevy of American beauties, who dance delightfully; Bi-Bo-Bi extract tuneful melody from all kinds of instruments; and Rhoda Paul is justly popular in her latest successes. Herman Melot succeeds in mystifying the audience with his tricks; Victor Newman gives wonderful representations of scenes between Cardinal Wolsey and Cromwell, and other subjects; and in light comedy Tom E. Conover causes shouts of laughter. E. J. Sheldon, a study in black and white, and the Bioscope, complete the bill.

NEWRY.—TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, Newry Urban Council.—Mr. William L. Dobell's company on Tuesday produced Edward Thane's *The Love That Lasts For Ever* before a big house. Miss Marion Carter as Ida Ross was excellent; Mr. Dobell as Alphonso D'Arcy was responsible for much humour; Mr. W. H. Pointon as Professor Morley and Mr. Charles Charles as Gordon Morley were exceptionally good; Mr. Thompson Whiett as Josiah Selby was a villain from head to foot; Mr. Jack Saple gave a capital representation of Alfred Boby; Mr. Horace Morton-Wright made a truculent figure of Wily Jackson, a burglar from birth; and Miss Phylis Locke (Elsie Beresford), Miss Lilian Fenn (Clara Jenkins, a lady barber), and Miss Madge Merryweather (Mother Moocher) were specially effective.

NORTH SHIELDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—The boards here this week are occupied by Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company with *The Nihilist*, which has been well received. As Ivan Nowasky Mr. Joseph Millane acts with much power; Mr. Cowell Clark is much appreciated as Karl Orloff; Mr. William Carriden scores as Prince Alexander; and Mr. O. Silverstone plays Pietree Petroff in good style; Miss Florence Kelsey is seen to advantage as Princess Olga; Miss Edna Clare creates an excellent impression as Alexina Orloff. Mr. Henry Wright as Robbie Smart and Miss Jessica Fond as Katrina Tindoff are responsible for the comedy element, and their efforts cause much hearty laughter.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Mr. Charles Dixton's sketch company, topping the bill here this week, has had a hearty reception; Mlle. De Roche, an accomplished vocalist, renders her songs in good style; and a hearty reception has been bestowed upon Mr. T. W. Barrett, who is an old favourite; Mons. A. Massona is an expert juggler; Messrs. Elliott and Warne in their speciality act display much talent; Messrs. Liddell and Bell are clever; and some interesting films are shown by the Mouldoscope.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—This theatre re-opened on Monday with Mr. Evelyn Adell's company in *His Sister's Honour*. Sir Richard Redvers is skilfully played by Mr. Walter Wilson; Dr. Godfrey is well undertaken by Mr. Edwin Clarke; Frank Stanley is masterfully portrayed by Mr. Evelyn Adell; Mr. Harry Carlton in the humorous part of Timothy Timid causes much merriment, and is very ably seconded by Miss Maudie Vincent as Maria; Miss Ethel Ashleigh does well as Ivy Merton; and Miss Flora Leslie gives a fine emotional depiction of Dora Stanley.

THE PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—Another good programme is placed before the patrons of this place of amusement this week. Mr. A. W. Thompson's company present a sketch with undoubted ability; Miss Ivy Dane is a pleasing singer; Mr. Frank Ford an exceedingly clever dancer; Mr. Bert Rayburn is quaintly humorous; Mr. Alf. Brookes is bright and breezy, and hits the mark; Miss Belle Russell's company in a sketch is highly successful; and the pictures shown by Ruffell's Bioscope are as good as ever.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Harry Battersby's company occupies the boards here this week in the drama, *The King of Crime*. Mr. F. B. Woulfe gives a masterly representation of the character of Ronjarre, and Miss Mildred Eversleigh evokes much sympathy as the blind wife. The other characters are ably filled.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Heading the bill and creating a sensation is Tarro Myaki, a champion ju-jitsu wrestler, whose feats are watched with keen interest; challenges are thrown out and prizes offered. Ernie Mayne has a capital reception; Ada Parker is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Bliss and Bliss cause much merriment with their patter; Miss Fallowfield is very acceptable; and Cline and Clarke, black and white comedy duo, are expert sand and buck dancers; Charley, the French protean artist, is interesting; the Gallimore Trio entertaining; and the Hippo Bio. pictures good.

NOTTINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company presents the new version of *The Christian*. Mr. Henry Renouf as the Hon. John Storm secures the heartiest appreciation for his manly assumption of this exacting rôle; Miss Doris Gilham looks and acts the part of Glory to perfection; the unctuous Archdeacon Wealthy is ably portrayed by Mr. C. T. Turpin; and the supercilious man about town, Lord Robert Ure, finds a good exponent in Mr. George R. Montford; very quietly but with genuine success, Mr. Oswald Marshall represents Drake; and the Mrs. Callander of Miss Sinna St. Clair evidences careful preparation and study; Miss Margaret Brodie, subdued as Polly Love, and Miss May Dudley, boisterous as Black Meg, add no little to the general success; whilst Miss Mima Renouf and Mr. W. S. Carter are a capital pair as Mother Kent and her son Bert. The remaining clerical parts are well taken care of by Messrs. Edwin Ling, Arthur Maskell, and John Goghlan, whilst the rollicking sisters Belmont, in the persons of Misses Bettie Seymour and Lydia Bland, are real, live personages.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*The Girl with the Angel Face* makes excellent fare for patrons here. Mr. H. Naylor Grimson plays Sir John Wentworth with great determination and force, also doubling the part of Thomas Wentworth; Mr. Austin Mortimer makes a sufficiently villainous character of Stephen Arkwright; and Mr. Dobell Lyle earns hearty encomiums as the Rev. Gordon Cross; Miss Florrie Green capitally enacts the name part, both in her seeming innocence and revengefulness; Miss Phyllis Dailley sounds a sympathetic note in her assumption of Ena Wentworth; and Miss W. Delevanti acts with natural charm as Nellie; Miss Mildred Carr helps to lighten the play by her humorous interpretation of Mollie Maitland; and Mr. Fred G. Evison adds to the comedy by his excellent work as the cunning old reprobate, Jasper Death. The minor characters are all well placed.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The champion wrestler, Frank Gotch, is appearing here in the guise of an actor, displaying his enormous strength and agility to admiring audiences; the Musical Courtiers, including Mlle. Louise van Dalle and Messrs. G. H. St. Just and T. H. Wood, create the greatest enthusiasm by their vocal and instrumental operatic selections; F. W. Purcell's company in the comedietta, *That Brute Simmons*, compel laughter; and Wood, Wells, and Wilkins supply a large share of humour in the sketch *The Piano Tuner*; Millie Payne is entirely successful in her songs; and Nell Emerald dances smartly; George Young gives an interesting item on the concertina, and is capably assisted by Madam Louise; Ida Kathrena, the human doll, and Harry Bedford, comedian, complete the programme.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Chief interest centres in the Harmony Four, whose eccentric methods seem to grow at each visit, rousing the most uproarious laughter; Troba shows remarkable skill and strength in his juggling feats; Winfield Blake and Maude Amber prove an excellent couple of patterers; and a musical novelty is introduced by Maid and the Moon; Cecile François and company present an amusing scena; and the musical entertainment of Vere and Nelldon is good; Shaun Glenville and company appear in a sketch; Williams and Warden supply comical cross-talking; Nora Brooklyn sings a song, and pictures are shown on the Barrascope.

KING'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. O. Waller.—Animated pictures still keep their hold on visitors here, this being the 128th consecutive week. The illustrated songs of Mr. Ernie Williams are also an attraction.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company is here with *The Flower Girl*, and on Monday evening received an enthusiastic welcome. Mr. Martin Adeson contributes largely to the success as the humorous Joe Wheeler; Mr. Alfred Donohoe as Johnny Wheeler proves himself a capable comedian; Mr. Norman Bowyer takes the part of Reginald Rackit in a manner which does him credit, his excellent dancing and general eccentricities bringing forth much applause; as Alphonse and Lizette de Racquet Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Florence Wilton create rare amusement; Miss Jeannie Holmes as Miss Greenhill gives a splendid portrayal of a suffragette; Mr. Robert H. Howard, who takes the part of the Hon. Billy Greenhill is much appreciated; and Miss Dorothy Firmin as Lily, the flower girl, captivates the audience by her fine singing.

OLDBURY.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—The chief feature on this week's programme are the Nicholsons, who, in their comedy act, score immensely; the Sisters Vero are a charming couple, and perform well; Harry Royde is an excellent comedian; Miss Josie Watson is a clever comedienne. The pictures are the latest and best.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—*The Sign of the Cross*, played by Mr. William Greet's principal company, opened here on Monday. Mr. Cyril Austin Lee, as Marcus Superbus, is excellent; Miss Constance Little, as Mercia, earns much applause; Miss Edith Drayson feelingly enacts the character of Stephanus; Mr. Walter Fleet as Favius and Mr. Clifton Yates as Titus are both well placed; Mr. Chas. Aldred as Tigellinus ably portrays the character; Mr. Frank Wood is droll as Glabrio; and Philodemus is amusing as played by Mr. Harry Jones. Messrs. H. Thurston Harris and G. W. Ruff are capital as Servilius and Stabo; Mr. C. Yorke is an imperious Nero, Poppea being well acted by Miss Beryl Hamilton; and Miss Lily Ward makes a capable Berenice.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company on Monday opened here on a return visit with *The Worst Woman in London*. Miss Edith Blande again scored a success by her acting of the name-part; Miss Dorothy Haigh played Ruth Milford in a sympathetic manner; Mr. Geo. Gaisford was a manly Jack; and Mr. Arthur Felton a smart Vincent Lyle. Mr. F. Vernon Travers made a capital James Milford; and Mr. James E. Manning as Philip Armstrong played artistically. Mr. Willie Scott as Bob Goldfinch caused hearty laughter in association with Miss Poly Marsh as Matilda Parker; Miss Mysie Monte was an effective Jane Nogood; and Mr. H. W. Monte as satisfactory Hugh Drayton.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Charcot and his automatic man head the bill here, and present a most mystifying performance; Harry Tate's company, in *Motoring*, cause loud laughter; Chas. Parker's Six Æolians in song and dance earn repeated recalls; Clasen's Art Bronzes pose well in a fine exhibition; Florence Esdaile is heartily received; the Musical Schafers present a smart musical comedy act; J. C. C. Cunliffe is capital in good songs; Adah Payne is a smart vocalist; and the Dottoscope concludes.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—The Waldrons, in *The Silly Burglar*, are humorous; Irve Hayman and Little Marie Montague present *Xmas Eve*; Gladys and Alber are good in their comedy act; and Denby and Dent, in their cross talk, Kit Keen, dancer, the Marco Duo, on the bars, D. W. Watson, in his horn and cornet solos, and the Dottoscope, complete the bill.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Palace, Oldham, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne.—Edouard José is the particular star here, in the dramatic sketch *The Strike*, which is very popular; Horace Wheatley, the ever-popular, scores with his smart songs and dances; Radie Furman is a smart dancer; Vay's Juveniles have a good reception in *Life in the Slums*; La Freya is interesting in her speciality; Willie Gardner dances cleverly on skates; and Elsa Joel sings with good effect. Ernest Powell at the piano is good; and Yates and Willis are amusing in *A Nice Quiet Morning*. The Palace Pictures are popular.

CENTRAL HALL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—This week's animated pictures draw well, and include The Face on the Bar-room Floor, Opium Smoker's Dream, War Episode, Living Reflections, Gnomes, Gipsy Life in Europe, Considerate Cabby, Evils of Spiritualism, and Eggs With Care The illustrated song "Farewell, Lily Bell," by Mr F. Walker, was well applauded.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—Mr. George Alexander's company is giving finished performances of *The Thief*, which was cordially welcomed on its first appearance here. Mr. Rupert Lister played with quiet, incisive power as Richard Chelford, his acting in the great scene in Act II. being keenly appreciated; Mr. Cyril Harcourt was uncommonly good as Raymond Leyton; while his son, Harry, was played in very convincing fashion by Mr. Owen Nares; and Mr. Luke Forster was an excellent Mr. Protheroe. Miss Marie Polini gave a superb performance as Marise Chelford, her acting holding the house spell-bound; and Miss Jean Cadell was a handsome and interesting Isabel Leyton. *The Thief* was preceded by the curtain-raiser *Too Happy by Half*, cleverly interpreted by Messrs. C. King, O. Nares, B. Stevens, and Miss Eileen Kerin.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Frank Stuart.—*Amasis* is attracting crowded and enthusiastic houses. Nothing could surpass the inimitable performance of Mr. W. H. Denny as Amasis (Pharaoh of Egypt), who is accorded a hearty reception for his excellent impersonation and singing; while Mr. Edward McKeown also sings delightfully and proves himself a capable artist as Prince Anhotep. Mr. Frank Attree sustains Ptolemy with much success; and Mr. Walter D. Brodie has a fund of quaint humour as Sebak. Mr. Arthur Stroud gives a very effective rendering of Cheiro; Mr. J. Hawkes is successful as Nebeuchairi; and Mr. Frank Wood makes a majestic Psamtik (Captain of the Guard). Miss Elsie Don is graceful and captiviting as Natis, and sings and acts charmingly; and Miss Mabel Burnage shows experience and undoubted ability with her stately and admirable rendering of Princess Amasis. Miss Mabel Lovett is the principal dancer. The chorus gives proof of excellent training and ability, all the numbers being spiritedly rendered.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. Fred Bulmer's company is playing here the drama, *The Girl Who Went Astray*. Captain Frank Julian is impersonated with skill by Mr. John B. Shinton; Rupert Murdock is forcibly presented by Mr. Fred Lloyd; Mr. Evan Roland and Mr. Tod Squires each score in the respective rôles of Adolphus Boomer and James Yellowsocks; a capital Sergt. John Harvey is supplied by Mr. Edgar P. Melrose; Mr. R. Ashton ably takes the part of Dr. George Wilson; Gussie Seymour is capitally enacted by Mr. Edwin Williams; and Mr. A. Mainwaring as General Sir Hugh Finnigan is admirable. Miss Gwynne Warren gives a powerful rendering of Madge Harvey; a life-like portrayal of Violet Harvey is submitted by Miss Ada M. Ryder; Miss Sybil Haughton essays with success the part of Eleanor Merton; and Molly Smart is excellently accounted for by Miss Mary Dalby. Miss Freda Fredericks as Flo Fortesque, Miss Mabel Sinclair as the Nurse, and Mr. A. Wardroper as P.C. Johnson render valuable aid.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—Harriet Vernon is prominent here this week in her latest successful songs, being greatly appreciated; the Brothers Deas are excellent dancers, who provide a most acceptable turn; Frances Letty, always a strong draw, comes provided with several new chorus songs; Cedar and Elgar contribute a lively turn in their *Ye Dayes of Olde* comedy act; Little Zola is a comedian of novel methods, and is well received; an amusing sketch is *Do You Want to Buy Any Coke?* performed by Howard and St. Clair; the Burnells provide hearty laughter with their comedy sketch *Playmates*; Louis Kerno is particularly good as a vocal comedian, coon impersonator, and dancer; and the Bioscope forms a pleasing feature of the evening's entertainment.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—District-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping the bill this week are the Maisons, in their novelty comedy musical acts; the Mantelloni are smart lady tumblers and acrobats; the Four Goldings are a clever Spanish troupe; Dot Hardy is admired as a character comedienne; Edie Colville is a refined vocalist and dancer; Wheeler and Wilson in their acrobatic feats are deservedly applauded; the Sisters Herbert, toy ducttists and dancers, claim a fair share of praise; and the Tivoliscope concludes.

WORKMEN'S HALL.—Manager, Mr. Charles Charlton.—The up-to-date pictures of Will Stone continue to be a great attraction here; Alpho is a ventriloquist of talent, and his discourse with the doll "Tommy" is much appreciated; Mack, the mimic, was through illness unable to appear, and Mr. Charlton, the manager, occupied his place in a series of songs rendered in a capital tenor voice; and Constance Louise, in her illustrated songs, is deservedly applauded.

DRILL HALL.—Leon Vint and his celebrated Globe Choir is here this week, and the clairvoyant act of Mme. Vint is much enjoyed by large audiences.

PERTH.—THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Harry Starr's company pays a return visit here this week, presenting *Otto the Outcast* and *Carl, the Clockmaker*. In the former piece Mr. Starr, in the title-rôle, gave an admirable performance; Mr. Will Hee was excellent as Roderique D'Estalier, *alias* Vidocq; Mr. Walter Kenion as Daddy Bruneau was good; and the part of the Marquis Marcella de Laporte was in the capable hands of Mr. Edwin Firth. As Lara Miss Katie Norris was very successful; and Miss Emmeline Roselle displayed ability as Susette.

PETERBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. A. Darville Vernon.—There was a large and delighted audience on Monday to witness the performance of *The Merry Widow* by Mr. George Edwardes's company. Miss Mysie Devine, in the title-rôle, sang and acted in a captivating manner; Miss Ada Thomas, a charming Natalie, used her excellent voice with good effect; Mr. Frank Greene's gay and spontaneous acting as the Prince won all hearts; Mr. Edward D'Arcy scored a big success as Baron Popoff; and as Jolidon Mr. Ripley Evans sang and acted with dramatic effect; Mr. F. Pedgrift gave a fine portrayal of M. de St. Brioche, his acting being marked with an earnestness which won hearty approval; Mr. Fred Fowler was a popular Nisch; and Mr. William Allison did well as Cascada; Miss Violet Hobson was an excellent Sylvanie; and Miss Daphne Glenne was well placed as Olga.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—This week's bill is composed of the following excellent turns:—V. L. Granville in a protean play, entitled *'Twixt Dawn and Daylight*; Walter Curtis, the merriment merchant; Lee and Bentley, duologue artists; Florence Smithers, supported by Owen Dacroy and company in *Our Mary Jane*; Stevens and Bert, comedians and dancers; Aggie Nolan, comedienne; and Ruhart.

JOHN BULL

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MOTHER SEIGEL'S SYRUP.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Brewster's Millions* forms a capital attraction here. Mr. Percy Hutchison impersonates Brewster, and shrieks of laughter are created by his cleverness and smartness; Miss Cicely Stuckey is particularly fascinating as Peggy Grey; Miss Lilias Earle, beautifully gowned, as Mrs. Dan de Mille makes an admirable woman of the world; Mr. Cyril Rawson does excellently as Charlie Harrison; Mr. Frank Hill is amusing in a quiet way as Butler Rawles; and Mr. Robert Forsyth works hard as Mr. Grant.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Alec Hurley and company are here with their well-known sketch *The Costers' Beano*, and the production is thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Hurley's vocal contributions, given in his original and characteristic style, come in for hearty approbation. Olga and Elgar are refined lady musicians; another musical contribution is that submitted by Slippere, the blind pianist; the Two Lillies are graceful and accomplished dancers; Rowland Hill, comedian; Daisie Morell, comedienne; the Betsons in a comedy sketch, *The Tramps' Holiday;* and Vernon's pictures complete.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Tom Diacoff.—Amongst the chief items of an attractive bill are Chas. M. Daly's company in a farcical sketch; Professor McCann's Troupe of exceptionally well-trained dogs; Fields and Lewis in a burlesque melodrama; Gravetta and Parr with clay modelling; the Five Bombays with a "goey" dancing and harmony turn; Lytton and Bland in a speciality act, *A Lesson in Love;* Rex and Ford, cross-talk comedians; T. C. Jaques, also a comedian; Arnelli, in an effective musical act; and Idy Evilo on the trapeze. The pictures are again an attractive feature of the entertainment.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction at the above is Messrs. F. Marriott-Watson and Sanderson Moffat's company in *What a Woman Did.* Rafaelle Duroc is capably portrayed by F. Marriot-Watson; Conrad de L'Orme is ably delineated by Mr. Sanderson Moffat; Mr. Reginald Kloof appears to advantage as Black Pitou; Fritz von Hoegithiem is successfully sustained by Mr. Riton Morgan; Mr. Owen Edwin scores as Perfect Peter Pippin; Miss Florence E. Florence displays considerable histrionic ability as Elise de L'Orme; La Papillon is admirably assumed by Miss Phyllis Hamilton; Nanette is excellently played by Miss Norah Waylett; and Miss Flo Norman is decidedly good as Fanchon.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Edward Compton and his company opened here on Monday in *David Garnick.* Mr. Compton was at his best in the name-part, and did his artistic conception of the rôle full justice. Miss Kathleen Leigh made a delightful and charming Violet; Mr. Henry Crocker was excellent as Alderman Gresham; Mr. Henry Worrall ably impersonated the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut; Messrs. Philip Gordon as Rumbelow, Mr. W. Johnson as Sowerberry, and Mr. Ivan Leslie as Simpkins gave first-rate assistance in their respective rôles; Miss Marie Hassell made a successful Mrs. Rumbelow; and Selina was ably taken by Miss Constance Merton. During the week will be submitted *The Rivals, The School for Scandal,* and *A Reformed Rake.*

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*The Assassin* is being presented here by Mr. Augustine Knight and a strong company, Mr. Knight playing Prince Demetri with well-merited success. As Ivan Ipanoff Mr. H. Bonhote Wilson acted vigorously and well; the rôle of Duke Carl was capitally sustained by Mr. Edwin Lever; Mr. Edwin Jenner was extremely good as Captain O'Neil; and Mr. Edward Fryer capably sustained the rôle of General Nicol. The Countess Wanda is very cleverly depicted by Miss Ella Vane; Miss Eva Trevenna played Nita sympathetically; and in the part of Connie Jonathan Miss Hettie Senior was excellent. Mr. Edward Swinton as Baron Alphonse, Mr. Tom Taylor as Peter, and Miss Marie E. Robertson as Katrina were amusing.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Claude Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Hungarian actor-violinist Jan Rudenyi delights all here with masterly touch and finish; C. D. Reckie, comedian and raconteur, does well; the Three Rubys, speciality artists, give a capital show; Charles Norton in a mimetic monologue, *Pros. at the Races,* is very good, and takes well; a miniature comedy-drama, *An Extra Turn,* by Paul Mill and Godfrey Baynes, proves very attractive; Kelly and Agnes in comedy duo do capable work; the Three Calbas with funniosities of an acrobatic turn on a billiard table give satisfaction; Nell Cotter is a popular songstress; the Three Ansonias are exceedingly clever in their acrobatic contribution; the Courtiers are an accomplished troupe of vaudeville entertainers; and the animated pictures fill the bill.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Mr. Charles Baldwin and company are here with *Bank Clerks,* and score tremendously; Sisters Condor musical sketch artists, are well to the fore; Ed. E. Ford, Australian sundowner, is greeted with much applause for his capital impersonations and tuneful singing; May Martin, dainty comedienne, is cordially received; the Elité Harmony Boys appear in a capable vocal act, *Messmates Ashore,* are meritorious, and gain encores; Robbie Roy, comedian, is diverting with his droll items; Tate and Tate in an eccentric speciality number show much ability; the Narrow Bros. in a comedy cycling act are laughter provoking; and Payne's Bioscope, with new pictures, conclude an excellent programme.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.—Mr. W. Louis Bradford and his excellent company of musical comedians contribute some delightful numbers here; Stylo's hoop juggling is remarkably clever; Mr. C. and Miss Maud Courtney, American song and patter artists, are entertaining, well deserving the many plaudits they received; Tom Costello, versatile comedian, is as popular as ever; Jimson's well-trained and intelligent dogs gave much satisfaction; the Gotham Quartet of comedians and vocalists are applauded for their versatile entertainment; and Beatrice Bonnie, Wyze and Adna, and the Hippo. Pictures complete.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Plenty of variety is furnished by Mr. Fred Karno's company in *His Majesty's Guests.* Mr. George Hestor causes much merriment as Sergeant Lightning; Mr. E. Freshwater has one or two taking songs as Lord Easem; Mr. Charles Usher is a capital Mr. Miffen; and Mr. C. Griffiths is successful as Harry; Mr. C. Richardson is a clever knockabout as Bunker; and Mr. Sid Kearns a humorous Mr. Minks; Miss Aggie Morris a good Lady Maud Easem; Miss Edith Ager a capital Dolly; and Miss Kitty Brunton a quaint Miss Manley; Mr. Tom Manardo as Selina performs some sprightly acrobatic feats. The rest of the cast is in capable hands.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. Joseph Bebb's company in *A Lion's Heart* is having a good reception here. Mr. Henry Bedford gives a powerful portrayal of Rizardo, and Miss Ada Oakley is equally successful as Louise in the prologue, and afterwards as Marion Lorimore; Mr. Leonard Booker is a manly Dick Lorimore; and Miss Madge Beresford an engaging Bessie; Mr. Edgar J. Coyne is good as Jack Bealey; Mr. A. Helsby displays the requisite villainy as Col. Robert de Villefoi, in which he is well supported by Mr. Stephen Scanlan as Gaspard Dobre; Little Elsie May is decidedly clever as Gilbert; Miss Kitty Rose is an excellent Mme. le Cheminart; Miss Beatrice Holmes is good as Sister Gertrude. The remaining characters are carefully played, and the mounting of the drama is very good.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Lockhart's elephants, as shown by Captain G. Taylor, give a performance that is little short of wonderful; Lavelle Bros., acrobatic comedians, provide a smart turn; Jack Waller is a refined artist in a pleasing turn—comedy, music, and pathos; the Three Coopers, comedy and harmonising vocalists, are a capital turn; Braund and Davis (Teddy and Bert) are a good team of dancers; Cecilia Gold is a dainty burlesque artist with some capital songs and a good style; Ben Jackson is an exceedingly clever banjoist, and was well received; Ada Fawn, comedienne, won loud applause for her excellent rendition of her various songs, and proved a very popular turn; the Bouncing Dillons (Hilda and Willie) give a very clever turn, and in addition provide much laughter by a bouncing competition, which is open to everybody over sixteen years of age. Western Justice, on the Bioscope, concludes a capital programme.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Boothman.—Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company, in *A Girl Redeemed from Sin,* is paying a welcome return visit here this week. Mr. Jo Monkhouse gives an able representation of Will May; Mr. Philip Orr is good as Robert Denham; and Mr. George Lyttleton creditably presents the villainous Ernest Sylvester. Mr. John E. Tomlinson as Nancy's father is natural; and the humorous element is ably filled in by Mr. Willie Reid as Jim Jakes. Miss Olive Fulton, in the title-rôle, acts with sympathy; and Miss Ada Oxley as Peggy creates laughter.

RAMSGATE.—ROYAL PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest.—Large and delighted audiences are witnessing representations of the "Afloat and Ashore" series of animated pictures toured by Mr. Ernest Mansell. In vivid manner the films depict life in the King's service on land and sea, and there are also humorous pictures. During the shows there are turns of a wonderful character by Herculein, strong man; and the illustrated songs of Miss Maud Evelyn and the vocal contributions and dances by Harry Hardy add considerably to the attractiveness of the entertainments.

ROYAL VICTORIA THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jules Richeux.—Mr. Arthur Newstead, the well-known English pianist, gave an enjoyable recital on Saturday. The programme was of a classical character, and the ability Mr. Newstead displayed as the executant of a number of difficult compositions earned for him hearty applause from a most appreciative audience. The concert was also contributed to by Miss Menda de Morgan (a sweet mezzo-soprano) and Mr. Armstrong Dash (a talented violinist).

MARINA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. W. J. Atack.—The Marina has been well patronised during the week, and a capital programme has been staged twice nightly. A sensational dramatic story, *The Outlaw,* has been well received, and audiences are delighted with a miniature circus. MacFord is a popular comedian appearing this week; and the juvenile vocalists and dancers Tiny and Mite receive a hearty welcome.

RAWTENSTALL.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Mr. Junius Booth and company are here in *Monte Cristo,* a new version of Dumas' stirring romance. Mr. Booth, in the title-rôle, acts with great power and skill; as Mercedes Miss Cecilia Dare shows much talent, playing with womanly feeling and tenderness; Mr. H. Bannister is an excellent Danglars; and as De Morcerf Mr. John Howden displays ability. As M. Noirtier Mr. Conrad Heywood gives a faithful representation of the character, and Mr. C. W. Crowe's Villefort is an effective portrayal. Mr. Ralph Leon is a fine Albert Morcerf; and Mr. Herbert Colley as Caderousse is a typical bibulous innkeeper. Miss Alice West is successful as La Caronte; Mr. F. Martin's portrayal of the part of Abbé Faria is most successful; and the whole of the minor characters are admirably sustained. The staging of the piece is decidedly good.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—The popular comic opera *Tom Jones* is on the boards here this week. Mr. Cyril Thompson makes a great success of the title-rôle; he plays the part in a manly and breezy manner, and his singing is exceedingly good. Miss Alice Moffatt is a very fascinating representative of Sophia, and possesses great musical ability. The artistic singing of the two principals contributes very greatly to the success of the performance. Miss Florrie Saunders plays the part of Honour (Sophia's maid) with much chic and vivacity; Miss Olivia Eltone plays effectively as Lady Bellaston; Mr. Fred Seymour is a typical representative of Squire Western; Mr. A. H. Magilton acts characteristically as Blifil; Mr. A. J. Nicholls plays well as Mr. Alworthy; Mr. George Elton is exceedingly diverting as Benjamin Partridge; the Squire's three servants are very humorously impersonated by Messrs. Michael Dwyer, Cyril Lane, and Harry Courtin. All the other parts are well filled, and the concerted music is capitally rendered by a full chorus. Mr. Ernest K. Irving is a very capable musical director.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr P. E. Draco.—Mysticus, the human chameleon, is the star attraction this week, and provides a very clever and novel turn. The Bros. Durant do a variety of clever acrobatic and contortionist feats; the Collins' Troupe of seven attractive lady artists, including Miss Ethel Beech, give a good show; the Sisters Jerome (three in number) give some coon songs and dances with good effect; Violet Rose is a successful comedienne; Ada Gatley is well received in her pot-pourri speciality; A. G. Spry and Phil Parsons are two very amusing comedians; the comedy sketch entitled *Poor Master* is presented by Edward Cranston and Mrs. Bennett's company, and creates much amusement; and some good pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*Married to the Wrong Man* is in possession of the boards here. Mr. Oswald Cray is a powerful Jack Gladwin; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff cleverly portrays the rôle of Captain Deering; Mr. Ray Raymond is effective as Sergeant Manners, and Mr. Charles Vivian acts with success the part of Jasper Skinner; Mr. Paige Lawrence deserves a good word as the light-hearted Archie; and Mr. Sid Claydon amuses in the part of Timothy Clinker; Miss Mary Pemberton acts with womanly feeling as Rose O'Connor; and Miss Gertrude Boswell sustains with ability the part of Ruth.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—The Two Anartos, at the head of the bill here this week, are most amusing; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, in *The Dancing Master,* create roars of laughter; the Pardoes, in *Uncle and the Cannibal,* are clever; and other artists appearing include Lottie Holland; Sisters Cora, duettists and dancers, and sketch artists; Joan Deering, vocalist-violinist; Horace Monto, in musical sketch, *Tommy Atkins at Play;* and the Empire Bioscope Pictures.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, John Jackson; Resident-Manager, James Jackson, sen.—A capital programme is submitted here this week. Loie Fuller's Ballet of Light is a charming spectacle; Tally-Ho Trio submit some amusing and refined vocalism; Tom E. Hughes, comedian, finds favour in his character song and patter; one of the best turns is contributed by Sergeant Brennan, whose wonderful dexterity as a diabolist wins hearty appreciation. Mr. Ladé Henderson, vocalist; Six Lancashire Lasses, vocalists and clog dancers; Baddow, ventriloquist; Hughes and Elliott, vocalists and dancers; and the Hippodrome pictures complete.

ROTHERHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is here this week with *The Village Blacksmith.* Mr. Sam Livesey gives a very fine rendition of the title-rôle, and Miss Lily Leicester as Harry Strong speaks her lines prettily. Mr. Albert Sinclair as Captain Leo, the villain, receives the execration his effective portrayal deserves, and is cleverly seconded by Mr. Edwin Maydew as Lucas Marier. Mr. Thomas E. Marshall scores as Jeremiah Parkins; Mr. Fred Haming is both amusing and clever as Billy Twigg; Miss Edith Giddens is smart as Martha Mopps; Mrs. T. C. Livesey does well as Sal Parkins; Miss Cassie Le Grande is seen to advantage as Ruth Parkins; and Miss Maggie Edwards gives a finished portrayal of the part of Kate Strong. The wrestling match in the last act creates great excitement.

HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—An excellent bill is being presented at this house. Miss Dolly Elsworthy and company head the list with *The Orange Girl.* Miss Elsworthy is a sprightly Nell Gwyn; Mr. John Richter is very smart as Charles II.; Mr. Arthur Steele scores as the Duke of Buckingham; Mr. A. Howard is worthy of mention as Dick Harnden; Miss Mary Wilson is a pleasing Lady Castlemaine; and Miss Annie Ward excels as Mother Gwyn. Gicardo is a youthful but clever juggler; the Carney Bros. have a capital vocal scena in *Brothers;* and Miss Marie Jones gives a smart turn as quick-change artist. The Three Bordellas are a brilliant troupe of gymnasts; Miss Marie Nielson excels as comedienne and dancer; and Miss Nellie Towers is a pleasing vocalist.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair had a good reception by a full house on Monday, when they presented the famous old drama *Man to Man.* Mr. Frank Adair as the unworthy son made a great impression; Ethel Maythorne was ably impersonated by Miss Louie Adair; Mr. Edward Lloyd cleverly sustained the part of George Gordon; Mr. H. Holland capably played Matthew Ellerton; and Mr. Wilfred Beckwith as the mad parson was also successful. The comedy business was well done by Mr. H. Bruce Williams as Samuel Plumtree and Mr. Clifford Bown as Bill Burkley. Miss P. Oakley as Ned Doyle and Miss Evelyn Warde as Gipsy Madge also deserve special mention.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, very smartly heads an excellent programme this week; Jane Lane is a good pianist, and does some very amusing business. The other turns include Walter Wallis, eccentric comedian; the Westwoods, comedy and expert cyclists; Kahn and Kahn, illusionists; Fred Holland (the Surrey cricketer), baritone; Rose Hamilton, versatile comedienne; Drum and Major, comedy artists; Dunning, clever ventriloquist; Selby and Myers, comedians and dancers; and Parker and Parr, Welsh vocal comedy entertainers.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Statter.—Mr. W. H. Hallatt's company is (twice nightly) presenting *Two Little Sailor Boys.* Mr. H. E. Herbert gives an excellent impersonation of Commander Tregarthen; Mr. Horace Booth as the villainous Lieut. Redstone plays well; Mr. C. W. Spencer makes a good Admiral Grey; and Mr. H. M. Clifford is well placed as Captain Tom Yorke. Miss Blanche Steele raises the ire of the gods and makes a decided hit with Lola Grey; Mildred Grey is charmingly portrayed by Miss Muriel Dean; Miss Effie Crawford and Miss Ivy Millais as Cyril Grey and Tom Yorke ably sustain the title-rôles; Jim Royston is a clever piece of work by Mr. Sidney Fiennes; very enjoyable comedy is contributed to by Mr. Tom Sinclair as Ben Baxter, Mr. Fred Acton as Jack Jolly, and Miss Lizzie Chambers as Lucy Wilson. Good staging, uniforms, and dresses.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—A Jilted Woman's Revenge, Tale of the Revolution, Fido's Taking Way; Fantastical Airship, Fight for Honour, Polly's Excursion, His Wedding Morn, Night Alarm, Percy's Moustache, &c., are the new pictures given twice nightly this week to crowded houses. Mr. Lester King also pleases with his song (illustrated) "Daddy is the sweetheart for me."

SEACOMBE.—IRVING THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Mr. Robert Macdonald's company is making a hit here this week with *The Dairymaids,* packed houses being the rule. Miss Carrie Lacey is eminently adapted to her part of Lady Brudenell, which she plays capitally; Lieut. Sam Brudenell R.N., and Lieut. Frank Meredith, R.N., are well handled by Mr. Richard Telford and Mr. J. Scott Melville respectively; Mr. Bernard Vaughan is an ideal exponent of Dr. O'Byrne, R.N., his "brogue" being both unctuous and natural; Mr. Dan easily earns premier honours in the comic line for his cleverly-humorous portrayal of Joe Mivens, A.B., his by-play being irresistible. The scenes in which he figures with his sweetheart, Eliza (Miss Edie Martin) cause continuous merriment. Winifred and Ellen are prettily played by the Misses Vera Crichton and Doris Dickens; Miss Lucy Edwin is austerity personified as Miss Penelope Pychase; Miss Madge Christopher and Miss Alathea Allardyce do well in their respective parts of Lady Hyde and Mrs. Cheyne; and Miss Empsie Bowman receives ovations for her rendering of the various numbers allotted to Peggy. The scenery leaves nothing to be desired, and both chorus and orchestra work together excellently under the direction of Mr. H. H. Shaw.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. Harry D. Lyle.—*Man and Wife,* as presented by Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company, is proving a draw here this week. Mr. John F. Traynor gives an imposing personation of Paul Revere; Captain D'Esparre's rascality is faithfully depicted by Mr. Edward M. Hamilton; Jean finds a sympathetic exponent in Mr. George Overs; a dignified Colonel Latour is supplied by Mr. George Rammell; a convincing study of Sergeant Jacques is given by Mr. Ambrose Horton; as Bimbo and Bambo Mr. E. Hall-Eldon and Mr. Geo. Vinning give the lighter vein prominence; a thoroughly capable Marcelle is found in Miss Kate Hallam, who wins hearty praise; Miss Millie Doris as Rosette is sprightly and pleasing; and as Ruth Revere Miss Violet Temple is all that could be desired. The scenery is very fine.

SHEFFIELD. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart.—The farewell visit of Sir John Hare has been the theme of general conversation among lovers of the acted drama, and there was a large audience on Monday, when the eminent comedian appeared as the genial philanthropist Benjamin Goldfinch in the delightful play *A Pair of Spectacles.* Sir John kept the house in high good humour by the exercise of his finished art, and he was called before the curtain at the end of each act. The support accorded him was admirable, the ensemble being perfect with such artists as Miss Ada Ferrars, Miss Mona Oram, Miss B. Thomas, Mr. Ivor Dawson, Mr. W. T. Lovell, and Mr. Bertram Steer. The scenery and appointments were in perfect taste. Afterwards Sir John Hare appeared in his famous impersonation of Lord Kilclere in the one-act piece *A Quiet Rubber,* at the close of which there was a scene of extraordinary enthusiasm. *The Gay Lord Quex* was performed on Tuesday and Wednesday, and *Caste* was also billed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey-Aldred.—Mr. F. G. Kimberley's company opened on Monday to a good house in Walter Howard's popular military play *Two Little Drummer Boys.* Leading parts were carefully represented by Misses Maudie Douglas, Meg English, Patricia Connaughton, M. Ainslie, Violet Ingram; and Messrs. Will Percy, Edward Bikker, O. Douglass, Harry Scott, W. Geoff Sutherland, &c. The playing of the boys' band was applauded, and the performance was thoroughly appreciated.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*Her Love Against the World,* Walter Howard's Lyceum success, was played for the first time in Sheffield on Monday to a crowded house by Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's principal company. Mr. Fred Emery's gallant appearance and manly style of acting made him a fitting representative of the Earl of Strathmere; Miss Grace Heywood was a graceful and impressive Princess of Idalia; the part of Shulah was acted with her customary ability by the Alexandra favourite Miss Nellie Fletcher; Miss Rossie St. John was an interesting young Lord Lionel; Mr. Louis Gilbert submitted a fine reading of the character of Ulric, Prince of Ravensburg; Mr. W. H. Hallatt was good as Prince Othmar; and other characters were played by Mr. Victor Rowland, Mr. C. R. Hann, Mr. John Chesson, Mr. Arthur Hillyer, Mr. A. J. Moss, Mr. H. B. Lewis, Mr. John Mill, Miss Julie De Esco, Miss Gertie Reid, and Miss Hettie Ferguson. The scenery was much admired, and the military costumes were magnificent.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The special star this week is the original and amusing exponent of pawky Scottish humour Mr. Neil Kenyon, who is a great favourite. The Brothers Horne again cause hearty laughter in their comic boxing sketch, and other successful entertainers are Mason and Bart, in a smart gymnastic act; Charlene and Charlene, novelty artists; Miss Marion Scott, serio comedienne; Miss Blanch Vincent, vocalist; the Bros. Redmond, comedians; and the Peters, Phil and Nettie, in a comedy sketch. The band selection and the Bioscope pictures are also much-applauded items.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—Messrs. Lowenworth and Cohen, the talented Hebrew comedians and vocalists, reappeared on Monday and met with a hearty welcome; the Hilgest-Arcas company did a clever and elegant acrobatic act; Miss Norah Stockell, a graceful burlesque actress, and Miss Billie Burford, a pretty vocalist, were well received. Mr. Joe Peterman's company caused much amusement in a musical skit on the old-fashioned melodrama entitled *The Singing Servant;* Keen and Waller were loudly applauded; and the others engaged were the Panamas, in a pleasing pot-pourri entertainment; Mr. Fred Hastings, a funny female impersonator; and Messrs. Nightingale and Stigant. A pathetic film drama of the Pathé Frères firm, The Postman, was much enjoyed.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—The Raymond Bio-Tableaux still delight the habitués of this house with such fine animated picture plays as The Deserter, The Ma-in-Law, &c. The variety company includes Messrs. Metz and Metz, speciality artists, and Miss Le Roy, comedienne, &c.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—The newcomers this week are Captain Kettle, the amusing comedy conjurer; Mr. George Bernard, vocal comedian; and the talented Sisters Henderson, vocalists and dancers.

THE PAVILION.—Manager, Mr. C. R. Wordsworth.—Moving pictures by all the leading firms continue to please large audiences.

SHREWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh; Licensee and Resident-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—Mr. Morton Powell's talented company is here this week with *The Mystery of Edwin Drood,* nicely mounted and artistically played. In the heavy and difficult rôle of John Jasper, Mr. Bartlett Garth acts throughout with marked ability; Mrs. Morton Powell makes a pleasing and successful Rosa Bud; Mr. G. Ridgway Thorne merits considerable praise as Edwin Drood; Mr. J. Henry Twyford makes a manly and thoroughly capable Neville Landless; Mr. Richard Harris as Septimus Chrisparkle plays in a creditable manner the part of the sympathetic Canon; Mr. David Phillips makes a capital Durdles; Mr. Geo. J. Clayton merits encomiums as Chief Constable of Cloisterham; Mr. Wm. R. Berry acts in a praiseworthy manner as Constable of Cloisterham; Mr. Albert S. Goldburn and Mr. Arthur S. Gosport are a couple of picturesque characters as opium smokers (Celestials); Miss Jennie Risley in the character-part of Deputy is deserving of considerable commendation; Miss Dora Eastlake is dignified in deportment and diction as Helena Landless; Miss Addie Adair as the old hag Princess Puffer makes up finely and acts capably; and Miss Dot Russell is a capital servant as Mary Jane.

SMETHWICK. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—Mr. Henry Swinerd's company is paying a welcome return visit with *Dare-Devil Dorothy,* and the principal members of the company are having capital receptions. Miss Dorothy Desmonde acts well and sings sweetly in the title-rôle; Miss Nellie Valentine acquits herself admirably as the sister Ruth; Mis Nellie Harcourt as Judith is as vivacious and winsome as ever; Mr. Walter Ashley is a capital Captain George Fielding; Mr. Walter B. Nugent gives a clever study of the villain, Captain Edward Dudley; Mr. Edward Aldworth shows ability as Hawkins; Mr. Dean Cliffe makes the most of his rôle as Featherstone Haugh; and Mr. Will Brereton is as good a comedian as one wishes to see and hear; Miss Florence Corri as Rosy Ann and Miss Daisy Holbrook as Polly are clever acrobatic and speciality dancers. Under the direction of Mr. J. W. Cordiner and musical conductorship of Mr. George Encyl Lewis the piece goes with increased swing.

SOUTHAMPTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—*The Belle of New York* is being presented by Mr. J. Bannister Howard's company. Mr. Frank Lawton's whistling is quite a feature of the representation.

PALACE. — Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—Gunner Moir, the British heavy-weight boxer, receives an enthusiastic welcome, and the cinematograph views of the Moir *v.* Burns fight are entertaining. Haley's Juveniles are wonderfully clever, particularly Dot and Spot, two smart youngsters; Miss Olga Audre and company appear in *The Crimson Stain;* and others who entertain are Phern and Pherne, musical artists; Ellis and Watts, comedians; the Davenports, illusionists; Harry Attwood, comedian; and the Sisters Brenton, vocalists, &c.

HIPPODROME.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Garland and Douglas, with their successful *Trip to Coon Town,* take the house by storm, and win endless applause; Maidie Scott is as popular as ever; and Marriott Edgar scores his usual big success. Grahame's Juveniles, the Borghetti Troupe of acrobats, Luxe's troupe of dogs, the Falcons (equilibrists), and the Bros. Lawrence, dancers, all score big hits.

EMPIRE.—Manager, Mr. Auguste Denton.—The Walturdaw pictures continue to attract good houses twice nightly. The steadiness of the pictures is remarkable, and the entertainment from first to last is a capital one.

SOUTHPORT.—OPERA HOUSE, WINTER GARDENS.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Under the direction of Mr. Silvanus Dauncey an excellent interpretation of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's well-known play *The Hypocrites* is being presented this week by Mr. Charles Frohman's well selected and capable company. Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton submits a characteristic and well studied impersonation of the Rev. Edgar Linnell; Mr. Alfred S. Barber is distinctly successful in the part of Mr. Wilmore; the rôle of Lennard Wilmore was very well played by Mr. King Fordham; one of the best character-sketches was that of Mr. Charles Harley as the lawyer Mr. Viveash; Mr. Cecil Brooking is prominent and clever as the Rev. Everard Daubeney; Sir John Plugenet had a meritorious representative in Mr. Sydney Hamilton; Dr. Blaney was well played by Mr. Hanworth Browning; Miss Amy Ravenscroft depicted Mrs. Wilmore with great credit and force; Miss Gladys Purnell and Miss Gladys Harvey as Helen Plugenet and Rachel Neve respectively were both commendable portraitures; whilst Miss Florence Steventon, Miss Grete Hahn, and Miss Violet Harley did well in the parts of Mrs. Blaney, Mrs. Linnell, and Patty.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Mr. Frederick Mouillot's company is here, in *A Message from Mars.* Mr. Wallace Widdicombe as Horace Parker gives a striking impersonation; the physique and splendid delivery of Mr. William H. Brougham amply fit him for the rôle of the Messenger; Mr. Norman Clark as the Tramp deserves praise. Other important parts are undertaken by Miss Rose Helene (Minnie Templer), Miss Flora Hastings (Miss Parker), and Mr. Robert Grey (Arthur Dicey).

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietors, the South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Miss Lydia Yeamans, in her wonderful impersonations, is as charming and versatile as ever; she is assisted by F. J. Titus, at the piano. Tom Lloyd, eccentric comedian, has a big reception; clever dancing is done by the Delevines in their sketch, *Flipp and Flopp;* and some excellent concertina-playing is contributed by Percy Honri. Other good items are supplied by the Three Rochesters, society entertainers; Jeannie Mackay, ballad vocalist; and Maud Vera, comedienne and dancer. The Bioscope is interesting.

TIVOLI, LAYGATE CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—The Five Musical Tritons' vocal and instrumental performance is of a pleasing character; a good impression is created by Gertie Gordon, a clever comedienne and dancer; Madame Le Clair, with her illustrated choral songs, is well received; Charles Coll, a versatile comedian, pays a welcome return visit; and the Tivoloscope shows another excellent series of films.

SPENNYMOOR.—CAMBRIDGE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—A visit is being paid to the above theatre this week by Mr. Gilbert's Payne's comedians in a musical comedy oddity, *The Honeymoon.* As Nathaniel Noodle Mr Payne is exceptionally funny; Mr. Edward Ray gives a commendable performance as Archie; the Colonel Brown of Mr. H. F. Housden is effective; Jack Armstrong is well sustained by Mr Leslie Erle; Miss Hettie Lind as Madge Armstrong gives a good performance; Miss Lizzie Palmer sings and dances well; and the speciality dances by the Godfrey Girls meet with appreciation.

STALYBRIDGE.—GRAND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Jackson.—Mr. Harry Roxbury and company present a couple of amusing sketches, *The Prince of Monte Carlo* and *The Cowboy Millionaire,* in each of which Mr. Tubby Edlin takes a leading comedy part. Very acceptable turns are also supplied by Lily Currie, a pretty singer of chorus ballads; Yettmah, Japanese impressionist and magician; Edwards and Ward, comedians; the McAleaveys, champion jumpers; the Katos, the Lilliputian kidgets; Bass and Davis, cross-talk comedians, and others.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. E. Johnson.—*The Power of the King* is produced this week by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley and Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company. Mr. Travis Green appears as the Crown Prince Oscar, and plays the villain with much power, while Mr. Gerald Blake makes a very commendable hero of Captain Rupert Landgrave; possessed of a fine appearance, Mr. Charles Whitlock looks and acts the King to life; General Stanovie and Lady Florina take a great part in the wrong-doing, and are suitably portrayed by Mr. P. Morton Wright and Miss Georgina V. France; as Lady Anastasia Miss Dorothy Clifton presents an excellent piece of acting combined with a charming appearance; Miss Ruby Sutherland as Phillipi is a lovable little boy. The dresses are costly and handsome.

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STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—*The Catch of the Season*, presented here for the first time by Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. C. Wray's company has thoroughly entertained large audiences throughout the week. Mr. Wm. Greene impersonates the character of the Duke of St. Jermyn with natural ease and ability; Isaac Isaacstein is amusingly portrayed by Mr. H. C. Berry; Miss Alice Hamilton makes a stately Lady Chrystal; Miss Gladys Guy acts and sings delightfully as Angela; Miss Grace Hampton is very pleasing as Lady Caterham; and Master Ernest Grata proves himself a clever juvenile as Bucket.

EMPIRE. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—The Four Eugenes, ariel gymnasts, who occupy the chief position on the bill this week, accomplish many clever feats; Mozzetto and Page, jugglers, are exceptionally smart; Mr. and Mrs. Woodley Hulse, in an interesting playlet *A Shilling Toy*, command well-deserved appreciation; the Wakeman Quintette, in musical comedy sketch, are entertaining; Oliver Conroy is a comical comedian; Edwards and Edwards in their musical speciality are very pleasing; Rousby and Rene in *Fine Feathers* meet with favour; and much appreciation is bestowed upon Victor and Louis, *The Golfer and the Caddie*.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company in the successful comedy *Peter's Mother* is drawing large audiences here. Miss Violet Ley as Lady Mary Crewys acquits herself with consummate ability, and is very impressive throughout. Mr. Eille Norwood as the Q.C. is well suited to his part; as Lady Belstone Miss Mary Griffiths does well; Miss Josephine Rae as the spinster sister (Miss Crewys) is very amusing; Sir Timothy Crewys is in the able hands of Mr. Townsend Whitling; Mr. Vivian Gilbert gives a fine study of Peter; Mr. Edward Jophson makes a typical Dr. Blundell; Mr. Walter Russell as Canon Birch is good; and Miss Hilda Sims is a taking Sarah. The amusing curtain-raiser, *Turtle Doves*, is well received.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company is playing here this week an exciting drama, *Two Little Heroes*, and is drawing good houses. Payne's Bio-photoscope shows some very funny films.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Arthur Watson and Flo Stanley are here this week in a musical and comedy sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, their singing and dancing being loudly applauded. The Three Hodginis in a revolving ladder act are daring; Marie Blythe is a favourite vocalist; Florence and Rose Showell, duettists, sing well; Harley and Hardon, comedians and dancers, have good patter and dance well; Clivetto is a clever juggler; Madge Goodall, comedienne and dancer, takes well; and the Bioscope shows some excellent films.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—Eugene Stratton is undoubtedly one of the most popular artists ever presented here, and on Monday his singing and dancing were much applauded; F. V. St. Clair is another old friend who is always well received, and his up-to-date allusions to current events are most popular; the Musical Keiths give a pleasing instrumental show; the act of the Forsyths in *The Tramp in the Nursery* is most amusing; the Toreadors, in their burlesque of a bullfight are very funny; Chiko, contortionist, Cara Magda, gymnast, Phyllis Seymour, soubrette and dancer, and the Pictures are all pleasing.

STOURBRIDGE. — ALHAMBRA THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps.—*Dainty Lady Dorothy* paid her first visit here this week, and met with a cordial reception from a full house. The title-rôle was exceptionally well played by Miss Eva Darrell, who looked the part and sang her numbers well; Mr. Edgar Dereve proved himself an excellent comedian, and his scenes with Dorothy were much enjoyed; Mr. W. H. Montgomery possesses a good voice, and ably portrayed Lord Arnold. The remaining members of the company rendered efficient support, the dancing being particularly good.

SUNDERLAND.—KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. A. Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Reach.—Mr. Hamilton Stewart and company are here with *Sherlock Holmes*. Mr. Hamilton Stewart is an ideal delineator of the title-rôle; Mr. Robert Gilbert plays the part of Prof. Moriarty exceptionally well; Mr. Arthur Sheldon gives an effective portrayal of Dr. Watson; and an equal share of praise is due to Mr. Walter A. Cheltenham for his John Forman; Mr. Douglas Murray as Sydney Prince, Mr. Mark D. Draper as James Larrabee, and Mr. Louis Alexander as Alfred Bassick all go through their respective parts in excellent style. Master Thos. Russell pleases by his smartness as Billy; Alice Faulkner is admirably sustained by Miss Betty Fairfax, and the Madge Larrabee of Miss Edith Vogue is highly creditable; Miss Elsie Goulding is also good as Theresa.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden.—Messrs. Sydney Rennef and G. M. Copping's company in *Love Rules the World* met with the warm approbation of a large audience at this theatre on Monday. Miss Conyers Radcliffe plays Maud Carruthers cleverly; Harold Kingston is in the capable hands of Mr. Richard Vane; Flo Morton and Stephen Blight are capably delineated by Miss Constance Medwyn and Mr. Stephen Langton; Mr. Sydney Rennef is responsible for an interesting rendering of Jim Dixey. A delightful vein of comedy runs through the piece, and Miss Kitty Russell (Kitty Snowdrop) and Mr. Walter Dale (Billy Binks) are most diverting.

EMPIRE THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr Richard Thornton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden.—At the head of an excellent bill this week is Lil Hawthorne, who greatly adds to her popularity in the three songs which she sings. They are tuneful, well sung, and cleverly presented. Caicedo gives a remarkably fine performance, consisting of a series of thrilling feats on the wire; Madge Temple's act is a capital feature, and both in style and in her songs she is decidedly fetching. Her burlesque on the matinée hat is specially good. One of the successes of the evening is Fred Keeton, with humorous songs; some clever acrobatic business is shown in James Eadie and Cissy Ramsden's comedy duo; the Norman and Leonard Trio present a smart musical act; Walter Munroe pleases with a revival of his old songs and dancing, and Sydney Stern uses a fine voice with powerful effect.

PALACE THEATRE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry.—Most noticeable in a very good programme this week are Frank Long, Omoyo San, and company in their great ju-jitsu act, which is both interesting and edifying. Frank Seely entertains with comic songs; Bob Hamilton is welcome with his Scotch patter; and Gertie Lewis, male impersonator and dancer, the Fordyces, vocalists and dancers, Little Frankie, "the Highland Laddie," and Johnnie Holland and company, in the farcical absurdity *The Boatbuilder*, all give excellent turns.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is presenting *Lady Frederick*, with Miss Mabel Love in the title-rôle. Miss Love, in a delightful part, is able to make full use of her many charms. She is cleverly supported by Mr. Robert Minster as Paradine Fouldes; Lord Mereston is admirably played by Mr. E. F. Meads; Miss Elsie Irving is a capital Lady Mereston. *Lady Frederick* is preceded by an amusing certain-raiser, *The Peacemaker*.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company is seen to considerable advantage at the Star in *Home, Sweet Home*. Stephen Armitage is played with enthusiasm by Mr. Arthur Hinton; and the David Armitage of Mr. Fred C. Kay is worthy of notice. Mr. David Beattie, as the objectionable Lucas Lyle is also good; Miss Lydia Andre's portrayal of Joan stamps her as a particularly fine artist; another excellently played part is that of Dora, in which Little Hilda Vokes excels

THE EMPIRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—An exceptionally strong bill is headed by *The Brigands of Tarragona*, and the excellent way it is performed by Herbert Darnley's company places it in the front rank of music-hall sketches. The Ten Zerbinis' musical act is a notable one; May Edouin contributes pleasing numbers in an original and clever style; and Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies, who are assisted by Miss Lily Vine, contribute a telling dancing turn; Enzer, who has the assistance of Miss Clarice Enzer, provides a thrilling sword display and ju-jitsu; Walter King with his humourism is a gigantic success; and Arthur Astill makes a decided hit as a whistling expert. An enjoyable song and dance by Kitty Clinton, and the Bioscope conclude.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—The Bioscopic Academy is again excellently filled by such stirring films as The Dowry Hunters, The Kind-Hearted Shoeblack, Sold by His Parents, &c., the vocal part of the entertainment being entrusted to Madame Ben Thomas and Mr. Joe Dennis, who are both in fine voice.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company in *The Lancashire Lad* is appearing here this week. David Elmore, the Lancashire Lad, is in the capable hands of Mr Alec. Alexander; Mr. T. G. Vane is effective as Max Carlton; the acting of Mr. Wilton Read as Jem Wincote is good, and Mr. Bob Anderson causes much fun as John Willie Wardle, the village carpenter. Miss Stanley Burt displays much feeling as Jessie Wincote; Miss Nell Oliver presents a forceful rendering of the part of Lorna Wincote; Miss Jennie Hallworth makes a pleasing Jane Alice Clitheroe, and the Mother Wardle of Miss Molly Monaghan is realistic. The smaller characters are well taken.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. Barrie.—An important engagement is that of Mr. Reginald Dance's highly capable company in *Raffles*. The mounting and scenery are all that can be desired. In the name-part Mr Lewis Edgard is a thorough success; as Curtis Bedford Mr. C. Kean displays great ability; Mr. Arthur Bell assumes the rôle of Bunny very creditably; the Crawshay of Mr Oswald Griffiths is praiseworthy; and Lord Crawley and Lord Amersteth are safely entrusted to Messrs. P. Alexander and Rivers Bertram. Miss F. Titheradge wins much favour as Gwendoline Conran; while as Mrs Vidal Miss Brenda Gibson scores heavily. Lady Melrose and Lady Ethel are suitably assigned to Misses Kittie Lofting and Winnie Radcliffe; Miss Eva Bevington makes the most of the part of Marie.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—The Two Rangers top the bill with a truly clever and unique cycle act; Musical Silvo is cheered to the echo; Liddon and Hayward provide plenty of humour in *The Midnight Express*; Halbert is an elastic comedian; Violet Ashcroft and Will Verne add greatly to the evening's success. Wilbur Wright and His Aeroplane is the chief picture.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company is occupying the boards here this week, and opened on Monday with *The Bank of England*. Mr. Lester as Sherlock Holmes played in the cool and calculating style typical of the great detective. Mr. A. Evremond made an amusing Tommy Sprouts, and Mr. Chris. Felton provoked much merriment as the Hon. Bertie Burlington; Miss Fernandez made a characteristic American widow of Mrs. Beane, and Miss Lydie Hart is well placed as Margaret Dane. The Sylvia Barraclough of Miss Dorothy Riddell is decidedly good, and Mr. Harry T. Wood is responsible for a clever representation of Eric Dane; Mr. R. Bosco is entrusted with the unthankful rôle of Stephen Hartley, and gives a very creditable performance. *The Sorrows of Satan* and *A Life for a Life* are also in the bill.

TREHERBERT.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Poole, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—Good business is being done by Messrs. Fred Little and Fred Darcy's company in *The Executioner's Daughter*. As the executioner Mr. John B. Murray fully upholds his reputation; Mr. S. Leigh Courtney is well suited as Felix Marius; Mr. Walter Clarke scores heavily as Paul Rovel; Mr. Frank Ayrton causes roars of laughter in the part of Tom Holmes; Miss Enid Edoni is a striking and artistic Annette; Miss Nellie Howitt makes a powerful Felice; Miss Madge Seymour is droll as Sally King; Little Prudence Ayrton in the part of Christine shows marked ability for one so young. For the last three nights *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife* is announced.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee Mr. Weldon Dale.—Hippodrome Season.—Zena Pana's clever musical sketch at the piano entitled "After the Matinée" is highly appreciated, and so is Fred Clements in his latest success "Things I have noticed." The Tossing Austens give a skilful juggling and dancing scena; and an amusing duologue, *The Turtle Doves*, is smartly performed by Kenway and Emery; while Little Victoria is a promising child comedienne. The Johnstown Flood, a clever stage illusion, is the sensation of the week.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—A novel attraction in the Royal British Stage Circus is meeting with success this week. Mr. Robert Yelding proves himself a clever and daring bareback rider; Jako gives a gymnastic display of a high order; Miss Addalla is a talented contortionist; and some wonderful feats on the wire are performed by Miss Lena Scott. Uno Bros., comedy jugglers and acrobats; Miss Rolla, rolling globe artist; Leo Berto, with his midget pony, Prince; Gilleno and Shadow, clowns, also provide acceptable turns.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company in the drama, *The Old Folks at Home*, is here this week. Mr. Frank Liston gives a clever portrayal as Lord Kenilworth; Mr. Aidin Lovett fills with distinction the rôle of Andrew Ross; Mr. Henry Nelson submits a good rendering of Christopher Robin; Mr. Frank Caffrey as Ben Jolly enlivens the play considerably; Mr. Vernon Procter is capable as Hugh Lovell; Miss Maud Warburton wins high appreciation for her sympathetic and able rendition as Dorothy Robin; Miss Kate Froud achieves considerable success as Patricia Bathurst; and Miss Clara Santley wins favour as Martha.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—The Kurios, pantomimic artists, contribute an amusing and novel turn; Shenton and Chicks are clever dancers; Miss Flo Melville, comedienne, gives an enjoyable turn; Cullen and Carthy and Little Cluley keep the house in good humour; Rosa Tilley, comedienne, sings well; Kavados, juggler, has a capital reception; and the Hull Newsboy Trio provide an acceptable turn.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. J. Beecham; Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Mr. Carlton Wallace's company are reappearing here this week in the stirring play, *The Love that Women Desire*, and good business is again the order. Mr. J. O. Stewart as Squire Abingdon infuses into the rôle plenty of dramatic force, and he is ably assisted in the heavier parts by Mr. Morris Maud as Richard Abingdon and Miss Jessie Elvin as Madge Abingdon, the latter submitting a really clever sketch of a woman possessed of a remorseless nature. Mr. Sydney Leyton is a manly Philip Carnaby; and the humorous element is capitally sustained by Mr. John Hignett as Dennis O'Rourke, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson as P.C. Sowerbury, and Miss May Neilson as Patty. A graceful portrayal of Sybil Thornton is that of Miss Aimee Grattan Clyndes. The minor parts are adequately represented, and the staging is very effective.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—Animated pictures of a delightful nature form the chief attraction here this week.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Another capital entertainment is provided here this week, a striking feature being its versatility. Ford and Barras supply an acceptable turn, and their singing and dancing are responsible for vigorous applause; Frank Cass is a delightful character-vocalist, and the song "Saints and sinners" is an excellent composition; Elroy, the armless wonder, causes astonishment with his marvellous feats of painting; the Lyons Trio are capable pantomimists; Charles Banks scores well with a good selection of songs; and Gracie Hunt is a charming comedienne. Woodhouse and Wells score well in a knockabout turn; and Cissie Esdaile is a chic comedienne. Charles Banks sings capitally, and is well assisted by his dog "Woof." The pictures are good.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Messrs. Battersby and Forbes's company, in the new and interesting drama *The Empty Cradle*, is proving an excellent attraction here this week. Mr. Claude H. Seaton as Kenneth Bloodworth and Mr. St. Clair Forbes as Carnaby Bloodworth prove admirable characters; and artistic interpretation of Sir Carnaby Bloodworth is given by Mr. D. Urquhart; and as the gipsy (Jas. Boswell) Mr. Fred Wells makes a popular figure. Miss Nancy Battersby highly distinguishes herself in the rôle of Ida Boswell, the gipsy, hearty appreciation being also accorded to Miss Florence Treivoir in her representation of Mary Barton. As Sarah Puddicombe Miss Connie Meadows does full justice to the part; and the rendering of Martha is capably handled by Mrs. Tom Wilson.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Richard Nightingale.—The management of this popular place of amusement has made a change from ordinary drama this week, having secured Mr. Dickie Clare's company of comedians, who are producing the musical farcical absurdity, *Lucky 'Liza*. The change is appreciated, and there have been enthusiastic audiences. Mr. Dickie Clare himself fills no fewer than three rôles—a New Yorker, a Judge, and a French waiter—with great ability; and Miss Madge Brownie is a success as Eliza Bird (Lucky 'Liza); while the other parts are capably sustained. Some very clever dances are given by the Astor Trio; and the Chronoscope depicts the latest pictures.

NEW HIPPODROME. — Resident-Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—The management has been fortunate enough to have secured Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company, which, by arrangement with Charles Frohman, is producing *Leah Kleschna*. In the title-rôle Miss Bessie Rignold is exceptionally good; and Mr. Wm. Clayton as Kleschna has a part which he fills with much power. Mr. Hamilton Drane is very clever as Paul Sylvaine; Mr. Algernon J. Hicks as Raoul Berton and Mr. Gilbert Heron as Schram are deserving of special mention for their praiseworthy efforts. The play is excellently staged.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—PALACE. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, in *Original Scenes from Dickens*, have been seen here on previous occasions, and their popularity is as great as ever. On the present occasion they introduced Dick Swiveller and the little Marchioness, and their performance is an exceptional treat. The Florodoras are also popular favourites in their musical comedy; Chris. Richards, in eccentric comedy, is original; Alice Maydue is excellent in coster character; Marguerite Ismay and her White Coons sing in delightful harmony; fun is rampant during the musical comedy duologue of Clark and Hayden; and Harry Simms, light comedian, provides an agreeable item. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux are enjoyable.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE. — KNIGHTSTONE PAVILION AND OPERA HOUSE. — Manager, Mr. W. Payne.—Miss Grace Warner's répertoire company is paying a very successful visit here this week, and on Monday *Lady Audley's Secret* was staged. Miss Grace Warner gave a powerfully dramatic impersonation of Lady Audley; Mr. T. C. Carroll's interpretation of Sir Michael was thoroughly artistic; Mr. George Gordon made the most of Robert Audley; and Mr. Fred Wilson was exceptionally good as George Talboys. Mr. A. B. Lyons, Mr. C. Morton, and Mr. Roy Rhind were all praiseworthy in their respective characters. Miss K. Stewart showed much ability as Alicia, Miss K. Cranston was good as Mrs. Jopper, Miss A. M. Corri excelled as Phœbe Marks, and Miss M. Lewis's Hetty must be commended. Miss Nora Bretton as Prunetta and Miss Violet Palfrey are entitled to eulogy.

WHITEHAVEN.—MARKET HALL.—Lessees, The Edison Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. Victor Branford.—The new pictures shown here this week include The Greaser's Gauntlet, Love at First Sight, The Mohawk's Revenge, The Old Actor, and The False Coiners. A pleasing feature is the Edison Zenophone, with illustrated songs.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA.—Proprietor, Mr. James Kiddie.—This week Mr. Frank Stanmore's company is here with *The Gay Deceivers*. Mr. Stanmore plays the part of Lord Reggie ably; Mr. Mark Lester proves himself a good comedian by his work as Joseph; Miss Dorothy Chard, a sweet and winning heroine, fairly brings down the house with her tuneful vocalisation; Mr. Douglas Phillips as Lieut. Dewar looks the part and uses a good baritone voice well; Mr. Francis Chamier does sound work as Major Kurrie; the peculiarities of the fiery Colonel Dewar are nicely accentuated by Mr. Arthur Dennis; Mr. Leslie Hawkins does well in the part of a nondescript burglar; Miss Kate Chard is an able Mrs. Dewar; Miss Dora Lane a charming Winnie Winter; and as Rosie Miss Hettie Gale is responsible for comedy work.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Wigan Entertainments Co.—*Florodora* is paying a welcome return visit here. Mr. Gus Danby figures conspicuously in the well-known part of Tweedlepunch; Frank Abercoed finds an able exponent in Mr. M. D. Pitt; Miss Lilie Blythe gives an excellent portrayal of Lady Holyrood; and Miss Daisy Lake is a vivacious Dolores. Miss Louie Danby is a dainty Angela; while the Misses Daisy Wickendon, Nellie Laurie, Mercia Russell, and May Gould deserve special mention for their dancing.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—The Cragga, the well-known acrobats, in their comedy sketch *Billy* are accorded a big reception. Miss Florrie Gallimore, the favourite comedienne, contributes some very acceptable songs in her most captivating style; the Lyric Mummers are excellent vocalists, and their songs are highly applauded; J. H. Ellis makes a decided hit with his parody on "Love me and the world is mine"; the Society Quartette supply a vocal and dancing turn of considerable merit; Harry Taylor, comedian, sings a couple of songs acceptably; and the sketch by Whimsical Walker and company is thoroughly enjoyed. Mason, the Yorkshire mimic, and the Musical Jacksons conclude an excellent programme.

THE EMPIRE PALACE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—The programme of living pictures is a very enjoyable one, some of the chief being Maria Martin; or, the Murder in the Red Barn, Tommy's Trip to Morocco, Snatched from a Terrible Death, His Sweetheart's Birthday, A Double Suicide, Don Juan, and The Harmless Lunatic. Joe Leonard, vocalist and dancer; and Willie Hicks, descriptive vocalist, are also very acceptable turns.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Lovers of pure drama are afforded a treat this week in the visit of Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company with *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. The drama is certainly one of the best seen here for some time, and large and enthusiastic audiences are the rule. Miss Ethel Bracewell is to be congratulated on her portrayal of the Princess; Mr. Alfred Brandon as Prince Hildred gives an interesting performance; and Mr. Ernest Cox's assumption of Prince Olaf is full of fire and vigour. Mr. Melville Bickford displays dignity and pathos as the hunchback, Prince Michael; Captain Hector has an excellent representative in Mr. W. S. Mills; Mr. Kenneth Black is to be commended as the Bishop of Illyria; Mr. W. S. Hardy is good as the brusque Colonel Wellenberg; and Mr. A. E. Shuttleworth is a boyish and amusing Lieut. Karl. Miss Jessica Black is a girlish and graceful Viola; and Miss Gertrude Branscombe a pathetic Camiola.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—The programme here this week is well up to its usual excellence. The Seven Xentrix (five ladies and two gentlemen) present a rollicking vocal and dancing scena, which is brimful of dash and go; Dora Lyric sings chorus songs which soon catch on; H. R. Friscari performs wonderful tricks with silk hats; the Jackley Trio present a refined drawing-room act; and the bill includes Ryder Slone, character comedian; Stevens and Rennior, eccentric dancers; and Archie Glen, comedian.

WORCESTER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Warde.—Melodrama is the bill of fare this week, and popular parts of the house are showing generous approval of Messrs. Arthur Shirley and Ben Landeck's production, entitled *Women and Wine*. Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds as Dick Seymour is responsible for a powerful impersonation; Miss C. St. Elmo achieves success as Marcel Rigadout, and was at her best in the sensational duel scene with La Colombe (Miss Octavia de Noel); the part of Caliban was cleverly depicted by Mr. Edwin T. Kirby; Mr. J. Milne-Taylor made the part of Hugh Seymour highly attractive; and Mr. R. Foulis was an adequate exponent of the desperado Alphonse Beaudet. Some clever dancing was introduced by the Lottie Stone troupe.

WORKSOP.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. S. Goodman.—*The Prodigal Parson* occupied the boards of the Gaiety last week-end, and gave entire satisfaction. The Rev. Tom Godley, the principal character, was taken with success by Mr. Logan Darra, who gave a capital delineation of the manly exponent of religion; as his wronged and persecuted wife, Miss Violet Hammersley revealed histrionic merits above the ordinary; Enoch Juggins, the villain of the piece, was invested with due callousness by Mr. Alfred Northway; Phil Drive, the handy man at the vicarage, was in the capable hands of Mr. Owen Redmonde, who created roars of laughter. The remainder of the caste was in capable hands, and the piece, especially the Carnival scene, was well staged.

WORTHING.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Herr C. Adolf Seebold.—A welcome return to the drama is made here this week by the appearance of Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company at *Roaring Camp*. Mr. Mark Blow gives a clever display as Will Gordon; Mr. Chas. Johnson capably enacts the character of Tom Barnes, as does Mr. C. Scott that of Paddy McGinty. Good work is put in by Mr. Roy Jackson as Gonzales; Mr. Reg. Harley West ably enacts the character of the Hon. Wm. Beaufort; Master Arthur Foster is satisfactory as Tommy; Miss Fay Garnet Vayne is an excellent Nell Curtis; and Miss Constance Elgin did well as Jovita de Sutro.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week Henriette and Selina, society entertainers, have pleased the patrons here; the Vandevilles present highly-amusing sketches; the Two Perkins are clever patterers; and Miss Louie King sings and dances in a taking manner. The pictures this week are also very entertaining.

YORK.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington.—The Monckton-Hoffe company has appeared during the week with much artistic success in *Irene Wycherley*. In the name-part Miss Maude Henderson gave a fine portrayal of a charming character; Mr. Ralph Hutton as Sir Peter undertook a difficult rôle with consummate skill, and gave evidence of careful study; Philip Wycherley is a disagreeable part, but ample justice was done to it by Mr. Charles Garry, an actor of sound methods; Miss Grace Illingworth was a lively Carrie Hardinge; and Miss Evelyn Cecil and Miss Muriel Carmel had little to do except look charming, a duty in which they were in every way successful. *Petticoat Perfidy*, in which Miss Grace Illingworth, Miss B. Mervyn, and Miss E. Cecil appear, is a capital curtain-raiser.

OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—Mr. John Humphries and his company are appearing with great success in the sketch, *Ancient Britons;* Jay Laurier is undoubtedly a first-rate comedian; Herbert Clifton gives a neat and finished performance; Josie Delaine is delightful both in song and dance; the Five Vernons are successful instrumentalists; the Bros. Brooks introduce amusing patter; and Kitty, Kennedy Allen, the Sisters Brand, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special newspaper express services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—Rugby, 4.30 a.m.; Coventry, 4.54 a.m.; Birmingham, 5.20 a.m.; Crewe, 6.5 a.m.; Manchester, 6.50 a.m.; Liverpool, 7 a.m.; Chester, 9.3 a.m.; Doncaster, 6.10 a.m.; York, 7 a.m.; Hull, 8.20 a.m.; Darlington, 8.58 a.m.; Scarborough, 10.5 a.m.; Newcastle, 10.10 a.m.; Leeds (Central), 6.58 a.m.; Huddersfield, 7.37 a.m.; Bradford (Exchange), 7.47 a.m.; Harrogate, 7.50 a.m.; Halifax, 8.17 a.m.; Burnley, 9.28 a.m.; Leicester, 4.36 a.m.; Nottingham, 5.10 a.m.; Derby, 5.35 a.m.

CHILDREN ON THE STAGE. The Act affecting the employment of children on the stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, agents, entrepreneurs, and performers wishing to possess a copy of the complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

THE NATIONAL THEATRE.

"It is, I think," says Mr. Comyns Carr in his "Reminiscences," "impossible for anyone who has been closely associated with the modern theatre not to be impressed with the need of some worthier support of the drama than is afforded by the fickle and shifting taste of the public; and the career of Irving, both as an actor and a manager, only goes to emphasise a truth that had been repeatedly enforced by the fortunes of his predecessors. We pride ourselves in this country upon what is achieved by individual enterprise, but we do not always remember at what a cost such achievements are won. The harvest is ours, but the labourers who have reaped and stored it are too often but miserably rewarded. Charles Kean, at the close of his long struggle at the Princess's, confessed that he left the theatre a poorer man than when he entered it; Phelps's fortunes at Sadler's Wells left him nothing to boast of; and Henry Irving, though he enjoyed at the zenith of his career a popularity greater than was accorded to either of his predecessors, had good reason before its close to realise that the motley public of a great capital is not to be counted upon for the enduring support of the more serious form of dramatic enterprise.

"It is strange that there should be so much reluctance in the English mind to entertain the idea of a National Theatre. In regard to other forms of art, the need of public support is recognised and accepted. The treasures of sculpture and painting accumulated in the British Museum, the National Gallery, and the South Kensington Museum owe their existence, in part at least, to the expenditure of the money of the people, and when the Royal Academy failed to initiate any comprehensive system of art teaching, it was undertaken by the nation. On every ground of public policy the claims of the drama might be urged with even greater plausibility. Its appeal as an educational force is even greater and more immediate, and as a humanising influence it is capable of reaching that larger class who are not yet prepared to appreciate the masterpieces of ancient art. Of the countless thousands who can enjoy Molière's incomparable humour, how many are there who would pause before Leonardo's "Monna Lisa" in the Louvre? How many again in our own country, of those who are familiar with the tragedies of Shakespeare, ever find their way into the British Museum or the National Gallery?

"And yet the prejudice against the public support of the theatre endures, and can only, I think, be broken down by the demands of the democracy. If a national theatre is to be established in England, it must realise that it has a national mission. The Théâtre Français was established at a time when means of communication were difficult, and when, therefore, it was only possible to cater for the public of the metropolis But under modern conditions a national theatre might, in a fuller and larger sense, serve the interests of the country as a whole. The great provincial cities might share the fruits of its labours; and when this is realised, I cannot but think that, even though the Government may remain apathetic, the needful support for such an institution will not be wanting."

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PANTOMIME GOSSIP.

Messrs. Smith and Carpenter, who produce their second pantomime at the Lyceum Theatre on Wednesday, Dec. 23, have decided to charge the same prices as those at present in force for drama at that theatre, but with reduced prices for children at matinées. Founded on the famous old fairy tale of "Little Red Riding Hood," the aim of Mr. Ernest Carpenter, the producer, has been to place on the stage a fairy pantomime specially suitable for children.

The title-rôle will be played by Miss Marjorie Carpenter, the twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. Ernest Carpenter. The little lady, who is at present at school, is an exceptionally talented dancer, and has been trained for the stage from her babyhood The Prince will be played by Miss Dorothy Craske, of whose success in last year's Lyceum pantomime it is hardly necessary to remind our readers. The principal comedian is Mr. Julian Rose, who will play the part of Baron Levinski. He is a famous American actor who has appeared in England for about three weeks only last spring, at the Coliseum and the Pavilion. Two other principal parts in the pantomime will be played by Messrs. Foreman and Fannan, two of the funniest comedians on the music-hall stage. Mons. Espinosa, whose brilliant dancing was such a feature of *Robinson Crusoe* last year, will have a still more prominent part this time. He will play the Wolf, and will change in succession into a Scarecrow, Punch, and a Serpent, in each part having a characteristic dance.

The principal girl will be Miss Frances Cameron, an American who has not yet appeared in England, but who has made a great reputation in the States by playing the leading parts in *The Merry Widow* and other musical comedies. A most important part in the production is taken by the Good Fairy, who will be played by Miss Eva Kelland, an artist specially engaged because of her good singing and dancing. The Dame Trot will be Mr. J. D. Hunter, an enormous favourite in several towns where he has been running his own pantomime, and who now makes his first appearance in the West-end.

The chief scenes in *Little Red Riding Hood* will be The Village, with a beautiful representation of the crowning of the May Queen, The Woods in Summer, with a wonderful Flower Ballet, changing in sight of the audience to the same Woods in Winter, with skaters, sleighs, and everything complete. A feature of Part II. will be the great Toyland scene, in which the stage will be completely filled with toys of all sorts, both new and old-fashioned, many of them mechanical figures in full movement, with remarkable dances. The last scene will consist of a great Fancy Dress Ball, in which about 250 people will be on the stage in all sorts of fancy costumes, and some remarkable effects of colour and lighting will be obtained, the whole being backed up by a wonderful display of fairy fountains, for which many tons of water will be used each night.

The stage direction is in the hands of Mr. Ernest Carpenter, who has produced the whole series of remarkable successes at the Lyceum, and the "book" is written by that gentleman and his wife.

There will be a harlequinade at matinées, presided over by Mr. Harry Gardner, the clever clown, the one who officiated last year.

The two "ugly" sisters in the Adelphi pantomime, *Cinderella*, will be played by Miss Mabel Russell, who for some time played Mitzi at the Gaiety, in *The Girls of Gottenberg*, and Miss Marie Rignold. Rehearsals of the piece are now in progress.

At the King's, Hammersmith, this Christmas, the subject of Mr. Mulholland's seventh annual is *The Babes in the Wood*, by Fred Bowyer. The company is a particularly strong one, including as it does Miss Marie Dainton as principal girl, Miss Winnie Browne as principal boy, Mr. George Mozart as the Baron, Hall and Earle as the Robbers, and Mr. James A. Watts as the Dame. The Babes are Miss Vera Sanders and Miss Elsie Forster, while a special comedy part has been written in for Miss Gwennie Harcourt. Other engagements are those of Miss Miriam Grainger, Miss Olive West, Miss Madge Bell, Mr. Alec Godfrey, Mr. Rudolph Kloss, Mr. Reg. Edwards, and Mr. John Sandbrook. The scenery has been specially painted by Mr. T. J. Dowling, and the costumes promise to outdo anything previously attempted at this theatre, renowned though it is for the gorgeousness of its productions. The chorus numbers one hundred, and some particularly striking scenic effects are promised. Miss Ina Alston is arranging the various ballets, and Mr. B. J. Paterson is responsible for the music. The whole will be produced by Mr. Jos. R. Tate, and the initial performance will be on the afternoon of Boxing Day.

Mr. Robert Arthur's Kennington pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, is now in active preparation. All the principal parts have been allotted, and the cast will be as follows: Boy Blue, Miss Lulu Valli; Miss Muffit, Miss Queenie Essex; Jack and Jill, the Sisters Wood; the Squire, Ernest Thiel; Mother Hubbard, Leonard Thiel; Johnnie Stout and Jimmie Green, the Poluskis; Rupert, Tiny Tim; Wolf, Mr. Harry Benson.

Entirely new scenery has been prepared, and the principal feature of this will be a *Daily Mail* Ideal Home scene. A surprise is being prepared in the Forest scene, the nature of which Mr. H. B. Brandreth, the acting-manager at Kennington, wisely decides not to indicate in advance. Mr. Dix has written a bright and lively book on the old nursery theme; and Mr. Julian Wilson has composed some pretty melodies. A strong point in the company will be Victor's troupe of children, who are a very clever and ingenious lot.

The scenery has been expressly painted by Messrs. Stafford Hall and McKie. The pantomime opens on the Wolf's Lair, and changes to the Village of Kennington, nigh to the Cross of that name, and proceeds through various other scenes of ancient local interest to the School scene, where the children, under the examination of the Squire, display their surprising abilities. Another big scene will be the Forest of Wandsworth. In this scene Mr. Frank Dix, the author, has made a bold bid for novelty, which it is hoped will come as a delightful surprise. From this to the Squire's Grounds the audience will be conveyed through a gorgeous succession of realistic pantomime scenes until their arrival at the final scene, namely Vauxhall Gardens.

Mr. Robert Arthur's fifth pantomime at the Fulham Theatre is now in preparation, the subject this year being "Cinderella." The book is by Stanley Rogers, who will supervise the production. A special feature will be a ballet arranged by Bertram Valentine; the scenery will be done by Mr. Glover, Edmund Grimani, and others; the dresses by Messrs. H. and M. Rayne and Miss Adela Jackson, and the ponies will come from Messrs. Hales'. The music is composed and arranged by Harry Richardson, George M. Saker, and Julian Rutt. As regards the cast, Miss Agnes Tandy has been engaged to play the principal boy, and Miss Nora Wadeley will be the Cinderella. Miss Emily Stevens and Miss Alice Inman are down to play Elerin and Araminta, the elder sisters, Miss Dolly Hook is the second boy, and Miss Mabel Rose is the Fairy Godmother. The Baron and Baroness are to be played by Messrs. Freddie French and Ted Young, who will no doubt be given plenty of opportunities for creating mirth. Mr. L. W. Harris, Mr. Arthur White, and Mr. Harry Carlisle will also be found in the cast. The dances will be given by Miss Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers, Mr. Charles Radnight is to fill the responsible post of stage-manager, and Mr. Julian Rutt is to act as conductor. The opening performance is underlined for Dec. 26.

Miss Dorothy Firmin, Kennington's charming Cinderella of last Christmas, has been engaged by Mr. Robert Arthur to play principal girl (Alice) in *Dick Whittington*, at the Coronet this year.

Mr. Bannister Howard is at present extremely busy making preparations for *Robinson Crusoe*, which is likely to be one of the best pantomimes ever seen at the Crystal Palace Theatre. Splendid scenery, beautiful dresses, and an excellent company are to be expected, and seats for the pantomime are already being booked. Miss Lillie Lassah, a former popular principal boy at the Palace, will be Robinson Crusoe, Miss Venie Clements Polly Primrose, Mr. Bert Edwards Will Atkins, Mr. Henry Zeitz Friday, Mr. G. Harvey White Mrs Crusoe, and Mr. Scott Russell the Cannibal Chief.

The pantomime at the Dalston Theatre will be *Red Riding Hood*. It will be produced on Christmas Eve. A feature of the production will be an old-fashioned harlequinade, and Mr. Tom Green will be clown.

"Humpty Dumpty" will be the pantomime at the Broadway, New Cross, and will be produced by Mr. Fred Warden. A strong company is being secured for the production. Mr. Fred Eastman will play the King, and Mr. Stratton Mills Dame. Miss Edna Morgan will be principal boy, and Miss Hanid Alexander second girl. The Tiller Troupe of dancers will add to the attractions of the pantomime, which will be produced on the afternoon of Boxing Day.

Mr. Rich. Waldon will produce the twenty-ninth pantomime at the Royal Princess's, Glasgow, on Thursday, Dec. 10. The title is *Diccory Dock*, and the libretto is by the author of the last two successes here, Mr. J. James Hewson. Miss Flora Cromer will be principal boy and Miss Ella Retford principal girl. Mr. Harry A. Gribben will be the Squire, Mr. Ainsley Burton the Dame, and Mr. Peter Bermingham a Page Boy. Messrs. Walker and Lake have special parts, Mr. Syd Walker as a Professor and Mr. Cliff Lake as his assistant. Misses Edith Haley and Maggie Fraser are the second boy and girl, and the Sisters Bartholomew also have boy and girl parts. Mr. Walter Dale and Messrs. Stevens and Brett are also in the cast. Miss Fanny Boulton is arranging the dances, and Mr. Waldon promises something striking in scenic display. The company includes quite a lot of former pantomime favourites at the Princess's, Miss Ella Retford having been there two years ago, while Misses Haley and Fraser and Messrs. Walker, Lake, and Bermingham were all in last year's record success.

The Theatre Royal, Birmingham, is producing its own pantomime this time, the subject being *Dick Whittington*, with Miss Sybil Arundale as the hero. Tom Foy is to be idle Jack, and Messrs. Drew and Alders, Harry Lupino, Nipper Lupino Lane, Wee Wallace, Fred Whittaker (as the Cat), Arthur Reynolds, John Power, Eric Campbell, and the Misses Ethel Legrette, Clara Reid, Ada Whittaker, and Violet Baynton are engaged.

At the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, Mr. J. F. Graham will be playing *Boy Blue*, with Miss Hetty King in the title-rôle. Miss Gladys Ivery is to play principal girl, Miss Rita Everard and the Eight Stella Girls are engaged, and also Messrs Tom E. Murray, Horace Mills, G. H. Elliott, Jay Laurier, and the Lyric Quartette.

Mr. Lester Collingwood's pantomime at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, will be on the subject of *Red Riding Hood*, for which he has engaged the following strong and extensive cast:—Miss Ellaline Thorne (principal boy), Miss Dolly Denton (principal girl), Miss Ivey Roze (second boy), Miss Joyce Stevens (second girl), Messrs. Stephens and Rennior (comedians), Mr. Albert Schafer (Dame), Musical Schafers (specialities), Mr. Frank Blythe (Baron), Mr. Frank Bolger (Wolf), Mr. Geo. Penn, "the man with the violin" (Simple Simon), Miss Maudie Olmar (title-rôle), the Three Tivoli Girls, and the Molasso Troupe (specialities).

Manchester is to have only one fixed pantomime this year, namely, *Goody Two Shoes*, at the Theatre Royal. Miss May Beatty and Miss Hilda Dugdale are to be the principal boy and girl respectively; while the principal comedians engaged are Mr. Mark Sheridan, the Bros. Egbert (the Happy Dustmen), and Mr. Harry Conlin.

The Edinburgh Theatre Royal will be the only regular theatre in the city to provide a pantomime this season. The house will remain closed for rehearsal after a performance on Monday next of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* by the local branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, and will reopen on Thursday, Dec. 10, with the pantomime, which will follow the fortunes of Dick Whittington. Several popular players have been engaged, notably Mr. Will Evans, in whose hands the chief comedy part is certain to be an impersonation full of choice humour. Miss Jane Eyre, of whose quality Edinburgh playgoers had a glimpse last year, when she so ably and cleverly filled a prominent character at a brief notice at the beginning of the pantomime, will assume the name-part; and the principal girl will be played by a charming young actress in the person of Miss Ethel Erskine. The spectacle will be stage-managed by Mr. John Lloyd, who has many pantomime triumphs in the past to his credit.

CHARITY MATINEE AT THE NEW.

Sir,—I have only just seen your account of the above matinée, and should be glad if you would correct in your next issue an error made by your critic. "Ma cœur s'ouvre à ta voix" and "Love is meant to make us glad" were not sung by me, but by another lady. I sang, first (*a*) "Forethought," (*b*) "Could I forget"; second, "The sweetest flower that blows," which you were kind enough to mention favourably. The mistake was probably due to the fact that there were additional artists whose names were not on the programme. Thanking you in anticipation.—Yours faithfully,

EDITH M. DINORBEN.

37, Cornwall-road, Bayswater, W., Nov. 25.

The original Apollo Theatre company, including Dan Rolyat and Miss Florence Smithson, in *Tom Jones*, will visit the Kennington Theatre next week.

Miss Beatrice Felsted sang two sacred songs, "Peace be still" and "Far from my Heavenly Home," by Wynyard Ryde, R.A.M. (copies of which have been accepted by H.M. the Queen), at the Palace Pier, Brighton, last Sunday, being specially engaged by Messrs. Ashton and Mitchell's Royal Agency, and she will be heard early in the spring at the Albert Hall. Miss Felsted has declined an offer of twelve months in America to enable her to fulfil her engagements, which carry her up to May, 1909.

PLAYERS OF THE PERIOD.

MISS KITTY CAVENDISH.

Miss Cavendish's dramatic birthday took place in *The Shop Girl*. She began humbly in a chorus small part and understudy, which led within a year to her playing the nom-rôle. Following an engagement under the same management, in *The Gay Parisienne*, to play Nora Honeycomb, she again succeeded, in due course, to the title-rôle. Her next part was that of Dorothy Travers in *The French Maid*, in which she made a notable success. Miss Cavendish then adventured into comedy, and played for some months in *Niobe*, *A Bad Lot*, &c. Enlisting then under the banner of Mr. C. P. Levilly, she enjoyed a happy and comfortable engagement lasting about seven years. Engaged first as understudy for Miss Stella Gastelle in the name-part of *La Poupée*, she sustained the rôle for three tours while that lady was playing in other operas. In Mr. Levilly's numerous ventures she had the opportunity of creating various parts, amongst them, Lady Harriet in *Lolah*, Leschia in *Amorelle*—in which she was the original Jeannette when it was first produced by the late Mr Willie Edouin—Cissie Wix in *Jack and Jill*, &c. Meanwhile Miss Cavendish appeared frequently in pantomime, principally Dick in *Dick Whittington* with Mr. J. H. Savile, and under his pleasant management did three other seasons, playing variously principal boy and girl. She has also been principal girl with Mr. J. F. Elliston, and has acted a season with Mr Robert Courtneidge in a special part. Four stock seasons at Douglas, I.O.M., are also to be included in her career, her more important parts embracing the title-rôle of *Niobe*, Georgina Tidman in *Dandy Dick*, Lady Harding *The Idler*, Stella *Captain Swift*, Rosa Colombier *The Arabian Nights*, Mrs. Crosse *The Late Lamented*, Lady Jessica Nepean *The Liars*, Mrs. Ralston *Jim the Penman*, Lady Isabel *East Lynne*, Rosamund *Sowing the Wind*,

[*Photo by Foulsham and Banfield.*

MISS KITTY CAVENDISH.

Stella de Gex *His Excellency the Governor*, Mrs. Dane in *Mrs. Dane's Defence*, and many others. Miss Cavendish is at present playing Nina in *His House in Order*.

WINTER GARDEN OPENING.

After the first act of the performance at the New Winter Gardens, Dublin, on Monday, Mr. Mouillot, managing director of the Dublin Theatre Company, Ltd., appeared on the stage and was enthusiastically received. In the course of his speech he said:—"I feel a proud and happy man tonight, as I have realised an achievement which I set out upon twelve years ago. I have been instrumental in giving to my native city the finest theatre in the world. With its adjunct, the Winter Garden, this theatre is the finest in the world. Paris, Berlin, London, New York, Buenos Aires, St. Petersburg—no capital city that I have visited has such a unique theatre. Ladies, the Winter Garden has been designed chiefly for you. We want you to use it as you would your club, to make it your home in the city. It will open daily at twelve noon and remain open till two o'clock for light luncheons. Our theatre orchestra will play, and you will have selections on the auxetophone, a very wonderful improvement on the gramophone, invented by an Irishman, the Hon. Edward Parsons, also the inventor of the turbine. At 3.30 each day there will be a cinematograph performance in the theatre by the London Cinematograph Company, of which I am a director, so that I shall be able to see that you get good pictures. There will be about an hour of pictures, and the tea will be waiting for you in the Winter Gardens. You will be able to hear Tetrazzini, Melba, and Caruso on the auxetophone. All this at the modest price of 1s. No alcoholic refreshments will be sold in the day time. During the evening, between the acts, you will be able to accompany your husband into the Winter Gardens; he won't be able to go and 'see a fellow about that dog' he is so fond of talking about, and if he does, why you can see a girl about a cat. You will remember at the opening of this theatre we advertised very largely for some time previously, and I thought everyone knew that the glories of the Old Royal were going to be revived. Well, about seven o'clock I took a car at the Shelbourne. 'Where to?' says the Jarvey. 'Theatre Royal,' says I, proudly. 'Go along,' says he; 'it's the Gaiety you mane. The Theatre Royal's been burnt this twenty years.' That brings me by an easy stage to the Gaiety, and our purchase of it. We intend to run it on the same lines as this theatre. We shall close in May, and make some extensive alterations, and reopen in August. I can tell you there can be no monopoly under me. I will get you the very best I can get for both theatres. When you have seen our Winter Gardens I am sure you will join me in thanking my co-directors for supporting my ideas for your comfort; Mr. Ashworth, for the admirable way in which he has carried out our ideas; Mr. Martin, who seems to build everything; Mr. Moore, for his assistance in selecting the plants; Mr. Parrington, for his general supervision; and all our staff, who are as good workers as ever I met. Ladies and gentlemen of Dublin, you can be assured as long as I have life and strength they are devoted to your services. The Winter Gardens are now open."

Probably the most intensely dramatic offering ever included in a New York variety programme is the "tabloid" version of *The Bells*, in which drama the well-known tragedian Mr. Thomas E. Shea has been appearing at the popular-price houses for a number of years. Condensed as it is, it consumes much more than the average space of time allotted to sketches or the regular vaudeville turns, none of the blood-curdling effects being omitted. If this sort of thing goes on the line of demarcation between the theatres and the music halls will become so thin as to be almost invisible.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(From our New York Correspondent.)

NEW YORK, Nov. 18.—Miss Ethel Barrymore began her annual engagement in this city at the Hudson Theatre on the 9th inst., appearing as Lady Frederick in Mr. W. Somerset Maugham's three-act comedy of that name, which proved to be not only a very delightful play, but a most suitable vehicle for Miss Barrymore. This was shown by her apt delivery of the witty lines and the give-and-take repartee of the first act, and the easy and natural manner in which she handled the humorous situations that follow. Miss Barrymore was repeatedly recalled at the end of each act, and the play was received with enthusiastic approval by a crowded house. Miss Jessie Millward made a welcome reappearance on the local stage in the character of Lady Mereston, and gave an excellent portrayal. Mr. Bruce McRae was capital as Paradine Fouldes; and Messrs. Arthur Elliott, Norman Tharp, Charles Hammond, and Orlando Daly rendered good service in prominent rôles. With Miss Barrymore in New York, the Barrymore-Drew family is well represented in current theatricals. Her uncle, Mr. John Drew, is appearing in *Jack Straw* at the Empire Theatre; Miss Louise Drew, his daughter and Miss Barrymore's cousin, is a member of Miss Billie Burke's company in *Love Watches* at the Lyceum; and another cousin, Miss Georgie Drew Mendum, is playing a comedy part in *Vid Wireless* at the Liberty Theatre.

"Blue Grass," a racing drama, in three acts, by Paul Armstrong, has scored a decided success at the Majestic Theatre. Blue Grass is the name of a racehorse owned by Colonel Taylor, of Kentucky. The first act is laid at the Colonel's home near Lexington, and deals with the problem of how he can entertain his guests in view of the fact that he has spent his last dollar in preparing for the race that is to be run on the morrow. Wilfred Warren, a young Northerner, whom Miss Virginia, the Colonel's daughter, has met in Washington and taken a fancy to, is among the supper party, and he gives the aged negro servitor, known as "Old Folks," the sum of twenty dollars for helping to repair his automobile. The money is passed on to Melissa, the cook, who is thus enabled to set forth a right good supper. Ultimately, however, this good-natured act of young Warren's causes an estrangement between him and Virginia. The two scenes of the second act show the club house at Louisville, where the race is to be run, and the paddock. A New York bookmaker named Kelly has cast covetous eyes on the dam of Blue Grass, a valuable brood mare known as My Lady, and, having obtained a provisional bill of sale, he employs foul means to make Blue Grass lose the race, in order that the Colonel may be ruined; but his trick fails, and the thorough-bred wins. Virginia and her father, and Judge Young, the Colonel's friend, whose son is riding the racer, witness the race from the paddock, and from their lips the audience learns that Blue Grass has been left at the post, that the jockey has nevertheless dashed after the flying field, and is rapidly gaining, and finally that Blue Grass has swept down the home stretch with a splendid burst of speed and won by a nose. This means that the Colonel's home and his family pride have been saved, and all would be well were it not for the efforts of the scheming Kelly to obtain possession of My Lady. He turns up at the farm whilst the race is being run, and deceives the old negro by showing him the provisional bill of fare, which the darkey cannot read. But young Warren happens along, reads the document aright, and defies Kelly to take the mare. Then a telegram comes to say that Blue Grass has won. The final scene shows the home-coming and the adjustment of the misunderstanding between Virginia and young Warren that arose when the Colonel found out that he had entertained his guests on the young man's money. The latter, with the aid of Old Folks, manages to set himself right in the Colonel's eyes, and the love affair ends happily. The best moments of the play are those in which the Colonel's daughter describes the progress of the race and the victory of Blue Grass, and again when the faithful old negro talks to My Lady as she puts her head through the stable door, and recalls how she once won a great race twenty years ago. Mr. George Marion's stage-management was as praiseworthy as his impersonation of the negro. Miss Olive Wyndham as Virigina Taylor gave a faithful representation of a Kentucky girl in love with a Northerner, and her spirited description of the race had a most exciting effect on the audience.

"Unto Others" is the name of a new psychological play which Mr. W. J. Hurlbut, author of *The Fighting Hope*, has just completed for Miss Olga Nethersole. It is an American play, with its scenes laid on the "east side" of New York. This means a new departure for Miss Nethersole, who will produce the play during her forthcoming American tour.

The line of demarcation between the theatres and the music halls has never been the vexed question in America that it has in England, but it is only recently that playlets of an ultra-serious character have been put on at the variety houses on this side, and it remains to be seen whether or not the theatre managers will raise any objection. No longer relying exclusively on the comic, the purveyors of vaudeville are now treating their patrons to liberal doses of the tragic, and giving them "variety" in the most literal sense of the word. One might always enjoy a good laugh at the vaudeville houses, but never a good cry, and the music hall managers have evidently decided to repair the defect in their programmes without further delay. At the Colonial Theatre last week a one-act tragedy called *The Submarine* was enacted by Mr Frank Mills, formerly with Miss Olga Nethersole, and a company of four. It was adapted from the French of MM. E. H. Laumann and Paul Oliver, and is said to have had a long run in Paris. The submarine boat "Feu Follet" is engaged in naval manœuvres. Commander Leroux is addicted to opium, and he takes a larger dose than usual, with the result that he sinks the boat to an unusual depth. The two compartments reserved for the sailors are flooded, and the boat goes to the bottom. The "sweating" of the steel plates forms a noxious and deadly gas, generated by the action of the salt water on the electric apparatus, and in the frenzied struggle against certain death discipline is forgotten, and a mad fight is carried on until the entire crew is suffocated and drowned like rats in a trap. The next scene shows a dry dock with funeral services for the dead in progress. The play was described by one newspaper as "realistically ghastly," and by another as "a horrible nightmare."

Mr. Arnold Daly has gone into vaudeville, and is appearing in the one-act play *Becoming an Editor*, by Mark Twain and Gabriel Timmons. This is a dramatisation of one of Mark Twain's old-time sketches that in its original form served many a public reader. Sam Brooker, the character assumed by Mr. Daly, is a young man who knows nothing whatever of farming, but his lack of knowledge does not deter him from becoming the editor of an agricultural paper called the *Chicago Farmer*. The paper has been run on conservative lines, and has had a very limited circulation. Brooker changes all that by giving nonsensical advice on farming matters, which causes the paper to be talked about and increases the sales. Trouble comes when "Old Subscriber" calls to enter a protest, and an escaped lunatic, who believes what the paper tells him, also drops in. The new editor only holds the job for a day, but in that space of time he certainly "makes things hum."

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(From our own Correspondents.)

MELBOURNE, Oct. 20.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. E. J. Tait.—After a short season of six nights, *Camille* was withdrawn on Friday evening to make room for the production of *Zira*, a strong, emotional play which was staged on Saturday evening to a crowded house. Miss Margaret Anglin plays the woman Hester Trent with vigour and effectiveness. All the other parts loomed fitting to the eye, and had each actor and actress been in the author's mind they could not have been better suited. The play was admirably mounted and met with a cordial reception from an enthusiastic house. *Zira* will be staged for five more nights only, Saturday evening next being reserved for a special revival of Shakespeare's delightful comedy *Twelfth Night*.

Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. John Wren; Business-Manager, Mr. Harry Musgrove.—Vincent Wallace's sparkling opera *Maritana* has been delighting large audiences for the past fortnight. *The Bohemian Girl* will be presented for the twelve farewell nights.

Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon.—Saturday night saw the usual packed house at this popular place of amusement, when a particularly strong bill was submitted by Mr. Rickards' Tivoli company. The Marconi's sensational turn completely mystifies the audience, nevertheless the many interesting experiments performed by these clever artists call forth genuine applause. Miss Mignonette Kokin is now an established favourite, her dancing is graceful, while her stories are always amusing. Gregson and Goodfellow present a screaming farce, which keeps the audience laughing from start to finish. Galetti's dogs and baboons perform a number of clever tricks. The Miles Stavordale Quintet charm all with their remarkable performance on the banjos and harp. Miss Hulo Hodgson and Mr. Harry Lowther present a laughable absurdity, entitled *Barmaids*, while enjoyable turns are presented by the Reno Sisters, Fred Bluett, Jack Russell, Marlowe Sisters, Clarence Tisdale, George Bently, and that charming child artist Baby Watson.

King's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. Julius Grant.—The popular Drury-lane melodrama *Human Nature* was revived on Saturday night and served to draw a good house. Miss Eugenie Duggan was bright and pleasing as Nellie Temple. Captain Temple was ably played by Mr. George Cross; the two villains, Matthew Harker and Paul de Vigne, were well presented by Mr. Max Clifton and Mr. Lawrence Dunbar. One of the best of the many parts is that of Horatio Spoffkins, which was in the capable hands of Mr. Bert Bailey.

Bijou Theatre.—Lessee, Miss Florence Baines.—Miss Florence Baines's last week as *Miss Lancashire, Limited*, opened on Saturday night to a large audience. The season throughout has been a successful one. On Saturday next Miss Baines and her company leave for New Zealand, and takes with her the heartiest good wishes of the host of friends she has made during her stay in Melbourne. Miss Muriel Johnston accompanies Miss Baines as private secretary.

SYDNEY, Oct. 20.—The theatres are all doing good business. Mr. J. C. Williamson has *Sunday* at the Royal, with Miss Tittell Brune in her greatest part, and *The Merry Widow* at Her Majesty's, with Miss Florence Young, Mr. Gouriet, Mr. Reginald Roberts, and Miss Carrie Moore in the principal parts. At the Criterion Messrs. Meynell and Gunn repeat *The Belle of Mayfair* to crowded houses, anxious to see Ivy Salvin, the heroine of the Bigwood breach of promise case, who plays a minor part, and who "arrives" in her viceregal motor-car, with crowds to receive her. Meanwhile, the artists in the company are waiting a return of public recognition. The same firm presents *Two Little Sailor Boys* at the Palace to satisfactory business, Miss Lilian Meyers, Miss Maisie Maxwell, and Miss Louise Carbasse increasing their popularity with each performance.

At the Tivoli Miss Vera Buttall is singing with great acceptance, and Barnard's Mannikins create fun and evoke much applause. Abdullah's Arabs, Osborn and Brooks, Ted Kalmas, Nita Leete, Fanny Powers, and the perennial favourite, Nellie Wilson, make Mr. Harry Rickard's patrons happy and contented.

The Lyceum has prayers and hymns on Sunday, and all the rest of the week Spencer's Theatrescope is shown to large audiences. Mary Stuart's life is amongst the novelties, which include scenes depicting events grave, gay, and grotesque.

The new Bijou Picture Palace, opposite the Central Railway Station, appears to hold its own against the picture shows already mentioned, as well as the Victoria Hall, Queen's Hall, Oxford Theatre, and other film exhibitions.

Miss Esther Khan's annual concert produced quite a number of clever pianists from her studio, and they, through Mr. Lewys Scott, made the lady a valuable presentation. Miss Rose Seaton and Mr. Cyril Monk were amongst the assisting professionals.

Next week the phenomenal Cherniawski Children (three) will begin their Australian tour, under the management and direction of Mr. Edward Branscombe. Miss Mafie Horton is also in the programme.

MISS EVE TANNE'S RECITAL.

A charming young reciter made her appearance at the Steinway Hall on Tuesday evening last in the person of Miss Eve Tanne, a young lady who has already achieved some distinction in connection with the British Empire Shakespeare Society. Miss Tanne's programme was described as dramatic and humorous, and it certainly did not lack variety. A scene from the third act of *Romeo and Juliet*, Conan Doyle's "Confessions," Olive Schreiner's "The Hunter," a selection from "Adam Bede," one or two short poems, with musical accompaniments, and a monologue, by Lady Hugh Bell, entitled *A Woman of Courage*, all found a place in the evening's repertoire. Miss Tanne's style is quiet and delicate, and if one or two of the items really demanded a more vivid personality for their perfect expression, on the whole the recital was one affording much pleasure, and, gifted with an excellent voice, Miss Tanne should certainly meet with success, either as a reciter or on the regular stage. Excellent assistance was given by Mr. Jackson Byles, who contributed two or three violin solos, and by Mr. Guy Pertwee, who sang some baritone songs of a lightly humorous character.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

A recital on the new organ was given by Mr. F. G. Mitford Ogbourne, organist of St. Andrew's, Holborn, and professor of the Trinity College, on Wednesday afternoon. The programme commenced with "Grand Chœur," in E flat, by Guilmant, which was followed by Best's Air, with variations in A, from the composer's "Six Concert Pieces." Bach's "Allegro (from the "Toccata," and "Fugue" in C major) was also included in the programme; and the beautiful "Allegro Cantabile" (from Widor's Fifth Symphony) was admirably played by Mr. Ogbourne, who was much applauded in this and the clever Theme, with variations, from "L'Ecole d'Orgue" (Lemmens). The recital concluded with A. Hollins's "Concert Overture in C." To add variety to the programme two songs were given by Miss Florence Griffiths, "So we'll go no more" (Maude V. White) and Sullivan's popular song, "Orpheus with his Lute." The accompanist was Mr. Leonard Gordon.

LEADING ACTRESSES AND ACTORS OF THE COMEDIE FRANCAISE AND ODEON THEATRES, AT THE ALHAMBRA IN A CINEMATOGRAPH ENTERTAINMENT.

An extremely interesting private exhibition of cinematograph art films, published by Messrs. Pathé Frères, and reproducing photographically performances by the leading actors and actresses of the Comédie Française and the Odéon Theatre, Paris, was witnessed by a privileged audience who assembled in the Alhambra on Friday afternoon, the 20th inst. Mr. Alfred Moul, the managing-director of the Alhambra, at whose invitation many ladies and gentlemen, whose names are household words in literary, artistic, theatrical, and society circles, attended the matinée, entertained his guests to tea during an interval. Mr. Cedric P. Ivatts, the manager of Messrs. Pathé's establishment in Charing Cross-road, also busied himself in one way or another. Among well-known people present were Mr. Charles Alias, Mr. G. W. Anson, Mr. Otto Beit, Miss Kate Bishop, Mr. C. Blakiston, Mr. Rutland Barrington, Miss Lilian Braithwaite, Mr G. W. Byng, Miss Fanny Brough, Mr. Alfred Brydone, Mr. Dion Boucicault, Miss Phyllis Broughton, Mr. Alfred Bishop, Miss Kate Carlyon (Forbes-Robertson's company), Viscount Curzon, Hon. Arthur Clinton, Lord Pelham Clinton, Mr. F. Holman Clark, Mr. Albert Chevalier, Miss Kate Cutler, Miss Maudi Darrell, Mr. Tom B. Davis, Mr. Dennis Eadie, Mr. G. E. Englebach, Mr. Harry Fragson, Mr. Norman Forbes, Miss Vane Featherston, Miss Rosina Filippi, Mr. George Graves, Mr. Basil Gill, Mr. A. Holmes Gore, Mr. Charles Glenny, Mr. Lawrence Grossmith, Mr. Wm. Greet, Miss Marie George, Mr. J. Hassall, Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. J. A. Hare, Miss Margaret Halstan, Miss Ethel Irving, Miss Isabel Jay, the Earl of Kilmorey, the Earl of Kinnoul, Mr. H. A. Lytton, Mr. C. M. Lowne, Mr. Alfred Lester, Mr. W. Lestocq, Mr. Robert Loraine, Mr. Edmund Maurice, the Duchess of Marlborough, the Countess Mitsu, Mr. M. R. Morand, Miss Eva Moore, Mr. F. Mouillot, Mr. Akerman May, Mr. J. A. Fuller Maitland, the Duke of Newcastle, Mr. and Mrs. Pinero, Mr. Bernard Partridge, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Mr. Norman Page, Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds, Mr. Charles Rock, Miss Louie Rene, Mr. Ian Robertson, Major and Mrs. Simpson, Mr. C. W. Somerset, Mr. Aubrey Smith, the Right Hon. Sir James and Lady Sievewright, Mr. Edward Sass, Miss Lucy Sibley, Mr. E. Lyall Swete, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith, Miss Hilda Trevelyan, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Mr. Henry Vibart, Mrs. Lancaster Wallis, Captain Wombwell, the Mayor of Westminster, and Mr. C. H. Workman.

Thus, a very vivid representation of Alphonse Daudet's play, *L'Arlesienne*, was given, the principal parts being played by Mesdames Grunbach, Marie de L'Isle, Bouquet, and Bertyl, and M. Desfontaines, all of the Odeon Theatre. This well-known love drama has been performed by the artists named in the same country of Camargue where Daudet wrote it. We see the various incidents of this tragic story pass before our eyes in the places where they happened; in the courtyard of the "Mas" flooded with the brilliant light of Provence; along the pond of Vaccarés where Frédéri runs away from the vision of the Arlesienne; in the Camargue plains where is silhouetted, on the dark background of the Alps, the tall form of old Balthazar, the shepherd, with his sheep pressed closely about his grey cape; in the antique city of Arles inside the famous arena where, after a bull fight, Frédéri met, for the first time, the proud Arlesienne, for love of whom he was to eventually kill himself These charming landscapes of the South of France add, with the poetry of their sceneries, their amusing local colouring and beautiful sun, a new and captivating interest to Daudet's masterpiece. We do not think that we can do better than give a translation of *The Arlesienne*, taken from Daudet's "Letters from My Mill":

"To go down to the village, one passes a 'Mas' or farmhouse, built near the road, at the end of a large courtyard planted with nettles. It is the true house of the Provençal farmer.

"Why had this house struck me? Why did this closed gate sadden my heart so? I could not have said, and yet that dwelling made me feel cold. When you passed it, dogs did not bark at you, the bantams flew away without clucking. Inside, not a sound! Nothing, not even a mule's bell. Had it not been for its white window curtains and the smoke that ascended from the chimneys, one might have believed that the place was uninhabited.

"Yesterday, on the stroke of noon, I was returning from the village, and, in order to avoid the sun, walked alongside the walls of the farmhouse, in the shadow of the nettle-trees. . . . In the road, in front of the 'Mas,' silent servants were finishing the loading of a cart of hay. . . . I had a look at it as I passed, and saw at the other end of the courtyard, with his elbows leaning on a large stone table—his head propped on his hands—a tall old man, quite white, with a jacket too short, and ragged breeches. . . . I stopped. One of the men said to me in a whisper: 'Hush! It's the Master. . . . He has been like that since his son's mishap.'

"At this moment a woman and a small boy, clad in black, passed near us with heavy gilt prayer-books, and entered the farmhouse.

"The man added: 'The Mistress and Cadet, who are coming home from Church. They attend the Mass every morning, since the boy killed himself. Ah, sir! What grief. . . . Gee up, beast.'

"The cart moved to go. I, who wanted to know more, asked the driver if I might sit near him, and it was up there in the hay that I learned all that heartrending story.

"He was called Frédéri. He was a good-looking peasant, twenty years old, as quiet as a girl, strong, and with open face. As he was very handsome, all the women eyed him. But he had only one in his heart—a little Arlesian girl, all velvet and lace, that he had seen once in the arena at Arles.

"At the 'Mas' they did not see this acquaintance with pleasure at first. The girl was said to be a flirt, and her parents were not of the place. Yet Frédéri wanted his Arlesienne at any cost. He said: 'I shall die if you do not give her to me.' It was decided that they should be married after the harvest. Then one Sunday evening, in the courtyard, the family were finishing their dinner. It was almost like a wedding breakfast. Toasts had been given in honour of the fiancée all the time. . . .

"A man appears at the door, and with a trembling voice, demands to speak to Mr. Esteve. Esteve gets up, and walks out.

"'Master,' says the man, 'you are going to marry your son to a coquette who has been my sweetheart for two years. What I say I will prove. Here are letters. Her parents know everything, and they had promised her to me, but since your son is after her, neither they nor the belle will have me. I should have thought, however, that after that she could not be another man's wife.'

"'Well,' said Esteve, after he had seen the letters, 'come in and have a glass of Muscat.'

"The man retorted, 'I have more grief than thirst,' and away he went.

"The father came back, apparently unmoved, and resumed his seat at table, and the meal finished merrily.

"That same evening Esteve and his son went together through the fields. They stayed out a long time. When they returned, the mother was still sitting up for them.

"'Wife,' said the farmer, taking his son to her, 'kiss him: he is unhappy.'

"Frédéri spoke no more of the Arlesienne. He loved her still. Yet he was too proud to say anything, and that is what killed him. Sometimes he would spend whole days in a corner motionless. At other times he would throw himself into his work. At night he would go on the Arles road, and walk straight before him, until he saw in the west the stalwart steeples of the town. Then he would come back.

"Seeing him thus continually, sad and lonely, the farm people were at a loss to know what to do. They were afraid of some mishap.

"Once at table his mother, looking at him with her eyes full of tears, said: 'Well, listen, Frédéri, if you will have her, we shall give her to you.'

"His father, red with shame, bent his head. Frédéri made a sign, 'No,' and went out.

"From that day he altered his behaviour, making a show of being always happy, in order to comfort his parents. He was even seen again at the ball, at the public-house, or at the 'ferrades.'

"His father said, 'He has recovered.' His mother was still afraid, and more than ever looked after her boy.

Frédéri used to sleep with Cadet, near the silkworm room, but the poor old woman ordered a bed to be put for her near him. . . . The worms might want her during the night.

"Then came the fête of St. Eloi, the patron saint of the farmers.

"There was a great fête at the 'Mas.' . . . There was Chateauneuf wine for everybody, also crackers and bonfires on the barn floor, and lots of coloured lanterns in the nettles. . . . 'Three cheers for St. Eloi!' They farandoled themselves in death. Cadet burned his new smock-frock. Frédéri himself looked pleased. He made his mother dance, the poor old woman wept with pleasure.

"At midnight they went to bed. Everybody needed sleep. Frédéri did not sleep, poor boy. Cadet has said since that he had sobbed the whole night. Ah! I tell you he was past recovery! The next morning at dawn his mother heard somebody run across her room. She had a sort of foreboding. 'Frédéri, is that you?'

"Frédéri does not answer, he is already on the stairs.

"Quickly his mother gets up. 'Frédéri, where are you going?' He goes up to the loft, she follows him.

"'My son, for goodness' sake!' He shuts the door, and draws the bolt. 'Frédéri, O my Frédéri, answer me, what are you going to do?' With her old trembling hands, she gropes for the bolt.

"A window is thrown open—the noise of a body on the flagstones of the courtyard, and it is all——!

"He had told himself, poor boy, 'I love her too much, I must go. Oh! these miserable hearts of ours! It is rather strange, anyway, that contempt cannot kill love!'

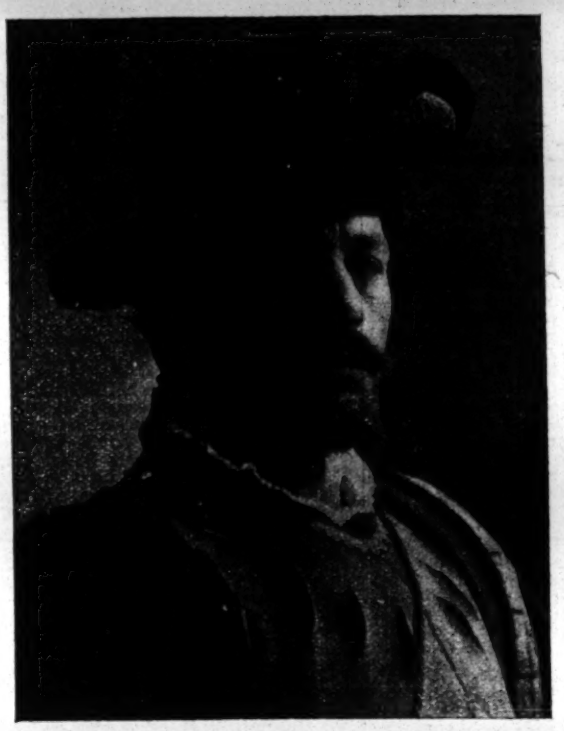

Photo. by Nadar.

M. LAMBERT (Duke of Guise).

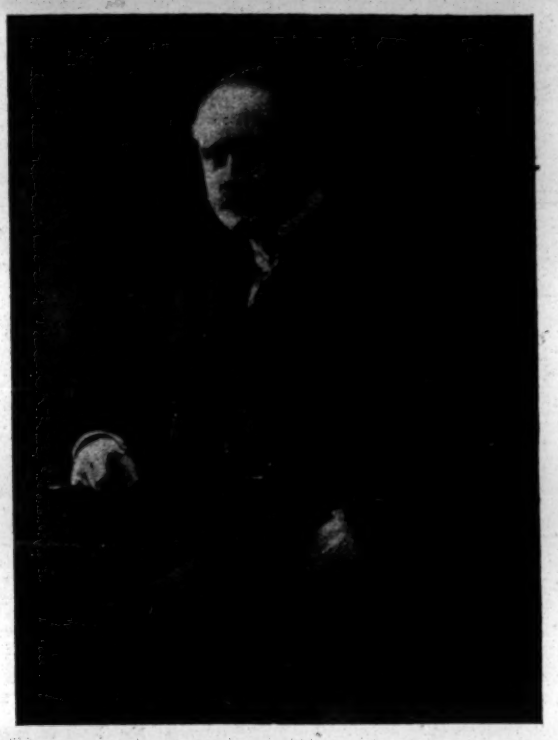

Photo. by Nadar.

M. LE BARGY (Henri III.).

Photo. by Boisonnas and Taponnier.

MLLE. ROBINNE (Marchioness of Noirmoutiers).

"That morning the people in the village wondered who it was that could cry so over there, in the direction of Esteve's 'Mas.'

"It was in the courtyard, before the stone table covered with blood and dew, the half-naked mother who was moaning with her dead son in her arms."

According to this description Messrs. Pathé, assisted by the artists, have adequately carried out the author's ideas. It is altogether a beautiful piece of work, and the public will be glad to learn that it is now included in the Alhambra programme.

The Murder of the Duke of Guise is another wonderful Pathé production shown the same afternoon. This also is a play, written specially for the purposes of this art film, by M. Henri Lavedon, of the Académie Française, and it has been acted for Messrs. Pathé by some of the most eminent French artists, notably Messrs. Le Bargy and Albert Lambert, and Mlles. Robinne and Bertha Bovy, of the Comédie Française; and M. Dieudonné, of the Renaissance Theatre, Paris.

To understand the story this film tells, it will be interesting to give a few facts regarding the men and doings of the period:

"Henry of Lorraine, Duke of Guise, was a member of one of the most powerful houses in France in the sixteenth century. His rivalry with Henry of Valois, King of France, practically filled the reign of that monarch with anxiety, lest he should usurp the throne. Henry III., remembering the lessons his mother, Catherine of Medici, had taught him, to relentlessly pursue with his hate those who threatened his power, was very bitter against Henry of Guise and his partisans, the Leaguers. In 1587 Guise was the ally of the King against Henry of Navarre, the Chief of the Protestants, but Henry III.'s only thought was to be as unfaithful to Guise as he had been to Navarre. Guise was the Catholic leader, and he dared to dictate his orders to the King at the same time as he humbled himself before Philip II., King of Spain, who sent him money, and promised to assist him in his ambition. Meanwhile the sixteen delegates of the different boroughs of Paris were growing impatient at his long hesitation to strike the final blow. Guise, pressed by the Parisians, arrived in Paris on May 9, for, fearing lest his partisans should take the Louvre without him, he had left Soissons the previous night, attended by eight gentlemen only and the Mayor of Paris, Brigard. He avoided Bellièvre, the Secretary of State, sent by the King to stop his progress, and formally forbade him to come within Paris. He arrived at the Louvre under the escort of Catherine of Medici, and the next day barricades were erected in the streets. Guise's partisans summoned the mob and showed them that the King's Swiss Guards do not defend themselves. The Parisians availed themselves of this and killed them in spite of the soldiers' prayers for mercy. The streets belonging to Guise, Henry III., acting upon his mother's advice, left Paris. Guise exacted from him his appointment as Lieutenant-General of the Realm, among other vexatious conditions, such as that for the King to destroy heresy in France, and give Epernon's possessions to Guise. Paris had formed itself into a 'Commune,' and the most complete anarchy reigned supreme. Henry III. and Guise awaited with anxiety the news of the Spanish Armada, and they both understood that, if it were victorious, Philip's ambition would be boundless, and France lost to Henry III. Pending the momentous issue of this expedition, Henry III. feigned to abandon Henry of Navarre and Epernon now siding with him. Then news came that there was nothing left of the once powerful Spanish Fleet. As soon as Henry III. realised that he had no longer to fear Philip, he took courage and used with the League the same policy as his mother had used with the Protestants. He meant to withdraw from Guise during the peace all the advantages the League had extorted from him to grant it. According to Conventions entered upon in July, the Parliament was to assemble at Blois. The Duke of Guise consented to attend, for he thought that this would further his views, and give him a greater importance to the detriment of the Royal power. History relates that the Duke received at least five letters warning him of the risk he was running in staying at Blois. He never gave them a thought, and remained in the town, which his friend, the beautiful Charlotte of Beaune, Marchioness of Noirmoutiers, entreated him again to leave a few hours only before the time appointed for the murder. The members of the Council who had been summoned for six o'clock arrived. The King, as soon as he saw the Cardinal of Guise entering the Council Chamber, took his men from their hiding-places and posted them in his room and the corridor outside. The Duke eventually entered the Council Chamber. He was tired, and asked for something to eat. He was offered some prunes, which he ate while the Council continued its work. The door opened and Revol, the Secretary of State, said to Guise, 'Monsieur, the King wants to speak to you; he is in his old study.'"

And this is how the film depicts the murder:

"The Duke gets up, puts a few prunes into his comfit-box, throws his cloak over his left wrist, and as he leaves the Council Chamber he is greeted by the forty-five men who are waiting for him. A few steps away from the door of the study he turns his head in order to see why they are following him, and immediately receives in the back a sword-thrust, then several wounds with daggers and swords. He clasps several of the murderers, drags them a few paces, and falls down at the foot of the King's bed, and after a few seconds passes away. The murderers find on the dead man's body a note to the effect that about £90,000 was necessary every month to maintain war in France. The body is carried down to the guard-room covered over with a grey coat and a cross made of straw, and then burned. The Marchioness of Noirmoutiers enters and realises what has been done. Mad with despair, she wishes to flee, but she dashes against the King, realises everything, and faints."

The acting of this film was vivid in its tragic intensity, and the play compelled the attention of the audience from start to finish. The music, by M. Georges Bizet, beautifully played by the Alhambra orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Byng, the musical conductor, added an additional interest.

THE RED HAND was another extremely well-acted story presented cinematographically. It is a morbid drama in eleven tableaux exhibiting modern Paris in its night aspect, the taverns and supper rooms of Montmartre; the resorts of suspicious characters and the fashionable restaurants. Of the delineators of the principal characters, M. Severin is probably best known to English playgoers as the creator of "'Chand d'habits," while Max Dearly is equally popular in Paris in melodrama at the Porte St. Martin or at the Moulin Rouge in revues. Mlle. Mistinguette, who is another spoiled favourite of the Ville Lumière, gives a realistic representation of the danse d'Apache.

We will describe the film. While the usual customers of a night resort frequented by thieves, and known as "Caveau des Innocents," are on the point of quarrelling, on account of a girl who has two admirers, several members of the aristocracy come on a visit to the den. The girl (Mlle. Mistinguette) and her lover (Max Dearly) perform the Apache dance before an enthusiastic audience. There is no need to dwell upon this most realistic dance, already so well known in England. In order that the two rivals should not resume their quarrel, the sweetheart is kept within the premises while the other man leaves the place. He drinks so much that he is soon fast asleep. Two of the aristocrats come back into the room, and after a few angry words, one of them kills his friend, then depriving him of his valuables, puts the dead man's watch and some bank notes into the sleeper's pocket, and in order to avoid possible suspicion he besmears the boy's outstretched hand with the blood of his victim. All this is done in a very matter-of-fact manner, but when he sees the blood on his own hand he hurriedly wipes it with his handkerchief, and in his haste to leave the den he drops it unawares.

The crime is discovered on the return of some of the *habitués*. The sleeper is arrested and accused of the crime, all clues pointing to his culpability. The sleeper's friend (Severin) remains alone, and ponders over the murder. In a nightmare he sees his friend appealing to him on his way to the guillotine, and realises that, but for his own evidence, an innocent man will have to suffer for the culprit. On waking up he leaves the place of amusement, and the next day goes to the examining magistrate's office, where he states all he knows. This scene also is very cleverly acted, especially the part in which Severin wants his document back, and when he has to give his signature. Now he is pleased with himself, and at peace with all the world. The last tableau depicts the confrontation in the den, with Severin getting up from his stretcher and frightening the culprit out of his wits. There is no doubt now as to the identification of the murderer. Some appropriate music has been composed for this film by M. F. Le Borne.

Photo. by Reutlinger.

M. SEVERIN (in "The Red Hand").

Photo. by Paul Boyer.

M. MAX DEARLY (in "The Red Hand").

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

THE ROYALTY.

The managerial courage with which Mr. W. H. C. Nation has been rightly credited is likely to be severely taxed unless he presents something more substantial than that with which he began a season at the Royalty on Saturday. For his opening programme he selected *The Shadow of the Surplice*, the "Theatre of Ideas" type of play, adapted from *L'Otage*, by Gabriel Trarieux, which he produced during his management of the Scala last March. As a means of a "No Popery" propaganda the piece might have served its purpose a century ago, but the days of bigotry and prejudice are happily so far gone that a play which relies upon an open attack on the religious belief of a large portion of the community cannot be relied upon to attract the general public. The plot of *The Shadow of the Surplice*, briefly recalled, deals with the difficulties caused by husband and wife being of an opposite faith. Ernest Brockwell, M.P., and his wife, have been married fourteen years, when the husband, who is of no particular sect, wakes up to the appalling fact that his wife, an ardent Roman Catholic, is about to have their daughter confirmed. Mistaking dogged obstinacy and prejudice for a conscientious conviction, the husband, a Cabinet Minister, rather than allow the hateful ceremony to proceed, is ready to see his wife leave him and to surrender all his political prospects. Acting on the counsel of her spiritual adviser, however, Mrs. Brockwell consents to a postponement of the confirmation for three years, during which Ernest determines to wean his wife from the thrall of her Church. He succeeds so little that a couple of years later, in Berlin, when the child is ill with typhoid, Mrs. Brockwell actually allows her sister, a nun, to pray in the sick room. On the battlefield and in the hospital ward the convent sister is looked upon as little less than a ministering angel, but in the presence of the nun at the child's bedside two quaint medical men detect a serious menace to the sufferer's recovery. Mr. Brockwell's virtuous indignation is intense, until at length, yielding to the importunities of her husband, his wife sends her sister away, thus leaving her husband to enjoy his doubtful victory over "priestcraft."

As will be gathered, the play has but little dramatic fibre, and the measure of applause which it won was due primarily to the acting. Mr. Claude King was heavily handicapped by the character of the irreconcilable Ernest Brockwell, M.P., and if he never achieved the impossible task of making him plausible, he certainly won deserved admiration for the power of his performance, and the dead-level of obstinacy which he maintained. Miss Olive Wilton made a pretty and graceful young wife of Mrs. Brockwell, of whom perhaps she took too hysterical a view, and she won sympathy from an audience but little moved throughout the evening. The part of Father Honeytones was cleverly drawn by Mr. Watty Brunton, who, as far as appearance went, was the ascetic Jesuit priest to the life, and spoke in skilfully modulated tones. Mr. T. P. Haynes strove hard to make the rôle of the Labour M.P. amusing, and often succeeded; and Miss Kitty Douglas tried equally hard, but with less success, to render reasonable the part of Mrs. Wilson, Brockwell's ally in his fanatical campaign. Miss Margaret Webster doubtless carried out the author's intention in her portraiture of the cold, automaton-like nun; and Miss Rene Ash appeared as the child Veronica. Mr. Richard Hicks gave a neat sketch of Brockwell's private secretary; Mr. Davidson did well as an electioneering agent; Mr. Terry Hurst gave an eccentric study of the family doctor; and the cast was completed by Mr. Matt Gordon, who did not add to the effect of his part of a medical specialist by being obliged to read it from a book.

The piece of the evening was preceded by a farce, adapted from a story which appeared in the *Covent Garden Magazine*, when conducted by Mr. Nation, entitled

"A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING."

John Morris ..... Mr. Davidson
Mr. Price ..... Mr. W. Brunton
Mr. Crafty Trixter ..... Mr. T. P. Haynes
Mrs. Easy-to-Blind ..... Miss Kitty Douglas
Kitty Trueheart ..... Miss Margaret Webster

The farce proved indifferently humorous, and clumsy in construction, the action more than once being delayed while an anecdote, intended to illustrate the speaker's contention, was dragged in. The story is that of a "religious quack" called Mr. Crafty Trixter, who, as a clerk in a solictor's office, learns that Kitty Trueheart is about to inherit a small fortune. He accordingly repairs to her aunt's home and lays siege to Kitty's heart, which, however, is in possession of a young merchant named John Morris. Trixter gets into the good graces of the aunt, but he is soon proved to have kept in his own pocket a cheque for £20, which she had given him for philanthropic purposes, and is made to hand the money over by his master, who calls to acquaint Kitty of her good fortune. The performance was notable for a droll creation of a hypocritical fraud by Mr. T. P. Haynes, whose make-up and intonation were richly humorous. Miss Margaret Webster was an attractive and vivacious Kitty; and her lover was buoyantly played by Mr. Davidson, Miss Kitty Douglas submitting a realistic characterisation of Mrs. Easy-to-Blind. Popular prices reign at the Royalty, with a 7s. stall to a 6d. gallery, and seats to all parts are bookable in advance.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Comedy, entitled
"JACK STRAW."

The King's audience—a large one—laughed immoderately on Monday evening at the comical situations created by the masquerading of the Archduke Sebastian of Pomerania as Jack Straw, and at the treatment meted out to him by the upstart Parker-Jennings family. Mr. Maugham's delightful comedy bristles with witticisms, and is so admirably interpreted by Messrs. Glenister and Wood-Ingram's company that the fun is fast and furious. Of the few comediennes who could be chosen to render the part of Mrs. Parker-Jennings, Miss Florence St. John would be among the first, and it is needless to say that this accomplished actress adapts herself admirably to the vulgarity and showiness of the snobbish woman. Her very manner and style of dress are the perfection of low comedy, and Miss St. John can be highly complimented upon her impersonation. Mr. Lionel Glenister endows the part of Jack Straw with dignity and restraint, and altogether makes a distinctly favourable impression. His Excellency Count Adrian Von Bremer, the Pomeranian Ambassador, is excellently portrayed by Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram; and Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson plays with ability the character of the Marquis of Serio. Mr. Ernest Graham is an effective Rev. Lewis Abbott; and Mr. Christmas Grose represents Vincent Parker-Jennings inimitably as a veritable young bounder. Mr. Frederick Moyes acts capitally as Ambrose Holland; Mr. A. T. Gulliver depicts Mr. Parker-Jennings as a typical parvenu; and Mr. Wm. Moor is good as the Head Waiter at the Grand Babylon Hotel. A charming representative of Ethel Parker-Jennings is Miss Lucie Milner, who plays with much grace and sincerity; Miss Edie Graham is a handsome and beautifully-gowned Lady Wanley, and her acting is deserving of praise; Rosie Abbott is brightly undertaken by Miss Jessica Waters; and Miss Estelle Despa is a successful Mrs. Withers. The scenery and appointments are of the highest quality, and the ladies' dresses cause much admiration. The play is preceded by an "incident," by Marie Muggeridge, entitled *A Long Journey*, in which Miss Lucie Milner as Constance Ford scores chief honours, and is capably supported by other members of the company.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Nov. 23,
"THE CHRISTIAN."

The Christian, a tried and proved drama of healthy sentiment, is paying a visit here this week, and is drawing good houses. The play is capitally cast, and the artists acquit themselves in a capable manner. With a particularly good stage presence and a winning manner, Mr. Roy Redgrave is admirable as the Rev. John Storm. Mr. Wilfred Noy is eminently suited as Horatio Drake, and he accomplishes some good and useful work. Mr. Herbert Hewetson, who has made a careful study of the character of Lord Robert Ure, gives an excellent reading of the part; Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn is responsible for a capital delineation of Father Lamplugh; Mr. John J. Hooker is good as Archdeacon Wealthy; Mr. Royce Milton gives a carefully conceived and well-studied portrayal of Lord Storm; and Mr. Bruce Lindsay is effective as Parson Quayle. Miss Molly Hayden presents Mrs. Callender with charming naturalness; and the Misses Muriel Marsden and Minnie Willett are admirably suited as Betty and Letty Belmont. Miss Cora Deane achieves success as Polly Love; and Miss Kitty Symons is good as Lady Robert Ure. Of Miss Daisy Scudamore's fine portrayal of Glory Quayle it is impossible to speak too highly. Her earnestness and fascinating manner are provocative of continued applause. The mounting is exceedingly well carried out, and the stage-management of Mr. Thomas Barry is irreproachable. Mr. Jack Parson is the business-manager for Mr. Wentworth Croke.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Play, entitled
"THE BELOVED VAGABOND."

Mr. Frederick Mouillot's No. 1 company is filling the bill in a most satisfactory manner here this week with Mr. W. J. Locke's clever adaptation of his novel. Mr. Arthur Royston, who has a fine stage presence and a powerful and sympathetic voice, as the Vagabond Paragot gave a delightful rendering of this most fantastic character, and the widely differing aspects of the representation were cleverly brought out. The villain of the play, the Comte de Verneuil, was represented in telling fashion by Mr. Warburton Gamble, with a careful make-up and a restrained portrayal of a part which might easily be over-acted. Mr. Alfred Drayton was good as the guilty Lord Rushworth, who appears only in the first act, and Miss Edith Hunter was effective as Lady Rushworth. The fine figure and pleasing appearance of Miss Kathleen Harrington as Joanna Rushworth were valuable, her emotional scenes being especially good and without effort. The somewhat difficult part of Asticot was played by Mr. Ramsey Macbeth with appropriate earnestness. Mr. Howard Leslie made a benevolent old Curé of Champigny, and Mr. Arthur Linay did well in the small part of Dubois, the police emissary in the first act. Miss Ruby Wyndham was a bustling and buxom Madame la Blanc, the innkeeper, and little Miss Hettie Kenyon as Louisette gave a pretty piece of child acting. Miss Nita Faydon as Blanquette de Veau warmed to her work as the play progressed, and gave a forceful bit of acting in the third act, which was at once recognised by her audience. All that this talented young actress did was excellent. As Père Ciboulet, the old wandering musician, Mr. Guy O'Neal was effective, and Miss Marie Rogers did well as Lisette, a peasant girl. This company and play may be reckoned among the best engagements of Mr. J. Bannister Howard's season so far.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Romantic Comedy, entitled
"THE SCARLET PIMPERNEL."

That delightful play *The Scarlet Pimpernel* has been revisiting the Kennington Theatre this week, and in the hands of Mr. Fred Terry and his strong and well-balanced company it has lost none of that romantic attractiveness which has made the piece so popular among the playgoers in London and the provinces for now well on four years. The combination of artists which Mr. Fred Terry has gathered round him is the same as participated in the recent revival at the New Theatre, so that the play is seen under the best possible conditions. The staging and dressing are on a lavish scale, and quite a gay and picturesque scene is furnished in the eighteenth-century ballroom in the second act. In the "Lion d'Or, near Calais," in the last act, too, realism is carried to the point of perfection, and in this particular instance a very sordid point it is. Mr. Fred Terry, in the title-rôle is, of course, the inspiration of the play. He gives a brilliant interpretation of the part of the man who, under the guise of careless conviviality, screens his heroic feats of rescue, and in the third act he scores a great triumph in his scene with Lady Blakeney. The latter was admirably impersonated by Miss Miriam Lewes, a charming and gifted actress, who displayed a wealth of histrionic talent. Miss Lewes was seen at her best in the dramatic third act episode, when she brought into play great reserves of passionate feeling. After the two principals came Mr. Horace Hodges, who gave a remarkably effective study of the part of Chauvelin, the French Envoy. It was not an easy rôle to fill, but Mr. Hodges handled it with great skill. Mr. A. E. Anson made a dignified but affable Prince of Wales, and Mr. Alfred Kendrick was magnificent as Sir Andrew Ffoulkes, giving a fine sketch of that chivalrous gentleman and impulsive lover. As his companion in the reception of the French émigrés Lord Anthony Dewhurst was adequately delineated by Mr. Malcolm Cherry, an accomplished actor, and Mr. Fredk. Groves was excellent as Lord Grenville. Miss Claire Pauncefote was an admirable Comtesse de Tournai, and Miss Nellie Clyde made a big hit as the Comtesse's daughter Susanne. The unpleasant rôles of Brogard and Mère Brogard were enacted very vividly by Mr. J. Carter-Edwards and Miss Marion Sterling respectively, and Mr. R. E. Pickering made a lot of fun as Vicomte de Tournai. Mr. D. J. Williams was happily placed as landlord of the Fishermen's Rest, and Miss Mary Jennings was a lively Sally Jellyband. Others in the cast who deserved mention were Mr. L. R. Dunrobin, who was a manly Armand, Mr. Hermann Griffiths, a picturesque revolutionary captain, Miss Stuart Innes (Lady Portarles), and Mr. Walter Edwin (Herbert). The smaller parts were well sustained.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday Nov. 23, the Farce, in Three Acts, entitled
"WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD."

Laughter holding both its sides reigns supreme at the Shakespeare Theatre this week, during which Mr. James Welch's Company, under the direction of Mr. Arthur Whittaker, has been delighting large audiences with the adventures of the very modern baronet, Sir Guy de Vere. Mr. Henry J. Ford's conception of the rôle of the Baronet was a clever one, and he kept the audience in uncontrollable laughter throughout. He has a thorough grip of the character, and, although bearing the brunt of the work, acts with unflagging energy to the end, being accorded long-sustained applause after each act. He receives considerable support from an excellent company, who are whole-hearted in their efforts to amuse. Mr. Vernon Sansbury contributes a clever character study of the Jew, Isaac Isaacson, and Mr. Cecil Clayton does well as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe with a propensity for stale jokes. Mr. William Lockhart's delineation of the Rural Dean, Rev. Peter Pottlebury, is in every way satisfactory, and the same may be said of Mr. George Rowlands as Sir Brian Ballymote, whose brogue is the only honest thing about him. Mr. Talbot Homewood as Wittle and Mr. Reginald Hunter as Barker also contribute excellent performances, and Mr. Herbert Ransom is a capable Herald. As Lady Rowena Eggington Miss Bruce Joy is seen to great advantage, the indulgence of her ladyship's ancestral pride being well depicted. Her sisters, Lady Millicent and Lady Marjorie, are charmingly enacted by Miss Violet Graham and Miss Gretchen Yates. Miss Phyllis Back does all that is possible in the part of Miss Sarah Isaacson, and Miss Ethel Royale is a stately Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave. Miss Bessie Walters does well as Alice Barker, and Miss Adrienne Yates is a naïve Kate Pottlebury. The farce is preceded by a duologue, entitled *The Wrong Side of the Road*, in which Miss Phyllis Back and Mr. Cecil Clayton create a good impression.

PAVILION THEATRE, E.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Drama, entitled
"ALONE IN LONDON."

Many years have passed since *Alone in London* was last performed here, and audiences are afforded an excellent treat this week by the all-round artistic acting of Mr. J. F. Elliston's company in Robert Buchanan and Harriet Jay's well-written play. The plot is carefully unfolded, so that several opportunities are given for the exhibition of some fine stage pictures, notably the scenes, Westminster Bridge and the Old Sluice House and Flood-gates. Mr. W. S. Hartford makes the most of his chances as the bluff John Biddlecombe, and gives a performance of sterling merit, while the Spriggins of Mr. Frank Sutherland is very commendable. As the scheming adventurer Richard Redcliffe Mr. Percy Rhodes is very good, bringing out with dramatic effect the brutal qualities necessary to the rôle. The hypocritical thief, Jenkinson, is once more enacted with a fine degree of subtle humour by Mr. Percy Bell, and Mr. Harry McClelland is well in the picture as the Banker, Mr. Burnaby, whose son Walter is rendered with ease by Mr. Blundell Fenton. The avenging Gipsy Tom is pathetically portrayed by Miss Mary Stafford Smith, and the long suffering Nan is effectively played by Miss Theresa Osborne, who is to be congratulated upon the elocution and power infused into the character. Mr. Lonnen Meadows not only is responsible for the stage-management of the piece, but also humorously depicts the humble professional Charley Johnson. Miss Nellie Lauraine as Mrs. Maloney, Miss Elsie Clarke as little Paul, Miss Gertie Douglas as Liz Jenkinson, and Miss Rose Grey as Ruth Clifton, are all competent exponents of their respective parts. The Pavilion orchestra give a good selection of music under the direction of Mr. Victor Vorzanger.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"A CHINESE HONEYMOON."

Mr. Milton Bode's company at the Dalston Theatre is presenting *A Chinese Honeymoon* in a way which thoroughly delights an audience bent on fun. An augmented orchestra, under the directorship of Mr. Knight Pearce, renders the attractive music in efficient style, and the stage-management of Mr. P. Allerton Turner leaves nothing further to be desired in that department. Mr. Rudolph Kloss as Hang Chow, Emperor of Ylang-Ylang, imparts a good deal of dignity to the character, and the songs allotted to him are rendered in good style. Mr. P. Allerton Turner as Chippie Chop, Lord Chancellor, shows what a thoroughly submissive minister should be; while Mr. Leonard May as High Lung, Lord High Admiral, puts in some good old-fashioned comedy which is much appreciated. Mr. Harry Jennings makes a pleasing Tom Hatherton; the Mr. Pineapple of Mr. J. W. Hooper is a most amusing performance; and Miss Veronica Brady is equally good in her way as Mrs. Pineapple. As Mrs. Brown, the official mother-in-law, Miss Maud Adams impresses everyone by evidence of strong-mindedness; while the quaint pertness of Miss Gwennie Harcourt as the waitress Fi-Fi occasions much genuine merriment. Miss Nina Carlton is a decided success as Soo-Soo, taking advantage of the many opportunities which the character offers to be on the best of terms with the audience.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Drama,
"HER LUCK IN LONDON."

The beggar girl having been married for the last time here, we now have Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil's new and original drama, entitled *Her Luck in London*. The drama is well staged and suitably mounted Miss Mary Neil fills the part of the much-tried heroine, Nellie, and gives a most praiseworthy performance; Mr. Douglas Cecil cuts a fine figure as the manly hero, the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor; Mr. Frank Strickland as the villainous Richard Lenowen plays his part in a very unostentatious manner; Mr. Douglas Tremayne, at first humorous as the curate, Lionel Strong, at the finish plays the part of the muscular Christian. The comic relief is in the capable hands of Mr. Henri Gerald as Jerry Gotobed and Miss Florrie Groves as Maud Shovepenny; Miss Amy B. Ellis makes a decided hit as Angelina Plantagenet, "a lady with a priceless thirst"; Miss Beatrice Hudson is good as the prudish Lilian Harborne; and Miss Daisie Moss, Miss Queenie Lamont, and Miss Kitty Gerald twinkle merrily as evening stars.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Comic Opera, entitled
"THE DANDY FIFTH."

Under the direction of Mr. Haldane Crichton, Mr. Clarence C. Corri is presenting this week, at the Artillery Theatre, his own successful military comic opera, *The Dandy Fifth*. The fact that he himself presides in the conductor's chair accounts, no doubt to a considerable extent, for the swing and go with which the opera runs its merry course. The tuneful melodies and the smart dialogue supplied by Mr. G. R. Sims are pleasing highly-appreciative audiences. Mr. Percy Baverstock as Colonel of the Fifth Lancers essays the part of that short-tempered military man with much gusto. Dick Darville, the hero, is ably portrayed by Mr. J. Edward Fraser, who scores in his various vocal numbers. Mr. Jack Crichton is a droll Trooper Brown, and gains popularity. Mr. George Beverley is also amusing as Sergeant-Major Milligan, and is equally successful. Mr. C. Bellard as Trooper Jones and Mr. William Henry as Trooper Robinson are diverting. Sir Victor is capably played by Mr. Phil Hart. Miss Pauline Hague depicts the character of Kate Lorrimer in a talented manner, her artistic singing being accorded a hearty reception. Miss Nora Morra makes a very lively little person of Polly, singing and dancing herself into favour. A humorous sketch of Mrs. Von Blitzen is offered by Miss Maud Nicholls. Miss Florence Spurgeon is suitably placed as Antoinette, and the remaining characters are in capable hands.

THE WEST LONDON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Drama, in Four Acts, entitled
"A WOMAN'S REVENGE."

The old Adelphi drama above named is here this week, and it is very well played by Mr. Henry L. Osmond's talented company. Mr. H. Elmore Frith makes a distinct hit as Jephtha Grimwade, his acting being gracefully easy and his enunciation pleasingly distinct; Mr. J. C. Carlyle meritoriously portrays Robert Overstone; Mr. Harry Cooke is brightly amusing as Dick Chilton; Mr. Charles Tolcher quaintly sustains a country yokel; and Mr. Henry L. Osmond proffers one of his usually effective character studies as Frank Drummond. As the adventuress, Mabel Wentworth, Miss Lilian Burns is decidedly vindictive, and scores accordingly; Miss Mabel Tremere deserves every credit for her Lottie Bromley; Miss Victoria Maynard is full of childish intelligence as little Mary Drummond; whilst Miss Winifred Chalmers enacts Mary Lonsdale with womanly tenderness and sympathy. The rest of the company all work hard, and the all-round success obtained is well deserved.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Drama, entitled
"THE MIDNIGHT WEDDING."

Once again is Mr. Walter Howard providing the bill of fare at this successful theatre, and large and enthusiastic houses are the rule. Messrs. Walter Howard and Alfred Paumier, who are responsible for the production, have provided a very capable company, the play is well mounted, and the whole goes with smoothness. In the rôle of Paul Valmar Mr. Alfred Paumier merits great praise as the intrepid sword-master; Mr. A. Winnington Barnes is seen to advantage as Lieut. Von Strelsburg; Mr. Mayor Cooke displays ability as Captain Rudolph; Mr. Forbes Harrison must be congratulated on his effective portrait of Father Gerard; while Mr. John Nesbitt capitally realises the points of the Crown Prince Leopold. Fun is provided by Mr. Algie Spalding as Private Bobo; Mr. James E. Page as Sergeant Max, and Mr. Harry Richardson as Corporal Otto. Miss Yvonne Orchardson is a delightful impersonator of the Princess, her acting being of a high order of merit. Miss Ada Champion is a spirited representative of Kathie. Mr. Arthur Radford plays with distinction as Sub-Lieut. Kulman.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 23,
"THE PRINCE OF PILSEN."

The Prince of Pilsen had a warm welcome here on Monday, and the bright and pleasing musical comedy was ably interpreted by all the members of Baron H. Harriss's clever company, at the head of which are Miss Sophie Harriss and Mr. Harry Kilburn. Miss Harriss was a delightful Mrs. Maddison Crocker, and her performance was an instant success. Mr. Harry Kilburn made a great hit as Hans Wagner and gave a very amusing rendering of the rôle. Nellie Wagner was cleverly embodied by Miss Nellie Lomas. Lieutenant Tom Wagner had a manly and handsome representative in Mr. Arthur Geary. Carl Otto, the Prince of Pilsen, was successfully played by Mr. Leslie Owen. Arthur de Willoughby Rossmore was well enacted by Mr. Charles Rogers, Mr. Ernest Gifford was an amusing François, and Mr. Maddison Rich was successful as Cook's Courier. Mr. Charles Clyde was good as Sergeant Brie, and the numerous other male parts were capitally filled. Edith Adams had an attractive and clever representative in Miss Dora Christian, Miss Mabel Dent was a charming and vivacious Sidonie, and Miss Marion Ryder played Jimmie, the bell boy, very smartly. The various "girls" had pretty and musical representatives, and the dresses and scenery were excellent. Mr. Frank Barrett is musical director, and Mr. W. E. Wilson the courteous acting-manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Drama, entitled
"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."

Presented by Miss Ethel van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty's company, the play of *An Unwedded Wife*, although intended to display the depths of human emotion, is liberally supplied with comedy, which meets with popular favour. The striking personality and powerful acting of Miss Ethel Van Praagh is of excellent service in the title-rôle, and the clever actress thoroughly deserves the recalls she receives at the end of each act. Mr. George Daiper as Frank Hawthorn provides a sound rendering of the part, and in his hands the hero is made the most of. Mr. J. E. Whitty as P.C. Runyin depicts "the pride of the force" in burlesque fashion. Mr. Charles Stirling in the character of Philip Blackstone, the Golden Falcon, makes a good villain. Napoleon B. Boomer is amusingly essayed by Mr. Will Casey. A humorous interpretation is given to the part of Christopher Lennox, a coster with a bad reputation, by Mr. Wilton Bedford. The character of Caraway Crumpet is sustained by Miss Dorothea Pearce. The boy Reggie is suitably undertaken by Little Dorris. Able assistance is also rendered by Mr. J. A. Grove, Mr. Bert Hendley, and Miss Chandos.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Play, by T. Arthur Jones, entitled
"WHEN OTHER LIPS."

Mr. Jones's capital drama is drawing good business here, and the author-manager is seen to great advantage in the character of Ted Daunton, a part he plays excellently. Mr. Juan D'Alberti is a clever representative of the unscrupulous Basil Cunningham. Mr. Cecil H. Raymond is very good indeed as Tommy Neccles. Mr. Richard Webb plays Duddle Topwash cleverly. Mr. Herbert Bentone is very amusing as Pylocrates Bombloso Jenkins. Mr. Albert H. Clarke proves himself a sound actor in the part of Robert Lingley. Mr. Jack Everton characterises Davey Phillips well, Mr. Robert Lawin is good as Sharpy, and Mr. Arthur Felton is excellent as Ginger. Master Tom Fletcher is a smart and promising Little Sam, Mr. Edwards Jeffs is a typical stage police constable, Mr. William Coventry and Mr. James Keppel do well as the Priest and Jimmy Murdock respectively. Miss Marie Daventry gives an attractive and convincing rendering of the part of Ruth Lingly, and makes herself a warm favourite. Miss Marion Wells acts with earnestness and power as "the Snare." Miss Agnes Collier is a sympathetic and clever Octavia; Miss Ivy May Clarke is a very pleasing Nancy; and Miss Lizzie Lennon is an amusing Kitty Topwash. The performance concludes with the Chronomegaphone.

FULHAM THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Play entitled
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS."

Hardie and Von Leer's company in *Two Little Vagabonds* is doing well at Fulham. The play possesses a strong element of reality, and makes a wholesome appeal to the emotions, and well deserves its continued popularity. Mr. Richard A. Greene does well as George Thornton, and plays with excellent spirit and force. Mr. Arthur E. Melborne is quietly effective as Captain Darville; and Mr. Joseph Brandon is satisfactory as John Scarth. Mr. Benson Kleve carries through the part of the Gaffer with considerable success, and is well supported by Mr. Stanley Field as Dido Bunce and Mr. Fred Archer as the Coughdrop, the latter provoking much laughter by his quaint performance. Mr. Kent as Leeson, Mr. Dubosc as Gargoyle, and Mr. E. Flixton as Whiffin, fill in their parts satisfactorily. Miss Florence Dalton does well in the highly emotional rôle of Marion Thornton; and Miss Marion Fawcett gives good support in the quieter rôle of Barbara Scarth. The humorous part of Biddy Mullins is in the capable hands of Miss Marie Pritchard, who does not let a point escape her. The two boys Dick and Wally are well enacted by Miss Denise Zaleski and Miss Alice Leon. The former enacts the robust Dick in a bright and lively manner, with a strong sense of humour; while Miss Leon makes an effective contrast as the weaker, Wally. Miss Zaleski proved a warm favourite with the house. Altogether, the company give an excellent performance of a play that is certainly one of the most attractive of its type.

A grand concert will be given by the Dulwich Philharmonic Society on Dec. 5 at 7.30 at the Crystal Palace, when Bizet's *Carmen* will be given. Mr. Arthur Fagge will, as usual, conduct.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the council meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Nov. 24. Present:—Mr. Fred Grove (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Franklyn Walford, Richard A. Greene, F. Morland, Fewlass Llewellyn, and Jackson Wilcox, Miss Marion Lind, Miss Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting held were read and confirmed.

The hon. solicitors reported interviews with, and advice to, two members. The finance report was read and accepted.

The council instructed the secretary to correct a former minute, which was wrongly published, and now reads as follows:—"Mr. Jackson Wilcox moved a resolution as to the publication of the solicitors' report, and on Miss Lind seconding the motion, it was decided to eliminate all names in the future where cases are *sub judice*, and in completed cases to publish names only after permission had been obtained from the member concerned."

Mr. Wilcox read a letter from a firm of insurance brokers saying that they were prepared to grant to members of the A.A. a special policy covering all risks to luggage, upon the recommendation in each case of two members of the council, and asked permission for this governing clause to appear in an advertisement, for which the insurance brokers were prepared to pay, in the Year Book for 1909, which permission was granted.

The question of insurance was discussed at great length, and the secretary was instructed to get out all the correspondence between himself and the Sun Office since the beginning of the year, and bring it before the council at the next meeting.

Ernest Young, proposed by J. P. Butler, seconded by Sylvia Morris, was elected.

The chairman read Mr. Cecil Raleigh's report of the meeting with the L.C.C., which was as follows:—

"DEPUTATION TO THE COUNTY COUNCIL.

"As chairman of the deputation invited by the County Council to wait on the Committee of Public Control with regard to the question of registering agents, I have the honour to report that, in conformity with the arrangement made by the Council, the deputation met at the offices of the Association a similar deputation from the Variety Artists' Federation, of which Mr. W. H. Clemart was the spokesman.

"After a long and very interesting conference it was found that the views of the Federation and of the Association were in complete sympathy on all fundamental points. The two deputations proceeded together to the offices of the County Council in Spring Gardens, but according to the custom of the Committee of Public Control, they were received separately.

"Speaking for the Actors' Association deputation, I urged upon the Committee that mere registration would be ineffective, and I pointed out that it would be far better for agents to be regularly licensed. I considered that this would improve the business of the well-known and reputable agents, as it would keep out the competition of undesirable persons. I placed before the Committee a number of advertisements cut from newspapers, showing the manner in which utterly inexperienced and ignorant amateurs were being constantly tempted to join our calling. I pointed out that this constant influx of raw labour was a very grave matter for a calling that was already largely overstocked. I pointed out also that these advertisements were sometimes the means of extracting money from foolish and ignorant people bitten with the desire to go on the stage. I laid before the Committee the example of a man who not long ago was sentenced to eighteen months' hard labour for swindling people out of small sums of money in the above manner. In conclusion, I again urged that all agents should be licensed.

"A number of questions were asked by the chairman and several members of the Committee, after which the deputation withdrew.

"(Signed) Cecil Raleigh."

The council passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Raleigh and the deputation.

The secretary informed the council that a member complained of the publication of the names in the agency report. The matter was discussed at considerable length and adjourned.

The secretary informed the council that Sir Anderson Critchett had called at the offices, and wished him to thank the council for their vote of congratulation on his elevation to a baronetcy.

ACTORS' UNION.

The weekly committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place at 49, Bedford-street, on the 19th inst., when the following were present:—Messrs. Leslie Arthur (chair), Henry Bedford, Cecil G. Calvert, J. W. Braithwaite, Gerald Mirrielees, F. Rawson Buckley, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Communications were received from Messrs. Royce Milton, A. Maitland Stapley, Jerrold Heather, J. Hastings Batson, Orlando Barnett, James English, Oswald Marshall, Walter Rignold, and Paul Lovett.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

No reply having been received from the sanitary authorities, it was decided to hold over the matter of the insanitary theatre until next week.

A member having written to ask if the committee would allow him to pay up his arrears in January next, the secretary was instructed to inform him that, under the circumstances, they were agreeable to accept his proposal.

The secretary was instructed to express to the relatives of the late Mr. Topham the sincere sympathy of the Union in their late sad bereavement.

One member was elected.

The attention of members of the Actors' Union is drawn to the fact that a general meeting will be held on Tuesday next, at Hummums Hotel, Covent Garden, at which a resolution will be put, altering the present system of subscription, which, if carried, will come into operation next January.

A gold earring was found at Hummums Hotel after an A.U. meeting. If the lady who has lost the trinket will apply to the secretary, it will be returned.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Play, by Walter Howard, entitled
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

A welcome visit is this week being paid by Messrs. Walter Howard and Alfred Paumier's company in the Lyceum success *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*. The company represents the play to the best advantage, and secures a very cordial greeting. Mr. Herbert Ford soon enlists the sympathy of the house as the chivalrous hero, Prince Olaf. Mr. Ivan Cleveland contributes a skilful picture of polished villainy as Prince Hildred. Miss Annie Saker as Princess Monica looks very handsome, and acts with abundant pathos and charm. Miss Dido Drake is a sympathetic little beggar maid as Camiola, and Miss Isla Garnet-Vayne is a pretty and pert Viola. Mr. Graeme Campbell as the grim hunchback Michael contributes a fine character sketch which is of the utmost value to the success of the play. Mr. J. E. Gardner does well as the dumb servant Nathan. Mr. D. Lewin Mannering is a gallant Captain Hector, and Mr. Kendal Chalmers a manly Lieutenant Karl Stromberg. Mr. Francis Hawley is excellent as the crafty Bishop of Illyria. The scenery, mounting, and effects are most appropriate and picturesque.

FURNISHING THE CRITERION.

On the 20th inst. Sir Charles Wyndham and Mrs. Albery (Miss Mary Moore) were sued in the King's Bench Division before Mr. Justice Darling and a Special Jury for £267 6s. 7d., the balance of an account of £1,398 due under a contract for goods sold and work done at the theatre The plaintiffs were Messrs. James Shoolbred and Co., Tottenham Court-road. The defendants denied that the work was done according to the contract, and counter-claimed for damages. The plaintiffs denied there was any negligence on their part.

Mr. English Harrison, K.C., and Mr. R. J. J. Willis appeared for the plaintiffs; and Mr. Spencer Bower, K.C., and Mr. B. J. Albery were for the defendants. Mr. English Harrison said the contract was dated Jan. 30, 1907. The plaintiffs had done work in 1899 at Wyndham's Theatre, and they were entrusted in 1907 with work at the Criterion Theatre, which included a yellow drop-curtain, upholstering the seats of the stalls in yellow, renewing arm-rests round the dress circle, &c. It was complained that the yellow material was not satin, but crushed velvet; that the colours did not match with the samples selected; and that the carpet in the stalls was Saxony carpet, and did not match the Wilton-pile carpet in the bar. Plaintiffs contended that the satin trimmings were an excellent match, that the velvet was better than the sample, and that the carpets matched well.

The case was adjourned till Monday, when Mr. Frederick Shoolbred, senior and acting partner in the firm of Messrs. Shoolbred and Co., stated that when he first went to the theatre to investigate the causes of complaint the theatre was not lighted up or uncovered. He asked several times to be shown the blue satin that did not match, but it was not shown to him. Each time he asked to see it complaint was made about something else.

Mr. Ernest Runtz, Fellow of the Institute of British Architects, asked what was the effect of the Criterion Theatre scheme, replied: "Most excellent effect, showing the very good taste of Miss Moore—like all her judgments."

Mr. Spencer Bower (for the defence) contended there was no case to meet. The plaintiffs must prove that defendants were really satisfied, and were rejecting the work out of caprice.

His lordship held that the case must go to the jury, and, in answer to counsel, he said he was going to put the case back and front, sideways and longways, and to prepare it nicely for the Appeal Court.

Mr. Bower said defendants were asking of the law whether they had contracted with an upholsterer that work should be done according to sample, and also to their entire satisfaction—when it was provided that the money should be paid as the work proceeded, and 20 per cent. should be retained till they were completely satisfied—and whether, when they were not satisfied, they could be made to pay. The whole object of Miss Moore was to get an exact shade of a certain new colour to give éclat to the opening of the theatre. If people would contract to do things which they knew to be impossible, and did not tell the other side, they must take the consequences.

As to the question of damages claimed by defendants, Mr. Bower said that they would have to close the theatre for a fortnight, owing to the alleged defective work, and the letting value of the theatre was £200 per week.

Miss Mary Moore, one of the defendants, stated that she advised a certain colour scheme to give distinction to the reopening on her return with Sir Charles Wyndham after an absence of eight years. She said she heard of a new shade of blue when in Paris, and she procured a piece of brocade for plaintiffs to copy. Had plaintiffs not succeeded in matching it she would have reverted to the old rose colour. When the theatre was reopened, she said to Sir Charles Wyndham that it had not the bright effect that she had aimed at, and on investigation she discovered the satin was not the same as the sample, and that the velvet on the chairs was absolutely different.

Sir Charles Wyndham said he agreed to the blue colour as selected by Miss Moore He was dissatisfied with the work.

Cross-examined: The seating in the stalls was dark, and there was no brilliance of colour.

On Tuesday seven questions were put to the jury by his lordship.

On the subordinate questions the jury were not unanimous. They replied as follows:

1. Was the blue satin placed in the theatre of the same shade as the sample shown by the defendants (*a*) as to its face?—Yes; (*b*) as to its back?—No.

2. Was the yellow velvet placed in the theatre of the same shade as the sample shown by the defendants (*a*) as to its face?—In certain lights, yes (*b*) as to its back?—In certain lights, no.

3. In case the back be darker than the face does that affect the shade of the face (*a*) in the blue satin?—No; (*b*) in the yellow velvet?—Jury divided.

4. Was the tableau curtain properly made?—Two slight defects.

5. Were defendants honestly and in good faith dissatisfied with the work as done by plaintiffs?—Yes.

6. Was the dissatisfaction of defendants reasonable, having regard to the nature of the work to be done, the plaintiff's knowledge of defendants' views as to the colour of the scheme and the position and lighting of the work?—Jury divided

7. Have defendants proved any damage by reason of the work having been done as it was?—No.

Before attending court the jury made an inspection of the work in dispute at the theatre.

Mr. Alexander Francis Henderson, manager for the defendants, said he pointed out to plaintiffs' representative how particular Mrs. Albery was and witness was assured no variation in the shades of the samples would be made. Subsequently he admitted there was a variation; there was a difference of a shade or two from the samples, but he said it did not matter, as the material used was as good as the samples. Witness told him Miss Moore would certainly not accept the satin or velvet The appliqué strips were placed the wrong way, and the appearance was "dreadful." A large piece of velvet appeared to have been sewn in the middle of the tableau curtain, which made it bulge out. It was very ugly. The box-fronts were also very badly padded. In his opinion, the satin had quite a different shade to the sample, both back and front.

In summing up, his lordship alluded to the difficulty some people had in distinguishing colours. The jury had to say if the material was according to sample. According to the contract, the work was to be done to the satisfaction of the defendants, and the jury knew they were not satisfied. It was said Miss Moore was fastidious. Well, she had a perfect right to be fastidious, and if a person contracted to do the work he must satisfy her, although she was a person who would be more difficult to satisfy than most people. When a person said he would do work to satisfaction, they must read into the contract, "I undertook it on the assumption that you are a person capable of being satisfied." It was assumed Miss Moore could be satisfied. The defendants must not be dissatisfied and refuse to perform the contract simply because of something which was not material to the contract.

The jury having failed to agree on all the questions, after an hour's deliberation, his lordship said he would accept the verdict on the questions answered.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 2s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Building, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"WHEN A LASS LOVES."

New and original Melodrama, in Four Acts, written by Tom Craven; produced at the Theatre Royal, Margate, on Monday, Nov. 23.

Caleb Crass ..... MR. FRANK STONE
Dr. Allan Crass ..... MR. W. EDWYN HOLLOWAY
Anthony Greig ..... MR. A. C. THORNHILL
Bertram Bridge ..... MR. ARTHUR BURNE
Slack ..... MR. LOUIS FALGRAVE
Reggie Stapleton .... MR. REGINALD H. STEPHENS
Calvin Chase ..... MR. H. AINGER
Policeman ..... MR. LIONEL BARTON
Nina May ..... MISS JESSIE LOTHIAN
Cynthia Bridge ..... MISS RITA TREKELLE
Constance Lane ..... MISS NONA HOFFE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

This is undobtedly one of Mr. Craven's best efforts. He sustains the interest of the audience from the rise to the fall of the curtain. The plot is replete with sensational incidents and dramatic situations, and the humorous element agreeably relieves the heavier portions of the play.

The story opens in Caleb Crass's office. Constance Lane's father having given Caleb his start in life, Caleb in return is anxious to make provision for her. As his own son, Dr. Allan Crass, a young man who has taken his degrees but never practised, is a spendthrift, he announces his intention of making Constance Lane his heiress. Allan is in trouble. He owes £500 for gambling debts to the fascinating, but unprincipled Cynthia Bridge. This adventuress, who is also known as Mrs. Anthony Greig, is madly in love with Dr. Allan Crass, although she is already the wife of Bertram Bridge, a card-sharper and swell cracksman, and the bigamous wife of Anthony Greig, a Scotch millionaire. Allan, in asking for his father's help, states that unless he gets the money to pay his debt of honour, "a life will pay the forfeit." Constance thinks her lover could be redeemed; and, as an ex-lady detective, sees her way to win him back to favour and to herself. The son's plea is successful. The father gives him the money he requires, but makes it a *sine qud non* that he will hand him the bottle of poison which he has purchased with a view to taking his life. After this stormy interview, Caleb Crass is approached by Anthony Greig, who wishes him to draw up a deed of settlement in favour of his "wife," the notorious Cynthia; but Crass recognises her as the adventuress his son has been going about with, and threatens to expose her. Foolishly, he refers to his son's visit, tells the woman of his threats, and even shows her the bottle of poison. Cynthia is able to get possession of it, and drops it into the old man's tea, so that he dies, and relieves her of fear of exposure. Her husband, Bertram Bridge, unknown to her, is a witness of the murder, and uses that information later on for his own ends. But Cynthia makes out that the murder has been committed by Allan. Constance, believing in her fiancé's innocence, determines to prove it, and works with the cunning of a female Sherlock Holmes to attain that end.

In Act 2, at Dr. Allan Crass's lodgings, the son, unaware of his father's death, is visited by Mr. and Mrs. Bridge, who seek to fasten the crime upon him by leaving the key of the safe in his room. All the evidence already points to Dr. Crass being the murderer, as he was the last person known to be in company with the deceased, and other facts point to his guilt. But Constance is on the alert. When a policeman comes to arrest her lover she persuades the constable to change into civilian's clothes, and sends him off on a wild goose chase, whilst Allan gets away disguised in the officer's uniform.

In Act 3 the fugitive is being concealed by Constance at her flat in Eccentric Mansions, formerly occupied by a famous swell cracksman; and here the persistent Cynthia comes to try and blackmail Constance. She demands £5,000 as the price of her silence, otherwise she will hunt Allan down and have him arrested for the murder of his father. In her mad infatuation for the young doctor she is prepared to go to any length, but at the same time she wants a part of the money left to Constance by her godfather, Caleb Crass. Like many cunning people, she overreaches herself. Constance sees through her, adroitly circumvents her, and gets her lover away to his own place, Crass Lodge, Dulwich.

Here in Act 4 there is a novel garden roof scene. Terrified by her husband's threat to save himself even at the price of his wife's freedom, Cynthia throws herself from the roof. Her husband is arrested, the innocence of Dr. Crass is proved by a letter written by the dead man after Allan left the office, and matters terminate with the prospective union of Constance and Allan.

The cast was a good one. Miss Nona Hoffe was an interesting and altogether delightful Constance Lane. She played the heroine with dramatic force and insistence, but never for a moment overdid the part, which she rendered with calm judgment and good taste. Miss Rita Trekelle was all that could be desired as the watchful, ubiquitous, resourceful, and remorseless Cynthia Bridge. Miss Jessie Lothian, as an Anglo-American, was particularly good, playing her part with skill and a realistic "twang." Mr. Frank Stone as Caleb Crass was a typical old lawyer. Mr. Edwyn Holloway was good as Dr. Allan Crass, and Mr. A. C. Thornhill was much in evidence as Anthony Greig. Mr. Arthur Burne was cool, calculating, and cynical as Bertram Bridge, and Mr. Louis Palgrave as Slack, the office boy, and Mr. Reginald H. Stephens in the character of Reggie Stapleton, a clerk with histrionic aspirations, were both amusing. At the fall of the curtain, and in reply to vociferous calls, Mr. Tom Craven came upon the stage and bowed his acknowledgments.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The orchestral concert of Thursday evening, Nov. 19, commenced with the late Dr. Joachim's Hamlet Overture, originally composed in 1852, and stated to be given for the first time in England on this occasion. Beyond the fact that this work was written fifty-six years ago, no special interest attaches to the overture, except that it was composed by a famous violinist, who also wrote the Hungarian Concerto. In the concert of Thursday the most important item was the first performance of Mr. A. von Ahn Carse's Symphony No. 2, in G minor, which was recommended for performance by the Committee of the Patrons' Fund. Mr. von Ahn Carse has been trained at the Royal Academy of Music, and this striking symphony proves that the young and clever composer has in no small degree the divine gift of melody. The opening movement allegro molto moderato contains a plaintive and graceful theme for wind and string, while the spirited allegro vivo shows the composer has also a keen sense of humour. In the seven variations there is much charming and delightful music, and a stately introduction leads to quite a masterly finale. The composer, who conducted his symphony with great ability, received a most enthusiastic greeting from the large audience. Dvorák's lovely violoncello solo, "Waldesruhe," was beautifully played by Mr. Felix Salmond, and Miss Winifred Gardiner greatly distinguished herself by her fine performance of Schumann's Concerto for piano and orchestra, in A minor. Mr. Ivor Walters also deserved hearty praise for his admirable singing of "Love in her eyes," from Handel's "Acis." The other vocalist was Miss Jean Fyans, who gained much applause in César Franck's "La Procession." Sir Charles V. Stanford conducted the orchestra with the exception of Mr. Carse's Symphony.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

DEATH OF HARRY FISCHER.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. Harry Fischer, who passed away after much suffering on the 20th inst., the cause of death being that dread malady cancer of the throat. Though he has not been before the public much of late years, the deceased actor was particularly versatile and an excellent producer. His first engagement was with Morgan Smith, coloured tragedian, at the then Theatre Royal, Mexborough. He was engaged for second low comedy, and to sing and dance between the pieces. However, they cast him for juveniles, &c., and he got his notice the first week. He next succeeded in obtaining an engagement with Mr. G. W. Vickers at the Alhambra Theatre, Castleford.

In the meantime, however, he had so much improved that he was offered a re-engagement at a reduced salary to stay at Mexborough, but with much dignity he replied, "Many thanks, but I have already settled another engagement." So at the end of three weeks Mr. Fischer left and journeyed to Castleford, expecting from the name to find a fine handsome theatre. On his arrival he ascertained that he had a mile to walk, and when he asked a yokel to direct him to the Alhambra Theatre the answer he received was, "Eh, you mean show box in Market." He at last came to a wooden building with a canvas top. He knocked at the door, asked for Mr. Vickers, and introduced himself. He said, "Oh, yes, Mr. Fischer. Well, my boy, you play John Brown in *The Seven Clerks* and Jack Nightingale in *Jessie Vere* to-night. Of course, you have played the parts before?" "Oh, yes," was the reply, "only I should like to have a look at the books." He had never heard of the pieces before, but was a wonderful study. His acting in them he regarded as an awful failure, but his songs and dances pleased everybody. They were all on share terms, and one or two objected to his taking any, calling him only a boy and a novice.

THE LATE MR. HARRY FISCHER.

"However," he used to say, "Mr. Vickers took a fancy to me, and I stayed with them six months, during which time I played as many as fourteen parts in one week." Mr. Fischer left Mr Vickers to join the late Joseph Eldred at the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. He, however, only did one dance in the burlesque of *Amy Robsart*. Charles Groves was the Varney at the time, and Miss Kathleen Vivian the Amy. Eldred had no one to play Uriah Heep, in *Little Em'ly*, and asked Mr Fischer is he could go on in that part. He consented, and from that time he played nothing but principal rôles in burlesque, musical comedy, and pantomime.

The deceased actor was with Mr. Eldred seven years, after which he had five stock seasons at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, and two at Belfast. Then followed *Randolph the Reckless* (Victor Stevens's company), several tours with Mr. J. L. Shine, *Don Juan, Junior*, Messrs. Edouin and Brough's *Babes*, Lurcher, in *Dorothy*; Reuben Armstrong, *Bells of Haslemere*; Sir Augustus Harris's *Venus* tour; the original Ben Gay, in *A Trip to Chinatown*, in the provinces; also the original Tramp in the provinces, *Message from Mars* (North tour). In pantomime he played the principal comedian's part at the following theatres:—Twice, Queen's Theatre, Dublin; twice, Theatre Royal, Birmingham; Prince of Wales's Theatre, Liverpool; four times, Theatre Royal, Nottingham; three times, Grand Theatre, Glasgow; Theatre Royal, Birmingham; Alexandra Theatre, Sheffield; Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Prince's Theatre, Manchester; Theatre Royal, Glasgow; Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Prince's Theatre, Bristol; and Cassim Baba, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. He also produced pantomimes at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester; Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne; Theatre Royal, Birmingham; and *Bo-Peep*, *Robinson Crusoe*, and *Babes in the Wood* at the Comedy Theatre, Manchester. At Christmas, 1901, Mr. Fischer produced three pantomimes for Mr. Pitt Hardacre—*Babes in the Wood*, Comedy Theatre, Manchester; *Robinson Crusoe*, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool; *Bo-Peep*, Theatre Royal, Sheffield; and was re-engaged by him to produce *Cinderella* at Manchester and *Dick Whittington*, Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. CHARLES FRY'S RECITALS.

The Court Theatre was comfortably crowded on Saturday afternoon, when Mr. Charles Fry and his company gave a performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*. The production, of course, as is usual at these dramatic functions, was carried out without scenery. Mr. Charles Fry appeared as Benedick, and although he looked scarcely young enough for the part, yet one could hardly complain of his acting, the delivery of his lines and his expression being practically faultless. Miss Olive Kennett was the Beatrice, and a very engaging and charming personage she brought before us in her characterisation, her elocution being entirely praiseworthy. Mr. Hughes Jones made a gallant figure as Claudio, and Miss Edith Brown successfully enacted the rôle of the maligned Hero. Dogberry had a capital representative in Mr. Patrick Munro, who showed that he fully realised the humorous possibilities of the part. Mr. C. Francis, too, proved highly entertaining in his study of Verges. Mr. J. K. Maclean was dignified in his bearing and spoke well as Leonato, and Mr. T. Rowbotham was seen in a commendable portraiture of Antonio. Mr. Stanley Leverton as Don Pedro, and Mr. Percy Varley as Don John also submitted satisfactory impersonations.

AT the Prince's Theatre, Manchester, on the 14th inst., Miss Marie Studholme through indisposition was unable to appear. Her part, however, was capably undertaken by Miss Adala Rane, who played Paulette in *My Mimosa Maid* for five performances.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LES REVOLTES,"

Drama, in Five Acts and Seven Tableaux, by MM. Henri Cain and E. Adenis, produced at Sarah Bernhardt's on Nov. 20.

Simon Randzew ..... M. HENRI KRAUSS
Mouratoff ..... M. CHARMEROY
Brewer ..... M. DECOEUR
Serge (Michel) ..... M. JEAN WORMS
Fedor ..... M. DUARD
Jeremy ..... M. SYDNEY
Apraxine ..... M. HERMANN
Sidorow ..... M. BUSSIERES
Sonia Randzew ..... MLLE. ROSNY-DERYS
Anissia ..... MLLE. ROSY
Fenitchka ..... MLLE. CERDA
Nadia ..... MLLE. DE CERNY

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Nov. 26.—*Les Révoltés* bears a family likeness to *Le Grand Soir*, a likeness principally due to the fact that both works play in a nihilistic *milieu*, and have almost the same denouement. At curtain rise we are in the cottage of Simon Randzew, foreman in the factory managed by the scoundrel Apraxine. Simon has invited his fellow-workmen to celebrate the New Year, and whilst they are feasting there is a loud knock at the door. Police officers have come to arrest Michel, a nihilist, but Simon helps him to escape. The scene of the following tableau is laid at the factory, in the office of Apraxine, a fiend in human shape. A high police official informs Apraxine that one of the workmen saved Michel from the clutches of the police, and he requests the manager to find out the culprit. Simon confesses that he is the man they want, for, although he knows that this admission means banishment to Siberia, he is too honest to let others, on whom suspicion rests, suffer in his stead. But Sonia, Simon's wife, comes to the rescue. Thus far she has indignantly repelled Apraxine's advances, but now, in order to save her husband, she sacrifices her honour. Brewer, a police spy, however, discovers Michel's hiding-place, whereupon the workmen are convinced that Simon obtained his freedom by betraying his comrade. The scene that follows is very thrilling. Simon is hauled up before the secret revolutionary tribunal. Despite his indignant denial, he is found guilty, and is on the point of paying his supposed treason with his life, when Jeremy appears upon the scene. Jeremy—the funny man in the piece—is an American amateur Nihilist. He not only proves Simon's innocence, but unmasks Brewer, to whom fearful punishment is meted out. The wretched spy is strapped upon a table, and all the men withdraw, after which a bomb is thrown into the room, wrecking the house. Simon accidentally discovers the fearful price Sonia paid for his release. Apraxine's crime cannot remain unpunished, and he is throttled by the man he so shamefully wronged. Having disposed of his enemy, Simon then throws open the window and calls upon his fellow-workmen to fight for liberty. The work was very well staged and splendidly acted. M. Krauss was an impressive Simon; M. Jean Worms supplied a manly sketch of Michel; M. Hermann showed himself at his best as the cruel Apraxine; and M. Sydney, an Australian, was an intensely amusing Jeremy. Mmes. Rosny-Derys, Rosy, Cerda, and de Cerny also rendered efficient aid.

AT Antoine's, in *L'Oreille Fendue*, the rôle of Mme. Charmillon, created by Mlle. Marcilly, is now played by Mlle. Alice Barton, a charming young actress of Anglo-Saxon descent. Mme. Charmillon, a millionaire American widow, with a shady past, is engaged to a lieutenant, the son of a general; and nothing could have been better than the touches introduced by Mlle. Barton in the embellishment of her impersonation, which was finished to a high degree. Mlle. Barton, a great favourite with the Paris public, and who speaks English as well as French, will no doubt soon make her appearance on a big London stage.

"KAATJE," a four-act play by M. Spaak, which has had a considerable run in Belgium, was very successfully produced at the Théâtre des Arts. The story, which plays in a small Dutch town, is simple yet full of artistic grace. Jean, a young artist, lives with his parents. Kaatje, their niece and adopted daughter, is staying with them. Jean leaves for Italy to study art, and after two years, during which his fond parents and little Kaatje have been pining after him, he returns, but not alone. He has brought Pomona, his wife, to whom he has been secretly married in Rome. Jean's parents are much disappointed, and the beautiful Pomona soon feels that her presence in that quiet Dutch household is anything but welcome. She wants to return to Rome, and as her husband refuses to follow her, she flees the house. Jean is disconsolate, until his father informs him that Pomona was not his legitimate wife, and that he ought to rouse himself and study in Antwerp under Peter Paul Rubens. Jean wavers, but Kaatje now comes forward, and in a delightful, eloquent speech urges him to follow his father's advice and become as great an artist as the famous Antwerp master. "Seek thy inspirations in thine own country," says little Kaatje, who has loved Jean all along; and it is her love for him that puts the young artist on the right road. The work was delightfully interpreted by MM. Durec and Tellegen and Mmes. Sergine, Barbiéri, and Derives.

"LES VAINQUEURS," the new four-act play by M. Emile Fabre, produced at Antoine's, is decidedly clever. As a rule political and financial questions are not easy to discuss on the stage, but the gifted author has overcome these difficulties in a masterly manner, and has introduced some intensely dramatic situations. Pierre Degrand is a famous barrister and Deputy, on the eve of becoming Minister of Justice in the new Cabinet. The day before the interpellation in the Chamber that is to overthrow the Ministry an article appears in a leading paper attacking Pierre, stating that the lawsuit he has just won was a "got-up" affair, inasmuch as the great counsel had, in order to suit the convenience of a shady financier, pleaded against a defendant who never existed The bogus case, wherein Pierre acted in absolute good faith, is too complicated to be explained here. Sufficient that Pierre, seeing himself disgraced and unable to accept office, is compelled to accept an arrangement proposed to him by the financier, an arrangement by which he is to raise £20,000 to settle the affair. Eventually Pierre's wife procures the money from a former admirer, a man who has always befriended the Degrand family, but who in a scurrilous article is now described as Mme. Degrand's lover. When Pierre hears whence the money comes he refuses to take it; but in the end his ambition gets the upper hand, and he accepts the loan. His position being assured, he is appointed Minister, and the world envies him his good fortune. But, as the title of the play implies, Pierre Degrand is a "conqueror," and the price he had to pay for his greatness is too high. His home life has been destroyed, and his son, who had to fight a duel for his mother's honour, has been killed. It would be difficult to find a stage on which such perfect acting could be seen as or that at the Théâtre Antoine. M. Gémier was truly great in his impersonation of the ambitious barrister; his movements, his expression, recalled some of the most famous counsel in England as well as France. MM. Janvier and Colas and Mmes. Cheirel and Bérangère were also excellent from every point of view.

MR. EDITOR.—Sir,—In the issue of your paper dated Nov. 14, I notice you have a paragraph stating "that I am not running the *Flower Girl* through Christmas," &c. This information is incorrect, as I have decided to run straight on.—Yours faithfully, C. M. BERNE.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"HOHES SPIEL."

Play, in Three Acts, by Paul Diedring, produced at the Hebbel Theatre, Nov. 21.

Richter ..... HERR NISSEN
Gunnar ..... HERR OTTO
Signe ..... FRAULEIN KERSTEN
Ivar ..... HERR KAYSSLER
Apotheker ..... HERR SCHRADER
Graf ..... HERR STAUFEN
Mädchen ..... FRAULEIN EINHODSHOFEN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Nov. 26.—The author is a Swede, and the traces of the Ibsen cult are distinctly seen throughout the play, which is interesting and, apparently, well translated. A few words will suffice to detail the plot, the action of which passes in the author's native country. Gunnar has conceived an undying passion for his beautiful sister-in-law, Signe, the wife of his only brother, and we infer that Signe is not indifferent to Gunnar, although her husband is worthy of her love and respect. Matters go so far that the desperate lover is ready to commit murder to obtain Signe for his own. Ivar, the family friend, who sees the conflict, determines to play Providence. He entices Gunnar, who is a poet and not fond of hunting, to go shooting with him one evening; Gunnar fires at what he believes to be an elk, and the quarry falls over the precipice. It is suggested, however, to the horrified hunter that he has shot a man, and Ivar makes him believe that the innocent victim is no other than his brother. For several days Gunnar goes through the terrible tortures of remorse, feeling himself a murderer. Ivar wins the game with flying colours, for when the missing man—who is a doctor and has been called away suddenly to a patient—turns up, Gunnar finds himself cured of his passion in the overwhelming joy of a clean conscience. Signe, too, rushes to meet her husband with a cry of joy, and throws herself into his arms, declaring he is the only man she loves. The reception of the piece was very cordial, the young author being called and warmly applauded. The interpretation was individually good, but as a whole it dragged.

A SATIRICAL comedy in three acts, *Moral*, by Ludwig Thoma, was produced at the Kleines last week with much success. Herr Thoma is the famous "Peter Schlemihl" of the comic periodical (so frequently confiscated) *Simplicissimus*. His play is a broad persiflage upon the morals of a certain little provincial town; the head citizens—hypocrites all, of course—find their characters hanging in the balance by the revelations contained in the diary of an adventuress who is "wanted" by the police. The inevitable princeling being implicated, the matter is quickly hushed up, and the very moral chief magnate of the town ultimately receives an order and a title. Capital acting aided the success of the Tartuffe-like production.

THE clever Schliersee company prolonged their season at the New Royal Opera owing to the great success accorded them. Last week they produced one of their famous Tyrolean volks-plays, *Der Gemeinde-Kaspar*, by Rauchenegger, which gave the actor-manager, Herr Terofal, unlimited scope for his versatile talents. The piece met with an extremely cordial reception as soon as the large audience had their hold on the dialect, which, as I have said before, presents great difficulties to High Germans. On Sunday the "Schlierseers" took farewell of the Berliners in Auzengruber's admirable play, *Der Meineidbauer*, which they acted splendidly. The audience waxed enthusiastic, crying "Auf Wiedersehen" at the top of their voices, to which Herr Terofal replied delightedly, "Yes, next year."

UNDER the title of *Der Arzt am Scheidewege*, Bernard Shaw's play, *The Doctor's Dilemma*, was produced at the Deutsches Theatre Chamber-Play-house last Saturday. The characteristic piece being known in England, it will only be necessary to record its reception here. Mr. Shaw—the Irish Wizard, as some call him—has so many genuine admirers in Berlin that any work of his would find an attentive audience. The general opinion about *The Doctor's Dilemma* is that it is a considerable falling-off on previous pieces, and had it not been so well acted its success would have been still less.

HERR MAX HALBE'S latest play, a four-act comedy entitled *Blaue Berge*, which was produced at the New Schauspielhaus on Friday, was a complete failure, and truth compels me to say deservedly so. The author attained some degree of fame a number of years ago by a play called *Jugend*—considered by many poetical, by others immoral. Since that time Herr Halbe has written a series of "frosts," the climax of which was *Blaue Berge*, an insufferably spun-out, talky-talky inanity. Friends of the author, who insisted on calling him before the curtain, only caused the hisses and catcalls of the majority to increase in volume. The acting was so good that everyone sympathised with the artists on account of their labour in vain.

MME. META ILLING is on her way to England to make final arrangements for her English theatre in Berlin. She hopes to commence operations in February, and has a small but adequate building at her disposal.

"GOD SAVE THE KING."

Play in One Act by Junius Booth, produced at the Alhambra Theatre, Stourbridge, on Wednesday, Nov. 18.

Rawdon Wolf ..... MR. JUNIUS BOOTH
King Charles I. ..... MR. C. W. CROWE
Harding ..... MR. CONRAD HEYWOOD
Widney ..... MR. JOHN CRIMMINS
Buckley ..... MR. H. BANNISTER
Stanmore ..... MR. H. COLLEY
Mistress Marion Wolf ..... MISS ALICE WEST

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The opportunity of witnessing the first performance of a curtain-raiser by Mr. Junius Booth fell to Stourbridge on the 18th inst., when the new piece preceded the performance of *Monte Cristo*. Mr. Booth's one-act play depicts a stirring episode supposed to have taken place in the reign of Charles I. The single scene is laid in a country house near Oxford known as the Wolf's Den. It is the residence of Rawdon Wolf, a broken down gentleman, who forms the chief character. The curtain rises on a scene of dissipation and gambling, Wolf lounging near by in a drunken stupor. Play is interrupted by the advent of the news that the King is defeated, and that a price of a thousand pounds has been placed on his head. With the three gamblers the messenger leaves to attempt the capture of the King. Stung by the reproaches and taunts of his wife, however, Wolf begins to realise the fact that he has forfeited his honour and loyalty. The dramatic entrance of Charles I. stirs up old sentiments, and Wolf decides to aid the King, and brings about the monarch's escape in his wife's clothes. On the return of his companions, who believe the King to be concealed in the house, a violent quarrel ensues betwen them and Wolf, who lays all of them *hors de combat*. The King returns with a small force, and the scene is brought to a conclusion by a display of renewed loyalty. In the part of Wolf Mr. Booth brought to bear the full measure of his histrionic gifts, and gave a very impressive performance. He was admirably supported. The piece had a flattering reception, and Mr. Booth deserves congratulations upon a very successful effort.

Now ready. Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906. Effect on theatres and music halls. By Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor. Price 6d. Published at *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM was kinematographed on his way to the Law Courts last Saturday morning by Mr. Charles Urban, and the resultant pictures of the knightly comedian in one of his favourite characters made the hit of the Urbanora programme at the Eccentric Club banquet at the Hotel Cecil, on Sunday. So pleased was Sir Charles with the result, that he offered to send for other clothes and return later in the day, but Mr. Urban would not hear of this, in view of the many calls there had been on Sir Charles's time during the week.

MR. BEERBOHM TREE has completed the cast of *Pinkie and the Fairies*, with which he will contribute to the season's enjoyment at His Majesty's at Christmas. The company seems to consist of juveniles and "grown-ups" in equal proportion, and will include Master Philip Tonge, Miss Iris Hawkins, Miss Augusta Haviland, Miss Ellen Terry, Miss Stella Campbell, Mr. Frederick Volpe, Master Sidney Sherwood, Miss Marjorie Burgess, Miss Kathleen Yorke, Master William Parke, Miss Marie Löhr, Master Francis Walker, Master Frank Varna, Miss Viola Tree, Miss Winifred Beech, and Mr. Walter R. Creighton. It should be added that the important rôle of the Queen of the Fairies will be played by a young lady who makes her first appearance on any stage. A "repetition general" will be given on Dec. 18, the afternoon preceding the production.

AT the meeting of the L.C.C. on Tuesday a petition was presented by Mr. George Alexander from the Mayor and Council of St. Pancras against the application made to the licensing authority on Friday for the conversion of the Camden Theatre into a music hall. The petition, which was numerously signed, alleged that the recent entertainments given at that house had been a source of great annoyance to the inhabitants, from whom numerous complaints had been received; that a great number of ratepayers objected to the proposed licence; and that the existence of a music hall on the site of the Camden Theatre would tend to depreciate the value of the surrounding property and to increase the expenditure for maintaining law and order.

MR. ARTHUR BOURCHIER is among the list of subscribers to the Chancellor's Fund for the further endowment of Oxford University. Mr. Bourchier's donation is the generous one of £100.

MR. H. B. IRVING has found *The Lyons Mail* at the Shaftesbury so attractive that he will continue the run over Christmas. On the sixtieth night, Monday, Dec. 7, Mr. Irving will produce, as a first piece, *King René's Daughter*, in which Miss Dorothea Baird will act the blind heroine, Iolanthe, a character in which she succeeds such renowned artists as Mrs. Stirling, Mrs. Charles Kean, Helen Faucit (Lady Theodore Martin), and Miss Ellen Terry. Henry Irving played Count Tristan to the Iolanthe of Helen Faucit and Miss Terry. The character will be represented at the Shaftesbury by Mr. Gerald Lawrence, who was entrusted by Sir Henry to act the part on his last tour, when *King René's Daughter* was given before *The Bells*.

MRS. D'OYLY CARTE will determine her tenancy of the Savoy on Feb. 27 next, the anxieties attendant upon the recent revival having told severely on her health. Regret at the severance of a connection of so long and honourable a character will be general, and Mrs. Carte will have the best wishes of all in her retirement after thirty years of arduous work. *The Pirates of Penzance*, which will be put on at the Savoy on Tuesday, will be the seventh revival of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas during this and the previous season.

THE speakers at the forthcoming Actors' Benevolent Fund dinner will be Sir Charles Wyndham, General Baden Powell, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Alfred Sutro, and Mr. Edward Terry.

MRS. KENDAL on Saturday opened the last day of the Ice Carnival and Bazaar in aid of the new mission church at Birchfield, Birmingham. In a charming little speech she explained the absence of her husband by saying that horses could not drag Mr. Kendal to a bazaar, and nothing would induce him to make a speech. The bare thought of Mrs. Kendal herself making a speech was sufficient to make him hold up his hands with horror. Birmingham people, said Mrs. Kendal, had a very great charm for her. They had when she was young, and they had now that she was old. They were a wonderfully responsive audience, which fact always made it a pleasurable occasion to her husband and herself to come to Birmingham. With regard to the bazaar, a great American writer had said, "You will have no pockets in your shrouds," and she hoped they would remember that in going around the bazaar. They must buy absolutely everything. Let their husbands say when they return, "Well, I'm glad you are home." All the stalls must be emptied. Nothing must be left, and there must be no rummage sale afterwards.

MR. FORBES ROBERTSON has consented to give the Oration at the Shakespeare Festival to be held at the Southwark Cathedral in April next. The actor will speak from the lectern. His address will form the principal feature of the service, of which the musical portion will consist of an appropriate anthem, a Psalm, and a musical setting of words by Shakespeare.

THE funeral of the late Miss Lydia Thompson (Mrs Alex. Henderson) took place on Monday afternoon, when the remains of the deceased lady were interred in Kensal Green Cemetery. The principal mourners were Mr. Sidney Bracy (nephew), Mr. and Mrs. Smith (old friends), and Mr. and Mrs. Boehmer. Mr. Lionel Brough also attended the funeral, as well as Mr. Johnnie Morris and Mr. Arthur Mitchell. The deceased lady's daughter (Miss Zeffie Tilbury) was in America, and therefore unable to attend her mother's obsequies. The coffin bore the inscription:—

MRS. JOHN CHRISTIE TILBURY
(Miss Lydia Thompson)
(Mrs. Alex. Henderson),
Died Nov. 18, 1908,
Aged 70.

SOME beautiful floral tributes were forwarded to Miss Thompson's residence at Westminster Mansions. That from her daughter (Miss Zeffie Tilbury) consisted of a heart of chrysanthemums, with the word, "Mother," raised in violets. Miss Annie, her lifelong chum, forwarded a bunch of violets, the deceased lady's favourite flowers, while a wreath came from her brother, Mr. Herbert Thompson. Other wreaths came from Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft, Mr. Lionel Brough, the Misses May and Daisy Edouin, Mr. and Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Adye, Miss Violet Cameron, Mr. and Mrs. Cooper, Mme. Albanesi, Mrs. Percy Gibbs, Dr. and Mrs. Collier, Mr. and Mrs. Gibbs and family, and Mr. A. C. Shelley.

"GRIT," Miss Lena Ashwell's latest production, is only a few nights old, but the advance booking for seats already far exceeds that of any of its predecessors at the Kingsway. The curtain now rises at 8.30 p.m., and the play, judiciously "cut," runs with sustained interest from beginning to end. The first matinée of *Grit* is at three o'clock this afternoon.

THE unanimity with which distinguished members of the theatrical profession in this country have combined to promote the matinée at His Majesty's Theatre next Monday in honour of the famous Italian actress Ristori has so touched the actors of Italy, that, headed by the celebrated tragedian, Tomaso Salvini, they are now arranging a performance, supported by all Italian actors and actresses, for the purpose of providing an artistic memorial to Sir Henry Irving, whose genuis was no less esteemed in Italy than that of Ristori in England. Meanwhile the arrangements for the memorial to the celebrated actor, which were started here with such éclat a couple of years ago, appear to have languished, and it seems that the foreign confrères of Irving are to be the first in the field with a tribute to his greatness.

THE West London Theatre was offered at auction at the Mart on Wednesday by Mr. Bousfield, of Messrs. Fox and Bousfield. The theatre is held for a period of about thirteen years, at rents amounting to £169 per annum. Its auditorium is estimated to accommodate about 1,600 persons, and the stage is reputed to be one of the longest in the United Kingdom. An offer of £500 was made, but this the auctioneer declined, declaring that neither that sum nor twice the amount would buy it. The property was withdrawn.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER has sent a further sum of 16s. 6d. to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, and Mr. C. H. Workman 6s. 6d., both amounts having been collected by means of their autographs. Sir Charles Wyndham and Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree send on daily the postal orders they receive in exchange for their autographs.

MISS MARY MOORE, who is Mrs. James Albery in private life, had her own son for junior counsel in the lawsuit in which she figured at Mr. Justice Darling's Court. It will be remembered that another of the famous actress's sons took part in the South African campaign, and she went out there to nurse him when he fell ill.

MISS ELLALINE TERRISS's appearance at the head of her own company will be made at the Hicks Theatre, under Mr. Charles Frohman's management, on Feb. 17, in a play to be produced by Mr. Seymour Hicks. Such a combination of talent and administrative ability should result in a triumph, and the popular actress who thus takes up a position to which her rare accomplishments entitle her, may well look forward to a prolonged season of success.

LONDON is, however, to welcome Miss Terriss at an earlier date than that mentioned above, for she is to appear with her husband at the Palace in a new sketch, which at present bears the title of *The Aeroplane*. The action of the playlet, which is written and composed by Mr. Paul Rubens, passes on the roof of a tall building situated in the heart of the Metropolis, and the principal character is that of a crazy inventor, who is competing for a prize offered for successful aviation. Attached to the story is a graceful love romance which contains a sentiment prettily worked out despite the high altitude of its surroundings. The engagement at the Palace begins on Dec. 14.

MR. FRED FARREN will be the lecturer at the O.P. Club to-morrow (Sunday), and will deliver an address on "Ballet and the Ballet Public," at the Criterion. Mr. T. McDonald Rendle will be in the chair.

ANOTHER fancy dress ball was brought to a successful issue at Covent Garden on Saturday morning last. Mr. W. Clarkson was again to the fore, and took first prize for a lady's domino, and second for a gentleman's comic costume *à la* T. E. Dunville.

THE many friends of Mrs. Gordon, late Miss Ada Wilson, will be sorry to hear she passed away peacefully at her home, 61, Marloes-road, Kensington, on Friday, Nov. 20, from heart failure. Miss Wilson will be remembered as one of the most charming and graceful dancers of modern times. She leaves two sons to mourn her loss.

A NEW number, entitled "Ring a Ding-Dong," has been introduced into the first act of *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's Theatre. This charming addition to the musical score has been composed by Marie Horne specially for Miss Ruth Vincent and full chorus. The effect of the "Brittany chimes," running through the refrain immediately caught the fancy of the audience, and the song was vociferously encored. Mr. Percy Greenbank is responsible for the pretty lyric and Mr. Sidney Ellison has arranged some effective stage business in unison with the idea. It should be added that Miss Maud Boyd—happily recovered from her illness—has resumed the rôle of Madame Poquelin, which, during her absence, was charmingly played by Miss Poppit McNally.

MESSRS. HERBERT SKARDON AND H. SHERWOOD MARTIN'S *Way of the World* company is meeting with wonderful success at the Star Theatre, Liverpool, this week, "House full" boards being exhibited at every performance, and hundreds being turned away nightly. These enterprising and popular managers are now busy on their new production, *Her Kingdom of Love*, written by Mr. Herbert Skardon, for which important bookings have already been made.

MR. H. HERMAN CHILTON, the author of *Grit*, which was produced at the Kingsway on Tuesday, is a partner in a firm of lock manufacturers at Wolverhampton. He was born in Brussels in 1863, and spent the early part of his life in Milan. At fourteen he came to England, and was sent to Wolverhampton Grammar School. After leaving school he was put into an engineer's office, but his father died in 1878, and he then came to London and went into the Civil Service, business eventually taking him back to the Midland town.

MR. WILLIAM LOCKHART, who terminates his engagement with *When Knights Were Bold* at the Theatre Royal, Chatham, next week, has been engaged by Miss Mouillot to play his old part of Hobbs during her revival of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* at the Court at Christmas.

"THE LAST OF THE DE MULLINS," the new three-act play by Mr. St. John Hankin, will be produced on Dec. 6 and 7 at the Haymarket Theatre, which Mr. Frederick Harrison has very kindly placed at the disposal of the Incorporated Stage Society for their performances. The play will be produced by Mr. Graham Browne, and the cast will include Miss Amy Lamborn, Mr. Nigel Playfair, Miss Adela Measor, Miss M'Aimée Murray, Mr. Ernest Young, Mr. H. A. Saintsbury, Miss Jean Bloomfield, Miss Lillah McCarthy, Bobbie Andrews, Miss Clare Greet, Mr. Vernon Steel, and Miss Jean Harkness.

MR. ESME PERCY has been engaged to play the Knight in the forthcoming production of *The Knight of the Burning Pestle* at the Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.

MISS ALEXANDRA CARLISLE and Mr. Joseph Coyne are returning to London from New York, where they finished their season on the 14th inst. They have played *The Mollusc* for thirteen weeks at the Garrick, New York, thus achieving an unprecedented run there. On her return to this country Miss Carlisle will appear in a new play. The popular artists have made hosts of friends in the States and are anxious to thank all who have written to them and sent cables of good wishes.

MR. JAMES MACREADY CHUTE, the proprietor and manager of the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, has received from Dr. J. Perry Worden, the American Consul, a unique testimonial in the form of a photographic reproduction of one of Longfellow's letters, referring to a meeting between the poet and the uncle of Mr. Chute. In 1842, when Longfellow was on his way to Bristol to sail for New York in the Great Western, Longfellow became the guest of Dickens in London, and while there met Cruikshank, whom he styles "a very original genius," Macready, the actor, and Maclise, who painted, among other notable works, a fine study of Macready, and together they cracked jokes and "drank Schloss-Johannisberger and cold punsch."

BENEATH the fascimile of this famous letter, which is to be hung in the Prince's Theatre, is the following inscription in choice Everard letterpress:—

LONGFELLOW AND MACREADY
AT THE HOME OF DICKENS:
Facsimile of the American's Narrative Written to his Beloved Friend
FERDINAND FREILIGRATH, THE POET
at St. Goar am Rhein, from Cambridge, Massachusetts, Jan. 6, 1843.
One Copy Only: Made for Macready's Nephew
MR. JAMES MACREADY CHUTE,
Possessor of Maclise's Portrait of Macready,
With kind permission of FRAU LUISE WIENS, Freiligrath's Daughter.
Presented by
DR. J. PERRY WORDEN,
American Consul,
Bristol, 1908. *Copyright.*

MISS MARIE PEACOCK, daughter of Mr. W. Peacock, managing-director of the Opera House, Harrogate, the Empire, York, and the Hippodrome, Scarborough, made her theatrical début at the Opera House, Harrogate, in an amateur production of *Dr. Wake's Patient*, in aid of the Harrogate Infirmary on Nov. 12. Miss Peacock, who was the recipient of numerous bouquets, is to be complimented on her performance, and proved a credit to her clever mother, née Miss Addie Blanche.

MISS EFFIE D. CRAWFORD, who is concluding a long engagement under the management of Mr. W. H. Hallatt, will on Saturday, Dec. 5, at the Brixton Theatre, reach her 1,050 performance in her original part of Cyril in the *Two Little Sailor Boys*, the third of Mr. Walter Howard's popular plays that Miss Crawford has been associated with.

MESSRS. TAYLOR PLATT AND TREVOR LOWE'S company have just finished at Newport, Mon., a successful twenty-one weeks' tour of Bernard Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*, Mr. Trevor Lowe making a decided hit in the part of William, the lovable old waiter. The company will commence a spring tour in February next.

MISS ELIZABETH DEXTER distinguished herself in the title-rôle of *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past* at the performance given by the Edward Terry Dramatic Club, in aid of the funds of the League of Mercy (Hammersmith Branch). Miss Dexter had evidently given careful study to the part of Mrs. Ponderbury, and it was clear from her work on Tuesday evening that she had arrived at a correct realisation of how the character should be played. Her Mrs. Ponderbury was the strong-minded mistress of her husband's household and complete master of that gentleman, and yet, withal, it could not be denied that the lady, as represented by Miss Dexter, had her charms. Altogether it was a clever and interesting piece of histrionic work upon which Miss Dexter is to be congratulated.

MR. ARTHUR W. JONES announces that he has changed his professional name, and will in future be known as Mr. Russel Davis.

MISS PHYLLIS RELPH, who to-night concludes a long autumn engagement as leading lady in Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's *With Edged Tools* company, has been engaged by Mr. Richard Flanagan for his Christmas production of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester. Miss Relph will play the part of Charmian, and will understudy Miss Darragh, who will be the Cleopatra. It will not be the first time Miss Relph has appeared in this play, as she was in Mr. F. R. Benson's revival at the London Lyceum some years ago.

THE full cast of Mr. Gerald Lawrence's new play, *Into the Light*, which Mrs. Mouillot will present for six nights and four matinées at the Court, beginning on Monday evening next, will consist of Messrs. J. Fisher White, Gerald Lawrence, Kenyon Musgrave, Duncan Yarrow, Henry Stevenson, Walter Cross, George H. Liot, Lionel Brough, Oliver Gwent, and Misses Elaine Inescourt, Joan Ritz, Polly Brough, Beryl St. Leger, and Madge Snell. *Into the Light* is best described as a comedy of sentiment, and a musical atmosphere pervades the play. The leading part, that of a young violinist, will be sustained by the author.

"PETER'S MOTHER" is due at the Crystal Palace Theatre next week, and will be presented by the Hutchison management, a sure guarantee for excellence in mounting and representation. The company engaged is a powerful one, including, as it does, Miss Violet Ley, Mr. Ellie Norwood, and Mr. Vivian Gilbert.

THE advance booking for Mr. George Edwardes's *Merry Widow* company, which goes to the Crystal Palace for the week commencing Dec. 7, is extremely satisfactory. There is to be no increase in prices, and all the tickets except the 6d. will include admission to the Palace one hour before the play commences. Matinées will be given on Wednesday and Saturday.

LOVERS of a fine Shakespearean performance should on no account miss Mr. Oscar Asche's Othello, in which character he will appear on Wednesday and Friday evenings next week at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith. During other parts of the week this gifted actor and his talented wife, Miss Lily Brayton, will present *The Taming of the Shrew*.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN has secured a new play from the prolific pen of Mr. W. Somerset Maugham for production at an early date. The title of the novelty is to be that of *Smith*.

MISS ETHEL KAY, who has been playing Mabel, in Mr. Percy Williams' *Fatal Wedding* company, so successfully, has been re-engaged by him to sustain the same part in his forthcoming tour, which commences on Boxing-day. Miss Kay will thus reach her fifth engagement under Mr. Williams' management.

MESSRS. GARSIDE AND KNOWLES' *Her Marriage Vow* company, which was playing last week, at the Opera House, Wakefield, had the distinction of a visit on the Friday from the "Wallabies," the Australian Rugby football team, who were to play Yorkshire on the following day. At the end of the third act of *Her Marriage Vow*, which is always received with great enthusiasm, there was a demonstration which extended over five minutes. Then someone called for the "Wallabies' war-cry," with which the visitors obliged in regulation style.

MISS IRENE MONCRIEFF, we regret to learn, has for the last fortnight been suffering from intercostal neuralgia, but hopes in a short while to resume work. We join the many friends of Miss Moncrieff in wishing her a speedy recovery.

MR. LEWIS WALLER fulfilled his "command" performance at Windsor Castle on the 20th inst., when *The Duke's Motto* was performed in the Waterloo Chamber. The august assemblage included his Majesty King Edward, Queen Alexandra, the King and Queen of Sweden, the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Princess Victoria, Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) and the Duke of Argyll, Princess Beatrice (Princess Henry of Battenberg), the Duchess of Albany, Prince Arthur and Princess Victoria Patricia of Connaught, Princess Alexander of Teck and Prince Alexander of Teck, and Princess Victoria and Princess Louise-Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein.

AN interesting member of the cast was Mr. Waller's little daughter Nancy, who made her début as a page. The company also consisted of Messrs. Tom Heslewood, Owen Roughwood, Franklin Dyall, Shiel Barry, J. V. Henry, Geoffrey Saville, James Harrison, Patrick Digan, Herbert Jarman, Alec F. Thompson, A. E. George, Hubert Druce, J. H. Irvine, Caton Woodville, Reginald Dane, Frank Ridley, Cronin Wilson, George Harrington, and Charles Cecil, Master Harry Duff, and Misses Sybil Carlisle, Valli Valli, Gwendolin Floyd, Maude Digan, May Chenery, and Dorothy Minto.

MR. EDWIN PALMER received a hearty welcome from many old friends last Monday on his reappearance in Middlesbrough after an absence of thirty-seven years, most of which he has spent in the Colonies. After the fall of the curtain on Monday, Mr. Blake Adams, on behalf of *The Sins of Society* company, of which Mr. Palmer is a member, asked him to accept a gold bar, appropriately inscribed, to attach to a gold medal that was presented to him in 1871 by Mr. John Imeson and friends. Mr. Palmer, taken by surprise at the gift, thanked his fellow artists with evident deep feeling.

MISS LOUISA PEACH has been engaged by Mr. Ernest Norris to star with him in *The Education of Elizabeth* at the Theatre Royal, Lincoln, next week.

MR. A. N. VINCE has been engaged by Mr. George Dance to represent him as agent in advance in one of his chief companies on tour in the North at Christmas.

MR. FRED GRANVILLE was so appreciative of Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's production of *A Country Girl in London*, which had its first performance in Liverpool at the Queen's Theatre last week, that he invited several of the leading citizens to witness the play on Friday night. The result was a large and distinguished audience that filled the boxes, stalls, and circle to overflowing, and accorded the play an enthusiastic reception.

MR. EDWARD DE VERE has been engaged by Mr. Lester Collingwood to stage-manage his forthcoming pantomime, *Babes in the Wood*, at the Elephant and Castle Theatre.

THE proprietorship of the Grand Theatre, Brighton, has been transferred from Carpenter's Theatres, Ltd., to a local company, with Mr. Ernest Gates as managing-director. Mr. Ernest Carpenter, who retains an interest in the theatre, was presented, last Monday evening, by Mr. Ben Court on behalf of the staff, with a pair of massive gold links as a token of their appreciation of his kindness and consideration as an employer. Mr. Ben Court will continue to carry out the duties of acting-manager.

MISS LILY IRIS, who has made a pronounced success on her first appearance in musical comedy as Denise at the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, will have to desert the cast of *The Belle of Brittany* shortly in order to play the principal boy at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, pantomime.

THE distinguished audience at the Lyric Theatre for the first performance of *Henry V.* on Wednesday included the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn and Lady Alexander Hamilton, the Duchess of Rutland and Lady Marjorie Manners, Mr. Sidney Lee, Lord Howard de Walden, and the Princess of Monaco.

"A REFORMED RAKE," of which we gave a detailed notice in our last issue, was produced under its original title of *A Bachelor of Arts* on Nov. 23, 1853, at the Lyceum Theatre, with Mr. Charles Matthews as Harry Jasper and Frank as Andrew Wylie.

GREAT enthusiasm is being shown amongst naval and yachting circles at Plymouth this week over the visit of *Brewster's Millions*, the elaborate production by Mr. Percy Hutchison. Seldom have so many naval men congregated to hunt for technical deficiencies, but the search has been in vain; only one matter, that of signals, being in dispute. *Brewster's Millions* in its entirety will be transferred with its marvellous ship scene and additional scenic and atmospheric effects, to the Coronet Theatre next week, and will then pay a visit to the Kennington Theatre previous to opening an extended tour, commencing Christmas week at Hastings.

ANOTHER successful tour of *Leah Kleschna* is about to end. Next week the drama will be presented at the Liverpool Star Theatre, and then proceed to the Prince's, Portsmouth. Mr. Arthur H. Yolland, the advance representative, who has been with the play during two tours, and is well known for his work with Moody-Manners Opera Company, Carl Rosa Company, and Mr. F. R. Benson's productions, will then sever his connection with Messrs. Armitage and Leigh.

"THE SINS OF SOCIETY" has been playing to bumper houses at the Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough, during the present week, and each evening numerous patrons have been unable to obtain admission to this palatial building, all the popular parts being packed at early doors. The magnificent stage settings which are the feature of this costly production have been the talk of the district.

MR. CHARLES FROHMAN'S North company of *The Hypocrites* finish their autumn tour at Southport to-night. A spring tour of Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's play has been arranged, and Mr. H. Lawrence Leyton, who has made such a success in the leading part of the Rev. Edgar Linnell, has been re-engaged.

"HANNELE," the dream-poem translated by Mr. William Archer from the German of Gerhart Hauptmann, with which the Afternoon Theatre makes a beginning at His Majesty's on Tuesday, Dec. 8, will be produced by Mr. Tree. Miss Marie Löhr will play the title-rôle, Mr. Henry Ainley will be Gottwald, Mr. Edward Sass will be Mattern, and the other parts are allotted to Miss Clare Greet, Miss Muriel Alexander, Mr. Norman Page, Mr Halliwell Hobbes, Miss Marie Linden, Mr. Robert Atkins, Mr. Charles Quartermaine, Mr. J. Fisher White, and Mr. Compton Coutts. Preceding *Hannele* will be a one-act play by Miss Margaret Mack, entitled *Emily*, with Miss Sydney Fairbrother, Miss Agnes Thomas, and Mr. A. Holmes Gore in the cast.

MR. HERBERT FORD, who is well remembered by suburban playgoers for his Wilfred Denver, which he played with Messrs. Melford and Polini's company for seven years, is concluding a highly successful suburban engagement as Prince Olaf, in Walter Howard's *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*.

MISS MARIE DRESSLER, the popular comedienne, whose exhilarating methods secured something of a sensational success during her recent engagement at the Palace, has acquired the Aldwych wherewith to embark on her theatrical enterprise. The theatre will be re-christened the Marie Dressler Aldwych Theatre, and will be inaugurated on or about Feb. 1, with a musical comedy at present called *Little Minna*. The piece, which is in two acts, and passes in Switzerland and in Paris, is written by Mr. Edgar Smith, and composed by Mr. Maurice Levy, two gentlemen who have been responsible for many of the amusing skits produced at Weber and Fields', New York. The company, with one or two exceptions, will be entirely English.

MR. CHAS. ROAD-NIGHT has been engaged as stage-manager for Mr. Stanley Roger's production of *Cinderella*, at the Grand Theatre, Fulham, opening on Boxing-night.

MR. BERNARD A. LESLIE, assistant stage-manager for Baron Harriss's *Prince of Pilsen* company, undertook the part of Hans Wagner at the Broadway Theatre on Monday night at a minute's notice, owing to the sudden illness of Mr. Harry Kilburn, and the unpreparedness of the understudy, and has continued playing it throughout the week in a manner which has won the warm congratulations of his fellow-artists, and a tangible recognition from Miss Sophie Harriss.

MR. BARON HARRISS'S three years' continuous tour of *The Prince of Pilsen* ends at the Broadway, New Cross, to-night. Last night Miss Sophie Harriss made the following presentations to the members of her staff, in recognition of their services: to Mr. Hugh Fleming, the advance-director, an ormolu travelling clock; to Mr. Frank Barrett, musical-director, a solid silver flask; to Mr. Bernard A. Leslie, assistant stage-manager, a silver cigarette case and cheque; and to Mr. Charles Clyde, drill instructor, a handsome cigarette holder in silver case.

IT may interest the older school of musicians, and many artists who have served under the wide-spreading banner of Mr. George Edwardes in Africa and on tour in this country, to hear that Mr. Tuttle, the admirable drummer and tympanist, is doing well in China, where he is bandmaster of a crack Indian regiment, the 13th Rajputs. It appears, writes a correspondent, that his practical knowledge of comic operas has been most useful, and everywhere his band has earned unusual distinction for their playing of musical comedies. Our correspondent heard the band in the Opera House, Hong Kong, on Empire Day, when an ovation greeted the conductor and his men. The band is fifty strong, and was complimented recently by His Excellency the Governor.

THE Actors' Association gave a most successful and enjoyable Cinderella dance last Tuesday. The company, which numbered about a hundred, included several well-known actors and actresses. Dancing was indulged in most spiritedly. Miss Marion Lind acted as hostess, and it is to her untiring efforts that the success of the evening was mainly due. The hope was expressed on all sides that the evening was the forerunner of several others equally pleasant.

THE Ben Greet Players, now touring in the States, recently gave open-air performances at the White House, Washington. It was the first dramatic representation ever given at the Presidential residence, and the profession at home and Mr. Greet's numerous friends should feel gratified at so unique a compliment paid by President and Mrs. Roosevelt. The performances, which were attended by over 6,000 persons, consisted of the Hawthorne "Wonder Book" plays, dramatised by Mrs. Edward O'Neill (Rose Meller O'Neill). Mr. Ben Greet has now begun a series of representations of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in the large halls and opera houses of America in conjunction with the Boston Symphony, the Damrosch Orchestra, the Russian and Pittsburg Symphony, and the Philadelphia Orchestra.

THE licence of the Haymarket Theatre, Liverpool, which was allowed to lapse at the recent sessions, was renewed at the sitting held on the 17th inst. It was explained that the owners of the theatre had let it to a company, who apparently got into difficulties, and did not apply for the renewal of the licence. The company had surrendered the lease of the premises, which the owners were now desirous of carrying on themselves. They had secured a properly qualified and competent manager in Mr. Frank Emery, who had been connected for some ten years with the Prince of Wales's. The licence was granted on the same conditions as formerly—namely, that no dring permit should be applied for.

THE new Dramatic Productions Club, of which Miss Mouillot is the organiser, will begin operations at the Court on Dec. 6, with the production of *Isaac's Wife*, a three-act play, by Mr. F. D. Bone and Mr. W. Teignmouth Shore. The cast is a strong one, and will consist of Messrs. Henry Stephenson, C. Leveson Lane, Charles Rock, Arthur Holmes Gore, Ashton Pearse, John Cabourn, Basil Mercer, Wallet Waller, and H. Atley, Miss Margaret Yarde, and Miss Lucy Wilson.

AT the Court Theatre on Tuesday was produced a British opera, in two acts, book by Ernest Rhys, music by Vincent Thomas, entitled *Enid*. The libretto was adapted by Mr. Ernest Rhys from the Celtic romance of "Geraint, the Son of Erbin." The Knight Geraint takes up the challenge of Earl Dwrm, holder of the Sparrowhawk, and wins Enid, the daughter of Ynwl, an ex-monarch. Geraint is sorely wounded; but in the end the lovers are united. The music by Mr. Vincent Thomas showed a decided advance upon his previous efforts, and the leading parts in the opera were well performed by Miss Laura Evans, Mr. Gwynne Davies, and Mr. Joseph Payne.

A SCHEME for the establishment of a Shakespeare Memorial National Theatre is being prepared by the executive committee. The details of the scheme are not to be divulged until a general meeting in January, but it may be said that a public fund is contemplated, and that the committee believe it possible that someone will endow the proposed theatre with whatever sum may be required afterwards. Two sub-committees appointed to work out the details of the new scheme include among their members Lord Lytton, Lord Esher, Mr. Arthur W. Pinero, and Mr. Bernard Shaw.

THE death is announced from America of Signor Vianesi, who will be remembered as conductor at Drury Lane and Covent Garden in the fifties and sixties, wielding the bâton at the latter house for twelve years. Signor Vianesi was born at Leghorn in 1837, and conducted at many Continental capitals. He was appointed musical director at the Paris Opera in 1887, but afterwards went to America, where for a long period he was engaged at the Opera House, New York. His retirement into private life took place a few years ago.

THE dramatist M. Maeterlinck has brought an action against M. Messager and his fellow managers at the Paris Opera to prevent them producing an operatic version of "Monna Vanna," which the author declares he does not consider a fit composition to be set to music. M. Maeterlinck is asking £400 damages for every performance given.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

An Alternative.

SIR CHARLES WYNDHAM'S retorts in the King's Bench this week have, says the *Sporting Times*, been more worthy of the inevitable "laughter" than the regulation provocative; but then he stands alone in this respect. Once upon a time he expressed the view that any actor entrusted with the creation of a part was engaged for the run of the piece. "Then, in effect," chipped in a legal caviller, "the only way to get rid of him from the cast is to shoot him?" "I did not say so," said Sir Charles, drily. "You can, as an alternative, shoot yourself for including him in the cast."

Charity Matinées.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER, who at the St. James's Theatre has managed some of the most successful charity matinées ever given, has said to a representative of the *Mail*:—"You can depend upon it that when any recognised manager undertakes the labour and responsibility of giving a performance in aid of a charity the fund will benefit. These things, however, are far too numerous, and in many instances a great deal goes in expenses that should have gone to the charity. There have been instances when the only person who got nothing was the artist who gave his name and his services.

"MANAGERS and artists, as well as the public, ought to be sure that the receipts go to the charity. I think that in every case the committee interested in the charity should pay the expenses out of their own pockets, and thus make it a certainty that every penny of the receipts shall go to the object to be benefited. There are cases where organisers of charity performances take as much as 10 per cent. commission from the gross receipts for their trouble. But in certain circumstances, where, for instance, a man has carried the whole thing through on his own shoulders, it would perhaps be fair to allow him, say, 5 per cent. on the profits. These men are quite entitled to it. It is a commission earned for obtaining funds, but they are not either directly or indirectly connected with the stage."

Van Biene's Adventures.

MR. AUGUSTE VAN BIENE, the famous actor-musician, who on every 18th of November for the last forty years has played in the streets in fulfilment of a vow made when he was rescued from the gutter by Sir Michael Costa, has related some of his experiences to an *Evening News* representative. "When on Wednesday I went round with my old hat," he said, "I offered it to my taxi-cab driver, who, to my surprise, dropped two shillings into it. I have not been recognised very often when playing in the gutter. Once a certain titled lady, whom I knew well by sight, stopped before me, and saying, 'Poor man; what a shame such a good player should come to this,' put a half-sovereign in my hand. The most curious incident happened about twenty years ago. After I had finished playing a rough-looking man touched me on the arm and said, 'Cully, if you'll come and play for us at our smoker to-night you shall have five bob and a good feed.' He mentioned the name of a public-house in the East End, and invited me to have a drop of 'something short' to seal the compact. Of course I didn't go, and I afterwards ascertained that the same man was one of the most dangerous burglars in London. He was arrested soon afterwards, and had a heavy sentence."

Mr. Collins's Correspondents.

"WEEKS before Boxing Night," writes Mr. Arthur Collins to the *Chronicle*, "I get no end of letters, especially from people living in the provinces, asking me what sort of fun we are going to provide them with at Drury Lane. Here is a typical letter I had this year from an old gentleman residing in Devon:—'Dear Sir,—We are all looking forward to seeing your pantomime at Drury Lane; "we" includes self, two sons, one daughter, and four grandchildren. We want plenty of fun of the wildly hilarious sort, you understand, and I hope you have got a lot in store for us—something that will make us forget fogs, damp, colds, chills, and bills.'

Big Booking.

"RECENTLY, three tiny little mites, each holding a fist tightly clenched, came into the hall at Drury Lane; one asked an attendant to show them the box-office, towards which the three advanced. The box-office counter was far above their heads, so the attendant lifted one of the trio to a level with the counter, who asked in a very tiny voice for 'a seat where I can see everything,' and put down a little pile of silver. He was duly given a ticket for a stall seat, and then the next was lifted up in the same way, and asked for 'a seat next to Jimmy," which he got. Finally, the third, a girl, was lifted up, and demanded two seats, one for herself 'on the other side of Jimmy,' and one for Uncle Tom, and added the information that 'Uncle Tom was coming from Australia, and had not seen a pantomime for twenty years.' Then the little trio walked off, after thanking the attendant."

Judges and Critics.

MR. ROY HORNIMAN writes:—"A new terror has been added to dramatic authorship, for Mr. Justice Darling has joined the ranks of the dramatic critic. I notice that in the course of a case he remarked, with reference to the Court scene in *Idols*, now running at the Garrick Theatre, that people who represent these things on the stage should see them properly done, or they would make mistakes. May I venture most respectfully to point out where the learned judge is in error? When preparing the Court scene—for the arrangement and production of which I am responsible—I discovered that those who invented the procedure in our Law Courts had omitted to reckon with the ultimate production of *Idols*, and they had been singularly lacking in dramatic insight. It was necessary, therefore, to correct this deficiency by producing a court of law as it should be, in order to ensure a great theatrical success. I can assure Mr. Justice Darling that it is far more difficult to get effects in a theatre than in a court of law—for this reason, that in the first case the performer is expected to please his audience, whilst in the second case the audience are only too anxious to please the performer."

"GRIT."

Play, in Four Acts, by H. Herman Chilton, produced at the Kingsway Theatre on Tuesday, Nov. 24.

Erith Winter	MISS LENA ASHWELL
Dick Travers	MR. C. M. HALLARD
Mrs. Winter	MISS FRANCES IVOR
Mr. Winter	MR. H. ATHOL FORDE
William	MR. DOUGLAS WEST
Mr. Norreys	MR. ERNEST COSHAM
Jim Barr	MR. NORMAN MCKINNEL
Mr. Percival	MR. DENNIS EADIE
Nora	MISS MERCIA VAUCELLE
Sarah	MISS OLIVIA
Mrs. Percival	MISS KATE RORKE
Miss King	MISS MARGARET MURRAY
Charles	MR. W. LEMMON WARDE
Suzanne	MISS NANNIE BENNETT
Nelson	MR. PATRICK BEBY

"I confess," says Miss Lena Ashwell, in her little manifesto in the new programme at the Kingsway, "that I had thought a longer period would have elapsed before it became necessary to launch another production on the uncertain sea of public favour; but *The Sway Boat*, though it attracted favourable attention and achieved an undoubted success artistically, was perhaps scarcely of the texture to appeal to those who sustain a rooted objection to being forced to dive deeply into psychological problems. I now present *Grit*, a play in four acts by Mr. H. Herman Chilton, for your approval. It is no longer a novelty at this theatre for you to be called upon to judge the first work of a new author, and my past experience tells me that Mr. Chilton could not possibly be called upon to face a more impartial and kindly tribunal."

Miss Ashwell's confidence in the impartiality and kindliness of her patrons was quite justified by the reception of *Grit*. As a maiden effort it deserves every encouragement. The piece is a good example in a style which is a little old-fashioned; and though neither story nor treatment are novel, both are interesting. So much may be said for Mr. H. Herman Chilton's work, and much more cannot be said in its favour without flattery. The theme is that of a "flighty" female aristocrat married to a noble-minded plebeian from motives of convenience, and being eventually broken-in and tamed down by his intrinsic superiority. The excuse for the marriage in this case is an eccentric will by which if Jim Barr, a carpenter, and Erith Winter, daughter of Mr. Winter, of Seacombe Towers, desire to inherit a fortune they must marry and live together. Mr. Winter is sorely in want of cash, and Barr desires wealth that he may devote it to assisting the poor and unfortunate of his class. So the marriage is "arranged" after a good deal of argument, and after objections on the part of a "detrimental" named Dick Travers, an old friend of Erith's. The first act is occupied with the exposition of these incidents. In the second the newly-married pair are at a cottage, which they have taken for the honeymoon. Erith is anxious as to the attitude which Barr will take up; but it proves to be a very chivalrous one. He refuses to take advantage of the powers given him by his position of husband, and suggests that they shall be man and wife only in appearance. Erith gladly consents to this, and goes off to bed alone.

In the next act we find Mr. and Mrs. Barr living in their London house on the terms settled. Barr is occupying himself with philanthropy, and Erith is amusing herself with an innocent flirtation with Travers. People, however, are beginning to talk, and when Mrs. Barr proposes that her husband shall use his influence to get the empty-headed young *cicisbeo* elected as M.P. for Bermondsey, he refuses, and forbids Travers the house. Mrs. Barr is irritated, and calls her husband a "plebeian," but she sends Travers away, nevertheless. He conceals himself in the conservatory, and, late at night, enters Mrs. Barr's dressing-room and locks the door behind him. She is entreating him to go away when Barr knocks at the door, and Erith puts Travers into her bedroom. Barr comes to tell her that he has found a new will, leaving to her all the property; that he has been strongly tempted to destroy it, but has resisted the temptation, and that he has decided to leave her and assist her in obtaining a divorce. He departs, and Erith, after turning Travers out, goes down into Barr's study and burns the newly-discovered will. Husband and wife meet, and there is a pretty scene, in which she lets him know that she has learned to love him. He takes her in his arms, and the curtain falls.

The performance would have been all the better for a few more rehearsals, but the occasional sound of the prompter's voice did not affect the favourable result. Miss Ashwell played Erith Winter with the ease and grace which come from capacity for more difficult and exacting creations when applied to a comparatively shallow and conventional character. She was particularly good in the scene in the third act in which Erith behaves with irritating unreasonableness when annoyed by her husband's refusal; and she handled with great tact the delicate situation in the last scene. Mr. Norman McKinnel, without making Dick Barr impossibly polished, and while retaining many suggestions of class and character, gave to his performance an elevation and an earnestness which quite accounted for the final subjugation of the *aristocrate;* and Miss Nannie Bennett made an excellent impression as a talkative French maid. Mr. C. M. Hallard did all that was possible with the part of Dick Travers; but the rest of the cast had to content themselves with thinly-drawn characters of "support." All their performances were careful and conscientious. Miss Mary Rorke did excellent work as a common-sense *confidante;* and Miss Frances Ivor as a mock-sentimental mother and Mr. H. Athol Forde as a fussy father were irreproachable. Mr. Ernest Cosham contributed a sound piece of acting as the family lawyer, and Mr. Dennis Eadie was efficient as Mr. Percival, whose two little girls were played with inoffensive sprightliness by Miss Mercia Vaucelle and Miss Olivia. Miss Margaret Murray as a comic governess was well made up, and the servants' parts were all neatly played. Mr. W. Johnstone's scenery was good, especially the interior for the third act, and the piece was liberally and tastefully dressed and mounted. *Grit* had a cordial reception, and the author was called before the curtain at the conclusion.

CHARLES WYNDHAM AND THE ECCENTRICS.

The eighteenth annual dinner of the Eccentric Club at the Hotel Cecil last Sunday was a more than usually interesting one. Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM, the newly-elected president of the Club, was in the chair, with the evergreen and much-beloved veteran "Lal" Brough at his right hand, and among those who accepted invitations were Mr. H. Montague Bates (vice-chairman), and Messrs. Carl Hentschel, R. Golden, F. Bishop, T. Honey, A. E. Gatcombe, F. Callingham, F. Boor, A. Ellis, W. H. White, W. Beard, F. Fraser, H. Slater, J. W. Lethbridge, H. Armitage, J. Woodhouse, Denby Hare, J. D. Langton, T. Fraser, Carl Hertz, George Graves, Walter de Frece, Osman Edwards, W. H. Clemart, W. Clarkson, George Mozart, John Le Hay, Harry Relph, E. Carpenter, Horace Goldin, C. Cruikshanks, Frank Desprez, C. P. Levilly, Sinclair Mantell, Ben Nathan, J. O'Gorman, A. Aldin, Robert Bates, Jocelyn Brandon, Carlton, H. Claff, Percy Clifton, Major W. F. Dick, Selwyn Driver, Captain R. B. England, Herman Finck, Alfred Hurley, A. Hyman, H. Jacoby, A. Kenealey, Jay Laurier, Dr. Lloyd, Herbert Lyndon (chairman of the Green Room Club), Bert Levy, W. O'Brien, Louis de Reeder, Ernest Rees, Standen Triggs, Albert Whelan, Bransby Williams, Joseph Wilson, Percy Yorke, Harry Randall, Charles Urban, Howard Wyndham, Richard Warner, and Colonel Henry Mapleson.

The health of the King having been proposed by the chairman, that of "The Visitors" was proposed by the vice-chairman, Mr. H. Montague Bates, and responded to by Mr. Richard Golden.

Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM, in proposing the health of the Eccentric Club, referred to the great pleasure it had given him to find at his right hand that evening one of the best and oldest of his friends, Mr. Lionel Brough. Sir Charles continued:—"When your representative did me the honour to ask me to preside at this gathering, I had reluctantly to explain that it would be impossible, as a neglected cold of last winter had put my throat and general health into such a condition that my doctors extracted a promise from me to devote Sunday, whilst acting, to what Sundays were appointed—rest, and rest especially after a week of nine performances and a day in the Law Courts. It was, however, urged in reply that if I would merely preside they promised that I need not feel called upon to speak, but promises of this sort, like Berlin Treaties, athletic records, and Sèvres china, are often made to be broken. So here am I, disobeying those doctors' orders, playing the devil with my vocal chords, and boring you. The last, however, owing to the circumstances, will not be a long bore. It is my pride and pleasure to propose the toast of the evening, the Eccentric Club, of which, by your special grace and favour, I have recently been made president. My sense of gratitude for the compliment paid me is heightened, not reduced, by the difficulty of ascertaining what the duties of your president are. The uncertainty which besets me on this point only serves, however, to raise my office to even greater heights, and invest it with a mysterious magnificence which is all its own. Like Jacob's ladder, your club has now its feet on earth and its head in the clouds. No such nebulous altitude can be attained by any other president that I know of. The President of the United States, for instance, or the President of the dis-united States (I mean the Divorce Court) can claim no such call for exultation. I single out these two gentlemen because their status most nearly approaches mine in respectability, if not in glory. No doubt these gentlemen perform most useful duties. As the advertisements often say, they fill a long-felt want. The one calls attention to the strenuous life in public—the other bids us wear the white flower of a blameless life in private. United we stand, cries my brother across the [redacted] divided we fall, cries my other brother here at home. But, after all, these officials, whom, as they are presidents, I am bound to recognise as belonging to my rank, occupy a much lower grade in it than does your president. Their instructions are grossly defined—chalked out, as it were, on paper, with head-lines 'a Constitution' or 'a statute,' headlines for all the world like a child's copy-book; but the duties of your president are in the air, and he is left there to discharge them, as the Scotsman discharged his blasphemous volleys—at large. Therefore, I hold that my office towers high above that of any other president in the world, in that special and unique grandeur that surrounds the unknown. Having got this lengthy exordium off, I think the right thing I can do now, in the interests of my long-suffering chords and your long-suffering ears, is to go straight to the peroration, leaving you to fill in the interspace with your own playful fancy, and piece out my imperfections with your thoughts.

"The club is now getting on in years—eighteen dinners have now passed away. In a short time, if eccentricity can ever be discreet, it will have arrived at years of discretion. How has it spent its eighteen years of life? In such a way, I venture to think, as to justify not only its existence and the expectations of its founders and members, but also the hearty approval and affection of those who have enjoyed its hospitality and profited by its deeds of beneficence. It has as a club been everything that a club should be and nothing that it should not. It has been the home of good-fellowship, geniality, high spirits, and high hopes, brightening toil and softening trial. But it has been even more. It has not merely confined its energies within the limits of its own clubhouse; it has fed the imagination hunger—a hunger as real, as physical, as that of children with recreation and delight. It has helped along the stranger, and what it is capable of in the name of patriotism no one can testify better than myself. I should say the bulk of you come from the City. How well I remember going eastward to your haunts to plead the interests of our soldiers—when in a single afternoon I brought away with me £1500 you had poured into my pocket. Shall I ever forget coming to dine with you a few weeks later, when happening to express, without any intention to beg, what England should do for our defenders in their hour of conflict, you set the noble example of sending me away with £1,700 collected round your dinner table? These noble deeds speak for themselves. They endear you all to those that know of these acts; need I say especially to myself, who was honoured in being the vehicle of your generous contributions. Therefore, not only in discharge of my duties to-night, but in a spirit of deep gratitude for such assistance and co-operation, I express my sentiments from this place as your president, and in all conviviality and sincerity I propose the toast of 'The Eccentric Club.'"

The toast of "The Visitors" was proposed by Mr. H. MONTAGUE BATES, and replied to by Mr. W. BEARD, who reassured the members as to the illness of Mr. J. A. Harrison, which, he said, was only a temporary breakdown that would soon yield to rest and care. Mr. Beard also mentioned that the Club in the past year had dispersed £3000 in charity. The evening concluded with an entertaining programme of song and jest under the management of Mr. Frank Boor and Mr. John Le Hay, which was contributed to by Miss José Collins, Miss Violet Elliott, Miss Kitty Gordon, Miss Josephine La Bart, Miss Millie Legarde, Miss Annie Purcell, Miss Kate Traill, Miss Madge Vincent, and Messrs. Driver, Goldin, Golden, Grover, Hurley, Levy, Laurier, Mozart, Nott, Rea, Rees, Russell, Thomas, Williams, Whelan, and Wood. Mr. "Lal" Brough told some of his funniest stories, which were keenly appreciated. Some interesting Cinematograph films were also shown, by permission of Mr. Charles Urban, on a sheet at one end of the room. They included a moving portrait of Sir Charles Wyndham, a screamingly comic film, "The Near-sighted Bicyclist," and a series of beautiful depictions of wild-bird life. An excellent programme of music—including, of course, the "classical" "Eccentrics" March—was supplied by Mr. Norfolk Megone's orchestra.

THE PLAYHOUSE.

MATINEE IN AID OF INFANTS' HOSPITAL.

An exceedingly interesting and well-attended matinée was given at the Playhouse—kindly lent for the purpose by Mr. Cyril Maude—on Thursday afternoon in aid of the funds of the Infants' Hospital, Vincent-square, S.W. The afternoon opened with a performance of the one-act play *French as He is Spoke*, in which Mr. Cyril Maude once more appeared in his amusing chraracterisation of Peter, supported by Messrs. Daniel McCarthy, A. G. Onslow, John Harwood, Charles Hampden, C. B. Keston, and the Misses Rosalie Toller and Emma Chambers. Mr. Forbes-Robertson's fine elocutionary powers were heard to advantage in the recitation "The Passing Singer," by Ethel Clifford; and Miss Ruth Vincent delighted the house with her rendering of "The Dawn of Love," from *The Belle of Brittany*. Mr. Cosmo Hamilton's "episode," *Soldiers' Daughters*, was admirably presented by Miss Winifred Emery in the rôle of the self-sacrificing Helen Meredith, Miss Beryl Faber as Pamela, and Miss Pollie Emery as the old servant. Then followed a scene from the third act of Tom Taylor's *Still Waters Run Deep*, in which Sir Charles Wyndham submitted a skilful portraiture of the imperturbable John Mildmay, Mr. Robert Loraine appearing as Capt. Hawksley and Mr. Reginald Walter as Dunbilk. Mr. Henry Ainley recited in magnificent style, to his own pianoforte accompaniment, "The Lesson of the Water-Mill," and Miss Marie Dainton proved highly entertaining in a series of impersonations of well-known actresses in various parts.

The novelty of the afternoon was

"THE TOYSHOP OF THE HEART,"
A Play, in One Act, by Ella Hepworth-Dixon.

Philip Altanmore	MR. HARCOURT WILLIAMS
Edward Poyning	MR. LESLIE FABER
Danvers	MR. P. BLUNT
Rosie Rosalba	MISS LILIAN BRAITHWAITE

Miss Hepworth-Dixon has a pretty command of language, and writes nicely. It is the story of the woman who, on the verge of being led to the altar, is deprived of a husband by the interference of a third party, who has been somewhat painfully made aware of an unpleasant incident in her past life. Philip Altanmore, a member of an aristocratic family, who claims to be a poet, has fallen desperately in love with Rosie Rosalba, a music hall dancer, and she, we are led to believe, loves him with all her heart. In his apartments at the Faubourg St. Honoré, Paris, Philip promises to marry her, and we learn that his intentions are to find a home for her in a country cottage in England. He delicately hints that his mother and his family will not approve of the marriage. During his temporary absence from his rooms a friend comes in the person of Edward Poyning, who is described as the First Secretary of the British Embassy at Paris. He recognises Rosie as a woman who, under another name, had been a few years previously the mistress of an acquaintance of his. The conversation between the two is spun out to a tiresome length, and Rosie bursts forth into the usual illogical excuses of her class for her conduct. However, Poyning tells her that Philip has only agreed to marry her from a sense of honour, and that she ought not, in view of certain circumstances, to take advantage of him. The marriage must not take place, and she herself must break off the relationship in the best way she can. It is not his (Poyning's) intention to say anything to Philip on the matter or to appear to have figured in it at all, and there need be no reference to her past. When Philip returns Rosie informs him that her love for her profession will not permit her to live in a damp cottage in the country, and that she has realised he has only asked her to become his wife from a sense of honour. Philip, in surprise and grief, accepts the inevitable, packs his belongings and departs, and the curtain falls upon Rosie weeping bitterly.

The little piece was capitally acted. Miss Lilian Braithwaite furnished a pathetic portraiture of Rosie Rosalba, and the tragic note of it struck deeply into the hearts of the audience. The rôle of the dreaming Philip with the artistic temperament proved an interesting study in the hands of Mr. Harcourt Williams, and Mr. Leslie Faber was a dignified and matter-of-fact personage as Poyning. We think, however, that *The Toy-shop of the Heart* would be better as a magazine story than as a play.

THE LYRIC.

On Wednesday, Nov. 25, revival of Shakespeare's Play,

"KING HENRY V."

King Henry V.	MR. LEWIS WALLER
Duke of Gloucester	MR. PATRICK DIGAN
Duke of Bedford	MR. J. H. NAPPER
Duke of Exeter	MR. FRANKLIN DYALL
Duke of York	MR. HUGH CUNNINGHAM
Earl of Westmoreland	MR. REGINALD DANE
Archbishop of Canterbury	MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES
Bishop of Ely	MR. J. H. IRVINE
Earl of Cambridge	MR. H. CRONIN WILSON
Lord Scroop	MR. SHIEL BARRY
Sir Thomas Grey	MR. CECIL DU GUE
Sir Thomas Erpingham	MR. H. CRONIN WILSON
Captain Gower	MR. FRANK RIDLEY
Captain Fluellen	MR. A. E. GEORGE
Captain McMorris	MR. HERBERT MAULE
Captain Jamy	MR. J. H. IRVINE
John Bates	MR. CATON WOODVILLE
Alexander Court	MR. ST. A. BENTLEY
Michael Williams	MR. HERBERT JARMAN
Boy	MASTER HARRY DUFF
Nym	MR. ALEC F. THOMPSON
Bardolph	MR. ROBERT BOLDER
Pistol	MR. LOUIS CALVERT
Charles VI.	MR. HUBERT DRUCE
The Dauphin	MR. OWEN ROUGHWOOD
Duke of Burgundy	MR. CECIL DU GUE
Duke of Orleans	MR. J. R. SINCLAIR
Duke of Bourbon	MR. A. J. GADE
The Constable of France	MR. WILLIAM DEVEREUX
A French Soldier	MR. SHIEL BARRY
Montjoy	MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES
Governor of Harfleur	MR. C. BRANSCOMBE
Isabel	MISS MAY CHEVALIER
Katherine	MISS MADGE TITHERADGE
Alice	MISS DORA HOLE
Hostess of Tavern	MISS MINNIE GRIFFIN
Chorus	MISS FAY DAVIS

Mr. Lewis Waller has already twice revived *Henry V.*—once in association with Mr. William Mollison at the Lyceum Theatre, in the December of 1900, and again at the Imperial in the January of 1905. The part of Henry V. suits Mr. Waller's style exactly, and he is an ideal representative of the rôle. In the 1905 production there were some memorable performances, and it is not easy to forget the Fluellen of Mr. A. E. George, the Bardolph of Mr. William Calvert, the Pistol of Mr. William Mollison, the Hostess of Miss Mary Griffin, or the Chorus of Miss Mary Rorke. Fortunately, several members of this strong cast were available for the revival at the Lyric on Wednesday, and the performance of Shakespeare's play was, taken as a whole, remarkably fine, bold, and picturesque. We are almost tired of praising Mr. Waller's Henry V.; indeed, it is so complete and clearly cut a inception that one can only describe it as "unimpeachable." Its strength has not declined since 1900, nor has its interest in any way abated. The central figure in Shakespeare's play strongly predominates, and has not only no rival, but no competitor of importance. Next in influence on the effect of the drama is the "comic relief" of those three droll scamps, Nym, Bardolph, and Pistol. Mr. Waller was fortunate in being able to engage Mr. Louis Calvert for the last-named character. Mr. Calvert gives a luxuriantly free and grotesquely extravagant reading of the rôle; in other words, he plays the spouting swashbuckler just as the part should be played—in a large, broad, and expansive manner—and makes a real success in it. Mr. Robert Bolder is a massive and authoritative Bardolph, and Mr. Alec F. Thompson contributes a highly-finished and original reading of the rôle of Nym. Miss Minnie Griffin repeats her natural and effective interpretation of the character of the "quondam Quickly," and the quartette thus cleverly completed furnish plenty of amusement throughout the progress of the play. The incident of the arrest of the traitors at Southampton is made deeply dramatic by the really fine and subtle acting of Mr. Shiel Barry, Mr. Cecil du Gue, and Mr. H. Cronin Wilson. Mr. A. E. George repeats his admirable performance of the part of Fluellen, so full of humour and character; and Mr. Halliwell Hobbes and Mr. J. H. Irvine deliver the dialogue between the scheming clerical magnates in the opening with remarkable ability. A thoroughly sound rendering of the rôle of John Bates is contributed by Mr. Caton Woodville, and another commendable performance is the Michael Williams of Mr. Herbert Jarman. Charles VI. is expressively impersonated by Mr. Hubert Druce; Mr. Owen Roughwood supplying a vivid and active impersonation of the Dauphin. Miss Madge Titheradge gives a charmingly piquant impersonation of Katherine, and Mr. Halliwell Hobbes is a most dignified Montjoy. An agreeable feature of this revival is the remarkably able manner in which the numerous rôles of the second order are embodied, and warm praise is merited by the Duke of Gloucester of Mr. Patrick Digan, the Duke of Bedford of Mr. J. H. Napper, the Duke of Exeter of Mr. Franklin Dyall, the Duke of York of Mr. Hugh Cunningham, and the Earl of Westmoreland of Mr. Reginald Dane. Nor must we omit to mention the good work done by Mr. Frank Ridley as Captain Gower, nor the Captain McMorris of Mr. Herbert Maule and the Alexander Court of Mr. St. A. Bentley. Evident pains had been taken, and valuable results were attained by the efforts of Mr. Cecil du Gue as the Duke of Burgundy, Mr. J. R. Sinclair as the Duke of Orleans, Mr. A. J. Gade as the Duke of Bourbon, Mr. William Devereux as the Constable of France, and Mr. C. Branscombe as the Governor of Harfleur. Miss May Chevalier is an agreeable exponent of the character of Isabel, and Miss Dora Hole is very acceptable as Alice. Miss Fay Davis not only looks quite classical as the Chorus, but speaks her lines well, audibly, and expressively. Mr. R. C. McCleery's scenery is finely artistic and Mr. Herbert Jarman's assistance in the production has done much to secure its smoothness and completeness Mr. Raymond Roze's incidental music is appropriate and descriptive.

"THE ARTHURIAN ANNUAL," an elaborately printed booklet containing the portraits of the principal artists concerned in Mr. Robert Arthur's pantomimes in London and the provinces, will be again issued this year. The designing, compiling, and editing will, as before, be in the hands of Mr. Rade Montefiore, one of Mr. Arthur's lieutenants, who will publish it from the Coronet Theatre, where he is now in command.

HAZLITT ON ACTORS.

"It has been considered as the misfortune of first-rate talents for the stage that they leave," writes Hazlitt in his essay on "Actors and Acting," "no record behind them except that of vague rumour, and that the genius of a great actor perishes wth him, 'leaving the world no copy.' This is a misfortune, or at least an unpleasant circumstance, to actors; but it is, perhaps, an advantage to the stage. It leaves an opening to originality. The stage is always beginning anew; the candidates for theatrical reputation are always setting out afresh, unencumbered by the affectation of the faults or the excellences of their predecessors. In this respect we should imagine that the average quantity of dramatic talent remains more nearly the same than that in any other walk of art. In no other instance do the complaints of the degeneracy of the moderns seem so unfounded as in this; and Colley Cibber's account of the regular decline of the stage, from the time of Shakespeare to that of Charles II., and from the time of Charles II. to the beginning of George II., appears quite ridiculous. The stage is a place where genius is sure to come upon its legs, in a generation or two at furthest. In the other arts (as painting and poetry) it has been contended that what has been well done already, by giving rise to endless vapid imitations, is an obstacle to what might be done well hereafter; that the models or *chefs-d'œuvre* of art, where they are accumulated, choke up the path to excellence; and that the works of genius, where they can be rendered permanent and handed down from age to age, not only prevent, but render superfluous, future productions of the same kind. We have not, neither do we want, two Shakespeares, two Miltons, two Raphaels, any more than we require two suns in the same sphere. Even Miss O'Neill stands a little in the way of our recollections of Mrs. Siddons. But Mr. Kean is an excellent substitute for the memory of Garrick, whom we never saw. When an author dies it is no matter, for his works remain. When a great actor dies there is a void produced in society, a gap which requires to be filled up. Who does not go to see Kean? Who, if Garrick were alive, would go to see him? At least one or the other must have quitted the stage. We have seen what a ferment has been excited among our living artists by the exhibition of the works of the old masters at the British Gallery. What would the actors say to it if, by any spell or power of necromancy, all the celebrated actors for the last hundred years could be made to appear again on the boards of Covent Garden and Drury Lane, for the last time, in all their most brilliant parts? What a rich treat to the town, what a feast for the critics, to go and see Betterton, and Booth, and Wilks, and Sandford, and Nokes, and Leigh, and Penkethman, and Bullock, and Estcourt, and Dogget, and Mrs. Barry, and Mrs. Montfort, and Mrs. Oldfield, and Mrs. Bracegirdle, and Mrs. Cibber, and Cibber himself, the prince of coxcombs, and Macklin, and Quin, and Rich, and Mrs. Clive, and Mrs. Pritchard, and Mrs. Abington, and Weston, and Shutter, and Garrick, and all the rest of those who 'gladdened life, and whose deaths eclipsed the gaiety of nations!' We should certainly be there. We should buy a ticket for the season. We should enjoy *our hundred days* again. We should not lose a single night. We would not, for a great deal, be absent from Betterton's Hamlet or his Brutus, or from Booth's Cato, as it was first acted to the contending applause of Whigs and Tories. We should be in the first row when Mrs. Barry (who was kept by Lord Rochester, and with whom Otway was in love) played Monimia or Belvidera; and we suppose we should go to see Mrs. Bracegirdle (with whom all the world was in love) in all her parts. We should then know exactly whether Penkethman's manner of picking a chicken and Bullock's mode of devouring asparagus answered to the ingenious account of them in the *Tatler;* and whether Dogget was equal to Dowton—whether Mrs. Montfort or Mrs. Abington was the finest lady—whether Wilks or Cibber was the best Sir Harry Wildair—whether Macklin was really 'the Jew that Shakespeare drew,' and whether Garrick was, upon the whole, so great an actor as the world have made him out. Many people have a strong desire to pry into the secrets of futurity: for our own part, we should be satisfied if we had the power to recall the dead, and live the past over again as often as we pleased. Players, after all, have little reason to complain of their hard-earned, short-lived popularity. One thunder of applause from pit, boxes, and gallery is equal to a whole immortality of posthumous fame; and when we hear an actor, whose modesty is equal to his merit, declare that he would like to see a dog wag his tail in approbation, what must he feel when he sees the whole house in a roar! Besides, Fame, as if their reputation had been entrusted to her alone, has been particularly careful of the renown of her theatrical favourites; she forgets one by one, and year by year, those who have been great lawyers, great statesmen, and great warriors in their day, but the name of Garrick still survives with the works of Reynolds and of Johnson.

"A London engagement is generally considered by actors as the *ne plus ultra* of their ambition, as 'a consummation devoutly to be wished,' as the great prize in the lottery of their professional life. But this appears to us, who are not in the secret, to be rather the prose termination of their adventurous career; it is the provincial commencement that is the poetical and truly enviable part of it. After that, they have comparatively little to hope or fear. 'The wine of life is drunk, and but the lees remain.' In London they become gentlemen, and the King's servants; but it is the romantic mixture of the hero and the vagabond that constitutes the essence of the player's life. It is the transition from their real to their assumed characters, from the contempt of the world to the applause of the multitude, that gives its zest to the latter, and raises them as much above common humanity at night, as in the daytime they are depressed below it. 'Hurried from fierce extremes, by contrast made more fierce'—it is rags and a flock-bed which give their splendour to a plume of feathers and a throne. We should suppose that if the most admired actor on the London stage were brought to confession on this point, he would acknowledge that all the applause he had received from 'brilliant and overflowing audiences' was nothing to the light-headed intoxication of unlooked-for success in a barn. In town, actors are criticised; in country-places, they are wondered at, or hooted at; it is of little consequence which, so that the interval is not too long between. For ourselves, we own that the description of the strolling player in *Gil Blas*, soaking his dry crusts in the well by the roadside, presents to us a perfect picture of human felicity."

Mrs. Henry De La Pasture, the talented authoress of *Peter's Mother* has been the recipient of widespread sympathy on the terrible bereavement which she sustained early this month by the death of her husband, who passed away suddenly from heart failure after a few days' illness. Mr. De La Pasture was the third son of the late Marquis De La Pasture, 18th Hussars, and was for many years a well-known figure in London society, while in Catholic circles he will be especially mourned. The funeral took place very quietly at Llandogo, the deceased's home in Monmouthshire, and he was borne to the grave by his own tenants there, his brother, the Rev. Charles De La Pasture, S.J., officiating. Mr. De La Pasture, who was in his sixty-seventh year, leaves two daughters.

RUSSIAN REALISM.

"Nearly all European dramatic art," writes Mr. Maurice Baring in the *New Quarterly*, "with the exception of certain German and Norwegian work, strikes the Russian public as stagey and artificial. If a Russian had written *Mrs. Warren's Profession* he would never have introduced the scene between Crofts and Vivy which occurs at the end of Act III., because such a scene, to a Russian, savours of melodrama. On the other hand, he would have no hesitation in putting on the stage (at the Imperial State-paid Theatre) the interior with all its details of one of the continental hotels from which Mrs. Warren derived her income. But, as I have already said, what interests the Russian dramatist most keenly is not the huge catastrophes that stand out in lurid pre-eminence, but the incidents, sometimes important, sometimes trivial, and sometimes ludicrous, which happen to every human being every day of his life. And nowhere is this so clearly visible as in the work of Tchekov, for although the plays of Tchekov (which have not yet been discovered in England and which will soon be old-fashioned in Russia) are not a reflection of the actual state of mind of the Russian people, yet as far as their artistic aim is concerned, they are more intensely typical and more successful in the achievement of their aim than the work of any other Russian dramatist.

"Tchekov has written in all eleven plays, out of which six are farces in one act, and five are serious dramas. The farces are not important; it is in his serious dramatic work that Tchekov really found himself, and gave to the world something new and entirely original. The originality of Tchekov's plays does not lie in the fact that they are realistic. Other dramatists (Ibsen, for instance) have written absorbingly interesting and dramatic plays dealing with poignant situations, happening to real people in real life. Tchekov's discovery is this, that real life, as we see it every day, can be made just as interesting on the stage as the catastrophes or difficulties which are more or less exceptional, but which are chosen by dramatists as their material because they are dramatic. Tchekov discovered that it is not necessary for real life to be dramatic in order to be interesting. Or rather that ordinary everyday life is as dramatic, if by dramatic one means interesting on the stage, as extraordinary life. He perceived that things which happened to us every day, which interest us, and affect us keenly, but which we would never dream of thinking or of calling dramatic when they occur, may be as interesting on the stage as the most far-fetched situations or the most terrific crises. For instance, it may affect us keenly to leave for ever a house where we have lived for many years. It may touch us to the quick to see certain friends off at a railway station. But we do not call these things dramatic. They are not dramatic, but they are human.

"Tchekov has realised this, and has put them on the stage. He has managed to send over the footlights certain feelings, moods and sensations which we experience constantly, and out of which our life is built. He has managed to make the departure of certain people from a certain place and the staying on of certain others in the same place, as interesting behind the footlights as the tragic histories of Œdipus, Othello, or Mrs. Alving, and a great deal more interesting than the complicated struggles and problems in which the characters of the modern French dramatists are enmeshed. Life as a whole never presents itself to us as a definite mathematical problem which needs immediate solution, but rather it is composed of a thousand nothings which together make something vitally important. Tchekov has understood this, and given us glimpses of these nothings, and has made whole plays out of these nothings.

"At first sight one is tempted to say that there is no action in the plays of Tchekov. But on closer study one realises that the action is there, but it is not the kind usually sought after and employed by men who write for the stage. Tchekov is, of course, not the first dramatic writer who has realised that the action which consisted in violent things happening to violent people is not a whit more interesting, perhaps a great deal less interesting, than the changes and the vicissitudes which happen spiritually in the soul of man. Molière knew this, for *Le Misanthrope* is a play in which nothing in the ordinary sense happens. Rostand's *L'Aiglon* is a play where nothing in the ordinary sense happens. But in these plays in the extraordinary sense everything happens. A violent drama occurs in the soul of the Misanthrope, and likewise in that of the Duke of Reichstadt. So it is in Tchekov's plays. He shows us the changes, the revolutions, the vicissitudes, the tragedies, the comedies, the struggles, the conflicts, the catastrophes that happen in the souls of men, but he goes a step further than the other dramatists in the way in which he shows us these things. He shows us these things as we ourselves perceive or guess them in real life, without the help of poetic soliloquies or monologues, without the help of a Greek chorus, or a worldly raisonneur, and without the aid of startling events which strip people of their masks. He shows us bits of the everyday life of human beings as we see it, and his pictures of ordinary human beings, rooted in certain circumstances, and engaged in certain avocations, reveal to us further glimpses of the life that is going on inside these people. The older dramatists, even when they deal exclusively with the inner life of man, without the aid of any outside action, allow their creations to take off their masks and lay bare their very inmost souls to us.

"Tchekov's characters never, of their own accord, take off their masks for the benefit of the audience, but they retain them in exactly the same degree as people retain them in real life, that is to say, sometimes we guess by a word, a phrase, a gesture, the humming of a tune, or the smelling of a flower, what is going on behind the mask; at other times we see the mask momentarily torn off by an outbreak of inward passion, but never by any pressure of an outside and artificial machinery, the demands of a plot, or the exigencies of a problem; in fact, never by any forces which are not those of life itself. In Tchekov's plays, as in real life, to use Meredith's phrase, 'Passions spin the plot,' he shows us the delicate webs that reach from soul to soul across the trivial incidents of every day."

Miss Alys Bateman will give a grand concert this afternoon at the Crystal Palace, and will be assisted by several talented artists. Miss Bateman will sing recit. and aria, "The Bell Song" (*Lakmé*) (Delibes), and song "No, no, no" (Mattei); Miss Ethel Hook, sister of Mme. Clara Butt, will sing "Hindoo Song" and "Life's Recompense"; Mr. Henry Beaumont will sing "Two Days" and the aria "La donna e mobile"; Mr. Albert Archdeacon will sing "Wilt thou take me for thy slave?" and "I will give you the keys of Heaven"; Miss Ruth Clarkson will be the solo violin; and Mr. Eduard Parlovitz will be solo pianoforte.

The Crystal Palace Orchestral Society and Choir will this evening give a concert under the conductorship of Mr. Walter W. Hedgcock. The programme will include "Suite Algerienne" (Saint-Saëns), Welsh rhapsody (German), and "Lord Ullin's Daughter" (McCunn); "Triumphal Entry of the Bozards" (Halvorsen), overture, "The Land of the Mountain and the Flood" (McCunn), &c. There will be as many as 300 performers. Miss Gladys Honey will be the vocalist and Mr. Joseph Schofield the solo violoncellist. Mr. Fred Holloway will be at the piano.

LAMB'S LITTLE HEROINE.

"The parents of Barbara S——" says Charles Lamb in his story of "Barbara S——" "had been in reputable circumstances. The father had practised, I believe, as an apothecary in the town; but his practice, from causes which I feel my own infirmity too sensibly that way to arraign—or perhaps from that pure infelicity which accompanies some people in their walk through life, and which it is impossible to lay at the door of imprudence—was now reduced to nothing. They were in fact in the very teeth of starvation, when the manager, who knew and respected them in better days, took the little Barbara into his company. At the period I commenced with, her slender earnings were the sole support of her family, including two younger sisters.

"This was the little starved, meritorious maid, who stood before old Ravenscroft, the treasurer, for her Saturday's payment.

"Now Barbara's weekly stipend was a bare half-guinea. By mistake he popped into her hand a whole one. Barbara tripped away. She was entirely unconscious at first of the mistake: God knows, Ravenscroft would never have discovered it. But when she had got down to the first of those uncouth landing places, she became sensible of an unusual weight pressing her left hand.

"Her first impulse was to go back to the old treasurer, and explain to him his blunder. He was already so confused with age, besides a natural want of punctuality, that she would have had some difficulty in making him understand it. She saw *that* in an instant. And then it was such a bit of money! and then the image of a larger allowance of butcher's meat on their table next day came across her, till her eyes glistened, and her mouth moistened. But then Mr. Ravenscroft had always been so good-natured, had stood her friend behind the scenes, and even recommended her promotion to some of her little parts. But again the old man was reputed to be worth a world of money: he was supposed to have fifty pounds a year clear of the theatre. And then came staring upon her the figures of her little stockingless and shoeless sisters. And when she looked at her own neat white cotton stockings, which her situation at the theatre had made it indispensable for her mother to provide for her, with hard straining and pinching from the family stock, and thought how glad she would be to cover their poor feet with the same—and how then they could accompany her to rehearsals, which they had hitherto been precluded from doing, by reason of their unfashionable attire—in these thoughts she reached the second landing-place—the second, I mean, from the top—for there was still another left to traverse.

"Now virtue, support Barbara!

"And that never-failing friend did step in; for at that moment a strength not her own, I have heard her say, was revealed to her—a reason above reasoning—and without her own agency, as it seemed (for she never felt her feet to move), she found herself transported back to the individual desk she had just quitted, and her hand in the old hand of Ravenscroft, who in silence took back the refunded treasure, and who had been sitting (good man) insensible to the lapse of minutes, which to her were anxious ages, and from that moment a deep peace fell upon her heart, and she knew the quality of honesty.

"I have heard her say that it was a surprise, not much short of mortification to her, to see the coolness with which the old man pocketed the difference, which had caused her such mortal throes."

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

On Monday, Nov. 23, the Romantic Drama, in Four Acts, entitled

"A WHITE MAN."

Following upon an experimental fortnight of varieties at the Kingston playhouse, which proved most successful, there was a return to "the legitimate" on Monday night, when *A White Man* was produced before a numerous audience. The pictures of cowboy life in the Wild West of America were most faithfully portrayed by a capable all-round company, captained by Mr. Herbert Sleath, and afforded evident enjoyment to the onlookers. The story of Jim Carston, subsequently the Earl of Kerhill, who voluntarily banishes himself from the luxuries of civilised life to lead the rough existence of a ranchman on a lonely prairie, is followed with close attention, and that it was appreciated was shown by the recall of the company at the close of the acts. Chief honours are earned by Mr. Frank E. Petley as Jim Carston, and a great success was also scored by Mr. Eric Hudson in the rôle of the Chief of the Red Indian tribe, Tab-y-wana. Miss Dorothy Fairleigh, who plays the part of the Chief's daughter, Nat-u-rich, also acquitted herself well. Breezy and typical impersonations of wild cowboys were given by Messrs. Henry Hare, Thomas Lewen, Martin Henry, and J. W. H. Sarll, whilst Mr. Gerald Earle made a deep impression by his picture of the reckless ranchman, Cash Hawkins. Miss Eleanor May wins many friends by her charming impersonation of the part of the Countess of Kerhill. Others deserving of notice were Mr. H. A. C. Hardie as Bud Hardy, Mr. Lewis Broughton as the Earl of Kerhill, Mr. H. Wilmott Jackson as Sir John Applegate, Mr. William Dempsey as Malcolm Petrie, and Miss Rosina White as Little Hal. The play was splendidly staged.

Kean and Wills.

Mr. H. W. Lucy says, in continuing his reminiscences in the *Cornhill*, referring to the late Sir Henry Irving:—"Irving used to tell with dramatic effect a story about W. G. Wills, the dramatist, who, among other services, wrote for him the play, *Charles I.* When Wills was a boy ten years old he was taken to see Edmund Kean play Macbeth. In the murder scene he was so affected by the realistic power of the actor that, seized with a severe attack of nausea, he hurried from the box. Ten years later he was lunching at a chop-house in Fleet-street when a man entered, sat down at a table near him, and ordered a meal. He was a perfect stranger to Wills, who after a few minutes' propinquity was again seized with a fit of nausea, from which he had not suffered since as a boy he was at the theatre on the occasion mentioned. He was obliged to leave the room. When some minutes later he paid his bill, the waiter said to him: 'Did you see that gentleman at the table near you? That's Edmund Kean.'"

The Board of Education have received information through the Foreign Office of the International Theatrical Exhibition, which, as we announced in a recent issue, is to be held at Milan in 1913 in commemoration of the first centenary of the birth of Verdi. The exhibition has been planned on the initiative of the Society Esposizione Industriale Permanente of Milan, and is to receive the assistance of the Italian Government. The exhibition will be divided into three main sections, comprising the theatre, music, and artists and theatrical literature.

Fulham meets Barnsley in the Second Division League at Barnsley this afternoon, the kick-off being at 2.30. Fulham's team will be selected from Skene, Charlton, Lindsay, Collins, Parsonage, Millington, Dalrymple, Harrison, Brown, Lipsham, and Carter. Fulham Res. will be opposed to Millwall Res. in the London League this afternoon at Fulham. Cronthwaite or Fryer, Harper, Leigh, Rogers, Waterson, Goldie, Threlfall, Freeman, Barton, Bradshaw, and Lee will constitute the team.

HALL CAINE'S FIRST NOVEL.

"When I began to think of a theme for a novel," says Mr. Hall Caine in "My Story," "I found four or five subjects clamouring for acceptance. There was the story of the Prodigal Son, which afterwards became 'The Deemster'; the story of Jacob and Esau, which in the same way turned into 'The Bondman'; the story of Samuel and Eli, which after a fashion moulded itself finally into 'The Scapegoat'; as well as half-a-dozen other stories, chiefly Biblical, which have since been written, or are still on the forehead of the time to come.

"My first visit was to J. S. Cotton, a close friend (at that time editor of the *Academy*), and to him I detailed the lines of my story. His rapid mind saw a new opportunity.

"'You want *peine forte et dure*,' he said.

"'What's that?' I asked.

"'An old punishment, a beautiful thing,' he answered. 'Where's my dear old Blackstone?'

"And the statute containing the punishment for standing mute was read to me. It was just the thing I wanted for my hero, and I was in rapture. But I was also in despair; to work this fresh interest into my theme, half of what I had written would need to be destroyed!

"It *was* destroyed, the interesting piece of ancient jurisprudence took a leading place in my scheme, and after two months more I got well into the third volume. Then I took my work down to Liverpool, and showed it to my friend, John Lovell. After he had read it he said:

"'I suppose you want my candid opinion?'

"'Well, ye—s,' I said.

"'It's crude,' he said. 'But it only wants sub-editing.'

"Sub-editing!

"I took it back to London, began again at the first line, and wrote every page over again. At the end of another month the story had been reconstructed, and was shorter by some fifty pages of manuscript. It had drawn my heart's blood to cut my 'best' passages, but they were gone, and I knew the book was better. After that I went on to the end and finished with a tragedy. Then the story was sent back to Lovell, and I waited for his verdict.

"My home (or what served for it) was now on the fourth floor of New Court, in Lincoln's Inn, and one morning Lovell came puffing and blowing and steaming (the good fellow was a twenty-stone man) into my lofty nest. He had re-read my novel coming up in the train.

"'Well?' I asked, nervously.

"'It's splendid!' he said.

"That was all the favourable criticism he offered. All save one practical and tangible bit.

"'We'll give you £100 for the serial right of the story for the *Weekly*.'

"He offered one unfavourable criticism.

"'The death of your hero will never do,' he said. "If you kill that man, you'll kill your book. What's the good? Give no more than the public will take from you to begin with; and by-and-by they'll take what *you* give *them*.'

"With much diffidence I altered the catastrophe, and made my hero happy."

BEGGING LETTER FRAUD.

An attempt to victimise Mr. Ernest Carpenter by means of a begging letter has been smartly frustrated by the astute co-manager of the Lyceum. Mr. Carpenter was in his office the night of the 20th inst., when he was handed a letter which he was told had been delivered by a woman who was waiting at the stage-door for an answer. The letter stated that the writer had just secured an engagement at £3 from Mr. Duckworth, of the Opera House, Northampton, to play in *The Nameless Child*. The writer went on to say that he would have called upon Mr. Carpenter himself, but he was without boots, which had been pawned for food. He said, too, that his wife had pawned her wedding-ring, and as their little boy was ill they were in great distress. The writer enclosed a letter purporting to come from the Opera House, Northampton, confirming the story as to the engagement at £3 a week, and asked for a loan of 12s. 6d. to enable him to take his boots out of pawn and pay his fare to Northampton.

Mr. Carpenter came to the conclusion that both letters were in the same handwriting, and on telephoning to Northampton found that there was no truth in the writer's story. The woman who had taken the letter to the theatre was told to request the writer to call on Saturday. On that morning an individual called at the Lyceum, and told Mr. Carpenter that he was the man who had applied for the loan. Mr. Carpenter told him he had ascertained that there was no truth in his story, and gave him into custody.

The sequel was reached at Bow-street Police Court on Saturday, when Henry Watson, aged 40, of Sayer-street, New Kent-road, described as an agent, was charged, before Mr. Curtis Bennett, with attempting to obtain money by false pretences. The prisoner admitted that he had written both letters, and said, "What was I to do? My wife and child are starving." While the charge was being taken at the police-station, he took the letters from a desk and tore them into several pieces. The prisoner was remanded.

DRESSES AT THE PLAY.

Empire gowns hold sway in *Grit*, the new production at the Kingsway. To Miss Lena Ashwell, with her tall and slender figure, the Empire style of dress is peculiarly becoming. Most noteworthy is an evening dress composed of the softest satin in a delicate shade of pink. This is veiled with a kind of tunic of chiffon to match, embroidered in an elaborate design in white silk and enriched with pearls. The embroidery forms a wide border round the tunic, and is repeated on the low Empire bodice in the form of a deep band with a central pearl ornament. Chains of pearls caught up to a cabochon of pearls ornament the décolletage, and droop over the arms so as to form a kind of falling sleeve.

Miss Ashwell's second gown is of soft white satin. The skirt with its sweeping train is absolutely unadorned, thus allowing the beautiful sheen of the material to be seen to full advantage; but the bodice is enriched by a broad band thickly embroidered with glittering white bugles, and this band has long scarf ends finished with bugle fringe, which fall nearly to the hem of the skirt. Another beautiful frock worn by Miss Ashwell is an afternoon gown of fine champagne-coloured charmeuse, with a band of embroidery and rich lace revers and ruffles carried out in the Empire style.

A handsome Empire gown in mauve charmeuse is worn by Miss Kate Rorke as Mrs. Percival. The low bodice is composed of pale pink silk, embroidered thickly with silver sequins and crossed by broad bands of gold and amethyst passementerie.

Ornamentation of heavy black chenille fringe is a feature in one of the handsome gowns worn by Miss Frances Ivor as Mrs. Winter The gown is composed of black charmeuse, and the style recalls to some extent the old fashion of the polonaise; while the petticoat is trimmed with black velvet ribbon sewn on in an elaborate design. An exquisite trimming of silk and gold embroidery forms the special attraction in another of Miss Ivor's gowns, which is entirely composed of chestnut brown chiffon. It is made in a novel style with a draped bodice and long tucked sleeves.

"The Era" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

ON THE ROAD, NOV. 30.

An Unwedded Wife.—Theatre Royal, Brighton.
Ascot, Oscar.—King's T., Hammersmith.
Assassin, The.—Colosseum, Oldham.
At Duty's Call.—Gaiety T., Leith.
Beau Brocade.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Benson, Mr. and Mrs. F. R.—T. R., Bradford
Benson, The F. R. (N.).—Victoria T., Kettering.
Benson, The F. R. (S.).—Salisbury & Basingstoke.
Bondman, The (Croke).—Empire T., Oldham.
Bourchier, Arthur.—P. O. W., Birmingham.
Boyne, Leonard, Mr.—O. H., Coventry.
Breed of the Treshams.—T. R., Bath.
Brewster's Millions.—Coronet Theatre, W.
Broken Heart, A.—T. R., West Bromwich.
Bulmer, Mr.—Irving T., Seacombe.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—T. R., Manchester.
Charley's Aunt (No. 1).—O. H., Crewe.
Christian, The (Croke, N.).—Queen's T., Manchester.
Christian, The (Croke, S.).—Crown T., Peckham.
Christian, The (Croke, No. 3).—Teignmouth and Andover.
Claudian.—Paisley T., Paisley.
Coal King, The.—Empire T., Southend.
Compton Comedy Co.—New T., Cardiff.
Conscience of a Judge.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Convict's Daughter.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
Country Girl in London.—T. R., Glossop.
Dairymaids (Courtneidge) (S.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
Dairymaids (Macdonald's).—O. H., St. Helens.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Grand T., Walsall.
Diana of Dobson's (M.).—Bury St. Edmunds.
Diana of Dobson's (N.).—T. R., Bolton.
Diana of Dobson's (S.).—T. R., Norwich.
Dorothy.—Gaiety Theatre, Dublin.
Eve of Her Wedding.—King's Lynn and Grantham.
Face at the Window.—T. R., Ton-y-Pandy.
Fatal Wedding.—Barry Dock.
Fight for a Throne.—Prince's T., Blackburn.
Flag Lieutenant (N.).—Grand T., Southampton.
For Love and the King.—Camb. T., Spennymoor.
From Shop Girl to Duchess.—Vic. T., Broughton.
Gay Gordons (Miss Ash).—Castle T., Stockton.
Gay Gordons (Miss Dare).—Marlboro' T., Holloway.
Gay Gordons (Terriss and Hicks).—T. R., Birmingham.
Geoffrey Langdon's Wife.—Theatre, Saltley.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Star T., Swansea.
Girls of Gottenberg.—Prince's T., Bristol.
Girl with the Angel Face.—T. R., Leicester.
Glossop-Harris, Miss F.—Lyceum T., Newport.
Great Awakening.—Palace T., Newcastle.
Great White Chief, The.—Alexandra T., Hull.
Guilty Gold.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.
Her Love Against the World.—T. R., Middlesbro'.
Her Marriage Vow.—Palace T., Ramsgate.
Her Nameless Child.—T. R., Macclesfield.
His House in Order.—T. R., Huddersfield.
Home, Sweet Home.—T. R., Jarrow.
Honeymoon, The.—Central T., Altrincham.
Horniman's, Miss.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
Hughes, Annie.—O. H., Cheltenham.
Irene Wycherley.—Grand T., Derby.
Jack Straw.—Grand T., Hull.
Kendal, Mr. and Mrs.—Broadway T., New Cross.
Kiss of Judas.—Eastbourne and Hastings.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Navan and Balbriggan.
Lady Frederick.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
Lady Frederick (Potter).—King's T., Sunderland.
Leah Kleschna.—Star T., Liverpool.
Little Breadwinner.—Metropole T., Manchester.
London with the Lid Off.—T. R., Wednesbury.
Love of the Princess.—Rotunda T., Liverpool.
Lucky 'Liza.—Stourbridge.
Man and Wife.—T. R., Sunderland.
Man to Man.—Metropole T., Birmingham.
Manxman.—Victoria T., Burnley.
Merry Widow (S.).—T. R., Halifax.
Merry Widow.—Grand T., Leeds.
Midnight Mail.—T. R., Merthyr.
Midnight Wedding.—T. R., Northampton.
Moody-Manners Opera (A.).—T. R., Hanley.
Moody-Manners (B.).—Torquay.
Moore, Miss Decima.—Grand T., Swansea.
Moths.—Queen's Park, Manchester.
Mrs. Ponderbury's Past.—Hastings & Eastbourne.
Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
My Mimosa Maid.—Court T., Liverpool.
Mystery of Edwin Drood.—Queen's T., Longton.
New East Lynne.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
Nihilist, The.—New T., Consett.
Old Folks at Home.—Crown T., Eccles.
Otto the Outcast.—Gaiety T., Methil.
Peter's Mother.—Crystal Palace Theatre, S.E.
Power of the King.—T. R., Castleford.
Power of the Cross.—Queen's T., Liverpool.
Prodigal Parson.—Hippodrome, Todmorden.
Prodigal Son (Croke).—County T., Reading.
Prodigal Son (Day).—T. R., Rochdale.
Royal Divorce.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
Sailor's Wedding.—T. R., Leeds.
Second to None.—T. R., North Shields.
Send Him Victorious.—East Oxford T., Oxford.
Sergeant Brue.—Hippodrome, West Bromwich.
Sherlock Holmes.—King's T., Glasgow.
Sign of the Cross.—Court T., Warrington.
Silver King.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
Soldier of France.—Grand T., Radcliffe.
Soldier's Honour.—O. H., Dudley.
Still Alarm.—T. R., Aston.
Straight from the Shoulder.—T. R., Smethwick.
Sunday.—T. R., Barnsley.
Sutton and Raynor's Repertoire.—O. H., Harrogate.
Terry, Edward.—Prince's T., Manchester.
Terry, Fred.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Thief, The (N.).—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
Thief, The (S.).—T. R., Brighton.
Tom Jones.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
Two Lancashire Lasses in London.—Elephant and Castle T.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—P. O. W., Mexboro'.
Two Little Vagabonds (N.).—T. R., Wolverhampton.
Two Little Vagabonds (S.).—T. R., Batley.
Tyrant, The.—T. R., Bristol.
Uncle Tom's Cabin.—T. R., Sheffield.
Vedrenne-Barker.—Shakespeare T., Liverpool.
Village Blacksmith.—Grand T., Nottingham.
Warner, Grace.—T. R., Pontypool.
Warning to Women.—T. R., South Shields.
What a Woman Did.—Sutton-in-Ashfield.
When It Was Dark.—Empire T., Blaina.
When Knights Were Bold.—T. R., Chatham.
When Knights Were Bold.—T. R., Newcastle.
When London Sleeps.—P.O.W., Nuneaton.
When Other Lips.—St. James's T., Long Eaton.
White Man, A (N.).—Borough T., Stratford.
Who Is She?—T. R., Dewsbury.
Why Men Love Women.—T. R., Rotherham.
Wilkie, Allan, and Co.—T. R., Stockport.
Woman Pays, The.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
Woman Who Gambles.—Grand T., Lancaster.
Worst Woman in London.—Prince's T., Bradford.
Wrecker of Men.—T. R., Bury.
£1,000 Reward.—T. R., Edmonton.
10.30 Down Express.—Lyceum T., Ipswich.

"The Love That Conquers," a play, in four acts, by Dudley Beresford, was produced by Mrs. Walter Bentley for copyright purposes at the Bijou Theatre, Bayswater, on Monday.

The little Dutch violinist, Haidée Voorzanger, who made a first appearance here last year, gave a recital at St. James's Hall on the afternoon of the 18th inst., with decided success. The little artist is only thirteen, but her rendering of Max Bruch's G minor Concerto, Wilhelmj's transcription of Schubert's "Ave Maria," and Beethoven's Romance in G was marked by a fluency and beauty of tone which would have been highly creditable in an instrumentalist of twice her age.

The drama is apparently flourishing in Kalgoorlie, "where the gold comes from." Mr. Walter Everard, who went out to Western Australia in the early spring, and is now acting-manager for Mr. Julius Knight, reports excellent business with *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Prisoner of Zenda*, *A Royal Divorce*, *The Lady of Lyons*, and *Brigadier Gerard*. The company returns to Melbourne in time for the racing event of the year, the Melbourne Cup, and Mr. Everard expects to be back in England early next year. "I have paid a visit to Coolgardie, which is twenty-five miles away," writes Mr. Everard, "purposely to inspect a mine in which, some years back, I dropped a cool thou.; that's why it is, I presume, designated 'Coolgardie.' The town is a quiet spot, all mining and nought else. The redeeming feature is its invigorating atmosphere and altitude, 1,500ft. above sea level."

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

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All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

CONSTANT READER.—*Tom Craven's Gag Book would answer your purpose. Francis, Day, and Hunter, 142, Charing Cross-road, W.C., also have several on their list.*

L. GRUBB.—*Miss Edna May was married to Mr. Oscar Lewisohn on June 4, 1907.*

QUERIBUS.—*The business management articles are now in the press.*

VIOLETTA.—*A Japanese play entitled* The Mirror *was written by Miss Rosina Filippi, and produced at the Criterion, Sept. 15, 1903.*

LAURA (Teddington).—*La Mascotte was revived at the old Gaiety, Sept. 9, 1893, and was transferred to the Criterion, Oct. 16, 1893.* Lakmé *was produced at the Gaiety on June 6, 1885.*

VIOLET.—*In the* Babes in the Wood *pantomime at the Coronet, Christmas, 1899, Miss Phyllis Dare played Dorothy. She is to be at the Adelphi this Christmas as Cinderella.*

E. JOYNT.—*Miss Julia Neilson was the Rosalind in the St. James's revival of* As You Like It, *Dec. 2, 1896.* A Gaiety Girl was produced at the *Prince of Wales's, Oct. 14, 1893.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen :—

Sir F. C. Burnand—Sunday, Nov. 29.
Joe Elvin—Sunday, Nov. 29.
Hiram Henton—Sunday, Nov. 29.
Lydia Donovan—Sunday, Nov. 29.
Surtees Corne—Sunday, Nov. 29.
Lina Nazeby—Monday, Nov. 30.
H. V. Esmond—Monday, Nov. 30.
Ben Brown—Monday, Nov. 30.
Irene Vanbrugh—Wednesday, Dec. 2.
Hamilton Deane—Wednesday, Dec. 2.
F. W. Millis—Wednesday, Dec. 2.
Walter Munroe—Thursday, Dec. 3.
Austin Rudd—Thursday, Dec. 3.

MR. ARTHUR BLOUNT opens at the County Theatre, Kingston, on Monday in his new patter act.

MR. HARRY ELLIOTT has secured two winners in "I'm all right" and "The Follow-my-leader Boys." Both have rattling good choruses.

MISS LENA WILLARD, who has been ordered complete rest, is now trying the open-air cure for lung affection for a few months at the Royal National Hospital, Ventnor, Isle of Wight.

MR. H. SCOREY, JUN., of the Four Scoreys, has been specially engaged by Mr. Waller Jeffs to play "The Lost Chord" cornet solo at his sacred concert to-morrow at the Drill Hall, Derby.

MR. FRANK HARRISON will produce *Dick Whittington* for Mr. Robert Arthur at the Coronet this year. This gentleman was responsible for one of Mr. Arthur's pantomimes at Nottingham last year, and did such clever work that it was at once recognised that his proper sphere was London

MISS FLORA CROMER, contralto, has been engaged by the management of the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow, as principal boy in the forthcoming pantomime there. She will feature the song she has made so popular, "Do you want to buy any lavender?" Miss Cromer is solidly booked for the next five years, and will appear not only in England, but also in Scotland, Ireland, Australia, Africa, Ceylon, and Egypt.

MRS. JOHN LAWSON will produce *Why the Third Floor Passed* at two halls at Christmas, and is now busily engaged rehearsing the travesty. A strong cast of comedians has been engaged, and the situations evolved by the efforts "to do good" are more than funny. There will be two scenes. Scene I: St. James's Theatre; Scene II: Mrs. Leach's Boarding-house, Camberwell. Mrs. Lawson will play "The Arranger."

FOR many years now roller-skating at the Crystal Palace has been one of the great attractions during the winter months. With the opening of rinks in all directions in London it would seem as if this pastime is to once again become the rage. The Crystal Palace management are therefore wise in determining to do things on a gigantic scale. They will open to-day (Saturday) what is undoubtedly the largest rink in the world, the area being over half an acre. An army of workmen have been busy during the past week laying a perfect surface with a special preparation of asphalte which has been found to be particularly suitable for skating purposes. Preparations are being made for gymkanas, fancy dress skating carnivals, and dances. The Palace is the headquarters of the Amateur Rink Hockey Association, whose games, together with the very exciting Rugby matches, always draw a great crowd. Round the rink there is seating accommodation for about 1,000, while 10,000 persons can comfortably see all that is going on free of charge.

INDISPENSABLE! Rayne's "Pocket Date Book." Contents: Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance. Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list of brougham proprietors, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c. Price 1s., post free. The proceeds from the sale will be divided equally amongst the two great charities of the dramatic and musical professions, the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Home Fund. "THE ERA" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

REAY.—Nov. 13, 1908, at Gateshead, to Mr. and Mrs. G. M. Reay (née Miss Cissy Brooks), a son.

WILSON-JACKSON.—Nov. 18, at Abergavenny, the wife of C. Wilson-Jackson (Miss Agnes Snape) of a bonny daughter. Both doing well.

MARRIAGES.

CORNELL—MARTINI.—To-day (Sat., Nov. 28, '08), at All Saints', Alfred G. Cornell to Gertrude Martini. This week, Argyle Theatre, Birkenhead.

HOLZAPFEL—TRAVERS.—Nov. 12, at St. Nicholas' Cathedral, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Theodore W. Holzapfel, merchant, of Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Daisy Lindon Travers, daughter of Mr. Lindon Travers.

DEATHS.

BARKER.—Nov. 23, at 34, Queen's-road, Liverpool, Annie Alpha, the dearly-beloved mother of Florence Palmer.

CARLYON.—Nov. 22, at Maldon, Frank Carlyon, theatrical manager, aged 36.

CRANE.—Nov. 25, suddenly, at 360, Upland-road, East Dulwich, Jessie, wife of Harry J. Crane.

FISCHER.—On the 20th inst., after a very painful illness, borne with great patience, Harry Fischer, comedian and producer. At rest.

GORDON.—Nov. 20, at her residence, 51, Marloes-road, Kensington, of heart failure, Mrs. Gordon (Miss Ada Wilson), dancer.

MOSEDALE.—Nov. 17, at his residence, the Lord John Russell, Queensbury-street, N., Edward Mosedale ("Teddy"), retired comedian, aged 70.

PRICE.—On Nov. 21, 1908, at his residence, 10, Oberstein-road, London, S.W., Henry Perkins Price, the dear father of Gertrude and Kate Price.

IN MEMORIAM.

CARLOS.—In ever-loving memory of my dear father, Fred Carlos, who died Nov. 25, '04. Deeply mourned by his sorrowing daughter, LOUIE BRIGHT (Mrs. W. Sultan).

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, OCT. 28.—STANDARD THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Leonard Rayne; Manager, Mr. Grant Fallowes.—*A White Man* was produced on Thursday for the first time in Johannesburg to a good house. The scenery was some of the finest that has been seen on the Rand, and the staging, under the management of Mr. Chas. Howit, left nothing to be desired. A fine piece of acting was the Jim Carston of Mr. Leonard Rayne, who brought out the many fine points of the rôle in masterly style. A realistic study was that given by Miss Freda Godfrey as Nat-u-Ritch. For such a young actress, who is barely out of her teens, it was a marvellous piece of work. Miss Gertrude Godart as Diana Countess of Kerhill gave a fine representation. Big Bill was well accounted for by Mr. H. C. Paine. Mr. Chas. Howit as Cash Hawkins gave an admirable study of a difficult rôle. A clever child actress is Miss Bertha Cheality, who appeared as Little Hal All the minor parts were in capable hands, and the piece bids to have as good a run as its predecessor, *The Flag Lieutenant.*

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Woodman.—The Wheeler Edwardes Gaiety company presented *Miss Hook of Holland* on Monday night. In the title-rôle Miss Maud Aston was charming, her acting and singing being of a high standard. Much merriment was caused by Mr. Foster Courtenay as Mr Hook. In Miss Crissie Ralland the part of Mina had a charming interpreter. Mr. Alf. Beers as Simon Sinks kept the audience highly amused. Mr. Roy Cathie was quite a favourite as Van Eck; Mr. Arthur Cartright was excellent as Captain Adrian Paap, making good use of his fine voice in all the numbers that fell to him; Mr. H. E. Pearce (Schnapps) and Mr. Hearne (Lieut. De Coop) performed their respective parts successfully. Mr. Florence Vie as Gretchen sang and danced in taking style. The chorus showed careful training, and the staging and scenery were all that could be desired. The production promises to enjoy a good run.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Empire Theatres, Ltd., S.A.; Manager, Mr. Sydney Hyman.—The same bill still runs at this house, the most prominent turn being La Belle Tortajada, who meets with unstinted applause.

THE Woods-Williamson company are meeting with good receptions at the Cape of Good Hope Theatre, Capetown.

B. AND F. WHEELER'S No. 2 Gaiety company paid a short visit to Natal this week, when they visited Dundee, Ladysmith, and Newcastle.

EARLY DELIVERY.

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible :—

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35

THE managers of the Vienna theatres and music halls have been informed by the police that henceforward no allusions to the Balkan peoples, particularly the Servians, are admissible. Two actors of the Carl Theater were forbidden to reappear on the stage in masks made to resemble King Peter and the Servian Crown Prince. The managers of the Theater an der Wien, at which is being given Strauss's new operetta *Brave Soldier*, based on Mr. George Bernard Shaw's *Arms and the Man*, were forced to immediately suppress all references to Servia and Bulgaria. Kalmuecks and Tartars replaced the Servians and Bulgarians, of which the characters consist, and the librettists hurriedly changed parts of the book.

IN the Court of Chancery on the 20th inst. an injunction was asked for on behalf of Mr. George Edwardes to restrain Miss Kitty Gordon from singing any song or musical piece taken from *The Merry Widow*, or otherwise infringing the copyright of the play, of which he is the owner. Counsel for the defendant did not resist the application, but explained that the defendant when going abroad understood from the plaintiff's representative or manager that she had permission to sing the particular song now in question. There appeared to have been a mistake, or else someone had changed their mind. At any rate, the lady did not assert any right to sing the song, and she was willing to give an undertaking not to do so pending the trial of the action. An undertaking as suggested was given and agreed to.

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.

No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

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Alsace and Lorraine
Anger, Mr. Geo.
Anslie, Mr. Theo.
Anthony, Mr. Henry
Arnte, Mr. B.
Austin, Mr. T.
Ball, Mrs. F.
Banks, Miss Flo
Beaufort, Miss G.
Bebb, Mr. J.
Bellonini, Mr. W.
Bernard, Mr. Bert
Bishop, Mr. Will
Bosco, Mr. A. P.
Boyne, Mr. L.
Brasque, Mr. Albert
Brennan, Miss Maude
Brewer, Mr. Joseph
Britt, Mr. Jim
Brown, Mr. D. G.
Brown, Mr. Tom
Callan, Mr. John
Carey, Mr. W. G.
Carr, Miss P.
Carter, Mr. Dave
Cecil, Miss M.
Chard, Mr. Chas.
Chippendale, Mr. Jas.
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Chirgwin, Miss Clara
Collings, Mr. Chas. W
Clifford, Mr. H. M.
Cohen, Miss Bessie
Collins, Mr. Albert
Conover, Mr. T. E.
Corri, Mr. Clarence
Corri, Mr. Will
Coyle, Mr. J. E.
Coyne, Mr. E. J.
Crispin, Miss D.
Culeen, Mr. James H.
Cunliffe, Mr. Whit
Currie, Mr. Byden
D'Albert, Mr. Alan
Denham, Mr. G.
Dennis, Miss Maud
Deomer, Mr. H.
Desormes, Mr. Jean
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Ebrahim, Mr.
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Edwards, Mr. Karl H.
Ellanger, Mr. W. F.
Ellis, Mr. Jay
Emerald, Miss Nell
Fellows-Basset, Mr. A.
Flexmore, Miss Marie
Flood, Mr. Alex.
Foy, Mr. T.
Frasetty, Mlle.
Frazer, Mr. Chas.
Galino, Mr. Percy
Gilbert, Mr. Lewis
Gilmore, Mr. Rob
Glennie, Mr. L.
Gray, Miss E.
Gregg, Mr. R. V. S.
Grenville, Miss H.
Grey, Miss Marian
Gruber, Captain Max
Gwynn, Miss D.
Hall, Miss F.
Hall, Mr. G. E.
Hamilton, Mr. W.
Handel and Lee
Hargreaves, Mr. W.
Helmer, Mr. Tom
Holding, Mr. Thomas
Howard, Mr. Stanley
Hudsais Vaudeville
Hudson, Mr. T.
Hunt, Mrs.
Jerald, Mr. Frank
Jerome, Mr. Ernest
Jones, Miss Grace
Jordan, Mr. Jules
Kavanagh, Mrs.
Kenneth, Mr. R.
Keppel, Mr. S.
King, Mr. Claud
King, Miss Hetty
Kirk, Mr. Frank
Kopski, Mrs.
Krone, Mr. J. W.
Lafayette, The Great
Langton, Miss H.
Leicester, Miss Kate
Leo, Mr. Frank
Levante, Miss M.
Lewis, Miss V. B.
Leybourne, Mr. Arthur
Lillian, Miss
Loftus, Miss Ethel
Lomas, Mr. Robert
Luba-de-Saremea, Mrs.
Lupina, Mr. G.
Mackay, Mr. W. J.
Macdonald, Mr. J.
Mackintosh, Miss M.
Mackintosh, Mr. G.
Magrath, Mr. Chas.
Marritt, Mr. Chas.
Marvels, The Merry
McKinnel, Mr. L.
McLellan, Mr. C. M. S.
Melville, Mr. W.
Merriman, Mr. Walter
Miller, Mrs. Lena
Millwood, Mr. W. H.
Morra, Miss Nora
Movatts, The Five
Murry, Mr. W.
Myers, Miss Tessa
Neill, Mr. S.
Nethersole, Miss Olga
Neville, Mr. J.
Nolan, Mr. H.
Norman and Norman
Nott, Mr. Will
O'Connor, Miss Vera
Oxley, Mr. Gus
Paine, Mrs. E.
Palfrey, Miss May
Parsons, Mr. Phil
Partridge, Mr. N. E.
Pauli, Miss E. G.
Perman, Miss Ida
Phillips and Merritt
Plant, Mr Harry
Pook, Mr. J.
Powell, Mr. A.
Probin, Mr. W.
Purchase, Mr. A.
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Ray, Miss Belle
Read and Wright
Reynolds, Mr.
Roberts, Mr. Arthur
Robins and Collier
Rogers, Mr. Harry
Romer, Mr. Adrian
Rowley, Mr. J. W.
Roy, Miss Gracie
Royce, Mr. Arthur
Rudd, Mr. Austin
Scanlan, Mr. Stephen
Sago, Miss Lillie
Sansbury, Mr. V.
Seymour, Mr. George
Shine, Mr. W. E.
Sims, Miss Violet
Smith, Mr. Cecil G.
Staig, Mr. Fred
Stanhope, Mr. Frank
Stanislaus, Mr. Louis
St. Clair, Mr. F. V.
Stebbings, Mr. Edwin
Stevens, Mr. Victor
Stewart, Miss Nellie
St. George, Miss Jenny
Trappenell, Mr. P.
Van Biene, Mr. A.
Vanderbilt, Miss Rita
Vaughan, Miss Susie
Verzen, Mr. Herman
Vincent, Miss C.
Vokes, Mrs. Fred
Walsh, Mr. H. A.
Ward, Miss W.
Waterfield, Mr. C.
Weston, Mr. Bert
White, Miss Kitty
Whitehouse, Mr. J. H.
Williams, Mr. E.
Williams, Mr. Robert
Willsher, Mr. F. J.
Woulfe, Mr. J. B.
Wynne, Mr. George
Yamagata, Mr T.
Zancigs, The
Zargono

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

A FIRE broke out on Tuesday in the wooden theatre in the gardens of the Casino at Dax, which was to have been opened this week, and the building was completely destroyed. It is believed that incendiaries are responsible for the outbreak.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. George Antley, on his leaving *The Love of the Princess* company last Saturday, was presented by Mr. T. E. Ward and all the "boys" with a very handsome silver-mounted calabash pipe.

THERE will be no pantomime at the Crown, Peckham, this year. In its stead there will be a music hall show on and after Boxing Day on the two-houses-a-night system.

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NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE PROVINCIAL THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL 1909.

NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE PARIS THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CALENDAR. See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

THEATRICAL, MUSICAL, AND EQUESTRIAN OBITUARY FOR 1908. See THE ERA ANNUAL 1909.

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Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec 14, 1907
Barber, Mr. Alfred S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Beckwith, Late Mr. J. W.	Nov. 21, 1908
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brickwell, Miss Maimie	Nov. 21, 1908
Brodie, late Mr. Mattnew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred	June 27, 1908
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Clinton, Late Mr. Dudley	Oct. 10, 1908
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
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Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T	March 28, 1908
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5, 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Crouch, Mr. Herbert	Oct. 31, 1908
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
De Banzie, Mr. E. T.	Oct. 3, 1908
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Donegan, Mr. James E.	July 11, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Doyle, Mr. C. Milley	Nov. 7, 1908
Draycott, Mr. Charles	June 13, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908
Edgar, Mr. Marriott	Oct. 10, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Edwards, Late Mr. G. H.	April 11, 1908
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Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	Sept. 12, 1908
Fisher, Mr. Charles	Sept. 12, 1908
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Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908
Francis, Late Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Francks, Mr. Hawley	Nov. 7, 1908
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Gay, Mr. Walter	July 11, 1908
Gibbons, Mr. Arthur	July 4, 1908
Gilbart, Miss Eleanor	Nov. 21, 1908
Gilmore, Mr. Paul	July 18, 1908
Godfrey, Mr. Dan	Aug. 29, 1908
Goldston, Mr. Will	Feb. 22, 1908
Goodall, Miss Edyth	June 13, 1908
Grant, Mr. Christie	Feb. 29, 1908
Gregory, Late Mr. John	Dec. 28, 1907
Gribben, Mr. Harry A.	March 7, 1908
Grimes, Mr. W. J.	May 23, 1908
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Hanbury, Late Miss Lily	March 7, 1908
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Hardacre, Miss Ethel	July 4, 1908
Harding, Mr. Alfred	May 2, 1908
Harker, Mr. Frederick	Oct. 3, 1908
Harmer, Miss Dolly	Nov. 7, 1908
Harvey, Miss Rose	July 25, 1908
Haviland, Mr. William	Nov. 14, 1908
Hawthorne, Miss Lil	Feb. 15, 1908
Holding, Mr. Thomas	Jan. 18, 1908
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.	May 16, 1908
Holmes-Dallimore, Mr. A.	Sept. 12, 1908
Homewood, Mr. A. S.	Nov. 21, 1908

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1908.

THE AFTERNOON THEATRE.

On December 8 an admirable experiment in dramatic art will be tried by Mr. BEERBOHM TREE at His Majesty's Theatre, when the initial production of the Afternoon Theatre will take place. The problem of how to please themselves and please the public at the same time has vexed artist-souls from time immemorial. Most of them have concluded with a compromise. Even the grandiose and combative HAYDON painted portraits to make the pot boil, though he consoled himself with the reflection that he painted them very badly. It is the same, to a greater or a less extent, with dramatists. After experimenting with their highest, and finding that it does not pay, they often give us not of their worst, but of their best second best. Upon dramatists, however, there is always a check in the critical opinion of the manager. But the manager is free as air. He is responsible only to himself for his choice of attractions, and if they fail to attract he is the chief, if not the only, sufferer. And consequently, for the sake of his very existence as a manager, he has to exercise a certain amount of caution.

Our leading actor-managers are essentially artists; and the artistic temperament in them must often be at war with the business instinct without which they would not exist as solvent speculators. The artist is always an experimentalist, a dreamer of dreams, a seer, and an innovator. He has visions of beauties too ethereal for the popular taste, of poetry which is over the heads of the masses, and of new lights exchangeable for old. But the unanswerable argument of the box-office is continually leaving him without a reply. The manager who tries IBSEN at a matinée may have no reason to repent his enterprise; it is only when he transfers the play to the evening bill that he realises how far we are from the time when the commercial success of the "Master's" works shall be a *fait accompli*. Mr. TREE is one of the most irrepressible of experimentalists. There is an attractive wilfulness about his career which fascinates. He has put his very best work into a couple of financial failures, *Business is Business* and *An Enemy of the People*. Only those who saw his marvellous impersonation of the brutal, terribly vital financier in the first play, or his extraordinarily exuberant embodiment of Dr. Stockmann in the second, can have any idea of how great an artist Mr. TREE is when supplied with scope. But things are at such a pass in the England of the present day that none but a millionaire can afford to be purely artistic. Ways and means have to be considered, and the best we can attain to is a representation of minorities.

This is what Mr. TREE is going to aim at in his Afternoon Theatre. The idea is, as COBBETT said of the pig, an entirely good thing. The only way in which we can achieve first-rate representations of high-class or exotic plays is by the assistance of first-rate artists. One of the weak points of the ecletic societies is that, for many reasons, they can only command second-class talent, and can only afford third-rate accessories. It is all very well to sneer at "mere mounting," but a great composer like WAGNER did not despise it at Bayreuth, and its influence on the best literary work is considerable.

In *Hannele*, the piece which Mr. TREE has selected for performance at His Majesty's on the 8th prox., there are certain unobtrusive but important "effects" which absolutely demand adequate machinery and equipment. Nor would it have been wise to attempt a revival of this beautiful and intensely imaginative play without an artist of Miss MARIE LÖHR'S charm and capacity to fill the part of the poor little maiden whose sad story is so poignantly and pathetically told.

In all probability, however, the production of *Hannele* will not involve any great monetary risk; and there is every likelihood that Mr. TREE will, at any rate, "get his money back." The real expenditure will be in trouble, work, and worry; but we believe that, apart from the reward which, to a man of Mr. TREE'S active temperament, these supply, there will be other advantageous returns. A tolerable standard of excellence in mediocre work can only be attained by practice in the higher grades of the art. The distinctness and correct inflexion of the delivery of the artists of the old school were due to the fact that the stock actor of the last generation, and of the generation before it, was "trained" on SHAKESPEARE. And in these days of long runs there are faculties in the individual artist that are apt to be atrophied if never exercised. The labours of the members of Mr. TREE'S company at these Afternoon Theatre matinées will have a very beneficial effect on their ordinary work; and we wish him every success in his bold, courageous, and characteristic experiment. We expect to see very important and agreeable results from it. There are no limits which can be placed to the effect of a "theatre" having all the advantages of an established playhouse, and practically freed from the yoke of mercenary considerations. Many a fine idea for a drama has been rejected by the dramatist as being too poetical, or too ethereal, or too eccentric to be suited to the "practical politics" of ordinary management. Here we shall have the management freeing itself from commercial considerations, and offering an "open door" to all kinds of imaginative work, provided only it be good of its kind. The performances by the Stage Society and the other associations of the same sort have been more or less of the "hole-and-corner" class. Their promoters have been handicapped in many ways, and have laboured under disabilities from which a leading London manager of Mr. TREE'S calibre is almost entirely exempt.

A Theatrical Barber.

MANY of the older actors must retain a lively recollection of the late Mr. Alexander Steel, one of the oldest and best-known citizens of South Shields, who died a few days ago in his seventy-ninth year. As a youth he was apprenticed to a flourishing Newcastle hairdresser, and it was at this establishment that he was brought into frequent contact with famous actors of the forties and fifties. Macready, the great tragedian, became interested in the barber's youthful assistant, and a companionship sprang up between actor and valet—for such young Steel became—which lasted many years.

ALTHOUGH he never trod the boards as an actor himself, the stage always possessed a great fascination for Alexander Steel, and he was a devoted admirer of all the famous dramatic stars of his day, with many of whom he was on the most intimate terms of friendship. The late Sims Reeves numbered him amongst his personal friends. They were companions in youth, and it was always with pardonable pride that in later years, when the great tenor had reached the pinnacle of his fame, Mr. Steel recalled the many occasions when they sang duets in public. He also enjoyed a close friendship with the late Osmond Tearle. His mind, in fact, was a veritable storehouse of stage lore and personal reminiscences of fabous actors, Sam Beverley, Charles Dillon, Barry Sullivan, J. L. Toole, and Sir Henry Irving among them. He supplied for years some of these stage notabilities with wigs, but his association with them was not merely a professional one. He is survived by a widow and three daughters.

Lord and Lady Roberts.

"OUR company was specially engaged for the Theatre Royal, Dublin," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "to celebrate the second anniversary week of the opening of the theatre. It was a most memorable occasion, for the week was set apart for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the Irish soldiers killed in the Boer War. The patronage was very liberal, as all the nobility of Ireland worked hard for the cause, and secured a good result. Their Excellencies the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and Countess Cadogan, Field-Marshal Lord Roberts and Lady Roberts, the Duchess of St. Albans, the Duchess of Abercorn, the Earl and Countess of Meath, the Earl and Countess of Fingall, the Earl and Countess of Drogheda, the Earl and Countess of Mayo, the Countess of Wicklow, Lord and Lady Powerscourt, Lord and Lady Bellew, and Lord and Lady Iveagh attended nightly, accompanied by a party of friends. There was a change of performance each evening, and Saturday, our last night, was under the special patronage of Lord and Lady Roberts. *The Colleen Bawn* being 'commanded' to be played, with Mr. E. C. Matthews as Myles Na Coppaleen and Miss Lalla Stanhope as Eily O'Connor (the Colleen Bawn), supported by a talented company. During the day (Saturday) sad news arrived from the seat of war, and Lord Roberts was summoned to London to depart at once for Africa. Lady Roberts accompanied her husband to the boat at Kingstown, saw him off, and then, surrounded by a most distinguished party, came to the theatre and witnessed *The Colleen Bawn*."

BOURCHIER ON SHAKESPEARE.

On Tuesday evening, at the Birmingham University, Mr. Arthur Bourchier delivered a lecture to the members of the Birmingham Branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society and of the University Library and Dramatic Society on "Shakespeare: Maker of Men." He said he came to talk of Shakespeare as a preacher and as a teacher. The actor saw him as the greatest dramatist; the author as the greatest poet. But others who could neither act nor write acknowledged him as a great moral force, able to help and to guide us. Upon the moral aspect of Shakespeare's teaching, Mr. Bourchier—with the help of familiar passages declaimed in a stimulating manner—proceeded to elaborate several points of view. He described Macbeth as depicting, with a livid power which no one else had ever approached, the supreme tragedy of ambition. Shakespeare taught us plainly not to seek power, and to be tolerant of those whose doubtful fortune it is to have it. Seeing that he lived so soon after the Reformation, his tolerance was remarkable. It would probably never be known whether he was Protestant or Catholic, so little had he to say on either side. He was courteous to foreigners, but never courteous to the point of weakness. "It is always a puzzle to me," added Mr. Bourchier, "why the man who praises foreign people and foreign things should think that he must at the same time belittle English people and English things. Shakespeare, although he could admire other countries, never for a moment supposes or suggests that England is not the best country of all. He teaches us that a man can be courteous to and friendly with foreigners without being disloyal to his own King. Like all true poets, Shakespeare loved his native land, and never was he more happily inspired than when he proclaimed her beauty or implored these in authority to keep her inviolate." The dramatist's hatred of tyranny was illustrated by Mr. Bourchier with a recital of Shylock's impassioned speech for his race. Here again there were many lessons for the present age. The individual tyrant might be dead, but much social tyranny still existed. "We have nowadays," said the speaker, "a craze for systems, which come very near to being bullies. Not a single one of us is so mild and harmless in this time of enlightenment that there is not a system specially organised to watch what he is doing, and to tell him that he musn't." Panic legislation was piling up to prevent human nature manifesting itself. In another matter Shakespeare was not quite so bold. He could lecture women, but only on three occasions did he mention the critics, and even then he did not refer to the professional critics. Perhaps there were no theatrical critics in those days. Pursuing this thought, Mr. Bourchier advanced the idea that the modern critic ought to have a greater knowledge of stage technique—a greater desire to appreciate the difficulties of the actor's craft. "Very often," he continued, "an actor is lauded to the skies for his performance of a part which may be said to play itself; but the same man will get little praise for a performance of a less showy character which nevertheless has required more study, more care, more intelligence. For instance, the actor who plays Romeo is often unfavourably contrasted with him who plays the volatile, showy part of Mercutio; and the tremendous demands which Othello makes both upon the physical and intellectual powers of the player are too often forgotten in admiration of the brilliance and incisiveness of the soliloquies which Shakespeare has put into the mouth of Iago. Many a clever young actor or actress is ruined by indiscriminate praise at the outset or his or her career; many a one is disheartened by imperfect appreciation."

Sir Oliver Lodge, who was in the chair, added a few remarks after Mr. Bourchier had brought his lecture to a close with an impressive reading of a eulogy on Shakespeare delivered by the Bishop of Ripon. The Principal defined the science of good acting as the power of the actor to put himself in other people's places, to realise how exactly they would feel and speak. That faculty was, he thought, the crown of education. It was an extension of ordinary sympathy to be able to realise how certain things would be said under certain circumstances, and he fancied that people who did not realise this must lose a great deal of the interest in life. It was not a faculty that was sufficiently cultivated. It ought to be, and he hoped such a society as the University Literary and Dramatic Society would set itself energetically to the task. The stage was a great instrument of education. In conclusion, Sir Oliver touched upon Mr. Bourchier's reference to society's great machinery for dealing with the evil which men do. It had often struck him as a strange thing. We were more prone to look for and deal with the evil than to study and to reward the good. If we looked for the worst in men we should find it. If we looked for the best we should find that, too.

An enthusiastic vote of thanks was passed to the lecturer, on the motion of Professor Kirkaldy, seconded by Mr. Drinkwater. In his reply, Mr. Bourchier told the story of a waggish actor-manager, who described Shakespeare not as the "maker," but as the "breaker" of men. For his own part, he believed that Shakespeare properly presented never spelt financial failure.

"THE NEW GOVERNESS."

At the Malvern Assembly Rooms on Thursday, the 19th inst., took place the production of a farcical comedy entitled *The New Governess*, founded by Mr. Walter Frith upon a short story written by Mr. G. S. Layard. A youthful Peer impersonates the new governess expected by his cousin, with whom, of course, he falls in love, and when the several characters have been rescued from the complications which arise all ends happily. Mr. Leon M. Lion as Rupert, who dons female attire, excelled in a part which suited him admirably, and Miss Ina Pelly as cousin Dollie was delightfully natural and engaging. Mr. Clarence Derwent as Sir John Pomfret was responsible for a clever character-study; Mr. Rudge Harding as Horton Davenport acted consistently well; Miss Ethel St. Barbe was well suited as Miss Cavalier, the real governess; Mr. E. H. Kelly was inimitable as an exponent of a dude creation as Delapoer; Mr. Hubert Harben was successful as Dick Dodington, the detective; and Mr. A. Phillips as Pawley, landlord of the Red Lion, Miss Florence Harcourt, Miss Rosey Barton, Miss Phyllis Goddard, and Miss Vivienne Whitaker each contributed to the success of the production.

"THE MAN FROM MEXICO."

Farcical Comedy, in Three Acts, by H. A. Souchett, originally produced in America, first production in London at the Coronet Theatre on Monday, Nov. 23.

Benjamin Fitzhugh .....MR. STANLEY COOKE
Roderick Majors ....MR. GEORGE WILLOUGHBY
William Loveall .....MR. WALTER GAY
Von Bulow Bismark Schmidt ..MR. FRED LEWIS
Edward Farrar .....MR. HUGH ARDALE
Richard Dornton .....MR. RUPERT STUTFIELD
Timothy Cook .....MR. ERNEST A. DOUGLAS
O'Mullins .....MR. JAMES SCHNAPPER
Googan .....MR. ARTHUR CORNELL
Louis .....MR. WALTER CHAMPNEY
Clementine Fitzhugh .....MISS EMILY FITZROY
Sally Grace .....MISS FYFE ALEXANDER
Hettie Majors .....MISS AMY FRANCIS
Miranda .....MISS DORIS DIGBY

The Man from Mexico, which is billed as America's laughing limit, having been played over 2,000 times throughout that country and Australia, completely fulfilled its mission at the Coronet on Monday, when a large audience gave itself up to hearty laughter, which was excited by a series of wildly farcical incidents. But the plot and the incidents are by no means new to the London stage, for they resemble in every important particular those of the farce *Fourteen Days*, which was produced as far back as March 4, 1882, at the Criterion by Sir Charles (then Mr.) Wyndham, as an adaptation by Henry J. Byron of *Un Voyage d'Agrément*, by the favourite Parisian farce writers Gondinet and Bisson. Benjamin Fitzhugh, of New York, in *The Man from Mexico*, does very much the same thing as Peregrine Porter, of London, in *Fourteen Days*. He gets into questionable company at a shady restaurant—the Cleopatra, to wit—becomes intoxicated, and, a raid being made on the place, is arrested and taken before a magistrate, whom he insults. Though he gets away, he is shadowed by a detective, and there is no escape. He hopes to propitiate the district judge by favouring the suit of Edward Farrar, a young attorney, for the hand of his wife's sister, who has already accepted the attentions of Richard Dornton, an architect. Dornton is snubbed in his suit by Fitzhugh—who in the first act is only just recovering from his spree—because, forsooth, his professional work is mostly to do with the planning of hotels, an occupation that has far too many temptations. Notwithstanding his subterfuges, Fitzhugh cannot escape durance vile, and in the second act we find him at Blackwell Island Gaol, where he is no longer a man but a number, "97." To avoid giving any shock to his wife, Fitzhugh had announced his departure for Mexico, and the missus, anxious to get away with him, because of her presence at the Cleopatra on the night of the raid, had been somehow persuaded to let her "hubby" go alone. The chief warden of the gaol, Loveall, being susceptible to the tender passion, has fallen over head and ears in love with a lady whose identity he fails to discover until Roderick Majors, Fitzhugh's best friend, recognises her portrait as that of Mrs. Fitzhugh. That lady calls, with the other lady characters, as members of a society for brightening the lives of prisoners with bouquets, and Loveall makes violent love to her, No. 77—otherwise Fitzhugh—being a witness of his transports. Majors, whose "fixing-up" of things is always a dismal failure, dons prison clothes, and as there is a mutiny of the prisoners just at the moment he is ordered into a cell.

Loveall had been kind to Fitzhugh—who, by the way, is known to the prison authorities as John Martin—and had regaled him with cigars and soda and brandy, and in the last act we are not surprised to find him with the other characters at Fitzhugh's house awaiting the return of that adventurous hero. The walls are decorated with Mexican flags, and the ladies have donned the gayest of dresses. At last Fitzhugh arrives, resplendent in the dress of a Mexican grandee. He has to give explanations, and enlarges on the delights of travel in that country, but cannot quite clear up the mystery of a certain letter sent Mrs. Fitzhugh from the chief hotel of the town, forwarded to her through the agency of Loveall. Eventually the dénouement is reached by Fitzhugh owning up that he has done thirty days. Mrs. Fitzhugh also confesses, and the matrimonial difficulties of the young people of the piece being straightened out, the curtain falls on a merry conclusion.

Mr. Stanley Cooke, a comedian of infinite resource, plays Fitzhugh with all that appreciation of the humorous, all that power to "rattle" through ludicrous incidents that have won him fame in farce. Mr. Cooke grasps all the possibilities, not only of comic situations, but of comic dialogue, and he is a comedian who should never be absent from the London stage. The worry of Fitzhugh in the first act, and the nervous manner in which he reveals to Richard Dornton the news that his marriage must be broken off, are only less amusing than the arguments against the marriage. To the fun of the second act, again, is Mr. Cooke the principal contributor. He is well seconded by Mr. George Willoughby as Roderick Majors. Without exaggeration of any kind Mr. Willoughby contrives to be very whimsical. Mr. Walter Gay does exceedingly well as the dilettante prison warden in love, and Mr. Fred Lewis as the impossible German of farce evokes laughter in a character that is more familiar on the stage of New York than that of London. A great deal of the success of the piece is due to the acting of Miss Emily Fitzroy—who looked exceedingly smart in some pretty costumes—as Mrs. Fitzhugh. This is an impersonation of great refinement and charm, and Mrs. Fitzhugh's dry utterance of her dialogue does not fail to evoke laughter. Miss Fyfe Alexander makes a graceful and piquant Sally Grace; Miss Amy Francis gives a good notion of the forward American girl (of farce), who does not allow reticence to interfere with her chances of marriage to an eligible partner; Mr. Hugh Ardale and Mr. Rupert Stutfield adequately realise the necessities of good breeding and gentlemanly demeanour in the characters of Edward Farrar and Richard Dornton; Mr. Ernest A. Douglas's fierceness and seriousness as Detective Cook supplied a strong contrast to the more farcical characters; and small but important parts are well handled by Mr. James Schnapper as O'Mullins, of the New York Police, Mr. Arthur Cornell as Googan, a prison warder, and Mr. Walter Champney as Louis. The production is by Robert Arthur and George Willoughby's company, and the piece has been well produced by the last-named gentleman, who has as business representative in front Mr. Fred R. Yeulett.

The Man from Mexico is preceded by an original Dutch playlet, in one act, written by Stanley Cooke, music by Arthur Wood, entitled

"HIS LIVING IMAGE."

The Figure and Jan .....MR. LYTTON GREY
Jake .....MR. FRED LEWIS
Gretchen .....MISS AMY FRANCIS

Mr. Stanley Cooke has written one more play in which the plot revolves round a mechanical figure. Hilarius perfected a life-sized doll in *La Poupée*; Gretchen's father had modelled a lifelike figure, and when the curtain rises on a pretty Dutch interior we learn from her that the dummy to whom she talks, and whom she pretends to feed, has been left as a legacy to her by her father, who had adjured her to make it her husband. The mad-brained parent had modelled it as the living image of Jan, Gretchen's real lover, and the rest may be easily guessed. After smashing his "dummy" rival Jan takes its place, and enables Gretchen to give the life that love can only supply. It is pointed out to her that the figure is destroyed, but Gretchen, after a little outburst of grief, is quite content to become the vrouw of Jan, who has won the first prize in the national lottery. Miss Amy Francis is a fascinating Gretchen, singing both with archness and point. The success of the doll dance is shared by Mr. Lytton Grey, whose quaint movements and comicality of expression are of considerable value in the part of Jan. Mr. Fred Lewis is amusing in the part of Jake, a fisherman. Mr. H. M. Thorburn is the courteous acting-manager for the company, and Mr. Arthur Cornell is responsible for the stage-management.

"PETE'S" 100th NIGHT.

The scoring of centuries is a growing habit at the Lyceum, and most, if not all, of Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's productions there have attained that distinction. It was the turn of *Pete* on Wednesday, when a house packed in every part welcomed Hall Caine and Louis N. Parker's enthralling play for the hundredth time. The piece palpitates with human sentiment, and the audience is thrilled again and again with the effect of the powerful situations and dialogue. The members of the cast play their parts with the finish which comes of long practise in rôles suited to their personalities.

Mr. Matheson Lang's Pete is the dominant force, and he makes a picturesque figure of the noble-hearted Manxman, who in his nature so thoroughly combines the attributes of the lion and the lamb. With his rollicking gaiety of the earlier scenes he is the life of the piece, while in the latter his pathos is so effective as frequently to force the fitful tear. Pete's dictation of the letter to his wife is perhaps the most moving portion of the play, and when at its conclusion he breaks out into a succession of suppressed sobs it is safe to say he is joined in many parts of the house. Mr. Lang is taken to the hearts of all, and is not only recalled at the end of each act, but receives an encouraging cheer at every appearance.

Miss Hutin Britton passes through the complex phases of the part of Kate Cregeen with the ability of an accomplished actress. Her emotional gifts are fully tested in the part, which, however, necessitates a certain restraint which Miss Britton exercises artistically. Her appearance throughout excites sympathy, and with the sentiments of the rôle expressively enunciated by the actress the audience are in complete agreement.

Mr. Eric Mayne as Philip Christian has a part less sinister than those in which we are accustomed to see him, but he emphasises the craven attributes of Philip, and makes him sufficient of a villain to satisfy all requirements. The dignity of the Deemster is in acute contrast with his faltering at the call of duty, and throughout Mr. Mayne's various modulations of tone add appreciably to the effect of his rendition.

The Ross Christian of Mr. Wilfred E. Payne is a clever assumption marked by touches of comedy which are eagerly appreciated by the audience. Dramatic ability is, moreover, present in the performance, to which the highest praise is due.

Mr. Frederick Ross as Cæsar Cregeen submits a sterling rendering of a forbidding part. Cæsar's aggressive self-righteousness is pictured with artistic colouring, and his vindicative denunciation of his daughter is the climax of a painstaking performance which gathers in dramatic force throughout.

Mr. S. Major Jones, who again discharges the duties of stage-management, gives an effective rendering of the burly Black Tom, the rolling tones of his sonorous voice sounding with telling effect. The duties of policeman and postman in the Isle of Man are discharged by Mr. Joseph O'Brien and Mr. H. K. Ayliff. Mr. Sidney Vautier is the Doctor Mylechreest; Mr. Henry Brooks is an imposing Lieut.-Governor; and among the motley crowd who figure in Pete's cottage are Mr. Charles L. Ludlow as Jonaique Jelly, Mr. Ernest Cresfan as Adam Quirk, and Mr. Charles Terric as Johnny Dumbell. Mr. Sidney Young as William and Mr. Henry Armstrong as Clerk of the Court render excellent service.

Miss Rita Tomkins is a diverting Nancy, whose various moods she depicts with complete sense of humour and much droll byplay. Grannie is quaintly portrayed by Miss Blanche Stanley, who succeeds in arousing a roar of laughter whenever she opens her mouth. Miss Dora Clements as Meg, and Miss Lillian Tweed as Sarah are a couple of merry Manx maidens; and the Mary of Miss Lillian Digges is a quaint exposition of character.

Mr. Ernest Carpenter has put his best work into the production of *Pete*, and the result could not be more gratifying. The exigencies of pantomime make it imperative that the present career of the piece at the Lyceum shall be cut short at Christmas, but there can be no doubt that the play will continue its sway over audiences in many other parts of the kingdom.

Advice to Aspirants.

MISS LILY BRAYTON, in an article in *Cassell's Saturday Journal* on "The Girl Who Should Go on the Stage—and the Girl Who Shouldn't," writes:—"Without a natural taste for acting as the foundation, plenty of pluck, high ambition, great patience, and unending perseverance, you would make a very great mistake, my dear girls, in seeking your living behind the footlights. If you feel that you possess these, and if the fine clothes have ceased to occupy your mind, then, perhaps, you may be fitted for this profession. But even so, there is yet one more essential, which I had almost overlooked; I mean good health. The constant rehearsals, the travelling, and the late hours incident to a stage career demand a strong constitution; and unless you have that, you really should not think of the stage."

VARIETY GOSSIP.

MISS MARIE LLOYD has been unable to appear at the Empire, Liverpool, this week, She caught a severe cold the latter end of last week in Leicester, but left there on Sunday in order to fulfil her engagement, but unhappily she was unable to leave her bed on Monday. On Tuesday evening, against her doctor's orders, she appeared, and pluckily struggled through both houses, but collapsed when she returned to the hotel, and has had to rest for the remainder of the week. She hopes to resume her professional duties at the Hippodrome, Southampton, on Monday.

THE London County Council, sitting on Friday, as the licensing authority, in respect of music, music and dancing, and stage plays licenses, received and considered the report of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee, which recommended that a provisional license should be granted to the White City. The Council decided, "That a provisional license for music and dancing shall be granted to Mr. Imre Kiralfy for the Franco-British Exhibition, subject to an undertaking that no intoxicating liquor shall be sold or consumed in any building used as a music-hall or for variety performance; and that adequate free lavatory accommodation shall be provided to the satisfaction of the Council for the public and all persons employed at the Exhibition." In the matter of the London Hippodrome, the committee recommended that a music and dancing license should be granted to Sir Horace Edward Moss, subject to an undertaking that no intoxicating drinks should be sold or consumed in the auditorium, and the Council decided by fifty-eight votes to twenty-five that intoxicating drink should not be sold or consumed on the premises. A music and dancing license was granted the London Coliseum, subject to an undertaking that no intoxicants should be sold or consumed on the premises.

MISS JESSIE PRESTON left Southampton on Wednesday by the Kaiser Wilhelm II. en route for New York, where she will open on Dec. 7. at the Colonial, under Percy Williams's management. According to present arrangements, she will stay in the States for six weeks, but she has the option of extending her contract.

THE Water Rats' matinée, which generally takes place in November at the London Pavilion, is temporarily postponed this year in consequence of the Cinematinée performances which have become so popular at that house. It will be early in the new year that the fraternity and its host of friends will foregather in the cause of charity at the Piccadilly Circus establishment.

MR. GEORGE ROBEY, who finished his London season on Saturday, has commenced rehearsals of *Cinderella*, to be produced at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on Dec. 3. In that production he will feature a new number entitled "The village blacksmith," in which he has many opportunities for parody.

THOUGH Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Hicks have excellent playlets in which to exploit their talents in the lightest and most agreeable comedy, their début at the Palace Theatre on Monday, Dec. 14, is to be marked by a brand new musical sketch, which has been written and composed by Mr. Paul Rubens, who gave us *Mr. Popple of Ippleton*, and has had much to do with the continued popularity of musical comedy. The comedy will reach a higher "plane" than usual—in fact, it will be aeroplaned—the scene being like that of a famous French pantomime, "on the roofs."

A "FLIGHTY" inventor has entered a competition as an air navigator, and his machine, hovering over the housetops in the heart of London, is being watched by his sweetheart and friends from the roof of the house. Running short of petrol, he descends, and here we may leave the two to tell their own story, which we may be sure will be scored prettily, and have the daintiest setting from Mr. Alfred Butt.

MISS MARIE DRESSLER'S "great big girl like me" is not yet forgotten at the Palace Theatre, where the American comedienne's success was really great; and, now that she has taken the Aldwych Theatre, the mere Britisher will be able to appreciate at their full value her comedy powers in a production giving her the fullest opportunities for exploiting her gifts. Her opening piece has been tentatively named *Little Minna*. It is in two acts, and has been written by Mr. Edgar Smith, the music being by Mr. Maurice Levy.

MISS DRESSLER'S own character in the piece is that of the daughter of a German, played by a popular American comedian. The first engagement effected by her is that of a well-known French prima-donna, who for two years has sung in grand opera at Hemmerstein's, in New York. The company, consisting of some sixty artists, will be mostly English. Miss Dressler proposes to introduce parodies of popular attractions, and in this way will follow the example of Mr. Arthur Roberts. Miss Dressler will commence her management in February next.

BEAUTIES of all nations will compete on Dec. 9, 10, and 11 at the Rinkeries, Earl's Court, when Mr. Max Cowper, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. Mostyn Piggott, Mr. John Hassall, Mr. Tom Browne, and Mr. Albert Toft will award money prizes varying from £50 to a five-pound note to the ladies who, by popular vote, are acclaimed the winners of the competition. Any young lady over sixteen may enter, and all names will be kept secret, competitors only being distinguished by a number.

MISS EVIE GREENE, who is singing "The Philippine Islands" from *Florodora* at the Coliseum, as all true playgoers know, has been under Mr. George Edwardes' management for nearly ten years. She made her début as a dancer at the Yarmouth Aquarium in *Marjorie* at the age of fourteen. A year later she was to be found on tour in musical comedy, and with such success, too, that at the early age of seventeen she was sustaining the title-rôles in *The Gay Parisienne*, *The New Barmaid* and *Billy*.

IN 1899 she made her first appearance in London, in *L'Amour Mouillé*, and later as Dolores in *Florodora* at the Lyric Theatre. Then followed a remarkable series of creations for so young an actress whilst under contract with Mr. George Edwardes, these being the title-part in *Kitty Grey*, Nan in *The Country Girl*, the leading rôle in *The Duchess of Dantzic*, and the principal part in *Les Merveilleuses*.

THE death is announced at the age of fifty-two of Miss Florence Hayes, who in the nineties was popular in songs of sentiment and patriotism. Her intense earnestness of style was employed in wholesome songs in praise of the domestic virtues, and she became a favourite at the smaller halls of the metropolis. Miss Hayes was born at Sheerness, and began her stage career at the age of fourteen, when she became a member of a travelling dramatic company. After a short experience on the legitimate boards she joined the ranks of music-hall artists, and soon became a favourite. At the age of eighteen she met Mr. A. P. Boswell, known as the "furniture shifter," whom she afterwards married. There was nothing namby-pamby about the deceased lady's methods, and her robust style and telling voice admirably answered the purpose of eliciting the enthusiasm of a popular crowd.

THE HIPPODROME, Spennymoor, will again open its doors in a few days under the management of a former lessee in the person of Mr. C. Algie.

THE tenth annual benefit of Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes, manager of the Manchester Tivoli, is announced for Dec. 2.

AT the half-yearly meeting on Monday the directors of the Newcastle Pavilion declared an interim dividend at the rate of five per cent. for the year.

MR. JAMES BAGGS, vice-chairman of the Portsmouth Empire Palace company, who was recently elected Mayor, had the honour to be presented to the King and Queen of Sweden, to whom he handed an address.

THE People's Palace at Bridlington has just been sold by the Official Liquidator. The purchaser is said to be a London gentleman, and the price paid for the Palace, grounds, and shops is stated to be £9,500.

MR. F. A. LUMLEY, one of the directors of the Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow, has secured a very prominent site in Leith for the purpose of erecting a variety theatre, which he hopes to have ready for opening in the autumn of next year.

THE population of Leith is close upon 100,000, and has the advantage of being attached to Edinburgh with a population of 400,000. The bookings will be made in conjunction with the Glasgow Pavilion, and there is every reason to believe the undertaking will be a big success.

WE regret to hear Mr. Fred Leighton has, owing to ill health, been compelled to relinquish his position of manager at the Palace of Varieties, Manchester. Mr. A. J. Carter, late assistant-manager, has succeeded him.

MISS CORA CASSELLI, the attractive comedienne and dancer, was suddenly taken ill at the Hastings Hippodrome on Saturday evening, and could not appear. Mr. Walter Norman, the assistant-manager, stepped into the breach, and sang three songs to the delight of a crowded house.

IT has been decided to give only one performance nightly at the New Hippodrome at Scarborough during the winter months. Mr. John Tully, brother-in-law of Mr. Peacock, of York, who is well known in the Ridings, has been appointed resident-manager.

MR. S. MCINTOSH, the popular manager of the Palace Theatre, Dundee, was on Saturday night last the recipient of a silver-mounted umbrella from the artists performing there. Miss Rose Elliott, in a neat speech, made the presentation, to which Mr. McIntosh suitably replied.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA is to have its Hippodrome, and a well-known syndicate has secured a site in the South Church-road, one of the main thoroughfares, close to the tramway and railway termini. Extensive premises and two large houses will have to be razed to make way for a sumptuous palace of pleasure.

MISS ELSIE FORSTER, the bonny North Country lass, at half an hour's notice deputised most successfully for the Clarkes at the Empire, South Shields, last week. This enterprising young artist is engaged for pantomime as Boy Babe at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, W.

THE recent Brighton Hippodrome matinée in support of the police-aided scheme for clothing destitute children resulted in £187 0s. 6d. being handed over to the charity. The committee (through Mr. W. B. Gentle, chief constable) extended their grateful thanks to both Mr. and Mrs. Barrasford for their kindness, and to the artists who appeared.

CHARCOT played last week to enormous business at Rochdale, hundreds being turned away on Saturday night. This week at Oldham he has repeated his successes, houses being packed to suffocation. Charcot starts the De Frece circuit on Monday, and the London Syndicate halls early in the New Year.

MARIE LLOYD, who was starring at the Leicester Palace Theatre last week, generously handed to Mr. C. Finch-Hatton, the acting-manager, on Saturday evening last a cheque for seven guineas, so as to make the collections taken at the doors on behalf of the distressed up to £20 for the week. The Palace management again fed on Sunday another 300 families, all genuine and deserving cases, making a total for the three weeks of 900.

THE New Hippodrome, Rochdale, which was opened on Monday, the 16th inst., stands on the site of the old wooden structure, the Circus of Varieties, which was run for years by Messrs. Smith (Steeplejack Smith), Lee, and Hargreaves. The final performance was given in the old building on May 30. The licence has been granted to Mr. James Jackson, of the Jackson Family, who are the proprietors. The new house will have a short frontage to the proposed thoroughfare from Lord-street to the Esplanade, Rochdale. It is a two-tier house, and was built by Peters and Woolfenden within twenty-one weeks.

AT the annual meeting of the Palace and Derby Castle, Ltd., proprietors of the three principal pleasure resorts in Douglas, on the 18th inst., the chairman said that, considering the character of the season Douglas had had, the balance-sheet was the most favourable in the history of the company. August had been a bad month, but September, despite wet weather, had been more favourable to the company. The directors' report was adopted, and dividends of 5 per cent. on preference shares and a like amount on the ordinary shares were declared. John A. Brown and Robert Stott, retiring directors, were re-appointed.

THE second performance at the New Hippodrome, Rochdale, on the 20th inst., was attended by several of Rochdale's prominent citizens. In one box were Lady Duckworth and two lady friends, and in another Colonel Healey and several officers of the 6th Battalion Lancashire Fusiliers. Sir James Duckworth, who was unable to be present, sent the following telegram, which was read by Mr. George Leyton to the audience: "Regret unable to be present to-night at the Hippodrome, but wish you and the veterans every success."

MR. LEYTON, in his song entitled "Lucknow," had an enthusiastic reception. Several of Rochdale's veteran soldiers were again on the stage, and at the close of the song the band of the Fusiliers played "The boys of the old brigade." The boxes and several portions of the building were draped with flags. There was a full house.

THE statutory first meeting of creditors under the failure of Henry Ford, of Brixton-road, S.W., was held before the senior Official Receiver in Bankruptcy on Thursday. Mr. Ford, it appeared, began trading as a butcher twenty-two years ago. His business was acquired by a company. In September, 1905, when he had a capital of £22,000, he began the erection of the "Palace-by-the-Sea," Clacton, which was opened by George R. Sims on June 2, 1906. He expended some £33,000 on the venture, and carried it on at a loss for two months, and then, with the sanction of creditors, sold his interest to a company.

THE directors of the Variety Theatres Consolidated, Ltd., announce a dividend on the ordinary shares at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum.

THE Music Hall and Theatrical Football League matches on Sunday last resulted in victories for the Fulham Theatre and Stratford Empire teams, the former beating Broadway Theatre by 6 to 2, and the latter King's, Hammersmith, by 7 to nil.

ALTERATIONS now being made to the interior of the Vaudeville Club will provide more room for the members and at the same time add to their accommodation and convenience. It is expected that the workmen will have left the premises by to-night.

MISS BESSIE BUTT has undoubtedly secured one of the prettiest coon songs ever written in "Sunshine Soo." So many have applied to her personally for permission to sing this number in pantomime that she has decided to give the right for a small fee. Particulars are advertised on our back page.

WE sincerely regret to hear that Mr. George Bastow has been unable to appear this week at the Manchester Hippodrome, in consequence of serious indisposition. It is but a few months since the comedian returned to the variety stage on his recovery from a long illness.

WE regret having to record the sudden death of Mr. Frank Carlyon from phthisis on Sunday morning, the 22nd inst. He had for the past four months acted as manager for Messrs. Feldman and Little at Maldon, Essex, and became the lessee of the Hippodrome there only one week before death deprived him of the fruits of his labours.

MR. CARLYON was only thirty-six years of age, and had been connected with the Coronet, Notting Hill; the Grand, Woolwich; Alexandra, Stoke Newington; and the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, at the last-mentioned with Mr. J. B. Mulholland for four years.

FEW artists have produced so many sketches, or of such good quality, as Mr. John Lawson since he first staged *Humanity*; and it is because of the uniform goodness of each that the management have engaged him to appear next week at the Hackney Empire in a repertory of these.

MR. GEORGE BARRASFORD received such a large number of letters and telegrams of congratulation upon his coming of age (Nov. 24), that he finds it impossible to reply individually, and takes this means of thanking the senders for their kind wishes upon this memorable occasion.

MISS MAY AUDREY is meeting with great success this week at the Canterbury and Crouch End with Shapiro, Von Tilzer's "Waiting—all I want is the man," and Bennett Scott and Mills's "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" Miss Audrey has just purchased a new song by the latter writers. She will appear at the Coliseum on Monday.

ROMA AND ROMANI conclude to-night their London season. These classical musicians have played five weeks at the Tivoli and Oxford, together with suburban halls, and have everywhere been highly appreciated. They are re-booked for nearly every hall in town, including the Oxford, Tivoli, Coliseum, and Hippodrome, and all by their pilot, Will Oliver.

MR. JOHN ABBOTT, who has for a long time now been aide-de-camp to Mr. Fred Day (of T. B. Harms and Francis, Day, and Hunter) in New York, is enjoying a well-earned holiday, in company with Mr. Abbott, in his native land, and a day or two since received a hearty welcome from his old companions and co-workers in Charing Cross-road and Denmark-street.

A VERY plucky thing was done by Miss Annie Braddan on Monday last at Charing Cross. An old lady crossing the greasy road slipped and fell. Miss Braddan ran to her aid at once, and dragged her out of the way of a hansom cab just in time. She slipped down herself in doing so, her skirt and coat being ruined by the petrol-grease in the roadway at this spot. This is but one of many similar escapes, and it is high time the authorities took steps to abate the danger.

M. JULES CHARMETTES, who has been playing M. Maurice Farkoa's musical comedy parts in the provinces, is announced to give French versions of Mr. Harry Lauder's songs, more especially of "Stop your tickling, Jock." Mr. Corney Grain did the same in the nineties with Mr. Albert Chevalier's melodious coster lyrics, an example that has been followed by Mr. Maurice Farkoa, who, earlier in the year, delighted audiences at the Palace Theatre with a piquant Gallic version of "The future Mrs. Hawkins."

AN amusing little episode occurred during the turn of the Palace Girls at the Cambridge Circus house at Saturday's matinée. In the course of their parasol dance the girls plunge the points of their sunshades into the floor of the stage and then pirouette gracefully around them. Curious to relate the point of one of the parasols became firmly wedged betwixt the junction of two traps. First one dancer and then two essayed to withdraw the peccant article, and in the end with success, but the trap remained upturned, and all their efforts to restore its level were useless, while the equally futile attempts of a stage footman caused considerable merriment. Ultimately the trap was seen to be mysteriously attacked from the lower regions, and sank once more to rest.

AT the Brompton County Court on Thursday a remitted action from the High Court came before Sir William Selfe, the plaintiffs being Messrs. W. Goodacre and Sons (Limited), Ceylon Mills, Victoria Docks, E., and the defendant Mr. Imre Kiralfy, described as organising superintendent of the Franco-British Exhibition, Shepherd's Bush. The action arose out of the supplying and laying down at the Franco-British Exhibition a quantity of carpet matting.

MR. DRUCQUER, counsel for Mr. Kiralfy, said the action ought never to have been brought against that gentleman at all, but against the Franco-British Exhibition Incorporated Company. Considerable correspondence having been read, and legal arguments advanced, the Judge said the plaintiffs had brought the wrong defendant before the Court. There would be judgment for Mr. Kiralfy, but without costs.

IN correction of Mr. Ernest J. T. Bagnall, secretary to the London Primitive Methodist Council, Mr. Oswald Stoll, after pointing out that Sir Edward Moss is the applicant for the full licence to the London Hippodrome, goes on to say:—"Assuming the L.C.C. policy in regard to no more stimulants in further variety houses to be 'general,' and to date back twenty instead of eight years, and on the ground that the Council, having arrived at a decision, should consistently carry it out, then the strength of the claim of the Hippodrome is by no means weakened. For in the face of a general policy of (then) ten years' standing the full Council granted and re-granted an unrestricted provisional licence to the Hippodrome covering the whole period of the construction of that property, and only within a few weeks of its completion, in accordance with all the requirements of that Council, did this body go back upon its word."

MR. ALBERT MARSH'S successful playlet, *Chums till Death*, tops the bill at the Metropolitan for the coming week. Managers of variety theatres would do well to see this complete and interesting production.

"WHAT WOMEN DO FOR MEN," Mr. F. W. Purcell's latest successful Sicilian miniature drama, by Luke Jellings, commences the Moss and Stoll Tour on Monday at Manchester. The company includes Miss Margaret Murch, Mr. Robert Faulkner, Mr. J. Boyd Pearson, and Mr. Fred Hunter.

THE second Bohemian smoking concert of the season will be held at the Vaudeville Club on Sunday, Dec. 6, at 9.30. Mr. W. W. Sampson will occupy the chair.

THE Fun City, under the management of Mr. C. B. Cochran, will be opened in the Annexe at Olympia, West Kensington, on Dec. 7, and will remain open for ten weeks. It will surpass everything of a similar character ever seen in London, and will be, as the management describe it, "one big scream."

THE whole of the annexe at Olympia will be packed with fresh novelties from Coney Island and other parts of the world. A special feature is to be a grand variety entertainment to be given three times a day.

AT the close of the Motor Show 500 workmen commenced erecting all the attractions—"human roulette board, "cakewalks," "helter skelter," &c.—and an entirely new entrance to the annexe will be built from Blythe-road.

MLLE. LEONORA, whose "Sal-oh!-my" dance ran for about seven months at the Alhambra, is to revisit that house in the early part of next month, when she will revive her "Narcissus" sketch, and later on will appear in a musical sketch, in which she will sing as well as dance. In January next Leonora will appear with Mlle. Britta in the new classical ballet.

MR. ARTHUR RIGBY, the hon. treasurer of the M.H.A.R.A., presided at the 586th meeting of the Executive Committee, held on Wednesday afternoon at the offices. There were also present Messrs. F. W. Millis (V.P.), Bernard Stavordale, H. Herald, W. H. Atlas, Alf. Herald, John Alexander, T. C. Callaghan, G. B. Sinclair, C. Douglas Stuart (secretary), and Lieut. Albini.

IN consequence of the proximity of Devonport and Plymouth it was decided that the agent in the former town must not place names on the list after 12 noon on Fridays, at which hour he must send his list to the Plymouth agent. The secretary presented the report of his visit to Newcastle. The weekly financial statement showed twenty-nine new members and a cash total of £38 10s. 6d.

ARRANGEMENTS have now been completed for the representation at Christmas of Bolossy Kiralfy's spectacular production, entitled *To-morrow, or the Story that Never Grows Old*. The principal characters are Little Willie—who, whenever he wants anything, is always told that he "will get it to-morrow"—Mildred (Willie's sister), Albert (Mildred's lover), Fairy Happy, Red Pot, and Fairy Snowflake.

MILDRED, a girl of seventeen, is telling, on Christmas Eve, to the children guests invited, "the story that never grows old," finally reminding them that as to-morrow will be Christmas Day they may expect some nice presents. Willie, of course, grumbles at this promise of to-morrow, which he considers to be the old excuse. Among other incidents, Albert, Mildred's lover, is accepted by her father as his future son-in-law, and says he will announce the engagement to-morrow. It is late, so they all retire, except Willie, who falls asleep on a couch.

IN his dreaming even Willie's young brain harps on "to-morrow," and in bitter disappointment he cries out "Why can't to-morrow be to-day?" Father Time appears, and explains that he should not wish to hasten the flying minutes; that the happiest hours are always to-day, and besides, we never know what to-morrow may bring forth. Willie, however, is far from satisfied with this logic, and says so. The Fairy Happy now comes on the scene, and assists Willie in getting his wishes fulfilled.

IN scene two we are introduced to "The Land of Happy-ever-after," an Elysium where children know no sorrow, where a most interesting ballet is introduced. The next scene shows us Santa Claus on his mission, overloaded with toys for all good boys and girls. The fourth scene—"The Land where Snowflake Never Melts"—is full of brightness and action.

THE familiar sight of the children happy over their well-filled stockings provides the subject for the next scene. Willie, now quite contented, believes he was right in thinking that "to-day" is "to-morrow." The final scene is an allegorical representation of a New Year's Eve fête, and in this will be utilised to the full the many mechanical resources of the London Hippodrome. The stage and arena will be occupied by the entire company, and, in addition to equestrian and other features, will include a grand ballet. Singing will also be made a feature, the principals being supported by a huge chorus of specially selected voices.

WHILE the Hippodrome stage itself is by no means the largest in London, the enormous space in front of the curtain and the arena more than make up for the deficiency, and, in addition, give the producers, Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy and Mr. Frank Parker, greater scope for their stage pictures than would be possible in any other theatre. The final tableau is intended by them to be the most marvellous and surprising ever seen, and will be certain to add a great deal to the success of the production, which, while designed to suit and please children in particular, will contain enough art and beauty to satisfy even the most exacting "grown-ups."

THE following is the cast of the principal characters:—Willie (a little boy who cannot wait till "to-morrow"), Master James Hollom; Mildred (Willie's sister), Miss Beatrice Willey; Albert (Mildred's lover), Mr. Stuart Alexander; Fairy Happy-ever-after, Miss Grace Gray; Fairy Snowflake, Miss May Hollom; and Red Pot, Mr. Octavius E. Lennon.

MISS IRENE ROSE, in her speech at the Oxford on Wednesday on the occasion of the general meeting of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, spoke of the children—"our" children. "I say our children because while they are on our books we are responsible to a certain extent for their welfare. We had a letter yesterday from a lady we are helping in which she thanked us for our kindness, and said that her children on returning from school thought Father Christmas had been there, because they found a fire in the grate. Now, ladies and gentlemen, I want you to look on the Ladies' Guild as the Father Christmas of many poor homes—homes, I might truthfully say, that have only the Ladies' Guild and Benevolent Fund to look to, and I want you out of the goodness of your hearts to help us to fill the large bag we have at our backs with coal, food, and clothing, and thereby enable us to bring a little pleasure and comfort into the lives and homes of 'our' babies."

MR. LEOPOLD WENZEL, the popular composer, who for many years was associated with the late Katti Lanner in most of the successful and popular ballets of her time, sent a gorgeous wreath of choice flowers, with the following inscription, to his old friend:—"A Katti Lanner, son collaborateur ému, Léopold Wenzel; profonds regrets, Stéphanie Wenzel."

MR. CHARLES COBORN has just concluded a series of successful engagements in London, where large audiences have been so delighted with the inimitable renderings of his truly humorous songs that he has had to respond again and again to repeated calls. At his second visit, within a few weeks, to the Walthamstow Palace, the enthusiastic reception accorded him showed how firm a hold he has on the public favour. He is this week winning fresh laurels at the King's Theatre, Manchester.

"CHUMS TILL DEATH, which was most successfully produced at the Canterbury on Monday, is a reduced version of *My Partner*, by the late Bartley Campbell, author of *Siberia*. This drama was produced at the Olympic on April 10, 1884, with George Rignold as Joe Saunders and the late Philip Beck as Ned Singleton. Alma Murray played Mary Brandon, and the late Laura Linden was the Grace Brandon. The late W. H Stephens acted the father of the girls, and Howard Russell impersonated the villain. The piece in its condensed form tells an enthralling human story in a truly dramatic style.

LA MILO seems to be winning a great reputation for her conquests of prejudice. Leaving Middlesbrough, where the magistrates were converted from critics to admirers—a conversion accentuated by plaudits and cheers—she left behind her a reputation as a profit record breaker. On this result it is no wonder that the following week found her at Signor Pepi's house at Darlington.

BEFORE appearing at Darlington she, through the manager, invited the Watch Committee or other responsible authorities to witness her exhibition, and so great was the box-office value of La Milo that Mr. Pepi would not rest till he had booked her for his place in Carlisle.

MR. HENRY LUDLOW, who is at present touring the Moss and Stoll halls, in Cecil Raleigh's sketches, *The Doom of Delilah* and *Nance Arden*, has been kindly released by Miss Lilian Dundas for Nov. 30 and week in order to support M. Auguste Van Biene in his old part, General Ivanoff, in *The Broken Melody*.

AN early turn at the London Pavilion is filled by Brüll and Hemsley, who exploit humour in their neat and attractive sketch, *Fun in a Music Shop*. Mr. Hemsley is one of the sons of Mr. W. T. Hemsley, the popular scene-painter, whose brush was so artistically employed in productions at the Grand Theatre, Islington. Miss Brüll (Mrs. Hemslay) is a Viennese lady, and possesses all the gaiety and charm that are associated with the Austrian capital.

THE statements made by Professor Ramsey Muir at Liverpool concerning pantomimes have prompted Mr. Wilkie Bard, who will figure prominently at Drury Lane shortly, to join issue. Pantomime Mr. Bard believes to be a very necessary form of entertainment. "It comes in the depth of winter to brighten the minds of those who are in need of the change from the drab outside.

"AGAIN, what may appear to be inane to one so filled with profound knowledge as Professor Muir, may not appear so to others less gifted. Would he have us all spend the winter months working out sex problems, and trying to find out what George Bernard Shaw means exactly? If Professor Ramsey Muir will undertake to visit Drury Lane I will provide the seats, and I will forfeit a good sum to charity if he finds a single objectionable element in the show.

"PANTOMIME as an institution not only is firmly established as a wholesome institution for good, but for two and three months of the year finds honourable employment for thousands of men, women, and girls who would be otherwise unemployed."

MR. FRED SINCLAIR (of Sinclair and Whiteford), in addition to collecting at the Vaudeville Club the sum of £2 1s. for the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, gave a donation of five guineas on his own account.

THE committee of the Music Hall Home desires to thank the directors of the Empress, Brixton, and Mr. Nelson Francis for a donation of £2 10s.; Mr. E. H. Bostock, of the Zoo and Hippodrome, Glasgow, for box collection; Mr. Geo. F. Thompson, New Empire Palace Theatre, South Shields, for box collection; Miss Melinda May for papers, and Mr. and Mrs. Royston-Dene for parcel of books and papers. Men's old clothes and boots are always acceptable. A great coat is badly needed for one well-known old performer. The secretary, Mr. Ben Woodger, would be glad to send an *Era* New Year subscription card to any lady or gentleman who would kindly help the home fund by a postcard to 31, Wilson-road, London, S.E. The next committee meeting will be held at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday next, at twelve noon.

ON behalf of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, of 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to thank the following:—Mme. Haydee (collection), 10s.; Miss Maggie Bowman (collection), 2s. 6d.; Miss Dora Gregory, *St. George and the Dragon* company (collection), 2s. 6d.; Miss Ettie Albert (collected through Mr. Houdini), 2s.; Miss Lottie Albert (donation), 5s.; Miss Maude Dunedin (collection), 8s. 8d.; Miss Kate Vulcana (collection), 6s.; Mrs. Vernon Cowper (collection), 4s. 6d.; also the Rev. Arthur Brinckman, St. Saviour's Hospital, for his generous gift of £1 10s. towards helping a poor sufferer into a home for consumptives; and Mrs. Bransby Williams, for useful parcel of clothing; Mrs. C. Collins, for parcel; Miss Lottie Albert, for her gift of coals to an old pensioner of the Guild, aged seventy-nine, all the winter; and the following ladies for coals, an extra gift, to our current cases—Miss Irene Rose, Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Mrs. Vernon Cowper, Miss Freda Sharlotte, and Miss Kate Vulcana; Miss Alma Shelley, for wool balls for the children's Christmas tree. Friends of the charity are heartily welcome to the tea and reception held every Wednesday, four to five o'clock.

MISS MAY has several women with excellent references on her books, and she hopes that with the approach of Christmas, and the attendant extra work, occupation can be found in the direction indicated; also sewing work in the pantomime wardrobes.

AFTER a brilliant two years in Australia and New Zealand, with Mr. J. C. Williamson, Harry Phydora had not been in London two weeks before business took him to America, where a most deplorable motor accident happening to his principal, he was quite unexpectedly free for Christmas; but not for long. Immediately it became known, Mr. Brammall, acting for his syndicate, put the cables at work, the result being Phydora engaged at a very large salary to play the Nurse in *Babes in the Wood* at the Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham, making his third (not consecutive) season at this house.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

In addition to "Bombardier," Messrs. Francis and Day's great pantomime march song, which has been secured with avidity by prominent producers everywhere, Mr. Leonard Bellamy, of the orchestral department at 142, Charing Cross-road, has been inundated for band parts of likely marches for Palace scenes, and two in particular—"The British Empire," by Karl Kaps, and "England's Crown," by Max Darewski—appear to be dead-heaters for first honours. T. W. Thurban's "Dreams of Ragtime" and "Mandy on the Mash" are also greatly in request, as the daily dwindling piles of printed band parts testify.

Mr. Whit Cunliffe at the Coliseum on Monday had quite a reception, and the song "Exercise," written and composed by Penton Hook and the comedian himself, was one of the hits of the evening. Messrs. Francis and Day have secured the song for publication, and it will be issued in a few days.

The sketch which has now appeared for some weeks past in these columns attached to the advertisement of Messrs. Francis and Day's song, "Oh! oh! Antonio!" has set the fashion and clinched the matter in scores of instances as to how one of the greatest songs of the year for principal boys is to be staged. Miss Florrie Forde has continued nightly in town to repeat this her great triumph amid acclamations, and author, composer, and publisher alike are to be congratulated on having so splendid an exponent of a great chorus song.

Mr. Lester Barrett's department at Messrs. Francis and Day's establishment has been thronged daily throughout the current week by "beauty in distress," or, in commonplace everyday English, by charming ladies afraid they might be too late to secure the pantomime rights of George Lashwood's enormous success, "Hang out the front-door key," a song in which the air of the verse equals the tunefulness of the chorus, both verses and chorus enshrining a capital story written in words easy to sing. In no case were the fair supplicants "sent empty away."

At the great smoking concert on Tuesday at Queen's Hall, organised to benefit the Middlesex Hospital Cancer Charity, and at which function Sir A. Conan Doyle was chairman, one of the greatest "hits" of the night was Mr. G. H. Elliott's "Sue, Sue, Sue, I'm very much in love with you," the chorus of which was taken up by the large audience as though by one man. The "Chocolate-Coloured Coon" was in fine form, and the tuneful number was heard to the best advantage. It behoves the laggards who have not yet applied to Messrs. Francis and Day for permission to remember the title of another charming song in "Dorothy" and "Be wise in time."

Wallis Arthur's duet, "Do you remember?" has apparently not been forgotten by the multitudinous henpecked barons of pantomime, judging by the number of "permits" issued by Messrs. Francis and Day this year. Mr. Fred Wyndham reproachfully asked its author a day or two since if there was anything "fishy" about it, thereupon the catcher of the Grateful Crab immediately "hooked it." The duet was issued in "Sixpenny Pop" form during the week.

The printers and engravers are busy on Miss Kitty Colyer's new songs, which Messrs. Francis and Day are about to place on the market—"Oh, Dolly!" and "My little snow horse."

Miss Winifred Hare's "Carnegie" number has been steadily growing in popularity ever since the gifted artist first essayed it, and it will be heard in quite a number of "annuals" all over the country, Herman Darewski's chorus having the swing beloved by the denizens of Olympus. In quite a different vein is the same composer's "£ s. d.," the lyric by Chas. Wilmott, and the knowledge that Mr. R. G. Knowles made a hit with it has caused numbers of prominent pantomime folk to hear it, and, hearing it, to secure rights. Yet another song by this favourite author and composer which has caught managerial eyes is "Come, be my rainbow," popularised by Miss Madge Temple, a composition which gives the electrician his great chance. All three are published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

Fairy Queens are right royally served this year by Messrs. Francis and Day, those pretty ballads "Shadowland" and "Let me but hope" possessing in large measure that daintiness and melodious charm—inseparable from Henry E. Pether's compositions—so essential in songs emanating from the good genius of the pantomime.

Among the multifarious new songs and dances secured for publication by Messrs. Francis and Day are "Rosie had a very rosy time" (sung by Miss Marie Lloyd), by Fred Murray and Chas. Hilbury; "Pomponette" (Miss Vesta Tilley), by R. P. Weston, F. J. Barnes, and Kenneth Lyle; "After the Opera" waltz, by Cuthbert Clarke; "I'm always doing something silly!" (sung by Jay Laurier), by Frank Leo; "Wives" (Arthur Lennard), by Harry Adams and Ernée Woodville; "The jolly old Irish pensioner" and "Goodbye, Canada" (Pat Rafferty), by F. W. Carter; "In the Isle of Sicily," by Stanley Damerill and Harry Lane; "Well!" (Miss Marie Kendall), words and music by Steve McCarthy; "Darling little Teddy Bear!" (Miss Marjorie Carpenter), by Mrs. Ernest Carpenter and Hubert Sullivan-Brooke; "Winnie from Winnipeg" (Miss Luna Love), by Albert Bagley and Will E. Haines; "Shake hands!" by Edward Elliott and Linton Nevitt, and "Umti Tumti," by Frank Wood (both sung by Bernard Russell); "You're wearing the hat poor father wore," by Fred Murray and Charles Collins, and "Keep on jogging along," by Fred Murray, Fred Zerry, and Chas. Collins (both sung by Joe Archer); and last, but by no means least, "Study those who study you" (Miss Carlotta Levey).

Miss Maidie Scott produced last Monday at Southampton a new song, called "Holidays," by Alfred Wood and George Ess. After Miss Scott had responded to several calls, shouts were raised for "Carrots." This song, by the same writers, has proved universally popular. It is published by Messrs. Price and Reynolds.

Miss May Moore Duprez has scored a big success with her two new songs, "Jeremiah" and "Beautiful Brittany." These numbers are just published in Price and Reynolds' Sixpenny Series, and are being well booked for pantomime.

Miss Jessie Preston's "Dear Loch Lomond," Miss Annie Purcell's "Jessie, the flower o' Inverness," Miss Marie Blythe's "The old love's the best of all," Whit Cunliffe's "Ten little toes," and Ambrose Thorne's "If I were a Member of Parliament," have been secured by Price and Reynolds, and will be heard in many of the leading pantomimes this season.

Pantomime producers on the look-out for pretty production numbers should secure Mellor, Lawrence, and Gifford's "Run away from old man goblin" and Miss Maidie Scott's latest success, "Maidie and her little Teddy bear." Price and Reynolds are the publishers.

(*Continued on page 26.*)

THE AGENCY QUESTION.

A REPLY TO W. H. CLEMART.

Sir,—"Some are born great; others have greatness thrust upon them." The latter is evidently the fate of the undersigned, as the letter to you of Saturday last has been the subject of the leading article in the current issue of *The Performer*. The use of a *nom de plume* is to avoid the opinions of the author being invested with his personality, and also to safeguard cheap notoriety. I will endeavour to answer W. H. Clemart seriatim.

(1) The clause that the office copy should refer to contracts playable only in Great Britain and Ireland was inserted, after some discussion, at the suggestion of those agents who did Continental business, they arguing that they increased the artist's salary proportionately, and the extra commission payable was always taken into consideration when computing the salary. It was further explained that the English agents had to "share" their commission with the Continental house agent.

(2) The right of managers to deduct commission and pay same to the agent, less a sum for such services, was provisionally permitted in Award Contracts at the conference before the Arbitrator at the Board of Trade on Oct. 18, 1907. This deduction was specifically mentioned in the office copy as drawn up by the V.A.F. and submitted to the agents for their approval, it being argued that in any event the artist had to pay the commission, and there was no apparent objection. In fact, this clause was never seriously discussed, so unanimous were both parties. The vitality of the clause became apparent only when the "pay-nothing" order was given.

(3) It is true the agents explained they had no power to force managers into giving the Award contracts, that being a Federation matter; but as they (the agents) dealt with "world-wide" proprietors, the clause as then suggested would have to be amended in order to be logical, the Award only applying to Great Britain and Ireland. Further, the agents pointed out that 98 per cent. of the managers were, and are, using the Askwith Award model. To say the reason managers are refusing to book through the V.A.F. and the W.R. agencies is because they know they cannot evade the Award is an accusation of *mala fides* against a great majority of honest managers, and we venture to state cannot be substantiated, or even justified.

(4) The V.A.F. sub-committee agreed to a three months' bar on direct booking, and the whole question of direct booking to the detriment of the agent was fully discussed. The clause was inserted as a result of the deliberations of the agents in private, whilst the V.A.F. delegates withdrew in order to allow the agents the fullest discussion. On the return to the committee-room this clause was approved, the simile then used being Tom Shaw booking W. H. Clemart at the Gaiety, Chatham, and W. H. C. on the following morning applying to any one of the seventy agents for his returns, *presuming he desired to change his agent*. It was put in, not against the honest artist, but as a check against the dishonest artist, who, despite the legalities of the office copy, never intended to act fairly to his agent. It was further pointed out that an artist getting, say, £10, less 10 per cent., would offer to go back for 10, and sometimes 20, per cent. less, thus creating a doubt in the minds of the management that the agent was inflating the salary in a corresponding manner.

As to artists signing office copies on re-engagements, that is doubtless the fault of the artist, and sometimes the cupidity of the agent. *En passant*, many, many re-engagements are now being offered and accepted *without signing the office copy*, as the agent is quite satisfied with the artist's signature on the *original* office copy.

The freedom of agency clause is the best that could happen for the industry. The original agent would of necessity have to look after his clients' interests more closely, and doubtless we would find a clearing-house for acts established, as an adjunct to the Agents' Association.

We ask W. H. C. to prove that the situation is other than a deadlock. The deputation to the L.C.C. is merely a side issue, and nothing more than a *ruse de guerre*. The smaller members, aye, and the middle-class members are feeling the pinch. The fact is apparent by your emergency fund. The less money paid out proves that members are signing contracts "sub rosa"—that contracts are being signed we have no hesitation in saying, and if your loyal members are not signing then others are less scrupulous. The challenge of £50 offered by the Executive Committee was fully expected, but even agents have a sense of honour. (By the way, from which fund would this money be paid, and under what rule?) The word "star" was never mentioned in our letter, and they are entirely outside this dispute; but we venture to state that were they not members of the G.O.W.R. their interest in the V.A.F. would be less than it is at present. Fully seventy-five per cent. of the members of the V.A.F. are committed for many years to come to the ten per cent. office copy, together with the re-engagement clause. Of this seventy-five per cent. fully thirty per cent. are dateless till Christmas, and many for ever, and through this boycott are suffering more severely than many know.

W. H. Clemart makes the following statement in the third column of his criticism:—

"And yet the situation is now in its eleventh week, simply because an agents' majority allows itself to be dictated to by a *distinct, but much more intelligent, intellectual, desperate minority*."

The italics are ours. So the minority who refused the V.A.F. office copy are a distinct, *but much more intelligent, intellectual* minority! *Ipsissima verba*.

We assert boldly, and without fear of contradiction, that the *whole* of the Federation did *not* vote for five per cent. The whole of the members *present* at the seventy meetings in the country including the London mass meeting), with about eight dissentients *may* have voted for the five per cent., and we challenge the committee to produce 600 signatures, or even 1000 records of attendances, for any given Friday during the crisis. Thus we have a body of 2,750 members who did not attend the meetings, and did not record their votes. Hence the call for a secret ballot.

So much for W. H. C.'s remarks. Now for a few further points. Your general meeting in December, 1907, voted for five per cent., yet your general meeting on Sept. 6, 1908, voted *unanimously* for ten per cent. Then soon after a series of London mass meetings (in other words, an expanded London meeting, with no more power than a V.A.F. meeting at West Stanley) proceed on a policy of diminution by the process of the guillotine until we find ourselves faced with the present deadlock. Then the *Performer* points out that an addendum has been tacked on to the effect that all law costs incurred by the V.A.F. must be paid by the agents. The V.A.F., by their retrospective claim on office copies, are asking for the wiping out of thousands and thousands of pounds commission for which the agents have a claim perfectly clear in law. Surely this point wants considering. The question at issue now is only concerned with the legal status, and *that* cannot be denied. The retrospective demand should have some consideration for a man who has acted honestly. Should the above demand be persisted in, we can see all the legal claims on the old office copies being enforced, and the artist who finds himself paying 30 and even 40 per cent. on one engagement will then regret the position into which he has been forced. This does not affect those acts who have only used one agent, but again falls heavily on the "smaller fry," who are forced to utilise the service of all and sundry.

The financial aspect is gargantuan, but the deadlock has been arrived at in a most haphazard manner.

As none of these "five per cent.," "no re-engagement," either prospective or retrospective, or "piling up the costs" resolutions, have been passed at special general meetings regularly convened after three weeks' statutory notice in the *Performer*, it necessarily follows that the whole of the resolutions are illegal and null and void. Therefore, *carpe diem*.

In conclusion, we venture to remind W. H. C. that sarcasm is a very poor form of wit, and were we to indulge in a sarcastic display W. H. C. might think we were rude to brutality. Still, it is good to see the artists combined. They are artists—they are now agents, they are managers in embryo; let us hope they will not have to be their own audience.—Yours truly,

JANUS.

London, Nov. 26, 1908.

Miss Elsie Earle's song-scena, "A Garden of Flowers," has a pretty and elaborate setting, enhanced by electric effects, and it deserves all the praise that has been lavished on it. She sings it with much charm, and also displays dash and vigour in her military song, "March, march away!"

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"

Miss FLORRIE FORDE'S LATEST SENSATION.

THE SONG OF THE YEAR.

OH! OH! ANTONIO!

The following will Positively be Featured in the Principal Pantomime Productions in the Kingdom:—

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS."

"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."

"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."

"COME, BE MY RAINBOW."

"MANDY'S WEDDING."

"ARE YOU THE LITTLE GIRL I MET THE OTHER EVENING."

"SUE, SUE, SUE."

"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."

"BOMBADIER."

"WHO SAID HE DON'T LIKE GIRLS."

"SHADOWLAND."

"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO."

"L.S.D."

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER.

"CHUMS TILL DEATH."

A Dramatic Sketch, Written by Albert Marsh, Produced at the Canterbury Music Hall, on Monday, Nov. 23.

Joe Saunders ..... Mr. Albert Marsh
Ned Singleton ..... Mr. Frank Tennant
Josiah Venables ..... Mr. William Brandon
Billy ..... Mr. Harry Buss
Bob ..... Mr. Douglas Payne
Mary Brandon ..... Miss Grace Mortimer

Chums till Death, an interesting and powerful playlet dealing with life in the Californian goldfields, met with a decidedly cordial reception on its production at the Canterbury on Monday. In the first scene, the exterior of the Golden Gate, we are quickly introduced to Mary Brandon, the sorrowful heroine, and her lover, Ned Singleton, a gentleman miner, who, however, has not fulfilled his promise to marry her. His "chum" and partner, Joe Saunders, a "rough diamond," has also silently worshipped the girl ever since her arrival in the district, and when he learns the position of affairs he threatens to shoot Ned if he does not wed Mary. The villainous Josiah Venables, a mine speculator, also professes to an affection for the girl, and determines that Ned shall not marry her if he can prevent it. In the last scene, the chums' hut, Joe comes to the conclusion he can no longer live with his partner in the altered circumstances, and, after sharing their little store of wealth, bids his chum good-bye, saying he will shake hands with him when he (Ned) has married Mary. When Joe has departed, Josiah enters, and, insinuating that Mary has not been true to her lover, is struck by Ned, who, in the fight which ensues, receives a knife wound at the hands of Josiah, and is left for dead, the villain departing after pocketing the gold that has been left on the table. Joe Saunders returns—he cannot leave his chum in anger—and is, of course, accused of the murder, the knife found in the hut belonging to him; but the comedy man, Cockney Bill, who has been in hiding under a seat, is able to clear his character. Josiah is captured and taken away to be lynched; Ned is not dead, and will recover and marry Mary; and Joe will stay on with his chum. The sketch was admirably enacted throughout, Mr. Albert Marsh being a most convincing and in every way excellent exponent of the justly indignant but kindly miner, Joe Singleton, especially well played being the scene where he learns from Mary that Ned is her lover, and also the episode where he decides to part from his chum. Mr. Frank Tennant did the little he had to do as Ned Singleton quite satisfactorily; Mr. William Brandon indicated effectively the evil nature of Josiah; an alert and amusing Billy was supplied by Mr. Harry Buss; Miss Grace Mortimer was a refined and natural Mary Brandon; and the cast was completed by Mr. Douglas Payne, who fulfilled all requirements as Bob, a digger known as "the doctor." The sketch was admirably staged, Mr. Alfred Terraine being responsible for the three realistic stage pictures.

A welcome appearance at the Canterbury on Monday was that of the incomparable juggler, Paul Cinquevalli, who performed his numerous difficult feats with all his well-known ease and sureness, and was acclaimed with much cordiality. His concluding exhibition of dexterity, where he balances his assistant seated on a chair at a table on his chin and juggles at the same time, particularly appealed to the audience. There is just sufficient comedy in the act, the behaviour and facial expression of his assistant being really funny. Another popular interlude in the strong bill is *Billiards*, so comically exploited by the clever comedian, Mr. Harry Tate and his companions; and much laughter is also forthcoming during the presentation of the comedy sketch, *The Peacemaker*, by Mr. W. T. Ellwanger and his company. La Devo, a quick-change artist, gives a smart impersonation of a lady conjurer, and also appears with success as a Japanese damsel and a prima donna; and Karr and Kooney, a couple of scarlet-suited comedians, have an excellent number in "Tra-la-la," their cross-talk and song made up of the titles of familiar plays and songs being also very amusing. There is much that is laughable in "The lass that loved a sailor," a comic nautical satire presented by the Walcotts (Marie and Bert); the Romps, a number of juvenile entertainers, present a dainty musical scena with undoubted success; and S. and G. Auer submit a novel and smartly-worked turn that includes some wonderful tumbling and jumping by the male of the duo, the couple fashioning some rag-pictures with considerable skill.

Dick Tubb, an eccentric comedian with a very droll style, evoked some of the heartiest laughter and applause heard during the evening for his funny song, "Any coke"; Miss Jessie Buckle tendered excellent advice in "What you've got, look after," a song that evidently appealed to her auditors; Miss May Audrey, a smart comedienne, delighted greatly with her two numbers, "I'm waiting" and "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" Miss Lena Wylie was heard with pleasure in "Because" and "Il Bacio"; and there was applause in abundance for the Three Royal Dreadnoughts, rifle shots. Other entertaining items in the bill are contributed by Ruffell's Bioscope, Mr. Pen Happy, Miss Minnie Mace, and the Brothers Hannaway.

Mr. H. E. High, the skating comic, was presented on Saturday last at the close of the usual performance by Mr. Herbert William Evans, at the Regent Theatre, Salford, with a beautiful travelling bag.

Mr. Editor,—Sir,—Your representative, in noticing the Palace, Reading, in your current issue, attributes clever imitations and characters from Dickens to another performer on the bill. The credit should go to, yours faithfully, Harry Braham ("The man with a hundred faces"). Hotel Cecil, London, Nov. 24.

Miss Carrie de Mar, the popular American comedienne, who has been styled the American Vesta Victoria, will depart from her usual line of work at the Coliseum next week, and will present a new type of American girl. The songs she will sing are catchy and the ideas novel. The act is under the personal direction of Joseph Hart. The repertoire of songs includes, among others, "Lonesome Flossie," which will be preceded by artistic poses.

La Devo, a charming young artist, is making a big success this week at the Canterbury with her novel song-scena, in which she introduces the sensational expanding cube. A small die measuring not over six inches instantaneously grows to fifty inches, and when this monster die is removed a pretty maiden is seen seated on a narrow platform. No drapery whatever is used in this illusion. We hear several of our most important magicians are anxious to obtain the secret of this sensational effect, and have offered La Devo tempting sums, which have not been entertained.

A remarkable development of a strike has occurred in Cork. During the dispute, Messrs. Dobbin, Ogilvie, and Co., extensive general merchants, had some perishable goods lying on the quayside. Two of the firm's carters were dispatched to draw the goods, but the strikers made them return without their load. They declined to go again, and were dismissed. Sir Alfred Dobbin, the head of the firm, is proprietor of the local music hall, the Palace. The late strikers, in sympathy with the dismissed men, have been picketing the hall during the week, with the result that large crowds assemble nightly outside the hall hissing and hooting anyone who enters.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

(Continued from page 25)

Frank Cass's two great songs, "Vanity Fair" and "Which is the sinner and which is the saint?" have both been secured by Price and Reynolds.

Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. have just received a letter from Mr. Stanley E. Mullen, music publisher, of Melbourne. The following is a verbatim quotation:—"At the present moment I am holding back from everybody 'Tiny seed of love.' For your personal edification I may state that I heard this song sung on the way out at the first concert on board, and the girl singing it was compelled to sing it four times over before they would let the next item come on, and at the finish they wound up by recalling her and made her sing it twice; and at every concert they never broke up at the end without singing the chorus twice in conjunction with 'God save the King.'" Nuf said!

A song entitled "Harrigan," published by Messrs. Feldman and Co., promises to be one of the most popular comedy songs of the year. It has a rousing chorus, can be "dressed" in any style, and the catch-words "Harrigan—that's me" will shortly sweep the country. There are still a few towns where rights for production in pantomime may be obtained; the number of such, however, are lessening every day.

Mr. Charles Whittle is still simply "tearing up" his audiences with his latest and greatest success, "I want you to see my girl." This week at the Tivoli, the Empress, Brixton, and at Crouch End he is making, if possible, an even bigger success than during previous weeks. Messrs. Feldman and Co. inform us that although this song has only been produced a few weeks, it is as popular as "Put me amongst the girls" at the zenith of its fame, and that they are having as many applications for this year's great "girl" song as they had for last year's hit.

Principal girls have been taking Messrs. Feldman and Co.'s advice freely regarding their big production number, "The bubble and the Sunbeam." This song has such an ear-haunting refrain that, even without the effects, it is an instantaneous "winner"; but all the principal managers in the country are so enamoured with the startling effects—which were described in this paper a few weeks back—that audiences all over the country will at Christmas time be charmed by this novelty.

Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. have yet another novelty song in their unparalleled list of successes for the fast-approaching pantomime season. It is entitled "Come round on Sunday," written and composed by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford. It is an ideal "schoolroom" song, and principal girls and "babes," to say nothing of the managers, are scrambling to secure it for pantomime.

The inevitable song anent this popular pastime comes hot foot on the revival of the roller-skating craze. A tuneful waltz-time chorus number entitled "Come on the rink" has just been completed by Alfred Davies for the directors of the Earl's Court rink, and will be published by them during next week. It is intended that "Come on the rink" shall be a "free" song, and permission will be granted to all singers who write enclosing their professional card to "The Rinkeries," Earl's Court, where the melody, by its catchy lilt, is unconsciously being hummed by all who have once heard it on the band there.

M. Witmark and Sons, the cosmopolitan music publishers, are well to the fore with bright and breezy melodies for the coming pantomimes. The successful ballads "Love me and the world is mine" and "Will you love me in December as you do in May?" are too well known to require comment. The composer of these numbers has still another success, "As long as the world rolls on," which bids fair to rival his earlier productions. This number will be heard in every pantomime.

Mr. Charles Warren, the manager of Witmark's popular house, pins his faith on "Way down in Colon Town" as a big winner among the pantomime songs. This, to quote Mr. Warren, "is the most tuneful catchy melody, when properly sung, we have had since the famous 'My Tiger Lily.' It was only in one pantomime last year, as it was published too late, but its success was phenomenal. Many managers have secured it for this year, and its success is assured."

Miss Rachel Lowe emerges from her temporary retirement by appearing at Kingston-on-Thames next week. Miss Lowe has been utilising her leisure in perfecting herself in a new répertoire of novelty songs. "My Boy Bill," written by John W. Bratton, the composer of "My Cosy Corner Girl," will doubtless be as popular as Mr. Bratton's former songs, and is admirably adapted to Miss Lowe's peculiar type of comedy.

Frigson is still singing "Billy Brown" at the Tivoli. The song becomes more popular every day. The publishers, M. Witmark and Sons, are correspondingly happy.

Miss Margaret Cooper has secured from M. Witmark and Sons "Take me some place with you, Johnny." Miss Cooper saw the song for the first time on Saturday and produced it the following Monday with the greatest possible success. This quaint number, with its tricky chorus, will doubtless be heard all over Great Britain during the pantomimes.

Mr. Harry Freeman, who has been too long absent from the programmes of the West End halls, has arranged with M. Witmark and Sons for the music hall singing rights of a catchy song entitled "Don't forget to write me every day." Mr. Freeman has perhaps had more popular successes than any other legitimate comic singer, and ought to be a good judge of a song to suit his requirements, hence his choice of this number is highly complimentary to the cosmopolitan song merchants the Witmarks.

Miss Ouida Macdermott, who is playing the title-rôle in Mr. Chute's forthcoming pantomime at Bristol, has been delighting the Palace audiences with her rendering of that dainty song "My pretty little piece of Dresden china." Many of the principal pantomime producers will specially feature this number. The Star Music Co. are the publishers.

"Salome; or, A tin-tack here and a tin-tack there," is the quaint title of Harry Bedford's latest stormer. He has made a sensational hit with the above ditty at Nottingham this week. Pantomime artists who wish to secure the same must apply to the Star Music Co.

"Have you got another girl at home like Mary?" will be the question asked by many of the principal boys and girls this year. The above ditty has been a big favourite with variety artists and alfresco programmes all the season, and cannot fail to be one of the real good things for pantomime. The Star Music Co. are the publishers.

FELDMAN

. . THE . .

PANTOMIME MASCOT

FORECASTS

BOXING NIGHT TRIUMPHS.

CHARLES R. WHITTLE'S

"I WANT YOU TO SEE MY GIRL."

GEORGE LASHWOOD'S

"A WHITE MAN."

MISS MAUDE MORTIMER'S

"A TINY SEED OF LOVE."

"CONNEMARA."

"IT'S GOOD-BYE TO MAUDIE."

"THE BUBBLE AND THE SUNBEAM."

"I LIKE YOUR OLD FRENCH BONNET."

"PEGGY, THE PRIDE OF THE MILL."

"SHINE LITTLE MOONFLOWER."

MISS FLORRIE FORDE'S

"GIRLS, STUDY YOUR COOKERY BOOK."

PHIL RAY'S

"TRAMCAR."

"IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE WALTZ DREAM AS HER DREAMY, DREAMY EYES."

"WHAT YOU'VE GOT LOOK AFTER."

GREAT TOPICAL DUET FOR COMEDIANS,

"ICE CREAM! BAKED CHESTNUTS!"

"COME ROUND ON SUNDAY."

"HARRIGAN."

"GRETNA GREEN."

Artistes who are singing "White Man" in Pantomime can have extra verses by applying for same, giving place of production.

B. FELDMAN & CO.,

2 & 3, ARTHUR STREET, NEW OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telegrams, "Humfriy, London." Telephone, No. 4447 Gerrard.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

Mr. Whit Cunliffe, who will sing "I don't care if there's a girl there" in pantomime at Glasgow this season, gave the ditty a trial at Southport last week, and wired the Star Music Co., "Song enormous hit, a certainty for pantomime."

Messrs. Sheard are receiving so many letters from artists informing them that they have decided on "Little silver moonbeam" as their principal number in the *Dick Whittingtons, Robinson Crusoes, Aladdins, Sinbads*, and other pantomimes, that its future popularity appears to be almost as assured as Queen Alexandra's Christmas Gift Book.

Two of the best and most popular pathetic songs published by Sheards are "Tying the leaves"—relating how an innocent child ties the leaves on the trees, thus hoping to delay the dreaded hour of her little playmate brother's voyage to the great beyond. The second is "I've grown so used to you," and is of the "Darby and Joan" order:—

"When your eyes so bright have lost their light
Your voice, so dear, no longer here
When you're called home and I'm alone
I won't know what to do.
If the Master knew how I'd miss you
I wonder if He'd call me too.
'Twould break my heart if we should part,
For I've grown so used to you."

Another song of the class that has proved most acceptable is that among which "When the sunset turns the ocean's blue to gold" and "When the fields are white with daisies" stand out so prominently. The best and latest of this order are Marcus Hope's "When the primrose comes again," "In the vale of Shenandoah," and "When the sunrise paints the distant hills with rose."

The humorous musical duologue *Tell me, Dusky Maiden*, that was so much in vogue with pierrot and alfresco troupes during the recent seaside season, is, so Messrs. Sheard inform us, in much demand for the approaching pantomime season. It will be remembered that this duet made a hit in a recent Drury Lane pantomime.

Miss May de Sousa, at the recent Playgoers' Club concert at His Majesty's Theatre, charmed the house with Messrs. Sheard's popular song "The sweetest story ever told." The sequel to this song entitled "A sweeter story still" is meeting with great success with the Lovelaces, the well-known song illustrators, on their Welsh tour.

"Girly girls" is the title of a new set of Lancers just published by Messrs. Charles Sheard and Co. In it are introduced the melodies of the catchy songs, "I can't get away from the girls," "Girls, girls, nothing else but girls," "Little silver moonbeam," "Hurrah for the old-age pension," "My limelight Lou," and a lot of other pantomime favourites.

"Don't wear your loving heart away for me" is the title of the sequel to Messrs. Sheard's popular song "I'm wearing my heart away for you." Those vocalists who have done well with the latter song should write Messrs. Sheard for a copy without delay. Messrs. Sheard, by the way, are the publishers of Tom Wootwell's last volume of songs.

Miss Ella Shields, who was so exceedingly successful at the Holborn last week with the Von Tilzer's company song, "Do you want any coal?" is also featuring at the Hammersmith Palace this week with huge success another song of the same publishers, entitled "When you've got no money in your pocket," a very melodious number.

The Von Tilzer Music Co.'s slide songs are proving very effective. Miss Ethel Sheffer is meeting with great success on the Macnaghten tour with a pathetic ballad, entitled "Since daddy's been taken away," the slides of which are really magnificent. Miss Helen Guest will produce on Monday next another of the same publishers' illustrated songs, "You're my girl in the springtime." These publishers, in a day or two, will have ready another excellent slide-song, entitled "In the village by the sea," which is also arranged for quartette.

It seems that "I'm wait-wait-waiting" (All I want is the man) will be featured by either the dame or principal girl in almost every pantomime. This song, with its quaint melody, swinging chorus, and strong vein of comedy, has already proved itself an assured success. Miss May Audrey, who featured it as her principal song in South Africa, is working it this week at the Canterbury. The publishers are Von Tilzer Music Co.

Wilkie Bard has secured half pantomime and music-hall rights with George Campbell for "I rattled my money-box." This song, which Mr. Bard will feature at Drury Lane, is written by Worton David, and composed by Alf. Ellerton, jun., and is to be published shortly by the Von Tilzer Music Co.

Miss Gertie Gitana is again scoring with that charming ballad by Andrew B. Sterling and Harry Von Tilzer, "In the evening by the moonlight, dear Louise," at the Holborn this week. This song is on the Von Tilzer catalogue.

The National Musical Publishing Company should indeed be highly pleased this year, for, in addition to their fine list of pantomime numbers, they have the two latest songs for comedians now in the market, viz., "Put me upon an island where the girls are few," which Mr. Wilkie Bard is definitely producing in the forthcoming pantomime at Drury Lane Theatre, and "You all want something to cuddle," for which Mr. George Lashwood predicts a great future. Needless to say he is working it in the Dublin pantomime.

"You all want something to cuddle" has been secured by Neil Kenyon for Old Drury pantomime, and Mr. Arthur Collins promises a special production to this number, as he is keenly interested in it. Mr. George Elliott, the chocolate-coloured coon, is producing it at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

Mr. Tom Foy has secured Will Godwin's chorus hit, "When I've a hundred pounds," for Birmingham pantomime.

Mr. J. F. Elliston has secured the National Music Publishing Company's budget, and is specially featuring "Sal O! Sal O! Salome" and "I don't want to go on the Flip-flap," Miss Edith Fink's chic success.

The National Music Publishing Company are charging no fee for any of their pantomime numbers this year. Among them are the following: Lowenwirth and Cohan's chorus song, "My little Eva"; Fred Eiton's 100-guinea song, "When the leaves are tinged with gold"; George Lashwood's latest, "If it's a lady"; and Victoria Monks' two winners, "I wish I had a pal" and "Call round any old time."

Will Hyde is very busy just now, both selling and publishing songs. His two latest winners are "Good-bye, Jenny," sung by Kitty Colyer, and "Single and Married," Arthur Croxon's great chorus song.

MUSIC HALL LADIES' GUILD.

The second general meeting of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Oxford Music Hall, kindly lent for the purpose by the directors of that establishment. Mrs. Fred Ginnett, the president, occupied the chair, and she was supported on the stage by Mrs. H. Maud Gamble, the Mayoress of Chelsea, Miss Irene Rose, Miss Vulcana, Miss Belle Elmore, Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Miss Lottie Albert, Miss Freda Sharlotte, and Miss Melinda May (secretary). Amongst others present were Mesdames Bruce Low, Elsie Mitchell, Flo Blanks, Camp, Sadezki, Eve, Wilkinson, Northcote, H. M. Walker, Pope, Bell, Bennett, Gamble, Clarke, Toole, Hodgson, Agnes Boarfield, Kidson, Crowther, and Bourne, the Sisters Atlas, the Revs. Donald Hole, Stephen Barrass, and W. Cree, and Messrs. Bourne, Fred Ginnett, Lieut. Albini, C. D. Stuart, Arthur Rigby, Fred Sinclair, and Pat Carey.

The MAYORESS of CHELSEA, to whom Mrs. Ginnett presented a handsome bouquet, briefly opened the meeting, remarking that the Guild deserved the practical sympathy of everybody connected with the music hall profession. She thought that the committee deserved all praise for their untiring exertions in the cause of sweet charity, and she particularly eulogised the services of Mrs. Ginnett and Miss May.

The SECRETARY (Miss May) read the report and balance-sheet, which were as follow:—

REPORT FROM OCT. 1, 1907, TO JUNE 30, 1908.

The Music Hall Ladies' Guild, although progressing slowly, as it is still in its infancy, is to-day on a more firm foundation than a year ago, as will be seen by our financial report, which the committee now have pleasure in placing before you. £413 6s. 5d. was received from subscriptions, special donations, entrance fees, matinée profits, bazaar profits, and sundry other sources, in nine months, compared with £420 3s. 11d. received in the previous twelve months. Special notice is drawn here to the fact of this being a nine months' report, which was decided upon by the Executive Committee owing to the change in the secretaryship on July 1, 1908, and the opening of a new set of books on that date by Miss Melinda May.

The general expenses show an increase, being £194 against £126 of the previous year, the increase being for extra clerical assistance, fares for secretary's investigation of cases, and extra house expenses paid to Messrs. Spiers and Pond for washing and cleaning of garments, window cleaning, and charwoman. The amount of £5 10s. for collecting boxes is a permanent investment which will show wonderful results in our next report. This amount may seem rather enormous for collecting boxes, but they have already been more than twice paid for in the receipts obtained through them. The committee take this opportunity in giving grateful thanks to those people who have some of these boxes and are rapidly filling them over and over again. Some of them are being filled for Christmas, and the result is sure to be gratifying. The item of £11 2s. 10d. for badges is for badges for members of the Guild, that are being sold at a small profit, a good many of which we have on hand.

The figures £180 11s. 4d. show the great good work the Guild is doing, considering this sum has been spent in nine months in providing food, clothing, and general assistance to poor artists, as compared with the assistance given last year during twelve months, namely, £114 17s. 1d. Over 300 cases of distress and illness have been helped, many of which have been maternity cases. In these cases all clothing for mother and child are provided, all necessary food, and the medical attendance, including the nurse, for which the Guild pays. Many of the above cases have been helped with clothes and shoes. Again, others have had employment found for them by the Guild, such as programme sellers, dressers, supers, &c. Some have been placed as maids and housekeepers, and the necessary clothes to fulfil these positions supplied. In one instance—an incurable cancer case—a poor lone widow was placed in a cancer hospital, where she would be comfortable to the last. A private collection was made among a few of the committee to enable her to buy a few garments, as she was absolutely penniless.

The committee are always receiving letters of grateful thanks, such as the following:—

"Ladies of the Guild,—Thank you for your goodness during my trying time. One of the three pairs of boots you so kindly gave me (for the two children and one pair for my husband) is for a child whom only the greatest care can save from consumption. You can imagine how glad and grateful I feel for this gift, as it is his very life that is saved by being free from wet feet. Their last words to-night going to bed in their prayer were, 'God bless the ladies of the Music Hall Guild,' in which prayer I can only join.

"A GRATEFUL MOTHER."

"Dear Ladies,—I wish to thank the committee for their great kindness to me. The boots were a veritable God-send, and I am reminded of the ladies' kindness every time I put them on.—I beg to remain, &c., "C. V."

"To the Committee,—I am sure what you have done for us and our dear little babies has been truly a God-send, for I am sure we have passed many a hungry day; but for your kindness we would still have had to suffer.—Yours faithfully,

"MRS. J. G."

"To the Ladies of the Committee,—We thank the ladies for their great kindness to us during the last three months in sending us food and providing me with a doctor and nurse for my confinement, also parcel of baby's clothes. We are most truly thankful.—Believe me, yours, &c.,

"G. W."

The committee of the Guild give grateful thanks to all those who have helped us in this noble charity, including Dr. Morley Ager, Dr. Inglis Taylor, Dr. Walker, 93, Camberwell-road, Dr. J. Wilson, and Dr. Reed, who have continued their gratuitous services and have been most patient in their endeavours; the Rev. Arthur Brinckman for letters to enable us to place patients in hospitals and homes; Messrs. Roberts, Seyd, and Co., 312, Regent-street, hon. solicitors; Mr. F. H. Farey, A.C.A., 3, Love-lane, Eastcheap, hon. accountant, for preparing our balance-sheet; the M.H.A.R.A. for their generous donation; the Grand Order of Water Rats for their special donation; Mr. Phil Ray for his promise of yearly donation; the directors and Mr. Blyth Pratt, the manager of the Oxford Music Hall; and Mr. Morris Angel, costumier.

SUMMARY OF CASH ACCOUNT FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 1908.

Receipts.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
To Balance at Sept. 30, 1907, at Bank	113 19 2	
In hand	5 0 0	
		118 19 2
Music Hall Railway Association's Donation		50 0 0
The Water Rats' Donation		50 0 0
Special Matinée, Profit		102 4 0
Special Donations—		
Mr. Eugene Stratton	5 5 0	
Mr. Phil Ray	5 5 0	
Mr. Joe Elvin	5 5 0	
Mrs. George Page	5 5 0	
		21 0 0
Sundry donations, subscriptions, membership fees, sale of badges, profit on Bazaar, and other receipts		190 2 5
		£532 5 7

Payments.

	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
By Stationery and Printing	7 15 11	
Postages and Telegrams	30 4 0	
Newspapers and Advertisements	13 19 3	
Secretary's Fares	11 11 6	
Secretary's Salary and Clerical Assistance	57 6 0	
Rent of Office, paid in advance to June 24, 1909	32 0 6	
Gas, Gas Fittings, and Coal	6 8 4	
Press Cuttings	1 1 0	
House Expenses	33 6 1	
		193 12 7
Collecting Boxes		5 10 0
Badges		11 2 10
Food, Clothing, and Assistance to poor artists	173 19 9	
Christmas Dinners	6 11 7	
		180 11 4
Balance at June 30, 1908, at Bank		141 8 10
		£532 5 7

FRANK H. FAREY, A.C.A.,
Chartered Accountant.

The report and balance-sheet were passed by the meeting.

Miss IRENE ROSE made an appeal on behalf of the Guild, and asked her hearers to give a special thought to the children. The Guild wanted food and clothing so that they could help others in their distress.

Miss VULCANA and Miss CLARKE (of the Actors' Church Union) also spoke in similar strain.

Miss BELLE ELMORE then read the committee's appeal, which runs as follows:—

The ladies of the committee of this charity beg you to help us continue our good work. Now that Christmas draws near us we want your help more than ever, if possible. There are hundreds of poor children of the profession to whom we would like to give a good substantial Christmas dinner, a Christmas tree, and a small present. Last year this Guild entertained over 100 little children to a good dinner, a nice tree, and each happy child went home in the evening hugging a large parcel in his or her arms. How many of these, and, alas! how many more, are looking forward to the Guild Christmas dinner and parcel as the only Christmas joy they will know. In fact, not only the children look forward to the Guild for their Christmas happiness, and real Christmas dinner, but also several helpless and aged pensioners, some of whom are nearly eighty years old.

This Guild helps in many ways: in assisting the wives of artists who through lack of employment, illness, or misfortune, are in want of help, by supplying proper medical aid, food, coal, and other necessaries as may be required.

In maternity cases we especially provide all clothing for mother and child; food, medical attendance, and nurse being supplied for a stipulated time.

In this dread hour of need the Guild is a true friend indeed.

If you cannot give a large donation, please give a small one. We beg for your discarded garments of all sorts, men's, women's, and children's; they will help to make others presentable and obtain employment. All ladies are invited to join this Guild, and so help us to build up a very noble cause.

Mr. CHARLES D. STUART announced that the Variety Artists' Federation would be pleased to give a donation of five guineas towards the Christmas dinner. Mr. Fred Sinclair also promised five guineas, and Dr. Griffin handed in a cheque for one guinea.

The PRESIDENT (Mrs. Ginnett), in the course of her address, said: I, as President of this Guild, have great pleasure in briefly addressing you. I wish first of all to tender the thanks of the committee and myself to the directors of the Oxford Music Hall for so kindly putting this house at our disposal for our second general meeting. I also wish to thank Mr. Blyth Pratt. He has been most kind and courteous. I wish also to thank the ladies and gentlemen who have assembled here, and although there are not as many people here as I should like to have seen, it at least gives me great pleasure, and I must say courage, to find you all so appreciative of the good work we are trying to accomplish. Of course you must know this work takes up a great deal of our time. People say to me, "What do you all get in return?" I tell them there is only one thing we look for in return—gratitude. I would like to see every lady music hall artist a member of the M.H.L.G. We have a right to help provide for our own poor. We all know that all charities get imposed upon—that we must expect. I now want to point out to you one of our most stringent rules. We never give money, only the equivalent, when a family applies to us for help. The applicant is asked to fill up a form, saying how many are dependent upon him or her. If satisfactory, we then go to the nearest grocer, butcher, and coal merchant, and order sufficient for their present wants. We give boots, clothes, and try to find suitable employment. Immediate help is always given. We don't wait until the committee meet. We know that while the grass is growing the horse is starving. Ladies and gentlemen, I must now conclude.

The Rev. DONALD HOLE spoke of the good work done by the Guild, and proceedings terminated with a collection for the Christmas dinner.

THE PRIMROSES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Would you kindly permit me to appeal through *The Era* columns to my ever good-hearted brother and sister artists to subscribe just as much as they can afford towards the most distressing case of the Primroses, otherwise known as the Sisters Worth? The details of the recent lawsuit will be fresh in the minds of your readers, and I need not therefore allude to it further than by stating that it will be a long time before the appeal which I understand the Variety Artists' Federation is taking up on behalf of these performers can be heard, and in the meantime they have absolutely nothing to live upon but the small weekly grant allowed them by our fund. Edith Worth will probably never be able to walk again—certainly she will never be able to perform on the stage, while her sister is recovering from an attack of brain fever. To be given £700 one day, and have it taken away a couple of days later—think what that means! Boys and girls, when I have asked you before to aid me in helping those in need and in suffering, right royally have you rallied round and handed over cheques, gold, and silver. I feel justified in asking you now for a case so thoroughly deserving of your sympathy and your subscriptions. I herewith enclose a donation to start the fund. Thanking you in anticipation,

Yours faithfully,
JOE ELVIN,
President V.A. Benevolent Fund.

Gaiety, Birmingham, Nov. 25.

[We have much pleasure in opening a fund, as Mr. Elvin wishes. Subscriptions sent to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Hon. Treasurer, at *The Era* Offices, will be duly acknowledged in these columns.]

ENORMOUS business is being done at the Hippodrome, Lowestoft. Ella's Lions, Garden's Royal Quintette of Scottish singers, dancers, and pipers, Tray and Rich, Eileen Bernard, the sweet Irish colleen, Everard, the gymnast, and Little Violet Melrose all score heavily.

THE LICENSING OF AGENTS.

DEPUTATIONS TO THE L.C.C.

On Friday afternoon, the 20th inst., a deputation consisting of Messrs. O'Gorman, W. H. Clemart, Wal Pink, Chas. Coborn, C. C. Bartram, G. B. Sinclair, Allison, George D'Albert, Fred Herbert, and D. Tribune attended before a Sub-Committee of the Public Control Committee of the London County Council for the purpose of recommending that all music hall agencies be registered.

Mr. W. H. Clemart read a long detailed statement of the case of the artists, represented by the V.A.F. The following is a summary of the statement:—

After a reference to the fact that some years ago certain of the music hall agents formed an Association and were successful through their appeal to the L.C.C. in avoiding the threatened registration which that body contemplated applying to all agencies, it was stated that at that time there did not exist any organised body of variety artists, or possibly the result might have been different. The L.C.C. was now asked to institute such registration as will make it impossible for any man or woman to act as a theatrical or music hall agent until he or she has proved to the L.C.C. that they are fit and proper persons to do so, and, further, that their businesses shall be conducted on principles which will recommend themselves to business men as fair and just.

"Our first claim," said Mr. Clemart, "is that we see very little, if any, difference between the agent who demands a fee before securing an engagement, and the agent who having secured an engagement is not content with a fair commission for having done so, but further forces the artists to sign an agreement that he will pay a like commission on the next engagement, whether made by the same agent or not."

Various copies of agents' commission notes were submitted for the Committee's consideration; and it was pointed out that the artist earning the larger salary was taxed less than the artist earning a small salary, an injustice so palpable that it needed no explanation. The rate of interest charged was as a rule 10 per cent., not, however, on the profits of the artist, but on the gross salary he received, out of which he had to find all his dresses, purchase songs, band parts, properties, make-up, tips to stage hands, subscriptions to agents and managers' testimonials, railway fares, &c. It was also pointed out that simple as the commission on the first or next engagement might look, it was in reality a perpetual claim on the artist owing to the manner in which it was manipulated.

Comparison was made with the commission charged in the theatrical business. The theatrical agent's terms are 10 per cent. weekly up to the amount of one week's salary each year the engagement may continue. Thus the actor ceases to pay commission after the first ten weeks, and pays nothing on the following thirty weeks, but the music hall artiste must pay on the full forty weeks. It was pointed out that the actor had practically nothing to find, and the music hall artist everything.

For two years the Variety Artists' Federation had endeavoured to bring about an amicable settlement with the agents, but without any satisfactory results. On two separate occasions the agents had broken off negotiations by refusing to meet and confer with the artists' representatives further.

Complaint was also made that many of the managers had thrown their weight on to the side of the agents, for the very obvious reason that they shared in the commission paid by the artists, generally to the extent of 25 per cent., and in many cases 50 per cent. of the commission in question. These managers and proprietors are refusing to do any business with those agents who have accepted the artists' conditions of commission, viz., 5 per cent. and no re-engagement.

Permission had been given to a number of V.A.F. members to transact agency business at 5 per cent., and they, too, were meeting refusals from most of the managers and proprietors.

"We claim," said Mr. Clemart, "that the division of commission between the agent and the manager is not a legitimate method of carrying on a business, and that no man, in whose power it is to say whether an artist shall be engaged or not should be allowed to take commission from the artist for a service he is rendering the proprietor."

The statement also contained the terms of registration of music hall agents in Germany and America; and reference was made to the complaints made by lady artists of the insulting conduct of certain agents. "It is a difficult matter, as can be easily understood, to get a woman to speak openly of her experiences in this direction, but so incensed have some of our members become that several have volunteered to give evidence on this point if it could be arranged."

It was suggested that a sub-committee of ladies might be appointed who would receive this evidence, and report to the Council afterwards.

"At the present moment owing to there being no authority to say who shall, or who shall not act in the capacity of a music hall agent, the business is open to any man, however black and disreputable his character may be.

"In conclusion, we feel certain that no honest agent will fear registration, as it will be a guarantee that his business is being conducted on fair and proper principles, and that his lady clients may freely enter his office without fear of meeting insults or being molested in any way.

"It should be understood that the members of the Variety Artists' Federation do not object to the existence of agents, but, on the contrary, welcome the services of those who will assist them on fair and reasonable terms to procure business.

"What they do object to is the unfairness of the methods at present in use, and will gladly assist the London County Council in arriving at a conclusion which shall tend to put the conduct of the music hall business upon a more soundly honest and moral basis than has hitherto obtained."

At the conclusion of the statement some of the members of the Committee asked questions, which were replied to by Messrs. Clemart, O'Gorman, and Chas. Coborn.

The chairman informed the deputation that the matter would receive further consideration, and the members comprising it then withdrew.

AN OLD SONG.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Can any of your elderly readers inform me where I could get the complete words of the following old song, sung at a Glasgow pantomime some twenty or twenty-five years ago, in Mr. Bernard's time:—

"Oh, run for the doctor, there's a dear,
For I am really so awfully queer;
Run for the doctor—Doctor Jupp,
If you fall down don't stop to get up.
Tell him I've got the old attack,
Thingamy up and down my back."

It made a rare good comic song for Christmas.—Yours faithfully,

R. HUNTLEY.

Crosland Union, Huddersfield.
Nov. 22.

A CROWDED meeting was held at the Barry Hippodrome on Friday, the 20th. Among the speakers were the Right Hon. Geo. Wyndham, M.P., the Duke of Rutland, Mr. Walter Long, and Lord Ninian Stuart. The theatre was artistically decorated by Mr. Arthur Carlton, and the general arrangements were well carried out by Mr. Arthur Brogden. Selections by the Hippodrome orchestra, under Mr. Chas. Dunworth, were well received.

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FUNERAL OF KATTI LANNER.

"Of your charity pray for the soul of Katti Lanner." So ran the pious supplication of those left behind her, and on Saturday morning last, in St. Mary's, Clapham Park-road, S.W., the beautiful Church of the Redemptorist Fathers, was solemnised the Requiem Mass for the repose of the soul of this gentle lady—one whose chief mission in a strenuous and useful life has been the administration of hours of joy and comfort to her less-gifted fellow-creatures—amidst a large congregation of sorrowing relatives and friends. The celebrant of the mass was the Rev. Father McCabe, C.S.S.R., and during its progress some beautifully devotional music was rendered at the organ by Mr. Thos. F. Gale, L.R.A.M.. The whole ceremony was marked by a simplicity of style in true accordance with the sweet personality of the dead artist. This, however, did not prevent the large attendance of sympathisers in person to render their last pious tribute of affection to her they loved, and the almost endless succession of wreaths bore testimony to the still larger number of those with her in thought and prayer.

Amongst the mourners who sat in the church were Miss Lanner (a daughter) and Mlle. Lopez, and Mr. H. J. and Mrs. Hitchins, the popular Empire manager, representing the Empire Theatre proprietary, Messrs. F. and A. White, Mr. S. L. Bensusan, Mr. George Capel, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. F. Britton, formerly of Her Majesty's Opera, Mr. Chas. Wilson, Mr. R. R. Crompton, Mr. Thos. Barker, Mr. Rivers, and Dr. Howard F. G. Hughes. Many followed the cavalcade to the cemetery on foot and in vehicle, and on arrival at West Norwood a large concourse of fresh faces awaited the mourners. Here could be seen fellow-artists, pupils, chorus singers, stage hands, and others, many bearing traces of fatigue from their professional duties of a few hours earlier, but one and all assembled to take a last loving farewell of their lost friend and mistress. Nor, indeed, were the children missing.

Amidst a veritable wealth of exquisite floral mementoes were tokens from the following:—The Empire Directorate (an artistically touching tribute), the Empire Staff, the Empire Ballet, the German Dancing Masters, the Children of the National School of Dancing, the Members of the Family and Household, Mr. Rudolph Knoll, Mlle. Adeline Genée, Miss Topsy Sinden, Mr. Charles Wilson, and Mr. C. Wilhelm. The last concluding comforting prayer of the Church being uttered, the little crowd dispersed, and left her sleeping, with flowers for her pillow and a bird-song a lullaby. A pathetic coincidence may be chronicled in conclusion. Katti Lanner breathed her last at nine o'clock on Sunday morning (15th). Worn out, too, with the fatigue of years of devotional attendance, her old dog predeceased her by a few hours. She never knew this.

THE approach of winter will no doubt bring to the minds of our fair readers the fact of the necessity of extra warmth of clothing, and, what is more comforting than a fur stole and muff, to say nothing of the improvement in the appearance of any lady by such an adornment? To all and sundry lady professionals we say, should they so desire to add to their wardrobe, send to The Wellworth Manufacturing Co., 105, Cheapside, London, E.C., for their illustrated catalogue, and they will find, we think, the best of value in all kinds of furs offered at very moderate prices.

THE HIPPODROME.

In the programme now being presented under the able direction of Mr. Fred Trussell in the fine arena of the Hippodrome we encounter the Meteors, a trio of trapeze performers—two gentleman and a lady—whose feats on swinging trapezes in mid-air remind one of similar exhibitions in the palmy days of the Canterbury, when audiences were roused to the greatest enthusiasm by the daring and intrepidity of the Hanlon-Voltas. Aerial shows, for some cause or other, went out of fashion for a time; and their revival at the home of acrobatism in Leicester-square revives memories of the Ostaras, the Flying Eugenes, Cee Mee, the Leamy Girls, and other celebrities. The two male members of the Meteors accomplish all the more difficult flying feats of their predecessors, and change bars while swinging over the central arena from opposite sides, sometimes pirouetting in their flight, at others turning a somersault, and as a tour de force one of them turns a double somersault and catches the bar that is floating towards him with unerring accuracy. The exact timing of the swinging requires the greatest nicety of judgment; but any failure in the accomplishment of the feat only results in a graceful dive into the splendid net which is spread beneath the trio, who are rewarded with very hearty applause.

Mr. Horace Goldin, the lightning conjurer, is fulfilling a most successful engagement, and is exploiting a number of new tricks. Of course, as all those who have seen him know, with Horace "silence is Goldin," and he holds the attention of an audience without the spoken word. In an empty space surrounded by curtains he contrives to introduce a bedroom suite and the pretty and piquante Jeanne Fransioli, who acts later the part of the disappearing lady, whose *escamotage* puzzles everybody, even the curious gentleman in the balcony who insists on Goldin opening both doors of a remarkable cabinet to disclose emptiness, and a minute afterwards to reveal his fascinating partner.

Alexandre and Hughes, favourite jesters at this house, evoke considerable merriment by their patter, and show themselves to be good concertina players by their rendering of "Asleep on the deep." The Four Holloways accomplish the seemingly impossible on the tight wire, the lady doing some remarkable feats; and the Achmed Ibrahim troupe of Arabs form wonderful pyramids, and somersault with untiring energy and spirit. The music of the Spanish orchestra has a character of its own. The brass instruments are softened by the tones of a stringed bass, and the tone of an instrument resembling the Swiss picco is not altogether unpleasing. The precision and attack, too, are beyond praise, the selections being highly characteristic.

AT the New Hippodrome, Exeter, during this week, the famous prima donna Mme. Alice Esty has been delighting crowded houses with her exceptional vocalism; Gustave Fasola, the Indian Fakir, provides a delightfully mystifying turn; Fred Russell, with his automaton, "Coster Joe," justifies his claim to the title of premier ventriloquist; Lozelle contributes a remarkably smart acrobatic display; Jack Barker is a clever musical comedian; and Fergusson and Mack are well received in their diverting and humorous skit *The Acrobatic Ballet Girls*. Miss Dolly Denton's songs are much appreciated; and the usual up-to-date Hippodrome pictures complete.

VARIETY THEATRES.

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Telegrams, "Playlet, London."
'Phone, 909 P.O., Croydon.
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THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

FAIRS, FEASTS, AND WAKES IN ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, AND WALES FOR DECEMBER.

ENGLAND.

5. Portsmouth (Arcadia Drill Hall) (189,000)
10. Fun City (Olympia)
11. Boston (15,700)
11. Cobham (2,300)
11. Ringwood (4,400)
12. Liskeard (5,028)
15. Leighton Buzzard (6,400)
18. Rochdale (74,000)
21. Bilston (24,000)
21. Birkenhead (111,000)
21. Deptford (110,122)
21. Southport (48,400)
21. South Shields (97,300)
24. Bath (49,712)
24. Bristol (329,849)
24. Hendon (Welsh Harp) (17,000)
24. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,000)
24. Middlesbrough (91,300)
24. Morecambe (12,000)
24. New Brighton (10,000)
24. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,803)
24. Northampton (87,000)
24. Rushden (12,500)
24. Salford (Trinity Markets) (221,000)
24. Kirkby Lonsdale (1,600)
24. North Shields (50,000)
24. Preston (113,000)
24. Rowthorne (67)
24. Southampton (104,911)
24 Wellington (7,300)
24. World's Fair (Islington)
27. Uttoxeter (5,200)
28. Nantwich (7,700)
28. Sandbach (5,500)
29. Newport (Salop) (3,200)
29. Sheffield (361,000)
31. Rugeley (7,181)

SCOTLAND.

19. Govan (76,351)
21. Edinburgh (208,000)
21. Glasgow (622,355)
23. Motherwell (54,274)

WALES.

22. Caerphilly (16,000)
22. Morriston (15,025)
22. Pontypridd (23,000)
22. Swansea (54,275)
24. Cardiff (164,000)
24. Merthyr Tydfil (26,500)
24. Newport (Mon.) (67,000)

Kendal Hirings.

The principal concerns at this fair were those of W. H. East, E. W. Helm, J. Humphries, S. J. Rostron, W. Holland, and W. H. Taylor, and consisted of galloping horses, bicycle track, big boats, Winchester ranges, bottle batteries, and throwing games.

News from Warwickshire.

Our Midland correspondent writes:—"We have had at Studley Mr. C. Herbert's pony roundabouts, park swings, shooting saloons, and varieties and throwing games."

Millom November Hirings.

The pleasure fair at these hirings had for its entertainers, Fossett with circus, Ray with cinematograph theatre, Murphy with motor-cars, Emmerson and Hazzard with steam roundabouts, and all the other fun of the fair by various caterers.

Showmen's Social Gathering at Bolton.

Mr. T. Hurst, honorary secretary to the Showmen's Guild, has, in conjunction with Mr. Superintendent Pike, market inspector, made preliminary arrangements for the annual United Kingdom Showmen and Vandwellers' Protection Association's ball and supper at Bolton Fair. This social gathering is always marked by great local interest. The Mayor, the chairman of the Markets and Fairs Committee, and a number of the councillors of the borough have given it their patronage and presence. It will take place as usual in the Empress ballroom, and it will be on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1909. Fuller particulars of this interesting event will be advertised nearer the time in our columns.

News from South Africa.

Paget's combined circus and menagerie paid a visit to Pietermaritzburg on Oct. 29, and stayed three days. Mme. Paget's daring performance with wild beasts provoked great astonishment. Willie Roya's dogs also gave surprising performances, and Bud Snyder's trick cycle act was a most acceptable turn. His marvellous somersault on a motor-car was witnessed with breathless silence. This concern is having a triumphant tour in the South African States.

York Great Fair.

As an indication of the abiding popularity of the fairs of the kingdom, the November Fair at York was a striking example. Every inch of available space is fully occupied, and the fair is only limited by the difficulty of extension. The big shows were Chipperfield's menagerie, and the three superb cinematograph theatres of Captain Payne, Tuby and Sons, and B. Howden and Sons. The high-class side-shows were Pattison's mechanical promenade, E. Ball's Princess Lilliput exhibition, Lewis's snake jungle, Westray's miniature menagerie, and Morley's novelty booth. The big machine novelties were motor-car and switchback sets by B. Howden and Sons, P. Collins, and A. Payne, and cakewalk machines by Richards and Monte Brothers.

Amongst the minor novelties were the rifle galleries and throwing games of George Cornwell, Messrs. Steward, Bass, Harrison, Lees, Leet, and Mrs. Johnson, and pannum stalls by Wright and Co. The fair was excellently set out under the expert management of Mr. George Woollens, Markets and Fairs Superintendent.

Ripon City Fair.

For the amusement of the citizens there were riding machines, swings, shooting concerns, and throwing games provided by Messrs. C. Marshall, C. Culline, Edwards, Mapplebeck, and stalls by local caterers.

Notes from Wales.

The chief attraction at Bridgend Fair was Messrs. Crecraft's Coliseum, which drew immense crowds during the fair, and remained at its conclusion for a week's private business. Messrs. Crecraft presented each night an admirably-arranged programme of up-to-date films, and dramatic and vocal turns by an excellent company of variety artists.

Messrs. Hagger and Sons have unfortunately provoked considerable opposition by a Sunday performance (of a religious character) given in their show on the Sunday during Carmarthen Fair. After considerable discussion of the Borough Council, when the question of the legality of these performances was raised, it was finally agreed that the clerk be instructed to draw up a new form of agreement for the letting of the Corporation land, such agreement to contain a clause prohibiting any entertainment of the kind taking place on the Sundays on the fairground or the Market-place.

News from Ireland.

Buff. Bill's circus and menagerie, now on tour in the Sister Isle, visited Sligo on Tuesday and Wednesday last week. So great was the success of the up-to-date programme submitted at each performance and so large the patronage given, the management determined very wisely to extend their stay. The house was packed to overflowing at each performance. The splendid horsemanship of Mr. Thomas Baker won great admiration, and the performance of the trained animals was a much-appreciated turn. A grand procession, headed by the cowboys' band, paraded the town each day, and was of course a big advertisement. Mr. Fred Lewis, the well-known and popular advance-manager, is booming the show, and he has had some very exciting adventures in piloting the show through some of the disturbed districts where cattle-driving is sometimes in evidence.

Guild Subscriptions, 1908.

Mr. George Green, £5; Hibbert and Sons, £5; Mr. John Green, £2 2s.; Mr. E. Geoghegan, 10s. 6d.; Mr. G. H. Prideaux (hon. mem.), 5s.; Mr. G. H. Cornwell, 10s. 6d.; Mrs. J. Cornwell, 5s.; Mr. S. Mercer, 10s. 6d.

CHURCH WORK ON THE FAIR-GROUNDS.

THE CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.

PART I.

My itinerary of British fairs in 1908 took me wide afield. I visited fairs as far away as Glasgow and Greenock in Scotland, Redruth and Penzance in Cornwall, Darlington in the North of England, and Porth in the Rhondda Valley in Wales; the great provincial fairs of Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds, Hull, Leicester, Blackburn, Gloucester, Wrexham, Lincoln, Boston, and Oldham; the London great holiday fairs at Hampstead Heath, Wormwood Scrubs, Blackheath, and Wanstead Flats, and the old Charter fairs at Mitcham and Barnet.

I have been engaged in safeguarding the interests of showpeople threatened by inimical bye-laws at Reading, Hereford, Peterborough, Buxton, Manchester, Ealing, Dartford, Chester, and Ripon. In all, I have travelled over six thousand miles as Itinerant Missioner to the showmen of Great Britain.

Work in London.

During twelve weeks of the winter a great number of showpeople are stationed in London. Over two thousand of them make the Metropolis their business centre, and the great majority of them have permanent homes as well as their homes on wheels. They may be found, for the most part, under the great roof of the Royal Agricultural Hall, Islington, where they assemble for the World's Fair, or under cover at Olympia as entertainers at the Fun City.

Other settlements, or winter quarters, of showpeople may be found at Deptford, Stratford, E., Mile End-road, Shoreditch, Bermondsey, Fulham, Tottenham, Hounslow, Tooting, Lewisham, Sydenham, and Pinner.

It is whilst the London showpeople are thus settled and at home in winter quarters for three months that the best consecutive spiritual work can be attempted. It is then that I can minister directly amongst them. Besides van-to-van visitation, I am able to conduct Sunday evening services in show booths, hold conferences with the men, and have a Sunday School for children. Here, I venture to submit, as a significant proof of the general acceptance of my work by the showpeople, that the whole of the expenses attending the organisation and the carrying out of this work is gladly borne by the showmen. It is a self-contained and self-supporting mission; we never beg or take a subscription from outside friends.

In 1908 I held services on the Sunday nights in Mr. P. Collins's show at Olympia during the ten weeks' season of the Mammoth Fun City. These services were well attended, and when the last Sunday came round I was overwhelmed with expressions of gratitude. I co-operated in the scheme for providing an emergency day school at Olympia for the children of the shows. On the Sunday afternoons I held bright catechetical services for the children, and at the end of the time finished up with a festival service and distribution of prizes. To this service the parents of the children came in great numbers.

Speaking of this part of my work, the Rev. J. S. S. Shields, D.D., Vicar of St. Matthew's, West Kensington, writes:—

"During the winter before last I had the pleasure of attending some of the services for showpeople held in Olympia in this parish. These services were carried on with great reverence and earnestness by the hon. chaplain of the Showmen's Guild, the Rev. T. Horne, and I was much struck with the large number of showpeople that attended, and with the heartiness and reverence with which they joined in the services.

"Mr. Horne has won the affections of a large number of these people, whom it is impossible to reach by the ordinary parochial operations, and his earnestness and devotion to the work have made him a great power for good amongst them."

The *Sunday School Chronicle*, in its issue of Jan. 23, 1908, thus speaks of the work amongst the children:—

A Sunday School in the "Fun City."

"I paid a visit on Sunday afternoon (writes a correspondent) to the strangest Sunday-school I have ever attended. It was by no means a model school. Neither environment nor atmosphere was conducive to very thorough teaching, and no attempt had been made to 'grade' the scholars. These defects, however, can easily be pardoned in view of the special circumstances of the school. It is situated at Olympia, the 'Mammoth Fun City,' the school building being one of the booths used for side-shows of the variety entertainment character.

"The building wore its accustomed garb, and was brilliantly lit up with electric light. Here I found the Rev. T. Horne, the superintendent, at work. His scholars were children of all ages, sizes, and nationalities, and of more than one colour. They were children of the showmen and performers at the Fun City, and some of them were performers themselves. Here were tiny tots of the nomad race with their elder brothers and sisters, children from sunnier climes in their native costume, with shining black faces and bare legs, and a brother and sister whose gigantic proportions are a special attraction at the 'Fun City.' This pair are surely the biggest Sunday-school scholars of their ages on record! With such a mixed school class teaching is almost impossible, and Mr. Horne usually gives elementary catechetical instruction to the assembled scholars. On Sunday there were between thirty and forty scholars, all eager to respond to the questions asked and to join in the singing.

"This school, Mr. Horne told me, is connected with the Showmen's Guild. It was started in January of last year, and is meeting with great success. The parents are very keen that the children should attend Sunday-school, and they render all possible assistance. The children themselves take great interest in the services. Three lads, who arrived just after the conclusion of the school session last Sunday, were greatly disappointed at having missed the meeting."

It is during these winter months that the great gatherings of showpeople from all parts of the Empire take place at London, Manchester, and King's Lynn. At these great gathering-grounds of showlife I come into intimate touch with thousands of my people. I have at these general meetings of the Guild most valuable opportunity of touching and guiding the life of the whole body of travelling entertainers who maintain our national fairs, feasts, and wakes.

The Bishop of London takes a keen interest in my work, and recognises that his diocese is the natural centre for many departments of its endeavour. The Bishop of Manchester is also in thorough accord with the work of the Guild, and I hold his full authority to carry it forward in his great industrial diocese. The Bishop of Manchester has warmly commended my work both to the Archbishop of Canterbury and to the Bishop of London.

Starting My Itinerary.

The great fairs of England begin with the old charter fair, held on Feb. 14, at King's Lynn (locally known as Lynn Mart). It is at this fair that I begin my yearly itinerary. The Rev. R. Gordon Roe, Vicar of Lynn and Rural Dean, is the honorary local chaplain to the Guild, and the whole machinery of his parish is readily placed at my disposal during my visit to the fair.

In a commendatory letter the Vicar of Lynn says:—"I have known Mr. Horne for several years in connection with the annual mart [illegible] town, and I heartily commend his work as chaplain of the Showmen's Guild. I have long felt that Mr. Horne is doing a very valuable work with the showmen and travelling companies which no one else is doing. At the annual mart he usually preaches for us in our churches, and takes services in the shows on Sunday. I heartily commend this work, which has the advantage of being a definitely Church one."

I attended Wrexham Fair on Palm Sunday, and with the assistance of the parish clergy held an afternoon conference for showmen only and a Guild service at night, both meetings in a show on the fairground. The senior curate of Wrexham, the Rev. W. S. Probert, acts as Honorary Local Chaplain, and in the conduct of the service I received extremely valuable help from the choir and workers connected with the Parish Church branch of the Church Army.

On Easter Day I was at Blackburn Fair, one of the largest Easter Week fairs in the United Kingdom. During my stay at Blackburn I was the guest of Bishop and Mrs. Thornton at the Vicarage. I had the privilege of taking an Early Celebration at one of the outlying churches. I preached at Holt Trinity Church at the Morning Service, I held a conference for showmen only in the afternoon on the fairground, assisted at Evensong at the Parish Church, and after that took the Guild service and preached in a crowded show booth on the fairground. At this service I was assisted by the parish clergy and choir. Towards the end of the service Bishop Thornton arrived, and in a very kindly appreciation of the Guild work observed that he had come to the service in a double capacity—as Vicar of Blackburn and also as the assistant Bishop of the diocese.

A Bishop on the Work of the Guild.

He wished them to understand that behind the work of the Showmen's Guild was the power and authority of the Church of God. Not only did he warmly welcome the Guild chaplain, and most readily joined in the chaplain's effort at Blackburn Fair, but the Bishop of Manchester himself had warmly commended the work of the Guild, and had given the organising chaplain full authority to carry on the work in the diocese.

As Vicar of Blackburn he heartily welcomed the showpeople who came to them at the fair. There were no reasons (at least, none that he knew) why showpeople should not do their work in life upheld and sustained by the grace of God. If they provided wholesome amusement for the people of the busy centres of life at fairtime, and in doing that kept their hearts and life in touch with the grace of God, then he knew no reason why showfolk should not enjoy to the full the blessings and privileges of Holy Faith and Religion.

On Low Sunday my centre of work was Lincoln Fair. There, with the Bishop's blessing and the hearty co-operation of the Vicar and assistant clergy of the parish of the fairground, I held a successful afternoon conference for men only on the fairground, and the Guild service after Evensong. The choir of the church and a zealous band of churchpeople did yeoman service in maintaining the singing of the hearty congregational hymns. I took the service and preached. The Rev. B. W. Hancock, Vicar of St. Swithin's and hon. local chaplain, read the lesson, and at the end of the service, in a short address, warmly welcomed the showpeople, and expressed an earnest hope that they would not forget to call upon him for any spiritual necessity during their stay in his parish. He was very glad to have his brother worker, the honorary chaplain, with them, and he and the clergy of St. Swithin's were only too glad to assist in any possible way the very important work of the Showmen's Guild. He prayed God's fullest blessing upon the showmen and upon their life, and he begged them to remember, what the Guild chaplain had so well put before them in his sermon, that no matter what might be their business and calling in life, they must seek for and claim all the means of grace to enable them with a good conscience to do their work in the world.

The Venerable Bishop of Lincoln, who takes a keen interest in the welfare of showpeople, paid a visit to Lincoln Fair on the Friday of the fair week, accompanied by his chaplain, Canon Wilgress. They were evidently much interested in the capital array of popular shows, &c., provided for the amusement of the people. In an interview with the Bishop, the organising chaplain fully explained the aims and objects of the Showmen's Guild, and the right reverend prelate sent his blessing to the showmen, and an expression of his own wish that the Guild work might grow and prosper.

In response to a request from the Vicar of Boston I attended the annual pleasure fair. In preparation for my visit the parish clergy visited every show and van on the fairground and distributed notices of the services at the grand old Minster Church, and a special Guild service, after Evensong, in a show on the fairground. I preached in the morning at St. James's Church, in the evening at the Parish Church. I held the usual afternoon conference, and after Evensong conducted the Guild Service in a show booth at the fair. At this service I was assisted by the parish clergy, the organist and choirmaster, and the choir boys from the Minster.

A very interesting note about Boston Fair is, that the showman and his family in whose booth we held our service are Boston people. The children have all been educated at the Parish Church schools, and when the family are at home (in winter quarters), diligently attend their Parish Church. The Vicar, the Rev. R. T. Heygate, is our honorary local chaplain. During my week-end at Boston I was most kindly entertained at the Vicarage.

At Leicester Fair.

My next place was Leicester, where a fair is held about the middle of the month of May. The fairground is in the parish of St. Mark, and the Vicar, the Rev. F. L. Donaldson, is honorary local chaplain to the Guild. I held a business chapter of the Guild for the Midland Circuit, and delivered an address on the work of the Guild at the afternoon conference for men on the fairground. I preached at St. Mark's at Evensong, and again at the Guild service in a show booth at the fair. The clergy and choir and mission workers from St. Mark's took part in the service.

At the earnest request of the leading showmen of the North of England, I went to Darlington Fair, and held two splendid meetings in a show at the fair, open to showpeople only, to inaugurate the Guild work on the great North Round of fairs. Time did not permit the organisation of a service, but I intend to communicate with the Vicar of Darlington in order to bring the Church on to the fairground in 1909. I must here observe that I never attempt spiritual ministrations on a fairground without the consent of the parish priest.

I fully recognise that, although in its widest sense my parish is the whole of showland, I am, for the time being, only an assistant priest to the parish church during my time at the fair, and that the show-booth is for the time being a chapel-of-ease to the parish church.

It is a far cry from Darlington, in the north, to Redruth, in the west. It was at this quaint old Cornish town that I kept the Feast of Whitsun with my people. The Rector of Redruth (the Rev. J. W. Lane) threw himself most heartily into the work on the fairground, and the church choir rendered valuable assistance. I preached at the parish church at Evensong, and again at my own service in a show on the fairground. My afternoon conference for showpeople only was largely attended, and great interest in the work of the Guild was shown by the West of England showpeople.

(*To be continued.*)

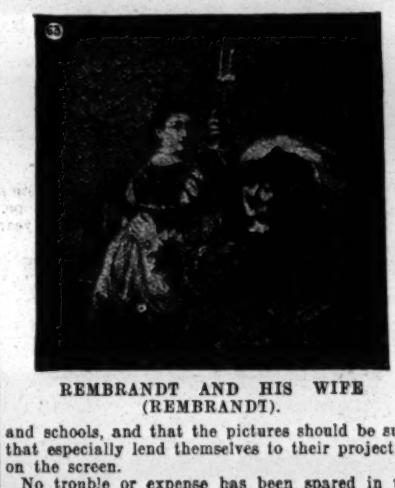
"FAMOUS PICTURES OF THE WORLD."

Under the above title Messrs. W. Butcher and Sons, Ltd., Farringdon-avenue, London, E.C., have produced a series of eighty lantern slides chosen from the greatest artists from the most famous galleries. This set of slides marks a new era in the production of slides by mechanical means. The slides appeal especially to cinematographists, as they make a most interesting show for use in conjunction with picture entertainments.

MRS. SIDDONS (GAINSBOROUGH).

In selecting the subjects for this magnificent series of lantern slides, the endeavour has been to make the title, Famous Pictures of the World, a true description of them.

Much thought has been given in choosing from the great number of masterpieces available, that they should represent the art of many periods and schools, and that the pictures should be such that especially lend themselves to their projection on the screen.



REMBRANDT AND HIS WIFE (REMBRANDT).

No trouble or expense has been spared in the production of these slides, and a comparison of them with the pictures in the various galleries will be a convincing proof that in their colouring and technique they faithfully follow the originals. Price, complete with readings, 4s. per set of eight, 40s. per set of eighty.

ROLLER SKATING.

Three hundred skilled carpenters and joiners are engaged in constructing the largest roller-skating floor surface in the world. The mammoth Olympia exhibition hall, Addison-road West, will be opened Dec. 7 for a period of three months by Messrs. C. P. Crawford and Fred A. Wilkins, who have leased the Olympia for the months of December, January, and February during the years 1909, 1909, and 1910. It is the intention of the general-manager, Mr. C. P. Crawford, to operate Olympia on a high-class plane, and at all times maintain the best moral tone, on similar lines to the largest roller-rinks in America, which Mr. Crawford, who is an American, has exploited. Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins have built, and are at present successfully operating, a dozen rinks in the United Kingdom, every one of which is prospering beyond their most sanguine expectations. The indomitable energy and perseverance of this American pioneer of the rink game has proved a valuable asset and adjunct in innovating roller-skating rinks throughout the United Kingdom all in the last twelve months. The building of 100,000ft. of floor surface in less than a week is an apparently insurmountable task, and will require great effort and the utilising of the full twenty-four hours' time daily to consummate, necessitating the skilled carpenters working in eight-hour shifts, under the personal supervision of Bert Crump, who has constructed every skating surface in all rinks operated by Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins. Much care is necessary in the laying of the hard maple wood floor, especially imported from America for the purpose. The skating area must be as level and smooth as glass to offer the least resistance to the skaters' effort. Ball-bearing skates, the most modern make, the product of the Samuel Winslow Skate Manufacturing Co., of Worcester, Mass., U.S.A., will be used, and the skaters will be enabled to glide through space with little apparent effort and with great speed; no turning of abrupt corners as prevails in small skating areas, as once around the Olympia rink means a quarter of a mile has been traversed. H.M. 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers Band from Aldershot, under the directorship of Bandmaster A. J. Dunn, will furnish the best music at the morning, afternoon, and evening sessions. The aim of Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins will be at all times to maintain a high-class place of amusement for the best social element of London, who are patrons of refined institutions of amusement. Patrons of Olympia will be forcibly impressed with the perfect system and non-confusion attendant. This perfection of the essential details will necessarily conduce to the peaceful enjoyment of the great pleasures to be derived from the healthful athletic diversion of roller-skating. Numerous social functions during the season will be held in the form of full-dress Cinderellas, gymkhanas, or sports on skates. Barnyard and other grotesque carnivals and numerous novel and unique entertainments will be given from time to time. The closing weeks of February will witness the greatest six-day race on roller skates ever before put on between the best-known contestants in the racing world. The opening weeks, beginning Dec. 7, Professor H. A. Simmons, from America, will give exhibitions of his marvellous skill on rollers. Professor Simmons enjoys the distinction of being indisputably the most phenomenal and versatile roller-skater in existence, an artist without a peer in the profession. The immense sum of £10,000 will have been expended before a pound has been taken in. Olympia is the largest undertaking in the twenty years' skating career of Mr. C. P. Crawford, and Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins are most sanguine of the immediate and signal success of the new venture.

The "Bubble Fountain," a very pretty pantomime effect, which was described in this journal a few weeks ago, seems to have been taken up with great favour by pantomime producers. It will be seen at the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, and five of Mr. Elliston's pantomimes, at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Birmingham, at Glasgow, and at the Coronet and Kennington Theatres.

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

By the Rev. Thomas Horne
(Chaplain the Showmen's Guild).

[Copyright.]

CARAVANNERS.

The first scene in this short drama of life is laid in the cosy corner of a somewhat infamous house of call for members of the criminal class. "Corney" Cooke, well known to the police as apt to "go a burgling," is enjoying the perusal of the daily papers with an eye to business, or as he was wont to phrase it, "Looking aht for a jolly good mark, colly." Suddenly he became absorbed in a special article under the title, "Going a Caravanning," when all and sundry were told the romantic advantages of life on the road in a gipsy van. The article was illustrated by pictures of the happy (and rich) disciples of the simple life, showing my Lady Lydia Pertinax and the Hon. Gilbert Pewdley in their most picturesque costumes as the amateur gipsies. The article gave the details of the hiring of the caravan from the Queen of the Gipsies in Epping Forest—of course, regardless of cost. The expensive and luxurious addenda to its normal outfit, and, amongst other proper things, a staid and discreet chaperone for the Lady Gipsy, lest the wine of the free life disturbed the excitable brain of the Hon. Gilbert. There were scenes of the Caravanners on the March—Outspanning for the Night—Lady Lydia on the Steps of the Caravan—the Hon. Gilbert erecting his separate tent at a respectful distance away from the sanctuary of the ladies. The whole party were shown at idyllic meals by the roadside. In fact, everything was done by word and picture to impress the million and one readers of *The Daily Gossip* with a due sense of the joy of being my Lady Lydia Pertinax and the equally entrancing—perhaps more so—delight of being that dashing squire of dames, the Hon. Gilbert Pewdley.

As the enterprising burglar read on, his face betrayed somewhat—he had an expressive "dial"—the workings of the mind it tried to mask. With a stub of pencil he carefully wrote out the route of the caravanners for the next ten days, most obligingly supplied by the writer of the special article, doubtless moved thereto by the amateur gipsies, who, although experimenting in the simple life, were not averse to having the encouragement of an occasional audience. What is the value of a pose if no one be nigh to see you do it?

With the cryptic remark, "It looks like good biz," Corney Cooke pocketed his few notes and departed.

We now ask you to pay attention to the second scene in our play. The background is the shelter of a well-wooded plantation by the roadside in a lonely part of Norton, near Chipping Ongar. An ideal spot for idyllic events. Here were the caravan, the tent, the open-air cooking range, and the tables and chairs in ordered array, and with these things the happy caravanners—My Lady, her chaperone, and the useful attendant cavalier. Here they were after exciting adventures and much social distinction, and many more press notices, half-way through their projected tour in a gipsy van, tanned by the sun and full of rude health, getting nearer and nearer day by day to mother earth, and more and more away from the artificialities of a somewhat over-rated civilisation.

The wine of life had indeed reached the brain of the Hon. Gilbert, but the effect had been to stimulate the better man in the conventional gentleman. He was already beginning to understand the saner elements of a closer touch with Nature that the simple life is meant to secure.

My Lady Lydia, too, had tired of posing, tired of pressmen and photographers, and had suggested breaking faith with the public, and really taking an unknown route for the rest of their time. It was a pleasant renaissance of real life in a character already marred by indulgence in an artificial one.

At Chipping Ongar Fair they had had most delightful experiences of the life of real caravanners; the showpeople had been charmed by the friendly overtures of the amateur vanners. The knight, the lady fair, and the necessary she dragon had been taken into the fellowship of the road with a genuineness and warmth that surprised and delighted them. You will notice that they had, in fact, succeeded at this stage of their journey in getting nearer to the heart of things.

. . . . . .

Within a few minutes of closing time at the village inn of Norton, three men arrived in a trap. After hastily partaking of refreshment, they drove away, with the remark that they must put up for the night in their regular quarters at Ongar.

Curiously enough they either lost their way, or, as Handy Andy expresses it, "They went the roundabout road for the nearest," and under the cover of the night did a desperate and most dastardly deed. The inwardness of this deed of despite in the dark of the night will be understood when we tell you that Corney Cooke, the cracksman, who had the centre of the stage in our first scene, was the leader of the midnight band of three.

. . . . . .

The third scene is the same as the second. The time is the early morning. The rising sun is calling all Nature to carol its Matin song. There is an ominous silence at the wayside camp of the amateur gipsies.

A significant disorder marks both the tent of the Hon. Gilbert and the van of the ladies. All is silent—too silent—in that scene of vocal life, with birds singing on the wing, and the "little beasties of the field" seeking their food in the wild abandon of their early morning security from ravening man.

There breaks upon the air a merry sound of fast-speeding horses, of jingling bells, of happy, human voices. Past the bend of the open road appears rapidly in sight the racing cavalcade of a circus en route for Chipping Ongar for one day's performance. Hardly noticing the campers by the wayside the leading carriage passes it by. The circus proprietor smoking his morning pipe in the open doorway of his caravan is attracted by the ominous look of things by the wayside. He quickly sounds a halt, and the whole concern is stayed whilst he and a few others make a rapid investigation.

"Good God!" was the affrighted exclamation, as he staggered back from the tent door. "Quick, this way. Foul murder, I fear, has been done."

Immediately a dozen ready helpers were at work, and out of the tent, still reeking with the fumes of ether, the body of Pewdley was carried. He was tightly bound in a roll of matting, so tightly bound that the poor fellow was livid with the hue of death. As the showmen were dealing with him, the proprietor and his wife ran to the living van, and there an equally terrifying sight met their view. Both the ladies, bound and gagged, were found prone upon the bed. At once they were liberated and restoratives applied. Both sufferers were too hysterical for a time to tell any coherent tale of the dark deed of the night. The first to recover was the unfortunate man, who, in a few disjointed words, told the story of the attack upon him in his sleep. How after a valiant fight he was overcome more by the ether than by brute force.

The end of the play is the capture and the just punishment of the Corney Cooke gang; joy bells and music for the wedding of the knight and the lady; and the pensioning off of the she dragon. The stage crowd includes the merry men and the equally merry women and children of Forecette's Imperial Cirque and Hippodrome.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

THE ROAD OF LIFE.—This is a simple and touching story of two orphans, taken care of by their grandmother, and living a free and happy life, full of the pleasures and healthy exercises the country affords. They are a perfect picture of youth and strength, and a striking contrast to the old woman, who bends more and more towards the earth as each day comes to a close, thus giving the impression of a beautiful evening—that long evening which must come for each of us, with no morrow and no future that those left behind can see. Granny dies, but the remembrance of her kindness will live for ever in the hearts of her grandchildren.

SPANISH BLOOD.—This is a vivid picture of the manners and customs of Spain, taken amongst a marvellous landscape. The beautiful Carmen is courted by two dashing young men, and the one she prefers is a married man. On learning this, the rejected lover goes and warns the wife of his rival, who now has only one desire, that of killing the girl. She goes and searches for her, and as soon as she has found her there takes place between the two women a savage duel with navajas. At last the wife is fatally wounded, and as her husband bends over her in a dejected attitude, Carmen takes him under her arm and carries him away, without stopping smoking her usual cigarette.

THE SERVANT OF AN ACROBATIC FAMILY.—In the house of the Pawsups one cannot move without getting out of joint or losing one's balance. They have just engaged a new maid, whom they train to their peculiar ways. The mistress of the house shows her how to fold up a tablecloth without disturbing the balance of the things which are placed on it, to make the bed by means of successive capers, and to clean the floor at the same time as performing some clever acrobatic turn. The maid does her utmost to follow the example set to her by her new masters, but if she finds it difficult to walk on her head, she thinks it very easy to turn everything upside down, and when her masters see the mess she runs away. There ensues a very comical chase through every room, after which the acrobats, having made the servant come out of a cupboard, get up a magnificent apotheosis, which forms a really good finish for this subject of a good cinematographic effect.

THE VAGABOND.—In the dusty road a tramp entreats a few peasants to give him shelter for the night; but with the usual prejudice of those who have a home against the wanderer, whom they look upon as an intruder, they drive him away. As he passes through the village he overhears a quarrel between two peasants, but having found a large stone he prepares to rest his head on this hard pillow. Presently one of the two opponents comes to him and offers him a small sum of money to kill his enemy. The tramp refuses to listen to him; but, after a moment's thought, he makes up his mind to warn the threatened farmer. Arrived at the latter's house, he calls him loudly. The farmer, hearing the noise, takes his hunting gun from the wall and fires at the figure outside. The tramp is severely wounded, but he braces himself for the effort of telling the object of his coming. Thanks to him, the farmer can avoid the resentment of his enemy, and the tramp is cared for at the farmhouse, where everybody soon loves him for his kindness and courage. In spite of his host's entreaties, the tramp goes away one fine morning with his bag on his shoulders and his stick in his hand, for the attraction of the high road is too great for him.

THE LOCKET.—The little boy in this picture has been kidnapped by gipsies, who beat him and illtreat him in order to make him perform all sorts of acrobatic turns. One day their wanderings bring the whole gang to the town where the boy's mother is staying, and the kindly lady takes an interest in him because he is of the same age as her lost boy would have been. The gipsies, thinking she must be rich, assault her in order to rob her, but the boy defends her, and after a time he is so exhausted that he faints in the arms of his mother, who recognises him on account of the locket he still wears round his neck.

THE DOINGS OF MR. EASYFED.—This is a most laughable subject. Mr. Easyfed is possessed of many and sundry tricks which enable him to eat at the expense of simpletons. A policeman is sent after the unseizable Easyfed, who slips through his hands like an eel, but goes and falls into the outstretched arms of two gendarmes, who happen to be there on their way to some other errand. Easyfed is marched off to the police station to the abashment of the policeman, who looks rather miserable and dejected at not having been able to capture his quarry.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

THE JESTER.—A beautiful young queen, having arrived at a marriageable age, her councillors decide that she must marry. Proclamation is made, and suitors are invited to contest for her hand. The queen's jester—an ugly dwarf with a heavenly voice—is passionately in love with her. He pours forth his love in a melodious strain under her balcony window. The queen, entranced, begs him to reveal himself; but he refuses, whereupon she drops her scarf to him as a token, and retires to dream of a mysterious prince who will come to claim her. The "prince" not forthcoming, couriers are sent far and near to hasten the errant one's arrival, and announcement made that no one but he who can produce the scarf may claim her. On the day that the couriers are to report, the Court is assembled in grand array. The queen is disappointed at their failure and is about to dismiss them, when the dwarf produces the scarf and avows his love. He is cast into prison for his effrontery, and pines away, until the gods, pitying his plight, transform him into a beautiful youth, and set him free in resplendent attire. Wandering disconsolate at the queen's behaviour, he sings a farewell song under her window, is captured by the guards, and brought before the queen, who acknowledges her love, and they are united amid universal rejoicing.

SAVED BY LOVE.—Love is the greatest power in the world: it "rules the Court, the camp, the grove, and men below and saints above; for love is heaven, and heaven is love." This picture illustrates the influence of love in moulding a man's life. A crusty old uncle whose niece refuses to marry the man he selects leaves a clause in his will requiring that she marry on a certain day or be disinherited. Confronted with the loss of a fortune or immediate marriage, reluctant to forgo her freedom, being as yet "heart-whole" and "fancy-free," she decides on a plan that allows a loophole. A homeless man—drifting, discouraged—is induced to become her husband, and paid a large amount on condition that he absent himself for a legal period, and then submit to a divorce. After the marriage he decides on a fitting celebration. Comfortably seated in a saloon, he muses over the strange adventure. In a reverie he sees again the woman he has wed. Amused at first, the "man within" awakes, and he resolves to meet Fate's jest with one to match—to earn a name and fortune and return and win the love of the woman he has wed. In the West, seeking gold, he prevents a stage-coach hold-up. Among the passengers is an Eastern banker, from whom he receives an invitation to call when in New York. "Striking it rich," he returns East at the time appointed. He meets his wife at the banker's under an assumed name. It is a case of love at first sight, but her happiness is shadowed by the memory of her hasty marriage. Her lawyer advises that her husband will be on hand at the time agreed. Of course, what happens can be imagined.

ON the subject of the giving of cinematographic entertainments, and particularly in respect of the objections that have been raised by certain people to them, the *Carmarthen Weekly Reporter* offers some very sensible comments. This is what the editor says:—

"There has been a great searching of hearts over a bioscope entertainment given at the Fair-ground on Sunday. The circumstance that the pictures exhibited were of a religious character has no bearing on the legal aspect of the case. The display was not a religious service; indeed the use of pictures in connection with religion is contrary to the theological views of the majority of the Carmarthen people. In Austria the bioscope is recognised as a means of piety just as the stage is used at Ober-Ammergau. In this country, however, both stage and bioscope are not regarded as being in any way connected with religion, and must be regarded as purely secular.

"The sole question which then faces those concerned is 'Is it legal to exhibit animated photographs on Sunday?' There is nothing in Sabbatarian legislation forbidding entertainments I believe. A good deal of the Sabbatarianism of England during the past two or three centuries has been due not to any statute laws but to the customs and the sentiments of the people. There is nothing to prevent a proprietor of a bioscope giving an entertainment except a statement in the Act that no 'workman, artificer, or . . . or any other person shall pursue his ordinary occupation on the Sunday.' It has been held in the High Court that 'any other person' only means persons of the same class as those already mentioned, and a case against a barber was dismissed on that ground. It certainly would not include the proprietor of a cinematograph.

"It is quite within the rights of those who believe that such entertainments are a violation of the Sabbath to use their influence to prevent others attending them. It is quite within the rights of those who believe in keeping Lent to use their influence to induce their fellow-men to become vegetarians for that period. There is a kind of Sabbath-breaking which is illegal; there is another kind which is simply contrary to the religious ideas of many good people in this country. The Town Council have considered the matter, and the Town Clerk has not been able to advise them that they had power to stop this entertainment.

"Nothing is more fatal to religion than an attempt to invoke the aid of the police to make the nation religious. There is one thing which Sabbatarians should never forget, and that is—whether they are right or wrong, they are calling in the arm of the State to enforce their religious ideas on those who differ from them. This is never a wise policy at any time. The strict British Sabbath is unknown on the Continent, either in Lutheran or Catholic countries. There is a good deal to be said in favour of one whole day a week being devoted to complete rest, but that is an object which can best be obtained by the influence of the churches and not of the policeman. The Corporation might prevent a recurrence of the entertainment on Sunday at the Pleasure Ground by having a covenant with the lessee to that effect. If they really desire to prevent such things, that is a practical way—and the only practical way."

CINEMATOGRAPH FIRE-EXTINGUISHING APPARATUS.

On October 6th last the Cinematograph Operators' Union was invited to send a deputation to inspect an apparatus for extinguishing fires in connection with cinematograph machines. It was shown at the offices of Messrs. Barrasford and Fulton, the inventors. The invention was exhibited and explained to a considerable gathering of experts and others on Thursday, in the ring at the Hippodrome, under the auspices of Mr. Walter Reynolds, who takes such a deep interest in this important question. The apparatus consists of a tank supported on four legs and containing two or three gallons of water. A semicircular "sprinkler" is suspended above the cinematograph machine by a pipe which is connected with the tank. When the film is ignited, a thread which restrains a valve in the tank from opening is consumed, and a shower of water descends from the "sprinkler" and puts out the flames.

Mr. Walter Reynolds explained that the apparatus had been chosen by him from a number of other inventions which he had examined.

A practical demonstration of the working of the invention was given; after which it was severely criticised by several of the experts present, including Mr. A. C. Bromhead, of Gaumont's, Mr. S. J. Henry, Secretary of the National Association of Cinematograph Operators, Mr. J. Brandon Medland, of Vitascope fame, and Mr. Leo Kamm, scientific engineer, all of whom found serious fault with the apparatus.

It was complained that it was not exhibited under working conditions, that there would be a difficulty in obtaining sufficient water to extinguish a big blaze 4ft. wide, and that it could not be fixed in a small hall; and it was stated that far better appliances were now on the market. Mr. Reynolds vigorously combated the criticisms passed on the machine which he "fathered," and there was a warm and energetic debate, which ended in Mr. Reynolds announcing to the meeting that Mr. Stoll had kindly offered to lend the Hippodrome on some date within a fortnight for an exhibition of all the inventions which had been made for the purpose of extinguishing cinematograph fires. It was suggested, and agreed, that the inventions should be tested under actual working conditions. This announcement, was received with applause, and the meeting separated.

THE adjourned inquest was held at Swansea on Saturday on Wallace Bridger, forty-five, better known as Prof. Wallace, a variety artist, who, after shooting at his wife, committed suicide. The jury returned a verdict of "Suicide whilst temporarily insane."

AT the Empire Theatre, Cradley Heath, we have Gustave's Royal Pierrots. The Columbia Comedy Quartette win encores for their capital songs; Mr. Will Parkin has a powerful voice, and pleases the audience; Miss Bessie Farrell does a smart turn; Miss Trixie Simmons dances well; Mr. Chas. Bradley possesses a sweet tenor voice; Miss Marion Collins sings in good style; Miss Fannie Collins gives a smart entertainment; Miss Lizzie Levaine gives a graceful exhibition of terpsichorean art; Mr. Fred Terry and Mr. Louis Vanse are capital comedians; Miss Ida Conway's voice has compass and sweetness; Mr. Victor Silvernie deserves mention for his capable act; Miss Edith Levaine, as an adroit instrumentalist, would be difficult to equal; and Little Charley Terrors is a droll comedian.

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THE JESTER.

The Queen's Jester, an ugly dwarf, is in love with his regal mistress. His love becoming known, he is cast into prison. The gods take pity and transform him into a beautiful youth. Again he sings to the Queen, and is brought before her. She acknowledges her love, and they are married.

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LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE BEDFORD.

There is an excellent bill at this popular resort for the current week, and capital business is the result, a satisfactory state of things that must be very gratifying to Mr. B. Pearce Lucas, who may be complimented on his catering. At the head of the programme is Mr. Leonard Mortimer, a great favourite here, who is paying a very welcome return visit in his great bank sensation sketch, *Captain Cash*. In this most thrilling episode he gives his clever impersonation of the daring swindler, and is supported by a capital company, who unite in a performance of much merit. The sketch is lavishly staged and is entirely successful.

An early turn is Mr. Low Peterman, who, we believe, was in the recent singing contest. As a Hebrew comedian he makes a decided hit, his idea of a Yiddisher coon song being distinctly funny. Miss Madge Ainsley, a dainty young lady, sings and dances herself into favour, and gets a capital reception. A display of expert banjo-playing is given by Elton and Edwin, who, in a varied selection, prove themselves to be first-rate musicians, and fully deserve the applause their efforts elicit. Fyne and Fayne, described as a confabulating couple, are amusing in their songs and patter. A very novel turn is that given by Grogie, whose sketches of a country yokel and of the "oldest inhabitant" are exceedingly clever.

Constance Mori, in a pretty Japanese costume, scores heavily with her dancing, which is out of the common, and very neatly executed. The Eva Lumley and Freda Ettrick comedy company appear in an amusing skit, *Jimmy All-of-a-Twist*, which is as mirth-provoking as ever. Karr and Kooney, comedians, rattle off an endless flow of cross-talk which causes shouts of laughter, and the medley song which concludes their turn goes excellently. Matthews and Brown give a fine display of eccentric dancing; and in Marion Armitage is to be found a comedy actress who is certain to make her way. Her comic Scotch ditty scores a success which is well deserved.

Always a popular favourite here is May Henderson, who keeps all in fine humour with her lively songs and dances. Miss Henderson fairly bubbles with merriment, which is quite infectious. She is accorded a big reception, and her visit has only served to increase her enormous popularity in Camden Town. The Doreen Girls, a sprightly couple of young ladies, dance and sing with much energy, and their acrobatic dancing meets with much approbation. The Bioscope completes with up-to-date pictures. Mr. Geo. R. Hatley's orchestra add much to the evening's enjoyment, and the acting-manager, Mr. Donald Brown, is as energetic and courteous as ever.

BALHAM HIPPODROME.

The pretty hall which nestles at the foot of Balham Hill was one of the earliest acquisitions of the ever-increasing Gibbons circuit, and has proved as prosperous as any. Under the expert management of Mr. E. W. Hancorne James the house is kept spruce and clean, and retains its elegant appearance, while for comfort and cosiness it is unexcelled. Large numbers of the best people of the thriving suburb patronise the place regularly, and this week crowds have extended a hearty reception to the artists who constitute the bill. In his customary place of honour is Mr. R. A. Roberts, the famous Protean actor, who is astounding the house with his marvellous series of impersonations in *Ringing the Changes*. The gallery of portraits which Mr. Roberts presents is a unique one, and each character—whether it be that of the testy old Major, the dapper young lawyer, the antique housekeeper, the flighty barmaid, the cockney cabby, the old-school actor, or the Hibernian carman—is a finished personality. Laughter has resounded throughout the performance, and at the end the accomplished artist is enthusiastically called.

Mirth in large quantities is made by the sketch, *Man, the Brute*, in which the drolleries of Mr. Harry Gratton are effectively employed. He is supported by Miss A. E. E. Edwards as the strong-minded wife, and by Mr. Tom Taylor as the burly burglar. An episode in which humour is delicately shaded by sentiment is presented in *'Arf a Quid*, in which Shirley and Ransome repeat their wonderfully realistic embodiments of a coster couple. The little sketch is one of the best to be found in the line, and is appreciated at its true worth. Miss Florrie Forde is welcomed with heartiness when she comes to sing "Oh, oh, Antonio!" and the tuneful tale of the recreant organ-grinder amuses all. The fun extracted from "Study your cookery book" is as piquant as ever, and is highly relished.

A diverting ten minutes are spent in the company of Mr. Tom Woottwell, who, with his song, "What did I do?" sung in a most eccentric military uniform, awakens loud merriment. No less effective is his appearance as a gentleman of doubtful reputation, who sings "Keep it as quiet as you can," a number equal in drollery to the popular comedian's former effort "Owd yer rah." Its effect on the audience is irresistible. Barton and Franklin make a smart appearance in Scottish kilt and scarlet dress-coats, and, in company with a lady similarly attired, render harmonious selections on various instruments, excerpts from operas being played on cornet and trombone. The handbells are employed in combination with an instrument played like a piano with a weird interior, which is in full view of the audience. The artists are vocalists also, and in answer to a recall the men give a neat step-dance. The oddities with which Cole and Rags embellish their juggling display are productive of laughter; Haig and Novel do a refined comedy act; and the programme, which is also contributed to by Mr. Cyrus Dare, the marvellous child mimic, is interspersed at intervals by pictures on Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, which furnishes a series of amusing and exciting films.

CAMBERWELL EMPIRE.

"Moments with the masters" may be profitably spent at Camberwell, at whose Empire, where Mr. Jesse Sparrow holds sway, Mr. W. D. Mackenzie's company is heard in excerpts from opera. The vocalists are boys and girls attired in Georgian costume, who make a picturesque group, and render such exacting pieces as the Grand March from *Tannhäuser*, the Soldiers' Chorus from *Faust*, and Balfe's "Excelsior" in parts. Variety is introduced by a gracefully-danced minuet, and by the performance of the "human ocarina," a youth who "coos" "Killarney" in tones which can scarcely be distinguished from those of the quaint instrument referred to. The youthful voices are fresh and vigorous—perhaps occasionally too vigorous—but a high degree of excellence is reached, and Mr. Mackenzie, who conducts from his post in the orchestra, is loudly cheered. The vocal art has agreeable representatives also in Stewart and Morgan, who win much applause for their duets, in which popular airs are combined melodiously.

A melodramatic sketch, entitled *A Rolling Stone*, is presented by Mr. Maurice Hoffmann and company. The audience become engrossed in the story of Jim Hastings, who is falsely accused of forgery and sent to penal servitude, while the real culprit amasses a fortune in America. In due course the forger is seized with remorse, and would make atonement, but Hastings has found another enemy in the villainous Dorrison North, who secures the confession that would clear Jim. A waif whom Hastings had befriended, however, secures the evidence and conceals it in a cottage loaf, which he hands to Hastings, who has sought refuge in a thieves' kitchen in New York. Here Hastings's sweetheart is lured by the villain, who intends to possess himself of her jewels, but her lover is happily at hand, and the downfall of the scoundrel is secured. Mr. Maurice Hoffmann acts the hero with much dash and fire, and his elocutionary skill is of great value in the stirring lines he has to deliver. He receives good support from Miss Vera Saracen, who makes a typical and well-spoken waif of Spot; from Miss Rita Moore, a prepossessing and accomplished actress; from Mr. Will Thorne, as a detective; from Mr. C. C. Calvert as the villain; and from Mr. F. H. Fox as the repentant forger.

A diverting juggling act is submitted by Mr. Harry Frisky, who has innumerable methods of creating laughter. He juggles skilfully with clubs, plates, and other articles, but chief entertainment is derived from some of the most comic antics and falls imaginable. Crockery is smashed galore, chairs give way, and tables collapse continuously, and the last that is seen of the performer is when he emerges from beneath the débris fully equipped with crutch and bandages. A comic display is also made by the Kimberley Boys, who indulge in many mirth-making manœuvres, which win uproarious laughter. Miss Billee Barlow, who receives a warm welcome, sings in her well-known vivacious style of "The girl in the cigarette shop," and adds some piquant patter to the song, "The poor girl didn't know what to do." The eccentricities of Mr. Harry Conlin are greatly appreciated; Mr. Frank Gee gains abundant favour for his song and stories; and the programme is also contributed to by Mr. Mark Leslie, swell comedian; Irene and Morton, and Johnson and De Vere, Jeapes's Animated Graphic concluding the evening with a capital fire picture.

ROTHERHITHE HIPPODROME.

This popular house retains its hold on the affection of the public, who filled it to repletion on Monday night. The genial and enterprising manager, Mr. A. F. Vernal, always on the look out for fresh attractions for his numerous patrons, has given this week a more than usually strong programme. A romantic episode, entitled *The Beggar and the Maid*, made its first bow here, and met with a hearty reception. It is a distinctly interesting and pretty sketch, and was marred only by the apparent nervousness of the performers. Miss Sabine Anderson sang with much sweetness, and was loudly applauded. Will Evans kept the house in a roar with his farcical nonsense the entire time he occupied the stage; Irene Meldon, a neat and accomplished dancer, met with well-deserved recognition; Dennis and Morris, with their amusing patter, kept everybody laughing; as did Harry Thurston, who as "The Merry Widow" was ridiculously funny; Rotherhithe would like to see him again. There is no better child mimic than Miss Jenny Alexander, her imitation of Harry Lauder being perfect. The Sisters St. Julian are responsible for a pretty turn. They are not only the possessors of good voices, but dance most attractively. J. G. Grahame and Zerlina Harrington present a very dramatic little sketch entitled *A Daughter of Pleasure*. This is the kind of playlet which Rotherhithe loves, and the "gods" were not slow to show their keen approval of it. Georgina Leno, a dainty burlesque actress and a clever comedienne, met with a hearty reception, and in her turn she displayed the talent and versatility that we should expect from the clever daughter of the lamented King's jester. The Bioscope, as it always is here, was fresh and amusing; whilst the orchestra, under the able guidance of Mr. Harold Fisher, rendered well-chosen and pretty selections throughout the evening.

EMPIRE LIFEBOAT MATINEE.

The matinée at the Empire on Tuesday in aid of the National Lifeboat Institution attracted a large house, and the bronzed and sturdy heroes of the sea, in their red fishermen's caps and pneumatic life-belts, it is safe to assume, netted a considerable sum for programmes from an audience as generous as it was enthusiastic. Proceedings commenced with an interlude by Miss Mary Barley's bulldogs, which are seen in a droll realisation of a canine orchestra. Miss Josephine La Barte gave her pleasant musical entertainment, the Le Pages Troupe contributed their clever jumping turn, and Mr. Hymack gave his marvellous quick-change attire act, a performance as puzzling as it is clever. Of all these very attractive turns we spoke very fully in our last week's notice of Mr. H. J. Hitchins's excellent general programme, and all we need do now is to chronicle their complete success with the matinée audience. Miss Kate Cutler, in her own charming fashion descanted in a monologue on the impossibility of driving into the pate of a provokingly dull boy the story of George Washington and the apple tree; Miss Lily Elsie, looking her prettiest in a cream dress and black hat, with a rich ermine stole, sang in impressive fashion "Vilia," from *The Merry Widow*, and was encored. Franz Lehar's music was conducted by Mr. Harold Vicars.

The special nature of the matinée was reflected in the song, "Man the lifeboat," given with great spirit by Mr. Gordon Cleather, who was supported by the crew of the Southend lifeboat, which was out on the night that the pier was broken in two. Earlier in the afternoon Miss Maudi Darrell recounted in song the adventures of the Brittany butter-maid, from *The Belle of Brittany*, the composer conducting; Miss Valli Valli sang a couple of songs, and Miss May de Sousa gave "Don't let any lady know" and "The sweetest story ever told."

Mr. Harry Fragson had a rousing reception in his two popular and famous songs, "The employment agency" and "The Licensing Bill," which "went" to an accompaniment of hearty laughter. The Anglo-French artist was in his very best form, and the house expressed its delight with him in no uncertain fashion. Some numbers from the new and highly successful ballet, *A Day in Paris*, were given, and among these was introduced the Dance des Apaches, danced with wonderful dramatic power by Mr. Fred Farren and Miss Beatrice Collier. Miss Collier has become famous, and it is a well-deserved recognition of remarkable ability. Mlle. Lydia Kyasht again enchanted every one with her Russian dance, and Miss Phyllis Bedells repeated her pretty skipping-rope dance. The dance of the nurses was another piquant terpsichorean number, and Miss Elise Clerc's comic dance with Mr. Fred Farren again took the fancy of the house. The pictures of the Italian Cavalry, who ride down chasms with a reckless disregard of being unhorsed, are most sensational, and evoked considerable astonishment. The orchestra under Mr. Cuthbert Clark played a selection of sea songs, and added much to the enjoyment of the afternoon.

The old Park Theatre, in Brooklyn, was practically destroyed by fire on Nov. 12. Fortunately the fire occurred between the matinée and the evening performance.

At the meeting of the L.C.C. on Tuesday a petition was presented by Mr. George Alexander from the Mayor and Council of St. Pancras against the application made to the licensing authority on Friday for the conversion of the Camden Theatre into a music hall. The petition, which was numerously signed, alleged that the recent entertainments given at this house had been a source of great annoyance to the inhabitants, from whom numerous complaints had been received; that a great number of ratepayers objected to the proposed licence; and that the existence of a music hall on the site of the Camden Theatre would tend to depreciate the value of the surrounding property and to increase the expenditure for maintaining law and order.

SHOT ON THE STAGE.

Just before ten o'clock on Monday Mme. Clementine, described as "the Queen of Firearms," was nearing the close of her rifle-shooting act at the Middlesex, and went into the circle, while her assistant, a young man named Lee, stood on the stage, 50ft. away, with a glass ball balanced on his head. It was a feat called "The William Tell Act" Aiming at the glass ball, Mme. Clementine fired from a saloon rifle.

Instead of seeing the ball shivered as usual, the audience were horrified to see Lee suddenly throw up his arms, and with a cry of pain fall on the stage. The bullet had entered the unfortunate man's forehead just over the left eye.

Mr. Graydon, who was standing near the stage-door, hurried behind the scenes and ordered the curtain to be lowered. Behind the lowered curtain Dr. Bremner, who had been quickly fetched, examined the injured man, who was unconscious. After attending to his wound, the doctor ordered his removal to King's College Hospital, where he died on Tuesday.

As a result of the accident Mme. Clementine (Clementini Dolcini) was charged at Bow-street Police Court on Tuesday afternoon with the manslaughter of Herbert Lee by shooting him in the head.

Prisoner, a short, stout woman, was wearing a long black cloak over her stage clothes. She was obviously very much upset, and at the close of the proceedings, which only lasted a few minutes, she collapsed altogether, and had to be assisted from the Court by the police matron and some of her friends. Mr. Lloyd Humphreys appeared for the defence.

Prisoner was remanded, and upon the magistrate offering to accept bail in £100 a surety was at once forthcoming.

MASONS AT WORK.

The companions of the Chapter of Asaph assembled at Freemasons' Hall on Monday last for the purpose of holding their first meeting since the installation of Mr. E. W. Whitmore as the first principal, and that gentleman was ably assisted in the performance of his duties by Messrs. Clarence T. Coggin (H.), T. de B. Holmes (acting as J.), James Weaver (Scribe E.), Edward Humphrey (Scribe N.), Frank Stewart (P.S.), and others. The Supreme Grand Chapter of England was represented by Messrs. Harry Nicholls, P.D.G.D.C., J. Weaver, P.A.G.D.C., and Charles Cruikshanks, P.A.G.D.C. There were also present Messrs. J. Powell, A. E. George, Herbert Chenery, W. J. Keen, C. R. Stephens, B. J. Muskett, Ernest H. Paterson, A. Oxley, Tom Clare, A. G. Duck, and J. Gilbert. Among the visitors were the Rev. W. Cree and Messrs. Francis G. Sanders and John L. Goldstein.

The ceremony of elevation to the supreme degree was rehearsed with due observance of the ancient rites, and those present were afforded the opportunity of witnessing an excellent exhibition of the perfect working of the Chapter and the qualifications of the various companions acting as the officers.

The proceedings being ended, the companions and their guests adjourned to the Hotel d'Italie, where an excellent dinner was provided, and the company afterwards thoroughly enjoyed a pleasant hour or two in post-prandial observances.

The next convocation of the Chapter will be held at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, on the fourth Monday in February, 1909.

Stockton November Hirings.

A grand charity night was held last Friday, the leading amusements being provided by Messrs. William Murphy, Relph, and Pedley (electric automobiles), Harry Carriss's galloping horses, Baker's twin-yachts, William Murphy's cinematograph show, and others. A handsome sum of £90 was handed over to the Relief and Children's Breakfast funds.

South Wales Notes.

Mr. E. Danter visited Neath for four nights, and had a successful time, in spite of the inclement weather. The pictures were remarkably good, and much enjoyed by the large audiences. Mr. Danter is to be complimented on his juvenile performance on Saturday afternoon. A more suitable lot of subjects could not have been chosen for the youngsters. Messrs. Crecraft are on the Neath ground this week. Many new subjects are on the programme since last visit. Great credit is due to the management for putting on a good, clean performance. Mr. S. White and his Coliseum are in the Rhondda, where he is exhibiting a good series of pictures. Mr. Wm. Haggar in Carmarthenshire has a smart show for his many friends. Always up to date in all things has made the genial proprietor a universal favourite everywhere he visits.

Neath.

Mme. Smith, the society lady palmist, who is well known for her clever reading of the palm, is on a visit here, and is consulted by hermany old patrons and many new clients.

Crowle, Lincs.

Here were Ball and Eva's cinematograph theatre, T. Harniess's roundabout, Ball and Ingham's park swings, bottle battery, and throwing games, J. Ball with rifle saloons, and Gilliat and other caterers, with variety stalls and throwing games.

An auspicious send-off was given on the 19th inst. to Bradford Skating Rink, erected by the American Roller Skate Company in Manningham-lane, where it was a perfect sight to see the crowds and the long queues waiting for admission. The building is 300ft. by 110ft., and, with the exception of a narrow promenade on three sides and a gallery of seats on the fourth, the whole space is at the disposal of skaters. The flooring is of maple wood, which has been laid with the greatest care. Electric arc lights are provided in abundance, the decorations are elaborate, and nothing is wanting to complete a properly-equipped rink. The management are confident of the Bradford establishment becoming—as in the case of Leeds, Liverpool, Sunderland, Dublin, Glasgow, and other centres—"a wonderful success."

There will be variety shows in the centre transept of the Crystal Palace twice daily next week. The performers include:—The Balzens, Japanese jugglers, balancers, wonder workers, and their performing pigeons; Tokio, the Royal entertainer, in a high-class entertainment, consisting of up-to-date conjuring and lightning paper-tearing; the Deroneys, novel comedy artists, wire walkers, patterers, tumblers, spade dancers, &c.; Durney, hero of the long distance globe walk of 150 miles from Dublin to Belfast; Gilbert's troupe of performing dogs; and Sylveno, assisted by Mlle. Florence, novel and refined equilibrists.

A benefit was accorded Mr. Jas. Tyrer, of the Palace, Oldbury, on Wednesday, Nov. 18, when a programme of twenty turns constituted the bill. The house was packed. Amongst the artists who assisted were Mark Brue, Ray Sun, Dave Sands, Harry Hendricks, Mons. Savaro, Miss Lillian, Jack Lennard, Jack Judge, the Birkenhead Family, and the Sterling Trio, &c. The augmented band, under the direction of Mr. H. B. Kimberley, rendered valuable assistance. Mr. Jackson Tyrer (Sam Voss) introduced the turns, and also gave his well-known act, *The Street Doctor*, which caused much fun.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

24,032.—Eyre Crowe, of Farnham. Improvements in home-practicers for golf.

24,071.—Samuel Jenkinson, of London. New or improved game of skill and chance.

24,080.—William Joseph Riley, trading as The Yote Manufacturing Company, of Birmingham. Improvements relating to mechanical players for musical instruments and in the music for use therewith.

24,102.—Emil Schipper, of London. Improved ball game device.

24,132.—Percy James Goodwin and Elizabeth Susan Steer, of London. Improved miniature fountain for decorative purposes.

24,266.—Alexander Crutchley Beech, of Newcastle, Staffordshire. Device to furnish aid or amusement to skaters.

24,275.—William Millward, of Manchester. Improvements in or relating to punch-balls.

24,349.—Samuel Meyer Friede and Harry David Mercer, of London. Improvements in amusement apparatus.

24,350.—Samuel Meyer Friede and Harry David Mercer, of London. Improvements in and relating to revolving towers for recreative and the like purposes.

24,351.—Samuel Meyer Friede and Harry David Mercer, of London. Improvements in and relating to amusement apparatus.

24,352.—Samuel Meyer Friede and Harry David Mercer, of London. Improvements in see-saw swings and the like.

24,353.—Samuel Meyer Friede and Harry David Mercer, of London. Improved construction of car and track for what are known as scenic railways, switchbacks, and the like.

24,354.—Samuel Meyer Friede and Harry David Mercer, of London. Improvements in and relating to revolving towers for amusement purposes.

24,363.—Harry Sandeman Fieldwick, of London. Improvements in and in appliances for use in playing the game of poker and other games.

24,411.—James Dodgson and James William Sykes, of Oldham. Adjustable boot sole and studs for outdoor sports.

24,433.—William Thomas Pugh, of London. Means for relieving the hands of a sportsman of the weight of his gun when not firing.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

26,231.—Connor. Apparatus for raising and lowering curtains in music halls, theatres, and like places.

3,102.—Faulkner. Instrument to be attached to a firearm to mark by a spot of light the point aimed at on a target.

6,676.—Roberts, Roberts, and Bolton. Apparatus for playing "Ludo" or similar games.

16,115.—Soc. Anon des Plaques et Papiers Photographiques A. Lumière et ses fils. Method of renovating or repairing worn cinematograph films.

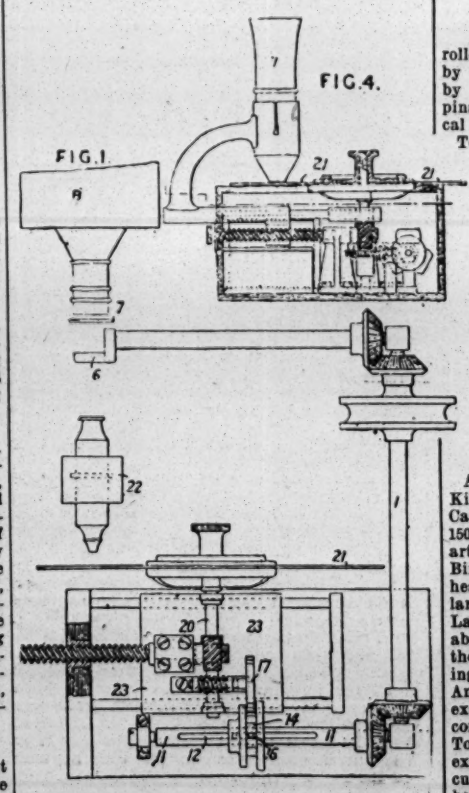
16,272.—Belin. Apparatus for reproducing at a distance pictures or designs.

19,605.—John. Banjoes.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

14,493.—Kinematographs. Brown, B. K., and Brown, T., of London.

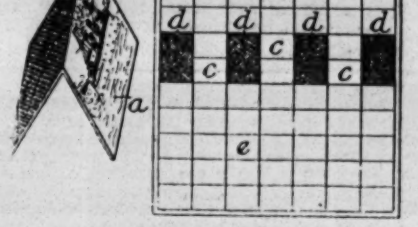
Reduced kinematograph pictures are formed by photographing with a microscope on a sensitive, structureless emulsion successive pictures of an ordinary kinematograph film. The pictures are taken on a sensitised disk, to which motion is imparted, so that they are either in spiral form or in concentric rings. The apparatus used is shown in Fig. 1. Rotary motion is imparted to the shaft 1, which through the gearing shown causes a crank 6 to move the kinematograph film 7 intermittently past the lens of the projecting apparatus 8. The shaft 11 in which is a slot 12, is also caused to rotate, and by means of a pin 16



on the boss 14 slidingly keyed to it, causes intermittent rotation of a Maltese cross 17, which imparts motion to the shaft 20, carrying the sensitised plate 21, and also, through the gearing shown, to the carriage 23, on which it is mounted. By this means the disk 21 has an intermittent motion of rotation and translation imparted to it, and this motion is caused to take place during the motion of the film 7. The pictures are taken by the microscope 22. Apparatus which may be used for viewing the pictures is shown in Fig. 4, and is similar to the apparatus described above, excepting that the microscope 41 is given a longitudinal motion and the disc 21 only a rotary motion.

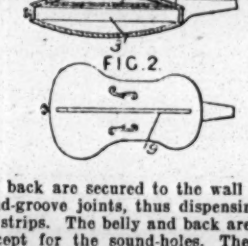
14,600.—War Games. Berg (*née* Moller), of Reval, Russia.

The game is played with folded cards having illustrations *a*, such as pictures of ships, on their front faces, and a map *e* divided into oblongs to represent the sea, with small islands *d* in the centre to form narrow passages *c*. The cards are arranged on the map so that each player sees only the plain backs *b* of his opponent's cards, and can only guess the kind of ship which is attacking him. The game can also be arranged as a military war game, the map *e* representing two plains joined by narrow valleys between mountains, &c.



14,645.—Musical instruments. Block, E. H., of Paris.

Violins and like instruments.—A rod 9 is fixed at its ends under the middle of the belly of the instrument. The side wall 3 is formed in one piece, the ends of which are secured together between the reinforcing block and the finger-board, the wall being curved as shown in Fig. 2. The



belly and back are secured to the wall 3 by glued tongue-and-groove joints, thus dispensing with reinforcing strips. The belly and back are of similar form, except for the sound-holes. The whole instrument can be made by machinery.

14,740.—Games, &c. Hultin, J. H., and Göthe, B., both of Falun, Sweden.

Scoring and marking.—A scoring device for Bridge and like games consists of a rod, tube, or the like marked with numerals and fitted with one or more indicating-rings. The tube may take the form of a pencil-case 1, which is provided with a holder 6 for a pencil, and is formed with an end-

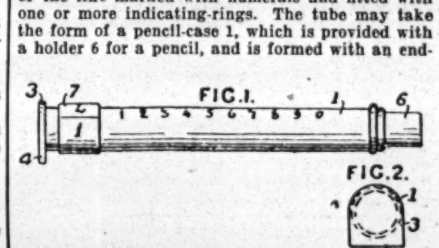
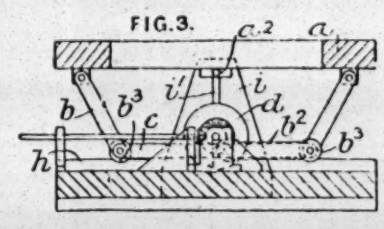


plate 3 provided with a flat 4 to prevent the case from rolling. In the form shown, numerals from 1 to 10 are marked on the case, and a ring 7 is used for scoring the points, the periphery of the ring 7 being divided into six marked spaces, which are in turn moved along the case to score. In a modification, the case 1 is oval and two rings are used. Two sets of numerals may be marked on the case 1.

15,048.—Scenic exhibitions. Hicks, C.E., of London.

In moving-picture travelling-illusion apparatus, the rolling and pitching movements of a ship at sea are produced by two pairs of links *b*, pivoted under the deck or platform *a* and to two transverse horizontal links *c*, which are mounted on



rollers *b*3 on rails *h*, and are moved to and fro by crank discs *d* and connecting-rods *b*2 operated by a motor or other driving mechanism. Guide-pins *a*2 at the ends of the platform move in vertical slots *i*1 in end guide-plates *i*.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians.—The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C

CANONBURY TOWER CLUB.

A very successful Bohemian concert was given at King Edward's Hall, Canonbury Tower Club, Canonbury, on the evening of the 19th inst., about 150 members and their friends being present. The artists specially engaged included Miss Bertha Bird, the popular Australian contralto, who was heard to great advantage in "Lo, here the gentle lark," with flute obbligato by Mr. Ernest J. Spink. Later Miss Bird and Mr. Robert Anthony admirably sang the duet, "A Venetian song," and in the second part she gave "Because," again meeting with a most flattering reception. Mr. R. Anthony, a young baritone vocalist, who has done exceedingly well on a tour through Scotland just completed, sang "My old shako" and "Falmouth Town" with marked ability, his voice being of excellent quality and showing evidence of careful cultivation. Flute solos, "Saltavello" and "Shepherd's Idylle," by Mr. E. G. Spink, were greatly appreciated. Miss Jessie Jolly's humorous songs at the piano were very favourably received, and so too were the musical sketches of Mr. Francis Howard and Mr. Herbert Francis. Mr. Percy Tarling, a capital comic singer, scored with "The daily rag," "My eye-glass," and other ditties. Mr. Louis Nicola, the wonderful conjuror from Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant's, St. George's Hall, also appeared, and his tricks, executed with remarkable neatness, were enthusiastically applauded by the audience. Mr. Nikola was deservedly recalled. Messrs. W. W. Meadows and J. W. Francis were the accompanists, and the duties of musical directors were ably carried out by Messrs. Will Clinch and Arthur D. Sturley. Mr. G. Andrew-Marshall, chairman of the Entertainments Committee, presided.

Tony Iveson, "the Ragman at the Piano," is scoring a prodigious hit at the Palace Theatre, Dundee, this week. He is now assisted by his brother, who, like himself, has been gifted with a very fine voice, his excellent articulation being also a noteworthy feature of his singing.

TOOLE'S PRACTICAL JOKE.

"Perhaps the secret of Toole's charm," says Mr. J. Comyns Carr in his "Reminiscences," "lay in an entire absence of pretence either social or intellectual. Something deeply human in his nature left him always at his ease in whatever society he might find himself; and, in a sense of humour which appreciated and detected without resentment the foibles of all whom he encountered, I think there are few men of his generation who could claim to be his equal. He laid no claim to any largeness of education, and I suppose there were few men who had read less, but in that knowledge that could be won without the aid of literature he was a genuine scholar. He read life truly and swiftly, genially, and humorously. He knew it well because he loved it well. Put him where you would, in any company, however divergent their claims, and not an hour could pass before Toole had seized with quick enjoyment upon the separate characteristics of nearly every man at the table.

"What he loved most, I think, outside of that part of his life which was spent in the theatre, was an aimless ramble in search of fun. Many and many such a vagrant day have I passed in his company, and not a barren one of them all. One such in particular I recall which may stand as a sample of many more. He had called for me quite early in the morning in his victoria, armed with only the naked suggestion that we should pay a visit to the city. For the city, therefore, we started, with no settled plan of operation, and it was only when we had reached the narrowest part of Thames-street that Toole seemed suddenly possessed with the outline of his programme for the day.

"The portly figure of a uniformed porter standing at the gateway of some wholesale warehouse arrested his attention, and calling upon the driver to stop, he hobbled out of the carriage with his quaint lame walk, and at once engaged this forbidding-looking official in friendly converse. It was the time when the wheel-and-van tax had lately been imposed, and Toole drawing a note-book from his pocket declared to the amazed individual he was addressing that we had come down to the city to collect opinions on the subject. The man at first was stubbornly reluctant to enter into conversation, but Toole's insinuating amiability of manner was not to be withstood, and he at last drew from this unfortunate individual an opinion, the purport of which I scarcely now remember, but which apparently, as Toole's enthusiasm declared, clinched the subject.

"'If that's your opinion,' he said, 'will you kindly see to it, as my friend and I are busy,' and with that enigmatic declaration he hobbled back to the victoria, leaving the unfortunate porter with a blank look of puzzled amazement on his face.

"'To the Tower,' cried Toole to the coachman, 'and as quickly as possible, for we have a lot of work to do.'

"Arrived there, Toole at once, in tones of confidential secrecy, addressed the first Beefeater who stood by the gateway.

"'What have you done?' he inquired in an anxious voice.

"'What do you mean, sir?' said the man.

"'I mean,' said Toole in a still more confidential tone, 'what crime have you committed? You need not keep it from me and my friend.'

"'Crime!' was the indignant answer. 'I have committed no crime.'

"'Come! come!' said Toole, suddenly assuming the air of a cross-examining counsel. 'Do not dare to tell me that. You must have committed some crime, you know, or they would never have put you into a dress like that.'

"Before the unfortunate man had recovered his self-possession we passed on into the Tower itself, and swiftly found ourselves among a party of eager sightseers in the chamber where the Crown jewels are disposed.

"It was a woman who, as I remember, was explaining to the eager throng the history of the different articles displayed, and when at the end of a long catalogue, she at last said, 'And this is Ann Boleyn's crown,' Toole, apparently suddenly overcome, burst into a flood of tears and leant against the wall in seemingly uncontrollable grief.

"'Oh, sir,' inquired the poor woman in distress, 'what's the matter?'

"'Nothing! nothing!' replied Toole in broken accents. 'Don't mind me, but the fact is I have known the family so long.'"

SKETCH LITIGATION.

Mr. Frank Macnaghten, music-hall proprietor, appealed, on Tuesday, from his Honour Judge Bacon, sitting at Bloomsbury County Court, who decided in favour of Mr. George Scott, late manager of the Alhmabra, in an action arising out of the refusal to allow Matthew Brodie's company, in which Mr. Scott was interested, to perform *The Trumpeter of the 76th*, at Sadler's Wells music-hall, on Dec. 23 last.

Appellant was represented by Mr. Hugo Young, K.C., and Mr. Martin O'Connor (instructed by W. B. Blackwell and Co.), and respondent by Mr. Montague Lush, K.C., and Mr. Henn Collins (instructed by Stanley Woodhouse and Co.).

Mr. Hugo Young said it was admitted by plaintiff that *The Trumpeter of the 76th* was a stage play, and this was an important matter. The contract, dated Nov. 1, 1907, entered into by the parties arranged that the piece should be performed at Sadler's Wells during the week commencing Dec. 23. It turned out, however that another sketch had been billed for that week, and Mr. Macnaghten seemed to have thought that if two were on the same programme it might lead to a prosecution, because they were only performed, as it were, on sufferance. They were, in fact, illegal, their performance in music-halls being an infringement of the Theatres Act. Mr. Macnaghten accordingly suggested that instead of appearing at Sadler's Wells during the week in question, the company should go to Southampton. Mr. Scott was agreeable, but Mr. Brodie declined to fall in with the suggestion, hence the action. Counsel submitted that plaintiff could not recover, inasmuch as it was illegal for *The Trumpeter of the 76th* to be performed at a music-hall, and that the consent to appear at Sadler's Wells was not unreasonably withheld.

Mr. Montague Lush contended, on the other side, that, under the circumstances, plaintiff was debarred from setting up the plea of illegality. On the face of this contract there was nothing to make it unlawful; it was not a contract to do what was unlawful, though the performance of it might to a certain extent be unlawful at times. It was plaintiff's business to do that which would have made the contract lawful.

Mr. Justice Bigham said that both parties knew well enough that they were entering into a contract to perform a stage play in certain music-halls, and he was quite satisfied that both knew that such performances were illegal. There must accordingly be judgment for defendant.

Mr. Justice Walton concurred, and the appeal was allowed.

Mr. Lush observed that he understood that a large number of cases depended upon this, and asked for leave to appeal.

The application was granted.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1 9-16; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 1⅛; Empire (10s. paid), 1⅛; London Pavilion Ordinary, 4⅛; London Pavilion Preference, 5⅛; Metropolitan, 15s.; Moss Empire, 6⅛; Moss Empire 5 Per Cent. Preference, 4⅛; Oxford, 6⅛; Palace, 15-16; Tivoli, 5⅛; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 12s.

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Feb. 15, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 3, 10, on.
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Feb. 1, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, May 3, 10, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 8, 15, 22, April 5, 26, May 17, 24, 31, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 6, 20, 27, Oct. 4, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, 19, May 17, 24, 31, June 7, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8, 15, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 8, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Jan. 4, 18, 25, Feb. 8, March 8, 29, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 1 (3 nights only); and Xmas. Add., E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Dec. 7, Jan. 18, and March dates.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 1, 15, 29.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Feb. 1, March 1, 8, 15, 22.
Apply for all above,
ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions,
April 10, various, onwards.
Open to Arrange First-class Panto,
or Musical Comedy for
Holiday Season, '09 and '10.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER.
WANTED, First-class Drama,
Dec. 10, three nights.
STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractive Companies; holding capacity £100; Vacant Feb. 4, 11, 18, March 1, 15, 22, and Easter. Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

METROPOLE THEATRE, GATESHEAD.
WANTED, First-class Musical or Strong Dramatic Attraction,
Christmas week (Dec. 21).
Share or Certainty.
Address,
R. G. ELDER, Gen.-Man., Metropole T., Gateshead.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Musical Comedy, April 12. Note.—The Conference of the National Teachers' Union is held in Morecambe during Easter. Also few vacant dates in July, Aug., and Sept.
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

HULL.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
THEATRE ROYAL, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 1 and 8.
ALEXANDRA, March 1 and Easter.
Address, Alexandra Theatre.
Cannot Book Pantomime for Either Theatre.
Three days' silence a respectful negative.

PIER THEATRE, EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies,
Dec. 7, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8, 22,
and various dates onward.
Apply, G. HAYES.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for the following Dates:—
Dec. 7 14, 28 (New Year's week), Jan. 11.
Apply, R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
WANTED, through Alteration in Arrangements, First-class Pantomime for Dec. 28, two, three, or four weeks. First-class Musical and Dramatic Attractions may also write for other dates.
Apply, R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

GRAND THEATRE, FALKIRK.
WANTED, First-class Musical or Dramatic Attractions, for Dec. 21 (six nights) and Feb. 15, 16, and 17 (three nights).
Apply, R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Company,
Dec. 7, Dec. 7, Dec. 7.
Apply, ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for Feb. 15, March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31. First-class Companies only.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply, direct, to ALFRED MANNERS, as above. Silence a polite negative. Wanted, Strong Dramatic Attraction, Feb. 1, 2 and 3, 1909.

WANTED, Good Companies, through transfers, for Dec. 7 and 14.
Wire, MANAGER, Opera House, Southport.

WANTED, for the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Salford, First-class Companies, for Jan. 4, 11, 25, and onwards. Address, E. B. GOULDEN.

PALACE THEATRE, BOSTON.
Lessees HOLLOWAY and FOUNTAIN.
WANTED, good Drama, Panto., or Musical Productions, Jan. 4, onwards. MANAGER.

WANTED, for the Londesboro' Theatre, Scarborough, First-class Attraction, for Boxing Day, Dec. 26. Apply, WADDINGTON, Stonegate, York.

WANTED, Known, West End Pier, Morecambe, is open to engage Musical, Opera, and Comedy Companies, for last two weeks in July and all August, 1909.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
General-Managers, ARTHUR CARLTON and SAM DUCKWORTH.
High-class Attractions Only entertained
Vacant Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1,
onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, June 14, 28, July 5,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 28, April 12, May 24, 31, June 7,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant June 7, 21, Aug. 2, Nov. 29,
onward with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 2, 14, 21,
onward with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical Pieces; last three nights Drama.)

Pantomime, "ALADDIN," Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "PUSS IN BOOTS,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
To Let on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S," "PRAIRIE FLOWER," &c.

ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

WANTED, good Company, three or six nights, Nov. 30, King's Theatre, Gainsborough.
Wire, "Carlton, Worcester."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only.
We are prepared to guarantee
Really Big Star Attractions.
All communications, JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet."
'Phones 413, 425, 500.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN
WANTED, good Companies, Dec. 7 and 14, Jan. 21, 22, 23, and Feb. 1.

THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
Vacant Dec. 7 and 14.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP.
Jan. 4 and on.
Last three days only.

TOWN HALL, RUGBY.
Vacant Xmas, Jan. 4 and 25.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK.
One or two Vacancies in 1909.

OPERA HOUSE, LONDONDERRY.
Vacant Jan. 11 and 18.

THE SPA, WHITBY.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
W. PAYNE SEDDON,
Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, High-class Attractions, for
Feb. 1 (?), 22,
March 22,
April 5,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons. Dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn, 1909. All communications,
WALTER R. WALLIS, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, good Drama Companies (change of bill). Give share or small certainty. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum T., Stafford.

WANTED, Sound Attractions, Dec. 14, March 1, 29 (?), April 19, onwards. Apply,
SHERWOOD and Co., Opera House, Wakefield.

VICTORIA THEATRE, KETTERING.
WANTED, Attractions, for above. Now booking Dates, Sept., onwards. Only really First-class Companies need apply. ALF BAILEY and Co., Managers.

WANTED, for Theatre, King's Lynn, big Attraction for Dec. 7 (three nights), unexpectedly vacant. Address, B. PARKINER, Lessee and Manager.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

WANTED, Attractions, Dec. 14, March 22, April, on, and Autumn, Grand, Chorley; also March 15, on, and Autumn, Grand, Radcliffe. Address, SANTE, Radcliffe.

PARDOE'S THEATRE, MIDDLETON, LANCS.
WANTED, good Drama, Dec. 14. Letters, with fullest particulars, W. PARDOE.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions,
Dec. 14, Dec. 14,
Xmas, Xmas.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 7, 8, 9, 21, 22, 23, also Dates in Jan. and Feb. Apply, PHILLIPS.

WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Drama, or Picture Show, Dec. 26, 28, and 29, for Public Hall, Slough; good business certain; no opposition. SEATON, 69, Randolph-street, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, High-class Attraction, for Xmas, also Companies, Dec. 8 (5 nights), Dec. 14, a few Dates early January and Feb. 8. All other Spring Dates Booked. EDGAR LEA, Public Hall Theatre, Runcorn.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BLAINA, MON.
WANTED, Sound Attraction, Dec. 14, January, February, and March, with exceptions. LEE, Manager.

KESWICK, ENGLISH LAKES.
WANTED, good Companies, for New Year, Spring, and Autumn; good dates for superior Shows. MCKAIG, Fitz Arcade, Keswick.

WANTED, First-class Company, Public Hall, Treharris, Dec. 17, 18, and 19; also Dec. 21, 22, 23, and 24; pay week, best dates of the year. Apply, BILLPOSTER, Treharris, South Wales.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, 23.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, March 22, May 10, 17, 24, June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 23.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant March 1, 15, 29, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 24, June 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Nov. 30, also Dec. 7, and Feb. 8, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return), Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," &c.
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Powerful Dramatic
Attraction,
Monday, Jan. 11, 1909.
Share or
Certainty.
Communications, by letter only,
HARRIS FINEBERG,
Star Theatre,
Liverpool.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Dec. 28, Jan. 25, Feb. 1.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

THEATRE ROYAL, WEDNESBURY.
WANTED, First-class Company, Dec. 14.
Address, HARRY BATTERSBY.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 9, Nov. 29.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Dec. 14, Jan. 4.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Dec. 14, 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 14, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Dec. 21, Jan. 4.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres
Feb. 15, March 22, April 12.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE FEMALE SWINDLER."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 26 (seven nights).
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, April 5 Aug. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Junction Theatre, Manchester.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH,"
from the Haymarket and Apollo Theatres.
WANTED, Dec. 7, between Lincoln and Ipswich.
Address, C. H. BOWMAKER, Theatre Royal, Lincoln.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of
Jan. 11 and 25.
Jan. 11 and 25.
Jan. 11 and 25.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of
Dec. 28, Jan. 4, and Feb. 8,
Dec. 28, Jan. 4, and Feb. 8,
Dec. 28, Jan. 4, and Feb. 8,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 22,
March 22, April 5, 12, on.
CHARLES HARRINGTON,
Theatre Royal, Sheffield.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Jan. 4,
Jan. 4,
March 15, 22,
March 15, 22,
All communications, J. W. CORDINER,
Nov. 30, GRAND THEATRE, WALSALL.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI and MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:
Dec. 26 (7 nights), April 19, May 3.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, for Repertory, Dec. 26 (7 or 13 nights). RUSSELL ROSSE, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, W.C.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
FRANK M. THORNE, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 1, 8, 15.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 24, Jan. 11, 25.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 21, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 1, 8, 15, April 12.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

NEW PLAY,
by
MRS. MORTON POWELL.
WANTED, Dates, for this Superb Production.
Will
Draw the Million.
Feb. 1 (through transfer),
March 1, 15.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 7, 21, and 28. Nov. 30, Victoria T., Burnley.
Mr. A. B. Cross as Pete. Miss Watersford as Kate.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Theatres.—Only vacant dates for either play: Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 1 and 8, March 29, April 5, May 10 and 24.
Coms. to GEORGE KIRK,
This, Elephant and Castle, S.E.
Next, Victoria, Broughton, Manchester.

Mr. and Mrs. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
WANTED, Jan. 18 (north), Feb. 1, 8, 15, March 1 (?).
H. M. Opera House, Blackpool;
next, T. R., Blyth.

CHARLES ROGERS' TOUR.
"£1,000 REWARD."
"£1,000 REWARD."
Owing to the Enormous Success of this Money-maker, a Grand Reproduction will take place next Feb.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 8, 22, March 1, and on, with exceptions. Apply, CHAS. ROGERS, 16, Crosby-road, Forest Gate, London, E.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED Wanted, Theatres,
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 1.
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, April 19, 26.
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."
Vacant Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 22.
"THE GIRL I LOVE."
Vacant Nov. 30, Dec. 7, Jan. 4.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard.

WANTED, First-class Theatre, for JAMES KIDDIE'S
Latest and Greatest Pantomime Production,
"ALADDIN."
"ALADDIN."
Vacant Feb. 1.
Vacant Feb. 1.
Only Vacant Date.
Can play twice nightly.
Address,
JAMES KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

"THE GREAT AWAKENING."
WANTED, good Theatres, Dec. 25 (seven nights), and
Easter week (South).
MAUD HILDYARD, Palace T., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY,
in the Enormously Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL."
Powerful Cast and Chorus.
WANTED, Dec. 7, 14 (near London, wires), Xmas, and onwards, with exceptions. All coms. re dates, address, J. J. STANFORD, 1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, S.W.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
MRS. FRANK BATEMAN and GEORGE CONQUEST'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Feb. 1, Aug. 9, Sept. 6, 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, Nov. 1 and 22.
Apply, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

"THE LOVE OF THE PRINCESS."
by C. Watson Mill.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 1, April 5, May 3, '09.
Coms., T. E. WARD, Rotunda, Liverpool.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 1, April 12, May 2, on. Record Business everywhere. There is not a finer all-round played, staged, and dressed piece touring.
E. A'DELL, Queen's, Fleetwood (third visit).

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Nov. 30, Xmas week (7 nights), also Spring and Autumn
E. C. S., Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 28, and Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 8, 15, 22. Forty People on Stage. L. Carson in Cast. Wire for the above Great Attraction.
All coms., L. CARSON, Alex. Theatre, Hull.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, April 19, for "The Cingalee" Company of 40. Wire, HARMAN CRICHTON, Artillery Theatre, Woolwich; next, Aldershot.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,600.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Easter (Only 1909 Holiday Date Vacant). FRED BULMER, Irving T., Saccombe.

"LUCKY LIZA."
The Laughing Success.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15 and 22.
DICKIE CLARE, Alhambra, Stourbridge.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
By Rass Challis.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Feb. 1, April 5 and 12 (Wales), June 14 (to follow Stratford).
Address, MAURICE, Brixton Theatre, London.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and B. Hill-Mitchelson.
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Jan. 11 and 25.
CHAS. M. JULIAN, R. T., Morecambe.

CHARLES FREEMAN'S TOUR.
WANTED, Dates, Dec. 14 and on, for "Current Cash" and "A White Demon." First-class Company, new Scenery and Effects.
Wire or write,
CHARLES FREEMAN, Drill Hall, Falmouth.

"THE 10.36 DOWN EXPRESS"
and
"GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 18, 25 (Midlands).
HORACE STANLEY,
To-day, Stratford;
next, Lyceum Theatre, Ipswich.

MR. E. H. KNIGHT'S No. 1 CO.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
A Thrilling Spectacular Play. A Solid Success.
WANTED, Jan. 4 (Midlands or North), Jan. 11 (North), Feb. and March Dates, with exceptions. Thanks to many Managers for Contracts. Apply, E. H. KNIGHT, 7, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."

Fast Booking Up 1909.

WANTED, Good Theatre, August Bank Holiday, 1909.

Wanted, Sept. 27.

Wanted, Nov. 1 and 8, 1909.

Managers wanting a good- well-managed Production,
apply, Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., Star, Swansea.

MR. AND MRS. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S COS.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
WANTED, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Dec. 21. One of the greatest successes ever toured.
"BOUND TO WIN."
"BOUND TO WIN."
Wanted, Dec. 21, 28, can arrange seven nights. Racehorses toured, new Scenery and Costumes. Wire for these two great money-makers to KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
By Walter Howard.
Owing to Extension of Tour.
WANTED, Good Theatres, for
Dec. 21,
Jan. 11,
Jan. 18,
and various on.
ELLEN SNOW, to-day, Alex., Birmingham; next, T. R., Rotherham.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Christmas, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 15, May 17, 24, 31, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Theatre Royal, Tonypandy.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted Dates,
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Jan. 18, 25, March 1, 8.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8, March 15, 22, 29.
Re both plays,
GEO. A. DE GRAY, this T. R., Hyde; next, Queen's T., Liverpool.

S. RENNEF'S and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Wanted, for
"LOVE RULES THE WORLD" CO.
Xmas and New Year, Jan. 4, 11, onward.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN,"
Xmas and New Year, Jan. 4, 11, onward.
Splendid Casts. Good Printing and Production.
G. M. COPPING, T. R., Sunderland.
Monday, T. R., Crook, Durham.

ARMITAGE and LEIGH'S COMPANIES.
Only One Company of Each Play—the Best.
The Triumph of the Artistic.
Wilson Barrett's last and greatest play.
"LUCKY DURHAM"
(fourth year of continuous tour).
WANTED, Dec. 28, and few onwards,
Charles Frohman's Greatest Success,
"LEAH KLESCHNA."
Ran one year London, third year of tour.
Vacant Dec. 21 (S), Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 15, March 29, April 12,
Henry Seton's Merriman's Greatest Work,
"WITH EDGED TOOLS,"
Adapted from the Great Novel, which has been read by over 2,000,000 people. Passed the 200th performance, and recognised as one of the best plays sent out. Vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 15. All communications, H. ARMITAGE, Manager for Sir Charles Wyndham, New Theatre, St. Martin's-lane, London, W.C.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY,
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts, by Walter Howe.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 22, March 1, & 29, April 26, May 3, 17, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.

Nov. 30, T. R., Edmonton, N.

WANTED, "Under Two Flags," Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 15, 22, March 22, 29.
MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

WANTED, Mark Blow's Latest Success, "At Roaring Camp," Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 1, 22, 29. MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

WANTED, "Cripple Creek," Jan. 25, Feb. 22, May 17, 24.
MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
WANTED, Feb. 1, Aug. 9 and 30.
Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, "Was She to Blame?" by Mrs F. G. Kimberley. Grand Production at the Junction, Manchester, Easter; all Holiday Dates booked up to Whit, 1910; no vacant dates in 1909. Write for 1910 to KIMBERLEY, GREEN and HINTON, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, for "Dandy Fifth." Wire, CLARENCE CORRI, Artillery Theatre, Woolwich; next, Aldershot.

"WHEN A LASS LOVES," by Tom Craven. This entirely new Melodrama having proved such a huge success as produced this week at Margate, Mr. Tom Craven has decided to Tour it.
WANTED, for "When a Lass Loves," Xmas week and onwards. Apply, W. W. KEENE, Theatre Royal, Margate.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, Good Theatres, Dec. 7, 14, and 21, for this Great Success.
HENRY L. OSMOND, West London Theatre, N.W.

FRANK C. MARDELL'S "CINDERELLA."
First-class Scenery, Dresses, and Printing, Full Cast, Twenty Chorus, Conductor, Advance Agent.
WANTED, First-class Theatres, Scotland, Dec. 14, onwards. Address all Communications, FRANK C. MARDEL, 46, Grindlay-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Theatres, from Aug. next, for the Most Successful American Drama (full American cast). No old story: the Jew Comedian is the Hero. A Novelty. A Sure Draw. Send terms and particulars, RITCHIE-HEARN, Kembury-st.-mansions, Camberwell.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c. The Directors of the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, have re-engaged them for seventeen weeks next summer. Their returns showed another 40 per cent. advance over their previous season, which was 50 per cent. over any preceding year.
Only Vacancies Next Summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26,
May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onward.
Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON,
23, Brockman-road, Folkestone.

WANTED, First-class Halls, Theatres, &c., Fontainbleau's Franco-British Hippodrome Co., Eight Turns, including Four Specialities. The only Troupe of Russian Performing Poodles. Public Hall, Rhos, Ruabon.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, for Short Stock, Christmas, Artists in all Lines, including Child. Lowest terms and photos., JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Principals, Chorus Manager, Advance Agent. Call, Grosvenor Arms, Sidney-rd., Stockwell, Mon., 11 o'clock. C. BESTIC.

WANTED, Gentlemanly Heavy, Juvenile Leading Lady and Chambermaid. State terms and particulars, TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, Tall Character Heavy (Mexican part), Juvenile Gentleman, Advance Agent, Spring Tour, opening Xmas. State terms, height, references. MARK BLOW, 6, Selsea-avenue, Herne Bay.

WANTED, Boy Chorister, also Baritone Chorister for Music Halls. Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines. If not known, send photographs, ANDREW MELVILLE, Metropole T., Birmingham.

WANTED, Artists for "Ticket of Leave," Special week, Dec. 14, H. M. T., Dundee. Apply, with photos. and particulars, to LOUIS KARPS, H. M. T., Dundee.

WANTED, Artists, for Music Hall Sketch, Gentlemen for Light Comedy and Willie Edouin Part, Leading Lady for Grecian Character. Apply, with full particulars, terms, &c., Box 5,203, "The Era."

WANTED, Tall Lady, not less than 5ft. 9in., for small comedy part, able to sing if necessary, rehearse immediately. Photos. (in tights, if possible), age, lowest terms, &c., to ELLEN SNOW, to-day, Alex., Birmingham; next, T. R., Rotherham.

WANTED, Rough, Active Chambermaid, Sketch, one that can sing preferred. Age, height, experience, references, photo. (stamp imperative), G. REX, Post Office, Dumfries.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Man, with First-class Stylish Wardrobe, to rehearse next week. Applicants please state age, height, experience, lowest terms, and enclose recent photo., with stamped envelope for return. Address, STEPHEN PRITT, Theatre Royal, Preston.

WANTED, Heavy Gentleman, Touring to open Dec. 14. Rehearse prior.
State terms and full particulars,
W. E. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, tall young Gent, for Dude part in Comedy Sketch for the Music Halls. A long, comfortable Engagement to the right man. Apply, ACTORS, c/o Tom Shaw, 18, Adam-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, for Production of "Little Lord Fauntleroy" at Xmas, Refined and Educated Boy (10-14), for title-rôle. Previous experience not absolutely essential. Apply by letter only, with photo.,
MANAGER, Court Theatre, S.W.

WANTED, Top Tenors and Deep Bassos; must have exceptional voices. Apply next Tuesday, 12 o'clock, JONES, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham.

WANTED, Young Dancers, dark, not too tall. Apply at once,
1, Gloucester-mansions, Cambridge-circus, W.C.

WANTED Wanted Known,
THE GRENFELL CLUB,
FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
23 Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, Ladies only.
from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Dec. 7, by Arthur Royce, the Popular Entertainer at the Piano. Wire to-day, Palace, Gloucester; Monday, Palace, Porth.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Pantomime Artists, Specialities, Acrobatic Dancers, Conductor, Acting-Manager, Carpenter, and Baggage-man. Absolute lowest terms, ADRIM, 19, Trelawn-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Full Company, for Fit-up Panto., including Agent and Wardrobe Mistress. Long, comfortable Tour. Photos. and full particulars to TARBET, 8, Kerr-street, Northampton.

WANTED, First-class Comedian, for Abanazar, and good Speciality for Palace Scene. Age, height, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

WANTED, First-class Comedian, for Pantomime; must sing and dance well; also good Second Boy. Silence a polite negative. Terms and references, MILTON BODE, County Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, smart Knockabout Tumbler, Comedian, for Pantomime Speciality. Photo., experience, terms first letter, SAVAGE, Trinity-street, West Bromwich.

WANTED, Girl Babe, for "Babes in the Wood" Pantomime. Age not over 15. Apply by letter, A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Crissie Cross, smart Singer and Dandy Dancer, at Liberty for Panto., Principal or Second Girl. Address, c/o 7, Loughborough-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, Disengaged Panto., Principal Boy. Offers invited. 39, Gateley-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Miss Louie Hurman, at Liberty for Panto., Principal Boy, last year Alex., Sheffield. Permanent, 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Panto., by the smartest Child Actress on the Stage, Parts and Speciality. Offers invited.
Address after Saturday,
19, Austral-street, West-square, S.E.

WANTED, Panto., Second Boy and Girl, by Sisters Bronson, Duettists and Dancers. This week, Empire, Battersea, 7.40 and 10.40; next, County Theatre, Kingston.

WANTED, Known, The Harkers, Harker Nicholls and Miss Dorothy, The World's Greatest Concertinists and Novelty Instrument Performers; just returned from India. The most Varied and High-class one hour's show extant. Monologues, Ballads, Sketches, Indian Mysteries, Piano, Banjo, Xylophone, Concertina, &c., and the Ever-famous "Jam-pots." Open for Pictures or Panto., Baron or Atkins. Miss Dorothy, Understudy Principal. Address, "St. Eval," Church-rd., Leyton.

WANTED, Known, Will Owen, the Inimitable Dame Comedian and Comedy Dutch Vocalist, Vacant for Panto. (Dame), also Monday next, Nov. 30. This, King's Hall, Farnworth; next, 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Fred Hallam still at Liberty for Panto. Many thanks for offers.
Address, 7, Barclay-road, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Panto., by Sam Leo, Cat, Dog, any Animal or Knockabout part, Leaps, Traps, &c. This, Emp., Portsmouth; next, H., Colchester.

WANTED, by Leroni, the Boneless Baritone, Demon King or Chorus, or Music Halls. Address, 22, Bidborough-street, King's Cross, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Tom Poole (Poole and Poole), Comedian and Quaint Acrobatic Dancer, Vacant Panto. This, Palace, Attercliffe; next, Hippo., Stoke-on-Trent (a winner).

WANTED, Known, Jack Foley, at Liberty for Panto., Dame or P. Comedy.
Perm., 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Jack Heath, Eccentric Comedian, Liberty for Pantomime, Comedian or Dame and Stage-Management. Address, Palace, Battersea, London.

WANTED, Known, Cleland, still Vacant for Pantomime. The laughing success of the Crown, Peckham, last year.—Vide Cecil Paget, Esq. Letters or Wires, this, Hippo., Lancaster; next, Hippo., Rotherham; Dec. 7, Hippo., Oldham.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Pantomimist and Knockabout Comedian; used to Animal parts, Leaps, &c. M. D., 31, Trinity-square, Brixton.

WANTED, Known, Knockabout Pantomimist and Animal Impersonator, Liberty for Panto. Last with Fredk. Mouillot, Esq. Add., KNOX, 8, Perth-street, West Hartlepool.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Nash and Noel.
This, Pavilion, Glasgow; next, Empire, Bristol.

WANTED, Known.—Vacant, a Big Panto. Attraction, Lumiere's Original Electric Fairy Grotto Dances. Share or salary. Write to Inventor, J. BERTINO, Monday return, Winter Gardens, Southport, Dec. 7, return, Hippo., Wigan. This week, again packing Empire, Dudley.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Scenic Artists, Theatre Managers, &c., to write for Leete's Catalogue of colours, varnishes, painting brushes, and every requisite for scene painting and theatre decoration. The fullest range of colours in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, First-class Scenic Artist, for several weeks at Theatre Royal, Brighton.
Apply, with terms and references,
MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, good Scenic Artist, for a few weeks, with own brushes. Send absolute lowest terms and references to F. G. KIMBERLEY, The Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, Special fortnight. Will Artist working last July Empire, Southend, write? Interview Saturday.
J. EDWARD WHITTY, T. R., Woolwich.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, or Stock; good, effective work, cheap. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective, Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for every description of Scenery, Pantomime, Stock, &c.
SCENIC STUDIO, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Known, K. J. McLennan, Scenic Artist, can arrange Engagement for First-class Theatre, or accept Contracts. Prince of Wales' Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
W. BERNASCONI, Scenic Artist,
53, St. James's-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Stafford, Scenic Artist; highest references and designs forwarded. 24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract; Town or Provinces. Address, 26, Elgin-terrace, Maida Vale, London.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Gentleman, to thoroughly learn Stage, Acting, and Business-Management, in First-class Operatic and Comedy Company, well established; must be a gentleman in every way. Premium required £100; salary paid £3 per week for 20 weeks, and all fares paid. Proprietor holds first-class position in theatrical circles.
Write, Box 5,144, "The Era."

WANTED, First-class Acting Manager,
Send references to
W. E. POTTS, Theatre, Dunfermline.

WANTED, Young Gentleman, to learn duties of Acting-Management, under experience Management. Premium required. A. B., 1, Westmorland-street, New Cavendish-street, W.

WANTED, smart young man, thoroughly experienced in Cinématograph Shows, for Advertising Manager and Lecturer, must be total abstainer. Apply, with latest references, by letter only, to W. NORTON, care Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope Syndicate, Ltd., 12, Little Newport-st., London, W.C. Those only in London at present need apply.

WANTED, smart Electrician and Operator; must be used to direct an dalternating current; must be steady and reliable. State age, experience, references, and wages required in first letter to A. E. PICKARD, Britannia T., Glasgow.

WANTED, Carpenter, for Pantomime; one who can work Flying Ballet preferred. Full particulars, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, for "Man or Beast" Co., Carpenter to combine Baggage and Small Part; reliable, to open Monday. Apply to ERNEST VAUGHAN, 4 Grove-crescent-road, Stratford, E., between 7 and 8, Sunday evening.

HARRY STARR'S CO.
WANTED, smart and steady Carpenter, capable small parts. Height, age, and full particulars, BEN SYDNEY, Gaiety, Methil, Fifeshire.

WANTED, Carpenter, for Fit-up Tour; one who can paint scenery preferred; also Strong Baggage-man. Absolute lowest terms. HARGREAVES, Town Hall, Oakengates, Salop.

WANTED, strong Young Man, 18 to 25, to learn working part of First-class Company, with thoroughly practical man, in one of the largest Companies travelling, London season each year; only First-class Theatres visited. Premium £50 required (returned in salary, £2 weekly); must be thoroughly respectable, and R.C. preferred. Box 5,204, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-Engagement, as Stage Manager and Carpenter, by practical man, steady and reliable; used to quick programmes. Address, Box 5,193, "The Era."

WANTED, Re-engagement as Assistant Acting-Manager, formerly with well-known Circuit, Variety or Pictures; excellent references; small salary. Box 5,195, "The Era."

WANTED, at Liberty, Smart Experienced Variety, Stage, and General-Manager, combine both; used to lightning programme, twice nightly. L., 13n, Gladstone-street, Abertillery.

WANTED, by Advance Agent or Manager, a Shop, for India and East; good Shows only; 30 years' experience here; cheap. Address, BABINGTON and Co., Post-master, Bombay.

WANTED, Known, Mr. Albert King, Manager, Organiser, Portsmouth Exhibition, 1908, at Lib. Nov. 28; thorough smart business man. 75, Pearl-buildings, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, W. H. Grieves, Carpenter, Disengaged, Resident, Tour, or Stage-Manager in Music Halls. Gaiety, Hastings (3), Devonshire Park, Eastbourne (3).

WANTED, a Situation as a Billposter, or to take charge of a plant, with 7 years' experience in England, Canada, and United States; sober and reliable; can produce good refs.
Box 5,183, "The Era."

WANTED, Position, in Billposter's, ten years' experience in office and works; could take control. T., 5, Thirsk-road, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Man, 24, as Baggage Biller, and assist generally; capable of few lines; smart; reliable. H. ROBERTS, 54, Beardsall's-row, Retford.

WANTED, Known, Amy Samwells, First-class Wardrobe Mistress, Costumier, and Renovator. Dis. Good refs. 8a, Electric-avenue, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Situation as Costumier, Wardrobe Mistress, thoroughly experienced either Ladies' or Gentlemen's Costumes; any period; excellent references. Address, Box 5,196, "The Era."

WANTED, Evening Employment, by Lady; permanent, would give bonus. Good references. MILLS, c/o Fancourt, 48, Victoria-rd., Chalk Farm.

WANTED, Known, Lady's Maid and Wardrobe Mistress; good refs., last four years. Dis. early Dec. DUKE, 28, St. Paul's-road, Kennington.

WANTED, by Lady (tall) position as Attendant or Barmaid in Hall or Theatre; small salary. N. P., 87, Chestnut-grove, Balham, S.W.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Conductor, for Pantomime.
Address,
MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, Musical Director (Pianist), for Musical Comedy. Terms and references, GLIDDON, 30, Aytoun-road, Stockwell, London, S.W.

WANTED, Leader, for Music Hall, in Bristol.
Apply through Branch Secretary to
Bristol Branch Sec.
Wanted, First Violin, for Music Hall, Derby.
Apply through Branch Secretary to
General Secretary, A.M.U.
Wanted, two good Cornets, for Theatre Work, Darlington and Warrington. Apply to General Secretary, through Branch Secretary.
Wanted, Leader, Variety Business. Apply, with endorsement of Branch Secretary, to RICHARDSON, Musical Director, Hippodrome, Rotherham.
Terms and conditions to be obtained from Branch Secretaries.

PARAGON THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LONDON, E.
WANTED, First and Second Violins, Brilliant Players, with powerful tone, and well up in Variety Business; also Trombone and Euphonium combined, and Double Drummer, with Tymp. and all Effects.
Terms and references to CONDUCTOR.

WANTED, excellent Leader (Lady), Solo and Orchestral, must be well experienced and good appearance; only first-class players should apply (permanency). Terms, reference, to Box 5,206, "The Era."

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHAM.
WANTED, First-class Leader; must be used to Variety (A.M.U.), to open Monday, Dec. 7. Evening dress. State age and references to RICHARDSON, Conductor, Hippodrome, Rotherham.

WANTED, to open immediately, Good Leader and First Cornet; permanency. Terms, age, and refs. to CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Grand T., Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, Smart Leader, or First Violin, Varieties, Open Monday week. Terms, age, &c., A. E. HUNT, Mus. Dir., Temperance Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, First-class Rép. First Violin, strictly sober, for Pavilion Theatre, Glasgow; no deputies allowed (except two weeks for holidays). Salary, £2 0s. 10d.; commence Dec. 7. Application and testimonials to HOWARD GALPIN, Mus.-Director.

WANTED, First-class Reliable Leader, also 'Cello, Crown Theatre, Eccles. None but good men, used to Variety, need apply. MANAGER.

WANTED, for the Exmouth Professional Town Band, First Violin, to act as Leader. Terms shares. SMITH, 10, Halsdon-road, Exmouth.

WANTED, First Violin, to Open Immediately, experienced in varieties essential. Lowest terms, references, T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

T. ALLAN EDWARDES' THEATRES.
WANTED, open Monday, Nov. 30, First Violin, as Leader, also good Variety Pianist. State terms and all particulars first letter.
HARRY HUNTER, Manager, Grand Theatre, Blackpool.

BRIGHTON MUNICIPAL ORCHESTRA.
WANTED, First-class Solo Clarionet to write in immediately; two performances daily; permanency. Good salary to really fine experienced Player. JOSEPH SAINTON, Musical-Director, Brighton.

WANTED, an experienced Clarionet, to open Dec. 7. Apply, with references and terms, to MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Gilbert's Palace, Exeter.

WANTED, at Once, good Euphonium Player, for Town Band. Permanent. Terms, shares. BANDMASTER, 4, Richmond-av., High-street, Southend.

WANTED, Soprano and Tenor B flat Saxophones for Voorzanger's Quintette. 61, Warwick-avenue, Maida Vale, London, W.

WANTED, 'Cello, used to Variety Business. Terms, 30s., half salary for matinées. Apply, E. FARRAR, Mus. Dir., Hippodrome, Hull.

WANTED, Flautist, Young Man or Lady, for abroad, twelve months certain, fares both ways. Apply, 11 to 5,
NATIONAL MUSICAL AGENCY, 119, Regent-street, London, W., or by letter.

WANTED, experienced Dramatic Pianist; able to arrange Long Tour for reliable man. Age, refs., and actual terms, J. B. CARRICKORD, Oxmantown Hall, Parsonstown, Ireland.

WANTED, Pianist, and Wife, for Bodie's Hippodrome, Ferndale; must be well up in variety and dramatic music, and assist billing, wife to assist cleaning. Apply, with lowest terms, to TOM N. MILLS, Hippodrome, Ferndale, South Wales.

WANTED, Pianist and Vocalist, must be used to Variety, open Mon., wire FONTAINBLEAU, P. H., Chirk, Ruabon. Proprietors and Managers requiring something up-to-date secure Fontainbleau's finest and greatest Troupe of Performing Dogs. On Tour; vacant Dec. 21. Com., Public Hall, Rhos, Ruabon.

WANTED, good Picture Pianist, Lecture, and assist generally,
Box 5,199, "The Era."

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS
WANTED, to commence Dec. 28, at Dundee, Double Drummer, with all Effects; must be of good appearance, wear evening dress, and be absolutely reliable. Terms and references, Coliseum, Leeds.

WANTED, Double Drummer and Effects, for small Military Band, permanent. Send references and particulars to ALEX. CORRISON, Conductor, Penzance Military Band, Penzance.

WANTED, Teacher for Mandoline and Violin Classes. State experience and salary required. 2, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, the following First-class Musicians: Leader (Solo Violin and Conductor), Pianist, 'Cellist and Bass, for Booth Line, Jan. 1, permanency to suitable Musicians; Répétiteur and 'Cellist, for Mauretania, Jan. to April; Leader (Solo Violin), Répétiteur, Pianist, 'Cellist, and Contrabassist, for Cunard Line, Jan., 1909.

Audition necessary in London or Liverpool before engagement.
Applicants state age and give two references as to character and ability, to
CHAS. WM. BLACK,
14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

CO. ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin and Viola, not over 35 years of age, and single, must be competent players. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 in the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and according to promotion, to £50 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.
Apply to THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

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"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

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WANTED, Engagement, by Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), large and valuable library. Pantomimes, Dramas, &c., composed and arranged. Victoria Theatre Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, by Ed. Landor, Musical-Director, Brilliant Pianist, Arranger, Composer; also Florence De Vere, Principal or Character Parts. Last year, Andie Caine's "Goody Two-Shoes." Previous, Walters', St. John Denton's, &c. Perm. address, 39, Station-road, Woodhouse, near Sheffield.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director (Violin), Variety or Theatre. References, Stoll Tour, &c. Good Library of Music. Liberty. Open Dec. 7. ALFRED HENRY TOWELL, 20, William-street, Bradford.

WANTED, Engagement, as Conductor, any Business; 3 years T. Allan Edwards, Esq.; previous 3 years T. Barrasford, Esq. GEO. ROBERTSHAW, 30, West-street, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, Engagement by experienced Conductor (Violin), Variety or Dramatic. Terms moderate; excellent refs.; good arranger. MUSICUS, 32, Osborne-road, Pontypool, Mon.

WANTED, Known, good Variety Leader, at Liberty, brilliant Violinist; experienced and reliable. Wire for Monday, 5, Gilbert-st., Seedley, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by Leader, or First Violin or Viola; experienced; Disengaged Dec. 7. PRITCHARD, 30, Church-road, Gorleston, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Hetty Austin, Violinist, just finished five months' engagement; Ada Austin, Pianist and Accompanist. 152, Herbert-road, Plumstead, S.E.

WANTED, by Lady Violinist, Engagement as First Violin or Leader; experienced; good reader. Apply, C. W., 451, York-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement (through termination of Dramatic Season), by Violin (Leader), Clarionet, Cornet, and Double Bass, together or separately; any business. CONDUCTOR, 32, Osborne-road, Pontypool, Mon.

WANTED, by Violinist, young, good Répétiteur or Leader, Situation, Hotel preferred; excellent references. Address, Box 5,185, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Violinist, combined Viola, Engagement, any Business; excellent references. Box 5,189, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Second Violin. Only moderate wage desired.
Box 5,194, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second Violinist; steady, experienced, and reliable player. Box 5202 "The Era."

WANTED, an Engagement, Violin or Viola, for Nov. 28. A. N., 7, St. Stephens-crescent, Bayswater.

WANTED, Engagement, First-class Violinist; good library music; wife highly trained Vocalist; joint preferred. State terms. Address, VIOLINIST, c/o McFall, Wellington-street, Ballymena, Co. Antrim.

WANTED, Engagement, as Violin or Viola. Write or wire, H. S. KIRKMAN,
64, Lauderdale-street, Preston.

WANTED, Engagements, by First-class Solo Cornet and Trombone; well up any Répertoire; good credentials; permanent preferred.
Box 5,184, "The Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cornet, Military or Orchestral; just completed 12 years Army Bandsman (Solo Cornet). A. WARNER, 38, Cambridge-road, Hammersmith.

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement, Music Hall or Theatre. Highest reference.
G. L., 100, Eversleigh-road, Battersea.

WANTED, by Cornet, First or Second, Engagement; experienced any business; good references. Box 5,206, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagements, by experienced Clarionet. Good refs.
B., 5, Burr-street, Minories, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Contra Bass, Conductors wanting a thoroughly experienced, steady, reliable man, please apply. Box 5,200, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, reliable Contra Bass, Disengaged Dec. 7; experienced all Lines.
FRED HANDEL, Theatre Royal, Pontypool.

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoon, Pantomime, Variety, or any other business. Excel. refs. Address, Box 5,173, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Double Bass, well experienced, orchestral or variety business. Box 5,178, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Lady Double Bass, or Drummer.
E. S., 83, Westmoreland-street, Pimlico, London.

WANTED, Known, Bassoonist, at Lib., Panto., Variety or other bus.; excel. refs.; term, season Worthing Borough Band. 7, Sutton-street, Holloway Head, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Bassoonist, at Liberty, fully experienced Musical Comedy, Varieties, Oratorios. C. E. SHAW, 7, Woodthorpe-terrace, Bankfield-road, Huddersfield.

WANTED, First-class Engagement, by reliable experienced Trombonist, at Liberty shortly; excellent references. DEAKIN, 14, Middlebourne-street, Seedley, Manchester.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, Music Hall. Highest reference. A. A., 49, Ashbury-road, Shaftesbury Estate, Battersea.

WANTED, Engagement, Trombonist; experienced and reliable; Theatre or Music Hall; could join at once. PEEL, 20, Warley-street, Parkinson-lane, Halifax.

WANTED, by Euphonium, Engagement in any Band; willing to work; good references. J. WILLIAMS, Oxford View, Junction-rd., Cowley, Oxford.

WANTED, Engagement, as Bombardon, any Business, steady and reliable. Friends note address, HARRY WOODAGE, 30, Lower Cavendish-place, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Known, French Horn (Second) at Liberty for Theatre, Pantomime, or any Bus.; 15 years' experience, G. and C. Opera, Symphonies, Concerts, &c. A1 testimonials (English). Apply, MUSICIAN, 70, Meanly-road, Manor Park, E.

WANTED, Engagement, permanency, First Horn, 6 years' experience in Orchestral work, commence at once. Write, FRENCH HORN, 86, Richmond-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, by good 'Cellist, permanent Engagement, West End preferred; good references.
41, Dyne-road, Kilburn, N.W.

WANTED, Known, Viola requires Engagement, Theatre; good bonus for permanency; hard worker; moderate wage. Address, Box 5,187, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Oboe or String Bass, any business; experienced.
J. CRABTREE, 7, Manchester-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, by Oboe, Flute, and Piccolo, age 21, excellent musician, little experience, job, any capacity. Low salary to gain experience. 13, Baythorne-street, Burdett-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly experienced Flautist, Disengaged Dec. 9.
Apply, New Theatre, Oxford.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist, good Sight-reader; experienced; highest references; free Dec. 19. Miss BOWDEN, 1, Haldon-road, Exeter.

WANTED, Engagement, Lady Pianist, good sight reader and accompanist, or Ladies' Orchestra; well recommended. M. SCULLEY, 12, Stockwell Park-road, S.W.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement; thoroughly experienced in Variety and Dramatic Business. L., MAJOR HORNSBY, 9, Temperance-terrace, Ushaw Moor, Durham.

WANTED, Engagement, Orchestral Pianist, combining Violin; experienced any business; good refs. MANLEY, 96, Cemetery-rd., Southport.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Picture Engagement, by Brilliant Pianist; experienced; Disengaged London district. MARIE MORTIMER, 67, Arthur-road, Wimbledon Park.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drummer, any business, four seasons with Sir Robert Fossett's Circus. Wolverton, Saturday; after, Post Office. FRANK LAKE, Drummer.

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums, own Tymps. Glockenspiel, E flat Tubular Bells. NEVILL, 163, St. Leonard's-road, Windsor.

WANTED, Engagement, by Amy Vetta, as Double Drummer, for one month. Salary £1 10s. weekly. Address, c/o "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Hungarian Czimbalist. Letters to BENE JOZSEF, 84, Farleigh-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, Engagement, by Mandolinist, good Musician; quick reader and memoriser; also Violin, Viola, Banjo, Guitar, Piano. Address, 5,188, "The Era."

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Algernon Clarke's Orchestras and Ladies' Bands, Exhibitions, Concerts, Dinners, Dances. Uniforms and Music for Sale or Hire. 28, Lonsdale-road, Barnes. Telephone 109 Putney.

WANTED, Known, Madame H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, vacant Dec. Address, 33, Arodene-road, Brixton Hill, S.W. Please note change of address.

WANTED, Engagement, any Bus., a Smart Family Band of Six; through closing. Terms moderate. RUSSELL, 16, Albert-road, Long Eaton, Notts.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Circus Artist, Performing Ponies, Dogs, Small Riding Acts, suitable for Stage Circus, 26ft. ring; also would Hire two or three Performing Ponies, for winter season. CIRCUS PROPRIETOR, P.O., Bolton.

WANTED, immediately, a good Thrower and Catcher, to join well-known Troupe of Acrobats. State weight and full particulars to A. B., General Post Office, Sheffield.

WANTED, at Once, Top-mounter and a Tumbler. Send full particulars to FRANK STEBBING, Metropole, Manchester.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the Three Royal Ohmys, Wonderful Acrobatic Bareback Riders, have made the Greatest Success ever known at the Grand Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth. Everyone that has seen this Act declares that it is the Greatest and Only Act of the Kind ever seen in a Circus Ring. Note.—Through altering date The Royal Ohmys will be at Liberty at Christmas with six good acts and three or five horses. For particulars, address, ROYAL OHMYS, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by Paun Bujor, the late Buffalo Bill's Rough Rider, who presents his thoroughbred Mare in her Novelty Act, Racing Tricks. Apply, Maerdy, Glam., South Wales.

WANTED, Known, Robert Davies, Bareback Equestrian, at Liberty after a season of twenty-seven weeks with First-class Acts. Add., Circus, Drogheda, Ireland.

A Sound Speciality of Value
Draws its Own and Other's Salaries.
Open Dates, Pantomime &c.

WANTED, by Quinette's Perfect Animal Show, Pony and Ten Dogs; Two Acts, Ring or Stage, Touring or Resident. Communications, Bryntirion Farm, Rhyl, Wales.

WANTED, Known, "The Human Aeroplanes," Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, received a Flattering Reception at the Grand Opening of Cooke's Royal Cirque, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 45B, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.

WANTED, Known, these Concerts ceased Oct. 31, 1908. Artists please note, and cancel dates

WM. BIGGAM, Sec., 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES;

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.

WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. MASCARD, Manager.

KING'S, KILMARNOCK.
Lessee and Manager, J. CUMMINGS.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines. Big Star Attractions. Nothing too Big.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Comedians, Serios, Specialities. Hall small, so no fancy prices. Lowest terms, particulars, LOUDEN, Hippodrome, Airdrie, N.B.

HARROGATE OPERA HOUSE.

WANTED, Variety Artists, Thursday next, Dec. 3 (3 nights).
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK,

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Acts with Drawing Powers (Nothing too Big), Nov. 30, onwards. CLAGGERS, Gaiety, Blyth.

HARROGATE, SCARBOROUGH, and YORK.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists (nothing too big), for Monday next and onwards. Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Opera House, Harrogate. Silence a polite negative.

BRITANNIA, GLASGOW.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Dec. 14 and onwards. Hall small, so terms must be in proportion. Apply to A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager.

WANTED, Star Variety Artists, Immediate and Future Dates.
Bookings and lowest terms first letter.
Fête and Galas, Season, 1909.
Sensational and Big Novelties.
Send lithos., terms, and permanent address,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9251.

WANTED, Refined Variety Artists, three nights Dec. 3; may have Tour if suitable.. LE COURT, 23, Watling-street, Llanwrst, N. Wales.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, nothing too big, for Thursday next (three nights), Harrogate. Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Sensations, Wrestlers, Knockabouts, Double Comedians, and Comedy of all Kinds. Wire lowest for Dec. 7, South Wales.
Address,
MANAGER, Treglyn House, Redruth, Cornwall.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Big Top for Dec. 7.
for Midlands and North.
No Act too big.
Artists all Lines for all dates, address
CLIQUOT, 46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.

WANTED, Artists in every Line, big and small. Artists coming North will do well to write me for immediate and later dates.

WANTED, Known, Munroe's Agency. Artists must send me full list of bookings (not vacant dates). Nov. 30, Palace, Bath.
Note.—I am not Walter Munroe, the Irish Comedian.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, of Note.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY,
DALTON'S AGENCY — I can book you
DALTON'S AGENCY — Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY — and
DALTON'S AGENCY — Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY — No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY — and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY — (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY — and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY — also
DALTON'S AGENCY — weekly apartments
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DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY — Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY
I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Good Acts known to me please send full list of Bookings (including Engagements played throughout 1908), must have list of Bookings, or useless writing.
Kindly remember I know your real market value, so no "tricks on travellers," but actual lowest London and Provincial terms in each instance.
Good Novel Acts not known to me state when and where can be seen.
No Acts submitted unless seen and approved.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.

Permanent address,
38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
Week commencing Nov. 30. Address,
Jessamine House, Lady-lane, Norwich.

PALACE, DERBY;
PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD;
HIPPODROME, STOKE;
GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Present and Future Dates. Combinations with real Drawing Star Tops, or First-class Pantomimes Playing Twice Nightly can be entertained for a few dates in January, February, and March. Full particulars in first instance to T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.

WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and Future Dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns, Sketches, &c., doing Singles, two weeks, Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 4. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin. Good Freaks write at once.

WANTED, Artists, all Lines, now and on. Lowest,
AUBREY, Lesser Town Hall, Pontypridd.

WANTED, Artists, Various, to open Dec. 26. Rehearse prior.
State terms and full particulars,
W. E. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, from now onwards.
Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Dec. 7, on. 1A, Loughboro'-rd., Brixton. 'Phone 15 Brixton

PAVILION, NORTHWICH.

Proprietress, Mrs. FLETCHER.
General-Manager, Mr. TOWYN THOMAS.
Assistant-Manager, Mr. REGINALD FLETCHER.

WANTED, Artists, Dec. 14, onwards. Call for Monday next, Frank Coyle, The Hazards, Uty, The Dewars, Jack Ford, Phil Royston, Bioscope.
Gen-Man., TOWYN THOMAS.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Dec. 14, 21, and three following nights;
also 28th, near London.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-6, Strand.

WANTED, Wanted, for the NEW PALACE OF VARIETIES, WATFORD,
Open Dec. 14,
Artists in every Branch of the Variety Profession, Good Top-liners, Comedians, Musical Scenas, Dramatic Sketches,
Big Novelties, and Sensational Attractions.
Anything that will draw and please the Public.
First-class Animal Shows, Ballets, Military and Equestrian Spectacles can be entertained.
All must be New to Watford.
State also terms in first instance, as the town is small, and no fancy prices can be entertained.
T. M. SYLVESTER,
217, Piccadilly, London, W.

WANTED, Artists, for Picture Show, Clever Lady Pianist, thirty weeks' tour, week towns. State lowest in first letter. WILL KNOTT, Town Hall, Kirkcudbright, N.B.

WANTED, Monday, Dec. 7, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, for Dec. 7, onwards, Stars, Specialists, Novelties, and Artists of every description.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, Big Variety and Speciality Stars, willing to share, Dec. 7 or 14.
JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, all the Stars and Novelties, Big Comedy Acts, immediate and future dates. Send list of bookings and terms to YATES, Agent, Gaiety, Dundee.

WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, for Dec., Jan., and on, Star Turns,
Comedians,
Serios,
Gymnasts,
Acrobats,
Bar Performers,
and
Any New and Novel Acts,
also Comedy Sketches.

Those not willing to pay usual 10% commission save stamps.

Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, one or two good Turns, for Picture Shows, Long Eaton and Worksop,
Dec. 7 and 14.
W. PAYNE SEDDON, Theatre Royal, Loughboro'.

NEW LEIGH GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.
Grand Opening, Dec. 14, 1908.

WANTED, Star Specialities, all Lines, First-class, Dec. 14, and onwards. Quote absolute lowest terms, and where Act can be seen. Communications, WILLIAM BENSON, Man.-Dir., Hippodrome, Leigh.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPO., ALDERSHOT.

WANTED, Feb. 1, 1909, First-class Varieties. Novelties, and Specialities. Lowest terms and particulars to J. GLADWIN (Mgr. for Mr. C. Soanes).

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

Want of Luck generally means Want of Pluck.
PACEY'S AGENCY,
186, Brixton-road, London, S.W.
TOM PACEY, Sole Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists of all Kinds.
None too Big for this Firm.
Artists of all Grades treated fairly.
My terms are 10 per cent.
and no objectionable Re-engagement clause.
Pay only for work done.
PACEY'S AGENCY
can book everywhere.
Never mind what you hear.
Pacey is barred nowhere.
But still, remember,
the man without an enemy
is a nonentity.
If you want dates,
send your full list of bookings and price,
PACEY'S AGENCY.
Sole Proprietor, TOM PACEY,
186, Brixton-road, London.
'Phone, 87 Brixton.
Telegrams, "Pacey's, London."

Manager, F. C. FRANCIS.

ALHAMBRA, BRIGHTON.
Lessee, A. SMITH.

WANTED, Talent in all Lines, from Dec. 7, onwards.
Price no object for the Right Stuff.
PACEY'S Agency,
186, Brixton-road, London.
'Phone, 87 Brixton.
Telegrams, "Pacey's, London."

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.

WANTED, Talent, all Lines, Dec. 7, 14, 21, later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

NEW LYCEUM, TILBURY DOCKS.

WANTED, Music Hall Talent during the Season. Write particulars, lowest terms, and Vacant Dates in first letter to A. BALL, Proprietor.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds for South Wales and District. Present and future dates. Send bookings, actual lowest. MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly; Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Nov. 30, onwards, for Everywhere, Variety Acts, all Lines, Dec. 28, Animated Pictures, Latest Films, Electric Light. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Dec. 21, onwards, First-class Novel Acts, of every description. Nothing is too big. Will following communicate immediately:—
Sim Maree, Lily Butler, and Henrietta and Selina.
GEO. ZALVA,
General-Manager, Gilbert's Palace, Exeter.

WANTED, Nov. 30, on, Star and Top of the Bill Acts. I can fix you. Brinn write.
Full Bookings, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

HIPPO, SPENNYMOOR, under new Management.

WANTED, Funny Acts, Comedians, Sketch Artists, Ballet Troupes, &c., &c., nothing too big, must be new to the above town, to open Nov. 14, 1908. Hippo., Spennymoor, under new Management. Address, C. ALGIE, care of Brown, 132, Mains-street, off Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, for Dec. 7, onward,
Star Acts, in all Lines.
Star Acts, in all Lines.
Full up for Smaller Items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105 and 106, Strand, W.C.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
Managing-Director, WILLIAM PEACOCK.
One of the most Luxurious Theatres in the North.
Now running one house nightly at 8.
Holding capacity 2,000. Popular prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.

WANTED, Star Variety Combinations, Musical, Dramatic, and Pantomime Companies, on sharing terms.
Vacant Dec. 14, onwards. Only First-class Attractions.
Address, WILLIAM PEACOCK,
Opera House, Harrogate.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.

WANTED, Star Attractions of every Description. Nothing too Big; Bigger the Better. Star Novelties, Star Comedians, Star Comedy Acts, Star Specialities. Big Acts, share or salary. Full particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

SYLVESTER'S THIRTY-FIRST GALA SEASON,
Commencing Easter Monday, 1909, onwards.

WANTED, Latest Novelties, Aerial or Stage, nothing too big. If any lithos., send specimen, stating lowest terms per day (not week), vacant dates. Letters only, no callers, 271, Clapham-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Top and Bottom Liners. Address, with Bookings, GEO. AYTOUN,
103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, nothing too big, for Thursday next (three nights), Harrogate. Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, for Bognor Pier during August, 1909. High-class Concert Parties. Apply, stating terms (sharing or otherwise) and open dates, to M. W. SHANLY, 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead, N.W.

FINLAY DUNN'S CONCERT PARTY.

WANTED, for Southend Al-fresco Concerts, Season 1909, Soprano for Concerteds, Comedian, Tenor, Baritone, and Pianist. All communications, ERNEST MITCHELL, 74H, Peckham-road, S.E.

WANTED, Knockabout Pantomimist, used to Clogs, also ditto for Dude, for Production of Pantomime Sketch. IDA HETHERINGTON, 49, Willington-road, Stockwell.

WANTED, for Picture Show, three Young Ladies. Sing, Dance, also useful Lads; long Tour. Lowest terms, live in; vacancy for smart Girl beginner. MANAGER, Hippodrome, Bridgwater.

WANTED, a Woman (Liliputian); must not be over 4ft. in height, and perfect in proportion. Write terms, experience (if any), and salary to GEORGE AUGER, Empire Music Hall, Holloway, London, N.

WANTED, good Comedian and Dancer, for Minstrel Troupe, also a good High Tenor. Apply, Monday, 12 o'clock, 11, Leicester-place, Leicester-square.

WANTED, Monday next, a Good, Funny Comedian, for Castleford, new to the town. Wire absolute lowest, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Child, to look about 10, for part in Sketch, must be pretty. Photo., letter only. HAYMAN, 50, Leith-mansions, Maida Vale, W.

WANTED, immediately, Bioscope, complete, with Operator, Films, &c., on Sharing Terms, for large shop, fitted with seats, electric and gas, complete in the most crowded thoroughfare in Brighton, big business; no other Picture Shop in town. Wire, 28, Gardiner-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Operator, with own Machine and Iron House, used to electric and gas.
Box 5,198, "The Era."

HARROGATE GRAND OPERA HOUSE.

WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, nothing too big, for Thursday next (three nights), Harrogate. Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, own latest machine, best iron house, resident, advertiser finds films; comfortable shop. Terms, MANAGER, 18, Royal-mans., Croydon.

WANTED, Operator, with Machine, Screen, Gas, Box, and Films, for two hours' show, Dec. 7, week; wife to sing to Slides. WAMBA, 167, Knutsford-road, Warrington.

WANTED, thoroughly efficient Kinématograph Operators, also combined Operator and Electrician. State experience, age, and salary required. Box 5,207, "The Era."

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday, Lydia Raie (Banjo Queen), Trick Mandolinist, with Pictures.
Last week, East Theatre, Oxford;
this Victoria Hall, Batley. Wire.

WANTED, by Connie Mascot, the Dainty Comedienne with a voice, Monday and Dec. 7. Wire, 150, Great Brunswick-street, Dublin; or CLAXTON.

WANTED, Known, Dorothy Hammerton is Disengaged, Refined Vocalist, Comedienne, and Clog Dancer. Sure draw for Picture Show. Write, C. H., G. P. O., Mossley, Yorks.

WANTED, by Miss Alice Oakley, Comedienne, Monday, Nov. 30, also Dec. 7, 14, 21.
Wire, 31, Ellison-street, Gateshead-on-Tyne.

WANTED, 30th, 7th, and 14th, by Marie Colmore (The Comedienne).
Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, Leo Ville, Lady Conjurer and Jester, Liberty 30th, Great Success Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank. Coms., KLEE, Conductor, Empire, Greenock.

WANTED, Monday next, Cissie Torr, Serio Comedienne and Speciality Song and Dance Artist, just finished twelve months' tour through India. Good Agent required. 1, Holden-square, St. James-st., Nottingham.

WANTED, by Young Lady, well-known Musical Comedy Artist, Engagement as Sketch, Musical or otherwise, or Double Turn. Tall, fair. Ex. refs. 8, Brandon-mansions, West Kensington.

WANTED, Known, Emma Don, now working her 16th consecutive week in London. Vacant March 15, 1909. Permanent, 15, Kensington Court-gardens, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Lolo and May, Liberty Monday, 30th, Lady Gymnasts and Contortionists and Dancing Artist. Dec. 7, New Empire, Barnsley. Wire this week, Crystal Palace, London.

WANTED, Known, Rubie and Elsie Redfern, Refined Drawing-room Act, Banjoes, Piano, Singing, Dancing, &c., vacant Nov. 30, 1908, and Jan. 11, 1909. 60, Denmark-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 11, March 1, Jean Macdun (the Lady Lauder), Peggy Lyndon's Musical Act, Sure Success. Wire, MELVILLE, Rathbone, Portobello.

WANTED, by the Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Dec. 7, 14, 21. Wire or write, Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydfil, S. Wales. Offers invited.

WANTED, Known, the Clever and Popular Sisters Terry, at Lib. Dec. 14, 21, 28.
Address, Hippodrome, Dewsbury, Nov. 30.

WANTED, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, by Sid Stanto, in his up-to-date Musical Pot-Pourri Act; elaborate Electric Fit-up. Wire or write, 152, Trevelyan-road, Tooting, London.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 21, 28, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman, Concertina.
Next week, Palace, Shipley.

WANTED, Monday, also Dec. 7, by Ryder Davis, Smart Comedian. Wire, Empire, Hull; after, 41, Cambridge-st., Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, by Ben Jackson, the Banjo Magician, Dec. 7, also Jan. 18. This, Hippo., Preston; Nov. 30, Pavilion, L'pool. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Musical Silvo was called again and again. His performance on the glasses is the best seen in Cardiff.—South Wales Echo. Vacant next week, also Dec. 14. Wire, Hippo., Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Engagement, by Cade Burnett, successful Actor-Vocalist, Liberty Dec. 7 and 14. This week and next, Market Hall, Whitehaven.

WANTED, Nov. 30, by Alf Brookes, Burlesque Comedian. Wire, Pavilion, Northwich; after Sunday, 86, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, by Harry Leaton, Refined and Up-to-date Unaracter Vocalist. Wire, 2, Priory-place, Ipswich.

WANTED, by Fred Hadley, Comedian and Dancer, at Liberty Monday next. Wire, 20, Rosamond-place, Upper Brook-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday, onwards, by Barney Stuart, Character Actor, Vocalist, and Mimic.
Wire, Wire, Wire,
4, Canterbury-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, by Bosanquet, for his Novel Act, the Human Violin, with Sensational Surprises. A star line and sure draw. Wire, Palace, Carlisle. Permanent, 31, Hermitage-rd., Finsbury Park, London.

WANTED, by Komical Kristo, the Original Comic Juggler, but not Mad, First-class Act, Vacant Monday next, Nov. 30. Wire, Public Hall, Hindley, Lancs.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Dec. 7 and 14, for his Original Act of Oriental Illusions, including Beautiful Illuminated Stage Effects. Concludes to-night, Gaiety Theatre, Ayr; next week, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge.

WANTED, Dec. 7 and 21, to precede and follow Gaiety, Glasgow, by Li-Chang-Hi, Chinese Conjurer; next week, Albert Hall, Jarrow.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, 21, the Great Kyoto, Japanese Comedy Act, Contortionist, Conjurer, Juggler, and Clever Pug Dog; also Miss May Geraldine. Refined Chic Comedienne and Dancer. Enormous Success, Queen's, Castleford. Nov. 30, Albert Theatre, Brighouse. Two distinct turns.

WANTED, Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 28, Sardows, Illusionists, Mystifiers; also Marie Riviers, Popular Chorus Songstress. Wire, 40, Garden-lane, Conisboro', Yorks.

WANTED, Dec. 7 and 14, by Wyllie, Tramp Musician; also Miss Telka, Ballad Vocalist. WYLLIE, Palace, Exeter, Nov. 30.

WANTED, Known, Chas. and May Dana, Comedy Duo, Liberty Monday and onwards. A Certain Success. Wire, 4, St. James'-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, Wonderful Hoop Juggling Effects; and Beatrice Bonnie, Artistic Comedienne; have immediate vacancies. Wire, Hippodrome, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Dec. 7, Jan. 4, The Monckton's (the Popular Comedy Duo), in their screaming Farcical Successes. Nov. 30, Sadler's Wells Theatre, London.

WANTED, Known, Ernie Myers and Lily Lonsdale are unexpectedly Vacant next Monday, Nov. 30. Wires, Empire, Greenock; afterwards, Sat., 448, Osmaston-road, Derby.

WANTED, Known, the Two Le Bruns (Edgar and Edie), the Great and Only Child Juggler and Vocalist, are at Liberty Dec. 7, 14, Jan. 4.

Thanks to Leoni Clarke, Esq., for comfortable week at the Hippo., Burton, and Re-engagement with him at the Hippo., Gainsboro'.

WANTED, Monday next, Two Martins, America's Dancing Marvels, Duettists and Speciality Song and Dance Experts. Two of the Best. Wire, 1, Holden-square, St. James-street, Nottingham.

WANTED, Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, Stuart and Evans, Comedians.
Next, Palace, Gloucester.

WANTED, by Braund and Davies, late Melville (Earl and Melville), Comedians, Patterers, Dancers, Monday next, Dec. 7. Wire, Hip., Preston. Perm. add., 17, Chorlton-road, Manchester.

WANTED, by Barfoot and Carson, Comedy Act, Musicians, Vocalists, Dancers, Patterers, Dec. 14, 21, twelve minutes' laughter. Address, Hippodrome, Salford.

WANTED, Known, Wills and Warlock, Great Comedy and Dancing Act, Liberty Nov. 30 and Dec. 7. Wire, Public Hall, Darwen, Lancs.

WANTED, Monday next, by Chant and Chant, the Original Comedy Vocalists. Wire for a sure Laughing Hit. Workmen's Hall, Pentre.

WANTED, Known, The Two Daniels, Negro Comedians and Stilt Dancers, soon made themselves popular, for their act is exceedingly smart.—Burton Daily Mail, Nov. 24. Vacant, Monday. Wire, Hippodrome.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by France and Francis, Acrobatic Comedians, Monday next, also Dec. 7, Wire; also Panto. Theatre Royal, Workington.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14 by Foley and Francis, Comedians. Terrific Success, this week, Empire, Dudley. Nov. 30, Palace, Northampton; or DALTON'S Agency.

WANTED, by Les Rallis, the Artist and his Monkey, Dec. 7, between Lowestoft and Blackpool. Add., E. RALLIS, 25, Horsedge-street, Oldham.

WANTED, The Musical Palmers, Vacant Dec. 7, Dec. 7, between Palace, Grimsby, and Empire, Bolton. Wire, Grand Theatre, Chorley. Letters Grimsby.

WANTED, Monday next, by Billy Ross and Co., greatest Boxing Act before the Public. Starring, Hippodrome, Hastings. Competitions nightly; big draw.

WANTED, by Munroe's Comedy Team, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 1908. Big Hit and a Sure Draw.
Nov. 30, Palace, Bath.

WANTED, Known, Four Cecilians are storming Hippodrome, Macclesfield, this week. Make enquiries. Next, Alexandra, Pontefract. Vac. Dec. Don't want the earth.

WANTED, 30th, 7th, and 14th, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe.
Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, the Great Gymnastic Sensation. Enormous Success, Opera House, Workington. This week, Palace, Carlisle; next, Guildhall, Carnarvon. Vacant Dec. 7, 14, 21, and 28, also New Year, for Music Halls, Circuses, Carnivals, Skating Rinks, Exhibitions, or Picture Halls. Wire to-day, Carlisle; then, Guildhall, Carnarvon.

WANTED, Nov. 30, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number. Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. 30, Harrow-street, Grantham.

WANTED, Dates, Wonderful Trampolin Comedy Act, own hotel scene, two Acts for Pantomime, Prince, talk of every town, and Tom, the cat wonder. PEPS, 64, Upper Sutton-st., Aston, Birmingham.

WANTED, by The Floriss, Novelty Equilibrists, and Comedy Slack-wire Artists. Vac. Dec. 7 and 14. Wire, Hippodrome, Darlington.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, 28, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist par excellence, always original, can follow anything. Thanks D. Gardner-Brown, Esq., — Truscott, Esq., and R. Pringle, Esq., for offers this week.
Address, Queen's, Castleford.

WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist. Two Smart Acts. Offers invited. Monday, Hippo., Salford.

WANTED, Known, Valvo, Ventriloquist, is vacant Dec. 7 and 14, Smart Act. Wire, this week, Grand, Blackpool; next, Empire, Southport.

WANTED, Dec. 7 and 14, by Leo, the Popular Singing Ventriloquist; the most refined and enjoyable Vent. Act in existence. This week, Palace, Exeter; next, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, most Elaborate in the Profession,
Dec. 7 (between Yarmouth and Scarborough),
Jan. 11, onwards, with exceptions.
Coms.,
Week Nov. 30, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, J. A. Wilson and Private Towser, in "The Troubles of a Recruiting Sergeant," at Liberty Dec. 7, at Liberty between Coventry and Brighton, only vacant date till next April. This week, Starring at Hippodrome, Lancaster; next week (Nov. 30), Hippodrome, Coventry,
where wire or write for terms.

WANTED, Known, Williams' Dogs, in their Sensational Military Act, "The Deserter," the most marvellous exhibition of Canine intelligence ever witnessed; Liberty Nov. 30, onward. South View Cottage, Rothwell, Haigh, Leeds.

WANTED, at Liberty, Feb. 1, onwards, Rodin, Eccentric Knockabout and Acrobatic Cycle Act, and Comedy Juggling Speciality, own company, at Okehampton. Address, G. P. O., Okehampton.

WANTED, Dec. 7 (through transferring), Henry and Tyler, Comedy Cyclists. No other Vacancies. Wire, Palace, Gloucester. Monday, Pavilion, Ebbw Vale.

WANTED, Nov. 30, onwards, Swift Duo, Novel Cycling Speciality. Wire, Hippo., Gainsboro'; after Sat., 89, Bristol-st., Hulme, M'chester.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, the Eccentric Cyclist, is vacant April, 1909, onwards. Per., 106, Bigland-street, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Youth, 16 years old, height 5ft., weight 7st; knowledge of Tumbling; would join Troupe of Acrobats or Comic Assistant to Juggler. JAMES SHAW, c/o Post Office, Newcastle-under-Lyme.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Engagements, First-class Operator, with or without machine, lime and electric, and films; three years' references; vacant Dec. 7. OPERATOR, 69, Randolph-street, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

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The Public put Pennies in the Slots,
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WANTED, Known, all over the Kingdom, to the best house for Hooplar prizes, large variety of new lines, Fancy Goods, Perfumery, Toilet Soap, Chocolate and Confectionery, Boxes, &c.; also suitable Novelties for Market and Fair Workers. Write for sample and list. KEN-DY'S Wholesale Depôt, 28, Houndsditch, E.C.

WANTED, Known, Hooplar Packets, Fancy Boxes Confectionery, from 7s. per gross to 10s. gross. A. BUNN, 16, Dagnall-place, Brady-street, Whitechapel-road

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WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLUMSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent No. 17402.
This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees,
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and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.
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WANTED, Freaks, or good Novelty. Lucy Moore write. One month, New Year. Apply, FRED BURNETT, 55, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Sensational Freaks and Novelties, for Dec. 14 and Xmas and New Year. Fanning's Marionettes write. Waxworks, Castle-street, Inverness.

WANTED, Lady Palmist. State age, experience, and salary in first letter. Enclose photo if possible. A. E. PICKARD, American Museum, Glasgow.

WANTED, Tattooist, Photographer, Wire-working (Jewellery), Palmist, prominent main road shop; Share or Rent. MANAGER, 104, High-street, Walthamstow.

WANTED, a good Auctioneer, to sell Jewellery, Fancy Goods, &c., in good Liverpool shop; constant situation. Apply, 25, Bedford-st. North, Liverpool.

WANTED, competent Doorsman and Lecturer, to commence Dec. 21. State particulars, and apply to EBRAHIM, Pavilion Theatre, Buxton.

WANTED, Known, Rollo, King of the Air. Great Success, Collins' Fun City, Gill-street, Liverpool. Liberty Xmas and New Year. Address, above.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to send for my new list with over 2,000 illustrations of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Field Glasses, Bazaar and Fancy Goods; every line right for price. SIMONS, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, London.

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The whole Outfit costing from £90 to £100.
Only been in use six weeks.
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WANTED, to Sell, 6 horse power Portable Engine, also Dynamo, cheap.
Apply, M. RICHARDSON, Olympia, Sunderland.

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WANTED, to Sell, Helter Skelter, as now erected at Gorleston, Great Yarmouth, immediate delivery. For full details apply, J. W. NIGHTINGALE, Aquarium, Great Yarmouth.

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WANTED, to Sell, Pretty Little Pair of Chestnut Shetland Ponies, only 29in. high.
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WANTED, Known, Miss Edith St. Clare wishes to Thank the Gentlemen who Answered the Advt. for Manager. The Vacancy is now Filled.

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CALLS FOR PANTOMIME.

CALLS FOR PANTOMIME.
LONDON AND PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES CO., LTD.,
"CINDERELLA,"
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW,
MONDAY, Nov. 30,
PRINCIPALS, 12 o'clock,
CHORUS, 11 a.m.
"CINDERELLA,"
FULHAM THEATRE,
CHORUS LADIES, MONDAY, Dec. 14, at 11 a.m.,
PRINCIPALS and CHORUS GENTLEMEN, Thursday, Dec. 17, at 11 a.m.
"FAIR ONE WITH GOLDEN LOCKS,"
GRAND THEATRE, HULL,
CHORUS LADIES, WEDNESDAY, Dec. 16, at 11 a.m.,
PRINCIPALS, MONDAY, Dec. 21, at 11 a.m.
"JACK THE GIANT KILLER."
ALL CONCERNED, MONDAY, Dec. 21, at 11 a.m.
No excuse accepted for absence.
Special train arrangements will be made from London to Hull, and Motherwell.
Signed, STANLEY ROGERS,
General Manager.

PRINCE OF WALES' THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
CALL FOR PANTOMIME.
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THURSDAY, Dec. 10, at 12 noon.
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Manager.

HOWARD AND WYNDHAM, LTD.,
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TYNE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE, Dec. 10.
THEATRE ROYAL, MANCHESTER, Dec. 10.

CALLS FOR PANTOMIME.
Season 1908-1909.
JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES.
"ALADDIN."
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 14, at 10.30 a.m.,
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
"CINDERELLA,"
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 21st, at 10.30 a.m.,
NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 21, at 10.30 a.m.
AVENUE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
No Excuses Entertained.
Signed, JAMES KIDDIE.
N.B.—Artists who have not received parts please send present addresses.
TRAIN CALL.
A special train will leave Widnes on Sunday, Dec. 20, for Sunderland. Artists engaged for "Dick Whittington," and who are desirous of availing themselves of the three-quarter fare, please communicate with Mr. Kiddie's secretary, Mr. THOS. SWINTON, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

CALLS FOR PANTOMIME.
DOTTRIDGE AND LONGDEN'S
"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
Rehearsals 10 a.m. sharp, THURSDAY, Dec. 17.
At the ALEXANDRA THEATRE, SHEFFIELD.

DOTTRIDGE AND LONGDEN'S
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Rehearsals 10 a.m. sharp, THURSDAY, Dec. 17.
At THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

DOTTRIDGE AND LONGDEN'S
"ALADDIN."
Rehearsals 10 a.m. sharp, THURSDAY, Dec. 17.
At NEW GRAND THEATRE, OLDHAM.

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Wanted, all Artists engaged for Pantomime who have not received Call or Part, to at once communicate with
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Brunsden, property man, send address.

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We have been deluged with applications, but except for the Hoop-La nothing has been set. Nothing will be set in the Queen's Hall, where the Machines and Circus are going, until after Tuesday Morning's Post.
DATE OF OPENING, DECEMBER 10.
DATE OF CLOSING, FEBRUARY 9.
There will only be about 500ft. of Games in the Queen's Hall, not 5,000. No Gallery. Every position good.
Preference will be given to Variety.
There will be a few select sites at £2 per foot; the rest will be 30s. a foot. There will also be a bit of ground in the open air at £1 a foot.
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All applications for space must arrive at the latest by Tuesday Morning's Post, Dec. 1, and made to Mr. A. C. BEECH,
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THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

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H. de Serris, Tom Tit and Tit Bit, Mons. Daras, Pat and Shoot, C. Prelle, Daunton Troupe, Cattiancos, Mac Walten, F. De Marco, Trois Carleus, Pictures, La Rois. Minar's Quartette.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Grace Langley, Dan Fitmer, H. Grattan and Co., Dusty Rhodes, Tony Black, Hackenschmidt, Ausonias, Pictures, My Fancy.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Haley's Juveniles, Helen Martine, Hinton and Wooton, Lawrence Barclay, Hanid Alexander J. Friedman and Co., Jan Rodenyi and Co., Pictures.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Leslie Brothers, Sammy Shields, M. M. Dupres, Mike Cray, Harry Rogerson, Three Orros, Four Aces, Pictures, Brilliant and Brilliant, Austins.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Hall and Hall, Geo. Rapley, Lanos and Montes, Rastus and Banks, F. L. Gregory Troupe, H. Pollock and Co., Sisters Ford, Pictures, Munstedt's Colibris.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Jay Laurier, Princess Trixie, Thorne and Coe, Henry Bekker, Pictures, Hilgart-Arkas Troupe, Three Panamas, Williams and Warden, Harmony Four, Maid and Moon.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Chas. Norton, Ivy Aberdare, Russell Brandon, Emmie Aymes, Harry Bancroft, Mlle. Pollo, Harry Conlin, Barrascope, Beau Ideals.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Will Johnson, Kurkamp, Curtis Leo, Alice Hollander, Queenie May, Pictures, Bert Woodward, Walton and Lester, Frances and Stewart.

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Phil Ray, Harry Russon, George Newburn, Chas. Bignell, Fontaine, Mabel Thorne, Victoria Monks, Kathleen Gray, Kitty Upton, Daisy James, Irene Rose, Henry and Frances, Pictures, Radford and Valentine, Lucile, O'Gorman Brothers.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Roll and Butt, Freda Sharlotte, Frank Seeley, Boyd and Gilfain, Peggy Pryde, Tom Foy, Ed. Ford, Daisy Jerome, Cruikshank, Carlotta Levey, Harry Randall, Fred Eustace and Co.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Herbert La Martine, Frank Seeley, L. Bradfield, Cassie Walmer, Venie Clements, Lena Verdi, Millie Hylton, Pictures Farr and Farland, Ray and Calden, Barton and Franklyn, F. Karno's "G.P.O.," Borghetti Troupe, Ethel Beech and Girls.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Billy French, Will Driscoll, Tom Edwards, Dorothy Gould, Eileen Douglas, Sisters Pine, Chas. Austin and Co., in "Parker, P.C.," Pictures, Haig and Novel, Linden's Vaudevilles, The Leonards, The Rompa, Victoria Monks.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Larry Lewis, Max Waldon, Harry Ford, Edie Anderson, Violet Stockelle, Dolly Golden, Pictures, The Fimans, Bradley and Barnes, Union Jack Boys, F. Ginnett and Co., in "St. George and the Dragon," Geo. Mozart.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Nipper Lupino Lane, Nora Guy, Tiger Lily, Madge Grey, Daisy James, Pictures, Texas Hattie, Frank and Free, Selbini Troupe, Pender Troupe, Chanti.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Dan Crawley, Fred Land, Geo. Cairncross, Harry Brown, Lena Verdi, Twin Andersons, Pictures, Lew Lake and Co., in "Bloomsbury Burglars," Wilson and Waring, Pete and Juno, Cecile François and Co., Geo. Bonhair Troupe, Chas. Harvey and Co.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Austin Rudd, Geo. Collins, L. Bradfield, Alice Pierce, Six Roma Girls, Madge Grey, Georgina Middleton, Pictures, Albert and Edmunds Troupe, Billy McClain and Co., Maxwell and Francis.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Tom Edwards, Claude Gardner, Witty Wattie Walton, Olga Doré, Nellie Lunelle, Raymond Trio, Pictures, Albert and Edmunds Troupe, Ara, Zebra, and Vora, Chas. Austin and Co., in "Parker, P.C."

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Arthur Penrose, Jas. Fawn, Chas. Sloman, Jenny Hartley, Eva Lewis, Pictures, Graham and Harrington, Lew Lake's Vocalists, The Garricks, Max Goldburg and Co., Geo. D'Albert and Co., The Rawsons.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Tom Stuart, Martin Conway Madge Beresford, Stone and Tracey, Nellie Norah, Player's Co., Pictures, Howe and Ardie, Alec Hurley and Co., in "The Costers' Beano."

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EMPIRE, COVENTRY.

Topsy Sinden, Fred Curran, Blake and Amber, Gerrard, F. Edwardes' Co., Rob Roy, Pictures, Mike Nono.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

F. Sinclair's Co., in "Poor Arthur," Three Cumerfords, Leonard and Vereker, Karr and Mooney, Brins, Geo. S. Melvin, Keen and Waller, W. Heriot and Co., Arthur Prince, Aribos, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

F. Dunlop, Angus Strong, Gladys Seman Sisters Mansley, Cissy Lupino, Johnny Fuller, U.S.A. Boys, Pictures, A. Rigby and Co., in "The Isle of Ooma," Laserne.

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HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Chas. Cardow, L. W. Harris, Edna Latonne, Luna Love, Pictures, Voldam Bros., The Garricks, Cribb and Cribb, W. Reynolds and Co., F. and A. Conquest, The Rawsons.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

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Pictures Twice Nightly.

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(Fred Day), and
"I DON'T WANT NUTHIN' BUT YOU"
(Jas. Brachman).
Sung by Miss Helen Trix.

"THE JOLLY OLD IRISH PENSIONER"
(F. W. Carter).
Sung by Pat Rafferty.

"LET ME BUT HOPE"
(Percy Edgar and H. E. Pether),
Sung by Miss Ethel Hayden.

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS" (Gifford and Sullivan), and "I'M HERE—IF I'M WANTED."
(F. Lee).
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"FAR AWAY IN AUSTRALIA"
(Wilmott and Darewski).
Sung by Miss Annie Bradden.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski).
Sung by Miss Carlotta Levey and Miss Florrie Forde.

"WON'T YOU COME TO ME IN CANADA?"
(Fortescue Harrison and John Neat).
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All About Artists' Luggage.
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Information about stamping Contracts.
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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
The Star, Jan. 16:—
Mr. Leanox Pawle's appearance in pantomime at Drury Lane gives point to some correspondence, now published by "The Era" Annual for the first time. As an example in brevity it should commend itself to managers and actors.

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FREDK. S. HEX, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Torquay,
November 19th, 1908.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
Morning Advertiser, Jan. 20:—
That very useful, one might with truth add indispensable, publication, "The Era" Annual, has once again made its welcome appearance, and once again it is crowded with information concerning the theatrical doings of the past year. Those who purchase it (it is sold at the modest price of 1s.) will have in their possession a complete and succinct history of the year's drama in this country, and a record of the plays produced in Paris and Berlin. As an appetising hors d'œuvre to the solid information, the book contains a number of interesting short stories and amusing anecdotes by well-known actors and theatrical managers.

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EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—

Clark and Hamilton, Fred Keeton, Percy Honri, John Warren and Co., Henry Coutts and Co., Olive Armadale, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, Harry Grey, Jack Pleasants.

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

Marie Dressler, Hartley Wonders, Will English, Caicedo, Maggie Walsh, Three Sisters Lee, Frank Mortimer, Bioscope, Bransby Williams.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

The Master Mystery, Ray Wallace, Sisters Morgan, Naughton and Gold, Hayes and Wynne, Horace White, Madge Temple, Alice Blandford, Bioscope, The Gaudsmidts.

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Closed for Rehearsals of "Cinderella" Pantomime.

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Frank A. Gotch and Co., Leo Tell, Carina Sisters, "What Women Do for Men," Three Delaries, Chas. Chard, Leonie Dixon, Annie Casey, Bioscope, The Boissets, in "Bricklayers."

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—

"The Volcano," Carney and Armstrong, Gus Garrick, Joe Almasio, Eadie and Ramsden, Marie Santoi and Co., Glenroy Troupe, Arthur Gill, Bioscope, Anna Hickish.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Mike S. Whallen, Hymack, New York Nippers, Bert Harrow, Spry and Austin, Mendel, Lauder's Chronomegaphone, Ruth Lytton, Nellie Martell, Bioscope, Laurie and Beatty.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Eugene Stratton, Tom Lloyd, "Fun on a Tramcar," The Brewsters, Pat Rafferty, Leo Stormont; Marie Empress, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Hermann Melot.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Tom H. Taylor's Company in "The Female Swindler."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Joseph Hart's "Futurity Winner," Victor Newman, Mabel Fairchild, Dare's Minstrels, Conway and Leland, G. W. Hunter, Frisbey, Tom Jones, Bioscope, W. J. Churchill.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—

Fisher White's Co., in "A Royal Heart," Lil Hawthorne, Johnny Walker, Millie Payne, Bros. Egbert, Theo Bouwmeester, Dunedin Troupe, George Young, Bioscope, Nell Emerald.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Wilkie Bard, Ida Kathrina, Harry Bedford, Dumond Trio, Syd May, The Delevines, Alf Chester, Nellie Stratton, Bioscope, Miss "Teddy" Edmunds and Co. in "The Lady Jockey."

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Hubert Carter and Co., Machnow, Prince Milner Trio, Watson's Dogs Lilian Dundas and Co., Coloured Meisters, Ben Albert, James Stewart, Sisters Jerome, Bioscope, Guyer and Valli.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Courtice and Louie Pounds, Morris Harvey, Tom Moore, Eight Lancashire Lads, John Humphries and Co., Ted and May Hopkins, Crown Trio, Madge Osmond, Bioscope, Lottie Lennox.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

The Bioscope, J. P. Ling, Three Welsh Girls, Howell and Scott, Bellonini, Alexandra Dagmar, Phil Parsons, Florence Smithers and Co., Jessie Lee, John Lawson and Co., in Repertoire.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

George Auger and Co., Dick Tubbs, Tom Child, May Edouin, Bernard Crooke, Lily Burnand, Jessie Buckle, Edie Endon, Bioscope, George Leyton and Co., in "The Last Muster."

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Fred Karno's "The Casuals," Jack Smiles, Harrison Bros., The Robertys, W. F. Frame, Grosvenor Sisters, Walter Aubrey, Lottie Govell, Bioscope, Maud Rochez's Monkeys.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 11 o'clock for :—

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal and Company, in "The Elder Miss Blossom" and "The Whirlpool."

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Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—

Miss Cecelia Loftus, Miss Evie Greene, Three Cape Girls, May Audrey, Kitts and Windrum, Arthur Saxon Trio, Jackson Family, Rohda Bros. Takio, Daisy Mayer, Bioscope, Carrie De Mar.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Zeynardt's Lilliputians, Dennis Drew and Boys, May Brilliant, Griffiths Bros., Imperial Russian Troupe, George Brooks, Vanando, Lizzie Daniels, Bioscope, Fred Edwards and Co., in "Kleptomaniacs."

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Reano's Band, Fred Lincoln, Bros. Redmond, "That Brute Simmons," Phil and Nettie Peters, Mason and Bart, John Macaulay, Marion Scott, Bioscope, Bros. Horne.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Fred Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Bessie Butt, Burnetti, Adams and Ward, The Kirbys, Frank Sylvo, Little Keeno, Bioscope, Lancashire Singers.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Hetty King, Alf Holt, Stein Eretto Troupe, Ginnett's Lion and Horse, Chronomegaphone, Ethel Newman, Maudie Francis, Bioscope, Olga and Elgar.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Until Further Notice.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Fred D. Jones, Bert Williams, Hetty Hocking, Bioscope, &c.

EMPIRE NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 3 for :—

Herbert Darnley's "Brigands of Tarragona," Enzer, Walter King, Nina Wood, Goodwin's Piccaninnies, Arthur Astill, Kitty Clinton, Bioscope, Ten Zerbinis.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Arthur Roberts and Co., in "Till Sunday," Katie Cohen, Albert Christian, Florence and Lillian, Les Martineks, Sidney Lee, Lil O'Gorman, Alf Maynall, Bioscope, Terry and Lambert.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Ye Colonial Septette, Kent and Keith, Strolling Players, Eight of Hearts, Fred Wilkinson, Lyric Quartette, Kisbey, Adey Spencer, Bioscope, Brown and Le Clerq Co.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

The Craggs, Four Jumels, Tennyson and Wallis, Herbert Shelley, Lukushimas, The Maples, Les Voces, Blanche Vincent, Bioscope, Gitten's Opera Co.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Gus Elen, Sybil St. Elmo, Lauder's Chronomegaphone, Eight Stella Girls, Campbell and Barber, Harry Herbert, Nora Emerald, Nettie Starr, Bioscope, Donaldson Bros. and Co.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

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EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

Elliott Savonas, Nelly Bly, Carl Howard, Huxter Bros., Ethel Dove, Bert Terrell, Pictures, Lambeth and Robertson.

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Rehearsal at 12 for :—

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THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—

The Gothams, Austin Rudd, Cissie Dryden, Maud Vera, Tom Leamore, Gertie Gitana, Frank Leon, Terry and Bentley, Otto and Olga, Pictures, Laurie's Kindergarten.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

Laurence Irving, Mabel Hackney and Co., in "The King and the Vagabond," Jack Hayworth, Sisters Grovini, Ross and Lewis, Charlene and Charlene, Creo Bros., Goggin and Davis, Little Pam Ross, Bioscope, L'Incognita.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—

"The Belle of The Orient," Bertha Winder, Jack Crawley, The Mayvilles, Victor Travers, Gladys Witton, Pictures, Chas. Vincent.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

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All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

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"MY PRETTY PIECE OF DRESDEN CHINA."
"DON'T PUT YOUR UMBRELLA UP BEFORE IT STARTS TO RAIN."
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No excuses whatever for non-attendance will be entertained.

All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fire-proofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

Telephone 5954 Avenue.
Telegraphic address, "Stageyness, London."

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, NOV. 30, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.

Helen Roberts, Tom Yorke, The Waltons, Les Belles Américaines, Three Temples, Jamie Piper, Marguerite Ismay and Coons, Singing Competition, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.

The Motramos, Alfonzo, August and September, Bowman and Morton, Beaty and Blanche, Marion Fletcher, Jackley Trio, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, The Waldrons.

PALACE, HALIFAX.

Johnstown Flood, The Evalos, The Donatos, Mr. F., Marguerite Radcliffe, Ford and Barras, Alice Maydue, Nat Clifford, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.

The Carmos, Archie Pitt, Annie Heath, Johnny Dwyer, Milton Trio, Gracie Hunt, Jim Cheetham, Clown Barker, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.

Six Bros. Luck, Clifton and Gibson, Three Prestons, Cissie Curlette, Phil Bransby, Steve Bartle, McCann's Dogs, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.

Pictures, Francis O'Flynn, Harry Wright, Nellie Gannon, Daisy Hurdle, Orbosany, Hearne Champion, Minnie Kirby.

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Code Word, "FLAGEOLET."

Mr. Easyfed is trying a wonderful recipe for eating at the expense of simpletons. A policeman is sent after him, but Easyfed slips through his hands like an eel. Finally, he falls into the hands of two gendarmes, who happen to be on their way to some other errand. Easyfed is marched off to the police-station, to the abashment of the policeman, who looks rather small and miserable at not having been able to capture his quarry.

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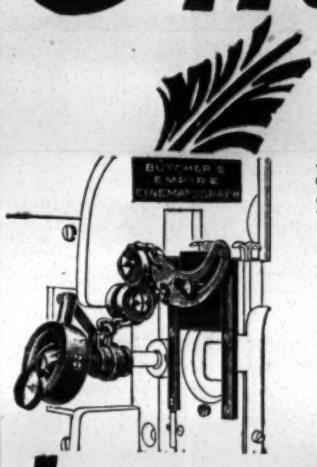

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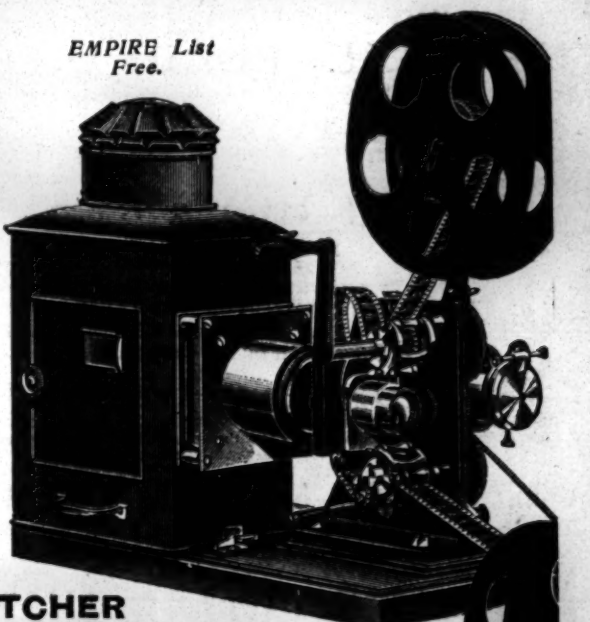

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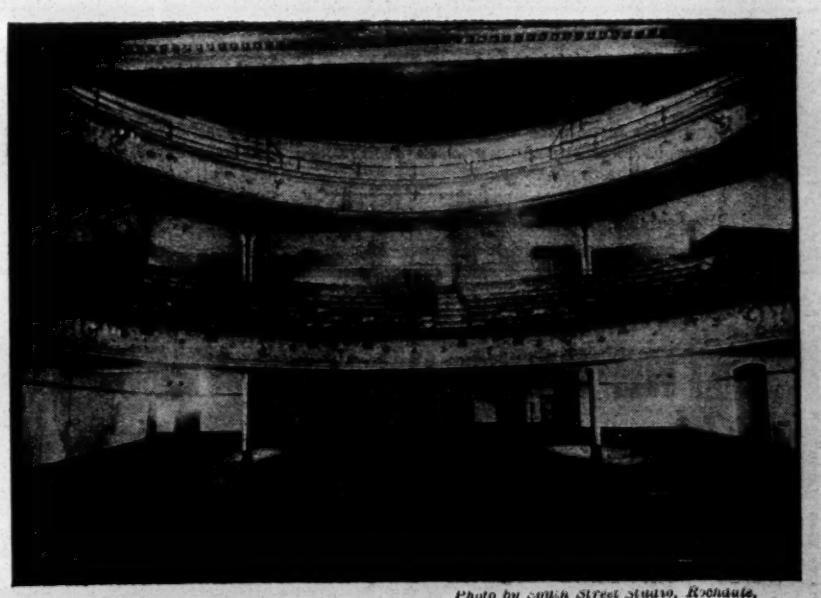

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IRVING'S EXPOSE.

"Another opportunity for good acting came to Henry Irving," says Mr. Austin Brereton in his "Life," "in April of this year, 1865. He had returned, for a brief engagement, to his old manager, Charles Calvert, who was then in the first flush of his Shakespearean success at the Prince's Theatre. But the reason for his leaving the Royal was forced upon him; it was not of his own inclining. Indeed, it was closely connected with the high ideal which he had already set himself to attain for the stage. Two tricksters, who called themselves the Davenport Brothers, had succeeded in gulling the susceptible people of England—or, at any rate, a large proportion of them—with so-called spiritualistic séances. In an unhappy moment for them, their agent had the audacity to offer a hundred pounds to any person who could perform their feats. This tempting bait appealed very strongly to a certain needy actor called Henry Irving, to a fellow player, Phillip Day, and to Frederick Maccabe, who subsequently became extremely popular as an entertainer. It is not recorded that the trio ever obtained the hard cash, but they had the satisfaction of completely annihilating as impudent a pair of charlatans as ever existed. On the afternoon of Saturday, Feb. 25, 1865, the Library Hall of the Manchester Athenæum was filled with some five hundred ladies and gentlemen in response to an invitation issued by the performers to a display of 'preternatural philosophy,' in a 'private séance à la Davenport.' The exposure was complete, and Irving obtained a vast amount of notoriety through his share in the unmasking of the adventurers. The daily papers devoted columns to the affair. Process for process, phenomena for phenomena, trick for trick, the new 'brothers' rivalled their prototypes and amazed and delighted their audience. After some people of position had been chosen to superintend the binding of the 'brothers,' Irving stepped forward, and in a modest, gentlemanly address, stated the object of the meeting. He said that, in common with others of his friends, his attention had been called to the so-called manifestations of the notorious Davenports; that two gentlemen believed themselves capable of doing—under precisely similar conditions—all that the 'brothers' did; that the entire affair was the result of skill, tact, and clever manipulation; and that the Davenports were no better than showmen. Having read several extracts from a pamphlet in which it was alleged that spiritualism had been part and parcel of the inheritance of the Davenports, he proceeded to introduce the new 'brothers.' In so doing, he made great capital by his burlesque of a certain Dr. Ferguson, who had taken part in the original séance. The rapid assumption of a wig and beard, a few adroit facial touches, a neckerchief of the approved sort, and a lightly-buttoned surtout, soon changed the actor into an admirable 'double' of the renowned 'doctor.' The resemblance was so faithful that it was immediately greeted with applause and amusement. He addressed the audience with all the serious demeanour of the original, reproducing the exact tone, accent, expression, and gesture so accurately as to be 'irresistible in their ludicrous likeness to nature.' His speech was as follows:—

"'In introducing to your notice the remarkable phenomena which have attended the gentlemen who are not brothers, who are about to appear before you, I do not deem it necessary to offer any observations upon the extraordinary manifestations. I shall therefore at once commence a long rigmarole—for the purpose of distracting your attention, and filling your intelligent heads with perplexity. I need not tell this enlightened audience of the gigantic discoveries that have been made and are being made in the unfathomable abyss of science—I need not tell this enlightened audience (because if I did they wouldn't believe me)—(laughter)—I say I need not tell this enlightened audience that the manifestations they are about to witness are produced by an occult power (the meaning of which I don't clearly understand)—(laughter)—but we simply bring before your notice facts, and from these facts you must form your own conclusions. (Hear, hear, and renewed applause.) Concerning the early life of these gentlemen columns of the most uninteresting description could be written. (Laughter.) I will mention one or two interesting facts connected with these remarkable men, and for the truth of which I personally vouch. In early life one of them, to the perfect unconcern of everybody else, was instantly and most unconsciously floating about his peaceful dwelling in the arms of his amiable nurse—(laughter)—while, on the other occasions, he was frequently, with invisible hands, tied to his mother's apron strings. (Renewed laughter.) Peculiarities of a like nature were exhibited by his companion, whose acquaintance with various spirits commenced many years ago, and has increased to the present moment, with pleasure to himself and profit to others. (Roars of laughter.) These gentlemen have not been celebrated throughout the vast continent of America—they have not astonished the whole civilised world, but they have travelled in various parts of this glorious land—the land of Bacon—(laughter)—and are about to appear in a new phase in your glorious city of Manchester. (Laughter.) Many really sensible and intelligent individuals seem to think that the requirement of darkness seems to infer trickery—(laughter)—so it does. (Cheers.) But I will strive to convince you that it does not. (Hear, hear.) Is not the dark chamber necessary to the process of photography? and what would we reply to him who would say, "I believe photography to be a humbug—do it in the light, and we will believe otherwise"? It is true, we know why darkness is essential to the production of the sun picture, and if scientific men will subject these phenomena to analysis they will find why darkness is essential to our manifestations—(laughter)—but we don't want them to find—(laughter)—we want them to avoid a common-sense view of mystery. (Laughter.) We want them to be blinded by our puzzle, and to believe with implicit faith in the greatest humbug of the nineteenth century.' (Loud applause and laughter.)

"The papers were eloquent in their praise of Irving's personation. The *Guardian* was moved to unwonted eulogy, 'for the happiness of Mr. Irving's burlesque, the smartness of his art, and his readiness of repartee went far to make the entertainment the most enjoyable that has been given in Manchester for a long time. Again and again the room resounded with the heartiest laughter at Mr. Irving's humorous sallies, whose fun was heightened by the mock gravity with which they were delivered. Mr. Irving thus supplied a great intellectual gratification, which, combined with the skilful exposure of the Davenport humbug by his confrères, made one feel that it was a privilege to be one of the invited guests."

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Daly's Theatre, Cranbourn Street. November 21st, 1908.—Dear Mr. Harris,—I am writing to tell you that I was very pleased indeed with the pink dress that was cleaned; also with the prompt way it was sent in. Yours faithfully, F. FIELD.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

[Provincial correspondents are requested to forward with their next week's reports a full list of the theatres and music-halls in their respective towns; also the names of the present lessees and managers, for insertion in "The Era" Annual, 1909.]

ABERDARE.—New Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—*The Heart of a Hero* is being presented here this week by Mr. Lingford Carson's company. The leading characters are capably portrayed by Mr. Ernest J. Fare, Mr. James Mailey, Miss Madge Steeple, and Miss Mabel Fare.

ABERDEEN.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—*The New East Lynne* was produced this week by Mr. J. W. Kelly's company. Murty O'Flynn is really admirably played by Mr. Richard Nugent; Miss Reth Elliott makes a graceful and pathetic figure as Lady Isabel, and Mr. Frederick Harker is a manly and dignified Archibald Carlyle; while the parts of Cornelia and Barbara Hare are most capably acted by Miss Sophy Shenton and Miss Josephine Gwynne. The piece in its new form was exceedingly well received.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—The Sisters Sprightly are as vivacious, if not more so, than ever; Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas give some capital impersonations of Dickens' characters; the "Enchanted Iona" figures in a sparkling comedy illusion, and she receives excellent support from Mr. Charles Frazer; Mooney and Holbein appear in a first-rate comedy sketch; the Brothers St. Clair show marvellous dexterity as cycling experts; Mr. Roy Beavis displays much resource as a conjuror; Mr. Alec B. Thorne is popular as a Scotch comedian; and Keno ranks as a very smart juggler.

Alhambra Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—Miss Rosie Dawn gives a remarkably clever and graceful exhibition of dancing; the Whimsical Wilberts contribute a very clever and amusing comedy act, *A Musical Rehearsal*, in the course of which Little Madge appears with success as a singer and dancer; the Sisters Warner are enthusiastically applauded for their Highland dances; and Mr. Davie Gunn, a tenor with an excellent voice, renders a number of popular songs most sympathetically.

Empire Music Hall.—Proprietors, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—A highly amusing sketch, *The Mummy*, is played by Mr. George Spence and company; and among the other members of a good all-round combination are Miss Marie Kire, Mr. James Montague, Mr. Arthur Bright, Mr. Will Roberts, and Gilroy and Gross.

ABERTILLERY.—Metropole Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*The Executioner's Daughter*, presented by Messrs. Little and Darcy's company, has proved a strong attraction here this week. Miss Enid Edoni impersonated Annette, the executioner's daughter, with excellent effect; Mr. J. B. Murray handled the part of the Executioner with tact and considerable effect; Felix Marius found a capital exponent in Mr. S. Leigh Courtney; and Miss Madge Seymour made a good Sally King; Miss N. Howitt gave an able rendition of Felice; and Christine, a cripple, was naturally performed by Little Prudence Ayrton. Excellent comedy is provided, and the work is staged in admirable fashion.

Pavilion.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Fred Karno's powerful company is appearing in *His Majesty's Guests*, which is full of merriment from start to finish. Special praise should be given to Mr. George Hester for his drolleries as Sergeant Lightning; Miss Aggie Morris is very successful as Lady Maud Easem; and Mr. E. Freshwater adds strength to the performance by his portrayal of Lord Easem; Mr. Miffin, the universal provider, is handled by Mr. Charles Usher in realistic style. Bright music and good choruses and effects add to the success secured.

ACCRINGTON.—Prince's Theatre.—Proprietor, and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Walter Melville's company in *The Soldier's Wedding* forms the attraction here. Mr. Wingold Lawrence makes a vigorous and manly Jack Brown; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb is responsible for a capital portrayal of Colonel James Graham; Mr. Gerald Jordon is good as the unscrupulous nephew, Charles Courtney; and he is ably assisted by Miss Marie Macauley, who supplies a bold portraiture of the cruel and vindictive Julie; Mr. Fred Yarnold is to be commended for his admirable character study of Nathaniel Lee; Mr. Frederick Biron makes a good impression as David Munroe; and Little Albert is a precocious Teddy Munroe. Miss Dorothy Richardson gives an excellent rendering of the part of Nancy Lee; Miss Mabel Lowe acts with grace and distinction as Peggy Munroe; and Lizzie Walker is played on vivacious lines by Miss Mattie Everett; whilst Mr. Johnny Chippendale adds his share to the humour as Tommy Spratt. All the minor characters are in safe hands and the drama is well staged.

ALDERSHOT.—Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—*The Dandy Fifth*, which is on a return visit here, has the particular quality of being realistic from a military point of view, which to an Aldershot audience is a most important feature. There are several old favourites in principal rôles, each repeating their former successes. Some clever speciality dancing is given by Miss Nora Morra (Polly), Jack Crichton, and Harry Ray. As the irascible old Colonel Percy Baverstock is excellent; George Beverley looks and acts well as Milligan; and Jack Crichton "keeps the pot boiling" as a fun-provider. J. Edward Fraser as Dick Darville does well; and Miss Pauline Hague and Miss Maud Nichols are capital in their respective rôles. Others in smaller parts help to make the performance a success. The opera is capitally staged.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—This week's "bill" is a play by G. Carlton Wallace, entitled, *The Lancashire Lad*. David Elmore, the Lancashire lad, has a very suitable exponent in Mr. Alec Alexander; his sweetheart is sympathetically interpreted by Miss Stanley Bart.; a shameless adventuress is depicted with moving power by Miss Nell Oliver; and a confederate in vice is vividly portrayed by Mr. T. G. Vane, a wronged husband seeking revenge, being effectively presented by Mr. Percy Maitland; a village carpenter, a simple-minded Lancashire lad, is admirably hit off by Mr. Bob Anderson; and two assertive Lancashire women are happily portrayed by Miss M. Monaghan as Mother Wardle and Miss Jennie Hallworth as Jane Alice Clitheroe.

Empire Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The "bill" for the week specially makes prominent the Bouncing Dillons, Hild and Willie, comedy gymnasts. They are full of fun. Percy Farrimond is another name to conjure with. He is a Lancashire singing collier, of considerable artistic eminence, and his voice production is excellent; Jimmy Shields, the one-legged comedian and dancer; Lavelle Bros., acrobatic comedians; Forrest and King, comedians and dancers; Mark Henton, the mirthful one; Evelyn and Norrie (Herbert and Ethel), in a novel sketch, *Set a Thief*; Mr. and Mrs. Will Pettitt, banjo and vocal entertainers; and the Rangers, in a cycle act, are marvels. The Bioscope is shown at the two houses.

Picturedome.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.—This pleasure resort continues attractive. First-class pictures are shown, and there is plenty of variety in every fresh series.

ATTERCLIFFE.—Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—This week's programme is headed by the popular local favourite comedienne, Miss Florrie Gallimore, who on making her appearance on Monday night had a rousing reception from the large audience assembled, and her songs, including "My Girl is a Yorkshire Girl," were given in her best style. Rozel gives a thrilling and original performance as a gymnast; versatile Miss Ada Catley juggles most cleverly, and also gives a graceful and smart performance on the slack wire; a turn of much merit is that of the Forsyths, in a musical and dancing act; Mr. Harry Webber, Hebrew comedian; Miss Ailsa Douglas, vocalist; Lambert and Butler, cross-talk comedians and dancers; and the Attergraph pictures complete an attractive bill.

BACUP.—New Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Boswell's Royal Stage Circus is here this week, and on Monday evening opened to a well filled house. Karna Yasuda gave an exciting performance entitled "A Slide for Life," and a clever exhibition of top spinning.

BARNSLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. A. C. Mitchell.—Mr. Louis Calvert's company is the attraction here, in *Sunday*. The production is under the direction of Mr. T. Norman Walter. Miss Jessie Winter wins her audience with her charming and natural personality; Mr. Pennington Gush does exceedingly well as Colonel Brinthorpe; Mr. George Marriott, jun., a satisfactory Arthur Brinthorpe; Mr. T. Norman Walter is excellent in the part of Tom Oxley; the "Boys," Towzer, Davy, Lively, and Jacky, are cleverly represented by Mr. James Skea, Mr. A. Cotton Holmes, Mr. James Hussey, and Mr. Alec Alves. Miss Helen G. Edwins does well as Mrs. Naresby; and Miss Lila Barclay as a nun makes the most of her small part.

New Empire Palace.—Proprietors, the Barnsley Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Will Smithson.—Fred Cary, the inimitable comedian; Bonnetti and Corrie, eccentric jugglers; Argo, eccentric farmyard mimic; V. L. Granville, in a Protean playlet, entitled *'Twixt Dawn and Daylight*; Lyster and Cooke, novelty musical entertainers; Probyn and Bates, in a comedy skit, *The Dude and Soubrette*; and Burke, Andrus, and 'Frisco, in a spectacular absurdity, all meet with a cordial reception. The Palacescope pictures maintain their usual excellence.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—Tivoli.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Herbert Clifton is the top turn here this week; the Great Northern Troupe give an excellent exhibition of dancing; Madison and Webb are a very amusing pair; Alma contributes a clever juggling and balancing act; Harris and Worth have some capital patter; and Sim Maree, a contortionist, performs some grotesque antics. The pictures by Vernon's Bioscope are much appreciated.

His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge.—Mr. Russell Rosse's company is here in *A Pair of Spectacles*. Mr. David James as Mr. Benjamin Goldfinch is as brilliant as ever; Mr. Augustus Wheatman is a typical Uncle Gregory; Dick and Percy are well done by Mr. Cecil Woodhouse and Mr. Edward Crompton respectively; Miss Ida Chapman is capital as Mrs. Goldfinch; and Miss Helena Parson is a charming Lucy. Mr. George N. Williams is a capable Bartholomew. *His Last Legs* concludes.

BARRY DOCK. — Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. Percy Williams has presented *The Fatal Wedding* to well-filled houses here. Mr. Cecil A. Melton scored a great success as Howard Willson, the wealthy clubman; and as Mabel Wilson Miss Ethel Kay did exceptionally well; Mr. Frank Harrison made a typical man about town; and as Cora Williams Miss Elaine Vanbrough was successful. Bridget, in the hands of Miss Ethel Sargient, pleased the house immensely; and was ably assisted by Mr. Charles Locke (Toto). Mr. Cyril Melton ably doubled the parts of Schwartz and O'Rielly. The success of the evening was the Jessie of Miss Lulu Wohlmaun, whose singing and dancing were capital. Popular songs were well sung by Misses Sarah Rich, Hilda Malhert, Edith Dews, Violet Dupre, Marie Wilson, Dorrene Aberdare, Dorothy Pain, and Dot Jeffries. The dancing of Master Tom Grice was also much enjoyed.

New Empire.—Lessee, Mr. John Dooner.—A crowded house witnessed the opening show. A fine programme of pictures and varieties was given.

BATH.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis A. Long.—The romantic and thrilling play *The Breed of the Treshams* is forming the final engagement of the autumn season. The character of Lieut. Keresby (the Rat) dominates the piece, and Mr. Frank Bertram, whose company it is, is fortunate in having Mr. Sydney Bland to impersonate so popular and picturesque a hero. Miss Grace Harlington enacts Batty with convincing skill. The other ladies in the cast have but little to do, but Miss Mildred Hodson deserves mention for her careful rendering of Margaret Hungerford. Mr. Alfred Holles is fairly good as Viscount Dorsington, as is Mr. W. R. Winning as Clement Hungerford; Mr. Howard Brenan showed ability as Francis Tresham.

Palace Theatre. — Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Charles Schuberth.—Mr. Geo. R. Sims' playlet, *The White Hand of a Woman*, admirably staged and exceedingly well acted by Mr. Bernard Mervyn, Miss B. Doyle, and others, is drawing large audiences here this week. A warm welcome is accorded Miss Annie Schuberth, the gifted songstress, in her scena *The Deputy*. Her fine vocalism is always worth hearing. Munroe's youthful quartette of vocalists come in for a big reception; Cliff and Kean are a popular turn, the slate dancing of the gentleman being a feature. Virto's musical act goes as well as ever; the Sisters Brenton score in their sabot and skipping-rope dancing. Raymond's Bio-tableaux give their usual pleasure to the house generally; Wright's orchestra play exceedingly well a czarda, besides sustaining their reputation in assisting the artists in their efforts to amuse.

BATLEY.—Theatre.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—*Two Little Vagabonds* is successfully played here this week by Hardie and Von Leer's company. There was a good house on Monday night, and the show was greatly enjoyed. The company is one of all-round ability, the principal parts being ably portrayed by Mr. George Denham as George Thornton, Mr. Herbert Standing, jun., as Captain Darville, Mr. Harry Reynolds as John Scarth, Mr. Herbert Russell as Bill Mullins, Miss Leonora Castella as Marion, Miss Mabel Cooke as Barbara, and Misses Chrissie Francess and Ethel Frances Greene as the two little vagabonds.

BEDFORD.—Royal County Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*Dear Old Charlie* is staged this week, and is well patronised. As "dear old Charlie" Mr. Geo. Lestocq is gay and humorous; Mr. C. Douglas Cox and Mr. R. S. Trelawney respectively impersonate Gabriel Peploe and Thomas Dumphie in an excellent manner; the part of Agnes is prettily played by Miss E. G. Forde; and Miss Leonora Braham is amusing as Mrs. Fishbourne, Captain Fishbourne finds a capable exponent in Mr. Duncan Young; and the remaining parts are in capable hands. The curtain-raiser is *The Cause*.

BELFAST. — Theatre Royal. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—The famous Irish Players, from the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, are paying their first visit to Belfast. On Monday three pieces were produced, the principal item being Lady Gregory's translation of Molière's three-act comedy, *The Rogueries of Scapin*. Chief praise must be accorded Mr. Arthur Sinclair's impersonation of Scapin, which created much laughter. The rôles of the two fathers, Argante and Geronte, were well filled by Messrs. J. A. O'Rourke and Sydney Morgan; Miss Maire O'Neill gracefully portrayed the small part of Zerbinette; and other characters were capitally sustained by Miss M. McCarthy, Miss E. O'Doherty, and Messrs. Fred O'Donovan, J. M. Kerrigan, and Ambrose Power. *In the Shadow of the Glen*, a one-act play, by J. M. Synge, furnished Miss Maire O'Neill, a clever actress, with much scope in the rôle of Nora Burke, and she was most successful; Mr. J. M. Kerrigan played a tramp in a faultless manner; and other parts were sustained by Messrs. Arthur Sinclair and J. A. O'Rourke. *The Rising of the Moon* was also produced; and during the week *The Man Who Missed the Tide* (in which Miss Sara Allgood appeared to much advantage), *Kathleen Ni Houlihan*, *The Hour Glass*, *Hyacinth Halvey*, *Riders to the Sea*, and *Spreading the News* have also been performed.

Palace Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The star here is Mr. T. E. Dunville, whose comic songs have been hugely enjoyed. Much laughter greets Stratton Mills and company in their absurdity, entitled *Ananias II.*, by Herbert C. Sargent; and the remarkably smart dancing of the Four Amaranths, described as "whirlwind dancers," has been enthusiastically received; the Three Cunarders, vocalists and speciality dancers, have made a hit; and the Wateman Quintette deserve praise for their capital vocalism. Also here are Gicardo, juvenile juggler; Miss Leah Arden, comedienne; Mlle. Renee, refined instrumentalist; and the Palace pictures.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Mr. John Tiller's pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, is the chief attraction here, and has been most successful. The title-rôle was charmingly filled by Miss Decima Brooke, who sang in good style "Garden of my heart"; the part of Prince Charming was cleverly sustained by Miss Maisie Jerrard, whose song, "Are you the little girl" was well received. As Dame Crump Mr. Howard Ward was very droll; and Mr. Will Lytton was inimitable as Johnny Stout. Mr. Fred Russell must be commended for his able impersonation of the Baron; Miss Florrie Page delightfully impersonated Fairy; and the difficult rôle of the Wolf was skilfully sustained by Mr. David Laird. Mr. Walter Watson kept the fun going merrily as Johnny Green; and other rôles were well sustained by Miss Emie Franks, Miss Margery Daw, &c. The Poppy Quartette furnish a capital exhibition of the terpsichorean art; and the Excelsior Troupe of Children assist materially. Mr. Peter Flitcroft acts efficiently as musical conductor. The Hipposcope, with some up-to-date pictures, is also included in the programme.

Empire Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The chief feature of this week's bill is the wonderfully clever musical act produced by the Elliott Savonas, so beautifully staged, entitled "The Palace of Orpheus," which has been accorded a great reception. The leaping feats of Huxter Bros. are remarkable; and Miss Florence Lambeth and Robert Robertson appear to advantage in *Scots Folks' Wooing*; Miss Ethel Dove is a charming comedienne, with good songs; and Mr. Carl Howard supplies an entertainment consisting of mirth and magic, which has been favourably received. Mr. Bert Terell, Dutch comedian, sings excellently; and also appearing here are Miss Nelly Bly, comedienne; and the Bioscope, with some up-to-date subjects.

New Alhambra Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—Capital houses are the rule here. The filmograph presents Kathleen Mavourneen, 10.40 Express, Curate's Honeymoon, Vengeance is Mine, Then There Was a Row, Quick-change Mesmerist, Diamond Thieves, &c. Douglas and Gordon, a capital comedy duo, quickly instal themselves favourites. Baddow, ventriloquist, was unable to appear on Monday, having missed the connection to this city through fog, but Miss Alice Ferndale, a good vocalist, deputised successfully.

St. George's Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—A fine series of pictures has been presented here, including A Son's Crime, Wanted, a Son-in-Law, Parks of Paris, Jane Shore, On Roller Skates, Drama of Country Life, Scent of Police Dogs, &c. In addition, Madame Mabel Roberts, American songstress, has been accorded a flattering reception; and Mr. Tom Crowe, a local comedian, whose funny character songs create much laughter. The enterprising manager introduced a competition on Monday for lady professionals, and another on Thursday for gentleman professionals.

Cliftonville Hall.—Resident-Manager, Colonel Frederick T. Cummins.—Roller skating here is all the rage, and the pastime has drawn crowded houses daily.

BILSTON.—New Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-Manager, Mr. S. Hadakiss Dawson.—Lena Stanton and Harry Joseph's company in *The Bluecoat Boy* forms a successful attraction this week. Miss Stanton makes a vivacious Billy, and Miss Gertie Lovedale wins approval as Dolly; Mr. Sid Dean is clever as Dame Diccory, and introduces some novel eccentric dancing. Specialities are supplied by the Sabot Girls, vocalists and dancers; Bros. Shepherd, vocalists; and J. and Ginger, ventriloquist.

BIRKENHEAD. — New Theatre Royal. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—The Birkenhead Dramatic Society commenced one of their periodical seasons here on Monday last, when Sir Conan Doyle's *Waterloo* preceded Mr. Sydney Grundy's well-known comedy, *A Pair of Spectacles*.

Argyle Theatre of Varieties.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Bella and Bijou are popular vaudeville artists; Mr. George Formby is a sterling comedian; Mr. Carl Hertz and Mlle. Emmeline D'Alton appear in their well-known mystifying and illusionary entertainment; Rich and Rich are amusing patterers; Miss Harriette Green is a talented vocalist; Cling and Clancy are good comedians and dancers; Miss Elsie Roby is a talented comedienne and pianist; Mr. Bert Williams is a smart ventriloquist; and Brown's Royal Bioscope completes the bill. Enormous business is the rule.

BIRMINGHAM.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Redway.—Crowded houses have been the rule here all the week to witness the return of Miss Ellaline Terris and Mr. Seymour Hicks. This time the piece is *The Gay Gordons*. Miss Terriss in her present rôle, Peggy Quainton, shows all her accustomed freshness and sweetness, filling the audience with the highest delight; while Mr. Hicks, in his character of the impressionable Angus Graeme, plays in the true vein of comedy, besides displaying all the tenderness of the young lover; Mr. E. Lugg displays the characteristics of the American, Andrew Quainton; Messrs. Johnny

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Danvers and Geo. Carroll hit off the humours of Nervy Nat and Edmund Siddons admirably; and the Misses Sidney Farebrother and Coralie Blythe are very good as Charlotte and Victoria Siddons. Miss Maud Milton stands out strongly as Janet.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—Mr. Arthur Bouchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh and company, in their second week, continue to draw "house full." On Monday Mr. Bourchier's "trumpet-tongued" denunciation as Jack Frobisher in *The Walls of Jericho* again made the theatre ring with applause, and his general treatment of the character left nothing to be desired; Miss Vanbrugh triumphed over the difficulties of her rôle as Alethea with all her usual distinction and excellence, quite enrapturing the audience; Mr. Leon Quartermaine proves a manful and altogether agreeable Hankey Bannister; Mr. Arthur Whitby bears the rôle of the ignoble Marquis with fine skill; Miss Pamela Gaythorne reflects the character of Lady Lucy with complete fidelity; and the general support is beyond reproach. *The Arm of the Law* and *Dr. Johnson* appeared on Wednesday.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T Guest.—Great interest has been evoked this week by Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company in *The Woman Pays*. Mr. Phil Harper's powerful rendition of the hero's rôle, Sid Armstrong, has elicited general admiration; Mr. John Davidson has borne his burden well as the false friend and unjust steward, Roger Marchant; Mr. Frank M. Thorne makes welcome diversion with his comicalities as Micky Maloney; Mr. Beresford Innes as Cyrus Treadgold, Mr. Dunlop Stewart as Luke Morland, and Mr. Chas. Arthur as Dr. Trevor have acquitted themselves of their respective tasks well; Miss Maud Russell shows commendable taste and power as Madge; and another pathetic rôle, played with much power, is that of Nell Morland by Miss Kate Blair. The Misses Lily Beverly and Florence Thorne also shine.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Excellent business has attended the visit of *Man to Man*, which, with the capital acting of Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair's company, goes as well as ever. Specially commendable is the acting of Mr. Adair as Richard Ellerton; Mr. Lloyd's part as George Gordon is also very well sustained. Mr. H. Holland acts capably as Matthew Ellerton; Mr. Wilfred Beckwith's rôle as the mad Parson is marked with many clever touches; Miss Louie Adair has a special charm and ability, which well fit her for the part of Ethel Maythorne; and every success attends the essays of Messrs. H. Bruce Williams, Clifford Bown, and the Misses Phyllis Oakeley and Evelyn Warde.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's company has met with a very pleasant reception in *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. Mr. Paul Beckett as Felix Beverley commands the attention of the audience with his weird style of acting; Miss Cissie Bellamy adds materially to the success by her clever portrayal of Mrs. Sands; Miss Mary Lovatt plays the part of Mary, Langdon's wife, with just the proper air; Mr. Wilson Summers furnishes an effective portrayal of Jack Stirling; Miss Kate Lever is an excellent portrayer of Sweet Nancy; and Messrs. Robin Sheills, Harland Brookes, Percy Brown, and Newton Pearse are very material to the play.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Lake.—*The Still Alarm* is once more proving its great drawing powers here, with Messrs. aMthew H. Glenville and Mr. Osmond's company. Mr. Glenville's personation of Jack Manley is again the general theme and admiration; Mr. Osmond's comic creation of Doc Wilber is more popular than ever; Mr. Gerald Kennedy wins general execration with his clever acting as the villain, Bird; Mr. Lewis Gordon gives a clever presentment of Franklyn Fordham; Mr. Tom Beasley aids effectively as Willie Manley; Miss Beatrice Shirley makes a charming picture of the heroine, Elinor Fordham; Miss Hetty Zillwood continues in her cleverly-rendered rôle of Carrie Wilber; and Miss Mabel Veriton shows true skill as Mrs. Manley.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is drawing another splendid week's business here with *The Female Swindler*. Mr. Stanley Radcliffe continues to excel in his oft-repeated rôle of the villain, Geoffrey Warden; Miss Violet Ellicott fills the title-rôle with dramatic surprises which come with startling realism; Mr. Fred Rignold plays up well as Mikestein; Mr. John Hitchings plays a variety of rôles with much humour and perfect *sang-froid*; Mr. Jerrold Heather makes the character of John Coulson one of much importance; Miss Bella Moody acts in a bright manner as Mary Ann Mee; Miss Beatrice Hone invests the heroine's rôle, May Andrews, with the charm of true womanhood; and Mr. Guy P. Ellis as Harold Travers acts in a true lover's manner.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—An excellent programme has been submitted here for Cattle Show Week *The Futurity Winner*, a racing sketch which is full of rush and excitement, is very American; W. J. Churchill is applauded for his songs, as also are G. W. Hunter and Tom Jones. Conway and Leland, one-legged comedy acrobats, are highly amusing; Charles Dare's Minstrels are appreciated; Mabel Fairchild, Victor Newman, and Frisby complete the bill.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Chief among a host of attractions at this house is Eugene Stratton. Hermann Melot is one of the smartest conjurers of the day, and Pat Rafferty, Leo Stormont, Marie Empress (comedienne) E. J. Sheldon, Plummer's company in *Fun on a Tramcar*, and the Brewsters in their musical entertainment are appreciated.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Hackenschmidt is paying a return visit here, and offers big prizes to anyone who can defeat him—not a very easy matter, and unlikely to happen. There is a funny sketch presented by Harry Gratton and company entitled *Man, the Brute*; the Three Ansonias are expert hand balancers and acrobats; the Three Comedy Chanters are also an excellent turn; Dusty Rhodes is as amusing as ever.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Park's Eton Boys and Girls are the prominent turn here. Wilson Hallett's imitations, Anthony, a smart conjurer, Foreman and Fannan, in song and patter, Lily Langtry, as sparkling as ever, Vivian and company, Ross and Grayson, and the Findons are other attractions.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—This week Mr. James Bell's company is here, including Miss Annie Bell in *The Idol of Paris*. Mr. Gordon Robey plays admirably as Prince Sergius; Mr. Wilson Howard is a capable Philippe; every credit is due to Mr. Christopher Roberts as Theo; and Mr. Leonard Aarrdale is an excellent Victor Cashelle. Miss Pharo Anderson portrays the part of Rachael in good style, and the same may be said of Miss Phena Powell (Mme. Sancterre) and Miss Annie Megson (Ann Sancterre); Miss Bell is charming in the title-rôle.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—The Blackpool Shakespearean Society is in possession here this week, and, under the stage direction of Mr. George Munro (late of Mr. Allan Wilkie's company), is producing *Julius Cæsar* and *The Merchant of Venice* in the most satisfactory manner. The costumes and wigs are supplied by Messrs. C. and W. May, London.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—The advent of Mme. Albani to the variety stage, which has taken place here this week, is responsible for the large audiences which have assembled twice nightly to hear the gifted songstress in some of her most popular numbers. She is accompanied by Herr Zakovsky, violinist, with Mr. Victor Marmont at the piano. Other attractive items on the programme are supplied by Dot Hardy, a clever character comedienne; Matt Wilkinson and company, in a sketch; Musical Keiths, novelty instrumentalists; Cara Magda, gymnast; Harry Sims, comedian; Diamond and Hart, in a sketch; and Astley's American Circus.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—The most attractive turn here this week is provided by Master Edward Garratt in a racy sketch entitled *An Outside Chance*. Billy Williams, the popular Australian comedian, also meets with a most cordial reception; and the Harmony Boys are appreciated in a vocal act. Walter Barrett, character vocalist; the Gascoignes, jugglers; Richard Finberg, impersonator; Nellie Montague, burlesque actress; Archie Royer, in a startling comedy act; and the Lyric Mummers also find favour.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey have paid a successful visit with the musical play, entitled *Rollicking Rory*, in which the above clever comedian undertakes the title-rôle, and wins hearty applause. Mrs. Mackey, Miss Constance Bellamy, and Miss Nana Flensberg are prominent in their respective parts, and adequate support is rendered by the remaining members of the company.

GAIETY.—Lessees, Messrs. Claggers.—Alfred Wellesley and company have a good sketch in *Uncle's Courtship*. The Vaudevilles (Theodore Jones, Fred Conway, Lilian de Laur, and Barney Vox) also appear with success, and a fine display of pictorials is well received.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Tom Doyle.—The picture show at the "Drome" continues to prove attractive amongst the new arrivals. T. W. Barrett is the star turn.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—On Monday there was a crowded house to witness Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *The Dairymaids*. Mr. Johnny Osborne's undoubted ability enables him to enact the part of Joe Mivens to the delight of all present; and Miss Gladys Silvani as Eliza is admirable. Miss Clare Marsden sings and acts well as Peggy; Miss Clarice Lockstone sings the music of Winifred really well; Mr. Nelson Keys makes the character of Sam Brudenell stand out prominently; as Dr. O'Bryen Mr. J. A. Warden has a part which gives him excellent opportunities to display his undoubted humour, and a very finished performance of Lady Brudenell is given by Miss Mabel Younge.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—Mr. F. R. Benson is on a return visit here, presenting during the week's engagement seven Shakespearean plays. On Monday *Twelfth Night* was the comedy, with Mr. Benson as Malvolio, a performance rich in dignity and humour. Mrs. Benson sustained the character of Viola admirably; and Miss Helen Haye charmingly portrayed the part of Olivia. As the roystering Sir Toby Belch, Mr. G. R. Weir scored a genuine success; and Mr. H. G. Nicholson was capital as Sir Andrew Aguecheek. The play had a fine reception. On Tuesday evening Mr. Benson presented *Coriolanus*, and the other plays billed for representation during the engagement are *The Merchant of Venice*, *Hamlet*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Henry V.*, and *Macbeth*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor Francis Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—We have a return visit of Mr. T. H. Taylor's company here this week in Mr. Walter Melville's hotly-spiced drama *The Worst Woman in London*, and its reception has again been very enthusiastic. Miss Edith Blande is the exponent of the character of the vile Frances Vere, and her acting is powerful; Jack Felton is capitally played by Mr. G. Gaisford; and as Vincent Lyle Mr. A. Preston is good. Mr. Cass as Fred Thornborough, Mr. Vernon Travers as James Melford, Mr. W. Scott as Bob Goldfinch, and Mr. H. W. Monte as Hugh Drayton are also particularly noticeable in the representation, which is well staged.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Under distinguished patronage the celebration of the redecorations (which are of a beautiful and costly description) was held on Monday evening last, when a fine performance was presented. Reano and his celebrated band topped the bill, and, à la Sousa, gave a stirring and clever rendering of overtures and original compositions, which elicited great applause. The Brothers Horne, on a return visit, won applause and laughter in their comical boxing act; Marion Scott submitted a dainty comedienne turn; very hearty marks of appreciation greeted the wonderfully clever and very novel horizontal bar performances given by Mason and Bart; the Brothers Redmond, quaint and agile as ever, elicited laughter with their acrobatic work; Fred Lincoln's character song, "My pal Jemmy," was humorously rendered; Phil and Nettie Peters elicited much laughter in a versatile and clever burlesqued Dutch sketch; John Macauley as an old Chelsea pensioner was convincing and sang well; as deputy for Charlene and Charlene, drawing-room entertainers, Miss Oliph Webb and Messrs. Julian Cross and Delaforce gave a capital performance of the old farce *That Brute Simmons*; and the American Bioscope showed some capital pictures.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Miss Helen Roberts, with very marvellous grace and expressive gesture, is presenting here this week the weird Salome dance and her fascinating interpretation of Mendelssohn's Spring Song dance to great applause. The Three Temples submit excellent vocalism; Jamie Piper gives an acceptable performance on a variety of wind instruments; Les Belles Americaines are a pretty quartette of acrobatic dancers; the Waltons submit a quaint turn as Chinese acrobats; Tom Yorke's character comedy is acceptable; Marguerite Ismay and her White Coons dance well, and furnish a bright bustling turn. There is a singing contest for amateur ladies, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux are particularly entertaining.

BRIDLINGTON.—SPA OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—A season of animated picture entertainments and variety opened here on Monday, when the British Biograph Company showed a fine selection of excellent films, one of the best being a very dramatic scene, For the Sake of His Uniform. The singing of Miss Emilie Tait was greatly enjoyed, her finely-trained soprano voice being heard to great advantage in well-chosen songs; Mr. Tom Drew is a clever comedian.

PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—The Electric Animated Pictures are a source of delight, and constant changes are made. In addition the manager has arranged a series of weekly competitions, in which members of the audience take part.

BRIGHOUSE.—ALBERT THEATRE.—Proprietors, Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Chas. H. Beanland.—The place of honour this week is occupied by the Four Watsons, in a capital entertainment, comprising vocalism, dancing, music, and comedy; Kyoto is a smart contortionist, conjuror, and juggler, and introduces a well-trained pug dog; Rex and Ford patter to the amusement of all; and the Bros. Curran give some laughable burlesque boxing; Belrose and De Velin render excellent duets, and were loudly encored; Dan Hendry, very good in acrobatic song and dance; Arneth, a man of many instruments, and May Geraldine, coon vocalist and dancer, also contribute. Animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. give an entirely new series, including Baby's Companion, Missionary's Daughter, Black and White, Raised from the Ranks, &c.

BRIGHTON.—GRAND THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; General-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Miss Ethel Van Praagh and Mr. J. E. Whitty's company is here this week with *An Unwedded Wife*, and is attracting crowded houses. The drama is superbly staged and mounted. Miss Van Praagh wins very enthusiastic applause for her charming and emotional acting as Marion, "the unwedded wife"; Mr. George Daiper gives an admirable impersonation of Frank Hawthorne; Mr. Charles Stirling is forcible and convincing as the villainous Philip Blackstone; Mr. J. A. Grove is powerfully effective as Martin Hallett, alias Dick Drummond; little Doris plays with intelligence as Reggie; Mr. R. Wilton Bedford is well suited as Christopher Lennox; and the humorous element is ably sustained by Mr. Will Casey as Napoleon B. Boomer, Miss Dorothea Pearce as Caraway Crumpet, and Mr. J. Edward Whitty as P.C. O'Runyin.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—Jan Rudenyi, an accomplished violinist, appears with distinct success in a musical romance, *The Power of Music*, and is admirably supported by Miss Dora De Winton and Mr. J. D. Saunders; Jake Friedman's company win hearty applause for their performance of the Dutch comedy opera, *Happy Holland*; George Ridgwell, vocalist, cornet soloist, and conductor, is well received; Haley's Juveniles display delightful singing and dancing in a carnival scene, the little duettists "Dot" and "Spot" being especially effective; Lawrence Barclay is a capital eccentric comedian; Hinton and Wooton are very clever in a football match on bicycles; Hanid Alexander is a versatile entertainer at the piano; the Hectors are highly successful in a speciality act, which includes balancing and juggling; Helen Martine is a charming vocalist; and the Barrascope pictures are interesting.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Herbert Greville's company is here this week with *Merely Mary Ann*. Miss Jessica Solomon submits a charming and delightful enactment of Mary Ann; Mr. Martin Roland gives an artistic portrayal of Lancelot; Miss Violet Greville is highly successful as Mrs. Leadbatter; Miss Florence Radcliffe is well placed as the simpering daughter Rosie; Mr. Stephen Wentworth presents a good character study as Peter; Mr. Herbert Greville's Herr Brahmson merits warm praise; and, among others who render able assistance, Miss Enid Hall and Miss Vera Lisle (the Sisters Trippet) and Mr. Robert Entwhistle are noteworthy.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; Secretary and Manager, Mr. Fred Bauer.—The exhibitions of animated pictures here this week are excellent. Very dramatic stories are conveyed by The Love of a Gipsy, The Poacher's Daughter, and Raised from the Ranks; Cultivating and Gathering Rice at Piedmont is interesting; and much amusement is afforded by I'm Going to My Aunt, Shocking Shockers, The Sausage Stealers, and Tribulations of a Nephew. Vocal selections are contributed by Mr. George Pearce, a pleasing alto; warm praise is due to Mr. Arthur Briggs for his highly descriptive pianoforte accompaniments to the pictures.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. George Edwardes's company is here with *The Girls of Gottenberg*, the scenery, dresses, and uniforms, and staging generally being very commendable. Mr. Edmund Payne scores an immense success in his original part of Max; Miss Fanny Fields makes a charming Mitzi—she plays the part for all it is worth, and dances in her accustomed admirable style, and is really amusing throughout; Miss Thelma Raye is charming as Elsa; Miss Maisie Gay is sufficiently vivacious as Clementine; Mr. Leslie Holland acts in good style as Otto; Mr. Fred Allandale is successful as Albrecht; Mr. Fred Payne is sharp and soldierlike as Sergeant Brittlbotti; and the remaining parts are all carefully played. An athletic dance is cleverly executed by Miss Florence Phillips, assisted by Mr. Fred Allandale. The chorus is strong and tuneful, and the augmented orchestra does good work under the direction of Mr. Philip Braham.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr H. C. Alty.—Miss Marie Dagmar and company are successfully appearing here in the interesting drama, *The Tyrant*, the play being well performed and capitally staged. Miss Dagmar presents an excellent exposition of Tisbe; Mr. Roy Fortescue evinces considerable power as Angelo; Lady Katherine and Rudolph have very effective impersonators in Miss Margaret Frame and Mr. Edward Louis; and Mr. James Sherwin makes a clever character study of the part of Homodei. The comic parts of Reginella, Victor, and Nobbo are taken in amusing style by Miss Nellie Freeman, Mr. Frank Etheridge, and Mr. Willie Barrett, and the rest of the cast is in competent hands.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Manager, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Mr. George Dance's company, in the knockabout sketch, *The Burglars' Ball*, secures great appreciation; Maude Mortimer, comedienne, presents an attractive turn, obtaining much applause for her latest successful songs; Albert Wyndham and company score with their Roman episode, *Cæsar's Trust*; Doody and Write amuse with their speciality dancing act, &c.; the Fordyces (Jenny and Will) do well in song and dance; Little Frankie is a capable juvenile vocalist; Harry Varden is a good ventriloquist; and Helm and Cozens obtain appreciation for their duologue, "The Doctor and the Patient." Interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Leonard Mortimer and company amuse with their comedy sketch, *The Little Captain*; Dora Lyric, comedienne, is popular here, all her songs going capitally; the Rizarlis are attractive lady performers on the revolving trapeze; Naish and Noel amuse with song, patter, and dancing; the Redcar Trio (three little girls) are capable gymnasts; Barlee and Smith score with a musical comedy duologue; Phillips and Bristow are smart wooden shoe dancers; Charles Santon, male soprano vocalist, obtains applause; and the performance concludes with up-to-date animated pictures.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. George Kirk and Miss Mary Neil are presenting *Her Luck in London* to good houses. Miss Mary Neil as Nellie gives a charming personation of the heroine; Mr. Douglas Cecil makes a fine, manly hero of the Hon. Fitzgerald O'Connor; the villainous Richard Lenowen is well played by Mr. Frank Strickland; Mr. Douglas Tremayne as the muscular Rev. Lionel Strong does well; Mr. Henri Gerald as Jerry Gotobed and Miss Florrie Groves as Maud Gladys capably furnish comic relief; Miss Amy B. Ellis as Angelina is successful; the prudish Lilian Harborne is well sustained by Miss Beatrice Hudson; and Mr. T. Lionel Ellis is well placed as Stephen Harborne.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are here again, presenting Mr. Wilson Barrett's version of *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross as Pete gives a vivid portrayal of the part; Miss Minnie Watersford ably sustains her old rôle of Kate; and Mr. Fred Mace is a capital exponent of Cæsar Christian. Mr. Fred Charles is good as Ross Christian, and other parts are in capable hands.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Habergham Choir (50 voices), who, with their classical programme, have brought forth tremendous applause here; the Paolias, in their athletic act and posing, are greatly appreciated; and the Havannas perform a number of smart and highly-diverting feats. Fremel and Fremel are excellent in cross-talk and patter, and Harry Brayne and Bert Lloyd create much laughter with their absurdity, *The Tree of Truth*; Chas. J. Johnson is good in coon songs, and Flo Warner pleases with "London Girl." A beautiful scenic picture is shown by the Empire Theatrescope, entitled The Lake of the Four Cantons.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Florrie Ford, with her singing chorus songs, is pleasing greatly here; Harry Tate's company introduce the absurdity *Fishing*, which is productive of endless laughter; Dan Merritt is a remarkably clever drum soloist; and the Lyons Trio provide a comical pantomimical sketch, full of good fun; Cosgrove and Burns are responsible for some pretty duets; and Charles Banks has a well-trained dog, which provokes applause. Webb and Branston, duettists, are most acceptable, and Dick Carter, Detective, is shown by Raymond's Bio-Tableaux; Edith Chantler, a girl soprano with an unusually good and strong voice, renders a difficult solo with good taste.

BURTON-ON-TRENT.—NEW OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. J. W. Turner's English Opera company is here for the week, and opened on Monday to a good house with a fine representation of *Faust*. In the name-part Mr. Charles le Sueur, an actor of undoubted ability, was well placed; Mephistopheles, as depicted by Mr. Tom Griffiths, was a fine character study, and his deep bass voice was heard to advantage; Valentine was represented by Mr. Frank Clarke with spirit and dash; and Mr. J. Cummings did well as Wagner; Miss Jessie Dennis sang sweetly as Siebel, and Miss Sarah Williams met with the greatest possible success as Marguerite, her Jewel Song fairly bringing down the house. The chorus was strong and vigorous.

BURY (LANCS.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—*A Wrecker of Men* is being played here by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company. Mr. Eric Campbell is a typical Jim Murley; Guise Strange is effectively presented by Mr. Arthur Robinson; Miss Florence Melrose Millett in the rôle of Risca Mallison submits an artistic portrayal; Miss Gwendoline Talbot is successful as Doris; Pharosaphus is capably impersonated by Mr. Milner Noble; Miss Beatrice Reynolds is responsible for merriment as Vavasole Slopper; and Mr. Charles E. Lovell gives a painstaking portrayal of Ezekiel Isaacs and Karnaphus.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H Potter.—An excellent evening's entertainment is provided, with the Columbia Comedy Trio as chief attraction. Their burlesque is of a high order. May Lilian Levey is popular in her male impersonations, and her songs are much enjoyed; a capital item is that submitted by the Sisters Dorrell, speciality dancers; a good ventriloquial sketch, *The Lady and the Page*, is given by Thora; Sid Bandon, actor vocalist, shines in a song scena; and Vandinoff, assisted by Mlle. Louie, is a clever lightning sketch artist. The New Macs keep the audience in good humour with their smart dances and patter; Agnes Molteno is very successful in an original scena, *An Old-time Story*, being admirably assisted by T. T. Edwards and Little Dolly; a number of interesting films are shown on the Ottograph.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. S. Garner.—In vocal and instrumental comedy the Merrions' quaint methods cause much hilarity; Herma's splendid physique enables him to lift huge weights; McCann is prominent as an acrobatic and skate dancer; Lena Selwyn is a sparkling comedienne; and other comedy turns are those of Chas. Rowen and Fred Curran. E. Morrisey gives an original performance as a musical equilibrist; and Adams and Dale, acrobats, and the Bioscope Pictures complete.

BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Auguste A. Peuleve.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company in *Diana of Dobson's* is nightly filling the house. Mr. Briscoe Owen is an acceptable Capt. Bretherton; Mr. Philip Sanders gives a good performance of Sir Jabez; Diana is played by Miss Violet Vorley with spirit; Miss Hilda Franch's is well suited to the rôle of Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss Pamela Hope acts well as Mrs. Whyte Fraser; and Diana's fellow-assistants at Dobson's are capably represented by Miss Violet Joyce, Miss Dorothy Bell, Miss Cicely Oates, and Miss Margaret Dudley. The play is preceded by a smartly-acted comedietta, entitled *A Fire of Straw*.

CAMBRIDGE.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—The patrons of this establishment have been well catered for this week, and the result has been crowded houses. On Monday night Mr. Geo. Edwardes's company opened with *The Merry Widow*, and every seat had been taken. Miss Mysie Devine quite captivated the audience in the title-rôle, her dancing being much admired; Mr. Frank Greene was entirely successful as Prince Danilo, his representation being very artistic; Miss Katie May as Frou Frou danced splendidly; Miss Ada Thomas (Natalie) revelled in the part, singing and dancing with charm; Mr. Ripley Evans (Viscomte Camille de Jolidon) was excellent; Mr. Edward D'Arcy (Baron Popoff) and Mr. Fred Fowler (Nisch) were very humorous; Mr. William Allison as the Marquis de Cascada and Mr. F. Pedgrift as M. de St. Brioche showed ability.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—Mr. Edward Compton and company opened on Monday night, presenting *Davy Garrick* to a large and appreciative audience. In the title-rôle Mr. Compton was as histrionically brilliant as ever, and won enthusiastic applause.; Mr. Henry Crocker was again seen in his really admirable delineation of Alderman Gresham; Mr. Henry Worrall was a particularly fine Tom Tallyhaut; and the other male characters were in capable hands; Miss Kathleen Leigh as Violet gave an impersonation which captured all hearts; two clever renderings were those of Miss Marie Hassell as Mrs. Rumbelow and Miss Constance Merton as Selina. The comedy was staged with the elaborate care always associated with Mr. Compton's productions. In *The Desperate Lover*, which preceded, Miss Viola Compton gave a charming and delightful impersonation of Mistress Prue, and was capably supported by Mr. Henry Worrall. *The Rivals*, *The School for Scandal*, *A Reformed Rake*, and *She Stoops to Conquer* were also in the bill.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—At the head of an excellent programme is Hetty King, the bright and gifted male impersonator, who, with new songs, adds to her previous successes here. A capital turn is that provided by Olga and Elgar, who win hearty applause for their admirably-rendered musical items; the Stein-Eretto Troupe once more astound everybody by their remarkable hand-jumping and acrobatic performance; quite an exceptional turn is given by Ethel Newman, who appears in a clever monologue, entitled *Her Wedding Day*; a wonderful performance is presented by Mons. and Mlle. Gaillard, their equestrian lion D'Artagnan and a clever poodle called Chocolat gaining applause for a marvellous display of animal sagacity; Alf. Holt, a clever imitator of birds; Maudie Francis in a smart Dutch dance; the Chronomegaphone with acceptable pictures; and the Bioscope with an interesting film, are the other attractions at the Empire.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—After a considerable absence we have a return visit of Mr. Charles March and company in *The Gamester of Mets*. The piece is capitally staged, and the uniforms are characteristic. Mr. March is seen again in the trying rôle of Paul Baldot, and carries out his quick changes and different impersonations in a clever manner; Miss Edith Crawford is distinctly pleasing as Lucia Baldot; and Miss Una Lane is effective as Countess Baldot. No better portrayal of the part of Captain Badaire could be given than that by Mr. Wm. Bradford; while Mr. Haviland Allworth is good as Louis Badaire; Miss Lizzie Prescott is very amusing as Gwendoline Pearson. The visit has been most popular.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—*The Crimson Stain* is played by Miss Olga Audre's company. The chief rôle of Enid is undertaken by Miss Audre with remarkable skill; Dan Whitley's witticisms keep the house roaring with laughter; Queenie Essex, a chic comedienne, renders her numbers in a style quite her own; the Leonas are expert banjoists, and also give a capital exhibition of fencing; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers, are the quaintest couple imaginable; the Betson's execute some remarkable cycling tricks in their comedy sketch, *The Tramp's Holiday*; Norah Desmond delights her audience with pleasing songs and beautifully-tinted illustrations, and the Bioscope completes with a most instructive film.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—The popular drama *Her Road to Ruin* occupies the boards here this week. Miss Beatrice Edwards gives a powerful and artistic rendering of the part of Jess Willoughby; Miss Alice Bowes is delightfully sweet and winsome as May Willoughby; Nelly Bonser is well placed as Mary Dawson; Miss Marie Wright as Jennie Crackling proves herself a comedy actress of great merit; Mr. Henry Woolston is excellent as Frank Temple; Mr. Alex Bradley depicts the villainies of Philip Hardy to perfection. That sound actor Mr. Dane Clark never misses a point as the Bishop, and Mr. V. R. C. Moors does good work as Tom Wells.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—La Milo, in representations of ancient and modern statuary, is the principal attraction this week. Crowded houses have been showing their appreciation of her art by hearty applause and numerous curtain calls. She gives representations of the Venus of Milo, Ceres, and Diana, the details of the originals being so faithfully reproduced that the effect is most vivid and realistic. The scenic effects are exceedingly good. Of the other artists, Jennie Johns, who is an old favourite here, scores an enormous success. Special mention should be made of Violet King's musical performance, which is remarkably clever. Harrigan and Holt patter amusingly; Walter Stanley as a comedian makes a decided success; the Ellimans are clever musical entertainers; Sandy McNab, in a sketch, *The Mummy*, is funny. The Bioscope completes.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Henry Masterman, J.P.—Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley and Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company are here with *The Power of the King*. Mr. Travis Green's work is realistic, as he invests the profligate Crown Prince Oscar with a sufficiency of bombast and brutality; Mr. Gerald Blake gives a manly and convincing portrait of Captain Landgrave; Mr. Charles Whitlock, with a commanding appearance, is fully equal to all the demands made upon him as the King; the unfaithful General Stenovie is played with distinction by Mr. P. Morton Wright; Mr. John Campling plays effectively the part of Alberta; Miss Dorothy Clifton is an attractive Lady Anastasia, and she plays in a graceful and becoming manner; the spiteful and vindictive Lady Florina is vigorously portrayed by Miss Georgina V. France; Miss Ruby Sutherland is a pretty and engaging Phillipe; while Miss Grace Barton as Margot, Mr. Wilton Drury as Fritz, and Mr. Fred Hughes as Capella supply the lighter elements that keep the fun rolling merrily with their love scenes.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will. H. Emerson.—Mlle. Von Etta is mystifying and entertaining densely-packed audiences with her series of illusions, electrical dances, protean and quick changes; Barrett and Knowles are comedians, and the

originality and humour of their songs and patter is amply testified by the continuous roars of laughter from a thoroughly amused audience; Berrill, in a speciality act, will take some excelling, and the house is not slow in showing appreciation; the Bohemians give a number of pleasing selections on a variety of brass and other instruments; Les Henris exhibit many feats of skill and strength as gymnasts and equilibrists; Gulliver's ventriloquial turn is much appreciated; the Woellhafs, knockabouts, with songs, dances, and patter, work hard, and meet with their due share of applause; D. W. Watson, with cornet and coach horn, is very favourably received. The animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. are as good as ever.

CHATHAM. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Here we have Mr. James Welch's company in *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. Henry J. Ford is deserving of the highest commendation for his clever representation of Sir Guy de Vere; Mr. Vernon Sansbury gives a good character sketch of Isaac Isaacson; Mr. Cecil Clayton is sufficiently foppish as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe; Mr. William Lockhart is admirably suited to the rôle of the Rev. Peter Pottleberry; Sir Brian Ballymote has a fine representative in Mr. George Rowlands; and Miss Bruce Joy makes a great impression as Lady Rowena Eggington. The farce is preceded by F. Howell Evan's duologue, *The Wrong Side of the Road*, presented in telling and amusing manner by Miss Phyllis Back and Mr. Cecil Clayton.

Gaiety Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietor, Capt. H. E. Davis; Manager, Mr. F. Warden Reed.—The Ten Loonies top the bill here and create any amount of fun with their musical absurdity, entitled *Dotty*; Ted Young is welcomed back again; the Sisters Hall prove pleasing duettists; Prince Narharam's illusions mystify the audience; Duncan and Brasque, in *My Lancashire Wife*, are very cordially received; Teresa Da Silva is a great favourite, her choruses being very readily taken up; Kitty Beverley appears as a comedienne; and the Edisonograph has an amusing film, Fido's Taking Way.

CHELTENHAM.—Opera House.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Miss Annie Hughes presented *The Mollusc* on Monday. Miss Hughes, in the title-part Mrs. Baxter is simply delicious, her acting being most realistic and convincing; Mr. Alick Chumley's study of the part of Richard Baxter is a work of art in its absolute naturalness; Mr. Athol Stewart as Tom Kemp realises the bright, normal humanity of the part, being notably good when wrestling with the confirmed "molluscry" of his exasperating sister; and Miss Lillias Waldegrave makes a distinct and attractive personality of the indispensable governess, Miss Roberts. *A Bit of Old Chelsea* precedes the comedy.

CHESTER. — Royalty Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—An excellent variety company is here this week. Maurin's fountains delight the audience with their prismatic effects; Jan Vaubert introduces a novel act of magic and art; Will E. Stopit is an eccentric comedian; Kitty Kennedy Allen shines as a comedienne; Alpho, the ventriloquist, is a pleasing turn; Jack North is a comedian of merit; Blancho J. White dances smartly; the Colonials in their musical scena *Unexpected Guests* give a pretty and realistic picture of life in the Wild West; and some startling pictures by the Premier Imperial Biograph complete the bill.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's capital company is here in *The Love that Women Desire*. Mr. J. C. Stewart is a good Squire Abingdon, and is capitally backed up by Mr. Morris Maud as Richard Abingdon; Mr. Sydney Leyton gives a fine exposition as Philip Carnaby; Mr. John Hignett wins approbation as Dennis O'Rourke; and Mr. J. W. Wilkinson is capable as P.C. Sowerbury. Miss Aimee Grattan Clyndes gives an emotional rendering of Sybil Thornburn; Miss Jessie Elvin embodies Madge Abingdon with undeniable strength; and Miss May Neilson is exceptionally good as Patty Swift.

COATBRIDGE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—Yukio Tani, the emperor of ju-jitsu wrestlers, delights the house here with his skill and agility; Mr. Harry Carlton, comedian and dancer, displays ability; Morimura mystifies the audience with his Oriental illusions; Jack Ramsay deserves the applause accorded him as a Scotch comedian; Alix Lukos as a quick-change artist is well received; Jack McCormack, comedian, is clever with his patter; the Sisters Lotus, vocalists, render their songs with good effect; the Acmes, musical grotesques, are much admired; Harry Bennett and Nellie Sterling, American comedy entertainers, delight the house; Hennessy and Martell, vocalists, patterers, and dancers, provide an excellent treat; Colvil and Tate, comedy artists, are recalled for their clever dancing and patter; and from an American Bioscope the latest pictures are shown.

COLCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manger, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—Mr. Lewis Waller's principal company in *Robin Hood*, under the direction of Mr. F. Clive Ross, opened a week's engagement here on Monday. In the title-rôle Mr. Ethelbert Edwards presented a picture quite to one's taste and imagination; Miss Lilian Stennis portrayed Lady Marion with captivating grace; Mr. H. Elliott Ball sustained the part of Prince John with a keen sense of its scheming and selfishness; the small but important part of Richard was ably depicted by Mr. J. N. Briant; Mr. F. Clive Ross and Mr. Bruce Winston introduced the drollest comedy into the cheery and popular characters of Little John and Friar Tuck respectively; Miss Laurie Flockton was delightfully naïve as the ingenious Adela; whilst the excellent voice of Mr. Spencer Lloyd made him a most welcome Allan a'Dale.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Co.; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Speedwell, the lightning artist and portrait painter is popular; Charles Baldwin is responsible for two items on the bill, viz., *First Night* and *The Merry Wives*, in both of which his company of comedians and knockabout artists are seen to advantage; Jenny Lynn, character comedienne, goes well with her songs; Friscari, the tall-hat juggler, is clever and effective; Nina St. Elmo is heard to advantage in a low comedy song; and the Pathé film on the 'scope is a happy conclusion.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company is here with *The Nihilist*. Mr. Joseph Millane plays with power as Ivan Nowasky; as Karl Orloff Mr. Cowell Clark is effective; Prince Alexander is ably sustained by Mr. Wm. Carriden; and Mr. O. Silverstone is well suited as Petoff; Mr. Henry Wright is a funny Bobbie, being ably assisted by Miss Jessica Ford as Katrina; Miss Florrie Kelsey created a favourable impression as the Princess Olga; and as Alexina Orloff Miss Edna Clare is quite successful.

CORK.—Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. Thos. F. O'Brien.—The excellent programme here includes the 'Varsity Girls, capital singers; Fred Arthur, comedian; the Gentrys, a lady and gentleman, who are amusing from start to finish; Fioretti and Billy, in a barrel and spade-jumping act; Coverdale, in songs and monologue; McAskell, conjurer; the Four Eugenes on the horizontal bars; and the Palascope.

Opera House.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—The Irish Animated Picture Company is showing here new living pictures, which are up to date and interesting.

COVENTRY.—Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—Mr. Leonard Boyne is paying a visit to the above house this week, and presents, for the first time in Coventry, *Raffles*. In the title-rôle Mr. Leonard Boyne gives a polished rendering. He is ably supported by Miss Hilda Moore, a charming Gwendoline; Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald, an effective Lady Ethel; and Mr. E. W. Thomas, who is seen to advantage as Curtis Bedford. Others who add to the success are Mr. Harold West as Harry Manders; Mr. Arthur Willoughby as the Earl of Amersteth; and Miss Dorothy Gordon as the French Maid.

Hippodrome Theatre.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—The top turn on the bill is given by Mr. Edwin Boyde, who is encored again and again; Mr. J. A. Wilson, comedian and dancer, causes plenty of amusement with his well-trained dog "Private Towser"; a very good turn is given by Hayes and Merritt, bounding trampolinists, their acrobatic somersaults being exceedingly clever; Shirley and Ransome's episode, *'Arf a Quid*, makes a decided hit; Miss Helen Charles, an artist of exceptional merit, gives a novel drawing-room entertainment; Miss Ray Ford is good as a singer and dancer; a very smart turn is given by Mr. Alfred Graham's Premier Juveniles; and Ruffell's Bioscope finishes the performance with some excellent pictures of Mr. Wilbur Wright's aeroplane flights.

The Empire.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—An interesting programme is presented at the above house this week. The chief item is a quartette of Serenaders, who appear in a quaint old Venetian scene; Blake and Amber reappear in an amusing musical act; Gerrard is a juggler of the strong man type; Fred Edwards's company appears in an amusing comedy, *A Nice Quiet Morning*; and other artists who capably assist are Rob Roy, a Scotch comedian; Mike Nono, comedian and dancer; Fred Poplar, comedian; and Fred Hastings, comedian.

CRADLEY HEATH.—Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jno. H. Morton.—Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company is here with *A Life for a Life*. Senorita Bianca Fernandez as Eulalie gives us a good piece of emotional acting; Little Irene does well as Venetia; Miss Dorothy Riddell deserves special mention for her Kate Evelyn; Mr. Richard Bosco as Pedro gives a finished presentment; Mr. Chas. H. Lester as Don Leon has fine scope for his histrionic power; Miss Lydia Hart as Nancy Dorn and Mr. Edmond O'Grady as Tim McCarthy keep the fun rolling along; and Mr. Harry T. Wood as Kit Oswald is successful.

CREWE.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Mr. Brandon Thomas's company, in *Charley's Aunt*, is a strong attraction here. Mr. T. McCausland Stewart makes a capital Sir Francis; Mr. Hastings Lynn is an excellent Jack Chesney; and Mr. Basil Lynton a highly effective Charley Wykeham. As Lord Fancourt Babberley, Mr. G. A. Seager is perfectly at home and thoroughly amusing; Mr. Roy Byford gives a good rendition of Stephen Spettigue; and Mr. Sydney Compton is suitably placed as Brasset. Miss Vere Gerald is a charming Donna Lucia; Miss Olivia Glynne a fresh and natural Kitty; and Miss G. Denbeigh-Russell a delightful Amy; Miss Evelyn Gray being a graceful and pleasing Ela Delahay.

CROYDON. — Grand Theatre. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Mr. Charles M. Bestic's company is being well received here in *The Flower Girl*. Mr. Norman Bowyer is full of life and spirit as Reginald Rackit, and keeps the fun at high pressure. His performance is an admirable one, and he wins the warmest applause. Mr. Alfred Donohoe is very droll as Johnny Wheeler; Mr. Robert H. Howard deserves congratulations on his acting and singing as the Honourable Billy Greenhill; Mr. Henry Adnes contributes to the success as Alphonse de Racquet; and Messrs. P. Prujean, Arthur Carter, and F. Williams do well as a policeman, Mr. Bunker, and Bertie. Miss Dorothy Firmin is delightfully fresh and charming as Lily; Miss Florence Wilton is smart and enchanting as Lizette de Racquet; Miss Jennie Holmes just touches the right note as Miss Greenhill; Miss Townley Laurence is good as Maisie Flirtington; and Misses Cassie King, Alice King, Phyllis Leslie, and Kitty Hyde dance neatly as Jessie, Maudie, Kate, and Dot. Mr. Roland Daniel is an energetic and courteous manager.

Empire Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—There is an admirable bill of fare at this popular house. The Selbinis, acrobatic trick cyclists, give a brilliant turn; Chanti, the modern Proteus, receives quite an ovation for his smart act; Pender's giants are very good; Ruffell's pictures are worth seeing, as usual; Tiger Lily is a neat acrobatic dancer; Texas Hattie gives a commendable performance on the tight rope; Frank and Free, comedy artists, are much enjoyed; Nora Grey, a first-class comedienne and mimic; Daisy James's bewitching style is always acceptable; and Nipper Lupino Lane scores a success in song and dance. Mr. Sydney R. Axford is an exceptionally clever musical-director.

DARLINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Mr. John Leopold's company is here with his musical absurdity *New Frivolity*, preceded each evening by his latest production, *The Houseboat*. Mr. Watson Hume as Oliver Buckwheat is very funny; Mr. John Leopold, jun., as Daniel Teething suits the part admirably; Mr. Charles Goff makes much of the rôle of Jules Vermiglio; Mr. Willie Leopold as Samuel Vermiglio provides plenty of comedy; Mr. Tom Leopold is excellent as Professor Fumble; and Mr. Ernest Leopold as Tickle is a success. Miss Amy Hall as Lucy Buckwheat is charming, her dancing and singing being excellent; Mme. Cobweb is acceptably played by Miss Cathleen Cavanagh. The Houseboat, and the Café Grounds, Paris, are creditable examples of scenic art.

New Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—The chief item in an attractive bill is Chung Ling Soo, who fairly baffles the audience with his clever conjuring; an interesting performance is given by Ted Karno and company in the absurdity *Dinner Hour*. Other good turns are provided by Fred Spencer, novelty comedian; the Florias, in their comedy wire act; Arthur Slater, the whistling man in white; Florence Yaymen, with her coon songs; and Baker and Balfe, with eccentric dancing. The Pepiscope brings an entertaining bill to a finish.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—The Monckton-Hoffe comedy company is here this week with *Irene Wycherley*. Miss Maude Henderson, who figures in the title-rôle, is a charming and delightful actress; Mr. Clifton Boyne, who plays Harry Chesterton, acquits himself admirably; and another striking character study is given by Mr. Ralph Hutton, whose portrayal of Sir Peter Wycherley, Bart., is remarkable. Mr. Charles Garry makes the utmost of the rôle of Philip Wycherley; and Charles Summers is in the capable hands of Mr. Claude Haviland, who also discharges the duties of stage-manager. Mrs. Lily Summers is cleverly impersonated by Miss Marjorie Devonport; Miss Grace Illingworth, Miss Evelyn Cecil, Miss Emmie Creamer, Miss Muriel Carmel, Miss Beatrice Mervyn, and Miss Phyllis Stuckey are all as capable as they are charming. The play is preceded by a clever little curtain-raiser, entitled *Petticoat Perfidy*, in which Miss Grace Illingworth, Miss Beatrice Mervyn, and Miss Evelyn Cecil appear with conspicuous success.

Palace.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—As the star turn here this week George Marriott and company are presenting a short, dramatic representation of *Oliver Twist*. The characters are all in good hands, and the production is a distinct success. Orpheus, described as a master of melody, plays a number of musical instruments; Denby and Dent, a couple of smart comedians, are amusing; the Four Netherlands are pleasing lady vocalists and dancers; the Cheers appear in a novel scena, entitled *Dick Whittington*, and their cleverly trained cats go through an interesting performance; Mabel le Roy is a charming chorus comedienne; and Al and Lal, eccentric entertainers, provide a good ventriloquial number. The Bioscope contributes a dramatic film to an entertaining programme.

DEVONPORT.—Theatre Metropole.—Manager, Mr. Geo. S. King.—Mr. Ian Maclaren and his well-balanced company, in Shakespearean répertoire, furnish an appreciable change to melodrama. On Monday *Hamlet* was admirably portrayed. Mr. Maclaren's delineation of the Prince was excellent, the speeches and assumed madness being performed in a fashion deserving the highest commendation; Mr. Matthew Boulton was a hard-working Claudius; Miss Marion L'Estrange was dignified and aristocratic as Queen Gertrude; and Miss Muriel Dole as Ophelia was both fascinating and pathetic. Mr. George Ralph make a manly Laertes; Mr. Guy Hamlet was particularly well suited to the part of Horatio; and Mr. J. Stafford Dawson aroused much merriment as the First Gravedigger. The week's contributions have also included *The Merchant of Venice*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *David Garrick*, and *Othello*.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—George Bastow, with his catchy songs, is a source of great attraction; Frank Long, Omoyo San, and company furnish some interesting exhibition wrestling and ju-jitsu; while Mr. Long has had some tough encounters with local aspirants; Paul Vandy performs some mystifying conjuring, whilst his jugglery would be difficult to beat; and Henry Hilton is also a finished exponent of the same class of business; Vasey and Ramsey present an entertaining sketch, entitled *The German and His Butler*, in which some well-executed step-dances occupy a prominent position; Bertha Norwood is an attractive soubrettist and dancer; and Lambert and Hands (vocal duettists) and Marion Armitage (the Comedy Girl) also furnish some well-received numbers.

DONCASTER.—New Grand Theatre and Empire.—Manager, Mr. J. W. Chapman.—The Four Maisanos, scientific musicians, are clever and entertaining; Alice Maude is a promising child mimic and male impersonator; Napoli Singers, in vocal scena, *An Evening at Home*, give the audience a refined musical treat; Rosa Tilley, comedienne and burlesque actress, is engaging; Tom Joy, comedian, gives of his best; the Sisters Kilner, vocalists and acrobatic dancers, sing well and are neat dancers; Bert Allen, Liliputian comedian, is a feature of the bill; and mystery and dexterity are the characteristics of Mozzetto, juggler.

DOVER. — Royal Hippodrome. — Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. S. W. Winter; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. W. Holford.—A very bright and attractive programme is presented this week, the star turn being the Courtiers, in a refined vocal and dancing act; Gwyer and Morley patter and sing well. The excellent acting of *An Extra Turn* makes that little comedy-drama most interesting; Selby and Myers' smart patter and smarter dancing win them popularity; "Sleigh Bells," a pretty song, is admirably rendered by Nelly Neil; Arthur Weaver is humorous in his songs, and an extra turn is given by two comedians. Last Saturday afternoon a Bioscope matinée was given for the benefit of the children.

DUBLIN.—Gaiety Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—Mr. Hayden Coffin and John Coates's company are here this week with the delightful musical play *Dorothy*, which was enthusiastically received on Monday night. Miss Ruth Davenport acted well and sang sweetly in the title-rôle; Mr. Hayden Coffin was particularly successful as Harry Sherwood; Miss Primrose Harding sang and acted exceedingly well as Lady Betty; Mr. John Coates's fine voice proved an immense advantage as Geoffrey Wilder; Mr. Arthur Williams made a distinct hit as Lurcher, and Miss Hebe Bliss as Lydia Hawthorne, Miss Aimee Roberts as Philliss Tuppitt, and Miss Emily Spiller as Mrs. Privett are all to be commended for excellent portrayals; Mr. Colin Coop sustained the part of Squire Bantam to perfection, and the rôles of Tom Strutt, John Tuppitt and the Parson are satisfactorily filled by Messrs. Tim Ryley, Fred J. Vigay, and E. Neville respectively. The staging and scenery were perfect, and the choruses and orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Frederick Rosse, all that could be desired.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—*Florodora* occupies the boards here this week. Mr. Fred Eastman gives a capital enactment of Anthony Tweedlepunch causing laughter from start to finish; Miss Edith Housley portrays the rôle of Lady Holyrood in a charming manner; Cyrus W. Gilfain is cleverly interpreted by Mr. Stanley White, and Mr. H. V. Croton makes a good deal of the part of Frank Abercoed; Mr. Herbert St. John does ample justice to the rôle of Captain Arthur Donegal, and Miss M. Van Diemay makes a good impression as Valeda. The minor parts are well filled, and the choruses and orchestra, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Morton Hutcheson, excellent.

Queen's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The new series of pictures presented here this week, and which are attracting large audiences, includes A Dramatic Escape from a Harem, Married for Nothing, Vestal, A Yacht Race, The Cabby's Sweetheart, The Angel of the Village, A Lover of Dogs, The Pumpkin Race, Whimsical People, The Sentimental Thief, &c. The variety artists appearing are La Sympeth in a spectacular dance, the Two Dents, refined entertainers and dancers, and Bob Pearson, humorist and guide.

Empire. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—A capital bill of fare is presented here this week, headed by Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister in the American dramatic sketch, *No. 99*, which has been nightly applauded. The reception accorded Mr. J. W. Rowley proves that this clever comedian has lost none of his popularity, and Ella Dean, vocalist and comedienne, wins cordial applause; a clever turn is contributed by the Eight Sunrays, who sing and dance with artistic finish; La Belle Nello, Queen of Equipoise, makes a big success; the Three Rochesters, society entertainers, are deservedly popular, and Minnie Wheaton, a bright and vivacious comedienne, sings and dances in capital style; Charles Stevens character vocalist, receives marked appreciation, and the Empire pictures are up to the usual standard.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Three Donals are at the top of the bill here this week, and they give an exceedingly fine gymnastic performance; Walter Roxbury and company submit with success a clever dramatic sketch entitled *What Women Do*; in their comedy duologue *Betsy's Blunder* Mr. and Mrs. Shelley provoke much laughter, and Shang Hia, Chinese conjurer, gives a mystifying performance; Sandle and Somers score heavily as comedians and dancers, and Anileda and her Eccentric are highly amusing in their comedy act; Gravetta and Parr, novelty artists, are well received, and Lina Leslie, comedienne, provides a pleasing turn. The Bioscope depicting Fido's Taking Way completes a good programme.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The company engaged here this week includes:—The Morrisons, vocal duettists; Tony Regan, comedian; Miss Amy Bayne, ballad vocalist; Jolly Jack Murray, quaint comedian; Charles Redd, light comedian; Dandie and Danby, comedians and patterers, and the cinematograph.

DUDLEY.—Opera House.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—*A Soldier's Honour* is well received here this week. The soldier-like qualities of Captain Deane are ably brought out by Mr. Millar Anderson, a similar compliment applying to Mr. T. Arthur Ellis as Captain Gerald Temple; Mr. Andrew Money gives a sound representation of the villainous Henry Thornton; Miss Ruth Zillwood, well gowned and of good figure, as Cora Lee roused the feelings of her audience by the intensity and fervour of her acting; Miss Edie Macklin as Jemima Eliza, the slavey, was amusing with quaint and original humour; and Miss Mabel Mannering quickly won sympathy for a gentle and pathetic rendering of Doreen Illingworth. All other parts are ably filled.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—An attractive programme is headed by the Three Calbas, acrobatic funniosities, a turn exceptionally clever and amusing; the Thompson Trio score heavily in a comedy act entitled *Watch the Chalk*; the Three Tivoli Girls, vocalists and dancers, are old favourites, who are always welcome; Morrin and Cardiff, comedians and dancers, are very smart; Bert Lytton, swell comique, has a very good style; and Walter Buxton is a powerful baritone. The Empire pictures are always enjoyable.

DUNDALK.—Town Hall Theatre.—Proprietors, Urban Council.—Mr. Geo. Mallin's clever pantomime company is appearing here this week in *Robinson Crusoe*. Miss G. Lovel is seen to great advantage in the title-rôle, and wins frequent applause for her singing; Miss Lily Richardson is charming as Susan, and gains approval for her clever dancing; Mr. Geo. Mallin as Billy Crusoe causes unlimited fun; and Mr. C. Spencer, in the part of Will Atkins, is exceedingly droll. Dame Crusoe is in the capable hands of Mr. Sydney Ernest, who is provided with some capital songs; Mr. Ebbsworth ably portrays the character of Davy Jones; and Miss Maud Harvey essays the rôle of Queen White Heather artistically, alike in a dramatic and vocal sense. The other parts are all adequately cast.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—*The Walls of Jericho* pays its third visit here. Mr. Alfred Goddard gives an admirable study of the straight-speaking young millionaire Jack Frobisher; Mr. Russell Barry makes a big impression by his fine performance of the part of Hankey Bannister; Mr. Ben Lewin is an excellent Marquis of Steventon; Lord Drayton is effectively played by Mr. Christopher Steele; Harry Dallas is cleverly impersonated by Mr. Henderson Bland; and Lord Marchmont, the Hon. Wilfred Renton, and Bertram Hannaford are presented in capable fashion by Messrs. O. Gee, Francis Drake, and George Percy respectively. Miss Nancy Beresford gives a convincing delineation of the Lady Alethea; Miss Elsie Ross scores a success as Lady Lucy Derenham; Miss Ormonde Wynne is an effective Lady Westerby; and the Duchess of Skye, Lady Porchester, Miss Wyatt, and Miss Morning are well sustained by Misses Millie Emden, Gladys Meyrick, Mabel Mears, and Pauline Strauss.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—At the head of affairs are Charles Majilton and company in their laughter-provoking sketches *The Trippers* and *Round the Clock*; Harry Pleon causes great merriment with his absurdities; Allsopp and Beckwith are a clever comedy couple; the Two Clares score a success in their song scena *Trouble on a Motor-car*; Harry Nelson makes a hit with "My Wife's a Suffragette"; the Bryan Troupe of dancers are much appreciated; Ondra, the juggling comedian, provides an enjoyable turn; Johnny Holland and company create roars of laughter with *The Boatbuilders*; Maxford and O'Neill win applause for their patter; and the Bioscope concludes.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Lillie Williams' gorgeous pantomime *Robinson Crusoe and His Man Friday* was produced here on Monday evening. A full notice is found in another column.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—At the head of the variety programme is Elsie Earle, who repeats her success at the Gaiety last week; Max Allen, a Scottish ventriloquist, is accorded a hearty reception; John E. West is repeatedly encored. The rest of the programme consists of Prince Edward's pictures, among them being a fine production of the well-known story Uncle Tom's Cabin.

Newmann's Picture Palace.—A very excellent picture programme is provided by Mr. Fred Newmann this week. A very popular dramatic picture is Zulu's Heart; Vampire's Boast and The Vacquoror's Vow prove very exciting, while others which meet with much approval are The Circus, The Day's Fishing, and a very fine dramatic film entitled Benveneto. Bandoni displays extraordinary ability in his playing of a large selection of musical instruments.

EASTBOURNE. — Pier Pavilion Theatre.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes. — Miss Violet Osmund's company is here in *The Belle of the Ball*. Upon Mr. Johnny Schofield falls a large share of the work, and endless fun is at his command as Tibbs; Mr. Philip Williams does able work as Sir Francis; Mr. Johnny Schofield, jun., helps cleverly as Bobbie Fletcher; Mr. L. C. Hughes is a satisfactory Gussie; Mr. F. Morris works hard as Farmer Jones; and Mr. E. Lette does well as Foster. Miss Christine Roy sings daintily and acts prettily as Poppy; Miss Freda Morris is a charming Queenie; Miss May Hawthorne a picturesque San Toi; and Miss Vera Grafton a spirited and effective Lucy.

Devonshire Park Theatre.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company is appearing here in *The Girl I Love*. Mr. E. Howard Templeton plays with feeling as Philip Dunree; Mr. Clinton Baddeley makes a success of the strong part of Silas Brandon; Mr. Herbert Leonard is a happy and natural Jake Long; Mr. Charles V. Sandford is full of animation as Frank Sudley; Mr. Henry C. Morton helps the fun along in a pleasing manner as Timothy Parkiss; and Mr. H. de Ville helps well as the Rev. Dillon. Miss Ida Millais is a sympathetic Dorothy Marlow; Miss Katherine Clark plays with refinement and feeling as Nancy Nollid; Miss Bertha Hanbury very prettily enacts the part of Little Jack; Miss Isabel de Cresse is a realistic Indian girl, Myama; and Miss Laura Dyson does capital work as Daisy Virginia. On Wednesday afternoon Sir John Hare and company paid a farewell visit in *A Pair of Spectacles*. Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company was billed to appear on Thursday in *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the head of an excellent bill here are Conn and Conrad, in a funny act; in the sketch Ferdie's *Ma-in-Law* Messrs. A. Richardson, H. Flockton Forster, and Miss Rita Vincent create much genuine laughter; the Rose Trio are neat and accomplished acrobats; Miss Maud Beaumont, beautifully gowned, is a very clever burlesque artist; Grogie is a popular yokel and old man impersonator; the Sisters Allen are bright singers and dancers; Miss Connie Mori is an exceptionally gifted dancer; and new pictures are shown.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Mr. J. A. Campbell is presenting *The Old Folks at Home*. Miss Maud Warburton plays Dorothy Robin with great feeling; Miss Katie Froude gives a clever rendering of Patricia Bathurst; Miss Lillian Francis does full justice to the part of Dinah; Miss Helen Cronie makes a good nurse; much fun is caused by the joint efforts of Miss Nellie Hook and Mr. Frank Caffery in the respective characters of Susan Giles and Ben Jolley; Mr. Frank Liston is smart as Lord Howard Kenilworth, a dissolute young nobleman; Mr. Aidan Lovett gives a strong representation of Andrew Ross; Hugh Lovell is ably depicted by Mr. Vernon Proctor.

EDINBURGH.—Royal Lyceum Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—Mr. Gaston Meyer has brought his company to Edinburgh with *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*. The play, with its quaint glimpses of rural life in America, has aroused much interest, for although the types of character are somewhat outside the experience of the average British playgoer, they appeal to a common humanity. It is fortunate for the piece that the leading rôle is in the hands of such a fine artist as Mrs. Madge Carr Cook. The actress possesses a rich gift of humour, and her impersonation of Mrs. Wiggs is a thing to remember, not only because of the broad effects of comedy it contains, but for the tender vein of feeling that touches the audience at times to deep emotion. Miss Rita Carlyle is exceedingly droll as the Miss Hazy; Miss Mary Deverell is a bright and pleasing Lovey Mary; and Miss Violet Vivian an amusing Mrs. Schultz. A notable character sketch is contributed by Mr. Frederick Forrest in his clever performance of Mr. Stubbins; and the remaining actors give valuable support, the work of the children being particularly intelligent.

King's Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—A strong programme, without a weak spot, is presented here this week. The Countess Romanoff, a beautiful woman and graceful dancer, heads the bill, and performs several classical dances with skill. A piece full of clever farcical effects, entitled *The Collar Stud*, is played with immense go and drollery by Miss Edith Muir, Mr. Hubert Bland, and company; Mr. George Langdon and company give with real dramatic power a number of scenes from popular plays, and are loudly applauded for their efforts; the Tennessee Coloured Guards perform various lightning drill evolutions with great smartness; and Mr. Jules Kiaro proves himself a dexterous equilibrist. It is a treat to hear the singing of Miss Mildred Bryan, a cultured vocalist, whose rendering of several delightful ballads earns her an enthusiastic recall; the charming turn of the Cecilias is notable for good singing and admirable *ensemble* playing; Miss Marion Van Hymen makes a successful appearance as a reciter; La Belle Greta is a bright comedienne and capital dancer; and the Bioscope, with films serious nd amusing, rounds off the bill.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Clark and Hamilton are prominent here this week with their singing, music, and dancing entertainment; and Mr. Henry Coutts, assisted by Miss Edith Cornish, presents a remarkably clever quick-change sketch entitled *Outflanked*, in which the pair impersonate nearly a dozen different characters; while John Warren and company appear with conspicuous success in a military mystery, *The Magic Carpet*. Of the single-handed turns, Fred Keeton is very amusing; Percy Honri proves a most skilful concertina player, and his organ and bagpipe imitations are quite admirable; Harry Grey, always amusing, brings down the house with a Suffragette ditty; and Jack Pleasants, Olive Armidale, and Jeanie Mackay all give characteristic comedy contributions to the bill; which is completed, as usual, by American Bioscope pictures.

Cooke's Circus. — Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—Another capital programme, with many fresh and agreeably diversified performances, has drawn large audiences to Mr. Cooke's popular place of amusement. A very charming member of the Cooke family, Miss Edina Marion Cooke, delighted everyone by the grace and skill which she displays in the introduction of a clever pony and poodle; Colquitt, who is entitled "the human kangaroo," is a surprisingly agile jumper, and calls forth abundant applause; the Maltressos are heartily recalled after going through a remarkable trampoline act; and those extremely dashing artists, Ethardo, Pugh, and Obrac, with other smart performers, remain from last week. The work of the large staff of clowns is, as usual, conspicuously good.

EXETER. — Theatre Royal.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—The boards are occupied this week by a successful amateur production of *Veronique*, on behalf of the West of England Eye Infirmary, a well-deserving charity.

Gilbert's Palace of Varieties, Victoria Hall.—General-Manager, Mr. George Zalva.—Before a good house on Monday Dira, the one-legged acrobat, opened the performance with some clever feats; Mlle. Telka submits two charming songs; Wyllie is an interesting musical tramp; Charlton introduces his magic kettle; Little Dando is an extremely funny midget comedian; Mueller and Cailler, American eccentrics, are good; Will Douglas's Jolly Bakers are responsible for excellent acrobatics; and the Palace pictures complete.

New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. F. Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Y. Sandy.—An excellent programme this week is headed by Harry Tate's No. 1 Company in *Motoring*; Carlton presents the mysterious cross illusion; Taree, the musical Bushman, adds a novel contribution to the programme; Clive Watts, swell comedian, is well received; Fred Maitland contributes a mirth-provoking song and sketch; and Miss Winnie Derson and Harry Anderson also contribute to the bill, in which there are some good pictures.

FALKIRK.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. W. Ebbutt.—This week Miss Ada Frank's company appears in the powerful drama *A Fight for Life*. Miss Ada Frank has quite a strong part in that of Susanne, and she acts it throughout with much power; Miss Lena Lewis gives a capital presentment of the blind girl, Marie; and Miss Florence M. Daly plays the difficult part of La Cardell with much effectiveness. Mr. Clifton Earle, Mr. William Matthews, and Mr. Courtney Robinson play their respective parts very ably.

FLEETWOOD.—Queen's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—An attraction far above the ordinary run is being staged this week in *His Sister's Honour*. Mr. Evelyn A'Dell sustains the part of Frank Stanley in a powerful manner; Mr. Walter Wilson as Sir Richard Redvers gives an excellent rendering of a difficult part;

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Miss Flora Leslie enacts the part of Dora Stanley cleverly; as Ivy Merton, Miss Ethel Ashleigh earns sympathy; Mr. J. R. Tyrell has ample opportunities as Timothy Timid to display his abilities as a comedian, and is ably supported by Miss Maudie Vincent.

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland. — Mr. Walter Melville is presenting for six nights a very powerful company in *The Beggar Girl's Wedding*. As the hero Jack Cunningham Mr. Otto Minster acts extremely well in an exacting part; Miss V. Wynne earns much sympathy with her rendering of Bessie Webster; Mr. Herbert Morgan is most effective, and receives capital support from Miss Olive Warne as Maude Villiers; a fine piece of character acting is given by Mr. Harry Playfair in the part of Dodger. All the other parts are excellently portrayed.

GAINSBOROUGH.—KING'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stear.—A strong variety company is headed by Leoni Clarke, who gives his clever exhibition with trained cats, mice, canaries, &c.; Whisper is an interesting eccentric; the Le Bruns introduce a skilful child juggler; the Dunlops (cyclists), Beattie Bloom (comedienne), Fish and Fish, the Two Daniels, and Sivado Allen (a charming lady gymnast) complete the bill. Pictures by Turner's Bioscope.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Gainsborough Empire Syndicate.—The Lizette Troupe, a clever quartette of lady acrobats, and Tom Bassett, comedian, are the principal turns; Jack Sheppard and Ruby Vesta give a handcuff exhibition; and the bill also includes two sketches, *Apartments for Two* and *The Bank Robbery*, well played by Mr. Cecil Dashwood, Mr. Fd. Romer, Mr. Chas. Aldworth, and Miss N. Aldworth. The Marathon race is showing on the Animatograph.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres; Local Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Miss Violet Hope in classical dances heads the list here; Margit and Lener, Continental eccentrics, show many original novelties; George Prince positively compels laughter; Austin and Cowan, vocal entertainers, on a return visit, are warmly welcomed; the Three Orleans are tuneful singers and clever dancers; Carl Colyer, a juggling comedian, is popular; and the bill also includes the Katos, with their miniature theatre, and Erom and Charlotta in the cabinet mystery entitled "She at the Stake."

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is appearing here in *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*. Mr. Raymond Wood vividly portrays James Harcourt; Mr. Sidney Sarl is quite at home in the part of Bill Slater; Willie Mason is well looked after by Mr. F. Ronald Adair; Jack Fenton receives capital treatment at the hands of Mr. Frank R. Robertson; Miss Jessie Belmore is a dainty Sophie Coventry; and Miss Zoe Davis's Lucy Coventry is remarkable for its tenderness. Miss Nannie Reade gives a realistic impersonation of Vesta Le Clere.

GILLINGHAM (Kent).—HIPPODROME.—Lessees, The Electric Vaudeville Co.; General-Manager, Mr. W. H. White.—The pictures continue to find favour at this house, and the series this week includes dramatic and humorous films, which are equally interesting. The chronophone is as popular as ever, the most pleasing being that depicting Mr. Will Evans in "The Invasion of 1910." Variety is also added by Miss Marie Elmore with songs and dainty dances.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart and his company in *Sherlock Holmes* are proving a great attraction here this week. Mr. H. Hamilton Stewart thoroughly enters into the spirit of the character, and presents a meritorious study of the famous detective; in the part of Alice Faulkner Miss Betty Fairfax's graceful acting is most refreshing; Professor Moriarty finds a powerful exponent in Mr. Robert Gilbert; some particularly good work is done by Mr. Arthur Shelton, who gives a typical impersonation of Dr. Watson; as Billy Master Thomas Russell shows considerable ability; as James Larrabee Mr. Mark D. Draper plays with dramatic force; and Miss Edith Vogne gives a praiseworthy reading of Madge Larrabee; Mr. Douglas Murray is capital as Sidney Prince.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—The D'Oyly Carte Répertoire company opened its second week with a specially good performance of *The Yeoman of the Guard*. Mr. Charles R. Walenn was a great success as Jack Point, and the Shadbolt of Mr. Fred Billington was as grimly humorous as ever; Miss Clara Dow made a charming Elsie Maynard; Miss Beatrice Meredith sang and acted with piquancy as Phœbe; Dame Carruthers had a good exponent in Miss Ethel Morrison; and Miss Mabel Graham sang well as Kate; Colonel Fairfax was particularly well portrayed by Mr. Strafford Moss; Mr. Leicester Tunks as Sergeant Meryll, Mr. Sydney Granville as the Lieutenant, and Mr. Hugh Blackmore as Leonard Meryll, completed an excellent cast. *Iolanthe*, *Mikado*, *Pirates of Penzance*, and *The Gondoliers* were given later in the week.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's principal company is once again visiting this popular house in *A Royal Divorce*. Miss Margaret Watson is the Josephine, and gives a touching portrayal of the character; as Napoleon Mr. Keith Fraser looks the part well, and his acting is convincing; Mr. Percy H. Vernon shows a thorough grasp of the rôle of Talleyrand; Mr. Stanley Harrison gives distinction to that of Beaumont; and a dashing Augerean is seen in Mr. Walter T. Clifford; the haughty Marie Louise is well represented by Miss Winnie Tempest; Miss Maud Lacy is a lively Stephanie; the Blanche of Miss Nellie Lucas and the Angelique of Miss Violet Hudson are attractive young ladies; and the King of Rome is smartly played by Miss Ethel Love. Mr. Harold S. Standing's Murat is a dignified figure, and a clever study of Grimaud is given by Mr. George Hudson.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—A good attraction is provided here this week in the new play *From Slave to Princess*, by Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company, which appeared at the Royal Princess's last week. For Friday evening *Under Two Flags* was announced.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Bransby Williams is again starring here, giving clever monologues in the earlier evenings of the week, and later his Dickens's impersonations; Marie Dressler has made a decided hit on her first visit, and her "Great big girl," and other diversified impersonations were enthusiastically received; the Hartley Wonders again give a marvellous display of jumping; Maggie Walsh, the singing mill-girl, charms the audience with her sweet voice; the Great Caicedo once more proves his right to the title of king of the wire; Will English is one of the most popular of coloured comedians, and his typical "walks" are very humorous; Three Sisters Lee give a daring acrobatic turn which goes well; Frank Mortimer, comedian, and the Bioscope complete a good programme.

Zoo-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Tarro Miyake, the ju-jitsu champion, is paying a return visit, and takes on all comers; in a comedy trick-cycling act Lotto, Lilo, and Otto are capital; *Uncle Obadiah*, a sketch produced by Chas. Dixton's company, proves laughable; Benson and Rose are successful in their duologue *Elizabeth and the Baby*; the sporting sketch, *Clever Mr. Fugg*, is amusingly presented by the Damerell and Rutland company; Minnie D'Aubyn takes well in a song scena; Sam Dalton is a good comedian; Lilian Travellie, American soubrette, is popular; the comicalities and eccentricities of the Hyde and Cody Trio are much enjoyed; Ada Cerito takes well in her football song; and the Bioscope terminates a good all-round programme.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—The inimitable Little Tich is crowding this popular house to its utmost capacity, and he comes provided with a budget of new songs, rendered in his own quaint style; Margaret Cooper is paying a quick return visit here. On Monday and Tuesday evenings she was off duty owing to a severe cold, but was expected to appear later in the week. Sterling and Love give a smart musical and vocal comedy item; Cull-Pitt as a conjurer and patterer is equally successful; Ethel Loftus contributes a clever low-comedy sketch; Foy Bros. and company cause roars of laughter in their knockabout farce, *The Tea House*; the Bains-Reed combination give a clever acrobatic turn; Cassell's Geisha Entertainers take well in their seaside business; and the Mitchelson Troupe of singers and dancers also give a smart show.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—A good all-round company includes Morny Cash, the Lancashire lad, who is warmly welcomed; Effie White presents a smart turn in *The Spirit of the Cave*; Nancy Thornton is a sprightly and vivacious artist; *Humpsti Bumpsti* is an original act of comic tumbling, which evokes plentiful fun; the Florodoras appear in a comedy sketch, *Two's Company, Three's None*, in which they convert their trio into a quartette in a highly-amusing manner; Bob Hamilton is a comedian who gets immediately into favour with his witty jokes and Scotch humour; Nightingale and Stigant enact two ladies who quarrel and make it up again, much to the merriment of the audience. The Palacecope fills up any gaps with moving pictures.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—The top of the bill is occupied by the *Master Mystery*, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Thomson, and is a really mystifying act. The inability, through illness, of Ray Wallace, lady mimic, to appear was regretted, but an able deputy was found in Will English, coloured comedian; Madge Temple, "the musical comedy queen," was flatteringly received; the Original Gaudsmidts, acrobats, gave a clever display; and Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne's dancing well earned the applause with which it was greeted. Other items of the bill include Alice Blandford, a pleasing soprano; Horace White, ventriloquist; Sisters Morgan, duettists and dancers; Naughton and Gold, comedians and patterers; and the Bioscope, with interesting pictures.

GAIETY, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Welda and Wann, in their comedy juggling act, are popular; a word of praise is merited by the comedy act supplied by Corrie and Foote; Dukes and Earl are duettists and dancers above the average; the Melroses, musical comedy duo, meet with hearty approval; and a series of pictures on the Bioscope concludes the programme. On Tuesday and Wednesday a wrestling tournament was in progress.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The variety artists are headed by Whittet and Joseph, expert gymnasts and Indian club manipulators, whose display on the opening night was greatly appreciated by a large audience; Frank Stannett, comedy instrumentalist, was specially favoured; and Belle Ray sang several songs in capital voice, the illustrated slides during their rendering being a pleasing feature; Dave Summerhill, Scotch comedian, made a good appearance. The Bioscope forms a pleasing part of the entertainment, and the pictures displayed are both interesting and amusing.

GLOSSOP. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—*A Country Girl in London* is being presented here by Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's company. Mr. John H. Sheridan makes a dignified John Hamilton; Mr. W. V. Garrod does well in the rôle of Frank Gordon; Mr. G. Moreton Williams makes a strong character of Godfrey Clinton; Mr. Clifford Marle is eminently suited in the part of Job Smithers; Mr. E. W. Avery makes a typical Heinrich; and Mr. Seymour Perry is a quaint Puddyphat. Miss Bertha Kingston in the title-rôle is both sympathetic and dignified; Miss Josephine Colona strongly portrays Gwendoline Gordan; and Miss Leslie Adair is successful in a humorous character.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Martelloni Family are talented tumblers and acrobats; and Miss Dora Barrington is an excellent soprano vocalist; Mr. R. H. Douglass makes a hit in his love-making skit; the Goldinis are entertaining with carpet spinning, &c.; Jack Barker does a novel quick-change; and the Lovelaces have a nice illustrated picture show; a dramatic sketch, *The Little Colonel*, is capitally presented by Mr. E. Montefiore and company; Messrs. Stewart and Evans patter and sing; and Miss Florence Schuberth is a good chorus vocalist. The Palacescope concludes.

KING'S HALL.—Messrs. Poole's Theatre, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Rea.—Good living pictures and illustrated songs draw capital houses here nightly.

GRAVESEND.—GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—For the week we have here Cissie Ferndale, a bright comedienne; the Dunlops, in a screaming absurdity, *My Friend Cuthbert*; Lillian Savado, in a novel trapeze act; the Sisters Herbert, a successful combination of juvenile vaudeville artists; Ben Williams, a good comedian; and Alice Hughes and company, in *The Star of the Bazaar*.

NEW PUBLIC HALL AND THEATRE.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. R. Feaver Clarke, J.P.—Alfred West, with his famous animated entertainment, illustrating life in Our Navy and Our Army, is here for the week, and is proving itself an attractive and popular entertainment.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Messrs. Travis Green and Arthur Hinton's company, in *Home, Sweet Home*, is here. As Stephen Armitage, the hero, Mr. Arthur Hinton displays marked ability; Mr. Fred G. Kay gives a clever character sketch as David Armitage; Miss Lydia Audre is excellent as Joan; and Miss Laura Wright cleverly depicts Sybil Fay. The Duke of Ancaster is in the able hands of Mr. Charles Clifford; and Mr. Victor G. Mullard is humorous as the Hon. Percy.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert.—Madame Ella is creating quite a sensation here with her wonderful performing lions; the Sisters Olarc are well received; Eileen Bernard is a charming comedienne; Tamamoto appears in an exceptionally clever wire and rope performance; Sam Shipley is very popular with his humorous songs; the Royal Ohmys are both graceful and daring equestrians; the Royal Quintette of dancers are clever exponents of the Terpsichorean art; Hugo and Mit are very amusing as comedy gymnasts; Doodles continues to delight everyone with his absurdities.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—*Jeanie Deans* is played to good houses in excellent style by Mr. John Clyde's talented company. The title-rôle is excellently portrayed by Miss Lena Levenstone, who receives high appreciation from the audience; Effie Deans is realised effectively by Miss Ellen Sennett; and Miss Belle Cecil deserves a special word of praise for her clever impersonation of Madge Wildfire; Mr. Ed. Valentine submits a powerful representation of Geordie Robertson; the ripe experience of Mr. John Clyde makes him particularly suited to the dual rôle of Counsel for the Defence and John, Duke of Argyle; as the Laird o' Dumbiedykes Mr. Wm. George Robb is exceptionally good; Mr. George Hunter is capital as David Deans; and the rest of the cast lend valuable support.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—Mr. J. C. Piddock and company, in the musical fantasy *The Capture of Venus*, are proving an excellent attraction here; some clever juggling is submitted by Marlo; and as triple bar comedians the Maro Duo are a decided success. Coram, a capital ventriloquist; Devon and Earle, the wooden shoe wonders; the Cosman Couple, speciality artists; and Nancy Renshaw, bone soloist, appear with success. An exhibition of the Bioscope is also given.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—Rose Elliott heads the bill this week, and is heartily welcomed; Frank Elliston and company submit an admirably-acted sketch, entitled *My Lady Betty*, which is much enjoyed; and entertaining turns are also provided by Marcel and Boris, who contribute some wonderfully clever balancing feats; the Brothers Dean, expert dancers; W. H. Smart, Irish comedian; Kitty Lavigne, comedienne; and Dacey and Lewis, an eccentric comedy couple; while the Dromoscope shows an excellent series of pictures.

TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, the Greenock Corporation. — Bennell's B.B. Picture Company entered upon their concluding week here on Monday, when another fine series of pictures was presented. The films include The French Cupboard, My Ma-in-law Breaks the Record, The Prize Camel, Animated Matches, The Reconciliation, Lost at Sea, &c. Vulcaris, described as the Scottish Grossmith, also appears.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—*Beau Brocade* is being presented by Mr. Reginald Dance's company. Mr. Dance himself appears as the bold highwayman, whom he impersonates in admirable fashion; Miss Ruth Mackay invests the part of Lady Patience Gascoyne with pleasing charm; Mr. Dalziell Heron gives a vigorous representation of the blacksmith, John Stitch; Mr. Frank Powell fully realises the scheming character of Sir Humphrey Challoner; Mr. Frank Darch plays the part of the Earl of Stretton with good effect; Mr. Edward Irwin is amusing as the simple shepherd, Jock Miggs; Mr. H. Asheton Tonge also causes amusement as the quaint parish beadle, Jeremiah Inch; Mr. A. E. Mayne is good as Squire West, and the same may be said of Mr. Stanley Lathbury as Mr. Mittachip; whilst Miss May Brooke acts gracefully as Betty.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—*The Orange Girl* is a capital dramatic episode, in which Miss Dolly Elsworthy gives an admirable study of Nell Gwyn, and is assisted by a capable company; Lowenwirth and Cohan's Hebrew comedy is greatly enjoyed; the Five M.P.'s (Musical Palmers) are clever instrumentalists; Rousby and Rene appear in a sketch, *Fine Feathers*, and are capital exponents of the Lancashire dialect; Joe Humphries is a vocal comedian, with good songs; Geo. Blakeney possesses a fine tenor voice; and Leo gives an original ventriloquial act.

GUERNSEY. — THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S. — Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.— Mr. J. Morton-Powell's company is here, in *Day to Day*. Mr. Alfred Stretton appears to decided advantage as Paul Inglewood; Charles Neal is in the able hands of Mr. James Jarrett; Mr. H. C. Ward's Drinkworth, Mr. Sid Bryant's Billy, and Mr. Frank Medhurst's Fontebras are all good performances. Miss Elma C. Turner displays ability as Nell Pentacost; Miss J. D. Hicks is highly suitable as Agnes Calthorpe; and Miss Mary Watts Knight is amusing as Nancy Whey.

HALIFAX.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—*The Merry Widow* is paying a return visit to the Royal this week. Mr. Lionel Victor is again delighting audiences with his quaint comedy as Baron Popoff; Mr. Haigh Jackson (Jolidon) has a fine tenor voice, which he uses with effect; Mr. Tom Redmond's excellent interpretation of Nisch, the Prince Danlio of Mr. George Grundy, and the waiter of Mr. Ernest Spalding are excellent. Miss Mary Grey adds a charm of manner to a fine stage presence and a good voice as Natalie; Miss Dora Langham makes an arch Frou Frou, and contributes some pretty dances; Miss Norah Barry is a pretty Olga; Miss Susanne Selbourne is a success as Slyvanie; and Miss Clara Evelyn makes a fascinating Sonia.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures still attract big audiences here. Celeste is a clever slack-wire performer and gymnast; and Blanche Leslie scores a success as a ballad vocalist.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The Donatos, two comical one-legged clowns, capable tumblers and wonderful jumpers, give an amusing turn; The Johnstown Flood is a clever mechanical and electrical exhibition direct from the Franco-British Exhibition; Margaret Radcliffe is successful with illustrated songs; the Evalos give a burlesque juggling act combined with good work on the flying rings; Ford and Barras, "the boys in white and gold," were well received (Ford is a smart dancer); Mr. E. introduces some pictures on the screen with stones and putty; Nat Clifford meets with approval; Elroy, the armless wonder, does some wonderful things with his feet, and is heartily encored. Alice Maydue, character comedienne, and the pictures complete the bill.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. R. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Miss Harriet Vernon in her charming scena, *Sunshine and Shadow*, is topping the bill here this week and is proving a big favourite; Frances Letty, styled America's greatest lady wooden shoe dancer, is deservedly popular both in songs and dances; Howard and St. Clair are vastly amusing in a medley of song, dance, and patter; Leslie Race is excellent as a comedian of the swell order, and Cedar and Elgar keep the house in a roar of laughter in their burlesque, *Ye Days of Olde*; Louis Kerno is a good coon impersonator and dancer; The Burnells are popular in their comedy-sketch *Playmates*; Little Zola, an old favourite here, has a hearty reception; and the Bioscope concludes a good programme

HANLEY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—The Moody-Manhers Opera Company this week visit the music-loving district of the potteries, and are attracting splendid houses. The répertoire presented consists of *Faust*, *The Meistersingers*, *The Star of the North*, *Il Trovatore*, *Tannhäuser*, *Aida*, and *Bohemian Girl*. On Tuesday *The Meistersingers* was given, and Miss Kate Anderson as Eva made a great hit. She was in grand voice. Mr. Lewis James was also in his best form, and won great applause. Mr. Philip Brozel added to his laurels by a perfect rendering of the music scored for Walter; Miss Toni Seiter was a charming Magdalene; Mr. Wm. Dever both acted and sang splendidly the rôle of Sixtus; Mr. Chas. Magrath was a fine Pogner; Mr. F. Davis was very good as David. This was the first time the opera has been produced here by this company, and it was closely followed and keenly enjoyed. It is staged most elaborately. The chorus is splendidly trained, and the large orchestra, so excellently directed by Herr Richard Eckhold, is a treat. Mr. J. MacCabe is general manager for the company.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—The programme is headed by Fred Karno's company in *A Football Match*. The laughter is spontaneous and irresistible, and it is attracting big houses. Joe Archer is a comical creature; A-Ba-Be's postcard album is very pretty; Jack and Evelyn are smart; the Two Woodwards are wonder-workers with wheels; the Spanish Juanitos are astounding acrobats; Florence Esdaile sings several sweet songs; the Grand pictures are A Story of the French Revolution and The Wrong Medicine, and Mr. Tom Moore, the operator, deserves great praise for the clear and steady way they are "screened."

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. B. Kennedy and J. Moore; Manager, Mr. Harry Kennedy.—A smart series of pictures are shown again this week, the top-liner easily being Nick Carter, the Detective. The chief of the remainder are Polly Parrot's Excursion, The Man in Overalls, The Boy Magician, Brigands of Calabria, The Squire's Rights, and Mystical Love-making. Mr. Weatherburn operates splendidly, and the patrons are well looked after by Mr. H. Kennedy. Teddy Lennon, comedian, also appears.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith.—For the first three nights of this week *Moths* and *Camille* were presented by Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company, the former being in the bill on Monday. Mr. Cecil Wynne was good as the melodramatic Prince Zouroff, and Mr. Raynor as Lord Jura delivered his smart lines with point; Mr. Leonard Lawrence did what little he had to do as Correze well; and Mr. Lodge Percy played the Duke of Mull; Miss Frances Waring was the heartless Dolly Vanderdecken; Miss Lisa Coleman was well placed as the vivacious Fuchsia Leach; Miss Henrietta Schrier was the evil Duchess de Sonnaz; and Miss Dorothy West-Symes was the conventional prig Vere Herbert. For the remainder of the week variety held the stage.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney H. Carter; General-Manager, Mr. F. D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Parker.—A fine selection of pictures is on view here, notably the Gordon-Bennett Balloon Race and Bostock's arena. Several good comic films are shown and the players appear in song, sketch, and dance; Miss Susie Belmore is a clever young artist.

HARTLEPOOL.—EMPRESS.—Lessee and General Manager, Mr. Albert Mathams.—Splendid pictures are again being shown by Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, considerable interest being centred upon the film showing Wilbur Wright's Aeroplane. Bear Hunting in Russia and the Discoverers are also very interesting.

HASTINGS. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.— Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company gave performances for the first half of the week of the amusing farce *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*. Miss Annie Stalman made an ideal representative of the imperious Mrs. Ponderbury, her demonstrative virtue being irresistibly amusing, and with Mr. George Mudie as her subdued husband, in his descriptive eulogy of her, the house was speedily convulsed with laughter, their changed submissions brought about in the third act being thoroughly enjoyable. Miss Florence Wix gave an animated and pleasing performance as Madame Polaca Modjeski; Miss Florence Wellesley was very pleasing as Ethel Penniston; and an excellent character impersonation of Mr. Mervyn Thorpe was played by Mr. Drew Mackintosh, who also stage-managed with his accustomed ability. The eccentric butler, Peter, had a good farcical exponent in Mr. Alfred Ibberson, the remainder of the cast being well presented. *His Landlady* preceded the farce. On Thursday, and for the remainder of the week, Messrs. Hardie and Von Leer's company was billed, in *The Girl I Love*.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—A good programme is opened by the attractive comedienne and dancer Miss Kate Avey; the Sprees (Dorothy and Joe) engage in an amusing scena, *Twickenham Ferry*; Marco is remarkably smart as an illusionist; some Alhambra pictures on the Bioscope are effective and quite dramatic; the Frances Harrold company introduce a laughable comedy sketch, *My Son's Wife*; George Antill, comedian, provides excellent amusement for his listeners. Another successful turn is given by Fancourt and Rubie in an interesting comedy act. The songs and business of A. G. Spry are very entertaining. Miss Leah Marlborough presents the historical episode *Nell Gwynne*, which is well staged. Miss Marlborough depicts the character of Margaret Treherne; Mr. Harry Miller takes the part of Charles II.; Nell Gwynne is gracefully represented by Miss Edith Hall. Other actors in the drama are Messrs. Mackay, Will Smith, and Richard Beaton.

ROYAL CONCERT HALL.—An excellent rendering of the music of Gounod's grand opera *Faust* was given on Wednesday of last week by the members of the St. Cecilia Musical Society, under the direction of Mr. Herman Brearley, Mus.Bac., F.R.C.O. Chorus and orchestra numbered 250 performers. The impressive music was finely played, and the choir sang with good effect. The solo vocalists gained much applause. Miss Luneta Truscott's rendering of the part of Margarita was very artistic; Mr. A. H. Crouch was notably good as Valentine; Miss Winifred Dixon sang sweetly as Siebel; Mr. James Coleman did well as Mephistopheles; Mr. Harold Wilde sang with refinement as Faust; and Miss Beatrice Root acquitted herself well as Martha.

PUBLIC HALL.—Sub-Lessees, The People's Picture Palace Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local-Manager, Mr. Harry W. James.—The animated pictures this week maintain a high level of excellence. Among others The Cowboy and the Schoolmistress and The Greed of Gold provide dramatic pictures of the Wild West, and the Beautiful Falls of the Zambesi are delightful pictures of waterfall scenery.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. Barnsley.—The play *The Youngest of Three*, by Mr. H. F. Maltby's company, is proving its attractiveness. As Lucy Dalley, Miss Mara Maltby endows the character with charm and tenderness; Mr. H. F. Maltby gives a capital study of George Wendover; great praise is due to Miss Lizzie Maddocks for her clever impersonation of Annie Dulley; and Miss Florence Wynn portrays with marked care and attention the part of her sister, Florence. Gerald Wendover is well depicted by Mr. A. Claremont. The remaining characters are capably filled by Messrs. James Willoughby, Frank Hudspith, and Miss Kathleen St. George.

HORWICH.—PRINCES' THEATRE.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mr. F. E. Chabot and his company opened in *Only a Woman* on Monday with great success. Miss Violet Cranford's impersonation of Marie Lestoc (the ill-fated wife of the scoundrel, Lieut. Rodney Summerfield) is artistic; Miss Lily Lewis as Violet Redgrave gives a very sympathetic rendering of the part; Miss Rosie Fields as the child Grace is pleasing; Miss May Colburn, who is possessed of a musical voice, plays the boy Harold in excellent style; Miss Flo Bevan has a comic part in Eliza Jane; Courtney Wallace as depicted by Mr. Leslie K. Manton is a very distinctive type of villain, and is capitally rendered; Mr. Fred Green is a fine manly young Lieut. Richard Summerfield; Mr. Charles Wilton's Lieut. Rodney Summerfield is a powerful rendering of an unprincipled scoundrel; Mr. Geo. Whillis as Bill Bumkins sings and dances himself into the affections of the audience; Mr. A. Silvernie gives a capital display as the consequential flunkey James Dobson; and the minor characters are in good hands.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—At the top of the bill this week is Rauschle, whose mobile countenance is effectively used in his impersonations of historical celebrities; Willie Gardner is an easy master of the difficult feat of dancing in skates. Sid Cotterill and company in their sketch entitled *The Substitute*, Bromley and Fontein in a humorous musical medley, Ryder Slone, character comedian, Harry Bent, comedian, the Cameo troupe of comedy acrobats, and a new lot of pictures on the Bioscope complete the bill.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. Morton.—*Jack Straw* has quite hit the public taste in Hull, and no wonder, for, apart from the sparkling character of the comedy, it is so pleasingly acted by Miss Florence St. John, who makes a charming Mrs. Parker-Jennings, and Mr. Lionel Glenister succeeds beyond measure in a clever reading of the title-rôle. The husband is well portrayed by Mr. A. T. Gulliver; the Marquis of Serlo is acted with skill by Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson; the Lady Wanley of Miss Edith Graham is a good piece of work. The comedy is preceded by *A Long Journey*, in which Miss Estelle Despa, Miss Jessica Waters, with Mr. Christmas Grose and Mr. Ernest Graham take part.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—M. Aug. Van Biene and his company are here in the ever-welcome *Broken Melody*. Miss Rose Ralp is in an engaging Countess; Mr. Ludlow and Mr. C. Hartopp help towards a pleasing performance.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—A strong play is *The Great White Chief*, presented for the first time in Hull. It has all those elements that go towards a successful drama, and the acting no less than the story is to the patrons' taste. The play is from the pen of Mr. Lingford Carson, who finds a strong part in the rôle of Reindeer. The heroine, Lalika, allows Miss Pollie Denville her opportunity. The comic relief is in the hands of Miss Amy Ross Clyde and Mr. Leonard Maitland, and they treat it very effectively; Miss Dulcie Lawrence is a striking Hester Stafford, and Hartley Deane is taken by Mr. Geo. Butler.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—Mr. Harry Battersby's company in *The King of Crime* is visiting here this week, the title-rôle being taken in a most excellent manner by Mr. F. B. Woulfe. Miss Mildred Eversleigh plays feelingly as Henriette; Mr. William Melvyn is well received as Louis Mascorot; whilst Miss E. Ellis is successful as Mathilde. Mr. Dan Mining (Taberet), Mr. Sam Wilford (Mick Maloney), and Miss Edith Loraine (Clarisse) are praiseworthy; Mr. Walter Hinton makes an active Toto Chupin; and Mr. Claude Aymond is entrusted with the rôle of Simon Grandelu.

IPSWICH. — LYCEUM THEATRE. — Mr. Horace Stanley's company in the sensational drama *The 10.30 Down Express* is playing this week to good houses, Mr. Stanley impersonating the part of Sam Wagstaffe, A.B., a most excellent character, in excellent style. Lieut. Jack O'Malley, the hero, is well played by Mr. Arthur T. Plummer, and James Inderwick is forcibly acted by Mr. Fred Wilberforce. Mr. Arthur E. Francis makes an amusing bailiff; Bessie Leigh, a somewhat exacting part, is well played by Miss Cora Linda; Letitia Leigh, "a maiden of fifty," as presented by Miss Evelyn M. Walton, excites much amusement; Miss Kate Kilpack has an acceptable part in Peggy Potts, the protégée of Sam Wag-

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staffe; and Olive Coombes is carefully acted by Miss Josephine Lee.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—The Brooklyn Four, accomplished musicians, head this week's bill, and are deservedly popular; a protean entertainment by Charley, a French artist, who impersonates ten different characters in dumb show, is one of great cleverness; Ernie Mayne makes a welcome reappearance, and "the simple one" is most amusing; the Arthur Gallimore Trio have a very funny comedy act, with some good dancing; Cline and Clark are expert dancers; May Fallowfield is a talented comedienne; Ada Parker scores both in singing and dancing; Bliss and Bliss have some smart patter work; and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Locke.—The attraction this week is Mr. Frank Lindo's company with *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. F. Lindo is a manly Stephen Armitage; Mr. A. Sefton a forcible Lucas Lyle; Mr. D. L. Doyle is well placed as David Armitage; and Mr. Norton Shields gives a good account of the Duke of Ancaster; the Hon. Percy being carefully handled by Mr. Rogers. Mr. T. B. Lewis is very good indeed as Solomon Keary; Mr. L. Ray is a droll Lord Silvermore; Miss Maud Leslie Cudd looks and plays the part of Sybil Fay, the music hall artist, to perfection, and Miss Marion Wakeford is a charming Joan.

Royal Albert Hall.—Lessee and Manager, Dr. Seaton.—This hall continues to draw excellent audiences with pictures and variety turns. This week's artists include Tom Berrick, the Black Tit-Bit, and Li-Chang-Hi, illusionist.

KEIGHLEY.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—Mr. Percy Norman's company is here in the stirring Russian drama *A Woman Worth Winning*. Mr. A. B. Mackay, the author of the play, is very successful as General Borinski; Mr. Gilbert Standing ably impersonates Amos Pauloff; Mr. G. Edwin Clive is very good as Fergus Lovinski; Mr. Wilfred E. Clark acts with power as Ivan Bardoff; Mr. Fred Danvers, who is a local favourite, scores as Peter Popples; Mr. Louis Newman is a humorous Bertie Scribbles; and Mr. Jack Corlass is well placed as Colonel Mashemoff.

KETTERING.—Avenue Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Payne.—Mr. Eustace Day's company is here with *For Love of a Woman*. Mr. Jerrold Ord is a manly Ned Merrick; Mr. Fredk. Garratt a successful Guy Manor; and Mr. Fred Ramsdale a very amusing Sam Holland. Miss May Day presents the part of Nance Manor most capably; and Miss Eva St. Vincent gives a fine character study of Jane Manor.

Victoria Theatre.—Managers, Messrs. A. Bailey and company.—This week the F. R. Benson (North) company is paying a welcome return visit. *Romeo and Juliet* was presented on Monday. Mr. Henry Herbert gives a masterly interpretation of Romeo; and Miss Gladys Vandersee is a most charming Juliet. *The School for Scandal, Richard the Third*, and *Julius Cæsar* are billed for the remainder of the visit.

KIDDERMINSTER.—New Opera House.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. Jas. T. Moore; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. C. Gudgeon.—We have a return visit this week from Mr. Montague Beaudyn and his company in *The Power of a Wicked Woman*. In the rôle of Philip Carez Mr. Montague Beaudyn gives a powerful display of acting; Mr. Gordon E. Kingsley ably portrays the character of Horace Winter; and Mr. Arthur Creswell that of Guy Oliphant. Miss Irene Munro in the rôle of Helen Terraire is artistic and realistic The play is well mounted.

KIRKCALDY.—Hippodrome.—Lessee, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—This house is occupied by the local amateurs this week in *The Mikado*.

Pavilion.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—The Pavilion presents a pretty spectacle now after the elaborate alterations, and it was a large and enthusiastic audience which greeted the reopening on Monday night. A particularly strong picture show is being given, and capital turns are provided by Mr. Sam Thomson, comedian; Miss Lillie Belle, comedienne and dancer; and Keir and Kempton, entertainers.

LANCASTER.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is here this week with *The Woman Who Gambles*. As Count Otto Steinbach Mr. Clifford Rean plays with dignity and power, Miss Laura Walker presenting a fine exposition of the Countess Natalie Steinbach. Mr. Norman A. Overton as the villain, Baron Cartzlaw, fully maintains his high reputation as an actor; Lieut. Karl Ctzartoviski is exceedingly well played by Mr. Reginald Fox; Mr. Victor T. Raymond is good as the Hon. Bertie Bray; Miss E. Conway admirably fills the port of Cora Gouldhart; and Miss Brenda May submits a humorous portrayal of Zanette. The staging is capital.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietor and Manager, Messrs. John Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Walter Ellis and company head the bill this week with a funny sketch, *The Sleepwalker*; Herbert and Lindon, eccentrics, give a clever display of dancing; Mark Stuart, comedian, has plenty of patter, as also has Mr. Frank F. Street; and Miss Ouida Macdermott sings well. Les Trois Hesses gives a remarkable wire act; and the Hippograph, depicting Her Flowers and What's the Matter with Willie? complete a varied and interesting programme.

LEAMINGTON.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Manager, Mr. George Anthony.—An exceptional treat was provided during the earlier part of the week, Mr. Norman V. Norman's company appearing in two costume plays. On Monday and Tuesday evenings *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* was performed. Miss Beatrice Wilson was charming as Lady Ursula, and Mr. Norman strikingly romantic as Sir George Sylvester; Mr. Alfred Gray was excellent as the fiery and impulsive Lord Vassenden; whilst the quarrelsome Mr. Dent was ably impersonated by Mr. Reginald P. Lamb. The young Guardsmen were played by Messrs. Norman Leslie, Frederick Lock, F. A. Flower, and J. Ashford with distinct merit, and other characters were in the efficient hands of Mr. Sam Wilkinson, Miss V. M. Barnett, Miss Ethel Coleridge, and Mr. C. C. Freer. On Wednesday evening an admirable representation of *Nell Gwyn of Old Drury* was given. During the latter part of the week Mr. George Edwardes's company is appearing in *The Merry Widow*, for which there is a heavy booking.

LEEDS.—Grand Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—*The Merry Widow* shows no falling off in popularity, its second visit to this theatre proving as big an attraction as before. Mr. Eric Thorne is largely responsible for this happy state of things, for he has elaborated his Baron Popoff to some purpose, and is the never-ending source of uncontrollable merriment. Miss Constance Drever is the Sonia on this occasion, and her impersonation is a charming one, her vocal work being specially well-liked; Prince Danilo is represented in commendable style by Mr. Leonard Mackay; that old favourite Mr. W. H. Rawlins gets a warm and well-deserved reception nightly for his rendering of the humorous part of Nische; Miss Ethel Cadman sings and acts well as Natalie; whilst Mr. W. Talleur Andrews, Miss Sylvia May, and Miss Vivienne Talleur are also to be commended for specially good work.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. R. Ernest Liston.—*The Sailor's Wedding* is the title of an attractive piece at this theatre this week. Mr. C. W. Standing is vociferously applauded nightly for a fine portrayal of Lieut. Drake; the villain is an Italian, one Giovanni Ferici, and this rôle is depicted with power by Mr. Hodgson Taylor. A charming delineation of the heroine is to be credited to Miss Dulcie Greatwick; a popular effort is that of Mr. F. Finch-Smiles as Giacomo; and Miss Winifred Pearson also wins distinction in the somewhat difficult rôle of Lenore de Gresac.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—A dramatic playlet *His Brother's Keeper*, cleverly conceived and well acted, leads the bill here. An enjoyable singing and dancing turn is done by Harvey's Boys and Girls; Ruhart submits a novel turn with good success; Godfrey James, a good vocalist, is described as the singing collier; Jack Hylton, eccentric comedian, does well; and a successful appearance is also made by the Bros. Zenary and Nora Stockelle.

Empire Palace.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—A particularly strong programme is provided for patrons this week, the wonderful Hymack, in his lightning change scena, being perhaps first favourite; Edward Lauri and May Beatty, in that dainty sketch *In Her Boudoir*, prove a very pleasing turn; Mendel, the wonderful blind musician, entertains in inimitable style; Mike S. Whallen, the raconteur, is scoring his usual success; and Spry and Austin do a neat comedy turn. Ruth Lytton is a comedienne of merit; the Chronomegaphone is an entertaining contrivance; whilst the New York Nippers, Nellie Martell, and Bert Harrow are also to the fore with good turns.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—The clever Colibri's Midgets are this week introduced as executants in a novel miniature circus, and the turn is very successful; Simms and Simms are provocative of much merriment with a musical burlesque; the Athos Troupe make a name with expert and novel acrobatics; in a similar line Rastus and Banks earn the plaudits of their audience; whilst Horace Pollock and company appear with success in a comedy sketch. The Haydons do well with burlesque business, and there are also good turns by Sisters Ford, Lanos and Montes, and Geo. Rapley.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—That popular vocalist Arthur Lennard is having a big week; Arthur Woodville, on similar lines, also does well. The Anartos provide an amusing encounter; Fred Bamford, a juvenile who can whistle, has a great reception; Wee Mona Vivian lives up to a big reputation as vocalist and dancer; and a novelty by Cordite and Buffalo is a much-applauded feature.

LEICESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont.—We are being entertained this week with a first visit of Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Willard's company with *The Girl with the Angel Face*, which is both well played and staged. In the name-part Miss Florrie Green is deserving of high praise for a clever portrayal; Mr. H. Naylor Grimson scores a success in the dual rôle of Sir John Wentworth and Thomas Wentworth; Miss Phyllis Dailley plays especially well as Ena Wentworth; Mr. Austin Mortimer is most effective as the villainous Stephen Arkwright; Miss Mildred Carr maintains her popularity with a smart and vivacious performance as Mollie Maitland; Mr. Fred C. Evison is very good as Jasper Death; Mr. Dobell Lyle is excellent as the Rev. Gordon Cross; and Mr. Allen Charles, Mr. Dicky Bird, Miss Winifred Delevanti, Mr. James Rodd, and Mr. J. L. Mann should be commended for portrayals of merit.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—As handsome and vivacious as ever, Lil Hawthorne is captivating the audiences with her new songs, given in a style for which this popular artist is renowned. A thoroughly interesting and well-played dramatic episode entitled *A Royal Heart*, is being presented with the greatest success by Mr. Fisher White's company. Mr. Scott Craven, who is part author, scores a conspicuous success as the Grand Duke Vassili, and the other parts are in the capable hands of Mr. Chris Walker, Mr. Frederick James, Miss Margaret Omar, and Mr. A. Corney Grain. Nell Emerald, aptly termed the "cheer-up girl," scores with a bright turn, her dancing and jokes being especially good; Millie Payne is a particularly smart low comedy artist; the Bros. Egbert, the happy dustmen, evoke spontaneous laughter; Theo. Bouwmeester is well received in a cleverly-enacted dramatic sketch entitled *Who is Guilty?* the whole of the eight characters being enacted by himself; he is ably assisted by Mr. J. Montague as the coroner. The Dunedin Troupe of artistic acrobatic cyclists perform many remarkable feats in a show of all-round excellence; Jolly Johnny Walker, a spirited comedian, and George Young, blind concertina player, are also entertaining. The making of a Raleigh cycle is depicted on the Bioscope.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe. Lawrence.—Miss Carlotta De Yonson and her popular company are retained over another week in consequence of the success attending *The Red Triangle*. This week they are again presenting another detective drama entitled *The Case of the Neva Brotherhood*, which is followed throughout with rapt attention. Irma Orbasany's cockatoos show the perfection of training, their performance of a complete vaudeville entertainment being of a remarkable character; Watt Moore, comedian and extempore vocalist, and Helen Guest, a spirited singer of chorus songs, so well known in Leicester, are heartily welcomed; Daisy Hurdle is a capital character comedienne; Francis O'Flynn is a smart performer on the banjo; Minnie Kirby is an entertaining comedienne; and Ernie Champion, comedian, a local trial turn, also appears. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope shows clearly The Queen's Love and The Guardian of the Bank.

Empire.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; District Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. R. Craig.—The popularity of this place of entertainment is well maintained by the new acting-manager, Mr. Craig, who is placing a number of large radiators in various parts of the hall for the comfort of the numerous patrons. The principal films this week include Snatched from a Terrible Death, A Double Suicide, Don Juan, Orders are to Snore, The Harmless Lunatic, Maria Martin, or the Murder in the Red Barn, Tommy's Trip to Morocco, and His Sweetheart's Birthday, all of which are clearly depicted. Willie Hicks, Irish and descriptive vocalist, is making a successful first appearance, and William Stewart, mouth whistler and bird imitator, the winner of the last competition, is accorded a week's engagement.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Stanyon.—Mr. Will Catlin's Royal Pierrots entered on the third week of a most successful season here on Monday, when they produced for the first time on any stage a thoroughly amusing and entertaining musical extravaganza by Mr. Will Catlin entitled *Artists' Academical Antics*, which allows for the introduction of boisterous merriment, good songs, and capital dancing by the various members of this smart troupe. Mr. Sid Frere is particularly funny in all he does; Mr. Will Catlin as the old farmer makes up well, and is most popular; Mr. George Houghton sings with his accustomed ability; Mr. Jackson Browne is very good as the servant; Mr. Will Ambro is an excellent coon singer and expert dancer; and Mr. Tom Catlin, Mr. Harry Glynn, and Mr. Charles Paulson aid and abet in making Mr. Will Catlin's new venture a thorough success. A word of praise should be extended to Mr. Catlin on the pretty stage set which he has introduced for the first time at Leicester.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath.—A capital house assembled on Monday to witness *Florodora*, presented here by Mr. Charles Constant's company. Miss Daisy Lake is highly successful as Dolores; Lady Holyrood has a fascinating impersonator in Miss Lillie Blythe; Mr. Martin W. Pitt gains much appreciation as Frank Abercoed; Mr. Jack Parker as Cyrus G. Gilfain is entirely successful; and Mr. Stanley Bartram is distinctly good as Capt. Arthur Donegal. Miss Louie Danby is a pleasing Angela Gilfain, and as Anthony Tweedlepunch Mr. Gus Danby is the life of the piece.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison. In *At Duty's Call* the author-actor, Mr. John Gerant, provides an interesting drama on the story of Gordon and Khartoum, with a striking rôle for himself as a scheming Anglo-Egyptian, and the part of a slave girl, Salema, forcibly played by Miss Ada Roscoe. Mr. Ernest St. John comes through the ordeal of representing General Gordon with considerable success; Mr. Charles C. Calvert and Miss Beatrice Western are in every way commendable as the hero and heroine of the play; and the comedy element is well sustained by Mr. J. Forrester as Terry O'Hallovan, Mr. Frank P. Morton as Jack Spencer, Miss Eva Belle as Mary, and Mr. Roy Denham as Joey Trott. A song and dance by this quartet is very vociferously encored. Minor parts are carefully filled, and scenery and stage-setting are appropriate and effective.

LIVERPOOL.—Royal Court Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—*My Mimosa Maid*, given here this week, closed the dramatic season prior to that devoted to pantomime. The merry musical comedy was received with every pleasure, and to Miss Marie Studholme, who held the title-rôle, a most cordial welcome was extended. Her winsomeness and spirited acting found general favour, and encores were demanded of her songs "What's the matter with the men just now?" and "We're simply sorry for you, that's all." A pillar of strength was Mr. Charles McNaughton, whose assumption of the millionaire sweep provoked incessant laughter; Mr. Charles E. Paton helped tremendously with the fun-making, his Max being an admirable low comedy part; another quaint figure was that of the youthful sweeper's assistant, capitally given by Master Archie McCaig, who deservedly earned the appreciation that was bestowed upon him; a very ably-presented character sketch of an antiquated waiter came from Mr. Arthur Jackson; the haughty Captain of the Zouaves was most fittingly undertaken by Mr. John H. Goldsworthy; Mr. Percy Carr sang and acted well as Gerrard; Miss Eva Sandford was a pretty Popitte; and Miss Ruby Gray in the part of Marcelle sang tastefully, being particularly recognised for her rendering of the number "Sweet Caporal." The mounting of the work was in every way perfect.

Shakespeare Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Here this week we have had a visit from the Vedrenne-Barker combination with Bernard Shaw's plays. On Monday evening *Man and Superman* was staged, when Mr. Frederick Lloyd, in the absence of Mr. Granville Barker, gave a fine rendering of the difficult rôle of Jack Tanner. A lifelike picture of Roebuck Ramsden came from Mr. Michael Sherbrooke; Mr. David Powell distinguished himself as Octavius Robinson; Miss Frances Dillon delightfully impersonated Ann Whitefield; good support came from Miss Helen Rous as Mrs. Whitefield; and other well-held parts were Violet Robinson (Miss Auriol Lee), Hector Malone (Mr. Hubert Harben), and Henry Straker (Mr. Richard Haigh). Other works given during the week were *The Convict on the Hearth* and *Arms and the Man*.

Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*The Love of the Princess* is a play which found favour here during the week, Mr. T. Edward Ward's company presenting it in good style. Miss Maisie Hanbury played Idalia in a manner that deservedly earned much commendation; Mr. Wilson Coleman made a spirited and manly Prince Conrad, his efforts being particularly appreciated; credit was certainly due to Mr. Ernest E. Imeson for his powerful portrayal of the villainous Count Danillo; justice was done to the part of Duke Scarfe by Mr. Francis Serle; Mr. E. H. Dobell gave a good interpretation of the rôle of Josef; Miss Nellie Garside pleased greatly as Lady Ramona; and others who afforded satisfaction were Messrs. Beckett Bould (Lieut. Orlans), W. F. Stirling (Prince Regent), Graham Winsford (Lieut. Zaroff), and Miss Helen Elmar (Constantia).

Star Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Liverpool audiences never seem to tire of *Leah Kleschna*, and every time it visits the popular Star crowded houses, as during this week, are the rule. A matinée had to be given on Thursday. The fine company sent by Messrs. Armitage and Leigh did every justice to the play. Mr. William Clayton as Kleschna, Miss Bessie Rignold as Leah, Mr. Hamilton Deane as Paul, Mr. Gilbert Heron as Schram, Mr. Algernon J. Hicks as Raoul, all repeated their fine performances. Also in the cast were Messrs. Charles Barrett (Valentine) and F. Bannerman (Baptiste), Miss Dorrie Turner (Sophie), Miss Ethel Russell (Mme. Berton), and Miss Edith Summers (Charlotte).

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Machnow, the Russian giant, has been an attraction here this week; a capital tabloid form of *Davy Garrick* was given by Hubert Carter and company; Guyer and Valli had a laughable trifle, *Wait for the Finish*; great applause was bestowed upon the coloured meisters for their vocal efforts; Watson's fox terriers showed a high degree of training; a particularly smart turn of acrobatic hoop manipulation and wire-walking was gone through by the Prince Milner Trio; Lilian Dundas and company were warmly commended for the dramatic episode *Nance Arden*; James Stewart as the tramp at the piano proved as funny as ever; and contributions also came from Ben Albert, comedian; and the Three Sisters Jerome, with the lively act, *Aunty's Maid*.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—A return visit of *The Power of the Cross* has met with acceptance here. Mr. George de Gray (the author) was seen to advantage in the rôle of Baron Curzola.

Lyric.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Foremost here this week has been Joe Elvin with his latest, *The King of the Castle*, which was richly enjoyed. Barney Armstrong proved as merry as ever; some remarkable work as gymnasts was gone through by Botella and Virginia; C. D. Reekie had some amusing songs and patter; Victor Courtney as "boots at the piano" provoked great laughter; and othere in the list were Lena Brunton, comedienne and mimic; Minnie Mace, comedienne; and Les Muiques. Thursday evening was set apart for the benefit of Mr. Arnold, who has been sole lessee and manager of this popular resort for eleven years.

Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Heading the programme here this week was Arthur Prince, "the Prince of Ventriloquists," who gave a show that was keenly appreciated. Fred Sinclair's company caused shouts of laughter with their funny sketch *Poor Arthur*; a remarkable exhibition of strength was shown by Brinn, who supported on his chin a heavy machine gun, from which thirty rounds were fired; Keen and Waller proved themselves a most brilliant pair of eccentrics; George S. Melvin sang and danced in capital fashion; the pictorial songs of Lennard and Vereker were thoroughly enjoyed; Wilton Heriot and company presented a clever protean comedy sketch, *An Anglo-American Alliance*; as comedy acrobats the Three Comerfords gave general satisfaction and aroused much laughter; and the Aribos, with a sensational novelty, also appeared.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—A commendable performance of *Othello* was given this week by the stock company. The title-part found in Mr. David G. Noble an able exponent, he speaking his lines with good effect; Mr. Sydney Grant acquitted himself as Iago; the Cassio of Mr. R. Seath Innes was full of earnestness, and marked by judgment; Miss Florence Palmer pleased as Desdemona; Miss Lilian Radbourne gave a most intelligent rendering of the rôle of Emilia; Mr. E. D. Allen was the Duke of Lodovico; Mr. Cecil Ravenswood held the parts of Brabantio and Gratiano; and Mr. Leo Montgomery did well as Montano. Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed some excellent films.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—In addition to the Bioscope pictures given here, the following artists appeared during the week:—Eddie and Emmie, with a neat comedy act; Violet Macfarlane, child burlesque artist; and Alec. Robertson, comedian.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Heading the bill here this week have been Courtice and Louie Pounds and company, who gave a delightful sketch, entitled *Charles—His Friend*; Lottie Lennox has a rousing reception for her latest songs, which included "Put on your old green bonnet" and "There'll be no war"; John Humphries and company caused endless laughter with *Ancient Britons*; Ted and May Hopkins brought their merry comedy act, *Wedding Bells*; the Eight Lancashire Lads earned loud applause for their clever clog-dancing; Morris Harvey gave talented imitations of actors and music-hall artists; Tom Moore sang with taste; as speciality vocalists the Crown Trio proved particularly pleasing; and Madge Osmond looked well as a male impersonator.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—This new place is now receiving great public support, and crowded houses are a nightly occurrence. Heading an attractive bill this week were Charles Parker's Six Aeolians, who gave a charming vocal and dancing act; the brilliant youthful couple, Beatie and Babs, with their *Pavement Rehearsal*, fairly brought down the house; Harrison Brockbank had a flattering reception for his popular songs; roars of laughter followed the sketch, *Those Troublesome Slaveys*, given by the L. V. O. Trio; Ben Jackson as banjo magician and trick solist was a capital turn; the Wedburns were very amusing; Rikona provided an artistic and clever entertainment as smoke painter, &c.; and likewise in the list were George Acre, vocalist; Cecilia Gold, comedienne; and Jack Waller, comedian, &c.

LLANDUDNO.—Prince's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. Ritson.—Some excellent animated pictures are shown here, interspersed by solos by Mr. Clement Brown, a tenor with a voice above the average. Good houses are the order.

LLANELLY.—Royalty Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Z. Andrews; Resident-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—We have this week Mr. Roland Yorke's company in *The Old Home*. The company includes that well-known and successful Welsh actor Mr. Harding Thomas, who takes the part of Daddy Dean in a very able manner. As Hazel Dean Miss Gertrude Bonser is most sympathetic; the Rev. Eric Armstrong is well taken by Mr. T. W. Dunscombe; Mr. Roland York as Lord Avondale is exceedingly good; Mrs. Braithwaite makes a good Bridget; and Miss Mattie Crawford as Pollie Pop is very successful.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—Mr. Hubert Woodward's company in David Garrick, with Mr. E. Glossop Such in the title-rôle, has been playing to large houses. Mr. E. Glossop Such's assumption of the title-rôle was a masterly conception finely played; Mr. Hubert Woodward as Simon Ingot played with commendable ability; Mr. Maurice Woolley as Squire Chivey made a great impression; Mr. Edward Ellis as Mr. Smith, Mr. Edward Munk as Mr. Jones, Mr. Cecil Ash as Mr. Brown, Mr. Charles Shum as George, and Mr. Allen Yearsley as Thomas gave valuable assistance. Miss Winifred Gardner as Ada Ingot won golden opinions by her charming personality and excellent acting; Miss Lucy Hodson as Mrs. Smith played in her usual excellent manner; and Miss Betty Rowland was well suited as Miss Araminta Brown. The dresses and scenery were of an elaborate nature. The comedy was preceded by the Trial scene from *The Merchant of Venice*, Mr. Robert Woodward excelling as Shylock and Miss Augusta Hamilton making a great impression by her dignified acting as Portia.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—The bill this week include the Arthur Bedina Trio, Les Rallis, Carl and Carr, Lill Elfreda, Elton Black, Eugene and Willie, and Millie Engler.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Extraordinary business is the rule here, and the huge building is nightly packed. Tom Costello presents his latest successes, and is recalled again and again. Datas, who is rightly described as "the human almanac," is highly successful, and creates a sensational success, his correct answers to local queries of more than thirty or forty years ago being really marvellous. Other turns include Geo. Bernard, descriptive vocalist; Lailie Brookes; Jessica Brookes, &c. The British Biograph Co. present a remarkable series of living pictures.

LUTON.—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Manager, Mr. Louis J. Beard.—A welcome visit is being paid by Mrs. Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath's company in a version of *Sapho*. The Fanny Legrande of Miss Montague (Mrs. Bateman) is an able representation; the Jean of Mr. Stuart Lomath is a finished piece of acting; and humour is well contributed by Mr. Percy Shaw as Cesaire and Mr. Harry Momber at Hettemer. The mounting and dresses are in excellent taste. Last Sunday an excellent Bioscope entertainment was given, amongst the pictures being the film representing Joseph and His Brethren. Miss Constance St. Bride rendered "The Children's Home" and "The Holy City" in accomplished style, to the accompaniment of illustrated slides.

MACCLESFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—*Her Nameless Child* is being presented here by Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company. Miss Pattie Hastings is conspicuous with a portrayal of merit as Phillis Ford; Mr. J. W. Evelyn as Anthony Ford is excellent; Mr. Arthur E. Pringles displays an ample sense of villainy as Lord Henry Woodville; Lady Sybil Woodville is embodied in capital style by Miss Mona Gray; and Mr. Frank Thompson as Mongrole and Mr. Sydney C. Cranston as Arthur Ford are both capable; Miss Renie Douglas as Bessie Brooks and Mr. Larry Clements as Tom Rivers undertake the comic element with complete success; and Miss Geraldine Verner does full justice to the rôle of Crayon.

MAIDENHEAD.—The Pavilion.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gude.—The pictures this week are well selected and varied, and include The Child's Prayer, The Lazy Man, and The Physican of the Castle. In place of the usual variety artists, Mr. Gude is for a short time accepting local talent, in the hope of "giving a chance" to some worthy aspirant for the honours of the boards. The most noticeable candidate this week is Mr. W. Parkes, the possessor of an excellent soprano voice.

Town Hall.—Secretary, the Town Clerk.—Under the direction of Messrs. Baring Bros., Miss Marie Hall paid us a visit on the 27th ult., when the hall was well filled. The Provincial Electric Animated Picture Co. have the Town Hall for a week, and submit an excellent series of pictures. That illustrating the sport of Ski-ing in Switzerland is particularly fine, the escapades of The Reckless Horseman cause roars of laughter, When the Devil Drives is a marvellous trick film, and The Kelly Gang is very clearly depicted. Mr. Harry E. Berry is the manager.

MAIDSTONE.—Palace.—Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Ben Hur, in a novel athletic act, heads the bill here this week, and is deservedly popular in the spectacle *Pompeii*; Edward Cranston and Mrs. Bennett's company in the sketch, *Poor Master*, do well; Ted Saunders mimics popular music-hall artistes; and Miss Crissie Leonard sings popular songs; Miss Queenie West, comedienne and dancer; Hal Best, comedian; Mr. Fred Russell, ventriloquist; and the Bioscope complete the bill.

MANCHESTER.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees, The United Theatres, Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmonstone Shirra.—The Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company opened a fortnight's répertoire here on Monday with a fine performance of Bizet's *Carmen*, under the conductorship of Mr. Walter Van Noorden. Miss Doris Woodall sang with splendid effect in the title-part, and Mme. Ina Hill as Micaela contributed an excellent rendering; while Mr. Edward Davies played José in the spirited and cultured style that usually distinguishes his work, and Mr. Hebden Foster as Escamillo added appreciably to the success. The smaller parts were all admirably filled. On Tuesday Mr. Eugene Goossens conducted an impressive performance of *Tannhäuser*, with Mr. Hanne Robert in the title-rôle and Miss Beatrice Miranda as Elizabeth; while on Wednesday *Faust* was offered to a large and appreciative house. *The Marriage of Figaro, Il Trovatore, Cavalleria Rusticana*, and *Pagliacci*, and *The Merry Wives of Windsor* complete the week's bill; and an equally fine array is promised for next week.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A visit of Mr. Edward Terry is always welcomed by playgoers who delight in genuine comedy, and on Monday the patrons of this house were treated to an admirable depiction of an old Dorsetshire farmer by Mr. Terry in his new play, *Fiander's Widow*, presented to Manchester for the first time. Next to Isaac Sharpe, the non-marrying farmer in question, the rôle of Mrs. Fiander is the most important, and this was nicely played by Miss Edith Coleman. Mr. Edmund Hollick as Richard Marshall and Miss Sophie Lingwood as Mrs. Belvin had most to do of the remainder, among whom Mr. William Dexter was particularly good as Abel Hunt. An excellent performance of *Liberty Hall* was given on Wednesday, followed, on succeeding nights, by *Sweet Lavender* and *The Magistrate*.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—The attraction here is *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, presented by Mr. Douglas Bruce's company. The play was well received at the Royal Osborne Theatre last week.

Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietress, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne.—A second week of *Windmills, or, The Amateur Socialist* is the attraction here.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Mason.—Mr. Fredk. Melville's company is here this week in *The Ugliest Woman on Earth*. The title-part is in the hands of Miss Beatrice Homer, who acts with skill and sympathy, while Mr. Philip Darien gives a powerful rendering of Jack

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Merriman; Mr. Leyton Cancellor as Hubert Gold is very good, and has a capable assistant in Miss Gertrude Harrison as Rose Courtenay. Mr. Gerald Nolan supplies an excellent study of Dr. Carr, a scientist; and others who do well are Miss Violet Macaree, Mr. Freddie Bentley, and Miss Nellie Jackson.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—*The Little Bread-Winner*, excellently presented by Mr. J. A. Campbell's principal company, is the attraction here this week, and is well staged. Mr. H. B. Peppin as Lord Dorrington, the Quaker, plays with dignity; Mr. R. Brown as Richard Lawrence and Miss May Richardson as Margaret Daventry acquit themselves well; Miss Millie Ford gives a good account of herself as Kate Cherry; Mr. Alfred Maurice scores a big success as the villain, Joseph Prior; and Mr. Sydney Lynn does well as Charles Prior; little Winnie Crisp shows great talent, and her song, "Daddy," and her dancing are well received; the vocal effort of Miss Lissa Young is also appreciated. The other parts are in good hands.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The big turn here this week is provided by Frank A. Gotch in *All About a Bout*, supplemented by pictures of the Gotch v. Hackenschmidt match. The Boisset Troupe appear in *The Bricklayers* with their usual success; and other good turns were added by F. W. Purcell's company (including Margaret Murch, in *What Women Do for Men;* Leo Tell, the musical and animal mimic; Carina Sisters, in a refined musical act; the Three Delaries, expert demon athletes; Chas. Chard, comedian; Leoni Dixon, a neat comedienne and speciality dancer; and Annie Casey, comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—*The Volcano*, with Janet Alexander, Lauderdale Maitland, and Edward Sorley in the cast, is still the chief attraction here. Marie San Toy and company are seen to advantage in a delightful Japanese musical comedy, entitled *A Japanese Tea Garden;* Gus Garrick makes a big hit with his music hall tit-bits; Anna Hickish, ballad vocalist, has a good voice, and is well received; James Eadie and Cissie Ramsden are capital in *Charlie's Visit;* Joe Almasis, the jumping juggler, and his funny assistant, provide a good turn; the Glenway Troupe of dancers are excellent, as usual; Arthur Gill, the man of many voices, sings well; and Carney and Armstrong have some good patter. Pictures complete.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Carver.—Vesta Tilley is the attraction here this week, and meets with a splendid reception, her popularity being greater, if possible, than ever. Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore, very ably assisted, are seen to advantage in a dramatic episode, *The Usurer;* Phillips and Merritt, a versatile couple, are excellent dancers; Elsa Joel, operatic vocalist, is well received; Ernest Powell is highly successful at the piano; the Hiatts, in a comedy, dancing, musical mélange, are capital; Vincent scores as an acrobatic table expert; and Ted Cowan is a quaint comedian; an extra turn by Bellman and Moore, character comedy duo, was received with great acclamation.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Excellent turns are provided here this week by Mabel Green, musical comedy artist; Kitty Loftus, comedienne; and Aimee De Leska, who sings well. *A Pair of Lunatics* is presented in excellent style by Dixon Moffatt, ably assisted; Barbara Babington, vocal comedienne, is pleasing; and other good turns are those of Kenway and Emery in *She Would Have a Soldier;* Vere and Royal, vocal comedy artists; Chris Baker, comedian; Winston Weir, vocalist; the Summersons, comedy duettists; and Rose Lyndon, comedienne. Ruffell's Bioscope pictures are first-rate.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—Caban's French Circus is the top attraction here, and is followed with interest and amusement. Another capital turn is the Three Coopers, comedy and harmonising vocalists; while Harry Zetter, comedian and dancer, is very well received, and Chris Van Bern, eccentric comedian, is distinctly amusing. Other enjoyable items are W. G. Wesley, character comedian; the Miners' Quartet of vocalists; Dolly Ross, expert dancer and comedienne; Edwin Adeler, comedian; and Horace Sadie, a smart dancer.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—Joe Peterman presents here this week with great success *The Singing Servants*, a bright operatic burlesque in two scenes; Ritchie-Heron's company, including Dick Harcourt, cause no end of amusement with *The Village Fire Brigade;* W. G. Webber, bass vocalist, is deservedly well received; Arthur Albert is a descriptive vocalist of more than average merit; Frank Solbey is a clever child mimic and capital dancer; J. C. Scatter is highly entertaining with patter and songs; George Phillips, swell comedian and dancer, is good; and Joe Conway, comedian, completes an excellent programme. The Bioscope subject, Broken Hearts, is exceptionally good.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—An entertaining programme here this week comprises The Deuchars, duettists and dancers; Jim Cunliffe, comedian; Tom Morris, sifleur; The Protector, a scena by Will Letters; Little Tichbourne, a comical fellow, in song and dance; Willard's Merry Mannikins, a smart variety combination; Barrie and Wood, comedians and dancers; James and Jennie Lee (who top the bill) in their expert dancing and cycling act; Emil and Ediss, clever banjoists; and Cyril Jephson, character comedian.

MANSFIELD. — GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lowe.—Mr. George Robertson's company is here this week with *A Message from Mars*. The important part of Horace Parker is capitally undertaken by Mr. Gordon Starkey; the messenger is effectively represented by Mr. Lionel Yaldwyn; Mr Percy Taylor did well as the tramp; Mr. N. H. Jessop was a conspicuous success as Arthur Dyson; the Minnie Templer of Miss Edith King was a capital performance; and the other parts were well impersonated.

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Heading the bill this week is Fred Karno's new sketch, *The Yapp Yapps*, which has had a particularly successful run and a wonderfully hearty reception. Selbo, the King of Clubs, proves himself a remarkably smart juggler and plate thrower; and Mersano, comedy conjuror and coin and card manipulator, also gives a good turn. Daisy Hicks sings pleasingly; Fred Clements, comedian, gives an acceptable turn; and Odeyne Spark sings and dances with great success.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Sydney Arnold.—On Monday Mr. Harry Starr opened a welcome return visit with *Otto, the Outcast*. In the name-part Mr. Harry Starr displayed considerable versatility, and made himself popular; Mr. Will Hee was excellent as Roderique d'Estalier, alias Vidocq, &c.; Mr. Walter Kenion showed a clever study of Daddy Bruneau; the priest was well done by Mr. Tom Crawford; Mr. Edwin Firth was a dignified Marquis; and Wally was well played by Mr. Wm. Gossett. As Susette Miss Emmeline Roselle scored a success; Miss Cissie Harding played Mme. de Chaumont with decided appreciation of the character; Miss Kate Norris was excellent as Lorna; and Miss Madge Blundell was capital as Corinne Jarbeau.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr W. H. Melton.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley are this week presenting *Two Little Drummer Boys*. Mr. Harry Scott plays with distinct ability as Capt. Carsdale; Capt. Darrell has a capable exponent in Mr. Oswald Douglas; Mr. Geoff. Sutherland makes the most of the part of Lieut. Kingsley; Mr. Ed. Bikker is a soldierly figure as General Kingsley; a sympathetic and intelligent rendering of the part of Alma Kingsley is given by Miss Violet Ainslie; and the unthankful part of Margaret Rivers (drunken Meg) is skilfully sustained by Miss Violet Ingram. The title-rôles are capitally played by Misses Maggie English and Maude Douglas. Enjoyable comedy is provided by Mr. Will Percy and Mr. Dick Seddon.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H Jones.—The programme here this week includes, amongst others, the following pictures:—Patriots; or, the Horrors of War, A Young Protector, Little Cabin Boy, Pleasant Side of a Soldier's Life, A Stitch in Time, Separation Wanted, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. E. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—Mr. John M. East is this week presenting *Sexton Blake*. Mr. Horace Denton is very successful in the title-rôle; as Tinker Mr. Billy Ross supplies the necessary touch of humour; Miss East Robertson is good as Philadelphia Kate; Miss Bertha Francis gives a pleasing portrayal of Marjorie; Mr. Brian Daly as Farmer Blackburn and Mr. William Felton as Rodger are well placed; and Miss Lena Delphine does well as Euphemia.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—Walter Howard's new romantic play *Her Love Against the World* is being presented here by Messrs. W. H. Hallatt and Walter Howard's principal company. The rôle of Eric is excellently portrayed by Mr. Fred Emery; Miss Rossie St. John sustains the part of Lionel in excellent style; the character of Iris is charmingly represented by Miss Grace Heywood; Mr. Lewis Gilbert is remarkably fine as the Prince of Ravensbury; Mr. W. H. Hallatt is clever as Prince Othmar; and Mr. V. Rowland acts with ability as Prince Maurice.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—The Bijou Juveniles give a refined musical scena here entitled *Pansy's Birthday*. The Nettas sing most acceptably; Jack Lane, the Yorkshire rustic, is very entertaining; the Norman and Leonard Trio in a musical item are successful; the Sisters Varley sing duets; the Dayton Family give a most daring and clever entertainment; and Gladys Mavius is a pleasing comedienne. Fred Earle, comedian, causes much amusement; and Lee-Tung-Foo and the Three Milfords also contribute.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—Lockhart's troupe of elephants give a remarkable display here this week; Shaun Glenville is laughable in a sketch, *The Art of Deception;* Tom E. Hughes sings in excellent style; the Cabiacs are smart acrobats, as are also Burley and Burley. Lee and Lee, musical eccentrics, are good; and Rich Taylor is a clever whistling ventriloquist.

OXFORD PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Alf Graham; Manager, Mr. Ormesby French.—A capital programme is submitted here this week, some singing of a first-class order being provided by Mlle. de Rose and J. H. Hawtrey. The Bros. Sydamore give some good patter and dancing; the Maddisons also prove themselves excellent comedians; and Tom Gott, comedian, Mr. D. Donaldson and Miss F. Serina, and Tom Parker also do well.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Miss Bonwin Carlton's company is this week appearing in *The Old, Old Story*. Grimshaw, the detective is finely played by Mr. Edward Surrey, and a capable bit of character-acting is contributed by Mr. J. P. Dryden as John Hazel; Nettie Hazel, the farmer's wife, is capably sustained by Miss Bernice Fielding; and Miss Esther Lamont does well in the pathetic rôle of Marlow's supposed wife; Miss Bonwin Carlton is excellent as the good-hearted and sprightly Tilly; and mention should be made of Miss Kitty Maynard as little Jessie.

MUSSELBURGH.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Hugh Ritchie; Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston.—The stock company opened this week with a new Russian play for the first time in Scotland, *By Command of the Czar*. Dimitri Karatieff was played by Mr. Kingston with powerful effect; Mr. A. B. Croucher put in some good work as Boris Marne; Farmer Borinski was well played by Mr. Haydn C. Osborne; and the comedy part of Popoff received full justice from Mr. Harry Leonard; Messrs. Addison Thomas and Richard Asche did well as Captain Nicholai and Captain Onloff respectively; Kintinka, the female spy, was in the hands of Miss Vera Moseley; and Miss E. Colville as the heroine, Olga, was well placed.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—Laughter loud and long is the order of the night here, and Mr. Pip Powell and Miss Katie Vesey in a wonderfully clever sketch are responsible for most of the fun. The sketch *A Perfect Woman* is cleverly acted, whilst the singing, dancing, and general business cause much enthusiasm. Mr. W. B. Raby scores in his excellent songs; Miss Sybil Lester, child vocalist, comes in for prolonged applause; Mr. Charles W. Anson makes a decided success in monologues; Mr. Arthur Bearle is well received in his eccentric contributions; Miss Bessie Willow has a strong voice and good presence; and the animated pictures are, as usual, of a highly educational nature, with one or two humorous films. The new conductor of the orchestra, Mr. C E. Parsons, has made an excellent impression.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—It is a long while since so much laughter was heard in the Royal as on Monday evening, when Mr. James Welch and his talented company appeared in the screamingly funny farce *When Knights Were Bold*. Mr. Welch plays the principal rôle of Sir Guy de Vere, and throughout the play the versatile comedian keeps the audience in a continuous state of laughter. Miss Audrey Ford as Lady Rowena contributes a thoroughly convincing study which is greatly appreciated; and Miss Maev O'Lea as Lady Millicent Eggington, Miss Gwendoline Rayne as Lady Majorie Eggington, Miss Helen Palgrave as the Hon. Mrs. Waldegrave, Mr. Arthur Grenville as Isaac Isaacson, Mr. George Desmond as the Hon. Charles Widdicombe, Mr. Guy Lane as the Rev. Pottlebury, and Mr. Cecil Kinnaird as Sir Bryan Ballymote all lend excellent support to a most enjoyable entertainment. As a curtain-raiser *The Changeling*, by W. W. Jacobs, is presented, Miss Helen Palgrave, Mr. J. H. Carson, and Mr. George Tully appearing to advantage.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—Mr. F. W. Bolam this week presents *The Sins of Society*, and on Monday a crowded audience was enthusiastic in its appreciation. Miss Grace E. Leslie gives a fine impersonation of the imperious Lady Marion; and a charming representation of Lady Gwendolen is submitted by Miss Dorothy Giles. Miss Pattie Browne gives a bright and amusing study of the vivacious Lady Goldburg, and her persistent admirer, James Hogg, is skilfully portrayed by Mr. Blake Adams; Mr. Noel Ferrers (the society villain) has an adequate representative in Mr. C. F. Collings; and Mr. Vassall Vaughan sustains the part of the hero (Sir Dorian) with much success. Excellent support is rendered by the rest of the company, including Mr. Frederick Annerley as Mr. Morris, Miss Janet Hodson and Miss Mabel Murray. The staging is good, and the dresses are tasteful.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Miss Maud Hildyard is making her first appearance here since her return from Australia in *The Great Awakening*, which proves a strong attraction. Miss Hildyard gives an accomplished personation of the leading part of Lola Selby; Miss Elsie Capel pleases everybody with her sweetly pathetic Molly Merton; and a finely-drawn double part is that of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton by Mr. Cecil Gray. Mr. Herbert Roberson ably enacts Guy Rogan; Mr. Manning Spororton does well as Captain Lambert; Mr. Tracey Barrow and Miss Cissie Podmore add considerably to the fun.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—*Convict 99* is drawing capital houses here this week. Mr. Frank Beresford as Lawrence Gray gives a fine rendering of the part; and Mr. Benson North is an excellent Ralf Vickers, whilst Miss Dorothy Milne as Geraldine Lucas acts with good dramatic force; and the other characters are ably sustained.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Wilkie Bard heads an acceptable bill here this week, and his quaint songs and patter arouse roars of laughter. Another clever turn is that provided by Miss Teddy Edmonds' company in the sporting farce *The Lady Jockey*, in which Mr. Jimmy Rouse works off any amount of humour in the rôle of a tipster. The Delevines provide acceptable entertainment with their breezy sketch *Flipp and Flopp*, in which Miss Minnie Delevine appears in the Scarecrow dance. As an impersonator, Syd May would be difficult to beat; a very pleasing turn is provided by the Dumond Trio, vocalists and instrumentalists; and others on the programme are Harry Bedford (comedian), Alf Chester (comedian), and Ida Kathrena, the human doll, the Bioscope completing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—Heading the bill this week are the Harmony Four, and other clever and amusing turns are contributed by Henri Bekker, Hilgert and Arkas, Thorpe and Co. (in *My Burglar*), Jay Laurier, Three Panamas, Maid and Moon, and Williams and Warden.

NEWPORT.—LYCEUM.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—*A Royal Oak* is being played to good houses here this week. Miss Glossop Harris invests Mildred Clavering with grace, dignity, and emotional power; Mr. Frank Cellier as Charles II. bore himself royally, yet with humour; as Dorian Cholmondeley Mr. Percival Madgwick does excellently; and Miss Gertrude Tate's Patty Woodroofe is a charming performance. Mr. E. Stuart Vinden is humorous as Walk-in-the-Hay-Dear-Love; Miss Janet Warden's Lady Cholmondeley is emotional; Miss Mary Goulden's Sir Bevis Cholmondeley is a pretty performance; and Mr. Arthur Goodsall's Colonel Aucketill is vigorous in its villainy.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—Miss Kitty Clinton sings well; Enzer, a juggler, performs some wonderful feats, and is assisted by Miss Clarice in a jiu-jitsu performance; Bonnie Goodwin's Piccaninnies (assisted by Miss Lilly Vine) delight the audience; Walter King, a droll comedian, cause much laughter; and Arthur Astill, a whistling mimic, shows considerable ability. A fine spectacular performance is provided by the Ten Zerbenas in the gorgeous scena *The Enchanted Glen;* and exceedingly attractive are the Herbert Darnley Comedy Co. in the spectacular Spanish musical production, *The Brigands of Tarragona*. The Bioscope complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—TEMPERANCE HALL.—Proprietors, the Company.—Charles W. Poole's Myriorama is doing good business here this week. In addition to the effective dioramic pictures a good variety entertainment is provided by the Banzai Family of Japanese jugglers and equilibrists, who are loudly applauded; Sydney Bach as the Welsh landlady at the piano gives a clever and entertaining turn, his Welsh humour being well appreciated; Willie Dean, a comedian—and a good one too—has made himself a favourite. Illustrated songs were ably rendered by Eileen Russell; Harry Raymond is up to date in song and dance; the Seven Bramusas, a juvenile brass band, aided by the orchestra, are extremely good; and Mr. John R. Poole is an accomplished and gentlemanly guide.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—*Second to None* is here through the medium of Mr. T. Edward Ward's capable company. Mr. Theo. Balfour in the part of Sir Reginald Greystone, V.C., is admirably Mr. Frederick F. Loyd makes a capital Captain Philip; Mr. Arthur D. Layland, ably sustains the rôle of Lieut. Archer Ballater; Mr. J. G. Maine is good as Sergeant Jack Horseman; Messrs. Leonard Williams and Charles Halling deserve praise as the Brothers Wilding; Mr. Allan Carruthers makes a hit as Private Flutter; Mr. George H. Davis is well placed as Joe Ruggles; Miss Ward gives an excellent portrayal of Nell Greystone; Miss Maud Merrick acts with distinction as Mary Greystone; and Miss Clarrie Yandell makes a smart Norah.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Santeron Wonders, jumpers, top the bill here; Captain Ellis and son give an enjoyable musical act; Messrs. Dalemo and Stream, singing comedians, dancers, &c., are smart; Clive and Vera, in *The Squire and the Dairymaid*, are much appreciated; Messrs. Dale and Vale, duettists and dancers, meet with favour; Mr. Arthur Stacey, eccentric comedian and dancer, has made a hit; and the Mouldoscope is as entertaining as ever

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—A musical play entitled *Dainty Lady Dorothy* occupies the boards this week. Mr. W. H. Montgomery undertakes the part of Lord Arnold with much ability, and his musical numbers are very pleasing; Mr. Frank Lester constitutes a capital Jew, Solomon Hawkstein, and Mr. Edgar Dereve gives a humorous portrayal of Joseph Jinks. Miss Ida Ernest has a capital voice, and delineates Lady Dorothy in a charming manner.

THE PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—Mr. Frank Coyle is undoubtedly a quaint comedian and causes much merriment; the Hazards, comedy and character duettists, do well; Uty is versatile, and keeps his audience in roars of laughter; the Dewars present an absurdity entitled *The New Barman;* Jack Ford, Irish comedian and dancer, has a good reception; Phil Royston's comedy sketch company in *Cut Off* are extremely funny; and the Ruffell's Bioscope pictures are decidedly good.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Miss Lena Ashwell's company is here with *Diana of Dobson's*. Miss Dorothy Green in the title-rôle fairly captivates the audience, and Miss Mary Stuart is good as Mrs. Cantelupe; Miss Nannie Hume deserves every praise for her humour as Miss Jay and as the old vagrant in the last act; Mr. Alfred Harris does well as Sir Jabez; Mr. H. Grindon admirably renders the part of Capt. Victor Bretherton; and Mr. Albert Wainwright shows ability as P.-C. Fellowes.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—The management provides a capital programme this week. The Smythsons are very amusing in the sketch *Love Germs;* Phil Rees' Stable Boys are equally entertaining; Radie Furman obtains a good reception for her dancing; Fred Barnes continues a favourite; Alman Correze is a clever juggler; and Reg Bolton in a comedy scena, *The Editor's Imp*, Maudie Ford, comedienne and dancer, and the Hippo Bio complete a pleasing entertainment.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*The Man from Mexico* is staged this week, and audiences have laughed boisterously over its comicalities. An excellent cast is headed by the inimitable comedian Mr. Stanley Cooke, who as Benjamin Fitzhugh has a rôle well suited to his powers of resource and humour; Mr. George Willoughby adds greatly to the fun as Roderick Majors; and a good character study of a German is supplied by Mr. Fred Lewis; Miss Emily Fitzroy looks dainty and acts with charming naïvete as Mrs. Fitzhugh; Miss Amy Francis makes a typical New Yorker in the part of Nettie Majors; and Miss Fyfe Alexander proves an attractive Sally Grace. Minor rôles are excellently filled by Messrs. Walter Gay, Hugh Ardale, Rupert Stutfield, E. A. Douglas, and James Schnapper. A smart little curtain raiser, entitled *His Living Image*, is well played by Miss Amy Francis, Mr. Lytton Grey, and Mr. Fred Lewis. On Friday, the 27th ult., Mr. Cyril Maude paid a flying visit with a matinée of *Toddles*, and a crowded audience gave them a rousing reception.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—*The Village Blacksmith* pays another return visit here. Mr. Sam Livesey retains his part as John Strong, and his fine physique and earnest interpretation beget rapturous applause; Mr. Albert Sinclair evokes hearty execration as the villainous Captain Leo; and Lucas Marler is well played by Mr. Edwin Maydew. Miss Maggie Edwards makes an admirable exponent of Kate Strong, evincing sympathy and feeling; Miss Cassie Le Grande proves resourceful as Ruth Parkins; and Mrs. T. C. Livesey gives an excellent character study of a tinker's wife; the Tinker is a clever piece of work by Mr. T. E. Marshall, and Mr. George Wilton is an admirable St. John Harman; as Billy Twig Mr. Fred Haming keeps the house in constant laughter, and he has valuable help from Miss Edith Giddens in the part of Martha Mopps.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—Arthur Roberts heads the bill this week with his sketch, *Till Sunday*, in which he receives valuable assistance from Miss Ruby Celeste and Mr. H. J. Worth; Terry and Lambert have an excellent skit on American methods, which compels unproarious merriment; no more charming turn appears on these boards than that of Florence and Lilian, and they deservedly receive an enthusiastic reception; the Mattineks give an amusing dancing performance; Sydney Lee supplies some clever conjuring tricks; and Albert Christian vocalises in his usual breezy style; a song by Kate Cohen is pleasantly rendered; Lil O'Gorman dances well; Alf. Maynall, comedian; and pictures on the Bioscope close the programme.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—The comedy, *61, Prospect Street*, is a typical example of American humour, and is well played by Caryl Wilbur's company. The hand-balancing of the Barrois is a dexterous and interesting performance; Addie Dorina gives examples of quick-changes in costume; and Heeley and Meeley create roars of laughter by their comicalities; John Grun Marx demonstrates his great strength; Dave Carter sings agreeably; and merry moments are afforded by Ferris and May in a musical sketch. Another pleasurable item is *The Singing Servants*, in which a goodly company submit some agreeable harmony and smart dancing; Will Vay's Juveniles are well received; Ritter and Foster dance and chatter to the delight of their audience, and interesting films are shown on the Barrascope.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietors, Theatre and Entertainments Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. Lester Collingwood's company is paying a return visit here in *When London Sleeps*. Mr. James Hare is a distinct success as the relentless villain Captain Rodney Haynes; Mr. Edward E. Ashby ably plays the part of the hero David Englehart; Mr Ernest C. Edwards as Mr. Furnaby Fuller does well; Mr. Douglas Campbell as Sammy and Mr. Frank Howard as the Hon. Bertie Broomhead succeed in creating a good deal of amusement. Miss Mabel Scudamore finds much favour in her charming portrayal of Queenie Carruthers; Miss Lilla Wilde is good as Hilda Carode; Miss Bella Power as the Signorina is very humorous; and Miss Mona Hall is lively and attractive as Carrie Jones.

OLDBURY.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—This week's programme includes Rex Grahame, comedian, who is very droll; Serpento, a first-rate contortionist; Miss Grahame, a clever comedienne; Miss Vera Mayne, who has a good voice; Mr. Fred Hovis in some very catchy chorus songs; and the pictures.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Bondman* opened here before a large audience. As Michael Mr. Lionel Atwill acted in a masterly manner, and Mr. R. Scrope Quentin as Jason played in powerful and decisive style; Miss Georgina Wynter appeared with great success as Greeba; Miss Emilie Mayhew made a charming Christian Ann, and Miss Madge Lamerton was very good as Mrs. Fairbrother; Mr. Oswald Lingard as Adam Fairbrother did very well, and Mr. W. H. Rotherham in the dual rôle of Grandfather and Father Ferrati was excellent; Miss Gertrude Helene and Master Walter Neville as Mona and Danny were equally praiseworthy; Mr. George E. Austin as the Marshal was very good; Messrs. Alfred Fisher and Fred J. Waller as Governor Testa and Doctor Boni were capable, and the remaining characters were ably impersonated.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*The Assassin* is being played here by Mr. Augustine Knight and company. Miss Ella Vane acts the name part, as the Countess Wanda, using her powerful voice with telling effect; Mr. H. B. Wilson makes a manly Ivan Ipanoff, and Mr. Knight makes much of the villainy of Prince Demetri; Mr. Edwin Lever makes an aristocratic Duke Carl; Mr. Edward Swinton is very amusing as Baron Alphonse, and Mr. Edwin Jenner is smart as Capt. O'Neil; Miss Hettie Senior acts cleverly as Connie, and Miss Eva Trevenna is a sympathetic Nita; Miss Marie E. Robertson as Katrina, and Mr. Tom J. Taylor as Peter infuse much comedy into their acting; Mr. Edward Fryer as General Nicol and Mr. J. Abbott as Evangie are very good.

ROYAL THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kilrow.—Chas. T. Aldrich successfully tops the bill in his versatile act; the Peerless Mowatts present some most marvellous juggling; Julian Mack keeps the house in a merry humour with his funny patter; Jewel St. Leger sings exceedingly well, and the Three Royal Dreadnoughts exhibit some clever marksmanship; Sara Roseberry has a capital reception *for Easr Folk's Party;* Nell Cotter is popular with her singing, and the Brothers Narrow are clever in their comedy cycling act. The Dottoscope portrays a very amusing film.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—The Bros. Bright are marvellous athletes; Will Musgrave is entertaining with his songs; Primavesi provides some capital juggling, and Ina Lorimer sings and dances smartly; Les Marsumas are clever in their comedy on wheels; J. P. Carroll plays the tambourine in a capital manner, and gets much applause; Ralph and Nellie Howard are good in their musical act, and the Dottoscope depicts a good picture.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F Thorne.—In the Globe of Life, which heads the bill, Wizard and Irene Stone appear in a sensational act with success; Hal Forde is heartily received for his capital singing; Starr and Leslie in their smart speciality do very well; Diana Hope and company appear with success in a society episode, *Her Good Name;* Horace Day is smart in his songs and patter; Alice Maple sings and dances with excellent results, and Dot Moss sings capitally; Paulton and Dooley create roars of laughter with their clever cycle act. The Palace Pictures conclude.

CENTRAL HALL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—The pictures this week are very good, and include Tale of the Revolution, Fido's Taking Way, Fantastical Airship, Fight for Honour, Polly's Excursion, His Wedding Morn, Percy's Moustache, Jilted Woman's Revenge, Night Alarm, and the illustrated song, "A Letter from Heaven," sung in good style by Mr. F. Walker.

OXFORD.—NEW THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—The latter half of last week *Charley's Aunt* proved as attractive as ever here. This week Mr. Mouillot's No. 1 company in the comic opera, *Tom Jones*, is proving a great attraction; Mr. Cyril Thompson gives a natural and effective rendering of Tom Jones; Mr. A. H. Majilton is well suited as Blifil; Mr. Allworthy and Squire Western find most capable exponents in Messrs. A. J. Nicholls and Fred Seymour; and Mr. George Elton keeps the house in roars of laughter as Benjamin Partridge; Miss Alice Moffatt sings delightfully as Sophia; Miss O. Eltone makes a handsome and seductive Lady Bellaston; and Miss Florence Saunders' vivacious acting as Honour meets with complete approval.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company is here with *Send Him Victorious*. Mr. Wm. Allington makes an attractive hero as Captain Frank Allison; Mr. Jerold E. Reed plays convincingly as Colonel Kauffman; and Mr. John Baxter supports them as Major Carl Strauss; Mr. Edward Lowrie is successful as Sergeant Max; and Mr. Frank Holyoake is seen to advantage as the King of Raomia; Mr. Arthur Tomlin is funny as Geordie Walker; Miss Cecilia Crawford gives a bright portrayal of Gretchen; Miss Isabelle Hunt does well as Ethel Hardinge; and Miss Marie Robson is a powerful countess.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—Mr. William Maclaren and Miss Lily C. Bandmann, in *Claudian*, both play with power and skill and in convincing style, the former as Claudian and the latter as Almida. In the prologue Mr. G. Edward Dunstan's embodiment of Theorus is both interesting and impressive; Miss Amy Hardcastle plays with taste in her presentment of Serena; Mr. George Best successfully undertakes the part of Sesiphon; Mr. George Roberts as the Holy Clement is earnest throughout; and Mr. Stanley

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Vine as Zosimus, Mr. Robert Borlande as Volpas, Mr. W. H. Pointon as Symachus, and Mr. A. Nuttall as Demos contribute excellent embodiments. In the play proper Mr. Bernard Elliott submits an admirable interpretation of Thariogalus Tetrarch; Agazil is represented by Mr. Douglas Earle with an outspoken earnestness; Mr. Weston Hubbard gives a capital portrayal of Alcares; Mr. Chal. T. Chaloner provides merriment with his impersonation of Belos; and a bright mad captivating portrait of Edessa is supplied by Miss Ruth Trafford.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Stead.—George Lashwood is this week paying his second visit to Paisley, after nearly a score years' absence. He provides the star turn, and has to sing four or five songs at each performance. Comedy business extraordinary is a term which might well be applied to the Three Pirmans in their pot-pourri act; Maxey and Pete perform some very smart feats in their clever trick and comedy cycling act; Picton Roxburgh and Fanny Wright, in their farcical tabloid, *My Little One*, cause great amusement; Bert Weston, comedian, is a capable artist; Edith Fink, comedienne, scores with her chorus songs; Kloof and Ramsay submit a very entertaining comedy and musical act; Dorothy Dundas sings sweetly; and the Bioscope finishes an interesting bill.

PEMBROKE DOCK.—Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Tom Barger; Business-Manager, Mr. Norman Barger.—Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company pays its first annual visit here in presenting *The Conscript*, *The Outcast of the Family*, and *The Branded Woman*. In the first-named drama, Mr. Chas. H. Coleman fills the title-rôle well, being ably supported by Miss Lilian Ross as Nadia. Mr. Bert Atherton as the postman is funny, and finds a capital assistant in Miss Dot Morella. Mr. Walter Steele as Count Paul Hardiski, the villain of the piece, gives a good character study.

PENTRE.—Tivoli Palace and Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. W. Bynorth; Acting-Manager, Mr. James Gunn.—Topping a good programme this week are the Five Whiteleys; La Sattour, comedienne, is an excellent turn.

Workmen's Hall.—Manager, Mr. Edgar Harper.—Will Stone's animated pictures still hold their own. The specialities include Hooper and Shave, popular character comedians; and Miss Constance Labordes continues to be a favourite in her illustrated songs.

PERTH.—Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Messrs Neville and Carnaby's company in *Napoleon's Divorce* is the attraction here. Mr. F. H. Neville gives an excellent portrayal of the title-rôle; Mr. J. Soden is to be commended for his performance as Joseph Bonaparte; Mr. Terence Nerry meets with much success as Colonel D'Arville; Mr. J. Holt distinguishes himself as Sergeant Baton; as Josephine Miss Kate Randolph scores a distinct success; Miss A. Beddard is good as Duchess St. Everard; Miss Marion Mayne gives satisfaction as Jeannette, and Miss Veronica Clinton displays ability as Marie Louise.

PETERBOROUGH.—New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—Chief place is occupied by Fred Winn and company in a thrilling dramatic episode, *The Light in the Window*. Mr. Fred Winn takes the part of Jim Wishart with success, and is well supported by Kate Kearney, Agnes Paulton, and C. H. Maxwell. Other interesting turns are those of Amy Saville, dainty comedienne; Bugler Carr, cornet soloist; the Stowe Bros., extraordinary equilibrists; Ernest Ball, actor-vocalist; Cora Casselli, vivacious dancer; and Leonard Teel, the "suffering dame."

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*Mrs. Dot* forms a strong attraction, and large audiences have nightly enjoyed the cynical epigrams with which the play abounds. Miss May Palfrey is entrusted with the title-rôle, and her delineation of the shrewd, business-like little brewer widow is all that can be desired; Mr. F. Kinsey Peile as James Blenkinsop furnishes an admirable study, and forcibly drives home the witty satire which permeates his part; Mr. Basil Hallam strikes a very original line with his conception of Freddy Perkins; Mr. H. C. Buckler is a manly Gerald Halstane; and Mr. McIntyre Wickteed as Charles arouses much hearty laughter. Miss Aida Jenoure as Lady Sellenger gives an ideal rendering of a match-making mother; and Miss Evelyn Beaumont is particularly fascinating as Nellie Sellenger. A cleverly-written little curtain-raiser, entitled *A Lively Dinner*, in which the respective parts are taken by Messrs. F. Denton, H. Kennedy, G. Morgan, and Miss Annie Hill, precedes the principal production.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. Jack Field.—Mark Sheridan's reception proves that the well-known comedian has lost none of his powers of attraction and amusement, his satire of the Licensing Bill being greatly enjoyed; Frank Hartley, a youthful juggler, is a past-master in his art; the Four Figaros entertain with some pretty and well-executed national dances, while their ability as vocalists is an additional source of attraction; and Gus Harris is a popular Hebrew delineator. The Warsaw Bros. furnish an attractive musical number; Lisbon and Barker work hard in the sketch, *Extemporising*; and Cissie Thompson (comedienne) and Woolmer Young (comedian) both supply popular numbers.

PORTH. — The Palace. — Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping an excellent and varied programme we have Marguerite Broadfoote, the charming comedienne; Albert Letine is capital in his female impersonations; U. C. Ugo, in mirthful mysteries, is exceedingly clever; Nell Brough is a charming burlesque actress and whistling comedienne; Arthur Royce, a popular entertainer at the piano; Morander and Darius are exceptionally smart gymnasts; Alice May and Co. are well received in the amusing farce, *Tranquillity*; Johnson and Bert deserve praise for their novel act, *A Queer Customer*; Robins and Collier make a hit in *Fun at a Railway Station*; and the Palascope has some good films.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—*The Scarlet Pimpernel* is being presented here by Mr. Fred Terry and company. Mr. Terry in the rôle of Sir Percy gives a fascinating impersonation; Miss Miriam Lewes is a charming and delightful Lady Blakeney; Mr. Horace Hodges in the part of Chauvelin is excellent; Mr. A. E. Andon is a dignified Prince of Wales; Mr. Alfred Kendrick an interesting Sir Andrew Ffoulkes; and Lord Anthony Dewhurst and Lord Grenville have able impersonators in Messrs. Malcolm Cherry and Frederick Groves respectively. Miss Claire Pauncefort makes a capable Comtesse de Tournal; Miss Nellie Clyde a successful Susanne; and Miss Mary Jennings as Sally Jellyband is brisk and lively.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*Her Forbidden Marriage* is staged here by Mr. Frederick Melville's company. Mr. Henry Lonsdale plays effectively the part of George Madison; Charles Devereux is acted forcibly by Mr. Louis Hector; Mr. C. Davidson deserves mention as Geoffrey Broughton; Mr. Conrad Stratford ably fills the rôle of the Rev. Mr. Dean; Mr. Vincent Loraine submits a capital study of Joe Lambkin; and Mr. Fred de Vere as Timothy Tuttut is popular. Miss Geraldine le Sage gives an excellent portrayal of Lucy; Miss Kitty Merrick is an amusing Patty Lovejoy; and Miss Agnes Imlay a successful Molly. Superior.

King's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Clance Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Edouard Jose heads the programme here with his English version of *The Strike*, a dramatic episode of much intensity. Minnie Love is a sweet singer of sweet songs; the Krags in an acrobatic act are smart and up to date; Sinclair and Parr are responsible for a capital entertainment; Wilfred E. Shine and company in a farcical financial fragment, *Money for Nothing*, are capable and amusing; Rose and Calvert are smart as a comedy pair; and Tray and Rice, comedians and dancers, the Quality Quartet, the Gregory Troupe of hoop rollers and jugglers, and animated pictures complete the bill.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Arthur Dandoe's company in the amusing burletta *The Phonograph Belle* head the programme here; Fred Dunstone, comedian, has a taking style; the Delomes, clog dancers, give an exceedingly-able turn; the Sisters St. Julian are expert dancers; Frank Maura is a marvel of pedal equipoise; Harry Thurston, burlesque comedian, is popular with his patter; and Stewart and Morgan in a vocal speciality gain hearty approval. Excellent pictures conclude.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.—The most popular turn here this week is Mr. "Consul," the almost human chimpanzee, who made his initial appearance to a Portsmouth audience on Monday evening, and gained a decidedly good reception for his marked docility and intelligence, showing the sympathetic patience of his trainer, Mr. F. C. Bostock. Ike and Will Scott are a pair of smart comedians and dancers; Harry Nation, comedian, in his contribution of topical songs, does well; Stevens and Hennior prove acceptable as eccentric dancers; Maidie Scott, "just a comedienne," and a very good one at that, is an attractive turn; and Stelling and dog, the Falcons (comedy equilibrists), the Denwartz Troupe of lady acrobats, and the Hippo. pictures complete.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. William Mollison, supported by Miss Evelyn McNay and a strong company, are paying a welcome visit here. On Monday a large audience gave them an enthusiastic reception in *Macbeth*. Mr. Mollison as Macbeth fully sustained his high reputation as a tragedian, while Miss Evelyn McNay gave a no less finished impersonation of Lady Macbeth, which calls for the highest praise. Mr. William Calvert's Macduff was also a fine bit of acting; Messrs. Henry Deas and Leslie Newton were most capable as Malcolm and Donalbain; and Mr. Harold Neville was an excellent Banquo. The rest of the cast was in the very capable hands of the Misses Blair Staples, Josephine Woodward, Brandon Gower, Freda Wright, Hermina Black, and Messrs. Leslie Lingham, Kane, Jenner, Owen Taylor, Rutherford Mayne, Ellis, Drysdale, Graham, and Laurence, each and all of whom acquitted themselves in a manner that showed a careful and close acquaintance with their parts. The tragedy was well staged, and the whole production is entitled to the highest praise. During the week *Hamlet* and *Beside the Bonnie Brier Bush* are to be staged.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—*Woman and Wine*, as presented by Miss Austin and Mr. Edmund's company, is drawing good houses this week. Miss C. St. Elmo gives a powerful portrayal of Marcel Rigadout; Miss Octavia de Noel is good as La Colombe; Miss Violet Sims gives an excellent rendition of Mary Andrews; Miss Ethel Vinroy is to be complimented on her part of Janet Marlow; Mr. Edwin Kisby as the repulsive Pierre Crucru is most successful; Mr. J. Milne Taylor is an excellent Hugh Seymour; Mr. E. Vivian Edmonds has a heavy part to play as Dick Seymour and plays it well; Mr. J. Milne Taylor as Professor Sauter and Mr. Harry Harrop as Charles, his son, do much towards sustaining the humorous portions, with which the play is judiciously interspersed; and all the other characters are in good hands. In the *bal masque* scene in the third act the Lottie Stone Troupe of whirlwind dancers introduce their specialities with marked effect. The mounting of the play is good throughout.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—A capital programme is again presented to the patrons this week, who are not slow in showing their appreciation. Miss Ada Colley, the world-renowned prima donna, brought down the house by her magnificent rendering of "The Nightingale," and had to respond to a vociferous encore; the Six Brothers Luck in the pantomime *The Demon of the Cellar*, needless to say, meet with the greatest success; Slyvia is a clever dancer, and gives a clever exposition of acrobatic, Dutch, and buck dancing; Charters and Clare give some very funny mock-dramatic scenas, and score well; Randolph King, "the one-man programme," is exceedingly clever, and his quick changes are certainly marvellous, and he fully deserves the applause he receives; Pueblo and Cropp, the versatile Creole artists, have a good turn in their up-to-date act, *The Swell and the Belle*; George Edney is a character vocalist and comedian who pleases; Mark Merry is decidedly funny both in his songs and make-up; and In a Stone Quarry on the Bioscope concludes a programme with which the audience seems thoroughly satisfied.

RADCLIFFE. — Grand Opera House. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Bootham.—Messrs. M. H. Glenville and F. Osmond's company is producing the military drama, *A Soldier of France*. At the head of the company is Mr. Percy Ballard, who does a good deal of acceptable work as Father Jean. Miss Carlotta Anson also acts successfully as Pauline Lorraine. Mr. Albert Guyon; as the designing Count, Mr. Fred Edwards, in a humorous character, and Miss Jennie Clare (Margot) also take their parts well.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest; Lessee, Mr. E. Mansell.—Mr. Ernest Mansell has auspiciously commenced his term of lesseeship of the above theatre with fine presentations of animated pictures representative of The King's Service, Afloat and Ashore. There has been large and delighted crowds each evening, and it is generally admitted that the films are among the best ever exhibited in the town. They depict in most graphic manner life in the Army, Navy, and Territorial Forces, and pictures of humorous and topical interest are also introduced. Admirable variety turns are supplied by Miss Ada White (impersonator) and Mr. Vic Verney (siffleur).

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—This week we have an excellent variety company. The Sisters Kebble, harmony duettists, thoroughly deserve the title; Les Mortaldos, slack wire artists, present an enjoyable number, introducing cockatoos and maccaws; Bonetta, prima donna, submits some good songs; and the Sisters Dunville are charming in Dutch songs. Mr. Harry Kirk is termed on the bill the "funny comedian with the funny face," and the list of attractions includes the Bioscope.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Hall Caine's great drama *The Prodigal Son* is being presented here in first-rate style, by Mr. Wentwork Croke's special company. Mr. Hugh Montgomery gives a fine conception of the part of Magnus Stephenson; Mr. Gordon Macintosh is a very powerful representative of the Prodigal, Oscar; Miss Valerie Crespin doubles the parts of Thora and Elin in excellent style; Miss Mildred Cottell plays very effectively as Helga; Mr. Charles Cooper gives a dignified rendering of the character of the Governor; Miss Marie Harcourt is highly amusing as Margaret Neilson; and all the other parts are adequately filled. The scenery is very elaborate, and the play is splendidly mounted.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco. The Great Lumars appear with much success in a novel and sensational acrobatic act; Rowland Hill, comedian, makes a welcome re-appearance; Walter Munroe gives some excellent Irish impersonations; Mlle. Haydee introduces her miniature vaudeville theatre, and gives a very clever marionette performance; Boden and Bell, juvenile vocalists and dancers provide a good turn; Josie Mooney, comedienne, is well appreciated; Sinclair and Whiteford afford much amusement in their comedietta, *Getting Even*; Daisy Morell sings very vivaciously; and the Bioscope pictures show the Reedham boys at drill in a very natural manner.

REDDITCH.—Public Hall.—Lessee, Mr. W. Treadgold.—The Universe Animated Picture Co. opened here on Tuesday for five nights. The World in Motion, with newer pictures and songs, and Collin and Croft make up the show, which has met with success.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*The Prodigal Son* is once again drawing good houses. Mr. Albert Ward as Oscar Stephensson again submits a fine and impassioned portrayal; Mr. H. L. Crane acts with histrionic ability as Magnus Stephensson; Mr. Jackson Hayes is powerful in his impersonation os Stephen Magnusson; Mr. James English is most effective as Oscar Neilsen; and Mr. A. J. Williams is heard to advantage as the Pastor; Miss Pearla Gardner enacts with distinction the part of Helga Neilsen; Miss Florence Lovell makes the most of Anna Magnusson; Mis Kate Osborne enlivens the play by a spirited embodiment of Margaret Neilsen; and Miss Pauline Emeric acts with telling effect in the dual rôle of Thora and Elin.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Thos. E. Finglass tops the bill here with some well-rendered coon songs and dances; Wyndham and Waters create roars of laughter in *The Professor and his Pupil*; Bros. Durant are amusing in their burlesque aeroplane act; and Sheila Mcneil, Scotch comedienne; Oliver Conroy, comedian; Edie Veno, eccentric comedienne; Victoria Dagmar on the horizontal bar and rope; and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete an enjoyable entertainment.

New Hippodrome. — Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. Jno. Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—The bill of fare submitted here is one of all-round excellence. Corbin's dogs manifest a high degree of animal training; the Musical Johnsons fairly bring down the house with their performance on the xylophones; Leslie's Comedy Cadets in *After Lights Out* contribute a most enjoyable entertainment; and other attractions include The Itrams, in a pot-pourri act; Chas. Rose, comedian and dancer; a farce entitled *Are You a Socialist?* by four ladies and gentlemen whose names do not transpire; Vena Valma, musical comedy maid; Fred Herbert, topical vocalist; and the Hippodrome pictures.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Miss Ellen Snow and company are here this week with *Why Men Love Women*. Mr. Oliver Rogers is a manly Gerald Fielding, and Mr. Lionel Gadsden a highly successful Captain Staniloff, the villain; Lieutenant Tommy Fitzherbert is capably enacted by Mr. N. Carter Slaughter; Mr. Ernest Griffin scores as the Maharajah; Miss Florence Nelson is deserving of mention as Muriel Zoluski; Miss Beresford-Glynn does well as Mrs. Figgins, and Miss Ellen Snow gives a very effective rendition of the part of Violet Livingstone.

Hippodrome, Ltd. — Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler.—Another good bill is being presented at this house. Miss Mabelle May is a clever song and dance artist; Bert and Dora are responsible for a finished comedy turn; the Two Lilies give a smart duet and dance; Cullen and Carthy, with Little Cluley, are well received; Monty Walker scores with a comedy turn; Billy Hobbs is a capital dancer; Irve Hayman, assisted by little Marie Montague, is responsible for the episode *Christmas Eve*; and Stanley and Vandyke create amusement in *A Broken Promise*; Cleland is rightly described as the maddest of mad jugglers; and pictures by the Hipposcope are excellent.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. Ernest R. Abbott's company is here, and opened on Monday with *A Wife's Triumph*, in which Mr. Frank Stephens cleverly plays Frank Wilton; Miss Ada Abbott ably sustains the part of the loving wife, Bessie; the young Yorkshire squire has an excellent exponent in Mr. Ernest R. Abbott; the villains, Ellis Jordan and Julius Hartman, are respectively in the capable hands of Mr. Douglas B. Watson and Mr. W. H. Davis-Brown; Mr. Edwin Keene as Ben Bradford, assisted by Miss Isabel Singleton as Margery, contributes a good amount of humour, and sings some comic songs very cleverly; Miss Florence North makes a charming Alice Wilton. The son, Little Frank, is smartly presented by Miss Doris Graham. *East Lynne*, *Sapho*, and *The Unknown* were also announced for presentation during the latter part of the week.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Miss May Mars has some pleasant catchy songs, with which she makes a hit; Joey Sterling is a comical character comedian; Baby Vi Davis is a pretty child vocalist, who gives evidence of clever training; Mack Ollive, assisted by Daisy Baldry, gives his whistling act, *The Candy Store*; Harry Taylor is very comical with his songs. The other turns include *The Students' Concert* by King's College Boys (six); Gertrude Moore, clever dancer and singer; Phil Goldie, Dutch character comedian; Carlo Bianchi, foot equilibrist; and Rosie Archer, smart mimic of famous music hall artists.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Stattler.—*The Master Card*, presented by Thompson Carruthers, is much enjoyed, Dunningarto being very smart in manipulating the cards; Satani, in his novel scena the mysterious *Raffles*, gives some acceptable magical surprises; Frances Haskell is much applauded for her songs, which are illustrated; the Three Krakes raise merry laughs with their *Electric Car Conductor*. Other acceptable turns are given by Geo. Griffen, comedian; Herr Karoly Czinski, Hungarian musical expert; Three Sisters Three, in their *Hunting* act; Hulbert, ventriloquist; Mons. De Lil, smart illusionist; Mike and Lena, in *The Dutch Lovers*; Will Walton, comedian; and Barfoot and Carson, comedians.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Lester King.—Some very good animated pictures are shown, including A Day in a Kentish Hop Garden, Champion House Dog, Dumb Witness, Wanted, a Nice Young Man, Wages of Sin is Death, The Persistent Lover, Music Hath Charms, Sunshine after Shower, Moscow Fire Brigade, &c. The chorus of "Good-bye, Lily Bell" (sung by Mr. Lester King), is joined in with gusto by the audience.

SALISBURY.—County Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Arthur Whitehead; Business-Manager, Mr. T. Brinsmead.—After an absence of three years one of Mr. F R. Benson's Shakespearean companies is paying a welcome visit here. *The Merry Wives of Windsor* was presented on Monday. Mrs. Page and Mrs. Ford were enacted by Miss Rosa Burgess and Miss Mary Webb, whose clever studies call for the highest praise; Miss Agnes Ray as Anne Page was charming; Miss Regina Laurence as Mistress Quickly gave a clever rendering; as Sir John Falstaff Mr. R. Shore was a host in himself; as Ford and Page Mr. Charles Warburton and Mr. John Cairns proved themselves very capable; Mr. Burgess-Barratt made a characteristic Dr. Caius; and the rôle of Sir Hugh Evans was well filled by Mr. Herbert Lester. On Tuesday *She Stoops to Conquer* was given. *The Merchant of Venice* and *Julius Cæsar* are also included in the bill. Miss Nellie Harding's Orchestra kindly gave their services.

SCARBOROUGH.—The Aquarium.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—The Smart Set Entertainers, seven in number, head the bill here this week, and give a very smart entertainment, which embraces solos, quartettes, and dances. The Four Original Kellys are exceptionally clever acrobats, and Lilian Neville is the possessor of a good soprano voice; a musical farce entitled *Bubbles the Dodger* includes in the cast Mr. F. S. Gilbert, the famous operatic tenor, who takes the leading part, assisted by four other capable artists; the Milstead Bell Trio in the comedietta *Three Sharps in A Flat* are highly successful; Glen Alva, comedian, and Les Pat à Lars, in a novel somersault act, are very good.

The New Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Tully.—The programme for this week includes the following excellent turns:—Carl and Mary Ohm's circus; Dave Samuels, Hebrew comedian; the Sisters Brand, dancers; Chas. M. Daly's company in the sketch *I Must Have It*; the Brothers Brooks; Victor and Louis; and Mostal, in a musical act. Pictures on the Kinematograph conclude.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Lovers of the melodramatic are well catered for here this week with a powerful play bearing the somewhat unhappy title of *The Girl Who Went Astray*. Mr. John B. Shinton presents a dignified and convincing Captain Frank Julian, and Rupert Murdock, the villain, is strongly and cleverly acted by Mr. Fred Lloyd; Mr. Evan Ronald gets some excellent effects as Adolphus Boomer, and his personation of the Parisian belle causes great laughter. The comic element is well looked after by Mr. Ted Squires as James Mellowsocks and Miss Mary Dalby as Molly Smart; Sergt. John Harvey, V.C., is conscientiously portrayed by Mr. Edgar P. Melrose, and Gussie Seymour is ably handled by Mr. Edward Williams; General Sir Hugh Finnigan, Doctor George Wilson, and Eleanor Morton are well looked after by Mr. A. Mainwaring, Mr. R. Ashton, and Miss Sybil Haughton respectively; Miss Ada M. Ryder sustains the exacting rôle of Violet Harvey with great ability; and the fine presence and powerful voice of Miss Gwennie Warren render her an ideal exponent of Madge Harvey.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr H. D. Lyle.—A large audience gave a flattering reception to John H. Tomkinson's Royal Gipsy company on Monday. In the first portion songs and dances and comedy combine to keep the house thoroughly interested. The second half of the evening's entertainment is devoted to varieties, in which La Vie, in electrical art poses, presents a series of beautiful pictures. The Four Louberts in a comedy acrobatic act are popular; a graceful wire performance is contributed by Elsie Rubina; Wee Winnie wins all hearts with her singing and dancing; Cissie Madcap gives a smart dancing turn; pleasing duets and dances are contributed by the Sisters Leshmere; Dan Lawley proves a comedian of talent; Sam Paul, actor-vocalist, and James Carr, descriptive, are admirable in their respective lines; Irene Lyne as a vocalist, is very popular.

SHEFFIELD. — Lyceum Theatre. — Managing Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*The Thief* was presented to a good audience on Monday by Mr. George Alexander's company. Miss May Congdon looked charming in her exquisite confections, and acted gracefully as Mrs. Chelford; Mr. Stephen T. Ewart made the best use of his opportunities as Richard Chelford; and other characters were cleverly represented by Miss Mary Dibley, Mr. Gerald Ames, Mr. Alfred Lugg, Mr. Cyril Cattley, and Mr. Frank Elton. The curtain-raiser was *Too Happy by Half*, in which Mr. Percy Marmont and Miss Irene Leonard appeared.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey Aldred.—*Uncle Tom's Cabin*, under the direction of Mr. Charles Harrington, is being played here. Mr. Carr acts with simple dignity and natural pathos as Uncle Tom, and the other parts are all creditably played. In the fourth act the usual interlude of "darkey revels" is given with comic songs, banjo solos, negro ditties, and the time-honoured "breakdown."

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—*The Girl Who Wrecked His Home* is being presented here by Mr. Walter Melville's company, the artists including Messrs. Fred Goddard, Paul B. Lewers, Norman Cannon, Francis Hope, Geo. P. Lester, Geo. Huxter. Frank Hartley, C. Carter, Dick Evans, H. Goddard, F. Nelson, and Misses Louise Hampton, Ida Thompson, A. Burdette, Lily Belding, Lulu Bowes, and Georgie De Lara. The scenery and effects were up to the high artistic standard of the Melville productions.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—Engaged here this week are Miss Julia Kent and Mr. Alex. Keith, in a lively musical comedy skit; the Lyric Quartette, with illustrated songs; Mr. Kisbey, the "call-boy," in a mirth-provoking protean entertainment; Miss Adey Spenser, a pleasing mimic, pianist, and character impersonator; the mirthful delineators of burlesque black-face drollery, Messrs. Brown, Newland, and Le Clerq, in the good old comic sketch, *Black Justice*; Mr. Fred Wilkinson and his graceful lady assistant, in original illusions; the Strolling Players, vocalists, &c.; and the Eight of Hearts, in a statue clog-dance. The *pièce de résistance* is the eighteenth-century sketch, in three scenes, *Ye Olde Halloween*, in which a talented troupe of vocalists and instrumentalists appear. Pleasing Bioscope Pictures conclude.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D Elbourne.—The clever and original musical entertainers, the Original Leslie Brothers, are starring this week; and others appearing to large houses are Brilliant and Brilliant, novelty artists; the Austins; the Four Aces; Mr. Harry Rogerson, eccentric comedian and dancer; Mr. Mike Cray; Mr. Jim Shields; and the vivacious and popular Dutch comedienne, Miss May Moore Duprez, in new songs and old favourites. Some artistic moving pictures are received with loud applause.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. A. W. Turpin.—Animated Photos. by the Raymond Bio-tableaux Company constitute the main factors in the popular programme at this cosy picture theatre.

Central Theatre.—Lessees, the Jasper Redfern Co., Ltd.—Here are appearing Sydney Brandon, "the boy Barry Sullivan," in a clever mimetic sketch; Marlow and Manton, burletta artists; and Miss Lillie Hales, soubrette.

The Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. Peach.—Good business is the rule here, with up-to-date films by the noted firms.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh; Licensee and Resident-Manager, Mr. W. C. Dornton.—There is a capital vaudeville show (twice nightly) here this week. The Paul Kramer Troupe of gymnasts give an artistic turn, the balancing and supporting feats of the trio being little short of marvellous; the Musical Morellis (Sid and Minnie) give an original and clever comedy musical and vocal act; Agnes and Arthur Lynch contribute a novel and highly pleasing picture show with praiseworthy vocal accompaniment, treating of romantic Indian life and ballads; J. H. Milburn works hard in his burlesque turn, and his mimicry is highly diverting; Indiania, the flexible Venus, gives a smart contortionist exhibition; the Camerons contribute a witty sketch, *The Boy and the Lady Guide*; and the programme closes with a capital show of pictures worked with interesting dramatic effects.

SMETHWICK. — Theatre Royal. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—The attraction this week is a drama, entitled *Straight from the Shoulder*, produced by a company under the direction of Mr. R. A. Roberts, and capably managed by Mr. Charles Boult. Mr. Henry Herne makes a capital hero as Dr. Bedford, an East End surgeon, afterwards Harry Bletchley, a land steward, and in the latter character displays a most "useful right," well in keeping with the title of the piece; as the heroine, Millicent Grant, Miss Beatrice Burdett is very charming; Mr. Leonard Clarke is a powerful villain; and Miss Frances Bruce gives a pathetic rendering of the character of Mary Gleeson; Miss Beatrice Moore makes a vivacious Gladys.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company is this week presenting *The Flag Lieutenant*. It is an engrossing play, and from the moment the curtain rises on the first act until it finally descends the interest of the audience never wanes. The scenery is very fine, and the acting admirable. Chief interest is centred in the brave Flag-Lieutenant, and Mr. Langhorne Burton gives a breezy reading of the part. He is seldom off the stage, and wins a warm corner in the hearts of the audience. Mr. H. Montagu Love does extremely well as Major Thesiger, and Mr. George Mallett makes a typical Vice-Admiral; Mr. Edward S. Petley is particularly successful as the ship's surgeon; Miss Florence Jackson as Mrs. Cameron and Miss Marjorie Chard as Lady Hermione Wynne are first favourites, and both acquit themselves admirably, acting throughout with great charm. Others who lend efficient aid are:—Messrs. Hugh Wakefield, Lyonel Watts, Herbert Gallop, W. S. Stevenson, W. J. Yeldam, John Wheatman, and the Misses Viva Birkett, Stella Leigh, and Evelyn Robson.

Palace.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Trussell.—The Six Brothers Luck are responsible for considerable mirth with their sketches *Lift 'Em's, Ltd.*, and *The Demon of the Cellar*; the Three Prestons score in their absurdity, *The Liftman's Rise*; Steve Bartle excels as a concertina soloist; McCann's performing Irish terriers and champion leaping dogs are wonderfully clever; and others who entertain are Cissie Curlette, mimetic vocalist, Clifton and Gibson, comedians, and Phil Bransby, comedian.

Hippodrome.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Marie Lloyd is prevented from appearing through indisposition, but capable substitutes are found in W. D. Mackenzie's juvenile company, who appear in musical scenas from grand opera with success. The staging is perfect, and the act is well appreciated. Bessie Slaughter, contralto, sings effectively; Phillips and Terry are capital in their *Dummy* speciality; Ruby Dahl presents *The Merry Mannikins*; Frank Gee, comedian, Tate and Tate, *The Barmaid and Her Eccentric Customer*, Honors and Le Prince, acrobatic comedians, and Dolly Harmon, a successful local vocalist, also appear.

Empire Theatre.—Lessees, The Walturdaw Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Auguste Denton.—Twice nightly capital pictures are attracting good houses. The films are excellent, steadiness and clearness being particularly noticeable. The Sunday concerts are also well patronised.

Philharmonic Hall.—Messrs. H. and A. Andrews' pictures are still going strong, and the illustrated songs by Miss McPherson, soprano, are quite a feature.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*The Coal King* is a popular attraction, and on Monday a large audience welcomed Mr. A. Clifton Alderson's company. Mr. Alderson makes good use of his talents as Tom Roberts; Mr. Ulick Burke acts the title-rôle successfully; Mr. Leslie Vyner plays the villainous part of Walter Hartford with ease and ability, having good assistance from Mr. Frank Dalton as the submanager, Dick Shirley; Miss Winifred Love displays both naturalness and cleverness in a dignified impersonation of Grace Shirley; and Miss Joan Wellman creditably enacts the difficult character of Mad Ann. Good comedy by Mr. Sam Roberts as Jim Williams and Miss Max Hinton as Araminta Green also gets recognition.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens Co., Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. Edmund Tearle's répertoire company, including Miss Kate Clinton, opened here on Monday, with *The Three Musketeers*. Mr. Edmund Tearle gave a brilliant impersonation of D'Artagnan; Miss Kate Clinton depicted the difficult rôle of Miladi with artistic effect; Richelieu was well played by Mr. Bernhardt Turner; Mr. Arthur W. Jones as the Duke of Buckingham was also very acceptable. Other good character sketches were supplied by Miss Mary Campbell, in the part of Anne Austria; Miss Vera George as Constance, and Miss Ethel Story as Kitty. During the week *Macbeth*, *Jeanie Deans*, *East Lynne*, and *Julius Cæsar* are billed.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Good audiences give a warm welcome to a return visit of Mr. C. Watson Mill's powerful play, *A Warning to Women*. Miss Blanche St. Albans as Moira Kennion acts with much depth of feeling and self-restraint; Dr. Marcus Dread is ably interpreted by Mr. Harry C. Robinson. Other prominent characters are entrusted to Mr. Charles O'Connor, Mr. Henry Rutland, Mr. W. Palliser Acock, Mr. Leicester Jackson, and Mr. William Vane, Miss Edith Rutland, Miss

Elmo, who are welcomed in their knockabout bar act; Patrick Playfair, papierographist; Dolly Robson, comedienne; the Perriers, comedy couple; Revill Hall, humorist; the Three Rubys, lady gymnasts; Knit Stern, comedian, &c.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. E. Johnson.—*The Dairymaids*, presented by Mr. Robert Macdonald's company, is a capital attraction here. Miss Empsie Bowman makes a pretty and dainty Peggy; Mr. Dan Agar as Joe Mivens is full of fun and high spirits; the drollery of Eliza, played by Miss Edie Martin, is responsible for hearty laughter; Lady Brudenell has a charming and stately exponent in Miss Carrie Lacey; and Mr. Bernard Vaughan is a typical sea-dog of a Doctor. Miss Vera Crichton and Miss Doris Dickens are both sweet as Winifred and Helen, and sing nicely; and there is a good deal of humour about the acting of both Mr. Richard Telford and Mr. Scott Melville, who assume the parts of Lieutenants Sam Brudenell and Frank Meredith.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—The bill this week is headed by Charles Norton, who gives his much-appreciated sketch *The Old Firm*. Claude Feldman's beau-ideal troupe of juveniles are pleasing in song and dance; Russell Brandon dances in an eccentric manner; Ivy Aberdare also dances expertly; Harry Conlin is amusing; Emmie Ames's turn is applauded; Mlle. Pollo excels on the trapeze; and Harry Bancroft is encored for his songs.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. Seymour Hicks' company is here with *The Gay Gordons*. Miss Maie Ash gives a delightful representation of Peggy Quainton, her singing and dancing being most captivating; Mr. Frank Lincoln as Angus Graeme has a very pleasing and breezy style; Nellie Lonnen makes a charming Victoria Siddons; Mr. Tom Graves as Nervy Nat, the showman, is excellent; Ida Laurie makes a typical Charlotte Siddons; Mr. Edward Nainby as Edmund Siddons is droll; and Miss Ida Mann makes a natural Janet McLeod. Miss Gladys Deane is a good Mary McLeod, her singing being worthy of praise; Andrew Quainton was in the able hands of Mr. Edward Beecher; and as Corporal John Smith Mr. Norman Forrest is amusing.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company is playing *A Fisherman's Daughter*. Payne's Bioscope concludes.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Nellie Wallace is the leading attraction here this week, her return visit being well received. Francis and Alfred are clever jugglers; the Four Kurios cause laughter in a funny concoction; Harold Mitschke, elocutionist, is good; the McAleavy Marvels, trick jumpers, are daring; Les Rubens, the fortune-tellers, sing well; and Little Eileen is a dainty child comedienne. The Bioscope shows new films

STOCKPORT.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—A cordial reception has been bestowed upon Mr. Allan Wilkie on his reappearance here this week in a répertoire of plays. *Hamlet* was presented on Tuesday night, Mr. Wilkie impersonating the title-rôle in capital style, being adequately supported by a talented company, among whom were Mr. Frank Royde, a capable Laertes; Mr. Ian Fleming, who made an amusing Gravedigger; Miss Haidee Gunn, who gave a clever interpretation of the part of Ophelia; Miss Mildred Surrey, a charming and effective Gertrude; and Mr. John Paley, who portrayed the King of Denmark with ability. *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *The Sleigh-Bells*, *David Garrick*, and *Macbeth* are in the week's bill.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—H. O. Wills, the popular comedian, should have appeared here this week as the chief attraction, but on Monday he telegraphed his inability to do so through illness. A capital evening's enjoyment was provided, however, by those appearing on the programme, which included the De Breans in their clever Japanese entertainment; Athas and Collins in their laughable comedy act, *The Scarecrow and the Charmer*; Lily Hayes, a pleasing comedienne and dancer; the Musical Schafers, who display their musical ability in their comedy act *The Garden of Melody*; Cliff Rock, a capable baritone; Edwards and Dacre in their amusing duologue "What a Life"; Master May, a boy tenor who sings sweetly; and the Three Laurels in their smart speciality act.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—Mephisto, the Mysterious, is very smart in his illusions; Ada Fawn's contributions are popular; the Sisters Transfield are clever instrumentalists; Clarke and Glenny cause roars of laughter in the skit *The Haunted House*; St. Ruth and Conyers render operatic selections and ballads charmingly; Steel and Laing, Poole and Poole, and Jack Rae are also billed. The Bioscope depicts a very funny barrow race.

STOURBRIDGE. — ALHAMBRA THEATRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Douglas C. Phelps.—A crowded audience gave a hearty reception to the musical farcical absurdity, *Lucky 'Liza*, on Monday. Roars of laughter greeted the efforts of Mr. Dicky Clare and his company of comedians. Mr. Clare, who appears in three disguises, was soon a warm favourite; as also was Miss Vesta Brownie, as the versatile Lucky 'Liza. The whole of a big company rendered efficient support.

SUNDERLAND.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Esden.—Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney have been greeted by large and enthusiastic audiences in a fine little play, entitled *The King and the Vagabond*. The play was admirably presented, Mr. Irving giving a most effective interpretation of the King, while Miss Hackney, in the predominant part of the vagabond, Gringore, was admirable in every phase of the character. L'Incognita pleased all with her beautiful soprano voice, which she used with fine effect; Creo Bros. are good in their original acrobatic act; and Ross and Lewis create roars of laughter in their idiosyncrasy *Fits and Misfits*. Charlene and Charlene give an interesting turn as juggler and xylophonist, and others who largely contribute to the success of an exceptionally good programme are Jack Hayworth, Scotch comedian, Goggin and Davis, versatile comedy acrobats, Three Sisters Govini, lightning tumblers and acrobats, and Little Pam Ross, comedian.

KING'S THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's principal company, in *Lady Frederick*, is having an excellent reception here this week. Mrs. Brown-Potter achieved a triumph in every way as Lady Frederick. Her style is quite original and unconventional, and her Hibernian accent is charmingly appropriate. Mr. Philip Cunningham's personation of Paradine Foulds is marked by those erudite qualities which have raised it to a plane of its own; and Mr. W. B. Parker was excellent as Sir Gerald O'Mara. Miss Madeline du Val is strikingly effective as Lady Mereston, and Mr. Herbert Garthorn presents with much discretion the difficult part of Lord Mereston; Miss Edith Deverell adequately portrays the part of Rose; Mr. Cecil Beavan, Mr. Shirley Lea, and Miss Phyllis Manners are all excellent in their respective parts of Capt. Montgomerie, Admiral Carlisle, and Mme. Claude; and the remaining parts are well filled by Mr. C. T. Doe, Mr. Dudley Walton, Mr. F. Trumper, and Miss Nolan O'Connor. The play is preceded by *The Peacemaker*, the various parts being capably taken by Miss E. Nolan O'Connor, Miss Edith Deverall, Miss Phyllis Manners, Mr. Cecil Beavan, and Mr. W. Barnett Parker.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Henry Esden; Acting Manager, Mr. George Dunn.—Messrs. Van Beine and Traynor's company, in *Man and Wife*, is this week playing to crowded houses. The part of Paul Reveere, the "Man," is in the capable hands of Mr. John F. Traynor, who plays the part to perfection; while the "Wife" (Marcelle) is exceedingly well rendered by Miss Kate Hallam; Mr. Edward M. Hamilton gives a capital portrayal of the rascally Captain D'Esparre; Jean finds a clever exponent in Mr. Geo. Overs; Mr. Ambrose Horton is a capable Sergeant Jacques; and as Colonel Latour Mr. Geo. Pammel does well. Ruth Reveere, Paul's blind mother, had a good representation at the hands of Miss Violet Temple. The comic side is well looked after by Miss Millie Doris and Messrs. E. Hall-Eldon and George Vinning as Rosette, Bimbo, and Bambo.

PALACE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry; Treasurer, Mr. Harry Curry.—A capital panoramic display is given this week by Rousby's company in *Greater London*, the luminous effects being specially fine; the Faludy Troupe of Hungarian acrobats is one of the most interesting turns, their feats all being of great daring; Bert Danson creates great amusement in his humorous Suffragette song; the Kimberley Boys are most diverting. Ryan and Hall are very funny in their eccentric wrestling act; the Ramsey Trio contribute some lively knockabout work; and Edith St. Clair, comedienne, and the Sisters Showell, duettists, complete an attractive bill.

SWANSEA.—THE GRAND.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—There was no half-heartedness about the reception given to Miss Decima Moore at the Grand this week, where she is appearing in the title-rôle of *Mrs. Dot*. A more delightful reading of a part has not been seen locally. Mr. James Gelderd plays Gerald Halstane with distinction. An interesting performance is that of Mr. Frank Lacey as James Blenkinsop; Miss Emma Hutchison plays Lady Sellenger with all the aplomb given by experience; Mr. Philip Leslie (Freddie Perkins) and Miss Ethel Graham (Nellie Sellenger) make a really delightful pair.

THE STAR.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is here in *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Miss Hilda Beverley as Barbara Wade appeals to the sympathy of the audience.

EMPIRES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—An excellent bill at the Empire this week is headed by Fred Ginnett's company in *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*. The Lancashire Singers, eighteen in number, give a robust rendering of the march from *Tannhäuser*. The Kirbys are a talented couple; Adams and Ward are amusing acrobatic comedians; Burnetti, in a quick-change musical turn, impersonates well-known musicians. Bessie Butt does not give the audience a dull moment during her turn; and Little Keeno is a distinctly promising boy comedian. Frank Sylvo's comedy juggling is effective.

THE PALACE.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Another excellent Bioscopic entertainment is given this week.

SWINDON.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—The management have here this week the Egyptian comic opera, *Amasis*. Mr. W. H. Denny's interpretation of Pharaoh is excellent, his dry humour being fully appreciated; a capital Prince Anhotep is found in Mr. Edward McKeourn; Mr. Arthur Stroud scores a success as Cheiro; Nebenchari is capably taken by Mr. J. Hawkes; Mr. Frank Attree presents the part of Ptolemy to perfection; and Mr. Walter D. Brodie is most amusing as Sebak; Amasis is charmingly taken by Miss Mabel Burnage; Miss Elsie Don has a pleasing voice and ably enacts Natis; and Mr. Frank Wood as Psamtik, Mr. R. Thomas as Zopyrus, and Mr. John Bennet as Second High Priest, all do well.

TON-Y-PANDY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. Carlton and Duckworth; General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company is here in *The Face at the Window*. Mr. E. Hoggan Armadale is well suited as Lucio Delgado; as Paul Gouffet Mr. Scott Leighton is eminently successful; Lucian Cortier is capably played by Mr. A. Beverley; Miss E. Marriott-Watson makes a sympathetic Marie de Brisson; and Miss R Glynn is a vivacious Babette.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Heading the bill here are Fame and Fortune in a comedy act; and Charles Leighton, a humorous entertainer; Pietro, an agile contortionist; Leon Herculein in feats of strength; and the Sisters Hula also entertain. Some fine films are shown.

TORQUAY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—The annual visit of the Moody-Manners Opera Company, which has been so eagerly anticipated, is taking place this week, and crowded houses are assembling each evening. On Monday night Puccini's *Madame Butterfly* was accorded a great reception. Miss Enriqueta Crichton in the title-rôle fairly brought down the house by her admirable representation, and was loudly applauded at the close of each act; no less successful was Mr. Charles Carter as B. F. Pinkerton, his powerful tenor voice being much appreciated; Mr. Marshall Vincent appeared as Sharples, and did exceedingly well; whilst Mr. R. Brookes was a clever Goro. Miss M. Dennis sang sweetly and effectively as Susuki; and Miss V. Barry also did well as Kate Pinkerton. All the lesser characters are excellently sustained. *Lohengrin*, *Faust*, *Carmen*, *Cavalleria Rusticana*, *Pagliacci*, and *Tannhäuser* are also in the bill.

TREHERBERT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres; District-Manager Mr. Walter Bynorth; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—Miss Inez Howard's company in *Her Love Against the World* is under the direction of Mr. Henry Chattell, who impersonates with judgment and effect the difficult rôle of Prince Ulric. His efforts are ably seconded by Miss Katherine Herbert as Shulah Countess of Rasselyn; Eric, in the hands of Mr. Leonard Yorke, leaves nothing to be desired; and a capital Princess Iris is found in Messrs. Margaret Saville Each and every member of the cast contributed to the general success.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS.—OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale.—Hippodrome season. Mouillot and De Frece circuit. Charcott and his automatic man are the great attraction this week, and on Tuesday a big sensation was caused by the "automatic man," while under "the influence," performing the feat of driving blindfold round the town. An enormous crowd witnessed the start from the theatre. The programme for the week also includes Addie Adell, in a charming Irish scena; Mr. C. in humorous monologue; Maude Courtney, the American comedienne; Wyotti, a clever juggler; and the Louisiana Troupe, coloured vocalists and dancers. For the farewell appearance on Thursday of Sir John Hare, in *A Pair of Spectacles*, the advanced booking was a record, and the stalls had to be extended far into the pit, to meet the demand for reserved seats.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is presenting *An Abandoned Woman*. Miss Nellie Thorne Hallam supplies a graphic sketch of Ninon Malvoisin; Miss Lily Annesley wins approval as Eleanor Deane; Miss Queenie Fraser Brunner is a sprightly Sally; Mr. Herbert M. Kings deserves praise for his manly impersonation of Captain Herbert Seaton; Mr. W. Fraser Brunner creates a good impression as Philippe Malvoisin; Sammy Sharp is in the safe hands of Mr. V. Garnet Vayne; Mr. Arthur Curzon gives a capital study of Robert Saunders; Mr. Teddy Myles as Paddy Boyle convulses the house with his humour; and the minor parts are in capable hands.

WAKEFIELD. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—*Married to the Wrong Man* is presented here this week by Mr. Frederick Melville's company. Mr. Oswald Cray gives a powerful representation of Jack Gladwin; Mr. H. Lane Bayliff is seen to advantage as Captain Deering; Mr. Charles Vivian submits a capital study as Jasper Skinner; Mr. Ray Raymond is effective as Sergeant Manners; and Mr. Paige Lawrence merits praise as Archie Bird. Mr. Sid Claydon causes plenty of amusement as Timothy; Miss Gertrude Boswell's clever conception of the part of Ruth, the dumb girl, wins warm approval; Miss Mary Pemberton adequately fills the rôle of Rose O'Connor; and Dolly is given in vivacious style by Miss May Davis.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Tom Foy and company head the bill this week in the sketch *A Yorkshire Lad in London*, which is a huge success; Miss Marie Blyth, descriptive vocalist, receives quite an ovation with her taking songs; Cronow gives a smart protean act; Arthur Metz and Jack Metz, comedians, dance well; Zenora is a clever hand-balancer; Mr. W. H. Gatty, baritone vocalist, and Lytton and Blind, sketch artists, are also successful.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Mr. William Greet's company is here this week, and have entertained large audiences with *The Sign of the Cross*. A faithful interpretation of the Prefect of Rome is submitted by Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee, and a clever study of Nero is that of Mr. C. Yorke; Mr. Charles Aldred is an excellent Tigellinus, and Mr. J. Weatherall is well placed as Licinius; as the patricians Glabrio and Philodemus, Messrs. Frank Wood and Harry Jones score; Miss Constance Little imparts much pathos into her rendering of Mercia; and as Stephanus Miss Edith Drayson's realistic acting appeals to all; Miss Lily Ward is a delightful Berenice, and Miss Beryl Hamilton a dignified Poppœa. The chorus is excellent, the rendering of "Shepherd of Souls" being exceptionally good. The staging is effective.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Johnson; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—The Percys are scoring a big success here this week, and their comedy duets and up-to-date business is responsible for hearty laughter; Ernesto is an expert juggler; whilst the pictures in themselves form a delightful entertainment.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; General-Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Lovers of the noble art have a rare treat this week, and the engagement of Gunner Moir, the British champion, has been responsible for increased business. The pictures showing his contest with Burns are very realistic. Chris. Richards is a most eccentric comedian; Chas. Lewis is a capital ventriloquist; and the Babusio Brothers clever acrobats; the Two Rubies are delightful vocalists; and Yattmah supplies a good turn as an impressionist; Mlle. Sidy Nirvana poses beautifully; and the Two Kays score in their vocal scena, *The Cuckoo*. The pictures are good.

WEDNESBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—*London with the Lid Off* is being successfully produced here this week by Mr. Stanley Carlton's company. Mr. Stanley Carlton in the important part of the Rev. Allen Gordon acts convincingly; the rôle of Gratton Gale is admirably played by Mr. W. G. Marshall; and an interesting representation of Mr. Templeton is given by Mr. Marshall Meade. Mr. James Hart is an effective Collini, and as Percy Plunker Mr. Lancelot Usher leaves little to be desired. A characteristic rendering of Astra Bell, an orphan, is given by Miss Rubie Maude; as Madge Rendall, a lady detective, Miss Amy Ellam acquits herself admirably; Miss R. Hamilton Belasco displays excellent talent as Mrs. Glandale; and Miss Charlotte E. Ballinger as Sarah Shafto is equally praiseworthy. The scenery and effects add greatly to the success of the play.

WEST BROMWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Large audiences have greatly appreciated the production by Mr. Harry Foxwell's company of *A Broken Heart*. As John Barnard, the master blacksmith, Mr. Foxwell has a fine part, which he fills with much success; and Miss Sheila Walsh gives a finished study of Mary Barnard. Mr. Frank Eaglesfield is capital as Stephen Raylton; Mr. Henry Carliss makes an excellent clergyman; and Miss Margaret Horne as Mrs. Barnard has a part admirably suited to her. The play is well staged.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—Mr. Harry Benet's company is here in *Sergeant Brue of the "C" Division*. The title-rôle is filled with great success by Mr. Denis Lyndon; Miss Ray Anderson is very charming as Lady Bickenhall; Mr. Harry Benet himself fills the part of Crookie Scrubbs, and fills it well; and the other parts are capably sustained. The orchestra and full chorus is remarkably good.

WEST HARTLEPOOL.—GRAND.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; Manager, Mr. H. E. Feather.—Mr. A. Melville's company is appearing here in *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pit, always popular here, is admirably suited in the rôle of Anthony Raybrook; and Miss Nancy Roberts does well with the part of Laura Raybrook.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. A. E. Dobney.—The performance here of the Carmos in herculean and novelty juggling is particularly clever and interesting; Archie Pitt, comedian, has a quaint style; Clown Barker, in a refined animal comedy act, assisted by Miss Rozsika, gives a wonderfully clever performance; the paper-tearing by the Milton Trio is particularly effective; Johnny Dwyer, in versatile comedy, is thoroughly enjoyed; and others deserving praise are Gracie Hunt, chorus comedienne; Jim Cheetham, whistler and mimic, and Annie Heath, comedienne and dancer. Raymond's Bio-tableaux form an interesting finish to the programme.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—*A Merry Maid*, which is Messrs. Levy and Cordwell's latest production, is played here this week to capital houses. Larry O'Hooligan is portrayed by Mr. Vivian Wakeman; Mr. Neill Hardy does justice to the part of the Hon. Cecil Toft; Mr. H. Learder is excellent as Van Swank; Master Wee George Wood is all that can be desired as Bertie Vere de Vere; and the other parts are all in capable hands. The scenery and dresses are excellent.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. G. W. Montrose.—The Musical Tritons head a fine bill here with their elegantly staged act; J. J. Mannix, coon artist, is excellent; O'Malley and Brown are entertaining in *You're Still a Friend of Mine*; Wyndham and Kitty's performance on the wire is a marvel of skill; and Cavella, ventriloquist, and the Ashley team of skaters complete a good programme.

WHITEHAVEN.—MARKET HALL.—Lessees, The Edison Picture Co.; Manager, Mr. Victor Branford.—The chief pictures shown here this week include The Promise, The Dancing Girl, the Old Shepherd, The Pretty Girl Farmer, Our Banana Supply, and The Prize Camel. Cade Burnett, actor vocalist, is retained for another week; and the Zonophone, with illustrated songs, continues to be an attraction.

WHITSTABLE. — Whitstable was visited on Friday, the 27th ult. by one of Miss Inez Howard's companies in *A Warning to Women*. Miss Edith Knight as the heroine was capital; and Mr. Stephen Crossley as Dr. Marcus Dread was sufficiently villainous to satisfy a most exacting audience.

WIDNES.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—*Lucky Durham*, the late Wilson Barrett's last play, has been well received here this week. Mr. S. Herbert Humber wins golden opinions upon his capable work in the part of John Durham; Mr. T. Renaud Lockwood is an aristocratic Lord Mountfallon; Mr. Arthur Leigh plays a "dude" part on original lines; Mr. William Heilbron as Mr. Vallerton plays with commendable naturalness; Mr. J. H. Gerald gives a sound performance in the part of Arthur Walcombe; Mr. W. F. Clitheroe is responsible for a smart sketch of a Jew; and Mr. John Hartt plays Tasker acceptably. Miss Alice Esther Belmore wins all hearts by her pleasing study of Helen Vallerton; Miss Rosabel Dodd infuses a good deal of mild humour into the character of Lady Mountfallon; Miss Florence Dulhunty is an unsophisticated Margaret Steighton; and Miss Beatrice Sinclair makes the part of Durham's mother very agreeable. The play is nicely staged.

WIGAN. — ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's powerful company in *In Holy (?) Russia* and *The World and the Woman* is billed here. On Monday *In Holy (?) Russia* was played. Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy achieves eminent success as Rence Rubinoff, and Miss Amy McNeil as Catska also acts well; Mr. J. Rice Cassidy in the humorous part of Micky Nolan makes the most of his opportunities; and Colonel Richard Forrest finds an able exponent in Mr. Henry Compton. Other parts are well portrayed.

THE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co. —A welcome return visit is being paid here by the Royal Tokios, who perform some wonderful feats with great ability; Charles Hera is a juggler above the ordinary; David Poole deserves special mention as a ventriloquist; Alec Kendal causes much mirth as a comedian; and "This" Quartette, in a comedy and dancing act, is highly successful; the Hughes Trio, in a comedy cycle act, is popular; and Palette gains much applause for his sketch, *A Busy Time in the Studio*; Edwin Garth causes quite an ovation with his song and patter; Little Don and George Lawrence, comedians, conclude.

THE EMPIRE PALACE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—A welcome reception is given to Jack Monks, who sings in pleasing style; and an acceptable exhibition of concertina playing is submitted by Walter Heyes. Interesting pictures are screened, the chief being The Squawman's Daughter, An Automatic Domestic, and Cinematograph.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Hardie and Von Leer's No. 1 company is appearing here this week in *Two Little Vagabonds*. Mr. Richard A. Greene enacts the part of George Thornton with ability; Mr. Arthur E. Melborne is easy and natural as Captain Darville; the villainy of Bill Mullins is vividly portrayed by Mr. Herbert Russell, who is ably supported by Mr. Stanley Field as Dido Bunce and Mr. Fred Archer as the Coughdrop; John Scarth has an able representative in Mr. Joseph Brandon; Miss Florence Dalton as Marion Thornton enlists the sympathy of her audience; Miss Marion Fawcett is well placed as Barbara Scarth; and Miss Marie Pritchard causes amusement as Biddy Mullins. Miss Denise Zaleski as Dick and Miss Alice Leon as Wally, the two little vagabonds, work hard throughout, and well merit the applause that greets their efforts.

EMPIRE PALACE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—An exceptionally strong bill is headed by Mr. Harry Roxbury's company in *The Prince of Monte Carlo*. Tubby Edlin is responsible for the principal character, and he proves remarkably versatile; Jack Lorimer is in the front rank of Scotch comedians; Arthur Reece, an old favourite here, meets with a hearty welcome; Arthur Hickman, tenor vocalist, sings pleasingly; Sydney and Partner, cyclists, give a smart and daring act of trick riding; and entertaining turns are contributed by Wyze and Adna, and Amy Sullivan.

WORCESTER. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Warde.—A capital variety programme is being provided this week by the Deer Family of North American Indians in a series of tableaux in two scenes; Shenton and Chicks, in the *Children's Birthday Party*; the Sisters Judge with their clever birds; Sandy and Carl, comedians; Hadie and Holt; the Melbahs in a good musical turn; Martinett and Wallace, coloured artists; Dolly, Agnes, and Maud, in their box-making act; Bert Rayburn, comedian; Viola May, vocalist; and Miss Leoline, shadowgraphist.

WREXHAM.—EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. John J. Scott.—This week the attractions are the Orchids, speciality artists; Petro and Leon, sensational and comedy gymnasts; the Mannikins, with an electric miniature variety theatre; the Terrys, comedy duettists; and Harry Mantle, descriptive and coon vocalist; together with some amusing and entertaining pictures.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"IRMINGARD,"

Drama, in Four Acts, by Herbert von Berger, produced at the Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches, Nov. 26.

Irmingard	FRAULEIN KORN
Flaminius	HERR WERNER
Sempronius	HERR KAUFMANN
Riger	HERR LETTINGER
Veranius	HERR CORNELIUS
Irmin	HERR HOLTHAUS
Sigurd	FRAULEIN IMPEKOVEN
Segimund	FRAULEIN STOLPE
Ingo	HERR DE NOLTE
Julia	FRAULEIN MALLINGER
Petron	HERR KORNER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Dec. 3.—This is the work of a novice, and as such is deserving of much praise. The talent for play-writing is evident throughout, while the faults are those of inexperience, which time should, and no doubt will, eliminate. The action passes at the time of the ancient Germans and Romans. Flaminius, commander of the Roman forces on the frontier, attacks the stronghold of Irmingard's husband, who is slain. Irmingard, on account of her beauty, Flaminius carries off prisoner. The rough warrior—who has hitherto only associated with worthless women—now falls a victim to the gentle charm of the German Irmingard, and beseeches her to try to love him in return. After some time she yields, for Flaminius has many lovable qualities, and ultimately they are happily wedded. Then Irmin, an old German Prince, and father of Irmingard, comes upon the scene. He considers his daughter outraged and his race humiliated, and vows vengeance. Approaching Flaminius with overtures of peace, he leaves his two sons in the castle as hostages. These, however, are in the plot, which is then divulged to Irmingard by her father. She endeavours by signs to warn her husband against the approaching danger, but he remains oblivious. The castle is surrounded by Irmin's soldiers, and Flaminius, with his followers, is killed. Irmingard, disregarding her father's attempts at reconciliation, takes her own life, and follows her beloved husband to the shades. Many of the scenes are of poetic beauty, and the interpretation was a good all round one. The author was heartily applauded, being called before the curtain repeatedly.

EYSLER'S operetta *Künstlerblut*, which was given here some two years ago, was revived at the Thalia on Tuesday last, affording the clever Viennese comedian, Herr Girady, another opportunity for the display of his versatile talents. There is not very much to be said in favour of either music or book; but the star carried everything on his capable shoulders, and made a success of the whole. Herr Girady was called and recalled by his enthusiastic admirers, and compelled to repeat a number of his songs. The Thalia company proper supported the guest in excellent fashion, the chorus being especially good.

"MADAME FLIRT," three-act comedy by MM. Gavault and Beer, translated and adapted by Grete von Schönthau, met with a cordial reception at the Lustspielhaus last week. It is a "dress" piece, and therefore a novelty to Berlin audiences, our managers and artists laying usually little stress upon the importance of beautiful modern gowns. This naturally appealed to the ladies, who applauded the new "creations" vociferously. The piece was well acted and mounted, and is still holding the boards successfully.

LEONCAVALLO'S *Zaza* was produced with unquestionable success on Saturday at the Komische Oper. Although the play of the same name is well known here, the opera has never yet been done in Berlin, and the thanks of the public are due to Herr Gregor for another interesting novelty. The enterprising manager will assuredly have a substantial recompense for his pains, for *Zaza* will enjoy a lengthy run. It was remarkably well interpreted, Fräulein Eva von der Osten, from the Dresden Royal Opera, giving the difficult name-part in first-rate style; her beautiful voice captivated the audience, who applauded enthusiastically. Herr Naval (Dufresne) was unfortunately indisposed and slightly hoarse, but he struggled heroically against obstacles, and the remainder of the cast was excellent, a word of unstinted praise falling to the youthful Rosa Dibbern for her clever rendering of Toto, Dufresne's daughter. Under the admirable guidance of Kapellmeister Tango the orchestra played brilliantly, and Director Gregor excelled himself in tasteful mounting. Signor Leoncavallo was present, and was called times innumerable before the curtain, and with him artists and manager. The composer states this was the best *Zaza* production he has yet witnessed.

HERR SIEGFRIED LUTZ'S German version of Brook Warren's sensational play, *The Face at the Window*, has, I hear, attained phenomenal success at the Volks Theatre, Nuremberg, the critics pronouncing it the best detective piece they have seen for years. So good, indeed, is the business with *Das Gesicht am Fenster* that Herr Lutz intends to star a touring company with it at Christmas, commencing at the Albert Theatre, Leipzig.

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PANTOMIME GOSSIP.

The principal characters in *Dick Whittington* at Drury Lane have been allotted as follows:—Dick (the new apprentice), Miss Queenie Leighton; Alderman Fitz-Warren (the universal provider), Mr. Neil Kenyon; Miss Sarah Slapp (his housekeeper), Mr. Arthur Conquest; Jack Idle (the weary apprentice), Mr. Wilkie Bard; Will Worthless (the shop-walker), Mr. Aubrey Fitzgerald; Alice Fitz-Warren (the alderman's only child), Miss Marie Wilson; Pedro (Prince of Phantasia), Miss Truly Shattuck; Mouser (the cat), Mr. G. Ali; Captain Keel (of the Merrymaids), Mr. Bert Monks; the Good Fairy, Miss Doris Trevelyan; and Katrina (a Dutch mannequin), Miss Marie George. The scenery for Part I. will consist of East Chepe (St. Valentine's Morning), Department for Food and Clothes, Department for Fancy Attire, Apprentices' Grotto, and Highgate Hill—Dick's Dream. Part II. will reveal the Port of Phantasia, the Basement in Fitz-Warren's House, Outside the Court of Hustings, the Justice Hall, and State Entry of the Lord Mayor. A harlequinade follows.

Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett is making arrangements for this year's pantomime at the Shakespeare, Clapham Junction. A new subject, so far as this district is concerned, has been selected, the story of *The Babes in the Wood* having been interwoven with scenes in the life of that always-popular hero, bold Robin Hood. A strong company has been engaged, prominent in which is Miss Nancy Hearne, already a local favourite, who, as principal boy, will play Robin Hood. Miss Lena Brickwell, who has just returned from a successful visit to Australia, will be the principal girl, and the Babes are to be presented by Baby Hutt and Dorothy Miller. Mr. Will Harris, a fine comedian new to London, is to play Adolphus, and the Missouris will have opportunities for fun as the Robbers, the Two Miltons also providing amusement. Mr. Nat Clifford will be the Baron's servant. Other prominent artists engaged include Miss Eva Colton as Fairy Queen, Mr. Harry Phydora, Mr. Jack Denton (one of the last year's Ugly Sisters), Mr. Glanmore Jones and his troupe of Glee Singers, and Miss Mignon Tremaine. A special feature of the scenery will be a moving panorama in the Wood scene and a ball-room pageant, in which no fewer than 2,500 electric lights will be used. The production will take place on Christmas Eve.

For some years the Lyric, Hammersmith, has not had a pantomime of its own, but this year Mr. Wentworth Croke has wisely decided to revert to the old order of things. Mr. Croke has arranged with Mr. George Brydon-Phillips to produce *Little Red Riding Hood* on Boxing Day, but three weeks only can be spared for pantomime owing to previous bookings.

The King's, Hammersmith, pantomime is likely to give a good account of itself, the advance booking being very heavy and far ahead of previous years. This may be due to the presence of Mr. George Mozart in the cast, as he is well known to be quite capable of acting all the characters in the pantomime, and most comically too. This will not, however, be necessary, as he has many able artists to assist him, of whom we gave some particulars last week. The pantomime will be divided into two parts. The Asturias Troupe of national dancers have been retained, and Miss Bessie Royce is the premier danseuse. M. Alias, Baruch, Simmons, and Mme. Julia Beaumont are responsible for the costumes, and they are not likely to spoil their reputations. Every publisher of popular music in London has been called upon to contribute for the songs and dances. In one of the scenes a beautiful and variegated waterfall will be seen, and the Bubble Fountain will be a novelty.

For the first time for four years—since the association, indeed, of the theatre with Yiddish drama—the Pavilion, Mile End, is this year to have a pantomime. The subject will be *Cinderella*, the book being written by "Jonathan Jones," while the music is the work of the Pavilion Theatre's chef d'orchestre, Mr. Victor Vorzanger.

The Pavilion pantomime will be produced on Christmas Eve. A strong company has been engaged, and the principal parts are thus cast:—Cinderella, Miss Dorothy Rundell; Prince Charming, Miss Adele Levey; Baron Hardup, Mr. Frank Lilliput; Baroness Hardup, Mr. Johnny Johnston; Araminta and Sophonista (ugly sisters), Mr. Gus Danby and Mr. James Danvers; Jock (buttons), Mr. Syd Benson; Dandini, Miss Ida Lawrence; Fairy Queen, Miss Fay Reyne; Selina, Miss Constance Coopman; Count Kinkey, Miss Winifred Spencer; Countess Kinkey, Miss Mildred Parr; Demon King (who will be a chauffeur), Mr. Gray Langston. Among the novelties will be a very fine scenic display, entitled, The Palace of Light, while much fun is anticipated from the comedians in the village scene and the ballroom. In the latter, a troupe of Russian dancers have been engaged. The whole will be produced under the direction of Mr. George Taylor.

"Boy Blue," at the Prince of Wales's, Birmingham, will be written by J. Hickory Wood, with music composed and arranged by Wm. Southworth and C. W. Chambers. The principal boy will be Miss Hetty King, the principal girl Miss Gladys Ivery (Princess Gloria), the dame Mr. Horace Mills, the Baron, Mr. Tom E. Murray, while Mr. G. H. Elliott will appear as Chocolate, Mr. Jay Laurier as Jiggory, Miss Rita Everard as Prince Opulent, and Miss Connie Emerald as Margery. The principal dancers will be the Eight Stella Girls, and specialities will be contributed by the Lyric Quartette. The chief scenes will be The Village of Whare, The Harvest Field, Roseland, The Mermaid's Haunt, In the Heart of the Forest, and The Bal Masque. The pantomime will be produced under the sole direction of J. F. Graham, on Dec. 24.

Liverpool this year is to have a number of pantomimes, some of which are to be specially produced and others provided by well-known travelling combinations. Mr. Robert Arthur promises to present a most elaborate affair at the Royal Court, the title chosen being that of *Humpty Dumpty*, which, so far as the city on the Mersey is concerned, is a new one to present to youthful playgoers.

A capital company has been engaged, and there is every reason to believe that Mr Arthur's thirteenth annual, which is to be submitted on Wednesday, the 23rd inst., will prove a big success. The work, which is written by Mr. Frank Dix, with music composed by Messrs. Jullien H. Wilson and J. O. Shepherd, commences the story of Humpty Dumpty's adventures in Sefton Park, Liverpool, and continues it through Humptiland, Rainbowland, Twinklestar, on to Mars, some charming scenery depictive of those spots having been painted by G. E. W. McKie, Stafford Hall, and J. Fowler Hogg.

The cast will be constituted as follows:—Miss Lily Morris (title-rôle), Miss Mabel Green (Curly-locks), Mr. R. H. Douglass (King), Mr. Arthur Rigby (Queen), Miss Emmie King (Jack), Miss Lily Black (Jill), Moon and Morris, Mr. E. Thrilby (Old Woman of the Shoe), Mr. Arthur Creek, Mr. Geo. W. Cockburn, Miss Elsie Evelyn Hill, Master Bobbie Andrews, and Mr. T. A. Shale (King of Rainbowland and Uncle Patrick). The Eight Sunbeams are to be the principal dancers. Several surprises are promised.

Should the success which attended his pantomime last year be repeated, Mr. Wentworth Croke will have no reason to complain of the result of *Jack and the Beanstalk*, which, on the afternoon of the 26th inst., he intends to submit at the Liverpool Shakespeare. Following the wise course adopted on former occasions, several artists who have won strong positions in public favour have been engaged, these including Misses Ada Reeve (principal boy), Florence Imeson (principal girl), Nora Brocklebank, Marie Vere, Jessie Lonner, and Messrs. Dan Crawley, Arthur Poole, Fred Allendale, Edwin Adeler, Laurie de Frece, the Bros. Griffiths, and Griffin and Ardell. The work is to be produced for Mr. Tom B. Davis by Mr. E. T. Steen; the book has been written by J. Hewson, the music by Guy Jones; and T. Holmes, Stafford Hall, C. F. Young, and Ernest Howard are responsible for the scenery.

The Star Theatre, Liverpool, is to have a specially-written pantomime, under the title of *Babes in the Wood*, and Mr. J. Gar Kiddie has promised an exceedingly funny one. The work will be staged for three weeks, from Dec. 21, and five matinées are to be given. Although success attends this "home of melodrama" all the year round, the enterprising proprietor, Mr. Harris Fineberg, has, at the wish of many, made a break this Christmas in his customary style of entertainment, and, as stated, promises a seasonable attraction.

Pantomimes will also be presented at the Rotunda, Queen's, and Messrs. Broadhead's new building, the Pavilion, in Lodge-lane.

Mr. Robert Arthur presents *Cinderella* for his twelfth annual pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham, on Boxing Night. The "book" is by Mr. Frank Dix, and the music from the pen of Mr. Julien H. Willson, with additional numbers by Mr. John Armstrong. Under the supervision of the acting-manager of the theatre, Mr. Howard Finney, the production is well advanced, and a good caste, including Misses Chrissie Leonard, Madge Vincent, and Marie Empress, with Messrs. Harry Brayne, Johnnie Schofield, and Alexandra and Hughes, will undoubtedly uphold the high reputation of the house. Mr. J. Fowler Hogg's scenery will again form a feature, and the stage management is in the capable hands of Mr. T. Blacklock.

At the Grand Theatre, Nottingham, Mr. J. F. Elliston is responsible for the production. *Aladdin* has been chosen for the attraction, and amongst others engaged are Misses Mabel Carr, Molly Wynne, Elsie Robey, Gertrude Lytton, Ada Tilley, and Messrs. Tom Kelso and Will Fullbrook.

The Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, pantomime, *Humpty Dumpty*, promises to add one more success to the credit of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham. The company, amongst whom are Miss Ida Rene, Arthur Prince, Carlton, Shaun Glenville, Jock Walker, J. E. Nightingale, and Miss Lily Iris, are actively preparing for the opening, which will take place on Christmas Eve.

At the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Mr. Robert Arthur's twelfth pantomime, *Aladdin*, is now in active preparation. Amongst those engaged for principal parts are Mr. Malcolm Scott, Happy Fanny Fields, Harry Tate, and Violet Lloyd. The opening night will be Saturday, Dec. 26.

At the Grand Theatre, Brighton, the pantomime will be *Aladdin*, from the pen of Mr. Ernest Carpenter. The principal boy and girl will be Miss Aimee Roberts and Miss Blanche Marion respectively; and the following have also been engaged:—Mr. Edwin Garth (Widow Twankey), Mr. Frank Dunlop (Abanazar), the Sisters Albert (Pekoe and Pitti Sing), Miss Addie Love (Slave of the Lamp), Mr. Leo Sterling (Emperor), Messrs. Bennett and Martell (Tip-Pit and Wot-Toe), and the Lottie Stone Quartet of dancers. The production will be under the supervision of Mr. Ben Court.

Mr. Rowland Hill will play Mrs. Sinbad in Mr. John Hart's Christmas production at the Grand Theatre, Leeds.

At the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, Miss Violet Lorraine is now announced for the part of the Prince in *Cinderella*. This pantomime was down for production on Thursday, but our notice is reserved for our next issue.

The pantomime this year at Paisley Theatre will be *Puss in Boots*, which Mr. J. H. Savile will produce on Dec. 19. Miss Daisie Morell plays Colin, principal boy.

Miss Dorothy Frostick has been engaged by Mr. John Hart to appear as principal dancer in his pantomime, *Sinbad the Sailor*, at the Grand Theatre, Leeds.

Two musical festivals are to be inaugurated next year—one at Brighton and one at Newcastle-on-Tyne. They will take place respectively at the beginning and towards the end of the year.

Miss Marie Hall will give a concert this (Saturday) afternoon at the Crystal Palace, assisted by several talented artists. The items include:—Sonata for piano and violin in E major (Bach), Miss Marie Hall and Miss L. Basche. Miss Hall will also play Max Bruch's Concerto in G minor, and (a) Aria (Bach), (b) Bereceuse (Cesar Cui), (c) Serenade (Oskar Nedbal), and (d) Saltarello (Leone Sinigaglia). Mr. John Savile will sing Recit and Air from "Irene" (*La Reine de Saba*), "She alone charmeth my sadness" (Gounod), (a) "O cessate di Piagarmi" (Scarlatti), (b) "The sands of the Dee" (Frederick Clay). Miss Basche will play the following pieces by Schumann "Des Abends," "Grillen," "Warum," "Aufschwung" (a) Study in D flat (Liszt) and (b) "La Campanella" (Paganini-Liszt).

Mr. M. J. C. Wellard, chief of the Industrial Department of the Crystal Palace Company, retired from active service on Monday last. The occasion was marked by a pleasant gathering of the whole staff, at which Mr. Wellard was presented with a handsome tea service and spirit flagon. Mr. Geo. O. Starr, at the request of the staff, handed the gifts to Mr. Wellard, expressing the general regret that he was leaving. Mr. Starr referred to the fact that during the forty-four years of Mr. Wellard's service he had always commanded the respect of directors, managers, tenants, and all with whom he had been associated. Honesty, sobriety, strict attention to duty were all embodied in Mr. Wellard. That he was so situated that he could enjoy in comfort restful leisure was the delight of all who knew him. There was only one thing to regret, and that was he was leaving before they could celebrate his golden anniversary of service. Mr. Wellard, in thanking his associates, expressed himself most feelingly, and gave a short résumé of his forty-four years' service. The staff then wished Mr. Wellard good luck and long life, and before the company separated all joined in singing "For he's a jolly good fellow," and gave most hearty cheers for the veteran.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. "The Era" is posted on Saturday in time to reach London subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London post. Address, the Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

FIRST OF THE PANTOMIMES.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT DUNDEE.

The first pantomime to be produced in Britain this season made a most auspicious start on Monday at the Gaiety, Dundee. The theme of Mrs. Lillie Williams' pantomime is *Robinson Crusoe and His Man Friday*, and this clever lady has reason to feel proud of the brilliant reception accorded by Monday's packed and delighted houses. As an entertainment of sheer delight, free from the slightest tinge of vulgarity, and calculated to amuse both young and old alike, *Robinson Crusoe* would be hard to beat. It is staged, mounted and dressed on a lavish scale of magnificence, and outdoes anything previously attempted at this theatre, renowned though it is for the gorgeousness of its pantomime productions. The book follows the familiar story very nicely, and is yet instinct with modern fun. The music, arranged by Mrs. Lillie Williams herself, includes all the latest and most popular songs, which are treated by the powerful company in a way that adds to the delight of the listeners. The pantomime is played in ten scenes, viz., Scene 1, The Port of Hull; Scene 2, Under the Sea; Scene 3, 'Tween Decks, "The Pretty Polly"; Scene 4, The Raft; Scene 5, The Sea Shore; Scene 6, A Palm Grove; Scene 7, Another Part of the Island; Scene 8, Interior, Crusoe's Hut; Scene 9, On the Way to the Palace; and Scene 10, The Palace. The Port of Hull is a very fine and effective setting; the Palm Grove scene is a masterpiece of the scene-painter's art; while the Palace scene is a picture of dazzling beauty and artistic colouring.

Amy Randolph, who plays Crusoe in dashing style, caught on at once, and made a great hit in her songs, "I couldn't go home in the dark," "Green Fields of Scotland," and the tuneful "Connemara," which were all rendered very tastefully. Miss May Carter made a truly charming and graceful principal girl. She displayed a cultivated voice and pleasing manner, and scored a decided hit in her song, "Oh, Oh, Antonio," in which she was assisted by a chorus of ten, and two Italian organ-grinders. She was also vociferously applauded for her song, "In the land of the Kangaroo," which she followed up with a very dainty dance. Along with Miss Amy Randolph (Crusoe) she also took part in the duet, "Come over the garden wall," which also proved an attractive number. The Sisters Selwin (Tom Bowling and Bessie Barr), and the Sisters Poole Pelham (Jack Tatfrail and Sally Sauce) also deserve a word of praise for their tasteful singing and sprightly acting. Miss Dora Lindsay, a dainty artist, who figures as the Fairy, is possessed of a very strong and cultured voice, which was heard to much advantage in her fine song, "In Shadowland." The Ten Dixie Girls furnished some tricky and smart dancing, and in the Palm Grove scene completely brought down the house by their singing of "My Little Silver Coon" and other ear-haunting ditties. The company is very strong in comedians. As Mrs. Crusoe, Mr. J. Telly Dillson simply revelled in the part, his odd ways and exuberant comic business being of the type calculated to make the proverbial cat go into paroxysms of laughter. Mr. Fred Davies (Will Atkins) is another comedian whose drolleries, quaint mannerisms, and clever acting made each of his appearances the occasion of unrestrained merriment. Mr. Tom Gilmore as Captain Skuttle, and later on as Friday, was a great favourite. Mr. Brete Harte was a huge success in his amusing caricature of a Doric-speaking Emperor, and along with Miss Dora Lindsay (Fairy) scored a great hit in a clever medley of Scotch comic songs. Mr. Edward Benson was an excellent Davey Jones, and sang "Asleep on the Deep" in fine style. Messrs. Justin and Mantell as Bailiffs supplied abundance of laughable business, and also presented a remarkably clever contortionist and tumbling act. A very smart topical quartette, "In the year 1910," proved one of the tit-bits of the pantomime.

In the Palace scene, in response to repeated calls, Mrs. Lillie Williams appeared on the stage, along with her energetic and courteous business-manager, Mr. Frank Percival. After thanking the audience for their appreciation of her pantomime, and the artists for their splendid work, Mrs. Williams introduced Mr. Edward Benson, the stage-manager and producer; Mr. Robert Miller, the resident scenic artist, whose facile brush has painted the whole of the magnificent scenery; Mrs. Tom Verney, designer of the elaborate costumes; and Mr. Robert Beaumont, R.C.M., the new musical-director of the Gaiety. Mr. W. E. Potts, the new licensee and manager, was also on view in the front of the house, and we wish him every success in his new sphere.

MR. ROLAND JACKSON'S RECITAL.

At Bechstein Hall on Wednesday evening a large and fashionable audience assembled. Mr. Jackson, who was assisted by Mr. Korbay and Herr Emil Krall, was first heard in "Che fiero costume," a song well suited to his powerful and dramatic tenor voice. In a fervent rendering of "Cielo è mar," the romance from Ponchielli's *La Gioconda*, Mr. Roland Jackson received warm tokens of approval, while he was equally successful in the beautiful song of Schumann, "Die Lotosblume." Two songs of Brahms', "Komm Bald" and "Wee die Wolke," were sung by Mr. Jackson, who also greatly distinguished himself in the graceful "Murmeludes Lüftchen" of Jensen. "Du bist ein kind" (Weingärtner), "Am Rhein," by Liszt, and Tschaikowsky's "Sonne ging zur Ruhe," were also included in the first portion of the programme. The second part consisted mainly of English songs, pleasing in themselves, but hardly important enough for Mr. Jackson's fine voice and operatic method. Perhaps the most effective of the English works was a pretty and refined song, "Sorrow and Spring," by Graham Peel. The others were "Bright is the ring of words" (W. H. Hadow), "After" (Elgar), "Midsummer Love Song," by Godfrey Nutting, "Mary of Allendale," arranged by H. Lane Wilson, and "The ways are green" (Mary Carmichael). Later on in the concert Mr. Jackson sang three Hungarian melodies, arranged by F. Korbay, "Far and high," "See the star that shines afar," and "Do not go." Some excellent 'cello solos were given by Herr Emil Krall, who played the slow movement from Dvorak's Concerto, Saint-Saëns's "Allegro Appassionato," and "Chant d'Automne" (Tschaikowsky). Mr. Roland Jackson made a most favourable impression, and was well received by the large audience.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

A memorial tablet is to be fixed by the London County Council to the front of the house in Kensington, where the famous singer, Jenny Lind, lived when in England.

Princess Christian, Princess Henry of Battenberg, and Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein were present at the performance of *The Builder of Bridges*, at the St. James's Theatre last night.

"SALVATION NELL."

Drama, in Three Acts, by Edward Sheldon. Produced at the Hackett Theatre, New York, on Nov. 17.

(From our New York Correspondent.)

Mrs. Fiske has played many parts during the years that she has been before the public, and the most critical playgoer could hardly mention anything that this gifted artist has done that failed to make a deep impression. Perhaps her Tess, in the dramatic version of Thomas Hardy's "Tess of the D'Urbervilles" is—or was—the most memorable of all her stage creations. One has to use the past tense after seeing her embodiment of Salvation Nell, which certainly equals, even if it does not excel, any one of her previous characterisations. It is a sympathetic and moving portrayal of a woman of the underworld, who frees herself from the bondage of vice and vulgarity, and, under the right influence, devotes herself to the beneficent purpose of leading other unfortunates out of the path of destruction. As Jim Platt, another experienced player who does all things well, namely, Mr. Holbrook Blinn, whose Defarge in *The Only Way* Londoners have not forgotten, represents in a manner that is strikingly true to life the brutal, skulking paramour of Salvation Nell, and others among the cast of forty who distinguish themselves in important rôles are Messrs. David Glassford, W. T. Clarke, and Eugene Reed; and Misses Mary Madison, Hope Latham, and Mary Maddern.

The opening scene shows the bar-room of Sid McGovern's saloon in Tenth-avenue on Christmas Eve. Here is realism with a vengeance. In thirty years of playgoing the writer has seen nothing to equal it, and if this play is presented in London there will be no excuse for not knowing what low life in New York really means. Londoners may not thirst for knowledge of this kind, seeing that there is a sufficiency of dramatic material in the low life of their own city to spread before those who like that sort of thing. But the world has become so small, and the intercourse of the nations has increased to such an extent, that one cannot expect, even if one wishes, to remain totally ignorant nowadays of the manners and customs of any people on earth, no matter how strange and unfamiliar they may be. Opinions may differ as to the advisability of presenting ultra-realistic depictions of low life upon the stage; in fact, this very difference has cropped up in the newspaper discussions of the play under notice; but there is no denying the superiority of a true picture over a false one, and one certainly realises this while gazing at the scene to be described. Critical observation fails to detect anything about it that is artificial or stagy, and one looks and listens in vain for the bit of business or dialogue that will dispel the illusion and remind the observer that, after all, it is "only a play." It is as if one of the low resorts that abound in certain parts of this city had been transferred bodily to the stage. The bar-room is filled with roughs and loafers. Nell Sanders scrubs the floor, washes the glasses, and cleans the spittoons. She sleeps in the cellars and earns "two-and-a-half" a week, and this miserable pittance she has to give up to the surly, bull-necked bruiser, Jim Platt, who refers to her as "my girl," and owns her as completely as any man can own a woman. Platt has lately discovered a rival in "Squirt" Kelly, a jeering brute as low as himself, and when Kelly embraces Nell against her will a fight occurs between the two men. Platt fells his enemy, and the police are called. A hospital ambulance is backed up to the door, a stretcher is brought in, and the surgeon says that Kelly is dead. Platt is handcuffed and taken away, and the ambulance drives off with its burden. The bartender turns out the window-lights, accentuating the squalor and sordidness of the scene, and the saloon-keeper, threatened with the loss of his licence, falls into an ugly mood, which finds quick expression when he notices Nell Sanders, paralysed with grief and fear, leaning against the wall and staring at vacancy. For being the cause of the disturbance he orders her into the street forthwith, and the wretched creature gathers her few belongings into a bundle and prepares to obey. But Nell finds a "friend" in Myrtle Odell, whose gaudy attire and loose tongue proclaim what manner of girl she is. Mme. Croquette's disorderly house next door is raided by the police, and everything that happens, in what used to be an ordinary everyday occurrence in this city, is conveyed to the eye and ear in an exceedingly vivid and realistic manner. Myrtle Odell eludes the police and escapes into the small room partitioned off from the bar-room, where customers may sit and drink. Here she encounters Nell, to whom she pictures the delightfully easy existence the poor drudge can have for the asking, and how the "madame" will welcome her with open arms. But Nell, with all her faults, has never done anything of that kind, and whilst she stands wavering in comes "Lieutenant" O'Sullivan, otherwise known as "Hallelujah Maggie," from the Salvation Army hall near by. Maggie is tall and gaunt, and has a determined manner. She mingles fearlessly with the low ruffians that frequent McGovern's saloon, and they respect her. She has already pleaded with Nell to join the Army, but Nell has shaken her off. It is the old story. Jim is her Bill Sykes and she is his Nancy. But Jim has been taken from her, and "Hallelujah Maggie" pleads with her again until she finally prevails. "She's coming with me!" cries the Salvation Army girl as she takes Nell in her arms. Myrtle loses a recruit, and Maggie plucks another brand from the burning.

In the second act eight years have elapsed, and the scene is Nell's living-room in a Cherry-street tenement. Jim Platt is "doing time" in Sing-Sing for killing "Squirt" Kelly, while Nell has become a full-fledged Salvation Army lass and a credit to "Lieutenant" O'Sullivan. She has a boy of seven, Jim's child, and for the sake of appearances is known as "Mrs." Sanders. Word is brought to her that Jim has been seen near his old haunts, and she remembers that his term could be shortened by good behaviour. "Major" Williams, who admits that his own past has not been above reproach, and is plainly in love with Nell, is with her when the returned convict quietly opens the door and sneaks in. The "Major" is for putting the intruder out, but Nell asks him to leave her with Jim, and he obeys. About the first thing she tells Jim is that he is a father—a piece of information that makes not the least impression upon him. To escape his amorous advances she goes out to buy some food, and whilst she is gone he takes a look around, noting the furniture and Nell's other possessions with a critical eye. He finds some milk in the ice-box and drinks it. Moving about the room he comes across a small suit of clothes and a pair of shoes. He opens the bedroom door and peeps in. A child's voice asks who is there, and the man shuts the door quickly. But the youngster comes out in his nightdress and makes for the milk that should be in the ice-box. Jim Platt is visibly embarrassed, and confesses that he has drunk it. "What's your name?" asks the nipper. "Jim," says the convict. "So mine," the child rejoins, and they become so friendly that when Nell returns Jim is awkwardly holding his son in his arms.

He tells Nell that she must leave New York and accompany him to Denver on the morrow. When he talks of soon having plenty of money she elicits the fact that he and several others intend to commit a burglary that night, and that he has no idea of reforming. She refuses to comply with his wishes, and threatens to inform the police. But he seizes her, tells her that she is his, and must do his bidding, and that he has not kissed a woman for eight years. She agrees to take him back if he will give up the burglary, and he promises, but with his first kiss there comes a revulsion of feeling and she tries to resist him. When she calls for help he strikes her down and flees down the fire-escape. During the struggle a thunderstorm rages, the rain beats in at the open windows, the curtains are blown about by the wind, and the room door being locked a neighbour vainly tries to get in. As the curtain falls, Nell is lying senseless on the floor.

Another wonderful scene is disclosed in the third act. It represents Cherry Hill, one of the toughest neighbourhoods in New York. At the left and rear are four-storey tenements of the poorest class, with iron fire-escape ladders and balconies outside each window, filled with various articles, and the usual display of bed-clothing. The inevitable corner saloon and Italian fruit stand are there, of course, and not a detail is omitted. On the right is the Salvation Army hall, where "Hallelujah Maggie," "Salvation Nell," and other members of the "blood-and-fire" brigade hold forth every evening. The Army band, playing a popular air, marches through the street and into the hall. An organ-grinder plays and children dance. An Italian woman, looking into the street from an upper window, sees her husband with a flashily-dressed girl, and threatens her rival, who refuses to be frightened and stands her ground until the Italian comes down. A crowd gathers to see the two women fight, and a policeman appears just in time to arrest the husband for striking his wife. When the policeman promises his prisoner two months in gaol the wife turns on the officer and gives him "the length of her tongue." Whilst they are arguing it out, the husband goes off with the girl that has aroused his wife's jealousy. The crowd laughs and jeers at the Italian woman and leaves her crying on her doorstep. Jim Platt slinks in and asks if this is the place where the Salvation Army meetings are held. He has not joined the gang in committing the burglary, it appears, and he tries once more to persuade Nell to go away with him, but she refuses, although she is sympathetic and kind, and tries to turn his thoughts to higher things; recalling their one day in the country together long ago, when things were different. But Jim is a hopeless case it seems.

At the open-air meeting Nell's simple but telling words touch the heart of every man and woman in the crowd. She passes around her tambourine for contributions, and Jim Platt, who has slunk back again to the fringe of the crowd to hear her speak, feels in his tattered clothes for a coin. As he drops it into the tambourine Nell sees a new expression in his eyes that tells her he has seen the light and can be reclaimed. Her fellow-workers sing "Abide with me," and with her cry of joy the play ends.

ROBERTSON AS A PIONEER.

"It is impossible even to think of the early Victorian theatre without a yawn," says Mr. A. B. Walkley in "Drama and Life," "so 'unidea'd' was it, so ephemeral, so paltry and jejune. One shrinks from dwelling on this tedious theme. Our concern here is not with the imitators, the adapters, the mere purveyors, but with the elect few who have done something new—no matter whether good or bad, so long as it is new to drama—the *Fortschrittsmänner* as the Germans call them, the men who give a new lead in art. The first of these men, in the history of the modern English theatre, was T. W. Robertson. In the Robertsonian drama—which includes not merely the author of *Caste* and *Society* and *School*, but minor and coarser Robertsons like H. J. Byron and James Albery—is to be found the first intelligent employment in England of the picture-stage. A plausible representation of actual life and manners and speech, with all rhetoric and rhetorical conventions abolished, with no aim but the aim of illusion, was for the first time presented to an English playhouse audience. The world of the sixties is now so remote from us—are not the humours of its remoteness the very point of Mr. Pinero's *Trelawny of the Wells?*—that it is odd to think of Robertson as a realist; nevertheless, a realist he was in his day. I am not referring to the 'real door-handles' of *Society* or the 'real snow' of *Ours*, or the other novelties of accurate *mise-en-scène* of which the history is written in the annals of the old Prince of Wales's Theatre under the *régime* of the Bancrofts. These mechanical details were bound in time to be invented for the new requirements of the picture-stage, though that consideration does not detract from the credit of the actual inventors. Still less am I referring to the structure of the Robertsonian drama, the 'motivation' of its plot. It is here, of course, that realism can best justify itself—in the action and the springs of action—so that the impression produced on the spectator's mind may be the exact opposite of Judge Brack's, the impression that 'these are the very things people do.' Robertson was no realist in this sense. His plots are always feeble, often merely silly, and the motives of his character have little in common with those of live people. Nevertheless Robertson was a true realist in aim, and more often than not he did succeed in transferring to the stage certain types of character, the current ideals and ambient atmosphere of so much of the outside world as he had the opportunity of studying. That was a limited opportunity, no doubt; Robertson's was a cockney and a middle-class world; but then so much of England in the sixties was cockney and middle-class This was the new, the 'forward,' element in Robertson's plays that ranks him among our Fortschrittsmänner; he did, however imperfectly, bring the stage into some sort of relation to life. As with all new developments, the method was a method of exaggeration. Hawtrey and Eccles and Polly and Sam Gerridge are caricatures, but the basis of observed fact underlies them all. Hawtrey is a caricature which might have been signed 'John Leech,' as Eccles or Sam Gerridge might have been signed 'Charles Keene.' Robertson, then, accomplished something. The Robertsonian drama counts. It gave a lead, and a fairly good one, for the picture-stage. But, English in its many good qualities, it was English also in its chief defect; it was 'unidea'd.' Happily no quotation in proof of this statement is called for—happily, because Robertsonian prose is absolutely unreadable. *School* and *Ours* and *Caste* have been revived in quite recent years, so that the present generation of playgoers has had ample opportunity of acquaintance with some typical Robertsonian plays. They show that, while Robertson observed his time and responded to its pressure, he had no critical ideas about it. By ideas one does not, of course, mean the puerile commonplaces of the copybook."

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special newspaper express services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—Rugby, 4.30 a.m.; Coventry, 4.54 a.m.; Birmingham, 5.20 a.m.; Crewe, 5.5 a.m.; Manchester, 6.50 a.m.; Liverpool, 7 a.m.; Chester, 9.3 a.m.; Doncaster, 6.10 a.m.; York, 7 a.m.; Hull, 8.20 a.m.; Darlington, 8.58 a.m.; Scarborough, 10.5 a.m.; Newcastle, 10.10 a.m.; Leeds (Central), 6.58 a.m.; Huddersfield, 7.37 a.m.; Bradford (Exchange), 7.47 a.m.; Harrogate, 7.50 a.m.; Halifax, 8.17 a.m.; Burnley, 9.28 a.m.; Leicester, 4.36 a.m.; Nottingham, 5.10 a.m.; Derby, 5.35 a.m.

"AMASIS" IN COURT.

In the King's Bench Division on Monday, before Mr. Justice Jelf and a common jury, the hearing was commenced of an action for alleged infringement of dramatic copyright brought by Mr. William Hermann Scholz (professionally known as W. Gunn Gwennett) against Amasis (Ltd.) and Mr. Frederick Fenn. The plaintiff alleged that the comic opera *Amasis* was in a great many respects a copy of a composition of his own, entitled *The Son of the Sun*, and asked for damages and an injunction.

Mr. Scholz was represented by Mr. Lawrence Hales and Mr. Whitfield Hales (instructed by Mr. H. A. Fitzmaurice), and defendants by Mr. Norman Craig and Mr. Spence (instructed by Braby and Macdonald.

Mr. Lawrence Hales explained that in 1897 his client completed a comic opera, to which he had given the title of *The Son of the Sun*. It was based upon the well-known Egyptian legend that whoever took away the life of a cat would be in danger of sudden death. The play was sent round to various managers, by whom it was returned more or less politely. The first time Mr. Scholz saw *Amasis* he exclaimed, "This is my play!"

The counsel proceeded to indicate some of the alleged similarities between the two pieces.

The plaintiff, in giving evidence, said in 1894 he decided to write a play, taking as the general idea the old Egyptian law that it was death to anybody who slew a cat. He submitted his production to Mr. William Greet, Mr. George Edwardes, Messrs. Webster and Norcross, Mr. Charles Manners, and others.

Amasis was produced in 1906. At the first performance a book of words was presented to him, and he came to the conclusion that *Amasis* was to all intents and purposes his play. *Amasis* had a very long run at the New Theatre, and subsequently at the Criterion.

On Tuesday his lordship resumed the hearing, without a jury, counsel having agreed that much time would be saved if the matter were left to his lordship alone.

Mr. Spence suggested that the real plot of plaintiff's play had nothing to do with the sacred cat.

Witness: It has.

Counsel: The real plot of the play has practically very little to do with the cat. It is the old story about brigands carrying off a princess. About nine-tenths of the play is occupied by the brigands, and has nothing to do with the cat. That is what I complain of in this particular instance.

His Lordship: A plot which deals with brigands carrying somebody off is not particularly original. One about a cat may be.

Re-examined by Mr. Lawrence Hales, witness said he thought *Amasis* was Mr. Fenn's first attempt at comic opera writing. On the hundredth night of its performance a special verse was introduced in which Mr. Fenn was referred to as "a beginner" who had backed "a winner." It was not a fact that nine-tenths of *The Son of the Sun* was made up of the brigand plot. It was rather the reverse. He had taken no part of his play from "An Egyptian Princess." The plot of "The Cat of Bubastes" was different from that of *Amasis* or that of his play.

Mr. Hjorbard, musician and composer, who composed the music for *The Son of the Sun*, stated that when plaintiff showed him the libretto, in 1905, he formed the opinion that it was the finest he had ever read.

This concluded the case for the plaintiff.

Mr. Spence assured his lordship that when Mr. Fenn wrote *Amasis* he knew nothing about plaintiff's book, but had a particularly extensive knowledge of Egyptology, having for some time been acquainted with "The Cat of Bubastes," "An Egyptian Princess," "The Scarlet Beetle," and other publications bearing on the subject. He submitted that there was not in connection with the plot and the whole of the mass of alleged resemblances anything like enough to point to anything beyond the inevitable resemblance between two people of the same class of thinking starting with the idea of killing a sacred cat.

On Wednesday, resuming his address on behalf of defendants, Mr. Spence said it was admitted that the mishap to the sacred cat referred to in both plays was common ground, which anyone was entitled to make use of. Plaintiff, however, alleged that Mr. Fenn's treatment of the subject matter was taken from his play, but counsel submitted that it was not so. Mr. Fenn had made his hero actually kill the cat, while plaintiff made the brigand Mentoli steal the animal after the accident and keep it alive. Mr. Fenn got out of the difficulty occasioned by introducing what was known as a Sydney Carton character. Seeing the Princess in great distress because of the threatened execution of her lover, a man of humble situation hopelessly in love with the lady said that he had done the deed, there was, however, a further development of the plot which showed the invention of Mr. Fenn. The self-accused man was sentenced to be beheaded, but Mr. Fenn got him out of his dilemma in an ingenius way. His case was that Mr. Fenn went directly to a book entitled "An Egyptian Princess" for the idea of killing the sacred cat.

Mr. L. de Frece, who said he had just finished an engagement as one of the principal comedians in *Butterflies*, was the first witness called for the defence. He played the comic part of Sebac in *Amasis*. He stated that on the first night the part was a very small one, but he "played it up."

Was the crocodile introduced on the first night?—Oh, no.

Counsel: Your idea was to bring on to the stage not a crocodile, but a "practicable" crocodile.

His Lordship: A "practicable" crocodile! I am learning something as we go on.

Counsel (to witness): Do you call it a "practicable" crocodile?—It was really a property crocodile.

Whose was it?—The property of the management.

Who invented the comic business connected with the crocodile?—I had no idea originally of anything beyond a "wheeze" that I wanted to introduce. I desired to parody a widespread advertisement having reference to a certain article. The "wheeze" was:

"Why does the cat the crocodile mock so?
One gets the milk, and the other gets—hungry."

Witness added that the property people made such an excellent crocodile that the idea occurred to him of making it sit up like a dog and balance a lump of sugar on its nose.

Cross-examined by Mr. Lawrence Hales, witness said that the idea of putting a lump of sugar on the crocodile's nose came to him when the "animal" was in process of making.

Mr. Frederick Fenn said he began to write *Amasis* about December of 1903, and completed it in about three months. He took the idea of killing the sacred cat from "An Egyptian Princess." He did not know of plaintiff's existence in May of 1906, and previous to that had never been shown his book or part of his book.

On Thursday Mr. William Archer, in evidence, said, in his opinion, to a very great extent the germ idea of *Amasis* came from *An Egyptian Princess*, with a good many details in no sense essential to the plot, but connected with it.

His lordship reserved judgment.

PRINCESS CHRISTIAN and Princess Henry of Battenberg witnessed the fifty-third performance of *The Lyons Mail* at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Tuesday evening.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

DEATH OF HARRY KILBURN.

We have to record the death on Sunday last of Mr. Harry Kilburn, whose passing away will occasion sincere regret both in theatrical and music-hall circles. His last engagement was with Mr. Baron H. Harriss and Miss Sophie Harriss in *The Prince of Pilsen*, in which he played Hans Wagner, a part in which he was pre-eminently successful. The deceased gentleman's early career on the stage was in the halls, where a very valuable experience was gained—an experience, indeed, that added much to his versatility and comic resources. He achieved considerable success on what is termed the lesser stage, and toured the Continent, playing in all the principal towns of France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, and Spain, acting also in sketches and as a pantomimist and dancer, of which latter art he was very fond. He then returned to England to fulfil a pantomime engagement at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle, under the management of the late Sir Augustus Harris, where he was fortunate enough to be so successful with the part entrusted to him that he was re-engaged for the two following Christmas pantomimes, making three consecutive seasons, the latter two years playing the parts made popular by the late Dan Leno at Drury Lane the preceding year under the same management. Other pantomime engagements included Avenue Theatre, Sunderland, Comedy, Manchester, Tyne, Newcastle (this time under the management of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham), two seasons Opera House, Leicester, then Empire, Edinburgh, Alexandra, Sheffield, Gaiety, Dublin (with Mr. Robert Courtneidge), Grand Theatre, Leeds (with Mr. John Hart), and also three consecutive seasons with Mr. Fredk. Mouillot at Opera House, Belfast, Theatre Royal, Dublin, and King's Theatre, Hammersmith.

Mr. Kilburn also created several parts in musical comedy, prominent amongst them being Robert White (the policeman) in Mr. Arthur Roberts' *Dandy Dan*, and Samuel Peashooter in Mr. George Dance's *Ladies' Paradise*. Amongst other engagements was one of eighteen months at the Duke of York's Theatre in *The Gay Parisienne* and *A Day in Paris* (with Messrs. Frank Wheeler and W. J. Holloway). Then a season at the Lyric Theatre, playing Sancho Panza with Arthur Roberts in *Don Quixote*. Then came a long tour of the provinces with Hardie and Von Leer's *Dandy Fifth*, in the part of Sergeant-Major Milligan. He next joined Mr. George Dance's company in *A Chinese Honeymoon*, playing Hi-Lung on the autumn tour and the following spring playing Mr. Pineapple in the same piece. In the autumn he was engaged by Mr. H. C. Beryl to play Major O'Neill in *The Lady Slavey*. Then followed a short tour of the music halls in conjunction with his wife (Miss Ruth Grosvenor). Then came an offer from Baron H. Harriss to play the part of Hans Wagner (the Dutchman) in *The Prince of Pilsen*, which part he played for two years, and which,

[*Photo by Sawyer.*

THE LATE MR. HARRY KILBURN.

he declared, fitted him like a glove. Owing to his success, Mr. Harriss arranged with him to play the part through the Christmas seasons of 1906-7 and 1907-8, and he completed one tour in June and another in November. The cause of death was pneumonia supervening on a chill. The deceased gentleman was 42 years of age.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

A most interesting organ recital was given on Monday afternoon, at Trinity College, by Mr. Edward d'Evry, organist of the Brompton Oratory and Professor of the Pianoforte at the College. The programme was admirably varied, and displayed the delicate tones of the new organ to great advantage. The talented organist was first heard in choral preludes, "Good Christian Men, Rejoice" and "Have Pity on me, O Lord God" (J. S. Bach), and the same composer's fine Fugue in G major (12-8). In strong contrast to this was the cleverly written Elegy (MS.), by Arthur Barclay; Mr. d'Evry was also much applauded in Lemare's artistic Theme, Variations, and Finale Fugato, and the quaint Musette by E. H. Turpin. E. T. Chipp's lively Intermezzo, Bambridge's graceful Idyll, and a Spring Song by C. W. Pearce were also pleasing features of the recital. The beautiful Prayer and Angel Scene from Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, and a melodious Meditation composed by Mr. d'Evry (and given by desire), received great applause. Besides the Meditation, Mr. d'Evry's song "Oculi Omnium" ("The eyes of all wait") was sung on Wednesday by Miss Hilda Felstead, whose fine contralto voice was heard in this to much advantage. Miss Felstead's second song was "Se tu m'ami" (Pergolesi). Mr. Ernest Palser was the accompanist.

AMUSEMENTS IN BOMBAY.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BANDMANN THEATRE.—Carter, the American magician, has been here recently, and has drawn crowded houses every night. Undoubtedly the great draw of the show was the clever work in answering questions propounded by the audience by the American medium, Miss Price, who proved fully equal to the demands made. Carter himself is a clever magician, with quaint American patter. Tom E. Liddiard's Bijou Troubadours are popular. Baby Liddle and Little Lily Clarke are remarkable child artists; the comedian of the troupe, Paul Jeagle, gains encores nightly.

THE DULWICH PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY will give a concert this (Saturday) evening of Bizet's *Carmen* in the concert room of the Crystal Palace. The artists will include Miss Norah Newport, Miss Edith Miller, Miss Sylvia Yarra, Miss Isabel Champion, Mr. Frank J. Webster, Mr. Hector Lightfoot, Mr. Thorold Waters, Mr. Reginald Gould, and Mr. John Prout. Mr. Arthur Fagge will conduct.

THEATRE AND MUSIC-HALL EMPLOYEES' ANNUAL CONCERT.

An enthusiastic audience assembled on Sunday evening in His Majesty's Theatre (kindly lent by Mr. H Beerbohm Tree), on the occasion of the sixth annual concert in aid of the Benevolent Funds of the London branches of the National Association of Theatrical Employees, comprising the Heads of Departments, Carpenters, General Staff, and Cinematograph Operators' Branches. Every part of the house was crowded, all the tickets being sold before the day; a large number of applications for tickets prior to, and on, the day could not be supplied.

The concert was under the patronage of Sir Charles Wyndham, Sir H. E. Moss, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Alfred Butt, Mme. Ada Colley, Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. Arthur Chudleigh, Mr. James Carew, Mr. Frank Glenister, Mr.

[*Photo by Hana.*

MR. WILLIAM JOHNSON.

Hon. Sec.

J. Martin Harvey, Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Miss Ethel Irving, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. and Mrs. Kendal, Miss Marie Löhr, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. Matheson Lang, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Miss Julia Neilson, Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Alfred de Rothschild, Mr. Forbes-Robertson, Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Edward Terry, Mr. Fred Terry, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Ruth Vincent, Mr. Sydney Valentine, and Mrs. Henry Wood.

Among those well known in the profession who had taken tickets were Mr. Arthur Collins, Miss Lena Ashwell, Miss Ruth Vincent, Mrs. Henry Wood, Miss Ethel Irving, Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. Lyn Harding, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, and many others

The orchestra, supplied by the A.M.U., conducted by Meyer van Praag, commenced the long and attractive programme with Elgar's march, "Pomp and Circumstance," which was admirably rendered.

A dainty and talented child, Miss Nora Roylance, followed with two pretty dances, a veil dance and a coon dance, a very graceful performance, which was well received. Miss Eva Lewis sang Löhr's "Eyes that gazed in mine," and was succeeded by the ever-popular Chirgwin, the original white-eyed kaffir, who received a most hearty welcome, his funny songs, puns, and stories creating much amusement. Chirgwin was up-to-date with his allusions to the Suffragettes, although the audience did not immediately grasp the point of the pun, "out of the frying-pan into the fire, and the pan-curst" (Pankhurst). This artist brought his entertainment to a close by playing "She wore a wreath of roses" on a wonderful and melodious instrument.

Mr. John Philips sang very feelingly "Even bravest heart," from *Faust*. Miss Alexandra Dagmar sang and told stories with Connie Ediss-like humour, and was encored. Mr. Dutch Daly, who

MR. MEYER VAN PRAAG.

Musical Director.

was enthusiastically cheered, came next, and, after he had related to the audience many amusing experiences and stories, he played Mendelssohn's "Spring Song" on the concertina, and secured an artistic triumph. Mr. Daly's playing on the concertina is inimitable, and the "Spring Song" was exquisitely rendered. Mr. Harry Claff, assisted by Miss Alice Tremayne, gave their original pantomimic burlesque. Mr. Claff's fine voice and robust style did credit to the Demon King, and Miss Tremayne's dainty acting and sweet singing secured a fine tribute from the audience. One of the great successes of the evening was Mr. Alfred Lester's "skit," "The Scene-shifter's Lament," which has probably never before been given before so many "experts." For once a scene-shifter—to the manner born, of the old school, let it be said in justice to the new school—appeared "in sight," and told of blighted hopes and fruitless ambitions. Roars of laughter punctuated Mr. Lester's droll talk and actions, and his dialogue with his "pal" 'Arry, the limelight man, on "the perch," whom he asked for a limelight "'alf cream and 'alf rassburry." The concert committee are to be congratulated on securing the assistance of this talented artist for their concert. Mr. Lester was ably supported by Miss Tessie Hackney.

Mr. Thorold Waters, an Australian tenor, sang "Take a pair of sparkling eyes" in good style. Mr. and Mrs. Marriott provided one of the most exciting items on the programme, during their sensational exhibition of silent telepathy. Two gentlemen in the audience shuffled a pack of cards, and dealt two hands for nap; Madame Marriott told which held the best hand, and gave the value of each card held by both gentlemen, and said which would win, a truly wonderful performance.

Miss Dorothea Baird recited the "Day Dream," from Tennyson's "Legend of the Sleeping Beauty." The recitation was beautifully rendered, Miss Baird's pure and sympathetic voice giving full effect to the poem, to which Miss Mary Carmichael played a most expressive accompaniment on the pianoforte. Miss Baird was cheered again and again. Miss Ida Rene sang "The Rake's Progress" in a fine dramatic style, and, in reponse to the insistent applause, gave an encore. Mr. Tom Clare gave his humorous "recipe for musical comedy," and he also was persuaded to give an encore. Mr. George Mozart gave his popular song "On and off," his very clever imitation of well-known members of the profession creating great laughter. Mr. Cyril Clensy also gave some excellent imitations, those of Mr. Martin Harvey and Mr. G. P. Huntley being very good. Miss Emilie Hayes' beautiful voice was heard with fine effect in German's "Waltz song," from *Tom Jones*, and delighted the audience. Miss Jessie Broughton was also well received.

The pictures came next, the first being a photograph of Mr. Tree, which was heartily cheered, showing appreciation of his generosity in lending the theatre for the purpose of the concert. Next followed some exciting feats of Italian horsemanship, followed by some extremely funny incidents. The slide showing Mr. Tree's photo was kindly supplied by Mr. C. Vandyk (Court photographer), and the animated pictures, with all necessary apparatus, were supplied by the Raymond Bio-Tableaux, the operator being Mr. E. Catlin, president of the Cinematograph Operators' branch of the N.A.T.E. The programme terminated at 10.45, most of the audience remaining until the curtain fell.

Mr. Frank Mummery was the accompanist, and Mr. G. H. Dyball, the stage-manager of the London Pavilion, was stage-manager for the concert, and it follows that the successful conduct of such a programme, under the special circumstances that arise in benefit performances, says much for his tact, ability, and popularity.

All the members of the theatre staff required in

MR. G. H. DYBALL.

Stage Manager.

the stage, flies, properties, and lights departments, during the concert, gave their services; Mr. Digby, who is the limelight contractor for the theatre, kindly sent two of his men to assist, free of charge. The committee also desire to thank Mr. Price, the chief attendant at His Majesty's, and his assistants, for their courtesy and attention, and also the manageress of Messrs. Westy and the housekeeper for the theatre, all of whom were most kind and helpful.

The following announcements appeared in the programme:—

The committee have much pleasure in announcing the following donations to the "Open" Benevolent Fund:—

	£	s.	d.
Sir H. E. Moss	1	1	0
Mr. George Alexander	2	2	0
Mr. Alfred Butt (for the Palace Theatre Directors)	1	1	0
Mme. Ada Colley	2	2	0
Mr. Arthur Chudleigh	1	0	0
Mr. James Carew	1	1	0
Mr. Charles Hawtrey	2	2	0
Miss Ethel Irving	0	10	0
Mrs. Kendal	1	1	0
Miss Marie Löhr	1	1	0
Mr. Eric Lewis	1	0	0
Mr. Matheson Lang	1	1	0
Mr. Cyril Maude	2	2	0
Mr. Gerald du Maurier	2	2	0
Miss Julia Neilson	1	0	0
Mr. Alfred de Rothschild	5	5	0
Mr. Oswald Stoll	3	3	0
Mr. Edward Terry	1	1	0
Mr. Fred Terry	1	1	0
Miss Irene Vanbrugh	1	0	0

Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Arthur Collins, Mr. Cecil Raleigh, Miss Ruth Vincent, and Mrs. Henry Wood took tickets for a box or other seats.

The committee have much pleasure in acknowledging the kindness of Mr. Tree in lending the theatre for this concert, and also the courtesy of Mr. Frank Glenister, Mr. Walter Gibbons, and Mr. George Edwardes in giving permission for artists under their management to appear. They have also to acknowledge the kindness of the Variety Artists' Federation in giving permission for their members to appear, and in foregoing the 2½% levy usually required in such circumstances.

The committee also have much pleasure in acknowledging the assistance of the Raymond Bio-tableaux Co. (who have kindly supplied the apparatus and films for the exhibition of pictures), Mr. Thomas Warrington, Messrs. Partington and Co., Ltd., The Motor 'Bus Advertising Co., Ltd., Walter Hill, Ltd., Messrs. Chappell and Co., Ltd., Messrs. Goodwin and Tabb (for loan of band parts), and of the heads of departments and staff of His Majesty's Theatre who are giving their services.

The members of the concert committee were:—James Cullen (chairman), master carpenter, St. James's Theatre.
G. H. Dyball, stage manager, London Pavilion.
C. T. Cory, master carpenter, Vaudeville Theatre.
H. J. Powell, property master, Hicks Theatre.
Philip Sheridan, electrician, The Waldorf Theatre.
Wm. Barbour, electrician, St. James's Theatre.
A. Palmer, master carpenter, Comedy Theatre.
A. Jones, Royal Opera House.
Ed. Stow, Savoy Theatre.
J. Hunt, New Theatre.
G. Pickering, Stage Department, Duke of York's Theatre.
Charles Thorogood.
J. H. Radford, Comedy Theatre.
J. Reid, H. Lane, and A. Spaull.

The committee were assisted by the following, who acted as stewards, selling programmes:—Messrs. J. Atterton, H. Bowmer, J. Phelps, G. Palmer, R. Rogers, T. Swift, H. Porter, R. J. Carter, W. Beavington, P. Barry, H. Brooke, J. Sinkins, W. C. Weaver, J. Finnigan, G. T. Dalgarno, G. Dyer, C. Terry, E. Sturgess, and W. J Burge, all of whom worked enthusiastically for the good of the concert.

The following is a list of the ticket-sellers and the amounts sold by each:—

	£	s.	d.
J. Cullen (St. James's)	3	7	0
G. H. Dyball (London Pavilion)	11	15	0
W. Barbour (St. James's)	1	14	0
C. Thorogood	1	14	0
P. Sheridan (Waldorf)	1	4	0
H. J. Powell (Hicks)	5	4	0
E. Stow (Savoy)	1	15	6
G. Pickering (Duke of York's)	4	3	6
C. T. Cory (Vaudeville)	5	12	0
A. Jones (Covent Garden)	0	12	6
J. Hunt (New)	0	13	0
J. Atterton	1	12	0
H. Bowmer (Gaiety)	1	7	0
T. Honour (Wyndham's)	0	10	6
J. Phelps (Drury Lane)	0	15	0
D. Sheridan (Scala)	2	6	6
T. Swift (Alhambra)	2	16	6
W. Yates (Britannia)	0	18	0
P. Barry (Collins's)	1	9	0
G. Dyer (Drury Lane)	5	14	0
G. T. Dalgarno (Empire, Leicester-square)	6	2	0
R. Rogers (Holborn Empire)	0	17	6
A. Sturges (Grand, Clapham)	1	1	6
G. Palmer (Paragon)	0	11	0
C. Terry (Lyceum)	2	16	0
A. Hepden (Wyndham's)	0	15	0
W. Grant (Adelphi)	0	19	6
A. George (Lyceum)	0	14	0
G. P. Applebee (Gaiety)	2	19	0
A. E. Wood (Shaftesbury)	0	7	6
H. G. Brooke (Paragon)	1	2	6
W. C. Weaver (Shaftesbury)	3	11	6
H. J. Kemp (His Majesty's)	0	9	6
J. Sinkins (Waldorf)	0	13	6
H. Porter (Criterion)	0	17	6
E. Catlin (Surrey)	0	3	0
J. Haley (Alhambra)	0	15	0
	79	18	6
Sold by hon. sec. at office..	49 7 0		
Donations (less value of tickets supplied)	29 6 0		
Programmes sold	6 13 2		
	85	6	2
	165	4	8

It is expected that the balance available for the Benevolent Funds will be over £100, which result would exceed that of previous concerts.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

READERS of this column will be glad to know that the annual concert in aid of the Benevolent Funds for Stage Employees was an unqualified success. A full report appears in another column. It was no mean achievement to sell the whole of the tickets for His Majesty's Theatre before the day, and all those who helped in such a loyal and energetic way are to be congratulated on the result.

THE Concert Committee hope to be able to publish a statement of accounts next week, and those who have not paid in their ticket receipts are requested to do so as soon as possible.

THE Executive Committee of the N.A.T.E. are now arranging to organise the Sick, Funeral, and Share-Out Fund, in connection with which applications are being received every day. A circular will shortly be issued giving full particulars, and it is intended to call a meeting as soon as possible of those who have sent in applications to join. At most theatres and halls a large percentage of the entire staff back and front have agreed to join.

THE Cinematograph Operators' Committee representatives meet on Tuesday to examine the papers sent in by a number of members who are applying for certificates, and the result will be made known next week. There are also many applications for membership, which will be dealt with on that day. Mr. Catlin and Mr. Henry represented the Association at the trial of the new fire-extinguishing appliance tested at the Hippodrome last week.

THE Birmingham branch of the National Society of Theatrical Employees is making progress. A meeting was held last Sunday evening in the Crown Hotel, Broad-street, at which eighteen applications for membership were received. The speakers at the meeting were Mr. F. J. Lees, secretary to the local branch of the A.M.U., and Messrs. Berry and Hughes, of the Trades Council, and Mr. George, of the Tin Plate Workers Union. It was reported that a stage-manager of one of the local halls had threatened to dismiss any of his men who joined, but the manager of the house had repudiated such alleged intention on the part of his stage-manager.

THE General Staff Branch of the N.A.T.E. is making considerable additions to its membership. At the last meeting forty-five applications were dealt with. It was decided to recommend the members of the branch to join the proposed Share-out Fund, and those who subscribe to the Branch Sick or Funeral Fund will be guaranteed their benefits in those funds until they are in benefit of the new fund. Notice is also being given for the nomination of officers for the ensuing year, and for amendments of rules and by-laws at the annual general meeting. The committee will meet on Wednesday next.

THE first anniversary dinner of the staff of the King's Theatre, Hanley, took place on the stage there on Tuesday, when upwards of fifty sat down to an excellent repast. Mr. H. Kennedy, the manager, presided. The health of the proprietors was drank with acclamation and song; as also were toasts to "The Public Officials," "Local Managers," "Visitors," and "Staff Generally." Dancing was indulged in, and at the conclusion Auld Lang Syne was sung, followed by hearty cheers for the proprietors and promoters.

DAVIES gives the following illustration of Quin's acting:—"When Lothario gave Horatio the challenge, instead of accepting it instantly, with the determined and unembarrassed bow of superior bravery, Quin made a long pause, and dragged out the words, 'I'll meet thee there!' in such a manner as to make is appear absolutely ludicrous. He paused so long before he spoke, that somebody, it was said, called out to him from the gallery, 'Why don't you tell the gentleman whether you'll meet him or not?'"

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Comedy by Shakespeare, entitled

"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

Quite in the true Shakespearean spirit is Mr. Oscar Asche's production of the famous comedy *The Taming of the Shrew*. As played on Monday evening to a large and appreciative audience, the rollicking comedy proved most acceptable, and curtain calls were enthusiastic as well as numerous. In the Induction, in which Christopher Sly, the drunken tinker, is deluded into believing himself a noble lord, Mr. Oscar Asche as the tinker displayed his exceptional comedy powers. In the play which followed his efforts as Petruchio were greatly to the satisfaction of the audience, his ripe delivery of his lines being admirable, and proclaiming him as one of the foremost of our few Shakespearean actors. Miss Lily Brayton's Katharina was a magnificent impersonation, her shrewishness and uncurbed temper in the earlier acts, followed by the toning-down process which leads to her becoming the loving and obedient wife, being delightfully portrayed and receiving the warmest praise. Baptista was exceedingly well handled by Mr. Herbert Grimwood; and Mr. J. Fritz Russell made a capable Vincentio. Mr. G. Kay Souper rendered Lucentio in proper lover-like style; and Tranio was excellently played by Mr. Tripp Edgar. Gremio was capitally enacted by Mr. Caleb Porter; and Mr. R. Ian Penny cleverly depicted the light-hearted Hortensio. Mr. R. F. Anson was Biondello, his comical acting earning for him rounds of applause. Grumio was ably undertaken by Mr. Henry Kitts; Mr. Arthur Trantom was good as a pedant; Miss Muriel Ashwynne was a delightful Bianca, and Miss Constance Robertson was a successful Curtis. The scenery, costumes, and appointments were alike perfect, and in no small degree contributed to the complete enjoyment of the evening's entertainment. *Othello* was announced for several representations during the week, with Mr. Oscar Asche as the Moor and Miss Lily Brayton as Desdemona. The orchestra at this theatre is now under the direction of Mr. Horace Middleton, whose selections indicate that great care is exercised in the choice of the music to be performed.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Musical Play, entitled

"THE GAY GORDONS."

Large audiences have welcomed at Holloway, Mr. Seymour Hicks' company, in comical situations, attractive dancing, and capital singing, which all serve to make *The Gay Gordons* a most enjoyable and mirth-provoking entertainment. The part of Angus Græme is admirably sustained by Mr. Stanley Brett, whose drollery meets with plenty of appreciation. His numbers are capitally sung, "Now that my ship's come home" and "Be careful" evoking repeated encores. A very diverting performance is contributed by Mr. Edward Lewis, who gives a most humorous impersonation of the old showman, Nervy Natt. In Act 2 he has the stage to himself for about fifteen minutes, and the house is in one continual roar the whole time. He has one particularly funny song, "If the missus says its black, its black." Mr. Wilfred Norman very cleverly makes the most of his opportunities as Edmund Siddons; and Mr. Ernest Torrence gives an excellent representation of the American millionaire, Andrew Quainton. Miss Zena Dare, the possessor of a very pleasing voice, makes a fascinating Peggie Quainton. She plays the part throughout in a most attractive style, and her songs, notably "See-saw," "Humpty and Dumpty," "You, you, you," and "Everybody loves me up in London," are encored again and again. Miss Madge Vincent as Victoria Siddons is to be commended for her vivacity and versatility. She has a good song in "'Liza, from Saffron-hill," which is warmly encored. A special word of praise is due to Miss Connie St. Clair, who as Mary McLeod does excellent service. Roars of laughter are caused by Miss Nellie Dade as Charlotte Siddons, wife of the old showman, her portrayal of the part being worthy of the highest praise. Miss Eugenie Vernie makes a bright and interesting Janet McLeod; and Miss Ada Fraser is admirably suited to the part of Lady Millicent Græme. Mr. J. Sims Woolley is loudly applauded for his eccentric Scotch dance, in the character of Jack McPhrisky, in the first act; and another successful item is an echo duet, "I love you," contributed by a lady and gentleman of the chorus, which wins a well-deserved encore. The stage-management is admirably conducted by Mr. Mervyn Dene, with the valuable assistance of Mr. Edward Leith, and Mr. Arthur Spittle, the musical-director, conducts the performance with much pains and skill.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Comedy entitled

"BREWSTER'S MILLIONS."

Mr. Percy Hutchison and his clever company are at the Coronet this week in *Brewster's Millions*. The famous scene aboard ship on the steam yacht "Flitter" is reproduced exactly as seen at the Hicks Theatre a short while ago. The cloud effects, as invented by Mr. Joseph Menchen, of New York, are very fine and realistic in the extreme, and the electrical effects by Digby's also lend considerably to the realism of the scene. This is a piece which excites the active interest of the beholders from start to finish, and many successive audiences will doubtless assist at the squandering of Monty's millions with amazement, anxiety, and awestruck amusement. Mr. Percy Hutchison is admirable as the intrepid and resourceful hero of this "wonderful will" story, Monty Brewster. He runs through the gamut of the emotions—delight, despair, cheerfulness, chagrin, confidence, and consternation are all splendidly portrayed in tense and natural fashion, and he carries the action of the play along at break-neck speed, so that the interest never for a moment flags. It would be difficult to better his performance. Before his dazzling meteoric display of histrionics the others "pale their ineffectual fire" somewhat, yet there are some excellent performances given. Miss Cicely Stuckey is charmingly winsome, gentle, and attractive as the simple, loyal, and lovable Peggy Gray. Miss Lilias Earle is good as Mrs. Dan de Mille, and the same may be said of Miss Sybil Walsh as Trixie Clayton, whilst Miss Frances Davie contributes a clever character sketch as the "manly" believer in platonism, Janice Armstrong, and Miss Eva Stuart looks pretty as Barbara Drew; Mr. Cyril Rawdon is capital as Charlie Harrison, Mr. Robert Forsyth as Grant, Mr. A. Andrews as Col. Drew, whilst the Archie Golding of Mr. Henry Hampson and the Joseph McLeod of Mr. Aubrey Mather stand out in bold relief; Mr. Charles Esdale also does good work as Frank Bragdon, and Mr. Douglas Greet is amusing as the opera composer and discoverer of hidden talent, Tommy Smith; Mr. Frank Hill scores as the butler, Rawles, and Mr. A. P. Kay, who stage-manages, is diverting as the fussy Frenchman, M. Bargie. Other small parts are satisfactorily rendered. Mr. J. E. Watson is general-manager and Mr. Geo. Clarkson business-manager.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Drama, entitled

"THE SILVER KING."

The Silver King, the attraction this week at the Dalston Theatre, proves as engrossing as ever. Mr. Fred D. Daviss as Wilfred Denver imparts to the character just that amount of intense vitality which is necessary. Miss Edith Goodall is Nellie Denver, the ever-trusting wife of the much-persecuted Wilfred, and that she has the audience fully in sympathy with her from start to finish is proved at every call before the curtain. Miss Flossie Hale Daviss is also a great favourite as Cissie; and Mr. Edward J. George makes an ideal Daniel Jaikes. The Captain Herbert Skinner (the "Spider") of Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp is a careful study of gentlemanly villainy; and his confederates, Henry Corket (Mr. George Belmore), Elijah Coombe (Mr. Arthur Wright), and Cripps (Mr. Fred May) can be described as excellent character sketches. Mr. Arthur H. Rooke as Geoffrey Ware enacts the brief part satisfactorily. The Samuel Baxter of Mr. E. Stidwell is a cool and well-thought-out bit of work. Mr. Percy Store is quaint as Mr. Parkyn; and Messrs. Bingham and Hatchway add to the humour as a couple of village worthies. The light comedy of the piece is supplied by Mr. J. Randall as Gaffer Pottle, Mr. L. Sisley as a tipsy railway passenger, Miss Lucy Cato as a lady passenger, Mr. C. Grant as a railway inspector, Miss Mabel Gardener as Mrs. Gamage, Miss Margaret Rooke as waitress at The Chequers, and Miss Louie Hale as Tabitha Durden. Miss Kathleen Maude makes the character of Olive Skinner interesting.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Musical Comedy, entitled

"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."

Particular powers of attraction are possessed by *The Catch of the Season*, with the prolonged success of which, in London, Mr. Seymour Hicks and Miss Ellaline Terriss were so long associated, and the well-managed and admirably-appointed house on Lavender Hill has been extensively patronised this week by lovers of a merry and tuneful piece. There is no lack of up-to-date allusions, and many a laugh is aroused by reference to topical events. The company engaged is that of Mr. Dudley Bennett and Mr. T. G. Wray, and the members enter thoroughly into the humours of the comedy, while an efficient chorus render the various concerted numbers melodiously. For that most volatile of aristocratic youths, the Duke of St. Jermyns, Mr. William Greene is responsible. Mr. Greene has a taking appearance, is full of animation, and has a sense of humour that enables him to give effect to every line and characteristic of the part, out of which he extracts all possible worth. His energy is limitless, as is proved in the song, "The Church Parade," in which he is assisted by the chorus of charming ladies. A winsome Angela is found in Miss Gladys Guy, whose youth and good looks render her admirably suited to the part. She is a graceful dancer, and has a voice capable of expressive modulation. She sings remarkably well, and "I'll be a good little girl" and "Molly O'Halloran" gain especial favour. Her duet with Mr. Greene, "I don't know," is also charmingly rendered, and both artists share in the enthusiastic recall. Mr. H. C. Barry's Isaac Isaacstein is the cause of continuous mirth. Mr. Barry's drolleries have more of the Cockney than the Yiddisher touch, but they always score. The page Bucket is taken to the hearts of all, so amusing is he rendered by Master Ernest Grata, who adopts a peculiarly quaint style. His singing of "Our little 'ome" is the cause of much delight and many encores. An eccentric view of the character of Mr. William Gibson is taken by Mr. Geoffrey Berwick, whose odd antics and grotesque dancing are much appreciated. Mr. Franklin Miles is a dignified and often pathetic exponent of the henpecked Sir John Crystal, whose wife has an irrepressibly imperious representative in Miss Alice Hamilton. The two daughters are invested with suitable hauteur by Miss Kate Robertson and Miss Barry Eldon, the latter obtaining a well-merited encore for her singing of "Cigarette." A great favourite of the cast is Miss Grace Hampton, who makes of Lady Caterham just the lovable, womanly personage required, and Miss Claire De Vere succeeds in presenting the Duchess of St. Jermyns in the most favourable light. The comedy is elaborately mounted and tastefully dressed, some of the costumes being exquisite. Mr. H. Percival Young, the resident acting-manager has had to welcome large audiences, who have been highly delighted.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Play entitled,

"PETER'S MOTHER."

Mrs. Henry de la Pasture's clever dramatisation of her charming book was most excellently rendered by the Hutchison's capable company this week, and one could not desire a better cast. Mr. Townsend Whitling's conception of Sir Timothy Crewys was in the best spirit, the testy yet kindly sufferer being brought before us most effectively. Miss Violet Ley as Peter's mother, Lady Mary Crewys, well represented the warm affectionate nature of the woman, whose son is her all in all. She played delightfully, and her appearance made it very easy to realise her attractiveness for the Q.C., John Crewys. That part was powerfully and tellingly acted by Mr. Eille Norwood. In his scene with Peter in the third act Mr. Norwood was at his best, not a word of his lengthy speech being lost and not a point missed. As Peter, Mr. Vivian Gilbert looked surprisingly boyish, although from his handling of the somewhat difficult part it was evident that no experience was lacking. He was especially good in the scenes with his mother and fiancée. Miss Mary Griffiths as Lady Belstone, the relict of a long-departed Admiral, was genuinely funny without effort, and her encounters with her maiden sister Geraldine, as carefully played by Miss Josephine Rae, who in her make-up did not spare herself, were most welcome as the very best form of the necessary "comic relief." Mr. Walter Russell gave a refined and natural portrayal of the old Canon Birch, being quite the real thing in voice, manner, and appearance, and Miss Ada Rainey as Mrs. Hewell was agreeably unaffected. With Miss Hilda Sims as Sarah Hewell, Peter's fiancée, the genuineness of the love interest was secured, and her rendition was enhanced by her clear delivery and charm of manner. Some incidental and introductory music by Mr. Eille Norwood gave an additional interest to a pleasing production.

KENNINGTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Comic Opera, Music by Edward German, entitled

"TOM JONES."

The love-story of Tom Jones and Sophia Western, as treated by the joint pens of Mr. A. M. Thompson and Mr. Robert Courtneidge, set to the tuneful melody which the genius of Edward German has composed, makes a fascinating comic opera, and one which has not lacked appreciative auditors at Kennington Theatre this week. If there is one blemish, it is of undue length, and one or two of the third-act situations might be compressed; but, notwithstanding this slight defect, the piece is of all-round excellence, and full justice is accorded it by Mr. Courtneidge. The company is of the first water, containing stars of accepted brilliance, and a strong and well-trained chorus, who treat the concerted numbers with splendid effect. The vocalisation throughout the night is of high quality, and reminds one of the palmy days of light opera. The staging and dressing leave nothing to be desired, and quite a gay and picturesque scene is presented in Ranelagh Gardens, in the third act, with its eighteenth-century pageantry. Miss Florence Smithson makes a huge success as Sophia Western, presenting the figure of a dainty, trustful, and lovable girl to the life. Not only is she a charming actress, but her wonderful voice finds ample scope in several solo numbers, and on Monday she was rapturously encored after each magical vocal effort. Mr. Harry Welchman fills the title-rôle in quite ideal fashion, making the beau ideal of a chivalrous, reckless, but withal honest, lover. His Tom Jones is quite the right conception to catch the fancy of a romantic girl, and, in addition, he sings finely. Of course, the comedy side of the piece is adequately catered for in the hands of that lively and versatile comedian, Mr. Dan Rolyat, to whom is allotted the part of Partridge, the village barber. Mr. Rolyat is quite at his best, which is saying a lot, and whenever he was about on Monday the house was convulsed with merriment at his quaint eccentricities. He is ably supported by Mr. J. T. Macmillan, Mr. Walter Rignold, and Mr. Lionel Braham, the three grotesque servants of Squire Western. Mr. Ambrose Manning furnishes a clever sketch of the part of the Squire, accentuating his extravagance of manner with great fidelity. Mr. Deane Percival has a thankless rôle as Blifil, but he fills it well; and the Squire's friends are ably impersonated by Messrs. J. Edwardes, A. W. Frougerond, and W. W. Biddlecombe. Miss Alice Oppitz displays histrionic talent of the best kind as Lady Bellaston, giving a spirited interpretation of the character; while Miss Isabel Dillon is a bright and lively Honour. Miss Cecilia Wellman is equally happy as the landlady of the village inn.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Drama, entitled

"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."

A capital booking, and one entirely to the liking of well-filled houses, is *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*, as presented by Hardie and Von Leer's company at this popular South London playhouse. The drama goes with a swing from start to finish, the witty sallies of the Lancashire characters being much appreciated. Mr. Chris. Mason distinguishes himself as Sam Hallett, a regular Lancashire lad, who at once leaps into favour on account of his breezy North Country dialect and homely manner. The short shrift he gives the brutal Jim Price is vigorously applauded. Mr. Herbert Pearson enacts the part of John Edmunds, the inventor, who nearly goes to the gallows for the sake of his starving wife and child. Mr. E. Kayson-Cousens is the good-natured clergyman, Frank Selby. Mr. Fred Morgan is the outwardly calm and calculating villain, Jonas Deane, and if hisses go for anything he would fare very badly at the hands of the virtuous gods. Mr. Jack Miller makes a truly repulsive Jim Price, and Mr. W. Watersley, as his companion in crime, Natty Grabbitt, looks the loafer to the life. In the parts of the Lancashire Lasses, Miss Alice Defoe makes a truly pathetic figure as the younger sister, Nellie, and Miss Rosslyn Vayne is to be commended for her rendering of Constance, the elder sister. As Bessie Edmunds Miss Marguerite Trevosper evokes much sympathy. Miss E. Shaw scores greatly as the jolly Jane Adelaide.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Play, entitled

"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

Under the direction of Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard, the talented and experienced members who form the cast in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* are meeting with a hearty welcome this week at the Royal, where there is nightly gathered an interested crowd, who bestow keen attention on the unfolding of the plot of this well-mounted and gaily-dressed play. Judging by the applause which is so enthusiastically meted out from time to time, the play is a complete success. The unsympathetic part of Prince Hildred is very capably undertaken by Mr. Alfred Brandon, who portrays the necessary brutality in a fitting manner. Mr. Melville Bickford as Prince Michael offers a very effective study, and shows to great advantage. Mr. Ernest Cox as the hero, Prince Olaf, infuses dramatic effect into the character, and delivers his lines with excellent judgment, and is successful. Mr. W. S. Mills scores highly as Captain Hector, and acts in a spirited and manly fashion. Mr. Kenneth Black is well placed as the Bishop of Illyria. Mr. H. Burton as Nathan is deserving of praise. Mr. Reginald Payne imparts much humour to the character of Lieut. Karl Stromberg. Miss Ethel Bracewell gives a clever impersonation of the part of Princess Monica, infusing much daintiness and charm. Miss Gertrude Branscombe renders the part of Camiola, a beggar maid, with delicacy and feeling; while Miss Jessica Black makes a pretty and lively Viola.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Drama entitled

"ALONE IN LONDON."

The highly popular drama of *Alone in London*, written by Robert Buchanan and Harriet Jay, is attracting considerable attention at the above theatre and drawing well-filled houses. The numerous members of a talented company, under the generalship of Mr. J. F. Elliston, render their parts in a very efficient manner. The mounting is also worthy of note. Mr. W. S. Hartford is well suited to the character of John Biddlecombe, the slow-and-sure miller, which he assumes in a natural fashion; Miss Theresa Osborne essays the exacting rôle of Annie Meadows very skilfully. As the adventurer and villain, Richard Redcliffe, Mr. Percy Rhodes distinguishes himself; Mr. Frank Sutherland is amusing as Spriggins; Miss Mary Stafford Smith supplies a clever study of Gipsy Tom, and receives a flattering reception; Mr. Percy Bell does ample justice to the part of Jenkinson; Mr. Harry McCleland as the benevolent and rich banker Mr. Burnaby acts with sincerity and conviction; Mr. Blundell Fenton is judiciously placed as Walter Burnaby; Mrs. Nellie Lauraine offers a capital delineation of Mrs. Maloney, an Irishwoman, and achieves distinction; Miss Rose Grey makes a dainty Ruth Clifton; Miss Gertie Douglas contributes a lively impersonation of Liz Jenkinson; Little Paul has a suitable representative in Miss Elsie Clarke. The remaining members of the cast show a due sense of their responsibilities.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Drama, entitled

"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."

This popular drama is drawing well at the above house, and it is an undoubted fact that it is Mr. Frank Bertram's delineation of the various characters—Weary Willie, Michael Grahame, Convict 89, and A Mystery—that is proving the chief attraction of the play. Mr. Bertram is to be highly commended upon the skilful manner in which he interprets these various characters. Mr. William Burgess does well as Frederick Neville; Mr. Escott Robson gives an entirely satisfactory performance in the orthodox style as the villain, Jasper Thorne; Mr. Walter Graham plays earnestly as Harold Trevalyan; the heroine Edith is interestingly and sympathetically acted by Miss Lillian Dean; Miss Nellie Waddington does good work as Marion Thorne; Mr. H. Loye-Staples as Inspector Harper, the Superintendent of Blackmoor Gaol, shows much ability; very amusing is Mr. Willie Black at Patrick O'Laragan, and as his sweetheart, Betty Hyne, Miss Amy Randolph helps considerably in the laughter-making. The play is satisfactorily staged.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Drama, by Joseph Le Brandt, entitled

"ON THE STROKE OF TWELVE."

The play submitted this week is attracting large audiences. The principal character is admirably represented by Mr. Harry Tresham, who plays in a happy-go-lucky manner the unfortunate Jack Routledge. His companion in misfortune is agreeably performed by Mr. Herbert Young, who gives a good impersonation of George Bainbridge. The rôle of Jack's father, Henry Routledge, is undertaken in a capable manner by Mr. Conrad E. Clarke; the schemer, who is responsible for the misfortunes of the friends, is undertaken in a masterly manner by Mr. H. Ryeland Leigh, and his representation of James Horton is very fine; Mr. H. G. Brandon is responsible for some very amusing moments as the representative of Moses Levi, a character which suits the actor; Mr. D. J. Hennessy is seen in a small, but important, character, Van Dyke, and is brought prominently to the front by his forcible acting; and Mr. C. Alan Hineson as Pat O'Flynn causes hearty laughter by his impersonation of the Irish servant, but his talents are wasted in such a small part. Miss Lalla Stanhope as Doris Routledge acts in her usual charming and graceful manner the character of the sorely-tried heroine; Miss Florence Barnes is also to be congratulated for her admirable impersonation of the equally unfortunate Jess Rainbridge. Miss Ethelyle Gordon Murray is, of course, excellent in her interpretation of Marie Bergerre, the villain's accomplice. The drama is well mounted and staged, and the orchestra renders some tuneful selections during the evening under the capable bâton of Mr. T. W. Hatley. The Barrascope concludes an excellent entertainment with some good pictures, including a very amusing film entitled Wanted, a Son-in-law on Trial, which causes hearty laughter. The courteous manager, Mr. Fred A. Fowler, is kept busy attending to the wants of his numerous patrons. The attraction next week is an original play from the pen of Mr. H. G. Brandon, the stage-manager and producer.

THE CROWN, PECKHAM.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Play, entitled

"THE CHRISTIAN."

Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here this week, with the new version from the Lyceum Theatre, of Mr. Hall Caine's popular play, *The Christian*. The talented company is receiving a due meed of welcome and praise from good audiences. Mr. Roy Redgrave makes a stalwart and powerful John Storm, and his finely limned portrait of the earnest young cleric quite captivates the house. Miss Daisy Scudamore plays admirably the rôle of the wayward Glory Quayle, and looks very charming in the part; Mr. Wilfred Noy is excellent as the young aristocrat, Horatio Drake, and well indicates the latent good in the character. Mr. Herbert Hewitson as the profligate Lord Robert Ure supplies a powerful character sketch; and Mr. Fewless Llewellyn is a dignified Father Lamplugh. Mr. John Hooker as good as the worldly Archdeacon Wealthy. Miss Cora Deane is pathetic as the poor outcast, Polly Love; and Miss Molly Haydon is admirable as the outspoken Mrs. Callender. Miss Florence Hunt contributes an able character sketch as the repentant demi-mondaine, Black Meg. Miss Harriet Russell does well as Mother Kent; and Mr. Thomas Barry is good as Rosenberg. Mr. Bruce Lindley is an effective Parson Quayle; and Miss Kitty Symons is a sympathetic Lady Robert Ure. The scenery and effects are beyond reproach. Mr. Jack Parson is the business-manager for the company.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Drama entitled

"TWO LITTLE SAILOR BOYS."

For the third week in succession the prolific Mr. Walter Howard is providing the current week's attraction with his stirring naval drama. The play is produced by the excellent company Mr. W. H. Hallatt, who has so long toured it, has gathered round him, and the pictures of Plymouth, with stirring episodes, arouse enthusiasm from local patrons of the drama. Miss Blanche Steel, as usual, gives an altogether admirable performance of the wicked Lola Grey. Miss Effie Crawford plays very naturally the part of Cyril Grey and Miss Ivy Millais is likewise perfect as Tom Yorke, the two little sailor boys. Admiral Grey is well sustained by Mr. C. W. Spencer; the villain of the piece (Lieut. Redstone) is strikingly portrayed by Mr. Horace Booth; Mr. H. E. Herbert gives a commendable impersonation of Commander Tregarthen; Mr. H. M. Clifford is a good Captain Tom Yorke; Jack Jolly is capitally enacted by Mr. Sidney Fiennes; and plenty of fun is provided by Mr. Tom Sinclair as Ben Baxter and Miss Lizzie Chambers as Lucy Wilson. Mildred Grey found a dainty exponent in Miss Muriel Dean. The play is nicely staged and mounted.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Comedy entitled

"THE ELDER MISS BLOSSOM."

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal were greeted with enthusiasm on their appearance here on Monday evening in the charming comedy *The Elder Miss Blossom*. Mrs. Kendal is seen at her very best—and how good that best is we all know—as Dorothy Blossom. Mr. Kendal is as thoroughly artistic and finished as ever in the part of Andrew Quick. Mrs. A. B. Tapping repeats her clever performance of Cooper; Miss F. Noble is very good as Mrs. Wells, and Miss Jessica Thorne is an attractive Sophia Blossom; Mr. W. M. Rutherford is excellent as Christopher Blossom; Mr. Bassett Roe plays with his usual success as Major Twentyman; Mr. T. Holding is good as Arthur Leacroft; Mr. R. Burnett gives a characteristic portrait of Tyrel Jones; Withers and Wells are capitally represented by Mr. Metcalfe Wood and Mr. F. C. Pool respectively. *The Elder Miss Blossom* was billed for repetition Wednesday and Friday, while for Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday *The Whirlpool* was the attraction, with Mrs. Kendal as Miss Constance Livingstone and Mr. Kendal as Elijah D. Tillottson.

FULHAM THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Play in Four Acts, by E. M. Royle, entitled,

"A WHITE MAN."

The recent Lyric success, *A White Man*, is now at Fulham, and Mr. Sleath's first-rate company is drawing good houses. The players are all quite at home in their parts, some of which are of a type not often seen on the stage, even in these cosmopolitan days. Not the least attractive feature of the performance is the splendid energy with which the characters from the wild and woolly West are represented. Mr. Frank Petley is very good in the title-rôle, Jim Carston, and makes a fine manly figure as the rancher; and, where it is required, he shows command of excellent pathos. Mr. Lewis Broughton does well in the sympathetic part of Lord Kerhill, and Mr. H. Wilmott Jackson gives a good study of Sir John Applegate. Mr. W. Dempsey plays effectively as the solicitor Petrie, and Mr. Louis Ashmeade shows good sense of humour as the Dean of Trentham. Passing now to the Transatlantic characters, there is Mr. Henry Hare with a delightful rendering of the foreman, Big Bill, with whom everyone ought to be in love by the end of the play. Mr. Thomas Swem as Shorty, Mr. Martin Henry as Andy, and Mr. T. W. H. Saree as Grouchy, Jim Carston's "cow-punchers," are responsible for three good studies of character, each excellent of its kind, and showing three well-differentiated types of character. Mr. J. T. Earle, as the obnoxious Cash Hawkins, acts with splendid force. It is a curious character, and Mr. Earle makes it live. The same compliment may be paid to Mr. A. C. Hardie, as the Sheriff, and to Mr. T. Floyd as Nick, the bar-tender. The Indian chief of Mr. Eric Hudson is a fine piece of work, and quite out of the common run; while Mr. F. Thornton also displayed skill in dealing most eloquently with an unintelligible tongue. The small parts of Mr. and Mrs. Doolittle are efficiently taken by Mr. Robert Hamilton and Miss Kathleen Mervyne. The rôle of Little Hal was well filled by little Miss Rosina White. Miss Gertrude Price shows much dramatic power as the Dowager Lady Kerhill, and Miss Eleanor May acts with great sincerity and charm as Diana Countess of Kerhill. The exacting part of Nat-u-ritch, Carston's Indian wife, is admirably played by Miss Margaret Fairleigh, who may be congratulated on a clever piece of work. The play is well staged, and the briskness of the action and its smooth running reflect credit on the stage-manager, Mr. Martin Henry.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Present: Mr. Frederick Morland (in the chair), Messrs. Jackson Wilcox, Clarence Derwent, Franklyn Walford, and Clive Currie, Miss Rose Mathews, and Mr. Hubert Blount, secretary.

The chairman read a letter from Mr. J. Sebastian Smith informing the Council that he would be unable to take charge of the rooms any more on Thursday evenings. The secretary was instructed to thank Mr. Smith for having done so during the past eight weeks, and also to put up a notice that at present the rooms would be closed on Thursday evenings at seven o'clock. In the meantime he was instructed to find a member of the Council who would undertake to take charge of them.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

The chairman read a letter from Miss Lucy Sibley enclosing the finance report, which was read and accepted.

The chairman read a letter from Miss Lind enclosing a statement of the dance, from which it appears that a profit of £7 1s. was made. The secretary was instructed to post a statement in the Association's rooms. The Council passed a sincere vote of thanks to Miss Lind for all she had done in connection with the dance, which not only proved to be a very pleasant and enjoyable evening for all concerned, but also a financial success. The Council instructed the chairman to write a letter of thanks to Miss Lind, as well as to Miss Pereira, Miss Leycester, Miss Barton, Miss Lydia Busch, and Miss Georgina Hamilton.

The hon. solicitor reported that he had seen a member, and advised him.

Mr. Manville Morton was elected a member. The following members announced their intention to resign from the Association at the end of the current year:—Louis Mercanton, Mary Ainslie, and Lawrence Derrick.

The secretary reported four engagements with the following managers:—Frank Lascells, T. W. Scott, Herbert Bird, and Cyril Harcourt.

The secretary placed before the Council the revised bye-laws for the new Year Book, and the Council decided that the books should remain as at present, but gave the secretary authority to insert any bye-law which he thought necessary.

The chairman instructed the secretary to write, on behalf of the Council, a letter of condolence to Mrs. Cory Thomas.

A letter was read from Mr. Gilbert Esmond with regard to a wooden box being placed round the telephone in the office, and the secretary was instructed to reply to the effect that the matter would be considered.

The following gentlemen were appointed medical officers of the association:—Mr. H. Dalby, The Rosary, St. Mary Church, Torquay; and Dr. Flamant, 30, Spencer-street, Carlisle.

ACTORS' UNION.

Mr. H. Tripp Edgar presided at an extraordinary general meeting of the Actors' Union held at Hummums' Hotel on Tuesday afternoon, for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following proposition:—"Resolved that the present form of annual subscription be altered from 6d. a week for forty weeks, to 1s. 8d. a month, or 15s. per annum, payable in advance. To be in benefit the monthly subscription must be paid by the 7th of each month, and the yearly subscription by Jan. 21 in each year."

The Chairman, in opening the proceedings, said that they were met for the specific purpose of rescinding the old method of payment of the subscription and of bringing about a new method. Hitherto the members had paid sixpence a week for forty weeks, but the financial committee, who had given great consideration to the subject, had recommended the placing before an extraordinary general meeting of a proposition on the lines of that submitted. He (the Chairman) thought that the adoption of the new method would immensely simplify matters in connection with the collection of subscriptions and their relation to the amount of office work. The new arrangement would have the further advantage of bringing members into closer touch with the central officials.

The resolution was then formally proposed by Mr. Braithwaite, and seconded by Mr. Rignold.

Mr. Arthur admitted that the sixpence a week method of payment of subscription had been a failure, but he moved an amendment to the effect that the payment be four shillings and sixpence per quarter, or fifteen shillings per annum if paid in advance. This was seconded by Mr. Frank Gerald.

On the amendment being put to the vote of the meeting, it was found that thirteen declared in favour of it, while twenty voted for the resolution, which was, therefore, declared carried.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union was called for Thursday, the 26th ult., but owing to so many of the members of the committee having matinées on that day, no quorum was obtained. The following were present:—Messrs. Edwin J. Collins, Gerald Mirrielees, Cecil G. Calvert, and F. Rawson Buckley. The meeting was therefore adjourned until the following day, when the following were present:—Messrs. H. Tripp-Edgar (chairman), Edward Y. Rae, Cecil G. Calvert, Gerald Mirrielees, Doré Lewin-Mannering, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary).

The resolution to be placed before the general meeting on the 1st inst. was drawn up.

The secretary was instructed to inform the secretary of the Actors' Orphanage Fund that the committee would be pleased to place a collecting card of that body in the A.U. office.

The resignation of a member was accepted with regret. Three new members were elected.

It was decided that the third A.U. dinner be held at Hummums' Hotel on Sunday, Dec. 13.

All the arrangements for the A.U. dinner are now complete, and members wishing to be present are requested to apply for their tickets on or before Tuesday next, Dec. 8. As only a limited number can be accommodated, application for tickets will be dealt with strictly in the order in which they are received. The tickets are 3s. each, and evening dress is optional.

THE WEST LONDON THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Drama entitled

"THE DANGERS OF LONDON."

The several fine situations in this powerful play appealed very strongly to the dramatic instincts of Mr. William Bailey's patrons, and at times they were very lavish with their applause—and rightly so. As Frank Forrest, Mr. Henry L. Osmond has a part quite to his liking. This energetic actor never lets an opportunity slip, but invariably emphasises the various points at the right moment. Mr. John C. Carlyle presented a clever character study of the ne'er-do-well Percy Weir, and proved himself an actor of all-round ability and resource; Mr. Charles Tolcher made the most of his opportunities as Shadrach Brander, his efforts being well backed up by Mr. Harry Cooke as his son Nimrod; Mr. Cuthbert Taylor delineated Dick Royal in a painstaking way, and Mr. H. Elmore Frith enacted Walter Forrest in distinctly easy fashion. Although suffering from the disadvantages of a nasty cold, Miss Winifred Chalmers sustained the important rôle of Gertrude Weir with plucky determination and skill; Miss Mabel Tremere was entirely satisfactory as Margaret Cloud; Miss Lillian Burns made many friends by her realistic portrayal of the unfortunate Mary Stanhope; and Miss Jeannie Thomas was full of life and go as Letty Brander, her performance being crisp and sparkling.

NEW THEATRE.

On Friday afternoon, the 27th ult., Mrs. Patrick Campbell inaugurated a series of matinées at the New Theatre, which was continued during the present week. On the programme were two pieces, the first of which was

"DEIRDRE,"

A Legendary Verse Play, in One Act,
By W. B. Yeats.

First Musician ..... MISS SARA ALLGOOD
Second Musician ..... MISS OLGA WARD
Third Musician ..... MISS VIOLET LUDDINGTON
Fergus ..... MR. H. R. HIGNETT
Deirdre ..... MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL
Naisi ..... MR. CLAUDE KING
A Messenger ..... MR. DENNIS CLEUGH
Conchubar ..... MR. ARTHUR HOLMES-GORE

There are some fine poetic lines in Mr. Yeats' play, but its dramatic qualities are weak. Cut down to about half its present length, and the dialogue made more pointed, a great improvement would be effected. The piece is founded on a famous Irish legend. Deirdre was the Irish Helen and Naisi her Paris, and Conchubar her Menelaus. Conchubar was High King of Ulster, and Naisi king of a district, and the scene of the play is laid in Conchubar's guest house. King Conchubar kept Deirdre shut away from the sight of men, in a mountainous place, during her early girlhood so that none might see her or covet her beauty. The youthful King Naisi, son of Usnach, saw her, loved her, and carried her away. They wandered in distant lands for seven years, enduring perils and many hardships, until Conchubar, pretending to forgive them, sent an old friend, Fergus, to bring them home. The play opens at the moment of their return. Fergus arrives at the guest house, and begs the musicians to sing a song of welcome as Naisi and Deirdre approach. One of the musicians, however, tells Fergus of Conchubar's preparations to receive a bride. He silences her. Deirdre is uneasy at finding no welcome. The musician tells her that a bride is expected. She believes her and begs Naisi to escape. It is too late! Naisi tells her to sit down and play a game of chess and calmly await the end. Conchubar comes to the door to spy upon them. Naisi rushes out to kill him, but falls into a net which has been spread upon a dark leaf-covered path a little way from the guest house. Whilst Deirdre pleads with Conchubar in vain, Naisi is led behind the curtain and there put to death. When Deirdre finds that Naisi is dead, she says she will be Conchubar's queen if she can lay out Naisi's body as a good wife should. Conchubar gives her leave. She goes behind the curtain, and when Fergus returns and surrounds the house with countrymen with scythes and sickles, she is found dead by the body of her husband.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell acted with distinction in the rôle of Deirdre. She brought out with wonderful intensity of speech, expression, and movement all the tragedy of Deirdre's soul as she learns of the fate of her husband. Mr. Claude King was a fine figure of a man as Naisi, and his representation of the part was in all aspects praiseworthy. To Miss Sara Allgood commendation is due for the beautiful delivery of her lines and her solos as the First Musician, and the Misses Olga Ward and Violet Luddington rendered able assistance as the Second and Third Musician respectively. Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore furnished an admirable portraiture of the stern, unyielding King, and Mr. H. R. Hignett was dignified and picturesque as old Fergus.

The second item was

"ELECTRA,"

A One Act Original Tragedy, founded on the Old Greek Story, by Hugo von Hofmannsthal, translated into English by Arthur Symons.

Clytemnestra ..... MISS FLORENCE FARR
Electra ..... MRS. PATRICK CAMPBELL
Chrysothemis ..... MISS SARA ALLGOOD
Ægisthus ..... MR. ARTHUR HOLMES-GORE
Orestes ..... MR. VERNON STEEL
Foster-father of Orestes .... MR. H. R. HIGNETT
The Waiting Woman ..... MISS OLGA WARD
The Train-bearer ..... MISS ETHEL MORISON
A Young Serving-man
MR. ALAN PATRICK CAMPBELL
An Old Serving-man ..... MR. EDGAR KENT
The Cook ..... MR. H. WILLIS
The Overseer ..... MISS FLORENCE WELLS
First Serving-woman .... MISS MARGARET LENNOX
Second Serving-woman MISS VIOLET LUDDINGTON
Third Serving-woman ..... MISS VALERIE SALBERG
Fourth Serving-woman .... MISS RENEE DE VAUX
Fifth Serving-woman
MISS STELLA PATRICK CAMPBELL

If *Deirdre*, with its many dirge-like passages, brought on a fit of "the blues," then Mr. Symons's translation of Hugo von Hofmannsthal's modern study of the old Greek legend used by Æschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides was even more depressing. In point of fact, the *Electra* has not gained by being modernised. In Herr Hoffmannsthal's version we do not get the inherent beauty and the exalted morality which characterised the writings of the old Greek dramatists, but, at any rate, it can be said that a very good attempt has been made to adapt ancient mythology to the purposes of the present-day stage. The scene, which is laid in the inner court of Clytemnestra's palace, shows Electra soliquising. She is haunted by the memory of her dead father, and she lives only for the moment when her brother, Orestes, will return to avenge their father's death by slaying their mother and her lover, Ægisthus. Chrysothemis, her sister, who does not share her anguish, enters and begs her to flee from the house, telling her that their mother, Clytemnestra, has been dreaming of Orestes, and crying out in her sleep as "one cries out being strangled." Then follows a scene between Clytemnestra and Electra, Clytemnestra seeking aid from Electra, whom she believes knows of magic rites that can drive away bad dreams. Electra finally turns upon her mother, telling her that when Orestes returns and the right blood is spilt, "then you shall dream no more." Suddenly the slaves enter and whisper in the ear of the Queen that Orestes is dead, and that strangers have brought the tidings. Electra is left on the stage wondering at her mother's sudden joy. Later, from Chrysothemis, she hears the news. Electra cries that it now falls upon them—the two sisters—to do the deed. Chrysothemis, in terror, refuses; Electra curses her, and says that she will do it alone. At this moment Orestes enters, disguised as one of the strangers. Eventually Orestes slays his mother and the usurping king Ægisthus. At this supreme moment Electra, in her effort to dance a mighty dance of triumph, is weighed down by the victory of her own fierce passion, and dies.

Mrs. Patrick Campbell again distinguished herself by her passionate acting of Electra. The effort of sustaining in consistent fashion the tragic quantities of the rôle must have been a severe strain, even upon such an experienced and accomplished actress as Mrs. Patrick Campbell, and the applause that broke out from the audience indicated that they realised how masterful her exertions had been. Mr. Vernon Steel delivered his lines well and altogether succeeded admirably as Orestes, and Miss Florence Farr was imposing and spoke excellently as Clytemnestra, while Miss Sara Allgood created a highly favourable impression as Chrysothemis. As will be noted from a glance at the cast given above, Mrs. Patrick Campbell's son and daughter were entrusted with small parts, which, by the way, were suitably performed.

MISS MARJORY CARPENTER.

THE LYCEUM'S RED RIDING HOOD.

Miss Marjory Carpenter, the twelve-year-old daughter of Mr. Ernest Carpenter, managing-director of the Lyceum Theatre, was seen in a clever exhibition of dancing at the Rehearsal Theatre on Wednesday afternoon. Little Miss Carpenter is to appear as Red Riding Hood in the pantomime of that name which is to be produced at the Lyceum at Christmas. Mistress Marjory has studied and practised the terpsichorean art under Mr. Edouard Espinosa, and for her six months' training she shows remarkable knowledge and ability. Of course, it can be at once assumed that her natural aptitude lies in the direction of dancing, but one could scarcely believe, as she performed numerous difficult and original steps on the stage of the Rehearsal Theatre, that her tuition had been of such brief duration as the period mentioned indicates. Her knowledge of technique is really remarkable for so youthful an artist, and Mr. Espinosa must be very proud of his protégée. It was very evident, too, that her father shared that pride as he watched the dainty movements of his small daughter.

She opened her demonstration with a cleverly-executed classical dance, after which she treated the select audience—composed mainly of sternly critical members of the Press—to an invigorating hornpipe and a new "scarecrow" dance, which is to form a feature of her work in the pantomime. Then, out of a list of fifty-seven "steps," members of the company selected titles at random, and Miss Carpenter immediately performed the desired motions, thereby demonstrating her talents as a dancer and proving the possession of a capital memory.

It appears that Marjory made her first appearance on the stage at the age of eight, when she enacted the rôle of Sleeping Beauty at a big charity performance at Bristol. There she won signal success. In addition, she has on several occasions appeared at theatres at benefit performances as well as at school entertainments. Her theatrical education has been conducted during the intervals of her school life at Castelnau College, Barnes. In conversation with Mr. Espinosa, we found that gentleman enthusiastic in his encomiums upon the advancement of his pupil. He said that Marjory had been with him barely six months, and yet her technique and knowledge of dancing and its rules were perfect. "You observe," he added, "that she does not merely dance with her feet, for she uses her brain as well."

Miss Carpenter looked quite an engaging little heroine in her green jersey and skirt as she tripped the "light fantastic" before the appreciative gaze of the spectators. We have no doubt that the promise she gave at this preliminary exhibition will be fully justified in the forthcoming pantomime.

MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER made an eloquent speech at the St. James's Theatre on Thursday afternoon at the matinée for the benefit of the Royal National Orthopædic Hospital. The programme included the names of M. Emile Engel, Mr. Gervase Elwes, Mrs. Cecil Raleigh, Mr. C. V. France, and Mr. Tom Reynolds in *The Belle of the Wash-tub*, Mr. Edward Goll in selections from Chopin, Mlle. Kyasht in a selection from her Empire dances, Miss Valli Valli, Mr. Alfred Lester, Mr. Cyril Maude, Mr. Eric Lewis, Mr. Sydney Paxton, Mr. Charles Maude, and Miss Jen Alwyn, in the dressing-room scene from *The Clandestine Marriage*, and Sir Charles Santley in "Maid of Athens" and "To Anthea." Miss Gertrude Elliott read Oscar Wilde's "The Happy Prince," with incidental music by Mme. Liza Lehmann; Miss Winifred Emery, Miss Beryl Faber, and Miss Pollie Emery played in *Soldiers' Daughters*; Mlle. Antonia Dolores deputised for Mme. Albani; Mr. C. H. Workman gave "I can't think why," with admirable humour; and Mme. Jane Bathori-Engel and the Mitchell Quartet also appeared.

Mr. Alexander, in the course of a grateful speech, recounted an incident in his own career. His first rôle after he became an actor-manager was the part of a cripple boy in the play he was then putting on the stage. The ambition of the boy was to make the people whom he met love him, haunted as his gracious and sensitive temper was by the dread that, owing to his deformity, he would be shunned and disliked. Such was the terror that came into his mind when he looked into the mirror, giving back the sense of repulsion. The idea touched Mr. Alexander keenly, and he went to this very hospital to mingle with the cripples and enter into their feelings, that he might the more exactly reproduce the character. That was an experience which one could not feel without also feeling for these children. The blessings of health were, perhaps, given by Nature as much to the poor as the rich. But there came a difference. Sickness or deformity afflicting the offspring of the rich could, speaking generally, be cured or alleviated, so that they might, as men and women, enjoy the comforts and the friendships of life. It was for all of us to give these distressed little ones, in a modest way, a like privilege. That was why the matinée was given, and why he appealed to the audience and to a wider circle to help the hospital.

THE RISTORI MATINEE.

The universality of art was exemplified in a signal way on Monday afternoon, when representative English players united in a tribute of respect to the memory of a great Italian actress. The immediate object of the matinée, for which Mr. Beerbohm Tree generously gave the use of His Majesty's Theatre, was to augment the fund for the erection of a memorial to Mme. Ristori in the village of Cividale, where she was born in the year 1822. Such a combination of dramatic talent as that which was got together on Monday is rare in the annals of the stage, and it is a striking proof of the unanimity that existed that out of the seventy odd artists drawn from West-end theatres who officiated there was not one who did not put in an appearance. It was an afternoon of enthusiasm, and out of the four and a half hours during which the entertainment was in progress no small share of the time was devoted to the recalls bestowed on each popular favourite by a house crowded to the doors at double prices.

The dramatic literature of the British stage, both of an earlier and the present date, was represented in the programme, in which Shakespeare fittingly held a prominent place, the poet being represented by excerpts from four of his works. First came the Rialto scene from *The Merchant of Venice*, in which Mr. Beerbohm Tree received a hearty welcome on his appearance as Shylock. His make-up was complete in every extraordinary detail, and the power of his performance asserted itself completely, the envenomed spite and cunning of the aged usurer being again expressed with remarkable vehemence. Mr. Basil Gill was once more a handsome and gallant Bassanio, and Mr. W. Haviland played Antonio with distinction. Immediately following came one of the newest little plays typified in Cosmo Hamilton's episode, entitled *Soldiers' Daughters*, in which Miss Winifred Emery played with natural sweetness as the brave and unselfish Helen Meredith. Miss Beryl Faber pathetically represented her sister, and Miss Pollie Emery repeated her quaint exposition of a London landlady. A particularly warm reception was reserved for Mr. H. B. Irving, who submitted proof of agreeable gifts of comedy in the recitation of "Etiquette," which he delivered with an appreciation of humour that gave the familiar story quite an element of freshness.

[*Photo by Stereoscopic Co.*

MME. RISTORI.

The most interesting performance of the afternoon, perhaps, was that of the Play scene from *Hamlet*, with one of our most finished representatives of the title-rôle, supported by a cast of "stars." Mr. Forbes Robertson was the Prince of Denmark, and his polished performance, admirable alike in conception and execution, was followed with the keenest admiration. Miss Gertrude Elliott was a winsome Ophelia, Mrs. Tree enacted the Queen with regal dignity, and Miss Evelyn Millard was a most engaging Player Queen. Mr. Lyn Harding vividly portrayed the terror of the guilty King; Mr. W. Haviland represented Horatio with sincerity and feeling; Mr. Alfred Bishop was a benign Polonius; Rosencrantz and Guildenstern had talented representatives in Mr. Harcourt Williams and Mr. Ben Webster; Mr. Henry Ainley represented the First Player with skill; and the Second Player was personified by Mr. Hugh Montgomery, who has enjoyed the distinction of acting with Mme. Ristori herself. With such a cast, surely no finer representation of Shakespeare's masterpiece could be conceived.

An eagerly-awaited item of the bill was the second act of *The Thief*, in which Mr. George Alexander and Miss Irene Vanbrugh were associated. Mr. Alexander's dramatic resource and impassioned utterance were again employed with remarkable effect in his superb embodiment of Richard Telford; and Miss Vanbrugh's accomplishments as an actress of remarkable reality and intensity were again agreeably displayed in her rendition of Marise. At the end of the strenuous scene in which the deceit of Marise is laid bare the applause of the audience was loud and prolonged. Miss Marie Tempest was here to have made one of her rare appearances as a vocalist, but the charming artist attended, as she said, in person to offer her apologies, having temporarily lost her singing voice, adding, amid laughter, that it would be as painful for the audience to listen as it would be for her to sing.

The boisterous humour of *The Taming of the Shrew* was next displayed, and an exhilarating performance was the result. Mr. Oscar Asche's buoyant and vigorous Petruchio and Miss Lily Brayton's tempestuous Katharina—two of the best assumptions on record—gave great delight. Miss Muriel Ashwynne's grace and refinement were conspicuous in the part of Bianca; Mr. Herbert Grimwood was an amusing Baptista; and the effective cast was completed by Messrs. Caleb Porter as Gremio, G. Kay Souper as Lucentio, R. Ian Penny as Hortensio, Tripp Edgar as Tranio, R. F. Anson as Biondello, and Reginald Davis as a steward.

The note of kinship was sounded in an added degree when the celebrated tragedienne Miss Genevieve Ward appeared to deliver the sleep-walking scene from *Macbeth*. As a picture of Lady Macbeth's sense of utter desolateness and despair Miss Ward's rendition was superb, but she had hardly gauged the acoustics of the theatre, and the lines were heard only imperfectly. Mr. J. Fisher White and Miss N. De Silva shared the responsibilities of a Doctor and a Gentlewoman. Though Sir Charles Santley came near the end of the feast, his reception was none the less cordial, and he was obliged to sing three songs, the last of which was the old favourite "Simon the Cellarer." Another famous vocalist was heard in Mr. Ben Davies, who was in admirable voice, and delighted his hearers. A welcome visitor was found in Miss Lena Ashwell, who delivered as a "musical recitation" Tom Moore's "Love and Hope," and was accompanied by the composer, Mr. Stanley Hawley.

The older form of comedy was revived in the toilet scene from *The Clandestine Marriage*, in which Mr. Cyril Maude entertained with his artistic portrayal of the senile fop Lord Ogleby, Mr. Sydney Paxton was a bluff and hearty Sterling, Mr. Eric Lewis's Canton was an entertaining assumption, and Mr. Charles Maude played Brush capably. The revival also afforded the opportunity of a glimpse of Miss Jean Alwyn as a Scottish chambermaid, and her dainty performance was greatly enjoyed. The last of the playlets was found in *The Conspiracy* the clever one-act play which figured in Mr. Martin Harvey's present season at the Adelphi. Mr. Harvey, looking very fresh and youthful, acted with all his romantic vigour as King Konrad, and commanded the admiration of all. Mr. Charles Glenney repeated his sterling rendition of Baron Brunfels, Mr. A. E. Raynor was an able exponent of Count Staumn, and Mr. Alfred Mansfield gave a clever study of Herr Von Steinmetz.

The climax of the enthusiasm came with the apotheosis and allegory "Adelaide Ristori," arranged by Mme. Cavallazzi. The figures were impersonated by Misses Lilian Braithwaite, Dora Barton, Mary Barton, Nannie Bennett, Dorothy Brunt, Maud Cressall, Douglas Frere, Dorothy Fane, Doris Lytton, Beryl Mercer, Rosalie Toller, and Muriel Vox. The scene was a classic interior, in the centre of which stood a bust of Mme. Ristori, with a wreath at its base. A cupid, represented by Little Olivia, tripped on and executed a graceful dance. Then entered a number of maidens in Greek costume, who decked the statue with laurel leaves. Cupid, apparently looking for something, at length discovered at the wings Fame, who with her trumpet summoned Miss Genevieve Ward. Attired in flowing robes, the actress recited an ode specially written by Mr. Louis N. Parker. Miss Ward had now taken the measure of the auditorium, and she delivered the poem in grandly expressive style, and well measured inflexion. The first and last of the four verses will serve to show the spirit of appreciation which animated the writer, and the literary grace of his lines:—

Comrades in art, high-priests of the sublime,
Whose ill reward it is to leave no trace
Of toil, achievement, talent, vigour, grace,
To stand as witness in the halls of time;
Whose memory is but a passing chime,
Jangled at eventide a breathing space:—
Ghost of a voice and shadow of a face,
Fading in newer suns like Winter's rime;
To-day, at least, with full hands let us bring
To our great sister Fame's thank-offering.

Dear Italy! Dear sister Italy!
Home of our hearts, were England not our home:—
Thou lentest her to lands beyond the foam,
That all the pattern of thy best might see;
Yet, in thy struggle for new liberty
She played her part, till in Imperial Rome
Thy King sat throned; and in thy golden tome
Her name is writ beside Cavour's! With thee,
At Adelaide Ristori's feet we lay
The Patriot's laurel, and the Poet's bay!

Thus a memorable afternoon came to an end, leaving behind an impression of a most agreeable and lasting character, alike in respect to the excellence of the entertainment and of its influence on the history of the stage.

EVERYBODY knows Mlle. Rosalio Guerrero, the charming Spanish dancer, the rival of Mlle. Otero *la belle*, and who delighted Paris audiences with her beauty. Although not, strictly speaking, a great dancer, she always proved a "draw," and it was therefore not surprising that she had an engagement at the Olympia to the tune of £400 a month. When, however, the fair artist went to the cashier to receive her salary, she heard to her surprise that a jeweller in the Rue de la Paix had attached that money because, as he alleged, she owed him a large sum for jewels. Mlle. Guerrero violently protested against the allegation, and vowed that she never bought a single trinket at the plaintiff's shop. In vain. Her supposed creditor swore that she was the lady to whom the jewellery was supplied, and Mlle. Guerrero received a letter from her dressmaker, who informed her that he declined to send her the dress she had ordered unless she paid for it on delivery, because it had become known in Paris that her salary had been attached. Three weeks elapsed, and then it was discovered that the jeweller had made a mistake, and that Mlle. Guerrero had spoken the truth. She at once sued the jeweller for malicious prosecution, but when the case was brought into Court all she received by way of damages was the sum of £12. In England she would very likely have been awarded £1,200; but these are the eccentricities of the French law.

MR. E. P. JEAFFRESON, of Guildhall-chambers, E.C., is bringing out a capital reproduction, by a new process, of the picture of the late Sir Henry Irving as Louis XI., which was painted by Mr. J. Bernard Partridge, and which is admitted to be one of the best likenesses ever painted of the great actor. The picture has been so greatly admired by many personal friends of Sir Henry Irving that a limited number of copies have been made, and are offered privately at 7s. 6d. each, in deep sunk mounts. The size of the actual picture is 18in. by 16in, and, apart from the likeness, it is a very effective and artistic work of art.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA BOSCOTTE,

Drama, in Five Act and Six Tableaux, by Mme. Georges Maldague, produced at the Ambigu on Dec. 2.

Reine de Breult ..... MLLE. CECILE BARRE
La Boscotte ..... MLLE. RENEE LUDGER
Antonine ..... MLLE. JEANNE DORIANE
Lina ..... MLLE. DE MERENGO
Catherine Bourlette ..... MLLE. STELLA DALY
Elisabeth ..... MLLE. MARIE-LOUISE ROGER
Virginie ..... MLLE. ZERINGER
Pierre des Croissets ..... M. SEVERIN-MARS
Loriot ..... M RANTE
Flambard ..... M. BELIERES
Henri Bourlette ..... M. MORGAN
Derrieux ..... M. LIZIER
Lorgery ..... M. BLANCHARD
Berthier ..... M. MAVEN

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

"LA BOSCOTTE" has been written by a lady. This probably accounts for the fact that there is no traitor in the piece, and that the two wicked characters are impersonated by women, although extenuating circumstances can even be pleaded for these two erring creatures, because it was disappointed love that awakened the dark spirit of revenge in their otherwise gentle souls. A few years ago the story appeared in the columns of a popular paper, when it scored a certain amount of success. The authoress, therefore, felt tempted to dramatise the work; but she committed the mistake of undertaking this task unaided and without sufficient stage experience. With the material at hand a very good drama might have been produced if properly handled. In its present form, however, the work appears amateurish and naive. The story is as follows:—Antonine, the wife of the Marquis des Croissets, in the last stage of consumption, is carefully nursed by her husband, whom she adores. To her horror, she gathers from a whispered conversation between her husband and Reine de Breult that these two are in love with one another, and she jumps to the wrong conclusion that they have entered into a guilty liaison. Knowing that she has but a few more days to live, she hits upon an ugly scheme to avenge herself on the supposed treacherous couple, and as an accomplice she selects La Boscotte. The latter is a peasant girl called Julie whom the boys in the village have dubbed "La Boscotte" on account of her being slightly deformed. She is in love with Henri, a young farmer who has lost his heart to the beautiful Reine de Breult. La Boscotte, therefore, shares Antonine's hatred for Reine, although poor Henri only admires that aristocratic lady from a respectful distance. Antonine then poisons herself by swallowing a tremendous dose of arsenic, but arranges things so cunningly that her husband—should he ever marry Reine—will be accused of having murdered his first wife. For all that, she leaves a letter—to be opened two years after her death—wherein she proclaims her husband's innocence. This letter she deposits with Catherine Bourlette, Henri's mother. Antonine dies, and a few months later the Marquis marries Reine, whereupon he is at once denounced by La Boscotte. Antonine's body is exhumed, and as it is found to contain a terrific amount of arsenic the Marquis is haled before the Juge d'Instruction. La Boscotte, of course, is the chief witness against him, as she is supposed to have received special information from the dying woman. Things, in fact, are beginning to take an uncomfortable turn for the Marquis, when Henri is fortunate enough to come upon the famous letter, which, produced in Court, exonerates the accused. As for La Boscotte, she is killed by stopping Reine's runaway horse, saving her rival's life at the expense of her own. The work was well interpreted. Mlle. Barré, afflicted with a slight cold, was not able to do justice to her rôle, but Mlle. Cécile Barré as the Marquise and Mlle. Renée Ludger as La Boscotte were really excellent. That clever actor Séverin-Mars impersonated the Marquis; but the part did not suit him, nor would it have suited anyone else.

"LE PETIT FAUST" has been revived at the Folies-Dramatiques. It was brought out at that house in 1869, when the author played the principal rôle and Mihler impersonated Valentin. To-day Hervé's production appears oldfashioned, and I doubt whether the present generation will take the same delight in that class of entertainment as did our grandmothers. For all that, it cannot be denied that this parody on Gounod's *Faust* is in some respects exceedingly clever. These subtle touches, however, are lost on the average playgoer. Jaime and Crémieux, the librettists, possessed of a keen sense of humour, have parodied Barbier and Carré, who supplied Gounod with the booklet for his opera. Jaime and Crémieux have discovered all the weak spots in that work. They have understood that Marguerite, who remains chaste after having killed her illegitimate child, is farcical. They also felt that Valentin's flow of words at the moment of his death is so great that the man almost becomes grotesque. They make fun of Mephisto, who has only cheap pleasures to offer to his patron; and they deride the latter for naively believing in Marguerite's innocence. Works of that description, however, must be spiritedly played and well sung. This time the contrary has been the case, for we have had neither bright interpretation nor good singing.

GREENWICH THEATRE.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Drama, entitled
"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."

This successful drama is giving great satisfaction here this week, and is capitally acted by the very capable company engaged. Miss Sydney Crowe scores heavily as Lady Adela Hardy, and Cecil Hardy could not be in better hands than those of Mr. Herbert Skardon, who is excellent throughout; Miss Marie Fontaine is very good as Kate Montague, the fair equestrienne; Miss Violet Vivienne looks and acts well as Polly Bell, the strong woman; Miss Edith Wynne is an attractive waitress, and little Miss Maria Marah is a clever Eric Malyon. Mr. Edward Avinal is an effective Scale; Mr. Clarence Temple plays well as Matthew Malyon; Mr. Victor Gordon is good as Horatio Bluff; Mr. D'Arcy Kelway as the circus clown is clever and amusing, and does much to insure the success of the drama; Mr. Pat Quin is an admirable Sir John Hardy; Mr. C. Barr as Giles, Mr. William Gibson as Tiny Green, Mr. Thompson as Bill Bridle, and Mr. E. Kerr as Sam Snaffle are all good in their respective parts.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore have kindly promised to give a matinée performance of *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace*, on Friday, Dec. 18, at the Criterion, in aid of the London Poor Children's Boot Fund. The opportunity of renewing acquaintance with two of the most successful of the eminent artists' later assumptions should ensure an overwhelming audience. The Princess of Wales has given her patronage, and has graciously expressed her intention of being present.

Mr. H. B. Irving will revive the Hon. Edward Phipps's one-act play, *King René's Daughter*, as arranged for the stage by Sir Henry Irving, at the Shaftesbury on Monday. Miss Dorothea Baird will be seen for the first time in London as Iolanthe, and the cast will comprise Mr. Frank Tyars, Mr. Gerald Lawrence, Mr. Frank Cochrane, Mr. Stanley Howlett, Mr. Frank Randell, Mr. J. Patrick Curwen, and Miss E. Frances Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. Kendal will take an extended rest after the conclusion of their present tour, which finishes at the Broadway, New Cross, this evening. Subsequently the eminent artists will return to the stage for a tour of the chief provincial centres, after which it is expected that they will bid goodbye to the profession which they have so long and honourably adorned.

Sir Squire Bancroft and Mr. George Alexander were among the distinguished gathering at the funeral service for the late Lord Glenesk at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, on Saturday. Sir Squire and Lady Bancroft also sent a wreath.

A new scene, and one quite unrehearsed so far as Miss Ashwell and her husband were concerned, was enacted at the Kingsway on Wednesday afternoon. The whole of the company and the staff, including several ladies and gentlemen who played in former pieces at the theatre but are not in the cast of *Grit*, clubbed together and gave Miss Ashwell a wedding gift, which took the form of a handsome silver rose-bowl of Cromwellian design, standing upon a silver plinth, which was inscribed with the facsimile signatures of 130 subscribers. The presentation, as we have hinted, took Miss Ashwell and her husband (who had been summoned to the theatre by telephone) completely by surprise, but evidently afforded them the greatest delight. In view of the fact that everyone in the house contributed to the scheme, the presentation was made by "Bobbie," the call-boy.

"Havana" is shortly to proceed on a long tour in the principal towns in the provinces. The last weeks of the popular musical play are therefore announced at the Gaiety Theatre.

Mr. Thomas Thorne, we regret to learn, has been very poorly for the last fortnight at 74, Royal Parade, Eastbourne, and is not able to leave his bed. The veteran comedian desires to thank, through our columns, all kind enquirers.

The new Gaiety piece may be expected early in the New Year, when a number of favourites will be welcomed back. Miss Gertie Millar, fresh from her American successes, will again grace the Gaiety boards, and Mr. Edmund Payne and Mr. George Grossmith, jun., will also make their re-appearance on the scene of many triumphs. Miss Denise Orme, Mr. O. B. Clarence, and Mr. J. E. Fraser will be in the cast, and Miss Kitty Mason retains her place as principal dancer. The foundations of the new musical comedy are laid in Harrod's Stores, and it is "provisionally" entitled *The Girl from the Stores*.

Mr. George Edwardes has decided upon Christmas Eve for the production of *The Dollar Princess*, which is destined to see the light at the Prince's Theatre, Manchester. The new musical play, freely adapted by Captain Basil Hood from the original by Herr Wilner, with music by Leo Fall, has met with phenomenal success in many Continental cities. *The Dollar Princess* will play a month in Manchester, and will then proceed to some of the leading provincial towns, ultimately arriving at the Adelphi. An important member of the cast will be Mr. Richard Golden, who will embody an American millionaire, with an unalterable determination that every servant in his household shall be a member of the English aristocracy. The cast will also comprise Messrs. Robert Michaelis, Vernon Davidson, Howard Crudland, Harry Parker, Robert St. George, Willie Warde, Philip Simmons, and William Guilbert, Misses Hilda Moody, Alice Pollard, Mabel Duncan, Doris Dewar, and May Sarony, and Mlle. Arlette Dorgère.

Mme. Kate Flinn held an unusually big "at home" on Thursday. Amongst her pupils who made a great success was Miss Mabel Hope, who sang the waltz song from *Tom Jones* with fine effect, finishing on the D in alt. Two very fine contraltos, Miss Ruby Cobbett and Miss Chard, created a good effect, the former being particularly excellent in "Che Parlate D'Amor" and a song of Strauss. Miss Barbara Battishill sang very sweetly in songs by Liszt and Coningsby Clarke. Mr. Godfrey Nutting played some of his own compositions, and two of his songs were sung by Miss Ruby Cobbett and Mr. Roland Jackson, both being encored. Miss Le Hay is quite a miniature Margaret Cooper, and gave her songs with great spirit. Mr. Sivori Levey is inimitable in his recitations at the pinao, and Miss Isabel Hirschfeld and Mr. Horace Witty also contributed to the afternoon's entertainment.

Miss Vane Featherstone recited in her usual taking style. Miss Courage, a fine dramatic soprano, with a voice of admirable quality, gave "A star story" with such good effect that she was encored. A similar distinction was won by Mme. Flinn herself, who gave two charming songs. Miss Eva Bevis sang a delightful little song called "Stolen fruit."

The accomplished teacher received warm congratulations on the high state of efficiency attained by her pupils, whose talents had been cultivated in such varied degree. Amongst the numerous guests were:—Lady Susan Yorke, Lady St. David's, Lady Puleston, Lady Allen and Miss Allen, Lady Prescott, Lady Humphreys and Miss Humphreys, Lady Whittaker and Miss Whittaker, Baroness De Ville, Lady Lawson and Miss Olive Lawson, the Hon. Mrs. Mark Hovell, Sir William and Lady Selfe, Miss Fortescue, Miss Phyllis Broughton, Mme. Jolivet, and Miss Fanny Brough.

The matinée in aid of the Actors' Church Union will take place at the Playhouse on Thursday next. The performance, which has been organised by J. Maundy-Gregory and Rev. J. Stephen Barrass, is under the immediate patronage of Her Royal Highness, the Princess Royal, His Serene Highness Prince Alexander of Teck, and a large number of titled people.

The programme is of a particularly select character, and will be contributed to by Sir Charles Wyndham, who will appear in *Still Waters Run Deep*. Mr. George Alexander will give an act of *The Thief*; Mr. Cyril Maude and Miss Winifred Emery will be seen in *The Clandestine Marriage*; and other artists who will perform are Mr. H. B. Irving, Miss Cecilia Loftus, Mr. Rutland Berrington, Miss Phyllis Broughton, Miss Kitty Gordon, Mr. Joe Elvin, and Mr. George Mozart.

Miss Annie Hughes concludes to-day her tour with *The Mollusc*, with which she has been visiting all the principal dramatic centres in England, Scotland, and Ireland. Miss Hughes has been touring for two years with Jerome K. Jerome's *Miss Tommy* and the above-mentioned play, and it is surely time the popular and accomplished actress should be seen again in London, where she is held in such esteem. Miss Hughes has received a hearty greeting whenever her travels have brought her to the suburbs, and her appearance at the West-End, even in a character of minor importance, would be as warmly welcomed by her admirers as it would be agreeable to Miss Hughes herself.

Miss Evelyn Millard has acceded to repeated requests, and will revive Mr. Anthony Hope's *Adventure of Lady Ursula* at a series of Tuesday and Thursday matinées at the Garrick Theatre, beginning on Jan. 5. Miss Millard is sure of a hearty welcome in a rôle in which she obtained one of her most decisive successes on the production of the comedy at the Duke of York's in the autumn of 1898. Mr. Herbert Waring is fortunately available for his old part of Sir George Sylvester. *Idols* will still remain in the evening bill, and be given also on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons as usual.

Mr. Frank Boyd's *Pelican* Annual for this year is as bright, lively, and amusing as ever. It contains contributions from Sir Edward Moss, Miss Evelyn Millard, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Miss Lena Ashwell, Mr. Arthur Collins, Miss Zena Dare, Mr. Matheson Lang, Miss Maud Allan, Miss Fannie Ward, Mr. Harry Grattan, Mr. George Edwardes, Miss Ada Reeve, Mr. Huntley Wright, Miss Agnes Hewitt, Mr. George Alexander, Miss Gertie Millar, Mr. Seymour Hicks, Miss Marie Studholme, Mr. G. P. Huntley, Miss Ellaline Terriss, Mr. Frank Curzon, Miss Isabel Jay, Mr. H. B. Irving, Miss Ruth Vincent, Mr. Alfred Butt, Mr. Martin Harvey, Miss Ethel Irving, Mr. George Graves, Miss Ethel Grace, Mr. J. E. Vedrenne, Miss Phyllis Dare, Mr. Gerald du Maurier, Miss May de Sousa, Mr. Frank Parker, Mr. Weedon Grossmith, Miss Jean Aylwin, Mr. Allan Aynesworth, Mr. Sidney Smith, Mrs. Edna May Lewisohn, Miss Dorothy Craske, Mr. A. E. Wells, Miss Lily Elsie, Mr. Charles Hawtrey, Miss Elizabeth Firth, Mr. George Robey, Miss Millie Legarde, Mr. Harry Fragson, and Mr. Alfred Phillips. Each of these contributions is a little gem in its way, and, of course, has additional interest from the popular personality of its contributor. The "annual" is tastefully and artistically illustrated with "process" portraits.

Miss Viola Tree made her début in grand opera on Thursday, when she sang the title-rôle in the Royal College of Music production of Goetz's *Francesca* at His Majesty's. Miss Tree acted the part superbly, while her singing showed that she had made progress in the vocal art. Her voice is stronger, though it appeared to be overtaxed with the difficult music. The performance was decidedly interesting, and one of considerable promise.

The wedding between Mr. Davy Burnaby and Miss Vera Turner was solemnised at St. Mary Abbots Church, Kensington, on Saturday last. The Rev. H. B. F. Burnaby, brother of the bridegroom, read the service, and the Rev. Killin Roberts gave the address. Mr. F. B. H. Margetts was best man.

The bridegroom is the clever exponent of the Comte Victoire, in *The Belle of Brittany*, while his success as Reggie Hankey, in *The Education of Elizabeth*, at the Haymarket and at the Apollo, will be well remembered. The bride is the daugther of J. A. Turner, M.B., executive health officer, Bombay. She wore a plain satin dress and beautiful Honiton lace veil, and carried a sheaf of lilies. Six bridesmaids attended her, dressed in pink chiffon, with black sashes, black hats, trimmed with blue violets and pink roses. They carried bouquets of the same flowers.

The reception was held at Kensington Palace-mansions, when the wedding presents—about 300 in all—were on view. They included a grand piano, from Dr. and Mrs. Turner (father and mother of the bride), and a crested plate canteen (Mrs. Turner). Among the gifts to the bridegroom was a silver cigarette-box, from the members of the Belle of Brittany company, with the names of George Graves, Walter Passmore, Lawrence Rea, Maud Boyd, Maudi Darrell, and Lily Iris engraved upon it. After the reception the happy couple left in a motor for the Savoy Hotel, where a three days' honeymoon was spent.

The Actors' Benevolent Fund annual dinner will be with us in a week, and a large attendance at the Hôtel Métropole on Sunday, the 13th inst., is expected, seeing that such influential speakers are announced. Mr. Cyril Maude will occupy the chair, and propose the toast of the evening. Sir Charles Wyndham will speak for "The Drama," to which Mr. Alfred Sutro will reply; and the hero of Mafeking, General Baden-Powell, will also be heard.

Old Bensonians will regret to hear that Mr. Frank Bentz, formerly acting-manager of Mr. F. R. Benson's Midlands company, and subsequently Press manager to H. B. Irving, has been lying seriously ill at King's College Hospital for the last month. Mr. Bentz recently underwent an operation for an internal complaint, and is now making slow but satisfactory progress towards recovery.

Mrs. D'Oyly Carte corrects a misapprehension which has arisen consequent upon her forthcoming retirement from the Savoy, and desires it to be understood that she will continue her opera business in the provinces as usual. The announcement will be welcomed by playgoers in the country and suburbs, by whom the visits of the D'Oyly Carte operas have ever been liberally patronised.

The young lady who has been engaged by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree as Fairy Queen, in his production of *Pinkie and the Fairies*, is a pupil of Miss Elise Clerc, late Empire Theatre.

A brilliant gathering assembled at the Ritz Hotel on Tuesday to do honour to Mr. Robert Ross, who has done so much towards rehabilitating the memory of the late dramatist, Oscar Wilde. A fashionable and cultured assemblage included the Duchess of Sutherland, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. W. W. Jacobs, Sir Robert Chalmers, C.B., Lord Howard de Walden, Mr. William Archer, Mr. Max Beerbohm, Mr. A. B. Walkley, Mr. W. Somerset Maugham, Lady Tennant, Lord Grimthorpe, Mr. Roy Horniman, and Mr. Murray Carson.

In proposing Mr. Ross's health, Mr. H. G. Wells said that that gentleman stood there for social courage and friendship. It was easy to stick up for a friend when he was prosperous, but it was very difficult and hard to stick up for a friend when he was wrong and the world was against him. Mr. Ross stood up for his friend when the whole weight of public opinion was against him. Mr. Ross, in reply, said that in six years after his death, all Wilde's debts, which amounted to some £6,000, had been paid off; and that it was Germany that had really done it. Wilde's posthumous reputation was certainly made in Germany. Mr. Ross said that two days ago he received a cheque for £2,000, with which to erect a monument to Oscar Wilde in Paris.

Elegant and useful is the souvenir with which Miss Evelyn Millard marked the hundredth performance of *Idols* at the Garrick on Monday. The souvenir consists of a specially bound copy of the novel, interleaved with artistic portraits of the author, Mr. W. J. Locke, and of the adapter, Mr Roy Horniman. There are in addition similarly excellent photographs of Miss Millard and the principals of her company, together with some of the most striking scenes in the play, all beautifully reproduced.

Miss Ellen Terry's matinée of *Captain Brassbound's Conversion* proved an immense success at the Ealing Theatre on Wednesday. The ever-popular actress, who upon her appearance was greeted with a furore of applause, was well supported by her husband, Mr. James Carew, and a specially-selected company, including Mr. George Fitzgerald, Mr. Story-Gofton, and Mr. Max Montesole. Mr. Walter Gibbons and his manager, Mr. J. A. Molloy, it will thus be seen, are making full use of their "two-stringed bow," a double licence, in pressing the fortunes of the Ealing house.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard will conclude his third season at the Crystal Palace Theatre next week, for which he has secured Mr. George Edwardes's No. 1 company in *The Merry Widow*. The booking is already well advanced. With the exception of two performances of *My Lady Molly*, which will be given by the Sydenham Hill Operatic Society on Dec. 18 and 19, the theatre will then be closed for rehearsals of *Robinson Crusoe*, opening on Dec. 24.

Mr. Howard will be running no less than three pantomimes this year, viz., *Robinson Crusoe* at the Crystal Palace, *Cinderella* at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth, and last year's Crystal Palace success, *The Forty Thieves*, which will go on tour, opening at Cheltenham for a short season, and then proceeding to Bath.

"Victoria," a story with songs, in three acts, written by George V. Hobart, and composed by Victor Herbert, was produced for copyright purposes at the Victoria Hall, Bayswater, on Nov. 27.

Miss Helena Head, who returned to the States a few weeks ago, has now resumed her part of Florence Trenchard with Mr. E. H. Sothern, in his revival of *Lord Dundreary*.

The engagement at the Crystal Palace Theatre that has been looked forward to this season with the greatest amount of interest is perhaps that of Mr. George Edwardes's company, in the popular musical play, *The Merry Widow*. Astonishing is the only adjective that at all describes the tremendous popularity that has been gained all over the world by this most fortunate piece. It is the rage in the United States to-day as much as it is in England, and, some months ago, when it was performed at the State Opera House, at St. Petersburg, £100 was refused for boxes, and £5 was the lowest price for the humblest seat. Only the other day one of the audience, expressing his delight at the representation given by the company to be seen next week at Sydenham, told the manager that he had already seen the play thirty times in London.

By permission of Mr. Bannister Howard, the Sydenham Hill Operatic Society will give two performances of *My Lady Molly*, at the Crystal Palace Theatre, on the evenings of Friday and Saturday, Dec. 18 and 19.

The British Empire Shakespeare Society gave a dramatic reading of *Twelfth Night* on the afternoon of the 26th ult., at the Excelsior Hall, Bethnal Green, E., before a crowded and enthusiastic audience, which included Princess Louise Augusta of Schleswig-Holstein, at whose suggestion the reading was given. The cast comprised Mr. Acton Bond, Mr. Percy D. Owen, Mr. Shakespeare Stewart, Miss Victoria Addison, and several of those who took part in the Society's recent performances of the same play at the Memorial Theatre, Stratford-on-Avon. At the close of the meeting, the Rev. Woollcombe alluded appreciatively to the size of the audience, and thanked the Princess for having so kindly arranged the reading.

Mr. Hamilton Deane is concluding two and a half years' starring engagement with Messrs. Armitage and Leigh, and is engaged by Mr. Richard Flanagan for Octavius Cæsar in his forthcoming revival of *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Queen's, Manchester, this being his third engagement under Mr. Flanagan's management.

"Her Secret Lover," a drama in four acts, by Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, was produced for copyright purposes at the Opera House, Dudley, on Dec. 1.

Le Cercle Artistique will give their next performance on Sunday evening, Dec. 13, at the Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane. The programme will include a one-act play, *Mademoiselle Fifi*, adapted from the French of Guy de Maupassant; an original monologue by Laura Leycester; a wordless play by Joan Pereira set to classical music; selections from Browning, and a scene from *Denise* in the French. The following will take part in the entertainment:—Messrs. Fredk. Annerley, Chas. Bruce, Frank Cochrane, Laurence Grove, and H. Lodge; Mesdames F. Fauvel, Laura Leycester, Rosetta McLaren, Joan Pereira, Alys Rees, and Rita Sponti.

"A Repentant Sinner; or, Thy Name is Woman," will furnish the Christmas production at the Alhambra, Stourbridge.

Mr. G. S. King, the energetic manager of the Metropole, Devonport, has secured a strong attraction for next week in the Moody-Manners Operatic Company. An interesting plan was adopted of ensuring the presentation of the most popular numbers by circularising the residents of Devonport as to the pieces they desired presented. In the result popular choice has fell upon *Madame Butterfly*, *Faust*, *Maritana*, *Bohemian Girl*, *Tannhäuser*, and *Carmen*.

The young lady who has been engaged by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree as Fairy Queen, in his Christmas production at His Majesty's of *Pinkie and the Fairies*, is a pupil of Miss Elise Clerc, late of the Empire Theatre.

At Birmingham Special Sessions on Tuesday the licences of the Theatre Royal, Prince of Wales's, Metropole, Alexandra, Carlton, and Bordesley Palace Theatre were renewed. In the course of an address to the proprietors and managers of the various theatres, the chairman said he had been asked to say a few words about fireproof curtains. It had been reported to the Bench that an accident occurred at one of the theatres quite recently. The ropes supporting the counter-weight of the fireproof curtain gave way, and the counter-weight fell on the stage. It might possibly have resulted in a serious accident, and the magistrates were anxious that every precaution should be taken with regard to the arrangements for the casing in of the weights, and for the testing of the wires, and for the securing of the counter-weights to the satisfaction of the building surveyor. An undertaking was given to carry out any suggestions that the building surveyor might make.

Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's No. 1 company of *Lady Frederick* during their visit to Swansea last week played a flying matinée at Merthyr Tydvil, and Miss Love, in the title-rôle, received a great reception from a packed audience, most of the stalls and dress circle being booked weeks ahead. The company returned to Swansea in ample time for the evening performance, and played to another fine house.

Mr. Edmund Tearle, at the Opera House, Southport, on Tuesday night, performed *Macbeth* for the four-hundredth time. His first appearance in the part was with the late Miss Fanny Davenport, at the Walnut-street Theatre, Philadelphia, in the fall of 1881. He was then twenty-four years of age. In 1884 Mr. Tearle again visited America, this time as leading support to the late Mme. Adelaide Ristori, playing *Macbeth* in all the principal cities from the Atlantic to the Pacific. In view of the great demonstration this week in honour of Ristori, it is interesting to learn that Mr. Tearle was the last English actor to play *Macbeth* with the great tragedienne. On Ristori's farewell of the stage in New York as Lady Macbeth, the late Mr. Edwin Booth was the Macbeth and Mr. Tearle the Macduff.

Mr. Lionel Atwill, who has played Michael Sunlocks in *The Bondman* under Mr. Wentworth Croke's management since the first tour, is relinquishing that part shortly, and will join Messrs. D. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper, to play the lead in *The Flag Lieutenant* at Christmas.

Miss Kitty Gordon, the well-known actress, who in private life is the Hon. Mrs. H. W. W. Horsley Beresford, took a dislike to her motor-car, and determined to dispose of it. A dispute which occurred between her and the Grande Maison d'Automobiles (Ltd.) over the transaction led to the firm suing her for damages for breach of contract to buy a new car from or through them. The case was tried in the Court of King's Bench on Monday, when judgment was given for the plaintiffs for £102 and costs.

Miss Lilla Wilde, who claims the record for Nellie Denver, having played the part longer than any other actress on the English stage, concludes on Dec. 12 her second successful engagement as Hildn Corrode with Mr. Lester Collingwood's *When London Sleeps* company.

Owing to the sudden indisposition of Mr. Ian Maclaren, the part of Hamlet was taken up at a day's notice, at Devonport on Monday, by Mr. Matthew Boulton, who gave a successful performance. During the week he also played Shylock and David Garrick to enthusiastic audiences, and this evening will appear as Othello. Mr. Boulton will also play the title-rôle in *Henry of Lancaster* for Mr. Maclaren at Newport and Swansea next week.

Miss Gladys Harvey, who has been making such a success in Mr. Henry Arthur Jones's play *The Hypocrites*, has been engaged by Messrs. Meynell and Gunn to play juvenile leads in their company in Australia. Miss Harvey leaves England on Feb. 5.

Owing to Mr. Colin Coop having to rehearse for the Grand Theatre pantomime, Leeds, his part, Squire Bantam in *Dorothy*, will be played at the Marlborough Theatre next week by Mr. J. W. Hughes.

A fatal termination, we regret to state, has followed the sudden illness of typhoid which overtook Mr. Alfred Conybeare Gough, a member of Mr. Fred Terry's company, in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, at Liverpool a fortnight ago. Mr. Gough, who was only thirty years of age, had been touring with Mr. Terry's company during the past couple of years, and was considered to have a most promising stage career before him. He was the son of Mr. J. M. Gough, of Derby-road, Withington. During his illness Mr. Gough was an in-patient at the Liverpool Infirmary, where he died.

We learn with regret of the death at Newport on Wednesday morning of Mr. James De Rees, who some years ago had a number of fit-up companies on the road, visiting public halls throughout the country. Deceased, who had been in bad health for the past three years, leaves a widow and a family of ten children.

Mr. William H. Brougham concludes on Dec. 5 his 1010th night as the Messenger, with Mr. Fred Mouillot's *A Message from Mars* company. Mr. Brougham is re-engaged for the next tour commencing Boxing Day.

Mr. Gelderd, who has been supporting Miss Decima Moore as Gerald Halstane during the autumn tour of *Mrs. Dot*, has been engaged for the spring tour of *My Wife* and *Her Father*. Meanwhile he goes to Glasgow for a short season to reappear in the *Caste* comedies.

Mr. James Welch, who has been delighting Newcastle audiences during the past week, played an unusual part on Monday last—that of bazaar-opener. In that capacity the inimitable comedian officiated at the inauguration of the annual sale of work, held in aid of St. Luke's Church, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and was a great success.

Unforeseen circumstances developed by cablegrams the last few days have compelled Mrs. Bandmann-Palmer to cancel her Indian tour.

Shakespeare's *Two Gentlemen of Verona* is seldom seen on the stage nowadays, and the revival of the play by the Edinburgh branch of the British Empire Shakespeare Society last Monday evening at the Theatre Royal must have been a novelty to many of the audience. The amateurs showed much intelligence in the performance, the success being in a great measure due to the experience and skill of Mr. Graeme Goring, a popular member at one time of Mr. George Alexander's company, who stage-managed the production. Mr. Goring has now settled in Edinburgh, where he is well known as a teacher of elocution and stage deportment.

It is proposed to revive the annual theatrical football gala at Liverpool. During the course of about twenty years this event, which was generally held during the reign of pantomime, resulted in the raising of many thousands of pounds, which were distributed among local and theatrical charities. A couple of years ago the gala was allowed to lapse.

The famous comic opera *Dorothy* will grace the stage at the Marlborough Theatre next week, with the exceptionally strong cast that includes Mr. Hayden Coffin, Mr. John Coates, Mr. Arthur Williams, Miss Ruth Davenport, and many additional performers of proved ability.

Last week, at the Theatre Royal, Chesterfield, Miss Leonora Castelle was called upon at a moment's notice to play the lead, Marion Thornton, in Hardie and Von Leer's *Two Little Vagabonds* company. She came through the ordeal successfully, and was complimented by the local manager on her performance. She is now playing the part permanently. Miss Castelle is the wife of Mr. George Denham, the leading man and business-manager of the company. Mr. and Mrs. Denham have been re-engaged for the same parts for the spring tour, opening Boxing Day at the Royalty Theatre, Morecambe.

Miss Decima Moore to-day brings to a conclusion her engagement as Mrs. Dot with Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison. Miss Moore may take pride in the fact that during two and a half years' continuous work in *All of a Sudden Peggy*, *The Truth*—of which 300 performances were given—and *Mrs. Dot* she has only once been out of the bill.

At the Shakespeare, Clapham, on Monday, Mr. Wentworth Croke will present his No. 1 company in the new version of *The Christian*, by Hall Caine, direct from the Lyceum and Shaftesbury Theatres. New scenery, dresses and effects are provided.

During his engagement at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, Mr. Norman V. Norman will give two performances of *David Garrick*, in which Miss Beatrice Wilson will play Ada Ingot. The principal piece will be preceded by a one-act play by Affleck Scott, author of *Breaking it Gently*.

Miss Louise Moodie has just returned to town after a successful tour with Sir John Hare, playing the part of Lady Owbridge, in *The Gay Lord Quex*.

Mr. Robert Minster, the leading man in Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Lady Frederick* company, which is this week at Wolverhampton, acted as judge for the local Shakespearean Society's elocution class on Tuesday. *Lady Frederick's* tour terminates on Saturday at Cardiff, and recommences on Jan. 4.

At the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin, on Tuesday, owing to the sudden indisposition of Miss Ruth Davenport, who is playing the title-rôle in Messrs. Hayden Coffin and John Coates's company of *Dorothy*, her understudy, Miss Leamy Green, was called upon to play the part, and gave a performance which won for her a very cordial reception at the fall of the curtain.

Miss Millie Legarde will take up the rôle of Denise in *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's Theatre on Monday, in succession to Miss Lily Iris, who is to play principal boy in the pantomime at the Tyne Theatre, Newcastle.

Contributions from a number of leading actors and dramatists go to swell a little book which is to be published this month on behalf of the funds of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath. The booklet contains messages from fifty well-known people who have written appreciatively of the work carried on by the charity, and includes articles by Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Francis Burnand, Sir W. S. Gilbert, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. George Alexander, Madame Albani, Mr. Lewis Waller, and Mr. Ben Davies.

Fulham meets Tottenham in the Second Division this afternoon at Fulham, the kick-off being at 2.30. The home team consists of Skene, Charlton, Lindsay, Collins, Parsonage, Suart, Threlfall (or Carter), Dalrymple, Harrison, Brawn, and Lipsham. In the London League Fulham Reserves are opposed to Deptford Invicta, and begin the match at 2.30 at Deptford.

"Hannele," the English adaptation of Hauptmann's impressive drama, with which the Afternoon Theatre starts operations at His Majesty's on Tuesday, has now been licensed by the Lord Chamberlain. The piece will be played on three occasions only, but each succeeding piece will have six or eight representations. It is intended to produce a new play every month throughout the season.

Miss Lena Ashwell's North company of her Kingsway Theatre success, *Diana of Dobson's*, brings its autumn tour to an end at the Theatre Royal, Bolton, this evening. The play has proved one of the greatest attractions in the provinces, and the large audiences who have witnessed this delightful comedy of Miss Cicely Hamilton's have been enthusiastic. Mr. H. B. Fitzgibbon has been retained by Miss Ashwell as her business-manager for a spring tour, this being his fourth engagement with the Kingsway management.

We regretfully record the death of Mr. George Macmahon, manager of Mr. F. Macmahon's Irish repertory company, at Ballinamore. Mr. Macmahon was carrying out his duties in front of the house, when he complained of indisposition. He went home, where he expired less than an hour afterwards, the cause of death being the fracture of a blood-vessel in the lungs. The funeral took place on Tuesday, and was largely attended.

Mr. Ernest Cox was taken ill with pneumonia and pleurisy during last week at Wolverhampton, but is making progress towards recovery, when he will return to take up his part of Prince Olaf in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*.

The first of the winter series of Sunday evening concerts given by the new Frances Club, 435, Strand, was held on Sunday in the club-room. Those who kindly gave their services were Messrs. Sutherland, Mackey, Profit, Newmark, and Mark Hyam, and the Misses Josephine Richards, Tina Martine, Dora Gascoigne, Lily Roberts, Louise Lund, Marie Brown, and Constance Walton. The excellent programme provided by these artists was enthusiastically received by the members and their friends, who spent a most enjoyable evening.

Mr. Hugh Fleming, who concluded last week a three years' engagement with Baron Harriss's *Prince of Pilsen* company as advance director, has been engaged in the same capacity by Mr. Wilfred Cotton for his principal *Butterflies* company, which opens at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow, on the 21st. By a curious coincidence Glasgow, which happens to be his birthplace, has been the starting-point of no fewer than five of Mr. Fleming's previous engagements.

Miss Lina Nazeby, who has been playing for the past eight months in Mr. Montgomery's stock company at the Grand Theatre, Stockton, was on Monday last the happy recipient of numerous birthday presents, including a handsome dressing-case, a silver-backed hair-brush, a gold charm, a silver coin bangle, hair combs, silver-mounted umbrella, gloves, &c.

"Dorothy" is shortly to find a home at the West End, and we congratulate the Messrs. Maundy-Gregory on their enterprise in reviving this favourite example of real comic opera. Mr. Hayden Coffin will play his original part, in which he looks as young as ever, and Mr. Arthur Williams will fill his former rôle of Lurcher. The event is definitely fixed to take place on Dec. 21 at the New Theatre, where the opera will remain for a certain period, after which arrangements have been made to carry the entire production to another theatre.

Mr. Pennington Gush concludes next Saturday a twelve weeks' special engagement as Colonel Brinthorpe in Mr. Louis Calvert's production of *Sunday* during Mr. William Giffard's absence.

Act 1 of Mozart's *Magic Flute*, followed by Act 2 of Bizet's *Carmen*, will be given at the Royal Academy of Music by the students of the operatic class, under the direction of Mr. Edgardo Levi, on Friday evening next. On the following evening the Balcony Scene from *Romeo and Juliet*, J. B. Buckstone's *Good for Nothing*, and *Miss Brown*, by Robert Buchanan and Charles Marlowe, will be performed by the students of the dramatic class, under the direction of Mr. Richard Temple.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

Mr. Tree's Little Girls.

MISS FELICITY and Miss Iris Tree, who are to be the hostesses at the final rehearsal of *Pinkie and the Fairies* at His Majesty's Theatre, on Dec. 18, and are aged respectively thirteen and eleven years old, have received an interviewer from the *Express*. "We simply love gardening," said Miss Felicity, who was wrestling with a wheelbarrow almost as big as herself, "and we'd much sooner garden than act." "So would I," chimed in her sister Iris. "I'd much rather ride and play games and dig in my garden than act in a theatre. I'm not a bit keen on that." Walpole House, Chiswick, is an ideal home for children who love an open-air life, and the youthful couple spend most of their time out of doors. Lessons they "hate," but riding and gardening they "simply adore."

THEY insisted on showing the *Express* representative their own particular gardens, in which they were planting bulbs, and waxed eloquent on the subject. "Talking of fairies," said Miss Felicity, "all the children who are rehearsing for *Pinkie* just love it. They have great fun, and thoroughly enjoy their games. We're very much looking forward to it, too," she added, "and we do have such heaps of letters. Father brings great stacks of them back from the theatre, and some are from the tiniest tots you could imagine."

MISS FELICITY TREE is two years older than her sister Iris, and naturally takes the lead in all their games and plans. "I love playing golf almost better than anything," she said, "and when we go to the country and there are golf links I play all day. Iris is going to learn golf, too, but at present I am the only one to play."

Mme. Albani on Variety.

MME. ALBANI, who made her first appearance on the variety stage at the Grand Theatre, Blackpool, on Monday, says, according to the *Mail*:—"My first impressions are all pleasant. After all, the change is not very great. I am still singing to practically the same public, though under different conditions, and I shall be reaching others who have not heard me before. So long as I am singing to the people I am happy."

A Wise Choice.

"MR. GEORGE ALEXANDER," says the *Star*, "told a story of Oscar Wilde at the recent dinner to Mr. Robert Ross at the Ritz Hotel. The actor-manager told how he commissioned Wilde to write a play for him, and gave him £100 at the same time. In due course Wilde presented the play, which happened to be *Lady Windermere's Fan*, Mr. Alexander read it through, and then, turning to Wilde, said, 'I will give you £1,000 for this.' To which Wilde made the characteristic reply, 'I have such confidence in your judgment, my dear Alexander, that I can only refuse.'"

Fun in the Gallery.

MISS OLGA NETHERSOLE relates a curious Boxing Night experience in *Cassell's Saturday Journal*. She was playing a somewhat tragic part, and had the stage to herself, when she suddenly perceived that a section of the audience were laughing. Thinking perhaps there was something wrong with her "make-up," Miss Nethersole stole a glance at herself in a mirror which hung conveniently near. She could discover nothing amiss. She tried to continue as if nothing had happened. Then she thought she could distinguish among the tittering the words "Miss" and "Bull's-eye." Finally, the disturbance became so serious that the performance had to be stopped. While the popular actress waited on the stage she discovered the cause of all the merriment. The bald head of an old gentleman sitting in the dress circle had attracted the attention of some boisterous youths in the gallery, who conceived the idea of throwing orange-peel and nuts at the shining pate below. When the shot missed there was a subdued "Boo"; when they struck, "Bull's-eye" was recorded. Those merry spirits soon found themselves outside in the cold street, and the play was continued.

Such a Jolly Christmas.

"MR. HUNTLEY WRIGHT," says the same paper, "has cause to remember a certain Christmas he spent in Yorkshire. He had been through a particularly trying week at a small theatre, and had tramped home to his lodgings on the Christmas Eve tired and dispirited. However, he awoke next morning with the determination to banish dull care and enjoy a really jolly Yorkshire Christmas. Even the fact that the carpet of his sitting-room still held the crumbs of the previous night's supper failed to suppress him, and, undaunted, the rang for his breakfast. When the landlady appeared with a tray Mr. Huntley Wright wished her a merry Christmas, which she dolefully acknowledged. Then the actor, in his politest tones, said: 'Now, Mrs. M——, I want to forget all my cares in a good Christmas dinner—you can supply me with roast beef and Christmas pudding and things, eh?' Mrs. M—— wiped what was obviously meant for a tear from her eyes. 'Well, Mr. Wright,' she faltered, 'I'd be much obliged if you could get your dinner out to-day. You see, my poor husband—he died at Christmas, and I like to spend the day in the cemetery'! Mr. Wright dined out."

Brock's Best.

"WITH Gilbert," says Mr. Rutland Barrington, "there was always a certain feeling which I can only describe as a sensation of living in a kind of mental firework factory. But, mind you, Brock's best all the time; none of your common squibs and crackers, and he seemed to keep the fuse alight all the time without the slightest effort. On one occasion, when rehearsing *Pinafore*, he said, 'Cross left on that speech, I think, Barrington, and sit on the skylight over the saloon pensively.' I did so, but the stage carpenter had only sewn the thing together with packthread, and when I sat on it it collapsed entirely, whereupon he said like lightning, 'That's expensively.'"

"THE ANTELOPE."

Musical Play, in Three Acts, adapted from the French by Adrian Ross; Music by Hugo Felix; Lyrics by Adrian Ross, produced at the Waldorf Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 28.

Bennett Barker	MR. FRED WRIGHT, JUN.
Hon. Guy Daubeney	MR. FARREN SOUTAR
Joe Derrick	MR. FRED EMNEY
Montagu Mosenstein	MR. JOHN BRABOURNE
Loisl Huber	MR. JACK CANNOT
Vincent Clive	MR. CHARLES R. ROSE
Gerald Grosvenor	MR. ARTHUR GROVER
Peter	MISS MAUDIE THORNTON
Gwendoline	MISS FLORENCE LLOYD
Araminta	MISS HILDA STEWART
Iris Fenton	MISS JOSE COLLINS
Gladys	MISS VIVIENNE WEST
Stella Smithson	MISS BEATRICE READ
Theodora Thompson	MISS ETHEL OLIVER
Celia Corinth	MISS LILY MILLS
Violet Vivian	MISS DOROTHY MONKMAN
Camilla Claude	MISS NANCY HERVYN
Delia de Vere	MISS LILY MAXWELL
Speranza	MISS KITTY GORDON

Mr. Adrian Ross's libretto of *The Antelope* owes its origin to a three-act farce called *Le Cabinet Pimperlin*, by Hippolyte Raymond and Paul Burani, which was produced at the Paris Athenée in the April of 1878. It was adapted into English by C. M. Rae, and produced at the Vaudeville Theatre in the March of 1886, with Messrs. Fred Thorne, Charles Groves, Charles Glenny, E. M. Robson, Fuller Mellish, Sophie Larkin, Helen Forsyth, Maude Millett, and Louisa Peach in the cast. The original grossly indecent story, now—as Pope says in his "Essay on Man"—"through some gentle strainers lightly teased," forms the outline of a bright, lively, and amusing libretto, which only wants vigorous and judicious cutting to be quite acceptable. A peculiarly feeble song and dance duet in the third act should be certainly sacrificed, and this last act wants also to be strengthened with some striking numbers like those so liberally encored in the second and first. The music is quite suitable for this class of entertainment, being pleasing, effective, and having a certain refinement in its gayest effusions. With such a fine cast, and so much really good material, Mr. Smith should find no difficulty in moulding *The Antelope* into a success. The company contains several artists who are accepted favourites; and the score sparkles with brightness and musical pleasantry.

The action opens in the office of Bennett Barker, who keeps an agency at which anxious husbands may insure themselves against the possible unfaithfulness of their wives. The incidents arise, firstly, from the anxiety of Barker not to have to pay any of the amounts for which he is liable to his clients in the case of their marriages not proving permanent; and, secondly, in the irresistible attractiveness of the good-looking painter Guy Daubeney to the wives of Barker's clients. Daubeney really loves a young heiress named Iris Fenton; but Mrs. Derrick, the Italian helpmate of a stupid mason and contractor, beseeches him to elope with her to Italy; and he is also pursued by Araminta, wife to Montagu Mosenstein, an inane picture-dealer. Mrs. Derrick threatens to leave her husband before his policy of insurance expires, which will be in a month, and if she carries out her intention of running away with Daubeney Barker will have to pay the husband £200. So he applies an antidote to Mrs. Derrick's advances by instructing his own wife, Gwendoline, a clever and pretty woman, to open a flirtation with Daubeney. In this way, at the end of the second act, just as the artist is about to yield to the fascinations of Mrs. D., he is induced to stop in London and dine with Mr. and Mrs. Barker. In the last act, which takes place on the Upper Thames, complications reach their climax, and the embarrassed Barker is bullied by all parties, the piece concluding with the happy union of Daubeney and Iris.

The unflagging exertions of a very clever and capable cast kept things moving through the first and second acts very spiritedly, and the progress of the piece was punctuated with encores and applause. Mr. Fred Wright, jun., with a profusion of quaint gags and business, was comic vivacity itself as Bennett Barker, and his singing and dancing were very much admired. Mr. Farren Soutar well groomed and with a gentle suavity that was very prepossessing, enacted the too-attractive artist very pleasantly and with an agreeable repose and confidence; and that admirable comedian Mr. Fred Emney was delightfully droll as the dense, uncultured "housebreaker," Derrick. Mr. John Brabourne played Montagu Mosenstein with an irresistibly funny air of imbecility, and a cleverly contrived make-up; and Mr. Jack Cannot enacted a Tyrolese simpleton with light and easy assurance and sang the music smoothly and well. One of the greater successes of the evening was gained by Miss Maudie Thornton, whose *riante* pleasantry and genial, good-tempered spirit won the hearts of the audience entirely. She created intense enthusiasm by her rendering of a serious song about the drummer boys in Kipling's story of "The Drums of the Fore and Aft," and the dramatic ditty was several times encored. Miss Florence Lloyd's engaging personality, fine figure, and excellent voice were very valuable in the representation of Gwendoline, which she played most pleasantly and prettily; and Miss Hilda Stewart was efficient and acceptable as Araminta. Miss Jose Collins made a strong impression by the earnestness which she put into her delivery of a sentimental song in the first act, a number which is likely to be popular; by her emotional acting in her scenes with Mr. Soutar; and by her neat and graceful dancing. Miss Collins worked extremely hard, and secured a decided success, some of the best numbers in the score falling to her share. Miss Vivienne West was a dainty maid; and Miss Kitty Gordon made a magnificent and imposing appearance as Speranza, acting with great breadth and vigour, singing splendidly, and greatly assisting the general effect by her powerful and artistic performance. *The Antelope* was very prettily dressed and mounted, and the chorus was both comely and capable. The over-friendly redemands of a certain section of the audience seemed to create a reaction in another party, and there was a division of opinion at the conclusion, Mr. Smith coming forward and pouring oil upon the waters in a clever and conciliatory little speech.

"SIR ANTHONY."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by C. Haddon Chambers, produced at Wyndham's Theatre on Saturday, Nov. 28.

Clarence Chope	MR. WEEDON GROSSMITH
Mrs. Chope	MISS HENRIETTA COWAN
Victoria Chope	MISS NINA BOUCICAULT
Olive Bruton	MISS CHRISTINE SILVER
Percy Guy Bulger	MR. EDMUND MAURICE
Rev. Wilkin Delmar	MR. J. D. BEVERIDGE
Robert Morrison	MR. EVELYN BEERBOHM
Mrs. Bulger	MISS SUZANNE SHELDON
Emily	MISS MIGNON CLIFFORD
Matilda	MISS MARY LESLIE

The problem of supplying Mr. Weedon Grossmith with one of those comic, but not entirely contemptible, characters in which he excels, and also writing an entertaining and interesting play, is by no means easy to solve, and Mr. C. Haddon Chambers's comedy, though clever all through, is somewhat thin in texture, and makes large demands for support on the excellence of the acting of those engaged in its performance. Mr. Haddon Chambers has endeavoured to paint the humours of suburban life; and if—as in the scene in which his people behave with callous rudeness in talking aloud while a good-natured youth is singing a sentimental ballad only a few feet away from them in a room—Mr. Chambers has caricatured, rather than drawn, the class he depicts, on the whole the picture must be accepted as a fair and impartial one. His piece is amusing throughout, and is admirably acted.

The scene of the first act is Mrs. Chope's sitting-room at Herne Hill. It is a typically middle-class and early Victorian apartment, with vase-ornamented overmantel, a family portrait of the most uncompromising grimness, and engravings after Landseer. Here assemble Mrs. Chope, an affectionate mother and an unpretending housewife; her daughter Victoria, a young person of much natural shrewdness and decidedly superior to her surroundings; Olive Bruton, a rather silly but pretty girl; and Robert Morrison, a clerk at a bacon curer's, and an alleged athlete. They are awaiting the return from America of Mrs. Chope's son Clarence, a clerk employed at a bacon-curer's, who on the voyage out made the acquaintance of a certain Sir Anthony Mellish, and has used his name in giving evidence in a law case in New York. His brief association with the well-known baronet has worked a complete change in Clarence, who imitates after his fashion the manner and phraseology of the great man, and even goes so far as to use a single eyeglass in mimicry of his model. When Clarence returns to the bosom of his family he is respectfully received by his mother and sister, who have heard of his "friendship" with Sir Anthony, and by his sweetheart, Olive, who is also beloved by the pugilistic Morrison, who strongly contemns Clarence's affectations. The Congregational minister of the parish, Mr. Delmar, calls to ask Chope to use his influence with Sir Anthony to get him to subscribe to a charity; and his employer, Mr. Bulger, wants Clarence to induce his baronet friend to put his name at the head of the prospectus of the company into which Bulger is going to turn his business, and even asks his clerk to dinner in furtherance of this intent. But at the end of this act a letter comes to Clarence from Sir Anthony's secretary disowning all connection with him. He, however, conceals his dismay, and continues his career of deception.

In the second act we find the personages of the comedy gathered at Mr. Bulger's big house at Balham. Morrison, distrusting Chope's statements about Sir Anthony, has induced Bulger to write to the Baronet himself. There is some humorous dialogue, in which the affectations of the magnificently-attired Mrs. Bulger are amusingly ridiculed. The simple minister, who has called upon Sir Anthony and has discovered Chope's imposture, reproaches him in a private interview; but Clarence "bluffs" him off with a plausible explanation, which deceives Mr. Delmar completely. There is no explaining away Sir Anthony's reply to Bulger, however; it topples over Chope's house of cards completely, and he is left alone, scorned and reproved, to the kindly ministrations of Victoria, who comforts him.

In the last act Chope, under the influence of his sister, reforms himself completely. He writes Sir Anthony a defiant letter, breaks his eyeglass, and engages in a pugilistic combat behind the wood-shed with the boastful Morrison, whom he defeats after a terrific struggle. His employer is delighted with his spirit, and takes him back into favour; his sweetheart, who has wavered, returns to her allegiance; and he renounces for ever the society of the great.

Mr. Weedon Grossmith's Clarence Chope adds another to the long list of his successes in parts of the "little cheeky snob" sort. The adventures of Chope are at points tragic, and the grip which Mr. Grossmith had on his audience at the end of the second act was shown by the silent seriousness with which they took Chope's despair. Every detail of the creation was supplied with all the skill and finish of which Mr. Grossmith is acknowledged to be a master; and the abnormal self-esteem of the little clerk, his egregious self-satisfaction, his assumption of superiority, and his distant imitation of a statesmanlike pose, were all depicted by Mr. Grossmith in the most finished, complete, and artistic style. That charming and clever actress, Miss Nina Boucicault, sustained with bright intelligence and characteristic acuteness the part of Victoria Chope; and Mr. Edmund Maurice, fearfully and wonderfully dressed and admirably made up, loomed large and imposing as the massive and magnificent Bulger. A quietly subtle piece of comic acting was contributed by Miss Suzanne Sheldon as Mrs. Bulger. It was unobtrusive, but extraordinarily effective; and the humour, though never forced or exaggerated, was undeniable. Miss Christine Silver gave an irreproachable embodiment of Olive Bruton, and Mr. J. D. Beveridge played the oily and urbane Mr. Delmar with his usual ease, authority, and complete command of his resources. Miss Mignon Clifford was decidedly amusing, and showed considerable smartness as a diminutive servant; Mr. Evelyn Beerbohm's Robert Morrison was a study from life of genuine realistic merit; and Miss Mary Leslie was thoroughly efficient as the Bulger domestic. Mr. Julian Hicks's scenery was appropriate and sufficient. *Sir Anthony* was preceded by Mr. Nelson Jackson in an amusing musical monologue.

'THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE; OR, THE SLAVE OF DUTY."

Comic Opera, in Two Acts, Written by W. S. Gilbert, Composed by Arthur Sullivan, Revived at the Savoy Theatre on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Major-General Stanley	MR. C. H. WORKMAN
The Pirate King	MR. HENRY A. LYTTON
Samuel	MR. LEO. SHEFFIELD
Frederic	MR. HENRY HERBERT
Sergeant of Police	MR. RUTLAND BARRINGTON
Mabel	MISS DOROTHY COURT
Edith	MISS JESSIE ROSE
Kate	MISS BEATRICE BOARER
Isabel	MISS ETHEL LEWIS
Ruth	MISS LOUIE RENE

The Pirates of Penzance was played for the first time in England at the Opera Comique Theatre on April 3, 1880, with Mr. George Grossmith as Major-General Stanley, Mr. Richard Temple as the Pirate King, Mr. George Power as Frederic, Mr. Rutland Barrington as the Sergeant of Police, Miss Marion Hood as Mabel, and Miss Emily Cross as Ruth. "The first performance," says Mr. Rutland Barrington in his book on himself, "very nearly had to be postponed on account of an accident to Miss Everard, who was to have played the part of Ruth; she was delightful as Little Buttercup in *Pinafore*. She was standing in the centre of the stage at rehearsal one morning, when I noticed the front piece of a stack of scenery falling forward. I called to her to run, and got my back against the falling wing and broke its force to a great extent, but it nevertheless caught her on the head, taking off a square of hair as neatly as if done with a razor. The shock and injury combined laid her up for some time, and there was consternation in view of a postponement. Fortunately I was able to suggest to Carte a clever and dear old friend of mine, by name Emily Cross, who I felt sure would be capable of replacing Miss Everard in the time. She was telegraphed for, and after much pressure she consented, and with only two days' study and rehearsal appeared and made a great success."

The first act of the opera was written by Sir Arthur Sullivan soon after his arrival in America in 1879, the second, without the orchestration, having been already composed in England. The libretto does not bear revival quite as well as those of some others of the series; but the score contains some of the sweetest music that Sullivan ever wrote. All the most popular numbers were encored, some of them again and again, at Mrs. D'Oyly Carte's reproduction of the piece at the Savoy on Tuesday; including, of course, "Poor Wandering One" and the ever-amusing "Policeman's Song," rendered in irreproachable style by Mr. Rutland Barrington, who played the Sergeant of Police as of yore in flawless fashion. Mr. Henry Hibbert has a nice voice and uses it agreeably, and his Frederic has all the necessary ingenuous earnestness and pathetic simplicity. Miss Dorothy Court, the Mabel, was obviously too nervous to do herself justice, and at times sang a little out of tune; but she has evidently been thoroughly well taught, and possesses much agility of organ. Her appearance is prepossessing; and she acts with dainty expression and delicate grace. The part of the Pirate King loses none of its amusing effectiveness in the hands of Mr. Henry A. Lytton, who sings the music admirably, and delivers the mock-serious arguments of the ocean Monarch with excellent distinctness and discretion. Miss Louie René's Ruth is all that can be desired, dramatically and vocally, and her face and figure are well suited to the character, except that she is too comely to justify the jeers of the pirates at Ruth's alleged attractions. That clever artist Miss Jessie Rose, Miss Beatrice Boarer, and Miss Ethel Lewis are delightfully arch and active as the trio of leading daughters; and Mr. Leo Sheffield, with a striking make-up, is a powerful and picturesque Samuel. Mr. C. H. Workman not only enacts Major-General Stanley with a crispness and smartness that give to each line its full value, but sings the Major-General's song in the second act quite musically. The chorus, who had the honour of a special call at the close of the performance, was altogether excellent; and Mr. François Cellier, who responded on their behalf, well deserved the recognition of his services in training and selection. Mr. Albert James's capable stage-management had much to do with the brisk way in which all the business was performed. The two sets were very pretty, Mr. A. Terraine's Cornwall Coast scene being full of light and colour, and Mr. W. Raphael's Ruined Chapel having a very realistic rippling water effect in the background. Mr. Gilbert was called for at the conclusion, but was not in the house.

THE AFTERNOON THEATRE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—The correspondence received at His Majesty's Theatre, in connection with the Afternoon Theatre, reveals certain misunderstandings as to the nature of this new institution. I beg to be allowed the hospitality of your columns to state:—(a) The performances of the Afternoon Theatre are public performances, and seats can be booked at the box office of His Majesty's Theatre and at the libraries in the usual way. (b) The Afternoon Theatre is not a private society, such as the Incorporated Stage Society or the Play Actors. It is a public institution, producing its plays at His Majesty's Theatre. (c) The inaugural performances of *Hannele*, by Hauptmann, and *Emily*, by Miss Mack, will be given under Mr. Tree's personal direction, on Tuesday next, Dec. 8, and on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 10 and 11, at 2.45 p.m.—Yours faithfully,

FREDERICK WHELEN,

His Majesty's Theatre, Dec. 1, 1908.

Bloaters for Breakfast.

SIR ARTHUR SULLIVAN, says Mr. Barrington, was somewhat of a *bon viveur* whenever he could escape the grip of his chronic malady, but was also most emphatically a gourmet, and invariably had an excellent chef in his employ. Gilbert, calling there one morning, was chaffing him about this, and Sullivan defended it by insisting that even the most simple dishes sounded more attractive in French. "For instance," said he, "look at my menu there for breakfast, and you will see what I mean." Gilbert picked it up and said, "Quite so. I see. Bloaters!"

ACTORS' CHURCH UNION SERVICE.

A development of the work of the Actors' Church Union was made on Tuesday afternoon, when a series of addresses to actors, actresses, and music-hall artists was begun at the Church of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, Charing Cross. The idea, we were assured, was not so much to draw together a large number of the profession as to promote interest in the Union. An invitation, we understood, had been left at every theatre in London, and, allowing for the fact that rehearsals are in progress for the Christmas novelties, and that the hour fixed was identical with that at which the weekly meeting of the Actors' Union is held, it was surprising to find that the attendance did not exceed a dozen. The Rev. J. Stephen Barrass, rector of St. Lawrence Jewry, and chaplain of the Actors' Church Union, was the speaker, and after a short service of hymns and devotions, said he asked them to come on the four Tuesdays of Advent in order that they might have, first of all, a brief service of prayer, and by that means members of the Actors' Church Union might become more united in the spirit and purpose of the work of the Union. He did not anticipate that they would have a very large number of people, so that he was not discouraged, and he hoped they would not be censorious. Like all new departures, it was more or less trying if people were sometimes shy, but he thought they might get more next season if they made up their minds that day as to what that service was for—namely, to bring them together for prayer, so that they might more clearly understand the great purpose of their movement. That purpose was not, as a great many people erroneously supposed, a mission to the stage, but an attempt on the part of the Church to perform a duty which ought to have been long ago performed, and that was to recognise those who were within the fold of the Church, and through them, of course, to influence others who were without. The object of their Union, then, was to draw together the members of the dramatic and music-hall professions, a very large number of whom were active members of the Church of England. He need not go into all the ramifications of the work. It would suffice to say that they came together to join first of all in prayer, and then just think together over the style of life as they lived it that day. That would be the subject during that very solid season of Advent. Life as he and they lived it seemed to be full of sorrows and trials, and it seemed to be very long. If they would cast their minds back to the very early days of youth—he was not going to insinuate that they were all in the sere and yellow leaf—they would remember how they longed to grow up and take their place in the world. Yet, as they went on in years and looked back, it seemed but yesterday. All the incidents seemed to come flying before them like a kind of living papyrii, and it seemed as though no time had elapsed. When they were young they were longing to grow old, but when they were old they were longing to grow young. Among the many people who came to him at his City church was a young fellow of nineteen. There was no harm in him; like all young fellows of the same age, he was a little bit wild, but there was no mischief. His mother thought there was mischief in some little idiosyncrasy. "I had a confidential chat with the lad," said the speaker, "and he said in confidence, 'The fact is, I want to be twenty-one.' I said 'Precisely; that is what I want to be. We all want to be twenty-one, only you are on the right side and I am on the wrong.' I think you see the philosophy underlying my remark. Life presents itself to us in this way—when you are young you are looking forward, and when you are old you are longing to be back." Life, added the preacher, is full of disappointments. There was no power that he knew of on earth that could save them from the disappointments of life. There was only one power, and that was the power of Heaven, that could save them from feeling the sting of life's disappointments. If they lived the higher life, with the love of God as their standard, then life would have neither surprises nor disappointments for them. A great many people had the idea that there were forces in this life which would mitigate the sting of disappointment. Let them examine some of those forces. First and foremost there was wealth, which a number of people believed was a most potent agent in the mitigation of disappointment, that where wealth was there must be joy; but that was not the case. He would not say the acquisition of wealth deprived one of happiness; wealth sometimes allowed the faculty for enjoyment to remain, but that faculty would only remain when the joys and tastes were simple, and he would go further, and say when there was a higher standard of enjoyment. No less illusive was the idea that power and position could yield happiness. That was, perhaps, one of the greatest snares and pitfalls of life. They saw it in every class of the community; in one the desire to move in high society, in another to move in fast society; in another it was ambition, in another it was the desire for publicity, the craze for notoriety. It was a shortcoming that was not confined to any class, but was present in varied degree in every section of society. It could be expressed in one word, "vanity," which was one of the besetting sins of manhood and womanhood. He wanted to ask them to set their thoughts on things above, not on things of the earth. Let them try to seek their standard in God. Where God was, love was; where Christ was, light was. There could be no darkness, no hatred, where they had Christ. They would thus have an altogether different standard of life, and life would yield them infinitely greater happiness than they had hitherto experienced. They would see something nobler in their fellow men than they had ever been able to see before; they would see not only the base, but they would see first of all the good. He would ask them as they met together on the Tuesdays during the Advent season to try to fix their thoughts upon the subject of life—its snares, its pitfalls, its hopes, its aspirations, and its infinite possibilities.

MISS IRENE MONCRIEFF, who has been suffering from intercostal neuralgia, is happily gaining strength. She sets out to-day for a fortnight's stay at Bournemouth, where she hopes to attain complete recovery.

DANTE AND SHAKESPEARE.

"We have seen that, in respect to moral philosophy, Shakespeare and Dante are akin," writes Mary Winslow Smyth in the *Nineteenth Century* for October. "It would be easy to show, also, that in some of their political ideals, such as their convictions as to a man's duty to his country and the relations of the individual to the community; in their thoughts about the duties of kings; and the dangers that beset kings; in their hate of outward show and pomp as in their realisation of the fact that high birth does not create nobility of character—that in all these Shakespeare and Dante are also akin. But having obtained a sufficient philosophical basis for our consideration of the poets' treatment of actual life, we must now turn to the portrayal of character as found in Dante and Shakespeare. Three questions especially must be answered, in order to judge of Dante as compared with Shakespeare in respect to the power of depicting actual life. First, are Dante's character real? Secondly, do we come to know them as thoroughly as we do those in Shakespeare's dramas? And, thirdly, does Dante show a knowledge of human nature in as great a variety of its aspects as does Shakespeare? Our first question answers itself, for no one ever thinks of doubting the reality of Dante's characters; even those who most insist upon the allegorical interpretation of Beatrice admit that she is too real to be wholly allegorical. Moreover, Beatrice is as real a woman when enthroned in glory—and this is the wonder of it—as when she modestly walked the streets of Florence and thrilled the youthful Dante with her sweet salutation. Dante's Beatrice combines the sweetness and lovableness and strength of Imogen, the ideality of Miranda, the purity of Isabella, the intellectuality of Portia, the reserve of Ophelia, the dignity of Hermione, the tenderness of Desdemona, the depth of intense devotion of Cordelia. She is thus intensely human and real, though at the same time she is the Beatrice, symbolic of Theology, whose religious zeal and spirituality are found in none of Shakespeare's characters. As for Virgil, whatever he may symbolise, however idealised, he is always the helpful friend, the human poet whom Dante had loved and looked to for inspiration even from youth. Virgil's humanity may be most felt, perhaps, when we see him carrying Dante in his arms, and when we notice with what emotions he is overcome at various stages of the journey, as when he is angered at the refusal of the demons to unbar the gates that lead to the city of Dis.

"And what of Francesca? We see her not merely as a spirit condemned to Hell, but as a woman capable of noble love and true devotion, tender, sympathetic, possessing the delicate grace of sweet womanliness, yet fallen and doomed. It is her life on earth, her sin, her frail humanity, which we feel even more than her punishment. And so with each and all of the people whom we meet throughout this strange journey; their reality is what most impresses us. This reality will become more apparent as we try to answer our second question, namely, do we come to know Dante's characters as thoroughly as we do Shakespeare's? Probably nine persons out of ten would, at first thought, answer this question in the negative, and the reason of all would be the same; it may be given in the words of a Dante scholar who might be expected to be more favourable to Dante. Gardner says that 'there is no development, as there is in Shakespeare, no interaction of character.' But this answer must not be allowed to pass, as is so often the case, without critical examination. Just what is meant by the phrase, 'development of character'? That Macbeth is a different man when convicted of murder from the Macbeth who, at the beginning of the play, heard the witches echo his own secretly cherished desires and intentions, which needed but the spark of opportunity to kindle into a blaze? Is Cordelia's love developed by her father's misfortunes in the sense that it first becomes apparent when the play is half over? Is Lear's insanity a sudden phenomenon, brought on by the circumstances with which the drama opens? Or do we feel that it was inevitable, brought on by a long chain of causes which reach far back, and which Shakespeare makes us know? The only real development of character that the greatest poets show us is the coming into actuality, as Aristotle would say, of potentialities, or, as a modern critic has put it, 'the blazing up of powers and passions out of quiescence into activity,' and this is only development in the sense that, as the same writer says, 'Every act . . . and every outbreak of passion' is 'one link in the casual chain determining as well as indicating character.' That Shakespeare recognised this principle, he may himself testify:

> "'There is a history in all men's lives,
> Figuring the nature of the times deceased;
> The which observed, a man may prophesy,
> With a near aim, of the main chance of things
> As yet not come to life, which in their seeds
> And weak beginnings lie intreasured.
> Such things become the hatch and brood of time.'

"In discussing what is apparently a marvellous change in Henry the Fifth from the wild Prince Hal to the wise and noble king, Canterbury and Ely decide that miracles are past, and the prince merely 'obscured his contemplation under the veil of wildness,' and it grew fastest in the night. What Shakespeare really does is to concentrate in the supreme moment of a man's life his whole past, and in this critical moment are implicit all the spiritual changes which every life must show. Take, then, Macbeth; when we first see him affected by the witches' speech, we know what he desires, and will do; when we see him later, come to a realising sense that all that should accompany old age—respect, love, and joy—cannot be his, there is a flood of light shed backward, and forward too, in such a way that we see his life whole, reflected in this supreme moment which we had foreseen from the very beginning. And what of Lear? When heartbroken, conscious that it is now too late, he cries in despair, 'Cordelia, stay a little'; are we surprised? His entire life is, rather, spread out before us, its final despair the necessary consequence of its early mistrust. Hudson says of Lear that he is among Shakespeare's finest instances of the art of representing in the 'to-day . . . the slow cumulative result of a great many yesterdays,' and this not by way of narrative, but by suggestion, 'the antecedent history being merely implied, not related, in what is given.' This is the art of the Greek tragedians, and of Pindar. And this is precisely the power of Dante, as all commentators are practically agreed. Take an instance typical of all the rest of Dante's characters; when we see Francesca reaping the whirlwind, and listen to her few simple words, the whole story of her past life is flashed before us as if by lightning. We see both her and Paolo, who shares with her in Hell the consequences of their sin, not merely on that eventful day when the reading of Launcelot overpowered them, but in all the stages of their devotion, from its first innocent beginnings to the time when Francesca's husband, doomed to a place in Hell, called Caina, even now awaiting him, so cruelly separated the lovers, as it seemed. But there is more than this; in the suggestion of Francesca's indignant husband, who tore Paolo from her, we have a glimpse of the interaction of character, for Dante succeeds in making vivid the husband's watchful jealousy, and its effect upon the lovers, who try to conceal their passion, and we cannot help thinking of the three people together in all their relations."

Now ready. Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906. Effect on theatres and music halls. By Albert A. Strong, LL.B., solicitor. Price 6d. Published at *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

SHAKESPEARE AND A NATIONAL THEATRE.

"What purpose the National Theatre would serve is not yet clear," writes Mr. Charles Whibley in the *National Review* for July. "Doubtless it would attempt to justify its name and origin by the occasional performance of Shakespeare's plays. Doubtless it would gather together a classic repertory, and it would give a first aid to the unacted. The unacted, indeed, though they come last on the list, are the most eloquent and the least disinterested champions of the scheme. Were it not for them we should have heard little of a National Theatre. Shakespeare may very well be left to take care of himself, and he will tempt the ambition of the actor-manager until the end of time. The unacted tempt nobody, and nothing short of a public subsidy will remove what we are told is a grave injustice. No sound reason is given why one art should be encouraged by the Government while the others perish of neglect. Poetry, worthy the name, has no better chance than the drama of securing attention or reward. But, say the unacted, the cost of its production may easily be sustained either by poet or publisher. A play cannot be put upon the stage without a vast expense. That this is true is the fault of none but the managers, actors, and dramatists. Reckless extravagance is not an inherent necessity of the drama. It is only in the last fifty years that the true purpose of the theatre, the decent interpretation of the drama, has been utterly obscured. To-day carpenters, costumiers, and wig-makers throw the humble playwright into the shade. Dramas are over-mounted, over-dressed, and over-acted. The risk of production has become so great that managers prefer to put upon their stage the musical comedies, which they know will amuse an idle audience, than to encourage the dramatist of talent, whose quiet excellence may not hold its own against the noisy insistence of the carpenter. But it is not for the State to correct this vulgarity, which has been ensured by the universal greed of the theatre, and at which the dramatists themselves have eagerly connived. If it became the fashion for men of letters to have their works printed in gold upon vellum, illustrated by the greatest painters, and adorned with jewelled bindings, very few books would find their way to print. Would the world of letters be justified, therefore, in asking the aid of the Treasury? Assuredly not. The world of letters, I hope, would check its love of vain display, and return to the sane and modest conduct of its craft.

"The dramatists, in fact, who now clamour for help would be performing a more useful task if they insisted upon an economic simplicity in all corners of the theatre. And they might do it with a clearer conscience because every decrease of expense would mean an enhancing of the artistic effect. It cannot be said too often that decoration and archæology are the bane of the drama. What is called realism on the stage instantly destroys a sense of reality. The theatre lives for and by illusion. In a world illumined, not by the sun, but by the footlights, and bounded by a backcloth, there is no room for solid sets and costly furniture. Unless Hamlet is to die nightly by the sword of Laertes, the palace of Elsinore should be as flimsy as canvas can make it. You cannot translate one part of the drama into the terms of realism and let the rest be spoken in the language of emotion without ensuring a manifest absurdity. And this manifest absurdity, long ago ensured by our actor-managers, has corrupted the taste of the people.

"The reason why our unacted playwrights ask for a National Theatre is the reason why such a theatre, were it established, would be foredoomed to failure. A public, deceived into believing that the stuffiness of stage decoration is 'artistic,' would not be content with a neat simplicity. It would demand at its National Theatre the same extravagance to which speculative actor-managers have accustomed it, and thus the theatre would be either emptied or ruined.

"Those who support the project of a National Theatre are never weary of citing the example of the Comédie Française. They tell us in impassioned prose how much they have learned, what pleasure they have taken in the House of Molière. Their pleasure and profit are alike indisputable; they also seem to me wholly irrelevant. The Comédie Française is an institution which all the money in the British Isles would not avail to purchase. It contains that which is beyond the reach of wealth—a noble tradition. Did it not exist, not even the taste and intelligence of France could create it. It was born of opportunity, and cradled in genius. The descendants of Molière obtained for themselves something more than a habitation. They set before them a splendid example and a noble method. At the Comédie Française you may see Molière presented to-day as he was presented before the Court of Louis XIV. The modern actors proceed from the ancient in an unbroken line. Unbroken also are the habits of the theatre. Within its walls there is no room for the star that shines in solitary magnificence. An imperious discipline insists upon equable presentment. Its actors and actresses must speak the same language; they must act within the same frame; none of them may walk alone in the glare of the limelight. And they must study many parts, they must be obedient to the voice of the director, they must conciliate their comrades for a modest salary which the English actor would refuse with a magnificent gesture of contempt. Even if a prodigal Government or private munificence gave us the finest theatre which human ingenuity could contrive, how should we people its stage? "Men, not walls, nor empty ships, are the city," said Nicias to his army. So we, echoing his sentiment, may say that it is actors, and not an empty building, who make the theatre.

"The success which have been won upon our stage have been won not by well-trained talent, but by unexpected genius. For good or evil the history of our stage is the history of individuals. In the splendour of Garrick we forget his contemporaries. It was the genius of Kean, not the management of a wise committee, that made the fortune of Old Drury. These great men were each a law unto himself; they founded no school; they left behind them no pupils. It is improbable that either could have bequeathed a lasting tradition. Our stage, like our literature, has been uninfluenced by academics. Ours is not the best soil on which to sow the seeds of order and good government. That which suits the Latin temperament is ill-adapted to the lawless temperament of the Anglo-Saxon race, and the one chance of our stage is the advent of a dramatist who can make his own terms with actors and managers, and restore to the theatre the forgotten truth that the play is he theatre's real excuse, and that even the interpreter, to-day omnipotent, is none the worse if he encounter something not unworthy his art of interpretation."

Lady Violet Greville in the *Graphic* examines the causes which contribute to so many marriages between Peers and actresses. Lady Violet considers the principal factor is, perhaps, the glamour of the footlights and the fact that their (the actresses') beauty is made the most of; secondly, the enormous advertisement given by photographs and the Press nowadays to young actresses; thirdly, the fact that the girls are clever enough to desire and insist on marriage, and, lastly, the want of attraction of girls in society. The latter do not lay themselves out to please men as they used; they are too engrossed in their own amusements and games to care, and they associate so much en camarade with their male friends that the glamour, the mystery, the aloofness which are carefully cherished by the stage, have disappeared.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Nov. 30, for the first time in London, the Drama in Four Acts, by Chas. H. Phelps, entitled

"MAN OR BEAST?"

Lord Newton ..... Mr. Fred Newland
The Hon. Jack Newton .... Mr. J. W. Boyling
Sir Richard Tremere .... Mr. Ernest Vaughan
Col. Bruce Anderson ..... Mr. Chas. D. Pitt
Capt. Donald Macdonald Mr. Chas. H. Phelps
Christopher Sharp ..... Mr. Fred Boyes
Lothario Sinclair ..... Mr. Alf. Kitson
Dr. Watson ..... Mr. Frank Rogers
Pat O'Brien ..... Mr. Fred Gresham
Inspector Gresham ..... Mr. John C. Gray
Annitta ..... Miss Phyllis Elton
Marie ..... Miss Marie Pemberton
Lottie Fairfax ..... Miss Teresa Phelps
Lady Constantine Winscope
Miss Winifred Lester
Bella Newton ..... Miss Irene Carrington
Rosie Newton ..... Miss Madge Douglas

Melodrama has supplied us with wicked women galore, and in the predominating personage of *Man or Beast?* we have the "worst woman's" counterpart. It is the doings of Sir Richard Tremere which put the query—a plausible, heartless scoundrel, with the outward appearance of a gentleman. When we first meet him he has already besmirched the fair name of his cousin, Bella Newton, and is about to cast her off, while he has also contracted an alliance with an Indian nurse Annitta. Tremere is already the heir to Lord Newton, the father of Jack Newton and of Bella and her sister Rosie. These three have been practically disowned by their parent through the machinations of Tremere, but the old man becomes enlightened as to his nephew's real character, and in his last moments makes reparation to his son. Seeing poverty staring him in the face if the new will is brought to light, the desperate man hastens his uncle's end, but, unfortunately for him, his Indian wife, who has got herself installed as Lord Newton's nurse, witnesses the crime, as well as outwitting the villain for possession of the true will. Having this power, she extorts a promise that he will make valid their Indian marriage. Another witness to the murder of Lord Newton is his son Jack, now returned from abroad, and the latter, powerless without actual proof, vows to bring Tremere to justice, for he already has his sister's honour to avenge. Sir Richard Tremere has no intention of carrying out his promise to Annitta, for he covets the pretty, light-hearted Rosie, who has become betrothed to the easy-going, woman-hating Captain Macdonald, whose friend, Colonel Anderson has in the meantime married her sister Bella. Anderson knows nothing of his wife's former liaison with Tremere, and this is the lever which the villain brings to bear to forward his suit with Rosie. To save her sister, she will make the sacrifice, and Sir Richard Tremere sees the realisation of his schemes in view. But he does not wed his "scorched butterfly." His tether is nearly at an end. His marriage is to Annitta, who has replaced Rosie and hoodwinked Tremere. While waiting at the church is Jack Newton with detectives, who "take" Tremere for the murder of Lord Newton, on the confession of Annitta, and as recompense to Rosie, who is in bridal attire, Jack has brought a special licence for her to marry Macdonald.

The representation of the piece is in the hands of Mr. Ernest Vaughan's company, under the direction of the author, Mr. Charles H. Phelps, and the performance is extremely creditable to all concerned. Mr. Ernest Vaughan makes Sir Richard Tremere a most obnoxious personage by his cool, collected, unforced acting—the type of caustic, cynical cad that one yearns to take outside and kick. Mr. J. W. Boyling depicts the outspoken and manly Jack Newton with vigour and virility; Mr. Charles D. Pitt admirably portrays Col. Bruce Anderson; and Mr. Chas. H. Phelps as the woman-hating Captain Donald MacDonald, who is finally led to the altar, plays in capital comedy vein. Miss Irene Carrington handles the part of Bella Newton with much tact and sympathy, and Miss Phyllis Elton, whose clear diction is very welcome, plays most convincingly as the Indian nurse Annitta. Miss Madge Douglas is pretty, vivacious, and dainty as Rosie Newton (albeit adding quite a poignant touch to her performance in Rosie's troublous times), and with her excellent voice should find her way into musical comedy. Miss Marie Pemberton is chic and smart as the French maid Marie. Mr. Fred Boyes cleverly presents an exaggerated type of London solicitor in Christopher Sharp; Dr. Watson is well played by Mr. Frank Rogers; and Mr. Fred Newland makes the most of his opportunities as Lord Newton. Mr. Fred Gresham is an amusing and entertaining Pat O'Brien, and he also scores vocally. Remaining parts are in quite capable hands, and a special word of praise must be bestowed upon the mounting and dressing of the piece.

Man and Beast should certainly add another leaf to the laurels of Mr. Chas. H. Phelps.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Sir Frederick Bridge—Sunday, Dec. 6.
E. H. Sothern—Sunday, Dec. 6.
A. R. Marshall—Sunday, Dec. 6.
Pietro Mascagni—Monday, Dec. 7.
Violet Cameron—Monday, Dec. 7.
David Day—Tuesday, Dec. 8.
Fred C. Somerfield—Wednesday, Dec. 9.
Arthur Williams—Wednesday, Dec. 9.
Geo. Grossmith—Wednesday, Dec. 9.
Lily Burnand—Wednesday, Dec. 9.
Harry H. Rignold—Wednesday, Dec. 9.
Anna Beaumont—Wednesday, Dec. 9.
Marie Auckland—Thursday, Dec. 10.
Vernon Cowper—Thursday, Dec. 10.
F. M. Paget—Thursday, Dec. 10.
Florrie Gallimore—Thursday, Dec. 10.
Decima Moore—Friday, Dec. 11.
Archie Selwyn—Friday, Dec. 11.

Miss Mellon, says Mrs. Wilson, in her "Life of the Duchess of St. Albans," was one evening standing near the green-room fire, and while waiting for the play to begin she was humming some popular dance, and just tracing the steps unconsciously. She was roused by the voice of Miss Farren, whispering, "You happy girl; I would give worlds to be like you." Poor Miss Mellon, recollecting her thirty-shilling salary, thought she was ridiculed by "a lady with thirty guineas a week, who was to marry a lord"; and she replied with some slight vexation, "that there certainly must be a vast deal to be envied in *her* position by one who commanded what she pleased!" Pressing her hand kindly, Miss Farren's eyes became full of tears, as she replied, "I cannot command such a *light heart* as prompted your little song."

At the matinée at the St. James's Theatre on Friday, on behalf of the funds of the National Orthopædic Hospital, some verses by Miss Marie Corelli were printed on the programme. They were entitled "Outside the Church," and the last verse was as follows:—

> "The wind sighed and the trees swayed—
> And I heard as in a waking dream
> A jocund tune that the fiddles played
> Close under the footlight's gleam.
> Where actors acted their well-worn parts,
> To solace and strengthen suffering hearts
> And succour those in need.
> And I thought that even a priestly theme
> Could scarce teach more of the God above
> Than the force of the player's working creed
> Expressed in a labour of love;
> For surely close to the Throne of Grace
> 'Sock and Buskin' have found a place."

"THE EARL OF IONA."

Musical Comedy, in Two Acts, by H. Gerald Ransley, Produced at the Florence Institute, Liverpool, Nov. 28.

Gordon Bruce ..... Mr. Gerald Ransley
José Gonzaga ..... Mr. George Alsop
Cholmondeley Chunks ..... Mr. Jo. McGrath
Freddy Wood ..... Mr. Arthur Terry
Thompson Tadpole ..... Mr. A. Philips
Claude Dumas ..... Mr. Alex. Richardson
Derrick Van Winkle .... Mr. J. Sidney Gorrie
Number 22 ..... Mr. Fred C. Dare
Gus Freeman ..... Mr. Geo. Parry
Arthur Green ..... Mr. Victor Farquhar
Marie Dalmay ..... Miss Vera Moulton
Carmen Pastia ..... Miss Stella Raine
Countess of Helsby ..... Miss Mary Vernon
Hon. Lucy Coverdale ..... Miss Mariel Harris
Sadie Chunks ..... Miss Maude Barry

(from our own correspondent.)

Previous efforts of Mr. Ransley have been in the dramatic line, and several well-written plays have come from his pen, but his latest is of a lighter character. *The Earl of Iona* has certainly much to commend it, for the dialogue is crisp and entertaining, and the music and lyrics, by the same author, exceedingly appropriate. The work was most cordially received by a large audience, and encores of several numbers loudly demanded, although the artists were all amateurs.

Briefly, the story is that the Earl is kidnapped in Paris by a couple of foreign adventurers, named Dumas and Van Winkle, and transported to San Sebastian, along with a French dancing girl named Marie Dalmay, who, by means of a forged marriage certificate, pretends to be his wife, the object being blackmail. The proprietor of the Hôtel Grande offers to disguise and shelter him on condition that he undertakes the blowing up of the Royal Mail, which is desired by Anarchists. The Earl, however, succeeds in postponing the committal of the act, and meanwhile his friends, including his sweetheart, Lucy Coverdale, and her mother, the Countess, arrive, and the conspiracy of the two adventurers is frustrated.

Mr. Ransley was amusing as the terrified Earl, his duties in the disguise of a waiter provoking great laughter; Mr. George Alsop made a creditable hotel keeper; the humorous part of the American, Chunks, was well filled by Mr. J. McGrath; Messrs. Richardson and Gorrie were a couple of funny adventurers; Miss Vera Moulton danced gracefully; Miss Maude Barry, possessed of an excellent voice, was loudly appauded for her songs "Love, love, love" and "I don't want a dandy boy"; and Mr. Ransley with his amusing number "The terrible-torial army" afforded great pleasure. The orchestra, under Mr. Tom Devaney, did justice to the appropriate music.

THE THEATRE FURNISHING CASE.

In the King's Bench Division on Tuesday, Mr. Justice Darling, in the action by Messrs. James Shoolbred and Co., Tottenham Court-road, against Sir Charles Wyndham and Mrs. Albery (Miss Mary Moore), gave judgment for the defendants, with costs, plaintiffs being allowed costs on the issue respecting some carpets and on the counter-claim.

His lordship said the action was a peculiar one. The whole object of the work was to produce a certain effect. A certain colour scheme had attracted the attention of Miss Mary Moore—a mixture of yellow and new blue. The jury had not found that the material used was exactly according to sample. There was no finding that the defendants were unreasonable people, and it must be taken that they were capable of being satisfied. They were not satisfied, and it was honestly and in good faith that they were not satisfied. The plaintiffs had undertaken to satisfy Miss Moore. They did not give her the exact thing, and she rejected it. As they failed to satisfy her she was entitled to judgment.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The programme of the students' concert on Wednesday commenced with a piano solo, "Toccata," by Schumann, neatly played by Miss Pattie Norris. A somewhat difficult task for a student was the first movement of Vieuxtemps' "Fantasie Appassionata" for violin, but Miss Alice Kershaw displayed considerable ability, and received hearty applause. Mrs. E. M. Shergold sang "At the mid hour of night" with good expression, and was equally successful in Cowen's other song, "A Birthday." Mr. C. G. Belle has a pleasing voice, but, of course, lacks as yet the experience required for such important music as "All hail, thou dwelling pure and lowly," the famous "Salve Dimore" from *Faust*, and he did not improve matters by dragging the time. Miss Grace Elvey was heard in "Ah, fors è lui" from *Traviata*; and Mr. R. A. Fletcher, who has an excellent baritone voice, showed no little skill in his careful singing of the aria "Si tra i ceppi" from Handel's *Berenice*. A very young performer, Master Cecil Hay (Advanced Grade Certificate), did his professor great credit by a well-executed piano solo "Ballade in A flat" (Chopin). The Rita Mandoline Quintette, pupils of Mme. Waldahoff, proved an attractive feature of Wednesday's concert. Dressed in a pretty costume, the young ladies gave a most successful interpretation of Mahlendorf's "Pregheira" and the clever Spanish Dance of Monte. After a pretty song, entitled "To-night," by Zardo, ably sung by Miss L. Tooley, Dr Cummings announced that owing to the absence of Miss Julie C. Huntsman, set down for a recitation, Mr. R. A. Fletcher would sing Vulcan's air from Gounod's opera, but Dr. Cummings begged the indulgence of the audience for Mr. Fletcher, owing to his recent illness. The accompanist was Miss Jenny Hyman.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Nov. 30, the Play, entitled "THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

Messrs. Paumier and Howard's principal company, in the Lyceum success, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, was welcomed by a large and enthusiastic audience on Monday. The acting was in every way excellent, and the scenery and mounting in admirable taste. Mr. Herbert Ford played with distinction as Prince Olaf, and Mr. Ivan Cleveland's conception of Prince Hildred commanded attention. The crippled Prince Michael was delineated with care by Mr. Graeme Campbell and a dignified prelate was found in Mr. Francis Hawley, who portrayed the Bishop of Illyrica. Miss Annie Saker gave aperformance of Monica that was full of power and incisiveness. A rendition of much charm was presented by Miss Isla Garnet Vayne as Fiola; and Miss Dido Drake was satisfactory as Camiola. The other parts were capably sustained.

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HORRORS ON THE STAGE.

"The interest of curiosity," says Mr. A. B. Walkley in "Drama and Life," "has a very humble place in the region of art, while the interest of horror has no place in that region at all. And, first, as to curiosity. That is the distinguishing mark of the child in civilised, and the adult in savage, communities. The state of mind which is always wondering what is going to happen next, rather than forming judgments upon what has happened, is a naïve state. In primitive periods it accounts for the importance of oracles, prophets, and soothsayers. It still makes kitchen-maids the ready victims of 'fortune-tellers' and the eager readers of 'Zadkiel's Almanac.' In a higher stratum of intelligence it means the popularity of the 'detective novel'; curiosity here becomes a mere amusement, a form of dilettantism, so that men of really gigantic intellect, but of an intellect which is dormant on the artistic side—Darwin and Bismarck are illustrations of the type—are accustomed to take delight in the stories of Gaboriau, du Boisgobey, and Conan Doyle. To the average mind a 'mystery' is always more fascinating than the co-ordination and analysis of ascertained facts. That is why someone or other will always be discovering Bacon 'ciphers'; such things appeal to the average man more intimately than the pleasure of reading either Bacon's or Shakespeare's works for what they are. The same feeling, the preference of the mysterious, the unaccountable, to the rational, scientifically explicable, moved the numerous supporters of the Tichborne claimant. So the interest still taken in the authorship of Junius's letters is an interest wholly unconcerned with the literary or political importance of their contents. The clever 'boom' of 'An Englishwoman's Love Letters' is another case in point. To return to drama, the aim of the great artist is not to surprise the spectator with an unforeseen, but to gratify him with an 'inevitable,' action. It is not to provoke his curiosity about what is going to happen so much as to excite in him a keen desire that a certain thing shall happen, and then to satisfy that desire to the full. To the Greek dramatists the interest of curiosity was virtually unknown; or, if they knew it, they despised the use of it. *Œdipus Tyrannus* is perhaps an exception, though even in that play the spectator's feeling is not so much curiosity about what is going to happen as sympathetic anguish for the victim of a fate which the spectator knows, but the victim does not know, to be impending. The state of feeling is very like that excited by Macterlinck's poignant little play *Intérieur*, wherein the spectator sees a drowned body being brought home. The shadows of the as yet happy family are seen on the window-blind, and the interest is not in what will happen behind that blind when the body is brought in—we all know the commotion, the horror, the grief that will ensue—but in the contrast between the present happiness of the household and the thought of the sudden end to that happiness which is impending. So indifferent were the Greek dramatists to the interest of curiosity that they did not scruple to announce their plot in advance. Euripides used prologues for this very purpose. Lessing, commenting on the practice in his 'Hamburg Dramaturgy,' maintains that 'the dramtic interest is all the stronger and keener the longer and the more certainly we have been allowed to foresee everything,' and he adds, 'So far am I from holding that the end ought to be hidden from the spectator that I don't think the enterprise would be a task beyond my strength were I to undertake a play of which the end should be announced in advance, from the very first scene.' Lessing was something of a fanatic where the Greeks were concerned, but he had the root of the matter in him. And the fact remains that the question put in *Cæsar's Wife*—which of two possible women is guilty of an adulterous intrigue?—is a trivial question compared with the questions which the playwright treats as of minor importance—why the guilty woman came to be guilty, and what will be the consequences of her guilt?

"As to the theatrical use of sheer horror, there is always a tendency to it. In the first place, the spectacle of helpless physical suffering has a secret attraction for the primeval brute—the *gorille féroce* as Taine calls it—which slumbers in all of us. A poor dog run over in a London street will attract a fascinated crowd, gathered not to assist but to gloat. Burke said that a theatre where a tragedy was a-playing would at once be deserted by an audience who learnt that a real execution was going on outside. But in default of real bloodshed the audience will content itself with the sham. Dandin, the judge in Racine's comedy of *Les Plaideurs*, offers to amuse Isabelle by the spectacle of a little torturing. 'Eh! Monsieur,' exclaims Isabelle—'Eh! Monsieur, peut-on voir souffrir des malheureux?' and Dandin, in his reply, speaks for a large proportion of the human race: 'Bon! cela fait toujours passer une heure ou deux.'

"Hence the popularity of the torture scene in *La Tosca*. Besides, there is a law in æsthetics which corresponds to the physiological law that a steady level of sensation can only be maintained by increasing doses of stimulant. Tastes jaded by the merely terrible crave for the horrible. And so we have such exhibitions as that of *Heard at the Telephone*, wherein a man, conversing with his wife at a great distance by this instrument, is driven raving mad by hearing thieves breaking into the house and murdering her. He can do nothing; it is as though the murder were being committed in his presence while he is gagged and bound. Now such incidents do not belong to dramatic art, because that art deals with the collision of human wills, whereas in this incident we have merely the spectacle of human powerlessness. They humiliate our common human dignity. A man overwhelmed by an avalanche is no more than a fly or a gnat. Conceive some man revered among men, a Socrates or a John Wesley or a George Washington, fallen among cannibals, tortured before our eyes, then cooked and eaten—you turn with a faugh! even from the mental picture. So there are things in the massacre of Cawnpur which no one to this day dares to think of. There are some calamities so dreadful, so irreconcilable with a rational universe, that we can only writhe over the thought of them with an agonised cry of Why? Why? Why? The dramatist who uses such themes as these (and the telephone story is one of them) is travelling outside the region of art. They belong to the region of what Aristotle spoke of as being sheer accident, misadventure, the irrational element of life. The sensation excited by the picture of them is too violent to be an æsthetic sensation, we are oppressed and shocked by it; whereas the aim of all art, even of tragic art, is to exhilarate and relieve. For the same reason no skill is demanded for such exhibitions. There is skill in the first scene of *Heard at the Telephone*, wherein we see the family of women left unprotected in the lonely house, and fear gradually mastering them as a sense grows upon them of something uncanny, some hidden presence in the place. It is the same effect which has been attained, on a higher plane of workmanship, in Maeterlinck's *L'Intruse*. But in the actual telephone scene there is no skill. The idea suffices of itself. The pit receives the scene with 'thunders of applause'? Yes, and the fact suggests a train of by no means agreeable reflections. Evidently the primeval man lurking within us is more potent than some of us had thought; evidently the lust for a strong emotion is a far more considerable force than respect for art; evidently we still have our Dandins, with their 'Bon! cela fait toujours passer une heure ou deux.' Once more the commonplace is brought home to us, that our civilisation is only skin-deep."

ON THE ROAD, DEC. 7.

ALONE IN LONDON.—T. R., Bolton.
AMASIS.—D. P. T., Eastbourne.
AN ABANDONED WOMAN.—T. R., Edmonton.
AN UNWEDDED WIFE.—Lyric T., Hammersmith.
ASCHE, OSCAR.—Broadway T., New Cross.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—Century T., Motherwell.
BENSON, MR. AND MRS. F. R.—O. H., Leeds.
BENSON, THE F. R. (N.).—T. R., Rochdale.
BENSON, THE F. R. (S.).—Godalming and Weybridge.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—Prince's T., Bradford.
BOURCHIER, ARTHUR.—Prince's T., Bristol.
BOYNE, LEONARD, MR.—T. R., Nottingham.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Kennington Theatre, S.E.
BULMER, MR.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—T. R., Manchester.
CHARLEY'S AUNT (No. 1).—T. R., Brighton.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, N.).—O. H., Leicester.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE, S.).—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
CLAUDIAN.—T. R., South Shields.
COAL KING, THE.—T. R., Sheffield.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—T. R., Merthyr.
CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE.—T. R., Smethwick.
CONVICT'S DAUGHTER.—T. R., Woolwich.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—Cambridge T., Spennymoor.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—T. R., Tony-pandy.
DOROTHY.—Marlborough Theatre, Holloway, N.
DRIVEN FROM HOME.—T. R., Darlington.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—T. R., Chesterfield.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—Royalty T., Llanelly.
FATAL WEDDING.—Brixton Theatre, S.W.
FIGHT FOR A THRONE.—Queen's T., Longton.
FIGHT FOR LIFE.—Lyceum T., Govan.
FLAG LIEUTENANT (N.).—T. R., Bournemouth.
FLORODORA.—O. H., Southport.
FOR HER SAKE.—Alexandra T., Hull.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Miners' T., Ashington.
FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS.—Osborne T., Manchester.
GAY GORDONS (MISS DARE).—King's T., Hammersmith, W.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—T. R., Barry Dock.
GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER.—Grimsby.
GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING.—Sunderland.
GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS, MISS F.—T. R., Ilkeston.
GREAT AWAKENING.—T. R., North Shields.
GREAT WHITE CHIEF, THE.—Alexandra T., Birmingham.
GREED OF GOLD.—County T., Reading.
GUILTY GOLD.—Aquarium T., Great Yarmouth.
HEART'S DESIRE.—Seaham Harbour.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—Court T., Wigan.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—Pavilion T., Mile End, E.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—T. R., Worcester.
HIS SISTER'S HONOUR.—T. R., Leicester.
HOME, SWEET HOME.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
HONEYMOON, THE.—T. R., Batley.
HORNIMAN'S, MISS.—Gaiety T., Dublin.
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LYDIA DONOVAN.—*Madame Sarah Bernhardt and Mrs. Patrick Campbell appeared together in the play* Pelléas and Mélisande, *at the Vaudeville Theatre on July 1, 1904. We cannot forward you a paper referring to the event, as it is out of print.*

SIMS REEVES INQUIRY.—*The late Mr. Sims Reeves received his early musical instruction from his father, a musician in the Royal Artillery. When the true quality of his voice asserted itself, he placed himself, at about the age of twenty-one, under the tuition of J. W. Hobbs and T. Cooke, and became second tenor in Macready's company at Drury Lane. He then went to prosecute his studies, first in Paris under Bordogni, and subsequently to Milan under Mazzucato. At fourteen Sims Reeves obtained the post of organist at North Cray Church, Kent.*

NOMAD (Norwich).—*Mr. John Le Hay was the original Tom Strutt in* Dorothy *on the production of that comic opera at the Gaiety, Sept. 25, 1886. Mr. Ben Davies, later in the run, became Geoffrey Wilder in succession to Mr. Redfern Hollins, the original.*

FARFALLA.—*You do not mention the length of your drama. Is it in one act or five? Does it play three hours or thirty-five minutes? If a lengthy piece send it to the manager of a local theatre producing popular plays. There is no particular method of getting your work produced. It depends entirely on its merits. An agent would only be of use in the halls.*

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BIRTHS.

FREDERICKS.—On Dec. 3, the wife of Conn Fredericks, jun. (Conn and Conrad), of a daughter.

KEEBLE.—On Nov. 28, at Fernbank Villa, Southgate, Pontefract, wife of Harry Keeble, ventriloquist, of a fine son. Both doing well. Saves buying figures.

KEMP.—Nov. 28, to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kemp, at 9, East-view, Preston, a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

ANDERSON—MCNEIL.—By special licence, at Glasgow, June 18, 1908, J. G. Anderson, commission agent, to Sheila McNeil, Scotch comedy artist.

TRESHAM—POLAND.—Nov. 21, before the Hackney Registrar, Harry Tresham to Jessie Poland, both of Liverpool.

DEATHS.

DE REES.—Dec. 2, at Newport, James De Rees, "fit-up" proprietor.

HAZLEHURST.—At De Silva's Hotel, Liverpool, Nov. 26, suddenly, Jack, the dear and only son of George and Bessie Hazlehurst, aged 19, grandson of the late H. C. Hazlewood, manager and author. Australian papers please copy.

HOWARD.—Nov. 28, at 34, Clay Pit-lane, Leeds, Sydney Lester Howard (Laddie), of sudden collapse following operation, the dearly-loved husband of Stella Ransome.

JEFFERSON.—On Dec. 1, Margaret, wife of Arthur Jefferson, professionally known as Madge Metcalfe, peacefully passed away. R.I.P.

KEMP.—Cissie Kemp, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kemp, aged half-hour. Interred at Preston Cemetery, Monday, Nov. 30.

KILBURN.—Nov. 29, at 20, Southerton-road, Hammersmith, Harry Kilburn, the dear husband of Ruth Kilburn, of acute pneumonia, through a chill caught in Aldershot, age 42.

LEES.—Nov. 23, accidentally shot at the Middlesex, Herbert Thomas Lees, variety artist, aged 27.

MACMAHON.—Nov. 28, George Macmahon, boy actor-vocalist, son of Francis Macmahon, Irish Dramatic Co. Mourned by his father, Francis, and Rose Melville. R.I.P.

RYTON HOARE.—Nov. 24, after a long and painful illness, patiently borne, Ryton Hoare, husband of Edith Adeson, in his 25th year. R.I.P.

IN MEMORIAM.

BAILEY.—In ever-loving memory of my dear father, Francis Bailey, who passed away Nov. 30, 1902. Never forgotten by his youngest daughter, Henrietta Manders.

GOLDING.—In ever-loving memory of George Golding, who died Dec. 8, 1906. Deeply mourned by his wife and family.

FOR CONDOLENCE.

CARLYON.—Mrs. Eleanor Carlyon, through the medium of our columns, desires to thank her many friends for their condolences on her severe bereavement—the death of her dear husband. These kind messages have been too numerous to answer personally

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I, ARTHUR B. WILKES, of the Tivoli Theatre, Manchester, do hereby apologise to Miss LILIAN KEVILL-DAVIES for having uttered certain slanderous statements concerning her, which I admit to be untrue and unreservedly withdraw. I hereby agree not to repeat the same, and that she shall be at liberty to publish this apology in such manner as she shall think fit.
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Copyright confusion is, like the poor, always with us, and as it seems likely to remain so until at least the crack of doom, it were well for all concerned, or likely to be concerned, to take immediate steps to secure a copy of Mr. Albert A. Strong's new work, entitled "The Law of Copyright." Mr. Strong is already favourably known to the profession for his textbook on "Dramatic and Musical Law," which, like his latest production, is published at "The Era" Office. "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer" essays to make clear to the non-legal mind what is—or, in some cases what probably is—the law as to musical and dramatic copyright. The chapters on the Berne Convention and on the Chase Act, passed by the United States Congress last March, are full of interest.—Referee.

Mr. A. A. Strong has published a book on "The Law of Copyright for Actor and Composer," which should be in the hands of everyone who is obliged to know about this perplexing subject. Dramatic copyright in England is in a particularly unsatisfactory state, and it is much to be hoped that ere long some more rational method of securing protection for a play may be devised than the slovenly and sometimes costly "production for copyright purposes," which is at present required.—St. James's Gazette.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1908.

THE KENDALS.

The rumour—happily unfounded—that Mr. and Mrs. KENDAL were about to retire from the stage revived in the minds of many old playgoers, vivid memories of past pleasures. For some time the KENDALS have made only occasional appearances in London; though, when they have done so—for example, in the case of *The Elder Miss Blossom* at the St. James's in 1899—Mrs. KENDAL proved that her art was as consummate and accomplished as ever. Great, indeed, have been the changes in the last twenty years. Well might Mr. W. S. GILBERT, in his own inimitable way, write, in the rhymed reminiscence at the LYDIA THOMPSON benefit in 1898,

"What changes here I see since that dim age
When little Goldenhair tripped on the stage!
The Drama, struggling then in lodgings shady,
Has made her fortune, and is quite the lady,
With endless hosts of highly cultured friends.
Think how she dresses now, and what she spends
On vast dramatic shrines—in sumptuous salaries,
In real Venetian-leathered pits and galleries—
In plays that run a year to houses packed,
And cost, to stage, a thousand pounds an Act!
Then, strangest thing, of playhouses yast crops!
Playhouses plentiful as grocers' shops!
Ten in twelve months! Well, I don't want to prate,
But if new theatres crop up at this rate
Where will you find your pièces, if you please,
And where your actors and your actresses?
Ten months will build a playhouse per contractor—
It takes at least ten years to build an actor,
And, as our best authorities insist,
Ten times ten years to build a dramatist!"

Mrs. KENDAL, like Miss ELLEN TERRY, afforded an example of the actress of the old school, trained from early youth in stock companies, and a perfect mistress of her art. She came of a long family of actors; and her ancestor JAMES ROBERTSON was a noted performer of TATE WILKINSON'S time. Her father, WILLIAM ROBERTSON, was connected with J. W. WALLACK in the management of the Marylebone Theatre in the early "fifties"; and it was on Monday, February 20, 1854, that the part of "Marie, a Child," in *The Orphan of the Frozen Sea* at the playhouse, was sustained by Miss ROBERTSON, who then made her first appearance on any stage. On another occasion she enacted one of the children in *The Stranger*, and convulsed the audience by calling out to her nurse in the pit, "Oh, nursey, look at my new shoes!" Mrs. KENDAL'S early stage education was gained with Mr. CHUTE'S famous stock companies at the Bristol and Bath Theatres. Her first London appearance was made at the Haymarket, under the management of Mr. WALTER MONTGOMERY, to whose Hamlet Miss MADGE ROBERTSON played Ophelia. But she had not done with the provinces, where she was already adored. On one occasion the great SAMUEL PHELPS came to Hull to "star" there; and Miss ROBERTSON was cast to play Lady Macbeth at a few hours' notice. PHELPS, whom something had annoyed, went on without her in answer to the calls at the end of the acts; but the audience was so indignant that a deputation from it waited upon WILLIAM ROBERTSON, saying that PHELPS had insulted "their MADGE," and if her father would only say the word they would "dook un in t' Hoomber." She charmed her Hull devotees also by her acting, singing, and dancing in one of WILLIAM BROUGH'S burlesques. She afterwards played with SOTHERN at the Haymarket, appearing in a play called *The Wild Goose*. In the last act of this SOTHERN had to shoot someone, and his pistol would not go off; on which he rushed at the lady and slaughtered her with a penknife! It was at the Haymarket that Mrs. KENDAL met HENRY COMPTON, and told him the following anecdote of his father, a characteristic of the past generation of actors: "Among the many hardships endured by provincial actors of that period was the oft-repeated order to 'march' some thirty miles or so, for the purpose of appearing at night in some adjacent town. On one of these occasions your father, Mr. CHIPPENDALE, and my father were companions; but one of the three, either from an accident or a low state of the funds, was only able to face the journey with one shoe. Under these circumstances, and knowing that the journey must be made, there was only one thing to be done, and, to the credit of the profession, be it said, they did it. They stuck by each other—as they always do, as they always have done, and, I hope, always will do—and *took it in turns to walk with a single shoe* until their destination was reached!"

Mrs. KENDAL has distinguished herself for her ability as a public speaker; and in a paper which she read at the Social Science Congress at Birmingham in 1884 on "The Drama" she dealt hard hits at theatrical self-advertisement, immoral adaptations from the French, prejudiced criticism, and other abuses. In this lecture she made the celebrated "chicken and champagne" allusion to the critics, which excited so much indignation.

It was a happy chance which united Mrs. KENDAL with her handsome and talented husband at St. Saviour's Church, Manchester, in the summer of 1869. They appeared on the same evening as Rosalind and Orlando; and the line, "Will you, Orlando, have to wife this Rosalind?" and the answering "I will!" were greeted by the audience with thundering plaudits. Those who have seen Mr. and Mrs. KENDAL at their best in suitable parts retain the recollection of an artistic treat, the charm of which it is impossible to analyse. In Mrs. KENDAL'S case, especially, outside the complete command of histrionic resources, was a peculiar personal charm, a delicate magnetism, and a suggestion of covert humour which bewitched and fascinated the beholder. The KENDALS, when they retire, will feel that they have had a long innings, and that they have "scored" artistically, financially, and socially.

SMOKING IN THEATRES.

The question of smoking in theatres has been agitated for a number of years. Petitions in favour of it were presented to the Lord Chamberlain and to the County Council about three years ago. The L.C.C., while sympathetic, was not prepared to act without the Lord Chamberlain, and the Lord Chamberlain was sorry he could not entertain the idea. He had received a more influentially signed petition from West End managers praying that smoking be not granted.

Petitions in favour of smoking had been got up and presented, and a resolution in favour of smoking in theatres had been passed by the Managers' Association, and the same by the Suburban Managers' Association (now the Theatres Alliance). From this body two deputations were received by the County Council advocating smoking. Mr. J. B. Mulholland, of the King's, Hammersmith, who, though disinterested in the matter, took it up on public principle, was spokesman on both occasions. On the first the advocacy had no effect; on the second, the County Council granted permission, and withdrew the clauses in their regulations and in their licences in respect of theatres under their control. This was something over a year ago. Over a year later, *i.e.*, at the recent licensing, the Lord Chamberlain's office withdrew its prohibition of smoking in all suburban theatres under his Lordship's control. These approximately were—the Kennington, the Camden, the Dalston, the Elephant and Castle, the Broadway, the West London, the Crown, and the Marlborough. The following theatres are licensed by the L.C.C.:—The Court, the Coronet, the King's, the Fulham, the Shakespeare, the Greenwich, the Woolwich, the Lyric, and the Hammersmith. Although Mr. Mulholland strongly advocated the removal of the restriction, so that "to smoke or not to smoke" should be within the choice of each individual manager, he has never taken advantage of the concession at the King's, and the same applies to the managements at one or two other theatres mentioned, including, of course, the Court.

STEPHEN KEMBLE amused old audiences by his performance of Falstaff. He exhibited the humours of the jovial knight with skill enough to make the audience laugh. But he was perhaps the first actor who ever played the *fat* knight to the life. His remarkable corpulence qualified him to play the character without stuffing. The good humour of his visage was fully equalled by the protuberance of his stomach; and if the "*totus in se teres atque rotundus*" of Horace is the poet's definition of a good man, the actor rose to the summit of human virtue.

"INTO THE LIGHT."

Romantic Comedy, in Four Acts, by Gerald Lawrence, produced at the Court Theatre on Monday, Nov. 30.

Simon Langley	MR. FISHER WHITE
Felix Gottlieb	MR. GERALD LAWRENCE
Frederick Ramsden	MR. KENYON MUSGRAVE
Archie Goring	MR. DUNCAN YARROW
Doctor Ferris	MR. HENRY STEPHENSON
Peter	MR. WALTER CROSS
Ernest Camp	MR. COURTENAY FOOTE
A Postman	MR. J. WEYMAN
Lauterbach	MR. LIONEL BROUGH
Marceau	MR. OWEN GWENT
Servant	MISS MADGE SNELL
Margaret Ramsden	MISS ELAINE INESCOURT
Amy Ramsden	MISS JOAN RITZ
Mary	MISS MARY BROUGH
Alice Harley	MISS BERYL ST. LEGER

Miss Mouillot opened her season at the Court Theatre on Monday with a new play, entitled *Into the Light*, which introduces Mr. Gerald Lawrence in the four-fold rôle of actor, author, violinist, and composer. The piece, with its old-fashioned tone and trite story, it must be confessed, seemed rather out of place at a theatre whose stage has been concerned lately with what is known as the new school of dramatists, and more especially with Shaw. The chief novelty of *Into the Light* was Mr. Lawrence himself, who in the rôle of the hero played the violin, and displayed a considerable knowledge of technique and expression in "Simple Aveu" and in a "légende" of his own composition. He has unfortunately overweighted his play with rhapsodical ramblings that hinder the action, and the sentiment at times hovers dangerously near the regions of bathos.

We are asked once more to sympathise with one possessing the artistic temperament. Felix Gottlieb, a blind young fiddler, has found a home with a dear old maker of violins, Simon Langley, who keeps a shop, wherein most of the action takes place. Felix, by giving lessons and by fees at occasional small concerts, assists to keep the home going; but on the rising of the curtain poor old Langley deplores the fact that the last quarter's rent has not been paid, and that another is nearly due. One of Gottlieb's pupils is Margaret Ramsden, whose heart has been touched by the young maestro's misfortunes, and to this dangerous fascination her father is determined to put an end. Mr. Ramsden is old Langley's landlord, and his cupidity as a collector of violins has been excited by the sight of Gottlieb's Joseph Guarnerius violin, for which he offers £500. When Ramsden comes to the shop he repeats his offer—which is once more refused—and also breaks off all association between Margaret and her blind teacher, a rift that causes much distress to both.

In the second act, faced with the problem of paying the rent for the shop and keeping a roof over the head of his benefactor, Gottlieb walks to the suburban residence of the Ramsdens for the purpose of making a deal. His presence in the house is misconstrued, and the angry father, in his indignation, breaks the beloved Guarnerius across the back of a chair. The broken-hearted Gottlieb undergoes considerable tribulation, and hunger and exposure bring on an illness. He, however, finds a happy issue out of his afflictions. The discovery of his noble birth and the restoration of his sight overcome the parental scruples of Ramsden, who becomes reconciled and gives his consent to the inevitable engagement. From obscurity in a double sense Felix Gottlieb comes into the light, and will hand down his beloved Guarnerius, which has been skilfully repaired, to a later generation.

Mr. Gerald Lawrence, in the part of Felix Gottlieb, cannot quite rob the character of its priggishness and unreality, but such an able actor is always interesting. Mr. Fisher White makes a lovable old man of Simon Langley; and it is a welcome sight to see dear quaint Lal Brough once more on the stage, even though his rich and unctuous methods get very little chance in the part of Lauterbach, a thirsty pianist. Miss Elaine Inescourt quite conquers the hearts of the audience by the genuine feeling she exhibits in the character of Margaret Ramsden, the maidenly reserve of the heroine being very prettily and naturally suggested. Miss Joan Ritz, a clever young actress, should be singled out for special praise for her vivacity and girlish charm as the mischief-loving Amy Ramsden. Miss Mary Brough does exceedingly well as a conventional Irish domestic; and Miss Beryl St. Leger, a child actress, is highly intelligent in the short part of Alice Harley. Mr. Kenyon Musgrave does all that is possible with the artificial rôle of the elder Ramsden; Mr. Courtenay Foote is surprisingly good in the difficult character of an impossible dude; Mr. Duncan Yarrow is a lively Archie Goring; and other characters are adequately presented by Mr. Henry Stephenson, Mr. Walter Cross, Mr. J. Weyman, and Mr. Owen Gwent.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

César Franck's quartet for strings, in D major, was the opening item in the concert on Thursday evening, Nov. 26. Miss Dorothy Devin, Mr. Sidney Bostock, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Felix Salmond were the executants, and they succeeded in giving a good account of the work. A string breaking in the third movement slightly delayed matters, but it must be confessed a quartet for strings lasting over an hour is a somewhat trying ordeal for both performers and audience. In her 'cello solo "Canzona," by Max Bruch, Miss Ellen M. Bartlett received well-merited applause for her refined and expressive playing; and Mr. William Murdoch had a most enthusiastic recall for his admirable performance of César Franck's piano solo, Prélude, Aria et Finale, the pianist's fluent execution in the difficult finale being particularly able. A welcome feature at this concert was the appearance of two clever male vocalists, Mr. William J. Dodds, whose fine voice was heard in Schubert's song, "To the Lyre, received the honour of no less than four recalls; while Mr. S. Graham Boys was also very successful in "Wir wandelten" (Brahms) and C. Goldmark's "My garden holds a blossom." The other vocalist was Miss Mary Mellor, who sang "Romance" (C. Debussy) and Schubert's "Who is Sylvia," with much grace and refinement. The accompanists were Miss Alice Cotton and Miss Marjorie Adam. The concert ended with an organ solo, Passacaglia from Sonata in F sharp (Max Reger), played by Mr. Eric Gritton, A.R.C.M.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"THE FOLLIES" AT THE APOLLO.

A festivity of fun and frolic may be chosen as the phrase that aptly describes the entertainment presented on Tuesday by the Follies at the Apollo, and London gaiety is the richer by their return. Mr. H. G. Pélissier, we believe, once essayed to sing comic songs on the music-hall stage, but Fortune, then, to his thinking, unnecessarily unkind, kept him back, reserving him for a more distinguished and daintier dalliance with Thalia. Under the impulse of her inspiration he rolls out little thumbnail burlesques of current plays, and though these attractions are not so prominent in his latest programme, his *Faust* pantomime, with its comic scenery, is the best thing he has done. But even greater originality and ingenuity are shown in a fantasy called *Love's Garden*.

The story and music are by the versatile Pélissier, and the lyrics and dialogue by Arthur Davenport. The scene is a garden that may be in the neighbourhood of the Pierian spring, or may not. It is the hour before the dawn, and a nymph and satyr chase each other to the accompaniment of a stage nightingale's wheezy trill. Bacchus, it appears, has gone to sleep in Cupid's bower after too many split "nectars" at the Olympus Club. Possessing Cupid's bow and quiver, the vinous "god" determines on having some fun, and, drawing the bow at a venture, plants an arrow in the ribs of John Smith, a typical Englishman, who immediately becomes enamoured of Up-to-Data, an intensely modern young person, and Domestica, of the early Victorian era. The three find their way to the garden, and later arrivals are Mrs. Grundy, an Inspector of Nuisances having authority from the L.C.C., and a constable. Mrs. Grundy, who in her early years had been a toxophilite, again tries her skill, and fixes one of Cupid's arrows in the vitals of Bacchus, who at once acknowledges the sway of Venus and serenades the mistress of decorum, though she evidently regrets that her infatuated swain does not wear the breeks. Mrs. Grundy, by a ruse, finally obtains possession of the bow and threatens to shoot Cupid herself and doom him to hopeless misery unless he restores them all to their former happy condition. He consents, and she dictates her terms, which are that the gardens shall in future be entirely under the control of the London County Council.

The result of this arrangement is seen in the final tableau—quite the richest pictorial joke that has been seen for a very long time on the London stage. The flowers of the garden are railed round, the legend "Exit" is everywhere, the pretty lake has been changed into an excursion stream for the County Council steamers, and the utilitarian hand of London's governing body is to be seen in the various devices established for the people's pleasure. Really, the picture is not much exaggerated or over-coloured, and on Tuesday it evoked roars of laughter.

Pélissier's Bacchus-Cupid is very much like the corpulent John Reeve's must have been when a burlesque on the subject of Cupid was performed at the Adelphi in 1833. But "obesity" is only one of the chief points of the humour of Mr. Pélissier, as his serenade to Mrs. Grundy proves. Mr. Lewis Sydney gives the slily mischievous lines put into the mouth of Mrs. Grundy with great unction; and Mr. Dan Everard does exceedingly well as John Smith and a policeman. Miss Gwennie Mars makes a charming Domestica; Miss Ethel Allandale is daintiness itself as the nymph; and Miss Muriel George, a new member of the company, acts particularly well as the Girton girl Up-to-Data, and sings with culture and charm.

The final attraction of a programme received throughout with the most enthusiastic favour by a crowded house is the grand Christmas pantomime, written, composed, and arranged (*i.e.*, cribbed) by H. G. Pélissier and Arthur Davenport, entitled *Faust; or, Merry Mephistopheles and His Mysterious Mysteries*.

Here again is there much fun in the scenery—fun that is really indescribable—from the first picture "in the clouds" to the Brocken, with its moving objects and its quaint "witchery" and comic figures. Then to conclude with we have a delightful "brush" travestie of the "grand transformation scene" such as might have been witnessed at Queen Victoria's own theayter in the sixties. Mr. Pélissier as an aerial Mephistopheles makes quite a sprightly figure in Cloudland, and just "weighs in" with a good-humoured burlesque of the Mephisto of His Majesty's. Miss Ethel Allandale's Marguerite has also a touch of burlesque, but its best moments are to be found in the song "All through a soldier," a capital travestie of the raucous-voiced serio. Mr. Dan Everard as Martha hits off the aggressive comedian who is particularly masculine when engaged for a dame part in a Christmas production. Mr. Lewis Sydney as Valentine and Mr. Blumé as Faust cause shouts of laughter during the duel scene; and Miss Gwennie Mars as a burlesque fairy (purposely wooden) and Miss Muriel George also add to the mirth produced by this cleverly-written skit.

Special scenery in the shape of a Whistlerian "nocturne" in black and white is the setting now adapted by the Follies for what may be termed their variety business, with which they open their programme. The chief novelties of this part were the capital stories of Mr. Lewis Sydney and the beverage quartettes — "Cyder," "Port," "Harrogate Wells," "Potheen," "Rum," and "Tea." The first and second of these were especially good in the way of character-sketches and concerted music; but the chief success was scored in "Rum," a quartet in which humorous topical reference is made to some of the chief admirals of the navy. It was vociferously encored, and cries of "Rum!" were heard all over the house on Tuesday, when Mr. Pélissier appeared before the pretty black-and-white curtain to make an announcement. His simple answer, "Speak your minds," raised shouts of laughter. Mr. Alfred H. West, a clever pianist, filled out the short waits by playing his "Heroine March Patrol" and his "Fantasie-Scherzo." Mr. Louis Laval and Miss Maud Evans at two grand pianos formed the orchestra, and did excellent work as accompanists.

THE PLAY-ACTORS.

"THE VAGABOND."

A Play, in Four Acts, adapted from the German of Dr. Richard Fellinger, by M. C. Washburn Freund, produced at the Court Theatre on Sunday evening, Nov. 29.

Harry Kibblewhite	MR. NORMAN TREVOR
Mary	MISS ETHEL WARWICK
John Hoskyns	MR. FRANK COCHRANE
Stone	MR. PHILIP KNOX
Brown	MR. JACKSON WILCOX
Tomkins	MR. ARTHUR WEBSTER
Driver Waters	MR. J. BENEDICT BUTLER
Driver Billings	MR. PATRIC CURWEN
Driver Hall	MR. ARTHUR L. BURKE
Driver Taylor	MR. H. EDWARDS
Driver Molony	MR. WILLIAM PRINGLE
Driver Walker	MR. HAROLD CHAPIN
Driver Jackson	MR. LAWRENCE GROVE
Boy	MR. WALTER CROSS
The Cook at the Depôt	MR. HERBERT SIDNEY
Orderly Sergeant	MR. ARTHUR MARINI
First Recruit	MR. GORDON CARR
Second Recruit	MR. ERNEST MARINI
Scottie	MR. BASIL OSBORNE
Peter Lane	MR. EDMUND GWENN
Zillah	MISS IRENE ROSS

If the Play Actors had produced no other piece than *The Vagabond*, seen for the first time on Sunday evening at the Court Theatre, they would have justified their existence as a society. Mr. Freund has given us a well-written, excellently constructed, and highly-dramatic play, and in the performance of it the principal members of the cast attained lofty heights of realism. *The Vagabond* should certainly—with a little alteration in the concluding act to make a decisive and happy ending—occupy the bill at one of our West-end theatres. The title-rôle (Peter Lane) is an exceedingly clever piece of character drawing on the part of the author.

The opening scene shows us the interior of a recruiting depot of an English garrison town. There is much joking concerning a new recruit, and the reason of it is understandable when a little later that individual makes his appearance. He is ragged and unkempt, and his general aspect is that of the criminal tramp. However, he is a spirited customer, and promptly indicates that he is not prepared to tolerate any aspersions being cast upon him by the very free use of his fists. He, of course, is the Vagabond of the play, and his name is Peter Lane. Fortunately for him, he discovers in the sergeant-major (Harry Kibblewhite) an old pal of days that Kibblewhite is none too pleased to remember. Lane, in the expectation of securing an easy time in barracks, does not hesitate to remind the sergeant-major of a burgling expedition they both engaged in at a miller's house, when Kibblewhite, in self-defence, killed the old miller. The identity of the assassin had been a mystery ever since. That was nine years ago. Shortly after the unfortunate occurrence Kibblewhite had joined the Army and had risen to the rank of sergeant-major. He now begs Lane to play the game and be a man, and he will give him every possible assistance. In his desire to improve the erstwhile vagabond and to make him a self-respecting human being, Kibblewhite employs Lane in his house. But although Lane certainly looks very clean and smart in the driver's uniform in which we see him in the second act, as a subject of reform he is perfectly hopeless. He is so far neglectful of the simplest points of military discipline as to address the sergeant-major as "'Arry"—the name by which he knew him in their tramping days. But that is not the worst, for he makes improper advances to Kibblewhite's very charming young wife. The sergeant-major promptly dismisses him from the private service, and Lane, who has already suffered durance vile in the cells, threatens to be revenged. It is then that Kibblewhite, feeling that the skeleton in his cupboard cannot be hidden very much longer, tells his wife of his secret trouble. At first she will not believe him. Then, when she realises that he is speaking the truth, she rushes out of the room in a hysterical outburst, leaving him to go to her parents. A number of Kibblewhite's comrades are the next to be told the truth about the death of the miller. They quickly forsake him, while undertaking, for the honour of the regiment, not to open their mouths on the matter. Kibblewhite determines on suicide as the only means out of his trouble. But his wife returns to him. She reproaches herself with having run away from him at a time when he stood alone and most needed her sympathy. She would not have him end his life, even in a presumably "accidental" manner. Will the judges, he asks her, take into account in meting out his punishment, his nine years' good service in the Army? She is sure that they will, but, whatever happens, she will stand by him, and even wait for him if he has to go to prison. And the curtain falls as Kibblewhite departs to unburden his mind to his commanding officer.

We have already referred to the admirable manner in which the piece was acted. To Mr. Norman Trevor as Kibblewhite we can offer our hearty congratulations for an exceedingly virile enactment of a rôle that must have put his abilities and energies to a severe test. He emerged from it triumphantly. He looked a fine figure of a soldier, and the picture he presented of a brave, strong-hearted, and strong-minded man facing awful trouble undauntedly was one that won entire admiration. No less can we compliment Miss Ethel Warwick upon her portrayal of the young wife. In the earlier scenes, before the coming of Peter Lane, Miss Warwick's Mary Kibblewhite was a light-hearted and engaging girl, who might have known of nothing but green fields and lover's smiles. But when the great sorrow fell upon her, and in the scenes which follow the confession of her husband, the pathos and tragedy that were represented were poignant in the extreme. Altogether, this study of light comedy and of tragedy was highly creditable to Miss Warwick. And it is a pleasure to be able to state that with the success achieved by these two artists Mr. Edmund Gwenn's name must be associated. As Peter Lane he had a part which required some degree of subtlety in the acting. In the first act, where he appears as the tramp rescued by virtue of his having accepted the King's shilling, he was responsible for no small amount of humour which was highly relished. For the rest, he cleverly portrayed a hypocritical, unmitigated blackguard. Miss Irene Ross submitted a capital bit of character work as a servant, and all the minor rôles were in suitable hands.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

It is stated on good authority that Mr. Walter Gibbons and Mr. Tom Barrasford will now fall into line with Messrs. Moss and Stoll, Henri Gros, Henry Tozer, and Walter De Frece. We are on the eve of very important developments.

Mr. W. H. Clemart has been elected to the position of general secretary to the Variety Artists' Federation by a considerable majority. He has tendered his resignation as vice-chairman of the Federation, and also as president of the M.H.A.R.A. He has entered upon the duties of his post.

Mr. Alfred Butt will present Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks on the 14th inst. in the sketch referred to last week, and entitled *Fly by Night*, or a musical aeroplane, with an "aero and arroine" by Mr. Paul Rubens. The production is noteworthy, not only as being coincident with the two principal artists' first regular appearance on the variety stage, but also as being the first time that any of Mr. Rubens' work has thus been presented.

Mr. Butt's engagement of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier has fallen through for the present; and it is understood that there is some probability of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sleath (Miss Ellis Jeffreys) being seen on the stage of the Palace Theatre in the near future.

The Crown Theatre, Peckham, closes next week, but will re-open on the 21st inst. as the Peckham Hippodrome. A first-class music hall entertainment will be provided twice nightly. It will be run in connection with the Gibbons-Barrasford halls.

A fascinating little musical fantasy is *Polly Pickle's Pets*, which will be seen at the London Coliseum at Christmastide. All the animal parts are to be taken by men and women, and are so thoroughly worked out that the effect should be extremely interesting. Miss Polly will sing "Has anyone seen a kitty cat?" "The feline flirt," and "The Jack o' Lantern Man"—three tuneful melodies of the whistling kind.

A notable bill will be presented at the London Coliseum next week, when Laurence Irving and Mabel Hackney appear on the same programme as the three "Queens"—namely, Marie Dressler, queen of American comedy, Cecilia Loftus, queen of artistic mimicry, and Evie Greene, queen of musical comedy. This, however, does not delimit the range of talent, for there are also Miss Carrie de Mar, famous on two continents as "Lonesome Fluffy," and other creations; and Miss Dorothy Grimston, the clever daughter of Mrs. Kendal, who will play the sketch *The Money Spider*, by M. E. Phillips Oppenheim.

Mr. Laurence Irving and Miss Mabel Hackney will appear in a new sketch which Mr. Irving has freely adapted from the Vagrant Boy Poet—Theodore de Banville's "Gringoire." The part of Grinqoire, played by Coquelin at the Théâtre Français and by Mr. Tree in *The Ballad Monger*, will, in its new and abbreviated form, be undertaken by Miss Mabel Hackney. Miss Hackney first showed her aptitude for playing romantic youths when she succeeded Mr. Martin Harvey under Sir Henry Irving's management in the part of the Dauphin in *Louis XI.* at the old Lyceum. Louis XI., a favourite part with his distinguished father, will be played by Mr. Laurence Irving. Mr. Harold Vicars, of Daly's, has composed the incidental music.

A pleasant ceremony was performed on Thursday last at Mr. Barrasford's offices, Leicester-place, when Mr. Will Sley, the well-known Manchester agent, was presented with an illuminated address, together with a Sheraton cabinet containing 400oz. of silver, comprising tea and coffee service, and a magnificent pair of candelabra, subscribed for by most of the London and provincial proprietors, managers, agents, and over 100 artists, to mark the occasion of his silver wedding, combined with twenty-five years as a variety agent.

After the presentation, over forty adjourned to the Hotel Boulogne, to lunch. Among the guests were Major E. Savage, Messrs. Frank Allen, Geo. Dance, Bertie Crewe, Tom Shaw, Geo. Foster, Fred Reeves, Eni Devere, Harry Day, Tom Pacey, and others. Messrs. Thomas Barrasford, Fred Wilmott, and Walter De Frece, chairman and vice-chairman, and Mr. Sam Richards, secretary and treasurer, ably did the honours.

At Mr. Sley's country house, at Flixton, on Saturday, the silver wedding celebrations were a huge success. A band of over forty performers played on the lawns for the guests during dinner, and at night a fine display of fireworks terminated a most pleasant event. The presentation cabinet (specially designed by Mr. Sam Richards) and silver were by Mappin and Webb, who, on this occasion, excelled themselves.

Miss Kate Carney, "The Darling of the Gods," has well earned this title. Her quick intuition, broad sympathies, and vivid powers of delineation, have made her supreme as an impersonator of characters drawn from "the people," and they recognise her artistic work at its true value. Next week, at the Hackney Empire, she will present her latest sketch, *The Yiddisher Boy*, a musical incidental occurrence happening in the vicinity of the popular East End Mart. It is full of funny situations, which cause uproarious laughter.

Mr. Bransby Williams, who on Sunday was the guest of the Manchester Playgoers' Club at a dinner at the Albion Hotel, gave a lecture on "Personality in Acting." In welcoming Mr. Williams, Judge Parry, the president, said it would be a great mistake to draw any line of demarcation between the theatre and the music-hall. Their guest, he added, had done a great deal for the stage, and his representations of Dickens's works had placed before thousands some of the work of one of the greatest literary men England had produced—a thing that any priest or clergyman could be proud of.

In his lecture Mr. Bransby Williams put in a plea for a little more character-acting and a little less personality. The authors seemed to write to suit the personality, and the managers kept an actor tied down to certain parts. It was not, however, so much the fault of the authors and the managers as the fault of the public.

Mr. Williams ventured to think that the old actors who played many varied parts in the stock company days were still the best men to-day. The younger actors had no chance of gaining that experience, no chance of becoming versatile. Acting could not wholly be taught; it must be in the man, who must feel the character he was portraying. Though he might learn how to pronounce words and deliver and modulate them, he could not have put into him the soul of acting.

Miss Bessie Butt says good-bye to the provinces next week for quite a long time. She opens in pantomime as principal boy at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston, after which she will make a six months' progress round the principal London halls. Miss Butt has devised a novel dance for pantomime, which, for the present it is sufficient to say, is marked by a number of dexterous little tricks and graces.

Mr. Clifford King has been appointed manager of the Boscombe Hippodrome.

Mr. Sidney Bacon has secured a long lease of the Oxford, Middlesbrough, which comes under his management on Monday next.

The King's Theatre and Hippodrome, the new variety house in Dundee, is nearing completion, and will be open about the end of January. It is associated with the enterprise of the United County Theatres Company (Limited), of which Mr. Alfred Moul, of the Alhambra, is one of the leading spirits.

The Liverpool Tivoli, Park Palace, and Paddington Palace will be reopened in a week or so by Mr. Jasper Redfern, who intends to provide bioscope pictures and vaudeville. Mr. Redfern has already done well with that form of entertainment at the Grand Theatre, Manchester, the Central Hall, Sheffield, and other places.

The Brighton Alhambra, which has been acquired by Mr. Alfred Smith (sole lessee and manager), one of the directors of the Lyceum Theatre, London, is closed this week, but will reopen on Monday next with a lightning programme.

The building of the Southend Hippodrome, to which a brief reference was made in our last issue, will commence early in the new year. It will provide seating accommodation for 2,000, with standing room for 600 more. The total cost will approach £20,000.

Miss Nance Elder has opened very successfully indeed at Her Majesty's, Walsall, on a thirty weeks' tour of the Moss and Stoll halls. She is introducing some new songs, all of which are her own writing and composing.

The New Hippodrome, Aston, which opens on Monday, makes the fifth music hall within the Birmingham radius. The house will not be run in connection with any syndicate, a separate company, consisting of those interested in Barrasford's Hippodromes, having been formed. The resident-manager is Mr. Thos. H. Middleton.

Mr. Edmund Sharrocks, who has been appointed assistant-manager at the Oldham Palace of Varieties, has been the recipient of a testimonial subscribed for by the members of the staff of the Palace, Manchester. Mr. A. J. Carter, the manager, made the presentation, which took the form of a purse of gold; and Mr. Jesse Hewitt, assistant-manager, referred in complimentary terms to the recipient, who briefly responded.

Dr. Walford Bodie finished last Saturday night at the Coliseum, Glasgow, amidst scenes of unbounded enthusiasm. Close on 9,000 people paid for admission to both houses. This is the Doctor's seventeenth visit to Glasgow, and his second visit with Mr. Stoll to the Coliseum. His visit has been a great artistic and financial triumph. This week, despite the dense fog, the Doctor, with his own company, has been packing the Hippodrome, Stalybridge.

The new Hippodrome, Accrington, of which the proprietors are Messrs. Wilmott, Vandy, Potter, and Weisker, is to be opened on Monday, Dec. 21. It is a large brick and stone structure, built close to the site of the old Hippodrome, which was destroyed by fire on June 26 last. Mr. Walter Mould is to be the resident-manager.

The city of Bradford has in the Empire one of the finest theatres of its kind in existence. The house has recently been most beautifully decorated, and the appearance of the front enhanced by the erection of a handsome verandah, with some fine examples of scroll work in wrought iron finished in cream and gold.

The marble steps from the front doors and the marble staircase to the upper circle complete the handsome appearance of the vestibule, which has been treated in a Moorish-Arabesque style, the colour-scheme being cream and gold, with a background of azure blue and crimson mouldings.

The auditorium has been treated in a similar decorative scheme to that recently employed in the ballroom at Buckingham Palace, the colouring being shaded green, cream, and gold. The ceiling is a rich feast of moulding and colouring, and the proscenium is surmounted with a fine painting and draperies symbolical of music and art.

The furnishings have been carried out in a lavish manner. Their colour, mainly terra-cotta, gives a warm and cheerful background to the delicately-ornamented columns and fronts of the circle and balcony, the beautiful plush curtains to the boxes and arches making a rich finish to the decorations. The draperies are effectively finished with plastrons of plush worked with silk cords.

The Brighton Alhambra closed its doors on Saturday, when the house was packed from floor to ceiling. At the close of the entertainment, after the band had played the King, "Auld Lang Syne" was sung by the entire audience. The popular manager, Mr. Ernest Lepard, is to have a testimonial matinée on Tuesday.

Mr. George Leyton's visit to the New Cross Empire next week with *The Last Muster* has prompted the enterprising Mr. Ernest Bridgen to arrange for a grand military night during the week, at which he hopes to secure the co-operation and support of the Lord Mayor and the local Mayors.

"The Collar Stud" made its first bow to Edinburgh audiences on Monday at the beautiful King's Theatre, and proved an enormous success. For fully three minutes after the raising of the curtain for the third time on the completion of the sketch, Miss Muir and Mr. Bartlett, with their clever little company, which includes Mr. Annesley Hely, had to bow to the plaudits of a delighted house.

Jean Macduff, the lady Lauder, who has been meeting with great success at the principal halls in Scotland of late, commences a tour of the English halls on Dec. 14 at the Hippodrome, Scarborough. Mr. Herbert Melville, her manager, has just secured a striking Scotch song, entitled "Bonnie Mary o' Argyle," which she expects to produce at her native Edinburgh on her visit to the King's Theatre there on Monday next.

Mr. Fred Karno's company in *The Football Match* sketch at the Grand Theatre, Hanley, on Thursday, the 26th ult., played a team of international veterans for the benefit of Alf. Underwood, the English international full back, on the Stoke ground. A pleasant game resulted, and a substantial cheque was handed over at the second house to the *bénéficiare*. The kindness of all is much appreciated in North Staffs.

A little Brighton girl of twelve summers a few days since sent a naïve letter to Mr. Alias, the eminent costumier, praying him to let her have a dress ("one that would cost about seven shillings") so that she might go to a fancy dress ball. The child, who also stated that she was unable to go the previous year owing to her shabbiness, said in her letter:—"I am going to try and be a great dancer, and I will buy all my dresses off you then." Mr. Alias, who was touched with the simplicity of the appeal, has found a dress for the little girl, whose name is Stella Rosalie Howard, so that, like Cinderella, she can go to the ball, and Rumour has it that it is not a 7s. one.

The Terriers will hold a concert on Sunday evening next at the Three Stags Hotel, Kennington-road, S.E.

The late Mr. Edward Mosedale, the veteran coster comedian, was laid to rest on Tuesday in Finchley Cemetery.

Mrs. John Lawson produces *Why the Third Floor Passed* at the Metropolitan on Monday, Dec. 28. She is supported by a strong company.

Mrs. Percy Riess, the only daughter of Mr. J. L. Graydon, presented her husband with a fine boy on Nov. 26. Grandpa is receiving many congratulations.

In the action for commission against Mr. George Gray, known as "The fighting parson," a settlement was arrived at on Friday, the plaintiff, Mr. George Barclay, to receive £250 and costs.

Miss Marie Lloyd's indisposition, which overtook her at the end of her Leicester engagement, has kept her away from the Hippodrome, Southampton, where she should have topped the bill this week.

Mr. Ernest Rees was taken ill last week, and had to give up work. After rather a bad time, during which he just escaped appendicitis, he is picking up, and expects to open at the London Pavilion on Monday.

Miss Winifred Hare has contracted such a severe cold that she has been compelled to relinquish work at Hanley this week. In view of her engagement as principal boy in the Dublin Gaiety pantomime. Miss Hare, following out doctor's orders, will take a good rest before crossing for rehearsals.

Mr. Frank Stanmore will produce a new and original tabloid musical comedy entitled *Gay Dogs* on Monday next and during the week at the Palace, Stoke Newington. A strong company has been engaged, including Mr. Mark Lester, supported by a powerful chorus.

A special production of Mr. Cayley Calvert's new dramatic sketch *Andromeda*, for the purposes of copyright, was arranged on Wednesday at Sadler's Wells. The parts were played by Mr. Pete Murray, Mr. J. G. Forde, and Miss Ethel Wynne. The price of admission was 1 guinea.

"Chums Till Death" has met with unbounded success at the Metropolitan. This beautifully-mounted and well-acted playlet will be seen at the Empire, Holloway, during the next week, after which it will go on a short tour, having been secured by Messrs. Moss and Stoll for the Christmas and New Year holidays.

We regret to hear that, owing to the serious indisposition of Mr. Bernard Stavordale, the Stavordale Quintet, over whose destinies he presides, were reluctantly obliged to give up their projected visit to Hamburg, where they should have opened on Tuesday last. Mr. Stavordale, who has been confined to the house for some days with bronchitis, is now on the road to recovery, on which we tender him our hearty congratulations.

The death occurred on Thursday, at Alkham, near Dover, at the age of seventy-seven, of Mme. Rosina Lupino, who was once known as Mlle. Rosine, the "Columbine Queen." This graceful dancer was apprenticed in her childhood to a ballet master, and, thanks to her graceful pirouettes, soon made a name for herself on the London stage.

In 1858 she appeared as a columbine at the Surrey in *Harlequin Father Thames and the River Queen, or Ye Lorde Mayore of London*. The following Christmas she was in pantomime at the Lyceum. In 1862 she appeared at the Haymarket, again as columbine in an extravaganza entitled *Little Boy Blue*, in which Charles Leclercq was the clown, while Henrietta Lindley sustained the title-rôle. Mlle. Rosine also occasionally danced in the opera ballets at Covent Garden, and in the off seasons she toured the provinces with her husband, the dancer and pantomimist known as Mr. Lupino. It is long since Mme. Lupino last appeared, but elderly playgoers may remember her at Covent Garden, under the management of Mr. Rice, and later, during the management of John Hollingshead, at the Gaiety.

She was a dancer of distinction, and the mother of George, Harry, and Arthur Lupino, pantomimists and acrobats, and exceptionally clever in animal parts. Mr. Arthur Lupino, who died but a fortnight since, will be remembered as Nana, the dog in the original production of *Peter Pan* at the Duke of York's.

"The Yap-Yaps," written by Fred Karno and J. Hickory Wood, and produced on Monday last at Margate, is to be seen for the first time in London on Monday next at the Paragon. The principals in the cast will be Gus Le Clerq, Marjorie Cecil, H. V. Surrey, James Prior, Chas. Prince and Frank Rickards. The proceedings will be enlivened by a set-to between Johnny Summers, a feather-weight champion, and Young Josephs, light-weight. The great event of the evening will be "a fight to a finish' between "the Hon. Charlie Chinn" and "Ben Burley" (alias "Ben Ben, the Bruiser"). The sketch will be in three scenes.

"Puss in Boots" up to date, J. Collins's grand extravaganza, is to be produced at the Canterbury on Tuesday next. Miss Ethel Beech will appear as Juan; Miss Eva Ellis will be Princess Carita; Mr. Arthur Watts will play Sancho; Mr. Algernon Lee is to take the part of Pancho; Miss Elsie Donwill fascinate as Lola; Mr. William Benson will impersonate the Dame; and Mr. Wyn Weaver will misrule as King Kimolfe. There will be diversions by the Merry Andalusian Peasants and Toreadors, and specialities by the Collins's sextette of dancers and Collins's Eight Gems.

The two reindeer which will be a feature in the London Hippodrome Christmas production were to arrive at Liverpool-street station from Harwich on Friday. They have been brought from Lapland by Hagenbeck, of Hamburg, and Mr. Castang, of Leadenhall Market, specially for Father Christmas's sledge at the Hippodrome, where they will be housed under the care of Mr. Frank Parker.

The committee of the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund are giving away at their Thursday meetings an average of between £25 and £30 each week, and, unhappily, the applications are increasing in number. There are over thirty cases, all highly deserving, who are receiving weekly relief. During the past eleven months the Fund has paid all the funeral expenses of five variety performers, four in London and one in the provinces.

At the Empress Theatre, Brixton, extensive alterations, which will add greatly to the comfort and convenience of both audiences and artists, are now in progress. Mr. Bertie Crewe, under the instructions of the managing-director, Mr. W. J. Grimes, has designed a complete hot-water heating installation for the stage, huge coils of six pipes being fixed all round the walls, and heating has also been provided in the stage entrance and the orchestra. This work has been admirably carried out by Messrs. Goodacre, Glover, and Butler, of Nottingham. Other alterations consist of the construction of a new scene dock and property-room, and a new lounge and retiring-room for the stalls.

Miss Rachel Lowe has emerged from her temporary retirement, and is most successfully entertaining audiences at the County Theatre, Kingston, with her novelty song, "My boy Bill," written by John W. Bratton, composer of "My Cosy Corner Girl," and "Take me some place with you, Johnnie."

In the King's Bench Division an interim injunction has been granted in favour of Charles D. Hickman, author of monologues and sketches, to restrain infringement of his publications, "The Playlet and Monologue Magazine" and "P.A.D." (Patter and Dialogue).

"Lord" George Sanger, in producing on Monday at the East Ham Palace *Mazeppa and the Wild Horse of Tartary*, will revive in a measure the glory of Astley's in the days of Ducrow.

Mr. F. R. Griffiths, of the New Bioscope Trading Co., takes over the Palace, Greenwich, from Mr. Dave Barnard on Monday. Mr. Jess Smith will be the manager.

The Queen has graciously replied to a birthday telegram sent by the Union Jack Boys, who are doing uncommonly well at the Shoreditch Hippodrome, and the youngsters are highly delighted with Her Majesty's message.

Mme. Albani made her first appearance on the music hall stage on Monday at the Grand, Blackpool, where Mr. T. Allan Edwardes maintains the enterprise for which Blackpool's entrepreneurs are noted. If the great cantatrice is received as rapturously in other towns as she has been welcomed in Blackpool, then her success will be a phenomenal one.

Her first contribution was an aria by Mozart, her second "Ye banks and braes," and her last Edward German's "Daffodils are blowing." So prolonged was the applause that she had to bow her acknowledgments several times before the curtain was allowed to fall on a memorable performance.

La Belle Fatima, the Syrian lion performer, and her lions have arrived per s.s. Saturnia from Galveston, after playing twenty weeks in Mexico with the Ferari show.

Les Aero-Femmes (three ladies), by means of special mechanism, will be enabled to give a serpentine dance in the air at the Palace Theatre on Monday next. The show is daring, yet declared to be perfectly safe. It will be given with brilliant illuminations and prismatic effects.

"L'Arlesienne," Alphonse Daudet's rural tragedy, with Bizet's music, so cleverly reproduced at the Alhambra by means of pictures, was adapted for the English stage under the title of *The Love that Kills* by Mr. Jocelyn Brandon, an enthusiastic and hard-working member of the L.C.C.

A copyright performance of a melodrama, in one act and two scenes, entitled *Cruel Coppinger*, was given at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Tuesday afternoon. The new sketch is written, invented, and acted by Mr. R. A. Roberts, who is off to the Cape to-day. It will be produced on his return next spring.

We are pleased to hear from Mr. George Bastow that it was only a slight hoarseness that prevented his appearance at the Manchester Hippodrome last week, and that he is starring with conspicuous success this week at the Hippodrome, Devonport, where he is singing eight songs nightly.

The Empire Theatre has just secured the exclusive rights for presentation in the West End of pictures of the race for the Grand National. The Perezoffs, who have already established themselves as Empire favourites, return there on Monday, with Lalla Selbini, who introduces an extremely novel act, described as a cycling pot-pourri.

In aid of the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum a grand matinée will be given on Thursday next at the Alhambra, by permission of the directorate. The variety company at present entertaining at the Leicester-square house will be reinforced by some stars of musical comedy, and there will be an excellent programme.

Mrs. Marie Spurr, the widow of Mr. Mel B. Spurr, desires to express through our columns her deep sense of the great kindness of Mr. David Devant and his wife, who, by their timely aid, saved her little home from the bailiffs. This is not all; for Messrs. Maskelyne and Devant have now headed a subscription list with the handsome donation of £25, on behalf of the truly grateful woman who thanks her benefactors for saving her from the union.

Miss Melinda May, secretary of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, would be glad to hear from proprietors and managers who have vacancies for caretakers or cleaners, having several women and men on her books with excellent references. She hopes with the approach of Christmas and its attendant extra work that occupation can be found for the willing and deserving, also sewing work in the pantomime wardrobes. She has already fixed three people for Christmas.

The variety world will shortly see a new recruit in Stanley Mellott, a blind match-seller, who is about to appear in London as a quick-change artist. He is being exploited by Fred Caughan, of the Belgrave Academy, Argyle-square, King's Cross, who has started so many artists on a successful career. Mr. Caughan has written Mellott—who, by the way, is genuinely blind—a special entertainment, and as a blind quick-change artist he is certainly a novelty.

Mr. John Lawson will appear at Olympia, Shoreditch, next week in a revival of the world-famous episode *Humanity*. A new scene has been constructed and a number of new effects introduced. The finale, it is calculated, will satisfy the most fervent of fighting men. John Lawson will, of course, play "Only a Jew." It was at the old Standard, Shoreditch, then under the régime of the Douglas family, that the celebrated fight in the drama of *Humanity* took place. The combatants were Mr. Edward Sass and the late Arthur Dacre.

The latest quotations for music hall shares are as follows:—Alhambra, 1 9-16, Canterbury ½, Empire (15s. pd.) 1⅛, ditto (10s. pd.) 1⅜, London Pavilion Ordinary 4⅛, ditto Pref. 5⅛, Metropolitan 15s., Moss' Empires, 5⅛, ditto 5 per cent. Pref. 4⅛, Oxford 6⅛, Palace 15-16ths, Tivoli 5⅛, and Variety Consolidated Theatres 11s.

Mr. Nevil Maskelyne, who presided at the third annual banquet of the Magic Circle, said that the record of the society continued to be one of steady prosperity. The public had been allowed to take a false impression of the true artistic standing of the capable magician. There had arisen an idea that magic was purely a subject of minor importance, an art mainly for juveniles. Magic, in point of fact, had always had an interest for men and women of the higest intelligence, and it was the object of the Magic Circle to prove that the abilities of the magician called for a full amount of education, skill, and artistry. In exposing fraud and in preserving what he might call public sanity, the better-class exponents of magic had rendered many public services.

The usual monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund will be held at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road, on Wednesday next, at 4 p.m.

Glen Alva is specially engaged to play the title-rôle in *Puss in Boots*, with Mr. J. H. Savile at the Theatre Royal, Paisley. After ten days' rehearsal the pantomime will be produced on Dec. 19.

Mr. S. Handel Lancaster has succeeded Mr. W. G. Eaton as musical director at the Royal Hippodrome, Dover, and carries out his duties in an entirely satisfactory manner.

John Clempert, the original Siberian jail-breaker, has been introducing at the Palace, Stoke Newington, this week, his latest astonishing escape in full view of the audience from the Siberian torture jacket, never performed by anyone else in the world. He also escapes nightly from a galvanised iron tank filled to the brim with water, locked with two lids and eight padlocks.

Miss Maud Santley and Mr. Lloyd Chandos will be the vocalists for Sunday's concert at the Coliseum. Miss Maud Santley was the contralto who made such a successful Frika in the "Ring," and Maddalena with Tetrazzini in *Rigoletto*. The Imperial Military Band, under Mr. J. M. Glover, will also add to the pleasure of these popular Sunday evenings.

Answering a question as to the recent fatality at the Middlesex, the Home Secretary said in Parliament on Monday that the performance ought not to have been allowed. He was in communication with the London County Council on the subject. Two years ago, in June, 1906, a Bill dealing with dangerous performances was received unfavourably.

Mr. Thomas Howell, the new bass singer, has been secured by the management of the London Pavilion, and will, on the 14th inst., introduce to a London audience the song with which he created a profound impression at Birmingham during the month just ended. It is called "The Laughing Cavalier," was suggested by the famous painting by Hals in the Wallace Collection, and is from the graceful pen of Arthur du Soir, the music being by J. A. Tunbridge.

Miss Freda Sharlotte has been appearing this week at the Hammersmith Palace in her monologue, entitled *Is Life Worth Living?* by Paul Pelham, with considerable success. The idea is the dream of a society butterfly. She is asleep on a couch, when a pixie appears and calls upon the sleeper to follow her through Dreamland. The sleeper then tells of her dream in which she sees the deeds of various individuals which answer "Yes" to the question of the title. The people described are a nurse, a fireman, a lifeboatman, a footballer—each of whom is depicted in a tableau at the rear of the stage—and lastly Miss Sharlotte describes a race won by a horse of H.M. the King, and the last tableau is that of His Majesty. The tableaux were excellently arranged by Fox's, Ltd.

For over twenty years Professor E. K. Crocker travelled his wonderful show through Great Britain after many years' success in the United States of America. The show and its proprietor were known and appreciated wherever they went. No one has ever been able to say one derogatory word against either. Our readers will regret, therefore, to hear that Mr. Crocker, after retiring to the States some four years since, has had an unprecedented run of misfortune.

Persistent bad business, the long and serious illness of his wife, his own failing health, the misfortune of a broken leg, caused a few weeks' since in Michigan by one of his horses, comprise a 'battalion" of untoward happenings; and now, alas! news has come to hand that his whole show, including most of his valuable troupe of horses and ponies, has been lost by fire. Surely, he is a veritable Job to be able with patience and resignation to bear all this trouble. He deserves the sympathy of all who know him as a straight business man of generous heart.

Miss Marie Dressler, the latest lessee of the Aldwych, was born in Canada. Her father was a professor of music and a Crimean veteran. Her mother was a French Canadian, and also musical. In her early life she had quite a royal time, but when about seventeen, through the unwise speculations of her father, as she says, "the crash came," and so she had to do something. She tried her hand as assistant in a "dry store" (*anglice*, draper's shop), but found that if she wanted to stay she would have to marry the proprietor, so she left and joined, as a chorus girl, a touring company in the States.

The piece they were travelling was *The Mikado*, just after it had taken New York by storm. One night, when the actress who was playing Katisha sprained her ankle, Miss Dressler, through her persistence, and the fact that the understudy did not feel confident enough to take up the rôle, got her opportunity, and played the part with such success that she was engaged for four years in it. Her répertoire of songs would fill almost a column, so only a few are here enumerated. "That's why Adam sinned," "It's hard to be a lady in a case like that," "The lion and the glove," "A great big girl like me," "Hoopdeyoodledo," "Bully Bess," &c.

Mr. Dick Knowles, the American comedian, before leaving for the States sent a characteristic letter to Mrs. Pethick Lawrence, the suffragist leader, in which he says:—"The Inland Revenue Department of Great Britain state they have a claim against me for income-tax. I repudiate their claim, and as they have not been noticeably clever in the conduct of their case, I am sending with this a donation to the Women's Social Reform League, instead of remitting to them the amount claimed. I admire your methods, system, and organisation as much as I pity the sometimes contemptible conduct of your opponents. That brilliantly clever young woman, Miss Christabel Pankhurst, should have a place in the Cabinet, instead of two old ladies who cut such a sorry figure under her cross-examination."

On behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to thank all those who were present at the general meeting, and for the generous gifts from the following:—V.A.B.F., £5 5s. for the children's Christmas tree; Mr. Fred Sinclair (Sinclair and Whiteford), £5 5s. donation to the Guild and £2 1s. collected by that gentleman at the Vaudeville Club, and a promise of further collections; Mr. J. Uccelli, £2 2s.; Dr. Crippen, £1 1s.; Mr. Herbert Shelley, 10s. 6d.; Mr. Frank Sylvo, 5s.; Miss Kohn, promise of six pairs of boots; Messrs. Sheard and Co., for parcel of music; Miss Millie Payne, 10s. towards helping a poor sufferer into a home for consumptives; Miss Maggie Bowman, for giving and collecting 6s.; and Mrs. J. Vane Sutton, 5s. for the same good cause. Mr. Tom Wootteil, Miss Ettie Albert, Miss Maud Atlas, Miss Marie Colmore, and Miss E. G. Clarke, A.C.U., attended purposely to collect at the meeting. Friends of the charity are heartily welcome to the tea and receptions held every Wednesday, four to five o'clock. Will all members please send addresses to Miss May so that she may post on votes for the election, which takes place shortly?

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

A STUPENDOUS and delighted audience, cheering as only Scotsmen can, shouted themselves hoarse on Thursday night on the occasion of the production of Mr. Robert Arthur's magnificent pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow. It was a veritable triumph for all concerned, and, as in former years, and as was a foregone conclusion—the songs of Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter evoked hurricanes of applause, among those especially coming in for unstinted applause and imperative demands for repetition being "Oh! Oh! Antonio!" (which set thousands of Caledonians almost crazy during Glasgow Fair week in the Isle of Man during the summer, when Miss Florrie Forde introduced it there); "Sue, Sue, Sue, I'm very much in love with you," "I'm afraid to come home in the dark," "I think I shall sleep well to-night" (given in Mr. George Robey's own inimitable manner), "I'm the best pal I ever had," the great march song "Bombardier," and that eleventh-hour success "Every fellow's in love with a girl." When it is remembered that these seven genuine "winners" in a first-class pantomime are but a tithe of the numerous tried successes "ear-marked" for production at foremost theatres everywhere in these islands it augurs well for the great music publishing firm's 1908-9 season. The success of the above-mentioned numbers was all the more marked and noticeable as they were all given without the aid of special settings, but were presented on their individual merits.

MISS VESTA TILLEY, who will be at the Palace, Shaftesbury-avenue, at Christmas, has in study for immediate production a new song entitled "To see if it was fit for father," by Edgar Bateman and Henry E. Pether.

APPLICATIONS are falling fast and furious upon Messrs. Francis and Day for the band parts of their pantomime overture, "The Goldmine," and the demand is now being satisfied with promptitude. This admirable selection of the famous firm's melodies, arranged by Warwick Williams, is also in great request among the musical directors of variety theatres, it being just the thing for the holiday programme.

MISS VESTA TILLEY during the week introduced to a Manchester audience her new song, "That's the time a fellow wants his ma," and made a big hit with the number, which is by Edgar Bateman and Archie Mills, of the Colwick Hall Pierrots, a well-known Nottingham troupe of entertainers, the music being by Maurice Scott. Messrs. Francis and Day have already issued the song.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY, among numerous other songs by first-rate writers, have secured for immediate publication the song which Mr. G. H. Elliott produced for the first time on Thursday evening entitled "Good-bye for ever," which immediately took the fancy of the house. The graceful lyric is by Henry F. Greenfield, and the melody—a particularly taking one—has been composed by the Chocolate-coloured Coon himself. The number, which has been arranged by Reginald W. Allan, sounded very fine when played by Mr. Walter Johnson's carefully supervised band.

A HIT in pantomime was made on Thursday evening last by Miss Meg Hamilton, the dashing Dandini in Robert Arthur's Glasgow production. Her song, "Have you got another girl like Mary?" was a huge success, and we may predict that the number will be whistled all over Glasgow before long. The Star Com. have placed this number everywhere.

MRS. LILLIE WILLIAMS, who produced the first pantomime of the season at the Gaiety, Dundee, very kindly wired Messrs. Feldman and Co. the good news of the big success made with two of their songs, viz., "A white man" and "Connemara." The duet, "Come over the garden wall," was also thoroughly appreciated by the vast audience.

A WONDERFULLY catchy chorus the song published by Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. and written and composed by Mellor, Lawrance, and Gifford, entitled "Come round on Sunday." This number is being secured by all the principal producers in the kingdom, and will be a real delight to all—especially the children.

MISS MAY MARS has been making popular two of Messrs. B. Feldman and Co.'s songs on the music halls—so much so that they will both be heard in many parts of the country on Boxing Night. "It's good-bye to Maudie" is a number no pantomime will be complete in which it is not included, as it has a "once-heard-never-forgotten" style of chorus, and gets a laugh just at the right place. "In the fire-fire glow," by A. E. Sidney Davis, Castling, and Godfrey, is a rather quieter type of chorus, but is being eagerly sought after by both principal boys and girls.

MISS CISSIE LEONARD is making a real hit in Messrs. Feldman and Co.'s great new Irish song, "Connemara." This is one of the songs this well-known firm is "banking on" for pantomime, and their opinion is being cordially endorsed by both artists and the public. "Begorra, it's true!"

MISS GERTIE GITANA has been scoring heavily with her ballad "In the evening by the moonlight, dear Louise," at the Granville and Oxford. She has also accepted for early production a similar ballad entitled "When the harvest moon is shining, sweet Eileen," which will shortly be issued in their 1s. edition by the Von Tilzer Music Co., Ltd.

MR. SAM MAYO'S successful song, "Listen to me and I'll prove that I'm right" (Stars and Stripes), will be issued this week by the Von Tilzer Music Co. This number is going well at the Oxford.

THE VON TILZER MUSIC CO. have had an unprecedented demand for their ballad, "Keepsakes," from principal girls and fairy queens; and other numbers in great demand among pantomime artists are "Let's have a song about the boys" and "Put me a girl inside."

THERE seems to be a steady growing demand for the Von Tilzer Co.'s slide songs. "Since daddy's been taken away," a pathetic child ballad, is now being featured both on the Macnaghten, Barrasford, and the Moss and Stoll tours, besides being sung in almost every large or small hall in Great Britain. Another slide song which bids fair to become a close rival in popularity to the above-mentioned number is "You're my girl in the springtime."

THE NATIONAL MUSIC PUBLISHING CO. have arranged for three of their songs to be in the forthcoming Drury-lane pantomime. Wilkie Bard is singing "Put me upon an Island where the girls are few," Neil Kenyon has decided up "You all want something to cuddle," and the other number to be used by a most prominent artist is "I wish I had a pal like you." The National Music Publishing Co. are charging no fee whatever for any of their songs.

LOWENWIRTH AND COHAN are making their usual success with the song written, composed, and sung by themselves, entitled "My Little Eva." This number is being made free for pantomime by the National Music Publishing Co. They have already reserved it for almost every pantomime in Great Britain.

(Continued on page 26.)

THE AGENCY QUESTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—In reply to Mr. W. H. Clemart I would point out that the rôle of a prophet is a dangerous one in the twentieth century. A convolution of my words absolutely Clemartian is as follows: "It is delightful to hear that 75 per cent. of the V.A.F. *are* '*booked*' for many years." I never used the word "booked," but "committed." My words still stand good. Please do not confound "booked" with "committed."

I fear W. H. C.'s imputation upon the honesty of the intelligent, intellectual agents minority is a further bar to any settlement, and doubtless the individuals attacked can look after themselves. I notice W. H. C. evades the direct challenges made by me last week, and I again repeat them, in order that they may not be lost sight of.

"I assert boldly that not more than 800 voted for any of the 5 per cent. resolutions, and the committee cannot produce the signatures of the above number, neither can they produce 1,000 records of attendances for any one Friday during the crisis. I assert also that 2,750 members took no part in the dispute whatever.

"I also assert the resultant resolutions are illegal, and as such are null and void."

W. H. C. says the position can be proved when necessary. I ask him how can a position which is legally wrong according to your book of rules be proved right?

It was decided at the committee meeting of Sept. 1, 1908, that the clauses as altered at the General Meeting should be deleted. The formal deletion of these clauses was moved, seconded, and passed at that committee meeting, and the Office Copy was doomed before it ever got to the General Meeting. The rest was easy. This is soon proved, and can be verified by any member who likes to exercise Rule 31, where it distinctly states by *order of the Registrar* that all books shall be open to inspection by any member. Now, then, you members who are in the dark, if you really want a way out, here it is. You say you do not know the truth—you have it in the above words!

Again I refer to Rule 19, paragraph 1, and ask a simple rule in arithmetic. I resigned, and prior to this it was the talk that the incoming secretary cast his shadow before. I am not annoyed at vacating the secretaryship; but I should have thought it would have been done legally. It took 126 men to elect me; it naturally follows that the resignation must be accepted by the 126 and not by the sitting committee of 25. As I understand the ballot of the full committee has not yet been taken on my resignation (the result of which I am certain is in the affirmative), it necessarily follows that your election, W. H. C., is also "null and void" until the usual formalities are observed. Such haste was not in good taste, even though the haste was intentional. I was fully aware of this, and I waited until I found the picture realised.

Rules—rules—rules! Why don't you follow them? I shall be content if the above information will bring about a movement to obtain a satisfactory settlement; and, in conclusion, I would point out to the members, they had little reason to envy me, who, by giving up social pursuits, by passing nights without sleep, and days without one glimpse of the beauty of Nature, was striving to maintain that laborious, that invidious, that closely-watched slavery which was marked by the name of general-secretary.—Yours faithfully,

MONTE BAYLY.

London, Dec. 5, 1908.

EARL'S COURT has been chosen by a wealthy syndicate of amusement caterers for the purpose of holding a variety of popular amusements at a very nominal admission fee. Three gigantic halls are to be devoted to the purpose, and the attractions will range from the circus to the latest pageant; from the exhibition to the side-show. The latest novelties from enterprising America, triumphs of art from France, the now famous Doll Pageant recently exhibited at Westminster, an exhibition of the world's production of toys, and a celebrated fairy pantomime are some of the attractions which will add to the popularity of the already famous amusement resort.

THE Fun City and Exhibition at the Drill Hall, Lower Bristol-street, Bath, is to be opened from Christmas Eve to Jan. 16, with a host of attractions, including mysteries and illusions from Earl's Court, beauty competitions, lightning sketch artists, thought-readers, gymnasts, swimmers, and others. There is also to be a hall of laughter.

MR. HENRY BARNATO, a partner in the firm of Barnato Brothers, who died at his London residence, 23, Upper Hamilton-terrace, N.W., at 1.30 on Monday afternoon was in a measure the founder of the fortunes of the famous house of Barnato Brothers. He was the first to emigrate to South Africa, where he arrived in the early days of the gold and diamond fields. There he dropped his original name, Isaacs, and became "Signor Barnato, the great wizard," earning a precarious livelihood as an itinerant conjurer among the diggers. Happily for him success did not reward his conjuring efforts, and he was forced to become a "kopje walloper," and so founded the fortunes of his family.

IN those days diamonds were found, without systematic digging, among the "kopjes," or small hills near the rough camp which then constituted Kimberley. Henry Barnato had the acumen to see the possibilities of the situation, and sent home for his brother Barney. The latter soon showed his peculiar talents for finance. He bought four claims in the famous Kimberley mine with £3,000 that had been saved, and finally, in 1880, was founded the house of Barnato Brothers. Later the brothers took in their nephews, Woolf, Jack, and Solly Joel, and the subsequent history of the firm is closely linked with the romance of South African finance.

L.C.C. AND LICENSING.

The London County Council held a special sitting at the County Hall, Spring-gardens, on the 27th ult., under the chairmanship of Mr. R. A. Robinson, for the purpose of considering the report of the Theatres and Music Halls Committee sitting as the Licensing Committee, upon licences heard by them at the Sessions House, Clerkenwell, on the 6th inst.

For the first time the Council acted under a new Standing Order, passed in July last, under which the whole of the discussion on each recommendation of the committee is conducted in private, and the representatives of the Press, as well as the counsel engaged in the applications, and the public, have to retire from the Council chamber during the debate. This order materially reduces the time occupied in considering the committee's recommendations, but it robs the proceedings of most of its public interest.

In reference to the London Coliseum the Council adopted the recommendation of the committee, "That a licence for music and dancing be granted to Oswald Stoll for the London Coliseum, subject to an undertaking that no intoxicating drinks shall be sold or consumed on the premises."

THE HIPPODROME.

The committee reported that Sir Horace Edward Moss, in his application for a renewal of a licence for music and dancing for the London Hippodrome, had applied for a removal or modification of the restriction attached to the licence that no intoxicating drinks should be sold or consumed on the premises. The committee recommended that the licence should be renewed subject to an undertaking that no drinks should be sold or consumed in the auditorium.

Mr. Pinhorn opposed the removal of the restriction on the usual temperance grounds.

Mr. Low, K.C., also opposed on behalf of the owner of an adjacent public-house, which forms part of the same building.

Mr. C. F. Gill, K.C., with whom was Mr. Sylvain Mayer, supported the recommendation of the committee, and pointed out that it was now generally recognised that there was no reasonable objection to the Council's policy that a drink licence was not necessary for a suburban music-hall, where people were close to their homes. In the case of the Hippodrome, however, the circumstances were different, because the performance lasted for about three hours, and the audience was composed almost entirely of persons who came from some distance. The owners of the Hippodrome considered that they had been unfairly treated in the past, and that the Council had taken a good deal too much upon themselves in dictating to such an audience that visited the Hippodrome whether they should or should not partake of intoxicating liquors. There was not the slightest reason why the Council should place upon the Hippodrome an indignity which they did not attach to any similar place of entertainment outside the suburbs.

After deliberating in private, the Council divided, with the result that by fifty-eight votes to twenty-five they rejected the recommendation of the committee, and decided to grant the licence on the condition that no intoxicating drinks be sold or consumed on the premises.

FINSBURY PARK EMPIRE.

This was an application by Mr. Oswald Stoll for a new licence for music and dancing for the Finsbury Park Empire, proposed to be erected on the land at the junction of St. Thomas's-road and Prah-road, Finsbury Park.

The committee recommended that a provisional licence be granted, subject to an undertaking that no intoxicating drinks shall be sold or consumed on the premises.

The recommendation was opposed by the Vicar of St. Thomas and others, on the grounds that the neighbourhood is already amply supplied with such places of entertainment, and is within easy reach of many other such in other parts of London; that the proposed music-hall will be detrimental to the quietness of the neighbourhood, and to the comfort and convenience of the inhabitants of the residential district within the limits of which it is proposed to erect it; that its erection will tend to depreciate the value of the property in the said district; and that it is feared that it will be prejudicial to the moral tone of the neighbourhood.

Mr. George Elliott, who appeared for some of the opponents, said this music-hall was not only not needed by the inhabitants, but if opened, would lead to the bringing into the neighbourhood of a large number of undesirable persons.

Mr. S. S. Christey opposed on the ground that the granting of the licence would seriously injure the prospects of the Alexandra Palace, which had been purchased at a cost of £150,000 by the ratepayers.

Mr. Gill, K.C., in supporting the recommendation of the committee, on behalf of the applicant, said the only real question was whether this music-hall would interfere with the quietness of the sylvan retreat of Finsbury Park. Apparently it had been overlooked that the site was close to the important railway station of Finsbury Park and tramway junction, to say nothing of the busy thoroughfare of Seven Sisters-road.

On a division, the Council confirmed the recommedation of the committee by forty-one votes to thirty.

CAMDEN THEATRE.

This was an application by Mr. Sidney Marler for a new licence for music and dancing for the Camden Theatre. The committee reported that the premises, which were licensed by the Lord Chamberlain for stage plays until September last, had recently been used for cinematograph entertainments. The committee recommended that a licence for music and dancing be granted subject to an undertaking that no intoxicating drinks shall be sold or consumed on the premises.

Mr. Horace Avory, K.C., opposed on the ground that the proprietors of the theatre had already broken the law by carrying on a form of entertainment for which they had no licence, and that by granting the licence applied for the Council would be encouraging people to break the law.

Mr. George Elliott, in support of the application, said he had never known a greater case of persecution than existed in this case, inasmuch as the persons for whom Mr. Avory appeared were actually suing his (Mr. Elliott's) clients for £400 as common informers. The opposition was an attempt to crush a rival trader.

The Council deliberated for a long time in private, and without a division reversed the recommendation of the committee by refusing the licence.

The Council adopted the recommendation of the committee to grant a provisional licence to the Lewisham Hippodrome for music and dancing, subject to no intoxicating drinks being sold or consumed on the premises, and to the Crown Theatre, Peckham, on the same conditions.

In the case of the application of Mr. Austin Heyes for a new music and dancing licence for the Paddington Empire, proposed to be erected in the Harrow-road, the committee recommended that the licence be not granted, and the Council confirmed that recommendation.

MR. CHARLES COBORN has been engaged this week on special concert work, in which he has met with the same enthusiastic receptions as he does almost everywhere.

MR. TOD LOWEN left Australia on Nov. 30, from Freemantle, after a most successful time—so successful, indeed, that he had to play four weeks extra, on top of his original contract. He is due to reach England on Jan. 2.

MR. EDITOR.—SIR,—In your notice of the company engaged at the Opera House, Burton-on-Trent, last week, you omitted yours faithfully, WISPER (the original comedy kid juggler), King's Theatre, Gainsborough, Dec. 3.

THE Correctional Tribunal of Paris has sentenced to a month's imprisonment and a fine of £8 the manager of a restaurant in Montmartre, who had organised dinners, during which displays of living statuary were given. The women were each sentenced to a fine of £2.

MR. GEORGE BROOKS, for the first time for quite a number of years, will at Christmastide discard the petticoats of the "dame," and will enact the part of the page in pantomime, having been secured for one of Mr. Milton Bode's productions.

COLONEL GASTON BORDEVEREY, the French pistol and rifle shot, is due at the Coliseum next week. He is the inventor of playing the piano with bullets. He will present, for the first time, his latest novelty—playing operatic selections with his repeating rifle on twenty-five musical chimes (bells) with twenty-five resonators.

THE directors of the Mammoth Roller Skating Rink at Empress Hall, Earl's Court, are organising a beauty show to take place on Dec. 9, 10, and 11. Already there are over 500 entries, and the competition will be of quite an international character, four Italian, one Hindu, forty-four German, and ten French ladies having entered. By far the most numerous applications come from Scotland.

MR. BRANSBY WILLIAMS on Tuesday was entertained by the Arts Club, Glasgow, and delivered another lecture on "The Actor" before a most select and artistic audience. It was another great success, and more flattering things were said about the brilliant young actor, who is naturally proud of such recognition of his work, of which the artistic worth was first discovered by music hall audiences.

HERBERT TRIGGS, seventy years of age, and still an athlete of no mean prowess, has walked the length and breadth of England, stopping at the milestones by the wayside to make shoes, which he afterwards sells. He recently walked from London to Brighton in twenty-four hours, pushing a hand-barrow, and had time to practise his trade on the way. On the stage he tells the story of his exploits, and sings some capital songs. The walking shoemaker is decidedly interesting.

THE keynote of the Fun City, which opens in the Olympia Annexe on the 7th inst., is to be "movement." Practically every show will be of a moving nature, and visitors will be able to indulge in twelve hours' continuous "whirl." This is brought about by the extraordinary success achieved in this country by the Scenic Railway, with the result that American showmen are now anxious to exploit in this country all the moving attractions that have made Coney Island.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

Another Triumph for the Leading Legitimate Music Publishers.

GLASGOW AGAIN TAKEN BY STORM.

SEVEN BIG HITS IN THE FIRST GLASGOW PANTOMIME.

Produced by Robert Arthur, Esq., at the Theatre Royal on Thursday last.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"I SHALL SLEEP WELL TO-NIGHT."
"BOMBADIER."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"I'M THE BEST PAL I'VE EVER HAD."

Seven Big Numbers in the First Glasgow Pantomime.

ANOTHER TRIUMPH AT THE HIPPODROME, BELFAST.

John Tiller's Successful Production. The hits of the show were the following:

"ARE YOU THE LITTLE GIRL I MET THE OTHER EVENING?"
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"BOMBADIER."
"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO."

STILL ANOTHER FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER TRIUMPH.

The following were the hits of the show at the Gaiety Theatre, Dundee. Lillie Williams's Production.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"SHADOWLAND."
"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO."

The above is a Record even for Francis, Day, & Hunter.
But wait until Boxing Night.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

(*Continued from page 25*)

Fred. Elton is making a success with the 100-guinea song, entitled "When the Leaves are tinged with Gold." This is another of the National Music Company's pantomime successes, and will be in a good many of the pantomimes this year.

Mr. Wynyard Ryde's two sacred songs, "Peace be still" and "Far from my heavenly home," sung with such success by Miss Beatrice Felsted at Brighton, have been accepted by H.M. the Queen. Mr. Wynyard Ryde is writing three new songs for Miss Felsted for her spring tour, during which she will sing Mr. Bert Feldman's mascot "A tiny seed of love," by kind permission.

Mr. Henry E. Pether, Messrs. Francis and Day's musical editor, has received during the past few days many congratulations from various parts of the country on the success of his new valse lente "Cecilia." It is published by Messrs. Francis and Day.

When Mr. Graham Curzon started writing lyrics he was fortunate to meet with a happy collaborator in Miss Edith Fortescue, the composer of "Land of Sunset Glow," "Giver of Life," and many other successes. The new joint effort of these writers is "Starshine," and with its neatly-told story and the melodious musical setting it should recommend itself to every pantomime artist, boy, girl, or fairy queen, looking for a real success. It is published by Messrs. W. Morley and Co.

"Starshine" is being especially featured by leading pantomime producers. Lantern slides are issued by two different firms. Next week at Chelsea Palace Talbot and Pearce are singing "Starshine" nightly in their Japanese scena *Cherry Blossom*.

The Denmark Music Publishing Co. have just published a song that should be sung and whistled everywhere, entitled "Baden Powell's Scout," written and composed by Medley Barrett.

"Still your friend" is the title of Percy Ford's new song, which has been set to music by Medley Barrett, and is in the catalogue of the Denmark Publishing Co.

Mr. Bert Feldman, who is at Glasgow, has wired to us his unqualified delight at the enormous success of "A tiny seed of love," "White man," "I want you to see my girl," "Bubble and the sunbeam," and "Girls, girls, girls."

Mr. Harry Blande, the Canadian baritone, and Mr. Leo King write Messrs. Sheard that they are featuring their bass songs, "When the ebbtide flows," "Asleep in the deep," and "The old warrior" in pantomime, where they are both engaged for Demon King parts.

No more suitable song for Fairy Queen in *Dick Whittington* could be found than Miss Constance V. White's successful "Sleep and forget." The position for it is where Dick is discovered by the Fairy Queen worn out and asleep by the milestone on Highgate Hill.

Messrs. Sheard and Co. have made arrangements with Mr. Tom Woottwell for the immediate publication of his four great successes, "Blow'd if I didn't wake up," "I've got 'em here," "What did I do?" and "The little shirt my mother made for me," and are granting pantomime permissions for same. Two guineas per town either song.

This week's Australian mail brings Messrs. C. Sheard and Co. advices from their Australian agents, Messrs. Allan and Co., of Melbourne, of the fact that, in order to cope with the demand for copies of Stanley Gordon's great bass song, "When the ebbtide flows," they have printed a local edition. This song is also a great success in the United States, where it is published by Messrs. J. W. Stern and Co., of New York.

Two other songs from Messrs. Sheard's catalogue that Messrs Allan and Co. report a brisk demand for are "Just plain folks," a descriptive ballad telling of the cool reception given to his poor, but genuine, old parents on visiting the mansion of their millionaire son, whom they had not seen for years, when he ran away from home as a poor lad.

"There's no one in the world like you" is the title of the second song, which is of the "love" order, always in demand, as exemplified by the popularity of "Love me, and the world is mine." This is the refrain:—

"There's no one in the world like you, none half so true;
There's nothing, love, I would not do to prove my love for you, believe me do.
If you were all my very own, and mine alone,
I'd love you more each day, my darling, for there's no one else like you."

Pianists playing for Bioscope shows will find it to their advantage if they write Messrs. Sheard for their Shilling Collections of Entr'actes Intermezzos, graceful and fantastic dances, for they contain the very class of music for their purpose, being light, pretty, and delicate. Orchestrations are also published for some of them, viz., Malemberg's delightful dances, "Verona," "Nell Gwynne," and "The May Queen"; Bonbear's Russian Mazurka "Neva," and Bogetti's "Dulcina" intermezzo.

Messrs. Sheard and Co. have in the press a most delicate and charming little song, especially adapted for pantomime purposes. It is called "The Wedding of the Stars," and its dainty and graceful words and music are both by Mr. J. Anton Dailey, who has already achieved success, both in this country and America, with "Sweetheart days" and "Dreaming." The refrain runs:

"If you be my pretty shining star and love me every night,
I'll be ever at your side, Dear Heart, and keep you shining bright.
You're the only one I see, Sweetheart, to me you're just the card,
Just shoot this way, and name the day, and be my pretty shining star.

Perhaps the most suitable song for Cinderellas that has been printed for many years is Gilbert Adair and Marcus Hope's new song, "If I were a Fairy Queen." It is exactly the song for the Kitchen scene of *Cinderella*, before the good fairy appears. The words are distinctly good, and the music irresistibly catchy.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

FELDMAN'S

GREAT TRIUMPH.

MR. ROBERT ARTHUR'S

GLASGOW PANTOMIME.

Musical Director: JULLIEN H. WILSON.

Producer: FRANK DIX.

MISS VIOLET LORAINE:
"A TINY SEED OF LOVE."
"A WHITE MAN."

MISS MEG HAMILTON:
"I WANT YOU TO SEE MY GIRL."

MR. HARRY DENT:
"GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS."

MISS IRIS HOEY:
"THE BUBBLE AND THE SUNBEAM."

MR. GEORGE ROBEY:
"IT'S A LIE."
"SHAKESPEARE."

These will be the entire Country's Favourites.

Be in the Van of Success.

Artistes who are singing "A White Man" in Pantomime can have extra versos for same, giving place of production.

Hits for all. Write or call. State part and where producing.

B. FELDMAN & CO.,

2 & 3, ARTHUR STREET, NEW OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telegrams, "Humfriv, London." Telephone, No. 4447 Gerrard.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday, at the County Hall, Spring-gardens, Mr. R. A. Robinson (chairman) presiding.

THE FATALITY AT THE MIDDLESEX.

On the reception of the Theatres and Music Halls report,

Mr. Reynolds asked the chairman (Mr. Greenwood) whether, in view of the deplorable fatal accident at the Middlesex Music Hall, his committee intended to take steps forbidding the use of firearms on the stage.

Sir J. McDougall inquired whether any representations had been made to the licensee of the Middlesex in regard to this particular case.

Mr. Greenwood, in reply, said the Council had no statutory power to deal with questions of dangerous performances in regard to places licensed by the Council. It could, however, make representations to licensees, and such representations in the past had always received proper attention. The Committee always took action where the question of danger to the public was involved; but when it had not been a question of public danger, it had been the exception rather than the rule to take action. It was always difficult to determine what performances could be described as dangerous. The performance in question was one in which, if it had been brought to the notice of the Committee, a letter would certainly have been sent to the licensee; but as the lady performer was shooting over the heads of the audience, and as the fatality occurred very early in the time the performance was in progress, the matter was not brought to the notice of the Committee, and, consequently, as he had said, no letter was sent.

LEWISHAM HIPPODROME.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had considered drawings submitted by Mr. W. L. Griffiths of a music-hall proposed to be erected on the site of Nos. 135-9, Rushey-green, and to be known as the Lewisham Hippodrome. The premises will have accommodation for about 3,700 persons. The Committee recommended that provided the works shown on the six drawings submitted be commenced within six months, the Council will be prepared to grant a certificate under section 12 of 41 and 42 Vict., cap. 32, to the owner of such building, on being satisfied that the premises have been completed in accordance with the drawings referred to and the regulations of the Council, and that certain stated conditions have been complied with.

Agreed to.

MISCELLANEOUS PROPOSALS.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee also recommended approval of the following:—A drawing, submitted by Mr. S. Barnard, showing a proposal to partition off a portion of the circle lounge at the Elephant and Castle Theatre, so as to form a booking office; a drawing, submitted by Mr. F. T. Verity, showing a proposal to erect a screen and doors at the Leicester-square entrance to the parterre at the Empire Theatre of Varieties; a drawing, submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing a proposed alteration to the stalls at the New Grand Theatre of Varieties, St. John's-hill, Clapham Junction; a drawing, submitted by Mr. B. Crewe, showing a new cinematograph box, which has been constructed at the Surrey Theatre.

The recommendations were adopted.

Miss Gracie Grahame is almost inconsolable at the loss of her faithful little Pomeranian, "Sprightly," who has been her constant companion and faithful friend for years. He died on Tuesday.

Col. Cody, the War Office aeronaut, and inventor of a war kite, who formerly figured on the halls with a sketch called *Klondike*, was in a motor smash on Saturday, his wife having several ribs broken.

No class of entertainment could be more suited to such "toney" places of refined amusement as the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, than the glassophone solos and expert piano manipulation of Miss Mabel Mavis, who made her *début* there last Monday with unexcelled success.

A. E. Hunt, chauffeur to Mr. C. Schuberth, manager of the Palace, Bath, was riding a motor-bicycle on Saturday in the direction of Wood-street, and when at the corner of Barton-street was run into by a taxi-cab which was coming from Queen-square. Hunt, thrown violently from his cycle into the roadway, was promptly removed to the Royal United Hospital, where it was found that he was suffering from a broken leg. Mr. Schuberth informed our correspondent on Tuesday that Hunt was making satisfactory progress, but it would be some weeks before he would be about again.

The net profits of the Variety Theatres Consolidated, after providing for interest on the mortgages, mortgage debentures, and all outgoings, amount to £11,041. In April last an interim dividend of £3 per cent. (less Income-tax) was paid; the directors now recommend the payment of a further dividend of £4 per cent. (less Income-tax) for the half-year to Sept. 30, equal to 7 per cent. for the year, the writing off of £2,000 from the premises, goodwill, and licences account, and carrying forward the balance to the current year's account.

Miss May Lilian Levey writes:—"Under the heading 'Pantomime Novelty,' I read that Mr. Robert Courtneidge is the first in London to introduce the two ugly sisters in *Cinderella* in the shape of two good-looking young ladies, instead of two comedians with a comedy 'make up.' I should like to inform those interested in pantomime production that I have played the last two seasons myself in London in the part of ugly sister, with a good-looking 'make up,' in Mr. Robert Arthur's *Cinderella* pantomimes at the Camden and Kennington Theatres, and I am also playing the same part this season for Mr. Arthur at the Theatre Royal, Nottingham."

Principal among the newcomers at the Hippodrome are Albertus and Jessie Millar, who will present *A Scene at the Fairgrounds*. Miss Millar is considered the world's best lady cornetist. She was featured with the Barnum and Bailey "Greatest Show on Earth" for three years, was solo cornetist of Sousa's Band, and is a native of Los Angeles, California. Mr. Albertus was the first with a partner to introduce a double club juggling act, both in America and England. This has since been so widely copied that he found it was necessary to produce something new. *A Scene at the Fairgrounds* consists of wonderful baseball throwing, sensational club throwing, the comedy being centred in a tramp's endeavours to win cigars by knocking down the dolls.

Indispensable! Rayne's "Pocket Date Book." Contents: Map (19in. by 10in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance. Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list of brougham proprietors, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c. Price 1s., post free. The proceeds from the sale will be divided equally amongst the two great charities of the dramatic and musical professions, the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Home Fund. "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

THE TIVOLI.

Mr. Joseph Wilson is directing at the cosy variety theatre in the Strand a programme that may, in the best and broadest sense of the term, be called cosmopolitan. The *entente cordiale* is crystallised in the entertainment of Harry Fragson at the piano. Here we have an Anglo-Saxon who has caught, during a long residence in Paris, the mercurial lightness of the French comedian, while losing little of the British stolidity, which occasionally will peep out. Mr. Fragson when in his beloved Paris gives out songs that show an intimate acquaintance with the topics that will tickle the *boulevardier;* but he is equally at home in the Strand, where his songs on the Employment Agency and the Licensing Bill are as witty and as clever as anything we have heard for a long time. Another comedian is Mr. Neil Kenyon—frae Bonnie Scotland, ye ken—who has made a study of Scottish character and the broad Doric that is spoken north of the Tweed, and is able to hold an English audience with character sketches as original as they are clever. As a packman or a postman ("postie") Mr. Kenyon is equally droll, and the mirth incited by his sly wit is unmistakable in its heartiness.

Of practical fooling there is plenty in Mr. Harry Tate's sketch *Motoring*, which, though it has been seen again and again by Londoners, is still punctuated with roars of laughter. America is well represented by Radford and Valentine, who are expressively and alliteratively designated the "jolly juggling jesters," a description that cannot fathom the rich store of humour contained in the antics of the mere male of the twain.

Exceedingly popular also is Mr. W. T. Ellwanger, who brings along a company in a comedy sketch entitled *The Kiss*, which was played for the first time in London on Monday. The imbroglio of this amusing farcelet is exceedingly simple. Lord Balme, an Irish nobleman, though he has wooed and married a pretty American, is not exactly the best of friends with her brother, Jack Bacon, who, with four of his chums, is at his brother-in-law's house. While in the drawing-room with Lady Balme, the lights go out, and the sound of a kiss is distinctly heard by his lordship as he enters the room. His very natural anger is hardly lessened by the tactics of Jack Bacon, who, taking each of his friends aside, persuades them to apologise to the nobleman for having kissed his wife. The result may be imagined when each interviews the irate Lord Balme, who has eventually to remain satisfied with Jack's explanation that the whole occurrence is an American joke, which is heightened by one of the characters being a stutterer—a hackneyed phase of comedy which is quite acceptable to the Tivolians.

Mr. G. H. Elliott is still singing delightful coon songs. His latest is "Good-bye for ever," which has an exceedingly pretty melody, and should secure as much popularity as his "Sue, Sue, Sue." Dan Crawley is irresistible in old-fashioned comedy; Victoria Monks is telling in chorus songs; Sanford and Lyons are capital dancers; and Bowden and Stol and Ruffell's Bioscope are also among the attractions.

Early in the evening Signor and Mme. Borelli sing the famous "Cat" duet, and play on a grand piano; Miss Ada Martine dances well; Miss Winifred Ward warbles in male costume of the "Girlie Girls"; and other turns include Miss Madoline Rees, Les Marbas, and Mr. Billy French.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

Mr. E. Leslie Conroy, the able manager of the Holborn Empire, has a good list of attractions this week. Mr. Fred Karno's burlesque, *The G.P.O.*, is the biggest item on the programme, and it is fruitful in its mirth-raising qualities. Mr. Fred Kitchen, in the chief part of Perkins, is exceedingly diverting, and his facial expressions alone are an entertainment. He has capital support from Miss Jessie Crammonde as Lucy Wilson, and from Messrs. Albert Bruno, Herbert Sydney, Herbert Landeck, and Lloyd King in other rôles.

Harry Ford is once more seen in whimsical mood, and his quaint song, "What did he do it for, I'd like to know?" is hugely relished, as is also his "dude" ditty. Mr. Louis Bradfield continues on the halls his success in musical comedy. At the Holborn his fine voice is heard to great advantage in a musical scena, his vocal number, "Her eyes," gaining him enthusiastic applause. He gets good assistance from Mr. Wm. Spray and a bevy of beautiful ladies, including the Misses Marguerite Penfold, Florrie Winstone, Lillian Carlyle, and Jessie Vokes. Miss Ethel Beech and her girls provide an enjoyable and somewhat novel singing and dancing act; and the Borghetti Troupe once more win admiration for their smart head balancing act.

Miss Lena Verdi, a most attractive comedienne and mimic, submits amusing imitations of Miss Marie Lloyd, Mr. Harry Lauder, and others in quite characteristic fashion. Miss Millie Hylton, who looks majestic in a superb costume, appears in her song scena "The Brinkley Girl." Concerning that up-to-date young lady she has a song to sing, which is given with her accustomed charm and cleverness, and we judge from what she tells us that the Brinkley Girl must be a very engaging creature. Mr. Herbert La Martine makes himself popular with his song "Just because he couldn't sing ——," but it is his wonderful performance of a difficult dance that gains him most applause.

Dan Thomas furnishes an interesting account of himself in a scene in which he enacts the character of a broken-down pantomime artist; and Wilson and Waring are delightfully funny in their comedy act. Mr. Frank Seeley also creates merriment with his ditty "I will have to take it back"; Barton and Franklin are a successful comedy duo; and Miss Cassie Walmer proves herself to be a talented eccentric contralto vocalist. The Imperial Bioscope displays some capital new film subjects.

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

This week finds a well-diversified programme, at the top of which, in more senses than one, is George Auger in the original playlet *Jack the Giant-Killer*. Mr. Auger, who is billed as the tallest actor on the stage, is some 8ft. high, and looks highly realistic as the giant; and Mr. Ernest Rommell, who is some 30in. in height, plays Jack. The latter gentleman is a clever little comedian, and sings and dances well, his scenes with Mr. Auger delighting the house. The show gained a great reception. Dick Tubb, an eccentric comedian, makes a big hit in two songs, his style appealing greatly to the audience. Tom Chits, the tenor, sang two songs with effect. May Edouin, comedienne, in a musical comedy act, proved very clever, and made a good impression. Bernard Crooke, a precocious juvenile entertainer at the piano, was good, but the idea for the business in his last item is rather threadbare. Lily Burnand, in two songs, does well, the first song being "Good-bye, Olga," and the second "Sally in the ballet." Jessie Buckle made a hit in "What you've got look after." Edie Endon, a comedienne and dancer, who opened the programme, proved herself to be a very expert acrobatic dancer, her reception being deservedly enthusiastic. An extra turn was included in the evening's entertainment, this consisting of an Indian sketch, played by six people. An English officer is giving a last flare-up in his quarters on the eve of his wedding. He has ill-treated his native servant, and when he bids him to bring in two dancing girls, he makes it his business to introduce as one of them the girl whom he has played with. In the course of two dances she appeals to him, and eventually stabs both him and herself. The principal feature is the two dances, a dagger and a snake dance, both admirably executed, and not a little of the success was due to the appropriate music performed under the direction of a special conductor. A big reception was accorded the novelty. The Bioscope is, as usual, good. Business continues good, a fact with which the admirable quality of the programme has largely to do. Mr. Camp's orchestra is, as usual, first-rate.

At the bottom of the bill is Mr. George Leyton in his new scena *The Last Muster*, another of his many military sketches, this time from the fertile pens of Messrs. Harrington and Tate, which succeeded in its appeal to the patriotism of the audience.

HACKNEY EMPIRE.

A capital programme is being submitted at this popular hall during the week, and audiences are large and enthusiastic in consequence. John Lawson and company form the principal attraction in a répertoire of his well-known sketches. On the evening of our visit *Pigs in Clover* was presented. This is a pessimistic story written round the subject of racial intermarriages. Always interesting, it presents Mr. Lawson with a good medium for the display of his histrionic gifts, of which full advantage is taken. Mr. Lawson is capitally supported, Miss Buena Bent as Pat, Miss Lucille Sidney as Rose, and Messrs. J. K. Reynolds as Calvert, H. Schlesinger as Bazan, and Pascoe Bioletti as Leslie all working hard and with the greatest success. The scenery and mounting are on a very elaborate scale, and have the additional advantage of capital incidental music, directed by Mr. Lawson's conductor. It is needless to say that the sketch went well, Mr. Lawson and Miss Bent taking a well-deserved call. Howell and Scott, Hebrew cross-talk comedians, do well, their eccentric dancing being clever. Miss Florence Smithers and company, in a comedy sketch, *Our Mary Jane*, quite caught the fancy of the house, Miss Smithers herself, in a low comedy part, carrying the show along in fine style, and being excellently supported by Mr. Owen Dacroy as the uncle, and another lady and gentleman not billed.

Walter Bellonini, a very smart juggler, gives a clever show, and has a humorous assistant. Jessie Lee is a dainty comedienne and a graceful dancer. The Three Welsh Girls are artistic singers, their second item being very effectively illustrated. J. P. Ling is a distinctly good and entertaining mimic, his portrayals of the various people who "oblige" at a village concert being very amusing. Alexandra Dagmar, in her new song, "A marriage of Mayfair," together with imitations and stories, got a very big reception, and her success was very evident. The Bioscope is showing pictures of the Hackenschmidt-Gotch match, but provoked no expression of opinion from the house. Phil Parsons is also in the bill. Mr. Walter Greco's band still maintains its high reputation; and Mr. Trussell is most courteous in the front of the house.

THE FORESTERS'.

Many novel and interesting items are included in this week's programme, the foremost being a thrilling romantic episode by the favourite actor Mr. Frederick Maxwell, who is assisted by a specially-selected company, which includes Miss Lois du Cane. The story is entitled *Give a Man a Chance*. The scene is a mill owner's office in British Columbia, where Mr. Darcy, the principal, is settling matters, having just despatched a servant to the bank for the weekly wages. A humorous scene is witnessed between Mr. Darcy and a simple young fellow, who is about to marry a lady against his wish. The owner's son arrives from up country with news of the death of his uncle, who has been murdered. During the conversation Loanda, an American Indian girl, enters, the father informing the lad that the girl was found wandering about the country, and he had allowed her to make her home with him. She has become greatly attached to his principal employee, Jack Kenyon. A stranger in the person of Hal Kenyon, known as Rodney Dene, signals to the girl, and the ensuing conversation between the pair divulges the secret that the murder has been committed by the newcomer in revenge for the wickedness of the deceased. Many good scenes follow, making the excitement intense, and the finale is reached by the culprit offering himself up to justice, after explaining everything, the verdict being that he is to be "given a chance."

The double character was capitally portrayed by Mr. Maxwell, Miss Lois du Cane acting excellently as Loanda; Mr. Murray Yorke and Mr. Dennis Clyde as the Darcys played well together, and greatly helped to make the little incident a great success.

Mr. Tom Collins, light comedian, has two good songs in "Too-ral-loo" and "When the Lute grew brown in autumn," both being capitally rendered. Miss Sable Fern's distinctive voice is heard to advantage in "Do, do, do" and "Mother Eve," the latter being a smartly-written number; Leo and Roland are extremely clever equilibrists their ladder feat being most remarkable; the Sivronis, lady and gentleman burlesque artists, supply an interesting few minutes, their business consisting of good singing, tumbling, dancing, the male partner supplying plenty of good fun which is thoroughly enjoyed. They are a hard-working couple, and obtain a good reception. Mr. Nat Watkins is a good comedian, his quaint expression, &c., causing much amusement. Miss Rose D'Aulby possesses a powerful voice, and renders "Red Wing" capitally; Miss Ethel Scheffer, in illustrated songs, renders in good style "Since daddy's been taken away" and "You're my girl in the springtime," the words of the chorus being displayed on the Bioscope. E. D. Nicholls and company in *Wow Wow, Ki Ki*, supply plenty of hearty laughter; and Miss Zetta Russell and Alex Lofton, together with Raymond's Bio-tableaux, complete an enjoyable bill.

COUNTY THEATRE, KINGSTON.

There was a return to varieties at the Kingston playhouse on Monday and during the week, there being again two houses nightly. Another first-class programme was presented, and has delighted crowded audiences. The two prime favourites are Miss Nancy Hearne and Tom Leamore. The bill also includes the Sisters Bronson, duettists and dancers; the Godfreys in *The Lady and the Toff*; Mr. Arthur Blount, patter comedian; Miss Rachel Lowe, comedienne; Miss Veronica Brady and company, in *Miss Gretchen*; and Miss Adèle Levey and Mr. Frank Lilliput in a comedy duologue. Varieties will be continued until the pantomime season commences.

QUEEN'S, POPLAR.

As usual, the programme presented this week at the cosy little house in High-street, Poplar, is quite up to the mark, and both Messrs. F. and M. Abrahams must exert a considerable amount of tactful energy in the arrangement of the programmes. In presenting Karno's *Early Birds* this week the management has hit upon the very thing which suits both the taste and enjoyment of their patrons. This is easily determined by the one continuous round of laughter which resounds throughout the house whilst the farce is proceeding. This skit has been described quite sufficiently, but we may note that it is staged with elaboration, that it scores the success achieved on its first production a few years ago, and that the various parts are sustained with high intelligence and close study, and the buffoonery and pantomimic fun are exceedingly droll.

Walker and May meet with a warm reception the former's dancing, considering his blindness, being a truly wonderful feat. A characteristic of this duo is that their items are always of an entertaining and quiet order, thus reaching an artistic plane that could scarcely be attained by the customary boisterous travesties of coloured artists. The evening's entertainment is pleasantly diversified by a clever juggling act, in which the comic element is rather freely introduced. Mimicry of notable stars is given by Harry Harris, who sings favourite items associated with their fame. Few mimics have reached the degree of perfection of this artist, and his success may be said to lie in the care and attention which he gives to even the most minute points. In his impersonation of an American Hebrew comedian he is specially happy. Frank Blythe sings a couple of songs in neat style; May Marton is entertaining; and the items of Rita and Roma are well up to the average. Cestria is amusing and clever in jugglery and burlesque, and Florrie Grant courts popular favour in a particularly irresistible manner.

The Four Breens figured also in the programme, and their item combines dexterity with buffoonery in pleasant style, their juggling with clubs and batons being most diverting. Some fine films add to the enjoyment of the bill. Mr. Charles Hector and Mr. M. Abrahams, jun., are energetic and courteous managers.

"FIRST STOP, LONDON."

Episode, in three scenes, written and "arranged" by Edward Marris. Produced at Sadler's Wells on Monday, Nov. 30.

Dave Stannard ..... MR. CECIL W. PARKE
Luke Dezzard ..... MR. GEORGE GRANT
Tat Spavvin ..... MR. JIMMY SALTER
Nat Wilson ..... MR. PERCY MAITLAND
Ezra Gamble ..... } MR. HELIER LE MAISTRE
P.C. Grant ..... }
Mary Stannard ..... MISS BARBARA ALLISON

Luke Dezzard, a dealer in smuggled goods, tries to ruin Dave Stannard, a young fisherman, and win from him his wife, Mary. Dezzard therefore places smuggled goods in Dave's house, shoots the inspecting coastguard dead, and charges Stannard with the crime. Dezzard then plans to get Mary away by train to London; but Stannard manages to escape from the police at the station, and slip his handcuffs on to Dezzard's wrists. He then substantiates his innocence, and defends Mary from the villain's advances. Mr. Cecil W. Parke played Dave Stannard with manly power and spirit; Miss Barbara Allison acted with expression and charm as Mary; Mr. George Grant's Luke Dezzard was a graphic and energetic rascal; Mr. Percy Maitland as the coastguard and Mr. Jimmy Salter as a railway porter supplied comic relief; Mr. Helier Le Maistre doubled Ezra Gamble and a police-constable cleverly. The sketch was well mounted and warmly received.

"THE EXPERIMENT."

Sketch, by Mrs. Albert Bradshaw, produced at the Battersea Palace, on Monday, Nov. 30.

Dr. Wendover ..... MR. CHARLES WEST
Mrs. Wendover ..... MRS. ALBERT BRADSHAW
The Experiment—Amelia Honeydew
MISS RUTH WALLACE

The "Experiment" in question is made by Mrs. Wendover, a believer in Socialism and equality, who introduces into her household from the East End a "rough diamond" named Amelia, who treats her master and mistress with blunt familiarity, and by her behaviour to her master makes Mrs. Wendover so jealous that there are "ructions," and Amelia, in a violent scene, gives notice to leave. There is much amusing matter in the little piece, and it was well developed by the members of the cast.

PIRATE CAPTURED.

A serious revival of the publication of pirated music was brought to the notice of Mr. Paul Taylor, at Marylebone on Monday. Before the Court was an elderly man named William Vinson, a hawker, of Malvern-road, Kilburn, who was charged with exposing for sale 116 copies of pirated music. Under the instruction of Arthur Preston, the chief agent of the Music Publishers' Association, a young man named Haugh visited Chippenham-road, Harrow-road, on Saturday night, and saw the prisoner with a bundle of music under his arm offering copies for sale. Having seen the prisoner sell a copy, he called a policeman and gave the prisoner into custody. Prisoner pleaded guilty. In reply to the magistrate, Mr. Preston said there had been a lull in the sale of pirated music, but recently it had broken out again. That was shown by the fact that on the prisoner was found forty copies of various pieces of the newest publications. These hawkers could purchase them at the rate of one halfpenny a copy, and sell them at 4d. or 6d. each. Mr. Paul Taylor: Really! Continuing, the magistrate remarked that this was as much stealing as robbing a till of its contents. He fined the prisoner the maximum penalty, namely, £5, or one month.

ROLLER SKATING AT STAFFORD.

What with roller rinks in all the big cities, it was to be imagined Stafford would follow suit. Messrs. Brierley and Berry, who control the British Syndicate Skating Rink Co., Ltd., opened here on Thursday, Nov. 19. The ceremony was performed by the Mayor (Alderman Taylor) and officials of the Corporation. Prof. Alec Payne, late of the "White City," Manchester—whose recent marriage on roller skates on the rink there caused quite a sensation—is manager, and in conjunction with H. Lisbon gives a wonderful display nightly. The popular Professor shortly leaves for Cairo, Egypt, to control rinks there under the same syndicate.

MR. EDITOR.—SIR,—Your report in *The Era* dated Nov. 28, of the Hippodrome, Bury, mentions Will and Archie Frohman, musical duettists. This should read Will and Alicia Frohman.—Yours faithfully, WILL FROHMAN, 146, Rumford-street, Manchester, Nov. 29.

FOR several weeks much curiosity has been excited in Brighton by the official Parliamentary notice of a scheme for the construction of a "Brighton Casino and Marine Palace" at the seaward end of a pier to be built opposite West-street. The local authorities knew nothing about the matter, and were much surprised that they should not have been approached, particularly as the Bill seeks, amongst other things, to authorise the Corporation to contribute £100,000 to the cost of the scheme.

A FEW persons whose property is likely to be affected by the structure went to the Town Hall on Tuesday to inspect the plans, which had been deposited over-night, but the information available was of the most meagre description. The document simply showed a T-square jetty, extending about eight chains into the sea, and the character and extent of the proposed buildings at the pier-head were not indicated. The identity of the promoters is a complete mystery. It is already certain that if the scheme proceeds it will meet with the strongest opposition from the Town Council and both the existing pier companies.

THE Variety shows twice daily in the centre transept of the Crystal Palace next week will include Knoto, a wonderful contortionist, and the mysterious Howards, the world's greatest exponents of second sight and mental telepathy, who have appeared with such success at the Palace Theatre, London. Stoll and Milton, in their gymnastic pantomime act, entitled *Robinson Crusoe;* Eddie Clay, an American comedy musician in an amusing and novelty act; and Percy Victor's wonderful dog minstrels. These remarkable animals will play instruments.

PRICE & REYNOLDS'

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"MAIDIE AND HER LITTLE TEDDY BEAR."
"RUN AWAY FROM OLD MAN GOBLIN."
"LITTLE MONEY SPIDER."
"BEAUTIFUL BRITTANY." "JEREMIAH."
"SHARE MY PAGODA." "FUNNIOSITIES."
"JESSIE THE FLOWER O' INVERNESS."
"MISS CARNATION." "MR. GOLLYWOG."
"IF I WERE A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT."
"MY WORD! IF I CATCH YOU BENDING."

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"THE YAPP YAPPS."

This three-scene sketch, written by Fred Karno and J. Hickory Wood, with music by Dudley Powell, was produced for the first time at the Hippodrome, Margate, on Monday, when a crowded house roared with delight, and gave it an enthusiastic welcome. Scene 1 opens on Brighton Promenade, where there is a meeting between the Yapp Yapp boys and some bewitching promenaders, who sing a pleasing opening chorus. The Yapp Yapps, it must be explained, are the members of an exclusive club, an effeminate and dandified lot of feather-brained youths, who are making themselves notorious by their extravagance of dress and the frivolity of their conduct. Their time seems to be spent pretty equally between admiration for their Captain, the Honourable Charlie, and incidentally for themselves and the bashful beauties of Brighton. It transpires that Charlie has, in a moment of undue elation at his club, and in view of the fact that the club is meant to foster the noble art of self-defence, backed himself to fight Burly Ben of Westminster for £100, and he is in a state of trepidation in consequence. There is nothing in this scene to call for comment, except that it is made particularly realistic by a piece of stage mechanism which raises a very real squall of wind, and causes a profuse display of lingerie.

In the next scene, outside the National Sporting Club, Reggie unfolds his plot for helping his little chum to defeat the burly Ben, whose size and weight overtower Charlie tremendously. Mollie also intercedes on her brother's behalf, but Ben has never yet sold a fight, he declares, and further, anticipates an easy victory.

The last scene is a well-set presentment of the interior of the club where the fight takes place. There is a preliminary spar between two professional boxers, in which Will Parke is declared the winner. Then comes the momentous fight, Charlie Chinn of Mayfair v. Big Ben of Westminster, in which poor Charlie is knocked about like a shuttlecock by his brawny opponent. He is all but knocked out in the first round, but Reggie is a friend of resource. He has come provided with a pump of oxygen which, inhaled by Charlie, puts such vigour into him that he speedily turns the tables and vanquishes the giant in next to no time.

The skit upon the discussion that has been going on as to the value of oxygen for athletes was hugely enjoyed, and the curtain fell to the accompaniment of long-sustained applause. The sketch was briskly played throughout, the staging was perfect, and the scenery and dressing elaborate.

"MEXICAN JOE," the travelling conjurer who was found dead with his throat cut at Swadlincote, near Burton-on-Trent, has been identified as Herbert Notting Turner, a native of Pontefract, Yorkshire.

PUZZLED by the fact that the defendant in a judgment summons case was known by two names, Judge Willis, at Greenwich County Court, on Friday in last week, asked the reason. The defendant replied that he had been well-known on the London stage as dancer and comedian. "Hold up you face," said the judge. "A comedian!" he continued. "I now understand that you have a comic face." Then remarking that he had often heard it said that those who amuse others have many and heavy cares, the judge made a small order.

"THE DUCHESS OF DEPTFORD."

A Comedy Sketch, produced at the Standard Music Hall, Pimlico, on Monday, Nov. 30.

Catherine Upstarch ..... MISS NETTIE FRENCH
Mlle. Vermicelli ..... MISS LILY GOLD
Jinks ..... MR. JOHN MANNING
Alphonse ..... MR. LIONEL ERNEST
Bonaparte Biggs ..... MR. JOHN RIDDING

The Duchess of Deptford is one of those irresponsible farcical sketches, the presentation of which can always be relied upon to while away in amusement a pleasant twenty minutes or so. The scene is a tailor's shop in Jermyn-street, and we are told that the period is that of Napoleon. The men of the scissors and the cloth is Bonaparte Biggs, who has advanced in his trade from the position of the little man in the back room at Deptford to the sartorial honours of the West End. He is visited by Mlle. Vermicelli, a dancer, for whom he professes great affection, and she arranges to call upon him a little later. Then there comes on the scene one Catherine Upstarch, a laundress, who had known Biggs in his less prosperous days, and who is now called by him the Duchess of Deptford. It appears that he had made advances to her too, and she now judges that he cares for her no longer. *Ergo*, she will end her life. She places a dummy figure in a water-butt, and then, disguised, gains admission as a detective, telling Biggs that he will be charged with murder. Biggs, who has been warned of the disappearance of Catherine by Alphonse, a perruquier, in love with the dancer, has disguised himself, and now says that he is a waiter. So that when Mlle. Vermicelli returns, Catherine tells her that Biggs is out, and that the man she sees is a servant. In the end Biggs is so terrified that he says he would agree to marry Catherine if she could be brought to life, and, of course, the bogus detective very quickly becomes the laundress, and Alphonse is left in indisputable possession of the dancer. Mr. John Ridding cuts a ludicrous figure as Biggs, and succeeds in entertaining the audience, as do also Miss Nettie French as the laundress, Miss Lily Gold as the dancer, and Mr. Lionel Ernest as the perruquier. Snatches of songs are sung by the two principal characters, and it would be better, in order to sustain the claim for a "musical comedietta," as well as to improve the little piece, if a good song were allotted to Mr. Ridding and Miss French, both of whom possess vocal talent.

THE Pier Theatre of Varieties at Llandudno is closed for alterations.

NEW CROSS has had a fair-week of "Hooch aye." Funny Frame, the man from the Heilans, gave on Friday night, Nov. 27, the memory of the immortal bard, Robbie Burns.

CHARLES OSBORNE'S fine song "The one word, 'Mother,'" was strongly brought to mind a few days since in a court of law. "Drop that Latin!" came sharply from the Bench, when a witness persistently spoke of his *mater*. "Drop that Latin, and use the word 'mother.'"

ON Wednesday evening, at the Town Hall, Birkenhead, was given a Masonic concert, promoted by the Bohemian Lodge, No. 3,294. The entertainment was supported by various artists from the local places of amusement, who appeared by the kind permission of their respective managers. A large and fashionable assemblage attended.

VARIETY THEATRES.

DIRECTORS and MANAGERS

PLEASE NOTE.

A GENUINE SUCCESS.

"CHUMS TILL DEATH."

EMPIRE THEATRE, HOLLOWAY.

Week Commencing November 30th.

Telegrams, "Playlet, London." 'Phone, 909 P.O., Croydon.

ALBERT MARSH, St. Margaret's, Birchanger Road, South Norwood.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Goole Entertainments.

At this populous centre of industrial life, for a fortnight's business, are Tuby and Sons, with their superb Coliseum of Variety and living pictures; the Franco-British Cinematograph Company, with a picture show; Tuby's set of galloping horses; Fisher, with park swings; and Doubtfire, Campfield, Tate, Calver, and Newark, with throwing games and varieties.

Melton Mowbray Fair.

The attractions here included Elliott's School of boxers and athletes; Thurston's set of motor-cars; Barnet's Flip-Flap, swings, hoop-la frames, and variety stalls; Harris's shooters, cokers; and White's varieties.

Milborne St. Andrews Fair.

Burchell's cinematograph theatre was the principal show. The side shows, big boats, shooters, and variety frames were provided by Messrs. Jones, Weldon, and Locker.

Frome November Fair.

Anderton and Rowland's magnificent show drew large crowds to this old-world fair. Marshall Hill and Son's Machine and other novelties were also a source of great delight to the patrons of the pleasure fair. These included Motor Cars, Galloping Horses, Helter-Skelter Tower, Flip-Flap Machine, and Shooters. The funmakers with varieties, &c., were John Gratton, Mrs. Cole, and local caterers.

Messrs. Anderton and Rowland are taking a short season with their show at Radstock.

Guild Subscription, 1908:—E. Geoghegan, 10s. 6d.

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN.

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN 1908.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

LORD GEORGE SANGER £100 0 0

	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Benefit night at Ayr Fair, per Mr. Geo. Green	36 11 7	Mr. S. Braham..	0 15 6
Benefit night at Rotherham Fair, per Collins Bros. ..	20 1 8	Mr. J. Joy	0 15 6
Special Parliamentary Work Fund, per Mr. F. Mellor	15 0 0	Mr. J. McIndoe	0 15 6
Proceeds of Bolton Ball, per Mr. R. Pike ..	11 11 6	Messrs. Smith and Warren ..	0 15 0
Mr. J. Wilmot ..	7 2 0	Mr. R. Clasper..	0 15 0
Mr. P. Collins ..	5 10 0	Mr. H. Cullis ..	0 15 0
Mr. J. Collins ..	5 10 0	"Anon."	0 15 0
Mr. G. Green ..	5 10 0	Mr. A. Richards	0 15 0
Messrs. Anderton and Rowland	5 5 0	Mr. W. Scott ..	0 12 6
Messrs. E. Garrett and Son..	5 5 0	Mr. J. Whiting	0 10 6
W. C. and S. Hancock	5 5 0	Mr. R. Newall..	0 10 6
Messrs. Burrell and Sons	5 5 0	Mr. Fred Bibby	0 10 6
Councillor E. Bostock	5 0 0	Mr. J. Bibby and Co.	0 10 6
Mr. John Studt	5 0 0	Mr. W. Sconce..	0 10 6
Mr. Henry Thurston	5 0 0	Mr. F. Sennett..	0 10 6
Hibbert and Sons	5 0 0	Mr. H. G. Bloxham	0 10 6
Messrs. J. Dooner and Son ..	3 3 0	Mr. F. E. Coope	0 10 6
Mr. W. H. Marshall	2 12 0	Mr. T. Campbell	0 10 6
Mr. John Green	2 12 0	Simpkin, Wilkinson, and Co. ..	0 10 6
Mr. A. Henderson	2 7 0	Councillor H. J. Cole	0 10 6
Mr. G. H. Kemp	2 2 0	Mr. J. Cole	0 10 6
Mr. C. Thurston	2 2 0	Mr. J. Manders	0 10 6
Mr Jacob Studt	2 2 0	Mr. T. Howard..	0 10 6
Messrs. W. Foster and Co., Ltd.	2 1 0	Mr Wm. Holmes	0 10 6
Councillor G. T. Tuby	2 0 0	Mr. J. Ravenscroft	0 10 6
Mr. Wm. Murphy	1 11 0	Mr. J. Whyatt..	0 10 6
Mr. P. R. Collins	1 11 0	Mr. G. A. Howden	0 10 6
Monte Brothers	1 10 0	Mr. R. Hancock	0 10 6
Mr. A. Purchase	1 10 0	Mr. G. W. Newsome	0 10 6
Messrs. P. and T. Fitzpatrick	1 10 0	Mr Alec Smith	0 10 6
Forrest Brothers	1 1 0	Mr. W. Shuttleworth	0 10 6
Mr. F. Turner..	1 1 0	Mr. Isaac Richards	0 10 6
Mr. T. E. Read	1 1 0	Mr. J. Amos ..	0 10 6
Mr. J. Wentworth	1 1 0	Mr. C. Relph ..	0 10 6
Marenghi et Cie.	1 1 0	Mr. J. Westray	0 10 6
Messrs. R. H. Hayne and Co.	1 1 0	Mr. A. Saunders	0 10 6
Mr. I. Creber ..	1 1 0	Mr. F. Haywood	0 10 6
Mr W. Payne ..	1 1 0	Mr. Jacob Butlin	0 10 6
Mr. W. J. Affleck	1 1 0	Mr T. Rowland	0 10 6
Mr. C. Quennel	1 1 0	Mr. John Fossett	0 10 6
Mr Geo. Beach	1 1 0	Mr. Wm. Kinder	0 10 6
Mr. W. M. Taylor	1 1 0	Mr. S. Reader..	0 10 6
Mr. Tom Smith	1 1 0	Mr. Gilbert Chadwick	0 10 6
Mr. W. Kemp..	1 1 0	Mr. R. Day	0 10 6
Mrs. A. Morley	1 1 0	Mr. J. Scarrott	0 10 6
Mr. J. Cottrell	1 1 0	Mr. W. Clark, jun.	0 10 6
Mr. H. Cariss..	1 1 0	Mr. J. Wilmot, jun.	0 10 6
Mr. J. H. Crampton	1 1 0	Mr. W. H. Freeman	0 10 6
Mrs. Thornley ..	1 1 0	Mr. J. W. Burgin	0 10 6
Mr. T. Clarke ..	1 1 0	Mrs. E. Whittaker	0 10 6
Mr. C. Smith ..	1 1 0	Councillor J. B. Taylor	0 10 6
Mr. C. Birch ..	1 1 0	Mr. J. H. Geoghegan	0 10 6
Mr. J. Jones ..	1 1 0	Mr. E. Geoghegan	0 10 6
Mr. Joseph Brewer	1 1 0	Mr. — Bleackley	0 10 6
Mr. Charles Heal	1 1 0	Mr. Charles Hart	0 10 6
Mrs Jane Pettigrove	1 1 0	Mr. H. Chapman	0 10 0
Mr. Wm. Davies	1 1 0	Mr. J. Searle ..	0 10 0
Mr. T. Relph ..	1 1 0	Mr. C. Hyatt ..	0 10 0
Mr. John North	1 1 0	Mr. F. A. Glover	0 10 0
Mrs. Howard ..	1 1 0	Mr. Wm. Moore	0 10 0
Mr. John Wingate	1 1 0	Mr. J. Gavan..	0 10 0
Mr. Frank Bibby	1 1 0	Mr. Chas. Cain..	0 10 0
Mr. J. Johnson	1 1 0	Mr. Caleb Johnson	0 10 0
Mr. J. Corrigan	1 1 0	Messrs. Smith and Whittle ..	0 10 0
Mr. John Hardman	1 1 0	Mr. C. Andrews	0 10 0
Messrs. Plinston Brothers	1 0 6	Mr. W. Biddall	0 10 0
Mr. B. Howden	1 0 6	Mr. J. Creighton	0 10 0
Mr. R. Holdsworth	1 0 6	Mr. A. Morley..	0 10 0
Sir Robert Fossett	1 0 0	Mr. F. Walker	0 10 0
Messrs. Relph and Podley (2nd sub.) ..	1 0 0	Mr. J. Cordwell	0 10 0
Mr. S. Waddington	1 0 0	Mr. J. Hall	0 10 0
Mr. Fred Gray..	1 0 0	Mr. J. Houldsworth	0 10 0
Mr. J. Chipperfield	1 0 0	Mrs. Jameson ..	0 10 0
Mr. Wm. Beach	1 0 0	Mr. G. T. Tuby, jun.	0 10 0
Mr. Walter Wilmot	1 0 0	Mr. A. O'Hara..	0 10 0
Mrs. Scott	1 0 0	Mr. Fred Smith	0 10 0
Mr. G. H. Cornwell	1 0 0	Mrs. Hayes	0 10 0
Mr. H. Dawson	0 15 6	Mr. T. Beard ..	0 10 0
Mr. S. J. Rostron	0 15 6	Mr. E. Elliott ..	0 10 0
Mr. W. Strand..	0 15 6	Mr. B. Shippobottom	0 10 0
		Messrs. Lithgow and Son	0 10 0
		Mrs. A. Manders	0 10 0
		Mrs. Bird	0 10 0
		Mr. Robert Grace	0 10 0
		Mr. W. H. Waddton	0 10 0
		Mr. H. Powell ..	0 10 0
		Mr. G. Marshall	0 10 0
		Mr. E. Farrar ..	0 10 0
		Mr. A. Payne ..	0 10 0
		Mr. H. Hughes	0 10 0
		Mr. A. Barker ..	0 10 0
		Mr. — Hackett..	0 10 0
		Mrs. M. A. Henshaw	0 10 0
		Mr. J. Dearden	0 10 0
		Mr W. Samuels	0 10 0

The above list includes all subscriptions of 10s. and upwards. Other lists will follow. Members who have subscribed 10s. or more whose names do not appear on the above list are requested to communicate direct to the Guild Secretary, *The Era* Offices, London, and the omission will be rectified in the next list published.

Committeemen with counterfoil books are requested to send them at once to the secretary. There are some outstanding subscriptions. Members may send their subscriptions to the secretary, or to the treasurers, Mr. Wm. Mitchell, Heywood, Manchester, or Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, at *The Era* Offices, London.

CHURCH WORK ON THE FAIR-GROUNDS.

THE GUILD CHAPLAIN'S REPORT.
PART II.

The Guild service at Birmingham Trinity Fair, my next centre, was a gratifying success. A special and most impressive feature was the procession of the clergy and choir from St. Stephen's Church, adjoining the fairground, to Collins's No. 2 show. The white-robed choristers, headed by the cross-bearer, sang as they proceeded, "Onward Christian Soldiers," and the impression created by this procession of choir and clergy was very marked. The show was crowded to its utmost capacity, and the Guild service was rendered in a most hearty congregational manner, the choir leading the singing. I took the service and preached. The lesson was read by the Vicar of St. Stephen's (the Rev. T. S. Dennison), who also delivered a short, but most telling, address. He warmly welcomed the showpeople to his parish, and expressed his desire in every way to further the work of the Showmen's Guild. He begged the showpeople to remember that both he and his colleagues (the parish clergy) were at their disposal to minister to them in every possible way; if there were any sick amongst them, they were ready to offer consolations of Holy religion. If any unbaptised children, they were ready to afford every facility, and to suit the convenience of the parents, that the children might be brought to Holy baptism.

At the Church of St. Stephen's close by the fair ground there was a daily celebration of the Blessed Sacrament. He hoped that that might be a possible opportunity for any of the communicant show people to make their communion. He knew, considering the exhausting nature of their Saturday night work, that it was almost impossible for any of them to attend the early services of Sunday morning; but, he added, after the rest of the Sunday, it might be possible for some of the show people to attend the Early Celebration at St. Stephen's Church on Monday morning. Anyhow, as their parish priest for the time being, it was his duty to tell them of the opportunity, so that if possible it might be used. He prayed God's blessing upon the travelling show people, and wished them God speed in their work.

The Vicar's address was listened to with the greatest attention, and the service concluded with the Benediction.

The Guild in Wales.

From the capital of the Midlands to the heart of Wales was my next journey. At Porth, in the Rhondda Valley, I have held, for many years past, services for showpeople on the fair Sunday. The service is always sung by the united choirs of the parish, and this year, with the parish clergy was the Vicar of Abercynon, a visitor at Porth for the day.

The splendid show pavilion was thronged by an attentive and devout congregation. The hymns in the Guild service were sung gloriously to Welsh tunes. The Vicar of Porth (the Rev. W. Thomas, hon. local chaplain for Wales) intoned the service, the curate (the Rev. G. Martin) read the Lesson.

At the conclusion of the service the vicar said that although he had no intention of giving them a second sermon, he wished to express to the show people present his appreciation of the great and good work of their Guild and its earnest and hard-working chaplain.

This was not only for its special work—ministering on the fairgrounds—but also for the good work done to the parish by the chief chaplain, Mr. Horne. At St. Paul's Church that morning the congregation had listened spellbound to the impressive sermon of the chaplain.

He was glad to anounce to that meeting that Mr. Horne had also promised to preach at the Mother Church of the parish that evening. For this valuable help given by the Guild chaplain both he and his people were grateful. He had known Mr. Horne since the commencement of the Guild work in Wales. Of his zeal and ability in the special field of labour to which he had devoted himself there could be no question.

No one could be in Mr. Horne's company without feeling the deep earnestness of purpose and wholehearted devotion of the man.

He himself was proud to know, as Mr. Horne had told them that morning from the pulpit of St. Paul's, that Porth was the second town in the United Kingdom to have an hon. local chaplain of the Guild. How the work had grown since he became their chaplain for Wales could be seen on reference to the list of such hon. chaplaincies in the Service Book.

He must, he added, speak a word of thanks to Mr. John Studt for the use of the splendid pavilion in which they were now assembled. He ventured to think that it would be all the better show on the Monday for the good use they had made of it on the Sunday.

He and his colleagues in the ministry were only too glad to be of any use possible to the show people when in Porth, and they felt it an honour and a privilege to be associated with the chief chaplain in his work on the fairgrounds.

He prayed God's abundant blessings on the work of the Guild and the people whose interests it sought to serve.

The service at Porth is always in the afternoon, and is followed by a Guild Chapter. This meeting of the Chapter is my great opportunity, year by year, of coming into touch with the whole body of Welsh show people, the Welsh section of the Guild being very enthusiastic in its support and appreciation of the work the Guild is doing for the whole body of itinerant entertainers.

Amongst Scotch Showmen.

My big gathering of Scotch showpeople this year was at Greenock Fair. I held a general meeting of the Guild in a show on the fair ground. Great interest is taken in the work of the Guild by our Scotch members, and generous financial support is given. Although, owing to different methods of local government, Scotch showpeople can derive no benefit from the trade protection part of our enterprise, it is a great pleasure to me, year by year, to visit the Scotch members, and to help to deepen the sense of fellowship in a common work, even though the business interests differ between the English and Scotch members of the Guild. For many years past a number of ladies in Greenock, with the assistance of the clergy, have carried on Christian work at the time of the fair. I am quite satisfied that it only remains for me to help forward that work when I visit Greenock. I was one of the speakers at the annual meeting thus organised and held in the Temperance Hall on the Sunday evening of the fair.

This year I was able to visit Glasgow, and for a few days before Glasgow Fair was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Green, at The Carnival, Gallowgate, adjoining the fair ground. I saw Glasgow Fair in the making; but previously-arranged work in Yorkshire demanded my presence, and beyond seeing my people arrive for the fair, I could do nothing.

My next conference and service were at Bramley Feast, near Leeds—in fact, an industrial suburb of that city. Both meetings were well attended, and were, as usual, in a show on the fair ground.

Longsight Wakes.

For fourteen years past the Rector of St. Agnes's Birch, Manchester, has provided a service for the showpeople at their annual visit to his parish for Longsight Wakes. At his request I have taken part in this work, generally preaching in the evening at the parish church, close to the fair ground, and then assisting at the Guild service for the showpeople and their friends, held in the mission room adjoining the wakes ground. Concerning this part of my yearly work, the Rev. H. Norburn, Rector of St. Agnes's Church, Manchester, who for the past fourteen years has been honorary local chaplain to the Guild, writes:—"The more our fathers of the Church know of your Showmen's Guild the more they feel its importance. Instead of coming into my parish as outcasts and intruders, the showmen now meet the clergyman as an old friend, whom they will not grieve by any uncomely act lest they should lose his respect and their own acquired good standing. Your work now for years done amongst them has not merely humanised these wanderers, but in many cases Christianised them. That these men should maintain a chaplain is a surprising thing indeed, and speaks volumes. I sincerely believe your championship of their rights has changed the public, and also the official attitude towards them. I wish you God-speed."

At Holbeck Feast.

In accordance with a custom of many years standing, the Vicar of Holbeck, Leeds, arranged a service for the show people. This year and last the Guild chaplain has been able to co-operate in the work of the local clergy. The vicar, the Rev. S. F. Sykes, and the senior curate, the Rev. E. N. Deane, visited every van on the fair ground, and left a notice of the forthcoming Sunday service. The notice paper read as follows:—"Holbeck Feast. You are invited to a Guild service on Sunday, Sept. 13, at 8 p.m., in Mr. Murphy's Pictorial Palace. An address will be given by the Guild chaplain, the Rev. T. Horne. The Holbeck Church Choir will lead the singing."

Mr. Murphy's beautiful pavilion, seated to hold 500 persons, was filled to its utmost capacity. The chaste and beautiful interior decorations, brilliantly illuminated by powerful arc electric lights, transformed the show into a most appropriate chapel of ease to the parish church. The Holbeck Church choir and a considerable body of friends from the church congregation rendered heartily, as Yorkshire folk are so well able to do, the beautiful hymns of the Guild service. The Vicar of Holbeck intoned the service, and I was the preacher. Before the blessing, the vicar, at my request, delivered a short address, in the course of which he earnestly begged his showman hearers to make use of the clergy if any necessity should arise during their short stay in his parish. Whilst he might, for the quiet carrying out of his own parish work, hesitate to desire to have a Holbeck Feast Sunday every Sunday, he had no hesitation at all in desiring more frequent opportunities of meeting the showpeople. He felt that it was extremely difficult to know them and to enter into their life when he could only have that opportunity once a year.

He gladly welcomed them, and he heartily agreed with their efforts to amuse the people. He also welcomed the work of the Showmen's Guild into his parish, and was glad to have Mr. Horne, the Guild chaplain, with them. It was in such work as the service they were now engaged in that they hoped to find the uplifting not only of the showmen and the betterment of the amusements of the people, but that the Church of God should reach and minister to the people whose business in life caused them to travel from town to town.

I was celebrant at the early morning Eucharist at the parish church, held my usual afternoon conference for showmen only, and at Evensong preached at St. Cuthbert's, a neighbouring church.

Gloucester Fair.

In the city of Gloucester we have a striking example of the improvement possible under municipal control of open-air amusements of the people. In both departments of its work the Guild has actively co-operated with the corporation. An old street fair has been removed from its most unsuitable site under modern conditions of traffic to a new and spacious corporation fair ground, within a penny tram ride from all parts of the city. One of the annual public meetings of the Guild is held at Gloucester, and the Mayor usually presides, and a number of the aldermen and city councillors attend, and I deliver an address on the general work and aims of the Guild. This year's meeting and the Guild service at night were highly successful. The show, capable of holding 800 persons, was crowded upon both occasions. A particularly interesting fact must be recorded of the service at Gloucester Fair. For the first time in my experience the organist, the choir, and every assistant in the service were drawn from the showpeople themselves. This was necessary, owing to the coincidence of the Sunday-school anniversary sermons at St. Nicholas's, the parish church of the fair ground This clash of dates made it impossible for the vicar or his helpers to assist me at the Guild service.

The Rev. J. J. Luce, Vicar of St. Nicholas's, Gloucester, and honorary local chaplain to the Guild, writes:—"You are engaged in a work which has my hearty sympathy, and having now had the advantage of joining with you in your efforts during the past two or three years I can confidently recommend both you and the Mission to Showmen. You have deservedly the ear and the respect of this class of our fellow-men, and you most certainly have their highest interests very much at heart. I pray God to bless your endeavours more and more."

Hull and Rotherham Fairs.

Another important centre of the work is Hull Fair. The corporation recognises the Guild, and the Mayor usually takes the chair at the afternoon meeting. This gathering is of a public character, and great interest is shown by the people of Hull. At Hull, for the Guild service, I have the assistance of the vicar and choir of St. Mary's Church, Dairycotes. Writing of the service in his parish magazine the vicar (who is an hon. local chaplain of the Guild) says:—"The Rev. T. Horne, chaplain to the Showmen's Guild, and Hull Fair.—The above-named gentleman gave two forcible sermons at our Church on Hull Fair Sunday, Oct. 11, and after Evensong he conducted a service in Enoch Farrar's beautiful show pavilion. Our choir assisted Mr. Horne in this service, which was thoroughly hearty and congregational, by travelling with him in a brake to the fair ground, under the leadership of the choirmaster, Mr. F. C. Heaven, and our trumpeters and choirmen, Mr. H. Moss and his pupil, Master H. Hargrave. The choir were fully vested, and accompanied by the cross-bearer, Mr. H. Ramsbottom."

My last Guild service on the fair grounds was at Rotherham Statutes Fair on All Saints' Day. For eighteen years in succession this service has been held. This long record is owing to the fact that in 1890 I was serving the curacy of Whiston, Rotherham, and at the request of the showmen made arrangements for a service on the fair ground. In this work I have had the co-operation of the local clergy, and the Rev. H. Greenway, hon. local chaplain, has held the service upon the few occasions I have not been able to attend. This year I addressed a public meeting in a show in the afternoon, and conducted the service in the same booth at night. I had, as usual, the assistance of the choir of St. Michael's Church. I preached at St. Michael's at the mid-day Eucharist and assisted at an early celebration.

Other Workers in the Same Field.

Although I am dealing with the work of the Guild in this report, it must not be supposed that no work of this kind is being done either by diocesan or parochial agency. The dioceses of Salisbury and Exeter reach the showpeople of the west by missioners attending the Wiltshire and Devonshire fairs and regattas. I know of work being done at the fair time by the local clergy at East Retford, where the vicar has undertaken the local chaplaincy at Neath and Pontardawe, in Wales, and some of the village feasts in the diocese of Durham.

I regret to say that this year I have had to refuse several invitations to attend important fairs, entirely on account of the clashing of dates with other places. As far as the itinerant part of my work is concerned, I am single-handed, and any development of that work must be on diocesan lines. A fixed principle of my organisation has been to establish local chaplaincies at every important centre where useful Church work is possible, my highest ambition being to assist the parish clergy in dealing with mission work that demands specialisation and an intimate knowledge of show life. The following clergy have already taken part in the work, and have consented to act as hon. local chaplains:—Rev. W. H. T. Bateman, the Vicarage, Mexborough; Rev. H. S. Butler, the Vicarage, Preston; Rev. E. Chorley, Salisbury; Rev. N. J. Devereux, St. Mary's Vicarage, Hoxton, N.; Rev. A. Dixon, Denton; Rev. Fenwick Ward, Albert Memorial Church, Manchester; Rev. G. Francis, Porth, Wales; Rev. H. Greenway, Northfield, Rotherham; Rev. B. W. Hancock, St. Swithin's, Lincoln; Rev. G. S. Hand, All Saints', King's Lynn; Rev. R. C. M. Harvey, the Vicarage, Dewsbury; Rev. A. Huddle, St. Nicholas's, King's Lynn; Rev. E. W. Legg, Salisbury; Rev. T. Lennie, St. John's Rectory, Greenock; Rev. J. J. Luce, St. Nicholas's, Gloucester; Rev. T. F. Maddrell, St. John the Baptist's, Penzance; Rev. F. J. Metcalfe, Killamarsh; Rev. H. Norburn, St. Agnes's, Birch, Manchester; Rev. W. S. Probert, Parish Church, Wrexham; Rev. R. Gordon Roe, King's Lynn; Rev. C. F. Rogers, the Vicarage, Penzance; Rev. J. S. Shields, D.D., St. Matthew's, Hammersmith; Rev. G. Smallpiece, All Saints', King's Lynn; Rev. Howard Swinstead, Berwick, Salome, Oxford; Rev. R. De C. Thelwall, Burbage, Wilts; Rev. W. Thomas, Porth, Wales; Rev. J. Thomas, Brentwood; Rev. T. Tissington, Treorchy, Wales; Rev. J. Vavasour Hammond, Holy Trinity Rectory, Ayr; Rev. R. T. Heygate, the Vicarage, Boston; Rev. F. L. Donaldson, S. Mark's, Leicester; Rev. J. T. Mumford, Vicarage, East Retford; Rev. G. Martin, Porth, Wales; Rev. F. S. Sykes, Holbeck, Leeds; Rev. W. H. Butler, Hull; and Rev. T. S. Dennison, St. Stephen's, Birmingham.

OLYMPIA SKATING RINK.

On Monday, after a lapse of some eighteen years, Olympia is again to be utilised for the purpose of a roller skating rink, this time under the managing directorship of Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins. The wave of roller skating popularity which, upon the initiative of Mr. C. P. Crawford, of America, began to spread itself over England some twelve months ago, has at last touched the metropolis, and the new rink to be established at Olympia is the outcome. During an interview with Mr. Crawford we gained some interesting particulars as to this rink. The roller skating business has now, both in England, Scotland, and Ireland, been exploited with great success and financial benefit by those prepared to adopt methods of initiative and administration similar to those which obtain at any or all of the rinks at Liverpool, Dublin, Edinburgh, Leeds, Glasgow, Sunderland, and Llandudno, under the control of Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins. Another turn to the wheel of enterprise has now been given by Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins, and as a consequence Olympia possesses a roller skating rink what Mr. Crawford tells us is beyond question the finest skating rink the world has ever seen. The capacious interior of the building has been specially fitted for the use it is intended to serve. The skating area is 475ft. in length and 175ft. wide. This vast expanse of floor-space will be quite open and free from any such obstruction as posts or stanchions. Thus there will be approximately 100,000 square feet of skating room. It will provide a race track of four laps to the mile.

For the purpose of making a first-class skating surface two floors have been laid upon the present one. The first is a pine surface, and upon that has been super-imposed a floor of maple specially imported from America at great cost. A period of less than a week has been devoted to the work of laying the maple floor and doing the other things necessary to convert the vast hall into a skating rink. To execute the work in this amazingly small space of time three shifts of 300 skilled joiners have been engaged continuously for the full twenty-four hours of each day, besides which the services of four patent American electric sand-paper surfacing machines have been requisitioned. The maple is in narrow planks of 2½in. wide and ⅜in. thick. It is laid in these narrow strips in order to prevent warping or buckling through atmospheric fluctuations. Each length of maple is tongued and grooved both at the sides and ends, in order that the floor shall remain as level and smooth throughout the whole period of its use as it is on the first day. The planks of maple, if laid end to end, would extend to an aggregate length of no less than 113¾ miles.

The rink will only be operated for three months in each year, from December to March, and at the end of the third month the magnificent maple floor will have to be ruthlessly ripped up and disposed of as firewood or for dunnage purposes. Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins have entered into a contract to take the Olympia for three months in each year for a period of not less than three years. Thus it is obvious that in order to make the undertaking remunerative—taking into account the initial heavy cost—patronage must be on a colossal scale.

To everyone acquainted with the use and merits of roller skates it is a *sine qua non* that the Samuel Winslow steel ball-bearing roller skates represent, up to the present time at any rate, the last word in efficient and artistic skates. It is this unique skate which alone will be used at the Olympia Rink. No fewer than 6,000 pairs of 1908 models of these skates have been ordered. From this it is apparent that the management is sanguine as to the success of the undertaking. A corps of forty skilled professors of skating will be upon the floor in the capacity of instructors and attendants, and to these the public may look at certain times of each day for free assistance in their endeavours to acquire the graceful accomplishment of roller skating in its higher forms and phases.

A military band (the 87th Irish Fusiliers) of fifty performers will furnish a choice programme of music at each session. There will be three sessions each day—10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., from 2 to 5, and from 7.30 to 11. The charge for admission at the morning session will be sixpence, and at the afternoon and evening sessions one shilling. Skates will be on loan at the charge of one shilling per pair, and books containing thirty tickets for admission and skates will be sold at £2 each.

So far as the conduct and management of the rink is concerned, it may be said that the general amenities will be of the highest possible standard of refinement and good taste. Nothing in the remotest degree coarse or unruly will for an instant be countenanced. Ladies may visit the rink with the utmost confidence that they will neither see nor hear anything which can in any way offend either their ears or their eyes. There will be lady instructors for members of the fair sex.

Mr. J. F. Farrell will be the assistant general-manager and Mr. H. L. Massie the resident-manager of the rink. Both of these gentlemen have had considerable experience in the management of undertakings of this character.

OPERATIC BURLESQUE.

In his "Book of Burlesque," the late Mr. Davenport Adams writes thus of "the burlesque of opera:—Two of Donizetti's operas—*L'Elisir d'Amore* and *La Fille du Regiment*—were travestied by Mr. W. S. Gilbert; the former under the title of *Doctor Dulcamara, or the Little Duck and the Great Quack*, the latter under that of *La Vivandière, or True to the Corps. Doctor Dulcamara* was played at the St. James's, with Frank Matthews in the title-part. *La Vivandière* (1868) was written for the Queen's Theatre, where it employed the talents of Miss Henrietta Hodson, Mr. Toole, Mr. Lionel Brough, Miss Everard (the original Little Buttercup), and Miss Fanny Addison.

Of Verdi's operas two have been singled out for special attention—*Il Trovatore* and *Ernani*. The first of these suggested H. J. Byron's *Ill-Treated Trovatore*, seen at the Adelphi in 1863, and another version by the same hand, played at the Olympic seventeen years after. Byron also wrote a travestie of *Ernani*, which he called *Handsome Hernani* (Gaiety, 1879); but in this he had been anticipated by William Brough, whose work was seen at the Alexandra Theatre in 1865.

Three travesties have been founded on the *La Sonnambula* of Bellini. The first, which was played at the Victoria Theatre in 1835, was from the pen of Gilbert Abbott a'Beckett, and entitled *The Roof Scrambler*—a title explained in lines spoken by Rudolpho and Swelvino:—

"*Rud.* I tell you, there are beings in their dreams
"Who scramble 'pon the house-tops.
"*Swel.* So it seems.
"*Rud.* Roof-scramblers they are called; for on the roofs
"They walk at night—Molly is one."

Molly is the name here given to Amina; Swelvino, of course, is Elvino. He is a sexton, and has plighted his troth to Lizzy; but before the piece opens, he has transferred his affections to Molly Brown, a charity girl—"a Greasy Roamer over the tops of houses." Swelvino and Molly are about to be married, when there arrives at the village Rodolpho, the new Inspector of Police, who introduces himself as follows:—

"Ah, here I am again!—I know this scene,
In which, when I was young, so oft I've been.
I recognise each spot I see around,
The stocks know me, and well I know the pound!
The sight of these my eyes with tears is filling:
I knew that pound when I had not a shilling!"

Molly, walking in her sleep, enters Rodolpho's apartment, and is found there by Swelvino, but is vindicated, like her prototype in the opera, by being subsequently discovered in a somnambulent condition. The story of *La Sonnambula* is, in fact, followed closely, but caricatured throughout. W. Rogers, who was the Swelvino, and Mitchell, who was the Molly, appear to have been highly successful in exciting the hilarity of their audiences. The latter portrayed the heroine as "a waddling, thick-set, red-and-ruddy, blowzy-faced goblin, with turn-up nose and carroty hair, wrapt in a pea-soup or camomile-tea-coloured negligée, and carrying," in the sleep-walking scene, "a farthing rushlight in one of Day and Martin's empty blacking-bottles." Of Swelvino's appearance we may judge from a remark made by Molly to her lover:—

"I, by looking in your face, can tell
What are your feelings excellently well.
Oh, yes! the fulness of that ruby nose
Your love for me doth passing well disclose;
Your agitated whisker shows full well
What throbs of passion underneath it dwell!"

The two other skits upon the opera were the work of H. J. Byron, who produced the first at the Prince of Wales's in 1865, under the title of *La! Sonnambula! or the Supper, the Sleeper, and the Merry Swiss Boy*; "being a passage in the life of a famous 'Woman in White': a passage leading to a tip-top storey." Miss Marie Wilton was the Merry Swiss Boy (Alessio); Miss Fanny Josephs was Elvino; Mr. Dewar, Rodolpho; "Johnny" Clarke, Amina; Miss Bella Goodall, Lisa; Mr. Harry Cox undertaking the rôle of "a virtuous peasant (by the kind permission of the Legitimate Drama)." This was Miss Wilton's first production at the Prince of Wales's, and it was a great success. In 1878 Byron brought out at the Gaiety a piece which he called *Il Sonnambulo, or Lively Little Alessio*. In this he introduced several variations on the operatic story; making the Count (Edward Terry) the somnambulist, instead of Amina—in burlesque of Mr. Henry Neville's sleep-walking scene in Wilkie Collins's *Moonstone*. Miss Farren was the lively little Alessio, and Mr. Royce the "local tenor," Elvino.

Of Bellini's *Norma*, the first burlesque produced was that which W. H. Oxberry, the comedian, contributed to the Haymarket in 1841. In this the title part was played by Paul Bedford, with Wright as Adalgisa and Mrs. H. P. Grattan as Pollio. The piece had no literary pretensions, and it would be unfair to compare it, in that or any other respect, with *The Pretty Druidess, or the Mother, the Maid, and the Mistletoe Bough*, which Mr. W. S. Gilbert wrote for the Charing Cross Theatre (now Toole's) just twenty-eight years later. This was one of the best of Mr. Gilbert's operatic travesties, the dialogue being characterised by especial point and neatness.

The *Gazza Ladra* of Rossini lives on the burlesque stage in the counterfeit presentment furnished by Byron's *Maid and the Magpie, or the Fatal Spoon*. This was one of the writer's greatest triumphs in the field of travestie. Produced at the Strand in 1854, with Miss Oliver as Ninette, Miss Marie Wilton as Pippo, Bland as Fernando, and Clarke as Isaac (the old-clothes man), it at once hit the public taste, as it well deserved to do, for it is full of clever writing and ingenious incidents. The best scene of all, perhaps, is that in which the broken-down Fernando reveals himself to Ninette—a happy satire upon a familiar melodramatic situation.

Turning to the burlesques of opera of the German school, we begin, naturally, with Mozart, whose *Don Giovanni* found humorous reflection in two pieces, by H. J. Byron and Mr. Reece. The former's *Little Don Giovanni* belongs to 1865, when it was performed at the Prince of Wales's, with Miss Wilton (Mrs. Bancroft) as the hero, Clarke as Leporello Miss Fanny Josephs as Masetto, Mr. Hare as Zerlina (probably his only appearance on the stage in petticoats), Miss Sophie Larkin as Elvira, and Miss Hughes as Donna Anna. Don Giovanni was the last burlesque written by Byron for Miss Wilton, and, moreover, it was the last burlesque part she ever played. She records in her Memoirs that an amusing feature of the piece was the spectacle presented in the last act by the Commandant's horse, which, in allusion to a recent freak in Leicester Square, had been covered with a variety of spots, and "looked like an exaggerated Lowther Arcade toy." Mr. Reece's burlesque was called *Don Giovanni in Venice*, and came out at the Gaiety in 1873.

In 1842 Macready revived at Drury Lane Handel's delightful *Acis and Galatea*, and the opera was promptly caricatured by W. H. Oxberry in a piece produced three days afterwards at the Adelphi. The travestie of *Acis and Galatea*, which was seen at the Olympic in 1863, was from the pen of Mr. Burnand. Its full title was *Acis and Galatea, or the Nimble Nymph and the Terrible Troglodyte*; and the Nimble Nymph (described as "a Nymph of the Sea, who also visits the land—a nymphibious young lady") was played by Miss Hughes. The puns were prolific, and so were the parodies, the best of which were written in caricature of the absurd English translations in the operatic "books of the play."

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

A DIFFICULT FATHER-IN-LAW.—In this interesting film it is made clear that American law protects women very efficiently, for the man who breaks his promise of marriage has to pay heavy damages for same. Mr. Sampson, a very practical Yankee, on the look-out for an eventual son-in-law, surprises a gentleman bold enough to whisper sweet nothings in the ears of his daughter. Mr. Sampson jumps at him, terrorises him, and finally invites him, with his revolver in his hand, to marry the girl he has spoken to in that way. The gentleman does not withstand such arguments, and he signs a contract by which he engages himself to pay 50,000 dollars to Miss Sampson, and moreover to submit the conduct of his actions to the experience of Mr. Sampson, her father. From that time, the exacting father-in-law chases his son-in-law without respite, and with the contract in one hand, and a revolver in the other, he makes him obey him like a puppet. Where the story becomes exciting is when the poor hunted son-in-law arrives at the house of a lady friend for a few minutes' rest, closely followed by the old man, who is now barring the door. The younger man, having donned a gown belonging to his friend, goes out, and in the street looks like a fascinating lady, and as such, wins the heart of the old bear. Availing himself of the opportunity, he takes the contract; then discarding his woman's attire, he shows himself once more as the son-in-law of the man he has just beguiled.

NEW CENTURY THIEVES.—Three rascals, being hard-up, are asking one another what to do in order to renew their finances. Suddenly the leader has a brilliant idea, which he imparts to his friends. The trio arrive at the door of a nerve specialist, and go in. Immediately the leader is seized with nervous movements, which make him cut capers, throw himself on his hands, and lift his feet, thus displaying signs of the most acute nervous complaint. They are shown into a waiting-room with other patients afflicted with all sorts of nervous diseases. The presumably sick man is now in the presence of the doctor, who has his hands full with keeping him quiet with the aid of his servant. In the meantime the others are stripping the waiting-room of its valuables; then the three accomplices leave as hurriedly as their legs will carry them.

ELIXIR OF DREAMS.—In this we get fairy tale and fiction. Pierrot is painting away at his easel with a feverish haste. He has not eaten for a long time, however, and his head is swimming. Gradually he goes to dreamland, where a fairy appears to him, saying, "I am the fairy illusion, take this phial, it contain the elixir of dreams." Pierrot drinks, and his idle fancy carries him into an Oriental fairy palace, amongst dancers and the fumes of opium. He himself is a rajah, and pretty Indian girls fan him, and offer him all sorts of delicacies in golden vessels. Then Pierrot is sent away by the caliph, and he is on the point of being killed by his enemies when he is awakened from his nightmares by a man who comes to buy his picture.

BEHIND THE MASK.—After exchanging bitter words, and throwing at each other all sorts of things, a married couple go to their rooms in a bad temper, but the announcement in the paper of a masked ball makes them change their mood, and they both prepare for it, unknown to the other. In the large crowd of the public ball, the husband and wife are so pleased with each other's appearance and ready wit, that they have a very nice time until, the masks falling, they recognise each other with amazement. After such a thing, it is impossible for them not to make it up, and the film ends with the reconciliation brought about by very comical circumstances.

THE ROMANY'S DAUGHTER.—A young fop has fallen in love with a gipsy girl endowed with rare beauty. Her father, who watches over her jealously, has hindered her several times from joining the young man. When he has to leave the van, he locks her inside and places a man of his gang at the door to prevent her from running away. But the fop, who does not heed any obstacle, comes to the van with stealthy footsteps, and through the window throws a bundle of men's clothes, and a letter timing an appointment, into the van. The watchman has seen everything, and he warns her father. The latter, not being able to bear it any longer, pays a tramp to kill the fop when he comes to the appointed hostelry. The tramp throws the inn-keeper into the cellar through a trap door in the floor, and waits. An elegantly-dressed young man pushes the entrance door, the tramp kills him, and wrapping up the body in a blanket, he carries it to the beach, where the father is waiting for him. The father, on uncovering the face, sees that it is his daughter who lies dead at his feet, for the murderer has been deceived by her male attire.

A LOVER IN THE STRAW.—A charming idyll is suddenly interrupted by the arrival of a farmer in his cart. Quickly the little peasant girl buries her lover in the straw, and binds him up with ropes carefully. The farmer, his suspicions aroused, carries the bundle of straw to his cart, but the jolts and jerks of the latter soon land the poor lover in the middle of the road, where he is picked up by tramps, and left by them under the wheels of a motor-car. After this experience, the bundle is thrown from the top of a cliff, on the beach, by some fisherwomen, and the poor man inside struggles desperately for freedom; but a child thinks it would be nice to see the straw ablaze, and soon long flames issue from the ill-fated bundle. After several attempts the lover succeeds in leaving the burning heap, and throws himself into the water, where he at last rids himself of the flames which made him look like a living torch.

Gaumont Company.

BACK FROM THE DEAD is an interesting dramatic film just published by the Gaumont Company. A sailor goes to sea and is reported to be drowned, and his wife marries again. Returning as from the grave to find her happy without him, the sailor heroically resolves not to spoil her life, and so goes away for ever.

THEY THOUGHT HE HAD THE CHOLERA is the title of an amusing film which describes how the borough officials of a certain place, in their attempts to stamp out an epidemic, take charge of a tramp, who is really in perfect health, but whom they isolate. However, "Weary Willie" is quite agreeable to being hospitably entertained at the public expense.

AMONG other attractive films may be mentioned a cinematographic version of Mr. Arthur Shirley's drama, *Saved from the Sea;* and three amusing productions, which bear the names, THE ANIMATED NEWSPAPER, THE APPLE'S RACE, and BROTHERS WOOD.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

THE LOVER'S TELEGRAPHIC CODE.—"Love laughs at locksmiths." Were it not so, the great business of love might receive a set-back at times. The truth of the saying is shown in this film production, where two lovers overcome all obstacles, and win all along the line. An accident happening to the carriage in which Madge is out riding, she accepts an offer of assistance from Ralph—a cyclist—who happens to come along. The upshot of this is that he receives an invitation to call at her house, and he does so at an early date. But Madge's father objects, and forbids him to call again. The girl is, however, equal to the occasion, and arranges for signals to be made by means of the clothes line. Wireless telegraphy is beaten out of sight by the code arranged! Father's pants shown mean "Danger! Keep away!" A blouse, "Am alone; coast clear!" &c. The code is kept working at top pressure; but most unexpected and amusing complications are brought about by the unauthorised use of the clothes line. The signals get all mixed up when the servant girl, the parents, and a "Weary Willie" help in the game. A staunch ally—in the shape of the girl's little brother—turns up and enables the lovers to outwit the stern father, and to marry. The father now sees the joke, and signals his forgiveness, the young couple returning to receive his blessing.

SHE.—A young Englishman, Leo by name, receives as a legacy a mysterious metal box, which is not to be opened until his twenty-fifth birthday. The box is opened in the presence of his guardian and his servant, and they find an Egyptian tablet, 2,000 years old. The guardian, a linguist, interprets it, and explains that an Egyptian princess and her husband, travelling in Africa some 2,000 years before, met a mysterious woman, a Queen called "She," who has power over life and death. "She" falls in love with the Prince, and, in a fit of jealousy, kills him, banishing the Princess from the country, having the Prince's body entombed to await his reincarnation. The Princess leaves an account of her adventure on a tablet, bequeathing it to her descendants, that some day one may find "She," wrest the secret from her, and avenge the ancient wrong. Leo decides to seek "She," and accompanied by the others they reach Africa, where they are met by men from "She," who has—in a vision—seen their arrival. In the period during which they await the chief's return Leo is kissed by Ustane, a beautiful maiden, and she becomes his wife. The Englishmen are now set upon by the natives, but the timely arrival of the chief prevents further trouble. He conducts them to "She," who finds Leo is the reincarnation of the Prince. Being overcome by her wondrous beauty, "She" prevails on Leo to bathe in the "Pillar of Life"—a mysterious fire—but he hesitates; so to encourage him, "She" enters the flame, becomes young and radiant, but gradually grows old before his eyes, until her form is entirely consumed.

A NON-INFLAMMABLE KINEMATOGRAPH FILM.

The philosopher's stone has not been more eagerly sought after than the scientific search which has been made for a non-inflammable film. English, French, and German scientists have been devoting their powers of research to its discovery. Claims have been made that a non-inflammable film has been found. The last claimants are the "Lumiere N.A. Co.," and to prove their claim are giving a demonstration at the Holborn Restaurant on Tuesday, Dec. 8, at 11.30 a.m. If it is proved that the film can be satisfactorily used for moving pictures a fortune awaits the firm, and an impetus to the kinematograph industry will be given such as it has not had in its whole history. There is no doubt that the restrictions placed on the present film in use, by reason of its liability to catch fire, has necessitated rules and regulations which, however necessary, have in a certain measure restricted the industry. If Messrs. Lumiere's film is what is claimed for it, there will be no need of fireproof cabinets and specially-built compartments in theatres and halls; in fact, no more restrictions will be placed upon the kinematograph than are placed upon the simple magic-lantern. Of the chemical components of this film we have nothing to do. No doubt they are safely lodged at the Patent Office. We are only concerned in giving publicity to its practicability for commercial purposes of the non-inflammable film when it arrives. *Nous verrons.*

CINEMATOGRAPH FIRE EXTINGUISHER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA

SIR,—As a result of the demonstration of the Barrasford cinematograph extinguisher at the Hippodrome, I am authorised by Mr. Oswald Stoll and Mr. Frank Allen to announce that they have given me the use of their Hippodrome ring for a competitive test of all cinematograph fire-extinguishing devices which are at present in existence.

In lending their theatre for this vitally interesting demonstration the proprietors are performing a great public service, because the cinematograph has now become a national institution in all civilised countries. And if by this competition we are enabled to discover a sure method of eliminating the fire danger from cinematograph entertainments, then, indeed, the whole world will have cause for congratulation.

The condition of the test is that the fire shall occur while the machine is running exactly as at a performance, and that the fire shall be immediately extinguished automatically.

Every man who has a fire-extinguishing device is cordially invited to bring his apparatus, and have it set up in position for demonstration in the Hippodrome ring by 11 o'clock sharp, on Thursday, December 10. And let the best win.—Yours truly,

WALTER REYNOLDS (L.C.C.).

County Hall, S.W.

Carmarthen.

THE Phœnix Theatre, under the proprietorship of Mr. Harry Cowell, opened at the Carmarthen Corporation Fair Ground on Saturday evening, *The Gipsy Queen* being presented to a crowded house. On Monday evening, *The Gipsy Queen* occupied the boards; Tuesday, *The Blind Girl of Paris;* Wednesday, *The Factory Girl;* Thursday, *Remanded;* Friday, *Maria Martin;* while *The Murder at the Old Toll Gate* was billed for Saturday night. The company consists of Mr. Harry Cowell, Mr. Harry Maitland, Mr. Colin Foster, Mr. Herbert Duneville, Mr. Fred Ruse, Mr. Oscar Llewellyn, Miss Mary Malvern, Miss Lily Llewellyn, Miss Lucy Donovan, Miss Florrie Daneville, and Miss Quennie Anderson. The respective plays were well presented and staged in this portable theatre. Mr. Cowell stated on Monday evening that if the townspeople rallied round him well, he would be pleased to give a performance for any deserving charity in the town.

Serious Illness of Mrs. Harry Kemp.

WE regret to hear that Mrs. Kemp, wife of Mr. Harry Kemp, of "Dreamland Cinematograph" fame, is lying seriously ill at the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Green, roundabout proprietors, 9, East View, Preston.

THE Fun City and Exhibition at the Drill Hall, Lower Bristol-street, Bath, is to be opened from Christmas Eve to Jan. 16, with a host of attractions, including mysteries and illusions from Earl's Court, beauty competitions, lightning sketch artists, thought-readers, gymnasts, swimmers, and others. There is also to be a hall of laughter.

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IT will be published at the offices of *The Era* at the popular price, 6d., and will be ready in a few days.

THE sessions on the rink at the Crystal Palace are from 11 o'clock till 1, 2.30 till 5, and 7 till 10 p.m. Adult season tickets are 21s.; children under twelve years pay 10s. 6d.; and transferable books of 25 admission tickets are to be had for 10s. 6d. The rink hockey fixtures for December are as follows:—Dec. 9, Forest Hill *v.* Thornsett (League); 10, Goys *v.* Outcasts (League); 12, Thornsett *v.* Goys (League); 16, Outcasts *v.* Orion Athletic (League); 17, Goys Reserves *v.* Thornsett (friendly); 19, Selborne *v.* Forest Hill (League); 23, Engineers *v.* Orion Athletic (League); 24, Goys Reserves *v.* Engineers (friendly); 26, Thornsett *v.* Orion Athletic (League); and 30, Forest Hill *v.* Engineers (League). On Jan. 13, 1909, the first grand fancy dress carnival will be held.

FAIRS, shows, wakes. Seventy thousand showmen of the United Kingdom required to send for the Showmen's Year Book for 1908. Edited by the Rev. T. Horne. Entirely re-arranged, corrected, and enlarged. 100 pages. Price 1s. Principal contents:—The Passion for Pageantry, Constitution and Rules of the "Showmen's Guilds," Lists of Fairs, Local Feasts and Wakes, Synopsis of Bye-laws, &c., &c. Invaluable to all who follow the fair. Address, the Publisher of *The Era*, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C. Telephones: 4747 and 1433 Central.

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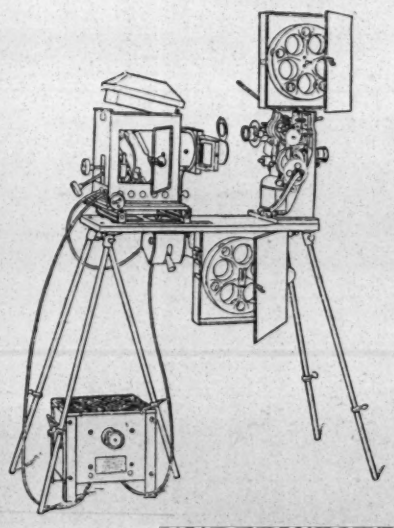

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A tale of ancient Africa, with the same title as, and suggestive of, Rider Haggard's "She." The story is weirdly and most impressively worked out in this film, the closing scene showing "She" bathing in the "Pillar of Fire."

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INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

24,645.—William Henry Hooper Booth, of Swansea. Improvements in golf games and the like, and apparatus therefor.

24,663.—Frederic Leslie Jeyes and Thomas McDonnell Madden, of London. Improvements in toboggan slides.

24,690.—Anton Holz, Peter Holz, and Edouard Schreiner, of London. Improvements in projecting apparatus.

24,698.—Edwin Walsham, of London. Table football.

24,738.—Christian Albert Jensen, of London. Improvements in aerial transport apparatus, principally suitable for amusement purposes. (Alcide Auguste Fabe.)

24,760.—Henry Powell, of Liverpool. Improvements in regulating arc lanterns for theatres or the like.

24,801.—Henry John Alexander, of London. New or improved toy or game.

24,863.—William Lee, of Upper Parkstone, Dorset. A new or improved game.

24,945.—Robert Hodges Bishop and William Danton Sandwell, of London. Improvements in roundabouts.

25,054.—Albert Hemstock Hodge, of London. Indoor game.

25,078.—Robert Joseph Kirwan, of Sligo. Improved gun and rifle sight.

25,092.—Michael Basarab Silisteanu and John Stainer, of London. Geographical game.

25,095.—Peter Heele, of London. Improvements in spectrographs.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

25,758.—McClelland and Kratt. Moving figures for table games.

1,328.—Kodak, Ltd. (Folmer). Optical projection apparatus.

2,055.—Roche Stringed musical instrument.

4,975.—Harrington. Apparatus for the production of bell music or chimes, or other musical sounds.

5,981.—Walker and Walker. Machines for exercising and recreation.

7,414.—Gulliet. Kinematographs.

8,900.—Art Replica Syndicate, and Palmer. Reproduction of pictures.

21,365.—Ruesch. Toy or game.

SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

24,621.—Lévêque. Projection apparatus.

ABRIDGEMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

15,101.—Games. Williams, P. W., of London.

Relates to a board for playing a table game representing football, in which two or more players are furnished with counters representing men; these are moved according to the number scored by dice, a tee-to-tum, or like means. Certain numbers are marked "foul" and "off-side," and penalties are attached to these numbers. Other numbers are marked "goal," "penalty," and similar incidents of play, and points are awarded to counters resting on these numbers. The game lasts until each side has reached the number 41, and the side then having most points is declared winner. An additional counter may be used when a "free kick" is awarded.

14,865.—Targets. Wanner, P. H., of Davos, Switzerland.

Two targets (1) are moved simultaneously in opposite directions to and from the firing point by an endless cord (3) which passes round guide-pulleys (5, 6, 7), under a tensioning-pulley (8), carrying a weight (15), and round a driving pulley (4), operated

by a crank-handle and toothed gearing (17, 18). The targets are suspended from wire frames (2), which are secured to the endless cord and guided by wires (21), stretched between the target and the firing-point. Metal louvre plates (20) deflect the bullets downwards against a vertical stop-plate (19).

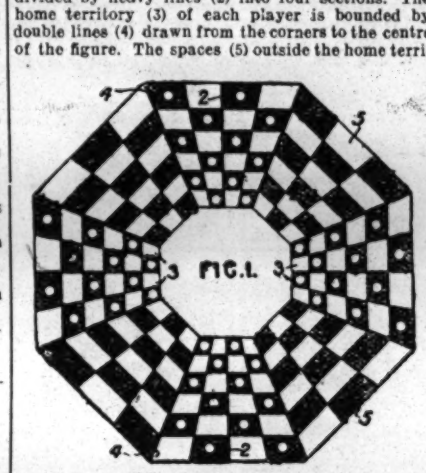
15,223. Games. Marshall, J. F., of Croydon, Surrey.

A game is played on a board which has marked upon it a plan of a city, &c., and pieces are moved from one place on the map to others, the moves being determined by dice. In the form shown a map of London is marked with a number of stations, and these are joined by distinctively-marked or coloured routes *b*, *c*, *g*, *h*, representing "tube" and underground railway routes and

omnibus and walking routes respectively. The players move their pieces from a station (*a*) to a station at the other end of the map by throwing three dice, one of which (*m*) is marked to indicate the route to be taken at each move, the other dice indicating the extent of the move. Instead of dice, a tee-to-tum may be used, or cards or counters may be drawn from a box. The game may be played on a lawn.

15,440.—Games. Ford, J. S., of Oak Park, Illinois, U.S.A.

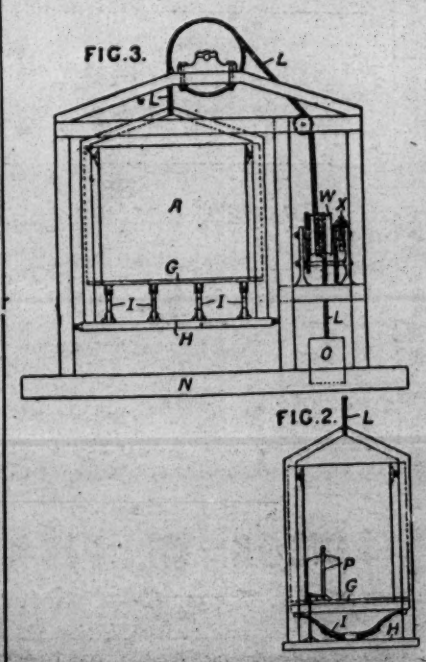
An octagonal board, suitable for four players, is divided by heavy lines (2) into four sections. The home territory (3) of each player is bounded by double lines (4) drawn from the corners to the centre of the figure. The spaces (5) outside the home terri-



tories (3) may consist of two or three rows of "squares." The "men," of which there are twelve, are placed as shown, and are moved away from the heavy lines (2), and are "crowned" when they pass the line bounding the adjacent players' territory.

15,316.—Scenic exhibitions. Rutlidge, C., of London.

In scenic exhibitions of the kinematograph type, two chambers are connected by a passage, so that spectators can pass from one chamber to the other to receive illusions, or witness scenes of a different



kind. A floor (*g*) supporting the spectators rests on springs (*i*) on a lower floor (*h*), and can be rocked by a lever (*p*) or by other means. One chamber can be raised and lowered to imitate a lift by a wind-ing-drum (*w*) fitted with a band-brake (*x*), for producing vibrations, and a counter-weight (*o*), which is more than sufficient to balance the empty chamber. Buffers are provided in the basement (*n*), and hanging blocks may strike against the lift framework. The outer casing of the chamber is partly of match-boarding and partly of cloth, on which the pictures are thrown. A motor-omnibus, &c., for spectators may rest on the upper floor of one chamber, or be suspended from the framework.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

SHAKESPEARE IN FRANCE.

"In France," says Mr. Sidney Lee in "A Life of William Shakespeare," "Shakespeare won recognition after a longer struggle than in Germany. Cyrano de Bergerac (1619-1655), in his tragedy of *Agrippine*, seemed to echo passages in *Cymbeline*, *Hamlet*, and *The Merchant of Venice*, but the resemblances prove to be accidental. It was Nicolas Clément, Louis XIV.'s librarian, who, first of Frenchmen, put on record an appreciation of Shakespeare. When, about 1680, he entered in the catalogue of the royal library the title of the Second Folio of 1632, he added a note in which he allowed Shakespeare imagination, natural thoughts, and ingenious expression, but deplored his obscenity. Half a century elapsed before public attention in France was again directed to Shakespeare. The Abbé Prévost, in his periodical 'Le Pour et Contre' (1733 et seq.), acknowledged his power. The Abbé Leblanc, in his 'Lettres d'un François' (1745), while crediting him with many grotesque extravagances, recognised ungrudgingly the sublimity of his style. But it is to Voltaire that his countrymen owe, as he himself boasted, their first effective introduction to Shakespeare. Voltaire studied Shakespeare thoroughly on his visit to England between 1726 and 1729, and his influence is visible in his own dramas. In his 'Lettres Philosophiques' (1731), afterwards reissued as 'Lettres su les Anglais,' 734 (Nos. xviii. and xix.), and in his 'Lettre sur la Tragédie' (1731), he expressed admiration for Shakespeare's genius, but attacked his want of taste and art. He described him as 'le Corneille de Londres, grand fou d'ailleurs, mais il a des morceaux admirables.' Writing to the Abbé des Fontaines in November, 1735, Voltaire admitted many merits in *Jlius Cæsar*, on which he published 'Observations' in 1764. Johnson replied to Voltaire's general criticism in the preface to his edition (1765), and Mrs. Elizabeth Montague in 1769 in a separate volume, which was translated into French in 1777. Diderot made, in his 'Encyclopédie,' the first stand in France against the Voltairean position, and increased opportunities of studying Shakespeare's works increased the poet's vogue. Twelve plays were translated in De la Place's 'Théâtre Anglais' (1745-8). Jean-François Ducis (1733-1816) adapted without much insight six plays for the French stage, beginning in 1769 with *Hamlet*, his version of which was acted with applause. In 1776 Pierre Le Tourneur began a bad prose translation (completed in 1722) of all Shakespeare's plays, and declared him to be 'the god of the theatre.' Voltaire protested against this estimate in a new remonstrance consisting of two letters, of which the first was read before the French Academy on Aug. 25, 1776. Here Shakespeare was described as a barbarian, whose works—'a huge dunghill'—concealed some pearls.

"Although Voltaire's censure was rejected by the majority of later French critics, it expressed a sentiment born of the genius of the nation, and made an impression that was only gradually effaced. Marmontel, La Harpe, Marie-Joseph Chénier, and Chateaubriand in his 'Essai sur Shakespeare,' 1801, inclined to Voltaire's view; but Mme. de Staël wrote effectively on the other side in her 'De la Littérature,' 1804 (i. caps. 13, 14, ii. 5). 'At this day,' wrote Wordsworth in 1815, 'the French critics have abated nothing of their aversion to "this darling of our nation." "The English with their bouffon de Shakespeare" is as familiar an expression among them as in the time of Voltaire. Baron Grimm is the only French writer who seems to have perceived his infinite superiority to the first names of the French theatre; an advantage which the Parisian critic owed to his German blood and German education.' The revision of Le Tourneur's translation by François Guizot and A. Pichot in 1821 gave Shakespeare a fresh advantage. Paul Duport, in 'Essais Littéraires sur Shakespeare' (Paris, 1828, 2 vols.), was the last French critic of repute to repeat Voltaire's censure unreservedly. Guizot, in his discourse 'Sur la Viet et les Œuvres de Shakespeare' (reprinted separately from the translation of 1821), as well as in his 'Shakespeare et son Temps' (1852); Villemain in a general essay, and Barante in a study of *Hamlet*, acknowledge the mightiness of Shakespeare's genius with comparatively few qualifications. Other complete translations followed—by Francisque Michel (1839), by Benjamin Laroche (1851), and by Emil Montégut (1867), but the best is that in prose by François Victor Hugo (1859-66), whose father, Victor Hugo the poet, published a rhapsodical eulogy in 1864. Alfred Mézières's 'Shakespeare, ses Œuvres et ses Critiques' (Paris, 1860), is a saner appreciation.

"Meanwhile *Hamlet* and *Macbeth*, *Othello*, and a few other Shakespearean plays, became stock pieces on the French stage. A powerful impetus to theatrical representation of Shakespeare in France was given by the performance in Paris of the chief plays by a strong company of English actors in the autumn of 1827. *Hamlet* and *Othello* were acted successively by Charles Kemble and Macready; Edmund Kean appeared as Richard III,. Othello, and Shylock; Miss Smithson, who became the wife of Hector Berlioz, the musician, filled the rôles of Ophelia, Juliet, Desdemona, Cordelia, and Portia. French critics were divided as to the merits of the performers, but most of them were enthusiastic in their commendations of the plays. Alfred de Vigny prepared a version of *Othello* for the Théâtre Français in 1829 with eminent success. An adaptation of *Hamlet* by Alexandre Dumas was first performed in 1847, and a rendering by the Chevalier de Châtelain performed in 1847, and a rendering by the Chevalier de Châtelain (1864) was often repeated. George Sand translated *As You Like It* (Paris, 1856) for representation by the Comédie Française on April 12, 1855. Lady Macbeth has been represented in recent years by Mme. Sarah Bernhardt, and Hamlet by M. Mounet Sully of the Théâtre Français. Four French musicians—Berlioz in his symphony of 'Romeo and Juliet,' Gounod in his opera of *Romeo and Juliet*, Ambroise Thomas in his opera of *Hamlet*, and Saint-Saëns in his opera of *Henry VIII.*—have sought with public approval to interpret musically portions of Shakespeare's work."

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A LONDON LANDMARK.

Wherever our tongue is spoken, the Middlesex is known, and pleasant must be the memories of happy nights spent there by all sorts and conditions of men—and women. As a public place of entertainment the Middlesex Music Hall dates back to the time of Charles II., about 1660, and was then known as the "Mogul's Head," afterwards for many years styled the "Great Mogul." It claims to be the oldest house of entertainment in the world. For nearly two centuries and a half, on the site of the present music-hall there has been held an uninterrupted series of nightly entertainments, giving every stage in the modern music-hall, from the spontaneous "free and easies" of the long ago. It can, at the very beginning of its career, be styled a "ladies music-hall," for to the singing entertainments and revels at the famous tavern flocked many actresses and others who were then the "toasts of the town."

Here, as an orange girl, before she became famous, came "Nell Gwynne, Sweet Nell of Old Drury," and later, when chief Court favourite, she occupied a magnificent mansion almost opposite, and, sometimes in the company of Charles II., again graced the entertainment that had known her humble origin. These early concerts were very unlike the modern music-hall entertainment. Then there was no London County Council to supervise the programme and the exits and entrances, but it is not recorded that the patrons enjoyed their songs less on that account. So for two centuries the "Great Mogul" nightly provided music and dancing for all comers, and there was hardly a person of any distinction who failed at one time or another to join in a chorus under its ringing rafters. Seventy years ago these concerts were still being held, as at all other like places at that time, in a large room above the tavern. Unlike the notorious "Coal Hole" and "Cider Cellars," these rooms were then frequented by a respectable class of tradesmen and mechanics, who would, when smoking long churchwarden pipes, listen to ballads, glees, and comic songs. What a contrast between the character of the entertainments given then and now? And what a contrast between the audiences which then and now assemble. Then, the "Mogul's Head" was situated in a fair and salubrious district, nestling in umbrageous scenery. There is little need to here describe the situation the famous resort now occupies. No pen-picture can adequately paint the contrast between then and now.

Men distinguished in various walks of life have visited the Middlesex in the past, as they do now. It is interesting to mention that gallant Fred Burnaby, who lost his life at El-Teb, spent his last night in England at the hall. Mr. Graydon no doubt vividly recalls the occasion, Colonel Burnaby being accompanied by Colonel Wellesley and Mr. John Hollingshead.

The hall was built in the early fifties by the late Mr. Winder. At that time there was no stage, merely a raised platform with mirrors at the back, and a small band occupied the platform. Scenery, footlights, and other matters of adornment were not introduced at music-halls for many years after, the Middlesex being the earliest to make these innovations, about thirty years ago. A souvenir of play-bills has been issued, the names of many artists who have been great favourites with the public since 1850 appearing on them.

Nearly every artist who has attained to any degree of eminence in the profession since that date to the present time has bowed to Middlesex audiences, and numbers have made their *début* before them. More reputations in the music-hall world have been made here than anywhere else, and for this the pit and gallery boys of the ever-famous "Lane" take credit. Like their forefathers, they are a critical, if somewhat boisterous throng, and they know what is good. One of the later and best-remembered favourites to those living at the present time was George Leybourne, who created a *furore* about the year 1865. He sang character songs at the Middlesex, in one of which he introduced a mechanical donkey. Leybourne was afterwards known as the "Lion Comique," and continued his career at the hall for some years, audiences never tiring of his drolleries. George Leybourne's first and last appearances were at the Middlesex. Later, followed other stars of their days, many alas! gone; but many with us now. Lion-hearted Herbert Campbell (England's own comedian, as the play-bills announced); Jenny Hill, the rage of her day, brought light and joy to many an one, as did the late Wm. Riley (afterwards proprietor of the Cambridge Music Hall), G. H. Macdermott, the Two Macs, Charles Godfrey, and James Fawn, all these between 1870 and 1880. Bessie Bellwood commenced her career here also, and her last and vividly recalled appearance was at the self-same hall. And poor Dan Leno, how we miss him! His first London appearance was at the Middlesex in October, 1885. Charles Hawtrey took Dan straight from the "Mo" to take part in the production of "Iolanthe" at the old Strand.

Sketches were first introduced at the Middlesex between 1872 and 1874 by Alf. George and Nellie Griffiths, Keegan and Elvin, Fothergill and Summerson, and De Voy, Leclerq and Marriott. John Lawson made his bow at the Middlesex, and at the same time a great hit with *Humanity*; Mark Melford also made an early appearance, as did Joe Elvin in company with his father.

In July 1876 Arthur Roberts commenced his successful career at the house, appearing for eleven weeks, after which he was engaged by the management of the Oxford, where he filled a very lengthy engagement. Charles Coborn, the Brothers Poluski, Millie Lindon, Harriet Vernon, Chirgwin (after parting company with his brother), Vesta Tilley, Alice Lloyd, Baby Freear (now known as Louie Freear), Harry Tate, Harry Rickards, Marie Loftus, the Sisters Jonghmanns, Ada Reeve, Little Tich, Harry Randall, Walter Munroe, Tom Wootwell, Will Evans, Bros. Luck, Wilkie Bard, Alex. Dagmar, Selbini Troupe, R. G. Knowles, Fred Storey, Neil Kenyon, T. E. Dunville, Phil Ray, Sam Mayo, Datas, Tom Leamore, Arthur Prince, and Arthur Lennard, all appeared here at the earlier part of their public success in London. And it must never be overlooked that the incomparable Marie Lloyd did also. That this dainty comedienne has never forgotten this fact may be realised when it is stated she sent a letter couched in warm terms of regard to Mr. J. L. Graydon, regretting sincerely she could not be present at the recent anniversary "at the dear old 'Mo,'" as Marie coyly put it, owing to an out-of-town engagement. Mr. George Mozart also forwarded a similar letter, wishing the proprietor every success, and regretting inability to be present. But Kate Carney was there, and she amply atoned for any disappointment.

In the earlier period in the history of the music halls, a chairman was a leading feature, and one of the most famous of this cheery band was Harry Fox. Seated in his chair of office, with an upraised hammer, it was his duty to announce each "turn," and his privilege to enjoy refreshment at the expense of those who sought the honour of his company. Now there does not remain an actual chairman at a London hall.

For three weeks only during the whole of Mr. Graydon's proprietorship has the house been closed—once for two weeks and the other one; compulsorily, owing to structural alterations being made.

Mr. J. L. Graydon has been proprietor of the Middlesex for upwards of thirty-two years, and prior to that was manager four years. Before becoming associated with the hall, Mr. Graydon had gained considerable experience in a secretarial capacity at another very well-known house. With a keen eye to possibilities in the East End of London, Mr. Graydon purchased the old Foresters' Hall, Cambridge-road, eventually disposing of it to Mr. William Lusby, after building up a fine business. He then became managing-director and chairman of the Brighton Alhambra, occupying those positions for twelve or thirteen years, and only retired about two years since. At the present time Mr. Graydon is chairman of the Empire, Limited (Middlesbrough). He is also a director of the Palace Theatre of Varieties, Shaftesbury-avenue. Although an extremely busy and active gentleman, he has never sought public honours; on the contrary, he has refused them. He was, however, one of the first to be elected to the Holborn Borough Council, on which he sat for many years, resigning to the extreme regret of the electorate. Mr. Graydon was a member of the Holborn Board of Guardians also for a considerable period. An old Freemason, his lodge, the Belgrave, was formerly held at Anderton's Hotel. He was twice president and always treasurer of the now defunct Music-hall Benevolent Fund, and has been for many years hon. sec. of the Entertainments Protection Association. Mr. J. L. Graydon has a host of friends in the profession. Artists appreciate many an act of kindness he has performed, therefore it is a pleasure to place on record some interesting particulars of his career and reminiscences concerning this famous London landmark.

LADY MORGAN AND THE STAGE.

"In an article which appeared in 'The Book of the Boudoir' (published in 1829), Lady Morgan, the Irish authoress," says George Paston in a biography, "describes a party at Lady Cork's, where she was lionised by her hostess, the other guests having been invited to meet the Wild Irish Girl. The celebrities present were brought up and introduced to Miss Owenson with a running comment from Lady Cork, which, though it must be taken with a grain of salt, is worth transcribing:—'Lord Erskine, this is the Wild Irish Girl you were so anxious to meet. I assure you she talks quite as well as she writes. Now, my dear, do tell Lord Erskine some of those Irish stories you told us at Lord Charleville's. Mrs. Abington says you would make a famous actress, she does indeed. This is the Duchess of St. Albans—she has your "Wild Irish Girl" by heart. Where is Sheridan? Oh, here he is; what, you know each other already? *Tant mieux*. Mr. Lewis, do come forward; this is Monk Lewis, of whom you have heard so much—but you must not read his works, they are very naughty. . . . You know Mr. Gell; he calls you the Irish Corinne. Your friend, Mr. Moore, will be here by and by. Do see, somebody, if Mrs. Siddons and Mr. Kemble are come yet. Now, pray tell us the scene at the Irish baronet's in the Rebellion that you told to the ladies of Llangollen; and then give us your blue-stocking dinner at Sir Richard Phillips's; and describe the Irish priests.'

"At supper Lady Morgan was placed between Lord Erskine and Lord Carysfort, and was just beginning to feel at her ease when Mr. Kemble was announced. Mr. Kemble, it soon became apparent, had been dining, and had paid too much attention to the claret. Sitting down opposite Miss Owenson, he fixed her with an intense and glassy stare. Unfortunately, her hair, which she wore in the fashionable curly 'crop,' aroused his curiosity. Stretching unsteadily across the table, he suddenly, to quote her own words, 'struck his claws into my locks, and, addressing me in his deepest tones, asked, "Little girl, where did you buy your wig?"' Lord Erskine hastily came to the rescue, but Kemble, rendered peevish by his intereference, took a volume of 'The Wild Irish Girl' out of his pocket, and after reading aloud one of the most high-flown passages, asked, 'Little girl, why did you write such nonsense, and where did you get all those hard words?' Sydney delighted the company by blurting out the truth: 'Sir, I wrote as well as I could, and I got the hard words out of Johnson's Dictionary.' That Kemble spoke the truth in his cups may be proved by the following sentence, which is a fair sample of the general style of the book: 'With a character tinctured with the brightest colouring of romantic eccentricity [a father is describing his son, the hero], but marked by indelible traces of innate rectitude, and ennobled by the purest principles of native generosity, the proudest sense of inviolable honour, I beheld him rush eagerly on life, enamoured of its seeming good, incredulous of its latent evils, till, fatally entangled in the spells of the latter, he fell an early victim to their successful allurements.'

"'The Wild Irish Girl' was followed by 'Patriotic Sketches' and a volume of poems, for which Sir Richard Phillips offered £100 before he read them. A little later, in 1807, an operetta called *The First Attempt; or, the Whim of the Moment*, the libretto by Miss Owenson and the music by T. Cooke, was performed at the Dublin Theatre. The Duke of Bedford, then Lord-Lieutenant, attended in state, the Duchess wore a Glorvina bodkin, and the entertainment was also patronised by the officers of the garrison and all the liberal members of the Irish Bar The little piece, in which Mr. Owenson acted an Irish character, was played for several nights, and brought its author the handsome sum of £400. This, however, seems to have been Lady Morgan's first and last attempt at dramatic composition."

Mrs. Hartley's lovely face, and lithe, tall, delicate figure, rapidly won for her the leading place at Covent Garden in such parts of tender tragedy as Jane Shore, and the puling heroines of Murphy's *Alzuma* and Mason's *Elfrida*. She was no actress, but her beauty for a time stood her in stead of genius. She had that golden auburn hair which the early Italian painters loved, and those blonde colours which have always, I think, exercised most power of witchery on men. She sat to Sir Joshua very soon after her first success. When he paid her a compliment on her beauty, she turned it laughingly off: "Nay, my face may be well enough for shape, but sure 'tis as freckled as a toad's belly."

Kubelik, who is reappearing in London, after a ten months' tour in Southern and Eastern latitudes, where he has given a record number of 200 concerts, was originally the son of a gardener, and the first pupil of the now famous Sevcik. Though only twenty-six years of age, he has already netted a fortune running well into six figures. During his late tour New York signalised her welcome by cramming the Hippodrome to hear the great violinist play. The Hippodrome seats six thousand persons, and it was estimated that as many more were turned away for want of room. The takings represented 5,800 dollars. In Chicago, St. Louis, Melbourne, and other cities he was fêted and received by mayors and other dignitaries. In Coolgardie, the ten-year old mining town, 4,800 persons were drawn to two performances, representing not only the full capacity of the theatre, but considerably more than half the entire population. In Honolulu the natives turned out in full force, and not satisfied with filling the concert hall afterwards presented the master with their amulets and native ornaments, some of them heirlooms. Prague, where Kubelik was born, seems a place where musical geniuses come from. Edward Goll, the distinguished Continental pianist, who has just taken residence in England for appearances during the coming season, is a native of the same place. The Bohemians are instinct with music. Even the peasants possess the gift in varying, and often abnormal, degrees, and only require the training to astonish the rest of the world.

GARRICK'S RICHARD III.

Mr. Horace Howard Furness in his appendix to his splendid edition of *Richard III.*, just published by the J. B. Lippincott Company gives some interesting old criticisms of Garrick's performance of the leading part:—

F. GENTLEMAN (i, 11): The public have set up Mr. Garrick as a standard of perfection in this laborious, difficult part; and if we consider the essentials, his claim to such distinction will immediately appear indisputable; a very deformed person never rises above, and seldom up to the middle stature; it is generally attended with an acuteness of features and sprightliness of eyes; in these three natural points our Roscius stands unexceptionable; variations of voice, and climax of expression, in both which he stands without an equal; graceful attitudes, nervous action, with well-regulated spirit, to animate within natural bounds every passage, even from the coldest up to the most inflamed. Mr. Garrick also preserves a happy medium, and dwindles neither into the buffoon or brute; one or both of which this character is made by most other performers: 'tis true, there are many passages which have a ludicrous turn, yet we may rest assured that he who occasions least laughter is most right; in respect of marking particular places with peculiar emphasis, some exceptions may be taken, or doubts raised against every person I have ever seen in the part; however, tracing minute lapses of this kind, which, after all may be mere matter of opinion, would occasion too great a digression; I shall therefore only mention three which strike me most; the first is—*I am myself alone*—which words I have heard expressed in a tone of confident exultation, as if he was singularly above the rest of mankind; whereas adverting to his own unhappy composition, it should be uttered with heartfelt discontent; and indeed the three preceding lines, which exclude him from all social intercourse, should be expressive of concern.—The second passage is, where Buckingham solicits Richard for his promise, and Richard meditates in these lines, "I do remember me, that Henry the Sixth Did prophesy, that Richmond should be king, When Richmond was a little peevish boy. 'Tis odd—a king—perhaps—" The last line is often spoke without a tone of continuation to the word, *perhaps*, which is most evidently intended: the third place is in these lines, "Hence, babbling dreams, ye threaten here in vain; *Conscience, avaunt*—Richard's himself again." It is usual to speak this couplet in one continued climax of passion; whereas the two words marked in Italics should be uttered in a lower tone, expressive of mental agony—Conscience being the constant disturber of his peace, and a great bar to his resolution; the latter part of the line rises to a kind of triumphant exultation, which not only varies, but gives force to the expression.

A. MURPHY ("Life of Garrick," p. 16): The moment Garrick entered the scene, the character he assumed was visible in his countenance; the power of his imagination was such that he transformed himself into the very man; the passions rose in rapid succession, and, before he uttered a word, were legible in every feature of that various face. His look, his voice, his attitude, changed with every sentiment.... The rage and rapidity with which he spoke: "The North!—what do they in the North, When they should serve their Sovereign in the West?" made a most astonishing impression on the audience. His soliloquy in the tent-scene discovered the inward man. Everything he described was almost reality.... When he started from his dream, he was a spectacle of horror. He called out in a manly tone: "Give me another horse!" He paused, and, with a countenance of dismay, advanced, crying out in a tone of distress: "Bind up my wounds"; and then, falling on his knees, said in the most piteous accent: "Have mercy Heaven." In all this the audience saw an exact imitation of nature. His friend Hogarth has left a most excellent picture of Garrick in this scene. He was then on the eve of a battle, and, in spite of all the terrors of conscience, his courage mounted to a blaze. When in Bosworth field he roared out, "A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!" All was rage, fury, and almost reality.... It is no wonder that an actor thus accomplished made, on the very first night, a deep impression on the audience.... The Great Mr. Pope was drawn from his retreat at Twickenham, and, we are assured, Lord Orrery was so struck with the performance that he said: "I am afraid the young man will be spoiled, for he will have no competitor."

DR. DORAN (i. 462): On the 19th October, while Drury was giving *As You Like It*, and Covent Garden was acting the same piece, the little theatre in Aylife-street, Goodman's Fields, announced the *Life and Death of King Richard III.*, "the part of King Richard by a gentleman, who never appeared on any stage."

At last! the hour and the man had come. Throughout this season no new piece was produced at either of the patent theatres—so influenced were they by the consequences of this first appearance of a nameless actor at Goodman's Fields. Of course, the new actor was David Garrick. He had selected the part of Richard III., for reasons which now appear singular. "He had often declared," says Davies, "he would never choose a character that was not suitable to his person; for, said he, if I should come forth in a hero, or in any part which is generally acted by a tall fellow, I shall not be offered a larger salary than 40s. a week. In this," adds the biographer, "he glanced at the follies of those managers who used to measure an actor's merit by his size."

On that 19th of October, 1741, there was no very great nor excitedly expectant audience at Goodman's Fields. The bill of the day first promises a concert of vocal and instrumental music, to begin exactly at six o'clock: admission by tickets "at three, 2s. and 1s." Between the two parts of the concert, it is further announced, that the historical play of the *Life and Death of Richard III.*, with the ballad-opera of *The Virgin Unmasked*, would be performed *gratis* by Persons for their Diversion." The part of King Richard, "by a gentleman who never appeared on any stage," is an announcement not true to the letter; but the select audience were not troubled therewith. From the moment the new actor appeared they were enthralled. They saw a Richard and not an actor of that personage. Of the audience, he seemed unconscious, so thoroughly did he identify himself with the character. He surrendered himself to all its requirements, was ready for every phase of passion, every change of humour, and was as wonderful in quiet sarcasm as he was terrific in the hurricane of the battle-scenes. Above all, his audience were delighted with his "nature." Since Betterton's death, actors had fallen into a rhythmical, mechanical, sing-song cadence. The style still lingers among conservative French tragedians. Garrick spoke not as an orator, but as King Richard himself might have spoken, in like circumstances. The chuckling exultation of his "So much for Buckingham!" was long a tradition on the stage.

THE AWARDS. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "THE ERA" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON,
Feb. 15, 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29, on
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.
Jan. 25, March 8, 22, April 5, May 17, 24, 31, on
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
March 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 3, 10, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER,
April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER,
Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Feb. 1, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, May 3, 10, 17, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 15, 22 April 5, 26, May 17, 24, 31, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 6, 20, 27, Oct. 4, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, May 17, 24, 31, June 7, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1 on
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED, First-class Drama, for Dec. 14,
Theatre Royal, Leicester,
to oblige Ernest Dottridge.
Wire, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 15, March 8, 15, 22, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, March 8, 29, April 5, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
Dec. 14, Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 1 (3 nights only), and Xmas.
Add., E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Jan. 18, Feb., and March dates.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 1, 15, 29,
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Feb. 1. March 1, 8, 15, 22.
Apply for all above,
ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions,
April 10, various, onwards.
Open to Arrange First-class Panto,
or Musical Comedy for
Holiday Season, '09 and '10.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Dramatic and Musical Attractions, March 22, April 26, and onward, with exceptions. Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

PALACE, DERBY; GRAND T., BLACKPOOL.
PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE; HIPPO., STOKE.
WANTED, for above Variety Theatres, First-class Pantomimes, Jan. 11, 18, 25, and Dates in Feb. and March, to play twice nightly. Address, with full particulars, T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Attractive Companies; holding capacity £100; Vacant Feb. 4, 11, 18, March 1, 15, 22, and Easter. Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
The Only Theatre in the Town.
WANTED, Musical Comedy, April 12. Note.—The Conference of the Teacher's National Union is held in Morecambe during the above week. Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, High-class Attractions, for Feb. 22,
March 22,
April 5, 19,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

PALACE THEATRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attraction, March 1 (through transfer). Apply, T. W. ROWE.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Feb. 1,
April 5, 26,
May 17, 24, 31.
JAMES BELL.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for Feb. 15, March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31. First-class Companies only.

OPERA HOUSE, SOUTHPORT.
WANTED, good Company, Dec. 14.
Wire, MANAGER.

WORTHING THEATRE ROYAL.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, Jan. 11, 14, 28, Feb. 1, three nights, one matinée, each instance. Write to C. ADOLF SEEBOLD.

THEATRE ROYAL, HANLEY.
WANTED, First-class Company, for Feb. 15. Apply, C. ELPHINSTONE.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply, direct, to ALFRED MANNERS, as above. Silence a polite negative. Wanted, Strong Dramatic Attraction, Feb. 1, 2 and 3, 1909.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
General-Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, No. 1 Musical Comedy and Pantomime Attractions,
immediate and future dates.

THEATRE ROYAL & HIPPO., SHREWSBURY.
Lessee and Director, W. YATES GREGORY.
General Manager, THOMAS BAUGH.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 28, 29, and 30 (three nights), Feb. 11, 12, and 13 (three nights), First-class Attraction.
Mark "Company" when replying.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred, Jan. 25, Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on, three or six nights.
W. E. POTTS.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
General-Managers, ARTHUR CARLTON and SAM DUCKWORTH.
High-class Attractions Only entertained
Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 22,
onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, June 14, 28,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant Dec. 28, April 12, May 24,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant June 7, Aug. 2, Nov. 29,
onward with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Dec. 8, 14, 21,
onward with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical Pieces; last three nights Drama.)

Pantomime, "ALADDIN," Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Jan. 18, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "PUSS IN BOOTS,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S," "PRAIRIE FLOWER," &c.

ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices
WANTED, really First-class London Successes for Feb. 8, March 8 and 22, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return), Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," &c.
All applications for dates to
HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

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THE GRANVILLE THEATRES, LIMITED.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Powerful Dramatic Attractions, Dec. 14, 21, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 8.
Wire for Dec. 14.
Wire for Dec. 14.
Wire for Dec. 14.
GRAND THEATRE, WEST HARTLEPOOL.
Wanted, Musical and other High-class London Attractions, Jan. 4, Feb. 22, March 15, April 12, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HYDE.
Wanted, Powerful Attractions, Dec. 14, 28, Jan. 4, 11.
Wire for Dec. 14.
Wire for Dec. 14.
Wire for Dec. 14.
GRAND THEATRE, RAWTENSTALL.
Wanted, Powerful Attractions, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 18, and later. Good Pantomime would play to big business.
Re dates, FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's T., Liverpool.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
Lessee, A. C. MOODY.
WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 22, 1909, vacant through obliging.
Next week, Chung Ling Soo.
Professional Houses of Call.
Adelphi Hotel, opposite Stage Door, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Waterloo Hotel, facing Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Proprietors, Messrs. Evans, Beadling, and Moody.
Special intimation.—Mr. Moody will be in attendance at the Adelphi Hotel every Sunday Evening after 6 o'clock, where he will be pleased to meet his patrons and friends.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons. Dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn, 1909. All communications,
WALTER R. WALLIS, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

THEATRE ROYAL, LOUGHBOROUGH.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, three nights, Dec. 17, 18, and 19.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
Vacant Dec. 14, Jan. 7, 8, 9, and 21, 22, 23.

TOWN HALL, RUGBY.
Wanted, Company, for Boxing Night only.

W. PAYNE SEDDON, Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, Dec. 14, Dec. 14,
Jan. 4, 11, various, on.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

THEATRE ROYAL, GOOLE.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, for Jan. 4 and 11. Apply, GREAVES, Theatre, Goole.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
WANTED, through transferring to oblige Dottridge and Longden, Company, Dec. 14. Wire or write, MILTON BODE, County T., Reading.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Companies, Jan. 4 and 11.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLCHESTER.
WANTED, good Companies, Musical preferred, Feb. 15, March 1, 15, Easter (seven nights), June 21 (Pageant week). MACDONA.

WANTED, Musical Comedies and Big Pantomimes, Dec. 14, onward; must play twice nightly. Particulars, MANAGING-DIRECTOR, Hippodrome, Gainsborough.

WANTED, Known, Important Theatre, South Coast, vacant Dec. 26, onwards, First-class Pantomime. Apply, Messrs. JAY and MANN, 10-11, Jermyn-street, London.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Dec. 21, 22, 23, Jan. 4, 5, 6; 18, 19, 20. Apply, PHILLIPS.

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, RUNCORN.
WANTED, High-class Companies, for Xmas (?), a few January Dates, and Feb. 8 also Autumn, 1909. EDGAR LEA.

WANTED, Good Fit-up Company or Special Attraction, with own Stage Fittings, Assembly Rooms, Tamworth, Dec. 26, 28, 29; rent or share. HYBERT, c/o Creber, Plymouth.

ARCADE THEATRE, COWDENBEATH.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Jan. 4, 5, 6,
W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, 23.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, March 22, May 10, 17, 24, June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 23.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant March 1, 15, 29, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 24, June 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
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Seating capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only
We are prepared to guarantee
Really Big Star Attractions.
All communications, JNO. ED. JOWSEY,
Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

Telegrams, "Magnet."
'Phones 413, 425, 500.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.
WANTED, Managers, with Vacant Dates and New to Stratford, to apply at once.
Read the following Chartered Accountant's Certificate.
17, South-street, Finsbury, London, E.C.
Nov. 28, 1908.
A. E. Abrahams, Esq.
Dear Sir,—
Re Theatre Royal, Stratford, E.
I have as requested examined the daily return sheets for the week ended 21st inst., relating to the above, duly signed by W. Harding, and find that the total number of persons who paid for admission for that week amounted to 7,029, or on an average of say 1,004, the takings for the same amounting to £238 5s. 10d.
Yours faithfully,
(Signed) J. S. BOND,
Chartered Accountant.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, FARNWORTH.
WANTED, Powerful Attractions, Dec. 28, Jan. 25, Feb. 1.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

GRAND THEATRE, NELSON.
WANTED, through Cancelling to oblige, First-Class Musical Comedy or Dramatic Company, Dec. 14, Dec. 14.
GEORGE E. MUDD, Business-Manager.

WEST END PIER, MORECAMBE.
WANTED, Known, Open to Engage Musical, Opera, and Comedy Companies, for first two weeks in July and all August, 1909.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 9, Nov. 29.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Dec. 14, Jan. 4.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 14, 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 14, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE WORST WOMAN IN LONDON."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres Dec. 21, Jan. 4.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres Feb. 15, March 22, April 12.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, April 5, Aug. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Prince of Wales's T., Grimsby.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH,"
from the Haymarket and Apollo Theatres.
WANTED, Xmas (through misunderstanding). Wire, C. H. BOWMAKER, Theatre Royal, Lincoln; or after Saturday, County Theatre, Bedford.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of
Jan. 11 and 25.
Jan. 11 and 25.
Jan. 11 and 25.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of
Dec. 28, Jan. 4, and Feb. 8,
Dec. 28, Jan. 4, and Feb. 8,
Dec. 28, Jan. 4, and Feb. 8,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 22, March 22, April 5, 12, Summer, Autumn. CHARLES HARRINGTON, T. Royal, York; King's, Sunderland, next.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, Jan. 4,
Jan. 4,
Jan. 4,
March 15, 22.
All communications, J. W. CORRINER,
Dec. 7, Theatre Royal, Ton-y-pandy.

THEATRES WANTED.

MORTON POWELL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"WHEN IT WAS DARK."
Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 1, 8, 15.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"GREED OF GOLD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 24, Jan. 11, 25.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE WOMAN WHO GAMBLES."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 21, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
Dec. 21, 28.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

"THE LITTLE OUTCAST."
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
March 1, 8, 15, April 12.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

ALFRED B. CROSS TOUR.
"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, for this Unique Attraction, Dec. 21 and 28.
Dec. 7, six nights, Castle T., Stockton.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1 March 1.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8, March 15, 22, 29.
Re both plays,
GEO. A. DE GRAY,
This, Queen's T., Liverpool (return);
next, Prince's T., Preston (return).

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts, by Walter Howe.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 22, March 1, 8, 29, April 26, May 3, 17, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.
Dec. 7, Royal Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd.

"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley.
WANTED, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Dec. 21, Dec. 21.

"BOUND TO WIN."
By Mrs. F. G. Kimberley. Wanted, Dec. 21, 28, Dec. 21, 28; or could arrange 7 nights; also Vacant Jan. 18, through transferring. Wire, KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

NEW PLAY,
by
MRS. MORTON POWELL.
WANTED, Dates, for this Superb Production.
Will
Draw the Million.
Feb. 1 (through transfer),
March 1, 15.
MORTON POWELL, Queen's T., Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. LEWIS WALLER'S COMPANY.
"ROBIN HOOD."
by Henry Hamilton and William Devereux
(under the direction of F. Clive Ross.)
Spring Tour Now Booking.
WANTED, Theatres, Christmas and New Year. All communications, F. CLIVE ROSS, Actors' Association, 353, Strand, W.C.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
SHAKESPEAREAN AND CLASSICAL REPERTOIRE; also "THE THREE MUSKETEERS," "IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND," "JEANIE DEANS," &c., &c.
WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, onwards.
Wire, Opera House, Southport.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, Dec. 14 and Jan. 4.
Wire, Opera House, Southport.

"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
Lingford Carson's Latest Success.
WANTED, vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4.
Forty People on the Stage.
Good Musical Numbers.
Managers wanting a sound Draw, wire or write for the above dates.
All coms. to
L. CARSON, Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham.

"TODDLES."
WANTED, Jan. 11, Feb. 15, Easter week, and August Bank Holiday, for the above.
Murray King as Toddles.
Address, KING, Devonshire Park T., Eastbourne.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S CO'S.
"WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, Feb. 1 and 22.
"THE KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN," Jan. 25, Feb. 1, March 22.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Court Theatre, Wigan.

ROSE MONCRIEFF'S CO.
in the Military Musical Comedy Drama,
"THE BELLS OF OLD YORK."
New Scenery, Uniforms, Music, &c.
Rose Moncrieff as Trumpeter Romney Kent.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 1, April 12, Aug. 2.
All coms., Brixton Theatre, London, S.W.

"THE NEW HOUSEMAID."
E. Oswald Brooks' Third Successful Tour.
WANTED, Good Theatres, Jan. 11, 18, between G. T., Swansea, and T. R., Belfast. Wire instanter, "Determined,' Swansea."
E. OSWALD BROOKS, Lessee and Manager, G. T., Swansea.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Nov. 30, Xmas week (7 nights), also Spring and Autumn.
E. C. S., Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

"SILVER KING."
POLINI and MELFORD'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Dates, as follows:
Dec. 26 (7 nights), April 19, May 3.
Now Booking Autumn, 1909.
Address, POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

MR. LOUIS CALVERT'S PRODUCTION.
"SUNDAY," "SUNDAY."
WANTED, Jan. 11 and 25, for Principal Star Company. Wire or write, Mr. WILLIAM GIFFARD, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, London.

"THE BETTER LAND,"
The Greatest Domestic Drama Touring.
WANTED, Jan. 11,
Wanted, Jan. 11.
Wanted, Jan. 11.
Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

CHARLES ROGERS'S TOUR.
"£1,000 REWARD."
Managers Watch this Grand Reproduction.
The Greatest Detective Drama ever Written.
Revised, Rewritten, Remounted.
WANTED, Feb. 1, and on, with exceptions
Apply, CHARLES ROGERS,
16, Crosby-road, Forest Gate, London, E.

"THE CATCH OF THE SEASON."
First-class Co., Full Chorus.
WANTED, Theatres, for Jan. 4, Jan. 25.
Wire, WRAY, Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 18, 25 (Midlands).
HORACE STANLEY,
To-day, Ipswich;
Next, AQUARIUM, YARMOUTH (Third Visit).

WANTED, Known, "Was She to Blame?" by Mrs F. G. Kimberley. Grand Production at the Junction, Manchester, Easter; all Holiday Dates booked up to Whit, 1910; no vacant dates in 1909. Write for 1910 to KIMBERLEY, GREEN and HILTON, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
WANTED, Feb. 1, Aug. 9 and 30.
Address, R. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

THEATRES WANTED.

Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."

Fast Booking Up 1909.

WANTED, Good Theatre, August Bank Holiday, 1909.

Wanted, Sept. 27.

Wanted, Nov. 1 and 8, 1909.

Managers wanting a good- well-managed Production,
apply, Miss HILDA BEVERLEY,
"A Girl's Cross Roads" Co., T. R., Barry Dock.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell,
WANTED, Theatres.—Only vacant dates for either play: Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18, Feb. 1 and 8, March 29, April 5, May 10 and 24.
Coms. to GEORGE KIRK,
Osborne T., Manchester.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED Wanted, Theatres
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 1.
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, April 19, 26.
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING."
Vacant Feb. 8, 15.
"THE GIRL I LOVE."
Vacant Various Spring Dates.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

S. RENNEF and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, Xmas week, for "Love Rules the World," Jan. 11, 25, onward.

"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN,"
Xmas week (near London), Jan. 11, 25.
Several Spring, Summer, and Autumn Dates.
G. M. COPPING, Prince's Theatre, Blackburn.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, May 17, 24, follow Portsmouth.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Enormous Success everywhere.
Bookings include: Star, Liverpool; Stratford, Cardiff, Pontypridd, Swansea, Burnley, The Broadhead Theatres, Sunderland, Byker, Gateshead, Shields, Methil, Dundee, and The Alex., Hull, &c., &c.
Vacant Dec. 28 (?), Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 1, March 1, 8, 15, May 10, Aug. 2.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," Touring 1909.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE," Touring 1909.
Wires, O. H., Kidderminster.
Letters, T. R., Cardiff.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Easter (Only 1909 Holiday Date Vacant. FRED BULMER, Dalston Theatre, N.E.

WANTED, "Under Two Flags," Jan. 18, Feb. 22, March 1, 22, 29. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, London, N.W.

WANTED, "At Cripple Creek," Feb. 22, May 17, 24, 31. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, London, N.W.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
FRANK M. THORNE, P.O.W. Theatre, Nuneaton.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
Third Year of Consecutive Tour. Third.
WANTED, Jan. 11 and 18, Feb. 1 (?),
Sumptuously Staged,
Beautifully Dressed, and Played by a Sound All-round Cast.
Wire, E. A'DELL, T. R., Leicester (Third Visit).

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8, 22.
An Enormous Success Everywhere.
Miss Annie Bell as Flare-Flare.
Wire, JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY
in the Enormously Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL," by W. T. Gliddon.
WANTED, Good Dates, Dec. 21 (to follow Shakespeare, Clapham), Dec. 28, onwards.
All communications re dates,
J. J. STANFORD, 1, Sidney-road, Stockwell, S.W.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Christmas, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 15, May 17, 24, 31, onwards, for the above Attraction. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Royalty Theatre, Llanelly.

A Remarkable New Drama.
"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL,"
by
Lesser Columbus.
To be Produced at the Pavilion Theatre, London, on Feb. 1, 1909.

The Entire London Production Toured.

A Clear Stage only required.

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
For dates apply to
EDWARD KING, Pavilion Theatre, E.

MR. AND MRS. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
WANTED, Jan. 18 (?), Feb. 1, 8, 15.
T. R., Blyth;
Next, T. R., West Stanley.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and B. Hill-Mitchelson.
Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Leon Darville.
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Jan. 11 and 25,
Wire,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, R. T., Morecambe.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, for "The Cingalee," from Daly's Theatre. Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, Th., Aldershot; next, West Bromwich.

MR. R. H. KNIGHT'S CO.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
The New Spectacular Play. A Solid Success.
WANTED, Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 8, 15, 22, March dates, May 24, 31, and Summer.
Thanks to many Managers for Dates.
R. H. KNIGHT, 7, The Crescent, Barnes.

WANTED, Known, "Battle of the Belles," "Married for Revenge," vacant Dec. 7, 14, 21. FRED MOULE, 153, Capworth-street, Leyton.

WANTED, Mark Blow's Latest Success, "At Roaring Camp," Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 1, 22, 29. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, London.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, Theatres, for First-class Pantomimes, "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST,"
"BABES IN THE WOOD,"
"ALADDIN."
Vacant Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 8, onwards.
Address, FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.

"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."
WANTED, good Theatres, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, for this Great Success.
HENRY L. OSMOND, West London T., N.W.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c.
The Directors of the Leas Pavilion, Folkestone, have re-engaged them for seventeen weeks next summer. Their returns showed another 40 per cent. advance over their previous season, which was 50 per cent. over any preceding year.
Only Vacancies Next Summer;
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onward.
Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON,
23, Brockman-road, Folkestone.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE OLD, OLD STORY."
WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 4. EDWARD DURRY, to-day, Century T., Motherwell; next, T. R., Waterhouses.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN," by Walter Howard.
WANTED, owing to extension of Tour, good Theatres, Jan. 11, 18, and various on.
ELLEN SNOW, T. R., Castleford.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL,"
by
Lesser Columbus.
WANTED, complete Company, for Production of the above new Drama, in London, on Feb. 1.
Apply by letter, enclosing photographs and latest references, to EDWARD KING, Pavilion Theatre, E.

WANTED, Leading Gentleman, Little Child (look ten), rehearse Dec. 17, for Tour. State terms, height, references, MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, London.

"DRUMMED OUT."
WANTED, for Tour, early in January, Juvenile Gent (one accustomed to Military parts) and Juvenile Lady. A. C. LILLY (letters only), Loughborg' Hotel, Loughboro'-road, S.W.

WANTED, for "A Cigarette Maker's Romance," Fit-up Tour, Robust Leading Gent., about 5ft. 10in., for Dumnoff; Light Comedy Lady, for Anna; and Heavy Lady (robust), for Akulina; also Pianist. Rehearse Dec. 21. Age, heights, photos., and refs. (first instance), to MANAGER, 9, Netherford-road, Clapham, London, S.W.

WANTED, Artists, played "Never Too Late to Mend," four nights, Cheltenham, 14th; rehearse London. Call, WEATHERBY'S Agency, 3, Bedford-street, W.C.

WANTED, Sketch Artists of all kinds, First-class Juvenile Lead for "Claude Duval" (to ride), Lady, petite (to dance Minuet), long Tour. Letters only, full particulars, GINNETT, 143, Kennington-road, S.E.

"THE EYES OF THE WORLD."
WANTED, Heavy Lady, immediately. Apply, Monday and Tuesday evening.
ETHEL VAN PRAAGH, Lyric, Hammersmith.

WANTED, Tall Lady, Heavy Lead, open Xmas. State terms, height, references, MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmund's-terrace, Regent's Park, London.

WANTED, Juvenile Lady, one week trial. Sketch, London, small part; must be good actress. State lowest terms, height, &c., Box 5,238, "The Era."

WANTED, for Special two weeks, Dec. 21, 28, Lady Strong Declamatory Actress. Photos., refs., height, &c., HARRY CALVER, Palace, Walthamstow. Letters only.

"THE FATAL WEDDING" TOUR.
WANTED, a Good Heavy Man, for Curtis, and a Character Lady, for Bridget, the Irish Cook. State last engagement, height, and lowest terms. Apply to PERCY WILLIAMS, Brixton Theatre, S.W. Interviews by appointment only.

"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE" CO.
WANTED, to rehearse, next Tuesday, Tall Actor, for King, and double, combine A.S.M. Photos and all particulars to GEO. A. DE GRAY, Queen's, Liverpool; next, Prince's T., Preston.

WANTED, "An Abandoned Woman" Co., Robust Juvenile Gentleman, rehearse immediately. Lowest terms, references, and photo. (imperative). WM. FRASER-BRUNNER, T. R., Edmonton, N.

WANTED, a Juvenile Gentleman. Photo., age, height, references, and lowest terms, CHARLES HARRINGTON, Theatre Royal, York.

WANTED, Character Actor, Capable of Comedy and Strong Pathos, short and slim; also Good Responsible Lady. Applicants please state age, exact height, and lowest terms. Address, enclosing recent photo., STEPHEN PRITT, Theatre Royal, Preston.

MR. HARRY BENET'S "SERGEANT BRUE" CO.
WANTED, Tenor and Bass (not Baritone) Choristers, rehearse immediately, musical comedy experience essential. Replies (full particulars and photo. first letter), to Manager, Mr. WILFRED MARSHALL, Opera House, Dudley.

WANTED, Bass Tenor Choristers, capable of Lines; also some fine Attractive Ladies. Apply after Saturday, VALENTINE, 8, Dean-street, Soho.

WANTED, Three First-class Artists (Bass, Tenor, and Soprano), for Concert, Edinburgh, Feb. 27. Terms, singly or in party, by the 10th inst, to W. ADAMSON, 13, Earlston-place, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Known, Lady and Gentleman can be received as Pupils, with recognised and established Company of years' standing. HORTON, T. R., Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, the New Frances Club, 425, Strand, W.C., for Ladies. Subscription yearly £1 1s.; or paid weekly, 6d. No entrance fee. Temporary membership, and use of room for interviews. Rehearsals, &c., by arrangement. Use of cosy sitting-room, piano, circulating library, theatrical papers, and address. Dining-rooms, exceptional tariff. Entrance in Harvey's bldgs.

WANTED Wanted, Known,
THE GRENFELL CLUB,
FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
23 Bedford-street, Strand.
Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
Residential Terms, Ladies only.
from 18s. 6d. inclusive.

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PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, to complete Pantomime Casts, First-class Principal Boy, Principal Girl, Baron, Dame, Dancers, and good Bass or Baritone Vocalist, also producer for "Aladdin."
Former applicants write. Address,
FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
N.B.—Mark envelopes "Panto."

WANTED, for Special Two Weeks, Christmas,
Clown, Pantaloon,
Columbine, Harlequin,
or
Acrobatic Troupe,
to Play Comic Scene.
Terms must be low.
MACLEAN'S AGENCY,
36-40 Wigmore-street, W.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies, for Pantomime; not less than 5ft. 3in. in height. References, photos., and particulars, to E. DOTTRIDGE Empire Theatre, Oldham.

WANTED, Top Tenor, Tenor, Baritone, immediately, Panto. Send full particulars, salary, height, age. CANTO, Sir John Falstaff, Catherine-street, W.C.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Crissie Cross, smart Singer and Dandy Dancer at Liberty for Panto. Address, C/o Mrs. Rolf, 76, York-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, at Liberty for Panto., Principal Boy. Offers invited. Wire or write, 39, Gateley-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Miss Louie Hurman, at Liberty for Panto., Principal Boy, last year Alex., Sheffield. Permanent, 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Lesta Lowe, Disengaged for Panto., Principal Girl. An Actress, a Vocalist, and a Dancer. Good offers invited. Maes-y-Colyn, Cefn, Merthyr.

WANTED, Known, Edna Cragge, an Ideal Principal Boy; an Artist, Vocalist, and Dancer. Last year, Robin Hood, Carlton T., Birmingham. 1a, Arisford-road, Clapham, S.W.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Panto., Second Boy and Girl, by Sisters Bronson, Duettists and Dancers. This, County T., Kingston-on-Thames; per., 94, Gower-street, W.C.

WANTED, Known, Jack Foley, at Liberty for Panto., Dame or P. Comedy.
Perm., 7, Canonbury-avenue, Highbury, London, N.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Harris, Disengaged for Panto., Animal Parts and Star Traps.
Address, Empire, Swansea.

WANTED, Known, George Battle, Actor-Vocalist, at Lib. for Panto.
Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Known, Jack Heath, Comedian, Liberty for Pantomime, Dame or Comedian, and Stage-Management. This week, Sadler's Wells; next, Alhambra, Brighton.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Nash and Noel. This, Empire, Bristol;
next, 36, Forest-road, Kingsland, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Knockabout Cyclists and Football Match on Bicycles. Vac. Panto., Animal Parts, and Spec. 37, Romford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, La Belle Fatima (the Oriental Lion Queen), and her Full-grown Lions, in a Thrilling, Daring, and Exciting Performance, are at Liberty for Panto. Just finished Circo Teatro, Mexico. Add., CAP. D'ARTA, Black Lion Hotel, Chapel-street, Salford. (See Wanted Column.)

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SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, Scenic Artist for a few weeks. Send lowest terms and references to R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, twelve Scenic Artists, at once, quick workers only. Apply by letter to F. E. BODEN, 46, Prince's-square, Kennington. Swift communicate.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

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WANTED, Contracts for every description of Scenery, Pantomime, Stock, &c.
SCENIC STUDIO, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, by Philip Small, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract; Town or Provinces. Address, 26, Elgin-terrace, Maida Vale, London.

WANTED, Contracts for Special Scenery, K. J. McLennan, Prince of Wales Theatre, Birmingham; or can arrange as Resident Scenic Artist.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
W. BERNASCONI, Scenic Artist,
53, St. James's-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Scenic Artist, abstainer, Engagement in Provinces. Best refs., and good all-round worker. Terms, £2 per week. Address, Box 5,220, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Fred Stafford, Scenic Artist. Highest references and best work. 24, Shearer-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, by Alfred Ford, Scenic Artist, Engagement or Contract, town or provinces. Address, Dalston Theatre, N.E.

MISCELLANEOUS.

THE TIVOLI, SOUTH SHIELDS.
Proprietor, Coun. J. K. HALL.
WANTED, a First-class Man to Act as Assistant-Manager; must be well up in Pictures and Vaudeville; good hustler and billing expert. Lecturer and effect worker will have preference. State salary required, and fullest particulars. Only reliable, well recommended men, full of activity, need apply.

WANTED, a good Advertising and Assistant-Manager, for Dumfries. Send full particulars to WILLIAMS and WARD, Hippodrome, Dumfries, N.B.

WANTED, First-class Agent, to handle La Belle Fatima's Lion Act. Particulars address, CAP. D'ASTA, Black Lion Hotel, Chapel-street, Salford. See Panto. Advt.

WANTED, Smart Canvassers, Used to Curtain and Programme Work, for somewhat similar business; must be of good appearance and address, excellent shop to capable people, others useless. MIDLAND COUNTIES PUBLICITY CO., 48, Stockwellgate, Mansfield.

WANTED, Mechanical Thorough Electrician, can work at bench, make or repair mechanical models, transform 1d. for 2d. slots; must understand all kinds Automatic Machines. With references. Inexperienced save time. Fun Fair, 213, High-street, Camden Town.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Colchester, Resident Stage Carpenter. State age, references, and salary required. MACDONA.

WANTED, for Panto., Carpenters and Baggage Men; also Carpenter for Drama. Particulars, refs., &c., to FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool. Mark Letters "Baggage."

WANTED, 12 good High Window-billers, not afraid of work, for the C. W. Poole's Myriorama, Christmas Season, to commence about Dec. 16, at the Albert Hall, Sheffield. Apply, with full particulars, to CHARLES B. HERMAN, Advance Manager, Victoria Hall, Kettering.

CHAS. W. POOLE'S MYRIORAMA.
WANTED, First-class Smart Window Billers, for Edinburgh, six weeks, from Dec. 14. Workers. ROBERT TERRITT, Opera H., Workington.

WANTED, a respectable man that understands Bicycle Repairs and to act as Baggageman, to travel England and Continent; must be abstainer. Communicate to 193, Brixton-hill, London.

WANTED, Wardrobe Mistress. Lowest terms, last two references,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Re-engagement, as Acting-Manager, Music Hall or Theatre; thoroughly experienced both; young, smart, energetic. Offers invited for Touring; Society guarantee; highly recommended. HARRY PEARS, 25a, Queen-street, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Engagement, as Assist. Acting-Manager, Music Hall or Theatre; experienced both; good references; smart appearance. Box 5,216, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, at Liberty, smart experienced Variety Stage and General Manager, could combine both. L., 13 N. Gladstone-street, Abertillery.

WANTED, Known, First-class Acting-Manager Disengaged, Dramatic, Variety, and Pictures, Resident or Tour; excellent refs.; join immediately. STILLWELL, 47, Crowndale-road, Camden Town, N.W.

WANTED, Management, by Young Gentleman, shortly terminating similar position at the Free Trade Hall, Manchester; excellent references and security; thoroughly understands business, also advertising. Only genuine offer accepted. Wire or write, McCANN, Free Trade Hall, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Fred Lewis, Advance Agent, America, Great Britain, and Ireland; Disengaged. Permanent, STITT'S, 20, Great George's-st., Belfast.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Advance Agent, Dec. 14. Fit-up or Theatre, been with Pictures years. Address, AGENT, 26, Thornton-street, Hertford.

WANTED, by Bill-poster, responsible position, thoroughly experienced in office and works; competent to take control. T., 5, Thirsk-road, Mitcham, Surrey.

WANTED, Known, Amy Samwells, First-class Wardrobe Mistress, Costumier, good at renovating, Disengaged through disappointment. 8a, Electric-avenue, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Known, Gentleman will give Premium for a suitable post on Theatrical Staff. Excellent references. Further particulars from C. R. KNIGHT,
35, Herongate-road, South Wanstead, Essex.

WANTED, Known, Premium offered for position in Music Hall or Theatre. Advertiser is tall, good appearance, can wear evening dress. R. G., 35, Heygate-street, London, S.E.

WANTED, Evening Employment, by Lady; permanent, would give bonus. Good references. MILLS, c/o Fancourt, 48, Victoria-rd., Chalk Farm.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Conductor, Cornet Player, to open on Dec. 14, and Instrumentalists in other lines. Apply, with terms and reference, to R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Conductors (Military and Orchestral) desirous of Engagements during 1909 Season with Shanly's Bands, to write, giving full particulars of qualifications, copy of testimonials, vacant dates library, and salary required, to M. W. SHANLY, 33, King Henry's-road, South Hampstead, N.W.

ANDREWS' PICTORIAL ENTERPRISES.
WANTED, to Open, Dec. 7, First-class Pianist-Conductor, to take charge of Five-handed Orchestra; bâton holder need not apply. Must be able to arrange and compose, and give complete change of music weekly. Long, comfortable, and resident Engagement to suitable man. Lowest terms, full particulars, first letter, to ANDREWS, Temperance Hall, Northampton.

WANTED, Musical-Director, to play Violin, to open Monday, Dec. 14; experienced in Varieties, twice nightly; good Répertoire of Music. References and lowest terms, T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED, First-class Conductor-Pianist, for Panto. Terms, &c.,
EDITH ST. CLARE, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, First-class Conductor, for Panto mime. Lowest terms, refs., &c., to FRED GRANVILLE, Queen's Theatre, Liverpool. N.B.—Mark letters "Conductor."

NEW HIPPODROME, LEIGH, LANCS.
WANTED, at once, Piano-Conductor, Leader, Bass, and Brass.
Apply, WILLIAM BENSON, Managing-Director.

WANTED, four First Violins, for Pantomime, to open at once. Apply, through Branch Secretary, to Glasgow Branch Secretary.
Wanted, Répétiteur, for Hippodrome, Wigan. Apply to General Sec., through Branch Secretaries.
Wanted, 'Cello, for Hippodrome, Wigan.
Apply to General Secretary, as above.
Wanted, Two Horn Players, for Manchester Variety House; permanency. Apply to Gen. Sec., A.M.U.
Wanted, 'Cello, for permanency. Apply, through Branch Secretaries, to Glasgow B.S.
Wanted, Good Leader, for Empire, Bristol. Apply through Branch Secretaries, to Bristol Branch Sec.
Wanted, good Bass Player, for Court Theatre, Wigan, to open Dec. 14. Application through Branch Secretaries, to General Secretary.
Wanted, Good Leader, for Palace Theatre, Warrington. Apply to WIDDOP, Mus. Dir., through Branch Secretary.
Wanted, First Violin, for King's Theatre, Edinburgh, to open Dec. 14. Apply through Branch Secretary to Mus. Dir.
Wanted, 'Cello, for King's Theatre, Edinburgh. Apply as above, Mus. Dir.
Terms and conditions of above Engagements sent to all Branch Secretaries through Disengaged List.

THEATRE ROYAL, DARLINGTON.
WANTED, to Open Monday,
First-class Leader, Cornet, Drums,
Flute, Clarionet, and Double Bass;
must be thoroughly experienced,
and used to Dramatic and Operatic Work.

State last refs and absolute lowest salary,
to save time, to
JAMES BELL.

WANTED, thoroughly experienced First Violin Leader (lady), for permanency; good appearance. Box 5,233, "The Era."

JOHN HENRY COOKE'S
ROYAL CIRCUS, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First Violin, to take Second when required; also good Cornet; both to open Dec. 14. Lowest terms must be stated. Also two written references (copies). HARRY WAMBA, Director.

WANTED, Lady Violinist, to join First-class English Ladies' Orchestra; must be young, and of good appearance. State lowest weekly terms (all found). Orchestra plays from Jan. 1 to June 1 in first-class establishment in Stockholm. Join end of December. Apply, A. KNOWLES, 219, Portland-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

PERTH THEATRE, N.B.
WANTED, Good First Violin and Flute; must be steady and reliable; open Dec. 28 (ten weeks certain). Apply, terms and refs., to MUS.-DIR.

C. W. POOLE'S NO. 1 MYRIORAMA.
(Manager, JOHN R. POOLE.)
WANTED, Solo Cornet, Dec. 14, to wear evening dress, and assist with fittings when travelling. Apply, A. S. MORRELL, Mus.-Dir., Poole's Myriorama, Kettering.

WANTED, a Good First Clarionet Player, as an Attendant in a County Asylum; salary commencing £34, increasing to £48, all found; extra pay if promoted; must be single. Apply, with testimonials, W. GRAINGER, Co. Asylum, Stafford.

WANTED, for P. Staff, Worcester Regiment, reliable Solo Clarionet Player. Testimonials to J. KNIGHT, Bandmaster, Worcester Regiment, Norton Barracks, Worcester.

W. HAMILTON'S EXCURSIONS.
WANTED commencing Dec. 28, at Dundee, First-class Trombone, Double Bass, and Drums, with all Effects. Lowest terms and references. Address, Cambridge Hall, Southport.

ROYAL COURT THEATRE, LIVERPOOL.
Managing-Director, Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR.
WANTED, competent Violoncello Player, to commence on or about Dec. 17, 1908. Apply, with references, to J. O. SHEPHERD, Musical-Director. No stamps. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, 'Cello, open Dec. 26. Rehearsal 3 days previous. Forward references, age, and terms to A. M. LOADER, Opera House, St. Helens.

WANTED, experienced Dramatic Pianist, able to arrange Long Tour; open immediately. Particulars and terms, J. B. CARRICKFORD, Town Hall, Maryborough, Ireland.

WANTED, Pianist, for Christmas week. State terms, &c.
DAWES, 21, Porchester-gars., Bayswater, London, W.

WANTED, at once, Double Drummer, own effects. State age, references, and lowest terms to J. H. OAKDEN, Lyceum Theatre, Govan, Glasgow.

WANTED, Teacher for Mandoline and Violin Classes. State experience and salary required. 2, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

CO. ASYLUM, WHITTINGHAM, PRESTON.
WANTED, Musician Attendants, First Violin and Viola, not over 35 years of age, and single, must be competent players. Wages commencing at £33 per annum, increasing to £38 in the first year, then by annual instalment up to £45, and according to promotion, to £60 and £65, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform.
Apply to THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

COUNTY OF LONDON.

BANDS IN PARKS.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
The London County Council invites tenders from Military and Brass Bands, whose headquarters are in the County of London, for performances to be given at Parks and Open Spaces under its control during the Band Season of 1909 (May to Sept.).
Tenders must be upon the official forms, which, together with full particulars of the Council's requirements, are to be obtained from the Chief Officer, Parks Department, 11, Regent-street, S.W. No tender received after 11 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 21, 1908, will be considered.
Any tender which does not comply with the printed instructions may be rejected. The Council does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

G. L. GOMME,
Clerk of the London County Council.
County Hall
Spring Gardens, S.W.
Dec. 2, 1908.

WANTED, First-class Small Orchestra, for Restaurant; in uniform, foreign; two Violins, 'Cello, and Piano. Must be experienced Artists. Provincial town. From Dec. 15.
Reply by letter,
Box 37, Bates Hendy, 81, Cannon-street, E.C.

WANTED, Lady and Gentlemen Instrumentalists for Dumfries, six hours daily, for four weeks, to commence about Dec. 26. Lowest terms, &c., to MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Hippodrome, Dumfries.

WANTED, Instrumentalists, for Theatre Orchestra of ten, Dec. 26 to Jan. 2, Shakespearean Co., one rehearsal. Terms, BELLERBY, Denecholme, Ilkley.

WANTED, two good Cornets, Saxhorn, Euphonium, Bombardon, business pitching, terms shares; permanency good men; good prospects. BANDMASTER, 42, Laburnum-road, Wimbledon.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept.,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Engagement, by Michael Connelly, Musical Director (Violin), large and valuable library. Pantomimes, Dramas, &c., composed and arranged. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Engagement, Dec. 14, Sydney Grahame, Conductor and Pianist, London Cinématograph and Vaudeville Co., Free Trade Hall, Manchester (eighth week).

WANTED, Engagement, W. H. Brinkworth, Musical-Director, Palace Theatre, Ramsgate. Piano, Violin. Pantomimes composed, arranged. 7, Pretoria-mansions, Elderfield-road, Clapton.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director, any Bus.; late Barrasford and Edwards' Tour; 10 years' experience. GEO. ROBERTSHAW, 30, West-street, Penkhull, Stoke-on-Trent.

WANTED, immediate Re-engagement as Leader or First Violin, Theatres, Restaurants; London suburbs. OSCAR CREMER, 10, Caithness-road, Mitcham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, Leader or First Violin; experienced Dramatic and Variety Business. Address, PERRIS, 88, Hatcham Park-road, New Cross, London, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement by Leader, good Violinist and experienced in Variety business, &c., at Liberty Monday. Wire, VIOLINIST, 11, Gilpin-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Leader or Conductor, through termination of Season, Ilfracombe, Victoria Pavilion; highest references. Address, LEADER, 7, Northernay-square, Exeter.

WANTED, Engagement, by Second Violin; only moderate wage desired.
Box 5,213, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Violin or Viola; any business; young, steady, and reliable; first-class references. Box 5,214, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Second Violin.
C. DAVENPORT,
2, Gardner's-square, Bengeworth, Evesham, Worc

WANTED, Engagement, as Violin or Viola.
H. S. KIRKMAN,
64, Lauderdale-street, Preston.

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Cornet; First-class Experience; grand Concert Work and Theatres; good Transposer. Highest reference. Box 5,221, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Solo Cornet, Music Hall or Theatre preferred; well up in either; Liberty; good references. D. RUTHERFORD, 14, Huntley-street, Aberdeen.

WANTED, by Cornet, Re-engagement; just finished Tenting. Apply, TURNIDGE, 50, Cotton-street, Poplar, London, E.

WANTED, by Cornet, First or Second, Engagement; experienced any business; good references. Box 5,206, "The Era."

WANTED, by Cornet, Engagement; A.M.U.; 5 years late of Palace, Bristol. WILL WIGHLSWORTH, 6, Salem-place, Bath-road, Exeter.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Clarionettist, thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres and Varieties; steady, reliable. PROFESSIONAL, 17, Cyril-avenue, Bobbers-mill, Nottingham.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet (Known) requires Engagement, Theatre or Variety, Concert, Dances, &c.; would deputise; thoroughly experienced, strictly sober. Box 5,226, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Bass, through termination of Season at Windermere; highest refs. Address, BERTHOL, 7, Northernhay-square, Exeter.

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoon, Pantomime, Variety, or any other business. Excel. refs. Address, Box 5,173, "The Era."

WANTED, by First-class Trombone, Engagement, any business, 5½ years last situation. SANDY, c/o Bloomfield, 12, McKirrell-street, Paisley, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Trombonist, at Liberty, London or near.
T. R., 83, Northcote-avenue, Southall.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Trombone Player, combine Euphonium if required; experienced Concert, Dramatic, Variety. W. R. PENN, 25, Hazelwood-road, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Engagement, String Bass, any District; used to Variety; or would deput. in London. J. REEVES, 9, Melling-st., Plumstead, Kent.

WANTED, Engagement, permanency, First Horn, 6 years' experience in Orchestral work, commence at once. Write, FRENCH HORN, 86, Richmond-road, Dalston, N.E.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, French Horn, at Liberty, desires Engagement Panto. or permanent Theatre, Concert, Orchestra, or Military Band, London or Provinces, reliable man, with first-class testimonials. MUSICIAN, 70, Meanley-road, Manor Park, London.

WANTED, Known, reliable Tuba, Contra Bass, or Second Violin, Disengaged, any business; experienced. CROAKE, 30, Skeffington-road, East Ham, Essex.

WANTED, by Oboe, Flute, and Piccolo, age 21, excellent musician, little experience, job, any capacity. Low salary to gain experience. 13, Baythorne-street, Burdett-road, Bow, E.

WANTED, Engagement as Oboe or String Bass, any business; experienced.
J. CRABTREE, 7, Manchester-road, Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Orchestral and Solo Harpist, combine Piano; experienced, reliable, Panto., Café, Tour abroad; age 33, single. HARPIST, Surrey Theatre, Blackfriars, S.E.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, any Business; excellent references; sober and reliable. FLAUTIST, 9, Woodford-terrace, Pavilion-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Engagement, by Flute and Piccolo; used Varieties and Theatre. Refs. Sal. mod. for perm. SMYTH, 4, Cambridge-street, Camberwell, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Orchestral Pianist, thoroughly experienced in Variety and Dramatic business. Miss LIZZIE SPEARING (Cert. R.A.M.). Denmark Lodge, Alexandra-road, Wimbledon.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianist, good reader, can sing. Accept anything reasonable. L. H. P., 82, Holland-st., Holderness-road, Hull.

WANTED, by Lady Pianist, Re-engagement; good experience, orch., dances, &c.
H., 26, Birchurst-road, Wandsworth, S.W.

WANTED, by Pianist, Engagement; thoroughly experienced in Variety and Dramatic Business. L. MAJOR HORNSBY, 9, Temperance-terrace, Ushaw Moor, Durham.

WANTED, Engagement, Brilliant Pianist, Variety Bus., Pictures, Dance Bus.; quick reader; good appearance; London preferred. WILL LEONARD, 140, Gassiott-road, Tooting, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Double Drummer, Xylophone Virtuoso, 30 solos, Brilliant Tympanist, Glockenspiel; can open at once; evening dress. Address, G. PAUL, 2, Woodstreet, Oxford.

WANTED, Engagement, as Drums and Effects, Theatre or Variety.
NEVILL, 163, St. Leonards-road, Windsor.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums, any Business. Address, A. EASOM, 16, Stonebridge-road, South Tottenham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, by Drummer and Tympanist; Hall or Theatre; own Tymps., Drums, Glockenspiel, &c. WHITE, 125, Victoria-road, Aldershot.

WANTED, Known, Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra, Engaged for Winchester, Bath, and Olympia. A few Artists wanted. Old friends accepted first. POPPY ORCHESTRA, Brighton.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, Madame H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, vacant Dec.
Open to accept Six Months' Tour. Small Band. Address, 33, Arodene-road, Brixton Hill, S.W.
Please note change of address.

WANTED, Known, Algernon Clarke's Orchestras and Ladies' Bands, Exhibitions, Concerts, Dinners, Dances. Uniforms and Music for Sale or Hire. 28, Lonsdale-road, Barnes. Telephone 109 Putney.

WANTED, Engagements, by Madame Oliver's Red Bohemian Ladies' Orchestra. No duffers. Any numbers. Apply, Ashmoor, Leigh-on-Sea.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

YARMOUTH AND LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.
WANTED, Dec. 21, onward, Big Specialities and Useful Acts of every Description for Ring and Stage.
Apply, with lowest terms,
GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
Victoria Hall, Exeter.
Morander and Darius and Janowskys communicate immediately.

WANTED, to commence Saturday, Dec. 26, two or three useful Circus Boys that can vault a little (those doing a principal turn preferred); also a smart young Pony Groom.
Address,
BOSWELL'S Farm, Oadby, Leicester.

WANTED, a Trampoline Tumbler, or one that can Tumble a little, and willing to learn Tricks, &c. Box 5,227, "The Era."

WANTED, a smart Young Man, with knowledge of Tumbling, for Comedy Act. Age, height, tricks, &c. Box 5,228, "The Era."

WANTED, immediately, Thrower and Catcher, for well-known Acrobatic Troupe. Weight and particulars to ARTHUR WIMPENNY, 119, Silver-street, Edmonton.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the Greatest Circus Act in the World is at Liberty Christmas,
The Three Royal Ohmys,
Favourite Riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, now appearing to crowded houses at Gilbert's Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth, where they have proved that this is the greatest Act ever seen in a Circus Ring.
The Royal Ohmys are at Liberty for a few weeks from Christmas. Address,
THE ROYAL OHMYS, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, the Original Clown Bimbo, with Comic and Trick Entrées, also High Stilt Performer. Still a Big Success Nightly at Cirque Medrano, Paris. At Liberty Jan. 4. Permanent address, 177, Pershore-road, Selly Park, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, shortly be Disengaged, the Great Little Valdo, the Famous Inimitable Clown and Comedian, with his numerous Original Interludes. Concluding 1½ years with enormous success throughout the Kingdom, as Peter the Woodman, in Ginnett's "St. George and Dragon." Perm. address, 46, Rodion-road, Balham, London.

WANTED, Known, Lazello, "The Flying Man." Backward, forward, and twisting Somersaults, to Catch in Mid-air; absolutely Greatest Aerial Attraction; Lib. Dec. 26. Richmond-place, St. Mark's-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Etherdo, Pugh, and Olrac, Great Aerial Trapeze Act. Free Xmas. Address, COOKE'S Cirque, Edinburgh.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, these Concerts ceased Oct. 31, 1908. Artists please note, and cancel dates
WM. BIGGAM, Sec., 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. MASCARD, Manager.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

270 Replies.
WANTED, Wanted, Known, Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
ALFRED BALL.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Acts with Drawing Powers (Nothing too Big), Nov. 30, onwards. CLAGGERS, Gaiety, Blyth.

"SOVEREIGN" PICTURE CO.
WANTED, Variety Artists, Ballad Vocalists, Dancers, Serios, Illustrated Songs, Vocalists, any good Act suitable for Pictures. State lowest terms, with full particulars, saying when last working in Leigh, to J. FRANK WALKER, Ivy Glen, The Avenue, Leigh.

WANTED, Star Variety Artists, Immediate and Future Dates.
Bookings and lowest terms in first letter,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9261.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Lines, Big Tops, share or salary, Monday, onward. MANAGER, Hippodrome, Gainsborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Dec. 14, 21, 28, onwards, good Comedy Acts, Knockabouts, Dancers, and Novelties. Address, MANAGER, Picturedrome, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, Monday, Dec. 14, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Dec. 7, and onwards, for Hippodrome, Dumfries; must be good and cheap. KEYFORD, Hippodrome, Dumfries, N.B.

BARNARD'S AGENCY.
Shaw-street, Liverpool. 'Phone 2349 Royal.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, also for Pantomimes. Can always book Talent.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Big Attractions,
for all Dates, Dec., Jan.,
for North and Midlands.
Notice.
My name is not Dreamer, but Worker.
Clients please keep me posted; important.
CLIQUOT, 46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 11 and 18. When replying, please mark "Variety." W. YATES GREGORY, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury.

PALACE, DERBY;
PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD;
HIPPODROME, STOKE;
GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for Present and Future Dates. Combinations with real Drawing Star Tops, or First-class Pantomimes Playing Twice Nightly can be entertained for a few dates in January, February, and March. Full particulars in first instance to T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, Artists of every Description. Nothing too Big. Star Acts, share or salary, Jan. 4, onwards; two or three suitable turns for pictures, Dec. 21. Full particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and Future Dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, Double Turns, Sketches, doing Singles, two weeks, Dec. 14, 21, 28, Jan. 4. CHARLES A. JAMES, Waxworks and Varieties, Dublin.

NEW EMPIRE, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
WANTED, Artists, Tops and Bottoms, Double Turns doing Singles, Dec. 21, and onwards. Mention when last in locality. Nothing too big. Apply, A. C. MOODY, Manager. Letters must be endorsed "Variety."

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now, onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Artists in every Line, big and small. Artists coming North will do well to write me for immediate and later dates.

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines,
Good Acts known to me please send full list of Bookings (including Engagements played throughout 1908), must have list of Bookings, or useless writing.
Kindly remember I know your real market value, so no "tricks on travellers," but actual lowest London and Provincial terms in each instance.
Good Novel Acts not known to me state when and where can be seen.
No Acts submitted unless seen and approved.
Silence a polite negative pro tem.
Permanent address,
38, Crasster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
Week commencing Dec. 7, address,
c/o Godbold, 27, St. Nicholas-street, Ipswich.
"He who travels most, sees most."

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, working South Wales. State absolute lowest direct, and where Act can be seen, from Dec. 21, onwards. Apply, ISRAEL PRICE, Temperance Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, Refined Drawing-room Artists, in every Line. Remember fullest particulars and lowest terms, to save time, stamps, and correspondence. Address, Box 5,235, "The Era."

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, Dec. 14, 21, and three following nights,
also 28th, near London.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

SPENNYMOOR HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Artists, of all Descriptions, for Dec. 14, and on.
Address, C. ALGIE, c/o Brown,
132, Mains-street, off Sauchiehall-street, Glasgow.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines,
Wanted, Artists in all Lines,
Dec. 7, 14, 21, 28, and on.
Turns new to
GUERNSEY,
JERSEY,
DOVER,
SANDGATE,
CHATHAM,
SHEERNESS,
DERBY,
MANCHESTER,
GAINSBOROUGH,
STOKE,
PONTEFRACT,
ATTERCLIFFE, and
LONDON,
Please send Bookings and Lowest Terms.
14, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.
Can only be seen by appointment.
Telephone, 15 Brixton.

EXETER, PETERBORO', AND MAIDSTONE.
WANTED, Artists, for the above.
TOM PACEY,
186, Brixton-road, London.
Telegrams "Pacey's, London." 'Phone, 87, Brixton.

MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.
BATTERSEA PALACE, S.W.
WANTED.—Aspirants desirous of doing Trial Shows at Monday Matinées, with a view to Bookings on the above Circuit, should communicate with the Manager, JAMES MCCARTHY, Communications by letter only.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, of Note.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY — I can book you Immediate Dates, and Dates onward. No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list and very lowest (this essential), and permanent addresses, also weekly apartments address.
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N.B.—State where never played.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Stars, Novelties, Specialities, and Variety Artists in all Lines,
for Dec. 14, onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, for Dec. 14, onwards, for Londonderry, Hawick, Dumfries, Loughborough, Long Eaton, Rugby, and other towns, Stars, Specialities, Artists in all Lines.
Address, DALY, Theatre Royal, Dumfries, N.B.

WANTED, Stars, also Funny Comedians. Send Bookings, &c. Present Clients keep me posted. KEEBLE'S Agency, Alexandra T., Pontefract.

EDGAR STEBBINGS, GALA AGENT.
WANTED, Big Speciality and Novelty Acts, Ground and Lofty Novelties, Aerial Acts, &c., Easter Monday, onwards. Terms, lithos., &c.
EDGAR STEBBINGS, The Gala King,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Dec. 21, and onwards, Musical Acts, Ventriloquist, Conjurer, Second Sight Acts, for Picture Entertainments. Photos., lithos., terms, vacancies, to GEORGE BURTON (of Sheffield), 4, Milton-road, Widnes.

WANTED, Acts and Novelties of every description, nothing too big. Send photos., lithos., Bookings, HENRY LESLIE, 23, King's-terrace, Southsea.

WANTED, for Dec. 14 and onward,
Star Acts in all Lines.
Star Acts in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S AGENCY, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

NEW LEIGH GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.
Grand Opening, Dec. 14, 1908.
WANTED, Star Specialities, all Lines, First-class, Dec. 14, and onwards. Quote absolute lowest terms, and where Act can be seen. Communications, WILLIAM BENSON, Man.-Dir., Hippodrome, Leigh.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, ALDERSHOT.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 1909, First-class Varieties, Novelties, and Specialities. Particulars and lowest terms to J. GLADWIN, Man. for Mr. Sounes.

WANTED, Sensations of all Kinds, for Merthyr Tydfil, and Welsh district, Dec. 21 onward. Nothing too big for this date, but must be of exceptional merit. Also acts of every kind for Spennymoor, Dec. 14, onward. This is a splendid break, coming from or going north. Forward bookings and lowest terms, MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only, STANNERS and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Dec. 14, Top and Bottom Liners, Speciality Acts. I can fix you. Lithos., full bookings, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

PIER PAVILION, TEIGNMOUTH, S. DEVON.
WANTED, the Best of Concert Parties, for Summer (1909) Season. A. A'DELL, Theatre Royal, Leicester.

WANTED, Doubles doing Singles, three Distinct Turns, Dramatic Sketch. Lowest (long tour), no shares. UNIVERSAL BUREAU, 50, George-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Double Comedians, Patterers, and Dancers, or good Knockabouts, Dec. 14, new to King's Lynn. DICE, 36, Trafalgar-road, Camberwell, London.

CAVALRY THEATRE AND OTHER HALLS.
WANTED, good Serios, Comedians, Doubles (doing Singles), for the above Halls; plenty of work for the right people. Terms must be low. Wire or write, HARRY SAUNDERS, Tintern Villa, Aldershot.

WANTED, Four Funny Comedians, for Small Parts in New Comedy Show. Send full particulars, and photos., per letter, to V. C. NEWMAN, 49, Binfield-road, Clapham, S.W.

WANTED, for Small Part, in Sketch, open Monday, special week, possibly fortnight, Smart Light Comedienne, evening frock indispensable; rehearse Saturday or Sunday; thoroughly experienced Artist only. Those near wire, DOUGHTY, 40, Belvedere-road, Burnley.

WANTED, two ladies, for Strong Dramatic Sketch. Apply, C. MARTIN, Hillsbro', London-road, Twickenham. Letters only.

WANTED, for Musical Scena, Character Comedian, with good Baritone Voice; also Robust Tenor (tall), rehearse Manchester next week. Fullest particulars and lowest terms, COLONIALS, 104, Lloyd-street, Greenheys, Manchester.

WANTED, immediately, several small Knockabouts; must be quick.
Box 5,232, "The Era."

WANTED, good Acrobat, to assist well-known Performer in Speciality, Panto. settled. Terms, &c., SAVAGE, 59, Trinity-st., West Bromwich.

WANTED, four Small Boys, strong voices; must be over 14.
Apply, 7, Camberwell-grove, S.E.

WANTED, immediately, two smart Lads, must Dance in Clogs, for Pantomimic Sketch. Call 19, Tunstall-road, Brixton.

WANTED, for New Act, Clever Boy Comedian, small; also Boy Soloist; smart little Soubrette write. Those in London preferred. JUVENILES, 55, Duncan-terrace, Islington, N.

WANTED, Clever Children, both sexes, Vocalists, Instrumentalists, Comedians, Soubrettes, refined, small. Letters only, W., 53, Nassington-road, Hampstead, London, N.W.

WANTED, for First-class Troupe, a respectable Young Girl, of good appearance, with a knowledge of Cycling, to live in with the family, Professional's daughter preferred. Communications to L. H., c/o 10, Acre-lane, Brixton, London.

WANTED, for Dec. 28, 30, and 31, one hour's Cinématograph Entertainment, near Liverpool; private engagement. Lowest terms. SEATON, 69, Randolph-street, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

WANTED, by The Wallaw Picture Co., Lecturer and Effect Worker (evening), do billing, must speak King's English; open at once. Wire terms, &c., LAWSON, Co-operative Hall, West Stanley, Durham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, immediately, thorough good Operator, with First-class Machine, complete with Up-to-date Films for New Permanent Premises in most crowded thoroughfare in Brighton. Open from 6 p.m. each evening, and Saturday afternoons. Premises fitted with gas and electric, also seated throughout. Big Business certain. Terms, shares, or reasonable salary. Apply, PROPRIETOR, Picture Palace, Gardiner-street, Brighton.

WANTED, three experienced Operators, for Long Tour; only steady, reliable man need apply, FRED STEELE, Grand Assembly Rooms, Briggate, Leeds.

WANTED, Bioscope Operator, able to give two hours' show; change weekly; electric. Terms, HASTINGS, 120, Teignmouth-road, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED, Figure Worker, young man, must be superior appearance and strictly sober.
CHESTER AND LEE'S Marionettes, Palace, Oldbury.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Jan. 18, on, by Empress, the Lady Houdini. Elaborate fit-up. Pretty costumes; and what a success! Hippodrome, Dumfries; next, Empire, Shildon, Durham.

WANTED, Monday, Lydia Raie, Banjo Queen, trick Mandolinist, and Illustrated Banjo Soloist. 14th, Empire, Douglas. Wire, 79, Mildenhall-road, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell and Beatrice Elstree, vacant from Dec. 7; two distinct Turns. Wire offers, 39, Gateley-rd., Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Dec. 14, 21, 28, by Two Beatrices (Nellie and May), Duettists and Expert Dancers. Wire or write, Picturedrome, Tredegar, South Wales. Offers invited.

WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 11, March 1, Jean Macduff (the Lady Lauder), Peggy Lyndon's Musical Act, Sure Success. Wire, MELVILLE, Rathbone, Portobello.

WANTED, Known, Sisters Terry, Popular and Clever Mimics, Duettists, and Dancers, at Liberty Dec. 14, 21, 28. Address this week, Hippo., Dewsbury. Dec. 7, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Known, Amy Carlton's Merrie Melodious Maidens, Songs in Harmony, at Liberty owing to Postponement of Tour, Dec. 21, 1908, Jan. 4, 1909, on. 19, Furnace-lane, Chesterfield.

WANTED, Known, to Proprietors, Managers, and Agents, that I, the Original Alec Olrac, of the Five Olracs, Comedy Acrobats, have severed my connection with same.
Look out for New Show, shortly to be produced by Alec Olrac, the Original.

WANTED, Engagements Gyto, Tramp Juggler, whose flashes of wit in a Lighting Act receive a thunder of applause. This week, Palace, Attercliffe.

WANTED, Dec. 14 and 21, by Vulcaris, Entertainer-Pianist, Humorous, Musical, and Dramatic Recitals, Novelty Piano and Banjo Act. Wire, Town Hall, Greenock.

WANTED, Monday next, Arthur Royce, Entertainer at the Piano; no other vacancies. Wire, Palace, Porth; after, 105, Tufnell Park-road, London.

WANTED, by Oliver Conroy, Comedian, Dec. 7, 14, 21, 1908, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8, 15, 1909. Address, The New Empire, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, Will Bell, Great Irish Comedian and Dancer, at Liberty Monday next, also Dec. 7. Wire, Wyndham-terrace, Newtownards.

WANTED, Dec. 14 and 21, George Battle, Actor-Vocalist. Always a Winner.
Next week, Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Known, Willie Roberts, Scotland's Wonderful Boy Comedian. A Novelty. Vacant Monday, on, through mistake. Wire, Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, 21, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina). Bottoming.
Address, Palace, Shipley.

WANTED, by Perci Vale, Comedian and Raconteur, Dec. 14 and 21; smart, refined. Wire or write, this, Emp., Worcester; next, Pal., Oldbury.

WANTED, Dec. 14, 21, on, by George Ritter, Speciality Musical Clown; am also good Pianist; just concluding 14 weeks' re-engagement with Jury's Pictures (good Act). This, T. H., Luton; next, T. R., Deal.

WANTED, by Bennie Barrow, the rising young Baritone, now on Stoll Tour, Jan. 18 and 25, only vac. dates until 1910. Last week, special bills out at Leicester Palace. Wire until Monday, H. M. T., Walsall.

WANTED, Dec. 21 and 28, by Reed, Lightning Artist, in a Novel Speciality, "Pictures in a Hurry." 205, St. Leonards-street, London, E.

WANTED, Monday, and 14th, by Allan Hanbury, Comedian, precede 4th Stoll Tour, only vacancies. Wire, 43, Brixton-road, London.

WANTED, Dec. 14, by Harry Elliott, England's Greatest Chorus Singer; suitable for any Entertainment, any distance. Monday next, Palace, Reading.

WANTED, Known, the performance of Musical Silvo at the Hippodrome is one of the finest ever presented in Liverpool.—Liverpool Theatrical News, June 8, 1908.
At Liberty Dec. 14.
Address, Temperance Hall, Merthyr Tydfil.

WANTED, Known, Harry Jennings, Comedian and Dancer. Vacant Monday, onwards. A First-class Turn in Song, Patter, and Dancing. Wire, Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, by Bosanquet, Human Violin, Novel Act, Dec. 7 and 21. Could give Xmas Concert. Address, 31, Hermitage-road, Finsbury Park, London.

WANTED, Known, Great Scott, the Ladder King, Marvellous Juggler on the Balancing Ladder. Monday, Palace, Grimsby; vacant 14th and 21st. Address as above.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Monday next, also Dec. 14, for his Original Act of Oriental Illusions. Sure success. Concludes to-night, Theatre Royal, Coatbridge; next week, 13, Windsor-terrace, Salford, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, by Carl Hershal, Humorous Magician, Suitable Pictures. Wire, 27, Minto-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, U. C. Ugo, Grand Magical Scena, "Mirthful Mysteries assisted by Veleata. Vacant Dec. 14, one week only. Reply, Westminster Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 21, also Jan. 4, 1909, on, the Great Kyoto, Marvellous Japanese Contortionist, Comedy Conjurer and Juggler, also the Dog Oto, Pug Dog; also Miss May Geraldine, Comedienne and Dancer. Albert Theatre, Brighouse. See Miscellaneous.

WANTED, Monday and Jan. 4, The Monckton (Fred-Lillie), presenting their Original Screaming Farcical Duologues. Wire, Sadler's Wells Theatre, London.

WANTED, Monday, on, The Mannikins (Harry and Maud), Living Marionettes, Novel Electric Show, also Double Comedy Singing Turn. Sixth time here. Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Dec. 14 and 21, by Sill and Silcott, in "Lively Luggage."
Dec. 7, County T., Kingston-on-Thames.

WANTED, Monday next, also 14th, Capner and Steele (Will and Victoria), Character Duettists, Song Scenes, good Singles. Wire, 73, Caellepa, Bangor, North Wales; after Saturday, perm., 2 Berwick-place, Nottingham.

WANTED, Dec. 21, 28 (between Lowestoft and Merthyr), by The Woolhats, Comedy Act. This, Castleford; Dec. 7, Albert, Brighouse.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, The Knotellas, Harry and Rose, Flexible Acrobats and Dancers, Lib. Dec. 7, onwards. Coms., 4, Peterborough-flats, New King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Monday next, by Adams and Dale, Upside-down Boxers, Hippo., Bury. After Sat., 24, Turner-street, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, also Dec. 14, by Agnese and Arthur Lynch, in American Picture Songs. Address this and next, 4, Barker-st., Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, "The Kiltie and the Girl," Vacant, big Funny Speciality Act; can bottom any Bill. Address, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, wonderful Hoop Juggling Effects; and Beatrice Bonnie, Comedienne; have immediate vacancies. Wire, 34, St. Mary's-square, Kennington-road, London.

WANTED, Dec. 14, by the Two Le Bruns, great Juggling and Vocal Speciality.
Wire, King's Theatre, Gainsboro'.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Impersonator; one or both. Wire, 35, Rumford-street, C.-on-M., Manchester.

WANTED, unexpectedly, Xmas, New Year bookings, Mr. Harry Liston's and Miss Lumley's "Merry Moments" (selves or party). Address, P. O., Derby.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, by Folay and Francis, Comedians. This week, Terrific Success, Palace, Northampton, where wire; or DALTON'S Agency. Panto. settled. Only a few weeks vacant, 1909 and 1910.

WANTED, Wanted, by Munroe's Comedy Team, Monday next, Dec. 7, 14, 21, '08.
Wires, Saturday, Dec. 5, Palace, Bath.

WANTED, by Three Orros, Dec. 14 and Jan. 11.
Address, Tivoli, Pentre, South Wales.

WANTED, by Rose Trio, Refined Acrobatic Act, 14th, 21st, 28th. This week, Hippo., Eastbourne; next week, Barnard's Palace, Chatham.

WANTED, Known.—What a Draw Four Cecilians are! Storming Alexandra, Pontefract, this; next, Palace, Battersea. Vacant Dec. 14. Don't want the earth.

WANTED, Dec. 7 and 14, Bros. Almo, First-class Comedy Three-Bar Act.
Wire, Empire Palace, Shildon, Durham.

WANTED, Known, The Florias, Comedy Wire and Novelty Equilibrists, have vacant Dec. 14. Write or wire, Circus, Bury, Lancs.

WANTED, Dec. 13 and 20, also Pantomime, The Altons, Contortionists; and Tella and Gardelle, Gymnasts. 6, Victoria Park-road, London.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, Sensational Gymnast. Terrific Success, both at The Pavilion and The Guildhall, Carnarvon. Vacant all Dec. and Jan. Address, Guildhall.

WANTED, Xmas and New Year Weeks by the Zeenas, Great Comedy Three-bar Act.
Coms., 56, Wake-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Christmas week, onward, The Peps, most talented Trampolin Performance before the Public. Managers note, this is the Act to back your Pantomime up with. Special Hotel Scene, and if required new Juggling Act for Palace Scene.
Monday, Gaiety Theatre, Dundee.

WANTED, Dec. 21, 1908, on, La Dor Troupe, six in number, Male and Female Acrobats, with three distinct Speciality Acts. Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

WANTED, 7, 14, and 21, by Atlas and Vulcana Troupe, World's Greatest Athletes.
Wire, 17, Waterford-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Dec. 7 (to precede Pentre), also Dec. 21 and 28, by Bessie Travis, England's Premier Lady Ventriloquist. Great Novelty Act, two people, magnificent dresses. Palace, Derby.

WANTED, Monday next, by Rich. Taylor, the Whistling Ventriloquist,
through Hall closing.
Wire, Hippo., Middlesbrough.
The only Act of its kind.

WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illusionist); two smart Acts. Offers invited. Hippo., Stalybridge.

WANTED, Dec. 7, 14, 28, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Wire, Queen's, Castleford, till Sunday; then, 46, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, by Valvo, Monday next, Star Attraction guaranteed, any cloth, any turn, one figure, one scream. Wire, Empire, Southport.

WANTED, Dec. 14, by Bert Williams, Ventriloquist, owing to the closing of Alhambra, Brighton.
Wire, Wire, Wire,
Argyle, Birkenhead; or,
V.A.F. Agency.

WANTED, Known, Ginnett's "Rejected Remounts," Vacant Dec. 21, onward.
GINNETT, 59, Nichols-square, Hackney-road.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, Best and Most Elaborate in the Profession, Jan. 18, '09, onwards, with exceptions.
Com., Week Dec. 7,
Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

WANTED, Known, Williams' Dogs, in their Sensational Military Act, "The Deserter," the most marvellous exhibition of Canine intelligence ever witnessed. Dec. 7, Hippo., Spennymoor; Dec. 14, onward, vacant. Perm., ROTHWELL, Haigh, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Blanche and Diacoff, in their great Cycle Whizz,
including their Competition, which proves the Greatest Draw ever known.
The only Act of its kind in England.
Only a few vacancies 1909.
Also Require a few immediate Dates for the latest Novelty, Hull Newsboy Trio,
in their Sketch, called
"Street Arabs, or Life of a Shoeblack,"
Direct from Street to Stage.
This week, Storming at Pontefract;
Next week, Hippodrome, Dewsbury.
All communications for either of the above Drawing Acts, to
TOM DIACOFF,
Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, the Wonderful Selbinis,
at Liberty week, Dec. 7, through Alhambra, Brighton, closing.
All coms., 193, Brixton-hill, London.

WANTED, Swift Duo, "The Laughing Hit," Lady and Gent., Novel Cycling Speciality. Mon. next, Hippo, Dewsbury. Booked by STRINGS. Vacant Dec. 14, 21, 28. Wire.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinia Trio, Knockabout Cyclists, and Football Match on Bicycles. Vac. 21, on. Offers. 37, Romford-st., Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Musical Comedy Couple, Soprano, Baritone, and Pianist; Duets a Speciality. Just returned from working Keith's American Picture Circuit. Address, St. Malo, Town Hall, Fowey, Cornwall.

WANTED, by Bert Warner, good Posturer and Pantomimist, Open to join good Sketch, Troupe, Panto., &c. Coms., 113, Herbert-road, Manor Park.

WANTED, by Youth, Engagement as Assistant to Illusionist or Small Part in a Sketch; height 5ft. 9in. A. G., 26, Albert-road, Richmond, S.W.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Tom Norman (Silver King, registered), Showman's Auctioneer, Expert and Authority, Valuer, Commission and Variety Agent. If you want to Buy or Sell anything connected with the business (privately or publicly), send to TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office

WANTED, all the Gentlemen who so kindly sent inquiries respecting the purchase of Lord George Sanger's Magnificent Touring Living Carriage to accept my very best thanks, and also to inform them that Lord George has instructed me to accept the offer of David Taylor, Esq., Circus Proprietor, Worcester, who therefore becomes the purchaser on behalf of Miss Ada Alexandra.

Signed,
TOM NORMAN, Silver King.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known,
The Public put Pennies in the Slots,
but
I take Sovereigns from the Cash Boxes.

The above was the recent remark of an operator of
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WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.
WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World, Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907. Improvements Protected, No. 2549, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent No. 17402.
This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.
It is a Record Money-maker.
Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street,
and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.
CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK.

WANTED, Showman, to Know that De Von, 114, Bethnal Green-road, London, has a Big Collection of Animals, suitable for Xmas Draws: Vulture, Tiger, Cats, Serpents, Bush Babies, Giant Rats, Armadillos, and other interesting Animals. We want you to send for our Price List. Telephone, 5489 London Wall. Telegraphic Address, "Oiseaux, London."

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

TRADES EXHIBITION CORN EXCHANGE, WINCHESTER, Dec. 9-19.
WANTED, First-class Side-shows, Cinematograph Novelty Stalls, Toffee, &c. Good small Orchestra write in. Apply, MANAGER, as above.

WANTED, Side Shows, Attractions, Stalls, Slot Machines, Tattooist, Wire-worker, &c., for South Wales. Address, MADAME, 73, Heolddu-road, Bargoed.

WANTED, good Side-shows, Novelties, Stalls, &c., for Great Carnival Drill Hall, Dumfries, Dec. 26, onwards. Address, WILLIAMS and WOOD, Hippo., Dumfries, N.B.

WANTED, Novelties, Marionettes, &c.; good flash; splendid positions for money-getters. AMERICAN SWEETMEAT AND AUTOMATIC Co., 114-6-8, Rathbone-street, Canning Town.

WANTED, to Open at Once, Good Novelties for Good Shops; best positions, shares or salary; also Wanted, Marionette or Vent. Show. Wire, 21, Edward-street, Brighton.

WANTED, for Argyle-street, Freaks and Novelties, for the New Year. Terms salary. Apply, FRED BURNETTE, 55, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Palmist, on shares; also Spaces to Let, for Jewellery, Engraving, &c. Best position, large shop. BURNETTE, 55, Argyle-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Lady Palmist, on Shares (half cash takings), at HUNT'S Photographic Studio, 87, Hurst-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, a competent Lady Character Reader, &c., on half sharing terms; good practice. ASTORIA, 25, Eastgate-row, Chester.

WANTED, Photographer, Palmist, Tattooer, to open at once, main road shop, share or rent. 104, High-street, Walthamstow.

WANTED, Hypnotic Trance Lady, act the Passions, Cataleptic subject, have stone broken on chest, Utility Man, powerfully built, break stone; Operator, own machine, no films; all must be experienced. Lowest (long tour), no shares, references, photos., &c., FRANK C. MARDEL, 46, Grindlay-street, Edinburgh.

WANTED, a Man, to make himself useful in an Automatic Vaudeville.
NOVELTY AMUSEMENT Co., 33, High-st., Kingsland.

WANTED, Known, Lib. for Xmas, Lynton's Marionettes, First-class Side-show or good Single and Double. Write, HARRY LYNTON'S Marionettes, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, Known, Carl Whyte, Lady in Trance, Knife Throwing, Conjuring, Paintings; join at once; Shares or Salary. Wire, 12, Gun-lane, Lowestoft.

WANTED, Known, Monty Diabolo, the Human Gasometer and Japanese Sword Manipulator, Vacant. Grand posters. WALLACE, 10, Maple-street, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

WANTED, Known, the Wonderful Living Freak known as the Newton Baby, is still at Crouch's Wonderland, 137, Argyl-street, Glasgow. All communications, Mrs. PHILIPS, c/o Crouch's.

WANTED, Known, Madame Smith, the well-known Palmist from Blackpool, at Lib. Perm. preferred. Add. 96, St. Helens-rd., S.S., Blackpool.

WANTED, by Auctioneer, Situation with First-class Firm, at Liberty for three months; twenty years' experience. Apply to Box 5,215, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, Mora, First-class Doorsman, Liberty thirty weeks. Reference from Andrews' Pictorial Enterprises, Philharmonic Hall, Southampton. Wire.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, to all Roundabout Proprietors, Showmen, Stallholders, and others, that I open Rochdale Cattle Market for the Christmas Fair, commencing Dec. 18 to Dec. 26, 1908. N.B.—I still have that large plot of land that I had last Easter, behind the Victoria Baths, Rusholme, Manchester, to hold a Great Easter Fair for 1909. All applications to
WM. MITCHELL, SEN.,
53, Hindhill-street, Heywood.

GRAND CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL AND TRADES EXHIBITION.
THE PAVILION, CARNARVON,
Dec. 24 to Jan. 9.
WANTED, Known, Good Spaces Available for First-class Exhibits, moderate terms; also First-rate Side-show, Sharing Terms. Add., TOURING EXHIBITION Co., Anglo-American Exchange, 23, Craven-street, W.C.

FUN CITY DRILL HALL, BATH.
Dec. 24, 1908, to Jan. 16, 1909. Situated in thickly populated district, over 20,000 population within half-mile radius.
WANTED to Let, a Few Spaces for Novelties. Fast filling up. Apply, CARL FREDERICKS, Fun City Office, Drill Hall, Bath.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

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10. Fun City (Olympia)
11. Boston (15,700)
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12. Liskeard (5,028)
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18. Rochdale (74,000)
21. Bilston (24,000)
21. Birkenhead (111,000)
21. Deptford (110,122)
21. Southport (48,400)
21. South Shields (97,300)
24. Bath (49,718)
24. Bristol (329,849)
24. Hendon (Welsh Harp) (17,000)
24. Jarrow-on-Tyne (31,000)
24. Middlesbrough (91,300)
24. Morecambe (12,000)
24. New Brighton (10,000)
24. Newcastle-on-Tyne (214,803)
24. Northampton (87,000)
24. Rushden (12,500)
24. Salford (Trinity Markets) (221,000)
24. Kirkby Lonsdale (1,600)
24. North Shields (50,000)
24. Preston (113,000)
24. Rowthorne (67)
24. Southampton (104,911)
24. Wellington (7,300)
24. World's Fair (Islington)
27. Uttoxeter (5,200)
28. Nantwich (7,700)
28. Sandbach (5,500)
29. Newport (Salop) (3,200)
29. Sheffield (361,000)
31. Rugeley (7,181)

SCOTLAND.

19. Govan (76,351)
21. Edinburgh (208,000)
21. Glasgow (622,355)
23. Motherwell (54,274)

WALES.

22. Caerphilly (16,000)
22. Morriston (15,025)
22. Pontypridd (23,000)
22. Swansea (54,275)
24. Cardiff (164,000)
24. Merthyr Tydfil (36,500)
24. Newport (Mon.) (67,000)

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THE CREAM OF THE SEASON.

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Manager of the Fair Department,
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This will be for Showmen absolutely IT.

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A Novel Scheme has been organised to draw people from all parts of London, and ensure a daily attendance of at least
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The past daily average of ANY Fun City never exceeded 6,000 daily.

Mr. P. Collins has received concessions for his New Patent Jumping and Waltzing Horses, Motor Cars, Haunted Castle, &c., &c.

We have been deluged with applications, but except for the Hoop-La nothing has been set.

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DATE OF CLOSING, FEBRUARY 6.

There will only be about 500ft. of Games in the Queen's Hall, not 5,000. No Gallery. Every position good.
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For terms and dates apply to
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Address, Box 5,218, "The Era" Office.

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J. H. MEURICE.
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Full particulars to
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WANTED, by London and Provincial Entertainment Co., Al Fresco Pitch, 1909, preferably South Coast. Coms. to FRED VALENTINE, 66, Dangan-road, Wanstead.

WANTED, Wanted, Store, to hold about 12 Loads Stuff.
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WANTED, Known, remarkably quick method for beginners in Piano and Singing, absolute satisfaction guaranteed; highest testimonials.
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WANTED, Known, owing to other existing similar names, we will be known from Jan. 4, 1909, to save further misunderstanding, as Alfred Kroston and May Sumner.—Signed, the Original Kyoto and May Geraldine.

WANTED, Known, Edie Charnley (The Charnleys) will in future be known as
Mamie Morris.

WANTED, Known, that Arthur Elvy will in future be known as
Harry Elliott (second notice).

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Henrietta De Serris, Carl Rosine, Les Tafanos, Schivonis Troupe, Two Butterflies, Powell's Marionettes, Three Garganis, Albany, Hanvarr and Lee, Will Van Allen, Pictures, Piccolinos, Tiller's Eight New Cocktails.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Athas Troupe, Leonard and Vereker, F. Edwardes and Co., Aribos, Sisters Ford, Jack Hayworth, Princess Trixie, Harmony Four, Maid and Moon, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Grace Langley, Joseph Hart's "Futurity Winner," Dusty Rhodes, Sisters Brookes, Zaid Trio, Keen and Waller, Minnie Love, Heeley and Meeley, Pictures, Denwartz Troupe.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Ray and Calden, Enid Erroll and Co., A. Royce, Hackenschmidt, Les Hectors, Lee and Kingston, Mike Nono, Pictures, Sisters Mandsley, Three Rubys.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Three Comerfords, W. Emerson, Thorpe and Coe, G. S. Melvin, Ausonias, Violet King, Paulton and Dooley, Milner and Storey, Haley's Juveniles, Pictures.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Sammy Shields, Geo. Rapley, Josh Dixon, Ted Curtis and Pics, Fred Russell, Andrews and Thompson, Pictures, Les Barrois, De Musto.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Chas. Penrose, James Fawn, Tiger Lily, Nellie Lunelle, Pictures, Lindon's Vaudevilles, Texas Hattie, Lew Lake's Vocalists, Louis Bradfield.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Sam Mayo, H. La Martine, Martin Henderson, Harry Tate and Co., Mayme Cannon, Evelyn Taylor, Carrie Laurie's Juveniles, Cassie Walmer, Max Goldberg and Co., in "A Ride to Win," Lily and Antley, Pictures, Sisters Slater, Mark Melford and Co., Melody Makers, Kurry and Yohl.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Cash and Claire, Mr. and Mrs. Lennard, Arthur Croxon, France and Stewart, Jack Mills, Haley's Girls, Four Blackbirds, Elsie Robey, Rich and Rich, Ara, Zebra, and Vora, Dan Crawley, Beauchamp and Co., Pictures.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Charley, Mizpah, Fred Earle, Evelyn Taylor, Two Brilliants, Mlle. Fougère, Daisy James, Pictures, Hilgirt Arkos and Co., Harry Claff and Lady, Sterling and Love, So and Sos, Happy Holland, Arthur Croxon.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Sam Mayo, L. Bradfield, Nora Guy, Ethel Beech and Girls, Pictures, Graham and Harrington, Cecile Francois and Co., Rauschle, Cole and Rags, Carl Hertz, Union Jack Boys, Geo. Campbell.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Chas. Sloman, Fred Earle, Sisters St. Julian, Lilian Stuart, Stone and Tracey, Mlle. Fougère, Pictures, Farlie, Rennie, and Farley, Five Vernons, John Lawson and Co., Garricks.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Fred Land, Geo. Cairncross, Harry Brown, Angus Strong, May Marton, Maude Vera, Karno's "G.P.O.," Pictures, Bradley and Barns.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Geo. Collins, Cyrus Dare, L. W. Harris, Daisy James, Pictures, Lew Lake and Co. in "Jerry," Sanford and Lyons, Johnny Fuller, Voldam Bros., Poole and Maguire.

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RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. B. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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ALL GLASGOW CRAZY OVER TWO GREAT SONGS,

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A TO Z

The Melodious Comic Chorus Song sung by ***GEORGE ROBEY.***

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NOTICE.—THE "GRAND" GLASGOW PANTOMIME is produced on December 9th; watch this space for result next week, and be prepared for a **STARTLING LIST OF WINNERS** including **THE SONG OF THE YEAR,**

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"SATURDAY AFTERNOON."

"PUT ME A GIRL INSIDE."

"I'M WAIT-WAIT-WAITING." (All I want is the Man.)

Principal Girl and Dame Song.

"IN A LITTLE WOODEN HOUSE IN NORWAY."

"WHAT A TERRIBLE THING THAT WOULD BE."

TOPICAL SONG already secured by Dan Rolyat for the Adelphi and for Twenty-five other Principal Pantomimes.

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Artists engaged will please note that rehearsals at ALL Halls take place at 12 o'clock noon each Monday.

No excuses whatever for non-attendance will be entertained.

All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fire-proofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

Telephone 5954 Avenue.
Telegraphic address, "Stageyness, London."

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, DEC. 7, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.

Florrie Gallimore, Primrose Quartette, Johnny Dwyer, Kirk and Saraski, Archie Pitt, Devereux Dogs, Viviana and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.

Leslie Bros., The Donatos, Venturini, Clown Barker, Lyons Trio, Deane and Wilton, Edith Chantler, Chase Lewis, H. O. Wills, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.

Roma and Romani, Walter Clyde, The Waltons, Jamie Piper, Four Kellys, Sidy Nirvanah, Cherry Lass, Cullen, Carthy, and Cluley, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.

Astley's Circus, Marion Fletcher, Julian Ross, Bernardo, Frank Cass, Jackley Trio, Three Transfields, Ford and Barras, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.

The Gothams, Stidder and Dunbar, Cissie Thompson, The Sovereigns, Gus Harris, Elma Morris, Woodhouse and Wells, Douglas's Bakers, Dan Whitley, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.

Pictures, Amy Savile, Mabel Le Roy, J. P. Carroll, House of Terror, Vanderbilts, Bros. Ashley, Musical Palmers.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.

"A Wrecker of Men."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.

"The Eve of Her Wedding."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.

"Sapho."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.

Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.

Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.

Goodwin's Piccaninnies, Maston, Helen Martin, Cissie Esdaile, The Leonas, Gravetta and Parr, The Betsons, McCann's Dogs, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.

Alice Hughes and Co., Bowman and Morton, Rose and Wold, Flo Inman, Babusio Bros., Margaret Radcliffe, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.

Bernard Mervyn and Co., Sisters Brenton, Three Royal Temples, Charles Banks and Dog, Eileen Douglas, Norah Desmond, Nat Clifford, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.

Mlle. Vonetta, Alpho, Alice Maydue, Milton Trio, Lecardo Bros., The Melbournes, Tom Yorke, Taree, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.

Bedini's Gordon Highlanders, Leslie's Cadets, Two Kays, Chris Richards, Robins and Collier, The Evalos, Mr. E., Jock Whiteford, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.

Matinée Monday.

"High Jinks," Harley and Melton, Joe Dale, Tiny Arnold, "Trip to Paris," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.

Matinée, every Monday.

Harry Champion, Raymond, Bernard and Weston, The Cromwells, Vera Crackles, Star Football Picture, Lew Lake and Co., Nellie Nell, Billie Taylor, U.S.A. Boys, Willie Allen.

FORESTERS'.

Matinées Monday and Thursday.

Frank Seeley, Raymond, Czar Troupe, Julia Gilbert, Yettmah, Davis and Dean, Alan Holt's "Society Woman," Marie Neilson, Elroy, Ajax and George, Josephine Crook, Edward Morris and Co.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Matinée, every Monday.

Raymond, Les Zelovas, Harry Luck, Hansell and Foster, Alex. Lofton, Ena Corelli, G. H. Hughes and Co., "The Last Halt," Jack Roland, Fynn and Fayne, Gunner Moir.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.

Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.

Della Sisters, Raymond, Four Cecilians, Frank Jester, Nellie Nestle, Blanco and Emilie, M. Hoofman, John E. Conan, Arthur Peel, Percival, Rowe and Roe, Freda Fern.

SURREY THEATRE.

All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.

Matinée every Monday.

Burns and Bentley, Sable Fern, Raymond, Leo and Roland, Francis O'Flynn, Rose D'Aulby, Edith Lewis and Co., Six Bros. Luck, The Arnicees, Nat Watkins, Eva Roslyn, Lilly Lassah, Minerva.

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"OH! OH! ANTONIO!" "SUE, SUE, SUE."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"I SHALL SLEEP WELL TO-NIGHT."
"BOMBADIER."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"I'M THE BEST PAL I EVER HAD."

Seven Big Numbers in the First Glasgow Pantomime.

ANOTHER TRIUMPH AT THE HIPPODROME, BELFAST.

John Tiller's Successful Production. The hits of the show were the following:

"ARE YOU THE LITTLE GIRL I MET THE OTHER EVENING?"
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL." "BOMBADIER."
"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO."

STILL ANOTHER FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER TRIUMPH.

The following were the hits of the show at the Gaiety Theatre, Dundee (Lillie Williams's Production):

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK." "SHADOWLAND."
"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO."

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Words by CHARLES WILMOTT. Music by HARRY WELMON.
Sung with great success by Miss ETHEL RA-LESLIE.

Three absolutely new and novel March Songs. The current New York Song Success

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"DO AS THE SOLDIERS DO."
"THE GIRLS WHO MAKE LONDON GAY."

The Comedy Song of the year,

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Second Edition Now Ready. **610ft.** The Subject, **£10 3s. 4d.** Colouring and Toning, **£6 15s. 0d.**

THE GALLANT FRENCH GUARDSMAN.

Code Word, "FOLIOLE."

A young French guardsman is taking a walk with a gipsy girl, when two men with a suspicious appearance follow them and cause the soldier to draw his sword in defence of the girl. One of the ruffians is killed, and his accomplice goes straight to the patrol and accuses the guardsman of having murdered his friend. The boy is condemned by the Court Martial to be shot. The gipsy is filled with sombre foreboding as she sees the gruesome procession, and she forces her way to the Judge's office. There she explains the story in detail, and at last a warrant of amnesty is granted in the guardsman's favour. The film ends as happily as one may wish.

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Code Word, "EXECUTION."

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Code Word, "FIXE."

Mr. Sampson, a very practical Yankee, forces a gentleman to marry his daughter simply because he has found him making love to her. Besides signing a contract for 50,000 dollars in favour of the bride, the future husband has to promise that he will submit the conduct of his actions to the experience of Mr. Sampson. The latter is so exacting, however, that the son-in-law goes to the house of a lady friend for a few minutes' rest, closely followed by the old man. Having donned a gown belonging to his friend, he goes out, and in the street he looks so fascinating a lady that as such he wins the heart of the old bear. Availing himself of the opportunity, he takes the contract from his father-in-law, and, discarding his woman's attire, shows himself once more as the husband of that gentleman's daughter.

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Code Word, "FLORAISON."

362ft. The Subject, **£6 0s. 8d.**

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A young fop having fallen in love with a gipsy girl, they decide upon an elopement for the next night, on account of her old father's well-known dislike to the class of people the young man belongs to. On hearing of it, the Romany pays a suspicious character for killing the man. He goes to the appointed place, and waits. . . . A well-dressed boy arrives, he stabs him, wraps up the body in a blanket, and carries the bundle to the beach where her father is waiting. Oh, the horror of it! The old man, on uncovering the face, sees that it is his daughter who lies dead at his feet, for the murderer has been deceived by her man's attire.

725ft. The Subject, **£12 1s. 8d.** Toning, **£1 10s. 0d.**

A LOVER IN THE STRAW.

Code Word, "FEUILLE."

A charming idyll is suddenly interrupted by the arrival of a farmer in his cart. Quickly, the little peasant girl buries her sweetheart in the straw and binds him up carefully. The farmer carries the bundle to his cart, but the jolts and jerks soon land the poor boy in the middle of the road. His next adventure is that he is thrown under the wheels of a coming motor-car. He can only be freed, however, after a child has set fire to the straw, and he has thrown himself into the water to extinguish the flames.

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Titles of pictures :—At school. Thanks to embossed maps and books, blind children can be taught as well as those who see.—Arithmetic and writing.—Two years are necessary for the blind girl to learn knitting.—Playtime.—An object lesson.—Piano taught by a blind teacher. While one hand follows the embossed notes, the other plays; but the pupil will be able to play with both hands from memory only.—Blind girls at work.

478ft. The Subject, **£7 19s. 4d.**

NEW CENTURY THIEVES.

Code Word, "FONTAINE."

Three rascals being hard-up, they ask one another what to do to renew their finances. After a serious conversation, the trio go to a nerve specialist's. Rood, one of the rascals, is seized with nervous movements, which will make him cut capers, lift his feet, &c., thus showing signs of the most acute nerve complaint. Rood is now in the consulting-room, and the doctor has his hands full with trying to keep him quiet with the aid of his servant; in the meantime the others are stripping the waiting-room of its valuables.

280ft. The Subject, **£4 13s. 4d.**

ELIXIR OF DREAMS.

Code Word, "FANTOCHE."

Pierrot is painting away at his easel, and as he has not eaten for a long time, he gradually goes to dreamland, where a fairy appears to him, saying : "I am the Fairy Illusion; take this phial, it contains the Elixir of Dreams." Pierrot dreams, and his idle fancy carries him into an Oriental palace, among dancers and the fumes of opium. He himself is the Rajah of India, and pretty Indian girls fan him and offer him all sorts of delicacies in golden vessels. Now Pierrot is sent away by the Caliph, and he is on the point of being killed by his enemies when he is awakened from his nightmare by a gentleman who comes to buy his picture.

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BEHIND THE MASK.

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After a quarrel, the husband and wife go to their rooms in a bad temper, but the announcement in the paper of a masked ball makes them change their mood, and they both prepare for it, unknown to the other. In the large crowd of that public ball, the husband and wife are well-pleased with each other's appearance and ready wit, and they have a good time together, until the mask falling, they recognise each other with amazement. After this it is impossible not to make it up, and the film ends with the reconciliation brought about by very comical circumstances.

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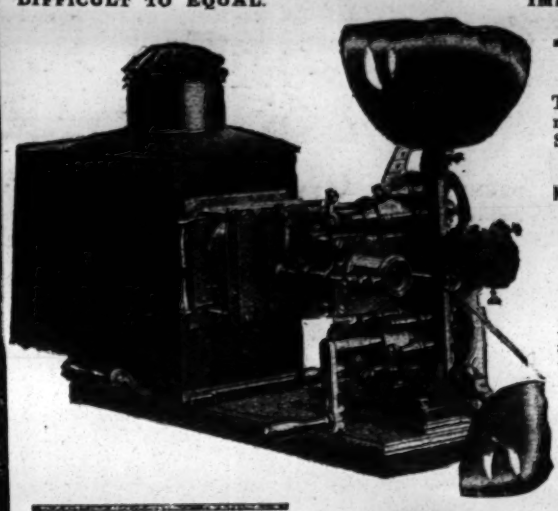

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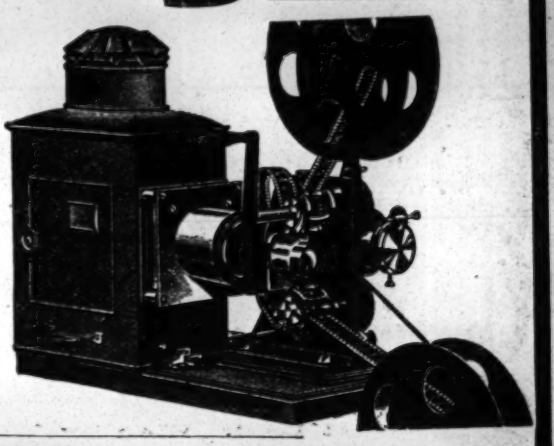

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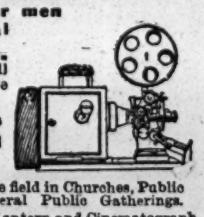

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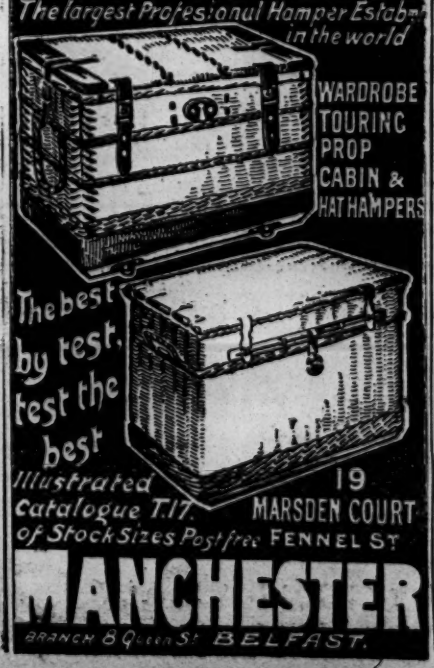

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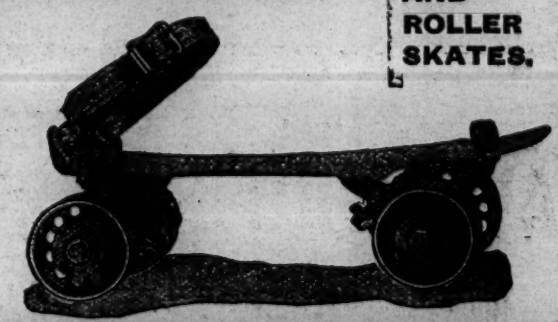

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IRVING AS AN AMATEUR.

Mr. Austin Brereton, in his "Life of Henry Irving," gives an interesting account of his connection with an amateur club.

"When the future actor was in his seventeenth year," says Mr. Brereton, "he gave some indications of his dramatic powers. In 1853, he joined the City Elocution Class, a sort of mutual improvement society, the members of which criticised one another's efforts, presided over by Henry Thomas, a man of considerable ability as a teacher. These classes were first held in Gould-square, Fenchurch-street, and subsequently in Sussex Hall. One evening a youth of some fifteen years of age presented himself. His appearance was such as would make ladies exclaim 'What a nice boy!' He was rather tall for his age, dressed in a black cloth suit, with a round jacket, over the top of which was turned a deep white linen collar. His face was very handsome, with a mass of wavy, black hair, and eyes bright and flashing with intelligence. He was called upon for his first recitation, and he fairly electrified the class with a display of elocutionary skill and dramatic intensity. John Henry Brodribb—as he was still known—became a great favourite in the class, and his efforts as an amateur were recognised in print. The *Theatrical Journal* has long ceased to exist, but its pages contained the earliest public references to the embryo actor. A certain Thomas William Cooper, writing in the issue of Wednesday, Jan. 4, 1854, gives some interesting details of an entertainment in the middle of the previous month at the Sussex Hall. The programme began with a scene from *The Rivals*. 'Mr. Brodribb as Captain Absolute and Mr. Dyall as Sir Anthony played their parts with a very intelligent tact and with great credit to their teacher, Mr. Thomas.' Later on, '*The Last Days of Herculaneum* was given in a style worthy the talented powers of so young a Roscius as Mr. Brodribb.' On April 11, 1854, the farce *Catching an Heiress* concluded the entertainment at Sussex Hall, and 'both Mr. Cooper and Mr. Brodribb were also well up in their characters, and are deserving of particular mention.' In the following autumn, Mr. Brodribb won favourable mention for his acting in the farce *My Wife's Dentist*.

"The Mr. Dyall who is here mentioned, for many years the curator of the Liverpool Art Gallery, was an intimate and life-long friend of the man and the actor. His recollections of the City Elocution Class are very interesting, for he was a member when young Brodribb joined it. Mr. Dyall recalls the original class-room, which was under a railway arch in Gould-square, but the only piece which he saw there was a farce, *The Mummy*, in which the youthful comedian, J. L. Toole, appeared. His remembrance of Mr. Thomas is that of a 'bright, genial, sunny, mercurial, and eminently lovable man. In his dramatic proclivities, he was a follower of Charles Mathews, and undertook, with much go and spirit, the same kind of parts. His wife was a buxom little woman, brimming over with fun; not ethereal enough for the young heroines, but invaluable in such parts as Little Toddlekins, for whose acceptance I, as Sir Barnaby Babblcome, brought in the little mannikin. When the Elocution Class held its meetings in Sussex Hall, we found it a very cosy and comfortable room; well seated, and with a very handsome white balustrade running across to within twenty feet of the length. The club fitted up the stage portion with two three-fold screens, having a practical door in the centre of each; these were handsomely papered, a darker paper being used for the doors. An opening at the back, with drapery, left another means for exits and entrances; with a few chairs and a table or two, a vase of flowers and some ornaments, we had a very effective drawing-room for the small pieces we played. The weekly meeting of the club were devoted to recitations by the members, with Henry Thomas as chairman. The only teaching was by mutual criticism; the members helping each other to pick up dropped 'h's,' and put them in their proper places; pointing out wrong accents, bad pronunciation, inappropriate gesture, awkward positions of the hands and feet, &c. These criticisms did great good to the members of the class, especially in the matter of extempore speaking. The pieces played were mostly of a light character, many of them are now almost forgotten, but they were highly appreciated at the time. They consisted of *Boots at the Swan, Delicate Ground, The Man with the Carpet Bag, Love in Humble Life, Who Speaks First, Little Toddlekins, A Silent Woman*, and others of a like class suitable for presentation as drawing-room performances. The new member of the City Elocution Class soon became a great favourite at these meetings, every opportunity being taken to cast him for such parts as his youthful appearance would admit of. He was successful in everything he undertook, and when opportunity served he displayed unmistakable gifts One of the rules of the class was, that each member should know the words of his part, and anyone failing in this respect met with the utmost ridicule. Our young member was always letter-perfect, so that his mind was free to give due effect to the author's meaning. But it was in recitation that, at this time, he appeared to the greatest advantage, his youth being against his assumption of manly parts. One of his most successful efforts at this period was the part of Wilford, in selected scenes from *The Iron Chest*, the Sir Edward Mortimer being myself. On this occasion his lines were given with such force, earnestness, and pathos, as to elicit the most enthusiastic applause.'

"A performance given by the students of the City Elocution Class at the Soho Theatre—now the Royalty—was always impressed upon our hero. The old comedy, *The Honeymoon*, was represented, and Mr. Thomas's pupils appeared in 'all the glory of tights, silk cloaks, and hats and feathers.' Many years afterwards, in July, 1884, the Irving Amateur Dramatic Club entertained their president, after whom their club had been named, at supper in the Freemasons' Tavern, where he spoke of this, his first performance in a regular theatre: 'Amateur acting is a very different thing to what it was when I was a young man—and I am not like that horrible old playgoer who sits upon everything and calls it bad. I believe that you act under many advantages that were not enjoyed by amateurs in the past—certainly, as far as my experience goes. I was once a member of what was called an elocution class, and we suffered under one disadvantage—we had not the pleasure of enjoying the society of amiable and accomplished ladies. We chose pieces in which the ladies had not very prominent parts, and, wherever the parts were, they were cut down. Sometimes the chambermaid was transformed into some hobbledehoy young man, and the entertainments, I daresay, were not very interesting. But I remember that I once did take part in an amateur performance, the only occasion in my life when my ambition was satisfied, where there was a real stage, and real scenery, real footlights, real dresses, real everything. We had the Soho Theatre, and they had a rather peculiar method there. The amateurs who wanted to furnish parts, paid different prices. The prices seemed to vary according to the vice or the virtue of the characters—two guineas for Iago, three guineas for Romeo. I had three guineas' worth, and it was rather a memorable occasion for me—and to those, I should think, who saw me! Rehearsals were out of the question altogether, and the supporters were principally a lot of superannuated actors. Of course, the cast was conducted by any confiding amateur; they were glad to get the money, and, if not, they were happy to have emergency men.'"

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Lyric Theatre. November 26th, 1908.—Dear Sir,—The cleaning of the dresses for the Windsor Command performance was in every way satisfactory, and I should like to thank you for personally looking after it. Yours faithfully, CHARLES LATROBE, Stage Manager.

Daly's Theatre, Cranbourn Street. November 21st, 1908.—Dear Mr. Harris,—I am writing to tell you that I was very pleased indeed with the pink dress that was cleaned; also with the prompt way it was sent in. Yours faithfully, F. FIELD.

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"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

Owing to CHRISTMAS DAY this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, THE ERA will be published at midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

Copy intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, Dec. 22, to reach us by FIRST POST on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

POST EARLY.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDEEN.—PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, The United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Mr. J. C. Piddock and company appear with the utmost success in a delightful musical fantasy, *The Capture of Venus;* Maxford and O'Neill are first-rate comedians; Mr. Harry Nelson makes a decided success as a topical vocalist; Allsopp and Beckwith are excellent duettists; the Sisters Clare contribute an exceptionally pleasant song-scena act; Mr. Richardson Taylor is a clever whistling ventriloquist; Mr. Harry Pleon is popular as ever; and the Kurios are warmly applauded for their amusing experiments in mystification and their striking effects in lightning painting.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—The principal artists this week are Currie and Foote, a pair of clever and resourceful comedians; Mr. Fred Rex, a talented burlesque comedian and dancer; Miss Rosie Dawn, a pleasing and graceful vocalist and dancer; and Mr. J Chalmers, a first-class tenor.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—The Six Manhattan Minstrels, who excel both as singers and dancers, make a great hit this week. Prominent among them are Miss Marie Rose and Mr. Archie Murray. A highly diverting farce *The Twin Babies* is also cleverly acted by the Empire Entertainers. The other members of the company are all popular.

ABERTILLERY.—METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. C. J. Seaborn.—*The Old Home* is produced at this theatre this week by Roland Yorke's distinguished company. Mr. Harding Thomas gives a fine rendering of Daddy Dean to the high appreciation of the house; Miss Gertrude Bonser plays effectively the part of Hazel Dean; the Rev. Eric Armstrong finds a capital exponent in Mr. Henry Lonsdale; and Mr. Roland Yorke gives a fine impersonation of Lord Avondale.

THE PAVILION.—Lessees, Messrs. E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—*The Scarlet Clue* is being excellently performed at this popular house by Miss Grace Warner, supported by a talented company. Sal Scarlet is excellently sustained by Miss Warner; Mr. Geo. Gordon as Michael Stanton shows dramatic skill. *The Little Widow* was given on Thursday.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—The Amateur Operatic Society occupies the boards here this week, presenting *Dorothy*. The proceeds will be handed over to the local charities.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—Mr. Norman V. Norman and company are here after a long absence, in a repertory of plays, and the hearty appreciation with which the company is received proves not only the excellence of the performances, but the popularity of the company in question. On Monday *Under the Red Robe* was presented to a large audience. Mr. Norman V. Norman gave a masterful conception of Gil de Berault, his fine acting standing out with great prominence; as Renée de Cocheforêt Miss Beatrice Wilson was something more than a good actress—she was absolutely brilliant; Mr. Alfred Grey played the sombre-visaged Cardinal with an uncanniness which commanded respect; as the effeminate Captain Mr. Sam Wilkinson was particularly good; and Mr. Norman Leslie (who is also visiting stage-manager) gave a capital enactment of the Lieutenant; and Mr. Fred Lock also did well as Cocheforêt. As the dumb Clon Mr. J. A. Snaith was good. On Tuesday *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* was presented.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—The visit of Mr. Allan Wilkie and his Shakespearean company here is an event of some importance, as it is seldom we get the works of the immortal bard presented on our stage in so finished a style. The company opened in *Othello*, and as the Moor of Venice Mr. Wilkie cleverly indicated the passions of love and jealousy by which Othello is swayed. A really admirable interpretation was given of the artful tempter, Iago, by Mr. Alexander Marsh; and Miss Haidee Gunn supplied a faithful picture of the sweet, trusting, and virtuous Desdemona. Capital interpretations were also given of Emilia by Miss Mildred Surrey; Brabantio by that sterling Shakespearean actor, Mr. Jno Paley; Cassio by Mr. Frank Royde; Roderigo by Mr. Ian Fleming; and of minor rôles by Messrs. Houston Meharry, Sinclair Neill, Ernest Digges, and J. Sullivan. On Tuesday *Romeo and Juliet* was performed, with Mr. Alexander Marsh as Romeo and Miss Haidee Gunn as Juliet, Mr. Wilkie assuming the rôle of Friar Laurence. *Hamlet, The Merchant of Venice, The Sleigh Bells, David Garrick* and *Macbeth* are also in the bill.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The feature of the week here is the engagement of the Brothers Luck, in their melodramatic absurdity, *The Hermit*, which proves very funny. Lena Selwyn is a charming comedienne and dancer; Pueblo and Cropp are versatile Creole performers, who appear as "the swell and the belle"; Primavesi, in a juggling act, is very clever; and the Wedburns are good cross-talkers and singers. Miss Babs Lloyd is a juvenile artist who has developed in skill and talent; Arthur Albert is a good light comedian; and James and Jenny Jee give an inimitable series of feats on a revolving wire. The Bioscope is also part of a very good "show"; and Dolly Ross is a clever comedienne and expert dancer.

PICTUREDROME. — Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Brothers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Monks.—Some fine films are again shown this week. Mr. Marcus Boyle's singing and patter are full of humour; and Miss Ada Whitten is a successful singer and male impersonator.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—This week's selection of interesting and amusing pictures includes Retribution, The Spring Lock, The Land of Gold Mines, Robin Hood, The Trombone Player, The Stone Quarry, and The Life of a Sicilian Hermit. Mr. Charles Verner is meeting with much success in his popular chorus songs.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—The programme here this week is contributed to by the Hyde and Cody Trio, comedy acrobats; the Three Comedy Chanters, in humorous vocal selections; Gyto, tramp juggler; Prince Sciaboo, Hindoo bass vocalist; the Sisters Draycott, vocalists; Argo, mimic; Mr. Walter Wallis, comedian; and Mr. Clayton's interesting series of pictures. The Brothers Hannaway, comedians and dancers, were billed, but, owing to the sudden illness of one of the partners, were not able to appear. For the last three nights of the week Mr. Bert Dent arranged a novel singing competition for prizes.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—The Leopolds, an ever-welcome combination of fun-makers, are responsible for the programme this week. They have an all-round clever company with them in *The Houseboat* and *Those Terrible Boys*. St. Ruth and Conyers give several duets from the operas; Mr. W. Moffatt and company have a sketch of an incident of Balaclava; the Boston Twins are amusing in their knockabout business and harmony; and Chiko, the contortionist, Harry Desmond, the comedian, Marjorie Mardment, comedienne, and the Stadium Boys, with their athletic pot-pourri, all go to make up a most attractive entertainment.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—The "Grand Starr Variety Company" forms the attraction here this week. Rozel—Le Roi de L'Air—heads the list, and proves a clever speciality gymnast; the Smalleys give a refined comedy act on the triple bars; the Weimers, musical entertainers, are very clever and win hearty applause with illustrated military songs; Mr. A. W. Scott greatly pleases the audience with his clever dancing and coon songs; Kitty Kearns is a vocalist of merit; Marrion and Marion, with funny song and patter, provide first-class entertainment; and some amusing and instructive pictures are shown on the new Bioscope.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—Pipifax and Paulo, in their comedy act, entitled *Humpsti Bumpsti*, top the bill here this week, and their exceedingly clever tumbling antics keep the audience in roars of laughter. Gillian gives a very clever ventriloquial entertainment; Marie Collins is a comedienne with plenty of "go"; Lena Wyllie is a pleasing vocalist; the Ellimans give a capital musical turn; and Vernon's Bioscope shows some very interesting pictures. Jennie Johns is on the bill, but owing to a severe cold, was unable to fulfil her engagement.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D Fenton.—An excellent selection of the cinematographer's art is being presented here to capital houses.

BARRY DOCK. — THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—A large audience witnessed *A Girl's Cross Roads*, presented by Mr. Walter Melville here on Monday. Mr. Charles Franmore appears as John Meadows with conspicuous success; as Jack Livingstone Mr. J. Fortescue earned the highest praise for a capital rendering; Mr. Edward Chester, in the "heavy" part of Cuthbert Lumley, was good; Mr. Edward Valentine impersonated Dr. Weston admirably; Miss Hilda Beverley gave a fine conception of the difficult part of Barbara Wade; Miss Nita Langford submits a capital study of Nellie Meadows; and Miss D. Hilldebrande depicted the rôle of Constance Cornell with credit. The comedy parts were well sustained by Miss Daisy Meynard and Mr. Fred Hodson. The play was elaborately staged.

BATH.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—A good programme here this week includes Bonnie Goodwin's Apollo Piccaninnies, assisted by Miss Lily Vine, an always enjoyable turn; McCann's Irish terriers and leaping dogs cause infinite delight; Helen Martin's vocalism is always agreeable; the Leonas present a novel musical turn; Gravetta and Parr show skill as clay modellers and impersonators of well-known characters; and Cissie Esdaile, comedienne; Maston, a smart mimic; and the Bestons, in a comedy cyclist act, *A Tramp's Holiday*, likewise give pleasure. Raymond's Bio-tableaux remain a fixed attraction.

BATLEY.—THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—Mr. Gilbert Payne and company in *The Honeymoon* are this week paying a welcome return visit. Mr. Payne is extremely funny as Nathaniel Noodle; Colonel Brown is successfully portrayed by Mr. H. F. Housden; Mr. Leslie Erle scores as Jack Armstrong; and Mr. Edward Ray is a capable exponent of the dude type. Miss Hettie Lind is a taking Madge Armstrong; Miss Myra Douglas does well as Stella; and Miss Lizzie Palmer is a successful Emeretta. The Godfrey Girls are a troupe of clever dancers.

BEDFORD.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Graham Falcon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Walter R. Wilson.—*The Education of Elizabeth*, presented by Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker, is the attraction here this week. As Harry Fairfax, Mr. Wilson Gunning is exceedingly natural; and Mr. Ernest E. Norris is a humorous Reggie Hankey; Mr. Fred Castleman is a charming and debonair Mr. Whitby; Miss Winifred Ingram is a captivating Elizabeth; Miss Louisa Peach is good as Blanche Macyntyre; and Miss T. Russell Spiers is a sympathetic Lucy Middleton. After this week the theatre closes until Boxing night, when the pantomime, *Cinderella*, will be produced.

BELFAST. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Miss Emma Litchfield's company opened here on Monday with *A London Actress*. Mr. Stuart Cleveland appeared to much advantage as Sergeant-Major Clive Crawford, and Miss Litchfield furnished an exceedingly powerful impersonation of Hilda Mannering; Mr. John Cecil was a capable Lieut. Kingstone, R.N., and Mr. F. W. Wicksteed did full justice to the rôle of Captain Mannering, R.N.R. A humorous impersonation of Pat Maloney was furnished by Mr. Johnny McElroy, and Mr. John Watson must be commended for his natural assumption of Moses Mendoza. A charming interpretation of Phyllis Crawford was presented by Miss Mildred Clay, and Miss Harriette Loydall impersonated the old Irishwoman Biddy Maloney in faultless style. Other rôles were ably sustained by Miss Maud Saxby, Mrs. L. Clarke, Miss Cissie Clarke, and Messrs. E. Matlock, G. Day, F. Litchfield, and J. Smart.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Sydney Mason and Theresa Moore's company top the bill, and present a dramatic episode, entitled *The Usurer*, with success. The acrobatic feats of the Borghetti Troupe are remarkable, and Miss Addie Dorina returns with her marvellous quick-change production, entitled *Dr. Spot's Patients*, in which she skilfully impersonates six distinct characters. The Quality Quartette have gained a capital reception for their fine vocalism, and the table expert, Vincent, deserves much praise for his unique performance. Also appearing are Mr. Charles Cardow, vocal comedian; Phillips and Merritt, comedians; and the Palace pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Mr. John Tiller's pantomime, *Red Riding Hood*, commenced on Monday the last week of its stay here. The production has afforded much satisfaction to crowded houses and the various principals, Miss Decima Brooke, Miss Maisie Jerrard, Miss Emma Franks, Miss Louie Davis, and Messrs. Fred Russell, Howard Ward, Will Lytton, and Walter Watson, work unceasingly to gain the success obtained. A word of praise is due to the Poppy Quartette of dancers and the Excelsior Troupe of children.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The chief attraction here is provided by Bellew and Strek's powerful company, including Master Edward Garratt, who produce with much success their racing sketch, entitled *An Outside Chance*. The jumping feats of the Hertley Wonders are simply marvellous, and the Three Rochesters, society entertainers, appear to much advantage. The sweet singing of Miss Maggie Walsh has delighted all, and the cultured vocalism of Webb and Branston has been deservedly encored. Also included in the programme are Mr. Jack Binns, descriptive vocalist; Mr. Leo Fields, the popular comedian; the Six Emerald Gems, who sing and dance excellently; and the Bioscope.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—Some beautiful films have been exhibited here this week, including Black-eyed Susan, Disappointed Heirs, Case of Spirits, A Quiet Inn, Shipwreckers, and Bird of Freedom. Also appearing are McVickers and Consar, character comedians and expert dancers, and Mr. Bill McComb, a humorist who made a big hit.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—This old-established theatre continues to draw crowded houses nightly. This week the following films have been exhibited:—The Little Mother, The Deserter, Force of Habit, Sold Prospectors, Prehistoric Man, and others. Also appearing are Sandle and Somers, comedians, and Miss Alice Ferndale, a delightful singer of illustrated songs.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—General-Manager, Col. Fred T. Cummins.—Roller-skating is the rage here, the rink being crowded nightly. A masked and costume carnival took place on Tuesday, when valuable prizes were presented. The novel entertainment was most successful.

BILSTON.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. John M. Dawson; Business-Manager, Mr. S. Hadskiss Dawson.—*Convict 99* was presented to a good house on Monday. The part of Geraldine Lucas is excellently portrayed by Miss Dorothy Milne; Mr. Frank Beresford makes a manly Lawrence Gray; and Mr. Benson North is equally well placed as Ralph Vickers.

BIRKENHEAD. — NEW THEATRE ROYAL. — Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company, in *The Female Swindler*, presents an entertainment dear to the hearts of the popular parts of the house; Miss Violet Ellicott as Lu Valroy, the title-rôle, gives a fine and consistent rendering of a somewhat difficult and exacting part; Mr. Jerrold Heather wins much popularity by a vigorous and effective performance of the criminal investigator, John Coulson; and Mr. Stanley Radcliffe depicts the villainies of Geoffrey Warden in no uncertain colours. Harold Travers is well played by Mr. Guy P. Ellis; Miss Beatrice Hone is an interesting May Andrews; and the Jew, Abraham Mikestein, is well embodied by Mr. Fred Rignold. The comedy element is admirably supplied by Mr. John Hitchins and Miss Bella Moody, who work hard and with much success. Mr. A. Kenyon Gray is a commendable James Oliver, and remaining characters are adequately represented. The scenic effects are good.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—At this popular resort Mr. Charles Austin, assisted by his able company, appears in the entertaining sketch *Parker, P.C.*, with unequivocal success. Foreman and Fannan, comedians of the first water, are on a welcome return visit; and Barton and Ashley are going great in their amusing sketch *Adam the Second*. A splendid entertainment is also supported by Miss Gladys Mavius, a talented comedienne; the Two Arnatos, musical comedians; the Melroses, the clever musical comedy duo; Miss Madeline Rossiter, who, as a comedienne and dancer, has made a decided hit; Mr. Chris. Masters, a character comedian of ability; Miss May Newall, a vocalist of quite exceptional powers; Mr. Charlie Williams, comedian and big-boot dancer; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. Mr. Ernest Denney ably conducts the very capital orchestra.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—Mr. Martin Harvey's return on Monday was very popular, and his choice of play left nothing to be desired. This was *The Corsican Brothers*, which he revived here first in 1906. Mr. Harvey's performance is still the graceful and fascinating portrayal it was, and could not possibly be excelled in its virility, the "house," as before, rising to him; Mr. William Haviland's Chateau-Renaud shows all the strenuous, unrelenting qualities of the character; Miss Maud Hoffman makes the most of Emilie, playing with true delicacy and sympathy; Miss Mary Rorke is dignified and tender as Mme. dei Franchi, and Messrs. A. E. Raynor, Geo. Cooke, and Fred Wright, sen., are prominent in the cast. *A Tragedy of Truth* ushers in the above, while on Wednesday Mr. Harvey produced for the first time on any stage a new play, *Slander*, noticed elsewhere.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—Mrs. Brown Potter's appearance this week in the title-rôle of *Lady Frederick* is welcomed by large houses full of admiration for her clever comedy powers, which with her charm and fascination render her irresistible. Mr. Philip Cunningham's portrayal of Paradine Foulder is a well-defined and most agreeable piece of acting; Mr. W. B. Parker does admirable work as Sir Gerald O'Mara; Miss Madeline du Val gains admirable effect in the part of Lady Mereston; Mr. Herbert Garthorne emerges from the trying rôle of Lord Mereston most successfully, and others to mention are Miss Edith Deverell, Mr. Cecil Beaven, Mr. C. T. Doe, and Miss Phyllis Manners. *The Peacemaker* appears first.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Lester Collingwood; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. T. Guest.—*The Great White Chief* is inspiring tremendous enthusiasm here, the author, Mr. Lingford Carson, and company also being called before the curtain after every act. Mr. Carson's conception of the dumb chief, Reindeer is exceedingly successful and popular; Mr. Mansell Fane infuses much vigour and strength of character into his impersonation of the white chief, Lee Stanley; Mr. George Butler shows marked ability in the rôle of Hartley Deane; Mr. J. Dobson Clyde is an impressive figure as Sparrow Hawk; Miss Polly Denville is both charming and adept as Latika, later Nell Ellingham; Miss Dulcie Lawrence displays a fine dramatic sense as Hester Stafford; and Mr. Leonard Maitland is intensely droll as Walker.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Andrew Melville; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hindle Taylor.—Enthusiastic as well as well-filled houses have attended *A Life for a Life*, presented here by Mr. Chas. H. Lester and company. Mr. Lester's share of the work as Don Leon Fernandez is excellently done, the public applauding without stint what is really a fine exhibition of acting; Mr. Richard Bosco's portion in the play is the villain, Pedro Li Calci, the impersonation being full of well-studied effects; Miss Dorothy Riddell as Kate Evelyn is a character that holds the audience to the end; Mr. Harry T. Wood as Kit Oswald makes a very favourable impression; Little Irene plays the part of Venetta with remarkable aptitude.

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besides singing cleverly, and the rest of the cast are very successful.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander. Great interest has been created here by the drama *Man or Beast?* by Messrs. Chas. H. Phelps and Ernest Vaughan's company. Mr. Fred Newland gives a clever portrayal as Lord Newton; Mr. J. W. Boyland as the son, the Hon. Jack, is vigorous while avoiding any excess of passion; Mr. Ernest Vaughan as the nephew, Sir Richard Tremere, shows a full appreciation of the rôle; the Misses Irene Carrington and Madge Douglas as the two sisters, Bella and Rosie, both have their fascinations, and please well; and Miss Florence Cavolo, Miss Maria Pemberton, Mr. Fred Gresham, Mr. Charles D. Pitt, and last, but not least, Mr. Charles H. Phelps fill their rôles most ably.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles Lake.—Mrs. Frank Bateman and Stuart Lomath's company opened here on Monday in *No Wedding Bells for Her*, and secured an immediate success. Miss Lizzie Montague (Mrs. Bateman) gave the audience a rapid succession of thrills with her vivid and intensely dramatic portrayal of Lola Delaspierre; Mr. Stuart Lomath made an excellent Frank Hatherleigh; Mr. H. Aynsleigh pictured the city wastrel, Abney Stone, in a most perfect manner; and Mr. Percy Shaw, Mr. G. Harvey, Mr. Geo. Herbert, Mr. Harry C. Momber, Miss Nelly Wilson, Miss Ethel Lawrence, and others ably supported. On Wednesday and Thursday *Sapho* was performed, Mr. Lomath playing Jean Gaussin to Miss Montague's Fanny.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—Intense enthusiasm prevails here this week over Mr. Lester Collingwood's production, *When London Sleeps*, the fame of Mr. Collingwood and his piece also being great here. Miss Mabel Scudamore gives a portrayal of Queenie Carruthers that undoubtedly appeals to all; Miss Lilla Wilde is clever in her treatment of the rôle of Hilda Carode, insomuch that she gains the utmost sympathy in the end; Mr. James Hare's able acting of Captain Rodney Haynes brings that character properly into contempt; and Mr. Edward E. Ashby makes a virile and highly popular rôle of David Engleheart; Mr. Fred Bernardo, Mr. E. C. Edwards, Mr. F. E. Thomas, Mr. Douglas Campbell, Mr. Harry Emmerson, Mr. Frank Howard, Miss Bella Power, and Miss Mona Hall are all essential to the success.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—Consul, the educated ape, is indeed a remarkable animal; Mendel, blind pianist, delights his audience with his fine selections; King and Benson appear in a smart sketch; and Albert and Edmunds company in their sketch *Neighbours* are appreciated. Arthur Lennard is loudly applauded for his new songs; Ruth Lytton (who is appearing at the Empire) deputised for Madge Temple, who was indisposed; Daisy Martell is a dainty soubrette; and Horace White, ventriloquist, and Will Johnson complete the bill.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—Archie Goodall, the Aston Villa footballer, is appearing here in an acrobatic act, in which he walks round the inside of a hoop 50ft. in circumference, standing at one point head downwards; the Lancashire Singers (eighteen in number) win loud applause; Lilian Dundas and company present their dramatic episode, *Nance Arden;* Ruth Lytton is a popular Scotch comedienne; and C. Stewart and company, Bros. Bright, Arthur Astill, Naughton and Gold, and Lydia Yeamans, whose songs were well applauded, complete the programme.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Princess Trixie is an educated horse whose tricks are highly entertaining; Fred Edwards and company appear in an excellent sketch, *A Nice Quiet Morning;* the Sisters Ford are applauded for their songs; and Lennard and Vereker sing their pictorial songs in good style. Other popular turns are those of the Aribos, in their feats of balancing; the Serenaders in a scena *A Night in Venice;* and the Athos Troupe, who are expert acrobats.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Mme. Clasen's Living Art Bronzes are the attraction here. Ugo Nap, assisted by Hilda Corellie, and Sinclair and Whitford, in their amusing sketch, *Getting Even*, are appreciated. The Three Laurels are expert acrobats. The programme includes the names of Nellie Martell, Dolly Moore, Will Dalton, and the New York Nippers.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—The boards are occupied this week by Mr. John H. Tomkinson's Royal Gipsy company, and there was a good house on Monday night. Miss Elsie Rubina gives a capital turn on the wire; the Four Louberts, in their knockabout scena, are admirable; La Vie is charming in her electrical art panel poses; Miss Cisse Madcap excels as a dancer; the Sisters Leshmere sing and dance in fine style; and a wonderful little vocalist and dancer is Wee Winnie, who is cordially received. The remaining turns are good, and the Bioscope is noticeable for its clever picture entitled The Hooligans of the Camp.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*His Majesty's Guests* is being played here again this week by Mr. Fred Karno's company, with Mr. Geo. Hestor as Sergeant Lightning, and supported by Messrs. E. Freshwater, C. Griffiths, C. Usher, Sid Kearns, and Misses Aggie Morris, Kitty Brunton, and Edith Anger. With plenty of rollicking fun and bright music a very pleasing entertainment is provided.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—Besides a beauty competition, which is being held here this week, and proving a big attraction, capital turns are provided by the Andos Family of Japanese acrobats; Jack Hayton, a quaint comedian; Jan Vanbert, a clever conjurer; the Prinellas, in a pleasing sketch; Kennedy's Kiddies in song and dance; Marie Clifton, a capable comedienne; Aerial and Astarte, trapeze artists; and Johnnie and Willie, acrobatic piccaninnies.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—La Milo tops a big bill here this week. As this is her first appearance in Blackpool, full houses are the rule. She is accompanied by Cruickshanks, the expert caricaturist. The efforts of Neville Delmar, a rising light comedian; the Brooklyn Comedy Four, in a vocal sketch; the Three Hodginis, trapeze artists and balancers; Chas. F. Best, a talented mountebank; Olive Myrtle, comedienne and dancer; Frank Bernard and company, in a ludicrous act; and the Three Krakes, in a knockabout turn, are applauded.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mrs. Fioni.—Interspersed with the pictures this week are Robertshaw and Leach, comedians, and Miss Robinson, a talented vocalist. The amateur competitions which take place here weekly have literally captured the town.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—The marvellous Chinese conjurer, Chung Ling Soo, has mystified and highly delighted large audiences nightly. A strong variety company have also appeared with success, including Parker and Parr; the Calcots, in a wayside episode; Bertha Norwood, in dainty dances; Dale and Vale, in vocal tit-bits; Massona, in eccentric juggling; Harry Sims, comedian; and Dora Martini, gymnast.

GAIETY.—Lessees, Messrs. Claggers.—John Grun Marx, with his marvellous feats of strength, has proved a strong attraction. The Kenmores, in a gymnastic display, are entertaining; J. J. Mannie proves himself a comedian that can please; Charles Cassell, vocalist, and the Sauteron Wonders are prominent; and the Bioscope brings an excellent programme to a finish.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Tom Doyle.—The pictures have been augmented by the performance of Miss Bella Ray, a charming vocalist; and a go-as-you-please competition, which has proved attractive.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Good houses are this week welcoming a return visit of *Alone in London*. The cast includes Miss Theresa Osborne, who plays with feeling the part of Nan, the flower-girl; Mr. Percy Rhodes is callous as Richard Redcliffe; Mr. W. S. Hartford is a bluff John Biddlecombe; Mr. Harry McClelland a dignified Mr. Burnaby; Mr. Blundell Fenton is careless and merry as Walter Burnaby; Mr. Percy Bell as Jenkinson and Mr. Frank Sutherland as Spriggins are a pair of amusing stage scoundrels; and Miss Mary Smith pathetically plays the part of Tom Chickweed.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—A good programme here comprises Tom and Marie Motramo, musical comedy artists, who appear in a refined drawing-room sketch, *Do You Reverse?* F. V. St. Clair, up-to-date singing comedian and author; Beaty and Blanche, duettists and dancers; Fred Keeton, comedian; Ruby Dahl, in her latest novelty, "The Merry Mannikins"; Thos. E. Finglass, artistic coon impersonator; Bert Williams, ventriloquist; Don and Mabel, in their Scottish vocal scena, "Sandy's Return"; Mephisto, the Mysterious, and the Imperial Bioscope.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—The principal turn here is Yangar, the West African wonder worker, who mystifies his audiences with his bewildering magic. Other turns are Montagu Biggs, "the male Marie Lloyd"; Edwin Austin, concertina, &c., instrumentalist; Cissie Curlette, quaint comedy vocalist; Charles J. Johnson, "the black diamond"; Bowden and Bell, juvenile vocalists and dancers; Ryde and Beeman, comedy acrobats; Celest, gymnast, in a sensational and remarkable wire act; and the Empire Bioscope.

BOOTLE. — MUNCASTER THEATRE. — Proprietors, Messrs. Pennington; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Fred Wilmott; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Young.—*Dick Whittington* is being presented here by the stock company. Mr. Albert Sember makes a good Fitzwarren, and Mr. Stanley S. Gordon a capital Captain. The title-rôle is sweetly played by Miss Nina Vaughton, and Miss Effie Macintosh is a vivacious Alice, her singing of "Down in Poverty Street" being well received. Special mention is well deserved by Mr. Alfred D. Adams as Idol Jock and Mr. Tom H. Solly as Dame Swankhurst, the latter scoring a huge success with his song "Girls, study your cookery book." Specialities in the Palace scene are given by Baby Macfarlane and Essie McCarthy. The remainder of the company work well together, and the pantomime is a delightful production. Special scenery is painted by Mr. Bert Linton and music arranged by Mr. J. Wright.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company had a most enthusiastic welcome here on Monday in that brilliant play *The Flag Lieutenant*. As Richard Lascelles Mr. Langhorne Burton gave an extremely clever impersonation; Mr. H. Montagu Love was quite convincing as Major Thesiger; and the Vice-Admiral of Mr. George Mallett was really good. Miss Florence Jackson imparted grace and distinction to the character of Mrs. Cameron; as Lady Hermione Miss Marjorie Chard was entirely successful; and as Viola Hood Miss Viva Birket contributed a capital study. Others deserving praise are Mr. E. S. Petley, Mr. Stephen Gatling, Mr. W. J. Yeldham, Mr Hugh Wakefield, Mr. Lionel Watts, and Mr. John Wheatman.

BRADFORD.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. T. F. Doyle; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Richardson.—The Bradford Amateur Operatic Society is this week giving performances of *Utopia, Limited*, and the proceeds are to be entirely devoted to the local charities. With his customary generosity, Mr. Hart has granted the free use of the theatre, which was well filled on Monday night, and a very creditable performance was witnessed.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Councillor F. Laidler; Acting-Manager, Mr. N. Hepworth.—*The Bondman*, which is being presented here this week by Mr. Wentworth Croke's company, again provides excellent fare for Mr. Laidler's patrons. The play is finely staged, and the representation is of all-round excellence. Mr. R. Scrope Quentin submits a performance of Jason, which is vigorous and effective; and Mr. Lionel Atwill is excellent as Michael Sunlocks. Adam Fairbrother is well played by Mr. Oswald Lingard; in the dual rôle of Father Ferrati and Grandfather Mr. W. H. Rotheram wins well-merited approbation; Miss Madge Lanerton's Mrs. Fairbrother is a capital performance; tenderness and pathos mark Miss Georgina Wynter's acting as Greeba; and all the other parts are in very capable hands. Much applause greets the performance throughout.

THE EMPIRE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Mr. Fisher White's company, in an intensely dramatic and exceedingly well-acted sketch, *A Royal Heart*, is a leading feature of the fine programme presented here this week, Mr. Scott-Cravén in a striking performance of Vassili, the Grand Duke, being very finely supported; the old-time favourite comedian, J. W. Rowley, on a return visit, is well received; Alf. Maynall, comedian, submits an acceptable turn; Fred Wilkinson is a smart illusionist, who accomplishes some clever feats, assisted by Miss Betty Wallar; the Four Jumels submit a clever musical entertainment; in a comedy duologue turn Kent and Keith are particularly diverting; James Eadie and Cissy Ramsden combine clever acrobatic work with humour in their sketch, *Charlie's Visit;* some good dancing and effective poses by the Eight of Hearts find favour; Wood, Wells, and Wilkins submit excellent harmony in their humorous turn, *The Piano Tuner;* and some amusing pictures are shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Florrie Gallimore, the popular comedienne, who is on a return visit, is again well received; Archie Pitt, comedian, sings some funny songs; the Primrose Four (a male voice quartette) harmonise well; Johnny Dwyer renders some humorous songs in excellent style; very remarkable sagacity is displayed by Devereux's performing dogs; Kirk and Saraski, "aquatic experts," give a novel and clever swimming entertainment; in *La Poupée* style Viviana and company give a very pleasing dancing turn, "The Toy Shop"; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux form an enjoyable feature of the programme.

BRIDLINGTON.—SPA THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. Harry Tunbridge.—The British Biograph Co. opened the second week of their visit here with a fine series of new animated pictures, which included Father's First Baby, The Suffrage Question, The Pumpkin Race, and The Little Jules Verne. The artists appearing this week are Miss Edna Barrett, a clever comedienne and dancer, and Mr. Norman Osborne, whose ventriloquial sketches are first-class.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Delmar.—The Electric Animated Pictures continue to give delight to the patrons of this popular resort, and Mr. Delmar is constantly adding to his show by some of the latest films, both of scenic, humorous, and trick pictures.

BRIGHOUSE. — ALBERT THEATRE. — Proprietors, Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Chas. H. Beanland.—Another strong company contains a good amount of comedy. *The Silly Servant* is a sketch presented by Tom Kelso and his company of capable comedians; Jack Marks tells a number of Yiddish stories in Hebrew fashion; Mlle. Bartenelli is a clever lady contortionist; Sisters Terry, two pleasing vocalists, submit some clever impersonations; Wallace Whitney as "Tubby the footballer" causes much amusement; the Woolhafs provide plenty of merriment; the Boultons are well appreciated; Beattie Foster, in low comedy, and D. W. Watson, with cornet and post-horn solos, please all. The animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. are exceptionally good.

BRIGHTON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Gates; General-Manager, Mr. Ben Court.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is here this week with *The Girl Who Wrecked His Home*, and attracts crowded audiences. Mr. Fred W. Goddard achieves great success as Jack Marshall; and Miss Louise Hampton imparts power and sympathy to her impersonation of the misguided wife, Bertha Marshall. Mr. Paul Barry Lewers is highly effective as the villainous Leonard Kenyon; Miss Georgie De Lara acquits herself admirably as the adventuress, Val Raymond; Miss Lulu Bowes makes a charming Winifred Marshall; Mr. Geo. P. Lester is well placed as Josh Crockett; and the comic element is sustained in entertaining style by Mr. Francis Hope as Tommy Biffin and Miss Nellie Burdette as Lottie Primrose. The drama is very finely staged.

ALHAMBRA. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—A capital programme is submitted here this week. Griffin and Ardell are clever acrobatic eccentrics; the Seymons appear in an original equilibristic juggling act; Jack Heath is a pleasing comedian; Leonard Tell is effective in a burlesque female turn; the Sisters Edwards, duettists and drum experts, are well received; the Brennans are excellent dancers; the Fedora Quartette distinguish themselves as acrobatic dancers; Daisy Silcott is a good burlesque actress; Albert St. Clare is a double-voiced vocalist; Ronald George presents *The Night Watchman*, an effective musical act; and the animated pictures are interesting and amusing.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—There is a good company here this week. Jack Hart's *Futurity Winner*, an exciting and realistic sketch, is enthusiastically received; the leading parts are taken by Mr. Kingsley Benedict, Mr. John Switz, Mr. John Clulow, and Miss Rayniski. The Denwartz troupe of Continental acrobats perform some sensational feats; Heeley and Meeley are highly successful in their original scena, *Two Lucky Tramps;* Keen and Waller are novel eccentrics, and very amusing; Minnie Love is "a sweet singer of sweet songs"; Ada Parker is a clever comedienne and dancer; the Sisters Brooke are pleasing vocalists and dancers; Dusty Rhodes, "comedy merchant," is extremely diverting; and the Zaid Trio (Spanish Moors) contribute a capital turn.

WEST PIER.—Secretary, Mr. A. W. Scholey.—Mr. Leigh Lovel and company are here this week with a répertoire of Ibsen's plays. *Rosmersholm* was performed on Monday to a large audience. Mr. Leigh Lovel submitted a masterly impersonation of Rosmer; Miss Octavia Kenmore was an admirable Rebecca West; Mr. Howard Coveney as Rector Kroll, Mr. Arthur Chesney as Brondel, and Mr. Stanley-Yorke as Mortensgard, gave excellent impersonations; and Miss Katherine Maynard achieved distinct success as Mme. Holseth. The programmes for the week also included *John Gabriel Borkman, The Master Builder, A Doll's House*, and *Hedda Gabler*.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. F. Bauer.—An admirable series of animated pictures is exhibited here this week. The Locket, Nick Carter, and The Hand convey stirring stories; and much amusement is afforded by The Mysterious Thief, Serving the Writ, Burglary by Motor, and Banana Skins.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier and his entire company from the Garrick Theatre are here for the week. On Monday evening there was a very large attendance in all parts of the house, the play selected to commence the engagement being *The Walls of Jericho*. The popular play was staged and dressed to perfection, and the acting all round was exceptionally good. Mr. Bourchier played Jack Frobisher in his accustomed convincing style; Miss Violet Vanbrugh's Lady Alethea was charmingly perfect in all respects; Miss Pamela Gaythorne acted prettily and with much spirit as Lady Lucy Derenham; Miss Henrietta Watson was sincere and sympathetic as Lady Westerby; Mr. Leon Quartermaine made an excellent part of Hankey Bannister; Mr. Arthur Whitby presented a good study of the Marquis of Steventon; Mr. Douglas Imbert made the most of Lord Drayton; Mr. Charles Bryant was sufficiently persuasive and ardent as Harry Dallas; and the remaining parts were all very carefully and effectively taken. *The Bishop's Move, Sixes and Sevens, The Arm of the Law*, and *Doctor Johnson* are also billed.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr H. C. Alty.—Messrs. Little and D'Arcy's company is here with *The Executioner's Daughter*, the drama being well staged. Miss Enid Edoni acts in sympathetic style as Annette; Miss Nellie Howitt displays considerable power as Felice; Mr. John B. Murray makes a fine part of Monsieur Roche; Mr. S. Leigh Courteney does well in the heavy part of Felix Marius; Mr. Walter Clarke is effective as Paul Rovel; Mr. Frank Ayrton is successful as Tom Holmes; Miss Prudence Ayrton acts prettily as Christine; and all the remaining parts are in very competent hands. The sensational guillotine scene is effective.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—*Casey's Court*, now brought up to date, is the leading attraction. Will Murray, assisted by about thirty juveniles, keeps the fun up fast and furious. Frank Long, assisted by Omoyo San, scores in his ju-jitsu act, and prizes are offered to competitors; Margit and Lenner amuse as Continental eccentrics; Lisbon and Barker obtain applause as extempore comedians; Kelly and Agnes entertain with an American comedy act; the Warsaw Brothers please with mimicry and melody; Arthur Boyne, comedian, is successful; and Dora Harrison is a pleasing vocalist. The performance concludes with Polly's Holiday depicted by the Bioscope.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Leonard Mortimer and company are successful with their interesting sketch, in three realistic scenes, entitled *Cash;* Ferguson and Mack, comedians, amuse with their comic speciality, *The Dimple Sisters;* the Doreen Girls are pleasing vocalists and dancers; the Delawares do some capital dancing on a billiard-table; Jack Hamilton comedian, obtains applause; Ethel Newman pleases with her monologue, *Her Wedding Day;* the Brothers Werds are clever American eccentrics; and Nellie Denver is an exceptionally smart juvenile dancer. Interesting animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Messrs Sutton and Raynor on Monday presented Sidney Grundy's play *A Bunch of Violets* to a good house, who appeared to enjoy the excellent acting. Mr. Cecil Wynne played Sir Philip Marchant very skilfully and with care; Harker was well portrayed by Mr. Leonard Laurence; Lord Mount Sorrel was presented with due dignity by Mr. Milton C. Curtis; Mr. Geo. Wallace gave a good study of the Yorkshireman, Mark Murgatroyd; Mr. Joseph B. Montague got plenty of fun out of Jacob Schwartz; Miss Frances Waring as Lady Marchant did some very good work; a charming Violet was that of Miss Dorothy West-Symes; Miss Henrietta Schrier showed sterling ability in the way she rendered the part of the mischievous Mrs. Murgatroyd; Mr. Charles R. Bickell (Hon. Harold), Mr. David Smith (Button), Mr. Thos. Crossley, and Mr. Reg. Winter also well filled their parts. The curtain had to be raised several times.

BURNLEY.—VICTORIA OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The Moody-Manners Opera Company is here, and began the week's programme with *Faust*. Mr. Charles Manners was in his old place as Mephistopheles, and his acting and singing were particularly successful; Miss Kate Anderson gave a sweet conception of Marguerite, and sang with exquisite tenderness; Mr. Lewys James as Valentine won the admiration of the audience, and Mr. Seth Hughes was good as Faust; Miss Agatha Worth proved an excellent Siebel, and Miss J. McCarthy made an attractive Martha. The choral work was given on a grand scale, and great credit is due to the orchestra under the bâton of Signor Sapio. Tuesday's matinée was devoted to Verdi's popular *Il Trovatore*, and the audience was large and appreciative. Tuesday evening Meyerbeer's *Star of the North* was given for the first time here, and the general excellence of the production brought forth high praise. Other operas for the week are Wagner's *Meistersingers* and *Tannhäuser, Aïda* and *The Puritan's Daughter*.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—The principal attraction here is Van Biene, the actor-musician, in the playlet *The Master Musician*, and his delightful 'cello solos are greeted with great applause. Amos Howard, the dancing comedian, earns an encore for his sand dances; Kisbey, the call-boy, meets with recognition for coon songs; Geo. C. Doughty and company appear in an excellent and mirth-provoking comedy sketch, *Captain Cupid;* Adey Spencer, "the girl from the hat shop," is praiseworthy in songs; the burlesque tricks of Jellini, juggler, cause much laughter; the Hughes Brothers play football on cycles capitally, and the picture by the Empire Theatrescope is excellent.

PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Jock Whiteford, Scotch comedian, pays his first visit here, and thoroughly delights his audience with his songs and drolleries; Bedini's Gordon Highlanders are a smartly drilled set of men who perform a complicated series of manœuvres with precision; Robins and Collier are very entertaining as *The Lady and the Porter;* Leslie's Comedy Cadets are highly diverting; Mr. E. is a pit-pat patterer with piquant points on pictures on the screen; and the Evalos are particularly smart in jugglery. The Two Kays appear in a vocal scena, *The Cuckoo*, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux amuse with The Electric Hotel.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—*Her Road to Ruin*, by Fredk. Melville's company, is the attraction this week. The arduous rôle of Jess is undertaken with complete success by Miss Beatrice Edwards; in her triple characters Miss Nellie Bonser displays considerable histrionic ability; a bright and pleasing actress is Miss Alice Bowes as May Willoughby; Mr. Hy. Wolston as Frank Temple is exceptionally good; a dignified cleric is Mr. Dane Clarke as the Bishop; the cynical polished villainy of Philip Hardy is ably portrayed by Mr. Alex. Bradley; and comic interludes by Mr. Harry Talbot (Billy) and Miss Marie Wright (Jennie) are greatly enjoyed. Mr. V. R. C. Moors (Tom Wells) and Mr. F. Powell (Chas. Cholomdley) creditably sustain their respective parts. The play is admirably staged.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—*The Gay Gordons* made their first appearance here on Monday. Peggy Quainton is played by Miss Maie Ash in a charming manner, and her efforts are ably seconded by Miss Nellie Lonnen as Victoria Siddons; Miss Ida Laurie successfully copes with the part of Charlotte Siddons; Glady Deane as Mary McLeod and Nora D'Esterre as Lady Millicent Graeme are both well suited; Mr. Frank Lincoln fully realises the requirements of the part of Angus Graeme; Mr. Tom Graves is capital as Nervy Nat; and a clever study of Edmund Siddons is submitted by Mr. Edward Nainby. The Jack McPrisky of R. H. Wallis is most amusing, his eccentric dancing being decidedly clever; Edward Beecher is a capable Andrew Quainton; and Norman Forrest shines as Corporal John Smith.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H Potter.—A good all-round bill is presented this week. A return visit is paid by Victor and Louis, who submit a smart burlesque; the Lyric Mummers are prominent as operatic duologue artists; further comedy is supplied by Cestria, an acrobatic waiter; a novel turn is that of the Florias, musical specialists, who also give a clever exhibition on the slack wire. Wonderful designs are quickly fashioned from paper by Mint and Mart. Other good turns are provided by Bradley, cycling Jew; Dan Fraser, comedian; Ray Ford, comedienne and dancer; Mozetto and Page, comedy jugglers; and the Ottograph films.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. J. S. Garner.—Beattie and Babs are first favourites in a good programme; Mack Ollive, with assistance from Miss Daisy Baldry, submits his whistling scena, "The Candy Store," in which he is very successful; a dramatic sketch by Will Letters and company, entitled *The Protector*, is followed with keen interest; Corporal Roberts, assisted by Curt and Alexander, is prominent; a pretty scena, entitled *A Fruit Planter's Dream*, for which Eilese and Henry de Lyle are responsible, is popular; and others adding to the evening's enjoyment are Horace Sade, dancer; Little Tichbourne, comedian; Mostol, in a musical act; A. H. Drinkwater, light comedian; and the Bioscope.

CAMBRIDGE. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. W. B. Redfern, J.P., D.L.—The term is drawing to an end. On Monday night Mr. Fred. Mouillot's company gave *The Beloved Vagabond*, the same being capitally staged. Mr. Arthur Royston was very fine as the Bohemian Gaston de Nerac; while Miss Nita Faydon gave admirable support as Blanquette de Veau, being charmingly natural; Mr. Ramsay Macbeth gave a first-class representation of Asticot; Mr. Warburton Gamble was a polished Comte de Verneuil; Miss Kitty Kenyon (Louisette), Miss Kathleen Harrington (Joanna Rushworth), Miss Edith Hunter (Lady Rushworth), Mr. Alfred Drayton (Lord Rushworth), and Mr. Arthur Linay (M. Dubois) render valuable assistance in an interesting performance. On Thursday and Friday, in celebration of Milton's Tercentenary, Mr. Ian Maclaren and a special company played *Samson Agonistes*.

CARDIFF.—NEW THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Robert Redford.—A visit of one of Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is always acceptable here, and this week large audiences have welcomed *Lady Frederick*. Miss Mabel Love appears in the title-rôle, and submits a delineation which is appreciated at its full worth. The lovely dresses of this popular actress have been the cause of much comment. A delightful portrayal is given by Mr. Robert Minster, his witty and striking representation of Paradine Poulder being quite up to the standard of this gentleman's reputation; Mr. Patrick Quill as Sir Gerald O'Mara is quite the right man in the right place; as Lord Mereston, Mr. E. F. Meads is exceptionally good, filling the part with more than average ability; Admirable Carlisle is safely entrusted to the capabilities of Captain Gerald Gambier; while Mr. Edward Bonfield makes the most of his opportunities in the unpleasant rôle of Captain Montgomery; Miss Lynn Fontanne deserves praise for her pleasing rendition of Rose; and Miss Elsie Irving as Lady Mereston should be specially mentioned. The play is preceded by a capital curtain-raiser, entitled *The Peacemaker*, in which exceptionally good acting is displayed.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—Fred Karno's *Football Match* is the most laughable burlesque performance imaginable; and the eccentricities of Harry Weldon, as Stiffy, the goalkeeper, keep the house in high glee; those popular Welsh humorists, Ted and May Hopkins, are funnier than ever; the finest equestrian act ever seen here is that presented by Karl Reinsch, assisted by Miss Lucie, the dancing of the horses to music being simply marvellous; a distinctly high-class acrobatic performance is given by the Vetter Bros., each feat displaying extraordinary strength and precision; in the xylophone line, Baker and Balfe are undoubted experts; and Walter Munroe, Irish character comedian and dancer, is excellent. Sybil St. Elmo obtains considerable applause for her sweetly-rendered song; and Mazie Hibbs is a dancer of no mean skill. As usual, the American Bioscope concludes.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the Management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—For the first time in Cardiff Mr. Montague Beaudyn and company present the interesting drama, *The Power of a Wicked Woman*. The piece is capitally acted throughout and exceptionally well staged. Mr. Beaudyn is easily distinguished for his impersonation of Philip Carey, the dignity and power of delivery making his performance most successful; Miss Irene Munro is to be congratulated upon her rendering of the all-important rôle of Helen Terraire, and too much praise cannot be accorded her; as Horace Winter, Mr. Gordon E. Kingsley is most effective; and Guy Oliphant is capably undertaken by Mr. Arthur Cresswell. The amusing Lord Arthur Dumley finds a creditable exponent in Mr. James Burt; Miss Gertrude Gilman is particularly charming as Denise Carey; and Nellie Montague is faithfully represented by Miss Cecilia Crawford. Wholesome comedy is cleverly put forward by Mr. Arthur Tomlin (Bransby), and Miss Phyllis Rae (Marie). The theatre has been well attended, and the production has been enjoyed by many.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—*Treachery* is the title of the entertaining sketch at the Palace this week, capitally put forward by Bernard Mervyn and Co. Second on the programme is the popular comedian, Nat Clifford, described as the "nimble one"; Chas. Banks is another fun-maker, who is, however, assisted by a clever dog; the Temples prove excellent and gifted vocalists; and the Sisters Brenton are pleasing singers and dancers. Others who contribute to the performance are Norah Desmond, in illustrated songs; and Eileen Douglas, musical comedy girl; with Raymond's Bio-tableaux to complete.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—*The Nihilist*, a Russian drama, is full of dramatic situations. Mr. Joseph Millane, in the part of Ivan Nowasky, eclipses all his previous performances here by his clever handling of a difficult character. Also deserving of special mention is the Prince Alexander of Mr. Leo R. Neilson; Piertree Petoff is capitally played by Mr. O. Silverstone; and Mr. Cowell Clark does excellent work as Karl Orloff. Mr. Henry Wright,

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, (from a photo.).

a comedian far above the average, convulses his audience whenever he is on the stage; Miss Florrie Kelsey plays Princess Olga to perfection; and Alexina Orloff is well presented by Miss Edna Clare.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—R. V. Morgan and company, in an electric transformation musical act, are very enjoyable; the Northern Troupe of dancers are again delighting with a bright and spirited performance; the titbit of the programme, however, is submitted by Cosgrave and Burns, a smart and clever couple who are thoroughly enjoyed; Harris and Worth are funny and entertaining; Morimura, conjurer, meets with a good reception; Fred Eric sings a couple of songs in quaint style; and Marie Ambrose also appears. The Pepiscope completes.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Cr. Hy. Masterman, J.P.—A strong attraction is being presented here in *Why Men Love Women*, as given by Miss Ellen Snow and company. A large audience again thoroughly enjoyed the performance. The part of Violet Livingstone is cleverly treated by Miss Ellen Snow, and her powerful and dramatic performance produces a deep impression on the audience; Gerald Fielding is played in excellent style by Mr. Oliver Rogers; Mr. Lionel Gadsden gives a realistic interpretation of the villainous doings of Captain Staniloff; Mr. Ernest Griffen submits a cleverly defined portrait of the Maharajah; and Lieut. Fitzherbert is portrayed with marked success by Mr. N. Carter Slaughter. The comic element is ably sustained by Mr. Howard Roberts and Miss Beresford-Glynn as Mr. and Mrs. Figgins and Misses Nita Owen and Freda Vaughan, all of whom succeed in getting as much laughter as possible out of their respective parts; Mr. W. Norman does capital work as the Rev. Arthur Gray, and Muriel receives effective treatment at the hands of Miss Florence Nelson; Mr. Fred West is good as Hassan.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will. H. Emerson.—Topping the bill here are Stanley and Vandyke in their absurdity *The Broken Promise*, which causes roars of laughter from beginning to end; Walter Curtis, with his quaint and irresponsible humour, is another source of delight; a pretty and engaging song and dance artist is Miss Gladys Godwynne; Sim Maree is again cordially welcomed for a smart and clever turn as the indiarubber Mohammedan; Mr. Will Godwin is a vocalist whose songs are invariably to the tastes of the audience; Sira, a one-legged speciality artist, is excellent in every way; the Stebro Brothers work hard to please as vaulters and tumblers; the Sisters Russell (Ida and Lillie) are eminently successful as comedy duettists; Harold Heath fixes the attention of all with his songs and dances. The programme is brought to a satisfactory termination with excellent films projected by the Loyal Dominion Co.

CHATHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietors, Messrs. C. and L. B. Barnard; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lionel Barnard.—Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison's company is here in *Peter's Mother*. Miss Violet Ley is in every way admirable as Lady Mary; Mr. Vivian Gilbert is excellent as Peter; Mr. Eille Norwood's John Crewys is a finished performance; Miss Hilda Sims shines as Sarah; and Mr. Townsend Whitling is a natural Sir Timothy; while much amusement is created by the Misses Mary Griffiths and Josephine Rae as Lady Belstone and Miss G. Crewys respectively.

BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—At the top of the bill here is Chas. R. Whittle, who has some capital songs; Thomas and Taylor display dexterity in their quick-change scena, *Fun on the Midland*; Phil Bransby delivers some well-written coster ditties in an amusing style; the Four Edmonds give a series of interesting reproductions of statues. The rest of the company are Bowern and Bardell, comedians and dancers; Hester Reeve, very pleasing in chorus songs; the Rose Trio of acrobats; and Queenie West, who has a flattering reception; while Lacey's Erascope has another new set of films.

CHELTENHAM.—OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Oswald Redford.—Miss May Palfrey and powerful company introduced *Mrs. Dot* on Monday to a delighted and crowded house. Miss Palfrey's study of the title-part is full of individuality, her style piquant and eminently natural. Mr. Hugh C. Buckler as Gerald Halstane is a capital example of mere man in an awkward and embarassing situation; Mr. F. Kinsey Peile's study of the plain-spoken bpt obliging James Blenkinsop is an admirable piece of quiet comedy; Mr. Basil Hallam plays the part of Freddie Perkins to perfection; Nellie Sellenger has a bright and girlish representative in Miss Evelyn Beaumont; Miss Aida Jenoure presents a realistic sketch as Lady Sellenger; Mrs. G. Kemmis gives a pleasingly subdued little study of Mrs. Dot's companion-relative, Miss Eliza Macgregor; and Charles is played with distinction by Mr. McIntyre Wicksteed.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—Gerard, the herculean juggler, heads the bill this week; Walter Buxton is a good baritone; and the Maro Duo greatly amuse the audience with their eccentric triple-bar antics. The Rangers are expert cyclists; Nellie Moore is a clever character impersonator; and Ruby Bijou excels as a barefoot dancer. Sergeant Brennan, the world' champion diabolist, spins the reel with amazing deftness. Some good pictures by the Premier Imperial Biograph complete the programme.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; 'Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Mr. Edmund Tearle, supported by Miss Kate Clinton, and company, are here, and opened on Monday evening with *Hamlet*. Mr. Tearle gave a fine exposition of the title-rôle, and Miss Vera George submitted an admirable rendering of Ophelia. Mr. Fawcett Lomax was conspicuous as First Gravedigger, and the remainder of the cast was in capable hands. Other plays billed are *Richelieu* and *The Merchant of Venice*, in which the veteran Mr. Jonathan Dewhurst was announced to make his farewell stage performances, playing Richelieu and Shylock respectively.

COLCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Charles Macdona; Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. Graham Macdona.—The proprietor's own company, in *Are You a Mason?* opened a week's engagement here on Monday. Mr. H. Langdon Bruce made a genuinely funny George Fisher; Mr. E. H. Paterson and Mr. Stanley Groome each took their respective parts of Amos Bloodgood and Frank Perry in clever fashion; Mr. Erskholme Clive made the most of Hamilton Travers, and the part of John Halton was eminently suitable to Mr. G. P. Polson. Miss Adelaide Grace imparted commendable austerity to the rôle of Mrs. Bloodgood, whose three pretty daughters were charmingly portrayed by the Misses Rita Narcelli, Rita Johnson, and Dulcie Verney; Miss Mary Kilpack adapted herself splendidly to the part of Lottie, and Miss Viola Garland was good as Mrs. Halton. The farce is preceded by *Old Maid's Corner*.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Co.; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The Seven Xentrix, in a vocal and dancing scena, are a success; M. and Mlle. Gaillard present the lion D'Artagnan and his companion, Chocolat, and the entertainment is a novel one; Dagmar and Clown are most welcome, the lady proving herself an accomplished artist on the horizontal bar and slack perpendicular rope; Arthur Hickham gives evidence of talent as a tenor; Hal Berte, comedian-contortionist, is highly diverting; Daisy Hicks goes well as a comedienne; and Ingram and Irving again present their comedy act, *The New Office Boy*. The management to-day (Saturday) inaugurate a series of Cinematinées at reduced prices.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. W. Graham Arthurs' company is on a visit with *The Mockery of Marriage*. Mr. Graham Arthurs as Jack Stanley plays with skill; Mr. Ralph Armfield is a powerful Seth Pearse; Mr. Geo. Tempest a capital Sir Montague Jephson; and as Toby Wright Mr. Frank Masters is funny. Miss Mabel Liston, in the part of Alva Kenyon, proves herself a capable actress, and Miss Evelyn Hamilton is successful as Rose Verham.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Miss Loie Esmonde's company produced here on Monday night *The Sorrows of Satan*. Miss Loie Esmonde's Diana Chesney was a clever and well-sustained performance; Mr. Edward Neville, who appeared as Prince Lucio Rimanez, is an effective actor, and filled the part capitally. Other parts were capably represented by Mr. F. Douglas Howard, Mr. J. Le Fleming, Miss Hilary Burleigh, Mr. Claude Casey, and Miss Rosie Neville. The play was well mounted, and got a good reception. *Nana* is also in the répertoire.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—The Royal Tokio troupe of Japanese artists present thrilling feats on a triangular ladder, and are a clever lot of equilibrists; Miss Lina Leslie is a vivacious comedienne, and her songs are enjoyable; Mr. Arthur Holland, character vocalist, wins distinction; Mr. Randolph King in the turn, entitled "The One-Man Programme," proves an extremely clever comedian; the Sisters Dorrell are appreciated in their pretty songs and dances; the Three Donals' gymnastic performance is a revelation of the results of physical culture; Chrissie Cross sings and dances daintily; and the Two Macs prove themselves clever patterers and dancers. The Palacescope also contributes.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—An excellent attraction is provided this week by Mr. Julius Booth, who presents *Monte Cristo*. Mr. Booth as Edmund Dantes earns the praise of everyone; Mr. Conrad Heywood gives an excellent impersonation of Nortier; Mr. C. W. Crowe is seen to advantage as Villefort; Mr. John Howden shows force of character as Fernand; Miss Celia Dare makes a charming Mercedes; Miss Alice West being successful as La Carconte.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. G. Wright.—A good all-round programme put before the patrons this week includes the Seven Perezoffs in their juggling pantomime. Another excellent turn is given by the Narow Brothers, who give a wonderful performance on bicycles; a quartet of men who give no names gave a good comical turn for ten minutes. Other artists who appear during the evening are Rosie Lloyd, a very pleasing singer; Max Ritter and Grace Foster, eccentric dancers and comedians; Brayne and Lloyd, in an absurdity entitled *The Tree of Truth*; Pop Dearly, comedian coon; and Harry Goodburn.

THE EMPIRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The chief item here is Joe Peterman's Singing Servants in some smart humorous songs; Brinn is again welcomed with his marvellous juggling act; Fyne and Hurley are a smart pair of comedians and patterers; Amy Russell gives some well-rendered songs; Starr and Leslie have a good Indian club show; H. E. High gives a clever exhibition on roller skates; and the Bioscope concludes.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Walter Melville's company in *The Soldier's Wedding* is playing here this week. The piece is elaborately staged, horses, pigeons, ducks, fowls, and dogs being introduced. Mr. Wingold Lawrence makes a vigorous and manly Jack Brown; Mr. B. Whitcomb an excellent Colonel Graham; Mr. Gerald Jordan a powerful Charles Courtney; Mr. J. Chippendale is a favourite as Tommy Spratt; Mr. Fred Yarnold as Nathaniel Lee is a typical old farmer; Mr. Frederick Biron is well suited to the rôle of David Munroe; and Little Albert is a successful Teddy Munroe. Miss Dorothy Richardson wins golden opinions for her performance of Nancy Lee; Miss Marie McAulay is an earnest Julie; Miss Mabel Lowe a capital Peggy Munroe; and Miss Mattie Everett a bright and pleasing Lizzie Walker.

CROYDON. — GRAND THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. Roland Daniel; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Archer.—Mr. Frank Curzon's excellent company in *My Mimosa Maid* is giving satisfaction at the Grand. Miss Marie Studholme is a host in herself as Paulette; Miss Eva Sandford makes a charming Popitte; Miss May Garstang is neat as Mme. de Pilaine; Miss Ruby Gray sings sweetly in the rôle of Marcelle Pilaine; and Misses Kitty Yarand, Hazel Adair, Avis Adair, Phil Gumpel, Nancy Keeley, Sybil West, Daisie Yole, and Florence Sinclaire are approved in minor rôles. Mr. Charles McNaughton works assiduously and receives a cordial reception as Victor Guilbert; Mr. Charles E. Paton submits a quaint impersonation of Max Guilbert; Master Archie McCaig does wonders with the rôle of Bock; Mr. Percy Carr sings to perfection as M. Emile Gerrard; Mr. Arthur Jackson is remarkably good as Grone; Mr. John H. Goldsworthy has a fine appearance as Captain Louis du Laurier; Mr. L. Winter is creditable as Lieut. Jean Courmander; Mr. Fred Gilbert is suitable as Henri; and Mr. Eliot Skinner is amusing as Boss.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Fred Karno's company in *G.P.O.* heads the bill, and with Fred Kitchen as Perkins there is plenty of fun; May Marton, comedienne, is delightfully fresh; Fred Land is one of the best of comedians; George Cairncross deserves praise for his impersonations of Henry Irving and Martin Harvey; Angus Strong's fine baritone voice is heard to advantage; the animated pictures by Ruffell are applauded; Maude Vere, comedienne and dancer, is a warm favourite; Harry Brown, coloured comedian, sings and dances commendably; and Bradley and Barns are a pleasing comedy duo; Mr. Eustace Jay's management of this house would be hard to improve upon.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company is here with *Driven from Home*. Mr. Felix Pitt as Anthony Raybrook puts plenty of expression into the part; Walter Hatherleigh is well played by Mr. P. George Beresford; Mr. C. Burdon presents an able character sketch of Geoffrey Waring, Mr. Harry Cornwell as Jabez Thomas gives an admirable performance; Miss Jessie Yatman is winsome and attractive as Laura Raybrook, and as Walter Hatherleigh gives an excellent representation of a lad; Miss Lizzie Ingles is good as Barbara Ashdown; a hit is made by Mr. Fred C. Imbert in the part of John Anderson and Miss Emily Custance as Margaret Bailey, the comedy parts. Mr. Percy Dawson as Willie, an outcast, is clever; and mention must be made of Mr. Henry Helling as Adam Marley and Mr. E. Finley as Dick Saunders.

NEW HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Miss Helen Roberts in her Salome dances tops the bill. The applause which greeted her efforts was well merited. An excellent turn is provided by Rose Elliott, her songs being well received; Wee Mona Vivian, juvenile vocalist, is heartily received; praise is also due to Martene and Son, song illustrators; Tee and Tee, musical eccentrics; Walter Stanley, comedian; Helen Charles, entertainer at the piano; and the Pepiscope pictures.

DARWEN.—PUBLIC HALL, PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—In addition to pictures on the Bioscope, Yorkshire Tom is clever with his mimicry, and the Lynns provide a good musical act. Gladys Cooper is a charming soprano vocalist.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Mr. Harry Foxwell's company is this week producing *A Broken Heart*. Miss Sheila Walsh as Mary Barnard proves herself an admirable actress; John Barnard is ably impersonated by Mr. Harry Foxwell; Mr. Edward Rawlinson as Gash Gills makes a capital villain; the character of Stephen Railton is in the capable hands of Mr. Geo. Newall; and Miss Marguerite Thorne and Miss Daisy Rocheford are successful as Mrs. Barnard and Little Mary respectively. The comedy element is well sustained by Mr. Will Lindsay as Tibbets and Miss Dora Hargreaves as Sally Tavner. The remaining characters are all in excellent hands, and the play is efficiently mounted.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—Kurkamp, the original singing conductor, is the principal attraction here this week, and his songs, which are admirably rendered, gain him unstinted applause. A clever quick-change act is given by Marie Jones, who appears in a sketch entitled *The Way to Win a Bet*, in which she impersonates six of the characters, having a capable assistant in Ernest Munroe. The Toreadors create hearty laughter in their mimic bull-fight; Fred Casburn is a clever comedian and patterer; Angelina is a praiseworthy lady juggler; Francis Hanlon is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Cara Magda is a creditable lady gymnast; and the Bioscope adds a series of up-to-date and amusing films.

DEVONPORT.—THEATRE METROPOLE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—Devonport on Monday received its long-anticipated visit from the Moody-Manners Operatic company, and a splendid house assembled to witness *Madame Butterfly*. Miss Enriqueta Crichton undertook the title-rôle, and her singing quite captivated the audience; Mr. Charles Carter as the lieutenant made the most of the many advantages the part furnishes to a fine tenor; Miss Emma Dennis's contralto voice was heard to advantage in the vocal numbers falling to the part of Sasuki; and Mr. Marshall Vincent was excellent as the Consul. On Tuesday *Faust* was presented. The remaining pieces presented have been *Maritana*, *Carmen*, *The Bohemian Girl*, and *Lohengrin*.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. Herbert Taylor.—Richard Corbin's performing dogs are starred for the week; Lena Shirley and Claude Anderson furnish some attractive excerpts from grand opera; Dave Austin and Robert Harcourt present an amusing duologue entitled *His Wedding Morning*; and the Fordyces give a capable exhibition of trick dancing; Albert Wyndham and company work hard in their sketch, entitled *Cæsar's Trust*; Clark's Nippers are accomplished jugglers; and Tom Leo proves a popular comedian. The remaining turns are supplied by Little Frankie, the Highland Laddie, and the Arthur Gallimore Trio.

DOVER.—ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor Mr. S. W. Winter; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. W. Holford.—A good programme is opened by the Rica Trio, agile and graceful lady acrobats; Constance Mori is a well-dressed and dainty comedienne; the Godfreys give a very amusing musical turn; and the smartness of the Rizarelis' work on the revolving trapeze evokes rounds of applause. An entertaining little sketch entitled *Binks' Blunder* is capitally acted by Harry Russell and company; the patter of Crogie, the character countryman, is humorous in the extreme, and his "Oldest inhabitant" song is also exceedingly well done; Ben Hur arouses much interest by his marvellous powers of weight-lifting; and very amusing are the efforts of the competitors in the sack-lifting competition he has organised. Polly's Excursion and a film illustrating the life of Ben Hur are shown on the Hippodrome Bioscope.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Lessees, The Vaudeville Syndicate; Manager, Mr. Fred Holt.—That favourite comedian Fred Southern is with us again, this week producing a dramatic episode entitled *The Poacher's Wife*. He is excellently supported by Miss May Emery and company. A boxing exhibition is always popular in this town, and Lance-Corporal Baker, light-weight champion of 1908, has been accorded a hearty reception at each house; while Sergt. Maynard, N.F., also comes in for a good share of applause. *She Would Sing*, an amusing duologue, is crisply enacted by Mark and May Milton; Earl and Godfrey win considerable success as comedians, harmonising vocalists, and dancers; Mamie Morris is a sweet-voiced singer, and Tina Frank a fascinating comedienne. The Bioscope pictures conclude.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—A large and enthusiastic audience was present on Monday night to witness the first production here of Mr. W. Kingsley Tarpey's play, *Windmills*, as presented by Miss Horniman's excellent company. Mr. Henry Austin as Sir Henry Pennefeather gave a capital rendering; Miss Ada King was most sympathetic and interesting as Lady Pennefeather; Mr. Lewis Casson as the Hon. Phillip Wykeham displayed his customary artistic ability; as Evelyn Rivers Miss Hilda Bruce Potter was admirable; the part of Spencer Goldthwaite Pennefeather was cleverly enacted by Mr. Basil Dean; Miss Penelope Wheeler was all that could be desired as Cora Moberley; Mr. Charles Bibby acquitted himself well as Inspector Bolt; and equally satisfactory work is added by Mr. Edward Landor as Sergeant Fell. Miss Darragh as Lady Mabel Wriothesley, and Mr. Jules Shaw as Mr. Moberley. The play was preceded by the amusing comedy *The Dear Departed*, in which the Misses Thorndike and Holbrook and Mr. Mudie successfully appeared. *Widowers' Houses* and *The Devil was Ill* are also announced.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—Two big houses welcomed the re-opening of the Hippodrome season here on Monday, when Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fitzsimmons made their début in Ireland in a sketch entitled *A Man's a Man for a' That*, and met with a flattering reception. A prominent feature of the programme is the Ten Dark Knights, American coloured comedians, vocalists, and dancers, whose turn is loudly applauded; James Callahan and Jenny St. George, presenting their musical character classic, score a distinct success; a hit has also been made by Fritz von Liston for his clever imitations of birds and beasts; Albert Bellman and Lottie Moore, American comedy artists, provide an acceptable turn; Irma Orbassany's cockatoos give a clever and interesting performance; Ronald Bagnal, society entertainer, is very well received; and the cinematograph completes an excellent bill of fare.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—There is an entire change of programme here this week. The new films, which are both amusing and entertaining, are as follows:—The Bargee's Daughter, The Round Table, We Are So Fond of Onions, Saved by Telegraphic Code, The Commander's Revenge, The Arrested Tricar, My Sweetheart's Birthday, A Fortunate Accident, A Perfect Nuisance, and The Blackleg, &c. The variety turns contributing are:—Harlin and Hanlon, society entertainers, the Sisters Duggan, traditional Irish step dancers, and Bob Pearson, humorist and guide.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—The centre of attraction here this week are the Elliott Savonas in their delightful musical act, *The Palace of Orpheus*, which is cheered to the echo; Lambert and Robinson present an amusing sketch entitled *Scots Folks Wooing*, which creates roars of laughter; and Miss Nellie Bly, a dainty comedienne, is popular in all parts of the house. Huxter Brothers submit a wonderfully smart jumping act, and Campkin gains many a laugh as a tramp cyclist. Carl Howard gives an amusing and clever conjuring turn, and Miss Winnie Travers sings her songs in taking style. Harry Lawson proves himself a capital comedian, and the Empire pictures are, as usual, interesting.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—Mlle. Naveeda, in a marvellous illusion act, holds premier position here this week, and is accorded a good reception; Pichel and Scale give a side-splitting comedy acrobatic act, and Mlle. Renee is both clever and entertaining as an instrumentalist; the Trentanovi Sisters, in a charming transformation gymnastic act, are warmly applauded, and Dan Rolans renders several songs which gain him approval; Kendrick and Laura, society entertainers, meet with success, as does also Mlle. Ameda, hand and foot equilibrist; the Sisters Brookland are pleasing comediennes and dancers, and Tom Joy, comedian, creates much hilarity with his funny songs; and the Bioscope depicting The Ragpicker Caricaturist concludes.

DUDLEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. Maurice Clement; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. Tilley.—Mr. Harry Benet's company in *Sergeant Brue* is amusing Dudley playgoers this week. Mr. Denis Lyndon in the title-rôle gives an excellent rendering that is brimful of humour; Michael Brue is ably represented by Mr. Lister Morrah, a good-voiced tenor who is appreciated; Mr. Benet, in the arduous character of Crookie Scrubbs, gives an original and energetic rendering; Miss Daisy Dale as Aurora Brue is pretty and pleasing; and Miss Ray Anderson is sufficiently dignified and graceful as Lady Bickenhall.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—An interesting and clever turn is that of the four Mexican lariat manipulators and lasso wonders, who are both charming and skilful. The Six Lancashire Lasses are well applauded for their songs and dances; the Two Rubies, duettists and dancers, are bonny and brisk; Enzer and Clarice in their unique speciality are accomplished; Fremel and Fremel, original eccentrics, are responsible for a comedy and acrobatic performance of premier quality; and Hemsley and Ambrose create a deal of fun in their motor-car. Bert and Say, the Curate and the Slavey, are good, as also is George Edney, character vocalist.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *The New East Lynne* is playing to good houses here. As Lady Isabel Miss Marion Lind gave a powerful conception; another telling performance was that of Mr. Frederick Harker as Archibald Carlyle; the villainous Francis Levison was admirably rendered by Mr. W. H. Garbois; the comicalities of Mr. Richard Nugent as Murty O'Flynn were hugely enjoyed; Mr. Byron Pedley was an amusing Mr. Dill; Miss Josephine Gwinne a delightful Barbara; Miss Guinevere Shilton cleverly doubled the parts of Afy and Joice Hallijohn; Miss Sophy Shenton played with incisiveness as Cornelia Carlyle; and the child part was very creditably interpreted by Miss Doris Denville.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—At the top of the bill are Charles Frazer and company in their sparkling comedy illusion, *The Enchanted Iona*, in which they introduce some very enjoyable comedy business. The Geretti Sisters give a daring performance on the double trapeze; the Bros. St. Clair are intensely amusing as comedy knockabout cyclists, their football match on bicycles creating much enthusiasm; Ryan and Hall are diverting comedy acrobats; Alex. B. Thorne is a clever Scotch comedian; the Three Sisters Lee, singers, dancers, and acrobats, present a remarkably good turn; the Three Orleans are neat dancers; and Johnny Holland and company score a big success in their laughable sketch, *My Friend Boots*. The Palascope, with Scenes on the Riviera and several other attractive films, completes.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mrs. Lillie Williams' gorgeous pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is beating all records at this popular house. Miss Amy Randolph (Crusoe) and Miss May Carter (Polly) have made tremendous hits. Miss Dora Lindsay (Fairy Pearl) is also a warm favourite. The comedians, Mr. Fred Davies (Will Atkins), Mr. J. Telly Dillsen (Mrs. Crusoe), Mr. Brete Harte (Emperor), and Justin and Martell, the knockabouts, have introduced new business, and the whole production now goes with a fine swing from start to finish. Several new dances have also been introduced by those charming and sprightly damsels the Dixie Girls, who have set the town talking with their excellent singing and dancing. Among the new variety items are the Peps, who prove gymnasts of a particularly clever order. On Wednesday evening the performance was under the distinguished patronage and presence of Lord Provost Urquhart, Mrs. Urquhart, and the magistrates of the city, the entire receipts of the two houses (without any deduction whatever) being very kindly handed over by Mrs. Lillie Williams to the fund in aid of the unemployed of the city.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Prince Edward Pictures are drawing huge crowds to this cosy house. A very fine dramatic film is Sherlock Holmes, The Artist and the Model rouses much applause, while amongst the comic pictures are Tommy and his Pranks, Knock Me on the Head, &c. The varieties include Elsie Earle, who is an established favourite with Dundonians; Lily Dunne, a fine chorus singer; and Tukio, a Japanese mimic of ability.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—Mr. Fred Newman has another very attractive programme here this week. Amongst the films shown are The Poacher's Crime, Nick Carter, For Daddy's Sake, By a Woman's Wit, A Wife's Honour, Smiling Faces, and The Architect's Apprentice. A long and exciting film entitled A Fisherman's Hate proved quite a feature of the entertainment. A very enjoyable variety turn is contributed by Arthur Bright, a smart player on the Milanese pipe.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—Mr. Herbert Greville and his company are appearing here in *Merely Mary Ann*. Mr. Paul Loyett, earnest and picturesque, is entirely successful as Lancelot, the composer; Mr. Stanley Logan is a particularly pleasing, refined, and natural Peter; Mr. Herbert Greville works hard and exceNently as Samuel Smedge; and Mr. Richard Sullivan does capital duty as Lord Tottenham. To Miss Violet Greville must be accorded unstinted praise for her able work as the lodging-house keeper, Mrs. Leadbatter; Miss Florence Radcliffe is very clever as Rosie; Miss Lester Stephen is a graceful, aristocratic Lady Chalmer; Miss Enid Hall and Miss Vere Lisle are very capable as the Sisters Tripett; and satisfactory duty is done by Miss Jessica Solomon as Mary Ann.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—A very able company is appearing here this week in *Amasis*. Mr. W. H. Denny as Pharaoh keeps the house in excellent humour with his clever work generally; Mr. Edward McKeown sings and acts with taste and refinement as Cherio; Mr. J. Hawkes is a distinctive High Priest; Mr. Frank Attree, cleverly made up, is invaluable as Ptolemy; Mr. Walter H. Brodie is an energetic and amusing Sebak; and Mr. Frank Wood sings admirably as Psamtik. A fine performance is given by Miss Mabel Burnage, who as Princess Amasis sings admirably; Miss Mabel Lovett is a bright and interesting Natis; and a particularly efficient chorus includes much vocal ability and many handsome ladies. Mr. Ernest Hurman is the musical conductor.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—Heading the bill here this week is Mr. Luis Hardt, who in a tasteful and elaborate scene introduces in a novel manner a first-class "strong-man" turn; Hampton and Bauman have an original and nicely-staged act, which is well received; Miss Eva Lumley and Miss Freda Ettrick's company do capital work in a sketch, *Jimmy All-of-a-twist*; the Gascoignes are smart jugglers and balancers; Miss Estrella is a pretty and dainty international dancer; Mr. Carl Colyer is a funny comedian and good dancer; the Sisters Du Cane are tuneful vocalists and neat dancers; Beale and Broadway sing and dance well; and new films are shown. A picture matinée is given every Saturday.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Billy Williams is the centre of attraction; Lockhart's elephants are clever; the Wakeman Quintette submit a good performance; Frank Sley and his Nipper dance cleverly; Jack Waller gives a good account of himself; Cecilia Gold proves a dainty burlesque artist; the Three Alskarnos are unique; Jack Truman, tenor, appears with success; and the L.V.O. Trio, Elvis, Ross, and Elvis, in *Those Troublesome Slaveys*, cause roars of laughter; Pat O'Connor, comedian and dancer, pleases; and the Mysterious Parcel is depicted on the Bioscope.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—The D'Oyly Carte principal répertoire opera company began a fortnight's engagement here on Monday, with an excellent performance of *The Mikado*, which, after the lapse of a quarter of a century, still retains undiminished its old power to charm and amuse. Mr. Fred Billington was in his familiar part of Pooh-Bah, which he played and sang in his own inimitable style; Mr. Charles R. Wallen did every justice by his dry humour and clear enunciation to the character of Koko; and Nanki-Poo was in the capable hands of Mr. Stafford Moss, whose fine tenor voice and natural acting invested the rôle with much distinction. Mr. Leicester Tunk's impersonation of the Mikado was striking, picturesque, and musically satisfying; Miss Clara Dow was decidedly successful as Yum-Yum, her beautiful singing and graceful acting being much admired; while Miss Beatrice Meredith as Pitti-Sing and Miss Mabel Graham as Peep-Bo completed the charming trio of three little maids, whose tuneful singing brought down the house. Miss Ethel Morrison as Katisha was strong, dramatically and vocally; and the parts of Pish-Tush and Go-To were played in an admirable manner by Mr. Sydney Granville and Mr. Fred Drawater respectively. The chorus put in some really admirable work, and the orchestra backed them up sympathetically and well. Encores were numerous, several of the airs having to be repeated in response to enthusiastic applause. *The Gondoliers*, *Patience*, *H.M.S. Pinafore*, and *After All* have been given during the week.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Miss Margaret Cooper, the charming vocalist and pianist, is paying a return visit here this week, and is arousing the customary enthusiasm by her dainty, finished rendering of clever songs; Miss Jean Macduff, a Scottish comedienne, makes a successful appearance, and gives pleasure by her bright, amusing style; Miss Peggy Lyndon is loudly recalled for an admirable musical act; and Mr. Michael Kemble receives a similar mark of favour for his cultured singing of several difficult solos. The Nassaus, in their exposition of "mental telepathy," display marvellous powers. The lady, seated blindfolded on the stage, describes not only articles shown to Mr. Nassau by members of the audience, but gives names of friends of whom various persons are thinking, and the country in which they reside. A drawing-room comedietta, *A Capital Joke*, is pleasantly acted by Mr. Nicol Pentland and Miss Annie Lloyd; Ross and Grayson provide a distinctly exhilarating sketch, in which surprising piano-playing is given by the gentleman; Mr. G. W. Hunter, the veteran comedian and story-teller, is in capital form; and the Bioscope shows one or two films of dramatic interest.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—Selections from *Cavalleria Rusticana* are well sung by La Scala Opera Company, which includes Mrs. Arthur Rousby, Mr. Edward Arthur, Mr. Leslie Austin, and Miss Alice Réné; and in quite another vein F. W. Purcell's company are immensely successful with the comedietta *That Brute Simmons*, the cast comprising Mr. Julian Cross, Mr. George Delaforce, and Miss Oliph Webb. The Gaudsmidt acrobats, with their wonderful black poodles, create a furore; the Dumond Trio of vocalists and instrumentalists give a pleasing musical mélange, entitled *Parisian Street Singers*; and the Mayvilles repeat their popular performance as Lilliputian novelty artists. The well-known American entertainer, Charles T. Aldrich, is singularly happy in his lightning changes and intensely funny burlesques of magicians and jugglers; Charles Vincent is a comedian that the audience would willingly recall ad infinitum; Marie Chisold pleases with illustrated chorus songs; Victor

"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

Important Notice to Advertisers and others.

Owing to Christmas Day and Boxing Day this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of Postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, "The Era" will be published at midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd.

ADVERTISEMENTS intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd., to reach us by first post on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd. Advertisements may be handed in at the counter until 12.30 noon on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd.

POST EARLY,

Travers is an exceedingly lithe and nimble humorist; and the American Bioscope Pictures include the newest films.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—In addition to many excellent equestrian turns contributed by Messrs. Leicester, Alfred Cooke, Stephenson, Douglas Cooke, and Guttenberg, the droll interludes of Talberto, Comical Walker, Shadow, and Pugh supply admirable fooling; Fee Lung and Chung La make a mirthful appearance as Chinese eccentrics; and an amusing sketch, entitled *The Mesmerist*, is well played by Miss Telma and Mr. H. Groves. Miss Ernestine Rosa Cooke is seen in an interesting series of poses, illustrating classical statuary; the Laurie Brothers give a clever acrobatic display; Globella's performance on the animated snowball shows great dexterity; Ethardo, Pugh, and Olrac present the American trampoline; nearly the whole strength of the company is compressed into *Rustic Revels in the Hay Cart*; and the Orient Life Motion Pictures wind up good programme.

EXETER. — THEATRE ROYAL.—Chairman and Managing-Director, Mr. Edward J. Domville, J.P.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy M. Dunsford.—Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair's company in *Man to Man* is drawing large and appreciative houses. All the parts are in capable hands, and especially commendable is the acting of Mr. Adair as the villain Richard Ellerton. Mr. Lloyd as George Gordon makes an excellent hero; Miss Louie Adair easily gains the sympathies of the audience by her charming manner as the heroine Ethel Maythorne; Mr. Wilfred Beckwith is decidedly good as the Mad Parson. The other parts are well sustained by Messrs. H. Bruce Williams, Clifford Bown, and the Misses Phyllis Oakeley and Evelyn Warde.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—The principal feature of this week's bill is the performance of Master Max Darewski, the boy composer and conductor, who is enthusiastically applauded; the singing of Wills and Mackenzie in a musical sketch is decidedly good; Nellie Ridgway gives a novelty act on the tight wire which is well received. The Hippodrome pictures complete an excellent programme, which also includes the O'Gorman Brothers, Fred Poplar, and Kitty Wager.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, —Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—This week sees a return to variety business at the Falkirk playhouse. The star is Miss Dinah Morris, who presents her sketch, *A Village in Dahomey*, assisted by a large company; Alix Lukos gives some fine impersonations of celebrities; Burke, Andrus, and Frisco furnish an enjoyable turn; and other artists include George Reeves (comedian), Burnett and Stirling (American comedians), Fred Collins (Scotch comedian), and Eva Webb (kaleidoscopic dancer).

FARNWORTH.—QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. T. Morton Powell.—This week we are having a visit from Messrs. A. Northway and W. V. Garrod's company in *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. Logan Darra as the Rev. Tom Godley proves himself a capable actor; Mr. C. Ashwell as Enoch Jaggins acts the part in just the right spirit; Ben Jaggins finds a worthy exponent in Mr. W. Vincent; Mr. Owen Redmond as Phil Drive gives a capital performance; Miss Hammersley as Fern Godleigh acts with distinction and grace; and Miss Alice Buckland as Mrs. Phil Drive is all that could be desired.

FOLKESTONE. — PLEASURE GARDENS THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland.—*The Girl I Love* is presented here for the week by Hardie and Von Leer's company. The leading part of Phillip Dunree is rendered in a masterly manner by Mr. E. Howard Templeton; and Miss Katherine Clarke as Nancy Nollid (a London Bohemian) is all that could be desired, her graceful acting being greatly appreciated. The part of Little Jack is cleverly rendered by that charming little actress Miss Bertha Hanbury. Excellent comedy is provided by Mr. Charles V. Sandford as Frank Sudley (a medico), and Mr. Harry C. Morton as Timothy Parkins (a gentleman's gentleman), ably assisted by Miss Laura Dyson as Daisy Virgina Carlotta; Mr. Herbert Leonard calls for special notice as Jake Long, the cowboy sheriff, and Miss Ida Millais comes in for her share of praise as Dorothy Marlow (an heiress); Mr. Clinton Baddeley makes a fine villain as a U.S. cavalry officer; and the part of Myama (a Chiquito Indian girl) is well portrayed by Miss Isobel de Cressé, a young actress of great promise.

GAINSBOROUGH.—EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Gainsborough Empire Syndicate.—The principal item of this week's bill is a condensed dra a, entitled *A Son's Devotion*, by Mr. Edward Ranier's company. Mr. Ranier gives a good rendering of Eric Farnham, and he is well supported by Messrs. Aldworth, Gregory, Pitt, and Misses J. Tooney, Hayward and Wells. Jean Seul, an Indian mystifier, gives a good item; the Leno Bros. also appear; and some good pictures complete the bill.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Mr. Harry Roxbury is producing the pantomime of *Mother Goose* here. Mr. Roxbury in the part of Mother Goose is conspicuously successful; Miss Maud Prenton is a dashing Colin, her vocalism being acceptable; Miss Lily Palmer is a charming Jill; a very humorous delineation of Jack emanates from Mr. J. W. Gallagher; Mr. Fred Hutchings ably represents Muggles; and specialities are introduced by Towyn Thomas's Royal Welsh Entertainers, Sydney T. Russell's Four Sydney Girls, and the Miltons, a pair of clever skaters. The book and lyrics are by Miss Vashti Wynne and the music by Messrs. Francis W. Knowles and H. Neil Vernon.

GLASGOW.—KING'S, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—Mr. M. Russell Rosse is presenting Mr. David James and company in a revival of *Caste*. Mr. James gives a vivid portrayal of old Eccles; and Miss Ida Chapman as Esther, his lovable daughter, is simply charming. The lively Polly Eccles has a spirited representative in Miss Helena Parsons; and her admirer, Sam Gerridge, is ably handled by Mr. George Mudie, jun. The dignified Captain Hawtrey is finely played by Mr. Tom Taylor-Vinson; and George D'Alroy is excellently interpreted by Mr. James Gelderd. The aristocratic Marquise de St. Maur is grandly portrayed by Miss Gertrude Le Sage.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. Lawrence Brough and his company are paying a welcome return visit with *The Lady of Ostend*. The Baron de Longueville of Mr. Lawrence Brough is a clever interpretation, and receives well-merited applause. Dick Whortles is ably handled by Mr. Aubrey Cheshire; Mr. Percy Marshall gives a sound performance as Joseph Carbury; James has an able exponent in Mr. Harry Collier; Mr. Tom Mowbray gives a realistic impersonation of Toby Knockitt; Miss Betty Park prettily portrays Dorothy Whortles; and the Matilda Carbury of Miss Bessie Harrison and the Millie Grace of Miss Alice Leigh are carried out in a finished manner. Miss Edith Adeson does good work as Jane; and Mr. W. Mayne Lynton appears quite at home as Thompson. The comedy is preceded by the Irish play, *At the Rising of the Moon*.

METROPOLE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Mr. Morton Powell's company present *The Woman Who Gambles*, a play of a very stirring character. Mr. Clifford Rean as the Count is in a great measure responsible for the spirit which characterises the whole production; Miss Laura Walker as the Countess shows much histrionic ability, her acting in the subdued pathetic parts being tasteful and cultured; Mr. Norman A. Overton as the scheming Baron Cratzlaw gains a large share of the honours, his acting being strong and impressive; Mr. Reginald Fox as Karl gives a pleasing performance, being particularly effective in his heroic passages; Mr. Ernest H. Clarke as Stambuloff (chief of police) is admirably fitted for the part; the comedy business is well looked after by Mr. Victor T. Raymond as the Hon. Bertie Bray, and Miss Brenda May as Zanetta (maid to the Countess), Miss E. Conway as Cora Gouldhart, and Miss Lily Malvern as Stella Malakoff, make good appearances, a remark which may be applied to the whole cast. The production was greatly appreciated by crowded houses.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Miss Ada Frank's company, in *A Fight for Life*, provide an excellent evening's enjoyment here. As Count Adrian Mr. Courtney Robinson makes an impressive figure, and two clever impersonations are the Adell of Miss Rose Woodhall and the Marie of Miss Lena Lewis. Mr. Wm. Matthews acts well as the brutal Carlos Cardell; and a strong contrast is afforded in the Jean Cardell of Mr. Clifton Earle, a clever and pathetic impersonation. Mr. Dan Ryan is a lively and humorous Dan Murphy; and his sweetheart Suzanne is acted with lively grace by Miss Ada Frank. Mr. Templar Ellis gives a clever sketch of the miser Ferraud; Miss Florence M. Daly is duly vindictive as the gipsy La Cardell. The play is well staged.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Jack Pleasants is starring here, and in "Arabella" and other ditties he gets many hearty laughs. The Five Mowatts give a smart display of club juggling; F. W. Purcell's company submit a realistic Sicilian "shocker" in *What Women Do for Men*; Goggin and Davis are a couple of versatile comedy acrobats, and their turn takes well; Master Edward Frisby contributes several well-rendered songs; Leo Stormont gives a baritone song and a "fair trado" recitation. The Three Sisters Jerome take well in a novel comedy turn; and Gwyer and Valli appear in an eccentric American act. Margaret Rae is a 'celloist and vocalist of much merit; the juggling turn of Joe Almasio and his comic assistant is very good; and the Bioscope concludes.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Machnow, the Russian giant, a veritable Goliath in stature, pays a return visit to the city. On the production of *My Lady Betty* Frank Elliston and company are to be complimented. It is a clever comedy episode, capitally performed. The Musical Schafers are responsible for an excellent instrumental entertainment, which is novel and highly amusing; Devon and Earle can be classed amongst the smartest double dancing turns on the boards; the Four Panamas are also on a return visit, and provide a good turn, their tumbling being the feature of their work; in a clever equilibristic and acrobatic performance the Paul Hesse Trio are seen to advantage; Jack Hylton is an amusing comedian; Bill Walters appears in a musical medley, interspersed with ventriloquism; and Cameron Matthews and company produce a comedy sketch, *The Honeymoon Baby*. The Bioscope films include the Wright Aeroplane and other subjects of general interest.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—The appearance of Mme. Albani on the stage of the Pavilion has been looked forward to with great interest. The distinguished vocalist has been accorded a hearty reception. Mme. Albani sang Mozart's "Non Temer," and several Scotch and other ballads. The company is very strong otherwise. Miss Florrie Forde, with her new waltz-song, "Only a dream," and the popular "Oh! Antonio!" is a great favourite; Julian Mack again proves himself a clever patterer; Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas give their artistic selection from "Martin Chuzzlewit"; Coram is a ventriloquist of much more than average ability, and gets a great reception; the Smart Set contribute a smart and well-diversified entertainment; the Soho Trio, in song and dance, take well; and the Tennessee Guards appear in a military songscena. Herr Zakovsky, violin virtuoso, contributes several finely-played solos, and accompanies Mme. Albani in some of her operatic selections, the piano accompaniments being rendered by Mr. Victor Marmont.

PALACE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Rich. Waldon; General-Manager, Mr. Harry M'Kelvie.—The principal attraction here this week is found in Jack and Evelyn, in their popular comedy act, *Come Into My Office*. There was a large attendance on the opening night, and the applause with which their efforts was greeted was fully justified. Mooney and Holbein are seen in an original comedy sketch, which also proved very entertaining. The other items are well sustained by Lilian Lowe, a charming soprano vocalist; Arthur Slater, a high-class whistling artist; Roy Beavis, expert conjurer; Gladys and Alber, comedy duettists and acrobats; Tim O'Connor, comedian and dancer; Rene, lady conjurer; Joe Conway, eccentric comedian; and the Bioscope, with a series of interesting pictures.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Alec Hurley and his company form the chief attraction here, and in *The Coster's Beano* provide a bright and tuneful sketch; the smart illusionist, John Warren, presents his mystifying scena, *The Magic Carpet*, with much success; the refined playing and singing of Percy Honri are fully appreciated; Harry Grey makes quite a hit with his suffragette song; an amusing turn is given by Les Marsumas, the clever trick cyclists; and Billy, the calculating horse, fairly astonishes the audience. Jeannie Mackay proves herself an accomplished vocalist; and Olive Armidale sings chorus songs with pleasing effect.

GAIETY, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—Mr. Fred Maitland heads the bill here with a political oration, frequently interrupted by a suffragette colleague from a box. The Sisters Belmont pay a return visit, and are popular; Cissie Norton makes a neat appearance in her male impersonations; Flo Leo-Ville is responsible for a sleight-of-hand turn, which is amusing; and Guy Ryder takes exceedingly well in his whistling operatic selections. The Bioscope shows well-selected films.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—The Farrows are comedy artists of a high order; and Brown and Benson clever gymnasts. Bob Lyons renders a good comedy song; Ina Black is a soprano vocalist of no mean ability; the Bioscope, with a capital series of pictures, causes no end of merriment; and the many other attractions in the Panopticon are well patronised.

GLOSSOP. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sydney Spenser.—Doctor Walford Bodie is the leading attraction here this week. His bloodless surgery, assisted by clever manipulation of electricity, is wonderful indeed, and his hypnotic display creates endless amusement. The other items include Bella Skene, actress and vocalist; Will Gatling, comedian; little Dolly Robson, described as "one of Dr. Bodie's cures"; Francisco, equilibrist and juggler; Nellie Lindsay, ballad vocalist; and the Three Delaries, in *The Demon Grotto*.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Director, Mr. C. W. Poole. —Tom Costello tops the list, and goes well in new and old favourites; the Ettenas, on the rolling-globe, are clever; and Mr. Harry Conlin is the cause of hearty laughter with song and patter. Baroux and Bion are skilful comedy acrobats; Albert Letine is a good female impersonator; a smart pair of gymnasts are found in Morander and Darius; Miss Rosie Coleman sings and dances effectively; Alice May and company in farce, *Tranquillity*, are amusing; and the Palacescope concludes.

KING'S HALL.—Good business continues at this animated picture show run by Messrs. Poole.

GOOLE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor, Mr Fred Greaves.—A capital programme is again presented here by the Franco-British Filmograph Company. The pictures are new and varied. Les Riscos, eccentric trick cyclists, keep the house in roars of laughter; and La Belle Mayo, comedienne and dancer, meets with equal success.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Horace Stanley's company in *Guilty Gold* is occupying the boards here this week. Mr. T. Arthur Plummer is very good as Harold Elmore; Mr. Horace Stanley keeps the house in roars of laughter as Septimus Sweet; Mr. Fred Wilberforce is good as Ralph Bartlett; Miss Cora Linda gives a sympathetic rendering of the dual rôle, the twin sisters Middleton; Miss Josephine Lee depicts the adventuress Rhoda Hampton realistically; and Mr. J. W. Henson gives a clever portrayal of John Middleton.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert. —Datas, the Memory Man, is very popular; the Norman and Leonard Trio appear in a clever musical turn; J. H. Milburn's songs are much applauded; Miss Ohmy is an expert equestrienne; Taylor and Bridge, the mill lads, have excellent voices; Master Claude is clever on the rolling globe; De Lilo and Metz are entertaining as comedy jugglers; Doodles is funnier than ever, and this week is displaying ability as a bare-back rider; the Lovelaces' illustrated songs are well received; and excellent pictures are shown on the Bioscope.

THE GEM.—Lessees, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, C. B. Cockran.—An excellent dramatic, comic, and picturesque set of pictures is being shown here. The illustrated song "You're my girl in the springtime" is nightly received with great applause.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—Mr. John Clyde and company are still here, and this week are presenting the romantic domestic drama *Lost in London* to good houses. Mr. John Clyde is seen to advantage as Joe Armroyd; Miss Ella Sennett skilfully sustains the part of Nelly; and a lengthy cast also includes Mr. D. Blair, Mr. Edward Valentine, Mr. T. Good, Mr. Macintosh Clyde, Mr. G. Fortune, Mr. Flintmore, Miss Lena Levenston, and Miss Belle Cecil. *The Irish Doctor* precedes as a curtain-raiser.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—An excellent company is headed by Mike S. Whallen, whose animated patter and clever extempore business are productive of much merriment; Morny Cash is also to the front with his usual success; some clever knockabout business is introduced by Foy Bros. and company in their absurdity, *The Tea House; or, Pat in China;* and we are further entertained by Frances McNulty, character change artist; Leah Arden, refined vocal comedienne; Herne and Palmer, a pair of clever acrobats; and Mme. D. Aubyn, a pleasing vocalist.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The bill for the current week includes Miss Georgette Thierry's company in an admirably-acted sketch, *The Daughter of the Revolution*, which is well received; Howard and St. Clair have a good speciality, *Tricks of the Trade;* Henri Cazman is an entertainer whose efforts are applauded; and James Stanley, the singing pit lad; Florence Laymen, a clever coon delineator; Gracie Grahame, a charming comedienne; A. J. Gamble, Scotch comedian; and the Hersleb Bros., Danish comedy artists, are also in the bill.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—*The Girl Who Lost Her Character* is being played here by Mr. Douglas Bruce's company. Miss Violet Ennis Lawson fills the difficult part of Molly with complete success; Miss Sybil Hare is equally good as Rose Seymour; and Miss Lydia Mannington acts with excellent effect as Miriam Franklyn; Mr. Harold Macartney wins favour for his vigorous representation of Jack England; Mr. Edmund McLean shows distinct ability as the Rev. Robert Everton; Mr. George Mitchell does well as James Sutton; and Mr. Richard Ferris suitably portrays the scheming Captain Caversham. The strong comedy element is realised with advantage by Mr. George H. Asquin as Dick Punch and Miss Mamie Thorpe as Isabella Jones.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—Nellie Wallace is a favourite comedienne here, and her eccentricities in song, patter, and style are productive of much laughter; Damarell and Rutland appear in a highly amusing sketch, *House Full*, which has many novel situations; Great Scott gives a clever display on the unsupported ladder; Harry Taft is a comedian with especially diverting business; Nada Moret gives an entertaining combination of singing and elocution; Phern and Phern present a pleasing musical speciality; and Harry Leybourne is a smart impersonator.

HALIFAX. — PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The Four Kellys are nightly rousing the audiences to enthusiasm with their daring, graceful, and clever acrobatic act; Roma and Romani are making a welcome reappearance and scoring with their superb classical musical performance; Cullen, Carthy, and Little Cluley are very funny in song, patter, and eccentric comedy; the Waltons are clever acrobats; Mlle. Sidy Nirvana gives some artistic poses, assisted by a highly trained horse; Jamie Piper is a clever young musician; Walter Clyde is a ballad vocalist of merit. Cherry Lass, a smart comedienne and dancer, and the pictures complete.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Pictures are still the attraction here, some very clever films being shown; Lester May creates a diversion as a comedian; David Donaldson and Frances Ferina gave a very well-written and entertaining sketch, *The Veteran's Birthday;* Bert Rayburn, comedian, is universally popular.

THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—The Halifax Amateur Light Opera Society is appearing here this week in *The Princess of Kensington*.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—George Lashwood is proving a big draw here, and is deservedly popular; a clever comedy acrobatic turn is done by the Permans; Maxey and Pete are smart and entertaining trick cyclists; Bert Weston is a droll story-teller; Picton Roxburgh and Fanny Wright are highly diverting in their sketch, *My Little One;* Edith Fink is a charming singer of chorus songs; Kloof and Ramsey entertain in a musical and comedy turn; Dorothy Dundas sings prettily; and the Bioscope concludes an excellent programme.

HANLEY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—Messrs. Polini and Melford's *Silver King* company is here. Mr. Fred Davies is excellent as Wilfred Denver; Miss Edith Goodall is a very powerful Nellie Denver; Mr. E. J. George excels in the rôle of Jaikes; Mr. E. Stanton-Sharp makes a striking villain; Mr. George Belmore as Corket is decidedly diverting; Mr. A. Wright portrays Elijah Coombe with great success; Miss Flossie Hale Daviss and Master Eric Dene are clever in children's parts; Mr. E. Stidwell plays Baxter capitally; Mr. A. H. Rooke is a good Geoffrey Ware; and Mr. Fred May is well suited.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Mr. George Gray and company are here with *The Fighting Parson*. Also appearing here are Haig and Novel, in a refined comedy act; Annie Kenwick, comedienne and dancer; Lily Langtry, a sprightly songstress; Beau and Belle, in a song scena, *Past and Present;* the Grand pictures; and Austin Rudd, one of the Potteries' favourite comedians.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—The film picture of Nick Carter, the Detective, wins loud applause here; the Electric Hotel is a striking picture, and others exhibited are: The Sedan Chair, The Tramps' Garden Party, Italy's Marvellous Cavalry, Coward's Death, The Mohawk's Revenge, &c. Casselley, on the slack wire, and Hermann, a clever tumbler, supply the vaudeville portion of the programme.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—A reversion has again been made to variety two houses a night, and large houses are the rule. Harry Tate's company in *Fishing* is the headliner, and a very capable and amusing company it is. Ambrose Thorne, the popular comedian, is at the foot of the bill, and proves greatly to the liking of the audience; Mr. Alfred Wellesley and company appear in a funny sketch, *Uncle's Courtship;* the Cheers introduce some clever cats; and Harry Kirk does some good facial business. R. A. Speedwell is a skilful, quick portrait painter; Elton and Elma are two good knockabouts; and Miss Ethel Dancy is a contralto ballad vocalist above the average.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney H. Carter; General-Manager, Mr. Francis D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred A. Parker.—The Players are retained here for a second week. Several interesting films are shown, notably A Tale of the Revolution, a dramatic item greatly to the liking of the audience. An interesting film is Scotland; and there are several humorous ones. Wilbur Wright's aeroplane flights are again presented. Walter S. Pratt accompanies the pictures with suitable selections.

HASTINGS. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—An excellent company, under the general management of Mr. Ernest Benham, gave on Monday the first performance out of London of *The Reformer*. The comedy was preceded by the production of a new one-act farce by Messrs. Sydney Blow and George Bellamy entitled *On the Other Foot*, of which a detailed account is given elsewhere. *The Reformer* was played throughout the week. Mr. Rupert Lister filled the rôle of Sir Rupert Yeld most artistically; Miss Marie Polini, gowned with excellent taste, as Mrs. Rockingham played the rôle with admirable refinement; Mr. Cyril Harcourt as the erratic Earl of Crowborough was irresistibly droll; the dyspeptic General Carew was amusingly played by Mr. Cecil Brooking, a good foil to his spleen being provided by Mr. Bernard Stevens as Thomas; Miss Slyvia Morris played charmingly as Sybil Carew; Mr. Owen Nares as Eric Lowndes was an ardent wooer; and Mr. Ernest Benham a polished and easy Captain Ross. Mr. Arthur Queen as a servant completed the cast. Mr. Charles King stage-managed.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Lew Loman, a good vocal comedian, opens the programme. Amusing figures are introduced by Robert Tattersall, the ventriloquist; the subjects of the Hippodrome pictures are quite up to date; York and Lester engage in a laughable sketch, *The Other Mrs. Brown*. Possessing an admirable voice, Mr. Walter Barrett gives a bright and tuneful rendering of several songs; Miss Edie King is a charmingly artistic dancer and comedienne; a good character comedian is seen in Dudley Hayes; and the No. 1 company of Harry Tate's appear in an amusing and clever sketch entitled *Motoring*.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—The principal feature of this week's programme is the excellent variety of dramatic and animated pictures as depicted very graphically on the Bioscope. Mr. Philip Levard is remarkably clever as an illusionist, and a local vocalist, Mme. Amy Atkins, renders some pleasing songs to limelight views.

PUBLIC HALL.—Sub-Lessees, The People's Picture Palace Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local-Manager, Mr. Harry W. James.—Much amusement is afforded by the excellent series of animated pictures exhibited here.

HEREFORD.—GARRICK THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Barnsley.—*Home, Sweet Home* is presented here this week by Messrs. Green and Hinton's company, and evoked enthusiasm from a large audience on Monday. As Stephen Armitage Mr. Arthur Hinton is excellent; Mr. Charles Clifford as the Duke of Ancaster displays conspicuous ability; a performance of much prominence is that of David Armitage, cleverly played by Mr. Fred Kaye; and Mr. Frank Brunell is specially good as Dick Redmayne. Miss Lydia Audre as Joan has an admirable stage presence, and her acting appeals to all; the Dora of Miss Hilda Vokes is clever; the comedy element is supplied in first-class fashion by Mr. V. D. Millard and Miss L. Wright as Percy and Sybil Fay. Miss Kitty Collinson and Mr. D. Beattie complete the cast.

HORWICH.—PRINCES' THEATRE.—Lessees, The Horwich Theatre Co.; Manager, Mr. R. H. White.—Mrs. Fred J. Kirke's musical comedy company provides the attraction this week, and on Monday *In Old Madrid* received a very gratifying welcome. The scenery and effects are very fine. Mr. Sam Lockridge scored heavily in the dual rôle of Frank Lyndhurst and Count Correglio, his baritone vocalisation being highly applauded; Mr. Rex Graham gave an excellent rendering of Mendoza Stittagano; Mr. Geo. H. Holloway painted Ferando Cassilli in lurid colours; Mr. T. W. Hybert revels in the part of Horatio J. Rogers (Frank's valet), his eccentric dances and songs creating roars of laughter; Mr. Chas. H. Burns played Marmaduke R. Fitzsimmons in excellent style; Miss Edith Claris gave a sympathetic rendering of Madeline Earlsmore, Frank's cousin; Miss Lily Seymour as Martha Jane Alice Grey Montmorency, late principal danseuse, presents a very eccentric appearance—New Woman, militant Suffragette, and strong woman all in one; Miss Beatrice Torrance as Lola Stettagano, a Spanish girl, has a very fine part, and her songs and dancing were repeatedly encored; Miss Louie Graham gave an artistic rendering of Violet Lyndhurst. *The Naval Detective* and *Our Sailor Lad* are also billed.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—The programme has for chief attraction the sketch entitled *The Stowaway*, in which the principal parts are taken by Messrs. John K. Walton, Arthur Stratton, Horace Corbyn, Arthur Temple, and Miss Elizabeth Whelan The other tunrs are Miss Minnie Mace, comedienne; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Shelley in duologues; Harry Morgan, comedian and dancer; Curtis Leo, conjurer; Joe Humphries, vocalist; Miss Diana Hope and company in the dramatic sketch entitled *Her Good Name;* and some humorous pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—*The Thief*, which is holding the boards at the Grand this week, may be counted as one of the best plays seen in this city for some little time. The company sent out is one of the best, and Mr. S. T. Ewart plays the part of the husband with striking skill, and adds to a reputation which he has already made here as a sterling actor; Mr. May Congden plays the rôle of Marise with infinite skill, and plays it throughout with proper emphasis; Miss May Dibley is quite at her best in the rôle of the stepmother; Mr. C. Catley fills the character of the detective with credit; as Raymond Mr. Gerald Ames is commendable.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—The Idlers Dramatic Society are playing *Oh, Susannah!* here this week. Miss Emmie Perton created a great success as Aurora.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—Miss Ida Molesworth and Mr. Mark Blow's company in *For Her Sake* have met with a good reception at the Alexandra this week. As the Princess Miss Agnes Verity gave a very clever study; the Vera of Miss Dorothy Lart was a pleasing impersonation; Mr. Arthur Elwyn is a clever exponent of the part of Bardoni; Mr. Harry Benson is a very capable comedian, and with Miss Kitty Sinclair keeps the fun going fast and furious.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Ernest Naylor.—Appearing here are Sandy McNab and company, J. H. Hawtrey, Lily Langley, Tom Lloyd, Mlle. De Rose, Hilda Claremont, Manson and West, and the Alaskas.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—Shirley and Ransome in their sketch *'Arf a Quid* hold the premier position with much success; Shenton and Chick give a talented performance. Other good turns include Dalston and Euston, Codge, Zenora, J. E. Johns, and Alice Oakley.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson. —The Globe Animated Picture Company are drawing good houses.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The company of Miss Florence Glossop-Harris, including Mr. Frank Cellier, are this week providing a treat for local playgoers with productions of *Romeo and Juliet*, *Merchant of Venice*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *As You Like It*, *Hamlet*, and *The Royal Oak*. The first-named was chosen for opening night. Mr. Arthur Goodsell's reading of Romeo is of the first order, the applause extended to him being well earned; Miss Glossop-Harris appears as Juliet, and her clever impersonation is highly appreciated; Mr.

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Percival Madgewick as Benvolio is deserving of special mention, and Mr. Frank Cellier as Mercutio is excellent; Messrs. Francis Roberts (Tybalt) and Murray Kinnell (Paris) leave nothing to be desired; Miss Janet Warden is successful as Juliet's nurse; Mr. E. Stuart Vinden and Miss Gertrude Tate as Capulet and Lady Capulet are well chosen; the rôle of Friar Laurence is ably sustained by Mr. J. Cassels Cobb.

IPSWICH.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Miss Radie Furman, the "jolly Dutch girl," at once established herself as a favourite, her quaint mannerisms and whimsical dancing causing roars of laughter. Phil Rees' Stable Lads have a novel scena, depicting the interior of a racing stable, in which good dancing and singing are given; Fred Barnes has some catchy songs, with good choruses; the Smythson Comedy Company have a most amusing sketch, entitled *Love Germs;* Almon Correzo does some remarkable feats of strength; Reg Bolton, as "the editor's imp," gives a droll performance; Miss Maudie Ford sings and dances pleasantly; and the Bioscope concludes.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Locke.—Mr. Charles Draycott's company is here with a dramatic répertoire including *The Colleen Bawn, The Octoroon, Ticket of Leave,* and *The Stolen Birthright.* In *The Octoroon* Mr. Charles Draycott was seen to advantage as Salem Scudder; Mr. W. J. Short was a capital George Peyton; and Mr. Geo. Arthur played with force the part of Jacob McClosky; Mrs. Charles Draycott being seen to advantage as Zoe; and Dora Sunnyside being in the capable hands of Miss Issa Steel. Mr. Charles H. Herberte made a satisfactory Mr. Sunnyside.

ROYAL ALBERT HALL.—Lessee and Manager, Dr. Seaton.—This place of amusement gives quite a change of pictures this week. Variety turns include the following artists:—Arthur Leon, ballad vocalist; Carl Norman, vocalist and dancer; and Warren Doyle, clog dancer; and Doyle and Fenwick, entertainers.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—Vaudeville performances have once more replaced the drama here and are being liberally patronised. Elfie Vincent, who is a great favourite here, is being accorded a big reception; the Ringling Trio give an amusing comedy act; George Porter is a funny patter comedian; and excellent play scenes are given by Mr. H. Leslie Bell and Miss Lilly Pearl.

KIRKCALDY.—PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—Another capital picture-show is being presented this week. Variety turns are contributed by the Three Sisters Sprightly, smart comedy artists, who make a big hit in their "Golfing" skit; Miss Rita Halket is a clever comedienne and dancer; Mr. Wallace Muirhead is a good tenor vocalist, with illustrated songs; and Mr. John E. West, Scotch comedian, also appears.

LANCASTER.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Variety this week has given way to the Lancaster Amateur Dramatic and Operatic Society, which is presenting *The Rose of Persia* to capital audiences.

LEEDS.—GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager, Mr. Wynn Miller.—Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Benson and company occupy this theatre with a Shakespearean répertoire, and have been accorded hearty support. A different play has been presented each evening and at the matinée—seven performances in all—and in this hard work the company appears to revel. We notice that sterling actor Mr. George Weir again prominent in each presentation.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—Mr. V. L. Granville appears here in a new protean play. Zeta Grey and company please with a musical comedy act; Ouida McDermott is successful as an actress and vocalist; a clever juggling turn by Ernesto is well received; Fraser and French are doing their speciality in the wooden shoes; Kent and Earle submit their vocal comedy with good success; and there are other good turns by Lozelle, with novel speciality, and Harry Taylor, comedian.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Moss' Empires, Ltd.—District-Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Gotch, the American wrestler, is chief executant in a playlet which is put on as a leading turn here. Brown and Le Clercq are real humorists, and their turn is much enjoyed; Herbert Shelley again presents his wonderfully clever protean item *Dan the Outlaw* to general satisfaction; Les Voces render duets in imimitable style; the Maples submit an entertaining item; Tennyson and Wallis are favourite humorists; whilst Tony Spring, George Platt, and Blanche Vincent have each a numerous following.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—Haley's Juveniles provide a strong turn here in a Carnival scena, and their work is much admired. Paulton and Doley, a mirth-provoking pair on bicycles, are scoring heavily; a big reception is nightly extended to Thorpe and Coe for a clever entertainment; Milner and Storey are another comedy pair who meet with success; and of the rest Geo. S. Melvin, the Three Comerfords, the Ausonias, Violet King, and Walter Emerson are doing specially well.

CITY VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Lowenwirth and Cohan are again in evidence here; Wyndham and Waters, with comedy act, are popular; the Tossing Austens are to the fore with their novelty; Herbert Rule is specially successful among the comedians; and Farr and Farrland have a humorous encounter which is well liked.

LEICESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Business-Manager, Mr. E. R. Beaumont. Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Lacey.—A return visit of Mr. Evelyn A'Dell's company in *His Sister's Honour* is the attraction here this week. Mr. Evelyn A'Dell as the hero, Frank Stanley, is conspicuously successful with an admirable impersonation; Mr. Walter Wilson is sufficiently effective as the villainous Sir Richard Redvers; Miss Flora Leslie makes an excellent impression as Dora Stanley; and Miss Ethel Ashleigh is also good as Ivy Merton. Mr. Edwin Clarke is capital as Dr. Godfrey; Mr. J. R. Tyrrell is popular and humorous as Timothy Timid; Miss Maudie Vincent as Maria deserves much praise, her rendering of the song "Antonio" being most acceptable; and Mr. S. Verner adds to the success of the play as Police-constable Worthie. The drama is staged in a manner worthy of commendation. This theatre will now close until Boxing Day.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Bucclueh.—At the head of this week's excellent "show" are the famous Craggs, who are scoring a big success in the sketch *Billy,* which evokes great merriment, and allows of full scope for the introduction of many remarkably smart acrobatic feats by the various members of this popular troupe. At the other end is Fred Winn's excellent company in the well-staged and thrilling dramatic episode *The Light in the Window,* which rivets the attention of the audience, the various parts being admirably enacted by Fred Winn, Kate Carney, Agnes Paulton, and C. H. Maxwell. The Lukashimas are intrepid Japanese performers, whose equilibristic and other feats are cleanly and smartly gone through; the perfection of canine training is exhibited by Reichen's dogs, the performance being of a most interesting and popular character; Syd May, besides being a first-class mimic, displays his versatility in his burlesque wrestling act, which creates roars of laughter; Gus Garrick is exceedingly amusing and clever in his music hall tit-bits; Kathleen Cogan is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Harry Drew, Welsh basso, sings well; and Marie Empress, who is possessed of a good stage presence and pretty dresses, is an entertaining comedienne. The Bioscope depicts events in the life of Louis XVII.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The leading attraction this week is the first visit of Messrs. B. Collin and West and company in the one-act playlette *The House of Terror,* in which the principal part of Meg Harding is well played by Miss Beaumont Collins. The sketch is meeting with a gratifying reception. The Brothers Ashley, in their mirth-provoking and cleverly-performed comedy boxing sketch *Next, please,* show their skill in the art of self-defence; the Vanderbilts are delightfully entertaining in their clever comedy song-scena; the Five Musical Palmers are on a welcome return visit, their various selections on brass instruments and hand-bell ringing evoking much applause; Miss Daisy Palmer is also a capital dancer, and conducts the orchestra in regular Sousa fashion; Mabel Le Roy is a good cemedienne; and Amy Savile gives a couple of tuneful songs. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope is again a special feature with When Other Lips, A Week in Russia, and Daddy as of Old.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; District Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. R. Craig.—A really fine show of moving pictures is given here this week, evoking unstinted admiration, the leading films being The Squaman's Daughter, or the Squire's Rights, The Sorcerer's Daughter, A Family of Cats, An Automatic Domestic, Cinematograph Evidence, The Traitor, and Jones and the Lamp-post. They are interspersed with turns by Phil Lister, a clever and entertaining musical speciality artist; George Reihter, a most amusing humorist; and Will Goodall, a capital local descriptive vocalist.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Geo. Stanyon—To-night (Saturday) Mr. Will Catlin's Royal Pierrots bring a most successful month's season here to a close. Their huge répertoire of songs, sketches, quartets, dances, &c., has provided a contrast change of programme nightly, and their efforts have been rewarded with well-deserved and hearty appreciation. This week the troupe have introduced a most amusing sketch, entitled *The Suffragettes.*

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath.—Mr. Harry Tilbury and company are paying a return visit with *His Dishonoured Wife.* Mr. Victor Rae acts with power and feeling as Frank Lindon; Mr. Horatio Sinclair is seen to advantage as Lord Devant, being ably seconded by Mr. Edwin Brown as Tom Redman; as Neil Locksley Mr. Fred Owen plays in a capable manner; Miss Belle Tilbury makes an effective Florence Lindon; Miss Arline T. George does well as Alice Harvey; Mr. Harry Tilbury is responsible for merriment as Micky Doolan; and adequate assistance is forthcoming from Miss Etta Spalding as Araminta Duspan.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—In *Napoleon's Divorce,* though many liberties are taken with history in regard to details, the essentials of a romantic drama are sufficiently preserved to provide opportunities for powerful acting, and through the sterner scenes of the play Mr. F. H. Neville's somewhat original but consistent rendering of the title-rôle is vigorously supported by Mr. J. Soden as Joseph Bonaparte and Mr. Terence Nerry as Colonel D'Arville, with Mr. W. Verne and Miss A. Beddard in the short but telling parts of the Duke and Duchess St. Everard. The ill-starred Josephine is portrayed by Miss Kate Randolph with outstanding ability; Miss V. Clinton figures successfully as Mary Louise; and the little King of Rome has a pleasing exponent in little Ethel May. Some comedy interludes—worked for all they are worth by Mr. J. Holt, Mr. F. H. Fortescue, and Miss Marion Mayne, in the respective characters of Sergeant Baton, Pierre le Blanc, and Jeanette—find much favour with the "gods" and "groundlings."

LINCOLN.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, Messrs. Payne Seddon and Ernest Pope.—Animated pictures supply the fare this week, a brilliant series of films being exhibited.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Miller.—Alice Hughes and company in *The Star of the Bazaar* gives the top-line turn, and it is smartly done; Babusio Brothers have a wonderful balancing act; Bowman and Morton, Charles Jerome, Flo Inman, Rose and Wold, and Margaret Radcliffe also win complete approval, and Raymond's Biotableaux complete the show.

CENTRAL HALL.—The London Animated Picture Co. are here for a week with a very fine display. Preston Holmes gives a musical turn.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—In continuation of a precedent established last year an amateur performance was given here during the first three evenings of the week in aid of local charities. The movement was under the patronage of the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Lord and Lady Derby, and the Countess of Sefton, the committee having the arrangements in hand comprising a number of leading local gentlemen. The work presented was H. V. Esmond's *Billy's Little Love Affair,* which was done full justice to by the lady and gentlemen performers, who included Mrs. Sydney Sharpe (Billy), Miss Mary Agnew (Mrs. Jim Greaves), Mrs. A. H. Mace (Lady Duncan), Mrs. Arthur Lawrence, and Messrs. Charles Kenyon (Jack Frere), Harry J. Saul (Sir Harry), W. R. Neilson (Jim Greaves), and David Ainsworth. Thanks are due to Mr. Arthur Lawrence, the esteemed manager of the theatre, for so carefully and efficiently rehearsing the company.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney.—Mr. Edward Terry and company have been here this week. On Monday evening *The Telephone* and *Fiander's Widow* were the attraction, the latter being seen here for the first time. Mr. Terry's conception of Isaac Sharpe, the old farmer, was richly enjoyed; Mrs. Fiander, played by Miss Edith Coleman, was marked by naturalness and tact; Sam Belbin, a capitally-conceived character, was sustained by Mr. Kenneth Brampton; worthy support came from Mr. Edmund Hollock, who presented Richard Marshall; Miss Sophie Lingwood delighted everybody with her Mrs. Belbin; and Mr. William Dexter did excellently as Abel Hunt. The remainder of the week was occupied with *Liberty Hall, The Magistrate,* and *Sweet Lavender.*

ROTUNDA THEATRE — Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor presented the drama *Man and Wife* here this week. Mr. Traynor proved an able Paul Revere, playing in a manner that demanded attention; Miss Kate Hallam made a powerful Marcelle; the villainous Captain Esparre was presented by Mr. Edward M. Hamilton with praiseworthy result; Sergeant Jacques found in Mr. Ambrose Horton a capable exponent; the lighter parts of Rosette, Bimbo, and Bambo were capitally held by Miss Millie Doris, and Messrs. E. Hall-Eldon and George Vinning; and good work was also done by Messrs. George Rammell (Colonel Latour), George Overs (Jean), and Miss Violet Temple (Ruth Revere).

STAR THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—Here this week the stirring military drama, *A Soldier's Honour,* presented by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company, has proved a big attraction. A strong character was that of Cora Lee, given with great intensity by Miss Ruth Zillwood, who at times held her audience; Miss Edie Macklin delighted with her original creation of Jemima Eliza; Miss Mabel Mannering showed much ability as Doreen Illingworth; a manly and exceedingly popular Captain Deane came from Mr. Millar Anderson; Mr. T. Arthur Ellis worthily filled the rôle of Captain Temple; Mr. Andrew Money presented a powerful picture of the rascally Henry Thornton; and others deserving of notice were Messrs. C. H. Gallier (General Rochester), A. Anderson (Holly), and Harry Lyndon (Percy Brattle); Miss Edie Trapnell (Queenie Deane), and Miss Sylvia Vickers (Mrs. Deane). Thursday matinées have now become a special feature at the popular Star.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Bransby Williams, foremost here this week, has had a cordial reception for his character sketches; Cruikshank caused endless laughter with his patter; Eli Hudson showed great skill as a piccolo player; Mabel Bright pleased immensely with her "Aladinette; or, a Peep at a Pantomime," in the course of which she made six changes; Henry Coutts presented *Outflanked,* in which he impersonated eight characters; Carl Lynn gave some clever animal imitations; the Kroney Brothers kept their audience in a merry mood with *London's Lazy Coalmen;* and contributions also came from John Macauley, vocalist; Dick Tubb, comedian; and Jessie Buckle, vocalist and comedienne.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—Here this week *The Woman from Russia,* given by a company controlled by Adria Hill and Robert Ayrton, has been the attraction.

LYRIC. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Top of the programme here this week we have had the funny *Swiss Express,* presented by the smart combination of comedians under the control of C. and F. Renard; Regan and Ryan caused endless laughter with their songs and patter; Howard and Collinson had a great reception for the lively act *A Piece of Dresden China;* Joan Deering gave an acceptable turn as vocalist and violinist; Arthur Bearle rendered several songs in good style; an interesting electrical mechanical novelty gave a naval bombardment; and Sinclair Holden and Mary Collier went through an amusing trifle, *Telephoning.*

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan. —Houdini, the handcuff king, has proved a source of great attraction here this week. Some remarkable work as hoop rollers and jugglers was shown by the Frank L. Gregory troupe; the Two Cabiacs gave a smart turn as acrobatic dancers; Horace Pollock and company pleased immensely with the comedy episode, *Hester's Mystery;* Dorothy L. Clarke brought her latest successes, including "Tiny seed of love," "The bubble and the sunbeam," and "Come on over the garden wall"; Arthur Prince's Mascots had a neat original act; and contributions likewise came from Flo Warner, vocalist; Lanos and Montes, with a smart comedy acrobatic sketch; G. La Freya, with "artistic visions," and Tony Black, smart Scotch comedian.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*The Monarch of the World* has been given here during the week, the principal members of the stock company taking part, including Messrs. David G. Noble (Raymond Devereux), Sydney Grant (Noel Preston), Robb Wilton (Jack), Miss Florence Palmer (Kate), and Miss Lilian Radbourne (Mildred). Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed the latest films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Frank Coyle, comedian, has headed the bill here this week; Ugo, with his illusions, pleased greatly; Alf Denny sang several pieces in acceptable fashion; the Percys were a smart couple of comedians; and the Bells, juvenile artists, did well.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—The accomplished Henri de Vries, with two assistants, topped the bill here this week, and delighted everybody with his wonderfully quick changes in *Trapped by Telephone;* Morris Cronin and his troupe went through a smart juggling performance; Caicedo gave a surprising turn on the wire; Rousby's company presented a series of delightful pictures of Greater London; Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne sang and danced most tastefully; the 'Varsity Girls submitted a neat trifle, *A Musical Evening;* great laughter followed the efforts of Dacey and Lewis; and also in the list were Charles Stevens, character comedian; La Belle Nello, queen of equipoise; and Silvester's mechanical working head.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—In big type here this week was Miss Ada Colley, who had a most flattering reception for her songs, "It was a dream" and "Love me and the world is mine"; the accomplished Dayton Family went through a neat and clever performance as acrobats; Maurin's Fountains were a source of delight; W. G. Webber, possessed of an excellent bass voice, sang several numbers in good style; W. G. Wesley, a very able character comedian, was loudly applauded for his funny songs, and had to respond to encores; McCann, acrobatic skate dancer, proved a popular turn; and Lillie Souter, comedienne; Mike and Lena, with the duologue *Dutch Lovers;* the Three Sisters Tree, who had a neat act, *Hunting;* Herr Karoly Czynski, musician and vocalist; and M. A. Thilssen also appeared.

LONDONDERRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. Payne Seddon; Manager, Mr. Alec Jeffries.—The variety programme is being successfully continued this week, large and appreciative houses again being the rule. Mark Anthony, the popular variety entertainer has been specially engaged, and the Monster Star Company give capital performances. The Dalyscope is also a most entertaining factor.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—A great intellectual treat has been afforded the patrons this week by the repeat visit of the F. R. Benson Shakespearean company (North) in a round of plays, including *Romeo and Juliet,* the first to be presented. Mr. Henry Herbert as Romeo fully sustained his high reputation; Mr. Bernard Limpus as Mercutio, and Mr. Patrick Lewis as Benvolio, played their respective parts with dignity and power; Tybalt was safe in the hands of Mr. Everard Vanderlip; Mr. Harvey Braban made an acceptable Friar Laurance; Montague and Capulet were finely acted by Mr. Plinge and Mr. James Berry; Mr. Sam Cohen as Paris played with ability; Miss Gladys Vanderzee's Juliet was highly successful; Miss Howard as Lady Montague, Miss Violet Farebrother as Lady Capulet, and Miss Palgrave as the Page to Paris were exceptionally good; and Miss May de Launey played the Nurse to perfection.

LOWESTOFT.—MARINA. — Managing-Director, Mr. E. A. Smith.—Charles Baldwin's company is here in *The Bank Clerks,* and other items are rendered by Kitty Beresford, Chas. Lilburn, Teresa da Silva, Hayes and Watson, and the Sisters Herbert, duettists and dancers.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. George Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Another attractive bill is delighting record crowds. Mr. Harry Roxbury in a really fine musical sketch, *The Prince of Monte Carlo,* is highly diverting, and is supported by a remarkably well-balanced and highly capable company. Other interesting items are smartly rendered by Addison with his performing dogs; Sam Shipley, who does well in his policeman ditty; Little Bishop, an old favourite in big boot dances and clever patter; and Max Gordon. The British Biograph Company are showing some exceptionally good pictures, including the story of Beatrice Cenci.

MACCLESFIELD. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. W. K. Gatley.—Here this week is Mr. Percy Norman's company in *A Woman Worth Winning.* Mr. A. B. Mackay gives a powerful interpretation of General Borinski; Mr. Wilfred E. Clark is an effective Ivan Bardoff; Mr. Louis Newman a good Bertie Scribbles; Mr. G. E. Clive a capital Fergus Lovinsky; and Mr. Fred Danvers a funny Peter Popples. Miss Chrissie Dunbar displays ability as Roma Pauloff, and Miss Ida Mackay is a vivacious Katrina Kloss.

MAESTEG.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—Mr. T. Morton Powell's company in *When it was Dark* opened a week's engagement on Monday to a large audience. Mr. Haldane Dalton commands the attention of the audience by his weird acting in the part of Constantine Schawbe; the Rev. Basil Gortre has a very effective impersonator in Mr. Wilfred Lyndon; Miss Ethel Griffies gives a powerful rendering of the part of Gertrude Hunt. The remaining characters are sustained by capable artists.

MAIDENHEAD.—THE PAVILION.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gude.—The pictures this week include Simpson's Artful Ruse, a screamingly laughable one entitled The Trombone Player, and a truly magnificent film depicting the principal incidents in the life of Mary Stuart. Descriptive songs are well given by Charles Woodward and Jack Cannon.

MAIDSTONE. — PALACE. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company is here this week in *The Christian,* and good houses are the rule. The company works hard, and the play is sumptuously mounted. Mr. P. Gedge Twyman supplies a clever study of the exacting part of John Storm; Mr. G. Montague Lane as Lord Robert Ure and Mr. Edward Ouston as Horatio Drake are well fitted; a clever character sketch of Archdeacon Wealthy is given by Mr. W. Mallalieu; Miss Margery Fane as Glory Quayle receives quite an ovation for her impersonation of a difficult character, and in the last act the audience are quite carried away by the dramatic power of the acting.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Manager, Mr. J. Beslee.—A return visit is being paid here by Mr. Joshua Dyson's Diorama Company. As usual, large audiences are being attracted, and the entertainment goes with a swing from start to finish. The talented company, twenty strong, give a well-varied programme of music, and the pictures are of the usual high standard of excellence.

MANCHESTER.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The United Theatres, Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edmondstone Shirra.—The second week of the Royal Carl Rosa Opera Company at this theatre opened with an enjoyable performance of *Esmeralda,* before a huge audience, in aid of the Manchester Hebrew Bread, Meat, and Coal Society. It was followed on Tuesday by *Lohengrin,* in which the principal rôles were effectively rendered by Mr. Hanns Robert as Lohengrin, Miss Beatrice Mirander as Elsa, and Mme. Marie Alexander as Ortrud. Some capital singing of popular numbers was heard on Wednesday, when *Maritana* was given, with Mme. Ina Hill, Mr. Walter Wheatley, and Mr. Dillon Shallard in the most conspicuous parts, in addition to a notably good performance of *Don Giovanni* on Friday, and repetitions of *Carmen* and *Faust* on other occasions. The visit will close with a production of the ever-popular *Bohemian Girl.*

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, The United Theatres Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. George Lee.—A return visit of the Vedrenne-Barker combination in G. B. Shaw's *Man and Superman* and *Arms and the Man* was the attraction here on Monday. In the regrettable illness of Mr. Granville Barker, the part of John Tanner in the first-named play was undertaken by Mr. Frederick Lloyd, who proved a very efficient substitute. Miss Frances Dillon played Ann Whitefield with extraordinary cleverness, and Miss Auriol Lee showed considerable virility as Violet Robinson; and the Roebuck Ramsden of Mr. Michael Sherbrooke was always entertaining. Other essential rôles were filled with corresponding excellence by Mr. David Powell (Octavius), Mr. Richard Haigh (Henry Straker), Mr. Hubert Harben (Hector Malone), Mr. James Hearn (Mr. Malone), Miss Helen Rous (Mrs. Whitefield), and Miss Frances Wetherall (Miss Ramsden). The performance was greatly enjoyed by a good house. *Arms and the Man* was equally well received on Wednesday.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—*The Ugliest Woman on Earth,* played last week at the Royal Osborne Theatre, is here this week.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietress, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—The programme here this week offers a trio of plays by H. F. Maltby. The first two of these, *Hounslow Heath,* a one-act highwayman episode, and *The Youngest of Three,* were given on Monday night, the third, *Sir George of Almack's,* being relegated to the latter half of the week. Mr. Maltby appears in each of them, and displays a skill as an actor which is not inferior to his ability as a dramatist. Both qualifications were appreciated at a fairly high level by Monday's audience, which extended its favours also to Miss Mara Maltby, Mr. Arthur Claremont, Mr. Brember Wills, and Mr. Frank Hudspeth in parts well suited to their respective abilities.

ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Mason.—Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk's company is here this week in their new drama, *From Shop Girl to Duchess,* which unfolds an interesting story. Miss Florrie Groves in the part of Sylvia Grey gives an excellent performance, which is especially effective in the third act; Mr. Douglas Cecil is entirely successful as Arnold Vyvian; and Mr. T. Lionel Ellis makes a dignified Sir Morris Maitland. Other good parts are cleverly rendered by Mr. Frank S. Strickland, Miss Beatrice Hudson, and, in humorous rôles, Messrs. Henri Gerald and Douglas Tremayne and Misses Georgie Hawkins and Marie Clavering.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Sons; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—An attractive programme here is headed by the Four Powels, in their original act, *After the Matinée.* Frances Haskell, illustrated song vocalist, is also popular; and the Sisters Netherland are very good in their *Tale of the Stockings* and barefoot dance. Other entertaining items are the Denaro Bros., juvenile acrobats; Clifford Stewart comedian; Dan Merrett, drum soloist; Barfoot and Carson, comedians; J. C. Scatter, Tyneside comedian; George Lawrence, light comedian; Lewis's Mannikins in an elaborate song-scena; and George Acre, character vocalist.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The places of honour here this week are occupied by George Bastow, who is great in his yokel character songs; George Gilbey, whose comicalities are highly diverting; and Lottie Lennox, who sings popular ballads effectively. Florence Smithers and company provide a capital sketch, *Our Mary Jane;* Conway and Leland, the merry monopedes, are smart and funny; and other good turns are the Eight Lancashire Lads, dancers; the Crown Trio of vocalists; Watson's fox terriers, unique canine troupe; the Prince Milner Trio of hoop manipulators and wire-walkers; and Madge Osmond, the dandy comedienne.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—B. A. Rolfe's Colonial Sextette are seen to great advantage in a delightful musical novelty, entitled *An Olde Tyme Hallowe'en;* the Carmos go through a remarkable juggling and strength performance; the Coloured Meisters are excellent harmonising vocalists; the Mezzettis are amusing and expert horizontal bar performers; Ben Albert is a capital comedian; Freda Spry and B. S. Monti, comedy duo, are very funny; May Brilliant is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; and Clive and Clark, black and white comedy artists, are entertaining. That sensational Hippodrama, *The Volcano,* is here for a third and last week. The Bioscope pictures are particularly interesting.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—The big event here this week is the appearance of Harry Fragson, "and a piano"; and this is enough to ensure a wonderful and unique show in music hall comedy. Joe Elvin also is seen in his latest success, *The King of the Castle;* while other entertaining items are provided by Boy Glen, raconteur; Bert Coote's Yankee Doodle Girls, vocalists and dancers; Ryder Slone, character comedian; the Four Amaranths, acrobatic and whirlwind dancers; the Three Cunards, the dancing trio; and Joe Archer, the "peculiar chappie."

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Sylvia Du Barry, the charming South American soprano, makes a welcome re-appearance here this week, and delights with her excellent singing; the Player Company, in a farcical sketch, *Where's Ma' Kilt?* fairly brings down the house; Ruby and Laws are old favourites, and sing well, as usual; the Lizette Troupe are clever acrobats and dancers; Molly Augarde, a sweet singer, is much appreciated; East and West have some smart talk; and other good turns are given by the Harmonic Cranks, comedy entertainers; Gladys Wilton, girl contralto; and Metz and Metz, comedians and dancers. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope pictures complete.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James R. Trippett.—The attraction here is provided by S. A. Campbell's company, in *The Old Folks at Home,* which is given with success twice nightly, and which met with equal favour at the local Eccles theatre last week.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—*An Airship Elopement,* as presented here this week by the Aeronauts, is well played, and causes much laughter; Harwood's Juveniles, a smart troupe of youngsters, are particularly good in *The Children's Christmas Eve;* the Three Coopers gain hearty applause for harmonising singing; the Brothers Durant are clever acrobats, making much of an empty barrel; Greener, the pit lad, sings well, and recites, to pictures, in a capital manner; Emil and Ediss play the banjo in artistic style; Jimmy Shields, the one-legged comedian and dancer, is good; Tom Morris whistles operatic selections with ease; and Fame and Fortuno are smart in a burlesque boxing act. The Bioscope pictures are excellent.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—The attraction here this week, played twice nightly, is Mr. John Tiller's capital pantomime *Jack and Jill,* a bright and brisk show, with good jokes, neat dances, and pretty dresses, and not a dull moment from start to finish. Miss Harriett Fawn cuts a fine figure as Prince Fearnought; Miss Nellie Rodney makes a pleasing Princess; Mr. Bruce Green scores a big success as Dame Durden; Cissy Iris and Nellie Grimshaw play nicely as Jack and Jill respectively; and F. Le Cren is very funny as General Biff. All the other parts are effectively played, and the specialities by the following are all excellent:—The Le Cren Trio, the Tiller Quartette of dancers, the Eight Merry Midgets, and the Imperial Ballet Troupe. Mr. S. Oscar Karno is to be complimented on his excellent stage management.

MANSFIELD. — GRAND THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—A large audience greeted Messrs. F. Marriott Watson and Sanderson Moffatt's com-

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pany on Monday in the musical drama *What a Woman Did*. The part of Conrad de L. Orme is played with fine effect by Mr. Sanderson Moffatt; Mr. Elton Morgan as Fritz and Mr. Owen Edwin as Peter Pippin are comical; Mr. F. Marriott Watson as the Marquis de Viray and Mr. Reginald Kloof are excellent in their villainous work; Elsie de L. Orme is sympathetically portrayed by Miss Florence E. Florence; Miss Phiyllis Hamilton is a capital La Papillon; and the Nanette of Miss Nord Wylett is remarkably good. Specialities by the Clancy Girls are much admired.

MARGATE. — HIPPODROME. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece.—The Three Langfords give a smart vocal, instrumental, and dancing turn this week; and a very pleasing contributor to the programme is Zena Pana, at the piano, in her musical and mimetic sketch *After the Matinée*. Bert Welch, ventriloquist, gives an entertaining show; Charles Ashdown, comedian, is a clever eccentric dancer; Ray Phillips, soubrette and dancer, is a successful deputy for Annie Lang; and the concluding item is Charcot and his automatic man.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—Mr. Edward Compton and company are this week paying a welcome first visit to Merthyr, opening on Monday with *Davy Garrick*. In the name-rôle Mr. Compton plays with skill and an artistic sense of restraint; Miss Kathleen Leigh acts with much sincerity and sympathy as Violet Gresham; the Alderman finds an admirable exponent in Mr. Henry Crocker; Mr. Henry Worrall capably undertakes the Hon. Tom Tallyhaut; Mr. Philip Gordon successfully delineates Mr. Kumbelow; Mr. W. Johnson is satisfactory as Sowerberry; and Mr. Ivan Leslie is amusing as Simpkins. Capable work is done by Miss Marie Hassell as Mrs. Kumbelow, and Miss Constance Merton as Selina. *The Desperate Lover* is an excellent curtain-raiser. *The Rivals, School for Scandal, She Stoops to Conquer*, and *A Reformed Rake* are also being given during the visit.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Heading the bill are the Martelloni Family, clever acrobats and tumblers; Cumminger and Colonna are a success; Musical Sylvo has a pleasing musical show; and other popular turns are contributed by G. Rogers, vocalist; Will and Rose, comedy acrobatic conjurers; the Arnolds, in their cabinet mystery; Colvil and Tate, comedians and dancers; and Harry Huting, legmania artist.

METHIL.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Co., Ltd.—The Methil Amateur Dramatic Company is this week presenting *The Octoroon*.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company is this week playing *The Village Blacksmith*. Mr. Sam Livesey's fine physique and exceptional dramatic ability specially fit him for the title-rôle; Captain Leo, an adventurer, and his catspaw, Lucas Marler are cleverly enacted by Mr. Albert Sinclair and Mr. Edwin Maydew; Miss Maggie Edwards plays with intelligence and emotional power the rôle of Kate Strong; Miss Cassie Le Grande (Ruth Parkins) and Miss Edith Giddens (Martha Mopps) sustain their parts well; Miss Lily Leicester imparts youthful charm to the rôle of Harry Strong; Mr. T. E. Marshall (Jeremiah Parkins) and Mrs. T. C. Livesey (Sal Parkins) present clever character studies; as does Mr. Fred Haming as Billy Twigg.

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—An excellent series of animated pictures this week include A Nobleman's Pleasure, In Memory of His Mother, Too Old to Work, Coney Island, Phantom Artist, and She Wanted to be an Actress.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. E. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*The Diver's Luck*, a sensational melodrama, is presented here this week by Mr. Andrew Emm's company. Miss Dora Pass sustains the part of Helen Wyngate with dignity, sweetness, and power; Tom Hall could scarcely be more convincingly depicted than by Mr. Wm. J. Miller; Mr. Harry Cullenford as Martin Faber gives a satisfactory performance; and Mr. Fred A. Marston is a capital Barney. Mr. Joe Rowland is a good Snowball; and the Misses Holly and Kate Haslewood are pleasing in the rôles of Winnie Hall and Daffodil Bolter. Mr. Fred Scarth as Maurice Wyngate, Miss Pearl Moyle as Peggy Mahoney, Mr. Clifford Hamilton as Bolter; and Mr. Lyons Johnson as Captain Halton do full justice to their respective rôles.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—A welcome reappearance is made this week by Mr. Frank Lindo and company in *Home, Sweet Home*. Mr. Lindo himself plays the part of Stephen Armitage, a young fisherman, with truth and vigour; and Miss Marion Wakeford gives an excellent portrayal of the rôle of Joan. Mr. Lawrence Doyle as David Armitage acts creditably; and Miss Hilda Jackaway is good as Dora. Sybil Fay is well presented by Miss Maude Leslie-Cudd.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Chas. Rembges.—Haines and Borthwick's company causes much amusement in *Half a Dollar;* Pych, Tholl, and Taylor are pleasing in a dancing turn; Miss May Clifton and company appear in a musical scena; Tony Iveson is entertaining at the piano; and Ella Loraine is a vocalist of exceptional talent. Ina Lorimer is a clever Scotch comedian; and Frank Hautby is a clever juggler.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—Little Tich has a most enthusiastic reception here this week, and he keeps the house convulsed with his quaint sayings and amusing antics; Eldra and his dog "Prince" provide a very pleasing turn; and Ted Karno and company present an amusing sketch. Flake White is a clever lightning painter; and Mabel Moss, Albert Dann and company, and Walter Ellis and company also contribute acceptable turns.

MUSSELBURGH.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Hugh Ritchie; Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston.—Another of Mr. Kingston's companies comes in from the road this week to take part in the stock season. Their initial performance on Monday was their chief touring piece, *The Mysteries of the Thames*, by F. Brooke Warren. Mr. James Somerville as Captain Denbigh made a polished villain; Mr. Tom Mortimer did well as Bill Bosco; as the much-persecuted Richard Brandon Mr. James T. Dale was excellent; Mr. Ted Mooney kept the house amused with his drolleries as Peter; Kate Brandon was successfully played by Miss Dolores Hope; and the dual rôles of Flash Nell and Grace Rochdale were cleverly portrayed by Miss Emma Poole. As Doris Miss Kitty Webb was capital.

NELSON. — GRAND.—Much interest is being evinced by the presentation of *The Prodigal Son* by Mr. George D. Day's company. Mr. Albert Ward finds, in the character of Oscar Stephensson, an opportunity of displaying his high dramatic skill, and his admirable interpretation is warmly received. Magnus has a capital representative in Mr. H. J. Crane; Messrs. Jackson Hayes and Jas. English are both placed to much advantage as Stephen Magnusson and Oscar Neilsen; and as the unhappy Thora and as Elin, Miss Pauline Emeric displays grace and intelligence. The heartless Helga is impersonated with much skill by Miss Pearla Gardner; Miss Florence Lovell sympathetically undertakes Anna Magnusson. Messrs. A. J. Williams and R. C. Brooksmith and Miss Kate Osborne render excellent assistance.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—An engagement of much interest is the turn given by the Four Indian Fakirs, who simply astonish the audience by an entertainment of juggling, illusions, &c., out of the common; Captain Ellis and Son prove themselves clever comedians and instrumentaliste; Mr. Sydney Bannister has a pleasant baritone voice; and Master Walter Aubrey dances excellently. The Sisters Dunville, Mr. Alf. Brooks, and the Redwing Duo complete a good company. The animated pictures and the incidental music give the greatest satisfaction.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Teale Lingham.—Mr. William Mollison and company are here this week. On Monday they presented *The Merchant of Venice*. In the rôle of Shylock Mr. Mollison was seen to great advantage, his histrionic talents finding ample scope; Miss Evelyn McNay as Portia shared with Mr. Mollison the honours of the evening, her impersonation being convincing and natural. A manly portrayal of Bassanio was contributed by Mr. Archie W. Chappell, and other leading rôles were capably played by Mr. William Calvert as Antonio, Mr. Clifford Morgan as Lorenzo, Miss Gladys Brandon Gower as Nerissa, and Miss Edith Blair Staples as Jessica.

TYNE THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessees, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham; Manager, Mr. Fred C. Sutcliffe.—*The Private Secretary* is being presented here by Mr. Eugene C. Stafford's company. Mr. Donald-Price Evens is funny as the Rev. Robert Spalding; Mr. W. Hargreaves appears as Mr. Cattermole, and greatly adds to the mirth, and Mr. Frederic Tyrrell is very effective as Mr. Sidney Gilson. Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft in the character of Douglas Cattermole gives a finished portrayal; Miss Ashford is well represented by Mrs. Alfred Davis, and the parts of Eva Webster and Edith Marsland are well treated by the Misses Helen Child and Nan Macrae respectively. *The Wild Man from Borneo* is the "curtain-raiser," and proves acceptable.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—*Second to None* is here this week, well acted by Mr. T. Edward Ward's company. In the rôle of Nell Greystone Miss Ward acquits herself with ability, and Mr. L. Williams gives a manly and convincing rendering of Harry Wilding. Mr. Theo. Balfour does exceedingly well as Sir Reginald Greystone, and Mr. Frederick F. Loyd adequately fills the villainous rôle of Captain Philip Mannering. Mr. J. G. Maine gives a praiseworthy study as Sergeant Jack Horseman, and as Mary Greystone Miss Maud Merrick is all that can be desired, valuable assistance being rendered by the remainder of the company.

GRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; Acting-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder.—Mr. C. Watson Mills' company are here in *A Warning to Women*. The company is headed by Miss Blanche St. Albans, who give a powerful and dramatic portrayal of Moira Kennion, the squire's daughter, other leading rôles being in capable hands.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Mr. Courtice Pounds is appearing here with Miss Louie Pounds and company in a sketch, *Charles—His Friend*, in which Mr. Pounds is seen and heard to advantage, his song "I'll sing thee songs of Araby" proving especially acceptable. Another turn of more than usual merit is the sketch *Kleptomaniacs*, by Fred Edwards and Bertha Norham, whilst the Martineks contribute an amusing entertainment. The Strolling Players furnish any amount of merriment in a melodious pot-pourri, and Millie Payne, Morris Harvey, Tom E. Conover, Florence and Lilian, and the Bros. Dean all contribute pleasing and interesting turns, the Bioscope completing.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—The ever-popular Sammy Shields heads a varied and interesting programme this week, and other artists contributing are Fred Russell, ventriloquist, Ted Curtis and his piccaninnies, Andrews and Thompson, Clothilde and De Musto, the Barrois, George Rapley, and Fred Sinclair's company in *Poor Arthur*.

ROLLER SKATING RINK, EXHIBITION BUILDINGS.—Manager, Mr. Fred B. Crowe.—The popularity of rinking seems more on the increase than ever, and at every session crowds of skaters find the keenest delight in gliding round the rink. Special speed competitions are announced for next week.

NORTHWICH.—CENTRAL THEATRE.—Proprietress, Mrs. S. Golden.—M. Gustave's Colombia Minstrels are occupying the theatre this week. The Sisters Levaine are good dancers; Miss Lizzie Levaine sings a coon song with good effect; Miss Edie Levaine is interesting in her serio-comic selection; Charlie Towers is brimming over with comicalities; and Mr. Victor Silvernie's whistling solo is smart. The programme is brought to a close with a sketch entitled *A Millionaire for a Day*.

THE PAVILION.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—Jack Ford, Scotch comedian, still retains his popularity, and the same may be also said of Uty Rowlands, who is giving some clever impersonations; Miss Lilly Brummer sings nicely; Purvis and Partnor present a capital turn; Mr. Nicklin Williams, basso, possesses a fine voice; Max Sterling, illusionist, gives a wonderfully smart show; Phil Royston's comedy company present an amusing sketch entitled *The Egyptian Mummy*, and Ruffell's Bioscope pictures form an attractive feature.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is here this week in *The Midnight Wedding*. Miss Yvonne Orchardson and Mr. A. E. Winnington Barnes respectively as Astrea and Paul Valmar are much appreciated.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—A capital programme is presented, headed by Harriett Vernon, who is a host in herself; the Three Lloyds are a good turn; the Pasquali Bros. are clever equilibrists and tumblers. The other artists include Wilman, Australian instrumentalist; the Westbrooks; Leslie Race, comedian; Natalia and Diana, aerial gymnasts; Lieut. Travis, ventriloquist, with the Hippo. Bioscope, complete an excellent programme.

NOTTINGHAM. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Managing Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Howard Finney.—*Raffles* drew a large audience on Monday. As the eminent cracksman Mr. Leonard Boyne brings a wealth of artistic temperament to bear on the part; Mr. Arthur Willoughby acts impressively as the Earl of Amersteth; Mr. Cecil Brymer is capital in the rôle of Viscount Crowley; Miss Blanka Stewart endows Lady Melrose with the requisite dignity; Miss Hilda Moore makes a graceful Gwendoline Conran; and Lady Ethel is brightly played by Miss Beatrice Fitzgerald. Miss Lilian Hallows deserves hearty congratulation on her assumption of Mrs. Vidal; and Miss Dorothy Gordon makes the most of the part of Marie. As the smart detective Mr. E. W. Thomas thoroughly grasps his opportunities; and Mr. Harold West is altogether convincing as Harry Manders.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—A visit by Mr. T. W. Turner and his opera company is always welcome here, and the veteran tenor was in excellent form on Monday last, when he appeared as Lionel in Flotow's opera *Martha*. Miss Sarah Williams possesses a cultured voice, which rang out clear and sweet in the music of Lady Harriet; and the powerful contralto of Miss Jessie Dennis was heard to good effect as Nancy. Miss George Ridding did well as Lord Tristan, as also did Mr. Tom Griffiths as Lionel. The répertoire includes *Faust, Il Trovatore, Lucia di Lammermoor, Lily of Killarney*, and *Maritana*.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—*Turpin's Ride to York* makes an attractive equestrian spectacle, and its presentation this week by Fred Ginnett's company is proving a big success. The versatile conjurer Hermann Melot is delighting his many admirers with a smart and mystifying entertainment; Olgar and Elgar quite captivate their audiences in charming and melodious musical items; the vocalism of Bessie Slaughter is accorded an unmistakable tribute of praise; an acrobatic turns by the Falcons is both skilful and mirth-provoking; and the singing comedians, Verno and Voyce add to their popularity in a new sketch, entitled *The Fly-Far Man*. Nance Elder, comedienne, Walter King, comedian, and E. J. Sheldon display commendable enterprise in their contributions; and excellent films are shown on the Bioscope

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—The ventriloquism of Arthur Prince is artistic; comedy in its broadest form is supplied by Harry Grattian and company, with *Man, the Brute;* another humorous sketch, *An Anglo-American Alliance*, is creditably given by Wilton Heriot and company; and Carrie Laurie's Juveniles secure the fullest appreciation for their admirable contributions. Wright and Lawson supply some dexterous tumbling feats; Picitt and Lizette are heard in a musical extravaganza; Lyster and Cooke add to the enjoyment by a musical number; Bert Brandford and Dan Filmer, comedians, and pictures on the Barrascope are also well received.

NORTH SHIELDS. — THEATRE ROYAL. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—Miss Maud Hildyard and company, with *The Great Awakening*, are here this week. As Lola Selby Miss Hildyard presents an excellent study of the character, and Miss Elsie Capel is seen to much advantage as Molly Merton; Mr. Cecil Gray, in the dual rôles of Sir Henry Merton and Jack Merton, is worthy of praise; Mr. Herbert Robinson plays carefully and well as Guy Rogan; Mr. Wallis Clark makes a capable Captain Harry Lambert; Mr. Archer Brown does well as James Selby; and Mr. David Curtis is satisfactory as Richard Wilson; Mr. Tracy Barrow as Billy Brass and Miss Cissie Podmore as Selina Worts, keep the audience in a happy mood.

CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Heading the bill here is Matt Wilkinson's Laughter Makers in *The Registry Office;* Mr. Jack Crawley, eccentric comedian, comes in for a big reception; the Ashley team of skaters are clever; Miss Violet Beatrice, male impersonator, meets with favour; Miss Lillian De Grey, Tyrolean vocalist, goes well, and the Mouldoscope, as usual, has a good display of pictures.

NUNEATON.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—*The Woman Pays* is being presented by Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company. Mr. Phil Harper gives a fine impersonation of the hero, Sid Armstrong; Mr. John Davidson as the villainous schemer Roger Marchant, plays his part well; humorous diversion of an excellent kind is ably provided by Mr. Frank Thorne as Mickey Maloney; Mr. Dunlop Stewart as Luke Morland, Mr. Charles Arthur as Doctor Trevor, and Mr. Beresford Innes as Cyrus Tredgold acquit themselves well; Miss Maud Russell secures much appreciation by her capable acting as Madge; Miss Kate Blair plays the pathetic rôle of Nell Morland with marked success; Miss Anene Walton makes a vivacious Polly, and Miss Florence Thorne is good as Tabitha.

OLDBURY.—PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Tyrer.—Business is extra good here this week. Chester and Lee, with their marionette show, create quite a furore; Frank Vant, comedian, is smart, both in patter and song; Lily Simcox sings illustrated songs well; Perci Vale is a capital turn; Miss Gertrude Martini has a fine appearance, and gets encored nightly; and the pictures are interesting.

OLDHAM.—EMPIRE THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—Hardie and Von Leer's company in *The Sailor's Wedding* opened here for five nights. Mr. C. W. Standing gives a fine rendering of the sailor hero, Lieut. Gordon Drake; Mr. Cecil Klein as Sir Victor Lascelles is excellent; Miss Dulcie Greatwich is a dainty Mary; and Miss Laura Hansen a capital Countess; Miss Winifred Pearson acts in a clever manner as the adventuress; and Mr. Hodgson Taylor is good as her ally in crime. Mr. H. Finch Smiles is smart as Giacomo; and Mr. Cole Aspinall is a capital Count Bellini. Miss M. Sadie as Polly, and Messrs. W. Pemberton and Huntley Gifford as Jack Hawkins and Bill Burns respectively are responsible for the comedy.

COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company in *A Soldier of France* occupies the boards here. Mr. Percy Ballard acts forcibly as Corporal Jean; Judas Delara is ably portrayed by Mr. Percy Guyon; Miss Carlotta Anson as Pauline Lorraine is highly successful; Mr. Edward Hobart as Lieut. Louis is excellent; as is Mr. Arthur Downs as Sergeant Flange; Miss Gertie Renaud is good as Little Louis; Miss Maggie Hobart is satisfactory as Rita; and Miss Jennie Clare as Margot and Mr. Freddie Edwards as Pollyput Jolliboy cause much amusement.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Mark Sheridan with his capital songs and funny patter proves a great favourite; Athas and Collins introduce smart comedy and clever dancing; the Paul Krainer Troupe give an excellent balancing act (deputising for Miss Winifred Hare, who is indisposed); Barbara Babington sings good songs; Hinton and Wooton are smart in a football match on cycles; and the Brothers Miller are comedy wrestlers; Harvey's American Boys and Girls sing and dance well; and Clifford Grey is also on the bill. The Dottoscope concludes with an entertaining film.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Cleland, the mad juggler, tops the bill in smart juggling; Les Montaldos perform cleverly with parrots, cockatoos, and macaws; Ted Cowan has some quaint songs; Leoni Dixon is a good comedienne and dancer; Pietro does some smart work as a contortionist; and the Brothers Carney are excellent in their vocal scena; J. S. James, comedian and banjoist, and the Dottoscope conclude.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter De Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Edmund Sharrock.—The Great Lafayette is the principal attraction here in his unique creation, "From Dust to Dust"; Hall and Earle are clever in an acrobatic comedy act; Williams and Warden are smart cross-talk comedians and dancers; Stelling and his well-trained dog "Kiswaski" take very well; Marie Glen sings well; and Carson Hicks and the Palace pictures conclude.

OXFORD. — NEW THEATRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—The latter half of last week *The Beloved Vagabond*, admirably acted, was received with keen appreciation here by good houses. *Dear Old Charlie* is being smartly performed by an excellent company, under the direction of Mr. Charles H. Williams, and is causing the greatest amusement. Mr. George Lestocq rattles through the part of Charles Ingleton with any amount of "go," and scores a big success. His friends, Peploe and Dumphie, find excellent exponents in Messrs. C. Douglas Cox and R. S. Trelawney; Mr. Duncan Young is well suited as Colonel Fishbourne, and Mr. Stanley Arthur gives a clever study as Purkitt. Miss Enid G. Folde is a handsome and fascinating Agnes, and the part of her mother is capitally played by Miss Leonora Braham. A capital little curtain-raiser, *The Cause*, is well acted by Mrs. Leonora Braham and Mr. Cyril Vernon.

EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company is this week presenting *The Way of the World*. Mr. Skardon is a robust and highly successful Cecil Hardy, and Mr. Clarence Temple gives a powerful rendering of Matthew Malyon; Mr. Victor Gordon sustains Capt. Fred Slade capably; Mr. Augustus Hammond is natural as Horatio Bluff; Mr. Patt Quinn is effective as Sir John Hardy; and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway is amusing as Joe Sparrow. Miss Marie Fontami is sympathetic as Kate Montague; Miss Marie Marsh does well as Eric Malyon; and Miss Violet Vivienne is a general favourite as Pollie Bell. Miss Sidney Crowe gives a powerful and realistic portrayal of Lady Adela Hardy.

PAISLEY.—PAISLEY THEATRE.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile.—The Paisley Musical and Operatic Society are this week submitting an amateur production of *The Mikado*, by kind permission of Mrs. D'Oyly Carte. The performances are on the whole excellent, and Mr. Charles Rose, late of the D'Oyly Carte company, who acts as stage-manager, and who also instructed and coached the amateurs, is to be complimented on his successful and indefatigable efforts.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. S. Stead.—Tarro Miyake, the champion ju-jitsu wrestler, who heads the bill here this week, is on a return visit, and is again demonstrating successfully his ability in this style of wrestling; Jack Lane, comedian, is vastly amusing in his original and clever business; the Arthur Lloyd Trio submit an excellent and very humorous sketch, entitled *Little Charlie; or, the Twin Sisters;* the Juanitos Troupe (five in number) give a very fine and daring display of acrobatic work; Marlo's reception as an expert and novelty juggler is flattering; the performance of the sketch *Uncle Obadiah*, by Charles Dixton's company, is amusing; Lilian Travellie, soubrette and light ballad vocalist, scores with her songs; Sam Dalton, eccentric vocal comedian, is well received; and the Bioscope is, as usual, of absorbing interest.

PENTRE.—TIVOLI PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—An entertaining bill includes the Five X-Rays, the mad athletes; Miss Ada Faure, comedy and burlesque artist; the Three Orros, in their silver chain act; Baby Vi Davis, juvenile actress and vocalist; May Audrey, versatile comedienne; Ted Moxon Trio, Continental eccentrics; Carl and Carr, comedians and dancers; and the Tivoliscope.

WORKMEN'S HALL.—Manager, Mr. Edgar Harpur.—The up-to-date animated pictures of Will Stone attract large audiences; Charlie Goodman's sketch company, in clever performances of *Trust* and the *Ghost of Cefu Castle* is cordially received.

DRILL HALL.—Tom Owen, the Welsh comedian, is here this week with his Pierrot Star Variety company, and is warmly welcomed by his numerous admirers. The talented company include Miss Esalene Thorne, comedienne; Miss Catherine May, soprano; Miss Lilian Therese, mandolinist; Miss Mollie Gwynne, contralto; Mr. Reginald Bale and Mr. Cecil Bradley, tenors; Mr. Alfred Bale, basso; Mr. Harry Vernon, bass and descriptive vocalist; Mr. Bert Crosbie, champion rag-time dancer; and Miss Ethel Vere, the dainty soubrette.

PERTH. — THE PERTH THEATRE. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Stephen Richardson's Amateur Opera Company is occupying the theatre this week, with the comic opera *Erminie*, which is being well received.

PETERBOROUGH.—NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—The capital programme presented here this week includes Fasola, Indian Fakir and Eastern wonder-worker; Tom Carney, character comedian and dancer; Brothers Idento, speciality artists; Lilian French, vocal comedienne and dancer; Smith and Johnson, in their drawing-room entertainment; Tom Fancourt and Jennie Rubie, in their comedy act, *The Huntsman and the Waiter;* and Charles Harvey, in the farcical absurdity, *The Broken Statue*.

PLYMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—The management have this week placed the theatre at the disposal of the Plymouth Amateur Operatic Society, who have given an excellent rendering of *Falka*, the proceeds being in aid of the local Veterans' Fund. The better parts of the house have nightly been filled with large and appreciative audiences.

PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. J. Field.—This week's entertainment is interesting and of all-round ability; Doody and Wright, Australian comiques, are particularly good; Maude Mortimer supplies a trio of tuneful songs, the refrains of which are taken up with much spirit; Emerson and Baldwin intermingle skill and comedy in a well-executed juggling turn; and the Robertys furnish some sensational and exacting balancing business; Lily Esplin supplies a vocal number which receives a due measure of appreciation; the Vays depict a touching little episode of juvenile slum-life; Harry Vardon strikes an original chord in the ventriloquial business; and Mark Merry, comedian, concludes the entertainment.

PONTEFRACT. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Tom Diacoff.—Topping the bill here this week is Caban's French Circus, a collection of clever diminutive animals, ponies, dog, &c. The programme also includes Miss Bouverie Playdell, comedienne and dancer; Martinett and Wallace, capital coloured entertainers; the Sages, burlesque artists; Clarke and Glenny, in a screaming absurdity; Geo. Rae, a comedian in kilts; and the Bros. Lang, a pair of bustling knockabouts. In addition, there are very excellent pictures by the Alexscope.

PONTYPRIDD.—ROYAL CLARENCE THEATRE.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—Occupying the boards this week is Mr. Frank J. Pitt's company in *£1,000 Reward*. Vincent Rainsworth is admirably portrayed by Mr. Frank J. Pitt; Gilbert Lisle is in the able hands of Mr. J. Wilton; Mr. Edward de Vere scores as Fred Ingleford; Fred Ingleford, jun., is ably assumed by Mr. Wilson Roberts; Mr. Joe English shows to advantage as Dick Springthorpe; Inspector Gilbert is capably presented by Mr. Frank Dallas; Mr. Arthur Merton is good as Fighting Jeppe; Miss Kathryne Eckart makes a graceful Mme. Sansom; Kitty Springthorpe is prettily played by Miss Minnie Goepel; and Mrs. McCarthy is successfully embodied by Miss Alice Clarke.

PORTH. — THE PALACE. — Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Topping the bill here are the Eight College Girls, in a smart vocal and dancing act; Jack Barker, light comedian, scores a success; Wild, Willie, and West, the Three Bounding Navvies, comedy acrobats, make a hit; *The Little Colonel* by Montefiore and company, on a return visit, meets with approval; Flo Schuberth possesses a good voice; Pip Powell and Katie Vesey, in a highly-refined duologue, entitled *A Perfect Woman*, are accorded a warm reception; Dora Barrington has an excellent voice, and is ably assisted by Miss Leslie Grey in the vocal scena *Sentiment and Jest;* Stewart and Evans are capital comedians; and the Palascope has some good pictures.

PORTSMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell. — The Portsmouth Amateur Orpheus Operatic Society are in evidence here this week, playing with considerable success the comic opera, *Merrie England*, for the benefit of the local charities.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—Messrs. H. Armitage and Arthur Leigh's company is attracting large and appreciative audiences here with the dramatic success, *Leah Kleschna*. Mr. Hamilton Deane fills the part of Paul Sylvaine with fine effect; Miss Bessie Rignold, in the title-rôle, acts admirably; as Kleschna, Mr. William Clayton is very powerful and intense; Mr. Gilbert Heron well sustains the rôle of Schram; as Raoul Berton Mr. Algernon J. Hicks is capable; and Mr. Charles Barrett does well as General Berton. Madam Berton is taken in excellent and sympathetic style by Miss Ethel Russell; and Miss Emmie Wallace is charming and praiseworthy as Clare Berton. The other characters are in good hands.

KING'S THEATRE.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—Walter Reynolds' Irish company head the bill here for the week, and give an exceedingly well-produced sketch, entitled *Sweet Innisfail*, which gains unbounded admiration; Sam Williams is a quaint vocal comedian; Radford Duo as mimics excel and greatly please; Allis and Cassatti are diverting in the few minutes' fun; Three Carleus, a very smart trio of trapeze artists, gain a cordial greeting; *Ferdie's Ma-in-Law*, an extremely funny sketch, causes much merriment; Jack Neil, comedian, does well; Rastus and Banks, coloured entertainers, are both witty and droll; and are received warmly; Moller and Theodor, comedy acrobats, work well; Musical Johnstons, American xylophone artists, are an acquisition to the programme. Animated pictures finish.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—Miss Irma Lorraine gives a series of graceful animated tableaux, winning admiration by her clever posing and dancing; Sid Brandon, character comedian, does well; Gibbon and Bell, in their acrobatic dancing speciality, gain great applause; Spangles and Sawdust, in comedy aerial act, are very smart; Barney Vox's ventriloquial act, *Fun Outside Cassidy's Cabin*, causes planty of laughter; Mlle. Eldee gives a bright and popular turn in *The Girl in the Golden Frame;* Jas. Willard and company, in *The Ace of Hearts*, score tremendously for their well-presented scena; and Payne's Bio, with some excellent new films, concludes.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.—Miss Marie Lloyd, the incomparable Queen of Comedy, is the star turn for the week, and although the popular artist is suffering from a severe cold, her admirers were not satisfied until she had rendered three of her fascinating numbers; Mr. Bert Woodward, the cycling coon, is a wonder in his speciality; Les Rallis, with their surprisingly clever acrobatic comedy, *The Artist and His Monkey*, gain a warm welcome; Lilian O'Brian is a capable vocalist; Wyotti, the witty juggler, is much liked; Bros. Laurence are particularly smart in their dancing performances; W. D. McKenzie's company, in musical scena, *Moments with the Masters*, are to be highly commended; Miss Ella Lane, a charming comedienne, and some fine pictures from the Hippo. Bio, depicting Italian cavalry, finish a capital programme.

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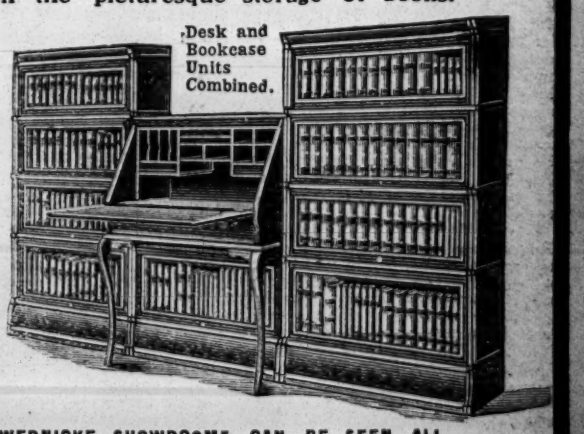

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PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—Mr. J. Rice Cassidy's company, in the play *In Holy! Russia*, is the attraction here this week. Mr. J. Rice Cassidy as Mickey Nolan is full of Irish wit, and is thoroughly at home in his part; Mrs. J. Rice Cassidy as Renée Rubinoff gives a dramatic and powerful presentation of the character; Mr. Henry Compton is capital as Colonel Richard Forrest; Mr. Frank Copeland is a dignified Sir Harry Berresford; Mr. Rolf. Leslie as Count Gregori Petroiski is clever; Mr. George H. Doyle is also good as Laurice Steragoff; Mr. Carl Beechy displays the necessary cunning as the Chief of Police which the part demands; Miss Amy McNeil is excellent as the unprincipled Cataka Lavotski; Mr. St. George Frere acts well as Captain Michael Natolski. The rest of the cast is in the hands of Mr. Robert Cockcroft as the Czar, Messrs. James Kay, Geo. Lawton, Edwin Verner, Alfred Lewis, and the Misses Alice Holland, Agnes Durham, and Alice Inman, all of whom are most capable, whilst the mounting of the play leaves nothing to be desired.

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—*The Power of the Cross*, by Mr. Lingford Carson's company, holds the boards here this week. Mr. George A. de Gray gives a clever impersonation of Baron Woulfe Cursola; Mr. Robert Hall as Gerald Fairfax succeeds in a manner beyond doubt in a very difficult rôle; Mr. Tyrone Power as Timothy O'Dowd is remarkably droll; Miss Stella Carmichael as the adventuress Rita Lascelles has an unenviable character to portray, but is most successful; Miss Phyllis Vaughan wins much applause for the womanly manner in which she enacts the part of Blanche Kingsley; David Kingsley (her father) is in the capable hands of Mr. Gilson Brooke; Miss Bita Turner as Dolly Gray adds much to the success of the piece as far as the comedy element is concerned. Miss Annie Hylton is indeed good as Margaret Seaton.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Mr. Charles Parker's Six Æolians, in their refined vocal and dancing act, give a most excellent turn, and one which the audience fully appreciates; Gorman's Juveniles in the pretty vocal scena, *The Waif* also score; the Deuchars, duettists and dancers, give a pleasing turn; Percy Farrimond, the Lancashire Singing Collier, possesses a remarkably clear tenor voice, and is loudly applauded; Frank Solbey is a quaint comedian and an excellent child mimic; Will Walton, a native of these parts, is a clever comedian, and should be satisfied with the reception he received; Chris Van Bern gives an exceedingly original turn, in which he introduces some clever sleight-of-hand tricks; Mark Henton, the mirthful one, is decidedly original, and raises many a hearty laugh; the Three Romios give an exhibition on the triple bars, at the same time introducing some original comedy. On the Bioscope A Tale of the Revolution concludes another capital programme.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—Mr. E. Mansell continues his lesseeship of the Royal Palace Theatre with marked success, and the large audiences which nightly gather there show by their hearty applause and their continued patronage that they keenly appreciate the attractive entertainments provided. On Sunday a thoroughly excellent sacred concert was given, a prominent feature of the programme being selections by the fine band of the 4th Battalion of the Buffs, under the conductorship of Mr. C. J. Brooks. In addition there were vocal items and admirable displays of animated pictures. During the week there have been popular displays of the Graphic life-motion pictures. Entertaining varieties have been introduced by Ruby Lynne, the Little Magnet, and Hal Dane, described as "Prime Minister of Fun." For next week a complete change of programme is announced.

READING.—Royal County Theatre—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Benton.—Mr. Morton Powell's company is appearing this week in *The Greed of Gold*. Mr. James Jarrett works very hard in the character of the dumb man, Tom Wellstead; Mr. Henry C. Ward acts effectively as the rascally Harry Hood; Miss Elma C. Turner is excellent as Dora, Hood's wife; Mr. Alf. Stretton as Arthur Erroll, Mr. Victor C. Rolfe as Mr. Brightstone, Q.C., and Miss Beatrice M. Hughes as Cecil all act in good style. Comic relief is afforded by Mr. Sydney Bryant as Cully Snig, Mr. Frank Midhurst as Conn Creamer, and Miss May Watts as Patty Manfield, who create much amusement. The novel sensational effects include a beam engine worked by steam, and the scene in which the hero is strapped to the revolving mill-wheel is watched with intense excitement.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—Rameses, the Egyptian wonder-worker, appears among weird Oriental surroundings, and performs a number of very clever mystical feats, including the mysterious appearance and disappearance of a lady, the effect being increased by the aid of coloured fires and limelight appliances. Cardow's Merry Yachtsmen supply a capital musical turn; the Eight Stella Girls give an attractive terpsichorean performance; a farcical comedietta, *The Butler's Baby*, by Brown and Kelly, causes great hilarity; Arthur Kenny gives a sensational cycling act; Miss Florrie Thurston is an accomplished dancer; Ida Clare gives some clever impersonations; Harry Elliott is a good comedian; and some excellent pictures are shown on the Palace Bioscope.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean company is here with a répertoire of plays. On Monday *The Merchant of Venice* was presented. Mr. Henry Herbert gave a fine impersonation of Shylock; Mr. James Berry was seen to great advantage as Antonio; Mr. Bernard Limpus was effective as Bassanio; and Mr. E. Vanderlip skilfully portrayed the part of Lorenzo. Miss Violet Farebrother was an acceptable Nerissa; Miss Jean Graeme was successful as Jessica; and Miss Gladys Vanderzee acted with superior power the part of Portia. *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Henry V.*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Hamlet*, and *Twelfth Night* are billed for production during the week.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—A capital bill of fare is presented to the patrons here this week. Jan Rudenyi and company, in a musical romance, *The Power of Music*, are highly interesting and clever; Ike and Will Scott score heavily in their latest hit *The Blind Fiddler*. Phil Goldie, comedian and vocalist; Fannie Humber, instrumentalist, vocalist, and dancer; Marlow and Manton, in *Other People's Babies*; Nib Hinman, comedian; Rosie Archer, musical mimic; and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

New Hippodrome. — Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. John Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, senior.—The Singing Servants, in an operatic burlesque, fairly bring down the house; Satani and company are mystifying the audiences in a series of illusions; Burley and Burley are most amusing comedians. Other turns are submitted by Geo. Hyman, comedian; Azelle Wilson, gymnast; the Society Quartette of singers and dancers; Nellie Rose, comedienne; Billy Farrell; and the Hippodrome pictures.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's No. I company are fulfilling a week's engagement here with *Two Little Drummer Boys*. Mr. Edward Bikker makes a dignified General Kingsley, V.C.; Captain Frank Carsdale is successfully portrayed by Mr. Harry Scott; Mr. Oswald Douglas makes an excellent Captain George Darrell; the boys, Eric Carsdale and Jack Smith, are well represented by the Misses Maggie English and Maudie Douglas respectively. The comedy is well supplied by Mr. Will Percy (Quincy O'Quirke), Mr. Dick Seddon (Timothy Trimmer), and Miss Patricia Connaughton (Molly Meadows). Miss Mary Ainslie is a most charming Alma Kingsley, and Miss Violet Ingram does well as Margaret Rivers; Mr. Wilson Holmes is also comical as the deserter Jim Barker.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—*The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, in three scenes, by Miss Flo Stanley, causes much amusement as presented by that lady, assisted by Mr. Arthur Watson, Mr. W. Rufus, Mr. Jack Roberts, and Miss Nellie Grant in the principal parts. David Poole's ventriloquial act is most enjoyable; Lily Lonsdale's soprano songs are much applauded; Ada Gatley cleverly walks the slack wire; good business is also done by Daisy Dormer, dainty comedienne; Charles Bowen, comedian; Norah Stockelle, comedienne and clever dancer; Rell and Butt in *Fun in the Garden*; Ernie Myers, patter comedian; and Robbie Roy, Scotch comedian.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Statter.—Reano and his band are much appreciated; La Belle Duchess gives a very smart exhibition with her boxing stallions, ponies, and dogs; *A Day on the Beach* is a good sketch by Lester and Moure; Evelyn and Norrie (Herbert and Ethel) have an acceptable sketchy bit, *Set a Thief*—. Other good turns include Jim Cunliffe, comedian; Forrest and King, comedy acrobatic dancers; the Le Lars, vocalists and acrobatic buck dancers; and some good pictures.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr E. Percival.—Mr. Lester King has become lessee and manager of the Central Hall, Oldham, and severed his connection with the above house, of which Mr. E. Percival has taken his place as above. This week's pictures are well patronised (twice nightly), and include a drama, A Gentleman's Son, Fright in a Village, Brigadier's Stripes, Tommy's Visit to His Aunt, Quarryman, The Statue, Midnight Sun, Artful Dodger's Meal, and Prize Camel. Mr. Percival sings the illustrated song, "A little boy called Taps."

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Messrs. Mathew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company is drawing well here this week with *The Still Alarm*. Jack Manley is played by Mr. Mathew H. Glenville in his usual robust and convincing style; Mr. Gerald Kennedy gains his full meed of opprobium in the rôle of John Bird; the low comedy section is cleverly attended to by Mr. Fred Osmond as Doc Wilber and Mr. Henry Smith as Hal Sleeper, the lighter comedy portion being in the able hands of Mr. Tom Beazley as Willie Manley and Miss Hettie Zillwood, who gives a charming and vivacious personation of Carrie Wilber; Miss Beatrice Shirley is a satisfactory Elinor, and Miss Mabel Veriton a natural and convincing Mrs. Manley. The Lyric Comedy Four gain undeniable encores for their vocal quartettes.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—*A Heart's Desire* is being presented here by Messrs. Elliman's company. As Lord St. Ives Mr. R. F. Stacey presents a dignified study of the part; Mr. Julien Mitchell finds great favour as Eric May; the Hon. Bertie Beresford is pleasingly impersonated by Mr. H. Lawrence; the villainy of Luke Forrest is well depicted by Mr. Edward Leroy; David McCulloch finds a capable exponent in Mr. Charles King; as Coombes Mr. Norman Clifton does well; Miss Lily Prescott assumes the rôle of Olya with entire satisfaction; Miss Blanch Leroy impersonates Elsie Beresford with much charm; and Gwendoline Ross is admirably depicted by Miss Hilda May. *The Shadows of a Great City* was announced for the concluding three nights.

SHEFFIELD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont.—*Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch* was played to a good house on Monday. Mrs. Madge Carr Cook's impersonation of Mrs. Wiggs was much admired, and other characters were represented by Miss Rita Carlyle Miss Mabel Durrant, Miss Violet Vivian, and Messrs. Frederick Forrest, W. M. Cameron, Gerald Henson, Edward Coventry, H. Faulkner, S. Carlyle, Harry C. Wright, and Arthur Vezin. The play was beautifully mounted.

Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey-Aldred.—Mr. A. Clifton Alderson and a strong company are appearing to excellent audiences in the well-constructed and interesting drama *The Coal King*.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Mr. Harry Battersby's company opened to a good house on Monday in *The King of Crime*. Mr. F. B. Woulfe made a great success in the rôle of Ronjarre, and all the other parts were excellently played. On Friday the historical drama by Max Goldberg *Jane Shore* was performed with Mr. W. B. Woulfe as the Duke of Gloucester and Miss Mildred Eversleigh in the rôle of Jane Shore.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—The clever, original, and versatile comedienne Miss Daisy Jerome is starring here, and the other artists engaged this week are Happy Tom Parker, a clever, funny, and laugh-provoking eccentric comedian; Carney and Armstrong, two smart and diverting burlesquers; the Boisset Troupe in their ever-welcome pantomimic comic ballet d'action *The Bricklayers*; Santon, vocalist; Miss Mabel Bardine and company in a modernised version of the Peg Woffington story, entitled *Nell of the Halls*; Leo Tell, the musical mimic; Mr. Tom Moore, character comedian; the original Cumberland Troupe, in a daring and graceful cycling act, &c. The performance concludes with The Burglar's Daughter, a Bioscopic story.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—Hackenschmidt, the renowned wrestler, is the top-liner this week, others engaged being the Three Rubys, graceful and intrepid young ladies on the bars and flying trapeze; the Sisters Maudsley, pretty and clever duettists; Miss Enid Erroll, the graceful danseuse, in the amusing terpsichorean extravaganza *The Magic Vase*; Lee and Kingston, in a smart comedy act; Mike Nono, vocalist and dancer; Ray and Calden, comedy entertainers; Honors and Prince, in a first-rate acrobatic performance; Les Hectors, novelty artists; and Mr. Arthur Royce, mimic. The Pathé Frères' Scenes in New York is one of the best moving pictures seen in Sheffield, and brings down the house.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. A. S. Turpin.—Those old Sheffield favourites Mr. Harry Wright, comic vocalist, and Miss Nelly Gannon, Westbar's popular serio-comic vocalist, with up-to-date Bioscope films, are drawing large and delighted audiences to the well-conducted and cosy picture theatre so ably managed by Mr. A. S. Turpin.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—Miss Harriet Greet's company is here this week with *The Sign of the Cross*, admirably staged and enacted. Mr. Wallace G. Court makes a dignified Marcus Superbus; Mr. Edward Clowes acts carefully and well as Nero; Mr. G. Osmond Tearle merits praise as Tigellinus; Mr. Rupert Carlton is successful as Licinius; Mr. Donald McAdam makes a capital Glabrio; and Mr. J. P. Jordan a soldierly Viturius. Miss Lily Ward as Poppæa is stately; Miss Nora Cragie makes a fascinating Berenis; Miss Dorothy Lambert as Dacia enacts her part with conspicuous ability; Miss Vera Crichton is a sweet and commendable Mercia; Miss Effie Dane plays the trying part of Stephanus in a most praiseworthy manner; Mr. C. Edwards performs creditably as Favius.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr Arthur Weston.—Mr. Walter Melville's drama *The Beggar Girl's Wedding* is here. The excellent company includes Miss Eva Dare (Tina Torkington), Miss Vashti Wynne (Bessie Webster), who is a Southampton lady, and Mr. Otto Minster (Jack Cunningham), all of whom acquit themselves admirably.

Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—The Gothams, an excellent quartette of vocalists and entertainers, top the bill, and score a huge success. A novel feature of the programme is the song "John Bull's sailor boy," which is tastefully sung by Miss Elma Morris, who looks particularly handsome attired as Britannia; Dan Whitley is a smart and clever comedian, and keeps the house in roars of laughter Others who entertain are the Sovereigns, one-legged equilibrists; Will Douglas's Five Jolly Bakers; Woodhouse and Wells, comedians and dancers; Gus Harris, Hebrew character delineator; and Stidder and Dunbar.

Hippodrome.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—T. E. Dunville is the star here, and his favourite songs, including "The postman," keep the house in laughter. Hayes and Merritt, bounding trampolinists, do a clever turn; the Four Minars dance beautifully; Mr. C. sings and talks; Maud Courtney scores in song, recital, and story; Rex Fox, ventriloquises on the wire; Jenny Reeves, comedienne, Stevens and Rennoir, comedians and dancers, also appear.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*Jack Straw*, presented by Messrs. Lionel Glenister and J. W. Wood-Ingram's talented company, drew good patronage on Monday. The title-rôle is represented by Mr. Lionel Glenister, whose ability gains instant recognition; Miss Florence St. John is a skilful and droll representative of Mrs. Parker-Jennings; Mr. J. W. Wood-Ingram is well suited as H. E. Count Adrian Von Bremer, as also is Mr. J. Edgar Stevenson as Marquis of Serlo; Mr. Frederick Moyes ably portrays Ambrose Holland; Mr. A. T. Gullifer pleases as Mr. Parker-Jennings; and Mr. Christmas Grose works well as Vincent Parker-Jennings. Miss May Poole impersonates Ethel Parker-Jennings creditably, and the Misses Edie Graham as Lady Wanley and Estelle Despa as Mrs. Withers are capable. In *A Long Journey*, the curtain-raiser, Mr. Ernest Graham figures with success.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens.—Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens, Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. Charles Constant's No. 1 company in *Florodora* forms the attraction here. The rôle of Dolores was very ably and piquantly depicted by Miss Daisy Lake; Lady Holyrood had a smart exponent in Miss Lillie Blythe; Mr. Gus Danby was highly humorous and versatile in the part of Anthony Tweedlepunch; Miss Louie Danby is a commendable exponent of Angela Gilfain; Mr. Jack Parker efficiently represented Cyrus Gilfain; Mr. Martin D. Pitt sustained the character of Frank Abercoed very creditably; whilst Captain Arthur Donegal and Leandro were acceptably impersonated by Mr. J. R. Cuninngham and Mr. Emlyn Davis respectively.

SOUTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—We are having a visit from Mr. Wm. Maclaren and Miss Lily C. Bandmann's company in *Claudian*. Mr. Wm. Maclaren is impressive in the title-rôle; the Almida of Miss Lily C. Bandmann is charmingly and sympathetically interpreted; Mr. George Roberts is a good Holy Clement; Mr. Douglas Earle is well cast as Agazil; and Thariogalus is ably depicted by Mr. B. Elliott. The humour is well sustained by Mr. C. T. Challoner as Belos and Miss Ruth Trafford as Edessa and Mr. W. Hubbard as Alcares. The minor parts are also in good hands. Dancing, chorus, and staging are excellent.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Proprietors, The South Shields Empire Palace, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—The chief item here is Miss Marquis and her stud of highly-trained cobs. They do a series of tricks which does credit to Miss Marquis and her assistants. Thompson Carruthers and company contribute a sensational card-manipulating novelty, *The Master Card*, which is well played by Dunningarto, the card-manipulator, Fred H. Constable, Miss Ethel Arto, Miss Bertha Clifton, and Miss Ivy Chandos. Ross and Lewis, the Yankee Doodle duo, provide a funny sketch entitled *Fits and Misfits*; Ida Kathrina is very clever as the Dolly girl. Little Pam Rose is a good boy comedian. Other good items are supplied by the Sisters Grovini, clever acrobats and tumblers; James Lowrey, vocalist; Alf Chester, comedian; and the Bioscope.

Tivoli, Lavgate Circus.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Li Chang Hi, assisted by Princess Tai-Mao, completely mystify their audience with their Oriental conjuring; the Three Sisters Duquesne are charming vocalists and dancers; W. E. Hilton submits a good ventriloquial entertainment; Harry Heaton, character comedian, has a good reception; and the Tivoliscope completes the bill.

SPENNYMOOR.—Cambridge Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; General-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance; Resident-Manager, Mr. David Collins.—The attraction this week is Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company in the new drama *A Country Girl in London*. Mr. W. V. Garrod gives a fine performance as Frank Gordon; Mr. Leonard Booker is good as the villain Godfrey Clinton; and as the Squire of Langdale Mr. John S. Sheridan is all that could be desired. As Marjorie Hamilton, a country girl, Miss Bertha Kingston sustains the part with excellent judgment; and Miss Josephine Colona is very good as Gwendoline Gordon. The humorous parts are safe in the hands of Messrs. John Belton as Heinrich Oppenheim, Seymour Perry as Wilberforce Puddyphat, and Miss Leslie Adair as Adelaide Puddyphat. The scenery is worthy of special mention.

STALYBRIDGE.—Grand Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Fioni; Resident-Manager, Mr. W A. Jackson.—Miss Agnes Molteno and company appear to much advantage in a musical scena, *A Dolly and Her Coach*; the Renos are remarkably clever in their exhibitions of strength; and others who contribute to the entertainment are Prof. Hulbert, ventriloquist, Mons. De Lil, conjurer, Miss Nellie Walton, the singing mill girl, and Vera and Royal, comedians. A beauty competition is also being conducted, for which £20 is offered in money prizes.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd. — Mr. E. H. Knight's company in *The Lighthouse Robbery*, is here this week. Mr. Geffory Broughton plays well as Tom Manley; and Miss Hilda Baynton is a sweet and pleasing Rose Prescott. The villainy of James Hammond is capably depicted by Mr. Percy Beresford; and Mr. H. J. Walton gives a good character sketch as David Morris. Miss Lillian Bales (Ruth Manley) and Mr. Arthur Beaufort (Sam Kidder) are successful in the humorous element.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley, and Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Leo Weisker.—The Bijou Juveniles are a troupe of pretty little children who present a highly-pleasing series of songs and dances; John G. Brandon and company appear with great success in the dramatic sketch *The Girl and the Tough*; H. W. Langslow gives a clever exhibition of shooting; Henri Bekker's conjuring tricks are very entertaining; and the Nettas are amusing. Dora Kingsley's rich voice is heard with pleasure, and she is deservedly encored; Patty Yole and C. D. Reekie also give capital turns.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. William Revill.—Local charities will benefit considerably by the aid of the excellent performances of *Les Cloches de Corneville*, given here this week by the Stockport Amateur Operatic Society.

Empire. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—This popular establishment has experienced another disappointment following that of last week. Tom Foy and company, in *The Yorkshire Lad in London*, who were announced as the star attraction, were unable to appear. May Lillian Levey, however, in new songs, very satisfactorily filled the breach. Among others appearing are Barrett and Knowles, who provoke an abundance of laughter by their distinctly amusing patter; Hallam and Stanton, in an entertaining musical comedy sketch, *A Broken Journey*; J. W. Hall, comedian, who is funnier than ever; Will McIvor, a sweet singer of ever-green ballads; the Resna Trio, in a marvellously clever acrobatic performance on the tight wire; Millie Howell, a pleasing character vocalist; and Bert and Dora, successful comedy artists.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Castle Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—The late Wilson Barrett's powerful play *The Manxman* is here this week. Mr. Alfred Cross as Pete proved himself admirably adapted to the part, and received many calls; Miss Winnie Watersford as Kate Cregeen gave an excellent portrayal, the intensity of her acting being well marked. Mr. Harold B. Lewis carefully played the part of Philip Christian; Miss Blanche Lee was clever as Nancy; Cæsar Cregeen was in the able hands of Mr. Fred Mace; Miss Adelaide Ross-Ford was very successful as Miss Christian; Mr. W. H. Deahirst as Dr. Mylchreest was very good, as was also Tom, the postman, played by Mr. Arthur Jackson. Mr. Bob Anderson as Monty Missit, Mr. F. Lynton as Prof. Mawley, Mr. W. Horgen as Tom, the constable, Mr. H. E. Morton as Jobique Jelly, and Miss Annie Jackson as Bella Kelly did their little exceedingly well. The mounting was good.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Berzac presents Capt. Woodward's sea lions and seals here this week; it is a very fine animal show, and received a hearty welcome. The Westwoods are a clever cycling turn; the Darntons, harmonising duettists, take well; Sandy and Carl are good comedians and dancers; the Five Musical Tritons, instrumentalists, receive loud applause; Harry Leaton, comedian, has a good style and sings well, Norman and Belle have good patter and are skilful dancers; the Bioscope concludes with up-to-date films.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company present here this week the historical drama *Lady Godiva*. In the title-rôle Miss Lilian Beaumont gives a capital representation, and is well supported by the rest of the company. Payne's Bio-photoscope is still popular.

STOKE-ON-TRENT.—Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—Mr. George Marriott and company, including Miss Edith Finlay, are presenting *Oliver Twist* in a most capable way; Orpheus is conversant with most instruments; Little Dando provokes much amusement; and also billed are Diamond and Hart, the Two Errolls, Ailsa Douglas, the Gentrys, George Phillips, and the Bioscope.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—The ever-popular play *A Royal Divorce* has a host of admirers here, and this week Mr. W. W. Kelly's company is again drawing crowded houses. Mr. Keith Fraser is foremost in the cast as Napoleon, which part he interprets with his accustomed vigour; he is well supported by Miss Margaret Watson as Josephine; Miss Winnie Tempest's conception of Marie Louise is excellent; and Stéphanie has a vigorous impersonator in Miss Maud Lacy. Mr. Percy H. Vernon is a meritorious Talleyrand and Mr. Stanley Harrison a talented Marquis de Beaumont. Mr. Walter T. Clifford as General Angereau and Mr. Harold S. Standing as Murat are good in their respective parts.

Royal Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Geo. Dunn.—Mr. Walter Melville's dramas are always appreciated in Sunderland, but his company in *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning* is being specially well received. The title-rôle is admirably filled by Miss Jessie Bellmore; Willie Mason is exceedingly well played by Mr. Ronald Adair; the villainy is cleverly portrayed by Miss Nannie Mead (Vesta le Clere) and Mr. Raymond Wood (James Harcourt); Jack Fenton is excellently played by Mr. Frank R. Robertson; and Lucy is presented in good style by Miss Loo Davis. Mr. Sidney Sarl makes a capital Bill Slater; Mr. Frank Dennis as Jack's father is seen to advantage; and the comedy is delightfully contributed by Miss Marie Kildare (Poppy Slater) and Mr. Fred Ingram (Johnny Walker).

Empire Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden.—W. J. Churchill on Monday had a particularly warm reception; the supple Delevines are most humorous and clever in their "scarecrow" production; the powerful dramatic incident, *No. 99*, is well presented by Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister; Harry Bedford is very funny in his skit on the "Salome" craze; and Harris Coonie introduces some smart step-dancing. The Four Vagabonds, vagrant vocalists, Bernard Crooke, juvenile pianist, and the Sisters Morgan, duettists and dancers, were all exceptionally good in their own lines.

Palace Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Hy. Curry.—Heading a good programme this week is Miss Violet Hope, who, by means of classical dancing, gives a capital interpretation of Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," "Salome," and "Cleopatra." The popular Scotch comedian, Jack Lorimer has good songs and comic and original dances; Arthur Woodville also scores as a singer and dancer; Alice Blandford is a charming ballad singer; the Ashburns, illusionists, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden, sketch artists, Stella Stahl, comedienne, and Will Mitcham are also in the bill.

SWANSEA.—The Grand.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Sir John Hare opened here on Monday in *The Gay Lord Quex*, playing the name-part splendidly. Miss Mona K. Oram was admirable as Sophia Fullgarney; the Countess was played by Miss Louise Moodie, whose delineation was very effective.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—*The Empty Cradle* is well presented here by Messrs. Battersby and Forbes' company. Ida Boswell is carefully portrayed by Miss Nancy Battersby and Kenneth Bloodworth is well developed by Mr. Claude H. Seaton. Carnaby Bloodworth is forcibly played by Mr. St. Clair Forbes, and he receives great assistance from Miss Florence Trevoir as Mary Barton.

Empires, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—An original and really clever acrobatic turn is done here by the Stein-Eretto troupe; Victor Newman's elocution is excellent; Pat Rafferty, Irish comedian, achieves unqualified success; the Gems, in song, mirth, and play, provide good entertainment; and Alf. Holt, American mimic, is a talented entertainer. Trippello, with his beautiful chimes, provides a pleasing turn; Maudie Francis, comedienne and dancer, and the Chronomegaphone are acceptable.

SWINDON.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Messrs. Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* is being accorded a great reception here. Mr. Alfred Brandon is effective as Prince Hildred; Mr. Melville Bickford presents a careful study of Prince Michael; Prince Olaf is in the admirable hands of the author, Mr. Walter Howard; Captain Hector is finely represented by Mr. Robert Noble; Mr. Reginald Payne as Lieut. Karl, ably assisted by Miss Jessica Black as Viola, provide much fun; Miss Gertrude Branscombe is successful as Camiola; and Miss Ethel Bracewell is warmly applauded for her rendition of Monica.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—The Monckton-Hoffe comedy company is this week presenting *Irene Wycherley*. Of the title-rôle a forcible delineation is given by Miss Maud Henderson. Miss Grace Illingworth as Carrie Hardinge and Miss Evelyn Cecil as Hilda Preston respectively both give charming impersonations. Miss Muriel Carmel is delightfully unsophisticated as Linda Hetheridge; Miss Beatrice Mervyn makes an austere and bigoted Lady Wycherley; and Miss Marjorie Davenport a fascinating Lily Summers. Miss Phyllis Stuckey is a piquant and winsome Muriel Wycherley; Mr. Clifton Boyne does well as Harry Chesterton; as Sir Peter Wycherley Mr. Ralph Hutton contributes a clever piece of acting; Mr. Charles Garry depicts the brutal Philip in a masterly manner; and Mr. Claude Haviland makes a typical Charles Summers. The play is preceded each evening by *Petticoat Perfidy*.

TREHERBERT.—Opera House.—Proprietors, Poole's, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens.—Mr. Morton Powell's powerful company is here this week in *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*. The piece is elaborately mounted, and the various characters are admirably represented by talented artists. John Jasper, the choirmaster, has an excellent double in Mr. Bartlett Garth, whose powerful portrayal evokes applause; the impersonation of Rosa Bud by Mrs. Morton Powell is a graceful bit of acting; Mr. J. Hy. Twyford as Neville Landless is a fine histrionic effort; Mr. G. Ridgway Thorne gives an effective rendering of Edwin Drood; an appreciable vein of humour is introduced by Mr. D. Philips; and Miss Dot Russell as Durdles and Mary Jane respectively. All the other parts are in capable hands.

TYLDESLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's smart juvenile company opened here on Monday evening to a full house in *The House that Jack Built*. Miss Flo Taylor as Jack quickly became a favourite, her singing and dancing being much appreciated; Miss Evelyn Major made a winsome and captivating Jill; as Wee McGregor Miss Gladys Wyse scored a triumph; Miss Olive Purcell in the part of the Fairy Queen sings sweetly; Miss Hetty Jones gives satisfaction as Colin; and Miss Jennie Marsden is a graceful Gretchen. Mr. H. Hillerby (Aunt Purdy), Mr. Paddy Sloan (Squire Bounce), and Messrs. Doyle and Gibson (Scragg and Scraggles) are comedians with a rich vein of humour. The Forget-Me-Not Quartet contribute some clever dancing.

WAKEFIELD.—Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr Louis Calvert's company, under the direction of Mr. T. Norman Walter, is here this week in *Sunday*. Miss Jessie Winter gives a finished and natural exposition in the title-rôle; Mr. Pennington Gush handles the part of Colonel Brinthorpe with tact and considerable effect; Mr. George Marriott, jun., is good as Arthur Brinthorpe; Mr. T. Norman Walter does full justice as Tom Oxley; the boys are admirably represented by Mr. James Skea; Mr. A. Cotton Holmes, Mr. James Hussey, and Mr. Alec Alves. Miss Lily Barclay is effective as the nun, and Miss Helen G. Edwins is successful as Mrs. Naresby.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Wyndham and Kitty give a wonderful performance on the wire; Cliff Ryland, comedian, is an amusing patterer; the Danbys, comedians, provide an interesting turn; the Redfearns (Rubie and Elsie) are clever in a musical act; and Ethel Donna, comedienne, and Major Arnold, conjurer, also entertain.

WARRINGTON. — Royal Court.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company are here this week in a delightful play, entitled *The Love of the Princess*, and excellent business has been done. It is staged in splendid style, whilst the dresses have never been excelled at this house. The company all round is a capable one. Mr. Wilson Coleman as Prince Conrad Ramona makes a manly hero, and his acting throughout is very natural; Mr. Ernest E. Imeson scores well as the remorseless Count Danillo; and a really clever character sketch of the dissipated King Josef is that presented by Mr. E. H. Dobell. Mr. Beckitt Bould is well placed as Lieut. Orlano, and a capable King's Messenger is Mr.

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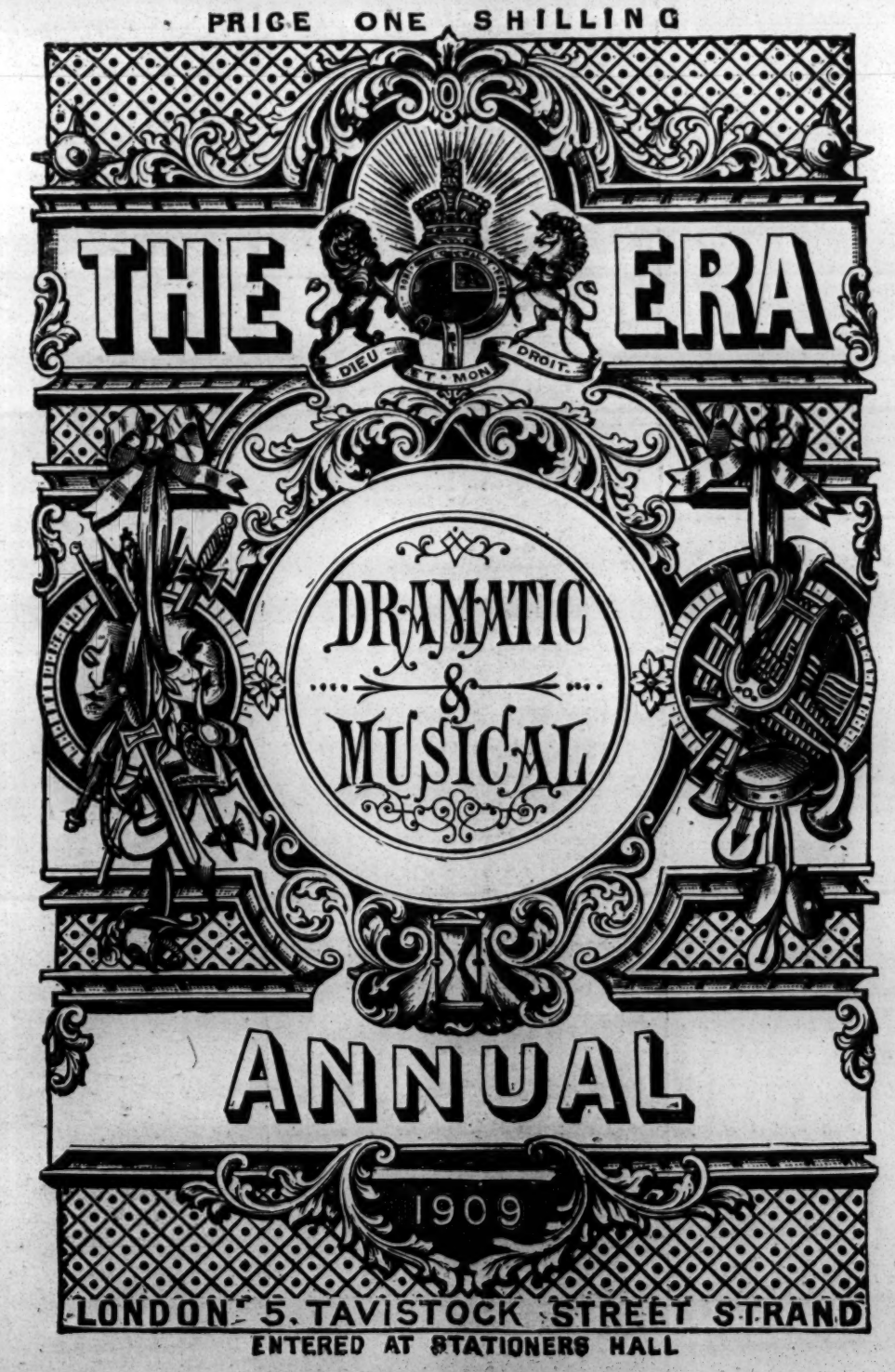

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proves herself an excellent artist as the Woman in Black, and as Octavia Miss Agnes Collier evokes warm applause.

WEST BROMWICH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. R. Nightingale.—Mr. Clarence C. Corri's company, under the direction of Haldane Crichton, is presenting that delightful and popular play, *The Dandy Fifth*. Mr. Percy Baverstock is an admirable Colonel, and is well supported by Messrs. Arthur S. Radcliffe, Chas. Sims, Coningsby Brierley, C. Bellard, William Henry, and Misses Sadie Thompson, Maud Nichols, Una Porter, and the other members of the company, all of whom fill their parts well.

New Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Archie Ainsleigh.—There is a change of programme at this place of amusement, drama and variety giving place to a cinematograph show, which is to continue for three weeks. The pictures, which are from Mr. Victor Rowe's selection, are very fine, depicting some striking scenes in American Indian life, the Italian Naval Manœuvres, &c. They are interspersed by musical and vocal items given by Mr. James Lacey, comedian and dancer, and the Glovers, in their screaming absurdity *Can You Do This?*

WEST STANLEY.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, The Stanley Theatre Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackay are paying a successful visit with the musical play *Rollicking Rory*, in which the above clever comedian undertakes the title-rôle, which wins hearty applause. Mrs. Mackay and the other members are prominent in their respective parts.

Victoria Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. G. W. Montrose.—Lotto, Lilo, and Otto are the principal turn here this week, in their marvellous cycling. Other turns are Roger Dewson, comedian; Cerito, comedienne; Allan McAskell, the talking conjurer; Fidden and Hayward, the comedy pair; Tom Taylor, the singing collier; and Gala and Morris, in their original comedy act, *Down South*, introducing a clever dancing turn.

WIGAN. — Royal Court Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—*Her Love Against the World* is billed here this week. Miss Gracie Heywood proves herself a talented actress, and wins the highest appreciation as the Princess of Idalia; Mr. Fred Emery gives a capital portrayal of the Earl of Strathmere; while as the despotic Prince of Ravensburg Mr. Lewis Gilbert is eminently successful. Mr. W. H. Hallett gives a brilliant interpretation of Prince Othmar and Miss Rosie St. John is a sympathetic Nello.

The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Company.—A strikingly novel entertainment is given by Zeynard's Midget Lilliputians, who prove themselves expert rope-walkers, dancers, balancers, and acrobats. The McConnell Trio cause much mirth with their comedietta, *The Airship*, and their vocal renderings are also good; Mlle. Lumiere presents an interesting "fairy grotto," in which some pretty effects are obtained; Bert Harlow causes an ovation with his songs; and Eily Adair dances herself into favour. The Leotard Bros. are clever clowns, with hat-throwing and hand-balancing; and J. H. Wakefield is a dancer above the ordinary. T. C. Edwards, vocalist; F. S. Hulme, comedian; and the pictures conclude.

Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Co.; District-Manager, Mr. Gerald Hunt; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. C. Woon.—The programme of living pictures comprises spools portraying thrilling, pathetic, and humorous scenes, such as Gold Prospectors, The Warrior's Bride, A Victim of His Honesty, Baby Has Disappeared, A Day of Robbery, and A Unique Disguise. A pleasing diversion is supplied by Professor Holt, who is very clever in his ventriloquial speciality, "The Rehearsal."

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and James Willard's company is on a first visit here with *The Girl with the Angel Face*. Mr. H. Naylor Grimson gives a successful rendering of the dual rôles of Sir John Wentworth and Thomas Wentworth; Mr. Austin Mortimer is well placed as Stephen Arkwright; Mr. Fred G. Evison as Jasper Death submits a capital character study; Mr. Dobell Lyle does good work as the Rev. Gordon Cross; and Mr. Allen Charles causes amusement as the Hon. Percy Paget. In the title-part Miss Florrie Green displays ability; Miss Phyllis Dailley is a sympathetic Ena Wentworth; Miss Mildred Carr a successful Mollie Maitland; and Miss Winifred Delevanti a charming Nellie. The drama is admirably staged.

Empire Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Miss Marie Kendall repeats her former successes here this week; Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls are as popular as ever; the Hiatts give a clever musical entertainment; and Harry Nation, Harry Webber, Fred Hastings, and Steve McCarthy complete the bill.

WORCESTER. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—A novelty in the form of a drama twice nightly is meeting with considerable success. *Her Nameless Child* is the drama, which, in the course of its ten scenes, provides a series of thrills. Mr. J. W. Anthony gives a realistic impersonation of the part of Anthony Ford, and Miss Pattie Hastings as his daughter is afforded ample scope for her versatile talents; Mr. S. C. Cranston finds the part of her brother a congenial task, and the remaining characters are adequately presented by Mr. A. Pringle, Miss Mona Gray, Mr. Larry Clements, Miss Rennie Douglas, and Miss G. Verner.

YORK.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Mr. Charles Harrington's well-known company is doing good business this week in the ever-popular *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Mr. J. Carr is extremely sympathetic in the title-rôle, being well received; Mr. E. Regent is manly and forcible as George Harris; and Miss Hathaway does well as Eliza Harris. Little Eva has a sympathetic representative in Miss Kitty Bell, and Miss Annie Watson causes endless fun as Topsy.

Opera House and Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brook.—Thora is a ventriloquist of the first rank, and is achieving much success; St. George Sylvester's feats of mystery are a source of amusement; Blake and Amber give a neat sketch; and the Three Raymonds are instrumentalists of great merit. The amusing sayings of Sam Redfern, as of yore, immediately catch on; and the company also includes Kit Keen, a clever dancer; Dave Samuels, Hebrew comedian; and Florrie Connelly, a sweet songstress.

"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

Owing to CHRISTMAS DAY this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, The Era will be published at midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

Copy intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, Dec. 22, to reach us by FIRST POST on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

POST EARLY.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY, Nov. 3.—*A Miner's Trust* is a new drama by an Australian, Mr. Jo Smith, on an Australian subject. Meynell and Gunn produced it at the Palace Theatre on the 31st, and it will run out the rest of their season, which ends on the 13th at this theatre. The plot deals with two mates on the diggings. One is killed by a desperado, and, before dying, makes his mate promise to go home and impersonate him with his blind fiancée. So Alan Trengrove becomes Jack Howard to Alice Medway and her father. A relative dies and leaves him a fortune, which he, being considered dead, dare not claim, and his cousin, Arthur Trengrove, becomes the possessor. Both men fall in love with Ida Medway, and at this time Alan saves a man from a wreck, who turns out to be Gaspard Le Rouge, a recidivist, who killed Howard in the prologue. He threatens to expose Alan, who tells his story and is forgiven, and the tangled knots are happily unravelled. The play is well written, and the sensational scenes are all within the bounds of probability, even the dive to rescue the wrecked ones. Meynell and Gunn mounted and cast the drama in capital style. Miss Lillian Meyers made great capital out of Ida Medway, a strong and sympathetic part. Miss Lorna Forbes portrayed very successfully the blind girl, Alice. Miss Maisie Maxwell, a clever young actress, gave an excellent characterisation of Aunt Hypatia, a severe old spinster. Miss Maud Chetwynd had a congenial rôle as the tomboy, Florrie Medway. The hero, Alan Trengrove, was in the capable hands of Mr. Conway Wingfield; his mate, Jack Howard, was well acted by Mr. Wentworth Watson; the cousin, Arthur Trengrove, gave Mr. James Lindsay some of his pet opportunities; and the comic sailor, Bill Bobstay, had Mr. Harry Halley to look after his funmaking. A lot of minor characters disported themselves with credit amid the fine scenery, painted by Mr. E. Vaughan and assistants. All included in the performance did everything possible to secure a success for the new dramatic story.

"The Merry Widow" had an enormous audience at Her Majesty's on the 31st, when Miss Betty Ohls replaced Miss Carrie Moore as Sonia. The Governor and Miss Rawson and Lord Chelmsford (Governor of Queensland) and Lady Chelmsford and their suites were present, and shared the general enthusiasm. Miss Ohls is refined and graceful, and sings the music capitally, while her acting, speaking, and dancing are all good. Mr. Andrew Higginson sang the duets with Miss Ohls better than ever; and Miss Florence Young, Mr. Reginald Roberts, Mr. Gouriet, and Mr. Percy were in joyous form. *The Merry Widow* is in for a long run, the five weeks now over having seen the house full every night.

"Miss Hook of Holland" played out the last four nights of Meynell and Gunn's season at the Criterion. On the last night the audience recalled all the artists and loudly cheered them, calling for speeches.

Wren and Musgrove's opera company will open at the Criterion next Saturday, the 7th, with *Maritana*.

The Royal still retains *Diana of Dobson's* as Mr. J. C. Williamson's bill, but next Saturday *The Girl of the Golden West* will be staged, with Miss Tittell Brune, Mrs. Brough, and Mr. Kingston in the chief parts.

Mr. H. R. Roberts with *Prince Chap* is due at the Palace Theatre on the 14th, under Mr. Alan Hamilton's direction.

The Cherniavskis, three star instrumental boys, have created a sensation, and Mr. Edward Branscombe announces two more recitals at the end of this week. Miss Marie Hooton and Mr. Percival Driver are the vocalists, and the concerts are an immense treat.

Mr. Philip Newbury, the tenor, and Mme. Emily Spada, are giving operatic concerts at the Town Hall, assisted by Miss Mabel Estelle Ward. M. Henri Staell, Mr. R. L. Nield, and the English organist, Mr. Sydney Scott.

The Tivoli had an important newcomer on Saturday in the person of Mr. J. W. Rickaby, whose funny impersonations of a burlesque soldier and policeman were hugely enjoyed. Duncan's Collies, the Three Macgregors, Osborne and Brooke, Barnard's Mannikins, and Fanny Powers are still in Mr. Rickards' programme.

West's Pictures, Spencer's Theatroscope, Queen's Hall, Oxford Theatre, Bijou, and Victoria Hall have the latest bioscopical attractions.

News comes from the Antipodes of the death of Lieut. Manfred Rose, long and favourably known as a theatrical manager in Australia and New Zealand, who passed away on the 2nd ult. at Neutral Bay. He was buried in Waverley Cemetery on Nov. 3.

An alarming interruption to a concert performance occurred at Nantwich on Wednesday evening. While the audience were assembling, just before eight o'clock, fire suddenly burst out close to the platform, and there was a stampede from the hall. The place was soon filled with the smoke and vapour set up by the use of chemical extinguishers. The outbreak, which was caused by the overheating of a flue, was soon extinguished, and the concert proceeded.

The English Play Society will begin their season on Sunday evening, Dec. 20, with a matinée the following day, at the Kingsway Theatre, by kind permission of Miss Lena Ashwell. The programme will consist of a new play, in one act, entitled *Mumby*, by Mr. Geo. H. Blagrove, and a new comedy, in four acts, entitled *Management*, by Mr. Curtis Brown.

At the Aston Royal Theatre, Birmingham, on Friday, the 4th inst., Mr. Charles Lake, the popular manager, was called on the stage before the audience and presented by Mr. Alderman Carrod, J.P., with a handsome gold hunter watch, subscribed for by the entire staff of the theatre and a few friends, on his retiring from the management. The Alderman, in making the presentation, stated that Mr. Lake had resigned his appointment of his own accord in order to produce *Aladdin* at the Theatre Royal, Brighton, for Mr. Ernest Carpenter, of the Lyceum Theatre, London, and afterwards to go on tour with No. 1 *Pete* company as stage-manager. What was Brighton's gain was indeed Aston's loss. Mr. Charles Lake had, during the last nine months, made the Aston Theatre one of the most attractive and comfortable in the provinces, and he was leaving to the regret of the whole town and of the proprietors, of which Mr. Charles Barnard was at the head. Mr. Lake suitably replied in a few well-chosen words, and said that although he much regretted having to resign his appointment, yet he did so not only to better his financial position, but also to take one step higher on the ladder of fame which they of his profession were all so anxious to ascend. Mr. E. Hewitson, of the Smethwick Theatre Royal, handed to Mr. Lake on behalf of the staff behind the footlights a fine diamond pin as a token of respect from those members of the staff who are rarely seen by the audience, and he himself expressed his personal thanks to Mr. Lake for the great assistance which he had always rendered him in his difficult duties. There were loud cheers for Mrs. Charles Lake, the popular manager's wife, who was also called upon the stage and presented with a massive gold bracelet, handed to her by Mr. Alderman Carron on behalf of the theatre staff and a few regular visitors to the theatre.

"OWEN HALL," LTD.

In the court of Chancery on Tuesday Mr. Albert Wilfrid Cotton, husband of Miss Ada Reeve, sought to have his name removed from the register of shareholders in Owen Hall, Limited. The late Mr. James Davis, better known as "Owen Hall," the author of many successful plays, formed himself into a company called "Owen Hall" (Ltd.), which was to have the sole right to produce his plays. He died shortly afterwards, and the company is now in liquidation. Mr. Cotton had applied for and was allotted 40 £10 shares in the company, which were now only partly paid up, and his case was that a condition precedent to his taking the shares had not been fulfilled.

The arrangement between Mr. Cotton and Mr. Owen Hall was, he said, that in consideration of his taking the shares he was to be appointed a director of the company, that the sequence and all matters connected with the production of the plays would be submitted to him, that he should receive the offer of the provincial and colonial rights, and that Miss Ada Reeve should always be engaged to play the title-rôle at a salary of £25 for each performance. These conditions had not been carried out. It was pointed out on behalf of the company that Mr. Cotton had attended a meeting in his capacity as shareholder, and had requested, and had been supplied with, information of the business transacted at another.

An affidavit by Miss Ada Reeve testified that she remembered several occasions in the early part of last year when there were interviews between her husband and Mr. Owen Hall. Being one of the parties concerned, she took a great interest in the discussions, and was able to confirm her husband's account of the arrangement arrived at. It was incorrect to say that the application for shares was made on the terms of the prospectus.

In dismissing the application with costs, Mr. Justice Neville pointed out that Mr. Hall being dead he was unable to give his version of the matter, but while thinking that there had been some discussion on the matter, his lordship was unable, on the evidence, to come to the conclusion that the application for shares was subject to the condition precedent referred to. Neither was he satisfied that Mr. Hall had power as managing director to impose such conditions on the company.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

While pantomime holds sway at three of the Glasgow theatres, viz., the Royal, Grand, and Princess's, musical comedy will form the Christmas attraction at most of the others. Thus at the King's the holiday attraction is to be Messrs. George Edwardes and Charles Frohman's company in *The Waltz Dream*, for the first time out of London. This engagement will run for four weeks, followed by three weeks of *Havana*, after which the new American production *The Dollar Princess* will be staged.

At the Royalty, Glasgow, the Christmas attraction will be Miss Ada Reeve's company in *Butterflies*. This musical comedy proved a great success when played here by the original company before going to London, and ought to make a good holiday draw. Mr. Louis Bradfield will play his original character of Puck, Miss Georgie Corlass will appear in Miss Ada Reeve's part, and Mr. Blake Adams, Mr. Richard Green, Mr. E. H. Wynne, and Miss Stella St. Audrie are the principal members of the cast. Miss Phyllis Monkman will be the principal dancer, and give the "Butterfly" dance with which she has been so successful in the London production.

At the Lyceum, Glasgow, Mr. Rich. Waldon has secured for his holiday season Mr. Robert Courtneidge's company in *The Dairymaids*, under the direction of Mr. Robert Macdonald. The cast of this includes Miss Isa Bowman, Miss Edie Martin, Miss Doris Dickens, Mr. Richard Telford, and Mr. Frank Barclay, while Mr. Dan Agar will fairly revel in the eccentricities of Joe Mivens.

At the Metropole, Glasgow, during the holidays, Mr. Arthur Jefferson will make a special feature of Mr. Fredk. Melville's new drama, *Married to the Wrong Man*.

The annual benefit of Mr. H. W. Rowland, the general-manager of the Pleasure Gardens Theatre, Folkestone, is fixed for Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening next (when the charming play *Delicate Ground* and *The Deacon* will be presented by professional actors and local amateurs.

The secretary of the Actors' Association asks us to print a warning to the effect that a man is going about the country stating that he is an official of the Actors' Association, and by that means defrauding landladies. No such person is travelling officially from the Association.

The idea of the English tribute to Ristori, which was carried to such a gratifying issue last week, was suggested by Signor Ugo Catani, and the work of organising the performance was done by Mr. H. S. J. Booth. The success of the movement, it should be added, was largely due to the influence and the kindness of Mr. Beerbohm Tree, who gave the theatre, his own services, and those of his staff.

The first annual dinner in connection with the entire staff of Poole's Opera House, Treherbert, took place on the 3rd inst. Dinner was partaken of at the Railway Hotel, and was followed by a smoking concert. Mr. Arthur Kento (stage-manager) and Mr. Frank Horcell, his assistant, are to be complimented upon the excellent arrangements made towards making the function a success.

The London Society of East Anglians opened the season with a Bohemian concert on Monday in the Throne Room, Holborn Restaurant. Mr. Alderman Glenny, J.P., presided. An attractive programme was contributed to by Misses Ethel Williams, Mary Williams, Minnie Paget (concertina), Messrs. Hector Lightfoot, Ernest Stevens, P. Gorton Young (handbells), Stuart Dednam, Walter Montagu, and Percy Stanhope (ventriloquist). The room was crowded, late comers being unable to find even standing room.

A one-act play eulogistic of the virtues of Free Trade under the title of *Tried and True* was produced at the Westminster Palace Hotel on Tuesday. The piece is written by Mr. H. C. Lacey, and the characters were interpreted by Mr. Noel Curtis Bennett, Miss Ivy Pretious, and Mr. G. M. Harris. The playlet was staged under the auspices of the Woman's Free Trade Union, who propose sending the production into the provinces as an aid to the propaganda against fiscal reform.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery, and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

NEW PLAYS OF THE MONTH.

London.

Nov. 2. *Le Grand Soir*, play, in three acts, by M. Léopold Kampf, French version by M. Robert d'Humières, produced by the company from the Théâtre des Arts, Paris—Terry's.
„ 2. *A King's Hard Bargain*, play, in one act, by Major W. P. Drury—Court.
„ 2. *Private Nobody*, piece, in one act, by F. D. Bone—Court.
„ 3. *The Topside Dog*, piece, in one act, by F. D. Bone—Court.
„ 3. *Dolly Reforming Herself*, comedy, in four acts, by Henry Arthur Jones—Haymarket.
„ 7. *Mr. Riggles Joins the Choir*, comedietta, by E. Rynd and Amy Nankivell (produced by amateurs)—West Theatre, Albert Hall.
„ 7. *St. John's Eve*, fantasy, in two acts, by Gabrielle Festing and Dorothy Hart (produced by amateurs)—West Theatre, Albert Hall.
„ 8. *'Tilda's New Hat*, piece, in one act, by "George Paston" (The Play Actors)—Court.
„ 8. *The Sentimental Bray*, play, in one act, by F. D. Bone (The Play Actors)—Court.
„ 8. *Maraquita*, an incident, by "Michael Merrick" (The Play Actors)—Court.
„ 8. *A Dear Bargain*, comedy, in one act, by L. C. Fenn (The Play Actors)—Court.
„ 10. *The Bacchæ* of Euripides, translated into English rhyming verse by Gilbert Murray—Court.
„ 10. *The Builders*, play, in three acts, by Norah Keith—Criterion.
„ 11. *The Builder of Bridges*, play, in four acts, by Alfred Sutro—St. James's.
„ 12. *A Bridge Tangle*, comedy, in four acts, by Mrs. Frank Wright and Mrs. Caleb Porter—Court.
„ 12. *In an Arab Garden*, comedy, in one act, by Gladys Unger, adapted from the French of P. Elzear—Vaudeville.
„ 13. *A Reformed Rake*, comedy, in three acts, by Pelham Hardwicke and Walter E. Grogan—Coronet.
„ 13. *Jealousy*, a wordless play, by Marc Aubry, with music by Lucien de Flaguy (The Argonauts)—Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane.
„ 13. *The Black Devil*, Sicilian tragic episode, by Carlo Broggi, translated and produced by Herbert Dansey (The Argonauts)—Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane.
„ 13. *The Renewal*, comedy, in one act, by Ben Phillips (The Argonauts)—Rehearsal Theatre, Maiden-lane.
„ 13. *The Witches of Macbeth*, magic Shakespearean episode—St. George's Hall.
„ 18. *Winter Sport*, play, in one act, by "D. Brandon"—Court.
„ 21. *A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing*, a farce, adapted by W. H. C. Nation from a story in the *Covent Garden Magazine* (W. H. C. Nation's season)—Royalty.
„ 23. *His Living Image*, Dutch playlet, by Stanley Cooke, with music by Arthur Wood—Coronet.
„ 23. *The Man from Mexico*, farcical comedy, in three acts, by H. A. Souchet (founded on *Un Voyage d'Agrément*, by Gondinet and Bisson), originally produced in America—Coronet.
„ 24. *Enid*, British opera, in two acts, the music by Vincent Thomas, the book by Ernest Rhys—Court.
„ 24. *Grit*, play, in four acts, by H. Herman Chilton—Kingsway.
„ 26. *The Toyshop of the Heart*, play, in one act, by Ella Hepworth-Dixon—The Playhouse.
„ 27. *Deirdre*, legendary verse play, by W. B. Yeats (Mrs. Patrick Campbell)—New.
„ 27. *Electra*, original tragedy founded on the old Greek story by Hugo von Hofmannsthal, translated into English by Arthur Symons (Mrs. Patrick Campbell)—New.
„ 28. *The Antelope*, musical comedy, adapted from *Le Cabinet Piperlin* by Adrian Ross, music by Hugo Félix, lyrics by Adrian Ross (commencement of Mr. H. R. Smith's season)—Waldorf.
„ 28. *Sir Anthony*, comedy, in three acts, by C. Haddon Chambers (originally produced in America)—Wyndham's.
„ 29. *The Vagabond*, play, in four acts, adapted from the German of Dr. Richard Fellinger by M. C. Washburn Freund (The Play Actors)—Court.
„ 30. *Into the Light*, comedy, in four acts, by Gerald Lawrence (originally produced at the Theatre Royal, Bradford, on Feb. 23, 1903) (Miss Mouillot's season)—Court.
„ 30. *Man or Beast?* drama, in four acts, by Charles H. Phelps (produced on July 27, 1908, at the Star Theatre, Swansea)—Theatre Royal, Stratford.

Revival.

Nov. 25. *King Henry V.*, Shakespeare's play (Mr. Lewis Waller)—Lyric.

Provinces.

Nov. 2. *The Dear Departed*, comedy, in one act, by Stanley Houghton—Gaiety Theatre, Manchester.
„ 5. *Henry of Navarre*, romantic play, in four acts, by William Devereux—Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
„ 9. *How Women Ruin Men*, drama, in four acts, by T. G. Bailey—Victoria Theatre, Broughton.
„ 9. *The Dragon*, operetta, in one act, by James M. Gallatly—Theatre Royal, Margate.
„ 16. *The Empty Cradle*, domestic drama, in four acts, by St. Clair Forbes—Theatre Royal, Bilston.
„ 18. *God Save the King*, play, in one act—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
„ 18. *The Trumpet Major*, adapted by A. H. Evans from Thomas Hardy's novel of the same name (produced by amateurs)—Corn Exchange, Dorchester.
„ 23. *When a Lass Loves*, melodrama, in four acts, by Tom Craven—Theatre Royal, Margate.

Paris.

Nov. 6. *Plumard et Barnabé*, vaudeville, three acts, by Henry Moreau and Quinel—Folies-Dramatiques.
„ 6. *Moulard's s'émancipe*, comedy, one act, by Mouézy-Eon—Folies-Dramatiques.
„ 6. *La Patronne*, comedy, five acts, by Maurice Donnay—Vaudeville.
„ 11. *S.A.R.*, operetta, three acts, by Xanrof and Chancel, music by Yvan Caryll—Bouffes-Parisiens.
„ 12. *L'Enfant de ma sœur*, three acts, by Mouézy-Eon and Francheville—Déjazet.
„ 13. *Dix Minutes d'Auto*, farce, three acts, by G. Berr and P. Decourcelle—Nouveautés.
„ 20. *Les Révoltés*, drama, five acts and six tableaux, by H. Cain and Edouard Adenis—Sarah-Bernhardt.
„ 24. *Kaatje*, play, four acts, by Spaak—Théâtres des Arts.
„ 25. *Les Vainqueurs*, play, four acts, by Emile Fabre—Antoine.
„ 25. *Le Mufle*, play, one act, by Sacha Guitry—Antoine.

Berlin.

Nov. 2. *Das liebe Ich*, three-act volks play, by Karlweiss—Thalia.
„ 3. *Anteros*, five-act play, by G. Korn—Friedrich-Wilhelm Städtisches.
„ 7. *Pelleas und Melisande*, three-act musical drama, by Debussy—Komische Oper.
„ 7. *Der Schwarze Cavalier*, play, in three acts, by H. Lilienfein—Schiller O.
„ 9. *Kaiser Heinrich der Sechste*, five-act tragedy, by C. Grabbe—Royal Schauspielhaus.
„ 12. *Erde*, three-act comedy, by K. Schönherr—Hebbel.
„ 12. *Der Gemeindekaspar*, three-act volks-play, by B. Rauchenegger (Schliersee company's season)—New Royal Opera.
„ 13. *Seine Hoheit*, three-act comedy, by MM. von Schlicht and Turszinsky—Friedrich-Wilhelm Städtisches.
„ 14. *Ahasver*, one-act play, by H. Heijermans—Neues.
„ 14. *Besuch*, one-act play, by A. Grabowsky—Neues.
„ 14. *Die Silberfischchen*, one-act play, by Benière—Neues.
„ 20. *Moral*, comedy, in three acts, by Ludwig Thoma—Kleines.
„ 20. *Blaue Bergen*, three-act comedy, by M. Halbe—New Schauspielhaus.
„ 20. *Madame Flirt*, three-act comedy, by MM. Gavault and Beer—Lustspielhaus.
„ 21. *Der Arzt am Scheideweg*, five-act comedy, by B. Shaw—Chamber Plays.
„ 21. *Hohes Spiel*, three-act drama, by E. Diedring—Hebbel.
„ 26. *Irmingard*, four-act play, by H. von Berger—Friedrich-Wilhelm Städtisches.
„ 27. *Villa Benkendorf*, three-act farce, by R. Jäger—Luisen.
„ 28. *Den König drück der Schuhe*, three-act operetta, by B. Zepler—New Operetta Theatre.
„ 28. *Zaza*, four-act opera, by Leoncavallo—Komische Oper.

The bill at the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells, includes Edward Cranston and Mrs. Bennet's company, in an amusing sketch, *Poor Master*; Walter Wade, in his excellent monologue *Patsy Burke*; Maud Wellor and Marie Wilton, comediennes, who both have very cordial receptions; Zarmo, the mad juggler; and the trio of educated elephants introduced by Mr. Chas. Millar, U.S.A.; while Bulgarian scenes are portrayed on the Bioscope.

The attraction at the Hippodrome, Todmorden, this week is Messrs. Dottridge, Longden and Willard's company in *The Midnight Mail*. Mr. George Howard ably displays the character of Harry Steyne; as Billy Brewer Mr. Grant Lythan gives a forceful interpretation; Mr. C. H. Longden ably delineates Leonard Boyle; and Mr. C. P. Wentworth depicts the sly Hassan. Miss Trissie Humphries gives a touching characterisation of Mary Steyne; Miss Lennis Weston is an excellent Lady Phyllis Eustace; and Miss Daisy Clifford is successful in the part of Nancy Brewer.

PANTOMIME GOSSIP.

A CHANGE has been made in the cast of *Little Red Riding Hood*, the pantomime at the Lyceum. Miss Frances Cameron, who was to have played the principal girl, is unable to leave New York owing to the illness of her mother, and Messrs. Smith and Carpenter have engaged Miss Alice Russon to take her place.

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD," Messrs. Smith and Carpenter's second pantomime at the Lyceum, will be invented and produced by Ernest Carpenter. The book is by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, and music composed and arranged by Mr. H. Sullivan-Brooke. The full cast will be thus constituted: The Spirit of Evil, Mr. S. Major Jones; the Wehr Wolf, the Scarecrow, the Snake, Punch (the Emissary of Evil), M. Espinosa; Our Good Fairy, Miss Eva Kelland; Prince Rupert, Miss Dorothy Craske; Little Red Riding Hood, Miss Marjory Carpenter; Margery Daw, Miss Alice Russon; Jack Horner, Miss Kitty Upton; Baron Levinski, Mr. Julian Rose; Dame Trot, Mr. J. D. Hunter; Jimmy Green, Mr. James Forman; Johnny Stout, Mr. Peter Fannan; Simple Simon, Mr. Charles Penrose; Silly Sammy, Mr. Charles Ludlow; Edouardo de Frisky, Mr. Harry Gardner. The ballets and dances and evolutions arranged by Espinosa, and the Clown will be Mr. Harry Gardner.

A SERIES of wonderful scenes will comprise in Part I.: The Witches' Cave, the Village of Heydownderry, the Village Pump, the Dame School, Buttercup Dell, and the Wood in Summer, with a grand mechanical change to the Wood in Winter. Part II. will embrace: Red Riding Hood's Nursery, Toyland, a Glade in the Woods, Dame Trot's Cottage, Outside Granny's Cottage, and the Palace in the Happy Isles.

THE Marlborough Theatre pantomime will be *The House that Jack Built*, written by J. Hickory Wood, with music by Dudley Powell. The entire production will be under the personal supervision of Mr. Fred Karno. The cast includes Mr. Fred Emney, Farr and Farland, Sam Poluski, jun., Little Zola, Dick Tubb, Miss Maidie Scott, Miss Madoline Rees, Miss Nellie Howard, Miss Kitty Douglas, Miss Winifred Ward, Little Maudie Francis, Miss Gladys Soman, Little Rosie Lee, Miss Jessie Buckle, Armstrong's Electrical Floral Ballet, and Lottie Stone's troupe of dancers. The scenes will comprise The Village of Whare, The Squire's Hall, Outside the Prince's Castle, Mother Hubbard's Kitchen, A Floral Welcome, In the Corn Field, At the Squire's, The Haunted Chamber, The House that Jack Built, Wishing Gate in Lovers' Lane, The Aeroplane, and The Silver Palace. The pantomime will be produced on Boxing morning.

PANTOMIME will be found at the Camden Theatre, where *Blue Beard* will be produced on Boxing morning by C. St. John Denton and Peter Davey. The cast will include Mr. Ben Albert as Blue Beard, Mr. Ernest Rees as Sister Ann, Messrs. Ferguson and Mack as Captain and Mate, Miss Addie Lennard as Selim, Miss Lottie Sergeant as Wilhelmina, and Miss Jose Collins as Fatima. Mr. Buckstone Claire and Mr. Mark Strong, respectively, will be the producer and musical director, and Mr. F. J. Richardson will be the general-manager for Messrs. Denton and Davey.

REHEARSALS of *Little Red Riding Hood* at Kennington Theatre are now proceeding, and on Monday the principals will take up their parts under the direction of Mr. Harry Brandrath, the acting manager. The production bids fair to repeat the success of previous years at Mr. Robert Arthur's South London house, and it is not surprising to learn that Boxing Day is already booked up, whilst the bookings for the early weeks of the run are also very heavy. Mr. Arthur has arranged to introduce an educated pig in the *Daily Mail* Ideal Home scene, which will be the central feature of the pantomime, and there are other startling novelties.

THE pantomime at the Brixton Theatre, to be produced on Boxing Day by Mr. Frederick Melville, is named *Dick Whittington*, and promises to be a big success. The "annual" is to be produced by the enterprising manager, in conjunction with Mr. Newman Maurice.

MR. WILLIAM BAILEY, the lessee of the West London Theatre, will produce his annual Christmas pantomime as usual on Boxing Day. The subject is *Cinderella*, which is always such a popular story with the children. The cast up to the time of writing is not quite completed, but the youngsters are promised a specially gorgeous transformation scene, quite up to the traditions of this old historical playhouse, and a rattling old-fashioned harlequinade.

MR. ROLAND DANIEL will present his first pantomime at the Grand, Croydon, on Boxing Day, the selection being the ever-popular *Dick Whittington*. The cast includes Miss Clara Marsden as Dick; Miss Ethel Lawson, Alice; Miss Gladys Warren, Tommy Turner; Miss Rhoda Ray, the Princess; Miss Lillie Laughton, Fairy Queen; Mr. Edgar Driver, the Cat; Mr. Luke Forster, Alderman Fitzwarren; Mr. Percy Cahill, Idle Jack; Mr. Maitland Marler, the Cook; Mr. Fred Solo, Laffrail; and Mr. J. R. Val, Ben Robstay. The book is by Mr. William Wade.

MR. WENTWORTH CROKE will present his first pantomime at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, on Boxing Day. The subject will be *Little Red Riding Hood*, and the book will be written by Mr. Victor Stevens.

THE pantomime this year at the King's Theatre, Sunderland, will be C. St. John Denton's production of *Sinbad the Sailor*, which will see the light on Boxing morning. The cast will include Miss Jessie Wilton (Sinbad), Miss Christine Roy (principal girl), and Miss Madeline Rossiter (Princess), Mr. Will Johnson (Dame), Messrs. Walton and Lester (Chamberlain and Emperor), and Mr. Frank Lynne (Bindad).

THE pantomime at the Pier Pavilion, Eastbourne, will be Mr. Cyril Gilbert's production of *Red Riding Hood*, by Newman Maurice, with music composed and arranged by Frank Bradsel, W. T. Gliddon, Guillaune Leone, and Harold March. The cast will be as follows:—Robin Hood, Miss E. Harlow; Red Riding Hood, Miss E. Schofield; Granny, Mr. George Porter; Jack and Jill, Miss E. Victoria and Miss Lena Selwyn; Fairy Bluebell, Miss Ala Wilson; the Wicked Wolf, Mr. Alfred Hicks; Lawyer Fox, Reed Pinaud, jun.; Baron Badlot, M. E. J. Allnut; Pen and Ink, Messrs. Walker and Hicks; Margery Daw, Miss Milly Pinaud; Miss Muffit, Miss Ruby Royal; Dolly Dimple, Miss Nora Megone. The production is fixed for Christmas Eve.

THE New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Oldham, is to be opened on Christmas Eve with pantomime, the subject of which is *Aladdin*, and Mr. Dottridge is sparing no expense in making the production one of the best seen in the town. Miss Ray Wallace, the well-known mimic, will be principal boy, and Miss Mildred Bryan, principal girl. Miss Louie Collier, Miss Isa Gibson, Miss Nelly Duval, and Miss Jenny Hallsworth are also engaged. Amongst the comedians are included Mr. Joe Robins, Dame; Mr. Bert Harrow, Abanazar; Mr. Leonard Russel, Emperor; and Cedar and Elgar. Specialities will be supplied by Mme. Rivers' children, the principal dancers being Mme. Rivers' Quartette.

AT the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, *Aladdin* will be the Christmas attraction. The book is by Messrs. R. Courtneidge and A. M. Thompson, lyrics by Messrs. Charles Taylor and Dudley Smith. The principal boy will be Miss Ouida Macdermott, and the principal girl Miss Deborah Volar. Miss Topsy Sinden will be the Daughter of the Moon, Mr. Bransby Williams the Magician, and other characters are allotted as follows: Our Mary Ann from London, Miss Daisy Lloyd Wood; Ah Sing, Miss Florence Foster; Widow Twankey, Mr. W. H. Powell; Pekoe, Mr. Arthur Sinclair; Emperor of China, Mr. Alfred Clarke; Slave of the Lamp, Miss Flora Gordon; Genie of the Ring, Mr. Joselyn Hope. The scenes will include the Tombs, Egypt, a Street in Chang Hi Li Hang, Exterior and Interior of Palace, the Cave, Shop of Widow Twankey, Gardens of Aladdin's Palace, Emperor's Palace, Court of Justice, and a Chrysanthemum Fête.

THE Bristol Theatre Royal pantomime will be *Little Red Riding Hood*. An excellent cast has been engaged, many of the artists being new to Bristol. The dresses and scenery will be well up to the high standard patrons of the Theatre Royal are accustomed to. The principals are thus cast: Boy Blue, Miss Ethel Hall; Marjery Daw, Miss Marie Free; Jack Horner, Miss Violet Gillis; Miss Muffit, Miss Gertie Hall; Red Riding Hood, Miss Daisie Dennis; Baron, Mr. Frank Hemming; Johnny Stout and Jimmy Green, Messrs. Crosby and Walker; Dame Trot, Mr. K. Scott Barrie; the Wolf, Mr. Frank Victor. The company will also include the Sylvans, speciality dancers.

MISS LOUIE TINSLEY has been engaged by Mr. J. Bannister Howard to play the Baroness in *Cinderella* pantomime, Theatre Royal, Plymouth.

THE Prince's Theatre, Bradford, will rely upon *Red Riding Hood* for this year's pantomime, which is Mr. Francis Laidler's seventh. Miss Florrie Forde will be the principal boy, Prince Royale of Alluria; Miss Grace Elvio will be the Hon. Bertie Blueblud; and Miss Lily Beagle will enact Margery Daw. The title-rôle will be played by Miss Susie Belmore. The humours of the production will be sustained by Mr. Allan Carruthers as the Baron, Mr. Harry Elvio as Johnny Stout, Mr. Jas. Ross Elvio as Jimmy Green, and Mr. Bert Byrne as Mother Hubbard. Mr. J. A. Wilson will have the responsibilities of Kingwolf, Mr. C. H. B. Churton will discharge those of the Poodle, Miss May Harris will be the Fairy Truelove, and the principals will include Mr. Walter Buxton, Mr. Frank Robinson, Miss Marie West, Miss Victoria Cross, and the Parisienne Belles.

Mr. J. Bannister Howard is doing all that mortal can do to command success in his forthcoming pantomime by deserving it, and no expense or trouble is being spared in the production of *Robinson Crusoe*. Mr. Fred Bowyer's book is sure to be good, and Mr. Leonard Gautier has selected the best of the many popular songs which present themselves, including, of course, "Oh! oh! Antonio!"

Miss Lillie Lassah will be Crusoe, and Miss Venie Clements Polly, both of these ladies having sustained principal parts in the Crystal Palace pantomime last season, and becoming established favourites. Mr. Harry Zeitz is to be Man Friday, and Bert Edwards Will Atkins; whilst Mr. Scott Russell will enact the Cannibal King. Other merry-makers will be found in the Sisters Allen, the Passmore Brothers, the Melody Four, and Leon Dubois.

Under the Sea and the Palace of the Cannibal King will be the big set scenes by Mr. Hemsley, and now that rehearsals are progressing apace there is every prospect of a most auspicious opening on Christmas Eve.

ROYAL COLLEGE PATRON'S FUND CONCERT.

The eleventh concert of the Patron's Fund, founded by Mr. S. Ernest Palmer, was given at Bechstein Hall on Monday afternoon, before a large audience. It contained some good features. The first and most important was a clever Trio for piano, violin, and violoncello, in E flat, written by Mr. Edward Isaacs, and capitally played by the composer, Mr. N. Blinder, and Mr. J. Leo Smith, all of the Royal Manchester College of Music. Mr. Isaacs, who is a pianist of more than usual ability, has on a former occasion at the Promenade Concerts displayed talent as composer, and his Trio performed on Monday proved a melodious and really able composition. The Second Movement, an expressive and in many respects charming "Andante," was followed by a particularly bright and attractive Finale, with some quite original passages for the piano, admirably played by the composer, who at the conclusion of his Trio had a most hearty reception from the audience. In Mr. Frank Tapp's four pianoforte solos, played by the composer, the Intermezzo in A flat major had some merit, but the Caprice in G minor and the Caprice in G major (Ariel) were somewhat ineffective and tame. Mr. Percival Garratt's pianoforte solo, Scherzo-Toccata, in B flat minor, Op. 14, well played by the composer, also failed in making a favourable impression. The second Chamber work in the concert was Mr. George Dyson's Concertstück for String Quartet, in A major, No. 2, a well-written and pleasing composition, unfortunately not too well played by Mr. Arthur Beckwith, Mr. Sutherland Mackay, Mr. James Lockyer, and Mr. Charles Warwick-Evans. Of the vocal music given at this concert but little praise can be awarded; perhaps the best was a song entitled "I look into the eyes I love," by Mr. Felix H. White, sung by Mr. George Baker. Two more songs, "Wishes of youth" and "New life, new love," sung by Miss Rose Ducane, and written by the same composer, were poor in quality; while "It was out by Donnycarney" (Mr. G. Molyneux Palmer) and "The Roadside Fire," written by Mr. Ernest Farrar, cannot be favourably mentioned. The most successful vocalist on Monday afternoon was Miss Florence Macnaughton, heard in "Les Cloches" and "Mandoline" (Claude Debussy). "Mennet de Martini," arr. Weckerlin, and "Escouto d'Jeannetto," by Dalayrac. Mr. F. A. Sewell acted as the accompanist.

EARLY DELIVERY.

Special newspaper express services now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—Rugby, 4.30 a.m.; Coventry, 4.54 a.m.; Birmingham, 5.20 a.m.; Crewe, 6.5 a.m.; Manchester, 6.50 a.m.; Liverpool, 7 a.m.; Chester, 9.3 a.m.; Doncaster, 6.10 a.m.; York, 7 a.m.; Hull, 8.20 a.m.; Darlington, 8.58 a.m.; Scarborough, 10.5 a.m.; Newcastle, 10.10 a.m.; Leeds (Central), 6.58 a.m.; Huddersfield, 7.37 a.m.; Bradford (Exchange), 7.47 a.m.; Harrogate, 7.50 a.m.; Halifax, 8.17 a.m.; Burnley, 9.28 a.m.; Leicester, 4.36 a.m.; Nottingham, 5.10 a.m.; Derby, 5.35 a.m.

FIVE HUNDRED REPLIES in answer to one advertisement in the Wanted Columns of *The Era*. Mr. Albert Hengler, writing from the Hippodrome, Glasgow, says:—"My advertisement in the last issue of your paper brought me close on 500 replies—an excellent result." Particulars of the publisher, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"CINDERELLA" AT THE ROYAL, GLASGOW.

On Thursday, Dec. 3, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's twenty-first pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, was produced before a crowded and enthusiastic house. This year Mr. Fred W. Wyndham has entrusted the production to Mr. Robert Arthur, and this gentleman gives the version of *Cinderella* played at the Royal Court, Liverpool, a year ago, the cast including several of the artists who played in the previous production. The book, which is smart and brightly written, is by Mr. Frank Dix, and the music is composed by Messrs. Jullien H. Wilson and J. O. Shepherd. The story of Cinderella in this version starts at a slightly earlier period than usual, as the Baron is a wealthy widower with a daughter named Ella, handsomely dressed and well cared for; and it is only when the Baron gets into financial difficulties, and is forced to propose to the strong-minded Mrs. Kilkenny, that Ella is relegated to the position of a kitchen-maid (all the other servants having been dismissed), has her name altered to Cinderella, and is made to assume the menial duties and humble dress of a servant, by the new Baroness and her haughty daughters. To some extent this arrangement of the plot serves to complicate the story, as the Prince first sees Ella as a rich young lady gathering flowers in her father's garden (not sticks in a wood), then meets her as a kitchen-maid under the name of Cinderella, and later on at the ball as the Princess Incognita. The company which Mr. Robert Arthur has engaged for the pantomime is a particularly strong one, headed as it is by Mr. George Robey as Billy Buttons, the page (the part played by Mr. Harry Lauder at Liverpool last year, and relinquished by him this time owing to his American tour). Then there is that smart young comedian Mr. Harry Dent as the Baron, Mr. Willie Garvey as the Baroness, Miss Violet Lorraine as the Prince, Miss Iris Hoey as Cinderella, and Miss Meg Hamylton as Dandini. The opening scene is entitled the Baron's Gardens, and after an opening chorus by the Fairies and the Demon Aconite, Ella enters and sings a pretty song, "Daisy Chain," during which the Prince appears, followed shortly after by Dandini. The two latter agree to change positions for a time, and the Baron is informed that the Prince and his retinue intend to breakfast at Castle Beauregarde. This leads up to a very funny scene, for the Baron forthwith proceeds to fish in the stream behind the castle for the necessary salmon or trout to feed the company. After one or two unsuccessful throws he seems to get a bite, and lands—Billy Buttons (Mr. George Robey), who, on hearing of the Baron's ill-luck with the rod, promises to show his own skill as a fisherman, and then lands some enormous catches, with which the Baron and Billy have a lot of funny business. The Baron is struck with Billy's skill as an angler, and engages him as page, investing him with a bell, which he is to ring when he hears anyone tell a lie. This, again, is productive of some lively scenes, as the Baron soon commences to enlarge on his own abilities at fishing, and is much annoyed at the frequency with which the warning bell interrupts him. Mrs. Kilkenny arrives soon after this, accompanied by her two daughters, Miss Pankie and Miss Hardie Kilkenny, carrying suffragette banners, and shrieking "Votes for Women" at every appropriate or inappropriate moment. In the next scene, the Baron's financial losses induce him to propose to Mrs. Kilkenny, who is said to be worth £20,000, only to find after the ceremony that she has given it all to help the "sacred cause" of the suffragettes. From this point on the story follows familiar lines, the arrogance of the Baron's daughters, their departure for the ball, the appearance of Cinderella's Fairy Godmother, and her providing of the ball-dress, and the carriage, footman, ponies, &c., transformed from pumpkins, lizards, rats, and mice; then Cinderella's success at the ball, her hurried departure at twelve o'clock, and the Prince's efforts to find her, leading up to the necessary happy ending. Of the artists engaged, it is a pleasure to record that all proved happily suited, and one and all made a great hit. First honours naturally fall to Mr. George Robey as the Page, and his quaint mannerisms and facility at all manner of funny business keep the audience on the broad grin all the evening. It is five years since Mr. Robey was last here in pantomime (1903-4), on which occasion he played a female part. His songs go well, the incisive manner in which he sang "It's a lie" being specially clever, while his embodiment of Shakespeare was extremely comic, both in make-up and patter. In "I shall sleep well to-night" he has another smart song, while the humour of the chorus song "A to Z" was caught as quickly as the air by the large audience. As the Baron, Mr. Harry Dent fully shares the premier honours. He was accorded a tremendous reception on his first appearance, and as the night wore on he steadily increased in popularity. Mr. Dent's previous successes in pantomime were made at the Royal Princess's, and since then his appearance in the halls and in comedy parts in *The Dairymaids*, &c., have endeared him to Glasgow audiences. As the Baron Beauregarde he is the essence of liveliness and humour, never flagging for an instant, and in song and dance he had quite a number of recalls to his credit. His best items were "Girls, girls, girls" and "I'm the best pal I ever had" (a pretty tune allied to a rather selfish sentiment), while in the humorous duet with Mr. George Robey, in which these comedians burlesque familiar types of music hall business, such as Irish comedians, Salome dancers, and wire-walkers, both artists displayed their humour and versatility. Miss Violet Lorraine (who was presented with several bouquets) makes an excellent principal boy, having a fine appearance and a good voice. Her dialogue is given with crisp and telling effect, and in her songs she made several striking successes, notably with "A tiny seed of love," which was beautifully sung, finely orchestrated, and, as a result, made the first striking hit of the evening. She also did well with "A White Man," the local verses being much enjoyed. As Cinderella Miss Iris Hoey resumes the part she played in Liverpool last year, and a sweet Cinderella she is. Always a favourite here, she was given a very hearty reception, and her performance fully justified the applause of the audience and the many floral tributes she was the recipient of during the evening. Her acting throughout is charming, and her songs, from the opening number, "Daisy Chain," were all very successful. The most striking novelty was the song "The bubble and the sunbeam"—a pretty tune—during which a constant succession of bubbles rose through a trap on the stage, evidently produced by the clever new machine described recently in our Patents column. Miss Meg Hamylton, who was also in the Liverpool cast, again plays Dandini, and a very lively exponent of the character she soon proves to be. She never misses a point of the humorous possibilities of the valet masquerading as a Prince, and the result is a very clever performance throughout. She sang "Have you got another girl at home like Mary" with appreciative humour and expression, and was rewarded by a hearty recall and the assistance of the audience with the chorus. Miss Hamylton, who is best remembered here for her acting in *The Prince of Pilsen*, also scored with her songs, "I want you to see my girl" and "Bombadier," and received some handsome floral gifts. Mr. Willie Garvey makes a very good dame as Mrs. Kilkenny, and having played the part before, he has all the business at his finger ends. He proves a valuable addition to the comedians in the working up of funny interludes, and he has lots of smart scenes with the Brothers Obo, who play his strong-minded daughters. Mr. Willie Garvey's songs include the popular and catchy ditties, "Oh, oh, Antonio" and "I'm afraid to come home in the dark." In one of the scenes Messrs. George Robey and Harry Dent work up some very funny business as village firemen, and they are ably supported by Mr. Garvey as an old Irishwoman. A novelty in the cast is the male ballet-dancer, Mr. Paul Sundberg, who as the Chevalier Saltarello introduces some very clever and ingenious dances, ably assisted by Miss Angela Renee and the corps de ballet. Miss Edith Kirkwood sings well as the Fairy Flora, and the opposing part of the Demon Aconite is well filled by Mr. Vernon Booth. The Royal Court Quartette of vocalists also assist materially in the vocal numbers. A small part well played is the old gardener Adam, as acted by Mr. Harry Glynn; and Mr. Cecil Frere is amusing as the stolid footman Wilhelm. The scenery of the pantomime is all by Messrs. G. E. W. McKie and Stafford Hall, and includes some very fine sets, notably the opening scene—the Baron's Gardens (McKie), a beautiful scene with the gardens in front, the castle entrance on the left, and a fine vista of landscape and river in the background. The Ball Room (by Stafford Hall) also conveys a fine idea of massiveness and grandeur, the set in front combining with the back-cloth in such a way as to make a most impressive scene. The Exterior of the Prince's Palace and the Exterior of the Baron's House (both by Mr. McKie) are also good examples of the scene-painter's art, and a magnificent concluding scene is contributed by Mr. Stafford Hall, and is entitled the Wedding Cake. A large and tuneful chorus gives vivacity to the various scenes, and the augmented orchestra is under the bâton of Mr. J. H. Yorke. A noteworthy feature, and one to delight the many children who will see the production, is the team of four tiny Shetland ponies attached to Cinderella's carriage, surely the smallest and liveliest ponies seen here for many a day. The Martino Troupe of dancers, trained by Miss Madge Martin, take well in their numerous dances. The costumes, which are very picturesque, have been designed by Messrs. A. Comelli and Alfredo Edel; the wigs are By Clarkson; the mechanical effects by Messrs. M. Sinnott and Chas. Penman; properties and armour by Messrs. George Corney and Duncan Wright, and electrical effects by Messrs. David Marshall, H. Powell, and J. D. Milligan. The entire production has been given under the personal supervision of Mr. Robert Arthur, who is assisted in the stage management by Mr. Chas. A. James, while Mr. Harcourt M. Beryl looks after Mr. Arthur's interests in front. Mr. Percy O. Humphrys, resident manager at the Royal, was much in evidence looking after the comfort of his patrons. At the conclusion of the pantomime, in response to the applause of the audience, Mr. Arthur made a short speech of thanks, but the audience were not content until Mr. George Robey and Mr. Harry Dent had also said a few words. The success of Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's twenty-first annual was undoubted, and it should be certain of a long run.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT ABERDEEN.

Mr. Robert Arthur's eighteenth annual pantomime—a version of *Robinson Crusoe* by the clever librettist Mr. Hickory Wood—was successfully produced by Mr. Milton Bode at His Majesty's Theatre, Aberdeen, on Monday. From start to finish the piece ran smoothly. *Robinson* may not rank as a *tour de force*, but the various scenes and incidents are most ingeniously contrived, while the humour, without being startlingly original, is assuredly good of its kind. The members of the cast, in varying degrees, are all capable artists; and those of them who have to sing show that they possess a voice as well as a method. This was fully recognised by the audience, and the choruses are already familiar to the boy in the street.

Mr. Hickory Wood's "book" is of unusual merit. In fact, it might be claimed that some of the rhymes touch the standard of poetry, while his various quips and jocularities may safely be described as "funny without being vulgar." The pantomime includes ten scenes. Some of them, without aiming particularly at spectacular effect, are decidedly pretty. The story is divided into two parts. Section one carries the spectator from Davy Jones's locker to the port of Hull, and ultimately to the wreck of H.M.S. Rocker. Long before that time, however, the principals have thoroughly warmed to their work. Robinson himself makes a hit with his rendering of the "Antonio" ditty; and Mrs. Crusoe and Will Atkins are also much in evidence. The Six Lancashire Lasses make a most favourable impression with their singing and dancing; Polly Hopkins likewise dances herself into the graces of the house; and Samuel Salt and Peter Pepper are irresistibly amusing in their characters of "funny men."

In the second half the action is transferred to the "Jungle," which serves as Crusoe's island, and the succeeding scenes include a palm grove, Robinson's hut, and the Grand Palace, where the final business of the "drama" is enacted.

The principals, the chorus, the staff, and everybody concerned work very hard to ensure the success of the production. Miss Jennie Lynwood, a handsome and dashing actress, impersonates Robinson. She has a fine voice, and dances very gracefully. Miss Lucy Coventry is perfectly charming in the part of Polly Hopkins. Her imitations of coon songs and dances are wonderfully realistic. Mr. Harry Ugan is quite successful as the dame; and Mr. Percy Johnson amusingly introduces the Yorkshire dialect, or what sounds like it, into his capital presentation of Billy Crusoe. Mr. Donal MacDougal, a well-known Scotch comedian, is an admirable Will Atkins. His song is enthusiastically encored, and the audience never fails to catch the point of his jokes. Miss Rosie Bartlett makes a smart and graceful naval lieutenant; and Misses Rose Cabani and Luna Lyndon also show talent and skill in their parts. The hit of the evening, however, appears to have been made by Messrs. Keith and Merson as the funny men, Salt and Pepper. Both are exceedingly clever, but Mr. Keith might almost be described as a comic genius. It should also be noted that Larola (Man Friday) contributes some very smart acrobatic work.

The chorus has been admirably trained, the credit for which is due to Mr. Pierpoint, the stage-manager, and Mr. Pearce, the musical-director. Mr. E. R. Beaumont, who has produced the pantomime for Mr. Milton Bode, deserves to be congratulated on its success. It is almost unnecessary to add that Mr. H. Adair Nelson, Mr. Arthur's able and courteous acting-manager, spares no pains to ensure that everything goes smoothly in front.

PRESENTATION.—After the second performance at the King's Theatre, Gateshead, on Wednesday, a large number of ladies and gentlemen assembled on the stage to make presentations to Mr. Harold Arnold, manager of the theatre, and Mrs. Arnold. Miss Maud Prenton, leading lady in *Mother Goose* pantomime, unveiled a portait in oils of Mr. Arnold, and Mrs. Arnold was made the recipient of a beautiful brass standard lamp, with onyx table and silk shade. Mr. Arnold was then handed two baskets of flowers, and Mrs. Arnold a silver-mounted cakeboard. In acknowledging the gifts Mr. Arnold said that since becoming manager of the King's he had striven to do his best both for the theatre and for the public.

PRINCESS PATRICIA OF CONNAUGHT, Princess Victoria and Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein witnessed *The Lyons Mail* at the Shaftesbury Theatre last evening.

"SLANDER."

A Drama, in Three Acts, by C. F. Nirdlinger, adapted from the Spanish Play *El Gran Galeoto*, by José Echegaray, produced at the Theatre Royal, Birmingham, on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

Don Ernesto ..... MR. MARTIN HARVEY
Don Julian ..... MR. WILLIAM HAVILAND
Don Severo ..... MR. GEORGE COOKE
Captain Beaulieu ..... MR. BEN WEBSTER
Pepito ..... MR. PERCY FOSTER
Genero ..... MR. L. CRASKE
Donna Teodora ..... MISS N. DE SILVA
Donna Mercedes ..... MISS MARY RORKE

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

Recently produced in America, at New York, under the title of *The World and His Wife*, this play met with a cordial reception as produced here by Mr. Martin Harvey on Wednesday. The curtain during the evening must have been raised certainly no fewer than thirty times in response to applause, and at the end of the performance Mr. Harvey was presented with a laurel wreath, Miss de Silva receiving a bouquet. Mr. Harvey made a speech, in which he thanked the audience on behalf of the author, company, Miss de Silva, and himself.

The first act of *Slander* takes place at Don Julian's house in Madrid. An old family friendship exists between Don Julian, his wife Teodora, and one Don Ernesto, who is perfectly true and loyal to both. Julian's quixotic regard for his friend Ernesto becomes in a way his own undoing. Julian's brother- and sister-in-law, Severo and Mercedes, tell him that scandal couples the name of his wife with that of Ernesto. Teodora is apprised of the rumours by her sister-in-law Mercedes. Severo taunts Ernesto with knowing all about the scandal, and with having taken no means to stay it. "You should have forced the lie down his throat," says Severo. "I should have done so, but the slanderer was your own son, Pepito," replies Ernesto. This Pepito is a well-intentioned young fellow who has only spoken to Ernesto out of kindness. Julian, to show his implicit trust in Ernesto, bids him take Donna Teodora down to dinner.

The scene of the second act is Ernesto's lodging at a small hotel. He is making preparations to leave Madrid for ever. A certain Don Alvarez repeats the slander, and Ernesto gives him the lie and strikes him. Teodora visits Ernesto, and reproaches him with what she terms his "impertinence" in defending her honour. She is about to leave when she hears her husband's voice. Julian hears from Pepito of Ernesto's impending duel with Alvarez, and, deeming himself the proper person to fight the traducer, goes forth so to do. He is brought back sorely wounded. Ernesto goes out to see what the noise is about, and Teodora, first essaying fruitlessly to escape by another exit, seeks the shelter of Ernesto's room just as Julian is brought in. Ernesto, deeply moved at his friend's condition, is about to have him placed in this room, but on opening the door is horrified to see Teodora within. Hastily closing it, he rejoins the wounded man, when out rushes Teodora to her husband's side. He is astonished beyond measure at his wife's appearance, and turns furiously on Ernesto.

The third act takes us back to Julian's house, where he lies near death. Severo has established himself in authority, with his wife, in the establishment. Alvarez falls by Ernesto's sword, and he comes and demands audience of Julian and his wife. He is met with scornful refusals. Julian's jealousy is worked upon by Severo till he strikes Ernesto. Julian is then borne to his room, where he dies. Ernesto declaims against Severo and his kind, and, taking Teodora to his arms, cries, "You and your lies have given her to me!"

Mr. Martin Harvey in the first act had all the romantic bearing required, his gentle manner with Julian and Teodora and his dignity under the fire of scandal being admirable. In the third act Mr. Harvey excelled himself in fire, passion, and variety of expression. He wrought the house to excitement and covered himself with honours. Mr. William Haviland gave a fine impersonation of Don Julian. It was truly very excellent, especially in the death scene. In his denunciation, in the same scene, he rose to a great dramatic height. Mr George Cooke gave a clever, comprehensive character-drawing of Severo. Miss N. de Silva as Teodora acted with refreshing artlessness and with real passion and pathos. Mr. Ben Webster's breezy style as Captain Beaulieu was very refreshing. Mr. Percy Foster was good as Pepito, his naïf assumption being very amusing. Mr. L. Craske did well as the garrulous landlord Genaro; and that able actress, Miss Mary Rorke, brought a happy commingling of dignity and gentleness into her conception of Donna Mercedes. The play was well mounted by Mr. George Dodson.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

DURBAN, Nov. 14.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Empire Theatre S.A., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. A. C. Hyman.—The star turn here is Morris Cronin, an exceptionally clever juggler; Rose and Challoner, in their duologue, *The Porter and the Singer*, caught the public taste, the male partner's impersonations of leading comedians being good.; Amber Austa, a dainty dancer and singer, won all hearts; Harry Wright, comedian, never fails to please; Will Haines, light comedian, does well; Louise Yetland, ballad singer, uses her fine voice in a capable manner; Elwyn Byrne is a chic little soubrette; and Marie Reeve still maintains her popularity.

HERR G. CALLOW (violin virtuoso) gave a recital before a crowded house at the Town Hall, and was ably assisted by Misses Florence Perry, Inez Mackenzie, and Mr. A. A. Birch.

BY kind permission of Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, the Durban Dramatic Society gave a performance of *H.M.S. Pinafore* at the Theatre Royal. All the leading parts were creditably sustained, and the chorus showed careful training.

THE Woods-Williamson company are still at the Good Hope Theatre, Capetown, in *The Silver King*. Mr. Alfred Woods as Wilfred Denver brought out all the points of a fine study, and Miss Maud Williamson as Nellie proved herself to be an artist of power.

JOHANNESBURG, Nov. 12.—EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Empire Theatre, Ltd., S.A.; Manager, Mr. Sydney Hyman.—The most prominent turn on the bill is supplied by Edward Clarke and his Winning Widows. Mr. Clarke is a clever comedian, and is well supported by his four lady partners. Charles Mildare, in his sketch, *A Day in Birdland*, gave realistic imitations of the feathered tribe; a clever little lady is Dot Stephens, who wins all hearts by the dainty manner in which she renders her songs; Miss Gladys Huxley (serio) does well. The programme also includes Sydney Burns, dancer and comedian; Louisa and Namon, La Belle Tortajada, and the Bioscope.

"THE LITTLE MICHUS" is to replace *Miss Hook of Holland* at His Majesty's Theatre next week. The company at present here is the Wheeler Edwardes' 1908 Gaiety company.

STANDARD THEATRE.—*The White Man* still continues to fill the coffers of that highly-esteemed actor-manager Mr. Leonard Rayne. The success of the piece shows no signs of abating.

PRINCE ARTHUR and Princess Patricia of Connaught witnessed the performance of *What Every Woman Knows* at the Duke of York's Theatre on Wednesday evening.

H.M. THE QUEEN, Princess Victoria, and the King and Queen of Norway witnessed the performance of *King of Cadonia* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Wednesday evening.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

The Gay Gordons is again drawing large audiences to this popular place of amusement; and the bright and pretty piece proves as attractive and amusing as ever. The company headed by Miss Zena Dare and Mr. Stanley Brett is a strong and well-chosen one. As Angus Graeme Mr. Stanley Brett sparkles with activity and humour, and Miss Dare in the character of Peggie Quainton sings and acts in the most pleasing and piquant fashion. As Nervy Nat Mr. Edward Lewis wins the approbation of the audience by his cleverness, and as Corporal James Smith Mr. Paul Plunkett acts admirably. As Mary McLeod Miss Connie St. Clair is quite acceptable; and Mr. Ernest Torrence as Andrew Quainton deserves warm praise for a very able impersonation. The scenery and dresses are of the most artistic kind.

THE MARLBOROUGH.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Comic Opera, entitled
"DOROTHY."

Brightness and constant movement are features which, apart from the particularly clever acting, cause the performance of *Dorothy* to be a complete success, and great credit is reflected upon Moss' Empires Company, Ltd., for the completeness of the production. The catchy, tuneful music, both in its many numbers and stirring choruses is in every way conducive to the excellent result, whilst dancing of a most graceful description further adds to the success. A capital impersonation of Harry Sherwood is given by Mr. Hayden Coffin, and his fine voice is heard to perfection on more than one occasion during the evening, repeated encores for his rendering of "Queen of my heart" being demanded. A well-sustained delineation of Geoffrey Wilder is the praiseworthy contribution of Mr. John Coates, whose cultivated singing is warmly encored. The stolid humours of Squire Bantam find fitting expression at the hands of Mr. Colin Coop, who also deserves a word of praise for his admirable stage-management. Dorothy is very charmingly portrayed by Miss Ruth Davenport, a captivating actress and a sweet-voiced vocalist, who renders her various songs with admirable effect. The same remarks apply to Miss Hebe Bliss, who makes the most of the part of Lydia Hawthorne. Mr. Arthur Williams' richly humorous treatment of the part of Lurcher is keenly enjoyed, and he keeps the house in a continual roar of merriment. Miss Emily Spiller gives a pleasing study of Mrs. Privett; Lady Betty is well portrayed by Miss Primrose Harding; and Miss Aimee Roberts suitably fills the rôle of Phillis Tuppitt. Mr. Tim Ryley satisfactorily enacts the part of Tom Strutt, and John Tuppitt is well treated by Mr. Fred J. Vigay. The full chorus and augmented chorus do their work admirably, under the conductorship of Mr. Frederick Rosse.

THE CORONET.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the drama entitled
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

Preparatory to closing for a week to prepare for the pantomime of *Dick Whittington*, the Coronet is tenanted this week by Walter Howard's Lyceum drama, *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, with its sentimental vogue. Mr. Herbert Ford enacts the part of the popular and breezy hero Prince Olaf, whose various "deeds of derring-do" and his ardent and determined love-making are very much to the taste of "the gods." He gives a pleasant and manly performance of the part, and is a good foil to the sinister representations of his princely brothers Hildred and Michael of Sylvania. These two parts are well played. Mr. Ivan Cleveland is good as the truculent scoundrel Hildred; and Michael is cleverly portrayed by Mr. Graeme Campbell. Mr. Edmund Lea gives a quietly forceful representation as Colonel Wellenberg. Mr. D. Lewin Mannering is a showy and self-reliant Captain Hector, and Mr. Kendal Chambers makes the most of the comic capabilities of the part of the amorous young lieutenant Karl Stromberg. Miss Annie Saker's pathetic appeals strike home to the hearts of the audience, and as the little Queen Monica who masquerades as a beggar maid she enters thoroughly into the spirit of the part. Miss Dido Drake contributes a very pretty and tasteful performance as Camiola, the beggar-maid who is in love with Captain Hector, and Miss Isla Garnet-Vayne causes much amusement by her naïveté and innocence as Viola, Hector's sister. The parts of officers in the Sylvanian army are satisfactorily rendered by Messrs. Ivan Ewart, W. Christie, Richard Lane, W. Williams, and others. Mr J. E. Gardner cleverly portrays the part of the dumb servitor Nathan, and Mr. Francis Hawley (who is general-manager) is distinctly good as the time-serving Bishop of Illyria. Mr. Stanley Farbridge is acting-manager, and Messrs. Kendal Chambers and Richard Lane stage-manage the show.

FULHAM THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Farcical Comedy by H. A. Du Souchet entitled
"THE MAN FROM MEXICO."

The Man from Mexico comes with a great reputation as a laughter-maker, and his character is certainly well-earned. The central idea—that of the usual errant husband spending thirty days in gaol and passing it off as a trip to Mexico—is an excellent one, and the ridiculous situations that ensue come thick and fast. Messrs. Robert Arthur and George Willoughby, who are producing the piece, are fortunate in securing Mr. Stanley Cooke for the part of Fitzhugh, and this clever little comedian kept the house in roars of laughter. No one could have cut a more pathetic and ridiculous figure in all the tribulations which Fitzhugh has to undergo. Mr. George Willoughby as Roderick Majors, the best friend, who fixes things up for everybody in a scrape, plays with broad humour and unflagging spirits. Mr. Walter Gay is excellent as the kind-hearted and artistic warder, Loveall, and Mr. Fred Lewis scores with an amusing impersonation of a stout German, who gets into gaol with the rest of the characters. Mr. Rupert Stuffield as Richard Dornton and Mr. Hugh Ardale as Edward Farrar play their parts as young men with brightness and spirit. Mr. Ernest Douglas does well in the character part of Detective Cook, and Mr. Walter Champney makes a good study of the waiter Louis. Miss Emily Fitzroy plays well as Clementine Fitzhugh, and Miss Fyfe Alexander is charming in the ingénue part of Sally Grace. Miss Amy Francis scores with her work in the part of Hetty Majors, a business-like young lady of New York, and Miss Doris Digby is a smart representative of the maid.

The Man from Mexico is preceded by a comedietta, *My Uncle's Will*, by S. Theyre Smith, which has a good working plot, but seemed rather diffuse in places. The parts were taken by Mr. Walter Gay, Mr. Arthur Cornell, and Miss Fyfe Alexander. Mr. Arthur Cornell is stage-manager, and Mr. Thorburn assists in front.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Drama, by Edward Jewry, entitled
"AN UNWEDDED WIFE."

After an absence of nearly two years the above drama is paying another visit to the Lyric, and is meeting with an even larger measure of success than before. Crowded houses greet its several acts and scenes with tears and roars of laughter in turn, and with most enthusiastic applause throughout. Several alterations have been made in the script, and all have undoubtedly been for the better. The leading part of Marion, "the unwedded wife," is played in a most engaging and pathetic manner by Miss Ethel Van Praagh, who is ably supported by Mr. George Daiper, who, in the character of Frank Hawthorn, plays with much power. As the scamp, murderer, and everything that's bad, Philip Blackstone, Mr. Charles Sterling acts particularly well. Mr. R. Wilton Bedford gives a clever picture of the burglar coster, Kit Lennox; and as Martin Haffett Mr. J. A. Grove is decidedly good. Little Dorris is a sweet little Reggie. Of fun there is a large supply in the piece, and Mr. J. Edward Whitty takes first honours for his extraordinarily funny P.C. O'Runyin. He is seconded by Mr. Will Casey's humorous impersonation of the showman, Napoleon B. Boomer; and Miss Dorothea Pearce is a smart Caraway Crumpet. Altogether, the show is a particularly pleasing one, and its staging leaves nothing to be desired.

THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Play in Four Acts, by Hall Caine, entitled
"THE CHRISTIAN."

The great social problem which forms the theme of Mr. Hall Caine's famous novel, "The Christian," and which is so ably developed in the new dramatic version as produced last year at the Lyceum, is so well known that it is not necessary to recall it here, but the tremendous success which has attended the play in London and on the road is being repeated again this week at the Shakespeare. To the theme full justice is done, too, by a talented company, under the direction of Mr. Wentworth Croke, and excellent acting emphasises the salient features of the play. The important rôle of the Hon. John Storm is handled by Mr. Roy Redgrave in a convincing and impressive manner, and throughout his grip on the audience never slackens. Mr. Wilfrid Noy gives a natural impersonation of Horatio Drake, and Mr. Herbert Hewetson's delineation of the cynical Lord Robert Ure is incisive and telling. Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn gives a fine character study of Father Lamplugh, and his stirring lines are delivered with admirable emphasis. Mr. John J. Hooker contributes a good performance of Archdeacon Wealthy, and Mr. Royce Milton is a dignified Lord Storm. As Parson Quayle Mr. Bruce Lindley does all that is necessary, and mention must also be made of Mr Fred Goodyer as Bert, Mr. Thomas Barry as Rosenberg, Mr. T. Ellis as Mr. Buckley, and Mr John Blake as Paul. Miss Daisy Scudamore, who plays Glory Quayle, possesses high histrionic ability, and presents a powerful exposition of a difficult part, scoring a decided success. A word of praise is due to Miss Molly Hayden for her fine work as Mrs. Callender, and an excellent piece of emotional acting is shown by Miss Cora Deane as Polly Love. Miss Florence Hunt as Black Meg also renders good assistance, and Miss Kitty Symons is pleasing as Lady Robert Ure. Minor parts are excellently sustained by Miss Harriet Russell, Miss Stella Campbell, Miss Nellie Wyndham, Miss Muriel Marsden. Miss Minnie Willett, and Miss Ada Rose.

CRYSTAL PALACE THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Play with Music entitled
"THE MERRY WIDOW."

Mr. George Edwardes's No. 1 company filled Mr. J. Bannister Howard's spacious theatre on Monday in every part, and formed a most fitting conclusion to the first part of the season here, for after this week there will be no more companies till the pantomime is over. From the rise of the curtain until the last act the audience thoroughly enjoyed the charm and humour of this record piece, and the artists all seemed to revel in their parts. Mr. Edward D'Arcy made Baron Popoff a most humorous old gentleman, with all the usual wheezes and a few of his own thrown in. The Vicomte de Jolidon was suitably played by Mr. Ripley Evans, with a pleasing tenor voice and a good style; Mr. Fred Fowler's Nisch was made the medium of some good dancing and many drolleries, encores being accorded to the song and dance with Frou Frou, a part played with much chic and archness by Miss Katie May; Mr. William Allison was good as the amorous Marquis de Cascada, and Mr. F. Pedgrift as M. de St. Brioche displayed considerable aptitude and a voice much above the average in his singing in the opening scene. The General Novakovitch of Mr. Clifford Seyler was amusingly senile and reminiscent of the originator of this part. Mr. Robert Needham as the sinister Khadja was all that was required. Mr. Bert Edwards (who will shortly appear here in pantomime) was most diverting in the small part of the Head Waiter at Maxim's. As Prince Danilo Mr. Frank Greene worked hard and well, cleverly mingling the comedy and pathos demanded in this almost unique rôle. The Natalie of Miss Ada Thomas was excellent, for she sang and acted with an intensity and reality which secured for her unstinted applause. Mesdames Daphne Glenne and Violet Hobson were Mme. Novakovitch and Mme. Khapja respectively, and each succeeded in giving distinction to her impersonation. The Prascovia of Miss Lucia Donati was funny without exaggeration. Miss Mysie Devine as Sonia, the Merry Widow, from her first effective entry until the last act had her audience entirely with her, and got every ounce out of each scene and situation. She was fully equal to the exacting musical portion, and graciously responded to the many and well-deserved recalls. Her movements had a sinuous grace, especially noticeable in the waltz, and she wore her charming dresses with ease and elegance. Mr. Ernest Vousden conducted a full orchestra, and the scenery and effects were a replica of the original production.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec 7,
"THE TAMING OF THE SHREW."

Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton commenced a six nights' engagement here on Monday in *The Taming of the Shrew*. The Katharine of Miss Lily Brayton and the Petruchio of Mr. Oscar Asche have been so often praised in our columns that little remains but to record the fact that both these clever artists were at their best on Monday night, and that the large audience followed the amusing comedy with interest, and warmly applauded the artists. Miss Brayton is delightful as the wayward Katharine, and Mr. Asche plays Petruchio with all the energy and decision demanded, his fine physique being well suited to the character. Mr. Tripp Edgar gives a clever rendering of Tranio; Mr. G. Kay Souper is very good indeed as Lucentio; Mr. Fritz Russell is excellent as Vincentio; and Mr. Caleb Porter as Gremio is effective. Mr. Herbert Grimwood makes a success as Baptista; Mr. Henry Kitts plays Grumio cleverly; and Mr. Arthur Tranton is a capital Pedant. Other parts are in the competent hands of Messrs. Arthur Weeks, Reginald Davis, Ian Penny, R. F. Anson, and Gordon Harker. Miss Maude Lorraine is a pretty page; Miss Caroline Bayley does well as the widow; Miss Muriel Ashwynne is an attractive Bianca.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Drama in Four Acts entitled
"HER MARRIAGE VOW."

The above attraction is the fare at the Pavilion for the current week, and proves to be a well-constructed story of the familiar type, with an excellent picture of railroad life, the chief sensation being the passing of two trains at express speed, an incident that causes much excitement. Mr. Forbes Knowles is seen to advantage in the part of Ned Benton; Mr. Charles B. Bedells as Gilbert Carlton is very fine; the part of Daffy Dan is satisfactorily portrayed by Mr. Vincent Wardle; and ability is shown by Mr. John W. Ryder as William Walters and Mr. H. Vernon as Larry Leary, a broth of a boy. Miss Lillian Herries as Kate Walters displays talent, and Miss Winifred Barlon as Maggie Clair causes much amusement. The part of Hester Norton is successfully enacted by Miss Nellie Shirley; Miss Grace Garside as Almira, an old maid, is also very good; and the remaining characters are in the hands of Mr. Wilford Bailey, Mr. Walter Wiley, and Mr. W. Brooks.

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Drama entitled
"STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER."

Mr. R. A. Roberts's company makes a decided hit in that "nerve-exciting drama," *Straight from the Shoulder*. The scenery is neat and effective. Mr. Henry Herne makes a fine hero of the falsely accused Dr. Bedford; Mr. Leonard Clarke as the villainous Major Lucas is rightly billed as an "absolute rotter," and fully merits the chorus of condemnation he gets; Mr. George H. Child fills the part of the good old Rev. John Armitage; Mr. Fred Beck does well as Jim Green, his rendering of the song "I'm afraid to come home in the dark" being extremely humorous; Mr. George Fisher makes a good impression as Fred Stafford, and plays up well to Miss Beatrice Moore, who is a lively Gladys Brittle, their duet, "A hammock built for two" being encored; Miss Edie Casson scores greatly as the elder Miss Brittle; and Miss Frances Bruce plays well as the gentle Mary Gleeson; Miss Beatrice Burdett gives a good performance as the much-tried Millicent Grant.

THE KENNINGTON.

On Monday, Dec. 7,
"BREWSTER'S MILLIONS."

The pre-pantomime season at Kennington Theatre closes this week with the production of that rattling eccentric comedy, *Brewster's Millions*, with Mr. Percy Hutchison in the leading rôle, and it has proved as great a draw at Mr. Robert Arthur's South London house as elsewhere on tour. The comedy is well written, and although the theme is one which lends itself to much extravagance of humour—as well as of means—it is not in any way overdone by the admirable company which Miss Emma Hutchison and Mr. Percy Hutchison have gathered round them. A great feature of *Brewster's Millions* is the staging. Everything is done on a lavish scale. Brewster's offices in the second act are splendidly put on, but, of course, the great triumph of stagecraft is the top deck of the steam yacht Flitter in Act III. Mr. Percy Hutchison made a fine Brewster, the beau ideal of a spendthrift youth—generous, open-hearted, and full of fun, with a vein of romance—his affection for Peggy—running through all his escapades. Mr. Hutchison is a first-class comedian, brimful of fun, and he kept the house in roars on Monday. Miss Cicely Stuckey was a dainty and lovable Peggy Grey, and won all hearts by her charming personality and graceful bearing. Miss Francis Davie was great fun as Janice Armstrong, the apostle of Platonism, and her efforts were ably seconded by Mr. Henry Hampson as Archie Golding, the solicitor on Brewster's staff. Mr. Frank Hill was a typical butler; Mr. Cyril Rawdon did well as Charlie Harrison; and Mr. A. Andrews made a soldierly Colonel Drew. The part of the good-hearted, fiery-tempered Joseph McLeod was ably sustained by Mr. Aubrey Mather; while Miss Lilias Earle made a motherly Mrs. Dan de Mille. Barbara Drew was adequately impersonated by Miss Eva Stuart; Miss Sybil Walsh was a stately Trixie Clayton; Mr. Robert Forsyth deserves mention for his careful sketch of Mr. Grant; Mr. Charles Esdale was usefully placed as Frank Bragden; and Mr. Douglas Greet was an excellent Tommy Smith. Mr. George Salver gave a fine study of the part of Captain Perry, of the Flitter; and Mr. A. P. Kaye caused great fun as the Frenchman, Mons. Bargie. Others who should be noted were Mr. Otto Hazlewood (Horace Pettinghill), Mr. U. S. Haye (Jack Gardiner), and Miss Mary Seton (Miss Boynton).

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Drama entitled
"THE FATAL WEDDING."

This powerful drama, which has so long been toured with success throughout the provinces, was presented here on Monday, and scored highly. Mr. Percy Williams is to be congratulated on the excellent body of players he has around him, and with good realistic scenery and dresses *The Fatal Wedding* seems destined for a still longer run. Mr. Cecil A. Melton is capital as the wealthy Howard Wilson; and in the rôle of Mabel Wilson Miss Ethel Kay is to be complimented upon a perfect piece of acting. Mr. Frank Harrison, as Robert Curtis depicts with skill the "man about town"; Miss Elaine Vanbrugh does exceedingly well as Cora Williams; Miss Lulu Wohlmann delights the audience as Jessie; her singing and dancing deserve warm eulogy; Miss Ethel Sargient as Bridget gives great satisfaction, as also does Mr. Charles Locke as Toto; Mr. Cyril Melton makes the most of his opportunities as Schwartz, and Policeman O'Reilly is well sustained by Mr. Frank Ashley; a capital series of songs were well rendered by Misses Sarah Rich, Hilda Malbert, Edith Dews, Violet Dupré, Marie Wilson, Dorrene Aberdare, Dorothy Pain, and Dot Jeffries; Master Tom Grice proves himself a very clever dancer. The remaining characters are, one and all, well sustained.

BRITANNIA THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Drama, by H. G. Brandon, entitled
"WHAT WOMEN SUFFER."

Crowded houses have witnessed the drama, *What Women Suffer*, written by Mr. Brandon, the stage-manager here, and performed by Mr. Montgomery's stock company, and which has been voted a success. It gives the leading players ample opportunities of displaying talent. Mr. Harry Tresham plays Wilfred Coventry and John Coventry with commendable ability, his drunken scene being very realistic. The rôle of Squire Norton is sustained in a natural and finished manner by Mr. Conrad E. Clerke. Mr. H. Rylton Leigh plays Herbert Standish in a style that admirably suits the character, and is duly execrated by the gods. Mr. C. Alan Heneson represents John Meredith remarkably well; and Mr. H. Herbert Young is well adapted to the part of Tod Potts. Considerable amusement is caused by Mr. Brandon as Obediah Shakespeare. Mr. Ivan Pat Gore is seen as a kind-hearted policeman and a brutal warder, both of whom he represents well. Miss Etheyle Gordon Murray as Edith Coventry has many opportunities to show her ability, and is applauded by the audience. Miss Lilla Stanhope plays in a quiet, unassuming, and sympathetic manner as Nance Meredith. Miss Florence Barnes scores as Marion Thomas, and greatly assists in the lighter periods of the play. We must heartily commend Miss Evelyn Kinton for her excellent rendering of Cedris; her acting is very praiseworthy. The drama was well mounted and artistically dressed.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the play entitled
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."

Dalstonians are this week having a fill of the sensational class of production in the drama entitled *The Girl Who Went Astray*. Mr. John B. Shinton plays the part of Captain Frank Julian in a way which fully displays the straightforward and honourable nature of the man; Rupert Murdock is a character in the play who has a good deal to do, and the part is presented in a manner in every way satisfactory by Mr. Fred Lloyd; Mr. Evan Roland causes a good deal of amusement as Adolphus Boomer, and Mr. Tod Squires aids materially in the same direction in the part of James Yellowsocks, who is an ideal comic servant; Mr. Edwin Williams is also amusing as Gussy Seymour. Others in the cast include Mr. Edgar P. Melrose (who appears as Sergeant John Harvey, V.C.), Mr. R. Ashton, Mr. A. Mainwaring, and Mr. A. Wardroper. As Madge Harvey, otherwise known as Zara L'Estrange, the girl who went astray, Miss Gwynne Warrens fills the title-rôle. She has the advantage of a commanding presence, and makes the audience hear all she has to say. Miss Ada M. Ryder is Violet Harvey, the half-sister to Madge, and the contrast in the dispositions of the two women is rendered most distinct; Miss Sybil Haughton is Eleanor Merton, "a woman with a past"; Miss Mary Dalby is quite a success as Molly Smart, a vivacious character, while Miss Freda Fredericks as Flo Fortescue and Miss Mabel Sinclair as a nurse also satisfactorily fill the parts allotted to them.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Drama entitled
"THE CONVICT'S DAUGHTER."

Written by Mr. Gordon Holmes and presented by Mr. Frank Bertram's company, *The Convict's Daughter* is proving itself a most acceptable drama to the audiences who are nightly attending this house. The cast is well selected, all the members of which put heart into their work, but the one particularly prominent character is undertaken by Mr. Frank Bertram, who in the various disguises of Weary Willie, Michael Grahame, Convict 99, and A Mystery, supplies an agreeable speciality, and instils into the parts ample dramatic effect. Although the character he assumes is of a pathetic nature, the touches of comedy introduced are cleverly portrayed and duly appreciated. Mr. William Burgess successfully plays the rôle of Frederick Neville; Mr. Walter Graham is suited to the part of Harold Trevalyan; the villain Jasper Thorne is capably essayed by Mr. Escott Robson; Mr. Willie Black is mirth provoking as Patrick O'Laragan, and is ably assisted by Miss Grace Emery as Betty Hyne; Mr. H. Loye-Staples makes a realistic Inspector Harper; Miss Lilian Dean as Edith acts with delicacy and feeling, and evokes much applause; Miss Nellie Waddington is quite efficient as Marian Thorne. The drama is adequately staged. The various selections of music played by the orchestra under the bâton of Mr. S. Catcutt are greatly appreciated.

THE WEST LONDON THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Drama, in Four Acts, by C. A. Clarke and H. F. Spiers, entitled
"THE BLACK VAMPIRE."

Miss Winifred Chalmers' company did very well here this week with the sensational drama *The Black Vampire*. The chief acting honours were carried off by that hard-working and painstaking actor, Mr. Henry L. Osmond, who, as Harry Royce, carried everything before him. Mr. J. C. Carlyle enacted Armand Dubois in a realistic and convincing way; Mr. George Allwark cleverly depicted the dumb man Henri Dubois; Mr. Harry Cooke was an amusing Sammy Dobbs; Mr. Charles Tolcher did well as Fillion; and Mr. C. Taylor was responsible for a most vivid portrayal and excellently made-up representation of Ritza, the High Priest of Khama. Miss Lillian Burns impersonated Natallie Latour with much freedom of expression; Miss Mabel Tremere piquantly sustained Estelle; Miss M. Osmond sang well, and made many friends with her bright and intelligent rendering of Gervaise Dubois; whilst Miss Winifred Chalmers delighted everyone with her clear, easy and convincing rendering of Mona Brayton.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Dec. 7, the Musical Comedy, entitled
"THE FLOWER GIRL."

The patrons of the Artillery Theatre are this week enjoying much hearty laughter and showing keen appreciation of the fare placed before them, which testifies to the mirth-provoking qualities of *The Flower Girl*. The book, music, and lyrics, are written and composed by Mr. William T. Gliddon, and the production is under the guiding hand of Mr. J. J. Stanford. The music is tuneful, and there is sufficient plot to arrest the interest of the audience; and the singing and dancing is undertaken in a spirited fashion. Miss Kitty Hyde, who, by the way, is no stranger to this theatre, essays the rôle of Lily, the flower girl, and gives a charming and dainty interpretation, her songs being well rendered and warmly applauded. Miss Lily Drake offers a clever and amusing delineation of Lizette de Racquet, and shows an aptness and command of comedy, and gains a flattering reception. Miss Flo Chapman as Miss Greenhill, a Suffragette, is the source of much merriment; Miss Townley Laurence makes a suitable Maisie Flirtington; Alphonse de Racquet is amusingly portrayed by Mr. Henry Adnes, who is a comedian of no mean ability, and is the cause of continuous mirth. Joe Wheeler is made the most of in the capable hands of Mr. W. P. Dempsey; Mr. Alfred Donohoe is successful as Johnny Wheeler; Mr. Norman Bowyer is funny as Reginald Rackit; Mr. Robert H. Howard as the Hon. Billy Greenhill shows off his voice to good advantage. The comedy is well mounted, and the augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. William Neale.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The students of the Guildhall School of Music gave a most successful orchestral concert in the large hall of the City of London School on Wednesday evening. A good account was given by the orchestra, under Dr. Cummings, of Mendelssohn's Scotch Symphony, and an excellent performance was secured of the lively Scherzo; while the playing of the wind instruments was very creditable to both students and professors in the band. Miss Muriel Clark, pupil of Mme. Bessie Cox, and contralto prize-winner of 1908, gave a sympathetic rendering of Gounod's song "There is a green hill far away," although the orchestral accompaniment slightly overpowered the vocalist.

In Saint-Saëns' Violoncello Concerto Mr. Norman Attwell, pupil of Mr. Ernest de Munck, greatly distinguished himself, and well deserved hearty applause from the large audience. Mr. Attwell in the Concerto was also admirably supported by the orchestra. Few students dare attempt such difficult music as the vocal exercise "Où va ta jeune Indoue," the famous air from Delibes' opera *Lakmé*, and Miss Hilda Cornfoot, A.G.S.M., who has a pure and flexible soprano voice, deserved great credit for her clever singing and neatly-executed shakes. Miss Cornfoot, who was much applauded, is a pupil of Signor Zardo. Mr. Eric Zardo presided at the piano, and the concert concluded with Mozart's Overture, "Le Nozze di Figaro."

Charles Young was wont to speak in terms of almost wanton admiration of a bold point he saw Mrs. Siddons once make. In the second scene of the second act of *Coriolanus*, an ovation in honour of the victor was introduced. No fewer than two hundred and forty persons marched in stately procession across the stage. In this procession Mrs. Siddons had to walk. Had she been content to follow in the beaten track of those who had gone before her, she would have marched across the stage with the solemn, stately, almost funereal step conventional. But at the time—as she often did—she forgot her identity; she was no longer Sarah Siddons, tied down to the directions of the prompter's book: she broke through old traditions; she recollected that she was Volumnia, the proud mother of a proud son and conquering hero. So that, instead of dropping each foot at equi-distance in cadence subservient to the orchestra, deaf to the guidance of her woman's ear, but sensitive to the throbbings of her haughty mother's heart, with flashing eye and proudest smile, and head erect, and hands pressed firmly on her bosom, as if to repress by manual force its triumphant swellings, she towered above all around her, and almost reeled across the stage, her very soul, as it were, dilating and rioting in its exultations, until her action lost all grace, and yet became so true to nature, so picturesque and so descriptive, that pit and gallery sprang to their feet electrified by the transcendent execution of the conception.

THEATRE ROYAL, STRATFORD.

On Monday, Dec. 7, for the first time in London, the Drama, in Four Acts, by Nita Rae, entitled
"FOR LOVE OF A WOMAN."

Ned Merrick ..... Mr. Jerrold Ord
Guy Manor ..... Mr. Frederick Garratt
Allen Paget ..... Mr. Eustace Day
Major Hulmes ..... Mr. Charles Ninian
Albert St. Everamond ..... Mr. Leonard S. Harrison
Sam Holland ..... Mr. Fred Ramsdale
Tom Jones ..... Mr. Ernest Yandel
Warder ..... Mr. Brook Leicester
Nell Paget ..... Miss Nellie de Lacey
Marjory Hulmes ..... Miss Bella Victoria
Jane Manor ..... Miss Eva St. Vincent
Nance Manor ..... Miss May Day

For Love of a Woman, the sensational drama produced for the first time in London at the Stratford Theatre Royal on Monday, is an excellent specimen of the class of play beloved by a popular audience, containing, as it does, an abundance of sensational situations and pathetic passages, with, of course, the always-necessary blending of comedy relief, and its reception by the large audience on the night of our visit was decidedly appreciative. The self-sacrificing hero, who suffers so unjustly "for love of a woman" (Nell Paget) is Ned Merrick, who returns from America, where he has been toiling to make a fortune, only to find that she is to be married that very day to the villainous Guy Manor. Guy had previously wedded Nell's sister abroad, and had deserted her and her baby girl Nance. The mother has died, and the child is entrusted to the care of Ned, who brings her back to England, where she is the "light" of her blind old grandfather, Allen Paget. It is soon made evident that Nell is not happy with her husband, and Ned, who still loves her, promises that if ever she is in need of a true friend she can always rely on him. In the third scene of the first act Guy comes to Paget's house to borrow a substantial sum from his father-in-law, and on being refused the loan tries forcible persuasion, the coward after a violent struggle killing the old man. Ned's coat is in the room, and some blood getting on it it is the scoundrel's intention to fasten the crime on the hero. Nance has, however, been a witness of the murder; but Ned makes her promise to tell no one what she has seen, as he will not have Nell made unhappy by the arrest of her husband. Ned is imprisoned on circumstantial evidence, and Guy Manor, in order that his daughter shall not be persuaded to disclose all she knows, takes Nance to a wretched hovel inhabited by a drunken old hag, Jane Manor (his own mother), whom he pays to ill-treat the child, and even tries to bribe to kill her. The besotted female, however, stays her hand at murder, and when she has departed Guy intends to put an end to his offspring's existence himself, but at the last moment determines to spare her life. When Jane Manor returns the plucky youngster has obtained possession of a pistol, and being mistress of the situation bids the old wretch make herself scarce. Mounting a table, she then climbs to a high window, and escapes down an ivy-clad wall—an exciting episode that evoked much enthusiasm. Eventually Nance visits Ned in prison, and endeavours to get him to release her from her promise of secrecy. She has in her possession a button and a piece of the cloth from the coat worn by her father at the time of the murder, and when she consults her friend the policeman he speedily takes the law into his own hands. In the end Guy, after murdering his own mother, falls a victim to a shot intended for Ned, and villainy being completely vanquished, the way is made clear for the happiness of Ned and Nell, and brace little Nancy.

The company responsible for the production (Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Day's) is an excellent one throughout, all the characters being admirably impersonated. Mr. Jerrold Ord is a manly and convincing exponent of Ned Merrick, his acting in the pathetic episodes of the play being very impressive. Mr. Frederick Garratt makes no mistake in his handling of the rôle of Guy Manor, his portrayal throughout of this thorough-paced scoundrel being always effective, the actor skilfully suggesting the fear of the guilty man when he discovers a piece of his coat is missing; his enactment of the scene with his daughter where he intends to kill her also being excellent. Miss Eva St. Vincent also contributed valuably to the realism of this episode, her depiction throughout of the gin-loving old hag being a clever character study on which the actress is to be cordially complimented. Another very praiseworthy impersonation was that of the loving and loyal Nance Manor by Miss May Day, a gifted youngster who was thoroughly conversant with all the business of her part, and speedily became a great favourite with the audience. Mr. Eustace Day contributed a careful and quite satisfactory impersonation of the aged and blind old grandfather, Allen Paget, the pathos of the part being convincingly portrayed; Miss Nellie de Lacey was a sympathetic and refined representative of Nell Paget; and Miss Bella Victoria as the gay, gushing, and giddy Marjorie Hulmes, realised the character exactly. Mr. Leonard S. Harrison as an impossible dude, Albert St. Everamond, was responsible for some of the heartiest laughter heard during the evening; and Mr. Charles Ninian also created merriment by his admirable study of the fiery old Major Hulmes. The other parts were also satisfactorily enacted. Scenery, dresses, and effects were all praiseworthy, and the incidental music written by Mr. G. De La Camera, the gifted musical director of the Grand Theatre, Brighton, is quite worthy of that experienced composer. The smart stage-management of Mr. Frederick Garratt must also be favourably mentioned.

JOE CAVE AND THE MARYLEBONE.

To the Editor of The Era.

Sir,—Having seen the letter published in your paper from my old friend, Mr. G. A. Loveridge (relating to the Marylebone Theatre), it might be of interest to your readers to know that I took the theatre in 1858, opening with a new drama by J. B. Johnstone, called *The Mystery of Wilton Hall*. Amongst the company was Mr. Geo. Belmore, Mr. Henry Forrester (their first appearance in London), Mr. Philip Hannan (the brother of the popular author, Mr. Watts Phillips), Miss Emma Barnett, and others. I followed the management of Mr. Clarence Holt, whose friendship I retained until his demise. I kept it open up to 1868, when I parted with my interest (by the permission of Mr. John Loveridge) to a Mr. Lacy, who opened his season with an Indian play, named *Ping da Sing*. Five years after, in 1873, I resumed the management and retained it for another ten years without a break. Not a bad record! During my management I had the valuable assistance of Samuel Phelps, Chas. Dillon, Henry Neville, Leigh Murray, James Anderson, Benjamin Webster, J. L. Toole, Paul Bedford, Walter Montgomery, J. F. Young, Chas. Warner, Mesdames Marriott, Marie Litton, Nelly Farren, Mrs. Stirling, Miss Woolgar, Miss Ada Cavendish, Mme. Celeste, Bella Pateman, and other celebrities too numerous to mention.—Yours faithfully,

J. A. CAVE.

10, Charterhouse, Charterhouse-square, E.C.
Dec. 2, 1908.

Mr. Frank Curzon announces a special matinée of *King of Cadonia* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre on Boxing Day.

Mr. Editor.—Sir, the part of Squire Western in *Tom Jones* at Kennington last week was not played by Mr. Ambrose Manning, but by yours faithfully, Frank Henry

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LE FOYER."

Comedy, in Three Acts, by MM. Octave Mirbeau and T. Natanson, produced at the Comédie-Française on Dec. 7.

Thérèse ..... MME. BARTET
Mlle. Rambert ..... MME. PIERSON
Mme. Pigeon ..... MME. AMEL
Armand Biron ..... M. DE FÉRAUDY
L'Abbé Lacroze ..... M. TRUFFIER
Jean ..... M. JOLIET
Arnaud Tripier ..... M. RAVET
Célistin Leriblé ..... M. CROUS
Ludovic Belair ..... M. GRANDVAL
Charles Dufrère ..... M. PAUL NUMA
Robert d'Auberval ..... M. JACQUES DE FÉRAUDY
Baron Courtin ..... M. FÉLIX HUGUENET

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, THURSDAY, Dec. 10.—We have had frequent opportunities to refer to the trouble in connection with *Le Foyer*, which, having been accepted by M. Claretie and put into rehearsal, was suddenly withdrawn despite the protests of the authors, who compelled the Comédie-Française by law to mount their play. Wild rumours were afloat at the time. Some said that M. Claretie objected to the principal personage, a senator and member of the French Academy, being shown in a despicable light; whilst others asserted that this Baron Courtin, taken from life, is a man well known in the social and political world. The mystery has not quite been cleared up, although it was whispered that the true reason of M. Claretie's objections was that one of the scenes was particularly repulsive, and if this was the case we can but endorse M. Claretie's opinion. And now for the plot. In the opening scene we are at the house of Baron Courtin and Thérèse, his wife. The Baron, a man of about fifty-five, has a hobby. Very much interested in the Paris workgirl, he has founded a charitable institution, "Le Foyer," managed by Mlle. Rambert and the Abbé Lacroze, where girls are housed, fed, and taught a trade. But it transpires that the children are badly cared for; and a death, attributed to negligence, has called forth an official inquiry which brings to light that a child was suffocated in a cupboard where it had been locked up as punishment; whilst another was so badly whipped that it had to be removed to a hospital. Courtin, trembling for his position on account of the scandal, discusses the matter with his wife and tells her plainly that he must find at once £12,000 to refund to the society—money he has taken to cover his losses on the Bourse and for his private use. Courtin knows that Thérèse had a liaison with Armand Biron, a financier, who supplied her liberally with money, a liaison she broke off because she has become attached to a young mundane Socialist, Robert d'Auberval; and he only sees one issue to his troubles, which is that Biron should advance the required sum. And now we come to the unpleasant scene in the piece. Thérèse calls on Biron with the intention of asking for help for old friendship's sake. Biron, however, still in love with the woman, will only accede to her request provided she resumes her former relations with him. Thérèse refuses, but the wily Biron, seeing where the shoe pinches, suggests that if she accepts his proposal they can all go for a long cruise on his yacht, a merry party, consisting of herself, her husband, Biron, and Robert d'Auberval. The mention of Robert decides the matter; and when a few minutes later Courtin enters Biron informs him that he will take over the "Foyer" and turn it into a good paying concern, where the children will be worked hard to make good returns. And the over-joyed Courtin at once accepts this pretty scheme of the "merry little party" on Biron's yacht, saying that during the voyage he will have leisure to write his paper on the "Prix de Vertu." Mme. Bartet as Thérèse, delightfully young and charming, looked perhaps a trifle to mueh the woman whom men will adore with respect, and not the coquette she is supposed to be. M. Huguénet made his début at the Comédie-Française as Courtin, a rôle that suited him to the ground. M. Truffier cleverly impersonated the Jesuitical Abbé; and Mme. Pierson imparted the real colour to the character of the somewhat uncanny Mlle. Rambert.

AT the Odéon M. Guiraud, a young man, has brought out a very old-fashioned play called *Le Poussin*, wherein he attempts to show that mothers are wrong to treat their sons like little boys. The mother in this case is a Mme. Lattès, a widow, a terrible lady, whose love for her son Georges, a youth of twenty-five, takes an aggressive form and causes her to behave in an insane manner. It is to be hoped that such specimens are rare, on and off the stage. *La Bienheureuse*, two short acts by M. Jean Boucher, and *Pylade*, a one-act trifle by M. Louis Legendre, were also included in the night's entertainment, which was a dull affair.

"SANGA," Mr. Isidor de Lara's four-act opera, produced at the Opéra-Comique, has burst upon Paris like a surprise, and people ask themselves what induced the gifted composer to write music to a libretto not worthy of that name, unless it was the fact that one of the two persons responsible for the booklet is M. Paul Choudens, the well-known music publisher, holding a high position in the musical world here. One cannot but sympathise with Mr. de Lara, who, with no material to work upon, had to produce sufficient music to lengthen the work into four acts, which he could only do by sacrificing melody in his interminable soli. From the very start it was a hopeless task, and we wonder Mr. de Lara undertook it. The plot (!) of this four-act opera is as follows: Lena, a farmer's daughter, is engaged to Jean. But he has been captivated by Sanga, a girl who has come to help at harvest-time. On the wedding-day a storm breaks loose which destroys the village, and Sanga and Jean, who have withdrawn to the heights, are also swept away by the rising waters. *Et voilà tout!* The work, wherein we detect many Wagnerian reminiscences—possibly unavoidable—is capitally orchestrated.

M. CAPUS is, as everybody knows, an optimist. According to him most difficulties in life can, with a little philosophy, be settled satisfactorily; and, unlike M. Bernstein, his heroes need not resort to the revolver to bring their miserable existence—and likewise the play—to a close. True to his theory, M. Capus, in *L'Oiseau Blessé*, his new three-act comedy brought out at the Renaissance, has dealt mercifully with his personages, and this "drame intime," despite its shortcomings, leaves a pleasant after-taste. The story is not complicated. Raymond Salvière is a distinguished littérateur. Immensely rich, of a first-class family, married to Madeleine, a charming woman, he is the happiest of men. One day, however, trouble comes upon him in the form of a woman, or rather girl, Yvonne Janson. Georges, one of Raymond's nephews, has, under promise of marriage, seduced Yvonne and left her to her fate. The good-natured Raymond and his wife call on the disconsolate girl to offer her their help, especially as she is anxious to gain her living on the stage. The inevitable happens. Raymond falls in love with the girl; she becomes his mistress, and he refuses the post of Ambassador offered him by the Ministry. Madeleine has wind of the affair, and we witness a painful scene between Raymond and his wife, who implores her husband to give up this liaison. Raymond resolves to break off the connection; but he is not proof against Yvonne's tears, and his vanity being also brought into play, he has not the strength to discard Yvonne. Fortunately the girl's heart is in the right place. She hears of Madeleine's despair, and it is she who announces to her lover her intention of leaving Paris the next day on a prolonged tour with a theatrical company. Madeleine heaves a sigh of relief, and is generous enough to extend a forgiving hand to the girl who tries to atone for the trouble she has wrought. Hitherto we had only seen Mlle. Eve Lavallière in farcical rôles. This time she tried her hand in an emotional part, and she was charming in the part of Yvonne, wherein she was able to indulge in some of her funny pranks. M. Guitry gave a good portrayal of the lovesick Raymond; and Mmes. Andrée Mégard and Juliette Darcourt and M. Victor Boucher completed a splendid ensemble.

IRVING AS A HOST.

"I have already alluded to the suppers in the Beefsteak Room as among the notable social reunions of the time," says Mr. Comyns Carr in "Some Eminent Victorians." "But there is one of those Lyceum suppers a little more formal than the rest which I feel disposed to recall, because it gave evidence of quite an unsuspected power on the part of Henry Irving of suddenly replying as a speaker to an unexpected attack.

"The occasion was the 100th performance of the *Merchant of Venice*, in 1879, and I think it was the first time that the stage of a great London theatre had been employed as the arena of a large and splendid entertainment. Since that time we have enjoyed such feasts under the hospitable auspices of Mr. Tree at His Majesty's—once, as I recall, on the occasion of the 100th night of *Julius Cæsar*, and again on a corresponding occasion to celebrate the successful run of *Ulysses*.

"On the evening to which I now refer the task of proposing Irving's health was entrusted to Lord Houghton, who, it was thought, would hardly choose that particular occasion to exhibit the cynical temper he was known to possess. But Lord Houghton, as I afterwards found reason to know, was not disposed to be governed by conventional restrictions, and he devoted nearly the whole of his speech to a considered depreciation of Irving's conception of Shylock, enlarging, in terms, that seemed to us who sat there, almost designedly bitter, upon what he considered the undeserved dignity that the actor had granted to the character.

"It must have been that Irving was taken by surprise, and although his habit was always to speak from preparation, and often indeed to read what he had prepared, he proved himself, on this occasion, a master of good-humoured impromptu, twitting Lord Houghton, in a spirit of genial banter, with being a slave to the old-fashioned idea that Shylock was a comic villain, and promising on some future occasion to try and more amply satisfy his lordship's ideal by representing Shylock as a Houndsditch Jew with three hats upon his head and a bag of lemons in his hands. The actor's success, acknowledged by all who were present, was due, I think, mainly to the fact that, although taken off his guard by this unexpected provocation, there was not a trace of ill-humour in his reply.

"There was one other occasion when Irving was the host at a small supper-party given at the Continental Hotel, when he showed an equal power of retaining his self-possession in circumstances the most trying and the most unexpected.

"The honoured guest of the evening—entertained upon his return from a foreign campaign—was a brilliant and gifted journalist, now no more, and chief among those whom he had specially desired Irving to invite to meet him was a distinguished statesman still living, though by deliberate choice he no longer takes an active part in public affairs. The guest for whom the entertainment was given arrived late, and when he appeared it was evident to those of us who knew him that he had dined, not wisely, but too well. On a sudden, and in response to the most harmless raillery on the part of the statesman to whom I have referred, he rose and retorted with the most bitter and, if I may say so, the most vulgar abuse; and while we all sat appalled by the outrage he was committing, he turned and appealed to Irving to justify his extraordinary outburst. It was then that Irving's tact showed itself. Quietly and slowly he replied, 'All I have to say, my dear friend, is that first upon the list of those whom you specially desired I should invite to meet you this evening stood the name of Lord ——.' And then, as though to prove to us that he, too, could exhibit an equal measure of self-possession, the man so wantonly attacked, without a word of resentment or rebuke, quietly filled his glass and invited us to drink just one toast to say how glad we were to see our old friend returned once more from his travels abroad."

THE LATE HARRY KILBURN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Twenty-seven years ago this approaching Boxing Day I first met the late Harry Kilburn. We were engaged at the York Music Hall, Southampton, and the *pièce de résistance* at the hall for the Christmas festivity fare was a spectacular sketch, in which the above-named gentleman enacted the leading part—a kind of an up-to-date Frankenstein's monster. The production was a huge hit, and ran over the holidays. Some time previous to this date "Our Harry" had been "discovered" by the late Frank Egerton somewhere up Newcastle way, and brought to town as an Irish comic, his *bonne bouche* being a capital imitation of W. J. Ashcroft as the "Solid Man," and very successful he was, too.

Regarding his age, as given in your admirable notice of to-day's issue, I should say at that period—1881—he was not under twenty. It can truly be said "Poor Harry" made many, many friends, for

"His life was gentle; and the elements
So mixed in him, that Nature might stand up,
And say to all the world, 'This is a man.'"

—Yours faithfully,

GEORGE E. BELMONT.

Cambridge Circus, W., Dec. 5.

"ON THE OTHER FOOT."

A Burglar Incident, in One Act, by Sydney Blow and George Bellamy, Produced at the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, on Monday evening, Dec. 7.

Mr. Binfield ..... MR. OWEN NARES
Mrs. Binfield ..... MISS JEAN CADELL
The Burglar ..... MR. CHARLES KING

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The authors have provided a well-constructed and excellent satire upon the weaknesses of dramatic criticism. The scene is the Binfields' flat at midnight. The domestic is absent on leave, the Binfields not having yet returned from the theatre. The actor, who resides in the flat overhead, is smarting under Binfield's epithet of a "consumptive canary" conveyed in his newspaper article, but has also received a letter from Mrs. Binfield privately condoling with him on her husband's slashing article. He determines to burgle their flat, and be caught in his assumed character. The action begins by his effecting an entrance through the window by means of a rope from his premises. He secures all the valuables possible, and then locks himself in the adjoining room on hearing the approach of the Binfields. They are indulging in recriminations, but ultimately discover their losses—and the burglar. Mr. Binfield is induced by his wife to listen to the burglar's voluble story of a famishing family and a sudden yielding to temptation. Ordering him to return to the locked room he decides his course of action. The "burglar" has put all his plunder and Mrs. Binfield's letter on the table, and when Mrs. Binfield fetches her jewel-box it is found with its contents intact. This discovery decides Binfield. He immediately liberates his prisoner, who is called in and ordered to depart. Seizing an opportunity, the "burglar" abstracts the jewels from the box, and Mrs. Binfield presents him with a half-sovereign to purchase food for his starving family and extracts promises of reform. The husband asserts that they have let go a hardened criminal; the wife as strongly urges her belief in the actor's plausible story. Binfield then discovers the rope hanging outside the window in proof of his theory. She, with consternation, misses her jewels. They at once summon the actor and acquaint him with the facts. He advises their sending for the police, adding that his premises have not been burgled. He then departs, but returns directly in his assumed character, when he is pounced upon by both and floored. Revealing himself in his true character, he returns the jewels and money, and explains to Mr. Binfield that the term "consumptive canary" impelled him to extort the admission that he could act.

Mr. Owen Nares played convincingly as Mr. Binfield. Miss Jean Cadell made an excellent character portrayal of Mrs. Binfield, whom she endowed with much charm of manner and repartee. Mr. Charles King acted cleverly as the burglar; his maudlin and rambling story of distress was a fine effort of elocution, his make-up was well done, and his quick-change at the end very effective. The piece should prove a valuable curtain-raiser.

DEATH OF MRS. J. A. WINSTANLEY.

It is with sincere regret that we record the death of Mrs. J. A. Winstanley, the wife of Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Winstanley, who was proprietor of

[*Photo by Ramsdon.*

THE LATE MRS. J. A. WINSTANLEY.

the Royal Opera House, Leicester, from the year 1888 down to February, 1906, when, owing to the continued indisposition of the gallant colonel, they were compelled to retire from theatrical management in Leicester, where they had won the highest esteem of all classes. The deceased lady, who died at the Cliffe, Little Bispham, Blackpool, on the 5th inst., at the early age of forty-two, was interred at Sheffield on Wednesday last, amid many manifestations of grief from her sorrowing friends and relatives.

Mrs. Annie Nadine Winstanley in her younger days was a member of the theatrical profession, and her knowledge of stage matters was put to the test on many occasions at the Royal Opera House and Theatre Royal (of which place Colonel Winstanley was also lessee). She designed and saw executed the many charming dresses for some of Colonel Winstanley's elaborate and successful pantomime. The deceased lady was of a most lovable disposition, and was held in the greatest affection by the two staffs, being always ready to help and sympathise with them in any trouble; and all who came in contact with her speak with the greatest affection and sorrow at her demise.

A large number of the profession who visited the Opera House were constantly entertained by Colonel and Mrs. Winstanley at The Grange, Desford, near Leicester, and Mrs. Winstanley will long be remembered by them for her charming and affable manner.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

MLLE. OLGA TREMELLI, prima donna contralto, from the Vienna Opera House, has been engaged by the National Sunday League to sing at the Queen's Hall Concert to-morrow (Sunday).

THE engagement is announced of Fräulein Eva Wagner, daughter of Richard Wagner, to Mr. Houston Steward Chamberlain, an English essayist living in Vienna, and the author of several books dealing with Wagner's works.

DEATH OF AN OLD ACTOR.

Mr. Edwin James Shepherd, an actor who will be remembered only by older playgoers, has met with his death by falling down the stairs at his lodging at 40, Lamb's Conduit-street, Holborn. The deceased gentleman was found lying at the bottom of the stairs, and succumbed fifty hours later to his injuries. Forty years since he played at the old Grecian Theatre, in the City-road, and was a popular "villain" in the pieces produced there. With Jefferson and Mrs. Alfred Mellon he had trodden the Princess's boards in *Rip Van Winkle*, taking the part of Nick Vedder. He did not open with Joseph Jefferson at the Adelphi on Sept. 4, 1865, the date of the first production of *Rip Van Winkle* in England. Among others with whom his stage career was associated were Irving, Toole, Herman Vezin, Mrs. Kendal, and the Young family. In Australia he was very successful as William in *Black-Eyed Susan*. Colonial life suited him so well that he bought some land, but the heat necessitated his return to England. A reminiscence of his early years was his appearance with the tragedian William Creswick at the Surrey Theatre, when it was run by Creswick and Frederick Shepherd (his own brother). The old actor stood 6ft. 2in. in height, and made a striking figure. Since retiring from the stage he had taught elocution, and numbered several well-known theatrical people among his pupils. Mr. Shepherd was in his seventy-seventh year, and owing to failing eyesight was about to undergo an operation.

At the Holborn Coroner's Court on Thursday Mr. Walter Schroder conducted an inquiry concerning the death of the deceased, who died on Monday. The deceased was found lying at the bottom of the stairs in his lodgings, and died about fifty hours later from a broken neck. While under treatment for the injury the deceased recited portions of Shakespeare to Dr. Gould, who was in attendance.

Mrs. Elizabeth Shepherd, a lady secretary, said she was the niece of the deceased. He was a teacher of elocution, but years ago he was for a long time an actor playing with Phelps, Irving, and Toole. He was a single man, but had sufficient for all his wants, being a careful-living man. After his fall she was called to him, and remained with him until his death. He had told her that he had giddy feelings which came over him at times.

Dr. William Robert Gould, of 11, Lamb's Conduit-street, said he had known the deceased, who was a fine man, and went out every day. After he fell downstairs, on the 5th inst., witness was called in, and was told by him that in going upstairs he put down his can, opened another lodger's door by mistake, and then turned to go to his own room, but walked towards the stairs and fell down. He was thoroughly conscious up to the end. He died from compression of the spinal cord caused by the rupture of a ligament in the neck, through falling downstairs. He suffered from cataract of the eyes, and wore gold-rimmed glasses. He was a splendid man, who had taken great care of himself all his life. Deceased was a great Shakespearean scholar, and when he used to come to witness's surgery he would say to him and his wife, "Close your eyes." Then he would proceed to recite selections from Shakespeare, and was a good impersonator of Irving. In regard to the injury, Dr. Gould said it was remarkable that the man lived so long from such an injury.

The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."

We understand that Mr. Shepherd was a man of means, and had shares in various industrial concerns.

IRVING AND LORD RANDOLPH.

"Apropos of *Hamlet*," says Mr. Comyns Carr in "Some Eminent Victorians," "Irving used to tell a story that was characteristic of his imperturbable self-possession, and was no less interesting in the light it throws upon the striking individuality of a youth who afterwards rose to a foremost position in public affairs. It was some few years after his performance of the character in London that Irving found himself in Dublin at a time when the Duke of Marlborough, the father of Lord Randolph Churchill, was Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland. *Hamlet* was the play of the evening, and Lord Randolph, seated alone, occupied the Vice-regal box. When the second act was ended he went behind the scenes to Irving's dressing-room and introduced himself to the actor. With an apology that was evidently sincere he expressed his regret that, owing to a reception at the Castle, he was unable to wait for the conclusion of the performance. He declared himself, however, intensely interested with what he had seen, and begged Irving to tell him in a few words, as his time was limited, how the play ended. Irving, as he told me, was at first so taken aback that he thought his visitor was indulging in a humorous sally at the expense of the immortal dramatist, but a quick glance at the young man's earnest face sufficed to reassure him, and he then told Lord Randolph the outline of that concluding part of the story which his social engagement did not permit him to see represented upon the boards.

"'When do you play it again?' inquired the young man of the actor

"'On Wednesday next,' answered Irving.

"'I shall be there,' replied Lord Randolph, earnestly; and there assuredly he was from the rise of the curtain to its fall, in rapt attention to every succeeding scene of the tragedy.

"At the conclusion he again went round to Irving's room, even more enthusiastic than on the occasion of his previous visit; and, with a naïveté that was, I think, deeply characteristic of that power he afterwards displayed in public affairs—the power of swiftly appropriating the knowledge needful for every successive post he occupied—he made the frank avowal that, since their last meeting, he had read for himself, not only *Hamlet*, but two or three other plays by the same author.

"'And do you know, Mr. Irving,' he said, 'I find them enormously interesting.'

"Lord Randolph, I think, must have retained to the last his admiration of Irving's talent as an actor, for I met him several times in later years at those little suppers in the Beefsteak Room of the Lyceum Theatre, which formed so memorable a feature of Irving's management. Here, indeed, might be met many of the most notable people of the time, and amongst them an almost constant figure in these pleasant gatherings, Irving's life-long friend, J. L. Toole. The lasting friendship between these two men, so differently gifted and yet so enduringly allied, forms, I think, a touching tribute to certain great qualities of loyalty resident in them both."

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the Council Meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Dec. 8. Present: Mr. Frederick Morland (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (Hon. Solicitor), Messrs. F. J. Arlton, C. F. Collings, Chris. Walker, Fred Annerley, Clarence Derwent, and Clive Currie; Misses Rose Matthews, Agnes Imlay, Lucy Sibley, and Mr. Hubert Blount (Secretary). The minutes of the previous meeting were read and passed.

The Chairman read a letter from a member dealing with an article which had appeared in a contemporary with reference to a sixpenny theatre, and the Secretary was instructed to ask the correspondent for further information.

The Hon. Solicitor reported that he had seen a member and advised him.

With reference to the case of a man representing himself to be an official of the Actors' Association and going about the country defrauding landladies, the Secretary was instructed to insert a paragraph in the Year Book to the effect that "No one is authorised to receive money for landladies' advertisements without delivering an official receipt of the A.A., signed by the Secretary."

Miss Sibley read the Finance Committee's report, which the council adopted.

The question of approaching the Lord Chamberlain with reference to Sunday performances was raised and the council decided not to proceed further with the matter for the present.

The Secretary was instructed to call a special meeting of the Council on Monday, Dec. 14, at 11 a.m., to consider the question of standard contract.

George Seager, proposed by David Denard and seconded by Oliver Glynn, and Frances Wolveston, proposed by Phyllis Relph and seconded by Joan Pereira, were nominated for election. Ernest Young, proposed by J. B. Butler and seconded by Sylvia Morris, was elected.

The Secretary informed the Council that Miss Mahone had given some new covers for the chairs in the writing room, and a unanimous vote of thanks was passed to her.

The Council passed a unanimous vote of condolence with the relatives of Mr. Conybeare Gough, a member of the A.A. who died recently.

The Secretary reported three engagements made by the Agency.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual committee meeting of the Actors' Union took place at 49, Bedford-street, Strand, on Thursday, the 3rd inst., when the following were present:—Messrs. H. Tripp-Edgar (in the chair), Langford Reed, A. Maitland Stapley, W. Ruddle Brown, Fred D. Daviss, Walter L. Rignold, J. W. Braithwaite, and Kenneth Blackmore (Secretary). Letters were received from Messrs. James English, H. Naylor Grimson, Lennox Pawle, Geo. H. Child, Fred F. Loyd, J. Hastings Batson, Clifford Rean, Harry Paulton, jun., Oswald Marshall, Orlando Barnett, Edward Chester, Jerrold Heather, Royce Milton, and Henry Bedford. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. Mr. Langford Reed was elected a member of the committee.

A proposition that any profit accruing from the dinner to be held on Sunday next at Hummum's Hotel shall be placed to the credit of the Actors' Union Benevolent Fund was carried.

The committee meetings of the Union will in future take place on Fridays at 2 p.m., and the Finance Committee at 1.30 on the same day, instead of Thursdays as hitherto. The reason of the change is that so many of the suburban theatres have their matinées on Thursday that it is often impossible for members of the Committee to attend the meetings.

Members and their friends who are attending the third social dinner of the Actors' Union tomorrow (Sunday) at Hummum's Hotel, Covent Garden, are asked to be as punctual as possible. There are only a few tickets left, and those wishing to attend are asked to make immediate application.

Mr. H. Tripp Edgar presided at the ordinary weekly meeting of the Actors' Union held at Hummums Hotel on Tuesday afternoon, when discussion upon a recent article in *John Bull* referring to the engaging of chorus girls at 18s. a week took place. The following resolution was passed unanimously:—

"This meeting instructs the committee, after communicating with Mr. Bannister Howard and the Actors' Association, and calling their attention to the paragraph in *John Bull* concerning the engaging of chorus girls at 18s. a week, to take what steps they might think fit in order to abolish such an abuse."

[Since this meeting, we have been informed by the secretary of the A.U. that Mr. Bannister Howard denies the truth of the statements that appeared in *John Bull*.—EDITOR.]

AMUSEMENTS IN BARCELONA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BARCELONA, DEC. 5.—On Monday last the Circo Barcelones ended its régime as a theatre, and was re-opened as an up-to-date music-hall under the direction of M. Ripoll, the well-known Parisian impresario, who is also the proprietor of the Grand Pena and the Alcazar. The Circo is a large building in modern style, but it was not half large enough on Monday night, and hundreds had to be refused admission. There are some twenty artists upon the bill, included amongst which are the Sisters Proveanies, cyclists, who were accorded a great reception, and recalled again and again. The Six Juggling Girls were also very well received for their clever act, which is quite different from anything hitherto seen by the Catalans. A very amusing number was presented by Maxim and D'Ebb, whilst that charming comedienne, direct from the Alhambra, Paris, Mlle. Nitta Tô, was obliged to render six items before the audience were satisfied. Altogether the Circo had a very satisfactory début, for which praise is due in no small measure to an efficient orchestra of twenty-five performers. The Theatre Soriano is being also well patronised, where Drawee, Frisco, and Stambo provide a smart juggling act, other artists on the programme being Tapsy and Tapster, Kilbys and Moros, and Sadas.

THE PALACIO DE ILUSION caters well for its patrons, the most successful artists being the Tacherpanoff Troupe of Russian singers and dancers; Norman Scott, illusionist; and Lerrio Lenka, with her educated dogs.

THE CAVALLOTTIS, in a musical act, bring a successful month's engagement at the Pollorama to a close on Dec. 20, and are due to open at the Opera House, Crewe, for pantomime on the 23rd inst. They will not have much time to spare upon their arrival in England. They have a magnificent set, and perform classical music, intermixed with amusing comedy, upon instruments that are the last word in modern inventions. Also appearing here is Rafael Arcos, without doubt the principal and most versatile comedian in Spain. He has never yet appeared in England. He is engaged at the Pollorama for six continuous months, which is a record for a Spanish music-hall artist.

A COUNTRY gentleman dropping asleep while William Beneley, a hoarse-voiced actor of the old school, was repeating a long speech in his usual croaking voice, suddenly started up, and cried out, "Hullo! reach my blunderbuss this instant; I thought I had shot that croaking devil yesterday."

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham finishes his season at the New Theatre this evening, when *Bellamy the Magnificent* will reach the last of its present run. To-morrow (Sunday) evening will find Sir Charles at the festive board of the Actors' Benevolent Fund, where his speech on the Drama will be eagerly awaited. The actor-knight will then take a short holiday, but the call of charity will bring him back to town on Friday, when the matinée of *Mrs. Gorringe's Necklace* will be given at the Criterion in aid of the London Poor Children's Boot Fund.

Sir Squire Bancroft will continue his generously conceived readings of Charles Dickens's "Christmas Carol" this winter, with a view to completing the sum of £20,000 as his gift, by this means, to various hospitals in town and country. The readings will be final in the provincial cities and towns.

Mr. George Alexander contributed to the Queen's Birthday festivities on the 4th inst., when, in obedience to the King's command, he presented Mr. Alfred Sutro's latest play *The Builder of Bridges* in the Ball-room at Sandringham. The cast supporting the distinguished actor-manager consisted of Mr. Dawson Milward, Mr. E. Harcourt Williams, Mr. William Farren, Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Florence Haydon, Miss Barbara Hannay, and Miss Dora Sevening. Mr. Charles T. H. Helmsley fulfilled the duties of manager and Mr. E. Vivian Reynolds those of stage-manager.

The company travelled by ordinary train from St. Pancras, arriving shortly after three o'clock at Wolferton, where they were met by carriages sent at the King's special request. In addition to their Majesties, those present at the representation included King Haakon and Queen Maud, the Prince and Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria, and many other notabilities. At the conclusion of the performance the leading actors and actresses were received and thanked by the King and Queen. Supper was subsequently served, and the company left Sandringham about two o'clock in the morning for London.

The adjourned meeting to consider the proposal to establish a Dramatic Authors' Society was held at the Criterion on Thursday afternoon, and was attended by eminent authors. Mr. A. W. Pinero occupied the chair, and submitted a resolution to the effect that, in view of the difficulty of establishing a separate society, with its attendant office and other expenses, the dramatists should accept the offer of the Authors' Society, and be incorporated as a sub-section of that literary association. Mr. Zangwill and Mr. Aplin opposed the resolution.

Mr. Sydney Grundy created a diversion by relating some amusing anecdotes of the lethargy displayed by playwrights thirty years ago, when they let their old society die for want of energy to keep it alive. Furthermore, Mr. Arthur Shirley declared that not one English dramatist in ten yet knew that an Association of his confrères was seriously contemplated to-day.

Mr. Cecil Raleigh made a strong appeal to those present to accept the proposition before them, and further explanations were given by the chairman, as well as by Mr. Alfred Sutro and Mr. Comyns Carr (both of the provisional committee). Ultimately Mr. Zangwill agreed to withdraw his well-reasoned amendment against amalgamation, and in favour of independent existence, and the original resolution was put and declared to be carried.

Mr. John Brabourne, who had been appearing with success as Montague Moesenstein in *The Antelope* at the Waldorf Theatre, died, we regret to state, at six a.m. on Thursday of pneumonia. Mr. Brabourne will be remembered as having been some few months since successful in an action with Mr. Fred Karno, Mr. Brabourne having declined to appear twice nightly. He had only been absent from the cast of *The Antelope* for three nights, and his sudden death was quite unexpected.

Miss Evelyn Millard, who began her career as a manageress so auspiciously at the Garrick, has secured a lease of the Criterion, whither she will transfer *Idols* on Feb. 1. The charming manageress has engaged strong support for her revival of *The Adventure of Lady Ursula*, for a series of matinées at the Garrick, commencing on Jan. 5. Miss Millard will resume her original rôle of Lady Ursula, and in the cast will also be found Miss Dora Barton, Mr. Charles Fulton, Mr. Arthur Wontner, and Mr. Herbert Waring. A welcome inclusion in the company will be Miss Dolores Drummond, who, having announced her retirement after a fifty years' service to the stage, will happily return to take up her old part of Mrs. Fenton.

The Green Room Club dinner on Sunday was a purely social gathering, and the speeches were few and brief. Sir Squire Bancroft spoke a few heartfelt words in praise and recommendation of the Club, and Mr. George Alexander, in proposing Sir Squire's health, alluded to a letter which he (Mr. Alexander) had received from him many years ago saying that Mr. Bancroft could not give him an engagement. Amongst those present were Mr. E. S. Willard, Mr. Robert Pateman, Mr. Lionel Rignold, Mr. F. M. Paget, Mr. Beveridge, Mr. Frank Desprez, and other well-known members of the Green Room Club. The entertainment after dinner was supplied by Mr. Stuart Baynes, Mr. Louis Bradfield, Mr. Tom Browne, Mr. Tom Clare, Mr. Herbert Clayton, Mr. Cyril Clansy, Mr. Franklin Clive, Mr. Sidney Faulks, Mr. Percy French, Mr. Reginald Groome, Mr. Walter Hyde, Mr. Reginald Kenneth, Mr. Alfred Lester, Mr. Whitworth Mitton, Mr. Frederic Norton, Mr. Lance Thackeray, and Mr. E. Vallein; and an "alleged play," entitled *The Only Way In; or, The Rival Shows*, was performed, and created amusement.

Mr. George Edwardes will inaugurate two important ventures in the provinces in Christmas week. The first will be that of *A Waltz Dream*, which will start an extended tour at the King's, Glasgow, on the 21st inst. The other production is that of *The Dollar Princess*, which will be staged at the Prince's Manchester, on Christmas Eve. The cast of *A Waltz Dream* will consist of Miss May de Sousa, Mr. Robert Evett, Mr. Leslie Holland, Mr. Eric Thorne, Mr. J. Hamilton, Mr. Langford Kirby, Mr. Albert Kavanagh, Miss Ethel Cadman, Miss May Martin, Miss Amy Augarde, and Miss Peggy Lorraine.

Mr. James Blakeley, who was married on the 29th ult. in New York City to Miss Grace Riopelle, is the son of the late William Blakeley. He is thirty-five years of age, and has made an enviable reputation in Mr. George Edwardes's famous productions at Daly's.

Miss Eva Moore will play the part of Mrs. Errol ("Dearest") in Miss Mouillot's production, by arrangement with Mr. Will Dennis, of *Little Lord Fauntleroy* at the Court Theatre on Boxing Day. The title-rôle will be played by Master Lenton Murray, who appeared with Miss Pauline Chase in the Paris production of *Pantaloon*. The remainder of the cast will comprise Mr. Will Dennis, Mr. George Canninge, Mr. T. N. Walter, Mr. Norman Clifton, Mr. William Lockhart, and Miss Mary Brough.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree will make a most artistic contribution to the Christmas novelties with *Pinkie and the Fairies*, which he produces at His Majesty's on Saturday next. Miss Ellen Terry will represent Aunt Imogen, and another aunt, called Caroline, will be impersonated by Miss Augusta Haviland. Miss Viola Tree will be the Sleeping Beauty, Miss Marie Lohr will have the part of Cinderella, and to Miss Iris Hawkins falls the rôle of Pinkie. Mr. Fred Volpe will be seen as the uncle, and Master Philip Tonge will be the boy Tom.

The first scene will be the dwelling of the aunts and uncle, a residence on the edge of a wood, and the second will be Fairyland, with a throne under a pond. The fairy inhabitants are only visible to children and sweethearts, and this fact brings about some diverting situations. For the "repetition generale" which will be given on Friday afternoon, invitations are issued by Mr. Tree's younger daughters, Iris and Felicity. Every seat in the house, however, will be paid for, the charge for admission for every person being one penny, whether seated in the gallery or the stalls. Even the critics will have to pay. The money thus obtained will be devoted to charity.

Mr. George Edwardes has added to the fascinations of *The Merry Widow*, which is now brightened with new numbers, while old favourites have returned to the cast. Mr. Joseph Coyne, just home from triumphs in his native America, was welcomed back to Daly's amid the greatest enthusiasm on Saturday. Mr. W. H. Berry also returns to his old part of Nisch, the Embassy messenger, and has a new song called "What Every Woman Knows." There is a new number, too, for Miss Gabrielle Ray, "I'm such an innocent thing," which carries with it a captivating dance. Miss Lily Elsie's charm in the title-rôle is irresistible as ever.

Mr. Arthur Bourchier delivered his lecture, "William Shakspere, Maker of Men," at the Bristol Museum on Tuesday. The lecture, which was under the auspices of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, drew a large attendance, who were thoroughly interested in the scholarly address. On the motion of Canon Tetley, seconded by Mr. J. M. Chute, a hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Bourchier, who in reply said that Bristol was almost a theatrical island; for they found in Mr. Chute one man with all the traditions of the stage, and, next to Covent Garden and Drury Lane, it had the finest traditions of the British stage. Many delightful men had gone under in other cities through the demon syndicate, but there Mr. Chute was the lessee and manager. When the British Empire Society established its branch in Bristol and got such a president as it had, the stage itself was a very great gainer.

Miss Mabel Love finishes her tour with Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison's *Lady Frederick* company this evening at the New Theatre, Cardiff. The tour has been a succession of triumphs for the company, the acting of Miss Love and her supporters and the elaborate mounting combining to make the production of first-class importance.

The Actresses' Suffrage League holds its first "At Home" in the Grand Hall of the Criterion Restaurant on Thursday afternoon from 4.30 to 6.30 p.m., when all members of the profession and their friends are invited to attend. The speakers will include Miss Evelyn Sharp, Mrs. Lucette Ryley, and Miss Cicely Hamilton. Mrs. Kendal has kindly consented to be President of the League, and Miss Gertrude Elliott, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, and Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley to be Vice-Presidents. Among those already enrolled are Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Compton, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Decima Moore, Miss Mouillot, Miss Cicely Hamilton, Miss Tita Brand, and Miss Edith Craig. The hon. secretary, whose address is 19, Overstrand-mansions, Battersea-park, S.W., will be glad to hear from any ladies who wish to become members.

Mr. Charles Hawtrey underwent an operation for appendicitis at Helena House, Manchester-street, W., on Sunday. We are glad to learn that the latest report is that the patient is progressing satisfactorily.

Miss Julia Neilson, we rejoice to learn, has completely recovered from her lengthy indisposition due to overwork, and will make a welcome reappearance with Mr. Fred Terry at the New Theatre on Jan. 7 as Marguerite de Valois in *Henry of Navarre*, which will then have its London production. Mr. Fred Terry had an enthusiastic ovation at the concluding performance at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth, on Saturday in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. In answer to a demand for a speech Mr. Terry said he thanked the audience on behalf of the members of his company and himself for the royal welcome they had given him that night, and, in fact, every night during their stay. It helped them so much in their work. It was always a real pleasure to appear in their beautiful theatre and renew acquaintance with dear friends. It touched him deeply.

The Camden will be in the active list this Christmas, Mr. Walter Gibbons having decided to put on a pantomime The subject will be *Blue Beard*, which will be produced on Boxing morning, under th edirection of Mr. C. St. John Denton and Mr. Peter Davey. The very strong cast will include Mr. Ben. Albert, Mr. Ernest Rees, Ferguson and Mack, Mr. Harold Carson, Miss Addie Leonard, Miss Jose Collins, Miss Lottie Sergeant, and many others. A particularly smart piece of work in connection with the production was accomplished by Mr. Denton, who only settled to produce the pantomime on Tuesday, and by Thursday had the daybill complete.

Bold advertisement was obtained by means of an ingenious ruse by the *Man to Man* company, which is playing at the Theatre Royal, Exeter, this week. A boy was sent to the telegraph office with a message to the effect that a man in convict's clothes had been arrested at a neighbouring village, and asking that a motor-car should be despatched for his conveyance to Exeter gaol. A motor-car was sent to the place indicated, where a "convict" and a "warder" were awaiting it, but on reaching the city it was found the pair were only a couple of amateur actors carefully made up to represent the parts allotted them. The effect of the ruse was accentuated by the fact that the "news" was got hold of by the local newspaper, which celebrated it by the issue of a special "stop press" edition.

Miss Olga Nethersole sailed on Saturday by the Lusitania for the States. She commences her ninth American tour in Washington on Jan 11.

Miss Marie Dressler, the American comedienne, will start her season at the Aldwych early in the New Year. Her first production will be a new musical comedy, called *Little Mena*, in which she will appear as the grown-up *enfant terrible* of the family. The piece is written by two American authors, who have already supplied Miss Dressler with most of her successes at Weber and Field's in America. The comedy, which is in two acts, the scene being laid in Switzerland and Paris respectively, will fulfil the functions of a revue, for it is intended that a burlesque of every popular performance in town shall be successively interpolated in the play.

Mr. Oswald Stoll, who conceived the idea of reviving Cellier's comic opera *Dorothy* with such happy results, has decided that the present tour shall finish where it began, so that next week will see *Dorothy* back again at the Broadway Theatre. The cast will be the same as on the occasion of its revival, and will include Mr. C. Hayden Coffin as Harry Sherwood, Mr. John Coates as Geoffrey Wilder, Mr. Arthur Williams as Lurcher, and Miss Ruth Davenport as Dorothy. The company has played to capacity houses right round its tour, and Birmingham, Liverpool, Newcastle, Glasgow (two weeks), Edinburgh, Dublin, &c., have all testified their approbation of the management's enterprise in promoting one of the most successful revivals of modern days.

Miss Irene Vanbrugh, looking very charming after her appearance before the King and Queen at Sandringham a day or two before, was a guest at the wedding on Monday of Miss Cicely Horner and the Hon. George Lambton, brother of the Earl of Durham, at St. Mark's, North Audley Street.

Rehearsals are now in progress for the season of Grand Opera in English which begins at Covent Garden on Jan. 16 next. Three cycles of *The Ring of the Nibelungs* and three performances of *The Mastersingers* will be given, both without cuts. The répertoire will also include Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*, Gounod's *Faust*, and the new prize opera *The Angelus*. Madame Donalda, the Canadian prima donna, has been engaged to appear as Marguerite in *Faust* and other rôles of her répertoire during the season, which is to last a month.

Dr. Hans Richter and Mr. Percy Pitt are now superintending the rehearsals, and the chorus of ninety, coached by Mr. Emil Kreuz, include many well-known young singers who have appeared with success on our concert platforms but who will make their first appearance in grand opera during the coming season. The orchestra, which has been augmented to 100 players, will be practically the same as in the grand season. The demand for seats has been so great that practically all the amphitheatre and balcony stalls are already sold for the three series of special performances. In order, however, to meet with the wishes of the public, the gallery will be numbered and reserved for these performances.

Among the list of artists engaged by Mr. Neil Forsyth for the forthcoming Royal Opera Season at Covent Garden no less than four are ex-students of the Guildhall School of Music, namely, Miss Marie Alexander, a pupil of Mr. Neill O'Donovan (who afterwards had a lengthened engagement with one of the touring opera companies), Miss Edith Clegg, who was a pupil of Mr. Hermann Klein, Miss Maria Yelland, who was for a short time a pupil of Mr. Frederick Birch, and Mr. D. Byndon-Ayres, who studied for a considerable time under Mme. Medora Henson. There are, moreover, among the chorus a numerous band hailing from the great City school.

Mr. Hugh Fleming was given a farewell supper party at the Waldorf Hotel on Tuesday last by Baron Harriss, of the *Prince of Pilsen* company. In his rush to Euston to catch the midnight express to Glasgow, where he starts proceedings as advance director for Mr. Wilfrid Cotton's *Butterflies* company, Mr. Fleming was involved in a cab collision, which landed him in his native city next morning with a fractured arm and a nasty scalp wound.

Mr. C. St. John Denton has secured for Messrs. Denton, Bode, and McKenzie, Ltd., the Australasian rights of *Sergeant Brue* and *The Belle of Brittany*. They are also producing the pantomime *Cinderella* on a lavish scale at the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, with Mr. Edwin Brett and Mr. W. Cromwell as Baroness and Baron, Miss Ruth Lincoln as Cinderella, and Miss Meredith Meredro, who was at Drury Lane last year, as the Prince. Messrs. Denton, Bode, and McKenzie, Ltd., are working in Australia in conjunction with Messrs. Meynell and Gunn in musical comedy and pantomime.

Early in the year Miss Jessie Winter was the victim of a severe attack of neuritis, and upon her recovery was ordered absolute rest, and forbidden to accept any engagements for at least six months. She has now completely recovered, and is playing the title-rôle in Mr. Louis Calvert's *Sunday* company.

At the Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth, this evening Messrs. Armitage and Leigh conclude a successful tour of *Leah Kleschna*, and reopen at the Grand Theatre, Nelson, on the 23rd inst. A strong cast includes Mr. William Clayton, Mr. Arthur Leigh, Mr. Chas. Barrett, and Miss Bessie Rignold. Mr. Powell James will again be the business-manager.

Mr. Arthur E. Holland will to-night relinquish the part of Jack Herne, the cripple, in Mr. Wilson Benge's *Eve of Her Wedding* company. This is Mr. Holland's third tour in the same rôle, of which he will have completed 394 performances. He is engaged by Mr. Wentworth Croke for the Factor in his Christmas production of *The Prodigal Son*.

Mme. Helen Townshend's pupils are again well to the fore this Christmas, engagements having been secured for them at the King's, Hammersmith; Broadway, New Cross; Gateshead; Manchester; Dublin; the Borough, Stratford; &c. Her clever little protégée, Hanid Alexander, plays principal girl at the Broadway, New Cross, after which she has engagements extending over a long period at the Syndicate halls.

All the Hutchison Tours—including those of Mrs. Brown Potter, Decima Moore, and Mabel Love, in *Lady Frederick*, *Mrs. Dot*, *Peter's Mother*, and *Mrs. Ponderbury's Past*—finish this week, after playing to phenomenal business throughout the country. The tours all start again at Christmas, with the addition of the Garrick Theatre success *Idols*, upon the production of which Mr. Hutchison is now busily engaged. Still another new play will be sent out by this indefatigable firm at the end of January.

A meeting of the committee of the Managers' Club was held on Friday, the 4th inst., when there were present Messrs. M. V. Leveaux (in the chair), E. Graham Falcon, C. Carey, F. Weathersby, G. B. Lambert, J. Bannister Howard, W. Muskerry-Tilson, hon. solicitor, and M. Martin, secretary. It was decided to close the club on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Mr. John Butson, Mr. Vivian W. B. Vivian, and Mr. Frederick J. Reece were elected members.

The committee of the Touring Managers' Association, Ltd., met at the Managers' Club, Savoy Mansions, Strand, on the 4th inst. Present: Mr. E. Graham Falcon (in the chair), Mr. Leveaux, Mr. Lambert, Mr. Bertram, Mr. Norman, Mr. Weathersby, Mr. Bannister Howard, and Mr. Martin, secretary. The half-yearly general meeting was fixed to take place on Monday, Dec. 21, at 1 p.m. The secretary was instructed to obtain from the Lord Chamberlain information as to what the new clause introduced into theatrical licences refers. A letter with reference to cinematograph performances given under dangerous circumstances was read, and it was decided to ask the Resident Managers to appoint a committee to co-operate with that of the T.M.A. committee in the matter.

Mr. William Mollison concludes a most successful autumn tour at the Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne, to-night. The principal theatres in the British isles have been visited, and excellent business and great enthusiasm have prevailed. After a well-earned month's rest, Mr. Mollison will commence his spring tour in January at Aberdeen, where he will appear for a fortnight. The first week he will give his well-known production of *Rob Roy*, for which he has again engaged the great tenor Mr. Ben Davies for the part of Francis Osbaldistone. Subsequently he will resume his Shakespearean répertoire and tour up to June. Mr. Mollison then contemplates a London season with a new play, of which great things are expected.

Mr. Percy Hutchison finishes at Kennington to-night the most successful tour ever run by the Hutchison management, *Brewster's Millions* beating the records of thirty-eight plays in every town visited. Many prominent authors, managers, and other leading lights of the theatrical world have journeyed to Kennington to see Mr. Percy Hutchison's wonderful production, in which Mr. Hutchison is responsible for the title-rôle. Amongst those who have visited the charming South London theatre have been Sir Charles and Lady Wyndham, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Bishop, Mrs. George Spencer Bower, Miss Ruth Mackay, Mr. Fred Mouillot, Mr. Edward Michael, Judge Parry, Mr. C. B. Vaughan, Mr. Howard Wyndham, Mr. C. T. H. Helmsley, Mr. Henry Neville, Mr. Henry Arthur Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Otho Stuart, Mr. W. Lestocq, Mr and Mrs. Arthur Law, and Messrs. Roy Horniman, Oscar Asche, Frank Curzon, Tom B. Davis, J. L. Mackay, Louis Calvert, William Devereux, and C. W. Somerset.

No little excitement has been caused this week at Kennington Theatre by the new effects imported into the production of *Brewster's Millions*, which have been personally superintended by the inventor, Mr. Joseph Menchen. It was the first time the novelties had been used in England, and Mr. Hutchison has arranged to carry them all on his coming spring tour, which opens on Boxing Day at Hastings, and is booked right into 1910.

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Homewood (Miss Joan Blair), who have recently been touring in New Zealand and Australia, are due home a few days before Christmas. They had a most delightful tour of ten months, which was brought to an abrupt conclusion by the lamented sudden death of Mr. Herbert Flemming. Having already visited South Africa and the United States and Canada many times, Mr. Homewood in a letter to us "wonders what part of the world he will see next."

Mr. Eric Fielding-Smith, the genial and popular acting-manager of the Harrogate Opera House, has been seriously ill lately. We are glad to say that he is now well on the way to recovery, and will very soon be back at work.

Miss Isabel Jay will open to-day at the Waldorf Hotel a show of dolls sent by readers of *Woman's Life* for Christmas distribution in the slums.

Mr. Frederick Mouillot, of the Theatre Royal, Dublin, the Grand Theatre, Southampton, and other important enterprises, has accepted a seat on the board of directors of Electric Theatres (1908), Ltd.

Miss Ethel van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty terminate to-night at the Lyric, Hammersmith, the third tour of *An Unwedded Wife*. This successful play has had a continuous run for two years and a half.

Messrs. E. D. and J. Maundy-Gregory will revive the famous comedy opera *Dorothy* on Monday, Dec. 21, at the New Theatre, with Mr. C. Hayden Coffin and Mr. Arthur Williams in their original parts of Harry Sherwood and Lurcher. The title-rôle will be played by Miss Constance Drever, and Miss Louie Pounds will be Lydia Hawthorn, and Mr. John Bardsley, Geoffrey Wilder. The cast will be completed by Mr. Lempriere Pringle, Mr. Vigay, Mr. Strathmore, Miss Coralie Blythe, Miss Betty Hardress, and Miss Emily Spiller. The West End production, it should be stated, has no connection with the provincial tour. Arrangements have been made by Mr. Maundy-Gregory, by which the piece can be transferred from the New Theatre to another house, when Mr. Fred Terry takes possession of the New. Mr. Maundy-Gregory tells us that he has other productions in contemplation.

Mr. E. W. Thomas is retained by Mr. Augustus Bingham to continue his performances of Curtis Bedford in *Raffles* on tour, starting January 4.

Mr. Leonard Robson, who has concluded a long engagement with Mr. Lewis Waller as general-manager and producer, has been engaged by Mr. Richard Flanagan to produce *Antony and Cleopatra* at the Queen's, Manchester.

Miss Sophie Lingwood brings to a close this evening a tour with Mr. Edward Terry lasting over seventeen weeks. In the comedy parts of *Fiander's Widow*, *Liberty Hall*, and *Sweet Lavender*, Miss Lingwood has ministered to the gaiety of myriads of playgoers in the provinces.

A pleasant surprise awaited Mr. F. R. Gwyn-Richardson, general-manager of *The Breed of the Treshams* company, at the Theatre Royal, Bath, on Saturday night. At the fall of the curtain the members of the company presented him with a handsome case of pipes, suitably inscribed.

Mr. Mayor-Cooke, who this week terminates a two-years-and-a-half association with Mr. Walter Howard's Lyceum successes, as Prince Ulric in *Her Love Against the World* and as Capt. Rudolph in *The Midnight Wedding*, has been engaged by Messrs. George Conquest and F. Bateman for the part of "The Demon" in their forthcoming production of *The Crimes of Paris*.

Miss Madge Metcalfe (Mrs. Arthur Jefferson), wife of the manager of the Metropole, Glasgow, died on the 1st inst., and was buried at Cathcart Cemetery, Glasgow, on the 4th. Many theatrical friends in the district were present on the sad occasion, and handsome wreaths were sent by numerous sympathisers, including an exquisite floral token from the Metropole staff. The deceased lady took great interest in the staging of the plays at the Metropole, and will be much missed by a wide circle of friends.

Mrs. Berkeley Douglas's clever pupil, Miss Mary Hope, recited at a concert at the Salle Erard, on Dec. 5, given by an ex-pupil, Madame Emelie Spalding, vocalist, with great success, being recalled after each recitation, and complimented at the close of the concert.

Ten little maidens tripped into Marlborough-street Police-court on Wednesday in order to obtain the licences necessary for their appearance in Mr. Beerbohm Tree's Christmas production of *Pinkie and the Fairies* at His Majesty's. In making application for the licences, Mr. Langton stated that Mr. Tree had set apart a large dressing-room at the theatre as a playroom for the children, and that they would be under the charge of a matron. Arrangements had been made for their education and their meals. Their parents would see them to and from the theatre, and an electrobus had been engaged for their conveyance. Mr. Denman, in granting the licences, said that the children were going to be treated so like princesses and fairies that there seemed to be no objection to granting them.

Miss Ethel van Praagh and Mr. J. Edward Whitty will start a tour with Mr. Charles Darrell's thrilling play *The Eyes of the World* at the Prince of Wales's Theatre, Grimsby, on the 21st inst.

While Miss Dorrie Roberts—who has been starring as Shirley Rossmore, "the mouse" in *The Lion and the Mouse*—was playing at Wolverhampton last week her performance was witnessed by Mr. Geo. D. Day, who was so pleased with her rendering of the part that he not only congratulated her, but engaged her the same evening to play Thora and Elin in his No. 1 company of *The Prodigal Son*, starting Boxing Day.

Mr. Charles Grattan, the popular advance manager, who was associated with Mr. George Alexander's provincial companies and personal tours for some considerable time, commences his fourth tour under Mr. Edward Compton's management on Boxing Day at the Theatre Royal, Leamington.

Miss Millie Legarde took up the rôle of Denise, vacated by Miss Lily Iris, in *The Belle of Brittany* at the Queen's on Monday. Several new numbers have been added, notably a love song for Mr. George Graves, which is one of the quaintest efforts of this versatile comedian, who keeps the audience convulsed with laughter.

"Peter Pan" will inaugurate its fifth consecutive season at the Duke of York's on Wednesday, the 23rd inst., with Miss Pauline Chase again in the title-rôle. Mr. Robb Harwood will be the Jas. Hook, Mr. Darling will be in the care of Mr. Reginald Owen, Miss Sybil Carlisle will be the Mrs. Darling, and the remainder of the principals will be represented by Miss Gertrude Laing, Master Herbert Hollom, Master George Hersee, Mr. Edward Sillward, Miss Jane Wren, Miss Dorothy Minto, Miss Nellie Bowman, Mr. A. W. Baskcomb, Miss Irene Clarke, Miss May Kinder, Miss Ivy Knight, Mr. George Shelton, and Mr. Charles Trevor. Miss Tessie Parke will be Liza, "the author of the play."

Miss May Dallas (Mrs. Henry Hargreaves), who, with her husband has recently returned from a tour abroad, played Nina in *His House in Order* at the Opera House, Burnley, and the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield, during the absence from the cast of Miss Kitty Cavendish. Miss Dallas was highly successful in the part, and was heartily congratulated by the management.

Mr. Leonard Williams, who has been playing the leading part of Harry Wilding in Mr. T. Edward Ward's *Second to None* company, has been re engaged for the same rôle during the forthcoming spring tour, which commences on the 21st inst. Mr. Williams will thus reach his third engagement under Mr. Ward's management.

Miss Nellie Norway, silver hand-bell soloist, made a most successful début on the concert platform at the annual concert of the staff of the Royal Courts of Justice at the Portman Rooms on Wednesday. Miss Norway was applauded to the echo and encored by the company, who filled the hall, under the chairmanship of the Hon. Mr. Justice Bargrave Deane.

The first of a series of flying matinées at the Royal County Theatre, Kingston-on-Thames, took place on Tuesday, when the bill of fare was provided by Mr. Cyril Maude and the Playhouse company in *Toddles*. The cosy little theatre was filled to the doors, and the play was enthusiastically received. Mr. Cyril Maude appeared in the title-rôle, which he invested with its accustomed charm, and he was ably assisted by Miss Helen Ferrers (Lady Dover), Miss Emma Chambers (Mrs. Joblyn), Miss Mabel Trevor (Mrs. Bowler), Miss Rosalie Toller (Constance Joblyn), Mr. Allen Thomas (Mr. Joblyn), and others.

Mr. Harrison Brockbank, whose absence from musical comedy has been altogether too long, is engaged to take up the part of Widgery Blake in *Butterflies*, which commences a tour at Christmas. Miss Ada Reeve will also resume the lead on the termination of her pantomime engagement at the Liverpool Shakespeare.

Rosie is the pet foxhound of the pack which graces the revival of *Dorothy*. Her first appearance on the production of the famous opera at the Broadway in September last was evidently not regarded as a success by Rosie, who took it so much to heart that she absconded from the company after treasury on Saturday night, and went for a swim in the Thames instead of going to Glasgow. She was discovered by the Thames police at midnight, after Mr. Bertram Iles, the manager, had sent scouts in every direction. Rosie has, however, got over her stage fright now, and plays her part in the famous hunting scene as if to the manner born.

Mr. Arthur Vezin finishes his autumn engagement under Mr. Gaston Mayer's management, with whom he has been playing his original part of Billy, in *Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch*, to-day (Saturday).

Mr. Harry W. Lumley has been engaged to manage Miss Marie Studholme's tour, on conclusion of the provincial season of the Vedrenne-Barker performances.

Mr. A. B. Imeson, who has just finished playing "lead" in Mr. Chas. Frohman's *Hypocrites* company, has been engaged by Mr. Percy Hutchison to play Gerard Merriam in *Idols*, and to produce the play for him.

Something of a dramatic record must surely be in process of accomplishment this week by Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore, who is playing five different parts at four West End theatres, making the unusual total of eighteen performances in one week. In addition to eight representations at the Playhouse as the Vice-Admiral in *The Flag Lieutenant*, Mr. Holmes-Gore appeared at the Court Theatre on Sunday and Monday in *Isaac's Wife*, while on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday his day was mapped out as follows:—2.45, George Goodwin in *Emily* at the Afternoon Theatre; 3.30, King Conchubar in *Deidre* with Mrs. Patrick Campbell; 5.0, Ægisthus in *Electra*; 8.0, Sir Berkeley Wynne in *The Flag Lieutenant*.

Miss Violet Ley will again star under the Hutchison management in the forthcoming Christmas and spring tour of *Peter's Mother*, which commences on Dec. 21 at the T. R., Portsmouth. This will constitute Miss Ley's fourth tour in the part.

Miss Katherine Harrington, at present playing Joanna Rushworth in *The Beloved Vagabond*, has been engaged by Mr. Stanley James to play Mrs. Forster in his spring tour of *Her Father*.

The Actresses' League for Women's Suffrage made a successful début at the weekly reception of the London Society on Tuesday afternoon in the Doré Gallery. Among those present were Mrs. Kendal, Mrs. Forbes-Robertson, Miss Decima Moore, and Miss Winifred Mayo.

An interesting football match was provided at the Grove, Hanwell, on Sunday, when the League fixture, in which the Fulham and Gaiety Theatre, Strand, were opposed, was decided. A goal was scored in the first few minutes by the former team; but it proved their only success, for the Gaiety, playing perfectly throughout, proved victorious by six goals to one. This places the winning team amongst the leaders for the cup, the final of which will be an interesting event.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Pagets and the Keans.

"IT may be interesting to our readers," says the *Windsor Gazette*, "to learn why His Majesty the King has so honoured Mr. and Mrs. Paget, who have taken up their residence at Windsor, at Eversleigh, Frances-road, with his gracious sympathy in Mrs. Paget's recent illness. Mrs. Paget was the adopted niece of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean, and went round the world with them acting Ophelia in *Hamlet*, the Dauphin in *Louis XI.*, &c. Windsor and Eton are associated with the lives of these notable people, for Mr. Charles Kean was an Etonian at the same time that Mr. Gladstone and other celebrities were at the College, and years after was the recipient of the honour of a great banquet given by Etonians in London, when he was presented by them with a magnificent service of silver in recognition of his services to Art, and the regeneration and improvement of the stage.

Kean Relics.

"AT the sale of the Kean relics at Christie's and at Sotheby's, which included presents from Lord Byron and other notable people to Edmund Kean, was a set of beautiful water-colour paintings of the elaborate scenery and properties used in the great Kean's Shakespearean revivals at the Princess's Theatre, painted by Grieve, Telbin, and others. These were secured at the Kean sale by Mr. and Mrs. Paget, and presented by them in 1902 as a gift to the nation, to the South Kensington Museum, where they may be seen now as 'The Charles Kean Collection.' The object in making this handsome gift was that they might be a source of instruction and reference to future generations of actor-managers and students. Sir Henry Irving admitted to Mr. Paget, when viewing these beautiful works: 'I have done nothing like this, and every detail is archæologically and heraldically correct. I am endeavouring to continue the great work that Mr. Kean established.'

The Queen and Mrs. Paget.

"MRS. PAGET'S uncle was also the Royal stage-director at Windsor Castle, when it was the custom for the Sovereign to select the play, and the play to be cast to all the leading actors of the day selected by Mr. Charles Kean from the various theatres, a much more difficult and trying procedure than the present system of bringing companies complete from a single theatre. At the death of Mr. Kean, our beloved late Queen Victoria wrote a letter of condolence to Mrs. Kean, which has also been presented and is exhibited at the South Kensington Museum. It ran as follows:—'Osborne, January 24, 1868. Dear Mrs. Kean,—I cannot refrain from expressing to you personally my deep and sincere sympathy in your overwhelming affliction, as I know from sad experience how to appreciate the loss of a beloved Husband who was the *object* of your existence. Life is a blank after such a loss, and the sunshine of it is *for ever* gone! I recall most vividly to my mind the many hours of great intellectual enjoyment which your lamented and talented Husband (who did so much for his Profession) and you afforded to my dear Husband and myself in bygone happy days! They will never be forgotten, and I shall dwell with melancholy pleasure on the recollection of them. That you may find comfort in your dear child, and that God may give you strength and resignation to bear this heavy blow is my earnest prayer.—Ever yours sincerely, Victoria R.'"

Dickens and the Drama.

MR. PERCY FITZGERALD sends us the following interesting reminiscence of Charles Dickens:—"There was an old melodrama of which Dickens was fond of talking—*The Miller and His Men*. He dwelt on it with an affectionate interest. We knew it by heart, every word of it; he had got it up at school, so had we. Mr. John Hollingshead, at the Gaiety, conceived the idea of refuting the notion that all the old plays were good by reproducing them. These exhibitions 'Jack' advertised regularly as 'Palmy-day revivals,' an allusion to the constantly-quoted 'palmy days of the British drama,' supposed to be gone for ever. He wished to convince his playgoers that they were but poor things. With this view he dug up all kinds of venerable comedies and dramas—*George Barnwell*, *Venice Preserved*, *The Gamester*, and the like.

"ONE day while the facetious 'Jack' was indulging in these freaks, I received a joyous letter from Boz something to this effect: 'What do you think? Hollingshead is putting up our good old friend *The Miller and His Men!* We positively *must* see it. Fix your own night,' &c. 'Come!' Need I say that I was as pleased as he was? In his enthusiastic fashion he looked on the resurrection as something quite providential. It was to be a regular 'night out.' But first—for he was ever hospitable, and thought everything incomplete without *his* hospitality—there must be the prefatory dinner. The good old Albion, then facing Drury Lane Theatre, was to be the place. How appropriate he though this tavern for the primitive play! And so we repaired to the Albion in the greatest spirits. Alas! the disillusion worked slowly and surely. The whole was stupid, dull, and heavy to a degree, so at last, about the second act, Boz arose slowly and sadly, and said he could stand it no longer. I really think he was grieved at having his old idol shattered, and perhaps was mortified.

"WHEN he was at the Wellington House Academy I find he got up this very *Miller and His Men* in a sort of toy theatre. His fellow pupil, Dr. Danson, tells us how it was given in a very gorgeous form. 'Master Beverley constructed the mill for us in such a way that it could tumble to pieces with the assistance of crackers. At one performance the explosion conected with the blowing up of the mill was so loud that the police came knocking at the door.' So, forty years later, when the magic name was mentioned these little scenes came back to him—his old school, the mill, his fellow-actors, his management, the explosion—and now here am I, after fifty years more, recalling the talk with him."

THE AFTERNOON THEATRE.

On Tuesday, Dec. 8, the Dream Poem, by Gerhart Hauptmann, translated by William Archer, entitled

"HANNELE."

Tulpe ..... MISS CLARE GREET
Hedwig (Hete) ..... MISS MURIEL ALEXANDER
Pleschke ..... MR. NORMAN PAGE
Hanke ..... MR. HALLIWELL HOBBES
Gottwald / The Stranger ..... MR. HENRY AINLEY
Hannele ..... MISS MARIE LÖHR
Seidel ..... MR. ROBERT ATKINS
Schmidt ..... MR. CYRIL SWORDER
Berger ..... MR. CHARLES QUARTERMAINE
Dr. Wachler ..... MR. J. FISHER WHITE
Sister Martha / Hannele's Mother ..... MISS MARIE LINDEN
Mattern ..... MR. EDWARD SASS
Angels of Light .. MISS ELIZABETH VALENTINE / ..... MISS ISABEL MERSON / ..... MISS SYLVIA BUCKLEY
The Angel of Death .... MR. HUGH B. TABBERER
The Village Tailor ..... MR. COMPTON COUTTS

The Afternoon Theatre opened on Tuesday with complete success. This translation from Hauptmann was fully noticed by us on its production by the Play-Actors' Society at the Scala Theatre, on April 12 last; and there is little to add to our praise of Mr. William Archer's scholarly, poetical, and appreciative version of Hauptmann's drama. We need hardly remind our readers that the heroine is the stepdaughter of a mason named Mattern, whose brutality has driven her to attempt to drown herself. She is rescued by a forester from a mill-pool, and is brought into the Pauper Refuge of a Silesian village by the schoolmaster of the place. Hannele sinks into a feverish sleep, and in her dreams sees her father, who with threats compels her to get up to light the fire. The nun who is nursing her induces the girl to go back to bed, when she has another dream, in the course of which her dead mother appears and gives her a flower, by means of which Hannele is to gain entry into Heaven. The fever deepens, and in the next scene, which is almost wholly devoted to the dream, Death is seated at the head of her bed. A white nun enters and bids her prepare to go, and when Hannele points to her tattered garments, the sister tells her that the Lord will clothe her. A village tailor arrives, arrays her in a silken robe and crystal shoes, and places a wreath on her head. Death stalks grimly across the stage and raises his sword. He brings it down, and Hannele dies. The neighbours come in, and marvel at the bridal array of the corpse. Mattern enters, and orders them out of the house. The Schoolmaster, who has now assumed the semblance of the Saviour, endeavours in vain to soften Mattern's heart. The brutal mason is about to strike the corpse, when a light appears on the breast of the body, and he rushes off in terror. The Stranger appears in a robe of gold, and bids Hannele ascend with Him to Heaven. When the dream is over we again see the girl on her bed with the doctor and the nurse, the former pronouncing, after examination, that life is extinct.

It is difficult to imagine a more touching and beautiful embodiment of Hannele than was given by Miss Marie Löhr at His Majesty's on Tuesday afternoon. The grace and tenderness which inspired this exquisite performance were irresistible; and few who witnessed it were free from those convulsive movements of the throat which are caused by repressed emotion. The whole rendering was in such perfect harmony that no special scene could be selected for peculiar praise. The sustained sympathy was almost painful in its keenness. Mr. Henry Ainley played the Schoolmaster with simple, unaffected earnestness and manliness, and grappled, not unsuccessfully, with the long descriptive poem which he had to deliver in the character of our Saviour, his fine personality lending itself well to the centre figure of the picture. The remainder of the personages were subordinate, but all were carefully and irreproachably embodied. Miss Clare Greet, Miss Muriel Alexander, Mr. Norman Page, and Mr. Halliwell Hobbes gave very graphic and telling character-sketches of the four wastrels who frequent the refuge; and Mr. Robert Atkins was unaffectedly blunt and genuine as the rough forester, Seidel. Mr. Cyril Sworder contributed a crisp, sharp, and polished performance as the parish officer, Schmidt; and Mr. Charles Quartermaine was thoroughly efficient as the parish overseer, Berger; Mr. J. Fisher White doing all that was necessary as the doctor, and Miss Marie Linden making a kindly and gentle Sister of Mercy and being impressively dramatic as Hannele's mother. Mr. Edward Sass made the most of his brief opportunities in depicting cruelty and brutality as Mattern; and Miss Elizabeth Valentine, Miss Isabel Merson, and Miss Sylvia Buckley spoke their lines fluently as the Three Angels of Light, Mr. Hugh Tabberer minutely embodying the terrible figure of Death. Mr. Compton Coutts quaintly represented the Village Tailor of Hannele's dream. The scenery and lighting effects were well managed, and the dresses were artistic. *Hannele* was preceded by a play in one act by Margaret M. Mack, performed for the first time, and entitled

"EMILY."

Emily ..... MISS SYDNEY FAIRBROTHER
Miss Brown ..... MISS AGNES THOMAS
George Goodwin .. MR. ARTHUR HOLMES-GORE

This was an unpretentious, but bright, well-observed, and amusing little piece. A servant girl, in order to buy a present for her sweetheart, has yielded to temptation, and has taken a sovereign belonging to her mistress. The latter allows her to pay the money back out of her wages, but stipulates that she shall confess her fault to "George," who is mightily indignant and breaks off the engagement. The mistress, in order to punish him, tells Emily that he has been seen kissing the girl next door, on which Emily repudiates him indignantly. Eventually they decide on mutual forgiveness, and the curtain falls on their reconciliatory embrace. Miss Sydney Fairbrother played Emily with ingenuous pathos and many welcome touches of humour; Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore was the "very image" of a healthy, hulking, thick-headed countryman; and Miss Agnes Thomas was quietly effective as Miss Brown.

"KING RENE'S DAUGHTER."

One-Act Play, adapted from the Danish of Henrik Hertz by the Hon. Edward Phipps, revived at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Monday, Dec. 7.

King René ..... MR. FRANK TYARS
Tristan de Vaudemont .. MR. GERALD LAWRENCE
Ebn Jahia ..... MR. FRANK COCHRANE
Count Geoffrey ..... MR. STANLEY HOWLETT
Sir Almeric ..... MR. FRANK RANDELL
Bertrand ..... MR. J. PATRIC CURWEN
Martha ..... MISS E. FRANCES DAVIS
Iolanthe ..... MISS DOROTHEA BAIRD

The version of Henrik Hertz's play, which was revived by Mr. H. B. Irving at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Monday, was arranged for the stage by Sir Henry Irving, who himself appeared as Tristan de Vaudemont in a translation of the Danish piece by W. G. Wills at Miss Ellen Terry's benefit at the Lyceum on May 20, 1880, supported by Mr. J. H. Barnes as King René, Mr. F. Cooper as Count Geoffrey, Mr. T. Mead as Ebn Jahia, and Miss Terry as Iolanthe. He had already played the part in a version by Sir Theodore Martin, in which Miss Helen Faucit appeared, at the Lyceum in 1876. Previous to this the little drama had been presented to Londoners at the Strand in 1849, with Mrs. Stirling in the leading rôle.

The story of *King René's Daughter* is simple, but touching and interesting. It is, perhaps, a long arm of coincidence which brings Sir Tristan de Vaudemont, while wandering abroad, to the beautiful garden where the King has secluded his blind daughter and Sir Tristan's fiancée in the hope of curing her; and the fact that the King has betrothed her to the gentleman without, apparently, thinking it worth while to mention the detail of her defective eyesight savours of horse-dealing rather than chivalry. But such carping criticisms are out of place in treating so pure and poetical a piece as this. *King René's Daughter* only requires to be acted in the right spirit to be sure of its effect; and very imaginative and mysterious is Miss Dorothea Baird's beautiful impersonation of the principal character. Clad in a most picturesque and appropriate garb, she realises exactly the delicate timidity and the deep affection of Iolanthe. Her depiction of blindness is very pathetic; and her burst of joy at the first rapture of vision is spontaneous and thrilling, and raises the audience to enthusiasm. Mr. Frank Tyars looks like a mediæval picture in his superb costume as Sir Tristan, and plays the part with all the necessary refinement, elevation, and vigour, his delivery of the love-speeches being especially effective. Mr. Stanley Howlett hits off neatly the semi-humorous traits of Count Geoffrey; and Mr. Frank Randell's elocution as Sir Almeric is excellent, and his bearing and expression are very commendable. Mr. Frank Cochrane is a very courteous and dignified Ebn Jahia, and his appearance is suitably Moorish; and Mr. J. Patric Curwen and Miss E. Frances Davis render valuable assistance as Bertrand and Martha respectively. The single scene in which the piece is played is a very pretty set, and the dresses are artistic and becoming. *The Lyons Mail*, which has now passed its sixtieth night at the Shaftesbury, goes as well as ever.

A Landlady's Letter.

MR. FRED BENTLEY, master carpenter Mr. Harry Starr's company, sends us a copy of a postcard sent by a landlady about rooms in Scotland. It reads:—"I wish to inform you that I have a large, front, combined room vacant for when you are here, also a bedroom and sitting-room, or two bedrooms, and sitting room or a double-bedded bedroom, and bedroom and sitting-room, or a bedroom and sitting-room, with a bed in the sitting-room. Good English cooking, good fires, one minute from theatre. Highly recommend good open feather beds"! Can any reader of *The Era* solve how many rooms the kind lady had?

An Eccentric Manager.

"MY first introduction to the manager of a theatre in a small Yorkshire town," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "was very funny. He was a very ignorant and self-opinionated man, and carried on a business in the town. His advertisements in the newspapers would read as follows:—'To-night will be played the splendid drama of *Maria Martin*, with real ghost effects, &c. Try my first-class blankets, only two shillings each.' They were playing *Lost in London* at his theatre. In the last scene of the first act, which shows the interior of a coal mine, a cage has to descend at a given cue. One of the characters, called Tiddy Dragglethorpe, has to descend and tell Job Armroyd that his wife has eloped with the son of the mine-owner, named Gilbert Featherstone. The cage worked all right at rehearsal, but at night it only came half-way down, and there stuck. In spite of all their efforts it refused to come down to the stage, and the private interview between Job Armroyd and Tiddy was completely destroyed, as it had to be spoken out loud, so that all the miners heard it. His last words as he steps into the cage are, 'Let's go up into the world.' The cage was instantly drawn up, leaving poor Job below, and the act was ruined, and Job was left behind instead of searching through the wide world to find his wife and the partner of her flight."

MRS BELLAMY played Alicia in *Jane Shore*, in presence of the King of Denmark (who was then on a visit to George III.), who, wearied with very fast living, was in a sound sleep during one of her finest scenes. The angry lady had to exclaim, "Oh, thou false lord!" and she drew near to the slumbering monarch, and shouted it close to his ears with such astounding effect that he started up, rubbed his eyes, became conscious of what was going on, and how it had come about, and remarked that he would not have such a woman for his wife though she had no end of kingdoms for a dowry.

"THE LAW OF COPYRIGHT," for actor and composer, by Albert A. Strong, LL.B. (Lond.). Price 3s. 6d., post free 3s. 10d. Published at *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE LAST OF THE DE MULLINS."

Play, in Three Acts, by St. John Hankin, produced at the Haymarket on Monday afternoon, Dec. 7.

Hester De Mullin ..... MISS AMY LAMBORN
Mr. Brown ..... MR. NIGEL PLAYFAIR
Jane De Mullin ..... MISS ADELA MEASOR
Mrs. Clouston ..... MISS M'AIMEE MURRAY
Dr. Bolt ..... MR. ERNEST YOUNG
Hugo De Mullin ..... MR. H. A. SAINTSBURY
Ellen ..... MISS JEAN BLOOMFIELD
Janet De Mullin ..... MISS LILLAH MCCARTHY
Johnny Seagrave ..... MASTER BOBBIE ANDREWS
Miss Deanes ..... MISS CLARE GREET
Monty Bulstead ..... MR. VERNON STEEL
Bertha Aldenham ..... MISS JEAN HARKNESS

In his latest play produced at the Haymarket, we find Mr. St. John Hankin, like others of the new school of dramatists, girding at the conventionalities, and doing so very amusingly. Personally, indeed, we were interested every minute of the time occupied in the presentation of *The Last of the De Mullins*, but it is questionable whether the many-headed public who plank their money down at the box-office—the only public that counts with the theatrical manager—would regard the piece with the same favour as the special audience laughing at it and applauding it on Monday afternoon. It is a satire on the cruel things that are done in the name of respectability. What should be their attitude towards a disgraced daughter of a father and mother possessing an ancient family lineage and an unsullied reputation is not even suggested by Mr. Hankin. He does not give us any lesson in the charity which suffereth long and is kind: that may very well be left to the writer of provincial melodrama—just now largely concerned with the delinquencies of womanhood. But through the lips of Janet de Mullin he utters a vigorous and a bitter invective against the smug hypocrisy that closes every avenue of respectability to those who "find too late that men betray," and then establishes rescue homes for the fallen. Janet frankly declares that she obeyed the instincts of motherhood when, previous to the opening of the play, her relations with Monty Bulstead, a young subaltern eight years her junior, had resulted in the birth of a boy. She had refused to disclose the name of baby's father to her people, and had made her escape from home to London, where her application for work was refused when she told her story. She might have become a Magdalen, had it not occurred to her to lie without scruple and to assume widow's weeds and the name of Seagrave. She is brainy, possesses taste, and with the aid of legacy becomes partner in a hat-shop. When the curtain rises Janet has been summoned to the bedside of her aged father, who is threatened with paralysis, but has a wonderful recovery. There is nothing of the tearful repentant about Janet, who expresses herself pretty freely concerning the narrowness of country life to her sister Hester, a prim younger sister with a soul levelled to the joys of church decoration, flirting with the curate, and district visiting. During a jaunt in the woods with her boy as companion Janet meets her old lover. After an absence of eight years he shows almost complete indifference to her, and she certainly shares it. Marriage—even if she wished it—would be too late. Besides, she knows that Monty Bulstead is engaged to Bertha Aldenham, and she bluntly says that he is not at all the sort of man she should choose for a husband. Monty approves of his boy, whom he greets affectionately—so affectionately that his attitude raises a suspicion in the mind of Mrs. De Mullin that he is the boy's father. She extracts a confession from Janet that this is so. In the last act the aged father commands Janet to stay at her ancestral home with her boy, and give up the hat-shop. She flatly refuses, and in a stormy scene the old man casts her off. She expresses agreement with every word he utters, and after a tirade on the craving for maternity she leaves for ever the father, the last of a line of undistinguished squires, who thinks "the only true independence for a woman is to be dependent on her husband or nearest male relative," and washes her hands of the De Mullins, "who hadn't even had brains enough to have their portraits painted by decent artists." She lectures her sister Hester on the greyness of life as an old maid, and makes poor Hester—who has been disappointed at not securing the very unattractive curate, Mr. Brown—indulge in a good cry. As Janet departs the father exclaims: "There goes the last of the De Mullins."

Every justice was done to Mr. Hankin's piece. We have never seen Miss Lillah McCarthy so fine in a part as she was in that of Janet De Mullin. Janet, who had found a way out of the *impasse* imposed by an unsympathetic world on all women who "obey the call of the blood," was scarcely the woman to follow the daily round, the trivial task of monotonous village life, and the scene in which Janet fearlessly asserts herself was powerful in the extreme, and fraught with volcanic energy. Miss Amy Lamborn as the rigid exemplar of family religious life was artistically cold and unsympathetic. Mr. H. A. Saintsbury as Hugo De Mullin had the pedantic style and grandiose air that one would expect from a member of the squirearchy, the indignant protest of the old man in the last act being impressively uttered. Mr. Nigel Playfair made amusing capital out of the part of the curate, Mr. Brown; Miss M'Aimée Murray was full of acerbity as the rigid Mrs. Clouston; Miss Adela Measor did justice to the part of the weak Jane De Mullin; and Master Bobbie Andrews was quite delightful as Johnny Seagrave. The difficulties of delineating so contemptible a cad as Monty Bulstead were cleverly surmounted by Mr. Vernon Steel; and Miss Jean Harkness, Mr. Ernest Young, and Miss Jean Bloomfield completed the cast.

COLLEY CIBBER was extremely haughty as a theatrical manager, and very insolent to dramatists. When he had rejected a play, if the author desired him to point out the particular parts of it which displeased him, he took a pinch of snuff, and answered in general terms, "Sir, there is nothing in it to coerce my passions."

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

"ISAAC'S WIFE."

Play, in Three Acts, by F. D. Bone and Teignmouth Shore, produced at the Court Theatre on Monday, Dec. 7.

The Quartermaster ..... MR. HENRY STEPHENSON
Quartermaster Parker .... MR. C. LEVESON LANE
Quartermaster Sergeant Isaac Hunter ..... MR. CHARLES ROCK
George Mayhew .... MR. ARTHUR HOLMES-GORE
Tom Bradbury ..... MR. ASHTON PEARSE
Lieutenant Jack Benton .. MR. JOHN CABOURN
Lieutenant Harry Draycott .. MR. BASIL MERCER
Manager of Hotel ..... MR. WALLETT WALLER
Pim-Lum ..... MASTER GEORGE BURTON
Chinese Waiter ..... MR. H. ATTLAY
Norah Parker ..... MISS MARGARET YARDE
Alice Hunter ..... MISS LUCY WILSON

Avowedly with the intention of carrying on the work of the now defunct Pioneers, a society committed to the exploitation of plays by little-known authors, the Dramatic Productions Club inaugurated a series of monthly matinées at the Court Theatre on Monday. Miss Minnie Mouillot, who has taken a lease of the Court, is the moving spirit of the enterprise, and it is from her that particulars of membership may be obtained. The productions take place on the first Sunday evening of each month, but the public performance is reserved for the following afternoon. A good beginning was made on Monday with a play from the pens of Mr. F. D. Bone, who has hitherto been known chiefly for his striking one-act piece, *Pride of Regiment*, and of Mr. Teignmouth Shore. The piece deals again with military matters, and while presenting a vivid picture of European life in the Straits Settlements, reflects seriously on the methods by which promotion in the British Army is regulated in our remote possessions abroad. Though strongly reminiscent of other pieces, *Isaac's Wife* is powerfully written and contains scenes of great stress and poignancy, but its leading figure is an ignoble one, and awakens repugnance rather than sympathy. The play is too short for practicable purposes, and the authors might well utilise the space at their disposal to invest Alice Hunter with some redeeming qualities to render her in some way worthy of the sacrifices made in her behalf. On one's first acquaintance with her she is fretting at the lack of excitement in her life in the garrison at Penang, of which her husband, Isaac Hunter, is quartermaster-sergeant, and abusing him because he is so closely attached to his studies, by which he hopes one day to improve his position and hers. His subordinate, Parker, is, however, placed over his head, and is appointed quartermaster, not, it is suggested, because of any ability of his own, but chiefly by reason of the fact that Mrs. Parker has made herself agreeable to the former quartermaster. That lady spitefully foreshadows the appointment in an interview with Alice, at the same time revealing the fact that the young wife's flirtations with a sugar-planter named George Mayhew are known to the community. Isaac learns of Parker's promotion from the lips of the quartermaster, who attributes Hunter's failure to obtain the post to the scandal which attaches to his wife. Isaac disbelieves the accusation, but his wife admits that she has received the attentions of Mayhew, and ascribes her conduct to her husband's neglect. There is a violent scene and Alice goes off to join Mayhew, Isaac covering her with a revolver, but being unable to fire the fateful shot.

Eighteen months more than suffice to cool the love of Mayhew, who has taken Alice to his bungalow up-country. A divorce had been obtained by Isaac, but Mayhew refuses to make Alice his wife. Furthermore, he invites to his house no less unwelcome a person than Mrs. Parker, who would gloat over the outcast. Alice, however, loads her with scorn, and her cause is taken up by young Tom Bradbury, an employee of Mayhew's, the result being that Mrs. Parker and her husband are forced to leave. Mayhew proceeds to ill-treat Alice, but Tom is at hand, and after nearly throttling his employer is told to leave his service and take Alice with him. Bradbury's offer to take the girl to England is accepted, and the two depart. Their way lies in the direction of Penang, but scarcely have they reached the settlement than Mayhew arrives eager to get the girl back. He meets a formidable opponent in Isaac, now a prosperous hotel-keeper, who waives his right to revenge, and allows him to go. Hunter's love for Alice has by no means languished, and she herself has long since realised his worth, so that when she is asked whether she will go to England with Tom Bradbury or stay with Isaac, Alice gratefully chooses the latter course.

Admirable work was put into the piece. Mr. Charles Rock, under whose direction it was produced with every attention to detail, gave a most impressive rendering of Isaac Hunter, full of rugged and appealing force. His acting of the strenuous scene which ends the first act was thrillingly powerful and left a lasting effect. The title-rôle, as we have hinted, is weighted by the small claim made on the sympathies, but Miss Lucy Wilson represented the irritableness of the discontented wife with much realism, and the poignancy of the later scenes was cleverly maintained. Miss Margaret Yarde obtained a real success as the malignant Mrs. Parker, and was equally excellent in the grimly humorous passage of arms between herself and her rival and in the display of temper at her failure to crush her foe. The unscrupulous George Mayhew was naturally impersonated by Mr. Arthur Holmes-Gore, whose deep tones and skilful delivery made every line tell, while the blusterings of the bully were in effective contrast to the cowardice exhibited in later scenes. Mr. Ashton Pearse was the personification of a chivalrous young Britisher as Tom Bradbury, and his share of the scene in which he takes up the cudgels for Alice was finely accomplished. Mr. Henry Stephenson, an actor of imposing physique, thoroughly realised the elderly soldier in his embodiment of the retiring quartermaster, and as his successor, Parker, Mr. C. Leveson-Lane drew an amusing picture of the plebeian who moves in military circles. Master George Burton did well as a Chinese boy, and Mr. John Cabourn and Mr. Basil Mercer were typical exponents of two lieutenants on foreign service. The audience, though small, was very enthusiastic, but no response was made to the call for "Authors."

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

WILLESDEN HIPPODROME.

Mr. Walter Gibbons chose a splendid spot for his enterprise when he turned his attention Willesden way, and the handsome and perfectly-appointed Hippodrome has commanded steady support ever since its opening a year or so since. The management have put forth a specially entertaining bill this week, a novelty in which is the dramatic sketch by Edwin S. France, presented by J. G. Grahame and Horn Conyers, entitled

"RING UP 735 EAST."

Jake Stapleford .....Mr. Herbert Hollister
Marmaduke Ansted .....Mr. Horn Conyers
Rob .....Mr. Malcolm Cumming
Lucy .....Miss Dorothy Marsdin

A strike is in progress at the Arlington engineering works, and the men have been idle for weeks, and they and their wives and children are on the verge of starvation. On the rising of the curtain we see a deputation of the men, headed by their foreman, Jake Stapleford, waiting at the entrance of the works the coming of the proprietor, Marmaduke Ansted. It is Sunday, and he and his daughter Lucy return from church, the capitalist expressing surprise at seeing the men. Lucy, receiving an assurance that no harm shall befall her father, goes inside the house, and Marmaduke and Jake discuss the situation, and it is eventually suggested by the latter that the men are willing to return to work. Marmaduke, however, tells him that it is too late—he has already engaged a fresh gang of men (non-unionists) to take their place and start the next day. If their wives and children are starving they have only themselves to blame. The strikers, rendered desperate by this decision, break into the works when Ansted has gone indoors, and decid upon destroying the machinery, sinking a coal barge, and doing all the damage possible. Ansted has to leave home, and bids his daughter good-bye, giving her the keys and telling her that if frightened she is to "ring up" the river police. Jake gains admittance to the office, and also manages to get hold of the keys and break open the safe, with the intention of taking any money therein for the starving strikers. Lucy has seen one of the workers prowling about from the window, and, coming downstairs, feigns illness in order to summon the police. She asks Jake to telephone for the doctor, but gives him the police number, "735 East,' and he asks the doctor—as he thinks—to come at once. In spite of Lucy's entreaties, he then opens another drawer in the safe containing papers, which reveal that she is his (Jake's) daughter. The girl knows already that she is not Ansted's child. Her mother had been stabbed in a fit of jealousy by Jake, and his whereabouts had been unknown for fifteen years. While explanations are being gone into, the river police arrive, and Jake endeavours to escape, only to be brought back to die in his daughter's arms. The sketch is admirably played throughout, Mr. Herbert Hollister being a manly and earnest Jake, and delivering his lines with excellent elocutionary effect. Mr. Horn Conyers was quite satisfactory as Marmaduke Ansted; a refined and natural representation of Lucy was given by Miss Dorothy Marsdin; and Mr. Malcolm Cumming was a convincing Rob. *Ring up 735 East*—well staged, the special scenery being supplied by Mr. Fred Karno, and holding the attention of the audience till its conclusion, in spite of the lateness of the hour—was accorded a cordial reception, and will doubtless have a good run on the variety stage.

A hearty welcome was accorded the popular comedian, Mr. Sam Mayo, who kept his auditors continually on the smile, whilst warbling, in his own droll style, "I felt so jolly, I jumped for joy," and another nonsense ditty. A competition has been taking place during the week for the best impersonation of the immobile one in "The old tin can" and "I'm going to sing a song," and on the evening to which we are now alluding it resulted in much merriment. The aspirants for fame, silver cups, &c., were assisted—or otherwise—in their Mayoesque mimicry by some weird orchestral effects; the humorous announcements and comments of the comedian himself added greatly to the fun of the interlude. Another humorist in the programme who scored in no uncertain fashion was Mr. George Campbell, whose droll delivery of a comic number, "Then I rattled my money-box," was embellished by some really funny patter. Cole and Rags, comedy jugglers, introduce many ingenious devices that never fail to create laughter, and are loudly acclaimed for their entertaining and smartly-worked turn; and the vocalism of the Union Jack Boys—a dozen little sailor men—is much appreciated, particularly their singing of "Excelsior" and the rendering by one of them of "Love me and the world is mine." Mr. Jack Charman has an excellent number in "What's the use of worrying, father?" the applause with which it was greeted being most pronounced; and Miss Nora Guy, a dainty musical comedy artist, was heard with pleasure in "Come to my ivory palace," and another tuneful number. The renowned illusionist, Carl Hertz, assisted by Miss Emile D'Alton, created much wonderment by his bewildering "fantastic problems" and sleight of hand, his many illusions being very elaborate and clever, and gaining for him prolonged applause at their conclusion; and Rauschle impersonated faithfully the late Lord Salisbury, W. E. Gladstone, Campbell-Bannerman, and General Buller; his portraits of Lord Kitchener, President Fallières, the Kaiser, and lastly King Edward all being admirable studies. Cécile François and company, in a smartly-worked dancing and globe-walking act entitled *An Artist's Studio*, and the Bioscope also contributed valuably to the enjoyable programme.

BARNARD'S PALACE, GREENWICH.

This old-established hall changed its programme on Monday night, and opened as a picture show. The house was crowded, and there is every reason to anticipate a successful season under the new régime. Some amusing marionettes sang and danced themselves into favour, one giving an imitation of Mr. Harry Tate in "Motoring." Next came a very good picture of Rome in the reign of Nero, realistically depicting the destruction of the city. This was followed by Still Worthy of the Name, showing a man cheating at cards. His parents disown him, and he is about to drown himself, when a police-constable interferes, takes him home, feeds him, and persuades him to join the Army, where he does so well that he wins the Victoria Cross, and justifies the title of the picture. A Photographer's Flirtation followed. Sally arrives to have her portrait taken, photographer makes love to her, jealous husband arrives, finds them together in the dark room, and turns the key on them, an amusing denouément. A Child's Gratitude shows a caravan. The horse has fallen dead, and the man, wife, and child are in great trouble, when an old gentleman appears and gives them money to buy another horse, and departs amid the blessings of the family. Two tramps see the money, hear where it has come from, and determine to rob the old gentleman. The child overhears the plot, and fetches the police, who arrive just in time to prevent the crime. The next pictures illustrated the song called "When the berry's on the holly," capitally sung by Miss Daisy Elphinston, and there was also some amusing patter and dancing by the Vanderbilts. The final picture represented the match between Woolwich Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers.

The Queen, the King and Queen of Norway, and Princess Victoria witnessed the performance of the play *What Every Woman Knows* at the Duke of York's Theatre on Thursday evening.

MASONS AT WORK.

GREEN ROOM.

It is interesting to record the fact that there was a large gathering of the members of the Green Room Lodge at the Imperial Restaurant, Regent-street, on Friday, the 4th inst., under the presidency of the Worshipful Master for the year, Mr. E. H. Bull, who had journeyed to town expressly to carry out the onerous duties of the chair. Mr. Bull was loyally supported in his arduous undertaking by his officers, and the work throughout was carried on in a thoroughly efficient manner, thereby rendering the various ceremonies impressive in the highest degree.

Mr. Akerman May, L.R., the I.P.M. of the Lodge, had for co-workers Messrs. Charles Macdona (S.W.), Hubert Willis (J.D.), J. H. Ryley (S.D.), Frank Vernon (acting J.D.) Douglas Gordon (acting I.G.), W. Lestocq (D.C.) Sydney Lawrence (acting A.D.C.) Albert E. Raynor (acting Organist), Chas Patrick (T.) and Charles Cruikshanks (Secretary).

The Grand Lodge of England was represented by Messrs. Harry Nicholls, P.G.Std.B. and Charles Cruikshanks, P.A.G.Std.B. The visitors included Messrs. Wilfrid E. Payne, H. S. John Oliver, R G. Hunter, Martin Holman, and Chichele Nourse. Mr. Henry Neville, P.A.G.D.C., owing to a misunderstanding as to the time fixed for the commencement of the proceedings, did not, unfortunately, arrive until the business of the Lodge was concluded. There were also present Messrs. Lionel Rignold, Walter Maxwell, Julian Royce, Fred W. Permain, A. E. George, Chas. A. Doran, H. Nye Chart, Spencer Trevor, Frank Harding, Allen Thomas, Henry Ainley, Lauri de Frece, Daniel McCarthy, J. W. Macdonald, Ernest Cameron, and Lyn Harding.

Letters of apology, &c., for non-attendance were received from Messrs. Fredk. Annerley, J. Cooke Beresford, W. P. Besley, J. D. Beveridge, John Cabourn, Louis Calvert, Wilfred Draycott, Dermot Fitzgibbon, Richard Green, Lytton Grey Edward Jones, Gerald Maxwell, Percy Nash, Ernest H. Paterson, W. S. Penley, E. Vivian Reynolds, Chas. Rock, Herbert Shelley, Fred Terry, and Stephen Wentworth.

The ballot was taken for the election of Messrs. Leslie Carter, Robert Loraine, and Hubert Harben an candidates for admission to the Order, and proved to be unanimous in their favour, and Messrs. Leslie Carter and Robert Loraine, being in attendance, were admitted and received the benefits connected with the first step in their novitiation.

Mr. Charles A. Doran, having given the most satisfactory proofs of his proficiency in the degree conferred upon him some little time since, was advanced a stage in his masonic career.

Messrs. Julian Royce and Henry Ainley were examined as to their knowledge in connection with those degrees through which they had already passed, and gave unmistakable evidence of the care with which they had treated the subject, and the Master was pleased to confer upon them the distinctions appertaining to the completion of their degrees.

Mr. Alfred Brydone was nominated as a candidate for election as a member of the fraternity.

The Secretary reported that Mr. J. H. Ryley had expressed his intention of acting as one of the stewards at the forthcoming festival of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls, and proposed that a sum of money from the Lodge funds should be placed upon his subscription list, and such proposition being seconded by Mr. W. Lestocq, it was unanimously agreed to. Mr. Ryley thanked the brethren, and expressed the hope that he might receive such support from them individually as to enable him to carry up a considerable sum to this deserving charity.

Mr. Lestocq gave notice that he should, at the next meeting, bring forward a proposition that in future the Lodge shall meet on the first Fridays in January and February, as well as on the first Fridays in May, June, Nov., Dec., and April, as he thought that in the interests of the Lodge it was advisable to increase the number of meetings during the year.

The brethren afterwards dined together, Mr. Akerman May presiding in the absence of Mr. Bull, who was obliged to leave early to take up his professional duties at Chatham. The usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and Messrs. Leslie Carter and Robert Loraine were particularly happy in their replies to the toast of "The Initiates." The company separated at an early hour.

ASAPH.

On Monday last the members of the Lodge of Asaph met at the Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen-street, London, to hold their first convocation since the installation of Mr. Ernest H. Paterson as Master, to which exalted position he was elevated a month ago.

Mr. Paterson, whose professional engagements precluded the possibility of his remaining with the brotherhood throughout the evening, though enabled to carry out the entire duties of the business meeting, was supported by his officers, Messrs. Herbert Chenery (I.P.M.), A. B. Tapping (S.W.), Chris. Hilton (J.W), Charles Cruikshanks (treasurer), James W. Mathews (secretary), Tom Clare (1st Steward, acting as S.D. until the arrival of Albert Le Fre), W. Edwyn Holloway (acting as J.D. in the absence of Frank Lister), E. Wesley Wooldhouse (I.G.), Rev. W. P. Besley (Chaplain), James E. Hambledon (organist), and John Gilbert (Tyler).

The Grand Lodge of England was represented by Messrs. James Weaver, P.G.Std.B. and Charles Cruikshanks, P.A.G.Std.B.

There were also present Past Masters W. J. Holloway, E. H. Bull, Ed. Humphrey (of the La Tolerance Lodge), and Charles J. Taylor (of the Strand Lodge), and the following brethren:—Messrs. Albert Alexandra, R. P. Black, Fred W. Crellin, Oscar Grimaldi, J. Stanford Hughes, Frederic Jacques, C. H. Phillips, Edward A. Pickering, Leonard Russell, and Burrell Saunders, and Mr. Charles Macdona (S.W. Green Room Lodge) a visitor.

Messrs. Charles B. Powell, Edward Swanborough, and Edward W. Whitmore, Past Masters of the Lodge, sent apologies for non-attendance, also Mr. Frank Lister, the J.D.

Mr. Frank Desprez, who was admitted as a member of the order some few months ago, having given the most satisfactory proofs of his proficiency in the degree through which he had already passed, received, from the hands of the Master, the privileges connected with an advanced stage in his novitiation.

Messrs. W. Edwyn Holloway and Edward A. Pickering, being unable to attend the Installation Meeting held last month, were presented and invested by the Master as 2nd and 3rd Stewards of the Lodge.

A very interesting item in the proceedings of the day was the presentation of "London rank" clothing to Mr. James D. Beveridge, who presided over the Lodge in 1899. This gentleman had been nominated and recommended by the Past Masters of the Lodge as a fitting recipient of the honour, and H.R.H. the Grand Master had graciously accepted the nomination and so appointed Mr. Beveridge. The Lodge agreed to present Mr. Beveridge with the insignia of his office, and in receiving it at the hands of the Master, on behalf of the members, Mr. Beveridge expressed the pleasure he felt in accepting their truly handsome gift, and while assuring them he regarded his appointment as a compliment to the lodge and of his intention of holding the rank conferred upon him in a measure in trust for the Lodge, he could not be insensible of the honour paid to himself as an individual, and desired to express his heartfelt thanks to the Past Masters for their kindly recommendation, the Grand Master for the acceptance of that recommendation, and the brethren for the testimony of their good fellowship.

Mr. James W. Matthews, in the unavoidable absence of Mr. W. Lestocq, officiated as Director of Ceremonies throughout, and the performances of the various duties were marked with that graceful attention to details which at all times characterises this gentleman's work in the Lodge.

The business of the day being concluded, the brethren journeyed to "Simpson's," and there, under the genial chairmanship of Mr. Herbert Chenery, the Immediate Past Master, a most enjoyable evening was spent. An excellent dinner was provided, and Messrs. Charles J. Taylor, Edward Humphrey, Albert Le Fre, and Leonard Russell contributed several interesting items of song and story, the first-named gentleman being particularly happy in the rendering of a new song, written by himself, dealing with the characteristics and idiosyncrasies of certain of the Past Masters. The rendition of this amusing ditty caused intense delight to everyone, even the victims selected, and the desire was expressed for more, in fact, a verse for every Master—thirty-nine in all. The various songs, &c., were interspersed with speeches—about thirty—and the proceedings concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

MATINEE AT THE ALHAMBRA.

A grand matinée, in aid of the funds of the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum, was, by kind permission of Mr. Alfred Moul, chairman and managing-director, and his colleagues given on Thursday at the Alhambra. For some years the matinée was an annual event at the Oxford; but, owing to some hitch, the directors of that house were unable to repeat their kindness. With commendable generosity the Alhambra directors stepped into the breach, and not only gave the use of their magnificent building, but provided a long list of capable artists, who kept the entertainment going without a hitch from 2.30 to close upon six o'clock. There was a large and appreciative audience.

The programmes were the gift of James Buchanan and Co., Ltd., and these and button-holes were sold by ladies who have the interests of the dear old residents in the Asylum at heart, and who made the most of their opportunity of garnering on behalf of the funds stray half-crowns and shillings from willing contributors. There are 236 residents in the institution, and 70 non-residents receiving outdoor allowances, the ordinary annual expenses being £10,000.

Among the leading features of a full programme were Hubert Carter and company, in *David Garrick*, a sketch by Louis Cohen, which was excellently played; the Ten Ji troupe of Japanese magicians; the Max Wessely troupe in a pretty juggling pantomime; Henry Helme, chanteur Français, a powerful baritone, who is in the Alhambra programme; the Musical Millers; Doris Dean, a delightful dancer from the London Pavilion; Yolande Noble, a charming character singer, who sang most effectively her favourite ditty anent "Tomorrow"; Kitty Gordon, the sweet singer from the Waldorf Theatre, who rendered "Because" beautifully; the Boy Cornet Soloist, who played "Love me, and the world is mine"; the comical Fratellini Brothers; Mlle. Dolli, an agile toe-dancer and *première danseuse* fresh from La Scala, who won golden opinions; Frank Haskoll, in songs at the piano; Jury's Imperial pictures; and many other attractions.

At five o'clock Mr. W. H. Garrett, chairman of the Asylum, with the trustees, committee, and past officers, appeared on the stage, and, addressing the vast audience, he said it was his pleasing duty on behalf of the board of management to tender to Mr. Alfred Moul and the directors of the Alhambra their gratitude for having placed the theatre at their disposal for the benefit of that noble trade charity, the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum. He also begged to tender to Mr. H. Woodford, the business-manager, their gratitude for, and appreciation of, the interest he had taken in the matinée, and also to his staff for their co-operation in bringing about such satisfactory results. They also tendered their hearty thanks to the artists who had so generously given their services to a splendid entertainment. Their best thanks were also given to the ladies who had undertaken the sale of flowers and programmes, and last, but not least, to the audience for their presence and support, among whom they were pleased to see their president for this year (Mr. R. Stewart Bradshaw) and their president of last year (Mr. George J. Maclachlan).

MUSICAL COPYRIGHT.

Edward Solomon, 19, described as a carpet planner, of Assam-street, Commercial-road, E., was charged at the Guildhall on Monday with selling and having in his possession for the purpose of sale pirated copies of musical works

The prosecution was at the instance of Mr. Felix McLennon, a music publisher, of Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, who, on Saturday, saw the defendant selling large quantities of song sheets to hawkers in Aldgate High-street. There were two special songs published in these sheets to which he found exception, "Love me and the world is mine" and "Will you love me in December as you do in May?" He claimed that these were pirated copies of copyright songs.

Mr. Solomon Myers (for defence): I do not admit that these are pirated. You will see that there are a number of songs on each sheet—words only, and no music.

The Clerk: Have you a definition of "musical work"?

Mr. Myers: The Act describes it: "The expression 'pirated copies' means any copies of any 'musical work,' written, printed, or otherwise reproduced without the consent lawfully given by the owner of the copyright in such 'musical work.'"

The Clerk: These sheets are described as "Christmas Songs," but there is no music.

Mr. McLennon: I say that you cannot sing the songs without the words, and when the words are afterwards set to music, they become a portion of "musical work." There were five convictions at Darlington last week in respect of this. This point has never been established by the High Court.

Sir Vansittart Bowater said it was undoubtedly a very important point for the trade, and he suggested an adjournment for the parties to obtain further legal advice (To Mr. Myers): Your contention is that so long as there is no music, there can be no musical copyright.

Mr. Myers: That is so, and I submit there is no case to answer.

The Alderman ultimately came to the conclusion that the matter was of so much importance to all concerned that an adjournment was necessary.

"THE ABIDING POWER OF LOVE."

Sketch, in One Act, produced at the Shoreditch Empire on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 5.

Lena Lebeau .....Miss Ursula Faucitt
Richard Duval .....Mr Gustav Lombardi
Mons. Lebeau .....Mr. Henry Bradshaw

Lebeau, a card-sharper, is in difficulties, and plans to rob Duval, a violinist, of his instrument, said to be worth £5,000. He seeks the assistance of Lena, his daughter, who is in love with Duval. The latter arrives, and after playing a solo, lays down his violin, which Lebeau steals. The theft is discovered, and Lena confesses her guilt, and pleads to Duval so eloquently that he offers her marriage. Lebeau is shot, and dies after restoring the violin. The sketch was cordially received, Miss Ursula Faucitt showing much promise as Lena Lebeau.

THE HIPPODROME, BIRKENHEAD.

After a prolonged interval the popular entertainment house in Grange-road hitherto known as the Metropole, Birkenhead, opened another chapter in its history on Monday evening, when what will probably prove to be a successful career as a variety theatre under the De Frece Syndicate management was inaugurated. Premier nights always possess an attraction to the playgoing public, and it was not surprising that a scene of unwonted animation was to be seen in Grange-road prior to the commencement of the first performance, there being a constant stream of eager patrons passing the box-office from the opening of the doors. Once inside the building all were immediately struck with the wonderful transformation that has been effected, and the many improvements were commented upon most favourably by everyone, the management having studied the comfort of the public in every detail. That this was fully appreciated was evidenced by the enthusiastic applause which followed the rendition of the National Anthem, with which the entertainment in the first house was opened.

The management could not have made a more judicious choice of a star turn with which to open the hall than Miss Vesta Tilley, who, by common consent, is the finest male impersonator on "the boards"; and the interest in her visit was considerably added to by the fact that she has not appeared in Birkenhead for a number of years. The magnificent reception that was accorded to her when she first stepped on the stage was proof of the fact that she has lost none of her old-time attractiveness among those who had previously seen her. Miss Tilley sang four numbers in her own inimitable way, "Following in father's footsteps" being given in response to an enthusiastic ovation that must have been very gratifying to her, and following the presentation to her of five magnificent bouquets.

The first of these was, appropriately enough, in the shape of a horseshoe, signifying good luck to the new enterprise, and another took the form of a beautiful Union Jack—the size of herself. Even then, the audience would fain have had further selections from her large répertoire, and Miss Tilley had to come before the curtain and make a graceful little speech, in which she thanked them for the splendid reception that had been given her. She also spoke of the pleasure it had given her to receive such a welcome on her first visit to the town for many years. In conclusion, she trusted that the hall would be a great success and have a brilliant career.

During an interval, Mr. Walter De Frece, the managing director, appeared before the curtain, and, after thanking the audience for their presence, said the aim of the management was to provide an entertainment to which they could bring their wives and children and make it a kind of family theatre. In conclusion, he trusted that all in the building that evening would be present at the anniversary twelve months hence.

In addition to Miss Tilley, a capital programme was provided. Ivy Aberdare, who had the honour of opening the performance, won loud applause for her clever dancing, while Herbert Clifton had a cordial reception. Culpitt, "a droll deceptionist," gave a very amusing turn, while the other artists who appeared were the Three Romas, the gladiatorial marvels; Simms and Simms, musical comedians; the Sivronis, eccentric duo; and Bert Kemble.

A LION'S VICTIM.

In the Court of Appeal on Tuesday, before the Master of the Rolls and Lords Justices Moulton and Farwell, was the case of "Hasselman and Another v. Poole and Others," which was an appeal from a decision of the judge of the Gloucester County Court, sitting as arbitrator under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1897. The applicants for compensation were the dependents of a man named Hasselman. The County Court held that the respondents were not liable, hence the present appeal.

Mr. Sturgess, in support of the appeal, said that Hasselman was employed by the well-known lion tamer Mme. Ella. On Sunday, July 28, Mme. Ella arrived at the Palace Theatre, Gloucester, with her troupe of trained lions in cages, in readiness to give exhibitions during the following week. On Sunday afternoon she left Hasselman in charge of the animals, with orders to keep them from quarrelling and fighting. Shortly after she had gone a man named Higgins happened to go into the theatre, and found Hasselman trying to get one of the lions from one cage into another. He heard him call out just afterwards, "A lion has got out, and is in the dressing-room."

Hasselman went into the dressing-room to drive the animal back into the cage, but the lion refused to go. He then threw a chair at the lion. That did not have the desired effect, and Hasselman then got another chair and threw at him. This seemed to infuriate the animal, which made for Hasselman, and, in spite of a terrific struggle, killed him. Before the County Court judge the claim was opposed by Mme. Ella and Messrs. Poole (the proprietors of the theatre), on the ground that the accident did not arise out of, and in the course of, his employment, and the County Court judge so held, and entered judgment for them. The learned counsel submitted there was no evidence to support that ruling, and that in any event Mme. Ella was liable to pay compensation.

Mr. Douglas Hogg supported the award of the County Court judge on behalf of Messrs. Poole, and Mr. Tyfield, for Mme. Ella, contended that Hasselman had been guilty of serious and wilful misconduct, and therefore could not recover. The man knew that he had done wrong, for he had called out to Higgins, "I have got a lion in the dressing-room, and I don't want Mme. Ella to know; I want to get him back before she comes."

Lord Justice Farwell: Was it not the duty of the deceased to get the lion back?

Mr. Tyfield: No, my lord.

Why not?—Because it was not his duty to let it out. His duty was to have told Mme. Ella.

The Master of the Rolls, in giving judgment, said that he saw no evidence of serious and wilful misconduct on the part of Hasselman, whose duty it was, when the lion escaped, to try to get it back into the cage. For these reasons he thought the accident arose out of, and in the course of, the deceased man's employment, and that Madame Ella was liable to pay compensation under the Act. The case must therefore go back to the County Court judge for him to assess the amount of compensation due to the applicants from her, and the appeal, so far as Madame Ella's liability was concerned, would be allowed, and so far as Messrs. Poole were sought to be made liable dismissed.

The Lords Justices concurred.

The Awards. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "The Era" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Kinematograph regulations respecting the use of the kinematograph in theatres and halls, also the regulations respecting the use of limelight, can be had, price 1d. (by post 1½d.), from *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C. All those who handle the kinematograph or limelight should possess a copy of these regulations.

OLYMPIA SKATING RINK

The huge roller-skating rink at Olympia was successfully opened on Monday evening by Messrs. C. P. Crawford and F. A. Wilkins, the organisers and managing directors. It is of interest to mention that this is the fourteenth "American roller rink" opened by Mr. Crawford in Great Britain within thirteen months. On Monday the Olympia rink was opened, and a considerable crowd assembled to enjoy the delights of whirling through the air on wheels. That the sport was most invigorating could not be doubted as one watched the merry movements of the skaters, who were accompanied by the inspiriting strains of the very able band of the 87th Royal Irish Fusiliers. Altogether, the spectacle was a gay and lively one. The great arena was illuminated by huge arc electric lamps, which brought out in all their brilliance the colours of the flags, bunting, and other decorations hanging from the roof and the walls. The display of light afforded by the multi-coloured globes, was particularly effective. The charges for admission are sixpence in the morning from half-past ten to half-past twelve, and one shilling in the afternoon and at night. For an additional charge of one shilling the visitors will be able to use the Samuel Winslow steel ball-bearing roller skates, which are undoubtedly the finest on the market, and come as a revelation to those using them for the first time. Everyone should be able to become perfect in the art of skating at Olympia, for there is a staff of forty skilled professors who each day give free tuition.

The aim of the promoters of the rink is to keep it as a very high class entertainment in every way. The catering is in the hands of Messrs. J. Lyons and Co., and the grill-room will be open from 11 o'clock daily, so that visitors may procure lunch, tea, and dinner. Messrs. Crawford and Wilkins have taken Olympia for a minimum of three winter seasons, so Londoners will again be able to skate at Christmas 1909 and 1910. The floor is specially smoothed and polished by patent American electrical surfacing machines, which will be at work every day between sessions. The arena is surrounded by specially constructed cloak and dressing rooms for ladies and gentlemen.

During the season there will be many special attractions in the way of masked and costumed carnivals, skating cinderellas, and other attractive social functions. The last week of the rink will be a highly interesting one, as there will be a great international six-days' skating race meeting at which most of the champion skaters of the world will compete.

Londoners are now afforded an opportunity of witnessing an American electrical floor surfacing machine in operation in the Olympia roller skating rink. This remarkable invention was brought over from America by Mr. C. P. Crawford. The apparatus has proved a revelation, and is revolutionising the problem of presenting perfectly smooth skating surfaces. Heretofore the means of preparing floors for dancing and roller skating have been very crude and primitive, and were brought about by manual labour and physical effort through the old style hand-planing system, with the results very unsatisfactory and costly. Mr. Crawford is the only man in the United Kingdom who has absolute control over a floor-surfacing machine, the only mechanical device ever invented to prepare a perfectly smooth area for dancing or skating, affording participants in these exercises the maximum amount of pleasure. With the most satisfactory and perfect roller skate constructed by the Samuel Winslow Skate Manufacturing Co., Worcester, Mass., U.S.A., and under the most conducive and pleasant environments any amusement resort has ever been fortunate in possessing, Olympia is due to meet with a wonderfully successful season.

VARIETY ARTIST'S DISPUTE.

In the Official Referee's Court, before Mr. Pollock, on the 4th inst., a settlement was arrived at in the action, Barclay *v.* Gray, the question for decision being whether the defendant, Mr. George Gray, music-hall sketch artist, was liable to pay the plaintiff, Mr. George Barclay, of Barclay and Co., variety artists' agents, 221, Brixton-hill, commission on third and subsequent re-engagements for music-hall performances.

Counsel for the plaintiff was Mr. Turner, and for the defendant Mr. T. Turrell.

The amount of the claim was £404 18s., being the balance alleged to be due for engagements obtained for the defendant between September, 1903, and February, 1906.

After much time had been devoted to the examination of different contracts, the Official Referee afforded the parties an opportunity of discussing the question of a settlement, and a conference took place between them.

Mr. Turrell, after a short interval, said they had come to an agreement by which judgment would be given for the plaintiff for £250 and costs.

The Official Referee remarked that he thought the parties had been very wise in making such an arrangement.

Some discussion then took place with reference to the time in which the plaintiff should be paid the amount awarded.

Mr. Turrell suggested six months.

Mr. Turner said he could not agree to that.

Eventually it was agreed that if the amount be paid within six weeks, and the costs within fourteen days of taxation, or within six weeks from the present time, the plaintiff should give up all outstanding claims against the defendant in respect of commission now due, or that might be come due under any existing contract.

Mr. Cyril Fielding Smith, formerly acting-manager of the Scarborough New Hippodrome, has resigned that appointment to take up duties as pilot for Mr. J. F. Elliston's pantomime companies on the road.

Five Hundred Replies in answer to one advertisement in the Wanted Columns of *The Era*. Mr. Albert Hengler, writing from the Hippodrome, Glasgow, says:—"My advertisement in the last issue of your paper brought me close on 500 replies—an excellent result." Particulars of the publisher, *The Era* Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps. *The Era* is posted on Saturday in time to reach London Subscribers by the *first* Town Delivery. and Country Subscribers should receive their Papers by the *first* London Post. Address, the Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.

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Condy's Fluid Co., London

ON THE ROAD, DEC. 14.

AN ABANDONED WOMAN.—T. R., West Bromwich.
AT DUTY'S CALL.—T. R. North Shields.
AT THE WORLD'S MERCY.—Lyceum T., Govan.
BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING.—Empire T., Swindon.
BENEATH THE STARS.—Alhambra, Stourbridge.
BENSON, THE F. R. (N.).—T. R. Wolverhampton.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—Palace T., Bordesley.
BOOTH JUNIUS.—T. R., Stockport.
BOURCHIER, ARTHUR.—T. R., Portsmouth.
BULMER, MR.—County T., Reading.
CARL ROSA OPERA CO.—Empire T., Oldham.
COAL KING, THE.—T. R., Hanley.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—Prince's T., Bristol.
CONSCIENCE OF A JUDGE.—Prince's T., Preston.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—Alexandra T., Hull.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
D'OYLY CARTE.—Lyceum T., Edinburgh.
DOROTHY.—Broadway T., Deptford.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—T. R., Rotherham.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—T. R., Batley.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—New T., Aberdare.
FATAL WEDDING.—Elephant and Castle T.
FIGHT FOR A THRONE.—P. O. W., Nuneaton.
FIGHT FOR LIFE.—Pavilion Theatre, Mile End, E.
FLAG LIEUTENANT (N.)—Gaiety T., Hastings.
FLOWER GIRL.—Shakespeare T., Clapham.
FOR HER HUSBAND'S SAKE.—Prince's T., Portsmouth.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—T. R., Middlesbrough.
FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS.—T. R., Aston.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—T. R., Tonypandy.
GIRL WITH THE ANGEL FACE.—T. R., Smethwick.
GLOSSOP-HARRIS, MISS F.—Artillery T., Woolwich.
GREAT AWAKENING.—T. R., Dewsbury.
GREED OF GOLD.—Star T., Swansea.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—P. O. W., Salford.
HER NAMELESS CHILD.—Hippodrome, Salford.
HIS MAJESTY'S GUESTS.—T. R., Hull.
HOME, SWEET HOME.—Palace T., Newcastle.
HORNIMAN'S, MISS.—O. H., Cork.
IDOL OF PARIS.—T. R., Bolton.
IN OLD MADRID.—T. R., Sheffield.
IRENE WYCHERLEY.—Empire T., Southend.
IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND.—O. H., Cheltenham.
JACK STRAW.—Borough T., Stratford.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE. Llanberis and Holywell.
LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY.—T. R., Macclesfield.
LONDON WITH THE LID OFF.—Grand T., Wolverhampton.
LUCKY 'LIZA.—T. R., Belfast.
MAN AND WIFE.—T. R., St. Helens.
MAN TO MAN.—T. R., Torquay.
MANXMAN.—Theatre Royal, Ashton.
MIDNIGHT MAIL.—T. R., Leicester.
MOODY-MANNERS OPERA (A.).—T. R., Dublin.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Aldershot.
MRS. DOT.—O. H., Cheltenham.
MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD.—T. R., Plymouth.
NEW EAST LYNNE.—Century T., Motherwall.
NIHILIST, THE.—Metropole T., Glasgow.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—T.R., Rochdale.
PLUCKY NIPPER.—T. R., Seaham Harbour.
POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN.—Pontypridd.
POWER OF THE CROSS.—O. H., Middlesbrough.
POWER OF THE KING.—Grand T., Mansfield.
PRIVATE SECRETARY.—T. R., Birkenhead.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—Metropole T., Manchester.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—T. R., Bury.
ROYAL DIVORCE.—Opera House, Crewe.
SAPHO.—P.O.W., Great Grimsby.
SAUCY SALLY.—Royalty T., Glasgow.
SECOND TO NONE.—P. O. W., Salford.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—T. R., Cardiff.
SERGEANT BRUE.—T. R., Worcester.
SOLDIER OF FRANCE.—Irving T., Seacombe.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
STILL ALARM.—Irving T., Seacombe.
STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER.—Lyric T., Ham'smith
SUNDAY.—O. H., Leicester.
SUTTON AND RAYNOR'S REPERTOIRE.—Crown T., Eccles.
TERRY FRED.—Bournemouth and Southampton.
THIEF, THE (N.).—O. H., Coventry.
TICKET-OF-LEAVE MAN.—H. M. T., Dundee.
TWO LITTLE DRUMMER BOYS.—P. T., Accrington.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—King's T., Sunderland.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—T. R. Leigh.
WARNING TO WOMEN.—T. R., Darlington.
WAY OF THE WORLD.—Dalston Theatre, N.E.
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—T. R., South Shields.
WHEN IT WAS DARK.—O. H., Treherbert.
WHEN OTHER LIPS.—Colosseum T., Oldham.
WHO IS SHE?—Court T., Wigan.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN.—T. R., Leeds.
WILKIE, ALLAN AND CO.—T. R., Huddersfield.
WOMAN FROM RUSSIA.—Grand T., Derby.
WOMAN PAYS, THE.—O. H., Southport.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
£1,000 REWARD.—New Hall, Bargoed.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—Aquarium T., Yarmouth.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—
Tom Pacey—Sunday, Dec. 13.
Harry Gold—Sunday, Dec. 13.
Maurice Fritz—Sunday, Dec. 13.
Maud Jeffries—Monday, Dec. 14.
G. H. Chirgwin—Monday, Dec. 14.
Fay Davis—Tuesday, Dec. 15.
Mrs. Lewis Waller—Tuesday, Dec. 15.
Miss F. V. A. Hill—Tuesday, Dec. 15.
Cynthia Brooke—Tuesday, Dec. 15.
W. B. Fair—Tuesday, Dec. 15.
W. H. Kendal—Wednesday, Dec. 16.
W. W. Kelly—Wednesday, Dec. 16.
H. Beerbohm Tree—Thursday, Dec. 17.
A. B. Walkley—Thursday, Dec. 17.
Stewart D. Wright—Thursday, Dec. 17.
Ethel Ra-Leslie—Thursday, Dec. 17.
Hugh Fleming—Thursday, Dec. 17.
Miss Lucretia—Friday, Dec. 18.
H. A. Saintsbury—Friday, Dec. 18.
Jack Edgar—Friday, Dec. 18.

EARLY DELIVERY.

SPECIAL NEWSPAPER EXPRESS SERVICES now running on the London and North-Western, Great Northern, Midland, and Great Central Railways, carry *The Era* to the following important cities and towns at the times named. Newsvendors and subscribers obtain their papers at a much earlier hour than was previously possible:—

	a.m.
RUGBY	4.30
COVENTRY	4.54
BIRMINGHAM	5.20
CREWE	6. 5
MANCHESTER	6.50
LIVERPOOL	7. 0
CHESTER	9. 3
DONCASTER	6.10
YORK	7. 0
HULL	8.20
DARLINGTON	8.58
SCARBOROUGH	10. 5
NEWCASTLE	10.10
LEEDS (Central)	6.58
HUDDERSFIELD	7.37
BRADFORD (Exchange)	7.47
HARROGATE	7.50
HALIFAX	8.17
BURNLEY	9.28
LEICESTER	4.36
NOTTINGHAM	5.10
DERBY	5.35

AN interesting paper on "Cinematography in Colours" was read before a meeting of the Society of Arts on Wednesday by Mr. G. Albert Smith, F.R.A.S. Mr. Smith's paper was illustrated by animated photographs in natural colours.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

Notice to Subscribers.

"The Era" is sold by all Newsagents in all the leading English, Irish, and Scotch towns, every Saturday Morning. Price Sixpence.

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Six Months	0	13	Six Months	0	16
Three Months	0	6	Three Months	0	8

Cash must accompany order.

Notice to Advertisers.

Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433. Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

R. C. NUNN.—*La Grande Duchesse of Gerolstein, by Jacques Offenbach, was brought out at the Variétés in Paris in April, 1867, and first produced in London at Covent Garden Theatre on Nov. 18, 1867. It was revived at the Savoy on Dec. 4, 1897, when Miss Florence St. John played the Duchess and Mr. Walter Passmore was the General Boum; Miss Ruth Vincent the Iza, Mr. C. H. Workman the Carl, Mr. H. A. Lytton Prince Paul, Mr. C. H. E. Brookfield the Baron Grog, Miss Florence Perry the Wanda, Miss Beatrice Perry the Charlotte, and Miss Jessie Rose the Amélie.*

WIM.—*Apply by letter to managers of halls or theatres, sending copies of testimonials. There are some forty houses of entertainment to which you might write. A recommendation from some highly-placed army official might help you.*

INQUIRER.—*On June 12, 1866, Mr. W. H. Kendal, then a member of the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, stock company was entertained at dinner by his private and professional friends previous to his departure for Liverpool to join Mr. Charles Mathews at the Prince of Wales's Theatre there.*

HARRY BARFORD.—Harbour Lights *was produced at the Adelphi on Dec. 23, 1885;* A Woman's Revenge *at the same house, July 1, 1893.*

PANTOMIME.—*We have searched the advertising columns of several professional papers, but cannot find the names of the ladies you mention. They evidently desire to keep their engagements a profound secret, so why trouble?*

F. M. (Avenue de Villiers).—*We are making inquiries, and will endeavour to answer you next week.*

C. JONES.—*The late Mr. Charles Godfrey died on March 23, 1900. We are not certain whether he appeared at the London. We should say not.*

ASKHAM (*Cambridge*).—*Neither we nor anyone else publishes a "book of all the Lord Chamberlain's licensed plays and sketches." Our Almanack each year gives an alphabetical list of the plays produced during a twelvemonth, and our next issue of that publication will contain an alphabetical list of sketches. Write to our publishers for "The Era Almanack" for the last two or three years. The price is one shilling each copy.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

DE FRECE.—On Dec. 7, '08, at Albion Cottage, 245, Brixton Road, London, S.W., the wife of Mr. Jack de Frece, of a son. Both progressing favourably.

GARRICK.—Dec. 10, the wife of Gus Garrick, of a son. Both doing well.

LYNDON.—On Dec. 3, at 5, Arundel-road, Littlehampton, the wife of Denis Lyndon, of a bonny boy. Both well.

MARRIAGES.

BLAKELEY—RIPPELLE.—Nov. 29, in New York, James Blakeley, musical comedy artist, to Grace Rippelle.

ROLFE—CLYDE.—Dec. 5, by licence, at Chelsea, Arthur Rolfe to Queenie Clyde (speciality artist), only daughter of Frank Buckley.

DEATHS.

BRABOURNE.—Dec. 10, of pneumonia, John Brabourne, actor.

JEFFERSON.—Dec. 1, at Glasgow, Mrs. Arthur Jefferson (Madge Metcalfe), wife of Mr. Arthur Jefferson, manager of the Metropole, Glasgow.

KILBURN.—Nov. 29, at his home, 30, Southerton-road, Hammersmith, Harry Kilburn, the dear husband of Ruth Kilburn, of acute pneumonia, through a chill caught in Aldershot, age 42.

MCCANN.—On Dec. 2, at 131, Cross-lane, Salford, Mary Jane, dearly beloved wife of J. H. McCann. "Gone, but not forgotten."—R.I.P.

PRINCE.—On Dec. 5, Mrs. Prince, theatrical apartment house, 37, Rumford-street, Oxford-street, Manchester, suddenly. All rooms booked are therefore cancelled.

ROSE.—Nov. 2, at Neutral Bay, Lieut. Manfred Rose, Australian Theatrical Manager.

TITHERINGTON.—Dec. 9 (suddenly), at 17, Barker-house-road, Nelson, Ellis Titherington, for 21 years conductor, Grand Theatre, Nelson.

WINSTANLEY.—Dec. 5, at "The Cliffe," Little Bispham, Blackpool, Annie Nadine, wife of Lieut.-Colonel J. A. Winstanley, aged 42 years.

IN MEMORIAM.

BROWN.—In loving memory of our dear mother, Mrs. Edwin Brown (Kate Kelly), who died Dec. 13, 1899. Never forgotten by her daughters Kate, Ada, and Beattie.

FRANCE.—In memory of our dear son, Luigi Eugene France, brother to France Bros., circus performers. Nine years have gone, and still to memory dear.

LUBBOCK (LENO).—In loving remembrance of my son-in-law, Reggie, who passed away Dec. 15, 1905. Never forgotten by Ma.

MANSFIELD.—In loving memory of Ada Mansfield, the beloved wife of Theodore Jones, who passed away Dec. 10, 1905, at Southport. "Though lost to sight, to memory ever dear."

SCOTT.—In loving memory of my dear husband, John Francis Scott, who died Dec. 7, 1903. "Still to memory ever dear." His wife, Harriett Georgina.

FOR SYMPATHY.

JEFFERSON.—Arthur Jefferson and family return true, grateful thanks to all friends for deeply-valued expressions of sympathy in their bereavement.

WILL Mrs. Harry Kilburn's many friends accept her heartfelt thanks for their sympathy in her terrible trouble?

"THE ERA" LETTER-BOX.

A Stamped Envelope, plainly addressed, must be enclosed with application for each Letter. Letters, after lying at this Office for One Month, are forwarded to the Postal Authorities, to be returned to the Senders.
No Circulars or Parcels admitted to this list.

Alberto Troupe
Alexander, Mr. Louis
Arthurs, Mr. E. J.
Baines, Mr. Hamilton
Banks, Miss Flo
Beaufort, Miss G.
Bebb, Mr. J.
Bishop, Mr. Will
Blakey, Mr. R.
Boston, Miss Dolly
Boyne, Mr. L.
Brewer, Mr. Joseph
Bristow, Mr. H.
Britt, Mr. Jim
Callan, Mr. John
Cameron, Mr. H. H.
Carson, Mrs. C. L.
Chapman, Miss Hetty
Charley and Connor
Chipperfield, Mr. J. W.
Chirgwin, Miss Clara
Chumley, Mr. Alick
Chung Ling Soo
Clifford, Mr. H. M.
Cohen, Miss Bessie
Collings, Mr. Chas. W.
Collins, Mr. Albert
Colossus, Young
Cook, Mr. Stanley
Cornwallis, Miss M.
Corri, Mr. Clarence
Corri, Mr. Will
Coyle, Mr. J. E.
Crispin, Miss D.
Croker-King, Mr. C.
D'Albert, Mr. Alan
Day & Knight, Messrs.
De Fontenoy, Miss R.
Denham, Mr. G.
Dennis, Miss Maud
Denton, Mr. O.
Dillon, Miss Isabel
Donaldson, Mr. M. A.
Du Bois, Mr. Ed.
Dunedin Troupe
Ellis, Mr. Jay
Ellis, Miss Marie
Elworthy, Mr. W. T.
Elton, Mrs. S.
Evans, Mr. Ernest
Fandall, Miss Kitty
Fawn, Miss Harriett
Fellow-Bassett, Mr. A.
Foy, Mr. T.
Frasetty, Mlle.
Friedman, Mr. Jake
Fryer, Mr. Austin
Garner, Mr. Booth
Gregg, Mr. R. V. S.
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Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
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Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS AND OTHERS.

Owing to Christmas Day and Boxing Day this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, THE ERA will be Published at Midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

Advertisements intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, DEC. 22, to reach us by First Post on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23. Advertisements may be handed in at the counter until 12.30 noon on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1908.

SMOKING IN THEATRES.

As we announced last week, the Lord Chamberlain has now withdrawn his prohibition of smoking in the theatres under his control. Petitions in favour of this removal were presented to the Lord Chamberlain and to the County Council about three years ago. The Council, though sympathetic, was not prepared to act without the Lord Chamberlain, and the Lord Chamberlain could not then entertain the idea. Petitions in favour of smoking were got up and presented, and a resolution in favour of smoking in theatres was passed by the Managers' Association and by the Theatres Alliance. From this body two deputations were received over a year ago by the County Council advocating smoking, and Mr. J. B. MULHOLLAND, of the King's, Hammersmith, who is always active in theatrical interests, was spokesman on both occasions. On the first the advocacy was without result; on the second, the County Council granted the permission requested and withdrew the clauses in their regulations and in their licences in respect of theatres under their control. At the recent licensing, the Lord Chamberlain's office withdrew its prohibition of smoking in all suburban theatres under his Lordship's control—viz., the Kennington, the Camden, the Dalston, the Elephant and Castle, the Broadway, the West London, the Crown, and the Marlborough. The theatres licensed by the L.C.C. had already been liberated from restraint in this particular.

Appropriately enough, something of a haze hangs about the history of this matter of smoking in theatres. In the old Elizabethan playhouses smoking was certainly permitted. "At the back of each cavalier," says Mr. H. BARTON BAKER in his "History of the London Stage," "stands a page, a veritable Moth, whose duty it is to keep his master's pipe supplied with tobacco from the fine lily-pots that, upon being opened, smell like conserve of roses; while between a pair of silver tongs he holds a glowing coal of juniper-wood to ignite the Virginian weed, which is 'drunk,' as the phrase goes, from bowls of silver or clay of many curious shapes."

Smoking, however, was then only in its infancy. It was an occasional indulgence, not a regular habit. It has now become so indispensable an accompaniment to the daily lives of hundreds of citizens that many persons devote the whole of their leisure to the enjoyment of tobacco—accompanied, of course, by other things. They smoke as they travel to business in the morning; they smoke after their luncheon; they smoke on the return journey home; and they smoke after dinner in the evening until it is time to go to bed. The practice, common in Germany, of "chain-smoking"—that is to say, of lighting a cigar at the end of one which is just finished, and so continuing throughout the day—is out of reach of most persons, whose occupations prevent them from this sustained and unceasing indulgence; but as near an approach to it as possible is made in England in many instances. It is possible that now and then the liberty to smoke may have weighed against the more dramatic nature of the attraction when the theatre and the music-hall competed for the patronage of the individual; but we are inclined to think that the choice was already made when the votary of the weed became its slave to this extent. The essential difference between the entertainment at the music-hall and the theatre is that the one soothes while the other stimulates. Mr. GEORGE MOORE has educed the theory that the more intellectual the individual, the more simple are his recreations. TURNER, in the intervals of painting his immortal masterpieces, loved to carouse with the rough sailors of Wapping; SPINOZA, when not engaged in writing his books, watched flies struggling in the webs of spiders. Carried out to its fullest extent, this would result in variety theatres being chiefly patronised by philosophers and statesmen, which is hardly the case. But Mr. ASQUITH is, we believe, an enthusiastic admirer of Miss MAUD ALLAN'S art; and, for all we know, the chief consolation of Mr. BALFOUR for his absence from office may be the joyous jocunditics of JOB ELVIN or the quaint diversions of Little TICH. The variety theatre forms a haven of rest for the exhausted brain-worker, who does not desire to have the problems of life, with which he has been wrestling in his vocation, re-introduced to his attention, when he is "off-duty," in a problem play. It seems, therefore, that there are natural "affinities" between smoking and a variety entertainment, and between non-smoking and the drama. When the attention is strongly occupied either by fiction or by a theatrical performance, the cigar is apt to be neglected to the point of extinction. Playgoers are by no means unanimous on this question of smoking in theatres. There are many men who regularly smoke their cigar or pipe every evening at home who dislike extremely to breathe an atmosphere laden with the smoke of others; and, curiously enough, some smokers become indisposed if they are not smoking when others around them are doing so. The ladies are, nowadays, so "acclimatised" to the cigar and cigarette that they stand on the same footing with the men; but they, we are informed, object to the fumes of tobacco, which are apt to cling obstinately to their dresses after an evening spent in a smoke-filled interior. A manager who invites smoking in his auditorium must have an intimate acquaintance with the desires and tastes of the majority of his patrons; or else, for one playgoer whom he gains by his innovation, he may very easily drive away two. But, certainly, the freedom of choice should be, as it now is, in the possession of all.

MR. G. ALEXANDER AND THE FEEDING OF HUNGRY CHILDREN.

At the weekly meeting of the London County Council on Tuesday a discussion took place, on a recommendation brought up by the Education Committee, that until further order the average number of meals per child be omitted from the weekly report submitted relating to the feeding of necessitous children.

Mr. W. Crooks, M.P., speaking in loud and indignant tones, charged the sub-committee with flagrant neglect in reference to the feeding of the children.

In the course of the animated debate which followed, Mr. George Alexander said he yielded to no man in his desire to see the children fed; but he would like to burst the bubble blown by Mr. Frank Smith, or at any rate to rob that bubble of some of its melodramatic heroics. Mr. Smith was accustomed to make references to members who went golfing or yachting, and apparently objected to their indulgence in rational amusements, but no one on that side of the house would desire to deny him the pleasure of smoking a Salmon and Gluckstein cigarette in the lobby.

Mr. Frank Smith: Will Mr. Alexander state when he has seen me indulging in a cigarette? I have never smoked one in my life.

Mr. Alexander said he hoped that members on the other side would try to understand that the policy of the majority was a very simple one—that it was an endeavour to get the ratepayer who could afford it to help the Council to feed the starving children, and thus relieve the struggling ratepayer, who would suffer severely if the whole cost of the feeding was placed on the rates. There were many on the border line of starvation, and there were the men with small incomes, such as the army of clerks, that they wished to protect. He trusted, therefore, that adequate support would be given the Lord Mayor and others in their voluntary efforts to raise funds for the feeding of the children.

Ultimately, an amendment moved by Mr. Jesson having been withdrawn, the recommendation was agreed to.

"GEORGE FREDERICK COOKE," writes Charles Lamb, "was once invited by a builder or architect of one of the theatres—Elmerton, as I think. He went; and Elmerton, being at a loss whom to invite, pitched upon Brandon, the box-keeper, to meet him. All went on pretty well until midnight, when, George Frederick getting very drunk, his host began to be tired of his company. George took the hint, and his host lighted him downstairs; when Cooke, laying hold of both his ears, shouted, 'Have I, George Frederick Cooke, degraded myself by dining with bricklayers to meet box-keepers!' tripped up his heels, and left him sprawling in darkness."

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

AN AMERICAN SATIRE-PLAY.

(FROM OUR NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT.)

The Americans like to make fun of the English custom of drinking tea in the afternoon. Fifth-avenue adopted the custom long ago, but "the masses" have not yet come to it, and according to the humorists they are not likely to, because they prefer something stronger. In the second act of *The Patriot*, a farcical comedy in three acts, by J. Hartley Manners and William Collier, which was produced at the Garrick Theatre, New York, on Nov. 23, the scene being the drawing-room of a flat in the Buckingham Palace-road, Mrs. Berkshire and her English friends drink tea at one table, while Pop Strong and his wife Bijou drink whisky at another, and extend an invitation to the Britishers to "come over to the American bar." The Strongs hail from Nevada, where the repose of the Vere de Veres is unknown, and the scene in which their "breezy" manners scandalise the "staid" Britishers provokes much laughter. And when the "Americanised" Englishman, Sir Augustus Plantagenet Armitage, whose love of his adopted country prompts him to leave a London drawing-room in disgust for a log cabin in Nevada, gets back among his own kind, the one thing that amuses his friends more than anything else is his description of the afternoon tea-drinking. Incidentally, he informs the company that the English ladies he met in society looked all right in the day-time, but all that they wore at night was "a skirt and jewels."

In writing this comedy the authors have utilised for fun-making purposes the little differences of pronunciation with which every transatlantic traveller is familiar, and for hilarity's sake have employed the somewhat hackneyed device of making the American characters conduct themselves in a ludicrously abject manner in the presence of the owner of a title. For instance, when Pop Strong and his wife meet the Hon. Ferguson Armitage they create diversion by bowing themselves double and by the absurd reiteration of "my lord" in their conversation. "Oh, lord, no, my lord," says Strong's better half in answer to a question.

Sir Augustus Plantagenet Armitage owns the Bull Frog mine in Nevada. In everything but his name he is distinctly a Western American, although he calls his log cabin "Armitage Manor." His mine has produced plenty of rock and dirt, but no gold. He is without any money, and as he owes his shareholding miners several weeks' pay they have begun to lose confidence in him. A meeting is held in the log cabin, and it is truly a motley gathering. The attempted formality of the proceedings is upset by comic interruptions and the decidedly informal conduct of the "shareholders." There is one of the company who hasn't lost faith in Armitage. She is a slip of a girl named Nell, who calls him "the boss," and secretly idolises him. Armitage persuades the men to stand by him for a few days longer, and just in the nick of time Mr. Percival Robertshaw, a solicitor from London, appears on the scene with the astounding news that Armitage is heir to an English estate and ten thousand a year. The legatee will have to comply with certain conditions, as the solicitor tries to explain. Armitage defies the lawyer to name any conditions that will stand between him and ten thousand a year, throws a few things into a portmanteau, and is soon on his way to England.

He is hardly recognisable when, in the second act, he strides into the London drawing-room dressed as a "heavy swell," and trying to bear himself accordingly. He has placed himself under the instruction of an individual named Gainsford, who not only acts as his valet and general factotum, but coaches him in the usages of polite society. This Gainsford is a terrible person—a regular martinet, in fact, and the man from Nevada lives in constant fear of him and his oft-repeated "Don't do that!" According to Gainsford, everything that Armitage does or wears they are not doing—or wearing—"this season." The orchid in his buttonhole is not correct, his waistcoat is too low and his collar too high. Furthermore, he is wearing his eyeglass in his right eye, and "they are not doing that this season." He mustn't touch his collar, although it almost chokes him, or smooth his hair, or do anything that he wants to do. He even stands up for fear they are "not sitting this season," and continually practises the approved style of sauntering along in an easy, unconcerned way, with his chin up, with one arm behind him, and the other swinging gracefully in front of him. Every time he tries it he falls over the furniture. What a blessed relief it is when Gainsford leaves the room. Posting Pop Strong at the door to keep a look out for him, Armitage takes off his coat and walks about in his shirt-sleeves. Incidentally he calls attention to his monogram, explaining that he would have had his full name on the sleeve, but it "went all the way round."

To obtain the legacy Sir Augustus must marry a distant relative, a girl named Nora. Mrs. Berkshire, a prim and punctilious person, calls with Nora, and the introduction is brought about in the drawing-room. As the ladies enter Sir Augustus tries to appear at ease, but in the next room the bouncing Bijou suddenly squalls out, "My Bonnie lies over the ocean," which quite upsets his equilibrium. Then he is reproved for saying Berkshire instead of "Barkshire," and the irrepressible Bijou, in trying to start a conversation with Nora's supercilious chaperon, becomes so free and familiar that Mrs. Berkshire rises in anger and disgust, calls her "an atrocious creature," and demands to know why she has been forced to meet "these dreadful people."

This is the last straw that settles Sir Augustus Plantagenet Armitage in trying to live up to his name. He turns on Mrs. Berkshire and berates her for insulting his friends, and the two ladies beat a hasty retreat. Then the Americanised Englishman breaks loose. He tears off his collar, throws off his coat, runs his hand through his hair that he has been forbidden to touch, hurls defiance at the flabbergasted Gainsford, and chases him out of the room. He is going back to Nevada, and everybody in London can go hang.

In the last act, preparations for a grand welcome to Armitage are going on in the log cabin at Bull Frog. A picturesque assortment of characters, including Indians and half-breeds, all of them wearing high hats and frock coats, but otherwise attired in their rough working clothes, get ready to receive "the boss." He has been in London, where they wear such things, and they must dress themselves accordingly. The effect is indescribably funny. When "the boss" arrives the scene becomes a pandemonium. Enthroned on the table, he addresses his friends, and tells them how glad he is to get back to Bull Frog. Then they sit down to eat, and he relates some, but not all, of his experiences. The mine is prospering now, and when he discovers that Nell is in love with him he is content to marry her and remain where he is. He wants to forget London. It is a painful subject. The fear of one person that he met there still hangs over him, and when somebody behind him exclaims "Don't do that!" he almost jumps out of his skin. It was a false alarm, however, and he laughs at himself for thinking it was the hated Gainsford.

Sir Augustus Plantagenet Armitage is played by Mr. William Collier, who made a hit in London a year or two ago in *On the Quiet*. To say that he is funny is like repeating a truism. He is always funny. *The Patriot* is a success.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

By kind permission of Mr. Beerbohm Tree the Royal College of Music, at His Majesty's Theatre on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 3, gave for the first time in England, a performance of Hermann Goetz's opera *Francesca*. The composer, already known to fame by his *Taming of the Shrew*, produced abroad in 1874, died Dec. 3, 1876, and his opera *Francesca*, heard for the first time on Thursday, was, as regards the music, completed by Ernest Frank. The libretto by J. V. Widmann, has been re-written by Hermann Goetz, and Marmaduke E. Browne has written the English version. Goetz evidently felt that the sombre tragedy of Paolo and Francesca required something to relieve the gloomy story, and therefore introduced Diana, a cousin to the Malatestas and Pietro, an old steward of Lanciotto. The story of *Francesca* is, in some respects not unlike the Montague and Capulet feud in *Romeo and Juliet*, the Rimini and Ravenna states after long disputes, being almost at the point of war. Paolo, a younger brother of the Prince of Rimini, meets Francesca, daughter of Guido da Polenta, Prince of the rival house of Ravenna, reading the romance of "Lancelot of the Lake," and it is very soon a case of love at first sight with them. Unfortunately war breaks out between Ravenna and Rimini, and the lovers are parted. In the battle Francesca's uncle is accidentally killed by Paolo. In great distress at this, Paolo takes service under the King of Sicily. After some time the Ravennas hear tidings of his death. In less than a year after the news of Paolo's death the long feud between Rimini and Ravenna ends, and at the wish of her father Francesca, to cement the union of the two states, marries Lanciotto da Rimini. The opera, which is in three acts, opens with the marriage festivities of Lanciotto and Francesca. Diana, secretly in love with Paolo in past years, tells Francesca the joyful news that Paolo is not dead, having been rescued by some Sicilian monks, and will shortly arrive. Francesca at first refuses to meet him, but at the wish of her father consents to do so. When they do meet, it is only to find the old love burning as fiercely as ever. Lanciotta finds his wife in his brother's arms; a duel between them is only prevented by Guido, and Paolo is sent to prison. In the last act Guido discovers Diana's love for Paolo, and asks his daughter to persuade Paolo to marry Diana, and Francesca consents. For this purpose Guido contrives a meeting. They are discovered by Lanciotto, who, not knowing the project of the meeting, stabs Francesca. Paolo draws his sword, but Francesca, mortally wounded, parts them with her last effort, and falls dead between the brothers as the curtain descends. Such is the gloomy story of the new opera, which is little relieved either by the character of Diana or the partly comic part of Pietro, the steward. After the unhappy Francesca, all one's sympathies are for her unfortunate husband rather than the hero. Hermann Goetz's music is graceful and flowing, and thoroughly Teutonic in character, without, however, any special dramatic features, while the ensembles at the end of the first two acts are weak. Were it not for some pretty music to the charming ballet arranged by Mr. B. Soutten and the graceful dancing and handsome costumes of the young ladies, the first act would have been somewhat dull. By far the strongest portion of the opera, both in musical and dramatic interest, is the second act. The fine duet between Paolo and Francesca in this act was, in many respects, worthy of Puccini, while the solo for Guido was most artistic and expressive. In the last act the opera depends more on the dramatic situations than on the music. Miss Viola Tree as Francesca acted with rare ability; statuesque and graceful, and like a "daughter of the god's, divinely tall," her gestures were always appropriate to the situations. As a vocalist Miss Tree is not so entirely satisfactory. Her voice, though good in quality and giving promise of future power, is not at present well produced. Mr. Frank Webster, who appeared as Paolo, has a small but pleasing tenor voice, but on Thursday afternoon he was severely handicapped by a cold. The part of Diana was most successfully undertaken by Miss Jean Fyans, who sang and acted with great intelligence, while Mr. John W. Birrell as Guido deserves hearty praise for his artistic singing of the solo in the second act, where, unaware of the truth, he urges Francesca to receive Paolo as a friend, saying, "The feud is at an end, and even I, my daughter, have forgiven." Mr. Joseph Ireland's Lanciotto was another good vocal feature in the performance, and Mr. George A. Baker did all that was possible in the small part of the steward, Pietro. The chorus sang and acted intelligently, while the orchestra of the College, under the skilful guidance of Sir Charles V. Stanford, played well and never overpowered the singers. Mr. Richard Temple proved an admirable stage director, the chorus-master being Mr. S. P. Waddington, assisted by Mr. Harold Samuel. The scenery and properties were lent by Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and the handsome costumes by Mr. Neil Forsyth, Royal Opera, Covent Garden. A huge audience were present at His Majesty's on Thursday afternoon, and the musical public ought to be obliged to the enterprise of the Royal College of Music for their interesting production of the new opera.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"VERSIEGELT."

Comic Opera, in One Act, by Leo Blech,
Produced at the Royal Opera, Dec. 2.

Burgomaster Braun	HERR HOFFMANN
Else	FRAULEIN DIETRICH
Frau Gertrud	FRAULEIN HEMPEL
Frau Willmers	FRAU SCHEEL-MULLER
Bertel	HERR KIRCHHOFF
Lampe	HERR KNUPFER
Knotl	HERR GRUEN
Schützenkönig	HERR BACHMANN
Nachtwaechter	HERR WEGENER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Dec. 10. — Herr Blech, one of the Royal Opera conductors, is a rising composer. His pretty little one-act opera *Das war Ich* ("It was I"), which has met with considerable success here and elsewhere, has already been described in your columns, and the new production is—musically speaking—far superior. Both instrumentation and harmonies are admirable; all is lyrical and merry at the same time, and there is abundance of melody. With the book our esteemed kapellmeister has not given himself much trouble; the plot is simple and has a Falstaff *motif*. Frau Gertrud is a merry widow, chief among whose lovers is the head of the little community, Burgomaster Braun. A friend of Gertrud—a certain Frau Willmers, living in the same house—is in debt, and to avoid the possibility of a valuable old wardrobe falling a victim to the bailiffs she has the heirloom taken to Frau Gertrud. The merry widow conceals her Burgomaster from inquisitive visitors in the convenient depths of the cupboard, but ill-luck will have it that the bailiff discovers Frau Willmers' property in her friend's room, and claps his seal upon it in no time. Frau Gertrud conceives a plot out of which she intends to derive lots of fun and make sure of the Burgomaster at the same time, having compromised him beyond recall. The cupboard shall be taken out into the meadow, where all the people are assembled for a fête. She goes off to put this cruel plan into execution, leaving Bertel Willmers and his sweetheart Else (the Burgomaster's daughter) to keep watch. The young couple promise Herr Braun his liberty if he will consent to their union, to which he has been hitherto opposed. This being satisfactorily settled, the lovers exchange places with papa, and the end of everything is naturally what all parties concerned wish it to be. The interpretation was faultless, Fräulein Hempel excelling herself in the part of Frau Gertrud. The composer, who conducted, was compelled to bow his acknowledgments times innumerable. That the opera, which is charmingly staged, will enjoy a long lease of life is a safe prediction. Herr Blech has, by the way, dedicated it to his teacher, Prof. Humperdinck. There was another work in the programme on this eventful evening—Laparre's three-act opera *Habanera*. How the management could present such a horrible piece of dilettante workmanship to a Royal Opera audience must ever remain a conundrum. Act I.—A man murders his brother, all through love of a maid; the deed is done to the tones of the Habanera, a national dance of Spain. Act II.—The ghost of the murdered man appears and demands a confession from the wicked brother; three blind men are playing the Habanera. Act. III.—The lady who caused the trouble dies, in consequence of the ghost's demand not being complied with; the dead march reveals a slow adaptation of the Habanera. All this is connected with crudeness a Royal Academy student of sixteen would disdain. Where the audience were intended to be impressed they roared with laughter, and so distinct and general a "refusal" has perhaps never before been witnessed in the Opera House. Alas for all the pains expended on its production! *Habanera* only lived one night. When Blech's *Versiegelt* appeared in the bill two days afterwards it was coupled with *Bajacci*, and not, as first announced, with Laparre's work.

Ibsen's fine play *Der Volksfeind* has been revived with considerable success at the Lessing—that Ibsen theatre par excellence. There is no other company in all Berlin—propably not in all Germany—who can play the pieces of the Northern Wizard as can the Lessing. Herr Bassermann in the name-part is well known; Herr Sauer (Stadtvogt), Herr Forest (Aslaksen), Fräulein Sussins as Frau Stockmann, and Herr Achterberg as the journalist Billing—one and all were above praise.

HENRY BERNSTEIN'S serious three-act play *Israel* is doing good business at the Neues, filling the bill every night this week. Herr Lothar is the translator, and has evidently done his work well. A detailing of the plot will be superfluous, it having certainly come under the notice of your Paris correspondent.

MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS MACLENNAN, of the Berlin Royal Opera, have obtained a four-weeks' leave of absence in order to sing at the English Opera at Covent Garden from Jan. 16. They will sing in the "Ring," *Madama Butterfly*, Naylor's new opera *Angelus*, and other works. Mrs. Maclennan (Miss Florence Easton) has made her principal success here as Butterfly—many considering it her best rôle—and she has given it close on a hundred times.

MATHEWS had known Mr. Braham in the autumn of 1803 at Liverpool, and it followed that he gave a perfect imitation of him both in private and public life. Of this Mr. Braham heard, and with all the liberality of good sense and conscious talent, he good-humouredly pressed Mathews to show him—what not more than one man in twenty is acquainted with—*himself*. In vain did he solicit; when one day dining together at a large party, after much importunity of the kind to Braham No. 2, it was discovered that Braham No. 1 had stolen a march upon his host and hostess; in fact, he had disappeared during the dessert, and it was said had left the house. After this fact was ascertained, it was urged that in the absence of the great original, Mr. Mathews could do no less than represent him, for the consolation of his bereaved friends; and under such circumstances he at length yielded, and Mr. Braham's absence was fully compensated for the time by the imitator, and *Mr. Braham* even favoured the company with one of his most popular songs. When the general enjoyment was at its height, two ladies, between whom Mr. Braham had sat at dinner, seemed as if suddenly discomposed, when a figure rose slowly from under the table, and in tones which seemed uttered as if intended in illustration of the recent mimicry pronounced "Very well, Mathews! exceedingly like indeed; nay, perfect, if I know myself," and *the* Braham stood confessed.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

Miss Cecilia Loftus, following the advice of Sir Felix Semon, the eminent throat specialist, will rest during next week, and resume the last three weeks of her engagement on Monday, Dec. 21.

The Variety Artists' Federation held a meeting yesterday afternoon, at the Bedford Head Hotel, on the subject of the agent trouble. It was announced by Mr. W. H. Clemart, the chairman, that the General Federation of Trade Unions had, at the request of the Entertainments Protection Association (representing the managers of music-halls) arranged a meeting between those two parties and the Variety Artists' Federation, for the purpose of a conference on the agent question. The meeting will be probably held on Monday, and the interests will be represented by four managers, four nominees of the General Federation of Trades Unions, and four members of the V.A.F. executive.

Messrs. Fortune and Granville, variety agents, of Savoy-street, Strand, W.C., on Wednesday, at the Westminster County Court, sued the Paulasto Troupe, the Pender Troupe, Burnetti, Will Cornish, Keir and Kempton, Tom Stuart, and Vanando for commission due, and in each case judgment was given in their favour, the amounts sued for with all costs to be paid within fourteen days. Mr. T. E. Baker, solicitor, acted for plaintiffs.

With reference to the latest combine, Mr. Oswald Stoll makes the reassuring statement—"This is not a combination for fighting. It is a combination to employ talent, and to make it possible for all of us to get some of the best that is offering. Our object need cause no one any uneasiness. It is not directed against individuals or organisations."

Mr. Joe O'Gorman, chairman of the V.A.F., is quite prepared to take Mr. Stoll's assurance that the combine will in no way adversely affect the artists, who desire to work amicably with everybody. Mr. C. C. Bartram is not quite so sanguine. He is surprised that Messrs. Gibbons and Barrasford have joined Mr. Stoll, and says that the artists feel that the combine aims at reducing artists' salaries.

Mr. W. H. Clemart, the V.A.F. secretary, says that it will be ultimately discovered that the arrangement arrived at between the Moss Empires, the syndicate halls, and the other parties, is, in a strict sense, an amalgamation for the purpose of establishing a central booking-office to engage artists. This, of course, would be to the benefit of the artists, provided a fair contract be offered to them, and no attempt be made to levy a commission on their salary.

There are to be alterations in the administrative staff of the Syndicate, and it is understood that Mr. Leon Zeitlin, who is well known in connection with Mr. Henri Gros' halls, has been offered and has accepted a position at 1, Durham House-street.

By the kindness of Mr. Oswald Stoll a special morning performance in aid of Sir William Treloar's Cripples' Hampers Fund will be given at the Coliseum on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 22. A strong programme is being arranged under the auspices of Mr. Harry Tate. The entertainment will be entitled "A Water Rats' Carnival," and novel and interesting features will characterise the performance. All the funds raised by this effort will go to the purchase of hampers to brighten the lives of little crippled children at Christmas. The Lord Mayor, Sir George Wyatt Truscott, will attend in state.

The following well-known music-hall artists have, subject to the permission of their respective managers, promised to lend their services: Messrs. Eugene Stratton, George Leyton, George Mozart, Arthur Reece, Joe Elvin, Chirgwin, Tom Costello, Horace Goldin, Miss Rachel Lowe, Miss Marie Kendall, and others. Seats for the matinée may be booked either at the Coliseum or at the offices of Sir William P. Treloar's Fund, 122-124, Mansion House-chambers, E.C.

In the ordinary course of events the Palace Theatre celebration of its opening should have been fixed for next week; but Mr. Alfred Butt and the directors have abandoned the idea of any special entertainment, and thus another anniversary becomes a "thing of the past."

Mr. Walter Gibbons will provide pantomime at the Camden Theatre at Christmas. This is good news for the playgoers of Camden Town, for the Camden Theatre has always been famous for its pantomimes. A highly original version of *Blue Beard* is announced, and the cast is an exceptionally strong one, including Mr. Ben Albert, Mr. Ernest Rees, Ferguson and Mack, Mr. Harold Carson, Miss Addie Lennard, Miss José Collins, Miss Lottie Sergeant, and a very strong chorus. The production is in the experienced hands of Mr. C. St. John Denton and Mr. Peter Davey.

It is with much regret that we hear of the serious illness of Mr. Edgar Lee, and this regret will, we feel sure, be shared by many of our readers. Mr. Lee, who is being tenderly nursed at home by his devoted wife, has been the recipient of much sympathy.

Miss Gladys Hompfey has been playing both at music hall and theatre this week. Besides appearing in the character she created in *Havana* at the Gaiety, she has been playing, with great success, at the Palace, Hammersmith, the part of the Schoolmistress in *The Major's Niece*. Miss Ada Reeve and Miss Kate Cutler have had the same uncommon experience of obliterating the dividing line between the greater and the lesser stage.

The great attraction at the London Hippodrome on Monday is to be Sir Genille Cave-Browne-Cave, the cowboy baronet, who will introduce a company of cowboys, Texan rough-riders, and Indians, giving a realistic idea of life in the prairies. There will be an exhibition of roping cattle, of Indians shooting with bows and arrows, clever Mexican whip manipulators, cowboys in daring acts of horsemanship—in short, a miniature Wild West.

In the New York Police Court on Monday Miss Vesta Victoria was charged with violating the city ordinance which provides that vocalists shall not wear fancy costumes at a presumably sacred concert. She was immediately discharged; but the whole affair has been a great shock to her nerves.

Mr. Alfred Butt will present on Monday, as previously announced in our columns, at the Palace Theatre, Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks in a new sketch by Mr. Paul Rubens entitled *Fly By Night*. This musical aero play, which is to distinguish the first appearance in vaudeville of the happy pair, has an "aero" and "aeroine." Cicely (Miss Terriss) is the daughter of the proprietor and editor of *The Conquering Hero*, and Rupert (Mr. Hicks) is in love with Cicely. They are to have the musical assistance of sixteen other ladies, all daughters of other editors. The scene is laid on the roof garden of Cicely's father's house in the neighbourhood of Aldwych. Mr. Walter Hann has painted special scenery, and the *air* is by Clarkson. The practical aeroplane, on which Mr. Seymour Hicks makes his "dramatic" entry from the sky, has been built by Mr. C. J. Cheeseman.

Birmingham's new Hippodrome at Barton's Arms, Aston Newtown, attracted a huge audience at the opening on Monday, and at the second house the Mayor of Aston and suite attended.

Messrs. Broadhead are contemplating the erection of another amusement house in Manchester; also at Liverpool and Preston. Lancashire folk are especially favourable to variety.

The Corporation of Scarborough invite tenders from entertainers for the occupation from May 1 to Sept. 30, 1909, of spaces on the South and North Sands; for the stage and arena of the Alexandra Gardenrs (evenings only); and the Clarence Gardens. Further particulars may be obtained on application to Mr. D. Arthur Nicholl, town clerk.

Liverpool is adding to its many cinematographic shows. On Monday the old abandoned Wesleyan Chapel at the bottom of Brownlow-hill, near the famous Adelphi Hotel, will be re-opened by the New Century Animated Picture Co.

Messrs. B. Kennedy and James P. Moore, who recently purchased the magnificent block of buildings comprising the King's Hall, Birmingham, have recently purchased the famous and spacious Geo. Dawson building, situated in the Parade, Birmingham, which is surrounded with a vast working-class population, and for which they have been granted a music and dancing licence by a full bench of magistrates. They open on Boxing Day with animated pictures. Messrs. Moore and Kennedy now possess three fine halls in Birmingham, and their circuit includes Hanley and Worcester.

The members of the Grand Order of Water Rats assisted with their patronage and presence at a testimonial matinée given to Mr. Ernest Lepard at the Brighton Alhambra on Tuesday, when the theatre was kindly lent for the occasion by Mr. Alfred Smith. Unfortunately, Marie Lloyd was absent, owing to the breakdown of her motor-car at Arundel while she was making her journey from Portsmouth (where she is engaged this week) to Brighton.

Those who appeared included Peggy Pryde, Millie Hylton, Josephine la Barte, Florence Esdaile, Joe O'Gorman, Duncan and Godfrey, Sam Mayo, Fred Earle, Johnny Gilmore, Geo. D'Albert, Arthur Reece, Ian Colquhoun, Herbert la Martine, and Dusty Rhodes. During an interval Mr. Joe O'Gorman, on behalf of the Testimonial Committee, handed Mr. Lepard a purse of gold subscribed for by friends. There was no one, he said, more popular or more loved in the profession than Mr. Lepard. The latter, in returning thanks, expressed his indebtedness to his directors for granting him the benefit, to Mr. Alfred Smith for kindly lending the theatre, and to the audience for their support, the artists for their much-appreciated help, and the staff and orchestra for their assistance.

Dr. Walford Bodie, the famous bloodless surgeon, who has lately been creating a sensation in the literary world as an author, has been commissioned by C. Arthur Pearson, Ltd., London, the well-known publishers, to write a series of romantic hypnotic stories for one of their magazines. They will be of a startling romantic nature, and will extend over a period of twelve or eighteen months. The first of the series is now in the press. The versatile doctor is also busy on a new musical comedy, which he hopes to produce at a West End house shortly.

The Doctor's "Stage Stories," now having a big run on the market, is published by Simpkin, Marshall, and Co. They ran in serial form in the *Glasgow Weekly Mail*, *Leeds Saturday Journal*, *North London Gazette*, *The Luton Reporter*, *The Northern Gazette*, &c. For the serial rights alone of "Stage Stories" he received over £500. The "Bodie Book," also written by Dr. Bodie, is now in the fourteenth edition, over 50,000 copies having been sold in three years—a record for any book of its kind.

Mr. Harry Hunter, the popular acting-manager at the Grand, Blackpool, has been much gratified by the gift of a beautiful autographed photograph and a silver cigarette case from Madame Albani, as a souvenir of her first variety engagement.

The many friends of Mr. Thomas P. Duignan, late manager of the Empire Palace, Belfast, and recently general-manager of the Hippodrome, Blackpool, will be glad to hear that he has now fully recovered from his illness, and is about again and now resting at his home at Inchicore, Co. Dublin.

Mr. Arthur Miller, from Southampton, on Monday at the Palace, Lincoln, succeeded Mr. R. R. Black as manager, the latter going to the Palace and Hippodrome, Warrington (the Macnaghten house), to fill up a gap caused by the illness of Mr. George D. Bradbury.

The new proprietors of the Tynemouth Palace are stated to be Alderman Wm. Dodds, of Field House, North Shields, and Mr. Jas. Johnstone, of Boldon Hall, Boldon, near South Shields. The original cost of the house was £100,000.

La Milo seems to be turning the tables on the ultra-Puritan, and instead of being the challenged she has become the challenger. At Blackpool she tells the local council:—"I am here to instil the lesson and message of loyalty to nature through the impersonal evidence of an ideal, and to assist you in the elevation of that art which defies the libertine but encourages the pure. The masters I follow fashioned their work in sweetness, inspired with a noble purpose."

The many friends of Mr. G. D. Bradbury, general-manager of the Palace and Hippodrome, Warrington, will be sorry to hear that he is now lying in the Warrington Hospital with an attack of diphtheria. The latest accounts are that he is progressing favourably. Mr. Bradbury, prior to coming to Warrington, was general-manager of the Southampton Palace and Hippodrome.

Last week, in the course of the celebration of the redecorating of the Empire, Bradford, there was a pleasant little interlude, when, before a crowded house, Mr. Thomas Speight appeared on the stage, on the introduction of Mr. Percival Craig, the manager, and briefly reviewed the history of the house. Ten years ago Mr. Speight, as Mayor of Bradford, was present on the same boards at the opening, and he now expressed his satisfaction that Mr. Craig valued his services equally with the previous manager, inasmuch as it would be noticed that he had no number up. Whether it was that Mr. Craig counted his abilities as higher or lower than those of the ordinary artist he did not know; at any rate he was not paid for his services there.

He was paid in one sense, however. When he opened that building ten years ago he had a conversation with Mr. Moss—now Sir Edward Moss—who assured him that at all times every effort would be made to provide first-rate entertainment without introducing any objectionable features, and that ideal, he believed, had been maintained. He was repaid by the knowledge that the performances had given satisfaction not only to the authorities but to the citizens of Bradford.

We regret to hear that Mr. John Dawson, through overtaxing himself, is suffering from throat trouble, and has been ordered a week's complete rest.

The enormously successful production of *Lisette, the Laundry Girl*, by Mme. Edith Mellor, has been booked for Christmas week by Mr. Henri Gros for the Metropolitan.

Bob Fitzsimmons, the well-known American prizefighter, and his wife will appear at the Oxford on the 21st in a new sketch, *A Man's a Man for a' That; or, A Fight for Love*, which is having a run through the provinces.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fuller (Miss Katie Lawrence) have returned to London from Eastbourne, and are now residing at 72, Delancey-street, Regent's Park, N.W., where the invalid will be pleased to see or hear from old friends.

The Smythsons Comedy Co. are returning to London, after five months' highly-successful tour on the Macnaghten circuit and the Bostock halls. They open on Monday at the Empire, Camberwell, with their ever-welcome novelty sketch *The Lie-Alarm*.

Since Miss Winifred Hare offered £100 for a song suitable to sing during her forthcoming pantomime engagement, she has received 218 manuscripts. It is understood that Miss Hare will make her final selection on Monday next, when a cheque for the amount will be sent to the fortunate writer and composer.

Following up her success at the Oxford and her appearance this week at the Tivoli, where she will appear all this month, Miss Helen Trix, America's wonderful lady whistler at the piano, has been booked by Mr. Oswald Stoll for his entire tour.

The next committee meeting of the Music Hall Home Fund will be held at the Palace, Camberwell, on Thursday next, Dec. 17, at twelve noon. The first list of *The Era*'s New Year Appeal on behalf of the Music Hall Home will shortly appear. Kindly send in your full cards to Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, hon. treasurer, *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

Miss Alice May, the English lady protean, has an amusing turn, entitled *Tranquillity*, in which she plays a lively young lady given to mischievous pranks. The character work of the artist has evoked much applause this week at the Palace, Gloucester, where Miss May is scoring a most gratifying success.

Mr. Horace Reeves, son of Fred Reeves, the well-known dramatic and variety agent, attained his majority on Thursday. Quite a large number of letters and telegrams reached him at the Cedars, Grove-road, Brixton. Will the many friends who favoured him with messages of congratulation accept this paragraph as an acknowledgment of their kindness?

Miss Kitty Rayburn is giving free permission for her popular song, "Won't you come to me in Canada?" for any theatre within two miles of the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, where she will play principal boy in Mr. Brydon Phillips's pantomime. During the week, at the Crouch End Hippodrome, she has been making a hit with her new song, by T. R. Robson and John Neat, entitled "It seems to make the sunshine brighter," a song of healthy sentiment, and one that audiences will appreciate wherever it is sung. Messrs. Francis, Day, and Hunter have secured the number for publication.

Clempert opened for the first time in London at the Palace, Stoke Newington, last week, with a clause in his contract to the effect that should he not make good at the first house on Monday his contract should be cancelled. At the conclusion of the act Mr. J. de Frece personally complimented him and gave him tours well into 1911, also arranging to take over the sole booking for the act.

The ease with which Mr. Clempert escapes from the English strait-jacket is surprising, but he shows his abilities to even greater advantage when he escapes from a Siberian torture jacket. As a finish to his act he enters a galvanised iron tank full of water, the lid of which is fastened with eight padlocks. Even this cannot hold him, as within the space of one minute he is free.

Mr. Jack Smiles, at the Hackney Empire and Coliseum, has caused the greatest merriment with his songs, "For months and months and months" and "On a summer afternoon." He has the gift of individuality, and should be in great request. Though not "raised" in the city known as the "Hub of the Universe," the cognoscenti instantly recognised his "Boston" parentage.

Miss Kate Walbran, following on her excursion into the Variety World as a single turn, has, we now learn, made a distinctly marked success in pantomime at the Grand, Glasgow, where on Wednesday night, as one of the Ugly (?) Sisters of Cinderella, she made a pronounced hit. Her quaint delineation is in the true spirit of burlesque, and evoked commendable plaudits, which were a pleasing tribute to the artiste's impersonation. She was the recipient of upwards of fifty wires and innumerable floral tributes.

The Tivoli and King's Theatre teams played a music hall and theatrical football League match at the North Surrey Poultry Farm on Sunday, when a pleasant but rather one-sided game ended in favour of the Tivoli by 11 goals to nil. The soft state of the ground prevented scientific play. The Tivoli, however, seemed to find their feet sooner than King's, and kept sending in ground shots, which gave the goalkeeper no chance of saving. The King's goalkeeper could not be blamed for any of the goals scored against him; in fact, he played a very good game indeed considering the state of the ground.

The other matches on Sunday in connection with the same League were won respectively by the Gaiety Theatre, who beat the Fulham Theatre by 6 goals to 1; the Croydon Empire, who wrested victory from the Holborn Empire by 4 goals to 1. The Queen's, Poplar, team were awarded points in consequence of the absence of the Stratford Empire.

Miss Kitty Colyer has just concluded a very successful four weeks' stay at the London Pavilion, and, as we predicted, is forging well ahead. She has this week taken her place at the bottom of the bill at the Palace, Camberwell, where her inimitable speciality dance is a firmly-established favourite. Miss Colyer is leaving town next week to star at the Tivoli, Manchester, returning the following week to open for a run at the Oxford, Tivoli, and other syndicate halls.

The Alhambra programme will be reinforced on Monday by the return of Mlle. Leonora, in "Narcisse." It will be remembered that early in the year this accomplished mimic and dancer made such a success in "Sal, Oh My" that she appeared in the travesty for seven months without a break, a most unusual occurrence at a variety theatre. She is making her return in the slight classical legend of the youth Narcissus, who fell in love with his own reflection, and is meanwhile rehearsing for the new production which Mr. Alfred Moul will present in the first week of January, in which she will take the principal part.

Miss Alexandra Dagmar is making a big success at the Empire, Holloway, this week with her new monologue and recitation *Forsaken*, by Nat Clifford. Her song, "A Marriage of Mayfair," is also going strong.

The usual monthly meeting of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund was held on Wednesday afternoon at the Crown Hotel, Charing Cross-road. Mr. W. J. Wainratta (vice-president) presided, and there were also present Messrs. Pat Carey (hon. treasurer pro. tem.), F. D. Harris, F. Boyce, and R. T. Baines (secretary).

On the motion of Mr. Harris, seconded by Mr. Boyce, it was resolved that the attention of newly-elected members be called to the regulation that cards are not sent to them until they forward to the secretary the first month's subscription.

It was also agreed that in cases where the address of members on tour was unknown to the secretary, letters to them concerning the Fund business should be sent to *The Era* office. After the disposal of some other business, the meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the chairman.

Miss Nellie Neil, who is appearing successfully at the Palace, Bow, has had to refuse several tempting offers for pantomime, owing to her bookings on the halls. This clever lady has several novel songs in preparation which she intends to produce on her provincial tour.

Dr. Walford Bodie, on Saturday between the houses at the Hippodrome, Stalybridge, presented to Mr. W. A. Jackson, the resident manager, a gold-mounted tiger's claw, which the doctor had shot on his last visit to India. The gift was in recognition of the successful manner in which the business of a record week had been conducted.

Professor Henri, D.Ph., the celebrated Australian hypnotist, has just arrived in England, and will open in Glasgow with his latest sensation, "The Beautiful Mechanical Lady in Her Great Blindfold Drive," and several new and startling experiments. He opens in London at an early date.

The rôle of the diminutive Archibald in Mr. John Beauchamp's production of *The Schoolmaster's Mistake* is now being played by Mr. Chas. Caffrey, who well befits the character. The sketch is meeting with deserved success this week at the Chelsea Palace.

Desiring that definite steps should be taken to end the present unsatisfactory relations between the Variety Artists' Federation and the music-hall agents, the Executive Committee of the Federation has decided to issue a million circulars to trade unionists throughout the country. There will be no difficulty in doing this, owing to the fact that the Variety Artists' Federation is affiliated to the General Federation of Trades Unions.

The Liverpool Bench on Tuesday granted to Mr. Jasper Redfern licences for the Tivoli and Park Palace, Mr. James Rolmaz to be manager of the latter. Mr. Redfern, who has been successful elsewhere with entertainments, consisting of pictures and vaudeville, will open the Tivoli with a similar show on Monday, 21st inst. A licence for the Paddington Palace was refused owing to the unsatisfactory structural conditions of the building.

The Home Secretary stated on Tuesday that he is inquiring into the case of a troupe of young children sent out to perform as dancers at a place of amusement on the Continent. In cases of young girls engaged to perform in Continental music halls under very unfavourable conditions representations had been made to authorities abroad. He understood that the London County Council is considering the question of applying to Parliament for power to control agencies through which such performers are engaged.

The general manager of the Great Central Railway having offered him the position of pier-manager and agent to the Cleethorpes Improvement Estate, Mr. W. F. Stuart has, after carefully considering the matter, decided to accept the position. Mr. Stuart will be missed by the theatrical and music-hall professions and the show-world from his post as manager of the Publicity Department of the Great Central; but the courteous traditions of that office will be continued by his successor, Mr. T. W. D. Smith.

Mr. Fred Kitchen, who is appearing in *G.P.O.* at the Hackney Empire on Monday, is a native of London, and comes from a very old theatrical stock, his father having been for fifty-seven years on the stage. The elder Kitchen is now seventy-eight, and certainly the oldest clown living. Of his first appearance Fred has no very distinct recollection. He was carried on in long clothes when only a few weeks old. That was at the Prince's Theatre, Portsmouth, in a drama called *The Dumb Man of Manchester*. The first part he really remembers playing was that of a very young boy in a very old drama, *The Sea of Ice*. He could not have been more than four at the time.

He took part in a number of dramas and pantomimes in and around London until he was fourteen. As he was pretty tall and as experience gave him the appearance of being older than he really was, even at that tender age he was "quite a man."

An army of workmen just now are engaged in transforming the Ducal and Princes' Halls at Earl's Court into the semblance of Fairyland in preparation for the opening to-day of Toy City and Fun Fair, which will remain open from 11 a.m. till 11 p.m. during the Christmas holidays until February. Every kind of toy devised for children may be seen in "Toy City," which will also contain the famous beautiful and instructive "Dolls' Pageant."

There will also be two free performances daily of a spectacular fairy play, a refined variety entertainment and ballad concert, a continental circus, and all the jovial accessories of an old-fashioned English pleasure fair, not to mention illusions, haunted castles, and the like. The entrance faces Earl's Court Station in the Warwick Road, and while adults will be admitted for 6d., children will only be charged half price.

There was produced on Monday at John Henry Cooke's, Edinburgh, by Talberto and Douglas (Mr. Cooke's two talented younger sons), an original equestrian extravaganza entitled *Rustic Revels*, wherein seven persons took part, including the two authors. The entry to the arena is made upon a four-wheeled hay-cart, drawn by a horse, containing rustic farm hands, with the eatables necessary for the day. During the previous night a tramp, Paddy (Talberto), has managed to stow himself away amongst some straw in the cart, and is brought away unobserved.

Whilst wrangling amongst themselves some curious contents are extracted from a huge pie. A false alarm clears the stage for Paddy, who awakes from his slumbers to deal with a jar of beer. While doing so, Constable X.Y.Z., on his beat, sees him, and endeavours to arrest him. Calling for assistance, he brings on the rest of the farm hands. The crowd then indulge in rough and tumble acrobatic work, which fairly convulses the audience. Altogether, *Rustic Revels* is a decidedly novel acquisition, being brimful of comedy from start to finish.

Mr. Horace Wheatley has just produced at the Palace, Oldham, another great success, "The Oyster Supper," by Fred W. Leigh and Horace Wheatley. It promises to add largely to the fame of this favourite Irish comedian.

Mr. Walter de Frece has consented to take the chair at the dinner at the Motor Club, Coventry-street, next Wednesday, the 16th inst., and it is gratifying to note that he will be well supported by members and guests. Needless to say, an excellent entertainment is arranged at the conclusion of the dinner.

Miss Amy Marsden, who has undergone two serious operations, and now lies in a critical condition, desires, through our columns, to thank her many friends for their sympathy and kind inquiries, which are too numerous to reply to individually. She trusts that they will accept this acknowledgment of the same with her grateful thanks.

Mr. Albert Marsh's successful playlet *Chums Till Death*, which has met with such a magnificent reception at the Empire, Holloway, goes to the Empire Theatre, Ardwick, for the week commencing Dec. 14. It is pleasing to note that Messrs. Moss and Stoll have booked this attractive show for the Christmas and New Year holiday weeks at Birmingham and Leicester respectively.

The management of the Empire, agreeably impressed by the success as a dramatic sketch of the Grand Guignol "thriller," *After the Opera*, have decided to persevere in the policy of producing short pieces by eminent authors. The latest novelty is in the shape of a comedy, from the pen of Mr. William J. Locke, author of *The Palace of Puck*, who will be certain to exploit in his own inimitable way a graceful, fancy, and pretty wit in the new duologues, entitled *A Blank Cheque*. It contains only two characters, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Mahoney, and these will be played by, respectively, Mr. Charles V. France and Miss Evelyn D'Alroy. This delightful actress recently scored a great triumph at the Criterion on Nov. 10 in the part of Mrs. Cray in Miss Norah Keith's play *The Builders*.

Mr. Edwin S. France writes to us to say that he is the author of *Ring Up 735 East*, which was produced on Monday at Willesden Hippodrome.

Mr. Chas. M. Daly, who had been supplying the variety programmes at the Londonderry Opera House with signal success for thirteen weeks, took his benefit on Friday night, the 4th inst., when at each house audiences almost unprecedentedly large listened with unbounded enthusiasm to exceptionally enjoyable programmes. In addition to several local artists, excellent turns were given by Barry Cox, comedian and dancer; Miss Dolly Scott, solo violinist; Bert Kemple, comedian; Beeton and Osborne, vocalists; Rowan and Moore, in a delightful sketch, *The Old Jawbone;* Harry Bland in new songs; Jack Beeton, comedian; Kendrick and Laura, singers and dancers; and Dan Gillin, ventriloquist.

Mr. Gillin, who is one of Ireland's most popular ventriloquists, introduced for the first time, with great success, his electric apparatus—a large shamrock, set off with coloured electric lamps, which provided a charming picture. At an interval Mr. Daly, who was received with great applause, made a neat little speech.

On behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to thank the following:—Harold Seyd (donation), £1 1s.; Miss Lottie Albert (donation), 2s. 6d.; Mr. Fred Sinclair (second collection), £2 17s. 6d.; Mr. Tom Fancourt (collection), 2s. 6d.; Miss Margaret Radcliffe (collection), 9s. 6d.; Miss Clara Smith for parcel of useful clothing; Miss F. M. Fox (Teignmouth) for box of clothing; Mrs. Mitchell for afternoon tea cloth; Mrs. C. C. Beyer for parcel of clothes; Miss Flo. Banks, parcel of clothing; Miss Florence Huntley, dolls for Xmas tree; Mrs. Herbert Shelley, handsome table centre; and Miss Alma Shelley, wool balls for Xmas tree; Miss Louie Davis, 5s. 6d. towards helping a sufferer into a home for consumptives. Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Miss Belle Elmore, Mrs. Vernon Cowper, Miss Lottie Albert, and Miss Irene Rose are thanked for coals—an extra gift to all the current cases.

Will all friends of the charity please note we are shortly going to have a Christmas tree for children? Any little gifts will be gratefully received by the above. In view of the forthcoming election, will all members please send addresses so Miss May can post on their votes? All are welcome to tea and receptions, held every Wednesday from four to five o'clock.

The Lord Provost, who was present on Monday at the Pavilion, Glasgow, sent a special messenger round to say how much he and his party had enjoyed the artistic manner in which Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. Lucas had rendered their Dickens scenes and characters. The management were also so pleased with their success that they endeavoured to prolong their stay another week to support Mme. Albani. But the clever pair had already arranged to play Southport, where the management could not release them. Mr. Lucas will read Dickens's "Christmas Carol" on Sunday, Dec. 20, at the Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

Miss Elma Morris, a talented young lady who has recently forsaken the concert platform for the "halls," is featuring a capital "Rule, Britannia" ditty this week at the Palace, Southampton. It is a very pretty song with a melodious musical setting, and Miss Morris presents a striking figure as Britannia. Her voice is particularly well trained, and she scores a great artistic success. *En passant*, we may mention that Miss Morris, who happened to be in Southampton last week-end, made a successful appearance at the Hippodrome, her well-chosen ballads being delightfully rendered, and highly appreciated.

The Theatre Royal, Dublin, opened a short season of "Hippodrome" with two houses nightly, and as a special attraction stars Mr. and Mrs. Bob Fitzsimmons in their first appearance in Europe in vaudeville. They appear in a sketch, *A Man's a Man for A' That*, in which Mrs. Fitzsimmons (*née* Julia Gifford) sings sweetly, and Bob punches the bag to the edification of his admirers. The sketch is above the average, being pretty and refined.

Mr. Alec Hurley appeared a few days since at the Bloomsbury County Court as a defendant, being summoned there at the instance of the Great Eastern London Motor Omnibus Company, who claimed £2 3s. 6d., the cost of repairs to one of their omnibuses, such repairs being rendered necessary owing to the defendant's motor-car colliding with the vehicle. After hearing witnesses, Judge Bacon said that running down cases were generally somewhat difficult to decide, but this particular case did not give him so much trouble as many others. He confessed he could not quite follow the statements with regard to the car travelling at only eight miles an hour. If people who could afford motor-cars were content to travel at that rate they had better go back to four-wheel cabs, which they would find cheaper, and, many would think, safer. The collision, in his opinion, was caused by the driver of the defendant's motor-car trying to get in front of the market garden waggon and thereby running into the motor-bus. There must be judgment for the omnibus company.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

THE flowing tide, as in past years, is again with the house of Francis and Day, which, like a lighthouse amid the clamour of yeasty, watery turmoil, guides the good ship Pantomime into the smooth harbour of success. Up to now an unbroken sequence of triumphs has been placed to the credit of the big firm, and Glasgow's splendid annual at the Grand Theatre—produced this week by Mr. Stanley Rogers for Messrs. Stevens and Buchanan—bristles with Francis and Day's numbers, among them being "Oh! Oh! Antonio!" "It's the Gay Gordons," "Shadowland," the "Parrot Duet," "My girl's a Yorkshire girl," and "Drinks." Mr. Rogers himself immediately sent a wire of congratulation to the publishers. Manchester, likewise, and other important centres, have taken up the tale of unbroken success, and it can be with surety stated that the daily papers of Great Britain on the 28th inst. will be one long category of deserved successes for the firm, successes which will be heard everywhere, from Drury Lane to the uttermost ends of these islands.

MR. DAVID DAY, who on Tuesday last was the recipient of score upon score of cables, wires, and letters, wishing him "Many happy returns," has during the past few days arranged on behalf of his firm for the publication of quite a number of new songs and dances, among which may be named: "Don't be ridiculous, Nicholas" (sung by Miss Josephine La Barte), by Geo. Arthurs and C. W. Murphy; "When my money-box is full," by A. Du Soir and C. W. Murphy; "The Tramp; or, You may have come down like me" (Miss Ida Barr), by Chas. Collins and Harry Castling; "Come to the city of palms and pearls," by H. Carlton and H. Staunton; "Dreamland," by Sydney Locklynne and Willie Rouse; "That's all that she lets me do" (George Collins), by Chas. Collins and Chas. Ridgwell; "For you, Laroo" (G. H. Elliott), by Sax Rohmer and T. W. Thurban; "He's deaf and dumb and silly" and "The fellow with the old black bag," written, composed, and sung by Harry Luck; "How d'you do, my Baby?" (G. H. Elliott), by A. J. Lawrance and G. H. Elliott; "I can't help loving you" (Miss Lily Black), by Scott Mackenzie; "Les Papillons," valse lente, by Edward Hesse; Harry Anderson's "Clock" song, by Kirby, Lorrimore, and Noble; "Art and Nature," by F. J. Barnes and R. P. Weston; "Ellaline" (sung by L. W. Harris), by Geo. Arthurs and Orlando Powell; "What's the good of mottoes to a man like me?" (Miss Carlotta Levey), by Geo. Stevens; "Underneath your mushroom umbrella," by Godfrey, Lawrance, and Gifford; and "When I wasn't any bigger than you," by Harry Castling and C. W. Murphy.

"CECILIA," the valse lente, by Henry E. Pether, is reported by Messrs. Francis and Day to be in great demand, applications for the band parts pouring in daily. Lieut. George Miller, M.V.O., bandmaster of the Royal Marines, has written the composer a complimentary letter, and Dr. Mackenzie Rogan, of the Coldstreams, lately included it in the musical programme at a civic function at Haberdashers' Hall.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY have just secured for publication three new songs of that well-known entertainer Will Bentley, whose ditty "Down where the breezes blow" has been in much request as a pantomime number. The titles of the new items are "They do things so different abroad," by E. A. Searson and H. E. Pether, and "The Matrimonial Magazine" and "Don't refuse her," both by Frank Wood.

THE latest additions to Messrs. Francis and Day's "Sixpenny Pops" series are Miss Kitty Colyer's songs, "I'd never think of leaving my little snowhouse," by Will Hyde; "What's the use of yer popping round?" by Will E. Haines and Will Hyde; and "Oh, Dolly," by T. F. Robson and Will Hyde. As we go to press, Miss Colyer is having a special souvenir night at the Camberwell Palace. She opens at the Tivoli, Manchester, on Monday. Her specially retained author and composer has just completed a song for her entitled "You don't know what you can do till you try."

CHARLES OSBORNE, the well-known song-writer, who is laying down his pen for a while to manage the Tally-Ho Trio's pantomime, which opens immediately in the North of England, has just completed, and disposed of to Mr. Bernard Russell, a song which may be expected to rank with his "Potted Poetry," a song which was worthily acclaimed in its line one of the finest humorous efforts ever penned. The new number is entitled "Press cuttings."

MISS VESTA TILLEY, who will, in April next, once again be the darling of the New York ladies and the admiration and despair of the mere males, has a fine new number, entitled "S-u-n-d-a-y," written by Charles Hilbury and composed by Kenneth Lyle, which has been secured by Messrs. Francis and Day. The same firm—who have already issued the London idol's latest hit, "That's the time a fellow wants his ma," also by Kenneth Lyle, which has earned the highest encomiums from the Manchester Press—are also publishing Miss Tilley's forthcoming polka song "To see if it was fit for father." It is by Edgar Bateman and Henry E. Pether.

MR. BERT FELDMAN has returned from his pantomime rehearsals in Scotland, and is much elated with the success of his firm's songs in the North, a good omen of the future popularity of the Feldman pantomime numbers throughout the country. Mr. Feldman asserts that never in all his experience has he had such a sensational success as "A tiny seed of love," which Miss Violet Loraine sang so charmingly, and which the Press of Glasgow eulogise at great length as the song that is certain to be whistled and sung all over the city in a day or two. Mr. Feldman is now happy that its success has justified his advice to all his friends to sing it. He maintains, moreover, that any pantomime omitting "A tiny seed of love" will lose a great attraction.

MESSRS. FELDMAN'S other great successes are "I want you to see my girl," "Connemara," "The bubble and the sunbeam," "Girls, girls, girls," "Girls, study your cookery-book," "Good-bye to Maudie," and "White Man," the principal boy number of the year.

MR. G. H. ELLIOTT introduced at the Tivoli last week his latest and greatest success entitled "Moon, moon, moon," from the pens of Messrs. Edgar, Lawrance, and Gifford. Messrs. Feldman secured the same for immediate publication.

MR. STANLEY ROGERS, of the Grand Theatre, Glasgow, wired the Star Co.: "All your seven songs—Whit Cunliffe's 'I don't care if there's a girl there,' 'I'm not satisfied,' and 'The very first girl I see'; also 'Salome,' 'Won't you waltz the Merry Widow waltz with me?' 'Dresden China,' and 'Anywhere will do'—were enormous successes. Many thanks."

THE Star Co. have this year broken all records having no less than twelve numbers in Glasgow. These are solos and not concerted. Mr. Rich Waldon wired: "'Chinee Man,' 'Carolina Brown,' 'Won't you waltz the Merry Widow?' cheered and sung by whole house."

(Continued on page 25.)

THE COLISEUM.

Mr. Oswald Stoll has an all-star programme for visitors to the Cattle Show, and his principal attractions are certainly on the spindle side of the company. A return to London is made by Miss Marie Dressler, who will be filling in time at the halls until she opens at the Aldwych. She commenced on Monday evening with her Palace Theatre successes, "A great big girl like me" and "That's why Adam sinned," and also gave a mock-heroic recitation, "The Lion and the Glove," in which she showed herself an accomplished parodist, with occasional little touches of bitterness. The enthusiasm of her reception prompted her to make a neat little speech, in which she expressed her gratitude to the public for letting her get her living so easily. *The Money Spider*, a sketch by Mr. E. Phillips Oppenheim, has been seen before at the fine house in St. Martin's Lane. In it Miss Dorothy Grimston repeats an accomplished and powerful performance of the highly-strung wife of the millionaire.

The chief novelty of the bill is another version of Théodore de Banville's *Gringoire*, by Laurence Irving, entitled

"THE KING AND THE VAGABOND."

Louis XI. .....MR. LAURENCE IRVING
Olivier .....MR. LEONARD CALVERT
Simon .....MR. FRANK J. ARLTON
Loyra .....MISS PAULINE HUGEN
Gringoire .....MISS MABEL HACKNEY

The original French piece was first performed at the Théâtre Français in June, 1866, with Coquelin in the title-part and Mme Lafontaine as the heroine. Coquelin played the part in London in 1887 and 1889, and it is a favourite one with both English and American actors. In the version under notice Miss Mabel Hackney is the vagabond "nursed by hunger and want," who recites "The death-watch of the King" before the terrible Louis XI., and the study of character is picturesque and telling, the actress having the boyish and romantic air inevitably associated with the part. Mr. Laurence Irving's depiction of the senile monarch's unavailing rage answers all the purposes of the melodramatic interest; but the dialogue is occasionally that of a much more advanced period than the fifteenth century. Mr. Leonard Calvert is effective as the crafty Olivier le Daim, and Mr. Frank J. Arlton does well as Simon. Miss Pauline Hugen is a girlish and interesting Loyra. The playlet is set in an interior cleverly painted by Mr. W. Raphael, and the dresses have been designed by Mr. Tom Heslewood.

Miss Cecilia Loftus adds to her imitations almost nightly, and her exactitude in her realisation of Miss Carrie de Mar's "Lonesome Flossie" is really wonderful. Not a gesture or an inflection of the voice is missing. We do not admire the impersonation itself. Indeed, we think it exposes the seamy side of our civilisation, and holds up to ridicule the saddest of all characters; but Miss Loftus gives it the touch of genius. We understand that Miss Carrie de Mar has scored a success in two continents as "Lonesome Flossie." We would her triumphs had been in something less painful. Miss Evie Greene is scoring with her old favourite, "The Queen of the Philippine Islands," which must have for her exceedingly pleasant reminiscences of her earliest success as a star in musical comedy.

It is difficult for the comic singer to score at the Coliseum, and we therefore have a stronger reason for congratulating Mr. Jack Smiles, whose name promises agreeable relaxation and keeps it to the letter. "For months and months and months" Mr. Smiles will be engaged at the best halls if we have any knowledge of a comedian's power of "making good." He is a "Smiles" who easily "comes off" the stage, but on the night we heard him he was speedily recalled to the footlights to give an exhibition of clog-dancing such as we rarely see nowadays. We have seen him under another name, but he is making a name for himself as rapidly as his best friends could desire. Mr. Barrington is responsible for freak performances at the piano; the Daunton-Shaw bicyclists do most of the tricks accomplished by other performers; Miss Carlotta Levey sings her latest successes; Mlle Haydée's miniature vaudeville theatre is a most interesting and novel show; and the Bioscope gives a series of pictures that tell a touching dramatic story. Mr. Dundas Slater, the popular acting-manager, reports enormous houses, and it is evident that the Coliseum draws special audiences.

THE PALACE.

Mr. Alfred Butt is still unable to announce the definite return of Miss Maud Allan; but his programme has many varied attractions, and is decidedly cosmopolitan. Tortola Valencia, a new dancer from Algiers, is a handsome exponent of Mauresque dancing, and there is considerable dramatic feeling exhibited in her first number, in which her head is enveloped in a shawl. Like Miss Allan, she makes much use of her arms, and her sinuous and gliding movements have a distinctly Oriental character. Her second dance, sharper and more defined, has a distinctively European character; in fact, it may be said to have a Catalonian complexion; but it is spirited and effective. Tortola Valencia's dress, of rich texture and orange in colour, suits her dark beauty admirably.

Old favourites in the Palace scheme are Les Fleury, a duo of Paris artists, who were quite successful a year ago in their burlesque revue. Of course, their entertainment appeals more to the boulevardier than to the Piccadilly lounger; but the *entente cordiale* has done so much of late to make the great B.P. familiar with the doings of Parisians that the skits of M. Fleury of Paris types—such as the flower-girl, the cochère, the society man, and the taxi-driver are easily comprehended and the humour of the impersonations appreciated. Mme. Fleury contributes striking caricatures of Cléo de Mérode, Otéro, and Sarah Bernhardt, and the eccentric dances of the pair are much enjoyed.

Mr. Nelson Jackson, from St. George's Hall, tells some amusing stories that go with a roar nightly, and at the piano submits some entertaining songs—one describing with considerable humour a gamin's notions of spending a legacy if lucky enough to get one. Mr. Maurice Farkoa's engagement has been lengthened, and that consummate artist is delighting audiences nightly with "I love you in velvet," from *Lady Madcap*; a French laughing song, a new number, "I beg your pardon," and the Parisian rendering of "The future Mrs. Hawkins," Albert Chevalier's famous song. Mr. Ernest Mills has humour at the end of his crayons, and his skit on the cartwheel hat is heartily enjoyed by the fairer sex. One can appreciate also the little joke of turning an Arctic landscape—when coldly received by the dealers—into a view of Regent's Park during the winter season.

The chief sensation of the programme is provided by the Aero Femmees, a quartette of gymnastic ladies, who perform trapeze feats on bars that hang from an elaborate apparatus revolved by one of the quartette working the pedals of a bicycle. Later they don serpentine skirts, and, hanging by their teeth, float round while fluttering their diaphanous white raiment as if they were birds. We are sure that they are intended to imitate birds, as we hear the notes of the "thrush"—of the stage variety, *bien entendu*—"piped" from the wings. The show is exceedingly pretty, and it has been produced by Professor Leamy, who has been presenting aerial shows for thirty years.

Max Laube, Continental whistler, does not make us forget Frank Lawton or Arthur Slater; Rappo and Ella are responsible for equilibrism of a remarkable character, the gentleman balancing himself with feet in the air on very slender supports. Later he holds with his teeth a bicycle, which his lady partner pedals rapidly. Mysticus amuses with his mysterious talking figure, and does some rapid changes of costume; and Miss Iris Banfield, Miss Marie Dainton, and the Palace Girls also entertain. Mr. Herman Finck's fine orchestra is still playing "The Entente Musicale," which is full of lilting melody—French and English. Some excellent accompaniments are also played to the Urbanora Bioscope pictures, which show an interesting film of the Prize Cattle of Australia and other of our colonies.

MISS DOLLY ROSS is this year playing Prince Sprightly in Mr. J. F. Elliston's *Humpty-Dumpty* pantomime. Miss Ross is fully booked up for a considerable time.

MISS EDNA CRAGGE has been specially engaged to play Demon King at the Elephant and Castle Theatre.

FOR THE LATEST PANTOMIME RESULTS SEE OUR ADVERTISEMENT ON PAGE 37.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

More Triumphs for the Leading Legitimate Music Publishers.

GLASGOW AGAIN TAKEN BY STORM.

SEVEN BIG HITS IN THE FIRST GLASGOW PANTOMIME.

Produced by Robert Arthur, Esq., at the Theatre Royal.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"SUE, SUE, SUE."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"I SHALL SLEEP WELL TO-NIGHT."
"BOMBADIER."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"I'M THE BEST PAL I'VE EVER HAD."

Seven Big Numbers in the First Glasgow Pantomime.

ANOTHER TRIUMPH AT THE HIPPODROME, BELFAST.

John Tiller's Successful Production. The hits of the show were the following:

"ARE YOU THE LITTLE GIRL I MET THE OTHER EVENING?"
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"BOMBADIER."
"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO."

STILL ANOTHER FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER TRIUMPH.

The following were the hits of the show at the Gaiety Theatre, Dundee. Lillie Williams's Production.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"SHADOWLAND."
"IN THE LAND OF THE KANGAROO."

The above is a Record even for Francis, Day, & Hunter.
But wait until Boxing Night.

FOR THE LATEST PANTOMIME RESULTS SEE OUR ADVERTISEMENT ON PAGE 37.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER.

SKETCHES AND THE V.A.F.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—Mr. Monte Bayly's letter in your last issue must be my excuse for writing you. Mr. Bayly makes grave charges against what might be called "the inner circle" of V.A.F. officialdom. Similar charges have been made before, and, as one who took an active part during the very troublous times, and who has watched developments carefully ever since, I think the old adage which says "there is no smoke without fire" is true in this case. I call to mind a general meeting at Camberwell, at which I proposed that the secretary should be elected by the members; an amendment was moved by Mr. Monte Bayly, and supported by Mr. W. H. Clemart, to the effect that the "secretary being the servant of the committee" should, therefore, be appointed by the committee. "One nail drives out another at least." Bayly took Gerald's place, and now, what has been foreseen by many for a long time, Clemart has stepped into Bayly's shoes. Is this the long arm of coincidence, the whirligig of time, or the irony of fate?

At the present moment it is absolutely essential that the members should perfectly understand where they are. Mr. Clemart may be a very able man for all I know, but his articles in the *Performer* are those of an extremist, and hold out little promise of peace. As a sketch manager I am particularly anxious to know what is the new general secretary's attitude towards the sketch members of the V.A.F.—be it borne in mind, a very large and important section of the organisation. Has Mr. Clemart modified his views since he said before the Arbitrator that they should go to the theatres, and leave the V.A.F. to bona-fide music-hall artists? Again, does he still maintain that he is representing "standard artists" only, and not the rank and file of the profession?

Further, with regard to the dispute with agents, where do we stand? Let us have plain facts, and not beg the question. As a sketch-manager I welcomed the signs of a settlement with the agents, because we feel the paying of ten per cent. more than others (the sketch-manager pays two-thirds to three-fourths of his salary away to others, but pays ten per cent. on the whole amount received—not so with "single turns"). I agree with Mr. Bayly that the vote of the great body of members was never taken on this important subject, and, as one of the 2,000 who took no part, I ask, what is to be the finish?

Let us not shut our eyes to facts, even if they are unpleasant. The barred agents are *still booking* and plying their calling, but the V.A.F. agents are not. Christmas is almost with us, and I know many good sketch-managers and turns whose date books are empty. The magistrates are giving verdicts against those artists who are being sued for commission, and making severe comments upon the actions of the V.A.F. executive.

The best interests of the profession will be served by a genuine ballot of the members being taken without further delay. The feeling of dissatisfaction and unrest is perhaps more widely spread than some would care to believe, and it is to be hoped that the present officials of the V.A.F. will take the earliest opportunity of putting an end, by legitimate and honourable means, to the present deadlock.—Yours faithfully,

JOHN F. PRESTON,
Empress Theatre, Brixton, S.W.,
Dec. 10, 1908.

MR. SHAND AND THE V.A.F.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—My expulsion from the V.A.F. is more than a personal or professional matter; it is a public matter. Inasmuch as both theatrical and music-hall artists are well known to give their services on behalf of any charity, and yet because a member—myself—appeared at a charity matinée, he is expelled from the Association. I have been in a hospital for several weeks, and received every care and attention. Should I not be a moral coward if I refused to appear at a performance in aid of their funds because a "committee" make some twopenny ha'penny rule to suit themselves?

I was working six halls a night when Mr. Stoll asked me to appear for this charity at Hackney. Does anyone suppose that I was anxious to put myself to all that inconvenience for pleasure? I think it is disgraceful that a body of men who constitute the "committee" of the V.A.F., should be able to dictate to their fellow-artists what they should or should not do.—Yours faithfully,

ERNEST SHAND
104, Lansdowne-road, Stockwell, Dec. 7.

THE V.A.F. AND AGENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—On Friday, Sept. 25, I accepted the Federation commission note of ten per cent. on actual engagements made, and asked where I could obtain the commission notes and price of same. Mr. Monte Bayly replied: "Send me the heading for your commission notes, and we will make you a present of 500." I sent the heading, and the commission notes were duly received by me at the Oxford, Middlesbrough. I noticed my name was omitted in the *Performer* from the list of agents who had accepted the terms of the Federation. I wrote repeatedly on the matter, but received no reply, till I got a letter from the temporary secretary, Mr. Barry, saying, "Your name will be printed in the next issue of the *Performer*." It was not printed at all. In the meanwhile, Mr. Johnny Fuller, Mr. Frank Coyle, Mr. O'Connor, and Mr. Brady approached me as to becoming a member of the Federation. I told them how I had been treated, but Mr. Fuller proposed me and Mr. Frank Coyle seconded me. I had a letter from Mr. Barry saying the committee had been pleased to accept me as a member, on condition that I worked my agency on a five per cent. basis, and would forgo all return commissions on past and future engagements. I replied saying I accepted ten per cent. on actual engagements made, and could not understand why they should try to get me to accept five per cent. after I had accepted the Federation note of Sept. 25. I also asked them if Cliquot and Mr. Tom Pacey worked for five per cent.. I told them my commission notes amounted to £105 if everyone played their return dates; that I would sell them to the Federation for £10; and that I preferred to be a non-member rather than to do any agency business for five per cent. I received a letter this week saying the Federation could not accept me as a member, as their rule was that any member wishing to become an agent must work for five per cent. Imagine my surprise on the *Performer* of Thursday, Dec. 10, saying I accepted five per cent., and had forgone all commissions on outstanding as well as future engagements! I have never done anything of the sort, neither have I ever wished to become a member. I never accepted five per cent. My terms are ten per cent., as per my acceptance of Sept. 25.—Yours faithfully,

ALLAN McASKILL.
Victoria Theatre, Stanley, Durham, Dec. 10, 1908.

THIS (Saturday) evening the combined staffs of Messrs. Francis and Day make merry at a dinner at that noted hostelry "The Crown," hard by the London Hippodrome.

THE Corporation of Ripon are inviting offers for the use of the Spa Gardens during next summer for the purpose of giving entertainments. Particulars may be obtained on application to the Town Clerk, on or before the 31st inst.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

(*Continued from page 25.*)

Miss May Audrey produced at the Coliseum last week "Obedient Jane," words by Arthur Mills and music by Bennett Scott, which at once became popular and a success.

Mr. Arthur Lennard is making a tremendous hit on the Stoll tour with his new song, "He's a jolly good fellow," written and composed by Worton David and Orlando Powell, published by the Von Tilzer Music Co.

The Von Tilzer Co. inform us that, so far as pantomime permissions indicate, their forthcoming pantomime successes include "Keepsakes," a charming ballad suitable for both principal girl and fairy queen; "I'm wait-wait-waiting" (All I want is the man), principal girl and dame song; and "Let's have a song about the boys," a particularly bright chorus song for principal boys.

A set of fifteen magnificent slides have been issued by the Von Tilzer Company to their new ballad "In the village by the sea," which, together with a very pretty melody augur well for the success of this most effective song. These publishers have another new song in preparation entitled "Memories," which will be ready in the course of a week or so.

Mr. Fred Elton's 100guinea song, entitled "When the leaves are tinged with gold," with which he is making a tremendous success, has been secured for all the leading pantomimes this year. The National Music Publishing Co. are the publishers.

Wilkie Bard is producing the National Music Publishing Co.'s latest number for comedians, entitled "Put me upon an island where the girls are few," at the Drury Lane pantomime. This is a very up-to-date number. A special verse has been written on the recent Suffragette scene at the Albert Hall. The publishers will be pleased to send all artists wishing to use this number in pantomime a novel suggestion which would undoubtedly benefit its success.

Frank H. Fox and Jenny Hartley report immediate success with the National Music Publishing Co.'s latest song, entitled "Kate, won't you rollerskate?" for which they anticipate a great future.

Lowenwirth and Cohen's chorus song "My little Eva," is being used in almost every pantomime in Great Britain, and judging from the tremendous success they are making with the song, it should be a big winner.

Neil Kenyon is producing "You all want something to cuddle" at Drury Lane, and is making a special feature of this song, introducing from forty to fifty girls. Comedians should not overlook this number. It is published by the National Music Publishing Co.

The following songs, free for pantomime, are issued by the National Publishing Co.:—George Lashwood's two latest songs "If it's a lady" and "Nicolo, Nicolo, play on your piccolo"; also Will Godwin's success, "When I've a hundred pounds."

Please ask the pianist to play over "The Land of Promise," by Florry Cooper and Billie Bent, sung by Fanny Robina; then you will have a certain winner. Published by Francis and Day.

Real bass songs seem to be a great feature in Messrs. Sheard's catalogue. The appropriate song "Asleep in the Deep" was finely sung by Mr. Edward Benson as Davy Jones in the under the sea scene in *Robinson Crusoe* at Gaiety Theatre, Dundee—the first pantomime of the season.

Another of this firm's bass songs will be introduced to Tivoli audiences on Monday next by Miss Sybil Lister, who has several other of Stanley Gordon's numbers in her répertoire. On account of Mr. Gordon's songs being published with harmonised refrains they are also in great demand by quartette parties generally.

Valued old friend as is the famous "Auld Lang Syne," these are up to date times, and musical relief and change has to be sought for festive occasions. With this end in view Messrs. Sheard have recently published a new song with quartette chorus called "Here's to our next merry meeting," with words by Elphinstone Thorpe and music by Noel Johnson.

Miss Constance V. White's melodious "My Dreams" waltz has been selected for the great waltz scene in Mr. John Hart's pantomimes at Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle, and Sheffield.

Mr. T. W. Thurban is busily engaged in scoring the orchestral accompaniments to his successful songs, "I can't get away from the girls" and "Who'd like to pay for my holiday," for Messrs. Sheard to engrave and print, as they cannot cope with the demand for orchestrations for these songs by the manuscript process.

Messrs. Sheard report a brisk and sustained demand by artists, musical directors, and producers for their special pantomime numbers, "Little Silver Moonbeam," "Sweet Bells of home," "Love the cuckoo" (duet), "Tell me, dusky maiden" (duologue), "If I were a fairy queen," "The wedding of the stars," "Don't break your loving heart for me," as well as for the lighter numbers, "Jennie, don't swing on the gate," "I have lots of fun that you don't," "Hold me tighter, Mr. Lighter," and "Limelight Lou," &c.

Sunday evening concerts and P.S.A. entertainments are rapidly increasing in popularity, and Messrs. Sheard's catalogue contains many of the most favourite songs in use, such as Constance V. White's "The Day of Rest," "The Climbers," "The gates of dawn," "The garden of thoughts," and her two latest songs, "Life's passion flower," and "Wake and remember," a sequel to her famous "Sleep and forget."

Mr. Medley Barrett's great march song, "Baden-Powell Scout," will be featured by Miss Edna Morgan, as principal boy at the Broadway, New Cross. As in the case of the Tally-Ho Trio, at Manchester, and Mr. Fred J. Little, Miss Morgan was most enthusiastic after hearing the number.

Mr. Percy Ford's "Still your friend" has been secured by the Gothams, who anticipate making a great hit with this fine ballad. The same author has also written a sacred song, "The angel choir," with a fine musical setting by Medley Barrett. This will shortly be produced by one of our leading singers.

Miss Kitty Rayburn, who has during the week been cheered to the echo at the Crouch End Hippodrome for her splendid rendering of "I want a Woman's Rights (then I'll be satisfied)" and "Will you come to me in Canada?" both of which the popular lady has published with Messrs. Francis and Day, has a gigantic success in her latest number, entitled "It seems to make the sun shine brighter (when you know you've got a pal somewhere)." It is, we understand, from the lady's own pen. Mr. John Neat has supplied a spirited melody.

FELDMAN'S

GREAT TRIUMPH

in GLASGOW repeated at **EDINBURGH.**

Mr. FRED. W. WYNDHAM wires:

"TINY SEED OF LOVE," beautifully done, 2 encores.

"SEE MY GIRL," ditto. "WALTZ DREAM," encored.

Mr. MILTON BODE wires:

"I WANT YOU TO SEE MY GIRL," enormous success in my Aberdeen Pantomime, worked with little girl.

Mr. JOHN TILLER:

"A TINY SEED OF LOVE," going enormously in Belfast, where it is being sung by my Principal Girl.

Mr. RICHARD WALDON wires:

"PEGGY, PRIDE OF MILL," huge success.

"TINY SEED OF LOVE." "A WHITE MAN."

"I WANT YOU TO SEE MY GIRL." "CONNEMARA."

"PEGGY, THE PRIDE OF THE MILL."

"WALTZ DREAM." "HARRIGAN."

"THE BUBBLE AND THE SUNBEAM."

These will be the entire Country's Favourites.

Be in the Van of Success.

Artistes who are singing "A White Man" in Pantomime can have extra verses for same, giving piece of production.

Hits for all. Write or call. State part and where producing.

B. FELDMAN & CO.,

2 & 3, ARTHUR STREET, NEW OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.C.

Telegrams, "Humfriv, London." Telephone, No. 4487 Gerrard.

"THE MAJOR'S NIECE.

A Farcical Sketch, Produced at Hammersmith Palace on Monday, Dec. 7, by Mr. John Beauchamp and Company.

Miss Markham .....Miss Gladys Homfrey
Constance Carleton .....Miss Clarissa Bell
Arabella Schultze .....Miss Dorothy Rundell
Captain Carleton .....Mr. Murray Moore
Detective .....Mr. Arthur Murray
Major O'Brian .....Mr. John Beauchamp

They had been married that morning. He is Capt. Carleton and she was Miss Constance Dudley, and, worse to relate, a schoolgirl and a ward in Chancery. This is the foundation of the imbroglio of the above-named sketch, which is based on *The Strange Adventures of Miss Brown*, produced at the Vaudeville in 1895. The idea is carried out in a most humorous manner, the sketch going with a "roar" from beginning to end. The Captain is assisted by his brother officer, Major O'Brian, and when—the marriage having been discovered—a detective arrives at the wedding feast, the Captain is disguised as the Major's niece, Miss Jones, and so escapes capture, whilst his bride is carried back to school. The detective arrives at the school, and is given permission to stay the night there, as they suspect that the Captain will attempt to regain his bride. Major O'Brian arrives and arranges with Miss Markham to immediately admit his "niece" to her school, at the same time he professes his desire to assist in catching the wicked Captain. Having introduced the disguised Captain, the Major retires. Roars of laughter greet the funny situations caused by the introduction of "Miss Jones" to the head-mistress, and also a pupil, Arabella Schultze. He also meets his wife, and she speedily recognises her husband. The Major has arranged for a motor-car to await them outside, and they are to escape in the night; but as "Miss Jones" comes down, she finds the 'tec waiting, and so makes herself most agreeable, the officer being rather pleased with her company. When the young wife also appears, she sits down, and both chat with him. Begging him to show her how the handcuffs are put on, the 'tec satisfies her with an exhibition on his own left wrist. The disguised Captain immediately secures the right wrist in them, and they make a bolt for it. Escape is, however, unnecessary, as the Major returns with a wire stating that, owing to the death of a relative, the Captain has become a Peer of the realm.

Mr. John Beauchamp himself undertakes the part of Major O'Brian with much success. Miss Gladys Homfrey is particularly good as Miss Markham. Mr. Murray Moore makes the utmost of the many humorous difficulties Capt. Carleton gets into when disguised as Miss Jones. As his bride, Miss Clarissa Bell acts with much spirit and looks charming. Arabella Schultze is well played by Miss Dorothy Rundell, who dances neatly. The quiet fun with which Mr. Arthur Murray renders the character of the detective adds largely to the mirth of the piece.

A NEW "HUMANITY."

Produced at the Shoreditch Olympia on Monday, Dec. 7.

Jacob Silvani .....Mr. John Lawson
Capt. Grey .....Mr. J. K. Reynolds
John Cuthbert .....Mr. Horton Tree
Gabriel .....Mr. H. Schlesinger
Mrs. Grey .....Miss Lucille Sidney
Adele Silvani .....Miss Buena Bent

No sketch has obtained a firmer hold over the music hall frequenting public than this sensational piece, which has won for Mr. John Lawson such enduring success. This fact was substantially verified on Monday, when a thoroughly revised version was produced at the above hall amidst great excitement and applause. The plot runs on much the same lines, and the story of betrayed trust in a friend remains as engrossing as ever, and culminates in the customary sensational manner. The men meet with the grim determination to fight to the bitter end, one prompted by the longing for revenge, and the other by the hatred he has for his more successful rival. The fight rages fast and furious, and at the conclusion of the piece the hitherto elegant apartment is reduced to a mass of wreckage, scarcely anything in the room being left intact. The fight is carried out to such a nicety and is so well arranged that the spectators are kept in a state of breathless excitement throughout.

As Jacob Silvani Mr. John Lawson carries the rôle through with eminent success, and supplies a clever characteristic sketch of the Jew who discovers the false nature of the friend in whom he has placed full trust. Mr. J. K. Reynolds makes the most of the opportunities offered in the part of Captain Grey, and Mr. Horton Tree enacts the callous scoundrel John Cuthbert with marked success. Mr. H. Schlesinger is all that could be desired as Gabriel, the man-servant, and the rôle of Mrs. Grey is suitably delineated by Miss Lucille Sidney. Miss Buena Bent sweetly portrays Adele Silvani, and does all within her power to make the part interesting. The staging is on a scale of great completeness, and the furniture employed is exquisitely tasteful. The whole production is a huge success and should still have years of prosperity before it.

"GAY DOGS."

Musical Sketch, words, music, and lyrics by Frank Stanmore, Leslie Hawkins, and Mark Lester, produced at the Palace, Stoke Newington, on Monday, Dec. 7.

Lord Reggie .....Mr. Frank Stanmore
Joseph .....Mr. Mark Lester
Lieut. Frank Dewar ....Mr. Douglas Phillips
Dora Dewar .....Miss Sissie Brand
Winnie .....Miss Dora Lane
Rosie .....Miss Mabel Dent

In an entertainment frankly described as an "irresponsible musical absurdity" in the matter of plot, he that expecteth will be disappointed, and this is so in the present instance. However, for the time the sketch occupies the stage it serves its purpose fully, inasmuch as it keeps the audience thoroughly amused, and dull moments are not allowed to enter into it. The story concerns a jealous husband, who vows vengeance on a supposed rival. In the course of the piece the wife changes clothes with the threatened man. Of the material at their disposal the company makes the utmost. Nothing could be better than the valet of Mr. Mark Lester, an exceedingly droll and entertaining impersonation, which stamps the giver of it a genuine low-comedian. Nor is the Lord Reggie of Mr. Frank Stanmore far behind it in its amusing qualities, and to these two gentlemen is due the major portion of the laughter the sketch provides. Mr. Douglas Phillips is quite equal to all demands made upon him as Lieut. Frank Dewar, and the ladies' rôles are adequately filled by Misses Sissie Brand, Dora Lane, and Mabel Dent. Another sketch in the present programme is *Trixie*, which provides the always-charming Miss Violet Lloyd excellent opportunities for the display of her talents, and enables Mr. Horace Lane to show that he can work with the energy and abandon of a Seymour Hicks. The item is received as favourably as any in the bill. The Donaldson Bros., in *Sports in a Jungle*, introducing many fearful creatures of the animal world, find considerable favour, and are a deservedly popular turn. La Belle Greta scores with her Spanish song and dance, and Miss Ida Barr pleases with her song with a chorus. Miss Lily Eyton, Bros. Ford, Tate and Tate, Olga Dora, and George Collins are also in the programme, which the ever-popular Palace pictures complete.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

25,136.—Arthur Bertram Watson, of Bristol. Puzzle.

25,358.—Patrick Joseph McGinn, of London. Improved automatic signalling mechanical target.

25,384.—Charles William George Aldridge, of Teddington, Middlesex. New parlour game.

25,527.—James Paterson and John Tolhurst Musgrave, of London. Improvements in and relating to targets for shooting practice.

25,564.—George Samuel Hall, of Birmingham. Improvements in music manuscript paper for instruction purposes.

25,649.—George Murch, of London. Improvements in and relating to machines for dealing cards.

25,666.—Leo Kamm, of London. Improvements in safety devices to prevent the spread of fire when a kinematograph film is ignited.

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

26,113.—Wray. Indoor game.

26,491.—Marshall. Guns for playing games.

2248.—Bernardi. Stage scenery for theatres.

3506.—Menot. Process of producing designs analogous to those executed by frost.

4016.—Shippobottam. Roundabouts.

15,587.—Graffenberger. Combined ice and roller skates.

18,783.—Bianchi. Life-motion picture apparatus.

19,319.—Lütticke. Process for producing animated bioscope and mutoscope scenes by means of mechanically constructed figures.

SPECIFICATION OPEN TO INSPECTION.

24,875.—Rosier. Automatic pistols.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

15,319.—Targets. Reid, C., of Dublin.

Relates to targets carried by jointed parallel levers or parallelograms. One shaft *b* is mounted in slots in the uprights *a*, while the other shaft *c* is inserted in a hole *m* in one upright and a vertical groove *n* in the other, so that the target framework can be bodily removed. The shafts are of cruciform section, and the levers are longitudinally adjustable on the shafts to receive targets of different widths, and are locked by pivoted catches *k* engaging with slots in the shafts. In a modification, wooden frames carrying the targets are pivotally connected to the levers. In another modification, circular targets are connected by

FIG.1.

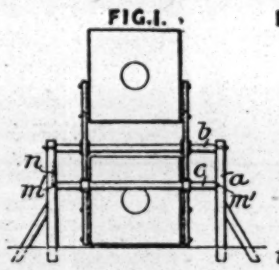


FIG.7.

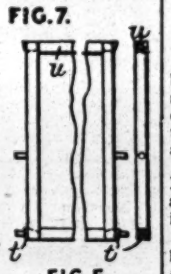


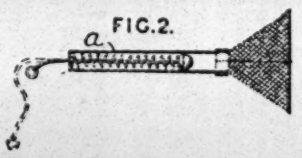
FIG.5.

three parallel levers. The bars of the target frame may be detachably jointed as shown in Fig. 7, the target canvas being secured to the top and bottom bars *u t*.

15,356.—Toys. Després, L. E., of Paris.

An appliance for throwing and receiving balls comprises a tube *a* provided at one end with a

FIG.2.

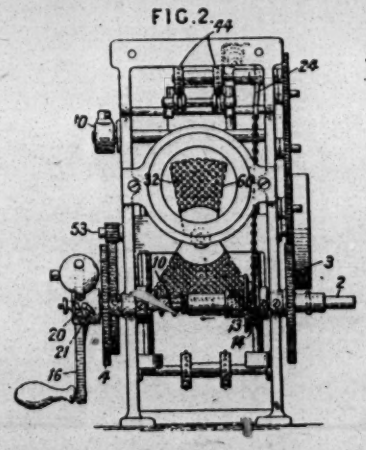


fixed or removable net to receive the ball and guide it into the tube. The ball is projected from the tube by any suitable means.

15,459.—Kinematographs. Lubin, S., of Philadelphia, U.S.A.

Light is cut off from the film while the machine is not in operation, and the actuating mechanism can be adjusted in position without disturbing the gearing. Initial rotation of the handle (16) acts by means of a pin (20) and cam-slot (21) to force a disc (13) on to a wheel (14), which then rotates, turning the lever (24) on its pivot (25) and raising the screen (28) from the aperture (32) through which the light passes. When the handle is released, a spring (10) brings the disc out of engagement with the wheel and the screen falls. A spur-wheel (3) drives the film-feeding sprockets (44), and the wheel (4) on the other end of the main shaft (2) acts through spur-gearing to drive a shaft (53), which rotates the sutter (60) through bevel-gearing and also, by means of a star-wheel (54), gives the step-by-step motion to the film through sprockets (49). The carriage (51) carrying the shaft (53) and the intermediate gearing is adjusted on the main framing by means of a lever (70).

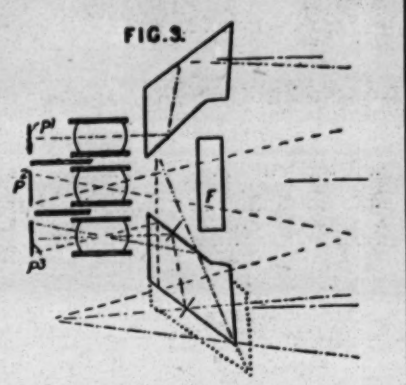
FIG.2.



15,726.—Optical projection apparatus. Pfenninger, O., of Brighton, Sussex.

By correcting the central path by means of compensating refracting material such as F, and by employing specially-shaped prisms for the two outer paths, three photographic, or colour records (P1, P2, P3) can be projected and superimposed for kinematographic and like purposes. The records are placed in one plane, and one or three lenses and corresponding light sources are employed for projection, one light path being omitted if only two records are to be projected. The apparatus can be used for producing stereoscopic pictures, dissolving views, freak pictures,

FIG.3.



&c. The central rays of the outer paths are internally reflected twice, and leave and enter the prisms at right-angles

15,902.—Kinematographs. Mallet, A., of Paris.

In the event of the film (17) firing, celluloid strips (21) arranged close to it are ignited, and their fusion releases obturators (20), which then fall and cut off the passageways to the film cham-

FIG.3.

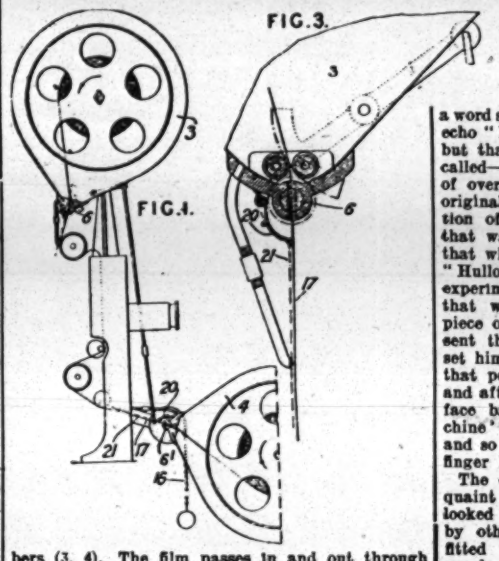


FIG.4.

bers (3, 4). The film passes in and out through slots in cylinders (6, 61), and, by means of the chain (16) these cylinders can be rotated so that their sharp edges cut the film and the chambers are hermetically closed.

TO STAGE MACHINISTS AND ELECTRICIANS. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

LEIGH THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.

The site of the new Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Leigh, which is to be opened on Monday, the 14th inst., is situated in Market-street, in close proximity to the Town Hall, the rear abutting on The Avenue, wide passages on each side of the building leading both into the latter road and into Market-street.

The entrance to the better-class portions of the house is situated in Market-street and in the centre of the main front, and consists of a spacious vestibule with pay-office in the centre, the floor on this vestibule being finished in mosaic, the walls having a tiled dado with plaster above. A handsome wide flight of steps leads from the vestibule to the various parts of the house. The entrances to pit and gallery are placed in the side passages before mentioned. A basement—provided in the front portion of the building—comprises large refreshment room, smoke room, and lavatories. The heating apparatus is under the dressing-rooms at the stage end of the building.

The front portion of the building on the ground floor is occupied by four lock-up shops. A large and commodious pit has seating accommodation for 720, each person having an uninterrupted view of the stage, the floor being adequately raked. In front of the pit are four rows of orchestra stalls, formed of handsome tip-up chairs, giving accommodation for about 110.

The circle is reached by a handsome staircase leading out of the vestibule. The floor is stepped down towards the front to give all a good view of the stage, the seats, comprised of tip-up chairs, providing accommodation for 360. Handsome boxes are provided on this floor, one on each side of the proscenium opening. A large and spacious gallery gives seating accommodation for 700, the floor being well "stepped" from front to back. Ample emergency exits are on each floor, so that in case of need the whole building could be emptied in a few minutes. All doors open outwards, and the emergency exits are provided with patent "panic" bolts. The whole of the staircases and the various corridors leading to staircases are fireproof. The ceiling over the auditorium, the proscenium front, the box fronts, and fronts to gallery and circle are finished in prettily decorated ornamental fibrous plaster, and charming electroliers assist the scheme of embellishment.

NATIONAL PHONOGRAPH CO.

Mr. G. Croydon Marks, M.P., chairman of the National Phonograph Co., presided at a Press luncheon given by his firm at Prince's Hotel on Thursday afternoon. The function was arranged with the object of displaying the latest Edison phonographs, and certainly the results as indicated by the singing and musical accompaniment of such songs as "A hunting we will go," "Daddy," "Stop yer tickling, Jock" (sung by Harry Lauder), and "Out on the Deep" were eminently satisfactory.

The chairman made an interesting speech, as follows:—

We are concerned to-day in speaking of an accomplished fact in reference to the development of the phonograph, that wonderful instrument which originally commanded the astonishment of royal personages, and to-day assures the admiration of the people of all nations on account of its universal adaptability for meeting one of the important ends of life—that is, giving pleasure to those hearing it. It is a far cry from 1908 to the year 1888, when Mr. Edison's phonograph was publicly introduced to an assembly of representatives of the Press, similar to those gathered here to-day, at the Crystal Palace. The developments that have arisen between those periods have all been in the direction of perfecting rather than of introducing new elemental features connected with the machine. There are many inventors who tire of that which has given them original trouble, which, having overcome, leaves but the details to be developed, and it is in this respect that Mr. Edison differs from so many other inventors of the world; he is careful of details, for he knows that the detail may make or mar the success of the whole apparatus.

To work for sixteen months and wearily speak into a phonograph for hours at a time a word such as "Spezia," and then to get back a faint echo "Pezia," must have been a time of patience, but that which the "Wizard"—as Mr. Edison is called—was seeking was to discover some means of overcoming the difficulty associated with the original phonograph connected with the reproduction of sibilants and aspirates. The first word that was ever reproduced from a phonograph, or that which led to the phonograph, was the word "Hulloa," due to the fact that Mr. Edison was experimenting with the telephone, and noticed that when speaking "Hulloa" into the mouthpiece of a telephone the vibrations of his voice sent the fine steel point into his finger, which set him thinking, for, said he, "if I can make that point record the actions over some surface, and afterwards draw the same point over the surface backwards, I ought to get a 'talking machine' or a reproduction of what I have said," and so we may take it that due to the prick of a finger Edison discovered the phonograph.

The original machine, when seen to-day, is a quaint one; the cylinder was a tin foil, and was looked upon by many as a scientific curiosity and by others as a device for enabling dolls to be fitted with something that would make them speak words instead of squeaking sounds. However, this was not Edison's idea of the commercial importance of the phonographs, and thus he has ever been at work on its detail even when engaged upon other most interesting scientific investigations. Up to this moment the Edison record is produced in a complicated yet beautiful process by moulding wax in a gold mould, and has had an immense success, but the demands of the people are for a little longer reproduction from the record, as they are not satisfied with the short run of two minutes as has hitherto been the duration of the ordinary record.

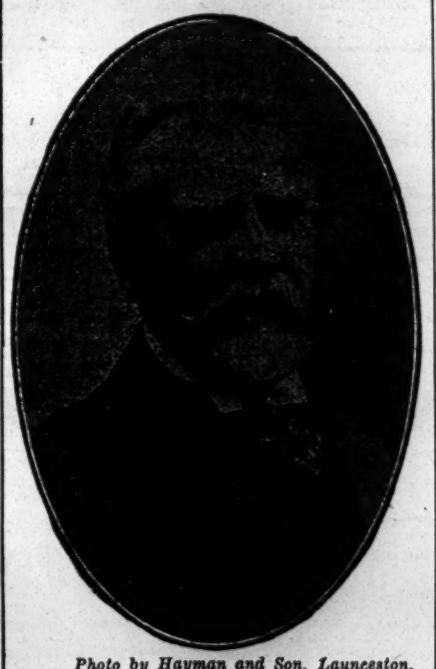


Photo by Hayman and Son, Launceston.
MR. C. CROYDON MARKS, M.P.

We have not asked you here to-day to hear an ordinary record, but to hear that which, while being on an ordinary phonograph, will last double the length of time. This most important improvement has been secured without having called upon owners of existing phonographs to discard their present machines. An attachment has been devised such as will enable the machine to reproduce the new "Amberol" or double duration of record of the old ordinary two minutes' record. The old record has one hundred lines or threads to each inch, and was 3/10in. long. That which has been done is to crowd the lines together and make them two hundred to the inch, a seeming impossibility when one remembers that even with one hundred to the inch they are, of course, impossible of discernment other than as crowded lines to the naked eye. The additional lines, instead of making the record less distinct, have had the opposite effect, so that Edison has produced an "Amberol" record which will last double the time of an ordinary record, and yet fit upon the existing Edison phonograph and be of the same size. The length of thread or line that passes round the "Amberol" record from the beginning to the end of its performance would cover a distance of 5,076in., and thirteen "Amberol" records would measure a mile of music. The finer thread required a small reproducing point, consequently a harder composition, for one alteration necessitates another, and it has taken over two years for several experts under Mr. Edison's direction to overcome first one difficulty and another in order that you may hear the developed and completed "Amberol" record which you have before you to-day.

We propose to give you an opportunity of hearing a few of these new records, and at the same time to ask you to send from this meeting greetings from the representatives of the Press of England to Mr. Edison by a record which we will make here and now in order that the possibilities of the record may be the better appreciated by you.

The chairman's suggestion was carried out by the members of the Fourth Estate, who sent messages to Mr. Edison through the phonograph,

PRICE & REYNOLDS'

PANTOMIME SONGS.

"MAIDIE AND HER LITTLE TEDDY BEAR."
"RUN AWAY FROM OLD MAN GOBLIN."
"LITTLE MONEY SPIDER."
"BEAUTIFUL BRITTANY." "JEREMIAH."
"SHARE MY PAGODA." "FUNNIOSITIES."
"JESSIE THE FLOWER O' INVERNESS."
"MISS CARNATION." "MR. GOLLYWOG."
"IF I WERE A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT."
"MY WORD! IF I CATCH YOU BENDING."

CALL OR WRITE.

Professional Copies, Threepence each.

PRICE & REYNOLDS, 41, BERNERS STREET, LONDON, W.

"PUSS-IN-BOOTS" AT THE CANTERBURY.

Pantomime, in Three Scenes, produced on Monday, Dec. 7.

Juan	MISS ETHEL BEECH
Lola	MISS ELSIE DON
Sancho	MR. ARTHUR WATTS
Princess Carita	MISS EVA ELLIS
Dame	MR. WILLIAM BENSON
Pancho	MR. ALGERNON LEE
King Kimolfe	MR. WYN WEAVER

A foretaste of the festive season is this week furnished at the Canterbury, the patrons of which have been regaled with a production in which all the elements of pantomime are contained. A good deal of compression is rendered necessary by the brief period at the disposal of Mr. J. Collins, who presents the piece, which is therefore a continued succession of short songs, dances, and comic devices, while the story proceeds on lines of glorious uncertainty. The curtain rises on the realm of King Kimolfe, in Pandalusia, where there is an animated chorus of peasants and toreadors. Carita, the king's daughter, arouses the love of the youthful Juan, who is in a state of impecuniosity. Agreeably with ancient lore, Puss puts on the fabled boots, and, immediately becoming possessed of the power of speech, promises to provide Juan with a princess. He accomplishes his purpose in an incredibly short space of time without deigning to take the audience into the secret of how it is done, and the happy couple are betrothed.

The honours of the pantomime belong chiefly to Miss Eva Ellis, who makes a captivating Princess, and wins all hearts. Her singing of "A little piece of Dresden china" is very enjoyable, and the accompanying dance is gracefully executed. She has a smart partner in Miss Ethel Beech, who sings "I don't care if there's a girl there" with much vivacity. The King is played by Mr. Wyn Weaver, who makes the utmost out of his opportunities for the display of eccentricity; and the comic capabilities of Mr. William Benson and Mr. Algernon Lee are utilised in the parts of Dame and Pancho, to whose share a topical duet, "Put it to the vote," falls. The Collins Eight Gems, a well-trained troupe of juveniles, furnish agreeable specialities; and one of the most pleasing interpellations is a chorus and dance by the Collins Sextet of dancers, who add some graceful movements to their singing of "Send me a girl along." The pantomime is well mounted, a pretty woodland picture, with a waterfall in the distance, forming a charming environment for the last scene, to which a display of new dresses lends additional colour.

MISS DOLLY HARMER, who is recovering from severe throat trouble, resumes work at the Palace, Chelsea, on Dec. 21.

THE Corn Hall, Basingstoke, was opened as a Palace of Varieties on Monday to a crowded audience, under the management of Messrs. Hans Altman and R. C. Jenkins, the resident-manager being Mr. Geoffrey Hill. The following artists appeared: Duncan and Brasque, in a playlet entitled *A Society Butterfly*; Herbert and Rennie, comedians and dancers; Byron, comedy clay modeller; Mlle. Ottino, lady conjurer; Colin Mail, vocalist; Alfred Howard, actor-vocalist and musician; Dan Kutor, Scotch comedian; and pictures on the Bioscope concluded a fine bill. The orchestra is under the leadership of Herr A. Romanoff.

"AN OLD MAN'S DARLING."

Sketch, by John Chandler, produced at the Middlesex Music Hall on Wednesday, Dec. 9.

Frank Hetherington	MR. FRED LEONARD
May Hetherington	MISS GLADYS OSBORNE
Dr. Binot	MR. ALFRED GRESHAM

An "extra turn" was imported into the bill at the Middlesex on Wednesday evening last, when the sketch above-named received its first production. Thrice before has the title been utilised for small pieces on the regular stage; but the new playlet bears no resemblance to any of its predecessors of the same name. It has the elements of a thrilling little drama, and only requires an infusion of strong dialogue and an elaboration of the chief situation to make it quite acceptable on the variety stage. As it is it occupies only about ten minutes in representation, so slight is its scenario. It is a story of May and December mated. A strong-minded old man of eighty is married to a young girl in her twenties, and the husband, suspecting that his wife has no affection for him, enlists the services of a hypnotist, whom he allows to throw him into a trance so closely resembling death that the wife thinks he has really succumbed to a heart affection. In the presence of the medical man, the girl pretends to be grief-stricken at her bereavement, but no sooner is she alone than she indulges in ecstasies of delight at her release, by means of which she will be enabled to marry a young lover, and gives vent to her joy in a lively dance. The old man, however, at this moment awakes, and, fully convinced of his wife's duplicity, bids her begone for ever. There is room for improvement in the acting, Miss Gladys Osborne being none too thorough in her impersonation of the wife, but she managed to give quite a "Grand Guignol" touch to the scene where the girl indulges in her transports of joy in the presence of the supposed dead man. There is also grim humour in the episode which the Middlesex patrons were quick to perceive. Mr. Fred Leonard acted realistically as the asthmatic old man, though the delivery of his lines was a little too deliberate, and the hypnotist-doctor was creditably played by Mr. Alfred Gresham. The sketch was remarkably well received, several "curtains" being bestowed upon it.

MISS MABEL MAVIS
AT THE WINTER GARDENS, BOURNEMOUTH.

Miss Mabel Mavis proved a host in herself. Her clever trick piano playing including playing with one hand and fanning herself with the other, and also using her elbows with which to tap the keys, was loudly applauded, as were her glassophone solos. Owing to the large number of encores various items of the entertainment had to be omitted.—Daily Echo, Dec. 1, 1908.

A very interesting turn has been provided by Miss Mabel Mavis, a clever and versatile musician.—Visitors' Directory, Dec. 5.

Miss Mabel Mavis, a clever musician and society entertainer.—Guardian, Dec. 5.

No class of entertainment could be more suited to such "toney" places of refined amusement as the Winter Gardens, Bournemouth, than the glassophone solos and expert piano manipulation of Miss Mabel Mavis, who made her *début* there last Monday with unexcelled success.—Era, Dec. 5.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

VARIETY THEATRES.

DIRECTORS and MANAGERS

PLEASE NOTE.

"CHUMS TILL DEATH."

A GENUINE SUCCESS.

EMPIRE THEATRE, ARDWICK.

Week Commencing December 14th.

Telegrams, "Playlet, London."
'Phone, 909 P.O., Croydon.

ALBERT MARSH,
St. Margaret's,
Birchanger Road,
South Norwood.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Christmas Carnivals and Fairs Ahead.

Arcadia, Portsmouth; Fun City, Olympia annexe; Fun Fair and Toy Carnival, Earl's Court; Rochdale, Bath, Bristol, Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield; The World's Fair, Islington; Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cardiff, Pontypridd, Swansea, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport (Mon.), Southampton, Newcastle-on-Tyne, New Brighton, Birkenhead, Salford (Trinity Market) and Trafford Road (W. Holmes's ground), North Shields, South Shields, Middlesbrough, Jarrow-on-Tyne, Northampton, Plymouth, Southport, Morecambe, and Blackpool. In the London suburbs at Finsbury Park (S. Forrest's ground), Stratford, E. (Mrs. Pettigrove's ground), Lillie-road, Fulham (J. Mander's ground), Mile End-road (Forrest's ground), and Deptford.

For other fixtures see our "Monthly List" and our advertising columns.

The Roundabout Proprietors' and Showmen's Union.

An important meeting of this trade society is duly advertised in our columns this week. It will be held at the headquarters of the Union on Tuesday next (see advertisement).

The Coming Social Events at Bolton Fair.

In addition to the annual showmen's supper and ball, for which arrangements are now being completed, it is confidently expected that there will be a showmen's football match for the championship of the showman world. The rival teams will be those old protagonists Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The Riot at a Welsh Fair.

The unfortunate affray at a colliery village outside of Wrexham, in which a number of showmen were concerned, reached a point this week which permits us, without prejudice to the matter in dispute, to make some reference to what is, at its best, a lamentable business. From what we have been able to gather, it appears that a number of travelling showpeople, mainly exhibiting shooting-galleries and various kinds of throwing-games, pitched upon some private land in the village Coed-Poeth, where there is a large colliery. In order to attract the villagers and the miners to the fairground a prize of a live pig was offered to the successful climber of a greasy pole. Unfortunately, a dispute arose between the showpeople and the patrons of the fair with regard to this particular prize. A riot ensued, and the miners and villagers became so aggressive that the showmen, in fear of their lives, held the mob at bay by using the firearms from the shooting-galleries.

The terrible thing about the matter is that some fifteen people were wounded. The showmen have been before the magistrate, and both the Bench and the police admitted that the showpeople had suffered great provocation, and, although a number of them were originally arrested and charged, the end of the matter up to date is that the two principal showmen only—James Cook, senior, and James Cook, junior—are to stand their trial at the Assizes.

Whilst, of course, it must be admitted that the use of firearms, even under great provocation, is not permissible, there is no doubt that the riot at one time was of such a serious character as to make it quite understandable that men fearing for their lives, and for that of their wives and children, should take the law into their own hands.

Serious Ex-parte Press Comments.

Although this matter is one of the gravest concern to the showman world we have scrupulously refrained, out of the most kindly consideration to the showman concerned, from making any reference to it. We are sorry to notice that considerable capital has been made out of this matter by a certain number of newspapers to prejudice and to injure the character and the avocation in life of the whole body of travelling showpeople.

A glaring example of this appeared in an Ipswich paper, the *Evening Star and Daily Herald*. It reads as follows:—

"THE PLAGUE OF VAN-DWELLERS.

"When Celt meets gypsy in dispute, it appears but natural to expect an outbreak of violence in some form or another. Last Saturday, for example, a Welsh mining community first stoned and then burnt a travelling fair owned by gypsies, who, in their turn, resorted to the use of shooting-gallery rifles, wounding no less than fourteen of the crowd. The innocent subject of this dispute was a pig, offered as prize in a greasy-pole competition, which was apparently unjustly withheld by the 'fair' people who promoted the contest.

"To find the real cause of this serious outburst of feeling—even allowing for the proverbial Celtic temperament—one has to seek further than righteous indignation on the part of successful competitors at being baulked of their porcine guerdon. The wandering alien nuisance is not unknown in the large towns, Ipswich included, but it is fortunately only rarely in the larger communities that these lawless wastrels defy law and decency with the same impunity as is noticed in rural Britain.

"How strongly their presence is resented by all classes in those districts is hardly appreciated by the authorities. Landowners and tenants alike, especially farmers, unite in a common dislike of these whilom picturesque Bohemians who now merely serve as a recruiting agency for an ever-increasing band of itinerant ne'er-do-wells.

The inhabitants of Leiston, obviously a more law-abiding people than the Welsh of the hills, have recently appealed to the Urban District Council to prohibit the nuisance created by these so-called fairs, and it is satisfactory to note that they have not been unsuccessful.

"It seems a pity some better regulation of the vagrant population cannot be instituted. The Scottish authorities not long ago set a good example by expelling some German gypsies, whose half-starved, performing bears were a terror to the countryside. The home-born gypsy problem is perhaps a difficult one to handle, but surely it should be possible to prevent any accession to their numbers from Europe."

The Answer of the Showmen's Guild.

At a recent special committee of the Showmen's Guild held at Manchester this matter was under consideration, and the Guild Chaplain was requested to write a letter to the Ipswich paper in vindication of the van-dwellers who are showmen and provide the popular amusements of the people. The Rev. T. Horne indited the following letter:—

"Dec. 9, 1908.

"To the Editor, the *Evening Star and Daily Herald*.

"Sir,—Several of the members of my Guild have sent me cuttings of your leader on 'The Plague of Van-dwellers,' under date Nov. 10. They point out to me that such an attack upon the character and the business in life of travelling showmen is calculated to do them a serious injury and to prejudice the show business in the eyes of the general public. The provision of the open-air amusements of the people of Great Britain is one of the oldest industries of our country. The fairs, feasts, and wakes of Great Britain provide wholesome and cheap amusements not only for the toiling millions, but for all classes of the community. Throughout the great industrial belt of England, where the workers are massed together in large centres of life, the fairs have not only grown with the growth of the nation, but it is being increasingly recognised that the very best form of amusement at holiday times is that which induces the workers to spend their holiday in the open air.

"This industry of the fairground employs directly seventy thousand persons, and indirectly it contributes to other industries concerned in the making and distributing of the working plant of the showmen themselves and the innumerable articles, fairings, toys, &c., sold on the fairgrounds. It is a great mistake to imagine that the fairs are dying out or that the permanent music halls and theatres supply all the needs of popular and cheap amusements for the people. Great municipalities like London (the L.C.C.), Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds, Sheffield, Bradford, Hull, and over a hundred other large and growing towns, not only recognise the necessity and utility of the fairs, but they are co-operating, through the Showmen's Guild, with the showmen to improve the entertainments offered to the people.

"You will quite understand, Sir, that the great body of showmen, who are of necessity van-dwellers—for the home of the showman-on-wheels must be part of the working plant of the show—resent the very title of your article, 'The Plague of Van-dwellers.'

"With your local circumstances I, of course, can have no concern, and it is not so much your application of the warning of the lamentable affair at Coed Poeth that I join issue with, but it is the generalisations particularly when you refer to the 'common dislike of these whilom picturesque Bohemians who now merely serve as a recruiting agency for an ever-increasing band of itinerant ne'er-do-wells.'

"And, again, you say that 'it seems a pity some better regulation of the vagrant population cannot be instituted.' Your concluding remarks, too, are very misleading. You say 'that the home gipsy problem is perhaps a difficult one to handle, but surely it should be possible to prevent an accession of their numbers from Europe.' I admit that the gipsy problem is a difficult one; but I submit that it is very unfair to confound showmen van-dwellers with gipsies. The two classes are so essentially different that it is to me a constant source of amazement that anyone should make the mistake of regarding every person in a van as a gipsy. It is particularly unfortunate in this particular instance, for the Press agencies, with almost one consent, dubbed these unfortunate showpeople as being gipsies. The truth of the matter is that they are not gipsies, but itinerant providers of small amusements, shooting galleries, throwing games, and variety stalls.

"So obvious was the mistake that a considerable amount of public sympathy was shown towards them by the people of Wrexham, and a number of local gentlemen bailed them out after the first police inquiry. For many years I have carried on a distinctly religious and educational work amongst the showpeople of Great Britain. In this work I have the sanction of the Bishops and the cordial assistance of the local clergy. I have been identified with the van-dwellers of our fairs, feasts, and wakes for over twenty years past. I know them to be honest, law-abiding, industrious citizens of the commonwealth. It has been my duty to speak for them and to defend them whenever they have been unjustly attacked.

"I therefore trust, Sir, to your sense of justice and impartiality, and that you will give this vindication of van-dwellers as wide a publicity as the article I have referred to obtained.—Yours ever, for God and for good, "T. Horne.

"Hon. Chaplain Showmen's Guild of Great Britain."

The Mitcham Fair Rights.

Following on the surprising developments of public opinion at Mitcham concerning the scheme of a few persons to abolish the old Charter Fair, the Rev. T. Horne, Guild Chaplain, has opened up negotiations again with the Mitcham Conservators. Of course, the impending inquiry into the whole of the circumstances leading up to the attempt to abolish the Fair without the consent of the Home Secretary makes it of the gravest importance that the organised London showmen concerned in the maintenance of Mitcham Fair, should not only tender evidence at the L.G.B. inquiry, but that they should submit at this critical juncture suggestions from the showmen's side for a settlement of the question.

"Dec. 7, 1908."

"To the Chairman and Members of the Board of Conservators of Mitcham Common.

"Gentlemen,—About this time last year I laid before your Board various proposals with regard to the removal of the venue of Mitcham Fair to another part of the Common. My last communication to your Board discussed the possibility of removing the Fair to (1) the Three Kings Common; (2) Figgs Marsh; (3) a site at a point on the Croydon road known as the Blue Houses; (4) the Sand Pits, still further away on the road to Croydon; or, failing these sites, any other site determined by the Conservators, the organised showmen undertaking to prepare and lay out the fairground to the entire satisfaction of the Board and at their own cost. The showmen also were ready to pay such yearly rent to the Conservators as might be deemed adequate and mutually satisfactory.

"The other points of public interest were that the organised showmen, through the Showmen's Guild, would co-operate with the Conservators in getting the consent of the Home Secretary to the removal of the old Fair to its new site, and also would guarantee that the entertainments of the Fair should be subjected to full control and veto of the authorities. You will find in the letter under date Jan. 7 (copy enclosed) the answer to that communication.

"I am enclosing for your information a printed copy of the whole of the correspondence between myself as the appointed Conciliator for the organised showmen and the Mitcham Conservators and the holders of the Fair franchise.

"Since then great additional interest has been given to the question of the retention of Mitcham Fair by the proceedings of your Board, and by the striking development of public indignation leading up to a duly convened parish meeting, at which resolutions were passed condemning the means taken to raise funds by the abolitionists of the Fair, and a demand to the Local Government Board to hold an inquiry into the matter, so that the people of Mitcham might know why it was that £400 of the ratepayers' money was voted for the purpose, with which the great body of the people of Mitcham disagreed.

"It is in the light of these recent events that I venture to attempt to reopen the abortive negotiations of a year ago with your Board. In the face of the manifest desire of the people of Mitcham to retain their local Fair and annual holiday, I venture to ask your Board to consider whether it is not wise to accept the strong expression of public opinion in favour of retaining the Fair, and to admit that the matter has materially changed owing to the decision of the parish meeting to ask for an L.G.B. inquiry.

"This point is considerably emphasised by the admission of the Clerk to the Parish Council that the Council had no right to vote public money for the purchase of Fair rights.

"I am extremely anxious to re-open negotiations with your Board, either on the basis of my letter, briefly outlined in the opening paragraphs of this communication, or (1) to purchase the Fair rights at the same price paid for them to Mrs. Bailey; (2) agreeing either to continuing the Fair on its present limited area, and limiting the shows and stalls to the ground at our disposal, or petitioning jointly with you even after we have repurchased the Fair rights for its transfer to a site to be decided upon.

"You will understand that if we purchase the Fair rights at their present value, and accept the financial risk involved in a petition for its removal to another site, that the new owner of the Fair rights would be entitled to the use at the Fair time of space on the new ground equal in area and letable value to the relinquished Fair Green.

"In venturing, gentlemen, to put these suggestions before you, I assume that you do not feel it your duty to go contrary to the manifest wishes of the people of Mitcham, whose interests you serve as Conservators of the Common Lands.

"I shall be glad to have an expression of opinion from you, and place myself entirely at your disposal in the endeavour to obtain a satisfactory solution of what is fast becoming a burning question in Mitcham.—Yours ever, for God and for good. "T. Horne."

For the old tenants of the fair who in 1906 and 1907 were mulcted in heavy law costs and placed under an injunction of the High Court, the Rev. T. Horne has addressed the following letter to the President of the Local Government Board:—

Dec. 8, 1908.

To the Right Hon. John Burns, M.P., President of the Local Government Board.

Sir,—The Showmen's Guild, a trade organisation representing the showmen of Great Britain, begs to submit the following statement with regard to the proposed abolition of Mitcham Fair. We do so because we know that you are being asked to hold an enquiry into the circumstances of the grant of £400 of the ratepayers' money to help a scheme to purchase the fair rights, with a view to the abolition of the people's fair. We understand that, stripped of its technicalities, this money has been devoted with other monies to purchase the fair rights. If an enquiry is granted we respectfully claim to be heard thereat. A number of our members are already under an injunction of the High Court for having dared to maintain the fair until it is properly abolished by an order from the Home Office. Our members have already been mulcted in heavy legal charges, amounting to nearly £200, in trying to assert the principle that the fair exists until such time as it is abolished according to statute. We therefore feel that as the grant of the £400 was a material element in putting power into the hands of the abolishers of the fair, that we are entitled, we submit, to be heard as parties concerned in the enquiry, if such enquiry be held at Mitcham.—We are, Sir, yours respectfully,

T. Horne, Organiser.

For the Executive Council of the Showmen's Guild.

The Reply of the L.G.B.

"Local Government Board,
"Whitehall, S.W., 10th December, 1908.

"Revd. Sir,—Mitcham Common. I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant

"I am, Revd. Sir,
"Your obedient servant,
"S. B. Provis,
"Secretary.

"The Revd. T. Horne,
Organiser of the
Showmen's Guild."

Neath.

Messrs. Orecraft extended their visit for another week. On Thursday night, under the patronage of the ex-Mayor, Dr. Thomas, and several influential inhabitants, a special performance was given in aid of the Nursing Association, when the whole of the proceeds was handed over to the committee. A vote of thanks was accorded to Messrs. Orecraft for the generous way they had chosen to recognise local charities. Mr. Orecraft responded in a few well-chosen words that it gave him and his family great pleasure in aiding the sweet cause of charity, and he hoped at a later date to again help any deserving cause at Neath.

A Coming-of-Age Party in Showland.

Miss Lucy Maude Whiteley ("Dolly"), daughter of that well-known showman, Thomas Whiteley, of cinematograph fame, attained her twenty-first birthday this last week. To commemorate the interesting event, Mr. and Mrs. Whiteley invited a number of their friends to a birthday party. Amongst the guests were Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson (Wigan), Mr. and Mrs. Palmer (Wigan), Mr. Alf. Bussell, Mrs. Annie Morse, Miss Lena Wallis, Miss Ross Sedgwick (Liverpool), Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Whiteley, jun., Mr. Percy Whiteley, Mrs. Dickenson, Mr. Bert Roberts, and numerous others.

The toast of the evening, wishing Miss Whiteley "Many happy returns," was proposed in felicitous words by Mr. Fred Sharpe, and was responded to in the most hearty and demonstrative manner by the whole of the company. The guests and the family party spent an exceedingly pleasant evening, and one that will be long remembered by all who had the pleasure of taking part in it.

The birthday presents were both numerous and costly; the following list gives a few of them: Mr. Thomas Whiteley (father), cheque; Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson, silver comb and hair brush; Mrs. Palmer, silk Japanese head shawl; Miss Lena Wallis, silver toilet set; Mrs. Fred Sharpe (sister), silver egg stand; Mrs. W. Haferkorn (sister), diamond bracelet; Mr. Tom Haferkorn, silver mounted purse; Miss K. Haferkorn, silk neck shawl; Master W. Haferkorn, silver belt; Miss K. Whiteley (sister), diamond brooch; Mr. T. Whiteley, jun., gold stud ear-rings; Mr. Alf. Russell and Miss Morse, silver scent-bottles; Mr. Fred Wiesker, gold bracelet; Mrs. Whiteley, silver tea service; Miss Florrie Haferkorn, silk handkerchiefs; Mr. Percy Whiteley (brother), diamond necklace; Mrs. Dickenson, silk handkerchiefs; Joe Whiteley (brother), diamond cross; Mr. Bert Roberts, silver fruit dish.

Notes from Wales.

Mr. H. Steel Parry's Electric Bioscope occupies a site on the fairground at Bridgend, South Wales, this week, and is attracting many visitors. The pictures are bright, varied, and amusing, while interesting variety turns are given, aided by a concert gramophone.

The Phoenix Theatre, under the proprietorship of Mr. Harry Cowell, at the Carmarthen Pleasure Fairground, continues to attract large audiences. On Monday *Hunted Down* was presented with much dramatic effect; Tuesday, *The Poacher's Fate*; Wednesday, *East Lynne*; Thursday, *The Lady of Lyons*; and Friday, *The Ticket-of-Leave Man*. For Saturday evening *The Octoroon* was billed. Considering the fact that the company have to study different parts each evening, the acting is really good, and the staging of the respective plays very effective.

Mr. Frank A. Small, Press representative of the White City, Manchester, writes:—"Showmen can no more do without *The Era* than can the Churchman do without his Prayer-book."

THE SHOWMEN'S GUILD OF GREAT BRITAIN.

SUBSCRIPTIONS IN 1908.
SECOND LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS

	£	s.	d.
Benefit proceeds from P. Collins' concerns and J. Leo's show at Wrexham Fair ..	4	7	9
Small subscriptions (under 5s.) at Greenock Meeting	2	18	6
Small subscriptions at the Wrexham Meeting	2	10	6
Mr. T. Hurst	2	2	0
Proceeds of Showmen's Concert at Dumbarton Fair	1	16	0
Mr. Marshall Hill	1	1	0
Mr. Hastings	1	1	0

Small subscriptions (under 5s.) at Hull Fair, 19s. 6d.; small subscriptions (under 5s.) at Holbeck Feast, 12s.; small subscribtions (under 5s.) at Leicester meeting, 8s. 6d.; small subscriptions (under 5s.) at Darlington meeting, 6s.; small subscriptions (under 5s.) per Mr. Prideaux, 5s. 9d.; small subscriptions at Birmingham meeting, 5s.; small subscriptions at Redruth meeting, 3s. 6d.; small subscriptions at Bramley meeting, 2s. 6d.

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The above list includes all subscriptions of 5s. and upwards. Other lists will follow. Members who have subscribed 5s. or more whose names do not appear on the above list are requested to communicate direct to the Guild Secretary, *The Era* Offices, London, and the omission will be rectified in the next list published.

Committeemen with counterfoil books are requested to send them at once to the secretary. There are some outstanding subscriptions. Members may send their subscriptions to the secretary, or to the treasurers, Mr. Wm. Mitchell, Heywood, Manchester, or Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, at *The Era* Offices, London.

The latest quotations for music-hall shares are as follow:—Alhambra, 1 9-16; Canterbury, ½; Empire (15s. paid), 18; Empire (10s. paid), 12; London Pavilion Ord., 4½; London Pavilion Pref., 5½; Metropolitan, 15s.; Moss' Empire, 5½; Moss' Empire 5 per cent. Pref., 4½; Oxford, 6½; Palace, 15-16; Tivoli, 5½; United Variety, 1 1-16; Variety Consolidated Theatres, 12s.

THE TALKING PHOTOGRAPH.

Mr. Thomas Bedding, F.R.P.S., recently read a paper before the London and Provincial Photographic Association. Referring to moving pictures in America, Mr. Bedding stated: The moving picture in America is a form of entertainment which satisfies the temperamental demand of a nation for constant change, variety, and novelty in its amusements. Made commercial about fourteen years ago, the device of projecting by artificial light numerous small photographs in consecutive series so as to give an audience the illusion of lifelike motion is now firmly established in public favour. The moving picture theatre to-day is as marked a feature of American amusement life as the house on the boards of which the living actor struts his brief hour for the amusement of the people. In New York City alone there are between two and three hundred moving picture theatres. It is probably near the mark to say that the average daily attendance at these theatres reaches the number of half a million persons. In Denver recently 11,000 people patronised a moving picture theatre in one day. In Philadelphia theatres have been specially built for the moving pictures, which equal in completeness, costliness, and beauty the most elaborate of the old-fashioned form of theatre. And what is true of these cities is generally true of the whole of the large cities of the United States of America, where the capital invested in the moving picture industry runs into hundreds of millions of dollars. This photographic ministration to the pleasure of the eye is a natural development in a country where the cults of the spectacular in advertising devices, in illuminated signs, and in the science of directing attention to the saleable articles are carried to their uttermost limits.

In England, hitherto, the moving picture has been exploited as a supplement to the daily newspaper. A horse race, a ceremony, a procession, the arrival or departure of a King or other notability—some happening of the day, in short, has furnished the theme for an evening turn at the theatre of varieties. England is such a small place that the lovers of topical moving pictures are easily catered for. The very vastness of the United States, on the other hand, operates against this usage of moving pictures. In both countries we shall see a vast growth in popularity of moving pictures in narrative form—plays, operas, sketches, songs, dances, and so forth shown by simple optical projection on a stationary screen.

A development of the system is obvious to those who, like myself, have followed the evolution in moving pictures work since the productions of Lumière, Birt Acres, and others in 1895. The association of the photograph with the phonograph was a logical combination that was bound sooner or later to be made. A living performer on a stage does no more than appeal to the senses of sight and hearing. A moving picture on the screen interests the eye alone; but if it can be made to seemingly talk or sing as well as move, dance, or walk, we arrive at that fine point in scientific ingenuity where Art successfully displaces (and replaces) Nature. It does not precisely matter how, or by what means the optic and aural nerves are excited to produce in the brain the sensations of movement and sound; the resulting effect is the same, whether it be by human or mechanical agency. The emotions of pleasure and interest are aroused, and the mind is stimulated and absorbed. Caruso and Melba do no more; Irving and Jefferson did no more. The human machines—for such these gifted persons are or were—have merely been replaced by the mechanical productions of the studio and workshop, which millions, instead of merely hundreds, can see and hear at one time. Argue round this proposition as you will, and as much as we may, it is a fact that the equality of Art with Nature is in process of daily demonstration, and that a combination of the work of the camera and the phonograph gives us a result as sensuously if not as aesthetically pleasing as the real thing.

We must realise that the public taste in the matter of entertainments has undergone great changes in recent years. The times are too strenuous for the long drawn out dramas, tragedies, and the like of our parents. We take our pleasures in tabloid doses—many and often. Short plays, quick and numerous turns at the variety theatres: these are the comparison phenomena of the paragraphic newspapers; the automobile, the Kodak, the motor-boat, and many other conveniences of the Age of Speed. The civilised world, it is said, is rapidly becoming Americanised. A good thing, too, for Americans know how to get more out of life than most other people. If we must be entertained, let us be entertained quickly, brightly, and cheaply.

The talking photograph, then, makes its appearance at the psychological moment. The world has been waiting for it, and should be happy now that it has got it. Excuse me for saying that "it has come to stay." Of two hackneyed phrases that and the other—"a long felt want"—I have chosen, I think, the least undesirable. The Melba, Caruso, Irving, or Jefferson of the future instead of wearing herself or himself out in public will live comfortably on an early-made reputation by producing phonographic "records" in the boudoir or the study.

Ignorant persons of the superior variety sometimes jeer at the photographic qualities of moving pictures. They know nothing of the great difficulties of making them. They do not realise the fact that by the time it reaches the screen each little photograph in the series is magnified many hundreds of times. The consequence is that each microscopical defect or mark on the film is enormously enlarged, and the marvel is not that the photographs as seen by the public are not entirely faultless, but that they are so good, so even in quality, so realistic in effect. A more wonderful illusion than the talking photograph does not exist in the world to-day. You get a faithful reproduction of the original scene and the people in it; you watch their lifelike movements and gestures; you listen to their voices whether speaking or singing—in a word, the whole thing when well done is so astounding that people are known, at the first blush, to refuse to believe in the possibility of the phenomena being other than real.

It is clear that this form of entertainment is capable of great development. The arts of the painter, the dramatist, the musician, the costumier, are being pressed into its service; the intellectual cravings of all classes in the community will be catered for; and before long hardly a village in the civilised world will be without its talking picture theatre. It is all an obvious and legitimate growth and modern science and enterprise, and I specially predict the greatest popularity for this kind of entertainment in England, where, as I have said, those responsible for the amusement of the people are just waking up to the immeasurable possibilities of the talking photograph.

Mr. Bedding concluded by giving a short account of the manner in which talking photographs are made by the Cameraphone Company, of New York, of whose experimental department he had charge.

Fairs, shows, wakes. Seventy thousand showmen of the United Kingdom required to send for the Showmen's Year Book for 1908. Edited by the Rev. T. Horne. Entirely re-arranged, corrected, and enlarged. 100 pages. Price 1s. Principal contents:—The Passion for Pageantry, Constitution and Rules of the "Showmen's Guilds," Lists of Fairs, Local Feasts and Wakes, Synopsis of Bye-laws, &c., &c. Invaluable to all who follow the fair. Address, the Publisher of *The Era*, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C. Telephones: 4747 and 1433 Central.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

THE WHITE-GLOVED MAN.—In this we are given a dramatic comedy by M. George Docquois.—An adventurer is going out in search of somebody he may dupe. He looks respectable, his clothes are of the best cut, in spite of his purse being quite empty. He finds his opportunity in a night restaurant in the person of a beautiful girl, smartly dressed, with a dog-collar necklace of the most costly pearls. The lady answers his curtsey, because she thinks she likes the look of him, and they soon begin talking like old friends. The moment their motor-car stops at her gate, a haggard-looking rascal, Mr. Pennorth, opens the door, and looks after them steadily as they disappear in the garden. He, also, is in search of an opportunity. An hour later the swell leaves his new friend, and looks with pleasure at the thing he has just slipped out of his pocket, *i.e.*, the pearl necklace, but his white gloves, bought that very day, drop from his pocket at the same time, unknown to him. Left alone, Mr. Pennorth picks them up, and puts them on. He has never looked so elegant before, and, taking from his pocket a skeleton key, he enters the villa, and forces the desk open; but he is disturbed by the beautiful girl, and in order to secure his escape he strangles her. There is an inquest. Near the body they find a pair of white gloves with the address of the glove merchant inside. With this clue it is not difficult to trace the robber of the pearl necklace, who is naturally supposed to be the murderer. He is arrested, although he pleads "not guilty." Just as the van stops outside the prison, Mr. Pennorth steps forward, and cynically cringing, picks up, with the air of one with a pure conscience, the walking-stick the examining magistrate has just dropped.

INDIARUBBER SHOES.—Mr. Rolly has just bought a pair of boots fitted with indiarubber soles, which make him rebound like a ball and perform high jumps, thus causing him to cross over rivers, lakes, newspaper stalls, &c., like the ogre in the fairy tale with his seven-mile boots. Mr. Rolly is very pleased, but his jumps make him sometimes land on passers-by. It is very lucky for him that he can walk so quickly, and get home, where his servant, catching hold of him by chance, takes off the ill-fated boots, else he would have had a very unpleasant time at the hands of his victims.

THE MISDEEDS OF A SACK OF COAL.—Chased by several passers-by on whom he has been playing tricks, Bob takes refuge in a sack of coal. Unluckily for him, the coalman takes the sack on his shoulders and carries the whole to the house of his customer. Bob makes himself comfortable, cuts a slit in the canvas, and from his place of vantage he plays all sorts of pranks on everybody. He has a ripping time; but where it becomes less amusing is when Bob is put into the cellar, and then caught by the house-porter, who gives him a good thrashing for being where he is not wanted, and really Bob finds now that it is not all exciting fun to do such things as playing tricks.

WHALING IN THE SOUTH SEAS.—This is a most interesting picture of a certain phase of a great industry. The scenes depicting the sighting of the great monster of the sea, the whaler pursuing her prey, the harpoon attack, and with a harpoon embedded in its side, the wounded whale swimming swiftly, dragging the boat after it. The whale is eventually brought alongside the whaler, and carried to shore to be cut up. The monster represented in the picture measured 63ft. in length, weighed 87 tons, yielded 37 tons of grease, 30 tons of oil, and 37cwt. of fins.

AN IMPROVISED CONSULTATION.—The doctor having been called away on account of a serious motor-car accident, has not returned when the consultation hour comes, and the patients are growing impatient. Adolphus, his servant, is a resourceful man, and having lived in the home of the doctor for some time he thinks he will be able to see the patients himself. Having put on his master's clothes, he very solemnly prescribes the most unheard of medicines to the astonished people. But all is discovered a little later at the chemist's, and Adolphus, having been found at the public-house after his day's work, is handled roughly by his former patients.

THE CUSTOMS-OFFICER'S FIANCÉE.—A smuggler's daughter, in whom the chief of the gang has become interested, has given her heart to the young customs officer she sees during the long hours of the smugglers' absence. The smugglers arrive, loaded with bales of goods. Their path is a dangerous one on the rocks. The young officer is lying in wait there, and as they cannot avoid passing him, they assault him. A stab in the back makes him fall down. A long time after the skirmish, the poor officer arrives exhausted at the house of his sweetheart. In a fit of despair she runs to the customs house for help, and while the wound is carefully bandaged up, the girl is cross examined. She hesitates a long time before betraying her people. At last she promises to deliver the chief of the gang into the officers' hands. On her return she calls the man, who follows her to the cliffs unsuspicious of her treacherous designs, yet wondering and happy at her sudden change of mood, until he is captured by the customs officers on duty amongst the rocks.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

COLONIAL VIRGINIA.—The great value of moving pictures is well illustrated in this subject, for here we see the colonists as they lived, together with historical scenes and incidents connected with the founding of Jamestown, Virginia. It was in April, 1607, that the first landing was made at Cape Henry. Three ships arrived in Chesapeake Bay bearing gentlemen and mechanics, all fortune-seekers. An amusing scene occurred one month after their landing. It was at this time the party arrived at the spot where Jamestown now stands, and were the cause of the hurried departure of a band of Indians who were enjoying an oyster roast on the beach. Profiting by the absence of the Indians, the new arrivals experienced their first oyster roast in America. We are now given a sight of the colonists' first Legislative Assembly, from which two unruly members are ejected. After this we are introduced to a merry-making promoted to entertain a ship-load of buxom English maidens who have come out to make the colonists happy. An event of a different character is now shown us. It is the institution of the first American slave market. A very realistic representation of the destruction of Jamestown by fire is shown, and a most interesting scene of the visit of a Virginia colonist visiting England and introducing tobacco to Sir Walter Raleigh follows. The subject is wound up with a picture of a colonial ball many years later, when the colony was well established and prosperous.

THE NEW STENOGRAPHER.—Burns tells us the best laid schemes of mice and men "gang a-ft agley," and Joy and Hope are no exceptions when they plot against a woman. Joy and Hope are a firm of theatrical agents who advertise for a typist. This announcement being seen by an intimate friend, he telegraphs that he is sending a "peach." This message arrives at breakfast-time, Mrs. Joy seeing the message. Then Joy's trouble begins. Arriving at the office, he finds Hope barricaded in an inner office, a policeman on guard, and typists of all kinds besieging the place. The recommended "peach" arrives, is admitted, but Mrs. Joy—a good second—is refused admittance by the policeman. Not to be denied, she gains an entrance, but her little detention has given the firm time to hatch a plot of evasion. Hope borrows, and puts on, the blouse and skirt of the "peach," then dons a wig, and upon the entry of Mrs. Joy he is found busy working the typewriter. The girl is, of course, hidden away in another room. Critically examining the supposed new typist, Mrs. Joy finds "her" harmless, but her suspicions are aroused when she is not allowed to depart through the other door. Forcing her way through, she finds, and brings forth, the trembling girl. Being unable to explain, Mrs. Joy goes to the supposed typist for sympathy, and weepingly persuades "her" to accompany her home. The play must proceed to the bitter end, so Hope goes with her, Joy following to find his wife in dishabille and Hope very nervous. Finally Mrs. Joy dons a new bathing suit to show the supposed typist, whilst her husband is kept busy trying to prevent discovery. Hope tries to escape, but in the resulting struggle his wig is pulled off accidentally, and the whole plot is shown up.

Lumière Non-Inflammable Film.

AN extremely interesting demonstration was given at the Holborn Restaurant on Tuesday evening by the Lumière N.A. Company (of 89, Great Russell-street, W.C.), when the properties of that firm's patent gelatine film were thoroughly tested and found to be highly satisfactory. Hitherto all cinematograph positives have been printed on film with a celluloid base. The properties of celluloid are so generally known that an explanation of its qualities is unnecessary here. One outstanding feature, however, is the danger of fire inseparable from the use of celluloid film, owing to its highly inflammable nature, which has, unfortunately, led to loss of life and property. The new Lumière patent film, having neither celluloid or any kindred substance in its composition, is completely non-inflammable, and even if left in the projecting apparatus unprotected from the heat of the illuminant, suffers no change beyond blistering, and under no circumstances does it ignite. The Lumière Company claim that their new non-inflammable film removes all possibility of fire and the attendant dangers which have hitherto been attached to the use of cinematograph films. The visitors to this demonstration were invited to test personally in any way they desired the claims made by the Lumière Company on behalf of their non-inflammable film, and the results were distinctly to the credit of the Company, the scenes shown by the film being clear and distinct.

Fire Preventative and Extinguishing Apparati.

MR. WALTER REYNOLDS, L.C.C. presided on Thursday morning at the Hippodrome over a committee of judges appointed for the purpose of examining and reporting upon certain inventions calculated to prevent or extinguish cinematograph fires. The other members of the committee were Mr. J. T. Bullock (Union Insurance Company), Mr. R. Brice Higgins (Caledonian Insurance Company), Mr. Arthur C. Cockburn (Norwich Union Insurance Company), Mr. C. Seaton (National General Assurance Company), Mr. R. W. Paul (representing the manufacturers of cinematograph apparatus), and Mr. T. J. West (representing the exhibitors of the various protective devices). Mr. Oswald Stoll, who has all along interested himself in and helped to promote this demonstration, permitted the use of the Hippodrome, the manager of which, Mr. Fred Trussell, superintended the general arrangements in connection with the exhibits, Mr. Frank Parker attending to the electric lighting and directing affairs connected with the machinery. Mr. Frank Allen, a director of the Hippodrome Company, was also present and rendered assistance.

MR. REYNOLDS, in opening the proceedings, stated that there was not the slightest desire on the part of the London County Council to interfere with any man who was trying to get a living with a cinematograph machine. Everyone knew that the animated pictures formed one of the most delightfully entertaining and educating of all the amusements now placed at the disposal of the public. They were met there that morning for a noble purpose, namely, that of protecting the public against fire. That, too, was the object which the L.C.C. ever had before them, and most desiderated.

THE committee then proceeded to examine the various inventions, the exhibitors being Messrs. Shilbeck Brothers, the Charles Urban Trading Co., Ltd.; the Underwriters' Fire Appliances, Ltd.; Weisker and Co., of Liverpool; the Walturdaw Company, Butcher and Sons, Kann and Company, Tacchi and Co., Pathé Frères, the Gaumont Company, the Dawson Cinematograph Company, W. Faulkner, W. Bennett, J. Wrench and Son, and the Lumière Company. The representative of the last-mentioned firm, to whose demonstration earlier in the week reference will be found in these columns, gave a striking test of the non-inflammability of the Lumière gelatine film by applying a light to a quantity of it. The film "frizzled," but did not flare up, while a mass of celluloid film which was similarly treated speedily ended its existence in a bright conflagration. We understand that the decision of the judges will be made known very shortly, and no doubt that decision will form a recommendation to the London County Council.

SAVED FROM THE SEA; or, the Man They Could Not Hang. A brilliant, superb, cinematograph version of Mr. Arthur Shirley's great drama. Played to crowded houses all over the country. Scene 1: Jim and Dan rescue a little girl—the only survivor of a wreck. She is adopted by Mr. Ellington and named Nancy Ellington. Scene 2: Ten years later. Dan and Nancy are lovers. Jim is also in love with Nancy, and vows to kill Dan and marry Nancy himself. Scene 3: Dan and Nancy are married. Scalcher and Fenton find out that Nancy is entitled to a fortune, and scheme to obtain the money by foul means. Jim is told that Dan's life stands between him and a fortune, and he decides to get rid of Dan. Scene 4: Jim and Dan start out for the day. On board Jim has a violent struggle with Dan, overpowers him, and ties him to the mast, lights the fuse of a quantity of blasting cartridges, gets into the dinghy and pulls away with all speed. Scene 5: Nancy suspects plot and goes to the rescue. Immediately after the rescue smack blows up and sinks. Scene 6: Scalcher and Fenton obtain entrance to Dan's cottage and attempt to murder Nancy. They are disturbed by Jim and hide behind the curtains. Jim begs Nancy to give him money to enable him to escape. Nancy goes out of the room, and a terrific struggle takes place between the three scoundrels; Jim is murdered and others escape. Dan now enters, followed by police and rogues, and is accused of the murder and taken into custody. Scene 7: Dan, under sentence of death, is allowed an interview with his wife. Scaffold scene; bolt refuses to work three times, and sentence commuted to penal servitude. Scene 8: In the Quarries. Scalcher (also imprisoned) working with Dan. They plot to escape and are successful. Scalcher is wounded. Scene 9: Dan's Cottage. Arrival of escaped prisoners. Fenton also appears. Scalcher confesses to the murder and accuses Fenton of being his accomplice. Fenton is imprisoned and Dan liberated.

It has been authoritatively stated

That a new law compelling the use of a Fire Extinguishing Apparatus on every Kinematograph Show throughout the country will come into force at Christmas.

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VAUDEVILLE CLUB SMOKER.

THE members of the Vaudeville Club and some of their friends spent a most delightful evening at the premises in Charing Cross-road on Sunday evening and the early hours of Monday morning, when the club's ninth grand Bohemian smoking concert was held. Mr. W. W. Sampson presided over a goodly gathering, the entertainment, which lasted from 9.30 p.m. until 2 a.m., being of the bumper order. Mr. Harrison Brockbank aroused the enthusiasm of his audience by his fine rendering of Kipling's "Follow me," and another gentleman whose first name is Harrison—to wit, Mr. Latimer—also distinguished himself in the vocal line. Mr. Horace Goldin submitted some clever sleight-of-hand tricks, which were greatly admired; Mr. Walter Hart was capital in his representation of the late Sir Henry Irving as Shylock and in his song "Keepsakes"; Mr. Humphrey Bishop delivered in fine style two pieces, "The Old Shako" and "The Trumpeter"; Mr. Percy Yorke sang "The Bandolero" and "Bonny Mary of Argyle"; Mr. Will McIvor delighted his hearers with his fine interpretation of "The Star of Bethlehem" and "Sally in our alley"; Mr. Bosanquet played in pleasing fashion on the Bosanquephone a couple of selections, "O, star of eve" and "Eileen Alannah"; and Mr. Andie Caine caused huge merriment with his ditties, "The River Gay" and "The Sparrow." Mr. Dave O'Toole entertained with "The Spanish Serenade" Mr. Dusty Rhodes was also mirth-provoking in a couple of numbers; Mr. Wilson Hallett was extremely funny in his imitations of little girls, and his vocal representations of various people reciting "The Charge of the Light Brigade"; and Mr. Harry Claff won golden opinions for his singing of "The Toreador" (from *Carmen*) and "The Gallant Salamander." Mr. Tom Child was heard in a capital performance of "Take a pair of sparkling eyes" and "I hear you calling me"; Mr. George Ridgwell capitally executed a cornet solo ("Killarney"); Mr. Bernard Russell submitted "Muddled Melodies" and "The Vegetarian"; Mr. Irve Hayman was most comical in a recitation, "The Sullivan v. Silvestre Bowling Match"; and Messrs. Edward E. Ford and Stanley Holt gained much applause in musical turns. Mr. Pennyston Miles was an able and untiring accompanist, and Messrs. W. H. McCarthy (secretary) and T. H. Case (manager) rendered excellent service in other directions.

LITTLE HACKENSCHMIDT, the champion bantamweight wrestler, who was reported by some papers as having died, says he is very much alive and in best of health.

MR. FRED P. VERE (of Vere and Royal) desires it to be known to artists and managers that he is in no way connected with the person of the same name convicted at Nottingham this week.

THE FINANS, having finished their music-hall season, return to Milton Bode for pantomime, playing their old parts of Chinese policemen in *Aladdin* at the Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton.

MR. PERCY VICTOR, who is now appearing at the Crystal Palace with his wonderful dogs, has been engaged to produce Mr. J. P. Moore's forthcoming *Whittington* pantomime.

MR. W. S. HARTFORD, who concludes to-night his ninth re-engagement with Mr. J. F. Elliston, will, on Monday, at Peter Davey's cosy theatre at Kingston, produce a new and original monologue, specially written for him by Harry Mapleson, who doubles the parts of scenic artist and author. It is called by the happy title *When We Were Boys Together*, and Mr. Hartford plays the dual rôle of two brothers—one a City gentleman, the other a burglar.

EDISON FILMS

NOW READY FOR SHIPMENT FROM THE FACTORY, ORANGE, N.J., U.S.A.

THE NEW STENOGRAPHER.

The theatrical firm of Joy and Hope advertise for a stenographer. She is a peach, but there is a Mrs. Joy, and she is wise. This is the material from which issues a series of side-splitting situations, in which the wit of Mrs. Joy quite annihilates the deceptive arts of Messrs. Joy and Hope.

No. 6395. Code, "Vendimiado." Approximate Length, 1000ft.

COLONIAL VIRGINIA.

A graphic tracing of famous scenes and incidents connected with the founding of Jamestown and early life in Virginia. Scenes we have all pictured in our minds since school days are made real in this film.

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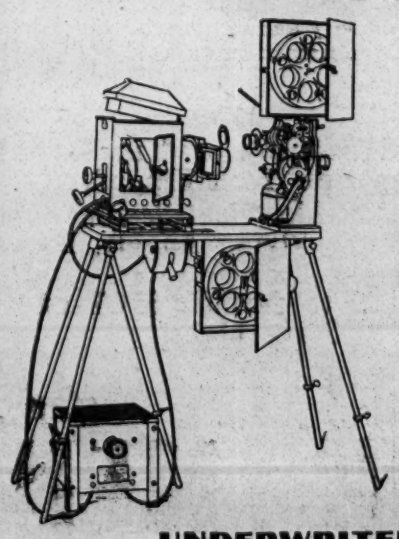

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which is absolutely the last word in **GRAVITY RAILWAY DEVICES.** Replete in Countless Improvements and Sensational Novelty, it is superior in every way to anything ever before constructed. It represents the **Grand Cañon of Arizona,** showing an Arizona Blizzard, with Moving Clouds, Snowstorms, and other startling phenomena of Nature produced by our Electrical Effects, cars passing rapidly through the cañons, mountains, &c. Double the carrying capacity of the Mountain Scenic Railway at the late Franco-British Exhibition.

SPECIAL NOTICE.—We produced, installed, and staged **The Johnstown Flood** at the Franco-British Exhibition: the Largest, Grandest Mechanical Electrical Spectacular Production ever built, which played to nearly **800,000** paid admissions in three months. We also installed in its entirety **Pharaoh's Daughter,** another **Franco-British Success**—a Superb Electric Spectacular Illusion, combined with Illustrated Lecture, Music, and Song.

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A UNIQUE NOVELTY.

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HELL GATE.
A MARVELLOUS WATER CHUTE.

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SENSATIONAL AND BEAUTIFUL.

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A PANORAMIC ILLUSION OF THE OCEAN'S MYSTERIES.

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A Combined Electrical and Gravity Railway Device which creates a perfect furore of enthusiasm, and America's most successful **MOUNTAIN SCENIC RAILWAY.**

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A Battle in the Clouds on Board an Airship. Illustrating the method of warfare of the future.

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The Greatest Financial Success of the ST. LOUIS WORLD'S EXHIBITION, on which occasion the entire projecting electrical effects were supplied by us.

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THE LATEST AND MOST STARTLING ELECTRICAL NOVELTY.

MOON DEAR.
The Original Production by us at the NEW YORK HIPPODROME. Run, **730** performances.

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER.
As above described, can be installed on any stage in Europe.

Our Electrical Effects are used in Chas. Frohman's "Brewster's Millions," as well as Percy Hutchison's road production, and exclusively in the New York Hippodrome.

We carry in stock Electrical Scenic Effects of every description, including Moving Clouds, Rain, Snow, Fire, Water, Water Ripple, Mechanical Moon, Flying Angels, Devils, Butterflies, Birds, Dragons, &c., also Swimming Fish and Submarine Panoramic Effects.

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FUN CITY AT OLYMPIA.

Mr. Charles B. Cochran, the manager of the Fun City at the Olympia Annexe, opened that happy fairground on Monday evening. There is plenty to see and hear. On the ample stage in the centre of the hall "vaudeville sessions" are given three times daily, and the performances may be witnessed free of charge, though for sixpence or a shilling one is given a comfortable seat on the raked floor. The array of talent presented—which, by the way, is to be changed weekly—speaks for itself. Performing animals possessing almost human intelligence, amazing gymnasts, grotesque comedians, freaks, jugglers, dancers, and many sensational acts are brought to our notice. One of the chief items on the programme this week is that of Permane's Siberian educated bears, which are a remarkably accomplished lot of animals, and include a talking bear. Then there are the Paalias, who are greatly admired in a graceful gymnastic act, in which is introduced a Lilliputian performer who goes by the name of Little Paalia, and who, for his 9st. and his 4ft. 10in. height, is quite a picture of muscular development. The Missouris are exceedingly entertaining eccentric comedians, and the Dancing Gilberts furnish a most attractive Terpsichorean act. Mme. Roma's six juggling girls execute many smart tricks, and Walter Levetto proves that he has wonderful abilities as a pedestal dancer. Les Surpriskis present an interesting and daring gymnastic act, and Frivola and Deep, from the Folies Bergères, are a highly entertaining couple of artists.

Special mention can be made of a natural history exhibit, which is in the charge of Mme. Siva, who, by the way, was showing snakes last year. This season she is presiding over a large tank of water containing crocodiles. Of these she has six, and the mystifying part of the show is that she contrives to make them act and move in precisely the way she desires. She appears to have complete mastery over them, and one of them, which she affectionately terms "Baby"—though the baby is five years old, that is considered extreme infancy in the family of any decent crocodile, for these reptiles live to a hundred—has only just arrived from Florida, and had a serious illness on the voyage. Certainly the alligator farm is worth a visit.

There are, of course, in addition to the attractions already mentioned, several "side shows." The lighthouse helter skelter is an old friend, but none the less popular. The Brooklyn cake walk, like roller skating, makes one graceful. The bicycle circus gives fine opportunity for exercise, whilst Frank Wilson's rifle range should not be missed by those who have the defence of England at heart. Cokernut shies and gamés there are in plenty, and in Salome and Transmigration one finds two up-to-date illusions. Kelph and Pedley's motor cars command attention from every part of the building, and a ride in one of them is most exhilarating.

The visitor might also be well advised to look out for Colossus, the prodigious Hungarian Boy, Peter Connor, the tallest British subject, and their tiny friends, Major Thornhill, Princess Gill, and the Queen of Lilliput. Apropos of tiny creatures, one should not miss Napper Tandy, the tiny mare, and Professor England's performing fleas, the smallest actors in the world. Then there are: Suffragettes' Rest—the Fun City's Holloway, the new game of Houp-La, the Katzenjammer Castle, and the palmists.

Next week the new turns included in the free show are Charley, the wonderful quick-change performer; the Reca Trio, daring gymnasts; and Les Fiers, grotesque acrobats; whilst the equestrian and talking bears are retained.

Special attractions for children are presented between 11 and 1. The admission during these hours is 3d. only, and for this modest sum one can see the variety show, the animated pictures at the Gem Electric Vaudeville Theatre, and the numerous Fun City wonders.

Next Friday there will be held a Beauty Show for Men and Whiskana or Face Fungus Fête, with Mr. Frank Richardson as judge.

ROLLER-SKATING AND BEAUTY-SHOWING.

The directors of the mammoth roller-skating rink at Empress Hall, Earl's Court, organised a beauty show there on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week, and it proved a great success. There were over five hundred entries, and the competition was quite of an international character. Four Italian, one Hindu, forty-four German, and ten French ladies entered, though by far the most numerous applications came from Scotland. The competitors' names were kept a secret from the audience, who voted by numbers. The system of judging was a novel one, the competitors being arranged in tens in a specially-built frame, on which the rays of forty limelights were concentrated, the audience inspecting the "beauties" from seats on a slope. The committee included Mr. Seymour Hicks, Mr. Tom Browne, Mr. John Hassall, Mr. Albert Toft, Mr. Lance Thackeray, Mr. Mostyn Piggott, and Mr. Max Cowper. Cash prizes of £50, £15, and £5 are to be awarded to those regarded by the judges as the three most beautiful women in the world. The announcements of the winners had not been made when we went to press. The Empress Hall, tastefully decorated with flags and brilliantly lighted, has a most picturesque appearance, and a skating gymkhana will take place every Wednesday throughout the season, with valuable prizes for winners in the events. A fine military band plays during the skating, and instructors in the art are always in attendance.

On another page of this issue of *The Era* will be found an advertisement announcing the sale of the Johnstown Flood, at public auction, on Tuesday, Dec. 22. Londoners will regret to learn of this, as the Flood was undoubtedly one of the most popular side shows on the Franco Exhibition grounds, and was enjoyed by all who saw it. It was shipped to London direct from New York at an enormous expense, and opened during the latter part of July. Its success was apparent from the opening day, and during the short season of three months only, nearly 800,000 people passed through its turnstiles.

It is a reproduction of the famous flood which took place in Johnstown, Pa., nineteen years ago, which destroyed the entire city. The effects are produced on a very large scale by modern electrical, mechanical, and scenic devices, and is considered by all who saw it to be the finest show of the kind ever produced in Europe.

The property is to be sold owing to the company's contract having expired with the Franco-British Exhibition.

In the Centre Transept at the Crystal Palace Mr. George O. Starr is arranging for an Old English Circus, in which the grown-ups as well as the children are promised a really good show. There will be accommodation for about 2,000 people, and everything possible for the comfort and convenience of visitors is being done. In the South Nave there will be a "Yuletide Fair," and Mr. Hyatt, the well-known amusement caterer, is fixing up all kinds of seasonable attractions. A Children's Carnival is also being arranged, and the Monster Christmas Tree will be again in evidence. The tree is a present from Sir Jeremiah Colman, and reaches a height of 89ft. It holds about 3,000 toys, and is a source of great delight to the thousands of children who visit the Palace.

"ARIZONA RIDE."

To be produced by Joseph Menchen in amusement resorts in England and the Continent this coming summer.

This is absolutely the last word in gravity railway devices, replete in countless improvements and sensational novelties. It is superior in every way to anything ever before constructed, and will be an interesting, educational, and artistic feature certain to create a perfect furore of enthusiasm and comment.

The interior will represent the Great Canon of Arizona, with the highest point rising to 85ft. The canon will be 200ft. wide, with a steel bridge (100ft. span), and the railway will run 200ft. on either side of this canon, making a stretch of 500ft. in all, and leaving a space between the two extremes of the 200ft. wings on either side of the canon.

The construction will be a most artistic and attractive design, finished with decorative plasterwork by expert artists, and as a construction, will be a credit to any exposition At night we would use concealed illuminations and the most up-to-date electrical effects, giving an actual reproduction of an Arizona blizzard, with moving clouds, snowstorms, and other startling phenomena of Nature, which alone would be a spectacle in itself.

It is the invention of Joseph Menchen, the inventor and patentee of almost every startling projecting device used in America; he produced the "under and over the sea," at the St. Louis World's Fair, as well as installed the complete electrical projecting appliances for the New York Hippodrome. He also produced the famous moon and cloud effects in the song called "Moon, Dear," which ran 626 performances at the New York Hippodrome, and which he will put in vaudeville here within the next month, as well as the beautiful electrical spectacular novelty called the Artist's Dream, a unique posing act, occupying the entire width of the stage, and using such projecting appliances as ocean wave and cloud effects, as produced by Mr. Minchen in *Brewster's Millions* at Hicks' Theatre, as well as fall, roses, fly, butterfly, and Egyptian panoramic effects, and other startling sensations. Mr. Menchen has opened a factory and office at 371, Walworth-road, London, S.E., where he will be pleased to demonstrate to any manager any effects desired. He calls your attention to his page advertisement on page , which will show the other novelties that are in course of construction.

OPENING OF ASTON HIPPODROME.

Monday saw the opening of this magnificent new building, both houses being crowded. The Mayor (Alderman A. Taylor), who was wearing his chain of office, Aldermen, Councillors, and leading local residents were present. The building, which was only commenced in August, has a substantial frontage, plain terra-cotta, ornamented with stone, the entrances being overhung with an ornamental verandah. Surmounting the facade there are two effective cupolas. The interior is decorated in crimson, cream, and gold, the seats are upholstered in red, and the rich carpet is of a pretty pale green, the furnishing being in the hands of the celebrated firm of A. R. Dean and Sons.

The directorate is not connected with any other syndicate, but is formed of gentlemen largely interested in Barrasford's Hippodrome, and the bookings are controlled by a Manchester agent. The auditorium holds 2,000 people, and a special feature has been made of what is technically known as the "headroom," between the ground floor and circle and circle and gallery.

The house, which has cost £14,000 to build, makes the fifth music hall in Birmingham. The manager is Mr. T. E. Middleton, and the musical director is Mr. Benedict Sorge, a gentleman well known in the musical and theatrical society of Birmingham.

After the National Anthem had been sung, the programme, which was an excellent one, commenced on Monday with Charles Ulrick, the well-known barrel king, whose exhibition was neat and clever. The "star" of the evening was Zona Vevey, whose special scene, *My Lady's Bower*, is most artistic. She was repeatedly encored for her songs, her enunciation being perfectly clear, and her voice and style most charming. She was assisted by Herr Max Erard at the piano. The Bensons presented an amusing musical comedy act, *The Page and the Maid*, and the skit *Would-be Actors*, submitted by E. Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery, was one of the drollest turns of the evening. Paul Vandy is a smart juggler and sleight-of-hand performer; Barney Armstrong was applauded for his songs, as also was Leo Trainor. Nellie Montague is a dainty burlesque artist, and the ventriloquial entertainment provided by Baddon is very good.

At the second house on Monday the performance was witnessed by the Mayor of Aston, who was accompanied by many members of the Council.

"THE YAP YAPS."

A Sketch, in Three Scenes, Written by Fred Karno and J. Hickory Wood, Produced, for the first time in London, at the Paragon, on Monday, Dec. 7.

Hon. Charlie Chinn ..... MR. GUS LE CLERQ
Molly ..... MISS MARJORIE CECIL
Reggie Lovell ..... MR. H. V. SURREY
Ben Burley ..... MR. JAMES PRIOR
Tom Trotter ..... MR. CHARLES PRINCE
The M.C. ..... MR. FRANK RICKARDS

This sketch, in three scenes, which had a preliminary trial at Margate, was presented for the first time in London at the Paragon on Monday, and excited considerable mirth as played by Mr. Fred Karno's specially organised company of comedians. "The Yap Yaps" is the name given to a certain club, the members of which are a set of smart young dandies, immaculately dressed, who certainly make a good picture. The first scene represents the Brighton Promenade, where there is a meeting between several of these gentlemen and the lady promenaders, a good opening number, "Go away, Miss," being well rendered by the company. The Hon. Charlie Chinn, in a moment of excitement, has backed himself to box a certain Big Ben Burley for £100 a-side. His friends are highly pleased with the pluck of their hero, for they are all taking lessons in the noble art, and the craze for oxygen as an aid to athletes plays a great part in the plot. A meeting takes place between the combatants, the different weights of them, together with the fun and humorous repartee, keeping the house in good humour. In a particularly realistic seaside scene is witnessed a clever piece of stage mechanism, for the breezes are made to blow very freely, giving a wonderful display of the ladies' lingerie, the little incident causing shrieks of laughter.

The next scene is the National Sporting Club, where an exhibition three rounds is sparred between those well-known boxers Johnnie Summers and Young Josephs, the little item being greatly appreciated. The great contest is announced, Yap Yaps being well represented in the club, and the fight commences. The scene is a scream from start to finish, the Hon. Charlie winning, after having a dose of oxygen administered, which works wonders.

Mr. Gus Le Clerq as the Hon. Charlie and Mr. H. V. Surrey as Reggie worked splendidly together. Mr. James Prior as Big Ben Burley represented the character perfectly. Mr. Fred Karno is to be congratulated on his big venture, and he has a first class company of excellent performers.

Callan and Ardel are producing at the Queen's, Poplar, on Monday next, a big sketch entitled *Scenes on the Mississippi*.

"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS AND OTHERS.

Owing to Christmas Day and Boxing Day this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, THE ERA will be Published at Midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

Advertisements intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, DEC. 22, to reach us by First Post on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23. Advertisements may be handed in at the counter until 12.30 noon on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

POST EARLY.

REVISED SCALE OF CHARGES FOR ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION (Post Free).

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One Year	26s. 0d.	32s.

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For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post if postage be arranged.

NO STAMPS.

Advertisers and subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions, crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to "The Era," Limited, and addressed,

THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publsiher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Feb. 15, 22, March 8, 15, 22, 29, on DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.
Jan. 25, March 8, 22, April 5, May 17, 24, 31, on COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
March 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 3, 10, on OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, on ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Feb. 1, March 1, 8, April 5, 12, May 3, 10, 17, on. THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 15, 22, April 5, 26, May 17, 24, 31, on. OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 6, 20, 27, Oct. 4, on. THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, May 17, 24, 31, June 7, on. THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 1 on
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 8, 15, 22, 29, onwards. GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Jan. 11, 25, Feb. 8, March 8, 29, April 5, onwards. THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
First Vacant Date, March 15.
Add., E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.
WANTED, High-class Companies, DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Jan. 18, Feb. 15, 22 (?), March 1, 8, 15, 22. GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 15, 29.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
Feb. 1 (?), March 1, 15, 22.
Apply for all above,
ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.

WANTED, Pay-box Successes, April, 1910, various on.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.

WANTED, a First-class Pantomime, for Week Commencing
Jan. 18.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal,
Birkenhead.

THEATRE ROYAL, CARDIFF.
WANTED, Musical and other High-class London Attractions,
for remaining 1909 dates.
Address, ROLLO BALMAIN.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Dramatic and Musical Attractions, March 22, April 26, and onward, with exceptions. Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, for Feb. 22,
March 22, April 5, 19,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

OPERA HOUSE, BRIDLINGTON.
WANTED, through disappointment, Pantomime or Musical Comedy, or First-class Attraction for Xmas, Dec. 26, and three following nights.
Now booking for Summer Season.
Apply, HARRY TUNBRIDGE, Manager.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for Feb. 15, March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31. First-class Companies only.

LYCEUM, NEWPORT, MON.
WANTED, Sterling Attractions, Feb. 1, May 3 (five nights, and 10th (six nights), also for Choice Autumn Dates.
Particulars to SIDNEY COOPER.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply, direct, to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, Strong Dramatic Attraction, Feb. 1, 2, and 3, 1909.

WANTED, First-class Companies, Feb. 8, Feb. 22, March 15, April 26.
A. M. LOADER, Opera House, St. Helens.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions, Jan. 4, 11, various on.
One of the most comfortable engagements in South Wales.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, March 1 (Musical preferred) and 29. Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, May 17, June 14, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant March 1, June 7, Aug. 2, onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7, onward with exceptions.

KING'S THEATRE, GAINSBOROUGH.
Vacant Dec. 10, 14, 21, Jan. 11, onward with exceptions.
(First three nights best for Musical Pieces; last three nights Drama.)

Pantomime, "ALADDIN," Jan. 25, 1909, onward.
Pantomime, "CINDERELLA," Dec. 26, 1908, onward.
Pantomime, "PUSS IN BOOTS," Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S," "PRAIRIE FLOWER," &c.

ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
Lessee and Manager, Mr. HUGH ROBERTSON.
The Premier Theatre in the Furness District, with a holding capacity of £90 at ordinary prices.
WANTED, really First-class London Successes, for Feb. 8, 15, March 8 and 22, on, with exceptions.
Season's Bookings include among others: J. W. Turner's Grand Opera Company (return), Mr. Wentworth Croke's "The Bondman," "Amasis," Mr. Charles Frohman's "Raffles," Mr. George Dance's Company in "Miss Hook of Holland," Mr. Wilfred Cotton's Company in "Butterflies," Mr. Seymour Hicks' Company in "The Gay Gordons," and Mr. George Edwardes's Company in "The Merry Widow," &c.
All applications for dates to HUGH ROBERTSON,
Theatre Royal, Jarrow-on-Tyne.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District
Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.
WANTED, First-class Attractions only, Feb. 15, 22, 29,
Easter, April 12, on,
with exceptions.
We are prepared to guarantee Really Big Star Attractions.
All communications, JNO. ED. JOWSEY, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.
Telegrams, "Magnet."
'Phones 413, 425, 500.

THEATRE ROYAL, BLYTH-BY-SEA.
Lessee, A. C. MOODY.
WANTED, First-class Company, Feb. 22, 1909, vacant through obliging.
Next week, Chung Ling Soo.
Professional Houses of Call.
Adelphi Hotel, opposite Stage Door, Theatre Royal, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Waterloo Hotel, facing Tyne Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne.
Proprietors, Messrs. Evans, Beadling, and Moody.

OPERA HOUSE, JERSEY.
JULIAN'S HALL, GUERNSEY.
WANTED, First-class Drama, Feb. 1, also Musical Attractions, for few remaining Season Dates.
EDWARD MARRIS,
Douglas House, Maida Hill, W.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons. Dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn, 1909. All communications,
WALTER R. WALLIS, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Companies; holds £100; Vacant Feb. 4, 11, 18, March 1, 15, 22, and Easter. Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, Good Company, Jan. 18, Panto. preferred. Also Vacant, Feb. 1 and 15.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

WANTED, First-class Companies, for Grand, Llandudno, Easter, Whit, July, and September. Address, HALDANE CRICHTON.

NORTH SHIELDS, THEATRE ROYAL.
WANTED, First-class Company, Jan. 4. All communications, STANLEY ROGERS.

WANTED, Musical Attractions, for Theatre, King's Lynn, March 29, April 19, 26, May 3, June 7, three nights each. B. PAREEZER.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
General-Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, No. 1 Musical Comedy and Pantomime Attractions,
immediate and future dates.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred,
Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on,
three or six nights.
W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

ARCADE THEATRE, COWDENBEATH.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Jan. 4, 5, 6.
W. E. POTTS, Opera House, Dunfermline.

GRAND THEATRE, LANCASTER.
WANTED, good Attraction, Dramatic or otherwise, for Dec. 31 (3 nights). Write, STANLEY ROGERS, Theatre Royal, North Shields.

WANTED, a First-class Comedy Company, for three nights, Feb. 4, 5, and 6, for a first-class Provincial Theatre. Apply to Mr. AUGUSTUS BINGHAM, 53a, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W.

PUBLIC HALL THEATRE, RUNCORN.
WANTED, Important Company or Panto., Jan. 13, also Jan. 14, 15, 16. Musical preferred, Feb. 3 (?), also Autumn, 1909. EDGAR LEA.

WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attraction, Répertoire preferred, three nights, Dec. 31, Jan. 1 and 2, for Kelty, Fifeshire. Excellent business can be done. Share or certainty. JOHN CLYDE, 43, Great Western-road, Glasgow.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE, GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM, BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS, and GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, 23.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, March 22, May 10, 17, 24, June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 23.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant March 1, 15, 29, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 24, June 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

Address, with full particulars, terms, &c. where can be seen, to Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED, Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street, London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE, BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 15, 22, 29, April 26, onwards.

Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Jack Straw," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," Mr. Harry Nicholls, "The Beloved Vagabond," "Diana of Dobson's" (return), and Mr. G. Alexander's next St. James's Theatre Production.

All communications, CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
The only Theatre in the Town.
WANTED, Musical Comedy, April 12.
Note.—The Conference of the Teachers' National Union is held in Morecambe during Easter. A few vacant dates in July, Aug., and Sept., First-class Attractions only.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

PALACE THEATRE, BOSTON.
WANTED, Jan. 4, onwards, Drama and Pantomime Companiess. ERNEST CASS, Manager.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 9, Nov. 1, 22.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, March 29, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 14, 21.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 14, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, Aug. 2, 9.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 2, Nov. 8, 15.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Dec. 21, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8.
FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb. 15, March 22, April 12.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, April 5, Aug. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, Vic. T., Broughton, Manchester.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, March 1.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"THE EDUCATION OF ELIZABETH."
from the Haymarket and Apollo Theatres.
WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, 25, March 8.
C. H. BOWMAKER, Lyceum, Ipswich.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success, Weeks of
Jan. 11 and 25.
Jan. 11 and 25.
Jan. 11 and 25.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of
Dec. 28, Jan. 11, and Feb. 8,
Dec. 28, Jan. 11, and Feb. 8,
Dec. 28, Jan. 11, and Feb. 8,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 22, March 22, April 5, 12, onwards.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, King's Theatre, Sunderland.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 12, 19, 26. April 12, 19, 26.
May 17, 24, 31.
May 17, 24, 31.
All Communications,
J. W. CORDINER, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Xmas week (7 nights), also Jan. 4, 11 (3 nights), 18, Feb. 8, 15, 22, April 19, May 31.
E. C. S., Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

WANTED, few Dates in Feb., March, April, Hutchison Tours.
See Companies Column.

WANTED, "Under Two Flags," Jan. 18, Feb. 22, March 1, 22, 29. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, London, N.W.

WANTED, "At Cripple Creek," Feb. 22, May 17, 24, 31. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, London, N.W.

WANTED, Mark Blow's Latest Success, "At Roaring Camp," Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 1, 22, 29. MARK BLOW, 11, St. Edmunds-terrace, London.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her Great Successes,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
by Charles Darrell,
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Theatres.—Only vacant dates for either play: Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 1 and 8, March 29, April 5, May 10 and 24.
Coms. to GEORGE KIRK,
T. R., Aston, Birmingham.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED Wanted, Theatres
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 1.
"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON.'
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, April 19, 26.
"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING,"
Vacant Feb. 8, 15, Mar. 1.
"THE GIRL I LOVE,"
Vacant Various, Spring.
E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 15, Easter.
FRED BULMER, County Theatre, Reading.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, March 1, May 24.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8, March 15, 22, 29.
Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY,
This, Prince's T., Preston (return);
next, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

MR. LOUIS CALVERT'S PRODUCTION.
"SUNDAY," "SUNDAY."
WANTED, Jan. 11 and 25, for Principal Star Company. Wire or write, Mr. WILLIAM GIFFARD, Managers' Club, Savoy-mansions, London.

"RAFFLES."
WANTED, Jan. 18 (Midlands preferred), for Mr. Reginald Dance's Company;
also Feb. 8 and 15.
Apply to Mr. AUGUSTUS BINGHAM,
53A, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W.

"RAFFLES."
WANTED, First-class Theatres, in March, for Mr Leonard Boyne's Company; also Autumn Dates. Apply, Mr. AUGUSTUS BINGHAM, 53A, Shaftesbury-avenue, London, W.

Mr. and Mrs. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.

"ROLLICKING RORY."
WANTED, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 8, 15 (North), April 12, 19, 26 (South).
T. R., West Stanley;
next, Eden, Bishop Auckland.

ALFRED B. CROSS'S TOUR.

"THE MANXMAN."
By Hall Caine and Wilson Barrett.
WANTED, Dec. 21 and 28.
T. R., Ashton-under-Lyne, Dec. 14.

Messrs. ARMADALE and WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."
WANTED, Theatres, Christmas, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 15, May 17, 24, 31, onwards,
for the above attraction.
Address,
ARMADALE and WARREN, New Theatre, Aberdare.

S. RENNEF'S and G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World" Co., Dec. 21 (near London), Jan. 11 (?) (near Manchester), 18 25, onwards.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN,"
Wanted, Dec. 21 (to precede T. R., Stratford), Dec. 11 (Lanca.), 18, 25, onwards, with exceptions. Strong Casts, complete Productions, and splendid Printing. G. M. COPPING, P., Blackburn; next, Elephant and Castle, London.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S CO'S.
"WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, Feb. 1 and 22.
"THE KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN," Jan. 25, Feb. 1, March 22.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Court Theatre, Wigan.

"CLAUDIAN."
WANTED, May 24, between T. R., Manchester, and Shakespeare T., Liverpool. WILLIAM MACLAREN, Gowanlea, Navarino-road, Worthing.

"THE CRIMES OF PARIS."
Messrs. FRANK BATEMAN and GEO. CONQUEST'S CO.
WANTED, Aug. 9, Sept. 5, 20, 27, Oct. 4, 11, Nov. 1, 22, 29. Address, E. DOTTRIDGE, Empire, Oldham.

The Latest Success,
"THE NIHILIST."
An Intensely Interesting Drama.
WANTED, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 15, 22 (Wales preferred), March 1, 29, April 12, May 31, Aug. 2, on. Refer any theatre visited as to merits.
SILVERSTONE, Metropole Theatre, Glasgow.

"I DEFY THE WORLD."
By Arthur Shirley and B. Hill-Mitchelson.
Mr. F. B. Woulfe as Leon Darville.
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Jan. 25, March 29, and on.
Address, CHAS. M. JULIAN, R. T., Morecambe.

CHARLES FREEMAN and GEORGE DERRICKE'S CO.
"A WHITE DEMON."
"A WHITE DEMON."
WANTED, Dec. 21, owing to misunderstanding. Wire, wire, wire. CHARLES FREEMAN,
Address, Chequers Hotel, Walthamstow;
next, East Oxford Theatre, Oxford.

"SILVER KING" CO.
WANTED, Dates as follow: March 8, April 19, May 3, Aug. 30, Sept. 20, 27, Nov. 1, 8. 15.
Address,
POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE.
WANTED, Dec. 26, 4 or 7 nights, for Repertory of Comedies.
Wire, King's Theatre, Glasgow.

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.
"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF."
The Money-maker.
WANTED, Theatres. Wire for Dec. 28, Jan. 4. Forty people on stage. All coms.,
L. CARSON, Hippo., Wigan.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts, by Walter Howe.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 22, March 1, 8, 29, April 26, May 3, 17, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.

Dec. 14, New Hall, Bargoed.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
by
Walter Howard.
WANTED, owing to Extension of Tour, Good Theatres, Jan. 11, 18, and on.
ELLEN SNOW, Alex., Sheffield.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
Third Year of Consecutive Tour. Third.
WANTED, Jan. 11 and 18,
Sumptuously Staged,
Beautifully Dressed, and Played by a Sound All-round Cast.
Wire, E. A'DELL, to-day, R., Leicester; then Avenue, Kettering.

MR. CHARLES M. BESTIC'S COMPANY
in the Enormously Successful Musical Comedy,
"THE FLOWER GIRL," by W. T. Gliddon.
WANTED, Good Dates, Dec. 21 (to follow Shakespeare, Clapham), Dec. 28, onwards.
All communications re dates,
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THEATRES WANTED.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, May 17, 24, follow Portsmouth, "THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
Bookings include Star, Liverpool, Stratford, The Alex., Hull, the Alex., Sheffield, Cardiff, Pontypridd, Swansea, Burnley, the Broadhead Theatres, Sunderland, Shields, Newcastle, Gateshead, Methil, Dundee, &c., &c.
Rollo Balmain, Esq., says: A really good show that pleases all classes, excellently cast and mounted.
Vacant Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 1, March 1, 8, 15, May 10.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," Touring 1909.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE," Touring 1909.
Wires, T. R., Cardiff. Letters, Pontypridd.

A Remarkable New Drama,
"THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL,"
by
Lesser Columbus.
To be Produced at the Pavilion Theatre, London, on Feb. 1, 1909.

The Entire London Production Toured.

A Clear Stage only required.

WANTED, Wanted, Theatres,
For dates apply to
EDWARD KING, Pavilion Theatre, E.

WANTED, Christmas, for
"OUR FLAT,"
"OUR FLAT,"
"OUR FLAT,"
The King of all Farcical Comedies, and an Ideal Holiday Attraction. The Piece would be played by an absolutely First-class Company.
Address, THE HAYMARKET BUREAU,
14, Whitcomb-street, Pall Mall East.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 8, 15, for "The Cingalee," from Daly's Theatre. Wire, HALDANE CRICHTON, Theatre, West Bromwich; next, Todmorden.

"HER MARRIAGE VOW."
"HER MARRIAGE VOW."
Miss LILLIAN HERRIES as KATE.
WANTED, good— Theatres only,
Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 15, March 8, Easter and Whit.
Also booking Autumn, '09, for above.
Everything carried. No front scenes. No doubles, and 230 sheets of printing.
GARSIDE and KNOWLES,
P. of W. Theatre, Salford (R.).

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, 18, for "Dandy Fifth." Wire, CLARENCE CORRI,
Theatre, West Bromwich; next, Todmorden.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
FRANK M. THORNE, Opera House, Southport.

WANTED, Dec. 28, for "The Old, Old Story" and "The Plucky Nipper." EDWARD SURREY, to-day, Esh Winning; next, T.R., Seaham Harbour.

J. P. MOORE'S "WHITTINGTON" PANTO.
WANTED, Good Theatre, Jan. 18,
Only Vacant Date.
J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

MR. E. H. KNIGHT'S CO'S.
"THE GRIP OF IRON."
Grand revival. Everything renewed.
First-class offers invited from Aug., 1909.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
The New Successful Spectacular Play. One of the Best Mounted Shows Touring.
WANTED, Jan. 4, Jan. 4, Jan. 4 (Midlands or North), Jan. 18 (North), Feb. 8, 15, March, May 10, 24, 31, June, onwards.
E. H. KNIGHT, 7, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

"THE 10,30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and
"GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 18, 25 (Midlands).

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AQUARIUM, YARMOUTH (Fourth visit).

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The Laughing Success.
WANTED, Managers to write re Dates.
DICKIE CLARE, T. R., Belfast.

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WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c.
Only Vacancies Next Summer:
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Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON, 23, Brockman-rd., Folkestone.

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ALFRED PAUMIER AND WALTER HOWARD'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, immediately, to rehearse in London, two tall robust Actors, for Captain Hector and Colonel Wellenburg, "The Prince and the Beggar Maid"; also smart Light Comedienne; other possible vacancies. Apply, with full particulars, height, lowest terms, photograph, with stamped envelope for reply, to FRANCIS HAWLEY, General Manager for Messrs. Paumier and Howard. This week, Coronet Theatre, W.; next, Grand Theatre, Fulham.

Miss MARY NEIL'S CO.
WANTED, Artists, for Important Vacancies, Spring Tour. Ladies' dresses found.
Photos., refs., and full particulars to
GEORGE KIRK, T. R., Aston, Birmingham.

"THE LANCASHIRE LAD" CO.
WANTED, to Open, Dec. 28, rehearse week previous, Powerful Juvenile Gentleman, Juvenile Lady, Gentlemanly Heavy, Low Comedienne, sing or dance (dialect part). Age, height, terms, references, and recent photos., G. CARLTON WALLACE, Theatre Royal, Bristol.

WANTED, Full Company, First-class People, production "Rob Roy," Alexandra, Greenock, one week, Dec. 28, First-class Vocalists for Drama and Francis. Terms, photos., references, JOHN CLYDE, 43, Great Western-road, Glasgow.

WANTED, full Company of Reliable Artists, also Agent and Clever Child Actress. FREDK. L. LOVERIDGE and Co., 219, Folkestone-road, Dover. Tel. add., "Dramatic, Dover."

WANTED, for Stock, Rehearse Dec. 21, open 24th, Chambermaid, to play Juveniles; Child; Gent., for Heavies and Juveniles; also Responsible, to combine Prompting. JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

FRED MAXWELL'S COMPANY.
WANTED, Young Actor, good appearance and voice, Juveniles, Character, and Comedy, 5ft. 8in. or over. To suitable Artist long engagement, mostly in London. Lowest terms, photo., references, letter only first instance. FRED MAXWELL, 17, Sydney-street, South Kensington, S.W.

WANTED, for Comedy Sketch, "Lady Lanigan," rehearse Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool, Dec. 21, open Dec. 28, Character Comedians for Lawyer and Sergeant parts, and Comedian for Boy's part. Lowest terms, photos., references, &c., to M. MONTGOMERY, Rotunda Theatre, Liverpool.

WANTED, immediately, Principals and Chorus (Ladies and Gentlemen), for Musical Comedy Sketch for the Halls. Apply at 12 o'clock to-day, WEST, Equestrian Hotel, Blackfriars Bridge-road.

WANTED, for Sketch, Comedian, German dialect, Chambermaid, young, neither to sing nor dance. Photos. (ladies), full particulars, letters only, which must state salary, HARRY CALVER, 106, Lambeth-road, S.E.

WANTED, Young Lady Soubrette, about 5ft. high, Soprano Voice, to take Lead. Good salary. Apply, JOSEPH CARTER, 40, Fitzwilliam-road, Clapham Common.

"THE NIHILIST."
WANTED, First-class Leading Man, through releasing; Intense, Romantic, capable great power and pathos. Age, height, photo., refs., and lowest salary. Rehearse London, Dec. 29. SILVERSTONE, Metropole, Glasgow.

"THE MIDDLEMAN."
WANTED, for the above, for Dec. 21 (four special nights), an Aristocratic Old Man (Sir Seton); rehearse Newport, Tuesday next; one in district of Aberdare preferred. State lowest terms, &c., ROLAND YORKE, "The Old Home" Co., Lyceum Theatre, Newport, Mon.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Gentleman, capable of Répertoire; also good Responsible Gentleman; long Tour, open immediately. Full particulars and terms, J. B. CARRICKFORD, Post Office, Newbridge, Ireland. Fares will be arranged.

ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Young Man, to Understudy and make himself generally useful in High-class Fit-up Company, open Xmas; small salary. Full particulars, MANAGER, Polsoe, Dendy-rd., Paignton.

WANTED, for Romantic Costume Sketch, booked for lengthy run, a First-class Juvenile Leading Man, must be young. Letters only, full particulars, salary, &c., HARRY CALVER, 106, Lambeth-road, S.E.

WANTED, owing to prior engagement, Heavy Leading Gentleman, not afraid of a struggle, London Halls. Age, height, references, photos. (if not known to me), and lowest terms. ROY COCHRANE, Surrey Theatre. No callers, please.

WANTED, immediately, Lady and Gentleman, for famous London Sketch; every encouragement; sound investment, fully secured. Banker's and solicitor's refs. given. Write fully, SKETCH, 41, Peckham Park-road, S.E.

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THE GRENFELL CLUB,
FOR LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,
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Cosy Tea Rooms, Luncheons, Dinners, &c.
Open on Sundays.
No Entrance Fee.
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ARTISTS' WANTS.

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WANTED, Known, Excellent Comedian from Colonies, unknown London, would play Low Comedy part or understudy, to get footing; good Managers only. Box 5,249, "The Era."

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Dame for Pantomime.
WANTED, First-class Dame, for Pantomime, refined, experienced, and funny; 16 weeks' tour; rehearse Dec. 16. Wire or write, THOMSON, Pelham House, Paignton.

J. BANNISTER HOWARD'S PANTOMIMES.
WANTED, Smart Girl, for Ganem ("Forty Thieves"); must be good Dancer; also two good Dancers and one Tenor.
Apply DARRELL and Co., 415, Strand.

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Full particulars to
JAMES KIDDIE, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, Graceful, Good-looking Girls, walk on Christmas Production.
Apply,
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PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Pantomime, by Mlle. Flora Lumière, Premier Serpentine Butterfly and Fire Danseuse, in her Original Electrical Fairy Grotto. All scenery and special effects carried. Success guaranteed. The making of any Panto. Wire, write, or come and see this number. Finish to-night, most successful week, Hippo., Wigan. Monday, Hippo., Stalybridge.

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WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, at Liberty, Panto., Principal Boy, or Special Part.
Wire, Wire, Wire.
36, Cristowe-road, New King's-road, Fulham.

WANTED, Known, Lesta Lowe, the Comedienne with a Voice, Disengaged for Panto., Principal Girl. Managers wanting first-class Artist, wire or write, Maes-y-Celyn, Cefn, Merthyr.

WANTED, Panto., by Rosa Charles, Vocalist and Dancer. Terms, address C/o Fred Davis, Gaiety, Dundee; next, Hippo., Paisley.

WANTED, Known, Florence Leonard, Vacant for Fairy Queen, through misunderstanding. Excellent voice and appearance. Wire, Hippo., Huddersfield; next week, 40, Thornley-street, Wolverhampton.

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WANTED, Known, Vere and Royal, Vacant for Pantomime, Principal Boy, Girl, and Comedian. Hippo., Stalybridge. Sunday, 42, Nichols-square, Shoreditch.

WANTED, Pantomime, Robb Gilmore, the Queer Comedian with the Corkscrew Dance. Concluding to-night, Brilliant Success, Palace, Camberwell, and Granville, Walham Green. Wire, 5, Kennington Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Jack Heath, Liberty for Pantomime, Dame or Comedian. This week, Alhambra, Brighton. Dec. 14, 8 Oakbank-grove, Herne Hill-rd, London.

WANTED, Known, Geo. Harrie, Disengaged, Animal Parts, Star Traps, &c.
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WANTED, Known, Willie Roberts (a Harry Lauder and Neil Kenyon in one), vacant Xmas, onwards; also Harry Jennings, Funny Comedian and Dancer. Panto., Halls, or Pictures. T. R., Sacriston, Durham.

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WANTED, smart, experienced Billers, used to using the Brush. Total abstainers.
Apply personally to Mr. BROOKS,
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WANTED, an Attendant, must be a good Violin Player, wages to commence at £32, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; at the end of one year's service £2 increase, afterwards rising £1 annually up to £42; further increase according to ability as an Attendant. Applications to be sent to THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, enclosing copy of one testimonial.

WANTED, for Four Weeks, commencing 21st, for Kirkcaldy, Violin (Conductor), Cornet, Clarionet, and Pianist. State lowest terms. WALKER, Pavilion.

WANTED, Known, Leader, Empire, Bristol, Open at Once. Terms, 35s.
H. E. HATLEY, Musical Director.

WANTED, Leader, Violin, Flute, Clarionet, and Drums, 3 weeks, commencing Dec. 30. W. E. PORTS, Theatre, Dunfermline.

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WANTED, First-class Trombone-player. State salary, references, WALTER GILBERT.

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WANTED, First-class 'Cello, open Saturday, Dec. 19. Send references and full particulars, GEORGE BURNLEY, Musical-Director, Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh.

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WANTED, good 'Cello, to open Panto. Permanency. Apply, with age, terms, and refs., CHAS. ELPHINSTONE, Theatre Royal, Hanley.

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WANTED, First-class Harpist, for Pantomime Season at Theatre Royal, Brighton. Apply, with terms and references, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

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WANTED, Flute and Piccolo, for one month from Dec. 28. State age, references, and lowest terms to J. H. OAKDEN, Lyceum Theatre, Govan, Glasgow.

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WANTED, Known, Musical-Director (Violin), Liberty Dec. 21 (through misunderstanding), thoroughly experienced, Variety business, &c.; smart and reliable; up-to-date library of music; ex. refs. Offers (to forward), MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, 8, Hardwick-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director, by J. W. Slatter, Musical-Director Palace Pier, late Musical-Director to the Corporation, Brighton, Concerts, Dramatic, Panto. PARKHURST, Egremont-place, Brighton.

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WANTED, Engagement, Second Violin. C. DAVENPORT,
2, Gardner's-square, Bengeworth, Evesham, Worc.

WANTED, Engagement, by Good Violinist (Leader), used to Variety, or other line. Address, J. F. C., 9, Oxford-street, Eccles.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Violin, any business, experienced. H. OLDFIELD, 83, Avondale-square, Old Kent-road.

WANTED, by Lady Violinist, Holiday Engagements, Orchestral, Ensemble, or Solo; thoroughly experienced; can lead. NEWALL, Stuart House, Kew-road, Richmond.

WANTED, Engagement, by absolutely First-class Solo Cornet, thoroughly conversant with all business, young, gentlemanly, smart, of good address; town or country. CORNET, 53A, Oakmead-road, Balham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, as Cornet, Orchestral, Quadrille and Military experience. CORNET, 86, Tynemouth-road, Tottenham, N.

WANTED, Known, Cornettist, good, at Liberty any time, 15 years' experience; excel. refs.; abstainer. JOHANNIDES, Shady Grove, Alsager, near Crewe.

WANTED, Engagement, as Solo Cornet, any business; competent, steady.
REES JONES, 3, Stamboul-row, Port Talbot, S. Wales.

WANTED, Engagement, by good reliable Cornet, abstainer; bonus given for good permanent shop. CORNET, 23, Dorset-street, Luton.

WANTED, by Cornet, Re-engagement; just finished Tenting. Apply, G. TURNIDGE, 50, Cotton-street, Poplar, London, E.

WANTED, Engagement, by Solo Clarionettist, thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres and Varieties; steady, reliable. PROFESSIONAL, 17, Cyril-avenue, Bobbers-mill, Nottingham.

WANTED, Engagement, by thoroughly Experienced Clarionetist, any business, excellent refs., trial if necessary. Apply, DAVEY, 42, Plynlimmon-rd., Hastings.

WANTED, Known, Clarionet (Known) requires Engagement, Theatre or Variety, Concert, Dances, &c.; would deputise; thoroughly experienced, strictly sober. Box 5,236, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, by First-class Clarionet, combine Violin, Engagement until end of January; strictly sober; would deputise; any business. Box 5,248, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoon, Pantomime, Variety, or any other business. Excel. refs. Address, Box 5,173, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Contra Bass, wide experience. Conductors in need of a most reliable man please apply Box 5,244, "The Era."

WANTED, by Double Bass, good permanent Engagement.
J. WIGHT, Municipal Orchestra, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Lady Trombone Players, for Long Theatrical Engagement. Send photos., or call, 14, Canterbury-road, Brixton, from 2-4 p.m. BISERA.

WANTED, by Trombonist, combined Euphonium; good references; 12 years' experience, first Orchestra. 68, Spencer-road, Seven Kings.

WANTED, by Trombone, Engagement, any business, 5½ years last situation, good refs. T. S., c/o Bloomfield, 12, McKerrell-st., Paisley, N.B.

WANTED, Engagement, permanency, First Horn, 6 years' experience in Orchestral work, commence at once. Write, FRENCH HORN, 86, Richmond-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Engagement, French Horn, Pantomime, Theatre, Orchestra, or any business, London or Provinces; experienced, reliable. MUSICIAN, 39, Villa-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Engagement, by French Horn, Orchestra or Military.
W. P., 23, Hartismere-road, Fulham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, as First Horn; thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres; steady, reliable professional. E. CUCCHI, 28, St. Paul's-road, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, by Lady 'Cellist, experienced, Winter Engagement, near Manchester preferred, but is willing to join anywhere, for Bazaars or Exhibitions. Box 5,242, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as 'Cellist, Music Hall, open Dec. 19; experienced.
'CELLO, 13, Charles-street, St. Helens.

WANTED, by Oboe, Flute, and Piccolo, age 21, excellent musician, little experience, job, any capacity. Low salary to gain experience. 13, Baythorne-street, Burdett-road, Bow, E.

WANTTD, through reducing Orchestra, Engagement as Oboe or Double Bass; any business; long experience. CRABTREE, Grand T., Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, by Experienced Flute and Piccolo Player, good refs., varieties and theatre, reliable. FLAUTIST, 15, Treherne-rd., Brixton, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, experienced Theatre and Varieties; good references; steady and reliable. J. ROSE, 11, Dane-road, Ramsgate.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, any Business; excellent references; sober and reliable. FLAUTIST, 9, Woodford-terrace, Pavilion-road, Worthing.

WANTED, by Walter James, Pianist, Accompanist, Engagement, London, Concert or Orchestra, Double Second Violin, Variety, Dramatic, Mus. Com.; age 24. 99, Albion-road, Stoke Newington, N.

WANTED, by Pianist, Youth, age 16, Good Reader, Orchestral Experience, Engagement with Orchestra, any business. BARRY, 60, Thorold-rd., Ilford.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Drums and Effects; thoroughly experienced in Variety; reliable. DRUMS, 66, St. Ives-road, Rusholme, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums, any business. Address, A. EASOM, 16, Stonebridge-road, South Tottenham, London.

WANTED, Known, Madame H. E. Angless's Ladies' Orchestra, now Disengaged. Open to accept Six Months' Tour. Small Band. Address, 33, Arodene-road, Brixton Hill, S.W. Please note change of address.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, the Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, 19 years' experience, for Hotels, Exhibitions, &c., large Répertoire, smart Costumes. MADAME NELLIE BAKER, 114, Woodlands-road, Ilford.

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, from 14th, on, suitable Acts for Arena or Circus Ring;
Good Turns Entertained.
Money certain; no Fancy Prices.
Apply,
CORMACK, "Zoo," Mountain Ash, near Cardiff.

WANTED, Bending or Posturing Act that Clowns; also Knockabout Clown or Nigger Comedian. Terms must be low. MANAGER, Circus, Shirebrook, Derbyshire.

WANTED, Ringmaster, man accustomed to the highest class of Circus Variety, one with Music Hall experience an advantage; Manager also wanted, for First-class Vaudeville Circus, accustomed to energetic action and with ideas. Apply by letter only to THE LONDON THEATRES OF VARIETIES, LTD., Robert-street, Adelphi, W.C.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, that the Three Royal Ohmys, favourite Riders of the Crown Prince of Denmark, and greatest Acrobatic Equestrians on three Bareback Horses in the world, wish to thank Circus Proprietors and Hippodrome Managers for kind offers for Christmas and New Year, but they cannot accept as they are detained and re-engaged by Mr. Gilbert at his Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth. Will be at Liberty Jan. 4.
Address, THE ROYAL OHMYS,
Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, Known, Walter Scott's Family of Bareback Equestrians are at Liberty, with a number of First-class Acts, together or separate. All communications, W. SCOTT, Victoria Hotel, Bordesley Green, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, the most senrational Lion Act in the World will be produced shortly, special scenery, effects, &c. Read, Mark, and Learn the name, LA BELLE FATIMA.

WANTED, by Quinetti's Perfect Animal Show, Pony and Dogs, two Acts, Ring or Stage, Touring or Resident. Communications, Bryntirion Farm, Rhyl.

WANTED, Known, the Original Clown Bimbo, with Comic and Trick Entrées, also High Stilt Performer. Still a Big Success Nightly at Cirque Medrano, Paris. At Liberty Jan. 4. Permanent address, 177, Pershore-road, Selly Park, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Lazello, "The Flying Man." Backward, Forward, and Twisting Somersaults to Catch in Mid-air. Absolutely Greatest Aerial Attraction. Liberty Dec. 26. Address, Richmond-pl., St. Mark's-st., Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, The Human Aeroplanes, Specially retained, Hippodrome, Yarmouth, Xmas and New Year. Fourth week, Cooke's Royal Circus, Edinburgh.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 45a, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

270 Replies.

WANTED. Wanted, Known, Sir,—
I inserted an advertisement, asking for Music Hall Artists in the last week's issue of "The Era." May I say that I am absolutely astounded at the number of replies I received to my small advertisement, no less than 270 Artists favouring me with applications. May I by this means thank the many artists who sent in their terms, as it is impossible for me to reply to each individual. I thank all for their very kind promptitude in responding to my advertisement.
I remain, yours faithfully,
ALFRED BALL.
New Lyceum, Tilbury Docks, Essex.
3/12/'08.

HARMONIC ASSOCIATION.
WANTED, Known, these Concerts ceased Oct. 31, 1908. Artists please note, and cancel dates
WM. BIGGAM, Sec., 397, Paisley-road West, Glasgow.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. MASCARD, Manager.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Dec. 21 and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines,
Specialities, Comedians
Comediennes, Sisters,
Doubles doing Singles.
Please state lowest in first letter.
A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager, Britannia, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists, in all Branches, for Scotland. Address, JAMES ANDERSON, the Old Reliable Scotch Agent, at the Musical Artists' Club, 32, Stockwell-st, Glasgow. Open daily from 11 till 3 and from 7 till 12 p.m., and on Sundays from 10 a.m. till 12 midnight. Glad to see all the boys up.

HARROGATE, SCARBOROUGH, and YORK.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists (nothing too big), for Monday next and onwards. Scarborough once nightly, Harrogate and York twice nightly. State lowest terms and when last worked these towns.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Opera House, Harrogate. Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Star Variety Artists, Dec. 21, onwards.
Bookings and lowest terms in first letter,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9261.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, CLYDEBANK, N.B.
WANTED, for above, Variety Artists in all Lines, Big Specialities, Novelties, and Attractions, for immediate and future dates.
Fullest particulars in first letter,
A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, for Hippodrome, Dumfries, Monday next and onwards. Address, WILLIAMS and WOOD, Hippo., Dumfries.

WANTED, Monday, Dec. 21, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists all Lines, Dec. 21, 28, onwards, good Comedy Acts, Knockabouts, Dancers. Address, MANAGER, Picturedrome, Tredegar, Mon.

WANTED, Variety and Speciality Artists, for Monday next, six nights, must be cheap and good. Wire, JAMES ELPHINSTONE, Lyceum Theatre, Stafford.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Acts with Drawing Powers (Nothing too Big), Dec. 21, onwards. CLAGGERS, Gaiety, Blyth.

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines,
The Pick of the Entertainment World.
If you have the "goods," I can place you.
Good Acts Known to Me
send full list of bookings
(including engagements fulfilled during 1908).
Must enclose full list, or useless writing.
Quote actual lowest in each instance for
Principal Provincial Halls,
Minor Provincial Halls,
and London.
Big Novel Acts, in London particularly,
State when and where can be seen.
GEORGE SMYTHSON,
38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
No callers except by appointment.

PALACE, DERBY;
PALACE, ATTERCLIFFE, SHEFFIELD;
HIPPODROME, STOKE;
GRAND THEATRE, BLACKPOOL.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines. Combinations with real Drawing Star Tops or First-class Pantomimes playing Twice Nightly can be entertained for a few dates in Jan., Feb., and March. Full particulars in first instance to T. ALLAN EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, for Dec. 14 and onwards, Artists all Lines, Star Specialities, Comedians, Novelties, Comedy Turns, &c., Share or Salary. Full particulars, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

WANTED, Dec. 28, onwards, Artists, all Lines. Doubles doing Singles, used to Sketches Add., Proprietor, BILLY MOORE, Bijou Palace, London derry.

WANTED, Artists all Lines, Doubles doing Singles; for long Tour.
MDLLE. FLORENCE, Hippo., Dumfries.
Palmistry.

WANTED, Concert Artists, Vocal Pianist, Quick Reader, Accompanist, from Dec. 26. Photos., age, particulars to L., 9, Dale-rd., Buxton.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow.
WANTED, Artists in every Line, big and small. Artists coming North will do well to write me for immediate and later dates.

WANTED, for Big Combination Tour (open Xmas), Artists in all Lines; good chance for New Acts to be seen. Absolute lowest terms, vacancies, bookings, and lithos., MANAGER, "Salome" Co., 2, Victoria-mansions, Saville-street, London, W.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists of every Description, Dec. 21, and on.
Address,
C. ALGIE, Hippodrome, Spennymoor, Durham.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Dec. 14, 21, 28, and on.
Thanks to Artists who wrote last week.
Over fifty Turns Booked for immediate dates.
Please send Bookings and Lowest Terms.
1A, Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.
Can only be seen by appointment.
Telephone 15 Brixton.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Dec. 21 (four nights) and Dec. 28, near London.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

WANTED, Dec. 21, Top and Bottom Liners, Speciality Acts. I can fix you. Lithos., full bookings, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol.

WANTED, Very Big Star Top Line, for Monday. Wire quick, salary or shares. Other turns write. MANAGER, Hippodrome, Gainsborough.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists, of Note.
Wanted, wanted, Wanted,
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY I can book you
DALTON'S AGENCY Immediate Dates,
DALTON'S AGENCY and
DALTON'S AGENCY Dates onward.
DALTON'S AGENCY No Guessing.
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY Send full list
DALTON'S AGENCY and very lowest
DALTON'S AGENCY (this essential),
DALTON'S AGENCY and permanent addresses,
DALTON'S AGENCY also
DALTON'S AGENCY weekly apartments
DALTON'S AGENCY address.
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DALTON'S AGENCY
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DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY 29, Mauldeth-road West,
DALTON'S AGENCY Withington,
DALTON'S AGENCY Manchester.
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
DALTON'S AGENCY
I said "Agency."
N.B.—State where never played.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Acts of all Descriptions, now and on. Three good Acts wanted for Xmas week, also Big Top-liner for Jan. 4. Corcoran Bros., Halma, Pasquali Bros., Natalie and Diana, Haley's Garden of Girls, send addresses. DAN NOBLE'S Agency, Hippodrome, Lowestoft.

WANTED, for Xmas and New Year's weeks,
Star Acts in all Lines.
Star Acts in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S AGENCY, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
Managing-Director, WILLIAM PEACOCK.
One of the most luxurious Theatres in the North. Now running One House Nightly at 8.
Holding capacity, 2,000. Pop. prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.
WANTED, Star Variety Combinations, Musical, Dramatic, and Pantomime Companies, on Sharing terms.
Vacant Jan. 11, on. Only First-class Attractions. Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Opera House, Harrogate. Silence a polite negative.

KENNEDY and MOORE PICTURE HALL CIRCUIT.
WANTED, good Specialities and Vocalists, for
King's Hall, Birmingham;
King's Exhibition Hall, Birmingham;
Queen's Hall (Parade), Birmingham;
King's Theatre, Hanley;
King's Empire, Worcester.
Ten weeks given to good Artists doing two acts. All communications to King's Hall, Birmingham.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPO., ALDERSHOT.
WANTED, First-class Varieties and Novelties, Specialities, for Feb. 1, week. Particulars and lowest terms, J. GLADWIN, Man. for Mr. Sounes.

WANTED, for Albert Hall, Jarrow, Dec. 21 and 28, two best weeks, Picture Shows, Combinations. Wire, SEATON, 69, Randolph-street, Jarrow.

WANTED, Actor-Vocalists, Illustrated Songs, or anything suitable, for Picture Entertainments.
Address by letter only,
SIDNEY BACON, 143, Charing Cross-rd., London, W.C.

VENTOR'S VARIETY AGENCY.
'Phone 7873. Telegrams, "Executive."
WANTED, Stars, Big Attractions, can fix any big Acts right away; also Wanted, good Comedians, Comediennes, Sisters, Vocalists, &c. It will pay you to write in. Can give twenty weeks to those suitable. Send terms (lowest), permanent address, full bookings, ladies send photos. Clients keep me posted. Write immediately.
24, Devonshire-street, All Saints, Manchester.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Stars, Specialities, Novelties, and Artists of every Description,
for Dec. 21, onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone, 2,076 Royal.

WANTED, Stars, early and late dates, best Halls, also Pantomime Artists all Lines.
GEO. AYTOUN,
103, Kennington Park-road, London, S.E.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
WANTED, for Castleford, three Good Comedy Turns to open Monday next (through obliging). Wire for same, with lowest terms. Also turns for both theatres, Dec. 21, onwards. Nothing too big. Big acts state shares or salary to BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, suitable Turns for Royal Assembly Hall, South Shields, for Picture and Vaudeville Show, for either of the three following weeks, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4. Address full particulars and absolute lowest terms to Mr. L. BURNS, Royal Hotel, South Shields.

WANTED, Big Turns and Attractions, for New Year's Carnival, in Drill Hall, Dumfries. Add., WILLIAMS and WOOD, Hippodrome, Dumfries.

WANTED, a few good Variety Turns, for Opera House, Dunfermline (three nights), Dec. 24, 25, 26. VULCARIS, Town Hall, Paisley.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool. 'Phone 1269 Royal.
WANTED, Star Turns, Dec. 21, on.

WANTED, a few Turns, wire for Mon., Dec. 14. Address, C. ALGIE,
Hippodrome, Spennymoor, co. Durham.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, Talent all Lines, Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency,
21, Norton-street, Liverpool.

DEETRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU CO.,
31, Islington, Liverpool.
Phone 1269 Royal. General-Manager, WM. LUND.
Wires, "Deetrich, Islington, Liverpool."
WANTED, for Dec. 21 and immediate Dates, Big Acts and Star Turns, all Lines. Full list of Bookings and lowest terms in first instance.

EDGAR STEBBINGS, GALA AGENT.
WANTED, Big Speciality and Novelty Acts, Ground and Lofty Novelties, Aerial Acts, &c., Easter Monday, onwards. Terms, lithos., &c.,
EDGAR STEBBINGS, The Gala King,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.

THE TIVOLI AND ROYAL ASSEMBLY HALL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, for immediate Dates, really First-class Acts of all Kinds. No fancy prices. Must be able to work on small stage. Quote absolute lowest first letter, Councillar JOHN K. HALL.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Big Acts and Artists, immediate and future Dates. Only those willing to pay 10% write. NEIMAN'S Variety Agency, 178, Charing Cross-road, London, W.C. 'Phone 8488 Gerrard. Telegrams, c/o Yellit, London.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, South Wales and District, Dec. 21, on; also North of England. Send Bookings and actual lowest terms, MARVINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

WANTED, Star Acts for Wales, also Gala Numbers, Whit Week and Bank Holiday. My terms are 10% on direct booking.
Address, MCASKELL'S Agency,
9, Meredith-street, Crewe.

WANTED, immediately, four Chorus Ladies and Clever Dancer, for High-class Scena. Write fully, SAVILE, 29, Bishop's-mansions, Fulham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, for Dec., Jan., and on, Star Turns,
Comedians,
Serios,
Gymnasts,
Acrobats,
Bar Performers,
and
Any New and Novel Acts,
also Comedy Sketches.
Those not willing to pay usual 10% commission save stamps.
Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

PONTYPOOL
NEW PARK FETE,
Whit Monday and Whit Tuesday, 1909.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
the Committee
are
prepared to
receive
Applications
from
Agents, Artists,
or anyone desirous of
Engagements
for
this Year's Fête,
both for
Aërial and Stage Shows
(Open Air).
In all cases Complete Specifications as to Erections, Lithos, Showing Acts, and, as far as possible, Cost of Fixing same, must be sent.
None but Artists of the First Rank need apply.
This Fête
is
Visited Annually
by from
40,000 to 50,000
People.
Particulars to
SECRETARY,
Chamber of Trade,
Pontypool.

WANTED, twenty Ballet Girls, for the Grand Circus, Carre, Amsterdam, to open Dec. 15, for twelve weeks and the run, salary £1 12s. 6d. per week and fares; this is a respectable place, and the Pantomime is over about 11 o'clock; salary commences on arrival.
Apply to PAPA BROWN, Agent.
Sunday, Dec. 13, from 6 to 7 p.m., at the Equestrian Hotel, next door to the Surrey Theatre, Blackfriars-road, London, S.E.
Wanted, Artists in all Lines to send vacant dates and terms for England to Papa Brown, 10% Agent, Durand-gardens, London, S.W.

WANTED, First-class Vocalists (all kinds), suitable for Sacred Concert.
Also Straight Musical Act
for one week, Dec. 21.
Also a Big Attraction.
Also a Big Attraction.
Money no object,
for Dec. 21, 28.
Vocalists known to me, please wire.
Big Attractions wire.
CLIQUOT, 46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.

EMPIRE PALACE, BARNSLEY.
WANTED, good Lady or Gentleman Vocalist (Star), for Dec. 21.
WILL SMITHSON, Managing-Director.

WANTED, for Vaudeville Costume Entertainment, a really good Contralto, who can sing Light Songs and Seconds in Chorus; must be young, medium height, ladylike, and of good appearance and refined; one who can also accompany preferred. Apply by letter only to S. C., 4, Wellington-square, Sloane-square, S.W.

WANTED, Refined Comedian (Hicks type), sing, dance; also Pretty Young Comedienne, doncer; for trial of Sketch. Particulars, terms, week and run, W. B. R., 6, Napier-avenue, Hurlingham, S.W.

WANTED, a smart Light Comedian; good Eccentric Dancer. Terms, references, &c., Box 5,258, "The Era."

WANTED, young and graceful Dancer, for Classical Dances. Permanent engagement to suitable Artist, and everything found. Send photo., references, terms, and full particulars of experience (in first letter) to MANAGER, "Salome" Co., 2, Victoria-mansions, Saville-st., London, W.

WANTED, for First-class Troupe, a respectable Young Girl, of good appearance, with a knowledge of Cycling, to live in with the family. Professional's daughter preferred. Communications to L. H., c/o 10, Acre-lane, Brixton, London.

WANTED, Good Coloured Performer, medium height, smart dancer or excellent tumbler, long engagement. Full particulars, SPRY and MONTI, Hippodrome, Huddersfield.

WANTED, two or three Smart Girls, twelve to fourteen years old, as Understudies to Skating, Music, and Bicycle Riding.
Must be well recommended.
Apply by letter to
Mr. JAS. E. DONEGAN, Manager and Teacher, Dunedin Troupe, 43, Frith-street, Soho, London, W.

WANTED, two Expert Skaters for Roller Skating Rink. Address,
MANAGER, Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

WANTED, Cinematograph Operator, with own Machine. State lowest terms to PICTURE LAND CO., 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

WANTED, for Bioscope, Operator.
Apply,
63, Whitechapel-road, E.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Jan. 25, on, by Empress, the Lady Houdini, who caused the Greatest Sensation ever known in Dumfries. Thanks to Alfred Wood, Esq., for beautiful gold medal. Actions speak louder than words. Communicate, Empire, Shildon, Durham.

WANTED, by Miss Alice Oakley, Descriptive Ballad Vocalist, Monday, Dec. 14, also 21, 28. Wire quick, 6, Grimston-street, Hull.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell and Beatrice Elstree, vacant Dec. 14, 21, and 28. Offers invited. 39, Gateley-road, Brixton, S.W.

WANTED, Dec. 21, 28, and Jan. 18, by Two Beatrices (Nellie and May), Duettists and Expert Dancers. Empire, Blaina, Mon., S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, Terry Sisters, Highly-talented Comediennes, Mimics, and Dancers, at Lib. Dec. 21, 28, Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25. This week, Albert, Brighouse; Dec. 14, Hippo., Blackpool.

WANTED, Xmas and New Year weeks, by Wyllie, Tramp Musician and Story Teller, ten instruments and fit-up. Read what the Exeter Press says, Dec. 1: Another good turn was that of Wyllie, the tramp musician and story-teller, a refined artist, who produced music from everything he touched, one of the funniest being when he produced a tune from a number of nails he had hammered into a piece of wood. His turn was well received. All communications to be addressed to WYLLIE, 33, Schofield-lane, Wigan. Don't forget, vacant Xmas and New Year weeks.

WANTED, Dec. 21, 28, on, by George Ritter, Speciality Musical Clown, and also good Pianist, Theatre Royal, Deal; next, Grand Pier, Weston-super-Mare.

WANTED, Dec. 21, by Harry Elliott, England's Greatest Chorus Singer, suitable for any entertainment, any distance. This, Palace, Reading; next, Empire, Blaina.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, by Harry Bland, Eccentric Comedian, Monday next, also Dec. 21, for a success. Wire to 107, Grosvenor-street, All Saints, Manchester. Wire or write.

WANTED, Dec. 21 and 28, by Leslie Clements, Coloured Coon Singer and Banjoist.
All coms., Opera House, Lochgelly, N.B.

WANTED, Known, Carl St. Clare, wonderful Vocalist and Impersonator, at Liberty Dec. 14, 21. Coms., 18, Grafton-street, Leeds. Wire, Wire.

WANTED, Engagements, Gyto, Jocular Tramp Juggler, in his Billiard Balls and Cu(e)rious Juggling Speciality. Address, 42, Duncan-road, Crookes, Sheffield.

WANTED, Percy Maye has Monday next vacant, between Liverpool and Pentre. Wire, Wire, The Ark, Chester-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, and onwards, by Barney Stuart, High-class Character Actor, Vocalist, and Raconteur. Coms., 4, Canterbury-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, the performance of Musical Silvo at the Hippodrome is one of the finest ever presented in Liverpool.—Liverpool Theatrical News, June 8, 1908.
At Liberty Dec. 28.
Address, Empire Theatre, Blaina, Mon.

WANTED, Known, Yorkshire Tom, the great Mimic, Liberty Dec. 21 and 28. Wire, Public Hall, Darwen; after Sat., Palace Theatre, Porth, South Wales.

WANTED, Xmas Week, Bu-Val, the Happy Dutchman (Concertina). Always in the first three, and can top, bottom, or middle. Dec. 14, Theatre, Greenwich.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, World's Champion Bantam-weight Wrestler, taking all comers. Packed nightly. Crowds turned away, Tredegar, Wales. Vacant Jan. 11, 18, 25; then another tour. Coms., 34, Margaret-street, Liverpool; or CLIQUOT.

WANTED, Known, Great Scott, the only Juggler on the High Balancing Ladder. Monday, Aquarium, Scarboro'; vacant 28th, Jan. 4, Yorks. or Lancs. preferred.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, Wonderful Hoop Juggling Effects, Novel Panto. Speciality, Vacant Dec. 21, 28, and Jan. 4. Return Stoll Tour, Jan. 11. Dec. 14, Hippo., Birkenhead.

WANTED, Monday next, onwards, by Tom Levine, Double Table Acrobatic Equilibrist. Wire, Temperance Hall, Tredegar, South Wales.

WANTED, Dec. 21, 1908, also Jan. 4, 1909, onward, the Great Original Kyoto, Japanese Contortionist, Comedy Juggler, Conjurer, and Pug Dog Oto; also May Geraldine, a Refined Comedienne and Dancer. Dec. 14, New Grand Hippodrome, Leigh, Lancs. Notice.—After Jan. 4, 1909, owing to other existing similar names, we will be known as Alfred Kroston and May Sumner.

WANTED, Monday next, by Marcus Boyle, Comedian; also Ada Whitton, Ballad and Impersonator; one or both. Wire, 24, Albion-st., Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, "The Kiltie and the Girl," Vacant, big Funny Speciality Act; can Bottom any Bill. Address, 11, Addison Park-mansions, Kensington, London, W.

WANTED, Dec. 14 and 28, by Fern and Fawn, in Funny Episode, "The Conqueror"; Singles, Comedian, Soubrette. Wire, 18, Wilton-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Monday next, by the Two Le Brunes, in their Unique Vocal and Juggling Speciality. Wire, Hippodrome, King's Lynn.

WANTED, Known, Forest and King, Comedy Acrobatic Dancers. Two pieces of elastic.—Vide Oswald Stoll, Esq. Christmas Week Vacant, also Jan. 4.
This week, Hippo., Salford;
next week, Hippo., Preston.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Dutch Comedy Duo, Dec. 21, 28, or any parts in Panto. Pavilion, Liverpool; next, King's, Longsight.

WANTED, Known, Agnese and Arthur Lynch, in American Picture Songs, want Monday, next, Dec. 14. Wire, 11, Sidney-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Dec. 21 and 28, the Lashmars, Smart Comedy Act, Songs, Patter, Acrobatic Work, Expert Dancers. 3, Mew-st., Sharpness-on-Severn.

WANTED, Monday, Dec. 14, 21, also Panto., by France and Francis, Acrobatic Comedians. Wire, 37, Booth-street, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Monday next, by Mueller and Coyne, the Popular Comedy Vaudeville Artists. This week, Starring, Hip., Ton-y-Pandy. Wire offers.

WANTED, Monday, by Blarney and Kennard, also 28th and Jan. 4, good Comedy with Waltzing Dogs. 33, Stafford-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Merry and Bright, Popular Comedians, Dec. 21, 28. Offers invited.
155, Amelia-street, Walworth.

WANTED, Known.—What a Draw Four Cecilians are! Storming Palace, Battersea, this. Make enquiries. Dec. 21, Empire, Southport. Vacant Dec. 14.

WANTED, Known.—Do you want Packed Halls. Try Four Cecilians, Smartest All-Act on Variety Stage. Success everywhere. 120, Victoria-dwellings, Clerkenwell, London.

WANTED, Christmas week, onward, The Peps, most talented Trampolin Performance before the Public. Managers note, this is the Act to back your Pantomime up with. Special Hotel Scene, and if required new Juggling Act for Palace Scene. Monday, Queen's Theatre, Glasgow.

WANTED, Known, De Ora, Sensational Gymnast, can arrange for Dec. 21 and 28. Address, His Majesty's Service Picture Show, Royal Palace Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Phinas and Aida, Revolving Pocket Gymnasts, with an Act entirely their own, vacant 14th, 21st, and 28th. Reply, BRITT, Glasgow.

WANTED, by the Zeenas, Comedy Bar Act, Xmas and New Year Weeks.
Coms., 55, Wake-road, Sheffield.

WANTED, Dates, Bros. Almo, First-class Comedy Three-Bar Act.
Close to-night Theatre, Bacup.
Return Monday next (been away only four weeks), Grand Theatre, Nelson, Lancs.

WANTED, Dec. 21 and 28, by The Woolhafs, Great Comedy Act, full of good stuff and dressed well. Dec. 14, Marina, Lowestoft.

WANTED, by Three Orros, Monday next,
Wire, Tivoli, Pentre, South Wales.

WANTED, Dec. 14, 28, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist.
Wire or write, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist; two smart acts. Offers invited. King's Theatre, Longsight.

J. HIGSON'S COMEDY COMPANIES. "WHEN THE WIFE WENT OUT," three people, twenty minutes' continuous laughter. Produced Monday, Dec. 7, Hippo., Sheerness; instantaneous success.
WANTED, Dec. 25, onwards; four others in active preparation. All coms., A. ALEXANDER, 97, Brixton-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 11, for "Battle of the Belles," thirty minutes' scream, fourth year of uninterrupted success, six Artists, own Scenery. FRED MOULE, Hippodrome, Oldham.

WANTED, Known, Ginnett's "Rejected Remounts," Vacant Dec. 21, onward.
GINNETT, 59, Nichols-square, Hackney-road.

WANTED, Dec. 21 and 28, Swift Duo, Lady and Gentleman, Novel Cycling Speciality, Monday next, Empire Theatre, Blaina, Monmouth, wire.

WANTED, Known, The Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists, also Lillian Sivado, Lady Gymnast, two acts, Vacant Dec. 21, and 28. Address, 2, Glencoe-mansions, Chapel-street, Brixton-road, London.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Knockabout Cyclists and Football Match on Bicycles, vacant 21st, 28th. Address, 120, Gaythorpe-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to Know, the only vacant dates next year for PICITT AND LIZETTE, Illusionists and Pantomimists, in their great Magical Extravaganza, "THE CRAZY COOK," "THE CRAZY COOK," are Jan. 11 (to follow London Coliseum), Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 15, 22. Managers requiring an absolute Novelty please note the above dates offer the only opportunity to book. "THE CRAZY COOK," A Big Animal Act, a Big Illusion Act, A Big Comedy Act, all in one. 50 Birds and Animals, 50. The most Realistic Kitchen Set ever staged. Original Illusions worked like lightning. Everything carried, including Scenery. Concludes to-night, Hippodrome, Nottingham. Monday, Hippodrome, Coventry.

WANTED, by Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, Best and Most Elaborate in the Profession, Jan. 18, '09, onwards, with exceptions.

Com., Week Dec. 14, Hippodrome, Scarborough.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers to Know, Leoni Clarke's Royal Cats (200 Cats, Rabbits, Canaries, and Monkeys). Vacant Dec. 21, share or certainty, with or without company. Grand Theatre, Hanley.

WANTED, Known, Williams' Dogs, in their sensational Military Sketch, "The Deserter," the most marvellous exhibition of Canine intelligence ever witnessed; at Liberty Dec. 14, 21, and 29. Perm. address, Rothwell, Haigh, Leeds.

WANTED, by Alice Laserno's fourteen Performing Cats, best and most elegant show, vacant Dec. 14, 21, 28. Address, 100, Rusholme-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Assistant, height 5ft., or Small Part in Sketch. WILL CLOUGH, 130, Wellincot-st, Ashton-under-Lyne.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by First-class Operator, lime or electric, vacant Monday; highest reference. WATSON, 69, Randolph-street, Jarrow.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, The Public put Pennies in the Slots, but I take Sovereigns from the Cash Boxes.

The above was the recent remark of an operator of "The Magical Mills Machines." "The Marvellous Mills Machines." "The Money-making Mills Machines."

Send to Sole Agents for Illustrated Catalogue,

MINERVA AUTOMATIC Co., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK. WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World. Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907. No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent No. 17402. This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability. It is a Record Money-maker. Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street, and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

WANTED, Side Shows, Stalls, &c., for big New Year's Carnival, in Drill Hall, Dumfries. Address, WILLIAMS and WOOD, Hippo., Dumfries.

WANTED, good Side Show, Wrestling preferred, best position in town; also Spaces to Let. BARRON, Fun City, Tavern-street, Ipswich.

WANTED, Side Show, best part of Bristol, First-class Novelty, good Flash; Shares or Salary. E. HARRIS, 1, Lowbourne-place, Melksham, Wilts.

WANTED, Novelties, Freaks, &c.; must have good paintings or posters, for Cardiff. Note the position.—The Hayes, Cardiff. Shares or certainty. Wire or write, MEDECIA, 37, The Hayes, Cardiff.

WANTED, all Kinds of Fair Novelties, for a good dry ground in Dartford. Apply, W. PAYNE, Fair Ground, Brewery-st., Wandsworth-rd.

WANTED, to open Monday, Good Novelties for Good Shop, plate glass window, gas and electric; Marionettes, also Small Cinematograph, and others. Wire, 21, Edward-street, Brighton.

WANTED, for New Shop, seated, also electric light, situated in most crowded thoroughfare in Brighton (no other in town), Electric Bioscope, with Operator, Films, &c., complete, for in-and-out show (evenings, also Sundays), on shares. Long, comfortable, successful job for suitable party. Wire, 28, Gardiner-street.

F. M. BARBER'S No. 2 AUCTION MART. WANTED, for above, Entire Staff, commence Jan. 4: Smart, reliable Auctioneer, up-to-date, thorough tent experience; Lady to Play Piano and Cashier; Watchmaker (competent), pianist or vocalist; experienced Planksmen, singers and dancers preferred; good Handy-man, repairs and general work. Bar ornaments, broken-down pro.'s and people who don't like work, remember silence is golden. FRED M. BARBER, Mansfield. Open to purchase Living Vans, cheap; also Stock Vans (rail).

WANTED, Lady Palmist, for Cardiff, the position shop, terms Shares; splendid opening; also Tattooer, one who knows his business, can open immediately. Write or wire, MEDECIA, Exhibition, 37, The Hayes, Cardiff.

WANTED, a Clever Palmist, at once, Sharing terms, for Automatic Shop. Write, MANAGER, 50, High-street, Kettering.

WANTED, Palmist, Young Lady Assistant, for London Exhibition. State experience and lowest terms, YOGA, 30, Margaret-st., Regent-st., W.

WANTED, Good Comedian, for Auction Mart, plenty gags and songs. Joey Oram, Arthur Clark, please write. TAYLOR, Auction Mart, Ilkeston.

WANTED, immediately, South Wales (busy centre), Tattooist, Wire-worker, Glass Blower, Photographer, and other Attractions; share or rental. Spaces for few good Machines. Address, LINDER, P.O., Bridgend, South Wales.

WANTED, Lady, on half cash takings, at Hunt's Photo Studio. 87, Hurst-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty for Christmas Exhibitions, Carnivals, World's Fair, Pictures, &c. Sure draw. KARMA'S EGYPTIAN WONDERS, Exhibition, Drill Hall, Merthyr.

WANTED, Known, Kap Dwa, the two-headed Giant, 12ft. in length, at Liberty for Xmas and New Year. Lithos.; Shares or Salary. MARTINO, 102, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

WANTED, Wanted, Known. PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL. Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, Showmen in Scotland to Know, Spaces to Let at New Year's Carnival, Drill Hall, Dumfries. Add., WILLIAMS and WOOD, Hippo., Dumfries.

WANTED, Space to Let, for Xmas and New Year, in large Shop, good Front Flash, size 100 by 50, near London. Palmist, Photos., and other Novelties apply 382, Garrett-lane, London, S.W.

WANTED, to Let, on rental, Space for Palmistry, &c., at The Arcade, 150, Seven Sisters-road, Finsbury Park, London, N.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

To Showmen and other Travellers.

WANTED, Known, that I have Ground to Let, in Birmingham, for the Christmas and New Year Holidays, on the well-known and established Fair-ground, Golden Hillock Road. The District where you live will take Money. Many Good Attractions already Booked, and the Ground will be extensively advertised. Don't make a mistake. This will be the Winter Ground in Birmingham. Good Business can only be expected on Grounds where there are good Shows. First-class Roundabouts, and Classical Music. Follow the Successful Leader, and Book your Grounds with P. COLLINS, who can find you Ground all the year round. Address, Gondola Works, Walsall. Telegrams, "Gondola, Walsall." 'Phone No. 80, Walsall. N.B.—Birkenhead Ground full up. Could have let it ten times over.

WHITE CITY, WHITE CITY, WHITE CITY, MANCHESTER, ENGLAND. MANCHESTER, ENGLAND. "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AMUSEMENT "THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AMUSEMENT RESORT IN EXISTENCE." RESORT IN EXISTENCE." OPEN FROM MAY 15 to OCT. 2, 1909. OPEN FROM MAY 15 to OCT. 2, 1909. JOHN CALVIN BROWN, Sole Owner. EXPOSITION INTERNATIONAL DE L'EST DE LA FRANCE, NANCY, FRANCE. OPEN MAY 1 to OCT. 31, 1909. OPEN MAY 1 to OCT. 31, 1909. JOHN CALVIN BROWN, Director of all Attractions. PARK CONTRACTORS & CONCESSIONAIRES. PARK CONTRACTORS & CONCESSIONAIRES. WHITE CITY, with its 20 acres of Flower Gardens, Lakes Exhibition Buildings, and Show Spaces, offers the finest locations for the demonstration of the value of your devices or plants where the Capitalists from all England will see them, and where their exploitation can be effected at the same time you are making money from their operation. THE INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION at Nancy, France, presents exceptional opportunities for money-making from any device or show that is acceptable to the Director. The number of Attractions will be limited, so that there will be no ruinous competition, and all will make money. FIVE MILLIONS is the anticipated attendance. WANTED, Known, Scenic Railways, Figure 8 Coasters, Ferris Wheels, Fun Factories, and all other Popular Amusement Devices constructed for low prices. Send for particulars and prices. All communications should be addressed to the Head Office to JOHN CALVIN BROWN, White City, Manchester, England. Lieber Code. Cable Address, "Exposition Manchester."

TOY CITY AND FUN FAIR CARNIVAL, EARL'S COURT EXHIBITION (Warwick-rd. entrance). Twice Daily, GRAND CIRCUS FREE. Twice Daily, in Cinematograph Theatre, A FAIRY PLAY, FREE. Twice Daily, GREAT VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT, FREE. THE FAMOUS DOLL PAGEANT and YE OLDE ENGLISH FAYRE. Manager, Mr. A. COOMBER. WANTED, Known, Earl's Court, Toy City and Fun Fair are Opening To-day with every prospect of Success. 20,000 Invitations, each one admitting two, have been issued. All Space for Side-shows has been considerably Over-let. There has been some Space Let on Weekly Tenancy, other Reserved for any Novelties that may present themselves between Now and the End of the Month. The Management are therefore in a position to consider any Novelty that may be submitted at any time during the month. Address applications for Side-shows to Mr. A. C. BEECH, Fun Fair Syndicate, Ltd., Warwick-road Entrance, Earl's Court Exhibition, London, W.

WANTED, Known, Llanelly Exhibition, 5,000 square feet of space, open Dec. 12. Fast booking with working exhibits and novelties of all kinds. Money waiting for people with good stuff. Trade was never better. A few Spaces to Let on share or low rental. Mirrors, Punch-ball, Good Automatics, and up-to-date Working Exhibits. No charge will be made for admission. Write for terms, SETON and Co., Cwmbach Building, Vaughan-street, Llanelly.

GRAND CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL AND TRADES EXHIBITION. THE PAVILION, CARNARVON, Dec. 23 to Jan. 9. WANTED, Known, Good Spaces Available for First-class Exhibits, moderate terms; also First-rate Side-show (can follow on), Sharing Terms. Add., TOURING EXHIBITION Co., Anglo-American Exchange, 23, Craven-street, W.C.

WANTED, to Let, Payne's Auction Mart, Pontycymmer, depth 35ft., width 17ft., suit anything, first vacancy Christmas, rental or shares. Terms application.

WANTED, to Let, Large Shop, crowded thoroughfare, gas and electric light, for Shows, Hoop-la, Shooting Ranges, Automatics, and anything or everything, 25s. weekly; also two Piano Organs on Trucks, by Chiappia, for £6 the two. Room wanted. Apply, 28, Gardiner-street, Brighton.

WANTED, to Let, Grand Shop, good position, with plate-glass windows, gas and electric, for Automatic Free Exhibition, Novelties, Auctioneers, &c. Rent 25s. weekly, or will share with anything good. 21, Edward-street, Brighton.

WANTED, to Let, Shop, Shows, Bazaars, Auctioneers, Dec. 22, onwards. Best position. MICHAEL, 10, The Circle, Tredegar.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK. WANTED, to Let, 40 by 24 Frame, Sedan Chairs, Rickshaw, and "Cinderella" Coach, for hire, Hobby Horse and Donkey, Scenery and Properties made to order or lent on Hire; Harlequin Blades, Trebile, Profile, Peals of Bells. ELMS LESTER, Studio, Little Denmark-street, W.C.

WANTED, Space for First-class Attractive Show of Gold Wire-working, for Exhibitions, Carnivals, &c. Apply, SAMUELS, 5, Mountfield-road, Tunbridge Wells.

WANTED, at once, Space in Exhibition or Carnival, for Electric Engraving, Gold Wire, Jewellery. KING, Exhibition, Corn Exchange, Winchester.

WANTED, to Hire or Purchase immediately, good Electric or Self-acting Piano Organ. Apply, TOM NORMAN, Auction Dept., "Era" Office.

WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to send for my new list with over 2,000 illustrations of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Field Glasses, Bazaar and Fancy Goods; every line right for price. SIMONS, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, to Sell, the Whole of the Massive and Splendidly Carved Domes, &c., complete and perfect, with Steps and Poles for Front, of Two Waggon Front, opening out 40ft., would make the Grandest Carved Front on the Road, all ready for hanging on either 10ft., 12ft., or 14ft. wagons, or suit for roundabout centre or other purposes. Cost over £250; take £25. Splendid opportunity to get Big Grand Show cheap. Can be seen here by appointment. 21, Edward-street, Brighton.

WANTED, to Sell, Special Pullman Touring Car, Designed and Built for Private Use, seats 26, allowing each passenger a swivel armchair, is fitted with electric light, bells, and 50 h.p. Granton engine, splendid hill climber, specially suitable for theatrical companies, shooting parties, and touring clubs. Photos on application. Can be seen and tried at the LIVERPOOL MOTOR HOUSE, LTD., 7-11, Peters-lane, Liverpool.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Auction Mart for Sale, four loads, newly decorated, splendid condition, ready for road, part stock if required; low price for cash. Splendid opportunity for one or two smart men. MART, 199, Highfield-road, South Shore, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Sell, Haunted House, built on three waggons, all wind down for rail, with Dynamo and everything complete, the same that was working in the Franco-British Exhibition all last season; also one to Let, for Xmas; rental or sharing terms. Apply, FRED GINNETT, 143, Kennington-road, London, S.E.

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WANTED, to Sell, Watling's Guessing Scales, and other Novelties in Slots. WORMALD, 123, Blythe-road, West Kensington, London, W. Established 1887.

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WANTED, to Buy, a Covered-in Truck, 18ft. by 8ft.; must be in good condition. Particulars, PRINCE SAMOUDA, 4, Ducie-grove, Oxford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, to Purchase, several Light Running Beast Vans. Write, with price and full particulars, to Box 5,231, "The Era."

WANTED, for the first week in the New Year, for W. C. and S. Hancock's Katzen Jammer Castle ("The Haunted House"), a Manager, must understand Electricity. Apply, W. C. and S. HANCOCK, Amusement Caterers, Show Yard, East-street, Bedminster, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, the Seventy Thousand Showmen who use the Columns of "The Era" and are moving about should know that they can make "The Era" Offices their Permanent London Address. Letters received will be held till called for, or immediately re-addressed according to instructions. Address all communications respecting the Letter Department to the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, every Showman who uses the railway to send to "The Era" for a copy of the article on the new Railway Rates. This will be sent on application, free of charge, to any Showman in the United Kingdom.

WANTED TO SELL.

WANTED, to Sell, Lanterns, Bioscopes, Films, Slides, Jets and Light Boxes, Lenses, Immense Stock, Second-hand. Bargain Prices State wants. Skirt Dance Pictures and Effects, as Supplied to Miss Loie Fuller and others. Stage Arcs, from 40s.; Fireproof Steel Light Boxes. HUGHES and Co., Actual Manufacturers, Brewster House, Mortimer-road, London, N.

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WANTED, to Sell, Great Quantity of good Secondhand Films, from 1d. per foot. No rubbish. No films sent on approval without deposit. Write for lists. RAYMOND'S BIO-TABLEAUX, 56, Great Queen-street, W.C.

WANTED, to Sell, large quantity of Films, Comic, Dramatic, Travel Subjects, all bargains, to clear. Lists ready. JURY'S IMPERIAL PICTURES, 142, Long Acre, London.

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WANTED, to Sell, Cramer's Portable Piano, 5 octaves, weight in case 2¼cwt., in good condition, £6, cost 15gs., great bargain; its cost saved in few weeks. PIANO, 37, King's-road, Rushden, Northamptonshire.

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WANTED, to Sell, Typewritten Stock Dramas, Dramatic and Comedy Sketches, Duos. Plays and Sketches produced. HAL COLLIER, Market Hall, Airdrie.

WANTED, to Sell, Dramatic and Comedy Sketches, Novel and Original. W. HOWARD, 127, Westbrook-street, Bolton.

The Publisher, "The Era." 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London, W.C. "Dear Sir,—I ordered the following advertisement to appear in your paper for two insertions:—

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"Kindly do not insert my advertisement again, as the self-acting piano which I had to sell has been sold to Mr. Jack Woolf, of Wonderland fame, Whitechapel-road, E. I had also ten other applicants through my advertisement in 'The Era.' Yours faithfully, J. H. MEURICE. "39, Argyle-square, W.C. Oct. 9, 1906."

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WANTED, Strong Pad Horse, 15 hands or over, to carry Bear. Say when and where can be seen, and lowest price. HAVILAND, 28, Schubert-road, Putney.

WANTED, to Buy, a good Hind Leg Dog, young, male, Poodle preferred. All particulars to Box 5,223, "The Era."

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WANTED, Writers of Patter, to please send terms to Box 5,252, "The Era."

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WANTED, to Let, on Long Lease, a New Theatre in the Midlands, luxuriously fitted; population 20,000, including district 40,000. Apply, Box 5,256, "The Era."

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WANTED, Known, C. Kinch, Gymnastic Apparatus Maker, Theatrical and General Blacksmith. 17, St. Mary-square, Kennington-road, London, S.E. Large Hall for Practice.

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WANTED, Known, Cottle's Bureau, 229, Camberwell-road, S.E. Band Parts, 3s. 6d.; Composing, &c.; Band Books, 4s. 7d. Lists. Rehearsal rooms, 1s. hour.

WANTED, Known, Sketches Written and Produced by L. F. Durell, 10, Upper St. Martin's-lane, author of Fred Karno's latest success, "The Yapp Yapps," &c.

WANTED, Known, Blyth Murray's Address is 56, Montague-terrace, Bridlington. Any suggestions re coming Spring? Happy Christmas to all.

WANTED, Known, Arthur Elvy will in future be Known as HARRY ELLIOTT. Third and last Notice.

WANTED, Herbert Leonard, of "The Girl I Love" Co., to please apply at once to A. E. ABRAHAMS, 26, Gt. Eastern-rd., Stratford, E.

WANTED, J. H. McCann wishes to thank Mr. Percy B. Broadhead for letting him off for two nights and paying for same.

WANTED, Known, Miss Kate Walbran (Araminta) desires to express to Mr. Stanley Rogers and the members of the cast of "Cinderella" at the Grand, Glasgow, her appreciation of their courtesy during the rehearsals.

WANTED, Irish Dramas, "On Shannon Shores," owned by Mr. Fred Cooke (whose address is sought); also couple other good Irish Plays and Sketches. Particulars to P. J. POWER, Nenagh, Ireland.

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TELEPHONE CALL OFFICE.

"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

Important Notice to Advertisers and others.

Owing to Christmas Day and Boxing Day this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of Postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, "The Era" will be published at midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd.

ADVERTISEMENTS intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd., to reach us by first post on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd. Advertisements may be handed in at the counter until 12.30 noon on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd.

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THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

D. de Serris, Carl Rosine, Les Tafanos, Schiavonis Troupe, Two Butterflies, Powell's Marionettes, Three Garganis, Albany, Hanvarr and Lee, Will Van Allen, Pictures, Tiller's Eight New Cocktails, Les Piccolinos.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

Lloyd Morgan, Ed. Ford, Lanos and Montes, Dale and O'Malley, Pictures, Krags Trio, La Freya, Houdini, Maudsley Sisters, Prince's Mascots.

HIPPODROME, BRIGHTON.

Lindon Vaudeville, Nora Stockelle, Amy Russell, Brilliant and Brilliant, Hilgart-Arkas Co., Vasey and Ramsey, W. Gardner, W. Reynolds Co., Friend and Downing, Geo. S. Melvin, Pictures.

HIPPODROME, SHEFFIELD.

Three Comerfords, Harry Taft, Herbert Rule, Lennard and Vereker, F. L. Gregory Troupe, Three Ausonias, H. Pollock and Co., Pictures, Simms and Simms, Bob Fitzsimmons, Clothilde and De Musto.

HIPPODROME, LEEDS.

Three Carleus, Ted Curtis and Pics, Mike Cray, Brinn, Geo. Cairns, Fred Russell, Lee and Kingston, F. Edwards and Co., Pictures, Aribos, Andrews and Thompson.

PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

Ariel and Astarte, Mooney and Holbien, Maxie and Pete, Ongars, St. Ruth and Conyers, Pictures, Tony Black, Harry Grattan and Co., Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Zona Vevey, Nellie Montague, J. W. Crawley, Diana Hope, Joan Deering, Elliot and Kennedy, Bioscope, Valvero.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Harry Russon, Harry Brown, Grace Merton, Pictures, "David Garrick" Sketch, Rex Fox, Zenary Bros., Cadwell and Verne, Lily Harold and Co., Henriquette Maude.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

H. A. Moore, Sam Mayo, Ida Barr, Lyric Mummers, Ida Hetherington Co., Eugenes, Chas. Harvey, Gertie Gitana, Harry Ford's Sketch, Pictures, Joe Peterman and Co., Lil Hawthorne.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Alick Lauder, Ernie Mayne, Lilian Savoda, Fyne and Hurley, The Dunlops, Wakomie Bros., Rita Rhyl, Frank Fox, Pictures, Rosie Archer, Neville Graham and Co., in "Corkscrew."

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Herbert Clifton, Kurkamp Troba, Nellie Norah, Pictures, Park's Eton Boys, Selby and Myers, Six Æolians, Karno's Casuals, Seven Madcaps, Mdlle Fougère, Maud Esmond, Dusty Rhodes, F. Ginnett, in "St. George and Dragon."

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Edwin Boyde, Morny Cash, Gus Elen, Marie Blythe, Alice Hollander, Mdlle. Fougère, Four Black Birds, Pictures, Seven Perezoffs, Players, Co., Tamamato.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

W. B. Raby, Little Victoria, Pictures, Lew Lake's Vocalists, Fulton and Clifton, Two Cromwells, Ellis and Ellis, Lil Hawthorne, Clark and Hamilton, Leonard Teel.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

James Fawn, Arthur Pier, Ida Barr, Lulu Evans, Pictures, Roxborough and Wright, Wm. Lee and Co., Tom Costello, Alan Holt and Co.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Tom Stuart, Fred Earle, Carina Sisters, Emma Don, Irene Meldon, Victoria Monks, Pictures, Three Laurels, Five Vernons, The Garricks, Olga Audré and Co.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Sam Mayo, Fred Land, Wilson Hallett, Little Vi Davis, Stella Dell, Ida Clare, Pictures, Terry and Bentley, Six Æolians, Bros. Ashley.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Jack Marks, 'Varsity Girls, Pictures, Lew Lake and Co., Geo. Phillips, Harry Maxam, Cissie Dryden, Sybil Montague, Calile and Walker.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Billy Hobbs, Joe Mac, Queenie May, Rubie Butt, Pictures, Sadie and Seggi, Carl Hertz, Spencer Marks, F. S. Peake and Co.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Chas. Sloman, Jack Charman, Eva Lewis, Evelyn Taylor, Pictures, The Garricks, Karno's "Mumming Birds," Woodhouse and Wells, Harding and Freda.

ILFORD HIPPODROME

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

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will be open at the end of November, 1909.

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Juggling McBans, Louis Mertz, Maximilian Trio, Hawkins' Dogs, Gilbert Rene, Iben Obed Trio, Rapoli, L. de Lausanne and Co., Maztel and Lydia, Pelletier, Pictures, Aramanis.

HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

Haley's Juveniles, Athas Troupe, Thorpe and Coe, Cecile and Francois, Sisters Ford, Pictures, Milner and Storey, Jack Hayworth, Rastus and Banks, J. Peterman's Co.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Fred Curran, L. W. Harris, Rosie Archer, Hurslett Bros., Anartos, Pictures, A. Rose, Belle Harcourt, Rita and Roma, F. Hardie and Co.

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Musical Comedy and Dramatic Season.
Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

Three Rubys, Starr and Leslie, Grahame and Harrington, Denwartz Troupe, Starr and Jerome, Ida Ross, My Fancy, Ten Dark Knights.

KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA.

Croisit Trio, Bijou Troupe, Wright and Lawson, Russell Wallett, Pictures, Frivola and Deep, Russell Carr.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Harry Cooke, Harry Ford, Annie Braddon, Violet Ashcroft, Pictures, F. Maxwell and Co., Gibbon and Bell, Menzies, Ferris and Farnley.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Steve McCarthy, Fred Earle, Martin Conway, Marie Kendal, Phœbe Mercer and Co., 'Varsity Girls, Daisy James, Pictures, Bradley and Barns, Victoria Dagmar and Clown, Carlotta de Yonson, in sketch, "Sexton Blake."

BRITANNIA, HOXTON.

Drama. Twice Nightly.

PALACE, ISLINGTON.

Pictures Twice Nightly.

KILBURN EMPIRE

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

All communications, bill matter, &c., for London Halls to be sent to Mr. Walter Gibbons at above address.
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INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY **BAND PARTS ARE REQUIRED FOR AT LEAST 14 DIFFERENT INSTRUMENTS.** OFFICE HOURS: 10 to 5 p.m.

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"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"
(Murphy and Lipton),
Sung by Miss Florrie Forde.

"WINKLES AND WATERCRESS"
(Alf. Ellerton and Alf. Ellerton, jun.),
Sung by Miss Dora Lyric.

"EXERCISE"
(Penton Hook and Whit Cunliffe),
Sung by Whit Cunliffe.

"SUE, SUE, SUE"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski),
Sung by G. H. Elliott.

Hear the Great
GEORGE LASHWOOD,
in His Greatest Success,
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."

"L. S. D."
(Wilmott and Darewski),
Sung by R. G. Knowles.

"THAT'S THE TIME A FELLOW WANTS HIS MA"
(Bateman, A. Mills, and M. Scott),
Sung by Miss Vesta Tilley.

"DON'T RUN AFTER THE GIRLS" (Arthurs and Murphy) and "ELLALINE" (Arthurs and O. Powell).
Sung by L. W. Harris.

"THE JOLLY OLD IRISH PENSIONER"
(F. W. Carter).
Sung by Pat Rafferty.

"LET ME BUT HOPE"
(Percy Edgar and H. E. Pether),
Sung by Miss Madoline Rees.

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS" (Gifford and Sullivan), and "I'M HERE—IF I'M WANTED."
(F. Leo).
Sung by Wilkie Bard.

"FAR AWAY IN AUSTRALIA"
(Wilmott and Darewski).
Sung by Miss Annie Bradden.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski).
Sung by Miss Carlotta Levey and Miss Florrie Forde.

"WON'T YOU COME TO ME IN CANADA?"
(Fortescue Harrison and John Neat).
Sung by Miss Kitty Rayburn.

"THE PREACHER AND THE BEAR."
Albert Whelan's Great Hit.

"THE GAY GORDONS"
(Wilmott and Darewski),
Sung by Miss Rhoda Paul.

"DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, NICHOLAS!"
(Arthurs and Murphy),
Sung by Miss J. La Barte.

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CALLS FOR PANTOMIME.
Season 1908-1909.
JAMES KIDDIE'S PANTOMIMES.
"ALADDIN,"
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 14, at 10.30 a.m., ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
"CINDERELLA,"
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 21st, at 10.30 a.m., NEW THEATRE ROYAL, BIRKENHEAD.
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 21, at 10.30 a.m. AVENUE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
No Excuses Entertained.
Signed, JAMES KIDDIE.
N.B.—Artists who have not received parts please send present addresses.
TRAIN CALL.
A special train will leave Widnes on Sunday, Dec. 20, for Sunderland. Artists engaged for "Dick Whittington," and who are desirous of availing themselves of the three-quarter fare, please communicate with Mr. Kiddie's secretary, Mr. THOS. SWINTON, Alexandra Theatre, Widnes.

CALLS FOR PANTOMIME.
DOTTRIDGE AND LONGDEN'S
"ROBINSON CRUSOE."
Rehearsals 10 a.m. sharp, THURSDAY, Dec. 17. At the ALEXANDRA THEATRE, SHEFFIELD.

DOTTRIDGE AND LONGDEN'S
"DICK WHITTINGTON."
Rehearsals 10 a.m. sharp, THURSDAY, Dec. 17. At THEATRE ROYAL, ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

DOTTRIDGE AND LONGDEN'S
"ALADDIN."
Rehearsals 10 a.m. sharp, THURSDAY, Dec. 17. At NEW GRAND THEATRE, OLDHAM.

ARTHUR CARLTON'S PANTOMIMES.
CALLS. — "PUSS IN BOOTS," T. R., WORCESTER. PRINCIPALS and CHORUS, Dec. 14. "ALADDIN," GRAND T., DERBY. PRINCIPALS and CHORUS, Dec. 14, 11 o'clock. "CINDERELLA," T. R., ALDERSHOT. PRINCIPALS and CHORUS, Dec. 14.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE, S.W.
CALL FOR PANTOMIME.
First Rehearsal, Dec. 14, at 11.
No excuses.

CALL FOR PANTOMIME.
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E. H. BERTRAM, Stage-Manager.

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PRINCIPALS: CRYSTAL PALACE.
ROBINSON CRUSOE, 11 a.m.
CINDERELLA, 2 p.m.
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CHORUS, for all Pantomimes,
DAILY, at 11 a.m.

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LESTER COLLINGWOOD'S PANTOMINE,
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
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EVERYBODY CONCERNED. MONDAY, Dec. 21, at 11 o'clock. No excuses.
(Signed) LESTER COLLINGWOOD.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.
"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."
CALL.
EVERYBODY CONCERNED. At 11 o'clock, WEDNESDAY next, Dec. 16. No excuses.
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Monday, Dec. 14, 11 o'clock.
Principal and Chorus.
No excuses.

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Late Palace, Moss and Stoll Tour, &c.
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MISS CARRIE FRASER, Entertainer and Accompanist.
9, Hill-street, Rutland Gate, S.W.

GAIETY ENTERTAINERS, Smart Costume Concert Party. Refined. Moderate Fees. FRED VALENTINE, 66, Dangan-rd., Wanstead.

CHARLES GARTON'S CONCERT PARTY, "The Frolics," Song, Humour, Frolic. Address, 153, Kew-road, Richmond, S.W.

MR. HAROLD W. GREATHEAD, Humorous and Dramatic Recitals, Monologues, Character Sketches. Open for Concerts, Dinners, &c. 7, Brackley-terrace, Chiswick.

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BEAUFORT H. IRVING, Songs and Monologues from Mr. Albert Chevalier's Répertoire. Open for Masonic Banquets, Concerts.
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21, Denman-street, Piccadilly. Also Light Comedy Duets with HILDA HUDSON.

MR. R. VERNON PIERSON, Flute and Piccolo Soloist. "The Era" says: Largely known as the Paderewski of the Flute. 3, Kensington Park-road, W.

ROYAL ENTERTAINERS, THE (under the direction of Mr. Hickman Smith) in town after their phenomenally successful Scotch Tour. Rebooked for further tour in 1909. 8, Highbury-quadrant, N.

BERNARD RUSSELL, Comedian. New and Original Songs. Tel. 1006 North.
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MISS FANNY WENTWORTH, Musical Sketches and Original Songs at Piano. Late Palace, London Pavilion, Tivoli.
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NOTICE.

THE PALACE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.

The Lessees of the PALACE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND, GIVE NOTICE that as they will CEASE to be in OCCUPATION and POSSESSION of that Theatre after the 2ND JANUARY, 1909, all contracts with Artists for subsequent dates are cancelled.

By Order,
E. J. HILLS,
Secretary,
United County Theatres, Ltd.

FILEY SANDS SEASON, 1909.

THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF FILEY
INVITE TENDERS
for the Sole Right of giving
PIERROT & SIMILAR ENTERTAINMENTS
on the Sands and Esplanade, Filey, for the Season commencing June 1, and terminating Sept. 30, 1909. Tenders, endorsed "Sands," must be forwarded so as to reach me, the undersigned, not later than the first day of January, 1909. The highest or any Tender will not necessarily be accepted.

WELFORD B. GOFTON,
Clerk of the Council,
Council Offices,
Filey, Yorks.

CITY OF RIPON.

SPA BATHS AND GARDENS

The Corporation
INVITE OFFERS
for the use of the Spa Gardens during next summer for the purpose of giving Entertainments.

For further particulars apply to the Town Clerk, Ripon, on or before the 31st December instant.

MINSTREL TROUPE.

THE TOWN COUNCIL OF ABERYSTWYTH
INVITE TENDERS
for the privilege of providing a
MINSTREL TROUPE
on the Castle Grounds for next Season
(Whit Monday to October 1st, 1909, inclusive).

TENDERS (sealed and marked "Minstrels"), containing full particulars as to class of entertainment, number of performers, and experience of applicants, to be sent to the undersigned (from whom further information may be obtained) on or before the 27th day of December, 1908.

The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any tender.

A. J. HUGHES,
Town Clerk, Aberystwyth.

BOROUGH OF SCARBOROUGH.

TENDERS FOR ENTERTAINMENTS

THE
CORPORATION OF SCARBOROUGH.
INVITE TENDERS
from
ENTERTAINERS
for the occupation from the 1st May to the 30th September, 1909, of the following:—

(*a*) Two spaces on the South Sands.
(*b*) One space on the North Sands.
(*c*) The stage and arena of the Alexandra Gardens (evenings only).
(*d*) The Clarence Gardens.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the undersigned.

Tenders, endorsed on the envelope "Tender for Entertainments," should be sent to me on or before the 15th January, 1909.

The Corporation will not be responsible for the safe custody or the return of any tender or any accompanying documents or books.

D. ARTHUR NICHOLL,
Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Scarborough,
December, 1908.

MOSS' EMPIRES, LTD & STOLL COMPANIES SUBSEQUENT

(Moss, Stoll, Thornton & Allen Theatres, Amalgamated)

Chairman: SIR EDWARD MOSS

WORKING IN CONJUNCTION

Capital £2,086,000.

Managing Director: OSWALD STOLL.

(Including Coliseum Syndicate, Ltd.)

Chairman OSWALD STOLL.

Assisting Director and Chief of Staff: FRANK ALLEN.

Departmental Superintendents: W. S. GORDON MICHIE & ALAN W. YOUNG.

Co-Operative Offices: CRANBOURN MANSIONS CRANBOURN STREET, LONDON, W. C.

INTERVIEWS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

CALLS FOR MONDAY, DEC. 14, 1908.

Telephone: 1050 & 1051 GERRARD. Wires: "TWIGSOME, LONDON."

THE LONDON HIPPODROME

Sir Cave Brown Cave's Co., Achmed Ibrahim Troupe, Five Kaytons, Alexandre and Hughes, Colonel Bordeverry, Young Tomasso, Creo Bros., Albertus and Millar, Four Holloways, Fratellinis, Pathégraph, Horace Goldin, and Jeanne Fransioli.

EMPIRE PALACE, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 1.30 for :—
Alec Hurley and Co., in "The Coster's Beano," Bertha Winder, George Rae, Takio, Ross and Lewis, Delevines, Alf Chester, Violet Ray, Bioscope, Fred Edwards and Co., in "Kleptomaniacs."

EMPIRE THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Helen Roberts, Bernard Crooke, Frances Letty, Les Martineks, Miss Teddy Edmunds and Co., Fred Wilkinson, Chas. Vincent, Albert Rees, Bioscope, Zeynardt's Lilliputians.

COLISEUM, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Henry De Vries, Mayvilles, Harris Coonie, Dumond Trio, "That Brute Simmons," Victor Travers, John Macaulay, Master Frisbey, Bioscope, "The Johnstown Flood."

GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Stevens and Buchanan's Grand Pantomime "Cinderella."

ARDWICK THEATRE, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Chums Till Death," La Belle Nello, Tate and Tate, Albert and Edmunds Troupe, Rousby's "Greater London," Chas. Stevens, Cissie Thompson, Bioscope Cruikshank.

HIPPODROME, MANCHESTER.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
Fred Karno's "Football Match," Falco and Eida, Kitty Wager, Fred Poplar, Mdlle. Haydee, Hammon and Wyatt, Walker and May, Bioscope, The Bensons, Caicedo.

EMPIRE PALACE, LEEDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Joe Elvin and Co., in "King of the Castle," Fred Lincoln, Bioscope, Bessie Slaughter, Bros. Horne, Phil and Nettie Peters, Mason and Bart, May Brilliant, Charlene and Charlene, Lukushimas.

EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Daisy Jerome, Bros. Dean, Cline and Clark, Rauschle, Guyer and Valli, Court Jesters, Mabel Bright, Burnetti, Bioscope, Woodward's Seals.

BORDESLEY PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Wentworth Croke's Co., in "The Bondman."

GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Ye Colonial Septette, Gwennie Llewellyn, The Falcons, "The Sheriff and the Rosebud," Daunton Shaw Troupe, Four Figaros, Seeley and Rhodesia, Frank Sylvo, Walter Aubrey, Bioscope.

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for :—
Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Sydney Lee, Herbert Shelley, Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, Adams and Ward, Teresa Da Silva, E. J. Sheldon, Bioscope, Lottie Lennox.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Mdme. Alice Esty, Bob Hamilton, Nance Elder, J. L. Shine, Terry and Lambert, Hermann Melot, "No. 99," Bennie Barrow, Bioscope, Miss Marquis and Ponies.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Nellie Wallace, Lancashire Singers, Harry Lawson, Naughton and Gold, "The Water Cure," Leo Stormont, Haig and Novel, Agnes Tina, Bioscope, Arthur Saxon Trio.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Fred Karno's "The Bailiff," Jeannie Mackay, Mezzettis, Joe Almasio, "What Women Do for Men," Billy, Goggin and Davis, Bert Weston, Bioscope, Albert Whelan.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Fred Karno's Co., including Fred Kitchen, in "G.P.O.," Barrington, Kroney Bros., Chronomegaphone, Madge Temple, Coloured Meisters, Lionette Roberty, Lily Esplin, Bioscope, The Selbinis.

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Kate Carney and Co., Percy Hannan, Coverdale, Three Prestons, Haley's Garden of Girls, Rhoda Paul, Arthur Gill, Mena Denvil, Bioscope, Chas. Dagnell and Co.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Marie Lloyd, J. P. Ling, Three Welsh Girls, Alexandra Dagmar, Walter Bellonini, Les Uniques, Arabella Allen, Phil Parsons, Bioscope, "The Spy."

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
The Hayden Coffin and John Coates Tour of "Dorothy."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for :—
Miss Evie Greene, Miss Carrie de Mar, Gus Garrick, Martialo Trio, The Gems, Howell and Scott, Barton and Ashley, Frederick Villiers, Argo, Steve Bartle, Bioscope, Dorothy Grimston and Co.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Courtice and Louie Pounds, Tom E. Conover, Tom Child, May Edouin, Jackson Family, Six Idols, Edie Endon, Bioscope, George Leyton and Co., in "The Last Muster."

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
The Boissets, in "Bricklayers," Leo Tell, Cumberlands, Hays and Wynne, Carney and Armstrong, Tom Parker, Chas. Santon, Bioscope, Mabel Bardine and Co.

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Arthur Roberts and Co., in "Till Sunday," Ernie Garner, Daly and O'Brien, Vetter Bros., Baker and Balfe, Walter Munroe, Maizie Hibbs, Bioscope, L'Incognita.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Machnow, Vanando, Imperial Russian Troupe, Sisters Urma, "Casey's Court," Gittens' Opera Co., George Young, Beattie Kent, Tom Collins, Bioscope.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
Walter Hellier, Edna Lewis, Bert Williams, Hetty Hocking, Bioscope, etc.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 3 for :—
George Auger and Co., Trippello, Sybil St. Elmo, Pat Rafferty, Ethel Newman, Alf Holt, Bioscope, Musical Twelve.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Bella and Bijou, Mabel Mavis, Harry Leybourne, Dennis Drew and Boys, Mendel, Les Marsumas, Victor Newman, Kathleen Cogan, Bioscope, Karl Reinsch.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Frank A. Gotch and Co., Crown Trio, Four Jumels, Eadie and Ramsden, Eight Lancashire Lads, Duncan and Godfrey, Chronomegaphone, Madge Osmond, Bioscope, Olga and Elgar.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
George Gray and Co., in "The Fighting Parson," Tom Moore, Three Sisters Grovini, Grant and Grant, Kent and Keith, Lottie Leyton, Marie Clissold, Bioscope, Lydia Yeamans.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Fred Karno's "Mumming Birds," Maud Edwards, Maud Rochez's Monkeys, Lily Burnand, Jack Smiles, Enzer, Grosvenor Sisters, Lottie Govell, Bioscope, Webb's Scenas.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Master Garrett and Co., Jack Binns, Maggie Walsh, Mdlle. Pollo, Webb and Branston, Tiny Arnold, Ina Lorrimer, Pictures, Hartley Wonders.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Henry Coutts and Co., Olive Armadale, Sybil Lester, Percy Honri, Reilly and Templeton, Nellie Coleman, Pictures, Harry Grey.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
The Craggs, Edith Etherley, Arthur Astill, Florence Smithers and Co., Prince Milner Trio, Maud Vera, Bioscope, Ten Zerbinis.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for :—
C. France, Master Leonard Athersych, Miss Vera Feare, Bioscope, etc.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Rehearsal at 1 for :—
Harry Champion, Fred Elton, Ted Honeyman, Kisbey, Adey Spencer, Yankee Doodle Girls, Norman and Leonard Trio, The Fitzroys, Francis and Alfred, Hanid Alexander, "Fun on a Racecourse," Bioscope, James Willard's Co., in "The Ace of Hearts."

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Animated Pictures and Illustrated Songs.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
"Hunting Morn," Dan Hendy, Muir and Bartlett, Strolling Players, Bros. Bright, Lil O'Gorman, Ida Kathrina, Bioscope, The Gaudsmidts.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for :—
Chas. T. Aldrich, Guy Ryder, Les Voces, Millie Payne, Harry Bedford, Thora, Pictures, Florence and Lillian, etc.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow :—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. S. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, comes within the area absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, also come within the area absolutely barred by us.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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THE STAR MUSIC Co.

VICTORIOUS.

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IN GO ALL THE STAR CO.'S WINNERS!!

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*I DON'T CARE IF THERE'S A GIRL THERE.
WHIT CUNLIFFE'S Sensational Hit.

*HAVE YOU GOT ANOTHER GIRL LIKE MARY?
MEG HAMILTON'S Tremendous Hit.

*CAROLINA BROWN OF CHINATOWN.
FLO CROMER'S Gigantic Hit.

MY PRETTY PIECE OF DRESDEN CHINA.
QUEENIE FINNIS'S Stupendous Hit.

*WON'T YOU WALTZ THE MERRY WIDOW WALTZ?
ELLA RETFORD'S and NELLIE WIGLEY'S Phenomenal Hit.

ANYWHERE WILL DO.
VIOLET HALL'S Great Hit.

THE VERY FIRST GI L I SEE.
WHIT CUNLIFFE'S Terrific Number 2 Hit.

*JOHNNY THERE'S A LOCKET IN YOUR POCKET.
MEG HAMILTON'S Splendid Number 2 Hit.

HAVE YOU SEEN MY CHINEE MAN?
ELLA RETFORD'S Great Number 2 Hit.

NOBODY'S SATISFIED.
WHIT CUNLIFFE'S Great Number 3 Hit.

SALOME (THE SHEEP'S HEAD AND TIN TACK).
GEORGE FRENCH'S Great Comic Chorus Hit.

A TO Z (THE ALPHABET CHORUS SONG).
GEORGE ROBEY'S Great Hit.

The above are all Solos, not concerted or finale numbers!
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"WHAT A FUNNY WORLD WE LIVE IN."
Topical Song sung by Mr. PELISSIER at the Apollo Theatre.

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Ballad sung by Miss GWENNIE MARS at the Apollo Theatre.

"IN THE SPRINGTIME." (Pelissier.)
Splendid Topical Song—fine refrain.

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Ballad for Principal Boy or Girl (4 keys).

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"SATURDAY AFTERNOON."
"PUT ME A GIRL INSIDE."
"I'M WAIT-WAIT-WAITING." (All I want is the Man.)
Principal Girl and Dame Song.
"IN A LITTLE WOODEN HOUSE IN NORWAY."
"WHAT A TERRIBLE THING THAT WOULD BE."
TOPICAL SONG already secured by Dan Rolyat for the Adelphi and for Twenty-five other Principal Pantomimes.
"KEEPSAKES."
FOR FAIRY QUEEN AND PRINCIPAL GIRL.

Postage for our Budget for Principal Boy, Principal Girl, Comedian, 6d. each.

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THE MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT

Proprietor and Director General:
Mr. FRANK MACNAGHTEN.

SPECIAL AND IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Artists engaged will please note that rehearsals at ALL Halls take place at 12 o'clock noon each Monday.

No excuses whatever for non-attendance will be entertained.

All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fire-proofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

Telephone 5954 Avenue.
Telegraphic address, "Stageyness, London."

CALLS

FOR WEEK COMMENCING

MONDAY, DEC. 14, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Consul, Three Transfields, Lizette Troupe, Walter Clyde, Mollie Augarde, Rose and Wold, Milton Trio, Addie Dorina, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
The Gothams, The Elgonas, Glenroy Troupe, John Donald, Hyde and Cody Trio, Alpho, Sidy Nirvanah, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Emerson and Baldwin, Lottie Bray, Johnny Dwyer, Julian Rose, Flo Inman, Capt. Devereux and Dogs, Goodwin's Picos, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Six Brothers Luck Co., The Waltons, Kirk and Saraski, The Evalos, Chas. Lewis, Mr. E., Roma and Romani, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
The Last Halt, Norah Desmond, Babusio Bros., The Leonas, Chas. Banks and Dog, The Fordyces, Gallimore Trio, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, &c.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Pictures, Chas. Jerome, Lina Frank, Treachery, Leslie's Cadets, Elroy, Marie Grey, Carrie Joy.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"The Eve of Her Wedding."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
La Milo and Grand Variety Co.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
Panto Rehearsals.

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Eileen Douglas, The Sovereigns, Taree, Chas. Denton, Three Temples, Annie Heath, Gus Harris, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
Clown Barker, Jamie Piper, Bernardo, Frank Case, Minnie Kirby, The Betsons, M'selle Pom Pom, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Les Francois Troupe, Sergt. Brennan, Cissie Esdaile, Archie Pitt, Helen Martin, Sidney Mason and Co., Cassie Walmer, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
W. J. Churchill, Margaret Radcliffe, J. Holland and Co., Marion Armitage, The Donatos, Venturini, Astley's Circus, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Chung Ling Soo, Carney Bros., Alice Maydue, Tom Yorke, E. A. Nuttall, Harry Luck, Orbasany's Cockatoos, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Lucas, J. H. Hawtrey, Ford and Barras, Lily Hales, Percival, Deans and Wilton, Two Kays, Munroe's Comedy Team, Mlle. De Rose, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée every Monday.
Raymond, Violet Rose, Mabie Le Roy, Blanco and Emile, Six Bros. Luck, Ena Corelli, Belfort and Mars, Josephine Crook, Lilian Dundas and Co.

FORESTERS'.
Matinées Monday and Thursday.
Raymond, Will Douglas and Co., Jimson's Pets, Star Football Picture, The Menzies, Chas. Austin and Co., Carmondy, Jack Foley, Louie Hurman, Albert Wyndham and Co., Freda Fern.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée, every Monday.
Rochdell and Royd, Sable Fern, Raymond, Leo and Roland, Rose D'Aulby, Vera Crackles, Carlotta De Yonsen and Co., Mme. Adele Fillis and Co., Will Belasio.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Matinée, Monday, at 2.30 o'clock.
The Zelovas, Raymond, Alex Lofton, Edith Lewis and Co., Iris Yohé, Queenie Mayor, Will Brookes, Gilbert's Dogs, Ismay and Coons, Dingle's Double.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée every Monday.
Raymond, Czar Troupe, Julian Gilbert, Yettman, Davis and Dean, Hansell and Foster, May Davis and and Dean, Hansell and Foster, May Henderson, Lew Lake and Co., Gunner Moir, La Belle Maie, Edie King, Dingle's Double.

See our Special Advertisement on page 25.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER

THE LATEST PANTOMIME RESULTS.

Success Succeeds Success in Quick Succession

SIX BIG HITS AT THE GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.
Produced by STANLEY ROGERS, Esq., on Wednesday last.

Copy of telegram received by Francis, Day, and Hunter:—

"'OH! OH! ANTONIO,' 'SHADOWLAND.' 'THE GAY GORDONS,' 'MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL,' 'PARROT DUET,' AND 'DRINKS.' Terrific Successes. Heartiest congratulations.—STANLEY ROGERS."

FIVE BIG HITS AT THEATRE ROYAL, EDINBURGH.
Produced by F. W. WYNDHAM, Esq., on Thursday last.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO." "COME BE MY RAINBOW."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"BOMBARDIER." "EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."

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An adventurer is going out in search of somebody he may dupe. He finds his opportunity in the person of a beautiful girl, whom he eventually robs of her costly pearl necklace. As he is leaving her villa with his booty, he drops a pair of white gloves on the pavement. These are picked up by a ragged villain, who then enters the house in the hope of finding there something of value. He is disturbed by the mistress of the house, whom he strangles in order to escape. The next day, the white gloves being found near the body of the victim, the adventurer is traced, and the police finding the necklace in his hand-bag, they suppose him to be the murderer. Just as the prison-van stops, Mr. Pennorth, the actual murderer, steps forward, and, with the air of one with a pure conscience, he restores to the examining magistrate the walking-stick the latter has just dropped. This film has been skilfully acted, its dramatic interest is well sustained from beginning to end, and new ideas add to its attractiveness.

1023ft. The Subject, £17 1s. 0d. Toning, £2 0s. 0d.

MR. JAUNTY'S RECEPTION DAY.

Code Word, "FOURRURE."

While they were making ready to receive their guests, the sheriff's officer presented them with a writ. Mrs. Jaunty weeps profusely, but her husband squares his shoulders and goes out in search of something he may use instead of the furniture, which is being removed. Later on he comes back with a lamp-post, a bench, and a pair of sewerman's boots, and this paraphernalia proves to be to the guest's taste. The "fête" is disturbed once more, this time by the policemen, who march off the whole crowd; but Mr. and Mrs. Jaunty are enjoying the situation to the full, and their laughter is so catching that the policemen join in the fun.

528ft. The Subject, £8 16s. 0d.

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Code Word, "FIXATIF."

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Code Word, "FABULEUX."

The doctor having been called away suddenly, he has not returned when the consultation hour comes, and the people in the waiting-room are growing impatient. Adolphus, his servant, thinks he will be able to attend to the patients himself, and he prescribes the most unheard-of medicines. All is discovered a little later, however, and Adolphus receives a good thrashing for his day's work.

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Bob having played tricks on passers-by, he takes refuge in a sack of coal. A moment later the coalman carries the sack and its contents to the house of his customer. Bob makes himself comfortable, and after cutting a slit in the canvas, he has a ripping time, inasmuch as he can resume his tricks. All is not exciting fun, however, for on his arrival in the cellar Bob is found out and treated according to his deserts.

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Code Word, "FOIE."

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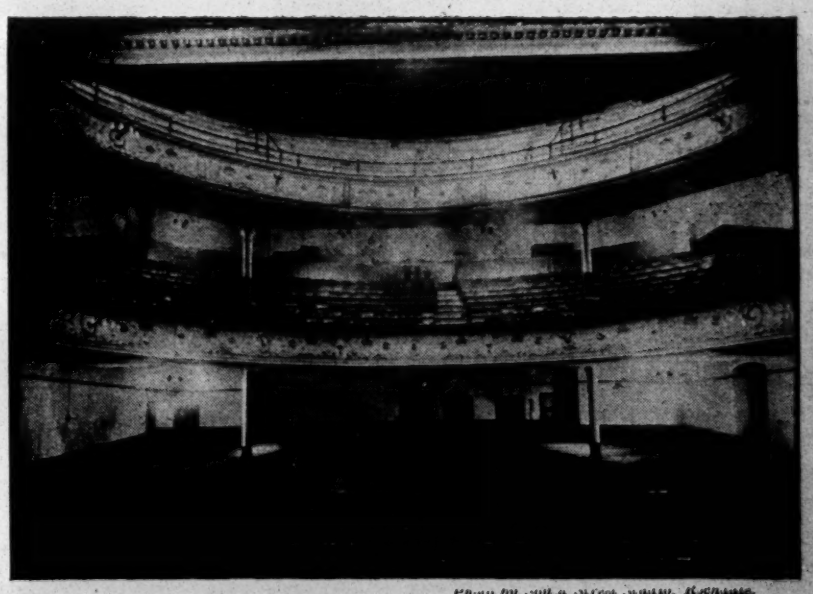

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I inserted an advertisement last week in "The Era" advertising Messrs. Barney and Berry's celebrated Phantom Skates. You may guess my satisfaction at the successful result of my speculating in your advertisement columns when I tell you that I have sold no less than 2,700 pairs of these Skates, the sale of which I directly trace to the advertisement in the last issue of "The Era."

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1909—THE ERA ANNUAL—**1909**
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NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE PROVINCIAL THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL 1909.
NEW PIECES PRODUCED AT THE PARIS THEATRES. See THE ERA ANNUAL 1909.
DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CALENDAR. See THE ERA ANNUAL 1909.
THEATRICAL, MUSICAL, AND EQUESTRIAN OBITUARY FOR 1908. See THE ERA ANNUAL 1909.

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to
ONE ADVERTISEMENT
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The Railway Companies are despatching many morning trains earlier than hitherto. This will enable subscribers and advertisers in the provincial towns to get copies of "The Era" in time for the breakfast table. Advertisers are requested to forward their advertisements as early in the week as possible, and not later than 7 p.m. on Thursday.

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ILLUSTRATED BIOGRAPHIES.

Adeson, Mr. Charles	April 25, 1908
Allen, Mr. Frank	Feb. 22, 1908
Ames, Miss Emmie	Jan. 4, 1908
Anson, Miss Carlotta	June 13, 1908
Atwill, Mr. Lionel	June 27, 1908
Bailey, Mr. Gordon	May 30, 1908
Bandurria, Late Mr. George	Dec. 14, 1907
Barber, Mr. Alfred S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Barrasford, Mr. Thomas	Feb. 29, 1908
Barwell, Miss Edith	April 11, 1908
Bateman, Miss	March 14, 1908
Beck, Mr. Fred	April 4, 1908
Beckwith, Late Mr. J. W.	Nov. 21, 1908
Beresford, Mr. Frank	July 18, 1908
Berte, Late Mr. Charles	May 30, 1908
Booker, Late Mr. George A.	April 4, 1908
Boulton, Mr. Matthew	April 4, 1908
Brett, Mr. Edwin	Feb. 22, 1908
Brickwell, Miss Maimie	Nov. 21, 1908
Brodie, late Mr. Matthew	Jan. 11, 1908
Brydon-Phillips, Mr. G.	Jan. 4, 1908
Buxton, Mr. Fred.	June 27, 1908
Carnegy, Miss Mary	March 7, 1908
Carpenter, Mr. Ernest	Feb. 22, 1908
Chambers, Miss Lizzie	June 6, 1908
Clinton, Late Mr. Dudley	Oct. 10, 1908
Cole, Mr. E. W. Maule	Feb. 1, 1908
Collins, Mr. George	March 21, 1908
Cookson, Mr. S. A.	April 11, 1908
Corlass, Miss Georgie	Sept. 5, 1908
Cory-Thomas, Late Mr. L.	Nov. 21, 1908
Corri, Mr. William	July 25, 1908
Craven, Late Mrs. H. T	March 28, 1908
Crewe, Mr. Bertie	March 28, 1908
Croke, Mr. Wentworth	Sept. 5, 1908
Cromwell, Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Crouch, Mr. Herbert	Oct. 31, 1908
Davis, Miss Lallah	March 7, 1908
Dean, Mr. Walter	May 16, 1908
De Banzie, Mr. E. T.	Oct. 3, 1908
Denton, Mr. C. St. John	Jan. 4, 1908
Derry, Miss Joan	Feb. 8, 1908
Dexter, Miss Elizabeth	Feb. 15, 1908
Dickeson, Mr. Herbert	June 13, 1908
Donegan, Mr. James E.	July 11, 1908
Dorgere, Mlle. Arlette	May 30, 1908
Doyle, Mr. C. Milley	Nov. 7, 1908
Draycott, Mr. Charles	June 13, 1908
Drewry, Miss Maude Stewart	April 4, 1908
Dunville, Mr. T. E.	April 11, 1908
Dyas, Late Miss Ada	March 21, 1908
Edgar, Mr. Marriott	Oct. 10, 1908
Edis, Miss Anita	May 9, 1908
Edmonds, Mr. E. Vivian	June 27, 1908
Edouin, Late Mr. Willie	April 18, 1908
Edwards, Late Mr. G. H.	April 11, 1908
Empress, Miss Marie	Feb. 8, 1908
Feldman, Mr. Bert	Dec. 14, 1907
Fenton, Mr. Frank	June 6, 1908
Firmin, Miss Dorothy	Sept. 12, 1908
Fisher, Mr. Charles	Sept. 12, 1908
Fitzgibbon, Mr. H. B.	July 25, 1908
Forde, Miss Florrie	March 21, 1908
Francis, Late Mr. William	Jan. 25, 1908
Francks, Mr. Hawley	Nov. 7, 1908
Frank, Miss Ada	July 25, 1908
Gay, Mr. Walter	July 11, 1908
Gibbons, Mr. Arthur	July 4, 1908
Gilbart, Miss Eleanor	Nov. 21, 1908
Gilmore, Mr. Paul	July 18, 1908
Godfrey, Mr. Dan	Aug. 29, 1908
Goldston, Mr. Will	Feb. 22, 1908
Goodall, Miss Edyth	June 13, 1908
Grant, Mr. Christie	Feb. 29, 1908
Gregory, Late Mr. John	Dec. 28, 1907
Gribben, Mr. Harry A.	March 7, 1908
Grimes, Mr. W. J.	May 23, 1908
Hamilton, Miss Rose	April 18, 1908
Hanbury, Late Miss Lily	March 7, 1908
Hansard, Late Mr. J. B.	Feb. 8, 1908
Hardacre, Miss Ethel	July 4, 1908
Harding, Mr. Alfred	May 2, 1908
Harker, Mr. Frederick	Oct. 3, 1908
Harmer, Miss Dolly	Nov. 7, 1908
Harvey, Miss Rose	July 25, 1908
Haviland, Mr. William	Nov. 14, 1908
Hawthorne, Miss Lil	Feb. 15, 1908
Holding, Mr. Thomas	Jan. 18, 1908
Holland, Mr. Arthur E.	May 16, 1908
Holmes-Dallimore, Mr. A.	Sept. 12, 1908
Homewood, Mr. A. S.	Nov. 21, 1908
Howard, Mr. Robert H.	Oct. 3, 1908
Howe, Late Mr. J. B.	March 14, 1908
Hudson, Mr. Eric	Nov. 7, 1908
Hudspeth, Late Mrs. J. H.	March 7, 1908
Hutton, Mr. Ralph	July 25, 1908
Irving, Late Sir Henry	Oct. 21, 1905
Irving, Mr. H. B.	Nov. 7, 1908
Imeson, Miss Florence	Feb. 29, 1908
Jesson, Mr. C.	Sept. 5, 1908
Jones, Mr. Tom	April 4, 1908
Kay, Miss Ethel	March 28, 1908
Kilburn, Late Mr. Harry	Dec. 5, 1908
King, Mr. Claude	June 20, 1908
Lambert, Mr. R. Lawson	Feb. 8, 1908
Lanner, Late Mme. Katti	Nov. 21, 1908
Latimer, Miss Edyth	Nov. 14, 1908
Leon, Miss Connie	April 4, 1908

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SHAKESPEARE ON THE STAGE.

"It is a really interesting question," says Mr. Percy Fitzgerald, in his commentary on Charles Lamb's Essays, "whether Shakespeare does or does not gain by the interpretation of a great actor. It might be answered that the student at his desk, poring over his loved volume, was lifted too much into the abstract world, and that many a passage, which appears to him perplexing, or at least colourless, becomes perfectly intelligible when uttered with emphasis, and in the real situation. Even in ordinary plays, written by practised stage-wrights, the reader will note passages which seem pointless, or colourless, but, which, to his surprise, when uttered on the boards 'tell' with surprising effect. In a very pleasing essay our leading tragedian has himself dealt with this subject, and has proved convincingly that the actor brings additional light to the text, and supplies a meaning which would otherwise be lost.

"There is a little Shakespearean fragment of Lamb's criticism in his 'Table Talk,' which is truly admirable and is an excellent revelation of what such criticism should be. He is speaking of the closing lines of Lear, when the faithful Kent is dimly recognised by the dying king; and here Elia seems effectually to enfeeble his own theory—that Shakespeare should not be set on the stage—a plea born of excessive reverence—in a magnificent way. It might escape the student at his desk that so much was intended in these abstract lines. Lear says, 'Who are you?' and Kent gently tells him; but without effect, beyond a general—'You are welcome hither.' The lines, however, should be read to see the force of Lamb's inspired criticism—'What a puddle,' he says, 'would a common dramatist have raised here of a reconciliation scene. The old dying king partially catching at the truth and immediately lapsing into obliviousness, with the high-minded carelessness of the other to have his services appreciated, are among the most judicious, not to say heart-touching strokes in Shakespeare.' Now, it is clear that the readers or students that could pierce to this meaning are few indeed, but to the thoughtful poetical actor it would be suggested by the very situation itself.

"In fact, it is certain that a person who first read over a scene ever so carefully, and then saw it acted by capable performers, would be astounded at all that is evolved, at the wealth of meaning which a simple line seems to hold, and which is brought out by movement, and gesture, and acting. The very grouping suggests.

"This presentation, he urges, tells specially against Shakespeare; as the system reduces everything to 'scolding scenes,' to 'a controversy of elocution,' or to preachings, &c., so as to impress what is going on upon the audiences, as an extract from daily life, and thus destroys what is the charm of Shakespeare. 'What does not Hamlet suffer by being dragged forth as a public schoolmaster to give lectures to the crowd,' whereas nine-tenths of what he does are 'inner transactions, communings with himself,' silent meditations, which cannot be represented by 'a gesticulating actor, who comes and mouths them out before an audience.' The love 'dialogues of Romeo and Juliet—all the delicacies which are so delightful in the reading, how are they sullied by being addressed to an audience—drawling out of the mouth of a hired actress.' All which commends itself. But the answer is obvious. First, the objection will apply to all plays and all acting. Then it may be asked: *Is* this, or *must* this be the sole and exclusive mode of presenting Shakespeare, or does every actor necessarily adopt this form of lecturing the audience—the scolding matches, &c.? Lamb is here, therefore, only urging his grand principle that the material or *realistic* system—imported from that of the streets and interiors of daily life—is fatal to proper dramatic interpretation. There was before his eyes the 'pavior style'—the pattern of which was set by Mr. Kemble; and still lingers in the Provinces and on the American stage. The truth is, since, Lamb's day, a complete reformation and new modes of interpreting Shakespeare have been applied, and the great dramatic reform introduced by Victor Hugo, of applying the colour and passions of nature to life, instead of the cold classic reserve, had not yet passed to England. And so I fancy as to that 'delightful sense of freshness' which is felt when we turn to such plays of Shakespeare which have 'escaped being performed.' Here the generous enthusiasm of the writer may have carried him away: for it does seem that the plays may have 'escaped being performed' on account of their comparative inferiority—or, if of equal merit, would certainly have been more appreciated had they been performed. Those pieces, too, which have been 'spouted,' done to death, as it were, might appear to have lost their bloom and freshness; but I confess the instance selected, that of 'To be or not to be,' scarcely seems to support his view. That strange, mysterious, and perplexing piece of philosophy, every time it is heard, offers new lights to an intelligent and sympathetic actor—nay, even with its repetitions by the same actor there come revelations and glimpses of meaning, which make the whole clearer and more intelligible. In short, the character of Hamlet is itself so many sided, and offers such modes of interpretations—the spiritual, the realistic, the antic, dreamy, revengeful—or may be so mysteriously compounded of all these, that each player offers a different view, and is an altogether different Hamlet. For the time, indeed, it may be associated with one poetical figure, like the present cynosure of the public; but it is curious that even the Lawrence picture of Kemble in his inky cloak, moralising, familiarly enough, on a skull, suggests even to these who had not seen him a Hamlet of another order. But the truth is, your true reader of Shakespeare will not allow his ideal to be disturbed by any fleshly embodiment, and will hold all far short of what he desires, while the pure playgoer will be content with what he sees. Nay, even the student playgoer, so far from being disturbed by individual presentments, finds pleasure in comparing and contrasting them, and seems to compound his Hamlet out of many.

"To this does not belong that realism as exhibited by Fechter and others which assumes Hamlet to be a gentleman of our day, giving his various speeches quite a colloquial turn, than which nothing can be more opposed to the spirit of Shakespeare. In the common ceremonials of everyday life—such as marriages, receptions at Court—there is imported a certain state dignity, while a familiar tone is out of all keeping. And so in the plays of Shakespeare, everything, diction, era, character, incident, all are removed from this light familiar manner of our life, and should be portrayed in a stately fashion. The very metrical form of the verse require declamation; and, indeed, now-a-days nothing is more offensive to the ear than to hear the fine poetical lines 'gabbled over,' as it may be termed, by some young untrained 'Lord' or courtier, who models his diction on the familiarities of his club. How refreshing, then, when some well trained, 'well graced' performer deigns to declaim his lines, with a musical, melodious rise and fall, and what a meaning, what a new charm is thus imparted!

"Next, as for the objection against soliloquies, or communings with oneself, such as those of Hamlet, represented by 'a gesticulating actor, making four hundred people'; or, rather, over a thousand, his confidants at once. To do this effectively, it is objected he must emphasize everything by 'some trick of eye or tone, and this is the way to represent the shy, negligent, retiring Hamlet.' Yet is it not conceivable that a player might so deliver these soliloquies without any of the 'tricks' alluded to, exactly as though he were unconscious of the presence of the four hundred persons?

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"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

Owing to CHRISTMAS DAY this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, THE ERA will be published at midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

Copy intended for that issue should therefore reach us as early as possible on Tuesday or first post Wednesday at the latest. In the case of pantomime notices, plots should be kept very short, chief attention being paid to scenery, acting, and vocal specialities.

POST EARLY.

PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ABERDARE.—NEW THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. Richards.—*The Face at the Window* is being played here by Messrs. Armadale and Warren's company. Mr. E. Hoggan-Armadale plays the weird part of Lucio Delgado with effect; Mr. Scott Leighton gives an excellent rendering of Paul Gouffeit, a detective; and Mr. Arthur Beverley is successful as Lucian Cortier. Marie De Brisson is effectively represented by Miss Elsie Marriott-Watson; and the necessary comedy element is abundantly supplied by Mr. Bert Ellis as Peter Pottleberry and by Miss Ruth Glynn as Babette. Mr. Geo. P. Greatrex acquits himself admirably as Le Blanco, known as the mad doctor; and Mr. Alfred Warne as Henry De Brisson is good.

ABERDEEN.—H.M. THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Adair Nelson.—The pantomime *Robinson Crusoe* is now in its second week, and running very smoothly. All the principals are prime favourites with the audiences, and as they act with unflagging vivacity from start to finish, the performances are exceedingly bright and entertaining. Some of the best work is contributed by Messrs. Keith and Merson as the funny men, Salt and Pepper. Both are exceptionally clever artists. Without in the slightest degree disparaging his partner, it may be noted that Mr. Merson is excruciatingly amusing all the time.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Walter Gilbert.—Captain Bedini's Highlanders give a marvellously smart exhibition of various intricate military evolutions, which are followed with the closest interest; the Gerretti Sisters show remarkable daring and dexterity as double-trapeze gymnasts; the Kurios are as popular as last week; Ryan and Hall excel as funny acrobats and eccentric comedians; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden act a humorous sketch very cleverly; the Three Sisters Lee are warmly applauded as duettists and dancers; the Three Orleans are enthusiastically encored; and the drollery of Mr. Reg. Bolton is keenly appreciated.

ALHAMBRA MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. John Sinclair; General-Manager, Mr. George B. Lee.—The principal artists this week are Messrs. Currie and Foote and Fred Rex, comedians; Mr. William Smith, baritone; and Miss Elsie Osbourne, soprano. Miss Osbourne's fine, sympathetic voice is heard to the best advantage in her rendering of the illustrated-song solos. The hall is well filled at both the evening performances.

EMPIRE MUSIC HALL.—Managers, Messrs. R. Calder and J. Montague.—The house is packed every night. All the turns are highly appreciated. Among the artists are Miss Marie Rosie, vocalist and dancer; Mr. Jack Marson, vocalist and raconteur; Mr. Archie Murray, coon comedian; and Handy Andy, a very clever burlesque acrobat, who is assisted by a troupe of local youngsters. A capital sketch, *The Dude's Wooing*, is most amusingly played by the members of the Empire Sketch Company

ABERTILLERY.—THE PAVILION.—Lessees, E. and H. Tilney; Manager, Mr. E. Pryce.—Cissie Lawson's talented company tops the bill here in *The Devil's Sunday*. Miss Cissie Lawson gives a capital rendering of Fay Faber; Cestria, juggler, gets a good reception; Adele Lincoln is a graceful dancer; the Two Jays are a pair of good comedians; N. T. Kioto as a Japanese equilibrist is highly successful; and the Bioscope shows some excellent films.

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's company opened here on Monday with *Two Little Drummer Boys*. Mr. Edward Bikker cleverly sustains the part of General Kingsley; Mr. Harry Scott gives a fine rendering of Captain Frank Carsdale; and Mr. Oswald Douglas creditably represents George Darrell. Miss Marie Anisley acts with sympathy as Alma Kingsley; Miss Violet Ingram is seen to advantage as Margaret Rivers; and Miss Maggie English as Eric Carsdale and Miss Maud English as Jack Smith gave valuable assistance. Mr. Will Percy as Quiney O'Quirke is both clever and amusing, and receives excellent support from Mr. Dick Seddon as Timothy Trimmer. Miss Patricia Connaughton is decidedly good as Molly Meadows. The remaining characters are carefully played, and the mounting is excellent.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. Jack Gladwin.—An excellent repertory of opera is being presented here this week by the Moody-Manners Opera Co., Ltd. On Monday *Madame Butterfly* was translated to a delighted audience. Miss Enriqueta Crichton gave a talented impersonation of the name-rôle; Mr. Charles Carter's Lieut. Pinkerton was, both vocally and histrionically, a huge success; and Mr. Marshall Vincent (Consul) and Miss M. Dennis also gave excellent portrayals. On Tuesday *Carmen* was presented to a large house. Miss Rosina Beynon's charming appearance, sweet, yet powerful, voice, and careful acting as Carmen caused that part to stand out with great prominence. Mr. Paul Weiss as Don José proved a capable exponent; Mr. Charles Moorhouse's fine conception of Escamillo was well appreciated; and Miss T. Addington's capital voice was heard to perfection as Michaela. *Maritana* was presented on Wednesday, *Lohengrin* on Thursday, *Faust* on Friday; and for Saturday *Tannhäuser* and *The Bohemian Girl* are underlined.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Mr. Alfred B. Cross and company are here for the week in *The Manxman*. Mr. Cross sustains the part of Pete with fervour and pathos; touching, too, is the portrayal of Kate Cregeen by Miss Minnie Watersford; Mr. Harold B. Lewis gives an impressive depiction of Philip Christian; Mr. Fred Mace gives a good portrayal of Cæsar Cregeen; Mr. Fred Charles as Ross Christian, Mr. W. H. Dewhirst as Dr. Mylchreest, Mr. W. Berson as Monty Missit, Mr. F. Lynton as Professor Mawley, and Messrs. Jackson, Horgen, and Morton, in minor male parts, also do well. Miss Annie Jackson finds in Bella Kelly a character well suited to her powers; Miss Adelaide Ross-Ford does satisfactory work as Miss Christian; and Miss Blanche Lee as Nancy is all that can be desired.

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.—The versatile comedienne, Miss Ada Fawn, heads the bill here this week, and is popular; Mack Olive, assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry, appears with success in the whistling scena, "The Candy Store," from *The Belle of New York*; Devon and Earle figure prominently in the programme as wooden-shoe wonders; Will and Alicia Frohman give an artistic instrumental act; Dan Merrett is an exhibition bass drummer; and Cara Magda engages in daring gymnastic exercises. Other artists are George Lawrence, ector vocalist; Will Harney, refined vocal comedian; and Greener, the singing pit lad. The Bioscope has the story illustrated, The Fisherman's Daughter.

PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.; Manager, Mr. Marks.—The cinematograph picture exhibition continues to draw a fair share of the patronage. This week's Pathé pictures are all first-class. The Torrent is a fine series of water scenes; Benvenuto Cellini proves exciting; there are also depicted a number of other interesting pictures; Will and Beatrice Lenvardo, a coloured duo, submit amusing song and dance turns and banjo and patter items; and Miss Violet Land also gives some good songs.

ATTERCLIFFE.—PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—An interesting programme this week is headed by the Colonials, in a picturesquely-staged musical comedy scena, *Unexpected Guests*, admirably presented by Messrs. W. H. Grant, F. Alkin, R. Orlish, R. K. Woodville, and Misses Fanny Rowe and Lillie Kennion; the Dancing Gilberts, a couple of *chic* young ladies, gave evidence of ability in their appreciated act; a series of beautiful and artistic living pictures are given by A. Ba-Be, with his picture postcard album; a pleasing musical act is that of Mostol; Mr. Clayton's pictures meet with approval; Rosie Batt, a local juvenile vocalist, obtains much favour; and items are given by Miss Connie Mascot, comedienne and dancer, the Sisters Lytton, vocalists, and Johnnie and Willie, acrobatic piccaninnies.

BACUP.—NEW COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Frank Denman-Wood.—Mr. Frank Denman-Wood's star variety company is appearing here this week, the programme being headed by Ebrahim's troupe of Indian wonder-workers in some extraordinary tricks. Marie D'Alcourt and Mr. Wheelan, in the operatic sketch *The Highwayman*, contribute some high-class singing; Harry Bland is a smart comedian; Capner and Steele are good character duettists; and Glyn is eminently successful as a coon delineator. Other turns include Miss Doris Sterling, comedienne; Max Merlin, the human crocodile; and Page, the Lancashire comedian.

BARROW-IN-FURNESS.—TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edgar G. Laban.—The following excellent artists are appearing here:—Viviana and company in a new and original sketch, *The Toy Shop*; Johnson and Bert in a novel knockabout act, *A Queer Customer*; Alec Kennedy, actor-vocalist; Thomas and Taylor in a quick-change sketch, *Fun on the Midland*; Cotsgrove and Burns's drawing-room entertainment, and Vernon's Bioscope.

ROYALTY THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Stone.—Mr. Chas. H. Lester's company in *A Life for a Life* is here. He himself plays Don Leon in a picturesque manner, and Mr. Richard Bosco is a lifelike Pedro, Mr. W. Carr a capital John Evelyn, Mr. Harry T. Wood an excellent Kit Oswald, Mr. E. O'Grady a funny Tim, Miss Fernandez a clever Aulalia, Miss Dorothy Riddell a sweet Kate Evelyn, and little Winnie a winning Venetia. *The Sorrows of Satan* is also given.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Owners and Managers, Mr. and Mrs. Calvert Routledge; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ralph D. Fenton.—A most interesting series of pictures is being presented here.

BARRY DOCK.—NEW THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—A large and appreciative audience witnessed on Monday *The Scarlet Clue*, presented by Miss Grace Warner. Sal Scarlet is capitally played by Miss Grace Warner, who is well assisted by Mr. Geo. Gordon as Michael Stanton; Mr. A. B. Lyons as Crocker was excellent; and so were Messrs. Fred Wilson, Fred Chester, and Rhoy Rhind in their respective parts. Miss K. Stewart was a satisfactory Elsie Dane.

BASINGSTOKE.—PALACE (late CORN HALL).—General Managers, Messrs. Hans Altman and Jenkins; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geoffrey Hill.—Another capital bill is put before the patrons of this new venture, at the top being Herbert Dickeson and Miss Violet Lyttou and company in an attractive musical comedy entitled *A Fair Exchange*; Arthur Leslie is clever in his lifelike impersonations of variety and dramatic artists; Clive Watts as a comedian is responsible for much merriment, whilst his clever dancing is well appreciated; a pretty and dainty turn is given by Miss Evelyn Fowler with her songs at the piano; Herr Audrie Romanoff plays the violin with great expression, May Bass is a charming comedienne, Irene Glynne is seen to advantage in song and dance, Colin Mail is successful as a descriptive vocalist, and the programme concludes with some good films on the bioscope.

BATH.—PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The company appearing here this week includes such excellent artists as Eileen Douglas, the musical comedy girl, and Taree, the Australian bushman, whose musical act meets the utmost favour. Gus Harris, the Hebrew comedian, scores with his clever delineations; the Sovereigns, one-legged equilibrists and chair-jumpers, come in for a big reception, and the Three Royal Temples secure approbation for some capital vocalism. Others who are favourably received are Chas. Denton, comedian, and Annie Heath, comedienne and dancer. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, as usual, remains quite up to date.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. McCann.—Mr. Dickie Clare's company opened here on Monday in the farcical absurdity, *Lucky 'Liza*. In the title-rôle Miss Madge Browne was successful, playing the part with much vivacity; honours are due to Mr. Dickie Clare for his amusing impersonations of Silas Slim, the Judge and the French waiter; Mr. Clare is an excellent comedian, and fairly convulsed the audience; Miss Vesta Brownie charmingly portrayed the rôle of Virginia Blatherwick, her Scotch dances being capital; the rôle of Paul Pettitoe was done full justice to by Mr. Norman H. Lee; and the part of Peter Pettitoe was cleverly presented by Mr. T. W. Benson. Mr. J. W. Forrest afforded every satisfaction as William Biffins; and Miss Evelyn Wood, who appeared as Sadie Potts, pleased all with her vocalism. Other rôles were sustained by Miss Helen Douglas and Messrs. Harry George and W. Merry. The dances by the Astor Trio gained much approval.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—The leading attraction here is provided by Wizard and Irene Stone, who introduce their sensational act, consisting of looping the loop on a motor-cycle, a remarkable feat which holds the audience spellbound. Mr. Fisher White's company appear to the utmost advantage in the dramatic episode, entitled *A Royal Heart*, the various rôles being cleverly sustained by Miss M. Omar, Mr. A. Corney Grain, Mr. Frederick James, Mr. Scott Craven, and Mr. Thomas Brooklyn. The Zampas are exceedingly smart duettists and dancers; and Stelling and Kiswaski return with their novel act, which has taken immensely. Other items of the programme are Miss Jenny Lynn, character comedienne; Morris and Cardiff, comedians and dancers; Mr. Chas. Gardner, comedian; and the Palace Pictures.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager, Mr. Henry J. Downs.—Mr. John Tiller's pantomime, *Jack and Jill*, was produced here on Monday, with eminently satisfactory results. Miss Harriet Fawn was a dashing Prince Fearnought, singing "I'm afraid to come home in the dark" and other songs with much acceptance; Miss Nelly Rodney was a charming Princess, her rendering of "Under my umbrella" being loudly encored; Mr. Bruce Green was an exceedingly droll Dame Durden; and Mr. Horace Jones a capital comedian, kept the fun going merrily with his impersonation of Ginger, the page. Miss Cissy Iris and Miss Nelly Grimshaw were delightful as Jack and Jill, the former singing with much success, "Sue, Sue, Sue"; Mr. Harry Cotton was an excellent Baron Jolliboy; and Mr. F. Le Cren furnished able support as General Biff. Other rôles were presented by Miss Jessie Vernon (Truth, the good fairy), Miss Adah Le Cren, and Mr. S. Oscar Karno. The Imperial Ballet Troupe are clever dancers; and the specialities by the Le Cren Trio, the Eight Merry Midgets, and the Tiller Quartette of dancers add materially to the success of the production. A grand Scotch ballet gained a tremendous reception. The Hipposcope is also included in the programme.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The star here is Mr. Henry Coutts, the clever protean actor, who has amazed all with his remarkably smart quick-change act, entitled *Outflanked*; Mr. Henry Grey, eccentric comedian, repeats his former successes here; and a hit has been made by Mr. James Reilly and Miss May Templeton with their witty act and capital vocalism. Mr. Percy Honri's cleverly-rendered concertina solos reflect much credit on him; and Miss Nellie Coleman has been accorded a good reception; Miss Olive Armadale is a charming serio; and also appearing are Miss Sybil Lester, the little girl with the big voice; and the Bioscope.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The success here continues to be unbounded. This week, among the films presented may be mentioned Our Banana Supply, Mr. X Goes Hunting, Put Pa Amongst the Girls, Motor Smugglers, &c. Miss Cissie Mills, winner of the recent lady's competition, appeared on Monday, with success. Mr. F. Herman, entertainer, gains a good reception.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Will White.—The following films have been projected this week:—The Messenger's Daughter, Bargain Sale, Wright's Aeroplane, The Lightning Barber, The Traitor, Sold by His Parents, &c. In addition, Mr. J. A. Cassels, Scotch comedian, and Mr. George Powell, vocalist, appear with success.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—Resident-Manager, Colonel Frederick T. Cummins.—The interest in this, the latest addition to Belfast amusements, continues to increase, and undoubtedly "rinking" is all the rage.

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Eugene Stafford's company in *The Private Secretary* awakens pleasant reminiscences. On the present occasion the Rev. Robert Spalding is admirably represented by Mr. Donald Price-Evans; Mr. W. Hargreaves gives a fine performance of Mr. Cattermole; and Mr. Frederick Tyrrell plays Mr. Sidney Gibson with a finish that denotes long familiarity with the part. Mr. Marsland, M.F.H., is well embodied by Mr. Frank Stanley, and Mr. Patrick Fitzgerald as Harry Marsland and Mr. Stanley Ravenscroft as Douglas Cattermole are both most efficient. Miss Nan Macrae is a charming Edith Marsland; her friend Eva Webster is enacted with much acceptance by Miss Helen Child; and Mrs. Alfred Davis as Miss Ashford and Miss Cecily Wade as Mrs. Stead accord valuable assistance. *The Wild Man from Borneo* serves as a curtain-raiser.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—Few greater favourites visit this hall than Mr. George Gilbey, the popular comedian, who is again received with the utmost cordiality. Lowenwirth and Cohen, Hebrew comedians, are on a highly successful return engagement, and Mr. Austin Rudd, a resourceful comedian, meets with his usual big success. Coram is a smart and entertaining ventriloquist; Pick, Tholl, and Taylor score heavily in their amusing sketch *The Dancing-Master*; and an excellent company also includes Miss Elsie Steadman, an accomplished comedienne; the Three Brothers Huxter, a trio of clever acrobats and vaulters; Miss Carrie Bowles, comedienne; Ned Keeton, a good comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope. Crowded houses are the rule.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Mr. Eugene Stratton, a sure draw in this town, is received with acclamation; Paulton and Dooley give an excellent bicycle show; and the Hanlon Troupe of gymnasts and bar performers are a strong attraction. Stylo, hoop manipulator, gives an interesting turn; and a liberal programme is also contributed to by Mr. Ernest Powell, the lieutenant at the piano; Will Driscoll, comedian; Miss Else Joel, operatic vocalist; Miss Beatrice Bonnie, comedienne; and a good selection of animated pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom B. Davis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Philip Rodway.—Mr. Cyril Maude appeared here last Monday, at a special flying matinée, with the Playhouse company, in *Toddles*. A very numerous and fashionable audience took advantage of the visit, and showed the most obvious appreciation, laughing unrestrainedly at Mr. Maude's clever and amusing portrayal of the beleaguered lord. The parts of Mr. Joblyn, Mrs. Bowler, the Countess, Lady Dover, and Mrs. Joblyn were in the able hands of Mr. Allen Thomas, Miss Mabel Trevor, Miss Marie Shields, Miss Helen Ferrers, and Miss Emma Chambers respectively. The theatre has since been closed for the production, on Boxing Day, of *Dick Whittington*.

PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Rodgers, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. F. Graham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Henry Johnston.—Save for the appearance on Thursday of Miss Marie Hall, the celebrated violinist, this theatre has been closed, and will remain so for rehearsals of *Boy Blue*, which opens on Christmas Eve.

CARLTON THEATRE, SALTLEY.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. James Alexander.—*A Modern Adventuress* is being played here by a capable company, under the leadership of Mr. Ernest J. Fare. Mr. Fare plays Pietro Danelli, the sculptor, and his impersonation is one to be commended without reserve; Miss Mabel Fare renders the rôle of Violet Meredith with a fine eye for effect; Mr. Frank Kelland wins favour as Harry Delby; Mr. J. B. Lallen is successful as William Delby; Mr. Jas. Mailey presents the rôle of Wallace Denton with fine force; Miss Shirley Dalton makes a very pleasant impression as Vivette Delby; and Mr. Chas. Dockway as Walter Beal and Mr. George Ashley as Steve Meredith give clever portrayals. The humorous characters are productive of great mirth in the hands of Mr. Will White as John Crompton, and Miss M. Courtney as Sally Hodges. *My Mother, God Bless Her!* is also in the programme.

THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-

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Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—Miss Mary Neil and Mr. George Kirk's company is playing *From Shop Girl to Duchess*, which pleases Astonians immensely. In Sylvia Grey, the titular rôle, Miss Neil has a part that suits her emotional powers admirably, and her success is overwhelming; Mr. Douglas Cecil brings the rôle of Arnold Vyvian into very favourable notice; Mr. Frank S. Strickland displays the ignoble qualities of Gilbert Spate with due effect; Mr. Lionel T. Ellis makes a highly popular rôle of Sir Morris Maitland; Mr. Douglas Tremayne scores as Pelham; Miss Amy T. Ellis makes an agreeable character of the Dowager Duchess; Miss Beatrice Hudson acts uncommonly well in the unpleasant rôle of Lady Delamere; and Miss Florrie Grove's humorous talents are richly enjoyed in the part of Tilly Dobson; Mr. Henry Gerald shining as Tommy Tinkler. The Misses Quennie Lamont, Marie Clavering, and Georgie Hawkins are also prominent.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—Mr. Wentworth Croke is presenting *The Bondman* here in his well-known complete style. Miss Georgina Wynter is cast for the part of Greeba, and comes out most successfully, her acting being in perfect taste and sympathy with the character; Mr. R. Scrope Quentin is conspicuous for his fine conception of Jason; Mr. W. Henry Hargreaves is very thorough and capable as Michael Sunlocks; Mr. W. H. Rotheram, as on a previous visit to this town, doubles the parts of Father Ferrati and Grandfather with distinction, and also distinctiveness; Mr. Oswald Lingward repeats his fine performance as Adam Fairbrother; and Miss Madge Lanerton is seen again with decided pleasure as Mrs. Fairbrother. Praise is also due to Mr .Wilfred Beckwith as Governor Testi, Mr. Fred J. Waller as Dr. Boni, Miss Lilian Mayne as Martha, Miss Marie Greenhouse as first Callow Girl, and Miss Julia M. Willis as second Callow Girl.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — EDEN THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey's company is here this week, and a good house was present on Monday, when they opened in *Rollicking Rory*. Mr. Mackey was very diverting as Rory O'Donohoe; Mr. Edward Warden was a capital Stephen D'Arcy; and as Captain Ashley Mr. Percy Horton was thoroughly effective. Miss Nellie Flensberg was very successful as Rosie Callaghan; and Mrs. Chalmers Mackey portrayed Rosaleen Ashleigh admirably. The scenic effects were charming.

BLACKPOOL.—HER MAJESTY'S OPERA HOUSE.—General-Manager, Mr. J. R. Huddlestone.—*True to the Core* is the title of a play which is being performed here this week by Mr. H. J. Snelson and company. Besides being the author of the play, Mr. Snelson creditably embodies the rôle of Mat Blacklock, and Mr. J. B. Stewart scores a success as Timothy Twist; Captain Meadows is ably accounted for by Mr. Charles Lincoln, and Mr. Bert Albert contributes a faithful representation of Noel Meadows; Miss Isabel Norman as Mabel Gratton and Miss Hetty Marriot as Polly Pringle also give the utmost satisfaction. Several songs are rendered during the performance, the vocalists being Mr. Stewart and Miss Marriott.

GRAND THEATRE.—Owner, Mr. T. Sergenson; Responsible Tenant and Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Hunter.—A varied and pleasing programme is provided here this week, the place of honour being occupied by the Clement Trio, in their comedy trapeze act. Other turns are supplied by Hardon Vardon, ventriloquist; Flo Warner, a dainty comedienne; Les Rallis, in a comedy act; Clack and Clack, lady acrobatic barrel jumpers; J. H. Ellis, a talented comedian; and Effie White, in a kaleidoscopic dance.

PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. H. Harrop; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Waller.—Zbysco, the famous wrestler, is proving a tremendous draw here this week. Harry Nelson, comedian, is a favourite; whilst Haines and Borthwick's sketch, entitled *Half a Dollar*, is also a popular turn. W. G. Webber, bass vocalist; Jack Neil, Scotch comedian; the Three Calbas, acrobats; Rose and Challoner, in a novel duologue, and Miss Anileda, in song and dance, are likewise well received.

BLYTH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur C. Moody.—Mr. Andrew Melville is presenting *Driven from Home* with success here.

GAIETY.—Lessees, Messrs. Claggers.—Another good programme of variety has met with a hearty reception, the star turn being Mackie, described as "the automatic man controlled by Mme. Lila."

HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Tom Doyle.—The Edison pictures and varieties have proved a strong attraction here.

BOLTON. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Moncur.—Miss Annie Bell and a specially selected company are here with the drama *The Idol of Paris*. Miss Bell is responsible for the arduous part of Flare-Flare, which she plays with conspicuous success, receiving adequate support from Messrs. Wilson Howard, Leonard Aardale, Gordon Robey, Frank H. Dale, and the Misses Phena Powell, Annie Megson, and Grace Noble. The drama is elaborately staged.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—The members of the Bolton Amateur Operatic Society are giving their annual week's performance in aid of local charities, the opera selected being *The Duchess of Dantzic*.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—A programme of "good things" is headed by the Olympians, a troupe of ladies and gentlemen, in a demonstration of Japanese Ju-jitsu wrestling, &c. Other turns are those of Fred Mason, F.O.S., whistling comedian; the Musical Palmers (the five M.P.'s); Beattie and Babs, juvenile entertainers, in a song and dance scena, *A Pavement Rehearsal*; the Paul Hesse Trio in their equilibristic acrobatic wire performance; Claude Feldman's beau-ideal troupe of prize juveniles in a refined and lightning vaudeville act of mimicry dance, and song; Marie St. John, a refined descriptive vocalist; Stewart and Morgan in their vocal speciality *Return to Ireland*, and the Empire Bioscope.

BOSTON.—PALACE.—Manager, Mr. E. Cass.—*The Hour of Her Triumph* is being played to good houses. Mr. Louis Nanton plays the part of Ben Brodie in fine style. *A Knight in Armour*, a pleasing musical comedy drama, was played during the latter part of the week by the same company.

BOURNEMOUTH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietors, Messrs. David Allen and Sons; Sole Lessee, Mr. Mouillot; Manager, Mr. Hubert Dunbar.—For the first three days of this week, the theatre was occupied by Mr. Fred Terry and his company, in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Large audiences applauded Mr. Terry, who appeared in his original part; Miss Julia Neilson's place was taken with much success by Miss Miriam Lewes. For the remainder of the week, Mr. James Welch's company, including Mr. Harry Ford, in *When Knights Were Bold*, were announced.

BRADFORD. — THE EMPIRE. — Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Percival Craig.—Those amusing comedians, the Boisset Troupe are on a return visit this week, with their funny knockabout sketch, *The Bricklayers*, eliciting roars of laughter. In a dramatic playlet, viz., *Nell of the Halls*, billed as a sidelight on life behind the scenes in America, Miss Mabel Bardine, in the title-rôle, scores well, and is capably supported by Mr. Hugh Ardale and Miss Leila Russell; Carney and Armstrong are comedians of originality; Leo Tell is a mimic of considerable ability; Happy Tom Parker's songs and dancing please greatly; and Eddie Hayes and Mona Wynne are good vocalists and expert dancers. With a voice of great flexibility, Chas. Santon submits, with success, a turn as a "double-voiced vocalist"; some daring and clever feats in trick cycling are accomplished by the Cumberlands; and there are a number of interesting pictures shown by the Bioscope.

PALACE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Harrison.—Consul, the wonderful performing monkey, and the most convincing exemplification of the Darwinian theory yet discovered, is astonishing and amusing the audience here this week with his quaintness, dignified demeanour, and cleverness; a very excellent comedy wire act is submitted by Rose and Wold; the Transfields are a trio of very clever lady instrumentalists; the turn by the Lizette Troupe of lady acrobats is graceful and clever; Mollie Augarde, vocalist, sings with taste; the Milton Trio win well-merited applause for their excellent step dancing; Walter Clyde, a good tenor vocalist, sings well; in her sketch, *Dr. Spot's Patients*, Addie Dorina acts cleverly, and displays remarkable skill as a quick-change, or protean, artist; and there are very entertaining features in Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

BRIGHTON.—ALHAMBRA.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—There is a capital company here this week. The Maningos, original and clever equilibrists, are warmly received; Edward E. Ford's company is highly successful in a comedy trifle entitled *Milk-oh!* Ruby Emerson is a pleasing comedienne; Charles Williams, vocal comedian, achieves much success; Queenie Deel is a smart comedienne; Elton Black, comedian, contributes a good turn; Macintosh and Royal are expert clog dancers; Harvey and Holt are accomplished speciality artists; Sergeant Mumford appears in a clever wire act; De Lilo, a charming "lady bender," and her brother, Metz, with comedy juggling, are cordially applauded; and the Alhambra Picturegraph comprises an excellent series of films.

HIPPODROME THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—An attractive programme is sustained here this week. James Callahan and Jennie St. George are distinctly successful in the character sketch *In the Old Neighbourhood*, the latter artist evoking warm applause with her harp solos and singing; Vasey and Ramsey are well received in their comedy and dancing act; Willie Gardner, "America's champion skate dancer," displays great skill; George S. Melvin is a smart Scottish comedian and dancer; the Brilliants are accomplished xylophonists; Surrie Lindon's entertainers are very effective in the miniature musical comedy, *Monks at Play*; Walter Reynolds's Irish company submit the sketch *Sweet Innisfail* in good style; Norah Stockelle is a dainty comedienne and dancer; Amy Russell, soprano vocalist, contributes some pleasing songs; and Friend and Downing are an odd pair of comedians with amusing patter.

COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—The exhibitions of animated pictures here are highly attractive. The Flight from the Harem is replete with stirring incidents; Hunting in Russia is a very interesting film; and great amusement is afforded by The Servant of an Acrobatic Family, Adventures of an Invalid, The Lost Pictures; India-rubber Shoes, and The Unlucky Bridegroom. Mr. Charles Black contributes baritone songs in good style, and Mr. Arthur W. Briggs adds materially to the enjoyment of the pictures by his clever and descriptive pianoforte accompaniments.

BRISTOL.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Macready Chute.—Mr. Edward Compton and his company, including Miss Viola Compton, are here for three nights. On Monday evening *Davy Garrick* was performed to a well-filled house, Mr. Compton playing the title-rôle with his accustomed distinction; Miss Kathleen Leigh was pleasing in every way as Violet; Mr. Henry Crocker acted admirably as the sturdy Alderman Gresham; Mr. Henry Worrall made a good character study of Tom Tallyhaut; Miss Marie Hassell and Miss Constance Merton made capital comedy parts of Mrs. Rumbelow and Selina Sowerberry; and the remaining characters were all carefully taken. The staging of the play was all that could be wished. The performance commenced with *The Desperate Lover*, in which Miss Viola Compton presented a highly pleasing and interesting exposition of Mistress Prue; Mr. Henry Worrall acted effectively as Harry Waintree; and Miss Marie Hassell was admirable as Lady Vaynard, the remaining parts having competent exponents in Miss J. Norton, Mr. Neville Clifford, Mr. Laurence Meade, Mr. Ivan Leslie, Mr. G. W. Johnston, and Mr. J. W. Austin. *She Stoops to Conquer* was billed for Tuesday, and *The School for Scandal* for Wednesday.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Ernest Carpenter; Resident-Manager, Mr H. C. Alty.—*The Love That Women Desire* is being well played here by Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company. Mr. Herbert Pearson and Miss Maud Hastings both do admirably in their respective parts of Philip Carnaby and Sybil Thorburn; Mr. Morris Maud acts effectively as Richard Abingdon; Mr. J. O. Stewart is well placed as Squire Abingdon; Miss Jessie Elvin acts cleverly as Madge Abingdon; Miss Dorothy Northmore is pleasing as Marquitha; and other important parts are capitally taken by Miss Violet Young, Miss Dolly Hildebrand, Mr. J. W. Wilkinson, Mr. John Hignett, and Mr. Bert Butler. The play is excellently staged.

PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Livermore; Treasurer, Mr. F. J. V. Welchman.—Joseph Hart's American racing sketch *Futurity Winner* heads the programme, the sketch being well mounted and capitally played; Frank Hartley, boy juggler, is smart; the Cosman Couple amuse with cross talk, &c.; Mark Merry, comedian, obtains applause; Allan and Hart do some excellent dancing, &c.; the Vays have a good scena, *Life in the Slums*, and the performance concludes with interesting animated pictures.

EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. B. Pearce Lucas; Resident-Manager, Mr. Sid Macaire.—Ben Nathan and company are successful with their comedy-drama *Filby, the Faker*; "Captain Koepenick," a marvellously constructed automaton, is much appreciated; the Gascoignes do some clever comedy juggling, &c.; the Franck Comedy Five present a good interlude, introducing clever acrobatic feats; Sadie Seymour is a pleasing comedienne; Eva Lumley and Freda Ettrick's company amuse with a smart comedy skit, *Jimmy-all-of-a-Twist*; Fred S. Howard, lightning caricaturist, does some good work; Ronald Bayne and Evelyn Hope successfully present their dramatic sketch *An Emperor's Divorce*; Charles Pastor, character comedian, is appreciated; Constance Mori, comedienne and dancer, does a good turn, and animated pictures conclude the entertainment.

BROUGHTON.—VICTORIA THEATRE, LTD.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—Mr. Douglas Bruce's company drew a full house on Monday, when Walter Melville's sensational drama, *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*, kept the audience fully interested right through. Miss Violet H. Lawson played with vigour in the title-rôle; Mr. R. Ferris was excellent as Captain Caversham; Mr. E. McLean made a good study of Rev. Robt. Everton; Mr. Harold Macartney as Jack England was also good; Mr. G. H. Asquin as Dick Punch, and Miss Doris Laine as Lucy Vere made the most of the comedy business; Miss S. Hare was a charming Rose Seymour; and a good study is presented by Mr. G. Mitchell as James Sutton. The company is a good all-round one, and the staging and scenery are very creditable.

BURNLEY.—EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. C. Horner.—There was a well-filled house here on Monday. John Warren, "Court magician to the Sultan of Morocco," presents a musical military mystery, *The Magic Carpet*, and is applauded to the echo; the Paul Kramer Troupe of head balancers earn the warm plaudits of the house; and Miss Maud Lordy's troupe of trained dogs are in the front rank of canine acrobats and equilibrists. The Elite Harmony Boys, in *Messmates Ashore*, score a success with songs and choruses; and Miss Blanche Vincent sings a pretty song, entitled "Starry eyes." Arthur Schofield, comedian, raises laughter; and the Sisters Henderson, vocalists and dancers, are cordially received. The Empire Theatroscope is applauded for a beautiful panorama of Buda-Pesth.

NEW HIPPODROME, BIRKENHEAD, CHESHIRE.

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PALACE THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Julius Simpson.—Chung Ling Soo is here this week, and thoroughly mystifies his audience with his wonderful series of tricks; Irma Orbasany's cockatoos are a very entertaining collection; an interesting turn is Miss E. A. Nuttall, soprano vocalist, winner of an amateur competition previously held in this house; and the Carney Bros., as character duettists, contribute capital songs and duets; Harry Luck gives some amusing parodies; and Tom Yorke is good with See-Saw. Alice Maydue is responsible for humorous impersonations; and Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, with Fun on the Sands, causes roars of laughter.

BURTON-ON-TRENT. — OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Bennett; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. de Hague Body.—Mr. Roy Redgrave and Miss Daisy Scudamore's company is here this week in *Shadows of a Great City*. Mr. Roy Redgrave, in the rôle of Tom Cooper, distinguishes himself by his admirable impersonation; and Mr. Herbert Hewetson's George Benson is a careful and well-studied interpretation. Mr. John Blake achieves a success as Abe Nathan; and Mr. Thomas Barry makes a hit as Jim Farren. As Arkwright Mr. Royce Milton appears to advantage; as Nellie Standish and Annie Standish Miss Daisy Scudamore meets with a hearty reception; and as Biddy Rooman Miss Molly Hadyn gives a clever Irish sketch.

BURY (Lancs.).—THEATRE ROYAL AND PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—*The Woman Who Gambles*, presented by Mr. Morton Powell's company, is a drama full of exciting incidents, which are followed with keen interest. Countess Natalie Steinbach is strongly played by Miss Laura Walker; Miss Lily Maldern is successful as Stella Malakoff; Count Otto Steinbach is ably presented by Mr. Clifford Rean; and Mr. Norman A. Overton is convincing as Baron Cratzlaw. Mr. Victor T. Raymond is most amusing as Hon. Bertie Bray; Mr. Reginald Fox makes a manly Karl Ctzartoriski; and other parts are suitably played by Messrs. Ernest H. Clarke, Arthur Brandhurst, and Misses Brenda May and E. Conway.

CIRCUS OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H Potter.—Another capital bill is attracting good houses. Curtis Leo, assisted by Little Noblesse, is the chief attraction, and they are responsible for an excellent juggling and conjuring performance, in which an educated bantam is also introduced; Shirley and Ransome give an entertaining coster sketch, entitled *'Arf a Quid;* Adah Payne is heard to advantage in her songs; the Eeduns submit a novel and entertaining musical speciality, their singing being very successful; *Turning the Tables* is an excellent sketch, as presented by the Brady and Johnson company, and keeps the audience in continuous laughter; the Paolias, in a graceful athletic act, Horace Monto, the versatile soldier, Sam Redfern, comedian, and the Pictures are all good.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Brearley.—A Scottish military sketch, entitled, *The Kilties Camp*, is quite a novel turn, and the singing and piping of the company is distinctly good. Other excellent items include Lewis's Mannikins, very skilfully handled; F. S. Gilbert, in an operatic sketch; Bubbles, the Dodger; George Acre, vocalist; Mr. and Mrs. Pettitt, banjo and vocal entertainers; Gorman's Juveniles, in an artistic scena, *The Waif;* Will Walton, comedian; and A Broken Heart on the Bioscope.

CARDIFF. — EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. S. Dring.—The famous Russian giant, Machnow, is once again drawing exceptionally big audiences. Bioscope pictures of the Gotch and Hackenschmidt wrestling match provide an exceedingly interesting and exciting film; for pure, unadulterated fun Ernest Cadle's act *Casey's Court* would be hard to beat; in a sketch entitled *The Daughter of the Regiment*, a display of delightful vocal ability is made, Mlle. Adele Prescott enchanting her audiences by her sweetly-rendered numbers; the gifted acrobatic Sisters Urma are seen again in their sensational trapeze performance; the Imperial Russian troupe of singers and dancers are still as attractive as ever; while Vanando, in a clever ventriloquial turn; Tom Collins, in an amusingly-rendered song; Beatie Kent, in a pleasing song and dance; and George Young, a talented blind musician, are the remaining artists.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Under the management of Mr. Rollo Balmain.—Mr. Montague Beaudyn puts forward this week the romantic drama *Send Him Victorious*. This piece is expensively staged. A better representative of Colonel Heinrich Kaufmann's villainies could scarcely be found than Mr. G. M. Montanini, his portrayal stamping him as an actor of merit; Mr. Wm. Alington makes a manly and perfect hero as Captain Frank Allison; and Mr. Frank Holyoake is distinctly good as the King of Ravonia. The success of Miss Marie Robson as Countess Kara is pronounced, her trying part being carried through with consummate ease; a pleasing performance is that of Miss Isabelle Hunt's Ethel Hardinge, who as the heroine gives a particularly charming delineation. Exceptionally clever comedy is introduced by Mr. Bert Woodin (Geordie Walker) and Miss Madge Palmer (Gretchen Holt).

PALACE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Arthur Burton.—Les François, in their wonderful acrobatic act, appear at the top of the bill. Their performance is a marvel of strength and precision. A sketch presented by Sydney Mason and Theresa Moor is entitled *The Usurer*, and the two artists mentioned distinguish themselves in their respective parts; quite a novel turn is that of Sergeant Brennan, who most decidedly deserves the title of the world's champion diabolist; Cassie Walmer makes a great hit in her song "Good-bye, Eberneezer," some capital imitations being introduced; Helen Martin renders two pleasing ballads in a sweet voice; and Cissie Esdaile is a smart comedienne. Archie Pitt, quaint comedian, and Raymond's Bio-tableaux complete an entertaining programme.

CARLISLE.—H.M. THEATRE.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. Stewart M'Kim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—The annual charity festival is taking place this week.

THE PALACE.—Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—The Brooklyn Comedy Four provide excellent fare, and meet with a hearty reception; Ted Karno's company in *Dinner Hour* is very amusing; Gillin, ventriloquist, is as bright and original as ever; Tee and Tee, musical eccentrics, are funny; Miss Lena Wylie vocalises with artistic effect; Arthur Slater meets with quite an ovation for his excellent whistling of the overture to the *Poet and Peasant*, and some fine films are exhibited by the Pepiscope.

NEW PUBLIC HALL.—Lessee, Mr. Sidney Bacon; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas France; Resident-Manager, Mr. Franklin Moores.—This popular place of amusement still continues to draw large and appreciative audiences. Some capital pictures are provided this week, including The Rag-picker's Daughter, The Son's Crime, and The Mohawk's Revenge amongst others. The varieties are supplied by Fred Horsfall, double-voiced vocalist, whose Tyrolean songs and mimicry are excellent.

CARMARTHEN. — ASSEMBLY ROOMS. — Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Will Gordon's No. 1 Animated Pictures and Popular Variety Company opened for a three nights' visit on Monday. The pictures were a fine series, being quite up-to-date and of a dramatic, comical, and topical description. Mr. Will Francis scored in his illustrated songs, his rich tenor being heard to great advantage; Miss Nina Vernon was most pleasing in her catchy songs; and Mr. Jack Hamilton was highly amusing in his comic songs and patter. Mr. A. E. Bradford is a capable operator, and the manager (Mr. Zey Harte) a clever illusionist.

CASTLEFORD.—ROYAL.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Levy and Mr. J. E. Cardwell's company in the pantomime *The House that Jack Built* were greeted by a good house on Monday. Miss Florrie Taylor (as Jack is as dainty as could be desired, and her songs are well chosen and successfully rendered; Miss Evelyn Major is a sweet and winsome Jill; she sings tunefully and plays well. Mirth is provided at a rare pace when Mr. H. Hillerby appears as Aunt Purdy, while Doyle and Gibson are a great attraction in the comic department; Miss Olive Purcell scores a success as Fairy Twinkle Star, her songs being received with great favour; Miss J. Marsden as Gretchen is clever in song and dance, and Miss H. Jones makes a pretty and fascinating Colin. As Wee M'Gregor Miss Gladys Wyse is repeatedly encored for Scotch songs and dances; Paddy Sloan makes a highly entertaining Squire Bounce; Harold and Percy find amusing representatives in Messrs. Stanley Jefferson and Ireland Cutter; the Forget-me-Nots are a quartette of graceful dancers, and Miss Florrie is a smart and clever solo dancer. The augmented orchestra is under the direction of Mr. H. Marsden.

QUEEN'S THEATRE OF VARIETIES. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will. H. Emerson.—This week's programme is headed by Carl and Mary Ohm's well-trained ponies, bears, dogs, and monkeys, who give a really marvellous performance; the Four Scoreys find plenty of admirers in their musical and acrobatic scena, in which they prove themselves artists of considerable versatility; George Bernard sings well, and his impersonation of an old veteran is capital; Lozelle gives an elegant and graceful gymnastic display; Tray and Rich's songs, dances, and comic business are provocative of much laughter; *The Veteran's Birthday*, presented by Donaldson and Ferina, is a dramatic and pathetic episode, which calls for much applause; the Vanderbilts (Harry and Edith), singers with quick changes, submit a thoroughly enjoyable turn; Jim Chippin gives a good account of himself as a comedian; and the pictures of the Loyal Dominion Co. are very interesting and amusing.

CHATHAM.—BARNARD'S PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. L. B. Barnard.—Here we have Will Nosan in coon songs and dance; the Recar Trio of lady acrobats, two of whom appear later on as the Rizarelis in a very creditable trapeze act; Spry and Austin, who always get a big reception here; Ferguson and Mack in a side-splitting display of burlesque gymnastics; George Rapley, with amusing patter; and Maud Courtney and Mr. "C," both of whom have pleasing songs and up-to-date patter; Lacey's Erascope projects most clearly a trio of interesting films, consisting of The Tramp's Cycling Mania, The Road of Life, and The Servant of an Acrobatic Family.

CHESTER. — ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Milton Bode and Edward Compton; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. B. Fountaine.—The leading feature is undoubtedly the smart and graceful performance of Dancit, the American Dancing Nugget and Queen of the Golden Clog. Mephisto is a past-master in the art of illusions; T. E. Johnson is a good actor-vocalist; the Two Countees shine as humorists; and Halma is a clever juvenile juggler. Herbert and Lindon deserve praise for their clever dancing and witty duets; and W. L. Murray, as the Roman gladiator, is a superb specimen of herculean manhood. Some good pictures by the Premier Imperial Biograph complete the programme. This week ends the variety season.

COATBRIDGE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, The Coatbridge Theatre Company, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. John Commins.—The Royal Amateur Dramatic Association is producing here this week *The Octoroon*.

COLCHESTER. — HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Co.; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—Charcot and his automatic man are the leading business here this week, and prove a very interesting item. Onda and Artell, aerial gymnasts, score heavily; the Claymore Trio juggle and dance in unison to much applause; Nellie Nestle proves herself a good vocalist; Burt Welch is capital as a ventriloquist and mimic; Frank Jester goes well as a comedian; and the pictures are thoroughly appreciated.

CONSETT.—NEW THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—Mr. Lloyd Clarance took his twelfth annual benefit on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday this week. The boards were occupied by some good local talent, and there was a crowded house on Monday night.

CORK.—OPERA HOUSE.—Manager, Mr. R. J. Bell.—Miss Horniman's company opened here on Monday in *Candida*, and gave a finished rendering of the play. Mr. B. Iden Payne's Marchbanks is wonderfully clear cut and decisive; Mr. Henry Austin ably undertakes the part of the Rev. James Morell; Miss Sybil Thorndyke presents Candida admirably; Mr. Edward Landor's Burgess is a capital character sketch; Miss Ada King as Prosperine Garnett is very good, and Mr. Basil Dean as the Rev. Alexander makes much of the part. The piece is preceded by a farce entitled *Gentlemen of the Road*, by Charles McEvoy.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Manager, Mr. Thomas F. O'Brien.—Mr. Albert Bellman and Miss Lottie Moore are here in a piece entitled *A Real Bit of Vaudeville*. They keep the audience in roars of laughter. The gentleman has a good baritone voice and the lady is a clever vocalist and danseuse. Charles E. Robinson, vocalist, appears with success in illustrated songs; the Sisters Trentanovi supply an amazing gymnastic act; the Sisters Amy and Ada, male impersonators and patterers, are clever; Mlle. Ameda, foot and hand equilibrist and contortionist, does a difficult turn; the Westwoods (lady and gentleman) are clever trick cyclists; Mlle. Renee wins much applause for her playing on several instruments; R. A. Speedwell is a clever lightning portrait painter, and the Palascope throws some capital pictures on the screen.

COVENTRY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. W. Bennett.—Mr. George Alexander's company in *The Thief* is proving a big attraction here. Mr. Stephen T. Ewart again appears, and too much praise cannot be given to his rendering of Richard Chelford; Miss May Congdon shows to advantage as Marise; Mr. Gerald Ames undertakes the part of Raymond Leyton with success; Mr. Alfred Lugg portrays the difficult part of the accused boy with ability; Mr. Cyril Cattley is a clever detective (Mr. Protheroe); and Miss Mary Dibley as Isabel is responsible for some charming acting.

HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. S. T. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. G. E. Wright.—The principal turn this week is the famous wrestling champion, George Hackenschmidt, who is meeting local champions. Pictures were also shown of the American wrestling match with Joe Rogers. A very attractive item is given by Mr. Fred Winn and company, a dramatic episode *The Light in the Window;* a smart turn is contributed by Picitt and Lizette, illusionists, entitled *The Crazy Cook;* Dusty Rhodes is a capital comedian; John Shaw gives a good performance on concertinas and pianoforte; Violet Ashcroft, comedienne, is good; and Frayer and French are marvellous dancers.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—The Harmony Four, in an original musical comedy, are quaint and clever; very amusing is the sketch entitled *The Belles of the Kitchen*, given by Carrie Laurie's Miniature Comedy company; Dorothy L. Clarke is an entertaining comedienne; Les Barros are hand balancers of ability; Handford and Wayne's company appear in *The Punishment;* Charles Russell gives a couple of acceptable songs; and the Bioscope concludes.

CREWE.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *A Royal Divorce* is here. Mr. Keith Fraser's portrayal of Napoleon gains general admiration; Mr. Percy H. Vernon gives a capital impression of Talleyrand; Mr. Stanley Harrison is a capable Marquis de Beaumont; Mr. E. Plumpton an effective General Augereau; Mr. Harold S. Standing an able Marshal Murat; and Mr. Geo. Hudson is appreciated as Grimaud. Miss Margaret Watson wins fresh laurels as Empress Josephine; Miss Maud Lacy is a dainty and piquant Stephonie de Beauharnais; Miss Winnie Tempest a haughty and dignified Marie Louise; and Miss Nellie Lucas a commendable Blanche d'Hervas.

CROYDON.—HIPPODROME AND THEATRE ROYAL.—Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—An interesting series of animated pictures is the attraction at this house.

EMPIRE PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—Tom Costello heads the bill here, and is giving great satisfaction with his latest success *Homeland;* Ida Barr is a first-rate comedienne and vocalist; James Fawn's popularity never ceases; Lee and Bentley make a palpable hit in the racing comedy *A Sure Thing;* Roxborough and Wright, in comic sketch, *My Little One*, are amusing; Lulu Evans is a charming comedienne; Alan Holt and company appear to advantage in a vivid sensational sketch *A Society Woman;* and other attractions are Arthur Pier, comedian; and the Bioscope pictures by Ruffell.

DARLINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Bell; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hal Cummings.—This week good business is being done by Mr. C. Watson Mills' company with *A Warning to Women*. Miss Blanche St. Albans as Moira Kennion gives a capital rendering; Mr. Henry Rutland makes a typical Squire Kennion; Mr. William Vane looks well and acts with earnestness as Shaun; Mr. C. Robinson as Dr. Marcus Dread is also effective; Miss Edith Rutland acts with distinction and ease in the part of Myles O'Moore; Mr. W. Pallister Acock is a clever Ferdinand de Joules; Miss Ellen Beverley is fine in the part of Molly O'Moore, and Mr. Leicester Jackson as Lord Eversleigh, a light-comedy part, is very funny.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Hersee.—Maurin's marvellous fountains head the bill, and their pretty effects justified their reputation; the Three Stewarts in their acrobatic balancing act were recorded a hearty reception; Marie Collins treats the house to some clever songs; the Great Northern Troupe are clever dancers; enjoyable contributions are given by Charles Ulrick, the barrel king, and Flake White, lightning painter.

DARWEN.—PUBLIC HALL, PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Lessees, Messrs. Thomson, Leivers, and Bennett; Manager, Mr. J. E. Thomson; Assistant-Manager, Mr. J. Kerrigan.—Good business is being done here this week, a capital bill being presented. The Gelders give a smart conjuring turn; Ivy Dene's dancing is above the average; Marie Francis, a dainty soubrette, is deservedly applauded for her chorus songs; and Farrell and Dunn are comedians who provide much amusement. The pictures on the Bioscope are of the best.

DERBY.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—Miss Adria Hill and Mr. Robert Ayrton's company with a new domestic drama, entitled *The Woman from Russia*, occupy the boards here this week. As the hero, Mr. Robert Ayrton makes a manly Frank Haldane; and Miss Adria Hill proves herself a talented actress, and is successful all through; the villainous Yarviski is capably accounted for by Mr. Basil Mitchell; Mr. T. Byron is clever as the dude, Reginald; the Jew is well portrayed by Mr. G. Mortimer Hancock, and Miss Bateman enacts Edith in a praiseworthy manner. Much merriment is introduced into the play by Mr. H. Buckley as Jerry, and his songs, in which he is joined by Miss Ingram, as Mary, are thoroughly appreciated. The production is well staged.

PALACE.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—The attraction here this week is Rosie Lloyd, a dainty comedienne, whose well-rendered songs and pleasing manner secures her an enthusiastic reception; Captain Roberts, musician, athlete, and balancer, appears in a very clever performance, in which he is assisted by two ladies, two ponies, and his acrobatic boys, and is deserving of special mention; Walter Wallis, eccentric comedian, is as diverting as ever; Matt Wilkinson and company cause much amusement in the laughable act, *On the Flip Flap;* Godfrey James, the singing collier, is heartily received; Melia and Mozarabar, Oriental equilibrists, with their cleverly-trained pigeons and ravens, are entertaining; and the Forsyths are amusing in their diversion, entitled *The Tramp in the Nursery*. A humorous film on the Bioscope concludes a good all-round programme.

DEVONPORT.—HIPPODROME.—Manager, Mr. H. Taylor.—The leading turn is furnished by the Stein-Eretto Troupe, whose acrobatic feats are loudly applauded; the ever-popular Mark Melford made a marked success on his first Devonport appearance in the sketch *Non-Suited*, which evoked roars of laughter; Will English, coloured comedian, is an entertainer of no mean ability, and has a fund of patter, and Miss Florence Esdaile, the possessor of a lovely soprano voice, renders some choice operatic selections. The Monckton extract plenty of fun from their sketch *A Woman's Curiosity;* the Twin Andersons supply some pretty dancing, and Reg Beauchamp's witticisms conclude the programme.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. G. S. King.—*The Trail of the Serpent*, played by Mr. Campbell Kelly's company, is proving very attractive. Mr. Kelly undertakes the arduous rôle of the villain, Ralph Hammond, and gives an excellent representation; Mr. George Keith as Gerald Kingstown is a first-rate hero, and Miss Kathleen Payne is an equally good heroine. Miss Nana Cameron is quite at home as Rachael, the Gipsy, and Miss Florence Spencer scored as Ethel Kingstown. Other noticeable members of the company are Messrs. B. Webb, H. K. Penn, and A. Raymond. For the end of the week *A Gamble with Life* was billed.

DEWSBURY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessees, The Northern Theatres Co., Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. H. Asquith.—During the past week a very successful performance of *Les Cloches de Corneville* has been given by the Dewsbury Amateur Operatic Society, for whose efficiency and artistic merits the professional stage coach, Mr. W. G. Bedford (an old Savoyard), may take flattering unction. His untiring zeal and method have wrought quite an excellent achievement. Drama in the shape of *The Great Awakening*, as presented by Miss Maud Hildyard (lately returned from her Australian tour) has been very stimulating fare to the pit and gallery lovers of the intensely melodramatic. Given such scope as Lola Selby affords, Miss Maud Hildyard played with both verve and vigour; in the heroic rôle of Molly Merton Miss Elsie Capel fulfilled the artistic necessities of the character; Mr. Cecil Gray doubled the parts of Sir Henry Merton and his son Jack; James Selby was well played by Mr. Wallis. The humorous interludes are submitted by Mr. Tracey Barrow (Billy Brass) and Miss Cissie Podmore (Selina Worts).

DOVER. — ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Sole Proprietor Mr. S. W. Winter; Resident-Manager, Mr. E. W. Holford.—In a scena entitled *Flights of Imagination* Luis Hardt gives evidence of his marvellous strength as a weight-lifter; the grace and skill displayed by Estrella, barefoot dancer, places her high in the ranks of terpsichorean artists; the clever tumbling and smart acrobatic tricks of the Bros. Werds call forth hearty applause; Hampton and Bauman are versatile, and in their scena *Down in Kentucky* play a variety of musical instruments; a pathetic sketch, capitally played, is given by H. J. Crane and company, the violin playing of the younger lady meriting a special word of praise; a couple of coon songs are rendered by Elsie Ward with success.

DUBLIN.—GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mrs. Michael Gunn; General-Manager and Secretary, Mr. Charles Hyland.—The Trinity College Dramatic Club occupy the boards here, and are presenting *Much Ado About Nothing* and *The Duke of Killicrankie* to large audiences.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Parrington.—The big attraction here on this the last week of the Hippodrome season is Constanto Bernardi, quick-change artist, whose marvellous performance has been delighting large audiences; Bostock's baboons display remarkable intelligence, and their turn, which is highly amusing, evokes much applause; Kelly and Gillette, the bounding billiardists, create roars of laughter from start to finish; the violin selections contributed by Edie Reynolds are well received; and the Royal Pictures, displaying the latest events, conclude the programme.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—Large audiences continue to witness the excellent change of pictures here this week, which include The Flower Girl's Life Story, His Only Son, The Dressmaker's Dummy, The Knife, Ma-in-Law's Misfortunes, The Blacksmith's Revenge, Eastern Magic, and The Harbour Pirates. The variety artists appearing are Charlie Bayman, Ethiopian delineator; Bayne and Murray, in an amusing vocal act, entitled *Black and White;* and Bob Pearson, humorist and guide.

EMPIRE. — General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager and Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—A distinct hit has been made here this week by Bellew and Lock's company, including the boy actor Master Edward Garrett, in an interesting sketch, entitled *An Outside Chance*. Another excellent turn is the marvellous feats of jumping performed by the Hartley Wonders, which are well appreciated; Ina Lorrimer, Scotch comedienne and dancer, is warmly applauded; Jack Binns sings several descriptive songs very pleasingly; Webb and Branston, operatic duettists, score a great success; and Mlle. Pollo, in a clever trapeze act, meets with approval; Lambeth and Robertson, in an amusing sketch, are highly popular; Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire mill girl, sings with much acceptance; and the Empire pictures are, as usual, up to date.

TIVOLI.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The Lavails, in a daring revolving-bar act, top the bill here, and meet with a flattering reception; another capital turn is furnished by the Serenaders, the old Venetian quartette, who are well received. Other items of note include Miss Nellie Hewitt, in a pleasing musical act, assisted by Miss Elsie May, club manipulator; Wills and Warlock, a pair of excellent patter comedians and dancers; Lucie Tilton, girl baritone; Zarmo, an amusing comedy juggler; J. H. Carney, a smart comedian and dancer; the Longfords, comedians and expert dancers; Lestre, in a clever juggling act; and the Bioscope, depicting The Guard's Alarum.

WORLD'S FAIR AND MUSIC HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The newcomers here this week include the Goldstons, comedy entertainers; Miss Vera Winston, soprano vocalist; Arthur Rugby, ventriloquist; George Ferguson, comedian; Jack Danby, society conjurer; and Teddy Lennon, comedian and dancer. The Cinematograph is also shown.

DUDLEY. — EMPIRE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—The many patrons of this house are being greatly mystified by the performance of Mahatma, the queen of second sight, ably assisted by Professor C. N. Steen; the three Brights give a refined vocal and instrumental speciality; Lambert and Butler are comedians and dancers of an excellent brand; good singing and clever acrobatic feats are introduced by Darcy and Lewis in their comedy act; Bert Sanderson is a smart society conjuror; Charles Craston, quaint comedian, secures a favourable verdict; as a ventriloquist and mimic Tom Garland proves one of the best; Maggie Rimmer is a dainty comedienne; Woolmer Young, actor-vocalist, has some good songs; and the Empire pictures are always appreciated.

DUNDEE.—HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—A successful revival of the drama *The Ticket of Leave Man* is given here this week. Mr. Louis Karpe himself undertakes the part of Bob Brierly, the Lancashire lad, and gives an admirable impersonation; Mr. R. Gilbert's James Dalton is a powerful piece of acting; and the Jew of Mr. H. Urquhart an effective bit of work; Mr. F. C. Berridge is capital as Hawkshaw; and Green Jones is made an amusing personage by Mr. Douglas Murray; Miss Edith Vogne as May Edwards acts with great tensity and force; Mrs. Louis Karpe is bright and breezy as Emily St. Evremond; Miss Millie L. Emden deserves special praise for her Mrs. Willoughby; and Sam is cleverly enacted by Miss Nancy Blackwood.

PALACE THEATRE. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—In place of the usual variety show we have here Mr. Jack Haddon's grand comic pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The production goes with a fine swing throughout. The scenery is very bright and effective, the dresses are dreams of loveliness, while the music is of the most tuneful description. Miss Alma Obrey as Jack and Miss Bessie Knight as Dora, his sweetheart, carry off the honours amongst the ladies; and Mr. Bob Baxter as Silly Billy, Mr. Dave O'Toole as the Dame, and Messrs. O'Malley and Brown, comedians, also score well. Amongst the other artists who keep the ball rolling merrily are Mr. Hal Forde, sen., the Squire; Mr. Tom Packer, the Giant; Miss Nellie O'Mara and Miss Kitty Chandos, Gay Lovers; Miss Marie Rayner and Miss Western, the Fairies; and Miss Trueman, a Herald.

GAIETY THEATRE.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—An excellent bill is headed by the Five Mowatts in clever juggling with Indian clubs; the Three Bordellas, artistic gymnasts on the silver rings, are unusually good; Ruhart, assisted by La Belle Rosalind and others, keeps the house in continuous laughter; Harry and Louie Farrow score in their quaint comedy act; Jack Monks (brother of Victoria Monks) causes a furore with his chorus songs; Poole and Maguire win applause for their clever comedy act; and the Ormesby Quartette please with their refined harmonising. The Bioscope with some interesting films completes.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Prince Edward pictures are still a big draw here. Amongst the films exhibited this week is a fine reproduction of the Irish fairy story, The Leprechaun. The varieties include Mlle. Ada Gatley, an expert conjuror and slack-rope walker; and Bob Nicoll, coon singer.

NEWMAN'S PICTURE PALACE.—Mr. Fred Newman has a splendid selection of films on view this week, including Western Courtship, Kindhearted Bootblack, Two Broken Hearts, Devil and the Cornet, Grocer's Gauntlet, &c. Donaldson and Emslie have a hearty reception for their smart comic songs and patter.

EASTBOURNE. — PIER PAVILION THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. George Hayes.—A company under the general management of Mr. Cecil Barth is appearing here this week in *Comrades*. Splendid work, marked by culture and judgment, is contributed by Mr. Richard A. Greene as Captain Darleigh; Mr. Hastings Lynn, too, is a refined and effective Arthur Dexter; Mr. Charles J. Langley holds the sympathetic interest of all as General Dexter; Mr. Roy Byford causes much merriment and is a happy, rollicking Tom Stirrup; Mr. Basil Lynton is a capitally effective Penley Chivers, and Mr. Sidney Compton is a helpful Doctor Grumbleton. Miss Olivia Glynn is a bright and attractive Lady Constance; Miss Vere Gerald is a keen, refreshing, and clever Miss Grant; Miss Enid Ross, appealing and womanly, does good work as Lady Dexter, and Miss Evelyn Gray and Miss G. Denbeigh-Russel are excellent helpers as Hooper and Perkins.

DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE.—Sole Lessees and Managers, Messrs. Murray King and Clark.—A particularly able and well-chosen company is appearing here this week in *The Reformer*, and the performance is received with marked favour. The clever and gifted work of Miss Marie Polini is again in evidence, and she is a conspicuous success as Mrs. Rockingham; Miss Sylvia Morris is a most pleasing and interesting Sybil Carew; Mr. Rupert Lister, a polished and able actor, is an ideal Sir Rupert Yeld; Mr. Cecil Brooking is a highly amusing General Carew; Mr. Cyril Harcourt does easy, natural, and effective comedy work as the Earl of Crowborough; Mr. Owen Nares plays skilfully as Eric Lowndes; Mr. Ernest Benham is an admirable Captain Ross, and Messrs. Arthur Queen and Bernard Stevens give praiseworthy help as the servant and Thomas. *On the Other Foot* precedes, and is well played.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. G. Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—The Courtiers head the bill here this week, and prove a talented combination under the direction of Mr. Paul Mill; Miss Edie Veno is warmly applauded for her good work as an eccentric comedienne; the Godfreys have a cleverly presented sketch, *The Slavey and the Toff; An Extra Turn*, too, receives a full measure of praise; Phillips and Bristow are smart wooden-shoe dancers; the Sisters Melba do good work as vocalists, and new pictures are added.

ECCLES.—CROWN THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company had a most enthusiastic welcome here on Monday in *Moths*. As Prince Sergius Zouroff Mr. Cecil Wynne submitted a masterly impersonation; Mr. Raynor as Lord Jura played in a quiet, natural manner; Mr. Milton C. Curtis made the most of the character of the Duke of Mull; Mr. Leonard Laurence was well placed as Correze; Miss Henrietta Schrier was a dignified Duchess de Sonnaz; Miss Lisa Coleman caused much fun as Fuchsia Leach, and Miss Dorothy West-Symes played the rôle of Vere Herbert with charm and delicacy. Miss Frances Waring proved an adept as Lady Dolly Vanderdecken. *Camille* was billed for later in the week.

PUBLIC HALL PICTURE HOUSE.—Proprietors, The Continental Animated Picture Co.—This week's pictures include The Adventuress, The Village Doctor, Lightning Sketches, The Astrologist, and Only a Limerick.

EDINBURGH.—ROYAL LYCEUM THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Howard and Wyndham, Ltd.; General-Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Minshull; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. M. Downie.—The D'Oyly Carte Répertoire Company opened their second week with *The Yeomen of the Guard*, which was performed to a large and enthusiastic house. As Jack Point Mr. Charles R. Welenn gave an excellent rendering of the part both vocally and dramatically; and in Wilfred Shadbolt Mr. Fred Billington had one of his favourite rôles, which he played admirably; Mr. Sydney Granville as Lieutenant of the Tower, Mr. Strafford Moss as Colonel Fairfax, and Mr. Leicester Tunks as Sargeant Meryll, with Mr. Hugh Blackmore as Leonard, were all in good form. Miss Clara Dow was a delightful Elsie Maynard, her singing and dancing being greatly enjoyed; Miss Beatrice Meredith made a pleasing impression as Phœbe; and both Miss Ethel Morrison and Miss Mabel Graham were happily cast as Dame Carruthers and Kate. *The Mikado* and *The Gondoliers* were repeated on Tuesday and Thursday respectively with all last week's success; *The Pirates of Penzance* was given on Wednesday, Mr. F. Billington appearing in his old part of the Sergeant of Police, with Miss Ethel Morrison as Ruth, Mr. Strafford Moss and Miss Clara Dow as Frederick and Mabel, Mr. Walenn as the Major-General, and Mr. Leicester Tunks as the Pirate King; and *Princess Ida* and *Iolanthe* completed the week's bill.

KING'S THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Amand Mascard.—Jack and Evelyn must take rank as two of the best entertainers in a capital programme here this week. Their sketch, *Come into the Office*, is highly amusing, and the artists carry through the fun in a clever and spirited style. Mr. Richard Taylor's whistling solos are admirable, his imitation of the blackbird and skylark being particularly realistic, while his powers as a ventriloquist are uncommonly good; Miss Georgette Thierry's company present a petite

"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

Important Notice to Advertisers and others.

Owing to Christmas Day and Boxing Day this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of Postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, "The Era" will be published at midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd.

ADVERTISEMENTS intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd., to reach us by first post on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd. Advertisements may be handed in at the counter until 12 30 noon on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd.

POST EARLY,

drama, *A Daughter of the Revolution*, in which Miss Thierry and Mr. Bernard Udell distinguish themselves by their excellent impersonations; Miss Rose Elliott, a contralto vocalist, with an expressive voice, is loudly applauded for her rendering of several tuneful ballads. The Smart Set give an exhilarating vocal turn, in which Miss Georgie Martin also introduces a lively dance; the Martelloni Family of five performers display remarkable dash and agility in their acrobatic feats, and the Pichel Troupe also show daring combined with extreme neatness and ease in their gymnastic turn; Mr. Dan Fraser, Scottish comedian, raises laughter by his humorous method, and the Bioscope films are, as usual, up to date.

EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. Aynsley Cook.—In *Kleptomaniacs* Mr. Fred Edwards and Miss Bertha Northam provide a most diverting twenty minutes' entertainment, their exceedingly clever acting making the most of an exceptionally smart comedy sketch. Another distinctive speciality in the bill is the characteristic scena given by Alec Hurley and company under the title of *The Coster's Beano*, which is staged with great effect and creates an immense sensation. A third attractive combination is found in the Delevines, with their latest medley, *Flipp and Flopp*, introducing a weird and wonderful scarecrow dance; and two very meritorious single-handed turns are contributed by Violet Ray, 'cello soloist and soprano vocalist; and Alf. Chester, a versatile comedian. Ross and Lewis, styling themselves the Yankee Doodle Duo, appear in a "humorous idiosyncrasy"; Takio, a Japanese mimic, imitates the sounds of animals, birds, machinery, and so forth, very skilfully; expertness in dancing is shown by Bertha Winder, and also by George Rae; and the American Bioscope exhibits some new films.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS.—Proprietor, Mr. John Henry Cooke; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. C. Burns.—Novelties, from week to week, maintain the attractiveness of Mr. Cooke's entertainments. The clowns continue in full strength, their comic business being pleasantly varied by new interludes and absurdities presented in droll fashion by Walker, Shadow, Harry Dale, Talberto, Douglas, Elthardo, Pugh, and Olrac. Interesting equestrian acts are performed by Mlle. Florence, Herr Guthenberg, and Harry Stephenson; the trained horse "Siberia" is introduced by Miss Edina Marian Cooke; and a well-contested game of balloon polo proves very exciting. Horton and Linder do smart work on the horizontal bar; the Two Seymons give a clever display as equilibrists; Miss Lloyd does well as a variety artist; and the Orient Life Motion Picture Company shows a new collection of subjects. A huge Christmas tree has been on view during the week, hung with 2,000 toys for distribution on Saturday afternoon.

EXETER. — NEW HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, Messrs. Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—An excellent show is this week drawing crowded houses. Julius Walther, a tenor of great ability, tops the bill; Pcp Dearly is a refined comedian, and sings and dances well; Fioretti and Elly are clever barrel and spade jumpers; Richard Corbin presents his wonderful troupe of dogs; the Maples, in an original skit, *How to Treat a Burglar*, are amusing; Arthur Croxon, as a mimetic comedian, is good; Daisy Hurdle is a charming comedienne; V. L. Granville, in an entirely new protean play, entitled *'Twixt Dawn and Daylight*, does some marvellously quick changes; and the Hippodrome pictures complete.

FALKIRK.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace W. Ebbutt.—This house is again given up for the week to variety business, the principal attraction being the Leopolds, who appear in their sketches, *The Houseboat* and *Those Terrible Boys*. The Leopolds are sufficient to provide an excellent programme in themselves, and their efforts are well received by crowded audiences. Mr. Sanderson Moffatt's company give a highly interesting sketch, *The Thin Red Line*, and the other artists are Marjorie Maidment, comedienne and dancer; Harry Desmond, quaint comedian; the Stadium Boys, who offer an athletic pot-pourri; and the Boston Twins, comedians.

FLEETWOOD. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. H. J. Snelson.—The International Picture Co. is showing an excellent set of films, some of the dramatic pictures being by far the best seen in the town for some time. Miss E. Mitchell renders songs at intervals in a most engaging manner.

GATESHEAD. — KING'S THEATRE. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Resident-Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Mr. Jack Haddon's company in *Babes in the Wood* is here twice nightly. Robin Hood is gracefully portrayed by Miss Millie Engler, whose rendering of "I don't care if there's a girl there" rouses applause; Miss Dorma Morgan is a dainty and fascinating Maid Marion, singing "To serve the King" with much success; the quaintest comedians seen here for many a day are August and September, who play Nobby and Soppy; Mr. Chas. May cleverly impersonates Baron Skeemalot; Misses Dolly and Madge McCalla are charming Babes, and Mr. Harry Elliston is indeed funny as Euphemia. Specialities by the John Ridding Quartette and the Kentucky Trio are enthusiastically received, the "show" all round being one of much merit.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company in *The Worst Woman in London* has drawn large audiences to this house during the week. Mr. George Gaisford is a manly Jack Felton; Vincent Lyle is capably portrayed by Mr. Arthur Preston; the pliable old speculator James Milford is the subject of a thoughtful interpretation by Mr. F. Vernon Travers; Miss Edith Blande shows much skill in her impersonation of Frances Vere; a clever actress in Miss Dorothy Haigh gives a praiseworthy embodiment of Ruth Milford, and the comedy is well looked after by Miss Polly Marsh (Matilda) and Mr. Willie Scott (Bob Goldfinch).

GLASGOW.—ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphreys.—Mr. Robert Arthur's charming production of *Cinderella* has now been running merrily for over a fortnight, and is fully maintaining the grand pantomime traditions of this house, for, with its picturesque beauty, refined orchestration, and abundant humour, it affords delightful entertainment for the festive season. Mr. George Robey as William Buttons is, of course, the head and front of the comic business, and is splendidly supported on either hand by Mr. Harry Dent as the Baron and Mr. Willie Garvey as Mrs. Kilkenny. Miss Violet Loraine makes a handsome and dashing Prince, and sings the songs of the hour in rattling good style; Miss Iris Hoey is an ideal Cinderella, her representation of the heroine being at once wistful and sweet; an exceedingly smart and vivacious Dandini is seen in Miss Meg Hamylton; as the Ugly Sisters the Brothers Obo are good, and score well with a laughing song; Miss Edith Kirkwood is a singer of considerable cultivation, and is heard to advantage as the Good Fairy; the part of the Demon is filled with dramatic effect by Mr. Vernon Booth; other rôles being ably sustained by Mr. Harry Glynn (Adam), Mr. Cecil Frere (Wilhelm), and Angela Rence (Pierette). Mr. Paul Sundberg shows wonderful agility as a solo dancer; and the Martino Troupe also excel in the dancing line.

KING'S, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—This week Miss Edith Hesketh's London company, under the direction of Mr. Russell Rosse, performed the well-known comedy *Betsy*, by Sir F. C. Burnand. Mr. David James as Dawson, the tutor, gave a droll character-sketch; Mr. Tom Taylor-Vinson and Miss Gertrude Le Sage as Mr. and Mrs. Birkett did well; Mr. James Gelderd as Dick Talbot and Mr. Harry Morpeth as Adolphus Birkett were amusing; Mr. Maurice Denham as Captain McManus evokes continual merriment; in the title-rôle Miss Ida Chapman distinguished herself by a clever and attractive performance.

ROYALTY, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—Mr. Lawrence Brough's company is this week presenting *The Saucy Sally*, and a fairly large audience heartily enjoyed the humour of Sir Francis Burnand's lively farce. Mr. Lawrence Brough is very good as the masquerading Captain Jocelyn, and kept the fun going briskly; a clever character-sketch is the old sea-dog, Jack Buncome, of Mr. Percy Marshall. Another clever impersonation is the waiter Perkins, as played by Mr. Tom Mowbray; Miss Alice Leigh is a charming Rosie; and Miss Bessie Harrison is duly severe as the mother-in-law, Mrs. Lambert. Miss Betty Park makes a lively Cecile; Mr. Aubrey Cheshire acts with humour as Evan Evans; Mr. William Macready is a breezy Ulysses Jeffson; Mr. Harry Collier is amusing as Chudleigh; and the real Captain Jocelyn is smartly played by Mr. W. Mayne Lynton. Misses Maud Buchanan and Edith Adeson, as two servants, complete the cast. *Cut Off With a Shilling* was given as a first piece, Miss Olga Esmé and Mr. Tom Mowbray being well suited in their respective parts.

METROPOLE, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Messrs. O. Silverstone and H. Wright's company is here in *The Nihilist*. Mr. Joseph Millane gives a capital rendering of Ivan Nowaski; stage villainy is ably expressed by Mr. William Carriden as Prince Alexander; Mr. Cowell Clark is a picturesque Karl Orloff; an equally telling character is that of Father Gourko by Sir Brunelle Harvey; Alexina Orloff is full of pathos as acted by Miss Edna Clare; and Alexina is charmingly played by little Miss May Eddis. Princess Olga is effective in the hands of Miss Florrie Kelsey; and comedy is provided by Miss Jessica Ford as Katrina Zindoff and Mr. Henry Wright as Bobbie Smart.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—Mr. Carr Loates appears here this week with *At the World's Mercy*. The parts of the stowaway Skittles and Kitty Knott, a music-hall star, are cleverly doubled by Miss Cissie Milford; Mr. Leonard Wilson bears himself well as Captain Manley; as Alice Lloyd Miss Daisy Jags acts well and sings several ballads with taste; Mr. Carr Loates ably fills the part of Jabez Barber; and Mr. George D. Knight gives character to the rôle of Goldstein. Charlie Smart is suitably represented by Mr. W. H. Irving; Mr. F. Overton is good as Slouching Sam, as also is Miss Kathleen Saunders as Dot; the parts of Mrs. Rourke and Rosie being well filled by Misses Clara Hall and Alice Hunter.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Miss Helen Roberts is appearing here in dances *à la* Maud Allan and is giving "Salome" and Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," both of which are picturesque and well received. Zeynard's Lilliputians give a smart equestrian and speciality turn, the clever feats of these little people being full of interest; Miss Teddy Edmond's company appear in a laughable sporting sketch, *The Lady Jockey*, which causes much merriment; Frances Letty takes well as a chorus singer, and has several good songs; Fred Wilkinson's magical turn is well carried through, and proves very mystifying; the Martineks, in their "rag-doll" speciality, contribute a most ingenious item; Albert Rees is a clever imitator of sounds; and Bernard Crook, a juvenile entertainer at the piano; Charles Vincent, comedian; and the latest films on the Bioscope complete a varied programme.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Pantomime forms the fare here, a clever version of *Red Riding Hood* occupying the boards. Miss Maisie Jerrard is a tall and handsome Prince Charming, and sings the latest songs with good effect; Miss Decima Brooke makes a pleasing Red Red Riding Hood, and is a smart dancer; Miss Emie Franks acts and sings well as Tommy Tucker; and Tommy's sweetheart, Marjery Daw, is cleverly played by Miss Louie Davis. Mr. Fred Russell as the Baron Fitz infuses a lot of original business into the part, and takes well in his song "Harrigan." Mr. Howard Ward is a lively and amusing Dame Crump; and lots of funny scenes are introduced by Messrs. Will Lytton and Walter Watson as Johnny Stout and Johnny Green. Miss Florrie Page as the Fairy and Mr. Dave Laird as the Wolf ably fill their respective parts. A clever bevy of choristers and dancers, including the Poppy quartette, give animation to the various scenes.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—Owing to the large number of Pavilion patrons who were prevented last week from hearing Mme. Albani, the management this week wisely re-engaged her. Albani sings with great taste to appreciative audiences. On Wednesday evening and at the matinée on Thursday Mme. Albani was accompanied by that celebrated flautist, Mr. Albert Fransella, and, as might reasonably be expected, such a combination proved an excellent attraction. Another musical attraction is provided in Herr Zakovsky, whose violin selections are excellently rendered and please the most fastidious. Further, Herr Zakovsky accompanied Mme. Albani in several of her pieces in a highly proficient manner. Jack Lorimer is a favourite in the city; Ross and Grayson are always amusing; J. W. Hall's songs are well selected; and a dainty little comedienne is Stella Stahl. In an acrobatic comedy act the Havanas Troupe find scope for their tumbling work.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—The Brothers Leslie, two Australian comedians, in their sketch *Music Mad* display much humour; appreciation is gained by Mr. J. C. Piddock and company in *The Capture of Venus;* the Violas make a hit with their performance of mental telepathy; Metz and Metz are amusing, and their dancing is much above the average; Gladys Mavius sings her songs effectively; Hinton and Wood play football on cycles; the Lorrisons, Professor Morton, and Lily Arthur conclude the programme.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. Sam Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—There is a good all-round company here this week. The principal item is a realistic representation of the Johnstown (America) Flood, which occurred on Commemoration Day some years ago. The effect is wonderful, and the mechanism is very ingenious. An interesting playlet, *Trapped by Telephone*, is presented by Henri de Vries, assisted by Misses Dorothy Drake and M. Gordon. Its reception on the opening night was very hearty. Other notable turns include the Dumon Trio of clever vocalists and instrumentalists; Master Frisby, with illustrated chorus songs; Harris Coonie, a clever exponent in wooden shoes; the Mayvilles, Lilliputian novelty artists; Victor Travers, eccentric comedian and dancer; John Macaulay, character vocalist; F. W. Purcell and company, in an amusing sketch, *That Brute Simmons*, and the Bioscope.

GAIETY, LTD. — General-Manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.—A capital all-round programme is submitted at this popular Anderston house, and large audiences are the result. An exceptionally clever show was given by Li Chang Hi, the Chinese conjurer; Wesley's Minstrels are responsible for a great amount of fun; Webber and Williams, in a vocal scena; Rixie Moore, with songs; Hearne and Palmer, in their absurdity, *The Hebrew and the Barman;* and animated pictures are other attractions.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. A. B. Pickard.—The programme arranged here for the week is very entertaining. The principal attraction is Mr. A. Hunnable, who became famous in a recent parliamentary election. There was a large attendance on the opening night, who fully appreciated his humorous election addresses. The variety artists include U. C. Ugo, expert conjurer; Archie Jack, descriptive actor-vocalist; and the Arnos, in an eccentric musical act. The Bioscope pictures are still popular.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.—Wild, West, and Willie, capital comedy acrobats, are well received; the Eight College Girls are expert dancers; Clarke's Nippers are smart in athletics; Eldra, in a capital turn, introduces a clever dog; Miss Nell Cotter sings tuneful songs; Gene Selby is a good bone soloist; the Debreans put on a shadowgraph show; and Bert and Dora, comedy artists, do well.

CORN EXCHANGE.—Proprietors, the Corporation.—Miss Harriett Greet's company, in *The Sign of the Cross*, is here for six nights.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Mr. Horace Stanley and his company in *The 10.30 Down Express* are paying a welcome return visit. Mr. T. Arthur Plummer is a manly Jack O'Malley; Mr. Horace Stanley, a first-rate comedian, makes the character of Sam Wagstaff stand out conspicuously; Mr. William Hayward gives a clever character sketch of a broken-down gamekeeper; Cuthbert Leigh has an able exponent in Mr. Alaric Burton; Miss Kate Kilpack is an excellent Peggy Potts; Miss Cora Linda a charming Bessie Lee; and Miss Georgie a capital Olive Coombes.

NEW HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Tully.—Miss Ella's lions are the chief attraction here this week, and give a wonderful exhibition; Jean Macduff, the lady Lauder, appears in Scotch songs, and is assisted by Peggy Lynden, who also appears in a musical act; the Cheers, with a number of well-trained cats, are responsible for a very good turn, and the Two Errols are very smart. Frank Rhliston and company in the sketch *My Lady Betty* are exceedingly good.

THE GEM.—Lessees, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, C. B. Cockran.—Excellent films are being exhibited here this week, the one illustrating *Hamlet* being worthy of special mention. Amateur Acrobats is the best of the humorous set.

AQUARIUM.—Secretary and Manager, Mr. Walter Kitchingman.—At the top of the bill here is John Grun Marx, the Modern Hercules, who well deserves his name; the Wambas are particularly clever gymnasts, and Tom Drew, comedian, and Bert Lytton, the swell comedian, are both well received. The sketch, *The Shattered Idol*, is very amusing, the artists, Mr. and Mrs. F. Shelley, taking their parts exceedingly well; Great Scott is very smart, and other good turns are given by Milvin and Max and Clincy and Clancy.

GREENOCK. — ALEXANDRA THEATRE, LTD. — Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Directors and Managers, Messrs. A. B. and J. J. Wright.—G. W. Hunter, the famous comedian, tops the bill here this week, and is well received; Charles Coborn is another artist of distinct merit, and he has had quite a flattering reception; good turns are also provided by Dot Stanley, vocalist and dancer; Bennett and Sterling, American comedy entertainers; Belle and Wright in an amusing sketch; Alix Lukos in his protean scena, *The Language of Fate;* the Sisters Lotus, operatic duettists, and Joseph Hennessey, horizontal bar and club-juggling performer. The Alexandroscope is also an attraction.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the Greenock Empire Syndicate; Responsible-Manager, Mr. Edward McCormick; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. J. Colquhoun.—An attractive company is headed this week by the Jees in *The Musical Smithy*, in which tuneful music is produced from horseshoes, anvils, &c.; Merton and Rydon give a very original and amusing musical burlesque turn; Garden's Royal Quintette display marvellous agility in their exposition of national dances, and the Three Pirmans in a comedy gymnastic act, Lillian Lowe, a pleasing vocalist, the Sisters Clare, comediennes and dancers, and the Bioscope are included in the list of attractions.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry L. Skivington.—The Jackley Trio top the bill here, and meet with a hearty welcome; Will Godwin, in songs old and new, has had an enthusiastic reception; the Sohos submit an excellent turn, introducing good vocalism and clever dancing; Rene, the girl juggler, provides a capital item; Gladys Goodwynne is a juvenile comedienne of great promise; Ted Waite's humorous contributions are keenly enjoyed; and Roy Beavis, conjurer, and Cavalli, ventriloquist, also entertain.

GRIMSBY.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. H. Curry; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. W. North.—A dramatic version of Alphonse Daudet's *Sapho* is being presented by Mr. Frank Bateman and Mr. Stuart Lomath. Miss Lizzie Montague undertakes the part of Fanny Legrande, and thoroughly realises its emotional possibilities; Mr. Stuart Lomath appears as Jean Goussin, and gives an earnest portrayal of the young man's impulsive nature; Mr. W. Aynsleigh ably depicts the interesting personality of Famant; Mr. George Harvey is good as Henri Dechelette, and Miss Mabel Durham as Alice and Miss Ellen Owen as Cleopatra contribute excellent work.

THE PALACE.—General-Manager, Mr. G. Rhodes Parry.—A highly entertaining combination of comedy, singing, and dancing is the sketch *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*, and it is presented by a numerous and talented company; Barton and Franklin have a capital musical speciality, and perform on a wide variety of instruments; another sketch, *The Window Cleaner*, with Mr. Henry Carlton in the principal rôle, is productive of much fun; Ryder Slone is a successful character comedian with good songs; the Northcotes are duettists of considerable vocal attainments; Ida Evilo gives a smart gymnastic display on the trapeze, and Madge Fenton is a pleasing vocalist.

GUERNSEY.—THEATRE ST. JULIAN'S.—Lessee, Mr. Ed. Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—A season of drama has given way this week to vaudeville, and the attendance is good. Effie Vincent, an old favourite, is ever welcome; George Porter is a fresh and original patter comedian; Ethel Scheffer delights all with illustrated songs; the Ringling Trio give a smart comedy act; Rosie Gaston, comedienne, established herself a favourite; Mr. H. Leslie Bell, Lilley Pearl and company submit two novelties, *A Bit of String* and *The Red Letter*, both artistic and well interpreted. Pallister's Bio-Tableaux pictures add to the success of the programme.

HALIFAX. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Alfred Paumier and Walter Howard's company is paying a return visit with *The Midnight Wedding*. Mr. A. E. W. Barnes as the hero, Paul Valmar, gives a vigorous, manly, and painstaking rendering; Mr. John Nesbit makes a dignified and soldierly Crown Prince; Mr. Mayor-Cooke's Captain Scarsbruck is a good performance; Messrs. J. E. Page, H. Richardson, and A. Spalding as Max, Otto, and Bobo keep the comedy well to the fore; Miss Ada Champion is successful as Kathie; Miss Yvonne Orchardson gives a sympathetic and clever rendering of Princess Astrea; and Miss Nesta Sandford is well suited as Satanella. The drama is well put on, and has played to good business.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—There are some very interesting pictures shown at the Grand this week, augmented by two clever variety turns—the Reays (lady and gentleman), clever gymnasts, who perform some marvellous acrobatic feats, and the Brothers Milford, capable dancers, who introduce some smart patter.

THE PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—Bonnie Goodwin's Apollo Piccaninnies are very smart dancers, and are ably assisted by Miss Lily Vine; Emerson and Baldwin, a couple of clever comedy jugglers, are deservedly popular; Johnny Dwyer causes considerable amusement—his comedy is good; and Captain Devereux appears with a troupe of highly-trained dogs. Flo Inman (comedienne), Julian Ross (comedian), Lottie Bray (comedienne), and some good pictures complete.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Tarro Myaki, the champion ju-jitsu wrestler of the world, is topping the bill here; The Arthur Lloyd Trio are exceptionally good in a refined comedy sketch, *Little Charlie; or, the Twin Sisters;* Marlo is an entertaining and expert juggler; the Juanito Troupe of Spanish acrobats are daring; Chas. Dixton's company is amusing in a sketch, *Uncle Obadiah;* Jack Lane, in the character of a Yorkshire rustic, causes Merriment; and Lillian Travellie (light ballad vocalist), Alisop and Beckwith (comedy artists), Sam Dalton (eccentric), and the Bioscope are other attractions.

HANLEY.—ROYAL.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Douglas Elphinstone.—*The Coal King* is here this week, and a clever representation is given. Mr. A. C. Alderson is very fine as Tom Roberts; Mr. Ulick Burke is a clever Sir Reginald; Mr. Yates Southgate is a strong exponent of the heavy lead, Harold; Mr. Sam Roberts as Jim Williams shows great versatility in pathos and comedy; Mr. Frank Dalton is good as Shirley; Miss M. Hinton is capital as Araminta; Miss Joan Wellman plays Ann, the mad woman, with decided skill; and Miss W. Love makes an engaging Grace Shirley. Business is good, notwithstanding the poor state of trade in the Potteries.

GRAND.—Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—Irma Lorraine, in classical poses, is the star artist, and is greatly admired; Madge Grey is responsible for an original and high-class entertainment; Leoni Clarke shows what can be done in animal training; Raymond's Bio-tableaux unwinds a film lasting thirteen minutes of a lady winning a Yankee motor race; Yetta is very clever on the wire; Geo. Antill makes a hit in comic effusions; Zaid introduces a novelty act; and the Columbria Comedy Trio well deserve the recalls they obtain. Crowded houses are the rule.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—Crowded houses are bearing testimony to the attractiveness of the pictures this week. They include Nick Carter, Detective (No. 4), Shocking Shocks, A Nobleman's Pleasure, The Antiquary Burglars, The Press Gang; The Postman's Daughter, Raised From the Ranks, How to Travel Cheaply, and An Artful Ruse. Miss Marion Blake's songs are much appreciated.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—Variety is in the bill here again, and St. George Sylvesta is the headliner in a series of illusory novelties, which prove very popular. The Five Musical Tritons give a good turn, a mixture of electric light and music; Tom Gott, a Yorkshire comedian, is a great favourite; and Miss Vena Valma is a smart and clever dancer. Irene and Morton are a clever couple, who introduce some good patter and smart dancing; Mr. George Westland is an entertaining comedian; and W. E. Hilton a Scotch ventriloquial turn. The Five Sisters Warwick are an exceptionally smart party of cyclists.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sydney Carter; General-Manager, Mr. F. D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Parker.—A good selection of films are here this week, notably The Kind-hearted Bootblack and Honesty Rewarded. The Imperial Canals of China is very interesting, and the new American picture, The Patriot, is greatly to the liking of the spectators. Mozzetto, assisted by Buttons, is a clever and amusing juggler.

HASTINGS. — GAIETY THEATRE. — Manager, Mr. H. W. Rowland; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles E. Scutt.—A naval play finds ready sympathy in this old Cinque Port, and a crowded house on Monday gave its hearty approval to *The Flag Lieutenant*, played here by Messrs. Lyn Harding and Sidney Cooper's company. Mr. W. D. Hobbs has painted some fine scenery for the piece. The acting throughout was excellent. Mr. Laughorne Burton gave an ideal presentment of Richard Lascelles; Miss Marjorie Chard was a delightfully sympathetic Lady Hermione; Miss Florence Jackson as Mrs. Cameron played cleverly; and Mr. H. Montague Love as Major Thesiger did exceedingly well. Others attracting special notice were Mr. George Mollett as the Vice-Admiral; Mr. Edward S. Petley as the Surgeon; Messrs. Hugh Wakefield and Lyonel Watts as the Midshipmen; Mr. Herbert Gallop as Quartermaster; Mr. W. J. Yeldham and Miss Stella Leigh as General and Mrs. Gough-Bogle; and Miss Evelyn Robson as Lady Dugdale.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian-Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—Jack Hamilton, light comedian, opens an excellent programme; Zaida, with well-trained pigeons, exhibits some graceful dancing on a slack wire; the Alhambra pictures this week are exceptionally good; the sentimental duets sung by Gould and Gould are very pleasing; Pongorila as the Man of the Woods gives an original and startling imitation of a monkey; a highly amusing comic and quaint dancer is seen in Dan Conroy; and the Three Tivoli Girls are light and graceful dancers and capital vocalists.

PIER PAVILION.—General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—Mr. Walter Payne's animated pictures, as shown on the Bio-photoscope, occupy the principal part of the programme here. The other part of the entertainment is given by some half-dozen vocalists, who render a pleasing selection of humorous songs, duets, solos, and concerted numbers. Messrs. Chapman and Stevens, Miss Irene Greville, and Miss M. Thurgate are associated in the vocal selections under the name of Les Froliques.

HEREFORD.—DRILL HALL.—Manager, Mr. A. Lovesey.—The Hereford Juvenile Operatic Society gave a pleasurable performance of *A Dream of Nursery Rhymes* and *The Spanish Gipsies*.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—Nothing funnier has been seen here for a long time than the two leading turns in this week's programme. The first is the skit in which Carter Livesey, Edward Collins, and Miss Lilian Rosebery personate amateurs rehearsing a drama, the second a musical sketch, in which John Le Hay, Charles Cautley, and Miss Norah Le Hay appear. All the time these two turns occupy the stage the house rocks with laughter. Also in the bill are the Raymond Trio, in a dainty musical and dancing act; Miss Elsie Earle, comedienne; Les Montaldos, with a fine collection of well-trained birds; Spry and Monti, a lively pair of duettists; Lester Mayl, comedian; the Three Cunards, in smartly-executed solo and concerted dances; and new pictures on the Bioscope.

HULL.—GRAND THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Mortons, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. W. F. Morton.—The Hull Amateur Operatic Society are holding the boards this week, *The Yeoman of the Guard* being produced under the direction of Mr. Herbert Marchmont, late of the D'Oyly Carte Co.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. Morton; Manager, Mr. Tom Bogue.—The Karnos, in *His Majesty's Guests*. Mr. Geo. Hestor and Miss Aggie Morris share principal honours. One has frequently alluded to the success of this extravaganza in Hull.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE.—Mortons, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Geo. Morton.—*A Country Girl in London* is a production which appeals to the bulk of the patrons of this popular theatre. Mr. W. V. Garrod fills the rôle of Frank Gordon with no little success; Miss Bertha Kingston played the part of Marjorie with proper appreciation of all its calls. The rest of the company are more or less successful in their respective rôles.

THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—Messrs. Frank Bernard and company appear here in an amusing sketch *Hello!* the Four Amaranths are very clever acrobatic dancers; and other artists completing a good company are the Sisters Belmont, Frank Whiteley, Robbie Roy, Boy Glenn, and Sara Rosebury.

THE EMPIRE. — Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingshy.—A very interesting engagement is that of Jem Mace, the old-time boxing champion, who boxes with a local veteran; Rubie and Elsie Redfern give a smart and varied performance in banjo and piano playing, dancing, and singing; Major Arnold is a conjurer above the average; Wyndham and Kitty appear in a clever wire act; and Will Farrell and Fred Villiers complete an excellent company.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are still attracting good houses here.

ILKESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. L. F. A. Rogers.—The company of Messrs. Neville and Carnaby is occupying the boards this week in *Napoleon's Divorce* and *The Sinner that Repented. Napoleon's Divorce* was put on on Monday, the title-rôle being ably sustained by Mr. F. F. Neville. The part of Josephine falls to Miss Kate Randolph, who achieves marked success; Mr. Terence Nerry makes the most of his opportunities as Duke d'Arville; Mr. F. H. Fortescue (Pierre) and Miss Marion Mayne (Jeanette) represent the comedy; Mr. J. Soden as Joseph Bonaparte is the evil genius.

IPSWICH. — LYCEUM THEATRE.—Mr. Charles H. Bowmaker's company, in *The Education of Elisabeth*, is occupying the house for the week. The company is an excellent one, and includes Mr. Wilson Gunning in the part of Harry Fairfax, a creation entirely satisfactory. Mr. Ernest E. Norris is a humorous Reggie Hankey; Mr. Whitty is well played by Mr. Fred Castleman; and Mr. C. Holt is droll as the French police officer. Elizabeth Black, by Miss Winifred Ingram, is an excellent piece of character acting; Miss Louisa Peach as Blanche Macyntire acts with much spirit; as Lucy Middleton Miss Helene Forrest is dignified; and Miss May Norris completes the cast as Lily Kerr.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. H. Bostock.—Miss Harriett Vernon, a lady new to the Ipswich boards, made a great hit on her first appearance in her song-scena, "Sunshine and Shadow," and the rousing choruses to her songs add much to their popularity; Wilman, an Australian artist, has considerable ability with the posthorn and cornet; the Westbrooks have a good scena, entitled "Two little maids from school"; the Three Lloyds have extraordinary ability in balancing on a bounding cable; Natalie and Diana are also clever aerial gymnasts; Leslie Race details his adventures amongst the suffragettes in song; and Lieut. Travis scores a great success in his ventriloquial entertainment. The Pasquali Brothers are old favourites in Ipswich; and the Bioscope concludes.

JERSEY.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee, Mr. Edward Marris; Acting-Manager, Mr. Stanley Hope.—The Lilly Pearl Company are playing a couple of new sketches here this week; Ethel Schaffer sings illustrated songs; the Arntees, a coloured couple, give coon songs and dances; and Fyne and Fane supply a good turn. A novelty is a cake-walk competition in which members of the audience compete.

KEIGHLEY. — QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. R. Kendall; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Carson.—A large audience on Monday was delighted with

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the fare provided. Caban's French Circus top the bill with an excellent entertainment; a really capital turn is given by the Ronald Brothers, whose remarkable feats of strength elicit enthusiastic plaudits; highly enjoyable are the efforts of Miss Zeta Grey and company in the amusing sketch *The Lancashire Lass;* Kydd and Kydd excel as patterers; Kent and Earle were accorded a very good reception; J. S. Maber renders his songs in good style; Renson and Waite, eccentric duettists, are well received; and Miss Ethel Jackson sings most acceptably.

KIRKCALDY.—Pavilion.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—The Bohemians are foremost on the bill this week with a clever instrumental entertainment; Arthur Bright is a good vocalist, besides being a smart Milanese piper; Vincent performs some really wonderful acrobatic feats; and Mr. Olly Oban, as an illustrated song singer, is most successful.

LANCASTER.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. C. Howitt.—*The Diver's Luck*, presented here about twenty years ago, is again with us, the company on this occasion being that of Mr. Andrew Emm. As Martin Faber, Mr. Harry Cullenford cleverly sustains the part; Mr. Fred A. Marston works hard as Barney Bawn, and his efforts are appreciated; whilst Mr. William J. Miller and Mr. Kendrew Milson do exceedingly well in the villainous parts of Tom Hall and Pedro respectively. Miss Dora Pass submits a careful rendering of Helen Wyngate; and Peggy Mahoney is entrusted to Miss Pearl Noyle, who does well. The drama is well staged.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson. — Slippere, the blind entertainer, tops the bill and sings well; George E. Doughty and company have a comedy sketch, *Captain Cupid*, which is very funny; Mabelle May is a pleasing vocalist; and the Three Panamas supply a clever turn. The remainder of the programme is filled in with the Hippograph.

LEEDS.—Empire Palace.—Moss Empires, Ltd.—District Manager, Mr. T. Gerald Morton; Resident-Manager, Mr. Alex. Galley.—Joe Elvin is the top-liner here, the sketch *The King of the Castle* proving an effective vehicle for much mirth-provoking business; Charlene and Charlene, with juggling and musical novelty, are very successful; the Lukushimas are a most expert Jap troupe, and win great applause; the Bros. Horne are as popular as ever with boxing novelty; there is a neat comedy act by Phil and Nettie Peters; Bessie Slaughter achieves big success as a vocalist; whilst Fred Lincoln, Mason and Bart, and May Brilliant are also popular.

Queen's Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Bush.—The Royal Tokios are a strong lead here, their expert, daring turn arousing the liveliest interest; Graham's Juveniles are doing a neat song scena; Lord, Murray, and Lord have an acceptable gymnastic novelty; Fred Herbert is a pleasing vocalist; De Vere and Kenwick win a good share of applause; and Harry Zetter also occupies a front place in popular favour.

Hippodrome.—Proprietor, Mr. Thos. Barrasford.—A remarkable juggling turn by Brinn arouses vast interest here; Fred Edwards' company appears in an uproarously funny sketch; Ted Curtis's Piccaninnies score with a song and dance turn; there is a neat comedy sketch by Lee and Kingston; and capital entertainment is also subscribed by Fred Russell, Andrews and Thompson, Geo. Carncross, the Three Carleus, the Aribos, and Mike Cray.

City Varieties.—Proprietor, Mr. F. W. Wood; General-Manager, Mr. J. C. Whiteman; Acting-Manager, Mr. S. Jones.—Eccentric comedy has a big place in this week's bill; Dave Samuels, a Hebrew specialist, has a big following; the Wedburns are old favourites in this line; Wilton Heriot takes the five characters in a protean sketch in good style; Mark Henton also submits comedy items; and there are also good turns by Georgina Leonard and Elmo and Rego.

LEICESTER.—Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buckleuch.—The great attraction here this week is *Dick Turpin's Ride to York*, by Mr. Fred Ginnett's company. At the other end is Lottie Lennox, whose rousing and well-rendered chorus-songs are great favourites; another artist who makes a hit is Herbert Shelley, who is particularly smart in the thoroughly interesting Irish protean play *Dan, the Outlaw;* Wood, Wells, and Wilkins are good in their vocal and humorous sketch *The Piano-Tuner;* Adams and Ward are clever acrobatic comedians; Teresa da Silva is a capital chorus singer and burlesque artist. In place of Sidney Lee Charles E. Barrett, a local celebrity, appears. His yokel mimicry and patter are most praiseworthy. E. J. Sheldon, a study in black and white, and the Bioscope are other items.

Pavilion Theatre.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—Bernard Mervyn and company take the lead here this week with the petite drama *Treachery*, which is well staged, the principal parts being enacted by Mr. Bernard Mervyn as Lieutenant Jack Ferrers and Miss B. Doyle as Marion Kilrae. Special interest is aroused by the turn of Elroy, the armless wonder; Leslie's Comedy Cadets (George Curzon, baritone; Vernon Noble, comedian, and Harry Leslie, ventriloquist) are delightfully entertaining in their military scena *After Lights Out*. Other turns of merit are Charles Jerome, coon vocalist and dancer; Tina Frank, comedienne; Marie Gray, vocalist, and Carrie Joy, comedienne. Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope retains its popularity.

Empire.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—The usual liberal and excellent programme of moving pictures is submitted here this week, including The Warrior's Bride, Gold Prospectors, A Victim of His Honesty, The Fatal Love Romance, A Day of Robbery, A Unique Disguise, The Unseizable Pickpocket, and Baby has Disappeared. The Mays, vocalists and dancers, are popular, and Jimmy Huntley, comedian, hat-spinner, and patterer, and Miss Maude Ethelda, comedienne, are other turns of merit.

LEIGH.—Theatre Royal and Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath. — Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and Livesey's company, on a welcome return visit with the ever-popular *Village Blacksmith*, is drawing good houses. In the name part Mr. Sam Livesey plays with an artistic skill which gains loud applause; Mr. Albert Sinclair submits a clever impersonation of the unscrupulous Captain Leo; and Mr. Edwin Maydew is well placed as Lucas Marier. Miss Maggie Edwards as Kate Strong gives a clever and sympathetic rendition of a difficult part; Miss Cassie Le Grande is seen to advantage as Ruth Parkins; Mr. Fred Haming is highly amusing as Billy Twigg; Mr. Thomas E. Marshall and Mrs. T. C. Livesey as Jeremiah and Sal Parkins cause much amusement; and Miss Lily Leicester speaks her words distinctly as Harry Strong.

Assembly Rooms. — Lessees, Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Walker; Manager, Mr. J. Frank Walker.—The Sovereign Picture Company continue here, with an entire change weekly. The special film this week is entitled Christmas. Messrs. Collin and Irene are very clever in their thought-transmission; and Little Dolly Brough, child comedienne and clog-dancer, gains much applause.

LEITH.—New Gaiety Theatre.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—The Majilton combination of eccentric comedians give a good account of themselves in their go-as-you-please kind of entertainment *Round the Clock*, which rattles along with as much bustle and merriment as ever. Mr. Charles Majilton is very successful in the part of Gadforth, who has a sufficiently severe spouse in Miss Rennie Walton; Old Gewgaw provides many opportunities for diversion in the hands of Mr. Randle Wilson, with Miss Nelly Clifford as Georgina; and Messrs. Ben Storey and Henry Granville help the fun along in the rôles of Denby and the Cabman. The leading lady is Miss Maddie Majilton, whose impersonation of Salprunelle is most acceptable; Miss Nora Christie makes a good Bertie Kelvin; Miss Jenny Hughes does well as Mary; and Mr. Jim Bond revels as the irrepressible Burke, by whom the piece is kept very much alive with laughter from beginning to end.

LIVERPOOL.—Rotunda Theatre.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—*A Woman Worth Winning*, presented here throughout the week by Mr. Percy Norman's company, was received with much favour. A powerful and dominating figure was that of General Borinski, undertaken in telling style by Mr. A. B. Mackay; as Roma Pauloff Miss Cissie Bellamy showed sound judgment, and earned much approbation; Miss Ida Mackay deserved thanks for her vivacious Katerina Kless; the character of Ivan Bardoff was interpreted by Mr. Wilfred E. Clark in a manner which gained for him high commendation; Mr. B. Crosby as Fergus Lovinsky showed resource and discretion; great laughter followed the antics of Peter Popples, a humorous part, for which Mr. Fred Danvers was responsible; and Mr. Louis Newman pleased with his Bertie Scribbles.

Star Theatre. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—The attraction here this week has been *The King of Crime*, given by Mr. Harry Battersby's company. As the villainous Ronjarre Mr. F. B. Woulfe acted with excellent dramatic intensity, his efforts being watched with deep interest; Miss Mildred Eversleigh filled the part of the blind wife, Henriette, with sound judgment, and deservedly earned general approval; Mr. William Miller did well with the rôle of the miserly Grandelu; the lighter parts were in the good hands of Mr. Sam Wilford (Mick Maloney) and Miss Edith Loraine (Clarissa), who caused endless fun; and worthy support also came from Messrs. Claude Aymond (Simon), William Melvyn (Louis Mascorot), Lionel Devere (Pergignan), Dan Mining (Tabaret), Miss Agnese D'Aragon (Mère Crouchard), and Miss Grace Evelyn (Mimie).

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Here this week the popular Nellie Wallace had a cordial welcome for her songs; under the conductorship of Mr. Thomas Grundy, the 18 Lancashire singers gave an artistic and well-received musical turn; the Arthur Saxon Trio of athletes went through a clever performance; an extremely amusing sketch, *The Water Cure*, was given by Charles Steuart's company, including Miss Nellie Bowman; the Scottish comedians, Naughton and Gold, were responsible for much laughter; Leo Stormont was loudly applauded for his well-rendered baritone songs and recitals; Tom Haig and Millie Novel had a refined comedy act; and the list also contained the names of Harry Lawson, eccentric comedian, and Agnes Tina, child actress.

Queen's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—A bright and smart pantomime, entitled *Babes in the Wood*, which has been witnessed by large audiences and richly enjoyed, opened here on Monday evening, and Mr. Granville is to be congratulated upon having been the first in the local field to offer Christmas fare. The whole production was exceedingly acceptable. Miss Cissie Paris was a dashing Robin Hood; Miss Georgia Davies made a winsome Maid Marian; as the wicked Uncle Mr. N. Hall caused a deal of laughter; the Kimberley Boys proved excruciatingly funny in the rôles of the villains; Mr. Alfred Brooks helped immensely with the part of Araminta Koffkake, the village schoolmistress; the characters of Aconita and Sylvania were ably undertaken by Mr. H. Val Morgan and Miss H. Brendt; and the "Babes" were charmingly and intelligently portrayed by Violet Wilson and Baby Boden.

Lyric. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Top of the bill here this week was a capital sketch, entitled *The Little Stowaway*, the characters in which were undertaken by Messrs. John K. Walton, Arthur Stratton, Horace Corbyn, G. Barton, Arthur Temple, G. Stapleton Roche, and the Misses Maude Osmond and Marjory Armstrong; an acceptable drawing-room musical act came from the Austral Trio; Fred Walmsley amused greatly with his songs and talk; as society entertainers Phillips and Merritt gave a good show; Fred Bamford as the whistling newsboy pleased generally; and some neat work as equilibrists was performed by the Stowe Bros.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Heading the programme here this week were Haley's Juveniles, including the little duettists "Dot" and "Spot," who gave a charming carnival scene that was watched with much interest; Joe Peterman's singing servants presented a turn of great merit; Rastus and Banks, the coloured entertainers, had a flattering reception; Thorpe and Coe pleased everybody with their merry little trifle, *My Burglar;* Cecile Francois and company had an enjoyable sketch, *An Artist's Studio;* smart work as ball manipulators and novelty acrobats was shown by the Four Athos; an amusing Scotch comedian was J. Hayworth; Milner and Storey went through some merry comedy; and contributions also came from the Sisters Ford, comedy duettists; and the Hectors, speciality artists.

Royal Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—A much-appreciated version of *Trilby* has been given here this week by the stock company, and Miss Florence Palmer acquitted herself well in the title-rôle; Mr. Sydney Grant's Svengali was a particularly able performance that reflected upon that artist every credit; Mr. David G. Noble made a popular Billee; as the Laird and Taffy Messrs. R. S. Innes and Cecil Ravenswood did excellently; Mr. Tom H. Solly afforded satisfaction in the parts of the Rev. Thos. Bagot and Manager Kaw; Miss Lilian Radbourne was Mrs. Bagot; Miss G. Entwistle Mme. Vinard; and Mr. Leo Montgomery Gecks. The Bioscope, under the direction of Mr. Anthony Brown, had some fine films.

Westminster.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery.—Foremost here this week was Professor Hutchini, who delighted everyone with his clever work as an illusionist and in escaping from handcuffs; the Two Perkins, coloured vocalists, patterers, and dancers, were a good turn; Will Challiner sang and danced tastefully; Stanley and Gordon proved themselves to be a couple of skilful athletes on the flying rings; the Pardys (Dot and Violet) had a cordial reception for their singing and duets on the piano; and Alf Epans, character comedian, also appeared.

Olympia.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton.—Fred Karno's absurdity, *The Bailiff*, has delighted audiences here this week, the principal characters being in the hands of Kate Forster, Julia Bassett, Lydia Weber, H. Soutar, Buchanan Wake, and Albert Bruno; a most pleasing entertainment was provided by Albert Whelan; the remarkably intelligent horse, "Billy," interested all; Goggin and Davis afforded pleasure as comedy acrobats; Joe Almasio, the jumping juggler, and his funny assistant, gave a smart turn; on the horizontal bar the Mezzettis went through a laughable titbit, *The New Recruit;* Jeannie Mackay, "the lavender girl," sang several songs with taste; F. W. Purcell and company, including Miss Margaret Murch, presented a gratifying miniature drama, *What Women Do for Men;* and Bert Weston, comedian, also appeared.

Pavilion.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—James and Jenny Jee have been well received here this week for their clever show on the endless revolving wire; the able little artist Rachel Lowe gained much favour for her taking songs; *An Airship Elopement*, a sketch played by the Aeronauts, provoked shouts of laughter, the enchanted statue being a particularly funny incident; the Floradora Girls went through a lively musical comedy, entitled *Two's Company, Three's None;* Alman Correze, assisted by the droll Keith, gave a skilful juggling scena; a flattering reception was accorded Jimmy Shields, the one-legged comedian and dancer; and excellent items were likewise provided by Monty Walker, swell comedian; the Bros. Durant, society acrobats; Arthur Royce, at the piano; and Fred Solbey, child mimic and novelty comedian.

Roscommon.—Manager, Mr. J. M. Crewdson.—Two-houses-a-night drama has been proving popular at this house. During the week *The White Boys of Wicklow* was given by the stock company, principal among whom were Messrs Butler Stanhope (General Danville), A. Wilson-Rae (Major Blakeley), J. D. Geddes (Edward O'Brien), Percy M. Stevenson (Barney Nowlan), James McWilliams (Corporal Diskey), Harry Leamar (Mark Tape), and Miss Belle St. Clements (Kathleen) and Miss Florence Russell (Norah O'Donnell).

LOUGHBOROUGH.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. W. Payne Seddon and George Robertson; Resident Business-Manager, Mr. W. Payne Seddon.—This week we have a variety company. Mr. Chas. M. Daly's side-splitting sketch *I Must Have It* keeps the house in a roar of laughter; Mr. R. C. Note is a sensible singer of sensible songs; Percy Maye is a clever female impersonator; Blanche and Diacoff give some thrilling examples of bicycle riding in their great cycle whizz; the Newsboys from Hull sing in a most charming manner; and the Bioscope Pictures complete.

LOWESTOFT.—Marina.—Manager, Mr. E. A. Smith.—The bill this week includes the Three Romas, gymnasts; Cummin and Seaham, comedy acrobats; Ford and Hanson, musical experts; Ethel Dove; the Woolhafs; Rudge Whitworth; and Gracie Lawn.

Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. Géo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland.—Capital business continues at this "popular palace of variety." Taylor and Bridge, the singing mill boys, are favourably received; and Dan Noble, comedian and actor-vocalist, is also well to the fore. Jim Topping rattles off a number of successful ditteis; and another popular turn is that of the Lovelaces, in illustrated songs. Marie York, Doodles, and Little Bishop also add to the general success; while the British Bioscope Company present all the latest instructive and amusing pictures.

MAIDSTONE. — Palace. — Manager, Mr. S. Baskerville.—Mr. Tom H. Taylor's company is here in *The Female Swindler*, and to judge by the enthusiasm of the audience, the visit should prove successful. Miss Violet Ellicott, in the title-rôle, and Mr. Jerrold Heather as Jack Coulston share the honours, their clever acting being received with enthusiasm. The whole production is excellent. For the last three nights, Mr. Geo. Edwardes' company, in *The Merry Widow*, is announced.

MANCHESTER. — Gaiety Theatre. — Proprietress, Miss A. E. F. Horniman; Manager, Mr. B. Iden Payne; Acting-Manager, Mr. Edwin T. Heys.—For lovers of serious drama a fine programme is submitted here this week, consisting of five Ibsen plays, presented by a company under the direction of Mr. Leigh Lovel. Mr. Lovel played Torvald Helmer in *A Doll's House* on Monday with marked success, and received powerful support from Miss Octavia Kenmore as Nora and Mr. Arthur McCulloch as Nils Krogstadt; while Miss Katherine Maynard as Mrs. Linden and Mr. Arthur Chesney as Dr. Rank added to the value of the performance. On Tuesday *Hedda Gabler* was given, and on succeeding evenings *Rosmersholm, John Gabriel Borkman*, and *The Master Builder*.

Grand Junction Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—Mr. J. Gar Kiddie's company appeared here on Monday in a highly satisfactory version of *Little Bo-Peep*, a pantomime which is destined to enjoy a successful travelling career. Very pretty dresses and scenery are a feature of the show, and the singing and dancing leave nothing to be desired. The comic parts are in the capable hands of Mr. Harry Royde (Baron Hardup), Mr. J. W. Groves (Granny Brown), Messrs Grapho and Jackson (Johnny Stout and Johnny Green), Mr. Willie Harris (Tommy Long), and Mr. Albert Kail Stern (Rastus Brown, the Baron's flunkey); while Boy Blue and Little Bo-Peep are played with plenty of go by Miss Ivy Gallard and Miss Lizzie Payne. The living statuary, among the specialities, are capital, and the entire production was highly appreciated by a full house.

Royal Osborne Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr J. Mason.—Mr. Stephen Pritt's dramatic répertoire company is playing here an interesting drama entitled *A Woman's Passion*. Miss Rosa Mervyn gives a quietly powerful depiction of Claire Trevenen, "the woman," and is ably assisted by Mr. Archie Helsby as the gipsy doctor, Mr. Edmund Grogan as the heroic Lord Hubert Vale, and Mr. David McFarlane as Sir Randall Derrick—a capital character part. Miss Emmie Barton has also a good rôle as Winifred Hamlyn, which she renders with nice discretion; and much fun is provided by Mr. William Ames, the jockey, Little Poulton, the page, and Miss Marie Desmond, the housemaid. *His Wife No Longer* was played on Wednesday and Friday.

Metropole Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Messrs. Northway and Garrod's company is here this week in *The Prodigal Parson*. Mr. L. Darra plays the part of the Rev. Tom Godley in excellent style; Mr. Alfred Northway is equally good as Jaggins, the churchwarden; and Mr. C. Ashwell as Ben Jaggins does well with his opportunities. Miss V. Hammersley as Fern Godley, the parson's wife, gives an intelligent depiction, and Miss M. Gillard is commendable as Myrtle, the blind child. Acceptable humour is supplied by Mr. O. Redmonde and Miss A. Buckland. The play is given twice nightly before good audiences.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The top turn here this week is provided by Albert Marsh's company in *Chums Till Death*, a dramatic episode of the goldfields, which is proving attractive. The second place of honour is occupied by the original Cruikshank, a very smart comedian. Rousby's "Greater London" is a fine electrical spectacular display; Albert and Edmund's comedy troupe in *Neighbours* is well described as "something to laugh at"; and other entertaining items are supplied by Tate and Tate, the barmaid and the customer; La Belle Nello, queen of equipoise; Charles Stevens, comedian; and Cissie Thompson, comedienne.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—Fred Karno's company in *The Football Match* is a big attraction here; and Caicedo, king of the wire, provides a wonderful and exciting turn. The Bensons give a good vocal, musical, and comedy act; Hammon and Whyatt, the Australian Sandow girls, are successful; and other pleasing items are those of Kitty Wager, comedienne; Mlle. Haydee's miniature vaudeville theatre; Fred Poplar, comedian; Walker and May, coloured singers and dancers; and Falcon and Eida in a Japanese jujitsu dancing act.

Palace. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Manager, Mr. A. J. Carter.—An excellent all-round programme is headed by the inimitable Little Tich, who, if possible, is more entertaining than ever. His reception nightly is deservedly great. The Borghetti Troupe go through a really surprising acrobatic performance; Lotto, Lilo, and Otto are excellent trick and comedy cyclists; Odeyne Spark is a chic comedienne and dancer; and Wyze and Adna sing well in a vocal duologue. Harry Nation, vocal comedian, is good; L. B. Athol sings "Let me keep on dreaming" effectively; Jack Rae, comedy gymnast, is clever; and Charles Hera is a smart society juggler. As usual, the Palace pictures are good.

Tivoli. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A. Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Kitty Colyer, who tops the bill here this week, has several catchy chorus songs, and is an excellent dancer. Elsie Bernard, an American comedienne, has some smart talk and songs, and makes a decided hit; Ruby Bijou is a very dainty dancer, barefoot and otherwise; and Duncan and Brasque are exceedingly good in a playlet entitled *A Society Butterfly*. Harry Meegan scores as an eccentric comedian; the Wyffs are entertaining in a comedy sketch, *St. Valentine's Day;* Bert Rayburn, a quaint character comedina, is good; Daisy Hicks is a refined comedienne; the Brothers Idento do some amusing juggling; and Jen Sanda, the lady baritone, sings two songs. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope pictures complete.

King's, Longsight.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broad head and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James B. Trippett.—Joe Peterman's Singing Servants are the principal turn here this week; and Stacey and Williams provide an equally successful comedy act. Clever turns are added by the Three Alskarnos, risley comedians; Hulbert, the popular ventriloquist; and Pueblo and Cropp, Creole artists; while the programme is satisfactorily completed by Ascot and Dewey in *Ballooning;* Charles Rowen, comedian; Mons. de Lil, illusionist; Mike and Lena, the Dutch lovers; and Frank Sley and his nipper, comedians and dancers.

Queen's Park Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—A hearty welcome is accorded Billy Williams, who is very popular here. Evelyn and Norrie present a smart and effective sketch, *Set a Thief*—, which is well received; Percy Farrimond, the singing collier, is warmly applauded; Ben Harris and his Five Nippers are highly diverting in dancing, singing, and boxing ;and the Wakeman Quintet are good harmonisers. Horace Sade dances in a masterly manner; Cyril Jephson, a comedian with a good voice and presence, makes a hit with his song "My gallery girl"; the Cameos are acrobats of ability; and Herma shows some wonderful feats of strength and weight-lifting. The Tramp's Daughter on the Bioscope is a good film.

Hulme Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broad head and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—Lester and Moure are to the front here this week in an eccentric comedy act, *A Day at the Beach*. Fred Maitland causes roars of laughter with his skit *Talked out; or, Should Women have Votes?* The Five Zingaris, in an Eastern scena, dance and sing well; La Belle Duchess introduces some well-trained animals; the Faludy Troupe of Royal Hungarian acrobats are clever; and other good turns are offered by Williams and Warden, the "Dooleyfied" humorists; Margaret Drew, vocal comedienne; E. Morrissey in clever equilibristic musical act; Jim Cheetham, boy whistler; and Lew Peterman, Hebrew comedian. The Hussar's Love is the Bioscope subject.

MANSFIELD. — Grand Theatre. — Managing-Director, Capt. Clayton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Mark Lorne.—A good house on Monday witnessed Messrs. Kimberley, Green, and Hinton's company, in *The Power of the King*, which was admirably staged. Miss Dorothy Clifton is very charming as Lady Anastasia, and fills the part with much distinction; Miss Georgina France is excellent as Lady Florina; and Miss Grace Barton is a sweet Margot. Mr. Gerald Blake acts in manly style as Captain Langrave; Mr. Travis Green is a great success as Crown Prince Oscar; Mr. Charles Whitlock as King of Vallambrosa has a part well suited to him; Mr. Wilton Drury is extremely clever as Fritz; and Miss Hilda Volkes is particularly good in the juvenile part of Phillipe.

MARGATE. — Hippodrome. — Managing-Directors, Messrs. F. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. C. F. Bawtree.—Harry Tate's company has been presenting, this week, with unqualified success, the laughable sketch *Fishing;* this piscatorial trifle has created great merriment, and has proved an attractive item on the programme; America's Elephant Trio, "Roger," "Queenie," and "Alice," introduced by Mr. Charles Miller, give a remarkably intelligent performance; the Victas give a smart acrobatic and barrel jumping turn; Charles Cardow, vocal comedian, had a flattering reception in his up-to-date songs; Ena Richards, comedienne and dancer, and Charles Leighton, the tramp at the piano, have each given a very acceptable contribution to the programme, and the entertainment has also included an interesting series of Hippodrome pictures.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—Theatre Royal.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—The Merthyr Amateur Dramatic Society were in possession, for the first three nights of the week, playing with considerable success *The Forbidden Tree*, for the benefit of the local charities. For Thursday and two following evenings, Mr. Stanley Carlton and company were announced, in *London With the Lid Off*.

Temperance Hall.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—This week's bill includes Walter Ellis and company, in an amusing playlet, *The Sleepwalker*. Other capital turns are given by the Moxon Trio, acrobatic eccentrics; Oakdene, the comedy ventriloquist; Poole and Poole, comedians and dancers; Pietro, the human crocodile; the Musical Keiths; Little Maudy, child comedienne; La Petite Carlina, international dancer; and the Biograph, with some good pictures.

Methil.—Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietors, the Methil Theatre Company, Ltd.—Varieties form the attraction here this week. The Tennessee Guards provide a popular turn; Mr. Leslie Clements is a clever banjoist and dancer; Miss Retta Helkett is an attractive comedienne; Mr. Geo. Le Wist shows ability as a ventriloquist; and two turns not named on the programme prove acceptable. The Gaietyscope shows several of the latest films. An entire change of programme was billed for the last three nights of the week.

MEXBOROUGH.—Prince of Wales's Theatre.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—Mrs. F. Wybert Clive's company is this week presenting *The Outcast of the Family*. Mr. Cecil A. Olgar gives a manly exposition of Harry Thorne; Stephen Barry is capably presented by Mr. Walter Steele; the villainous Richard Martin is vigorously played by Mr. C. H. Coleman; Abram Wasper is ably typified by Mr. E. W. Cudd; Mr. M. Platting submits a capital character study of Uncle Sam; Miss Gertrude Morella is a sympathetic Ruth; and Miss Lilian Ross shows ability as Grace Redburn.

New Picture Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—The excellent programme this week includes The Wreckers, Poverty and Honesty, Ride Through Central France, How the Clown's Prayer Was Answered, Music and Poetry, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Opera House.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr. W. Ker Chatto.—*The Power of the Cross* is being presented here by Mr. Lingford Curson's company. As the Baron Curzola Mr. George A. de Gray, author of the play, does well; Miss Annie Hylton as Margaret Seaton ably depicts the part; Gerald Fairfax is well presented by Mr. Robert Hall, and Miss Stella Carmichael gives a capital portrayal of Rita Lascelles.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Charles Imeson.—A romantic melodrama, *For Love and the King*, is being presented by Mr. C. Watson Mill's company. Mr. C. Watson Mill himself portrays the character of Jorval, a young soldier of fortune, and Miss Rosalind Tate admirably fills the part of Princess Athene. Miss Joan Ellis is a delightful beggar maid, and Mr. Villiers Stanley as the Prince is exceedingly good. Mr. Geoffrey Chate does full justice to the rôle of Duke Fernand. The piece is admirably staged.

Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles G. Rembges.—Sammy Shields, the football enthusiast, creates roars of laughter here this week, and Tom Edwards provides a clever and novel ventriloquial turn; Chris Richards is an eccentric comedian, and Henry Hilton a smart conjurer. Marie Jones and Ernest Munro provide a novel turn in a duologue, in which she appears in six distinct characters; Leah Arden is a pleasing comedienne, and Lyster and Cooke give a delightful musical turn.

Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—George Formby deservedly occupies the star position here this week, and he is accorded a hearty reception; a most mystifying turn is presented by Sahib Gustave Fasola; Baines and Reed are clever acrobats; Katie Butler is highly amusing, and Charlie Williams, Parker and Parr, and David Poole also contribute.

MOTHERWELL.—New Century Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in a new version of *East Lynne* is proving a strong attraction here. Mr. Frederick Harker is quiet and refined in his embodiment of Archibald Carlyle; Mr. W. H. Garbois is playing the part of Levison on conventional lines; Mr. Richard Nugent is amusing as the volatile Murty O'Flynn; Justice Hare is finely portrayed by Mr. William Lowe; and Mr. Byron Pedley is to be congratulated on his performance as Mr. Dill. Miss Marion Lind gives proof of sterling ability as an emotional actress in her finely conceived conception of Lady Isabel; the Cornelia Carlyle of Miss Sophy Shenton calls for special mention as a fine bit of quiet character acting; Joyce is admirably played by Miss Guineveve Shilton; Miss Josephine Gwynne is excellent as Barbara Hare; and Miss Doris Denville is well suited as Willie Carlyle.

MUSSELBURGH.—Gaiety Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Hugh Ritchie; Lessee, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston.—The stock company played *Jane Shore* on Monday, giving one of the best performances of the season. As Richard, Mr. A. W. B. Kingston had a part which fitted like the proverbial glove; and received able support from Mr. James T. Dale as Sir William Catesby. Their opponents, Lord Hastings, John Cressingham, and Matthew Shore, were played respectively by Messrs. Jack Kilpatrick, James Somerville, and Tom Mortimer. Miss Emma Poole, in the title-rôle, was seen to great advantage; and as the Queen Miss Dolores Hope both looked and played well. Other parts were taken by Messrs. Ted Mooney, James Forsyth, and Miss Clarice Jenner. *Old Edinburgh, The Sleigh Bells, Robert Macaire, The Face at the Window*, and *Reddy's Bonnie Dochter* are in the week's bill.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.—Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Rowe.—Patrons of this popular house are well catered for this week, during which Mr. Frank Lindo and company provide the entertainment. On Monday *Home, Sweet Home*, was presented before a large and appreciative audience. Mr. Lindo as Stephen Armitage and Miss Wakeford as the adopted daughter of Stephen's father proved undeniably their histrionic talents. Other leading rôles were ably sustained. On Tuesday evening *Love, the Conqueror*, a new play by Frank Lindo, was presented for the first time. An account will be found in another column.

Grand Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. F. W. Bolam.—A capital attendance greeted the appearance of Mr. W. G. Arthur's company in *The Mockery of Marriage on Monday*. The company is a strong one. Mr. George Tempest as Sir Montagu Jephson and Miss Mabel Liston as Alva Kenyon filling the principal parts in a capable and convincing style.

Empire Theatre.—Resident-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; Manager, Mr. W. Parham Wells.—Amongst many and varied items presented here this week, Terry and Lambert prove especially attractive; Mme. Alice Esty, the well-known operatic star, heads the bill, and her well-chosen selections are immensely popular; Miss Marquis and her stud of highly-trained cats furnish another big-line turn; whilst Herman Melot, an able conjurer, succeeds in mystifying his audience with his deftness in legerdemain. Another pleasing turn is that of Nance Elder, versatile comedienne and singer; whilst J. L. Shine, character comedian, Bob Hamilton, Scotch comedian, Bennie Barrow, baritone, in illustrated songs, and *No. 99*, an American dramatic sketch, presented by Fred Kitchen and Frank Lister, all prove most acceptable, the Bioscope completing.

Pavilion Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Thos. Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Will H. Boardman.—A burlesque, entitled *Man—the Brute*, produced by Harry Grattan and company, is the premier attraction at this popular house. Other excellent turns are provided by Mooney and Holbein, Ariel and Astarte, Tony Black, Maxey and Pete, the Ongars, St. Ruth and Conyers, and Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilde.

Skating Rink, Exhibition Buildings.—Manager, Mr. F. B. Crowe.—Special attraction is provided this week by the enterprising management in the engagement of A. H. Simmons, the famous roller-skater, whose exhibitions greatly please the numerous visitors. Thursday night was set apart for special contributions to the Lord Mayor's Distress Fund.

NEWPORT.—Lyceum.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Sidney Cooper.—Mr. Harding Thomas and Miss Gertrude Bonser, with a capital company, produce *The Old Home* here this week. The Daddy of Mr. Harding Thomas is a fine piece of acting throughout; Mr. Henry Lonsdale as the Rev. Eric Armstrong interprets the character with power and dignity; and Miss Gertrude Bonser as Hazel Dean makes a charming heroine. Mr. Rowland Yorke's Lord Avondale is quite adequate, and in the lighter parts of Bridget Donaghan and Sam Adams, Mrs. J. W. Braithwaite and Mr. Fred L. Connynghame are exceedingly entertaining. The minor characters were all ably sustained. The stage effects are admirable.

Empire.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll.—The central attraction this week is the playlet *Jack the Giant Killer*, presented by George Angler and his company. All the parts are admirably sustained, and a great deal of humour is introduced. Sybil St. Elmo, who has a powerful yet sweet voice, sings a couple of songs in good style; the Musical Twelve present a charming vocal and instrumental entertainment; Mlle. Lousi van Dalle, Geo. Hilton St. Gust, and T. H. Wood do well, and Alfred Holt (American comedian) gives some excellent imitations of birds, bells, and animals. Trippello (assisted by his son) provides a pleasing musical turn; Ethel Newman shows talent in her monologue, *Her Wedding Day;* Pat Rafferty, comedian, and some excellent pictures on the Bioscope complete the bill.

Makes the Skin as Soft as Velvet.—Beetham's "Larola" Preserves the Skin from the effects of frost, cold winds, and hard water. Entirely removes and prevents all roughness, redness, irritation, chaps, &c., and Keeps the Skin Soft, Smoo

NORTH SHIELDS.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. Horace Lee.—*At Duty's Call* is being played here this week by Mr. John Gerant's company. As Harold Alison Mr. John Gerant is responsible for an excellent portrayal; Mr. Charles C. Calvert displays ability as Captain George Alison; General Gordon is cleverly enacted by Mr. Ernest St. John; Mr. J. Forrester Harvey makes a hit as Terry O'Hallaron; Mr. Frank Morton is clever as Jack Spenser; Miss Beatrice Western plays with intelligence and power the rôle of Dora Drummond; Miss A. Roscoe is an effective Salema; and Miss Eva Belle is smart as Mary.

Central Palace.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—The Four Aces, comedy acrobats, top the bill here, and give a clever performance; Mr. Joe Belmont, vocalist and mimic, creates a favourable impression; and the Two Tenors, vocalists, are much appreciated; Miss Lilly Fenwick, comedienne, has many admirers; the Cleatens, vocalists and dancers, meet with a hearty reception; Mr. J. P. Fletcher, a local reciter, is well received; and the Mouldoscope still continues a prominent feature on the programme.

NORTHWICH.—Pavilion.—Proprietress, Mrs. Fletcher; Manager, Mr. Towyn Thomas.—Harry Daubney gives a smart ventriloquial turn; Venie Veldon does well; Will Willis renders a good account of himself; Rowlands and Ford are very popular; Billy Melia receives much applause for his contributions, and Ruffell's Bioscope pictures are still affording much amusement.

NORWICH.—Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor F. W. Fitt.—Mr. Tubby Edlin, in *The Cowboy Millionaire*, with a talented company, introduced by Mr. Harry Roxbury, provide an excellent turn, and are well received; George D'Albert is also much appreciated; Henry Hallam and Josephine Stanton, in a musical comedy sketch, entitled *A Broken Journey*, are entertaining; Harry Ray and Lillie Caldon are amusing; Gladys and Alba get much applause; and Harry Briggs, vocalist, Herbert La Martine, eccentric dancer, and La Belle Greta, vocalist and danseuse, with the Hippo-Bio, complete a capital programme.

Agricultural Hall Assembly Rooms.—Interesting and entertaining pictures are shown here by the New Era picture company, depicting life in all parts. They are well patronised, and assisted by a small orchestra. Songs by Miss Gladys Vane are well received.

Bank Plain Assembly Rooms.—The Franco-English animated pictures are continuing successfully here.

Agricultural Hall.—Mr. Charles Thurston has again opened this spacious hall as a Great Fun Carnival. In addition to the motor-cars and gondolas, there are several sideshows, with an animated picture exhibition. There is an excellent attendance.

NOTTINGHAM.—Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Harry Upton.—The stage is occupied this week by the City Amateur Operatic Society, who have for some years done much to help charitable institutions by their performances. The opera chosen is *Falka*, and excellent representations are being nightly enjoyed by large audiences.

Empire Theatre of Varieties.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—The popularity of Bella and Bijou is considerably enhanced by their latest sketch, *The Suffragette*, and uproarious applause awaits them at each performance. The equestrian act by Karl Reinsch and Miss Lucie gives great pleasure by its skill and neatness. Another turn of great interest is the reappearance of the blind pianist Mendel, his remarkable powers calling forth the highest praise and enthusiasm; Victor Newman's impersonations are excellently done, and Mabel Mavis supplies a musical item with taste and expression. Some merry moments are provided by Les Marsumas, comedy cyclists, and by Dennis Drew, in a musical scena; Kathleen Cogan dances spiritedly, and Harry Leybourne's song is appreciated. The Bioscope pictures are well received.

Royal Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. V. Carnell.—Amongst acrobatic performances, the Denwartz Troupe must be ranked high, their quickness, fearlessness, and skill being remarkable. No less amazing is the turn of Marcel and Boris, equilibrists, who are justly awarded a hearty reception. The Rubys rouse enthusiasm in an exhibition of contortionism, and the dancing of "My Fancy" evokes a storm of applause; Starr and Leslie are always amusing, and their juggling feats deserve unlimited praise. A delightful little sketch, *A Daughter of Pleasure*, is capitally played by Grahame and Harrington; B. A. Rolfe presents the American musical comedy, *The Ten Dark Nights*, which gains deserved favour; Parr and Jerome add to the fun as comedians; Ida Ross contributes a song; and films are shown on the Barrascope.

NUNEATON.—Prince of Wales's.—Managing-Director, Mr. A. F. Cross; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joseph Coyle.—Mr. Lingford Carson's company is this week presenting *A Fight for a Throne*. Mr. John S. Millwood as Capt. Jack Fortescue, the hero, plays well, and scores continuously; Mr. Gerald Byrne ably impersonates the King of Saxovinia; Mr. Charles E. Linney draws execrations from the audience by his resourceful acting as the thorough-paced villain Prince Otto; relief from the exciting incidents of the play is provided by the capital comedy of Mr. Charles H. Hughes as Tom Ferret; Miss Dora Hammersley as Prince Esmee is natural and charming, and wins much approval; Miss Margarette Tueskie gives a creditable performance as Countess Valeska; and Miss Emmeliene B. Lewis is good as Lady Pat.

OLDHAM.—Empire Theatre.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Hulme.—The Carl Rosa Opera Company is paying its annual visit, and the reception obtained has been most gratifying. *Carmen* was the opera selected for Monday. Miss Doris Woodall appeared with great success in the title-rôle, her vivacious acting and delightful singing being highly enjoyed; Miss Elizabeth Burgess as Micaela was no less successful, her voice being greatly admired; Miss Christine Ritz as Mercedes and Miss Annie Walker as Frasquita sang in an accomplished manner; Mr. Edward Davies was heard to great advantage as Jose, and used his excellent tenor voice with good effect; Mr. Chas. Victor as Escamillo was very effective; Mr. Alexander Richard was a fine Zuniga, and Mr. Wm. Rousell and Mr. Albert Felton as Morales and Lilias Pastia respectively were excellent. Mr. Frederick Clendon as Dancairo and Mr. Wm. O'Connor as Remendado also did well. A powerful chorus do full justice to the numbers allotted them, and an augmented orchestra is presided over by Mr. Walter Van Noorden. *Lohengrin*, *Il Trovatore*, *Bohemian Girl*, *Tannhauser*, *Faust*, and *Maritana* are also in the week's bill.

Colosseum Theatre.—General Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—*When Other Lips*, played by Mr. T. Arthur Jones and company, is here on a first visit, good houses enjoying the drama. Miss Marie Daventry as Ruth Lindley gives a well-balanced portrayal of the part, and her sailor lover is well acted by the author, Mr. T. Arthur Jones. Mr. Juan D'Alberti is capable as the villainous Basil Cunningham. The Snare is a capitally acted part by Miss Marion Wells; Miss Iva May Clarke is very good as Nancy; Mr. Albert H. Clarke as Robert Lindley acts in a clever manner; Mr. Richard Webb as Daddie Topwash is very amusing; and some smart comedy is introduced by Miss Lizzie Lennon as Kitty Topwash, Mr. Cecil H. Raymond as Tommy Neccles, and Mr. Herbert Bentone as Phylocrates Jenkins. Mr. Dick Everton as Davey Phillips is excellent.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Jan Rudenyi in *The Power of Music* plays the violin in capital style, ably assisted by Miss Dora de Winton and Mr. John D. Saunders; King and Benson are clever in a musical act *Round the Town*; the Herald Comedy Four harmonise in a capital manner; Ike and Will Scott provide much amusement; the Four Pawles are smart in their acrobatic act; Amy Sullivan, comedienne, sings some catchy songs well, and Arthur Reece is a capital comedian. Memora has a marvellous memory, and an amusing picture by the Dottoscope concludes.

Hippodrome.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Fred Moule and company cause hearty laughter with the burlesque sketch *That Dreadful Detective*; Tom Lloyd in eccentric comedy is well received; Don and Mabel are clever in a Scottish scena, *Sandy's Return*; Millie Howell sings in a very refined manner; Jack Franklin appears in a smartly worked scena with success, *Dear Old Portland*; Boden and Bell, juvenile artists, sing and dance well, and Clarke and Glenney are very funny in a comedy absurdity. The Dottoscope concludes.

Palace Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, M. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Edmund Sharrocks.—Lafayette continues to mystify for the second week, his principal act being *The Lion's Bride*, which is highly appreciated. Other turns include the Lyons Trio in clever pantomime and smart dancing; Blake and Amber are very amusing in a frivolity act; Culpitt is very droll with his smart deception; Heeley and Meeley are funny in a comedy act, *Two Lucky Tramps*, and Bert Kemble does well as a vocal comedian. The Palace Pictures conclude.

OXFORD.—New Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. C. Dorrill; Assistant-Manager, Mr. G. T. Lucas.—The latter half of last week the boards here were occupied by the Summertown Amateur Operatic Society, who gave three very praisworthy performances of *Les Cloches de Corneville*, in aid of Lord Roberts's Veterans' Relief Fund. The amateurs drew crowded houses, the theatre being packed in every part on Saturday night, and the society hope to hand over some fifty guineas to the cause. They were fortunate in having professional assistance in the persons of Mr. Edward Ottley and his wife. To the former were due the admirable movements of a very effective and large chorus. Indeed, too much praise cannot be given to Mr. Ottley for his stage management, which resulted in everything going without the slightest hitch throughout. Mrs. Ottley not only played Christophe with wonderful vivacity and "go," but also was responsible for training the chorus to dance in a fashion that elicited universal praise.

East Oxford Theatre.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre Co.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Messrs. Charles Freeman and George Derricke's company is here this week with *A White Demon*. Mr. Freeman gives a powerful and realistic rendering of Dr. Leyton; Mr. Robert Blair is an ideal hero as Robert Elliott; Mr. Derricke does well as Corey Brown; Mr. Claude Graveley is an impressive Professor Simpson; and Mr. F. T. Carroll shows ability as the detective, Frank Wilson; Mr. F. Coston causes much laughter as Jeremiah Twinkle; and Mr. A. Armstrong is a typical policeman; Dick is played naturally by Miss Josephine Blair; Miss Ivy Derry is a graceful Lucy Elliott; and Miss K. Webster a bright Mary De Bean; Miss Florence Tench as May Elliott gives an intensely sympathetic and able rendering of a difficult rôle.

PAISLEY.—Hippodrome.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. S. Stead.—Mrs. Lillie Williams's pantomime *Robinson Crusoe*, under the managership of Mr. Frederick Yates, is being performed twice nightly. Produced in Dundee a fortnight ago, it has already been lengthily noticed in these columns. The outstanding artists that are worthy of mention for their ability are Miss Amy Randolph as Robinson Crusoe, Miss May Carter as Polly Perkins, and Miss Dora Lindsay as Fairy Pearl, their singing receiving well-merited applause. Mr. Fred Davis as Will Atkins, Mr. Tom Gilmore in the dual rôles of Captain Scuttle and Friday, Mr. J. Telly Dillsen as Mrs. Crusoe, and Justin and Mantell as Bailiff Bom and Bailiff Bim are the chief funmakers. Exceptionally good are the specialities introduced by the Ten Dixie Girls, Lindsay and Harte, the Sisters Selwyn, the Sisters Poole Pelham, and Justin and Mantell.

PERTH.—The Perth Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. H. Savile; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Aldridge.—Mr. Newman's British Empire Picture and Variety Company commenced this week a twelve nights' return visit. The entertainment is a popular one.

PETERBOROUGH.—New Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Manager, Mr. Frank Gallagher.—Mr. Chas. Fisher's Opera Company heads the bill this week. Mr. Alec Johnstone as Count Diluna, Mr. Chas. Fisher as Manrico, and Mdlle. Zella Lusano as Azucena are most successful. Other smart turns are those of James Graydon, patter comedian; Nellie Ridgway, in her refined novelty act; Jennie Reeve, dainty comedienne; Vendome and Chase, in different styles of dancing; Barney Vox, ventriloquist; J. H. Milburn, comedian; and W. J. Manning and Louise Gomersal, in a novel duologue *Knocked Out*. The Hippodrome pictures are good.

PLYMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. J. Langdon Lee.—*The Mystery of Edwin Drood* forms this week's attraction, and is admirably presented. As the opium-soaked John Jasper, Mr. Bartlett Garth utilises to the full the opportunities the part affords; Mr. William Billett acts with becoming reserve and discretion as Edwin Drood; Mr. Henry Twyford, as Neville Landless, is spirited and effective; Mr. David Phillips is quite at home as the low comedy man Durdles; and Mr. Richard Harris is a creditable Septimus Chrisparkle. Miss Addie Adair, as the opium den proprietor, Princess Puffer, does well in an uncanny part; and Miss Jennie Risley is attractive as Helena Landless.

Palace of Varieties.—Manager, Mr. J. Field.—John Clempert, described as the original Siberian gaol-breaker, furnishes a sensational star turn, and extricates himself from seemingly impossible positions with marvellous rapidity. Kelly and Agnas, American artists, provide an entertainment above the ordinary; Olga and Otto prove warm favourites, their operatic burlesque being greatly appreciated; and Arthur Boyne has the satisfaction of arousing hearty laughter. Albert Letine is a finished female impersonator; Allis and Cassati crowd an enormous amount of humour into their turn; and the Sisters Milton are accomplished duettists. Margit and Lever (Continental eccentrics) and the Bioscope furnish the remaining numbers.

PONTYPRIDD.—Royal Clarence Theatre.—Owners and Proprietors, Messrs. Trenchard and Jones; Manager, Mr. Charles Trenchard.—The attraction this week is Mr. Montague Beaudyn's company in *The Power of a Wicked Woman*. Philip Carey is played to advantage by Mr. Montague Beaudyn; Horace Winter is in the able hands of Mr. Tom Robertson; Mr. Arthur Cresswell scores as Guy Oliphant; Lord Arthur Dumley is capably portrayed by Mr. James Burt; Brantby is ably characterised by Mr. Arthur A. Tomlin; Helen Terraire finds a most able exponent in Miss Irene Munro; Miss Blanche Hill shows to advantage as Denise; Miss Phyllis Rae could scarcely be bettered as Marie; and Nellie Montague is successfully played by Miss Cecilia Crawford.

PORTH.—The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—Excellent houses are the order here. Topping the bill are Amy Anderson and company in their successful scena, entitled *The Banana Queen*, which is responsible for roars of laughter; the Ettenas, globe speciality artists, meet with great approval; Baroux and Bion, the comedy acrobats, are exceptionally smart; Little Tim, quaint comedian, scores a success; Henry and Tyler are exceedingly clever trick cyclists; Yorkshire Tom, the master mimic, in his sketch, *Crossley's Gas Engine*, deserves special mention; May Audley, refined versatile comedienne, meets with great approval; the Three Comedy Chanters' humorous, harmonious interludes are thoroughly appreciated; Recco, the mock acrobat, does remarkably well; and the Palascope, with latest films, is a treat in itself.

PORTSMOUTH.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Armstrong Bell.—Mr. Arthur Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh are here for the week, and opened on Monday evening to a large and very appreciative audience with *The Walls of Jericho*, which was played in perfect style. Mr. Bourchier's impersonation of Jack Frobisher maintained that high level of excellence for which it is renowned; Miss Violet Vanbrugh as Lady Alethea Frobisher submitted a delightful impersonation; Mr. Arthur Whitby as the Marquis of Steventon played admirably; a very effective portrayal of Hankey Bannister was submitted by Mr. Leon Quartermain; Miss Pamela Gaythorne as Lady Lucy and Miss Henrietta Watson as Lady Westerby were entirely satisfactory. For the rest of the week *The Bishop's Move*, *Sizes and Sevens*, *The Arm of the Law*, and *Doctor Johnson* were billed.

Prince's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr. J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. T. E. Agate.—*For Her Husband's Sake* is being staged here this week by Mr. Millar Anderson's company. Mr. Sidney Leyton makes an attractive Lieut. Jack Seymour, R.N., and plays capably; Mr. C. Quinton Fulford acts in fine style as Herbert Grey; Joseph Dene is well taken by Mr. Fred Blackett; Miss Lydie Donovan plays powerfully and with care Estelle Beaudet, and Miss Fay Garnet Vayne does well as Eileen Silas. The other parts are well filled, and the mounting is excellent.

King's Theatre.—Licensee and Manager, Mr J. W. Boughton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Marner; Director of Entertainments, Mr. Thomas Barrasford.—The Lyceum Operatic Trio give the Prison scene from *Faust* with artistic taste and ability; Robert Carr is an amusing ventriloquist; the Three Croisits, in a novel sporting scena, *From the Time of the Crusades*, give complete satisfaction; Coverdale and Huxley's Troupe of well-trained juveniles, in an admirable musical scena, *Pansy's Birthday*, are much appreciated; Fred Sinclair's company, in farcical comedy sketch, *Poor Arthur*, are very good; Wright and Lawson, eccentrics, provide some capital fun; Frivola and Deep, comedy duo, are clever; Alexander and Scott, American coon impersonators, do well; Russell Wallett, "the Lady in Black," scores; and the Hippo pictures finish the programme.

Empire Palace.—Managing-Director, Captain Warren Wright; Secretary, Mr. W. Pratt.—A very clever tumbling act is given by Messrs. Pipifax and Panlo, entitled *Humpsti-Bumpsti*, which is supplemented by some side-splitting business; Ethel Arundel is a refined and taking comedienne; Frank Harwood, versatile artist, is successful; the Four Breens are a capital quartette, and their comedy juggling is smart; Keen and Waller are novel eccentrics and decidedly good acrobats; Kit Keen, ethiopian entertainer, submits some capable numbers; Chas. R. Whittle's drolleries are highly relished; and Payne's Bio, portraying popular events, concludes.

Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; General-Manager, Mr. J. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Col. Roberts, V.D.; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Harris.—The Ten Loonies, in *Dotty*, head the bill here, and give their mad musical sketch in diverting manner; Honors and Le Prince are amusing in their acrobatic turn; George Collins is a quaint and droll comedian; the Four Sisters Victoria, instrumentalists and dancers, provide an admirable turn; Daisy Mayer's coon studies in song and story are most acceptable; Frank Geo, comedian, is highly popular; Friscari, the hat juggler, gives a novel and extremely clever exhibition; the George Bonhair Troupe submit a clever and daring performance; and the Hippo pictures of new subjects conclude.

PRESTON.—Theatre Royal.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—The Preston Amateurs are in possession here this week, and are presenting *Dr. Wake's Patient* and *Liberty Hall*, in aid of the N.S.P.C.C. (League of Pity Branch).

Prince's Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company, in *The Conscience of a Judge*, is playing to good houses this week. Mr. Stanley Bedwell as Herbert Granston (the judge) both looks and acts the part to perfection; Mr. Frank Eaglesfield displays the requisite amount of villainy as Sir Edward Mervin; Mr. Martin Pedler is successful as Cecil Bentley; Mr. Cecil Renton is also good as Geoffrey Granstone. The humorous side of the drama is capitally sustained by Mr. Dalton Bosher as John Summers, Mr. Frank Eden as Horatio Winters, and Miss Bessie Frank as Mary Wilson, all of whom create much laughter. Messrs. Fred Edwardes and Tom Carter as Old Jervis and Carter Ben respectively are good; Miss Eva Moss is excellent as Jessica Draycott, and soon succeeds in winning the sympathy of the audience; Little Elsie Isaacs is clever as Little Kitty; Miss Mabel Coleman as Ethel Vaughan is also a favourite; Miss Mona Dawlish is to be highly complimented upon her rendition of Mrs. Draycott. The drama is well mounted and cordially received.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadbent and Son.—Reano and his famous band are attracting crowded audiences, and seldom has a more popular turn visited the town. Forrest and King give a smart display of acrobatic dancing; Primavesi, in a juggling act, performs some clever feats; a very hearty reception is accorded to The Five Bombays, harmony singers and plantation and clog dancers; Jack Truman, tenor vocalist, possesses a good voice and uses it to advantage in some popular songs; Harry Leaton, character vocalist, and Jim Cunliffe, comedian, both score; Playfair and Vera give a novel and clever turn as papierographists and vocalists; Lillie Le Main, with her living marionette show, also comes in for a fair share of applause; Melody not Forgotten, on the Bioscope, concludes an exceptionally good programme.

RAMSGATE.—Royal Palace Theatre.—Proprietor, Lord George Sanger; Resident-Manager, Mr. Dan Forrest; Lessee, Mr. Ernest Mansell.—During the past week large audiences have assembled at the Royal Palace Theatre to witness the first-rate exhibitions of the Graphic life-motion pictures and the incidental variety turns. The pictorial programme is continually being changed, and all the latest and most interesting films are exhibited. A feature of the show this week has been the appearance of the aerial performer, De Ora, who introduces flying loops, trapeze acts, and concludes with a thrilling descent from roof to stage. On Sunday night there was a record "house" at the theatre, a sacred concert being given.

RAWTENSTALL.—Grand Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—Miss Dorothy Granville's new domestic four-act drama, entitled *The Better Land*, was produced here on Monday by the authoress's own company. As Philip Radcliffe Mr. Leslie Austin gave an excellent interpretation; Miss Nina Blake-Adams was powerful as Doris Radcliffe; George Grant is ably represented by Mr. Leonard Marshall; Mr. Robert Archer is an equally good detective, William White; Miss Bene Bentely shone to advantage as Polly Perkins; Mr. Herbert Fuller as Tom Tadpole gives an excellent impersonation; Harry Radcliffe is admirably represented by Master Harry Collinson; and as Tessa Miss Emilie Entwistle acts and sings charmingly. Miss Flo Hallworth is an exceptionally good Aunt Jemina; and as Herbert's Spanish wife, Mercedes, Miss Theo Merries was equal to all demands. Mr. F. Cristian makes a comical Bill Bones; and as the villain (Hubert) Mr. Stanley Radcliffe is powerful.

READING.—Royal County Theatre.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. Edward Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred. Benton.—This week the novelty drama, *The Girl who Went Astray* is being presented by a capable company, under the management of Mr. Bulmer. Miss Gwynne Warren gives a powerful impersonation of the exacting part of Zara L'Estrange; Miss Ada M. Ryder is excellent as Violet Harvey; Mr. John B. Shinton is an able representative of Captain Frank Julian; Mr. Fred Lloyd is effective as Rupert Murdock; Mr. Evan Roland, as the astute detective, and Mr. Tod Squires, as James Yellowsocks, are both highly amusing.

The Palace.—Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. Howard Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The Five Whiteleys give a clever and diversified acrobatic, wire-walking, and musical pot-pourri turn; Baddow is an accomplished ventriloquist; Stanley and Greenop are finished performers on the banjo; Harry Friskey displays his dexterity as a comedy juggler; Harry Lynx and Tom Wootlwell are both very amusing comedians; Minnie Wheaton is a dainty singer and dancer; Leslie Clare and Alice Cheshire's company create much diversion in their sketch, *Wanted, a Wife*; and some good pictures are shown on the Bioscope. The proceeds on Thursday evening were given to the Distress Funds.

ROCHDALE.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*The Old Folks at Home* is the attraction here this week. The play is well staged, and some good acting is presented. Mr. Frank Liston cleverly portrays the villainies of Lord Howard Kenilworth; Mr. H. E. Herberte powerfully sustains the part of Andrew Ross; Mr. Jack Locke is an acceptable Hugh Lovell; Mr. Arthur Dudley acts well as the dumb hunchback, Jock; the old folks, Christopher Robin and Martha Robin, have excellent representatives in Mr. Chas. Herberte and Miss Dora Santley; Miss Maud Warburton wins all hearts as Dorothy Robin; and much amusement is afforded by Mr. Frank Caffrey as Ben Jolly and Miss Annie White as Susan Giles.

Empire.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—H. O. Wells is a quaint and humorous comedian; Ellwanger and company present a very acceptable comedy sketch, entitled *The Peacemaker*; Cissie Curlette scores heavily with her comedy vocalism; Charles J. Johnson, coloured vocalist and dancer; Bonnetti and Corrie, eccentric jugglers; Celest, wire gymnast; Frank Coyle, comedian; Hillett and Hallett, comedians and dancers; and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

Hippodrome. — Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. John Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—The Dayton Family of Risley acrobats are here this week, and their clever performance is greeted with hearty and deserved appreciation; *The Master Card* is a capital sketch, in which Dunningarto displays his skill with the cards; Violet King is a refined and clever musician. Other excellent items are those of the Saletos, equilibrists; Stuart and Evans, comedians; Max Sterling, in *The Magic of Japan*; Lily Shaw, a child impersonator; Mike Nono, comedian and dancer; and the Hippodrome pictures.

ROTHERHAM.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Holbery Hardy.—Mr. Wilson Benge and company are here this week with *The Eve of Her Wedding*. Mr. Arthur Keand is seen to advantage as Squire Leverton; Mr. Wilson Benge gives a very fine portrayal of the parts of George Tremain and Nemo; Dick Leverton is capably enacted by Mr. Henry Danson; Mr. Charles Digby is a humorous Rudolph Earle; Mr. Wallace Campbell is deserving of mention as Dean Clifton; Mr. Charles Groves, jun., does well in the dual parts of Paul Canshaw and Hyram P. Younger; Mr. Arthur E. Holland scores as Jack Herne; and Mr. K. Arthur is very funny as Bill Groggins. Miss Effie Bartlett is a sprightly Reine de Telle; Miss Evelyn Derwent gives a clever rendition of Gwendoline Younger; Miss Amy Milstead scores as Edith Trevanion; and Miss Daisy Cook as Mavis Leverton gives a pleasing and finished performance of a difficult rôle.

Hippodrome, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. T. Edgar Fox; Resident-Manager, Mr. Claude Shayler—Miss Marie Loftus is at the top of a big bill, and the inimitable comedienne scores unmistakably; Miss Emmie Ames is a clever comedienne; Geo. Hyatt is a smartt juggler; Mr. Harry Bancroft scores; and Les Blancs are amusing gymnastic comedians. The Primrose Quartette bring down the house with their harmony; and Matthews, Cowper, and company present a very funny sketch, *When the Clock Went Wrong*. The pictures by the Hipposcope are up to date.

SALFORD.—Prince of Wales's.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—On Monday last a good house was drawn to witness the sensational drama *Her Marriage Vow*, which after a successful run of about seventeen months in the provinces made its appearance for the first time in London last week. Mr. Chas. Bedells worthily represents the villainous Gilbert Carlton; Mr. J. Forbes Knowles plays well the manly telegraphist Ned Benton; the half-witted Daffy Dan is an artistic study by Mr. Vincent Wardle; Mr. J. W. Ryder successfully presents the father William Walters; much laughter is caused by Mr. H. Vernon as Larry, Mr. Wilford Bailey as the bashful Eben Chubb, and Miss Grace Garside as Almira, the hopeful old maid; Miss Winifred Barton also amuses with her Maggie Clair; Miss Nellie Shirley is successful in her portrayal of Hester Norton; Miss Lilian Herries is excellent as Kate Walters. The staging is cleverly worked.

Regent Theatre of Varieties, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Boswell's Circus, with its ponies, dogs, and donkeys, causes much laughter; Athas and Collins are very smart in their act *The Lady and the Scarecrow*; Stidder and Dunbar have a clever musical performance with plenty of fun; Les Belles Americaines, four acrobatic dancers, do well; the bounding trampolinists Hayes and Merritt gain much applause; Ada Parker is a promising young comedienne and dancer. Other turns include Ellis and Watts, swell comedians; and A.E. Clifford, versatile vocalist.

Royal Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—Mrs. Sam Duckworth's company are twice nightly presenting the drama *Her Nameless Child*, by Madge Duckworth and Ridgewood Barrie, to good houses. Mr. J. W. Evelyn portrays a fine blacksmith as Anthony Ford; the hero, Arthur, is well placed in the hands of Mr. Sidney C. Cranston; Miss Pattie Hastings as the heroine Phyllis plays with vigour and skill; Mr. Larry Clements as Tom Rivers and Miss Renie Douglas as Bessie Brooks combine to keep the comedy to the front; Mr. Arthur Pringle as Lord Henry Woodville, Mr. Frank Thompson as Mongrole, and Miss Mona Gray as Lady Woodville successfully contribute to the villainy of the piece. Miss Beatrice Dover (Sarah), Miss Geraldine Verner (Crayout), and the other members give adequate support. The scenery and staging are very good.

Opera House and Assembly Rooms, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. E. Percival.—The animated pictures this week are fully attractive, and include The Orphan's Christmas, The Somnambulist's Crime, The Fly, Electric Hotel, The Next of Kin, Wife's Jealousy, Magic Hoops, and Gathering Grapes. Mr. Percival's song (illustrated), "Down in the valley where the blue birds sing," catches on with the full houses.

SEACOMBE.—Irving Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. James Kiernan.—Messrs. Matthew H. Glenville and Fred Osmond's company fills the bill here this week with *A Soldier of France*. Mr. Percy Ballard gets in some effective work as Corporal Jean, and Mr. Albert Guyon handles cleverly the part of Judas Delara. Mr. Freddie Edwards is amusing as Jollyboy, as is also Miss Jennie Clare as Margot. Mr. Milton C. Curtis as Duc de Laval, Miss Maggie Hobart as Rita, and Miss Carlotto Anson as Pauline Lorraine are all good in their respective parts.

SEAHAM HARBOUR.—New Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. A. C. Harrison; Manager, Mr. H. D. Lyle.—*The Plucky Nipper* made a welcome reappearance here on Monday, when the drama was presented by Miss Bonwin Carlton's company. Prominent in the cast is Mr. Edward Surrey, who gives an admirable portrayal of Bill Burgess; Mr. W. Lowther is a dignified Colonel Fenwick; Henry Paget is well played by Mr. T. Hadlin; as Captain Frank Leslie Mr. A. P. Lee wins much popularity; Mr. J. P. Dryden skilfully enacts the part of Richard Vanborough; Tommy Atkins finds a clever exponent in Mr. C. Wilson; Miss Bonwin Carlton, who appears in the title-rôle, wins hearty approval; Miss Esther Lamont presents an artistic study of Ina Fenwick; Daisy Paget is well played by Miss Kitty Maynard. During the week *The Old, Old Story* was also staged.

SHEFFIELD.—Theatre Royal.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Hart; General-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. J. E. B. Beaumont; Assistant-Manager, Mr. A. Henfrey-Aldred.—*In Old Madrid* is again being played here by Mr. Fred Kirke's popular company. The scenery and dresses are excellent, and the artists all work together to keep up the interest of the dramatic story. The songs, dances, and concerted pieces conduce greatly to the attractiveness of the play.

Alexandra Theatre. — Managing-Director, Mr William D. Forsdike; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Ramsay.—Miss Ellen Snow's company opened on Monday to a good house in the military drama *Why Men Love Women*. Miss Snow made a graceful and emotional representative of Violet Livingstone; and other characters were cleverly sustained by Messrs. Oliver Rogers, Lionel Gadsden, C. Slaughter, E. Griffin, W. Norman, A. Radford, Fred West, George Storm, W. Wilson, Harwood Roberts, and Misses Florence Nelson, Beresford-Glynn, Nita Owen, and Freda Vaughan. Some good scenery is provided.

Empire Palace Theatre.—The Moss Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—A well-arranged programme was submitted to a crowded house on Monday, headed by the American sketch *About a Bout*, in which appeared the wrestler Frank Gotch and his company. The smart musical comedy artists Eadie and Ramsden were well received; and a lively comic interlude, *Me and 'Er*, was presented by those diverting duettists Duncan and Godfrey; the Four Jumels are expert instrumentalists; the Chronomegaphonetic imitation of the favourite singer Miss Victoria Monks was loudly applauded; Olga and Elgar's vocal and musical entertainment was a special and refined feature; and other items were the "dandy" songs of Miss Madge Osmond, the energetic clog-wolloping of the Eight Lancashire Lads, the Bioscope, with up-to-date pictures, and the Crown Trio, vocalists.

The Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—Large audiences have been completely won this week by the famous pugilist Mr. Bob Fitzsimmons, who with his charming wife are appearing in a pleasing comedy sketch, *A Man's a Man for a' That*. The popular pair were enthusiastically received. The Three Ausonias, in their grand spectacular act, *Sports in the Roman Circus*, were applauded to the echo; the Frank L. Gregory troupe of hoop-jugglers do a bright and exhilarating show; and others engaged are Clothilde and Musto, with their trained cockatoos; the Three Comerfords; Mr. H. Pollock's company, in *Hester's Mystery*, Messrs. Leonard and Vereker, comic musicians; Simms and Simms, in a new comic act; Mr. H. Taft and Mr. Herbert Rule. The special Bioscope film this week is a beautiful series of animated pictures of the Swiss Canton lakes.

Grand Theatre.—Manager, Mr. A. S. Turpin.—Mr. Harry Wright, vocal comedian; Miss Nelly Gannon, serio-comic vocalist, and other artists are

doing well; and a fine programme of artistic moving pictures of humorous, fantastic, and instructive subjects by the Raymond Bio-tableaux company, keep up the prestige of Sheffield's cosy and popular picture theatre.

SHREWSBURY.—Theatre Royal and Hippodrome.—Lessee and Director, Mr. W. Yates Gregory; General-Manager, Mr. Thos. Baugh.—There is a strong and attractive show here this week, which is thoroughly appreciated. The Four Dorians give a remarkably clever and daring turn on trapeze and rings; the Gentrys' comedy medley, *Duo in Bits*, is a smart bit of work; Blarney and Kennard, comedians, with their well-trained waltzing dogs, are highly successful; Wisper, comedy juggler, gives a smart and novel performance; Beau and Belle have a capital scena entitled *Past and Present;* Barney Steward is a clever impersonator and descriptive actor; Beattie Bloom, a dashing comedienne, works strenuously to please; and the moving pictures are excellent.

SMETHWICK. — Royal. — Proprietor, Mr. C. Barnard; Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson.—*The Girl with the Angel Face* is here this week. The title-rôle, that of a young girl whose nature, unlike her personal qualifications, is anything but angelic, is well filled by Miss Florrie Green; as a sexton of ninety Mr. Fred G. Evison scores heavily; Miss Mildred Carr succeeds as Molly Maitland, an actress; Mr. H. Naylor Grimson plays Sir John Wentworth with determination and force, also doubling the part of Thomas Wentworth; Mr. Austin Mortimer makes a sufficiently villainous character of Stephen Arkwright; and Mr. Dobell Lyle earns hearty applause as the Rev. Gordon Cross. Miss Phyllis Dailley is a sympathetic Ena Wentworth; and Miss Gem Lloyd acts with natural charm as the child Nellie. Mr. Allen Charles causes amusement as the Hon. Percy Paget; Mr. James Rodd as Mark Fenning, Mr. J. L. Mann as Mark Flood, and Mr. Dicky Bird as Jim Bates, should be commended for portayals of merit. The drama is admirably staged by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and James Willard's company.

SOUTHAMPTON. — Grand Theatre. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Fredk. Mouillot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Weston.—Mr. James Welch's company appeared for three nights in *When Knights were Bold*, with the utmost success. On Thursday Mr. Fred. Terry and his New Theatre company opened in *The Scarlet Pimpernel*. Mr. Terry was excellent as Sir Percy Blakeney, and Miss Miriam Lewes also scored a huge success as Lady Blakeney. The visit was highly appreciated, and crowded houses gave Mr. Terry and his company a hearty welcome.

Palace.—Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wm. Trussell.—Minerva is the star attraction and scores with her barrel trick; Mr. W. H. Benson's company is excellent in *The Last Halt;* other capital turns are given by the Arthur Gallimore Trio, comedy artists Babusio Bros., head to head acrobats; the Fordyces, duettists and dancers; the Leonas, musical act; Norah Desmond, pictorial songstress; and Chas. Banks, comedian, and his dog "Woof."

Hippodrome.—Joint Managing-Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and W. de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Yardley.—Princess Trixie gives a wonderful performance, and receives a hearty welcome; Mike S. Whallen, the comet with many tales, scores a success; Edouard José appears in *The Strike*, a dramatic episode; and others who entertain are Witty Wattie Walton, Frances McNulty, Phil Rees' Stable Lads, Bert Woodward, and Wyotti.

Philharmonic Hall.—Messrs. Andrews' pictures are still proving highly popular, the dramatic film After Many Years meeting with cordial appreciation; Miss May McPherson's illustrated songs are a special feature, and the orchestra play capitally. Mr. Chas. Gaston is now the business manager for Messrs. Andrews.

Empire.—The films projected by the Walturdaw Company, under the management of Mr. Auguste Denton, are very popular; good audiences rule, and Mr. Fred. Pugh's beautifully illustrated songs evoke much applause.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—Empire Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—The Monckton-Hoffe comedy company give a first-class portrayal of the interesting play *Irene Wycherley*. Miss Maude Henderson delineates the name-part skilfully, her display of varied emotions in a difficult rôle winning high appreciation; the brutal and disreputable Philip Wycherley is in the clever hands of Mr. Charles Garry, who also gains success; Miss Phyllis Stuckey is seen to advantage in a pleasing characterisation of Muriel Wycherley; and Miss Marjorie Davenport is well suited as Lily Summers. Mr. Ralph Hutton as Sir Peter Wycherley, Bart., makes an able exponent of the part, and shares honours with Mr. G. Clifton Boyne as Harry Chesterton; while Mr. Claude Haviland impersonates Charles Summers with ability. The Misses Grace Illingworth, Evelyn Cecil, Emmie Creamer, Muriel Carmel, and Beatrice Mervyn sustain their respective parts with credit.

SOUTHPORT.—Opera House, Winter Gardens. —Proprietors, The Southport Opera House and Winter Gardens, Ltd.; Secretary and General-Manager, Mr. R. Singleton.—Mr. Frank M. Thorne's company is this week presenting *The Woman Pays*. Mr. Phil Harper submits a forceful and convincing representation of the hero, Sid Armstrong; Miss Maud Russell depicts the rôle of Madge Armstrong with great credit; Mr. John Davidson enacts the villain, Roger Marchant, effectively; the humour of the play is capitally sustained by Mr. Frank Thorne as Mickey Maloney and Miss Anene Walton in the part of Polly; Mr. Dunlop Stewart is very well placed as Luke Morland; and other good character-sketches are those of Miss Katie Blair in the pathetic part of Nell Morland, Miss Florence Thorne as Tabitha, Mr. Charles Arthur as Doctor Trever, and Mr. Beresford Innes as Cyrus Tredgold.

SOUTH SHIELDS. — Theatre Royal. — Lessees and Managers, Messrs. John and Fred Coulson.—Messrs. F. Marriott-Watson and Sanderson Moffat's company is presenting the musical drama *What a Woman Did*. Mr. F. Marriott-Watson appears to advantage as the Marquis de Viray; Mr. Sanderson Moffat does well as Conrad; Mr. Reginald Kloof is good as the Hunchback; Elise is charmingly portrayed by Miss Florence E. Florence; and Miss Phyllis is vivacious as La Papillon. The comedy parts are ably represented by Mr. Elton Morgan, Mr. Owen Edwin, and Miss Norah Waylett. Many catchy songs are sung, and pretty dances and specialities are introduced by the Clancy Girls.

Empire Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Thompson.—Charles T. Aldrich gives a wonderful exhibition of quick-changing. He makes an impression as the tramp juggler, and also in a burlesque on modern magicians and jugglers; Florence and Lillian, instrumentalists, are much appreciated; Mlle. Payne creates great amusement; Thora, ventriloquist, is deservedly applauded; Guy Ryder contributes some good whistling; Les Voces, in charming songs and duets, keep up their reputation; Little Vio Leite shows great promise as a male impersonator; and Harry Bedford, characteristic comedian, and the Bioscope complete the bill.

Tivoli, Lavgate Circus.—Proprietor, Councillor J. K. Hall.—Harry Thurston, a burlesque comedian, heads the bill, and is well received; a similar reception is given to Flo Hilton, a clever and capable male impersonater; Norman and Belle, comedy artists and dancers, make themselves popular; and the Tivoliscope provides the rest of the entertainment.

STAFFORD.—Lyceum Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. James Elphinstone.—Pictures and variety at two houses a night is the attraction here this week. The Lyarches, song illustrators, give a pleasing turn; English and Penley are very amusing sketch artists; Geo. Edwards recites in an able manner; and Eni Temple is a smart comedienne with catchy songs. New films by the Empire Picture Co. conclude.

ST. HELENS.—Theatre and Opera House.—Proprietors, St. Helens Theatre, Ltd.; General Manager, Mr. A. McLeod Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. E. Johnson.—*Man and Wife* is being played here by Messrs. Van Biene and Traynor's company. Mr. John F. Traynor gives a finished performance of Paul Revere; Miss Kate Hallam presents a successful portrayal of Marcelle; as Captain d'Esparre Mr. Ed. M. Hamilton is the embodiment of evil; and Mr. George Rammell supplies a good contrast in the character of Colonel Latour; Mr. George Overs as Jean and Mr. Ambrose Horton as Sergeant Jacques, both do excellent work. Much amusement is caused by the comicalities of Bimbo and Bambo (Messrs. E. Hall Eldon and George Vinning), and Miss Dora Hamilton is a lively Rosette.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors. Messrs. Barrasford, Sley and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo Weisker.—Of an excellent and varied character is the programme this week. Zona Vevey appears in a beautiful set scene, and, accompanied by that accomplished pianist Herr Max Erard, charms the house with her delightful voice and prettiness; Miss Nellie Montague sings a coster song well, and J. W. Cawley gives some good imitations; Joan Deering plays sweetly on the violin, and Elliott and Kennedy add to the amusement by their droll patter; Miss Diana Hope and company are successful in the sketch *Her Good Name*, and Valvero's naval bombardment has novelty to recommend it. A laughable picture on the Barrascope concludes.

STOCKPORT.—Theatre Royal and Opera House —Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Charles Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Wm. Revill.—Mr. Junius Booth and his company are here in *Monte Cristo*. As Edmund Dante Mr. Junius Booth acts with ability and power; Mr. Conrad Heywood impersonates the character of Nortier in capable style; Mr. John Howden makes an excellent Fernand Mondego; M. Villefort is meritoriously portrayed by Mr. C. W. Crowe; Mr. Ralph Leon acts with manly grace as Lieut. Albert de Morcef; Caderousse has a capital representative in Mr. Herbert Colley; and Miss Cecilia Dare acts charmingly as Mercedes.

Empire. — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black. —Joe Reichen, with his admirably trained dogs; and Bosanquet, the noted musician, share the chief honours of a capital programme presented here this week, which also includes George Prince, styled "the crazy comic"; Wilson Blackledge, an entertaining humorist at the piano; Jean Seul, in his "Indian Mystery" act; Kenneth and Kane, an amusing comedy duo; Leonie Dixon, comedienne and clever dancer; Clarice Clarke, a pleasing character vocalist; and La Belle Ray, a smart vocalist and dancer.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—Castle Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—The Stockton Amateurs are playing at this theatre for four nights: Wednesday, *The Lottery Ticket*, *The Steeplechase*, and *Ici on parle Français*, and the remainder of the week *Macbeth*. During Act IV. will be introduced the whole of the celebrated music attributed to Locke by a chorus of eighty members of the Eaglecliffe and District Vocal Society.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—Auguste Van Biene with *The Master-Musician*, a one-act playlet, is the leading attraction here. Paul Vandy is a smart juggler; J. A. Wilson and his dog "Private Towser" are very entertaining; the Three Sisters Duquesne are capital vocalists and dancers; Clifford Stuart is a clever comedian; Charburn's Young Stars have a pretty scena, *A Picnic up the River;* Barney Noble, comedian, has a good style and sings well; and the Bioscope concludes with an excellent picture, The Amateur Othello.

Grand Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company are playing an Oriental drama, *Secrets*, which was well received by crowded houses on Monday last. Payne's Biophotoscope shows a funny film, The Stepmother.

SUNDERLAND.—King's Theatre.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. S. F. Davidson; General-Manager, Mr. Alexander Telford; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Sydney Reach.—Mr. Charles Harrington's company, in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, is having a rousing reception this week by crowded houses. Mr. Carr as Uncle Tom acts with simple dignity; and Mr. Charles Harrington presents Phineas Fletcher with natural pathos; Mr. Ernest Regent portrays George Harris with considerable feeling; Mr. Alfred Lagolle is good as Dan Haley; Mr. H. Mauley makes a powerful Legree; and Mr. Frank Forbes-Robertson is a satisfactory St. Clair. Mr. Walter Langford as Marks contributes much of the humour, and does some clever work as a trick banjoist. Prominent amongst the ladies of the cast are Miss Hathaway, with a refined portrayal of Eliza Harris; Miss Annie Watson, an excellent Topsy; Miss Carr, a pleasing Aunt Chloe; and Miss Hetty Johnson, an interesting Cassy.

Theatre Royal.—Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Eeden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Geo. Dunn.—After the great success last week of Mr. Walter Melville's play, *The Girl Who Took the Wrong Turning*, the management have re-engaged the company for this week. The house has been again crowded and the enthusiasm unbounded. Miss Jessie Belmore (Sophie Coventry), Miss Nannie Meade (Vesta le Clerc), Miss Zoe Davis (Lucy Coventry), and Miss Marie Kildare (Poppy Slater) were all seen to advantage. Among the gentlemen Messrs. Ronald Adair (Will Mason), Raymond Wood (James Harcourt), Frank R. Robertson (Jack Fenton), Sidney Sarl (Bill Slater), and Fred Ingram (Johnny Walker) are most prominent.

Empire Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden.—Heading a good programme this week is that fascinating musical sketch, *Hunting Morn*, the solos and choruses all going with a great swing. The Original Gautsmiths excited considerable enthusiasm, both on account of the feats of the clowns themselves, and also on account of their clever dogs; Muir, Bartlett and company produced their extremely funny comedy, *The Collar Stud*, with great success; and the Strolling Players were responsible for a dainty new musical pot-pourri. The human doll, Ida Kathrena, danced skilfully in a novel toy act; Lil O'Gorman contributed pleasing songs; the Bros. Bright showed dexterity in an athletic performance; and Dan Hendy executed tumbling feats while dancing in clever style.

Palace Theatre.—Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Hy. Curry.—The Robertys are giving satisfaction to large audiences this week, in their act of juggling and balancing; Damerell and Rutland produce a funny sketch entitled *House Full*. The comedy vocal scena of Vowells and Bryan is another turn of special worth; Arthur Woodville pleases as well as he did last week; Walter Stanley is a clever comedian; Gertrude Moore gives a song and dance turn, in pleasing manner; as does also Arthur Stacey.

SWANSEA.—The Grand.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. B. Oswald Brooks; Acting-Manager and Treasurer, Mr. Walter Dean.—Miss Lois Esmond's company occupies the Grand this week with *The Sorrows of Satan* and *Nana*. In the former piece, presented on Monday, Mr. Edward Neville took the title-rôle in admirable fashion; and Miss Rosie Neville as Lady Sybil Elton displayed considerable talent; as the penniless author, Mr. F. Douglas Howard acted naturally and well.

The Star.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. T. Morton-Powell's company is creating excitement at the Star, where they play *The Greed of Gold*. Mr. James Jarrett makes a great impression in his character of the dumb man; Mr. Henry C. Wood's portrayal of Harry Wood is also a good one; Arthur Errol is played by Mr. Alfred Stretton with distinction; and Miss Elina C. Turner as Dora enacts a fine character capitally.

The Empires, Ltd.—Manager, Mr. P. C. Rowe; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. H. Lennon.—Arthur Roberts heads the bill here, with his new sketch, *Till Sunday;* L'Incognita met with instantaneous success, her voice being of unusual beauty; Daly and O'Brien are "tanglefoot dancers," whose methods are not only clever, but amusing; Baker and Balfe are real xylophone experts; and the Vetter Bros., in *The Page's Recreation*, give an amazing gymnastic display. Ernie Garner is a comedian of whom more will be heard; and Mazie Hibbs, as a speciality dancer, is first-class; and Walter Munroe fully sustains his reputation as an Irish comedian and dancer. Fine Bioscope pictures conclude.

The Palace.—Manager, Mr. William Coutts; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. J. Powell.—Mr. Coutts this week has arranged a wonderfully fine gallery of pictures, which, includes The Stolen Plane and A Disciple of Vidocq. Mr. E. J. Griffith, Mr. F. C. Dennis, Mr. S. Francis, and Miss Jenkins render vocal items delightfully.

SWINDON.—Empire Theatre.—Proprietors, The Wiltshire Entertainments Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Alfred Manners.—Mr. Walter Melville's drama, *The Beggar Girl's Wedding*, is playing to good houses here this week. Mr. Otto Minster impersonates the manly Jack Cunningham with much power; a capital piece of acting is given by Mr. James C. Taylor as Doctor Millbank; humour is supplied by Mr. Herbert Lloyd as Dicky Storm and Miss Eva Dare as Tina Torkington, both being very amusing; Norman Marsh is in the capable hands of Mr. Ernest G. Batley; Miss Olive Warne is very effective as Maud Villiers; and Mr. Herbert Morgan is seen to full advantage as Gilbert Lindsay. Joe Webster could not be in better hands than that of Mr. Harry Playfair; and Mr. Horace Kenny as the Dodger is good. The Robert Grimshaw of Mr. Ellis J. Preston is well placed; Elsie Cunningham is admirably taken by Miss Doris Whyte; and as Bessie Webster Miss Vashti Wynne gains the entire sympathy of all by her clever portrayal. The other characters are suitably filled, and the play is well staged.

TILBURY DOCK.—New Lyceum.—Prof. A. Ball and Son's animated pictures are drawing well here. The star turns for this week are T. P. Carroll, a clever comedian and speciality dancer; Miss Kitty Radley, a charming serio, in her latest songs; Miss Hetty Holland, lady ventriloquist; Miss Lucy Gray, a pleasing comedienne, Mme. Pauline, miniature vocalist, with comic and sentimental songs; and Miss Amy Robson, an agreeable serio. The whole entertainment is very attractive and amusing.

TON-Y-PANDY. — Theatre Royal.—General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is successfully presenting *A Girl's Cross Roads*. Mr. J. Fortescue gives an able exposition of Jack Livingstone, and is well supported by Mr. E. Valentine as Dr. Watson. Mr. C. Franmore presents a clever study of old Farmer Meadows; as Cuthbert Lumley Mr. E. Chester is highly successful; Mr. T. Hodson is amusing as Toby Turvy. Miss Hilda Beverley gives a clever exposition of Barbara Wade; and as Constance Cornell a thoroughly good study is given by Miss Hildebrande, and Miss N. Langford does well as Nellie Meadows.

Hippodrome.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Heading a fine programme is that clever Welsh comedian, Tom Jones; the Attila Brothers retain their popularity; Chas. Goodman is well received; and Palette, with his dog "Max," is applauded. Will Allen is a clever descriptive vocalist; a capital selection of films includes Boxing for the Army and Navy Championship and The Man in the Overalls.

TORQUAY.—Theatre Royal.—Licensee and Managing-Director, Mr. W. H. Mortimer; Secretary, Mr. Arthur Pearse.—*Man to Man* is occupying the boards here this week, under the direction of Messrs. Edward Lloyd and Frank Adair. As the hero George Gordon, Mr. Edward Lloyd gives a capital impersonation, and Mr. Frank Adair is no less successful in the somewhat unthankful rôle of Richard Ellerton. Miss Louie Adair makes a charming Ethel Maythorne, and soon becomes a favourite; and Miss Evelyn Warde gives a powerful representation of Gipsy Madge. Mr. Bruce Williams is very amusing as Samuel Plumtree, and Mr. Clifford Bown is exceedingly quaint as Bill Burkley. The minor rôles are well filled.

TREHERBERT. — Opera House.—Proprietors, Poole's, Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. H. Stephens. —Mr. Morton Powell's company opened here on Monday with *When It Was Dark*. Mr. Wilfred Lyndon made a success as the Rev. Basil Goitre; Mr. Haldane Dalton was responsible for a fine rendering of Constantine Schwabe; Mr. Charles Brandon worked hard in the character of Sir Robert Llewellyn; Mr. Wm. H. Burton made an excellent Vicar; and Mr. George Tawde gave a good account of himself as the Hon. Charlie Gayfly. Miss Florence Lyndon was a charming Helena; Miss Tessa Myers a good Gracie Golightly; Miss Emilie Schular an excellent Flossie; and Miss Maria Barrett gave a good reading of Gertrude Hunt.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS. — Opera House. — Lessee, Mr. Welton Dale.—Hippodrome season, Mouillot and De Frece Circuit.—M. and Mlle. Geullard present their lion d'Artagnan and his playmate Chocolat, who astonish the audience with their circus tricks; George Grogre as the Sussex yokel proves very amusing; Harry Tate's company in *Motoring* furnishes a big draw, and simply convulses the audience; Mlle. Ottino, the clever lady conjurer, is well received; and Bert Marsden, comedian; Lillian Rigby, instrumentalist and dancer, together with the Hippodrome pictures, complete an attractive programme.

WAKEFIELD. — Opera House.—Proprietors, Sherwood and Co.—Mr. Charles March's company is here this week in the drama, *The Gamester of Metz*. Mr. Charles March gives a fine interpretation in the title-rôle; Mr. William Bradford is seen to marked advantage as Captain Henry Bedaire; the part of Louis Bedaire is well sustained by Mr. Haviland Allworth; and Mr. F. Thorpe Tracy is effective as General de Montparnasse. Miss Ethel Crawford gives a convincing and clever portrayal as Lucia Baldot, and Miss Una Lane merits praise as Countess Bedaire. Other minor characters are well filled.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Sydney Tolfree.—Wee Mona (Vivian), a great local favourite, is a clever artist, and wins hearty applause with her smart dances; Martell gives a smart and novel equilibristic act; Miss Lucy Gillett, juggler, is good; Mr. Billy Burns, singing collier, does well; Mr. Tony Iveson, tramp musician, scores a distinct success; and Mr. Fred Villars, vocalist, contributes.

WARRINGTON. — Royal Court.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Mr. Geoffrey Fulton's company is here this week in the stirring drama *A Girl Redeemed from Sin*. The play is typical of Lancashire life, and has been well received. Miss Clive Fulton as Nancy Lee, the mill girl, acts with natural force, and in the more dramatic passages her acting reaches a high plane of excellence. Miss Ada Oxley as Peggy Grey is a sprightly maiden, and she is ably assisted in the humorous element by Mr. Len Thomas, as Jim Jakes; Mr. Jo. Monkhouse is a manly Will May, and Mr. Philippe Orr makes the most of the much-deceived Robert Denham; Mr. Hugh Carmichael as the remorseless Ernest Sylveston is a success. The minor parts are in adequate hands, and the staging is very effective.

Royal Theatre of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—The Brothers Corcoran are seen to advantage as sketch artists, and their entertainment is an all-round good one. Crissie Cross is a dainty comedienne, and Captain Kettle, card and coin manipulator, scores in a novel turn. The pictures form not the least attractive feature of a capital show.

Palace and Hippodrome. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—W. J. Churchill is responsible for much mirth here this week, and the house is convulsed with laughter at his songs and patter; Astley's Circus is again a much-enjoyed turn; Daos supplies a rare illusion act in the production of a complete bedroom suite; The Donatos are clever one-legged acrobats; Johnny Holland and company score with their absurdity, *The Boat Builders;* Margaret Radcliffe scores with illustrated songs, and Marion Armitage is a delightful chic comedienne. The pictures are entertaining.

WATERFORD.—Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. John Collins.—Dr. Ormonde's Viennese Ladies' Orchestra and Sunflower Company with Royal animated pictures opened here to a crowded and appreciative audience on Monday.

WEDNESBURY.—Theatre Royal.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Battersby; Acting-Manager, Mr. Tom Kuner.—Mr. F. E. Chabot's No. 1 Company in the new domestic drama *Only a Woman* is here. Miss Violet Crauford appears with success in the important and characteristic part of Marie Lestvo; Courtney Wallace is effectively portrayed by Mr. Leslie K. Manton; Mr. Fred Green submits a capable rendering of Lieut. Richard Summerfield, and the rôle of Lieut. Rodney Summerfield is admirably played by Mr. Charles Wilton; a humorous impersonation of Bill Bumkins is presented by Mr. George Willis; Miss Flo Bevan contributes successfully in the part of Eliza Jane, and as Violet Redgrave Miss Lily Lewis displays talent; Miss Rosie Fields evokes hearty appreciation for her clever interpretation of Grace.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE.—Grand Pier Pavilion.—Manager, Mr. J. H. Stevenson.—Mr. Lambert's Bioscope and Vaudeville Company is giving two shows daily. Of the fine films special mention must be made of The Sign of the Cross and The Wonderful Lantern. Amongst the numerous variety turns Miss Margaret Worth stands out prominently, her rendering of "A song of thanksgiving" being rapturously applauded. The Musical Ritters' humorous gags and playing on divers instruments greatly delight the audience.

WEST STANLEY. — Theatre Royal, Ltd.— Manager, Mr. M. H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly.—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Draycott are appearing here with their répertoire company, *A Stolen Birthright* being billed for Monday. As Stefano Mr. Draycott submits a clever piece of acting. *The Colleen Bawn*, *The Shaughraun*, *The Ticket of Leave Man*, and *Shadows of a Great City* are also in the bill.

Victoria Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Stage-Manager, Mr. G. W. Montrose.—A crowded house on Monday greeted the famous memory man, Datas, who tops the bill. Other good turns include those of T. W. Barratt, comedian; the Itrams, gymnasts; Miss Pattie Burton, a sweet singer of sweet songs; Mart and Pet, in their speciality act; and the Rangers, cyclists. A singing competition and the Vicoscope conclude a good entertainment.

WIDNES.—Alexandra Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Jas. Kiddie.—This week we have here Mr. R. F. Stacey's company with *A Heart's Desire*. Mr. Stacey does well as Lord St. Ives; Mr. Julien Mitchell is well suited with the part of Eric May; Mr. Herbert Lawrence gives a good performance of the part of a rollicking schoolboy; Mr. Edward Leroy plays with force in the part of Luke Forrest, and Mr. Charles King as David McCullough ably supports him; Mr. Norman Clifton gives an interesting study of Coombes; Miss Hilda May plays Hilda Ross prettily; Miss Blanche Leroy is a sympathetic Elsie Beresford; and Miss Lily Prescott as Olya, a half-caste girl, wins favour.

WIGAN.—The Hippodrome.—Proprietors, The Wigan Entertainments Co.—Mr. Lingford Carson's talented company is here this week in *The Great White Chief*. Mr. Mansell Fane is an imposing White Chief, and acquits himself admirably in all the vicissitudes of the character; Mr. Lingford Carson's exposition of the part of Reindeer is a notable feature of the play; Mr. George Butler presents a clever impersonation of Hartley Deane; while Mr. W. T. Hybert as Geo. Rupert Walker imparts a lively touch of humour into the performance; Mr. Hugh Brady sustains the character of John Warton creditably, and Mr. S. Eiland as Dave Carter is good. Miss Pollie Denville makes a charming Latika; Miss Dulcie Lawrence as Hester Stafford is an emphatic success; and as Martha Jane Miss Amy Ross Clyde causes much fun.

Empire.—Lessees, The New Bioscope Trading Company.—Two pictures of great interest are The Sheep-stealers and The Reprieve; and other attractive films are The Pretty Flower Picker, Hilda's Lovers, A Rustic Heroine, Dora, and I'm Absorbed in Politics. Logan and Logan are excellent patterers, vocalists, and comedians. Crowded house nightly.

WOLVERHAMPTON.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.— Managing-Director, Mr. Charles Barnard; Resident-Manager, Mr. Gerald Spencer.—A welcome change from a long run of modern drama is experienced here this week in the engagement of Mr. F. R. Benson's Shakespearean Company (North), whihc opened on Monday night to a large house with *The Taming of the Shrew*. As Petruchio Mr. Henry Herbert thoroughly entered into the humour of the part and gave a capital performance; Miss Gladys Vanderzee had a difficult task as Katerine, but acquitted herself admirably; Mr. Bernard Limpus gave an intelligent impersonation of Lucentio; Mr. Harvey Braban was consistent throughout as Hortensio; Mr. James Berry quite realised the part of Baptista; Mr. Victor Wiltshire as Gremio, and Mr. Fernley Bisshopp as Vincentio were both excellent; Mr. Everard Vanderlip and Mr. Vincent Holman did well as Tranio and Biondello; Mr. Arthur Fayne caused much amusement as Grumio; and Miss Violet Farebrother made a delightful Bianca. The minor rôles were all well sustained. *Julius Cæsar*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Richard III.* are also in the repertory, and the plays are all staged with that excellence which characterises Mr. Benson's companies.

Empire Palace, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frank Weston.—Miss Vesta Tilley received a most hearty welcome here on Monday night from a crowded house. She retains to the full all her old charm, and in response to numerous recalls, after singing three songs, she generously gave "Following in father's footsteps," much to the delight of the audience. Hugo and Schmidt contribute an amusing horizontal bar act; Massona very happily combines comedy with juggling; Leoni and Hast are on a return visit with *A Sea Nymph;* and the Louisiana Trio, coloured vocalists; Charles F. Best, comedian; Edie Anderson, comedienne; and the Empire pictures complete a very strong bill.

WORCESTER. — Theatre Royal. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. Le Wards.—A return visit from *Sergeant Brue* is proving attractive this week. Foremost places are held by Cookie Scrubbs (Mr. H. Cunningborough) and Sergeant Brue (Mr. Dennis Lyndon), who keep the house in hysterical laughter. Both parts are excellently filled. Miss Roy Anderson is a graceful and accomplished vocalist, and achieves a great success as Lady Bickenhall; Mr. Lister Morrah fills well the part of Michael Brue, and Miss Daisie Dale is a charming Aurora Brue; Miss Kitty Clayton's impersonation of the part of the servant Daisy is extremely clever, and Miss Dora Rose as Eva Graham displays vocal abilities of a high order. Other parts capably filled are those of Mabel Widget (Miss Mabel Davis), Vivienne Russell (Miss Kate Sabine), Lena Dare (Miss Sybil O'Brien), Louisa Clare (Miss Kitty Yates), Gerald Treherne (Mr. E. B. Davies), Matthew Habisham (Mr. Roy Travers), Inspector Gorringe (Mr. Langdon Guy), the Rev. Lamb (Mr. Phil Phillips), Capt. Bay (Mr. J. Spencer), and Mr. Croak (Mr. T. G. Warren). The comedy is capitally dressed and staged.

WORKINGTON. — Theatre Royal.—At this house the ever-popular picture business still holds sway, sandwiched by capable variety turns. Sabino, the merry musical monarch, makes his first bow to a Workington audience and is a great success. James and Alexander are popular duettists and dancers; Eliot and Warn's funny songs are accompanied by dances of a high order. The pictures include a sensational series, The Heart of Ozama. Good houses are the rule.

WREXHAM.—Empire Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. Jno. J. Scott.—This week the attractions have been Edgar Forrest's sketch company in *Cupid's Ingenuity;* Folay and Francis, quaint comedians; the Three Neros, in a laughable specialty act, *Ructions in a Public-house;* Little Baby Sophie, the little star artist; and some highly amusing pictures.

YORK.—Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Waddington; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. J. Dacre.—Variety business on the two-houses-a-night system has been tried this week, and the innovation has proved successful. The items for the greater part consist of sketches—*A Son's Devotion*, *The Bank Robbery*, *The Cry of the Children*, and *Napoleon at Waterloo*, in which the principal parts are ably taken by Edwd. Ranier, Scottie and Kittie Aden, and Mr. Scott Alexander; Mr. Tom Bassett's entertainment is original and successful; Harry Kranlee, an expert dancer, and the Sisters Merry provide a popular item.

Opera House and Empire.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Sidney Brooks.—Walter King convulses everyone with his droll business; Mr. Will Dalton is also specially clever; as a lightning artist Vandinoff has few equals; Rousby and Rene give a neat Lancashire sketch; the Bouncing Dillons are an excellent star turn; Chariti, as usual, is enthusiastically received; L. and R. Edmonds, with their golden statues, are well received; and Nellie Walton speedily sings herself into favour.

"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS AND OTHERS.

Owing to CHRISTMAS DAY this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, The Era will be published at midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

Copy intended for that issue should therefore reach us as early as possible on Tuesday or by first post Wednesday at the latest. In the case of pantomime notices, plots should be kept very short, chief attention being paid to scenery, acting, and vocal specialities.

POST EARLY.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(From our own correspondent.)

JOHANNESBURG, Nov. 19.—His Majesty's Theatre.—Lessees, B. and F. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager Mr. W. F. Woodward.—The Wheeler-Edwardes Gaiety company, who at present occupy the above house, have entirely won the appreciation of the Rand audiences. *The Little Michus* holds the boards this week, drawing what must be exceptionally satisfactory houses. The rôles of Blanche Marie and Marie Blanche were undertaken in a captivating manner by Misses Elsa Portis and Phœbe Johnson, the latter, on the night under notice, undertaking the rôle at a short notice in an ideal manner, owing to the indisposition of Miss Chrissie Ralland. Miss Hilda Guiver was a prepossessing and engaging representative of the Schoolmistress; Miss Florence Vie as Mme. Michu scored an unqualified success; Mr. Foster Courtenay as General Des Ifs invests the part with genuine humour; Bagnolet was amusingly accounted for by Mr. Alf. Beers. A clever study was the Market Master of Mr. Roy Cathie. The fine voice of Mr. Wm. Everard was entirely suited to the rôle of the Captain of the Hussars. The chorus is efficient and the staging leaves nothing to be desired.

Tivoli.—An event which has been looked forward to with great interest was the production of a play, entitled *Love and the Hyphen*, by Mr. Stephen Black, a journalist of Cape Town. The piece is a satire on the inhabitants of the aristocratic suburbs of Cape Town, and was an immediate success. Mr. De Jong was instrumental in producing the piece, which was especially interesting from the fact that it is the first of entirely South African production, nothing excepted. The principal rôles are in the hands of Misses Amy and Alice Pennington, and Messrs. R. Matthew and Kingsland.

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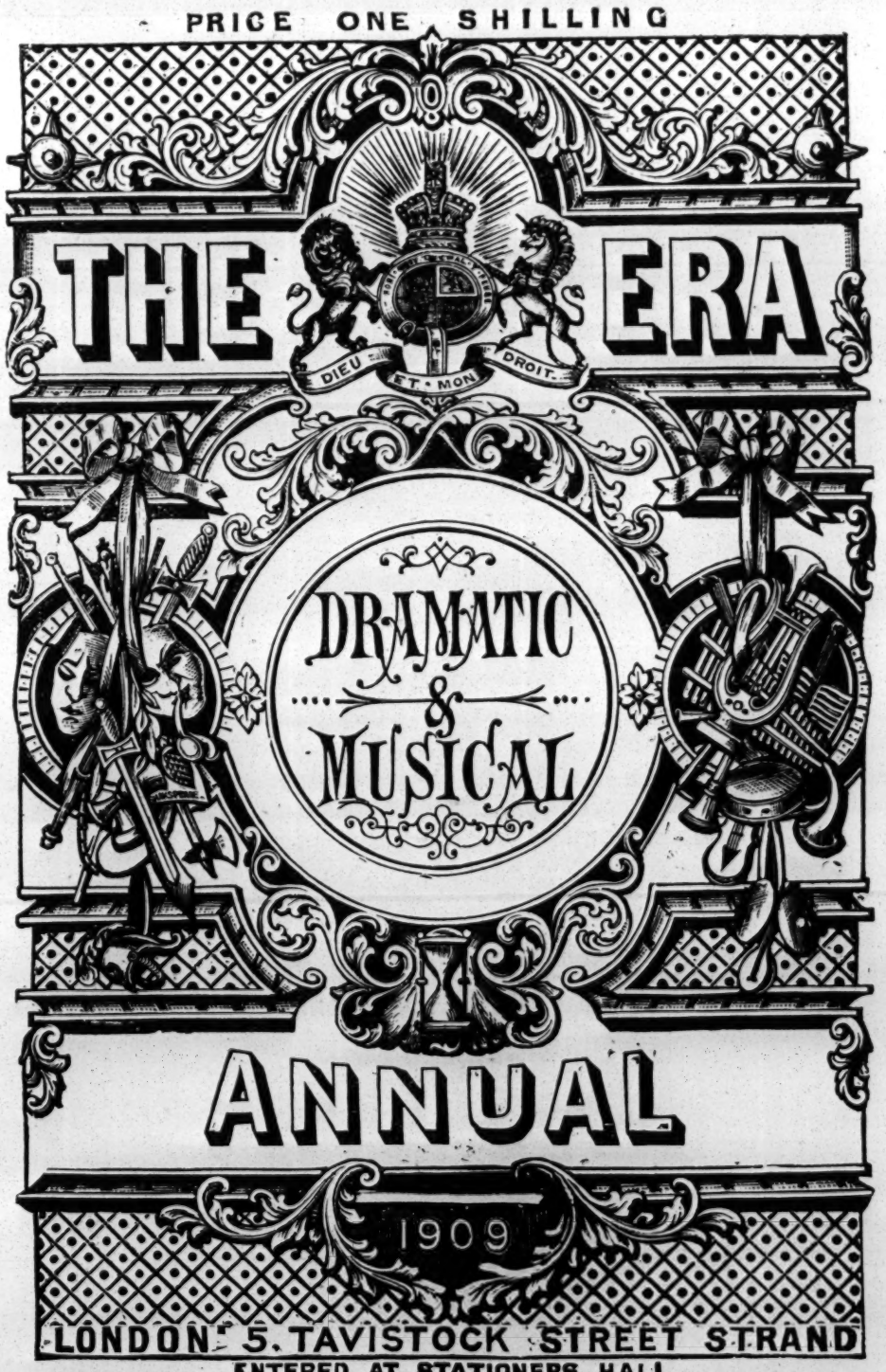

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ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

A performance of the first act of *The Magic Flute* and the second act of *Carmen* was given by the operatic class of the Royal Academy, under the direction of Mr. Edgardo Lèvi, on Friday evening, Dec. 11, Mr. Richard Temple acting as stage director. In Mozart's opera Miss Margaret Ismay sang the music of Pamina with much grace and purity of tone, being very successful in her duet with Papageno. Mr. Andrew Jones, who appeared as Tamino, has a light tenor voice of which he made good use, but as an actor Mr. Jones was somewhat stiff and awkward. The Queen of Night was effectively undertaken by Miss Gladys Booth; and Miss Gertrude Newson, Miss May Horton, and Miss Mabel Corran sang the music of her three ladies with grace and refinement. Mr. Cecil Pearson used his excellent voice with good effect in the part of Sarastro (High Priest of the Temple); and as Papageno, the bird-catcher, Mr. Henry Sanders sang and acted well. The subject of "Die Zauberflöte" was taken from the story of "Lulu; or, the Magic Flute" in Wieland's "Dschinnistan," and although the libretto may be absurd the opera reached its two hundredth performance on Nov. 22, 1795. Mozart's music is always welcome, and thanks are due to the Royal Academy for producing one act of an opera now seldom heard. The second act of *Carmen* followed Mozart's opera. As Carmen Miss Bella Newstead had a most difficult task, but she sang the music intelligently. Mr. Thomas Gibbs proved himself an excellent vocalist and no mean actor in the part of Don José. "The Flower Song" was given with much beauty of tone and expression, and well deserved the hearty round of applause which followed. Mr. James Saker also was successful in the part of Escamillo, and greatly pleased the audience in the "Toreador Song"; while a really comic Remendado was found in Mr. Percy Curnow. Mr. Harry Milner was a successful Dancairo; and the parts of Frasquita and Mercedes were well sung by Miss Gertrude Newson and Miss May Horton. The famous quintette went well, and the chorus in both operas may be heartily commended. Miss Mary Burgess at the piano, Mr. Benjamin J. Dale at the organ, and the flute of Miss Edith Penville did all that was possible in the absence of an orchestra.

At the Royal Academy on Saturday evening, Dec. 12, a dramatic performance was given by the students of the dramatic class under Mr. Richard Temple's direction. The balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* was the first performance. Miss Macdonald Martin, who played Romeo, displayed considerable ability, but the Juliet of Miss Evelyn Holmes was not entirely satisfactory. Shakespeare's heroine, who loved "not wisely but too well," had nothing of the coquette in her nature. In other respects Miss Holmes delivered Juliet's lines intelligently. The balcony scene was followed by J. B. Buckstone's comic drama in one act, *Good for Nothing*, in which Miss Kathleen MacMahon as Nan achieved a distinct success. The alternate humour and pathos of the part was admirably given, while her acting was as clever as that of an experienced artist. To use a hackneyed expression, Miss MacMahon is a born actress, and the loud cheers which greeted the talented little lady at the fall of the curtain were amply deserved. Nan's two kind but eccentric guardians Tom and Harry were also capitally played by Mr. Henry Sanders and Mr. Francis Fenton, the latter's make-up as a railway fireman being excellent. Mr. Arthur Lorimer impersonated the manly young carpenter Charlie successfully and the little part of Young Mr. Simpson was carefully played by Mr. Alfred Quaife. The third item in the programme on Saturday evening was the first two acts of Robert Buchanan and Charles Marlowe's clever farcical comedy *Miss Brown*. Mr. Andrew Shanks can be heartily praised for his able performance of the dashing Major O'Gallagher. Mr. Arthur Lorimer also was excellent as Capt. Courtenay, who in the first act —The Wedding: Major O'Gallagher's Quarters, Chelmsford—is so extremely nervous about his marriage with pretty Angela Brightwell, a ward in Chancery. Extremely funny, too, were Mr. Lorimer's appearance and comic business when, dressed up as Miss Brown, he comes to the Cicero House Academy for young ladies in the second act. In Miss Eva Rowland, who played Angela Brightwell, it would be hard to find a more charming and vivacious exponent of the young bride, while her acting was spontaneous and natural. The second act was played by Mr. Temple's clever pupils with great spirit, and if the prompter was occasionally heard it only added to the fun. Mr. Adam Dockray as Herr von Moser, the professor of music, acted to the life, while his dress and wig were so realistic that he might have just come from the platform at Queen's Hall. Excellent also was the prim Miss Romney, of Cicero House, played by Miss Cecil Martin, and the good-hearted Mrs. O'Gallagher of Miss Alta L. Handley. The sapient detective Sergeant Tanner was cleverly acted by Mr. Harry Milner, and Mr. W. Francis Fenton proved excellent as the solicitor Mr. Hibbertson. The smaller parts of Euphemia Schwartz and Matilda Jones, pupils at Cicero House, were cleverly acted by Miss Violet Leonard and Miss Dorothea Holzapfel, while favourable mention should also be made of Mr. Alfred Quaife's Mike Doherty and the dignified servant Emma of Miss Evelyn Holmes. At the fall of the curtain there were loud calls for Mr. Temple. During the evening a selection of music was given by Mr. Francis Hutchens and Mr. Arthur Alexander. Mr. Temple can be heartily congratulated, as no better dramatic performances were ever given at the Royal Academy of Music.

The orchestral concert of the Royal Academy of Music given at Queen's Hall on Tuesday afternoon opened with Saint-Saëns's "Africa" fantasia, for pianoforte and orchestra, skilfully played by Miss Elsie Jones. In the aria "Il mio Tesoro," from Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Mr. Cynlais Gibbs displayed marked intelligence as a vocalist; and another very successful singer was Miss Louie James, heard in recitative and air, "Lebt wohl" (*Joan of Arc*) (Tschaikowsky). Of four Shakespeare songs (MSS.), by Mr. Eric Coates (student), perhaps the most effective was "Under the greenwood tree" and "It was a lover and his lass." "Orpheus with his lute" and "Who is Sylvia?" invited comparisons with the two great musicians who have set these verses to such fine music. Miss Gertrude Newson, the vocalist, has a pleasing but somewhat small voice. The other novelty given on Tuesday afternoon was three cleverly-written dances (MSS.) for orchestra, by Mr. S. Hartley Braithwaite. "Gigue-Minuet" was attractive in style; but in the "Country Dance and Carol (Old English)" Mr. Braithwaite has given such a charming old-world melody, so skilfully interwoven with the carol, and ably scored for the orchestra, that one would gladly have heard it again. The third example, "Dance of Dervishes," was not of equal merit. The three dances were capitally played by the orchestra, and the talented young composer had a most enthusiastic reception from the audience. Glazounow's Concerto in A minor, for violin, though a rather feeble example of the composer, was skilfully played by Mr. Henry O. Parsons; and Miss Jessie Bristol, who, through the indisposition of Miss Dorothy Craske, at very short notice played the solo instrument in Liszt's difficult Concerto in A, may be warmly commended. Sir A. C. Mackenzie conducted, and the concert concluded with a neatly-executed performance by Miss Alma Goatley of Tschaikowsky's Andante and Finale from Concerto in G (pianoforte).

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

The pupils of Mr. Benoit Hollander gave a recital of chamber music in the concert-room of the Guildhall School on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 10. The fact that Svendsen's "Octett" and Brahm's "Quintette," with no solo performances, by Mr. Hollander's pupils, were the only items in the programme on Thursday afternoon no doubt accounted for the small audience. In T. Svendsen's "Octett" the attack was somewhat uncertain, and the tone of the strings slightly rough in the opening movement, Allegro resoluto, but the performers greatly improved in the second movement, while the stringed instrumentalists gave a good account of the Andante sostenuto. The performers in the "Octett" were Misses Steed, Yates, Sinclair, Theed, Potter, Hundley, Tanner, and Mr. Leftwich. The Brahms "Quintette, Op. 34," proved the most attractive of the two examples, and was cleverly executed by the Misses Gowan, Duncombe, Sinclair, Potter, and Tanner. Mr. Hollander's pupils displayed talent, but some solo performances would have added greatly to the interest and success of the recital.

The pupils of Mr. Cairns James gave a dramatic performance in the theatre of the Guildhall School on Friday evening, Dec. 11, before a large audience. The programme commenced with a duologue by Edward Granville, entitled *'Enery Brown*, and the two characters of Liza Jane and Amelia Amarylda were impersonated by Miss Violet Carmen and Miss May Farnell. Liza and Amelia are two cockney flower girls, both in love with 'Enery Brown, who it seems, is a kind of coster Tariddu, as he has jilted Liza and then taken up with Amelia. The girls are devoted friends, and Liza gives way to her younger companion, saying, truly, there are more than one 'Enery Brown in the world; but it appears this Brown is a hokey-pokey merchant, and the very man who jilted Liza. The little sketch was well received and cleverly acted, Miss Violet Carmen being particularly successful in the dialect and action of the usual London flower girl, while the make-up of both the young ladies was most realistic. An excellent performance of the Forest scene from *As You Like It* was the second item in the programme. Mr. Francis E. Bray made a dignified Duke; and a clever and graceful Rosalind was found in Miss Eve Tame, who being, as Shakespeare's heroine requires to be, "more than common tall," was admirably fitted for her task. Miss Tame, who spoke her lines with no little charm and appreciation of their beauty, made a most favourable impression, while she seemed perfectly at home in her picturesque and well-fitting costume of doublet and hose. Mr. Roy Thurston, also tall, was a manly and effective Orlando, and well adapted by nature for the hero's part. Although his voice was evidently affected by the severe weather of Friday, Mr. Thurston delivered his lines with good emphasis, while his acting was natural and appropriate to the situations. Mr. Charles A. Wright proved a capital Jaques, while his really excellent delivery of "All the world's a stage" gained for the clever young actor a most hearty and well-deserved round of applause. Mr. F. L. Thomas (a pupil of Mr. Henry Guy) as Amiens sang "Under the greenwood tree" and "Blow, blow, thou winter wind" remarkably well; and Touchstone was played with considerable humour by Mr. Arthur Stanley. Miss Catherine Marshall and Miss Marie J. Cox may be commended for their acting in the parts of Phœbe and Celia; while Miss Eva Robertson played the uncouth Audrey skilfully. The minor characters were carefully undertaken by Mr. Taylor Loban, Mr. Goddard, and Miss A. L. Commin; while special mention ought to be made of Mr. R. G. Commin, who successfully doubled the parts of Corin and old Adam. The programme concluded with *Reforming a Burglar*, an amusing farcical sketch by Cairns James and Vivian Matthews. Mr. G. Taylor Loban appeared as Philip Meredith (a journalist), Miss Maud Hartley as his wife Emily, and Miss E. Bendy as Maria. Miss Jessie Willis (a pupil of Mr. Cooke) played selections of music on the pianoforte. All the dramatic students had a most hearty reception from the large audience, and Mr. Cairns James had every reason to be gratified by the success achieved by his clever pupils.

A very successful vocal recital was given by the pupils of Madame Medora Henson on Tuesday evening in the Concert Room of the Guildhall School of Music. For two songs by Lidgey, "A widow bird sat mourning" and "Maying," Miss Lily Gammon was much applauded, and Miss Olive Barrett gave a good account of Bemberg's showy song "Chanson Baiser." Miss Mabel Gillender, who had a voice of excellent quality, was heard in "Si mes vers" (Hahn), "Un doux Lien" (Deldruck), and "L'heure exquise" (Hahn); while Miss Minnie Cox was successful in Squire's song "Love is a slave." Miss Nellie Watson, who has a voice of considerable power, which she should avoid forcing, sang two songs of Elgar's, "A Poet's Life" and "Shepherd's Song," with good expression; and Mr. Dennis Byndon Ayres, whose name is included in the list of artists engaged at Covent Garden for the season of English opera, sang "Eleanore," by Coleridge Taylor, with dramatic feeling. An advanced pupil of Madame Henson, Miss Beatrice Jeffries, a prize-winner of this year, gave a beautiful and finished rendering of Löhr's charming song, "Just four years old." Miss Helen Stranger sang "Kennst du das Land" (Liszt); and Miss Jessie Willis, pupil of Mr. Cooke, played two cleverly executed piano solos. Mozart's "Il re pastore" was ably sung by Miss Mary Anderson, the violin obbligato being played by Miss Doris Cloud. Other clever pupils were Miss Enid Cummings, Miss Eva Colton, and Mr. Gerald French. Miss Carrie McDonald acted as accompanist.

SYMPHONY CONCERTS.

The symphony concert conducted by Mr. Henry J. Wood at Queen's Hall on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 12, commenced with the first performance in this country of the Introduction and Polonaise from Moussorgsky's opera *Boris Godounov*. Although powerfully played by Mr. Wood's orchestra, the two excerpts failed to make a favourable impression, the audience being more interested in the first performance of M. Raoul Pugno's "Concertstück" for pianoforte and orchestra in E minor, a clever and musicianly composition, of which the third movement, "Allegro con fuoco" proved the most attractive. The solo part, as might be expected, was finely played by the distinguished pianist, who at the close was received with enthusiasm by the audience. The programme of Saturday's concert also included a brilliant performance of Dvorák's remarkable Symphony in E minor ("From the New World") and a refined interpretation by M. Raoul Pugno of Saint-Saëns' Concerto No. 4 in C minor for piano and orchestra.

Mr. A. H. Quaritch, 11, Queen Victoria-street, E.C., has acquired the English rights of the amusing one-act opera *Das War Ich* ("It was I"), which was fully described by our Berlin correspondent in our issue of last week. Our representative said: "Both instrumentation and harmonies are admirable; all is lyrical and merry at the same time, and there is abundance of melody. The composer, who conducted, was compelled to bow his acknowledgments times innumerable. The opera, which is charmingly staged, will enjoy a long lease of life." The piece is evidently worthy the attention of English *entrepreneurs*.

"THE HAUNTED MAN."

A Psychological Phantasy for Christmas, in Three Acts, dramatised from Charles Dickens's celebrated story by E. C. Boielle, and produced at the Oddfellows' Hall, Jersey, on Monday, Dec. 14.

Mr. Redlaw ..... Mr. E. C. Boielle
The Phantom ..... Mr. R. L. Smith
Philip Swidger ..... Mr. W. V. D'Authreau
William Swidger ..... Mr. Max Le Feuvre
Adolphus Tetterby ..... Mr. C. F. Snellgrove
George Swidger ..... Mr. R. Le Geyt
Edmond Longford ..... Mr. C. H. D'Authreau
Mr. Longford ..... Mr. R. Graudin
A City Waif ..... Master Lester O'Brien
A City Outcast ..... Miss L. Oldridge
Madge ..... Miss A. Adams
Mrs. Tetterby ..... Mrs. E. C. Boielle
Milly Swidger ..... Miss C. Oldridge

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

In dramatising Charles Dickens's famous Christmas story, Mr. E. C. Boielle has followed the great novelist as closely as possible, introducing all the chief scenes and incidents, and including all the characters mentioned in the book. This is Mr. E. C. Boielle's maiden effort as a dramatist, and the audience showed their appreciation of his efforts by calling for him at the fall of the curtain and demanding a speech. The young author, who is on the staff of the Jersey *Evening Post*, has for the last few years managed the Triangle Park and Pavilion, where, during the summer months, nightly entertainments are given by the various concert parties touring the provinces; he has also been closely associated with most of the movements for the better catering for visitors in the matter of amusements, being one of the original organisers of the "Battle of Flowers," and we wish him every success in his new venture.

The first act of *The Haunted Man* takes place in Mr. Redlaw's study, where the Phantom appears to him, and tells him he has the power to take away his memory of sorrow, wrong, and trouble. The second act is in four scenes, the first being that of the kitchen of the happy and contented Tetterbys, where Redlaw comes in search of the poor student who, he had learnt from Milly, lodges there. His interview with the student Longford has the effect of changing the latter from a quiet, gentlemanly youth to a sarcastic and unthankful person, as evidenced by his interview with Milly which closes the scene. During the three following scenes Redlaw is led through the city slums by the waif, who alone does not come beneath his spell. In Act III. the Phantom again appears to Redlaw, and at the latter's earnest entreaty removes the spell under which he has been cast, informing him that the evil he has brought about by his transference of the gift can be set right by Milly, who is possessed of a counteracting influence, and that his memory will be restored to him also through her benign influence —all which is effected during the two final scenes.

The play contains some effective scenes, especially the second of Act II., which takes place in the street during a snowstorm. Taken as a whole the phantasy is a very creditable first effort in dramatisation; but in its present form it is a little too lengthy, and will be much improved by some judicious cuts.

Miss C. Oldridge was a sympathetic Milly Swidger; Mrs. E. C. Boielle, being an old favourite, received an ovation as Mrs. Tetterby; Miss L. Oldridge did well as the City Outcast; Mr. E. C. Boielle made a hit as Redlaw; whilst the numerous other characters were creditably rendered.

ROYAL COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

An orchestral concert of more than usual interest was given by the students of the Royal College, under the direction of Sir Charles Stanford, on Thursday evening, Dec. 10. In Mendelssohn's overture "Melusine," the opening item in the programme, the orchestral students displayed talent, but their principal efforts were reserved for Rachmaninoff's "Concerto for Piano and Orchestra, No. 2, in C minor," a characteristic and remarkable work of the Russian composer. Broad and massive, and, to a certain extent, sombre, as the opening movement is, the Adagio and dramatic finale contain passages of rare beauty. The solo instrumentalist in this work has no easy task, and Mr. Ivan Powell displayed marked ability, while the orchestra under their eminent conductor played the Concerto with great spirit, and in the perfect storm of applause which greeted the clever young pianist they certainly deserved a large share. No less admirable was their crisp performance of Schubert's dainty "Ballet Air" from *Rosamunde*. An excellent rendering of Schumann's "Rhenish Symphony in E flat" was also given by the orchestra. Miss Gladys Honey, who sang Beethoven's scena, "Ah! Perfido," seemed at first slightly nervous, but in the delightful Aria was entirely successful. The other vocalist was Miss Doris Simpson, who received great applause for her singing of the graceful "Romance" from Schubert's *Rosamunde*. As usual at an orchestral concert, a very large audience filled the fine hall of the College.

On Tuesday evening the programme of the College concert included Beethoven's Serenade Trio for violin, viola, and violoncello, admirably payed by Mr. Sidney Bostock, Mr. Frank Bridge, and Mr. Felix Salmond. Miss Rose Fellmann who has a fine mezzo-soprano voice, gave a most poetical rendering of G. Fauré's "Les Berceaux," but was not so entirely successful in her second song, "Sonntag" (Brahms). A clever piano solo by Miss Ethel Whiteside of Dvorák's Suite, Op. 98, was much applauded, and Miss Elsie Webb in Liszt's weird and difficult song "Die Loreley" sang with ability. Rheinberger's organ music is always interesting, and the Trio for organ, violin, and violoncello in A minor (two movements) proved a charming and attractive item in the programme. Miss Adelaide E. Parker, Miss Amy K. Rydings, and Mr. Cedric Sharpe were the executants, and an excellent performance was given of the graceful "Theme and Variations, Molto adagio." Miss Dilys Jones is an experienced professional, and her fine voice was heard to advantage in "Le Nil" (X. Leroux), the violoncello obbligato being beautifully played by Mr. Felix Salmond. Miss Dilys Jones will appear in the English performances given at Covent Garden in January. The concert on Tuesday evening ended with a performance of Brahms' Quartet for Piano and Strings by Miss Ellen Edwards, Mr. Philip Levine, Mr. F. Bridge, and Mr. Felix Salmond. Miss C. Stockbridge was the accompanist.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

The Queen, accompanied by the King and Queen of Norway and Princess Victoria, visited the Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury-avenue, on the 11th inst., and witnessed the performance of *The Belle of Brittany*. On the same evening the Prince and Princess of Wales went to the Duke of York's Theatre, and saw Mr. Barrie's play *What Every Woman Knows*

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

SYDNEY, Oct. 27.—*Diana of Dobson's* is the latest bill of Mr. J. C. Williamson at the Theatre Royal. Diana Massingbird is one of those characters peculiarly in Miss Tittell Brune's metier, ranking with her Sunday and Merely Mary Ann. All the attempts to hide the innate vulgarity of the plebeian are deliciously accentuated, and create uproarious laughter. Mrs. Robert Brough gives the most artistic portraiture in the cast, her Mrs. Cantelupe being a true blue-blooded aristocrat. Miss Emma Temple, a conscientious actress, makes a double success as Mrs. Pringle, the forewoman, and a disreputable old tramp. Both are capitally acted. Mr. Thomas Kingston is Captain Bretherton, and does good work, but he is fitted for better things than these tirades against labour called comedies. Mr. Gregan McMahon exhibits all the traits of the elevated shopkeeper, Sir Jabez Grindley. Smaller but distinctly drawn character parts are adopted by Mr. Frank Harcourt, Mr. Maurice Nodier, Mr. T. W. Lloyd, Miss Florence Kelly, Miss Nellie Calvin, Miss Edith Lewis, Miss Georgie O'Meara, and Miss Valentine Sydney. The comedy has its full value extracted by the artists, and Mr. Williamson gives it every chance in the mounting.

At Her Majesty's a change will take place at the end of this week, Miss Betty Ohls, an American comedienne, replacing Miss Carrie Moore as Sonia. The rest of the cast, headed by Miss Florence Young, Mr. Victor Gouriet, Mr. Reginald Roberts, and Mr. W. S. Percy, retain their characters in *The Merry Widow*, to the intense satisfaction of crowded houses.

"The Belle of Mayfair" at the Criterion is booming, with Miss Ruth Lincoln, Miss Gracie Sinclaire, and Mr. Edwin Brett in the forefront of the laughter-making fray. *Miss Hook of Holland* is to be revived shortly.

"Two Little Sailor Boys" at the Palace is to be replaced at the end of the week by a new Australian drama, *A Miner's Trust*, written by Mr. Jo Smith. The play will be mounted by Messrs. Meynell and Gunn in lavish style, and the strong dramatic company is well distributed over the many characters.

The Tivoli welcomed a delightfully novel turn in the form of Duncan's Royal Scotch collies, in which the dogs create uproarious fun by their well-trained antics. The Three McGregors created wild excitement with their performances on the xylophone and cognate instruments. These two Scotch portions of Mr. Harry Rickards's programme proved most attractive. Miss Fanny Powers introduced new impersonations. Vera Buttell and Osborne and Brooke are popular, and Miss Nita Leete scores heavily with a new Fire Brigade song.

West's Pictures, musically illustrated by De Groen's Viceregal Band, are drawing multitudes to the Glaciarium. The latest films show Tommy Burns and the negro pugilist Johnson at work training for the coming fight for the championship.

The Lyceum has added a chronomegaphone, which lets the audience see and hear Harry Lauder singing. Every week new pictures are added, and as these two shows have no dramatis personæ to pay, the financial result must satisfy the management. Besides this there are the Bijou, Victoria, Oxford, and Queen's Halls—all picture shows.

Miss Katharine Goodson, perhaps the finest lady pianist who has yet visited Australia, delighted the musical folks, but as they are a small percentage of our amusement lovers the venture of Messrs. Jack Tait did not prove by any means successful.

The Cherniavski Brothers, Leo (17), violinist, Jan (13), pianist, and Mischel (11), violoncellist, had a fine house at the Town Hall for their opening concert under Mr. Edward Branscombe's direction.

Mr. Herbert Flemming, well known as actor and manager in England, South Africa, and Australia, died suddenly on the 23rd, and was buried in Melbourne on the 25th, followed by crowds of professional and private admirers.

MELBOURNE, Nov. 10.—Princess's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson.—*The Prince of Pilsen* attracted another fine audience on Saturday evening. The play sparkles with pretty music and gay dressing, and the comedy element is very strong. From present appearances *The Prince of Pilsen* should hold the boards for some considerable time.

Her Majesty's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. J. C. Williamson; Business-Manager, Mr. E. J. Tait.—The romantic story of *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, which deals with "The Terror," was well patronised on Saturday night, Mr. Julius Knight and Miss Olga Humphery being repeatedly recalled. Matinées are given on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Theatre Royal.—Lessees, Messrs. Meynell and Gunn.—Oliver Goldsmith's charming comedy, *She Stoops to Conquer*, in spite of crowded houses, will hold the boards for only four more nights. On Saturday evening next *Fedora* will be staged for a short season.

King's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. William Anderson; Business-Manager, Mr. Julius Grant.—A special revival of *The Midnight Mail* is filling this theatre nightly, and Saturday evening saw a packed house. Mr. Anderson's company all appear to advantage in their various rôles, while some excellent scenery has been specially painted for the production.

Opera House.—Proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards; Business-Manager, Mr. Fred Aydon.—The latest attraction here consists of the Barnard family of Marionettes, who perform a short comedy entitled *A Lodger's Experiences*, which keeps the audience in roars of laughter. Hodgson and Lowther are presenting a new sketch entitled *The Chrismas Box*, a decided improvement on their former effort. Excellent items are provided by Fred Bluett, Gregson and Goodfellow, the Reno Sisters, the Great Marconis, Burt Shepard, Bella Perman, the Marlow Sisters, George Bently, Baby Watson, Jack Russell, the Lewis Sisters, and Charles Tisdale; while some excellent pictures are shown by the Bioscope. Yesterday Mr. Harry Rickards, accompanied by Mrs. Rickards and daughters, arrived in Melbourne from London. The veteran manager is looking as fit as ever

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee Mr. James Brennan; Business-Manager, Mr. Harry Brennan.—A complete change of programme was submitted to a crowded house on Saturday evening, the new turns were Renaldi, the musical king, and Will Rollon, comedian. The Regardios, the Swift Trio, Denis Carney, Jack Kearns, and a host of others completed an interesting programme.

Prince Edward of Wales took the part of an apprentice in *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, a pantomime performed by the officers, masters, and cadets of the Royal Naval College, Osborne, on Tuesday.

The Opera House, Workington, is this week handed over to the sacred cause of charity, and a local committee are running an amateur operetta called *The Mandarin*, in which local children play a prominent part. *Bluebeard* is announced for Boxing Day.

A one-act play and a farce in two scenes, written by Viscountess Galway, and entitled respectively *My Lady's Garden* and *His Wedded Wife*, were produced in the theatre at Serlby Hall, Nottinghamshire, on Wednesday. The peeress-playwright not only wrote the plays, but appeared in one of them, her husband taking part in the other.

AMUSEMENTS IN ROTTERDAM.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ROTTERDAM, Dec. 14.—After a most successful run at the Grand Theatre of Bourget's play *Un Divorce*, given here in a Dutch translation of the title *Echtscheiding*, Manager Van Eysden has produced here a new and original drama, *Nanda*, from the pen of the well-known Dutch journalist Otto Zeegers. *Nanda* is in four acts, and is the name of the leading female part. The main-spring of the plot is the strife between the narrow-minded, orthodox Church party and the broad, tolerant, and liberal element in a small provincial town. The first element has its chief representative in the Minister of the Community, and the second in the Principal of the public school. As a result of this clashing of ideas, a breach is brought about between the Minister and his young wife, Nanda, who is a whole-souled partisan of the liberal ideal. Unwilling to accept her husband's views, which she considers fatal to those of true humanity and fraternity, she leaves the conjugal roof, saying that their ways diverge for ever, and that she shall choose her own path, letting him continue his at will. The drama has decided merit, the language is good, and many of the ideas expressed are most praiseworthy, and could well be put into practice, but the writer has wished to embrace a too complicated problem without being able to give it the due development, so that the entire argument and conception are not carried out to their full extent. The play has, nevertheless, many good points, and did not fail to please the public. The cast was most efficient, and special praise falls to the share of Mrs. Tartand for her rendering of the title-rôle, and to Mr. Tartand as the liberal-minded teacher. Mention should also be made of Mrs. de Yong for some spontaneous and touching acting and of Mr. Vrolyk for his painstaking work in the unsympathetic part of the Minister.

An "off-night" at the Grand was taken advantage of by Messrs. Royaards and Stumpff to give a performance of Balzac's celebrated comedy *Mercadet*. As is well-known, this comedy is included in the répertoire of the Comédie Française, the rôle of Mercadet being one of the triumphs of Got's career. It is, indeed, the leading, and one might almost say, the exclusive part in the comedy, as the others are mere lay figures that but serve to give prominence to the dominant character. In the Dutch production, by "The Stage," Mercadet was impersonated by Willem Royaards, and his interpretation was certainly very brilliant and cleverly sustained. The other characters are of such minor importance that no particular notice is needed, though, to speak frankly, the cast was weak, barring Mr. Smith, who was very creditable as the fop, De La Brive. The setting was all that could be desired, and the costumes, which were excellent reproductions of the fashions of 1830, were unusually quaint and attractive.

Another "off-night" at the Grand was devoted to a performance of Oscar Wilde's *An Ideal Husband*, by the Hagespelers. This company (the Players of the Hague) is under the artistic leadership of Edward Verkade, who is at the same time the leading man of the organisation. The business-management is in the hands of Mr. M. J. de Haan, who is at the head of a concert and theatre bureau at the Hague, and thanks to whose able and wise pilotage a number of dramatic and musical attractions are steering free of the many shoals that beset the artistic main. *Een Ideaal Echtgenoot* was carefully staged, and the dresses worn by the ladies of the cast were rich and tasty. The play as a whole caught the public taste, many of the telling portions of the dialogue being thoroughly appreciated. The acting was fairly even, Miss Meina Irwen being entitled to a word of praise for her characterisation of the adventuress, Miss Chevely.

The Traumtanzerin, Mme. Madeleine, is in our midst, and has been seen and admired once at the Tivoli Theatre. Whether she owes her art to the hypnotic influence exercised on her medium nature by Dr. Magin, or that her talents are her own, what is most certain is that she is highly gifted, and a most remarkable artist indeed. Her mimetic powers are exceptional, the grace and rhythm of her movements form the true poetry of art, and it is a delight to see her interpret the different emotions that sway her being.

A merry and tuneful performance of *Ein Walzertraum* was presented at the Grand by the Original Wiener Operetten-Ensemble, under the management of Mr. De Haan's Bureau. The Ensemble is a good one, the costumes, setting, and, last but not the least, the orchestra, are capital, so that the performances prove excellent drawing cards. *The Merry Widow* has, of course, been put on repeatedly to crowded houses, the same luck befalling *Ein Wal Zertraum*. All the favourite numbers of this comic opera were encored, and the laughter and applause were general. The hit of the evening was scored by Wini Grabitz, as Franzi Stein Gruber. She is a clever little soubrette, and is full of mirth and *entrain*.

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

In the "Trio for Pianoforte, Violin, and Violoncello in D minor," by Arthur Hinton, which commenced the programme of the students' concert on Thursday afternoon, Dec. 10, Miss Margaret Withycombe, Miss Mabel Giddens, and Mr. Walter Britton gave a good account of the lively Schergo. Landon Ronald's song, "Deep in the heart of a rose," was ably sung by Miss Hilda M. Mayston; and Mr. Charles Seelig displayed marked intelligence in his performance of Schumann's piano solo, "Sonata in G minor." Miss Florence Griffiths gave a clever recitation of "The Hero of the Commune" (M. Preston); while Miss Alice M. Lees deserves great praise for her fluent execution and full round tone in Sarasate's difficult violin solo, "Zigeunerweisen." "The Swallow Song," Goring Thomas, was admirably sung by Miss Bertha Tomlin; and Mr. Patrick Thayer displayed considerable power as an executant in his piano solo, "Hexentanz," MacDowell. A recitation, "Life's Tragedy," was given by Miss Evelyn D. Cates, and the concert concluded with Lord Henry Somerset's melody, "Dawn, Noon, and Night," sung by Miss Gertrude Wallis.

At Trinity College on Saturday morning, Dec. 12, Dr. J. Warriner gave a lecture on "The Musical Training of Children and Teachers of Music." As on a former occasion, Dr. Warriner spoke of the importance of "hearing with our eyes" and sight-singing. Illustrations were given by a number of children from the County Council schools who are receiving tuition, free of cost, at the Trinity College in connection with the classes for the training of teachers of music. A short concert followed Dr. Warriner's address, the pupils of the first and third grades singing part-songs, "Song of the Wrens" (Craddock) and "Merry June" (C. Vincent), while Miss Nellie Kowin, who sang at the professor's first lecture, was heard in "The Lost Chord" and "An Old Garden." Neatly executed piano solos were also given by other pupils. Two students of the Trinity College, Mr. Harry Gray and Mr. W. J. Comley, acted as accompanists. So large a number of the "sisters and their cousins and their aunts" of the pupils attended the lecture and crowded the concert-room and passages that at his next lecture Dr. Warriner will have to hire a large public hall.

The Queen, with the King and Queen of Norway and Princess Victoria, witnessed the performance of *The Merry Widow* at Daly's Theatre on Saturday, and on the same evening the Prince and Princess of Wales and suite visited the Garrick Theatre, to see Miss Evelyn Millard's production of *Idols*.

PANTOMIME GOSSIP.

THE first pantomime to be seen in London this season will be presented at the Coronet, where *Dick Whittington* will make his début on Monday. Mr. Harry Randall will be the cook, Miss Constance Hyem will play the title-rôle, and Miss Dorothy Firmin should make a charming Alice. On the first night an eloquent souvenir will be given to all comers. On the following evening the performance will be under the patronage and presence of the Mayor, aldermen, and councillors of the Borough of Paddington. On Wednesday the civic dignitaries of the Royal Borough of Kensington will attend. On Thursday those of Hammersmith will be present. On these three municipal evenings Mr. Arthur has arranged for the deserving poor of the three boroughs to be entertained in the amphitheatre and gallery, which will be closed to the general public.

THE pantomime at the Shakespeare this year will be a blend of two stories—one, *The Babes in the Wood* and the other, *Bold Robin Hood*—the turning-point being the resolve of the wicked Baron to hire the two historical robbers to waylay and murder the two children, and then give information to the police as to the whereabouts of Robin Hood, with a view of obtaining the thousand crowns reward. The *mise en scène* will be found to be beautiful, attention being particularly drawn to Scene 2 and Scene 6 of the first part, and to Scenes 3 and 5 in the second half of the pantomime. The music, both selected and original, is by Alf. J. Lawrence, of that clever duo of songwriters, Messrs. Lawrence and Mellor. The book has been written by Mr. Maxwell Stewart, who is also responsible for the production and stage management of the pantomime.

MR. GEORGE BRYDON-PHILLIPS' pantomime of *Little Red Riding Hood*, which Mr. Wentworth Croke is presenting at the Lyric, Hammersmith, promises to be a great success. Miss Kittee Rayburn will appear as the Prince, and the title-rôle is to be played by Miss Ena Corelli. Other artists engaged include Messrs. Harry and James Ewins, Bishop and Vale, Henry De Solla, Tom Carrick, Will and Alice Vokes, Edith Jefferies, Maisie Mildare, Kitty Wells, and Ewan Maclaren. The scenes include the Village of Sweet Content, the Forest in Summer and Winter, Granny's Cottage, and conclude with an effective palace scene. Mr. Alfred Reynolds will act as Mr. Phillips' business manager.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" will begin at seven o'clock on Christmas Eve at the Crystal Palace Theatre, and will be repeated twice daily at 2.30 and 7.30. Mr. Bannister Howard has secured a fine cast, and it is said that the scenery and dresses will surpass anything that has yet been seen at the Palace. The aim of the management is to have a good, rollicking pantomime, full of refined and wholesome fun from start to finish. Mr. Bowyer has once more written the book. Two of the finest scenes will be Beneath the Sea and the Sultan's Palace, which have been specially painted by Mr. Thompson Hemsley, the well-known scenic artist. Miss Lillie Lassah should make a sprightly Robinson. This clever young lady is well known in the neighbourhood of the Palace, having been born in Croydon, where she has lived all her life. Miss Venie Clements, who made such a hit as Morgania in last year's pantomime, *The Forty Thieves*, will be Polly Primrose, and is pretty certain to do full justice to the part. Mr. Bert Edwards as Bill Atkins, Mr. Harry Zietz as Friday, Mr. E. Harvey White as Mrs. Crusoe, and Mr. Scott Russell as Cannibal Chief, will give a combination which should prove most diverting. Amongst other important engagements are those of the sisters Allen, the Melody Four, the Passmore Bros., and Mr. Leon Dubois. The new heating arrangements in the theatre, it should be added, have proved extremely satisfactory.

MISS EDNA CRAGGE, the ideal principal boy, has been engaged to play Demon King at the Elephant and Castle Theatre.

PANTOMIME artists who are not suited with songs, write to Mr. David Day for copies of Miss Fanny Robina's song, "Visions of long ago"; and Miss Florry Cooper's "That's why I want to fly," "Blind boy," and "The thrush," and don't fail to get "The Land of Promise," an enormous success.

MESSRS. LINTONE AND HUNTER are busy rehearsing their pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, which they are producing at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, next week. Included in the "specialities" are the Lintone Trio, Serpento, the Three Sisters Raymond, Stylvo, Victor Hunter, and many others.

A PAINFUL accident happened to Mr. J. C. Bontor, scenic artist at the Royal Princess's, Glasgow, on the night previous to the production of *Diccory Dok*. In the working of an elaborate set he had the misfortune to be struck on the chin and neck by the handle of a windlass, and suffered severely. As the mishap happened about midnight, there was much trouble in trying to obtain the services of a doctor, and ultimately Mr. Hugh Murdoch, acting-manager at the Princess's, secured a cab and drove the sufferer to the Victoria Infirmary, where the wounds were dressed. Despite the severe shock, Mr. Bontor pluckily faced the duties of the production on the 10th inst., and was honoured by several calls for his picturesque sets in the pantomime.

"BLUE BEARD," at the Opera House, Workington, will be produced on Saturday evening, Dec. 26, by Mr. Charles Constant by arrangement with Mr. Stanley Rogers. The production will be under the supervision of Mr. Johnny Clegg. Mr. Constant is sparing no expense in making *Blue Beard* one of the best pantomimes travelling. The singing and choruses will be a strong feature in the production, with beautiful scenery and dresses. The principal boy, Selim, will be Miss Daisy Lake; principal girl, Fatima, Miss Marie Duncan; Cashim, Miss Gertie Gordon; Narcissa, Miss Dolly Ward; Asphodel, Miss L. Wickenham; Ali, Miss Dolly Moore; Blue Beard, Mr. Ellis Carlyle; Shacabac and Abdulla, Harlin and Hanlon; Banboozium, Mr. J. Parker; Pimple, Mr. W. Frear; and the Dame, Mr. Johnny Clegg. The specialities will include Miss Bertha Hall, the Sisters Gage, Miss Vic Morella, and the Florodorean Troupe. Original music has been written by W. Neale, and the conductor will be Mr. Louis Finch, who has arranged the imported numbers.

"ALADDIN" will be produced by Mr. Charles Constant at the Theatre Royal, Bolton, on Boxing Day by arrangement with Mr. J. F. Elliston. The pantomime will be under the supervision of Mr. Victor Stevens. Mr. Constant is sparing no expense in making the production one of the best. The singing and choruses will be a strong feature in the pantomime. The principal boy will be Miss Lilie Blythe; the principal girl Miss Dorothy Dempster; Pekoe, Miss Louie Danby; Petti Sing, Miss Treasa Stuart; Chee-kee, Miss Maggie Bowman; Fairy Queen, Miss Marjorie Seymour; Abanazar, Mr. T. J. Morton; Emperor, Mr. Martin D. Pitt; Clang o' Ring, Mr. Max Stuart; Wishee-washee, Little Briton; and Emperor's Cat, Mr. Alf Summers. Mr. Victor Stevens appearing as Widow Twankey. The specialities will include Bowman and Morton, Stuart and Stuart, the Three Brendas, Hinson Brothers, and Maud May Murray in her beautiful electrical aerial dances. The music is arranged and will be conducted by Mr. W. Neale.

PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"DICK WHITTINGTON" AT EDINBURGH.

Messrs. Howard and Wyndham's annual Theatre Royal pantomime, which is based this year on the old story of Dick Whittington, "thrice Lord Mayor of London," was produced on Thursday evening of last week, before an audience which crowded the theatre from pit to gallery, with every appearance of popular success. The book is again written by Mr. J. Hickory Wood, who has provided ample opportunities for the clever company engaged, while outlining clearly the plot of the favourite tale. The story opens in Cheapside, outside Alderman Fitzwarren's house, on the birthday of his daughter, Alice. Dick Whittington, accompanied by his famous cat, arrives in search of fortune, and the Alderman gives him employment, at the request of Alice, who falls in love with the handsome young stranger. Eliza, the lady help, Idle Jack, Captain Tack, of the Lively Unicorn, and Rupert Raffles, the Alderman's secretary, follow in quick succession, and the pantomime begins its merry course, increasing in mirth-provoking incidents, in humorous business, in bright singing, and dexterous dancing until the fall of the curtain. The action passes from London, after a beautiful scene on Highgate Hill, where Dick sleeps, and in his dreams hears the traditional bells ringing out the message to return. This scene, by T. E. Ryan, is remarkable, not only for its artistic colouring, but for a graceful ballet, introducing skilful flying effects by Mr. George Kirby. The characters voyage to and land in Morocco. The Prince of that country is a suitor for the hand of Alice Fitzwarren; but Mouser, the cat, clears the region of a scourge of rats, and Dick is loaded with money and treasure, and is enabled to wed the girl of his choice. The cast is exceedingly strong. The management have been fortunate in the engagement of Miss Jane Eyre for the name-part. Miss Eyre possesses both charm of appearance and manner; her acting is easy and unaffected, and her singing is marked by taste and feeling. Nothing could have been more delightful than her performance on the first night, and during the evening she was repeatedly applauded for the finished rendering of the songs in her part, a notable success being achieved with "A tiny seed of love," the audience recalling her several times. Miss Ethel Erskine was a *naïve*, pretty Alice, acting with great earnestness and girlish freshness, and singing with clearness and refinement. Miss Mena Brae as Zoe, the Prince of Morocco's sister, acted with unbounded vivacity, and although at present her chances are not numerous, she made one of the hits of the evening by her rendering of "Oh! oh! Antonio," and her artistic sabot dance. She was enthusiastically encored, and had to appear again and again, the progress of the piece being interrupted for several minutes while the audience roared their applause. Miss Molly Maguire was a striking Fairy Bluebell, and sang in admirable style a taking ballad, which brought the fair singer a hearty recall. The comedians include several of the best-known names in the profession. Mr. Will Evans as Idle Jack, by his ingenious fooling, his unfailing humour, his immense resource in comic business, gave the audience great enjoyment, and the house shook with laughter whenever the actor was on the stage. A delicious bit of fun, *Building a Hen House*, was introduced into the scene in Fitzwarren's Garden, where Mr. Evans had the assistance of Mr. Ernest J. Langford (Raffles) and Mr. William Dounes (Captain Tack), two excellent comedians. The humour of this scene was infectious, and the audience applauded to the echo the diverting performance of the actors. Mr. Phil Ray made a quaint figure as Alderman Fitzwarren. He sings with admirable comic effect; his monologues in abbreviated language are clever, and his burlesque recitations are highly amusing. Mr. Harry Bickley as Eliza was very droll, his stentorian voice being startlingly in contrast with his feminine make-up. Mr. Albert Felino enhanced his reputation by another capital animal study as the Cat; his impersonation was full of humour, and showed expert acrobatism. Miss Florence Ward was an attractive Prince of Morocco, and Mr. Arthur Burgoyne was good as the King of Ratland. Reference has already been made to Mr. Langford and Mr. Dounes, who were of much service in every scene in which they took part in adding to the gaiety of the audience. The Tinto Troupe gave a capital gymnastic turn in the Ratland scene, and the Tiller Troupe of dancers—"the Scala Girls"—danced with much animation, an especially pretty effort being the dance to the accompaniment of the tuneful song "Come, be my Rainbow." Mr. T. F. Dunn, Mr. Ernest Glover, Mr. T. E. Ryan, and Mr. A. Glendinning have designed and painted the many beautiful scenes; Mr. George Sutherland has excelled himself in the properties provided for the piece; Mr. D. Torrance has been responsible for the brilliant electric lighting effects, and Mr. Wm. Macalpine has displayed much ingenuity in his mechanical appliances. The costumes are by Alias, of London, and Mrs. Smythe, from designs by M. Comelli. We have left to the last the mention of one of the most important artists in the success of the pantomime, Mr. George Burnley, the accomplished musical conductor, whose arrangement of the music is masterly. The various numbers are brought in with picturesqueness, and bell chimes are introduced with charm and impressiveness. The entire pantomime went with the utmost smoothness from the first to the last scene, and reflected the greatest credit upon Mr. F. W. Wyndham and his stage-manager, Mr. John J. Lloyd. The audience at the close raised loud calls for Mr. Wyndham, who appeared before the curtain, and bowed his acknowledgment.

"CINDERELLA" AT GLASGOW.

Moss Empires, Ltd., commenced their first pantomime season at the Grand, Glasgow, on Wednesday, 9th inst., with a beautifully staged version of *Cinderella*. The production has been entrusted to Messrs. R. C. Buchanan and Ernest Stevens, and is the same pantomime as scored such a decided success at the Shakespeare, Liverpoil, last year. Most of the artists who were concerned in that success are again playing the same parts, which always goes far towards making a pantomime a hit, and judging by the enthusiasm of the first-night audience over the scenery, the acting, and, more especially, the wealth of fun provided, *Cinderella* ought to achieve even greater success than it did a year ago. Mr. Stanley Rogers, who produces the pantomime for Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens, is also the author of the book, and has provided a smart and up-to-date libretto, full of "quip and crank, and gibe and joke," to afford unlimited scope for the comedians, and yet the simple nursery story of Cinderella is never for a moment obscured. The pantomime is divided into two parts, and ten scenes in all, and scenically it is a most artistic production. The various sets and cloths are by Messrs. Thomas Holmes, Stafford Hall, A. Terraine, and E. Ryan, and special praise is due for the scenes entitled the Glade, Cinderella's Kitchen, the Home of the Fairy Godmother, the Royal Ballroom (this in particular is a magnificent set), the Exterior of De Debtington Hall, and the concluding scene, In the Sweet Spring Time, where in a blaze of colour and to the tuneful strains of "Ring out, ye bells," the fortunes of Cinderella reach their highest pinnacle. In the selection of their company Messrs. Buchanan and Stevens have made an excellent choice. Prince Casimir is played by Miss Violet Halls (who will be remembered as Clementine in *The Girls of Gottenberg* at the Gaiety), and to a handsome appearance and dashing style this lady unites a voice of considerable power and quality, as was evidenced by the manner in which she gave her various songs, and the hearty applause they evoked. Her most notable successes in this line were the tuneful ditties "Anywhere will do" and "The Gay Gordons," both of which went particularly well. Miss Queenie Finnis as Cinderella acts charmingly, alike in the earlier scenes of her poverty and ill-traetment, consoled by the sympathy of her faithful friend Capers, and later in the days of prosperity, as the affianced bride of Prince Casimir. In her song, "My pretty Piece of Dresden china," she takes exceedingly well, and the humour of the "Parrot" duet with Mr. Barry Lupino as Capers was rewarded with several encores. Another fine item was her "Shadowland" song, charmingly rendered. The Baron and Baroness, as played by Messrs. George French and Tom Conway, were the cause of hearty and continuous laughter all the time they were on the stage. The contrast being the puny Baron, with his woe-begone face and subdued manner, and the aggressive and domineering Baroness, especially on her first entrance in a motor rig-out, which further emphasises her substantial proportions, was comic in the extreme. Messrs. French and Conway are, of course, the principal fun-providers, and their business in the scene where the Baron is required to take medicine, in the wrestling act, at the Prince's Ball, and, in fact, all through, keeps the audience in fits of laughter. Mr. George French is already a great favourite in Glasgow, and his performance as the Baron will enhance his reputation considerably. His song, "Maggie of Dundee," was the biggest hit of the evening, and the humour of the song and Mr. French's make-up as a Scotchman in kilt and plaid, emphasised as they were by the orchestral humour of the accompaniment provided by Mr. H. Henderson and his merry men, caught the fancy of the audience, and it took three or four encores to satisfy them. In his "Salome" song, Mr. French has another taking number, and it was also well received. As the Baroness Mr. Tom Conway does not rely so much on his vocal efforts, (though his song "Drinks" is an amusing item) as on the humour of his make-up, the malapropisms in his dialogue, and his acting of the strong-minded lady, especially in connection with the ruling of her timid husband, the Baron. This makes the fun all the more enjoyable when the Baron, after the successful wrestling bout with a gentleman of enormous physical development, takes the Baroness in hand and asserts his authority in determined fashion. The two elderly daughters of the Baroness are played by Miss Kate Walbran and Miss Nellie Cozens. The former as Araminta makes up comic, and adopts a tragedy method and a rapt expression. Miss Cozens as Elvira adopts rather the guise of a damsel of mature years affecting the methods of agushing girl of sixteen. In "Oh, oh, Antonio" Miss Cozens has one of the popular ditties of the year, and makes it go exceedingly well. For the part of Dandini Mr. Whit Cunliffe has been secured, and makes his début as a pantomime artist with results equally satisfactory to himself, the audience, and the management. The popular light comedian makes an excellent Dandini, the affected manner and pomposity of his assumed dignity, in contrast to the real Prince, being very amusing; while in his songs he fairly enrols the audience as choristers for the time being. In "The very first girl I see," "You're not satisfied," "I don't care if there's a girl there," and "I will—I won't," he has four songs that catch on enormously, and for each of them he is repeatedly recalled. Mr. Barry Lupino as Capers is another tower of strength to the pantomime, and his quaint style, lively antics, and facility at tumbling over all sorts of real and imaginary obstacles, provide a veritable feast of fun. His share in the "Parrot" duet with Cinderella, already referred to, was smartly done, and in the song and dance "My girl's a Yorkshire girl" he also scored a success, assisted by a clever lady dancer. Miss Nellie Wigley makes a smart and likely Duke of Whistbridge, and scored a hit with her song "Won't you dance the Merry Widow waltz," more especially in the final verse, where she is assisted in the humorous business by Mr. Tom Conway as the Baroness. Miss Olive Tempest is a handsome Fairy Godmother, and sang "Won't you play at sweethearts?" with much taste and expression. Miss Edie Docherty speaks her lines pleasantly as the Dream Fairy, and the local children who appear in the Haunted Corridor scene, which opens the pantomime, were well drilled, and performed their duties with evident gusto. Mr. Chas. Kean acted with humour as the Flunkey in the Royal Palace, and as the fearsome wrestler who is overcome by the Baron. Messrs. Roylat and Walker made a most amusing animal of the Baron's horse; and other parts were ably filled by Misses Marie Durand, Kitty Mattheson, Dora Balmain, and May Gordon. A strong and attractive chorus give animation to the various scenes, and makes the musical items an important feature. The Lottie Stone troupe of dancers contribute a number of picturesque dances. Mr. Stanley Rogers has given the pantomime a splendid send-off, and in response to calls for a speech, neatly thanked the audience in a few words for their hearty reception of the latest *Cinderella*. The stage management is in the hands of Mr. Augustus Hammond, assisted by Mr. C. H. Baker, while Mr. Ernest Dale, who has been so long connected with the Grand, deserves every credit for the manner in which the various changes were made and the expedition with which many heavy sets were got ready. Mr. H. Henderson, Mus.Bac., conductor at the Grand, is associated in the selection and arranging of the music with Mr. Harry Richardson and Mr. George M. Saker, and in this department the pantomime is specially worthy of note. On the opening night, Mr. H. Henderson had his augmented band and the large chorus well under control, and the result was most exhilarating. The handsome dresses are by Messrs. J. A. Harrison, Ltd., from designs by Mr. Robert White, and the wigs by Messrs. Fyans and Co. A beautifully-designed carriage, lighted by electricity, and four smart little ponies are important features of the production. Mr. B. G. Machlachlan, district manager for Moss's theatrical houses, was much in evidence on the opening night, as were also the representatives of the various well-known music publishers. Mr. Frank Withers is looking after the interests of the pantomime company. Mr. W. Christie Grant, resident-manager here, may confidently look forward to a very busy time for the next twelve or more weeks, as the fame of *Cinderella* spreads throughout Glasgow and the west of Scotland.

"DICCORY DOK" AT GLASGOW.

On Thursday, 10th inst., Mr. Rich Waldon produced the twenty-ninth Royal Princess's pantomime at Glasgow, and from the rise of the curtain to the fall there was not the slightest doubt that he has once again scored a success. Adhering to the policy he has adopted for a number of years past, Mr. Waldon studiously avoids the hackneyed subjects of pantomime, and in his search for fresh fields and pastures new he has this year adopted the subject of *Diccory Dok; or, The Little Mouse and the Magic Clock*. There may be different versions of the exact wording of this nursery classic, but the official wording given in the libretto is:

"Diccory, Diccory Dok,
The mouse ran up the clock,
The clock struck one
The mouse was gone,
Diccory, Diccory Dok."

Rather a slender foundation, one might think, for a pantomime scenario, but in the hands of Mr. J. James Hewson (the author of this and the two previous pantomimes at the Princess's) this becomes an advantage, for it affords unlimited scope. Mr. Hewson makes it a story of a lost heir, an unscrupulous squire with a pretty ward, a travelling doctor and his assistant, an old housekeeper and her Scotch nephew, and over all the opposing forces of Discord and the Fairy Sweetbriar to mar or make the fortunes of the hero, Dick, who of course turns out to be the lost heir and the possessor of wealth unlimited. If Mr. Waldon has this year made a feature of the novelty of his subject, he has pursued an opposite course in the selection of the company to interpret it. Never before have we had a cast here with so many as six favourites of previous years included in it, and the rousing cheers that greeted Miss Ella Retford, Mr. Peter Bermingham, Mr. Syd Walker, Mr. Cliff Lake, and that clever couple Miss Maggie Fraser and Miss Edith Haley on their respective first entrances proved that the patrons of the Princess's endorsed Mr. Waldon's selection in every case. But admiration for their established favourites did not blind the audience to the merits of the new-comers, and in Miss Flora Cromer as Dick we get a principal boy who worthily upholds the best traditions of the theatre. She has a fine presence, lots of energy and go, sings her songs with striking effect, and speaks her lines with a crispness that ensures their being heard by every member of the audience. The selection of songs given by Miss Cromer ranges from the sweetly simple ballad, "Who'll buy my lavender?" to the lively coon song, "Carolina Brown," and the patriotic ditty about "Lads in blue," and to one and all she imparts a charm that at once makes for success. As Dick's sweetheart Winnie Miss Ella Retford returns to the theatre where she was so successful two years ago, and it is almost unnecessary to say of such a popular favourite that she carries the audience with her all through the evening. Her winsome smile is infectious, and in song and dance she has a style that is all her own. For her first song she gave her own special item, "Do you want any coal?,' and later on her "Chinaman" song, with an appropriately-dressed chorus of girls, and both ditties were heartily encored. One of Miss Retford's best songs is "Won't you dance the Merry Widow Waltz?" and in this she has the assistance of Mr. Syd Walker, with the result that a plethora of amusing business is introduced by these two clever artists. This song made a decided hit, as did a duet which Miss Retford shares with Mr. Peter Bermingham, entitled "Gretna Green," a tuneful melody which secured several encores. During the evening Miss Retford was presented with two or three artistic bouquets, as was also Miss Flora Cromer, and, in fact, all the lady principals, not to speak of the gollywog bouquet handed up to Mr. Peter Bermingham after one of his songs. As a Scotch comedian Mr. Bermingham has already made a big name for himself here, and the audience is delighted at his humorous sallies, all given in the local dialect, and with plenty of those words and phrases only possible to one well versed in the tongue of the Glasgow people. The fun is fast and furious when he is on the stage, and as Wee Hughie he contributes a most amusing sketch of character. The return this year of Messrs. Walker and Lake to the Princess's is responsible for a vast deal of excellent comedy. In the part of the itinerant doctor, Professor Pillbox, Mr. Syd. Walker has a character in which he fairly revels, and his embodiment of the eccentric professor is like a page from Dickens. Mr. Cliff Lake as Squills is an excellent foil to his more volatile partner, and their numerous interludes are provocative of the most hearty laughter. Their first song is a clever parody—"Will you pay me in December what you owe since May!" and they also do well with the smartly-written song, "What's the use?" A more popular second boy and girl than Misses Edith Haley and Maggie Fraser it would be difficult to find, and their great success of last year here is likely to be eclipsed by this year's performance. Their singing makes them prime favourites, and they at once got home with the American ballad, "Sweet Sixteen," charmingly sung, while another of their hits was the song, "Whispers of love." In addition to these duets, Miss Haley secured several encores for "Isn't it lovely to be in love." Another clever couple who make their first bow to a Princess's audience are the Sisters Bartholomew (Rose and Violet), and as Matt and Jennie they make a lively and energetic boy and girl, ably taking their share in the honours of the evening. Their contributions to the harmony include "Johnny Macintyre" and "Matilda Magee," both of which take well. The Squire of Eaglesham of Mr. Harry A. Gribben is a first-rate performance, with the touch of mock tragedy that makes the comic situations seem doubly comic. He works well with the other comedians, and is responsible for many a hearty laugh. Mr. Ainslie Burton as the Dame (Mistress Amelia Tibbs) is another clever actor, and his performance was much appreciated, applause and laughter alternating with the audience all through his humorous sallies. Mr. Walter Dale as Sparkle acts the part of the villain's assistant with much versatility, and proved himself a clever comedian throughout. Miss Ivy Proudfoot as the fairy Queen, Sweetbriar, is gifted with a handsome appearance and a most melodious voice. She gives her dialogue with much point, and her songs were received with enthusiasm, in particular one with the refrain, "To live or die for you." As the demon Discord, Miss May Beatrice acts with very striking effect, and infuses into her lines the necessary vim and emphasis. Mr. Charles Stevens and Mr. Harry Brett as two knockabouts do a lot of useful work, and Misses Rita Romney, Doreen Day, Dorothy Seakam, and May Abdy as village boys and girls complete a good cast. Following up his success of last year with the rolling saloon of the Lusitania, Mr. Rich Waldon has on this occasion given his patrons a sensational scene representing an earthquake, and the realistic way in which the massive buildings round a public square collapse at the desire of the Demon Discord, and the antics of the various comedians as modern Claudians dodging the flying chimney-pots, is worth going a long way to see. Another good scene is the Model Dairy, which affords opportunity for some very tasteful dresses for the fascinating dairymaids, and lots of room for comic business in the working of the various utensils. Scene 6, The Fair Ground, also gives scope for a deal of old-fashioned rough and tumble fun. But the scenic triumphs of the year are the concluding scenes to each part, viz., Beneath the Sea and The Palace. There had been several calls for the scenic artist, but it was for these two special scenes that the enthusiasm was most pronounced, and Mr. J. C. Bontor (looking somewhat ill after his recent accident) had to bow his acknowledgments repeatedly. As in previous years, Mr. Bontor is responsible for all the scenery, and he gives beautiful examples in the opening set, Road near Eaglesham, and the attractive cloth, Near the Baron's Stables, while a touch of humour is displayed in the Home of the Wreckers and The Model Dairy. Several striking electrical devices are shown in the scenes Beneath the Sea and The Palace. The sunken galleon in the former is a triumph for the artist and Mr. David Barbour, electrician at the theatre. Mr. Henri Vollmer, conductor at the Princess's, has selected and arranged the music, which is a feature of this year's production. The mechanical changes in the earthquake and other scenes reflect credit on Mr. T. Flanagan, while Mr. C. G. Cooke is responsible for the properties and appointments, and Miss Binnie for most of the dresses, with the exception of some Parisian toilettes by Mme. Despré, Paris. Messrs. Fyans, of Liverpool, have supplied the wigs. Mr. Rich Waldon, as in past years, himself supervises the entire production, down to the most minute details, and he must have been gratified at the hearty and cordial manner in which the audience expressed their approval from first to last. In a few words he thanked his patrons at the fall of the curtain for the gratifying reception they had accorded the twenty-ninth pantomime at this theatre. Mr. George Dix assists Mr. Waldon as stage-manager, and the ballets were under the direction of Miss Fanny Boulton. In front Mr. Hugh Murdoch ably fulfils his duties as acting-manager, looking after the comfort of the large audience, with a special eye to "our good friends of the Press," as Sir Henry Irving was wont to remark.

"THE BABES IN THE WOOD" AT MANCHESTER.

Messrs. Levy and Cardwell produced their version of *The Babes in the Wood* at the Queen's Theatre, Manchester on the 7th inst. The book is by H. B. Levy and the music, which is catchy and tuneful, by G. F. Dodds. The story runs along the usual lines, and introduces Robin Hood and his merry men, including Friar Tuck, and of course Maid Marion. Much care and expense have been lavished on the scenery and costumes, the whole being well designed and tastefully harmonised, the principal "sets" being "The Village," "The Woodland Glade," "The Castle Ramparts," and "The Home of Good Luck," and the various ballets—the Birds, the Fairy, and the Statues—elaborately introduced. A very capable company are employed in the exploitation of the story. As one of the Babes Wee George Wood is precociously clever, and is particularly successful in his song "One thing makes me crazy, and that's the girls"; he is also smart in various impersonations. Marjorie, the other Babe, is very nicely played by Little Peggy Macdonnell, who dances well and sings "I want to be amongst the boys" and "Good-night little Teddy Bear." Miss Daisy Wood as Robin Hood, the principal boy, has a good presence and an equally good voice, and is well received in her songs "Bombadier" and "From Poverty-street to Golden-square"; while Miss Dolly Dodds as Marion pleases everyone by her rendering of "Shadowland," "The Bubble and the Sunbeam," and "Antonio." Among the vocal successes must also be mentioned Miss Jenny Hughes as Fairy Snowdrop, who renders in cultured style "Let me but hope" and "I'd live or would die for you." The comedians are brisk and resourceful, the chief success being scored by Mr. J. G. Aitken as Wee Willie, a country lad, whose methods are well suited to the Lauder class of song, examples of which are "The wedding o' Sandy McNab" and "Good-bye, Sandy." Mr. Neil Hardy as Baron Strangeways contributes "You will never be an angel, daddy"; and among other comic items, Mr. Jimmy Watson as Maggie Ann, the nurse, is responsible for "I'm going to be in the Salome fashion" and "Daisy and her Directoire." Specialities are added by Levy and Cardwell's troupe of international dancers and the Marguerite Quartet, and the show, as a whole, is calculated to give unqualified satisfaction wherever it is seen.

AMUSEMENTS IN BARCELONA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

"OLD HEIDELBERG" and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* continue to attract large audiences at the Theatro Principal. The Circo Barcelones announce several *débuts*, amongst which are those of the Sisters Courson in "Le Tourbillon de la Mort," the Four Villards, Lidia and Amelis, and the Sisters Naldy. The Sisters Proveanies, the clever troupe of cyclists, continue to prove a great attraction, and they are without doubt the success of the evening. Scarcely less in favour are the Six Juggling Girls, who work well together in many combinations of club-swinging and juggling. A capital comedy act is presented by Maxim and D'Elb, both being acrobats of no mean order. Mlle. Nitta Yô is possessed of a fine voice, and her rendering of six numbers was insufficient to satisfy the audience. Another comedienne, Mlle. Fauvette, is also well received. Jack and Joun supply an interesting item.

AT the Soriano the Zaresky Troupe of Russian singers and dancers are much applauded. Clown Brosa presents his performing dogs. They are perfectly trained. Drawee, Frisco, and Ambo, jugglers, bring a most successful engagement to a close. The Davis Troupe also appear.

THE CAVALLOTTIS, in a number combining high-class music with comedy, enter upon their last week at the Poliorama. Aafael Arcos, with frequent changes of entertainment, seems almost a permanency at this hall.

THE Palacio de Ilusion may always be relied upon for an attractive programme. Included are the Guerra Trio, acrobats; the Clown Pol, mimic; and Lerris Lenka with her troupe of educated dogs.

AMUSEMENTS IN BRUSSELS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BRUSSELS, DEC. 15.—La Monnaie's attractions are Gluck's *Orphée*, Halévy's *Juive*, R. Strauss' *Salome*, and Charpentier's *Louise*, with Mme. Claire Friché in the title-rôle.

MME. BADY has been the star at the Parc, in Henry Bataille's strong play, *La Femme Nue*. Now Sardou's political satire, *Rabagas*, is on the bill. The Galeries and the Olympia are a gold mine to their clever manager, Mr. Fonson, who has produced at the first theatre Hennequin and Duquesnel's fine comedy, *Patachon*, and at the second G. Feydeau's ever-successful *Dame de chez-Maxim*.

AT the Molière the fare is Serpette's *Cousin-Cousine*. The Alcazar is presenting Jules Lemaître's *L'Ainee*. Le Palais d'Eté has made its transformation on the usual ice skating-rink, Le Pôle Nord, and is attracting crowds. The Scala has launched the first revue of the season, gorgeous and tuneful as is the rule of the house.

CIRCUS HENRY, at the Gare du Midi, and Beketow, at the Cirque Royal, are offering fine Christmas programmes.

"CINDERELLA" will be produced at the Grand Theatre, Mansfield, on Boxing Day. The pantomime is by Captain Clayton, who has written the book, the lyrics being by Mr. Mark Lorne. The scenery, which has been painted in its entirety by Mr. Alec Toole, the resident artist, will be a special feature of the production. The White City, in particular, with its beautiful electric fountain, throwing hundreds of gallons of real water, will be among the finest ever presented here. An excellent cast has been chosen, with, in addition, several speciality turns.

"CINDERELLA" will be the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Exeter, and will be produced by Mr. Guyton Heath on Boxing Day. The libretto is by F. Leslie Moreton, and music composed and arranged by F. Chevalier Le Grand, who will conduct the orchestra. The stage-manager will be Mr. Geoffrey Allsopp. Miss Cissy Hayden will again be ballet-mistress, Miss Edith Housley will be principal boy, and Miss Violet Hollom will be principal girl. Miss Kate O'Flynn will be the Baroness; Messrs. Frank Weir and Fred Park the Wicked Sisters; and Mr. Kennedy Allen the Baron. Miss Minnie Love as Dandini, Miss Ethel Monks as Lord Chamberlain, Miss Willie Atom as Page, and Miss Elsie James as Fairy Queen complete a strong combination. The principal dancers will be the Berlin Belles.

LONDON & SUBURBAN THEATRES.

KING'S THEATRE, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Dec. 14, the Play entitled
"UNDER THE RED ROBE."

For the concluding week of the dramatic season this popular adaptation by Edward Rose of Mr. Stanley Weyman's famous novel has been staged by Mr. Norman V. Norman's company, and has been received with generous applause by crowded audiences. The play is a stirring and vigorous one, and contains plenty of excitement, well emphasising the sensational times of Cardinal Richelieu, who occupies an important place in the drama. The hero, Gil de Berault, is played in exceedingly brisk and dashing fashion by Mr. Norman V. Norman, who as a gamester, duellist, and lover dominates the scene quite to everybody's approval. Rather too deliberate, but, on the other hand, well acted is the Cardinal de Richelieu of Mr. Alfred Gray; Mr. Reginald P. Lamb is a capital Marquis de Pombal; and M. de Fargis is very ably played by Mr. Cyril Percy. Mr. F. Ambrose Flower gives an admirable impersonation of the swaggering Englishman, Sir Thomas Brunt; most amusing is Mr. Sam Wilkinson as Captain Larolle; while Lieut. Manet is carefully rendered by Mr. Norman Leslie. Mr. Fred K. Lock represents Henri de Cocheforet in good stye; Clon, a dumb servant, is well mimed by Mr. J. A. Snaith; Mr. Casson Freer is worthy of praise as the Sergeant; as Renée de Cocheforet Miss Beatrice Wilson is completely successful, her acting showing talent of a very high description; Msis Violet Malcolm Barnett makes an earnest and pathetic Mme. de Cocheforet; and Miss Ethel Coleridge is a vivacious Mme. Zaton. Suzette in the hands of Miss Adeline Granville deserves mention. The dresses and scenery are in every way worthy of praise. *David Garrick* was given on two evenings later in the week with Mr. Norman as Garrick and Miss Beatrice Wilson as Ada Ingot.

DALSTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 14, the Drama entitled
"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."

Mr. Herbert Scardon and Mr. H. Sherwood Martin's company present this week the above-named drama, which is written by G. Howard Watson and W. P. Sheen. The piece is remarkably well played, not a part in the cast being inadequately represented. Mr. Herbert Scardon gives quite the correct idea of a thoroughly good-hearted young Englishman as Cecil Hardy; his father, Sir John Hardy, a high-minded gentleman, finds a realistic representative in Mr. Pat Quinn; Miss Sidney Crowe as Lady Adela Hardy gives a striking sketch of a heartless, treacherous woman, and gains much applause for some powerful acting; her companion in wrong-doing, Captain Fred Slade, is effectively represented by Mr. Edward Avinal; Mr. Clarence Temple appears as Matthew Malyon, a circus proprietor, and gains the sympathy of the audience by his vivid representation of grief at the tragic death of his son, and in his subsequent display of dramatic intensity; the youthful gymnast, Eric Malyon, is played by Miss Marie Marsh; the humorous element of the drama is supplied by Mr. Victor Gordon as Horatio Bluff, a man-servant; Miss Violette Vivienne as Pollie Belle, a champion strong woman; and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway as Joe Sparrow, a circus clown, the last presenting some excellent specimens of low comedy. The part of Kate Montague, a circus rider, is sustained by Miss Violet Lyttôn in a way which secures hearty goodwill.

ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Dec. 14, Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and Company in Shakespearean Répertoire.

Students of Shakespeare are being regaled this week, while others of a less pedantic turn of mind are having their memories refreshed, by the presentation, by Miss Florence Glossop-Harris and her clever company, of several of the Bard's best-known plays, including *Romeo and Juliet*, *Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*, *Taming of the Shrew*, &c., in fact, a different play for every night in the week—surely a sufficiency. *Romeo and Juliet*, which was the play presented on the night of our visit, was listened to with keen attention and greatly appreciated, marked favour being bestowed upon the principal members in the cast. Miss Florence Glossop-Harris was seen to particular advantage in the character of Juliet. Mr. Arthur Goodsall gives an excellent rendering of the love-sick swain, Romeo, acting with that conviction gained by experience; he deserves the applause so liberally meted out to him. Mr. Frank Cellier as Mercutio has more or less a "resting" part, but supplies an interesting study. Benvolio is ably impersonated by Mr. Percival Madgewick; Mr. Francis Roberts puts plenty of spirit into his representation of the fiery Tybalt; Mr. E. Stuart Vinden and Mr. Leslie Newman as Capulet and Montague respectively deserve commendation; Mr. J. Cassels Cobb makes a suitable Prince; Mr. Murray Kinnell does well as Paris; Miss Janet Warden essays the rôle of the Nurse with distinction; and Miss Gertrude Tate as Lady Capulet and Miss Macy Goulden as Lady Montague are valuable members of the cast.

THE PAVILION.

On Monday, Dec. 14, the Drama entitled
"A FIGHT FOR LIFE."

For the concluding week of the dramatic season the management have secured the services of Miss Ada Frank's capable company, under the direction of Mr. Courtney Robinson, and a good all-round performance of the exciting play above-named is given. Although at times the story awakens memories of the past, yet the plot is skilfully unravelled, and many thrilling incidents are watched with interest by an appreciative audience. Mr. Courtney Robinson looks and acts well as Count Adrian, the defender of the weak and helpless; Mr. Clifton Earle infuses a great amount of poignancy into the part of the crippled Jean Cardell; and the bullying Carlos Cardell is well enacted by Mr. William Matthews. Mr. Dan Ryan is full of quips and foibles as the light-hearted and merry Dan Murphy, and a fine character-study of the miser, Ferrand, is given by Mr. Templar Ellis. Miss Ada Franks is bright and vivacious as Suzanne, and Miss Florence M. Daly is excellent as the ferocious La Cardell. The pathos of the blind Marie is well shown by Miss Elsie Shelton, and Miss Rose Woodhall is capable as Adell. The remaining parts are in good hands.

NEW LYRIC, HAMMERSMITH.

On Monday, Dec. 14, the Drama entitled
"STRAIGHT FROM THE SHOULDER."

Mr. R. A. Roberts' company is concluding its first tour with a visit to the above-named house this week. Mr. Henry Herne, in the character of Dr. Bedford, plays with conviction, especially in the scenes between himself and his wife, *née* Millicent Grant, a part which is sympathetically and charmingly rendered by Miss Beatrice Burdett. A powerful performance is given by Mr. Leonard Clarke as the villainous David Gleeson, who later becomes Major Lucas Jim Green, alias Bunky, is a particularly well-written low comedy character, and by Mr. A. P. Kaye, an old Lyric favourite, it is played for all it is worth. Mr. Kaye also sings two songs, which "go" very well and merit the hearty applause received. Mr. Geo. B. Child is an effective Rev. John Armitage; as Mary Gleeson Miss Frances Bruce does well; Mr. George Fisher acts capably as Fred Stafford, and with Gladys Brittle (cleverly portrayed by Miss Beatrice Moore) nicely renders a love duet. Miss Edie Casson invests the part of the elderly spinster Miss Brittle with much quiet humour. Mr. R. A. Roberts's acting manager is the courteous Mr. Charles Boult.

"OLIVIA'S ELOPEMENT."

Comedy, in One Act, by Affleck Scott, Produced at the King's, Hammersmith, on Thursday, Dec. 17.

Olivia Fielding .....Miss Beatrice Wilson
Lucy .....Miss Ethel Coleridge
Sir James Fielding .....Mr. Alfred Gray

On Thursday evening last this new curtain-raiser was produced at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith. Sir James Fielding discovers that his niece, Olivia, is about to elope that evening with a young gentleman named Arthur Langdon, and that at the very moment the lover is waiting for the lady at the bottom of the garden, with horses. Sir James has other intentions for his niece's marriage, and to effectually prevent the elopement taking place he locks her in her bedroom (where the action of the piece takes place), and insists upon her disrobing and going to bed. As she undresses she throws the articles of attire at him one by one, and he collects them, and after ransacking the wardrobe and chests of drawers he leaves the room, locking the door behind him. In this quandary Olivia arranges with her maid, Lucy, that when she goes out of the room she shall inform Arthur of what the uncle has done and get him to obtain some clothes for her to, and she can then descend by the window into the garden, and so meet him as arranged. Lucy obeys her behests and obtains the clothes from Arthur, and comes back by the window. Upon being opened the bundle turns out to be composed of gentleman's attire, and with some trepidation Olivia dons them and makes her reappearance, looking very debonair. Just as she is about to descend by the window Sir James enters the room, and seeing, as he supposes, the lover, he lays his stick across the young man's shoulder and orders him out by the window, which Olivia very promptly takes advantage of, and while descending the ladder she chaffs her uncle about catching a weasel (his own description of himself) asleep. The piece is a short and merry one, and met with an extremely favourable reception. Miss Beatrice Wilson as Olivia gave evidence of her versatility by some very spirited acting, and certainly made a very brave show in male attire; Mr. Alfred Gray was successful as the irascible Sir James Fielding, and Miss Ethel Coleridge as the maid, Lucy, rendered capital assistance.

BRIXTON THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 14, the Drama entitled
"SAPHO."

For the week preceding the holiday season Mr. Frederick Melville is presenting the old favourite play, *Sapho*. Mr. Ernest R. Abbott is responsible for the production, and a good all-round performance of the famous French drama is given. Noteworthy in the cast is Miss Amy Abbott, who gives a vivid and realistic picture of Fanny Legrand, the "worst woman in Paris." Mr. Ernest R. Abbott is most effective as Jean Gaussin; Henri Déchelette finds a capable exponents in Mr. Vincent Wells; Mr. Edwin Keene does good work as Uncle Césaire; Mr. Arthur Bell is admirable as Flamant; and Mr. John Lester fills very effectively the part of Caoudal. Fanny's father (old Legrand) is safe in the hands of Mr. Arthur Britton; Miss Isabel Singleton makes the most of Mme. Hettema; Miss Florence Gomer sustains with marked ability the part of the notorious La Pipette; Miss Florence North is an engaging Lucy; and Miss E. Gertrude Jones is very satisfactory as Joseph. *Sapho* is nicely mounted and dressed, and the stage-management deserves praise.

GRAND, FULHAM.

On Monday, Dec. 14, the Romantic Play, in Four Acts, by Walter Howard, entitled
"THE PRINCE AND THE BEGGAR MAID."

This late Lyceum production is now on its travels, and is being well received at Fulham. There is a fine, full-blooded romantic flavour about *The Prince and the Beggar Maid*, and the company throw themselves into the work with the proper spirit, and so it goes down splendidly. Mr. Ivan Cleveland looks well and acts strongly as the objectionable Prince Hildred. Mr. Graeme Campbell puts in some clever work in the difficult part of Prince Michael; but of course the cheers go with Mr. Herbert Ford as Prince Olaf. He fills that romantic rôle most worthily, and acts as well as he looks, which is saying a good deal. Another good performance is that of Mr. D. Lewin Mannering as Captain Victor. Mr. J. E. Gardner shows well in his study of the dumb servant Nathan; and Mr. Francis Hawley is good as the time-serving Bishop. The military parts were generally well filled. Miss Annie Saker plays with charm and power as the Princess of Illyria; and Miss Dido Drake is effective and tender as Camiola. The parts of the youthful and irresponsible lovers, Lieut. Karl Stromberg and Viola, were excellently done by Mr. Kendal Chalmers and Miss Isla Garnet-Vayne, the latter making a most charming ingénue, and moreover displaying a nice sense of humour. The piece is well mounted and effectively stage-managed by Mr. Kendal Chalmers.

Messrs. Raphael Tuck and Co. have certainly put their previous efforts in the shade by their truly "royal collection" of Christmas cards. In the 2,000 sets of entirely new and original designs the same unremitting care is bestowed on every card, from the lowest to the highest priced, those at 1d., 2d., and 3d. possessing no less inherent artistic merits than the 6d., 1s., or still more expensive cards. The Royal Card Collection is reproduced direct from the original Christmas cards Messrs. Tuck had the honour of specially painting last Christmas for their Majesties the King and Queen of England, their Imperial Majesties the Emperor and Empress of Germany, their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain, their Majesties the King and Queen of Norway, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, and in former seasons for her late Majesty Queen Victoria. The "Luminous Celluloid" series, protected by Application for Royal Letters Patent, stands out as one of the gem novelties of the year. The "Dainty Porcelain," the "Mounted Gem," the "Golden Harvest," the "Pinewood," the "Greenwood," and the "White Heather" series, these, splendid in themselves, are probably not more preferable than the "India Print" series, the "Frosty Winter," the "Bizarre," the "Oak and Holly," the "Cosy Corner," "Ye Sealed Oilette," the "Goodwill," and the "Golden Vandyck" Series, and the highly original "Music" series, the "Gold and Silver Leaf," the "Glowing Sunset," the "Aero Plate-Mark," the "Gem Oilette," and the "Gold Framed" Series. The real "English Hand-made" cards, each printed separately from the engraved copper plate, are issued at low prices; and the Art and Boudoir Panels are refined and charming in their novelty, and will command universal admiration. Amongst the books and toy books are "Father Tuck's Annual," Hans Andersen's and "Grimm's Fairy Tales," "Nursery Rhymes," "Alphabets," "Natural Histories," and excellent additions to the patent "Paintbox" series of painting books, which sold so well last season. The birthday books, with daily quotations from the works of Shakespeare, Longfellow, Tennyson, Dickens, and Ruskin, are dainty, attractive, and inexpensive. Tuck's postcards and Tuck's Christmas and New Year postcards, the box of picture panoramas, and the "Mechanical Animals and Birds" are as highly appreciated as ever.

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THE SHAKESPEARE.

On Monday, Dec. 14, for the First Time in London, the Musical Comedy, in Two Acts; Book, Music, and Lyrics by William T. Gliddon, entitled
"THE FLOWER GIRL."

Lily .....Miss Kitty Hyde
Joe Wheeler .....Mr. John T. MacCallum
Johnny Wheeler .....Mr. Alfred Donohoe
The Hon. Billy Greenhill..Mr. Robert Cranny
Reginald Rackit .....Mr. Louis du Cane
Alphonse de Racquet .....Mr. Henry Adnes
Lizette de Racquet .....Miss Lilian Drake
Lady Greenhill.....Miss Elsa Brettingham
Miss Maisie Flirtington.Miss Townley Laurence
Jessie .....Miss Kitty Wallace
Maudie .....Miss L. Simpson
Kate .....Miss Phyllis Leslie
Dot .....Miss Florence Hardy
Policeman .....Mr. H. Douglas
Mr. Bunker .....Mr. Arthur Carter
Bertie .....Mr. F. Williams

The fascinations of a flower girl have been exercised with irresistible effect on the audiences at the Shakespeare, where the above-named musical comedy has this week had its introduction to London. The writer has essayed the triple rôle of author, composer, and lyricist, duties which it is customary to spread over a number of people, but he has acquitted himself with remarkable success, and the result is a pretty production, embellished by tuneful and often high-class music. The situations lend themselves readily to the creation of fun, and the house has been kept continuously alive by the efforts of the comedians. Quite a revelation of the attractiveness of the London itinerant vendors of blooms is supplied in the chorus, some of whom are well qualified in comeliness and gracefulness to compete for those matrimonial prizes which are said to await the members of musical comedy contingents. The thin thread of plot has to be traced through two acts amid an abundance of amusing incidents. The queen of the flower girl brigade is Lily, the adopted daughter of Joe Wheeler, a 'bus driver, by whom she had been discovered when a baby left alone on the seat of his cab. Joe is out of employment owing to the influx of the ubiquitous motor, and readily accedes for a consideration to the request of a foppish young man named Reggie to watch for his uncle and aunt, whom he is expecting by the Paris mail. Joe is also commissioned by the Hon. Billy Greenhill to discover the parentage of the flower girl Lily, with whom the young man has fallen desperately in love. Joe succeeds in both missions, but not until a series of comical episodes have been enacted. Billy and Lily meet, and the former proposes marriage; but his sister is opposed to the match, until the arrival of Reggie's aunt and uncle from France and the production by Joe of a medallion found upon the infant establish the fact that Lily is the long-lost niece of the foreign visitors and sister to Reggie.

A number of young but talented artists have been secured by Mr. Charles M. Bestic, who runs the company. The title-rôle has a winsome exponent in Miss Kitty Hyde, a dainty maiden of prepossessing appearance. Though showing signs of inexperience, Miss Hyde is commendably free from affectation, and gives a charmingly natural performance. She has a sweet soprano, and uses it effectively in "The song of the poses," a tuneful patriotic number in which a basket of blooms figures. "A dainty pair of shoes" is also a catchy number, and is embellished by some graceful steps, in which Miss Hyde shows much promise as a dancer. She likewise has a song called "My guiding star," in which lighting effects are used, and the chorus render valuable aid. Mr. Robert Cranny makes a smart youth of the Hon. Billy, acts with sincerity, and makes the best use of his voice in the ballad "Love laughs at locksmiths," the last verse of which had to be repeated. A love duet with the heroine was also well received, though the vocalists were rather overpowered by the orchestra. An indefatigable member of the cast is Mr. John T. MacCallum, who as Joe Wheeler carries on the fun-making with much vigour. Joe is the inveterate enemy of the motor-bus, and expresses himself emphatically on every occasion. He has a number of songs, all of which carry a fresh disguise, and he scores especially with "Mary mashes the Militia" and with "One of the force," in which as a sergeant of police he is assisted by a posse of constables. Mr. MacCallum has an equally hard-working coadjutor in Mr. Alfred Donohoe, who plays Joe's son Johnny, and generally forwards the fun. The duet in which the pair, dressed as organ-grinders, ruthlessly travesty the prison scene from *Il Trovatore*, is the hit of the evening. The comedy business is supplemented by the efforts of Mr. Henry Adnes and Miss Lilian Drake, who give as realistic a rendition of a couple of stylish Parisians struggling with the difficulties of the English tongue as could well be imagined. Their antics and lively dancing create continuous amusement, and the clever couple are nightly accorded an ovation. Mr. Louis du Cane also merits praise for his quaint fopperies as Reginald Rackit, of whom he provides quite an exhilarating performance. His song "Oh, you girls!" is rendered with every effect. Mr. du Cane is a capital light comedian, and is throughout a favourite. A vivacious representation of Lady Greenhill is given by Miss Elsa Brettingham, who in her capacity of a militant suffragette is called upon to address an unsympathetic meeting; and an efficient police officer is found in Mr. H. Douglas. The two acts are laid respectively in Trafalgar-square and the Italian Garden at the White City, and the opportunities for picturesque display thus afforded are fully grasped. The company has already enjoyed a prosperous tour, and is making favourable progress under the generalship of Mr. James Leslie.

THEATRE ROYAL, WOOLWICH.

On Monday, Dec. 14, the Drama entitled
"THE MASTER CRIMINAL."

Miss Winifred Chalmers's company is appearing this week in the highly-exciting drama of *The Master Criminal*. Written by Mr. Harry Merriman, the play is well stocked with stirring incidents, which rivet the attention of the audience, and the admirably-chosen company work hard, and successfully maintain the interest in the play throughout its production. The drama is adequately mounted, and is received in a flattering manner by well-filled houses. Mr. Henry L. Osmond in the leading character of Telford Lestage, the master criminal, has a part which suits him to a nicety, and he supplies a carefully-studied and well-executed impersonation of the grim-visaged and deformed criminal. Mr. Cuthbert Taylor as the hunted-down Philip Manners acts with sincerity and conviction, and scores well in his pathetic rendering. Ren Beaudy, of Scotland Yard, has an excellent representative in Mr. J. C. Carlyle, who looks the part. Mr. C. Tolcher as Gentleman Jim offers a very amusing characterisation, which evokes much applause. Mr. H. Cooke as Tommy Dale also provokes much laughter, and is thoroughly popular. Miss V. St. Lawrence in the unsympathetic part of Cecile maintains a strong hold of the audience, and displays considerable talent and power. Miss Lillian Burns submits a pathetic rendering of Mabel Manners, and is successful. Miss Mabel Tremere essays the rôle of Peggy Perks in an amusing fashion, and affords much pleasure. Miss Frances Trevelyan undertakes the part of Wilfred Manners in an earnest manner, and her powerful voice is heard to advantage in the song, "Mary of Argyle." The remaining members of the cast render efficient aid.

THE ELEPHANT AND CASTLE.

On Monday, Dec. 14, for the First Time in London, the Drama, in Four Acts, by T. G. Bailey, entitled
"LOVE RULES THE WORLD."

Harold Kingston .....Mr. Richard Vane
Stephen Blight .....Mr. Stephen Langton
Paul Carruthers .....Mr. Alex. Wilson Wynne
Billy Binks .....Mr. Matt Russel
Jim Dixey .....Mr. Sidney Rennef
Farmer Carruthers .....Mr. A. Fitzhugh
Sir Edward Wybrow .....Mr G. H. Langley
Inspector Ferritt .....Mr. Fred Astley
Maud Carruthers .....Miss Grace Murielle
Flo Merton .....Miss Doris Brookes
Mother Grimble .....Miss Annie Brunette
Kitty Snowdrop .....Miss Kitty Russell

Filial affection is the dominating power in the drama above named, which on Monday had its introduction to London, having been originally produced at the Star, Liverpool, on July 1, 1907. The plays begins on ordinary melodramatic lines, but develops into a touching story of the love of a woman for her nameless boy and of that son's devotion to his mother. Striking characters are contained in the piece, amongst the most picturesque being Stephen Blight, a burglar of a pronounced type. In the pursuit of his calling he breaks into the house of old Farmer Carruthers, and falls in live with Maud, the daughter of the house. His amorous intentions, however, are checked by the knowledge that Maud is betrothed to young Harold Kingston, and also by the fact that his associate, Flo Merton, raises some opposition. Flo pays for her interference in his arrangements, and is shot by Blight with Kingston's gun, a fact that enables the villain to rid himself of Harold, whom he accuses of the crime, with the result that he is sent to penal servitude. Having succeeded in betraying Maud Carruthers, Blight abandons her, and goes off to resume his nefarious habits, being joined by Flo Merton, fully recovered from the effects of the gun shot.

Many things happen in the seventeen years that elapse between the second and third acts. Maud's son, whom she calls Paul, has grown into a genius, and paints pictures, one of which secures him admittance into the Legion of Honour. The boy's mother is happy in the possession of her son, who idolises her, and has a friend and protector in a silver-haired clergyman. The felicity of the household is disturbed by the appearance of Blight, who failing to blackmail Maud retaliates by informing her son of the shame attaching to his birth. Paul, who has a high standard of morality, and has placed his mother on its highest pinnacle, is at first inclined to condemn, but decides to condone, and devote his life to her service. Meanwhile the clergyman is called to the deathbed of an old woman, who gives a demented young man into his charge. The lunatic turns out to be Maud's brother, who had witnessed the crime of which Harold had been convicted, and on recovery of his reason is able to lay it at the door of Blight. The parson is thus enabled to throw off his disguise and declare himself to be no other than Harold, escaped from gaol, and he and Maud are united; Blight and his feminine accomplice exchanging shots and conveniently making their exit.

Messrs. Sidney Rennef and G. M. Copping's company are entrusted with the interpretation of the piece. The tribulations of Harold Kingston are nobly borne by Mr. Richard Vane, who thoroughly establishes the hero's claim to sympathy, and wins unlimited cheers. Miss Grace Murielle is the wronged Maud Carruthers, and acts with distinction in the earlier passages. Later she draws a pathetic picture of the despairing mother bereft, as she imagines, of the love of her boy—a sentiment which appeals to all. The villain Stephen Blight is the darkest spot in the play, and Mr. Stephen Langton realises him effectively by a truly Satanic make-up and by robust methods that enforce conviction. Commendation is well merited by Mr. Alex Wilson Wynne, whose appearance as the youth Paul is quite in keeping with the part, his delivery being equally excellent. Comedy is furnished by Mr. Matt Russel, who as Billy Binks, a resourceful man-servant, succeeds in creating constant diversion, and is loyally assisted by Miss Kitty Russell, whose vivacity and good spirits in the part of the parlour-maid Kitty Snowdrop are quite exhilarating. The adventuress Flo Merton is made very fascinating by Miss Doris Brookes, who acts effectively, and an impressive study of old Mother Grimble is submitted by Miss Annie Brunette. Mr. Sidney Rennef plays the demented Jim Dixey with quiet incisiveness; Mr. Fred Astley is a smart Inspector Ferritt; and the remainder of the cast are satisfactory. The play has moved audiences at the Elephant alternately to tears and laughter, and has been lavishly applauded.

"THE BLUE MOUSE."

This farcical comedy in three acts, adapted from the German of Alexander Engel and Julius Horst by Clyde Fitch, has made a decided success at the Lyric Theatre, New York. It is the most mirth-provoking play in town. Augustus Rollett, who holds a subordinate position in the office of a railroad, is anxious to be promoted, and he decides to obtain the berth he is after by taking advantage of his chief's weakness for the society of pretty women. So he introduces as his wife the famous dancer, Paulette Divine, who is known as the "Blue Mouse." Paulette, who is out of an engagement, is in love with Philip Scarsdale, who has written a play. The dancer is anxious to "star" in this play and needs some money. So she agrees to flirt with Rollett's employer, Lewellyn, otherwise known as "the old boy," and worm the money out of him that she needs, at the same time persuading him to give Rollett the coveted promotion. The complications that ensue involve the jealous wife of Lewellyn, the suspicious father-in-law of young Rollett, and an adorer of the dancer. With Mrs. Lewellyn mistaking the Blue Mouse for Rollett's wife, and Lewellyn supposing the latter to be the dancer, it it easy to understand how the plot thickens. One absurd situation follows another, until the height of the fun is reached in a scene in which the Blue Mouse, for advertising purposes, decides to have an auction sale of her effects in her gaudily-furnished flat. Rollett and Lewellyn are almost trapped by their wives in this scene, but they manage to escape by disguising themselves as furniture movers. Rollett's father-in-law, from the country, evades his daughter by covering himself with a tiger skin, and is afterwards arrested for stealing it. In the last act Paulette calls at Rollett's apartments, and proceeds to make herself at home by shedding her Directoire gown and slipping into Mrs. Rollett's kimono. Mrs. Rollett suddenly appears on the scene, and while her husband holds her a prisoner in the dining-room the two "old boys"—Rollett's chief and his father-in-law—make frantic efforts to hook the Blue Mouse into her gown again. This scene is screamingly funny. Miss Mabel Barrison as the Blue Mouse, Mr. Harry Conor as the flirtatious Lewellyn, Mr. Jameson Lee Finney as Augustus Rollett, Mr. Charles Dickson as the countrified father-in-law, and Miss Zelda Sears as Mrs. Lewellyn are the principals in the best company of funmakers that New York has seen for a long time.

Children on the Stage. The Act affecting the employment of children on the stage came into force on Saturday, Oct. 1, 1904. Managers, agents, entrepreneurs, and performers wishing to possess a copy of the complete Act in a concise form can do so by forwarding three stamps to the Publisher, *The Era* Offices, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

ACTORS' ASSOCIATION.

Minutes of the special meeting held at 353, Strand, on Monday, Dec. 14. Present: Mr. C. F. Collings (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), Messrs. Frederick Morland, J. Sebastian Smith, Frederick Morland, F. J. Arlton, Jackson Wilcox, Misses Agnes Imlay, Lucy Sibley, Rose Mathews, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary).

The Council met at eleven o'clock to discuss a form of standard contract sent in for approval, and it was decided not to adopt the contract. The Council then discussed each clause on the contract at great length and made numerous alterations. The meeting lasted five hours.

Minutes of the Council meeting held at 353, Strand, on Tuesday, Dec. 15. Present: Mr. F. J. Arlton (in the chair), Mr. H. W. Mote (hon. solicitor), and Messrs. Frederick Annerley, Frederick Morland, Jackson Wilcox, Cecil Raleigh, Chris Walker, J. Poole Kirkwood, C. F. Collings, Misses Lucy Sibley, Rose Mathews, Agnes Imlay, and Mr. Hubert Blount (secretary). The minutes of the meeting held on Dec. 8 were read and confirmed.

A letter was read from Miss Cameron with reference to her scheme for a sixpenny theatre, and the secretary was instructed to write to Miss Cameron pointing out that the matter was too large a one to be undertaken at the present moment, but that if she would draw up a resolution the Council would see that it was on the agenda at the next general meeting.

In reply to Mr. Cecil Raleigh, the chairman stated that the A.A. were not prepared to accept the contract which was submitted at Monday's meeting. A unanimous vote of thanks was passed to Mr. Raleigh for his exertions in the matter.

Miss Sibley proposed and Mr. Raleigh seconded the rescinding of the motion carried on Nov. 17 with regard to sending the hon. solicitor's advice to the Lord Chamberlain. The matter was discussed at very great length, Miss Sibley, Mr. Raleigh, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Kirkwood speaking in favour of the sending of the letter, and Miss Mathews, Mr. Morland, and Mr. Collings speaking against. The chairman, Mr. Mote, and Miss Imlay also gave their views, and on the matter being put to the vote it was lost by five to two.

The secretary was instructed to put up a notice to the effect that the next general meeting would be held early in February, and asking members to send in their names for the new Council as early as possible.

The question of propaganda was discussed at considerable length, and an explanation was given by Miss Rose Mathews of her scheme for starting a School of Acting as a branch of the A.A. A motion was carried to the effect that the Council wish before the end of the official year to have a definite statement of policy, and that one or more general meetings of the members should be held in January, preferably on Sundays, to discuss this policy.

The secretary was instructed to put up a notice to the following effect:—"The rooms will be closed from Wednesday evening, the 23rd inst., to the following Monday morning. Letters may be obtained up till twelve o'clock on Thursday morning.

The secretary was instructed to put up a notice to the effect that the Council are considering the question of providing lockers for combs, brushes, towels, &c., at a nominal rental, if twenty members will notify their desire to have same. The Council sat till 6.30.

ACTORS' UNION.

The usual Committee meeting of the A.U. took place on the 11th inst., at 49, Bedford-street, and the following were present:—J. W. Braithwaite (chair), F. Rawson Buckley, Gerald Mirrielees, H. Tripp Edgar, Walter L. Rignold, Frank Gerald, and Kenneth Blackmore (secretary). Communications received from Messrs. Fred F. Loyd, Geo. P. Lester, J. Hastings Batson, E. Howard Templeton, Frank S. Strickland, Leslie Arthur, H. Naylor Grimson, Edward Chester, Edwin J. Collins, Jerrold Heather, A. Maitland Stapley, Henry Bedford.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

The secretary reported that a member had received a cheque for £10 from a manager for breach of contract after some correspondence between the hon. solicitor (Mr. W. H. Bulbeck) and the manager in question.

A complaint having been received from a landlady with respect to the non-payment of her bill by a member, the secretary was instructed to investigate the matter.

The next Committee meeting will take place on Friday next at 2 p.m.

Members are asked to forward their cards (1908) fully paid up to the secretary at the end of the present year, when their card for 1909 will be forwarded to them.

The Actors' Union held its third social dinner at Hummum's Hotel, Covent Garden, on Sunday, and the function was well attended. Those present included Mr. H. Tripp Edgar, who presided, Mr. Franklyn Walford, Miss Alys Turner, Miss May Conrade, Mr. Langford Reed, Mr. A. Maitland Stapley, Mr. Fred Storey, Miss Lilian Holmes, Miss Kate Ruskin, Miss Dorothy Sparrow, Mr. D. Vernon, Mr. Frank Gerald, Mr. Paul Lovett, Miss Olive Buckingham, Mr. S. F. Freyer, Mr. Merrion, Mr. Wilfred Noy, Mr. F. Rawson Buckley (vice-president), Miss Kitty Marion, Miss Millie Vere, Mr. John Hastings Batson, Mrs. Walter Bentley, Mr. Dudley Beresford, Miss Amy Coleman, Miss Gladys Everard, Miss D. Drew, Mrs. J. Anderson, Mrs. Hill, Miss Dorothy Barrington, Miss Ethel Avis, Miss Laura Vernon, Mr. Doré Lewin-Mannering, Mr. Kenneth Blackmore, Mr. George Thorne, Mr. H. Carnellé-Joye, Mr. Cecil G. Calvert, Miss M. Ames, Mr. E. Y. Rae, Mr. A. Gale, Miss G. Trewman, Mr. Horace Calheam, Mrs. Carnellé-Joye, Mr. Walter Calheam, Mr. A. Calheam, Miss Florence Tressilian.

After the dinner an excellent programme was arranged. Among those who entertained the company were Mr. Dudley Beresford, Miss Alys Turner, Mr. Arthur Gale, Mr. Vernon, Mr. O'Calagan, Mr. George Thorne, and Mr. Fred Storey.

BROADWAY THEATRE.

On Monday, Dec. 14, the Comedy Opera entitled
"DOROTHY."

The admirable revival of *Dorothy* is repeating the success of its former visit. Mr. Hayden Coffin is still the Harry Sherwood, and his performance both as actor and vocalist is delightful. That Mr. John Coates is an admirable Geoffrey Wilder goes without saying. Mr. Arthur Williams's quaint humour makes him a huge favourite as Lurcher. Miss Ruth Davenport is a charming and attractive Dorothy Bantam, vocally and histrionically. Messrs. Percy Yorke (Squire Bantam), Tim Ryley (Tom Strutt), Fred J. Vigay (John Tuppitt), Lester Carey (the Parson) and R. White (the Postman) are capital in their respective rôles. Miss Hebe Bliss is a pleasing Lydia Hawthorne, and Miss Aimée Roberts a vivacious Phillis Tuppitt; Miss Emily Spiller is good as Mrs. Privett, and Miss Primrose Harding is a clever Lady Betty. Scenery and costumes are remarkably elegant and tasteful. Mr. Frederick Rosse skilfully presides over the orchestra, Mr. W. H. Willats is the courteous acting-manager of the company, and Mr. Bertram Iles, the resident-manager, is ever attentive to the comfort of the patrons of the theatre.

A Copy of "The Era" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.—Nothing affords more pleasure to those who are intimately acquainted with the past and present affairs of the theatre than to see a favourite and clever player who has apparently retired into the background come to the front again to enjoy a renewal of all of his old-time popularity. This is likely to happen in connection with the present engagement at the Garden Theatre of Mr. Henry B. Dixey, whom London playgoers with good memories will recall to mind as having appeared at the old Gaiety Theatre in the eighties. *Mary Jane's Pa*, a drama in three acts, by Edith Ellis, was produced at the Garden Theatre on the 3rd inst., with Mr. Dixey in the title-rôle, and a pronounced success was scored by the play and the principal player. It is an odd character that Mr. Dixey has to represent, and the story of which he is the central figure deals with a course of events that would be hardly likely to happen outside of the theatre. But improbability is not a serious defect when the story is unfolded in such a manner as to make it plausible, especially if the characters are cleverly drawn and cleverly acted, and the play under notice has these things in its favour. The scenes are laid in Gossport, Indiana, where Portia Perkins runs a printing office and publishes the local newspaper called the *Clarion*. She is the mother of two daughters—Lucille, who is sixteen, and Mary Jane, who is eleven. Hiram Perkins, Mary Jane's pa, disappeared soon after she was born, and, after waiting in vain for his return, Portia moved to Gossport and started in business for herself. She is devoted to her children and fairly prosperous, and Rome Preston, the Republican candidate, for whose nomination her little paper is fighting tooth and nail, wants her to marry him. This is the situation when the long-lost Hiram saunters in as if he had been merely absent for a few hours. Shabby, but debonair, and with a manner of speech that proclaims him to be both a philosopher and a scholar, he makes himself at home and informs his wife that during the eleven years that have elapsed since he left her he has visited nearly every country on the globe. His only excuse is that he had the "wanderlust" in his veins. Portia was only sixteen when he married her, and she confesses that she accepted him on his promise to take her to Niagara Falls. She had the "wanderlust," too, but while he has been seeing the world she has been working hard at the printing press and rearing his children. She gives him a meal and tells him he had better go. When he opens the door and prepares to leave, however, his wife weakens and calls him back. Vagabond as he is, he is still the father of her children, and a way of getting over the difficulty occurs to her. Hiram was always a good cook and handy man, and Portia is badly in need of such a person "around the house." Failing the usual "hired girl," she offers him the job at ten dollars a month and his board, with the privilege of every Thursday afternoon "off." Hiram thinks for a moment and accepts. To the children and everyone else he is to be merely the man-of-all-work, and thus the play begins. How he redeems himself, how his love for his children and his wife's goodness reawaken the better nature of the vagabond, and how he prevents his daughter, the unsophisticated and impulsive Lucille, from running away from home for almost the same reason that her mother had before her, the author has shown in a charmingly unconventional manner. As the play proceeds the story improves in the telling, and the rural characters, instead of being the familiar group of "hayseeds" that we have seen in plays innumerable, arouse a genuine interest because they are not only true to life but out of the ordinary. Furthermore, every part is played to perfection, and the representation as a whole is decidedly novel and refreshing. Incidentally, the action is enlivened and the audience diverted by a faithful depiction of the excitement and bitterness attending a political contest, and also by the introducing in a humorous way of the petty personal items that form the chief interest of an American country newspaper. The *Clarion* succeeds in securing the nomination for Rome Preston by publishing a story that "shows up" the rival candidate, Joel Skinner. The latter, in revenge, stirs up the townspeople against Portia Perkins because she, a lone woman, is employing a male "hired girl." The printing office is attacked, and the mob marches on Portia's home to demand an explanation. The result is the disclosure of the identity of the cook. Largely through Mary Jane, the younger daughter, played with charming naturalness by little Gretchen Hartman, the affection between the parents is rekindled. Mr. Dixey's embodiment of Hiram Perkins, in the opinion of many, is the best thing he has ever done. He portrays the lovable character of the man with an engaging cleverness that wins the sympathy of the audience and compels enthusiastic approval. As Portia, Miss Ann Sutherland presents a charming picture of ideal womanhood; and Miss Marjorie Wood plays Lucille in a delightfully girlish and unaffected manner. A sweet and wholesome play, *Mary Jane's Pa* leaves a most agreeable impression.

"THE WINTERFEAST," a tragedy in three acts, by Charles Rann Kennedy, was produced at the Savoy Theatre on the 28th ult., and was admirably interpreted by Mr. Henry Miller's company, of which several of the members had lately contributed to the conspicuous success of Mr. Kennedy's previous play, *The Servant in the House*. *The Winterfeast* is a story of Iceland in the year 1020 Thorkel, an old viking, a poet and singer, has a son named Valbrand and a foster-son named Bjorn, the former being like his father, versed in the arts of peace, while the latter is mighty with the sword. The beautiful Herdisa gave her heart to Bjorn, and all unasked told him of her love, and placed her bracelet upon his arm as a pledge of her affection. Then Thorkel and his two sons set sail for Vineland, the new country, the father returning presently with Valbrand to tell Herdisa that Bjorn has scorned her love and sent back a taunting message. When the action begins, some twenty years after these things have happened, Herdisa is the wife of Valbrand, and it is through the malevolent utterances of Ufeig, a renegade priest, that the old story is revived. He comes to the Viking and his son, both of whom have forsaken song for the sterner arts of war, and sues for peace, promising to keep secret the fact that Bjorn is still alive, and that the message to Herdisa was a lie. It is the night of the Winter Feast, a night on which a peal of thunder is an omen of fearful significance, and on which, too, Herdisa's beautiful young daughter, Swanhild, will dream of the lover who may come, and for whom she has been longing. In an impressive scene the mother, unconscious of whom she may be welcoming, sets ready the guest chair and awaits the visitor, whose trumpet-blast has heralded his approach. Bjorn enters and is coldly received, but he refuses to regard himself as an unwelcome guest, and ultimately, in a powerful scene, he learns of the trick that has been played upon him and the woman he loves. He has been married in the far-off country of the red man, but he tells Herdisa that she alone has possessed his heart through all the years. Then she sends him forth to take vengeance. In the combat that takes place on a bridge at midnight Herdisa is led to believe that her husband has been slain, and in the revulsion of feeling that follows the news of his death her heart goes out to Valbrand. In the meantime Bjorn's son Olaf appears, and is welcomed by Swanhild as the lover for whom she has been longing. An exquisite scene between these two is followed by the entrance of Herdisa, who calls upon Olaf to avenge the death of Valbrand. The boy swears on the hilt of a sword, but discovers that it is his father's, and that it is he whom he has promised to kill. Unwilling now to keep the compact, he withdraws and falls upon his own sword. The death of Herdisa and her daughter follows soon after, and it is then disclosed that Bjorn and not Valbrand was the one who was killed in the duel between the brothers. Meanwhile Valbrand, returning to discover the havoc that has been wrought, has wandered away and leaped into a fiord. Only the aged Viking and his old enemy the priest survive the feast of horrors.

A WORK of high literary value, *The Winterfeast* appears to be too gruesome and too long to appeal to the general public. Miss Edith Wynne Matthison's Herdisa was an exquisite portrayal, and Mr. Walter Hampden's Olaf was a fine embodiment of youthful strength and impetuosity. Mr. Arthur Lewis played the malevolent Ufeig in a highly effective manner, and as the flaxen-haired Swanhild Miss Gladys Wynne was graceful and charming. Mr. Robert Cummings as Thorkel and Mr. Frank Mills as Valbrand deserve praise for their impersonations. Mr. Ben Field as a "thrall," or serf, who describes the fatal duel, rendered the speech in an admirable manner. It has just been announced that *The Winterfeast* will be withdrawn and *The Servant in the House* revived again.

NOT *Fanny and the Servant Problem*, but *The New Lady Bantock* is to be the title of the comedy in which Miss Fannie Ward will begin her American tour at Troy, N.Y., on New Year's Day. On the following night she will play in Utica, and after that will appear at the Park Theatre, Boston.

IN *The Pied Piper*, a musical play in two acts and five scenes, by Austin Strong and R. H. Burnside, with music by Manuel Klein, Mr. De Wolf Hopper assumes a jovial character that is very becoming to him. He appears, of course, in the title-rôle, and his performance of the part is calculated to make all lovers of harmless, wholesome fun rejoice to see him back again upon the local stage. *The Pied Piper*, now running at the Majestic Theatre, solves the problem of what became of the children after they had followed the Piper to the Koppenberg Hill. The old legend tells us that they disappeared, and after diligent inquiry the authors of this play discovered that the Piper founded the City of Innocence, and peopled it with the children that the strains of his magic pipe had lured away. Once in every twenty years, at a quarter to eight by the big clock in St. Valentine's-square, the Piper came down out of the yellow moon and paired off the eligible young men and women of the perfect city. When he played on his pipes they fell in love with one another, and at eight o'clock they were married, and were supposed to live happily ever after. When the Bad Boy of the community became unusually boisterous the Piper made him good again by playing on his pipes, and employed the same means to preserve peace and quietness generally. It was ruled that each pair was to have only one boy and one girl, and everything went on all right until the model couple of the town broke the rule by producing twins. Thus it came about that when the Piper appeared to carry out his usual programme there was an odd girl, named Elviria, left over. This upsets the whole scheme, and necessitates a consultation with the Official Adviser, the Official Reminder, and the Board of Aldermen, consisting of one individual only. It is found to be the law that the Piper may summon a stranger from the outer world and marry him to the odd twin. So the Piper blows on his pipes, and an airship swoops down on the City of Innocence, bearing Willie Van Cortlandt, a gay New Yorker, with his two servants, Lizzie Dizzy, the cook, and Sammy Struggles, the chauffeur. These people know nothing of the City of Innocence. They are of the earth, earthy. Elviria falls in love with Van Cortlandt, and Lizzie tries to come between them. Goodness departs from the city, and pandemonium reigns. Lizzie steals the Piper's pipes, and the gay Willie makes him heavy with wine. In the end, however, the City of Innocence is saved by the discovery that little Elviria has remained good during the interval of lawlessness, and when the pipes are recovered she blows on them and makes everybody good again.

THE play is handsomely staged. At the beginning there is a beautiful allegorical scene showing Father Time surrounded by Romance, Poetry, and Song. They remind him that the day is at hand for the wedding festivities in the City of Innocence. Then St. Valentine's-square is disclosed. Mr. Hopper is certainly at his best in the fantastic character of the famous rat-charmer—the "Pie-eyed Piper," as he calls himself. His description of the after effects of his first carouse in 365 years is very funny. In a vein of melancholy philosophy he declares his lack of faith in modern physicians. In his opinion, "if the doctors opened more windows and fewer people the world would be better off." What with his droll discourse, his song and dance with Elviria, "I should like to know the reason," and his gambol with the children about "Nursery Rhymes," his performance is most enjoyable. Miss Marguerite Clark is a bewitching Elviria. It is a genuine treat to hear her sing "I'm looking for a sweetheart" and "It really was a very pretty story." She is childish innocence personified. Miss Grace Cameron as Lizzie Dizzy, Mr. Edward Heron as Sammy, Mr. William Cameron as the Official Adviser, Mr. W. L. Romaine as the Board of Aldermen, and Miss Ada Deaves as the housekeeper contribute to the fun of the piece. Dainty, melodious, and witty, *The Pied Piper* is the sort of entertainment that is enjoyed by one and all.

MISS VESTA VICTORIA and her manager, Mr. James Solly, were arrested at the Lincoln-square Theatre on Sunday, the 6th inst., and charged with violating the Sunday concert law. Miss Victoria had been allowed to go on the stage and begin her turn, but when she changed her costume and donned a ballet skirt she was taken into custody. Bail was furnished, and on the following day the magistrate decided that the police had failed to prove any violation of the law. This sort of thing happens quite frequently. The laws and ordinances relating to Sunday performances at the theatres seem to be in a hopeless muddle. They were amended some time ago, but it is doubtful if any manager knows what he is and what he is not permitted to do. The police act towards the managers as they do towards the saloon-keepers, and, with a sudden access of zeal, arrest one or two unfortunates and take no notice of the others. The alleged offenders are immediately released on bail, and in most cases nothing further is heard of the matter.

MISS MARIE CLAVERING has been compelled, owing to breakdown in health, to resign her long engagement and rest by doctor's orders. Miss Clavering has made a notable success in Miss Neil's latest production. After a month's rest Miss Clavering will be ready for work again.

MR. WALTER CROSS has been engaged by Mr. Trevor Lowe to play Prince Hotstuff and act as assistant stage-manager in the Christmas fairy play at the West Pier, Brighton.

THE home team for the match Fulham *v.* Derby County in the Second Division League, at Fulham, this afternoon, will be selected from Skene, Charlton, Lindsay, Collins, Parsonage, Goldie, Suart, Millington, Dalrymple, Wyllie, Brown, Lipsham, and Harrison. Kick-off at 2.30. Fulham Reserves *v.* Tunbridge Wells Rangers, at Tunbridge, will begin at the same hour.

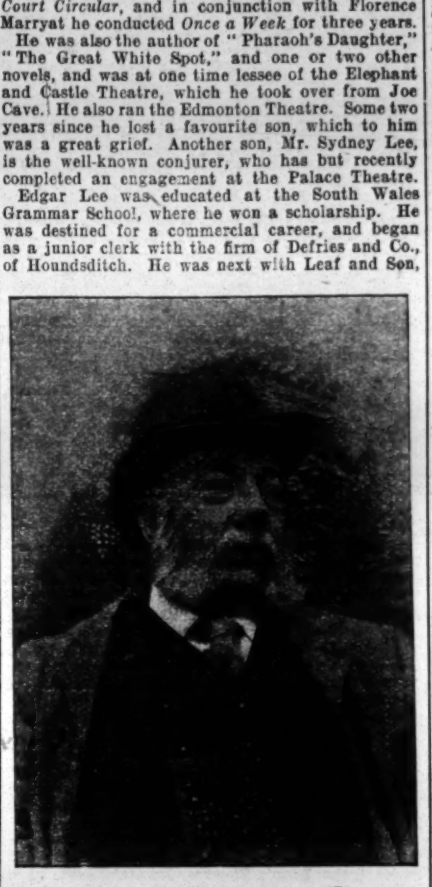
DEATH OF EDGAR LEE.

We announce with much regret the death, which happened on Monday morning at his residence, King-street, Covent Garden, of Mr. Edgar Lee, for the past twelve years editor of the *Encore*, at the age of fifty-eight. When we last had a chat with Mr. Lee he did not speak hopefully of his state of health, but the end seems to have come with great suddenness. Those who were numbered among his friends at the Yorick and Savage Clubs will mourn the loss of a genial Bohemian, who took the buffets of fortune with an equable temper, and who never lost his sunniness of disposition. His vast experience in various fields of literature and journalism had brought him into contact with many celebrities in the world of letters, and he had a rich store of anecdote.

Born at Haverfordwest, the deceased gentleman came to London thirty years ago, and as "Rambler" in the *Sunday Times* he wrote for that journal during 1876-77. From 1878-81 he edited the *Critic* and the Railway Service Gazette, and for some years was on the staff of *Moonshine*. He was also editor of *St. Stephen's Review* and the *Court Circular*, and in conjunction with Florence Marryat he conducted *Once a Week* for three years.

He was also the author of "Pharaoh's Daughter," "The Great White Spot," and one or two other novels, and was at one time lessee of the Elephant and Castle Theatre, which he took over from Joe Cave. He also ran the Edmonton Theatre. Some two years since he lost a favourite son, which to him was a great grief. Another son, Mr. Sydney Lee, is the well-known conjurer, who has but recently completed an engagement at the Palace Theatre.

Edgar Lee was educated at the South Wales Grammar School, where he won a scholarship. He was destined for a commercial career, and began as a junior clerk with the firm of Defries and Co., of Houndsditch. He was next with Leaf and Son,



THE LATE MR. EDGAR LEE.

the silk merchants, and afterwards with Copestake, Moore, and Crampion, the wholesale drapers, where his marvellous eye for colour secured for him a post never held by anyone in the firm before, viz., that of colour matcher. He shortly afterwards drifted into journalism, but in the course of his fifty-eight years of life he introduced the patent Piedmount pipe to Great Britain, ran a big laundry at Banner-street, St. Luke's, introduced a new smoke-consuming furnace, kept horses both for racing and breeding purposes, and exploited a new petroleum field in the Carpathians.

During the rule of the late Sir Augustus Harris at Drury Lane, the historical knowledge of Edgar Lee was frequently called into requisition, and the artist impresario invariably consulted him whenever there was the possibility of an anachronism. When the Drury Lane pantomime was in rehearsal Sir Augustus frequently called Mr. Lee into consultation, and many of the telling hits were due to his fertile invention and ready pen.

In his early days Edgar had a bent towards literature and the drama, and found time when matching colours and gauging the values of merinos and silks to pen many a little article, besides found a dramatic society, called the "Thalian Dramatic Club," in connection with which he had played with such notables as Geo. Alexander, the late Wm. Terriss, and W. S. Penley ere they had emerged from the amateur ranks. The friendship struck up in those days was not allowed to die out, and many tales of their youth have this quartette had to tell of one another.

Edgar Lee was a capital chess player, and at the City of London Chess Club, in the old days, he was looked upon as a man not easily vanquished at the chequered board. He was a fast runner, and won the 150yds. Public Schools Championship two years running while completing his education. His knowledge of Scripture and Ancient History was surprising, and many a student of ancient lore has had to confess that Lee's acquaintance with subjects of this nature was phenomenal. As a poet he produced much graceful verse, and his ode to the Queen on the occasion of the Jubilee of 1887 was shown in one of the positions of honour at the display of the Jubilee presents in St. James's Palace.

The deceased writer married Jane Fraser, of Inverness, one of the Frasers of Lovat, who survives him. He leaves two sons, Sydney, well known on the halls as "The Gay Deceiver," and Harold, who is engaged in the office of the Board of Education.

The funeral arrangements were in the hands of Theophilus Dunkley, of Westminster Bridge-road, and the mourning cortège left 9, King-street, Covent Garden, at 12 noon on Thursday for the Great Northern Cemetery, New Southgate, where the interment took place at three o'clock. The Rev. G. Vasey officiated at the last sad rites. Among the numerous wreaths were those from the following relatives and friends:—Mrs. Lee (the widow), Sydney and Harold (sons), Mrs. Plumpton and nephews and nieces, Mr. Philip Thomlinson, Mrs. Richardson, Ivy (granddaughter), Miss Marie Lloyd, Mr. George Gray, Savage Club, Yorick Club, *Encore* Staff (office), *Encore* Printing staff, Mr. Alfred Davies, Brixton Sports Club, Mr. and Mrs. Allison, Mr. and Mrs. Pike and family, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Barritt, Mr. and Mrs. Gainsford, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Lawrence, Mr. Leslie Barrington, Mr. Alfred Appleyard, Mr. E. Edevain, Mrs. Einwold, Mr. Will A. Bennett, Misses E. and H. Robinson, Mr. A. Baker (*Sporting and Dramatic*), Mr. R. H. King, Thorpe family, Mr. Kensett Stylos, Miss Tomkins, Mr. David Potter, Mr. J. Uccelli, Mrs. Davey, Mr. Dick Goddard, Mr. Scott, and Mr. R. Wilson. Notable among the mourners were Mr. Frank Macnaghten and Mr. W. Allison, "special commissioner" of the *Sportsman*.

MISS RUBY HELDER, the lady tenor, who scored a success in her solos last summer at the Bournemouth Winter Gardens, has been re-engaged by Mr. Dan Godfrey for a special concert on Boxing night. Miss Helder is also singing at the Alexandra Palace concert to-day.

"THE ERA" can be obtained at the principal bookstalls throughout the provinces.

THE DRAMA IN BERLIN.

"THUMMELUMSEN,"

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Gustav Wied, produced at the Hebbel on Dec. 11.

Frau Thomsen	FRAULEIN MAYER
Emanuel	HERR LEOPOLD
Henriksen	HERR WLACH
Wulfdine	FRAULEIN BROCK
Clausen	HERR VON WALZOGEN
Knagstedt	HERR HERZFELD
Frau Lassen	FRAULEIN BERGER
Frau Svendsen	FRAULEIN BERTENS
Meta	FRAULEIN DELTA
Mortensen	HERR NISSEN
Graf Rosenkalk	HERR KARSTEN
Agathe	FRAULEIN HEIDEBRAND
Engeline	FRAULEIN EINODSHOFER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BERLIN, THURSDAY, Dec. 17.—So great was the success of the Danish playwright's comedy *Twice Two is Five* that almost any piece from his pen would be accepted by any manager. Unfortunately, however, none of Wied's succeeding plays have come near his one great success, and *Thummelumsen* is no exception to the rule, notwithstanding the very cordial reception accorded to it. That there are plenty of witticisms scattered about is a matter of course, but the hero fails to arouse interest, and the plot is unquestionably poor. The play has been adapted from the author's novel "Die Leibhaftige Bosheit," to which it is distinctly inferior. Thummelumsen is the nickname (it probably has a meaning in the Danish language, though it conveys nothing to our ears) of Emanuel Thomsen, son of the widow Thomsen, who keeps a little shop. Emanuel has been possessed of but one idea for years, and that is to buy back the farm which he and his mother were compelled to leave when Thomsen, sen., died. It seems an impossible task, and although Thummelumsen does menial work of every description, becoming man-servant at the "Guzzlers' Club" among other things, he still lacks the necessary means to the coveted end. He has tried his luck in the State lottery, too, and when he one day wins 1,300 crowns his joy is naturally great, and we equally naturally conclude he will now purchase the farm of his dreams. Emanuel, however, does nothing of the sort. He disappoints everyone, loses his head, and squanders away his fortune, giving himself contemptible airs and graces. A widow—with five children—wishing to be revenged on Emanuel, snaps up the farm, and he, finally, loses the remainder of the little sense he possesses, and marries her. The interpretation of the piece was capital, and the mounting, under the capable direction of Herr Björnsen, the famous Norwegian writer's son, who is head stage-manager at the Hebbel Theatre, was in excellent taste.

THEODOR WOLFF'S Japanese drama *Niemand weiss es* has been produced at the Chamber Playhouse of the Deutsches Theatre with some appearance of success. It is not new to Berlin, having been given some years ago at the Royal Schauspielhaus, and at that time fully described in your columns. The love of Yori and Tajo is much the same as that of Tristan and Isolde and many others, but the old, old story is none the less fascinating by reason of its Japanese *milieu*. Acting and setting were both good.

SARDOU'S four-act comedy *Rabagas* met with a cordial reception at the New Schauspielhaus on Saturday, Harry Walden giving the title-rôle. The characters were all satisfactorily sustained, and the play should run for some time. A dramatised fairy tale, *Schneewittchen*, is doing well at afternoon performances at this theatre, delighting the juveniles.

THE ever-popular farce *Madame Bonivard*, by MM. Bisson and Mars, has made a tremendous hit at Friedrich Wilhelm Städtisches. Being very brightly played, it will probably run well through the holidays.

THE new German contract between managers and artists has fallen ignominiously through. At a general meeting of the Actors' Union a few nights ago it was unanimously decided to refuse to accept the agreement. Dr. Max Pohl, chairman of the former committee, has been dismissed, and Herr Nissen elected in his stead. The troubles between directors and members are now beginning all over again.

"LOVE, THE CONQUEROR."

Drama, in Five Acts, by Frank Lindo, produced at the Palace Theatre, Newcastle, on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

William of Orange	MR. ALBERT SEFTON
Brian Norval	MR. FRANK LINDO
Sir John Mortimer	MR. NORTON SHIELDS
Count Leon Lascelles	MR. D. LAWRENCE DOYLE
Captain Rupert Armadale	MR. HARRY LLOYD
Andrew Albertree	MR. HARRY BELFORD
Peter	MR. RICHARD WALSH
Dame Norval	MISS NELLIE BENSON
Susan Shortly	MISS MAUDE LESLIE-CUDD
Mistress Beatrice Mortimer	MISS MARION WAKEFORD

Mr. Frank Lindo, the talented author, and all concerned, are to be heartily congratulated on the distinct success achieved on the initial presentation of the romantic drama, *Love, the Conqueror*, at the Palace Theatre, Newcastle-on-Tyne, on Tuesday evening. The plot is laid in the period of the Prince of Orange's coming to England, and runs through five acts. The various scenes are cleverly conceived, and illustrate the story in a realistic and attractive manner.

The drama is based on the thrilling adventures of a highwayman, who falls in love with a lady of rank, and endeavours to redeem his past. He is, however, soon recognised and imprisoned, but by assuming the garments of his fiancée, who visits him in gaol, he eludes the vigilance of his captors and makes his escape. Subsequently he enlists in the forces of William of Orange, and after a distinguished career obtains a free pardon, and the play ends happily with the hero and the heroine united.

Mr. Frank Lindo won the highest honours for his vigorous embodiment of Brian Norval, the outlaw and highwayman, and gained hearty cheers for his delivery of many a stirring line. His sweetheart, Mistress Beatrice Mortimer, daughter of Sir John Mortimer, was charmingly delineated by Miss Marion Wakeford. Admirable support was given by Mr. D. Lawrence Doyle, who as Count Leon Lascelles, and rival of the hero, gave an able assumption of an exacting part. Mention should also be made of Mr. Albert Sefton, Mr. Norton Shields, Mr. Harry Lloyd, Mr. Harry Belford, Mr. Richard Walsh, Miss Nellie Benson, and Miss Maude Leslie-Cudd, who all acted creditably. An encouraging reception awaited the new piece at the hands of a large audience.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News*.

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican*.

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun*.

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News*.

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star*.

MR. ALICK CHUMLEY, who has just finished a tour with *The Mollusc*, has been engaged by Messrs. Murray King and Clark for their production of *Toddles*.

THE DRAMA IN PARIS.

"LA FEMME X——,"

Drama, in Five Acts, by M. Alexandre Bisson, Produced at the Porte-Saint Martin, on Dec. 15.

Jacqueline	MME. JANE HADING
Mme. Varenne	MLLE. CARMEN DERAISY
Rose	MLLE. BOUCHETEL
Noël	M. JEAN COQUELIN
Fleuriot	M. DORIVAL
Périssard	M. BELLUCI
Laroque	M. LAROCHE
Raymond	M. MONTEUX
Chesnel	M. FABRE
Valmorin	M. D'AUCHY
Merivel	M. CHABERT
Le Président	M. GRAVIER

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, Dec. 17.—M. Alexandre Bisson, the well-known farce-writer, has in the course of his long and successful career given his audiences many opportunities to laugh heartily. This time he has tried his hand at melodrama, and the attempt has proved thoroughly successful. The story opens at the house of Fleuriot, a magistrate, whose four-year-old little boy Raymond has fallen dangerously ill. Jacqueline, Fleuriot's beautiful young wife, ran away some two years ago. She returns unexpectedly and tells her husband that she has come to see her sick boy, begging to be forgiven. The incensed Fleuriot, however, disregards her piteous appeal, and turns her out of the house. This is the prologue; and when the curtain rises again, twenty years are supposed to have elapsed. Jacqueline has led a vagabond life. Falling lower and lower she has thrown in her lot with Laroque, a shady individual, whose acquaintance she made in Buenos Ayres. The couple have just landed in Bordeaux, and are staying at a third-rate hotel. But the thought of Raymond has never left Jacqueline, and the secret desire of seeing him once more is the chief reason that brought her back to France. A few hours after their arrival Laroque receives the visit of Périssard, a former pal, who at once secures his services to assist him in his blackmailing schemes. Jacqueline has never divulged her name to her companion; for all that, the few words she dropped about her past have aroused Périssard's curiosity, and the scoundrel, having discovered that Fleuriot—now risen to the post of President of the Toulouse tribunal—is her husband, he sees a splendid opportunity for blackmailing him and also Raymond, just been called to the Bar. The woman guesses the plot these men are hatching against her boy. Mad with terror and rage, she remonstrates with Laroque, and, as the villain casts her roughly aside, she pulls out a revolver and shoots him. Jacqueline, whom nobody recognises, is arrested, committed for trial, and, as she obstinately refuses to utter a word, she is called "La Femme X——," the unknown. The only statement she made at the time of her arrest was that she killed Laroque to prevent scoundrels from perpetrating a crime. She declines to engage counsel, and, according to usage, a young member of the Bar is officially appointed to defend her. He is no other than Raymond. The scene in Court is most impressive. The woman is not aware that this young, good-looking barrister is her son. The latter, too, is ignorant of the fact that he is defending his mother. By chance, however, his name is revealed to her, whereupon she utters a piercing shriek and nearly swoons, especially as she sees among the audience her husband, who ruined her by his cruelty. He, too, recognises her, and, with a groan, he buries his face in his hands at the moment Raymond rises to open his speech for the defence. Raymond knows nothing of the woman in the dock, but he is convinced she spoke the truth when she said that her object in killing Laroque—who bore a detestable reputation—was to prevent him from committing a crime. Moved by a secret impulse, Raymond then makes such a passionate appeal to the jury that the woman is acquitted. These emotions, however, have proved too much for Jacqueline. The poor, wayworn sinner is carried fainting to the Judge's private room, and before dying she can clasp her son in her arms. In the rôle of the luckless Jacqueline Mme. Jane Hading scored a genuine triumph. She was intensely pathetic, and the poignancy of the trial scene was worked up by her in magnificent style. M. Dorival as the stern husband, M. Belluci as the blackmailing Périssard, M. Laroche as the villian, Laroque, M. Monteux as Raymond, and M. Jean Coquelin in a somewhat effaced rôle were likewise first-rate.

A CURIOUS play by M. de Faramond, *La dame qui n'est plus aux Camélias*, has been produced at the Théâtre de l'Œuvre, a bitter satire on the spirit of the age. As the title implies, Camille, the heroine, a courtesan, has nothing in common with the sentimental Marguerite Gautier created by Dumas *fils*. M. de Faramond's Camille is a symbol. She impersonates the destructive power men worship, and at whose shrine they deposit their ill-gotten gains. We are shown Camille surrounded by sycophants—one of them a Prince of Royal blood—living under the protection of two influential gentlemen, a duke and a scheming financier—antipodes on the social ladder. Both, however, are wealthy, which places them on a par in Camille's eyes. The financier exploits the credulousness of his fellow creatures, and as on the list of his victims figures the name of one of the Duke's relations, that infuriated nobleman challenges the shady company promoter to a duel. When this news is brought to Camille she bursts out crying; but her emotions, like everything else with her, are sham. Little she cares for the danger her friends may run. True to the spirit of the age, she is of a practical turn of mind, and it is the dread of possible financial troubles that draws tears from her beautiful eyes. The duel, however, does not take place, because the financier, having been caught in a swindle, promptly absconds. As to the Duke, he fears a scandal, and therefore withdraws from Camille. That lady then passes some anxious moments, but her fears prove unfounded. Her fame brings to her another trafficker in money, who will lavish his gold on her, and, like his predecessor, will decamp after having scattered ruin around him. The work, somewhat pretentiously written, met with a good reception. Mlle. Madeleine Carlier gave a characteristic rendering of the rôle of Camille, and M. Lugné-Poe was irresistibly funny as the financier, Aufman. The other parts were also well sustained.

"JEANNE QUI RIT," a new comedy, by MM. Maurice Soulié and Charles Darantière, brought out at the Théâtre Réjane, is a poor production. Moreover, it is so coarse that I can only delicately hint at the plot. Jeanne always laughs, no matter what happens. On her wedding day, when alone with her husband, she starts giggling; and as giggling is contagious, the pair spend the time laughing. Night after night the same thing happens during three months, so that Bréguet, her husband, at last decides to divorce his giggling wife. Jeanne then becomes engaged to another gentleman, but she happens to meet Bréguet. They are alone. This time she does not laugh—and you can guess the rest. They become reconciled, and marry again.

THE London and North-Western Railway Company are providing a special dining-car saloon train, leaving Euston to-morrow (Sunday) at 9.45 a.m. for the purpose of conveying the *Butterflies* company, some seventy strong, under the direction of Mr. Wilfrid Cotton, to Glasgow. The train arrives at the Central station at 6.36 p.m.

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

Sir Charles Wyndham's clever and spirited speech at the Actors' Benevolent Fund dinner on Sunday was a model of genial oratory, and some may have wondered where the lines about "Stubbs buttering Freeman, Freeman buttering Stubbs" came from. They are to be found in the present Poet Laureate's satire in rhyme entitled "Juvenal in London," which first appeared in instalments in *Temple Bar* in the seventies. Doubtless the brilliancy of the speeches at the Hotel Metropole on Sunday may be partly attributed to the stimulating influence of the bevy of beauties who admired the eloquence of their men-folk from the ladies' gallery.

Miss Lena Ashwell, in accordance with her custom, will close the Kingsway for five nights next week, namely, from Monday, the 21st, to Friday, the 25th, inclusive. A novel departure in the always excellent musical programme at the Kingsway will be made on Boxing Night, when *Grit* will be preceded by a brief selection of chamber music by a quintette, comprising first and second violins, viola, 'cello, and piano. For fifteen minutes before the rising of the curtain the musicians will play on the stage itself, but for the intervals will take their places in the orchestra.

Sir John Hare has brought to an end his farewell tour of a large number of provincial towns. At Swansea, where the veteran actor played on the first three evenings of last week, the theatre was filled to overflowing, and the enthusiasm was intense. Sir John has now in contemplation a series of flying matinées in other towns to which he has not yet said "Good-bye."

Mr. Arthur Bourchier ends his autumn tour this evening at the Royal, Portsmouth. A brief holiday will be spent on the Continent, and then Mr. and Mrs. Bourchier start rehearsals of Henry Bernstein's play *Samson*, in which they reappear at the Garrick on Feb. 2.

Mr. Lewis Waller will put on his promised revival of *Henry IV.*, Part II., at a series of matinées at the Lyric. His present production of *Henry V.*, which is being liberally patronised, will suffice for the Christmas holidays, and will run through next month. It will then be followed by a new play by R. McDonald, called *The Chief of Staff*, a modern romantic piece, the action of which is laid in South America. Mr. Waller will have the part of an Englishman who conforms to the manners and customs of the country, thus gaining in picturesqueness, and the heroine, in whose veins Spanish and English blood runs, will be played by Miss Evelyn D'Alroy, a young actress whose talents were noted in the recent production of *After the Opera* at the Empire and in *The Builders* at the Criterion last month.

Miss Evelyn Millard will revive *The Adventure of Lady Ursula* at the Garrick, where it will go into the evening bill on Jan. 5. Miss Millard's next production, it is anticipated, will be *The Pride of Jennico*, by Agnes and Egerton Castle, in the dramatisation of which Captain Basil Hood will assist. Mr. Henry Ainley joins Miss Millard for this play. Meanwhile Mr. Allan Aynesworth is severing his connection with the Garrick, where he has been appearing so successfully in *Idols*, and will take a short holiday.

Mr. George Edwardes has secured a successor to *The Merry Widow* when that popular piece shall have reached the end of its tenure at Daly's—a circumstance which, to all appearances, is far distant. Mr. Edwardes' latest selection will contain parts for Miss Lily Elsie and Mr. Joseph Coyne. Mr. Edwardes has also in hand for eventual production at Daly's a new musical play by Lieutenant-Colonel Newnham-Davis, entitled *The Young Dragoon*, which may be said to owe its inspiration to the celebrated Irish romancist Charles Lever. The action begins at Eton, passes to Spain, and thence travels to Paris at a period immediately following the Battle of Waterloo.

Mr. Martin Harvey's Christmas contribution to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, in which the popular actor has always evinced the greatest interest, has taken the form of a further sum of £3, collected by means of his autograph.

Mr. Charles Manners dealt with striking facts and figures in regard to the production of Grand Opera in English at a recent meeting of the Concert Goers' Club. He said that fashion, which looked askance at Grand Opera in anything but a foreign tongue, was a sad obstacle. He had lost many thousands of pounds in producing Grand Opera in London, and any scheme for a National Opera must be on a business footing from the commencement. If he could ensure that every seat at Drury Lane would be taken at prices ranging from sixpence for the gallery to six shillings for the stalls, he could give different operas there each week with a chorus of 150, a band of 100, a prima donna and a tenor twice a week at not more than £600 a performance, baritone and bass £100, and a contralto at £50, and then have £200 or £300 over.

Mr. Manners added that he was sending to the members of the National English Opera Union an appeal to support the production of three new operas by English composers next May at popular prices. Londoners, he concluded, were immensely behind the people of the provinces, where workmen paid a few pence a week for six months into a club to get seats for Grand Opera in English. When he was last at Burnley crowds waited from two in the afternoon for the evening performance, and as they were admitted early because of the rain, they spent two hours singing hymns before the performance of *Faust*.

Miss Mary Moore will take a short Christmas holiday and the Criterion Theatre will close for a few days on Dec. 21. The run of *Lady Epping's Lawsuit* will be resumed on Boxing Day, when there will be the usual Saturday matinée. Miss Mary Moore will remain at the Criterion until the end of January, when Miss Evelyn Millard commences her tenancy. Later Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore will make a welcome reappearance.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the *Referee* Children's Dinner Fund was presided over by Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree on Monday afternoon at His Majesty's Theatre. The Committee voted the sum of £1,040 to relieve immediate wants, and arranged that another meeting should be held shortly when a further large sum would be available. Last year 570,400 meals were provided by the *Referee* Children's Dinner Fund, at an average cost of 1½d. a meal.

In the course of a small northern tour last week, Mr. Acton Bond, one of the joint hon. directors of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, visited the Darlington, Glasgow, and Aberdeen branches of the society, where he directed and headed the cast in public dramatic readings. In all cases the remainder of the casts were composed of selected members of the centre in question. At Darlington on Monday *Macbeth* was successfully given, with the Mayor in the chair, and on Wednesday, at Glasgow, *Othello* was read to an enthusiastic audience. On Friday, at Aberdeen (a newly-formed branch), the programme consisted of excerpts from *The Merchant of Venice*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Henry VIII.*, Mr. Bond taking the parts of Shylock, Malvolio, and Wolsey.

At an early hour on Thursday morning an outbreak of fire was discovered at the Irving Theatre, Seacombe. Prompt measures were taken for its suppression, the local fire brigade was quickly at work, and after several hours of strenuous exertion the fire was subdued. The interior suffered considerable damage—the basement, orchestra stalls, and boxes—from the flames, and a large quantity of scenery and a number of dresses by water. The theatre is insured, but we understand that the property belonging to *A Soldier of France* company, which is performing there this week, is not covered.

The O.P. Club intend to celebrate a world-famed success by giving a "Merry Widow Dinner" on Sunday, Jan. 31, at the Hotel Cecil. Mr. George Edwardes has accepted the club's invitation on his own behalf and that of Miss Lily Elsie and Mr. Joseph Coyne, who will be the guests of the evening. It is also the intention of the club to invite the principal members of the company. Tickets, it should be added, can only be obtained by members of the O.P. Club.

The activities of the O.P. Club are also to be noted in other directions. A ladies' concert will be given to-morrow (Sunday); on Jan. 2 there will be a New Year's dance for children; and on Jan. 17 Mr. Rutland Barrington will address the members, an announcement that is sure to prove attractive.

The funeral of the late Herbert Flemming, whose death we recorded in a recent issue, took place at the Melbourne General Cemetery on Oct. 24, and was attended by the leading members of the theatrical profession in Australia, and by many prominent citizens. Amongst the many beautiful wreaths were those sent by the deceased actor's mother, brothers, sisters and son in England, the Margaret Anglin Co., the William Anderson Co., the Savage Club, Greenroom Club, Mrs. Brough, Messrs. Meynell and Gunn, Miss Margaret Anglin, Mr. Allan Hamilton, Miss Beatrice Day, and the Bohemian Dramatic Co. The wreath from the members of the company was accompanied by a card, on which the last lines spoken by Mr. Flemming in *Olivia* were written:—

"God gave—God has taken away;
Let us submit ourselves to him."

A largely-attended and representative reunion was held on Tuesday, the 8th inst., at Glasgow, under the auspices of the British Empire Shakespeare Society, to hear an address from Mr. Acton Bond on the aims and objects of the society. In the course of a genial speech at the close of the meeting, the Rev. Professor Cooper, president of the branch, who was in the chair, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Bond, which was seconded by Mr. F. H. Newbery, the director of the Glasgow School of Art.

Mr. Tom B. Davis, who is associated with the management of no less than five theatres in the vicinity of the Royal Ear Hospital, has kindly offered the use of the Queen's for a matinée in aid of the institution mentioned. The hospital is the oldest in Europe for the special treatment of deafness and diseases of the ear. It is not endowed, but relies entirely on voluntary contributions, and is faced by a heavy deficit. Lady Constance Hatch is organising the matinée, and has secured some of the most influential names in England to form a committee.

In the Court of King's Bench on Wednesday Mr. Walter Bentley sued Mr. Edward Kenyon-Collis, theatrical manager, for alleged breach of contract to produce at a London theatre a play entitled *For the King*. Defendant, by his pleadings, denied the contract, and said that if there was a contract it was rescinded by mutual consent. Plaintiff appeared in person, and stated that he had toured in this country, America, and Australia, where he was best known. He came to London in May, 1907, with the acting rights of the play *For the King*, which he was desirous of having produced in London. London was the Mecca of dramatists and actors. Mr. Walter Howard was the author of the play, and recently he had had a successful run at the Lyceum Theatre.

After negotiations with several people, defendant read the play, and suggested that certain steps should be taken with a view to its production. An agreement was drawn up between witness and defendant on Dec. 5, 1907, under which the latter, in consideration of plaintiff's transferring to him his rights in the play for a term of three years, agreed to produce it at a London theatre as early as possible, and to pay the plaintiff 25 per cent. of the net profits, £10 a week for rehearsals, and £10 a week for the performance of the part of Oliver Cromwell, during the run of the play in London and on tour, and a royalty.

Evidence was given by Mr. David Cope, professor of music, who said that when he read the play he was so impressed with its situations that he composed music specially for it. Under favourable circumstances the play ought to have gone exceedingly well. Defendant did not appear to support his defence, and the jury found for the plaintiff, awarding him £200 damages and costs. Judgment was entered accordingly.

We regret to hear that Mr. Walter Beaumont, for so many years the Spettigue with Mr. W. S. Penley and Mr. Brandon Thomas's *Charley's Aunt* companies, has been for six months an inmate of University College Hospital, where he has undergone three serious operations. Happily they have proved successful, and he is now gaining convalescence at All Saints, Eastbourne. Mr. Beaumont has had several engagements with Chas. Frohman, and was the original Earl of Loam on the suburban tour of *The Admirable Crichton*.

Mr. Alfred Northway and Mr. W. V. Garrod's autumn tour of *A Country Girl in London* concludes to-night at Hull. The company reopens at Scarborough on Boxing-night, and the piece is practically booked up to Easter, 1910. The production of *Are You the Man?* by Frank Price, will take place early in the spring.

Miss Florence Ray, a pupil of Mme. Kate Flinn, is to appear as Fairy Queen in *Red Riding Hood* at the Kennington Theatre.

The suburban and provincial rights of that funny comedy, *The Early Worm*, by F. Lonsdale, which has just concluded its successful run at Wyndham's Theatre, have been secured by Mr. Lionel Rignold. He has arranged with Mr. Frank Curzon for the original scenery and production, and after Christmas will visit most of the suburban and the principal provincial theatres. Mr. Rignold will fill the title-rôle, supported by a powerful cast, and will also superintend the production.

The Bandmann Comedy Company have lately concluded seasons of five weeks in Calcutta and thirteen nights in Rangoon, Burma. Though the work is strenuous, for thirteen plays were presented in Rangoon, the company seem to be in good spirits and enjoying themselves thoroughly. Mr. Bandmann is fortunate in having so able a producer and stage-manager as Mr. Thomas Sidney, when the répertoire includes such a variety of plays as *Zaza*, *Mrs. Wiggs*, *Little Minister*, *Mrs. Dot*, *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, *The Flag Lieutenant*, *Lady Frederick*, and *A Royal Divorce*. Mr. Sidney speaks in the pleasantest terms of the good-fellowship existing in the company.

We regret to record the death of Mr. Harrington Baily, the veteran theatrical manager and agent, who passed away at Wimbledon on Monday last. Mr. Baily had suffered from a very long illness which made it impossible for him to follow his business for some considerable time, although right up to the end he retained his interest in all theatrical matters. A descendant of Henry Marston, the tragedian, he was at one time known amongst his friends as "the Matinée Demon," a form of theatrical enterprise in which he excelled. His schooling as an actor in the old stock days at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, under the late Mr. Chute, made him a very keen judge of histrionic ability, and his agency register contained the names of many who are now famous. Mr. Baily was buried on Wednesday.

Mr. Blake Adams, who finished a most successful engagement as James Hogg in *Sins of Society* on Dec. 5, opens at the Royalty Theatre, Glasgow, in the part of Mr. Podmore in *Butterflies*, under Mr. Wilfrid Cotton's management.

Mr. Herbert Ford concludes a fourteen weeks' special suburban engagement as Prince Olaf in *The Prince and the Beggar Maid* to-night. He has been engaged by Mr. Percy Hutchison to play Hugh Coleman on the tour of *Idols* which starts Jan. 25.

Mr. Holeery Hardy, the energetic manager of the Theatre Royal, Rotherham, is taking his annual benefit on Monday next. An excellent programme has been arranged, and a bumper house is anticipated.

Mr. Henry Kitts has terminated his association (extending over four and a half years) with Mr. Oscar Asche and Miss Lily Brayton. Mr. Kitts' pronounced success as Grumio in the *Taming of the Shrew* at the Adelphi Theatre and other parts under Mr. Otho Stuart's management will be recollected. He has had an offer to visit Australia with Mr. Oscar Asche, which he was reluctantly compelled to decline.

The Duke and Duchess of Argyle (Princess Louise), who were present at the performance of Milton's *Samson Agonistes*, given before the Royal Academy on Wednesday evening, shook hands with and personally congratulated Mr. Ian Maclaren on his performance of Samson. The distinguished audience also included the Italian Ambassador and Sir Frederick Bridge.

At the fifty-ninth general meeting of the Crystal Palace company on Thursday, Mr. Ernest Schenk, the chairman, referred to the formation of the Mansion House Committee, the purpose of which is to urge upon the Government and public authorities the importance of making the Palace a national institution, and to promote a Parliamentary Bill. He mentioned that the Prime Minister had intimated his intention of receiving a deputation and considering the question generally. A suggestion worthy of consideration was made by Mr. George Starr, the manager, who thought that employers might give their employees season tickets, adding that it would only take 100,000 to put the company on an absolutely good footing.

Mr. Norman V. Norman, whose production of *Under the Red Robe* has been so successful this week at the King's Theatre, Hammersmith, gave two special performances of *David Garrick* on Thursday and Friday to enthusiastic audiences, Mr. Norman and Miss Beatrice Wilson being repeatedly called before the curtain. *David Garrick* was preceded on both evenings by the new one-act play, *Olivia's Elopement*, by Affleck Scott, of which an account appears in another column.

Another play designed to support the principles of Free Trade was produced at Chester on Thursday. It is called *A Message from the 'Forties*, and is written by Mrs. Alfred Mond, the wife of the Member for Chester. The play, which it is intended to reproduce in London and the chief towns of the provinces, is an adaptation of Dickens's "Christmas Carol," and after a number of episodes have been enacted portraying the iniquities of "Protection," Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning a new man, and a Free Trader.

Mr. Allan Wilkie concludes his autumn tour to-night at the Theatre Royal, Huddersfield. After a few days spent on the Yorkshire moors Mr. Wilkie reopens at the magnificent new King's Hall, Ilkley, for seven nights, commencing on Boxing Day. Mr. Wilkie now enters on his fifth year of tour, and his bookings extend to September, 1910.

Mr. Cecil Brooking has been engaged by Mr. Stanley James for his spring tour of *My Wife* and *Her Father*. Mr. Brooking has just finished a long association with *The Hypocrites*, in which he played Dr. Blaney at the Hicks Theatre, Daubeney on tour, and Viveash as an understudy for five nights at Edinburgh. For the last two weeks Mr. Brooking has been appearing at Hastings and Eastbourne as General Carew (Mr. O. B. Clarence's part) in Mr. Cyril Harcourt's witty play, *The Reformer*.

In order that misunderstandings with regard to correspondence, &c., may be avoided, Mr. Reginald Payne wishes it known that he has been transferred from the North Company of *The Prince and the Beggar-Maid* to that of the South. He re-opens at Southampton on Christmas Eve in his old part of Lieut. Karl.

Miss Florence Lovell has been re-engaged by Mr. G. D. Day for the spring tour of *The Prodigal Son* for the part of Anna Magnusson, of which she has given 264 performances.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Beresford (Miss Dorothy Milne) conclude to-night at the Theatre Royal, Stratford, a successful starring engagement as Lawrence Gray and Geraldine Lucas in *Convict 99*.

Mr. Martin Comstock concludes to-day his third engagement with Miss Maud Hildyard, and is re-engaged for her spring tour, commencing at the Grand Theatre, Brighton, on Feb. 15. During the vacation, opening on Monday next, Mr. Comstock will be with Mr. James Travis (The Loyal Dominion Animated Picture Co.).

Miss Gertrude Netterville has been engaged by Miss Mouillot to play Minna in *Little Lord Fauntleroy* at the Court Theatre. On the recent summer tour of the piece she enacted Mrs. Errol, and in that rôle she is to be the understudy of Miss Eva Moore in the coming production.

Mr. W Henry Hargreaves, recently returned from abroad, has been engaged by Mr. Wentworth Croke to play Michael Sunlocks in *The Bondman*.

Mr. George Grossmith, jun., who has just returned from America, has left his mark there as a playwright as well as a comedian, and will be represented in the forthcoming season by four plays, namely, *The Girls of Gottenberg*, *Havana*, *The Dollar Princess*, and a new play, called *The President's Daughter*, the score of which is the work of Mr. Jerome Kern. In each case the libretto is by Mr. Grossmith and Mr. L. E. Burman. *The President's Daughter*, which is to be produced—under the management of Mr. Frohman—first in America and then in London, is in two acts, which are laid in a South American Presidency, and the interesting question as to whether the son of a King can marry the daughter of a President is propounded.

Mr. Wentworth Croke will send a company on tour in *East Lynne* from April to August. The cast will be a strong one, consisting as it will of the pick of Mr. Wentworth Croke's present companies now playing *The Christian*, *The Bondman*, and *The Prodigal Son*.

Mr. Croke's companies have this week finished their autumn tours, and on Christmas Day the various members and the staffs will dine together in their respective towns at Mr. Wentworth Croke's invitation. After a week's vacation the companies start again on Boxing Day for the spring tours. So great has been the success achieved by *The Prodigal Son* that a second company of the famous Drury-lane drama will be sent out.

An extraordinary tragedy of the stage is reported to have taken place at the Imperial Theatre at Novgorod. The principals in the affair were the leading actor and actress of the theatre who appeared as hero and heroine in a melodrama. The heroine—a handsome married woman name Ludmilla Ragoskin—was in real life pestered by the leading man, an actor named Krasnoff, for whom she had an intense aversion. Just before an evening performance last week Krasnoff made yet another love avowal to Mme. Ragoskin, who repulsed him, warning him against being too affectionate during the love passages which were shortly to take place between them on the stage. Carried away by his feelings, however, Krasnoff kissed Mme. Ragoskin again and again.

The enraged actress waited till the interval, when she demanded an explanation. "I so lost myself," replied Krasnoff, "that I forgot I was on the stage, and acted as my heart dictated." In the last act it was Ludmilla's duty to stab her lover with a property hatpin, but, to the horror of all present, Krasnoff, instead of falling gracefully on the stage, crashed with a yell among the footlights. As the woman bent over him with a look of mockery the unhappy man cried, "Why did you do it, Ludmilla?" "I so lost myself," replied Mme. Ragoskin, "that I forgot I was on the stage, and acted as my heart dictated." The actress is now incarcerated in the Alexander Prison.

The Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince George witnessed the seventy-second performance of *The Lyons Mail*, with Mr. H. B. Irving as Lesurques and Dubosc, at the Shaftesbury Theatre on Thursday evening. It should be noted that *King René's Daughter* and *The Lyons Mail* will be played in the afternoon of Boxing Day as well as in the evening.

Miss Georgie de Lara, who last Saturday concluded three years' engagement as heavy leading lady with Mr. Walter Melville, has been engaged by Mr. Charles M. Bestic to open on Monday as Miss Greenhill, "the Suffragette," in his new musical comedy production *The Flower Girl*.

Miss Helene Forest has been playing a special week for Mr. E. E. Norris at Ipswich in her old part of Lucy Middleton in *The Education of Elizabeth* prior to her taking up heavy lead in *The Soldier's Wedding* (Chattell) at Christmas.

Mr. Algernon Syms was called upon at short notice to play Sexton Blake on Monday. He received the thanks and congratulations of the management on his success.

Mr. Alfred B. Cross brings to a conclusion this evening a continuous tour of seven years with *The Manxman*, the play adapted by the late Wilson Barrett from Hall Caine's novel. He and his wife, Miss Minnie Watersford, will now take a few weeks' well-earned rest, Mr. Cross having played the part of Pete close upon 2,000 times and his wife nearly 1,500 times with brilliant success in almost every town in the country.

The Incorporated Society of Musicians will hold a conference in London at the end of the month. The proceedings will include five concerts, consisting of numerous new compositions by the members. On the 31st inst. there will be an orchestral concert at Queen's Hall, for which the London Symphony Orchestra has been engaged, and the conference will be concluded on Jan. 1 with a performance of William Boyce's "Ode to Charity," which was written in 1748, for the Leicester Infirmary.

"Charley's Aunt" will again figure among the Christmas entertainments, Mr. Brandon Thomas having decided to revive his evergreen farce at the Aldwych on the afternoon of Boxing Day. The run is to last three weeks, during which two performances will be given daily.

The next venture of the Dramatic Productions Club at the Court will consist of a new play named *The Test*, written by K. W. Eastwood, and a one-act piece, called *The Generous Past*, by Clotilde Graves. There will be two performances of both plays, one on Sunday, Jan. 3, and the other on the following afternoon.

Miss Ellaline Terriss pays this week an affectionate tribute to the lamented William Terriss, whose death on Dec. 16, 1897, caused such widespread regret. The "In Memoriam" runs:—"In memory of my darling father. Never forgotten by his devoted daughter, Ellie. 1897."

Mr. Frank Emery, we learn, is to be welcomed back to Liverpool in the capacity of theatrical manager. Mr. Emery was a notable figure at the Prince of Wales's Theatre in that city in the years preceding the Nelsons, Captain Wombwell, and Fanny Josephs. Now he goes north to the Haymarket, in Bean-street, where he opens this evening.

The corner-stone of America's National Theatre, which has been founded by rich Americans, was laid in New York on Tuesday. The statutes under which it will be run provide that it is to be without any thought of profit, and that any pecuniary benefits which may result from its operation shall be used for the creation of an endowment and pension fund for the maintenance of a school of dramatic art and for other purposes of the same kind. The new theatre will begin its first season next November under the administration of Mr. Winthrop Ames, director; Mr. Lee Shubert, business manager; and Mr. John Corbin, literary manager. Modern and classic plays are to be acted by a stock company of eminent players.

The jocularity of the Judge was the cause of roars of laughter in the Southwark County Court on Thursday. A moneylender informed his honour that the man he was suing made a lot of extra money as an actor. "An actor?" said Judge Willis, in astonishment. "Why, he is a carman! Whatever part does he take on the stage?" "I believe," averred the plaintiff, "he is filling the rôle of a policeman at the present moment, sir." "Policeman, eh?" retorted his honour. "I should have thought he would have been afraid to take the part of a policeman when he borrows money." Much merriment greeted the remark, and thus encouraged, the Judge added, "I see that his name is Faut, so he only wants an 's' and he would be Faust." The name of his Honour, it is curious to relate, has not yet appeared among this year's pantomime librettists.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Happy Fanny Fields Laugh.

The stage laugh is not so simple as it appears. Many a performance is spoilt by the harsh, unmusical laugh of a perhaps otherwise musical artist, and many a beautiful scene in pantomime or musical comedy is ruined by the diabolical "altogether" laugh of an otherwise well-trained chorus. Quite different is the Happy Fanny Fields laugh, which is spontaneous, natural, and, above all, highly infectious, as the little lady's audiences soon discover. Questioned by a Pressman recently, Miss Fields said:—"My laugh! Well, it had rather a humorous origin. I was playing a soubrette part in *Our Boys* in California, and in one scene I had to throw some ashes out of a window. One night, when I had thrown the shovelful out (they were real ashes), I noticed, too late, that the man who was playing the Detective was standing by the window directly in the line of fire. He got the whole thing in his face, and I heard a splutter, followed by something that began with a mighty big D. Well, the humour of the thing took me on the spot, and, forgetting I was on the stage, I just dropped the shovel and shrieked with laughter. Afterwards I tried to keep out of the stage-manager's way, but it was no use; he was looking for me, and he found me. To my surprise, however, instead of rating me, he said, 'My dear girl, if you can do that laugh every time, there's a fortune in it.' And that set me going."

The Principles of a Principal Boy.

"The great ambition of my life," says Miss Queenie Leighton, as quoted by *Tit-Bits*, "is to play strong, dramatic, and tragic parts, like Lady Macbeth or Desdemona." As "principal boy" she is in her element, and she gives a little good advice to aspirants for this rôle. "To be a successful principal boy," she says, "you want to make the audience feel that you are enjoying yourself, and want them to do likewise. Metaphorically speaking, you want to pat them on the back and say, 'Come along, old chap; throw physic to the bow-wows, and let's forget there are such things as landlords, rate-collectors, toothache, mumps, and humps in the world.'"

Quite Unexpected.

"I sit in a corner," writes a *Daily Chronicle* representative, in a description of a rehearsal of *Pinkie and the Fairies* at His Majesty's, "chatting in undertones with Whisper and Twinkle, two of the most charming children it is possible to imagine, and the Fairy Queen. The Queen believes in real fairies, not in toy ones, she tells me—a cryptic utterance to which I have not yet discovered the key; Twinkle assures me that fairies are realities, whose dancing rings are in full evidence close to her home in Putney; Whisper shyly admits that she used to believe in fairies once, 'when she was very little,' and I seize a passing child. 'Are you too a sceptic concerning the fairies?' I query. 'No,' is the delightful and wholly unexpected reply. 'I am a black beetle.'"

Testing a Conductor.

"Another fact which occurs to one's mind," writes Mr. J. M. Glover in a most interesting article on "The Pirates" of Paignton in the *Daily Telegraph*, "is that all the managerial interests primarily associated with the successful Gilbert and Sullivan régime were musicians first and managers afterwards. The late Michael Gunn was a rare musician, and played the viola in the Dublin Philharmonic Orchestra. D'Oyly Carte himself was a composer of no mean merit, and wrote many songs and operettas. Of the latter, *Happy Hampstead*, with words by the popular Frank Desprez, was played in the country by an opera company of which D'Oyly Carte himself was the musical director. Carte conducted until a Mr. William Ferdinand Glover (now settled in America), having got married one morning in Accrington, and then walked eighteen miles for employment into Manchester, came to see Carte at his office. He had known the future Savoy manager in London, and burst into him at the Princes Theatre, saying, 'I want work.' 'What can you do?' said Carte. 'Anything in the musical way,' was the reply. Carte threw down the score of *La Perichole*, and said, 'Can you play that?' Glover did so at sight, and was immediately engaged as chorus master and assistant conductor."

Four Shows a Night.

"I have seen it stated lately," writes Mr. Butler Stanhope, "that a well-known actor had performed in three towns on the same night. I think I can beat that record; for I presented an entire comic drama, namely, *Robert Macaire*, in four towns on the same evening when I was lessee of the Theatres Royal, Runcorn, Birkenhead, and Grand, Liverpool (now called the Queen's). I was running stock seasons at each place. So I commenced at Runcorn at 7.30; then went off to the Royal, Warrington, where I went through the same performance; then down by the Manchester express to Liverpool, and across the Mersey to Birkenhead, where I finished at 11.10.

A Tribute to "Lal" Brough.

Mr. Tom Crayen sends us the following:—

I know a garden fair to see
And in it sits one dear to me—
"Lal" Brough—God bless him!
He standeth like a sturdy oak,
And ever meets you with a joke
If you address him.

The sun shines on his dear old face,
This vet'ran of an honoured race,
And worlds caress him.
Let all of us in love combine
To pray the sun for ever shine
On "Lal"—God bless him!

A Practical Solution.

"At the Garrick Club, not very long ago," says *The Bystander*, "an old actor, Mr. Smith, and a young actor, Mr. Brown, were discussing the art of acting. Young Mr. Brown put forward an idea which greatly annoyed old Mr. Smith. During the heated argument Mr. Smith went so far as to call Mr. Brown 'an ass.' Next day poor Brown hunted up Mr. Brookfield for advice. After telling him the whole story, he said, 'And Smith ended with calling me an ass! What am I to do now?' Brookfield pondered for a moment. 'Consult a vet,' was his reply."

Mr. Beerbohm Tree's Bear.

Mr. Beerbohm Tree received a big "Teddy bear" under his arm as his birthday present from the children who are to play in *Pinkie and the Fairies* at His Majesty's this evening. Miss Iris Hawkins, the Pinkie, in making the presentation, read the following verses, specially written for the occasion by Mr. Graham Robertson, the author of the play:—

"Fairies are old—so old—nay, who can number
The drifted æons of our long ago,
Who in the Never-never calmly slumber,
Nor reck of Time's ebb tide or overflow?
Yet through the Ivory Gate we watch with care
Our little Herbert pattering up the stair.

"Five years ago—or ten—or maybe twenty—
He saw the light—dates are not my strong point.
Ask any passer-by—he'll give you plenty,
Yet will you find his 'times are out of joint.'
So, Folk of Faerie, take your time from me,
(lifts glass)
'Our little playmate, Herbert Beerbohm Tree!'"

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND DINNER.

£1,100 FOR CHARITY.

The eighteenth annual dinner, held on Sunday evening at the Whitehall Rooms of the Hotel Metropole, and presided over by Mr. CYRIL MAUDE, was characterised by the excellence of the speeches delivered and the enthusiasm and generosity of the assembled company. For, in response to the Chairman's touching appeal, spoken with heart-stirring eloquence, a sum of more than eleven hundred pounds was collected at the tables. The company included many eminent representatives of the Stage, Music, Literature, the Law, Medicine, the Navy, the Army, and Society. In short, it was a gathering of brilliant men in many walks of life. And for no nobler purpose could a Sabbath evening be utilised, for an appeal in the cause of Sweet Charity is worth a thousand sermons on the saving of the soul when the body is starving! The distressful condition of many members of the theatrical profession was described by Mr. Maude in language that admitted of no misunderstanding, and Mr. Maude spoke of what he knew. Had not he, as well as other actor-managers, been forcibly reminded of the unhappy state of some of his brothers and sisters by the pitiful requests at the stage-door for only a shilling? Most of the applicants, as well as those who applied for assistance to the Actors' Benevolent Fund, were placed in the position of doing so through no fault of their own. With all the joy and hopefulness of youth they had set out upon life's journey through the storm and calm of a theatrical career, and numbers of them had been more buffeted by the storm than had been permitted to enjoy the calm. This Benevolent Fund, therefore, surely had a beneficent work in view—that of helping by loans, gifts, and allowances people who had fallen on hard times and who had, in many ways, assisted to brighten the lives of their fellow beings. Could it be said, then, that the gentlemen who sat down to dinner on this Sunday evening were any less gathered together in the name of Him Who ever preached Charity and Forbearance than the members of the congregation engaged at the same time in the devotional service at St. Paul's Cathedral?

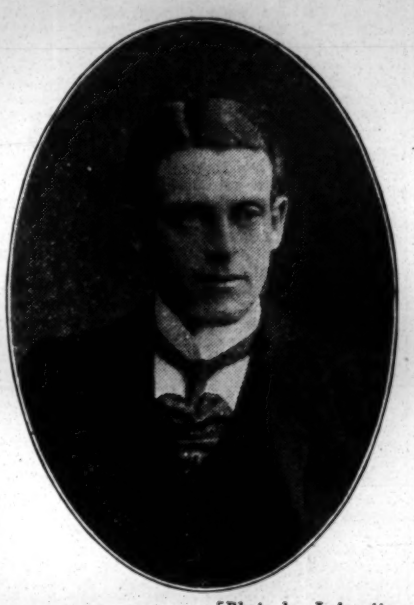
Amongst those present were:—Mr. Alfred D. Acland, Mr. Henry Ainley, the Earl of Albemarle, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Oscar Asche, Mr. James H. Atkins, Mr. Oliver Atkins, Lord Balfour of Burleigh, Sir Squire Bancroft, Mr. J. Bartlett, Mr. J. D. Beveridge, Mr. Alfred Bishop, Mr. W. Boosey, Mr. Austin Brereton, Mr. W. H. Brereton, Mr. Harrison Brockbank, Mr. A. Broman, Mr. Lionel Brough, Mr. J. Finden Brown, Mr. E. H. Bull, Mr. Percy Burton, Mr. Slade Butler, Mr. Dalrymple Clarke, Mr. John Colling. A. E. Collins, Mr. Percy Collins, Mr. W. A. Collins, Mr. J. Howard Colls, Mr. C. I. Coltson (secretary), Mr. J. Y. F. Cooke, Mr. Charles K. Cooper, Mr. W. L. Courtney, Mr. Douglas Crichton, Sir Anderson Critchett, Bart., Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, Mr. C. J. Davies, Lieut.-Colonel Newnham Davis, Sir J. C. Dimsdale, Bart., K.C.V.O., Mr. Frank Desprez, Mr. G. S. Edwards; Mr. Charles Eaves; Mr. Henry Evill, Mr. J. P. Evill; Mr. G. R. Fondlay, Mr. E. V. Fraser; Mr. C. Scott Gatty, Mr. Charles Gay, Mr. Charles Millne Gay, Mr. Walter Gay, Mr. W. Gaze, Mr. Arthur Holme Gore, Mr. H. Greenwood, J.P., L.C.C., Mr. Sydney Grundy, Mr. Archibald Hamilton, Mr. Miles E. Hansell, Mr. Martin Harvey, Mr. Samuel Heilbut, Mr. W. Hollands, Mr. G. Boydell Houghton, Mr. E. J. Bannister Howard, Mr. Robert Hunter, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Nelson Jackson, Mr. C. Karl, Mr. W. Kearton, Commander Mark Kerr, R.N., Mr. F. Kreuger, Rev. H. C. de La Fontaine, Mr. H. Lazarus, Mr. H. Le Forestier, Mr. W. Lestocq, Mr. J. W. Lethbridge, Mr. W. A. Locker, Mr. Robert Loraine, Mr. H. J. Loveday, Mr. H. Lowenfeld, Mr. Herbert Lyndon, Mr. J. N. Lyons, Mr. A. Mackinnon, Mr. E. D. Maddick, Mr. E. Markwick, Mr Horace Marriott, Mr. B. Martin, Mr. J. H. Maunder, Mr. George May, Mr. Eugene Mayeur, Mr. B. A. Meyer, Mr. Carl Meyer, Mr. Cyril Michael, Mr. George Michael, Mr. Henry Middlemas, Mr. R. P. Middlemist, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Mr. Bertram Mills, Mr. M. R. Morand, Sir Edward Moss, Mr. F. Mote, Mr. H. W. Mote, Mr. L. H. Nathan, Mr. Harry Nicholls, Dr. Byrd Page, Mr. Cecil Paget, Mr. Paul Paluc, Mr. F. Parkes, Mr. R. Pateman, Mr. Harry Paulton, Mr. Sydney Paxton, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, Mr. F. Kinsey Peile, Mr. R. Knowles Perkin; Lieut.-General Baden Powell, Mr. Robert Radford, Colonel Reid, Mr. Lionel Rignold, Mr. J. F. Roberts, Mr. W. S. Roberts, Mr. Charles Rock, Mr. Frank Safford (hon. standing counsel), Mr. Arthur Sarjeant, Mr. W. A. Sarjeant, Mr. Walter Sarjeant, Mr. Isaac Seaman, Mr. Faulkner Semon, Sir Felix Semon, Mr. Aubrey Smith, Mr. A. F. M. Spalding, Mr. F. W. Stephenson, Mr. Alfred Sutro, Mr J. Bland Sutton, Lord Swaythling, Mr. A. B. Tapping, Mr. George Thomas, Mr. Marcus Thomson, Mr. Joseph W. Todd, Mr. H. Beerbohm Tree, Mr. Alfred Turner, Mr. Thomas Wallis, Mr. J. Fisher White, Mr. Geoffrey Wilkinson, Mr. W. H. Willats, Mr. C. H. Workman, Mr. Frederick Wright, Rev. C. B. L. Wright, Sir Charles Wyndham.

After the toast of "The King, and members of the Royal Family" had been honoured,

The CHAIRMAN, who received an enthusiastic ovation on rising to propose the toast of the evening—"The Actors' Benevolent Fund"—said:—

"Public speaking is the very divil," as an old Irish friend of mine with, I regret to say, Fenian proclivities, said to me once some years ago. He and a certain member of Parliament were speaking at an open-air meeting not many miles from Dublin, and they noticed that a representative of police was taking notes of all they said. My Irish friend turned to his colleague, who was also a Fenian of the deepest dye, and said, "Take care what you're sayin', man; they're takin' notes; don't run down the King of England, or call the English a dirty race, but just give a quiet conciliatory kind of speech." My Irish friend then gave "a quiet concilitory kind of speech," and was followed by the M.P., who had not been speaking more than about five minutes when shillelahs were swung, heads were broken, and the whole meeting ended in a turmoil. The two speakers were arrested, but in the excitement the police notes got mixed up in some extraordinary way, and when, some time afterwards, my friend was referring to this, he said, "You see, I gave a few nice quiet and subdued words, and then got six months' hard labour for the other fellow's speech; but (this with a wink) I got even with him, he got eighteen months for mine." Now for the moral. I personally am hoping that my speech may become mixed up in your minds with those of the brilliant men who follow me to-night, and that, though I may receive the credit of their speeches, they may get money down for mine. I remember hearing once that "All things come to those who know how to be disagreeable at the right time," and, alas! I find myself, to my sorrow, put in the position of the disagreeable man to-night. It is an unsympathetic part I have to play, for to invite a number of men to a banquet is one thing, but surely it is the height of bad manners to ask people to dinner, to ask them to pay for it, and then do one's best to imitate the highwayman of Hounslow Heath and demand money from them at the mouth of a champagne bottle; but what could I possibly do after being urged for two years by our excellent President, Sir Charles Wyndham, to take my turn to play the game, and to go in and try and score for our side?

To score for our side! Gentlemen, have you ever experienced the awful feeling of walking with your bat across a long stretch of turf from the pavilion to the pitch on a large cricket ground surrounded by a large concourse of people at a critical point in the game, and with the full consciousness of being a poor bat. Well, then, you have my feelings in a nutshell to-night. Or perhaps you will be better able to appreciate my position by remembering the story of the young curate preaching his first charity sermon, and who, in the course of his firstly, secondly, and thirdly, saw, to his horror, the rich members of his congregation gradually withdraw sovereign after sovereign of the money they had placed before them on the ledge of the pew as their faith in the advantages of the charitable institution poorly advocated by the timid youth seemed to them to gradually diminish. Gentlemen, I trust that such may not be my fate to-night. Spare my complexion; do not drive the roses from my cheek! Although they are not on the ledge of a pew before you, still I see them gleaming in your face—bright golden sovereigns, crisp white notes. Bear with me a while. This Benevolent Fund of ours is doing always, has done always, good work. It is a charity administered on genial English lines. Every case is thoroughly looked into, but it is looked into with good kind eyes, full of sympathy and tender heartedness. Gentlemen, I want you to picture to yourselves the committee-room of the Actors' Benevolent Fund some years ago. Around the table are seated some dear, well-remembered old friends of ours dealing out kindness and help to many a poor fellow wounded in the battle of life by the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. At that table was seated on the day I speak of our late President; among the cases being discussed was that of a promising young actor who had been obliged, owing to an accident, to have a leg amputated. The case had attracted a great deal of sympathy, and the Actors' Benevolent Fund contributed largely to the poor young fellow's support. It had begun to be felt, however, that the young man was taking undue advantage of the sympathy extended, practically trading on his misfortune instead of trying to secure fresh employment in some other walk of life. At this particular meeting I speak of, one old actor who had been scandalised by meeting the young man smoking a big cigar suggested that his application for further relief should be refused. Sir Henry Irving listened to all that had to be said, and then, in his dear quaint way remarked, "Well, because the poor fellow has had his leg cut off, that is no reason why you should cut off his cigars. Benevolence, you know; we are a Benevolent Fund, *not* Providence." And it is the Benevolent Institution for which I have to plead to-night. For two long lean years of trade depression and Stock Exchange stagnation there has been much outgoing and no incoming. Surely in no profession is the fluctuation of trade more acutely felt than in ours. Besides being a mirror of the times, we are, so to speak, the weather-glass in which a man may read the state of the financial weather; and, alas! the hand has pointed for the last two years to stormy and cloudy at intervals. Down here by the riverside one realises very poignantly the prevalent distress and, indeed, despair. Walk under the bridge there across the road late any night on your way to the District or the Tube, and you will realise the fate from which the Actors' Benevolent Fund is trying daily to save many and many a poor struggling actor and actress. "Is it as bad as that," you say. Yes, surely. If not why those piteous little appeals, not for large sums, but for a shilling, half a crown, which so many of us get at our stage doors. I am not exaggerating when I say that practically every night at my little theatre over the way some poor creature or another



[*Photo by Lafayette.*

MR. CYRIL MAUDE, CHAIRMAN.

comes begging for a loan or a lift from one of us. Unemployed? Yes, in these days we hear a great deal about unemployment and about Socialism. No, don't be afraid, I am not here to make a political speech or trespass on your patience by wearying you with my views on politics. Besides, I mustn't forget that there up above is a gallery, and *without* a grille. I do not propose to go into the question as to which is the cause of which, whether it is unemployment which brings Socialism into prominence, or Socialism which creates unemployment; in a word, which is the head and which is the tail of the serpent which encircles us and which many think is squeezing the life out of us as a nation. It is not to discuss economic problems, the governing of a people by the State, that I have managed to do what people call *get on*, but in getting on we have learnt all too well all the wants, difficulties, and dangers of our less successful brothers and sisters. Over and over again with a monotony that is painful do we see men and women through absolutely no fault of their own forced to sit idle for months and months—men and women who have made money, who have got accustomed to spending it. Suddenly idle—no money coming in, no means of making any, other people dependent on them. In a profession so overcrowded as the stage I do not dare to think how many such there are; but here we differ from the out-of-work of other states we do not speak of being unemployed—a confession of failure. If acting teaches nothing else, it teaches the value of self-confidence. As you advance to middle age you get accustomed to putting a good face on a bad case. No, when times are bad, when work is scarce, we only say to the outside world we are resting. Resting—there is splendid pluck in that expression. Resting, we tell the world, when really we are eating our poor hearts out for the work that does not come. Resting—the bitter irony of the word as many poor fellows have to use it. Help us to dig these poor chaps out of *their* trouble, and the holes they leave behind them will be the graves in which you will bury your own. Perhaps almost too much light has been thrown on the stage artifices during the last twenty-five years, and stage tricks and devices which pleased and mystified our fathers have been cleared up, taken to pieces, and made as plain as daylight. On the other hand, however, no one believes now that life behind the scenes is one long orgy of champagne and idle luxury. Very few people believe that we put on plays without any trouble at all, or that a business which involves such great financial risks as our does can be carried on without any work during the daytime; but there is one belief which I fancy will always be difficult to break down, and that is, that the members of our calling are absolutely thriftless and careless about money matters, and that they take no thought in any possible way for the morrow. Thriftless! Have you ever tried, gentlemen, to be thrifty with a wife and family on 25s. a week. Members of any other class may break down through ill-health, through competition, through a hundred and one difficulties that beset the paths of all; but, no, the actor's failure must be through thriftlessness; they do not take into consideration the awful struggle to get work, the enormous overcrowding, the wretched salaries paid to the great majority. Year by year the struggle to keep their heads above water becomes more and more difficult, and it is just when all seems hopeless and when they feel inclined to say "What is the good of trying at all," that the Actors' Benevolent Fund is able to step in and by a gift or a loan make life possible and even hopeful again. As Englishmen we pride ourselves on our love of fair play; pluck and perseverance are as much thought of as ever, thank God! I am pleading to-night for a body of men and women who when they were young and vigorous started full of courage, full of belief in their powers, and in their own ultimate victory to run in the Marathon race of our profession. Gentlemen, you who have stood by and watched the race, you the audience who have at different times applauded their efforts, you know how heavy the track has been, you know the difficulties they have had to face; their powers of endurance have been tried to the uttermost. The very encouragement they have received—pats on the back, so to speak, have nearly done for them. Absurd flattery and scathing criticism alternately have elated and oppressed them, but at last they near the goal. A bad time comes, illness, what not, they fall to rise again, then fall once more, and as they lie so near and yet so far from what they have promised themselves, so very far from what their mothers and admiring friends felt so sure would be their glorious fates, as they lie there fainting and hopeless, this fund of ours comes like some succouring angel and puts within their grasp power to go on once more and fight on; fight for their homes, their children; fight to take their places as good strong men and women in the terrible race they undertook in the pride of their youth and strength, before they realised all the danger and difficulties that must inevitably beset their paths; they, poor souls who, once upon a time each thought they would be Wyndhams, Trees, or Alexanders, the Dorandos of the race. They are unemployed, eating their hearts out, hoping, waiting, watching, but come with me and you shall see them. Spend an hour or so at the offices of the Actors' Benevolent Fund; I wish I could take you round there and let you see the little daily procession. Could you but see them for yourselves, pity would be so great no words of mine would be needed to enlist your help. That old fellow there who used to make you laugh so—is it his fault that rheumatism contracted on a draughty stage has laid him low?—you recognise him, how he used to cheer you up after an unsuccessful day of worry in the city. By gad, sir, I should have to stop you from running after him down the street and begging him to accept even more help than the fund can at present afford. That little woman there with the grey hair and sad, worn face; ah! you remember her even better than the old fellow. She alive still? Poor! Starving! Disaster, illness, and old age have done their work. That small boy—what a white, wizen little face. Heaven forbid that your little chap or mine should look like that. The son of an actor too ill to come himself. Let that little chap go back empty handed! Gentlemen, there are some things one prays one may never be forced to do, and to refuse a little child who comes to you for help is one of them. Charity tempered by justice all the time, not justice tempered by charity, and at this time of year, when all that is generous-hearted in man is uppermost, Christmas-time, I beg of your greatest mercy and kindness, take no notice of the Pharisee who passes by, merely priding himself on never entering a theatre; but think kindly and tenderly of those broken men and women who have tried in the past to do their best in the state of life into which who among us can say God did not call them. Sometimes it is said of us by our enemies that we are a useless folk, that we fulfil no useful purpose in the State, that we exist only to give, only for the sake of enjoyment of other people. Let them say so. For myself I ask for no greater post. It is a fine one. To bring romance into the dull lives—visions of love to the unloved—interests to the monotonous—to cheer the tired ones—to give relief to the worried—to widen the sympathy of men and women with types alien to their own—in a word, to add not only to the gaiety of nations, but to the kindly sympathy and understanding between men and women—the *entente cordiale* of humanity. What more can you want? Surely the part her actor people play in the life of the State is no mean one; is one which, seeing the weariness and the greyness of many people's lives, should have their gratitude. But gratitude is a shy grower. Will you allow me to tell you a story. Once to an hotel came a millionaire, a man who had everything that money could give him. To the same hotel the same day came a doctor—overworked, underpaid—a man who had been ordered complete rest and who had with difficulty snatched a precious fortnight from his busy life to take a much-needed holiday. Each went their separate ways; they did not meet. The hotel was large for one thing, and the millionaire stopped in his own apartments—the doctor lived with the common herd below. One day the millinaire was at dinner, a fish bone stuck in his throat, he choked, grew purple in the face, the fish bone was immovable. He felt the hand of death upon him, the life that he loved withdrawing from him. Someone remembered the doctor. Luckily he was near at hand—he came into the millionaire's sitting-room—he attacked the bone—he saved the millionaire's life. The millionaire's gratitude was enormous—gigantic—colossal. "My dear fellow, what can I possibly do to show you my gratitude. Ask me anything and I will give it; no fee can possibly be too large to ask." But the doctor, seeing how the excitement and strain had told on him, gave him a soothing draught to make him sleep, and said they could discuss terms another time. "Come to my room to-morrow, come early," said the still grateful millionaire. So the next day the doctor went. He found the millionaire, but not the gratitude: that had all evaporated in the night. "Thanks, yes, I feel quite myself again; an absurd thing to happen, don't you know, and, by the way, *what* do I owe you for the little service you rendered me last night?" "A trifle, sir," said the doctor, drily, "I only ask for half the fee you felt inclined to give me when the bone was still in your throat." Often you have felt, after being cheered or deeply moved by some piece of acting in the past, a great feeling of gratitude to the man or woman who had made you feel so moved. If the next day you had heard they were in distress you would have thought no sum too great, no purse too full to give them. The bone was in your throat. Gentlemen, all I ask you to give me for my poor struggling, helpless, and in some cases hopeless, brothers and sisters of the stage is just half what you would have felt inclined to give when the bone was sticking in your throat.

ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND DINNER
AT WHITEHALL ROOMS, HOTEL METROPOLE, ON DECEMBER 13TH, 1908.

[*Photo by J. Jacks and Co.*

Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM, in submitting the toast of "The Drama," said: An enormous subject has been rashly committed to my charge—no less than the Drama. I suppose the idea was that as I have responded to the toast before, I ought by this time to be competent to propose it. That does not follow. The coy respondent does not necessarily make a dashing petitioner. However, it is to Sutro to whom is allotted the proud duty of answering for the wayward muse. It is he who takes her under his wing. I merely place her there. And, after all, what a theme I present to him. A theme wide as the earth, deep as the roots of Being, enduring as Time itself. All humanity is drama: so I'm giving Sutro humanity itself. If, however, in thus giving, I give Sutro something to play with, what will happen if I anticipate some of Sutro's ideas? All plots of plays, we are told, have been used up, and so perhaps, all the fine things one can say about the Drama in general are used up too. If it should turn out so, will Sutro hate me with the undying hatred of the unconscious plagiarist? or will he accept the situation in the spirit of benignant philosophy and attribute the accident to our not having freely and frankly consulted one another beforehand? That is what we ought to have done. I really think that the proposer and the respondent in such parts as these should each regard himself as trustee of his ideas for the other. Each should deliver to the other an abstract of what he means to say, and then, in friendly negotiation and conference, duplication of views could be provided against. Stop! On second thoughts, no—it wouldn't work. Especially in our case. An awkwardness would arise. To set a professional representative of the theatre to glorify the Drama in the person of one who so successfully contributes to it would not be treating you gentlemen fairly. You would never know whether the respondent whilst saying pleasant things has his eye on the proposer for a part in his next drama, or whether the proposer in his flatteries was trying to wheedle a play out of the respondent. And, once let this suspicion run riot, would you not begin to fear that there was no sincerity in either of us, and we should shortly be imitating the touching performances of a pair of great English historians—

"When, ladling briskly from adjacent tubs,
Stubbs buttered Freeman, Freeman buttered Stubbs."

Strictly speaking, some sympathetic stranger ought

to be making the advances I am now making. The laity knows so well our many virtues, whilst we of the dramatic profession know only each other's imperfections. The author of *The Belle of New York* bids one of his singers tunefully and condescendingly observe, "You cannot be altogether like us; but try to be as like as you can." So it occurs to me that perhaps, though not a layman, I might try to be as like a layman as I can in proposing this toast. Let me forget that for thirty-four years I have been discharging the function of that gifted but arrogant being, the actor-manager. Let me fancy myself quite an ordinary being—it may not require a violent exercise of the imagination—who desires to approach the Temple of the Drama with becoming reverence—a humble votary standing barefooted in its precincts—performing his simple acts of adoration in all purity and innocence of heart. Now, the first thing that must strike such an intelligent outsider is the universality of the Drama—its inherence in all things human from the cradle to the grave. From the first wail of the infant when it salutes the light of day "with no language but a cry," to that other terminal hour when to dying eyes "the casement slowly grows in glimmering square," the Drama is always with us. As soon as the little doll comes into its little career, the child assumes managerial cares and responsibilities. She talks to it or at it or round it, and from this the step is an easy one to extemporised conversation between the child and its playmates—the convention of a story or a plot to which the conversation relates: in fact, a little drama introduced by the familiar "let's pretend." Then our infant actress craves for a *mise-en-scène*—she must have decorative accessories—she dresses up everything she can lay her hands on—the doll must have its doll-house, with its doll furniture and doll dresses. In fact, the child now becomes a manager, with an inborn determination to produce all her plays regardless of expense, for, happy little child, it already has its syndicate. And so in the little world of the nursery, we arrive at exactly the same product, by the same successive process—plot, cast, dialogue, dresses, and scenery—as in the world of professional theatrical art. Now examine life at the other terminus. How many of the last words of the great ones of the earth—words spoken at a time when, if ever, man reveals himself—betray a curious fancy for bringing down the curtain with an effective situation—a consciousness that what is past is something played—"a comedy to those that think—a tragedy to those who feel." Hearken to dying Augustus, "The comedy is over—plaudite"; or to the sublimely self-pitying Nero as his curtain is slowly falling, "What an artist dies in me"; or those sad whimsical verses of the dying Hadrian to his soul—so long his guest and comrade—for whom at last the hour had come to go forth, a pale, puny, shivering, unclad and unhoused derelect, into the cheerless void alone. Don't you see now that from the very beginning to the very end of life you cannot escape the Drama. Now I think that I have played the intelligent outsider long enough. Let me drop him and speak in *propria personæ*—like the man who gallantly begins a speech in a foreign tongue and finds it more convenient to finish in his own. I don't want the potential playgoer to begin reflecting on the universality of the Drama too much, till he begins to think to himself: If I can so readily and economically find the Drama everywhere, why should I go at my own cost to see it: if the theatre of the world is so profusely papered, why should I pay for a stall in any other? Let us, in case of accidents, drop the subject, and diagnose, to quote the *Daily Telegraph*, the "Drama of the Day." Take it from me, it is in a very healthy condition. Of course, it has had its infantile convulsions and occasional infections, but has never suffered from general paralysis or senile decay. Its greatest danger has been from the alternation of contradictory treatments. At one time unjustly reviled and oppressed, at another unduly pampered and caressed; yesterday put under a shower-bath of cold water, to-day coddled comfortably in wool by others. It has survived both, and is now left to itself to work out its own salvation, which is all it wants, or ought to want. It has excited innumerable controversies—whether or not Art is degraded, and the artist effaced by the actor-manager; whether there should or should not be a National Theatre; whether there should or should not be a Censor—questions almost as old as Queen Anne, though, unhappily, not so dead—whether beauty unadorned is beauty most—I'm not alluding to living statuary or realistic dances—finally, whether the stage panders to the passions or purifies them; whether it is a Circe, who, by enchanted potions imprisons the soul of man in unworthy shackles, or an angel who, with heavenly keys, unlocks the prison door, sets the chained spirit free, and leads him forth into the blessed sunlight. All these have left the Drama vigorous and unimpaired. Nothing, indeed, now disturbs its serenity except, perhaps, the size of the matinée hat, the length of the music-hall sketch, and the price of the water we don't consume. I claim that the glorious constitution which the English Theatre has inherited from its forefathers has been well maintained: its eye is not yet dimmed nor its natural force abated. And this will always be so long as its exponents are true to themselves, to their high calling, and to that world of stored fancy and creative thought which is at once our inheritance, our treasure house, our empire, and our home.

Mr. Alfred Sutro, in responding for the Drama, said: In England the Drama is the Cinderella of the Arts Her beautiful sisters, Fiction and Poetry, are forever thrusting her back into the kitchen, and denying her title to the family name of Literature. She has a Lord Chamberlain sitting on her chest, and refusing to allow her to stir beyond certain marks he has chalked on the floor. The poor thing may be as vulgar as she chooses; but if with burning earnestness she ventures into certain mysteries of life, she is met by an indignant Reader of Plays, who promptly slaps her face and sends her packing. Critic-doctors are forever meeting in consultation: they feel her pulse, shake their heads, and declare she is very ill, very ill, indeed, and not likely to recover. No tourist returns from foreign parts without proclaiming the superiority of the plays he has seen over the home-grown article; he has chuckled at the light-hearted indecency of the French vaudeville, but hurriedly sweeps his womankind out of the London theatre should the English dramatist have omitted to provide the heroine with a wedding ring. One section of the public—the elect, the ultra-intellectual, the superior—regards the theatre with unconcealed scorn, and almost boasts of never crossing its threshold. To another it is a kind of hilarious sandwich between dinner and supper. And there is a third that declares the only hope lies in producing the classics—that the dramatists of the day have sufficiently proved their inability to write works of real merit. And this in a year that has seen three great modern plays: *The Thunderbolt*, Granville Barker's *Waste*, and *What Every Woman Knows!* I assisted recently at a meeting, not unconnected with the theatre, at which one aged gentleman after another rose and protested, with rheumatic enthusiasm, that what they wanted was Shakespeare, and more Shakespeare, and still more Shakespeare. Does *our* love for Shakespeare, *our* enthusiasm, *our* reverence, need any spur? I fancy not. He occupies, in the Drama of all the World, his own proud place; but if, from that splendid throne, he could speak to us now, I imagine he would say "You show your love for me best by fostering your modern drama, tending it, caring for it, adding link to link, so that, in the time to come, it may produce a new Shakespeare of its own. For, in truth, who speaks of Drama speaks of what is modern. It is a vital force—fluid, actual, a thing of the day. The dramatist runs hotfoot by the side of the thinker, and throws the dawning thought on the screen for all to see. Hauptmann's *Weavers* thrills us and grips us more than the *Oresteia*—we know the hunger of workless men, but are insensible to the anger of hidden gods. Let us clear our minds of cant, and not be too eager to take the classics down from their honoured shelf. Shakespeare is eternal, and will be played as long as actors have ambition and audiences a sense of beauty. But he is, above all, the mighty background, the rallyground, that shall attract, inspire, and influence all that is best in modern work. And what shall this modern work be—what its aim, its direction? There are critics as well as authors who affect to despise the crowd. I hold they are wrong. The dramatist who would be of service to his generation must not wander too far from the common thoughts of common people, from mere simple human feelings, passions, and desires—for, in ultimate analysis, it is the common people who are right, and nearest to life. Genius has its own laws; but, then, genius is rare outside the columns of publishers' circulars: dullness is no proof of it, nor empty benches its unvarying accompaniment. It is so easy to be unconventional, eccentric, abnormal—so easy to win the frantic applause of the few to whom everyday life seems merely ugly and stupid! It is so easy to end a play with suicide—to let the curtain fall on four gloomy men bringing up the damp body of the defunct heroine on a shutter! But the people who do not kill themselves—who live to the end their patient life of toil and suffering—these are not satisfied. And whom do we write for, we writers of plays, if not that great, silent crowd? "Commercial" is the critic's favourite adjective for the men who aim at the wide appeal. Then are priests, statesmen, orators, commercial, too—every man who wishes his voice to be heard, to let it travel, outside mere clique and coterie. Every thoughtful play that attracts the people helps to bring the theatre more into focus with everyday life; is a step in its advancement; makes the path easier for its successor. There are men upon whom the sense of their cleverness weighs too heavily—they imagine themselves head and shoulders above the crowd. Viewed from some little eminence the difference is not perceptible. And I imagine they also do their duty who humbly serve and try to widen the influence of the art they love so well. I have spoken of three great plays—no mean record for one year! But, indeed, the English drama needs no apologist, nor its close collaborators, the actors. English people rarely go into raptures over English acting; but I believe that we could send out more than one company, without very seriously draining our resources, that would be greeted with overwhelming and delirious praise by the critics of Sicily. English people rarely go into raptures over English plays. I have heard it said that the Drama would be in a splendid condition if there were no authors. Be that as it may, the future is hopeful. We are to have a National Theatre; there are Afternoon Theatres, Little Theatres, all kinds of admirable new societies springing up to produce new plays and help new authors; and there is, I believe, a steady desire among the playwrights of this country to do the best work that is in them. And there is, above all—and how shall one speak of the Drama without mentioning him?—there is our great leader, Arthur Pinero, of whom any country might be proud; and not the least valuable element in the future is the work that he still will give us.

Mr. Charles Cruikshanks, in the absence of Mr. Edward Terry, briefly replied for the Fund. He desired to say on behalf of Mr. Terry that he hoped there would be a generous response to the Chairmans' appeal. Mr. Terry wished to be put down for his usual subscription. Mr. Cruikshanks went on to state that he himself had been for many years a member of the committee of the Fund. He thanked the assembled company for coming there that evening and for their generous donations. He thought that the profession owed a debt of deepest gratitude to the managers, who had always been the strongest supporters of the Fund. As far as the rank and file were concerned, they had probably done their best. He concluded by announcing that the subscriptions amounted to upwards of £1,100.

General Baden Powell, in proposing a vote of thanks to Mr. Maude, made the following remarks: Cyril Maude has the admiration of both the profession and the public as an actor; but he has something more than that in their affection for him as a true "Single Heart," and as a gentleman in the best sense of the word. The temporary rebuff of Fortune which he met with when a neighbouring establishment fell upon his theatre nearly brought him within the scope of the charity for which he is working to-day. He had the warmest sympathy of the whole of England in that catastrophe: he has since had their constant admiration of his pluck in the hard struggle to set himself up again. He now knows, from experience, the bitterness of bad times and the value of a glint of sunshine in the cloud. He is therefore able all the better to minister to the wants of others who seek for sunshine when things around are dark: he is a doctor who knows the pain as well as the cure. He has now the heartfelt congratulations of us all on his successful re-establishment, and our cordial wishes for further success and a long career of usefulness to the profession.

The Chairman, in very few words, acknowledged General Baden Powell's compliments, stating that his heart was too full to permit of his making a speech.

The toast of "The Artists" was next submitted by the Chairman, who thanked those ladies and gentlemen very cordially for their kind services. Mr. J. H. Maunder returned thanks on their behalf.

The Chairman, in bringing the proceedings to a close, read a letter from Mr. Terry explaining that gentleman's absence, and expressing his great disappointment at not being able to be present. Mr. Terry hoped that the result of the dinner would be entirely encouraging. The Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland had also communicated his regret at non-attendance. Mr. Maude, in expressing his gratitude for what had been collected at the dinner, remarked that he thought the Actors' Benevolent Fund was entitled to appeal for outside help in view of the help that actors and actresses gave at performances for other charities. During the past two years, in London alone, no less than £12,000 had been obtained by theatrical performances for outside charities. A week ago he had been approached by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, who had asked him to get up a big matinée on behalf of the Davos Home for Consumptives, of which Queen Alexandra was the President. Mr. Collins had promised the use of Drury Lane Theatre for a date in May next, and Sir Charles Wyndham, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and other eminent actors had promised assistance. Lord Balfour had not neglected the wants of the theatrical profession, for it was hoped to provide five or six beds for actors and actresses out of the funds raised at this matinée.

During the evening a capital programme of entertainment was presented, the contributors to it being the Westminster Singers (Messrs. George May, Wilfred Kearton, Bertram Mills, and W. H. Brereton), Miss Esther Palliser, Mr. Marcus Thomson, Miss Carmen Hill, Mr. Robert Radford, Miss Mabel Corran, Miss Hemming, Dr. Byrd-Page, Miss Clara Alexander, Mr. Nelson Jackson, and Mr. Harry Paulton. The discourse by Mr. Paulton on "The Art of Acting" was hugely relished and excellently delivered. Mr. J. H. Maunder proved an able musical director.

A list of donations received at the annual dinner will be found on centre page.

WALKLEY ON SHAW.

Mr. A. B. Walkley's collection of essays, entitled "Drama and Life," which was published by Methuen and Co., is still a delight and a treasure to those who enjoy clear and logical argument, piquant wit, and an individual view of the subjects treated of. One of the most gratifying things about the work is that Mr. Walkley, while an ardent admirer of Mr. Bernard Shaw's talents, is by no means such a slave to the dramatist's "hypnotism" as to accept all he does as satisfactory. For instance, in a notice of *Man and Superman* Mr. Walkley says:—

"When I venture to say that Mr. Shaw is no dramatist I do not mean that he fails to interest and stimulate and amuse us in the theatre. Many of us find him more entertaining than any other living writer for the stage. But that is because he is bound to be an entertaining writer in any art-form—essay or novel or play. All I mean is that when he happens to choose the play as the form in which he shall entertain us there is a certain artistic waste. There is waste, because Mr. Shaw neglects, or more probably is impotent to fulfil, what Pater calls the responsibility of the artist to his material. You forgive the waste for the sake of the pleasure. Nevertheless, in the interests of good drama it is one's duty to be dissatisfied. We want a play that shall be a vehicle for the Shavian philosophy and the Shavian talent, and, at the same time, a perfect play. Shall we ever get it? Probably not, in this imperfect world. We certainly do not get it in *Man and Superman*."

Again, in a notice of *Major Barbara*:—

"Mr. Shaw has become the fashion, and in becoming the fashion he has given way to the besetting sin of the fashionable; he has become a law, or rather a caprice, unto himself. He exaggerates his own perversities, revels in his own weaknesses, parades his own prejudices. And it is all so naïvely done! You are reminded of what Sterne said to the lady. 'Pooh, pooh, ma'am, look at your child there, lolling on the carpet. He shows much that we conceal, but in perfect innocence, my dear ma'am, in perfect innocence.' In perfect innocence Mr. Shaw puts his apology into the mouth of one of the people in *Major Barbara*. 'Andrew, this is not the place for making speeches'; and Andrew replies, 'I know no other way of expressing myself.' Exactly! Here is a dramatist who knows no other way of expressing himself in drama than the essentially undramatic way of speech-making. He never knew any other way, but in his earlier plays he did make an effort to conceal the fact. In his earlier plays there was some pretence of dramatic form, unity, coherence. In *Major Barbara* there is none. His motto is that of his own Andrew Undershaft—'Unashamed.' And the worst of it is, this innocence of Mr. Shaw's, the shameless innocence of the child, is more effective than the wisdom of the serpent. 'Faiblesse qui est une force,' as Professor Bellac says of something else. All the time the innocent Mr. Shaw is taking a mean advantage of playwrights far less guileless than himself. Many of our playwrights have skill, one or two have even thoughts, but unfortunately their skill is wasted on rubbish, and their thoughts are never concerned with things worth thinking about. Now Mr. Shaw has no dramatic skill, has apparently no dramatic instinct, but he is a thinker who from first to last deals with things worth thinking about. And so you turn with relief, nay, with positive joy, from the intellectual commonplaces of the average English playwright to the intellectual eccentricity of Mr. Shaw. Though a dramatist he is not, he is a first-class pleasure-monger. That is why he has become the fashion in a pleasure-seeking world. But one word of warning. He must not abuse his vogue. Amusing as he is, he is perhaps not amusing for quite so long as he supposes. The truth is, he doesn't know when to stop."

Again, dealing with *John Bull's Other Island*, the critic says:—

"The play is a disappointment because of its wilful, perverse disregard of anything like construction. It is written on the 'go-as-you-please' principle, without beginning, middle, or end. People wander in and out casually and say whatever happens to come into Mr. Shaw's head at the moment. A rivulet of 'story' meanders through a meadow of 'Shawisms' and trickles dry long before the curtain descends. There is no reason whatever why the play should end when it does—except that Mr. Shaw has had enough of it. Some of us may perhaps wish he had got tired just a little (say half an act) sooner."

A better-balanced estimate of Mr. Shaw's peculiar genius could hardly have been formed and promulgated.

A DICKENS NIGHT.

A special "Dickens Night" was held in King Edward's Hall, Canonbury Tower, on Thursday evening, Colonel C. E. Dance (the Warden) occupying the chair. Mr. W. Edward Kaye gave dramatic recitals and character sketches from Charles Dickens, which were much appreciated, and appropriate songs were sung by Mr. Robert Anthony and Miss Nina Hare. The musical programme was under the direction of Mr. Lovett King. The following letter, addressed to Mr. R. T. Baines, to whom was entrusted the arrangements for this special occasion, was received from Mr. Bransby Williams, who, being engaged in rehearsing for pantomime at the Prince's Theatre, Bristol, was unable to be present:—

"Prince's Theatre, Bristol, Dec. 12, 1908.

"Dear Mr. Baines,—I am very busy rehearsing pantomime, but just write now, in case I forget when the time comes, to say how much I wish your 'Dickens Night' a big success. I trust you will all spend a real joyous evening, and be good Dickensians. I only wish I could come along to you and have a word with you all

"Convey my heartiest wishes to all. 'May you never want a friend or a bottle to give him,' as Cuttle said, and 'May the wing of Friendship never moult a feather,' as Swiveller said. My last word I would speak through little Tiny Tim, 'May God bless us everyone.'—Yours, Bransby Williams."

Colonel C. E. Dance, the Warden of the Club, occupied the chair, and proposed the toast of "The Memory of Charles Dickens," the toast being drunk in silence.

In an eloquent booklet called "A Chorus of Celebrities," the Board of Management of the Royal Hospital for Incurables, Putney Heath, publish a number of replies from eminent people in answer to a request for 200 words embodying reasons why the hospital should be supported. The list of contributors includes Mr. George Alexander, Madame Albani, Sir Squire Bancroft, Sir Francis C. Burnand, Mr. Ben Davies, Sir W. S. Gilbert, Sir Gilbert Parker, M.P., Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and Mr. Lewis Waller. The essays are accompanied in some instances by interesting drawings.

Salvini, the great Italian tragedian, has expressed the appreciation of the Italian stage of the recent Ristori matinée at His Majesty's. The distinguished actor writes as follows:—"Expounding the sentiments of all the Italian dramatic artists I return heartfelt thanks to Mr. Beerbohm Tree, president, as also the organisers of the memorable performance given for the Adelaid Ristori Memorial Matinée, and to all the kind actresses and courteous actors who took part, giving valid and sympathetic proof of the union that unites the artists of every nation with the noble tie of brotherhood.—Yours, most sincerely, Tommaso Salvini."

THE FOLIES BERGERE, PARIS.

In the City of London Court on Tuesday, before his Honour Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., an action was brought by Messrs. Beyfus and Beyfus, solicitors, 69, Lincoln's Inn Fields, W.C., against Mr. H. Stanley Wescott, stockbroker, 58, Old Broad-street, E.C., to recover £22 12s. for professional services rendered with a view to the purchase of the Folies Bergère, Paris.

Mr. H. J. Turrell appeared for the plaintiffs, and Mr. Jellicoe for the defendant.

In explaining the case, Mr. Turrell stated that the defendant was disputing the plaintiffs' retainer, and he said the plaintiffs must look for their charges to Mr. Alfred Butt, the managing-director of the Palace Theatre, London. As plaintiffs were instructed by the defendant, they did not propose to take that course. The defendant seemed to have acquired an option for the purchase of the Folies Bergère, he being interested with other people. A gentleman named Gluck had an option for the purchase of the house, but it was not in Mr. Gluck's name. Mr. Wescott obtained an introduction to Mr. Alfred Butt, a gentleman of experience in these matters. One day Mr. Butt went down as a guest to Brighton of Mr. Alfred Beyfus, one of the plaintiffs, and there Mr. Beyfus was introduced to the defendant. The defendant said he had an option for the purchase of the Folies Bergère, and produced what he said was a contract for the option. Mr. Beyfus pointed out that the document was worthless in its existing form, and suggested that the defendant should go to Paris and obtain a document which could be much more easily dealt with if the Folies Bergère was to be sold. It was also necessary to have a statement of the figures prepared by accountants of repute, and the plaintiffs introduced Messrs. Chantry and Chantry to the defendant. The defendant employed plaintiffs to prepare such an option which, when signed, would enable Mr. Butt to lay before his directors of the Palace Theatre. This was done by the plaintiffs, who consulted Sir Francis Palmer, a great authority on such matters, and the defendant took the contract with him to Paris. Interviews followed, but the business never matured, and the plaintiffs now asked to be paid their charges.

Mr. Beyfus was called, and repudiated any suggestion that he was employed by Mr. Butt to do the work now sued for. As a matter of fact, Mr. Butt married his (witness's) wife's niece, but he did not see what they had to do with the matter.

Mr. Alfred Butt, managing-director of the Palace Theatre, was also called, and he said he took particular care to see that the work which the plaintiffs has done for the defendant would not be attributed to him. He would have laid the matter before his directors if there had been any reasonable probability of them entertaining it. The Folies Bergère had been offered to a number of people, and several individuals had their prospects of purchasing it. For these reasons he carefully specified he was not to be responsible for any expenses the defendant had been put to. He (Mr. Butt) and the chairman spent a fortnight in Paris in trying to negotiate a purchase of the Folies Bergère, but it did not come off.

For the defence, Mr. Wescott said he had never employed the plaintiffs, and that they had acted all along for Mr. Butt and in Mr. Butt's interests. Plaintiffs did their work at the request of Mr. Butt, with a view to laying the matter before Mr. Butt's directors. The terms upon which the Folies Bergère was to be sold were £60,000 cash and £60,000 with interest, but the purchase did not come off. The clients for whom he was acting paid £1,000 for their option, and that, of course, had been lost by them.

Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., said he must find for the plaintiffs on two items claimed for and they would have the costs of the action when the amount was ascertained.

Miss Katharine Clarke's smart and clever duologue *A Woman's Reputation* will be seen in town again on Monday at the Middlesex, with, of course, Miss Clarke as the Woman.

Miss M. E. Ellis will produce *Cora, a Ballet Girl*, comedy sketch, at the matinée at the Palace, Battersea, on Monday next. Miss Ellis will be supported by Mr. Stanley Robson and Mr. Donald Roy Young.

Mr. Harry J. Crane, who has just finished a tour of *The Prodigal Son*, playing Magnus in Mr. George D. Day's company, will produce at the Shepherd's Bush Empire on Monday a pathetic musical episode, entitled *Truth in Absence*.

Servais Le Roy, Mlle. Talma, and Bosco are due at the Hackney Empire next week. This remarkable trio have developed the art of magic to a wonderful degree, and their tricks are worked to the accompaniment of a constant flow of laughter.

The only music hall left in Brussels is Barrasford and Gibbons' Alhambra, whose programme includes Signor Barbalonga, a fine baritone; Hawkins and his clever dogs; the juggler, Rapoli; the Maximilian Trio; MacBans, the club manipulators; the Arabs, Iben Obed; and the Aramis Quintette of Italian singers.

Miss Enid Erroll, after a successful run with her fantastic dancing episode, *The Magic Vase*, will open on Monday at the London Pavilion, after which engagement she will produce a new and original dramatic dancing episode, *A Moment's Madness*, by J. Alston, which she will run in conjunction with the *Magic Vase*.

Miss Dora Lyric, who has been making an enormous success this week at the Canterbury and other halls, has just purchased two spendid choruses entitled "Don't wear your heart on your coat sleeve" and "What did the papa say?" written by Weston and Barnes and composed by Maurice Scott, the composer of Vesta Tilley's enormous hit, "That's the time a fellow wants his ma."

The tragic death of "Mexican Joe," a travelling conjurer, at Swadlincote, on Nov. 28, was the subject of further inquiry on Wednesday. Evidence taken by the coroner showed that deceased had been identified as Herbert Nottingham Turner, aged 42, of Pontefract. The doctor stated that the thumb of the left hand was cut off as if deceased had raised his hand to defend himself from an assailant. The police had no clue, and the inquest was again adjourned.

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ON THE ROAD, DEC. 21.

An Abandoned Woman.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
An Unwedded Wife.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
At Duty's Call.—Metropole T., Gateshead.
Bourchier, Arthur.—T. R., Portsmouth.
Bulmer, Mr.—Palace T., Birmingham.
Carl Rosa Opera Co.—Victoria Hall, Halifax.
Claudian.—T. R., Blyth.
Compton Comedy Co.—T. R., Leamington.
Conscience of a Judge.—P. O. W., Salford.
Country Girl in London.—T. R., Scarboro'.
Dare-Devil Dorothy.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
D'Oyly Carte.—H. M., Dundee.
Eve of Her Wedding.—St. James's T., Long Eaton.
Eyes of the World.—P. O. W., Grimsby.
Face at the Window.—Star T., Swansea.
Fatal Wedding.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
Fight for a Throne.—Grand T., Byker.
Flag Lieutenant (N.).—T. R., Preston.
Flower Girl.—Theatre Royal, Worthing.
For Love and the King.—H.M.T., Carlisle.
From Shop Girl to Duchess.—New T., Cambridge.
Girl's Cross Roads.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
Girl with the Angel Face.—T. R., Aston.
Her Love Against the World.—O. H., Wakefield.
Her Marriage Vow.—Queen's T., Farnworth.
Horniman's, Miss.—Gaiety T., Manchester.
La Comedie Anglaise.—Malpas and Rushden.
Leah Kleschna.—Grand T., Nelson.
London with the Lid Off.—T. R., Maesteg.
Love of the Princess.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
Lucky 'Liza.—O. H., Londonderry.
Man to Man.—Metropole T., Devonport.
Moody-Manners Opera (A.).—T. R., Dublin.
Moody-Manners (B.).—Woolwich.
New East Lynne.—Alexandra T., Greenock.
Old Folks at Home.—Prince's T., Preston.
Otto, the Outcast.—T. R., Ton-y-pandy.
Peter's Mother.—Portsmouth.
Power of a Wicked Woman.—Gaiety T., Burnley.
Power of the King.—T. R., Merthyr.
Prodigal Parson.—T. R., Ilkeston.
Prodigal Son (Day).—T. R., Bury.
Royal Divorce.—Grand T., Chorley.
Send Him Victorious.—Mountain Ash.
Soldier of France.—Irving T., Seacombe.
Soldier's Honour.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
Sutton & Raynor's Repertoire.—King's, Longsight.
Two Little Drummer Boys.—Pontycymmer.
Village Blacksmith.—Rochdale.
Waltz Dream.—King's T., Glasgow.
Warning to Women.—Lyceum T., Govan.
Way of the World.—T. R., Aldershot.
When it was Dark.—T. R., Cardiff.
Who Is She?—Court T., Wigan.
Why Men Love Women.—T. R., Jarrow.
Wilkie, Allan, & Co.—King's Hall, Ilkley.
Woman Pays, The.—T. R. Rochdale.
Woman Worth Winning.—Hippodrome, Sheerness.
Worst Woman in London.—Grand T., Hartlepool.
£1,000 Reward.—Prince's T., Horwich.

DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL LAW.

BY A. A. STRONG, LL.B. (LOND.), SOLICITOR.

Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—Sir Henry Irving.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

Should prove perfectly invaluable.—*Weekly Sun.*

Furnishes useful information.—*Daily News.*

M. Jules Charmettes, the Anglo-French eccentric, or, as the Press says, the "Harry Lauder in French," direct from the Palace Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, will be at the Tivoli, Manchester, on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Coyle, as usual, will have a large party of relatives and friends to keep up the Yuletide festival, and the guests will include his brother-in-law, Mr. George Gerald, the Parisian music hall agent, and his wife.

At the Albert Theatre, Brighouse, there is a fine display of animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Company this week, including Sleeping Beauty (a beautifully coloured picture), A Son's Crime, Bostock's Jungle, Napoleon and the Sailor, and variety turns are supplied by the Three Coopers and Savile Bradley's company in *Ructions*.

Peterborough Theatre Royal has been leased by Mr. A. D. Vernon to a variety, bioscopic, and dramatic syndicate, who will spend about £300 on interior decorative effects. The house is a very old one, situated in the Broadway within a stone's throw of the new Hippodrome.

The popularity of roller-skating, of which a revival is imminent, depends in an important degree upon the quality of the skate, and for perfection in this department the manufacturers of the Richardson Ball-Bearing Skate Company, of Chicago, are to be recommended. The application of the ball-bearing principle to the roller-skate has been brought to a fine art, and of such quality is the article submitted that it is little wonder that Richardson skates have held all world's records for twenty-three years and that all the prominent skaters in America use them. An artistically printed booklet, giving examples of their work and containing numerous testimonials, may be obtained on application to the head office, Wells-street, Chicago.

The Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Leigh, was opened on Monday afternoon to a crowded house, the Mayor (Mr. W. Harrison), aldermen, and councilors being present. Mr. W. Benson announced the opening in a few well-chosen words, and a delightful entertainment followed the singing of the National Anthem. The Elliotts-Savonas, a wonderful combination of clever instrumentalists, evoked the heartiest possible applause; the Lauri Brothers, refined acrobats, went through some astonishing feats; Jolly Johnny Walker, comedian, was well received for his funny songs and patter; Miss May Geraldine is a dainty comedienne and dancer; and Kyoto, Japanese contortionist and comedy juggler, proved a huge success. The Four Sisters Netherland, singers and barefoot dancers, gave a pleasant entertainment, and the Bioscope concluded.

The chief item at the New Brighton Winter Gardens is the appearance of Miss Agnes Molteno, who sings delightfully, and presents a beautiful series of living tableaux depicting "An Old-time Story; or, a Dolly and a Coach." The mounting and stage arrangements are admirable. Miss Molteno is ably assisted by Mr. J. S. Edwards and Little Dolly Mr. Harry Wright is an immense favourite with his extempore vocalism, and Mr. Leslie P. Paget proves himself a fine character actor, his Dan'l Peggotty and Fagin being fine studies. Mr. Billy Dewey, a coloured artist, is a good singer and first-rate dancer; Carello gives a remarkably clever foot-juggling performance, which is received with much applause; Miss Jessie Beach whistles charmingly; Mr. Cliff Carter is a quietly effective comedian; and the animated pictures are, as usual, of the most instructive and entertaining kind. The new conductor, Mr. Parsons, has made a decided success.

The Awards. The three interim Awards and the final Award, corrected and revised by George Ranken Askwith, Esq., the official arbitrator appointed in the Music Hall Dispute, may be had in pamphlet form at "The Era" Offices. Copy, including postage, three-half-pence. Address: The Publisher, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

"THE ERA" NEWSPAPER.

Notice to Contributors.

All communications intended for publication should be sent to "THE EDITOR," and be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address, not necessarily for insertion, but as a guarantee of good faith.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MSS., nor to return any Contribution unaccompanied by a stamped and directed envelope.

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Advertisements should reach the Office early in the week, and not later than Thursday, 7 p.m. Remittances, payable to "THE ERA," LTD., and crossed Lloyd's Bank.

Communications.

Business Communications should be addressed to The MANAGER,
"THE ERA" BUILDINGS,
5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C.
(two doors off Wellington-street).
Telegrams, "The Era, London." Telephones, 4747 and 1433. Central.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

[We cannot undertake to answer the inquiries of correspondents by post. In all letters names and addresses must be given as a guarantee of good faith. Initials only or pseudonyms will be used in the replies if so desired.]

J. P. KENNEDY.—*Pat Feeney died May 13, 1889, at the age of thirty-eight.*

PUZZLED.—(1) *You can register a title at Stationers' Hall, but you get no copyright in it. You can obtain a property in it by user. See Strong's "Dramatic Copyright," published at this office (3s. 6d.).* (2) *Yes, unless the registered owner can show that he has acquired the sole right to the title by user.*

A. A.—*We have no record of the production of the comedy in London. Why not put your question direct to Mme. Réjane? We know of no adaptation.*

DOUGLAS BLAIR.—*No. The lady had to give up important singing parts before the production you mention, which has no rôle suited to her present capacity. She is now restricted to comic old women.*

G. R. WELLS.—*As the company does not advertise in the professional papers, we are unable to inform you. A letter addressed to T. R., Bristol, might reach them if the envelope is endorsed "Please forward."*

B. ABRAHAMS.—"*The voices of men contain three registers, viz., the chest voice ('voce di petto'); the head voice ('voce di testa'); and a third, which, as being forced or non-natural, is called by the Italians and French 'falsetto' or 'fauset,' or false voice. The male counter-tenor or alto voice is almost entirely false.*" *This is an authoritative quotation from the late John Hullah, and therefore you may be certain that the falsetto cannot be natural in a man. It is, however, used very artistically, both by tenors and baritones.*

ARTHUR WILLIAMS.—Striking the Hour; or, Firematch the Trooper, *by W. H. Pitt, was produced by Mr. Morris Abrahams at the City of London Theatre on May 20, 1867, with the following cast:—Firematch, Mr. Tom Mead; Sir Francis Witton, Mr. H. Vivash; Wilford Fielding (afterwards Lord Murray), Mr. J. Robertson; Little Maud, Miss Saunders; Roderick, Mr. W. Spencer; Maud Witton, grown to womanhood and known as Marcelline, Miss Jenny Grainger; Roland Kenward, Mr. J. Gardner; Lord Hay, Mr. R. Harrison; Ninno Nimmo, Mr. Bannister; Corporal Cannonball Mr. W. Archer; Seriah, Miss Fitzgerald; and Molly, Miss Clara Griffiths.*

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following Ladies and Gentlemen:—

Georgina Hamilton—Saturday, Dec. 19.
A. B. Mackay—Sunday, Dec. 20.
Letty Lind—Monday, Dec. 21.
Laurence Irving—Monday, Dec. 21.
Thomas E. Marshall—Monday, Dec. 21.
George Fuller—Tuesday, Dec. 22.
Fanny Robina—Tuesday, Dec. 22.
Alfred B. Cross—Tuesday, Dec. 22.
Billie Bint—Tuesday, Dec. 22.
Alicia Frohman—Wednesday, Dec. 23.
Marion Turner—Thursday, Dec. 24.
Brandon Thomas—Friday, Dec. 25.
Carlotta Anson—Friday, Dec. 25.
J. Brunelle Harvey—Friday, Dec. 25.

DEATHS OF THE MONTH.

Nov. 2. Charlotte Beatrice Cooton (Beatrice Spence), aged 44.
" 2. Manfred Rose.
" 4. Annie Tomkinson, aged 57.
" 4. Fred Osterstock (Eric Forth).
" 5. Mrs. Hal Milton, aged 21.
" 5. Alesandro Romilli.
" 9. Madoline Marie Keith Hayden, aged 24.
" 9. William Arthur Simmons (Little Simmy).
" 10. Frederic Topham, aged 50.
" 11. Mme. Favart, aged 75.
" 12. Arthur Lupino, aged 44.
" 12. Gertrude Lovel (Mrs. H. A. Kennedy), aged 40.
" 14. J. W. Beckwith.
" 14. Lambert Cory-Thomas.
" 14. Hannah Louisa Weight, aged 56.
" 15. Katti Lanner, aged 80.
" 15. Harriett Ann Palmer (Mrs. A. P. Boswell), aged 52.
" 16. Ethel Catherine Martin Lichtenstein.
" 17. Sydney Carl Keats, aged 24.
" 17. Mrs. Alex. Henderson (Lydia Thompson).
" 17. Edward Mosedale, aged 70.
" 20. Harry Fischer.
" 20. Mrs. Gordon (Miss Ada Wilson.)
" 21. Henry Perkins Price.
" 22. Frank Cariyon, aged 36.
" 23. Annie Alpha Barker.
" 23. Herbert Thomas Lees, aged 27.
" 24. Ryton Hoare, aged 24.
" 25. Mrs. Harry J. Crane.
" 26. Jack Hazlehurst, aged 19.
" 28. Sydney Lester Howard.
" 28. George Macmahon.
" 29. Harry Kilburn, aged 42.
" 30. Cissie Kemp, aged half-hour.

INDISPENSABLE! Rayne's "Pocket Date Book." Contents: Map (19in. by 16in.), showing the distance betwixt the various music halls at a glance. Will tell if one hall is within the barring radius of the other, thus saving fears, worry, and anxiety. All about artists' luggage, list of clubs, information about stamping contracts, foreign money table, London music halls and theatres, their telephone numbers, list of brougham proprietors, list and address of photographers, size of theatrical printing paper, names and addresses of theatrical railway managers, &c. Price 1s., post free. The proceeds from the sale will be divided equally amongst the two great charities of the dramatic and musical professions, the Actors' Benevolent Fund and the Music Hall Home Fund. "THE ERA" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a **Birth**, a **Marriage**, or a **Death**, or an "**In Memoriam**" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is **One Shilling and Sixpence.**

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

BIRTHS.

GADSDEN.—Dec. 12, at Argyle House, Manor-road, Folkestone, the wife of Lionel Gadsden, of a daughter.

HERSEE.—On Dec. 13, at 13, Pease-street, Eastbourne, Darlington, to Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Hersee, a son. Both doing well.

KENT.—Dec. 11, at 33, Brunswick-road, Gravesend, the wife of Wal Kent, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

GUNN—TITCHENER.—On Nov. 21, at the Afghan Memorial Church, Colaba, Bombay, John Alexander Gunn to Ada Lilian, youngest daughter of the late Joseph Titchener, St. Leonards-on-Sea.

DEATHS.

BAILY.—On Dec. 14, 1908, Harrington Baily, at 6, Southdown-road, Wimbledon, after a long illness.

BRULL.—Dec. 9, at 37, Elmsdale-road, Walthamstow, Joseph (Pepi) Brull, aged thirty-six, after a long and painful illness, of consumption.

FLORENCE.—Dec. 11, at Retford, Tom Florence, beloved husband of Polly Florence, after a long and serious illness.

HEATH.—Dec. 16, at his residence in Teignmouth-road, Cricklewood, Frank Heath, hon. treasurer, Music Hall Sick Fund, aged 52.

TASKER.—On Dec. 14, 1908, at 9, King-street, Covent Garden, William Tasker (Edgar Lee), age 58, who left his dear wife and two sons. "It was good to know him."

WATSON.—At Bedwellty Union Infirmary, Tredegar, on Dec. 12, "Paddy" Watson, comedian and circus clown, aged 62.

IN MEMORIAM.

DOUBLEDAY.—Caroline Maud Doubleday (Carola Darrell). In loving memory of our dear Carola, who died in her seventeenth year, Dec. 18, 1907. Mourned by her heart-broken mother, sisters, and brother.

LISTON.—In loving memory of Andrew Liston (Andy), who died Dec. 19, 1905. Never forgotten by his wife, MABEL LISTON.

SHOT ON THE STAGE.

At Bow-street, before Mr. Marsham, on Wednesday, Clementini Dolcini was charged, on remand, with the manslaughter of a young man named Herbert Thomas Lee, who was shot in the head whilst taking part in a shooting performance called "The William Tell Act" at the Middlesex.

Mr. J. L. Graydon stated that when he questioned Madame Clementini respecting her performance she assured him that there was no danger. So far as witness knew, she did not practise in the hall before she appeared in public, and he had never known any other rifle-shooting expert to do so. After the accident witness saw the accused pacing up and down the stage in a very distressed state. She said, "What have I done? I do not know what has happened. Something must have gone wrong."

Mr. Philip Rutland, who watched the proceedings on behalf of Mr. Graydon, said he wished to draw attention to certain clauses of Madame Clementini's contract to appear at the Middlesex, and Mr. Bodkin remarked that the effect of them was that nothing dangerous was to be done.

Mr. Graydon further pointed out that there was nothing on the bills or programmes suggesting that the performance was of a sensationally dangerous character.

Charles Webster, a stage hand at the Middlesex, said that between the second and third shots Lee moved away from the screen in front of which he was standing, and then, seeing that the ball was not broken, he took up his position again.

Stephano Comoni, who had been employed as property man by the accused, said it was not correct to say that she generally missed the first shot at the ball in order to attract the attention of the public. She sometimes called out "Ready!" before she shot, but witness did not hear her do so on the evening in question.

The hearing was again adjourned.

THE GRANVILLE.

Some excellent turns are in the bill this week at this cosy little Walham Green hall, and the large and appreciative audiences that assemble twice nightly form eloquent proof of the ability of Mr. Robert W. Duce as a successful music hall caterer. At the head of the programme comes Carrie Laurie's kindergarten, in the comedy sketch *A Model School*, and right well do these clever little juveniles acquit themselves. The house is loth to lose them, and their painstaking teacher. Mr. Fred Elton, in a piano scena, *On Board an Ocean Liner*, provides a most agreeable turn, and his rendering of "When the leaves are tinged with gold" is tastefully artistic. Miss Mabel Hinds contributes two welcome numbers, and her descriptive song, "A woman's way," is decidedly good. Dashing Chummie la Mara is, as usual, an immense favourite here, and her latest hit, "Harrigan—that's me," is decidedly a good song well sung; Miss Adey Spencer plays and sings cheerfully, and Dot Hardy nightly increases her reputation as a low-comedy artist, her singing of "When father gets his old-age pension" being delightfully naïve, and—to use a George Robeyism—terse.

The Norman and Leonard Trio, in a musical incident, *The Itinerant*, provide the sweetest of melodies on the harp and violin, and this is an artistic turn worth anyone's while going a long way to hear, and the Walham Greenites emphasised their approval in no uncertain fashion.

Mr. Ted E. Box is an eccentric comedian, bubbling over with quaint ideas, and his whistling powers are little short of marvellous. As a sifflеur, indeed, he takes his place in the very front rank. *Christmas Eve* is a touching little sketch, acted by Irve Hayman as a tender-hearted burglar and little Marie Montague as a particularly winsome and innocent kiddy. Some very good pictures on the Cinematograph bring to a close a pleasant evening's entertainment, to which Kisbey also contributes.

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Grey, Mr. Heaton
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Bill matter must be sent in fourteen days before opening, in accordance with Clause 13, same to be sent to Manager, Queen's. Artists please note rehearsal must be attended Mondays, 1.0 o'clock, according to contract.

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Dec. 21, Jules Garrison and Co., Tom Costello, Ethel Arundell, Hayes and Watson, Sisters Gladwin, Spry and Austin, Mona Garrick, Frank Jester, Marie Mestile, The Gilberts, Frank Seeley, Ford and Ford, Vincent Kelway and Co., Chandos Stretton, Katherine Clarke and Co., Chas. Baldwin and Co., and new Bioscope. Doors open at 6.45; Saturdays and Holidays One Hour Earlier. A Change Every Week.

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At 6.40 and 9.10.
T. E. Dunville in new songs, Celest, Conneel and Mills, The Markies in "From Pavement to Stage," Hilda Jacobsen, Steve Bartle, Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, Walter Wade, Doly Harmer, and Beaumont Collins and Co. in "The House of Terror."

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Singer, A. M.	25	0	0
Acland, Alfred D.	21	0	0
Wallis, Thomas	21	0	0
Stuart, Otho	21	0	0
Swathling, Lord	15	15	0
Tree, H. Beerbohm	15	15	0
Moore, Miss Mary	12	10	0
Alexander, Geo.	10	10	0
Balfour of Burleigh, Lord	10	10	0
Bancroft, Sir Squire	10	10	0
Barrie, J. M.	10	10	0
Beit, Otto	10	10	0
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Cayley, Claud	10	10	0
Coutts & Co.	10	10	0
Curzon, Frank	10	10	0
Dimsdale, The Rt. Hon. Sir T. C., Bart.	10	10	0
Emery, Miss Winifred	10	10	0
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Gorringe, Fredk.	10	10	0
Gosford, Mr.	10	0	0
Lafontaine, Rev. H. C., de	10	10	0
Lindley, Miss J.	10	10	0
Pearson, Sir Weetman	10	10	0
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Asche, Oscar	10	0	0
Hamilton, Archibald	10	0	0
Lilford, Lord	10	0	0
Reiss, Julius	10	0	0
Pittar, Parke M.	10	0	0
Spalding, A. F. M.	10	0	0
Tate, Edwin	10	0	0
Westminster, Duke of	10	0	0
Sutro, Alfred	7	7	0
Allen, Tom David	5	5	0
Baker, Laurence J.	5	5	0
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Boucicault, Dion	5	5	0
Carson, Lionel	5	5	0
Cheatley, G. L.	5	5	0
Flett, George	5	5	0
Gilbert, Sir W. S.	5	5	0
Hart, John	5	5	0
Hawkins, Anthony Hope	5	5	0
Heseltine, J. B.	5	5	0
Houghton, G. Boydell	5	5	0
Huntley, G. P.	5	5	0
Jones, Henry Arthur	5	5	0
Kendal, W. H.	5	5	0
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Lyons, Isaac N.	5	5	0
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Meyer, Carl	5	5	0
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Colls, Howard	5	0	0
Cree, Wm.	5	0	0
Curtis, Charles N.	5	0	0
Gilbey, Sir Walter	5	0	0
Harrison, Fredk.	5	0	0
Hayne, Arthur	5	0	0
Irving, H. B.	5	0	0
Lipton, Sir Thos.	5	0	0
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Reiss, Fritz	5	0	0
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Mole, Henry J.	3	3	0
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Thomas, Brandon	3	3	0
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Sutton, J. Bland	2	2	0
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Wright, Huntley	2	2	0
Wright, Rev. C. E. L.	2	2	0
Trower, H. S.	2	0	0
Alkins, O.	1	1	0
Archdale, General Hugh	1	1	0
Archer, William	1	1	0
Avory, Horace, K.C.	1	1	0
Chester, Miss E.	1	1	0
Coats, John	1	1	0
Cooling, J. A.	1	1	0
Cunninghame, Philip	1	1	0
Ellis, Walter	1	1	0
Elmney, Fred	1	1	0
Fernandez, James	1	1	0
Foster, C. B. B.	1	1	0
France, Charles V.	1	1	0
Fraser, E. V.	1	1	0
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IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS AND OTHERS.

Owing to Christmas Day and Boxing Day this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, THE ERA will be Published at Midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

Advertisements intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, DEC. 22, to reach us by First Post on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23. Advertisements may be handed in at the counter until 12.30 noon on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

POST EARLY.

THE ERA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1908.

THE ACTORS' BENEVOLENT FUND.

It is now some twenty-six years since a general meeting of the theatrical profession was held at the Lyceum Theatre on a Thursday afternoon under the presidency of Mr. HENRY IRVING "for the purpose of establishing an Actors' Benevolent Fund." In his opening speech Mr. IRVING explained that the intention was "to found a fund to benefit those followers of the craft to whom Fortune had not been kind." It was, he said, a source of pain to true lovers of the art of acting that its needy followers were so many and their wants so continuous. At the same time, it had ever been a pride and a pleasure to them all that the actor's heart was a big heart and his hand an open one. They must all bear in mind one thing, said Mr. IRVING, that the proposed scheme was not one of charity; it was one of aid—aid of which they might all of them be some time in need. When brother or sister in fortune helped brother or sister in distress, they did not call it charity.

The late Mr. WILSON BARRETT described the methods by which it was proposed to carry on the Fund; the late Mr. MICHAEL GUNN proposed a resolution approving of its establishment; and Mr. BANCROFT, Mr. LIONEL BROUGH, Mr. CRESWICK, Mr. TOOLE, Mr. ROBSON, and Mr. AUGUSTUS HARRIS made speeches in support of the project. The managers of eight London theatres decided to give, whilst in management in London, an annual sum of £100; and thus was formed the nucleus of the fund.

It must have been very pleasant to those who were present at the meeting in 1882, and who also sat down to dinner at the Hotel Metropole last Sunday, to contemplate the splendid success of their plan. Sir SQUIRE BANCROFT, Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM, Mr. BEERBOHM TREE, Mr. GEORGE ALEXANDER, Mr. LIONEL BROUGH, Mr. HARRY PAULTON, Mr. J. D. BEVERIDGE, and Mr. H. J. LOVEDAY, who signed their names at the meeting in 1882, must feel intense satisfaction at the success of the Fund, which, under the able and energetic secretaryship of Mr. C. I. COLTSON, is so full of life and energy. As we have often pointed out, a project for the benefit of the profession never fails when it is taken up, heartily and earnestly, by our leading managers and actors. They have the happy amalgam of imagination, humour, and practicality which ensures the success of an enterprise. Without imagination we cannot conceive plans; without humour it is difficult to avoid waste of energy in friction; and the best intentions are useless without that experience of affairs, of the constant and usual movement of forces, which constitutes the man of business. All three of these qualities were splendidly displayed at the Actors' Benevolent Fund dinner on Sunday. We never remember to have heard post-prandial oratory more free from the besetting sins of that description of eloquence. Mr. CYRIL MAUDE surpassed himself in his speech in proposing "Success to the Fund." As was once said of BURKE, he "wound into his subject like a serpent," strewing epigrams on his way. Then, having put his audience into the best of humours, he touched a deeper and a sadder key. The tale he told was one of simple truth; and one point he made was especially acute. "Members of any other class," said Mr. MAUDE, "may break down through ill-health, through competition, through a hundred and one difficulties that beset the paths of all, but no—the actor's failure must be through thriftlessness; they do not take into consideration the awful struggle to get work, the enormous overcrowding, the wretched salaries paid to the great majority." The estimate which outsiders form of the actor's income is erroneous, because the public do not take into consideration the amount which must annually be deducted for periods of unemployment. When we remember that all actors and actresses have to face these resting periods; and when we take into consideration the small salaries that are paid to the rank and file, it is wonderful that the latter manage to live at all, without periodical applications for assistance. For the difficulty of thrift is not the same at all levels. To save, during nine months of employment on a salary of thirty shillings a week, enough to live on in repose for the other three is an heroic achievement; but the description can hardly be applied when the income amounts to a weekly thirty pounds. The actor and actress have innocently, but creditably, contributed to misunderstanding by the courageous and spirited way in which they "carry off" their impecuniosity and endure their misfortunes.

But, after all, the actor's calling has one great advantage: its votaries "wear well." Possibly the privations of the early struggle may have something to do with it; but how rarely do we meet in the profession with those cases of corpulence and its attendant evils which are so common in other ranks of life. The army of doctors who earn princely incomes by professing to relieve their patients of the penalties which Nature has placed on the combination of gluttony and indolence finds few victims amongst the theatrical class. The actor and actress, by an active exercise of all their faculties, keep young, both in body and mind, in an extraordinary degree. A remarkable object-lesson on this theme was furnished by the youthful energy and vivacious jollity of Sir CHARLES WYNDHAM'S capital speech in proposing the toast of "The Drama," and by the obvious—we do not like the word "rude"—health of Mr. CHARLES CRUIKSHANKS, who replied for the Fund in the absence of the ever-alert Mr. EDWARD TERRY—another testimonial to the healthiness of the calling. The only oration of the evening which verged on the pessimistic was that of a sedentary worker, Mr. ALFRED SUTRO, whose worship of *The Weavers* and *Waste* does not, it is pleasant to remark, extend to actual imitation. So far from the Reader of Plays being an enemy to the modern "advanced" playwright, he is a friend in disguise. He enables the dramatist to talk about the masterpieces which he *could* write had he not the fear of the Lord Chamberlain before his eyes. It is only when the "advanced" author publishes his alleged *magnum opus*, or has it produced "privately," that the illusion is destroyed.

Slating the Sicilians.

MR. WILLIAM WINTER, the celebrated New York critic, shares our views of the Sicilian company which is now in New York. He says:—"The dreary, disgusting exhibition now visible at the Broadway Theatre, where Sicilian actors are performing in a farrago of trivialities and chatter called *Malia* (meaning enchantment), should not surprise any thoughtful observer of the trend of theatrical affairs. Carnality is a part of the human machine; and if every ingredient in the composition of humanity, every physical process, and every part of the conduct of human beings is to be represented on the stage—if there is to be no selection, no restraint of taste, no art, nothing but unlimited licence—that also comes within the scope of the actor's province and it must be expected to appear."

Stout Prima Donnas.

A DISTINGUISHED Paris physician, who was asked the other day why most great prima donnas are so stout, replied, according to the *Mail*, that a powerful voice required voluminous lungs and well-developed thorax, and these essentials were ordinarily found in a tall woman with a generous bust. It should also be borne in mind, he said, that celebrated singers were seldom fond of exercise They never walked, and, being usually blessed with healthy appetites, it was not surprising if they ran to fat and eventually lost the ideal harmony of lines and perfection of figure which was the most cherished ambition of every pretty woman to retain.

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THE ACTRESSES' SUFFRAGE LEAGUE.

Mr. Forbes Robertson presided at a meeting which was held on Thursday afternoon in the Grand Hall of the Criterion Restaurant by the Actresses' Franchise League. Mrs. Kendal is the President of the League, and Miss Gertrude Elliott, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, and Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley Vice-Presidents. Among the members are Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Compton, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Decima Moore, Miss Mouillot, Miss Cicely Hamilton, Miss Tita Brand, and Miss Edith Craig. Mrs. Kendal, who was acting in the provinces, was unable to attend, but there were present at the Criterion on Thursday Mrs. Boucicault, Miss Eva Moore, Miss Fanny Brough, Miss Charlotte Granville, Miss Gertrude Elliott, Miss Violet Vanbrugh, Miss Irene Vanbrugh, Miss Florence Wood, Miss Cicely Hamilton, authoress of *Diana of Dobson's*, and Mrs. Madeline Lucette Ryley, authoress of *Mice and Men*.

Mr. Forbes Robertson put the following resolution:—"That this meeting of actresses calls upon the Government immediately to extend the franchise to women; that women claim the franchise as a necessary protection for the workers under modern industrial conditions, and maintain that by their labour they have earned the right to this defence." He said he had for many years been in sympathy with the movement, his mother having been heart and soul in the cause. He would advise his hearers, when they were asked some trivial question or troubled by some side issue, to say to the objector, "Have you read 'The Subjection of Women,' by John Stuart Mill? All your questions are answered by that author." The person who had not read that work knew nothing of the subject of female suffrage. He implored everyone to read the book, and to make his or her friends, wife, or husband read it; and especially Stanton Coit's excellent introduction and analysis, which showed that all that had been done in the way of reform in that connection had been brought about by Mills' work. He (the speaker) firmly believed that female suffrage would be one of the greatest revolutions of the age. What might come out of it seemed to him illimitable. "Do not let us work the less," said Mr. Robertson in conclusion, "because we are sure of victory." He felt as certain as that he stood there, that before long the subjected half of humanity would have freedom.

Miss Evelyn Sharp said working women would never be able to improve their industrial position until they could back their unions by a Parliamentary vote. Wherever the Government employed men and women for the same work the latter got very much lower wages than the former.

Mr. J. T. Grein said the status of woman as far as the law was concerned was wholly incommensurate with her intelligence and position. In England, "the land of progress," she was still considered so little responsible, that when she did not pay her dressmaker's bill her husband was sued. People with unbiassed minds must admit that the woman who owned property and paid taxes, who was a worker, and not necessarily dependent on man to earn a living, was entitled to have a say in the selection of the men making the laws of the land. He thought it was monstrous that the drunken lout at the street corner should possess a privilege which was denied to a decent woman. He asked for "Fair play for the Fair Sex."

Mrs. Lucette Ryley and Miss Cicely Hamilton made very bright and witty speeches in support of the movement, and Miss Eva Moore pleaded very pleasantly for subscriptions in support of it. She said that as the organisation was young "and possibly rash," contributions to its banking account would be welcome. The members would persevere and hope to win, and in support of the movement would give the eagerness of youth as well as the experience of the weight of years.

The resolution, having been put to the meeting and carried unanimously, a collection was made, which resulted in nearly £23 being gathered by the ladies who went round with plates.

LE CERCLE ARTISTIQUE.

Miss Joan Pereira and Mr. Gerald Mirrielees' "Cercle Artistique" entertainment at the Rehearsal Theatre on Sunday evening was a complete success. One of the most agreeable items of the evening was the admirable treatment by these two clever artists of the third act of *Denise*, in which Miss Pereira's Parisian French and her dramatic rendering of the dialogue were equally agreeable. Miss Pereira also appeared with Mr. Wentworth Fane in a picturesque Hungarian Gipsy act. Others who contributed to a varied and interesting programme were Mr. Lawrence Grove and Miss Rita Sponti, Mr. Frederick Annerley, Miss Laura Leycester, Mr. Frank Cochrane, Miss Alys Rees, and Mr. Gordon Leslie.

The entertainment concluded with a one-act piece, neatly adapted by Miss Pereira from the French of Guy de Maupassant, entitled

"MADEMOISELLE FIFI."

The Count Von Folsberg..MR. BENEDICT BUTLER
Otto Von Grossling ....MR. LAWRENCE GROVE
The Marquis Von Eyrich
MR. GERALD MIRRIELEES
Armande .....MISS ROSETTA MACLAREN
Blondine .....MISS ALYS REES
Rachel .....MISS JOAN PEREIRA

As all readers of Maupassant are aware Mademoiselle Fifi is the nickname given to Captain the Marquis Von Eyrich, a German officer from the French point of view—that is to say, a brutal reprobate. Rachel, a Jewess, one of three peasant girls who are brought up to the French château where the invaders are quartered in order to make sport, is insulted by Fifi, and stabs him with a table-knife. Mr. Mirrielees was excellent as the Marquis, and the other German officers were well depicted by Mr. Benedict Butler and Mr. Lawrence Grove. Miss Pereira's part of Rachel suited her style and temperament exactly, and she gave a powerful and intense reading of it. Miss Alys Rees and Miss Rosetta Maclaren were good as the other girls.

A QUESTION OF COMMISSION.

At the Westminster County Court, on Tuesday, Mr. Hartley Milburn, a theatrical agent, carrying on business in Leicester-square, sued Mr. Harry Rogers, an actor, for £62 10s. for commission on subsequent engagements which plaintiff alleged he obtained for defendant personally, but which defendant denied. Mr. Milburn said he acted as defendant's agent, and obtained several engagements at music halls for Mr. Rogers and had been paid the commission agreed upon. About September, 1906, he first saw Mr. Rogers about a sketch and was asked to book dates for it, but he secured nothing for it until December, 1906, about Christmas. Mr. Rogers did not complain of the delay in getting engagements, and witness did not point out that Mr. Rogers was asking too much money. He obtained a trial engagement at Glasgow at the Moss and Stoll Empires for Mr. Rogers, and it was a success, inasmuch as something came of it. Mr. Rogers received £30 per week and paid him commission on the amount. He was also paid commission upon engagements at Manchester and Birmingham.

His Honour said it was clear to him that Mr. Milburn was employed by Mr. Rogers to secure engagements, and he was quite satisfied that the defendant expressly told plaintiff that he would not accept the usual agreement. It rested upon the plaintiff to prove the agreement, and this he had not done, so judgment would be given for defendant.

MASONS AT WORK.

Those members of the Dramatic Mark Lodge who met at the Hotel Cecil on the 10th inst. for the purpose of witnessing the installation of Mr. Geo. A. Keen as Master for the ensuing year were deeply impressed with the rendition of the beautiful service which was carried out with becoming dignity and due observance of the ancient rites and ceremonies by the Rev. C. E. L. Wright, the Chaplain of the Lodge.

The retiring Master, Mr. J. Edward Hambleton, was ably supported by his officers:—Messrs. Clarence Coggin, G. A. Keen, R. J. Corbet, W. A. Keen, W. H. White, S. S. Percival, Harry Nicholls, J. H. Ryley, Chris. Hilton, Alfred Ellis, Clarence Sounes, Tom Clare, and W. Englefield.

Mr. Hambleton was pleased to advance Major Beeching, V.B., to the Order.

It was announced that Lieut.-Col. Drage, D.S.O. (the Master of the Athlumney Lodge), Frank H. Callingham, and W. H. Marler would join the Lodge at the next meeting.

Mr. Harry Nicholls very reluctantly and regretfully resigned the office of Secretary of the Lodge, owing to his professional duties, and Mr. Will Sparks was appointed as his successor.

The newly-installed Master was pleased to appoint his officers as follows:—Messrs. J. E. Hambleton, I.P.M.; W. J. Keen, S.W.; E. H. Bull, J.W.; W. H. White, M.O.; Dr. W. Hotten George, S.O.; Chris Hilton, J.O.; Charles Cruikshanks, Treasurer; J. H. Ryley, R.M.; Will Sparks, Secretary; Charles Cameron, S.D.; Alfred Ellis, J.D.; Clarence Sounes, D.C.; W. J. Harvey, I.G.; Rev. C. E. L. Wright, Chaplain; James Powell, S.; Chas. Macdona, S.; the Honble. W. Fremantle Gaunt, S.; and Wm. Englefield, T.

There were also present Messrs. R. J. Corbet, W. H. Roberts (Atlas), W. E. Holloway, Douglas Gordon, C. Wyndham-Quin, H. J. Horner, J. T. Murray, Chas. Anderson, Ludwig Simon, and Ed. Humphrey. Past Masters W. John Holloway, A. G. Duck, Lord Athlumney, and Thos. Fraser, the Rev. W. Cree and the Rev. H. C. de Lafontaine. Visitors, Lieut.-Col. Drage, D.S.O., Frank H. Callingham, W. H. Marler, and R. A. Dickson.

Grand Lodge was represented by the Rt. Honble. the Lord Athlumney, Thomas Fraser, Harry Nicholls, Rev. W. Cree, Rev. C. E. L. Wright, Rev. H. C. de Lafontaine, R. A. Dickson, W. H. White, and Richard Clowes.

The Auditors' report was received, adopted, and ordered to be placed upon the minutes.

The business of the Lodge being concluded, the Brethren and their visitors adjourned to the banqueting hall, there to discuss an excellent dinner provided for the occasion. After dinner the usual loyal and Masonic toasts were duly honoured, and some very interesting speeches were made. During the evening Mr. Geo. A. Keen, on behalf of the Lodge, presented Mr. J. E. Hambleton, the Immediate Past Master, with a very handsome Past Master's jewel, and that gentleman, in gracefully acknowledging the kindly feelings that prompted the gift, made some happy allusions to the incidents of his year of office as Master.

The concert, which was interspersed with the speeches, was of an exceptionally high order, being contributed to by Miss Kate Trail, Miss Millie Le Hay (the talented daughter of John Le Hay), Miss Marion Jack, Miss Emilie Hayes, Messrs. Owen Way, Edgar Coyle, Tom Clare, J. T. Murray, Alfred Ellis, Ludwig Simon, Frank H. Callingham, Major Beeching, and Harry Nicholls. Mr. John Le Hay delighted the assembly by introducing his ventriloquial figures, their singing, patter, and topical and personal allusions being highly appreciated; while Mr. Chris Hilton, a very expert exponent of the magic art, succeeded in thoroughly mystifying all and sundry. Mr. Willie White presided at the piano, and was responsible for the programme, and well and worthily carried out his arduous duties.

THE L.C.C. AND AMUSEMENTS.

The usual weekly meeting of the London County Council was held on Tuesday at the County Hall, Spring Gardens, Mr. R. A. Robinson (Chairman) presiding.

CROWN THEATRE, PECKHAM.

The Theatres and Music Halls Committee reported that they had considered a drawing submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing a cinematograph chamber proposed to be constructed at the rear of the gallery at the Crown Theatre, Peckham. The Committee recommended that the Council had no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted, provided that certain stated regulations be complied with.

Agreed to.

LYRIC OPERA HOUSE.

The Theatres Committee reported that they had considered a drawing submitted by Messrs. F. Matcham and Co., showing how it is proposed to comply with a requirement made by the Council for the improvement of the arrangement of the balcony seating and gangways, and of the exit on the O.P. side of the balcony at the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith. They recommended that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing submitted, subject to the provision of handrails to the satisfaction of the Council.

Approved.

FUN CITY.

The Theatres Committee reported that, having considered a drawing submitted by Mr. F. H. Payne, showing the arrangements in connection with the Fun City to be held in the annexe at Olympia, Hammersmith, and the provision of a new lavatory and of an additional entrance from Blythe-road, they recommended that the Council has no objection to the arrangements shown on the drawing, provided that the various side-shows be arranged in detail in accordance with the Council's regulations, before the helter-skelter lighthouse be used by the public a certificate from the district surveyor as to its stability be forwarded to the Council, a gangway 3ft. 6in. wide be provided down the centre of the seating and the seating be arranged in all respects in accordance with the Council's regulations, the exit notices be hung in prominent positions to the satisfaction of the Council, &c.

Agreed to.

NEW CONCERT-HALL, TOOTING.

The Theatres Committee reported that they had considered a drawing submitted by Messrs. Emden, Egan, and Co., in respect of the concert hall proposed to be erected on the east side of Tooting High-street, showing the position of the cinematograph chamber, the method of ventilating the gas-meter chamber and the cellar below the platform, the means of access to such cellar, and an alteration in the position of the gates in the passageways at the sides of the hall. They recommended that the Council has no objection to the particulars shown on the drawing submitted with regard to certain details of the arrangements, provided that whenever the public are admitted to the premises the gates in the passageways at the sides of the hall be kept locked back in such a manner as to require a key to release them.

Adopted.

A MUNIFICENT New Year's present is being sent by Mme. Melba to the Philharmonic Society of Melbourne, her native city. It consists of a complete set of band instruments of the best make, in handsome cases, and each bears the inscription, "Melba's Gift," in silver letters. There are about twenty-five instruments, and the cost aggregates to nearly £300.

"PETER PAN'S" CORRESPONDENCE

We have received for review an amusing little volume, entitled "Peter Pan's Postbag," which he opens with a letter from Miss Pauline Chase, in which she says, alluding to the "fell pirate" of the play, "You never, never, never can tell how the awful villainy of Hook will affect children. Their fear is very often pretence, which heightens their enjoyment, and the ones whom he made scream may afterwards tell their puzzled parents that they liked him best of all. They may also tell it to us, for they shout out their thoughts to us across the footlights, addressing us by name with pleasing frankness. 'Don't believe him, Peter,' they cry; 'Peter, look out, he's coming down the tree!' or, 'How are you, Wendy? I'm here to-day,' or (agreeable to the box office), 'I say, Slightly, I'm coming every day when I'm a man.'

"I know of one little girl whose mother expected to have to comfort her in the agony scene when Hook puts his head in at the door and glares at Peter asleep. This is the moment that curdles their blood most, but she was not dismayed. 'I do love that man,' she called out so that we all heard her. No, you never can tell how they will take it. Hook has a soliloquy on the pirate ship, 'No little children love me,' and stern voices in front have been heard calling out in reply, 'Serves you right!' But all are not so hard-hearted. I remember two mites being brought round behind the scenes because they had something they wanted to say to Captain Hook, but awe fell upon them when he shook their hands (with his hook), and they could only stare at him and say not a word. When he had gone, however, they looked very woeful, and kept repeating, 'We wanted to tell him, we wanted to tell him!' and they explained to me that what they wanted to tell him was that *they* loved him.

"A good many of them come around to see us, and it is easy for Wendy to be pleasant to them, as what they chiefly seem to want of her is to sit beside her and hold her hand. When there is silence in Wendy's room that is usually what is taking place. It is simple for her, as they don't expect her to be able to teach them to fly. But they do expect this of me, and they stand on my chairs so happily, and say, 'Now shall I let go?' with such faith in me that I often find it agonising. I also sometimes wish I did not carry fairy dust in the first act, for they come begging for a few grains of it, and I have to say I can't give it them now, but if they will leave their nursery window open, then some night when I am flying past—Oh dear!

"Even now I have not told my really serious reason for being nervous when children come knocking at my dressing-room door. It is this, that if they are the very nicest, kind little round balls they never doubt that I really am a boy, and all the time they are staring at me I am in a panic lest they discover the horrid truth. The girls may sit beside me and hold my hand, but with boys I must be so careful; they expect manlier things of me. Often I have 'given myself away' and been unable not to squdge them. They may let it pass, but sometimes I feel a shudder of disappointment pass through them (pass through such a lot of clothes!), and oh! the look of reproach on their faces as they turn from me! I have known them cry with vexation, and then I cry too, and that makes it still worse.

"Sometimes, however, I have a victory. A young gentleman of about six was brought to see me, and I gathered from his introductory remarks that his big brother had made him uneasy about my sex. He put two cunning test questions to me (probably suggested by the brother). The first was, 'Can you whistle?' By great good luck I could whistle that day. Then, 'What do you think of kissing?' he asked anxiously. 'Rotten,' I said. He was immensely relieved. Then he knew I was all right.

"One of these boys (oh dear! why is it that I tell more stories about boys than about girls?) said to me gravely, 'I don't think it's right to make fun of pirates.' Another, who had such an angelic face that it was awful to hear the question come from his lips, said, 'Do you think that if I was frightfully good for a year they would let me be a pirate?' Children love to clap their hands at the play because then they feel that they are really part of it, and you can see them holding their hands poised ready to seize an opportunity. Their great chance is when I ask them to clap their hands if they believe in fairies, and so save Tink's life. But they are very wrathful if anyone claps who has the reputation of being a cynic, and once there was quite an uproar in the front row of the dress circle because of a girl who clapped. Those about her pulled down her arms angrily. 'How dare you clap,' they cried, 'when you know you don't believe in fairies!'

"There was one dreadfully hard-hearted little boy who came to the theatre not to clap. That was his object for coming, and he came round 'behind' to tell me so in the middle of the play. His teeth were firm set. 'I won't clap,' he said doggedly; 'I'm not going to clap.' And when the time came he didn't clap; above the clapping of all the others I could hear him shouting from a box, 'Peter, I'm not clapping.'

"I think the very nicest story I know about the play is one of some children who have an exceedingly prim and proper nurse, and now, since they have seen *Peter Pan*, they won't go to sleep till she barks at them.

"They all love Nana, the dog, and I suppose they know she is played by a human being, but not all their elders seem to know it, for we have heard of a nice old lady saying at the end of the play, 'It is wonderful how they train animals nowadays.' And I think she was another nice lady (and probably a Nana herself) who summed up *Peter Pan* in these words: 'It never would have happened if they had had a proper nurse.'"

The book also contains an amusing selection of letters from the adoring juvenile patrons of the play.

THE Theatre Royal, Bath, which was closed during the early part of the week, was given over for the latter half to amateurs, who presented the charming comedy *Liberty Hall*. Mr. Egbert Lewis has greatly interested himself in all the performances, as they are in aid of the Royal United Hospital, of which institution he is deputy-chairman.

DIFFICULTIES were raised by the magistrate at Westminster Police Court on Wednesday over the application of Mr. James Anning, manager of the Court Theatre, for a licence for a boy just under eleven and a girl of the same age within a month, to play the title-rôle part in *Little Lord Fauntleroy*. The girl, it was explained, was only to be licensed as an understudy, generally leaving the theatre before ten o'clock, but in regard to the boy the licence was asked for until eleven p.m.

MR. FRANCIS said that in his opinion this was too late for a boy to be kept up night after night for a month. Mr. Anning said the boy, as his Worship could see, was bright and eager to play the part. To him it would be a matter of thorough enjoyment. He added that the boy could rest until any time in the morning. If the application was refused it would put the management in great difficulty. Mr. Francis: I am afraid I can't do it. It is too late for a little boy to be kept up. The manager asked permission for a week so that they might make other arrangements. The Magistrate: Yes. I will allow that. I don't want to place you in a difficult position.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

AT a meeting of the Variety Artists' Federation held at the Bedford Head Hotel yesterday afternoon, Mr. George Sinclair presiding, Mr. Joe O'Gorman announced that a conference on the agent question had been held at the House of Commons the previous evening, between representatives of the V.A.F., the General Federation of Trade Unions, and the music hall managers. That conference had been adjourned, and he (Mr. O'Gorman), as well as the other gentlemen who attended it, were pledged to secrecy as to what took place. He could, however, state that he had hopes of an early settlement of the dispute. Messrs. Joe O'Gorman, W. H. Clemart, Wal Pink, and George Sinclair represented the V.A.F. at this conference, and at yesterday's meeting of the Federation Messrs. W. A. Appleton (general secretary of the Federation of Trade Unions), Pete Curran, and Ben Tillett were present.

THE London Coliseum anniversary on Wednesday under the newer conditions brings to our mind the striking and marvellous success of Mr. Oswald Stoll's policy at the fine palace in St. Martin's-lane. Twelve months ago the Coliseum, phœnix-like, rose from its ashes. From an empty theatre rated and assessed as occupied it has become the favourite West End vaudeville house.

PATRONS come every week with the regularity with which they take their weekly papers. The writer has several friends in "Suburbia," and often has heard the remark in answer to his query, "What are you doing on such-and-such a night?" "Oh, that's my Coliseum evening; I must take the wife and daughters there. We go every week." In this strenuous age people want to be taken out of themselves, as it were, and the place that can give them most enjoyment is the one they invariably patronise.

No theatre in history has in twelve months placed so many stars before the public, and were it not for Mr. Stoll's premier position in the theatrical world, even a palatial establishment like the Coliseum could not hope to do the same for another year. But a glance at the engagement books proves that even a more surprising twelve months is in store for the patrons.

MR. STOLL and his co-directors are to be warmly congratulated, but it must be said that the cosmopolitan nature of the attractions that have been presented during the twelve months has deserved the gratifying success that has been achieved. The Coliseum is the *dernier cri* in richness of architecture and in the alluring delights of variety, which have never been enshrined in a more beautiful building. With the large number of the shareholders we may express the hope that the past year's success will be repeated in 1909.

MR. OSWALD STOLL will choose the witching hour of midnight for the first representation of the Hippodrome Yule-tide fantasy, and thus what begins "to-day" will end *To-Morrow* literally, figuratively, and productively. It will be a "private view," and, commencing on Thursday next at 11.45, will end when the chanticleer cheerily crows "salutation to the morn." The fashion is a new one at the variety theatres, but the legitimate houses anticipated Mr. Stoll with a similar festivity at the Court Theatre last year, when *The House* was produced at midnight, at the passing of the old year, 1907.

MARIE LOFTUS received a telegram on Monday, just as she was going on the stage, from Mr. Marshall Hall to say that she must be at the Law Courts on Tuesday morning. After doing two shows on Monday night, and occupying the stage thirty-five minutes in each house, she left Rotherham at 12 o'clock at night, arriving at 5 o'clock in the morning, and was at the Law Courts at 10 o'clock. The case being over at 1.15, she caught the 2 o'clock train back to Rotherham, arriving there at 6 o'clock, and did the two shows, having a rousing reception.

"OUR MARIE" has taken to rinking. The popular stage favourite has become one of the many enthusiastic members of the theatrical profession attending the handsome skating rink in Aldwych, known as "The Rinkeries," a minute's walk from the Gaiety. The fair comedienne afforded a party of personal friends on Wednesday afternoon a pleasant surprise with her facility in mastering the rollers after a few minutes' instruction. Merriment and hearty laughter attended the initial movement of Marie; but, with her characteristic gift for "quick study," she soon gave her friends opportunity for congratulations. "It's simply delicious," said Miss Lloyd, "as easy as winking, too, gliding round this lovely floor on perfect skates. But please don't stop me—I'm bitten with the craze, and I don't want to waste a minute. My address for the future is 'The Rinkeries.'"

MR. GUS ELEN, who came out on strike at the Oxford on the eventful night of Jan. 22, 1907, returns to that house on Monday. He is repeating for the fourth year his kindly practice of distributing 600 to 700 toys to the poor children of Balham, Battersea, Clapham, Wandsworth, and Tooting.

LADY TRUSCOTT, the Lady Mayoress, with her two daughters, will accompany the Lord Mayor, Sir George Truscott, when he makes his state visit to the Coliseum on Tuesday, December 22, to be present at the matinée arranged by the Grand Order of Water Rats in aid of Sir William Treloar's Christmas Hamper Fund for Crippled Children. In addition to those already announced, the programme will include the names of Miss Evie Greene, Miss Marie Lloyd, Miss Cecilia Loftus, Miss Victoria Monks, Miss Gertie Gitana, Messrs. Harry Tate, Maurice Farkoa, Julian Rose, Eugene Stratton, Joe Elvin, Tom Costello, Chirgwin, George Leyton, and other well-known variety artists.

THE policy of Mr. Hitchins in exploiting one-act plays at the Empire is evidently a successful one, and the fact that the latest playlet to be produced at the Leicester-square house is from the pen of Mr. W. J. Locke is a proof of the higher development of the music-hall sketch. It is a simple duologue, entitled *A Blank Cheque*, and is more remarkable for the wit and grace of the dialogue than for dramatic intensity. Dennis Mahoney, previous to the curtain rising, has been sentenced for stealing jewels during his stay at a country house. The disgrace weighs heavily on the wife, who telephones to her lawyer that Dennis is about to call upon her. He does so, with proofs of his innocence in his pocket; and pleads to her to give him back a little of the love he has lost. She points out to him the impossibility of the step, but when he writes on the blank cheque she gives him the words, "Pay Denis Mahoney—a wife's love," she realises that her heart is not quite so cold as she imagined, and that there is something more in life than the allurements of the best society, which now receives her.

OF course, love wins, and the genial, laughter-loving, happy-go-lucky Dennis is in her arms before she learns over the telephone from her solicitors that the innocence of Dennis has been proved "Shure," says he, "I've been going to tell ye that all the time, but you wouldn't let me get a word in edgeways." On this happy *dénouement* the curtain falls. Miss Evelyn D'Alroy's emotional fervour and dainty charm have full scope in the part of the wife, and Mr. C. V. France presents a delightful sketch of the Irishman.

THE new Watford Palace, which was opened on Monday evening by Mr. T. M. Sylvester, is the first music hall the town has ever had. It is situate in the Clarendon-road.

THE Empire Theatre, Oldham, will be closed next week for alterations, opening on Dec. 28 as a variety house, on the two-shows-a-night principle. It will be run on first-class lines, with refined programmes, including the leading artists on the variety stage.

IMPORTANT changes are impending at the Scottish Zoo and Hippodrome, Glasgow, as Mr. E. H. Bostock has decided to pull down the existing buildings at the end of the spring season, and erect a handsome edifice more in consonance with modern ideas, and fit to rank with any amusement palace in the country.

WHEN Mr. Bostock first opened in Glasgow, twelve years ago, he took a five years' lease of the ground, then known as Olympia, with the option of breaking the lease at the end of the first year. Before the year was up, he saw that there was a demand for the Zoo and the other entertainments comprised under the same roof. He completed the five years' lease, and then secured the ground himself, making various improvements and additions from time to time, first as a circus, and latterly by the erection of the spacious hall known as the Hippodrome.

THE new scheme will make an important addition to the list of Glasgow amusements. The length of time occupied in building will, however, necessitate the sale or dispersal of Mr. E. H. Bostock's splendid collection of animals, and it has already been suggested in Glasgow Town Council that the present is a suitable opportunity for the inauguration of a municipal Zoological Garden.

BLACKPOOL is the latest town to catch the roller-skating fever, and a company has been formed to exploit this healthy pastime in South Shore. The building will be a handsome brick and iron one, and will be opened at Easter. The best American maple wood will be used, and the floor area will measure 250ft. in length and 150ft. wide. The skates in use will be the latest ball-bearing type of American make.

MR. JAMES FIONI, the well-known amusement expert and music hall proprietor, is the managing-director, and valuable assistance will be given by Mr. Arnold in the capacity of resident-manager. The latter gentleman has been connected with the Tournament Hall Skating Rink, Liverpool, since its commencement. Councillor Eaves, J.P., has joined the board of directors, and other influential local gentlemen are interesting themselves in the venture.

IT has been suggested to the management that an Excise licence be asked for as an additional attraction to the rink, but as it is the avowed aim and settled determination of the management to make it the fashionable rendezvous for the district, intoxicating liquors will be rigidly tabooed.

FOLLOWING his usual custom, Mr. Macnaghten on Wednesday generously placed the Palace Theatre, Bath, and the artists engaged for the week, at the disposal of the Bath Cycling Club. The proceeds are to be devoted to a dinner in aid of the Old Folks' Christmas Fund. A number of local performers and vocalists supplemented the entertainment.

MR. LEO WEISKER (of Weisker Bros., Liverpool) has now taken up his position as manager at the Hippodrome, St. Helens. Mr. H. Curline Baldry has succeeded to the post of manager of the Shoreditch Empire. Mr. Baldry has been associated with the profession for many years, having had considerable experience as manager of travelling companies, and for three years he managed the pantomimes at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross.

AT the Birmingham Police-court on Wednesday morning, Mr. Ansell applied on behalf of Mr. Henry Weaver for a music licence for a skating rink to be opened shortly in Birmingham at the corner of Monument-road and Icknield-street. Mr. Ansell explained that the application was made in that form because the applicants were not sufficiently advanced with the building to make it at the last special sessions. The application was for a music licence for fourteen days, so as to carry them on until the next sessions.

THE skating area was 100 feet by 130 feet, and was constructed of specially prepared maple. Plans had been submitted to the city authorities, who had approved of them subject to certain alterations. The music would be orchestral, and there would be fifteen performers.

THE Chief Constable said he had written to other towns where the company Mr. Weaver represented had established rinks, and they all appeared to be well conducted. In answer to the Magistrates' Clerk, the Chief Constable said the stipulated alterations were being made, and would be completed before the rink was opened to the public. The licence was granted.

IN connection with the Canadian exhibitors at the Ipswich Fat Cattle Show, a dinner party assembled at the Railway Hotel, Ipswich, on Wednesday evening, to celebrate the visit to Ipswich. The chair was taken by Mr. N. B. Colcock, recently appointed to the office of Director of Emigration in England for the province of Ontario.

AT the conclusion of the proceedings, the Canadian representatives proceeded to the Ipswich Hippodrome, bearing Canadian flags, with a view of protesting against an anti-emigration to Canada song, rendered nightly by Miss Harriet Vernon, but Mr. Bostock, the manager, previously getting wind of the intention, politely, and with much tact, induced the visitors to depart quietly without entering the building, and what seemed somewhat like the development of a disturbance ended in a general expression of good feeling all round.

UNDER a compulsory winding-up order made against the Brighton Alhambra (Limited), King's-road, Brighton, Mr. W. J. Warley, Official Receiver, has now issued his report to the creditors and shareholders. The accounts filed under the liquidation show liabilities £19,767, a surplus in asset of £12,976 after allowing for payment of all debts, and a surplus of £2,708 to the contributories. According to the Official Receiver's report dividends ranging from 5 per cent. to 10 per cent. were paid up to the end of 1903, but since then the business has chiefly resulted in losses, and no dividends have been paid. In December, 1907, the mortgagees demanded payment of principal and interest due, amounting to over £19,000.

THE company endeavoured to make arrangements for the continuance of the mortgages, but without success, and in September last it decided to offer the whole of the property for sale by public auction, whereupon the mortgagees presented the petition for the winding-up of the company. The failure is attributed by the officers to the action of the mortgagees in calling in the amount due to them. The liquidation has been left in the hands of the Official Receiver, who further reports that the mortgagees have agreed to take over the mortgaged property at £17,500, the furniture, fixtures &c., at £500, and the stock at 10 per cent. off cost price. In the absence of any better offer the Official Receiver agreed to this arrangement, and the approval of the Court has been obtained thereto.

THE Camberwell Palace has been acquired by the New Camberwell Palace, Ltd. (which is controlled by the London Theatres of Varieties, Ltd.). The new company commences business from the 28th inst., but does not take over any of the existing contracts with artists or others.

MR. PHILIP A. LENNON, the manager of the Camberwell Palace, takes his benefit there on Tuesday next, the 22nd. There will be the customary two houses, with just a few extra turns.

WE are pleased to hear that the evergreen Will Oliver is out and about again after a turn of bronchitis.

MISS NELLIE WILSON is returning home, after her third successful tour in Australia, and is due at Tilbury to-day. She opens at the Camberwell Empire on the 28th.

AT the Lambeth County Court on Thursday several actions by agents for commission were decided against non-paying artists, and short orders were made.

MISS MARIE FINNEY, the sister of James Finney, who formerly shared the early successes of his excellent tank act, and went with him to America, died, we regret to say, at Oldham on Friday, the 11th inst.

MISS NELLIE NORWAY recently made a hit with her silver bells at the Hotel Cecil at the annual banquet of the New Vagabonds' Club. She had enthusiastic encores for both her items, and Mr. Max Pemberton, the chairman, told her "she ought to be the rage of London."

A MUCH-DESIRED addition is being made at the Oxford, where a handsome glass screen is in course of erection as a division between the stalls lounge and the hall. The business of artists on the stage will not in the future suffer from conversations in the adjoining apartment—a consummation devoutly to be wished.

THE acceptance by Mr. Joe Elvin of the position of president of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association will give universal satisfaction in the profession. Mr. George Chirgwin, "the White-eyed Kaffir," is replacing him as trustee. At the most recent meeting of the Association Mr. Alfred Smith was appointed agent at Leigh (Lancs.).

AN honourable peace, so we are informed, has been officially concluded between the International Artists' League and the Continental managers. The leader of the I.A.L., Mr. Berol Konorah, is officially recognised. All lock-outs and "boycotts" are ended, therefore V.A.F. members may accept Continental engagements without restrictions.

THE London offices of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association and the Variety Artists' Benevolent Fund will be closed on Christmas and Boxing Days. All members of the M.H.A.R.A. must therefore place their names on the list on or before Wednesday, or, at the latest, the first post on Thursday morning. Vouchers will be sent to the stations at eleven o'clock on Thursday.

MR. JOHN BRABOURNE, whose death we announced in our columns last week, was for a short time a contributor to the variety programmes at the Lyceum, but his best efforts were reserved for the theatre. Poor Jack, according to an announcement this week in a contemporary, is to appear as Dame at the New Theatre, Cardiff.

IN consequence of the visit of Miss Vesta Tilley to the Wolverhampton Empire this week, houses are packed to suffocation. After Miss Tilley had sung her third song on Monday evening, "Jolly good luck to the girl that loves a soldier," the circle and stalls rose, and, amid the waving of hats, cheered and cheered again. One gentleman was heard to remark, "Vesta has indeed surpassed herself."

BILLIE BINT wishes to announce to all those who have written to us inquiring as to when he was chairman of the Oxford that he started after the hall was burned down at the end of 1873, and remained there till the death of Mr. Syers, the proprietor, one of the best that ever lived. Billie Bint left the Oxford the end of 1876, and the chair was then taken by Mr. Rouse, who was chairman previous to Billie Bint in 1873. Billie is quite well and in good form, singing as well as ever.

ENTHUSIASTIC scenes were witnessed at the Chelsea Palace on Saturday last, the cause of which was a telegram, read by Chirgwin, from some of the regular patrons of the Palace, expressing their regret at Mr. Asher's resignation as musical-director (a position he has held since the opening of this hall), and also wishing him every success in the future.

THE telegram was a signal for the whole of the audience to rise, and in a moment the whole assembly were singing "Auld Lang Syne" and "He's a jolly good fellow." Chirgwin finished this extra turn by singing "Say au revoir." These remarkable scenes were renewed at the stage door after the performance was over, and after some persuasion Mr. Asher made an impromptu speech, which satisfied the excited crowd.

A GRAND testimonial concert will be held at the Chelsea Town Hall early in the New Year for Mr. Asher's benefit. It has already received great support from many influential gentlemen, and is headed by a donation of ten guineas from Mr. Alfred de Rothschild. Subscriptions and applications for tickets should be made to Mr. W. Fairhall, hon. sec., 527, King's-road, Chelsea, S.W.

MR. HOWARD DE WING has now taken up the management of the Montpelier Palace, Walworth, which has been beautifully decorated, and is to be endowed with a set stage. This is in course of construction at a cost of £240. Everything is being done to improve the conditions under which entertainments will be presented, and under which audiences will enjoy them. Comfort will be a first consideration, and the tariff will be so arranged that excellent programmes will be within reach of the humble toiler. The hall never looked better than now, and Mr. Howard De Wing promises capital pictures and good artists. There is to be a special Christmas production. The present proprietor is Edwin Stephens, also proprietor of Eel Pie Island, Twickenham.

MR. B. WOODGER, secretary of the Music Hall Home, desires on behalf of the committee to thank the following ladies and gentlemen for their kind assistance:—Mrs. O'Brien, of Rule's, Maiden-lane, for £1 3s. 3d.; Fred D. Harris, Baring Hall Hotel, Grove Park, Bromley, 19/6; Empire, Camberwell, 6s.; Mr. P. A. Lennon, Palace, Camberwell, 13s. 8d.; and Mr. Thompson, Empire Theatre, South Shields, 19s. 6d., from M.H.H. pence collecting boxes. Also Fred Ginnett, New Palace, Watford; Fred Thorne, New Palace, Oldham; Harry Ball, Hippodrome, Birkenhead, for taking boxes at those halls (per Fred Neiman); also a donation from Harry Barnard, hon. treasurer M.H.H. Fund of £3 3s.. *Era* appeal cards should be sent in for the first published list appearing shortly. The secretary, Ben Woodger, will gladly send a card to any willing worker for this grand charity, on receipt of post card to 31, Wilson-rd., Camberwell, London, S.E.

KELLY AND ASHBY sailed for America on the 9th, and will return to England in March to play a number of contracts.

THE Three Brothers Huxter open at the Hippodrome, Leicester-square, on Monday next for one month, this being their last London engagement prior to their departure for America, per White Star liner Oceanic.

MR. AUGUSTE VAN BIENE has forwarded a cheque for five guineas to Mr. Cyril Maude for the Actors' Benevolent Fund. Part of this sum represents the amount Mr. Van Biene collected when he played in the streets on Nov. 18. Mr. Van Biene will be seen at the London Coliseum early in January.

MR. CHARLES COBORN, who brought his date forward a week to oblige Mr. Buchanan, of the Alexandra Theatre, Greenock, has been scoring heavily there with his songs, and, although the time was short to fill the vacant week, he has settled to appear in Glasgow, where he always meets with a hearty reception.

MR. FRED CONNOR, proprietor of the circus, Douglas, Isle of Man, opens again this Christmas at the Crystal Palace with his circus company, commencing on Boxing Day, and, judging by the list which appears in our call column, the company is a strong one, embracing as it does the very cream of riders and clowns.

CHARCOT has jumped with a bound into prominence and popularity. This can only be ascribed to the fact that he possesses personality and originality, and his up-to-date sensation, the driving blindfolded of a 48 h.p. motor-car through the busiest thoroughfare of a town, is right out of the beaten track for nothing like it has ever been seen on the variety stage.

MR. CHARLES CLIFFORD, the favourite harpist, has returned to town to be home for the Christmas holidays. He is looking fit and well, and speaks of his recent tour in Scotland and Ireland as having been very successful. Some of the halls Mr. Clifford has been visiting for quite a number of years. We hope to have the pleasure of hearing him play at some of our London halls again before he starts his 1909 tour.

THE famous Dunedin troupe of cyclists had arranged to have a rest this week, as they have been continuously in engagements for many months past, but an important telegram from the Hippodrome caused wires and broughams to be sent to various parts of London to collect the troupe. On their reappearance in the evening at the Hippodrome they renewed their great popularity.

FOR Christmas week and the matinée on Boxing Day there will be a very strong programme at the Alhambra. Leonora is rehearsing for the new play without words, due in the New Year, and appears in *Narcisse*. Mlle. Britta, now an established favourite, remains the premiere danseuse in the romantic ballet, *Paquita*.

OTHER items are the Max Wessely Troupe, in their juggling pantomime; the Ten Ji Japanese company of magicians; the Four Black Diamonds; Henry Helme, the French vocalist; and *The Two Flags* divertissement, still as popular as ever. The cinematograph productions of eminent French actors and actresses will be changed, Mr. Alfred Moul presenting the third of the series, The Red Hand, in which Severin, Max Dearly, Mlles. Napierkowska and Mistinguette represent this morbid drama of Montmartre. The evening at the Alhambra is fittingly ended by Jury's pictures.

THE London office of William Morris had the pleasure of receiving a cablegram from Washington on Wednesday morning informing them that Harry Lauder had been received at White House by the President, and that during his stay in Washington he had been the guest of the Vice-President, Speaker Cannon. Mr. Lauder's courtly condescension is well known, and we feel sure that President Roosevelt will appreciate it as deeply as His Majesty Edward Rex. The same office has also received welcome news regarding the enormous success of Vesta Victoria and D'Arc's Marionettes.

A MOST enjoyable evening was spent on Thursday evening, Dec. 10, at The Equestrian, Blackfriars-road, the proprietors of which are Messrs. Fred Baugh and John Stubbs. Several important local gentlemen and the managers of the London halls of the Macnaghten Vaudeville Circuit sat down to an excellent repast, after which Councillor David Israel, who was supported by Mr. Fred Baugh, dilated on the popularity and good fellowship Mr. Stubbs had gained since he came amongst them, and called upon Mr. Baugh to make the presentation to Mr. Stubbs of a handsome engraved testimonial on vellum and a diamond Masonic jewel laid upon a spade guinea—a very pretty token.

MR. BAUGH, in his usual jovial manner, commenced by good humouredly chaffing the recipient, but soon settled down to seriousness, and trusted that Mr. Stubbs would live many years and receive many more such testimonials.

MR. STUBBS, who was visibly affected by the many expressions of goodwill and fellowship that had been showered upon him, said that the one item that appealed to him most strongly was the manner in which the members of the Surrey Music Hall staff had subscribed. The evening was enlivened by some well-rendered part songs by the Clyde Quartette.

AT Cork police-court, a prosecution was commenced on Saturday against fourteen persons, who are charged with illegally picketing the Palace, Cork. Messrs. Dobbins and Ogilvie, who are also proprietors of the music-hall, dismissed two men who refused to carry goods during the recent strike amongst the carters of the Cork Steam Packet Co. Messrs. Dobbins and Ogilvie refused to reinstate these men, and since Nov. 12 the music-hall had been picketed, with the result that the audiences were seriously depleted.

THE case occupied the day, and was adjourned to Dec. 29. Witnesses were examined to show the connection of accused with the picketing proceedings, which in the defence was not denied, as their case is that the music-hall is a corporation, and the proceedings should have been for an injunction. An offer was made by the Crown solicitor, who prosecuted, that if the picketing was stopped the case would be dropped. The defendants immediately declined. Picketing was proceeding on Saturday night.

A VERY interesting item has been added to the entertainment at the Hippodrome by Sir Genille Cave-Brown-Cave (the Cowboy baronet) and his company. "Texas Tex" first appears in a "roping" act; then Chief Hampa, a Sioux Indian, does some interesting bow and arrow shooting on horseback and on foot; a Mexican illustrates the use of a stock-whip; the method of punishing a horse-thief is shown; and some really surprising feats of horsemanship are performed by a cowboy, who picks up three handkerchiefs in succession from the ground while careering around the arena at full gallop. The efforts of a very vigorous bucking horse and mule create excitement and amusement; and a pretty quadrille on horseback concludes the entertainment, which is applauded and enjoyed.

MR. ALBERT MARSH will present his great dramatic sketch, seen last week at the Holloway, Empire, for the first time, to Birmingham audiences on Monday. It is called *Chums Till Death*.

MISS HELEN TRIX has in study a new and novel number, which she will astonish Yuletide visitors to the Tivoli with. Miss Trix declines more information on the very good grounds that to publish particulars would be to give pirates the chance they are always on the look-out for.

AT the New Hippodrome, Birkenhead, the contract for the fibrous plaster, decoration, electric lighting, fire curtain, seating, draperies, carpets, scenery, and stage fittings was carried out by Fred Wilkins and Bros., Ltd., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool, who have been congratulated on the artistic richness and beauty of their work.

MR. GEORGE FULLER, now a great sufferer, is patiently and cheerfully awaiting the end, and sends kindly greetings to friends. He desires through our columns to express his deep appreciation of the great kindness of Mr. Eugene Stratton and Mr. B. P. Lucas, of the Bedford. Mr. Fuller would be glad to hear from, or to see, friends at 72, Delancey-street, Regent's Park, N.W.

THE Alhambra's new musical play without words will be produced on Jan. 4. Mlle. Leonora is to have a singing part in it. It is a little Italian story with a characteristic Italian setting, and a big chorus of peasants. Mlle. Leonora and Miss Julia Seale will be two wandering minstrels; and Mlle. Leonora will further demonstrate her versatility by playing the mandoline. There are two other principals appearing in the production, the music of which is by a well-known French composer.

MR. G. ERIC WILLIAMS (of Webber and Williams, vocalists and musical speciality artists) is the only one-handed accompanist in the world, having lost his right arm some years ago. He also had the further misfortune to lose one of the fingers of his left hand, and yet his manipulation of the keyboard shows remarkable dexterity and command of technique. The act has been very successful this week at the Gaiety, Glasgow.

CLEMPERT is continuing his London success at the New Palace, Plymouth, where he puzzles soldiers, sailors, and police with his escape from the Siberian torture jacket and his death-defying water escape, his endurance in staying under water for so long causing a great sensation in the town. Clempert has received offers from South Africa and Australia, but his dates in England prevent him accepting.

THE booking at the Empire Theatre for the Christmas holidays is so great as to exceed the records even of this house of phenomenal successes. For Boxing-night the demand, indeed, has exceeded all calculations. *A Day in Paris*—the very best of all the Empire ballets—with its amazing Apache dance has been smartened and brought up to date.

FOR the dramatic turn, the management have succeeded in enlisting the services of Mr. W. J. Locke, one of our foremost dramatists, who provides the comedietta *A Blank Cheque*, which is noticed in our columns. Miss Lalla Selbini, who achieved a furore in America, bids fair to repeat it at the Empire in her amazing pot-pourri act; and the Perezoffs, among the finest jugglers in the world, will reappear in their wonderful restaurant scene. The Four Amaranths, a squad of beautiful dancing girls, will be seen in a delightful *pas de quatre*, and Messrs. Hayes and Merritt are back for their droll billiard table trampolene act.

MLLE. DE DIO has been specially engaged by Mr. Martin Beck to star with the Orpheum Road Show, and during Christmas week will be at the Orpheum, San Francisco, California. Sam M'Kee, the New York leading critic, in writing of De Dio, says:—"What Loie Fuller did to create a sensation in New York comparatively a short time ago would now be considered tame if given on the same stage with De Dio's 'Terpsichore's Dream.' De Dio is a fairy, a butterfly, a creature of the air, sailing from flower to flower of gorgeous but always tasteful colours. She has the beauty and the vivacity of youth."

MISS MABEL SINCLAIR, England's premier lady ventriloquist, on her first appearance at the Majestic, Chicago, on Monday, Nov. 30, made the greatest success every achieved by any ventriloquial artist in America. Miss Sinclair, who has been fulfilling a starring engagement over the Orpheum circuit, is now touring south, and will terminate twenty-two weeks' genuine success on Feb. 8 at the Orpheum, New Orleans.

ON behalf of the committee of the Music Hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford Street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (Secretary) wishes to thank the following:—Sir Edward Moss, a guinea towards the children's Christmas-tree; Mrs. G. H. Chirgwin, 10s. 6d. for same; Miss Irene Rose, collecting 3s. 3d. for Christmas-tree; Mrs. Herbert, Robsart Street, Brixton, collecting 12s. 6d. for Christmas-tree; Miss Lottie Albert, donation 2s. 6d. and gift of pretty teacloth; Madam Haydee, collecting 5s.; Mrs. Bennett, collecting 2s. 6d.; Mrs. J. Horne, parcel of clothing; Mrs. Johnson (Smith and Johnson), parcel of clothing; Mrs. James Horne, subscribing and collecting £1 towards helping a sufferer into a home for consumptives; Miss Maud Dunedin, 10s., subscribing and collecting 10s. for the same good cause; Harry Blake, parcel of clothing; Mrs. Horne, donation towards the Christmas-tree; Mrs. Crowther, 2s. towards Christmas-tree; Mrs. Edwards (Albion House), toys; Mr. Wal Pink, £1 for Christmas-tree; the Rev. Arthur Brinckman, confectionery for children; Miss Lil Hawthorne, parcel of presents; Mrs. Fred Ginnett, box of children's new boots and shoes; Mrs. Vernon Cowper, 5s. for Christmas-tree; Huntley and Palmer (Reading), cakes, &c.

WILL all friends of the charity please note that a Christmas-tree, tea, and treat will be given at the Horns, Kennington, on Wednesday next, 23rd, at one o'clock, to the poor children, and any gifts, however small, will be gratefully received by the Music Hall Ladies' Guild? Miss Cecilia Loftus has kindly promised to be present. All friends invited to come and help make the children happy for this day.

IN view of the forthcoming election, will all members please send their addresses to Miss May so that she can post their votes? All are welcome to the tea and receptions held every Wednesday, from four to five o'clock.

WEYMOUTH'S New Pavilion and Theatre, a municipal enterprise, is to be publicly opened on Monday next by the Earl of Shaftesbury, who will be accompanied by the Countess. At 1.30 p.m. the Mayor and Mayoress (Mr. Councillor F. Sefton Smith and Mrs. Smith) will entertain at luncheon Lord and Lady Shaftesbury and a few guests, and the architect, Mr. Littlewoods, will present his lordship with a golden key and invite him to perform the opening ceremony. A musical programme will be contributed by a strong and talented company of artists engaged by the Corporation through Messrs. Ashton and Mitchell's Royal Agency.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

No fewer than seventeen unmistakable successes in the three pantomimes of one city alone—Glasgow, to wit—have been placed to the credit of Messrs. Francis and Day. "Oh! Oh! Antonio" is literally the rage at the Theatre Royal, the Grand, and the Princess's, and the titles of the other songs that are in everyone's mouth are "Sue, Sue, Sue," "I'm afraid to come home in the dark," "I shall sleep well to-night," "It's a lie!" "Shakespeare," "Bombardier," "Every fellow's in love with a girl," "I'm the best pal I ever had," "Maggie of Dundee," "Shadowland," "It's the Gay Gordons," "Drinks," "My girl's a Yorkshire girl," the "Parrot duet," "So what's the use?" "Johnny Macintyre," and "How do, Matilda McGee?"

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY have in the press a particularly striking song of that great artist, Miss Ada Reeve's, entitled "Find the Man," by Ralph Roberts and Harold Lonsdale.

THE beautiful waltz, "Cecilia," composed by Henry E. Pether, which has been placed on the market by Messrs. Francis and Day, has been orchestrated for military band (to the order of Messrs. Boosey) by Mr. Michael Retford, who shares with Warwick Williams the reputation of being a past master of the art of scoring for brass. A special effect for the tubaphone has been incorporated in the arrangement.

AMONG the new songs about to be issued by Messrs. Francis and Day are "Why be ashamed of him now?" (sung by Miss Billie Burford), by Charles Collins and Fred Godfrey; "It's a lie!" by Sax Rohmer; and "Shakespeare," by Sax Rohmer and H. E. Pether (both sung by George Robey); "Robin Redbreast" (Harry Champion), by R. Gorman; "My Cornish Fisher Girl," by J. P. Long and Charles Hilbury; "I'll love you best of all," written, composed, and sung by George Ridgewell; and "When I got up this morning" (Dan Crawley), by T. W. Connor.

MISS KITTY COLYER'S new chorus number, "Goodbye, Jennie," by Will Hyde, has during the current week been voted by Manchester Tivoli patrons the "real thing." On the occasion of her souvenir night many people were unable to obtain admission. Messrs. Francis and Day have the song in the press.

MISS VESTA TILLEY at Wolverhampton has packed the Empire nightly from floor to ceiling, and her newest song, "That's the time a fellow wants his ma," by Archie Mills and Edgar Bateman, has earned the highest encomiums from public and Press, Maurice Scott's melody being particularly catchy. Mr. Scott has again collaborated with Edgar Bateman in a song for this great artist, a number entitled "Out in the open air," and Miss Tilley is now "letter perfect" in H. E. Pether's polka song, "To see if it was fit for father," also by Edgar Bateman. All three songs will be issued by Messrs. Francis and Day.

THE combined staffs of Messrs. Francis and Day's Charing Cross-road and Denmark-street establishments had a right merry evening on Saturday night last at the Crown Hotel, adjoining the Hippodrome. After an excellent repast, worthy of the house's reputation, a most enjoyable time was spent, under the chairmanship of F. W. Leigh. Speeches were strictly barred, and harmony reigned supreme, among the songs rendered (to the able accompaniment of Charles Lucas) being "Don't forget the chorus," by F. W. Leigh, and "Fol-fol-li-a-tee," "The girl I love," and "I've got the ooperzootic," by Arthur Francis; "In the shade of the old chestnut tree," "I wonder where he gets his ideas," "Why go abroad?" and "I shall sleep well to-night," by Fred Osborne (son of the one and only Charles of that ilk); "My old shako" and "The Trumpeter," by Leonard Bellamy; "Sing me a song of flowers," by William Eyke (the firm's own fresh-water truth-teller); "£ s. d." and "Take me on the flipflap," by Charles Wilmott, accompanied by the composer, Hermann Darewski; "Everybody knows it's there" and "The coster's pony," by Edgar Bateman; "We've all been doing a bit" and "I knew I'd got something to do," by J. Bewell; "Here at my post" (Barker, P.C.), Charles Godfrey's old song, by Charles Griffiths; "Tom Bowling" and the Judge's song from *Trial by Jury*, by Charles Rooker; "So what's the use?" by John Abbott; "Every fellow's in love with a girl" and "What a Dial," by Bert Lucas (who also with Fred Osborne rendered in comical style a parody of "Alice, where art thou?"); and "We don't want more daylight," by Charles Lucas. "Hearty good wishes to one and all" was the burden of a wire handed to the chairman, a message which when read out made everybody feel that Christmas and David Day were almost in the room. Mr. John Smith, the firm's manager, skilfully evaded the "barring clause," and proposed the health of the Chairman in the happy manner inseparable from' him.

J. F. LAMBE'S seasonable song, "When the berry's on the holly," published by Messrs. Francis and Day, is in great demand just now. The stalwart Irishman was seen in the Central Avenue of Covent Garden on Thursday being decorated with sprigs of the same by more than one neat-handed colleen.

MR. ALF. ELLERTON has written a screaming gag act for Baron or Dame, entitled "Turkish baths at home." It was written on Monday, and accepted by Mr. Robert Arthur, and also the Camden, Clapham, Bath, and Cheltenham Theatres, by Wednesday morning. Its rapid acceptance proclaims its merit. Mr. Ellerton is also placing many copies of "Tommy's ready—all's well," a stirring patriotic number, published by Francis, Day, and Hunter.

THE case of McGlennon v. Solomons, which was heard at the Guildhall on Tuesday last, is a very important one to owners of copyrights in songs. It was there decided that the words of a song, if published without the music, do not come within the Musical Copyright Act of 1906. This is a very serious flaw in the Act, and it is to be hoped that the question will come before a higher Court. Apparently, as the law is now stated to stand, the hawker can sell with impunity copyrighted songs, so long as the music does not form part of it. This is a grave injustice to song-writers and publishers.

AT the Theatre Royal, Edinburgh, three of the greatest hits of the evening were "I don't care if there's a girl there," sung by Miss Jane Eyre, and that quaint alphabetical song "A to Z," sung by Will Evans; also "Have you got another girl like Mary?" The Star Music Co. are the publishers.

MISS ADA REEVE will sing two of the Star Co.'s great pantomime ditties, "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "Have you got another girl like Mary," at the Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool.

MR. ERNEST LEIGH, the energetic representative of the Star Music Co., has been successful in fixing no less than sixteen numbers of the company's songs at the Brixton Theatre, where they are producing *Dick Whittington* on Boxing Night. The charming principal boy, Miss Maud Esmond, will feature, among other numbers, those two big winners "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "Have you got another girl like Mary?"

(*Continued on page 26.*)

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

(*For other Variety Notices see page 31.*)

THE OXFORD.

Most of the principal stars of the variety firmament have departed for the realms of pantomime in order to brighten the Yuletide festival with quip and crank, song and jest; but Mr. Blyth-Pratt has no lack of laughter-makers in his current programme. The audience have a joyous time during the progress of what is termed by its creator, Mr. Herbert Darnley, "a Spanish musical comedy." It is in four scenes, and the wild fun of the whole thing is exhilarating in the extreme. We have the picturesque environment of a mountainous region in the Iberian peninsula, with its rich colouring; and the brightness of the ensemble, the buoyancy of the music, and the light-hearted gaiety of everyone concerned keep the spectators in a state of pleasurable excitement—that is to say, when they are not in fits of uncontrollable laughter. Mr. Cecil Morton York, as Colonel Montano, in command of the battalion in pursuit of the festive robbers, does not take his part any too seriously, and his mock fierceness supplies a capital foil to the unvarying frivolity of those under his orders. We are concerned principally with the doings of Pepo, the head waiter, a part played by Mr. Charles H. Bell with a resourceful energy and a command of droll knockabout buffoonery that could not be excelled. Such hurricane energy is rare, and rarer still is its alliance with real comicality of expression. Messrs. George E. Hall, Mark Sheridan, jun.—a chip of the old block—and Laurie Leslie are other aide-de-camps in the rollicking conspiracy to evoke laughter. There are handsome dancing girls, whose energy and grace are of considerable value in the concerted scenes, and Miss Annette Sellens as Carmeneta sings exceedingly well. The scene in the mountains, where the two waiters become, as it were, "territorials," with quaint ideas of drill, and still quainter manœuvres, reaches the heights of pantomimic fun. *The Brigands of Tarragona* work loyally together, and their exertions are crowned with gratifying success.

Early in the evening one enjoys Mr. Herbert Lloyd's burlesque on vaudeville, which shows a keen sense of humour; Mr. Fred Land's lyrics, founded on nursery rhymes, have a vein of whimsicality to recommend them; Mr. Russell Brandow is an alert and smart acrobatic dancer; Lyons and Cullum submit a variety act, into which some clever imitations are introduced, the lady dancing prettily in short skirts; and Bowden and Stol's comedy is of the acrobatic order, their feats being as clever as their behaviour is quaint. In their act it is the unexpected that happens, and the happenings are generally droll. The Eight Welsh Miners are starring a great success in "The Soldiers' Chorus" from Gounod's *Faust*, and in some standard old glees.

Miss Gertie Gitana, whose turn is fully described in our notice of another hall, has won the right to her designation of comedienne by her brightness and buoyancy, and her success at the Oxford is as remarkable as it is deserved. Miss Victoria Monks repeats her success, "Moving day," but does not improve it by resorting to unnecessary horseplay. Mr. Ted E. Box, comedian, with his wonderful whistling, catches on in his cobbler's song; Mr. Sam Mayo is responsible for "drowsy drolleries" that keep audiences thoroughly awake; Selbo is a clever and interesting club juggler, his act being also prettily set; and Miss Yvonne Lamor, Mr. Fred Shephard, Miss Ella Lane, Mr. Dave Carter, the Four Eugenes, and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope are other attractions in a very crowded bill. Mr. Leon A. Bassett, the musical-director here, puts much verve into the rendering of the spirited and stirring "Copenhagen Grand March," which ushers in the variety programme, and *The Merry Widow* selection is well worth listening to.

THE EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Undoubtedly the success of the evening at this popular house is scored by that dainty and clever little comedienne Miss Gertie Gitana, aptly described on the programme as "the star that never fails to shine." This week she is delighting Brixtonites with her singing and dancing. She is giving two numbers, "Sweet Jessie dear" and "Iola mine," both of which are rendered in her most effective manner, and earn for her unstinted applause. She is responsible for some neat and graceful dancing, and on concluding the applause is deafening, and she has to appear many times before the curtain.

The most humorous item of the evening is the one provided by that increasingly-popular comedian Sam Mayo. The Four Eugenes, in a refined display of aerial gymnastics, show great skill; Julia Reeve is a chic comedienne; mimicry of the highest order is given by Henry A. Moore; and *The Pawnbroker* is being presented by Joe Peterman, who is supported by a most capable company.

Lil Hawthorne, the popular principal boy, is successfully making a bid for public favour. She is scoring heavily with a couple of numbers, both of which suit her to a "T." They are "Just someone" and "The boy who stuttered and the girl who lisped." The latter she renders most effectively, and fairly brings down the house. The Lyric Mummers are the possessors of most pleasing voices, the lady especially singing and acting with marked effect; the songs of Miss Ida Barr, a prepossessing comedienne, are well applauded.

An amusing musical sketch entitled *Baby's Birthday* is meeting with a most favourable reception. The scene is the interior of a toy-shop. A lady enters wheeling a bassinette, in which there is a baby. It appears that this is the birthday of the infant, and the mother has arranged with "father" to meet him there to purchase some remembrance for the occasion. Within she finds a most charming assistant, and of her she inquires if her husband has been. The assistant replies that she has not seen him, but says that there is another shop down the street where the assistant is noted for her beauty. Knowing her husband's flirting propensities, the wife hurries away, and when she is gone the husband himself appears upon the scene. Finding that he is alone with the assistant, manlike he makes love to her, his flirtation being interrupted by the reappearance of his wife. As soon as she has gone the husband appears disguised as a bear. The assistant then sings a pretty song, set to tuneful music, entitled "Teddy bear," and on concluding both dance in a neat and graceful manner. The husband then, thinking that it is time to seek his wife, departs, leaving the coast clear for a man to appropriate the baby, which is mistaken for a large mechanical doll. Husband and wife then enter, and a discussion goes on as to what shall be bought for the kid. Presently the discovery is made that it is not in the perambulator. The infuriated mother turns on the girl, and whilst a heated argument is proceeding a policeman states that he has seen a man trying to leave a live baby on someone's doorstep. He has arrested the man, and brought him to the shop. Explanations follow, and everything works out satisfactorily. The cast, which is well chosen, includes Miss Maud Denny, Miss Rita Yorke, and Messrs. George Wilson, Joe Helwar, and Dick Claude, all of whom work most effectively for the success of the sketch, for which there should be a long and brilliant future.

Other items in the programme include Ida Hetherington and company in *Wedding Mishaps*; Charles Harvey, an amusing comedian; and Harry Boden and Harry Ford's company in a laughable farcical episode entitled *The Best*. A most pleasant evening is brought to a conclusion with an interesting series of pictures on the Bioscope.

EUSTON PALACE.

There is an excellently-written and excellently-acted new playlet at the Euston this week. It was presented for the first time on Monday by Miss Beaumont Collins and company, and bears the title:

"THE LEAVES OF MEMORY."

Major Philip Gay ..... MR. GEORGE BLUNT
Frank Egerton ..... MR. GEORGE INGLETON
Foster ..... MR. FRED KNIGHT
Ruth Challoner ..... MISS BEAUMONT COLLINS

The scene is given as the drawing-room of Ruth Challoner's house in St. John's Wood. That lady is the mistress of Frank Egerton, a blackguard, who has been kicked out of the Army. At the opening of the sketch it is apparent that Ruth is in an extremely perturbed state of mind. The cause of her unhappiness is the news she has just read in an evening journal of the suicide of a young gentleman who lost a considerable sum of money at cards at her house the previous evening. She knows that her confederate, Egerton, received the money from the youth by unfair play. Ruth dreads the disclosures which may possibly follow on the inquest, and the lesson of the suicide is brought so forcibly to her mind that she decides to give up the unsatisfactory life she has been leading. A visitor comes in the person of Major Philip Gay, an old admirer of ten years ago. He is not aware that she has been and is being supported by a man who is not legally married to her, and he tells her that he loves her more than ever. Will she consent to be his wife? She gives an equivocal answer, and then, as she hears the bell ringing and realises that Egerton is waiting outside, she anxiously bustles the Major out of the room, telling him that she will explain everything later. Egerton comes in, and there is a highly dramatic scene between the two. The woman informs Egerton that she will no longer be a party to the carrying out of his evil designs, and he taunts her with her dependence upon him. In an access of fury she orders him to quit the house, in spite of his reminder that he is the actual tenant, and that he paid for the furniture, &c. Egerton goes, leaving behind a small phial which he had intended, had Ruth permitted, to have used for the purpose of inducing unconsciousness in one of his fresh victims. Ruth now determines upon suicide, for she fails to see any way of redeeming the past. She is about to drink the deadly potion, when a hand is placed on her arm, and to her surprise she finds that Major Philip Gay is by her side. He had hidden behind a curtain, had overheard the conversation with Egerton. He understood all, he still loved her, and he would marry her in spite of everything—for the leaves of memory are rustling in his imagination, and he has happy recollections of the past. Miss Beaumont Collins acted admirably in the rôle of Ruth Challoner, and she brought out the tragedy of the character with convincing earnestness. Mr. George Ingleton furnished an interesting study of the blackguardly Frank Egerton, and Mr. George Blunt is gentlemanly, gallant, and lover-like as Major Gay. In the minor rôle of the butler, Mr. Fred Knight submits a capital and characteristic impersonation. The scene of the drawing-room is a very luxurious and beautiful one.

There is plenty to attract attention in the remaining items. Miss Addie Adell, who looks charming in an Irish costume, sings a couple of songs which are ever associated with the Emerald Isle—"Come back to Erin" and "Killarney"—and succeeds in gaining the good opinion of her audience. Mr. Dion Wade arouses merriment by his quaint delivery of the song "Why can't a lady do that?" and Cole and Rags present an astonishingly clever eccentric juggling act, in which balls, rings, umbrellas, and other articles are handled with marvellous dexterity. Bi-Bo-Bi is quite a versatile musician, and his performance of popular selections on the frame of hanging bells is delightfully melodious and a pleasure to listen to. In equally capable manner he plays other instruments to which we are unable to give a designation. Perhaps Mr. Bi-Bo-Bi will oblige? Miss Dora Lyric has a distinctly entertaining number in "Winkles and Watercress," and this, as well as her succeeding song, "Monte Carlo," is delivered with much expression and tunefulness. Mr. Sam Mayo, in addition to his own amusing vocal efforts, is organising an amateur singing concert for the best impersonation of himself in either of his two songs, "I'm going to sing a song to you this evening" and "You must be tired of me, I know." There are three money prizes, and the final "heats" were arranged to take place in the second house last night. The competition is proving highly popular and highly diverting to the spectators. Mr. George Newburn gives characteristic imitations of well-known stars in their favourite ditties, and Mr. Russell Brandow smartly executes a series of difficult dances with infinite credit to himself. The Xentrix also are seen and admired in an exceedingly pretty and well-arranged Terpsichorean act, and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope displays several interesting subjects.

SADLER'S WELLS.

Some of the adventures of Sexton Blake, the detective, who is so popular a personage of fiction to the readers of some of the Harmsworth periodicals, are made the subject of a playlet, which is to be seen for the first time this week at Sadler's Wells. The sketch is from the pen of Mr. C. Douglas Carlile, and bears the title,

"THE CASE OF THE KIDNAPPED KING."

Sexton Blake ..... MR. C. DOUGLAS CARLILE
Tinker ..... MR. LEE GILBERT
Pedro ..... HIMSELF
King Otto ..... MASTER GEOFFRY LEWIS
Prince Cloris ..... MR. HARVEY NORTON
Baron Vohnan ..... MR. J. LANGFORD
Prince Stephen ..... MR. CHAS. A. CARLILE
Princess Thyra ..... MISS CARLOTTA DE YONSON

There are four scenes. The first introduces us to Sexton Blake's office in Baker-street. To the famous detective there comes Princess Thyra, mother of King Otto of Merslau. That lady is much distressed on account of the plots against her and her son, the latter, a boy, having been kidnapped in a plot in which Prince Cloris and Prince Stephen, a hunchback, are concerned. The Princess now seeks the aid of Blake, with the object of discovering the whereabouts of her son, and of putting an end to the treachery that is on foot. Blake undertakes the commission, and promises to go to Merslau that day. When she has departed there enter a couple of members of the revolutionary party, who also seek the services of the detective at any price the latter may name. Blake, however, refuses to assist them in their evil plans, and manages to evade them when they attempt to make him a prisoner. In the following scene, the Palace at Merslau, Princess Thyra reproaches the hunchback, Stephen, with his wicked deeds, that daring member of the royal house having been guilty of several murders. He professes an affection for Thyra, and tells her that if she will marry him the succession of her son will be assured. She refuses him, for she is scarcely likely to wed a man who, apart from his many other crimes, murdered her husband. In this scene Sexton Blake appears disguised as a mariner, but eventually reveals his identity to Prince Cloris, whom he compels, at the point of a revolver, to sign a passport. Ultimately, through the detective's ingenuity and boldness, aided not a little by his assistant, Tinker, the young King Otto is restored to his mother, the prime movers in the plot are killed or otherwise dealt with, and everything ends happily, with fresh laurels to the detective. Mr. C. Douglas Carlile acted in vigorous style as Sexton Blake, and Miss Carlotta de Yonson pleasingly enacted the rôle of Princess Thyra. Mr. Harvey Norton as Prince Cloris, Master Geoffrey Lewis as the young King, Mr. Chas. A. Carlile as the hunchback, Stephen, all submitted able impersonations, while Mr. Lee Gilbert was amusing as Tinker.

Mr. Pete Murray, the acting-manager, offers an interesting list of other attractions this week. Miss Sable Fern delights the house with her rendering of "Trust in me, little girl," and "Oh, Mother Eve!" and Mr. Tom Odlin is exceedingly entertaining in his songs, "What a cheek!" and "The son of a millionaire." Miss Vera Crackles makes a hit with her ditty, "A little bit more," and Rochdale and Roya offer a capital duet and dancing act, the verses on the subject of "Ayesha" being excellently delivered. Leo and Roland perform some smart hand-balancing tricks, the ascent of a silver ladder by one of them holding the other being a remarkable feat. Mme. Adele Fillis and company present the scena, *The Africander Maid*, in which we are shown a trained horse, who gives evidence of wonderful intelligence. Mme. Fillis presents a charming figure as the Africander Maid. Miss Rose d'Aulby, the chorus vocalist, enchants her hearers with her rendering of the ballads, "Gibralter" and "Red Wing," and Mr. Will Belasco furnishes an agreeable musical act. Raymond's Bio-Tableaux show, among other pictures, A Fisherman's Daughter.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER,

142, CHARING CROSS ROAD, LONDON, W.C.

GLASGOW AGAIN TAKEN BY STORM.

17 HITS IN GLASGOW PANTOMIMES.

Theatre Royal, Glasgow.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO!" "SUE, SUE, SUE."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"I SHALL SLEEP WELL TO-NIGHT."
"IT'S A LIE."
"SHAKESPEARE." "BOMBADIER."
"EVERY FELLOW'S IN LOVE WITH A GIRL."
"I'M THE BEST PAL I'VE EVER HAD."

Grand Theatre, Glasgow.

"OH! OH! ANTONIO!" "SHADOWLAND."
"THE GAY GORDONS."
"MY GIRL'S A YORKSHIRE GIRL." "PARROT DUET."
"MAGGIE OF DUNDEE." "DRINKS."

Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

"SO WHAT'S THE USE?" "JOHNNY MACINTYRE."
"I'M AFRAID TO COME HOME IN THE DARK."
"OH! OH! ANTONIO!"
"HOW DO, MATILDA McGEE?"

17 HITS IN GLASGOW PANTOMIMES.

The above is a Record even for Francis, Day, & Hunter.
But wait until Boxing Night.

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

(*Continued from page 25.*)

AT the Prince's Theatre, Glasgow, that refined and dashing principal boy, Miss Flora Cromer, is making the whole audience sing that haunting carol "Carolina Brown of Chinatown," which is published by the Star Music Co.

THAT quaint comedian Mr. John Humphreys, on Boxing night at the Adelphi, will sing the Star Co.'s catchy burlesque "Won't you waltz 'The Merry Widow' waltz with me?" Miss Ella Retford is also scoring heavily with this number in Glasgow.

MESSRS. SHEARD AND CO. inform us that Miss Margot Beatson (soprano) met with great success on Sunday last with Stanley Gordon's fine song "The last voyage," at the lifeboat concert given at the Coliseum, Glasgow. Also that Miss Tessa D'Alberte has selected Trotère's song "I love you more" for introduction in Messrs. Little and Darcy's Dalston pantomime *Red Riding Hood*. Miss Fay Reyne will also sing "Roses everywhere" as Fairy Queen in the pantomime *Cinderella* at the Pavilion, Mile End.

MR. LLOYD EDGAR, the director of "The Savoy ards' Entertainers," writes Messrs. Sheard that they have made their biggest success with the vocal duets "The merry vagabonds" and "Love the cuckoo," which have gone terrific.

THAT popular composer H. Trotère is a most conscientious worker, and never lets a chance escape him of making improvements in his songs whenever possible, even after publication. Messrs. Sheard have just issued an improved edition of his new song "The old warrior," which considerably strengthens it for the better. "It is a curious thing," says Mr. Trotère, "but my song, 'The deathless army' didn't go as I first published it, and it was not until after a fresh edition with my improvements had been published that the song began to grow into the great success it eventually became." Let us hope "The old warrior" will be a parallel case. Mr. Frank A. Wood will introduce the new version of "The old warrior" in Mr. E. Dottridge's pantomime at Oldham.

MR. FRANK PROBIN (baritone) writes Messrs. Sheard that having been so successful with their song "When the ebbtide flows" he is going to sing it in Messrs. Bliss and Bliss' pantomime *Mother Goose* at the Opera House, St. Helens.

MESSRS. SHEARD desire to announce that coloured lantern slides are now ready for their popular songs "Hold me tighter, Mr. Lighter" and "Jennie, don't swing on the gate." Messrs. F. A. Fullagar and Co. are also preparing slides for "Little silver moonbeam," "When the primrose comes again," "Don't break your loving heart for me," and "If I were a fairy queen."

MESSRS. SHEARD have accepted for immediate publication a new march two-step by C. Vanesta with the somewhat striking and up-to-date title, "The conquest of the air." The title-page will be ornamented with photos of the latest Zeppelin airship and two or three of the best aeroplanes.

MESSRS. SHEARD have acquired the British and Colonial rights of the great Continental waltz successes of the day, "Charme," "Valse Boston," by Th. Pinet, "Valerie," waltz, by Camillo Linka, and "Les Dernières Gouttes," valse, by Karl Kratzl. Quadrille band conductors should write in for band parts. They also report a continually increasing demand among chefs d'orchestres for their famous American waltz. The wedding of the winds," by John T. Hall. Band parts of this waltz may also be obtained of Messrs. Sheard and Co.

THE NATIONAL MUSIC PUBLISHING CO., 132, Charing Cross-road, W.C., are congratulating themselves on the success achieved by their one hundred guinea song entitled "When the leaves are tinged with gold." Mr. Fred Elton, who at present retains the music hall rights, is being encored nightly at the Camberwell Palace and the Granville, Walham Green. The demand has far exceeded the anticipation of the publishers, who expect phenomenal orders after its production in the various pantomimes, numbering over sixty. The song is also being produced nightly on various song-sheets, Messrs. Fullagar, of Cecil-court, having manufactured the slides, which are really most effective.

LOWENWIRTH AND COHAN continue to achieve success with "My little Eva," another of the "National" publications. This song created such a success at the Princess Theatre, Glasgow, last year, that it has been secured by almost every pantomime producer in Great Britain.

QUITE a furore was caused at the Music Hall, Greenock, on Monday evening last. When Will Godwin introduced his latest chorus success, "When I've a hundred pounds," he was called before the curtain no fewer than four times. The National Publishing Co. look forward to this number as another of their absolute "certainties." It is from the pens of E. W. Rogers and J. Chas. Moore.

WILKIE BARD, comedian, has secured the sole London rights for pantomime of "Put me upon an island where the girls are few," of which he will make a special feature at Old Drury. The National Music Publishing Co. have been fortunate enough to secure this number; and that quaint Scotch comedian Neil Kenyon will introduce in the same pantomime "You all want something to cuddle," published by the same firm.

THOSE well-tried successes, "I wish I had a pal" and "Call round" (by kind permission of Miss Victoria Monks), will be made free for pantomime on application to the publishers, the National Publishing Co., together with their latest craze, "Kate, won't you roller skate?"

"He's a white man, yes, and he's the right man too" applies to all principal boys who are singing this song in pantomime. Messrs. B. Feldman ask us, in their name, to wish all "White men" a very happy Christmas, and, incidentally, we may mention they included *The Era* in this category.

RARELY does it occur that one firm should supply the same artist two consecutive years with the success of the year. This extraordinary coincidence has been accomplished by Messrs. B. Feldman and Co., who were responsible last year for "Put me amongst the girls," and also this year's sensation, "I want you to see my girl," both launched to fame by Mr. Charles R. Whittle, who, in a recent letter, writes, "All Chatham is 'I want you to see my girl' mad. This number seems destined to be one of the crazes of the pantomime season.

ONLY four months ago, Mr. Bert Feldman purchased "A tiny seed of love," and at once realised that he had found the song of his life. His enthusiasm was evidently justified, for to-day it is the most discussed song in the profession. Ere long it will have invaded America, and also South Africa.

THE latest craze is roller skating, and Messrs. B. Feldman and Co. have just purchased a song on this subject from Godfrey, Mellor, and Gifford. It is composed in their best style, and is another of Messrs. B. Feldman and Co.'s "certs."

FELDMAN'S

FINAL WARNING.

OUR 12th HOUR SENSATION.

"I WANT TO ROLLER SKATE, JOHNNY."

WIRE FOR THIS AT ONCE.

ALL THE STARS ARE SINGING

'I WANT YOU TO SEE MY GIRL.'

DON'T BE MISLED.

YOUR SUCCESS IN PANTO. IS VITAL TO YOU.

"A TINY SEED OF LOVE."

THE SONG OF A LIFETIME.

GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH HAVE STAMPED ITS FAME.
PRESS AND PUBLIC HAVE ACCLAIMED IT

THE HIT OF HITS.

"A WHITE MAN."

THREE ENCORES CERTAIN.

NO PRINCIPAL BOY CAN AFFORD TO MISS THIS SENSATION.

"CONNEMARA." "THE BUBBLE AND THE SUNBEAM."

"PEGGY, THE PRIDE OF THE MILL."

"IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE WALTZ DREAM." "TRAMCAR."

"HARRIGAN." "GIRLS, STUDY YOUR COOKERY BOOK."

"GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS." "SHINE LITTLE MOONFLOWER."

"CALL ROUND ON SUNDAY." "GOOD-BYE TO MAUDIE."

WIRE US FOR BAND PARTS.

B. FELDMAN & CO.,

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Telegrams, "Humfriv, London." Telephone, No. 4447 Gerrard.

A POPULAR PAIR.

Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Hicks have made the inevitable plunge into the variety theatres, and under the ægis of Mr. Alfred Butt have found a most appropriate *pied à terre* on the stage of the Palace Theatre, where so many musical comedy heroes and heroines have before discovered the delights of playing to the larger public of the halls. Their advent at the fine house in Cambridge-circus drew an immense audience on Monday, when the bewitching grace and sweetness of Miss Terriss, and the delightful irresponsibility, geniality, and buoyancy of Mr. Hicks once more exerted their charm. The trifle that has been written round the happy pair is from the pen of Mr. Paul Rubens, who entitles it *The Fly-by-Night*, a musical aero-play, with an 'Aero and an Aeroine. Of course, there is a story, which is set forth in a wonderful scene—the roofs of London by night, in the neighbourhood of Piccadilly-circus, which has been painted with a deal of cleverness by Mr. W. Hann. There are but two characters—Cicely the daughter of the editor of *The Conquering Aero* (who has offered a prize of £20,000 to the winner of an aeroplane race), and Rupert, one of the competitors, an old friend, whom she has not seen for years.

Cicely is watching on the roofs for the winning aeroplane, when Rupert descends from his machine in search of petrol. Cicely does not know Rupert in his aerial costume; but with the facility of musical comedy protagonists, they soon become associated in song and dance and patter, and assisting them are sixteen daughters of other London editors. Miss Terriss sings an artistically "dozey" song entitled "I am so solitary." Cicely joins Rupert in the duet "Things are not always the same," and has a capital number in "London." The ready gags of Mr. Hicks, and topical references, with occasional imitations of actors and a funny burlesque of the Apache dance, are immensely enjoyed. With the resourcefulness that is possessed by Mr. Hicks, we may be sure that the framework of the little piece will be furnished with more funny material, and as time goes on dull moments will be eliminated.

The prettiness of the whole thing, its airy gaiety and its modernity should specially appeal to Palace audiences; and Mr. Butt, who has done so much for the dressing and mounting of *Fly-by-Night*, may be congratulated on having secured such a Christmas attraction for his admirably-conducted theatre. We hardly need say that, with the greater freedom of the variety stage, Mr. Hicks's untiring energy, prompt readiness at gag, and sunny temperament, are allowed full scope. And the delicacy of Miss Ellaline Terriss's art, her expressive delivery of her songs, and her sly touches of burlesque are all in the purest spirit of comedy. The sixteen young ladies, a fascinating chorus, are costumed in the most fetching gowns, and make a pretty picture. The "'air" is by Willie Clarkson, who manages the wigging in his own incomparable fashion, and an excellent rendering of the music is secured by Mr. Herman Finck and his capital orchestra, the ensemble secured being excellent. On the opening night Miss Terriss was handed up half a dozen beautiful bouquets and a miniature airship in violets, and Mr. Hicks made a short speech of thanks after bringing on the author.

THE METROPOLITAN.

We were glad to note the return to duty of Mr. Jack Edgar, who is in much improved health. The popular manager is presenting an unusually varied programme, in which sketches play a prominent part. The first of the playlets to grip the attention of audiences of the Edgware-road palace is from the pen of the clever Mr. Frederick Fenn, the author of *The Convict on the Hearth*. It is entitled

"THE CONQUERING HERO."

Arthur Denison ..... MR. LEON M. LION
Helen ..... MISS NELLIE REDWOOD
A Constable ..... MR. H. PRICE
A Burglar ..... MR. FRANK COLLINS

On the theatre stage at its production at the Comedy in March, 1902, it was known as *Judged by Appearances*. It has a slight plot, but the dialogue is smart and the characterisation interesting. Arthur Denison, in an unreasonably jealous frame of mind, provokes his wife to air her views on hero worship, and to throw out a hint that he is a coward. His temper being completely roused, he threatens to commit suicide. Helen is not in the slightest degree alarmed, and ridiculing the idea, goes to bed, leaving him to carry out his purpose. It is impossible for him to do it, and with a loaded revolver in his hand he has to confess himself a coward. But the advent of a burglar, who covers him with a formidable shooting iron, inspires him with an idea. The cracksman shall shoot him; and, what is more, he will give him fifty pounds to do it. But Mr. Burglar is not going to put a noose round his neck, and Denison, who hectors and bullies him, is standing over him in a threatening attitude when the wife enters, and the spectacle of her husband cowing a great, hulking brute, who is whining for mercy, convinces her that her darling is as brave as a lion. Mr. Leon M. Lion as Arthur Denison and Miss Nellie Redwood as Helen play well into each other's hands, and Mr. Frank Collins is a capital burglar, the constable being artistically presented by Mr. H. Price.

Another sketch, or rather duologue, from the pen of John Cutler, K.C., is entitled

"A MATTER-OF-FACT HUSBAND."

Bella ..... MISS ELLA DIXON
Henry ..... MR. WILLIAM DEXTER

The husband of the title has no patience with his wife's yearning for romance, and cures her by disguising himself as a hero of foreign extraction. Under a mask he makes love to her, and after giving her a lesson discloses his identity. The trifle is brightly interpreted by Miss Ella Dixon and Mr. William Dexter.

Chirgwin is the star turn here, and others who entertain include Archie Rozer, who is applauded for his somersaulting; Minnie Mace, a dainty dancer; Joe Dale, light comedian; Leslie, Lyn, and Willie, in well-harmonised trios; Mamie Fenton, with a Scotch song and stories; Sibb and Sibb, in double trapeze act; Walter Wade, a vocal comedian, and Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, with some of the latest films.

FOLLOWING the lead of other towns, roller-skating will be inaugurated at the Pier Pavilion, Southampton, next week. Winslow's skates will be used, and the innovation should prove a great attraction.

MISS ELLA RETFORD has scored a success in pantomime, with a song entitled "Peggy, the pride of the mill." Everybody who remembers "She's a lassie from Lancashire" last year should at once secure this number for pantomime.

MR. MAURICE SCOTT writes: "I notice in your issue of Dec. 12 a paragraph in 'Songs, Writers, and Singers' column saying Mr. Kenneth Lyle is the composer of Miss Vesta Tilley's great success, 'That's the time a fellow wants his ma.' I also notice that Mr. Lyle has an advertisement in the same issue (a report taken from the *Weekly Dispatch*), in which he would infer that Mr. Lyle is the composer of the song. I have written to the *Dispatch* contradicting this. I enclose you a published copy of the song in question. You will see that I am the composer of same."

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

GEORGE GRAY AND THE V.A.F.

In the King's Bench Division on Monday, before Mr. Justice Darling and a Special Jury, Mr. George Gray brought an action against the Variety Artists' Federation, Mr. C. C. Bartram, the editor, and Messrs. Odhams, the printers of the *Performer*, and Mr. Edmond Edmonds, Mr. Joe Elvin, and Mr. Paul Martinetti, trustees of the Federation, to recover damages for libel contained in the issue of the paper on Feb. 20, 1908. Defendants admitted that they published the libel, and relied on Section 4 of the Trades Disputes Act. They said that the words did not bear the meaning alleged, and urged that they were a report of a public meeting, bonâ-fide held, for discussing matters of public concern. Part of the words, they said, were true in substance and in fact, while the other part consisted of fair and bonâ-fide comment. Counsel opened the case, and plaintiff went into the box, when a consultation took place between counsel, and the case came to an abrupt termination. Mr. Hume Williams, K.C., Mr. W. Payne, and Mr. J. D. Cassels (instructed by Messrs. Morris and Rickards) were for the plaintiff; and Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C., Mr. Doughty, and Mr. Nicholson (instructed by Messrs. Judge and Priestley) were for the defendants.

Mr. Hume Williams explained that the plaintiff was best known in connection with a sketch, *The Fighting Parson*, which had attained a very considerable measure of success. He sought to portray a clergyman, not as the effeminate, somewhat comic parson of plays like *The Private Secretary*, but as a healthy Englishman, prepared, if need be, to back up his religion with his fists, a character which always enlisted the sympathy of the audience. Mr. Gray become a music hall artist in 1900, and had been very closely identified with the various associations and schemes for mutual support and benevolent objects in the profession. In 1903 he was the chairman and auditor of the Music Hall Artists' Railway Association, and two years later was very largely interested in the association which settled a kind of general contract for artists. He also took a part in starting a benevolent society, which he presented with £1,000. In 1906 the Variety Artists' Federation was formed, and Mr. Joe O'Gorman became chairman and the plaintiff vice-chairman. Shortly after it came into existence it became the proprietor of the *Performer*, which up to then had been run by other people. Mr. Gray at first thought the Federation would be what he had desired the other society would be, and that its funds would not be devoted to furthering strikes if any should break out. In 1907, however, a quarrel took place between music hall artists pretty well all over the country and the proprietors of music halls. It assumed an acrimonious form, and a strike was threatened. Fortunately it was obviated, and the question at issue was referred to arbitration. What took place at the arbitration led to the uttering of the slander by Mr. O'Gorman and its publication in the newspaper. At the arbitration, Mr. Clemart and Mr. Pink, who were officers of the Federation, attended on its behalf, and Mr. Gray was called as a witness. During the hearing some evidence was given to the effect that this particular sketch, *The Fighting Parson*, was one which belonged rather to the theatre than the music hall stage. Mr. Gray thought that if that was the view which obtained in the profession he could not rightly continue his membership of the Federation, and he resigned. This year the question arose as to whether artists who gave their performance gratuitously to charity should do so absolutely without remuneration, or whether 2½ per cent. of the proceeds should be given to the Federation for its sick funds. The matter was discussed in the profession, and widely divergent views were expressed. On Feb. 20, 1908, Mr. O'Gorman, as chairman of the Federation, made a speech, which had been reproduced in the *Performer*, and in respect of which Mr. Gray now complained. Mr. O'Gorman, after dealing with the question before the association, went on to demolish one by one all those people who took a different view from himself. He first dealt with Dr. Bodie, who thought that the artist should give his services altogether gratuitously. He then referred to Mr. Stoll, and made the following statement complained of:—

"Now they came to Mr. George Gray. Mr. Gray said he had received a great number of confidential letters. The chairman did not like to tell any man that he was wilfully lying, but he would believe George Gray when he produced those confidential letters, and when he agreed to allow him (the chairman) to publish the letters he had received from him during the strike, which were also marked private and confidential.

"This gentleman never wrote a letter since he had first taken to desecrating clerical cloth in which he did not take the Lord's name in vain. In one letter he would talk of the King of Kings, another reminded you of the debt you owe your Maker, but that was nothing. Mr. Clemart and the speaker took a certain action over the committee election a year ago, and Mr. George Gray wrote to the president of the Grand Order of Water Rats saying that their conduct was not in accordance with the sacred tenets of Christ. Had the meeting ever heard of such blasphemy? Mr. George Gray came to the arbitration board, when Messrs. Pink, Clemart, and the speaker were representing the interests of the Federation. Mr. Stoll asked him what he had to complain about. He, with his usual mock piety, said: 'Nothing; I am here in the interests of the poor half-starving artists who do not receive a living wage.' Mr Stoll, with considerable warmth, said: 'Let me inform you, Mr. Gray, that it is not Oswald Stoll who does not give a living wage; nobody works on the Stoll tour under £5 a week, but it is you who do not pay the men who work for you a living wage.' At this point a member announced that he had worked for George Gray for 25s. a week, out of which he was compelled to buy his M.H.A.R.A. ticket. The chairman remarked that, as the meeting could see, Mr. Stoll had George Gray weighed up to a nicety."

As a matter of fact, the shorthand note of the proceedings did not contain any suggestion of such a statement by Mr. Stoll, and the latter would be called to say he never made it. Mr. Gray was very much hurt at the speech. He had written to the association asking whether the officials who had attended the arbitration had been paid for their services, and urging that the funds should not be devoted to such a purpose, and he could only imagine that that was the cause of the attack. On Feb. 27 he wrote:—

"Dear Sir,—In the cause of justice, I trust you will permit me to reply to the scurrilous statements in the report of a meeting of Feb. 20, statements calculated to do me grievous moral and financial harm. It was stated that Mr. Stoll had said to me before the Board of Arbitration, 'That you do not pay the men who work for you a living wage,' and that a member of the V.A.F. (by the rules a bonâ-fide artist) had worked for me for 25s. a week and been compelled to buy a M.H.A.R.A. ticket. Such statements are false. Travelling as a theatrical company, and scheduled by the railway companies as such, I have never had need for M.H.A.R.A. tickets, although in conformance with the rules of that association I yearly subscribe for four tickets, and for which I personally pay. But, unfortunately, there have been certain artists in straitened circumstances, who have, in many towns, asked to be permitted to go on as supers, and at the end of the week, needless to say, they had not received super wages. Only a few weeks back, one whom I had known to have 'topped' the bills at the principal halls of London, and wearing a V.A.F. badge, approached me, and, to quote his own words, 'I would rather super than ask for charity.' He dressed with some of my principals, and on Saturday night I personally paid him—not super money. His eyes filled with tears, and, grasping my hand, he said, 'Thank God, I can now get my props.' He was grateful; I was repaid. There are others, many others; some also grateful, some not.

"I have received a letter from Mr. Stoll repudiating the words above mentioned, thus: 'I may say that I have not the slightest recollection of having used them, and, if taken with this, the verbatim reports of the meetings do not contain them, it is pretty obvious they were never uttered.'

"As to the suggestion of desecrating the clerical cloth and taking the Lord's Name in vain, I leave myself in the hands of the intelligent, and to the opinions of bishops and clergy, from whom I hold letters thanking me for upholding the character of the cloth as a man, and not as usually upon the stage, as an anæmic idiot."

Mr. Justice Darling: Is that supposed to be a quotation from a bishop—the anæmic idiot?

Mr. Hume Williams: No, but a bishop might have done worse than to write it. The following is the plaintiff's letter to the Rats which was alleged to be blasphemous:

"Dear Rats,—I have received enclosed and other circulars. I sincerely hope they have not been circulated under the auspices of the lodge, because, in my humble opinion, such proceedings would be degrading and humilitating to the Order, and utterly and entirely against the ritual. The religion of Water Rats, as understood by me, is to do good to others, speak ill of none, and, on all fours with the ancient creed of Masonry, which aims at the performance of the tenets and teachings of Christ—'the greatest good to the greatest number.' The Federation was formed for the betterment, social and otherwise, of the calling which we follow. The Federation is a democracy, and not an autocracy. All are units, and all should be bound in one unanimous bond of Christian Socialism. . . . . Let us be Water Rats in soul and deed, according to our ritual—a ritual that should be more carefully studied and, more often than it is, recited and inwardly digested.—In the cause of freedom and the federation, I am, impartially and fraternally, RAT GEORGE GRAY."

Plaintiff concluded his letter by saying:

"Undesirous of doing anything to financially cripple an institution which always had my sympathy and support, I have instructed my solicitors merely to apply for a public apology, failing which there will be nothing left but to vindicate my position by recourse to law."

The attitude taken up by Mr. O'Gorman was shown by his answer, which ran:

"Dear Sir,—I regret having to depart from my resolve to refrain from writing letters to the Press, but I must for once, in order to reply to another of those mock-missionary epistles from ex-V.A.F. 2,000, with which we are now getting so familiar. The latest, you will agree, is quite typical. He says a poor artist, wearing a V.A.F. badge, to whom he gave (if he did) a cheque for a thousand pounds—I mean, not 'super money'—said, as 'his eyes filled with tears, and grasping my hands, "Thank God, I can now get my props." He was grateful; I was repaid.' How saintly! St. Peter by this time must have ordered a beautifully-designed halo for St. George III., ex-vice-chairman and ex-V.A.F. 2,000. . . . Now, sir, this philanthropic ex-V.A.F. 2,000, through the late solicitors of the Federation, writes demanding an anology. In reply, I most emphatically decline. I withdraw nothing.—Yours fraternally, JOE O'GORMAN, Chairman of the Variety Artists' Federation."

Mr. Marshall Hall objected to this letter, as Mr. O'Gorman had been struck out of the action and judgment given in his favour.

His Lordship (to Mr. Hume Williams): I have been wondering why you did not sue him for slander. Blasphemy is a crime at common law, and therefore Mr. O'Gorman would be liable to an action for slander.

Mr. Hume Williams explained that he presumed those advising the plaintiffs thought the plea of privilege would be a good one, and the action was dismissed on their application.

Counsel went on to say that on the paper appeared:

"Our policy, in all things, fair; to everyone, just; to all, defence; to opponents, courteous; to friends, appreciative; to right the wrong; to protect the weak; to assist all; to malign none."

Mr. George Gray, the plaintiff, examined by Mr. Payne, said that he had been an actor for twenty-five years, and in 1900 he took to the variety stage. He had since acted in *The Fighting Parson* and other sketches—the former all over the United Kingdom.

His Lordship: Where is it most appreciated?

Plaintiff: Everywhere, my lord.

Describing the Fighting Parson, witness said that he wore the costume of a clergyman. As to the plot, magistrates had said it was highly elevating and moral.

Mr. Marshall Hall: That is heresay.

The plot, continued witness, was very simple. There were two brothers in it, one rakish and the other of the Joseph Surface type. "In the end," said witness, "I thrash a man who plays the part of a bully."

His Lordship: Being still dressed as a clergyman?

Witness: In a cassock, my lord. In the first part of the play I am dressed as a huntsman.

In the course of further evidence witness said that he gave £35 to the funds of the strike in the variety artists' dispute——

His Lordship: The question will have to be decided whether this is an action which can be brought against a trade union at all, whether a trade union cannot libel anyone it pleases.

After a consultation between the parties and counsel, Mr. Hume Williams said that he was glad to be able to inform his lordship that the case was at an end. Mr. Gray had never been anxious to make money out of these proceedings, and it was only the attitude assumed towards him in the issue of the *Performer* of March 5 which made it necessary to bring the action. The defendants now, under the advice of Mr. Marshall Hall, had consented to pay £100 to any theatrical charity which Mr. Gray should name, pay his costs, and unreservedly withdraw and apologise for the statements complained of.

Mr. Marshall Hall said that he did not want to discuss the question whether the Federation were liable as a trade union or not. They had used words which were not justifiable, although without malice, and the proper thing for them to do in the interests of the Federation was to assent to the course indicated.

Mr. Hume Williams asked that a juror should be withdrawn.

In consenting to this course being taken his lordship said that this was the most that he could allow. Section 4 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1906, was in the following terms:

"An action against a trade union, whether of workmen or of masters, or against any member or officials thereof, on behalf of themselves or of other members of the trade union, in respect of any tortious act alleged to have been cited by or on behalf of a trade union shall not be entertained by any Court."

This meant that courts of law had been absolutely deprived of any jurisdiction to hear a claim against a trade union, and any wrong which they do in the course of a trade dispute, and even if they consent to make some reparation the statute—as it seemed to his lordship, and he should hold so until he was corrected by the House of Lords—made it impossible for a court of law to enter any judgment whatever in a cause it is forbidden to entertain, even for costs for or against a trade union, if the trade union be sued for a tortious act which it is alleged to have committed in the course of a trade dispute. In this case a trade union was by name made party to the action. The defendant, O'Gorman, had been dismissed, and the others were sued as trustees and officers of the union. Whether witnesses could have been prosecuted for perjury if uttered in the course of such an action he did not know; he should say not. He was not sure whether this was a judicial proceeding at all, or whether, when he first saw the words "trade union" in the pleadings, he ought not to have said, "I cannot entertain the action." He could give no judgment nor make the Court a party to any sort of arrangement.

To the jury his lordship said that they were going to be paid a guinea each, but he did not know whether they were legally entitled to it.

CLAIM AGAINST MARIE LOFTUS.

In the King's Bench Division on Tuesday, before Mr. Justice Lawrance and a special jury, Miss Marie Loftus was sued for damages for alleged breach of contract. The plaintiff was Mr. Thomas Allan Edwardes, the well-known Midlands proprietor. The breach was alleged in connection with Miss Marie Loftus's non-appearance at the Hippodrome, Stoke, in November, 1907.

Mr. M. Shearman, K.C., and Mr. Charles A. McCurdy appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C., and Mr. Charles Doughty for the defendant.

Mr. Shearman said the contract, dated Oct. 11, 1907, was for one week, at a salary of £70, with two appearances nightly and one matinée as a "character artist," subject to the rules and regulations of the establishment—"no play no pay."

The contract had this condition:

"Any artist totally failing to fulfil this engagement shall forfeit to the management twice the amount of salary stated therein as liquidated damages; and in the event of partial failure to fulfil this engagement, a proportionate share of the hereinbefore mentioned damages shall be deemed to be forfeited; or an action at law may be entered into to determine damages, at the option of the management. No excuse on the ground of illness will be accepted unless accompanied by a certificate from a properly qualified medical practitioner."

Miss Marie Loftus did not keep her engagement on account, it was said, of bad health. She was ordered a sea voyage, and went to South Africa, where she had an engagement at £200 per week. No doctor's certificate was sent. Her other defence was that the contract was rescinded.

It appeared that in March, 1907, when she was to appear at Grimsby, she telegraphed to plaintiff's manager:

"Voice very bad. Can you make the date the 25th instead of 18th? If not feel I cannot help you. Unable to open at Wolverhampton this week."

That contract was off, and it was now said that the cancellation also covered the contract for November at Stoke.

Mr. Marshall Hall observed that Mr. Shearman generally appeared for ladies in distress; he was their recognised champion; and, no doubt, he would do all he could for the lady in this case as she thought she had a grievance. They had heard before now of ladies with grievances. Some ladies, for instance, tied themselves to chairs and vowed they wouldn't be removed.

Mr. T. A. Edwardes, giving evidence, said he owned theatres at Sheffield, Derby, and Stoke, and was managing-director of the Grimsby Palace Theatre Company. He gave evidence as to the contract. He was in Italy when Miss Marie Loftus sent the telegram to Grimsby about her voice.

Cross-examined by Mr. Marshall Hall: Your manager was left in full authority in your absence?—Absolutely.

Miss Loftus, received a telegram: "Contracts are off"?—Mr. Taylor, the manager, would have no power to send such a telegram.

Do you know that Miss Loftus was ill with gouty laryngitis, so that her life was despaired of, and do you know that the only thing that would save her life was a sea voyage?—At a big salary. (Laughter.)

Does not Miss Loftus often earn £150 per week?—Sometimes.

Six weeks were spent in travelling. Do you know that the cost of living in South Africa is double what it is here?—I can't say.

Do you know she had to take a special dresser and a call-boy?—I can't say.

What was the star turn you engaged instead of Miss Loftus?—"The Sorrows of Satan." (Laughter.)

Nothing personal in your sorrow! You had a good week?—No.

Your sorrow was greater at the end than at the beginning? (Laughter.)—I don't know.

Mr. Herbert James Taylor, at present manager of the Devonport Hippodrome, said that in the spring of 1907 he was manager for Mr. T. A. Edwardes. He received the telegram from Miss Loftus about her voice, but did not answer it. He denied sending a telegram, "All contracts are off."

Mr. Edwardes, recalled, said he engaged Mrs. Brown-Potter to take the place of Miss Loftus.

Miss Marie Loftus gave evidence. In March, 1907, she received a reply telegram which, to the best of her recollection read, "Contracts off. (Signed) Allan Edwardes." Her doctor ordered her to go to South Africa for the voyage. She had then no South African engagements. An agent fixed up one for her.

Mr. Marshall Hall: Everyone knew you were going?—Yes.

Photographs of your departure were in the illustrated papers and flowers were sent to you?—Yes.

When the writ in this action was served her nephew wrote:

"Miss Loftus desire me to say you must have forgotten the wire you sent, and which she has filed, to the effect that all contracts are off."

She found afterwards that by some mistake this telegram had not been filed.

Cross-examined: She kept the telegram from March until September, 1907, when having shown it to her agent to prove that he was not entitled to commission, she destroyed it.

Dr. D. J. Monroe, of Brixton, said that in 1907 he ordered Miss Loftus to take a sea voyage. He thought there was a danger then of her losing her voice.

Miss Catherine Loftus, niece of the defendant, said she distinctly remembered opening the telegram about contracts being off.

Mr. Tom Price, theatrical agent, gave evidence that Miss Loftus would lose money by her South African tour.

The jury returned a verdict for Miss Marie Loftus, and judgment was given accordingly.

"THE DUCHESS OF DEPTFORD."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ERA.

SIR,—My attention has been called to a description in your issue of Dec. 5 of a sketch produced at the Standard, Pimlico, and styled *The Duchess of Deptford*. The plot, according to details given, is practically identical with that of a sketch produced by me as far back as December, 1900, at Chatham, under the title of *Two's Company* ——, and afterwards revised and rechristened *A Tea House Flirtation*. Under this title the said sketch was performed by my company and self at various London and provincial variety theatres, including a tour of the Moss-Stoll halls. The main idea was obtained from an old French farce.—Faithfully yours,

G. H. SMYTHSON
(the Smythson Comedy Co.).

Vaudeville Club, Charing Cross-road,
Dec. 16.

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THE V.A.F. SUED FOR LIBEL.

In the Queen's Bench on Tuesday, before Mr. Justice Darling and a special jury, the Variety Artists' Federation and its trustees, Mr. Edmond Edmonds, Mr. Joe Elvin, Mr. Paul Martinetti, and Mr. C. C. Bartram, editor, and Messrs. Odhams, printers of the *Performer*, the organ of the federation, were defendants in an action in which Mr. A. R. Rickards, a member of the firm of Morris and Rickards, formerly solicitors to the federation, sought to recover damages for libel alleged to be contained in the *Performer*. The issue in question contained a report of a meeting, at which the financial position of the paper was discussed, and where the words occurred:

"In connection with the unfortunate libel action into which we were precipitated by the ill advice of our former legal representatives."

Mr. Hume Williams, K.C., Mr. M. O'Connor, and Mr. J. D. Cassels (instructed by Messrs Greenwood and Greenwood) were for the plaintiff; and Mr. Marshall Hall, K.C., and Mr. Charles Doughty (instructed by Messrs. Judge and Priestley) appeared for the defendants.

Plaintiff denied that an article alleged to have been submitted to him before insertion in the *Performer*, and which it was asserted he had passed as not libellous, had ever been shown to him; he never saw it until it was read in court.

Mr. Bartram gave evidence that the article was submitted to the plaintiff, and passed by him. The federation had a legal committee, whose members were changed every month, as performers came to London from the provinces.

His Lordship: I understand that artists come to London, and have a "turn" on the legal committee, and then return to the provinces. (Laughter.)

Mr. Hume Williams: Is it looked on as part of the entertainment? (Laughter.)

Witness: We take our federation very seriously; we do not take it as an entertainment, we reserve that for the stage.

By the Court: Before he became editor of the *Performer* he was on the music-hall stage. On the Saturday night he did his last turn on the stage, and on the Monday he took up his position as editor.

His Lordship: What sort of entertainment did you give?—I was a juggler, and worked with a partner.

When you joined the federation, you went on juggling till you became editor?—Yes.

You knew nothing about libels and such like?—I had put in my apprenticeship in a newspaper office, and I had written as a correspondent of the various music-hall papers from the various places I visited; but the real depths of the law of libel I did not thoroughly understand. (Laughter.)

Though I gather you had been apprenticed to it? (Laughter.)—I had been apprenticed to the type-setting department.

Mr. Doughty pointed out that the only charge made against Mr. Rickards was that on one occasion he had given ill-advice. It was also pleaded that the report was privileged.

Mr. Williams quoted from an article in the *Performer*, referring to a particular music-hall, in which it was stated:

"The stage is so old that one expects to see the performer disappear cellarwards with a crash." (Laughter.)

His Lordship. That would often be a relief to the audience. (Laughter.)

Mr. Williams went on to read:

"The curtain is a rag that might have been painted by one of Noah's sons with a leaning towards art." (Laughter.)

His lordship, in summing up, said that Mr. Marshall Hall had submitted that no action could be taken against any trade union for any wrong, even libel, assault, malicious prosecution, or false imprisonment. If that were the law it gave a trade union the privilege to commit untold wrong and inflict inconceivable damage on other people, and to remain absolutely untouched by any law of the land. There was no direct authority on the point. It depended on the meaning of the Trades Disputes Act of 1906. His lordship held that trade unions were amenable if they committed such wrongs unless they did them in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute. If such acts were committed by a trade union in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute, Parliament had enacted that it should enjoy absolute immunity. It was not for his lordship to criticise the law, but only to lay it down to the jury. He had ruled against the defendants in this case because there was no suggestion that the words which were alleged to be a libel were published in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute. It was in that respect that they differed from the subject-matter of the action brought by Mr. Gray on Monday. The jury must therefore judge of the case on its merits.

After retiring for about two hours the jury found for the plaintiff, damages £25, and in answer to his lordship added that they thought the libel was published without malice, that the words published were a matter of public concern, but that the publication of them was not for the public benefit.

His lordship then entered judgment for the plaintiff for £25 and costs.

DEATH OF MR. FRANK HEATH.

We regret to announce the death on Wednesday of Mr. Frank Heath, at his residence in Teignmouth-road, Cricklewood. Mr. Heath, who was fifty-two years of age, had been ill for eight weeks with inflammation of the brain. Specialists were called in, but their opinions of the case were not hopeful, and a fatal termination was feared from the first.

Mr. Frank Heath was for a number of years chairman at the Metropolitan, during the time that Mr. Wm. Bailey was the manager, and his genial manners and kindly disposition made him many friends amongst the habitués of the hall. He was an old and much esteemed member of the Music Hall Sick Fund, and was one of its most energetic and experienced representatives on the management committee. When a few years ago Mr. Wm. Bailey resigned the post of hon. treasurer to the oldest professional Fund Mr. Heath accepted the vacant position, which he was compelled to resign two months ago, when attacked by the disease which has caused his death. Deep sympathy will be felt for the widow and children of the deceased in their irreparable loss. The funeral will take place at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery, Kensal Green, on Monday at 12.30 p.m., starting from the residence at 11.45.

MR. SIDNEY BACON has secured a long lease of the St. James's Hall, Kingston-on-Thames, which he opens to-day with a cinematograph entertainment. The Victoria Hall, York, opens under his management on Monday with a similar show. Mr. Bacon's new venture at Middlesbrough has proved a pronounced success, and the old-established hall is crowded at every performance.

VARIETY THEATRES.

DIRECTORS and MANAGERS

PLEASE NOTE.

"CHUMS TILL DEATH."

A GENUINE SUCCESS.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BIRMINGHAM.

Week Commencing December 21st.

Telegrams, "Playlet, London."
'Phone, 909 P.O., Croydon.

ALBERT MARSH,
St. Margaret's,
Birchanger Road,
South Norwood.

THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Coming Events.

The executive officials of the Showmen's Guild are now busy preparing for the great annual meetings of the society. In accordance with the rules and constitution, the annual business committees will take place at Manchester. The date of the public meeting there is Jan. 13, and the place of meeting will be the Memorial Hall, Albert-square, at 4 p.m. The business committee will meet at 11 in the forenoon of the same day at the Guild committee room, the Black Lion Hotel, Salford.

The President-Elect.

An extremely interesting event at Manchester will be the election of the new President of the Guild. At the recent committee meeting at Manchester the unanimous choice of the Executive Council was Mr. Patrick Collins. It is confidently anticipated that the nomination of the Council will be endorsed by the whole body of members. Mr. Collins has accepted the nomination, and in an interesting letter to the Guild Chaplain says:

"I thank you and the committee for the confidence you have shown in me by proposing me as President of the Showmen's Guild for next year. If elected, I will accept the honour and do my best to further our cause. But you know I am a very busy man, and occasionally you will have to excuse me attending meetings. I know that in you I shall have so enthusiastic a helper that my official duties will be comparatively easy and light. Were it not for that I could not have seen my way to accept the responsibility. But as we shall combine forces I shall endeavour to make next year a record year for the Guild. It shall not be my fault if we do not succeed in this."

The Annual London Meetings.

These gatherings will take place, as usual, at the World's Fair, Mr. T. E. Reed, sole lessee, having placed (with his customary zeal for the Society) the whole resources of the hall at the disposal of the committee. The public meeting will take place at half-past eleven in the forenoon of Jan. 20. The committee are asking the retiring President, Lord George Sanger, to be present, and to formally hand over the presidency to his successor, Mr. P. Collins. If the venerable leader of the showman world can be prevailed upon (subject, of course, to health considerations) to do this, it will be a ceremony and an occasion of great significance—the man who for years has borne the burden and heat of conflict for his brethren of the road—committing into younger hands the responsibilities and the work that he has so worthily maintained.

The Retirement of Lord George Sanger.

An extremely important part of the business of the London meeting will be the tendering of the thanks and gratitude of the whole body of showmen to their life-long friend and champion, George Sanger. The executive committee feel that the end of the last year of their revered President Lord George Sanger's presidency is the fitting time and appropriate occasion to unite in words of gratitude and abiding loyalty to their great leader.

The Significance of the Coming Events.

No movement can grow and prosper unless it contains within itself strength to suffer great changes, to bear great losses, and to continue to face serious periods of crises. The organised showmen of the Empire have been skilfully piloted through the tremendous period of twenty years of struggle and strife against the adverse forces massed against them. Lord George Sanger has stood by them with the power of his great name and well-won reputation, with his open-handed generosity, with his acute and ever-ready counsel. Can we wonder that Showland was loth to face the grave possibilities of his retirement? Nay, it was out of the very depths of their loyalty and affection that during the past few years they have persistently refused to accept his repeated warnings and his oft-asserted determination to really retire. It was in a sense selfish of them to wish to retain him; but, after all, at its heart foundations it was a noble selfishness. We never wish to part with those whom we reverence and love.

The Linking Up of the Past and the Future.

If Lord George Sanger will be able to gratify the wish of his people and personally conduct the new President to the chair, it will be the linking up of the past and the future. Just think of the two chief actors in the scene—the aged leader of a now well-organised army of workers (over 70,000 strong) committing into the hands of a comparatively young man the reins of supreme power and government. This is exactly as it ever ought to be. This is the true sequence of well-ordered life and progress. This is the right outcome of the serious warning of both President and Chaplain at the last meeting in the now historic room at the World's Fair.

Great indeed was the loss the Guild faced at the beginning of 1908, but great has been the expression of strong determination to meet the situation as men, and to make the Guild strong for its work.

Men, under the pressure of time and things, must come to the end of their strength and powers. Great movements embodying the eternal principles of truth, liberty, and justice never die. It is right and just that it should be so. It is for each one in his time to do his best for the good of mankind, and to do his best, confident that others would follow him—perhaps reaping where he has laboriously sown. Yet still the good abides, and the world (despite all that the pessimists tell us) grows better and wiser.

Stories of Showman Life.

A reference to our advertising columns will show that the long-expected sixpenny book of stories from the pen of the Guild Chaplain is now ready. It may be obtained direct from *The Era* offices by post for 7½d. It will also be on sale at the railway bookstalls and the booksellers' as soon as arrangements can be made for the purpose. The author determined to publish this first series of his sketches of show life at the popular sixpence in order that they might reach the British public. His primary object in writing the stories was to vindicate the life and character of all sorts and conditions of showmen and show-women. Every phase of life on the fairground is shown in its true colours, yet ever with a brother's care for the inner working of the heart life and the home life of showland.

He has lived amongst showmen, not as a detective to reveal to a wider world the faults and failings of his people, but "to point a moral and to adorn a tale" that shall prove to be true to life. Men and women, loving, hating, working, succeeding, failing, just as other mortals do, yet withal true men and women; friends, lovers, fathers, mothers, and children—just ordinary people, yet perforce extraordinary (such is the scenario of showland) to the people not on the stage of actual experience.

If showpeople wish to provide the antidote to all the poisonous trash of the ordinary "goody-goody" books libelling caravan and show life, then now is their chance—send out in great numbers the Chaplain's garland of showman stories.

MEN OF MARK IN SHOWLAND.

MR. FRED BIBBY, OF MANCHESTER.

To speak to showmen of such a well-known character in the world of shows and its allied industries as Mr. Fred Bibby, of Manchester, reminds one of the old tag, "What's the good of carrying coals to Newcastle?" For the whole of his busy life the great "Banner King" of Showland has been a conspicuous and celebrated figure. This is not only because of his undoubted business ability and large interests in the firm of J. Bibby and Co., of High-street, Manchester, but more especially on account of the unceasing interest, great gifts and abilities which he has (without fee or reward) devoted to the vindication of the character of showmen, and to the protection of their interests whenever attacked.

We remember with great gratitude how in the very early days of the United Kingdom Showmen and Vandwellers' Protection Association (now universally known under its short title "The Showmen's Guild") Mr. Bibby worked with untiring zeal for the promotion of those principles of trade combination which eventually led to the establishment of the showmen's Trade Society on the strong basis which now marks its existence and acceptance as the recognised authority in Showland.

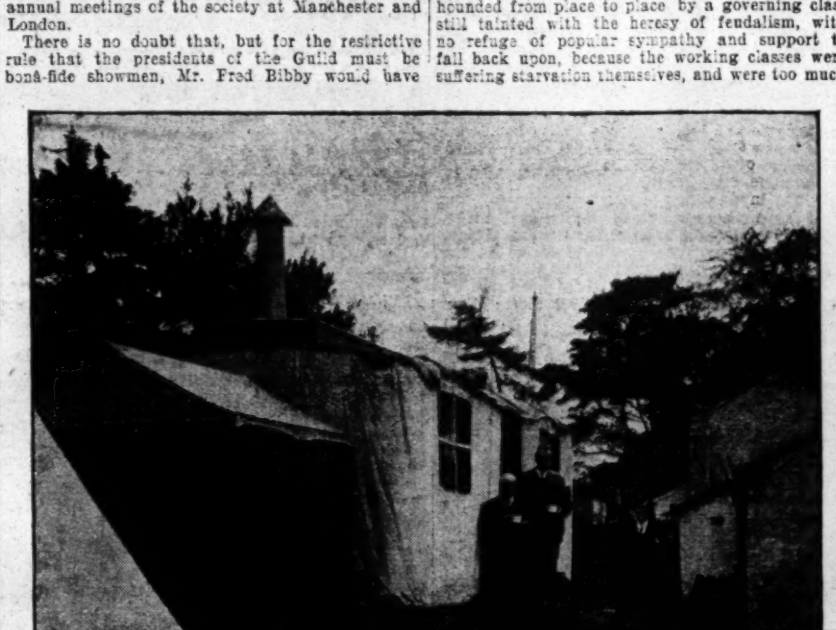
Originally intended for the legal profession, Mr. Fred Bibby was articled to a Manchester firm of solicitors, and we understand was just on the point of beginning what promised to be a brilliant professional career when, owing to the exigence of family affairs, he was obliged to relinquish the ambition of a legal career and to assume the headship and direction of the firm of J. Bibby and Co.

Mr. Fred Bibby's training and business acumen have been of the greatest possible value in the extremely important work he has done for the organised showmen. He has also considerable literary ability, and wields a powerful and convincing pen when it is needed in the defence of his showmen friends. He has the honour of being the pioneer in the now fully-occupied field of "Showmen Trade Directories, Gazettes, and Year Books." He published a Trade Directory and Gazette of the Fairs in the early 'nineties of the last century, at the very beginning of the Showmen's Guild.

When the Committee of the Guild determined to publish its own Year Book, Mr. Bibby very generously (and characteristically) ceased to publish his own book, and since the starting of the Showmen's Year Book has taken an extremely kind interest in its success.

As a public speaker Mr. Bibby has attained considerable eminence; his powerful appeals for the good of Showland are leading features of the annual meetings of the society at Manchester and London.

There is no doubt that, but for the restrictive rule that the presidents of the Guild must be bona-fide showmen, Mr. Fred Bibby would have been called to occupy the supreme seat of control and direction on the Executive of the Showmen's Guild.



[*Photo by Thorley.*

MR. FRED BIBBY AND PARTY CARAVANNING.

Our interesting picture illustrates Mr. Fred Bibby in a new (old) character—a caravanner. We congratulate the Caravan Club of Great Britain and Ireland on its famous member—and not by any means amateur—vanner.

Mr. Fred Bibby has been associated with the theatrical and musical world for many years, and has identified himself with most of the charity fêtes in the district, being an excellent organiser of these. He has also acted as judge in cycle parades and similar contests, having made his first public appearance in the entertainment world when only four years of age, since when he has filled every roli from actor to provider of entertainments. He is an I.P.M. of the Alexandra Lodge (No. 993) of Freemasons, vice-president and one of the founders of the Levenshulme Operatic and Dramatic Society, patron of the Salford Harriers and of the Levenshulme Orchestral Society.

Horwich Fair Ground.

President Kemp's Cinematograph is the attraction this week, and full houses at every performance are the rule. A sacred concert is announced for Sunday next.

Notes from Wales.

Mr. H. Steel Parry's Electric Bioscope has proved such an attraction at Bridgend, South Wales, that its visit has been extended to this week. There is a seemingly endless variety of charming films in stock, which never fail to elicit applause and to induce visitors to recommend it to their friends and come again themselves. A pleasing variation is afforded by series of lantern views, described in song by the gramaphone.

The Phœnix Theatre at the Carmarthen Pleasure Fairground has been again well patronised during the week. Mr. Harry Cowell, who performs the dual part of stage-manager and tragedian, as well as the rôle of proprietor, has the happy knack of judging the popular taste of his patrons, with the consequent result that he is rewarded with crowded houses. This week the programme was as follows:—Monday evening, *The Dumb Man of Manchester;* Tuesday, *Leah;* Wednesday, *The Maid of Cefn Ydfa;* Thursday, *The Sorrows of Satan;* and Friday, *Uncle Tom's Cabin.* For Saturday afternoon a children's pantomime, *Little Red Riding Hood,* was announced, and for Saturday evening, *The Four Knaves of the Pack.*

Maestag.

Messrs. Dooner and Son are here paying a return visit, and exceptionally fine business is being done. Some fine pictures are being exhibited, including that wonderful film, The Birth of Christ. The variety part of the entertainment is contributed to by Chant and Chant, comedy duettists, and Miss Nellie Anderson, top-boot dancer.

FAMOUS SHOWS AND SHOWMEN.

THE STORY OF ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF BRITISH SHOW LIFE.

By the Rev. Thomas Horne
(Chaplain to the Showmen's Guild).
[Copyright.]

CHAPTER IX.

Period 1825-1850.

In attempting a strictly historical survey of the show life of the nation in the nineteenth century, we have divided our subject-matter into four great divisions of equal length as regards the time covered, but of necessity (as we near our own day) of increasing importance. It is a note of all true life that however it may have periods of reaction, and perforce of retrogression, there must be within it principles of vitality and progress. In other words, good things never die. This is true of show life and the great hold which our fairs, feasts, and wakes have upon the national life. In the dark hour of persecution, nigh unto death, but the innate power of his true life, the showman lived through it all.

The period we have already traversed (1800-1825) witnessed a gigantic struggle. A false political economy for a time dominated the Government of the country, and the industry of the fair-ground was amongst the national crafts that suffered most from this false and narrow-minded view of national life. In our treatment of the first quarter of the century under review we essayed to give the student of the growth of show life in Great Britain some accurate basis for authentic historical research. We referred to the terrible sufferings of the people of our Motherland, and indicated some of the sources of national upheaval.

The People's Insistent Cry for More Liberty of Life.

The period of twenty-five years (1825-1850) that we are now endeavouring to deal with was pregnant with great effort for the liberty of the individual. Religious, social, and political revolutions of the most far-reaching consequence succeeded after much strife in laying the foundation of the Empire as we know it to-day. Just to enumerate some of these, Roman Catholics, Nonconformists, and Jews were relieved of religious and political disabilities; the great Reform Bill—the charter of our political liberties—was passed; slavery was abolished; and new systems of poor law and municipal government were established.

The opening year of our period—1825—was marked by a terrible time of trade panic, followed by riots in the manufacturing districts, with the consequent repeated mistakes of the then governing classes in dealing with the workers of the nation. We can well imagine the awful sufferings of the poor travelling showmen of those days, hounded from place to place by a governing class still tainted with the heresy of feudalism, with no refuge of popular sympathy and support to fall back upon, because the working classes were suffering starvation themselves, and were too much engrossed in the struggle for political freedom to give any time to the lighter and brighter sides of life. A discontented and poverty-stricken people had neither time nor means to encourage the showman.

The Showmen's Struggle for Liberty of Life.

The great struggle of the mercantile and the industrial classes for political power and industrial liberty had in a more restricted measure its counterpart in Showland. Just in the same way as the merchant and the worker were throwing off the shackles of feudalism and asserting, and by strenuous struggle obtaining, greater freedom, so, too, the showman of this fighting era was waging a war with the forces of privilege and caste, resisting the cruel exactions of such bad survivors of a bad past as "The King's Trumpeter" and "The Master of the Revels," who, by virtue of hereditary office, were able to impose a tax upon travelling entertainers and musicians of all sorts. The revolt of the showman against these exactions led to exciting scenes at Bartholomew's Fair early in the century. The King's Trumpeter, finding increasing difficulty in obtaining his tax from the showpeople, obtained a proclamation from the Lord Chamberlain setting forth the power of the King's Trumpeter over street musicians and ballad-mongers. When the Trumpeter ungallantly used force to a show-woman who was blowing a trumpet on a show at the fair, the lady, with great vigour, retaliated by knocking down the King's Trumpeter. Of course, the lady had to pay—most reformers have to pay—but the demonstration had its effect, and in due time the office of King's Trumpeter, with its emoluments and privileges, came to an end. Other struggles marked these early years of the nineteenth century. The great towns, led by the City of London, began to interfere with the rights of the people and the rights of showmen by arbitrary restrictions upon, and in some instances abolition of, the Charter privileges of the fairs. 1825 saw the abolition of Greenwich Fair. The fourteen days' liberty of old Bartholomew's Fair had been arbitrarily cut down to three days, and a vicious system of killing the fairs for show business by imposing exorbitant tolls became the approved method of public bodies when they wished to abolish a fair. Yet through all these difficulties and all these struggles shows and showmen not only survived, but grew and increased their hold upon the national life. The great showmen of this period were reaching the height of their success. Richardson, Scowton and Ball with theatrical booths; Wombwell, Atkins, and Ballard with menageries; Ducrow, Samwell, Saunders, Bradbury, and Clarke with circuses; and Lane, Keyes, Frasier, and Capelli with conjuring booths. With these were the always attendant satellites of the star concerns, the exhibitors of freaks and minor novelties. Such, in brief, were the elements of show-life in this country, when our second great division of our history—1825-1850—begins. A younger generation of showmen were coming into notice, and were serving their full apprenticeship to the craft. These included the Brothers Nelson and James Lee; Johnson, who was Nelson Lee's partner in the Richardson show later on; Hilton with menagerie, Holden with glass-blowing exhibition, Ewing with waxworks, Groves with art museum, Crockett with wild-beast show, Wild, Bannister, Holloway, Milton, Batty, Cooke, and others with shows and circuses in the provinces. Of these we shall treat in their turn.

Whilst the great characters of the Showman World of the first twenty-five years of the century were yet on the stage of life, and others equally notable in their day and generation were crowding to the front, there were others even more famous who, as yet, were not known even by name. We refer to the Henglers, Newsomes, Manders, and the greatest of all—the Sanger family. The record of these great ones of the travelling show, circus, and the fair-ground will more fittingly claim our attention towards the end of the first half of the nineteenth century.

It, however, were impossible for us to summarise the material at our disposal at this eventful epoch of national life without mentioning names that have become household words.

So with this excursus into the historic records of showland, we now turn to the detailed record of the twenty-five years before us in chronological order and importance of occurrence.

The City Determined to Abolish Bartholomew Fair.

The forces making for the abolition of London's great Carnival Fair, held in Smithfield, were a long time gaining strength and in achieving their fell purpose. As early as the year 1798 the City Corporation, after discussion, set aside a proposal to restrict the fair to one day's trading. The defenders of the fair rightly contended that such a measure would arouse a concentrated expression of public remonstrance that would in all probability lead to riots dangerous to life.

Henry Morley, in his book "Memoirs of Bartholomew Fair," says:—"In the course of a trial at Guildhall in the year 1827, involving the rights of Lord Kensington, it was stated, on Lord Kensington's behalf, that considering the corrupt state of the fair, and the nuisance caused by it in the neighbourhood of Smithfield, he should throw no obstacle in the way of its removal, and was ready to give up his own rights over it on being paid their value. His receipts from toll were stated to have been thirty or forty pounds a year, and their estimated value five or six hundred pounds."

In the years between 1798 and 1830 almost every fair was marked with the recrudescence of the persistent efforts of the Abolitionists to do away with it.

To finish our history of the measures taken to abolish the fair so far as it concerns the first thirty years of the nineteenth century, it remains to be told that the Corporation of London did buy the tolls from Lord Kensington in the year 1830. The fair rights vested in Lord Kensington, and all the rights and interests in Bartholomew Fair were thus concentrated in the one authority—the Corporation of the City of London. It is singularly significant, when we consider the almost absolute powers of the greatest Corporation in the land, that although they had the complete control and all rights and tollages of the fair in their hands as early as 1830, it was not until the year 1855 that the Abolitionists gained their purpose.

Historically, this reference to the slow growth of public opinion leading to acquiescence in the death of the fair is a wonderful proof of how deep rooted the love of the show really is in the minds of the British people.

Hone, the Diarist.

In the year 1825 this painstaking chronicler was so convinced that the end of the fair was nigh at hand, that in his "Table Book" he carefully sets down for the information of posterity the shows and amusements at the fair in that year. He says that the fair began on the Saturday (and thousands visited the Fairground on the Sunday) when, of course, all trading was strictly forbidden. Describing the toy stalls, he speaks of them as being as large and as well stocked as some of the bazaars that still travel the great fairs of England. The principal show was Richardson's portable theatre. "Richardson's platform," he says, "was lined with green baize, festooned with crimson curtains and lined with fifteen hundred variegated lamps." The money-takers sat in Gothic alcoves at the receipt of custom. The band was apparelled as Royal Beefeaters, and the outside attraction was a brilliant parade of his dramatic company, dressed in the splendid costumes suitable to their various parts in tragedy, comedy, or pantomime.

Wombwell's menagerie was also noted by Hone, with its splendid front and full brass band. The great rival show, Atkins's menagerie, was announced as having with it "that colossal animal, the wonderful performing elephant, upwards of ten feet high, five tons weight. His consumption of hay, corn, straw, carrots, water, &c., exceeds eight hundred pounds daily."

A band of eight musicians played the outside music attired in scarlet Beefeaters' coats and skin caps. A trumpet-voiced doorsman, despite the brazen music, volleyed forth: "Don't be deceived. The only lion and tigress in one den that are to be seen in the fair, or the proprietor will forfeit one thousand guineas."

The circuses were those of Samwell and Clarke, both of them excellent concerns of their kind.

Mr. Hone tells us that at this fair he saw the mermaid in a sideshow. He quaintly describes the disillusionment he experienced when he tried to verify the beautiful sketches of the sea siren painted on the outside canvas of the booth, with the shrivelled-up monstrosity, half-monkey, half-fish, exhibited by the showman within.

The other concerns were a peep show, exhibiting pictures of the murder of Mr. Weare and of the visit of the Queen of Sheba to King Solomon, a "Penny Giant," and penny tumbling at Ball's theatre.

At this fair, for the first time, the swings and roundabouts were excluded, this obviously being part of the policy of gradually killing the fair. The ostensible reason, however, was to preserve a greater open area for the people, and that the shows might be displayed to greater advantage.

The Great Extent of the Fair.

The extent of the fair may be gauged from the following interesting account given by Frost in his record of the old London fairs:—

He says: "As the fair existed at this time (1825) there were small uncovered stalls from the Skinner-street corner of Giltspur-street, along the whole length of the churchyard, and on the opposite side of Giltspur-street; there were like stalls from the Newgate-street corner, along the front of the Compter Prison. At these were sold fruit, oysters, toys, gingerbread, baskets, and other articles of trifling value. They were held by the small fry of the stall-keeping fraternity, who lacked means to pay for space and to furnish out a tempting display. The front of these standings were towards the passengers in the carriage-way.

"Then, with occasional distances of three or four feet for footways from the road to the pavement, began lines of covered stalls, with their open fronts opposite the fronts of the houses, and close to the kerbstone, and their enclosed backs to the road.

"On St. Sepulchre's side they extended to Cock-lane, and thence to the Smithfield corner of Giltspur-street, then, turning the corner into Smithfield, they extended to Hosier-lane, and from thence all along the west side of Smithfield to Cow-lane, where, on that side, they terminated in a line with the opposite corner leading to St. John-street, where the line was resumed, and continued to Smithfield Bars, and there, on the west side, ended.

The Fair Still a Trading Mart.

"Crossing over to the east side, and returning south, these covered stalls commenced opposite to their termination on the west, and ran towards Smithfield, turning into which they extended westerly towards the Pig Market, and thence to Long-lane, from which point they ran along the east side of Smithfield to the great gate of Cloth Fair.

"From Duke-street they contained along the south side to the great front gate of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, and from thence to the carriage entrance to the hospital, from whence they extended along Giltspur-street, to the Compter, where they joined the uncovered stalls."

Frost gives interesting particulars, which we briefly summarise, for they are of interest to show us the still considerable amount of genuine trading—that is to say commerce in articles of utility or adornment that still obtained at the great fairs. Besides the legitimate articles that we associate with fairs to-day, and known under the generic name "fairings," such as gingerbread, confectionery, al-fresco refreshments, and trinkets, there were the open stalls of the regular traders, much in character with the open window and kerbstone stalls we now find in the people's markets in the London suburbs.

These traders did big business with all kinds of useful articles. The fair was taken advantage of by the great crowds attending it in order to obtain the yearly store of large and small articles of general consumption and utility.

The Great Quadrangle of Shows.

The shows were built on the sides of a great quadrangle, the centre space being kept entirely free for spectators and persons making their way to the exhibitions. The whole area of Smithfield was occupied by the exhibitions, big and little. Officers were stationed at the great entrances to the quadrangle to prevent carriages and horsemen from entering the fairground. This wise regulation was much appreciated, and the City officers enforced it with rigour.

In collating the extremely meagre historic records of this period of showlife, we have had to spend a very large amount of time, yet we are satisfied that, however dry (and to some) uninteresting this historic research work may appear, we could not deal adequately with our subject and fulfil the purpose we have in hand of a reliable history of showman life (not sketchy romance, but the actual facts that prevailed at the period we are now dealing with) without marshalling these somewhat tedious details for the information and possible use of our readers in the future.

Whilst we have been separating the wheat from the chaff in this excursus into the historic past and describing the stalls lining the streets of the City of London, and brightening with their gaudy display the sombre aspect of the world's greatest mart, we have been strongly reminded of the present day Oxford (St. Giles') Fair. If any student of showlife wishes to realise what the old fairs of England were like when they were pitched in the heart of the town, he has only to go to Oxford Fair.

There he will find the street stalls, bazaars, refreshment tents, and the hundred and one other things that constitute both the ancient and the modern glory of a popular fair.

If the student would form an accurate mind picture of the palmy days of Old Bartholomew Fair he can do it at Oxford.

TOY CITY AND FUN FAIR.

The proprietors of the well-named Toy City and Fun Fair are to be congratulated for their enterprise in converting the major part of Earl's Court Exhibition into a huge winter garden, replete with light, warmth, music, and laughter. It opened on Saturday to a huge audience. The entrance is in the Warwick-road, facing Earl's Court station, which is accessible from all parts by tube, train, or 'bus, and Fun Fair and Toy City will doubtless prove not only a huge success, but a veritable boon to pleasure-seekers who wish for a cheap day's continuous enjoyment for themselves and families.

The Dolls' Pageant in itself should prove a unique source of enjoyment and instruction to children and adults alike. It consists of a large number of tableaux, arranged and lighted like miniature scenes in a theatre, with the actors and actresses represented by dolls, exquisitely modelled and dressed with painstaking accuracy. Part of the profits of the Dolls' Pageant will be presented to the Home of Rest for Girls and Women at Shanklin, Isle of Wight, the Patroness of which is H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, Governor of the Isle of Wight. The tableaux are grouped into historical and fictional sections, including delightful representations of nursery rhymes and fairy tales, pictures, and plays. Every child in London should be taken to see this delightful exhibition during the holiday season, which may be described as a miniature Madame Tussaud's.

Then there is a grand cinematograph theatre, with up-to-date, topical, and humorous pictures constantly on view. Twice daily a pretty fairy play in pictures will be presented.

There are toy and sweet stalls galore, Christmas trees to delight the youngsters, and Father Christmas and Santa Claus selling toys.

Cingalese natives give a glimpse of Ceylon in their performance in the Cingalese Theatre, and a group of fierce Madingo warriors present a picture of their savage life in the hinterland of Sierra Leone.

Ye Olde English Fayre is redolent of good old-fashioned fun and laughter. Collins' flying pigs and cockerels, the Brooklyn Cake-walk, and the other attractions prove a constant round of merriment, and the noise and laughter baffle description.

In the Grand Continental Circus there are three full shows daily, at which some of the most famous riders and circus artists in the world appear, including Mr. H. Yeldon, Mme. Montero, and Miss Ginnett.

The Variety Theatre is to be congratulated upon the excellent vaudeville and variety entertainment which, under the management of Mr. Arthur Coomber, is presented thrice daily, at 2.30, 5.30, and 8 p.m., on the concert platform in the Ducal Hall. Jock McPherson is an able exponent of Scotch humour, and a graceful wire-walking act is performed by Mme. Onra and Gilleno. Little Trilby and La La Williams are quaint and amusing in a Dutch song and dance, and Miss May Hoey is a really graceful exponent of Eastern dancing. Miss Maggie Robertson and a chorus of talented children gain great applause with coon songs, and the excellent playing of Miss Mabel Fellarie, solo violinist, and the sweet voice of Miss M. Lemon, as well as the clever comedy of Bell and Dare, are included in the entertainment.

The latest thing in aviation is provided by Wright's toy aeroplanes, of which demonstrations are given at frequent intervals during the day.

These are only a few of the 1,000 attractions to be seen at Fun Fair and Toy City, which promises to be the talk of London during the winter season.

Mr. J. Calvin Brown—the originator in England of the amusement parks now spreading over the country, by the formation of the White City, Old Trafford, in 1906, and who was managing director of the White City, Ltd.—has purchased the whole concern, and will in future personally operate that amusement resort. He is busy negotiating for novelties for the ensuing season, which is to commence next spring. The patronage of this kind of amusement during the last season has been such that he has every reason to look for a very bright future, especially as he supplies a kind of resort which was for years wanted in the district. Meantime the skating rink and ballroom are open, and doing well.

FILM GOSSIP.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

LITTLE TOY, GLORIOUS DREAM, is the title of an interesting and seasonable dramatic film. A bevy of children are gathered round the Christmas tree. In the street a poor woman and her little child look sadly at the happy crowd of little mites loaded with their toys, who are going home laughing and chatting together, heedless of the distress of the beggar woman. At last a small boy stops in front of the little girl, and asks his father if he can give her some money. The poor mother thanks them for her child, and the two go to a baker's; but a penny hawker displays to the astonished eyes of the beggar girl such beautiful things that she looks at the tempting toys with sorrow. Her mother, guessing her thoughts, thinks that for another day they will have no bread for dinner, but she will give her little child the coveted toy. The child sleeps happily with her toy in her arms, and by and by in her dream the wall disappears, and in its place the roofs are seen, and Santa Claus comes with a quick step, dropping toys here and there into chimneys. He comes towards the little girl, and heaps toys all about the room. This is happiness indeed! But the dream vanishes and she cries. Her poor mother goes out again, and vainly tries to melt the hearts of the several passers-by. She is trying to dry her little daughter's tears, when the kindly boy of the day before arrives in her garret, and, acting as Santa Claus, he gives the poor woman and her little girl a lot of useful presents and toys.

ROVER'S CHRISTMAS.—With their baskets on their backs and their "picking-up" sticks in their hands, a party of ragged children search in the dust bins for anything worth taking, while their faithful dog, Rover, frolics about in the wind. The dog and children have grown together, sharing the same pleasures, and, their respective feelings being developed to about the same extent, they all rejoice in a sunray or the snow which falls softly. On Christmas Eve the children stop in front of a toy shop, where a gorgeous display of toys keeps them riveted. These toys seem to the poor children like so many unattainable fetishes from another land. A stern shop assistant sends them away. Their mother is waiting for them at home. The soup is ready, but this is a sad Christmas Eve for the poor, who feel more acutely than ever the want of money which prevents them enabling their little ones to hail with joy the otherwise merry Christmastide, the season of gratified wishes for the more fortunate children. As her boy is going to hang his little stocking near the fireplace, the mother takes him in her arms, and explains between her loving kisses that Santa Claus will not visit them this year. The little man, who knows already the meaning of the word "deception," heaves a deep sigh, and goes to bed to hide his sorrow. Rover has been a mute witness of the scene, and in his faithful heart he thinks he would like to give the children joy. He retraces his steps to the toy shop, and helps himself to a beautiful harlequin, a well-dressed doll, and a drum, which he takes home. After this he goes to sleep, pleased with himself for his good day's work. There is great rejoicing the next morning when the two little rag-pickers wake up and find the beautiful toys—a miracle of Santa Claus, certainly.

A GOOD TIP.—The beginning of this film is a sylvan idyll. Peter loves Enid and lets her know it. They are engaged, but the creditors of Enid's father come and trouble their pastoral; the writ of distraint has been served, the sale will take place shortly, and after that they will be utterly destitute. This is only a stroke of the author's imagination, which enables him to show on the screen the Deauville races, with their processions of elegantly-dressed men and women of fashion that move about in this fresh Norman scenery. Peter, having overheard a bit of conversation and made use of the good tip which was not intended for his ear, stakes, wins, and arrives in time to prevent the home of his fiancée from being broken up.

THE MAN OF FREQUENT FALLS.—The man of frequent falls, always running after his balance, goes from fall to stumble, dragging down with him every passer-by, to the merriment of the onlookers. He is carried to the police station, which he enters with a fall, after breaking in a door and upsetting the balance of three policemen.

LIVING DOLLS.—This production treats the spectator to some clever "trick" scenes. We are taken to a bazaar in Fairyland. The shop assistant removes from their boxes lots of dolls, marionettes, harlequins, &c., which become alive and move about and disappear at the assistant's bidding, and perform a wild dance before going back into their respective boxes again.

HIPPOPOTAMUS-HUNTING ON THE BLUE NILE.—In this film the Pathé operators have exhibited real skill in photography, inasmuch as they took, from a short distance, several views of one of the most hideous monsters on earth, the hippopotamus. The beast appears in the water, emerging and plunging by turns, whilst the sportsman push their small boat towards it, and throw the harpoon, which sinks into its thick skin. The animal is doomed. It is taken to shore, there to be cut up, and its fat will be a grand treat for the negroes. Its teeth, however, the ivory of which is of a better quality than that of the elephant, are carefully put away.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

THE LADY OR THE TIGER.—The King of Sylvania, having issued an edict against conspirators, Prince Dalny (in love with the King's daughter, Wanda) is invited to visit former classmates of his. Being ignorant of their designs he is made captive, tried, and sentenced to death. Wanda pleads with her father, but the only concession she can obtain is that the Prince shall choose between two cell-doors; behind the one to be placed a beautiful woman, behind the other a man-eating tiger. If he chooses the woman, it will be marriage; if the tiger, death. Wanda is beside herself with grief; but her favourite maid, whose lover is Captain of the Arena Guards, arranges to learn from him in which cell the tiger is placed, so that Wanda may signal from the royal box to the Prince. The momentous day arrives, and the unusual spectacle draws a vast crowd to the arena. The Prince is led forth, when Wanda realises that, if she saves him from the tiger, she will lose him through a forced marriage. She suddenly leaps into the arena to open the door of the tiger's cell and die with her lover, the Prince, but a signal from the King causes the guards to stop this rash impulse. The King then descends into the arena, causes the doors to be flung open, when it is seen the tiger is in a cage, the other cell being empty!

THE KING'S PARDON.—This subject introduces a romantic picture of the Cavalier period in England, telling of the devotion of two brothers who are left alone early in life, and are separated. One goes to sea; the other enters the service of a London merchant, and rises to a position of trust, when a robbery takes place, and, being first on the scene, he is falsely accused of murder. He is tried and condemned to death; but, meanwhile, the real culprit meets with disaster, comes to grief, and being brought to the hospital in a dying condition, a confession is obtained from him. It now becomes a question of reaching the king's palace in time. A messenger hastens forward, but on his way back is thrown from his horse, and lies unconscious in the road. The elder brother has, in the meantime, arrived home, and joyfully hurrying to find his boyhood's playmates, is met by the sad intelligence of his brother's trouble. Making his way to London he finds the King's messenger unconscious. Playing the part of the good Samaritan, he is rewarded by being entrusted with the King's pardon. He reaches his brother's side at the critical moment, and, producing the papers, a doubly joyful recognition takes place.

Gaumont Company.

SAVED BY SANTA CLAUS.—This film is most appropriate to the Christmas season. It shows a couple of children being put to bed on Christmas Eve by their parents, who come in later to place dolls and other gifts in the fireplace. The dolls do all sorts of wonderful things, including dances and acrobatic feats. The children wake early, and, seeing the presents, jump out of bed. One seizes the lamp, and while handing a toy to the other child sets the curtains of the bed on fire. Father Christmas appears, and with the dolls, now grown to full size, sets to work to quench the flames. Then the dolls reassume their former size, and the film concludes with the picture of the parents affectionately embracing their youngsters.

THE LITTLE CHIMNEY-SWEEPS' CHRISTMAS.—Here we have another appropriately seasonable production. Two little sweeps are inspecting with covetous eyes the presents on a Christmas tree at a house where they have just finished cleaning the chimneys. They leave the house and go to their own humble home. They notice from a calendar that it is Christmas Eve, but there are no presents to cheer their life. They fall asleep, and meanwhile the dog climbs up the chimney and along the roof back to the house with the Christmas tree. He brings back some of the toys, and takes another journey. The children wake to find that Santa Claus has not forgotten them, and the father and mother are astonished, and wonder how the things arrived.

POOR GIRL'S CHRISTMAS is yet another reminder of the festive season. A poor girl is playing a harp in the gutter outside a shop displaying Christmas novelties. She vainly pleads for alms, but is passed by. The scene changes to the exterior of a church on Christmas morning. As the worshippers come out their hearts are touched by the poor harpist, and they give freely. The last to leave is a rich woman, who passess by and is driven away. She, however, drops a valuable necklace, which the poor girl picks up. After struggling against temptation, she decides to change it for money to give a Christmas dinner to her old mother, who is dying. She asks a friendly policeman the way to dispose of it, and he directs her. Meanwhile a footman is sent to seek the missing necklace, and is told about the girl. He has her arrested, and when taken before the Chief of Police her old friend arrives and tells his story. The rich woman's heart is touched, and she goes home with the girl, to find the mother dead. Finally we see the girl in luxury acting as companion to the rich woman.

OTHER capital Gaumont productions are The Burglar's Joke with Automatic Doll, and The Burglar Pays.

FIRE PREVENTIVE AND EXTINGUISHING APPARATUS.—The committee of judges, presided over by Mr. Walter Reynolds, L.C.C., who last week at the Hippodrome examined certain inventions calculated to prevent or extinguish cinematograph fires, have drawn up the following recommendations, which are to be submitted to the London County Council:—

1. That all kinematograph projectors must be fitted with two metal film boxes of substantial construction, to or from which the film shall travel. Such boxes must be made to close in a manner which will prevent the ingress of fire, and fitted with a film-slot capable of preventing the passing of flame to the interior of the film box. All films when not on the machine, and whilst still in the operating box, shall be stored in such closed metal boxes.

2. That the film-gate shall be of sufficiently massive construction and radiating surface and the passage for the film sufficiently narrow to prevent flame travelling either upwards or downwards from the light opening. The committee were of opinion that if these precautions were adopted in addition to those at present in force the safety of the public would be assured as far as humanly possible. Some modification of the rules would be possible if the use of non-inflammable film were universal.

IF these recommendations be accepted by London's central governing body, they will be embodied in the L.C.C. theatre and music hall regulations already in force. We understand that the metal film boxes referred to in the first recommendation are free of patent rights, and the Kinematograph Manufacturers' Association intends to suggest to the trade that a standard and interchangeable type of box shall be employed.

AFTER an absence of many years, the Old Gaol Ground at Salisbury has once more found travelling showmen on it. The first attraction located is Haines's steam and electric galloping-horses and combination of amusements, including swings, shooting galleries, shies, and various throwing games, and stalls, &c. Good business is being done, as the ground is in a most central and populated part of the city, and we shall expect to find the present occupiers are making a long stay.

THE new Central Halls at Leigh, Hindley, Wigan, Nelson, &c., are still doing big business by The World in Motion Co., under the directorship of that well-known showman, Thomas Whiteley.

WE notice that the well-known advance manager, Fred Sharpe, is managing the Central Hall, Nelson, for The World in Motion Co.

Tuby's Coliseum at Goole.

OUR correspondent writes:—Tuby and Son's No. 2 aggregation of amusements will finish a successful month of business at Goole next Tuesday, the show especially having had a good time, showing to crowded audiences nightly.

FAIRS, shows, wakes. Seventy thousand showmen of the United Kingdom required to send for the Showmen's Year Book for 1908. Edited by the Rev. T. Horne. Entirely re-arranged, corrected, and enlarged. 100 pages. Price 1s. Principal contents:—The Passion for Pageantry, Constitution and Rules of the "Showmen's Guilds," Lists of Fairs, Local Feasts and Wakes, Synopsis of Bye-laws, &c., &c. Invaluable to all who follow the fair. Address, the Publisher of *The Era*, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, London, W.C. Telephones: 4747 and 1433 Central.

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No. 6396. Code, "Vendimias." Length, 980ft.

THE KING'S PARDON.

An early English romance of two brothers, whose devotion was proven by the hand of Destiny, although since boyhood the paths of their lives were widely separated. From across seas the elder brother arrives in the nick of time and saves his brother (falsely accused of murder) from execution by presenting a pardon from the King. On the day set for execution the real culprit has confessed his guilt.

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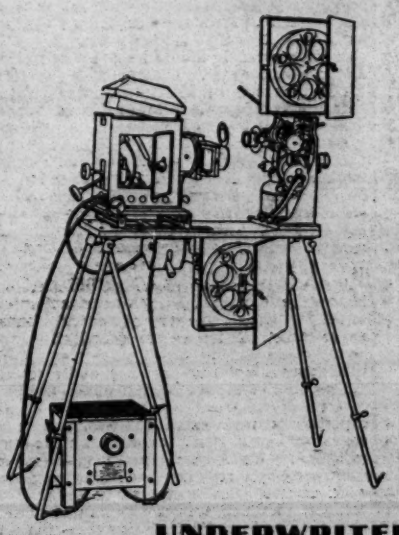

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INVENTIONS.

[The particulars furnished below of recent applications for patents are taken from the official records. Correspondence is invited with our readers on all matters relating to new ideas and inventions, with a view to affording them advice and assistance. Letters should be addressed to the Manager, Inventions Department, "The Era," 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, London.]

Inventors and others who have no business representative are invited to communicate with the Manager of the Inventions Dept. as above.

APPLICATIONS.

25,818.—Tom Heffernan and George Burges Digby Head, of London. Improvements in and relating to gymnastic apparatus, swings, and the like.

25,862.—Edward Louis Anstie, of London. Improvements in toys for war or other games.

25,867.—Douglas Spencer Cox, of London. New amusement device.

25,872.—George William Hanlon and Sydney Bacon, of London. Improved stage entertainment.

25,929.—Hector Macfarlane, of London. New or improved device for the purposes of amusement and entertainment.

25,951.—Westcote, Raymond Lyttleton, of Liverpool. Improved apparatus for turning the leaves of music and the like.

25,962.—Max Conradt, of London. Improvements in game apparatus.

25,966.—Charles Blish Winder of London. Improvements in and relating to shooting-gallery targets.

25,983.—Alfred George Gay, of Bristol. Table disc quoits.

26,048.—Joseph Eisenmann, of London. Improvements in puppets or dolls.

26,127.—Edward Percy Alabaster, of London. Improvements in and relating to apparatus for displaying colour effects, signs, and the like.

26,141.—Robert Williard Pair, of London. Improvements in tracker-boards for musical instruments.

26,147.—John Thomas Lawrence, of London. Improvements connected with dolls, puppets, toy figures, animals, fishes, and the like.

26,388.—Jules Moret, of London. Improvements in devices for playing the game of "catch-ring."

COMPLETE SPECIFICATIONS ACCEPTED.

24,225.—De Mare. Kinematograph metal ribbons or films.

4,506.—Northcott and Westlake. Game of indoor football.

4,913.—Jeffrey. Targets for miniature rifle ranges.

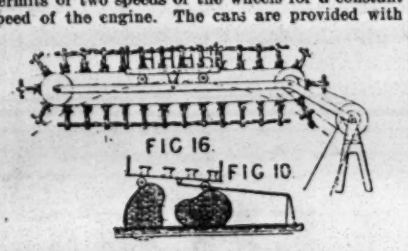
11,420.—Brown and Brown. Method of and means for producing apparently animated pictures.

18,341.—Clease. Apparatus for promoting muscular or physical development.

ABRIDGMENTS OF SPECIFICATIONS.

15,865.—Amusements. Hartley, C. J., of Stone, Staffordshire, and Bishop, R.H., of London.

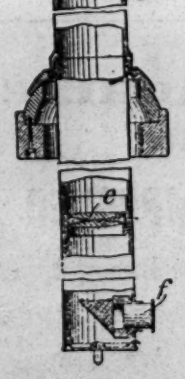
Relates to apparatus in which cam-shaped wheels, mounted on horizontal axis, are provided with circumferential tracks for cars. Rotation of the wheels imparts to the cars a motion which, to the occupants, is similar to the motion of cars running on an ordinary switchback railway. The rim of the wheel is supported on radial spokes, which are braced together by an hexagonal framework. The wheels are driven from an engine through an intermediate train of gearing, which permits of two speeds of the wheels for a constant speed of the engine. The cars are provided with



rollers, which run under guard-rails. Instead of wheels the cars may have runners or sliders, engaging in channels formed by overhanging angle-irons. The cars may be also formed to represent ships, the track wheels in this case being submerged in water. In the arrangement shown in Fig. 10 the track consists of two portions carried by separate wheels. To produce the illusion of fast travelling, sections of any desired scenery carried by an endless band, as shown in Fig. 16, driven from the track wheels, are run at a rapid speed past the car

15,977.—Periscopes; camera obscuras. Denston, H. F., of London.

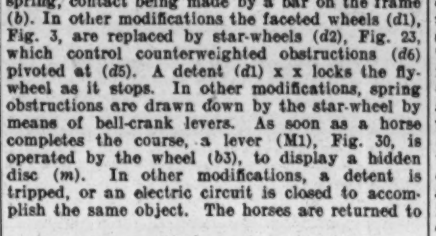
The apparatus described in a prior specification is modified by substituting a reflector of spherical,

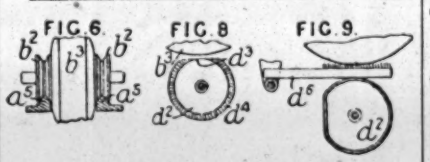


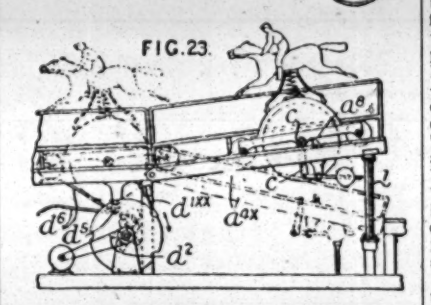
parabolic, or other curvature, other than a cone, for the prism. Fig. 1 shows a parabolic mirror, the image produced by which is observed by a telescope (*e*), (*f*) the image may, however, be projected upon a screen or photographic plate. The appliance is mounted on a ball joint.

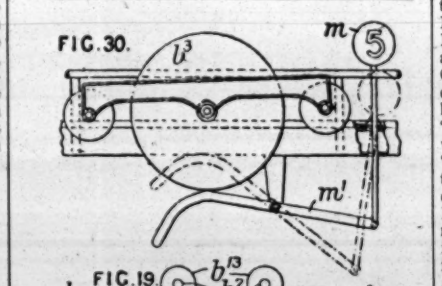
16,340.—Railways for recreation. MacCulloch, A. G., of London.

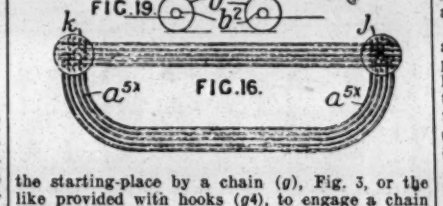
Model horses or the like, of life-size, are mounted on carriages which run on inclined tracks, and means are provided to retard all the horses but one, selected by chance, which therefore wins. Horses (*b*), Fig. 3, are sprung on carriages (*b*), mounted on spindles (*b*1), which carry small-grooved wheels (*b*2), Fig. 6, to run on rails (*a*5), and a heavy fly-wheel (*b*3), Fig. 3. The frame (*b*) has leading and trailing spindles (*b*4), one or other of which runs on the rails (*a*5), the wheels (*b*5) running between. The tracks slope considerably at the beginning, and continue to slope moderately to the finish. As the horses run down the slope, the fly-wheels revolve rapidly, but progress is slow owing to the small size of the wheels (*b*2). The horses start together and would finish together, but all except one are retarded by coming into contact with yielding obstructions mounted on a spindle (*d*) provided with a fly-wheel (*d*1), which can be rotated by a motor (*e*). In addition to the above obstructions, the horses may be impeded by arms (*b*9) coming into frictional contact with the wheels (*b*3), owing to imperfect balancing on the part of the riders. The obstructions may consist of bristles (*d*4), Fig. 8, or the like, mounted on wheels (*d*2) placed in the path of the fly-wheels (*b*3). Each wheel (*d*2) has a flat (*d*3) on it, and the wheels are so mounted on the spindle (*d*), Fig. 3, that the flats are symmetrical. The fly-wheel (*d*1) is set rotating rapidly, and is then stopped by a brake (*f*), operated by a lever (*c*2), which at the same instant releases detents (*c*) from the carriages (*b*). Several modifications of the obstructing-device are described. In one form the bristles are placed on hinged bars (*d*6), Fig. 9, which are kept in position by the wheel (*d*2). In another form the bristles are replaced by a sliding obstruction, counter-balanced by a weight or by a spring, contact being made by a bar on the frame (*b*). In other modifications the faceted wheels (*d*1), Fig. 3, are replaced by star-wheels (*d*2), Fig. 23, which control counterweighted obstructions (*d*6) pivoted at (*d*5). A detent (*d*1) x x locks the fly-wheel as it stops. In other modifications, spring obstructions are drawn down by the star-wheel by means of bell-crank levers. As soon as a horse completes the course, a lever (M1), Fig. 30, is operated by the wheel (*b*3), to display a hidden disc (*m*). In other modifications, a detent is tripped, or an electric circuit is closed to accomplish the same object. The horses are returned to











the starting-place by a chain (*g*), Fig. 3, or the like provided with hooks (*g*4), to engage a chain (*g*5) on the carriage (*b*). In a modification, shown in Fig. 16, a turntable (*j*) and separate return tracks (*a*5*) are provided. In this case, a second turntable (*k*) is necessary, capable of lifting the horses back to the starting level from the lower level (*a*5*). The lines (*a*5) may run into one another after leaving the turntable, to form one line and diverge again at (*k*). In order to ensure a quick return, the carriages (*b*) run on wheels (*b*13), Fig. 19, instead of on the small ones (*b*2) as usual. The track may be made circular, elliptical, or the like, and may have a ringed portion (*a*4*), Fig. 23, which can be raised by a hydraulic or other ram (*l*), as shown, suitable detents (*c*, *a*8) being provided to retain the carriages thereon.

CINEMATOGRAPHY IN COLOURS.

A remarkable advance in the fascinating study of colour photography was demonstrated by Mr. G. Albert Smith before the Royal Society of Arts, recently, when he showed the results of his researches and experiments on the production of animated photographs in natural colours. The use of three-colour screens, or light filters, proved unworkable, but after long experiment Mr. Smith found that carefully adjusted screens of dark red and green rotating before a film sensitised to all colour waves, in a bioscope camera, gave a suitable negative. From the negative a positive transparency was made, and this was passed in the path of rays of light, coloured by a similar two-colour rotating disc. The result was to throw on the screen pictures in all the hues and tints of nature. The reds and browns were wonderfully faithful, the sheen on the coats of well-groomed chestnut horses, the play of the sunlight on the varnished sides of a yacht, and the uniforms of soldiers being reproduced with charming effect. Some of the blues and greens were, perhaps, not quite true, but the pictures shown were the first results, and further experiment will doubtless soon remove even this slight defect.

A NEW CELLULOID SUBSTITUTE.

A clever French engineer and inventor sends us interesting particulars of a celluloid substitute, which, if he is able to substantiate his claims under practical tests, seems likely to prove a notable addition to the materials available for various manufacturing purposes, and especially for the making of kinematograph films. So far as we can judge from our own necessarily elementary experiments with small samples, the substance seems to merit fuller examination and serious attention. We give a free translation of our correspondent's remarks:—"I send you annexed a descriptive account of my 'Cellolite.' You are the first to whom I have given these particulars, and I do so in order that you may make use of it for the information of your readers. This material, which I am shortly going to manufacture in England, is a product which advantageously replaces celluloid in all its uses, as you can satisfy yourself from the samples which I am sending you, and I am in negotiation with one of the largest houses in England to form a syndicate to exploit it. I will keep you informed of what is done. It was only after much work and laborious experiments that I succeeded in producing this industrial substitute for celluloid, and I desire to put you in a position to give your readers the first news of this discovery. I propose to call this substitute 'Cellolite.' It is not only non-flammable, but also transparent, and I consider that the problem of making non-flammable films for kinematographs is solved. The substances which replace the constituents of genuine celluloid have the same properties, whilst not having similar flammability. The requirements of the operator of the kinematograph apparatus, as to strength and toughness, have been equally provided for. 'Cellolite' does not ordinarily burn at all, but if lighted persistently a small flame results, which smoulders without smoke, and goes out of itself after a few seconds, whereas ordinary celluloid burns with a fierce hissing and with the greatest rapidity and much smoke. 'Cellolite' can be made in hard slabs as well as very pliable, like indiarubber. It does not break, is very transparent, so much so that it might be used instead of glass, and one of its principal qualities is that it is waterproof. There is then, indeed, a great future to predict for this subsance, as 'Cellolite' could be advantageously used instead of celluloid in all its uses and applications. Moreover, the great point is that the cost of manufacture is small—*indeed, less than one half that of ordinary celluloid.*" The inventor has also promised us very shortly some electrical wires covered with this substance, which admirably replaces the silk, up till now used as an insulator. We shall be glad to hear more of the development of this promising invention.

To Stage Machinists and Electricians. — The Manager will be pleased to receive particulars of any new stage appliances or ideas for same for illustration in this column.

Can You Invent?—Do you wish to know of prizes offered to inventors valued at £10,000, £5,300, £5,000, £4,000, £1,000, £400, £300, £200, £100, and £50? If so, then get a copy of *Patents and Designs*, a newspaper called into existence by Mr. Lloyd George's Patents and Designs Act, 1907, which lately came into operation. *Patents and Designs*, price 2d., can be had at all bookstalls, newsagents', and at the Publishing Office, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR FAIR AT THE CRYSTAL PALACE.

There is to be abundance of fun for everybody this Christmastide in the South Nave at the Crystal Palace. By arrangement with the management, Mr. Charles Hyatt, the up-to-date amusement caterer, is busy preparing a Yuletide Fair on a big scale, and hopes to have everything ready for the fun to commence on Saturday next. There will be amusements for old and young alike, and plenty of variety. Prominent features of Mr. Hyatt's fair will be the "home-training" bicycles—a capital novelty—by means of which riders can enjoy a spin a-wheel and keep themselves in "condition." Then there will be park swings in plenty. These look so nice and easy-going that we don't anticipate there will be many fair damsels this Yuletide shouting, like Maria of the old song, "O George, tell 'em to stop." They will be more likely to want a second turn. And in the matter of swings, the children are being especially catered for, as Mr. Hyatt is going to have special juvenile swings, absolutely safe.

One of the best "catches" at the White City—the Haunted Castle—will be brought fresh from its Franco-British success to Mr. Hyatt's Fair, and Miss Nellie Hyatt's Juvenile Motor Track will be another source of pleasure to the youngsters. Children of larger growth—and who is there won't enjoy the fun?—can have a ride on a galloping horse or running cockerel, for the old favourite "merry-go-round" will again be available. Many will doubtless also enjoy finding the "ins" and "outs" of the American Muddle-Maze, and then there is to be an amusement, with just a spice of daring in it, in the shape of an aerial flight. Mr. Hyatt has spared no expense in having everything newly decorated, and all his attendants will appear in brand new Midshipmen's costumes, the order for which has been carried out by Messrs. Bulter and Sons, of Upper Norwood.

In addition to the Fair, which will occupy nearly all the South Nave, there will be abundant fun procurable in the Novelty Court, which the popular caterer has so lavishly decorated with work by the scenic artist, Mr. Alfred Smith. The miniature Bisley will be open, and there will be ring games, hand billiards, French bagatelle, darts, parlour quoits, and the popular racing motor-cars. And of course everybody will be asking everybody else to "Houp-la."

In the Centre Transept, facing the Royal Boxes, Mr. George O. Starr is arranging for an Old English circus. This will be curtained in and well warmed by a monster heating-pipe, and there will be accommodation for about 2,000 people. Everything that can possibly be done for the comfort and convenience of visitors to the Palace is being done, and the grown-up people as well as the children are promised a really good show. A Children's Carnival is also being arranged. The monster Christmas Tree will, of course, be again in evidence. This is a present from Sir Jeremiah Colman, and reaches a height of 89ft. It holds about 3,000 toys, and is a source of great delight to the thousands of children who visit the Palace.

"THE RINKERIES" IN ALDWYCH.

The roller-skating rink which occupies the old temporary offices of the *Morning Post* in Aldwych, and which was opened on the 11th inst., is bound to become a very popular resort during the winter months. It is most conveniently situated, and is being conducted under the direct personal supervision of a gentleman who has been actively associated with many of the most successful of modern rinking palaces, and he is aided by a large staff of selected experts in skating. The management has spared no expense in the matter of artistic furnishing, the decorative features being admirably designed with a view to the character of the pastime. There are spacious promenades from which a perfect view of the entire skating surface may be obtained, and admirably-appointed lounge rooms for both ladies and gentlemen have been provided. The skating surface represents a glistening sheet of polished hardwood, specially imported from the United States, over an acre in extent, and is one of the finest skating surfaces ever laid. Each length of this rock maple is tongued and grooved and laid with such precision and accuracy that the joints are almost invisible, as they are certainly imperceptible to the most sensitive skater. The proprietors of the new rink have entered into important contracts for the supply of the world-famed Barney-Berry skate, one of the finest examples of skilled mechanical ingenuity ever presented in this particular direction. They are lighter than any other skate manufactured. Their construction has been carefully and thoughtfully considered in every mechanical detail. Each afternoon and evening the assemblies of skaters will be afforded the pleasure of listening to the strains of a first-class military band, which has been specially engaged with a view to presenting the highest class of bright and lively music. In every department the most serious thought has been given to securing for "The Rinkeries" a position of pre-eminence as a select and exemplary place of amusement, originated and equipped in a manner which points to its being a popular place of amusement and recreation.

Managers in search of novelties for the holidays, by referring to our advertisement columns, may see that Chevalier T. H. Crowther, world-renowned skater, &c., &c., who gives an entire variety show on the wheels, is at liberty, and, with the addition of a couple of hundred pairs of extension roller skates, can guarantee to give amusement to an audience of either sex or any age, either at home or abroad. The Brighton Press state that other skaters may *crow their* loudest, but *Crowther* is king of them all.

A BOOK ON MAGIC.

We have received for review from A. W. Gamage, Ltd., Mr. Will Goldston's "Magician's Annual," a marvellous collection of clever articles on conjuring and illusions. We take from it a most interesting exposé of the alleged miracles performed by the Indian conjurers. Alvaro, the author, quotes from an interview with Mr. Charles Bertram which appeared in the *Strand Magazine*, when Mr. Bertham said:—"It must be borne in mind that Indian conjurers travel in little groups of four or five, and each, as a rule, does his own trick. This allows one man to prepare his apparatus without observation while another is going through his performance, so that seemingly these people do their tricks without any previous preparation. Again, they carry about with them a lot of bags, bits of old cloth, and blankets, which, although the uninitiated public does not know it, are of the greatest service to them in getting rid of things which have served their purpose."

"In the mango-tree trick the performer first picks a piece of a mango tree about six inches high, with a tuft of three or four little leaves. This is pushed up inside the little rag doll, which is hollow in the middle, and which is always used by the Indian conjurer instead of the magic wand of the European. Then he gets a large piece of the tree, about eighteen inches high, to which is attached by artificial means a little green mango, or, if out of the mango season, a green plum, which serves the purpose equally well. This branch he wraps tightly in a large piece of wet cloth, to be used at the proper time. He also provides himself with two mango seeds, one of which is perfectly normal, and the other as like it as possible in size. This latter he slits in the centre, and puts in a little wedge of wood to hold it open, while at the other side he affixes three or four little bits of string, and he bares down the end of both the branches so that they will fit into the slit in the prepared seed.

"Having made all his arrangements, the conjurer advances with four little bamboo sticks, tied round the top with a piece of string, after having handed them round for inspection. Round these he puts a piece of thin material, which hangs over the top and covers the front and two sides loosely, but not the back, thus forming a sort of tent which is open behind. This tent is about three feet high, and the thinness of the cloth allows the interior to be dimly seen through.

"The juggler next gets a tin pot like an ordinary corned beef can. This is filled with earth and is handed round for inspection. On the earth he pours water, so as to make it wet—in fact, a thick mud. As soon as the audience is satisfied that the pot contains nothing but this mud, he hands round the first seed for examination, and allows someone to put it into the wet earth. He then comes to the front of the tent, lifts up the cloth, puts the pot into the tent, and lets the cloth drop over it. Suddenly he appears to notice that the audience can see through the cloth, so he takes up a large piece of thick coloured cloth, in a fold of which is the large piece of the mango branch, and covers the thin cloth with it. Then he lifts both cloths together, and you see the pot still there and unchanged. He now procures a 'chatty,' or pot of water, and sprinkles it with his hand into the tent to water the seed, and so hasten its growth.

"Here ends the first part of the trick, for the seed is supposed to take some time to germinate and grow. To pass the time the conjurer comes in front and begins doing some other tricks, for example, the cups and balls, or the diving duck, or the transformation of three seeds into a scorpion or small snake—all very elementary tricks indeed, which I will tell you about later. Having done this trick, the conjurer goes behind the tent, taking his mystic rag doll, in which there is more than meets the eye, with him. Under cover of the tent, squatting on his haunches, he pulls out of the doll the first little sprig of mango with the three or four leaves on it, and inserts the prepared end of it into the slit in the mango seed. He then takes out the original seed from the pot, stuffing in the other one into its place. He next lifts up the curtain from the front, waters the pot within, and takes it out to show to the audience, which is astonished to see the original seed has grown up in so short a time. He even takes the old plant out of the pot and shows the bits of string, now covered with mud, which to the casual observer look like tendrils, or little roots growing from the seed. He now replants the seed, putting the pot back by way of the front of the tent, which he lifts up for the purpose, and takes the chatty of water from the front to the back of the tent, and pretends to water the plant from there. This opportunity he uses for taking out the big piece of plant from the cloth; after removing the small piece of mango, he sticks the big bit into the aperture in the seed, for which purpose you will remember I told you he had previously cut it to the right size. This branch he now puts into the pot, and the little piece which he has just shown he wraps up in the corner of the cloth from which the larger piece was taken.

"Although the tree could now be shown full grown to the audience, he does not discover it yet, but goes on with another small trick which may occupy as much as ten minutes. At the end of that time he takes the chatty for the third time, as if to water the plant, again lifts up the front of the tent, this time to find, to his own apparent amazement, that the plant has grown, and on it there is actually fruit.

"Here the second part of the trick may be said to be finished. The tree is now as big as it will grow, and the Indian takes it and shows it to the audience. Then he takes it round to the back of the tent, and puts it in on that side. Once more he pretends to water it, as if he thought it would grow more; but while he is doing this he really pulls up the plant, wraps it in the wet cloth again, and throws a piece of carpet or a blanket carelessly over it, and at a convenient moment an accomplice, or member of the four or five men working together, picks it up and gets it away while the attention of the audience is being held by some other trick. And that is the whole of the famous mango trick."

"The Corkscrew," a coster episode, originally produced at the Paragon a few months ago, is this week being played at the Hammersmith Palace, where it is meeting with a large measure of success. It is a pathetic little sketch, written in a most convincing manner. Maggy Purvis, a cripple nicknamed "Corkscrew," has been befriended and afterwards made a chum of by Bill Johnson, who in telling her of his love for "someone" leads her to believe that he intends to make her his wife. When Mary Jones is introduced to her she understands that such great happiness is not for her, and as they depart she collapses sobbing—alone again in life.

It is difficult to speak too highly of the performances of both Mr. Nevill Graham as Bill Johnson and Miss Cecile Anson as Maggy Purvis. Both draw excellent pictures of poor costers' lives, and steer clear of the easy mistake of over-acting the characters. Miss Severn is good as Mary Jones.

Miss Sylvia Cavalho continues to add to her reputation by her performance of Priscilla in *The Fortune of War*, which character is eminently suited to her personality. Her successes on the legitimate stage in such varied and opposite parts as Zaza, Kitty (in *The Marriage of Kitty*), and Mercia, also Yo-San in *The Darling of the Gods* certainly stamp her as an actress of exceptional versatility.

STAGE STAFF GOSSIP.

The committee of the National Association of Theatrical Employees have prepared a circular for distribution relating to the new sick, funeral, and share-out fund, and they will be glad to send copies to anyone who will undertake to distribute them. All those connected with the various stage departments, the box-office, advertising departments, and attendants generally are eligible to join in accordance with the conditions agreed to. Those who desire to join should make application as soon as possible, and not later in any case than Jan. 1. The secretary *pro tem.*, Mr. Wm. Johnson, of 29, Wellington-street, Strand, will supply full particulars.

The accounts of the sixth annual concert in aid of the Employees' Benevolent Fund, given in His Majesty's Theatre on Sunday, Nov. 29, have been audited and presented to the committee, who have adopted the report and statement as follows:—

Income.

	£	s.	d.
By Sale of Tickets	129	11	6
„ Donations	30	18	6
„ Sale of Programmes	6	8	0
	£166	18	0

Payments.

Theatre—lighting, cleaning, attendants, &c.	15	6	7
Printing	16	11	0
Press Advts.	11	3	0
Orchestra and Accompanist	11	11	0
Bill distributing, cartage, stationary, postage, refreshment for artists, clerical assistance, auditors' fees, and sundry items	13	18	11
	68	10	6
Balance	98	7	6
	£166	18	0

The Committee have decided to allocate the balance as follows:—

	£	s.	d.
To the "Open" Benevolent Fund	30	18	6
„ „ No. 1 Branch	37	9	0
„ „ Heads of Departments Branch	10	0	0
„ „ Carpenters' Branch	10	0	0
„ „ Cinematograph Operators' Branch	10	0	0
	£98	7	6

The total amount raised this year for these benevolent funds exceeds £200, that is, from two concerts and the Theatrical Sports. The Open Benevolent Fund has received over £65 of this amount.

A general meeting of the members of the Carpenters' Branch will be held on Sunday evening in the Salisbury Hotel, St. Martin's-lane, at 8.30. In view of the importance of the business on the agenda, it is desired that all members will attend.

The Heads of Departments Association has lost one of its oldest members in the person of Mr. J. H. Ashburner, who was for many years master carpenter at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross. Mr. Ashburner died after a short illness, and was buried last Saturday, his widow receiving £20 from the funds of the Association. At its last meeting the committee passed a vote of condolence to Mrs. Ashburner. It was decided that the annual general meeting of the members be held on Jan. 28, and that nominations for the officers and committee be invited. Members desiring to submit a resolution to the meeting to give notice of same by Jan. 11 so that all members may be notified fourteen days prior to the meeting. The question of the annual dinner was left over in view of a proposal to arrange a river excursion in the summer as a more suitable occasion for the social intercourse of members and their wives. Several applications for membership were granted.

Mr. William Barbour, electrician at the St. James's Theatre, who accompanied, with other members of the staff (twenty in all), the St. James's company to Sandringham, met a former colleague in the person of Mr. McLaren, the chief electrical engineer at Sandringham. Mr. McLaren was at the Lyceum Theatre, Edinburgh, many years ago when Mr. Barbour was employed at that House. The St. James's staff appear to have had a very pleasant time at Sandringham.

A well-attended meeting of cinematograph operators was held on Tuesday at the offices of the Association. A number of applications for membership were granted. Mr. S. J. Henry gave a most lucid report of the demonstration of fire-extinguishing appliances at the Hippodrome, for which he received a hearty vote of thanks from the members present. It was decided to call the annual general meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 5, 1909, and nominations for the officers and committee for the ensuing year were received, and will be notified to the members with a ballot paper. Members are requested to keep the secretary informed of their private addresses.

The remains of the late Mr. John H. Ashburner, for nine years master carpenter at the Broadway Theatre, Deptford, and seven years at the Victoria Opera House, Burnley, who was also at Carlisle with Mr. Milton Bode, were interred in the family grave at Brockley Cemetery on Saturday, the 12th. The illness was very short. The funeral was attended by many relatives and friends, and flowers were sent by the widow, Mrs. Ashburner; the brother and sister of the deceased, Mr. and Mrs. Mat Ashburner; Mr. and Mrs. Yates, and the Broadway Theatre. The Broadway Theatre staff was represented by Mr. Harry Paton.

W. J. Churchill, who appears at the Hackney Empire next week, tells a funny story of his early experiences. He and the late Dan Leno were boys together at Leeds, and the two, in company with another lad, named Willie Twist—no relation to Oliver—used to run about, as Mr. Churchill humorously puts it, "with a pair of no shoes on," to save leather. Their families visited Featherstone, near Pontefract, to present the drama before the natives, and they were accommodated on a stage with a few tallow candles stuck about for footlights. These went out continually, and the show would stop while one of the company felt for matches and lit them. "One dark night we lads were leading the way with a lantern, and saw some blackberries on a hedge, for which we dived at once. The united families trooped after us, following the light, as usual, and some fell into the ditch.

"One day Leno, Twist and I were in Roundhay Park, Leeds, playing at acting a drama in the woods. I was the hero, Twist was the girl, and Leno the villain. My part consisted of climbing out into the branch of a tree, and appearing in time to save the girl, Susan Annie Jiggapigs, from being murdered by the villain. I remember Leno saying, 'I will see your haughty spirit dragged into the dust,' and just as he lifted the knife, the keeper appeared with a nice ash plant which he laid with beautiful judgment right across the place where the patches were on our trousers."

"Bob" Fitzsimmons (together with his beautiful wife) will make his bow for the first time as an actor to a London audience on Monday at the Oxford. The pair will appear in a dramatic playlet, entitled *A Man's a Man for a' That*, written by John J. Cowan, Mrs. Fitzsimmons playing the part of Miss Vivian Wainwright. The action takes place in Jack Wainwright's apartments, and "Bob" will give an exhibition of ball-punching and general athletic exercises.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

(*For other Variety Notices see page* 25.)

HOLLOWAY EMPIRE.

Mr. E. Dagnall, supported by Miss Cynthia Brooke and Mr. Charles Goodhart, is at the bottom of the bill this week in a sketch by Luke Jellings and George Bellamy, entitled

"SLIPPERY JIM."

Slippery Jim .....MR. E. DAGNALL
Mrs. Templeton .....MISS CYNTHIA BROOKE
Mr. Templeton .....MR. CHARLES GOODHART

The plot of the trifle is briefly as follows:—On the curtain rising a man is discovered forcing a window. He gains access to the apartment, and then we find that this is Slippery Jim, who is there for the purpose of removing any portable articles of value, having the advantage of a detailed plan. He is busy at work when the telephone rings, and as the noise alarms him, he answers it in a feminine voice and receives a message from a man at the Carlton Hotel, who wants to let the lady of the house know that he has returned from Klondyke, having "struck it lucky," and is desperately anxious to see her. Slippery Jim writes the message down, and leaves it beside the telephone. At the same moment the sound of a carriage is heard, and the burglar, seeing no way out of it, dashes into a cupboard. Mr. and Mrs. Templeton, the owners of the flat, enter, and it is very soon evident that he is a brutal, overbearing man, and a scene quickly develops; in the midst of it the wife picks up the telephone message and starts to read it, when the husband rushes forward, tears it out of her hand and throws it in the fire. Then we learn that it was from the man who had been Templeton's partner in Alaska, but who, according to him had died at the goldfields. Matters in the household are getting intense, when there is a noise in the cupboard. Templeton throws the door open, and the burglar comes out with his revolver ready, and recognises Mr. Templeton as Arkwright, the man who had married his sister, and broken her heart, having deserted her for the past eight years. He tells Mrs. Templeton her marriage is no marriage, and on the husband threatening to go for the police, Mrs. Templeton says the moment he says a word about Slippery Jim she will have him arrested for bigamy, and then orders him out of the house. The burglar meanwhile commences to disgorge his appropriated property and is appeased with some notes, and he leaves after advising the wife to ring up the Carlton Hotel.

The sketch suffers a little towards the end from a tendency to hang fire, but with a little strengthening there it should prove admirably suited for its purpose. It had the advantage of capital acting, Mr. Dagnall himself being particularly good in his study of the title-rôle. Miss Cynthia Brooke admirably realised the unhappy wife, her performance being characterised by great charm and grace. Mr. Goodhart as Templeton played the blustering bully to the life, and was of great assistance. The playlet was greeted with enthusiasm.

NEW CROSS EMPIRE.

"Our Marie" heads the bill this week, and as a result the building is filled to overflowing at every performance, for Miss Marie Lloyd's popularity seems to increase and not wane with time. She gave four songs in her own inimitable way, and looked very bewitching in her four handsome dresses of the Directoire period. Her songs were "Don't grumble at woman," "Customs of the country," "I can't make my eyes be good," and "The Directoire girl." Mr. J. P. Ling, a humorous mimic with a good voice, gives imitations of various amateur artists at a charity concert, and is most amusing; the Three Welsh Girls, looking very attractive in national costume, sing "In Old Madrid" very sweetly, and afterwards give an excellent rendering of "I'll tie the leaves so they won't come down," illustrated with some very pretty pictures.

Popular Miss Alexandra Dagmar has a warm reception, and sings with her accustomed skill and spirit. Her patter is clever and amusing, and her rendering of "A marriage in Mayfair" proves her to be an excellent actress as well as a vocalist; Mr. Walter Bellonini contributes a very enjoyable turn with his smart juggling, plate manipulation, &c., and is very ably assisted by his page, Wal. Les Uniques, gymnastic pot-pourri on perpendicular ladders, is a clever and much-appreciated turn. Miss Arabella Allen is a clever impersonater, her Pete being an excellent effort; but her Shylock is indistinct and unsuited to her. Mr. Phil Parsons won much laughter and applause for his pleasant singing of well-written songs, especially "Choose her in the morning."

Percy Ford and G. W. Webb's company appears with great success in an incident of the American War between North and South, entitled *The Spy*. This is a well-written, well-acted sketch. Miss Millie Sylvestre gives a sympathetic rendering of the loving and grief-stricken mother, Mme. Halcon; Mr. Ernest Ball in the title-rôle—William Hinton—has a character which suits him admirably, and his finished acting carried the sketch through to a brilliant close; Mr. J. Negus gives a good performance of the Serjeant. There are some interesting pictures on the Bioscope.

EALING HIPPODROME.

A winsome personality, with more than a suspicion of pathos, is found in Miss Henriquette Maude, the "Little New Zealand Girl," who, after traversing alone half the world's circuit, is recounting to English audiences the varying experiences of her journey by field and flood. Miss Maude is accompanied in her travels by a charming series of "screen pictures," and we see her first in her island home, with her Maori friends, then the Australian continent is touched, and an excellent view of Sydney is presented. Across the Pacific is but a jump, and San Francisco is seen, both before and after the great earthquake. The transit is continued through the States to "skyscraping" New York, of which a magnificent picture is shown. The "New Zealand Girl" has an entrancing tale to tell, and the house followed with rapt attention the striking episodes of her voyage on foot—for she had no money to ride—through the wilds of Texas. Afterwards, in the picturesque dress of a Texan rancher, Miss Maude recites Mr. Frank Desprez's dramatic poem, "Lasca," and wins a decided success. The Player Company produce, in two tableaux, the celebrated comedy of *David Garrick*. Mr. A. Player, in the name-rôle, gives an excellent interpretation of the famous actor's part, both as the gentleman and as the intoxicated guest. Mr. George Greig is the narrow-minded Alderman Ingot to the life, while a dainty and lovable Violet is found in Miss Lois Christine. The sketch is well to the liking of an Ealing audience, and is received with marked approval.

With such a generous commencement, Mr. J. A. Molloy does not fail in other parts of his programme. The Great Rex Fox is a "King Reynard" indeed; he dubs himself "ventriloquist"; he is that, but he is a great deal more, for on the wire he does wonders of equilibrism in the way of poising lamps upon his toes, playing the mandoline, and generally behaving as if stilt-walking on a wire was the simple affair of everyday life. Mr. Harry Brown, coloured comedian, is still asking "Is everyone happy?" and his query seems as popular as ever; Mr. Will Musgrave repeats his successes, "It's a good job I had mother with me" and "When the Sergeant came along." The Zenary Bros. give a fine display of hand and wrist acrobatics and balancing; in their quiet, undemonstrative style these expert brothers get through some really fine work, and well earned the reception accorded to them.

Cadwell and Verne are responsible for an amusing episode of mistakes and transformations, and are also admirable merriment-makers. Miss Grace Merton, who gives with great charm "Killarney" and "Scenes that are brightest," has a sympathetic voice, and her rendition of these ever-popular numbers gave great satisfaction. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope, as usual, presents some capital films, that of the Pedicure being particularly funny. Mr. A. Malcolm Park's band give the "Austria March," in excellent style.

CROUCH END HIPPODROME.

The management here, with their untiring enterprise, manage to keep their programmes well up to the high standard of excellence which it has become the custom to expect from them, and the bill presented this week is a very fair sample of what they achieve. The orchestra, a strong item here, under the direction of Mr. Archie Howells, "opens the ball" with Auber's "Crown Diamonds," an overture that is very much appreciated; next follows Jessie Ward, a pleasing juvenile ballad singer, who renders in capital style "The song that reached my heart" and "Take me with you in your dreams"; the Almas, in their act as equilibrists and tumblers, in which the male member performs some wonderful balancing on a pyramid of chairs, are much applauded for an intrepid and novel turn. Probyn and Bates, in a humorous skit, entitled *The Dude and the Soubrette*, display comedy qualities of no mean order. The gentleman is a clever contortionist, and contributes a comical legmania dance.

Three sketches are being presented this week—all above the average. Mr. and Mrs. George Leonard, in their comedy sketch *Coming Home*, provide endless amusement, and both are very clever, making an emphatic hit; the Carina Sisters, two very refined artists, give an excellent turn with their musical mélange, which includes selections with flute, piccolo, Japanese fiddle, violin, piano, and tubular xylophone. A particularly well rendered solo on the piccolo brings down the house. The turn was not by any means the least appreciated among the various and attractive items which adorn the programme. Chas. Carr, singing and dancing cowboy, meets with a good reception in his song "Prairie Flower." There is genuine art in his dancing, for which he is loudly and enthusiastically applauded. Talbot and Pearce, in their delightful Japanese musical duologue, *Yo-San*, are highly appreciated. They carry special scenery, which, with lighted Chinese lanterns, forms a very pretty picture. Be your troubles what they may, it is impossible not to forget them when Ambrose Thorne is on the stage. Dressed in immaculate fashion he sings truly humorous songs in a style quite his own. He contributes three songs, all good, "Under the clock," "Uncle Bill of Germany," and "Levinski," and still the audience want more. Cole and Rags, smart comedy jugglers, introduce some clever and eccentric tricks, the tramps' business being of the funniest order.

R. Cameron Matthews and company are here with the famous farcical comedy sketch *The Honeymoon Baby*, which keeps the audience in hilarious mood. It is, without doubt, one of the best comedy sketches on the halls, and all taking part in it are excellent, even down to the "kid" (a pretty little billy-goat). Some realistic pictures on the Bioscope complete an excellent entertainment.

TOTTENHAM PALACE.

At this fine hall in Tottenham things are progressing in right royal fashion, and Mr. T. S. Mayne, the genial manager, and all concerned in the enterprise are very rightly congratulating themselves on the general healthiness of business. A programme of excellent quality is being presented this week, and notwithstanding the approach of Christmas, when a falling-off in attendances is expected, excellent audiences assemble to sample the various good things set before them. Mr. W. Burgess presides over the orchestra here, which opens the evening's entertainment with a selection from *The Belle of New York* excellently rendered. Mr. Ernest Shand tops the bill this week, and was in the very best of form on Monday. Mr. Shand is a very popular comedian, and he must have been pleased with his reception in Tottenham. His first song, "In other lands," is very good, but "The bachelor," with its funny patter, is the cause of much laughter, and the audience would not be satisfied until he contributed a third item, "The last pub." He also had some quaint patter in this item, and causes much amusement when he asks his audience to reflect "if water rots your boots, what must it do to your insides?"

The Six Brothers Luck and company provide another important turn. They are presenting this week their latest act, entitled *Lift-Ems, Ltd.* It is of the rough-and-tumble order, smartly performed, and very well received, causing no end of fun. Miss Gwennie Hasto is a strong card for any management to play. She has a good song, "I've got a girl," and shows ability in her terpsichorean act. One feels a special kind of delight whilst listening to Mr. Ian Colquhoun, whose baritone voice is heard to great advantage in his rendering of "Father O'Flynn." He also contributed some Scotch gems, and is decidedly one of the hits of the bill. Anthony, who styles himself as the "swankiest swanker of all swanks," gives a very amusing and clever conjuring entertainment; and Clown Sarford and his dogs appeared with entire success. A popular item on the programme is the turn provided by Billy McClain's Coloured Aristocrats, including Mme. Cordelia, Mon, Carlisle and Baker. These versatile coloured artists contribute a diverting medley of song and dance, and two members perform a duet on a couple of pianofortes which please the audience immensely. Miss Florence Schuberth, a singer with a pretty voice and manner, pleases her hearers with her vocalisation. She has a capital chorus song, "Keep on rocking me, Charlie," and another catchy song in "If the lady is willing." Captain Max Gruber and Miss Adelina present a unique act with their performing horse, pony, and elephant; and Ruffell's Bioscope completes an excellent evening's entertainment.

MISS ANNA BEAUMONT is returning for pantomime to Aldershot, as one of the Ugly Sisters, after a successful music hall tour.

THE public appetite for sensational and dangerous performances received a tragic rebuke on the night of the 12th, at the Palace of Varieties Theatre, Berlin, when a Hungarian acrobat named Arvad Felik received fatal injuries in full view of 2000 spectators. Felik's "turn" was billed as a "jump from the sixth storey," and it consisted in springing from a small ledge on the roof of the theatre upon a long wooden chute inclined at an angle of 45 degrees. Having acquired great skill Felik recently began the dangerous leap blindfolded. On the fatal night, when performing blind-folded for the thirteenth time, he struck the edge of the chute with great force, and fell heavily to the ground. His injuries were of a terrible nature, and he died in the hospital during the night.

AN exciting fire occurred early on Monday morning at the Jersey Beach Hotel, Aberavon, and some thrilling escapes are reported. There was a rumour that Arthur Roberts had been seriously injured in the fire. It appears, however, that Mr. Arthur Roberts, who is at present at Swansea, was unable to make the journey to the Jersey Beach Hotel on Sunday night, as he had intended doing, and that it was Mr. Huddleston, an old member of the Arthur Roberts Company, who was injured. He was assisting in the rescue work when the nurse, Miss Wharton, whose spine is said to be injured, jumped from a window and alighted on him. He is now lying in great pain at a small restaurant near the scene of the fire.

GEORGE LEYTON AT NEW CROSS.

The "Special Military Night," at the New Cross Empire, arranged for Friday, the 11th, was a brilliant success. The primary object of the function was to do honour to the local survivors of the Crimean War and Indian Mutiny, who had been engaged during the week by Mr. Ernest Bridgen to support Mr. George Leyton in a military sketch. For some years past Mr Leyton has espoused the cause of these old warriors, and in every town in which he has appeared he has made it his business to seek them out, inquire into their circumstances, and relieve their immediate needs. His efforts have met with the support they deserve, and Mr. Leyton has been publicly thanked by the Mayors of many important towns and boroughs, and treasures a letter from Field-Marshal Lord Roberts, expressing his gratitude and pleasure that Mr. Leyton's efforts had been so successful.

The exterior and interior of the Empire had been profusely decorated for the occasion. Trumpeters of the Royal Horse Artillery sounded the "general parade" outside the building just prior to the appearance of the Mayor and Mayoress of Greenwich (Mr. and Mrs. Henry Richardson) and party. The Mayor and Mayoress were received by Mr. Bridgen and escorted to the box reserved for them. The veterans were drawn up on the staircase, forming a guard of honour. The Mayoress was presented with a beautiful bouquet by Sergeant Peter Redmond, in his 86th years, late of the 57th Regiment (1st Middlesex), who had been through the Crimean War from beginning to end, and had also seen service during the Indian Mutiny, and been wounded in New Zealand.

Midway through the programme Mr. Geo. Leyton introduced Trooper John Ford, aged 74, a survivor of the famous "Charge," who recited Tennyson's poem with dramatic fervour, and received a great ovation. "The Last Muster," Mr. George Leyton's scena, in which twelve local veterans took part, having been concluded, the curtain rose in response to the demands of the audience, and disclosed the Mayor of Greenwich, supported by Mr. Ernest Bridgen and Mr. Leyton, with the veterans lined up behind. Mr. Bridgen briefly introduced his Worship, who, in a few well-chosen words, expressed his pleasure at the opportunity afforded him of making the acquaintance of the survivors of the Crimea and Indian Mutiny. He was also pleased to be able to thank Mr. Leyton on behalf of himself, the Mayoress, and, he was sure, the whole of the audience, for the magnificent work he had done for these old men. He had been requested by the Mayoress to publicly thank Sergeant Redmond for presenting her with a beautiful bouquet. He was pleased to see the officers and men of the Woolwich garrison so well represented, and concluded by hoping the result of that gathering would be a financial success. The curtain having fallen, his Worship expressed the desire to be introduced to the veterans, who paraded at the back of the stage, and, after shaking hands with them and questioning them as to their various careers, he handed to each man a new half-crown, with his best wishes for their future welfare.

A BREACH OF CONTRACT.

At the Westminster County Court on Wednesday, Mr. J. T. McCallan sued Mr. Alfred Dove, the musical-director of the Moss and Stoll Empires, for £100 damages for breach of contract. Mr. Emile Cannot, in opening the case for the plaintiff, said that his client, an operatic singer, received a letter from Mr. Campbell Bishop, on Aug. 8, stating that he had the engaging of artists for the La Scala Operatic Company, who was going to run a company giving selections from *Cavalleria Rusticana* on the music-halls. The letter asked defendant to state the lowest terms he would take for a good tour, allowing ten per cent. commission for him. His client replied, and Mr. Bishop wrote that he had obtained the engagement on the terms asked. The next communication was a call for a rehearsal, signed by Mr. Bishop's wife, received on Aug. 22. Then plaintiff gave a trial show at the Hippodrome, Richmond, and it ran for six days, plaintiff giving twelve shows. At the end of the week, Mr. Dove, the manager of the "Scala Operatic Company" came to the plaintiff, and asked him to reduce his salary for the trial shows, and he agreed to take half, receiving £3 5s. The defendants had secured a tour, and Mr. McCallan went to Glasgow, performed, and got the salary—£6 10s.—which had been agreed between Mr. Bishop and his client. On Nov. 28 he performed at Manchester, with the defendant's company, and the next week they had no engagement, so he returned to London. He next saw that the piece was advertised to be given in Hull, and as he had had no call, he wired for one. He received the reply: "Regret, not required. Letter explains." No letter came.

Mr. Dove said Mr. Bishop was never in his employ, and had no authority to make contracts with artists.

The plaintiff came to him when they were stranded, and said he had an offer at the Waldorf Theatre, and witness advised him to take the engagement, as he had nothing to offer him. He only engaged his artists from week to week for the show.

His Honour considered that a contract was made, and that Mr. Bishop was empowered to make a contract at the rate of £5 10s. per week, for a tour, and that a tour had been carried out. He found for plaintiff for twenty-seven guineas and costs.

IMPORTANT COPYRIGHT CASE.

Before Alderman Sir T. Vansittart Bowater, at Guildhall, Edward Solomon, of Assam-street, Commercial-road, E., was charged, on remand, with selling and having in his possession for sale a quantity of pirated copyright "musical works," i.e., "Will you love me in December as you do in May?" and "Love me and the world is mine."

Accused was given into custody whilst selling copies of the words of the songs contained in a song-sheet, entitled "Christmas Songs," to hawkers in Aldgate.

Supporting the charges, Mr. Albert Strong explained that the prosecution was taken under the Act of 1906, which was framed and passed at the request of the music trade to stop piracies of copyright "musical works." The question in dispute was whether songs without the music could be included in the definition "musical works." His submission was that they could, and he would point out that the publication of these printed sheets of pirated songs affected his client financially.

Mr. H. Myers, for the defence, did not dispute that the words of the songs were the same as those contained in the musical copyright edition, but contended that, inasmuch as they were published apart from the music, they could not be regarded as a "musical work." How could they be when they lacked the very essential part, the music?

The Alderman dismissed the charge with costs against McGlennon, the prosecutor, observing that he had not been convinced that words alone constituted a "musical work." Had the music and words been published together it would have been different. As it was an important question to the trade, he would willingly state a case. Mr. Albert Strong appeared for the complainant.

THE Brothers Lyster informed the V.A.P. meeting at Nottingham that the person who wired to Bolton for money in the name of the Smarte Brothers tried a similar trick in the name of Lyster and Cook on Manager Smithson, of Barnsley. It is well that he has been discovered and arrested.

"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS AND OTHERS.

Owing to Christmas Day and Boxing Day this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, THE ERA will be Published at Midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

Advertisements intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, DEC. 22, to reach us by First Post on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23. Advertisements may be handed in at the counter until 12.30 noon on WEDNESDAY, DEC. 23.

POST EARLY.

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ARTISTS WANTING ENGAGEMENTS, MANAGERS WANTING ARTISTS,

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Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

This Scale does not apply to "Trade" Advertisements in these Columns.

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5, TAVISTOCK-STREET, STRAND, W.C.

For the convenience of Advertisers, Replies to Advertisements are received. They can remain until called for, or be forwarded by Post if postage be arranged.

NO STAMPS.

Advertisers and subscribers are politely requested to forward Cheques or Postal Orders in payment of their Advertisements and Subscriptions, crossed "Lloyd's Bank, Ltd." Remittances should be made payable to "The Era," Limited, and addressed,

THE PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.
"Wire," "The Era, London."
"Ring-up," 4747 or 1433 Central.

IN case of the non-delivery of "THE ERA" by the First Post, the Publsiher will be greatly obliged if Advertisers will forward their Postal Wrappers with the time of delivery marked upon them.

COMPANIES WANTED.

TWENTY WORDS, ONE SHILLING.
Each Additional Six Words, Sixpence.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.

WANTED, First-Class Companies, for
THEATRE ROYAL, BRIGHTON.
Feb. 15, March 8, 15, 22, 29, May 10, on.
DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON, N.E.
Jan. 25, March 8, 22, April 5, May 17, 24, 31, on
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
March 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 3, 10, on.
OPERA HOUSE, LEICESTER.
April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
GRAND THEATRE, WOLVERHAMPTON.
Feb. 22, March 1, April 12, May 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 15, 22, April 26, May 17, 24, 31, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 6, 20, 27, Oct. 4, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, May 3, 17, 24, 31, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Feb. 1, 15, March 1, 8, 15, 29, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for
COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD,
Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 8, 15, 22, 29, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Jan. 25, Feb. 8, March 8, 29, April 5, onwards.
THEATRE ROYAL, CANTERBURY.
First Vacant Date March 15, 1909.
Add., E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

THREE PROGRESSIVE THEATRES.

WANTED, High-class Companies,
DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE,
Jan. 18, Feb. 15, 22 (?), March 1, 8, 15, 22.
GAIETY THEATRE, HASTINGS,
March 15, 29, May 3, 10, 17.
PLEASURE GARDENS T., FOLKESTONE.
March 1, 15, 22, April 26, May 10, June 7, on.
Apply for all above,
ROWLAND, Theatre, Folkestone

WANTED, First-class Attractions, for the following dates:
Feb. 8, 15, March 15, April 5, 12, 19, and 26.
Apply,
Mr. ROBERT ARTHUR, 24a, Regent-street, S.W.

ROYALTY THEATRE, MORECAMBE.
The Only Theatre in the Town.
WANTED, Musical Comedy, April 12.
Note.—The Conference of the Teachers' National Union is held in Morecambe during Easter. A few Dates Vacant in July and Aug.
Address,
CHAS. M. JULIAN, General-Manager.

PIER PAVILION THEATRE,
EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, First-class Companies, for Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 22, and various dates onwards.
Apply, G. HAYES, Manager.

LYCEUM, NEWPORT, MON.
WANTED, Sterling Attractions, Feb. 1, May 3 (five nights), and 10 (six nights), also for Choice Autumn Dates.
Particulars to SIDNEY COOPER.

THEATRE ROYAL, PLYMOUTH.
WANTED, Strong Musical Attractions for Feb. 15, March 22, April 5, May 10, 17, 24, and 31. First-class Companies only.

LYCEUM, NEWPORT, MON.
WANTED, Sterling Attractions, Feb. 1, May 3 (five nights, and 10th (six nights), also for Choice Autumn Dates.
Particulars to SIDNEY COOPER.

THEATRE ROYAL, BRISTOL.
Managing-Director, Mr. ERNEST CARPENTER.
WANTED, Strong Dramatic Attractions, for the following dates: April 5, June 7, 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 26, and Aug. 9, 1909.
Apply, W. F. CROWE, Lyceum Theatre, London.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE, WIDNES.
WANTED, Strong Attractions, for Feb. 22,
March 22, April 5, 19,
and onwards, with exceptions.
Address, THOS. SWINTON.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply, direct, to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, First-class Musical Comedy Attraction, March 29, 1909.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, LEITH.
WANTED, First-class Attraction, Jan. 18.
Write, R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

NEW HIPPODROME, SCARBOROUGH.
One of the most luxurious Theatres in the North. Now running One House Nightly at 8.
Holding capacity, 2,000. Pop. prices, 3d. to 1s. 6d.
WANTED, Star Variety Combinations, Musical, Dramatic, and Pantomime Companies, on Sharing terms.
Vacant Jan. 11, on. Only First-class Attractions.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Opera House, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH.
Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 8, 15, 22,
onward with exceptions.
All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, May 17, June 14, 28,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME,
BARRY DOCK.
Vacant Aug. 2, Dec. 13, 20,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31, June 7,
onward with exceptions.

Pantomime, "ALADDIN," Jan. 25, 1909, onward

Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Dec. 26, 1908, onward.

Pantomime, "PUSS IN BOOTS,"
Jan. 25, 1909, onward.

To Let on Royalty, several good Dramas, with excellent Plants of Printing, with or without Scenery, including "IN SIGHT OF ST. PAUL'S," "PRAIRIE FLOWER," &c.

ARTHUR CARLTON,
Theatre Royal, Worcester.

Telegrams: "Carlton, Worcester."

HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE,
BARROW-IN-FURNESS.
The Chief Theatre of the Town and District.
The only Theatre in the Town lighted by Electricity.
WANTED, Companies, March 1, 15, 22, 29, April 26, onwards.

Our Season's Bookings, which Managers are requested to compare with elsewhere, include:—Miss Lena Ashwell's Co., "Diana of Dobson's," Mr. Geo. Alexander's Co., "The Thief," F. R. Benson's Co., "The Dairymaids," Mr. Percy Hutchison's Cos., "Mrs. Dot," "Brewster's Millions," "Lady Frederick," "Leah Kleschna," "With Edged Tools," "The Christian" (new version), "A White Man," "Jack Straw," "Sergeant Brue," "You Never Can Tell," "The Flag Lieutenant," "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch," Mr. Harry Nicholls, "The Beloved Vagabond," Diana of Dobson's" (return), Mr. G. Alexander's next St. James's Theatre Production, and Mr. George D. Day's Co., "The Prodigal Son" (return).

All communications,
CALVERT ROUTLEDGE, H. M. T., Barrow.

THEATRE ROYAL, LINCOLN.
WANTED, good Dramas, last three days of weeks commencing Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 1 and 22. Light Attractions, March 15 and on.

LOUGHBOROUGH.
No Vacancies until after Easter.

DUMFRIES AND HAWICK.
Wanted, good Companies (not Drama), Jan. 18 and on.

LONDONDERRY.
No Vacancies until after Easter.

THE SPA, WHITBY.
Vacant Aug. 5, 6, 7; 9; 16, 17, and 18.

NEW GAIETY THEATRE, WORKSOP.
Vacant Jan. 11 and 25, last three days only.

W. PAYNE SEDDON, Theatre Royal, Loughborough.

DEVONSHIRE PARK T., EASTBOURNE.
WANTED, High-class Attractions, Jan. 18, Feb. 15, and March dates.
Apply, ROWLAND, The Theatre, Folkestone.

METROPOLE, GLASGOW, LTD.
WANTED, Pay-box Attractions, April, onwards, 1910.
Coms., ARTHUR JEFFERSON.

SCOTLAND'S PROVINCIAL THEATRES.
Managing-Director, R. C. BUCHANAN.
ALEXANDRA THEATRE, GREENOCK.
WANTED, First-class Attractions, for Jan. 11.
Apply,
R. C. BUCHANAN, 102, Bath-street, Glasgow.

COLISEUM, ABERYSTWYTH.
WANTED, Companies, Jan. 4, 5, 6; 18, 19, 20; 25, 26, 27. Wire, PHILLIPS.

WANTED, Something Good, Feb. 1, 8, March 1, on, Chorley, also Feb. 8, 22, on, Radcliffe
Address, SANTE, Radcliffe.

THEATRE ROYAL, COLNE, LANCS.
WANTED, good Company, Jan. 11 and Feb. 22.
Address, GERALD HARDING.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.
WANTED, Musical Attractions,
Musical Attractions.
March 1, various, on.
Address, NORMAN H. BARGER.

WANTED, First-class Dramatic or Musical Attractions, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 15, 22. Address, E. A. SMITH, Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.

STANLEY, DURHAM, NEW THEATRE R., LTD.
WANTED, Strong Attraction, Jan. 25 (through transferring). All coms., MARK H. LINDON.

THEATRE ROYAL, LEIGH.
WANTED, First-class Dramatic Companies, Jan. 25, April 5, 19, May 24, 31, Aug. 9, 16, 23, 30.
WILLIAM HEATH, Manager.

WEYMOUTH.—NEW PAVILION THEATRE.
Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons. Dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
WANTED, First-class Companies, Spring and Autumn, 1909. All communications,
WALTER R. WALLIS, Municipal Offices, Weymouth.

OPERA HOUSE, KIDDERMINSTER.
WANTED, Companies; holds £100; Vacant Feb. 4, 11, 18, March 1, 15, 22, and Easter Bookings: "Merry Widow," "Dairymaids," "Prince of Pilsen," "Prodigal Son," "The Christian," &c. J. P. MOORE, King's Hall, Birmingham.

WANTED, for Theatre Royal, Barnstaple, Companies, for two nights, Musical or Comedy preferred. Apply, H. ASHTON, Strand, Barnstaple.

KING'S THEATRE, KILMARNOCK.
General-Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, No. 1 Musical Comedy and Pantomime Attractions,
immediate and future dates.

OPERA HOUSE, DUNFERMLINE.
WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred,
Feb. 8, March 22, April 5, on.
three or six nights.
W. E. POTTS.

WANTED, a First-class Pantomime,
for Southern Theatre,
Jan. 25.
Address, J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

WANTED, Solid Dramatic or Musical Company for Dec. 28; must be first-class and play twice nightly. MANAGER, Hippodrome, Gainsborough.

WANTED, for Variety Theatres, First-class Pantomimes, Jan. 11, Feb. 8, and dates in March, to play twice nightly. Full particulars, T. A. EDWARDES, Palace, Derby.

WANTED (through breach of Contract), Dec. 26 and 28, Victoria Hall, Ripon, First-class Fit-up Show complete. Wire particulars to HENRY CHATTELL, Theatrical Stores, Dartford.

COMPANIES WANTED.

Booked by
MOSS' EMPIRES, LIMITED.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE,
GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM,
BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, 23.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, March 22, May 10, 17, 24, June 14, 21, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 23.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant March 1, 15, 29, April 19, 26, May 3, 10, 24, June 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant, April 5, 19, 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28.

Address,
with full particulars, terms, &c.
where can be seen, to
Moss' EMPIRES, LIMITED,
Cranbourn-mansions, Cranbourn-street,
London, W.C.
Envelopes marked "Theatres."

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, MIDDLESBROUGH.
Seating capacity 3,500.
Acknowledged to be one of the largest, best-equipped, and most handsome Theatres in Great Britain.
The Premier and Central Theatre of the District

Now Booking Spring and Autumn, 1909.

WANTED, First-class Attractions only, Feb. 15, 22, 29, Easter, April 12, on, with exceptions.
We are prepared to give excellent terms for really Big Attractions for these dates.

All communications, JNO. ED. JOWSEY, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough.

Telegrams, "Magnet."
'Phones 413, 426, 500.

GRAND THEATRE, DERBY.
WANTED, Dramatic and Musical Attractions, March 22, April 26, and onward, with exceptions. Address, T. ALLAN EDWARDES.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE BEGGAR GIRL'S WEDDING."
WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
WANTED, April 5, Aug. 9, Nov. 1, 22. WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C

"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Feb. 15, March 29, April 5, 12. WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO TOOK THE WRONG TURNING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Dec. 21. WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, 12. WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, Aug. 2, 9. WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"HER SECOND TIME ON EARTH."
WANTED, Aug. 2, Nov. 8, 15. WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

FREDERICK MELVILLE'S COMPANIES.
WANTED, Theatres, Jan. 11, 18, Feb. 8. FREDERICK MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C

"AS MIDNIGHT CHIMES."
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres, Feb. 15, March 22, April 12, Aug. 2. TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, April 5, Aug. 2. DOUGLAS BRUCE, New Theatre Royal, Consett.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1. ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 1, March 1. ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
"A ROYAL DIVORCE."

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Week of Dec. 28.
Week of Dec. 28.
Week of Dec. 28.

In consequence of the Fire at the Irving Theatre, Seacombe, the above-mentioned date is unfortunately vacant. Agent and Printing all ready.

Wire, wire, wire immediately.
"Hustler, Birkenhead."

Letters to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal.

"A ROYAL DIVORCE."
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, for this Phenomenal Success,
Weeks of
Jan. 11 and 25.
Jan. 11 and 25.
Jan. 11 and 25.
Wire or write to
W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"THE NEW EAST LYNNE."
WANTED, Weeks of
Jan. 11 and Feb. 8,
Jan. 11 and Feb. 8,
Jan. 11 and Feb. 8,
for this Remarkable Success,
which in a fortnight at Dublin played to £1,400, and at Belfast turned hundreds away nightly.
Wire or write to W. W. KELLY,
New Theatre Royal, Birkenhead.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 22, March 22, April 5, 12, onwards; Special Concert Christmas Day, Miners' Theatre, Ashington.
Address, CHARLES HARRINGTON.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."

WANTED, April 12, 19, 26.
April 12, 19, 26.

May 17, 24, 31.
May 17, 24, 31.

All Communications,
J. W. CORDINER, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

WANTED, few Dates in Feb., March, April, Hutchison Tours.
See Companies Column.

"SILVER KING" CO.
WANTED, Dates as follow: March 8, April 19, May 3, Aug. 30, Sept. 20, 27, Nov. 1, 8, 15.
Address,
POLINI, 93, Penge-road, London, S.E.

WANTED, Jan. 25, 26, 27, Feb. 8, 15, for "The Cingalee." Address,
HALDANE CRICHTON, Hippodrome, Todmorden.

M. RUSSELL ROSSE'S TOURS.
WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, and onwards, for Comedy Repertory. Company includes David James. Wire, King's Theatre, Glasgow.

THEATRES WANTED.

"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
"THE SORROWS OF SATAN"
and
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
"NANA, THE RAGE OF PARIS."
WANTED, Jan. 18 and March 1, various Autumn Dates.
Refer by courteous permission,
Mr. E. Oswald Brooks, Grand Theatre, Swansea.
Both Plays are
Beautifully Mounted,
Carefully Produced,
Elegantly Dressed,
Played by a Most Efficient Company,
Are Perfect in Detail.
A Magnificent Two-manual Pipe Organ is travelled by Miss Esmond, and stands in view the whole of Act 4 of "The Sorrows of Satan."
Also used with fine effect in "Nana."
Mr. Edward Neville takes the title-rôle admirably. Cool and cynical, his perfect acting pilots a rather difficult play to success. . . . Miss Rosie Neville is to be congratulated on the fact that though still in her teens, she is playing a leading part. As Lady Sybil Elton she shows a remarkable amount of talent.—Cambrian Daily Leader, Dec. 16.
This Autumn Tour Miss Esmond has re-opened the following Theatres, being specially booked to do so:—
T. R., Belfast; O. H., Perth;
T. R., Paisley; T. R., Dumfries;
New T., Hawick; T. R., Waterford;
and the Entire Tour was
Fully Booked before starting.
Managers of First-class Theatres are invited to send their Vacant Dates for an Attraction which makes every night a Saturday.
LOIE ESMOND, to-day, Grand Theatre, Swansea; Dec. 21, Empire, Blaina, Mon.

Mr. and Mrs. CHALMERS MACKEY'S CO.
"ROLLICKING RORY."
WANTED, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, 8, 15 (North), April 12 (south).
Eden Theatre, Bishop Auckland;
next, "Ashdale," Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts, by Walter Howe.
WANTED, Feb. 1, 22, March 1, 8, 29, April 26, May 3, 17, on.
Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.

Dec. 21, Prince's Theatre, Horwich, Lancs.

SIDNEY RENNEF AND G. M. COPPING'S PRODUCTIONS.
WANTED, for "Love Rules the World," Jan. 18, 25, onward; Easter, Whit, and August Bank Holiday settled.
"HOW WOMEN RUIN MEN,"
Jan. 18 (Lancs.), 25 (Easter settled), onward. Splendid Casts, good Productions, and splendid Printing.
G. M. COPPING, Elephant and Castle Theatre; next, T. R., Stratford.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
SHAKESPEAREAN and CLASSICAL REPERTOIRE, also
"THE THREE MUSKETEERS," "IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND," "JEANIE DEANS," "MARY WARNER," &c., &c.
WANTED, through change of arrangements, Jan. 4, Jan. 11, onwards. Wire, Prince of Wales Hotel, Chorley.

"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN."
"WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN,"
by
Walter Howard.
Owing to Extension of Tour,
WANTED, Good Theatres,
Jan. 11 and 18,
Jan. 11 and 18,
and various on.
ELLEN SNOW,
To-day, Alex., Sheffield; next, T. R., Jarrow.

CHARLES FREEMAN AND GEORGE DERRICK'S CO.,
"A WHITE DEMON."
"CURRENT CASH."
"SAPHO."
WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, Feb. 8.
Wire for 28th. This and next,
East Oxford Theatre, Oxford.

MONTAGUE BEAUDYN'S SUCCESSES.
"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Jan. 11, 12, 13, probably Vacant Wales.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
A Show that Pleases all Classes.
Well played, mounted, and advertised.
Something really Original and New.
Vacant Jan. 4, to precede Star, Liverpool, Jan. 25 Feb. 1, 22, March 1, 8, 15.
"A BEAUTIFUL FIEND," Vacant July 19.
"A TRAITOR PRINCE," Vacant March 15.
Wires, Pontypridd. Letters, Gaiety, Burnley.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. KIMBERLEY'S CO'S.
"BOUND TO WIN."
"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, Dec. 31 (three nights, near Birmingham), Jan. 18, 25, Jan. 18, 25.
Special cast, including Mr. and Mrs. Kimberley.
"A SOLDIER'S HONOUR."
Wanted, Feb. 8, Feb. 8, Feb. 8.
One of the Biggest Successes on the Road. Refer. Wire for both plays,
KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

"THE IDOL OF PARIS."
"THE IDOL OF PARIS,"
by Charles Darrell.
WANTED, First-class Theatres,
January 11 and 18,
Feb. 8, 22.
Admitted by Press and Public to be one of the Greatest Successes Touring.
MISS ANNIE BELL as FLARE-FLARE.
Wire, JAMES BELL, T. R., Darlington.

WANTED, for First-class Pantomime, through change of date, Jan. 25, South. Address, J. F. ELLISTON, Theatre Royal, Bolton.

"A WOMAN IN IT!"
WANTED, First-class Theatre, Easter. FRED BULMER, Palace T., Birmingham.

"THAT WOMAN FROM LONDON."
WANTED, Aug. 2. FRED BULMER, Palace T., Birmingham.

"THE 10.30 DOWN EXPRESS"
and "GUILTY GOLD."
WANTED, Jan. 18, 25 (Midlands).

HORACE STANLEY,
AQUARIUM, YARMOUTH.

"CLAUDIAN."
WANTED, May 24, between T. R., Manchester, and Shakespeare T., Liverpool. WILLIAM MACLAREN, T. R., Blyth, Northumberland.

"HER MARRIAGE VOW."
"HER MARRIAGE VOW."
Miss Lillian Herries as Kate.
WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 8, 15, March 8, Easter, and Whit. GARSIDE and KNOWLES, Queen's Theatre, Farnworth, Bolton.

MR. E. H. KNIGHT'S No. 1 CO.
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
"THE LIGHTHOUSE ROBBERY."
The Greatest Spectacular Drama Touring.
WANTED (unexpectedly vacant), Jan. 4, Jan. 4, Jan. 4 (Midlands or North), Jan. 18 (North), and a few Spring Dates. E. H. KNIGHT, 7, The Crescent, Barnes, S.W.

WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
FRANK M. THORNE, Theatre Royal, Rochdale.

WANTED, Theatres, "The Nihilist," a Gilt-edged Drama. Read Mr. Jefferson's advertised opinion:—"Realised the fullest expectations of a well-filled house, and is certain to establish a record for this time of the year." Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 11, 12, 13, 15, March 1, April 12, 19, Aug. 2, 9, on.
SILVERSTONE, Met., Glasgow;
next two weeks, T. R., Woolwich.

'ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE."
WANTED Jan. 4, 11, 18.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole Theatre, Birmingham.

WANTED, Jan. 4, for "Dandy Fifth." Wire, CLARENCE CORRI, Hippodrome, Todmorden; next week, Treharris.

THEATRES WANTED.

MISS MARY NEIL,
in her great success,
"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell;
and
"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
Wire for Dec. 28.
Wire for Dec. 28.
Also Vacant for either play, Jan. 11 and 18, Feb. 1 and 8, March 29, April 5, May 10 and 24.
Communications to GEORGE KIRK,
This, T. R., Aston, Birmingham;
Next, New T., Cambridge.

"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
"THE GIRL WHO WENT ASTRAY."
The Drama that Booms itself.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Receipts for four weeks exceed £1,000.
Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
WANTED, Jan. 25, Feb. 1, 15, Easter. FRED BULMER, Palace Theatre, Birmingham.

"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates.
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 1, March 1,
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8, March 15, 22, 29.
Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY,
This, Grand Opera House, Middlesbrough;
Next, P. O. W. Theatre, Mexborough.

FRED GRANVILLE'S PANTOMIMES.
"BEAUTY AND THE BEAST."
"ALADDIN."
"BABES IN THE WOOD."
IMPORTANT.
WANTED, Managers with Vacant Dates for First-class Pantomimes, Feb. 1, onwards, communicate with
FRED GRANVILLE,
Queen's Theatre, Liverpool.
Note.—"Babes in the Wood," produced Monday last at Queen's Theatre, Liverpool, scored a Brilliant Success. Now the talk of the city, and playing to packed business nightly.
The Liverpool Echo says:—"The whole pantomime, both in the matter of scenic effects and acting, may be summed up in one word—PERFECTION."
Managers are cordially invited to witness Production this week at Liverpool.

HARDIE and VON LEER'S COYS.
WANTED Wanted, Theatres.
"TWO LITTLE VAGABONDS,"
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, March 1, 8.

"TWO LANCASHIRE LASSES IN LONDON."
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 15, April 19, 26.

"THE SAILOR'S WEDDING,"
Vacant Feb. 8, 15, Mar. 1.

E. P. CLIFT, 110, St. Martin's-lane, W.C.
Wires, "Vagancy, London." Tel. No. 7504 Gerrard

Mr. WENTWORTH CROKE'S COMPANY
in "EAST LYNNE" (Bullock version).
This Company will consist of the Pick of the Artists of "The Christian," "The Bondman," and "The Prodigal Son" Companies.
June, July, and August settled.
WANTED, April 26, May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, June 14 (?).
Address, Piccadilly-mansions, 17, Shaftesbury-avenue, W.

E. HILL-MITCHELSON'S CO'S.
"WHO IS SHE?"
WANTED, Feb. 1 and 22.
"THE KING AND THE UNKNOWN WOMAN," Jan. 25, Feb. 1, March 22.
E. HILL-MITCHELSON, Court Theatre, Wigan.

Mr LEWIS WALLER'S CO.
"ROBIN HOOD."
WANTED, Spring Dates.
Address all communications,
F. CLIVE ROSS, 47, College-place, N.W.

MESSRS. ARMADALE AND WARREN'S CO.
"THE FACE AT THE WINDOW."

WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 8, 15, May 17, 24, Whit Week, and Aug. Bank Holiday, onwards, with exceptions. Address, ARMADALE and WARREN, Star Theatre, Swansea.

"HIS SISTER'S HONOUR."
Third Year of Consecutive Tour. Third.
WANTED, Jan. 11 and 18,
Sumptuously Staged,
Beautifully Dressed, and Played by a Sound All-round Cast.
Wire, E. A'DELL, Avenue Theatre, Kettering.

"THE PRIVATE SECRETARY."
EUGENE C. STAFFORD'S No. 1 CO.
WANTED, Xmas week (7 nights), also Jan. 4, 11 (3 nights), Feb. 8, 15, 22, April 19, May 31.

E. C. S., Bishopsdale, Biddenden, Kent.

WANTED, a few dates in Spring, for Hutchison Tours:—
"Brewster's Millions,"
"Idols,"
"Lady Frederick,"
"Peter's Mother,"
"Mrs. Dot."
See Companies Column.

LINGFORD CARSON'S CO.
"THE GREAT WHITE CHIEF." The Money Maker. Forty people on stage. Excellent musical numbers.
WANTED, Known, wire for Jan. 4, unexpectedly Vacant. Wire, L. CARSON, Queen's T., Keighley.

LOUIE FREEAR.
WANTED, Theatres or Halls that hold money.
LOUIE FREEAR.
Theatres or Halls that hold money.
LOUIE FREEAR.
Wanted, immediate Dates for Louie Freear and Grand Star Combination prior to Opening of London Season.
Terms, sharing or certainty.
Write, MANAGER, 157, Hill-street, Glasgow.

THE GIPSIES AND THEIR JESTER.
WANTED, Pier Pavilions, Winter Gardens, &c. Only Vacancies Next Summer:
Week commencing Monday, April 19, 26,
May 3, 10, 17, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept. 20, onwards.
Mr. D'ARCY CLAYTON, 23, Brockman-rd., Folkestone.

ARTISTS WANTED.

"THE WORLD'S VERDICT."
WANTED, week commencing 31st inst., rehearsals from 24th (Scotland), Chambermaid, Comedian (short), Heavy Man, Character Comedian (short), Responsible, and Utility. "Verdict." GORDON JEFFERSON, Metropole T., Glasgow.

GEORGE GRAY AND CO.
WANTED, Shortly, Juvenile Lady and Gentleman; Lady fair, height 5ft. 6in.; Gentleman 5ft. 8in. Letters, with full particulars, photos., and latest references, to Ardwick Empire, Manchester.

WANTED, Gentlemanly Heavy, Chambermaid, and Heavy Lady. State terms and full particulars, W. E. MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A CIGARETTE-MAKER'S ROMANCE."
Fit-up Tour; Rehearse Monday, 21st.
WANTED, Heavy Lady for Akulina (through disappointment). Wire or write, WHITMEE, 18, Craven-street, Newbury.

WANTED, Lady to Play Old Woman and do struggle. Photos., references, age, height, to H. LESLIE BELL, 15, Windsor-road, London, N.

WANTED, Young Light Comedy Actress, also Comedian (rather short preferred) for small Irish part, Sketch, one week, Dec. 28, Midlands. HENRY HERNE, 29, Eldon-street, Southsea.

WANTED, Pretty Young Lady, to play Juvenile Part in famous London Sketch; one who will buy an interest; sound investment. Banker's and solicitor's refs. Write fully to SKETCH, 41, Peckham Park-road, S.E.

WANTED, Juvenile Leading Gent, "Better Land." Rehearse Monday. Wire, GRANVILLE, Theatre, Rawtenstall.

ARTISTS WANTED.

EDMUND TEARLE'S TOUR.
WANTED, a Gentleman to play Laertes, George Fielding, Athos, Geordie Robertson, Captain Levison, &c. To rehearse Dec. 21. Open Dec. 26. All particulars, terms, &c. (until Monday) to CLARKE CLAYPOLE, c/o Loxton, Prospect Hill, Redditch.

WANTED, Juvenile Gentleman, small part, to Double, also possible other vacancies. Photo., lowest terms, references, GRAHAM ARTHURS, Dalbury, Lees, Derby.

WANTED, immediately, for Fit-up, Juvenile and Heavy Man; rehearse immediately. Call, HARRY WARD, 24, Buckingham-st., Strand, W.C.

"THE FATAL WEDDING" TOUR.
WANTED, immediately, through sudden indisposition, Comedian for Toto (French Butler), one who has played part before preferred. Rehearse Monday next. Apply, PERCY WILLIAMS, 32, Gladstone-street, London-road, S.E., between 3 and 4 p.m. to-day.

WANTED, immediately, smart Singing Soubrette (petite), also First-class Chorus Ladies. Write, ARTHUR DANDOE, 21, Daneville-road, Camberwell, or call Monday after 11, Hampton Court Palace, Crampton-street, Newington Butts, S.E.

"THE FLAMING HUSSY" (in 1 Flame).
WANTED, good Boy Actor, over 14, must be very small. Apply any morning at 11 o'clock, Mr. KYBURN-DELLAR, Offices, Newport House, Great Newport-street, W.C. (near Hippodrome).

WANTED, Known, Graham's Agency and Dancing School, 15A, Electric-avenue, Brixton, office hours 11 to 9; telephone 513 Brixton. All styles of Dancing taught and Engagements procured immediately when proficient; always vacancies for Concert Artists, Amateurs, and Beginners.

WANTED, Dramatic Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

PANTOMIME ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Chorus Ladies and Acrobatic Dancer, First-class Fit-up, Pantomime. Rehearse immediately. Full particulars, photos., lowest terms, refs., Miss JESSIE DALTON, 73, Eastgate-street, Winchester.

WANTED, Fairy Queen, immediately. Photo., lowest terms and refs. to ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

WANTED, at once, 24 Ballet Ladies, also Ballet Mistress.
Box 5,278, "The Era."

PANTOMIME ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Ada Twibell, at Liberty Panto., Principal Boy or Special Part. Wire, Grand Theatre, Fulham, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Young Lady, tall, Panto., Musical Comedy, &c., or Second Violin in Orchestra; good voice. L., 41, Acklam-road, Notting Hill, W.

WANTED, Known, at Lib. for Panto., San-Corsi Girls, Singers and Dancers, smart workers, magnificent dresses. Coms., 24, Wansey-street, Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Known, at Lib. for Panto., Californian Girls, Singers and Acrobatic Dancers, cleverest Troupe of Girls extant. Coms., 24, Wansey-street, Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Pantomime or Variety, Rollo, smart Gymnastic Speciality; if required, play part and Clown, fully experienced, from the principal Theatres. 26, Wood-street East, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Great Escaladers, four in number (4), Champion Double Ladder Experts, Head and Hand Balancers, and Lightning Comedy Revolutions. Great Act for Panto. Liberty Monday and onwards. Wire, Empire, Bristol.

WANTED, Known, at Liberty Panto., Wardrobe Mistress, also Chorus Lady, good voice. Address, HANSELL, 57, James-st., Mina-rd., Bristol.

SCENIC ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, after Christmas, Good Scenic Artist.
Apply, with terms and particulars,
WILKINSON MARTIN,
Great George-street,
Liverpool.

WANTED, Scene Painter, at once; long Engagement.
Wire, WOOD, Hippodrome, Dumfries, N.B.

WANTED, Scenic Artist, must be young.
Apply personally at once,
ABRAHAMS, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, E.

SCENIC ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Contracts, for Painting Scenery, First-class Work guaranteed. CECIL E. HICKS, Painting Room, Princess's Theatre, Oxford-street, London, W.

WANTED, Scenery Contracts, Productions, Our Paint Frames, 40 by 24; Theatres completely fitted with Scenery, Ropes, Blocks, Cleats, &c. Estimates and Designs submitted free. Scenery bought and exchanged. FRED WILKINS and BRO., LTD., 54, Whitechapel, Liverpool. Telegrams, "Theatrical."

WANTED, Contracts for every description of Scenery, Pantomime, Stock, &c.
SCENIC STUDIO, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery; Effective Artistic Work, Good Joinery, Moderate Prices. Large Studio and Workshop. CHARLES SAYER, Scenic Artist, 2, Clarendon-road, Croydon.

WANTED, Contracts for High-class Effective Scenery, very lowest prices; Scenery repainted or adapted. W. B. ROBINSON, 170, King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Wanted, Known, W. BERNASCONI, Scenic Artist, 53, St. James's-place, Liverpool.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Pantomime, Productions, or Stock; good, effective work, cheap. JACKS, Scenic Artist, 46, Holloway-road, London, N.

WANTED, Contracts for Scenery, Special Productions, or Stock. K. J. MCLENNAN, Scenic Artist, P. O. Wales's Theatre, Birmingham.

MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED, Young Man, smart, about 19, to learn Acting-Management; small premium returned in salary. Apply, F. DANES, c/o "Era."

WANTED, to join immediately, a good smart Agent, for Miss Ada Lauderdale's "Great Awakening"; also smart fellow for Baggage and Parts. Wire or write lowest terms, age, height, Town Hall, St. Columb, Cornwall.

WANTED, Property Man, must be quick
Apply at once,
MAXWELL STEWART,
Shakespeare Theatre, Clapham Junction.

"BOUND TO WIN."
WANTED, good Carpenter, if known, wire. Send lowest terms, references, &c., to F. G. KIMBERLEY, Scotlands, Wolverhampton.

WANTED, Stage Carpenter, for Pantomime. Apply personally, to-day, 1 o'clock, to BRYDON PHILLIPS, Lyric O. H., Hammersmith, W.

WANTED, an Experienced Wardrobe Mistress, one who has had complete charge preferred. Reply by letter only, stating age, references, and salary required to FRED KARNO, 28, Vaughan-road, Camberwell.

MISCELLANEOUS.

MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.
WANTED, Young Men of exceptional character and undeniable references, for posts as Junior Clerks, Assistants, and Residential Managers.
APPLY BY LETTER ONLY
in first instance, enclosing references and photograph where possible, to
FRANK MACNAGHTEN,
Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, London.
Mark envelopes "Manager."
Applicants will please accept silence as a polite negative.

An opening occurs for a manageress of ability to take entire charge of a large and well appointed saloon bar attached to a theatre and doing a large trade in an important south-coast town. A liberal salary will be given to the right person.
Apply as above, with photograph and references, marking envelope "Saloon."

WANTED, by thoroughly experienced and systematic Business-Manager, Re-engagement as Resident or Acting-Manager of First-class Variety Hall or Theatre; good organiser; highly recommended; moderate salary. Offers. HAGUE, Town Hall, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Manager of many years' practical experience in Booking Turns and Arranging Programmes is open to Re-engagement in town or country; a thorough knowledge of Productions, and can take entire charge. Salary moderate. MANAGER, 36, Freegrove-rd., Holloway, N.

WANTED, Known, £5 Bonus to anyone obtaining permanent work as Book-keeper, Cashier, or in any respectable capacity, for smart, energetic young man, in good Hall or Theatre. Write, J.,
12, Rockmount-rd., Upper Norwood, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Fred Lewis, Circus, Menagerie, and Dramatic Advance Agent, Great Britain and Ireland, Disengaged. Stitts Hotel, 20, Great Georges-street, Belfast.

WANTED, Known, Electrical Engineer, thorough workshop and theatrical experience, requires Appointment. PARKER, 66, Latimer-road, Shepherd's Bush, W.

WANTED, Re-engagement as Master Carpenter (joiner), Resident Studio or Good Tour; experienced. Mrs. W., Wardrobe, 2 years Lyceum, Glasgow. WRIGHT, 3, Wades-yard, Parnsley.

WANTED, Known, Wardrobe Mistress, Disengaged; Milliner, Costumier, cut, fit, make. Good refs. Address A. W., 38, Connaught-mans., Coldharbour-lane, Brixton.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

MILTON BODE AND EDWARD COMPTON'S THEATRES.
WANTED, First-class Conductor (Violin), must be well up in Variety and Dramatic business and not afraid to use instrument (not bâton); also First Cornet, permanency for steady and reliable man. Write, full particulars, stating lowest salary, to C. B. FOUNTAINE, Manager.

WANTED, Musical-Director (Piano), Violin, Second Violin, Viola, 'Cello, Bass, Flute, Clarionet, Cornets, Trombone, Drums. Letters to MCMILLAN, Hippo., Oldham.

WANTED, Conductor (Violinist), for Exeter, to open Monday; must be first-class man, and used to Variety business. Apply through Branch Secretary to GENERAL SECRETARY, Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED, First-class Orchestral Leader and Solo Violin, for Booth Liner, sailing Jan. 9. Applicants state age, and give two references as to character, &c., to C. W. BLACK, 14, Castle-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, a First-class Leader, for Palace, Southampton.
Apply, with refs., SYKES, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Leader (good), at once, also Viola. Apply, with lowest terms and particulars, W. R. KING, The Dalston Theatre, N.E.

DISTRICT ASYLUM, MELTON, SUFFOLK.
WANTED, an Attendant, must be a good Violin Player, wages to commence at £32, with board, lodging, washing, and uniform; at the end of one year's service £2 increase, afterwards rising £1 annually up to £42; further increase according to ability as an Attendant. Applications to be sent to THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT, enclosing copy of one testimonial.

WANTED, immediately, Violin, able to lead. Wire or write, MUSICAL-DIRECTOR, Hippodrome, Dumfries. Will E. St. Quinton Bond send address.

WANTED, Violinist, well up in Ball Business, &c. Open after Xmas; share or salary. VOICE, 9, Little Butt-street, Bedford.

WANTED, Lady Cornet and Wind Instrumentalists, for Orchestra, Disengaged from Dec. 24. Terms, experience, POPPY ORCHESTRAS, 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED (twice daily, North), good firm Solo Cornet, Double B Flat Bass, Sax Horns, Drums, &c. References and lowest terms, Box 5,266, "The Era."

WANTED, First Cornet immediately. Terms and references,
CHAS. W. JOHNSON, Musical-Director.

WANTED, Jan. 4, for six weeks, a Double Bass Deputy, for the Cheltenham Municipal and Opera House Orchestra; must be a First-class experienced player. Terms and references to SUTTON, Contra Bass, Town Hall, Cheltenham.

PERCY HONRI IN "CONCORDIA."
WANTED, Solo Bassoon, to combine Trombone, open Feb. 15 Oxford Music Hall, W. PERCY HONRI, 357, Holloway-road, N.

PERCY HONRI IN "CONCORDIA."
WANTED, Solo Trombone, to combine Bassoon, open Feb. 15 at Oxford Music Hall, W. PERCY HONRI, 357, Holloway-road, N.

WANTED, for Palace, Watford, Trombone, open at once; also Flute and 'Cello, open Dec. 26; must be used to Variety. Lowest terms and references to MUSICAL-DIRECTOR.

WANTED, good Trombone, also Flute and Piccolo; experienced Variety Business; open Monday. Write or wire terms, &c., to ISAAC HENDERSON, Alexandra Theatre, Pontefract, Yorks.

WANTED, good Bombardon for Winter Season, one show nightly, start Sunday, Dec. 20. Wire, LESLIE, The Zoo, Mountain Ash, S. Wales.

WANTED, E flat Bombardon, at once. LUDWICK,
77, Carlisle-street, Edgware-road.

WANTED, Viola, 'Cello, Cornet, Trombone, Drums, for Theatre, Orchestra, for seven nights, open Dec. 26, Shakespearean Production. BELLERBY, Deneholme, Ilkley.

WANTED, First-class Viola Player, also Second Cornet, Variety. Permanency to good and suitable men. Apply, references and terms, open Dec. 28, to DOBING, Hippodrome, Darlington.

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, DUNDEE.
WANTED, immediately, good 'Cellist, permanency. Write or wire terms and refs. to H. E. LOSEBY, Musical-Director.

WANTED, at once, for permanency, First-class Oboeist, must be well up in best Military and Orchestral Journals; abstainer preferred. State age, experience, and full particulars, with recent testimonials, HIRAM HENTON, Musical-Director, Corporation, 7, Hyde-road, Eastbourne.

WANTED, Pianist, for a Cavalry Band serving at home,
Good Engagements; very smart Corps.

Apply, C. E.,
Care of Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus,
London, W.

WANTED, Good Pianist, to play American Organ preferred, Picture Hall, Worcester. Lowest terms, last two references, ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre, Worcester.

WANTED, Pianist, to combine First Violin when required. Age, references, lowest terms, E. G. FALCON, County Theatre, Bedford.

MUSICIANS WANTED.

WANTED, Young Gentleman Pianist, Quick Reader, Transposer, MS.; Wanted, Concert Artists; Tour begins 26th. HARRY LISTON, P. O., Buxton.

WANTED, Pianist, open Dec. 26, at Watford, three or seven nights (probable tour). Particulars and lowest terms, COLEMAN DAVIES, P.O., Watford, near London.

WANTED, for Scotland, good Pianist, used to Picture Shows.
Address,
E. H. BOSTOCK, Zoo, Glasgow.

WANTED, First-class Pianist, also good Bass Singer, one month certain, money sure. Call or write, GEO. SNOW, 29, Grosvenor-terrace, Camberwell, S.E.

SOVEREIGN PICTURES.
WANTED, Pianist, good memoriser, sight reader; used to variety turns; no travelling; rehearse Monday morning. State age, lowest terms, and references, to J. FRANK WALKER, Ivy Glen, Leigh, Lancs.

WANTED, for Barber's No. 2 Auction Mart, Jan. 4, Youth Pianist, read and vamp, or Watchmaker Pianist, or Lady Pianist and Cashier. F. M. BARBER, Auctioneer, Mansfield.

WANTED, good Pianists, Cornets, Flute, Trombone, Violins, Bass, 'Cello, Clarionet, Drum, State age and experience; long engagement. CONDUCTOR, 15, Seabank-road, Southport.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Side Drummer (good one),
for crack Rifle Corps.

Apply at once to
P. S.,
Care of Hawkes and Son,
Denman-street, Piccadilly-circus, W.

WANTED, Tympanist, Double Drummer, Effects; open Dec. 28. Permanency. Age, references. Lowest terms. J. FIELD, Musical-Director, Theatre Royal, Dewsbury.

WANTED, Gentleman, for Mandoline Class, class teaching, permanent. Good wages. GEORGES CHAMBERS, George-street, St. Helens.

WANTED, Musicians who contemplate making Engagements at Northampton to communicate in first instance with J. B. WILLIAMS, General-Secretary, Amalgamated Musicians' Union.

WANTED.—Musicians "Out of Shop" and Bandmasters requiring Instrumentalists will do well to try an advertisement in the "Wanted" Columns of "The Era." One Shilling expended on Twenty Words (each additional Six Words Sixpence) is likely to bring successful results, as explained in the following letters from grateful Advertisers:—

FROM A MUSICIAN:—
To the Manager of "The Era" Advert. Dept., "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, W.C.
Re Advertisement
"'WANTED, ENGAGEMENT BY CORNET.'
"Thanks for inserting above in the last number of your paper. I have obtained a comfortable shop. Had seventeen replies. You need not put in the second insertion.
"Yours truly, 'A GRATEFUL MUSICIAN.'"

FROM A BANDMASTER."
"Re Advertisement, 'WANTED, DRUMMER.'
"Please do not insert my advt. for the second insertion, as I am pleased to say I have had twenty replies, and secured a Drummer.
"Yours truly, PHILIP GERMANN, Bandmaster,
"Littlehampton."

WANTED, Musicians who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, or from any Newsagent in the United Kingdom, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Michael Connelly, Musical-Director (Violin), Dramas, &c., composed, arranged, composer music "Silver King," "Lights o' London," &c. Victoria Theatre, Ramsgate.

WANTED, Known, Henry Sprake, senior, Musical-Director, Disengaged, formerly Adelphi Theatre, Strand, and recently Broadway Theatre, New Cross (five years), large and up-to-date library, Musical Numbers for Animated Pictures a Speciality; can supply and lead good Military Band for Skating Rink; brilliant music. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Known, W. H. Brinkworth, Musical-Director, Palace T., Ramsgate, Disengaged, Piano, Violin, Composing, Arranging. 7, Pretoria-mansions, Elderfield-road, Clapton.

WANTED, Engagement, Musical-Director, by J. W. Slatter, Musical-Director Palace Pier, late Musical-Director to the Corporation, Brighton, Concerts, Dramatic, Panto. PARKHURST, Egremont-place, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, a First-class Variety Conductor desires an Engagement in the Provinces; thoroughly used to Lightning Programmes; smart, gentlemanly appearance, conversant with every branch of the Musical Profession, splendid library, excellent testimonials. Will accept small salary. Address, Box 5,272, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Conductor (Violin) or Leader, thoroughly experienced Variety; reliable, up-to-date library music; ex. refs. Offers, H. S., c/o 8, Hardwick-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, by Conductor, Pianist, and Violinist, Compose and Arrange, Liberty; splendid refs. Till Sunday, 119, John-street, Workington; after, 14, Chatsworth-street, Leicester.

WANTED, Engagement, as Répétiteur, or Second Violin; any business; good refs. DALTON, 15, Portland-crescent, Leeds.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Leader (Violin), used to Variety, and reliable. Address J. F. C., 42, Bold-st., Alexandra-rd., Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Lady Violinist, Accompanist, at Liberty for Engagements, Solo and Orchestral, Concerts, Dances. Terms moderate. T., 58, Percy-road, Shepherd's Bush.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Violin, any business, experienced. H. OLDFIELD, 83, Avondale-square, Old Kent-road.

WANTED, by Second Violin, Engagement; only moderate wage desired.
Box 5,263, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement, by Speciality Violin Soloist, thoroughly experienced as Musical-Director, Leader, or First Violin; steady and reliable. Address, G. H., 35, Handford-road, Ipswich.

WANTED, Known, Violinist, young, good, will shortly be open to accept good Engagement; best London refs. Address, BLAKE, 28, Cartwright-gardens, Euston-road, W.C.

WANTED, Engagement, by Violinist, used to Quadrille Band; would take Second Violin in Orchestra. W., 25, Lenthall-road, Dalston.

WANTED, Engagement, as Second Violin; thoroughly experienced; good references. C. R. SAUNDERS, 20, Barcombe-avenue, Streatham Hill, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by good Violinist, many years' experience. V. Frederiksen, N. Kvarnbergsgt, 5-3 Gothernburg, Sweden.

WANTED, by Solo Cornet, Engagement; 15 years' experience; Operatic, Dramatic, and Variety; good refs. JOHANNIDES, Alsager, near Crewe.

WANTED, Place in Orchestra, Clarionets or Viola. Terms moderate in lieu of further experience. MARSTON, 11, Regent-street, Willenhall.

WANTED, by Double Bass, good permanent Engagement.
J. WIGHT, Municipal Orchestra, Bournemouth.

WANTED, Engagement, Bassoon, Pantomime, Variety, or any other business. Excel. refs. Address, Box 5,173, "The Era."

WANTED, by experienced Bassoonist, Engagement. Prima references.
Address, Box 5,265, "The Era."

MUSICIANS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, First-class Trombonist invites offers (good orchestra), or join Stage Productions. Wire or write, T. B., c/o Mrs. Philip, Gordon-st, Aberdeen.

WANTED, Known, Trombonist at Liberty. T. A.,
83, Northcote-avenue, Southall, Middlesex.

WANTED, Known, Trombone, Disengaged, any Business; long experience, Military and Orchestra. J. N. THORNE, 1, Belgrave-st., Stepney.

WANTED, Engagement, Youth, Trombone; good experience, London or Suburbs preferred. SID GARVIN, 51, Carisbrooke-road, Walthamstow, Essex.

WANTED, Engagement, Second French Horn, thoroughly experienced, Pantomime, Grand or Comic Opera, Symphony, Military Band; reliable. MUSICIAN, 8, Ravensdon-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, as First Horn; thoroughly experienced in First-class Theatres; steady, reliable professional. E. CUCCHI, 28, St. Paul's-road, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, by Horn, First or Second, Engagement; experienced in Concert, Theatre, Variety work; strictly sober, reliable; best refs. HORN, Empire, Barnsley.

WANTED, Known, Miss Lilian Sexton, Violincellist, at Liberty Dec. 21, for Engagements or Deputising; experienced. Please note new address, 10, Connaught-street, W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Viola or Second Violin, any business; good refs.
G. BROOK, 27, Howson-road, Brockley, S.E.

WANTTD, through reducing Orchestra, Engagement as Oboe or Double Bass; any business; long experience. CRABTREE, Grand T., Blackpool.

WANTED, Engagement, Orchestral and Solo Harpist, combine Piano, Panto., Café, Tour; experienced, reliable; young, single. GIBSON, 164, Roundhay-road, Leeds.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, any Business; excellent references; sober and reliable. FLAUTIST, 9, Woodford-terrace, Pavilion-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Engagement, Flautist, London Theatre or Music Hall; year's London references; any Business. RELIABLE, 102 Homeleigh-road, Stamford Hill, N.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, experienced Theatre and Varieties, reliable, good references; A.M.U. J. ROSE, Golden Lion, Oldham-road, Manchester.

WANTED, Engagement, by experienced Flute and Piccolo; good refs.; Varieties and Theatres; steady and reliable. FLAUTIST, 15, Treherne-road, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, as Pianist, Miss Emily Lloyd, from Grand Trades Exhibition. Disengaged Dec. 23; experienced with Herr Schöttle's "Queen of the West" Orchestra. Orchstra, Solos, Accompanist, capable any business; excellent refs. Offers. 64, South Western-road, Twickenham, London.

WANTED, Known, Brilliant Reliable Pianist, Liberty Jan. 4, Musical Comedy, Drama, Variety, or High-class Concert Party. Box 5,268, "Era" Office.

WANTED, Engagement, by good reliable Orchestral Pianist; experienced, Hotel, Varieties, Quadrille, &c. WATERMAN, 13, Devonshire-rd., South Lambeth, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, by Miss E. Monteith Webb, Pianist, Accompanist, alone or with Concert Party or Orchestra. Home or Tour. C/o 19, Berners-street, W. 'Phone 3202 Western.

WANTED, Engagement, as Double Drums, any Business. Address, A. EASOM, 16, Stonebridge-road, South Tottenham, London.

WANTED, Engagement, Drums, own Timps, Pictures a Speciality; reliable Musician.
Box 5,281, "The Era."

WANTED, Engagement as Double Drums, &c., can open at once; good experience. G. PABLO, Musicians' Union, 9, Great Newport-street, London, W.

WANTED, by Miss Winnie Watson's Ladies' Poppy Orchestra and Vocalists, from Franco-British, Palace Pier, Brighton, Edinburgh Exhib. 14, Gladstone-terrace, Brighton.

WANTED, Known, the Imperial Ladies' Orchestra, free Dec. 31; latest Music and Novelties; smart Costumes; Tubular Bells. Write, MADAME NELLIE BAKER, 114, Woodlands-rd., Ilford.

WANTED, Known, Efficient Foreign Band, in smart Uniform, can be Engaged for Concerts, Exhibitions, Seaside Resorts, &c. Apply, Box 5,274, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Tumbling Agouste, used to working Double Entrées; long shop; commence March. Terms, &c., Box 5,267, "The Era."

WANTED, Second Mounter, all-round Tumbler, combined. Comedy preferred. Full particulars, with photo. and lowest terms, ALF EVANS, Empire, Bristol.

WANTED, smart Young Man, for Comedy Acrobats, for well-known Troupe, Catcher, Second Mounter, and Tumbler. State tricks and salary in first letter.
Address, Box 5,283, "The Era."

WANTED, a Groom, Monday. Will George Wallace please apply? Address, wire c/o E. H. BOSTOCK, Theatre Royal, Dublin.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, the Three ROYAL OHMYS, favourite riders to the Crown Prince of Denmark, and greatest up-to-date Bareback and Acrobatic Equestrians, on one, two, and three Horses, will terminate a six-weeks' engagement at Olibert's Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth, Jan. 2; will be at Liberty Jan. 4 for a few weeks, before they leave England for their second season with Bech Olsen's Great Circus, Denmark. Address, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth. A Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to All.

WANTED, Known, Thelma and Groves wish to thank Mr. John Henry Cooke, Edinburgh, for kindly releasing and thus enabling them to open with MR. A. Hengler, Glasgow, where they were a great success for eighteen weeks last year. A Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year to All.

WANTED, Known, Dan Gregory, English and Continental Clown, now Touring South Africa with Pagel's Circus and Menagerie, making a Big Hit, and Highly Complimented by the African Press and Public. Still a Success wherever I go, and I wish all Proprietors and Kind Friends a Merry Christmas and a Successful New Year.
All correspondence, DAN GREGORY,
Pagel's Circus, Box 1,522, Post Office,
Cape Town, South Africa.

WANTED, Known, the Original Clown Bimbo, with Comic and Trick Entrées, also High Stilt Performer. Still a Big Success Nightly at Cirque Medrano, Paris. At Liberty Jan. 4. Permanent address, 177, Pershore-road, Selly Park, Birmingham.

WANTED, Known, Rollo, King of the Air, Sensational Trapeze and Slack-rope Performer. Concludes to-night, Fun City, Newcastle-on-Tyne. Monday and following week, Wilmot's Carnival, Iona-street, Leith, Edinburgh.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. MASCARI, Manager.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Acts with Drawing Powers (Nothing too Big), Dec. 21, onwards. CLAGGERS, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Monday, Dec. 28, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Star Variety Artists, Dec. 28, January, onwards.
Bookings, lowest terms, in first letter.
Big Speciality and Novelty Acts.
For Fêtes and Galas, Easter, onwards.
Lithos., terms, bookings,
EDGAR STEBBINGS,
23, Egerton-street, Manchester.
Telegrams, "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9261.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all branches, for Scotland. Address, JAMES ANDERSON, the old reliable Scotch Agent, at the Musical Artists' Club, 32, Stockwell-street, Glasgow. Open daily from 11 till 3 and from 7 till 12 p.m., and on Sundays from 10 a.m. till 12 midnight. Glad to see all the boys up.

BRITANNIA THEATRE, GLASGOW.
WANTED, Dec. 28, and onwards, Variety Artists in all Lines,
Specialities, Comedians,
Comediennes, Sisters,
Doubles doing Singles.
Please state lowest in first letter,

A. E. PICKARD, Sole Proprietor and Manager, Britannia, Glasgow.

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MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC AGENCY,
V.A.F. Terms, 5% only.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Big Specialities, Novelties, and Attractions, for immediate and future dates, nothing too big. Terms, Bookings, and Vacant Dates in first letter to the man with thirty-three years' experience. Our Big Speciality Monday next. Wire or write, TOM DAVIS and Co., 11, Findlay-street, Glasgow.

FRED DURHAM'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Dec. 21, 28, and on.
Turns new to

Dover,	Attercliffe,
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Leicester,	Hawick,
Sheffield,	Loughboro',
Londonderry,	Long Eaton,
Southampton,	Lincoln,
Bath,	Hartlepool,
Cardiff,	Halifax,
Bradford,	Warrington,
Burnley,	Blackburn,

Southport, and London.
Please send Bookings and Lowest Terms.
1A. Loughborough-road, Brixton, London, S.W.
Can only be seen by appointment.
Telephone 15 Brixton.
A Merry Christmas to All.

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, The Pick of the Entertainment World. If you have the "goods," I can place you. Good Acts Known to Me send full list of bookings (including engagements fulfilled during 1908). Must enclose full list, or useless writing. Quote actual lowest in each instance for Principal Provincial Halls, Minor Provincial Halls, and London. Big Novel Acts, in London particularly, State when and where can be seen.
GEORGE SMYTHSON,
38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
No callers except by appointment.

BARNARD'S AGENCY.
'Phone 2349. SHAW-STREET, LIVERPOOL.
WANTED, Artists, all Descriptions. Wire, or write immediate Dates. Nothing too Big. We can book you.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Al Fresco, First-class Double-handed Artists in all Lines; refinement essential. Full particulars and photo., MAY, 8, Dickenson-road, Crouch Hill.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply, Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Dec. 28, Jan. 11 and 18, near London.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

VERNO'S AGENCY.
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.
WANTED, Stars, Specialities, Novelties, and Artists of every description, for Dec. 28, onwards.

Telegrams, "Merriment." 'Phone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, for Dec. 28, and onwards, Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Stars, and all Lines, Dec. 28, Jan. 4.
GEO. AITOUN,
103, Kennington Park-rd., London, S.E.

DAN NOBLE'S AGENCY.
WANTED, the best Acts, can book anything up to £100; always vacancies for all kinds of Acts; have placed Acts during the last twelve months at thirty different Variety Houses. I thank all my clients, and wish them a Happy Xmas and Prosperous New Year. Note.—Opening new offices shortly at 272, Liverpool-street, Salford, Manchester. When writing, please send full list, absolute lowest, and permanent address. Communications for the present, DAN NOBLE, Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.

THE TIVOLI AND ROYAL ASSEMBLY HALL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, for immediate Dates, really First-class Acts of all Kinds. No fancy prices. Must be able to work on small stage. Quote absolute lowest first letter, Councillar JOHN K. HALL.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly, Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

WANTED, Star Singing Acts, for immediate Dates. Vandinoff send address; Contracts waiting. DEITRICH VAUDEVILLE BUREAU Co., 31, Islington, Liverpool.

WANTED, Acts, all Lines, S. Wales and District, also for North of England. Forward bookings, MARTINO'S Agency, 128, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

HENRY KEMBLE'S AGENCY.
St. Kilda, Lorn-road, Brixton, S.W.
WANTED, for immediate work, Big Acts of all kinds, Star Comedians, Animal Shows, &c. Full list of Bookings, lithos. and lowest terms to above. P.S.—Big Top and Bottom of Bill required for Monday.

WANTED, First-class Novelties, Specialities, Comediennes, Dec. 28, onwards; Half small, so no fancy prices. Lowest terms, particulars, LOUDEN, Hippodrome, Airdrie, N.B.

WANTED, Novelties, Serios, Dancers, Artists Introducing, Producing New Acts. H. DE WINO, Montpelier Palace, Walworth. Thursdays, 12 to 2, trial Turns.

WANTED, for Rhymney and Grimsby, Dec. 25 and later, Song Illustrators and Artists all Lines. AUBERT, 21, Silver-street, Grimsby.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WANTED, Artists of Note.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,

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DALTON'S AGENCY	——	
DALTON'S AGENCY	——	
DALTON'S AGENCY	——	
DALTON'S AGENCY	I can book you	
DALTON'S AGENCY	Immediate Dates,	
DALTON'S AGENCY	and	
DALTON'S AGENCY	Dates onward.	
DALTON'S AGENCY	No Guessing.	
DALTON'S AGENCY	——	
DALTON'S AGENCY	——	
DALTON'S AGENCY	——	
DALTON'S AGENCY	——	
DALTON'S AGENCY	Send full list	
DALTON'S AGENCY	and very lowest	
DALTON'S AGENCY	(this essential),	
DALTON'S AGENCY	and permanent addresses,	
DALTON'S AGENCY	also	
DALTON'S AGENCY	weekly apartments	
DALTON'S AGENCY	address.	
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DALTON'S AGENCY	29, Mauldeth-road West,	
DALTON'S AGENCY	Withington,	
DALTON'S AGENCY	Manchester.	
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I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.

WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
WILL SLEY,
180, Oxford-road, Manchester.

WANTED, for Dec., Jan., and on, Star Turns,
Comedians,
Serios,
Gymnasts,
Acrobats,
Bar Performers,
and
Any New and Novel Acts,
also Comedy Sketches.

Those not willing to pay usual 10% commission save stamps.

Telegraphic address, "Variety, Manchester."
Telephone, 09144.

WANTED, Large and Small Turns, for Rochdale, Bolton, Blackpool, Wigan, Pontefract, Scarboro', Gainsborough, New Brighton, Farnworth, Tyldesley, Darwen, Denton, Macclesfield, Leicester, Worcester, Norwich, and four weeks London.
Note the Run.
Lowest terms, full bookings (ladies' photos.), permanent address, to
VENTOR'S Agency,
24, Devonshire-st., All Saints', Manchester.

STALYBRIDGE HIPPODROME.
WANTED, two Turns, open Monday next, also for Dec. 28, Jan. 18, Feb. 1, and later.
JAMES FIONI'S Agency, 21, Norton-st., Liverpool.
Telegrams, "Fioni, Liverpool."

WANTED, for Dooner's Empire Bioscope Co., a good Double Turn, Singing and Dancing. State lowest for one or two weeks.
Open Monday next.
Dooner's Bioscope Co., Maesteg.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, a few turns, Monday next. Artists of every Description. Nothing too Big. Share or salary; Dec. 28, onwards. Wire for Monday. Write for later, BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

ALHAMBRA, BRIGHTON.
Lessee, A. SMITH.
WANTED, Turns, Jan. and onwards, One House Nightly.
Address, A. SMITH.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY.
170, SALTMARKET, GLASGOW.
WANTED, for the North, Big Specialities, Stars and Artists of all Descriptions, for Dec. 28, onwards.

WANTED, big Specialities, Jan. 4, 11, must be good. Sauteron Wonders write. Letters only, BIGNALL, c/o Sutherland, 1, Lochrin-place, Edinburgh.

HIPPODROME,
SPENNYMOOR, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Specialities of every Description, for Ring and Stage.
Smart Property Man can Open at Once.
Address, C. ALGIE.

WHIT MONDAY AT PENZANCE, 1909. ANNUAL HORSE PARADE AND OPEN-AIR FETE.

WANTED, Big Attractions in all Lines, Aerial Acts, Cyclists, Eccentrics, Miniature Circus, Up-to-date Novelties, no Balloons or Fireworks; only First-class Recognised Acts entertained. Good money to good people. In first instance state lowest terms, space required for indoor and outdoor shows. A fortnight's silence a polite negative. Samples of Billing Matter, Press Notices, &c., with fullest particulars, to
Mr. POOL, 10, North-parade, Penzance.

CLIQUOT'S UNIVERSAL THEATRICAL AGENCY, 46, Brunswick-street, Manchester.
WANTED, a Big Star Attraction, for Dec. 28, Jan. 4;
also Artists all Lines.
Address all communications as above.

WANTED, big Attractions, for Dumfries, Dec. 28, and onwards.
Address, WOOD, Hippodrome, Dumfries, N.B.

WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 11 and 18,

Tops,	Bottoms, and Middles.
Tops,	Bottoms, and Middles.
Tops,	Bottoms, and Middles.
Tops,	Bottoms, and Middles.
Tops,	Bottoms, and Middles.
Tops,	Bottoms, and Middles.

When replying, please mark "Variety."

W. YATES GREGORY,
Theatre Royal and Hippo.,
Shrewsbury.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates this and next year. Letters only, STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Top and Bottom of Bill, Xmas Night (two shows). Those in district preferred. Terms must be moderate. J. W. CHAPMAN, Empire, Doncaster.

WANTED, Dec. 28, Top and Bottom Liners, Speciality Act. I can fix you. Lithos., full bookings, GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Miss Yvonne Lamore send dates.

WANTED, to complete, High-class Bioscope and Variety Co., touring Mediterranean and East, smart Soubrette and Dancer; able to take part in Sketches. All travelling and hotel expenses paid. Apply, with particulars and terms, which must be moderate, to MANAGER, Box 5,246, "The Era."

WANTED, Refined Comedian, for Summer Engagement. Liberal terms to suitable Artist. Write, with full particulars, age, experience, &c., to THANET, Box 4,527. Willing's, 125, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Coloured Performer, must be good, smart Tumbler; long Engagement. State height, age, and terms, SPRY and MONTI, Olympia, Liverpool.

WANTED, immediately, for permanent Tour, gentlemanly Humorous Vocalist, salary 30s.; also Lady Vocalist (Soubrette). Address, MANAGER, Trades Exhibition, Pavilion, Carnarvon.

WANTED, good Amateur, to assist Music Hall Artist, in London, to walk on as female. Write, F. REYNARD, Metropolitan Music Hall.

WANTED, Smart Comedy Man, also Posturer, Contortionist, join Advertiser new Speciality. Age, height, tricks, ARTIST, 95, Great Hampton-row, Birmingham.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

PONTYPOOL
NEW PARK FETE,
Whit Monday and Whit Tuesday, 1909.
WANTED, Wanted, Known,
the Committee
are
prepared to
receive
Applications
from
Agents, Artists,
or anyone desirous of
Engagements
for
this Year's Fête,
both for
Aërial and Stage Shows
(Open Air).
In all cases Complete Specifications as to Erections, Lithos, Showing Acts, and, as far as possible, Cost of Fixing same, must be sent.
None but Artists of the First Rank need apply.

This Fête
is
Visited Annually
by from
40,000 to 50,000
People.

Particulars to
SECRETARY,
Chamber of Trade,
Pontypool.

WANTED, Wanted, Wanted,
Variety Combinations
of Highest Order and Refinement,
for vacant dates,
Spring, Summer, and Autumn, 1909.
Apply, by letter only,
MANAGER, South Parade Pier, Southsea.

BOROUGH OF MARGATE.
MARINE TERRACE SANDS
ENTERTAINMENTS.

SEASON 1909.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
Tenders are invited for the Right to give Musical and Vocal Entertainments on the above Sands during the Season (May 29 to Sept. 29, 1909). There are two positions open to Tender.
Full particulars of terms and conditions, together with official form of Tender to be obtained of the undersigned.
Tenders to be sealed and endorsed "Sand Entertainments," and sent to the undersigned not later than Monday, Jan. 4, 1909.
The Council do not bind themselves to accept the highest or any Tender.
JOHN E. SAXBY,
Secretary.
Entertainments Committee,
Town Hall,
Margate.
Dec. 14, 1908.

WANTED, Double Trick Cycling Act, Tricks to include See-saw and Staircase; long engagement to suitable performers, commencing March next. Apply, stating terms and fullest particulars, to Box 5,264, "The Era" Office, Tavistock-street, London.

WANTED, Exhibition Skaters immediately. Send full particulars,
EARNARD'S Agency, Shaw-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, two or three Smart Girls, twelve to fourteen years old, as Understudies to Skating, Music, and Bicycle Riding.
Must be well recommended.
Apply by letter to
Mr. JAS. E. DONEGAN, Manager and Teacher, Dunedin Troupe, 43, Frith-street, Soho, London, W.

WANTED, Young Girl, not under 14 years, to learn few Gymnastic Tricks; must have strong teeth. Can live with family. Will train and pay salary first year.
Apply personally between 11 and 6 o'clock,
Mrs. LIST, 223, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

WANTED, Bioscope (Electric and Gas), permanent; change Pictures weekly; to commence Boxing Night. Terms to MANAGER, 120, Teignmouth-road, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

WANTED, Cinématograph or Marionettes, on Shares, for few weeks.
CAPT. TEXAS, Pavilion, Larkhall, N.B.

WANTED, Competent Operator, one Combined Turn preferred, Pianist, Vocalist, and other Turns, Open Xmas week, Tour. Terms low, money sure. Wire, FONTAINEBLEAU, Mechanics' Hall, Marsden, Yorks.

WANTED, a Bioscope Operator, with own Films, sheet, and gas, for one week, commencing Dec. 26. Full particulars and lowest terms, MARSH, 210, Pitsford-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, experienced Operator, open Dec. 24, and two following weeks. Tour to follow if suitable. Lowest terms, &c., DAVIS, Central Hall, Darlington.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Sons' Bookstalls to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER, "The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known.—Who wants a big Attraction for New Year's week? Lumière's Original Electrical Fairy Grotto, unexpectedly vacant Dec. 28, for Panto. Proprietors wishing to strengthen their shows cannot do better than secure the above Pay-box Attraction. Share or certainty. Wire or write, this week, Hippodrome, Stalybridge. Monday, Dec. 21, specially engaged to open Algie's New Hippodrome, Spennymoor.

WANTED, Managers to Note, Mdme. Pauline, the smallest Lady Comedienne in England, is open for engagements. A wonderful novelty in all new songs. A sure success. Apply, Mr. A. BALL, New Lyceum, Tilbury Dock, Essex.

WANTED, by Miss Alice Oakley, Comedienne, Monday, Dec. 21, also 28th, Jan. 4, 11.
Wire, 6, Grimston-street, Hull.

WANTED, Lottie Joycliffe, Magician, Electric Fit-up, Dec. 28, on, few exceptions. This, top, Pal., Portsmouth; next, St. John's Hall, Winchester.

WANTED, Known, Queenie, Lolo, and May Trio, Refined Lady Gymnast, Contortionist, and Speciality Dance Artists. Magnificent silver and electric apparatus, costly wardrobe. Instantaneous Success Everywhere. Liberty Dec. 21 and 28. Address, Lolo Trio, 127, Upper Aughton-road, Birkdale, Southport.

WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 11, March 1, Jean Macduff, "The Lady Lauder"; Peggy Lyndon, Dainty Musical Act. MELVILLE, Rathbone-gardens, Portobello.

WANTED, Dec. 28, Jan. 4, 11, March 1, Jean Macduff (The Lady Lauder), Peggy Lyndon's Musical Act. Sure Success. Wire offers to MELVILLE, Portobello.

WANTED, Monday next, also 28th, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers. Wire, Empire, Blaina, S. Wales, till Monday; after, 23, St. George's-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Terry Sisters, Highly Talented Comediennes, Mimics, and Dancers, at Lib. Jan. 4, 11, 18, 25. Add., New Theatre, Methil, Scotland.

WANTED, Known, Musical Silvo is responsible for a rich Musical Treat. We have heard many on the musical glasses, but we can safely say that Silvo excels. He has been applauded night after night by audiences both large and tremendously enthusiastic.—Hyde Herald.
At Liberty Dec. 28.
Address, Hippodrome, Rotherham.

WANTED, Xmas and New Year weeks, by Wyllie, the Tramp Musician and Story-Teller, ten instruments and fit-up. A real good Act. This and next week, 33, Schofield-lane, Wigan.

WANTED, Monday, by Harry Elliott, England's Greatest Chorus Singer; suitable for any Entertainment, any distance. Wire quick, Empire, Blaina.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Bob Wilson Roberts, in Comedy and Pathos, Song Scenas, Vacant Jan. 4, 18. Refs., C. Trenchard, Clarence Theatre, Pontypridd. This, Prince's Theatre, Horwich, Lancs.

WANTED, Geo. Dollin, Oper., Hebrew and Vaudeville Mimic, Dec. 28, Jan. 4. Next week, Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Dec. 21, Jan. 4, George Battle, Actor-Vocalist, scoring great. Refer management. Last week, Hip., Spennymoor; this, Empire, Blaina, Mon. Write or wire for Monday next, Empire, Blaina.

WANTED, Monday next, and onwards, by Barney Stuart, High-class Character Actor, Vocalist, and Raconteur. Coms., 4, Canterbury-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, by Cambo, the Musical Monkey, also Ventriloquist, two acts. Wire, 59, Urquhart-road, Aberdeen.

WANTED, next week, Bu-Val, Happy Dutchman (Concertina), can play Sacred Concert. Wire, Theatre, Greenwich.

WANTED, by Oliver Conroy, Comedian, immediate Dates. Address, New Palace Theatre, Watford.

WANTED, Known, J. H. Noble, just arrived from America, in his Western Protean Play, entitled "Black Ronald," vacant Jan. 4 and onwards. All coms., Victoria Hotel, Pendleton.

WANTED, Dec. 21, by Syd Herman, Hebrew Comedian. A Sure Success. Tivoli, Pentre; after Sat., 34, Warburton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Carl St. Clare, Wonderful Vocalist and Impersonater Extraordinaire. Liberty Dec. 28, Jan. 4. Coms., 18, Grafton-street, Leeds. Wire, wire.

WANTED, Monday next, also 28th, by Arthur Rugbey, Comedian and Raconteur; also Vent. Scena. Wire, 30, Henry-street, Dublin.

WANTED, Known, Paul Cavalli (Top of Bill Act), Gymnastic Acrobatic Musical Act, including his great Competition, which proves the greatest draw in the country (no dumb-bells competition); the only Act of its kind in existence, Scenery, Apparatus splendid; £1,000 of Baggage; also Maxime, Comedy Horizontal Bar; two distinct Specialities. This week, storming (Top of Bill), Hippodrome, King's Lynn; next, Top of Bill, Theatre, Thorniey. The man that Managers make money out of. Six-sheet and D.C. lithos. Vacant Jan. 4, 11. Offers invited for one or two Acts. We are not asking more than we deserve.

WANTTD, Panto.—One of the treats of the evening is Max Merlin, who, as the human crocodile, is the finest body contortionist ever seen in this district. He must indeed have a boneless body, his trunk contortions and twistings being remarkable. Wire, Theatre, Bacup. Permanent, 65, Caledonian-street, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, World's Bantam-weight Champion Wrestler. Still keeping Wales busy. Coms., 34, Margaret-street, Liverpool. Merry Xmas to all.

WANTED, by Prof. Davies, Mirth, Magic, and Music, Engagement at Schools, Missions, &c. Address, 18, Mill-street, Kingston, Surrey.

WANTED, Jan. 4, '09, onward, The Great Alfred Kroston, Japanese Comedy Conjurer, Juggler, and Marvellous Contortionist, with the Only Performing Pug Dog. The Jap with the Boxes. A Laughing and Applauding Hit. Also Miss May Sumner. New Hippo., Leigh, Lancs. Monday, Hippo., Shrewsbury. Notice, "Final."—We shall be known as above from Jan. 3, '09.—The Original Kyoto, May Geraldine.

WANTED, Known, Knotella F. C., Olympia, also Knotellas (Harry and Rose), Flexible Acrobats, Dancers, vacant Jan. 4, onwards with exceptions. Coms., 4, Peterboro'-flats, New King's-road, S.W.

WANTED, Known, The Dewars (Jessie and Fred), Duettists and Sketch Artists, two Acts if required, vacant Monday, Dec. 21. Wire, Gaiety Theatre, Methil, N.B.

WANTED, Monday next, also 28th, Capner and Steele (Will and Victoria), Character Duettists, Song Scenas, beautifully dressed; good Singles. Wire, Court Theatre, Bacup; after Saturday, perm., 2, Berwick-place, Nottingham.

WANTED, by Mike and Lena, Monday next, also Jan. 4, 11, 18, Comedy Dutch Patter, Songs, Dances. Write or wire, King's, Longsight.

WANTED, Proprietors and Managers to Know, N. C. Bostock and Nellie Ethene, greatest hit ever Known at T. R., Dumfries. Vacant Dec. 28. Wire, Theatre, Hawick, quickly.

WANTED, Monday next, by Colvil and Tate, Comedy Artists and Dancers. Enormous success Oddfellows' Hall, Dowlais. Wire to 14, Union-street, Merthyr Tydvil.

WANTED, Known, Four Cecilians, what a Draw, smartest all-round Act on Variety Stage. Dec. 21, Empire, Southport; 28, Tivoli, Liverpool; Vacant Jan. 4.

WANTED, Known, Leo and Roland, the greatest of all Equilibrists, in a refined and original Act, introducing great sensational Ladder Feat, the most daring and skilful hand-balancing feat ever performed, own invention. Complimented everywhere. Press and Public alike say that nothing has ever been seen like it before. This is a feat that commands attention and holds the audience spellbound. To all whom it may concern. This feat is protected by Royal Letters Patent No. 27,111, so pirates don't sail on my waters or you will get sunk. This week, Sadler's Wells; next week, Palace, Bow.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, Wonderful Hoop Juggling Effects, Novel Panto. Speciality. Only Vacancies Dec. 28 and Jan. 4. Address, 25, Clifford-street, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Les Zanonis, Boy and Girl Jugglers and Club Throwers, in their Refined and Pretty Novelty Act. Club juggling unsurpassed. Vacant Jan. 11, Feb. 1, 1909. Communications, 46, Elizabeth-street, Blackpool.

WANTED, Known, Ryde and Beeman, Eccentric Acrobats. Absolutely a Laughing Hit. Vacant Monday. Wire, Gaiety Theatre, Clydebank. Wire.

WANTED, by Attilla Bros., Grecian Gladiators, Attilla Bros.' Sensational Strength Display, tremendous success, Liberty 21st, 28th. Wire, Hippodrome, Ton-y-Pandy.

WANTED, Known, Phinas and Aida, Revolving Equilibriste, the only Act of its kind, want Jan., 1909, and on. Next week, Brit., Glasgow; this, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Dates, onward, The Peps, Most Talented Trampolin Performance before the Public. Managers, Note.—This Act will Please and make a Success with any class of audience. We are doing it at the Queen's, Glasgow, this week. Monday, Town Hall, Falkirk. Happy Christmas to All.

WANTED, Dec. 28, onwards, by Alex and Jolly, funniest of all Triple Bar Acts; big Speciality Act for Pantomime. 13, Westfield-terrace, Sheffield.

WANTED, by Haverley and Troy, World's Greatest Gymnasts, introducing Professor Haverley, Greatest Swordsman of the Age. Vac. till Jan. 10, '09. New arrivals. Gaiety, Glasgow, till Dec. 26, c/o Bright.

WANTED, Known, Three Bordellas, the World's Greatest Gymnastic Act. This week, Gaiety, Dundee, Bottom of Bill. Dec. 21, Victoria Theatre, West Stanley, Durham. Dec. 28, City Varieties, Leeds. Require Jan. 4, 1909, Jan. 4, 1909. Who wants us? Write or wire.

WANTED, Known, Great Scott, the Ladder King, the only Juggling Act on the Ladder, Aquarium, Scarboro'; Monday, Victoria T., West Stanley; vacant 28th and Jan. 4.

WANTED, Dec. 21, 28, and Feb., 1909, the Flying Orenluses (Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts), in their Phenomenal Flying Act; the Sensation of the Age. Jan. 4, Olympia, Kensington. 24, Foxley-road, Brixton.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Dec. 21 and Jan. 4 (North), by Bessie Travis, England's Premier Lady Ventriloquist, in New Act (two people). Enormous Novelty. Wire, Tivoli, Pentre.

WANTED, Dec. 28, by Gulliver, Ventriloquist. Address, Hippo., Hastings.

WANTED, Jan. 25, and Feb. 1, through Palace, Sunderland, changing hands, and obliging manager who has booked panto. RICH TAYLOR, The Whistling Ventriloquist, this, King's, Edinburgh; next, Pavilion, Glasgow.

WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1, by Hulbert (Ventriloquist) and De Lil (Illusionist); two smart Acts. Offers invited. Pavilion, Liverpool.

WANTED, Known, Mlle. Naveeda, the Premier Lady Illusionist, and her Company are vacant Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, with the most Novel and Sensational Illusionary Act ever presented. Top of Bill last week Tivoli, Dublin, where it drew enormous business. Starring this week, Alexandra T., Pontefract, where please communicate.

WANTED, Managers and Agents to Know, the only vacant dates next year for PICITT AND LIZETTE, Illusionists and Pantomimists, in their great Magical Extravaganza, "THE CRAZY COOK," "THE CRAZY COOK," are Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22, March 15, 22. Managers requiring an absolute Novelty please note the above dates offer the only opportunity to book. "THE CRAZY COOK," A Big Animal Act, a Big Illusion Act, A Big Comedy Act, all in one. 50 Birds and Anima's, 50. The most Realistic Kitchen Set ever staged. Original Illusions worked like lightning. Everything carried, including Scenery. Conclude to-night, Hippodrome, Coventry. Monday, Tivoli, Pentre, South Wales.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, 25, for "Battle of the Belles," thirty minutes' scream, fourth year of uninterrupted success, six Artists, own Scenery. FRED MOULE, Empire, Southport.

WANTED, Known, Pauletti, Novel Staircase Somersaulting, Acrobatic Cycling Eccentric. Re-engaged fourth year by J. P. Moore, Esq. Next rehearsing, Panto., Opera House, Kidderminster.

WANTED, Known, Cyclinis Trio, Knockabout Cyclists, "Football Match on Bicycles," Vac. Jan. 4, 11, to follow Edinburgh. 120, Gaythorpe-street, Moss Side, Manchester.

WANTED, Swift Duo, the Laughing Hit, Lady and Gentleman, Novel Cycling Speciality, vacant Dec. 28, Jan. 4. Mon. next, Hippo., Peterboro'. Booked by AYTOUN. Wire.

WANTED, The Dunlops, Comedy Cyclists, also Lillian Sivado, Lady Gymnast, two distinct Acts, Vacant Jan. 4, 18, and later. Address, 3, Glencoe-mans., Chapel-st., Brixton-rd., London.

WANTED, Known, Miss Ella's Educated Lion Show, recognised by every Manager and Agent of repute to be the Best, the Cleanest, and the Most Refined of its Kind. Vacant Jan. 18, onwards, with exceptions. Com., week Dec. 21, Palace, Grimsby.

WANTED Permane's "Teddy Bears," at Liberty Dec. 21, 28. The Real Thing. The Only Show. 2, Porten-road, Blythe-road, W.

WANTED, Known, Williams' Dogs, in their Sensational Military Act, "The Deserter," a marvellous exhibition of Canine Intelligence, also in their amusing Sketch, "Not Guilty," vacant Dec. 21. Perm. add., Rothwell Haigh, Leeds.

WANTED, Known, Chevalier Crowther, Champion Skater, Swordsman, and Juggler, with 200 pairs Roller Skates, free for engagements. 20, Lynthorne-road, Frizinghall, Bradford.

WANTED, Known, to all Music Halls and Places of Attractions, the Greatest Wonder on Earth, the Three-legged Man, just arrived from the States of America after a Long and Successful Tour, has arrived in Scotland, and is on view at Crouch's Waxwork and Grand Variety Theatre, Glasgow. All communications to FRANK LENTINI, c/o Crouch's.

WANTED, Bookings for Chronophone (Gaumont's), Singing Pictures, any district. Terms on application. Apply, B. COHEN, 63, Whitechapel-road, London, E.

WANTED, Known, Prof. Lenton's Bioscope Entertainments; Change of Pictures Nightly or Weekly; Machines, Films, and Accessories Bought, Sold, or Hired Out to any amount. 2, Capener's-yard, Knightsbridge, S.W.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known. The Public put Pennies in the Slots, but I take Sovereigns from the Cash Boxes.

The above was the recent remark of an operator of "The Magical Mills Machines." "The Marvellous Mills Machines." "The Money-making Mills Machines."

Send to Sole Agents for Illustrated Catalogue,

MINERVA AUTOMATIC CO., 14, Charterhouse-buildings, London, E.C.

WANTED, Known, .22 Cartridges, "R," "H," "D," "P" brands, Winchester repeaters, Globes, Targets, Water Balls. GREENE, 74, Falmouth-road, London, S.E.

CAKE WALK. Regd. Trade Mark. CAKE WALK. WANTED, Known, TAYLOR, PLINSTON, BROS., and Co., Sole Makers and Patentees of the Only Cake-Walk Riding Machine in the World, Royal Letters Patent, No. 17402, Jy. 30, 1907, and No. 25150, Nov. 13, 1907. No. 2649, Feb. 6, 1908. In the Chancery Court, Jy. 3, 1908, Mr. Justice Swinfen Eady Granted an Injunction against defendants for infringement of our Patent No. 17402. This Machine is a Triumph of Engineering Skill for Simplicity, Lightness, and Durability.

It is a Record Money-maker.

Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees, Farncombe-street, and 94-98, Bermondsey-wall, London, S.E.

WANTED, Showmen to Save Money by sending for Leete's Catalogue of Specially-prepared Paints, Colours, Varnishes, Brushes, &c., and every requisite for decorating Caravans, Roundabouts, Swings, &c. Cheapest house in the trade. A. LEETE and Co., 129, London-road, Southwark, S.E.

WANTED, to open Monday, Waxworks, Marionettes, Automatic Exhibitions, Shooting Ranges, Cinématograph Shows, also Novelties, all on Salary, Shares, or Rental, for several good positions in Brighton, good business; electric and gas in each place. Wire, 21, Edward-street, Brighton.

WANTED, Side Shows, Novelties, &c., for great Carnival and Fun City at Drill Hall, Dumfries, Dec. 28, for two or three weeks; will share, rent, or pay salary. Over 10,000 visitors last year. Enormous Attractions. Excursions run from all parts. Wire or write, WOOD, Hippodrome, Dumfries, N.B.

WANTED, Side Shows, to work in intervals of Bioscope Exhibition, on sharing terms. Apply, Gayland, 67, Whitechapel-road, E.

WANTED, Freaks, Novelties, &c., for best position in City. CARTER, 3, Carlile-road, Londonderry, Ireland.

WANTED, Midget Lady, height about 36in., suitable for exhibiting. Mention height, age, salary expected; experience unnecessary. Comfortable home; long engagement. £2 given anyone informing of suitable lady leading to engagement. Box 6,270, "The Era."

WANTED, good Novelties, Dec. 28, onwards, with Flash. AMERICAN NOVELTY AND WAXWORK EXHIBITION, 114, 116, and 118, Rathbone-street, Canning Town, E.

SHOWMEN'S ADVERTISEMENTS.

WANTED, good Novelties, at once, Salary or Shares. Apply, CHAPLAIN, 95, High-street, Birmingham.

Palmistry.

WANTED, Lady, on half cash takings or wage, at once. HUNT'S STUDIO, 87, Hurst-street, Birmingham.

WANTED, a good experienced Palmist, on sharing terms, for Automatic Vaudeville. Write, MANAGER, 50, High-street, Kettering.

WANTED, Man Character Reader, for six weeks, Agricultural Hall, commencing Boxing Day. Apply, Mrs. DALY, 19, Kensington-garden-square, Bayswater.

WANTED, immediately, Lecturer for Flying Lady Show; strictly temperate, gentlemanly, and having clear, powerful voice; preference given to vocalist. Salary 30s. MANAGER, Trades Exhibition, Pavilion, Carnarvon.

WANTED, a good Doorsman, one that can tell a good tale and hold a pitch, and must be steady. PROPRIETOR, Exhibition, 15, Church-street, Todmorden.

FUN CITY AND EXHIBITION DRILL HALL, BATH, Dec. 24, 1908, to Jan. 16, 1909. WANTED, Smart Men, to sell Pens, Mono, Rubber Stamps, Pencils, on commission; Smart Girl for Airgun Shooters, also Smart Girl for wire, also Girl for Tinselling P.C. Write, LARCHER, Fun City, Drill Hall, Bath.

WANTED, Known, Kap Dwa, the Two-headed Giant, 12ft. in length, at Liberty January onwards. Address, MARTINO, 102, Belgrave-gate, Leicester.

WANTED, Wanted, Known PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL. Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909, address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

ALEXANDRA PALACE, AUSTIN FRYER'S GRAND CIRCUS COMBINATION (from Hengler's). Boxing Day and on. WANTED, to Let, Space for Side Shows, Illusions, and anything attractive.

Address, AUSTIN FRYERS, Alexandra Palace, N.

WANTED, Known, few Spaces still Vacant for Attractive Stalls, Tattooist, &c.; large shop, free admission. LINDER, 28, Adare-street, Bridgend.

WANTED, to Let, Payne's Auction Mart, Pontycymmer, depth 35ft., width 17ft., suit anything, first vacancy Christmas, rental or shares. Terms application.

WANTED, to Let, Shop, Auctioneers, Bazaars, Exhibitions, Dec. 22, onwards; good business waiting. Open immediately. MICHAEL, 10, The Circle, Tredegar, Mon.

Important Notice.

WANTED, Known, Wanted, Known, Wanted, Known, Wanted, Known, Wanted, Known, the interest in the "Johnstown Flood" having been disposed of by Private Treaty, the Sale of same is withdrawn.

WANTED, to Thank all those Gentlemen who wrote and wired for particulars, &c., re the Sale by Auction of "The Johnstown Flood," "Pharaoh's Daughter," &c., from the White City, as advertised on Page 41 of last week's "Era," and to inform them and the public in general that the same has been disposed of by private treaty. Signed, TOM NORMAN, Silver King, Auction Dept., "The Era" Office.

Will Andrew Purchass, jun., please send me his address at once?

WANTED, to Sell, Special Pullman Touring Car, Designed and Built for Private Use, seats 25, allowing each passenger a swivel armchair, is fitted with electric light, bells, and 50 h.p. Granton engine, splendid hill climber, specially suitable for theatrical companies, shooting parties, and touring clubs. Photos on application. Can be seen and tried at the LIVERPOOL MOTOR HOUSE, LTD., 7-11, Peters-lane, Liverpool.

WANTED, to Sell, Switchback Railway, in good running order, Standard size and strength, 400ft. long, 3 cars, can carry 1,200 passengers per hour; must be removed from present site owing to expiration of lease. Apply, Box 5,240, "The Era."

WANTED, to Sell, one Four-abreast, either Savage's or Walker's make; one or two Dickinson's Dynamos, in good order, cheap. S. HANCOCK, Amusement Caterer, Mutton Cove, Devonport.

WANTED, to Sell, Hot-air Engine, 50s.; 4 Winchester Rifles, 20s. each; four-value Electric Target, complete, 100s. MASON, 510, Kingsland-road, London.

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1909—THE ERA ANNUAL—1909

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For Scale of Charges see Leader Page.

"THE ERA" CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS.

Important Notice to Advertisers and others.

Owing to Christmas Day and Boxing Day this year falling so late in the week, causing a consequent disruption of Postal facilities, and in order to prevent disappointment, "The Era" will be published at midnight on

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd.

ADVERTISEMENTS intended for that issue must be posted not later than TUESDAY, DECEMBER 22nd., to reach us by first post on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd. Advertisements may be handed in at the counter until 12.30 noon on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 23rd.

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THE PALLADIUM, LONDON

(late Hengler's Circus), will be open August Bank Holiday, 1909.

THE ALHAMBRA, PARIS.

Will Van Allen, Maximilian Trio, Tafanos, Schivonis, Cabiacs, Garganis, Hanvarr and Lee, Powell's Marionettes, Carl Rosina, De Serris, De Lilo, Leonie de Lausanne, Armanis.

HIPPODROME, BIRMINGHAM.

J. Peterman's Co. in "Singing Servants," Andrews and Thompson, H. Pollock and Co., Dorothy L. Clark, W. Reynolds Co., Mr. and Mrs. Gordon-Wilde, Three Croisits, Brull and Iemsley, Pictures, Denwartz Troupe.

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Chung Ling Soo, Mike Nono, Thorpe and Coe, Honor and Le Prince, Phil Rees, Rosie Lloyd, Maid and the Moon, Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor, Pictures, Harmony Four.

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PAVILION, NEWCASTLE.

PANTOMIME.

HIPPODROME, ST. HELENS.

Sonplessi, Victor Courtenay, Warsaw Bros, Marlowe, Bioscope Laveeda, Filmer, Adelaide College Girls.

HIPPODROME, EALING.

Billy French, Ida Clare, Jenny Alexander, Pictures, John Lawson and Co., Wilman, Roxborough and Wright, L. B. Athol, Harry Maxam, Belle Harcourt.

EMPRESS, BRIXTON.

Chirgwin, Dion Wade, Kurkamp, Fred Earle, Will Toole, Ernest Shand, Maudie Forde, Minnie Mace, Gladys Nelson, The Westbrooks, Three Gartis, Mlle. Dalmere.

PALACE, HAMMERSMITH.

Amateur Carnival, Kitty Colyer, Harry Champion, Daisy James, Zaro and Arno, H. Hayman and Co., G. S. Melvin, Jenny Alexander, Rosie Revel, Terry and Bentley, Ted Cowan, Hayes and Watson, Pictures.

THE WEEK'S CALLS

THE EMPIRE, HOLBORN.

Dave Carter, Geo. Gilbey Arthur Melrose, Will English, Carina Sisters, Lily Langtry, Mlle. Yerka Seneloff, Lydia and Ameiys, Pictures, Hunt and Thomas Sylvia Cavalho and Co., Clark and Hamilton, O'Gorman Bros., Eileen Douglas.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Arthur Pier, Kisbey, Adey Spencer, Evelyn Taylor, Pictures, Billy McClain and Co., Lambert and Glover, Austinand Cowan, John Lawson and Co., Marbas, Brent and Brand.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Walter Stanley, Jack Smiles, Rosie Archer, Tiger Lily, Pictures, Texas Hattie, Kelly and Agnes, Gotch and Hackenschmidt Film, F. Karno and Co.'s "Mumming Birds," Cummin and Seaham.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Fred Hastings, Kurkamp, Fred Earle, Ernest Shand, Olga Dore, Pictures, Graham and Harrington, Webb and Branston, Mlle. Fougère, Edie Anderson.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Edwin Boyde, Chas. Carr, Dave Carter, Geo. Gilbey, Eileen Douglas, Pictures, Dreadnoughts, Wm. Lee and Co., Lew Lake's Vocalists, Clara Beck, Muir and Bartlett.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Arthur Slater, Martin Conway, Harry Champion, Dorothy Gould, Pictures, Courtiers, Three Laurels, Hillman and Russell, Mlle. Fougère, Victoria Dagmar and Clown.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Tom Leamore, James Fawn, Marie Blythe, Ada Cerito, Pictures, Leonards, Lilian Dundas and Co., Charley, Pat Lynch, Bros. Luck, in "Liftems, Ltd."

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Syd Bandon, Morny Cash, Herbert Rule, Gus Harris and Co., Pictures, Francis and Alfred, Howard and Collinson, Howe and Ardie, Gotch and Hackenschmidt Film, Rose Cambry.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Arthur Reece, Edwin Boyde, Mark Leslie, V. Ashcroft, Pictures, Harry Harris, Rosa Loader, Lena Leslie, Six Bros. Luck, Ltd., in "Liftems, Ltd.," Tamamoto.

ILFORD HIPPODROME

(IN COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION).

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will be open at the end of November, 1909.

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HIPPODROME, LIVERPOOL.

Zona Vevey and Max Erard, Frivola and Deep, Three Carleus, Ted Curtis, Fred Edwardes' Co., Radford Duo, Werds, Pictures, Faust, Sammy Shields.

HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

Lloyd Morgan, Paul Vandy, F. Maxwell and Co., Union Jack Boys, Pictures, Claude Gardiner, Geo. Blakeney, Eva Lewis, Lily and Antley.

EMPIRE, SWINDON.

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Bill matter for this hall to be sent direct to Mr. Manners, Empire, Swindon.

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KING'S THEATRE, SOUTHSEA.

J. Hart's "Futurity Winner," Lennard and Vereker, Bijou Juveniles, Gus Garrick, Lanos and Montes, La Freya, Pictures, Four Maisonias.

HIPPODROME, WOOLWICH.

Tom Stuart, Morny Cash, Sisters Caselli, Emma Don, Stone and Tracey, Pictures, Chas. Sloman Carlotta De Yonson and Co., Haines, Borthwick, and Co., Spencer and Marks.

GRAND, CLAPHAM JUNCTION.

Dion Wade, Willie Gardiner, Russell Brandow, Two Brilliants, Six Roma Girls, Pictures, Francis and Stewart, Athlones, Lew Lake and Co. ("Burglars"), Dandies, Nellie Neil.

HIPPODROME, PECKHAM.

Walter Wallis, Jack Charman, Cissie Dryden, Sybil Montague, Pictures, F. Ginnett and Co., in "St. George and the Dragon," F. Conti and Co., Cecile François and Co., Fielding and Hull, Haley's Girls of the Garden.

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ISLINGTON THEATRE.

Twice Nightly.

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Sung by Miss Dora Lyric.

"EXERCISE"
(Penton Hook and Whit Cunliffe).
Sung by Whit Cunliffe.

"SUE, SUE, SUE"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski),
Sung by G. H. Elliott.

Hear the Great
GEORGE LASHWOOD,
in His Greatest Success,
"HANG OUT THE FRONT DOOR KEY."

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(Wilmott and Darewski),
Sung by R. G. Knowles.

"THAT'S THE TIME A FELLOW WANTS HIS MA"
(Bateman, A. Mills, and M. Scott),
Sung by Miss Vesta Tilley.

"DON'T RUN AFTER THE GIRLS" (Arthurs and Murphy) and "ELLALINE" (Arthurs and O. Powell).
Sung by L. W. Harris.

"THE JOLLY OLD IRISH PENSIONER"
(F. W Carter).
Sung by Pat Rafferty.

"LET ME BUT HOPE"
(Percy Edgar and H. E. Pether),
Sung by Miss Madoline Rees.

"SHE SELLS SEA SHELLS" (Gifford and Sullivan), and "I'M HERE—IF I'M WANTED."
(F. Leo).
Sung by Wilkie Bard.

"FAR AWAY IN AUSTRALIA"
(Wilmott and Darewski),
Sung by Miss Annie Bradden.

"A HEART FULL OF LOVE AND A POCKET FULL OF MONEY"
(Lester Barrett and H. E. Darewski).
Sung by Miss Carlotta Levey and Miss Florrie Forde.

"WON'T YOU COME TO ME IN CANADA?"
(Fortescue Harrison and John Neat).
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"THE PREACHER AND THE BEAR."
Albert Whelan's Great Hit.

"THE GAY GORDONS"
(Wilmott and Darewski),
Sung by Miss Rhoda Paul.

"DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, NICHOLAS!"
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Sung by Miss J. La Barte.

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"DICK WHITTINGTON,"
EVERYBODY, MONDAY, Dec. 21, at 10.30 a.m. AVENUE THEATRE, SUNDERLAND.
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Signed, JAMES KIDDIE.
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N.B.—Artists engaged for "Dick Whittington," and who are desirous of availing themselves of the three-quarter fare to Sunderland, please note, a Special Train will leave Widnes, L. and N.W.Rly., on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 2.20, and will call at Manchester Exchange, 3.0., also Leeds, 5.0 p.m.

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Rehearsal on Wednesday next, Dec. 23, at twelve o'clock.

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All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fireproofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

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PALACE, HALIFAX.
The Carmos, Chas. Lewis, Poole and Maguire, Marion Armitage, Milton Trio, Mollie Augarde, Lizette Troupe, "Mam'selle Pom Pom," Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Emerson and Baldwin, Walter Clyde, Cherry Lass, Harry Luck, Cestria, Les Elgonas, Ross and Grayson, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
Ten Loonies, Helen Martin, Norah Desmond, Sergt. Brennan, Three Temples, Ringling Trio, Frank Cass, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Gladys Whitton, Venturini, Diamond and Hart, Ray Royal, Chas. Lilburn, "Battle of Life," Vere and Royal, Pictures.

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"Dick Whittington."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
Dec. 24, Production of Jazon's "Cinderella."

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"Aladdin."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

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The Sovereigns, Annie Heath, J. H. Greener, Arthur Stacey, Hettie Holland, Kirk and Saraski, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Margaret Ismay and Coons.

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Clown Barker, Bernardo, Earle and Godfrey, Rowe and Roe, Five Bombays, Mason and Co., Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, &c.

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Consul, Holland and Co., Margaret Radcliffe, Capt. Devereux, Primrose Quartette, Lily Arthur, Rastus and Banks, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Clasen's Art Bronzes, Deans and Wilton, Rose and Wold, Percival, Johnny Dwyer, Carlotta Levey, Burnley Temperance Band, Ford and Barras, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Bostock's Monkeys, Fred Herbert, Lily Hayes, E. W. Selman, Avon and Crest, Alpho, The Menzies, John Donald, Raymond's Bio-Tableaux, Marie Grey.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Leo and Roland, Rose D'Aulby, Chas. Austin and Co., Freda Fenn, Minnie Kirby, Ted Lowry, Wright and Elton, Edith Lewis and Co., Raymond.

FORESTERS'.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Edith Chandler, T. C. Jacques, The Leonas, Taree, The Two Lillies, Carlotta De Yonsen and Co., Gus Harris, Karl Edwards, Iris Yohé, The Maynards, Mabel Le Roy, Raymond.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Czar Troupe, Julia Gilbert, Yettmah, Jack East and Co., Davis and Dean, Boden and Bell, Bernard Mervyn and Co., Star Picture, Jimson's Pets, Victoria Glenn, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard, Raymond.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Raymond, Dolly Elsworthy and Co., Gordon and Bell, Clara Pledger, Albert Hall, Rose Trio, East and West, Mitchell and Mace, Josephine Crook.

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LITTLE TOY—GLORIOUS DREAM.

Code Word, "GAMIN."

A poor woman and her little daughter are begging outside a house, where children are enjoying themselves round the Christmas-tree. A little boy is the only one to notice the poor people when he leaves with his arms full of toys and sweets. He gives them some money, and the woman, instead of buying bread for their supper, buys her little girl a penny toy, so that she should commemorate Christmas also. In her dream the child sees Santa Claus scattering heaps of toys about. When she wakes up she only finds the bare room, and no toy; but the kind little boy arrives with his father, and leaves with the mother and child a lot of useful things, which will afford for once one merry Christmas to the poor people.

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Code Word, "FLIRT."

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Code Word, "FOURCHE."

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Code Word, "FOOTBALL."

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Code Word, "FISC."

In order to test the feelings of the fiancé her parents have chosen for her Miss Martha takes the place of her servant. Swaying between the love he experiences for the new maid and his position as a suitor of the daughter of the Earl of Hape, the young Marquis hesitates . . . until love wins the day, and sly Miss Martha allows herself to be found out.

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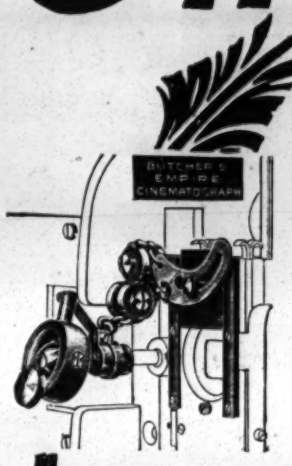

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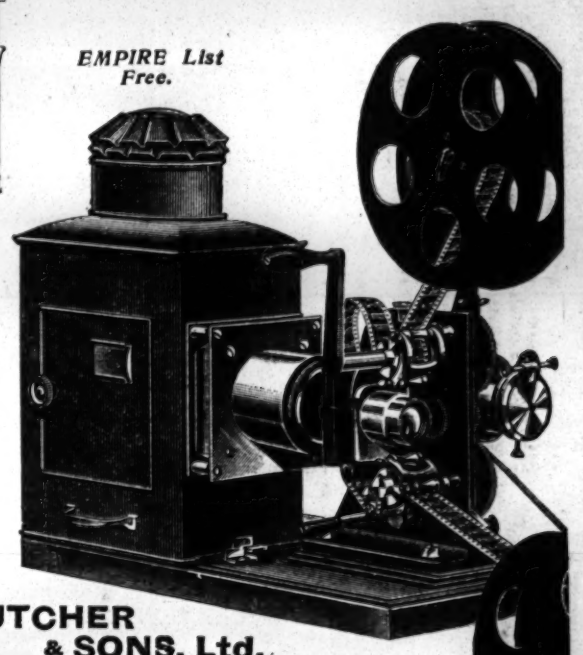

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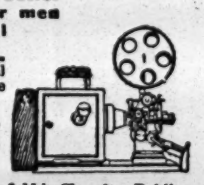

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
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By Order,
E. J. HILLS,
Secretary,
United County Theatres, Ltd.

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Season Band, 1909.

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Applications, stating age, qualifications, experience, and salary required, and enclosing copies of not more than two testimonials, must be sent so as to reach me not later than Monday, the 28th December inst.

Applicants should state whether or not they are in possession of a thoroughly up-to-date répertoire of music for either a military band or orchestra.

Canvassing directly or indirectly will be deemed a disqualification.

By order of the Council,
THOMAS BRADLEY,
Clerk of the Council.
Council Offices, St. Annes-on-the-Sea,
11th December, 1908.

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"MY LIMELIGHT LOU."

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DRAMATIC AND MUSICAL CALENDAR.
See THE ERA ANNUAL, 1909.

THEATRICAL, MUSICAL, AND EQUESTRIAN OBITUARY FOR 1908.
See THE ERA ANNUAL 1909.

THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908.
The Star, Jan. 16:–
Mr. Lennox Pawle's appearance in pantomime at Drury Lane gives point to some correspondence, now published by "The Era" Annual for the first time. As an example in brevity it should commend itself to managers and actors.

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PROVINCIAL THEATRICALS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

ACCRINGTON.—PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. J. B. Ormerod; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. E. Barnes.—Mr. Andrew Melville's company, in *Driven From Home*, is here this week. Mr. Felix Pitt succeeds admirably as Anthony Raybrook; Mr. P. G. Beresford gives a capital representation of Walter Hatherleigh; Mr. C. Burdon acts with force as Geoffrey Waring; and Mr. Harry Cornwall as Jabez Thomas plays naturally and is very convincing. Miss Violet E. Lawson makes a charming and attractive Laura Raybrook, and later on wins high praise as the lad Walter Hatherleigh; Miss L. Ingles is good as Barbara Ashdown; and Miss Emily Custance as Margaret Bailey imbues the part with humour and charm. Mr. Fred C. Imbert as John Anderson is seen to advantage; and Mr. Percy Dawson is eminently successful as Willie, an outcast. Mr. Henry Helling as Adam Marley makes an excellent impression; and Mr. E. Finlay as Dick Saunders plays with intelligence and power.

THE NEW HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Accrington Hippodrome Co.; Director of Entertainment, Mr. Fred Willmot; Resident-Manager, Mr. Walter Mould.—This house was formally opened on Monday night. A report of the opening will be found in another column.

ALDERSHOT.—ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Clarence Sounes; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Gladwin.—For the first three nights we had here Messrs. Herbert Skardon and H. Sherwood Martin's company in the sporting drama *The Way of the World*. Miss Sidney Crowe—who is an old favourite in Aldershot—again proved her high histrionic ability, and was seen to advantage as Lady Adela in several handsome dresses. Mr. Clarence Temple gave a powerful enactment of Matthew Malyon, the lion tamer; Mr. Herbert Skardon as Cecil Hardy and Miss Violet Lytton as the circus girl, Kate, were all that a hero and heroine should be; the comic element is safe in the hands of Miss Violet Vivienne (the Strong Lady) and Mr. D'Arcy Kelway and Mr. Victor Gordon as Jolly and Bluff respectively. The other parts were well filled, and the mounting, especially in the racecourse scene, was good.

ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill; Acting-Manager, Mr. Chas. Revill, jun.—Closed for preparation of pantomime, *Dick Whittington*, for production on Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve).

EMPIRE HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech.—The programme for Christmas week includes the visit to Ashton of Reano and his famous band of instrumentalists. It is really a feast of music of an artistic kind. In Reano's programme is that wonderfully descriptive overture "1812," by Tschaikowsky, which illustrates the declaration of war between Napoleon Bonaparte and Russia; also the famous "Marseillaise" as the French army marches to Moscow; the battle scene; the burning of Moscow; the bells of Moscow; the retreat of the French army; and the triumphant Russian National Anthem. Other pieces are the humorous interlude, "The Tom Cat; or, the Tired Trombones," very funny in performance; Rossini's famous Storm Scene and Marche Militaire, from *William Tell*. The lead of Reano is most definite, and his players individually and collectively are all under his immediate eye and ear, and answer promptly every movement of the famed strenuous conductor. The variety artists for the week are Mark Merry, a very "merry" comedian; Will Sullivan, a comic singer and patterer of some note; Capt. Roberts, the Army staff trumpeter, appears as a musician, an athlete, and a balancer, assisted by two ladies, two ponies, and his comical acrobat soldier boys Curt and Alexander. Miss Margaret Drew is a dainty singer of songs with catchy choruses; Horace Sade wins favour by some clever characteristic dancing; the Wakeman Quintette enact a musical comedy sketch. They are admirable song harmonisers and humorists. The Hebrew comedian, Lew Peterman, is unique in his stage business and song; and to crown a most excellent programme, we have the wonderful manipulators, the Wartano Trio, modern lady jugglers, in a novel act; and the Bioscope, as usual.

THE NEW PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Leech; Assistant-Manager, Mr. T. Edward Owen.—On Monday the new palace of entertainment, the Pavilion, opened its doors to the public. Under the blaze of electric light everything looked spick-and-span. The decorations pleased the eye. They are of Louis XIV period, gold and colours, fully described in special article. The new animated picture exhibition was good. The chief of the films shown on the canvas were the Martyrdom of Louis XVII. of France and the Sad History of the Little Dauphin, and The Myrmidons of the Great Revolution. The Eclipse of the Sun and Moon is the story of an ancient astronomer whose eagerness to pursue his studies of the heavenly bodies leads to his untimely death. Sailing in ethereal space are seen mystical beings and wonderful signs, the inhabitants of a fabled sphere, very interesting to the speculatively inclined spectator. The Strike of Workpeople of an Iron Smelting Works, and the fatal rivalry of a junior partner of the firm and a superintendent of the works, is a vivid depiction of vengeful jealousy and malice. Other serious pictures are the death of a sainted mother and the story of a Christmas waif and a bad father. Then we have a number of humorous episodes illustrated in The Unlucky Bridegroom and For the Peace of the Family, both a series of untoward accidents and disaster of a very diverting character. The Man with the Indiarubber Shoes is quite a phenomenon of high jumping, extraordinary leaps, and feats of aerial flights. In the course of his remarkable flights and leaps into space he knocks down all obstacles, and creates abundance of confusion and disaster to others. Rivers and lakes, high walls, and high buildings do not bar his progress. He o'ertops all. It is certainly most laughter-provoking. The Lover in Straw is another amusing episode, as shown in the man who was enclosed in a bundle of straw, and was the victim of rough usage and strange experiences. The vaudeville artists gave a varied show. First a couple of cross-talking, singing, and patter comedians engage the attention. Very smart in patter and catchy in song is the turn of Wills and Warlock. A speciality dance was a feature of these artists, accomplished seated on chairs. The Wyfes (George and May) appeared in a capital drawing-room sketch about the baby that came by parcel post, enclosed in a skip, to the wrong house, and naturally there ensued a quarrel between husband and wife. Joseph B. Montague, assisted by Hilda Blanche, enacted a sketch which excited much interest, the former as a bookie of the turf, and the latter as a celebrated expert in jiu-jitsu. The Five Zingaris, five shapely young girls, gave an Eastern scena in appropriate costume, song, and dance. They afterwards appeared in national costumes, representing the Dutch girl in sabots, the Yankee girl in stars and stripes, the Scotch lassie in kilts, the Irish colleen in Connemara costume, and the English lass in sailor costume. They danced the national step-dances with great vigour, and were heartily applauded. The audience included many official and noted local representative men, with ladies. The musical-director, Mr. Bert Beattie, played throughout the evening on the grand pianoforte, the sole musical instrument used for orchestral purposes at these entertainments, and it was noticeable that the player was an accomplished musician and an expert executant.

THE PICTUREDROME.—Lessees, Messrs. Weisker Bros.; Manager, Mr. J. Marks.—A very pretty coloured series of pictures representing the story of *Cinderella* is the chief item of the performance at the Ashton Picturedrome this week, and pleases the audiences immensely. The Little Savoyard is a most pathetic story of an outcast boy; The Devil's Three Sins is an artistically coloured film, depicting a story of love, temptation, and victory; A Voice from the Dead gives a thrilling drama of real life, the representation of a flaming forge, the excitement of a strike, and the dramatic denouement all combining to make it a striking feature of the programme. Retribution is an effective domestic tragedy and pathos. The more artistic and sombre pictures are relieved by many of the comedy order, including Diabolical Itching (a screaming farce), How Jones Got a New Suit, Fido's Taking Ways, The Prize Camel, all manipulated with skill. A couple of young artists, the Musical Morrellis, give a pleasing entertainment on bells, fairy-bells, mandoline, Jap. violin, &c., and meet with a cordial reception. Lots are drawn at each house by members of the audience, and a ticket-number thrown on the screen, the lucky holder being presented with a dinner-cruet.

ATTERCLIFFE.—THEATRE ROYAL, LIMITED.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Resident-Manageress, Miss Ethel J. Hope.—This week's attractive selection of pictures, humorous and interesting, include, amongst others, Love's Strategy, A Kindhearted Shoeblack, A Suburbanite's Ingenious Alarm, Married for Money, An Aviator's First Trial, and an intensely dramatic film, A Showman's Wife. Mr. Charles Verner is still retained as vocalist, and his chorus songs are rendered in excellent style.

PALACE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—Acting-Manager, Mr. Bert Dent; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Harry Sanders.—This week's bill is contributed to by the following:—The Three Pirmans in a pantomimic absurdity on the horizontal bars and trapeze; Elroy, rightly described as the "armless wonder," who cleverly paints and sketches with his feet; Mr. Matt Wilkinson and company in a sketch, *On the Flip-Flap;* Miss Mabel Florence, comedienne; the Palace Choir; Mr. George Phillips, vocalist and dancer; the Two Clares, lady vocalists and dancers; and the Attergraph pictures, under Mr. Clayton's direction.

AYR.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry W. Day.—The theatre is being occupied this week by the Russell-Rosse Répertoire Company, which includes a very fine combination of players. The opening piece was Sydney Grundy's three-act comedy *A Pair of Spectacles*. Mr. David James, in the part of Benjamin Goldfinch, was admirable; as Gregory Mr. Maurice Denham gave a fine interpretation, hitting off the Yorkshireman to the life; Mr. James Gelderd's Dick Goldfinch was a clever assumption; Miss Ida Chapman made a sweetly pretty Mrs. Goldfinch; and the other parts were in capable hands. The same piece was played on Tuesday and Wednesday, and for Thursday *Caste* and for Saturday *Our Boys* was billed.

BARRY DOCK.—THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Carlton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Brogden.—Mr. G. Carlton Wallace's company is here in *The Love That Women Desire*. Mr. J. O. Stewart gives an excellent rendering of Squire Abingdon; Mr. Herbert Pearson fills the rôle of Philip Carnaby admirably; as Richard Abingdon Mr. Leigh Courtney is very successful. The success of the evening is Miss Dorothy Hildebrande as Patty Swift. She is extremely clever. As Frank Hardy Mr. Wilton Reed leaves little to be desired; Mr. J. W. Wilkinson (P.C. Sourberry) and Mr. John Hignett (Denis O'Rouke) make the most of their comedy parts; Miss Maud Hastings as Sybil Thorburn fills that character well; Miss Clynes is efficient as Madge Abingdon, and so is Miss Vere Rose as Maraquina. The drama is finely staged.

BATH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Egbert Lewis; Acting-Manager, Mr. Lewis H. Long.—On Boxing Day Mr George Edwardes's principal company were to commence a return visit here with *The Merry Widow*, the cast including Mr. Leonard Mackay, Mr. Lionel Victor, Mr. Tom Redmond, and Miss Octavia Barry.

PALACE THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Chas. Schuberth.—The bill for the week here includes the names of Cassie Walmer in "Good-bye, Ebenezer"; Jamie Piper, a clever young musician; Archie Pitt, a quaint and amusing comedian; the Fordyces, comedy artists and dancers; Babusio Brothers, who do some wonderful head-to-head acrobatic feats; Charles Banks and his intelligent dog; and the Arthur Gallimore Trio, who cause great laughter in their comedy turn; Raymond's Bio-tableaux retain the esteem of the audience.

BATLEY.—THEATRE.—Proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. J. Edward Whitty; Manager, Mr. Alfred A. Taylor.—The attraction here this week is *Love, the Conqueror*, presented by Mr. Frank Lindo and company, which includes Miss Marion Wakeford as the heroine.

BELFAST.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. James M. M'Cann.—Mr. Charles H. Lester's company opened here on Monday in the emotional drama *A Life for a Life*. Mr. Lester himself impersonates Don Leon Farnandez, alias Josh Harker, in a skilful manner; Mr. Richard Bosco may be congratulated on his able assumption of the rôle of Pedro le Calci; Miss Lydia Hart's impersonation of the part of Eulalie reflects much credit on this capable actress; and Little Winnie, by her assumption of Vonetta, completely captivates the audience. The humour of the piece is in the safe hands of Miss Gertrude Wasley and Mr. E. O'Grady, most amusing as Nancy Dora and Tim McCarthy. Mr. Harry T. Wood as Kit Oswald is admirable; and other rôles are capitally sustained by Miss Dorothy Riddell (charming as Kate Evelyn) and Messrs. W. Carr, Chris. Felton, J. Bernstone, A. Brown, Jack Mason, &c.

PALACE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred W. Warden; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. A. Salmond.—Closed for rehearsals of annual Christmas pantomime, *Jack and Jill*, to be produced on Christmas Eve.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Managing-Directors, Messrs Will Sley and Fred Willmott; Resident-Manager Mr. Henry T. Downs.—Phenomenal success has been achieved by Mr. John Tiller's pantomime, *Jack and Jill*. This is not surprising, considering the attractiveness of the production, with its beautiful scenery, capital songs, and a competent cast. The principals, Miss Harriet Fawn, Miss Nellie Rodney, Miss Cissy Iris, Miss Nelly Grimshaw, and Messrs. Horace Jones, Harry Cotton, Bruce Green, and F. and H. le Crew would be hard to excel in their various rôles; whilst the ballet in the fifth scene of *The Gathering of the Clans*, in which nearly fifty performers appear, is the talk of the city. Mr. Downs, the courteous manager, must, indeed, be congratulated on the huge success.

EMPIRE THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager, Mr. John A. Walker.—The leading attraction here is provided by Mr. Arthur Watson, Miss Flo Stanley, and company, who produce with every element of success their side-splitting comedy sketch, *The Cruise of H.M.S. Victory*. The return to this city of the inimitable Irish comedian Mr. W. J. Ashcroft has drawn great crowds, and, needless to say, the veteran has gained enthusiastic encores nightly. Mlle. Pollo is a graceful gymnast, her feats being very smart; and the Mayvilles return with their remarkably smart liliputian act. Miss Ina Lorrimer is a capital Scotch comedienne with good songs; and also here are Mr. Victor Travers, comedian, Mr. Charles Vincent, comedian, and the Bioscope.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr Will White.—The holiday programme here reflects much credit on the popular manager, Mr. Will White, who is always most indefatigable in the interests of his *clientèle*. The famous Filmograph exhibits the following views: An Auto Heroine, Animated Posters, His First Row, Capricious Woman, Lost in the Alps, &c. Also appearing are Reason and Waite, clever comedians; and Mr. Geo. Griffan, a capital humorist.

ST. GEORGE'S HALL.—General-Manager, Mr. Robert Wilson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred L. Arthur.—The programme here is certainly one to please the most fastidious. Under the direction of the management the following films have been exhibited: A Mother's Fault, Bachelor's Baby, Pheasant Farming, The Reprieve, Hypnotic Policeman, &c. In addition, Miss N. O'Hagan, the Irish colleen, appears; also Mr. Dan Ellis, a local comedian, who has been very successful.

CLIFTONVILLE HALL.—Resident-Manager, Colonel Fred T. Cummins.—The surprising success of the skating-rink continues, and the craze has spread to such an extent that the hall is crowded daily with many hundred devotees of the art. The popular manager, Colonel Cummins, announces many novelties, including "The Barnyard Carnival."

BIRKENHEAD.—NEW THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. W. W. Kelly; Acting-Manager, Mr. Reginald Grant; Secretary, Miss Isabel Morris.—Mr. Kelly gave a gala performance on Monday in aid of the Birkenhead Christmas Hot-pot Fund. The function is an annual one, and Mr. Kelly, with characteristic generosity, gives the whole of the proceeds to augment the income of a worthy charity. It was gratifying to find the house crowded to its utmost capacity by an audience which included the élite of the neighbourhood, and the entertainment was under the immediate patronage and presence of the Mayor and Mayoress. The artists, who (by kind permission of their respective managers) generously offered their services included Arthur Rigby, Edwin Adeler, Bobbie Allandale, Florence Imeson, W. G. Wesley, Joe Huds, Lisando Brothers, Mlle. de Rose, Hettie Gale, Little Ikey Moe, Ada Fawn, Jack Hylton, Jim Cunliffe, Harry Taft, Jimson's "Pets at Home," Charles Gardner, Massona, Arthur Kenny, the Zampas, Sammy Shields, Charles Rowen, the Sages, Leslie's Cadets, Elliott and Kennedy, Fred Poplar, Walker and May, Maggie Walsh, Harry Wright, Belle Moody, Crutchley and Jones, Karlyna, Mary Lamont, and the Brothers Martin. An item of exceptional interest was a performance of Sir Conan Doyle's little play, *Waterloo*, admirably represented by members of the Birkenhead Dramatic Company. The band of the 5th King's Liverpool Regiment, under Mr. J. Heron, gave a selection, and the resident orchestra, under the direction of Mr. J. Callaghan, was augmented for the occasion. On subsequent evenings the theatre has remained closed to admit of the necessary preparations of Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime *Cinderella* on Boxing Day.

ARGYLE THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. D. J. Clarke.—The Gotham quartette of comedians and vocalists are a strong attraction, and Miss Ada Fawn, a charming and accomplished comedienne, is also a general favourite; Little Ikey Moe, a smart young Hebrew comedian, is a leading feature, and a good combination includes Beau and Bell, in their scena *Past and Present;* Jim Cunliffe, light comedian; Barney Vox, ventriloquist; Heeley and Meeley, in their act *Two Lucky Tramps;* Jack Hylton, comedian; and Brown's Royal Bioscope.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Ball.—Mr. Jake Friedman, Anglo-Dutch comedian, and his very capable company, in the operetta *Happy Holland*, worthily secure premier honours. Other excellent turns are those of Mr. Charles Gardiner, comedian; the Zampas, duettists and dancers; Harry Taft, whistling comedian; Jimson's "Pets at Home"; Massona, juggler; Arthur Kenny, cyclist; and the Hippodrome pictures.

BIRMINGHAM.—THEATRE ROYAL, ASTON.—Lessee, Mr. Charles Barnard; General-Manager, Mr. E. Hewitson; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. J. Robertson.—*The Girl with the Angel Face* is here, played by Messrs. Dottridge, Longden, and James Willard's company. Angel Leigh is represented with fine skill by Miss Florrie Green; Mr. Fred Evison repeats his clever character study of Jasper Death; Miss Mildred Carr as Mollie Maitland is very welcome; the rôle of Ena Wentworth is enacted with admirable sympathy by Miss Phyllis Dailley; Mr. H. Naylor Grimson in the dual rôle of Sir John and Thomas Wentworth is equal to his onerous duties. High praise can be accorded Mr. Austin Mortimer, Mr. Dobell Lyle, Mr. Allan Charles, and Mr. Dicky Bird for their respective performances.

PALACE THEATRE, BORDESLEY.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Goodwin Woodward.—*The Girl Who Went Astray* is here, played by Mr. Fred Bulmer's company. Miss Gwynne Warren repeats Madge Harvey in able and dramatic style; Mr. John B. Shinton appears in capital contrast as Captain Frank Julian; Mr. Fred Lloyd is exceedingly clever as Rupert Murdock; Miss Ada M. Ryder gives a clever performance as Violet Harvey, her acting being replete with charm; Miss Mary Dalby makes the best of the character of Molly Smart, keeping the audience in glee; Mr. Edgar P. Melrose is successful as Sergeant John Harvey, V.C.; Adolphus Boomer and James Yellowsocks are highly amusing in the hands of Messrs. Evan Roland and Todd Squires. Miss Sybil Haughton, Miss Freda Fredericks, Mr. Edwin Williams, and Mr. A. Mainwaring give good support.

GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Edward Foster.—The excellent bill submitted here is headed by Fred Walton and his company of pantomimists, in their latest sketch *The Toy Soldier*, which creates a lot of laughter. Bertha Stuart, a Scotch vocalist, is loudly applauded for her rendering of "Caller Herrin'" and other songs; the Cree Brothers are clever comedy acrobats, their act, *The Gipsies*, being watched with interest; a capital and versatile entertainment is provided by the Gems; and the Glenroy Troupe of vocalists and dancers, May Brilliant, Frank Leon, and "Billy," an educated horse, complete the programme.

EMPIRE PALACE.—Resident-Manager, Mr. A. W. Matcham.—The delightful Salome and butterfly dances, presented by Helen Roberts, are causing quite a furore here; Albert Marsh and company have a dramatic sketch, *Chums Till Death*, which is a stirring story of the goldfields; while Dennis Drew has a musical scena, *Back to Barracks*. La Devo is applauded for his mysterious act and song-scena. Other prominent turns include the Stein-Eretto troupe, Cissie Thompson, Theresa Da Silva, Harry Lawson, and Alf. Holt.

HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Lyons.—Joe Peterman brings his new act, *Singing Servants;* A. W. Pinero's comedy sketch, *Hester's Mystery*, is cleverly played by H. Pollock and company; Dorothy L. Clarke is a dainty comedienne; the Three Crosits have a novel sporting scena. The company also includes Walter Reynold's Irish dramatic company, Brull and Hemsley, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon-Wilde, the Three Rubys, Andrews and Thompson, and the Denwartz troupe.

GAIETY THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Albert Bushell.—Lockhart's elephants are the interesting item in this week's bill. There is a novel turn provided by Lennie and Hast, whose phantasy, *The Sea Nymph*, is certainly much appreciated; Henri Cazman is loudly applauded for his impersonations; and Florence Yaman, Bella Belmont, Rale Walters, Jack Neil, James Basnett, and Wyndham and Kitty are all excellent turns.

ASTON HIPPODROME.—Resident-Manager, Mr. T. H. Middleton.—The management here are keeping the programme up to a high standard. James Callaham and Jennie St. George present their musical and vocal entertainment, which is first class; the Three Comedy Chanters are most entertaining;

Mike Gray is an amusing juggler; the Shelleys present their sketch, *Miss Summerson's Baby*; Fred Walmsley is amusing; Miss D'Almaine sings well; and Henry and Tyler are expert trick cyclists.

King's Hall.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy.—There is an excellent lot of pictures being shown here this week, the Red Indian and the Child and Waterproof Willie being especially good. The vaudeville company are well up to their standard.

Curzon Hall.—Hamilton's Excursions have started a season here, and let us hope they will be as successful as they always have been. Both the panorama and bioscope pictures are of a high order, while the variety turns provided by John Reynold's Quintette and Hess and Lisbon are exceedingly good.

BISHOP AUCKLAND. — Eden Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. R. Addison, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. J. Huntley.—The T. Edward Ward company occupy the boards here this week in *The Love of the Princess*. Mr. Wilson Coleman is admirable as Prince Conrad Ramona, and Mr. E. H. Dobell is quite an adept in the part of Josef, King of Ilarnia; Mr. Edgar Morgan (Boris) and Mr. F. Serle (Duke of Scarfe) earn credit; Mr. Ernest E. Imeson is fine as Danillo, and Mr. Theo Balfour displays the part of Prince Regent of Narava in an excellent manner; Miss Maisie Hanbury is a charming Princess Idalia, and the remainder of the cast is good.

BRIGHOUSE. — Albert Theatre.—Lessees, Messrs. Beanland and Emerson; Manager, Mr. W. H. Emerson.—Countess Romanow, in her Salome dance, is filling this popular theatre this week. She is loudly applauded at the conclusion of her artistic turn; Chas. Woodward, with good chorus songs, goes well; Clifford and Yorke amuse the audience with their jokes, and conclude with a funny song. The Weary Wanderers, the Vanderbilts, present a fine scena, *That's How They Say Good-night*, and are highly appreciated; Cattania Trio are exceptionally clever gymnasts and teeth equilibrists. Up-to-date animated pictures by the Loyal Dominion Co. complete a very interesting programme.

BRIGHTON.—Alhambra.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Alfred Smith.—An excellent programme is sustained here this week. The Elite Harmony Boys are very warmly applauded for their artistic vocalisation; Yolande Noble, vivacious and charming, contributes her songs in good style; the Brothers Michel are well received in artistic costume tableaux and in their acrobatic displays; Atkinson and Cook are successful in song, dance, and patter; Selbo is a clever juggler; Freda Sharlotte's original monologue is cordially appreciated; Jack Folly is a merry comedian; Louis Hurman sings admirably; Rose Dorne is a dainty vocalist and dancer; Stanley Ross, light comedian, gave a good turn; and the Alhambra Picturegraph affords much enjoyment.

Hippodrome Theatre of Varieties.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford and Smith; Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. B. J. Brown.—There is a capital company here this week. Chung Ling Soo, Chinese magician, performs some marvellous and bewildering feats; the Harmony Four are very popular with their tasteful and diverting musical comedy; Phil Rees' Stable Lads are highly successful in a novel racing act; Thorpe and company make a great hit in their sketch, *My Burglar*; the Three Ansonias are clever acrobats and equilibrists; Pyck, Tholl, and Taylor appear in an entertaining sketch, *The Dancing Master*; Honors and Le Prince contribute a good comedy acrobatic turn; the Maid and the Moon, musical novelty, evokes hearty applause; and Rosie Lloyd, comedienne, finds much favour.

Court Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. M. Barrasford.—There is a fine series of animated pictures in the entertainments here this week. The Sleeping Beauty is an interesting pantomime display; The Interrupted Wedding and The Soldier's Revenge convey very stirring incidents; the Christmas Angel is a charming picture; and great amusement is afforded by Willie's Dream and The Human Wheel. Real singing pictures with gramophone songs—Christmas Day in the Barracks and Oh! Oh! Antonio—form a striking novelty. The Sable Operatic Minstrel Troupe contribute harmony, fun, and frolic, which are warmly appreciated. Mr. Arthur W. Briggs presides at the piano with distinct skill.

BROUGHTON.—Victoria Theatre, Ltd.—Manager and Licensee, Mr. J. Fred Watson.—This theatre is closed, as usual, during the present week, except on Wednesday, when about sixty artists from the theatres and music halls in the district have arranged to contribute to a benefit for the genial and energetic manager, Mr. J. Fred Watson. On Dec. 26 *The Dairymaids* return visit commences for a fortnight.

BURY (Lancs').—Circus of Varieties.—General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Assistant-Acting-Manager, Mr. H. H. Potter.—The Clement Trio give a clever and humorous exhibition on the flying trapeze here; Jack Hamilton, light comedian, renders his songs in a pleasing and refined manner; *The Lady and the Scarecrow* is the title of an absurdity presented by Athas and Collins, and which proves very popular; Renee Graham has a good voice, and is successful in several descriptive songs; Elliott and Warne are capital comedy tumblers and dancers; a diverting juggling and vaulting act is supplied by Alfred Eugene; Sara Rosebury in a Lancashire dialect monologue, and the Three Neros in comedy acrobatic act complete the bill.

Hippodrome.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Manager, Mr. J. Brearley.—A novel boxing speciality is introduced by Ben Harris and his Nippers, and their turn is one greatly enjoyed by the audience. The wooden-shoe dancing of Devon and Earle is considerably above the average; Jimmy Shields is a quaint comedian, and his songs are good; William and Warden are entertaining in a sketch, *Mr. Dooley*; good songs are given by Harry Leaton; and other enjoyable items are those of the Primanes in a juggling act, *The Farmer's Boy*; Albert Dann, acrobat; May Knight, comedienne; Lidden and Hayward, a smart comedy couple; Charters and Clare, burlesque artists; and The White Suit shown on the Bioscope.

BOLTON.—Grand Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. J. F. Elliston; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry Kenyon.—Houdini, "the handcuff king," is freeing himself from "locks, bolts, and bars." A good company includes the Regar Trio of lady gymnasts; Ella Lorraine, ballad vocalist; Barney Ives and company in "Magic and Illusion"; the Bros. Ford, wooden-shoe dancers; the Rizarelis in a sensational revolving trapeze performance; James Brady, eccentric joker; Geo. Bond, comedian; Lyons and Cullum, in a speciality act; and Vernon's Imperial Bioscope.

Empire Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves, jun.; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. R. Harrison.—In the bill here are the Three Stewarts in an exceedingly difficult acrobatic balancing act; Marie Powell, refined speciality artist; Albert Letine, female impersonator; Rita Rowe, vocalist; Charles Ulrick, a barrel king; Ivey Aberdare, comedienne and dancer; the Bros. Idento, comic jugglers; and the Empire Bioscope.

CARLISLE.—H.M. Theatre.—Lessees, Mr. Thos. Courtice and Mrs. R. S. McKim; Manager, Mr. Thos. Courtice.—Mr. C. Watson Mill and company are here in a stirring drama, *For Love and the King*. Mr. Mill as Jarval is a popular hero, and Miss Rosalind Tate is successful as the Princess; Mr. Villiers Stanley gives a nice rendering of Prince Uros, and Natila is well played by Miss Joan Ellis; Mr. John Burton (Michael), Mr. Henry Harlesmere (Vladimir), and Mr. Geoffrey Chate (Ferdinand) all do well.

Palace Theatre.—Managing-Director, Signor Pepi; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. F. Morgan.—The Serenaders are scoring a success here; the Carpos Bros., acrobats, are a smart turn; and Shirley and Ransome are popular in *'Arf a Quid*. Others are Will Millington, My Lady Dainty, the Two Errolls, Alec Kennedy, &c., and the Pepiscope.

CARMARTHEN. — Assembly Rooms. — Proprietors, Public Rooms Co.; Secretary, Mr. Edward Baldwin.—Messrs. Harry and Fred Poole's No. 1 Myrioramaand combination of variety artists opened for three nights on Monday evening. The pictures exhibited were a fine lot, and included all the latest comic and sensational subjects; and the tour round the world, illustrative of the leading events, was thoroughly appreciated by the large audiences. Mr. Richard Karsy's giant myriophone proved a great musical attraction; Mr. Bert Gates was a most capable guide and a clever ventriloquist; Mr. Harry Dowsett, in his illustrated songs, was very entertaining; the George French troupe were extraordinarily clever trick cyclists; Miss Phyllis St. Clair scored in her operatic and ballad songs; Learto and his dog "Babs" showed remarkable skill in their musical act; while the Snow Family in their eccentric and expert skating act, were smart and amusing. The orchestral band, under the direction of Mr. Fred Bescoby, supplied choice music. The general manager was Mr. Charles Poole, and the stage manager Mr. Bert Gates.

CASTLEFORD.—Royal.—Sole Proprietor and Licensee, Mr. Chas. Gadsby; Business-Manager, Councillor Hy. Masterman, J.P.—An excellent bill is this week provided by Mr. Fred C. Somerfield's capital company with the sensational drama *Geoffrey Langdon's Wife*. The scenery is excellent, and all work well for the general effect. Mr. Paul Beckett as Felix Beverley is the central figure, and as the gentlemanly villain, brings to bear on his rôle the skill of an experienced actor; Miss Mary Lovett gracefully and sympathetically fills the part of Mary, and her acting throughout is a fine study; an admirable exponent of Jack Stirling is to hand in Mr. Edward E. Ashby, who has a style that is equally natural and agreeable; Sweet Nancy is played by Miss Katie Lever, whose mannerisms cause genuine humour; Miss Kathleen Magee exhibits much skill as the Hon. Mrs. Sands; Geoffrey Langdon finds an exceptionally good representative in Mr. Wilson Summers; and Mr. Cyril Grier makes a dignified and impressive Colonel Mills; very amusing is Mr. Percy Brown as Thomas; and Mr. Victor Raymond causes many a hearty laugh as Charles; Mr. Arthur Lowry's interpretation of Arthur Bellairs is a meritorious one.

Queen's Theatre of Varieties. — Proprietors, Messrs. Chas. Beanland and W. H. Emerson; General-Manager, Mr. Will. H. Emerson.—Topping the bill here is Mr. Leo Carle, who impersonates no less than twelve different characters in a one-man drama, *The Betrayed Professor*; he also plays the violin well, and his turn catches on immensely. Kerr and Shaw dispense harmony, vocal and instrumental, and their patter is good; Max Merlin is a contortionist of more than average ability, and is loudly applauded; Tony Iveson is a clever pianist, and his funny business is highly appreciated; the Reays as silver chain acrobats give a capital display of muscular feats, both neat and graceful; Arthur St. Clair sings songs which are invariably to the taste of the audience; Melvin and Max are a couple of Canadian dancers who fix the attention of the house with their skill; and some excellent pictures by the Loyal Dominion Company are vastly enjoyed.

CHORLEY (Lancs.).—Grand Theatre.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. G. T. Santé; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank Santé.—Mr. W. W. Kelly's company in *A Royal Divorce* is here this week on a return visit, and on Monday opened to a capital house. Napoleon is undertaken by Mr. Keith Fraser in an admirable manner; Talleyrand being capitally rendered by Mr. Percy H. Vernon; Mr. Stanley Harrison as the Marquis de Beaumont is decidedly good; Mr. Ernest Plumpton excellently presents General Augereau; Mr. G. Hudson is conspicuous as Grimaud; and Bob Royal is well sustained by Mr. J. O'Brien. Miss Margaret Watson gives a fine exposition of the Empress Josephine, winning entire approbation; Miss Maude Lacy delightfully renders Stephanie de Beauharnais; Miss W. Tempest cleverly interprets Marie Louise; and Miss Marie Johns is capital as Jean la Terreure. The scenery and dressing is excellent.

COLCHESTER. — Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Colchester Hippodrome Co.; Directors, Messrs. Fredk. Mouillot and Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. Ben de Frece.—The holiday bill is headed by the American Elephant Trio, a capital animal turn; Harry Tate's company in *Fishing* is thoroughly enjoyed, being intensely droll; the Woolhafs, comedy duo, are bright and versatile; Sergeant Mumford, the soldier on the slack wire, is well received; Arthur Pier, character vocalist, does well with his *Dream* song-scena; and Nora Noble sings and dances satisfactorily. Pathé films form a big item, and the coloured numbers are specially effective.

CONSETT.—New Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Lloyd Clarance.—A large audience assembled on Monday to witness Mr. Douglas Bruce's company in *The Girl Who Lost Her Character*. As the Rev. R. Everton Mr. E. M'Lean appears to great advantage; as Jack England Mr. Harold McCartney scores a success; Mr. R. Ferris as Captain Geoffrey Caversham has a difficult and unpopular part, which he sustains with ease and effect; Mr. G. Mitchell gives a good account of himself as James Sutten; whilst Mr. A. Bowerman is clever as Detective Weathersby. In the title rôle Miss Violet Lawson is most effective, and the part of Marion Franklyn is well sustained by Miss Lydia Mannington; Rose Seymour is ably played by Miss S. Hare. The comedy parts are well looked after by Mr. G. H. Asquin, and Miss Mary Poulton as Dick Punch and Isabella Jones respectively.

COVENTRY.—The Empire Theatre.—Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Dance; Manager, Mr. K. Draco.—A capital programme has been arranged here for the holiday week, the chief attraction being the appearance of the world renowned Troba, the great juggler, who performs tricks great and small. Friend and Downing are smart comedians, their songs and patter being particularly taking; Natalie and Diana are clever gymnasts, and do a graceful act on the trapeze; Pasquali Brothers prove equilibrists of extraordinary ability; Milner and Storey are a capable comedy duo; Johnny Walker gives an amusing account of his troubles on the football field; Joe Hunter is a comedian; the Bioscope pictures conclude.

Hippodrome.—Manager, Mr. Newsome; Resident-Manager, Mr. Wright.—The great attraction here this week is La Milo. She poses as Venus di Milo, the famous world-known statue Omnia Vanitas, Diana, Una and the Lion, Ceres, the Goddess of Harvest, and Lady Godiva. Rapturous applause greets each representation. The other artists who appear during the evening are Mr. G. W. Hunter, comedienne and dancer; Ralph and Nellie Howard, in a musical comedy act; Signor and Mme. Borelli, a pair of very clever acrobats; the Onyx Duo, lady dancers and quick-change artists; the Brothers Zenary, acrobats; Leo Trainor, comedian; and a local trio the Three Spires.

CREWE.—Opera House.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. G. Dudley Bennett; Resident-Manager, Mr. Chas. Howard.—Messrs. Fred J. Little and Fred Darcy's pantomime *The Forty Thieves* was produced here on Monday. The scenery has been specially painted for the production, and the dresses are beautiful and costly. The principal parts are in capable hands, and the piece goes with a merry swing right through. As Ali Baba Mr. Wal Croft is a success, his various songs meeting with deserved applause; Mr. Reg Ewen as Cogia Baba gives a very creditable performance; Mr. Ted Wootten is well suited as Cassim Baba; Messrs. Sandy and Carl are clever knockabouts; and Mr. Charles Weldon is good as Mustapha. The leading boy is in the capable hands of Miss Mary Poulton, and she makes a handsome and dashing Ganem; Mlle. Carita is a sweet Morgiana, and sings excellently; and Miss Isa Bell is a commanding Abdallah; Misses F. Fox and N. Wilton appear successfully as Hajam and Hoolam respectively; the Esmeralda Girls are clever dancers; and specialities are given by the Five X-Rays and the Cavallotti Bros.

CROYDON.—Hippodrome and Theatre Royal.—Manager, Mr. Harry Osmond.—Animated pictures exhibited here are well received.

Empire Palace of Varieties.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Walter Gibbons and Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Eustace Jay.—The graphic sketch *A Daughter of Pleasure* affords scope for splendid acting by Mr. J. G. Grahame, jun., and Miss Zerlina Harrington; Fred Earle, comedian, is always a welcome Croydon favourite; Kurkamp, the singing conductor, deserves congratulations for his novel turn; Eugenie Fougere, comedienne and dancer has plenty of go; Olga Dore is an operatic actress with a fine voice; Fred Hastings is a capital descriptive comedian; and others who make up a palatable bill of fare are Webb and Branston, operatic duettists; Edie Anderson, comedienne; Ernest Shand, versatile comedian; and Hammond and Wyat. Ruffell's Imperial Bioscope is a success.

DERBY.—Grand Theatre and Opera House.—Sole Proprietor and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Charles Denley.—This house of entertainment is closed this week, but re-opens on Saturday, the 26th inst., with the pantomime *Aladdin*, which has been arranged by Mr. Arthur Carlton.

Palace.—Lessee and General-Manager, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes.—An excellent programme here this week is headed by Ted Karno and company in the pantomimical absurdity *The Dinner Hour*, which keeps the audience in a continual roar of laughter. The Rangers, described as masters of the wheel, are to be complimented on a smart and neatly finished performance; Chas. Craston fully sustains his designation as a quaint comedian, and is cordially received; Harry Friskey, a unique American comedy juggler, is both clever and diverting; the Keiths, instrumentalists and xylophonists, are heartily appreciated; Maggie Rimmer is a dainty comedienne and dancer, and possessed of a charming style; and Ess and Hoey provide some very clever dancing on skates and skis. The Bioscope contributes an exciting film to a capital holiday entertainment.

DUBLIN.—Queen's Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. W. S. Pearce; Manager, Mr. E. Hereford Jones.—The pictures are of an attractive nature, and include the pantomime Blue Beard, For a Crown, Shadow of a Crime, &c. The variety artists appearing are the Ellarslies, in their amusing episode *The Taxi Man*; Handell, in a clever facial portraiture act; and Bob Pearson, humorist and guide. Good houses are the rule.

Empire.—General-Manager, Mr. Frank Allen; Acting-Manager's Secretary, Mr. George H. Marsh.—Gustave Fasola, the famous Indian magician, forms the star turn here this week, and his mystifying performance is cheered to the echo nightly. Henry Coutts and company appear in an ingeniously worked sketch entitled *Outflanked*, which is well appreciated; Harry Grey, the Australian Nugget, fully sustains his reputation as a comedian; an excellent turn is provided by Sybil Lester, who renders her songs with taste and expression; Nellie Coleman, female comedian, earns a large share of applause; and Percy Honri contributes selections on the concertina to the evident pleasure of the audience. Reilly and Templeton, "the Dutch girl and the dame," create uproarious laughter; and Olive Armadale, a dainty soubrette, meets with the hearty approval of the house. The Empire pictures are thoroughly enjoyed.

Tivoli.—General-Manager, Mr. Charles M. Jones; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. A. Murphy.—The top of the bill here is occupied by Mr. H. Nuttall's company in an excellent sketch entitled *The Ghost of Jerry Bundler*, which meets with a gratifying reception; Lee and Kingston, a smart pair of duologue artists, cause continuous merriment; and the choice singing of the Sisters Draycott evokes loud applause. A distinct hit has been made by Phern and Phern in their musical speciality act; Rozel scores successfully in his sensational gymnastic performance; Satani introduces a new and novel scena of mystery, which is well received; George Hall is a capital comedian and whistler; Recco, burlesque acrobat, supplies an amusing turn; and Maude Clifton, a pleasing comedienne, and the Bioscope, depicting the Water Carrier, complete the programme.

Round Room Rotunda.—The Irish Animated Company reopened for the Christmas season here on Tuesday last, when a capital entertainment was submitted and heartily enjoyed by a large and appreciative audience. The pictures include many novelties, and the variety programme is well supported by Miss Agnes Meehan, soprano vocalist; Mr. William Grant and Mr. Patrick O'Shea (tenor). The Grandpierre Orchestra performs musical selections.

World's Fair and Music Hall.—Proprietor, Mr. C. A. James.—The capital programme submitted here this week includes Professor Green and Son, with their Punch and Judy show; Miss Vera Winston, ballad vocalist; Jack Danby, society conjurer; the Zingaras, comedy entertainers; and the cinematograph showing the pantomime Beauty and the Beast.

DUDLEY. — Empire. — Managing-Director, Mr. Fred H. Anderson; Acting-Manager, Mr. F. H. Waters.—Heading the bill is Tom Watts, in a most interesting Indian scena entitled *Black Eagle*; Mona Vivian is a remarkably clever young artist, who gives promise of a future; the Gondolier Singers render some good glees in fine style; some exceptionally clever clog-dancing was performed by an unnamed artist; Ruhart fetched the house down with his comical and decidedly original productions. Other good turns billed were the Seymons, jugglers; Don Tressler, comedian; Edie and Amie, in *The Newspaper Kiosk*; and Vera Guyon, comedienne; while the Empire pictures preserve popularity.

DUNDEE.—Her Majesty's Theatre.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Manager, Mr. Louis Karpe.—The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company is appearing here this week. The performance of *The Mikado* was hugely appreciated on Monday evening by a packed house. Mr. Fred Billington's Pooh-Bah seems to improve with age, his inimitable singing and humour carrying his audience with him; Mr. Charles R. Walenn infused a great deal of life into the part of Ko-Ko, and sang his songs in delightful fashion; Mr. Leicester Tunke as the Mikado was deservedly encored for his great song; Mr. Stafford Moss was an excellent Nanki-Poo, his "A wandering minstrel I" eliciting a warm encore; Miss Clara Dow was a delightful Yum-Yum, her acting and singing being excellent; Miss Beatrice Meredith was an attractive Pitti-Sing, and Peep-Bo was cleverly undertaken by Miss Mabel Graham; Miss Ethel Morrison was a most impressive Katisha, scoring a notable success in "The hour of gladness." On Tuesday *H.M.S. Pinafore* was played, preceded by Cellier's *After All*. *The Yeomen of the Guard* and *The Gondoliers* are also billed.

Palace Theatre. — Lessees, the United County Theatres, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. S. McIntosh.—Mr. Jack Haddon's pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk* began its second week's engagement here on Monday. Several new songs and dances have been introduced, and the comedians have invented new patter. It is altogether a delightfully bright production. Misses Alma Obrey and Bessie Knight as Jack and Dora respectively sing and dance in charming fashion, while Mr. Bob Baxter as Silly Billy and Messrs. O'Malley and Brown as Pip and Pap are excruciatingly funny fellows. In addition to the pantomime Reg Bolton, in a clever scena, *The Editor's Imp*, and Arthur Woodville, a rattling good comedian, also contribute enjoyable items.

Gaiety Theatre.—Lessee, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Licensee and Manager, Mr. W. E. Potts; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—Mrs. Lillie Williams's second pantomime this season, *Dick Whittington*, was produced here on Monday evening, a full notice of which appears in another column.

Empire Theatre.—Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. Lillie Williams; Business-Manager, Mr. Frank Percival.—The Prince Edward Pictures are proving a source of great enjoyment to large crowds here. Amongst those exhibited are Leah the Forsaken, a very fine film depicting a romance of Jewish life, An Evening in the Camp, The Wages of Sin, The Pirate's Gold, Christmas Comes but Once a Year, What Happened to Jones, &c. The varieties include Leslie Clements, a smart coon vocalist, and Bob Sloan, an entertaining comedian.

Newman's Picture Palace.—Mr. Fred Newman's programme of pictures includes The Heroine, a very fine American film, The Smoked Husband, Man and Woman, Saved by Santa Claus, the Pirate in the Harem, Polly's Excursions, Poor Old Cabby, &c. Ondra, a funny juggler and triple bar comedian, contributes a very clever turn.

EASTBOURNE.—Royal Hippodrome.—Managing-Director, Mr. Sidney W. Winter; District-Manager, Mr. George Egbert; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Holloway.—At the head of the bill are the Four Delawares, who are clever sand dancers and comedians on a billiard table; Mr. Ronald Bayne and Miss Evelyn Hope do able work in their costume scena *An Emperor's Divorce*; Mr. Joe Mac amuses as a pattering comedian; Leaton and Lane claim a good share of applause for their comedy duologue; Miss Ethel Dove is a pleasing vivacious dancer and comedienne; Cadwell and Verne contribute funny and popular work, *Early Closing Day*; Miss May Day sings and dances well, and new pictures are shown.

ECCLES.—Crown Theatre.—Proprietors, Messrs W. H. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Albert Rogers.—George Lawrence, light comedian and actor-vocalist, receives a hearty welcome, and is encored; Dan Merrett gives a clever drumming exhibition; Cara Magda submits a finished gymnastic performance; A Ba-Be's Picture Postcard Album is quite unique; Herbert and Linden are accomplished comedians and dancers; Mack Olive, assisted by Miss Daisy Baldry, pleases in a whistling scena; George Aire, character vocalist, is funny; Ritchie Hearn presents *The Village Fire Brigade*, which proves attractive; and A Tramp's Daughter is depicted on the Bioscope.

EXETER. — New Hippodrome. — Proprietors, Messrs. Fred Karno and A. H. Edwards; Resident-Manager, Mr. Frederick Sandy.—The management have made a special effort to provide the public with the very best talent this Christmas week, and there is no doubt from the patronage they are receiving that they have succeeded. Fred Elton opens in a scena entitled *On Board an Ocean Liner*, rendering two good songs; R. A. Speedwell, the wizard painter, gives a fine exhibition of portrait painting; Cyrus Dare proves himself a versatile performer in a specially written song and monologue entitled "Old Father Christmas." John Warren presents "The Magic Carpet," a musical military mystery, invented, written, and introduced by himself, and entirely mystifies the audience. He is ably assisted by Miss Mollie Wynter, whose whistling is loudly applauded. Ferris and May cause roars of laughter by their clever acting of a musical comedy spasm, *Two's Company, Three's ——?* A wonderful and brilliant musical act is that by Edward Crosland's Melody Makers. Their voices are good, while their dancing and pianoforte playing are decidedly clever. The Hippodrome pictures complete, while the orchestra is under the able direction of Mr. H. D. Booth.

GATESHEAD. — King's Theatre. — Lessees, United County Theatres, Ltd.; Local Manager and Licensee, Mr. Harold Arnold.—Fred Karno's company in *The Dandy Thieves* is a popular star turn here; the Five Musical Tritons are also well appreciated; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Finden in clever impersonations make a "hit"; Wilfred Burnard in a similar line pays a return visit; Gertrude Moore is a distinctly clever dancer; the Sisters Batson, duettists and dancers, provide an enjoyable turn; and the usual pictures complete an attractive bill.

Metropole Theatre.—Lessee, Mr. F. W. Bolam; General-Manager, Mr. R. G. Elder; Acting-Manager, M. Ernest Dixon.—Mr. John Gerant's company in *At Duty's Call* occupies the stage here. The story of Gordon and Khartoum is efficiently told by clever actors and actresses, Mr. Gerant ably sustaining the rôle of Harold Allison, whilst Mr. Ernest St. John makes up capitally as Gordon.

GLASGOW.—Theatre Royal, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. Percy Humphreys.—*Cinderella* has now got into working order, and there are many indications that the pantomime is going to have a very successful run. Admirably acted throughout, the charming scenery, effective staging, and elaborate dressing all go to make a most enjoyable performance. Miss Iris Hoey as Cinderella easily succeeds in gaining the appreciation of the audience. Her style is bright and refined, and she possesses a good voice. Miss Violet Loraine as Prince of Floravia is very attractive, and plays the part in a graceful and becoming manner. The William Buttons of Mr. George Robey is just in that able comedian's particular line, and he invests the part with many laughter-producing aspects. Another diverting performance must be credited to Mr. Harry Dent as Baron Beauregarde, who is responsible for some genuinely funny business. Mr. Willie Garvey also scores as Mrs. Kilkenny, whose antics cause endless amusement; Dandini secures a talented exponent in Miss Meg Hamylton, who sings and dances delightfully; Miss Pankie Kilkenny and Miss Hardie Kilkenny are divertingly portrayed by the Brothers Obo; Miss Edith Kirkwood sings her numbers sweetly as the good fairy Flora; and Mr. Vernon Booth does well as Aconite.

King's Theatre, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Business-Manager, Mr. Hugh Macfarlane.—The holiday attraction here is Messrs. George Edwardes and Chas. Frohman's company in *A Waltz Dream*, for the first time out of London. The engagement is for four weeks, and an auspicious start was made on Monday, when a well-filled house received the new operetta with enthusiasm. Mr. Robert Evett appears in his original part of Lieut. Niki, and in acting and singing he proves an ideal representative. All his songs were encored, the melodious waltz in particular. Miss May de Sousa is the Franzi, and very fetching she looks as the conductor of the ladies' band. She gives a bright and animated rendering of the part, and at once became a favourite. Miss Ethel Cadman as Princess Helene acts the character with charming grace and dignity, while her singing is a vocal treat of the first order. Miss Amy Augarde infuses a touch of humour into the part of Friedrike, and her rich voice proves of great value in the musical numbers. Mr. Eric Thorne again gives a study of elderly eccentricity as Joachim XIII., and his humorous efforts are ably seconded by Mr. Leslie Holland as Count Lothar; Mr. Willie Warde, jun., is very quaint as the waiter, Max Bauer; Miss May Marton, Miss Kathleen Hayes, and Miss Peggy Lorraine as three members of the ladies' orchestra take well in their songs and dances; Mr. J. Hamilton is well suited as Lieut. Montschi; and other parts are ably filled by Miss Mary Hamilton, and Messrs. Langford Kirby and Albert Kavanagh. There is an excellent chorus and augmented orchestra under the direction of Mr. Hamish MacCunn, and the ladies' orchestra on the stage is an attractive feature. The operetta is beautifully staged, and the dresses are exquisite.

Royalty, Ltd.—Managing-Director, Mr. F. W. Wyndham; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Carpenter.—The management here have secured exceedingly bright and attractive fare for the Christmas and New Year holidays in the beautiful production of *Butterflies* from the Apollo Theatre. As on the play's first visit to Glasgow, Mr. Louis Bradfield is master of the revels, and his Puck has lost none of its grace and lightness of touch; Miss Georgie Corlass is the Rhodanthe, and is highly successful in investing the rôle with the requisite dash and witchery; the Podmore of the cast is Mr. Blake Adams, whose talent for character-acting finds ample scope in the part; Max Rladore, the professional vocalist, is played most fittingly by Mr. Richard Green; Mr. W. Spray extracts a deal of humour from the part of the Chauffeur; Mrs. Podmore and her daughter are admirably represented by Miss Stella St. Audrie and Miss Constance Clive. The dreamy butterfly dance in the third act by Miss Phyllis Monkman is an artistic triumph; the lovers, Peter and Gilbert, have smart and handsome exponents in Mr. Roy Sydney and Mr. Arthur Hyde; Lelage and Myra are charmingly played by Miss Alice Sands and Miss Elsie Aston; the parts of Salome (Miss Gilbert) and Paul (Mr. Alfred Selby) being also well filled. The chorus and orchestra are under the direction of the composer, Mr. J. A. Robertson.

Grand.—Proprietor, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; District-Manager, Mr. B. G. Maclachlan; Resident-Manager, Mr. W. Christie Grant.—A visit to *Cinderella* at once confirms all the good things written about it, and that it should have proved itself such a success at this early date speaks volumes for its merits. In selecting such a capable artist as Miss Queenie Finnis for the wearer of the glass slipper great taste has been displayed. She sings admirably, her "Shadowland" being quite a feature.

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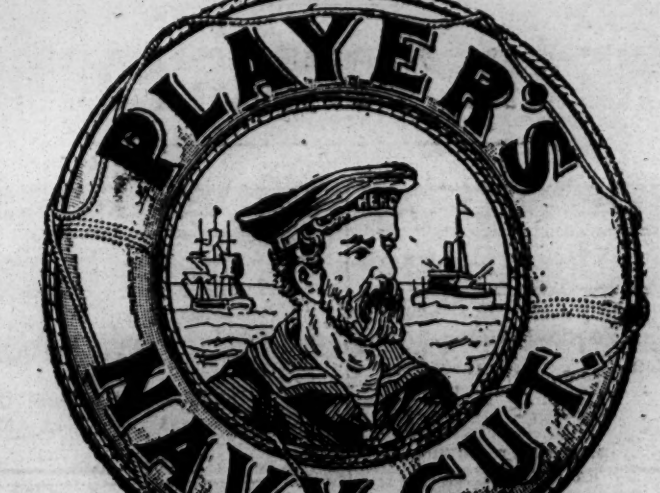

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As Prince Casimir Miss Violet Halls is extremely popular, and gets through her work in a smiling, breezy fashion which quite enlivens the part; Dandini, usually taken up by a member of the fairer sex, is this season in the hands of Mr. Whit Cunliffe, who makes the very most of the part and is well received. His songs are good, and to each is attached a chorus in which his audiences readily join. One of the successes of the pantomime is Mr. Geo. French as Hercules. This droll little comedian has thoroughly worked up the part, and his numerous appearances are greeted with roars of laughter. Much of the fun is also attributable to Mr. Tom Conway as Tiny, and in his conjoined work with Mr. French nothing more amusing could be desired. The parts of the ugly daughters, Araminta and Elvira, are excellently carried through by Miss Kate Walbran and Miss Nellie Cozens respectively. Favourable mention must be made of Mr. Barry Lupino as Capers. His all-round work is capital and his dancing clever, while his tumbling is far above the average. He is a pronounced favourite. Miss Nellie Wigley as the Duke of Whistbridge is also a capable little artist, and is well received. Miss Olive Tempest appears with much acceptance as the Fairy Godmother, and her singing is enjoyed; while as the Dream Fairy Miss Edie Doherty does well. Several excellent dances are given by the Lottie Stone troupe. The pantomime besides being comical is spectacular. The ballet is smart and neat, the singing of the chorus is well balanced, and the stage management is excellent.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Hugh Murdoch.—*Diccory Dok* continues its merry run, and the patronage bestowed on it predicts a most successful season. Than Miss Flora Cromer it would be difficult to secure a more spirited little artist. As Dick she is admirable, and her voice helps to make her an immense favourite. Those pantomime idols of last season, Miss Edith Haley and Miss Maggie Fraser, appear this year again, this time as Ronnie and Pansy. Encores are lustily called for at their each appearance. The pantomime would scarcely be complete without Miss Ella Retford. She appears as Winnie, and her singing and dancing cannot be too highly praised. As Matt and Jennie the Misses Bartholomew are in great demand. They are untiring in their efforts to please, and are rewarded with success. Messrs. Walker and Lake (Peter Birmingham and Harry Gribben) are not strangers, and in their individual parts are excellent. Their previous successes have made them all the rage, and the calls made upon them are numerous, as the patrons of the Princess's are not slow to recognise talent. As Tibbs, Mr. Ainslie Burton does all his part allows him to. He is a good comedian and a favourite. Mr. Walter Dale is allotted the part of Sparkle, and gets through his work well. As the Fairies, Discord and Sweetbriar, Miss May Beatrice and Miss Ivy Proudfoot are capital. The latter has a fine voice, and more opportunity might be given her. The ballet is strong and sings well, and the dancing neat and smart. The stage-management is voted excellent. Nothing but praise can be given the pantomime, which is laughable and thoroughly enjoyable.

METROPOLE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Arthur Jefferson; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Gordon Jefferson.—Fredk. Melville's striking play *Married to the Wrong Man* appeals strongly to the public taste. It is an excellent drama, cleverly written, which keeps the audience in a state of expectancy. The interest of the play centres upon the misfortunes which are heaped upon Jack Gladwin, a part that is admirably interpreted by Mr. Oswald Gray, who plays with vigour and manliness. A powerful performance comes from Miss Gertrude Boswell, who exhibits great ability in her reading of Ruth, the dumb girl. At all times Miss Boswell holds her audience, and in the chief scenes rises to the occasion with great force. Mr. H. Lane Bayliff finely depict the evil character of Captain Deering, and Mr. Arthur T. Lennard gives a very creditable impersonation of Sergeant Manners; while Miss Rosalie Notrello is seen to great advantage as Nurse Manners. Most of the humorous element is supplied by Mr. Sid Claydon as Timothy Clinker, who causes a good deal of mirth during the evening, being laudably aided by Miss May Davis as Dolly Fritters. Other parts are in good hands, and the play is staged in a most praiseworthy manner. The new drama is paying its first visit to Glasgow, and will be here over the Christmas and New Year holidays.

LYCEUM.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich. Waldon; Acting Manager, Mr. J. H. Oakden.—This week Mr. C. Watson Mill's company is here in *A Warning to Women*. The leading part is taken by Miss Blanche St. Albans, who as Moira Kennion contributes a very clever performance; Miss Edith Rutland as the cripple Myles O'Moore acts with much feeling and pathos; and the part of Molly O'Moore, the wise woman, is powerfully played by Miss Ellen Beverley. Mr. William Vane gives an excellent rendering of Shaun, a wandering minstrel; the Squire Kennion of Mr. Henry Rutland is a well-acted character; Mr. W. Palliser Acock infuses much life into the part of the Frenchman Ferdinand de Joules; Mr. Harry C. Robinson as the stranger, Dr. Dread, Mr. Chas. O'Connor as Fergus McNaughton, and Mr. Leicester Jackson as Lord Eversleigh also ably sustain their respective rôles. Mr. Oscar Power as Mick McQuade also deserves a special word of praise. The play is well staged.

EMPIRE.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. George Manners.—Van Biene, the actor-musician, is this week's principal attraction, and submits his one-act playlet entitled *The Master Musician*. Mr. Van Biene treated the part in an artistic manner, and at the finish was accorded an ovation. Able support is given by Miss Mary Mannering. Another interesting item is that provided by Miss Henriquette Maude, a New Zealand travelling girl, who is working her way round the world alone. Miss Maude relates in thrilling fashion her many experiences on the journey. The Delevines contribute an amusing musical turn, introducing their wonderful Scarecrow dance; and Fred Edwardes and company's sketch, *The Kleptomaniacs*, is received with outbursts of laughter. The remaining items of a good programme include Geo. Rae, Scotch comedian and eccentric dancer; the Channings, vocalists and instrumentalists; Cline and Clark, black and white comedy artists; May Edouin, in a musical comedy act; Alf Chester, comedian; and the Bioscope, with a series of interesting pictures.

PAVILION, LTD.—General-Manager, Mr. Samuel Lloyd; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Evan Good.—That popular comedy couple Jack and Evelyn head the bill here, and are responsible for a great many hearty laughs, their business being extremely clever; Lulu Evans, long associated with the D'Oyly Carte Répertoire Company, sings several characteristic songs; the quick-change sketch by Addie Dorina is cleverly worked, and the half dozen types of character she impersonates with much ability; a novelty acrobatic and ball juggling turn of great merit is given by the Four Athos; Blake and Amber are as clever a comedy duo as America has sent us for a long time, and their burlesque of grand opera is screamingly funny; Les Rubens in *The Fortune Tellers* combine smart humour with clever vocalisation; Rich. Taylor takes well as a whistling ventriloquist; and a neat juggling turn is that of Gicardo, the youthful juggler.

ZOO-HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Councillor E. H. Bostock; Acting-Manager, Mr. E. H. A. Bostock.—Mooney and Holbein top the bill this week, and present a laughable sketch called *Oysters, a Shilling a Bucket*; the Four Royal Scots are accomplished ladies, who submit a variety of Scottish airs, both vocal and instrumental, and perform a Scotch reel in true Highland style; W. L. Murray possesses immense muscular development, and poses as a modern athlete and a Roman gladiator; Jack Lane is an amusing artist, who gives several musical items, including two tunes on the piano and a song at the same time; Leotard Brothers are clever pierrots and acrobats, who do wonderful balancing and hat-throwing feats; Stella Dell gives well-rendered songs in a pleasing voice; S. Bedford and company elicit roars of laughter with their sketch called *The Second Mrs. Chester*; the Lorrisons are an amusing couple who keep the fun going merrily; the Sisters Brookland are graceful dancers and tuneful singers. The Bioscope winds up an excellent entertainment.

PALACE.—Proprietor, Mr. Rich Waldon; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harry McKelvie.—A very good entertainment is provided here this week, the chief attraction being the Hiatts, who give a musical comedy which is highly appreciated by the audience; Will Goodwin is well received, his songs being rendered in his usual excellent style; his daughter Gladys, who is only fourteen years of age, sings a couple of songs very cleverly; George Prince gives several of his funny ditties, which are received with hearty applause; the Prince Milner Trio take very well in a distinctly original acrobatic hoop and wire-walking display; Barney Noble, "the man in naval uniform," makes a capital impression; Nellie Martell, a smart comedienne, and the New York Nippers are also pleasing items. The Palacescope shows A Wife's Honour and other up-to-date pictures, and comes in for a good share of applause.

COLISEUM.—District-Manager, Mr. S. Gething; Resident-Manager, Mr. Harry Burdette.—Fred Karno's sketch *The Bailiff* tops the bill this week, with Albert Bruno in the chief rôle, and a well-merited reception was accorded. Able support is given by Kate Forster, Julia Bassett, Lydia Weber, H. Soutar, Buchanan Wake, &c. Ross and Lewis, the Yankee Doodle Duo, are really amusing; Conway and Leland, the one-legged cyclists give a merry and clever display; Bertha Winder, the champion clog-dancer, does some neat and tricky steps; Pete and Minnie Lee are among friends in Glasgow, and their little comedy *The Scotchman's Visit to London* is smart; Austin Rudd has some clever humorous songs, and sings them well; some quaint long-boot dancing is contributed by the Three Cape Girls; and the Brothers Bright as athletes are well up to their work. The picture song this week, "She was a grand old lady," is effectively rendered by Mr. Hugh Barclay.

PANOPTICON.—Proprietor, Mr. A. E. Pickard.—There is a good all-round entertaining programme here this week, and one of the chief items is the novelty gymnastic performance of Noel, who exhibits wonderful skill; Elsie Gray proves highly acceptable; Klean and Klever are most amusing and excel as dancers; and the Bioscope, with a pleasing series of pictures, is much enjoyed.

GLOUCESTER. — PALACE.—Owners, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole.—The Ten Courtiers, including Mr. Hilton St. Just in a musical mélange, founded on *The Bohemian Girl*, top the bill. A popular turn is that of Amy Anderson and company in *The Banana Queen*, which goes with a roar; Doody and Wright, with new business, are heartily welcomed, and the Zaid Trio do well; Frank Street patters and sings in smart style; the Spreos, with *The Rustic and the Maid*, are very successful, and Miss May Audrey wins applause for her popular songs. The Palacescope has a good film, The Making of a Newspaper.

KING'S HALL.—Lessees, Messrs. Poole's Theatres, Ltd.—So successful have the animated pictures and illustrated songs become since their inception here that matinées are also now announced.

GRAVESEND.—GRAND THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Manager, Mr. T. W. Wright.—A good company is in evidence here this week. The Three Orros in their wonderful herculean performance on the silver chains have found much favour; Harry Hasto is a lively comedian; La Danseuse, in a dancing scena, *Santa Claus*, pleases greatly; Boyd and Gilfain in their burletta *Sunny Spain* score heavily; the original Roxbys in their unique speciality, artists on three legs, are a decidedly good turn; Charles Matteson, comedian, is extremely popular, and Cole and Rags, who make their first appearance at this hall, prove very clever juggling eccentrics.

GREAT YARMOUTH.—ROYAL AQUARIUM THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Nightingale.—Owing to the great success of Mr. Horace Stanley and his company in the *10.30 Down Express* they were retained for the first four nights of this week.

HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor and Manager, Mr. George Gilbert.—Excellent turns are being presented here this week. The Aeroplanes are creating a sensation by their wonderful aerial performance; the Four Scoreys appear in an exceptionally smart and unique musical act; Dan Noble is a funny comedian; Marie York is a charming comedienne; the Royal Ohmye give a daring equestrian performance; Roseltha is a charming dancer; Wragg and Wragg give a first-rate military display; the Franko Midgets delight everyone with their legerdemain; Doodles introduces two very funny absurdities which create roars of laughter from start to finish.

THE GEM.—Proprietors, the Yarmouth Amusement Centre, Ltd.; Resident-Director, Mr. C. B. Cochran; Manager, Mr. Sidney Lawrence.—An exceptionally fine set of pictures are being shown here this week. A very picturesque film illustrating Victoria Falls takes first place. The illustrated song "Dreamland" is very popular.

HALIFAX. — THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling.—Hardie and Von Leer's company are at the Royal this week with *The Sailor's Wedding*. Mr. C. W. Standing's Gordon Dr. e stands out as a fine piece of work; Sir Victor Lascelles, as played by Mr. Cecil Klein, is another good impersonation; Mr. H. Taylor is a good Ferici; Mr. F. F. Smiles is excellent in the difficult part of Giacomo; Miss Laura Hansen is in turn strong and sympathetic, and makes an ideal Countess Bellini; Miss Mary Pemberton is a graceful and winning Mary; Lenore de Gresac is an excellent character, well played by Miss Winifred Pearson. All the smaller parts are exceedingly well played. The drama is beautifully staged.

THE PALACE AND HIPPODROME, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Reg. H. Foster.—The Carmos introduce some herculean juggling and balancing feats that are new, clever, and pretty; Dora Poole and Fred Maguire are most successful in a comedy duo. They both possess good voices. The Lizette Troupe are four ladies who do some marvellous tumbling, and gain unstinted applause; the Milton Trio are clever paper tearers and excellent dancers; Chas. Lewis is a clever ventriloquist on novel lines; H. O. Lovell and company are successful in a well-acted sketch, *Mam'selle Pom Pom*; Mollie Augarde, a good singer, meets with applause; Marion Armitage is a quaint comedienne; Raymond's Bio-tableaux show some excellent pictures.

GRAND THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Winks.—Good pictures are being shown here as the principal attraction; Ada Jackson, blind soprano, is meeting with emphatic approval; Sam Clarke is a good comedian, with some funny patter.

HAMILTON, N.B.—HIPPODROME.—Sole Proprietor, Mr. R. H. Bostock; Resident-Manager, Mr. René Clayton.—Miss Lillie Williams's pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe and His Man Friday*, is being produced here twice nightly, and judging from Monday night's reception is proving a big favourite. Miss Amy Randolph is a dashing exponent of the title-rôle; and Miss May Carter sings and acts prettily as Polly Perkins, Robin's sweetheart. Mr. Fred Davis simply revels in devilry as Will Atkins; and Mr. G. Telly Dillsen proves a great mirth-maker as Mrs. Crusoe. The singing of Miss Dora Lindsay is excellent, as is also her comedy work with Bo'sun Bill (Mr. Brete Harte). Specialities are the Ten Dixie Girls, Justin and Mantell, the Sisters Selwyn, the Sisters Poole Pelham, and Lindsay and Harte. The scenery and dresses are excellent, and the whole show goes with a fine swing from beginning to end.

HANLEY. — GRAND. — Proprietors, Hanley Theatres and Circus Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Chas. G. Elphinstone; Manager, Mr. Arthur Rand.—A good bill this week includes Barton and Ashley, in a new farcical creation, *Adam the Second*, which is most amusing; Matthews and Cowper appear in a cleverly-played sketch entitled *The Tale of a New Laid Egg*; the Lester Bros. are smart dancers; Lyster and Cooke, xylophone and bell players of decided merit; Bonnetti and Corrie, eccentric jugglers; Clarice Clarke, character vocalist; the Pattersons, in a brilliant bar act; Bob Hamilton, a Scotch comedian of distinct skill; and Raymond's Pictures, showing Louis XVII.'s Martyrdom.

KING'S.—Lessees, Messrs. Moore and Kennedy; Resident-Manager, Mr. H. Kennedy.—The Ediscope and Barnum's Electric Pictures continue to attract packed houses twice nightly. This week's programme is well selected, including as it does A Gipsy's Love, The Poacher's Daughter, The American Fireman, The Nephew's Trouble, A Pinch of Snuff, The Girl and the Outlaw, &c. Miss Vesta Nixon is a charming dancer and soubrette, and her efforts are much enjoyed.

HARROGATE.—GRAND OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Eric Fielding Smith.—Messrs. Murray King and Clark's company is here with *Toddles*. Mr. Murray King as Toddles was a host in himself, and had able assistance from Mr. Alick Chumley as Freddy Gunner; Mr. C. Douglas Cox did what was required as Haslitt; Mr. Ardene Linden was excellent as Mr. Joblyn; Miss Evelyn Shelley was quite at home in the rôle of Mrs. Joblyn; Miss Naomi Neilson made a handsome and dignified Lady Dover, and Miss Ada Champion was well suited as the Countess de Chambray.

ST. JAMES'S HALL.—Managing-Director, Mr. S. Carter; General-Manager, Mr. F. D. Sunderland; Resident-Manager, Mr. Fred Parker.—A new dramatic film is shown here, The Bellringer's Daughter; the Man in Overalls and the Sausage Stealers are comic; Mr. R. Abbot presents his canine marvel, Buxam.

HASTINGS.—PUBLIC HALL.—Sub-Lessees, The People's Picture Palace Company; Managing-Director, Mr. F. R. Griffiths; Local Manager, Mr. H. W. James.—The Christmas programme includes some excellent films, among them being The Wreckers, or Pirates of the Ocean, For His Child's Sake, and A Bird of Freedom. Mr. Alf. Aubyn in character specialities provides an agreeable interlude.

PIER PAVILION. — General-Manager, Mr. J. D. Hunter.—During the early part of the week the entertainment consisted entirely of special subjects shown by Walter Payne's Bio-photoscope. On Boxing Day Mr. J. D. Hunter's thirtieth annual Christmas pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, was to be produced.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. H. Vivian Fisher; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Walter Norman.—An excellent and varied entertainment here is opened by Miss Carlotta Lunn, an attractive vocalist; George Gulliver is an original and clever ventriloquist; as instrumentalists on bells, &c., the Three Transfields, lady musicians, quite excel; a very amusing musical duologue is introduced by Frank Belford and Ethel Mars; Harry Bent shows great ability as a mimic and humorist; some graceful dancing and skilful juggling is shown by the Spanish Goldini Troupe, the four artists being singularly smart.

HULL.—THE HIPPODROME.—Lessee, Mr. Alfred Graham; Manager, Mr. Harry Dunford.—Mr. Alfred Graham's Own Juveniles are making a welcome reappearance; Lena Brunton cleverly impersonates other artists. Other good turns include Fox and Melville; Bros. Lawrence; Frank Bernard and Co., who stay a second week; Sterling and Cashen, in a novelty act, *The New Army*; and W. B. Raby.

THE EMPIRE.—Lessee, Mr. Harry Slingsby.—The Paul Hessie trio are the principal turn in a smart wire act; following close in popularity is the engagement of F. A. Martell, who dances on his finger tips and balances himself on one finger. Other artists who take well include Billy Burns, the Pearlmans, Chas. Call (in some nice songs), W. E. Hilton, and Lucy Gillet.

THE CIRCUS.—Resident-Manager, Mr. E. Emerson.—Animated pictures are drawing record houses.

HUDDERSFIELD.—HIPPODROME, LTD.—Resident-Manager, Mr. N. M. Robinson.—This week's programme is notable for a very realistic snake dance by Miss Irma Lorraine, who includes in her répertoire some charming representations of living pictures. Other turns are provided by Miss Nellie Walton, vocalist; Harold Heath, comedian; Luis Hardt, the "boy Samson"; Douglas and Gordon, singers and dancers; the Weimars, musical comedians; the Northcotes, duettists; and the Five Whiteleys, in a clever acrobatic act. There are some very interesting pictures on the Bioscope.

JARROW.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Hugh Robertson; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. H. Locke.—Miss Ellen Snow's company is here with *Why Men Love Women*. Mr. O. Rogers gives a manly portrayal of the part of Gerald Feilding; Mr. L. Gadsen is a powerful Capt. Staniloff; and to the part of Lieut. Tommy Fitzherbert full justice is done by Mr. Slaughter; Mr. Griffen making an ideal Maharajah; Mr. Arthur Radford gives a good account of Chundra Singh; Mr. Harwood Roberts is an excellent Orlando; and Miss Ellen Snow is simply charming as Violet Livingstone; Miss Florence Nelson is also successful in the part of Muriel.

KIRKCALDY.—HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—Dr. Walford Bodie is again with us, and is attracting huge audiences nightly, who marvel at his wonderful work; the Garden Troupe of international dancers eclipse anything we have seen here in that particular line; and turns are provided by Fred Collins, Scotch comedian, Dolly Robson, Sisters Raro, and Cora Kent, comediennes, and Dover and Dene, sketch artists. The pictures conclude the entertainment.

PAVILION.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. G. W. Walker.—Marquis and Truly top the bill here with a clever song, dance, and acrobatic turn; Mr. Wallace Muirhead, illustrated song singer, is retained another week owing to success; and Mr. Dan Fraser, Scotch comedian, is making a big hit. Kate Gourlay, comedienne and dancer, is also successful. The pictures are very good.

LANCASTER.—GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Stanley Rogers; Acting-Manager, Mr. B. C. Howitt.—Closed until Saturday.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. J. Porter and W. J. Fergusson.—Charcot is at the head of the bill here this week, and fairly baffles his audiences; Hewson's Æolians supply a pleasing dancing act; and Ingram and Irving appear with much success in a sketch, *The New Office Boy*. Jack Rae is a smart gymnast; Siddar and Dunbar are well received in a musical turn; and Gillin, ventriloquist, is very good. Through Millie Anderson being indisposed, her place was taken by Miss Alice Nuttall, who has a sweet voice, and knows how to use it. She has a flattering reception. The Hippograph is still an attraction.

LEICESTER.—PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; District-Manager, Mr. Hatton Wharton; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. Finch-Hatton; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. S. Buccleuch.—Mr. Fred Karno's company of comedians, headed by Harry Weldon as Stiffy, in *The Football Match*, are popular and mirth-provoking; Mr. Henry Carlton and company appear in the musical absurdity *The Window Cleaner*. Mr. Carlton as Billy Shine scores a conspicuous success. The Dumond Trio are smart vocalists and instrumentalists, and are seen and heard to great advantage in their musical mélange, *Parisian Street Singers*; Victor Newman is remarkably clever in his impersonations from Shakespeare and Dickens; the Four Figaros are good in *Ten Minutes on the Continent*, a most interesting turn; Arthur Astill is a first-rate whistling mimic; Maude Vera, a young and dainty comedienne and speciality dancer, maintains her popularity; Frank Sylvo is a quaint comedian and juggler, who is both funny and clever; and the Bioscope throws a clear picture of Italian cavalry in feats of horsemanship.

PAVILION THEATRE.—Proprietor and Director-General, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Acting-Manager, Mr. Joe Lawrence.—The principal attraction here is Mr. J. Wright Aitken and company, in the domestic sketch *The Battle of Life*, in which Mr. J. Wright Aitken is conspicuously successful as John Melville, being admirably supported by Miss Laura A. Pardy, Miss Una Lindley, and Mr. Geo. Stanley. The sketch, which is being presented for the first time locally, is having a gratifying reception; Venturini bewilders the audience with his illusion, entitled "D-a-o-s"; and other thoroughly enjoyable turns are supplied by Diamond and Hart, comedians and dancers; Vere and Royce, comedy vaudeville artists; Chas. Lilburn, a man with many funniosities; Gladys Whitton, vocalist; Ray Royal, comedienne; and Walter H. Pallister's Bioscope, showing the seasonable subject The Orphan's Christmas, and Retribution, two popular films.

EMPIRE.—Lessees, the New Bioscope Trading Company; Acting-Manager, Mr. Charles R. Craig.—Animated pictures are shown here in a style which leaves nothing to be desired, and the hall, since the advent of Mr. Chas. R. Craig as manager, is rapidly rising in popularity. The heating arrangements are now perfect in all parts. The chief pictures in a good holiday programme include The Reprieve, The Sheep Stealers, The Pretty Flower Picker, Hilda's Lovers, The Wonderful Fertilizer, A Rustic Heroine, Dora, Father's Fault, The Border Limit, and I'm Absorbed in Politics. Leo Storer, comedian, and Minnie Frazer, in illustrated songs, provide turns that are keenly appreciated.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. George Stanyon.—Mr. Waller Jeffs' well-known moving-picture entertainment, under the direction of Mr. Fred Jeffrey, is here. The whole of the series of pictures is admirably shown, and is of a diversified and entertaining nature. Miss Leah Pinnick is popular in illustrated songs, and Mr. Walter Roselle, a first-rate cicerone, guide, and lecturer, introduces with success his family of funny folks.

LEIGH.—THEATRE ROYAL AND OPERA HOUSE.—Proprietor, Mr. J. W. Cragg; Manager, Mr. W. Heath.—Messrs. Battersby and Forbes' company is occupying the boards here this week, with *The Empty Cradle*. Mr. Claude H. Seaton is a capital representative of Kenneth Bloodworth; the James Boswell of Mr. Fred Wells is a fine piece of work; Mr. D. Udquhart is well placed as Sir Carnaby Bloodworth; as the unscrupulous son, Carnaby, Mr. St. Clair Forbes is very impressive; Miss Nancy Battersby supplies an excellent and sympathetic rendering of Ida Boswell; Miss Florence Trelvoir acts with stirring effect as Mary Barton; Mr. Kenneth Scott creates roars of laughter as Hon. St. Clair Selby, being ably assisted by Miss Connie Meadows as Sarah Puddicome; and Mrs. Tom Wilson is admirably suited as Martha.

GRAND THEATRE AND HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, the Leigh Grand Theatre and Hippodrome, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Wm. Benson; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Woolstincroft.—The Seven Wulfrunas head the bill here with their comedy sketch, *Fun in a Café*, and are meeting with a hearty reception; Dunning, ventriloquist, is very smart; Kahn and Kahn are mystifying the audiences in a series of illusions; Akbar is a first-rate gymnast; the Sarony Sisters are charming vocalists and dancers; Mr. Marcus Boyle creates hearty laughter with songs and patter; Messrs. Barfoot and Carson do an excellent turn; Henri Vernon Harcourt gives a clever facical exhibition. *The Master Card*, presented by Thompson, Carruthers, and company, in a card manipulating novelty, are arousing great interest; Miss Bella Leaburn, dainty comedienne, and the Bioscope pictures complete an excellent programme.

LEITH.—NEW GAIETY THEATRE.—Licensee and Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. John Darlison.—That popular musical play, *The Merry Widow*, is very happily rendered, for the first time in Leith, by one of Mr. George Edwardes' touring companies. The combination is well-furnished with singers and dancers, and fully equipped in the matter of chorus, costumes, and all needful stage equirements. Miss Mysie is a charming Sonia, sharing the honours with Mr. Frank Greene, who appears with unqualified success as Prince Danilo; the Baron and Baroness Popoff are very amusingly played by Mr. Edward D'Arcy and Miss Ada Thomas; Mr. Fred Fowler as Nisch adds considerably to the fun of the piece; and the Jolidon of Mr. Ripley Evans, as well as the Novakovitch of Mr. Clifford Seyler, are outstanding impersonations. The usual encores follow the several numbers. For the well-known waltz the principals receive more than one recall, and the famous Danse d'Apaches is introduced with great effect in the last act.

LIVERPOOL.—ROYAL COURT THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Robert Arthur; Acting-Manager, Mr. Arthur Lawrence.—On Wednesday evening Mr. Arthur produced his thirteenth annual pantomime, under the title of *Humpty-Dumpty*, a notice of which will appear next week.

SHAKESPEARE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Wentworth Croke; Manager and Secretary, Mr. John Gaffney. — To-night (Saturday) the pantomime of *Jack and the Beanstalk* is to be presented here, the principal artist being Miss Ada Reeve.

STAR THEATRE. — Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Harris Fineberg.—A particularly fine pantomime, specially written, was produced at this popular house on Monday night, and will be continued for three weeks. Mr. Fineberg has generally at Christmas-time kept to the dramatic fare that has made the Star so well known, but this year he ventured to change the form of entertainment, and accordingly arranged with Mr. J. Gar Kiddie to present *The Babes in the Wood*, a creditable work from the pen of Mr. J. L. Barry The pantomime, which was very much enjoyed, engaged the services of some fifty performers, all of whom endeavoured in every way to make it a success, which it undoubtedly was. The costumes and scenery were new and pretty, the fun plenteous, and the songs and music exceedingly appropriate. Particularly striking were the Palace scene, a smart piece of stagecraft, and the transformation scene, entitled A Dream of Summer. Mr. Edwin Lambert as the Demon King showed to great advantage, and, possessed of a good voice, sang several numbers in telling style; Miss Emmie Hands looked pretty in the rôle of the Fairy Queen, and among her successful songs for which she was loudly applauded was "When Marie was sweet sixteen"; Robin Hood was taken by the sprightly Miss Marion Scott, who gained much appreciation for her song, "My girl's a Yorkshire girl"; Miss Margaret Cathcart made a sweet Maid Marion, and acted nicely; as the Babes, the little twin Sisters Mawdsley pleased generally, and received special attention for their dancing; Mr. T. D. Tandy, in the part of the Wicked Uncle caused much laughter, and gained applause for his ditty, "Sue, Sue, Sue"; Mr. Mark Stuart amused exceedingly as the Dame, helping in a well-received duet entitled "Votes for Women," to the air of "Excelsior," Mr. Dawson Dewick (Soft Sammy) being his partner; and Conan and Doyle kept the ball rolling with their antics as the villains. Specialities were introduced by the Hammersley Troupe of lady dancers and the Lohrenz Quartet.

QUEEN'S THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Fred Granville.—On the first three nights of the week Mr. Granville produced his second delightful pantomime, entitled *Little Aladdin*, in which fifty performers took part. Large and pleased audiences attended. *The Better Land*, a drama which was given some months ago for copyright purposes, will commence a seven nights' engagement.

LYRIC. — Lessee and Manager, Mr. Henry C. Arnold.—Top of the bill here this week has been the merry sketch, *The Trippers*, submitted by Charles Majilton and company, the principal rôles being in the hands of Messrs. Jim Bond and Charles Majilton. It was richly enjoyed. A smart military scena, *After Lights Out*, was provided by Leslie's comedy cadets; Elliott and Kennedy proved themselves a laughable couple; Campkin, the comedy cyclist, had a hearty greeting for his able and amusing tricks; the Sages (Will and Jenny) raised a deal of laughter with their comedy burlesques; and Nellie Montague sang several character songs in good style.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. Walter Hassan.—Zona Vevey headed the programme here this week, and gained thunderous applause for her really delightful vocal scena; Sammy Shields, "the football enthusiast," was as funny as ever, and kept his audience in a very pleasant mood; some capital vocalism came from the Alexandra Operatic Trio, with their "Prison Scene from *Faust*"; shouts of laughter followed the antics of Fred Edwards and company in *A Nice Quiet Morning*; Ted Curtis and his Piccaninnies went through a neat entertainment as vocalists and dancers; some daring work on the trapeze was executed by the Three Carlens; the Radford Duo were accomplished mimics; and contributions also came from Frivola and Deep, comedians; and the Werds.

ROYAL PALACE OF VARIETIES.—Manager, Mr. M. Montgomery; Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank O'Toole.—The stock dramatic company here gave this week *At War With Women*, the principal rôles in which were undertaken by Messrs. David G. Noble, Leo Montgomery, Sydney Grant, Tom H. Solly, E. D. Allen, Cecil Ravenswood, R. Seath Innes, Miss Florence Palmer, and Miss Lilian Radbourne. Mr. Anthony Brown's Bioscope showed some excellent films.

WESTMINSTER.—Lessee, Mr. Fred E. Weisker; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Montgomery.—A smart farcical comedy, entitled *The Lady and the Lodger*, has headed the bill here this week, the company brought by Mr. Edgar J. Coyne including Mr. Stanley J. Gordon, Miss Nina Vaughton, and Miss Madge Beresford; as juvenile comedians the Vetna Bros. were well received; Dick Austin, a patter comedian and dancer of exceptional ability, came in for a flattering reception; and the Bioscope had some popular pictures.

OLYMPIA.—District-Manager, Mr. Albert Bulmer; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ernest Wighton. — The big attraction here this week has been *The Volcano*, included in the cast of which were Messrs. Lauderdale Maitland, Edward Sorley, and Miss Janet Alexander; Frederick Melville's automaton, "The Moto-Girl," aroused much interest; Nina Wood rendered several pleasing songs at the piano; the merry and accomplished Musical Jees afforded every satisfaction with their *Musical Smithy*; Spry and Monti were as cordially received as ever; the Hartley Wonders went through an able exhibition of jumping; Conn and Conrad provoked

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MR. JOHN HENRY JONES, (from a photo.).

great laughter with their antics; and also in the list were Fred Poplar, comedian, and Kitty Wager, comedienne.

EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Resident-Manager, Mr. Horace Cole.—Foremost here throughout the week were Rolfe's Colonial Septette, who give a pretty musical scena, which introduced "An Olde Tyme Halloween"; Bellew and Stock's dramatic sketch company, which included the clever little Edward Garrett, presented an attractive and stirring racing trifle, *An Outside Chance;* the Andos Japanese Troupe submitted a novel speciality act; Fred Wilkinson had some neatly-executed illusions, in which he was assisted by Miss Betty Wallar; Maggie Walsh, the Lancashire singing mill girl, was given a gratifying reception; Witty Wattie Walton renewed old acquaintance; an acceptable dramatic sketch, *The Sheriff and the Rosebud,* was given by W. Mowbray Harle and company; Nellie Farrell found favour with her Irish songs and dances; and Walker and May, coloured singers and dancers, were a good turn.

PAVILION.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Manager, Mr. Henry Hearn.—The big line here this week was *A King for a Day,* a smart musical comedy presented by Messrs. Sidney Dooley and Charles Seymour's company; Lester and Moure, an eccentric couple, had a lively time with *A Day at the Beach;* Pueblo and Cropp showed some particularly smart dancing with the trifle, *The Swell and the Belle;* Carl and May Ohm presented a circus of highly-trained ponies, bears, dogs, and monkeys, a show that was much appreciated; Playfair and Vera gave a clever exhibition as papieragraphists; some puzzling illusions came from Mons. De Lil; the Spanish Juanitos, acrobats, had a turn that was quite out of the common; and likewise in the list were Chas Rowen, comedian, and Hulbert, ventriloquist.

GRAND TIVOLI.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—This hall, after having been closed for a number of months, has been entirely redecorated inside and out, and now presents a very attractive and cosy appearance. It was reopened on Monday evening by Mr. Jasper Redfern with a bioscope and vardeville entertainment. The pictures were certainly of a high order, and richly enjoyed by large audiences; while the acceptable all-round programme of variety turns was contributed to by the following artists:—Shenton's Chicklets, with *The Children's Birthday Party;* Lila Dunbar, mimic; Maxwell Bros., acrobats, with dogs; the Keppels, operatic vocalists; the Saletos, equilibrists; Playfair and Vera; Clive Watts, comedian; and "This" Quartet.

PARK PALACE.—Lessee, Mr. Jasper Redfern.—This place was also reopened this week under new management. In addition to some fine bioscope pictures, contributions came from the following artists:—Herbert Bates, tenor; Lillie Hales, dancer and soubrette; the Maro Gymnastic Duo; J. H. Carney, quick-change artist; Sydney Brandon, youthful dramatic mimic; and Hector and Sultan, with comedy boxing act.

HAYMARKET.—Licensee, Mr. Frank Emery.—On Saturday evening last this old-established house was, after having been abandoned for several months, again utilised for drama, twice nightly. The work selected by the stock company this week was *Jo,* with Miss Pollie Blake in the title-part. A playlet, *The Flag,* was also given.

LLANELLY.—ROYALTY THEATRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Z. Andrews; Resident Acting-Manageress, Miss Alice Rocheforte.—Mr. Tom Owen, the well-known Welsh comedian, and his clever troupe of pierrots are here this week. The amusing sketch, *Checkers,* is being well played.

ATHENÆUM HALL.—Secretary, Mr. H. Boulton.—Mr. John Codman's electric pictures and variety company have opened here for two weeks. The show is a very good one, the pictures being all up-to-date.

LOUGHBOROUGH.—TOWN HALL.—Proprietors, the Corporation; Secretary, Mr. C. H. Adams.—Mr. C. W. Poole's Myriorama and variety company has been exhibiting here, and doing good business. The Royal Japanese Banzais perform some sensational feats; Sidney Bach is most amusing as the Welsh lady at the piano; Willie Dean is a prince of comedians; the Bramusas Juvenile Brass Band play a number of selections in capital style; and the Bioscope pictures are excellent.

LOWESTOFT. — HIPPODROME. — Sole Proprietor, Mr. Geo. Gilbert; Manager, Mr. Frank Freeland. — For the present we have R. C. Finberg, character actor, in characters from Shakespeare, Dickens, &c.; the Musical Palmers, the Paolias, athletes; R. C. Note, comedian; and Daisy Almer, comedienne and dancer; the British Biograph Company's pictures are a popular feature of the programme.

MAESTEG.—TOWN HALL THEATRE.—Lessees, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Manager, Mr. G. F. Knowles.—Mr. Stanley Carlton's company in *London with the Lid Off* is at this popular playhouse. Mr. Carlton gives a clever portrayal of the Rev. Allan Gordon; Mr. William G. Marshall renders the part of Gratton Gala in excellent style; Mrs. Glandale is forcibly enacted by Miss R. Hamilton Belasco; Miss Charlotte E. Ballinger delineates in convincing style the unscrupulous Sarah Shafton; Miss Ruby Maude is responsible for a sympathetic rendering of Astra Bell; and other minor parts are well sustained.

MANCHESTER.—ROYAL OSBORNE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Mason.—The attraction here is *Little Bo-Peep,* which was played successfully at the Grand Junction Theatre.

METROPOLE THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred Dry.—Walter Ellis and company top the bill here in *The Sleepwalker,* an exceptionally funny sketch. Corman's Juveniles give an artistic and vocal scena, *The Waif,* in capital style; Will Walton, comedian, is very well received; and Mi Narom appears successfully in comedy items. Other enjoyable turns are Alsopp and Beckwith, comedy couple; Percy Farrimond, the singing Lancashire collier; the Three Alskarnos, risley comedians; Lio Sobre, novelty juggler; the Deuchars, duettists and dancers; and Dex, the necromancer.

GRAND JUNCTION THEATRE.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. G. Hewitt.—*Cinderella* was produced here on Monday by Mr. Sidney Cooper and the Tally-ho Trio, the latter a well-known and successful turn on the halls. The book, by H. B. Maxwell, tells the story coherently, and the music is by Surtees Corne. The cast is headed by Miss Madge Daly, who plays Prince Charming, and who proves herself a comedienne of considerable accomplishment and personal charm, her rendering of the various songs allotted to her, notably "Johnny Macintyre," being full of dash and melody. The Tally-ho Trio, who among them are responsible for the rôles of the Baron and the Broker's Men, provide plenty of good fun and delightful comedy vocalism, and do much to swing the show along. Messrs Newnham and Latima play the Sisters in the usual grotesque style; Mr. Harry C. Momber fills the part of the Page; and Miss Jessica Brooke makes a pleasing Cinderella. Among others who do well are Miss May Maddison as Dandini (a clever dancer) and the Sisters Florence (speciality dancers), while Miss Ida Scott deserves a word of praise for a quiet and refined impersonation of the Fairy Godmother. The scenery and effects are good.

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Hall.—The principal turns here this week are George Gray and company in *The Fighting Parson,* which goes as well as ever; and the Lancashire Singers, eighteen in number, who render various concerted pieces in fine style. Harry Freeman, the "can't stop" comedian, is also popular; and neat and entertaining turns are added by Jennie Mackay, the Lavender Girl; Brix and Annie, in *Fun in a Barber's Shop;* Naughton and Gold, Scotch comedians; Florrie Conolly, Irish songstress; and Geo. Antill, a quaint character comedian.

PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. T. Carter.—Messrs. Charles Fletcher and John Tiller present here this week their pantomime of *Red Riding Hood,* which is given twice nightly with success. Laurence Barclay, the popular comedian, is in the prominent part of Pretty Pet, the ugly daughter of King Lupus, which he fills with exceptional success; Jessie Templeton as Prince Valiant makes an ideal principal boy; and a very nice performance as Red Riding Hood is given by May Merry, who is also a clever and pleasing dancer. C. K. Martinette, jun., is good as the page Trotters; and Benson Kleve and May Sharples are notable among the remainder. Specialities are introduced by the Lotus Troupe of dancers, the Eight Little Mascottes, and Moller and Theodor.

KING'S, LONGSIGHT.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. James B. Trippett.—Exceptional talent is to be seen here in Messrs. Sutton and Raynor's company, who are giving *The Second Mrs. Tanqueray* and *Moths.* Mr. Cecil Wynne and Miss Henrietta Schrier fill the principal parts in both plays, and do so with considerable tact and power; while Mr. Raynor, Miss Frances Waring, Miss Lisa Coleman, and Miss Dorothy West-Symes each have opportunities for distinguished work in their separate rôles. The plays are given with fine effect, and deservedly appreciated by large audiences.

HULME HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. Thomas Baker.—An entertaining programme here comprises Billy Williams, the clever Australian comedian; the Bros. Durant, society acrobats; Leoni Clarke, with his wonderful animal show; Will and Alicia Frohman, smart instrumentalists; Bert Bernard, trick pianist; Sandy McNab in the comic sketch *The Egyptian Mummy;* Ted Waite, the spasmodic comedian; the Kilties' Camp, in a good variety Highland act; and the Airship Elopement, well played by the Aeronauts' Company.

QUEEN'S PARK HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Broadhead and Son; Acting-Manager, Mr. C. W. Meek.—In addition to their pantomime at the Palace on the same story, Messrs. Charles Fletcher and John Tiller provide here this week a version of *Red Riding Hood.* Miss Decima Brooks is very pleasing in the title-rôle; and Miss Maisie Jerrard is well suited to the requirements of principal boy as Prince Charming. Good fun is provided by Mr. F. Russell as the Baron; Mr. Howard Ward plays Dame Crump in amusing fashion; and Johnny Stout and Johnny Green are smartly exploited by Messrs. Will Lytton and Walter Watson. The Poppy Quartette and the Excelsior Troupe of children add charming specialities.

HIPPODROME.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Manager, Mr. Nelson Barry.—That highly-sensational and thrilling Hippo. spectacle, *The Sands of Dee,* is the big attraction here this week. The chief parts are in the safe hands of Miss Ruth Maitland, Mr. J. H. Barnes, and Mr. Lawson Butt, ably supported by Miss Ella Gillette, Mr. Norman Trevor, and Mr. Rodney Stewart. Another big turn is Mr. Fred Storey and company in his very successful version of *Rip Van Winkle.* The Daunton-Shaw Troupe of cyclists go through a wonderful performance; Mabel Bright in a neat pantomime skit proves herself a smart protean artist; Little Tina is a child actress and impressionist of marked ability; Bert Weston is a capital comedian; Goggins and Davis are clever and amusing acrobats; and Clarke and Hayden are entertaining in a pleasing musical comedy duologue. Bioscope Pictures complete an all-round excellent show.

TIVOLI. — Managing-Director, Mr. Charles A Wilkes; Manager, Mr. Arthur B. Wilkes.—Jules Charmettes, who tops the bill here this week, provides a smart turn; Sid Cotterell causes roars of laughter in an amusing sketch entitled *The Substitute;* Adah Payne, vocalist, sings well; Walter Emerson amuses with two funny songs; Kathleen Maureen sings Irish songs in a very pleasing manner; Argo is a capital mimic of animals and sounds; the Dalgarnos are particularly good in a sketch, *Caught Napping;* the Arthur Lloyd Trio are seen once more in their *Little Charlie* sketch; Ellis and Ellis in national songs and dances are well appreciated; and Johnny Thompson, vocal comedian, has a good voice. Ruffell's Bioscope Pictures are good, as usual.

MERTHYR TYDFIL.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessees, the South Wales Entertainments, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. Albert Jackson.—The attraction here is *The Power of the King,* presented by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley, Travis Green, and Arthur Hinton's company. Miss Leila Zillwood sustains the rôle of Lady Annastasia admirably; Miss Georgina V. France is well suited in the part of Lady Florina; and Miss Grace Barton ably represents Margot. Mr. Gerald Blake makes a capital exponent of Captain Landgrave; Mr. Travis Green is most effective as Crown Prince Oscar; Mr. John Campling presents a good delineation of Alberta; Mr. Charles Whitlock scores as the King; and Mr. Wilton Drury is successful with the comedy part of Fritz.

TEMPERANCE HALL.—Manager, Mr. Israel Price.—Heading an excellent holiday programme are the great Zerbinis in their latest musical novelty, entitled "The Enchanted Glen." Other good turns are contributed by Rose Atherton and company in a comedy sketch, *Murphy's Affinity; The Veteran's Birthday,* presented by Mr. David Donaldson and Miss Frances Ferina; G. W. Foster, comedian; De Lilo and Metz; Frank Maura, the Mexican wonder; and the Apollo Male Voice Quartet Party. The Biograph pictures are exceptionally good.

MEXBOROUGH.—PRINCE OF WALES'S THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. W. H. Melton.—The theatre is closed this week, reopening on Saturday night with Lingford Carson's company in *The Power of the Cross.*

NEW PICTURE HALL.—Proprietor, Mr. Will Hunter; Manager, Mr. E. H. Jones.—The programme here this week includes the following pictures:—The "Merry Widow" Waltz Craze, Fight for a Crown, the Magic Ring, Ill-advised Hooligan, Revenge, Uncle's Fortune, Troublesome Thief, &c.

MIDDLESBROUGH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Jno. Ed. Jowsey; Manager and Licensee, Mr W. Ker Chatto.—At this theatre the pantomime *Humpty-Dumpty* will be produced by Mr. J. F. Elliston's company.

THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson.—Closed until Christmas day, when Mr. Geo. Dance's company will present the musical comedy *Miss Hook of Holland.*

EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. John Brill; Manager, Mr. Charles Rembges.—The Ten Dark Knights, described as America's greatest coloured artists, provide an excellent musical act here this week, while Lily Burnand, as lovely and lively as ever, maintains her reputation. Will McIvor is an excellent vocalist; Chas Dixton and company cause much amusement in their comedy sketch *Uncle Obadiah;* Ada Parker is a bright and merry comedienne; J. C. Crawley is exceedingly good in his novel act, *Lights Out;* and the Rosses, comedians and dancers, also contribute to a capital programme.

HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Signor Rino Pepi; Manager, Mr. C. E. Nicholls.—The fame of George Hackenschmidt, the great wrestler, is drawing large houses here this week, and the audience is rewarded by seeing a remarkable exhibition of the science. Vay's Juveniles are exceedingly good in a pathetic sketch entitled *Life in the Slums;* and other excellentturns are given by Lena Wylie, a vocalist of exceptional merit, Lazelle, the Four Aces, Rubie and Elsie, Redfern, Fred Keeton, and Thomas and Taylor.

MOTHERWELL.—NEW CENTURY THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. R. C. Buchanan; Resident-Manager, Mr. Arthur Hales.—The celebrated Leopolds, in a condensed version of *Frivolity* and their latest sketch *The Houseboat,* are the star turn; Sanderson Moffat and company are excellent in a sentimental sketch *The Thin Red Line,* an episode of Balaclava; Marjorie Maidment is a dainty and debonair comedienne; and Harry Desmond is quaint and witty. The Stadium Boys give an athletic display out of the usual run of things; very funny are the Boston Twins, in their medley of mimicry, harmony, and knockabout business; and Chiko performs some wonderful equilibristic poses.

NEW BRIGHTON.—WINTER GARDENS.—Lessees and Managers, Messrs. H. E. Jones and A. Douglass.—A fine list of artists contributes to the Christmas programme this week, and a good audience assembled on Monday evening to witness the performance. A new dramatic sketch, *A Daughter of the Revolution,* was cleverly and artistically played by Miss Georgette Thierry, Mr. Bernard Liell, and company. Comedy is a strong feature this week, and Munroe's Comedy Team come in for a large share of laughter and applause. Mr. Frank Weaver danced excellently, whilst Miss Flo Warner had a good reception for her songs; Messrs. Morrin and Cardiff sang and danced in good style, and Mr. Percy P. Paget caused much enthusiasm by his character studies. Mr. Grantley and Master Denny completed the turns. The animated pictures are beautiful, as is usually the case at this popular and well-managed resort.

NEWPORT.—EMPIRE.—Proprietors, Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll. —The chief turn in the bill here is the romantic equestrian spectacle, *Dick Turpin's Ride to York,* presented by Mr. Fred Ginnett's company. It is proving very attractive. A series of artistic living statuary, "Makers of History," from the London Hippodrome, is very novel; in a spectacular and gymnastic equilibristic speciality, "The Pages' Recreation," the Vetter Bros. do some daring feats, and Chas. Guyer and Ida Valli make a great hit with their American comedy act. Walter Munroe wins favour as an Irish comedian; Baker and Balfe give an enjoyable performance on the xylophone, and attractive turns are contributed by Mazie Hibbs in a dancing speciality, and Millie Wolfgang, who sings her songs in admirable style. A capital series of pictures on the Bioscope complete the bill.

NORTHAMPTON.—CORN EXCHANGE.—Proprietors, The Company.—Mr. Waller Jeff's new century commenced their Christmas season here on Monday, under the management of Mr. Irving Bosco. Mr. H. Heller is the accomplished lecturer, and Miss Ducie Saunderson sweetly vocalises in her "illustrated songs."

NORTH SHIELDS.—CENTRAL PALACE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Wm. Mould.—Les Montaldos, equilibrists, head the bill here, and present a smart act, in which highly trained parrots, cockatoos, and macaws are introduced with much success. Miss Effie White in her scena, "The Spirit of the Cave," has made a great hit; the Brothers Corcoran in their musical act are loudly applauded; Mr. Tom Cavallie shines as a ventriloquist; Miss Belle Ray, with illustrated songs, is popular; Mr. Harry Brough, vocalist, meets with a warm reception; and the Mouldoscope is as popular as ever.

NORWICH.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Sole Lessee, Mr. Fred Morgan.—Mr. Wentworth Croke's company in *The Christian* is announced for Boxing Night, in which Mr. Henry Renouf is to appear as John Storm and Miss Doric Gilham as Glory Quayle.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. E. H. Bostock and F. W. Fitt; Manager, Mr. Councillor Fitt.—Among the principal Christmas holiday attractions are Max Gruber with Miss Adelina, with their performing elephant, horse, and pony, who present a unique entertainment. The famous Cattaneo company of acrobats are clever artists, and very diverting; the Lannons are pleasing vocal duettists and high pedestal dancers. Will Lannon, who holds the world's championship belt for dancing, creates much enthusiasm for his performance. Carter Livesey and Lilian Rosebery play an amusing sketch entitled *The Would-be Actors Rehearsing a Tragedy;* Charles Russell's scena, "The Veterans in 1854," is attractive; Leoni Dixon is a pleasing comedienne and dancer; Harry Taft, an accomplished whistler, and Charles Tempest, eccentric comedian, with some new films on the Hippo-Bio contribute a pleasing entertainment.

ASSEMBLY ROOMS, AGRICULTURAL HALL.—The New Era pictures, with Lazern the Mystic, are here, and are fairly patronised.

BANK PLAIN ASSEMBLY ROOMS.—The Franco-British animated pictures are still here.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.—Mr. Charles Thinston's great fun carnival continues successful.

NOTTINGHAM.—EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Oswald Stoll; Acting-Manager, Mr. Albert C. Duncan.—A vast amount of fun is provided by the musical comedy sketch, *The Brigands of Tarragona,* in which the principal rôle is taken by Chas. H. Bell, who is ably assisted by a large company. Larry Lewis makes a favourable impression by his really droll style; Bonnie Goodwin's piccaninnies are a source of endless pleasure, and Arthur Aldridge uses his fine voice in a well-rendered ballad entitled, "In Manus Tuus, Domine"; Enzer, as a juggler, and Miss Clarice, in an exposition of ju-jitsu, secure well-merited applause, and a delightful turn by Phil and Nettie Peters deserves high praise; Burnetti, character musician; Violet Stockelle, comedienne; and the Three Sisters Jerome in a novelty act, *Auntie's Maid,* and pictures on the Bioscope help towards the success of the programme.

ROYAL HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Manager, Mr. E. Lockwood. —A return visit by Lafayette, the wizard, has drawn crowded houses, who have accorded him a hearty welcome. Brinn manipulates with ease and skill heavy and unwieldy articles, such as a gun carriage and Maxim gun; Herbert Clifton proves a clever imitator of the female voice, and scores throughout; the bicycle turn of Paulton and Doley is highly amusing and very clever, and a speciality act by the Hectors is well received. Some smart acrobatic feats are given by the Comerfords, who are also distinctly funny; the Sisters Ford supply comedy duets, and Mayne Cannon is duly rewarded for a song, while films on the Barrascope add to the attractions.

KING'S THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. Edgar O. Waller.—The cinematograph entertainment has now entered on its third year, and special films are provided for the festive season. Crowded houses assemble nightly to appreciate the pictures, and Mr. Ernie Williams gains a large share of applause for his rendering of illustrated songs.

OLDHAM.—COLOSSEUM THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Wm. Eastwood.—Messrs. Levy and Cardwell's company of juvenile artists occupy the stage in *The Babes in the Wood.* Chief honours are awarded to Wee Georgie Wood as Leslie. Miss Peggy MacDonald as Marjorie gives a dainty and refined portrayal of the girl babe; Miss Dolly Dodds, a prime favourite with Oldham audiences, is again here, and her Maid Marion is much appreciated; Miss Daisy Wood makes a bold, dashing Robin Hood, and sings such capital songs as "Bombadier" and "From Poverty-street to Golden-square"; Miss Jennie Hughes as Fairy Dewdrop has a capital soprano voice, and she uses it with telling effect in two smart songs, "Let me but hope" and "I'd live or die for you"; Misses Trixie Wyatt and Annie Brumby as Phyllis and Dolly Varden are capital, and are ably assisted by Misses Marie Lumburg and Annie Adamson as Little John and Allan-a-Dale. Mr. Neil Hardy as the Baron provides much hearty laughter, and he is ably seconded by Mr. Jimmie Watson as Lucinda Lovejoy; Mr. J. G. Aitken has a part in which he fairly revels as Simple Simon, and his accent goes well; Mr. Harry Leander

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makes a robust Friar Tuck; and Master Jack Harrison does well as the Miller. Messrs. Graham and Barron impersonate the ruffians, Willing and Weary, very well, and introduce some really clever dancing. The scenery is exceedingly pretty. In the ballets some cleverly-trained children appear. Specialities are introduced by Wee Georgie Wood, Peggy MacDonald, Harry Leander, J. G. Aitken, J. Watson, and the International Quartette.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. H. Kilrow.—Zbysco and his troupe of wrestlers are nightly appearing here; *The Enchanted Iona* is a sparkling comedy act, played capitally by Chas. Fraser and company; Mason and Bart are excellent in a novelty comedy turn; Fatmah Diard sings some delightful songs; the Tossing Austins are clever in comedy juggling and dancing; Ella Dean is a charming vocalist; and J. W. Rowley an old favourite. Arthur Harris, a vocal comedian, and the Dottoscope complete the bill.

HIPPODROME.—General-Manager, Mr. E. Dottridge; Acting-Manager, Mr. J. Nuttall.—Matthews and Brown, the unbleached eccentrics, cause much merriment; Williams's Royal Welsh Minstrels present a refined musical and vocal act; Macintosh and Royal are expert dancers; the Three Delaires give a clever speciality, *In the Demon Grotto;* the Della Sisters are capable vocalists; Blanche L. Walker also sings some good songs; and Jack Hayworth is a smart comedian. Amusing films are depicted on the Dottoscope.

PALACE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Walter de Frece; Resident-Manager, Mr. F. Thorne; Assistant-Manager, Mr. E. Sharrocks.—The Elliott-Savonas produce their *Palace of Orpheus*, and score a huge success. The Krags Trio are marvellous in a gymnastic act; the Sivronis are capable eccentrics; Daisy Hicks has capital songs; Tate and Tate are clever in a trampolin act; Hettie Lee is a smart comedian and dancer; and Harry Nation a funny comedian. Geo. Carncross, in character impersonations, and the Palace pictures conclude.

OXFORD.—EAST OXFORD THEATRE.—Lessees, East Oxford Theatre, Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Stuart.—Messrs. Chas. Freeman and Geo. Derricke's company is continuing its visit here with *Current Cash*. Mr. Chas. Freeman gives a good interpretation of Captain Mark Milton; Mr. Wilfrid Blair is good as Major Gordon Challis; and Mr. George Derricke makes an excellent Rev. Lincoln Green. Mr. Claude Graveley does well in the dual rôle of Colonel Carrington and the Hon. Harry Chafferton; whilst Mr. Frank Coston is a fund of merriment as Ned Boales. Miss Winnie Webster makes an attractive Sybil Milton; Miss Ivy Derry is graceful as Delia Challis; and Miss Florence Tench scores with a successful portrayal of Grace Milton. Specialities by Clark and Clare are accorded a most hearty reception.

PONTEFRACT.—ALEXANDRA THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—General-Manager, Mr. Tom Diacoff.—Edward Ranier's company, in a strong and well-acted dramatic sketch, *The Bank Robbery*, heads the bill here this week, and has a good reception. The Florodoras, three attractive ladies, are capital in a miniature musical comedy; the Sisters Ely sing ducts and look charming; Cliffe Owen is a really original comedian; and Fame and Fortune create no end of laughter with their funny business. Yetta has something new in the way of wire-walking, doing thereon a quite realistic "cake-walk"; Henri Bekker is a smart conjurer, with a lot of quaint patter; Little Vena, really a child comedienne, has all the airs and graces of a finished artist; Sam Hobbs, a local vocalist, finds great favour; and Ethel Yorke sings and dances very daintily. The pictures are again good.

PORTH. — THE PALACE. — Proprietors, Poole's Theatres Co., Ltd.; Managing-Director, Mr. C. W. Poole; Manager, Mr. Walter Bynorth.—An excellent programme is submitted here this week. Vonetta, lady illusionist, gives an admirable performance, her quick changes being greatly appreciated; Nell Cotter is a smart singer of popular songs; the Debreans, Japanese jugglers, deserve special mention for their exceedingly clever act; Bert and Dora are responsible for great amusement as comedy artists; the sketch presented by Eva Lumley and Freda Ettrick's company gives entire satisfaction, the various parts are well represented; Clarke's Nippers, in their unique speciality act, boxing, &c., are exceptionally clever; the Martelloni Family of acrobats (four ladies and one gentleman) are decidedly smart and clever, and are accorded a warm reception. The Palascope, with its latest films, gives entire satisfaction.

PRESTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Proprietors, the Executors of the late W. Johnson; Resident-Manager, Mr. Stephen Pritt.—This theatre is closed until Thursday, when it reopens with the successful play *The Flag Lieutenant*.

PRINCE'S THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Messrs. Sawyer and Woodruff.—Mr. J. A. Campbell's company pays a welcome return visit with *The Old Folks at Home*, several of the original company being retained in the cast. Mr. Frank Liston is as successful as ever in his impersonation of the dissolute Lord Kenilworth; Mr. H. E. Herbert is a capital Andrew Ross, his impersonation being manly and natural; Mr. Vernon Dale is the Hugh Lovell, and his acting is much appreciated; Mr. Charles Herbert wins appreciation for his Christopher Robin; and Miss Clara Santley gives a good account of herself as Martha (his wife). Mr. Frank Caffrey is a humorous Ben Jolly, and, in conjunction with Miss Nellie Mace, a pert and sprightly Susan, causes much amusement. Mr. Arthur Dudley maintains his clever portrayal of the dumb hunchback Jock; as Patricia Bathurst Miss Kate Froud is excellent; Miss Amy Crake is to be complimented on her portrayal of the part of Bonita Durham; Miss Helen Cronie as the Nurse is good; and a sympathetic rendering of the part of Dorothy Robin is given by Miss Maud Warburton. The success of the piece is much enhanced by the selections given by the Excelsior Quartette of glee singers, introduced in the third act.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; Resident-Acting-Manager, Mr. Frank E. Burdett.—Another good bill is provided this week, at the top of which Mr. Joe Peterman presents *The Singing Servants*, an operatic burlesque in two scenes. The company is a most capable one, possessing excellent voices, while the music is catchy, and, needless to say, meets with a most enthusiastic reception. McCann, the acrobatic skater, gives a clever turn; and Cyril Jepheon, "the man in the billiard suit," has a cordial welcome. E. Morrisey has an up-to-date novelty in an original equilibristic musical act, which wins applause; Tom Morris, the whistler, meets with a good reception; James and Jenny Jee give a very clever performance, including cycling on the endless revolving wire; Evelyn and Norrie (Herbert and Ethel) create much amusement in their smart comedy sketch *Set a Thief* —; Fred Maitland, in his comedy skit *Talked Out*, in which he is assisted by a lady of the suffragette type, who holds forth from one of the boxes, and is eventually ejected, caused roars of laughter; Alman Correzo is a clever juggler, and gives a good turn, being ably assisted by the droll Keith. Gamekeeper's Dogs on the Bioscope concludes a programme that has a distinct flavour of the festive season.

RADCLIFFE. — GRAND OPERA HOUSE. — Sole Owner and Manager, Mr. Geo. T. Sante; Acting-Manager, Mr. Jas. Boothman.—The house was well attended at its re-opening on Saturday, and Hardie and Von Leer's company are proving very attractive with their great dramatic success *Two Lancashire Lasses in London*. Mr. Harold Cotter plays the hero, John Edmunds, to perfection. Mr. Chris Mason as Samuel Hallet causes roars of laughter, and is ably assisted by Miss E. Shaw as Mrs. Hallett; Mr. J. Edward Fletcher undertakes the Rev. Frank Selby with great credit, and the rascalities of Jonas Deane are well depicted by Mr. Arthur Elwyn; the two burglars, Jim Price and Ratty, are in the safe hands of Mr. Jack Miller and Mr. W. Walmsley. The two sisters, Constance and Nellie, have realistic exponents in Miss Rosslyn Vayne and Miss Alice Defoe, and Miss Stanley Burt fills the part of Bessie Edmunds with great credit. The piece is well staged.

RAWTENSTALL. — GRAND THEATRE.—Lessee, Mr. Fred Granville; General Business-Manager, Mr. A. R. Feather.—*A Soldier's Honour* was presented on Monday by Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Kimberley's fine company. Miss Mabel Mannering gave a fine interpretation as Cora Lee, her acting being very fine, whilst Miss Helen Tremayne Lowther was an excellent Doreen Illingworth; Miss Edie Macklin was exceptionally clever as Jemima Eliza, her impersonation being highly appreciated; as Captain Deane Mr. Millar Anderson gave a forcible impersonation, and Mr. T. Arthur Ellis's portrayal of Captain Gerald Temple was cleverly conceived, and presented in manly fashion; Mr. Andrew Money as Henry Thornton was an excellent villain, and Mr. C. H. Gallier was most successful as General Rochester; Mr. Harry Lyndon made a capital Percy Brattle, and Miss Lynn Darlington was equally successful as Gwendoline Temple; Miss Sylvia Vickers was an excellent Florence Deane, and little Miss Edie Trafnell displayed considerable talent with her impersonation of Queenie Dean. Mr. Sydney Fiennes was a capital Holly, and the remaining characters were all adequately sustained.

READING.—ROYAL COUNTY THEATRE.—Proprietors and Managers, Mr. Milton Bode and Mr. B. Compton; Acting-Manager, Mr. Fred. Benton.—This theatre has been closed during the week for rehearsals of the grand pantomime of *Dick Whittington*, which will be produced in elaborate style by Messrs. Fred. J. Little and Fred. Davey on Boxing Night, with Miss Beatrice Vaily in the title-rôle.

THE PALACE. — Managing-Director, Mr. Geo. H. Watson; Acting-Manager, Mr. P. E. Draco.—The attractions this week comprise Charles Hera, juggler and equilibrist; Les Valentia, lady acrobats and dancers; Harry Merrylees, Scotch comedian; Dallas and Varden, in a comedy duologue, *That Husband of Mine*; Victor Widdicombe and Co., in a comedietta, *Her Devonshire Dad*; Madge Beresford, comedienne; Elmo and Rego, comedy acrobats; Billy Farrell, comedian; and the Palace Bioscope. The proceeds of the performances given last week in aid of the local Distress Funds amounted to nearly £40.

LARGE TOWN HALL.—Messrs. Poole's Myriorama, which has paid a Christmas visit here for many years past, opened for a short season on Christmas Eve. The renowned entertainment is quite up to its high standard of excellence, and is sure of good support. The performances are given twice daily.

ROCHDALE.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Robinson; General-Manager, Mr. Otto C. Culling; Resident-Manager, Mr. S. Burton.—*The Woman Pays* is a drama replete with thrilling situations, and is capitally presented. Mr. Phil Harper submits a powerful impersonation of Sid Armstrong; Mr. John Davidson as the villainous Roger Marchant is well placed; Mr. Beresford Innes is all that could be desired as Cyrus Treadgold; Mr. Dunlop Stewart is heard to advantage as Luke Morland; and Mr. Charles Arthur makes the most of Doctor Trevor. The humorous element is in the safe hands of Mr. F. M. Thorne as Micky Maloney and Miss Anena Walton as Polly; Miss Kate Blair enlists sympathy in the part of Nell Morland, and Miss Florence Thorne enacts with effect the rôle of Tabitha; Miss Maud Russell acts with superior skill the trying part of Madge Armstrong, the audience warmly applauding her efforts.

EMPIRE.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. Thomas Hargreaves; General-Manager, Mr. Frank Hargreaves.—Chard's Dog Circus tops the bill here this week. The dogs are cleverly trained, and perform some extraordinary leaping. Beattie and Babs are a clever pair of juvenile entertainers; Martinett and Wallace, musical comedians, are both amusing and clever; Fred Mason is a popular coster and whistling comedian; Cosgrove and Burns in *The Singing Academy* evoke roars of laughter; Marie St. John, vocalist; Amy Ruesell, vocalist; and the Empire Bioscope pictures complete the programme.

HIPPODROME. — Proprietors, The Jackson Family; Business-Manager, Mr. John Jackson; Resident-Manager, Mr. James Jackson, sen.—Park's Eton Boys and Girton Girls contribute a vocal entertainment that delights the audience; the Four Breens submit a clever and humorous club juggling act; Molteno and company in *A Dolly and a Coach* present some capital tableaux and vocalism; the Attalas are skilful equilibrists on the trapeze; other excellent turns are presented by the Gregson Comedy Trio; George Bernard, actor-vocalist; Miss Eva Compton, comedienne; A. W. Scott, coon delineator and dancer; and the Hippodrome pictures.

SALFORD.—PRINCE OF WALES'S.—Proprietor and Manager, Mr. E. B. Goulden; Acting-Manager, Mr. Harold Goulden.—Mr. T. Edward Ward's company had a good reception from a full house on Monday when Miss Maud E. Ward effectively appealed to the sympathies of the audience as Nell Greystone in *Second to None*. Mr. C. W. Spencer presented a dignified old Colonel; Mr. F. F. Loyd cleverly played the unscrupulous Captain Mannering; the indigent old soldier, Edward Horseman, was neatly portrayed by Mr. J. G. Maine; Mr. Chas. Halling agreeably presented Frank Wilding; Mr. H. Macauley as Private Flutter, Mr. Eric Wilde as Private Bertie, and Miss Carrie Yandell as Norah furnished much cause for hilarity; Mr. Frank R. Gwyn Richardson suitably portrayed Lieut. Archie Ballater; Miss Grace Harlington was a powerful exponent of May Greystone; and Mr. Frank Austin also did useful work as a Police-Inspector. The staging was well worked, and some pretty scenery was shown.

REGENT THEATRE OF VARIETIES, LTD.—Managing-Director Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. Herbert Raymond; Secretary, Mr. J. C. Patterson.—Closed until Boxing Day, when *Beauty and the Beast* commences with a matinée.

ROYAL HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son; General-Manager, Mr. H. Winstanley; Resident Acting-Manager, Mr. Geo. F. Slatter.—On Monday last Mr. Harry Burns produced for the first time his comic Christmas pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, to good houses (two performances). The book is by Henry Curwen, and there are several good parodies on popular songs. Among a number of pretty scenes may be mentioned the Port of Hull, the Home of the Fairy Pearl 'neath the Sea, the Isle of Hullaloola, and the Palace of Delight. Mme. du Roche makes a sprightly hero, Robinson, and has some good songs, including "I want you to be my girl"; Polly Perkins has a dashing and dainty representative in Miss Marie Belle, who sings well "I don't care if there is a girl there" and "Maudie"; Miss Kitty Trewhitt as Tommy Boline has a pleasant song, "Have you got another girl like May?" Mr. Henry Curwen as Dame Crusoe and Mr. Arthur Aiston as Will Atkins are responsible for most of the fun, which runs right through. Dame Crusoe's song "Suffragettes" and patter on women's votes are much enjoyed. Miss Nina May sings "Starshine" and "Egypt" and satisfactorily plays the Fairy Pearl; Mr. Billy Hubbard is a clever exponent of Man Friday; Bert Coote's troupe of Yankee Doodle Girls are very smart, and execute some pretty dances; and Mr. Edwin Ramsey (Capt. Cutter) and Mr. Charlie Ramsey (captain's mate) are a comical couple. The full chorus and ballet manœuvres show excellent training. The pretty dresses reflect great credit on the wardrobemistress, Miss E. Riddal, and the whole is under the stage management of Mr. Henry Curwen, the author.

OPERA HOUSE AND ASSEMBLY ROOMS, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. W. Turner; Manager, Mr. E. Percival.—Among this week's pictures are Disciple of Vidocq, What a Fine Picture! Fisherman's Hate, What's the Matter with Willie? Sunshine after Storm, A Bad Pinch of Snuff, The Habits of the Tree Frog, For an Old Love Song, and Sweet Liberty. Mr. Tom Sherlock sings well the illustrated song "An old-fashioned cottage."

SHEFFIELD.—EMPIRE PALACE THEATRE.—Moss' Empires Co., Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. Alan D. Dunbar.—A very attractive programme was submitted to a large audience on Monday, the *pièce de résistance* being the cleverly-constructed and amusing quick-change protean sketch performed by the celebrated mimetic actor M. Henri de Vries. An artistic and unique spectacular entertainment is "Greater London," with novel electrical and scenic effects, invented and produced by Mr. Rousbey. Miss Lottie Lennox is a pleasing and favourite artist; a novel act is done by Carl Reinsch; Mr. Arthur Alberts sings lively ditties; and Verno and Voyce, Les Martinettes, Dan Hendry, the American Bioscope with Pathé Frères films, and Miss Bessie Slaughter give general satisfaction.

THE HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Thomas Barrasford; Resident-Manager, Mr. P. D. Elbourne.—There was a big house here on Monday. Haley's clever juveniles appeared in a very entertaining interlude; Messrs. Jordan and Harvey again demonstrated how popular Hebrew artists are with the Hippodrome patrons; and the programme also included Messrs. Dale and O'Malley, eccentric comedians; Prince's Mascots, in a bright entertainment; Culpitt, society conjurer; Vasey and Ramsey, two expert performers in their special line; Cummin and Seaham, diverting drolls; the Aribos, in a smart act; &c. The Barrascope, with artistic coloured pictures of lovely Continental scenery, concluded.

GRAND THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. A. S. Turpin.—A pleasing entertainment of songs, sketches, &c., with artistic pictures by the Raymond Bio-tableaux Co. of comic, fantastic, dramatic, and educative subjects, is nightly given to large and appreciative audiences.

CENTRAL THEATRE.—Lessees, Messrs. Jasper Redfern and Co., Ltd.—Vaudeville and moving pictures are still meeting with support and cordial applause here.

PAVILION THEATRE.—General-Manager, Mr. Peach.—The Sheffield Photo Co.'s admirable animated pictures at the renovated Fitzalan Hall meet with the firm support of the bioscope-going public.

ALBERT HALL.—Manager, Mr. Peace.—The popular C. W. Poole Myriorama and variety troupe are fulfilling their usual Christmas season here.

MONTGOMERY HALL.—The Imperial Animated Picture Co. with a good concert party open for a fortnight's visit to-night.

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.—EMPIRE THEATRE, LTD.—Managing-Directors, Messrs. Geo. Conquest and Richard H. Nerney; Acting-Manager, Mr. A. Lingham Power.—*Aladdin* is the pantomime, to be first produced on Christmas Eve, with two performances following on Boxing Day, and which Mr. Edward Graham-Falcon has made most attractive with up-to-date and original novelties. Special care has been taken to present good scenic effects, and the costumes have been designed by Mrs. E. Graham-Falcon. Among a full complement of artists may be mentioned Messrs. Ernest Carlton, Albert Laurence, Will Burton, the Warners, Misses Amy Bellwood, Edith Maynard, Daisy Kersey, Gipsy Hodgson, and Georgie Mansell, the La Dor Troupe being responsible for the harlequinade.

ST. HELENS.—THEATRE AND OPERA HOUSE.—Closed until Boxing Day in preparation for pantomime, *Mother Goose*.

HIPPODROME.—Proprietors, Messrs. Barrasford, Sley and Willmot; Acting-Manager, Mr. Leo Weisker.—The Warsaw Brothers in musical sketch are exceedingly amusing and exceptionally clever; Mlle. Neveeda presents some capital illusions, which in some instances are startling; the Eight College Girls are lively and pretty, and sing sweetly; Marlo is a smart juggler, and is well received; while Dan Filmer is a vigorous and effective dancer. The contortions indulged in by Ossi Souplessi are wonderful, and Victor Courtney gives capital imitations at the piano. Lily Adalade is also seen in a pleasing turn.

STOCKPORT. — EMPIRE — Proprietors, The Stockport Empire Theatre Co. Ltd.; Acting-Manager, Mr. W. Black.—A capital holiday programme is presented here this week, Edgar Forrest and company heading the bill with a laughable sketch, *Oh, My Mother!"* Marie Jones, assisted by Ernest Munro, displays genuine ability in a quick-change duologue, *The Way to Win a Bet;* distinctly funny is Chas. F. Best as Mac-Bunker, the Mountebank; the Paragon Trio sing a medley of popular ballads in capable style; Lily Sharplin is a pleasing mimic; Arthur Schofield's humorous songs are greeted with favour; the Raymond Trio present a neat and clever musical and dancing act; and Will Hebden proves himself an entertaining vocalist.

STOCKTON-ON-TEES.—CASTLE THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Chas. Imeson; Acting-Manager, Mr. Cecil Imeson.—Mr. Morton Powell's company in a successful drama, *The Woman who Gambles*, are here for three nights, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. On Boxing Day Mr. James Kiddie's pantomime, *Aladdin*, will be produced.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Harry Burns; Resident-Manager, Mr. Geo. Stainton.—The above hall is closed this week, and will reopen on Monday.

GRAND THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. John Batty; Manager, Mr. Walter Batty.—Mr. M. Montgomery's stock company produces this week a military drama, *Man and Wife*. Mr. Ernest Wingfield as Paul Revere was very successful; Mr. H. Hesslegrave makes a typical Colonel Letour; Capt. D'Esparre is well-acted by Mr. Fred Terriss; Miss Lilian Beaumont as Marcelle gives an excellent portrayal; Miss Lina Nazeby as Jean Morville was good; as was also Miss Daisy Norman as Rosette. The rest of the company are well suited to their parts. Payne's bio-photoscope concludes with "Flash James."

STOKE.—HIPPODROME.—Proprietor, Mr. T. Allan Edwardes; General-Manager, Mr. H. F. Miller; Assistant-Manager, Mr. H. Moroney.—The Colonials appear in a pretty musical scena, reminiscent of backwoods life, and provide altogether a most interesting number; Zarmo, the Jew juggler, introduces some smart feats; the Days pay a return visit, demonstrating telepathy; and Johnnie and Willie are neat and clever acrobats. Also appearing are the Sisters Lytton, Mostol, Fred Casburn, Prince Schaboo, and the Bioscope.

SUNDERLAND. — ROYAL. — Proprietor, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Harry Esden; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Geo. Dunn.—Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Draycott's répertoire company is here this week, and on Monday played *The Octoroon* before a crowded house. Salem Scudder was excellently portrayed by Mr. Chas. Draycott; Mrs. Draycott was a capable and dainty Zoe; and Mr. Wilfred J. Short did well as George Peyton. The villainous Jacob McClosky was in the able hands of Mr. George Arthur; Wah-no-tee, the faithful Indian, was cleverly done by Mr. Geo. Street; and Mr. Harry Scatchard excelled as Pete. Miss Marie Ellis and Miss Louise Millward were seen to advantage as Dora Sunniside and Mrs. Peyton. The other rôles were all capably handled, and the artists were enthusiastically received.

EMPIRE THEATRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Richard Thornton; General-Manager, Mr. Hy. Esden.—Miss Marquis arouses much enthusiasm with her stud of cleverly trained cobs; Herman Melot is well described "a marvel of deftness in conjuring," his feats causing considerable surprise; Dutas astounds all by his correctness in the matter of dates; and S. K. Eida and Nellie Falco exhibited in a dancing act some advantages of ju-jitsu. A sketch, entitled *The Piano Tuner*, given by Wood, Wells, and Wilkins, was full of pleasing humour and tuneful song; and Takio, a Japanese mimic, gave imitations of animals and birds with a fidelity that was heartily appreciated. Miss Margaret and Master John Rawson are two juvenile entertainers of exceptional talent; and Edna Lyall sang with charming sweetness.

PALACE THEATRE.—Manager, Mr. Lennox Barry; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Hy. Curry.—John Clemperi, who heads the bill this week, is distinctly mystifying in the manner in which he escapes from various padlocks, chains, handcuffs, &c. Great enthusiasm was evinced by the audience during his turn. The Geretti Sisters, trapeze artists, perform their tricks with a marvellous dexterity and agility; the Three Sisters Lee, vocalists, dancers, and acrobats, give a very attractive turn; *Wanted, a Wife*, is an amusing sketch by Leslie Clare's company; Harry Morris, comedian, is equally entertaining, his jokes being very smart; and Mack is a good dancer and pleasing singer.

TON-Y-PANDY. — THEATRE ROYAL.—General-Manager, Mr. Sam Duckworth; Acting-Manager, Mr. Ridgewood Barrie.—Mr. Harry Starr and company have paid a welcome return visit. For the first three nights *Otto, the Outcast* was staged, and for the latter part of the week *Karl, the Clockmaker*. In the former Mr. Harry Starr created great enthusiasm as Otto; Roderique D'Estalier was capably interpreted by Mr. Will Hee; Mr. A. Sawyer made the most of Daddy Bruneau; as Auguste Carotte plenty of humour was provided by Mr. A. Allen; Miss Kate Norris presented a capital study of Lara, and Susette was safely entrusted to Miss E. Mackintosh.

HIPPODROME.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. Will Stone.—Rene and Smith successfully "top the bill" here. Salmon provides a unique cycle act; Eugen Brandt meets with a rousing reception; as also does Jean MacDuff, the lady "Lauder"; Peggy Lyndon and Gilbert Rogers each merit approbation. The leading pictures are a Christmas Eve Dream and The Bank Guardian.

TYLDESLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. W. W. Brierley.—Mr. Gus Levaine produced *Dick Whittington* here on Saturday evening before a crowded house. The pantomime is bright and lively, and the settings and costumes are of a pretty character. In the title-rôle Miss Marion Collins gives a dashing exposition and sings in good style; Miss Lizzie Levaine is a graceful and charming Alice, and also scores in her songs; Miss Ida Conroy wins approval for her efforts as Princess Pearl; and Miss Lil de Laur is the possessor of an excellent voice; Mr. Charles Towers as Idle Jack and Mr. Fred Terry as Sarah cause much laughter by their witticisms; the Emperor is well represented by Mr. Lew Vance. Clever speciality turns are introduced by the Duranos, acrobats; Mr. Victor Silverine, siffleur; Otto Ethardo, equilibrist; and the Ruby Quartette of Lady Dancers. The chorus is strong.

WARRINGTON. — ROYAL COURT.—Proprietor, Mr. Joseph Beecham; General-Manager, Mr. A. M. Loader; Assistant-Manager, Mr. S. Smiley.—Messrs. Pardoes' and Miss Lottie Holland's pantomime company is here for a fortnight with *Cinderella*. The simple story is adhered to faithfully, the artists are all well-balanced, and the staging, dresses, and scenic effects are done on an elaborate scale. The specialities are well introduced, and the Pardoes are a fine troupe of acrobats, whilst Miss Lottie Holland scores a complete triumph with her scena "Ayesha, my Sweet Egyptian." Zenieth is a remarkable animal impersonator, and the Edengale Trio are delightful dancers. Miss Nellie Rose is a charming Cinderella, and her singing and dancing alike are capitally accomplished; a dashing Prince Charming is Miss Lottie Holland; Miss Beattie Howard is a winsome Princess Rosala; Miss Lizzie Round is a dashing Dandini; Mr. T. Dorma makes the most of the Baron; and the two daughters, Eve and Maud, are well represented by the Brothers Dench, who play well on the "Suffragette" craze. Mr. George Hyam is an accomplished comedian, and his work is always good; Alf. Grady and Mike Hastings score as Blobbs and Blabbs; and the flunkies have capital impersonators in Messrs. Wright and Spencer. Mr. Tom Griffith as Father Time sings splendidly, his rich, sonorous voice being heard to advantage in "The Storm Fiend." Miss Cissy Loveday as the Fairy wins all hearts with her realisation, and the chorus is well-balanced.

ROYAL THEATRE OF VARIETIES.—Proprietors, the Franco-British Animated Picture Company; Managing-Director, Mr. Turner; Manager, Mr. J. Waters.—This place of amusement is now under new proprietorship, and it is satisfactory to note that the services of Mr. Waters, who has thoroughly established himself a favourite here, are still retained. The entertainment this week is excellent, and besides a grand array of pictures, the turns supplied by Connie Mascott, comedienne, and Cliff and Kean, comedians, are much enjoyed.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME. — Managing-Director, Mr. Frank Macnaghten; Manager, Mr. G. D. Bradbury.—Consul the Great is here this week, and his performance is quite a sensational one, a large house assembling on Monday night and looking on with wonderment. Rastus and Banks are delightful coloured entertainers; Captain Devereux's dogs are seen to advantage in their sketch *The Streets of London;* Johnny Holland's company score well in the sketch *My Friend Boots;* Lily Arthurs is a charming comedienne and dancer; and Margaret Radcliffe's illustrated songs are much enjoyed. The Primrose Comedy Four score in a song-scena, and the pictures are good.

WEST STANLEY.—THEATRE ROYAL, LTD.—Managing-Director, Mr. Mark H. Lindon; Assistant-Manager, Mr. W. Kelly; Stage-Manager, Mr. Angus.—Mr. Walter Melville's company is appearing here in *The Soldier's Wedding* to crowded audiences. Mr. Wingold Lawrence is good as Jack Brown; Mr. Beresford Whitcomb portrays Colonel Jas. Graham effectively; Mr. Johnny Chippendale is an ideal Tommy Spratt; Little Albert is all that can be desired as Teddy Munroe; Mr. Chas. Davy is excellent as John Marks; Miss Dorothy Richardson is very successful as Nancy Lee; and Peggy Munroe is played by Miss Mabel Lowe. All the other characters are in excellent hands.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Proprietor, Mr. T. C. Rawes; Assistant-Manager, Mr. Geo. W. Montrose.—Topping the bill here are Leonard Charborn's Twelve Stars, under the able direction of the manager and producer, Mr. Richard L. Griffiths; the "Stars" sing and dance well, and their concerted numbers are excellent. Great Scot, the London fireman, does a fine juggling turn on an unsupported ladder; the Three Bordellas, in the performance on the silver rings, supply a fine show, combining youth, strength, and talent; the Prinellas, in their country scene, are very good; Smith and Johnson, the clever coloured duo, are excellent; and the Bioscope concludes a good show.

WEYMOUTH.—OPERA HOUSE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. H. J. Nobbs.—Mr. John A. Thomson is again producing one of his annual pantomimes here, and the one selected for Weymouth is *Sinbad the Sailor*. The opening scene is the Abode of the Wreckers (the Old Man of the Sea), in which the Fairy Elphin is discovered, the opening chorus of the Nymphs of the Sea Queen and the Sea Queen's song being the special feature. Scene 2 represents the Sailing of the Ship, with a bold chorus of sailors and peasants, introducing a rustic and nautical ballet with fine effect. Scene 3 is the Cabin of the Saucy Sarah, in which some excellent comedy is introduced. Scene 4, on Board the Saucy Sarah, includes various political allusions to the rejection of the Licensing Bill and the Suffragettes, and has a capital duet between Mrs. Sinbad and the captain. Scene 5, the Seashore, and 6, the Island and Diamond Valley, increase in interest the progress of Sinbad. Scene 7 represents the stealing of the jewels, and Scene 8 is the Lone Hut of the Wood, in which the Sea Queen and attendants make a charming picture. Scene 9, On the Way to the Palace, introduces all the characters going to the Palace of Good Intent (Scene 10), when the revelries include the Coral Troupe of lady dancers; the Spadonis, in their novel duets; Miss Amy Cooper, soprano; the Sisters English, expert dancers; the Three Sisters Macrae, in their international dances; and Oak and Elm, vocal comedians. Mr. Sydney W. Morton is producing the pantomime for Mr. John A. Thomson, and the courteous business-manager is Mr. Henry Bowman.

WORKINGTON.—THEATRE ROYAL.—Lessee, Mr. McKenzie Morgan.—This bright little house has a smart and well-varied programme this week, special attention being paid to the festive season and the demand for full enjoyment. Among the turns are the Miners' Quartet. Three only appeared, however, on the night of our visit, and this trio of "lads from Lancashire" gave full voice to some pathetic part-songs, which drew long plaudits from sympathetic hearers. Jock Cameron, with his breezy songs of "Bonnie Scotland" is always a favourite here, and his rendering of "Aberdonian" and "Jock McGrath" are decidedly good style—broad wit, with plenty of action, to say nothing of the kilt and twisted stick he carries in his mighty fist. Then we had Dan Bell, with his dolls and his ventriloquism; a decidedly clever operator with good patter and songs. The two unison dancers, James and Alexander, who were a feature last week, repeat their success; and the pictures are very good indeed.

YORK.—OPERA HOUSE AND EMPIRE.—Managing-Director, Mr. Tom Peacock; Acting-Manager, Mr. Sidney Brooke.—The grand Christmas pantomime, *Puss in Boots*, produced and arranged by Mr. J. Collins, was presented her on Monday night. The piece, which was well staged, fully deserved the hearty applause it received from well-filled houses. Miss Ethel Beach makes an ideal Juan—she plays in an easy and natural style, and a promising future is predicted for this young actress; Miss Eva Ellis as the Princess was a great success—her songs were well received, and her dancing was graceful; as Lola Miss Elsie Don acted in first-class style, combining a pleasing personality with some good singing; the Fairy is also deserving of a word of praise; Mr. Wyn Weaver as King Komilfs was very clever, and, along with Mr. William Benson as the Widow, kept the house in roars of laughter; Mr. Arthur Watts and Mr. Algernon Lea as Sancho and Bancho cause much fun; and the comicalities of the two remaining sons, Messrs. Ferris and Farnley, are much appreciated; the specialities introduced by the Collins sextette of expert dancers are heartily applauded, and add considerably to the success of the performance; Mr. Harry Seymour as the Cat is most successful.

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PROVINCIAL PANTOMIMES.

"DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT," AT DUNDEE.

Mrs. Lillie Williams produced her second pantomime this season at the Gaiety Theatre, Dundee, on Monday evening, the 21st inst. The subject of Mrs. Williams's second venture is *Dick Whittington and His Cat*, which had such a send-off that the fortunes of this popular house are assured for many weeks to come. That two pantomimes of such excellence can be produced at the same house in one season speaks volumes for the enterprise and discriminating taste of the producer. No expense has been spared in the dressing and staging of the production, which is certainly the very best of the many notable pantomime successes at this house. The book, written by the late Fred Locke, is original and up to date; the costumes, designed and executed by Mrs. Tom Verney and her assistants, are exceedingly bright and dainty; while the music, arranged by Mrs. Williams herself, comprises all the latest and most successful songs. The magnificent scenery, which has all been specially painted by Mr. Robert Miller, the talented scenic artist of the Gaiety, is very elaborate and tasteful. The pantomime is played in nine scenes, viz.: Scene 1, Bow Belfrey; scene 2, Old Cheape; scene 3, Fitzwarren's Emporium; scene 4, Highgate Hill; scene 5, The Docks; scene 6, Saloon on s.s. Unicorn; scene 7, The Sultan of Morocco's Palace; scene 8, Cripplegate; scene 9, The Palace Gardens. Some of the cloths are unusually brilliant examples of scene painting. Old Cheape is a very effective setting; Highgate Hill is a delightful rural picture; the Palace scene is without doubt the first of its kind ever seen on this stage, and is calculated to turn any Eastern potentate green with envy; while the palace gardens is a very tastefully arranged tableau. There is quite a constellation of stars to fill the principal rôles. Miss Gertie Douglas as Dick makes a handsome and dashing boy, she is endowed with a charming personality and a graceful figure, and at once installed herself as a popular favourite. She has some capital songs to sing, her most notable successes being "I don't care if there's a girl there," and "Sue, Sue, Sue." In the former song she introduces with much effect a hand-mirror, which reflects the limelight over any part of the darkened building. Miss Hetty Lind's Alice is a charmingly sweet creation. Her vocal items are also rendered excellently, particularly good being "A tiny seed of love," which is encored over and over again. Miss Cicely Kent as Fitzwarren's cook is responsible for the cleverest comedy creation seen here for a long time. She is full of life and movement, and scores a great hit with her clever parody on "Il Bacio." Mr. Sam Thomson as Idle Jack simply revels in the part, his comic business keeping the house in continuous roars of merriment. Nothing funnier could possibly be imagined than his extraordinary nautical song and dance, while his scenes with Miss Cicely Kent (Fitzwarren's cook) are ludicrous in the extreme. He has certainly made a sensational hit. Mr. Harry Loftus as Captain Bailey also works hard to keep the fun going. He has a capital topical song. "As long as the world goes round," in which he introduces a very amusing verse anent Carrie Nation, the American saloon smasher, who was making the local publicans tremble in their shoes the other week here. He also sings a very comical ditty, entitled "Onions," for which he is encored. Mr. Phil Conway is an excellent Alderman Fitzwarren, and is much applauded for his song, "Every fellow's in love with a girl." Mr. Michael Kemble makes a dramatic King of Rats, his splendid voice being heard to much effect in "The White Squall" and other songs which fall to his lot. Miss Osceola Martinek as the Princess is altogether excellent, her artistic dance in the Palace scene being rewarded with rounds of applause. Miss Olive Carter as the Fairy Queen of Cats also made a very favourable impression, her singing and deportment being excellent. A special word of praise is due to Mr. Harry Gilmore for his clever impersonation of the cat. Excellent specialities are introduced by Joseph Carter's Ten Corneville Belles, the Ten San Tan Girls (under the direction of Mr. Victor Carter), Miss Osceola Martinek, and the Imperial Quartette of Glee Singers. The whole production on the opening night went without a hitch from rise to fall of curtain. Mr. Phil Conway was responsible for the stage management, which was faultless, and the augmented orchestra played skilfully under the direction of Mr. Robert Beaumont, R.C.M. Mrs. Lillie Williams was greeted with a perfect storm of applause, as at the close she thanked her patrons heartily for their warm reception of the pantomime. She has undoubtedly "spotted a winner" in *Dick Whittington*, and her courteous business-manager, Mr. Frank Percival, will have his hands full for many weeks to come.

"ROBINSON CRUSOE" AT FLEETWOOD.

Messrs. Lintone and Hunter are producing their pantomime, *Robinson Crusoe*, at the Queen's Theatre, Fleetwood, this week. On Monday night the piece went with great swing and smoothness. The first scene opens at the Port of Hull with the arrival of Atkins. A deep plot is laid for the abduction of Crusoe and his sweetheart, and they are taken as prisoners on board the Saucy Polly, where their faithful followers are also found. The ship is wrecked, and a most effective scene is made of Crusoe alone on the raft. Crusoe finds a lonely island, and outwits Atkins, the "bold, bad pirate." Man Friday turns up and assists Crusoe to escape from the Cannibals. In the next scene, Polly Perkins, Crusoe's sweetheart, appears, and Crusoe "pops the question." Polly having given her consent, all are invited to a great fête and rejoicing at King Harkee's Palace, where a most brilliant scene is enacted, and all ends happily. The company is an exceptionally strong one, Mme. Lizzie Lintone not only acting with delightful vim, but singing in a most pleasing manner; Miss Elina Barton makes a charming Polly Perkins, her songs "Fishing" and "Jeremiah" being very successful; Billy Crusoe and Alice Perkins, his sweetheart, are ably portrayed by Miss Jenny and Miss Louie Raymond; the Dame is undertaken by Mr. Watty Griffin in the funniest possible manner, his antics convulsing the audience; Miss Lily Raymond gives a rendering of the Fairy Queen, excelling in every way; and Miss Ida Conway is clever as Captain Kettle. Miss Ruby Lynne is great as Buting, her sailor's hornpipe bringing down the house; Piccalily has an able exponent in Miss Hilda Fern, and a host of others fill up a very strong cast. The specialities are exceptionally strong, honours being shared by the Lintone Trio, "England's Greatest Concertina Players," a title they well merit, and the Sisters Raymond, vocalists and international dancers, who are vociferously recalled nightly. Serpento, the Human Eel, is a very clever contortionist, and Stylvo, with his dog Rennie, is interesting on one stilt. Wright and Wrong are amusing patterers, and Victor Hunter's Military Maids and Naval Cadets give a smart vocal turn. That Mr. Watty Griffin is an able producer and stage-manager is witnessed by the excellence of the show, and Mr. Victor Hunter is the acting-manager, finding time in addition to sing one of his popular songs, which is always well received.

"DICK WHITTINGTON," AT THE GAIETY, GLASGOW.

Pantomime reigns supreme twice nightly for the next few weeks here. On Monday evening *Dick Whittington* was introduced to good houses, and was received in a manner that augurs well for a most successful run through the festive season. The pantomime is exceedingly well-staged, and completed in ten scenes, every one of which shows evidence of labour, thought, and taste on the part of Mr. Jack Morris, under whose direction the show is produced. Particular mention might be made of the scenes, Highgate Hill by Moonlight, On the Strene, and The Emperor's Palace, where the effects are most striking and worthy of all praise. From The Conspirator's Cave to the climax in The Emperor's Palace the patrons are treated to a two-hour entertainment choke-full of good things—catchy songs, smart dancing, and comic interludes. To the company nothing but compliments are due for as bright and well-balanced a programme as one could wish for. As an outstanding success might be mentioned Miss Dinah Morris, who takes the title-rôle. Her display was of undoubted merit, her singing, dancing, and general deportment being delightfully free and dainty, quite meriting the reception she received. Frances Drew as Alice gave a most captivating performance. her singing being specially appreciated. Miss Bessie Morris as Capt. Kettle, although carrying avoirdupois not generally associated with the lithe and swarthy creation of Cutcliffe Hyne, yet gave a spirited and sprightly representation. In Sam Morris and Geo. Reeves, as Idle Jack and Sarah respectively, the company possess a couple of comedians who can simply draw the laugh at pleasure, their comic business being at once fresh and enjoyable, and as a consequence their efforts reaped a just reward. In Scene 3 Geo. Reeves made quite a hit with a topical song, entitled "Only a Dream." Sid Morris as the Cat may be considered a success, giving a modest yet capital representation of Dick's feline companion. Mr. George Bailey as Fitzwarren and Mr. Fred Martin as Emperor of Morocco were also prominent. The dresses are on a most lavish scale, and the show in its entirety means a busy time for the genial manager, Mr. Harry Bowerman.

"PUSS IN BOOTS" AT PAISLEY.

Mr. J. H. Savile on Saturday evening produced his annual pantomime. This year it is *Puss in Boots*, and it promises to be as successful, if not more so, than any of his eleven previous Christmas entertainments. Everyone knows the moving history of the miller's son who was unjustly deprived of his share of the family property by a greedy elder brother, and condemned to seek his fortune in the world. If it had not been for the cat he took with him, and the kind assistance of a good fairy met on the road, he might have had to enlist or do something of the kind, but by the above-mentioned help he becomes a peer, and finally wins the hand of a charming princess—all these things are indelibly recorded in the archives of every nursery. Mr. J. Hickory Wood has written the book of the piece, and Mr. Savile put it upon the stage of his Paisley theatre in the form of a very amusing pantomime. Miss Daisy Morell takes the part of Colin, who, at all events before the play begins, is a hard-working lad. Subsequently, being disinherited, as has been stated, he goes forth to try his luck, and fortunately meets with the good fairy Felina (Miss Topsy Johnson), who presents disguised Puss, otherwise Mr. Glen Alva, with a pair of boots. The first effect of this shoe leather is decidedly painful to poor Puss, the second is to invest him with a voice and the power to walk upright. Henceforth he wears human dress, and looks very well in it. The fairy has bestowed a peerage on the miller's son along with the boots for his cat, and this justifies him in making love to the King's only daughter, Princess Ivy, gracefully and prettily rendered throughout by Miss Katie Yates. Subsequently, this clever young lady gives the bad ogre Digestus (Mr. Arnold Harley) something unhealthy to drink in a loving cup, and thus she removes the chief obstacle to her union with the lucky young adventurer now known as the Marquis de Carabas. Everything ends happily in the final splendours of the King's Carabas Castle. From beginning to end the pantomime is literally alive with fun and frivolity, catchy songs, graceful and clever dancing, and brilliant music. The scenery is adequate to the production, and includes some ten sets, of which number four are especially worthy of mention as being of artistic merit, viz., The Old Mill, The Rose Garden, Laburnam Grove, and The King's Palace. As for the cast, principals, chorus, and ballet work together most smoothly and harmoniously, there being observable an esprit de corps that is eminently satisfactory. Miss Daisy Morell plays the part of Colin, and is quite an ideal representative of the hero of the story. Her excellent stage presence, her spirited acting, and her ability as a vocalist place her in the front rank of principal boys. She sings "I don't care if there's a girl there" and "Much obliged," and joins in the duet "Mandy" with Miss Katie Yates, who as Princess Ivy is quite chic and fascinating. The success of Miss Yates in the songs "A tiny seed of love" and "Connemara" is unbounded, her pleasing voice being heard to great advantage. Miss Florence Lewis as Prince Rudolph plays with dash and spirit throughout, while her singing of "Johnny, there's a locket in your pocket" and "Way down in Colon Town" catches on at once. Miss Moyna Hill is a winsome little lady, whose neatness of figure makes Phyllis a dainty personage indeed. Miss Mabel Earle and Miss Jessie Jukes as Jack and Jill work cleverly together, their singing and dancing being particularly good and forming a distinctive feature of the pantomime. Miss Topsy Johnson looks very pretty as the Fairy Queen, and her vocalism stamps her as a capable artist. First favourite amongst the comedians is unquestionably Mr. Walter Kooney, who as King Grabbus is irresistibly funny. He is full of quaint quips and cranks, which fairly convulse the audience. He scores also in the song "A to Z," and, with his partner, Mr. Harry Karr (Dame Shortly) joins successfully in the "£ s. d." duet. Mr. Karr as the Dame proves himself a comedian of resource, acting with much dry humour and cleverness, and never at any time with the slightest trace of vulgarity. Mr. Fred C. Fields as Baron Rumphiz has a part that as yet scarcely brings out his unquestionable ability and versatility as a comedian, but he makes the most of his chances, and scores in all he has to do. With Miss Florence Lewis he, on two occasions, is given opportunities of displaying his vocal abilities. As a Scotch comedian Mr. J. K. Macfarlane in the rôle of Sandy Macmuggles is vastly entertaining, and sings a couple of songs that go off capitally. As Slyboots, King of Cats, Mr. Glen Alva works hard and honestly for success, and secures it, his agile dancing alone bringing him rounds of applause; while Mr. Arnold Harley acquits himself sufficiently well in depicting the ogre Digestus. Special mention must be made of the clever La Belle Trio of dancers—Misses Edna Evelyn, Becca Stirling, and Lily Bell—who dance with commendable vivacity, and are duly rewarded by recalls. The costumes are of exceptional beauty, and are the work of Messrs. J. A. Harrison, Ltd., Miss Mary Welsh, and Miss Nellie Walters. The scenery, which reflects great credit on the artists, is designed and executed by Mr. J. J. Markwell and Mr. John M. O'Farrell; while the machinery and mechanical effects work smoothly under the guidance of Mr. Jack Murdy, the properties also being invented by him. Mr. W. Morton displays fresh wonders in the electric effects, as does also Mr. W. Cosgrove with the lime-light arrangements he has introduced. The appropriate music, arranged and composed by the chef d'orchestre, Mr. Bert W. Stephens, is bright, catchy, and pleasing, and he deserves praise for the success achieved in his department. The pantomime was produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Savile, with the services of Mr. Bernard A. Leslie in the responsible part of stage-manager, a position in which he appears to be an adept.

"LITTLE ALADDIN" AT WIDNES.

A huge audience assembled at Mr. James Kiddie's popular theatre on Monday, when he produced a new version of *Aladdin*. The book is written by Mr. Kiddie, in collaboration with the veteran Mr. Joe Burgess. While the story is developed on the time-honoured lines, the libretto is very bright and smart, plenty of scope being afforded the five capable comedians engaged. Most merrily did it run on Monday, and of first-night hitches and lapses there was almost an entire absence. Miss Marie Beresford is the Aladdin, and exercises a fascination over the whole house. With "If there's a girl there" she makes one of the hits of the evening. "A Yorkshire girl" and "Won't you dance the 'Merry Widow' waltz with me?" also go extremely well. Miss Lily Brammer is the Princess Badroulbadour, and fairly brings down the house by her dainty rendering of "If I should plant a tiny seed of love in the garden of your heart." "Lovelight" is another capital number for which she is responsible. Miss Lily Innes is a dashing Pekoe, and wins golden opinions with a clever rendering of "Every fellow loves a girl." Her duet with Miss Lye Jefferies, "See-saw, Esau" went with great éclat. Miss Lye Jefferies is a graceful Fan Tit, and handles the popular "Antonio" song with great effect. "Carnegie" is another good number with which she wins applause. The specially-written part of Darkey Diablo gives Miss Emmie Milstead many chances, of which she is not slow to avail herself. Her singing of "The Lagoon" is an artistic treat. Vivacious throughout, her dancing and vocalisation are equally admired. Miss Rose Parazeer is a handsome Genie of the Ring, and the numbers allotted to her—"Fairyland" and "The silver lining"—are rendered in talented style. Comedy is a strong feature of the pantomime, and the gags and quips of the funny men are many and varied. The great little Harry Pleon plays the Widow Twankey on original lines, the lady becoming a refined, if eccentric, person of the "Merry Widow" type. Mr. Pleon sings "From Poverty-street to Golden-square" and "I never said a word" with excellent effect. Mr. Joe Bell gets every bit of humour possible out of the part of Wishey Washee; Mr. Walter Purvis as Abanazar indulges in some screaming mock dramatics; Mr. Joe Burgess as the Emperor maintains all his old popularity; and Messrs. Ray and Ross as Chinese policemen do the knockabout work with entire acceptability, and are also guilty of many puns and gags. The pantomime is in twelve scenes, which reflect high credit upon Mr. Jas. Greenhalgh and the local staff. The street in Pekin, the Magic Cave, and both the Palace sets are fine examples of the scenic artist's craft, and the electrical effects employed greatly enhance the impression made in the Cave scene. The dresses are elaborate and pleasing, Mesdames Lord and Ryder being responsible for them. The original vocal and incidental music has been composed by Messrs. Bert Harding and Geo. Burton, while Miss Mabel Milstead, the première danseuse, has arranged the graceful marches and groupings. The ballet knows its work thoroughly, and the large chorus sing tunefully. The stage-manager is Mr. Edward Chesters, and the production took place under the immediate supervision of Mr. James Kiddie. Mr. John S. Kershaw wielded the bâton admirably. The pantomime will go on tour.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC.

On Friday evening, Dec. 18, the pupils of Mr. B. Soutten gave a performance of dancing and an original wordless play. In the first part of the programme, devoted to solo dances, a youthful pupil, Miss Ellaline Mills, performed an Irish Jig and Miss Ethel Levy was very successful in a Sorella (Danse Brésilienne); while Miss Winifred Linder in her graceful Fan Dance received no fewer than three recalls. A dance arranged to Mendelssohn's "Spring Song," given by Miss Phyllis Munro, proved very effective; and the Japanese dance from *The Jewel Maiden* (Pascal), with its handsome picturesque costumes, and the clever dancing of the Misses Gertrude Ketchell, Ethel Levy, Hilda Brooker, and Phyllis Munro, was an attractive feature in the programme. Miss Ruby Helder sang "Salve Dimora," and the Misses Norah M. Stollery and Edith Romea were heard in a folk song, "The Keys of Canterbury." Other clever pupils of Mr. Soutten were Miss Molly Monnahan, Miss Ellaline Mills, and Miss Ethel Levy, who gave respectively a tambourine dance, solo dance, (Pas del Fleurs, Delibes), and "Anitra's Tanz" by Grieg. The second part contained *Estrella*, an original musical wordless play, written and composed by Marguerite Barrellier (Mrs. Barnett), a student of the Guildhall School. *Estrella* is in three scenes, and the plot, although simple, was certainly effective. In the first scene Estrella is getting her father's supper, and tries to hurry up the old man, as she expects her lover Paolo; but Estrella's father does not approve of the poor lover, and tells her the rich Marquis de Monte Fiasco wants to marry her. Of course, Estrella prefers poverty and Paolo to money and the Marquis, and her father in a rage goes off to bed vowing she shall marry the Marquis, and the first scene ends with a dance by the lovers. In the second scene Paolo laments his poverty. An old gipsy woman enters, and after giving her bread and water, Paolo has the idea of disguising himself as a gipsy and telling the fortune of the Marquis as he comes that way to Estrella's home. The Marquis presently arrives, attended by his footman bearing a jewel casket, by means of which he hopes to win Estrella. Paolo then tells his fortune. The third scene is the same as the first, namely, Guglielmo's Cottage, and Estrella's father is trying to get her to accept the Marquis, but without success. When the rich suitor arrives Estrella dances a minuet with him, but turns a deaf ear to his proposal and leaves the room. Paolo, still disguised as a gipsy, enters and informs the Marquis that the only way to win her is to be gay and amusing, and not offer jewels, which he demands as a fee. The foolish Marquis falls into the trap, and when Estrella returns she is amazed to find him dancing gaily about the room; but on the Marquis telling the father his plan, the old man, no doubt thinking such a fool no fit husband for his daughter, promptly kicks him out of the room, and when Paolo comes gives his blessing to the young couple. The music which accompanies this little story is well written and cleverly adapted to the action, and in the second scene a really charming minuet, admirably suited to the courtly dance, does the composer great credit. There is a short introduction to each act, the music being skilfully played by a small orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Philippe Thomas, A.G.S.M. The composer herself played Estrella with excellent results; and a handsome and gallant Paolo was forthcoming in Miss Hilda M. Brooker. As the Marquis de Monte Fiasco Miss Gertrude Ketchell displayed great talent both in her acting and dancing; while the tall footman of Mr. B. Hatton-Sinclair was extremely comic. Messrs. Clarkson provided the handsome costumes. *Estrella* was received with great favour, and in response to a most hearty call Mr. B. Soutten came before the curtain.

The charity performances at Her Majesty's (Opera House), Workington, noted in these columns last week, raised about £120 for the deserving poor—a result to be proud of in these hard times. *Bluebeard* opens on Saturday.

Pasta Mack.—A delightful necessity for bath and toilet. Imparts a delicious perfume to the skin. Used by the principal Courts of Europe. Boxes, 1s. and 2s. 6d. Pasta Mack soap, tablets, 10d. each, box of three, 2s. 6d., of all chemists. Sole maker, H. Mack, Ulm o/D.—[Advt.]

ADVERTISING ON THEATRE CURTAINS.

In the City of London Court on the 16th inst., before his Honour Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., an action was brought by Mr. Abram E. Abrahams, 26, Great Eastern-road, Stratford, against Mr. J. Bannister Howard, proprietor of the Theatre Royal, King's Lynn, 15, Clifford's Inn, Fleet-street, to recover the sum of £83, being damages for breach of agreement entered into between the plaintiff and defendant dated Nov. 4, 1904, by which the defendant agreed to show plaintiff's advertising curtain and to let to the plaintiff part of the programme of the Theatre Royal, King's Lynn, for a definite period and for a definite number of nights. The defendant, it was said, had failed to perform his part of the agreement, and plaintiff now demanded damages. The £83 was made up of one quarter of the amounts payable to the plaintiff by the several advertisers on the programme and curtain at the Theatre Royal, King's Lynn, the advertisers having refused to pay that proportion by reason of the fact that they had not had fifty-two weeks' exhibition of their respective advertisements. Plaintiff further said that the defendant had agreed with him to exhibit the curtain and programme for one year, whereas they were only exhibited for thirty-nine weeks. As the period contracted for was for one year, he contended that he was entitled to the damages sued for.

Mr. Charles, plaintiff's counsel, said the defendant sublet the programme and curtain to one Pareezer, who used the theatre as a music-hall, giving two shows a night. The defendant was now urging that each of those two shows a night constituted two exhibitions, when the agreement provided that the advertisements were to be exhibited "every night." Judge Lumley Smith said evidently the question was for him to construe the contract as to what constituted nightly performances. The onus was upon the defendant. Mr. Pareezer was called by Mr. Hales, counsel for the defence, and he said that he took over the theatre on Aug. 5, and that he was the present lessee of it. He was aware of the plaintiff's contract for advertising on the theatre curtain and programme. The plaintiff wrote him a letter asking him to carry out the contract. He wrote back saying that he declined to do so because plaintiff had not paid him (witness) anything, but that as defendant Howard was a friend of his he was willing to keep the curtain up without charge until the contract had expired. He commenced advertising on the programme on Aug. 5, 1907. By showing the plaintiff's advertisements at every performance, at the beginning, during the interval, and at the end, he claimed to have carried out the contract, and therefore the present action was without foundation. When variety performances were given at the theatre he gave two shows a night, and then six times the number of people saw the plaintiff's advertisements. There was always a much larger attendance for variety shows at the theatre than for dramatic performances. At the variety shows the audiences were entirely different, although the same programme was presented before the public to the two distinct audiences. At the variety show he got 600 to 800 people in one performance, whereas for dramatic entertainments the attendances were 200 to 300, or if it was exceptionally good, 400. He had a good deal of experience in such matters, having been connected with the theatrical stage for twenty-three years. In his opinion the advertisers had derived three times more benefit from the variety shows than from dramatic performances. He ceased to continue the plaintiff's advertisements on the curtain and programme because they had been exhibited for more than the required number of performances.

Mr. Charles said the plaintiff was entitled to go on thirteen weeks more to make up his year.

The witness replied that if the Court came to the conclusion that the plaintiff was in the right on that matter he was quite willing to give him thirteen weeks more advertisements.

Mr. Charles said they were quite unable to accede to any such suggestion, because the contract had been broken and plaintiff had entered into contracts to advertise with people in various towns in various parts of the North of England.

Judge Lumley Smith, K.C., said he must hold that the plaintiff was entitled to recover, and he held that the contract would only have been satisfied if the plaintiff's advertisement had been exhibited once nightly for a year. The defendant or those representing him had chosen to give the plaintiff six exhibitions nightly, but in his view those six performances nightly did not count as six exhibitions. That could not be held to satisfy the contract as six exhibitions. The plaintiff was entitled to be advertised a certain number of nights, and if defendant chose to exhibit advertisements six times each night that was his affair. He gave judgment for the plaintiff on the claim and referred the amount of damages to the Registrar for assessment with liberty to report to the Court.

Mr. Charles said if the plaintiff's damages had to be proved strictly it would be necessary to call 150 witnesses, and defendant would probably have to pay £300 expenses. Judge Lumley Smith said he could not go into that.

THE NEW GRAND, OLDHAM.

The inside of the New Grand Theatre and Opera House, Oldham, now presents a very cosy appearance, the various fittings and upholstery giving a bright and luxurious finish to the house. The architectural feature of the auditorium has been greatly influenced by the construction, a special feature being the steelwork, enabling the appearance of a three-tiered house by a two-tiered construction, giving a lofty and spacious character to each tier. The box façades are treated in a classical manner, the draperies being from Messrs. Waring and Gillow, of Manchester. The furnishing has been admirably done by Messrs. A. R. Dean, Birmingham. Mr. J. W. Cawdery, of London, is responsible for the stage and fittings, the work being done in Canadian maple. The stage will compare with any in the provinces. The dimensions are as follows:—Stage to grille 80ft., width 83ft., depth 45ft., and will take cloths 32ft. by 24ft., and ample room is supplied to stage any opera or drama on the road. The fittings are all on the latest principle, and in addition there is a large scene dock, carpenters' room, and property room. The dressing-rooms are situated behind the stage, separated by a corridor, and are well-appointed in every respect, the walls being tiled, hot and cold water laid on, and the rooms are lighted both by gas and electricity, giving every comfort to artists, being well ventilated and heated. Last, but not least, a band-room is supplied for the instrumentalists. The ventilation of the theatre is supplied by a system of fans, and electricity is the main feature for lighting, with gas as a stand-by in case of emergency. The interior is decorated in white and gold, giving a splendid appearance to the auditorium, and the ventilation is carried out by fans situated behind each tier. Mr. Samuel Mayall has been appointed acting-manager. He has occupied the position of manager with Messrs. Levy and Cardwell, Miss Mary Austin, and E. Vivian Edmonds, and also with the Primrose Quartette. Mr. Halkyard will take up the duties of musical directorship. Mr. J. Bellis is the stage-manager, Mr. Tom Hough electrician, and Mr. Will Jeffrey the property master. Mr. H. Le Maistre, the well-known scenic artist, has painted the proscenium border and wings, and also the magnificent act drop. A strong and capable cast has been engaged by Mr. Dottridge for the pantomime of *Aladdin*, which is to be produced on Christmas Eve.

AMUSEMENTS IN AUSTRALIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.)

SYDNEY, Nov. 10.—The Wren and Musgrove Opera Company opened at the Criterion on the 7th in *Maritana*. The favourite ballad opera was composed by Vincent Wallace, partly in Sydney and partly in Parramatta. This matter was settled by the composer's sister, Mme. Bushelle, who told it to the wife of the writer, who was her pupil. So that the opera has a special charm for the citizens of Australia's metropolis. Miss Rosina Buckmann, who is the latest Maritana, is from New Zealand, and possesses all the vivacity, attractiveness, and vocal qualifications which go to make the rôle a success. Here, a few years ago, in Alfred Hill's *Moorish Maid*, the lady made a favourable name, now further enhanced. Mr. Wilson Pembroke was the new Don Cæsar, and his robust style and clear, resonant voice, reached out for applause every time. An established Australian favourite is Mr. George H. Snazelle, whose King was his own, and good at that. Miss Tessa Byrne was evidently not told that we were accustomed to the Lazarillo music as it is written, without interpolated cadenzas. The Don José was Mr. McNaughton Duncan. He omitted the recitative to "No, my courage," as did also Mr. Pembroke the air, "All the world over."

"The Girl of the Golden West" is Mr. J. C. Williamson's present bill at the Royal. This is a strong drama of the old-time Californian diggings, where men of all nationalities gambled, swore, killed, and loved without limit, and with a rugged honesty unsmirched by puritanical pretence. Miss Tittell Brune has in the girl, Minnie, absolutely her best impersonation to date. As with all the company, without exception, she adopts the quaint manners and straightforwardness of her time, locale, and conditions, and whether teaching the rough diggers, evading their attentions, or giving herself up for her "first kiss" to the man she loves and trusts, she is excellent throughout. Mr. Thomas Kingston is the Ramerrez, alias Johnson, the road agent or highwayman, and he makes the character stand out in manly relief. It has many phases, but the determination to lead a honest life, born of his love for the girl who keeps a camp saloon, triumphs in the end. Mr. George Bryant gives a masterly portrait of Jack Rance, the sheriff and gambler, and a very fine performance is that of Mr. Leonard Willey, who is the bartender, Nick. Miss A. Kelly plays the only other female part, an Indian squaw, small, but carefully done, as is the Indian by Mr. Harry Tweeney. A genial digger, Sonora Slim, has Mr. Loring Fernie to care for him, and he makes him most enjoyable.

"The Merry Widow," with the advantage of Miss Betty Ohl's refined and graceful acting and fine singing, still holds Her Majesty's Theatre, and Mr. Williamson hints at no early change.

"A Miner's Trust," with Meynell and Gunn's dramatic campany, will run until the 13th at the Palace, and on the 14th Mr. H. R. Roberts, under Mr. Allan Hamilton's experienced direction, will introduce *The Prince Chap* to Sydney.

The Tivoli welcomed its proprietor, Mr. Harry Rickards, back during the week. He comes with a long list of important and costly engagements. Meanwhile, the present company is in high and deserved favour.

SYDNEY, Nov. 17.—Mr. John Wren's National Opera Company revived on the 14th *Les Cloches de Corneville*, with Miss Rosina Buckmann as Germaine. The vivacious New Zealander made quite a hit in the part, singing the music most acceptably. Mr. Wilson Pembroke was the Marquis and Mr. Edward Wynn undertook the music of Grenicheux, both being distinctly careful. Mr. G. H. Snazelle relied on the comedy element as the Baillie, omitting the singing. The miser Gaspard was cared for by Mr. McNaughton Duncan. The gay Serpolette had Miss Stella Gastelle as her representative. Smaller parts were capably acted, and the chorus did good work.

The Governor, Sir Harry Rawson, Miss Rawson, and suite, attended the Royal on Saturday night to see *The Girl from the Golden West*, decidedly Miss Tittell Brune's best character.

Mr. H. R. Roberts was enthusiastically welcomed at the Palace on the 14th, when he appeared as William Peyton in *The Prince Chap*. It was a delectable performance, full of finesse and natural detail, and it charmed the audience into unusual demonstration. The scene in the first act with the juvenile Claudia was great, for Mr. Roberts is unique in his training of children. Claudia, the youngest, was cleverly acted by little Vera Huggett. The next act, by Miss Beryl Yates and the upgrown Claudia, was entrusted to Miss Justina Wayne, a pretty and artistic gradation from child to woman. Miss Vera Remée was the selfish Alice Travers to the very life.

The Tivoli has its vaudeville Napoleon, Harry Rickards, back at the helm, looking hearty. The Scotch collies, the McGregors, Frank and Jen Latona (very clever and popular), J. W. Rickaby, Fanny Powers, Nita Leete, Rochford and Hart, and the Four Rosebuds provide a Tivolian banquet of fun and music.

This reminds me that a new comedy drama, from Mr. Joseph L. Goodman's pen, called *The Secret Wedding*, is in rehearsal, and will be produced early in the coming year.

West's Pictures at the Glaciarium are a standard attraction, novelty being the managerial aim.

The National Amphitheatre has a big bill, including Gertie McLeod, Scotch comedienne; Allan Hart, Very, the Ventriloquist, and Gingah, the Cliff Quartette, Clare Keating, the Rowell Sisters, Morris and Wilson, the Hurchams, Florrie and Stella Ranger, the Driscolls, and Wally Edwards.

An instance of the predominance of Foote's favourite passion for jesting was afforded by the death of Holland, of Drury Lane Theatre. This performer was the son of a baker who lived at Chiswick: and having an early inclination, as well as certain abilities, for the stage, young Holland was brought out under the immediate patronage and tuition of Garrick; from whom if he did not catch his divine fire, he imitated his art so well in many instances, as to render himself very respectable in the line of his profession. Foote had a long intimacy and regard for him; and when Holland died of the small-pox, about the year 1768, he left our hero a legacy, and appointed him one of the bearers to his funeral; which last office he performed with a sincere sorrow. Looking in at the Bedford Coffee-house the same evening, he was asked whether he had attended the remains of his old friend to Chiswick? "Oh! yes, poor fellow," said he (the tears scarce dry upon his cheeks); "I have just seen him *shoved into the family oven*."

When Mrs. Abington returned from her first very successful trip to Ireland, Foote wished to engage her for his summer theatre, but in the meantime Garrick secured her for Drury Lane. Foote, on hearing this, asked her why she gave Garrick the preference? "I don't know how it was," said she, "he talked me over so by telling me he would make me *immortal*, that I did not know how to refuse him." "Oh! did he so? then I'll soon outbid him that way; for, come to me, and I will give you two pounds a week more, and *charge you nothing for immortality*."

A dull dramatic writer, who had often felt the severity of the public, was complaining one day to Foote of the injustice done him by the critics; but added, "I have, however, one way of being even with them; which is, by constantly *laughing* at all they say." "You do perfectly right, my friend," said Foote; "for by this method you will not only disappoint your enemies, but lead the *merriest life* of any man in England."

"WHITTINGTON" AT CORONET.

Words by Frank Dix. Music by Jullien H. Wilson.

Dick Whittington .....Miss Constance Hyem
Alice Fitzwarren .....Miss Dorothy Firmin
The Princess .....Miss Anita Edis
Attendants .....Sisters Currie
King's Messenger ....Miss Gwendoline Donald
Alderman Fitzwarren .....Mr. Alec Kendal
Mrs. Desiccated Edwardes..Mr. Harry Randall
Idle Jack .....Mr. Edward Lewis
The Emperor of Morocco ....Mr. Wally Scott
Captain Spanker .....Mr. Walter Domonay
Farmer Hayseed .....Mr. Bertram Noel
The Demon Rat .....Mr. Ernest Laws
The Faithful Cat .....Mr. Johnny Fuller

This is Mr. Robert Arthur's first pantomime, and yet it is his fifth at the Coronet. To explain the ambiguity, *Dick Whittington* at the Coronet is Mr. Robert Arthur's first pantomime to appear this festive season, and yet it is his fifth hardy annual. It is also the first West-End theatre pantomime, which heralds a busy week for the critics and all concerned. *Dick Whittington* is mounted and dressed on a lavish scale of magnificence, and the scenery, especially Old Covent Garden, Highgate Hill, The Palace of the Emperor (Morocco), and the closing scene of The King's Garden, is all pretty, tasteful, and gorgeous in the extreme; in fact, a thing of beauty to haunt the memory of old and young alike. It is needless to remark that plenty of fun is forthcoming when we state that Harry Randall is specially engaged for the part of the female head of the gastronomical department, Mrs. Desiccated Edwardes; and Mr. Edward Lewis and Alec Kendal are able assistants in the fun-making line; whilst plenty of pretty faces and comely graces are presented by the ladies representing the principal parts. The good old story of *Dick Whittington* and how, assisted by his wondrous feline friend, he became thrice Lord Mayor of London is pretty closely adhered to by Mr. Frank Dix. Just when Dick, the apprentice, is the approved suitor for the hand of Alice Fitzwarren, the alderman's daughter, his career is apparently ruined by the diabolical machinations of Idle Jack and Mrs. Desiccated Edwardes. The Emperor of Morocco has sent a special envoy to the alderman asking for a diamond of fabulous price and a cat to kill the rats which invade his kingdom. The diamond is stolen and concealed about Dick Whittington's person, so that he apparently stands discovered as the thief. The scene on Highgate Hill, where the Bow bells and the magic of a fairy vision persuade Dick that fame and fortune await him in London town, is the big one of the pantomime. It is notable, among other things, for the extremely natural antics of Dick Whittington's cat, and Mr. Johnny Fuller is possessed of a keen sense of humour and a nice observation of animal conduct; moreover, he is made up as a very pretty pussy, neat and well groomed and be-ribboned. There is also some capital fooling when Idle Jack (Mr. Edward Lewis) and Mrs. Desiccated Edwardes endeavour to kidnap the cat, so as to get the Emperor of Morocco's reward for exterminating the vermin which infest his domain. Perhaps its chief claim to notice, however, is the charming ballet, set to the "Raymond" overture music, by Madge Martin's troupe and the Six Canadian Girls. Miss Jean Gordon is a delightful dancer, light as a fairy, graceful as a gazelle, and she should go on improving into a much better position than that she now occupies. Miss Renée Rell and Gwen Thomson also dance most acceptably, the latter in a kind of "Salomé" dance in Act II., scene 1. Act I., scene 5, is really devoted almost entirely to the "funniosities" of Mr. Alec Kendal, who proves himself a most diverting comedian with a quiet, subtle sense of humour and a languorous, careless manner, which are keenly appreciated, and he keeps the audience convulsed with laughter while he remains upon the stage. After the embarkation at Wapping Old Stairs, with an interval for refreshment, we are transported in Act II. to the Palace of the Emperor of Morocco.

The plot thenceforward follows the usual lines. A realistic struggle ensues between Pussy and the Demon Rat, capitally represented by Mr. Ernest Laws, with a splendidly rendered "rat" song on the lines of "The Bogey Man." Then Dick, through the agency of his cat, grows rich beyond the dreams of avarice, and with marvellous magnanimity he appears to also make the fortunes of his whilom enemies, the arch-conspirators, Idle Jack and Mrs. Desiccated Edwardes. On the return to London of this plutocratic trio they find Alderman Fitzwarren starving, and his daughter Alice selling flowers in the street. Some knockabout fun in the kitchen especially with a portable Turkish bath and a vanishing feast, leads up to a short scene outside St. Bride's Church and the grand final tableau of the King's Garden, with Mrs. Desiccated Edwardes clad in a Directoire gown, with a huge matinée hat, and all and sundry clad in gala costume of the most costly kind. One of the "hits" of the pantomime, by the way, is Mr. Harry Randall's screamingly funny Spanish dance, in Act II., scene 1, and, of course, he drops in a sly dig at the suffragettes during the course of the evening. Mr. Jullien H. Wilson's music is tasteful and appropriate, and Mr. Frank Harrison, assisted by Mr. Bertram Noel, stage-manages in most masterful fashion. The costumes are designed by Signor Comelli and executed by Miss Hall, Miss Mitchell, Miss Ley, and assistants; scenery by J. Fowler Hogg and G. E. W. McKie; properties by George Corney and Phil Rogers; electrical effects by David Marshall and John Hall; mechanical effects by Harry James and Harry Krot; and the whole is produced under the personal supervision of Mr. Robert Arthur.

Miss Constance Hyem is a most captivating and vivacious hero, and as Dick Whittington her acting takes a standard quite above that usually associated with pantomime heroes. She sings very charmingly the pretty ballad "A tiny seed of love," and gives a most rousing rendition of "A White Man." We hope she will soon add to these the popular ditty "Oh, oh, Antonio!" to make the score complete. Miss Dorothy Firmin is well known to Coronet audiences, and as Alice Fitzwarren she is a most graceful, pretty, and winsome heroine, and sings and dances delightfully. "Some day" is perhaps her best vocal effort. Miss Anita Edis as the Moroccan Princess contrives to score considerably with her song "I'm his girl," and is a great favourite with the audience. The Sisters Currie and the Sisters Herbert dance with remarkable agility. Mr. Harry Randall is too well known to need overmuch eulogy; suffice it to say that his representation of the old female cook, Mrs. Desiccated Edwardes, is by no means the worst thing he has done, and his resource, alertness, and experience as a comedian *par excellence* help materially to send the pantomime forward to the goal of success. Mr. Alec Kendal is a drily humorous comedian, with a distinctive style of his own, and his mock heroic rendering of the parody on a well-known recitation in Act II., scene 2, is first-rate. Mr. Edward Lewis works with spirit and success as Idle Jack, and his songs, duets, and funny "business" all assist to keep the ball of fun rolling. Mr. Wally Scott as the Emperor of Morocco has his chance in the "Coon Soldier" song, and he takes good care to make the most of it. Mr. Bertram Noel makes much of a few lines as Farmer Hayseed; and, as before mentioned, the faithful cat of Mr. Johnny Fuller and the Demon Rat of Mr. Ernest Laws are entirely excellent. Mr. Walter Domonay creates a good impression as Captain Spanker, of the good ship Margarine. No doubt exists as to the success of the Coronet pantomime, which went with a wonderful swing for a first night performance.

LYCEUM THEATRE.

On Wednesday evening, Dec. 22, the Fairy Pantomime, the book and lyrics written by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Carpenter, the music composed and arranged by H. Sullivan Brooke, the pantomime invented and produced by Ernest Carpenter, entitled

"LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD."

IMMORTALS

The Spirit of Evil .....Mr. S. Major Jones
Hate .....Miss Avice Scholtz
Greed .....Miss Mollie O'Mara
Envy .....Miss Lina Imperiali
Malice .....Miss Marcelle Hudson
Hard-heartedness .....Miss Adie Webb
The Wehr Wolf, The Scarecrow, The Snake, Mr. Punch .....Espinosa
Our Good Fairy .....Miss Eva Kelland

MORTALS.

Prince Rupert .....Miss Dorothy Craske
Red Riding Hood ....Miss Marjory Carpenter
Margery Daw .....Miss Alice Russon
Jack Horner .....Miss Kitty Upton
Miss Muffit .....Miss Marie Clements
Tommy Tucker .....Miss Alys Hardy
Mary Contrary .....Miss Naomi Barton
Peter Piper .....Miss Juliette Susini
Georgie Porgie .....Miss Rita Pereira
Baron Levinski .....Mr. Julian Rose
Dame Trot .....Mr. J. D. Hunter
Jimmy Green .....Mr. James Forman
Johnny Stout .....Mr. Peter Fannan
Simple Simon .....Mr. Charles Penrose
Silly Sammy .....Mr. Charles Ludlow
Gaffer Giles .....Mr. Jack Roker
Edouardo De Frisky .....Mr. Harry Gardner

A full dress rehearsal of the Lyceum pantomime was given on Tuesday evening, but the arrangements were so complete that the performance did not differ from an ordinary first-night production. Mr. Ernest Carpenter, the inventor and producer of the Christmas entertainment, deserves every credit for the perfection which was the distinguishing feature of Tuesday night's performance. Seldom, indeed, within our experience has a first production of a Christmas piece worked so smoothly. Very thorough has been the training of the young people engaged in the various scenes in which they figure prominently.

Of course everybody knows the story of *Little Red Riding Hood*, and there is no need to say much about the details of Mr. Carpenter's version of this popular nursery tale. The slight plot has had, of course, to be embroidered by certain incidents which are foreign to the story as told in the nursery, but we have a faithful representation of the thrilling scene where the wolf plays the part of grandmamma and gives the poor little heroine such a terrible fright. Mr. Carpenter has made Red Riding Hood a princess who has been abducted and left in charge of a kindly old school mistress, and she is eventually discovered by her brother Prince Rupert, who is as dashing and brave as the cavalier who in English history bore that name.

It can at the outset be said, without fear of contradiction, that in the countless stage productions founded on the ancient nursery tale, no more winsome representative of the heroine has been seen than little Miss Marjory Carpenter, the daughter of the producer of the pantomime, and one of the managing directors of the theatre. It was quite delightful to watch Red Riding Hood, not only because she is a charming little girl, who speaks her lines intelligently and dances with fairy-like grace, but because she is a born actress, who evidently takes a keen pleasure in her work. Careful training, of course, goes a long way, but it was not this alone that spelt success for little Marjory. In a charming bedroom scene Red Riding Hood sings a song to her toy "Teddy" bear and then puts him to bed, retiring there herself shortly after. Little Marjory Carpenter achieved quite a triumph at the preliminary performance, and is sure to make hosts of friends and admirers during the Christmas holidays. Then where could one find a handsomer or more spirited representative of Prince Rupert than Miss Dorothy Craske? In every particular she is well qualified for the part of the hero of the fairy story. Early in the evening she scores a big hit with the catchy chorus song, "Tom, My Bombardier," in which she has the assistance of a number of well-trained children. Later, Miss Craske sings the coon ditty "Sue, Sue, Sue" in such acceptable style as to elicit rapturous applause. Miss Alice Russon is a very dainty and attractive Margery Daw. She is, too, an admirable vocalist, one of her most effective contributions being "Meet me in rose-time." She also joins Miss Craske in a pretty duet. Miss Kitty Upton is a dashing Jack Horner, and Miss Marie Clements is a pleasing exponent of Miss Muffit and sings well. Miss Eva Kelland is an exceedingly refined and pleasing Fairy Queen, and her singing is of excellent quality. All the comic parts are excellently filled. Mr. Julian Rose as Baron Levinski is quite exceptionally clever in his portrayal of a Jew of a certain type. He has one long scene all to himself, but his patter is so funny that the audience do not tire of him. His ditty "Solomon" also had a good reception on Tuesday night, and a comic duet with Miss Craske was loudly applauded. Mr. Rose's character sketch is distinctly superior to the ordinary run of pantomime representation, and his co-operation in the scheme of amusement is invaluable. Mr. J. D. Hunter is a capital Dame Trot, and, while avoiding vulgarity, his representation is marked by genuine humour. Mr. James Forman and Mr. Peter Fannan appear as Jimmy Green and Johnny Stout, and their exertions in the cause of mirth are crowned with deserved success. Their cross-talk is extremely amusing, and their comic business with a property horse in one of the scenes excites much merriment. Mr. Charles Penrose as Simple Simon has a full share in the honours of the evening, furnishing a very amusing and successful embodiment of the guileless youth. Mr. Jack Roker gives a neat sketch of Gaffer Giles, and Mr. Harry Gardner makes good use of his opportunities as the donkey, De Frisky. Miss Alys Hardy as Tommy Tucker, Miss Naomi Barton as Mary Contrary, Miss Juliette Susini as Peter Piper, Miss Rita Pereira as Georgie Porgie, and Mr. Chas. Ludlow as Silly Sammy also deserve mention as clever contributors to the fun.

As regards the immortals, Mr. Espinosa puts much dramatic force into his representation of the Wehr Wolf, the Scarecrow, the Snake, and Mr. Punch. His dancing is remarkably good. Mr. S. Major Jones as the Spirit of Evil delivers his lecture in effective manner. Miss Eva Kelland is a very charming fairy, and secures a favourable verdict as a vocalist, one of her most successful contributions being "Shadowland."

As regards the scenery, the Village of Heydownderry and the wood in summer, with an instantaneous change to the wood in winter, are deserving of special mention. One of the most effective scenes is Toyland, in which the mechanical figures take part in a merry dance, little Red Riding Hood being a delighted participant in the merry-making. In the last scene, the Palace in the Happy Isles, illuminated fountains add greatly to its charming effect. The scenery is by Mr. E. C. Nicholls and assistants.

LYRIC OPERA HOUSE, HAMMERSMITH.

SURPRISE PRESENTATION TO MR. WENTWORTH CROKE.

The anniversary of the re-opening of the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, by Mr. Wentworth Croke was celebrated on the night of Saturday, the 19th inst., in an informal and most agreeable manner, made none the less so by reason of the complete surprise which it occasioned to that well-known gentleman when he was presented with a magnificent solid silver loving-cup by the heads of the theatre staff.

It will be remembered that Mr. Croke took over the theatre in the autumn of 1907, after the building had for some time been closed. He re-opened it on Boxing Day, 1907, and during the year just passing it has been a popular and profitable centre of amusement. In view of the necessary closing of the theatre from the 19th until the 26th for pantomime preparations, and in view of Mr. Croke's engagement to be present at his Shakespeare Theatre, Liverpool, on Boxing Day, it was decided by the chiefs of the staff at the Lyric to celebrate the proprietor's triumph a week in advance.

There were present, besides the heads of the staff (Messrs. Harry Drury, Geo. Dixon, H. Shirley, C. Goll, and J. Bishop), about forty members of Mr. Croke's various touring companies, also a number of other friends.

Mr. Fred S. Jennings, general manager to Mr. Wentworth Croke, in presenting the cup, said:—"Mr. Croke,—This being the last night of this season, I have—what is to me—a very pleasant task to perform. As you know, Saturday next is the first anniversary of your proprietorship of this theatre, and as—unfortunately for us—one of your pantomimes takes you on that day to Liverpool, to-night has been chosen to ask your acceptance of a small souvenir of the occasion subscribed for by the heads of the departments of this theatre. In handing you this cup, Mr. Croke, I am sure I voice the sentiments of my co-workers under your management in thanking you for a very comfortable and happy engagement during the twelve months we have had the honour of serving you. We wish you the best of luck in all your enterprises, and long life and good health to enjoy the fruits of your hard work and brilliant career as a theatrical manager. Now, boys, three cheers for the governor."

All present joined in loud and hearty cheers for Mr. Croke, accompanied with musical honours, and Mr. Croke's reply was no less cordial and sincere than the speech on behalf of the donors and the cheers of the company.

"Ladies and Gentlemen," he began, "I will not use the old stereotyped opening to the effect that this is the proudest moment of my life, because that would be idiotic, but I have had a most wonderful surprise. I had not the faintest ink-

MR. WENTWORTH CROKE.

ling or remotest idea that anything of the sort was even thought of, and my surprise is only equalled by my gratification. In the course of my life I have had only two presentations made to me, and I value them beyond all my possessions and treasure them above everything. I cannot tell you how much I appreciate this gift, for words fail me to express the depth of my feeling. I may say I am rather a funny sort of man, and believe I am often misunderstood, but one thing I can confidently say—I have always tried to play the game straight. (Loud applause.) Another thing I am very grateful to be able to say, I have always been proud of the staffs working under me; I have always found them anxious to do all they could to make the highest success possible, always found them most loyal. On my part, I am as anxious for their welfare and happiness as I am for my own success, and when occasion comes I fight for them, and will fight for them, because I value their reputation more than my own.

"I have been a theatrical manager now for ten years, and have been very successful, but that success is not due to my own efforts, but to the ladies and gentlemen who have worked for me to make my ventures successful and profitable enterprises. Without their strenuous and generous support I could not have been here to-day. I try to make my gratitude to them practical, and I can truly say that I am a fairly good friend—I cannot say a very good friend—but a fairly good friend, and a very undesirable enemy.

"In conclusion—I won't say ladies and gentlemen any more, but boys and girls—in conclusion, I like you all to know that I'll see any one of you at the head office whenever you may have a grievance. I will give you all a friendly hearing, and offer each one of you, if you are working for me, an ample opportunity of telling me all you want to tell me about any difficulty.

"With regard to this theatre, Mr. Jennings wrote to me some eighteen months ago, commencing his letter: 'I believe you are a gentleman who has some millions in the bank' (I don't think!), and went on to ask whether I was open to buy a suburban theatre. I wrote back, saying, 'If you refer to the Lyric, Hammersmith, don't cross my path again,' to which Mr. Jennings made no reply. With characteristic shrewdness, however, he called upon me, bringing such an array of appalling suggestions, that he made me think I was a Carnegie-Rockefeller rolled into one. Eventually I took the theatre, and opened it last Boxing Day, and the results have been such that, if all my touring companies—and I have several—were to fail, I should always be able to earn an excellent living out of the Lyric. Once more, I am very grateful, and am the happiest man in England. I wish I could be with you on Boxing Day, but, though absent in the flesh, shall be proud to be with you in the spirit."

The inscription on the cup was as follows:—"Presented to Wentworth Croke by the members of the staff as a token of their esteem and respect on the occasion of the first anniversary of the re-opening of the Lyric Opera House, Hammersmith, Dec. 26, 1908."

WEYMOUTH PIER PAVILION AND THEATRE.

The formal opening of this handsome and much-needed place of amusement took place on Monday last, the 21st inst., the opening ceremony being performed by the Earl of Shaftesbury, K.C.V.O., who was accompanied by the Countess of Shaftesbury and supported by the Mayor and Mayoress and the Corporation of the Borough. The proceedings commenced by the singing of the National Anthem. The Town Clerk then read an address of welcome to Lord Shaftesbury, to which his lordship, in a few well-chosen words, referred to the connection his ancestors had with the Borough in the past, one of them being Governor of the town in the reign of Charles II., and two others being subsequently members of Parliament for the Borough, and he congratulated the Mayor and Corporation in having established such an admirable building for the purpose of providing amusement in this progressive watering place, and he trusted the venture would prove an unqualified success. His lordship then formally declared the building open, upon which hearty cheers were given at the request of the Mayor. An excellent programme of music was then rendered, and general approval was shown by all present, and it was universally felt that the success of the building is assured.

The history of the Pavilion is interesting. At a meeting of the Weymouth Town Council on March 9, 1906, the Improvements and Attractions Committee recommended: "That a pavilion be erected on the present pier in accordance with the provisions of the Weymouth and Melcombe Regis Corporation Act, 1887, at an estimated cost, including the necessary reclamation of land, building sea wall, &c., of £12,500, and that this committee be authorised to take such steps as may be necessary to enable such scheme to be carried into effect." In the absence of Alderman Groves, Mr. Bartle Pye proposed the adoption of the committee's report, which was seconded by Mr. Honeybon, supported by the Mayor, and carried by twenty votes to three.

The new pavilion is erected on a re-claimed part of the foreshore, which has been enclosed with a sea wall and now forms part of the pier structure. The concrete wall is built up from a foundation of ferro-concrete piles, and is a splendidly substantial bit of work. The pavilion scheme was carefully designed to come within the limits of deviation as laid down in the deposited plans for the Weymouth Corporation Act of 1887. To this end Mr. Barlow Morgan, the Borough Surveyor and Engineer, planned to widen the pier on the north side, near the pier entrance, a distance of 107ft., giving an increased width at the entrance of the pier of 76ft. There is now a total width of 143ft. on the pier proper, or, if the entrance to the jetty be also reckoned, of 180ft. The area, which has been reclaimed and which was filled up to the level of the old pier with sand, is 2,917 superficial yards, or half an acre and 16 poles. The sea wall is built of Hennebique ferro-concrete. After the completion of the wall the space was filled in with sand taken from the foreshore. Then a ferro-concrete foundation of piles and beams was constructed to support the weight of the building. The steel stanchions of the pavilion are carried by seventy-six ferro-concrete tiles 14in. by 14in., connected with longitudinal beams designed to act as footings for the pavilion walls.

On June 14, 1906, the Town Clerk reported that he had obtained the plans for the proposed reclamation of the site of the pavilion from the Board of Trade. On September 11th the Town Council accepted the tender of Messrs. Playfair and Toole, of Southampton, for constructing the retaining wall, their tender being the lowest, £3,786. The highest tender was £8,340 and the Borough Surveyor's covering tender was £4,600, so that it will be seen that the contract was well within Mr. Morgan's carefully-prepared estimate, and represented a saving of £824. While Messrs. Playfair and Toole were pushing on with the work of building the retaining wall, the Council turned their attention to the important question of the design and scope of the new pavilion. On March 18, 1907, the whole Council in committee decided that the Improvements and Attractions Committee should invite plans and specifications for the new pavilion at a cost not exceeding £8,000, such sum to be exclusive of the foundations, lighting, heating, and seating. The Council offered a sum of 100 guineas as a premium to the competitor whose plan was accepted, the approved plan becoming the property of the Corporation. In September the committee appointed Mr. J. B. Briggs, F.R.I.B.A., of Effingham House, Arundel-street, Strand, W.C., to examine the plans and competitive designs for the new pavilion, and give an award upon them for a fee of fifty guineas. The assessor submitted his report the following month, and awarded the prize for the most suitable design to that with the nom de plume of "Expert." The committee accepted this award, and decided that the prize plans were the most suitable and attractive, and should be adopted for the new pavilion.

Tenders for the work of construction were accepted by the Council on March 12 last. Contract No. 1 for the general building was obtained by Messrs. Wakeham, of Portland and Plymouth, the price being £5,759. The tender of Messrs. Dorman, Long and Co., Ltd., of London and Middlesbrough, was accepted to supply and fix the steel and iron work for a sum of £2,129. The third contract for all the fibrous plaster was given to Messrs. A. R. Dean and Sons, of Birmingham, the price being £582. The total of these three important contracts was £8,370. Upon the completion of the retaining wall and the filling in of the reclaimed space, Messrs. Playfair and Toole were given the contract for the foundations at a cost of £675.

THE NEW PAVILION.

At the west end of the pavilion, which is approached by an oval carriage drive, with an island rest, admirably designed and executed by the Borough Surveyor and his staff, there are two entrances with ticket offices for the stalls, pit stalls, and pit, grand circle and circle. There is another entrance for the public to the pavilion on the pier, or south side of the building. This can be used as an additional door for the orchestra stalls. There is a ticket office and cloak-room, &c. The visitor passes through the swing doors into a handsome foyer, 34ft. by 50ft. This spacious and charmingly decorated vestibule creates a most favourable first impression. The handsome ceiling of the foyer is of fibrous plaster, worked in ornamental relief and picked out in gold. The walls are of ivory white, and there are a number of handsome mirrors. A solid and substantial floor is laid with wood blocks.

There are two buffets on the north side of the pavilion with access from the foyer, and in one case an entrance from the outside of the building. On the right and left of the main entrances are ladies' cloakrooms, and there is ample lavatory accommodation. Leading from the foyer is also a small manager's room. Access is gained to the main hall through two pairs of swing doors. We think everyone will agree that it is a superb and magnificent auditorium. The rich and ornate scheme of decoration is most impressive and pleasing to the eye. The great hall is 81ft. long and 60ft. in width. Everyone will be glad to hear that the auditorium is provided with a well-designed sloping floor, which will give a free and uninterrupted view of the stage from all parts of the hall. There are three gangways, one on each side of the hall and a third one in the centre. The orchestra space is sunk below the level of the main floor, so as to preserve a full and uninterrupted view of the stage for the audience. The orchestra stalls in the front of the house provide seating accommodation for 200 persons; the pit stalls contain another 300 seats, and there are 352 in the pit at the further end of the hall. Behind the pit is a spacious promenade. The grand circle, which advances about a third over the ground floor, has been constructed on very graceful lines, and adds much to the imposing appearance of the interior, while on either side adjacent to the stage are two private boxes. The grand circle and circle seats provide accommodation for 250 persons. The total seating accommodation is therefore 1,100. There is, however, another wide and spacious promenade at the rear of the circle seats; so that the holding capacity of the hall must be well over 1,500. There are numerous exits, all properly fitted for immediate emergency use, and they all meet in every respect the exacting requirements of the County Surveyor, the County Council being the responsible authority which has to be studied in these important details. There are two emergency stairs provided from the balconies to the ground floor, and emergency doors open direct on to the balconies, which are ample enough to hold all the occupants of the circle seats. The stream of those passing out from the first floor down the staircase will not interfere in any way with those leaving the exits on the ground floor, so that on no account will there be any risk of "cross currents." The balconies, which are a prominent feature of the new Pavilion, command splendid views of the harbour and bay, and the outlook from them will be a source of unfailing interest. There will be liberal seating provision in the side balconies, and the much larger space in the front of the pavilion will make a nice promenade, and probably be found to be just the spot for serving out-door afternoon tea.

In the interior of the Pavilion there is a large tea-room at the rear of the circle, measuring 60ft. by 25ft., with all the necessary accessories for catering for visitors. At the north side of the Pavilion (first floor) is a dining-room, and on the south side a fully-equipped kitchen. Access to this part of the building is obtained from the foyer by the main staircase, which divides right and left to the first floor. The spacious tea-room is over the foyer, in the front of the building.

The whole scheme of interior adornment impresses one with its richness and simple yet most effective beauty. The fibrous plaster work is most charmingly modelled in Louis XV. style, and the main hall has a most palatial and luxurious appearance. The panels into which the fibrous plaster decorations are divided are veritable works of art. The mouldings are very rich and stand out in beautiful relief, special care having been taken with them so as to give the most effective play of light and shade. The colour scheme is harmonious and beautiful, yet quite simple. The background is a pure ivory white, shading off to rich cream tones, while the mouldings and wealth of ornamental relief work are picked out with a lovely rose du Barri and best English gold. Every seat in the auditorium is a separate one, and of the latest tip-up pattern. The upholstering is in crimson velvet. The hangings of rich crimson, embroidered with deep old gold, together with the crimson window curtains are all in complete harmony with the general scheme of colour decoration. The stage has a floor-space of 1,200 ft. and the height to the grid is 44ft. Mr. W. McCulloch, of Sheffield, a well-known scenic artist, has painted a full stock of scenery, including an unusually fine act drop. The animated picture entertainment has not been overlooked; there is a special fire-proof bioscope chamber provided at the back of the hall, just over the main staircase. Outside the building, but forming part of it, are two small lock-up shops on the south side, and there will be buffets, one for visitors with separate access from outside and the other for use of visitors within the Pavilion. In addition to the fibrous plaster work, Messrs. Dean and Son, of Birmingham, have supplied the fauteuils and general seating accommodation and other important details. The boiler house, which is constructed of brickwork and concrete, is on the north side of the stage, sunk below the level of the ground. The heating arrangements have received special consideration, and they are as perfect as it is possible to make them. Patrons of the Pavilion may rest assured that in the coldest weather the building will be warm and cosy and free from draughts. The heating system is by hot water low pressure radiators. The system at the Pavilion has seven independent flows and five returns, each under separate control. There are three dressing-rooms on the north side of the Pavilion for lady artists and a music-room, and on the south side three dressing-rooms for male artists and a spare room. Underneath the stage is an extra room for stock. All the dressing-rooms and the stage are heated from the same services as those which supply the main building. At the east end there is a separate entrance provided for taking in the scenery and properties of travelling companies. There are two separate staircases giving access to the upper dressing-rooms. Ample provision has been made for protection against fire. There are five fire hydrants within the building, and three fire plugs are outside close to the Pavilion. Besides these, patent Minimax fire extinguishers are placed in various parts of the Pavilion. The scenery has been painted on flame-proof material. There are no fireplaces inside the building. The kitchen is equipped with gas cooking-stoves. The drainage has been carried out from the plans and under the direction of the Borough Surveyor and Engineer. The surface-water from the roof is carried into the bay through the outlet specially provided by Mr. Morgan when the sea wall was erected by the contractors. The architects of the new Pavilion are Messrs. Mangnall and Littlewoods, of Spring-gardens, Manchester.

While an operetta was in progress at a theatre at Glatz, Silesia, on Sunday night, a fire suddenly broke out and the flames spread with alarming rapidity. The audience rushed in panic to the doors, which the manager, with great presence of mind, promptly opened, and with the exception of half a dozen slight injuries no one was hurt. The fire, the cause of which has not been ascertained, raged until three o'clock the next morning, and left only the walls standing.

Mme. Melba has given a very fine set of orchestral instruments at the flat pitch to the Marshall Hall Orchestra of Melbourne. Each case was lettered "Melba Gift." The order was entrusted to Rudall, Carte and Co., the well-known instrument makers of Berners-street, who have spared no trouble or expense in making them, and the members of Mr. Marshall Hall's orchestra are to be congratulated.

"Sir Frederick Bridge," says the *Woman at Home*, 'was once at a Philharmonic concert, and directly in front of him sat a charming lady with a delightful but tremendous chapeau. It blocked Sir Frederick's view of the platform. After dodging about for some time from one side to the other like the long-haired man of pianola fame, he remarked to his companion: 'If I had known as much as I do now I would have brought the library steps with me.'"

"Singers," Sir Frederick once remarked, "who make the most effect are not always the singers with the most magnificent voices. They are the singers who use their brains." Then perhaps a second afterwards he will tell you that "every musical pirate ought to be hanged with a 'common chord.'"

THEATRICAL GOSSIP.

The prospects of theatrical business for the coming year are very hopeful, and the last has been unusually prosperous. We have every reason then to expect, and to wish our readers, a happy new year.

Mr. George Alexander returned to the subject of charity performances at the annual meeting of the presidents of the League of Mercy, held on Monday at St. George's Hospital, Hyde Park-corner, and gave one flagrant instance which had come to his notice, when out of £562 taken at the doors the charity only received £90. Mr. Alexander said that during the last two years ten theatres from which he obtained returns had contributed £14,000 to charities by performances. Nothing was so much abused as the "charity performance," and he made it his business to find out the real object of the persons desiring the loan of his theatre for such a performance. He sometimes found it was wanted by a fond mother of a budding Juliet, or a disappointed dramatist who had submitted a one-act play to every manager in London. But this league guaranteed the expenses of every production it undertook, and all money taken at the doors went to charity. If other charities followed the example of the league, a large amount of money which was now frittered away would go to the proper quarters.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Maude have received valuable souvenirs of their recent visit with *The Flag Lieutenant* to Sandringham. Miss Winifred Emery was the recipient from the Queen of a very handsome silver box, with jewelled cover; while the King has sent to Mr. Maude a massive and beautiful clock in the appropriate form of a ship's wheel, made to a special design, together with a charming letter expressing approval of the performance.

Miss Lena Ashwell has concluded an arrangement with Mr. Feidemann, Professor of the Royal Academy of Music in Berlin, by which he will become the leader of the Kingsway String Quartet, which makes its début at the Kingsway this evening as a curtain-raiser to *Grit*, now well established in public favour. Mr. Horace Fellowes, a former member of the Kruse and Hess Quartets, will be the second violin, Mr. Lionel Tertis, Professor of the Royal Academy of Music in London, the viola, and M. Jacques Renard, principal 'cellist of the Queen's Hall Orchestra, 'cello. Mr. Stanley Hawley, director of music at the Kingsway Theatre, will be at the pianoforte.

Perhaps the most diplomatic method of securing the modification of the matinée hat nuisance is employed at the Kingsway, where the iron curtain bears an inscription in the following terms:—"The management beg to thank the ladies who have removed their hats, thus enabling all the members of the audience to have a clear view of the stage." The effect of the message was to be noted at the matinée of the English Play Society, on Tuesday, for though the curtain did not come down till midway in the performance, a general withdrawal of hat-pins and a consequent clearance of the sight-line followed its descent.

Miss Decima Moore has arranged to play Mrs. Dot for Miss Emma and Mr. Percy Hutchison for an extra week at Ipswich at Christmas, and is paying a flying visit back to London to sing at the Kennington Theatre on Sunday next.

Mr. and Mrs. Bourchier have had a gratifying indication of the esteem in which they are held by the members of their company. At the conclusion of the autumn tour the company presented Mr. Bourchier and Miss Violet Vanbrugh with a beautiful old silver claret jug and a pair of valuable old silver candlesticks, accompanied by cordial good wishes, as a remembrance of a delightful tour.

Mrs. D'Oyly Carte, Mr. George Edwardes, Sir Charles Santley, and Mr. Lowenfeld are among the subscribers to the fund which the Rev. John Caspar Lutz, son of the late Herr Meyer Lutz, so long musical director at the Gaiety, is endeavouring to raise for an organ for the Church of the English Martyrs at Walworth. The district is among the poorest in London, and Father Lutz's task would be manifestly a formidable one if he had only the members of his flock to appeal to. The organ, if provided, would be regarded as a memorial of Herr Lutz's work in the musical world.

Mr. Lewis Waller has collected, by means of his autograph, a further sum of £4 18s. 11d., and sent it to the Actors' Benevolent Fund. The remittance from Mr. Martin Harvey, which we noted last week as £ . should have read three guineas.

Mr. Arthur Collins's "Gift from Drury Lane" this year will be highly appreciated by the little ones who are fortunate enough to secure one. It is the story of *Dick Whittington* as told by a little bird to Fifine Fiddleface, who is seen knitting a pair of stockings for Uncle Arthur Collins's Christmas present. The little book is again written and illustrated by Winnie Burnand, and the pictures are presented in the form of postcards, of which there are eight. The drawings are deliciously quaint, and it would be difficult to say which is the funniest, but perhaps the attitude of Dick listening to the bells on Highgate Hill and the cat's expression of pleased interest in the announcement are the most whimsical.

Mr. Oscar Barrett has been the object of much sympathy this week on the loss of his wife, whose death took place at St. Margaret's Bay, near Dover, on Sunday. The funeral was announced for Thursday at St. Margaret's-at-Cliffe.

The Bill to abolish the powers of the Lord Chamberlain in respect of stage plays, and to transfer to the local authority the powers of the Lord Chamberlain in respect of the licensing of theatres in London, was introduced by Mr. Robert Harcourt in the House of Commons, on the 17th inst. The Bill is backed by Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, so that the principle is, therefore, approved by members of all parties.

Representatives of both sides of the House attended some informal committee meetings previous to the introduction of the Bill, and approved its terms. Three of the sponsors of the Bill are themselves dramatic authors, and an endeavour is made to give effect to the desire expressed by a large number of their colleagues in a letter to the Press on Oct. 29, 1907, and in their subsequent deputation to the Government. The Bill was only introduced at such a late period of the Session with a view to its terms being made public.

The text of the Bill was issued on Tuesday. So far as the censorship is concerned, it is proposed to make theatrical performances subject to the same control as performances in music halls. The promoters of the Bill point out that the licensing of theatres is now under the control of the local authority in practically the whole of Great Britain where theatres are found, except the central district of London, the University cities of Oxford and Cambridge, and places where His Majesty resides. Even in the central district of London, the London County Council, as the local authority, has already extensive powers over the structure of theatres under the Metropolis Management Act, 1878. We give the text of the Bill elsewhere.

We record with regret the death, at the age of seventy-five, of Mr. W. Wybrow Robertson, the husband of the late Marie Lytton. Mr. Wybrow Robertson was at one time a prominent figure in the theatrical world, and built the Court, Vaudeville, and Imperial Theatres. He was the son of General Robertson, a well-known man in India, and passed from Cambridge into the Indian Civil Service, which, however, he left on the death of his first wife, and returned to England, where he obtained a post in the Home Office, and married as his second wife Alice, daughter of the Right Hon. Thomas Milner Gibson. He afterwards married, thirdly, Miss Marie Lytton, the well-known actress. After the death of Miss Marie Lytton he married his fourth wife, who survives him.

Mr. George Alexander's statement as to the abuses of the "charity performance" has aroused much interest, says the *Standard*, among London managers, several of whom have been interviewed on the subject. Mr. Forbes-Robertson is in complete agreement with Mr. Alexander. "Various causes," said Mr. Robertson, "are responsible for the waste to which Mr. Alexander refers—as often as not the inefficient way in which amateurs who are ignorant of the stage run into quite unnecessary expense. That enormous demands are made on the managers and actors alike I can prove by telling you that during the short time I was at Mr. Alexander's theatre recently, I received two requests to lend the house, while since I have been at Terry's I have had three such applications. I appeared at six such performances during five weeks last autumn."

Mr. Henderson, who is managing for Sir Charles Wyndham at the Criterion, said it was only by the closest scrutiny of all applications that the type of abuse to which he referred could be eliminated. Referring to the charitable benefits with which Sir Charles Wyndham had been associated in the last twenty-four years, he remarked that the charities concerned had benefited by some £30,000.

Mr. Dana, at His Majesty's, was unable to refer to any occasion on which he personally had been victimised. At Daly's, Mr. G. F. Minor was rather sceptical as to the extent of the abuses. Mr. Oswald Stoll, whose wide experience, both in metropolitan and provincial theatres, makes his opinion peculiarly valuable, expressed himself as strongly of opinion that all admission money should be paid over to the charity for which the benefit was being given.

The Herald-square Theatre, New York, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday evening. The outbreak occurred while the theatre was full, but the audience filed out in an orderly manner. The building was the property of the Shubert Brothers, and seated 1,300.

Mr. Seymour Hicks, who is conducting his aerial flights with so much success at the Palace, will make his reappearance at the regular theatres in Richard Harding Davis's play *The Dictator*, the musical version of which will be done by Mr. Hicks in conjunction with Mr. Paul Rubens. Meanwhile Miss Ellaline Terriss will be seen as the "star" of *His Grace*, as the musical version of *A Court Scandal* is likely to be called, at Nottingham on Feb. 8. Mr. Courtice Pounds will play the title-rôle, and Miss Louie Pounds will be included in a fine cast. With all these projects in hand Mr. Hicks finds time to keep up the running of his touring combinations, and to-night (Saturday) three *Gay Gordon* companies open in the provinces.

The annual dinner of the Grand Theatre staff, Swansea, was held at Fitt's Grand Hotel on the 18th inst., under the presidency of the lessee and manager, Mr. E. Oswald Brooks, who in the course of his speech said that for the first year under his managership the theatre had been a financial success. Occasion was also taken to present Mr. Walter Dean, the late acting-manager and treasurer of the theatre, with a travelling rug and set of gold links and studs on the occasion of his temporarily giving up the acting-managership of the Grand to take on the more onerous position of business-manager for Mr. E. Oswald Brooks' *New Housemaid* company, Mr. Brooks speaking very eulogistically of Mr. Dean's services. Vocal items by Miss Nellie Dean, Miss Phippin, &c., and a dance brought the function to a close.

The football match of the London League at Fulham on Boxing Day will be for the benefit of Mr. F. Waterson, when Fulham Reserves will be opposed to Woolwich Arsenal Reserves. The kick-off is at 11.30. The team will comprise—Fryer, Harper, Waterson, Moucher, Littlewort or Prout, Goldie, Bradshaw, Millington, Freeman, McCourt, and Duff.

The Queen's Royal Theatre, Dublin, will close on Jan. 9 next in preparation for the rebuilding operations commencing immediately afterwards. For some time past a prosperous variety season has been carried on, and its close will be marked by a bioscope and variety entertainment. The present lessee is Mr. W. S. Pearce, and the gentleman who will occupy the position in the coming year as sole lessee and patentee will be Mr. F. Wentworth Marriott Watson, who is well known in theatrical circles in Dublin and in other cities of the United Kingdom, better known in the profession as Brooke Warren, author of *The Face at the Window*, &c.

Mr. Stanley Cooke, who recently made such a success as *The Man from Mexico*, is again to be seen in his old part of *Charley's Aunt*, this time at the Aldwych Theatre. This is his third West End season as the evergreen old lady, the two previous ones being at the Comedy Theatre, 1904-5, and Terry's Theatre, 1905-6. To-day, at the Aldwych Mr. Cooke gives his 2,201st performance of Babs.

Some of the students of the Ben Greet Academy of Acting took part in the recent performance at the Studio Theatre, 3, Bedford-street, Strand, on Saturday last. Miss Madge Trenchard, who has only, so far, had one term's tuition, appeared as Martha in Mr. Keble Howard's one-act play *Martha Plays the Fairy*, and as Joyce Harford in the comedietta *The Peacemaker*. In both of these impersonations Miss Trenchard gave ample evidence of talent as an actress, and a continuance of her studies will no doubt lead to great things. Miss Hélène Millée, another pupil, who recited a monologue from the French, entitled "The Little Widow," also furnished proof of the possession of elocutionary powers, while her acting as the servant in *The Peacemaker* was a clever little study for an amateur. Miss Lenore Coulfeild and Messrs. Donald Gray and Ernest Deans also played in the two pieces mentioned.

The Playgoers' Club began their customary Christmas charity by taking 1800 of the poorest children to the dress rehearsal at Drury-lane on Thursday—a privilege due to the kindness and courtesy of Mr. Arthur Collins. On the same day the management of the Adelphi Theatre also very kindly invited 600 children under the auspices of the club. Each child is provided by the playgoers with a bag containing a meat pie, an orange, cake, and sweets. The members of the Bons Frères Club, at their dinner last week, generously subscribed the sum of £45 towards the Playgoers' Club Pantomime Fund.

The elocution examination of the students of the School of Musical and Dramatic Art, of which Mr. Cairns James and Mr. Ernest D'Auban are the principals, has just taken place with the most satisfactory results. Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Sydney Brough, and Miss Decima Moore were the examiners, and awarded prizes to Miss Barbara Everest, Miss Gretchen Sawyer, and Mr. Harry St. A. Hilliard in the senior class, and Miss Gwendoline Arch in the junior.

The report of the adjudicators was as follows:—"We examined the students of the School of Musical and Dramatic Art. We were thoroughly satisfied with the excellent quality of the work, and the admirable results achieved in the training of the students. We were particularly impressed by the clearness of the elocution shown by the great majority of those we heard. Altogether the work we saw did very great credit to the teaching of the school, which seems to be thoroughly practical and useful for anyone seeking to follow the musical or dramatic profession."

Mr. E. W. Silverthorne, who has been re-engaged by the well-known Hutchison management for the spring, is being kept well occupied during the vacation endeavouring to find an original musical or farcical comedy, the rights of which he is anxious to secure for the autumn on behalf of a syndicate. Mr. Silverthorne has every reason to believe that prior to renewing the management of *Lady Frederick* for Mr. Percy Hutchison in January the right play will have been discovered and all preliminaries settled.

Miss Sophie Lingwood has been specially engaged to play Janet McCleod for four weeks, opening on Monday.

A highly successful concert was given at the Theatre Royal, North Shields, on Monday, in aid of the Old Folks' Christmas Treat, Mr. Stanley Rogers kindly granting the free use of the theatre and staff for the occasion. The leading members of Messrs. Jazon and Nightingale's pantomime company and the ever-popular Mr. Adam Tomlinson also generously gave their services. The performance was greatly appreciated.

"Short Plays from Dickens" is the title of a small volume issued by Chapman and Hall. Its contents consist of a number of episodes taken from the pages of the popular novelist and arranged in dramatic form by Mr. Horace B. Browne, M.A., assistant master at Hymer's College, Hull, and president of the local branch of the Dickens Fellowship. The plays number twenty, and are selected from "Sketches by Boz," "Barnaby Rudge," "Bleak House," and various other works. In each case the dialogue is formed from the text of the book, the original words being also utilised, as far as possible, for the descriptions of the characters.

It is questionable whether amateurs, for whom the pieces are intended, would realise the descriptions of the characters so well as the pen portraits of Dickens, but doubtless there would be compensating humour of another sort. Most of the playlets are very short, the scene of one amounting to just nine lines! Others, however, would lend themselves more readily to performance, notably that of *The Friendly Waiter*, in which young David Copperfield's arrival at the Yarmouth inn is depicted. The book is embellished by the original illustrations of "Phiz," George Cruikshank, &c.

The Dramatic Productions Club will present *The Test*, a new play in three acts, by T. W. Eastwood, and *The General's Past*, a new one-act comedy, by Clotilde Graves, at their next performance, which will take place at the Court Theatre on the evening of Sunday, January 3. *The Test* will be sustained by Mr. Dennis Cleugh, Miss Edyth Olive, Mr. Hubert Willis, Miss Dorothy Fane, Miss Alice Mansfield, and Mr. A. Douglas Newman. The action is laid in the sitting room of a hydro in North Wales at the present time. *The General's Past* will be portrayed by Mr. Michael Sherbrooke, Mr. Scott Buist, Mr. Wallett Waller, Mr. Leon M. Lion, Miss Gertrude Heinrich, and Miss Ethel Warwick. The scene of the play is that of a private room at a café in Soho. The performance will be repeated on the afternoon of Monday, Jan. 4.

Mr. Norman A. Overton is terminating an eleven months' successful engagement with Mr. T. Morton Powell's *Woman Who Gambles* company as Baron Cratzlaw, a part in which he has made a great hit.

For the tenth successive Christmas Day Mr. Wilford F. Field will, assisted by a number of professional friends, entertain the old folks at Isleworth Workhouse. The programme will include the old-time farce *The Area Belle*.

At the Manchester Assize Courts on Monday was heard an application by Harry Carver, Wilberforce Turner, and John Thomas Malpass to restrain Lester King from interfering with the management by the plaintiffs or their authorised agents of the entertainments given under their superintendence at the Central Hall, Henshaw-street, Oldham.

It was explained that the plaintiffs formed themselves into the Franco-British Animated Picture Company, and employed the defendant in his spare time to look out for a suitable hall for the purpose of giving animated picture entertainments. He engaged the Central Hall at Oldham, and obtained a tenancy agreement in his own name, but he afterwards transferred this to the plaintiffs. The venture proved fairly successful, and the plaintiffs thought that the duties of Mr. King as manager of the Opera House in Salford would not admit of his giving sufficient time to the Oldham enterprise, and they appointed a Mr. Percival as local manager. He refused to allow that gentleman to take charge, induced the staff to refuse to proceed with the entertainment on Nov. 30, and informed the waiting public that there would be no performance that evening in consequence of the failure of the electric light.

An affidavit by defendant was read, who stated that he engaged the hall on his own account, that he transferred the agreement to the plaintiffs in consideration of their undertaking to finance him, and that it was never intended he should be in the position of being their servant. The incident on Nov. 30 was, in fact, due to the failure of the electric light.

His Honour appointed Mr. Malpass receiver and manager until the trial, to act without salary. Mr. Bather suggested that the defendant be restrained by injunction from going on the premises, but his Honour said if the defendant or anyone under his control interfered with the receiver it would be a contempt of Court, and he could be dealt with accordingly.

Early on Sunday morning, at St. Stephen's Church, Twickenham, by special licence, a quiet wedding took place between Mr. Austin G. Melford and Miss Jessie Winter. The ceremony was performed by the bride's brother, the Rev. John F. Winter, and only members of the families of the bride and bridegroom were present. A small reception was afterwards held by Mrs. Austin Melford, the mother of the bridegroom, at Gardenhurst, Twickenham, after which Mr. and Mrs. Austin G. Melford left for Newcastle-on-Tyne.

The bulk of the parts in the works to be presented during the approaching opera season at Covent Garden will be sustained by British-born singers, foreign stars having been engaged for the remaining characters because Mr. Neil Forsyth was unable to find vocalists at home who had the temperament—musical and dramatic—efficiently to impersonate them. This encouragement of British artists is keenly appreciated, not only by the singers themselves, but also by the directors of the principal training schools, who have much native talent in process of cultivation. All the English singers in the chorus who are of moderate financial means are being paid for their attendance at rehearsals, and all are being trained in stage business free of charge.

The season will start on Jan. 16 with three complete cycles in English of Wagner's *Ring*, which will be conducted by Dr. Richter. Later will come three festival representations of *The Mastersingers* in English, a special translation having been made for these performances by Mr. Frederick Jameson, Gounod's *Faust*, an English version of *Madama Butterfly*, and the new opera, *The Angelus*, by Dr. B. W. Naylor. The King and Queen have granted their patronage to the season of opera.

At the Clerkenwell Sessions on Tuesday Henry Watson pleaded guilty to having attempted to obtain 12s. 6d. from Mr. Ernest Alfred Carpenter, managing-director of the Lyceum Theatre. On Nov. 20 last Mr. Carpenter received a letter from prisoner, who gave an address in New Kent-road, in which he described himself as an acting advance theatrical manager. He explained that after serious reverses, extending over many months, he had at last secured an engagement to tour for twelve months with a company playing *Her Nameless Child*. He added that he had not a cent, his boy had died, and he had been seriously ill. Poverty had overwhelmed him and his wife; the latter had pawned her wedding-ring to keep the home together and purchase food. He further explained that he was "stuck," and required assistance—5s. 3d. for his fare and 4s. to redeem his boots, the absence of which prevented a personal call. Mr. Carpenter found that the prisoner's story was false, and he was arrested. He was sentenced to twelve months' hard labour.

Mr. Cyril Austen-Lee has again been engaged by Mr. William Greet to play Marcus Superbus in his No. 1 *Sign of the Cross* company, opening at the Grand, Wolverhampton, on Jan. 4.

After a serious illness of eight weeks of typhoid fever, Mr. Alfred Terraine, the well-known scenic artist, is on the way to convalescence. No doubt his numerous friends will be pleased to hear the good news.

Mr. Horace Sinclair and Miss Rosamond Thompson have been engaged by Mr. Jas. Elphinstone of the Lyceum Theatre, Stafford, for his Christmas season. Mr. Sinclair is producing on Dec. 30 a new one-act play, *Love and the Thief*, written by Miss Edith Carter.

"King John" will be given as a dramatic reading by the British Empire Shakespeare Society on Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 5, at the Victoria Hall Archer-street, W. Mr. Robert Loraine will read the rôle of the Bastard, Mr. Acton Bond that of King John, and Miss Esme Beringer that of Constance. The Council of the Society now includes Mr. W. L. Courtney, Lord Howard de Walden, Mr. Alan Mackinnon, and Sir Charles Mathews (who were already on the roll of patrons), in addition to Mr. George Alexander, Mr. Arthur Bourchier, Mr. H. B. Irving, Mr. Forbes Robertson, and Mr. Lewis Waller, as vice-presidents; Miss Morritt and Mr. Acton Bond as hon. general directors; and H.H. Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein, as president.

"The Flag Lieutenant" company, touring under the direction of Mr. Lyn Harding and Mr. Sidney Cooper, terminated its autumn tour on Saturday at the Gaiety Theatre, Hastings, before an enthusiastic audience. The company then enjoyed a three days' vacation prior to opening at Preston on Christmas Eve. *The Flag Lieutenant* has attracted enormous audiences everywhere, and in some towns has vied very closely with *The Merry Widow*.

Mr. Peter Davey's twelfth pantomime at the County Theatre, Kingston, which is produced this evening, bids fair to be as attractive as any former annual. The title is *Cinderella*, and the entire production is devised and arranged by Mr. Davey. The title-rôle will be played by Miss Dorothy Grassdorf and the Prince Paragon will be Miss Hilda Vining. The cast will also include Miss Alice Coverick, Miss Providence Leslie, Miss Bessie Butt, Mr. Lauri Wylie, Mr. Arthur Carlton, Mr. Bobbie Hall, Miss Edith Deverell, Miss Nellie James, Mr. George Hirste, Miss Alice Mosley, Miss Dolly Rawleigh, Mr. G. Kingsley, and Mr. F. Percy Cann. The chief scene will be Mid Silver Birch and Purple Heather, and other picturesque effects will be secured in the State Ball and in the Great Hall, where the keeping of Christmas in the good old way is depicted. Mrs. Davey has again designed the costumes.

Mr. Douglas Gordon will spend Christmas on the ocean, having sailed on Wednesday for South Africa. Mr. Gordon has been engaged by Miss Katharine Cole to play the leading parts during her twelve weeks' season at the Standard Theatre, Johannesburg.

The Crystal Palace Company has deposited its proposed measure at the Private Bill Office for introduction in Parliament next Session. The preamble of the Bill states that the work of the company "is of such benefit to the public as to justify a loan out of public money" on the security of the lands and other property forming their undertaking, for the repair, maintenance, and improvement of the structure of the Palace, and for the redemption of all or part of the debenture stocks of the company.

The Bill, therefore, proposes to empower the Public Works Loan Commissioners to lend on mortgage £50,000 for the repair and improvement of the structure, and such a further amount "as may be requisite" for the redemption of all or any part of the existing £495,000 debenture stocks. The loans made by the Commissioners are to be repaid within sixty years, and to bear interest at a rate not exceeding £3 15s. per cent. The Bill provides for the discharge of the debenture stocks "at such price and upon such terms as may be agreed," and power is sought to enable the company to prepare schemes for "the promotion or extension of the usefulness of the Crystal Palace and the grounds thereto belonging for any purposes beneficial to the public." These schemes are to be subject to the sanction of the Board of Trade.

A seasonable spirit animated the proceedings at the Covent Garden fancy dress ball on Saturday morning. "Christmas in an English Home" was the name of a dress on which were illustrations of a decorated Christmas tree and a children's party, while the headdress was of holly and mistletoe, and there were plenty of crackers. The dress won first prize for Mr. W. Clarkson. One of the costumes represented a snowstorm, and was a white satin dress trimmed with swansdown, and the wearer had an illuminated iceberg for a headdress. There was a large attendance, and the ball was a great success.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the Theatrical Ladies' Guild, held at the St. James's Theatre, on the 18th inst., was a great success under the presidency of Miss Fanny Brough. In the annual report, presented by Miss Carlotta Addison, it was stated that the subscriptions in 1907 were well up to previous years, being £194 18s. 11½d. The capital at the end of the year was £1,498 6s. 8d. During the year thirty-nine maternity cases passed through the hands of the committee, and the cast-off clothing department assisted 648 cases. Stage costumes were provided for every applicant—105. Several cases were sent to seaside resorts, and many of the very poor of those attached to the working staffs of the London theatres were during the winter given tickets for food and coal. Miss Lilian Braithwaite moved the adoption of the report, which was carried.

Lady Gilbert presented the badges won by "Bee workers." In proposing a vote of thanks to her ladyship, Mrs. Beerbohm Tree said she could not make a speech about Lady Gilbert, because it would be like providing waterproofs and umbrellas for the snowdrops and violets. She had never known Lady Gilbert do anything but a kind action, and in the torrent of speech that babbled from her lips there was never a word that was cross or unamiable. She had seen Lady Gilbert riding like a queen on a camel, scintillating among the dim hieroglyphics of the tombs of the Ptolemies, wrestling with three giant turbaned housemaids in an Alexandria hotel for a can of hot water, and bareheaded but undaunted among the bonnets of the Rue de la Paix; but never had she seen Lady Gilbert anything but calm, cheerful, kind, and wise.

Recent competitions at the Royal Academy of Music have resulted as follows:—The Battison Haynes Prize (for composition) has been awarded to Ethel F. Woodland, a native of London, Emma Lomax being commended. The Hine Prize (for composition) has been allotted to Francis Hutchens, a native of New Zealand, Vivian Langrish being commended. The Sainton-Dolby Prize (for contraltos) has been secured by Mary A. Davies, a native of Llanelly, Dorothy Webb being highly commended, and Bella Newstead, commended.

The Rutson Memorial Prize (for sopranos) has been awarded to Eugénie Ritte, a native of London, Alice Baxter and Olive Turner being very highly commended. The Bonamy Dobree Prize (for violoncello) has been won by Audrey S. Whitaker, a native of Palermo, Sicily. The Westmorland Scholarship (for male vocalists) has been awarded to James M. Blair, a native of Uddingston, Scotland, Frederic Gregory being very highly commended. The Potter Exhibition (for female pianists), has been secured by Helen M. Dodd, a native of Newcastle-on-Tyne.

An application was made at Bow-street last week for a licence to enable little Marjory Carpenter to take part in the forthcoming pantomime at the Lyceum up to eleven o'clock at night. The magistrate granted the licence, but stipulated that the child must not be on the stage after 10.30. The case was reopened on Saturday, when counsel stated that in consequence of that decision an elder child would have to be found to take the part, but that would be very inconvenient, as the pantomime was to commence on the following Wednesday. The child who was intended for the part was a daughter of Mr. Carpenter, the managing director, and he (counsel) applied that she might be allowed to perform up to eleven o'clock for a fortnight, by which time a substitute could be found. Miss Carpenter was a healthy child, and would be driven in a motor-car to her home, which was close to the theatre. The magistrate granted the extension asked for for one week only.

A fairy opera, entitled *Good Luck and Bad Luck*, was produced by the students of the Hyde Park New College on Saturday afternoon, on the occasion of their annual prize distribution, held in the Salle Erard, Great Marlborough-street.

Mr. Allan Wilkie's Shakespearean company pays its first visit to the King's Hall, Ilkley, to-day (Boxing Day), when a seven days' engagement will be begun. The répertoire will consist of *The Merchant of Venice, Hamlet, Othello; Romeo and Juliet; Julius Cæsar, She Stoops to Conquer, Sleigh Bells*, and *David Garrick*. An augmented orchestra has been specially engaged for the visit.

At the conclusion of the Christmas term of the Royal College of Music on Saturday the following awards were made by the Director and Board of Professors:—Council Exhibitions: Composition, Rebecca T. Clarke, £20; violin, Sidney C. Bostock, £20; Violet T. M. T. Pearce, £10. The annual amount (£13) bequeathed by the late Edwin S. Dove for pupils who have distinguished themselves was awarded to Ellen C. Edwards (Pringle Scholar), pianoforte.

Mr. George Edwardes will present every member of the audience with a copy of Queen Alexandra's Christmas gift book, "Photographs from my Camera," at the matinée performance of *The Merry Widow* at Daly's to-day.

We record with regret the death on the 13th inst., of Mr. Fred Whitby, a well-known tradesman of Yeovil, who took a keen interest in dramatic affairs, and acted as secretary of the first dramatic society founded in the town. During recent years he had been instrumental in bringing to Yeovil many first-class companies, which gave performances at the Assembly Rooms. Mr. Whitby was partner with his brother in a firm of stationers and printers. The funeral took place on the 16th inst. amid many signs of sympathy and respect.

The matinée to be held at the Queen's Theatre, on Tuesday, Jan. 26, in aid of the funds of the Royal Ear Hospital, promises to be of unusual interest. Mr. Tom B. Davis is responsible for the programme, and many prominent artists have already promised their services. The committee hope that the hospital will be able to re-open some of the beds—which have been closed for want of funds—early in the New Year. Donations, which are urgently needed, may be sent to Lady Constance Hatch, of Portland Place, W.

The Princess of Wales and suite were present on the occasion of the matinée given by Sir Charles Wyndham and Miss Mary Moore, in aid of the London Poor Children's Boot Fund at the Criterion Theatre on the 18th inst. Her Royal Highness visited the Criterion in the evening also, and witnessed the performance of Miss Mary Moore in *Lady Epping's Law-suit*."

Miss Nancy Beresford, who has just concluded a tour as Lady Alethea in *The Walls of Jericho*, has been engaged by Mr. Percy Hutchison to succeed Miss Decima Moore in the part of Mrs. Dot. Miss Beresford has already achieved considerable success in two other Marie Tempest parts—Suzanne in *The Freedom of Suzanne*, and Margaret Verrall in *The Barrier*.

Mr. Alfred Lester, who since the last night of *Havana* at the Gaiety has been taking a well-earned rest and change of air in Cornwall, returns to vaudeville to fulfil outstanding contracts. He opens on Monday at the Tivoli, where he will present selections from his monologues and duologues.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The Origin of Pinkie.

"MR. TREE," writes Mr. Raymond Blathwayt in *Pearson's Weekly*, "wandering in a sunlit summer scene, met once upon a time a charming little girl of his acquaintance. Raising his hat to her with that absent-minded courtesy for which he is so famous, he said: 'Is it true what I hear, that you no longer believe in fairies?" The child grew very red. 'Well,' she replied, 'I will explain to you exactly how it is. I don't really believe in the fairies we read about in books, but,' she continued, pointing to the daisies and buttercups at her feet, 'but I believe these flowers are fairies.' 'And so,' said Mr. Tree, as he told me this incident on the stage of His Majesty's Theatre the other day, 'I determined that, if ever I got the the opportunity, I would try and revive the dying faith of modern childhood in the fairies and the Fairyland which made my child-life so happy and so beautiful.'"

Irving's Birthplace.

MR. ERNEST JARDINE having purchased the late Sir Henry Irving's birth-place to be preserved as a memorial to the great actor, the Vicar has supplied some details in connection with the place. Keinton Mandeville is one of the many old-world villages embosom'd in the fair county of Somerset. It commands lovely views, northwards to Glaston-Tor and the Mendips, and Wells is visible when the atmosphere is clear. Brodribb's cottage, in which the distinguished successor of David Garrick and Edmund Kean in the roll of great English actors first saw the light on Feb. 6, 1838, is a humble tenement in the main street, and attached to it is a piece of land some six acres in extent.

JOHN HENRY BRODRIBB, the father of Irving, was only a short time at the cottage where Henry Irving was born. He at other times lived in two other houses in the place, and finally went to reside in the adjoining village of Charlton Mackrell. Irving left the place when quite a child, and once said that his only recollection of it was the Galinaes (Guinea fowls), which abounded there. None of the Brodribb family remain in the neighbourhood. It is characteristic of Irving that he should have been most generous to his native place in the way of subscriptions. The cricket club is called the Irving Club, after its distinguished patron. A personal item of interest is that Irving's old nurse, Sophia Morris, is still alive. She does not live in Keinton Mandeville, however, but in Camden Town.

THE chief products of Keinton Mandeville, which now has a population of about 500, are apples and stones. There are few lovelier spots in England than Keinton Mandeville when the apple trees are in full bloom. The wealth of pink and white blooms in the orchards is alone worth a journey to see, and now that the village will have so much public attention focussed upon it artists may be trusted to convey some of its glories to canvas. It will surprise many to learn that the noted Blenheim Orange apple thrives so well at Keinton Mandeville that a trade has been established between the village and the Continent. Last year Blenheim Oranges from this secluded spot fetched 4d. each in Paris. The chief industry of the place is stone (blue lias full of fossil sea shells) obtained from local quarries.

Wilkie Bard and the Caddie.

SOME good stories of pantomime favourites have appeared this week in that popular and well-edited publication, *Cassell's Saturday Journal*, which devote a good deal of attention to the stage. Mr. Wilkie Bard is an enthusiastic golfer, and while appearing at a town where his song "It cost me seven-and-sixpence" made an unusually pleasing hit went to the links to enjoy a round before preparing for his evening engagement. But, for some reason or other, he seemed quite unable to do the right thing. Time after time he ploughed the ground in his endeavour to find the "wee sma' ball," and at last, becoming exasperated at the bad play, he swung his club with such vigour that had it hit its mark without doubt it would have disappeared from view. But alas! the club again struck the ground, and next instant Mr. Bard was standing gazing mutely at a shattered stick, while the part that makes the stick a club lay some twenty yards away. The youthful caddie gazed from the stick to Mr. Bard's face, and back to the stick. Then, borne on the gentle breeze the disappointed golfer heard: "It cost me seven-and-sixpence!" The caddie had recognised the popular comedian, and was unable to resist the haunting words.

One in the Eye.

MISS MILLIE LINDON recalls with glee an incident which occurred while she was appearing in a Manchester panto. She and her sister had to effect a quick change from coon costume into court robes, and afterwards appear on the stage together. Miss Lindon gives the story as follows: "Just as I was going on I noticed my sister standing with her crown on the side of her head, holding her face between her hands. When I asked what was the matter she showed me a face streaming with tears—all the 'make-up' running together—and said: 'Someone has just poked his nose into my eye!' I roared with laughter—why, I shall never know. But I went on the stage, my sister followed, and when I looked at her I could not speak a word. The more I tried to be serious the more I laughed. Presently the band laughed, and then the audience joined in. Then my sister swept off the stage and left me. But I could not go on, and was obliged to retire in my turn. My sister appeared no more that night, but I had to enter again. Just as I got to the wings I met the call-boy—holding his nose! Then I knew who had run into my sister, and my attack came on worse than ever. I don't think I ever had such foolish feelings in my life."

How He was Discovered.

MR. HARRY TATE, who, with his inimitable impersonations and humorous sketches, has made the fortune of more than one pantomime, is invariably aided in his scenes by a youthful assistant. The story of the discovery of one of these assistants is told by Mr. Tate. He and a party of friends were fishing in Dublin Bay when their attention was attracted to a little Irish boy who was busy hauling in some nets. Overhearing one or two quaint remarks fall from the youngster's lips, Tate turned to him and asked: "Why does a chicken cross the road?" "Oi suppose it's becos he can't get underneath, sorr," was the ready answer. "What time is it when a clock strikes thirteen?" next asked Tate. "Toime the blessed t'ing was mended," replied the boy. That settled it. The boy's parents were interviewed, and he joined Harry Tate's troupe.

An Economical Irving.

WHILE preparing for a pantomime at the Brixton Theatre a season or two back, Mr. Arthur Rigby required the assistance of a super. An application to the manager of the theatre brought him a man whom he immediately commenced to prepare for the part. The super merely had to make a certain gesture and exclaim, "Never!" "I explained this," says Mr. Rigby in telling the story, "and tried hard to make him proficient, but he could form no conception of what was required. So at length I gave him up in despair; I told him I must find somebody else. Turning his coat collar up, and making towards the stage door, he fired a parting shot with an air of fine contempt: 'Lumme!' he said, 'you want Irving for your eighteenpence a night!'"

"PINKIE AND THE FAIRIES."

A Fairy Play, in Three Acts, for children and others. Words by W. Graham Robertson; music by Frederic Norton. Produced at His Majesty's Theatre on Saturday, Dec. 19.

Aunt Imogen ..... MISS ELLEN TERRY
Aunt Caroline ..... MISS AUGUSTA HAVILAND
Tommy ..... MASTER PHILIP TONGE
Pinkie ..... MISS IRIS HAWKINS
Molly ..... MISS STELLA PATRICK CAMPBELL
Uncle Gregory ..... MR. FREDERIC VOLPÉ
Elf Pickel ..... MASTER SIDNEY SHERWOOD
Elf Whisper ..... MISS MARJORIE BURGESS
Elf Twinkle ..... MISS KATHLEEN YORKE
Herald ..... MISS HERMINE GINGOLD
Prince Frog ..... MASTER WILLIAM PARKE
The Queen of the Fairies .. MISS ELSIE CRAVEN
Cinderella ..... MISS MARIE LOHR
Jack the Giant Killer.. MASTER FRANCIS WALKER
Jack of the Beanstalk .... MASTER FRANK VARNA
Sleeping Beauty ..... MISS VIOLA TREE
Beauty ..... MISS WINIFRED BEECH
The Beast ..... MR. WALTER R. CREIGHTON
Mr. Irons ..... MR. SMITHSON
The Butcher ..... MR. HENRY MATHER

Mr. Beerbohm Tree has again presented the London public with one of his surprises. It is a far cry from the abysses of *Faust* to the arbours of Surrey, but the same resourcefulness and happy knack of doing exactly the right thing at the right moment has stood Mr. Tree in good stead this Christmas. *Pinkie and the Fairies* is a delight to old and young. Every child and every "grown-up" in play-going London will have to see it, or confess himself or herself devoid of all desire for the quaint, the poetic, and the beautiful. It is just imaginative enough and not too fantastic; just picturesque enough, yet not over-loaded with spectacle; and it is cast, mounted, rehearsed, and acted with as much care as though, instead of being a "fairy play for children and others," it was a drama dealing with the greatest interests of life and death.

It was quite in harmony with the traditions of Christmas that the triumph of *Pinkie and the Fairies* should be achieved by a child. Miss Elsie Craven, who played the Queen of the Fairies in the new piece which Mr. Beerbohm Tree produced at His Majesty's on Saturday evening, is a marvel of Terpsichorean training and cool self-possession. Her work *sur les pointes* is that of a veteran *première danseuse*; her voice and delivery are consummately modulated; and her appearance is distinctly quaint. The little story which is used as a peg on which to hang Miss Craven's personality can be easily and quickly told. Two children, Tommy and Pinkie, living near Haslemere, in a house on the edge of a wood, are in the habit of receiving visits from three fairies named respectively Pickel, Whisper, and Twinkle. These elves are only visible to children, but a young lady named Molly, who is not yet "grown-up," is admitted to the guild of fairy-seers, under protest. Outsiders and elders, who are blind to fairy presences, are two aunts, Imogen and Caroline, and one Uncle Gregory, a fat and stupid elderly gentleman. Molly and the children, in the first act of the play, receive an invitation from the Queen of the Fairies to an evening party in the adjoining wood, the card being brought by a fairy herald, accompanied by an escort of frogs and fairies, who blow horns made of lilies.

The second act take place in a wood at night. The elves assemble, and the Fairy Queen rises from a bed of rushes seated on a throne composed of an expanded flower. Pinkie is asked whom she would like to invite to the party, and thus all the celebrated fairy-tale heroines are introduced. Cinderella, now a fashionable princess, arrives overcome by her social obligations, and prattles in true society style of her troubles, one of which is that her fine carriage and horses change into the original rats and pumpkins if she stays at a ball after midnight. This transformation, and that of Cinderella's ball dress into her kitchen garb, are shown; and the Sleeping Beauty, Jack the Giant Killer, and Jack of the Beanstalk and Beauty and the Beast also arrive in turn. The Beast, very stupidly, precedes Beauty, and Pinky tries to drive him away with Cinderella's broom; the two Jacks fall a-fighting; and the Queen of the Fairies resents the conceit of Cinderella by asking her if she would mind moving from the centre of the stage. There are some very pretty stage pictures, and some pleasant singing. In the last act Molly falls asleep, and Uncle Gregory has to wake her with a kiss, with other agreeable trivialities. The dialogue is very pleasantly written, Aunt Imogen speaking of "the plain book-muslin of a blameless life," and Uncle Gregory defining patriotism as "the love of someone else's country, and the natural desire to possess it."

The appearance of Miss Ellen Terry as Aunt Imogen was the signal for prolonged applause, and her perfect diction and gentle, amiable comedy were immensely enjoyed. An effective foil was the authoritative Aunt Caroline of Miss Augusta Haviland, a neat and decided bit of acting. Master Philip Tonge and Miss Iris Hawkins were unimpeachably natural and admirably intelligent and efficient as Tommy and Pinkie, and did their work with commendable care and ease, making every possible point, and winning an encore for a pretty song and dance in the first act. Miss Stella Patrick Campbell is a charming lady, with a great deal of delicate grace and a touch of gentle mystery that is fascinating. Her style and delivery are delightful, and, though the part made no demand on her powers, it displayed her personality very pleasantly. Mr. Frederick Volpé was, of course, more than equal to the simple task of representing Uncle Gregory, and performed it with his usual aplomb and ability, his make-up being excellent; and the three elves had dainty and distinct representatives in Master Sidney Sherwood, Miss Marjorie Burgess, and Miss Kathleen Yorke, Miss Hermine Gingold being acceptable as the Fairy Herald, and Master William Parke making a good Prince Frog. Of Miss Elsie Craven we have already spoken; she won encore after encore by her droll dance of explanation in the first act, and the audience were enraptured with her from the first, the serious importance which she gave to her rendering of the Fairy Queen proving irresistible. Miss Marie Löhr was airily playful and winningly pretty as Cinderella; and Master Francis Walter and Master Frank Varna were spirited exponents of the parts of the rival Jacks. Miss Viola Tree, a superb Sleeping Beauty, showed the vocal power and skill which she has cultivated by serious study; and Miss Winifred Beech gave a picturesque performance as Beauty, the Beast being drolly portrayed by Mr. Walter R. Creighton. Mr. Smithson took evident pains with the rôle of a stolid gardener, and Mr. Henry Mather contributed a praiseworthy rendering as the Butcher. Mr. Joseph Harker's beautiful scene for the second act was full of the mystery of the woods, and wonderfully well imagined and realised, and the dresses designed by Dion Clayton Calthrop formed colour schemes of the most harmonious and artistic kind. Mlle. Elise Clerc's arrangement of the movements and dances had much to do with the excellence of the general effect of the production, which was under Mr. Tree's superintendence. At the conclusion he came forward and announced the name of the Queen of the Fairies, which had been previously concealed in the programmes by the description, "a young lady who makes her first appearance on any stage." *Pinkie and the Fairies* is heartily welcome at Christmastide. It is an entertainment to which any child may take his or her parents with complete confidence that they will have a happy evening or afternoon.

MISS ETHEL IRVING AND THE PLAYGOERS.

Miss Ethel Irving had a gratifying tribute to her talent and popularity on Sunday last, when at the Playgoers' Club Ladies' Christmas Dinner she was presented with a silver mirror, and a picture of her was sold for ten guineas, being offered at auction to the guests, who numbered over 400. The proceeds of the sale were devoted to the Playgoers' Club Pantomime Fund. Mr. Osman Edwards, the president of the club, was in the chair, and amongst those present were the Earl of Clonmel, Mr. Lionel Brough and daughter, Mr. Gilbert Porteous, Mr. Bram Stoker, Mr. W. Clarkson (vice-president), Mr. F. S. Hess, Mr. G. Spencer Edwards, Mr. Louis Harfield, Mr. C. E. B. Kibblewhite, Mr. C. H. Workman, Miss Kate Cutler, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Desprez, Mr. Frank Glenister, Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Kitty Gordon, Mr. James Sharpe (hon. secretary), and Mr. G. J. Farrington (assistant hon. secretary).

MR. OSMAN EDWARDS, in proposing the health of Miss Ethel Irving, said: Why is Miss Ethel Irving in the chair? Because at last we succeeded in *running her down*. For a whole year *Lady Frederick* has been still running with all London behind her—from the Court to the Queen's, the New, Wyndham's, and the Haymarket—wherever she ran the playgoers followed. At last she was caught, popped in the chair, and here she is. Her great success gives critics the pleasure of saying, "I told you so." Long before the public had taken measure of her talents, the critics prophesied a great future, which is being rapidly fulfilled. This admiration of the critics is happily reciprocated—a case of mutual love. In a recent interview Miss Irving says: "I never can say I am satisfied with myself, or really pleased, no matter how well I think I have done, until I have read the criticisms. This satisfaction or pleasure is always dependent on the attitude of the critics, and, until they have spoken, all such beguiling feelings are held in restraint." In classical comedy this versatile actress captured the superior persons who only admire an author who has been dead at least 200 years (Shakespeare or Congreve), or who lives at least 200 miles away, in France or Norway. The playing of Mrs. Millamant in Congreve's *Way of the World*, a brilliant *tour de force*—most difficult to make alive the fine lady of Restoration period in gorgeous, stiff brocade of seventeenth-century prose. But who can ever forget the coquette in the great scene when she promises "by degrees to dwindle into a wife"? This evening she is playing the part of Millami, for we represent 1000 playgoers who are all her friends. In modern comedy she has given us priceless memory of *Lady Frederick*, who is in a state of suspended animation. We want to hear that nice Irish brogue again. We want to see in Act I. the merry widow in mauve, breaking men's hearts, but not the bank at Monte Carlo; in Act II. the heroic fury in pink, turning fiercely on her persecutors, but generously burning the letter that would have confounded her enemy; and in Act. III. the disenchantress *en déshabille*, who reveals to Lord Mereston the secrets of her toilette, and to the public how independent her art is of all trivial accessories. I believe Miss Irving is capable of performing the miracle wrought by Réjane, who, after making us laugh in *Sans-Gêne* and *Ma Cousine*, suddenly moved us to tears in *La Course du Flambeau*. I remember quiet but moving references to Lady Frederick's dead child and unhappy married life. All we want is English Hervieu. After sincere praise of Miss Irving's art, will she let me protest against her demoralising extravagance? Are our wives and daughters to be told that "To run into debt is a positive virtue; it keeps women out of mischief?" Are they to be deluded with the idea that if they gamble at Monte Carlo or hide their bills in an escritoire, some convenient man—the husband, if he is fool enough—will always pay them? Why should Dolly Telfer pay "45s. for three pairs of blue silk garters," when Mr. Walkley says that ladies have given up wearing them? Think of these words, Miss Irving, continued Mr. Edwards, when you look in the mirror I have now the honour to present to you in the name of the Playgoers' Club. In your defence of cosmetics to Lord Mereston you said: "In this little pencil I have at will roguery, tenderness, malice, sprightliness, passion." But that was an exaggerated compliment—to the pencil. On your forehead and in your eyes you will see written the secrets, which even you cannot reveal, which only you and the chosen of art possess—the secrets of winning and keeping the hearts of both critics and playgoers.

MISS ETHEL IRVING, in returning thanks, said: Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen,—I rise in happy fear and trembling—happy because I am so delighted to be here, and the fear and trembling is only because I can't tell you in the words I should like how very proud I am to be your guest to-night. I shall always think of myself in connection with this charming evening a "what might have been," for, to be frank, I had asked a friend of mine—a man especially qualified—to write me a speech. I had visions of standing here saying the most frightfully clever things, and reading in my *Express* to-morrow that "Miss Ethel Irving made a brilliant speech." But it was not to be. My friend, whose judgment I greatly value, wrote me that though he might write what he thought suitable for the occasion, perhaps, like some parts I have played, it wouldn't suit me. He suggested that it would be far better for me to try to thank you in my own poor words, and, as it were, off my own bat. So I let it go at that. I asked my husband, who helps me in all things, for an idea. He also failed me. He could only propose—being a born Press agent—that this would be a grand opportunity of letting playgoers know my future plans. I appealed to my friend Mrs. Frank Curzon, who knows a lot about this sort of thing. She could only suggest, "Ethel, be sure you break it to them that you're going to play Lady Macbeth!" So that is why I am, so to speak, speechless. Your kind President, Mr. Osman Edwards, has, with his usual delightful blarney, told you how clever I am. His very flattering speech has been a little embarrassing to listen to to-night, but I haven't a doubt that to-morrow morning when I wake up and think it over I shall positively grin with delight, and try to persuade myself that a lot of it is true—I have a vivid imagination. For his warm welcome to the ladies and to me I am sure we are most grateful, but to his question as to why so many ladies are here there is surely only one answer: we have never been known to miss a good thing, and, moreover, we shouldn't let our husbands and brothers come without us. As to why *I* am here, did you ever know a woman run away from compliments, and such compliments? I am most honoured to be in the position I occupy to-night. Mr. Edwards has paid the ladies a very great compliment in saying they control the fortunes of the stage. Speaking from the actresses' standpoint, I can only say: we will do our best to think so. I have heard of one or two actors on the stage, but we will let them pass. From the lady playgoers' point of view there can be no doubt that they do control the fortunes of the stage. Give the women a piece they like, and success is assured; the men always, as ever, follow on. To the kind suggestion that the critics are glad to see me I ought to have a lot to say, but at the moment it only occurs to me to feel, ah! more grateful to them than I could ever possibly express. I know if it had rested with most of the critics I should, years and years ago, have been—well, the very proud leading lady of the Haymarket. And I would like to take this opportunity of paying tribute to my musical comedy days. I loved my musical comedy work, and would go back to it without hesitation if I could find a good big part and a good big salary, though it was in musical comedy that I nearly left the stage for ever. I was playing in *San Toy* at Stoke, and as the maid, Dudley, singing a few songs, I noticed a stage hand night after night looking at me thoughtfully from the side. He came up on our last night and said, "Good evening, Miss Irving; ever played Fairy Queen?" I said, "No." "Why don't you try here for Christmas?" I said (blushingly), "Fairy queens have to do most of the singing, and I'm afraid my voice is not quite up to that form." "Ah," he said, wearily, "we have heard worse." I understood after that why Mr. George Edwardes always gave me talking songs to sing. Now we come to a very serious subject—the National Theatre question. I am not going to be drawn into a discussion, but I don't mind telling you in confidence that I hear on very exalted authority that the nation is approaching the present Government with a view to engaging me as leading lady, and that musical comedy will predominate. I can say no more till my contract is signed. I have been asked, shall I ever play tragedy. I say, Ah! try me. I don't know what the result would be on an audience—I am afraid I should be the only one gratified—but in connection with this my name has been associated to-night with that of one of the greatest artists, and that ought to inspire me if ever I get the chance of doing something very serious. Your President has scolded me for my extravagance on the stage, and has referred—ah! Mr. Edwards—to the controversy raging between Mr. Henry Arthur Jones and Mr. Walkley as to whether ladies do or do not wear garters. To settle this very momentous question—as Dolly Reforming Herself—I assert that Mr. Henry Arthur Jones is right. He knew what he was talking about. On behalf of Lady Frederick I vote entirely for Mr. Walkley. Lady Frederick's financial difficulties were chiefly caused by the high price charged for garments usually associated with principal boys in pantomime, so both gentlemen are right—we do wear them and we don't. Now I must thank you for this delightful and cruel present. Cruel, because as the years go on so quickly I shall see so plainly the changes in my poor face; but so delightful because I shall still see your kind faces just as I see them to-night—never changing, so cheering, so encouraging, so friendly, and ah! so good-looking. My very best thanks. Now I have nearly done, but after talking so much about myself—Mr. Edwards told me to—I do want to say how much we actresses owe to the playgoers; how we are indebted to them for our successes. We all know what an audience can do to make a piece—and to make a reputation. It's from you in front we get our inspiration. We can see the smile on your faces when we play merry parts, and that gives us heart and confidence, and we can make the scene go; and we feel your sympathy when we come to the tear-in-the-voice part. I won't go so far as to say that playgoers can make a bad actress a good one, but I do say they can make a good actress a much better one. This also applies to mere actors. You playgoers give us the help and sympathy we want, and which we can't do without—to say nothing of the box office. You judge us on our merits. If we can act, you tell us so by your applause, and tears, and laughter. It isn't a question of whether you like us personally or not; the acting's the thing. If we do well—and if we deserve it, even if you don't like us—we know you say in your hearts, as Kitty Clive said in words while watching Garrick from the wings, "Damn the man, he could act a gridiron!" And then the Playgoers' Club does a lot to help along the kindliness of the theatrical world. It surely helps us to be kindly to be here to-night. It's Christmas when we get sentimental, and I think it does us good to be sentimental sometimes. And this is the Christmassing we all love—when we get the spirit of goodwill to all. Now thank you all a thousand times. On behalf of the ladies and myself I thank you for your kind toast. Our response, in which we include all the men, shall be in the words of Tiny Tim, "God bless us everyone!"

After Miss Irving had spoken, her husband, Mr. GILBERT PORTEOUS, added a few genial observations, which were cordially received.

Amongst those who contributed to the excellent entertainment which followed the dinner were Mr. Lionel Brough, who told some of his amusing anecdotes, Miss Ethel Bevans, Miss Marie Dainton, Miss Phyllis Davies, Miss Kitty Gordon, Miss Marie Schulz, Miss Maria Vinent, Mr. Harrison Brockbank, Mr. Robert Cunningham, Mr. Stuart Debnam, Mr. W. Devereux, Mr. Guy Docwra, Mr. Arthur Grover, Mr. Harrison Latimer, Mr. George Mozart, Mr. Arthur Royd, Mr. Fred Upton, Mr. Albert Whelan, and Mr. Gwilym Wigley, Mr. Mansell Stevens being the accompanist.

Two Sorts of Acting.

"IT is in a theatre at Munich," says a writer in the current number of *The Mask*. "The audience of students is very unruly and is continually interrupting the performance of *Hamlet* with bursts of laughter and loud criticisms. The King is suddenly seen striding towards the footlights. He is about to speak—silence prevails. He does not move as, with tragic and intense eyes and firm voice his sentences roll out: 'I have to act a King. It is very difficult. You have only to act at being gentlemen, and you are unable to.'"

"Extras" and Their Outlines.

A CONTRIBUTOR to the *Pelican* writes with deep feeling of the determination of "shapeliness" in pantomime choruses. "The scarcity of imposing 'extras,'" he says, "no doubt explains the scragginess which too often distinguishes the average pantomime chorus. Girls who look well enough in skirts and petticoats look the opposite when clothed in conventional tights and trunks. No doubt it is this unfortunate state of things which has led in so many cases to the abandonment of fleshings and the substitution of long skirts and much be-laced underwear, a style of dressing the chorus which has been gradually growing in popularity. Certainly it has its advantages.

"NOTHING is more disappointing than to gaze upon a chorus garbed in tights and displaying a want of contour about their limbs. The gentle art of padding has not yet arrived at that state of perfection whereby the eye—unless it be very blind indeed—is deceived into the belief that what the artist in 'shapes' has supplied is the real thing. Padding is rarely, if ever, successful, and a padded leg never looks 'alive.' Hence it comes about that padding is generally disliked, and native scragginess preferred to artificial plumpness."

Mr. Welch's "Jimmy."

MR. JAMES WELCH, the well-known comedian, created much amusement, according to *Pearson's Weekly*, by his jocular manner in opening a bazaar at Newcastle-on-Tyne the other day. Mr. Welch said he supposed he was asked to open the bazaar because the vicar had heard the story of a certain burglar. The latter, when asked how he was getting on, said, "Very well; I have opened a shop." Asked where the money came from, he said, "Oh, I opened the shop with a jemmy!" He would open the bazaar with a jemmy. In Cockney slang a sovereign was a "jimmy"—a "Jimmy O'Goblin"—and he would give that for the first article placed in his hands. The stall-holders promptly rushed Mr. Welch, and a pin-cushion was what he got for his "jimmy."

"MANAGEMENT."

Comedy, in Four Acts, by Curtis Brown, produced at a Matinée at the Kingsway on Monday, Dec. 21.

Lady Culthorne ..... MISS KATE PHILLIPS
Chambers ..... MR. STEWART DAWSON
Maid ..... MISS DOROTHY N. EDWARDS
Ellice Harborough ..... MISS ELAINE INESCOURT
Arthur Somerville ..... MR. H. A. SAINTSBURY
Jessamine Harborough.. MISS DOROTHEA DESMOND
Robert Harborough ..... MR. SIDNEY PAXTON
The Hon. John Barclay-Wallace MR. RUDGE HARDING

The patience of an over-indulgent audience was severely tried at a matinée at the Kingsway on Monday, when the English Play Society made an attempt to introduce two new playwrights to the public. The project was not a success, and the four acts which constituted *Management* revealed little that was fresh in the way of story or personality. It is a most erratic composition, in which the author, after weakly striving to create situations of sentiment, endeavours to wreck them by some absurd farcical suggestion. He evidently set out with the intention of portraying the peculiarities of an impulsive young lady named Jessamine Harborough, whose self-imposed mission is to "manage" people. She tries her hand upon Arthur Somerville, an impecunious young gentleman with an inherited distaste for work, who lives on other people's bounty. Somerville had fallen in love with Jessamine's cousin Ellice, an heiress in her own right, but, contrary to his usual practice, was unwilling to propose until he had made some effort to obtain a position. He began by writing a tale, but was so disgusted with his effort that he determined to burn the manuscript, and brings it to Ellice for that purpose. Ellice, however, sends it to a publisher, by whom it is accepted! Meanwhile Jessamine begins operations by adding Somerville to the staff of the *Atlantic Monthly*, of which her father, over whom she exercises an autocratic sway, is editor, and the Hon. John Barclay-Wallace, who is deeply in love with Jessamine, is assistant. Jessamine visits the editorial sanctum to find out how her *protégé* is progressing; Ellice and her aunt, Lady Culthorne, also arrive, and the party are engaged in a mimic game of golf when old Harborough arrives. In the result both sub-editors are discharged, and Ellice is in tears because she believes that Somerville is in love with his patroness. Jessamine returns to reassure Somerville, and finds him kissing a handkerchief, which she imagines is hers, but which the young man himself thinks belongs to Ellice. Whose handkerchief it really was it is not easy to conjecture.

Extreme measures are resorted to by Jessamine, who visits the young man at his lodgings, and coolly informs him that she has come to stay in view of their marriage. Somerville breaks the news to her as gently as possible that he does not love her, and is hurrying her off when the Hon. John arrives, and Jessamine takes refuge behind the bed-curtains. The scene that follows is an unsavoury one, for Barclay-Wallace hears a feminine shriek, and refers in no refined terms to the presence of a woman; but the sight of her cloak on a chair convinces him that it is Jessamine herself who is present, and he deals Somerville a knockdown blow. The girl comes forth, and after creating a diversion by pouring the water intended for Somerville's mouth over his head, she declares her innocence, and Harborough and Ellice arrive for no apparent reason, except to convince the latter of Somerville's affection for Jessamine. The fourth act deals with the cross purposes of Lady Culthorne, who wants to marry Jessamine to Somerville, and with the meeting between the latter and Ellice, who treats him with scorn; but in the end Ellice learns that Jessamine and the Hon. John are betrothed, and is convinced of Somerville's fidelity to herself.

A cast of well-known performers did their utmost with the material at command, and aroused interest whenever possible. Mr. H. A. Saintsbury took a grimly humorous view of Arthur Somerville, and acted with his accustomed ease and confidence. He was handicapped by the lines he had to utter, which seldom rose above the commonplace, but he developed the grim humour of the part to its fullest extent. Mr. Rudge Harding was even more heavily beset with difficulties in the rôle of the Hon. John Barclay-Wallace, who had alternately to play the milksop, the chivalrous man of the world, and the gallant lover. He came through the ordeal with the credit which only an experienced actor could achieve. The part of Jessamine Harborough is too ill-defined to afford many chances of distinction, but Miss Dorothea Desmond managed to prove quite bewitching in some of the scenes, though that in Somerville's lodgings was very trying. Miss Elaine Inescourt acted with grace and delicacy as Ellice. The brightness and vivacity of Miss Kate Phillips was all but wasted on the part of the well-intentioned aunt, Lady Culthorne, who had nothing very fresh to say. Mr. Sidney Paxton, admirably made up, gave character to the rôle of Robert Harborough, and a thoroughly finished performance of the butler Chambers was contributed by Mr. Stewart Dawson.

Little more merit attached to the first piece of the afternoon, which was a one-act play by George H. Blagrove, entitled

"MUMBY."

George Fairholm ("Mumby") MR. ALLEN THOMAS
Norah ..... MISS FRANCES DILLON
Cicely ..... MISS DOROTHY N. EDWARDS
Clarence Hartopp ..... MR. CLAUDE KING

The well-worn theme of May and December mated is treated in the little play. "Mumby" is the nickname of a lovable old gentleman who contrives chess problems while his young wife chafes at the dulness of her life in a remote country village. The tempter comes along and exerts his wiles effectively, but while the young wife is getting her cloak and hat preparatory to leaving the house with her lover, "Mumby," who has gone to call on the vicar, is run into by a motor-car. The injured man is brought into the house, and no sooner does his wife catch sight of him than her affection for "Mumby" revives, and she bids her would-be betrayer begone. The characters were treated with painstaking care by Mr. Claude King, who was very sincere and impressive as the tempter; by Mr. Allen Thomas, who was the benevolent elderly gentleman to the life; and by Miss Frances Dillon, who displayed dramatic resourcefulness and a command of emotion as the wife, but was a little inclined to over-accentuate her lines. Neither piece had a particularly hearty reception, and the calls for author were conspicuous by their absence.

Hitting too Hard.

MISS LIL HAWTHORNE, a favourite principal boy, represented Jack the Giant-killer some years back, and had to force her path through a dense forest, where the trees gave way before her as she smote them with a cudgel. She is a muscular young lady, and made the scene very realistic. One evening a super came to her as she was waiting for her cue, and, touching his hat, said: "Beg pardon, miss, but might I ask you not to 'it so 'ard to-night?" "Who are you?" she inquired. "Well, I'm the first tree to-night," replied the super; "the other man resigned, because he says you 'alf killed him, so they've put me in his place, and I can't resign because I've got a wife and family!" Miss Hawthorne then, for the first time, realised that the movable trees had men inside them.

A COPY of "THE ERA" will be forwarded to any address in the United Kingdom for six stamps.

LONDON VARIETY THEATRES.

HOLBORN EMPIRE.

The enterprising manager who originally adopted the two-houses-a-night scheme of entertainment undoubtedly displayed much wisdom; and the success of the idea is proved up to the hilt by the many variety houses now being worked on that system. The Holborn Empire, where a most entertaining two-hours' show is given twice nightly, is now to be numbered amongst the most popular houses in the West devoted to song and smoke, and on the evenings preceding Christmas, when one usually expects business to be somewhat slack, it is difficult to find a vacant seat soon after the opening of the doors. A much-appreciated interlude in the fine bill for the current week is that for which those established favourites Clark and Hamilton are responsible. The clever and resourceful comedian of the twain impersonates the amorous musical tramp with all his old success, and is always introducing fresh business and patter that never fail to create merriment. He is just now singing a very amusing number, "Home, sweet home," also a new song, "Different Kinds of Girls," in which he drolly warbles for a trio of captivating damsels, Sue, Di, and May, and his versatility is further proved by his concluding contribution, the pretty Japanese scena, *My Princess of Japan*, with an entirely new scene, representing Yolian's House Outside Yokohama. Mr. Bert Clark appears as a sailor-man, who serenades a demure Japanese damsel, and is anxious to take her back with him to England; and the dainty little scena concludes with a smartly-executed speciality dance, which is loadly applauded.

Mr. George Gilbey, a comedian with a quiet, droll style, has a very funny number in "Constable Duffy," in which he impersonates a grotesque-looking member of the force, who waylays a small boy and annexes his packet of Woodbines and a couple of coppers. When a ferocious-looking cracksman appears on the scene, however, he quickly changes his tactics, and the contempt of the burglar at the cowardly attitude adopted by the constable is very funnily depicted, the facial expression of Duffy being very eloquent. Miss Eileen Douglas appears as a fascinating aspirant for fame on the legitimate boards, her song "I do want to go on the stage" and the attractive little dance which embellishes one of the verses being much appreciated; and one is always sure of amusement when Miss Lily Langtry, the vivacious and entertaining comedienne, occupies the stage. Miss Sylvia Cavalho is presenting here her admirably-enacted and humorous playlet *The Husband of Peggy*, in which she appears with complete success as the comely damsel who so quickly and effectually disguises herself as a most formidable-looking female, and Mr. Clifford Pembroke drolly enacts Lord Arthur Hallington, the sketch being played to the accompaniment of laughter throughout. Hunt and Thomas, in the comedy sketch *Her Birthday*, is another amusing item in the programme, which also includes Will English, the coloured comedian; the Carina Sisters, in their musical act; the Irish tenor, Dave Carter; the O'Gorman Brothers, in their clever clog-dancing; Arthur Melrose, whistling comedian; Terka Semmeloff, singing and dancing artist; Lydia and Anelys, in their famous Apache dance; and the always interesting Imperial Bioscope display, which on the evening to which we are referring showed some amusing pictures depicting the adventures of a man who manages to get imprisoned in a truss of straw and comes in for much rough treatment ere he is released. Mr. E. Leslie Conroy is the vigilant and courteous first-lieutenant here; and the excellent orchestra is under the careful control of Mr. James Sale.

SHEPHERD'S BUSH EMPIRE.

The few days immediately preceding Christmas are not, as a rule, very good for business at our theatres and music-halls, but an uncommonly good programme is having no difficulty in attracting excellent audiences to the Shepherd's Bush Empire. At the head of the bill is that popular actor-vocalist Mr. George Leyton, who, besides singing an excellent song, "I do like to be where the girls are," presents his grand military scena *The Last Muster*. Mr. E. P. Morgan, the acting-manager of the Shepherd's Bush Empire, has managed to secure ten local Crimean and Indian Mutiny veterans, representing famous regiments, to appear at each performance in Mr. Leyton's scena this week, and naturally this adds greatly to the interest of the item. Wednesday this week was a military night at Shepherd's Bush, the second performance on that evening being under the patronage of Sir William Bull, M.P. for Hammersmith, and also of the Mayor of Hammersmith. The latter gentleman, unable to be present personally, forwarded to Mr. Morgan a cheque for £5 5s., to be included in Mr. Leyton's Veterans' Relief Fund. As usual when Mr. Leyton is performing, books of the words of his successful songs have been on sale during the week, and have realised a considerable sum for the above-mentioned fund.

The Jackson family find much favour with their well-known musical act, and Miss Lily Flaxmore sings a light comedy song in very taking style, and dances in a very remarkable and clever way. Harry J. Crane and company appear in a pathetic musical episode entitled *Truth in Absence*, a dramatic little piece which is well acted, and is evidently to the taste of the audience. Steve McCarthy achieves success as a comedian and dancer, and Tom Child, the Yorkshire tenor, winner of the 100-guinea prize, is vociferously applauded for his rendering of "Alice, where art thou?" Edie Endon is a bright and attractive comedienne, and her dancing in the acrobatic style is clever. Frederic Villiers, the famous war correspondent, provides one of the best items on the programme with his "Fifteen Minutes on the Warpath," a novel and interesting descriptive talk of the many campaigns Mr. Villiers has taken part in. The lecture, if so it may be called, is illustrated by actual photographs of stirring scenes of war. George Auger (the giant actor) and company present that unique and intensely humorous playlet *Jack the Giant-killer*. George Auger is the tallest actor on earth, and the rest of the cast are said to be some of the smallest. The sketch is extremely funny. A turn that secures as great a reception as any is that provided by Miss Marie Kendall, who, charmingly attired, sings a couple of songs with a fine sense of comedy, and goes very "big" indeed. The programme is completed, as usual, by the American Bioscope, showing a new series of up-to-date pictures. Mr. E. P. Morgan, as before-mentioned, is the acting-manager, and he has an able assistant in Mr. Herbert Mack.

The New Cross Empire will be concerned with Fred Karno's latest sketch, *G. P. O.*, in which the humour is safe with Fred Kitchen. The Selbinis are also to be found in a fine bill.

At the Canterbury to-night will be found the licensing-bill comedian Ernest Shand; Pipifax and Paulo, in "Humsti-Bumsti"; *The Grip of Iron*, with Fred Powell in his remarkable creation of Simmonet, a character he played at the Princess's a few years ago; Gertie Gitana, Phœbe Mercer and Co., Fred Russell, Jack Lorimer, Lively Lily Langtry, and dainty Daisy James.

Mr. J. L. Graydon may rely on a packed Boxing night audience this evening. Jules Garrison and company is topping the bill at the Middlesex, and in addition are Tom Costello, Spry and Austin, Frank Seeley, Mona Garrick, the Gilberts, and Charles Baldwin and company.

EDWARD SWANBOROUGH DEAD.

After a long illness, extending over a period of two years, Mr. Edward Swanborough passed away on Monday at the residence of his sister, Mrs. William Lyon, of 1, Hill-street, Berkeley-square, where he had been nursed with loving care and tenderness. He finished his active work in connection with the management of the Chelsea Palace in the spring of 1906, and though he for some time was sanguine of being able to resume his duties, those who were intimate with him had no such hope. Mr. Henri Gros, managing-director of the Metropolitan and Chelsea, recognising the seriousness of his case, put himself at the head of a movement which resulted in a testimonial matinée that was held at the London Pavilion on June 28, 1906, when, among others, Mr. Charles Hawtrey appeared. Before his appointment as manager of the Chelsea Palace in 1903, the deceased manager had been out of employment for a considerable period, and for a long time he was hampered with financial responsibilities not of his own creation, which he honourably and secretly discharged.

A son of Mrs. Swanborough, the highly esteemed lady who for so long directed the fortunes of the old Strand Theatre, the deceased gentleman filled the position of treasurer at that house for many years. He was the brother of Ada Swanborough, who played principal parts at the Strand in the palmy days of burlesque and Byronic comedy; and his brother, Arthur Swanborough, was at one time manager of the Royal Music Hall.

Mr. Swanborough had many happy and humorous recollections of the old Strand Theatre. On two occasions as a youngster he decorated the house with cheap gold and red French paper bought in Cannon-street, being assisted in this undertaking by the painter's labourer, Tom Christian—who, by the way, had a pension from the proprietress until the day of his death—and Mr. Swanborough used to recall, with a laugh, that the newspapers at the

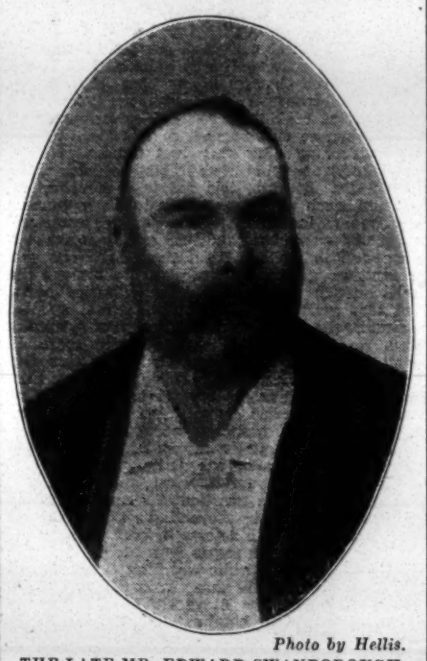

Photo by Hellis.

THE LATE MR. EDWARD SWANBOROUGH.

time highly complimented him upon his artistic and decorative abilities. Another little anecdote he used to relate did not appear to flatter the old playhouse in the Strand. A piece, called *The Woman in the Dusthole*, written by John Oxenford, was produced there, and Oxenford wrote his own criticism upon it in the *Times*, stating in the course of his remarks that a more appropriate title could not have been chosen, as the place in which the play was produced was, indeed, a dusthole. Later on, however, when Mr. Swanborough's sister took possession, very great alterations and improvements were effected in the old house.

The Prince of Wales (now the King), accompanied by the Princess and their children, as a rule paid three or four visits a month to the Strand, and the Prince's first request was always, "I want to be received by my boys," meaning Mr. Swanborough and his brother Arthur. Mr. Swanborough was the first theatrical manager who went over to the music halls. At the time of his becoming connected with the London Pavilion—which, by the way, has been rebuilt since he managed it—there were no stalls, the space where these are now being then occupied by lounges and tables.

The deceased gentleman stood on a high rung of the ladder of Masonry. In December, 1864, he was passed into the Lodge of Joppa, 188, some years later becoming a member of the Asaph Lodge, with which he was associated for thirty-six years. In 1879 he was a Master of this Lodge and journeyed to Truro with the Grand Lodge of England to witness the Prince of Wales lay the foundation-stone of Truro Cathedral. He was also, together with Mr. James Willing, one of the founders of the Strand Lodge, and its first Senior Warden.

Mr. Swanborough's sister, Mrs. Major Lyon, is the original Miss Swanborough who played at the Olympic with Robson and Emden, and, prior to that, she was at the Haymarket Theatre, under J. B. Buckstone's management, playing Juliet to Miss Cushman's Romeo. It was William Swanborough, a brother, who built the Prince of Wales's Theatre in Birmingham, the other brother, Arthur, being the acting-manager of the Strand for many years.

The deceased gentleman was buried on Thursday at Brompton Cemetery.

PIRATED MUSIC.

Charles Martin, 26, a licensed pedlar, was charged before Mr. Biron at Old-street on Saturday with being in possession, for the purpose of sale, of a quantity of pirated copies of copyright musical works.

Police-constable Filber, 164 H, said that on the complaint of an agent of the Music Publishers' Association, he that day (Saturday) took the prisoner into custody in Brick-lane, Spitalfields, and found in his possession 38 pieces of music.

Fredk. Malee, the agent, said the 38 pieces comprised copies of "The Merry Widow valse," "Love me, and the world is mine" (song), "Down the vale" (song), and "Will you love me in December," &c. All were illegal prints of copyright works.

The prisoner said he would plead guilty, and he added that he was not offering them for sale, but had been in a coffee-shop to separate them as they were mixed.

Mr. Biron supposed the prisoner knew the music was pirate stuff.

The witness Malee said the man was quite aware of the nature of the trade, as one of his brothers had been fined £15 less than two months ago for carrying on the work.

Mr. Biron fined the prisoner 40s. and ordered the copies to be destroyed.

The Prisoner: Will that conviction interfere with my pedlar's licence?

Mr. Biron: That is a matter for the police; I cannot tell you.

THE PECKHAM HIPPODROME.

The Crown Theatre, Peckham, newly redecorated and upholstered, opened its doors last Monday evening with a two-houses-a-night variety entertainment. The house is under the proprietorship of the Crown Theatre, Ltd., and Mr. Cecil Paget is still the popular manager. The entertainment given is a bright and varied one, and should the level of the present programme be sustained every week large audiences should be *de rigueur*. The bill of fare is opened by Mr. Walter Wallis, comedian, who wins applause for his efforts. Messrs. Freeda and Preston are two amusing cross-talk comedians and vocalists, who also dance effectively. Miss Cissy Dryden, comedienne and dancer, scores well both in vocal and terpsichorean efforts. Cecile Francois and company present an ingenious scena, *An Artist's Studio*, in which the gentleman sings and waltzes gracefully with a pretty damsel, who steps out of a picture-frame, and afterwards performs some clever feats on a revolving globe. Miss Sybil Montague, a comely soprano, distinguishes herself as a ballad vocalist. A very attractive item is a powerful military sketch by Cecil Newton adapted from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's story "A Japanese Revenge," in which Mr. Ferdinand Conti as an heroic little Japanese Major, and a gentleman whose name is not on the programme, as a tall Russian Colonel, greatly distinguish themselves. Mr. Jack Sharman, a young gentleman with a commendably distinct enunciation, sings with excellent point "What's the use of worrying father?"; and the Varrios are two ladies who prove themselves clever instrumentalists. Some first-class animated pictures are shown on the Bioscope, including a comic series entitled How Paddy Liked the Horseflesh, and The Customs and Birds of St. Kilda, in which the fishermen at work and the stormy petrels, herring gulls, &c., of this storm-beaten coast are wonderfully shown in their native haunts on the cliffs. The entertainment concludes with a capital Christmas item *St. George and the Dragon*, produced by Messrs. Fred Ginnett and Wal Pink. It is presented by a large company, and the scenery, effects, and costumes are of the most gorgeous description, the final fight in the air between St. George and the Dragon, the latter a horrible monster who belches forth huge flames, being most realistically depicted. Seven mail-clad warriors with their steeds, representing the champions of the various Christian nations, also cross and re-cross the stage, and the item is received with great enthusiasm. Altogether there is plenty to please both the youngsters and the grown-ups in Mr. Cecil Paget's latest programme.

NEW PAVILION AT ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE.

A very short period has been occupied in the erection of the latest palace of entertainment in Old-street, Ashton-under-Lyne, by Messrs. Broadhead and Son, proprietors of the Ashton Empire Hippodrome. The time covered from the clearing of the ground on which the building stands to the final touch of decoration in its spacious interior was sixteen weeks. It is built on the American plan of steel girder and brickwork, the interior walls are of glazed brick and plaster, the outer façade is of red Accrington and white-glazed bricks, forming a neat design. The opening took place on Monday evening. The walls on the level of the stage and the stage proscenium are covered with fibrous plaster, and the same material lines the circle front. The latter is in a raised design, picked out in gold and colours. The decorations throughout are of the Louis XIV. period. The floors of the stalls and pit are of easy gradient, the former covered with cortezine and seated with tip-up chairs upholstered in maroon plush. Other backed seats are similarly upholstered; the pit is also furnished with backed seats. In the circle, which is of immense width and depth, the best seats are placed, viz., tip-up chairs of the lounge pattern upholstered in crimson plush, and the floor carpeted. Every precaution has been taken in case of panic for speedy exit. There are six entrance and exit doors in the front of the building, and two wide exits which open on to Williamson-street in the rear. The structure has practically been in the minds of the proprietors for some six months and the architect's plans under consideration, and a goodly portion of the material ready for placing in position; hence the speedy raising of the Pavilion. It will be chiefly used by the proprietors for vaudeville entertainments, combined with bioscopic pictures. It will also be let for public functions and public meetings if required. Mr. Edward Leigh is the principal artist who has been engaged in the work of embellishment. The electric lighting throughout is supplied from the Ashton Corporation cables, and there is every convenience for visitors, including heating and a thorough system of ventilation. An adornment to the walls is framed pictures of noted artists and other photographic studies and drawings. Large palms and other plants and greenery will also be prominently placed. Mr. W. Leech, of the Empire Hippodrome, is the resident-acting-manager, and Mr. T. Edward Owen assistant-manager for the proprietors, Messrs. W. H. Broadhead and Son.

BOW PALACE.

Although the days immediately preceding the Yuletide holidays are not generally looked upon as a good time for business by music-hall caterers, audiences here have been by no means discouraging. The programme is excellent. For those with a leaning towards the boisterously mirthful there was Charles Austin with his company of depression-deflers in a burlesque termed *Parker, P.C.* Few sketches have produced such a wholesome chorus of merriment. Tattered and begrimed, Parker (Charles Austin) struggles into the local station dragging vigorously a small, weak-looking boy, who holds a little wooden horse Horse-stealing and assault are the serious offences charged; and Parker looks bewilderingly at the mirthful countenances of his fellow-officers. Worn out after a long succession of such foolery, the sergeant dismisses Parker, who suddenly resolves to start a force of his own. He does—such a procession of unkempt "slops" has never been seen. The piece goes on its merry course, until the third scene discloses the interior of Parker's Police Station. The force is seen practising the latest step-dance under the guidance of an expert. And then in the midst of the fun, and just as a powdered flunkey is about to depart for whiskies and sodas, a cry of "Fire!" drowns the laughter. It is the house of his late employer, the sergeant of the legitimate force. Parker dashes out, and returns with the sergeant's young daughter. And so, with the promise of reinstatement, the curtain drops after a succession of side-splitting incidents.

For the lover of sensationalism there is a finely-acted playlet, *Avenged*, by Miss Edith Lewis and Co. The admirer of the piquant finds a favourite in Marie Gray, and the boy in the gallery can sing his chorus song after Rose D'Alby with a gusto equalled only by the sweetness of the little girl's voice who joins with her. There is also an exhibition of feats of strength by Leo and Roland for the physical culture faddist, and a comedy act, *The Lady Artist*, by Wright and Elton. Admirers of daintiness—and there were evidently many present—have their tastes fully satisfied by the items of Miss Freda Fern and Minnie Kirby. Ted Lowry also entertains. A very warmly-worded Christmas greeting is thrown on the sheet, and when this is succeeded by a photograph of Mr. Harvey himself, a great cheer goes round the hall.

THE LATE MR. FRANK HEATH.

The late Mr. Frank Heath, whose death we announced last week, was born at Woolwich in 1856, and was educated at King's College. On the completion of his education he travelled abroad for several years, gaining a knowledge of foreign countries which afterwards he put to good use. In 1881 Mr. Heath was engaged by the Royal Polytechnic Society to give a series of lectures on foreign travel. Many well-known people attended these lectures and complimented Mr. Heath upon their excellence. He left the Polytechnic to pilot Mr. Marlande Clarke's company through the provinces, and on this tour he made excellent use of his fine baritone voice, meeting with instant success at every appearance.

After the death of Mr. Marlande Clarke he became associated with Mr. William Bailey, who was then manager of the Metropolitan Music Hall, Edgware-road. His official connection with this well-known place of amusement lasted about seventeen years, and during that period he made many friends, not only amongst members of the music-hall profession, but also amongst the habitués of the "Met." As evidence of this he was presented with a gold star badge as a token of good-fellowship and esteem from a number of his friends who frequented the hall. The inscription on the badge, "Semper Paratus" (always ready), was particularly appropriate as applied to Frank Heath. He was always ready and willing to help anyone in distress or difficulties. This was shown in the case of the late G. W. Hunt, the secretary for about thirty years of the Music Hall Sick Fund. On Mr. Hunt's retirement from this post, Mr. Heath, as one of the hon. secretaries of the testimonial fund, worked like a Trojan so that the benefit entertainment which took

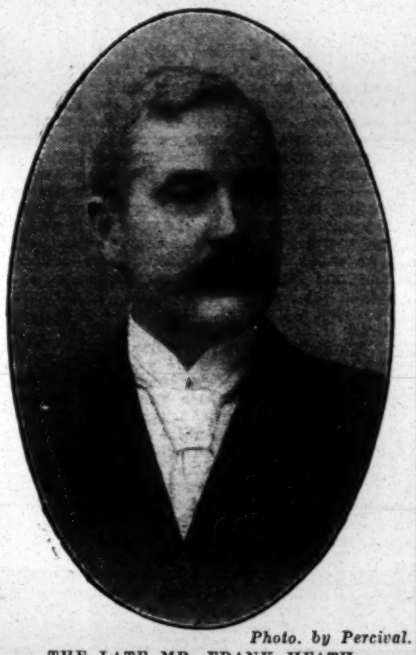

Photo. by Percival.

THE LATE MR. FRANK HEATH.

place at the London Pavilion should be a success. Many stars of the profession appeared on this occasion, and a sufficient sum was raised to enable Mr. Hunt to pass his remaining days in comfort. On the death of Mr. Herbert Campbell, for many years the esteemed president of the Music Hall Sick Fund, Mr. Heath started in *The Era* a subscription list to raise money to provide a fitting memorial to the deceased comedian, but unfortunately he did not meet with sufficient support in his laudable intention, and the proposal had to be abandoned, much to Mr. Heath's disappointment and regret.

Mr. Heath made his last public appearance as a lecturer at the Oxford Music Hall, when he gave an interesting and instructive lecture on the Röntgen rays.

Mr. Heath joined the Music Hall Sick Fund in its early days, and as a member of the management committee rendered most valuable service, always attending whenever able the monthly meetings. On the retirement of Mr. William Bailey from the position of hon. treasurer four years ago, Mr. Heath was induced to accept the vacant post, and he devoted a good deal of his spare time to the duties of the office. He always showed a keen interest in the welfare of the Fund, and as hon. treasurer took care that it was conducted on business lines. The society has sustained a severe loss by his deeply-regretted death.

The Funeral.

The funeral took place at Kensal Green Roman Catholic Cemetery on Monday last, the remains being interred in the family grave. The *cortège*, consisting of a glass-panelled car, drawn by four horses, and followed by ten private broughams, left the residence of the deceased, 40, Teignmouth-road, Cricklewood, at 11.45 a.m., and arrived at the cemetery at 12.30 p.m. The principal mourners included the widow, Mrs. Heath, Mr. J. W. Heath (son), Mrs. Watts (sister), Mr. Pat Carey (hon. treasurer pro tem.), Mr. Fred D. Harris, Mr. W. G. Eaton, and Mr. Tom Carney (members of the committee of the Music Hall Sick Fund), Mr. R. T. Baines (secretary of the society, Mr. and Mrs. Copeland, Mrs. Richards, Mr. Hiscock, Mr. Britton, Mr. H. Trask, Mr. F. C. Mander, Mr. E. Robinson, Mr. H. Thompson, Mr. Abbey, jun., Mr. Owen Edwards, and others.

The Rev. Rev. Canon Fleming conducted the requiem service most impressively.

The outer coffin was of English oak, with artistic brass handles, the plate bearing the following inscription:—

William Denis Sheahan (Frank Heath),
Died 16th December, 1908,
Aged fifty-two years.
R.I.P.

Amongst those who sent flowers were the following:—The officers and committee of the M.H.S.F., Mr. and Mrs. Pat Carey, Mr. Algernon Daniel, Mr. F. G. Abbey, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Abbey, Mr. and Mrs. A. Copeland, Mr. and Mrs. L. Britton, Mrs. Demetrius, Mrs. Stephens, Mr. and Mrs. R. Erredge, Mr. and Mrs. P. Y. Wheeler, Mr. and Mrs. E. Greaves, Nurse K. Healy, Mr. and Mrs. Mander, Mr. Salo Lichtwitz, Mr. and Mrs. F. Vanoni and family, Mrs. J. Blake, Mr. H. Trask and son, Mr. and Mrs. E. Roberson, Mr. and Mrs. J. Hiscock, and the cook and manservant. A letter was received from Mr. W. J. Wainratta, vice-president, expressing his regret that an important business engagement prevented his attending the funeral of his old and esteemed friend and colleague.

The funeral arrangements were conducted by Mr. T. W. Muzzell, of Edgware-road and Harrow-road, W.

NEW ACCRINGTON HIPPODROME.

This beautiful new home of variety is situated on the Ellison's Tenement, near the site of the old Hippodrome, which was totally destroyed by fire on June 26 last. The wonderful expedition with which the building has been erected is regarded as having created something like a local record. Its position is well chosen, as in addition to drawing its audiences from the rapidly-increasing population of the surrounding district, it is only one minute's walk from the railway station, and is in close proximity to the Corporation electric tram station. A special stopping-place for these cars has been arranged, and passengers will be set down and picked up immediately outside the theatre. The building itself is of imposing proportions, and is a very handsome structure, filling every requirement of an up-to-date theatre of varieties. All the latest improvements have been introduced for the convenience and comfort of the patrons, and is as near perfection as possible. The main entrances to the house are in Ellison's-street, adjoining Blackburn-road, the principal thoroughfare of the town. The pretty façade is of terra-cotta with Bath stone facings, making a neat and attractive elevation. The building is lighted throughout with electricity, electroliers being fitted in the roof and around the balconies. Around the walls also are gas-burners, which will be used only in the event of the failure of the electric current.

The ground floor slopes gently from back to front, and there are two divisions, viz., orchestra stalls and pit. The floor of the stalls is covered with a heavy green carpet, and the draperies of the boxes (of which there are two), the tableaux curtains, and the seating of the stalls and circle are of dark crimson velvet, in strong contrast to the general colour scheme. The seatings, floors, and roof are of fireproof construction, and in the flies and in front of the house are the latest spring coupling fire equipments. There is a thorough system of heating, which will be much appreciated by those who remember their experiences in the old structure. The whole of the furnishings and decorations are on a most elaborate scale, and no expense has been spared in this respect. The building is a two-tier house, with the sight-lines as near as possible. It has been decorated in strict accord with architectural precepts, the details being of excellent character. The ceiling, almost flat, is enriched with three panels. The large one in the centre is a pretty floral design with a pale green background, with one smaller on each side. The predominating colour scheme is cream and gold, enriched with shades of salmon, pink, and turquoise blue. The papers on the walls are of a dark red colour, as is also the tableaux curtains, which are of heavy plush decorated with gold lacings and tassels, the whole combining to give the interior an effect which is entirely comfortable and pleasing.

Refreshment buffets are provided in the circle and pit, and a specially-prepared Biograph chamber has been erected at the back of the circle on the latest principle, and should a film flare up, the flames could only go up a wide funnel or chimney running through the roof of the house. The circle is fitted up entirely with red plush tip-up chairs, and will seat about 500 people. The gallery is a very commodious one, and the exits and entrances lead to the side of the building. Altogether there is accommodation for seating 1,600, with standing room for an additional 500. The stage is 32ft. wide, and is fitted with fireproof curtain and sprinkling apparatus, whilst all the doors leading to the stage are fire-resisting and self-closing. The numerous dressing-rooms are of ample size and fitted with every convenience for the artists. The building has been constructed by Messrs. J. Parkinson and Sons, of Blackpool, while Mr. Bertie Crewe, of London, was the architect, Mr. F. de Jong, London, the decorator, and Messrs. A. and R. Dean, Birmingham, are responsible for the upholstering and furnishing.

The building was commenced on Aug. 5, 1908, the whole of the work being completed in a little over four months. The opening performance attracted enormous crowds, a great many people being turned away. The management have been fortunate in securing a strong bill for the opening week. The Ottoways, speciality artists, had the honour of opening the programme, and were well received; Mr. Charles T. Aldrich, versatile entertainer, proved the tit-bit of the bill, and was repeatedly recalled; Frazer and French were accorded a hearty reception for their clever dancing; and Fred Bamford, the whistling newsboy, was a big favourite. Miss Ethel Loftus proved herself a capable comedienne, her song "Father" being popular; Wild, Willie, and West in their comedy act were received with laughter and applause; and Joan Deering won much favour as a vocalist and violinist, whilst the pictures on the Bioscope were very entertaining. A splendid orchestra has been engaged, and is under the able leadership of Mr. Taylor, late of the Lyric Theatre. Mr. Walter Mould, the popular manager of the former hippodrome, is again to be resident-manager, and was heartily welcomed back to his old post. Mr. Fred Willmott is director of entertainment, and a competent staff has been engaged before and behind the curtains.

Caicedo, the wonderful walker on the wire, the Dunedin troupe of cyclists, Maude Rochez and her monkeys, and Joseph Hart's "Raindears" will be seen, among others, at the London Hippodrome, in addition to Bolossy Kiralfy's Christmas play *To-morrow*, produced by Mr. Kiralfy and Mr. Frank Parker.

Charged at Croydon on Monday with embezzling £1 12s. 3d., received on account of the Empire Palace Company, a young fellow named Knight, living at Bynes-road, Croydon, swooned in the dock, and had to be carried out. He was employed to sell cakes and chocolates in the music-hall, and one night he disappeared without having accounted for the sum mentioned.

Mr. Eustace Jay, manager of the Empire Palace, Croydon, said he could not think Knight was right in his head. He was a guttersnipe when witness took him in hand. No one cared for him and no one would harbour him. He had worked for him honestly, and witness believed he had been led away. A remand of a week was granted, and Mr. Jay stood bail.

Mr. Fred Ginnett's company will appear in *Dick Turpin* at the Hackney Empire. Mr. Fred Ginnett's mare has perhaps attained the highest place occupied by any equine performer. Clever horses have not been few, but all associated with this famous steed declare her to be unique in her part. It may be too much to say that the scene in which the good mare dies, induced by exhaustion, "makes" the sketch, but however that may be, it is a certainty that the pathos of the incident cajoles the ready tear from the sympathetic eye just as easily as does the death of Little Willie in *East Lynne*. Mr. Fred Ginnett declares that there never has been such a mare for the part as the Bess to be seen at Hackney next week.

The turn bottoming the Hackney bill will be the Musical Twelve, in a new and original mélange founded on the famous opera, *The Bohemian Girl*. The twelve consist of six pianists and six vocalists, the latter including Mlle. Louise Van Dalle, the celebrated prima donna; George Hilton St. Just, operatic tenor; and T. H. Wood, the popular baritone. A special turn of great interest will be Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco.

ON THE ROAD, DEC. 28.

AT DUTY'S CALL.—New T., Consett.
BONDMAN, THE (CROKE).—Royalty T., Barrow.
BREWSTER'S MILLIONS.—Gaiety T., Hastings.
BULMER, MR.—T. R., Wednesbury.
CARL ROSA OPERA.—Victoria T., Halifax.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), N.—T. R., Norwich.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), S.—T. R., Wolverhampton.
CHRISTIAN, THE (CROKE), No. 3.—T. R., Edmonton.
CLAUDIAN.—Theatre Royal, Blyth.
COMPTON COMEDY CO.—T. R., Leamington.
COUNTRY GIRL IN LONDON.—T. R., Scarborough.
DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY.—Metropole T., Abertillery.
D'OYLY CARTE.—H. M. T., Aberdeen.
EVE OF HER WEDDING.—Lyceum T., Long Eaton.
EYES OF THE WORLD.—Grand T., Rawtenstall.
FACE AT THE WINDOW.—Theatre, Aberavon.
FATAL WEDDING.—Alexandra T., Widnes.
FIGHT FOR A THRONE.—Gaiety T., Methil.
FLAG LIEUTENANT.—T. R., Preston.
FOR LOVE AND THE KING.—Junction T., Manchester.
GIRL'S CROSS ROADS.—Marina T., Lowestoft.
GUILTY GOLD.—King's Lynn.
HER LOVE AGAINST THE WORLD.—O. H., Wakefield.
HER MARRIAGE VOW.—Palace T., Bordesley.
LA COMEDIE ANGLAISE.—Rushden and Mowbray.
LEAH KLESCHNA.—Aberavon.
LONDON WITH THE LID OFF.—Public Hall, Mountain Ash.
LOVE OF THE PRINCESS.—T. R., South Shields.
LUCKY 'LIZA.—Kilkenny and Galway.
MAN AND WIFE.—King's Theatre, Sutton-in-Ashfield.
MOODY-MANNERS (A).—T. R., Dublin.
MOODY-MANNERS (B).—Artillery T., Woolwich.
MY MIMOSA MAID.—Lyceum T., Sheffield.
OLD FOLKS AT HOME.—Prince's T., Accrington.
OTTO, THE OUTCAST.—T. R., Barry Dock.
PETER'S MOTHER.—Grand T., Swansea.
POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN.—Tonypandy.
POWER OF THE CROSS.—P.O.W., Mexborough.
PRODIGAL PARSON.—Tyldesley.
PRODIGAL SON (CROKE), M.—Wellingboro' and March.
PRODIGAL SON (DAY).—T. R., Bury.
SECOND TO NONE.—O. H., Doncaster.
SEND HIM VICTORIOUS.—O. H., Treherbert.
SERGEANT BRUE.—Hippodrome, Todmorden.
SILVER KING (POLINI).—East Oxford T., Oxford.
SOLDIER OF FRANCE.—Prince's T., Preston.
SOLDIER'S HONOUR.—Palace T., Ebbw Vale.
TOM JONES.—Victoria T., Burnley.
UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.—P. H., Arbroath.
VILLAGE BLACKSMITH.—T. R., Rochdale.
WALTZ DREAM.—King's T., Glasgow.
WHAT A WOMAN DID.—Seaham Harbour.
WHEN KNIGHTS WERE BOLD.—O. H., Coventry.
WHO IS SHE?—Queen's T., Longton.
WHY MEN LOVE WOMEN.—Bedford Leigh.
WILKIE, ALLAN, & Co.—King's T., Ilkley.
WITH EDGED TOOLS.—H. M. T., Barrow.
WOMAN PAYS, THE.—Queen's T., Keighley.
WORST WOMAN IN LONDON.—Eden T., Bishop Auckland.
£1,000 REWARD.—Queen's T., Fleetwood.
10.30 DOWN EXPRESS.—King's Lynn.

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Your book will, I am sure, be a valuable aid to all managers and actors.—SIR HENRY IRVING.

Mr. Strong states the whole case very clearly.—*Illustrated London News.*

Should be found very useful.—*Pelican.*

The work succeeds in making plain the thorny legal path that every manager and artist must tread, and by a timely consultation of its pages they may avoid much misapprehension and trouble.—*Star.*

AT the Empire Music Hall, Wrexham, this week Billy Bland and Carrie Nono produced their successful comedy sketch *The Long-Lost Son;* Baroux and Bion proved themselves clever and eccentric acrobats; Joe S. Atkin is a quaint vocal comedian and Harry Daubney a novel ventriloquist. As usual, a special feature of the entertainment was the series of amusing and instructive pictures.

MR. GEO. O. STARR, the manager of the Crystal Palace, has during the past year received a great many applications from season-ticket holders and from others who are anxious that greater facilities for lawn tennis should be given during the summer months. It has therefore been decided to set apart a portion of the cricket ground for lawn tennis courts form May to September, 1909.

AT the Opera House, Tunbridge Wells (Hippodrome season, Mouillot and De Frece circuit), Lux's clever poodles and terriers in their feats and the Parisian minstrelsy of the Feodora Trio are great attractions this week, and the farmyard and other imitations by Harry Carsdale, the humorous ventriloquism of Burt Welch, as well as Chas. Leighton's eccentric entertainment at the piano, and the singing and dancing of Ena Richards, make up a capital programme.

THE premier attraction at the Empire Palace, Wolverhampton, for Christmas week is the Craggs in a highly-amusing sketch, *Billy of the Channel Queen,* which affords ample scope for displaying the acrobatic ability of this celebrated troupe. Another excellent turn is that of Randolph King, protean actor, who portrays a number of diverse characters with considerable skill; Ruby Dahl presents a clever marionette show; Zena Pana at the piano sings nicely; Charles Andrews, comedian and dancer, makes a hit; and also in the bill are Jenny Lynn, in character songs, and Fred Dunstone, comedian.

MR. SYDNEY T. PEASE has once again been proving his versatility. Concluding on Dec. 5 a starring engagement with Mr. Bannister Howard as the Silver King, he was secured by Mr. George Dance to stage-manage his No. 1 *Havana* company. Owing to the sudden indisposition of the principal comedian, Mr. Pease at once undertook the rôle of Nix the Bosun, and opens in the part on Boxing Day at the Theatre Royal, Portsmouth. Mr. Pease, who only returned last June from a 50,000 mile tour in the Far East, received an offer by cable on Friday last to return immediately to Calcutta viâ Marseilles and Bombay; but, owing to another contract, was unable to accept Mr. Bandmann's offer.

THE 110th annual publication of the "Post Office London Directory," issued by Kelly's Directories, Ltd., comes along with its usual regularity, and brings its welcome with it. The whole volume being kept standing in type enables corrections to be made in some of the divisions down to the latest moment, compatible with its appearance about the middle of December. The already overgrown proportions of the "London Directory" were increased when the addition was made of the section covering the County of London. Although for many years past the book has been bound in two volumes, this form of publication was so little in demand that it was obvious that the convenience of having all the information within two covers exceeded the discomfort of excessive bulk. With a view of consulting the convenience of the majority of their customers the publishers have increased the width of the pages by adding another column, thereby reducing the number of pages of the complete volume (with County Suburbs) to 3,440, while not curtailing any of the contents of the various divisions. No addition having been made to its height, the Directory can still occupy its accustomed place on the bookshelf. The admirably defined linen map of London still occupies its place inside the cover.

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SYDNEY C. CASTLE.—*Our Boys was originally produced at the Vaudeville Theatre, Jan. 16, 1875, and ran at that house until April 18, 1879, the number of performances being 1,362. It was not produced at the old Prince of Wales's.*

J. H. EAST (Nottingham).—*There is an excellent list, with full particulars of plot, &c., in the shilling "Guide to Selecting Plays," published by French, Ltd., 26, Southampton-street, Strand.*

ALEXANDRA.—*Mr. Harry Lauder returns to London in the early spring. He should have appeared this Christmas in Mr. Fred Wyndham's Theatre Royal, Glasgow, pantomime.*

CONSTANT READER (Brixton).—*1. They are not related. 2. Not till next year.*

J. THOMSON.—*1. Miss Evie Greene played the title-rôle of* The Duchess of Dantzic *in America. She made her first appearance in variety at the Palace recently, and is now at the Coliseum.*

W. J. ARMOUR.—*The phrase, "Am I right, or any other man?" was first used in this country by the stump orator, Unsworth. The "oration" was afterwards given by W. West and other "Ethiopian" entertainers.*

C. WERNTIE.—*1. Miss Billie Burke informs us that her height is 5ft. 4in.; that she was born Aug. 7, 1885; that her favourite flowers are long-stemmed roses. 2, 4, and 5. No details to hand. 3. Neither, so far as we know.*

F. BROWN.—*You will have plenty of attractions of that sort to choose from this Christmas. There will be three regular pantomimes at the West End—the Drury Lane, the Adelphi, and the Lyceum—besides spectacle at the Hippodrome and a pantomime at Hengler's. A few of the suburban theatres will produce pantomimes.*

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS.

The charge for inserting in "The Era" an announcement of a Birth, a Marriage, or a Death, or an "In Memoriam" notice, not exceeding twenty-four words, is One Shilling and Sixpence.

As a guarantee of good faith, the name and address of the sender must accompany each notice.

MARRIAGES.

MELFORD—WINTER.—Dec. 20, at St. Stephen's Church, Twickenham, by the Rev. John F. Winter (brother of the bride), Austin, elder son of the late Austin Melford and Mrs. Melford, of "Gardenhurst," Twickenham, to Jessie, third daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Winter, of Clapham, S.W.

DEATHS.

BARRETT.—Dec. 20, at Ivybank, St. Margaret's Bay, near Dover, Eliza, the beloved wife of Oscar Barrett.

DE FRECE.—Dec. 23, at 245, Brixton-road, S.W., Hettie, the dearly-beloved wife of Jack de Frece, aged 33. The funeral leaves the above address on Friday, at 11 a.m. Relatives and friends, kindly accept this, the only, intimation.

SWANBOROUGH.—On Dec. 21, at the residence of his sister, Edward Swanborough, after months of suffering, bravely borne; aged 67. Formerly treasurer under his mother's management of the Royal Strand Theatre. Friends kindly accept this, the only intimation.

IN MEMORIAM.

CULLING.—In loving memory of my darling wife (Ada Clare), who was so suddenly taken away Dec. 31, 1903. OTTO C. CULLING.

PETTITT.—In loving memory of Henry Pettitt, dramatic author, who died Dec. 24, 1895, at the Chestnuts, Goldhawk-road, Hammersmith. Greatly missed and deeply mourned by his widow and three children.

RIGNOLD.—In ever-loving remembrance of my beloved father, William Rignold, who fell asleep Dec. 22, 1904. Never forgotten by his daughter BESS.

SNOW.—In loving memory of Mr. Ted Snow, who died on Christmas Day, 1903, age 76. Never forgotten by his widow and children.

TOY.—In loving memory of Agnes, widow of the late James Toy, solicitor, of Exeter, who passed away Dec. 24, 1899. Never forgotten by her daughter BEATRICE. R.I.P.

BIRTHDAYS OF THE WEEK.

We wish Many Happy Returns of the Day to the following ladies and gentlemen:—

Charles Sugden—Saturday, Dec. 26.
Adèle Levey—Saturday, Dec. 26.
Will Cromwell—Saturday, Dec. 26.
Lena Flowerdew—Sunday, Dec. 27.
Bob Hutt—Sunday, Dec. 27.
Horace Stanley—Sunday, Dec. 27.
Isabel Bateman—Monday, Dec. 28.
Albert Gilmer—Monday, Dec. 28.
Rudyard Kipling—Tuesday, Dec. 29.
Ernest Applin—Tuesday, Dec. 29.
Fred Eastman—Wednesday, Dec. 30.
Mrs. Harry Lester—Thursday, Dec. 31.
Mrs. Edward Compton—Friday, Jan. 1.
Minnie Terry—Friday, Jan. 1.
George Graves—Friday, Jan. 1.
W. H. Brougham—Friday, Jan. 1.
Michael Nolan—Friday, Jan. 1.
Russell Wallett—Friday, Jan. 1.

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Anger, Captain G.
Arnte, Mr. Billy
Ash, Miss M.
Ashman, Mr. Joseph
Bahadur, Singh
Baines, Mr. Hamilton
Banks, Miss Flo
Barclay, Mr. Lawrence
Bickford, Mr. Melville
Biddlecombe, Mr.
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Bishop, Mr. Will
Bland, Mr. Sidney
Blinn, Mr. Holbrook
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Brewer, Mr. Joseph
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Callan, Mr. John
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Foy, Mr. T.
Francisco
Frasetty, Mlle.
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Fryer, Mr. Austin
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Rolyat, Mr. Dan ..... March 28, 1908
Roma and Romani ..... April 4, 1908
Ronalds, Miss Stanley ..... March 28, 1908

Searelle, Late Mr. Luscombe ..... Dec. 21, 1907
Shepherd, Mr. Leonard ..... July 25, 1908
Shuttleworth, Late Mr. Wm. ..... Nov. 14, 1908
Simpson, Miss Sadie ..... April 25, 1908
Sinden, Miss Topsy ..... Dec. 28, 1907
Snazelle, Mr. G. H. ..... July 4, 1908
Stanmore, Mr. Frank ..... March 14, 1908
Starr, Mr. Geo. O. ..... Feb. 8, 1908
Sugden, Mr. Rex ..... Nov. 7, 1908

Tate, Late Mr. Alfred ..... Sept. 26, 1908
Thompson, Late Miss Lydia ..... Nov. 21, 1908

Vron, Miss Elsie ..... July 25, 1908

Waller, Late Mr. John ..... April 4, 1908
Walters, Miss Raie ..... Nov. 21, 1908
Waxman, Mr. Morris D. ..... April 11, 1908
West, Mr. Alfred ..... May 16, 1908
White, Mr. Chas. A. ..... Oct. 10, 1908
White, Mr. Reginald ..... April 25, 1908
Willard, Miss Amy ..... April 11, 1908
Wilmott, Mr. Charles ..... Oct. 10, 1908
Winstanley, Late Mrs. J. A. ..... Dec. 12, 1908
Wirth, Mr. Philip ..... March 14, 1908
Woolf, Mr. Jack ..... Jan. 11, 1908
Worrall, Mr. Henry ..... Sept. 12, 1908

Young, Mr. Sidney ..... May 2, 1908

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THE ERA

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1908.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS.

Once more we have Christmas with us, and there is nothing to prevent it being really, as well as conventionally, a "merry" season. The joys of Yuletide have often been ridiculed; but it has not yet been proposed to abolish Christmas. The roots of the rejoicing lie far deeper than a mere date. It does not require to be very strong on the subject of "solstices" to understand the feeling of relief and hope that we experience when we have passed the shortest day of the year, and have spring to look forward to. In London, especially, the thought that we are leaving the worst of the foggy period behind us is a great satisfaction. And though, for some time past, we seem to have usually met with mild and "muggy" weather at Christmas, that very "mugginess" makes us the more grateful for the light and colour of our homes and our theatres.

There is something absolutely appropriate in the association of Christmas with fun and spectacle. We cannot live completely without sunshine and music and colour—bright, vivid colour such as Nature gives us in flowers and sunsets and autumn leaves; joyous song, such as she supplies in her bird orchestras among the branches. There is probably no uglier and more depressing place in Europe than the streets of London on a raw, "sloppy" December day. But the resources of civilisation are not exhausted. We return to our homes; we exultantly remove our mud-stained garments; we wash the coat of carbon from our skin; and we seek from Art what has been denied us by Nature. And Art responds most liberally to our demand. The old-fashioned pantomime was only a burlesque with a "transformation" scene and a harlequinade tacked on to the end of it. The ballets were not first-rate—they could not compare with those which are now offered at the Alhambra and the Empire—and the artists in the play had to make the most of rhymed dialogue interspersed with puns. The old-fashioned pantomime has gone with the old-fashioned Christmases, all snow and frost, and carols and waits. We want something with more beauty in it to comfort our starved senses. And we get it. Already Mr. BEERBOHM TREE has led off the ball with an entertainment artfully combined of quiet, clever, refined acting, juvenile ability—he has, with his usual happy luck, discovered an Infant Phenomenon of the first class—sweet music and exquisite stage pictures; and then we have the glorious displays at Drury Lane, the Adelphi, the Lyceum, and the other pantomime-producing playhouses. For some time the transformation scene was behind the age. The art of the painter, the art of the illustrator, and the art of the home decorator had been reformed and improved; but we still adhered to the scenic traditions of the past. It is not too much to say that the only courageous colourists of the day are the little-known geniuses who arrange our ballets and the scenic effects of our spectacular pieces. It is simply astounding how they manage to combine such powerful colours under the electric lights without jarring on the sensitive eye. The only trouble with regard to the larger spectacles is that the optic nerve becomes satiated with so much pleasure; and contrivers of spectacular entertainments might well consider the possibility of varying from time to time the amount of light supplied. In a big ballet the lights seem to be full on, or nearly full on, all the time. In *Pinkie and the Fairies*, at His Majesty's, there are changes and degrees in illumination; and the backgrounds supply the necessary delicate browns and greys. But after all, brightness is the great thing at Christmastide.

It is not only the public that may congratulate itself this Christmas; the manager and the player as a whole should have cause for satisfaction. For—owing, it is said, to the White City, but, we think, due to the excellence of the entertainments offered at our theatres—the past season has been a prosperous one. We have one play approaching its 600th performance; two working up to their 500th; nearly half a dozen which may hope to attain their 300th; and nine or ten over their 100th performance. And in the list of comparative failures there is nothing that need depress us. The only one of the pieces of which we can say that we regret that it failed to attract was *The Swayboat* at the Kingsway; a remarkable work of the superior order which asked of the general public too great a sacrifice of its prejudices and too earnest an absorption in the scientific study of morbid psychology. The "slump" in theatres which was at one time prophesied seems not to have arrived; and we wish our readers, great and small, low and high, rich and poor, with confidence and cheeriness,

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

"OOP AT KIERSTENAN'S."

A Play, in Three Acts, by Bertha N. Graham, produced at the Court Theatre on Sunday evening, Dec. 20.

Mrs. Kierstenan .....MISS INEZ BENSUSAN
Ada Rowbotham .....MISS MARGUERITE CELLIER
George Kierstenan .....MR. CLARENCE DERWENT
Bessaria .....MISS BERYL FABER
Adam Raby .....MR. FEWLASS LLEWELLYN
Zebra Reynard .....MISS ELINOR FOSTER
Edith Reynard .....MISS LORNA LAURENCE

"Do be real!" cries one of the characters in this play to another, and the advice might very well have been taken to heart by the authoress herself. For if Miss Graham had made her people in *Oop at Kierstenan's* more lifelike her piece would have benefited accordingly. One of the principal characters is an emasculate, pseudo-literary dreamer, who prates about culture, and expresses his silly ideas in absurdly high falutin phrases. We find it difficult to believe in him at all. He is altogether an intolerably effeminate personage, who upsets one's nerves every time he begins to speak.

This irritating decadent returns to his Lancashire home after an absence of eight years, to find that his father, a mill-owner and once a mill-hand, has been dead three months. It appears that, not being able to agree with his father's materialistic views of life, George Kierstenan had left the paternal roof to seek a literary fortune in London. He does not seem to have succeeded very well, and we learn as he returns to the old home with his wife (Bessaria) that that lady has been mainly responsible for keeping him from starvation. Now the management of the mill devolves upon him and his wife. George, it may be at once admitted, possesses no business ability whatever, and his commercial ineptitude is a matter of which he proudly boasts. However, Bessaria's commonsense and practical mind, along with the energies of Adam Raby, the manager of the mill, are brought to bear with good result upon the working of the property. This means, of course, that Bessaria and Adam are frequently in each other's company, and on one occasion they are seen by two of the mill-hands to embrace each other. The knowledge thus acquired is made use of by one of the girls, Zebra Reynard, in demanding an advance in wages, which, being refused, certain information is given to George Kierstenan. The latter, "wet rag" though he be, realises that he is largely to blame for the situation which has arisen. He has neglected his wife and his business in order to give play to his vain fancies. Instead of being by his wife's side, he allows another man to usurp his place, while he discusses his poetry and a play he is writing with the help of his unmarried cousin, who is also "cultured." Small wonder, then, that Adam Raby falls in loves with Bessaria! And, indeed, Bessaria frankly confesses to George that genuine affection exists between her and Adam. George, with his lack-adaisical, decadent spirit, tells her to choose between him and Adam. Bessaria feels she has a duty to perform towards her weakling of a husband and towards Kierstenan's Mill. She will stay. Adam goes to Australia on the business of the firm, but before he leaves tenders six months' notice, which George accepts.

Miss Graham certainly has the gift of writing for the stage, and *Oop at Kierstenan's* can be made suitable for general production by alteration. And there is no reason, granted the effecting of certain improvements, which probably will be now quite apparent to the authoress, that the play should not enjoy a successful run in the provinces if not in London. Perhaps the most lifelike character was that of Zebra Reynard, the blunt, outspoken mill-hand and leader of the "winders." This was admirably played by Miss Elinor Foster. Miss Beryl Faber acted with charming freshness as Bessaria; and Mr. Fewlass Llewellyn was seen in an interesting and carefully studied portraiture of the Lancashire-mill manager. It would have been better, we think, had Mr. Clarence Derwent, who appeared as George Kierstenan, acted a little on his own initiative, and toned down the absurdities of what, as it stood, was an impossible character. As it was, however, he satisfactorily carried out the authoress's ideas. Miss Inez Bensusan was good as the grumbling, weeping, hypocritical dowager Mrs. Kierstenen; and Miss Marguerite Cellier as Ada Rowbotham made the most of an indifferently-written part.

The production furnished another interesting evening under the auspices of the Play Actors.

AMUSEMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

JOHANNESBURG, NOV. 28.—HIS MAJESTY'S THEATRE.—Proprietors, B. and T. Wheeler, Ltd.; Manager, Mr. W. F. Woodman.—Money still continues to fill the coffers of this popular house of amusement. *The Girls of Gottenberg* is the draw this week. As Mitzi Miss Maud Aston is exceptionally attractive, winning all hearts as soon as she enters the stage. A manly Prince Otto is Mr. F. J. Blackman. The comic business of Messrs. Foster Courtenay and Alf Beers as Max Moddelkopf and Brittlbottl respectively, causes endless hilarity. Following up *The White Man*, which was a decided success, the Leonard Rayne company at the Standard Theatre this week staged *A Royal Divorce*, with Mr. Rayne as Napoleon and Miss Gertrude Godart as Josephine. Although the piece is far from new to the Randites it met with continued applause, a fact no doubt owing in a large amount to the artistic acting of Mr. Rayne and Miss Godart. Miss Freda Godfrey as Stephanie de Beauharnais acted in a talented manner.

"DOROTHY."

A comedy opera, in Three Acts, by B. C. Stephenson and Alfred Cellier, revived at the New Theatre on Monday evening, Dec. 21.

Phyllis Tuppitt .....MISS CORALIE BLYTHE
Tom Strutt .....MR. HERBERT STRATHMORE
John Tuppitt .....MR. F. J. VIGAY
Dorothy Bantam .....MISS CONSTANCE DREVER
Lydia Hawthorn .....MISS LOUIE POUNDS
Geoffrey Wilder .....MR. JOHN BARDSLEY
Harry Sherwood .....MR. C. HAYDEN COFFIN
Lurcher .....MR. ARTHUR WILLIAMS
Squire Bantam .....MR. LEMPRIERE PRINGLE
Mrs. Privett .....MISS EMILY SPILLER
Lady Betty .....MISS BETTY HARDRESS

It is a little further back than twenty-two years since *Dorothy* was produced under the management of Mr. George Edwardes at the Gaiety Theatre. To be precise, the date on which the piece was first seen was Sept. 25, 1886, so that Messrs. Stephenson and Cellier's play has more than attained its majority in a very healthy condition. The same piece, older playgoers may remember, was played at the Prince's (now Prince of Wales's) Theatre shortly after its production at the Gaiety, and with it, too, was opened the Lyric Theatre in December, 1888. With this and other unnamed records, one scarcely wondered at being told that Monday's performance was number 2031st of *Dorothy's* career.

A special interest attached to the present revival in view of the re-appearance in their original parts of, respectively, Lurcher and Harry Sherwood, of Mr. Arthur Williams and Mr. C. Hayden Coffin. It seems something in the nature of a record that two famous artists should be entertaining a fresh generation in parts in which they had in the years ago entertained the fathers of that generation! It may be of further interest to refer to the source to which Stephenson was indebted for his libretto of *Dorothy*, and to relate a little tale of history which hangs thereby. On the night of Feb. 4, 1715, was produced at Drury-lane a comedy written by Charles Johnson, called *Country Lasses; or, the Custom of the Manor*. The author, born in 1679, was intended for the law, and entered at the Middle Temple, but he changed his vocation. Forming an intimate acquaintanceship with Wilks, the famous light comedian of that time, he found means through that gentleman's influence to get pieces on to the stage without much difficulty. Pope alludes to Johnson in "The Dunciad" as famous for writing a play every year and for being at Button's coffee-house every day. The truth is, however, that he occupied thirty-one years in writing nineteen plays, and some of these met with considerable success. At length he married a young widow with a tolerable fortune, on acquiring which he set up a theatrical tavern in Bow-street, Covent Garden, but quitted the business at his wife's death, and lived privately on the money he had saved. It is from Johnson's *Country Lasses* that *Dorothy* has been adapted. In the original cast of the former piece Wilks played the part of Madely, Johnson that of Sir John English, and Bickerstaff, his nephew, that of Lurcher, a character curiously enough retaining the same name in the play of *Dorothy*. Two separate plots were worked up in this bustling comedy. One was suggested by Fletcher's *Custom of the Country*, and the other by Mrs. Behn's *City Heiress*, this authoress having been indebted for her plot to a play by Middleton, entitled *A Mad World, My Masters*. Dr. Kenrick turned Johnson's comedy into a comic opera called *The Lady at the Manor*, which was acted at Covent Garden in 1778, and John Philip Kemble re-wrote some portion of *The Country Lasses*, and reproduced it as a three-act play in 1789 at Drury-lane, changing the title to *The Farm Houses*. And so, after many years and many modifications, *Country Lasses* re-appeared at the Gaiety under the name of *Dorothy*. Both the composer and librettist of the opera are dead.

Messrs. E. D. and J. Maundy-Gregory, under whose management *Dorothy* is being presented at the New Theatre, could scarcely have desired a heartier welcome than that accorded the play on Monday evening. It may be at once said that the piece was beautifully staged, the scene of the hop gardens (Act I.) and the round coppice (Act III.) being exceedingly pretty and picturesque, while the ancient hall of Act II. was admirably conceived. So far as the individual vocal efforts were concerned, the chief honours, of course, fell to Mr. Hayden Coffin, who cut a gallant figure as Harry Sherwood, and gave a fine rendering of "Queen of my heart." Perhaps a recollection of twenty-two years ago was borne to Mr. Coffin's mind, for he rose to the occasion on Monday night as much as he rose to that other occasion, when, a few days after *Dorothy's* first night, this song was introduced, and its inclusion determined the success of the play. The audience were not to be satisfied with merely one or two renderings—they encored again and again—there was only one thing to do, and that was to carry out their wishes. As to Mr. Arthur Williams' Lurcher, what can be said more than has been already said? An impersonation more quaintly humorous can scarcely be imagined. Mr. Williams acted once more with a fine sense of the farcical possibilities of the rôle, and the house shrieked with laughter at the comical attitudes, expressions, and sayings of the sheriff's officer. Indeed, the success of this revival was in part the success of Mr. Williams as Lurcher. A charming and springhtly Dorothy—the part originally played by Miss Marion Hood—was found in Miss Constance Drever, who sang most effectively, her number, "Be wise in time," being particularly well delivered. Mr. John Bardsley furnished a pleasing portraiture of the spirited Geoffrey Wilder, and his capital tenor voice was heard to great advantage in "I bend my back and bow my head," which he sang three times. Mr. Lemprière Pringle acted with the appropriate semblance, dignity, and authority as old Squire Bantam, and his interpretation of "Welcome to Chanticleer Hall" proved vastly to the enjoyment of his hearers. Miss Louie Pounds as Lydia Hawthorn and Miss Coralie Blythe as Phyllis Tuppitt were altogether engaging young ladies, and sang nicely, particularly in the song, "Have a care." Miss Emily Spiller as Mrs. Privett was an extremely amusing old lady, and the Lady Betty of Miss Betty Hardress, the Tom Strutt of Mr. Herbert Strathmore, and the John Tuppitt of Mr. F. J. Vigay were able characterisations. The chorus executed some commendable work in the direction of both dancing and singing, and the orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Frederich Rosse, gave enchanting renderings of Cellier's delightful music.

THE Prince of Wales and Prince Edward of Wales attended the Lyric Theatre on Monday for the performance of *King Henry V.*, and on the same evening the Princess of Wales, Princess Henry of Battenberg, and Princess Patricia of Connaught visited Terry's Theatre to see *The Passing of the Third Floor Back*.

MR. EDITOR,—SIR,—In your issue of the 7th inst. you state that Miss Hanid Alexander will play second girl in the forthcoming pantomime at the Broadway Theatre, New Cross. It should have been principal girl.—Yours faithfully, L. ALEXANDER, 168, Kennington Park-road, Kennington.

THE Prince and Princess of Wales and Prince Edward witnessed the performance of *The Merry Widow* at Daly's Theatre on Saturday evening.

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MUSICAL NOTES.

The chief musical event of this winter will, of course, be the season of opera in English to be given at Covent Garden on Saturday, Jan. 16, under the management of Mr. Neil Forsyth, with Dr. Hans Richter, Mr. Percy Pitt, and Mr. Emil Kreuz as conductors. Practically all the boxes and stalls have been sold out, while the King and Queen have graciously given their patronage. In the Ring performances some changes have been made in the cast. Mme. Gleeson-White will impersonate Fricka in *The Valkyrie* and *The Rhinegold*, and Miss Alice Prowse will sing the part of Weglinde in *The Twilight of the Gods*, with Miss Edith Evans as Gutonne. Mr. Walter Hyde, who has so rapidly come to the front, will be one of the chief tenors; while the cast embraces a very large number of English vocalists, including Mr. Frederic Austin and Miss Caroline Hatchard, trained at the Royal Academy of Music, who has already been successful in former seasons. A newcomer, Miss Dilys Jones, from the Royal College, will also appear, as well as Mr. Bryndon Ayres, of the Guildhall School. Also among the cast are Mme. Donalda, Mme. Edna Thornton, Mr. Thomas Meux, Miss Florence Gaston, Mr. Robert Radford, Mr. Clarence Whitehill, Miss Edith Clegg, Mr. Albert Garcia, and Mr. Helge Nissen from the Copenhagen Opera; while a new Brünnhilde will appear in the person of Mrs. Sattzmann-Stevens, an excellent vocalist, from the United States, as also is Mrs. Rachel Frease-Green, both pupils of M. Jean de Reszke. Besides the names already given, a number of other English singers will be in the cast and the chorus of ninety members. Some of the vocalists have much operatic experience, others practically none; but good progress is being made at Covent Garden in all departments. Besides the Ring the list of operas will include *The Mastersingers*, *Faust*, *Madame Butterfly*, &c., and Dr. E. Woodall Naylor's new opera *The Angelus*, which gained the £500 prize offered by Messrs. Ricordi for the best opera by a British composer. Dr. Woodall Naylor is organist at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

On Monday, Dec. 7, an event of great musical importance was the production of Sir Edward Elgar's new symphony at Queen's Hall by the London Symphony Orchestra, under the conductorship of Dr. Richter. Large as Queen's Hall is, it could not contain all who wanted to hear the new work, originally produced at Manchester in the previous week. Superbly played by the London Symphony Orchestra, the beauty of Sir Edward Elgar's latest composition was brought out to the fullest extent, and the eminent conductor had frequently to bow his acknowledgments to the enthusiastic applause. The symphony is most impressive, and a great triumph for the talented English composer.

An interesting performance was given on Dec. 7 by the students of the Royal College of Music, at His Majesty's Theatre, of Hermann Goetz's last opera, *Francesca*, heard on this occasion for the first time in England. A very large audience assembled at His Majesty's Theatre eager to hear the new opera. The composer, known to fame by his opera *The Taming of the Shrew*, has in "Paolo and Francesca" a somewhat gloomy subject, and the new opera was in many respects disappointing.

The Patrons' Fund concert at Bechstein Hall on Monday, Dec. 7, with the exception of Mr. Edward Isaacs' clever Trio in E flat for pianoforte, violin, and 'cello, was tame and uninspiring, fully justifying Mr. Joseph Bennett's critical article in the *Daily Telegraph* on these concerts and modern young composers, who take their themes from such sombre and morbid subjects. "Orpheus with his Lute" would not have exercised so potent a charm with the modern music of our younger composers. German's pretty song has it that "Love is meant to make us glad," and why not music? At a recent concert at the Royal College of Music a new composition by Mr. Ahn von Carse proved so excellent, and was so favourably mentioned by the London musical critics, that some surprise was shown that the clever work was not produced at a concert of the Patrons' Fund.

Mr. Isidore de Lara's new opera *Sanga* will be produced at the Opéra Comique, Paris, and it is stated to be the first time an opera by an English composer has been mounted at this famous theatre. Mr. de Lara's opera was given for the first time two years ago at Nice, where it attracted much attention. The chief characters in *Sanga* will be sustained by Mlle. Chenal and Mlle. Nellie Marty and Messrs. Fugère and Bayle, and particular attention to the scenic effects is being given by Mr. Albert Carré, the manager of the Opéra Comique. Mr. de Lara, who was born in London, and acted as professor at the Guildhall School of Music, has composed six operas, and at Covent Garden three of these, *The Light of the World*, *Amy Robsart*, and *Messaline*, have been produced.

At the Philharmonic Society's Orchestral Concert at Queen's Hall on Friday, Dec. 11, Mr. Landon Ronald made his second appearance as conductor. Brahms's Symphony, No. 2, in D major, and Dvorák's "Carneval Overture," were successfully performed under his guidance. In this concert Mr. Frederick Delius directed his new orchestral work, "In a Summer Garden," which was most favourably received; and Mr. Busoni gave an interesting performance of César Franck's Prelude, Chorale, and Fugue, and the solo part in Liszt's intricate Pianoforte Concerto, No. 2, in A major. After the performance of the latter work Mr. Busoni was recalled no fewer than five times to the platform.

The distinguished French pianist Mr. Raoul Pugno made his appearance at Queen's Hall Symphony concert on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 12, and introduced a clever Concertstück in three movements, of his own composition, which was well received; the fine pianist also played the solo part in Saint-Saëns' Concerto No. 4 in C minor. The orchestra gave performances of Dvorák's symphony "From the New World" and the Introduction and Polonaise from Moussorgsky's music-drama *Boris Godounov*, performed at the Paris Opéra last May, and heard on Saturday for the first time in England.

The pupils of Mme. Eugénie Joachim gave at St. James's Theatre on Tuesday, Dec. 8, a first public performance in England of Mascagni's operetta *Zanetto*, originally produced at Pesaro in 1896. The libretto is founded on François Coppée's one-act play *Le Passant*, and the music is scored for harp and strings.

The Audrey Chapman Orchestra, which was founded in 1898 to give free concerts in poor neighbourhoods, gave a successful concert at Queen's Hall on Tuesday evening, Dec. 15. Ninety players, chiefly ladies, compose the orchestra, and the conductor, M. René Ortmans, secured an excellent performance of Schumann's Symphony in C. The pianist on Tuesday evening was Mme. Leschetizky, heard in a brilliant rendering of Saint-Saëns's Concerto in G minor. Mr. Heinz, the vocalist, was well received by the large audience.

Mr. Wilhelm Kuhe, who celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday on Thursday, Dec. 10, received hearty congratulations from his numerous friends and admirers. Affected as his sight is, the veteran musician spends much time at the piano, where, in spite of his eighty-five years, he is still an excellent executant. Mr. Kuhe in 1845 began his career in London, and did not resign his professorship at the Royal Academy of Music until he was eighty-one years old.

At St. James's Hall on Saturday this week, and also on next Monday and Tuesday, under the direction of Mr. Westlake-Morgan, organist of St. Bride's, Fleet-street, carol concerts in costume will be given in the afternoon and evening each day, with different programmes. A special feature will be Christmas carols of all times and nationalities. Old and modern Christmas music will also be heard, and performances of the Toy Symphonies of Haydn, Romberg, and Mr. H. M. Higgs given. "A Christmas Greeting," by Sir Edward Elgar, is also to be included in the programme. The vocalists will be Miss Ada Forrest, Mme. Gleeson-White, and Miss Perceval Allen.

On Dec. 16 a testimonial concert was given in Brixton Hall in honour of Dr. A. Madeley Richardson, the organist of Southwark Cathedral, on his retirement from that post. The programme commenced with Sir Charles Villiers Stanford's musical setting of Lord Tennyson's verse "The Revenge: A Ballad of the Fleet," which was heard at the Leeds Festival in 1886, when it made a marked impression. The Southwark Choral Society, under Dr. Richardson, gave an excellent performance of Sir Charles V. Stanford's artistic work. The leader of the orchestra was Mr. W. Frye Parker, while the organ was presided over by Dr. G. F. Huntley, of St. Peter's, Eaton-square.

THE NEW CENSORSHIP BILL.

The following is the text of the Bill which has been presented to Parliament by Mr. Robert Harcourt, supported by Mr. Alfred Mason, Mr. Ponsonby, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, with the object of abolishing the censorship of plays exercised in Great Britain under the authority of the Lord Chamberlain and transferring to the London County Council, as the local authority, the power of licensing and controlling theatres exercised by the Lord Chamberlain in the central parts of the metropolis:—

A Bill to abolish the powers of the Lord Chamberlain in respect to stage plays, and to transfer to the local authority the powers of the Lord Chamberlain in respect of the licensing of theatres in London.

Be it enacted by the King's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1. It shall not be necessary to submit any stage play to the Lord Chamberlain before the first acting or presenting thereof, whether for hire or otherwise, and it shall not be lawful for the Lord Chamberlain to forbid the acting or presenting in Great Britain of any stage play.

2.—(1) The powers of the Lord Chamberlain under the Theatres Act, 1843, in respect of the licensing and closing of theatres within the ancient Parliamentary boundaries of the cities of London and Westminster, and of the boroughs of Finsbury and Marylebone, the Tower Hamlets, Lambeth, and Southwark, shall be transferred to the London County Council.

(2) The licence of the London County Council shall be required in respect of a theatre within the said ancient Parliamentary boundaries authorised by virtue of letters patent from His Majesty or his predecessors (in this Act called a patent theatre) in the same manner as if no letters patent had been granted in respect thereof.

(3) The licence of the London County Council shall be for such period not exceeding one year as the council may think proper.

(4) The London County Council may delegate its powers under this Act with or without any restrictions or conditions as may be thought fit to a committee (or to the justices of the County of London in the same manner as if these powers had been transferred to the council by virtue of the Local Government Act, 1888).

(5) The fees payable to the Lord Chamberlain under section 4 of the Theatres Act, 1843, shall be payable to the London County Council, and shall apply to patent theatres.

3. Nothing in this Act shall affect the powers of the Lord Chamberlain under the Theatres Act, 1843, in respect of the licensing and closing of theatres in those places outside the Administrative County of London in which His Majesty, his heirs and successors, shall in their Royal persons occasionally reside.

4. The enactment mentioned in the schedule to this Act is hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that schedule.

5. In this Act the expression "theatre" means any house or other place of public resort for the public performance of stage plays.

The expression "stage-play" has the same meaning as in the Theatres Act, 1843.

6. This Act may be cited as the Theatres Act, 1908.

THE *Morning Leader* has elicited the following opinions on the Bill:—Mr. Forbes Robertson: "Am not in favour of Bill." Mr. Arthur Pinero: "Have not read Mr. Harcourt's Bill, and am therefore unable to express opinion upon it." Miss Lena Ashwell: "Judging from conditions in countries without censors, I consider our present conditions preferable." Mr. Sydney Grundy: "Out of the frying-pan into a fiery furnace. I can imagine no greater disaster." Mr. George Alexander: "I hope the Central London theatres will always be under the Lord Chamberlain's jurisdiction and the censorship retained; but I am in favour of free trade in amusements." And Mr. Lewis Waller can "see no reason for changing the existing order."

TRINITY COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

At the St. James's Hall on Thursday evening, Dec. 17, the orchestral concert of the Trinity College attracted a large audience. The orchestra, which consisted of many well-known professors, assisted by the students, gave performances of Beethoven's "Prometheus Overture" and the Adagio motto and Allegro con brio from Symphony in D, No. 2. Also excellent were their accompaniments to the vocal and instrumental items in a somewhat full programme. The lively Gigue from Sir Hubert Parry's Suite for Strings was given with great spirit, and in vocal music the orchestra never overpowered the singers. Miss Margaret Richardson in her pianoforte solo, Allegro from Concerto in A minor (Schumann), proved herself a careful and intelligent performer; while Mr. James Carroll gave a neatly-executed rendering of Mendelssohn's popular Allegro from Violin Concerto in E minor. Master Richard Johnson, who played in place of Miss Tomlin, unable through illness to appear, is a clever little boy, who looks under eight years old. The youngster played the Allegro from Mozart's pianoforte Concerto in D minor remarkably well, and took the ovation with which he was greeted quite calmly. The choice of the composer also was singularly appropriate, for was not Mozart himself a wonderful child performer? The other instrumentalist in the concert on Thursday was Mr. Walter Britton, an able 'cellist, heard in Boellmann's fine "Variations Symphoniques." Miss Florence Griffiths sang "Softly Sighs," from *Der Freischutz*, and may be commended for her clear enunciation; but Weber's famous scena requires operatic singing and experience. Miss Hilda Felstead, who was heard in "O Love! from thy power," from Saint-Saëns' *Samson and Delilah*, sang intelligently, but the fire and passion such music demands are not at present at her command. Both ladies had excellent voices that will amply repay further cultivation. Another ambitious song was "Gazing around upon this fair assembly," from *Tannhäuser*, sung by Mr. Horace Witty with a fair amount of success.

VARIETY GOSSIP.

By the time these lines are in print our readers will be enjoying with their families the Christmas season that brings in its train peace and goodwill; and the best friends of the profession, therefore, must feel keen regret that the cloud between artists and agents has not lifted.

We have an inkling, however, that the light of a better understanding between the disputants is brightening the horizon of the music hall world, and we hope that the new year will not be far advanced before the sins of "omission" and "commission" will be entirely forgotten, and that all concerned will enjoy the fruits of the prosperity of the halls, ever growing in their number and ever widening in their influence.

Hengler's Circus is to be reopened to-day by the London Theatre of Varieties with a "ring" version of Cinderella, and many acrobatic novelties, equestrian attractions, and Continental combinations. When the run of the Yuletide spectacle comes to an end the work of reconstructing the house, and making it the London Palladium of Pleasure will be commenced.

Mr. Fred Ginnett, of Dick Turpin fame, has been elected King Rat of the grand order for the year 1909, and succeeds in that office Mr. W. H. Clemart, now secretary of the V.A.F. Mr. Ginnett bears a name celebrated in circus and variety annals, and Mrs. Ginnett takes a prominent part in the benevolent work of the Music-hall Ladies' Guild, of which she is president.

Mr. Alfred Moul has much pleasure in announcing that he has engaged for a term of years the clever and accomplished dancer and teacher Miss Elise Clerc, not only to perform at the Alhambra in the various ballets, but to give him her valuable assistance in their production. Miss Clerc will be best remembered as a versatile comedienne and understudy to Mlle. Genée, while at the moment the success of her little pupil, Elsie Craven, at His Majesty's Theatre, is the talk of the town.

Theatres do not now favour the one-act play as much as formerly, but it is nursed more tenderly at the variety houses, where the higher development of such works has been taken in hand by legitimate stage favourites. It was only the other day that we saw Miss Fanny Brough and Mr. Stanley Cooke in a play specially written for that clever actress, and now Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Hicks are delighting Mr. Alfred Butt's patrons in *The Fly-by-Night*, by Mr. Paul Rubens, who created *Mr. Popple of Ippleton*.

Later in the year we hope to see Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bourchier at the same house, and here we may reveal the fact that Mr. Butt—a great lover of the one-act play—will produce through the medium of the clever pair a number of pieces light in texture and comic in dialogue. These are now being written by well-known authors specially for variety stage representation; and Mr. Butt's idea is to present a new play each week until the whole series is exhausted.

Mr. C. Blyth-Pratt's humorous leanings have prompted him to issue a comic prospectus of the Gold Mine of Mirth (Unlimited), the capital being one million roars. The brokers are said to be Catch and Catchcan, 267, Throgneedle-street, N.S., and the solicitors Grin and Bearit, of 41, Bunionhill, London. The company has been formed to carry on the colossal Christmas company at that famous house, the Oxford, where a matinée will be given on Boxing Day.

All nominations of candidates for the Executive Committee election of the Variety Artists' Federation must be received at the head office by 12 noon on Jan. 9, 1909. All male members over twenty-one years of age are eligible for office, providing they have been members for the preceding six months, and are not in arrears, as per the rules. The nominee must signify in writing his willingness to serve, if elected, and must be proposed and seconded by two members in full benefit.

Mr. Robert Harcourt has introduced a Bill to abolish the powers of the Lord Chamberlain in respect of stage plays, and to transfer to the local authority the powers of the Lord Chamberlain in respect of the licensing of theatres in London. The Bill is backed by Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. A. E. W. Mason, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, and Mr. Ramsay Macdonald. The principle is, therefore, approved by members of all parties, while, with regard to other members whose names do not appear on the Bill, it may be mentioned that Mr. Russell Rea, Mr. G. Faber, and others attended informal committee meetings previous to the introduction of the Bill, and approved its terms.

The local authority exercises power in London's environs such as Richmond, Walthamstow, East Ham, and other districts, and audiences at the halls in these outer metropolitan areas are favoured both with stage plays and variety fare. In fact, free trade in amusements has been established in spite of the Moll Flanders Act passed in the reign of Good Queen Anne, of imperishable memory—in defiance, too, of the Theatres Act of the early forties, which recked not of the establishment of variety palaces in all parts of an ever-increasing London.

Three sponsors of the Bill are dramatic authors, and an endeavour is made to give effect to the desire expressed by a large number of their colleagues in a letter to the Press on Oct. 29, 1907, and in their subsequent deputation to the Government. The Bill, of course, was only introduced at a late period of the session with a view to its terms being made public. The double licence, we think, is a very simple way out of the licensing difficulty, the smoking restrictions to be at the option of the management.

The late Mr. Frank Heath, an account of whose funeral will be found in another column, was a man of fine physique, and had in his prime distinguished himself as an athlete. On one occasion, when an attempt was made by some roughs to obtain possession of over £200, the proceeds of sports held on behalf of the Sick Fund, Mr. Heath, assisted by another member of the committee, Mr. Pat Carey, the present hon. treasurer, "went for" the would-be thieves in such vigorous and determined style that they were glad to beat a hasty retreat. Mr. Heath's death is a severe loss to the society, with which he had been connected so many years.

Mr. Wilkie Bard makes his first appearance to-night in a London pantomime, and we may be sure his ingenuity, resourcefulness, comicality, and admirable elocution will be of immense value in Mr. Arthur Collins's gorgeous production. Mr. Bard has a lively sense of the value of humorous invention, and his freshness is undeniable.

Mabel Edith Countess Russell, of Bray Lawn, Bray, who died on Sept. 22 last, aged thirty-six years, daughter of the late Sir Claud Scott, and who was married to Earl Russell in 1890, left by her will, which bears date Sept. 21, 1908, the whole of her estate to her sister, Lina Mary Russell, of Gledstanes-road, Barons-court, Kensington, wife of Mr. Richard Russell, and appointed her as sole executrix thereof. Her estate is of the gross value of £122.

More about the abandoned Brighton summer and winter palace scheme was heard at the meeting on Saturday at the Royal Pavilion of those who had opposed it. Sir Henry Kimber, M.P., presided, and a report from the executive committee was adopted. This explained the steps taken in opposition, and showed that the expense was only about £50.

A suggestion was made by the Chairman that, although this scheme had been disposed of, the opponents' organisation should be preserved in order to meet the casino project recently launched. Lord Rendel urged the formation of a general committee, whose object should be to preserve the Brighton foreshore from exploitation in private interests, but who should also have power to appoint committees to oppose particular schemes.

On the motion of Lord Rendel, the general and executive committee were thanked for their successful opposition to Messrs. Lyons and Forbes's scheme, and requested to oppose the new project. They were also instructed to consider the propriety of forming a permanent association, prepared to take the initiative in opposing any "attempts to interfere with the rights of the public" in the foreshore.

Councillor Yates said he did not believe the Board of Trade would allow the pier which formed part of the new scheme to be built. He understood there would be considerable opposition on the part of members of the corporation.

The Oldham Watch Committee on the 16th inst. had before them an application for a dramatic licence for the new Grand Theatre and Opera House in King-street, which was applied for by Mr. Joseph Platt on behalf of the Oldham Empire Theatre of Varieties Co. Mr. Platt stated that the shareholders of the company were all local men. They already held three licences, and they had been complimented on the excellent manner in which the theatres were conducted.

Referring to the objection that had been raised to the licence, Mr. Platt said it was a remarkable thing that no objection was taken to the granting of the licence a few weeks ago to the Palace Theatre. The privilege was required for those patrons who required reasonable refreshments. If this was not provided inside the theatre, people would go outside.

The committee afterwards inspected the theatre, and subsequently the Chief Constable, in answer to Councillor Schofield, said no one had ever been convicted for drunkenness in the theatres. They were conducted in an excellent manner. It was unanimously decided to grant the full licence until the annual licensing day in June.

Visitors to the Alhambra throughout the week have had an opportunity of witnessing the sensational Apache Dance as performed by its original exponents, M. Max Dearly and Mlle. Mistinguette, in Paris. This weird evolution of the Terpsichorean art is a prominent feature of The Red Hand, the third of the series of art films which Mr. Alfred Moul has presented.

Mr. Thomas Barrasford allowed a special matinée to be held at the Liverpool Hippodrome on Saturday in aid of the Christmas Hot-pot Fund, which annually provides food for 100,000 poor people of the city. Among the packed audience were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress. Hundreds of children from charitable institutions and nurses engaged at the hospitals were also present, their admission being paid for by several citizens. The affair was a big success, thanks to the valuable efforts of the hosts of artists who attended through the kindness of local theatre proprietors.

The popular resident-manager of the Cambridge Theatre, Spennymoor, Mr. David Collins, took his second annual benefit on Wednesday, 16th inst. A crowded house witnessed a capital performance of *A Christmas Story* by the members of the Spennymoor Dramatic Society, which was greatly appreciated. A miscellaneous programme was contributed to by the following:—Miss Dolly Harper, Miss Nance Green, Miss Ruby Machin, Mr. Tom E. Lowe, Mr. G. H. Barrett, Mr. Bob Cooper, Mr. Will Redshaw, Mr. Bert Clarance, Mr. Jack Harrell, and the famous Musical Six.

Mr. Alexander, the manager of the variety company performing last week at the York Theatre Royal, proved himself a true friend of the poor little children. In every town which he visits with his company he gives, on the Saturday morning, free breakfasts to several hundred of the poor little ones, and in accordance with his custom, Mr. Alexander on Saturday morning provided a good meal for about 700 of the children of York.

Using the police as the main channel for distributing his invitations, he sent out 600 tickets, the holders of which were told to be at the Theatre Royal to receive a good meal. The invitations were readily responded to, not only by the fortunately invited guests, but also by some hundred others who had not been so fortunate, but went on the off-chance that something might be left for them. Not a single child was sent empty away.

The invited guests were admitted by the exit door of the pit, and passed out by way of the entrance door. As they entered each child was given a bag containing a meat pie, a bun, a packet of sweets, and an orange, and as they passed out they were supplied with a cup of hot tea, having brought their own cups. The packets of food were distributed by Mr. and Mrs. Rainer, and the tea was dispensed by Miss Kitty, the daughter of the donor of the feast. Mr. Alexander, Mr. H. J. Dacre (general-manager of the theatre), and members of the staff acted as marshals. Mr. Alexander must feel proud of having cheered the hearts of 600 or 700 little ones.

Mr. Gilbert's generous effort on behalf of the widowed mother of John Jackman, one of the victims of the "Boy's Own" disaster in the North Sea, resulted in the Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth, on Thursday night (16th), being crowded in every part. An excellent programme was presented, and in replying to a vote of thanks Mr. Gilbert, who had a great reception, stated that as a result of the effort at least £100 would be available for the benefit of Mrs. Jackman, whose son was her sole support.

An interesting wrestling match for £100 a side has been arranged between John Lemm and O'Kelly. The latter recently distinguished himself by winning the Olympic Championship at the Stadium. John Lemm, winner of the great tournament held in London last April, has won the applause of the public by his sportsmanlike behaviour and straightforward challenges to his opponents, and might be justly styled the legitimate champion of the world.

The match has been arranged for Thursday, Jan. 14, to take place at the Oxford, at three o'clock, the men to wrestle the best two out of three falls, catch-as-catch-can style, to a finish. Should no decision be arrived at, the match to be continued the following day, all the door receipts the second day to be devoted to charitable purposes.

To encourage the gathering in of the "siller" for the Music Hall Home, *The Era* has decided to give a gold medal to the collector who gets most money for that deserving charity.

The collection for the New Year Shilling Fund has now commenced in earnest. As soon as collecting cards are full please forward them to the hon. treasurer, Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, and get another card.

At the moment of going to press we hear of the sad death of Mrs. Jack de Frece, who leaves a baby boy of fifteen days old and a little laddie of five. The interment was to take place on Christmas Day, the cortège leaving 245, Brixton-road, at 11 a.m. The bereaved husband will be the recipient of much sympathy in his sorrow.

Mr. Alfred Lester, who since the last night of *Havana* at the Gaiety has been taking a well-earned rest and change of air in Cornwall, returns to vaudeville to fulfil outstanding contracts. He opens on Monday at the Tivoli, where he will present selections from his monologues and duologues.

Mr. John E. Coyle's friends will be pleased to hear that he is now recovering from his recent attack of double pneumonia and pleurisy, though it is not likely he will be able to resume his work for some considerable time.

Mr. Herbert Shelley, who returned to London on Monday, has been presenting his successful protean Irish play, *Dan the Outlaw*, four times nightly at Camberwell and Walham Green. He has just completed a successful twenty-three weeks with Mr. Stoll.

George Fuller was not forgotten on his birthday last Tuesday, when he completed his forty-ninth year. One of his most cherished friends is Pony Moore, who, though he is nearing his ninetieth year, made a point of visiting and cheering the sufferer. Mr. Moore brought his stepson with him, and other welcome visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Mrs. C. Mitchell and Mr. C. Mitchell, jun., Mr. Wilson, Miss M. Jefferys, and Mr. and Mrs. George Marriott.

The new musical sketch to be presented by Mr. Alfred Moul at the Alhambra on Jan. 4 is *La Petite Bohémienne*. There are but four characters in the piece—Mlle. Leonora and Miss Julia Seale, who appear respectively as boy and girl; M. Volbert, who represents an artist; and Mlle. Blaney, who is cast as the artist's wife. It will be a sort of play without words, bearing some resemblance to *La Cigale* in its story. The two scenes, an exterior and an interior, are laid in present-day Italy. The new Alhambra ballet is due in March.

Miss Mary Law, a clever young violinist, who has been appearing at the Tivoli, took to the violin when only seven years old. She appeared at the Queen's Hall at the tender age of eleven. In 1902 she won the Carwardine Prize at the Guildhall School of Music, and proceeded to America, where, at the Chicago Musical College, she was one of the three selected to compete for the diamond medal, and was awarded that prize both in 1904 and 1905.

The American Music-Hall is the new name given to the theatre at the corner of Forty-second-street and Eighth-avenue, New York, which recently passed under the management of Mr. William Morris. With the new name was inaugurated a new policy, which aims to give the New Yorkers a music-hall on the London plan. Smoking is now permitted in all parts of the house, and the programme is made up of what is known as "straight" vaudeville. There are more acts than usual in the bill, but no sketches.

By and by, perhaps, we may expect to have a "lightning programme" à la Graydon. That would indeed be a novelty. How many managers during the last ten years have undertaken to give us a music-hall on the London plan! Perhaps Mr. Morris will succeed where others have failed. He has certainly started well, and provided his patrons with a remarkably fine "array of talent." Ray Beveridge, Grace Hazzard, Emma Carus, Willie Hoppe, Manuel Romaine, and quite a number of clever people are in the bill.

Miss Jessie Preston received a splendid welcome at the Colonial Theatre last week, when she made her first appearance before an American audience, and everything points to her being as big a favourite on this side of the water as she is on the other. Miss Preston sang "Dear Loch Lomond," "Hae ye seen Jock MacPherson?" "A reply to 'I love a lassie,'" "A Scotch skit on Salome," and "Maggie Snyder." Her songs moved the audience to frequent laughter, and called forth expressions of approval from all parts of the house. The "Glasgow lassie" remains at the Colonial for a fortnight. Miss Ruth Allen and her London Johnnies have made a hit at the same theatre, and Jean Marcel's living statuary are another attractive feature of the programme.

An exceptionally strong and varied programme will be given at the London Coliseum next week. In addition to Miss Cecilia Loftus, Miss Carrie de Mar, and Joseph Hart's "Polly Pickle's Pets," there is a notable newcomer, Mlle. Saharet, who has earned the title of Australia's greatest dancer. Mlle. Saharet arrives in London with a great reputation, and Continental critics have been profuse in their praise. Last week in Berlin she created a furore, particularly with reference to her Spanish and acrobatic dances. She has cut out a distinct line for herself, and holds equal honours with all the great dancers who recently have appeared in London.

It seems the fashion for the leading pugilists and wrestlers to become music hall entertainers. One remembers in the old days that such champions of the prize-ring as Jem Mace, Tom King, and Tom Sayers occasionally appeared on benefit nights at the old Surrey in the famous Tom Cribb's parlour scene of the drama *Tom and Jerry*; and in later days—to be exact, in 1894—*Gentleman Jack* was written round James Corbett, who was then the fistic hero of the States, and in it he appeared in our own Drury Lane Theatre without any great success.

Such dramas are generally feeble stuff, and this criticism applies to the sketch *A Man's a Man for a' that*, which was put on at the Oxford on Monday evening for the purpose of introducing the renowned fighting man Bob Fitzsimmons to the London public. Action or plot is not necessary in such a mere *pièce d'occasion*, and much may be forgiven the hero for his introduction to English variety of Miss Julia Gifford (Mrs. Fitzsimmons), who on Monday night sang so very charmingly and with such sweetness that she was enthusiastically encored. Her second essay was "Comin' thro' the rye," given without accompaniment.

Mr. Fitzsimmons himself gave a slight outline of his career. To smooth the wrinkles in his fond mother's brow, he bethought himself of fighting to gain a purse of 500 dollars, and, leaving his smithy and his "heavy sledge," he fought and won. He at one time claimed three championships, and pronounced from the footlights his readiness to defend one and all of them against any man, black or white. He punched the ball with such terrific force as to break the strong cord fastening it to a wooden roof. Mrs. Fitzsimmons was presented with a lovely horseshoe of flowers tied with the American national colours.

The ladies' concert of the Terriers' Association will be held at the Three Stags Hotel, Kennington, on Jan. 3, 1909; and on the 10th of that month will be held the annual dinner of the fraternity at the Hotel Boulogne, Gerrard-street, W.

Mr. George Leyton, who is now on the Stoll tour, is playing his military sketch, *The Last Muster*, which is a most effective picture of the Army veterans in their last phase, and realises quite artistically the great picture by Sir Hubert Herkomer. As everybody knows, this artist is a true friend of the Crimean and Mutiny veterans, having up to date collected for them over £3,000.

Mr. Leyton was once in an artillery regiment, and is a descendant of an old fighting family. Though born in New Orleans, he has spent most of his life in London. Originally intended for a commercial career, it was quite by accident that Mr. Leyton came before the footlights. He was singing in London in an amateur capacity, and a gentleman who had considerable influence in the theatrical profession was so interested with his talent that he invited the young vocalist to sing at the Grand Theatre, Islington, with Mr. Yorke Stephens, in a military sketch entitled *The True Heart*.

Mr. Leyton has chiefly devoted his attention to military sketches, and he tells an amusing story of an experience in which two Zulus were concerned. He was producing a piece entitled *The Last Grip*, which was the realisation of a famous picture. In this tableau Mr. Leyton appeared as a trooper whose dead horse lay beside him, and he was supposed to shoot a couple of savage Zulus who circled round him brandishing their assegais.

The men were given minute instructions how to act, and when the curtain went up and the Zulus came on the scene, Mr. Leyton fired his revolver, and one man dropped and pretended to be dead. After a good deal of dodging about, amidst breathless excitement, Mr. Leyton fired at the second man, but the savage merely shook himself and remained erect. One after the other he fired the remaining barrels, and still the warrior refused to die.

Mr. Leyton began to grow anxious. It was Monday night, and if anything went wrong with the performance it would ruin the show for the week. He suddenly recollected the sword that hung at his belt. Drawing this he gave his adversary a savage thrust under the arm, at the same time muttering in an undertone, "Die, you silly beggar, die!" This appeared to bring the Zulu to his senses. "Oh, hang it," shouted the obstinate warrior, and without further ado he walked off the stage. Mr. Leyton afterwards administered a stern rebuke to his assistant, but the only satisfaction he received was, "Do you think I am going to stand being knocked over for eighteen-pence a night?"

Mrs. John Lawson will produce her travesty, *Why Did Third Floor Pass?* at the Metropolitan on Monday. It is in two scenes—No. 1, Outside Terry's Theatre; No. 2, A Lodging House at Camberwell. The cast engaged includes Edward Thane, Dan Curzon, Albert Mason, Selina Seaforth, Daphne Williams, and Cissie Lawson.

During the week at the London Hippodrome Mr. Joseph Hart, the New York producer, has presented the Rain-Dears, eight vivacious girls and a principal who dance and sing. The scenes represent Toyland, where the Dears cleverly execute a wooden shoe dance. The scene shifts afterwards to Dreamland, and then to Iceland, and "down yonder in the cornfield," where the girls appear in mackintoshes, and dance in a rain storm of real water, which comes down from the flies above the stage. The costumes and settings of the act are most pleasing. Caicedo, the wire king, in his remarkable act, has been renewing his Hippodrome triumphs after an absence in America.

Mr. Oswald Stoll presented the chief attraction of his Christmas feast of variety at the Coliseum on Monday. It is entitled *Polly Pickles' Pets*, and is known as an American vaudeville sketch, for which Mr. Joseph Hart, a well-known American producer, is responsible. Ostensibly intended as an attraction for children, it possesses amusing possibilities that will appeal also to the grown-ups of holiday audiences. It tells a story of adventurous children who make their way into fairyland in search of missing toys.

Petland is an Arcadian region where toys go when they are lost, and thither Polly Pickles comes on an elephant's back to look for them. She finds that her dog, her cat, her parrot, and her Teddy-bear have grown to abnormal proportions, and that they can sing and prattle and chatter in a way only to be imagined at the season of Yule, when such good genii as Mr. Oswald Stoll do their best to realise fairydom for the little ones. The elephant is not too tenderfooted to dance, and of course the parrot talks in a way that is quite customary. We hear, too, the Teddy-bear, and of course the cat unfolds a tale with a "purr-puss." The chief musical numbers are "Has anyone seen a kitty-cat?" "The Feline Flirt," and the "Jack-o'-Lantern Men," the final being sung in a pretty scene where "Jack-o'-Lantern Men" provide the chorus. The novelty is plotless, but the children can weave a story for themselves out of such an exhilarating spectacle of Toyland, in which there is plenty of fun.

On behalf of the committee of the Music-hall Ladies' Guild, 61, New Oxford-street, W.C., Miss Melinda May (secretary) wishes to thank the following, who have so readily responded to the appeal for the dear children's Christmas tree:—Miss Marie Lloyd, £1 1s.; Miss Alexandra Dagmar, £1 1s.; Mme. Haydee (collection), 9s.; Mr. Gus Elen, £2 2s.; Mr. Wal Pink, £1; Dr. Goldberg (Strand), £1 5s. and promise of ton of coals; Leoni Clark, £1 1s.; Mrs. Pettitt (collection), 8s. 9½d., gift of £1, and games for tree; Miss E. G. Clarke, A.C.N., 2s. and gift of new clothing for tree; Rev. Stephen Barrass's children, toys and games; Miss Lottie Albert, 5s.; Miss Ettie Albert, 1s.; Miss Kate Vulcana, 5s.; Mrs. James Horne, 2s. and parcel of new stockings for Christmas tree; Miss Maggie Bowman (collection), 2s. 6d.; Miss Bennet (collecting), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. W. Northern (collecting and giving), 5s.; Mrs. Northcott, 1s.; the Three Rubys (collecting), 2s. and a present of golliwogs and pincushions; Mrs. Vernon Cowper, 5s.; Mrs. Crowther, 2s.; Mrs. Edwards (Albion House), toys; Rev. Arthur Brinckman, confectionery; Huntley and Palmer (Reading), cakes, &c.; Mr. C. Thomas, sweets; Mrs. Fred Ginnett, boxes of children's boots and shoes; Miss Belle Elmore, children's clothing; Mrs. Eugene Stratton, games, fruit, toys, &c.; Miss Irene Rose, 100 bags of sweets; Miss Lil Hawthorne, presents for tree and cheque for £2 2s.; Miss Evelyn Mildred, two boxes of useful clothing; Sister Macarte, children's games, toys, and parcel clothing; Harry Blake, parcel clothing; Mrs. Rogers, sweets; Mr. Mash, florist, Brixton, for kindly lending Christmas tree; Miss Lillie Lucerne, parcel of pincushions; Mrs. Oswald Stoll, £2 2s.; and Mrs. Ernest Collins, parcel of clothing.

It is the intention of the committee to give the children dinner, tea, entertainment, many presents, and much comfort, so that they may have one bright day in their lives; also roast beef and Christmas pudding, as an extra, to many poor artists in the profession.

Mr. Herman Finck, the musical-director of the Palace Theatre, who has been responsible for musical *ententes* and other international harmonies at the Palace, is responsible for a seasonable array of popular tunes from all sources entitled "Now and Then."

Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Miss Lil Hawthorne, Mrs. Eugene Stratton, Miss Irene Rose, Miss Belle Elmore, and Miss Melinda May (secretary) did their best by selling programmes at the Coliseum to aid the Cripples Fund, which Sir William Treloar has so much at heart. Sir William, too, is a great friend of the music-hall profession, and is deeply sensible of its readiness to assist the noble charity for which the Water Rats specially appealed at the Coliseum on Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. R. G. Knowles has first place in the bill at the Lincoln-square Theatre, at which the attractions are booked by Mr. William Morris. Mr. Knowles is telling the New Yorkers that modern London is the home of the Forty Thieves, thirty-nine of whom are in the hotel business, the other having succumbed during the Olympian games.

Miss Vesta Victoria, not in the least perturbed after being involved in the Sunday performance muddle, was the "head-liner" at the Lincoln-square Theatre last week, where her songs went as well as ever. "Sally, the pride of the ballet" is probably the best in her budget. It made the audience laugh consumedly. In the same bill was Miss Maude Odell, whose clever and interesting poses were well received, her performance being decidedly novel. Miss Francesca Redding and her company, including Mr. John V. Keates, who played for several years in London and the provinces, appear in a capital sketch called *Honora*, which has made a big hit wherever it has been presented. Miss Redding and her company are looking forward to a London engagement.

"To-morrow," the children's great spectacle, which is Mr. Oswald Stoll's chief Christmas attraction at the London Hippodrome, has taken shape. The chrysalis has become a caterpillar, and has developed into a butterfly more beautiful than ever seen in the metropolis of arenic spectacle. Mr. Bolossy Kiralfy has seen—who has not?—that of late years the pantomime was fast becoming an entertainment as much for grown-ups proper as for children, who are, however, its chief patrons. He thought—and rightly, too—"Why not combine what will appeal equally to children from the age of six to sixty?" With this thought in his mind, *To-morrow* was conceived. With its combination of beauty, simplicity, and continuity of plot, together with its fine music and operatic singing, *To-morrow* appeals to all, and causes the grown-ups to hark back to their happiest days when they also lived in the land of "make-believe."

Every child wants to know how Santa Claus appears only at Christmas, and why he distributes only at that time. Every child would like to see him on his annual round. And every child in London can do so this year, for he will be drawn in his sledge full of toys by two real reindeer (the only ones in Great Britain) twice daily at the Hippodrome.

"To-morrow" is a story that never can grow old, although it will achieve stage longevity. The plot is as simple as the story, but the lavishness of the management in the matter of the scenery, dresses, and the multitude of persons taking part may be taken as a sure indication that the ingenuity of its treatment and the vivid imagination of its producer are quite in consonance with the past traditions of Hippodramatic spectacle. The whole of the large Hippodrome arena and the entire stage will be monopolised for the production.

The story starts in a fine old English country house, where the love interest is foreshadowed by the introduction of a couple of lovers, Albert and Mildred. The real hero of the tale is, however, Willie, who, like so many boys, is never content with the delights of "to-day," but persistently looks forward to the joys of anticipation. Falling asleep, he sees in his dreams the arrival of Santa Claus, through his usual channel—the chimney—who, in his best Christmas mood, demands what he can do for the youthful hero. Willie fain would enjoy a glimpse of that marvellous region where all the toys distributed by the Yuletide saint are manufactured.

Willie's desire is gratified when are revealed to him the wonders of the Cave of Joy in a glowing stage spectacle. Down a crystal staircase the Fairy Queen and her entourage trip. Then comes a grand ballet of animated toys. The Hippodrome arena will be alive with all kinds of nursery favourites—Teddy-bears, rabbits, frogs, punchinellos, dolls, woolly lambs, golliwogs, and suchlike denizens of what was once known as Lowther Arcadia. A realistic snow scene succeeds, and here we see Willie conveyed back to his father's home in a sleigh drawn by real reindeer. Then there is a picture of a Christmas family gathering in a huge ancestral hall.

A great allegorical picture, illustrative of the opening of the New Year and the Triumph of Progress, concludes. In this no fewer than 220 people appear. Milk-white steeds gaily caparisoned with gold and silver trappings bear handsome trumpeters, who herald the approach of Britannia, in a gorgeous golden chariot, and other allegorical figures will typify Industry, Commerce, Science, Art, and Agriculture. For the ballet the services of 160 dancers have been enlisted; and butterflies, fairies, birds, and all sorts of winged creatures help to lend brilliancy and animation to the scene.

The figures ranged on each side form as it were, a living avenue, stretching from the furthest point of the arena up to the back of the stage, where, suddenly, is discerned an enormous Christmas-tree. From its branches hang life-size dolls and toys of every imaginable description. Garlands of mistletoe float down from above, banners are held on high, flags wave in the air, a flight of pigeons is let loose. To the blare of trumpets, the massive strains of the orchestra, and the combined voices of a full chorus, 15,000 electric globes burst into flame. And so in a blaze of light and colour the entertainment comes to an end.

Mr. Kiralfy himself has written the libretto, while the music, which has been composed by Signor Paula Giorza, is tuneful and catchy throughout. Mr. Stuart Alexander, Miss Grace Gray, Miss May Hollom, Mr. Octavius E. Lennon, and Miss Beatrice Willey are the principal vocalists, and Master James Hollom will represent Little Willie. The designs for the costumes are by Mr. Kiralfy, and their making has been entrusted to Hugo Baruch and Co., of Shaftesbury-avenue. Mr. S. E. Baumann, the sole agent for Mr. Kiralfy—who, by the way, has come from America on purpose to produce the spectacle—takes an active interest in the preparations. Mr. Oswald Stoll has left no stone unturned to make this Christmas annual a veritable tour de force.

Mr. David Devant, who has been out of his own bill for the past few weeks, returns to his post at St. George's Hall for the holidays. He has been devising new illusions for the bewilderment of the public, and perhaps the most puzzling of his novelties will be a trick with a young woman. Mr. Devant is going to carry her in his arms, and then the young woman is going into the Ewigkeit. Mr. Devant has a new trick which will appeal specially to children.

SONGS, WRITERS, AND SINGERS.

MESSRS. FRANCIS AND DAY have embodied their Christmas and New Year wishes to the profession, the trade, and song-lovers generally in a smart acrostic, constructed from the titles of several of their successful pantomime numbers, viz.:—"Come, be my Rainbow," "Oh! oh! Antonio," "Mandy Lane," "Parrot Duet," "L. S. D.," "I'm afraid to come home in the dark," "Mandy's wedding," "Every fellow's in love with a girl," "Naomi," "The Gay Gordons," "Sue, Sue, Sue," "Oh, the Daylight Bill," "Far away in Australia," "Take me on the Flip-Flap," "Hang out the front-door key," "Esau, take me on the see-saw," "Shadowland," "Exercise," "Are you the little girl I met the other evening?" "She sells sea-shells," "On the cliffs of Normandy," and "Never, Oh, never get married." The initials form the words "Compliments of the Season."

MISS MADOLINE REES is making a special feature of the National Music Publishing Co.'s song "When the leaves are tinged with gold" at the Marlborough Theatre pantomime. Having heard this song sung by Fred Elton, she immediately secured it for her principal number. This great number is also being sung in almost every pantomime in Great Britain.

"KATE, WON'T YOU ROLLER SKATE," another of the National Music Publishing Co.'s numbers, is rapidly coming to the front, and will unquestionably become a great chorus number. Frank H. Fox, who originally produced this song six weeks ago, gives an excellent account of it.

EVERY pantomime comedian should immediately secure the National Music Publishing Co.'s great comedy number, "Put me upon an island where the girls are few," which is being produced at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, by Wilkie Bard. Another of their comedy numbers, "You all want something to cuddle," will be sung by Neil Kenyon at Drury Lane, in which he will introduce some very novel effects, being assisted by from forty to fifty girls.

AMONG other numbers being made free for pantomime by the National Music Co. are George Lashwood's two big hits, "If it's a lady" and "Nicolo, Nicolo, play on your piccolo." Also Victoria Monks' two big winners, "I wish I had a pal" and "Call round any old time."

LOWENWIRTH AND COHAN begin their London season of ten weeks in the West End on Monday, and they intend featuring their tremendously successful song "My Little Eva," which has already been placed in almost every pantomime in Great Britain by the National Music Publishing Co.

WILL GODWIN informs the National Music Co. that he has repeated the enormous success he made at Greenock last week with their song, "When I've a hundred pounds," at the Palace, Glasgow, this week, being called before the curtain numerous times.

H. TROTER'S favourite waltz song, "Roses, roses everywhere," has been selected by Miss Roberta Swendson for introduction in the Sunderland pantomime, where she is playing Fairy Queen. The same song is also being featured this week at the Hackney Empire by Miss Katie Cohen, with coloured illustrated slides supplied by Messrs. Sheard and Co. She will continue singing it at the various Empires on the Stoll tour.

MISS L. DANBY, the principal boy in the pantomime at the Theatre Royal, Bolton, has secured from Messrs. Sheard the rights for that town for Mr. Frank Stanley Smith's capital song "Ma Limelight Lou."

MISS HELEN ANDREWS, the possessor of a real contralto voice, has made a pronounced hit with Stanley Gordon's fine song "Till I die" at the Hippodrome, Leeds, and other first-rate variety halls.

MR. H. HATTERSLEY is scoring heavily in Nottingham with "Asleep in the deep," "When the ebb-tide flows," and other real bass songs from Messrs. Sheard and Co.'s catalogue.

MISS EDITH HALEY and Miss Maggie Fraser are making a great hit with Messrs. Sheard's American ballad "When you were sweet sixteen" in Mr. Richard Waldon's pantomime, *Dickory Dock*, at the Princess's Theatre, Glasgow.

MESSRS. SHEARD inform us that they are having a great demand from all parts of the country for the orchestral accompaniments of Stanley Gordon's popular bass songs "Queen of my dreams," "Out of the night," and "When the ebb-tide flows."

T. W. THURBAN'S latest hit, "The war whoop rag," is in general request with all kinds of musical acts and dumb shows generally.

MR. HARRISON BROCKBANK continues to meet with the greatest possible success with Kipling's striking barrack-room ballad "Follow me 'ome" at all his numerous engagements. Mr. Leonard Ashdowne, the well-known baritone of the Meister Singers, is one of the latest to give prominence to this song.

MESSRS. SHEARD AND CO. have accepted from Messrs. Stanley Gordon and Clifton Bingham their latest bass song, "Neptune" ("Lord of the sea am I"), which they consider as the finest effort of these popular writers. The song will be published early in the new year.

MEDLEY BARRETT'S "Baden-Powell's Scout" is a popular number in the North. Lieut.-General Baden-Powell was attending a concert in Sunderland recently, when a little troop of our youthful defenders, hearing of his presence, hastily assembled and lustily sang the chorus.

MEDLEY BARRETT has been the recipient of many congratulations on the success of his grand march "Copenhagen," which has been played at the Oxford during the past week, and is secured for the Palace, East Ham, and the Empire, Camberwell. It will also be played by several of His Majesty's military bands. The march is dedicated to Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Alexandra. The Denmark Music Publishing Co. are already busy supplying the trade demand for this work.

MR. JACK EDGAR'S list at the Metropolitan includes Alfred Lester in his humorous *Restaurant Episode;* George Formby, a lad from Lancashire; the Lyric Mummers; Cissy Lawson in the skit *Why the Third Floor Passed;* Dolly Harmer, the clever burlesque actress; and others.

A FLAVOUR of the Yuletide spirit is imparted to the programme of the Coliseum by Mr. Joseph Hart's *Polly Pickle's Pets from Petland.* The playlet is termed a musical fantasy in one act, and is all the title implies, and more. There are plenty of tuneful, bright airs, and a wealth of fantasy in the shape of all sorts of trick animals. Polly has lost her pets, and she goes to Petland to find them. Accompanied by a chorus of "Buster Browns," she enjoys herself in a childlike spirit of fun, and their adventures form the basis of the skit. Pinky, the cat, is played by a clever animal impersonator; so are the parrot, the dog, the Teddy bear, and the Ibsenesque elephant, Peer Gynt by name. The variety on the bill includes Miss Cecilia Loftus, Miss Evie Greene, Miss Carrie de Mar, and Machnow, the Russian giant.

NEW YEAR'S COLLECTION FOR THE MUSIC HALL HOME.

In again directing the attention of our readers to *The Era* New Year's Shilling Fund on behalf of

[*Photo by Sarony.*

MISS MARIE LLOYD,
The Fair Worker for the Home.

the Music Hall Home we are in the happy position of being able to associate with the appeal thus being made the name of the foremost music hall comedienne—Miss Marie Lloyd. It seems scarcely necessary to remind our readers of the deep interest Miss Lloyd has ever taken in matters affecting the welfare of her brothers and sisters of the variety profession. It is her desire that her "year" will be marked by a considerable increase in the subscriptions of previous years, and she therefore, through *The Era*, commends the Music Hall Home to the charitably-minded. Mr. Thomas Barrasford, the President of the Fund, is again this year exerting himself in its behalf, and this fact is sufficient indication that he is satisfied as to the way in which the institution is being conducted, and that he considers it worthy of support. Another sponsor is found in Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, of *The Era*, who for the past six years has acted as honorary treasurer to the fund, and who, during that period, has used his influence and put forth every personal effort to ensure the success of the annual appeals.

Mr. Ben Woodger, the secretary of the Music Hall Home, tells us that last year (1907) the inmates averaged ten, but that this year there have been as many as twelve. The address of the Home is 31, Wilson-road, Camberwell, and there the matron (Mrs. Fruin) busies herself for the comfort and convenience of her "family." At present there are eleven of these, and the desire is to increase the number, which can only be done when sufficient funds for the purpose are collected. During the past twelve months three or four of the inmates have recovered their health and strength sufficiently to enable them to look for engagements. These secured, they left the Home, and the vacancies thereby created were immediately filled up. Now, this Home requires keeping up, and it cannot be kept up on air. There is no need for us to refer to all the good work which has been performed by the institution in the past, as that must for the most part be within the recollection of our readers. The ages of the inmates range from fifty to seventy-six. In all probability these men will be maintained in the Home until the day of their death, and their funeral expenses paid for out of the funds of the Home.

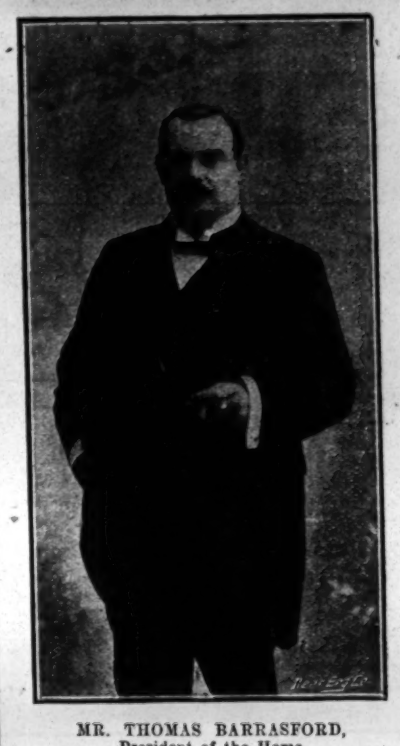
The Era New Year's Shilling Fund is the main source of income to the Home, and this means of sustenance is added to by the donations of artists, either given directly, or through the collecting boxes through which many managers of variety theatres collect pennies from "dead-heads" and from artists who desire free admission.

This year Mr. Woodger is endeavouring to get out six hundred *Era* Shilling Fund collecting cards, and anyone can be supplied with one by sending a postcard to Mr. Woodger.

Briefly, we may once more repeat that the objects of the Music Hall Home Fund are to provide shelter for deserving members of the variety profession who have been stricken with poverty or illness in their declining years, or who have in other ways fallen on evil times. Mr. F. H. Pedgrift, the hon. treasurer, will be pleased to receive filled-up collecting cards addressed to him at *The Era*, 5, Tavistock-street, Strand, W.C., and to acknowledge them in these columns.

FIRST LIST OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

	Shillings.
Marie Lloyd	63
Gus Elen	21
Mr. Hymack	20
O. M. Dayton	10



MR. THOMAS BARRASFORD,
President of the Home.

Collected by Horace Wheatley, £2 10s.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Horace Wheatley	2	0	0	Grandma	0	1	0
T. Wheatley, jun.	0	1	0	Auntie	0	1	0
Kathleen Wheatley	0	1	0	Mack W. (the dog)	0	1	0
Norah Wheatley	0	1	0	Ernest Powell	0	1	0
Eileen Wheatley	0	1	0	Will Vay	0	1	
H. Wheatley, jun.	0	1	0				

Collected by the Musical Johnstons, 6s.

Dorothy Drew Johnston	0	1	0	J. A. Johnston	0	1	0
A. E. Johnston	0	1	0	Dave Carter	0	1	0
F. Johnston	0	1	0	Fred Ralph	0	1	0

FRANCIS, DAY, & HUNTER

Offer the Season's Greetings in Popular Pantomime Song Titles.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Come, be my Rainbow.
Oh! Oh! Antonio.
Mandy Lane.
Parrot Duet.
L. S. D.
I'm Afraid to Come Home in the Dark.
Mandy's Wedding.
Every Fellow's in Love with a Girl.
Naomi.
The Gay Gordons.
Sue, Sue, Sue.

Oh, the Daylight Bill.
Far Away in Australia.

Take Me on the Flip-Flap.
Hang Out the Front Door Key.
Esau, Take Me on the See-Saw.

Shadowland.
Exercise.
Are You the Little Girl I Met the other Evening?
She Sells Sea Shells.
On the Cliffs of Normandy.
Never, Oh! Never Get Married.

FRANCIS, DAY & HUNTER, 142, Charing Cross Road, London, W.C.

CHRISTMAS VARIETY CARNIVAL.

THE dramatic or musical or farcical sketch now forms part and parcel of the Yuletide programmes at the variety theatres, and in this way lies the only chance caterers for the lesser stage have of making up for the defection—entirely amiable and quite temporary, *bien entendu*—of their principal comedians and comediennes who have betaken themselves to the legitimate stage to vivify with their comicality and vivacity that hotch-potch of fun and frolic known as pantomime. To the HIPPODROME spectacle we draw attention in another column; and the principal attraction presented by Mr. Alfred Butt at the PALACE—viz., Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Hicks, who stay at that house for several weeks—was noticed in our columns last week. In the suburbs the Moss-Stoll, Gibbons, and Macnaghten houses will dispense that variety which is said to be the spice of life. At the EAST HAM PALACE pantomime is to be given; and on every hand there will be found ample amusement, calculated to amuse both the masses and the classes.

THE Christmas programme at the OXFORD is of all-round excellence. Mr. Bob Fitzsimmons and his wife, the pretty Miss Julia Gifford, appear in a sketch entitled *A Man's a Man for a' That.* Mr. Herbert Lloyd causes much amusement by an exceedingly clever burlesque on a vaudeville entertainment, and Mr. Gus Elen's two new songs, "The Coster's Pony" and "Beer," are much appreciated. Chirgwin, the White-eyed Kaffir, Mr. T. E. Dunville, and Miss Gertie Gitana, the comedienne, are among the other artists.

VARIETY in the best sense of the word will be found at the PALACE THEATRE for the Christmas holidays. The leading attraction in Mr. Butt's scheme is, of course, Miss Ellaline Terriss and Mr. Seymour Hicks in *The Fly by Night*, which is now playing much closer. Les Fleury Duo, with their burlesque revue of Parisian types, have revived their former success, whilst those interested in acrobatic tumbling have the Bogganies in their funny entertainment entitled *The Lunatic Bakers.* Terpsichore is represented by Tortola Valencia and the Palace Girls, the first-named a handsome Moorish dancer, who has already made success, whilst the latter, clad in gorgeous new "confections" and equipped with new songs and dances, are always a popular feature with Palace audiences. Devotees of the Scottish form of humour find entertainment in the characteristic Gaelic songs of Mr. Jack Lorimer, whilst other items on a long list are Mr. Nelson Jackson in song and story; Rappo and Ella, equilibrists; Max Laube, the well-known Continental whistler; and the Urbanora Bioscope with topical pictures of current events. At the special Boxing Day matinée Mr. Herman Finck has arranged a new pot-pourri of popular airs.

HENGLER'S CIRCUS reopens on Boxing Day at 2.30 p.m. with *Cinderella*, the children's favourite pantomime, in which there will be a grand transformation scene, and the Prince's state carriage will be drawn by eight Shetland ponies. In the forest glen scene there will be a full pack of hounds. In addition to the pantomime famous troupes of gymnasts and Continental combinations of singers and dancers will appear.

THE grand Christmas company presented on Monday by Mr. Frank Glenister at the LONDON PAVILION includes the special engagement of Arthur Roberts, in the farcical sketch *Till Sunday; or, The Girl Who Took the Wrong (Towing) Path.* Other variety attractions will include King and Benson, Harry Ford, Chris. Richards, Russell Wallett, Jock Whiteford, Tom Leamore, Ambrose Thorne, Daisy Jerome, Will Edwards, the Motramos, the Three Laurels, Edwin Boyde, and others.

MR. JOSEPH WILSON, at the TIVOLI, for his Christmastide show has secured Marie Lloyd and Little Tich. The former will present three new songs, one of which, if rumour speaks truly, will have reference to the Suffragist crusade. Similarly, Little Tich promises two new ditties. Mr. Tom Dunville will make comic capital out of the "Territorial" in a Haldanic ditty; Mr. Alfred Lester will present a funny interlude; Mr. Henry de Vries will be seen in *A Modern Othello;* and Mr. Courtice Pounds and Miss Gaston Murray will exploit the musical playlet *Charles His Friend*, which was seen for the first time last year at the Palace.

THE booking for the Christmas holidays at the EMPIRE THEATRE beats even the records of that famous house. The great feature of the bill is, of course, the spectacular ballet *A Day in Paris*, which has been smartened and brought up to date; while close on its heels in point of interest comes Mr. W. J. Locke's new comedietta *A Blank Cheque*, noticed in our columns last week. In the strictly "variety" vein are, amongst others, Miss Lalla Selbini; the Perezoffs, jugglers, in their restaurant scene; the Amaranths, in their charming pas de quatre; and Messrs. Hayes and Merritt, in their droll billiard-table act.

FOR the matinée on Boxing Day there will be a strong programme at the ALHAMBRA. Leonora, in *Narcisse;* Mlle. Britta, in the romantic ballet *Paquita;* the Max Wessely Troupe, in their juggling pantomime; the Ten Ji Japanese company of magicians; the Four Black Diamonds; Henry Helme, the French vocalist; and *The Two Flags* divertissement go to make up the bill. The cinematograph productions of eminent French actors and actresses will be changed, Mr. Alfred Moul presenting the third of the series, The Red Hand.

THE Christmas programme at the ROYAL STANDARD is a long and strong one. Harry Tate in *Motoring*, Will English, Ray Maskell, and the Brown and Kelly Combination are among the prominent turns. Daisy James, Margaret Huntley's sketch *That Girl Carrots*, and the Three Royal Dreadnoughts (rifle shots) are the particular stars.

MR. CHARLES URBAN will, in surrender to the ruling spirit of the season, supplement the always interesting "Urbanora" exhibition of animated pictures at the PALACE THEATRE by a film which may best be described as a bioscopic joke. Primarily representing a globe-trotter's flying trip through Europe, living scenes in Switzerland and Sweden and Norway are presented at the rapid rate at which the flying tripper sees them; steamboats arrive and depart with dramatic velocity; while a staid Swiss church parade acquires the rapidity of roller-skating.

THE pantomime of *Robinson Crusoe* was given for the first time on Christmas Eve at the CRYSTAL PALACE. Until further notice performances will take place at 2.30 and 7.30 p.m. In the centre transept facing the royal boxes Mr. George O. Starr has arranged for an Old English circus. This will be curtained in and well warmed by a monster heating pipe, and there will be seating accommodation for about 2,000 people. In the South Nave there will be a "Yuletide Fair."

THE programme of attractions to be presented at the ALEXANDRA PALACE during the holidays is both lengthy and varied. First and foremost there is to be a grand circus company direct from Hengler's, under the direction of Mr. Austin Fryers. There will be daring riders and dainty equestriennes, gymnasts and jugglers, highly-trained animals, and a host of clowns.

AT the HOLLOWAY EMPIRE strong holiday attractions will be Herbert Darnley's *Brigands of Terragona*, and Carrie Laurie's Kindergarten.

V.A.F. AND THE AGENTS.

In the King's Bench Division, on Saturday, before Mr. Justice Darling, came up the important question relative to the assignment of commission, the particular test action that was decided by Mr. Justice Darling being Tom Shaw and Co. *v.* Moss' Empires, Ltd., and Bastow. This was a claim for moneys alleged to have been assigned by the defendant, George Bastow, to the plaintiffs. Mr. Duke, K.C., and Mr. Randolph represented the plaintiffs; Mr. Holman Gregory the defendant Moss' Empires, Ltd.; Mr. Lush, K.C., and Mr. Doughty the defendant Bastow, who was joined as co-defendant on the ground that he refused to be joined as co-plaintiff.

The plaintiffs are dramatic and variety agents, and the defendant Mr. George Bastow is an artist who obtained employment with the Moss' Empires, Ltd., through their agency. On Dec. 10, 1906, Mr. Bastow signed the following agreement:—"To Tom Shaw and Co.—Sirs,—In consideration of your having procured for me an engagement (which I agree to accept through you) with Moss' Empires, Ltd., to appear as comedian at the halls as per contracts (subject to the rules and regulations of the establishment) for seventeen weeks at a salary of £40 per week to commence on Monday, March 2, 1908, also twelve weeks at £45 weekly, I hereby agree to pay you or your assigns 10 per cent. commission on the salary above referred to and on all moneys which should accrue under the said engagement or a prolongation of the same, and a like commission on the salary on the next engagement at the said establishment under the control of Moss' Empires, Ltd., and hereby authorise Moss' Empires, Ltd., to deduct and pay the said commission from my salary in any manner you may deem expedient. In the event of this engagement not being fulfilled the commission shall be notwithstanding payable, unless such non-fulfilment shall be owing to the default of the proprietor or illness.—Geo. Bastow."

Notice in writing of this assignment was given to Moss' Empires, Ltd., early in October, 1908, and the present action was brought in respect of £21 10s. alleged to be due under its terms as the result of earnings by the defendant Bastow during an engagement in October and November, 1908. The defendant, Moss' Empires, Ltd., had withheld this amount from the salary of Mr. Bastow, against which he protested. They now declared themselves willing to pay the money to the plaintiff or to him as might be directed by the Court. For the defendant Bastow it was contended that the document of Dec. 10 did not constitute a valid equitable assignment. Reliance was also placed on the contract of engagement between the two defendants, dated Dec. 21, 1906, clause 13 of which was as follows:—"The artist shall not assign, mortgage, or charge his or her salary, nor permit the same to be taken in execution. Such salary shall be payable to the artist and to no other person, except in the case of the death of the artist." . . .

Mr. Justice Darling said that he thought that the document of Dec. 10, 1906, was a valid equitable assignment according to the judgment of Lord Macnaghten in "William Brandt's Sons and Co. *v.* The Dunlop Rubber Co., Ltd.," (1905) (A.C., 454). It was not like a cheque, with regard to which it had been held that the bank was the drawer's agent and that the cheque was not an assignment of a debt due from the bank to the drawer. The strongest ground for the defence was in the contract of Dec. 21, clause 13. But, though Moss' Empires, Ltd., might bring an action for breach of that contract, if they could show any damages, in his opinion it could no more operate to invalidate the assignment than it could to interfere with the laws of gravitation. It could not prevent that being an equitable assignment which would be one apart from it. He gave judgment for the plaintiff with costs as against the defendant Bastow. As regards the other defendants he made no order as to costs.

THE BEDFORD.

An attractive programme is put forward this week by Mr. B. Pearce Lucas at this comfortable house, over which he so ably presides, and there is much which will meet with the approval of the holiday audiences this evening. At the head of the bill is Mr. Ben Nathan, who is presenting a one-act comedy drama, entitled *Filby the Fakir*, which recently was played at Wyndham's Theatre as a curtain-raiser, and achieved a great success. The story revolves round an escaped convict who, in his hour of freedom, manages to do a kindly act. It is a dramatic little piece, which holds the audience throughout. Mr. Ben Nathan gives a very fine delineation of Filby, and brings all his ripe experience to bear on the character, which he makes most realistic. The other characters are also capitally played, and a big success is scored.

In a lighter vein a great hit is made by the Three Cunards, whose wonderful simultaneous dancing made a terrific hit. It is really marvellous the precision and dexterity with which they dance together, performing intricate steps, while their sand-dance is as novel as it is clever. Gladys Smart is a bright comedienne, and soon gets the gallery to sing the chorus of her song, "Have you got another girl at home like Mary?"; while her second number, "Christina," is also very taking. Carl Colyer, the Colonial comedian, is very entertaining. His hat manipulation and lively patter soon made him a favourite. May and Hyde present an amusing interlude, and the lady sings very charmingly; while their duet, "Courting and Married," is diverting. George Barnes and company appear in a lively scena, *Fun on a Racecourse*, and the fun is fairly furious, and keeps the house thoroughly amused. It all ends with a round with the gloves, which is entertaining and also very comical. The Dancing Gilberts are a couple of very talented young ladies, whose dancing is most clever and wins unstinted applause. Phil Ray's Entertainers provide a pleasing turn with song and dance, and sing several catchy numbers.

Evelyn Taylor, always a favourite here, is once again scoring her usual success. Her first song, "When the eagle flies away," has a pretty refrain; while her second, "Mr. Poverty," is a capital number, which she sings in a fine fashion, and greatly increases her popularity thereby. Cyril Dane is a comedian who sings of the various girls he has met; and he is ably assisted by a very charming young lady, who appears in various characters. Bert Brantford, a comedian of the Harry Ford style, has a couple of amusing songs which provoke laughter, one especially, "What's the good," being noticeable for its smartly-written words. Mr. Brantford makes an undoubted success. Mr. Fred Costin appears early in the evening, and the Bioscope concludes. Mr. Geo. R. Hatley and his orchestra, as usual, contribute largely to the general enjoyment; while Mr. Donald Brown, the general acting-manager, does all that is possible to make his patrons comfortable.

We are advised that Messrs. J. C. Plimpton and Co., of Liverpool and London, the well-known firm of American merchants, have been appointed sole European agents for the Richardson Ball-bearing Skate Co., Chicago, and the large stock of skates formerly held by this firm at their branch at New Brighton, Cheshire, has been transferred to Messrs. Plimpton's premises in Liverpool. All communications intended for the Richardson Company should in future be addressed to Plimpton's Buildings, Old Hall-street, Liverpool.

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"PEGGY, THE PRIDE OF THE MILL."
"IT'S NOT SO MUCH THE WALTZ DREAM." "TRAMCAR."
"HARRIGAN." "GIRLS, STUDY YOUR COOKERY BOOK."
"GIRLS, GIRLS, GIRLS." "SHINE LITTLE MOONFLOWER."
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WATER RATS' MATINEE AT THE COLISEUM.

A special matinée, promoted by the Grand Order of Water Rats, in aid of Sir William Treloar's Christmas Fund for the Little Cripples of London, took place at the Coliseum on Tuesday, and was honoured by the patronage and presence of the Lord Mayor and Sheriffs. The theatre was kindly lent for the occasion by the Coliseum Syndicate, Ltd., per Mr. Oswald Stoll, the whole proceeds of the matinée being given to the Cripples' Fund. The cheaper parts of the house were well filled, but in the stalls there were a good many vacant seats. In the course of the afternoon Mr. Dundas Slater, the manager, introduced Sir William Treloar to the audience.

Sir W. Treloar, after making a jocular allusion to his introduction to the "house" after the manner of the giant Machnow, said he thought it was his duty to come forward and publicly offer his thanks to Mr. Oswald Stoll and the artists who had so kindly given their services in aid of the Cripples' Hamper Fund. For fifteen years he had been working on behalf of the fund, and though there were so many other appeals this year he was happy to say that his friends continued to support this fund. Indeed, he had been able to extend the benefit to little cripples outside London, including Barnet, Barking, Croydon, East and West Ham, Edmonton, Tottenham, Hornsey, Chiswick, and other places. In this work he had been very much helped by the London County Council, the metropolitan borough councils, headed by the respective Mayors, and the London City Mission. A Cripples' Home and College had also been established at Alton in Hampshire, in which were more than 100 children, who were receiving the best medical attendance and the best food. It was hoped that in many cases that terrible disease tuberculosis would be cured, but the sufferings of the little patients would, anyhow, be alleviated. There were in the school forty boys who were cripples but not invalids, and they were being taught a trade so as to be able to earn their own living. The first twenty-five boys who came into the college were found after five weeks' stay there to have so increased in weight as to give an average of 5lb. to each boy. In conclusion Sir William expressed his warm thanks to the audience for their attendance.

The programme was a most attractive one. The early turns included Miss Jenny Hartley, Mr. Morny Cash, Mr. Carl Lynn, and the Norman Leonard Trio. My Fancy delighted everybody with her smart step dancing, and Mr. W. J. Churchill scored in his ditty in which he makes reference to the suffragettes and other topical subjects. Mr. Harrison Brockbank gave a capital rendering of Rudyard Kipling's "Follow Me," and Mr. Fred Karno's company appeared in their amusing sketch *Mumming Birds*, which caused general merriment. Mr. Ed. E. Ford, a new turn to most of the audience gave his funny sketch, "Faces I Have Seen," concluding with a parody on "'Twas in Trafalgar's Bay." Next appeared Matchnow, the giant, whose height is said to be 8ft. 2in. He visited each part of the house in turn, after the gentleman who introduced him had given particulars of the giant's height, his meals, &c. Miss Gertie Gitana then sang in pleasing style "I'll die for you" and "Sweet Iona." The O'Gorman Bros. gave evidence of their skill as step dancers, and Miss Marie Kendall sang with excellent effect, "Don't it make you say you wished you'd saved your money?" in which special mention was made of Sir William Treloar's efforts on behalf of the London children. Mr. Joe Elvin and company appeared in the laughable sketch, *The King of the Castle*, in which the popular comedian caused great merriment as Peter, the man "who has no go in him" until he takes a dose of a potent potion. Cruikshank came next with his funny patter and ditties. Mr. James Stewart scored in his laughable musical sketch at the piano, and Mr. Julian Rose from the Lyceum Theatre also did well in song and patter. Mr. Horace Goldin was seen in his clever and quick conjuring performance. The Lyric Mummers, dressed in picturesque costumes, contributed a charming song. Mr. Eugene Stratton gave one of his popular coon songs, "Nothing like the first love, after all." Miss Evie Greene delighted the audience with an admirably rendered song and an American dialect recitation, "Seein' things at night," which were excellently delivered.

Chirgwin received a hearty welcome, and quickly evoked a roar of laughter by a reference to "Sir William Christmas Tree-loar." He also sang "My fiddle is my sweetheart" with his usual success. Mr. George Leyton appeared with his band of old soldiers in *Lucknow*, and Miss Cecilia Loftus also contributed to the long programme. The following ladies assisted by kindly acting as programme sellers:—Mrs. Fred Ginnett, Mrs. Eugene Stratton, the Misses Lil Hawthorne, Irene Rose, Belle Elmore, Melinda May, R. Heyden, Vesta Pine, Minnie Pine, Cara Bennett, Fanny St. Clair, &c. The stage directors were Mr. H. Crocker and Mr. Wm. Lee; the acting-manager, Mr. H. Pryme; the musical directors, Mr. Louis La Rondelle and Mr. A. Bond Sayers; hon. accompanist, Mr. Penyston Miles; and hon. Press steward, Mr. Douglas Miller.

"CORA, THE BALLET GIRL."

A Comedy Sketch, by T. Taylor, produced at the Battersea Palace on Monday afternoon, Dec. 21.

Major Hindley .....Mr. Stanley Robson
Charles Masters .....Mr. Donald Young
Cora .....Miss M. E. Ellis

A critical Battersea audience at Monday's matinée expressed its approval and appreciation of the laughable sketch *Cora, the Ballet Girl*, the amusing situations in which are highly relished. The scene is the chambers of Charles Masters, who on the previous evening had met with a little adventure in Leicester-square. A thief had snatched a purse from a lady's hand, and Masters had chased the man, rescued the purse from him, and taken it back to its owner. Expressions of gratitude follow, and cards are exchanged, the lady promising to call upon Masters next morning. The fair one duly carries out her promise, and Masters discovers that she is by profession a ballet dancer. He is every moment expecting the arrival of his prospective father-in-law, Major Hindley, and the ballet dancer's presence there would be fatal to the fulfilment of his plans. However, the gallant officer comes on the scene before the girl is able to quit the place, and he actually falls in love with her, the playlet ending with the promise of a double marriage. Miss M. E. Ellis was the soul of the little piece as Cora. She danced prettily, and altogether was delightfully entertaining. Messrs. Stanley Robson and Donald Young gave appropriate impersonations of the two men.

Mr. F. J. Connor's circus, which has been engaged for the Christmas holidays at the Crystal Palace, has come direct from Douglas, Isle of Man, after a most successful summer and autumn season, and the full programme, which has now come to hand, includes the Four Kellys, America's premier troupe of acrobats; John Irvin, juggling feats on bareback horse; Miss Douglas, *haute école* act; Mons. Jean, celebrated foot equilibrist; Little Mona Connor, clever juvenile equestrienne; Miss Ada Pinder, introducing her highly-trained horse, riding collie dogs, and flight of trained pigeons; the Bros. Austin, funny clowns and equilibrists; Bishop and Winkles, clowns and agoustes; Whimsical Walker, the royal clown, of Drury Lane fame; Happy Hicks and his clever ponies, introducing Sunny Jim, the unrideable mule; and La Belle Duchesse, with her wonderful stallions, ponies, and dogs, and champion high-jumping hounds. Father Christmas, with his ponies and escort of clowns, will distribute toys to the children after each performance.

FILM GOSSIP.

We extend to the readers of this column and to all associated with the cinematograph industry our best wishes for a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Showmen and Managers throughout the United Kingdom, and in every English-speaking country, will find in this column particulars of some of the best and newest Films in the Market. Many of these Films we have seen ourselves, and can confidently recommend showmen to add them to their list of attractions.

Pathé Frères.

AMAZONS OF DIFFERENT PERIODS.—This film depicts in a series of scenes of great retrospective interest the different stages of civilization of the world according to his wife's changes of costume and ideals in the different periods. We pass from the prehistoric warrior, armed with her long spear and clad in the hides of wild beasts, to the gracious amazon of the present time, acknowledging *en passant*, her sisters of the Middle Ages and the reign of Louis XIV., also the time of the French Revolution (1789), with Théroigne de Méricourt as a prominent figure amongst some thrilling episodes of that troubled period.

A DUEL IN THE TIME OF RICHELIEU.—François of Montmorency, Lord of Bouteville, the famous duellist, celebrated for his single combats at a time when the frequency of duels had caused severe decrees to be enforced, took refuge in Brussels after killing the Marquis Desportes and the Earl of Thorigny and wounding Lafrette. In spite of the intercession of the Archduchess governing the Netherlands, King Louis XIII. refused to pardon him. Bouteville was so vexed when he heard of it that he swore he would go and fight in Paris in the Place Royale itself. He had the audacity to carry out this daring wager on May 12, 1627. His opponent was Beuvron. Each champion had two seconds, who fought also with swords and daggers. Arrested in his flight after this new feat, Bouteville was sentenced to death, and beheaded on June 21, in spite of the entreaties of the highest people in the land. This film shows this last of his duels.

THE INVALID WITH THE WOODEN HEAD.—An old veteran having lost his head during the war has had a complete collection of wooden ones carved for him, which can rival those of an Aunt Sally show. "What head will you put on this morning, sir?" He puts on his veteran's head, and with it come back to him memories of his campaigns, and as he is very thirsty he drinks various and sundry wines. His head begins to swim; he picks a quarrel with everybody standing in his way, and makes profound curtsies to lamp-posts. On Sundays he puts on his best head—a very peaceful head—and goes to the park and sits down on a bench with other invalids . . . and the boys unscrew his head and legs and play skittles with them.

KIDS' STRIKE.—Early last spring the boys of a Grammar School in the west of France held a meeting, during which they decided to stay away from school. It is a scene of this kind that we see here. The boys of a school in one of the Paris suburbs throw books at their masters' heads, and go and make the girls next door join them, when they make a huge bonfire with their books and school requisites. Presently the young strikers march through the streets, clamouring for their "rights." The youngsters' rights! Freedom and truant-playing! A police inspector organises the defence and tries to break up the crowd. Baffled by the girls, the miniature policemen close the gates of the town and arrest the leaders. Then order is at last restored.

THE PRETTY DAIRYMAID.—A farmer is making love to his pretty dairymaid, in spite of the fact that he is engaged to another girl. Mary, however, has given her heart to a dashing sailor, Peter, whose sister is the farmer's fiancée, and she agrees to meet him near the pool, just outside the village. The farmer, having discovered her design, picks a quarrel with her, while Peter, who has been waiting a long time, leaves the pool, thinking she will not come. Mary arrives too late and her master, who has followed her, maddened by the girl's defiance, strangles her and throws her into the water. Peasants having discovered the body, there is an inquest, and Peter, who has been seen near the pool on the evening of the crime, is arrested. But he breaks away, and the gendarmes, having lost his trail, come back to the scene of the murder in the hopes that remorse will bring the culprit back to the place. There they see the farmer walking about. Suddenly the ghost of the girl appearing before his mental eye makes him kneel down on the ground in an attitude the meaning of which cannot be misconstrued. The last scene shows the arrest of the actual culprit.

"IT IS THE HOUSE DECORATOR."—A gentleman on leaving his house sees a young man he does not know entering his flat. Anxious for the safety of his wife, he goes back hurriedly, rings the bell with such force that it breaks, and asks for an explanation. He has only to apologise, however, when he recognises the house decorator with his stained coat. Effectively, just level with the window, there is a scaffolding, but the would-be workman, seeing that he is not safe there, climbs up to the next floor, where he disturbs a young lady at her toilet. Her mother arrives, and indignantly sends the house decorator away. He goes to the top floor, where a kindly laundress lends him a skirt and blouse, which will enable him to leave the house. Unluckily for him, the decorators are waiting for him at the bottom of the stairs, and plunge him into a bucketful of paint.

BOBBY'S DRAWINGS.—Young Bobby's simple drawings represent different people and things. First, there is a gentleman, then two gendarmes, one hooligan, and a long wall, lighted by a lamp. Bobby cuts out his different drawings, which become alive. The gentleman walks along the wall, the hooligan assaults him and opens his arm with a large knife. The kindly gendarmes arrive, and the wicked hooligan is carried away by them. Another picture is that of a lady meeting a little pastrycook's apprentice carrying a cake in his basket on his head. They collide, and sit down on the ground, with the cake between them. These are clever trick scenes.

Edison Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

LORD FEATHERTOP.—Caleb Rankin plays with the affections of pretty Betty Grigsby, throwing her over for another girl. Her entreaties to him are all in vain, and so they part. Twenty years later we know him as Squire Rankin, with a daughter, Polly. Betty Grigsby is an old woman with the reputation of being a witch, and it is to her that the Squire's daughter goes with a party of young people to have their fortunes told. Whilst in the witch's hut the Squire's daughter hears some unpleasant things, and the Squire, coming on the scene, scolds Polly and rates the old woman, who vows vengeance upon him. Having made plans as to the form in which she will have her revenge, she uses her powers of witchcraft to endow a pumpkin-headed scarecrow with life, and creates a modern, foppish youth, who makes love to the Squire's daughter. He is accepted as a lover, and, with the Squire's assent, a grand wedding is arranged. Appearing as a grand lady, the witch attends the wedding, and as the happy couple are about to depart she changes the bridegroom back into a scarecrow, thus righting, to her own satisfaction, the old wrong, and upsetting the Squire and his guests.

MISS SHERLOCK HOLMES.—Jack Rose and Jim Dalton are two employees in the same office, and both are in love with their employer's daughter, Nell. She favours Jack, and learning that Dalton is planning mischief, disguises herself as a boy, and takes service in the firm as office-boy. Having speculated and lost heavily, Dalton robs the safe, placing some papers in the coat of Jack. Seeing this, Nell transfers the papers into Dalton's overcoat pocket, and when Jack is accused but no evidence is forthcoming of his guilt, suggests Dalton's pockets should be searched. This is done, Jack is exonerated and Nell complimented on her sharp work, and paterfamilias gives Jack his consent to an early marriage.

THE OLD MAIDS' TEMPERANCE CLUB.—Whilst preparing the club-room for a meeting of the O.M.T.C. the steward has helped himself from a bottle of whiskey, which he puts in the ice-cooler for safety and forgets to take away when he has finished his work. When the porter comes in with the ice he drops the ice in the chest, and not knowing of the bottle, breaks it, so that the contents make a fine temperance drink. During the meeting the ladies get warm at their debate and, of course, need a drink, and after sampling the iced water (?) some of the staid old maids get a trifle frivolous. A wandering professor happens to bring along a machine with a grand scheme for restoring youth and beauty "while you wait." As a result of a vote on the subject, his machine is given a trial, and when the president enters first and comes out a beautiful damsel of sweet sixteen there is a scramble for places, and we see some curious changes brought about by a "wee drappie." The picture winds up with the throwing out of the professor and his machine, and the O.M.T.C. adjourning in a very hilarious mood.

THE SHOWMEN'S HYMN OF THANKS TO THE REV. THOMAS HORNE.

WRITTEN FOR CHRISTMAS
BY JOHN GAVAN, SHOWMAN.

God bless the King of England
As he sits upon his throne,
And may our God in Heaven
Pour down blessings on us all.
As his Government rules the nations
So do the angels rule the Heavens
For the Lord God, Who
Sits high up on His throne.

God with His power in Heaven
He created two big lights,
He ordered one to rule the day
And the other to rule the night;
He created men and women
On earth to rule and pray,
And the Reverend Horne
For the showman's cause
Is ruling night and day.

Don't begrudge your neighbour,
Let him live upon the earth.
Learn to know yourself—
Whatever else you know—
That all the blessings that we've got
They've come straight down from Heaven,
From the Lord God, Who
Sits high up on His throne.

Oh, what a lovely dream I've had!
It might have been my thoughts—
In my sleep I saw the Angel of the Lord
Speaking to the Reverend Horne
And crowning him with glory,
Saying, "Blessed are you
That works on earth for God;
There'll be welcome in the Heavens
For you showmen, said the Lord."

Blessed are you that in your hearts have faith;
When your soul it leaves your body
And it 's on its road to Heaven
It will be guided by the Reverend Horne
And your loving patron saint.

The author of the Hymn of Thanks given above (exactly as he wrote it) is just a good, living showman, a warm-hearted Irishman—whether a Catholic or a Protestant I have not even asked. It presents one or two, if not more, intellectual problems. (1) Whether knowingly or unknowingly, Mr. Gavan has cast his poem in Hebraic form. (2) It may be that he is saturated with the folk-lore of his native country—the songs of the people that express the aspirations of the race. The author tells me that he and his family sing this Hymn of Praise as they gather round the van-fire on Sunday night. This we do know, that it is straight from the heart and soul of the man who wrote it.

T. HORNE, Guild Chaplain.

Xmas Eve, 1908.

FRED EUSTACE will be at the Hippodrome, Peckham, next week, with his successful sketch *Our Curate*, now in its sixth year.

MISS ALICE LLOYD is the "head-liner" at the Alhambra, N.Y., and the McNaughtons are there too. It is hardly necessary to add that the house is crowded at every performance. These clever artists are as well thought of in New York as they are in London.

MR. GLEN ALVA is playing the part of Puss in Boots in the production of that famous nursery story by Mr. J. H. Savile, who was called upon to make a speech on the opening night in answer to the enthusiasm with which the holiday attraction was received.

MR. H. CURLINE BALDRY is the newly-appointed acting-manager at the Shoreditch Empire. Mr. Baldry has been connected with the dramatic and variety stage for a number of years. Amongst his engagements have been those with Mr. Fred Mouillot, Mr. Fred Melville, and Mr. Arthur Roberts. Since his induction he has made many friends.

A UNIQUE application was made to Mr. Rose at the Tower Bridge Police-court on Saturday by an American named Doone, who asked for a licence to allow a child, a month old, to appear in a performance at the Surrey Theatre. Mr. Rose: That is very young for a child to commence life. I don't think I have power to licence a baby. Mr. Doone said that every care would be taken of the child. Inspector Spencer handed the Act to the magistrate, and pointed out that a child could not be licensed under ten years of age to perform after certain hours. Mr. Rose said he was willing to help the applicant, but was bound to abide by the Act, and must refuse the licence.

MR. PHILIP CONWAY applied on Monday to Mr. Marsham at Bow-street for licences for seventeen children to appear in the Christmas spectacle at the Hippodrome. He said the performance would commence at 10.15 and finish at eleven. The education of the children would be thoroughly attended to, and they would be escorted home after each performance. The magistrate agreed to grant the licences for a month, but remarked that he thought eleven o'clock was too late for children to be on the stage. The children in question were lined up in Court, and one little girl caused some amusement by taking up her position in the dock, where she calmly nursed her doll.

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RICHMOND HIPPODROME.

Despite the dullest week of the year, it would not appear to affect the clientele of the Richmond Hippodrome. On the night of our visit we found the theatre packed. Quite a delightful little sketch is rattled through by Liley and Antley. It tells of the tricks of a wily Benedict to bring his better half to submission. This he achieves with signal success, and to the manifest enjoyment of the audience.

Little Victoria sings quite cleverly "Take me on the Flip-Flap," and is accorded an encouraging ovation. The juveniles, indeed, are quite in force here. The Union Jack Boys are an excellent combination, and demonstrate what training will result in. The "Boys" in question are really welcomed, and won it. And then there is Paul Vandy. It may be surmised what Paul doesn't know about conjuring isn't worth knowing; his whole business is clever. His naive astonishment at the amazement of others is a droll feature of Paul's that must be seen to be appreciated. As to his tricks, he produced marvellous changes and juggled inimitably. He was demonstratively applauded, but this was only what he richly deserved; a man who can juggle as Paul Vandy can merits all the encouragement one can give. Early in the evening Edward Claude Gardener takes the audience into his confidence. A happy soul is Claude, who informs the company he really doesn't care for anything so long as "there's a girl there"; the audience seemed to agree, and here one has a further instance of stage unanimity. His second contribution divulged certain elemental advice as to the best time to choose a wife—the vocalist seemed to think the best time is "early"—a.m. The male portion of the audience took notes mentally. Miss Eva Lewis should do better anon. Of her versatility there is not much doubt, so she has it in her own hands; her Terpsichorean efforts are not without merit. Mr. Richardson's orchestra pleasingly fills up the interval with a tuneful selection, and then Lloyd Morgan, a refined and intelligent vocalist, sang in excellent form a ditty anent "Eve and the Apple." The vocalist appeared to be anxious to accentuate the fact that history repeats itself; but it's a pity to put it all on to Eve, isn't it? Mr. Lloyd Morgan is a distinct acquisition. Those who like their drama strong will not cavil at *The Last Command*. Here we have a strong piece boasting all the elements that go to make a popular drama. The piece is superbly played, and the interest is well-sustained to the fall of the curtain. Mr. Fred Maxwell is altogether excellent as Colonel Yewlett; his elocution is fine, and his earnestness is wonderfully depicted. Capital, too, is the Colonel Desmond of Mr. Dennis Clyde; Mr. F. Fisher puts in some good work as the luckless deserter; and Mr. W. Yorke, as Harry Dunbar, achieved success. A fine performance was the Lola of Miss Lois du Cane; while a good word may be said of the Sergeant of Mr. Fred Danton. *The Last Command* is mounted with considerable atention to detail, and the production is one of merit. Ruffell's Bioscope is here, and much enjoyed. Mr. Frederick H. Terrell is the business-manager, and, as such, leaves nothing to be desired.

THE chief favourite at the Stratford Empire is to be Miss Kate Carney, who will present her latest coster attractions. The humour of the side-walk has no better exponent.

THE Shepherd's Bush Empire presents Fred Karno's *Football Match* and Howell and Scott, Hebrew comedians, among its numerous attractions.

IT is said that Miss Carrie Nation, "the American bar-smasher," has been approached by a London syndicate, and has agreed shortly to give short lectures from the stage of certain halls in the Metropolis. Of course, she will appear at temperance houses.

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MISS SHERLOCK HOLMES.

A subject in which a girl dons male clothing, and plays the part of detective. Her evidence is such that the real culprit is shown in his true colours.

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THE OLD MAID'S TEMPERANCE CLUB.

A comedy accidentally brought about by a flask of whisky, an iceman, a water cooler, and a professor with an elixir of life machine, make this a notable film subject.

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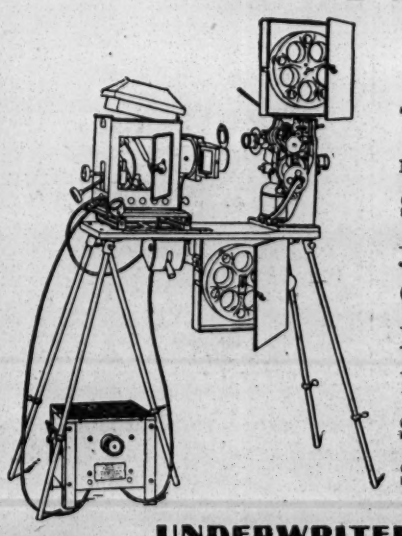

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THE SHOWMAN WORLD.

Our Yuletide Wishes.

Here's a Merry Christmas to all ye merry-makers. Whether on the front parade or inside the show, the sad-eyed old world is all the better, all the brighter, and all the more clean-souled for its army of merry men. So again, a Merry Christmas-time to all who dwell in Showland.

The Glad Present and the Sad Past.

When that great literary showman Charles Dickens wrote his wonderful story, "A Christmas Carol," one of his supernatural characters was "the Ghost of Christmas Past" and another "the Ghost of Christmas Present." The memory of many a veteran of the hosts of Showland to-day is still haunted with a "Ghost of Christmas Past"—the memory of the hard times of years ago, the "Hungry Forties," the no less "Hungry Sixties," of the nineteenth century. Well some of us shudder as we think of those sad and bad old times, when "*nix of munjarry*" and "*nanty denari*" were the frequent sad words of the men, women, and children of the road. In those bad old times the word "traveller" was more in use than to-day to denominate the showman and the itinerant entertainer of the people at our fairs. We had indeed to travel for our daily bread in those days.

Some Memories of "the Ghost of Christmas Past."

It was the hard, bitter winter of 1860, the middle year of the cotton famine. Our centre for Christmas was Manchester. We were located on a strip of vacant land off Holland-street, on the Oldham-road. Ours was a "dolly show"; the people called it the "puppee show." We could not get an audience, so poor were the starving cotton workers, even at one halfpenny for admission. We tried "free admission," and then were willing to get what "ha'pence" we could in "the nobbings." That expedient even failed us, for your worker shrinks from enjoying a show when he has no money to pay for it. Then it was that a brilliant idea came to the dear old man. "Let us show the *slang* for old rags. They have no denari, but most of them have old duds, poor beggars. We may get a hundredweight or two of old rags." So in the Christmas week we paraded the streets in the immediate neighbourhood of the showground, and we announced that "the famous marionette show and fantocina theatre" would give a special treat to the children and to parents with children in hand. "No charge for admission, no collection, only bring a handful of old rags." Well, we filled the booth three houses a night, and we realised on our miscellaneous collection of old rags more than enough for our Christmas dinner. That's one of my "Ghosts of Christmas Past." We were sharers in the common lot of the poorest of God's poor in Manchester in 1860.

My "Ghost of Christmas Present."

What a joyous vision it is—a land of milk and honey, a people with full larders, the Yule log burning brightly, just a touch of cold in the air, a merry word for every neighbour! My "Ghost of Christmas Present" is garbed as Santa Claus. God bless every man who acts the part with a smiling face and a full bag of gifts this Christmastide. Do we know a widow with little children who last Christmas had the breadwinner to share their Christmas rejoicing? Yes, we do. Then haste away with that parcel to the post. Have you remembered each one—the mother, the little ones? Yes. Then "God be with you." The Spirit of Christmas Present is yours. Is there an old man somewhere you have done a kind deed for, taken pains to help? Yes, there is. Thank God, you have done it, my brother, my sister. Yours is the true Spirit of Christmas. So again we say, "*A Merry, Merry Christmas.*"

"God rest you, merry gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,"

were the words sung by the carol singers in olden times. So let us be brave in our faith that merriment is good.

A Memorable Day.

Dec. 23, the day we go to press this week, is the birthday of the grand old man of Showland, George Sanger—eighty-one this memorable day. We are but expressing the profound admiration of the whole body of the showmen of the English-speaking peoples of the world when we say, "God bless and spare you yet more years to come."

The Guild Chaplain to His Venerated Chief.

ASK ME NOT TO SAY FAREWELL.

I *cannot*, nay, I *cannot* bring
My tongue to say "Farewell,"
Nor would I have the bells of life
Ring out so sad a knell.
I would not break the fellowship
So strong through many years,
How we won the children's bread
And dried the widow's tears,
How we buckled armour on,
And fought with foemen dire,
How we vanquished ignorance,
And quenched fanatic fire.

. . . . . .

So ask me not to say "Farewell,"
My veteran comrade brave;
'Tis time enough to say "Good-bye"
Beside an open grave.

. . . . . .

In the glory of life's setting sun,
My brother, take thy rest;
Well hast thou fought, and well hast won
Thy guerdon with life's best.

Preston Christmas Fair.

This fair opened on Friday, Dec. 18, and will close on the 28th. The principal show was Capt. Tom Payne's Palace of Delight; the machines were those of Mr. John Green, who exhibited fine sets of motor cars and galloping horses; Mrs. Dewhurst, with overhead jumpers; and Messrs. Wilson, Parr, and Richmond Bros. with juvenile and gem sets, shooters, Winchester ranges, penalty frames; houp-la stalls and throwing games were by Messrs. Harrison, Dewhurst, Garlick, Forshaw, Wilson, Richmond, Payne, Wallis, Bradley, Taylor, Maloney, Bell, Evans, Mallory, and Evers. The fair-ground is admirably arranged by the Superintendent of Markets, Mr. John Hardman, Hon. Member of the Showmen's Guild.

Carmarthen.

Mr. Harry Cowell's Phœnix Theatre at the Carmarthen Fair-ground was well patronised during the week. On Monday evening *Josephine* was presented; Tuesday, *The Lucky Racehorse*; Wednesday, *Is Marriage a Failure*; and Thursday, *The Mysteries of Paris*. For the afternoon of Boxing Day *Aunts and Uncles* was announced, and for Saturday evening *The Indian Queen*. There was no performance on Christmas Day. The company continue to present the various plays with much ability.

The Yuletide Fair at the Crystal Palace is now quite complete, and is brimful of all kinds of novelties. Mr. Hyatt has this year surpassed himself in bringing together a host of entertainments which will please all sorts and conditions of holiday-makers. The monster Christmas tree has been erected this year just outside the concert room. The Auxeto Gramaphone concerts are giving records of distinguished artists, and will continue to do so until further notice.

STORIES OF SHOWMAN LIFE.

By the Rev. T. HORNE,
Chaplain the Showmen's Guild.

"AFTER MANY YEARS."
A Tale of Christmas Eve.
[Copyright.]

I remember two strange guests that we welcomed to our merry Christmas at home quite fifty years ago. I was full of all an inquisitive child's eagerness to know everything and at once, and I recall my puzzlement of mind when my father introduced the guests to mother in these strange words:—

"Mother, I make known to you my friends, Death and the Lady."

The dear mother, with her big heart ready to mother any poor nomad, took the dad's friends in hand, with the reply:—

"Welcome, welcome! A merry Christmas, dear friends!"

I was bursting with curiosity.

What did father mean by "Death and the Lady"? Yet good manners kept my mouth shut. The question kept coming to my tongue-end every now and then; it was the mental sauce that gave piquancy to the feast of that memorable Christmas Day fifty years ago. Why, why the strange names, "Death and the Lady"?

I found myself in a wild fairyland of weird ghost theories in my persistent turmoil of thought to account for their strange, creepy names.

Our guests were evidently showmen—evidently father and son. "Death"—so I separated the titles—was a weak and bent old man, and "the Lady" was a big, lumbering lad, tall for his years. I put it that he was not more than sixteen, but as tall as a full-grown man.

When we gathered round the fire after dinner, I remember how selfish and ashamed I felt when the "Lady" insisted on helping poor mother in the kitchen with the big wash-up of plates and dishes. He would do it, and I, too, rushed to the help of tired-out mother, and we played, so said the "Lady," at a new and most exciting Christmas game—*Fairy Clear the Dishes; or, Demon Dirty Pot Vanquished.*

What a sweet voice he had! I knew as soon as I heard him speaking to mother that it was his wonderful woman's voice that got him the title "The Lady," so I felt less troubled about his name as he kept on with the fairy tale of *the Vanquishment of Demon Dirty Pot.*

At last, I thought, I am on the track of the mystery.

All during the dinner the old man, "Death," had been so silent. Repeatedly "The Lady" tried to arouse him; father and mother, too, did all they could to get him beyond the civil "Yes" and "No," or "Ah, indeed, sir," "Quite so, madam." Then the old gentleman would drop into silence, and seemed lost in a world where no speech was.

In the late evening, when we children with the "Lady" and dad were holding wild revel of noise, with games and charades, the old man's face grew young again. He began first of all to hazard a guess at the charades. Oh, how clever "Death" really was, when he began to talk and to join in our play. I was mistaken about his age. It was trouble, not weight of years, that bent his body and aged him. He was so marvellous an actor; his voice was so deep-toned and flexible.

Now, thought I, the mystery is ended. They are mummers, father and son, and the play they act in is perhaps *Death and the Lady.*

I gladly left it at that, and became a fast friend and ardent admirer of both of them.

Christmas passed away all too soon, but the memory of each Christmas happily spent never passes away, and of that Christmas day I had, after many years, a most wonderful reminder, and this really is the story of Christmas-tide I set out to tell you, my brothers and sisters of the road.

It was Christmas Eve twenty years later. The old mummer I remembered as "Death" had been long gathered to his fathers. I, too, like "the Lady," wherever he might be, was fatherless and motherless, for twenty years of time takes its toll from the sons and daughters of men. In my turn I was a father, and in our turn we kept merry Christmas. We, too, had good guests at our table, and we told tales of shows and showmen around the Christmas fire.

"Do you remember," said Ben Norton, one of our guests, "that strange couple who twenty years ago were called 'Death and the Lady'?"

Strange to relate, in the rapid review of the past my busy mind was then taking, I was just at the very memory-point of that famous Christmas of my childhood, when I first made acquaintance with the old man and his son.

"I will tell you the story as I heard it a year ago to-day in great London town," volunteered Ben, and with his ready and dramatic wit he thus began:—

"Christmas Eve, the snow on the ground, a bitter wind blowing, men and women hurrying home—at least, all who were blessed with home-shelter that cold, cold night.

"A man, forlorn and ragged, stood in the centre of a narrow street in Mayfair. He was a poverty-stricken mummer, busking for his living. His clear, resonant voice, capable of expressing all human emotions, compelled attention. Cold and bitter as was the night, the power and the pathos of that voice held an audience and blocked the traffic in that select side street in Mayfair. From out one of the great houses came a lady—a sweet-faced old lady—and she, too, was arrested by the magic of that wonderful, vibrant voice, as the mummer recited the story, cast in old ballad form, of 'Death and the Lady.'

"'Twas my Lady Ruth Charters,
Who sat in her bower,
Picking petal from petal,
A lovely red flower,
As she asked good fortune
Her lover to bring.
And this was the love-song
My lady did sing:—
'Come quickly, my darling,
To me in love's bower,
He may not come—he will come,
What fortune, sweet flower?'
'*I am here*'—'twas a whisper
In icy cold breath—
'I claim thee in marriage,
Thy bridegroom is Death!'
With a cry of great horror
My lady did cower—
'It is *life* and not *death*
That I want in love's bower.
I pray thee, Death, spare me,
For I'm not fit to die.'
'Why art thou not ready?'
Was Death's stern reply.
'Oh, I never expected
So short time for shrift;
I've wasted God's time,
That most precious gift.'

"The fast-thickening crowd of listeners—most of them like the spellbound, sweet-faced old lady, well-dressed and educated people—were utterly oblivious of the cold, and that the white flecks of snow were again falling. What a scene it was? The actor busking for his Christmas dinner, his stage the snow-covered street, and his patrons magnetised by the weird solemnity of his story in rhyme. The sybilant horror of the *whisper of Death's voice*, the agony of suffering he put into the prayer of my lady for a little more probation of time, the actor was by turns, so great his artistry, 'Death and the Lady.'

"But even as he continued his recital a greater tragedy was being wrought out in the soul of the sweet-faced woman, clad in her rich furs, yet straining every thought and all her will to probe the mysterious feelings that were rapidly absorbing her whole soul and being.

"'Can it be—can it be?' she moaned, in the tense agony of her mind. 'Yet his voice is full of familiar tones to me. Oh, God guide me right now!'

"Utterly absorbed in his theme the street busker continued:—

"Great wonder of wonders!
Stern Death did relent;
He granted my lady
Full time to repent.
Yes, my lady repented,
Was good for a while—
She married her lover,
They lived in grand style,
So swift sped the years
That to her it did seem
That the warning of Death
Was naught but a dream—
A dream of that dread time
In the long, long gone by—
She was both wife and mother,
Yet not ready to die.
At the routs of Mayfair
She was queen of them all—
The leader of fashion
And the belle of each ball.
Till one night she grew fearful,
She wist not of what,
She fled from the ballroom
So stifling and hot.
In the quiet of her bower
She was gasping for breath,
When again came the call,
The stern voice of Death.
With 'grim Death' she pleaded
With sighs and with tears,
'Oh, spare me, oh, spare me,
A few precious years!'
'What good hast thou done
With thy time in the past?
What fruit of repentance?
My patience can't last.'
Yet again will I spare thee
In response to thy tears,
Remember thy burdens
Increase with thy years.'

"In the solemn hush of the now overwrought crowd all were tense with the eager desire to know how the tragedy would end. Here, on the eve of Christmas, in unexpected quarters, a poor wandering mummer was preaching in the snow a sermon to the thoughtless votaries of reckless pleasure. Here was a prophet of the kerbstone delivering a message to a congregation that had been captured without warning to hear a preachment with a weird text, 'Death and the Lady.'

"The sweet-faced lady had thrust her way through the crowd, and was now gazing—gazing with an agony of search into the dark eyes, flashing now with tragic fire—into the strong, mobile face of the actor

"'I have no doubts now—no doubts now—it must be—it must be,' she said in her heart, as the reciter finished his story:—

"But the chain of bad habits
Bound My Lady in thrall,
So she flouted the warning
Of 'grim Death' at the ball
More callous, more reckless,
She had her mad fling
Became a Court beauty,
Won the smiles of a king.
Then 'Death' called the third time
Midst all her glory,
Yes—'Death' took 'the lady'
And thus ends my story.
But the lesson, good gentles
Is for one and for all:
Be ready, aye, ready,
To answer Death's call.
Let work and let pleasure
Be done in God's eye,
He only lives wisely
Who is ready to die.

"For a moment or two the crowd remained mute as the mummer finished his story. Then someone broke the spell with the chink of money. The whole crowd with one accord fired coins—aye, silver and gold coins—into the battered hat of the reciter laid ready on the ground for the offertory.

"But, alas! the poor mummer had spent himself in his art, for when he stooped down to gather the harvest of their sympathy he fell prone like a dead log in the snow.

"Twenty kind friends rushed to his relief, but the sweet-faced old lady commanded the crowd:—

"'Carry the poor fellow to my door. He shall have every care. God knows he needs it. He needs it this cold Christmas eve.'

"No one seemed to marvel. It was what each kind heart there would have done, and her house was the nearest. Into it he was carried. For many, many weeks he lay fever-stricken and on the borderland of Life and of Death. For many, many sad and anxious weeks did the kind-hearted, mothering soul watch and listen by his bedside.

"Many other strange scenes in the eventful tragedy that bound their lives together in one great whole were rehearsed by the fever-wrought actor, and these, with what she herself had known and mourned over for years, gave increased conviction to her mind and her heart as to the identity of the actor."

To understand it all you must know a former chapter in the history of the great family of London bankers, Johnstone, Baird, and Co.—a chapter of tragic moment to Andrew and Margaret Baird. In early life they had been bereft of both parents; the vast wealth that would be theirs when they became of age had been most strictly guarded, and the Johnstone head of the great bank had absolute control of the money and charge over the young Bairds.

When Andrew Baird went to Oxford and learned something of life on an equality with other young men, Margaret, his sister, was sent abroad for her education. Young Baird fell in love with, and married, a beautiful and good young woman, fully fitted to be his wife in every respect save one—lack of wealth to match the vast hoards of her young husband. She was an actress, and the leading lady on the Oxford theatrical circuit. The young people kept their marriage secret, for Uncle Johnstone was too great a terror to face. The tragedy of revelation had to come, and it came when Andrew Baird was least able to bear it. His devoted wife in giving life to their child died. There was the real tragedy. Under the shadow of that death, in the pall of that horror of thick darkness, Andrew Baird underwent a crucifixion of mental and physical sufferings It aged him twenty years in one day. With his dead wife's body before him he would not look into the face of his child. For weeks and weeks after the sad funeral he went about as a man in a dream. Now, indeed, must he face his life. What now did it matter? Let Uncle Johnstone say and do his worst. Let his sister Margaret think as she might. What were these things now to him? The great banking house of Johnstone, Baird and Co. might totter to its fall so long as he could be loyal to the angel-wife so long as he could lay sweet flowers on her grave.

To his sister Margaret the tragedy of revelation seemed a catastrophe of social degeneration. "Married to an acting-woman! Doubtless a siren of the stage, who had bewitched her poor brother." So this high and mighty young lady went down to Oxford and tried (oh! fatal unkindness) to condole with her brother, yet to lead him to see (this was indeed a double tragedy of error) that for social reasons a good Providence had taken the matter in hand; that very soon the memory of the *mésalliance* would fade away, and that society would forgive him, and take the rich young banker back again to its arms. She was *very young* for her years was Margaret. She knew not the heart of her brother, aged and crucified with sorrow.

Andrew cursed his sister, and drove her from his presence. He vowed that she should never, never see his face again. He cursed the bank and all its hoards of gold. He vowed that he would never, never touch it. He kept both vows. Andrew Baird with his child took to the road. He became a mummer. When I saw him first at that Christmas feast fifty years ago I put his age at seventy. He was only about forty-two. Sorrow had bent his body and silvered his hair.

Need I labour to tell you the end of my story? You know it already. The sweet-faced lady was Margaret Baird—a better and truer woman in her old age. She heard and recognised in the voice and in the features of the poor busker at her door the voice and features of her long-lost brother alive again in the person of his son. It was thus that *after many years* the child of the mummers came into his inheritance.

His Aunt Margaret had much to tell him. He had much to tell her of the long years gone by, when he and his father, whenever they were out of "collar" on the legitimate boards, took to the streets and recited "Death and the Lady."

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AMERICAN AMUSEMENTS.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Miss Fritzi Scheff has no difficulty in upholding her popularity in the new comic opera with which Messrs. Henry Blossom and Victor Herbert have provided her. It is called *The Prima Donna*, and it is playing to crowded houses at the Knickerbocker Theatre. Staged in a highly artistic manner by Mr. Fred G. Latham, and commendably free from the features that have marred so many musical productions in this city, *The Prima Donna* possesses all the charm of a genuine comic opera, and the advance booking attests the enduring popularity of that class of entertainment. The prima donna is Mlle. Athenée. During a motor tour she drops in at the Pomme d'Or Café at St. Germaine, and, sinking her identity under the stage name of La Petite Perle, takes the place of a singer with a bad cough, whose application for an engagement is rejected by the musical director, Herr Max Gundelfinger. The café chantant has its miniature stage and little corner bar, and the audience is composed of soldiers in uniform, with the usual complement of grisettes. Herr Gundelfinger is an autocratic personage, with an execrable German dialect. Lieutenant Armand, Count de Fontenne, has composed a waltz song, and is anxious to hear it sung. The prima donna offers to sing it, and in doing so she captivates the young officer. They declare their love for each other, but Lieutenant Armand's superior officer becomes his rival, and there threatens to be a duel with dire consequences. The prima donna averts the encounter, however, and contrives to set everything right before the final curtain falls. In the opening scene there are lively doings in the café when the soldiers enter and in anticipation of a revel burst out into a rollicking chorus, "Here's to my comrades and me." This has a fine swing to it that will ensure its popularity. An amusing scene follows, in which a curious assortment of "artists" go through their performances, and then the prima donna sings Lieutenant Armand's song, "A Soldier's Love." This number has an entrancing air that stays in the memory. Captain Bordenave, to whom the father of Mlle. Athenée owes much money, takes a fancy to the prima donna, and, forcing himself into her presence, makes her drink with him, and tries to win her favour by lighting his cigars with her father's promissory notes. He drinks so much, and becomes so ardent in his advances, that he is finally thrust into an adjoining room, and the key is turned on him by the virtuous prima donna. She gives the alarm, and when the soldiers and their female companions come flocking into the café Captain Bordenave is released. Thus he is exposed and shamed in the presence of his subordinates.

The second act is a mélange of mirth and music, in which the thread of the story seems to have snapped. The scene is the exterior of the club-house at Ile de Puteaux, Paris, and a very handsome scene it is. "What is his official capacity?" someone asks, referring to a certain baron. "About three quarts," is the answer. The baron can hold his own in the game of repartee. "So sorry to hear your wife ran off with your chauffeur," observes a marquise with a knack of saying unpleasant things in a pleasant way. "Oh, yes," he replies, "for he was such an excellent chauffeur." Lieutenant Armand's family interpose objections to his marrying Mlle. Athenée, but all difficulties are smoothed over, and in the end the lovers triumph. There are a number of spirited choruses, and through the score runs the waltz melody of the song composed by Lieutenant Armand. Miss Scheff sings with a spirit and dash that are irresistible, and her drum playing always pleases the audience. Mr. James E. Sullivan as Herr Max Gundelfinger is as funny as he was when he played the "polite lunatic" in *The Belle of New York*, which is saying a good deal. His two songs, "Something always happens when it shouldn't" and "I'll be married to the music of a military band," are full of diverting humour.

"They play marches when you're wed,
They play marches when you're dead;
I wonder if they consider it's the same?"

sings Herr Max in the latter song. Mr. William Raymond is excellent as Lieutenant Armand, and Mr. William Harcourt plays the obnoxious Captain Bordenave in a lifelike manner; Mr. William J. Ferguson gives an admirable representation of Mons. Beaurivage, the impecunious father of the prima donna; Mr. Donald Hall and Miss Blanche Morrison sing and dance a waltz number delightfully; and Mr. Martin Hayden, as Lieutenant Gaston, makes a pronounced hit when he sings "Everybody else's girl looks better to me than mine." Miss Katherine Stewart as the Marquise Du Perrifonds and Miss Ruth Holt Boucicault as the Duchess of Montrose bear themselves with a proper air of distinction and good breeding. Mr. Herbert's music is delightful, and the company do justice t oit. The piece is put on the stage in a tasteful manner, and its success is beyond doubt.

Mr. De Wolf Hopper, in a recent interview, deprecates the vulgarity of a certain class of musical "shows," and especially deplores the popularity of the Salomé dancers. "In the religious city of Montreal," he says, "I saw an equine act in vaudeville in which a horse was trimmed up as much as possible to suggest Salomé, and it capered and wiggled about, finally picking up in its teeth a papier-mâché head of John the Baptist, to the neck of which shreds of red flannel had been tacked to give it a realistically ugly touch. Now, can you tie that for vulgarity?"

In order to be funny it is not necessary to be vulgar or suggestive, according to Mr. Hopper. In the matter of amusement the public is nothing but a lot of children, and it is always safe to act on that principle. Those who have seen Mr. Hopper in *Wang* need not be told that he practises what he preaches. One of the most delightful things he does is to dance with a group of children. His great height gives him a certain dignity that by force of contrast enhances the drollery of his capers. In *The Pied Piper* his height is accentuated by the dwarfed appearance of the houses in the City of Innocence, and the juvenile "get-up" of the inhabitants, all of whom are supposed to be children. For his partner in the dance the Piper chooses the smallest child in the company. In the midst of their waltz someone orders them to reverse, whereupon the tall comedian grasps the youngster around the waist and starts to turn her upside down. When the order is repeated, the little one tries to reverse her towering partner in the same way. A speech before the curtain is a feature of Mr. Hopper's performance that would only be omitted if it were not demanded, and it always is. He has done it for years. Between the first and second acts of *The Pied Piper* he describes the horrors of touring the "one-night stands" under a manager who is evidently a direct descendant of Columbus, because he discovers so many places in America that are not on the map. "Were you ever in Winnipeg?" asks Hopper, with a shiver. "In winter there is fine sleighing there; but why go to Winnipeg for sleighing," he asks, "when you can enjoy the same sensation nearer home? All you have to do is to put on your pyjamas on a cold day and sit by an open window on a cake of ice and ring a bell." As the Pied Piper his witticisms move the audience to frequent laughter. "Never contradict a lady," he says. "Give her time and she'll contradict herself." And again, "Always let a woman have her own way. It will save her the trouble of taking it." When his Official Adviser fails him, the Piper tells him that his ideas are "like the flowers on a century plant."

For upwards of two hours on Monday morning the works of Edisonia (Limited), at Peckham, were held in the grip of fire, and as the result damage was caused to the extent of £10,000, and a large number of workpeople will be thrown out of employment. There was everything to feed a fierce fire—tanks of paraffin wax used in moulding, great quantities of celluloid and other combustible material used in the manufacture of the phonograph records, and impedimenta of every kind.

The Fun City at Olympia has this week been feeling the good effects of the coming holiday season. The attendance throughout the day has shown a great increase. An even stronger attraction than the increased variety programme is provided in the famous film of the Gotch-Hackenschmidt wrestling match. On Boxing Day Fun City will be one continual whirl, there being no less than six separate free shows on the variety stage, with a greatly augmented programme, including Woodward's Seals, which remain on, and will be the star number next week. Maud, the famous American untamable mechanical donkey, has arrived. Here's a chance for amateur cowboys.

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DALSTON THEATRE, LONDON N.E.
Jan. 25, March 8, 22, April 5, May 17, 24, 31, on
COUNTY THEATRE, READING.
March 8, April 5, 12, 19, May 3, 10, on.
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April 5, 12, 26, May 10, 17, 24, 31, Aug. 2, 9, on.
ROYALTY THEATRE, CHESTER.
Varieties, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9 p.m.
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Feb. 22, March 1, April 12, May 3, 10, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, HUDDERSFIELD.
Feb. 15, 22, April 26, May 17, 24, 31, on.
OPERA HOUSE, NORTHAMPTON.
March 29, April 5, Sept. 6, 20, 27, Oct. 4, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEICESTER.
April 12, May 3, 17, 24, 31, on.
THEATRE ROYAL, LEAMINGTON.
Feb. 1, 15, March 1, 8, 15, 29, on.
Address, MILTON BODE, Theatre, Reading.

WANTED First-class Attractions, for COUNTY THEATRE, BEDFORD.
Jan. 18, Feb. 15, March 8, 15, 22, 29, onwards.
GRAND THEATRE, LUTON.
Jan. 25, Feb. 8, March 8, 29, April 5, onwards.
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First Vacant Date March 15, 1909.
Add., E. G. FALCON, County T., Bedford.

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WANTED, good Dramas, last three days of weeks commencing Jan. 18, Feb. 1 and 22, Light Attractions. March 15 and on,

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Seating capacity 3,500.
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We are prepared to give excellent terms for really Big Attractions for these dates.

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First-class Companies only.

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WANTED, First-class Pantomime, Jan. 4, playing twice nightly to follow "Aladdin."

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The only place of amusement in the town lighted by electricity. Holding capacity £75.
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Erected by the Corporation at a cost of nearly £20,000. Seating, Decorating, and Furnishing by Messrs. Dean and Sons. Dimensions, stage to flies 21ft., stage to grid 43ft. 6in. Weymouth being the headquarters of the Channel Fleet, good Business can always be relied upon.
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OPERA HOUSE, WAKEFIELD.
WANTED, Sound Attractions, March 1, 15, 29, April 26 (5 nights), on. Apply, SHERWOOD and Co.

WANTED, something good, Feb. 1, 8, March 15, on, Chorley; also Feb. 8, March 15, on, Radcliffe. SANTE, Theatre, Radcliffe.

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, Dramatic and Musical Comedy Attractions, also Pantomimes, twice nightly, January, February, and March dates. Sharing terms.

QUEEN'S THEATRE, PEMBROKE DOCK.

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Musical Attractions.
March 1, various, on.
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General-Manager, J. CUMMINGS.
WANTED, No. 1 Musical Comedy and Panto mime Attractions,
immediate and future dates.

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WANTED, High-class Companies, Musical Comedies and Pantomimes preferred,
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three or six nights.
W. E. POTTS.

EMPIRE THEATRE, SWINDON.
WANTED, First-class Musical Comedy and Dramatic Attractions; also Big Variety Combinations. Managers with First-class Companies only apply, direct, to ALFRED MANNERS. Wanted, First-class Musical Comedy Attraction, March 29, 1909.

COMPANIES WANTED.

WANTED, First-class Companies,

ROYAL ARTILLERY THEATRE, WOOLWICH
Vacant Feb. 1, 8, 22
onward with exceptions.

All communications re dates,
ARTHUR CARLTON, Theatre Royal, Worcester.

THEATRE ROYAL, WORCESTER.
Vacant April 5, May 17, June 14,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL, TON-Y-PANDY, S. WALES.
Vacant April 12, May 24, 31,
onward with exceptions.

THEATRE ROYAL AND HIPPODROME, BARRY DOCK.
Vacant March 1, June 7, Aug. 2,
onward with exceptions.

Pantomime, "ALADDIN,"
Feb. 8, onward.

Pantomime, "CINDERELLA,"
Feb. 8, onward.

Pantomime, "PUSS IN BOOTS,"
Feb. 8, onward.

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BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS,
and
GRAND THEATRE, GLASGOW.

WANTED, No. 1 Attractions only

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.
Vacant Dates, May 3, 10, 24, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 9, 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13.

BORDESLEY PALACE THEATRE.
Vacant Dates, May 10, June 14, 28, July 5, 12, 19, 26, Aug. 2, 16, 30, Nov. 8, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27.

GRAND THEATRE, NOTTINGHAM.
Vacant March 29, April 19, May 3, 10, June 7, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 23, 30, Sept. 27, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, 22, Dec. 6, 13, 20.

GRAND, GLASGOW.
Vacant April 5, 19, May 10, 17, 24, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Aug. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Sept. 6, 13, 20, Oct. 4, 11, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22.

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with full particulars, terms, &c.
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WALTER MELVILLE'S NEW PRODUCTION.
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"THE GIRL WHO WRECKED HIS HOME."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Feb. 15, March 29, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"THE SOLDIER'S WEDDING."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, April 5, 12.
WALTER MELVILLE, 14, Bloomsbury-st., W.C.

"A GIRL'S CROSS ROADS."
By Walter Melville.
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 15, Aug. 2, 9.
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WANTED, Aug. 2, Nov. 8, 15.
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WANTED, Theatres,
Wanted, Feb. 15, March 22, April 12, Aug. 2.
TOM H. TAYLOR, 14, Bloomsbury-street, W.C.

"THE GIRL WHO LOST HER CHARACTER."
WANTED, Jan. 4, Feb. 1,
April 5, Aug. 2.
DOUGLAS BRUCE, New Theatre Royal, Consett.

"DRIVEN FROM HOME."
WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1.
ANDREW MELVILLE, Met. T., Birmingham.

"THE DIVER'S LUCK."
WANTED, Jan. 4, 25, Feb. 1, March 1.
ANDREW EMM, Metropole T., Birmingham.

"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
"UNCLE TOM'S CABIN."
WANTED, Theatres, Feb. 22, March 22, April 5, 12, onwards, with exceptions.
CHARLES HARRINGTON, Public Hall, Arbroath.

"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
"DARE-DEVIL DOROTHY."
WANTED, April 12, 19, 26.
April 12, 19, 26.
May 17, 24, 31.
May 17, 24, 31.
All Communications,
J. W. CORDINER, Metropole Theatre, Abertillery.

WANTED, a few dates in Spring, for Hutchison Tours:—
"Brewster's Millions,"
"Idols,"
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"Peter's Mother,"
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See Companies Column.

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in "EAST LYNNE" (Bullock version).
This Company will consist of the Pick of the Artists of "The Christian," "The Bondman," and "The Prodigal Son" Companies.
June, July, and August settled.
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"ROBIN HOOD."
WANTED, Spring Dates
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WANTED, for "The Woman Pays," Jan. 18, April 5, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 1909.
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MISS HILDA BEVERLEY
in
"A DESTROYER OF MEN."
WANTED, Theatres for a Few Vacant Dates in 1909.

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MISS MARY NEIL,
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"FROM SHOP GIRL TO DUCHESS,"
By Charles Darrell;
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"HER LUCK IN LONDON,"
By Charles Darrell.
WANTED, Wanted, Theatres.
Wire for Dec. 28.
Wire for Dec. 28.
Also Vacant for either play, Jan. 11 and 18, Feb. 1 and 8, March 29, April 5, May 10 and 24.

Communications to GEORGE KIRK,
This and next, New Theatre, Cambridge.

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Cast of Recognised Artists. Each Member with not less than 10 years' experience.
Magnificent printing. Beautifully mounted.
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"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
By Geo. A. De Gray.
WANTED, Wanted, Dates,
"A FIGHT FOR A THRONE."
Wanted, Jan. 11, 12, 13 (Scotland), Jan. 18, 25.
This, Grand, Newcastle; next, Gaiety, Methil.
"THE POWER OF THE CROSS."
Wanted, Feb. 8, March 15, 22, 29.
Re both plays, GEO. A. DE GRAY.
P. O. W. Theatre, Mexborough (seven nights).

FRANK J. PITT'S COMPANY.
"A VICTIM OF VILLAINY."
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A Powerful Domestic Drama, in four Acts, by Walter Howe.
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Splendid plants of pictorials by David Allens and Moody Bros.

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Wanted, Jan. 18, 25, onward, for this really Wonderful Play.
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"SEND HIM VICTORIOUS."
WANTED, Jan. 11, 12, 13, probably open Wales.
"THE POWER OF A WICKED WOMAN."
A Show that pleases all Classes.
Something really Original and New.
Vacant Jan. 4 (to precede Star, Liverpool).
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"A TRAITOR PRINCE," vacant March 15.
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in the Military Musical Comedy Drama,
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Third Year of Consecutive Tour, Third.
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Owing to extension of Tour.
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WANTED, Engagement as Double Bass, through season terminating, Windermere, First-class Variety, &c.; highest refs. BERTHORE, 20, St. John's-road, Cambridge.

WANTED, Engagement, as First or Second French Horn, any Business; 15 years' first-class experience; steady, reliable. MUSICIAN, 8, Ravensdon-street, Kennington, S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, French Horn, Orchestra or Military. W. P., 23, Hartismere-road, Fulham, London, S.W.

WANTED, Engagement, permanency, First Horn, 6 years' experience in Orchestral work, commence at once. Write, FRENCH HORN, 55, Richmond-road, Dalston, N.E.

WANTED, Known, Mr. A. Daniels, 'Cellist, 86, Gloucester-st., Pimlico, London, Disengaged, in good health, willing to work; Dep. or Permanent.

WANTED, Engagement, Viola or Second Violin, any business; experienced.
H. OLDFIELD, 83, Avondale-sq., Old Kent-rd., S.E.

WANTED, Engagement, Flute and Piccolo, Variety or otherwise; sober and reliable; excel. refs. FLAUTIST, 10, Bath Hill-terrace, Great Yarmouth.

WANTED, by experienced Flute and Piccolo, Engagement, any bus.; excellent references; sober, reliable. FLAUTIST, 9, Woodford-ter., Pavilion-road, Worthing.

WANTED, Engagement, Pianist, Miss Emily Lloyd, experienced Orchestra, Solos, Accompanist, &c., capable of any business; excellent references; young and smart appearance. 64, South-Western-road, Twickenham, London.

WANTED, Known, Efficient Foreign Band, in smart Uniform, can be Engaged for Concerts, Exhibitions, Seaside Resorts, &c. Apply, Box 5,274, "The Era."

CIRCUS ARTISTS WANTED.

COOKE'S ROYAL CIRCUS AND HIPPODROME, EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND.
WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, for the Above, for
Jan. and Feb.
Big Tops and Bottoms.
Terms, lithos., and particulars in first letter, to
T. W. COOKE,
Representative and Agent,
above address.

WANTED, Young Girl, not under 14 years, to learn few Gymnastic Tricks; must have strong teeth. Can live with family. Will train and pay salary first year.
Apply personally between 11 and 6 o'clock,
Mrs. LIST, 228, Camberwell New-road, S.E.

WANTED, Circus Artists who experience difficulty in obtaining copies of "The Era" at any of Messrs. Smith and Son's Bookstalls, to kindly communicate with the PUBLISHER,
"The Era" Buildings, 5, Tavistock-st., Strand, W.C.

CIRCUS ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Known, Bishop and Winkles, Clown and Agouste, just finished most comfortable 11 weeks, Geo. Gilbert, Esq., Hippo., Yarmouth and Lowestoft; now with F. J. Connors, Esq., Circus, Crystal Palace, till further notice. Prosperous New Year to All.

WANTED, Engagements, for Airship Flights, Balloon Ascents, Captive Balloons, Balloon Races, Parachute Descents, gas or hot-air balloons, by Lady or Gentlemen Aeronauts. SPENCER BROS., LTD., 45a, Aberdeen-park, Highbury, London, N.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

WORCESTER PALACE OF VARIETIES.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists, Twice Nightly; also WORCESTER EMPIRE, (twice nightly). Wanted, Artists doing Double Turns, used to Picture Shows. No wires, please. ARTHUR CARLTON, Palace, Worcester.

KING'S THEATRE, EDINBURGH.
WANTED, First-class Variety Star Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big.
A. MASCARD, Manager.

HARROGATE, SCARBOROUGH, and YORK.
WANTED, First-class Variety Artists (Nothing too Big), for Jan. 11 and onwards; Scarborough, once nightly; Harrogate and York, twice nightly. State lowest terms and when last worked these towns.
Apply, WILLIAM PEACOCK, Opera House, Harrogate.
Silence a polite negative.

WANTED, Monday, Jan. 4, and onwards, Variety Artists, all Lines, good Specialities. Particulars, KITCHINGMAN, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Variety Artists, all Lines, Jan. 4, 11, 18.
Address, MANAGER, Picturedrome, Tredegar, Mon.

TOM DAVIS AND CO.'S
MUSICAL AND DRAMATIC AGENCY,
V.A.F. Terms only.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Big Specialities, Novelties, and Attractions, for immediate and future dates, nothing too big. Terms, Bookings, and Vacant Dates in first letter to the man with thirty-three years' experience. Our Big Speciality Monday next. Wire or write, TOM DAVIS and Co., 11, Findlay-street, Glasgow.

WANTED, Variety Artists in all Lines, Acts with Drawing Powers (Nothing too Big), Dec. 28, onwards. CLAGGERS, Gaiety, Blyth.

WANTED, Star Artists all Lines, for Immediate and Future Dates.
WILLIAM MOULD, Central Palace, North Shields.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS WANTED.

VICTORIA T., STANLEY, CO. DURHAM.
WANTED, Star Artists for immediate and future dates. T. C. RAWES, Proprietor.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, from now onwards. Apply,
Mr. J. J. SCOTT, Empire, Wrexham.

YARMOUTH and LOWESTOFT HIPPODROMES.
THE PALACE, GORLESTON.

WANTED, for Lowestoft, Jan. 4, onward, First-class Variety Artists of Every Description, also Musical and Singing Acts that can work Sunday Concert at Yarmouth.
Now Booking for all places for Summer Season, commencing Easter and on.
Can Book a First-class Panto. early date.
Say where can be seen.
Give full bookings and quote lowest terms,
GEO. ZALVA'S Agency,
The Hippodrome, Great Yarmouth.
Shall be pleased if Artists owing me Commission will commence the New Year well by remitting same immediately, otherwise proceedings will be taken without further notice.

Herbert Maden kindly wire address immediately.

THE MACNAGHTEN VAUDEVILLE CIRCUIT.
THE PALACE,
WESTGATE-STREET, CARDIFF.
Special Extra Turn Matinée,
Wednesday, Jan. 13, 1909.

WANTED, Artists (unknown to Mr. Macnaghten) and Beginners desirous of appearing at the Extra Turn Matinée (when both Mr. Macnaghten and Mr. Baugh will be present) with a view (where performances are suitable) to being booked for the above Circuit. Apply to ARTHUR BURTON, as above, giving full particulars of act and time required for same.

GEORGE SMYTHSON'S AGENCY.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines,
The Pick of the Entertainment World.
If you have the "goods," I can place you.
Good Acts Known to Me
send full list of bookings
(including engagements fulfilled during 1908).
Must enclose full list, or useless writing.
Quote actual lowest in each instance for
Principal Provincial Halls,
Minor Provincial Halls,
and London.
Big Novel Acts, in London particularly,
State when and where can be seen.
GEORGE SMYTHSON,
38, Craster-road, Brixton Hill, London, S.W.
No callers except by appointment.

WANTED, Music Hall Artists, all Lines, Big Specialities, Novelties, Comedians, Serios, Jan. 4, onwards. Lowest terms and bookings, EDGAR STEBBINGS, 23, Egerton-street, Manchester. Tels., "Stebbing, Manchester." 'Phone 9261.

WANTED, Artists in all Lines, Jan. 11 and onward, near London.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

ALBERT THEATRE, BRIGHOUSE.
QUEEN'S THEATRE, CASTLEFORD.
WANTED, Artists, all Lines. Nothing too Big. Bigger the Better. Stars, shares or salary, Jan. 4, onwards. BEANLAND and EMERSON, Albert Theatre, Brighouse.

WANTED, Artists, in all Lines, also good Amateurs, to give trial show with view to booking the Macnaghten Circuit. Write, enclosing stamped addressed envelope, to PETE MURRAY, Manager,
Sadler's Wells Theatre, London, E.C.
No commission or fees charged; no interviews.

WANTED, all Clients to Send full Bookings. Important. FRANK LYNNE'S Agency, 77, Angell-road, Brixton, S.W. 'Phone 1,303, Brixton.

VERNO'S AGENCY,
16, Elizabeth-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Stars, Specialities, Novelties, and Artists of every description.
for Jan. 4, 1909, onwards.
Telegrams, "Merriment." Telephone 2076 Royal.

WANTED, for Jan. 4 and onwards,
Stars in all Lines.
Stars in all Lines.
Full up for smaller items.
CADLE'S Agency, 105-106, Strand, W.C.

ALEXANDRA THEATRE,
PONTEFRACT.

NEW EMPIRE, WAKEFIELD.
In due course of erection.

General-Manager,
TOM DIACOFF.

WANTED, Big Star Turns, First-class Comedy Acts.

Acts unknown to me
State where same can be seen.

I book direct
or through Agents.

Communications,
TOM DIACOFF, Pontefract.

WANTED, for Dooner Electric Bioscope Co., a First-class Double Singing and Dancing Turn,
for Monday, Dec. 28,
one or two weeks.
State lowest terms,
DOONER'S Bioscope, Maesteg, Glam.

THE TIVOLI AND ROYAL ASSEMBLY HALL, SOUTH SHIELDS.
WANTED, for immediate Dates, really First-class Acts of all Kinds. No fancy prices. Must be able to work on small Stage. Quote absolute lowest first letter, Councillor JOHN K. HALL

WANTED, for Empire, Greenock, twice nightly. Star Acts. Nothing too Big. Salary or sharing terms; also Pantomimes and Combinations.

J. CAMERON AND CO.'S AGENCY,
46, Sydney-street, All Saints-chambers, Manchester.
WANTED, for immediate work, for the Principal London and Provincial Halls, Acts of Every Description. Nothing too Big or too Small. Send full list of bookings (not vacancies), lowest terms, perm. address. I can place you.

WANTED, Acts of all Kinds, South Wales and District, now and onward. Forward bookings and lowest terms, MARTINO'S Agency, 125, Barcroft-street, Grimsby.

DREW BAYLEY'S AGENCY,
170, Saltmarket, Glasgow. Nat. 'Phone, 234Y5 Tron.
WANTED, Wanted, Wanted, the Best of Talent in every Line, nothing too big or small, for immediate dates and onwards. Don't forget, I said onwards. Happy New Year to Proprietors, Managers, Artists, and Brother Agents. My fifth successful year as an English Agent in Glasgow. My terms are 10%.

WANTED, Dec. 28, onward, Specialities, Doubles (doing single), Ventriloquists, Conjurers, &c. Lowest first letter, WAL DE VIN, 20, Lindley-street, Burslem.

WHIT MONDAY AT PENZANCE, 1909. ANNUAL HORSE PARADE AND OPEN-AIR FETE.

WANTED, Big Attractions in all Lines, Aerial Acts, Cyclists, Eccentrics, Miniature Circus, Up-to-date Novelties, no Balloons or Fireworks; only First-class Recognised Acts entertained. Good money to good people. In first instance state lowest terms, space required for indoor and outdoor shows. A fortnight's silence a polite negative. Samples of Billing Matter, Press Notices, &c., with fullest particulars, to
Mr. POOL, 10, North-parade, Penzance.

WANTED, for Palace Theatre, Reading, Tops and Bottoms of Bills, Several Dates, this and next year. Letters only. STANHOPE and Co., Ltd., 12, Buckingham-street, Strand, W.C.

WANTED, Jan. 4, Top and Bottom Liners. Speciality Act. I can fix you. Lithos., full bookings. GANNON, West-grove, Bristol. Miss Yvonne Lamore send dates.

WANTED, for Codman's Animated Picture Shows, the New Empire American and Royal Welsh. Titles legally protected. Operators, good Comedian, Instrumentalists preferred, Novel Acts, good Lady Soprano to assist at Pianoforte; permanent Engagement to suitable people. Lowest terms to CODMAN, Llanelly, North Wales.

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WANTED, Artists of Note.
Wanted, Wanted, Wanted,
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DALTON'S AGENCY — I can book you Immediate Dates, and Dates onward. No Guessing.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — Send full list and very lowest (this essential), and permanent addresses, also weekly apartments address.
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DALTON'S AGENCY — 29, Mauldeth-road West, Withington, Manchester.
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I said "Agency."

N.B.—State where never played.
Viviana and Co. wire address. Urgent.

WANTED, Known, a Lady and Gentleman can be received in the best Sketch in London; no premium. Moderate tuition fee. Box 5,284, "The Era."

WANTED, Smart Knockabout Pantomimist, to do Leaps; also Young Lady for Sketch. Terms, &c., DANGO, 578, Leek-road, Hanley, Staffs.

WANTED, good-looking Young Lady, one with a slight knowledge of wire-walking preferred. Send photos. WYNDHAM and KITTY, Palace, Camberwell, S.E.

WANTED, two or three Smart Girls, twelve to fourteen years old, as Understudies to Skating, Music, and Bicycle Riding.
Must be well recommended.
Apply by letter to
Mr. JAS. E. DONEGAN, Manager and Teacher, Dunedin Troupe, 43, Frith-street, Soho, London, W.

WANTED, First-class Operator, must thoroughly understand alternating current.
Permanency.
State terms, experience, references, &c.
Councillor JOHN K. HALL, Tivoli, South Shields.

WANTED, Bioscope Operators and Show Managers; men able to fill the dual capacity preferred.
P. C. M. Co., c/o Keens and Waller,
63, Queen Victoria-street.

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MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Pantomime Proprietors, Music Hall Managers, please Note. Lumiere's Original Electrical Fairy Grotto, this week causing another sensation. Cheered to echo nightly. Packing Algie's New Hippodrome, Spennymoor. Mr. Lirteno, Inventor and Manager for Mlle. Lumiere, wishes to thank the following for offer of Dec. 28:—F. Neiman, Esq., for Tunbridge Wells; W. Benson, Esq., New Hippo., Leigh; Skivington, Esq., Hippo., Greenock; Colquhoun, Esq., Empire, Greenock; A. Moody, Esq., New Empire, Blyth; Clemart Smith, Esq., Palace, Long Eaton; A. Wood, Esq., Hippodrome, Dumfries; &c. Monday, Dec. 28, Hippo., Greenock. Wire quick for Jan. 4 and 11.

WANTED, Known, The Southend Nightingale, Bonnie Rose Chandon, in Grand Form, Grand Songs, Grand Voice, Grand Dresses, and Grand Appearance. Free from vulgarity. Now at Liberty. Fresh from the Continent. Invites Special Offers. Good Agent wanted; or book direct. Per. address, 4, The Strand, Southchurch-road, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, by Bonnie Rose Chandon, Jan. 4, '09, onwards. See Back Page. A Merry Xmas to All. Per. 4, Strand, Southchurch, Southend-on-Sea.

WANTED, Dec. 28, by Sisters, Amy and Ada, Novel Cross-talkers and Vocalists; can open Boxing Night. 34, Warburton-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Monday next, Jan. 4, 11, precede Stoll Halls, Jean Macduff, Lady Scotch Comedienne; Peggy Lyndon's Dainty Musical Act. This, Ton-y-Pandy; excellent Turns, one or both, any distance. Great success Paisley, Edinburgh, Scarboro', &c. Wire offers to MELVILLE, Portobello.

WANTED, by Two Beatrices, Duettists and Expert Dancers, Monday next, also Jan. 18. This, Romilly Hall. Wire 7, High-st., Barry, near Cardiff.

WANTED, Jan. 4, onward, the Great Alfred Kroston, Japanese Sensational, Humorous, and Mysterious Act, Contortionist, Burlesque Conjurer, Juggler, and Pug Dog; Miss May Sumner, a Refined Comedienne and Dancer. Enormous success, Theatre Royal, Shrewsbury. Dec. 28, Tivoli, Pentre, South Wales. wire.

WANTED, a few immediate dates, George Battle, Actor-Vocalist. Great success, refer Management, Dec. 7, Hip., Spennymoor; Dec. 14, Hip., Blaina; this, Hip., Stalybridge; next, Hip., Steeveley, near Chesterfield.

WANTED, Monday next, and onwards, by Barney Stuart, High-class Character Actor, Vocalist, and Raconteur. Coms., 4, Canterbury-st., Liverpool.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, on, by George Ritter, Speciality Musical Clown, am also good Pianist; good Act for Pictures (Cuckoo). This and next, Guildhall, Cambridge.

WANTED, Monday by Harry Elliott, England's Greatest Chorus Singer, suitable for any Entertainment; any distance. Wire, Picturedrome, Tredegar.

WANTED, through disappointment, Dec. 28 (last week, Palace, Battersea), Will Brookes, Vocalist. Wire, BROOKES, Bournbrook, Birmingham.

WANTED.—Percy Maye has Monday vacant, between Pentre and Gravesend. Wire, wire, for an Attraction. Tivoli, Pentre.

WANTED, Jan. 4, 11, 18, and 25, by James Graydon, Patter Comedian. Usual success, this week, Palace, Maidstone; next week, Aquarium, Scarborough.

WANTED, Known, Musical Silvo, the World's Greatest Soloist on the Musical Glasses and Silvochimes, at Liberty next week, Dec. 28.
Address, Hippodrome, Rotherham.

WANTED, by Morimura, Marvellous Japanese Illusionist, Jan. 11 and 18, for his Original Oriental Magic Act, including Beautiful Illuminated Electric Stage Effects. This week, Grand Theatre, Blackpool; next week, Empire Theatre, Rochdale.

WANTED, Known, Little Hackenschmidt, the Greatest Wrestling Success ever Toured Wales. Quick returns and big takings. Who wants Feb. 15 and 22? Coms., 34, Margaret-street, Liverpool.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 1909, onward, with exceptions, Prof. Hutchini, Handcuff King and Illusionist, Strait Jacket and Iron Can Tricks included; Single Act or Combination. Gigantic success last week, Westminster, Liverpool refer G. Montgomery, Manager. All communications to be addressed to PROF. HUTCHINI, Westminster Varieties, Liverpool, by letter only.

WANTED, Known, Charley Dixon, Star Comedian, Dancer; Kate Lynd, Comedienne. Two First-class Acts at Liberty for April. Wire, 12, Leonard-road, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Known, Stylo, Expert Hoop Juggler; Beatrice Bonnie, Comedienne; vacant Dec. 28 and Jan. 4. Address, 35, Clifford-street, Manchester.

MUSIC HALL ARTISTS' WANTS.

WANTED, Monday next, also Jan. 11, Capner and Steele (Will and Victoria), Character Duettists, Scenas, beautifully dressed; Singles. Wire, 2, Berwick-place, Nottingham.

WANTED, Jan. 4, 18, 25, and Feb. 1, by Colvil and Tate, Comedy Artists and Dancers. Complimented by all Managers. Good Agent wanted. Write, 8, Church-square, Tredegar, Mon.; or per. add., c/o Murray, 62, Waddell-street, South Side, Glasgow.

WANTED, Jan. 4 and 11, by Beau and Belle, in Scena, "Past and Present," good singing Act; complete set of pretty Scenery carried. Address see Cards.

WANTED, Known, Georgio Dollin, Operatic Hebrew and Vaud. Mimic, vacant Dec. 28 and Jan. 4. Address, C/o "The Era."

WANTED, Monday next.
POOLE and POOLE,
Theatre and Hippodrome, Shrewsbury.

WANTED, Monday next and Jan. 4, Tom Levine, Acrobatic Double Table Hand-Balancer. Wire, 75, East-street, Pontypridd, S. Wales.

WANTED, Known, Haverley and Troy, World's Gymnasts and Swordsmen, vacant Jan. 4 and 11, 1909. Professor Haverley is introduced in this act, Swordsman of the Age. Till Dec. 26, Care of Bright, Gaiety, Glasgow.

WANTED, Dec. 28, by The Woolhafe, great Comedy Act. Wire, Hip., Colchester; after Sat., 120, Merrow-street, Walworth, S.E.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, 25, Lillian and Agouste, Contortionists and Equilibrists; also Mons. Savaro, Silleur and Mimic; two distinct acts; North preferred. Offers invited. People's Palace, Portsmouth.

WANTED, Feb., 1909, on the Flying Oreniuses (Lady and Gentlemen Gymnasts), in their Phenomenal Flying Act; the Sensation of the Age. Dec. 28, Alexandra Palace; Jan. 4, Olympia, Kensington. 24, Foxley-road, Brixton.

WANTED, Jan. 11, 18, 25, by Geo. Gulliver, Anglo-Indian Ventriloquist.
Address, 45, Derngate, Northampton.

WANTED, Jan. 4 and Feb. 1, by Hulbert, Ventriloquist, and De Lil, Illusionist, two smart acts. Offers invited. Tivoli, Dublin.

WANTED, Jan. 18, 25, Feb. 15, "Battle of the Belles," thirty minutes' scream, fourth year of uninterrupted success, six Artists, own Scenery.
FRED MOULE, Palace, Northampton.

WANTED, Permane's "Teddy Bears," at Liberty Dec. 28. The Real Thing. The Only Show. 74, Kennington-road, S.E.

WANTED, Known, Williams's Dogs, in their Military Act. "The Deserter." also amusing Act, "Not Guilty." A Marvellous Exhibition of Canine Intelligence. Liberty Dec. 25 and 28, onwards. Wire, Robin Hood, Leeds.

WANTED, Dec. 28 and Jan. 4, by Swift Duo, Lady and Gent., Novel Cycle Act. Wire, Hippo., Peterborough. After Sat., 69, Bristol-street, Hulme, Manchester.

WANTED, Known, Cumberlands, the only Acrobating Cyclists in the World.
We accept any challenge as Acrobatic Cyclists.
All letters to
E. G. CUMBERLAND, "The Era."

WANTED, Known, that Tom Hearne, All-round Tumbler, late of The Four Hearnes, also Dagmars, is at Liberty to Join a First-class Troupe at Once. Address letters,
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but
I take Sovereigns from the Cash Boxes.

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It is a Record Money-maker.

Write or call on the Sole Makers and Patentees.
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WANTED, Side Shows, to work in intervals of Bioscope Exhibition, on sharing terms.
Apply, Gayland, 67, Whitechapel-road, E.

WANTED, good Novelties, Dec. 28, onwards, with Flash. AMERICAN NOVELTY AND WAXWORK EXHIBITION, 114, 116, and 118, Rathbone-street, Canning Town, E.

WANTED, Midget Lady, height about 3ft.; suitable for exhibiting. Mention height, age, salary expected, comfortable home, long engagement; experience unnecessary; £2 given for information leading to engagement of suitable lady. Apply, Box 5,288, "The Era."

WANTED, Handseller, Floorman, good Packer, used to Auction Business. State refs. and wages, &c. Apply, THOMPSON, 9, Jamaica-street, Bristol.

WANTED, good Handseller, two Planksmen, as Comedians, musical preferred; open Jan.; smart men only; references. GREENWOOD, Everton-road, Longsight, Manchester.

WANTED, Wanted, Known,
PLEASURE BEACH, BLACKPOOL.
Greatest Combination of Open-air Attractions in the Country. For concessions for
Real Novelties for Summer Season, 1909,
address, PROPRIETORS, Pleasure Beach, Blackpool.

WANTED, to Sell,
a First-class Up-to-date Switchback Roundabout, with eight Gondola Cars, with Engines, by Savage, the whole well decorated and in excellent condition, with 5 transport trucks.
Also 8 h.p. Compound Traction Engine, by Burrell, recently overhauled; Paper Organ, by Gavioli; Dynamo, by Dickinson; and Arc Lamps, by Haines. To be sold, complete, as now built.
For further particulars, apply,
HASTINGS and WHAYMAN, Ashford, Kent.

WANTED, to Sell, Switchback Railway, in good running order. Standard size and strength, 400ft. long, 3 cars, can carry 1,200 passengers per hour; must be removed from present site owing to expiration of lease.
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WANTED, to Sell, Large Distorting Mirrors, or will Let on Hire.
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WANTED, Auctioneers and Market-workers to send for my new list with over 2,000 illustrations of Jewellery, Watches, Clocks, Field Glasses, Bazaar and Fancy Goods; every line right for price. SIMONS, 100, 101, 102A, Houndsditch, London.

WANTED, to Sell, Electric Theatre, with seven separate and well-equipped Stages, worked by levers, which are pulled by the public. Original cost £400; £75. Can be seen working at LEWIS'S, Manchester.

WANTED, to Purchase, Site for Switchback Railway and other Novelties, at Seaside Resort, or will purchase any good Novelty Show now running. Box 5,289, "The Era."

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WANTED, every Showman who uses the railway to send to "The Era" for a copy of the article on the new Railway Rates. This will be sent on application, free of charge, to any Showman in the United Kingdom.

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Chas. Ashdown, Rapaini, Rose Trio, Nellie Neil, Counsel and Mills, Fred Poplar, Hayman and Franklyn, Kitty Wager, Phil Rees' Stable Lads, Carl Coyler, Gladys Mavius, F. A. Martel, Sivonis, Cole and Rags, Jock Whiteford, John Lawson and Co., Pictures. Matinée Thursday, 2.30.

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Geo. Gilbey, Morny Cash, Irma Lorraine, Athas and Collins, Pictures, Terry and Bentley, Haines Borthwick, Mendel, Lowenwirth and Cohan, Chas. Austin and Co., Nellie Ganthony, Gertie Gitana, Cissy Lupino, The Heatts.

HIPPODROME, WILLESDEN.

Fred Keeton, Frank Harwood, Arthur Pier, Olga Dore, Daisy Hurdle, Pictures, Three Laurels, Maxwell and Francis, A. Roberts and Co., Alice Pierce, Jordan and Harvey, Fred Edwards and Co.

OLYMPIA, SHOREDITCH.

Will Musgrave, Morny Cash, Marie Blythe, Nora Stockelle, Pictures, Bowden and Stol, Seven Wulfrunas, Mrs. Lewis Waller, Stowe Bros., Monte Walker, Leslie's Merry Maids, Celeste.

EMPIRE, CROYDON.

Russell Brandow, Alice Hollander, Cora Carina, Pictures, Charlie, Lew Lake and Co., O'Gorman Bros., Wilson Hallett, Johnny Walker.

ISLINGTON EMPIRE.

Kurkamp, Arthur Melrose, H. La Martine, Leah Arden, Mlle. Fougere, Annie Braddan, Pictures, Joe Elvin and Co., Park's Eton Boys, The Athlones, Horace Olgar's Cats and Dogs, Bert Brantford, Spencer and Marks, Billie Burford.

HIPPODROME, BALHAM.

Arthur Reece, Fred Hastings, Carina Sisters, Amy Sullivan, Pictures, Wm. Lee and Co., Fielding and Hull, Gertie Gitana, Rosa Loader, Carlotta De Yonsen and Co.

HIPPODROME, PUTNEY.

Chas. Carr, Kitty Colyer, Yvonne Lamore, Millie Howell, Ida Clare, Pictures, Howard and St. Clair, Marsumas, Lowenwirth and Cohan, Chas. J. Johnson, Mlle. Fougere.

HIPPODROME, POPLAR.

Tom Stuart, Mark Leslie, Arthur Slater, May Fairclough, Little Vi Davis, Pictures, The Leonards, F. Karno's Co. ("Mumming Birds"), Six Brothers Luck, Fredo and Preston, Lily and Antley.

HIPPODROME, ROTHERHITHE.

Walter Stanley, Rosie Archer, Tiger Lily, Pictures, Texas Hattie, Webb and Branston, Kelly and Agnes, Chas Harvey, Chas. Austin, Mathews and Brown.

PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

L. B. Athol, Edwin Boyde, Irma Lorraine, Ida Clare, Dolly Harmer, Edie King, Pictures, Lew Lake's Vocalists, Sylvia Cavalho and Co., Jolly Tars, The Katos, The Paolias.

HIPPODROME, NOTTINGHAM.

Yukio Tani, Tom York, Four Aces, Gerrard, Rosie Elliott, Three Ausonias, H. Pollock and Co., Austins, Pictures, Bellmon and Moore.

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HIPPODROME, RICHMOND.

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THE ERA ANNUAL, 1908

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Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Frank A. Gotch and Co., Ida Kathrina, Clark and Hayden, Albert Whelan, Florence and Lillian, Geo. S. Melvin, Mabel Bright, Nellie Le Breton, Bioscope, Campbell and Barber.

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Rehearsal at 2 for:—

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EMPIRE PALACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Morris Cronin, Jack Smiles, Silveter's Mechanical Head, "Yellow Fang," Helen Trix, Florence Smithers and Co., Sisters Jerome, Bioscope, Mike S. Whallen.

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GRAND, BIRMINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Albert Chevalier and Co., Enzer, Grant and Grant, Lillie Flexmore, Phil. and Nettie Peters, Luis Alvarez, Sybil St. Elmo, Bioscope, "Globe of Life."

PALACE, LEICESTER.

Rehearsal at 2.30 for:—

Albert Marsh's Co., in "Chums till Death," Arthur Aldridge, Mabel Fairchild, J. W. Rowley, Cumberlands, Larry Lewis, Baker and Balfe, Naughton and Gold, Violet Stockelle, Gotch v. Hack Film.

EMPIRE, NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Ye Colonial Septette, Cliff Ryland, Four Jumels, Coloured Meisters, The Rawsons, Four Figaros, Victor Newman, Bioscope, Ernest Clifford, Albert and Edmunds Troupe.

EMPIRE PALACE, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Auguste Van Biene, Harry Freeman, Belle Davis and Picca, "Magic Carpet," Daunton Shaw Troupe, Bros. Bright, Brix and Annie, Cissie Thompson, Bioscope, Fred. Lindsay.

OLYMPIA, LIVERPOOL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

"Volcano," May Brilliant, Hamilton Hill, Harry Grey, Percy Honri, Frank Hartley, Clown Charlton, Olive Armadale, Bioscope, Karl Reinsch.

EMPIRE, HACKNEY.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Ginnett's "Dick Turpin," Jennie Hartley, J. H. Scotland, Kent and Keith, Achmed Ibrahim Troupe, Musical Courtiers, Frank Seeley, Billy Hobbs, Bioscope, Le Roy, Talma, and Bosco

EMPIRE, HOLLOWAY.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

"Brigands of Tarragona," Virto and Venita, Mary Ambrose, Ted E. Box, Ike and Will Scott, Harry J. Crane and Co., Maude A. Edwards, Albert Christian, Kate Cohen, Bioscope, Laurie's Kindergarten.

EMPIRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Fred. Karno's Co., including Fred. Kitchen, in "G.P.O.," Barrington, Arthur Astill, Kroney Bros., Madge Temple, Selbinis, Walter Munroe, Lily Esplin, Bioscope, Lancashire Singers.

BROADWAY THEATRE, NEW CROSS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Moss' Empires Grand Pantomime, "Humpty Dumpty."

THE LONDON COLISEUM

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

Miss Cecilia Loftus, Miss Carrie de Mar, Jos. Hart's "Polly Pickles' Pets," Lickson's Dogs, Cumminger and Colonna, This Quartette, Saharet, De Gracia's Elephants, Conway and Leland, Anna Kenwick, Torbay, Bioscope, Horace Goldin and Jeanne Fransioli.

EMPIRE, STRATFORD.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Kate Carney and Co., Percy Hannan, Vetter Brothers, Three Prestons, Alburtus and Millar, Rhoda Paul, Arthur Gill, Eddy Smeraldina, Bioscope, Joe O'Gorman.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BRADFORD.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Cruikshank, Lottie Lennox, Bessie Slaughter, Falcons, Verno and Voyce, Rousby's "Greater London," Martineks, Arthur Albert, Bioscope, F. W. Purcell's Company, in "What Women do for Men."

EMPIRE, SWANSEA.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Karno's "Mumming Birds," Grosvenor Sisters, Ethel Newman, Lionette Roberty, Bros. St. Clair, Bert Williams, Mabel Mavis, Bioscope, Meymotts.

EMPIRE, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Geo. Leyton, in "The Last Muster," Maude Vera, Randolph King, Spry and Monti, Jackson Family, "Makers of History," Frederick Villiers, Nina Wood, Edie Endon, Bioscope, Cragga.

PHILHARMONIC HALL, CARDIFF.

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

Walter Hellier, Edna Lewis, Bert Williams, Hetty Hocking, Bioscope, etc.

EMPIRE, NEWPORT

Rehearsal at 3 for:—

"Casey's Court," Venando, Tom Collins, Imperial Russian Troupe, Sisters Urma, Geo. Young, Beattie Kent, Bioscope, L'Incognita.

EMPIRE, NOTTINGHAM.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Elliott Savonas, John Macauley, Melia Mozarabar, Edie and Ramsden, Henry Charlton and Co., Pat Rafferty, Frank Sylvo, Alf. Holt, Bioscope, Moto Girl.

EMPIRE PALACE, SHEFFIELD.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Bella and Bijou, Chas. Stevens, La Belle Nello, McCann's Dogs, Dumond Trio, Tom Bryce, Hayes and Wynne, Jeannie Mackay, Bioscope, Ten-Ji Troupe.

PALACE THEATRE, HULL.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Fred. Ginnett's "Hunting Morn," Dan. Hendy, Crown Trio, Fayre and Manning, Chas. Fisher's Opera Company, Seeley and Rhodesia, Eight Lancashire Lads, Madge Osmond, Gotch v. Hack Film.

EMPIRE, SHEPHERD'S BUSH.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Karno's "Football Match," J. P. Ling, Phil Parsons, Alexandra Dagmar, Walter Bellonini, Les Uniques, "Daughter of the Regiment," Three Welsh Girls, Bioscope, Howell and Scott.

The following are booked in conjunction with the above:

EMPIRE THEATRE, DUBLIN.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Arthur Watson and Company, Jennie Lynn, Chas. Vincent, Deans and Wilton, Mayvilles, Victor Travers, Violet Englefield, Pictures, W. J. Ashcroft.

EMPIRE THEATRE, BELFAST.

Rehearsal at 12 noon for:—

Gustave Fasola, Harry Tomps, Bertha Winder, Culpitt, Roca and Lewis, Dorothy Sefton, Pictures, Matthew Cowper and Company. (Matinée, 2.30, Monday.)

HER MAJESTY'S THEATRE, WALSALL.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Fred. Walton and Company, Lil O'Gorman, Tom Moore, Guyer and Valli, Mdlle. Haydee, Burnetti, Bioscope, Stein Eretto Troupe.

IMPERIAL HALL, WALSALL.

Company as booked.

THE PALACE, CAMBERWELL.

Rehearsal at 1 for:—

Fred. Eustace and Co., in "The Amber Light," James Stewart, Frank Cass, Arthur Hickman, Alec Hughes and Co., Wyndham and Kitty, Carina Sisters, Howard and Collinson, Pictures, Harry Ford.

THEATRE ROYAL, CROYDON.

Rehearsal at 12 for:—

Animated Pictures and Illustrated Songs.

EMPIRE, SUNDERLAND.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Selkirk's "Gathering of the Clans," Geo. Antill, Henriquette Maude, Roma and Romani, Witty Watty Walton, Eight of Hearts, Chas. Santon, Bioscope, Terry and Lambert.

EMPIRE PALACE, SOUTH SHIELDS.

Rehearsal at 2 for:—

Machnow, E. J. Sheldon, Sybil Lester, Ed. E. Ford, Duncan and Godfrey, Ina Lorimer, Harry Leybourne, Pictures, Wood, Wells, and Wilkins.

SIR EDWARD MOSS' CARNIVAL.

WAVERLEY MARKET, EDINBURGH.

Rehearsal at 10 a.m. for:—

The Saxon Trio, Zeynardt's Lilliputians, Burke, Andrus, and Frisco, The Holloways, Tambo and Tambo, Woodward's Seals, Frank L. Gregory Troupe, Hugo and Smit, The Five Mowatts, The Sauterons, Amer's Band, and all side shows, entertainments, &c., engaged.

IMPORTANT NOTICES.

RE APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENTS.

All applications by either Artists or their Agents must be made to the Head Office. Lowest terms must be stated, and distinction made between salaries required for larger and smaller towns. Vacant dates should be stated. If a list of existing bookings be sent, it will render selection easier.

Artists employing Agents should accredit one only at one time, as the friction arising when several Agents are employed at the same time, all expecting the one booking to go through each of them, often renders it expedient to avoid that booking altogether rather than give undeserved offence to several Agents.

New Acts seeking Engagements, or turns not rebooked (possibly because they have played a series of dates without introducing new business), will facilitate matters by having their acts seen by our District Managers. Their Districts and Postal Addresses are as follow:—

EDINBURGH, GLASGOW, NEWCASTLE, AND DISTRICT.
MR. S. GETHING, Empire Theatre, Glasgow.

BIRMINGHAM, NOTTINGHAM, LEICESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. HATTON WHARTON, Empire Theatre, Nottingham.

SOUTH WALES DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT MITCHELL, Empire Theatre, Cardiff.

LEEDS, SHEFFIELD, HULL, BRADFORD, AND DISTRICT.
MR. T. GERALD MORTON, Empire Palace, Leeds.

LIVERPOOL, MANCHESTER, AND DISTRICT.
MR. ALBERT BULMER, The Empire, Liverpool.

LONDON DISTRICT.
MR. J. CHRISTIE, Empire Theatre, Shepherd's Bush, W.

N.B.—Mr. OSWALD STOLL or Mr. FRANK ALLEN can be seen by appointment on all matters arising out of the above, and for the discussion of entirely new Numbers.

All Artists or Agents who communicate with our District Representatives must have made definite applications, in accordance with above directions, to the Head Office, at the same time, or just previously.

Artists and Agents are requested to note that the Alexandra Theatre, Stoke Newington, Standard Theatre, Shoreditch, and the Terriss Theatre, Rotherhithe, come within the areas absolutely barred by us. Artists and Agents are also requested to note that the Hippodrome, Aston, Birmingham, comes within the area absolutely barred by the Grand Theatre and Empire Palace, Birmingham.

INSTRUCTIONS TO ARTISTS.

Artists must have at least Fourteen Band Parts for English Orchestrations, and Seventeen Band Parts for Foreign Orchestrations. Matter of Bill, Blocks, and Specimens of Pictorials FOR ALL THE ABOVE THEATRES must be sent to Co-operative Offices, at above address, THREE WEEKS before Opening, failing which Artists will run the risk of having their Engagements cancelled.

IMPORTANT.—Artists must forward Copies of Songs to the STAGE DEPARTMENT, ABOVE ADDRESS, TWO WEEKS previous to opening, with Assignments for same, which will be returned. Artists are requested to note carefully that the clause in their contracts relating to rehearsals will in future be strictly enforced. Artists' Scenery, Properties, &c., MUST be fireproofed in accordance with the regulations of the Licensing Authorities.

ARTISTS WILL CLEARLY UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR BUSINESS MUST BE FREE FROM ALL VULGARITY.

No order or contract for goods or services must be accepted for any of the foregoing theatres except upon receipt of an Official Form, issued from the Co-operative Offices, London, and signed by either Mr. Oswald Stoll, Mr. Frank Allen, or the Chief Accountant, otherwise the Company concerned will not be responsible for same, and will refuse payment. In special cases, where goods are required at once, suppliers must look to the individual placing the order, who will be personally liable, unless an official confirmatory order, signed as above, is received within forty-eight hours. Invoices must be sent to the Theatre, but monthly statements should be sent to the Co-operative Offices. The individual Company on whose behalf orders are signed is solely responsible for payment. The Management will not hold themselves responsible in the event of loss of or damage to any MSS., Songs, &c., submitted for consideration.

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Miss FLORA CROMER'S Gigantic Hit.

MY PRETTY PIECE OF DRESDEN CHINA.
Miss QUEENIE FINNIS'S Stupendous Hit.

*WON'T YOU WALTZ THE MERRY WIDOW WALTZ?
Misses ELLA RETFORD'S and NELLIE WIGLEY'S Phenomenal Hit.

ANYWHERE WILL DO.
Miss VIOLET HALL'S Great Hit.

THE VERY FIRST GIRL I SEE.
WHIT CUNLIFFE'S Terrific Number *2* Hit.

*JOHNNY THERE'S A LOCKET IN YOUR POCKET.
Miss MEG HAMILTON'S Splendid Number *2* Hit.

HAVE YOU SEEN MY CHINEE MAN?
Miss ELLA RETFORD'S Great Number *2* Hit.

NOBODY'S SATISFIED.
WHIT CUNLIFFE'S Great Number *3* Hit.

SALOME (THE SHEEP'S HEAD AND TIN TACK).
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"WHO'D LIKE TO PAY FOR MY HOLIDAY."

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VALSE REFRAIN—
Starshine, Starshine,
Come back once more into the sky,
Tell me, tell me,
All that you told me that night gone by.
I am not lonely-hearted,
For when the clouds have parted,
After the shadow beyond the rain
Starshine will come again!

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Artists engaged will please note that rehearsals at ALL Halls take place at 12 o'clock noon each Monday.

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All billing matter and notification of appearance, accompanied by samples of pictorial printing, must be sent to the London Offices, Oakley House, Bloomsbury-street, W.C., fourteen clear days prior to opening, or contract may be cancelled at the option of the Management.

All Scene and Property Plots of Sketches, Scenas, &c., must be sent to Foresters' fourteen clear days before opening.

All Artists carrying scenery must have same fire-proofed, in accordance with L.C.C. regulations, otherwise it will not be allowed in the Halls.

Artists please note that when stage staff are required on Sunday, according to the "award," their time must be reckoned from that given in "call."

In cases of emergency after office hours, Mr. Baugh may be consulted at the Foresters' Theatre, Cambridge-road, E.

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CALLS
FOR WEEK COMMENCING
MONDAY, DEC. 28, 1908.

PALACE, BRADFORD.
Clasen's Art Bronzes, Les Elgonas, Walker and May, J. H. Greener, Marion Armitage, Margaret Radcliffe, Della Sisters, Ross and Grayson, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, BLACKBURN.
Minerva, Poole and Maguire, Emmie Ames, Cestria, Carlotta Levey, Harry Bancroft, Gunner Moir, Walter Clyde, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, HALIFAX.
Avon and Crest, May Henderson, Venturini, Harry Luck, Ray Royal, Wilton Heriot and Co., Kirk and Saraski, Lyons Trio, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, W. HARTLEPOOL.
Consul, John Donald, Will McIvor, Frank Leon, Clarice Clarke, The Sovereigns, Flo Inman, Mdlle. Pom Pom, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE, SOUTHAMPTON.
"The Futurity Winner," Dan Merret, Bernardo, Annie Heath, Beale and Broadway, Beau-Ideal Troupe, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Donnas Trio.

PAVILION, LEICESTER.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Pictures, Royal Temples, Banks and Dog, Hilda Mascott, Dingles Double, Vera Violet, Mr. and Mrs. Hayes, Bertha Norwood.

THEATRE ROYAL, ROTHERHAM.
"Jazon's "Dick Whittington."

THEATRE ROYAL, CHESTERFIELD.
Jazon's "Cinderella."

THEATRE ROYAL, LEEDS.
"Aladdin."

THEATRE ROYAL, ATTERCLIFFE.
Picture Entertainment.

KING'S, NOTTINGHAM.
Picture Entertainment.

PALACE THEATRE, BATH.
Clown Barker, Three Transfields, Colin Mail, Five Bombays, The Forsyths, Norah Desmond, Sergt. Brennan, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Amos Howard.

PALACE THEATRE, LINCOLN.
"The Last Halt," Chase Lewis, Cissie Esdaile, Sergt. Mumford, The Menzies, Earle and Godfrey, Cassie Walmer, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, CARDIFF.
Arthur Norton, Gallimore Trio, The Fordyces, Jamie Piper, Babusio Bros., Barras and Ford, Hoffman and Co., Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Minnie Kirby.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, WARRINGTON.
"The Orange Girl," The Betsons, Waltons, Rose and Wold, Julian Ross, Johnny Dwyer, Hyde and Cody Trio, Raymond's Bio-tableaux.

PALACE AND HIPPODROME, BURNLEY.
Sammy Shields, Johnny Holland and Co., Four Garricks, Ringling Trio, Elroy, Cherry Lass, Capt. Devereux and Dogs, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Four Pawels.

PIER PAVILION, SOUTHPORT.
Matinée Monday.
Astley's Circus, Harry Meegan, Lisbon and Barker, Sybil Montague, Rene Grahame, Milton Trio, Hettie Holland, Raymond's Bio-tableaux, Emie Vincent.

PALACE, BOW.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Sable Fern, Raymond, Czar Troupe, Zetimah, Fred Maxwell, Bessie Neilson, Alex. Lofton, Julia Gilbert, The Arntees, Queenie Dell, Lillie Ray.

FORESTERS'.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Raymond, Olaves, Mr. E., The Dillons, Edith Lewis and Co., Florence Yaymen, Six Bros. Luck, Home Comforts, Lily Kirton, Chas. Raynor, Boden and Bell.

SADLER'S WELLS.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Raymond, Will Douglas and Co., Keosanley's Dogs, Taree, Atlanta, Arnold Bell and Co., Iris Yohé, Willie Allen, The Glenvilles, Alfred Warner.

PALACE, BATTERSEA.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Davis and Dean, Raymond, Tina Frank, Nina Moore, Hemsley and Ambrose, "His Father's Treachery," Harry Desmond, Sydney Mason and Co., Childie Stuart, Josephine Crook.

SURREY THEATRE.
All Artists engaged for Surrey Theatre must bring 14 Band Parts.
Matinée, Boxing Day, Dec. 26, at 2.30.
Raymond, Edith Chantler, T. C. Jaques, The Leonas, Edie Veno, Bernard Mervyn and Co., Star Football Picture, Beams and Emilie, Nirvanah, Herbert Rule and Co., Gus Harris.

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"PUT ME UPON AN ISLAND WHERE THE GIRLS ARE FEW."
"WHEN THE LEAVES ARE TINGED WITH GOLD."
"MY LITTLE EVA." "IF IT'S A LADY."
"YOU ALL WANT SOMETHING TO CUDDLE."
"CALL ROUND ANY OLD TIME." "I WISH I HAD A PAL LIKE YOU."

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Code Word, "FLUXION."

In order that his daughter, aged 15 years, should not see her lover, a stern father has her sent to a convent; but Horace and his friends arrive and make trouble in the house, and the young man prepares everything for the abduction of his young lady-love. Happily, the plot is discovered before she runs away, and her father, yielding to the young people's entreaties, at last allows them to be married. This is a very comical subject, very appropriate for the Christmas season.

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Code Word, "FRENAIE."

Young Bobby's simple drawings represent different people and things. First, there is a gentleman, then two gendarmes, one hooligan, and a long wall, lighted by a lamp-post. Bobby cuts out his different drawings, which become alive. The gentleman walks along the wall, the hooligan assaults him; but the kindly gendarmes arrive, and the wicked hooligan is carried away. Another picture is that of a lady colliding with a little pastrycook's apprentice, and sitting down on the ground, with the boy in front of her and the cake between the two.

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KIDS' STRIKE.

Code Word, "FOURNEE."

The boys of a school in one of the Paris suburbs throw their books at their master's head, and go and make the girls next door join them, when they make a huge bonfire with their school requisites. Presently the young strikers march through the streets, clamouring for their "rights"—the youngsters' rights: Freedom and truant-playing!

396ft. The Subject, **£6 12s. 0d.**

THE PRETTY DAIRYMAID.

Code Word, "FOURBE."

A farmer is making love to his pretty dairymaid. Mary, however, has given her heart to Peter the sailor, whose sister is the farmer's fiancée, and she agrees to go and meet him near the pool outside the village. The farmer, having discovered her design, picks a quarrel with her, while Peter, who has been waiting a long time, leaves the pool, thinking she will not come. Mary arrives too late, and her master, who has followed, maddened by the girl's defiance, strangles her, and throws her into the water. Peasants having discovered the body, an inquest takes place, and Peter, who has been seen near the pool, is arrested; but he breaks away, and the gendarmes, having lost his trail, come back to the place of the murder. There they see the farmer walking about. Suddenly, the ghost of the girl, appearing before his mental eye, makes him kneel down on the ground in an attitude the meaning of which cannot be misconstrued.

628ft. The Subject, **£10 8s. 8d.** Toning, **£1 10s. 0d.**

THE INVALID WITH THE WOODEN HEAD.

Code Word, "FOURNEAU."

An old veteran, having lost his head during the war, has had a complete collection of wooden ones carved for him. One day he puts on his veteran's head, and with it comes back to him memories of his campaigns. This makes him drink too much, and his head begins to swim. On Sundays he puts on his best head—a very peaceful head, which he allows boys in the park to unscrew so that they may use it for playing skittles.

478ft. The Subject, **£7 19s. 4d.**

IT IS THE HOUSE DECORATOR.

Code Word, "FRENESIE."

A gentleman, on leaving his house, sees a young man he does not know entering his flat. Anxious for the safety of his wife, he goes back quickly and asks for an explanation. He can only apologise, however, when he sees the stained coat of the house decorator. The would-be workman jumps on the scaffolding outside the drawing-room window, and, seeing that he is not safe in that flat, he climbs up to the next floor, where he disturbs a young lady at her toilet. After many and sundry accidents, the young man leaves the house in a blouse and skirt lent him by a compassionate laundress, but the actual workmen plunge him into a bucket full of paint when they see him come out of the house.

510ft. The Subject, **£8 10s. 0d.**

A DUEL IN THE TIME OF RICHELIEU.

Code Word, "FRESQUE."

François of Montmorency, Lord of Bouteville, the famous duellist, has just been obliged to take refuge in Brussels, after killing the Marquis Desportes and the Earl of Thorigny, and wounding Lafrette. In spite of the intercession of the Archduchess governing the Netherlands, King Louis XIII. refused to pardon him. Bouteville was so vexed when he heard of it that he swore to go and fight in Paris in the Place Royale itself. He had the audacity to carry out his daring wager on May 12th, 1627. His opponent was Beuvron. Arrested in his flight after this new feat, Bouteville was sentenced to death, and beheaded on June 21st, in spite of the entreaties of the highest people in the land.

740ft. The Subject, **£12 6s. 8d.**

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